MARCH 2025

69 MILL STREET, ATHENS, OHIO 45701 740-593-3144 WWW.CLCATHENS.ORG

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Photo Credit: Emma Stevenson



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.



WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER DURING LENT

WEDNESDAYS @ 7PM IN PERSON IN THE SANCTUARY

CC WITH PC AT DC

Coffee and Conversation with Pastor Chad at Donkey Coffee Thursdays from 10-11:00AM

<u>EQUITY & JUSTICE</u>

TUESDAY, MARCH 4 MEETS THE FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH CONNECT HERE

WORSHIP & ARTS

TUESDAY, MARCH 4 MEETS THE FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH FELLOWSHIP HALL AFTER WIT & WISDOM



SOCIAL MINISTRY

THURSDAY, MARCH 6 @ 7PM MEETS THE FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH <u>CONNECT HERE</u>

THE LISTENING GROUP MONDAY, MARCH 10 @ 2PM MEETS THE 2ND MONDAY OF THE MONTH MEETS IN THE NARTHEX

EARTH JUSTICE

THURSDAY,MARCH 20 @ 7PM MEETS THE 3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH CONNECT HERE

CHURCH COUNCIL

TUESDAY, MARCH 18 @ 6PM MEETS THE 3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH IN PERSON OR ONLINE

LIFE TOGETHER

THURSDAY, MARCH 27 @ 6:00PM MEETS THE FORTH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH **ZOOM LINK**

PROPERTY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26 @ 5:30PM MEETS THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH MEETS IN THE NARTHEX

WIT & WISDOM TUESDAY, MARCH 4 @11:30AM POTLUCK IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

YOUTH GROUP MARCH 2025

MARCH 2NDLENT FOCUS-DISCUSSION, GAMES AND FOOD 6:30P-7:30PMARCH 9THLINDLEY INN-PIZZA AT 5:30PLEAVE AT 6P & RETURN AT 7:30PMARCH 16TH-NO YOUTH GROUP---SPRING BREAKMARCH 23RDLENT FOCUS CONT.-6:30P -7:30PMARCH 30TH TBD



March Location: Athens First

United Methodist Church

Melody and Eliza skating at Bird Arena

SERVING THIS MONTH

Members of our church with Rev. Katie Beth Miksa for her installation at Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd in Parkersburg, WV.

	2	5	9	16	23	30
ACOLYTE	Meena Juedes	Elizabeth Schmidt	Melody Christiansen	Rachel Prange	Meena Juedes	Elizabeth Schmidt
GREETER	Mim Almquist	Linda Batey	Karen Beverly	Melody Christiansen	Nick Claussen	Pam Cochran
LECTOR/ASSISTA NT	Susan Urano	Jane Unger	Mim Almquist	Stephen Chikosky	Chris Snoddy	John Molinaro
LIVE STREAM	Kay Cleland	Sam Hanson	Marilyn Shealy	Douglas Debrick	Kay Cleland	Sam Hanson
TIME WITH THE Children	Cheryl Huebner		Elyce Friedman	Nick Claussen	Chad Huebner	Jana Hovland
TRAY SERVER	Greg Newton	Wanda Weinberg	Pam Cochran	John Molinaro	Chad Kopenski	Elyce Friedman
USHER/COFFEE	Nick Claussen		Dan Snoddy	JoAnn Ball	Marilyn Shealy	Sue Ellen Miller
USHER/COMMUNI ON	John Laughlin		Tim Prange	Wanda Weinberg	Rod Sauer	Lora Blankenship

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO FAITH

CLC ART INTEREST GROUP



The CLC Art Interest Group will meet again on March 9th after Sunday Worship.

Linda Batey's opening reception will March 10 @ 6pm. The Paintings will be displayed at the Athens County Public Library from March 3-29.

> Celebrate π (Pi)-Day! Early on Fat Tuesday Sunday It is the irrational thing to do!

> > SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025 After 10 Am Worship Join US For A Pie Potluck.



PRAYERS FOR Healh

Jo King

Dick Brackin Jo Ann Pulfer Sammy Huwe Art Woolley Betty Blackford

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Eliza Kopenski
- 8 Maya & Madie Roth
- 10 Howard Federspiel
- 12 Olivia Baumgartel
- 14 Katey Broy
- 17 David Juedes
- 18 Kay Cleland
- 20 George Weckman
- 23 Steve Hodgson
- 24 Elli Broy
- 25 Chloe Schmidt
- 28 Jeanne Haseley
- 29 Barbel Such
- 30 Doug Debrick

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7:00PM March 5. 2025

There will also be drive through ashes from 12-1pm behind the church in the parking lot.





We welcome Charlotte June Runge-Farley who was baptized February 9th.

Have you heard? Christ Lutheran Church is about to turn 70 years old! Pastor Chad along with a few of us have been starting to make plans. Council and the committees are finding ways to celebrate where we've been and where we want to go. And now it's your turn. What would you like to see in this yearlong celebration. We'll start on Pentecost 2025 with the big weekend on Pentecost 2026.



REMEMBERING OUR PAST

Altar Guild

Dear Friends,

The Worship and Arts committee has decided that it would be a good idea to have an altar guild – a group of people responsible for preparing communion, setting up the altar, changing the paraments as the church seasons change, making sure the candles are filled with oil and letting the office know when we are almost out of bread of wine. The ushers have nostly been doing this, but it really isn't an usher's job.

I'm hoping that some of you, who want to volunteer, but would rather have a more behind the scenes role than being a lector or doing the time with the children, might find this a good way to serve our church.

Never done this before? Full training will be provided along with someone who is experienced to help you the first few times if you'd like. I'm hoping to get enough volunteers so that you would only be on the schedule once every 2 or 3 months.

Just email me or talk to me at church if you have any questions.

Jane Unger janielou13@gmail.com

Do you have an idea for a fun activity? If you're kind of new here, what would you like to know? Can you volunteer to help with collecting memories from the older members? Do you like to write and could help write our history? We'll be going through lots of old pictures to make slide shows for throughout the year. Is that something you'd enjoy doing? Use your imagination. Are there people from the past that you think we should invite? I want this to be a fun (and educational) year for everyone.

You can fill out the Survey below now, or on Sunday sign up on the form in the back of church.



CONNECTING FAITH TO LIFE



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SIGN A PETITION

Help End Pause of

<u>Urge Congress to call for an</u> <u>end to the Trump</u> <u>administration's funding</u>

freeze suspending U.S. foreign assistance [POSTED: 2/5/2025]

U.S. Foreign

Assistance



Southern Ohio Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Southern Ohio Synod Authentic Diversity, Inclusion, and Justice Team (ADIJ) has prepared a resource to be used in congregations and ministries this Lent, to help us expand our ability to have hard conversations with one another that are rooted deep within our faith.

View Guide Here



Protect Medicaid and Oppose Cuts and Caps

The Medicaid program touches millions of lives through healthcare, housing, disability services, and care for children, families and seniors, but its vitality is at risk. [POSTED: 1/28/2025]



Every year in April, Montaña de Luz holds its Annual Dinner and Fundraiser in Columbus, and this year's celebration will be April 11, "A Legacy of Light, 25 Years of impact." The special guest that evening will be Wendy "Lala" Ramirez, whom you might remember from a newsletter post last year presented to a U.N. Conference in Germany about her experiences as a child growing up with HIV/AIDS at Montaña de Luz in Honduras. Some CLC members who have been to MdL plan to attend this year. If going up to Columbus on a Friday evening seems to be too much, you can participate with the Online Auction, bidding on many unique items or donating to programs provided by MdL.

For more information go to <u>www.montanadeluz.org/fiesta2025</u>, and/or check in with Sue Ellen Miller or Doug Debrick.



MdL concern: One of the programs cut in the DOGE elimination of USAID programs was the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which provides lifesaving HIV/AIDS medication to the children and adults served by MdL and people all over the world infected with HIV/AIDS. Since its inception during the George W. Bush administration, this program has received enthusiastic bipartisan support in Congress. In her last communication, Anna Jackson, MdL Director, wrote that they have been able to secure enough medication for the next month, but it is not certain whether they will have access to more for subsequent months. She added, "We are still calling on our supporters to continue calling Congress. Please urge lawmakers to ensure the availability and delivery of lifesaving medication in Honduras and other countries until a longer term solution can be found. You can find your Congress members linked here "

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE DONATIONS

This year again Social Ministry has designated that the offerings collected at the Lenten services this year will go to the ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response, in response to the destruction of the wildfires in California. In addition to offerings collected at the Lenten services, congregation members can also donate under the <u>"Give"</u> button on the CLC website, picking the "Lutheran Disaster Response" option.

This information is provided from the U.S Wildfires page on the LDR website:

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Southwest California Synod, Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to provide for immediate needs and recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities for months and years to come.

Your gifts to <u>Lutheran Disaster Response</u> equip us to respond to communities affected by wildfires and related disasters. These gifts also empower us to respond to disasters whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts to "U.S. Wildfires" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires until the response is complete.



People of conscience must confront Trump 2.0:

It's just a month into the second Trump Administration, and already its impacts are being felt here in Northeast Ohio. Last month, ICE agents raided a branch of the Cilantro Taqueria chain in Cleveland Heights. While we at Faith Communities Together for a Sustainable Future focus on energy issues and abuses of the environment in Ohio, it is clear that any truly sustainable future cannot include abuse of other human beings.

It is imperative that organizations and and individuals of faith resist the dark tactics of the Trump administration. Faith-based initiatives must make a clear case for the alignment between migrant and environmental justice, especially here in Ohio, a place that will be a destination for all manner of climate refugees from within and without our borders.

The border crisis is currently being framed as one of safety, but increasingly we are seeing that our borders are the front lines of the climate crisis and of the mass movement of humanity from warming equatorial regions to more temperate and resource-rich regions of the planet.

It portends even darker times in the future when the inevitability of climate refugee crises like those described by authors Jeff Goodell, Jake Bittle, and Peter Schartzstein are not the stuff of Cormac McCarthy novels but rather reality in places rich in highquality freshwater like Northeastern Ohio.

The climate emergency needs to be a larger part of our internal political debate, because it is an ever-growing reason that many asylum-seekers are coming here.

Their countries are experiencing hurricanes, droughts, and punishing heat. Their crops are failing, and their children are going hungry, even as the developed world has been the leading contributor to the climate Crisis.

We have constructed harsher criteria and more physical barriers for migrants even as the political and climate chaos we've been instrumental in sowing in Central and South America manifests in all manner of ways.

Even the U.S. Department of Defense issued its own Climate Adaptation Plan Progress Report in 2022. Meanwhile, defense industry insiders like Sherri Goodman write of threat multipliers like climate security and climate-proofing security that are keeping the generals and admirals she talks to awake at night.

Truly empowered communities are communities that are not scared, embrace diversity, and understand that we are only as strong and as resilient as the least among us are made to feel. Constant harassment and threats by the Trump administration are antithetical to our mission and vision.

As Pope Francis warned Jan. 20, the mass deportations threatened by Trump would be a disgrace, because it makes the poor wretches who have nothing pay the bill" for the problem.... "That's not how things are resolved."

FaCT, based in Mentor and founded in 2011 at a meeting of representatives from eight Ohio congregations of various faith traditions, stands with the vulnerable and marginalized communities that these ICE raids are targeting.

Running interference and keeping a watchful eye as an organization and as individuals will be imperative in the coming months and years.

Too many have chosen to wave the white flag in the face of Trump's threats, including heretofore seemingly resolute partners. Northeast Ohioans cannot recede into the background only to re-emerge in 2028.

If we ignore what is happening to our neighbors and to the planet under this administration, we might not recognize the damage that has been done four years down the road. Our neighbors and the planet are being targeted, and we must show the courage to stand up for both and run the kinds of interference necessary to prevent as much harm as we can.

Dr. Ted Auch, FaCT President FaCT Board Of Trustees



What can you do?

BodySet up social media filters and alerts that allow you to stay informed about raids or related activities happening in your area.

Call ICE field offices or detention centers like the one in Geauga County to ask questions. We need to let them know that we are watching.

Keep our elected officials in DC abreast of our position on these raids. <u>Call your member of Congress and our</u> <u>Ohio senators</u>, and let them know how you feel about these dangerous ICE actions. Many of our elected officials are unaware of the full impact of these tactics and need to hear what we know and what we expect them to do.

Voicing our opposition is crucial right now. Senator Husted and Senator Moreno may be on board with these ICE actions, but they still must hear from us and be made aware that we are watching how often and to what degree they bend the knee to Mr. Trump even when it means bullying and separating their fellow Ohioans from families and loved ones.

Tell Congress to solve the problems around immigration and the border by passing the Bipartisan Immigration Bill of 2024 with the addition of protections and a path to citizenship for DREAMERS. History shows us that people immigrating to our country have made America great.



Scrap Metal Drive Saturday, April 26, 2025 9am - 1pm

The Scrap Metal Drive will be held at the Athens County Fairgrounds as part of the **ITAT** Athens County Recycling Day. This fundraiser for Humanity[®] will earn funds for the Faith Build Coalition to of Southeast Ohio sponsor the building of its next home in 2025. Bring scrap appliances, lawn mowers, ferrous metal, aluminum, brass, and copper.

Rummage Sale Saturday, May 10, 2025 8:30am - 12:30pm

The rummage sale will be at Christ the King Catholic Church. Consider donating household items, clothes, gardening supplies, toys, and other things as vou do vour spring cleaning!

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 <u>habitatseo.org</u> and click on the "<u>Volunteer</u>" button.

CLC BUILDING COMMITTEE CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

You may have heard the announcements in Church about the creation of a Building Committee to look at facility needs of CLC, and to consider an addition to the Church building to replace the space provided by Church House. The Church House is in very poor condition after being flooded and would cost far more to renovate than it is worth.

Now it is time for you to weigh in! Please follow the link below to complete a brief survey. It will help us understand the congregation's priorities. The estimated time to complete it is just 3 minutes! If you have trouble completing it please let us know and we will get you a paper copy to complete.

To be sure your ideas are included, please complete the survey no later than Sunday March 7.2025.

Thank you!

John Molinaro. Chairperson, CLC Building Committee



COUNCIL NOTES

Council Report for February 2025

1. We discussed starting an altar guild and already have 4 volunteers.

2. Bruce Dalzell is looking for a gently used piano for us to replace the one that needs to be tuned several times a month

3. Plans continue for our 70th anniversary celebration. Volunteers are being sought to work on planning activities and creating displays of our history

4. Jane, Lucy and possibly others are going to a program to explain how churches can deal with ICE

5. The group of students participating in Bridge activities is expanding with 8-12 students most weeks.

Jane

TREASURER NOTES

Dear Faith Family,

Here are our actual revenue and expenses compared to budgeted amounts, and as we get closer to the end of our fiscal year on June 30, we'll get closer to the budgeted amount. Large unexpected amounts are due to either a transfer between assets or to designated giving such as for the Southern Ohio Synod Thrive Campaign. We will begin our budgeting process soon for next year. Please let me know if you have questions, and have a good March.

Lucy Juedes Treasurer	Christ Lutheran Church Actual Rev, Exp,							
riedsurer	Budgeted, 7/1/24 - 1/31/25		Total				Over	% of
		_	Actual		Budget		Budget	Budget
	Revenue							
	Total 4000 Contributed support	\$	182,822	\$	154,772	\$	28,050	118%
	Total 4500 Designated Contributions, excluding Impact							
	Giving	\$	18,598			\$	18,598	
	4515 Anticipated Impact Giving/Benevolence Funds	\$	69,300			\$	69,300	
	Total 4500 Designated Contributions	\$	87,898	•			87,898	
	Total 5000 Business Income	\$	1,800				1,450	514%
	5510 Interest-savings/short-term inv	\$	59	\$	58	\$	0	100%
	5520 Miscellaneous revenue	\$	495			\$	495	
	5590 Temp. Unknown Income (Transfer from Thrivent CU to						77 000	
	Fidelity Investments - not actual revenue)	\$					77,096	
	Total Revenue	\$	350,169	\$	155,180	Ş	194,989	226%
	Expenditures							
	Total 7100 Personnel	\$	102,497	\$	114,402	\$	(11,905)	90%
	Total 8100 Programs	\$	7,845	\$	7,233	\$	612	108%
	Total 8150 General Business Expenses	\$	3,619	\$	4,433	\$	(814)	82%
	Total 8200 Facilities	\$	30,869	\$	19,250	\$	11,619	160%
	8298 Council Action (used to transfer funds between asset							
	accounts; most not actual expense)	\$	7,200	\$	117	\$	7,083	6170%
	8300 Benevolence					\$	-	
	8310 Southern Ohio Synod Allocation	\$	6,000	\$	7,000	\$	(1,000)	86%
	8315 Reconciling Works	\$	230			\$	230	
	8330 Lutheran Social Services	\$	480			\$	480	
	8360 Global Mission	\$	420			\$	420	
	8365 Impact Giving LLC Funds Out	\$	69,300			\$	69,300	
	8370 Local Benevolences			\$	7,650	\$	(7,650)	0%
	8372 Good Works	\$	1,830			\$	1,830	
	8376 My Sisters Place	\$	1,450			\$	1,450	
	8377 United Campus Ministry	\$	300			\$	300	
	8380 Rural Action	\$	500			\$	500	
	8382 Gathering Place	\$	940			\$	940	
	8383 CLEM House	\$	1,370			\$	1,370	
	8389 Emergency Assistance	\$	6,921			\$	6,921	
	Total 8370 Local Benevolences	\$	13,311	\$	7,650	\$	5,660	174%
	Total 8300 Benevolence	\$	89,741	\$	14,650	\$	75,090	613%
	Total Expenditures	\$	241,772	\$	160,086	\$	81,687	151%
	Net Operating Revenue	\$	108,397	\$	(4,906)	\$	113,303	-2210%
	Other Revenue (unrealized)							

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Other Revenue (unrealized)					
5513 Fidelity Primary CD Value Change	\$ 5,238	\$;	5,238	
5515 Fidelity Endowment CD Value Change	\$ 1,568	\$;	1,568	

MARCH 2025 WAVE OF PRAYER

Since the war in Ukraine began four years ago, some men in both Ukraine and Russia have objected to fighting in the war. Many Russian conscientious objectors have fled their home country and sought refuge elsewhere, while several hundred Ukrainian conscientious objectors await trials against them.

God, we pray for the Russian and Ukrainian men who have chosen not to be actively involved in the military. May they be spared imprisonment. We pray that in all countries, the option to opt out of war might be available. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.

After 15 months of war in Gaza, a ceasefire agreement was reached on January 15. As the ceasefire holds, with Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners being released, hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians have returned or are returning home to northern Gaza. There, the majority have neither a roof over their heads nor access to clean water or basic services.

God, we thank you for the current ceasefire. We thank you for the release of Israelis and Palestinians from their captivity. We pray for those returning home. May they find the assistance they need to begin to rebuild their lives. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.

Between 20,000 and 30,000 employees of U.S. federal agencies have received notice that their jobs are on the line. Some have already lost their jobs, while others await possible terminations.

God, we pray for the many people who currently face uncertainty in their jobs. Give strength and support to those who have already been dismissed. Help them know how to move ahead. Make your presence known to all with unknown futures. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.

Minimum wage in the United States is \$7.25 an hour. However, some people legally earn less than that. The Fair Labor Standards Act, signed in 1938, allows employers to pay people with disabilities less than minimum wage. Initially this was an incentive for employers to hire people with disabilities. For families, employment was a good alternative to institutionalizing a disabled family member. Now, the American Association of People with Disabilities is advising that this discriminatory program be ended.

God, we thank you for the increased public awareness and for more equitable opportunities for people with disabilities since 1938. We pray that people with disabilities and all people—may earn the wages that they deserve. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.

An estimated 23 million miscarriages occur every year worldwide, which is 44 miscarriages each minute. In the U.S., one in four pregnancies end in a miscarriage, with one million American women experiencing miscarriage each year. Though miscarriage is one of the most common complications of pregnancy, there is a stigma attached to the loss and a reluctance to talk about it. Though chromosomal abnormalities are the primary cause of miscarriages, many women blame themselves and suffer from guilt feelings.

God, we pray for each woman who is experiencing a miscarriage as we pray these prayers. For all who have experienced this traumatic loss, we ask for your comfort and peace. Be near those who are in distress from this agonizing reality, not only at their moment of loss, but far beyond that moment. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.

MARCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
2 Worship 10am Sanctuary Pi Day & Bridge Sunday Brunch Youth Group 6:30pm AFUMC	3 AA/OA Meeting 5pm Fellowship Hall	4 Wit & Wisdom 11:30am F. Hall Worship & Arts Following W&W <u>Equity and</u> Justice 7pm ZOOM	5 Drive-up ashes 12-1pm Parking Lot Ash Wednesday 7pm	6 CCw/PC@DC 10am Social Ministry 7:00pm <u>ZOOM</u> The Bridge 5:30pm Fellowship Hall	7	1/8 (1) St. Ephraim Orthodox Church 9am Sanctuary	
9 Worship 10am Sanctuary Youth Group & Communion 5:30pm AFUMC 6:15pm Lindley Inn	10 AA/OA 5pm Fellowship Hall Listening Group 2:00pm Narthex	11	12 Evening Prayer 7pm Choir 7:30pm	13 CCw/PC@DC 10am The Bridge 5:30pm Fellowship Hall	14 St. Ephraim Orthodox Church 5-8pm Sanctuary	15 St. Ephraim Orthodox Church 9am Sanctuary	
16 Worship 10am Sanctuary	17 AA/OA Meeting 5pm Fellowship Hall	18 Church Council 7pm <u>ZOOM</u>	19 Evening Prayer 7pm ZOOM Choir 7:30pm	20 CCw/PC@DC 10am Bridge 5:30pm Earth Justice 7pm on ZOOM	21	22	
23 Worship 10am Sanctuary Youth Group 6:30pm AFUMC	24 AA/OA 5pm Fellowship Hall	25	26 Property Committee 5:30pm F. Hall Evening Prayer 7pm ZOOM Choir 7:30pm	27 CCw/PC@DC 10am Bridge 5:30pm Life Together 6pm ZOOM	28	29	
30	31						