

VERSE
of the
WEEK

Athens Christian Church

8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 am

Worship Services

December 7, 2025

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:19

Welcome to Athens Christian Church

If this is your first visit, we're so glad you're here. To help us stay connected, please fill out a visitor card located at the back of the chair in front of you and drop it in the offering box. If you'd like to receive our monthly church newsletter by email, be sure to include your email address on the card.

We're thrilled you've joined us for worship today! During the service, the Lord's Supper is available to all believers. Please feel free to make yourself at home. On your way out, don't forget to stop by the foyer to pick up a complimentary Bible. We look forward to seeing you again next week!

At ACC, we strive to be a loving family of Christ-followers, bringing light into a dark world. Please call on us when we can help:

Elders:

Jeremy McDaniel/217-971-9416

Curt Reichling/217-636-9252

Doug Wendler/217-652-2133

Jack Brown/217-741-0381

GriefShare Ministry:

Carla Knox/217-415-5032

Mary Ellen Buch/217-899-7598

Ministry Contacts:

Ken Gennicks, Senior Minister/217-415-5724

Shane Baker, Associate Minister/217-415-9035

Lorna Baker, Children's Minister/217-502-1256

Ashley Cantrall, Worship/Technology Minister 217-652-5433

Evan Noggle, Youth Minister/217-415-5644

Morgan Wells, After School Program/217-414-5433

Josh Harris, Preaching Intern 217-971-8371

Download the ACC app



1411 E. Route 29 • Athens IL 62613

217-636-8463

www.athenschristian.net

www.facebook.com/athenschristianIL

8:00 am Traditional Service

Call to Worship: Isaiah 40:3-5

O Come All Ye Faithful #193 (v. 1-3)

As With Gladness Men of Old #202 (v. 1-4)

Announcements Video

Prayer Requests & Praises: Ken Gennicks

Angels From the Realms of Glory #190 (v. 1-4)

Christmas Candle Lighting: Ryan Knox family

Acts of Worship: Hank Daubs

Sermon: Ken Gennicks

"People of the Bible: 'Philip & the Ethiopian, Disciples Open to God's Spirit'" (Acts 8:26-40)

Invitation Hymn: Reach out to Jesus #430 (v. 1-2)

Communion & Offering Hymn: I am Thine, O Lord #455 (v. 1 & 4)

Communion & Offering Meditation: Josh Harris

Quietly move to Communion & Offering tables before exiting.

9:15 & 10:30 am Contemporary Service

Welcome

Hark the Herald Angels

Here I Am to Worship

O Come Let Us Adore Him

Announcements Video

Prayer Requests & Praises: Ken Gennicks

Christmas Candle Lighting

9:15: Kyle Corrigan family

10:30: Molly Alderman & Jaelyn Lasley

Acts of Worship: Olivia Baker

Sermon: Ken Gennicks

"People of the Bible: 'Philip & the Ethiopian, Disciples Open to God's Spirit'" (Acts 8:26-40)

Invitation Hymn: What a Beautiful Name

The Blessing

Communion & Offering Meditation: Josh Harris

Quietly move to Communion & Offering tables before exiting.

AM Sermon Notes

"People of the Bible: 'Philip & the Ethiopian, Disciples Open to God's Spirit'" (Acts 8:26-40)

INTRODUCTION

Our Bible studies focus on "People of the Bible," timeless life lessons from real people who point us to Jesus. Today's Bible text focuses on two Bible people, one named, one unnamed. This is their story:

I. An _____ (Acts 8:28)

II. An _____ (Acts 8:30-34)

III. _____ (8:35-39a)

IV. _____ (8:39b)

A. _____: _____ did we _____?

B. _____: _____ are _____?

C. _____: _____ are we _____?

D. _____: _____ should we _____?

E. _____: _____ are we _____?

CONCLUSION

This Ethiopian man already had everything the world seeks: wealth, position, achievement, fame, a life of ease, and even "religion." But still, something was missing in his life. The Ethiopian needed someone to tell him about Jesus. Like us, Philip could have hesitated on the grounds of:

A. _____ (Acts 8:26-27a)

B. _____ (Acts 8:26)

C. _____ (Acts 8:27)

D. _____ (Acts 8:27)

Philip was open to the Holy Spirit's leading to share his faith. The Ethiopian was open to receiving God's Word. Who is God preparing right now to receive it through you?

Prayer Requests

At Memorial: David "Mike" Whitehurst (Susan Turner's relative), Sally Wilhite (Lorrie Sleight's mom)

At St. Louis hospital: Mimie Dunkirk (Pat Basso's friend)

Tests: Bruce Kennett, Don Klor, Dave Magee, Al Keller, Dwayne Rudolph, Rhonda Leinberger, Laurie Ingram's brother, Barb Wagner, Hudson Davis, Albert McCarthy, David Primm, Rena Hiatt, Kay Sill's sister, Pat McNeal's friend, Linda Hoffman's son, Alice Lasswell's brother, Tammy Garner, Brandon Keppler's uncle, Bob Lott, Ruth Novy (shoulder/15th), Lorrie Sleight's dad/sister, Judy Bryant (biopsy/10th), Bree Chandler, Jodi Peacock's friend, Pat Halberstadt, Amelia Whitman (Brian's daughter/Jerry Judd's friends/brain surgery/16th/Barnes), Ericka McCoy's dad/family, Linda Caldwell's friends (father/son/cancer), Sandy Magee (biopsy), Linda Fisher (broken collarbone/ankle/possible surgery), Reese Martig (Jack/Betty Ethell's great grandson/breathing problems)

At home: Bonnie Russell, Terry Wunderle, Nancy Nale's mom, Morgan Setzer, Deb Claypool's friend, Tom Novy, Wanda Stott, Jill Cleer (Arcadia), Kevin/Carrie Lee/Colton Ingham, Cyndee Blakeman, Nancy Oliver (hospice), Jerry Basso, Janice Bollman, Andrew Combs, Sierra Lowers' mom, Kenny Bounds (hospice), Tracy Mullins, Rachel Aper, Jo Ellen Croft's mom, Dawn Medley, Ricky/Jamie Thomas family

Touched by death: Todd Kruger family (Michael's dad), Butch Herges family (Debbie Alderman's b-in-law), Misty Painter family (Elise Fritz's friend)

Transitions: Marlene Wegner (Taylorville Memorial), Ann Vaughn (Bill Peterman's m-in-law/Trustwell), Sally Vespa's parents (Carriage Crossing/January), Curt Reichling's mom, Bev Nolting's cousin, Roberta Clark/Dick & Elaine Bachman/Steve Gutierrez/Charles "Butch" Mester/Al Betz/Rosalie Ingram (Villa), Joann Kirchesner (Springfield Suites), Mary Prior/Erna Weatherby/Bob Moore (Countryside), Carolyn Cole (Concordia/hospice), Marge Ray/Vivian Rankin (Vonderlieth), Chuck VanHuss (Jacksonville), Gerald "Jerry" Brown (Susan VanNattan's relative/hospice), Cory Craig, Jr. (Ozark Christian College), Kylie Norton's boyfriend's grandparents, Israel

ACC's outreach to people of our region

Fall Preaching Intern: Josh Harris (till Dec. 24)

21 to Young Adult 'Passion Conf': Dec. 31/TX

Vacation Bible School: June 8-12, 6-8:00 p.m./all ages

112 to Christ In Youth Conf.: July 6-10/Lincoln, NE

Blake Canterbury: facebook.com/monroechurchplant

Kyle Gennicks: wearegospelcity.churchcenter.com

Capital Stewardship Campaign: Let Your Light Shine (2023-2025)

Capital Stewardship Campaign: EXCEL (2026-2028)

Our missionaries/military/terrorism/nation

Each other/unspoken needs

Winter Weather Reminder

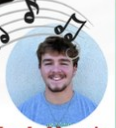
If the Athens School District closes or lets out early due to weather conditions, events at Athens Christian Church will be closed for that evening. A notice will also be issued on News Channel 20, the ACC Facebook page, and through the prayer chain.

JOIN US THIS AFTERNOON AT 4PM
IN THE WORSHIP CENTER!

ACC Christmas Kids' Musical
& Cookie Fellowship

Those children participating:
Ava Blakeley, Scarlet Bosie, Chloe Brown, Evie Canning, Evelyn Cantrall, Riley Cantrall, Beckett Cantrall, Emmy Corrigan, Lillie Corrigan, Easton Dial, Palmer Elliott, Lily Harlan, Hunter Harlan, Cora Hopps, Kymber Jacoby, Josie Keppler, Scarlett Knox, Ava Knox, Delilah Meyer, Hunter Pierson, Alaska Pierson, Georgia Pulliam, Levi Pulliam, Grace Rempel, Falyñ Semán, Eli Summers, Clay Summers, Sterling Sundberg, Penelope Williams, Clayton Woosley, Lydia Ziegler

Young at Heart



Josh Harris

Christmas Choir Concert

Athens High School

Tuesday, December 9

9:30: Free Blood Pressure Checks

10:00: Athens Jr./Sr. High Choirs Christmas Performance

11:00: Free Ham, mac & cheese, and green beans with bacon

Devotion by Josh Harris

Christmas Around the Piano

Sunday, December 14, 6:00 pm

Celebrate the season with beautiful Christmas music shared by talented members and friends of ACC.

Those participating are: AWSOM girls group, Lorna Baker, Anthony Bolton, Scarlet Bosie, Betsy Burris, Ashley Cantrall, McKenley Combs, Hank Daubs, Tammy Derringer, Angie Fritz, Ava Gennicks, Ivy Havrilka, Josie Keppler, Nathania Laier, Jen McCormick, Krista Summers-McCormick, Elynor Nance, Alaska Pierson, Hunter Pierson, Wyatt Pierson, Curt Reichling, Susan Reichling, Gerry Turner, and more...

If you would like to participate, please call or text Susan (217 341 8826) or Curt Reichling (217 416 3938).

Christmas Contemporary Choir

Sunday, December 21

9:15 & 10:30 am services

Sign up in the church lobby

Thursdays thru March 26

6:00-8:00 PM ACC's Family Life Center

PICKLEBALL Ages 13 +

Led by Curt Reichling & Austin Montgomery

We will miss you

FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR JOSH HARRIS

SUNDAY, DEC. 21, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

FAMILY LIFE CENTER

WE WILL HAVE DESSERTS, AND A SPECIAL PRAYER TIME OVER JOSH. THERE WILL BE A BOX TO COLLECT CARDS, A PHOTO TO SIGN IN THE LIBRARY AND WE WILL ALSO TAKE UP A LOVE OFFERING TOWARD BIBLE COLLEGE EXPENSES AT OZARK CHRISTIAN COLLEGE.

Hugs and prayers

FREE! Christmas

COFFEE & PASTRIES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:30 - 11:00 AM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER

SIGN UP IN THE LOBBY TO HELP PROVIDE: MILK, JUICE, FRUIT CUPS, YOGURT CUPS, PASTRIES, DONUTS, MUFFINS, BREADS

Christmas Eve at ACC

Wednesday, December 24

Candlelight & Communion Services

2 PM, 3 PM, 4 PM, 5 PM, 6 PM

(Childcare available for Birth-4 years at 3 PM)

Celebrate Christmas Eve with candlelight, music, and devotion during each special service.

Communion will be available and is open to all who wish to participate. We hope you'll bring your family and friends to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

The following people will be participating in these services.

• 2:00pm - Ashley Cantrall, Angie Fritz, Ava Gennicks, Ken Gennicks, Josh Harris, Noah Krause, Marlana Krause, Leilah Link, Elynor Nance

• 3:00pm - Ella Armitage, Ken Gennicks, Josh Harris, Nathania Laier, Sandy Knoles, Terry Knoles, Krista Summers-McCormick

• 4:00pm - Anthony Bolton, Ashley Cantrall, Ken Gennicks, Josh Harris, Alaska Pierson, Hunter Pierson, Wyatt Pierson, Doug Wendler, Sharon Wendler

• 5:00pm - Kenneth Baker, Olivia Baker, Anthony Bolton, Ken Gennicks, Josh Harris, Gerry Turner, Nancy Winterbauer, Russ Witmer

• 6:00pm - Anthony Bolton, Hank Daubs, Ken Gennicks, Haley Glick, Josh Harris, Abby Heffern, Bailey Shipp, Gerry Turner

- Applying Today's Sermon to Your Life
1. Our 2025 Bible studies focus on "The People of the Bible," and what they teach us about living daily for the Lord Jesus Christ. Our Verse- of-the-Week today is Matthew 28:19, *Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.* " In Acts 8:26-40, did Philip feel like this command was his assignment? Why? Do you feel like this is your assignment? Why, or why not?

2. Read Acts 8:26-40. Answer the following as True or False:

T F Acts 8:32 shows the Ethiopian was reading Isaiah 53:7-8.

T F God's Spirit was preparing the Ethiopian's heart for Philip.

T F The Ethiopian understood everything he was reading.

T F Philip resisted the Spirit's prompting to speak to the man.

T F Philip was intimidated by the Ethiopian's wealth and prestige.

T F An open Bible resulted in an open mind.

T F God's Spirit prepared one to speak and one to hear.

T F Joy is associated with salvation in Acts 8:39.

T F Philip felt too inferior to the queen's treasurer.

T F Philip was told to go north on the desert road.

T F Philip felt reluctant to speak about Jesus to a stranger.

T F The Ethiopian saw the water and requested baptism.

T F Neither Philip or the Ethiopian cared about racial differences.

T F The Ethiopian's life was full but something was missing.

T F God's Holy Spirit leads us to those who need Jesus.

T F God's Holy Spirit prepares others to receive our testimony.

3. In Acts 8, the only thing Philip told the man was "*the good news about Jesus*" (Acts 8:35). Yet, when the man saw water, he wanted to be baptized. So what must we conclude "the good news about Jesus" included?

4. Why does the Bible text emphasize the Ethiopian's baptism without any mention of his faith, his repentance, or his confession? How is this similar to Jesus' Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20?

5. Who might God be preparing right now to receive His lifesaving words through you? Are you open and sensitive to His Holy Spirit's prompting and leading to those who need to hear about Him through you? Are you walking in the Spirit, surrendered and ready?

6. Imagine living without faith, without knowing Jesus, without knowing how to pray, and without a supportive church family. Now think about your neighbors, your coworkers, your relatives, your classmates, your friends, and people in your circle of acquaintance. Who needs your touch, your outreach, your invitation? Will you pray, reach out, and invite this week?

7. In light of today's Bible study, I will:
- Today & This Week

TODAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 - Last day for Toys for Tots

Christmas Candle Lighting in All Services

7:30 am Prayer with the Pastors (WC)

8:00 am Traditional Worship Svc. (nursery birth-2 yrs/3-5 yrs.)

9:15 am Contemporary Worship Service

9:15 am Sunday School for all Ages:

•Adult Classes:

» The Ambassadors, led by Dan Haynes (Rm. 223)

» Christian Living, led by Harry Schirding & Doug Wendler (Rm. 203)

» Kingdom Seekers, led by Terry Henrikson & Nancy Winterbauer (Rm. 105)

» Deep Divers, led by Anthony Bolton (Rm. 106)

•Jr./Sr. High School (Rm. 113/114)

•Kids C.L.U.B. for 4 yrs.-kind., 1st-3rd grade, 4th-6th grade

•Childcare for birth-3 years

10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service

•Kids C.L.U.B. for K-6th grade/Childcare for birth-4yrs.

4:00 pm Kids' Christmas Musical & Cookie Fellowship

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

REVELATION 3

7:15 am Monday Morning High School Gathering

9:00 am Chair Aerobics (FLC)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

REVELATION 4

8:00 am Men's Bible Study (Rm. 223)

9:30 am Blood Pressure Checks (FLC)

10:00 am Young at Heart (WC/FLC)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

REVELATION 5

9:00 am Chair Aerobics

6:00 pm Praise Team Practice (WC)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

REVELATION 6

10:00 am Prophecy Watch Study (Rm. 106)

6:00 pm Pickleball for Ages 13+ (FLC)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

REVELATION 7

Church Office Closed

9:00 am Chair Aerobics

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

4:00 pm "Peace in the Womb" Christmas Caroling (Spfld.)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 - Angel Tree Gifts Due

Christmas Candle Lighting in All Services

7:30 am Prayer with the Pastors (WC)

8:00 am Traditional Worship Svc. (nursery birth-2 yrs/3-5 yrs.)

9:15 am Contemporary Worship Service

9:15 am Sunday School for all Ages:

•Adult Classes (Rms. 105, 106, 203, 223)

•Jr./Sr. High School (Rm. 113/114)

•Kids C.L.U.B. for 4 yrs.-kind., 1st-3rd grade, 4th-6th grade

•Childcare for birth-3 years

10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service

•Kids C.L.U.B. for K-6th grade/Childcare for birth-4yrs.

11:30 am Youth WNC Leader Meeting (Rm. 112)

1:00 pm Pick-Up Basketball for Ages 13+ (FLC)

3:00 pm "Caroling at the Carillon" (Washington Park/Spfld.)

4:00 pm Elders' Meeting (Rm. 105)

5:30 pm Prayer Gathering led by Donnie & Angie Fritz (WC)

6:00 pm Christmas Around the Piano (WC)