The Federation of Lutheran Churches of Cincinnati and Vicinity

Cincinnati Lutheran

Quarterly Newsletter | www.CincinnatiLutheran.org

Fall| October 2026

Vol. 44 No. 4

FEDERATION REFORMATION SERVICE
OCTOBER 25, 2026

On October 25 Messiah will host the Reformation Service and the featured speaker will be Rev. Robert Marshall of The Lutheran Heritage Foundation.

Once again this year, the program will begin at 3 PM with Rev. Marshall explaining the amazing work of The Lutheran Heritage Foundation and then preaching at the 4 PM service.

You are invited to the annual joint Reformation Worship Celebration

sponsored by The Federation of Lutheran Churches of Cincinnati and Vicinity

When: Sunday, October 25, 2026 at 4:00 PM

Speaker: Rev. Robert Marshall from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation

Where: Messiah Lutheran Church

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

10416 Bossi Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45218

Come at 3:00 pm to learn about the mission of the *Lutheran Heritage Foundation*. Beyond the Bible, what printed Christian resources are needed around the world? The Lutheran Heritage Foundation has already published close to 1,800 books and other publications. There have been 6,662,875 books shared across the world in 188 different languages. Be amazed at the extent of the mission field and how you can help.

At 4:00 pm join your voice in joyful song at the annual joint Reformation Service.

Find out more about ***Lutheran Heritage Foundation*** At **https://lhfmissions.org/**

Use the QR code to access their website.

It's time for Cookie Pack!

Regular cookies are needed by the dozens!

PLEASE NO NUTS OR BAR COOKIES

Cookies go to Care Centers around Cincinnati/NKY

Please bring the cookies to your church by Sunday, December 6th

Monday, December 7th
starting at 9:30 a.m.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
in the Christ Community Center

3301 Compton Rd.
Cincinnati OH 45251



Please consider baking cookies for this special outreach!

Everyone is invited to participate in the packing! Workers will be spread out as much as possible. There will be a variety of sitting and standing tasks.

It's fun to pack cookies!

Mission event of the Women's Auxiliary Committee of the Federation of Lutheran Churches - 2026

The Federation of Lutheran Churches Cincinnati

From Your Executive Board:

Dear fellow members of the Federation,

October is significant because we look forward to being together at the joint Reformation service and because our budget for the coming year is ready for your approval.

Your Federation is not an independent agency. It is a subsidiary of every member congregation, created to do mission work that is not possible for any one individual congregation. Your approval of the budget and your commitment to supporting it is vital. Look for documentation soon and expect to vote your approval at your next congregational meeting.

The 2026 joint Reformation service is on October 25 at Messiah Lutheran Church on Bossi Lane in Cincinnati. Join us at 3pm to hear Rev. Marshall speak about the Lutheran Heritage Foundation and at 4pm to raise our voices in worship.

2025/26 has been a sad but joyful time for your Federation. Sad that we said farewell to at least six faithful supporters yet joyful knowing they are now with our Savior in heaven. You may not have known them personally, but may have known their names.

- Cecil Rahe (8/24/25), blessed the Federation in many ways and served as treasurer for 20 years. Find his obituary here.
- Jaqueline (Jackie) Ross (5/4/26), wife of Rev. Wm. Ross who was a long-time chaplain with the Federation. Find her obituary here and Rev. Ross' here.
- Florence (Sandy) Mercer (4/9/26), active both at St. Paul and with the Auxiliary. Her husband Bob has also served the Federation in many ways.
- Karen Vollbracht (7/17/26), stalwart of the Auxiliary and acting president at her death, she will be greatly missed. Find her obituary here.
- Noel Fenner (8/29/26), generous supporter of the Federation for many years along with his wife, Donna. Find his obituary here.
- Dan Huss (9/18/26), president of the Federation at his death and active supporter for many years. To call him 'Mr. Federation' would be fitting. Find his obituary here

Chaplain Ronald Ewell joined the Federation in 2003. We praise him for his dedicated service at University Hospital and other agencies in the area. He recently returned from a mission trip to Honduras. He will be retiring at the end of 2027, so your Federation will be looking for your input for future planning. What mission endeavor should your Federation pursue?

For the past three years your Federation has supported POBLO missionary Ramy Yousef as he reaches out to Muslim and Arab immigrants in the greater Cincinnati area. Read about his successful efforts elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Federation website is being overhauled and has a new location. Please be patient with our work in progress. The Technology Committee is interested to hear your suggestions or to know if you want to help. Click here to investigate. You can also connect on our Facebook page.

Thank you for your support of your Federation. If you need any further information about the Federation, please contact Linda, the Recording Secretary at DJRLAS@AOL.COM.

Federation News

Refine your retirement goals

thrivent

I'll look at your retirement strategy from every angle. Together, we can explore:

- How your savings strategy supports your priorities and vision for retirement
- Ways to prepare for market uncertainties
- Tax-advantaged options to help you maximize and grow your savings

Let's get started.

Mark N Wilkins, FIC, CLTC®
Financial Advisor
8050 Beckett Center Dr, Ste 117
West Chester, OH 45069
513-942-0200

Thrivent and its financial advisors and professionals do not provide legal, accounting or tax advice. Consult your attorney or tax professional. Thrivent provides advice and guidance through its Financial Planning Framework that generally includes a review and analysis of a client's financial situation. A client may choose to further their planning engagement with Thrivent through its Dedicated Planning Services (an investment advisory service) that results in written recommendations for a fee. Securities and investment advisory services offered through Thrivent Investment Management Inc., a registered investment adviser, member FINRA and SIPC, and a subsidiary of Thrivent, the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Registered representative of Thrivent Investment Management Inc. Advisory services available through investment adviser representatives only. Thrivent.com/disclosures. 31197A R6-26

Board of Control of the
Federation of Lutheran Churches

The Board of Control of the Federation meets at *7:30 PM on the 4th Monday of every other month*, beginning in January. Any congregation member is invited to attend.

Each meeting is held at St. Paul and a Zoom link is provided for online attendance. The dates in 2026 are:

*Jan 26, 2026 07:30 PM *Mar 23, 2026 07:30 PM
*May 25, 2026 07:30 PM *Jul 27, 2026 07:30 PM
*Sep 28, 2026 07:30 PM ***Nov 23, 2026 07:30 PM**

The Zoom link below will be valid for Board of Control meetings through the end of 2026.

*Join Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89655112288

*Recent issues of the Cincinnati Lutheran can be found on our website: www.cincinnatilutheran.org

*If you would like email notification of meetings please notify Linda Schuster, Federation recording secretary: DJRLAS@AOL.COM

Newsletter Editor:
Barbara Letts—bletts@aol.com—513-325-0774

Deadlines for submissions:
12th of January, April, July, October

The Cincinnati Lutheran Volume 44, No. 4, October 2026

The Federation of Lutheran Churches of Cincinnati and Vicinity, 3301 Compton Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45251, publishes The Cincinnati Lutheran. The Cincinnati Lutheran is a publication of the activities of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) congregations of the Cincinnati area. Congregations are responsible for the content of their article.

The publication began in 1922 to serve the LCMS Lutheran community in Southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky. The Cincinnati Lutheran is published under the direction of The Federation of Lutheran Churches of Cincinnati and Vicinity, and the Women's Auxiliary of The Federation of Lutheran Churches of Cincinnati and Vicinity. While the Federation's Board of Control approves all advertising in the Cincinnati Lutheran, the views of individual advertisers may or may not represent those of the Federation or its members. LCMS Lutheran congregations, agencies, individuals (through their congregation) and LCMS Lutheran schools may submit news for publication by the 12th of January, April, July, and October (for publication on the 15th). The Editor reserves the right to edit all material submitted for publication. Yearly subscriptions to The Cincinnati Lutheran by persons who are not of member congregations are arranged upon request.

POBLO—People Of the Book Lutheran Outreach

MISSIONARIES: Ramy and Miriam Yousef **3301 Compton Road Cincinnati, OH**
513-827-4744 ramysmina@gmail.com **https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61553794671618**

SHARING ABOUT ISLAM, OUR MUSLIM NEIGHBORS, AND POBLO

We believe God wants to do something extraordinary within the American Lutheran church during this season. In our last update, we shared the wonderful opportunity given to us by Peace Lutheran Church in Delhi to present a brief overview of Islam, speak about our beloved Muslim cousins (the "Sons of Ishmael"), and share about the work of POBLO here in Cincinnati, Ohio. Over the last couple of months, God opened another door for us. King of Kings Lutheran Church in Mason invited us to share about Islam and ministry to Muslims over two Sundays during their Bible Study class. It was an amazing opportunity to highlight POBLO's work in our area and encourage everyone present to get involved and volunteer. Between in-person attendees and those joining via Zoom, we had around 18 participants. Together, we spent over three hours exploring



"Equipping the Saints for the work of the Ministry" Ephesians 4:12

Arabic Bible Meeting

For two years, we have continued to meet every Friday at Royal Redeemer Lutheran Church in West Chester at 7:30 PM. We are blessed to have our American volunteers and friends come and enjoy the Arabic worship songs with us.



We are between 30 to 40 people in number, but there is notable spiritual growth in the lives of all attendees. Praise be to God, it is the power of God's Word.

You can send your donations through the QR code or checks to the address at Christ Lutheran above
Please Note: To Cincinnati POBLO"

Poblo

Federation

UPCOMING EVENTS

- On September 19th, Miriam will meet with her friends, the Jordanian and Palestinian ladies. This unique time is always fruitful, and God uses Miriam to share the love of Jesus with these Muslim ladies, who often feel oppressed and forsaken by Allah and their families.
- Last time, the ladies were open to sharing their private lives and their struggles with their families with Miriam. Please pray for more openness and acceptance of the Gospel.
- On October 10th, by the grace of God, I spoke at the LWML local retreat at Grace Lutheran Church in Cincinnati. I had the opportunity to share about POBLO's work in Cincinnati, present an overview of Islam, and discuss how to reach out to Muslims using common ground and the character of Jesus as an approach for the Gospel message.
- On October 20th, I have been invited to speak about POBLO's work in Cincinnati at Messiah Lutheran Church during the OWLS Bible study.
- Our Thanksgiving celebration, featuring a Christian folk singer, will be held on November 17th and 18th. Last year, over 60 Arab people attended this event, and we are expecting more this year.
- The annual Christmas Party for our students and their families, will be on December 19th .
- Our homeless outreach dates will be in December, to be decided in coordination with Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.

Please Pray With Us:

- Please continue to pray for our Muslim students and their families.
- Please keep our volunteers and ministry team in your prayers.
- We are still praying and expecting a miracle for our green card process. Please join us in lifting this up.
- We are praying for a *storage space where we can keep and sort household items so they are ready for new families in need.*
- We are praying for a reliable truck capable of hauling our trailer. Our goal is to have this truck before winter so we can begin our homeless street ministry.



- Please continue to pray for and support POBLO and the Federation of Lutheran Churches in Cincinnati as we work together through scanning these QR codes.

God has been so good to us.
We are deeply grateful for your support, partnership, and prayers.
Miriam and Ramy Yousef - 513-827-4744

POBLO—People Of the Book Lutheran Outreach

MISSIONARIES: Ramy and Miriam Yousef **3301 Compton Road Cincinnati, OH**
513-827-4744 ramysmina@gmail.com **https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61553794671618**

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Miriam and Ramy Yousef - 513-827-4744

Our work with our students and Muslim friends is the core of our mission here. Hear some stories where we bring God to their lives.

God continues to give us grace and favor in the eyes of our Muslim students and their families. At the beginning of September, I received a call from Moh., who has been our Egyptian ESL student for almost a year now. He called to invite our family to join his family and four other friends' families for a park barbecue. In Middle Eastern and Muslim culture, when someone invites you into their family circle and introduces you to their wife and children, it carries deep significance. It represents a high level of trust and respect — especially toward a Christian fellow. Miriam and I gladly went and spent the evening with them. Miriam was with the ladies, and I was with the gents. Building such authentic, trusting relationships and deep connections prepares the soil and opens the way for the Gospel in God's perfect timing.

Our target is to meet the needs of our students. Khal, who landed in Cincinnati with his wife and two-year-old baby boy coming from Egypt on Dec. 31, 2025 on a green card visa, was introduced to us through our former ESL student Karr. After joining our classes, just two months after starting his new life in the U.S., he slid over black ice and hurt his back—an accident that kept him home for two months, unable to do anything. In April, he was able to rejoin our classes. One of our volunteers and myself laid our hands on him and prayed for him in the name of Jesus. He started getting better slowly, and he is still in our ESL classes today. With the help of our volunteer David Tensmaier, who works in an insurance company, we arranged a meeting to explain every single detail. David speaks a little Arabic, and it was very interesting for Khal. to meet an American who is interested in learning Arabic.



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Please Note: To Cincinnati POBLO"

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After praying for Khal. in Jesus' name, I had fear that he would not come back again. To my surprise, Khal. asked me to meet twice a week: once for ESL and the other to talk about general topics and life in America. It was a special moment for me to hear him say, "Ramy, I want to be your friend."

In one of these meetings, I started talking about our Christian perspective about God, Our Father—a concept that is absolutely absent in Islamic theology—and how our Father cares about His children and does good things for them. I was intentionally trying to direct him toward his injury. He said no, what happened to him was Qadar (fate), because Allah protects him from a worse thing



by giving him this injury. The door opened for me to share about God's love and how Jesus incarnated to save us from sins. It was a great opportunity to share the Gospel with him.

Again, for a second time, I expected that he would not come back to our classes or any of our personal weekly meetings. And again, to my surprise, he came back for both.

In another personal meeting, we were talking about the prophets and our Christian perspective regarding the fallibility of all the prophets, opposing Islamic theology. Then I told him about Jesus, the only sinless one even according to Islamic theology. We then discussed Jesus' miracles, especially creation and giving life—which is mentioned in the Qur'an (Surah Ali 'Imran 3:49).

In the beginning, he was refusing that it is mentioned in the Qur'an, but when I showed him the Qur'anic verses, it was a shock for him that the Qur'an mentions that Jesus creates, which is an explicit divine act.

We still meet twice a week for ESL and our personal conversations. Join me in prayers for him. It is too difficult to quit 30 years of religion and culture. But God is able. Pray the Holy Spirit opens his eyes and heart for Jesus. I believe he is close, but it's God's work.

Who is My Neighbor?

2026 LWML Cincinnati Zone Fall Retreat

The Fall Retreat for the LWML Cincinnati Zone was held October 10 at Grace Lutheran Church in Cincinnati's Westwood neighborhood. And, it was a treat for just over 30 attendees as we joined together to consider 'Who is My Neighbor?'

Of course we know who our neighbors are – unlike the lawyer in Luke 10 who had to ask Jesus this question. We also know the Golden Rule that Jesus declared in Matthew 7 'sums up the Law and the Prophets.' Presenting on this topic was missionary, Ramy Yousef.

Ramy, his wife, and his three daughters came to the Cincinnati area in late 2023 specifically to reach out to Muslim and Arab immigrants. Recruited by POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach – poblo.org) and funded by the Federation of Lutheran Churches of Cincinnati and Vicinity (https://www.facebook.com/CincinnatiLutheran/), Ramy and family--who are Egyptian Christians--are uniquely qualified in many ways including having served as missionaries in Oman for 12 years.

Ramy presented an introduction to Islam that educated us about the development of this religion and gave insight into the thought processes of those who follow Islamic traditions. His excellent presentation slides provided a wealth of information as he explained how Islam and Christianity have many similarities but also major differences.

Following a break for Zone discussion and lunch, Ramy explained how his POBLO Ministry in Cincinnati works and how we can apply the same methods to our neighbors who are not Christians. True neighborliness crosses all ethnic, social, and religious lines. When we acknowledge that we have more in common than differences, such as everyone needing friends (especially immigrants), and food being a universal language. Knowing this we can strive to establish a basis for trust. Done with love for our neighbors, we pray that the Holy Spirit will bless our efforts with opportunities to share God's love and grace.

We express thanks to Pastor Greg Enterline and the ladies of Grace for their hospitality. We look forward to the 2027 Cincinnati Zone Spring rally which will be hosted by Immanuel, Avondale.

Should any group in your congregation wish to learn more about the POBLO Cincinnati Mission, Ramy Yousef welcomes the opportunity to connect and can best be reached at 513-827-4744. Donations to POBLO Cincinnati can be made online at https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZKDN/home.

Ramy addresses the gathering



POBLO display



A very attentive audience



Ladies of all ages welcomed



Mark Your Calendars!

The Cincinnati Zone also excitedly anticipates serving as host for the 2028 Ohio Convention 'In Harmony' in June 2028. The Ohio Convention will be held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Milford, Ohio. And if you wish to begin your memory work, Romans 15:5 & 6 will be the scripture inspiration for the event.

Women's Auxiliary to the Federation of Lutheran Churches

2026 Blanket Brigade

Dorothy Surdick (Zion), the Blanket Brigade Coordinator, reported that the 2026 Blanket Brigade mission event included volunteers from Christ, Grace, Messiah, Peace, St. Paul, Good Shepherd, and Zion. Together, they made 299 blankets. Funding came from a $250 Thrivent Community Action grant and Women's Auxiliary Committee funds.

Despite rising fabric costs and limited flannel availability after Jo-Ann's closure in spring 2026, the project was successful once again. In addition to baby blankets, the Women's Auxiliary donated 15 beautiful quilts made by Becky Coffee of Messiah from accumulated flannel scraps. Jan Remmele of Zion also knitted 12 preemie hats, which were donated with the blankets and quilts.

The Blanket Brigade's continued success was made possible by the dedication of the congregation coordinators, volunteer sewists, and Lisa Schock (Christ), who delivers the blankets, quilts, and hats to UC Medical Center.



Women's Auxiliary Support of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation

The Auxiliary's annual Ingathering will take place at 3pm on October 25, 2026 at Messiah. The Reformation speaker, Rev. Marshall from Lutheran Heritage Foundation, will highlight their work. All offerings to the Auxiliary from that event through December 1, 2026 will support the Lutheran Heritage Foundation.

Contributions by check may be sent to Federation of Lutheran Churches, ATTN: G. Kelm, Financial Secretary, c/o Christ Lutheran Church, 3301 Compton Road, Cincinnati, OH 45251. Please make checks payable to Federation of Lutheran Churches and write "Women's Auxiliary" in the memo section.

Online donations are accepted at https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZKDN/home.

MORE COOKIES NEEDED!

The 2026 Cookie Pack will take place on Monday, December 7, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Christ Lutheran Church. Lisa Schock, the Cookie Pack Coordinator, reports that additional cookies are needed. She also recommends placing cookies on a plate before putting them in a resealable bag to help prevent breakage during transport. If available, use a box—such as a shirt gift box—to transport the cookies. The box can be placed directly on the table for the cookie packers.

4th of July Parade Float and Picnic

This year Bethany had a 4th of July float in the Edgewood parade followed by a picnic at the church. It was a great time for celebrating our nation's 250th birthday!





Bethany Annual Yard Sale

In July we start asking members, friends and neighbors for donations for our yard sale. We usually collect quite a bit! This year our annual yard sale was held Saturday, September 12 in our church building due to rain. The Thursday before was our pricing day which helps on the day of the sale. Many volunteers are needed to make this fundraiser successful. Since the original day had rain and low attendance, we also had another yard sale on Saturday, September 26. The weather cooperated so it was held outside in our church parking lot. This was a good decision since we had extremely good attendance and a record profit! The money collected goes to the LWML fund and is used throughout the year for church projects. A portion is also donated to charity. A big thank you to all who helped!






School Supply and Shoe Collection

During July and the beginning of August, our congregation collected school supplies and shoes for a local school. There are many children in need. This helps the students start off the school year in a positive way. Thank you to all who donated to this great cause!

Bethany Work Day

In August we had several members help to restore our basement and upstairs bathrooms from flood damage and as well as a general clean-up of the church. Sometimes people may feel they are out of their comfort zone but everyone who helps is an asset. We truly appreciate all those who helped!






Prince of Peace Dinner

On Wednesday, September 30 members of our congregation helped serve a hot meal to the homeless at Prince of Peace Church in Cincinnati. One of our members purchases the meal supplies and other members take a bag with all the ingredients and a recipe for the main dish to cook. In this way no one has to do all the cooking and we're able to supply a hot meal to those less fortunate.




Little Bud Preschool

We have started our new religious curriculum this year. The teachers are navigating the new materials and adding some of their own creativity. We are looking forward to watching the children grow throughout the year with their faith.
On Saturday, October 3rd we hosted our annual trike-a-thon where we were able to fundraise and have fun riding our bikes. Little Bud Sunday was October 11th. Our families attended church and our students sang several songs in church. After service, the families joined the congregation for our annual Fall Fun Fest filled with pumpkins and games.

Oktoberfest



On Saturday, August 26th over 50 people gathered for our annual Oktoberfest. We enjoyed plenty of German food and beautiful weather. Pastor Norris opened with praying the common table prayer in German. Families enjoyed playing ping-pong, corn-hole, and jumping in the bounce-house.
Pastor Norris is excited about a Limberger cheese sandwich. —>>





Red's Game

On August 14th a group from CLC attended the Red's game against the Marlins. They even put our church name on the big screen! Our group enjoyed time together and watching the Reds get 11 strike-outs!

Fabulous Flea This was our second year putting on this rummage sale. It was a great success raising about $5,000 which will be split between the Welcome Home Collaborative, Kate's Closet, and our VBS program. Other charities that were also supported include: St. Vincent de Paul, The Vineyard Clothing Pantry, The Breast Cancer Society, Side by Side Literacy Mission, and SON Ministries. This was a lot of work and served as a great blessing to many in our community. We give all glory to God. Mark your calendar for our next flea on July 17th.



Dan Huss



Dan E. Huss, a well-loved brother-in-Christ, passed away peacefully on Friday, September 18, 2026, surrounded by family. Dan was born in 1940 and grew up picking apples on the family farm. He graduated from Colerain High School in 1957. In 1961, Dan graduated summa cum laude from Miami University. He became a lawyer and practiced until he retired in June of 2023. He exemplified everything a good attorney should be—he was fair, honest, and filled with integrity.

Dan taught finance at Miami University, and he became assistant chair of the Business Law department, where he influenced many aspiring law students. Dan loved Miami sports. Dan held season tickets for Miami football for more than 50 years and rarely missed a home game.

Dan met Martha "Marti" Smith on a blind date in 1963. That "first date" led to a lifetime of laughs. They were married in June of 1966. Together they had three children: Kelly Marie, John Andrew, and Katherine Elizabeth. He was a dedicated and fun-loving family man.

Dan was a man of strong faith. He was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran and spent his adult years at Christ Lutheran Church. Dan served as President of the Federation of Lutheran Churches in Cincinnati for many years. He was passionate about the purpose and work of the federation and was a leader and advocate till the very end. Dan also coached a church softball team, first for Christ and then for the Federation until he was 74 years old. In every situation he shared his faith with his family and with all those around him, including the nurses during his hospital stays, telling his family that "God isn't done with me yet!" He was so proud when his son John became a Lutheran pastor, and when three of his grandchildren also went into ministry. In 2019, Dan was awarded the Christus Vivit Award at the Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, for exemplary service to the church.

In December of 2022, Dan was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. As the Lord was calling him home, his last words were in prayer for his family. He will be deeply missed, but we are filled with joy in knowing that he is home with Jesus free from suffering. His personal, professional, and faith legacy is inspiring and we will strive to carry on his good work. We look forward to seeing him again one day.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." - 2 Timothy 4:7

https://www.charlesyoungfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Dan-E-Huss?obId=49630030

Lynn Mitchell Recognized for Service to the Church

During the Sunday Fellowship Hour at Good Shepherd Lynn was recognized for her many years of service at Good Shepherd. Lynn joined Good Shepherd in 1999. Several years later when the Church Secretary position became available. Lynn applied and was hired. She has served in that role for the past 20 years. Lynn has been with Good Shepherd through thick and thin in this role. Serving under four Pastors: So, serving under four pastors, also means she served during three vacancies. She kept the office running through each of those vacancies. What would Good Shepherd done without her knowledge of church operations? Many at Good Shepherd have said that Lynn can never retire. We would like for her to stay for another 20 years. But we know that someday she will retire. Pictured above with Lynn is Congregational President, Glen Leavens. Thank you, Lynn, for your many years of service.





Adult Confirmands Received in Membership

After several months of study with Pastor Poynter, four adults were received into membership through Adult Confirmation. They are Dale Bertram, Jonathan Brook, Robert Rabe and Isaiah Warren. A reception was held after service in their honor.





Veterans Honored

The American Heritage Girls designed this Honor Garden to recognize those who have served our country. Included are members of Good Shepherd and AMG family members. This memorial is located near the entrance of the Church so that all can see it.



RALLY DAY AT GRACE



Rally Day at Grace took place on Sept. 13th. This day kicks off the year in Christian Education for Sunday classes.
Join us for:

- ◊ adult Bible study
- ◊ Sunday School for ages four-grade 5
- ◊ confirmation instruction for kids grade 6 and up.

After a reception in the Grace Bean Redeemed Café, the participants went to explore their classrooms and meet the teachers.

COMBINED WORSHIP WITH OROMO CONGREGATION

On Oct. 4th, we had one worship service and invited members from the Oromo congregation to join us. The service was held in the Fellowship Hall and a delicious meal combining both American and Oromo food was served. Both congregations enjoy coming together and getting to know each other.

LWML Fall Retreat

The LWML Fall Retreat was held at Grace on Oct. 10th. See the LWML Cincinnati Zone page in this publication for pictures and details. Grace was honored to host and all who attended had a wonderful time.

Lutheran Women in Mission
Cincinnati Zone

Westfed Food Pantry

The Westfed Food Pantry is a collaborative effort comprised of seven west side organizations. In the name of Jesus Christ, the pantry assists local families in meeting their food needs. In addition to Grace Lutheran, the participating organizations are Cheviot United Methodist Church, Christ Fellowship Church, St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, St. James Episcopal Church, Westwood First Presbyterian Church, and the Gamble-Nippert YMCA.

Conducted on the last two Thursdays of the month *at Grace Lutheran Church* from 1:30-2:30 p.m. The pantry serves residents in the 45211 and 45238 ZIP codes. A photo ID and proof of residence is required.

Donations of shelf stable foods are appreciated.



On Oct 10, we celebrated our 5th annual Oktoberfest with members and community – serving over 100 meals of Brat, Mett, or Hotdog, homemade sauerkraut, homemade applesauce, Grman potato salad, and hot red cabbage slaw, finishing off the meal with a slice of applecake with caramel sauce. Entertainment was provided by the talented Mason Mediocre Band and the Donauschwaben Schuhplattlers.

















A couple of swim parties were held over the summer at a member's home.







Messiah held an outdoor worship service followed by a picnic lunch on Oct 4 in Winton Woods.







Federation Reformation Service at Messiah

on Oct 25 at 4:00pm

Speaker: Rev Robert Marshall

Rev. Marshall will also speak about the mission of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation at 3:00pm

A light dinner will be served after the 4:00pm service

Special Services

Nov 25 .... Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7pm
Dec 2 ..... Advent Dinner at 6PM – Service at 7PM
Dec 9 ..... Advent Dinner at 6PM – Service at 7PM
Dec 16 ..... Advent Dinner at 6PM – Service at 7PM
Dec 24 ..... Christmas Eve Services – 5PM, 7PM, and 11PM
Dec 25 ..... Christmas Day Service – 10AM
Dec 31 ..... New Year's Eve Service – 7PM

New Members!



Prince of Peace celebrated receiving four men who committed to membership on Sunday, September 20. God continues to bring the people we need to do the work He is calling us to do, growing His Kingdom in the hearts of people in Over the Rhine and beyond. On Sunday, September 20th Jeff Brandt, Julian Hankins, Derek Anderson and Josh Hunter were added to the POP Family

Prince of Peace's mercy ministries are changing and growing!

Our Wednesday 6pm community supper enjoys very good support from our partners who provide food, including our sister LCMS congregations Messiah, Christ, Trinity/Immanuel, and Bethany. We would love to see more of our sister congregations coming to provide and serve a meal in 2027. Contact Katrina Lackey for more information: katrina_lackey@yahoo.com

Our Saturday and Sunday morning community breakfasts are led by Pastor Larry Devereaux. Volunteers are welcome the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. If you'd like more information check out our website or contact Pastor Joel at pastorjoel@poplcmscinci.org

Our new Sunday 11:30am community dinner is attracting volunteers from our neighborhood as well as students from UC and Xavier. A grant from the Ohio District has opened the way for us to provide devotional materials and encouragement for our student volunteers. Food is provided by LaSoupe Cincinnati. If you'd like to join in serving, contact Samantha (Sam) O'Connor at samcrowell3@gmail.com





Hygiene Kits

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is packing snack/hygiene kits for those living on the margins, experiencing homelessness, and in the surrounding Over-The-Rhine Community on Saturday, October 24. Donations will be accepted at your church through Sunday, October 18. Any questions, please reach out to Samantha O'Connor...

Samcrowell3@gmail.com

POP Needs

Hygiene Packs
Socks
Blankets
Belts

Wednesday Community Meals

It will soon be a new year, so we are already looking for volunteers to provide meals in 2027. Please contact Katrina Lackey at 513-473-8225.

Current Needs at Prince of Peace

- Snack/hygiene kits for Xavier student serve day October 24
- 65" Television to screen PoP volunteer orientation video
- Sturdy rechargeable blower to keep the area around the church free of litter & debris
- Warming oven to prepare food for community meals ($1,500)
- Replacement of one of the main A/C units serving the Community Room ($11,000)





Special Events that everyone is invited to attend this fall

Mistletoe Market

Saturday November 21st - 10AM to 3PM
A community event with a ton of vendors, small businesses and artisans. A great way to get your holiday shopping started. This is a free event



Trunk or Treat Thursday October 22nd.

5:30 pm-6:30 pm Trunk or Treating in the parking lot.
5:30 pm-6:30 pm Games in the Commons
6:00 pm-7:00 pm A Movie will be playing in the Worship Center.

All children and families are invited to participate in a parking.



Advent service – Wednesday December 2nd.

6PM Soup/ Salad Pot luck

7PM Worship Service

Christmas Eve Services

4PM -Contemporary Candlelight Service

8PM -Traditional Candlelight Service - Both will have children's message

Youth Group

St. Mark's Youth Group spent a rainy August day in service to the church and school, by moving many yards of mulch to the newly renovated playground area. We are thankful for the energetic youth and congregational volunteers who helped to complete this project prior to the start of the school year.

St. Mark's Youth Group also enjoyed a fun fellowship night in September at Game Night. We are looking forward to Movie Night on October 24th, beginning at 5:30 p.m. as our youth gather together to watch the Movie, "Soul Surfer," eat pizza, and share a devotion together. Students in grades 6-12 are encouraged to join us; feel free to bring a blanket, bean bag, or comfy chair along. The Youth will participate in another service project on November 8th, packing sandwiches for Our Daily Bread, a soup kitchen serving hundreds daily in the Cincinnati area.



Young at Heart

In July, the Young at Heart group joined together for a picnic style lunch to celebrate our country's 250th birthday; members brought items to show and stories to tell. In August, the Young at Heart group hosted speaker Peter Bronson, a local author, who told about his new book of short stories. In September, Pastor Mark Etter presented to our group about Abraham. We look forward to upcoming programming in October, November, and December, and invite any "empty nesters" to join us for fellowship and presentations:

- 10/22 at 1:00 p.m. Speaker Joy Schroder will share experiences about living in the Middle East
- 11/4 at 1:00 p.m. Presenter Cheryl Pop, Director of the Cincinnati Honor Flight will speak about their program
- 12/9 at 11:30 a.m. Please join us at Ferrari's Restaurant, 7677 Golf Terrace, Madeira, for a holiday lunch. Those wishing to carpool should meet at St. Mark's at 11:00 a.m.

Women's Guild

The Women of St. Mark's Lutheran Church have revitalized the Women's Guild program and enjoyed recognizing the work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League on LWML Sunday at the beginning of October. The Women's Guild enjoyed fellowship and planning in September with a Margaritas and More evening. Plans are in the works for a congregational potluck to celebrate Reformation Sunday following the late service on 10/25.



St. Mark's Lutheran Schools News

St. Mark's Lutheran School (513) 575-3354
5849 Buckwheat Rd., Milford, OH 45150



St. Mark's Lutheran School welcomed students back to the building for its 2026-2027 school year, which is themed "Rooted in Christ." Our students in Kindergarten through Eighth grade began the new school year on August 19th, while the Preschool students began their first week just after Labor Day. While the construction of our new classrooms and gymnasium were not quite ready for the start of the school year, we are hopeful for a successful transition into the new spaces during the second quarter. We are thankful for help from wonderful volunteers to help get the space ready and furnishings moved into the new classroom spaces.

St. Mark's Lutheran School was pleased to be able to recognize Pastor Mark Etter at our Wednesday Chapel Service during Pastor Appreciation Week. Both Church and School are so thankful for the wonderful blessings that Pastor Etter has shared with us as our Vacancy Pastor.



Students and their families enjoyed an Outdoor Movie Night in September, gathering in the parking lot to watch "Chicken Little." Popcorn and water were available to all, and Student Council sold mini-sodas and candy. It was a beautiful night for a fun fellowship gathering.



St. Mark's Lutheran School's volleyball team has been off to a fantastic 3-0 start for the 2026 fall season. St. Mark's has competed against Immanuel Lutheran School - Hamilton and Beautiful Savior Lutheran School at their facilities as well as at King of Kings Lutheran Church. The teams gather for prayer prior their matches. All Glory to God for our sports programs. We look forward to the completion of our new gymnasium so that the Saints can host other schools at our own facility.



Upcoming Events include our Dine to Donate Fundraiser at Chipotle on Romar Drive in Milford on **Monday 10/19 from 4:00-8:00 pm**. Use promo code F779HTT when you order so St. Mark's Lutheran School can receive a 25% donation from Chipotle.

Trunk or Treat is scheduled for **Friday, October 30th, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.** Volunteers are needed for Trunk Decorating, and prizes will be awarded to the best Trunk. We ask that decorations are not scary/gory, so that children of all ages can enjoy this annual event. Hot cocoa, cider and cookies will be served and fellowship will be in abundance.



Baptism

August 16th

It was with great joy that Rebecca entered God's family through the Right of Holy Baptism on Sunday morning August 16th. By the washing away of all sins, she becomes one of the chosen of God.

Her rebirth was celebrated by all with a beautiful cake following the worship service.





Young Adult Fellowship Dinner



End of summer Young Adult Fellowship Dinner was at Pastor and Kres's. As you can see a great time was had by all.



New Testament Greek Group

We continue to have a New Testament Greek group that meets each 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:00am

&

A Lutheran Confessions Group

3rd Saturday of the month at 9:00am

All are welcome.

Passing

We remember in our prayers faithful members who have passed on to their eternal glory.



Juanita Horton

September 18, 1931 - August 18, 2026



Sandy (Florence) Mercer

August 6, 1943 – April 9, 2026

Thank You Dr. Vaughn



After many years as our organist Dr. Winston Vaughn has retired. We wish him well and thank him for his many years of service to God and St Paul's.

Wednesday Evening Prayer Service

7:00pm

We continue to have weekly services that include a brief teaching from the catechism for our younger set. The short message and catechism instruction are set in Evening Prayer or Compline or Vespers. During our customary Advent and Lenten services all is as before. A midweek break to pray and hear God's word will encourage your soul.

Wednesday Advent Services

Beginning Wednesday, December 2nd

St Paul will again be offering Wednesday worship through the Advent season. Services will be at 7:00pm

Trinity Lutheran Church (Peach Grove)

5921 Springdale Road Cincinnati, OH 45247

PASTOR: Rev. Everette Greene | CORRESPONDENT: Conrad Schneider | REPRESENTATIVE: Joanne Sanders 513-385-7024 | Facebook.com/TrinityLutheranChurch1845.com

Prince of Peace Dinner. On July 8th, members from Trinity and Immanuel Lutheran Churches partnered with Prince of Peace to prepare an indoor picnic. Over 70 Prince of Peace neighbors were treated to pork barbecue sandwiches, potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, and cupcakes.





Back to School. Members from Immanuel and Trinity Lutheran Churches met at Immanuel on August 8th to fill backpacks with school supplies donated by various local Lutheran churches. Backpacks were later distributed to children in the Avondale area.



Picnic. It was hot and humid, but there was a good breeze when Trinity members attended Immanuel Lutheran's picnic at Winton Woods on August 9th. The food was excellent and Immanuel's version of basketball was enjoyed by young and old.





Car Wash. Trinity held its annual car wash on Saturday, August 15th. The threat of rain shortened the car wash but thanks to generous donations from those having their cars washed, Trinity was able in turn to make a generous donation to SON Ministries, a local food pantry.







Anniversary Celebration. A joint Immanuel-Trinity worship service was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church on September 27th to celebrate Immanuel's 100th anniversary. The guest minister was Rev. Dr. Kevin Wilson, president of The Ohio District of the LCMS. A dinner was held afterwards in Immanuel's Fellowship Hall.

Other. For other events and updates, check our Facebook page at https://facebook.com/TrinityLutheranChurch1845/





In Memorium. Per our tradition, Trinity sang "*For All the Saints Who from Their Labor Rest"* as our closing hymn on September 20th in memory of Dan Huss. Dan, president of The Federation of Lutheran Churches of Cincinnati and Vicinity, was a long-time member of both Trinity and Christ Lutheran Churches. Dan was 86 when he passed on September 18th after battling Acute Myeloid Leukemia for several years. Dan's funeral was held at Trinity on October 2nd with a lunch afterwards at Christ Lutheran Church. Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, president emeritus and professor emeritus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and Speaker of "The Lutheran Hour" radio program from 1989 until 2001, was the guest minister at Dan's funeral.



On October 4th, we again sang *"For All the Saints*" in memory of Pat Quinn who passed on September 26th at the age of 89. A devoted Lutheran, she returned to the workforce after caring for her family. Pat retired at the age of 85 after working as an Office Assistant at Cincinnati Early Learning in Harrison where she supported the children, families, and staff.



Award Winning Artist. Trinity congratulates Marilee Klosterman. Her pastel painting of the UDF on Blue Rock Road that she sees when driving home after Thursday evening Bible Study won first place in a nationwide, juried art show. There were over 1,100 entries of which 145 were accepted into the show. Marilee was also one of three artists selected to judge Open-Class Fine Arts at this year's Indiana State Fair.



Flowers. Members and neighbors continue to enjoy Trinity's flowers. This is the second year our petunias have self-seeded. They even grow in the parking lot where seeds have fallen from the planter above.

Upcoming Events. Hanging of the Greens and Trinity's Chili Cook-off will be held after worship service on Sunday, November 29th. Midweek Advent services begin on December 2nd at 7:00 PM and will alternate between Trinity and Immanuel Lutheran Churches. Trinity's Christmas Eve Candlelight service begins at 4:00 PM.

Outreach. Trinity Lutheran continues to collect food, cleaning supplies, and toiletries for SON Ministries, a Colerain Township-based food bank.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

WE ENVISION
A GOSPEL MOVEMENT OF UNCOMMON PEOPLE
CULTIVATING THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST
IN OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND
BY TAKING JESUS' CROSS OF GRACE AND PEACE.

"For when two or three are gathered in my name,
there am I among them"
– Matthew 18:20

Whether you are brand new to the church,
or you've been around church for a while;
we want to say welcome!

Our goal at Zion is to create environments
and experiences where you can encounter God
in the midst of your life.

On Sunday September 13th Julia Witt our Deaconess Intern was Commissioned and Installed at a special service and dinner. Julia's father, Reverend Aaron Witt from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Elwood NE was the featured speaker .







Ziion will be holding a neighborhood outreach on October 24th.



Matthew 25 Jesus tells us,

"whatever you did for the least of these brothers & sisters of mine, you did for me."

We continue to praise and thank God for the opportunities He gives Zion to cultivate the message of salvation through Christ to our community and beyond. To Him be the Glory

This past July Pastor Jason Hoerth, Deaconess Intern Julia Witt, along with several other members went on a mission trip to the Appalachian region of Letcher, KY. They were able to serve as the hands of Christ in one of the most impoverished counties in the entire United States.

This past September 26th Deaconess Julia Witt and more than 15 other members participated in a community out reach day of serving. our projects were Baking for Our Daily Bread , Food Packing for IPM Food Bank and Dinner Auction Prep for A Caring Place.