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 FAITH

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.



GIVING THANKS POTLUCK

Sunday, November 22

After worship

The main course and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to share, and join us in gratitude for all the blessings we have.

Roles	Nov 1	Nov 8	Nov 15	Nov 22	Nov 29
Lector	Bob Cochran	Bridge Students	Pam Cochran	Jim Sillery	Marilyn Shealy
Tray Server	Sue Righi	Bridge Students	Greg Newton	Mim Alquist	Steve Chikosky
Time with Children	Jana Hovland	Bridge Students	Puppets	Chad Huebner	Jane Unger
Communion Usher	Marilyn Shealy	JoAnn Ball	Tim Prange	John Laughlin	Sue Ellen Miller
Coffee Usher	Wanda Weinberg	Jim Sillery	Dan Snoddy	Nick Claussen	Gail Dreitzler
Acolyte	Nathan Haskell	Bridge Students	Eliza Kopenski	Dessa Thompson - Kelleher	Elizabeth Schmidt
Greeters	Bob Lyons and Sue Righi	Rod & Linda Sauer	Cathi Schwalbauch & Jim Sillery	Chris Snoddy & Anne Sparks	Solveig Spjeldnes & Susan Urano
Live Stream	Jon Graham	Dan Snoddy	Douglas Debrick	Sam Hanson	Melissa Graham
Snacks		Cathi Schwalbauch & Mark Sunderman			Kim Valentour & Karen Beverly
Beverages		Tammy Thompson			Adele Hanson

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

WIT & WISDOM

Tuesday, November 3

11:30am in Fellowship Hall

"Important Legal Documents as We Age" by Rod Sauer

ALL SAINTS DAY

Sunday, Nov 1

We remember our members and loved ones who have passed in the last year

- Betty Blackford
- Luther Haseley
- Ursel Maier
- Keith Peterson

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Saturday
November 21
9:30am - 4:00pm

See next page for details



CC W/ PC AT DC

Coffee and Conversation with Pastor Chad at Donkey Coffee
Thursdays from 10-11:00AM*
***There will be no CCw/PC@DC on November 26, of course**

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Merl Almquist

12 Cedar Thompson-Kelleher

13 Dan Snoddy

THE LISTENING GROUP

Monday
November 9
2:00pm - 3:00pm

A group for widows and widowers that meets in the Narthex.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WORSHIP & ARTS	1st Tuesday of the month after wit & wisdom
EQUITY & JUSTICE	1st Tuesday of the month @7pm on ZOOM
SOCIAL MINISTRY	1st Thursday of the month @7pm on ZOOM
CHURCH COUNCIL	3rd Tuesday of the month @7pm CLC or ZOOM
EARTH JUSTICE	3rd Thursday of the month @7pm on Zoom
LIFE TOGETHER	4th Thursday of the month @7pm on ZOOM
PROPERTY	Last Wednesday of the month @5:45pm at CLC

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



Women's Retreat
Saturday, November 21, 2026
Time: 9:30 am - 4:00 pm
Embodied Spirituality Through
Nature and Breath

Job 12:7-9: But ask the animals and they will teach you, the birds of the air, and they will tell you; Ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you, and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?

Place: Serenity Roots, 8950 Lavelle Rd., Athens
For carpooling, meet at the church at 9:00am
Cost: $15 (scholarships available - we want all women to attend!)
Includes lunch and activities
Click here to register!

This Retreat for Women will include Shinrin Yoku (weather permitting,) Bible discussion, prayer, Qigon (chee-gong), and art activities. Shinrin Yoku is a Japanese practice of therapeutic relaxation and connection to nature that literally translates to "forest bathing" or absorbing the forest atmosphere. Qigon is an ancient Chinese practice that harmonizes movment, breath, and meditation to cultivate and balance life energy, known as "qi." It promotoes physical health, mental clarity, and spiritual growth.

In addition, if women are interested in staying after the retreat, Susan Urano will offer Breathwork from 4:15-5:30. The cost for this is $15. Breathwork is a powerful form of somatic healing that helps quiet the mind and release "stuck" emotions. The two-part breath, deep in the belly and high in the chest, is done lying down with a mask over the eyes. Music is used to quiet the mind and open the heart. Please wear comfortable clothes with layers and appropriate clothing for going outside. Bring a blanket and slippers, if you'd like.

Lunch will be a salad bar with water, coffee, and tea. Please feel free to bring snacks and/or drinks.

Pam Cochran and/or Susan Urano will be in the Narthex after worship on 11/1 and 11/15 to answer questions and to enable interested women to sign-up. You may also contact the church office with questions, or Pam can be reached at pamcochran4@gmail.com or (419) 788-9852. Susan Urano can be reached at urano32@msn.com or (740) 590-3190. We hope you can join us!

A Letter from Pastor Chad

Dear Partners in Mission and Ministry,

There's a certain light that comes in November. The leaves are all gone, the mornings are later and the sun comes in low as if it too is getting ready to go into hibernation. In the church that's the final leg of the year - the long walk from All Saints to Christ the King and then, before we've quite got our heads around it, Advent.

This time of year invites gratitude, but lately I've been wondering whether we usually get it wrong. We treat it like an accounting exercise. Count your blessings, we say, as if grace were a ledger and thanksgiving the balancing entry. And if the blessings outnumber the losses, then we are permitted to feel grateful. If not - well, then perhaps we are entitled to our complaints.

But that's not how thanksgiving works in the Scriptures. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all things; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus to you" (1 Thess 5:16-18). Paul doesn't say 'give thanks for all circumstances'. He says 'give thanks in all circumstances' - in the circumstances that are bright and in the circumstances that are dark. Thanksgiving isn't the conclusion we arrive at when the numbers add up. It's the posture we take prior to knowing what the outcome is going to be. Gratitude is not the receipt. It is the relationship.

I see that relationship everywhere I look. I see it in the women who will gather for the retreat on November 21, making time in a busy season simply to be together before God. I see it in the plans for our Giving Thanks Potluck, right after worship on Sunday, November 22 - a table that keeps growing longer, which is, I think, the whole point. (Bring a dish. Bring a friend. Bring your appetite; the food at Christ Lutheran never disappoints.)

I see it at The Bridge, where students gather over donuts on Tuesday mornings at Baker Center and around tables on Thursday evenings, asking the kind of honest questions that keep faith alive. Soon they will scatter for Thanksgiving break, carrying our prayers with them to kitchens and living rooms far from Athens. If you have wondered whether the campus ministry matters, let me tell you: there are students in this town who know that there is a place where they are welcome, and that place is Christ Lutheran. That knowledge is not an accident. It is the slow, faithful work of a whole congregation.

November is also a month when I'll be away for a few days, serving with the ELCA Churchwide Council in Chicago. I give thanks for that work, and for the wider church it connects us to - and I give equal thanks for the gifted leaders who will hold things here. Please keep the work of the Churchwide Council in your prayers as we gather November 12-15.

And then, on November 29, a new year begins. Advent is the church's new year, and it starts not with trumpets but with watching and waiting. Before the fullness of Christmas comes the quiet of expectation. Before the harvest comes the seed. Before the answer comes the trust. "O that today you would listen to God's voice," sings the psalmist (Psalm 95:7), and Advent is the season of listening.

So here is my invitation this November: let's practice the long gratitude. Not the tidy kind that waits for the math to work out, but the stubborn kind that gives thanks in all circumstances - because God in Christ has given us everything first. Let's give thanks with potlucks, and retreats, and students and travelers safely home, with ordinary Sundays and one extraordinary baby on the way.

The light is slanting low, but it's not going out. Advent is almost here.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Chad

CONNECTING FAITH TO LIFE

RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, November 14, 2026
8:30am - 12:30pm
Christ the King Catholic Church

This fundraiser for the Faith Build Coalition of Habitat for Humanity of SE OH will be held at Christ the King Holy Family Center. Donations of household goods, holiday decorations, clean clothing, children's games and toys, etc. will be accepted on Thursday, November 12, from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. and Friday, November 13, from 10 a.m. until noon. Do some fall cleaning, donate, and come on Saturday to shop!

the Bridge

Campus Ministry



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

"Undies and Sweats" Becomes "Yoga & Sweatpants"

For many years, the Social Ministry Committee at Christ Lutheran Church has organized drives to provide Athens County schools with replacement clothing and underwear for students that would have a need for them during the school day. This November, after some input from Athens County Children Services and their School Outreach team, the Committee decided to change the appeal a little bit, asking this year for yoga [pants] and sweatpants that can be distributed in the school by Children Services' School Outreach workers.

Social Ministry is asking that members pick up a card with sizes needed from the table under the bulletin board in the Narthex, buy sweatpants or yoga pants, and bring them to church to put into the bin in the Narthex. Then we will deliver what is collected to Children Services. The deadline for donations will be November 22, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Please see Doug Debrick with any questions.

Habitat for Humanity® of Southeast Ohio

Thank you!!! The Fall 5K Fun Run in September raised $4,251 for the next Faith Build home construction in 2027. Thank you to the sponsors, runners, and walkers!!

We also greatly appreciate those who have collected aluminum cans or who particpated in the scrap metal drive on October 10th. Your contributions make a difference for the Faith Build Coalition of Southeast Ohio!



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.Good Shepherdtravel.com
Toll-Free: 1-844-659-5263

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

NEW MEMBER

HIGHLIGHTS



Bob and Laura Geyer

Bob and Laura Geyer are new transplants from N.C. Both of us originally came from cold country: Bob from Buffalo, NY and Laura from Hagerstown, MD. Now, after 40+ years we've returned to "cold country". Our 4 kids (his and hers) and families are scattered, so for our 80th birthday year, we decided to follow a new path, and God has led us here to Athens and Christ Lutheran.

Bob, an accountant, started out in the business world, eventually owning and operating 5 ACE hardware stores. He and his first wife were called into Christian service, selling the stores and following a path of service. During this time, he began building small cabin-type homes in the Appalachia region of TN. Here he had a chance encounter with Millard Fuller at a Commission on Religion in Appalachia gathering. After much collaboration with Millard and others, they formed Habitat in Americus, GA. Bob served as their finance officer, as well as building supervisor and home designer. After many years of full-time service, Bob returned to the business world and became a finance officer for both non-profit and profit organizations.

Laura, an educator, worked for 2 years in the late 60's with an Army program at Ft Bragg, teaching drafted soldiers who couldn't read to read well enough to go through basic training. Later, the job was teaching soldiers retuning from Vietnam to take the civil service exam so they would better their employment opportunities. In the late 70's, Laura served as a learning disabilities teacher for several years at the grade school level. When the opportunity came to take a position with the local community college in 1979, teaching learning disabled adults, she took it. 28 years later, she retired from there having held a large variety of jobs in teaching and many other leadership roles.

Both of us have served as volunteers in many organizations over the years. We thrive by helping others. We also like to explore new places and meet new people. Both of us enjoy card games, reading, and having nice flowers. Bob is happiest building things!

COUNCIL NOTES

At the council meeting on October 20, 2026:

1. Jim Sillery reported that the steps the church has taken to improve church security (such as having a back door greeter) have been well-received and appear to be working.

2. Council received an update on the new drawings from the architects, which the Building Committee believes would meet the church's goals for the project. The cost estimate is about 1.25 million which includes site prep and the flood wall that is needed regardless. It does not include some expenses that would be incurred before construction begins. Next steps include an informational meeting for the congregation (possibly in early 2027), and eventually a vote on whether to move forward with a capital campaign.

3. There was extensive discussion of stewardship, to include the need for education on planned giving options and more focus on stewardship in general. Related to the student house project, it was noted that in addition to raising money for the down payment, we would need members of the congregation to increase their regular, ongoing giving to support mortgage payments.

4. Pastor Chad and Jane noted that the "Donuts and Dialogue" gathering for Bridge Students on Tuesday mornings is going well, with 5-6 students participating each week.

TREASURER NOTES

Dear Faith Family,

On the next two pages, you can find our first quarter actual and budgeted income and expenses.

- Our income is 40%. This percentage is due to several people paying their entire pledge up-front.
- Our expenses are 45%. This percentage is due to a humidifier installation to protect our organ and piano ($5,200), several 2025-26 checks clearing in our current, 2026-27 budget ($3,120), and a few expenses due to the beginning of the fiscal and/or liturgical year ($900).

Based on past experience, I expect both of these percentages to hew closer to our expected amounts as the year progresses.

On a side note, while I'm technically the "treasurer", I feel like I am more specifically the money tracker. Each one of us are treasurers -- of each other, of our selves, of God's creation, and for that I am very thankful. So --

Warmly,
Lucy Juedes
Treasurer/Money Tracker

CELC Actuals vs Budget, July 1 - Sept 30, 2026	Actual	Budget	% BG
Revenue			
4000 Contributed support			
4010 Pledged Contributions	$ 94,245	$ 233,143	40%
4020 Unpledged Contributions	$ 4,321	$ 21,000	21%
4030 Loose Offering	$ 1,271	$ 4,000	32%
4040 Memorials, Open Use/Non-designated	$ 2,289		
4070 Baptisms	$ 100		
4420 Campus Ministry Support (ELCA/SOS)	$ 6,625	$ 12,460	53%
4430 Thrivent	$ 846	$ 863	98%
Total 4000 Contributed support	**$ 109,696**	**$ 271,466**	**40%**
4500 Designated Contributions			
4515 Anticipated Impact Giving/Benevolence Funds	$ 61,514		
4517 Anticipated Benevolence Funds from LLC Profits		$ 13,814	0%
4550 Memorial Garden	$ 800		
4595 Emergency Assistance	$ 25		
Total 4500 Designated Contributions	**$ 62,339**	**$ 13,814**	**451%**
4580 Transfer from Money Market Acct.	$ 10,000		
5000 Business Income			
5100 Gross rents revenue	$ 2,606	$ 3,000	87%
Total 5000 Business Income	**$ 2,606**	**$ 3,000**	**87%**
5510 Interest-savings/short-term inv	$ 22		
5514 Fidelity Primary Money Mkt Account Value Change	$ 2,265	$ 3,650	62%
5590 Temp. Unknown Income	$ 342		
Total Revenue	**$ 187,270**	**$ 291,930**	**64%**
Gross Profit	**187,270**	**291,930**	**64%**
Expenditures			
Total 7100 Personnel	**$ 60,013**	**$ 216,627**	**28%**
Total 8100 Programs	**$ 3,842**	**10,300**	**37%**
Total 8150 General Business Expenses	**$ 2,310**	**7,000**	**33%**
Total 8200 Facilities	**$ 16,946**	**43,250**	**39%**
8290 Council Action	$ 630	$ 2,200	29%
8298 Student House/Property Demo/Reno	$ 2,300		
Total 8290 Council Action	**$ 2,930**	**$ 2,200**	**133%**
8300 Benevolence			
8310 Southern Ohio Synod Allocation	$ 6,000	$ 12,000	50%
8311 Planned Benevolences, Natl./Intl.			
8315 Reconciling Works	$ 230		
8360 ELCA Global Mission	$ 340		
Total 8311 Planned Benevolences, Natl./Intl.	**$ 570**	**$ -**	

8365 Impact Giving LLC Funds Out	$ 38,900			
8370 Planned Benevolences, Local	$ 200	$	13,814	1%
8330 Lutheran Social Services	$ 480			
8376 My Sisters Place	$ 1,450			
8382 Gathering Place	$ 2,774			
8383 CLEM House	$ 1,370			
Total 8370 Planned Benevolences, Local	**$ 6,274**	**$**	**13,814**	**45%**
Total 8300 Benevolence	**$ 51,744**	**$**	**25,814**	**200%**
Total Expenditures	**$ 137,785**	**$**	**305,191**	**45%**
Net Operating Revenue	**$ 49,485**	**$**	**(13,261)**	**-373%**
Other Revenue				
5513 Fidelity Primary Stock/Bond Value Change	$ (548)			
5515 Fidelity Endowment Value Change	$ 19			
Total Other Revenue	**$ (529)**	**$**	**-**	
Other Expenditures				
8261 Depreciation Expense	$ 7,996			
Total Other Expenditures	**$ 7,996**	**$**	**-**	
Net Other Revenue	**$ (8,525)**	**$**	**-**	
Net Revenue	**$ 40,960**	**$**	**(13,261)**	**-309%**

































2026 Crop Walk

Thanks to walkers and sponsors of the 2026 CROP Walk! The final total of funds raised by Christ Lutheran Church was $1973.72. The overall tally for the walk was $5405.72. Thanks again to everyone involved!













NOVEMBER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 **All Saints Day**	2 **AA Meeting** 5pm Fellowship Hall	3 **Donuts & Dialogue** 8:45 am **Wit & Wisdom** 11:30 am in FH **Worship & Arts** 1pm in FH	4 **Wednesday Prayer Service** 7pm on ZOOM	5 **CCw/PC@DC** 10am **The Bridge Connect!on** 5:30-7pm **Social Ministry** 7:00pm ZOOM	6	7 **St. Ephraim Orthodox Church** 9am Sanctuary
8 **Choir Practice** 9:30am Sanctuary **Worship** 10am Sanctuary **Bridge Brunch** 11:00 am	9 **Listening Group** 2:00pm Narthex **AA Meeting** 5pm Fellowship Hall	10 **Donuts & Dialogue** 8:45 am Baker 229 **Equity & Justice** 7pm on Zoom	11 **Delta Kappa Gamma-** 4:00 pm Fellowship Hall **Wednesday Prayer Service** 7pm on ZOOM	12 **CCw/PC@DC** 10am **The Bridge Connect!on** 5:30pm-7pm	13	14
15 **Choir Practice** 9:30am Sanctuary **Worship** 10am Sanctuary	16 **AA Meeting** 5pm Fellowship Hall	17 **Donuts & Dialogue** 8:45 am Baker 229 **Church Council** 7pm on Zoom	18 **Wednesday Prayer Service** 7pm on ZOOM	19 **CCw/PC@DC** 10am **The Bridge Connect!on** 5:30-7pm	20	21 **St. Ephraim Orthodox Church** 9am Sanctuary **Women's Retreat** 9:30 am-4:00pm
22 **Choir Practice** 9:30am **Worship** 10am **Giving Thanks Potluck** 11:00 am	23 **AA Meeting** 5pm Fellowship Hall	24 **Donuts & Dialogue** 8:45 am Baker 229	25	26 **Thanksgiving - Office Closed**	27	28
29 **Choir Practice** 9:30am Sanctuary **Worship** 10am Sanctuary	30 **AA Meeting** 5pm Fellowship Hall		—			