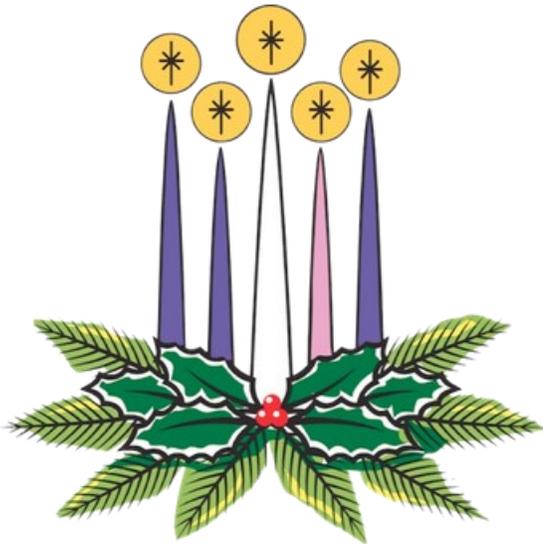


CHI RHO

December 2021



Christ Lutheran Church

69 Mill Street, Athens, OH 45701

(740) 593-3144 www.clcathens.org

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

STAFF

Pastor: Chad Huebner chad@clcathens.org

Music Director: George Weckman weckman@ohio.edu

Director of Campus Ministry: Katie Beth Miksa info@clcathens.org

Custodian: Nic Swain deadguynic@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Katie Beth Miksa info@clcathens.org

Christmas in Dark Places

By Glen Scrivener

It used to be summer when Christmas came round,
Neath tall southern skies, over sun-scorched ground,
With the backyard cricket, the barbies, the beach,
And munching on mangoes to watch the Queen's
Speech.

The slatherings of sunscreen, the glorious glare
And toasting the glow in the warm evening air.

It used to be summer... when I was young.
A golden age in a land far flung.
But there came a point, I crossed a divide,
Went up in the world and summer had died.
December is dark now, the nights close in,
So we huddle together as kith and as kin.

It's winter now when Christmas rolls round,
We celebrate still though with different surrounds.
We mull the wine and strike the matches,
Light the fires, batten the hatches,
Gather around the warming beam
Of family love or a TV screen.
So safe inside, no place to go,
We toast marshmallows and let it snow.

Our summer's gone, if you've been around,
you've felt the fall: life's run aground.
We've gone up in the world, seen summer die.
So what's our hope? The dark defy?
Stoke the hearth? Retreat indoors?

Rug up warm with you and yours?
The shadow reaches even here,
But THIS is the place for Christmas cheer.

It's dark, in the bible, when Christmas is spoken.
Always a bolt from the blue for the broken.
It's the valley of shadow, the land of the dead,
It's, "No place in the inn," so He stoops to the shed.
He's born to the shameful, bends to the weak,
becomes the lowly: the God who can't speak!
And yet, what a Word, this Saviour who comes,
Our dismal, abysmal depths He plumbs.

Through crib and then cross, to compass our life.
To carry and conquer. Our Brother in strife.
He became what we are: our failures He shouldered,
To bring us to His life: forever enfolded.
He took on our frailty, He took on all-comers,
To turn all our winters to glorious summers.

It's Christmas now... whatever the weather,
Some soak in the sun, some huddle together.
But fair days or foul, our plight He embraces.
Real Christmas can shine in the darkest of places.



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Facebook page:



www.facebook.com/clcathens



What's Happening at CLC?

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 - Mary Kay Runser
6 - Karen Chikosky
11 - Mary Andrews - 102 yrs!
12 - Peter Jung
19 - Sam Hanson
21 - Vicki Lamson
22 - Carol Kirk-Blyth
23 - Anne Sparks
Chris Yoder
29 - Nick Claussen

Did we miss your birthday?

Please let us know by sending an email to: info@clcathens.org



A Service of Lessons & Carols
Sunday Dec. 26th, 10a.m.

Advent Evening Prayer

Wednesdays at 7p.m. in the Sanctuary

Starting Dec. 1st, join us in the sanctuary on Wednesdays for four weeks of Holden's Evening Prayer. For those unfamiliar, GIA Publications tells us that Holden's Evening Prayer was written in 1985-1986 while Marty Haugen was the musician-in-residence at Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in Washington State. Marty wrote this lovely sung setting of vespers to follow the traditional form while using contemporary and inclusive language. Specific dates are Dec. 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 7p.m. in the sanctuary. Since it is happening in lieu of our online evening prayer, it will also be lived streamed. Our online evening prayer service will restart sometime in January.

Theology on Tap • Thursday, Dec. 9th • 6p.m.

Meets via Zoom. Bring your own food and beverage to partake in the virtual dinner. Topics (TBD) will come from the November or December issue of *Living Lutheran*, freely available online. Link goes out in the weekly what's happening, but you can always contact Mike Cleland with questions: mikercleland@gmail.com.

Coffee Hour • Sunday, Dec. 12th • 11:30a.m.

Held on Zoom, there will be no presentation this month. Coffee hour will simply be a time for fun, fellowship, and personal seasonal reflections co-sponsored by Life Together and Equity and Justice. We hope you can join us for this virtual get together!

Christmas Eve Worship • Friday Dec. 24th, 9p.m.

Join us for the return of our Christmas Eve Candlelight service! Held in our sanctuary, we ask that you please wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status. We look forward to being with you in-person, once again, on this special day.

Nov. 9th Council Meeting Summary

- Discussion and eventual motion passed to reopen the sanctuary for in-person worship on Sundays with masks required. More details of that discussion are provided in the letter emailed to the congregation in November, which may be found on our website by [clicking here](#).
- Employee Practices Liability Insurance and Directors and Officers Insurance paperwork is in the process of being submitted for a quote.
- Credit Cards - Options for credit cards that would work with our bookkeeping system and also prioritize our responsible investments commitments have been explored. There are no great options, all have their shortcomings; so decision making has been referred to the Finance Committee as to whether we should stay or switch.
- Responsible Investing of Christ Lutheran's investment funds has also been explored and information on options gathered. This too has been referred to the Finance Committee for final decision making.
- Council was informed that all of the LLC's apartments have been rented for next year. One renter is behind on rent currently, but otherwise they are on track. The LLC expects to establish a dollar amount for benevolence by the beginning of next year (2022).
- Next Council meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 14, at 7:00p.m.



Above: First time worshipping in the sanctuary, with singing in over 500 days! Image from worship on Sunday, Nov. 14th provided by Sam.

Poinsettias are available again this year. The cost is \$7 per plant. Envelopes will be available in the Narthex during Sunday worship. To order online, please do two things 1) fill out the order form by [clicking here](#) and 2) pay \$7 per plant either by mailing a check to the church with "poinsettias" in the memo line OR via our online payment by [clicking here](#) and then clicking "give online now." Under "to" you will see a line for poinsettias.



Youth and Family



Left: Nathan Haskell deciding to join Uncle Pr. Chad for part of his sermon about Bibles during our Nov. 7th All Saints Worship



Right: Jana, Nathan, Ivy, Elizabeth, Jason, Katie Beth, Scarlett, Cedar, Chloe, Dessa, and Adam grilling marshmallows at the Fall Fun Festival on Nov. 6th



Above (Top): Pr. Chad blessing the Bibles presented to our youth. Above (directly): The Bibles, which have personalized inscriptions in them.

Thank You

We extend a big THANK YOU to Sue Ellen and Marilyn for their great outdoor hospitality last month. Lots of families with young children enjoyed a guided hike, good soups, games and a beautiful fall day! Thanks to other folks who also brought food.

Christmas Caroling

Families and others are welcome to come Christmas caroling Sunday, Dec. 12th. We will gather behind the church around 5p.m. and then head out. We will be careful to maintain distance while singing. Life together is providing cookies and hot chocolate afterwards. The rain date is the following Sunday, same time and gathering place.



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

Social Ministry - Faith In Action

As part of the ELCA, we believe God's grace grants us the freedom to love and serve our neighbors, boldly responding to the needs of the world.

Hunger News

LSS Mobile Food Pantry, Thursday, Dec. 9th

The December mobile food pantry is Thursday the 9th at The Plains United Methodist Church.

Volunteers are needed at 10:15.

The pantry starts around 11:00.

A Thrivent Action Team mini grant is helping to purchase additional fresh produce and perhaps eggs for this month. Contact Adele Hanson for more details.



2021 CROP Walk Final Totals

The Christ Lutheran CROP Walk check to Athens County Food Pantry for this year was \$805.70. The Grand total CROP Walk funds for 2021 was \$3,222.80. Thanks for your part in making this event a success!

Equity & Justice "Happenings"

Coffee Hour Updates:

- November Coffee Hour: The committee thanks those who were able to attend last month's hospitality hour discussion touching on "White fragility" and how we can continue to move forward on our individual journeys to combat racism. If you would like to know more about local groups that are working on anti-racism, feel free to contact any committee member for more information.
- December Coffee Hour: Equity and Justice and Life Together invite you to share personal stories celebrating the Christmas season at this virtual event being held Sunday, December 12th from 11:30a.m.-12:30p.m. via Zoom. Have your coffee, snacks and holiday cheer at hand and join us!

Advocacy Corner

ELCA at COP26 REPORT-OUT

Plan to join us for an **ONLINE LIVE discussion** with members of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America delegation to the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference!

**Tuesday, December 7
Noon - 1:15 p.m. ET**

45 minute presentation of experiences + 30 minutes for Q&A



Plan to join this Dec. 7 report-out. Much transpired that will impact us all, and we can hear from people there with a faith-centered presence in Glasgow. Panelists include leaders from ELCA Young Adults, ELCA World Hunger, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, state public policy offices and others.

Use the knowledge you gain to continue to engage with your elected officials and community to live out our commitment to care for God's creation.



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**

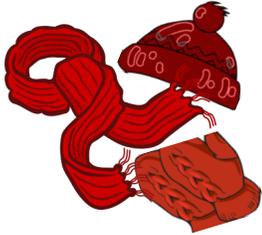
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

31 OCT-12 NOV 2021 - GLASGOW

Social Ministry Continued

Habitat for Humanity

- **Heartfelt gratitude and thanksgiving** are being sent to all of Habitat for Humanity's supporters and donors once again. The Faith Build Coalition of HFH of SE Ohio raised \$1308.50 at the November 13th rummage sale. Thank you to all who donated or shopped! We appreciate your generosity!
- **The next home build being sponsored by the Faith Build Coalition** will begin in the spring. Stay tuned to this location for more information coming in a few months! Meanwhile, you can volunteer for other projects by contacting Hallie Davis at 740-592-0032 or online at www.habitatseo.org.



Hats, Scarves, and Mittens Drive

Social Ministry is hosting a drive again this year for hats, scarves, and mittens for the children of Athens County. Due to ongoing concerns about the pandemic, we are only accepting monetary donations again this year. Donations can be made through the Tithe.ly Giving link on the church website or by writing a check to Christ Lutheran Church with "Hats, Scarves, and Mittens" in the memo line. Checks may be mailed to the office at Wanda's attention or left in the offering basket for those attending services during Advent. Hats, Scarves, and Mittens will be purchased by committee members and then donated to Athens County Children Services to be distributed to children they serve.

Santa Tree Project at Athen's County Children's Services Continues

Don't forget the Athens County Children Services Santa Tree Project. Online donations can be made or direct purchases of the most requested items can be done at <http://athenscountysantaproject.blogspot.com>.

Christmas Eve Offering to Go to LDR

The Social Ministry Committee decided that this year the Christmas Eve offering would go to the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR). LDR has been providing assistance for many experiencing catastrophic events, such as the hurricanes in North and Central America, the earthquake and hurricane in Haiti, flooding in South Asia, famine in Africa, and serving unaccompanied minors crossing the border to the U.S.

LDR also focuses on long-term recovery and "accompany those affected by disaster as they navigate their way to renewal." They collaborate with local congregations, organizations, and companion churches, providing not only material relief but also emotional and spiritual care. LDR helps coordinate volunteers in the affected areas who clean-up and rebuild. The involvement is long-term, so that they are "the last to leave" helping to resolve long term problems and build resilience.

Although the offering from the in-person Christmas Eve service will be donated to this worthwhile cause, those joining us online can also participate! Donations can be made through the Tithe.ly Giving link found by clicking "Giving" on our website: www.elcathens.org. Thanks in advance for your donation to this important Lutheran outreach.



Earth Justice

- **An editorial** written by our Lutheran Earth Justice member, Linda Sauer, and edited by Doug Debrick, was recently published in the *Athens Messenger*. Linda introduced information learned from the recent presentation to Christ Lutheran by the Athens Rethinks Plastics Committee. You can find the editorial "The Dangers of Excessive Plastic Usage" in the November 13th edition.
- **Free DIY composting classes** are being presented via zoom and in-person at the Athens Public Library from 6:00 to 7:00p.m. on the following dates: Tuesday, November 30 (Library) and Thursday, December 2 (Virtual). You can register at ruralaction.org/compost.
- Also the **ELCA Advocacy Connections website is sponsoring a webinar, ELCA at COP26 Report-Out, on December 7** featuring a report from the ELCA delegation to the World Climate Summit in Glasgow. You can register for the webinar at the ELCA Advocacy Connections Website.

The Bridge

*Wishing all our students a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!*



*Sunday Brunch: Dad's Weekend edition
Catherine, Noah, James (Noah's Dad),
Catie, and Kiwi*



Bridge Thanksgiving: Jason, Noah, Kristina, Rinnah, Audrey, Kiwi, Catie, Hannah



More Bridge Thanksgiving: Maggie, Katie Beth, Kristina, Jason, Hannah, Catie, Noah



*Right: When you miss Bridge Thanksgiv-
ing, funny things happen. Last year, Pr.
Chad was flocked by hand turkeys, so this
year it was only fair that he be over run by
feet. Note the foot turkey on the lower
left :)*

*Left: James and
Noah Hallman at
the Fall Fun Festival
at Sue Ellen,
Marilyn, and Katie
Beth's home.*



December Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Don't see your event listed? Please notify the church office by the newsletter deadline to include your event/meeting/activity on this calendar. info@clcathens.org</p> <p>Thank you!</p>			<p>1 The Bridge, 5:30p.m., Fellowship Hall Advent Evening Prayer, 7p.m., Sanctuary</p>	<p>2 Social Ministry, 7p.m., Zoom</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 OA, 10a.m., Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>5 ADVENT TWO Worship, 10a.m., Sanctuary</p>	<p>6 AA, 6p.m., Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>7 OA, 6p.m., Fellowship Hall Equity & Justice, 7p.m., Zoom</p>	<p>8 The Bridge, 5:30p.m., Fellowship Hall Advent Evening Prayer, 7p.m., Sanctuary</p>	<p>9 LSS Mobile Food Pantry, 10:15a.m., The Plains UMC Theology on Tap, 6p.m., Zoom</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 OA, 10a.m., Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>12 ADVENT THREE Worship, 10a.m., Sanctuary Coffee Hour, 11:30a.m., Zoom Caroling, 5p.m., behind Church</p>	<p>13 AA, 6p.m., Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>14 OA, 6p.m., Fellowship Hall Council, 7p.m., Zoom</p>	<p>15 Advent Evening Prayer, 7p.m., Sanctuary Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Office OPEN</p>	<p>18 OA, 10a.m., Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>19 ADVENT FOUR Worship, 10a.m., Sanctuary Rain date for Caroling, 5p.m., behind Church</p>	<p>20 AA, 6p.m., Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>21 OA, 6p.m., Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>22 Office Closed Advent Evening Prayer, 7p.m., Sanctuary</p>	<p>23 Office Closed</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 9p.m., Sanctuary</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day OA, 10a.m., Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>26 LESSONS & CAROLS Worship, 10a.m., Sanctuary</p>	<p>27 Office Closed AA, 6p.m., Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>28 Office Closed Earth Justice, 5:30p.m., Zoom OA, 6p.m., Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>29 Office OPEN Midweek Prayer, 7p.m., Zoom</p>	<p>30 Office OPEN</p>	<p>31</p>	



Photos from the Fall Fun Festival at Sue Ellen Miller and Marilyn Shealy's Home in early November

Worship Assistants

Please let 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. *Thank you!*

	December 5	December 12	December 19	December 24 Christmas Eve	December 26	January 2
Asst./Lector	Chris Snoddy	John Molinaro	Karl Runser	Jim Sillery	Jane Unger*	Steve Chikosky
Videographer	Sam/Doug	Kay/Marilyn	Sam/Doug	Kay/Marilyn	Sam/Doug	Kay/Marilyn
Time with Children	Kay Cleland	Cheryl Huebner	Puppets	N/A	Jana Hovland	Kay Cleland
Greeters	John Deno	Sue Ellen Miller	Ellen Peterson	Mike Cleland	Linda Sauer	John Deno

*Additional readers are needed for this day as it is a lessons and carols service: Scheduled for this day are Bonnie Childress, Greg Newton, Mim Almquist, Bruce Kuhre; Alternate is Nick Claussen.

CAN'T make it for Sunday?

Call another person listed in this area, and see if they can switch weeks with you. Then email the church office so reminders go to the proper persons in the following weeks. If you need a list of other people in this service area to find a replacement, contact Katie Beth, the Office Administrator at info@clcathens.org.

More Fall Fun Festival 2021 Photos -

This event took place at Marilyn Shealy and Sue Ellen Miller's home in early November 2021.

