

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

Vacation Bible School



**VBS will run July 12-16
from 6-8 pm at the church.
There will be Bible stories,
songs, skits, snacks, and
crafts as the kids learn
about King David! Use
this link to register:**

[Register Here](#)



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.

July Birthdays

July	2026
1st	Alan Geiger
2nd	Sue Pepper Warga
10th	Joan Onofrio
16th	Luke Haskell
17th	Donald Fucci
21st	Wanda Weinberg
27th	Bryan Kuhre
31st	Vibert Cambridge

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO FAITH



Roles	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Lector	Stephen Chikosky	Chad Kopenski	Mim Almquist	Wanda Weinberg
Tray Server	Susan Urano	Pat Cambridge	John Molinaro	Greg Newton
Time with Children	Eli Nisly	Pastor Chad	Puppets	Pastor Chad
Communion Usher	Marilyn Shealy	Sue Ellen Miller	Dan Snoddy	Nick Claussen
Coffee Usher	Linda Batey	Gail Dreitzler	Tim Prange	John Laughlin
Acolyte	Eliza Kopenski	Dessa Thompson-Kelleher	Elizabeth Schmidt	
Greeter	Jo Ann Ball	Linda Batey	Karen Beverly	Nick Claussen
Live Stream	Doug Dembrick. Dan Snoddy	Jon Graham. Melissa Graham	Sam Hanson	Marilyn Shealy
Snacks		Karen Beverly Linda Sauer		Corrie Callaghan. Cathi Schwalbauch
Beverages		Kim Valentour		Tammy Thompson

The Habitat House being sponsored by the Faith Build Coalition, is being built NOW! It's at 9 Johnson Road in The Plains, directly behind Tink's Auto Sales, and a father of three will be the homeowner. Volunteer to help build from Wednesdays through Saturdays, from 9-5 p.m. Sign up for a full or half-day shift at [Volunteer Registration - Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio](#). See the article below about it.



WALLS UP IN ATHENS COUNTY

This past week, we hosted a wall build for our first two-story home in Athens County. The energy on-site was contagious as we gathered to frame the structure that will soon become a home for a father and his three children. We are incredibly proud of the future homeowner, Chris, a graduate of the John W. Clem Recovery House, and are honored to walk alongside him in his journey to homeownership. This build is more than just a house; it is a testament of resilience and growth.

Save the Date!

The Fall 5K Fun Run/Walk will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2026, at 10 a.m. on the bike path near the Eclipse Company Store Restaurant. This fundraiser will help raise money for the next home being built by the Faith Build Coalition in 2027.



THANK YOU! The Faith Build Coalition of HFH of SEOH is deeply grateful for all of you who donated, organized, volunteered, or shopped. The Scrap Metal Drive raised \$2,656, and the Rummage Sale earned almost \$1500 for a total of over \$4,150.00! These funds will help sponsor a house building project.

Once again, the Faith Build Coalition is collecting aluminum cans until October 31, 2026. Please rinse the cans, bag them, and Chris Snoddy will take them. Or if you take them to McKee's for the money, just give Chris the receipt showing the weight of the cans. For each 500 pounds, the Novelis Company will donate \$2,500 to HFH.

NEW STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



We are excited to welcome Bekah Davenport as our new organist! Bekah is a fourth-year organ major at Ohio University. He is from Blanchester, Ohio, where he played the organ for a Methodist church. Bekah is interested in organ building, church organ, and musicology, and he is excited to be a part of Christ Lutheran Church!

Transition in Church Office Staff

Christ Lutheran Church is also excited to welcome Gail Dreitzler to the staff as the new Ministry Support Coordinator, sometimes known as the Office Manager. In her new role, Gail is responsible for a wide variety of administrative functions to help keep church operations running smoothly. Gail grew up in the Lutheran Church in Western Pennsylvania and is very happy to have found a new way to support the church's mission. She is a retired Army officer with a strong administrative background after 26 years on active duty. Gail is still learning the



finer points of Canva (which is used for this newsletter) but is enjoying the new challenge. She moved to Athens with her husband, Greg, and her daughter, Chistine, three years ago and they are all proud members of Christ Lutheran Church.

JULY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 CLC Book Study 6:30 pm on Zoom	2 CCw/PC@DC 10am Social Ministry 7:00pm ZOOM	3 INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVED	4
5 Worship 10am Sanctuary Piano Recital 4pm Sanctuary	6 AA/OA Meeting 5pm Fellowship Hall	7 Equity & Justice 7pm on Zoom	8	9 CCw/PC@DC 10am	10	11 St. Ephraim Orthodox Church 9am Sanctuary
12 Worship 10am Sanctuary VBS 6pm-8pm @ CLC	13 Listening Group 2:00pm Narthex AA/OA Meeting 5pm F. Hall VBS 6pm-8pm @ CLC	14 VBS 6pm-8pm @ CLC	15 VBS 6pm-8pm @ CLC	16 CCw/PC@DC 10am VBS 6pm-8pm @ CLC	17	18 Luther Haseley Memorial Service 11am-1pm Sanctuary
19 Worship 10am Sanctuary Youth Group 6:30pm-8:30pm	20 AA/OA Meeting 5pm Fellowship Hall	21 Church Council 6pm @ Jane Unger's House	22	23 CCw/PC@DC 10am Life Together 6pm ZOOM	24	25
26 Worship 10am Sanctuary Youth Group 6:30pm-8:30pm	27 AA/OA Meeting 5pm Fellowship Hall	28 Earth Justice 7pm on ZOOM	29 Property Committee 5:30pm F. Hall	30 CCw/PC@DC 10am	31	

Treasurer's Notes

June 29, 2026

Dear Faith Family,

Thank you for all the discussions we've been having at the past several budget meetings. Together we make the best decisions for our congregation and community. Below is a synopsis of what we as a congregation decided on regarding our budget.

- Approved the proposed 2026-27 budget, which includes:

1. A slightly lower revenue amount by about \$3,000 due to lower pledges and estimated unpledged amounts.

2. A deficit of \$13,262, which can be managed by using reserves if necessary.

3. Approval of council's proposal that -- this year, going forward, and only if needed -- the LLC profits will cover our planned benevolences except for our Southern Ohio Synod (SOS) annual contribution. This year, our expected planned benevolences are \$13,814 and the SOS annual contribution is \$12,000. I'll set up a separate accounting line to show funds in and match them to funds out, similar to tracking Impact Giving Funds.

- Approved setting up a committee to analyze past membership growth and giving. This committee will develop a five-year projection to inform decisions regarding student house renovation and demolition and a possible church addition, and it will be chaired by Jeff Doose.

Also, at the meeting, a member asked if we will have a deficit this year; our 2025-26 budget had an expected deficit of \$16,546.84. The answer is "no," thanks to an unexpected, large gift of \$25,000. Without this gift, our deficit would have been about \$14,000, give or take a few thousand dollars of end-of-year bills and gifts.

Thank you again for sharing your thoughts, care, and energy! Have a wonderful summer -

Lucy Juedes, Treasurer

2026 Wave of Prayer 6, June 27

Two powerful earthquakes hit Venezuela on June 24, leaving over 1,400 dead, 3,000 injured, and 50,000 missing. Rescue teams are racing against time to find survivors, while many groups and individuals are working together to provide water, food, medicine, and shelter. Seventy percent of Venezuelans live in poverty, while health systems have long been fragile. Insurance is nearly non-existent.

- God, we pray for everyone in Venezuela who is affected by the recent earthquakes. Comfort those who have lost loved ones, those who are searching, and those who must rebuild what was destroyed. May the suffering ones feel loved and cared for by those assisting. May the aid which people need be available. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

A record high number of people - over 300 million - face acute hunger worldwide, with 2.3 billion described as food insecure. Economic inequality, conflict, and climate shocks (floods, droughts, and storms) are among the factors contributing to food insecurity.

- God, we pray for all who are hungry and malnourished. May food resources be accessible to those who need them the most. May all people have the nutritious food needed to develop and live active, healthy, lives. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

June 12 was World Day Against Child Labor. Though progress has been made in recent years, there are an estimated 138 million child laborers globally, more than 50 million of whom live in hazardous conditions.

- God we pray for the governments and the organizations which are working to decrease and end child labor. May all children have the right to learn, to play, and to just be children. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

The 2026 FIFA World Cup has brought people together to play and watch the beloved sport of soccer. Host cities have welcomed visitors, players have shown sportsmanship, and fans have enjoyed the games and post-game celebrations. At the same time, since the World Cup's inception in 1930, for political, logistical, financial, and other reasons, some countries or individuals have been excluded, and some have chosen not to participate. This year is no exception.

- God we are grateful for sporting events which bring people together. May this year's World Cup remind us of our shared humanity. May the spirit of camaraderie and connectedness stretch beyond the stadiums and TV screens to many spheres of life so that we may feel a sense of unity with everyone on the planet. May all sporting events of the future foster inclusion. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

The United States is celebrating 250 years of independence. The Declaration of Independence states that "all people are created equal and have rights that cannot be taken away -- including the right to live, to be free, and to pursue a good life." (America 250 Atlas). The Pledge of Allegiance describes the nation as indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

- God while we are grateful for human rights, we acknowledge that there are divisions within our country and that not everyone experiences the rights to which they are entitled. We mourn the lack of equality, freedom, and justice for all. We pray that inequities and injustices may be eliminated so that all people in the United States and in the whole world may truly one day be free. God of mercy, hear our prayer.



