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MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

A Word for the Road

Easter is not a single Sunday. It is a season — fifty days of resurrection living, of practicing the kind of hope that doesn't flinch, of being the people who say the tomb is empty and mean it in every corner of their lives.

So this month, may you find yourself surprised by joy.

May you show up — to worship, to community, to the picture directory, to the seventy-year-old story that is still being written.

May you hear your name called in the garden and know that it is spoken with love. And may we, together, be the resurrection people this world is waiting for.

In Christ and in community
Pastor Chad

REGULAR GATHERINGS

- **CC W/ PC @ DC**

Coffee and Conversation with Pastor Chad at Donkey Coffee

Thursdays from 10-11AM

- **The Bridge Campus Ministry**

Bridge Connection meets every Thursday @ 5:30pm

- **Youth Group**

Sundays 6:30-7:30pm

For the most up to date info login to CLC's GroupMe page

- **Wit & Wisdom - April 7th**

Bee's w/ Kim Valentour
11:30am-1:00pm



EASTER, CELEBRATION, AND COMMUNITY

Dear Christ Lutheran,
 April arrives the way resurrection always does – a little unexpectedly, a little overwhelmingly, and with more light than we thought was coming.
 After the long, quiet ache of Lent, after the shadowed hours of Good Friday, after the strange and heavy silence of Holy Saturday – the stone rolls away. And we are left, like Mary at the tomb, breathless and blinking in the morning light, hearing our name called by the One we thought we had lost.

That is Easter. Not a holiday. Not a seasonal reset. **A world-altering, death-defying declaration that love wins – that it has always been winning – and that nothing, not even the grave, gets the final word.**

"Do not be afraid," the angel says. "He is not here. He has been raised." (Matthew 28:5-6)

Friends, we don't just observe this story. We live inside it. And this April, we are invited – again, and as if for the first time – to let it remake us.



THE LISTENING GROUP

Monday April 13th @ 2pm

The Listening Group is a small gathering of widows and widowers who come together for support, conversation, and understanding. It's a place to share, problem-solve, and most importantly, listen to one another through life's challenging seasons. All who could benefit from fellowship and compassionate ears are warmly welcome.



CONTACT US

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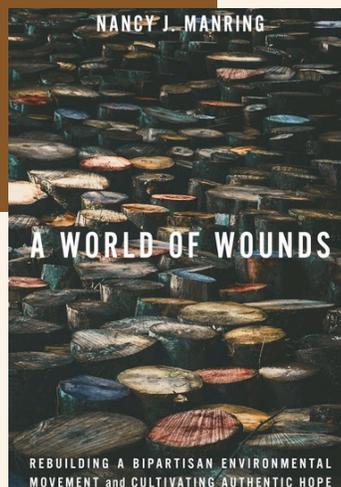


Join the Earth Justice Group at Christ Lutheran Church for an Earth Sunday celebration after the Church service on Sunday, April 26. A light lunch will be served, followed by a talk by Nancy Manring, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Environmental Science and Sustainability program at Ohio University. Dr. Manring recently published *A World of Wounds: Rebuilding a Bipartisan Environmental Movement and Cultivating Authentic Hope*, described by the publisher as “a book that analyzes the polarization of U.S. environmental politics and proposes strategies for creating a more unified movement.” Drawing on her varied background in political science, environmental studies, sustainability, and dispute resolution, she is able to “offer a framework for rebuilding cooperation on environmental issues.” We hope that you can come to this celebration of God’s Creation and thoughtful and enlightening presentation.

APRIL MEETINGS AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Director of Montana de Luz will be speaking April 12th after worship services.
- The Equity and Justice Meeting will be moved to April 14th
- Earth Day celebration is scheduled for April 26th

- **Worship & Arts** - 1st Tuesday of the month after wit & wisdom
- **Equity & Justice** - 1st Tuesday of the month @7pm **ZOOM**
- **Social Ministry** - 1st Thursday of the month @7pm **ZOOM**
- **Church Council** - 3rd Tuesday of the month @7pm **ZOOM**
- **Earth Justice** - 3rd Thursday of the month @7pm ZOOM
- **Life Together** - 4th Thursday of the month @6pm **ZOOM**
- **Property** - Last Wednesday of the month @5:30pm





A NEW DIRECTORY: PUTTING FACES TO THE FAMILY

- And speaking of showing up — we want to see you.
- As part of our 70th Anniversary celebration, we are creating a **brand-new church picture directory** — a beautiful, living document of who we are right now, in this moment, as a community. Because a congregation is not a building or a budget. It's people. It's you.
- Here's how it works — and we've made it as easy as possible:
- **Submit a photo** of each individual in your household — a recent snapshot you love is absolutely perfect. Email it to the church office or drop off a printed copy.
- **Or, join us during fellowship time** after worship, and we'll take your picture right here. No appointment needed. No fuss. Just show up and smile.
- **Every member and every family is invited to participate** — whether you've been here since the founding or you walked in the door last Sunday. You belong here, and we want you in this directory.
- **There is no cost to be included**, and every participating household will receive a complimentary copy when the directory is complete.
- Maybe you've never loved having your picture taken. Maybe you're not sure you "count" as a real member yet. Maybe life has just been so full that it's hard to show up for one more thing.
- If that's you, hear this: You are exactly who we are looking for. You are the face that belongs in this directory. You are the person someone new will flip to and think, oh, that's who I want to meet.
- **Show up. Let us see you.**

THE EMPTY TOMB AND THE FULL TABLE



Easter is not the end of a story. It's the beginning of ours.

When Jesus walked out of that garden alive, he didn't disappear into the sky. He showed up at locked doors. He broke bread with grieving friends on the road to Emmaus. He cooked fish on a beach for exhausted fishermen who had been out all night.

He kept showing up.

And that is exactly what we are called to do — to keep showing up for one another, to keep breaking bread together, to keep being the resurrection people that the world so desperately needs right now. We'll gather for Holy Week and Easter worship to walk this story together:

- *Maundy Thursday — 7:00 PM — The Table, the towel, the command to love*
- *Good Friday — 7:00 PM — The cross, the darkness, the holy silence*
- *Easter Sunday — Breakfast 8:30 AM - Worship 10 AM — The empty tomb, the morning light, the impossible joy*

Come. Bring your whole self — your doubt, your wonder, your exhaustion, your hope. There is room at this table for all of it.



70 YEARS OF SHOWING UP

Seventy Years of Showing Up

Here's something worth sitting with for a moment:

Christ Lutheran Church has been showing up in this community for seventy years.

Seventy years of baptisms and funerals, of potlucks and prayer vigils, of confirmations and conversations that changed someone's life. Seventy years of people who said yes to this community, who gave their time and their treasure and their whole hearts to this place and to the God we worship here.

That is not a small thing. That is a testament.

As we move through this anniversary year — and there is much more celebration to come — we want to honor every chapter of this story, including the ones written by the people who came before us.

If you have old photographs, memorabilia, or a story about what Christ Lutheran has meant to you or your family, please share it with the church office. You are holding a piece of our history, and we want to hold it together.

Stay tuned. The best is still ahead.

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH

Jo Ann Pulfer, Art Woolley,
Betty Backford and Chris
Yoder

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 9 Carter Russell
- 13 Jane Unger
- 14 Corrie Callaghan
- 15 Dick Brackin
- 19 Jason Snoddy
- 21 Suzie Prange
- 22 Steve Chikosky
- 25 Tim Prange
- 29 Luther Haseley





HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

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.

Roles	April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26
Lector	Jane Unger		Mim Almquist	Chris Snoddy
Tray Server	Steve Chikosky		Marilyn Shealy	Pat Cambridge
Time with Children	Jana Hovland		Puppets	Cheryl Huebner
Communion Usher	Marilyn Shealy	Linda Batey	Jim Sillery	Tammy Thompson
coffee Usher	Sue Ellen Miller	Wanda Weinberg	Dan Snoddy	Sue Ellen Miller
Acolyte	Dessa Thompson-Kelleher		Elizabeth Schmidt	Meena Juedes
Greeter	Jo Ann L’Heureux		Cathi Schwalbaugh	Bob Lyons
Live Stream	Marilyn Shealy	Doug Debrick	Sam Hanson	Marilyn Shealy
Snacks		Mark Sunderman Karen Beverly		Earth Justice
Beverages		John Laughlin		Earth Justice



Dear Faith Family,

As we get closer to our fiscal end-of-year, the budget I share will be more detailed. Our congregation likes to know a lot of the details, which are included. Overall --

Revenue

- our giving is in line to meet estimates.
-- our Thrive campaign is complete, with \$41,925.76 given by our congregation to support our Southern Ohio Synod in their church growing efforts.

Expenses

- we transferred \$10,000 from our money market account into our checking account to be able to cover three months' worth of expenses.
-- our facilities expenses are higher than budgeted due to needed repairs.
-- our work in assessing/planning for our student house demo/reno is being covered by dedicated giving.
-- our investments have increased in value by \$11,000 this fiscal year, and we are closely monitoring market conditions.

We have begun our budgeting process for 2026-27. In the next month or so you'll receive an aspirational budget based on our best estimates of expenses to help in your stewardship decisions.

Let me know if you have questions, and have a nice day --

Lucy Juedes, Treasurer

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
Budget vs. Actuals
July 1, 2025 - February 28, 2026

Table with columns: Actual, Budget, % of Budget. Rows include Revenue (4000 Contributed support, 4500 Designated Contributions, 5000 Business Income) and Expenditures (Total 7100 Personnel).

Table with columns: Budget, Actual, % of Budget. Rows include 8100 Programs, 8296 Council Action, 8300 Benevolence, and 8370 Local Benevolences.



2026 Wave of Prayer 3, March 21

U.S. and Israeli military attacks on Iran began on February 28, followed by Iran's retaliatory strikes on Israel and the Gulf States. In this war, as in many, one side's responses justify the other side's continued attacks, including Israel's attacks on Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon. The greatest number of deaths have occurred in Iran and Lebanon, but destruction, displacement, and economic effects stretch far.

- **God, we grow weary with the weight of violence in the world, especially when that violence is trivialized by some of the players. Loving God, we don't know how to pray, but we lift up our concern regarding this war to you, hoping the strikes will end. God of mercy, hear our prayer.**

One out of four residents of Lebanon are refugees, having fled conflicts or economic hardships in their own countries. Now, during the war, 170,000 displaced migrants in Lebanon are not accepted in government shelters, which are reserved for the one million displaced Lebanese and Syrian people. Some Lebanese churches have offered a haven to the refugees. (Lebanon is 30 – 40% Christian.)

- **God, we pray for everyone who is displaced due to the current conflict, those in Iran, Israel, Lebanon and beyond. We pray now for all the migrants who are displaced in Lebanon. May their needs for food, housing, and safety be met. We thank you for the Lebanese Christians and churches which are helping. God of mercy, hear our prayer.**

Cuba recently experienced its third major blackout since December when its aging power grid collapsed. Economic sanctions and a blockade of oil tankers have caused a fuel shortage, which in turn has disrupted the collection of trash, threatened the supply of food, and limited potable water.

- **God, we pray for the people of Cuba as they experience hardships in daily living. May their fuel supply be restored so that they may have access to the necessities of life. God of mercy, hear our prayer.**

Walks and pilgrimages have taken place for centuries around the globe. They are a spiritual practice and a way to raise money and awareness. On February 11, a group of 19 Buddhist monks finished a 108-day, 2,300-mile walk for peace from Texas to Washington D.C. Along the way, people from various faith communities walked with them and offered support. The monks walked to promote the idea of inner peace. On February 28 in Union County, Ohio, 114 people walked five kilometers to raise awareness and support for people in their county facing hunger and homelessness.

- **God, we thank you for the opportunities that we and many have had in our lives to walk, run, bike, or engage in other activities for spiritual renewal and in support of good causes. We thank you for prompting us to live mindfully and with the inner peace that we have from you. May we live for and love you and love our neighbors as ourselves. May we each do our part to make the world a better place. God of mercy, hear our prayer.**

On March 25, Sarah Mullally will be formally installed as the Archbishop of Canterbury. She is the 106th archbishop and the first female in the role. As archbishop, she will lead the Church of England and the Anglican Communion, whose 85 to 110 million members make it the third or fourth largest Christian communion of churches in the world.

- **God, we thank you for Sarah Mullally's recent appointment as the new Archbishop of Canterbury. Grant her courage and wisdom as she leads this large Christian body. May she find the role both exhilarating and rewarding. God of mercy, hear our prayer.**
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