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COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
 LUTHERAN CHURCH
Making Jesus Known



NOVEMBER 2026

Worship Hours
Sunday,
8 a.m. & 10 a.m.

Sunday Morning
Bible Study
 9:15 a.m.

Pastor's Bible
Study

Thursdays 1:00 p.m.

Visitation Ministry
 November 2,
 10:30 a.m.

Social Action
 November 4,
 10:00 a.m.

Worship & Music
 November 4,
 6:00 p.m.

Christian Ed.
 November 9,
 6:30 p.m.

Concert Committee
 November 10,
 6:00 p.m.

Council Meeting
 November 10,
 7:00 p.m.

Risk Management
 November 12,
 6:00 p.m.

Worship Services
 Available at
www.commofchrist.org

Church Office
Closed
Wednesday,
November 11,
25, & 27



Life in the Communion of Saints—November 2026

On most Sunday mornings, we profess, using the ancient words of the Creed, that we believe in “the communion of saints.” What do we think we are talking about, before we move on to the rest of the words? What does it mean to believe in the “communion of saints”—and why does it matter? What makes this idea important enough to be repeated week after week, in congregations all over the world, for the better part of the past two thousand years?

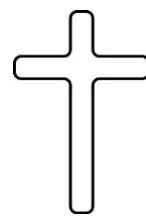
Let me put it this way: it’s a reminder to us that “the people of God” includes more than just the people in the room on Sunday mornings. The church *includes* all of us who are in worship at this particular place on any given Sunday morning, but it is always a wider circle than that. In fact, the church includes more than just all the people in all the local churches around the world right now, too! When we speak of “the communion of saints,” it is a way of saying that we are connected in both **time** and **space** to all of God’s people not only around the world but throughout history. And those who have gone before us and are at rest in God’s presence remain connected to us now, since they are alive to God and joined to us in Christ! When we say, week by week, that we believe in the communion of saints, we are being reminded that God holds onto those from whom we have been separated by death, and they are not really gone in a final sense. And at the same time, we are reminded that there are followers of Jesus yet to be born and who have yet to come to faith in him, but we are connected to them as well! Most of the time, we can’t see or feel or recognize that connection, but it is there, and it is real no matter what. We are a part of a bigger family than we realize, and God is the One who holds all of us together.

That’s part of why we have the practice every November on All Saints’ Sunday of remembering those from our church family and our wider circle of relationships who have died in the past year—we are not just rehashing old griefs or putting salt in the wound of old losses, but rather we are remembering that each of these lives is held in God’s hands. We are remembering that we stay connected to those who have gone before us, and we will be gathered back together in the house of God forever when God makes all things new. And we get a glimpse when we come to the Table of Communion, as our liturgy echoes the ancient song of the heavenly host, of how we are connected to all those generations of God’s people from every time and place, even now.

That is good news worth celebrating, even if it also comes with the bittersweetness of remembering those who have died and are at rest in the Lord. We can be brave enough to face those losses, and we can be honest enough to acknowledge those who have died, because we are given the unshakable promise that not a one of them is lost to God’s grip or out of God’s hands. This November, our Sunday worship will remind us of those promises of homecoming in a number of ways, including the familiar words of the Creed that we “believe in the communion of saints.” When we profess those words together, I invite you to hear



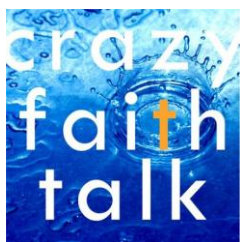
FROM PASTOR STEVE CONTINUED.....



them and speak to them with renewed hope, because they point us to the promise that God holds us all still, and that our God will bring us together again when all things are made new.

Sharing the journey with you gratefully,
Pastor Steve

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD



Currently on Crazy Faith Talk Podcast: Hurdles for the 21st Century Church

Our weekly podcast, “*Crazy Faith Talk*,” offers conversation and insights looking at a variety of topics, subjects, and ideas from faith and church life to pop culture and everything in between. *Crazy Faith Talk* releases new episodes every Tuesday at noon, and you can listen for free, either by finding the link on our Facebook page or by asking your Smart Speaker (like Amazon Echo) to play the podcast “Crazy Faith Talk.” Crazy Faith Talk is also now on **Spotify** as well as **iTunes**! If you like to listen to music or podcasts using the Spotify app, you can find Crazy Faith Talk there! *Crazy Faith Talk* features our own Pastor Steve and three other colleagues in ministry: Sarah Aasheim, an ELCA pastor serving in eastern Pennsylvania, Methodist colleague Erica Wellner, who is serving in central Pennsylvania, and former intern and soon-to-be pastor, Natalie Downs. Think of it like being invited around the table to listen in to pastors talking through their own faith, questions, and struggles, and being able to take the conversation with you to listen and reflect on wherever you go—in the car, from your smart speaker, or on your phone or tablet.

In our latest series, we began by asking the question, “What is the biggest hurdle facing the church right now?” and then each of our contributors will get the chance to highlight a particular concern that the 21st-century church faces. In the second half of this series, we are posing the question, “What should we do in response to each of these hurdles, as individuals and as the wider church?” Over the course of this series, we’ll explore the fraught topic of Christian nationalism, the issue of the clergy shortage across multiple denominations and regions in the country, the challenge of recovering discipleship as part of the Christian life, and the dangers of a consumer mindset within Christianity. Each of these can seem like a daunting issue, but in conversation with one another, we’ll explore how these challenges show up in our congregations and everyday lives, and how we respond to them. New episodes release every Tuesday afternoon, so check out Crazy Faith Talk for new conversations every week! There’s something for everyone, so listen in and find episodes with our weekly posts on our church Facebook page or Twitter/X (@BeingGraced), by searching for “Crazy Faith Talk” on Spotify, or on your smart speaker!





GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

New Thursday Bible Study This November Explores the Book of James

If our faith is just a matter of reciting religious-sounding words, there's a pretty decent chance we are play-acting rather than following Jesus. But on the other hand, if our trust in God is evident in our actions, words, and priorities, it's a sign that our faith is alive and kicking. And because of who our God is, that kind of living, thriving faith will always be expressed in love and care for neighbors around us—because that's who God is. That's the kind of faith that the New Testament book of James is interested in kindling within us: something living, daring, thriving, and visible in our daily lives and actions. Curiously enough, though, our older brother in the faith, Martin Luther, was really nervous about this book, because he was really worried we would hear James' statement that "faith without works is dead" like he was saying we have to earn God's love through our good deeds. So how do we read this New Testament book on its own terms, remembering the good news that we are justified by grace through faith while also letting James call us out of just "playing church" by mouthing the right words without letting our faith shape our actions? That's what we'll be looking at in our next Thursday Bible Study, starting in November on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m., as we explore the letter of James. If you're interested, join us on Thursday afternoons in the Bible Study/Council room, and we'll find our faith stretched and our discipleship deepened together!



Fall Adult Forum Series Explores the Question, "What Is Salvation?"

Every Sunday, we name Jesus as "Savior and Lord" in worship. Bumper stickers and billboards declare that "Jesus saves!" And we teach our confirmation students in catechism classes that we are "saved by grace through faith, apart from works of the law." All those sound pretty familiar—maybe we just assume everybody already knows what all of it means. But what exactly is this thing we call *salvation*? How do different voices throughout the Bible use the language of "saving," and how does that picture get filled in with different images, perspectives, and meanings over the whole story of Scripture? What does it mean to be "saved"—or at least, what do we as (Lutheran) Christians think we are saying when we talk about being *saved*? What does the Bible say about how to be saved and who is saved? Once we start asking those kinds of questions, we realize that there is a lot more to the idea of "salvation"—and the Gospel's Good News that Jesus is the *savior*—than we first realized. It's something that seems fundamental to the Christian faith, and yet we can see pretty quickly it's a much deeper and richer notion that can fit on a bumper sticker or a billboard.

So, join us on Sundays this fall between services at about 9:00 a.m. for our current series in our Adult Forum, meeting in the Bible Study/Council room, as we explore all of this. In the course of these weeks, we'll get a better understanding of the Bible, a solid grounding in our hope in Christ, and maybe even a clearer sense of what we are called to share with other people as Good News! There's a place for you around the table—join us this fall!





GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

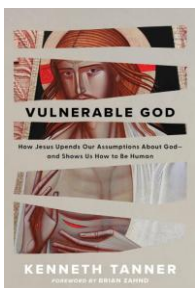
Join Us to Create New Advent Artwork for the Sanctuary

In the last several years, we've created new original artwork for our sanctuary for the seasons of Advent and Christmas as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth and coming in glory. Here are some of the banners we've made in recent years to refresh your memory:



This year, we would love you to help us create a new set of original artwork, so join us on the morning of **Saturday, Nov. 21**, for an open time to help create new banners and artistic projects for around the church this coming Advent and Christmas season. We've got a few fun surprises for the congregation this year as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, and we would love you to get to be a part of making them a reality. Want to join us? Like being creative? Sign up at the kiosk and join us in the fellowship hall for some painting, cutting, and crafty fun between 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. There will be things to do for adults, kids, and anybody in between! If you're interested, join us on Nov. 21!

Vulnerable God: An Invitation to a Four-Part Book Discussion Starting this December



In the coming church year (starting with Advent in December 2026), we'll be invited especially to focus on how Jesus shows us simultaneously **both** what *God* is like **and** what it truly means to be *human*. And as one way for us to more deeply engage those BIG IDEAS, Pastor Steve is inviting any who are interested to a four-part discussion group that will read a recent book exploring these themes, spread out over the upcoming seasons of the church's liturgical year. Kenneth Tanner's book, *Vulnerable God:*

How Jesus Upends Our Assumptions About God—And Shows Us How to Be Human is written to explore the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in ways that echo the flow of our church's year. So, we'll invite any who are interested to gather four times in the coming months, beginning in early December 2026 and then throughout the winter and spring of 2027, for discussion gatherings about each section of the book, from Advent and Christmas to Epiphany, and then to Lent and Easter. If you are interested in being a part of this book discussion as it unfolds over these upcoming months, we would invite you to sign up at the kiosk and mark your calendar to join us **on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 9:30-11:30 a.m.** here at Community of Christ. We'll share information about future dates and gatherings in the coming weeks, but we'd welcome you to join us for this **first event on Dec. 5**. If you would like to order a copy of the book as part of a group order, you can sign up at the kiosk as well, too, and we'll place an order for you with copies costing \$20.00. We'll have them to you in time to have the chance to read the first section of the book by Dec. 5! If you are interested, sign up or ask Pastor Steve if you have any questions!



GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

Thanksgiving Service

Community of Christ Hosts Shared Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 22

As part of our ongoing collaboration with neighboring congregation Hope United Methodist Church, Community of Christ will host a Community Thanksgiving Service, open to all in the community, on the evening of Sunday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m. Join us with folks from across congregations and in our wider community as we give thanks to God for the blessings of this life, and as we pause before the busyness of big meals, traveling relatives, and football games to stop with awe, gratitude, and praise to the Giver of all good gifts. This is a great event to bring a friend, neighbor, or relative to share in! See you here on Sunday, Nov. 22 at 7:00 p.m.!



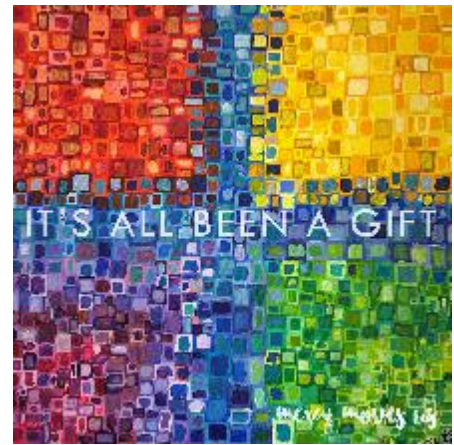
Faith Lab: God Turns Bad into Good

Last month at Faith Lab, we explored Noah's story and learned that just as God saved Noah and the animals, God saves us, too!

This month, we'll continue exploring God's story as we hear about Joseph in Genesis 37 and discover how God can bring good even out of difficult situations. All children and young adults are invited to join us on Saturday, November 14, from 5:00-6:30 p.m. for an evening of food, faith, and fellowship.

We'll share a meal together, and while the kids enjoy songs, activities, and a craft, adults will have an opportunity to connect with one another and reflect on Scripture. Faith Lab gives families a chance to grow in faith, build relationships, and discover God's love together.

Please email the church office to RSVP or for more information. We hope to see you there!



"It's All Been A Gift"—Original Song to Share from Recent Baptisms

As you might know, Pastor Steve has the practice of writing songs as part of the sermon when someone is baptized in worship, which then becomes a unique memory and memento for those who are baptized to remember the occasion. And when those songs are shared, we also share digital audio recordings of them, in case you missed the chance to be with us in person for each of those special days. You can find those songs on Bandcamp.com (we also have links for each on our church Facebook page), where you can listen for free, or choose to download each or all of the songs, in which case we will direct all proceeds to the important work of Lutheran World Relief as they seek to help people rebuild after disasters, resettle in times of displacement, or revitalize their communities out of the grip of poverty and disease.

On this past Reformation Sunday (October 25), we celebrated two baptisms of new saints among us and received their family, the Kimballs, into membership, and in case you missed getting the chance to hear the song, or you wanted to listen again (or check out the lyrics and other details), we're sharing the information again here. You can listen to or download "It's All Been A Gift," the song from Arbor and JoLynn's baptisms, by visiting <https://mercymovesus.bandcamp.com/> or following the link to the song on our church Facebook page!



KIDS, YOUTH, AND TEENS!



Sunday School: Kings and Prophets

Join us for Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. in the library! In our current series, *Kings and Prophets*, children will explore stories of God's people, the leaders God raised, and the kings and prophets who helped shape their faith.

Through these stories, children will discover that God is always with us, and that God invites us to follow Him. As we learn about the people of the Bible, we'll also explore what it means to trust God and respond to God's love in our own lives.

We invite all children to come to learn, ask questions, build friendships, and grow in faith together. We look forward to seeing you Sunday morning!

Imagine More: Journey to the Gathering

Registration is now open for the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis! Youth who will be in grades 8-12 during the 2026-2027 school year are invited to join us for this opportunity to grow in faith, build relationships, serve others, and experience the wider church. Registration is open through November 11. If you plan on coming, please complete the form emailed to you or pick up a registration form from the church office.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our youth through fundraising, donations, and encouragement. Your generosity is helping make this experience possible, and we are grateful for the way our congregation continues to invest in the faith of our young people!

As we prepare for the Gathering, we hope you'll join us in praying for our youth and adult leaders. Over the coming months, we'll share more about the Gathering's theme, what our youth are learning and anticipating, and ways the congregation can be part of this journey.

This month's prayer: Good and gracious God, thank you for the young people in our congregation. Help them imagine more of your love, discover new ways to follow Jesus, and grow in faith alongside one another. Bless our preparations and all those who are helping make this journey possible. Amen.

Youth Sunday: Sharing Our Gifts

On October 18, youth from Rooted, our shared youth ministry with Providence Lutheran Church, helped lead worship and shared the gift of their voices as they sang *Sanctuary*. It was a joy to see our young people take part in worship and share their faith with the congregation!

During the service, we also received a special offering to support our youth as they prepare for the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. Thank you to everyone who contributed and continues to support our young people through your generosity, prayers, and encouragement. Your support helps make opportunities like this possible and reminds our youth that they are an important part of our church community.

We are grateful for a congregation that encourages young people to grow in faith, share their gifts, and discover what it means to follow Jesus together.





WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 2026



Week	Nov 1	Nov 8	Nov 15	Nov 22	Nov 29
Acolyte/Crucifer 8:00	Josef Perkins	Teresa Loga	Volunteer Needed	Laurie Mauro	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte/Crucifer 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Kari Swagler	Volunteer Needed
Bulletin 8:00	Carol Wiemken	Connie Hudson	Volunteer Needed	Vince Mauro	Volunteer Needed
Bulletin 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Kari Swagler	Heather Boytim	Kari Swagler	Volunteer Needed
Camera	Neil Raymond	Sarah Rockwell	Rick Yokum	Kevin Swagler	Volunteer Needed
Communion Prep/Clean 8:00	Sharon Miller	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Josef Perkins	Volunteer Needed
Communion Prep/Clean 10:00	Susan Raymond	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Kari Swagler	Volunteer Needed
Geeter West 8:00	Rick Metcalf	R & M Pratt	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeter East 8:00	Linda Metcalf	R & M Pratt	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeter East 10:00	Jill Kohntopp	Chris Rilling	Volunteer Needed	Chris Rilling	Volunteer Needed
Greeter West 10:00	Rob Kohntopp	Natalie Rilling	Volunteer Needed	Natalie Rilling	Volunteer Needed
Lector 8:00	Marita Perkins	Teresa Loga	Cheryl Fischer	Josef Perkins	Teresa Loga
Lector 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Greg Aubell	Dana Schmidt	Carol Wiemken	Steve Bond
Worship Asst 8:00	Josef Perkins	Theresa Loga	Volunteer Needed	Laurie Mauro	Teresa Loga
Worship Asst 10:00	Dean Nofzinger	Kevin Swagler	Kara Yokum	Elaine Hetherwick	Volunteer Needed
Verger 8:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Vince Mauro	Volunteer Needed
Verger 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

****Volunteer list as of 10/19/2026. If you need to cancel your scheduled date, please arrange for another volunteer to take your place and fill your time slot. Remember to cancel your slot on Sign-Up Genius so the person covering for you can sign up.**

Lectors: The readings are available for preview on our website at www.commofchrist.org under "Worship and Bulletins" and then the appropriate bulletin date.

Bulletin Assistants: Arrive 15 minutes before service to pass out bulletins. Count the number of people in attendance (including worship volunteers and all in the nursery if applicable) and mark this number on the chart inside the kiosk.

Door Greeters: Arrive 15 minutes before service to greet members and visitors at the doors of both entrances of the church.

The Verger is a caretaker role who keeps their eyes and ears open to lend a hand for any need that arises with congregants or worship providers during the service.

Should you have any questions, please contact Laurie Mauro at (419) 877-5366. Thank you all for your time and attention to helping make our Worship Services run smoothly!



Blessings, Prayers & More

Prayers

PRAYING FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS FOR ALL WHO ARE ILL, SHUT IN, RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED, MILITARY, OR IN NEED OF PRAYER:

JEFF BUCHER, CAROL BORKOWSKI, DONNA COCHRAN, VIRGINIA DILLON, TODD DUTCHED, MICHAEL ELLERBROCK, JIM & SUE ENK, PAULA GRUHLER, PASTOR RON HEINZ, RON HETHERWICK, LUKE HOLTZ, ART INGMIRE, MATT JURRUS, GINNY KRUEGER, PAUL LADD, CRISTAL & CHAD PRITCHARD, EVELYN REILLY, DICK RISON, PHYLLIS STURGEON, SARAH S., MOLLY WACHTMANN, KATHRYN WHITACRE

MILITARY: JAY RASMUSSEN, NOAH PITZEN, AUSTIN CUNNINGHAM, JAKE COPE, LANDON CHRISTY, DREW TROTTER, RYAN DUNN, AMANDA ROTH, STACIE PHILLIPS

Prayers of the Church

Prayer Requests



To keep our prayer requests current and fresh in worship, we update our prayer list every two weeks. The names you provide will be included in the congregation's prayers for two weeks. If you want to renew your prayer request, please use the form available in the gathering area or contact the church office. Thank you. Continue to pray for one another!



Children's Sermon

Children of all ages, please join Pastor Steve for a Children's Sermon at the 9:00 a.m. service. This is the Pastor's time to share the good news of Jesus with our younger friends! He'll even have a sticker waiting just for YOU!!!!



Prayer Shawls

If you are interested in making a prayer shawl or know of someone who would be blessed by receiving one, please contact Irene Rang at 269-832-7714

All Saints Day, Nov 1st

Join us for a holy remembrance of family and friends who rest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Pastor Steve will share the names of those you have provided for us. White roses and photographs of members and those for whom we have held memorial services who have passed in the last twelve months will be respectfully displayed in the sanctuary. We will also include those who have been baptized into our church to honor their faith and acknowledge their inclusion in the community of believers. We will toll the bell as we celebrate the Saints of faith! We will respectfully include each name in prayer.

Loved ones remembered this year: Larry Battles, Shirley Cofer, Matthew Davis, Eric Dickey, Jerry Elsholtz, Ray Gottschling, Tom, Jennings, Nancy Meyer, Judy Mock, and LuAnn Shuman.

Those we received into Baptism: Arbor Kimball, JoLynn Kimball, Wesley Lefevre, Graham Schwartz, Graham Smigelski, Ella Walters.



CoC MINISTRY DATES TO REMEMBER



Next Meeting Date

November 2 @ 10:30 a.m.



Next Meeting Date

November 4 @ 10:00 a.m.



Next Meeting Date

November 4 @ 6:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date

November 9 @ 6:30 p.m.



Next Meeting Date

November 10 @ 6:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date

November 10 @ 7:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date

November 12 @ 7:00 p.m.



Deadline Announcements

Deadline for Newsletters**

Looking ahead, due to the busyness of the holiday season and upcoming vacations, the **firm deadlines** for the next newsletters will be:

- **December newsletter:** Tuesday, **November 18**
- **January 2027 newsletter:** Tuesday, **December 16**



Annual Meeting Reports Due November 18

It's time to begin preparing for our Annual Meeting! All ministry, committee, and organization reports are due **Wednesday, November 18**. Please submit your reports by the deadline so we can compile everything and have it ready for the Annual Meeting. Thank you for helping us keep our congregation informed and celebrating all that God is doing through our ministries!



Annual Congregational Meeting—December 6 at 11:15 a.m.

Coming up in December will be Community of Christ's annual congregational meeting, following the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 6, at about 11:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall. We would invite you to mark your calendars now and plan to join us for this important yearly time to review the year behind us, to give thanks for God's presence among us now, and to look ahead to the year in front of us. We'll consider reports from the committees of our congregation, elect new council members for terms starting in the new year, and address any other congregational business, so this is an important meeting to attend!



ANNOUNCEMENTS



“Sing to the Lord a new song!” — Psalm 96:1

November is a beautiful month to remember, give thanks, and prepare our hearts for the season ahead. As we celebrate All Saints and Thanksgiving, we are especially grateful for the many people who share their time and musical gifts with our Community of Christ church family.

Our Chamber Choir and Bell Choir continue to prepare music for worship, and we are thankful for their dedication and joyful spirit. We also welcome children, soloists, instrumentalists, and chamber musicians to share their gifts. Each contribution, large or small, enriches our worship and helps us proclaim God's love through music.

As November draws to a close, we will enter the season of Advent. The First Sunday of Advent is November 29, a time of hope and expectation as we prepare once again to celebrate the birth of Christ. Our music will begin to reflect that journey from waiting and anticipation toward the joy of Christmas.

There is always room for you in our music ministry. If you enjoy singing, ringing bells, playing an instrument, or sharing music as a soloist, please consider joining us.

You may sign up on the music ministry sheets at the kiosk, talk with me, or email me at music@commofchrist.org.

Our Rehearsal Schedule:

Chancel Choir: Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Bell Choir: Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

Chamber Ensemble: TBD

May our music throughout this season be an offering of gratitude, hope, and praise.

With gratitude for making music together,

Mariana



Bell Choir
New Ringers Welcome!

We are looking for more handbell players to join our Bell Choir!
Whether you have experience or would like to try something new,
we would love to have you be part of this fun and meaningful ministry.
Come share your musical gifts and help make a joyful sound!



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Community of Christ members, we will be wrapping up donations for Bridge of Hope for this current year 2026.

Another carload will be headed to Fremont soon. All your donations were greatly appreciated and well used.

Don't worry we will begin again in the spring of 2027! Over the winter we will continue to collect egg cartons for Bridge of Hope. Thank You so much!

You're Invited to the Salem Arboretum Dedication

After several years of planting with the help of community and church partners from around greater Toledo, our friends in the North End at Salem Lutheran Church are ready to dedicate their recently completed arboretum, including trees that we have helped to plant with hands and support from Community of Christ, too! So, we are included in the invitation for their Grand Opening and dedication coming up on Saturday, November 14 from 3:00-4:00pm on site at the arboretum beside Salem at 1127 N. Huron Street in Toledo. All are welcome to attend!



Adopt-A-Resident Time

Last year, almost 200 adults with disabilities, served by Luther Home of Mercy, were blessed with Christmas gifts due to the community's generosity! Luther Home appreciates Community of Christ's ongoing support of their mission. In early November, Carol Wiemken will receive shopping lists for 20-25 individuals and make those available. She'll share details about labeling, and wrapping as well. Gifts will be due back to the Church by December 13.

New this year! Luther Home of Mercy has a General Wish List. These gifts are shared between our ministries (day programs, supported living and residential facility) & all those served, based on need. Once we receive the list, it will be posted on the kiosk.



It's that wonderful time of year again! We know it seems early, but to meet our required deadline, we're inviting you and your family to dedicate a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. Please fill out your envelope (available on the table in the gathering space or at the back of the church) and submit your payment today! You may pick up your flowers after our 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. **Poinsettia Order:** \$10.00 per plant. **Color Options:** Pink, Red, or White. **Deadline: Sunday, November 8th** (orders cannot be accepted after this date). Thank you for helping make our worship space beautiful this Christmas season!



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Stewardship Presents “Temple Talks” This November

Back in October, we invited the whole congregation to consider prayerfully how God is leading each of us to offer our time, talent, and treasure back to God’s service here at Community of Christ in the year ahead. And then coming up in December, we will once again invite all members of the congregation to sign the Covenant Charter as a way of saying “Yes!” to continuing to be a part of God’s work in this family of faith. In the mean-time, our friends at Stewardship Committee will be bringing us the stories of several members of Community of Christ as they share why they are a part of this congregation and what it means to them to be a part of this church family. On Sunday Nov 8, 15, and 22, our Sunday worship at both 8:00am and 10:00am will feature brief “Temple Talks” from across our congregation to share those stories as part of the bigger story of what God is doing among us here at Community of Christ. We hope these stories are helpful ways for all of us to see how the Holy Spirit is moving and Jesus is being made known here!

Book Club News

Recruiting new members! We’d love to have some of the men participate. Fred Shuman joined us in June, and he was a delightful addition to the group.

Save the upcoming dates for the Book Club! This way, you will have a reminder if something comes up and you need to make other plans.

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month, from 1:00-2:15ish.



❖ **November 17, December 15, January 19, February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15**

Questions? E-mail or text me! Kathryn Whitacre 567-395-9444; kathrynwhitacre13@gmail.com

High-Quality Bar Soaps Available on Nov. 22 to Support Salem!

Did you know our own member Jennifer Braun makes a specialty line of bar soaps? You might have seen them on display for sale at the Average Joe’s Car Show here back in August and seen the wide variety of scents, ingredients, and colors! She’s making those soaps available before and after worship and between services coming up on Sunday, Nov. 22, as a project through the Social Action Committee to raise additional money for our friends and ministry partners up at Salem on the North End of Toledo. These soaps would be great Christmas present/stocking-stuffers for people in your life, and Jennifer is donating all profits to a collection for Salem—check out the table in the Gathering Space on November 22!





ANNOUNCEMENTS



A Little Sweetness, A Lot of Love!



Staying Connected with Our College Students and Military Members
It seems that each year, summer flies by a little faster, and before we know it, another school year is underway! As our college students packed their bags and headed back to campus in August, our church family sent along a little something special to remind them that they are loved and remembered.

This marks the **third year of our Cookies for College ministry**, and we were delighted to prepare 16 boxes of cookies for our college students. Each box contained a dozen large, individually wrapped cookies, along with a little extra love from their church family!

The idea behind this ministry is simple. Not only do we want our students to enjoy a homemade treat, but we hope these cookies might also help them make a new friend or two. After all, who can resist a cookie?

Each individually wrapped cookie includes a sticker with a QR code linking to our church website. It's a small but meaningful way to share our church with others and remind our students and their new friends that a caring church family is always here to offer encouragement, friendship, and support.

But our connection with these young adults doesn't stop with cookies!

We have also prepared a list of our college students, including their schools, majors, birthdays, mailing addresses, and, when provided, phone numbers for sending a friendly text. This list is available on the information counter in the Gathering Space.

We encourage you to take a moment to look it over. A birthday card, a short note of encouragement, or a simple text saying, "We're thinking of you!" can mean so much to a student who is away from home.

Remembering Those Who Serve

This year, we have also included members of our congregation who are actively serving in the military. Where available, their mailing addresses are included so that we can send cards, notes of encouragement, and messages of appreciation for their service.

Whether they are studying on a college campus or serving our country, these members of our church family deserve to know that they are remembered, appreciated, and supported.

A Small Gesture Can Make a Big Difference

We invite everyone in our congregation to participate in this simple ministry of caring. Take a name from the list, send a card, remember a birthday, or offer a few words of encouragement.

It doesn't take much time or effort to brighten someone's day. Sometimes the smallest gestures leave the biggest impressions.

Let's remind our college students and military members that no matter where life takes them, they will always have a church family at Community of Christ cheering them on, keeping them in our thoughts and prayers, and welcoming them home!





ANNOUNCEMENTS



Northwestern Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

REFORMATION DAY OF GIVING

OCTOBER 31ST, 2025

REFORMATION DAY IS NOT JUST A HISTORICAL COMMEMORATION: IT IS A CALL TO LIVE OUT THE REFORMATION'S PRINCIPLES TODAY

Assist us in continuing this mission by making a donation to the NWOS Annual Fund on the anniversary of Reformation.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NWOS ANNUAL FUND AND GIVE TODAY!

SCAN

On Sunday, October 25th, we celebrate Reformation Sunday; we gave thanks for Martin Luther's reminder that the Church is always being renewed by God's grace. The Reformation was not only about reforming the Church, but about equipping God's people to live out their faith in the world. As part of this year's observance, the Northwestern Ohio Synod invites us to participate in its Reformation Day of Giving. Gifts that are received through November 15 will support the NWOS Annual Campaign, which helps support programs such as Growing in Faith, Synod Authorized Ministers, non-traditional seminary students, and provides microgrants for innovative ministry opportunities throughout the NWO Synod and remain in and directly benefit Northwestern Ohio. If you would like to learn more about these specific programs or make a gift, please visit the NWOS Annual Campaign webpage by scanning the QR code above. You can also send a check to the synod office designated for Reformation Day of Giving or Annual Fund. As we remember that we are saved by grace through faith, may we also respond with generosity, supporting God's work for the renewal of Northwestern Ohio and the world.



🎄 Christmas Caroling 🎵

Join us for an evening of **Christmas caroling on Friday, December 11!** We'll gather together to share some holiday cheer through song, with stops to be determined closer to the event.

After caroling, we'll head to the **Swagler's home** for pizza, fellowship, and a chance to enjoy the evening together.

Come share your voice, your Christmas spirit, and the joy of the season!



I am immensely grateful for the crew who gathered at my house to tackle all the weeds.
Thank you! It looks civilized again!!
Pam Davis

LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS!



FRIENDS, FAITH, & FELLOWSHIP!



FRIENDS, FAITH, & FELLOWSHIP!

Thanks to all who made the Festival of Talents such a great time!



FRIENDS, FAITH, & FELLOWSHIP!

Thank You, Youth! Thank you, youth, from Community of Christ and Providence Lutheran Church, for being such an important part of our 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, October 18! We are so grateful for the energy, joy, and faith you brought to worship. It was wonderful to see our young people serving, participating, and sharing their gifts with our church family. Thank you for helping make worship a little brighter and reminding us all that God is at work in and through our youth! We are so proud of you and grateful for each of you! Go Team Jesus!



Our Rooted youth had a great time at the corn maze last night! Thanks to everyone who came out for a fun evening together, and to all who helped make it possible! It was a great night to enjoy the fall weather and spend time together!





STEWARDSHIP

A Disciple's Way of Life



Exciting news from our church! We are offering you more options to support our church's financial needs. Council and Finance Committee (as well as the Synod) have recommended the use of a new online, safe and secure tool to be able to give online electronically. The program is through the Tithe.ly company, used by many other churches and organizations. It has several options to be able to give as noted below:

- Your donations are recorded for your giving records and confidential to the financial secretary.
- When you donate, you designate the fund you would like your money to go toward, e.g., building loan, general, thank-you, or other.

-There are four methods to give:

1. On the church website - @ <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2746426>
2. Online (through the tithe.ly website, search for Community of Christ)
3. By text: simply text the word **give** to get started.
Community Of Christ Lutheran Church: (833) 985-2568
4. Download the app and give.



Notes:

- The app and the web link allow you to input credit/debit card information. The text method will charge through your existing cell phone bill.
- There is a fee for this service for the convenience that it offers:
 - You can choose to cover this fee in addition to your donation, OR if you don't, the fee is deducted from the donation to the church.
 - This fee is a percentage typical of this type of service.

2026 Building Loan Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
Sep	\$13,338	\$12,713	\$625
YTD	\$116,591	\$115,767	\$824
2026 General Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
Sep	\$31,977	\$36,569	(\$4,592)
YTD	\$327,048	\$347,279	(\$20,231)

SIMPLY GIVING PROGRAM

PLEASE REMEMBER ---we also offer an **electronic offering**, (**Simply Giving**) that will withdraw your offering automatically from your bank account. THANK YOU FOR GIVING TO THE LORD'S WORK AT COMMUNITY OF CHRIST AND THE ENTIRE CHURCH!

Stewardship Committee Introduces "Community of Christ: In Focus" Video Series

The Stewardship Committee invites you to explore our new series of short videos, released monthly, that highlight various aspects of our ministry life here at Community of Christ. We're calling it *Community of Christ: In Focus*. Each video provides a deeper look into the many facets of our congregational life. You can watch the videos on our website by clicking on the "Community of Christ: In Focus" tab on the homepage or find them on our Facebook page and YouTube. Future videos will spotlight how our gifts of time, talent, and treasure support the work we do, giving you a clearer understanding of the many ways God is active in our community. We encourage you to check them out, share them with a friend, and discover how our shared resources are used for God's work in the world!

COMMUNITY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Lisa Boltz	11/01
Amy Fifer	11/03
Anna Rasmusson	11/04
Stephen Eberly	11/04
Dennis Dohse	11/06
Tammy Myers	11/06
Terrie Knight	11/06
Brittany Holliker	11/07
Mark Pitchford	11/07
Parker Ray	11/07
Anne Greenhagen	11/08
Matthew Britsch	11/08
Dave Rockwell	11/10
Liz Uhlik	11/10
Kenneth Terveen	11/11

Scott Boltz	11/12
Zach Weber	11/14
Amy Mustafaga	11/15
Susan Owczarzak	11/15
Sarah Bond	11/18
Gracee Pitchford	11/22
Al Lipinski	11/23
Arbor Kimball	11/24
Mallori Pollock	11/24
Josie Heilmann	11/26
Rebecca Myers	11/26
David Braun	11/27
Ella Kimball	11/27
Pamela Davis	11/27
Rose Marie Ackerman	11/27
Kathryn Depinet	11/29

A Thanksgiving Prayer Gracious and loving God, As we gather in this season of Thanksgiving, we pause to give You thanks for the many blessings You have placed in our lives. Thank You for the gift of family and friends, for the warmth of home, for food shared around our tables, and for the love and fellowship we experience in our church community. Help us to remember that every good gift comes from You. Open our hearts to those who may be lonely, hungry, grieving, or in need this holiday season. Give us generous spirits and willing hands, that we may share Your love with others. May our gratitude extend beyond this day. Teach us to recognize Your blessings each day and to live with hearts filled with joy, compassion, and thanksgiving. We give You thanks for Your presence with us, Your grace that sustains us, and Your love that never fails. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**



Like us on Facebook

Community of Christ Lutheran Church

Church Office Hours
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
(Monday through Friday)

419-877-0607

secretary@commofchrist.org
www.commofchrist.org

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