

Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church

A monthly publication of Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church
submissions by the 15th of each month to: insight@crlcbrecksville.org



INSIGHT

August 2026

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SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME: 8:00 & 9:30AM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Church Office is Closed on Monday

9:00 AM—2:00 PM TUES/WED/THURS

9:30 AM—1:00 PM FRIDAY

FROM THE PASTOR

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" – Isaiah 43:19

August has a way of reminding us that life is always moving forward. Summer vacations begin to wind down, school supplies fill store shelves, and families prepare for the return of school routines. The slower pace of summer gradually gives way to the familiar rhythms of autumn.

As we anticipate the start of a new school year, we pray for students who will enter classrooms with excitement and perhaps a little nervousness. My own daughter Tess will be embarking on her school career as she begins kindergarten, and Theo will enter into the 3rd grade. We pray for teachers, administrators, school staff, and parents who will guide, encourage, and support them throughout the year. May God grant them wisdom, patience, strength, and joy in the important work they do.

August also marks a time of planning in our church. Many of our ministries and activities will resume in September. Sunday School classes, Bible studies, choir, fellowship events, and service opportunities will once again fill our calendar. These are more than programs—they are opportunities to grow in faith, build lasting friendships, and share Christ's love with one another and our community. The changing of the seasons reminds us that God is always doing something new. God continues to create new opportunities for learning, serving, growing, and reaching out.

As we move toward fall, we invite everyone to reconnect with the life of the church. Whether you've been away traveling this summer or have been faithfully present each week, there is a place for you. Join us in worship, participate in a class or small group, volunteer in a ministry, and invite a friend to experience the love and hope found in Christ.

May this August be a month of renewed purpose and joyful anticipation. Let us step into the season ahead with grateful hearts, trusting that God will lead us, strengthen us, and bless our congregation as we seek to follow Him together.

See you in worship,

Pastor Randy

PGSO

REMINDER: SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Remember, since Memorial Day weekend and through Labor weekend our Sunday morning schedule has changed. Sunday School breaks for the summer and our two Sunday morning worship service times become 8:00 and 9:30.

OUTSIDE SUMMER WORSHIP



OUTDOOR WORSHIP NOTE: As in the past on the third Sunday of the month. On August 16th we will have our final 9:30AM worship in the outdoor chapel—weather permitting.

PARTNERSHIP

Partners for a healthy local community has a word to discuss each month. For August the WORD OF THE MONTH IS: **KINDNESS**.

THEO-THURSDAY



The Theo Thursdays is on a summer hiatus but will return this fall. Watch for the date and time in the September Insight issue.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHURCH?

Pastor Randy is in the process of putting together our next welcoming of new members. If you would be interested in joining CRLC, you can reach out to Pastor Randy by letting him know in person, calling the church office 440-526-2303, or emailing him at: pastorrandy@crlcbrecksville.org.

CHRISTIAN YOGA AT CRLC



Renew your mind, body, and spirit on Mondays, 7:00PM led by Jenna Waltz in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome! The cost is a free will offering. Bring your own yoga mat. For more information please contact Jenna at jenna.waltz@gmail.com.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Pastor Randy's Message
- Outdoor Worship
- Member Spotlight
- Fall Concerts
- June VBS
- Women's Bible Study
- Faithful Readers
- Adult Sunday School
- Rise Against Hunger Independence
- LMM Food Truck

OUTDOOR SUMMER WORSHIP

Worshiping outdoors helps reinforce our theology by reminding us, we're not a place, we're a people. The benefits of being outdoors include the rhythmic calls of the songbirds and the rustling of the forest canopy, including the enjoyable sermon.

Join fellow parishioners as they spend time in God's first sanctuary and its profound impact on our spiritual lives.



One summer outdoor worship service remains, on August 16th @ 9:30am (weather permitting).

WORK AROUND THE CHURCH

July was a busy month with several, much needed, church improvements. One such improvement was removing cottonwood trees on the north side of the church that were beginning to cause a potential hazard.

Unfortunately the word “Timber” wasn’t heard, as the workers removed the trees with a crane that gently placed the trees on the parking lot, to be shredded. It was a quick process, considering they removed five trees.



Meet soon-to-be members, Lisa and Henry Duitman. Lisa and Henry have been worshipping with us since January and plan to become members of CRLC. You have probably already enjoyed their musical gifts which they have so graciously shared with us during our services. They moved to Broadview Heights from Michigan in May of 2025. They searched for churches near their new home and came upon the CRLC website. After visiting, they quickly decided this would be their church home. They love the friendly, welcoming atmosphere and have quickly made new friends within the church.

Henry and Lisa are now retired, but certainly lived an interesting life with their careers in music. They met in college in Florida. (They have been married for 53 years!) After college, Henry taught music at Bradenton Christian School for 11 years. He earned a Masters degree from the University of South Florida and then moved to Iowa where he taught band and orchestra for 23 years at Dordt College. He started the Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra, which is still playing today. While in Iowa, he spent 7 summers and 1 full year at The Ohio State University earning his Doctorate degree in music education. Following his tenure in Iowa, Henry became the orchestra director at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He taught there for 14 years before retiring.

Lisa was holding down the fort and raising 2 daughters while continuing to play and teach piano. She taught piano classes at a local community college, private piano lessons, and was a choir accompanist. She went on to earn her Masters degree in music and taught piano lessons at various small colleges in Iowa as an adjunct teacher.

After retirement, they moved to the Cleveland area to be near one of their daughters, who happens to be a violinist with the Cleveland Orchestra. Their other daughter lives in northern Michigan. Lisa and Henry enjoy spending time with their 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. They stay very active with hobbies such as walking, swimming, playing pickleball and growing plants. Their favorite activity is to take their recumbent trikes for a ride in the park with their dog riding along in his own basket. A fun fact about Henry and Lisa is that they have the same birthday, born just 3 hours apart. Ask them who is the "oldest!"

We are truly blessed to have Henry and Lisa as part of our church family at CRLC. We look forward to welcoming them as new members and continuing to enjoy their beautiful music.

New member SPOTLIGHT



**LISA AND HENRY
DUTMAN**

GETTING TO KNOW THE FATHERS: BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

In August, the church celebrates Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux (1090-1153). Bernard was a Cistercian monk who became an abbot of great spiritual depth. He was a mystical writer deeply devoted to the humanity of Christ who emphasized the inner human experience of prayer and contemplation. He was critical of one of the foremost theologians of the day, Peter Abelard. Bernard's devotional writings are still read today. His sermon on the Song of Solomon treats the Old Testament book as an allegory of Christ's love for humanity. Bernard wrote several hymns that are still sung today in translation, including "Jesus, the very thought of you" (ELW 754).

It is the way of men to make of great figures either heroes or villains. There are good guys and bad guys, black hats and white hats. Real people, however, are not so easily categorized. We are, all of us, complicated creatures. The best among us has elements within him more appropriate (we suppose) to the worst among us. This is as true of the saints of the Church as it is of anyone. The great thinkers and preachers of the Church, like any Christian, struggled in that state of being that theologians identify as *simul justus et peccator*, simultaneously saint and sinner.

Bernard of Clairvaux too was a complicated man. He was a humble and pious monk, yet found himself caught up and deeply involved in the affairs of kings and popes. He was one of the greatest preachers the Church has known and was greatly admired by Martin Luther for his teachings on grace and absolute reliance on Christ. Yet we find Luther saying that while he "was superior to all the doctors of the church when he preached... he became quite a different man in his disputations, for then he attributed too much to law and to free will." St. Bernard was very much a man of his time. What we see as theological inconsistencies were not always viewed as such in his day. Bernard could uphold papal authority and yet debate about who legitimately sat on St. Peter's throne. He could speak of the absolute dependence of the sinner upon the grace of Christ, and yet talk of things like indulgences and merit. He could promote warfare in the name of God, yet teach that those who took up arms for Christ should conduct themselves as monastic pilgrims. A complicated man indeed!

He was born to a family of minor nobility in the year 1090 and received an education typical of those of his class. He became a monk in the newly founded order of Citeaux at the age of 21. His rise among the Cistercians was rapid. Within three years of having taken the cowl, Bernard was sent off to found a new monastery with a few other monks and was chosen to be their abbot. That monastery was to become known as Clairvaux. Chiefly due to his reputation for piety and fine preaching, so many men rushed to join his new Cistercian house that Clairvaux quickly became one of the chief Cistercian monasteries in Europe, and it became necessary to spawn several daughter houses. Even his own father became a monk under Bernard's leadership.

It is as an abbot and preacher that Bernard truly shines. His sermons are eloquent and insightful. His preaching breathed the vocabulary of Scripture, with the person and grace of Christ at its center. Martin Luther opined, "Whenever monks were saved, however, they were constrained to crawl to the cross of Christ again. This is what St. Bernard did. I regard him as the most pious of all monks and prefer him to all the others, even to St. Dominic. He is the only one worthy of the name 'Father Bernard' and of being studied diligently. He is dressed in a cowl. But what does he do when matters become serious? He does not try to satisfy the judgment of God with his cowl; instead, he takes hold of Christ." We can see this ourselves, for example, in a sermon he preached on the Feast of All Saints: "But what can all our righteousness amount to before God? Will it not, as the prophet says, be considered as filthy rags (Is. 64:6), and if judged strictly will not all our righteousness be found unrighteous and lacking? What then of our sins when not even our righteousness can answer for itself to God? Therefore, resolutely crying out with the prophet, 'O Lord, do not enter into judgment with Your servant,' let us in complete humility run to His mercy, which alone can save our souls."

GETTING TO KNOW THE FATHERS: BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX— CONTINUED

By the 1120s Bernard's writings began to be published and his fame as a theologian spread. Though a monk, increasingly as his reputation flourished, Bernard found himself called upon to function as an arbiter, advisor and statesmen. He traveled widely in this capacity, and often counseled kings and queens, popes, bishops, abbots and members of the nobility. In this role he, though personally humble, was not afraid to call to repentance those in the highest offices, encouraging faithfulness to vocation and the courage to do what is right. But it is as a crusade propagandist that Bernard's statesmanship is best remembered.

Around 1147 a former monk of his, Pope Eugenius III, appointed Bernard to preach the second crusade. So successful were his efforts in this that he later wrote in a letter to the pope, reminding him in regard to a certain matter that Eugenius was just a little in his debt: "I have declared and spoken it: they have multiplied beyond number." Cities and villages are empty. And now hardly will seven women find one man to call their husband, so many everywhere remain widows with their husbands still living." Unfortunately, Bernard's crusade sermons are no longer extant. But we learn from one of his letters promoting the ill-fated crusade how impassioned his preaching must have been: "Behold, brothers, now is the acceptable time, behold now is the day of full salvation. The earth is moved and shakes because the God of heaven has begun to lose His land. His, I say, in which He was made manifest as the Word of His Father, to teach and to converse for more than thirty years as a man and with men. His own land, yes, which He made famous by His miracles, which He made holy by His blood, in which the flowers of His resurrection first appeared. And now, because our sins asked for it, the enemies of the cross have raised their sacrilegious head, depopulating the land of promise by the edge of the sword. Indeed, the time is near, if no one resists them, that they will attack the very city of the living God, overturn the workhouse of our redemption, pollute its holy places, once dyed crimson by the blood of the spotless Lamb." No wonder so many forsook the safety of home and hearth to fight in distant Palestine!

Sadly, Bernard's success in this endeavor rested not only upon his rhetorical genius, but also upon the dangled promise of complete remission of sins for all who took up the cross, which Pope Eugenius would grant via a jubilee indulgence. Bernard, however, proves a complicated man again, for he never detaches such things from faith in Christ. He doesn't question the pope's authority to grant such an indulgence. But he was no Tetzl. Pious devotion to Jesus and His cross was necessary for remission of sins. The cross, rather than the indulgence, was the sign of salvation. And the indulgence he treats as absolution given in response to repentance, signified by the taking up of the crusading cross. It was faith in Christ, moreover, that was to motivate the crusader all along his pilgrimage, and faith that was to guide the crusader's behavior as a warrior of the cross.

Personal faith, expressed in love, was a chief theme of his great work on the Song of Songs, delivered as a series of homilies to the monks of Clairvaux. In the first of these sermons, commenting on the Song of Songs 1:2, Bernard proclaims, "Let him kiss me with the kiss of his mouth; let his gracious presence and streams of beautiful teaching become in me the spring of water springing up to eternal life... His living and active word is to me a kiss indeed, not the union of lips, which meanwhile belies the union of souls, but the full infusion of joys, revealing of secrets, a marvelous and somehow inseparable fusion of the heavenly light and the illuminated mind. Clinging to God, it is one spirit with him (1 Cor. 5:17). With good reason, then, I put no stock in visions and dreams, I desire no images and enigmas. I tire even of angelic beauty. So far my Jesus surpasses them all with his splendor and his beauty. I seek no other therefore, whether angel or man, but him alone, to kiss me with the kiss of his mouth."

Much later in these homilies, Bernard speaks more explicitly of the connection between faith and love: "How then can he be righteous who loves neither God nor God's Church, to whom it is said, 'The righteous love you'? If then neither faith without works nor works without faith suffice for the righteousness of the soul, we who believe in Christ, brothers, must be zealous to make our ways and our pursuits righteous. Let us lift our hearts to God along with our hands, so that we may be found completely righteous, proving the righteousness of our faith by righteous actions, as lovers of the bride and loved by the bridegroom Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is God, blessed forever. Amen."

GETTING TO KNOW THE FATHERS: BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX— CONTINUED

The theme of love for Christ also rings out in one of Bernard's hymns:

*"Jesu! the very thought of Thee
With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far thy face to see,
And in thy presence rest.*

*Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame,
Nor can the memory find,
A sweeter sound than thy blest name,
O Saviour of mankind!*

*O Hope of every contrite heart,
O Joy of all the meek,
To those who fall, how kind thou art!
How good to those who seek!*

*But what to those who find? Ah! this
Nor tongue nor pen can show:
The love of Jesus, what it is,
None but his loved ones know.*

*Jesu! our only joy be Thou,
As Thou our prize wilt be;
Jesu! be thou our glory now,
And through eternity."*

Bernard had such a longing for Christ. Though he was as complex as any sinner-saint, and though we might well find fault with some of the positions he maintained and the things he did, he was consistent in this: he preached Christ Jesus. "Heal me, O Lord, and I will be healed; I will sing praise and give thanks to your name, and I will say, Your name is oil poured out...because you crown me with mercy and kindnesses... O name so gentle and so sweet! O name so renowned, so excellent, so exalted, yes, highly exalted forever and ever. This is truly the oil that gladdens the face of man, that anoints the head of the one who fasts so that he may not pass over the oil of the sinner. This is the new name which the mouth of the Lord has declared (Is. 62:2), which also was named by the angel before he was conceived in the womb (Luke 2:21). Not only the Jew, but anyone who calls on this name will be saved (Joel 2:32). It has been poured out absolutely everywhere. This name the Father gave to his Son, the Bridegroom of the Church, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen."

This article was written by Rev. David Kind in the Summer of 2022. Rev. David Kind is Pastor of University Lutheran Chapel in Minneapolis, MN, and teaches early and medieval history and literature at Wittenberg Academy.

Information from: <https://cc.lutherclassical.org/summer-fall-2022/getting-to-know-the-fathers-bernard-of-clairvaux/> and *Sundays and Seasons*, Augsburg Fortress, Year A, 2026 p. 230.



UPCOMING CONCERTS@CRIC 2026 SEASON



David Uschold, Organist September 20 - 4:00pm

A native of Hudson, Ohio, David Uschold holds the position of Director of Music and Organist at St. Sebastian Parish, Akron, Ohio. In 2001, Mr. Uschold took first place in the American Guild of Organist's Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists in Cleveland and was the first ever recipient of the Adele Heinrich award for organ performance in 2005. He holds both a Bachelor and Master of Music degree in organ from the Cleveland Institute of Music. His teachers include H. Dean Wagner and Todd Wilson. Mr. Uschold has an active career as an organist, choral conductor and vocalist.

Bassoon A Roo October 18 - 4:00pm

The graduate and undergraduate student bassoon ensemble at the University of Akron under the direction of Cynthia Ciofarri.

Maria Thompson Corley, Pianist November 8 - 4:00pm

Jamaican-born Canadian pianist Maria Thompson Corley gave her first public performance at the age of eight. Since then, she has appeared on radio, television, and concert stages in Canada, the United States, Central America, the Caribbean, Bermuda and Europe, both as a solo and collaborative artist, including performances in Budapest at the Liszt Academy, and in Carnegie Recital Hall, Aaron Davis Hall and Alice Tully Hall, all in New York City. She has collaborated with such artists as Metropolitan Opera soprano Priscilla Baskerville, renowned clarinetist James Campbell and Doris Hall-Gulati, Grammy-nominated baritone Randall Scarlata, and members of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Her performances as soloist with orchestra include engagements with the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Gunther Schuller, the Lancaster Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Stephen Gunzenhauser, and the Allegro Chamber Orchestra, with Brian Norcross. She has also performed with the Philadelphia-based Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra, directed by Jeri-Lynne Johnson.

All Concerts are held in the Sanctuary.

Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church
9201 Brecksville Road
Brecksville, OH 44141
440-526-2303



READINGS FOR AUGUST

AUGUST 2 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

AUGUST 9 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

AUGUST 16 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

AUGUST 23 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

AUGUST 30 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

"O Lord, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? . . ." (Habakkuk 1:2)



Our bodies are fearfully & wonderfully made, but the awesome complexity of our bodies that has made for challenges, as experienced by people living with **chronic pain**. **Chronic pain is pain that lasts longer than 3 months.** *Pain signals over time can cause the nervous system to misinterpret signals-getting stuck in a "danger mode".* While chronic pain often cannot be completely cured, it can be highly effectively *managed*.

Effective pain management requires a personalized plan, which may involve a combination of medical treatments, lifestyle changes & alternative therapies. Increasing your understanding of your condition and the treatment options available to you are two keys to living with pain. Chronic pain takes a **physical, financial, and emotional** toll on those who have pain and their family and friends.

It is important to be an active participant in care - caring for your body. Adequate rest, a healthy diet and physical activity are vitally important to maintaining function & health. ***It may seem like a catch-22 – you're in pain, so you don't want to move or you're finally feel a little better, but you're afraid to move because your pain might come back.*** Be guided by your care team - but avoiding exercise can be detrimental to health; you lose muscle tone and strength, your heart & lungs work less efficiently, and your pain can increase. Benefits of exercise include increased muscle strength & flexibility, improved sleep, and stress relief. Learn to pace yourself. Staying *gently* active allows movement to trigger the release of endorphins-the body's natural painkillers.

Pain touches all aspects of life but can be especially hard on financial well-being. Pain is expensive—even with insurance. Pain can result in job loss, which means loss of income & health insurance. Financial stress adds to overall stress, and stress can lead to anxiety & depression.

Emotions have a direct effect on your health. Pain so often is **accompanied by loss** – loss of function, loss of employment, loss of money, loss of friends & relationships. Taking care of the emotional aspects of chronic pain is necessary to treat the entire pain condition. Treatment often works best with medication for depression, anxiety, and sleep disturbances, plus behavioral therapy (e.g., relaxation techniques, coping strategies, psychological therapy). It is important for treatment to look at the "whole" – not just the part in pain. ***Avoid isolation and loneliness*** - consider joining a support group. Share thoughts & feelings with loved ones and allow them to share their feelings. *People cannot read your mind* – just as pain is an invisible disease, emotions can be difficult to discern.

Getting the right treatment can be tricky. Referral to an expert can help. Arthritis pain = a rheumatologist. Migraines see a neurologist. Or seek out a pain specialist. No matter what, listen to your pain. If you have chronic pain, don't ignore it. Seek help.

We are blessed to live in an area with access to many options. May God Bless your journey to improved health of body, mind and spirit.

"I am leaving you with a gift – peace of mind and heart.

And the peace I give isn't like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid." (John 14:27)

Resources for more information: <https://medlineplus.gov/chronicpain.html>

American Chronic Pain Association - <https://www.acpanow.com/videos.html#/>

Geriatric Pain - <https://geriatricpain.org/family-caregivers>

https://geriatricpain.org/sites/geriatricpain.org/files/2023-12/FF%20OA_Pain%20101%20%282022%29.pdf

Jill Koubal
Parish Nurse, RN, BSN

JULY VBS

Another successful Vacation Bible School is behind us, thanks to Kathy Hoinski, and all those who donated, participated, and attended our Galaxy VBS.

Please enjoy the following message, pictures and more, that reflect upon how important and valuable this event is for our CRLC community, along with those in our surrounding communities.



Heartfelt Message from Zac Nubeck



Amy B. sent me all of the pictures this morning, and they truly brought such a smile to my face! It makes me so happy to see those. May I say, kids (now young adults) who were just in early elementary school while I was leading the music program, continue to partake in VBS by being leaders in one of the most wonderful programs that we can provide to our youth. I am so happy that this continues to be a tradition at CRLC. It was truly one of the highlights of my youth years. I just saw Bella when I was in the States for Easter, and there is never a time that we don't talk about what a great time we had leading music!

Project with a Purpose VBS Bags



VBS provided Project with a Purpose bags to give to those at the Redeemer Crisis Center. This picture is of one of the many appreciative recipients. Each bag included toiletries, water, food and a variety of other useful items.

Thanks to all who donated to fill these bags!

JUNE VBS—CONTINUED



JUNE VBS—CONTINUED



JUNE VBS—CONTINUED



JUNE VBS—CONTINUED





"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving" - Mother Teresa

SOUTH HILLS LEND-A-HAND

We continue to collect food for the food pantry in Broadview Heights that serves residents of Brecksville, Broadview Heights, Independence and Seven Hills.

Call 440-526-0514 if you would like to help or need assistance.

Need on a more regular basis:

Tissues, Laundry Detergent and Canned Fruit

ITEMS NEEDED THE MOST:

canned meals/stew	canned soup
canned beans	canned fruit
canned vegetables	tuna fish
peanut butter & jelly	pancake mix
cereal rice	spaghetti sauce
macaroni & cheese	toilet paper
Tissues paper towels	diapers
hygiene products	liquid laundry detergent

USED CELL PHONES

Used cell phones are being collected throughout the year and will be donated to the **JOURNEY CENTER FOR SAFETY AND HEALING** (formerly *Domestic Violence Center*). There is a marked bag located on the coffee counter in the Gathering Space by the front entry doors.

The **JOURNEY CENTER FOR SAFETY AND HEALING** provides *services that foster safety and healing for those affected by child abuse and domestic violence.*

Lutheran Disaster Response actively works in *areas affected by tornados, hurricanes, flooding, wild-fires and war.* Donations can be made on our website home page or click on the donate tab. Checks can also be written to CRLC and write LDR on the memo line. CRLC will send your donation to LDR.

Aluminum pull-tabs needed for RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES

There is a large jar in the Gathering Space by the stairwell as well as in the coat room at the bottom of the food shelf.

A local recycler turns the pull-tabs into *money for their Family Fund.*

REDEEMER CRISIS CENTER

EMPHASIS ON ITEMS NEEDED

Peanut Butter, Boxed Cereal and Toilet Paper,
lamps & lightbulbs
matching bed linens (bagged & size indicated)
16 qt. pots for rice
non-condensed soup in cans with pull-tab tops
fruit in cans with pull-tab tops
veggies in cans with pull-tab tops
complete meal can goods with pull-tab tops
tuna fish
Peanut butter
Personal hygiene items for men & women
Toilet paper
Hand held can openers

OASIS COLLECTION

Items can be dropped off at church into the donation area of the coat closet.

Food/Snacks—must be nut-free:

- individual bags of chips, pretzels, cookies, or goldfish crackers
- fruit snacks
- applesauce cups or squeeze packs
- Nutrigrain bars
- plastic spoons

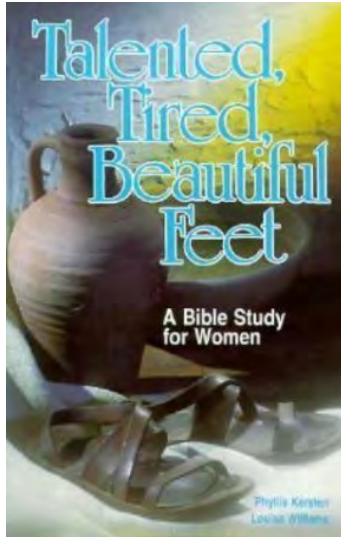
Art Supplies:

- Sharpened pencils
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils
- Coloring books/sheets
- Loose notebook paper
- Plain and construction paper
- Stickers

Hygiene & Personal Items

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| • deodorant | • body wash |
| • hair scrunchies | • gentle face wash |
| • socks (youth sizes) | • hand sanitizer |
| • lip balm (unscented) | • tissues |
| • toothbrushes & toothpaste | • cocoa butter lotion |
| • individual packets of A&D ointment or petroleum jelly | |
| • girls underwear (4T, 5T, Youth S (5-6) and M (7-8)) | |

CRLC will continue to help OASIS financially as they continue to support and partner with multiple inner-city Lutheran church's efforts to help disadvantaged youth.



LADIES BIBLE STUDY

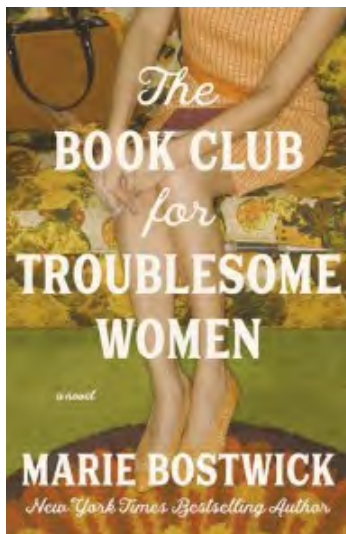
Meeting on September 2nd at 10:00am.

The ladies of the monthly Wednesday morning Bible Study will be using this resource.

"**Talented, Tired, Beautiful Feet: A Bible Study for Women**" is a 64-page paperback book authored by ELCA Pastor Phyllis N. Kersten and ELCA Deacon E. Louise Williams.

This book is no longer in print, so we will create copies for those interested in attending. A sign-up sheet is available on the message board in the Narthex.

This Christian Bible study focuses on themes of service and renewal.



CRLC FAITHFUL READERS

Meeting on September 16th at 10:00am in the Chapelview Room.

The book for September is "The Book Club for Troublesome Women" by Marie Bostwick.

A PREVIEW OF WHAT IS COMING THIS FALL IN THE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS:

We resume our schedule on Sunday, September 13th:

Sunday, September 13th and Sunday, September 20th Henry Duitman will be leading a two-week series on the music of Handel's Messiah: **"Words, Music, Meaning"**

Exploring Handel's Messiah — A perfect marriage of music to text.

Sunday, September 27th our youth and chaperones will share about their summer mission trip to Indianapolis.

LMM FOOD TRUCK



GREAT FOOD • BETTER STORY

Percentage of every purchase supports
LMM programming.

Catering • Special Events • Social Enterprise Training
Homeless Shelter Meals

Provide dignity and inclusion for individuals who are
homeless by sponsoring a shelter food truck meal.

Book an event with a custom menu.

The Metro 45 Food Truck continues to provide training opportunities and work experiences for program participants within the LMM social enterprises network. This programming prepares students for careers within a variety of culinary settings, and guides them along the way to a productive and rewarding futures. The Food Truck also brings nutritious offerings to shelters and food deserts across the NE OH region.

Please help support this worthwhile endeavor by patronizing the Metro 45 Food Truck this summer.

Weekly locations for the Metro 45 Food Truck can be found on Instagram.

If interested in booking Metro 45 to serve at your own, or your workplace special event, email :

metro45@lutheranmetro.org

Or call:
the Workforce Development Team
216-696-2715

URGENT NEED

Haven Home has an urgent need for diapers. See below for sizes.

Drop donations off in the Gathering Space, at the round top table.



The Haven Home
Where Hope Grows

Our diaper supply is running low!

We are urgently in need of diapers to support the mothers and young children in our care. Our current supply is running low, and every donated box helps ensure our families have this essential item when they need it most. Please consider purchasing diapers and arranging a donation today. Your support provides immediate relief and helps our moms focus on building stability for their families.



We Need Diapers!

Sizes 4 and 5 diapers
4T, 5T, and 6T Pull-Ups
Drop off at The Haven Home
M-F 9am - 4pm



Rise[®]

AGAINST HUNGER

**RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEAL
PACKAGING EVENT - SUNDAY
AUGUST 16TH 2026 • 10:30AM TO
12:30PM**

HOSTED BY INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LOCATION FOR THE EVENT:

OLD ELMWOOD REC BLDG

6200 W. PETE WISNIESKI PKWY

INDEPENDENCE, OH 44131

NESTLED INSIDE THE 46-ACRE ELMWOOD PARK

ADJACENT TO ELMWOOD POND

**THE QR CODE TO VOLUNTEER IS BELOW; IF YOU
HAVE ANY TROUBLE VOLUNTEERING OR DONATING,
PLEASE GIVE THE OFFICE A CALL AND WE CAN
WALK YOU THROUGH IT OR COMPLETE IT FOR YOU.**



**WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THE MOST
VULNERABLE AS WE PRAISE GOD AND SERVE OTHERS JOYFULLY
WITH OUR CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS.**

August Volunteers In Parish Service

As always, if you are unable to serve on a scheduled date, *please find your own replacement*
and let the church office know by Wednesday of that week.

Thank you for your service

August 2	8:00 am	9:30 am
Assisting Minister	Dianne Young	Dana Vrcan
Communion Assistants	x	Linda Eckenbrecht, Karl Koubal
Ushers	George Stelmaschuk, Adrienne Davic	Dennis Nagy, Frank Boulton
Altar Care	Dorthea Kramer	Dana Vrcan
Counters: Cathy & Jeff Smith, Jeff Luksa		
August 9	8:00 am	9:30 am
Assisting Minister	Diane Wilson	Ina Stanek
Communion Assistants	x	Frank & Mardell Boulton
Ushers	Mike Berzins, Todd Kiick	Jeff Dentzer, Amy Marek
Altar Care	Gail Stelmaschuk	Elizabeth Marek
Counters: Jeff Dentzer, Todd Romance		
August 16	8:00 am	9:30 am (outdoor worship)
Assisting Minister	Don Dobos	Mark Lickert
Communion Assistants	x	x
Ushers	Don Laubacher, Lisa Antonucci	Scott Witzke, Blaine Coleman
Altar Care	Cheryl Steifvater	Gail Stelmaschuk
Counters: Mike Bodanza, Lisa Witzke		
August 23	8:00 am	9:30 am
Assisting Minister	Don Laubacher	Blaine Coleman
Communion Assistants	x	Judy Coleman, Lisa Witzke
Ushers	Lou Carouse, Ken Blank	Dan Bartik, Dana Vrcan
Altar Care	Pam & Bob Bertsch	Linda Eckenbrecht
Counters: Joy Petrovic, Dan Bartik, Dennis Farney		
August 30	8:00 am	9:30 am
Assisting Minister	Mike Berzins	Sandy Weiss
Communion Assistants	x	Dianne Young, Jan Hansler
Ushers	Al Radefeld, Adrienne Davic	Dennis Nagy, Frank Boulton
Altar Care	Dorthea Kramer	Shirley Fisher
Counters: Diane & Steve Wilson, Pete Smith		

Happy Birthday!

3 Richard Montowski
3 Linda Stack
3 Cheryl Stiefvater
3 Devon Howatt
4 Helen Stasek
4 Joshua Troike
6 Nicole Simmons
7 Ruth Plautz
8 Sue Farney
8 Kendall Smith**
8 Michael Young
9 Lou Carouse
9 Dave Thomas
10 Kaley O'Donnell
10 Rachel O'Donnell
11 Lisa Antonucci
12 Will Petro
15 Matthew Lane
19 Dennis Nagy**
20 Carla Jacobsen**
20 Todd Springer
20 Dana Vrcan
20 David Weber
21 Jim Jirousek
22 Steve Petro
23 Nathan Olman
24 Cheryl Laubacher**
24 Mel Smith
25 Theo O'Donnell
27 Aubrey Vollweiler
28 Lidia D'Anza
30 Emerson Beery

**= Milestone Birthday



Happy Anniversary!

2 Kathy & Ralph Swasey
2 Pam & Lou Carouse
2 Sue & Chuck Miller
3 Judy & Blaine Coleman
3 Dianne & Mike Young
5 Beth & Mike Marcinko
6 Lew & Joyce Jenkins
6 Deb & Ken Blank
10 Pam & Bill Waltz
10 Brittany & Shawn Studnicka
11 Diane & Steve Wilson
12 Joan & Peter Harbath
14 Janet & James Hansler
19 Linnet & Bob Fritz
19 Jill & Butch Koubal
24 Ingrid & Mel Smith
24 Karla & Andrew Perry
26 Tori & Matt Ehrbar



Did you know that we have the ability to receive online giving through our website?
(www.crlcbrecksville.org)

This option will allow for folks to contribute to our congregation using their credit card or debit card. There is not a cost for the church to host this ability, however this is a cost to us for every transaction that is processed. The donor however, can add this fee to any donation they make using this process so that the church receives the full amount intended. This will allow for folks who prefer to handle their giving in this way. This can be used for a one-time donation or it can be set up for reoccurring contributions. It also will allow specific giving to specific funds in our church. You also can download an app for your phone, and after a one-time set-up, you can easily use your mobile device for giving. Donors also have the ability to have recurring donations directly charged to their Bank or S&L checking or savings account through the church Simply Giving program without needing to use the on-line system. Please contact the church office to get more information or to set up this option."



DID YOU KNOW?

- ♦ Did you know that our youth went on a mission trip to Indianapolis this summer? On Sunday, September 27th, in the Adult Sunday School class you will have an opportunity to hear about their experience.
- ♦ Did you know that in the month of July we had a tremendous number of things happening around the facility? The phone system failed, we had a new copier installed, new toilets installed, the floors cleaned for Sunday School, looming cottonwood trees cut down, the door entry system reconnected, new HVAC units installed, and this is not a complete listing. Thanks for all who help in various ways.
- ♦ Did you know that Pastor Randy's daughter Kaley is getting married this month?
- ♦ Did you know that we are updating and refreshing our church constitution? The Vision Board just recommended the changes. This will be made available to the congregation and will be voted on at our annual congregational meeting in November.
- ♦ Did you know that Tonya, our Ministry Coordinator, is helping to rework our annual Time and Talent process? Look for more information on this in the near future.
- ♦ Did you know that in order to publish something in the newsletter we need it by the 15th of the month prior?

... and Now You Know!

CHRIST THE REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH PRAYS FOR. . .

Our Vision and Ministry Boards

Lauren Jirousek, Sarah Klaus, Booher/Carouse families,
Mike Berzins, Annie Root, Linnet & Bob Fritz, Al Radefeld,
Dave Minerovic, Mary Lott, Alberta Manzi, Jessica Travagianti,
Carole Wooten, Gretchen Grossenbaugh, Ken Kasper,
Donna Franz, Mason, Julie Dillehay, Todd, Melanie, Michael Weiss,
Al & Cindy, Ellyn Drummond, Joe, Jean, Pauline Dey, Jordan, Susan,
Patrice, Rick H, Darcy, Ron, Litman family, Lloyd, Kelly, Don Bryan
All military servicemen and women deployed overseas.
All those impacted by war and natural disasters.

Prayer concerns will be removed after 8 weeks, unless otherwise requested.



AUGUST 2026

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

CHRIST THE REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
9201 Brecksville Road Brecksville, Ohio 44141
440.526.2303 www.office@crfbrecksville.org
Monthly insight submissions: insight@crfbrecksville.org

10:00am - 11:00am
Visitation for Doris
Caldart Funeral
11:00am Funeral for
Doris Caldart

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:00am Worship 9:30am Worship	7:00pm Yoga	6:40pm Save the Date - LMM Night out with the Guardians				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:00am Worship 9:30am Worship	7:00pm Yoga					Monthly Insight Deadline
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:00am Worship 9:30am Outdoor Worship 10:30am - 11:30am Rise Against Hunger at Independence Presbyterian Church	7:00pm Yoga					
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:00am Worship/Rev. Beffi Hazelton, guest preacher 9:30am Worship/Rev. Beffi Hazelton, guest preacher	7:00pm Yoga					
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
8:00am Worship/Rev. Abraham Allende, guest preacher 9:30am Worship/Rev. Abraham Allende, guest preacher	7:00pm Yoga					

The monthly newsletter of:

CHRIST THE REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
9201 BRECKSVILLE ROAD BRECKSVILLE OH 44141
(440) 526.2303 www.crlcbrecksville.org

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Praising God. Serving Others.

The Reverend Randy O'Donnell, Pastor



2026