

# Chip Rho

MARCH 2026

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WWW.CLCATHENS.ORG

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, Betty Backford and Chris Yoder

## WIT & WISDOM

Not Meeting in March

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 8 Maya & Madie Roth
- 17 David Juedes
- 18 Kay Cleland
- 20 George Weckman
- 23 Steve Hodgson
- 25 Chloe Schmidt
- 28 Jeanne Haseley

## THE LISTENING GROUP

**Monday, March 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>



# Habitat for Humanity® of Southeast Ohio

## Student Stories jacob's porch



### A Place for Belonging Damian's Story

Every fall at Jacob's Porch is full of chances to meet new people around campus. The very first Sunday of the semester we head out to the Oval along with hundreds of other organizations to meet new students and share about our community at the Student Involvement Fair. It was at one of these fairs that we met Damian for the first time. He was a transfer student coming into his junior year when he first heard about us but was deeply interested and growing in his new discovery of the Catholic church. In the beginning of this year, as he began seeking more chances to find a faith community, he came to Jacob's Porch and has described his time with us as "the best semester of his entire school career." It was during his time at Jacob's Porch that he began to find a sense of belonging and acceptance he had yet to find in other campus ministries.

Damian is someone with a great sense of adventure and a desire to travel all over the world. He is interested in going to a maritime academy and setting to the sea to explore even more after college. Getting to learn his deep thirst for knowledge, Jacob's Porch has been a place he has felt he has received "intellectual and theological knowledge greater than any he's heard anywhere before" from the ministers and community. This has been a place for him to grow as a person, learn about social issues, marginalized voices, and how they are a part of a theologically active faith and life. Damian says, "Being a part of Jacob's Porch, he feels like he is a better person and a better Christian."

Jacob's Porch has become a home for him and though he wishes he could have found us sooner, is so grateful to be a part of this community. His hope as he finishes up his time at OSU is that more people find Jacob's Porch. He says, "if anyone is lonely and the school feels too big, my hope is they find us in order to have a place to belong and be accepted as they are."

**SIGN UP**



Want to hear more from our students by serving at Jacob's Porch? Experience Dinner & Worship by signing up to offer a meal to the Jacob's Porch community.

Scrap Metal Drive- Saturday, April 18 or 25, 2026, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the Athens County Fairgrounds as part of the AHSWD's Recycling Day. Bring scrap metal, old appliances, rusted tools, ferrous items, aluminum, brass, and copper. Anything containing Freon cannot be accepted.



Rummage Sale- Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 8:30 a.m.- noon, at Christ the King Holy Family Center (behind the church). Donations of good quality, clean clothing, household goods, toys, and decorations can be taken to the Family Center on Thursday, May 14, from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Friday, May 15, from 10 a.m. – noon. Please remember these items must be sellable to raise money for the next home building project of the Faith Build Coalition of Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio.

# CONNECTING PEOPLE TO FAITH

WE ARE NOW  
**OPEN**  
5 DAYS A  
WEEK



March  
2026

## Youth Events Schedule

Sundays  
6:30-7:30pm

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	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22
Lector		Susan Urano	Chad Kopenski	Elyce Friedman
Tray Server		John Molinaro	Greg Newton	Jim Sillery
Time with Children		Jana Hovland		Chad Huebner
Communion Usher	Tim Prange			
coffee Usher	Nick Claussen			
Acolyte	Elizabeth Schmidt	Dessa Thompson-Kelleher	Eliza Kopenski	Melody Christiansen
Greeter	Solveig Spjeldnes	Mim Almquist	Karen Beverly	Linda Sauer
Live Stream	Doug Debrick	Sam Hanson	Kay Cleland	Doug Debrick
Snacks		Nick Claussen Linda Sauer		John Laughlin Cathi Schwalbauch
Beverages		Corrie Callaghan		Lucy Juedes

# 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.



# Bishop Curry Issues Statement on Iran War

MARCH 4, 2026

Dear siblings in Christ,

They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more (Isaiah 2:4).

In our Lenten journey, we are reminded of our dependence on God, and we are sustained by hope in the future peace God has promised. As war involving the United States, Israel and Iran intensifies and spreads, we lament how far off that promise seems. We do not know how many people have been killed, but we know the number will continue to grow. Early reports indicate that more than 100 Iranian schoolgirls and several U.S. service members are among them.

The church of Jesus Christ is called to proclaim the peace of God's eternal reign and to work for an earthly peace here and now. The ELCA social message "Living in a Time of Terrorism" states that this earthly peace is a "precious yet fragile good." Its existence depends on leaders who prioritize diplomacy over military engagement and deterrence over war, and on citizens who hold government accountable whenever military action is considered.

With many of you, I am distressed that a robust, public discernment through congressional authorization did not occur prior to the United States' engagement in this war. As Lutherans, we affirm that government and the order that just laws provide are gifts of God for our safety and well-being. This war does not represent the promotion of this just order but rather its failure.

The costs in lives and safety of this failure will be borne by those least able to avoid it — children, families and those without the means to flee. Its deadly toll has been, and will continue to be, paid with the lives of our neighbors, including our siblings in Christ in the Middle East.

This moment underscores the urgent need for robust, well-resourced diplomatic and humanitarian efforts. Our companions in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land have asked our church to pray fervently for peace and safety and to advocate for the dignity and security of all people. ELCA Witness in Society will continue to provide opportunities for this advocacy.

As members of the body of Christ, join me in prayerful, hopeful solidarity with our siblings and neighbors who suffer today.

Together,

We mourn the rush to war and the combatants and noncombatants who have lost their lives.

We yearn for creation's fulfillment in "a new heaven and a new earth" where death and pain "will be no more" (Revelation 21:1, 4).

We strive for justice and peace in all the earth, strengthened by faith in the crucified and risen Lord to persist. We trust that, through God who sustains us, our weariness and fear will not overcome us.

In Christ,

The Rev. Yehiel Curry  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



**FAITH THAT REACHES  
NEW HEIGHTS!**





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](mailto: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](mailto:nickc324@gmail.com) or hand a copy of your memories to members of the Outreach Committee.



Advocating to Fight Hunger Using Bread for the World's Offering of Letters

Members of our congregation have acted to alleviate hunger locally and around the world, and we have also advocated for those suffering from hunger through the Bread for the World Offering of Letters. Spring is the usual time of the year for the Offering of Letters campaign, and so Social Ministry is passing along the information and sample letters for those who want to advocate using their materials. These are the issues being emphasized in this year's letters:

- Restore, protect, and strengthen U.S. nutrition programs—including SNAP and WIC—that help families put food on the table;
- Fully fund and strengthen global food, health, and development programs that promote human flourishing and help keep America safe, strong, and prosperous;
- Pass a strong, bipartisan Farm Bill that supports farmers, strengthens communities, promotes regenerative agricultural practices, and helps end hunger at home and overseas.

Sample letters with legislators addressed are available on the table under the bulletin board in the narthex. You will also find links to an email letter that can be edited and sent to legislators at the website [www.bread.org/OL](http://www.bread.org/OL).

# February 2026 Wave of Prayer

By Cynthia Yoder

## 2026 Wave of Prayer 2, February 21

Today is Day 1,458 of the war in Ukraine. Russian troops first invaded four years ago on February 24. The statistics of soldier and civilian deaths and injuries are alarming. But even more alarming is thinking of what war means for individual people for 1,458 days. Many are hunkering down in shelters where they do not see the sunshine. They are living in fear of the next military strike. People this winter are living for weeks at a time without heat or electricity because of strikes on power plants. Ten million are displaced from their homes. Countless individuals are grieving the loss of their loved ones or the loss of the life they once had. Yet at the same time, there is hope and resilience. There are art, music, and theater initiatives seeking to create happy childhood memories for children. There are moments of joy.

- **God, we pray for the people of Ukraine—and Russia—who have suffered and continue to suffer unimaginably from this war. Remind us of this situation and of the people living through it when we have our own occasional hard days. May peace talks succeed so that this war may end. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.**

There is violence not only in Ukraine but also in many places around the globe. A February 6 suicide bombing in Pakistan led over 30 worshippers in a Shia' mosque dead and over 170 wounded. Several Jihadist and armed gang attacks have killed 250 people in February in northwest Nigeria. The Israeli army has taken the lives of over 500 Palestinians and wounded more than 1500 since the October ceasefire. Violence in many other spots is not mentioned here or did not make the news this month.

- **God, we grieve the myriad effects of violence around the world—loss of life, injury, destroyed homes, and hunger, to name only a few. We pray for all who are affected. We long, oh God, for a world without violence. We long for a world of peace. We continue to pray that your kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.**

Jesse Jackson, a prominent civil rights activist, died on February 17 at age 84. The ordained Baptist minister spent his life advocating for freedom, equality, and justice in both the United States and other countries. He accompanied Martin Luther King Jr in his work, founded Operation PUSH, and the National Rainbow Coalition, and led the Chicago branch of Operation Breadbasket. These three organizations focused on increasing employment and economic development for Black people. Jackson was an early supporter of LGBTQ rights. He gave voice to the voiceless and cared most of all about human dignity.

- **God, we thank you for the life of Jesse Jackson. Thank you for his activism, which was fueled by hope. May we be inspired by his example. May we work in hope, striving to bring about needed changes in the world, big and small. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.**

February 18 marked the beginning of two important seasons for 2.5 billion Christians and 2 billion Muslims around the world. With Ash Wednesday, Christians began the 40 days of Lent, a time for reflection and spiritual renewal leading up to Easter Sunday. With the sighting of the crescent moon, Muslims began the month of Ramadan, a time of increased "God consciousness," with 30 days of fasting from sunrise to sunset.

- **God, we thank you for the opportunities that Christians and Muslims have in the coming days to reconnect with you. As we engage in fasting, prayer, giving, and other spiritual practices, we ask you to speak to each of our hearts according to our needs. Show us who you want us to be and what you want us to do with our lives. Show us who you are. We are grateful that we can connect with you every day of the year, but especially during this special time. May each person who needs you and is searching for you find you. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.**