

FEBRUARY 2026

69 MILL STREET, ATHENS, OHIO 45701

740-593-3144

WWW.CLCATHENS.ORG

Chi Rho

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



OUR PURPOSE

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO PEOPLE, PEOPLE TO FAITH, FAITH TO LIFE

OUR MISSION

AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST, WE AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH SEEK TO SHARE GOD'S WORD, TO SHOW GOD'S LOVE, AND TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD, PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST TO ALL PEOPLE.

OUR VISION

A WORLD EXPERIENCING THE DIFFERENCE GOD'S GRACE AND LOVE IN CHRIST MAKES FOR ALL PEOPLE AND CREATION.



CONNECTING PEOPLE TO PEOPLE



PRAYERS FOR HEALTH

Jo Ann Pulfer, Art Woolley, and Betty Blackford

WIT & WISDOM

Tuesday, February 3

11:30am

Fellowship Hall

This month Montagne de Luz

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

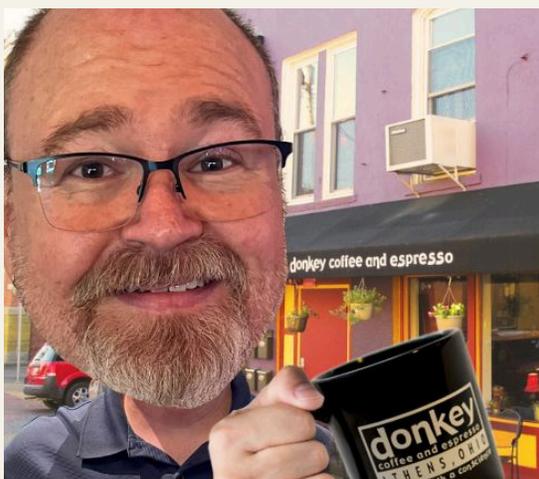
2	Lynne Woods
4	Jo Ann Ball Linus Juedes
6	Rod Saur
11	Melody Christiansen
13	Sam Theiss
17	Donnalee Yoder
19	Patricia Cambridge
20	Beth McKinley
23	Anya Miller Peter Schmidt

THE LISTENING GROUP

Monday, Feb 9th @ 2pm

2nd Monday of the month
in the narthex

The Listening Group, a group for widows and widowers. Our purpose is to problem solve, and have time together, but mostly just to listen to each other and help each other to get through this stressful time. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from this group please join us.



CC W/ PC AT DC

**Coffee and Conversation with
Pastor Chad at Donkey Coffee**
Thursdays from 10-11:00AM

REGULARLY SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WORSHIP & ARTS	1st Tuesday of the month after wit & wisdom
EQUITY & JUSTICE	1st Tuesday of the month @7pm ZOOM LINK
SOCIAL MINISTRY	1st Thursday of the month @7pm ZOOM LINK
CHURCH COUNCIL	3rd Tuesday of the month @7pm CLC or ZOOM LINK
EARTH JUSTICE	3rd Thursday of the month @7pm ZOOM LINK
LIFE TOGETHER	4th Thursday of the month @6pm ZOOM LINK
PROPERTY	Last Wednesday of the month @5:30pm

For the most current schedule please refer to <https://www.clcathens.org/pages/calendar>

EVENSONG

Sunday
February 15
4:30pm

Reception
following with
New Orleans King
Cake

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
64 University Terrace
Athens, Ohio

Ash Wednesday Prayer Service.



We invite you to begin the season of Lent with us on Ash Wednesday. There will be a Drive-Thru service to receive Ashes at Noon and also a Prayer Service at 7:00pm.

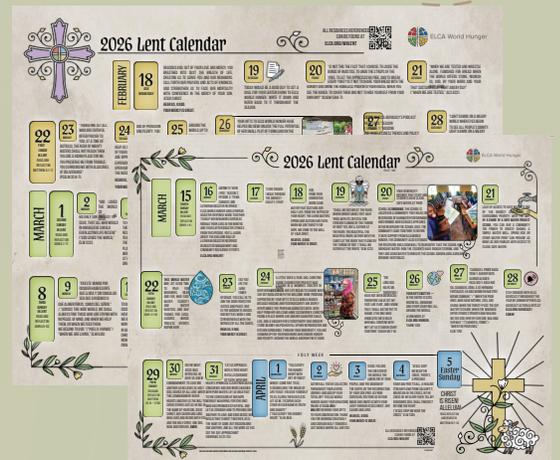
March 1st Special Guest from Trinity Lutheran Seminary

On Sunday, March 1st, we are excited to welcome staff from Trinity Lutheran Seminary who will be joining us for worship. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with our wider church community.



Annual Pie Day Potluck!

Following Worship on March 1st please join us for our Annual Pie Day potluck lunch! Bring your favorite pie (sweet or savory!) or a dish to share, and enjoy fellowship around the table. Whether you bring something or not, you are warmly invited-there is always room for one more.



Visit ELCA.org/WHLent to find an Advent calendar, Lent Action Guide and More.



Download the calendar [CLICK HERE](#) or pick up a copy in the narthex



ACTS 2:37-47

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO FAITH

WE ARE NOW

OPEN

**5 DAYS A
WEEK**



**February
2026**

Youth Events Schedule

**Sundays
6:30-7:30pm
Athens First UMC
3rd floor lounge**

For the most up to date info login
to CLC's [GroupMe](#) page

Children's Church

Children, grades 6 and under are invited to Children's Church. Children's Church is offered during the 10am service immediately following the Children's Message.

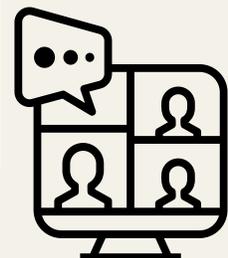
the Bridge

Campus Ministry

**Bridge Connect!on meets every
Thursday @ 5:30pm**

Roles	Feb 1	Feb 8	Feb 15	Feb 22
Lector	Greg Newton	Jane Unger	Jim Sillery	Stephan Chikosky
Tray Server	Wanda Weinberg	Pat Cambridge	Stephen Chikosky	Elyce Friedman
Time with Children	Cheryl Huebner	Puppets	Jana Hovland	Chad Huebner
Communion Usher		Marilyn Shealy	Lora Blankenship	
coffee Usher		Nick Claussen	Sue Ellen Miller	
Acolyte	Eliza Kopenski	Rachel Prange	Melody Christiansen	Meena Juedes
Greeter	Jo Ann Ball	Linda Batey	Chris Snoddy	Nick Claussen
Live Stream	Sam Hanson	Douglas Debrick	Kay Cleland	Sam Hanson
Snacks		Lucy Juedes John Laughlin		Karen Beverly Mark Sunderman
Beverages		Cathi Schwalbauch		Tammy Thompson

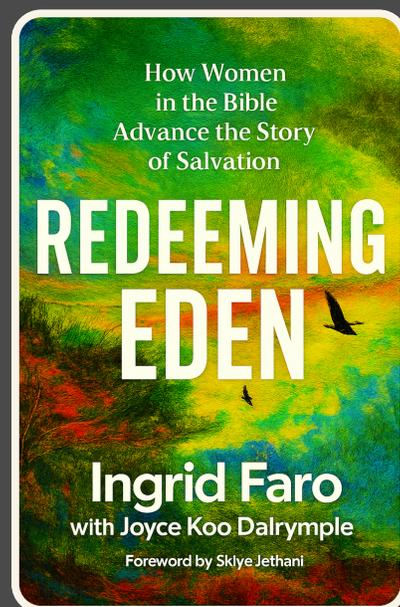
Missed last week's Redeeming Eden discussion? Catch the replay



Christ Lutheran Book Discussion

Are you looking for a book study that includes new, deeper insights into well-known Old Testament stories, which includes deep scholarship into the original languages of the Bible, as well and new insights into cultural contexts underlying the texts can shape new meanings into those old stories?

The Equity and Justice committee invites you to a “pop-up book club” to discuss the book *Redeeming Eden: How Women in the Bible Advance the Story of Salvation*. The book is written by Solveig Spjeldnes’ sister, Ingrid Faro (PhD, MDiv). She is a professor of Old Testament at Northern Seminary, as well as being an international speaker and an author of two other books and co-author of one other. Her collaborator, Joyce Koo Dalrymple, (JD, MDiv) wrote questions for reflection and discussion and a Breath Prayer for the end of every chapter. Each chapter is an in-depth discussion about one woman from the Old Testament.



We'll have one-hour discussions Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m., on Zoom, beginning on January 22, 2026 until February 26. The last meeting will be a hybrid Zoom and in person meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Dr. Faro will join the first meeting on Zoom on January 22, to introduce the book and participate in the discussion, and then will join us in person on February 26. This will not be limited to congregation members, so feel free to invite your friends. Watch for more announcements and the Zoom link in January.

CONNECTING FAITH TO LIFE



Help Build Nic's Home!

The work on Nic's house is moving along. Thank you to all of you who have helped build over the last couple months. However, the project is still not completed and volunteers are still greatly appreciated.

Hunger Network in Ohio



Faith
Advocacy
Network

For more ways to get involved

[CLICK HERE](#)

Lenten Offerings to go to the ELCA's AMMPARO

Responding to the hardship our neighbors who are immigrants have been experiencing in the last year, Social Ministry decided that this year the offerings from the Lenten services this year will go to ELCA AMPARRO, to support immigrant families in the United States and Central America. AMMPARO is an acronym for Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities, adapted from the Spanish word, "amparo," as found in Psalm 46:1: "Dios es nuestro amparo y fortaleza," ("God is our refuge and strength,"). Please consider donating at the Wednesday evening services or online at "Give" on the church's website.



Photos Provided by: Andrew Ekuban



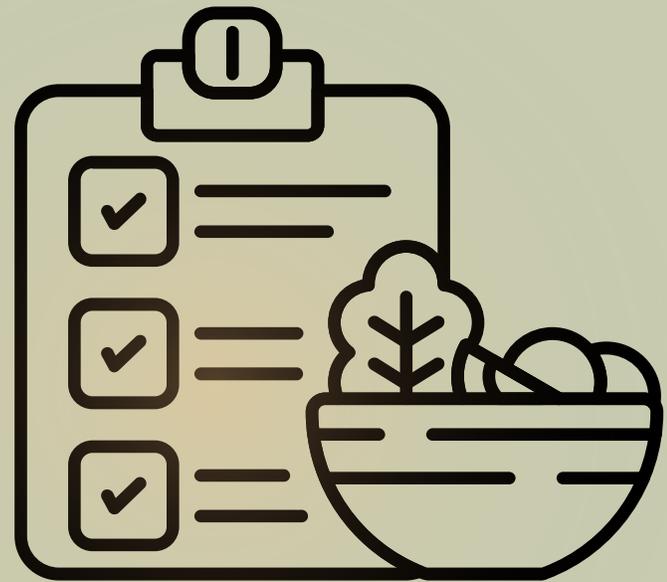
OHIO
UNIVERSITY

College of Health Sciences
and Professions

The program consists of three one-on-one nutritional counseling sessions with a senior dietetic student. Sessions are supervised by a registered dietitian and are personalized to meet client nutrition goals. Counseling includes two 3-day food record nutritional analyses, nutritional education and coaching specific by the client. If you are interested in losing weight, controlling your blood sugar better, reducing your risk of heart disease, optimizing nutrition while take GLP-1 medications or just improving your overall food habits, please contact Jana Hovland at hovland@ohio.edu or 740-593-2875 to sign up. Session will take place in Grover Center on the Athens Campus.

For More Info

CLICK HERE



Highlights from the January Council Meeting

1. We voted to give the custodian a church credit card for purchases so he could compare prices and get us the best deals. Right now he can only shop at Lowes.
2. Trinity Lutheran Seminary will join us for worship on March 1st. They will do the service and then join us for a pot luck lunch to tell us about all of the exciting things happening at Trinity.
3. The recently formed security committee is continuing work to keep us all safe. The front doors are now always locked during the week, so just ring the doorbell and someone will let you in.
4. We have a number of people who would like to become members and that will happen soon.
5. There were 134 people at the Christmas Eve service.



Hi friends and members of CLC,

We are looking ahead to celebrating the anniversary of our church, and as part of that celebration, we would like to look back on CLC's rich history. To do that we need to collect your memories of this thriving congregation from recent years all the way back to our humble beginnings.

The CLC Outreach Committee is trying to gather some of your experiences for all to reminisce and enjoy. You can share your memories via written thoughts, emails, messages, etc. We'd like to receive these "memories" as soon as possible so we can assemble them and share with friends and members of the congregation.

You can email memories to Nick Claussen at nickc324@gmail.com or give your hard copies of memories to members of the Outreach Committee at church. Some of the topics may include:

- CLC's beginnings in the movie theater
- Our previous rental house
- Renovation of the current building
- Former pastors
- Building of the LLC apartments
- Worship during COVID
- Music

You might also want to share memories of various activities such as: Montana de Luz trips, Youth gatherings, Service trips by college students, events such as Halloween hay rides, swimming parties, "lock-ins," Children's Christmas parties, VBS, St. Patty's Day parties; "Small Groups," Women's Retreats, AAL activities, working with non-profits such as My Sister's Place, Athens County Food Pantry, CWS Hunger Walks, Blessing of the Animals, Lutefisk' Dinners, various church committees and their activities...and so much more!

Thank you for sharing your memories!
– Nick Claussen

And remember, just email any memories to nickc324@gmail.com or hand a copy of your memories to members of the Outreach Committee.

NEWS FROM GOOD WORKS

GOOD WORKS WALK

FUNDRAISER

FEBRUARY 28 @ 9:00AM

For more information,

[CLICK HERE](#)



Friday, January 23, Christ Lutheran once again cooked for and helped serve dinner for Good Works' weekly Friday Night Life, and The Plains United Methodist Church. Barb Cline again coordinated with Good Works and organized CLC members who made the casseroles and helped to serve and clean up. Sue Ellen headed up the dishwashing crew for the first time since before the pandemic they had used real plates and silverware, preventing many bags of trash from going to the landfill. We served over 70 people, and there were still plenty of leftovers for some of those attending to take home.

Thanks to Barb and all who cooked and helped with serving and clean-up. If you know any The Plains United Methodist members, thank them for sharing their space for this and other community activities.

Some of us remember the Good Works Walk fundraisers every year (you may still have a t-shirt), and the good news is that it's happening again this year at 9:00 a.m. on February 28, at First United Methodist Church up on College Street. They will offer three opportunities for walks that will teach us about the challenges of rural homelessness and opportunities to serve our neighbors who struggle with poverty and/or need a place to live. Another way to help with Good Works is to donate to Good for Good Works. Here are a few things they can use: Dish soap, Canned vegetables, fruit, soups, tuna and chicken, Cereal (all kinds), AA Batteries, Sidewalk Salt, ChapStick (lip balm), Kleenex tissues, or Disinfectant wipes. They can also use gift cards from: McDonald's, Wendy's, Taco Bell, Arby's, Walmart, and Krogers. Donations can be put into the long bin underneath the table at the end of the Narthex by the restrooms.

TREASURER NOTES

Dear Faith Family,

Here are our actual and budgeted figures for July - November, 2025.

Pledges are at the halfway mark -- that's great!

You see a transfer of \$10,000 for cash flow purposes from our money market account into our checking account. Previous unbudgeted expenses have necessitated this action.

Lastly, to-date we have an unrealized increase in the value of our investments of \$9,500.

Let me know if you have questions, and warm wishes for a good 2026!

Lucy Juedes
Treasurer

CELC, July 1 - November 30, 2025	Actual	Budget	% of Budget
Revenue			
4000 Contributed support			
4010 Pledged Contributions	\$ 117,095	\$ 235,008	50%
4020 Unpledged Contributions	\$ 7,786	\$ 22,000	35%
4021 Unpledged, unbudgeted giving	\$ 26,000		
4030 Loose Offering	\$ 2,020	\$ 3,000	67%
4420 Campus Ministry Support (ELCA/SOS)	\$ 3,525	\$ 12,460	28%
4430 Thrivent	\$ 795	\$ 1,730	46%
Total 4000 Contributed support	\$ 157,220	\$ 274,198	57%
4500 Designated Contributions	\$ 100		
4505 Thrive Campaign SOS	\$ 1,238		
4515 Anticipated Impact Giving/Benevolence Funds	\$ 56,025		
4525 Endowment	\$ 630		
4540 Undie Sundays	\$ 300		
4550 Memorial Garden	\$ 800		
4575 Bridge	\$ 400		
4577 Student House Renovation/Construction	\$ 10,000		
4580 Non-Profit Rev (trans from Mon Mark Acct)	\$ 10,000		
4584 Piano Replacement	\$ 14,488		
4587 Facilities Improvement	\$ 4,600		
4590 Lenten & Christmas Offerings	\$ 343		
4591 Year-end gift, staff	\$ 1,696		
4592 Flowers	\$ 140		
4595 Emergency Assistance	\$ 25		
Total 4500 Designated Contributions	\$ 100,784		
Total 5000 Business Income, interest, unknown inc.	\$ 1,022		
Total Revenue	\$ 259,026	\$ 276,298	94%
Expenditures			
Total 7100 Personnel	\$ 91,346	\$ 208,444	44%
Total 8100 Programs	\$ 6,699	\$ 15,600	43%
Total 8150 General Business Expenses	\$ 4,943	\$ 7,600	65%
Total 8200 Facilities	\$ 50,697	\$ 35,000	145%
8296 Council Action - Staff Gift	\$ 1,604	\$ 200	802%
8298 Student House/Property Use Assessment	\$ 15,750		
8300 Benevolence			
8302 Southern Oh Synod Thrive Campaign	\$ 6,000		
8310 Southern Ohio Synod Allocation		\$ 12,000	0%
8315 Reconciling Works	\$ 230		
8365 Impact Giving LLC Funds Out	\$ 56,025		
Total 8370 Local Benevolences	\$ 7,648	\$ 14,001	55%
Total 8300 Benevolence	\$ 69,903	\$ 26,001	269%
Total Expenditures	\$ 240,941	\$ 292,845	82%
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 18,085	\$ (16,547)	-109%
Other Revenue			
5513 Fidelity Primary CD Value Change	\$ 7,531		
5515 Fidelity Endowment CD Value Change	\$ 1,992		

January 2026 Wave of Prayer

By Cynthia Yoder

2026 Wave of Prayer 1, January 24

Demonstrations in Iran over economic conditions (40% annual inflation, high unemployment, and low wages) began on December 28. The demonstrations soon expanded into protests against the regime's rigid laws and a demand for democracy. A government crackdown resulted in an Internet blackout and the deadliest attack on its own people by the Islamic Republic since its founding in 1979. While estimates vary widely, 2,500 to 5,000 protesters have been killed and hundreds to thousands more arrested.

· God, we pray for Iran and the people of Iran. Give comfort to the families of those killed and release to those detained. May there be an end to violence and repression. May people have the freedom of lifestyle and speech that they long for. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.

This month, two 37-year-old U.S. citizens—Renee Good and Alex Pretti—were shot and killed by federal immigration agents in Minneapolis. Five-year-old Liam Conejo Ramos is the fourth student in his Minneapolis school district to be detained by ICE in recent weeks. As detention centers grow more crowded, immigration lawyers report inadequate food, poor medical care, and unsanitary conditions.

· God, we grieve with the Minneapolis community and pray for the families of Good and Pretti at this time of tragic, senseless loss. For those afraid of being arrested and those already in detention, we pray for safety and appropriate care. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.

Mexico, Canada, and the United States reported an increasing number of measles cases in 2025. This highly contagious disease, which can have life-threatening complications, was eliminated 25 years ago in the U.S. However, in recent years, cases have been skyrocketing with 64 cases in 2023, 283 cases in 2024, and 2,240 cases in 2025. The most affected groups are young children and adolescents.

· God, we pray for those in Mexico, Canada, and the U.S. and for those around the globe who currently have measles. May their healing be swift and complete, without lingering effects. We pray for the families of those who have died from measles complications in the last year. May all people be kept safe from infectious diseases. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.

Since January 12, nurses from three New York City hospitals have been on strike. 15,000 nurses are asking for increased staffing, a safe work environment, and improved health care benefits. As one nurse put it, "We can't do our jobs because we don't have the staff." The strike has drawn attention to the high salaries of the CEOs of the three hospitals—26 million dollars at New York Presbyterian, 16 million at Montefiore, and 5 million at Mt. Sinai.

· God, we thank you for nurses everywhere. Thank you for their devotion to their patients, for how they nurture and care for us when we are sick. May negotiations run smoothly, resulting in a fair resolution, not only in the New York City strike but in similar strikes in other locations and in various types of employment. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.

Claudette Colvin, a civil rights pioneer, died on January 13 at age 86. When Colvin was just 15 years old, she refused to give up her Montgomery, Alabama bus seat for a white passenger, and was arrested, nine months before Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat. A year after her arrest, 16-year-old Colvin was one of four plaintiffs that testified in the Supreme Court case that outlawed racial segregation on buses.

· God, we thank you for the life of Claudette Colvin. We thank you for giving her the courage to stand up for right and wrong even at such a young age. May we be inspired by her and by others who are equally conscientious and courageous. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.

