



CHI RHO

November 2021

Christ Lutheran Church

69 Mill Street, Athens, OH 45701

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

STAFF

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Dear Partners in Mission and Ministry,

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Th 5:16-18)

Each November, as my thoughts drift toward Thanksgiving, I try to spend some time reflecting and giving thanks for the many blessings in my life. I have so much for which I am thankful. I am thankful for the beauty of Fall colors and the gift of living where we do. I am thankful for my family. It is an exciting and stressful time in our house as Caleb and Cole stand on the precipice of adulthood and share their hopes and dreams for their lives as they consider what's next for them. I am thankful for you, for the partnership we share, and for this work that I love. I am thankful for the passion our faith community has in attending to loving God and loving neighbor. I am thankful for Bridge students that let me referee and coach them as they wrestle with God figuring out this life of faith. I am thankful for grace. God's grace and your grace as we navigate this journey together.

It is a choice to be thankful. One thing I notice when I take time to be thank-filled is that a fullness starts running over into the parts of my life where I struggle. Sometimes I have even become thankful for the struggles. I imagine someday we will be able to look at this pandemic with thankfulness for the ways that it has challenged and changed us. In the meantime, we give thanks for the gift of hope and the promise that our current struggles are not the end of the story.

Thankful,
Pastor Chad

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NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3-Merl Almquist
9-Karl Runser
12-Cedar Thompson-Kelleher
13-Dan Snoddy
17-Bruce Kuhre
18-Irelynne Deno
24-Barbara Singer

Did We Miss Your Birthday? Memorial

Please email the office
and let us know!



What's Happening at CLC?

Bible Blessing & Reformation Worship • Sunday, Oct, 31st

Planning for the usual 10a.m. in the side yard, we invite you to both wear red and bring those big family heirloom Bibles to be blessed. We will be gifting all our youth with Bibles, which will also be blessed as part of the service. In the event we are rained out, we will bless your Bibles virtually while we bless the youth Bibles physically at the church. Chris Snoddy will then send details for a youth Bible drive-thru pick up.

GO VOTE, Nov. 2nd If you have not already, please go vote. It is a privilege to do so.

Theology on Tap • Thursday, Nov. 11th at 6p.m. Meeting on Zoom, this group's topics come from *Living Lutheran* and are emailed in advance of the meeting. The link is sent via the Monday What's Happening, but you can always contact Mike Cleland with any questions mikercleland@gmail.com.

Coffee Hour • Sunday, Nov. 14th at 11:30a.m. Meeting on Zoom, this month's topic is White Fragility and will center on the strategies that White people often use when confronted with difficult situations or discussions of race. If you've wondered what "**White fragility**" means, come join us for practical learning that will help you navigate these waters. Chris Stepp, a teacher in Athens, and John Schmeiding, from the Athens Mediation Center, will be leading the discussion.

Oct. 12th Council Meeting Summary

- Motion passed to approved the benefits plan, health and retirement, for full time employees for 2022. Note Portico, the ELCA provider for these, operates on the calendar year.
- Property committee, after substantial research into local practices, recommended a new fee schedule for use of Church space. Council approved it. Congregation members continue to not have to pay for the use of the building for events, including weddings, as long as they are responsible for supervision of the event and follow the building use rules. Usage fees for spaces for outside groups are available upon request through the office. Our rental relationship with our Alcoholics Anonymous and Overeaters Anonymous groups has not changed.
- Worship Location in light of Covid was discussed. A summary of the result of that conversation is found on page 3 of this newsletter.
- On going: research on how church funds might be invested to align with our mission priorities.
- On going: investigating insurance options as our church plan is set to renew in December.
- On going: search for Director of Youth & Family Ministries. Has been well publicized.



Above: Baptism of John David Hasenfus at our Oct. 10th Worship



Left: Michael Tobar and Matt James providing Jazz for worship at the same Oct. 10th service as above.



At our Sunday, Nov. 7th All Saints service we will recognize and remember loved ones who have died in the past year. If you have not already, please send your names into the office via the form link in the What's Happening or via direct email: info@clcathens.org.

Covid Worship Update

Psalm 13 - a Psalm of David

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me? | 4 lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken. |
| 2 How long must I take counsel in my soul
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? | 5 But I have trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. |
| 3 Consider and answer me, O Lord my God;
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, | 6 I will sing to the Lord,
because he has dealt bountifully with me. |

Like David, we know many of you are crying out, "How long, O Lord?" must we wait to worship together again "like we used to." It has been such a long time since we've been able to worship freely together. Such a long time since we've seen each other's smiling faces and lifted our voices in full-throated song. The truthful answer to this question is, we don't know.

What we do know is that the numbers are going down, and thank God for that! And yet, the rate of transmission remains high--meaning the risk of catching it is still high, especially for our elderly or medically at-risk members, even those who are vaccinated. Children now make up 30% of people hospitalized with Covid, and more than 700 children have died of the disease with many more experiencing effects of "long Covid." As you know, many of our youth are not yet eligible for the vaccine.

Back when our first plan for returning to worship was created, the state was keeping us informed with maps and data. We designed our plan around this information that is no longer available. We have heard your voices asking "how long" and took up this question at our most recent Council meeting. It was a very long and difficult conversation, but in the end we agreed that our primary concern is to keep everyone safe as best we can, which for now means continuing to have worship outside as the weather allows and no indoor worship when it doesn't.

We also recognize that we need a clear communicable new plan, bench marks to help you know when the day might come. We have set the bar at yellow: when Athens County (currently at red) returns to yellow according to the CDC map and data, we will revisit the question of indoor, in person worship.

We understand this is welcome news for some, and for others painful. It is not easy to lead in this time of lamentation, but we are your elected leaders and are doing the best we can with the information we have available to us. We will continue to offer opportunities for interactive online worship on Wednesday nights via the prayer service, and online fellowship through Theology on Tap and the Coffee Hour discussions led by Equity and Justice. If you have other ideas on how we might help you feel more like part of our faith family, that fall within the boundaries we have established above, please don't hesitate to reach out to us--to any Council member.

May the Lord help us to trust in his steadfast love and rejoice in our salvation, even in this time when it feels like we may have been forgotten.

-CLC Church Council

Youth & Family News

We went to the Pumpkin Patch!

See what a great time our Youth and Family crew had at Libby's Pumpkin Patch in October:



Native American Storytelling and Song with Steve Free

Nov 7th at 2pm at the Nature Center at Lake Hope State Park

Mr. Free is a local award-winning Native American musician whom the Equity and Justice committee planned to bring to Christ Lutheran until Covid interfered. We are so happy he will be performing in the area, and we especially encourage families with children to hear him. Lake Hope is also a beautiful place for an autumn hike.



Social Ministry - Faith In Action

Hunger News

CROP WALK 2021 The Athens CROP Walk returned to a group walk event this year but physically distanced due to Covid-19 considerations. Participants enjoyed being able to walk on the bike path and return to the Athens Community Center for a Larry's Dawg House ice cream treat. A Thrivent Action team grant provided funding for the treat. Lutheran walkers raised \$1,055.00 for Church World Service hunger programs. The grand total for all three churches participating this year was \$3,065.00. Both totals are higher than last year. **A sincere thank you to this year's walkers and sponsors.**



Photos above and to the right are from the 2021 Athens CROP Walk.

LSS Mobile Food Pantry • Nov. 11th at 10:15 a.m.

The November LSS mobile food pantry will be Thursday, November 11th at The Plains United Methodist Church. The pantry is from 11:00-noon. Volunteers are needed at 10:15. This pantry will distribute additional Thanksgiving dinner food items along with the usual pre-packed box of food. Please contact Adele Hanson for details: adelehanson@gmail.com.



Photos below and to the left are from the October 2021 LSS Mobile Food Pantry



Social Ministry - Continued

Equity and Justice

Coffee Hour

Thanks to those who attended our last coffee hour. We listened to Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, Exec. Dir, of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, and others talk about our "dysfunctional immigration system," followed by a good discussion. Here are links for those who were unable to attend:

- <https://www.marketplace.org/shows/make-me-smart-with-kai-and-molly/the-dysfunctional-us-refugee-system/>
- <https://support.elca.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1339>
- <http://www.votervoice.net/Shares/B9YplAu1ACtnVALG56Y7FAA>
- <https://www.lirs.org/>

This month's coffee hour is Sunday, Nov. 14th 11:30am-12:30pm on Zoom, and the topic is White Fragility. It will center on the strategies that White people often use when confronted with difficult situations or discussions of race. If you've wondered what "**White fragility**" means, come join us for practical learning that will help you navigate these waters. Chris Stepp, a teacher in Athens, and John Schmeiding, from the Athens Mediation Center, will be leading the discussion. The link will be sent in the weekly What's Happening email.

Our workshop with Dr. Winsome Chuunu, Dir. of the Multicultural Center at OU will be delayed until we can meet in person.

Earth Justice

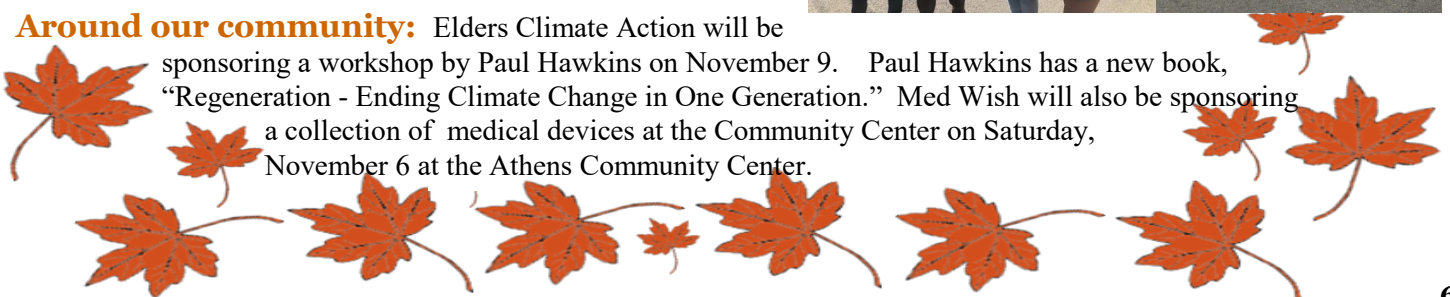
Thank you to all who attended our blessing of the animals for St. Francis Day on October 2 and our Creation Care service on Sunday, October 3. Also, much thanks to Lee Gregg of the Athens Rethink Plastics Committee for her insightful presentation on October 17 and thanks to all who were able to attend and create concrete action plans in their own lives.



Upcoming: Forest Walk on the Bike Path

Earth Justice will sponsor a forest walk along the bike path with Joe Brehm sometime after the first frost.

Around our community: Elders Climate Action will be sponsoring a workshop by Paul Hawkins on November 9. Paul Hawkins has a new book, "Regeneration - Ending Climate Change in One Generation." Med Wish will also be sponsoring a collection of medical devices at the Community Center on Saturday, November 6 at the Athens Community Center.



Social Ministry - Continued

Advocacy Corner

ELCA Action Alerts: a sampling of actions you can take to support the mission of the church.

INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL TRUTH AND HEALING NEEDED

Join religious and Indigenous leaders' call for Congress to advance a new commission and study on the devastating legacy of Indian Boarding Schools and develop meaningful steps to heal moving forward

URGE HOUSING IN INFRASTRUCTURE DISCUSSIONS

This fall, as Congress continues to work on a historic new infrastructure package, it is an opportune moment to encourage our lawmakers to support greater access to affordable housing.

SUPPORT THE JOHN LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT

Join faith leaders in contacting Congress to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R.4), a key step in ensuring the voices of all citizens will be safeguarded and heard.

To receive action alerts from the ELCA you can sign up here: <https://elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Advocacy>

Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio

1. **Rummage Sale-** Saturday, November 13, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., at the Holy Family Center behind Christ the King Catholic Church on Mill St. Warm clothing for the winter and household items are most needed, but other clothing, shoes, linens, holiday, and decorative items will be accepted. Bring donations to the Holy Family Center on Thursday, Nov. 11 from 10am until 7pm or Friday, Nov. 12, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.
2. **Thanks to generous sponsors and donors,** the Fall 5K Fun Run raised almost \$3,000, and the Scrap Metal Drive earned \$1,200!! These successful fund raisers will help us build the next Faith Build home in 2022. Thank you to all our supporters!



The Santa Tree Project

The Athens County Children Services Santa Tree is sponsored by ACCS, but it is funded by the generosity of individuals, families, and businesses here in Athens County. Organizations will be able to buy gifts for 5, 25, or more children, and will be given "ornaments" with wish lists of individual children. There will be no physical tree in the mall this year, so all donations should be monetary. Families and individuals who want to make monetary gifts can send checks made out to **Friends of Athens County Children Services** with "Santa Tree Project" in the memo line. Mail those to PO Box 1046, Athens, Ohio 45701. Online donations can be made or direct purchases of the most requested items can be done at <http://athenscountysantaproject.blogspot.com>.

Clothing Donations Needed

The Social Ministry Committee is requesting donations for an asylum seeker who is sponsored by AUISP (Athens United Immigrant Support Project) and needs winter clothes. Mohamed is rapidly learning English and getting to know people in the community. He attends GED classes at Hocking College and will be applying to a job training program there. He especially needs winter boots, a winter jacket, warm gloves, a scarf, and hat or earmuffs. He wears size 9 shoe. His size is medium for socks, shirts or sweaters, a jacket, and pants for winter. If you have something to donate, please drop it off at the church. If you would like to donate money to help purchase some of these items, please make the check out to AUISP, write Mohamed on the Memo line, and send it to Anne Sparks at: 730 Robinette Ridge Rd., New Marshfield, OH 45766. Thank you!

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH

Marcus Dahn
Jacky Brown
Lou Childress
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

The Bridge

BONFIRE at Katie Beth's

Friday, Nov. 12th. 7 p.m., head to Katie Beth's home for a bonfire. For more details, email thebridge@ohio.edu.

BRIDGE THANKSGIVING

Wednesday, Nov. 17th at 5:30p.m. Join us for this annual tradition. While we won't be cooking our own food this year, we can still come together in thanks for all the gifts we have received. We will be ordering from Bob Evans, which was quite the hit last year, and be enjoying some fun and games.

SPRING RETREAT

We are looking at Cincinnati or alternatively, a return to camp, for our spring retreat. Have thoughts? Please speak with Katie Beth ASAP.

PHOTOS

To the left and directly below are from our Glow Canoe Trip this fall.

The other two picnic photos are from Bridge Wednesday Night being hosted at Pr. Chad and Cheryl's home.

Bottom left is Bridge one random Wednesday night in October.



November Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 AA , 6p.m., Fellowship Hall	2 Go Vote , It's a privilege to do so. OA , 6p.m., Fellowship Hall Equity & Justice , 7p.m., Zoom	3 The Bridge , 5:30 p.m., Side Yard Wed. Night Prayer 7p.m., Zoom	4 Social Ministry , 7p.m., Zoom	5	6 Medical Supplies & Equipment Collection Event , 10a.m. - 2p.m., Athens Community Center
7 ALL SAINTS Worship , 10a.m., Side yard (online only if cold or raining) Bridge Brunch , after worship, TBD local restaurant	8 AA , 6p.m., Fellowship Hall	9 OA , 6p.m., Fellowship Hall Council , 7p.m., Zoom	10 The Bridge , 5:30 p.m., Side Yard Wed. Night Prayer 7p.m., Zoom	11 LSS Mobile Food Pantry , 10:15a.m., The Plains UMC Theology on Tap , 6p.m., Zoom	12 Bridge Bonfire , 7p.m., Katie Beth's Home	13 Habitat Rummage Sale , 8:30a.m. - 12:30p.m., Christ the King Catholic Church, See p. 7 for drop-off details.
14 Worship , 10a.m., Side yard (online only if cold or raining) Coffee Hour , 11:30 a.m., Zoom	15 AA , 6p.m., Fellowship Hall	16 OA , 6p.m., Fellowship Hall	17 Newsletter Deadline The Bridge Thanksgiving , 5:30 p.m., Side Yard Wed. Night Prayer 7p.m., Zoom	18	19	20
21 CHRIST THE KING Worship , 10a.m., Side yard (online only if cold or raining)	22 AA , 6p.m., Fellowship Hall	23 Earth Justice , 5:30 p.m., Zoom OA , 6p.m., Fellowship Hall	24 Church Office Closed Wed. Night Prayer 7p.m., Zoom	25 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	26	27
28 ADVENT 1 Worship , 10a.m., Side yard (online only if cold or raining)	29 AA , 6p.m., Fellowship Hall	30 OA , 6p.m., Fellowship Hall	<p>Don't see your event listed?</p> <p>Please notify the church office by the newsletter deadline to include your event/meeting/activity on this calendar.</p> <p>info@clcathens.org</p>			

Update on Our Montaña de Luz Service Team

CLC's virtual service team for Montaña de Luz had a chance to learn more about Honduras and the Mountain of Light. With support from our friends at CLC, our Virtual Service Team was able to raise \$4305!



Do You SMILE?

We encourage everyone to buy local whenever possible, but for those times that you choose to use Amazon from time to time, here is an easy way for a percentage of your purchase to come back to the church. Follow and bookmark this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-0678731>, making sure CLC is listed as the supporting organization. Then make your purchases like normal. That's it!

Worship Assistants

Please let Katie Beth, the Office Administrator,
know in advance of the newsletter if you are planning to be out of town
so we can schedule accordingly: info@clcathens.org *Thank you!*

	November 7	November 14	November 21	November 28	December 5
Lector/Assistant	Beth Longenecker	Mike Cleland	Ellen Peterson	Wanda Weinberg	Chris Snoddy
Videographer	Sam/Doug	Kay/Marilyn	Sam/Doug	Kay/Marilyn	Sam/Doug
Time with the Children	Kay Cleland	Cheryl Huebner	Puppets	Jana Hovland	Kay Cleland
Greeter	John Deno	Sue Ellen Miller	Jane Unger	Linda Sauer	John Deno

You are listed above because of what you indicated on your *Time & Talent* sheet.

If you CAN'T make it on Sunday?

First, try to make your own arrangements by swapping with another person in the same area. **If unsuccessful, call or email the church office no later than noon on the Wednesday prior.** Otherwise, it will likely be too late to assist you.

If you no longer wish to serve in this area?

Email Katie Beth to have your name taken off of a particular area of service or added to a new area of interest! info@clcathens.org

This Month's Featured Benevolence Recipient MY SISTER'S PLACE

A note from the My Sister's Place Director, Kelly Cooke:

My Sister's Place provides emergency shelter, counseling, and court advocacy to victim survivors of interpersonal violence in Athens, Hocking, and Vinton Counties. We are licensed for eleven beds, including adults and children. Our outreach counseling program reaches those not in need of shelter, or who have been in shelter but want to continue the counseling relationship. Our court advocate assists clients with filing protection orders and with legal information.

This past year, we started a new transitional housing program that addresses our long-held problem of turning many people away from shelter. The lack of affordable housing in our area has often led to a traffic jam in shelter since many clients will have housing vouchers but cannot locate a place to live under the value of that voucher. With this new program, shelter residents needing more time will have more autonomy and privacy as they build a stable foundation for their next steps. We added a new position for this program, an outreach case manager, who ensures a steady transition after leaving our shelter and transitional programs. Their website: www.msopathens.org.

Thanks to the Generosity of our Congregation, \$610 was raised for the Undies and Sweats appeal. This will be donated to the School Outreach program at Children Services, so that workers stationed in the schools can purchase undies and sweats to distribute to children in the elementary schools on an as needed basis.