

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



Fall Gathering

11210 Dowler Ridge Road
New Marshfield, Ohio
Saturday, October 17
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Join us at Sue Ellen and Marilyn's place for an afternoon of fellowship and fun- all friends and members are welcome! Activities will include pumpkin carving, making s'mores, roasting hot dogs, games, and hiking.

We recommend that you wear sturdy shoes or boots (no flip-flops) and long pants, and that you bring bug/tick spray and lawn chairs.

Please RSVP for this event so we can buy enough food and pumpkins! You may RSVP by clicking [here](#) to complete a brief online form or by emailing office@clcathens.org.



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.

October Birthdays

1st	Joni Hodgson
2nd	Linda Batey
3rd	Cathi Schwalbauch
8th	Linus Juedes
12th	Chris Snoddy
16th	Ben Juedes & Susan Roth
17th	Donna Russell
25th	Greg Newton
30th	Fran Snyder

A Letter from Pastor Chad: a Month of Blessing, Belonging, and Becoming

There is something holy about October in Athens.

The sidewalk fills with leaves that crunch underfoot. The students have returned in earnest, carrying both the anxiety of midterms and the thrill of new friendships. The light shifts — it arrives a little later and leaves a little earlier, as if reminding us that every season has its own rhythm and its own gifts.

This October, we lean into that rhythm with a full calendar of gatherings that remind us who we are and who we are becoming together. Some highlights include:

Sunday, October 4: Outdoor Worship

We begin the month by taking church outside. On Sunday, October 4, we will gather for worship in the open air — no walls, no pews, just the congregation, the breeze, and the whole of creation as our sanctuary. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket, dress for the weather, and invite a friend. There is something ancient and true about praying under the sky, and October in Ohio offers some of the finest sanctuary walls of all: turning leaves, cool mornings, and light that falls like blessing.

Saturday, October 3: Blessing of the Animals

The day before, at 11:00 a.m. in the church yard, we will gather for one of my favorite traditions of the year. Bring your dogs, your cats, your hamsters, your chickens, or simply bring yourself. We will give thanks for the creatures who teach us about unconditional love and who ground us in the present moment. If your pet would rather stay home, bring a photo — all God's critters are welcome. What a way to open the month: blessing the animals on Saturday, then worshiping together under the open sky on Sunday.

Saturday, October 17: Fall Gathering at Sue Ellen and Marilyn's, 4:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars and thank our gracious hosts! We will gather at Sue Ellen and Marilyn's at 4:00 p.m. for an afternoon of old-fashioned fun: pumpkin carving, games, a weenie roast over the fire, and s'mores under the early-evening sky. Our annual Fall Gathering is a chance to step away from the to-do lists and simply be together — to laugh, to carve, to compete a little, and to eat one more marshmallow than strictly necessary. October 24 remains on the calendar as a rain date, because Ohio weather is nothing if not unpredictable.

Sunday, October 25: Reformation Sunday

On this day, we remember that the church is always being reformed. Five hundred years after Martin Luther's courageous questions, we still ask them. Where does the gospel call us to grow? Who is left out? How do we become more fully the body of Christ? We celebrate our Lutheran heritage not as a museum piece, but as a living tradition that asks us to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly — together. And in the spirit of the day, wear red! It is the liturgical color of Reformation — the fire of the Spirit, the blood of the martyrs, the color of a church set ablaze by grace. Dig out that crimson sweater or scarlet scarf and let the sanctuary glow.

Stewardship and Our Shared Future

Behind the scenes, our building committee, council, stewardship committee, and finance task force are examining what it will take for Christ Lutheran to thrive in the years ahead. This fall, we are beginning to share those dreams with the wider congregation — conversations about our building, our finances, and our calling. More details will come, but for now, know that your generosity and your voice matter deeply in this season of discernment.

So come to the yard on October 3 with a leash in one hand and a coffee in the other. Come worship under the sky on October 4. Come roast a weenie and carve a pumpkin at Sue Ellen and Marilyn's on October 17. And come to Reformation Sunday on October 25 wearing your reddest red, with your questions intact.

October reminds us that nothing stays the same — and in the hands of a gracious God, that is very good news indeed.

Peace,
Pastor Chad

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO FAITH



Roles	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
Lector	Mim Alquist	Steve Chikosky	Chad Kopenski	Greg Newton
Tray Server		Pam Cochran	Chris Snoddy	John Molinaro
Time with Children	Jana Hovland	Cheryl Huebner	Puppets	Pastor Chad
Communion Usher	Marilyn Shealy	Sue Ellen Miller	Tammy Thompson	John Laughlin
Coffee Usher	Linda Batey	Lora Blankenship	Dan Snoddy	Wanda Weinberg
Acolyte	Eliza Kopenski	Dessa Thompson-Kelleher	Elizabeth Schmidt	Chad Kopenski
Greeters	Susan Urano & JoAnn Ball	Linda Batey & Karen Beverly	Nick Claussen & Pam Cochran	Jill Doose & Jo Anne L'Heureux
Live Stream	Marilyn Shealy	Melissa Graham	Marilyn Shealy	Greg Dreitzler
Snacks		Karen Beverly & Alele Hanson		Lucy Juedes & John Laughlin
Beverages		Nick Claussen		Linda Sauer

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Save Aluminum Cans!

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. If you take them to McKee's or the Recycling Center in The Plains for 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. We are close to having 400 pounds now. Help us get to the goal!

Scrap Metal Drive

This fundraiser for the Faith Build Coalition of Habitat for Humanity (HFH) of SEOH will be on Saturday, October 10, 2026, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Athens County Fairgrounds, as part of the Athens-Hocking County Solid Waste District's Recycling Day. Bring any scrap metal, old appliances, rusted tools, lawnmowers, ferrous items, aluminum, brass, or copper. Anything containing Freon cannot be accepted. Faith Build earns money by the ton, so the heavier the better! The items you donate will help raise funds for the next home build in 2027.

Save the Date

The Rummage Sale will be coming on November 14, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at Christ the King Holy Family Center. Donations will be accepted the Thursday and Friday before the sale. Proceeds go to the Faith Build Coalition.



TOGETHER
we are

 **NAMIWalks**
Southeast Ohio

Join Us!
2026

**MENTAL
HEALTH
for
all**

*Register
Now!*

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026 - 9:30AM
NAMI Southeast Ohio Office
Athens, Ohio
namiwalks.org/seo





National Alliance on Mental Illness

nami

Southeast Ohio

FAMILY TO FAMILY

Free, 8-session educational program for loved ones of people with mental health conditions.

This class has been shown to facilitate a better understanding of mental health conditions, increase coping skills and empower participants to become advocates for their family members. One of the best things you can do for your loved one is to educate yourself.

Let us help!

Wednesdays

5:30–7:30pm

**beginning September 30,
2026**

**434 W. Union St.
Athens, Ohio 45701**

Contact Us

Phone: 740-593-7424

info@namisoutheastohio.org

**details &
registration:**





ATHENS & HOCKING FALL 2026 RECYCLING DAYS

ATHENS COUNTY

SAT. OCT 10, 2026

9AM - 1PM

ATHENS CO. FAIRGROUNDS

286 W. Union St, Athens, OH 45701

HOCKING COUNTY

SAT. OCT 17, 2026

9AM - 1PM

HOCKING CO. FAIRGROUNDS

100 N Homer Ave, Logan, OH 43138

ACCEPTED FOR FREE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS, FURNITURE

CLOTHING & FABRICS

BOOKS, CDS, DVDS

APPLIANCES, SMALL HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES

E-WASTE (COMPUTERS, MONITORS, WIRES, PRINTERS,
CELL PHONES, TABLETS, LAPTOPS)

SCRAP METAL (MISC. METAL ITEMS)

TOOLS & BUILDING MATERIALS

BATTERIES (PLEASE TAPE LEAD ACID & LITHIUM ION)

MEDICAL SUPPLIES (NO RX)

SINGLE STREAM RECYCLABLES

MATTRESSES & BOX SPRINGS

ACCEPTED FOR A FEE

FLAT SCREEN TV \$20

TUBE TV \$40

FLORESCENT TUBE 50¢

COMPACT BULB 50¢

NO TIRES

NO HHW

Recycling funded with the support of



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

Recycle Ohio Grant Program

For more information, call 740-594-5312

Athens-Hocking Solid Waste Event Partners:



Rural Action



**Habitat for Humanity®
ReStore**

RUMPKE

**MCKEE
Auto Parts**

Why Germany? A Pilgrimage of Faith and Witness | July 16-27, 2027

We've just celebrated 70 years of Christ Lutheran Church, and we spent a lot of time looking back and remembering the people who gathered in 1956, sharing memories, and giving thanks for those who came before us. But looking back is never only about the past. Sometimes we look back so we can better understand who we are today - and who God might be calling us to become. That's why I'm excited to invite you to join me on a Germany Pilgrimage of Faith and Witness, July 16-27, 2027, during my sabbatical.

Why Germany? Because Germany is part of our Lutheran story. We'll stand in Worms, where Luther defended his teaching; visit Wartburg Castle, where he translated the New Testament; preach and worship in Wittenberg and Leipzig, where centuries later Christians prayed and peacefully protested an immovable government; remember in Berlin the Christians who faced down hatred and oppression; and travel to Prague to the Jan Hus memorial. These aren't simply historical sites. They are places that invite us to ask: What does it mean to speak the truth when silence is easier? What does faith look like when it costs us something? What does faithful witness look like in our own time?

There are many ways to travel through Germany — and there will be plenty of castles, good food, and beautiful scenery! But this journey has been intentionally designed as a pilgrimage of faith and witness. There is something different about learning Scripture, history, and theology when you're standing where those stories unfolded. There is something powerful about worshiping where Luther once preached, and something humbling about standing where Christians like Dietrich Bonhoeffer made choices that changed history. So come join me - as we walk in Luther's footsteps, listen to the stories of those who have gone before us, and discover that the journey into our past might also be a faith-filled journey toward our future together. We will share this pilgrimage with members of Peace Lutheran Church in Beavercreek, Ohio. Pastor Carey Hovland (Cheryl's sister) and I will be joint leaders.

Brochures and registration forms are available in the narthex of the church, and you can find more information on the next page of the Chi Rho. There will be two informational online meetings on October 29 at 11am and 7:30pm. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Excitedly,
Pastor Chad

Reformation Roots

A Pilgrimage of Faith and Witness



Rev. Chad Huebner
Christ Lutheran Church
Athens Ohio



Rev. Carey Hovland
Peace Lutheran Church
Beavercreek Ohio

Tour Leaders

July 16 - 27, 2027

Cincinnati, OH (CVG)

Package Price: \$5,990

GERMANY

PILGRIMAGE

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

Round-trip airfare | Accommodations in double occupancy luxury hotels
Breakfast and dinner daily | Eleven days of sightseeing in a modern, air-conditioned private bus
English-speaking tour guide | And Much More



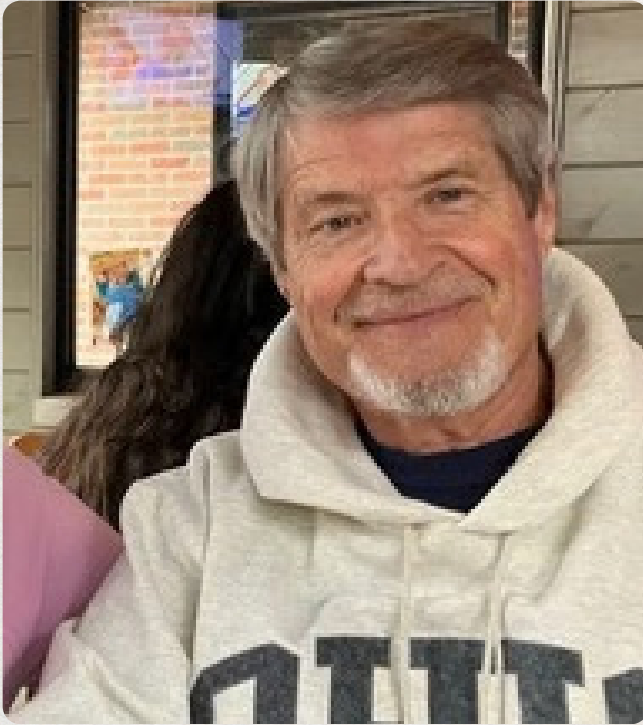
Register Online

Christ Lutheran Church
69 Mill St, Athens, OH
Phone: 740-593-3144

Good Shepherd Travel
www.GoodShepherdtravel.com
Toll-Free: 1-844-659-5263

Peace Lutheran Church
3530 Dayton Xenia Rd, Beavercreek, OH
Phone: 937-426-1441

NEW MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Duane and Michael Bump

Duane Bump grew up on a dairy farm near Marysville, Ohio. He graduated from Marysville High School in 1959 and enrolled at Ohio University (OU) that Fall. Duane married Karen (Atkins) in 1962 and graduated from OU in 1964. He became a permanent resident of Athens in 1969 when he began working at OU as part of the university administration. Duane and Karen had 2 children, Mike and Michelle. He retired from Ohio University in 2001, and Karen passed away in 2015.

Michael (Mike) Bump was born in Miami, Florida but grew up in Athens. Mike shares that his mother and her parents, Richard and Thora (Olson) Atkins, grew up here, and his great-grandparents, Thorwald "Thor" and

We are excited to have recently welcomed several new members to Christ Lutheran Church! We are spotlighting two of our new members, Duane and Michael Bump, in this issue of the Chi Rho, and will feature Bob Alexander and Bob and Laura Geyer in the November issue. We are thrilled to have all them in our church family!



Irene "Oley" Olson, were longtime members of the community. Mike is married and has one son, Tyler. His wife, Nukhet, is from Turkey, and came to the United States in 2004. They met at OU and were married in December 2015. Nukhet recently started a dean position at the City University of New York, and Mike looks forward to joining her there after his retirement later this year.

Updates from Church Council

- The council discussed the role of the Endowment Committee and the need for additional people on the Stewardship Committee - there are currently only three members. Pastor Chad knows several people who are interested in serving and will follow-up with them. The council discussed possibly creating a Planned Giving subcommittee once the Stewardship Committee has more members.
- Council unanimously approved Duane and Michael Bump as new members.
- Pastor Chad reported that two candidates to serve as the next Youth Director will be interviewed on September 19th. Note: Abigail Householder and Sydney Knisley were subsequently interviewed and hired by the Personnel Committee. They will share the job and start soon. It was noted that Chris Snoddy has done a terrific job of keeping Children's Church going while Christ Lutheran has been without a Youth Director.
- The Building Committee recently met with the architects and is awaiting new cost estimates.



Beat the Winter Blues with a Trip to Montaña de Luz

If you have ever wanted to experience Montaña de Luz and would like to have some time away from the Athens winter weather, there will be a special trip in February 2027 around the President's Day holiday, which promises to be a "transformative, cross-cultural experience." It will be a trip for five days, offering education about the services offered by MdL presentation of their Charla Luz program presenting information about HIV, engagement with the children served by the program along with their community partners, collaboration on a service project, opportunities for reflection and devotional services on site, and exposure to Honduran culture and cuisine. All this plus meals and accommodations in a secure dormitory onsite for \$750 plus airfare. Click [here](#) or talk to Doug Debrick for more information on this immersion trip.

Helping Haitian Immigrant Families and OU International Students

Many people have asked how they can help the Haitian community in Springfield, and the website below has good information about multiple ways we can do that (scroll down for info on purchasing a gift card instead of purchasing food yourself):

<https://purplefireflies.org/programs/springfield-neighbors>

Thank you to many Christ Lutheran folks who have donated items and spent time helping OU's new international students get settled in Athens. Hylie Voss (with Athens Friends of International Students) is coordinating an effort to help OU International Students get 50 hours of practice driving that is now required for them to get a driver's license. (In summer 2025, Ohio started requiring all internationals, regardless of international driver's licenses, to start from scratch with driver's education and 50 hours of additional practice driving.) Most international students don't know anyone when they arrive, so help is needed to connect them with volunteers they can drive with to get the 50 hours of practice driving. If you want to volunteer to allow an international student to practice driving your car once a week with you as a passenger, please contact Hylie Voss at hylievoss@gmail.com.

Treasurer's Notes

Dear Faith Family,

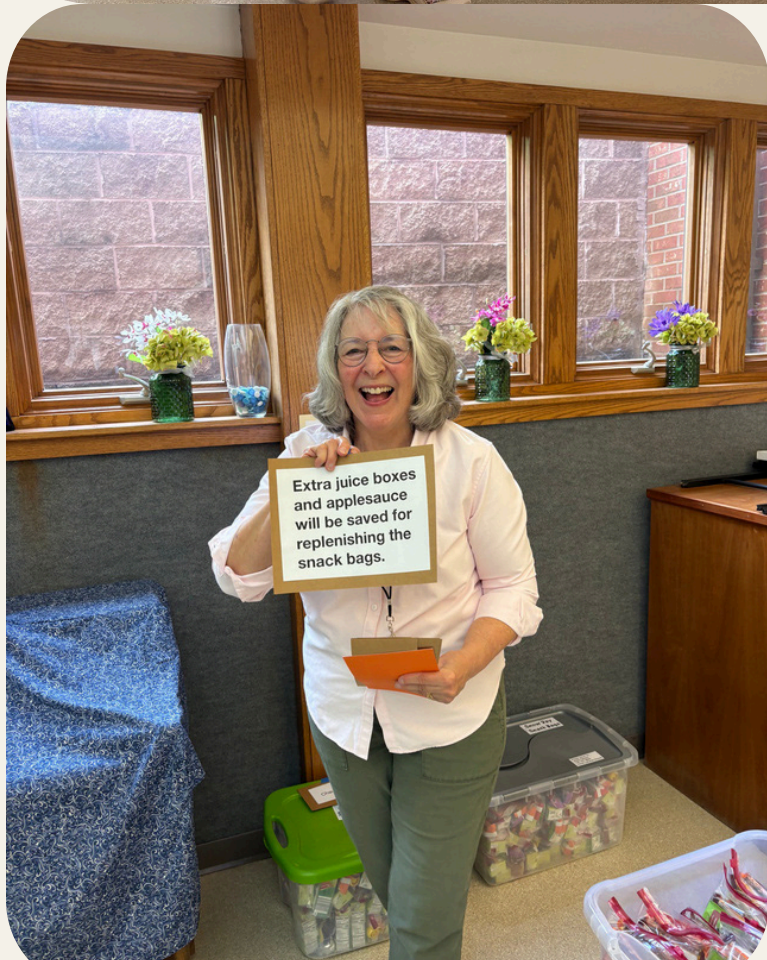
Here are our budget and actual amounts for revenue and expenses in July and August. You will see a \$10,000 transfer into our checking account from our money market investments, which was done for cash flow purposes.

You will see next month, when we include September, that our primary pledged giving has substantially increased, decreasing our concern over cash flow.

Let me know if you have questions, and see you in church.

Lucy Juedes
Treasurer

Budget vs. Actuals, July - August, 2026				
	Actual	Budget	over Budget	% of Budget
Revenue				
4000 Contributed support				
4010 Pledged Contributions	\$ 32,034	\$ 38,857	\$ (6,823)	82%
4020 Unpledged Contributions	\$ 2,251	\$ 3,500	\$ (1,249)	64%
4030 Loose Offering	\$ 764	\$ 667	\$ 97	115%
4040 Memorials, Open Use/Non-designated	\$ 2,289		\$ 2,289	
4070 Baptisms	\$ 100		\$ 100	
4420 Campus Ministry Support (ELCA/SOS)		\$ 2,077	\$ (2,077)	0%
4430 Thrivent	\$ 331	\$ 144	\$ 187	230%
Total 4000 Contributed support	\$ 37,770	\$ 45,244	\$ (7,475)	83%
4500 Designated Contributions			\$ -	
4517 Anticipated Benevolence Funds from LLC Profits		\$ 2,302	\$ (2,302)	0%
4550 Memorial Garden	\$ 800		\$ 800	
Total 4500 Designated Contributions	\$ 800	\$ 2,302	\$ (1,502)	35%
4580 Transfer from Money Market Acct.	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	
5000 Business Income			\$ -	
5100 Gross rents revenue	\$ 100	\$ 500	\$ (400)	20%
Total 5000 Business Income	\$ 100	\$ 500	\$ (400)	20%
5510 Interest-savings/short-term inv	\$ 9		\$ 9	
5514 Fidelity Primary Money Mkt Account Value Change	\$ 536	\$ 608	\$ (72)	88%
Total Revenue	\$ 49,215	\$ 48,655	\$ 560	101%
Expenditures				
Total 7100 Personnel	\$ 35,339	\$ 36,105	\$ (765)	98%
Total 8100 Programs	\$ 2,629	\$ 1,717	\$ 913	153%
Total 8150 General Business Expenses	\$ 1,364	\$ 1,167	\$ 197	117%
Total 8200 Facilities	\$ 6,340	\$ 7,208	\$ (869)	88%
8290 Council Action	\$ 630	\$ 367	\$ 263	172%
8298 Student House/Property Demo/Reno	\$ 2,300		\$ 2,300	
Total 8290 Council Action	\$ 2,930	\$ 367	\$ 2,563	799%
8300 Benevolence			\$ -	
8310 Southern Ohio Synod Allocation		\$ 2,000	\$ (2,000)	0%
8311 Planned Benevolences, Natl./Intl.			\$ -	
8360 ELCA Global Mission	\$ 340		\$ 340	
Total 8311 Planned Benevolences, Natl./Intl.	\$ 340	\$ -	\$ 340	
8370 Planned Benevolences, Local	\$ 200	\$ 2,302	\$ (2,102)	9%
8330 Lutheran Social Services	\$ 480		\$ 480	
Total 8370 Planned Benevolences, Local	\$ 680	\$ 2,302	\$ (1,622)	30%
Total 8300 Benevolence	\$ 1,020	\$ 4,302	\$ (3,282)	24%
Total Expenditures	\$ 49,622	\$ 50,865	\$ (1,243)	98%
Net Operating Revenue	\$ (408)	\$ (2,210)	\$ 1,803	18%
Other Revenue				
5513 Fidelity Primary Stock/Bond Value Change	\$ 1,550		\$ 1,550	
5515 Fidelity Endowment Value Change	\$ 492		\$ 492	
Total Other Revenue	\$ 2,042	\$ -	\$ 2,042	







OCTOBER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 CCw/PC@DC 10am The Bridge Connect!on 5:30-7pm Social Ministry 7:00pm <u>ZOOM</u>	2	3 St. Ephraim Orthodox Church 9am Sanctuary Blessing of the Animals - 11:00 am
4 Choir Practice 9:30am Sanctuary Worship 10am Outdoors CROP Walk- 2:00 pm	5 AA Meeting 5pm Fellowship Hall	6 Donuts & Dialogue 8:45 am Wit & Wisdom 11:30 am in FH Worship & Arts 1pm in FH Equity & Justice 7pm on <u>Zoom</u>	7 Wednesday Prayer Service 7pm on <u>ZOOM</u>	8 CCw/PC@DC 10am The Bridge Connect!on 5:30pm-7pm	9	10
11 Choir Practice 9:30am Sanctuary Worship 10am Sanctuary	12 Listening Group 2:00pm Narthex AA Meeting 5pm Fellowship Hall	13 Donuts & Dialogue 8:45 am Baker 231	14 Wednesday Prayer Service 7pm on <u>ZOOM</u>	15 CCw/PC@DC 10am The Bridge Connect!on 5:30-7pm	16	17 St. Ephraim Orthodox Church 9am Sanctuary Fall Fun Event with Pumpkin Carving 4:00 pm-6:30pm
18 Choir Practice 9:30am Sanctuary Worship 10am Sanctuary	19 AA Meeting 5pm Fellowship Hall	20 Donuts & Dialogue 8:45 am Baker 231 Church Council 7pm on <u>Zoom</u>	21 Wednesday Prayer Service 7pm on <u>ZOOM</u>	22 CCw/PC@DC 10am The Bridge Connect!on 5:30-7pm Life Together 7pm <u>ZOOM</u>	23	24 Funeral for Keith Peterson 1:00 pm-3:30pm
25 Choir Practice 9:30am Sanctuary Worship 10am Sanctuary	26 AA Meeting 5pm Fellowship Hall	27 Donuts & Dialogue 8:45 am Baker 231 Earth Justice 7pm on <u>ZOOM</u>	28 Property Committee 5:45 pm F. Hall Wednesday Prayer Service 7pm on <u>ZOOM</u>	29 CCw/PC@DC 10am The Bridge Connect!on 5:30-7pm	30	31