

Chi Rho

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



REMEMBERING OUR PAST
IMAGINING OUR FUTURE

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

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH

Jo Ann Pulfer
Sammy Huwe
Art Woolley
Betty Blackford

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2** Yasmeena Juedes
- 3** Rachel Prange
Elizabeth Schmidt
- 5** Jack Haseley
- 7** Megan Cutright
- 14** Betty Blackford
- 22** Karen Dahn
- 23** Carol Kuhre



THE LISTENING GROUP

Monday, Sept 8 @ 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.

THURSDAY WALKABOUT

Gather in front of the church and enjoy conversation and a stroll
Thursdays @ 7:30PM
Will not meet Sept 4th.
Go to Pleasant Hill Vineyard instead.



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
Thursday, September 25.

WIT & WISDOM

Tuesday, September 2
11:30am
Fellowship Hall

REGULARLY SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WORSHIP & ARTS EQUITY & JUSTICE SOCIAL MINISTRY CHURCH COUNCIL EARTH JUSTICE LIFE TOGETHER PROPERTY

1st Tuesday of the month after wit & wisdom

E&J will meet @ 5:00pm this month.

1st Tuesday of the month @7pm ZOOM LINK

SM will meet on the 18 this month.

1st Thursday of the month @7pm ZOOM LINK

3rd Tuesday of the month @7pm CLC or ZOOM LINK

3rd Thursday of the month @7pm ZOOM LINK

4th Thursday of the month @6pm ZOOM LINK

Last Wednesday of the month @5:30pm

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

Christ Lutheran Evening
at the
Pleasant Hill Vineyards
5015 Pleasant Hill Road

**Thursday, September 4
at 5:30pm**

All Friends and Members are Welcome.
Snacks and nonalcoholic beverages will be
provided. Please reach out to members or
the office if you'd like to carpool.



Photograph by Patricia Cambridge



New Youth Director

Eli Nisly

Hi, I'm Eli, a fourth year playwriting student at OU and your new youth director at Christ Lutheran! I've been working with the youth that attend Goodworks' Friday Night Life for a year now and had the pleasure this summer of interning with them, leading their Kid's Discovery Club. Through that community I have found a passion, not only for kids but also for the people of Athens. I hope to serve this beautiful county through this job, Goodworks, and my writing. You can find me out and about at open mics, the climbing gym, the woods, the library, and of course Friday Night Life. I can't wait to get to know everyone.

September 2025 Youth Schedule 6:30p-7:30p



Craft night-fall
wreaths

7th



Finish wreaths
and Bible
lesson

14th



Games &
Beverages at
Donkey

21th



Pumpkin
Carving

28th

**Sunday evenings from 6:30p to 7:30p
Location: Athens First UMC-3rd Floor Lounge**

Children's Church

We will be starting up Children's Church again on September 7. Children, grades 3 and under are invited to Children's Church. Children's Church is offered during the 10am service immediately following the Children's Message.



New (Non)Ivory to Tickle!

Thank you so much to those who have donated or pledged towards our new grand piano. Along with many students in our neighborhood, it was moved in Tuesday, August 19. The tuner will return the first week of September after the piano acclimates to our sanctuary's temperature and humidity. We donated our previous piano to the Ohio University School of Music for students to practice tuning - a win all the way around.



Probably the most unique and best manner to collect pledges towards a piano replacement. Thanks to Bob Cochran's idea and Jane Unger's recycled piano.

We are thankful to George Weckman, who had donated our previous piano, and to all of you who are helping to cover the costs of our new grand piano. It cost \$24,503. As of August 26 we have received \$9,720 in donations and an additional \$6,105 in pledges, for a difference of \$8,678. Thank you!

Interestingly, our previous piano was about 100 years old and probably had ivory keys. Our new piano was built in 2019, and was not made with ivory keys, which were phased out in the 1950s due to wildlife preservation concerns.



CONNECTING PEOPLE TO FAITH



God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025

We will invite all children and the teens down to the Fellowship Hall for Children's Church on Sept 7 to pack snow day snack bags. The bags will be given to local public libraries. They will distribute them on snow days to help feed children when they spend the day at the library and are hungry. This is the ten year mark for this event!

**ENDING
HUNGER**
ONE STEP
AT A TIME

CROP WALK October 5th
2pm
Athens Community Center

The Impact

CROP Hunger Walkers raise more than **\$6 million** annually to bring help and hope to those who need it most.



Support 1,000 US-based
hunger-fighting
organizations



Water systems and
increased access to safe
drinking water



PHOTO-SHANLEY STUDIO
Tools and training to
help families grow the
food they need



Livestock to give
families food security
and economic stability

The CROP Hunger Walk will be held on October 5th with the walk starting at 2:00pm. The event will gather at the Athens Community Center solar panel parking lot. Last year the combined churches raised more than \$5,600. Twenty five percent of the total is split locally between Community Food Initiatives and Athens County Food Pantry. Adele Hanson will be recruiting walkers and sponsors during September. One can also donate directly to the Athens Crop Walk by clicking the button below.

What is the CROP Hunger Walk?

CROP Hunger Walks are community-led interfaith events that raise funds to end hunger locally AND around the world. Everyone is welcome to join! Your participation impacts individuals and families in more than 35 countries. In many developing nations, people could walk up to six miles a day to get food and water. One in nine people worldwide lack access to clean water and a healthy diet. We walk to show solidarity and to bring awareness while raising funds for permanent change. From its birth in 1969, CWS sponsored CROP Hunger Walks have grown to include walkers of all ages, faiths and backgrounds in more than 500 communities throughout the U.S.

The CROP Hunger Walk is the only nationwide Walk that addresses hunger both locally and globally.

[Donate Here](#)



EVENING PRAYER

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

Cheers - to a good life!

Beloved member, Dick Brackin, died peacefully Wednesday, August 27th. He will be missed. Arrangements will be shared as they become available.



ELCA NEW PRESIDING BISHOP



The Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected as the next presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Ariz., on July 30, 2025. He will begin this role on Oct. 1, 2025, and be installed on Oct. 4 in Minneapolis.

Currently, he serves as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod, where he leads a synod staff and 160 congregations by providing pastoral care, preaching, teaching, administering sacraments, and overseeing ordinations and installations. He was elected synod bishop in 2019 and reelected in spring 2025. Curry chaired the ELCA Conference of Bishops, fostering ecumenical relationships and theological engagement across the Lutheran communion.

Previously, Curry served as the mission developer (2007–2012) and pastor (2013–2019) of Shekinah Chapel Lutheran Church in Riverdale, Ill. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He and his wife, LaShonda, are the proud parents of three daughters.

	SEP 7	SEP 14	SEP 21	SEP 28
LECTOR	Chad Kopenski	Susan Urano	Elyce Friedman	Mim Almquist
TRAY SERVER	Jane Unger	John Molinaro	Jim Sillery	Pat Cambridge
TIME WITH CHILDREN	Cheryl Huebner	Elyce Friedman	Nick Claussen	Jana Hovland
COMMUNION USHER	Marilyn Shealy	John Laughlin	Tim Prange	Dan Snoddy
COFFEE USHER	Jim Sillery	JoAnn Ball	Wanda Weinberg	Nick Claussen
ACOLYTE	Elizabeth Schmidt	Rachel Prange	Eliza Kopenski	Melody Christiansen
GREETER	Cathi Schwalbauch	Anne Sparks	Solveig Spjeldnes	Linda Sauer
GREETER	Melody Christiansen	Mim Almquist	Karen Beverly	Sue Righi
LIVE STREAM	Sam Hanson	Kay Cleland	Kay Cleland	Douglas Debrick
SNACKS			Mark Sunderman	Linda Sauer
SNACKS			Anne Sparks	Sierra And Jack Haseley
BEVERAGES			John Laughlin	Tammy Thompson



Thank you to all who helped out with the international students this summer. Here's a photo of the folks who helped collect and deliver donated furniture to newly arriving International Students on August 23rd.



SUMMER EVENTS

Above and Bottom Right: Thank you to all who helped and participated in Vacation Bible School this summer. Below: Once again CLC participated in the Athens Pride Parade. Thank you to all who came out for this event.



CONNECTING FAITH TO LIFE



History of Social Ministry at Christ Lutheran

Christ Lutheran Church has been involved with ministering to the needs of the community and around the world as a part of its 70-year history. As a part of the ramp-up to the 70th Anniversary celebration next year, Social Ministry, Earth Justice, and Equity and Justice will offer information about what our congregation has done to act out the Gospel through Social Ministry at Christ Lutheran. September will be the Annual God's Work Our Hands and a review of actions to address Hunger at Christ Lutheran, September 14 will be a review of how Earth Justice has been promoted, September 21 will be how Social Ministry has been a part of our congregation's mission, and September 28 Equity and Justice will offer a review of bringing awareness and action toward racial equity in our world. Watch for updates and summaries in the weekly Looking Forward emails.

Fall 5K Fun Run and Walk

Saturday, September 20, 2025
10:00am

Bike path near The Eclipse Company Store
The Plains, OH

Runners and walkers are welcome! Registration is \$25 per adult and \$10 per child ages 13 and under. Register online at Event Registration - Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio or [HERE](#).



Volunteers Needed- Several homes are currently under construction and the ReStore could always use volunteers! No experience, skills, nor tools are necessary. A construction supervisor is at the build site to teach and guide you on Wednesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. Visit habitatseo.org and click on the "[Volunteer](#)" button.

Undies and Sweats Drive for Athens County Schoolchildren

For many years, the Social Ministry Committee at Christ Lutheran Church has provided underwear and sweats for Athens County school children. At first, the Committee collected donations of underwear and sweats and then distributed them to Athens County Schools. The last few years, the process has been streamlined by collecting donations from congregation members and then giving the money to Athens County Children Services, whose School Outreach Workers purchase and distribute underwear, sweats, and other supplies to students who have a need for them through the year. With the school year beginning, we are asking again for donations for this Undies and Sweats drive. You can donate on the church website under the "Give" button, and dropping the "Unpledged Giving" menu, where you can find the "Undies and Sweats Drive" button and make a contribution. If you prefer to pay by check, make it out to Christ Lutheran Church and write "Undies and Sweats" in the memo line. You can mail it "Attn: Wanda Weinberg," to the church office at 69 Mill Street, Athens, Ohio 45701.

Save the Date Scrap Metal Drive

Saturday, October 18, 2025
9:00am - 1:00pm
at the Athens County Fairgrounds

Bring old gutters, broken appliances, rusted metal items, and scrap iron, aluminum, brass, or copper items.



-Faith Build Coalition-

A graphic for the "Fall 5K Fun Run". It features a stylized orange leaf on the left and the text "Fall 5K Fun Run" in a large, orange, handwritten-style font on the right.

Fall 5K Fun Run

Saturday, September 20, 2025

**Beginning at 10 a.m. on the bike path by the Eclipse Store,
The Plains.**

**Registration Fee: \$25 per adult,
\$10 per child ages 13 and under**

Online registration information is available at

Click here: [Fall 5K Fun Run](https://habitatseo.org/getinvolved/inyourcommunity/at/hens-hocking-meigs-county/acfbc.html) or

**[https://habitatseo.org/getinvolved/inyourcommunity/at
hens-hocking-meigs-county/acfbc.html](https://habitatseo.org/getinvolved/inyourcommunity/at/hens-hocking-meigs-county/acfbc.html)**

Christ Lutheran Evangelical Church 2025 Impact Fund Grants



ATHENS
PHOTO
PROJECT

1. A **\$10,800.00** grant was approved for the Athens Photographic Project for their Collaborative Recovery Project with NAMI and SEO Hope Center. Athens Photo Project (APP) is a Peer Run Organization that promotes mental health recovery support and social engagement in SE Ohio. They provide photography classes, exhibition opportunities, and workforce development programs free of charge for community members affected by mental health and/or substance abuse disorders. APP is purchasing and renovating a new building just a block away from their current space on W. Union St. They have received over \$400,000 in state, county, and foundation funds for this building. Our Impact Fund award will help APP partner with NAMI and SEO Hope Center, so they can also move into the new Blue Line Dr. building and pay the first-year rental costs and utilities, while they develop sustainable service income for their future rent and operations.



2. An **\$8,600** grant is going to The Gathering Place for their Improving Accessibility Project. Their beautiful 3-story Victorian house located on Congress St. is currently not handicap accessible, and their members wanted to find inexpensive solutions to improving access to the services. They plan to purchase a chair lift that will be attached to the back stairs, which will allow those with limited mobility to access the offices and programs on the second floor. This will allow The Gathering Place to serve more clients and to continue to serve their current and long-time members.



3. A **\$10,000** award was approved for the Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program for their Expanding Emergency Needs Support for Survivors in Southeast Ohio Project. SAOP provides trauma-informed services and empowers survivors to safely leave abusive situations and begin healing. Prepaid gas and grocery cards are essential to allow survivors to attend court, medical appointments, and travel to shelter. Also, TracFones and prepaid minutes help survivors communicate safely when their phones are inaccessible or compromised. Emergency clothing is necessary for those who experience violence and arrive at hospitals without adequate clothing. Personal safety devices, including doorbell cameras, enhance home safety and give peace of mind after they flee a dangerous situation. This grant will allow SAOP to provide emergency assistance to a minimum of 75 survivors over the next year.

4. A **\$5,000** tithe will be sent to the ELCA Global Missions for a project designated by the Social Ministry Committee.

5. This **totals \$34,400** worth of grants approved at the July Council meeting.

COUNCIL NOTES

Council met at Wanda Weinberg's house for a dinner meeting on August 19th.

- 1) We talked about letting Nic know when committees are meeting so he can get things set up and won't be planning on working at the same time as the meetings are happening.
- 2) AED training/refresher training will be held on September 14 th after the service in the fellowship hall.
- 3) We talked about hiring someone as Youth Director. Since the meeting we have hired Eli Knisly for the position.
- 4) The new piano, which we have talked about for quite a few meetings has arrived. Thanks to all who supported the effort and contributed financially.
- 5) Pr. Chad said that we will be receiving 8 individuals and 2 families as new members on September 28th.

Jane Unger
Council President

CELC Actuals Budget, July 2025

	Total Actual	Budget	% of Budget
Revenue			
4000 Contributed support			
4010 Pledged Contributions	\$ 24,664	\$ 19,584	126%
4020 Unpledged Contributions	\$ 765	\$ 1,833	42%
4030 Loose Offering	\$ 167	\$ 250	67%
4420 Campus Ministry Support (ELCA/SOS)		\$ 1,038	0%
4430 Thrivent		\$ 144	0%
Total 4000 Contributed support	\$ 25,595	\$ 22,850	112%
4500 Designated Contributions			
4505 Thrive Campaign SOS	\$ 125		
4575 Bridge	\$ 400		
4577 Student House Renovation/Construction	\$ 10,000		
4584 Piano Replacement	\$ 4,000		
Total 4500 Designated Contributions	\$ 14,525	\$ -	
Total 5000 Business Income	\$ -	\$ 167	0%
5510 Interest-savings/short-term inv	\$ 6	\$ 8	67%
Total Revenue	\$ 40,126	\$ 23,025	174%
Expenditures			
7100 Personnel			
Total 7100 Personnel	\$ 11,571	\$ 17,370	67%
Total 8100 Programs	\$ 537	\$ 1,300	41%
Total 8150 General Business Expenses	\$ 316	\$ 633	50%
Total 8200 Facilities	\$ 9,510	\$ 2,917	326%
Total 8296 Council Action	\$ 2,769	\$ 17	16609%
Total 8300 Benevolence	\$ -	\$ 2,167	0%
Total Expenditures	\$ 24,703	\$ 24,404	101%
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 15,423	\$ (1,379)	-1119%
5513 Fidelity Primary CD Value Change	\$ 1,403		
5515 Fidelity Endowment CD Value Change	\$ 479		

TREASURER NOTES

Dear Christ Lutheran Faith
Family,

Here are the July, 2025 actual
and budgeted income and
expenses.

- In income you'll notice a large amount of pledged funds received, as well as sizable donations for student house renovation/construction and the beginnings of the piano replacement support.
- In expenses you'll see a fair amount of expenses in facilities that were for heating and cooling repair, as well funds spent through council action for the student house property assessment.

Please let me know if you have
questions, and have a wonderful
September.

Lucy Juedes
Treasurer

SEPTEMBER 2025 Wave of Prayer

On August 3, Russia and Ukraine agreed to release 1,200 prisoners of war. This follows a prisoner exchange in May when each side released 1000 prisoners, the largest prisoner swap since Russia's war against Ukraine began three and a half years ago in February 2022. However, attacks continue, and an end to the conflict seems uncertain.

God, we thank you for the release of both Ukrainian and Russian prisoners. We thank you for the reunification of family and loved ones. May current talks and negotiations be effective so that this war may finally come to an end. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.

Four years ago, the Taliban took control in Afghanistan and subsequently limited the education of girls. Fortunately, a foundation named after Linda Norgrove, a young Scottish woman killed in Afghanistan in 2010, was established to help provide access to some form of education for all girls in Afghanistan, including those from nomadic families, those in remote areas, and those with visual impairments. In addition, 19 young Afghani women who were unable to continue their medical schooling in Afghanistan are currently studying medicine in Scotland, thanks to the initiative and support of the foundation.

God, we thank you for Linda Norgrove's parents, who turned their grief into good, establishing a program to support Afghani girls and women living in tragic circumstances. Thank you for their belief that gender should not be a barrier to education. Inspire us to do what we can to help others near or far, as the Norgroves are doing. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.

More than one million immigrants in the U.S. work in health care—as caregivers, maintenance staff, and housekeepers. Over 7 percent of all people working in long-term care facilities are non-citizens, many who have built deep relationships with the residents they serve. On June 27, the government announced an impending end to Temporary Protected Status (TPS), which since 1990 has been granted to people from countries considered unsafe. TPS protects against deportation and allows for work permits. There are currently one million TPS holders from more than 12 countries who now face an uncertain future.

God, we pray for all immigrants in the United States whose future is unknown. May they have the support needed to face what may come. We also pray for health care facilities which will be negatively impacted if non-citizen workers are deported. May these facilities have enough staff to care for those who need care. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.

80 years ago, on August 6 and 9, the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan, killing around 170,000 people instantly. Those who survived have faced long-lasting effects and are still dying today from radiation-induced cancers. In addition, survivors have faced discrimination and psychological damage such as depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Despite the UN Secretary General's appeal for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, at least nine countries possess them.

God, we pray for all Japanese people who were impacted by the atomic bombings eight decades ago—those who lost their families and those who lost their well-being. We pray that there may never again be such a devastating nuclear attack in our world. May countries build arsenals of peace rather than arsenals of arms. May we, like Sadako Sasaki, the atomic bomb victim who folded 644 paper cranes before leukemia took her life at age 12, keep wishing for, hoping for, praying for, and believing in peace. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.