

MAY 2025

69 MILL STREET, ATHENS, OHIO 45701

740-593-3144

WWW.CLCATHENS.ORG

Chick 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

WIT & WISDOM

**Tuesday, April 6
11:30am
Fellowship Hall**

Melinda Ford will be presenting on the subject of medicine this month.

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH

Dick Brackin
Jo Ann Pulfer
Sammy Huwe
Art Woolley
Betty Blackford



CC W/ PC AT DC

**Coffee and Conversation with
Pastor Chad at Donkey Coffee**
Thursdays from 10-11:00AM
CANCELLED FOR MAY 8

THE LISTENING GROUP

Monday, May 12 @ 2pm
2nd Monday of the month
in the narthex

The Listening Group, a group for widows and widowers. Our purpose is to problem solve, and have time together, but mostly just to listen to each other and help each other to get through this stressful time. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from this group please join us.

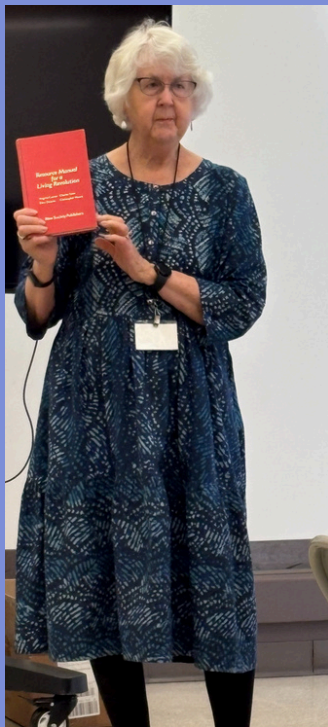
MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1** Mark Sunderman
- 3** Jason Schmidt
- 4** Dessa Thompson-Kelleher
- 5** Solveig Spjeldness
- 7** Sue Ellen Miller
- 11** Susan Urano
- 27** Kristina Denbow

REGULARLY SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WORSHIP & ARTS	1st Tuesday of the month after wit & wisdom
EQUITY & JUSTICE	1st Tuesday of the month @7pm ZOOM LINK
SOCIAL MINISTRY	1st Thursday of the month @7pm ZOOM LINK
CHURCH COUNCIL	3rd Tuesday of the month @7pm CLC or ZOOM LINK
EARTH JUSTICE	3rd Thursday of the month @7pm ZOOM LINK
LIFE TOGETHER	4th Thursday of the month @6pm ZOOM LINK
PROPERTY	Last Wednesday of the month @5:30pm

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



Earth Justice sponsored Gini Coover to speak at our April Earth Day Celebration.



The last bridge brunch for the year. We wish you a fruitful break and congratulations to those graduating.

**Calliope Feminist Choir's
Spring 2025 Concert**

**Hope
must be
LOUD!**

ASL Interpreted

Ohio Arts COUNCIL

Reserve your seat:
Use the QR code or email
reservations@calliopefeministchoir.org

**Friday May 9, 7:30
Saturday May 10, 4:00**

**First United Methodist Church
2 S. College St, Athens**

calliopefeministchoir.org

Being together is an antidote to despair. Add some music - the great connector - and we have deep nourishment. Please join us for an hour of music and togetherness at one of our upcoming spring concerts!

Reservations (form) appreciated. Visit calliopefeministchoir.org/events for more information.

We accept donations (pay if and as you can) on a sliding scale: Basic - \$10-30; Community-supported - less than \$10; Supporting - \$30-50 (Donating at this level allows a community member to pay what they can to share this experience.) We'll take cash or check at the door; if using a card, please make a donation through our website. Thank you!

Both shows are ASL interpreted. Please let us know by May 7 if you need further accommodations: info@calliopefeministchoir.org.

**OVSCDC PRESENTS....
A NIGHT ON THE
RED CARPET**

**ATHENS HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
17 MAY, 2025 AT 6PM**

FREE ADMISSION

OHIO VALLEY SCHOOL
OF CELTIC DANCE AND CULTURE

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO FAITH

2025-26 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



UPCOMING DATES: BUDGET MEETING & STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Sunday, May 4

After worship, we will hold a congregational meeting to review the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year beginning in July. A copy of the budget was included in the recent stewardship mailing. Please plan to stay, listen, and share your input as we all work to build a brighter tomorrow.

Stewardship Sunday – May 18

On Sunday, May 18, we will celebrate Stewardship Sunday. This is a time to reflect on how we offer our time, talent, and treasure to support our shared ministry. Please bring your completed Time & Talent form and Pledge Card to worship. Extra copies are available in the narthex near the office door if needed. Following worship on May 18, we'll gather for a meal—a time for fellowship and gratitude.

EVENING PRAYER

Every Wednesday
@6:00pm
on ZOOM
[Link HERE](#)

HOSPITALITY AFTER WORSHIP

This month there will be Hospitality after worship on April 11 and 25.

SERVING THIS MONTH

	4	11	18	25
ACOLYTE	Dessa Thompson-Kelleher	Melody Christiansen	Elizabeth Schmidt	Eliza Kopenski
GREETER	Susan Urano	Cathi Schwalbauch	Chris Snoddy	Anne Sparks
LECTOR/ASSISTANT	Chad Kopenski	Susan Urano	Mim Almquist	Stephen Chikosky
LIVE STREAM	Douglas Debrick	Sam Hanson	Kay Cleland	Sam Hanson
TIME WITH THE CHILDREN	Cheryl Huebner	Elyce Friedman	Nick Claussen	Jana Hovland
TRAY SERVER	Pat Cambridge	Greg Newton	Stephen Chikosky	Susan Urano
USHER/COFFEE	Jim Sillery	Tammy Thompson	Dan Snoddy	Lora Blankenship
USHER/COMMUNION	Wanda Weinberg	Marilyn Shealy	Jo Ann Ball	Sue Ellen Miller

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 8 - June 11
6-8pm

This summer, Vacation Bible School will be held with Athens first & Central Methodist churches. This is for children ages 4-12. This event will be held at Central Methodist Church in the evenings from 6-8pm and it will run Sunday, June 8 - Wednesday, June 11. You can register your children [HERE](#)



HopeWood
Outdoors

Lutheran Bible Camp at Hopewood Pines has camps this summer for youth K-12 as well as family camp. Let us know if you are going because there is funds available for this. Learn more at <https://hopewoodoutdoors.org/>

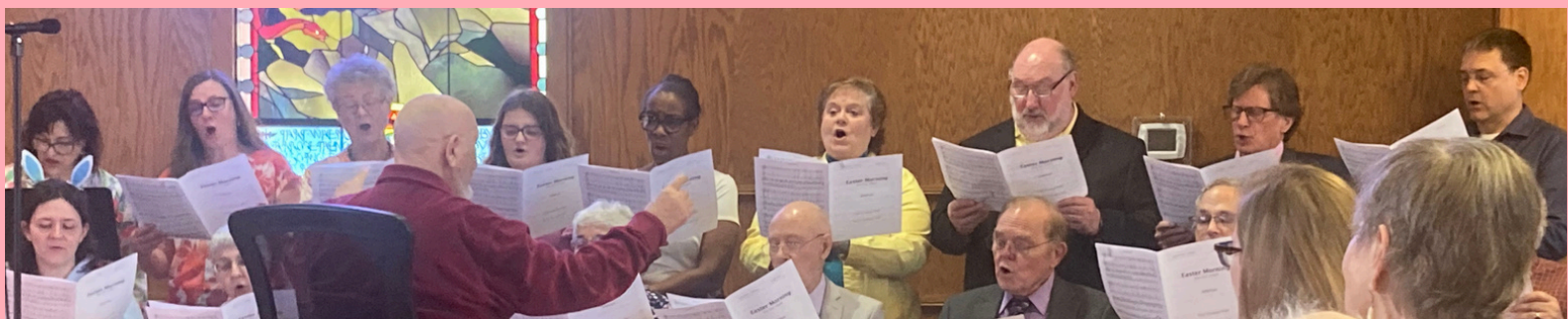
Week 1 (Jun 8-13) for grades K-12
Week 2 (Jun 15-20) for grades K-12
Week 3 (Jun 22-27) for grades K-12
Family Camp Weekend (Jun 27-29)
Week 4 (Jun 29-Jul 2) for grades K-8

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Easter Highlights



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May 4th-
Bible Trivia at AFUMC
6:30p-7:30p

May 11th-
Mother's Day-No Youth
Group

May 18th-
Richland Park Cookout for
youth and their families
5p-7p
(Bring a side dish to share)

Youth
Group

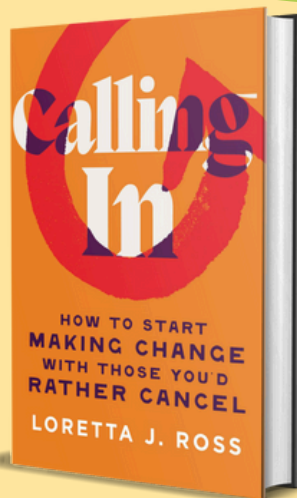
May 2025

CONNECTING FAITH TO LIFE

Calling In

A Book Discussion

**Sunday, June 1
After Worship**



The Equity and Justice Group will sponsor the book discussion for the book, *Calling in*, by Loretta J. Ross Sunday, June 1, after the church service in the sanctuary.

Here are some questions to consider while reading the book:

How could “calling in” be “a call out done with love?”

How does social media increase call out culture?

What changes when we seek to “power with” people instead of seeking to “power over” people?

What does it mean to you to “make room,” for change within ourselves in order to facilitate change in others?

COUNCIL NOTES

1. Talked about the new bulletin board just inside the front doors for announcements about community events.
2. Heard from Wanda about a \$500 gift from a visitor and we voted to use it to support food programs in the county since state and federal support may be going away.
3. Pr. Chad, Melinda Ford and Kay Cleland will be attending the Synod Assembly in June.
4. All 3 people who are going off council will be running for a second term - Jane Unger, Steve Chikosky and Jim Sillery.
5. Heard a report on the student house building project from John Molinaro.

Jane Unger
Council President



Live-in Nanny Position Available 2025-2026 school year Perfect for a graduate student!

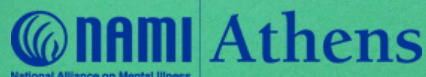
We are looking for a compassionate, responsible, and experienced live-in nanny to join our family starting August 2025. If you are interested or know someone who is contact Corrie @ corriecallaghan@gmail.com for more information.



MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

May is Mental Health Month, which was founded by Mental Health America in 1949 as a way to promote mental wellness across the United States. For more information and to access informative materials regarding mental wellness go to <https://mhanational.org>.

A screening tool provided by the agency is linked [HERE](#).



NAMI is another national organization supporting and advocating for individuals with mental illness and their families. For more information about the local chapter, NAMI Athens Ohio, and upcoming events, go to <https://namiathensohio.org/>.

MONTAÑA DE LUZ HAS BEST FUNDRAISER EVER!



Sue Ellen with Wendy

April 11 was the annual fundraising dinner for Montaña de Luz, which was held in Columbus. This year is the 25th anniversary of MdL's founding. Sue Ellen Miller and Doug Debrick attended with a record 350 participants. Over \$165,000 – another record – was raised for the children's home and community outreach. Sue Ellen and Doug got to connect with some whom they have known from past service trips to Honduras. The event was inspiring, especially hearing the speech by a Wendy (Lala), who grew up there and who has become an advocate for people affected HIV/AIDS in Honduras and internationally. She gave her speech in English, which she learned recently so she could tell her story in the United States. Her English also came in handy as they helped the auctioneer during the live auction!



RUMMAGE SALE

Please donate household items, clothes, gardening supplies, toys, and other things as you do your spring cleaning! Donations can be made on Thursday, May 8, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday, May 9, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Family Center building behind Christ the King Catholic Church.

Saturday, May 10, 2025
8:30am - 12:30pm
Christ the King Family Center

Volunteers are always needed! Habitat for Humanity of SE Ohio can use helpers at the ReStore and on building projects. No experience required! Habitat has the tools and construction leaders/trainers. Visit habitatseo.org and click on the "Volunteer" button.



Habitat for Humanity[®]
of Southeast Ohio

FAITH BUILD COALITION

RUMMAGE SALE

(CLOTHING AND SMALL ITEMS ONLY)

SATURDAY, MAY 10
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

HOLY FAMILY CENTER
73 STEWART STREET
ATHENS, OH



PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS THE COALITION'S NEXT HOUSE-BUILD PROJECT

MAY 2025 WAVE OF PRAYER

April 15 marked two years since the start of renewed violence in Sudan, after several decades of genocide by a dictator. Two warring parties who used to cooperate and commit genocide are now in a power struggle. With over 13 million internally displaced, it's the worst displacement crisis in the world. Massacres and sexual violence continue, even in refugee camps where displaced people are meant to have protection. Hunger and resulting death are rampant, while aid and funding is in short supply.

God, as we prayed a year ago and many times since, we lift up the Sudanese people who are suffering from past and present acts of horrific violence. Give aid and healing to those living in fear and in trauma. May there be a way to peace. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.

On March 28, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake hit Myanmar. Over 3,500 people lost their lives, and over 5,000 have been injured, with 200 still missing. Even before the quake, 20 million people (one third of the population) needed humanitarian assistance due to the conflict between the military junta and resistance groups. Now the need for aid is magnified though it is blocked in some areas and though fighting continues even amidst a ceasefire to allow aid to reach the people. As the UN humanitarian chief said, "It's a compounding crisis. It's earthquake on top of conflict on top of huge existing need."

God, we pray for the people of Myanmar who are trying to recover from their devastating losses, not only from last month's earthquake but also from the ongoing regional violence. May aid be accessible to those in need. May the fighting groups somehow resolve their conflicts. May the people of Myanmar experience peace. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.

In 2023, almost 40 million people were living with HIV. Over one million were newly infected that year, 44% of them women and girls. (In sub-Saharan Africa, women and girls account for 62% of new infections.) Over half a million people died from AIDS-related illnesses in 2023, and over 42 million people have died from the same since the start of the epidemic. About 77% of people living with HIV had access to treatment in 2023, which is up from 2010 but still short of the target. While new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths have decreased, one person died every minute of AIDS in 2023.

God, we thank you for the progress which medical science has made in terms of treating HIV and AIDS-related illnesses. May this progress continue. We pray for each person living with HIV, that they may experience peace and hope. We thank you for those who have helped raise awareness about what HIV and AIDS is and isn't. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.

While so many people need assistance around the globe, the United States has suspended, ended, or decreased many of its aid programs. These funding cuts have seriously impacted the lives of countless people, most of whom are unknown to us. In Ethiopia, where I currently live, some Mennonite Central Committee partners have lost their funding, for example, for health care and medicines.

God, for all organizations who have experienced funding cuts, we pray that they may somehow continue to serve those in need. For all individuals who are not receiving the assistance they need, we pray for care and comfort. May we be reminded of the life of Jesus, whose resurrection we celebrated on Easter Sunday. Jesus reached out to those who were suffering. He helped those in need. Thank you for the many people today who are the hands and feet of Jesus in our suffering world. May each of us seek to be the same. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.