

REUNITED & IT FEELS SO GOOD

THE STEWARDSHIP TIMES

Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry May 2023

“Reunited and it Feels so Good!” I must admit I laughed out loud when I first learned this was going to be our 2023 stewardship theme, but I have quickly grown to love it, because it’s absolutely true. While still being aware and appropriately cautious, we have been able to come back together for worship and other activities that were affected by Covid-19.

I am writing to you today with a heart full of gratitude for your generosity over the past year. Your kindness and willingness to give have truly made a difference in the lives of so many within and beyond our community. One of my mentors when asked “How are you?” would always respond, “I’m grateful.” That is the state of being I have for all of you. Overwhelming gratitude.

Through your contributions, we have been able to support those in need, both financially and through acts of service. Your generosity has helped fund our ministries, support local and global charities, and maintain our church's facilities. You went above and beyond with your awe-inspiring support of the Thrive! Campaign to grow our synodical ministries. Your generosity has a global impact and has touched the lives and hearts of many, and I cannot thank you enough for all that you have done.

The year ahead will be a busy one as we continue to reunite and determine our future direction. We will have opportunities to meet and discuss how God is calling us into present and future ministry in this place.

As we look forward to the coming year, I would like to encourage you to continue in your spirit of generosity. Your ongoing support will allow us to continue serving our community and sharing the love of Christ with those in need. There are many opportunities for us to make a difference, and I am confident that, with your help, we can achieve great things.

I understand that giving is a personal decision, and I want to assure you that any amount you give, no matter how small, can make a significant impact. Your contributions are essential to the ongoing success of our church and its mission.

Again, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your generosity and support. May God bless you abundantly for all that you have given, and may your continued generosity bring joy and blessings to many others in the years to come. We are indeed, “Reunited, and it feels so good!”

Your partner in mission and ministry,

+Pastor Chad

Lifelong Formation Committee

The “new” Lifelong Formation Committee has been busy organizing monthly intergenerational opportunities, offering weekly Children’s Church and weekly Youth Group on Sunday evenings. The intergenerational activities range from pumpkin carving, potlucks, ice skating, talent shows, caroling, and a ladies luncheon, amongst others. The Lifelong Formation Committee anticipates continuing to offer monthly fellowship opportunities in the 2023-2024 year and plans to add and incorporate various faith opportunities such as multi-week book studies and retreats.



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2022-2023 CLC Highlights

- **THE BRIDGE CAMPUS MINISTRY** - Chaired by Bonnie Childress. Students met weekly for food and fellowship forming deep connections. Students actively participated in the life of the congregation. "Barney" the big purple couch, started making appearances on campus to connect with more students.
- **CLC LLC**- Chaired by Rod Sauer. The apartments have been full rented for the 2023-2024 school year. Maintenance costs were low, things are running smoothly, and \$65,000 was generated for benevolences.
- **LIFELONG FORMATION**- Chaired by Chris Snoddy. Lifelong Formation Director, Lucy Crawford, was hired and developed and implemented Sunday programming for children and youth. Monthly intergenerational events have been offered to members and friends of the congregation that included; pumpkin carving, Christmas caroling, potlucks, chili cook-off, talent show, ice skating, amongst others. Two book Studies have been offered and led by Corrie Callaghan and ELCA's Declaration to People of African Descent series was led by Pastor Chad.
- **LIFE TOGETHER AND OUTREACH**-- Chaired by Dan Snoddy. Encouraged and supported our faith family by providing several opportunities for positive social interactions like the Giving Thanks Potluck, The Advent Smorgasbord, and most recently Pi-Day.
- **PROPERTY COMMITTEE**- Chaired by Marilyn Shealy. The property committee replaced the grease traps and flooring in the kitchen, installed one handicap accessible door to be used when the building is open and Rod Sauer has coordinated the AED training for Ushers and others who wished to attend.
- **SOCIAL MINISTRY**- Chaired by Doug Debrick. Publicized community actions and fund raisers for Good Works, Little Wings, Relief Works campaign for Ukraine, the Southeast Food Ohio Bank, Bread for the World, Serenity Grove, Montana de Luz, and many others. The committee supported God's Work Our Hands packing Snow Day Snack Bags, the CROP Walk, the monthly LSS Mobile Food Pantry and contributed food for Friday Night Life Supper with Good Works. The committee recommended to Council for the congregation to become an AMMPARO Welcoming Congregation and organized an effort to collect items for Backpacks for Good Works.
- **EQUITY AND JUSTICE**-Chaired by Doug Debrick. Assisted Pastor Chad with planning and implementing the 5 Sunday workshop series on the ELCA Declaration to People of African Descent in January and February. Members have directly and indirectly served in the Mt. Zion Baptist Church Preservation Society, in developing a cultural center for Black people in Athens, part of which will be to restore the stained glass window.
- **IMPACT GIVING**-Chaired by Chris Snoddy. Call for Proposals was sent in December of 2022 to over 100 non-profit and/or public organizations. Received 16 Letters of Intent in January 2023, totaling over \$200,000 in requests for funds. Committee recommended and Council approved 4 projects for funding; ACEnet, The Gathering Place, Serenity Grove, and Tri-County Career Center for \$52, 603

What's Up with the CLC Youth?

The CLC Youth can be found being involved in a variety of activities around Athens County in 2022-2023 year. These include the Athens Community Trunk or Treat, a visit to a local farm, visiting with CLC Homebound members, ice skating, musicals, theatre....

