

# CHI RHO

May 2021

## Christ Lutheran Church

69 Mill Street, Athens, OH 45701

(740) 593-3144 [www.clcathens.org](http://www.clcathens.org)

Office Hours: Mon -Thurs, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

## Staff

**Pastor:** Chad Huebner [chad@clcathens.org](mailto:chad@clcathens.org)

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**Custodian:** Nic Swain [deadguynic@gmail.com](mailto:deadguynic@gmail.com)

**Office Administrator:** Katie Beth Miksa [clcathens@gmail.com](mailto:clcathens@gmail.com)



## Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 11a.m.

To Vote on Constitutional Changes,  
the Budget, LLC Changes (possibly), &  
New Council Members

This meeting will happen immediately after worship. Stay tuned for more details, but for now, save the date! Materials will be sent electronically. Paper copies will be available at church and mailed upon request through the office.

## Katie Beth Will Be Heading to Virginia

Dear all,

It is with great sadness that I write of my upcoming departure, estimated to be **in early August of this year**. While I had originally hoped to do my final year of seminary by Zoom and stay with you all, Virginia Theological Seminary has opted to end all online classes and return fully in person for fall 2021. In order to keep on track with my ordination process, I must go. I leave knowing that this church is in a strong position to grab hold of its future. In the face of uncertain times, you have been resilient. Thank you for your support and your love these past three years. You will remain in my prayers always.

~Katie Beth



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## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mark Sunderman
- 3 Adam Cutright
- 4 Dessa Thompson-Kelleher
- 5 Solveig Spjeldness
- 11 Susan Urano
- 16 Dan Kneier
- 17 Magdalena Kneier
- 18 Luke Davenport
- 27 Kristina Denbow

## IMPORTANT EVENTS

Did we miss your  
birthday !?

Let us know so we can  
celebrate with you!  
[info@clcathens.org](mailto:info@clcathens.org)



**Hocking River Brass at  
Worship • May 9th, 10 a.m.**  
Prelude, Hymns, and Postlude  
will all be provided by this lovely  
quintet!

## Budget Hearings

**Tuesday, May 18th, Noon &  
Thursday, May 20th at 6 p.m.**

Stewardship packets have been mailed. If you have not received one and would like one, please email the office at [info@clcathens.org](mailto:info@clcathens.org). If you have any questions regarding the budget, please attend one of the hearings. Council Members will be present to respond. Meetings will be held by Zoom with a link sent in the Monday What's Happening as well as the day of the event.



Thanks to Jane Unger for sewing the beautiful  
Luther Rose platform skirt featured above.

## What's Happening at CLC?

### Mid-Week Prayer Services, 7 p.m.

Every Wednesday at 7p.m., Christ Lutheran holds a Prayer Service over Zoom. The second Wednesday of the month includes Communion. The link is sent in the Monday "What's Happening" but is also available upon request through the church office: [info@clcathens.org](mailto:info@clcathens.org).

### Theology on Tap • May 13th, 6pm

Bring your own dinner and beverage of choice and meet us via Zoom! This month's topic is on the decline in church membership across mainline denominations as well as the role of religion in society. The link is sent in the Monday "What's Happening" but is also available upon request through the church office: [info@clcathens.org](mailto:info@clcathens.org). For the specific articles, email Mike Cleland at [mkcleveland81@gmail.com](mailto:mkcleveland81@gmail.com).

### Coffee Hour • Sunday, May 16th 11:30a.m.

Happening on the third Sunday just for this month and again via Zoom, we will have a brief time to check in with one another, then engage in a short conversation led by CLC's Equity and Justice Committee. For more details, see p. 5 of this newsletter. The link is sent in the Monday "What's Happening" but is also available through the office: [info@clcathens.org](mailto:info@clcathens.org).

## Commitment Sunday - What does that mean?

**Sunday, May 23rd - 10a.m. Worship**

Our time, talents, and treasures are expressions of our love for God and our neighbors. Together we can do God's work in ways that no individual can. **We are church together for the sake of the world.** Join us on commitment Sunday, bringing your estimated giving card and a sense of how you can serve as a part of Christ Lutheran's mission and ministry. See the pastoral letter on p.4 for more details.

## Commitment Sunday Luncheon

**Sunday, May 23rd after Worship**

In celebration of our commitment both to God and one another, let us FINALLY share a meal together! This is a bring-your-own-lunch-and-beverage, sit-in-your-chair-distanced-from-others, and enjoy-being-in-fellowship activity. Some tables will be available, but a sack lunch or something you can enjoy without a table is easiest. We hope you can join us for this activity of fellowship and fun.





# What's Happening at CLC Cont'd

## **Council Summary: Of regular April Meeting + a Special Meeting the Following Tuesday**

- The Nominating Committee is working on candidates for Council. If you are interested in being on Council, please contact John Laughlin at [jalaughlin2@gmail.com](mailto:jalaughlin2@gmail.com).
- The Treasurer reported that the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) loan was received in March and that she will be showing it as a loan liability in our budget, though she expects it to be forgiven. She also reported that the LLC had paid off this fiscal year's loan repayment obligation and may yet complete the entire loan repayment by September.
- Pastor Chad read a letter of resignation from Katie Beth. Katie Beth's seminary will no longer be offering an online option for Fall 2021, and she will need to attend classes in-person in Virginia. Her official end date will be sometime after July 31.



Kay & Mike Cleland at Easter Worship

- George Weckman reported that he and Pastor Chad have been shopping for a new portable keyboard (it debuted during May 2nd outdoor worship). George also reported that Hocking River Brass, a quintet from O.U., will provide special music for worship on May 9.
- Doug Debrick inquired if unspent designated Emergency Funds would roll over at the end of the fiscal year. The Treasurer assured Doug that they would.
- The potential of a financial audit committee and possibility of its makeup was discussed.
- At the regular meeting, Council worked on the completion of the aspirational budget so that it would be finished in time for the Stewardship Drive beginning at the end of April.
- In both the regular and special meeting (called specifically for this purpose), Council worked on a proposed revision of CLC's current constitution in an attempt to bring it in line with the national church's Model Constitution. This work also included retooling bylaws and continuing resolutions.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact Council President Mike Cleland ([mikercleland@gmail.com](mailto:mikercleland@gmail.com)) or (419)-487-0733. The next meeting is May 11 at 6p.m.

## **Time & Talent has moved Online this Year!**

Ready to volunteer? Explore the new ways in which you might serve the ministry and mission of Christ Lutheran Church by filling out the 2021 Time and Talent Sheet. Click here: <https://forms.gle/7HujAZ38V4ir5ABw8> and fill it out today!

## **Want to Visit our Homebound Members? Great news: Now You Can!**

**Dick Brackin** reports that Kensington Place is now allowing residents to have visitors (up to 2 at one time) in their apartments. Visiting hours are from 10a.m. to 8p.m. and visitors may remain up to 3 hours at a time. The process begins by calling the front desk at 614-252-5276 and letting them know you would like to visit Dick Brackin. Lunch is at noon and dinner at 4p.m. so best to avoid those times. Dick would love to see you when you are next in Columbus!

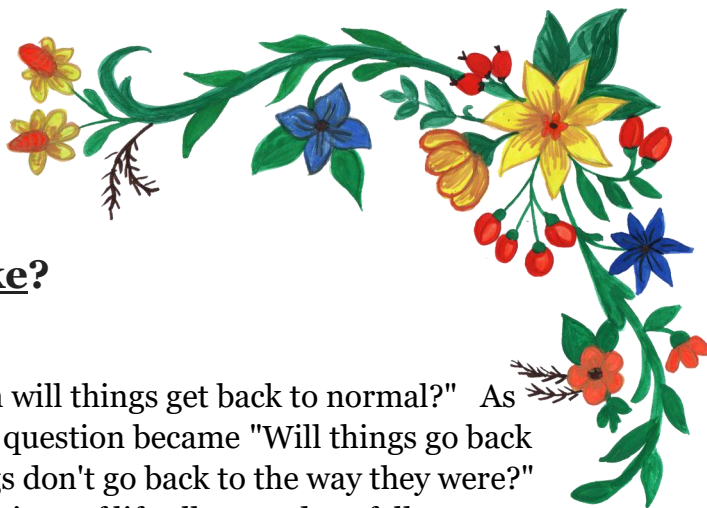
**Art Woolley, Sammy Huwe, and Fran Dalzell** are at Lindley Inn, which is now allowing "Porch Visits" (weather permitting as there's no awning). Call Linley Inn at 740-797-9701 and ask to speak with Penny, the activities director, and let her know you would like to schedule a porch visit. Meal times are 11:30a.m.-1p.m. and 4:30- 6:30p.m. so best to avoid those times. Art and Sammy would love to see you!

Finally, the rest of our homebound members (see prayer list on p. 8) live in private homes and are happy to have you stop by. Please call them directly to set up a time. Numbers are in the online directory.



Bonnie Childress, Stewardship Chair at Easter Worship

**Pastoral letter to Christ Lutheran Church,  
Athens OH – May 2021**



## **What could this new future look like?**

Dear Partners in Mission and Ministry,

Early in the pandemic everyone was asking, "When will things get back to normal?" As days of lockdown became weeks then months, that question became "Will things go back to normal?" Over time it evolved to "What if things don't go back to the way they were?" Now, as Spring has sprung, and we are seeing new signs of life all around us, folks are wrestling with a fourth question: "What could this new future look like?"

We are in a liminal space—we have an opportunity to create anew what *normal* looks like. On one hand, we don't want to discard the good we've found during the pandemic. On the other, "[m]oving forward calls for imagination and resilience."\* Nathan Kirkpatrick of the Alban Institute, a congregational leadership venture affiliated with Duke Divinity School, summarizes our challenge well:

What could this new future look like ... is a hopeful question that gives congregations a sense of agency again. It's a truth-telling question, recognizing that all that we knew as "normal" may not be possible anymore. It's a justice-seeking question, honoring that there were elements of our past "normal" that were not holy, good or life-giving. It's a creative question that invites us to ask what's possible now.

As Pentecost—often called the birth of the Church—approaches, lean with me into this challenge. Explore where you fit in this new creation and what you have to offer. The Holy Spirit is active and present in, with, and under each of us at Christ Lutheran. And I am excited to be part of this creation with you.

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the day of Pentecost, we will gather to begin the work of birthing this new vision. It is the day we commit our time, talents, and treasure to the ministry and mission of this congregation for the year ahead. We invite you to bring your estimated giving cards with you to worship that day or to mail them in advance if unable to attend. Not only will we offer these with our prayers of praise and thanksgiving, but all those who attend will also receive commitment cards during worship to be offered as well. Please prayerfully consider how you will share your gifts and do contact the office if you have not received a stewardship packet and would like one.

Let us be enlivened by the opportunities of the year ahead as we work together to reveal the future God has planned.

Blessings on the way,

**Pastor Chad**



\*Susan Beaumont, *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2019).

# Social Ministry - Faith In Action

## Hunger News



**LSS Mobile Food Pantry** The Lutheran Social Services Mobile Food Pantry is Thursday, May 13th at The Plains United Methodist Church. The food distribution will be from 11:00-noon. Drive through pantries continue for the safety of clients and volunteers. Volunteers are needed at 10:15. Questions can be directed to Adele Hanson at [adelehanson@gmail.com](mailto:adelehanson@gmail.com).

## Bread for the World Offering of Letters

Bread for the World's Offering of Letters is an annual letter writing and advocacy campaign to promote legislation that will work toward eliminating hunger and poverty around the world. According to the Bread for the World website ([www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)), "more than 270 million people are facing extreme hunger—up from 135 million before the pandemic. The levels of U.S hunger are now higher than during the Great Depression, and the social and economic impact of the pandemic continues to devastate families and communities in the U.S. and around the world."

Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which provides many avenues to help people struggling with hunger and poverty. This year's Offering of Letters campaigns for the provisions of this legislation addressing hunger to be made permanent, along with making the United States the world leader for providing resources and programs to help eradicate hunger around the world. For more information, sample letters, and an email letter template for our representatives, go to [www.bread.org/ol](http://www.bread.org/ol).



## Equity & Justice

### Coffee Hour - Moved to the 3rd Sunday for this Month

Happening Sunday, May 16th at 11:30a.m. via Zoom, participants will have some time to socialize and catch up, then dive into discussion on the following longstanding issue:

Four years ago the Equity and Justice committee sent a letter to the editors of the local papers stating "We write in anguish over the injustice of police violence against people of color." Within 18 days of the start of the trial of Derek Chauvin in March 2021, at least 64 people died at the hands of law enforcement nationwide, with Black and Latino people representing more than half of the dead. The average was more than three killings a day. (NYT) This is a complicated topic. How do we process this information? How do we as Christians respond? Come share your feelings and ideas, or come to just listen.

**June Coffee Hour** - Returns to Second Sunday, i.e. June 13th at 11:30a.m. Discussion will be around Athens United Immigrant Support Network and inform folks on how it assists people seeking asylum.

## Habitat for Humanity News

1. **Scrap Metal Drive**- The Faith Build Coalition of Habitat for Humanity of SE Ohio will again be collecting scrap metal on **Saturday, May 15, 2021, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.**, at the Athens County Fairgrounds. For a list of accepted items, [click here](#). It is also a document shred day, [click here](#) for details.
2. **Rummage Sale**- Also, the Faith Build Coalition is raising funds through its twice a year rummage sale on **Saturday, May 22, 2021, from 8:20 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**, at Christ the King Family Center (behind the church). Please donate household goods, toys, and clothing in good condition, or come and shop! Donations may be dropped off at the Catholic Family Center behind Christ the King Church on Thursday, May 20, from 10 a.m.- 7 p.m. and Friday, May 21, from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. The money raised will help the coalition sponsor the next home-building project in the fall.

# Social Ministry Continued

## Earth Justice



- On April 18th, a Creation Care workshop was presented by Christ Lutheran's Creation Care ambassadors, Doug Debrick, Linda Sauer, and Jeanne Haseley. Thank you to all Christ Lutheran members who joined the Zoom presentation. We welcome feedback on the presentation as we will be presenting the program again for another audience. Here are some Creation Care Resources for additional info:
  - ELCA Advocacy ([ELCA.org/advocacy](https://elca.org/advocacy) and @ELCAadvocacy on social media)
  - Lutherans Restoring Creation ([LutheransRestoringCreation.org](https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org))
  - [ELCA.org/environment](https://elca.org/environment), including "Let's Talk Faith & Climate" & "Moving Forward Guide"
  - Creation Justice Ministries ([CreationJustice.org](https://creationjustice.org))
  - GreenFaith Living the Change: [www.livingthechange.net](https://www.livingthechange.net)
  - Blessed Tomorrow [www.blessedtomorrow.org](https://www.blessedtomorrow.org)
  - Pachamama Alliance [www.pachamama.org](https://www.pachamama.org)
- On April 27th, Lutherans' Restoring Creation hosted an Earth Day Service, with Presiding Bishop Eaton preaching: <https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/creation-focused-service-for-earth-day-2021/>
- Now is the time to think about preparing to plant a vegetable garden. Growing your own vegetables cuts down on carbon emissions from transporting produce from other places and provides fresh and better tasting produce. Vegetable plants are available locally from the Alexander FFA annual plant sale being held at the greenhouse behind the high school gym on May 3-5 from 11:40 to 3:30, May 6 from 11:40 to 4:00, May 7 from 11:40 to 2:45, May 8 from 2:00 to 6:00 and May 9 from 11:00 to 3:00.
- You can recycle your plastic bags at Mac's Work Wear (Mac's Thrifty Store) until May 15, and at the mall in front of the former Elder-Berman's after that. They will be made into park benches.

## Advocacy Corner

### Calling Lutherans to Advocate for the Equality Act

The House has passed the bipartisan Equality Act ([H.R. 5](#)), a bill that would add sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes alongside race, gender, religion, national origin, age, and disability. Now we need to urge the Senate to introduce and pass an amended version of this legislation too.

The ELCA supports equal rights for our LGBTQIA+ siblings. The ELCA's social statement [\*Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust\*](#) states that the "dignity of the human being reflects God's deep love and stands against all forms of violence, discrimination, and injustice".

We now have the opportunity to urge adoption of legislation that ensures the full rights of LGBTQIA+ persons. We do so as a church that affirms the conscience-bound diversity of beliefs across the ELCA, and we do so mindful of possible impacts of this legislation on religious liberty. Concern is expressed that the current version of this legislation could open the door to future improper government interference in the ecclesiastical activities of religious organizations. Read more about these concerns in the blog "[\*Equal Rights and Religious Freedom\*](#)." Affirming our conscience-bound diversity and aware of the need of religious freedom, support for an amended version of the Equality Act is consistent with ELCA priorities.

**Now is the time to add our clear and faithful Lutheran voices to make long overdue inclusions to federal law. You can send [a customized letter to your Senators now through the ELCA Action Center](#).**



Christ Lutheran is part of the Reconciling Ministries Network



# The Bridge

**Horseback Riding** Following Godspeed Worship, the students had a great final semester event at Uncle Buck's. Not pictured: Ben Carman (2021 graduate), Hannah Campbell, Jason Abraham, and Noah Hallman, who were sadly unable to join due to Covid-19 quarantine protocols.

Fearless leader and 2020 Hocking College Winter Graduate, Olivia Newman pictured with Bridge Peer Rinnah Kinney



Left: Christina Corso on Bonnie, a very large white Percheron



Far Left: Katie Beth with Rinnah Kinney in the background.

Left Starting from Front: Audrey Mullen, Chloe Mason, and Christina Corso



Above: The whole crew starting with Rinnah, then Katie Beth, Olivia on the ground, Audrey, Chloe, and Christina.



Audrey and Chloe taking in the clouds

# ***May Calendar of Events***

<i><b>Sunday</b></i>	<i><b>Monday</b></i>	<i><b>Tuesday</b></i>	<i><b>Wednesday</b></i>	<i><b>Thursday</b></i>	<i><b>Friday</b></i>	<i><b>Saturday</b></i>
						1
2 <b>Worship</b> , 10 a.m., Sideyard	3	4	5 <b>Mid-Week Prayer</b> , 7p.m., Zoom	6 <b>Social Ministry</b> , 7 p.m., Zoom	7	8
9 <b>Mother's Day</b> <b>Worship</b> , 10 a.m., Sideyard, with Hocking River Brass 	10	11 <b>Equality &amp; Justice</b> , 4 p.m., Zoom <b>Council</b> , 6 p.m., Zoom	12 <b>Mid-Week Communion</b> , 7p.m., Zoom	13 <b>LSS Mobile Food Pantry</b> , 10:15 a.m. - Noon, Plains UMC <b>Theology on Tap</b> , 6p.m., Zoom	14	15 <b>Community Recycling, Community Shredding, and Habitat Scrap Metal Drive</b> , 9a.m.-1p.m., Ath- ens County Fair- grounds
16 <b>Worship</b> , 10 a.m., Sideyard <b>Coffee Hour</b> , 11:30 a.m., Zoom	17	18 <b>Budget Hear- ing</b> , Noon, Zoom	19 <b>Mid-Week Prayer</b> , 7p.m., Zoom	20 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> <b>Budget Hearing</b> , 6p.m., Zoom <b>Beer &amp; Bible</b> , 7p.m., Zoom <b>Rummage Dropoff</b> , 10a.m.- 7p.m., Christ the King Family Center	21 <b>Rummage Dropoff</b> , 10a.m.-5p.m., Christ the King Family Center	22 <b>Habitat Rum- mage Sale</b> , 8:20a.m.- 12:30p.m. at Christ the King Family Center
23 <b>Pentecost &amp; Commitment Sunday</b> <b>Worship</b> , 10 a.m., Sideyard <b>BYOL</b> , After Worship, Sideyard (Bring your own lunch)	24	25 <b>Earth Justice</b> , 5:30 p.m., Zoom	26 <b>Mid-Week Prayer</b> , 7p.m., Zoom	27	28	29
30 <b>Worship</b> , 10 a.m., Sideyard	31 <b>Memorial Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<p><i><b>Don't see your event listed?</b></i></p> <p>Please notify the church office by the newsletter deadline to include your event/meeting/activity on this calendar. <a href="mailto:info@clcathens.org">info@clcathens.org</a></p>				



## **PRAYERS FOR HEALTH FOR:**

Karen Chikosky  
Carl Savage  
Dick Brackin  
Jo King  
Joan Fucci  
Dave Armstrong

\*Jo Ann Pulfer  
\*Sammy Huwe  
\*Mary Andrews  
\*Fran Dalzell  
\*Art Woolley  
\*Homebound members





# Worship Assistants

Thank you for letting Katie Beth, the Office Administrator, know in advance if you are planning to be out of town so we can schedule accordingly: [info@clcathens.org](mailto:info@clcathens.org).

	Earth Sunday May 2	Mother's Day May 9	May 16	Commitment Sunday May 23	May 30
<i>Asst./Lector</i>	Sam Hanson	Ellen Peterson	Jane Unger	Greg Newton	Susan Urano
<i>Time with Children</i>	Kay Cleland	Chris Snoddy	Puppets	Jana Hovland	Chris Snoddy

## Easter Photos



Photos Continue on  
the next page...



## Easter Photos Continued



Photos Continue on  
the next page...



## Last of the Easter Photos



All photos were taken by Katie Beth. So sorry if she missed you! We hope to capture you worshipping with us soon.

HAPPY EASTER