



the lifeline

OCTOBER 2025

October is Minister Appreciation Month



KEN GENNICKS
SENIOR MINISTER



SHANE BAKER
ASSOCIATE MINISTER



LORNA BAKER
CHILDREN'S MINISTER



ASHLEY CANTRALL
**WORSHIP/
TECH MINISTER**



EVAN NOGGLE
YOUTH MINISTER

Every October, we make a special effort to thank God for the ministers and their families He has provided to serve with us at Athens Christian Church. We invite you to join us in celebrating them all month long, and to prayerfully consider how you might show your gratitude.

Looking for ideas? Ask one of our ministers how you could volunteer or help in their ministry! You might also bless them by helping with a project at home, or by encouraging them with something they personally enjoy. To help, we've put together a Minister Appreciation brochure with each minister's favorites—available in the church lobby, as well as on our church website and app throughout October. Most importantly, we encourage you to pray faithfully for our ministers, their families, and their ministry. Sunday, October 5 will be a special day of celebration! We'll hear from guest preacher Tyler Basso, a Timothy of Athens Christian Church and former youth minister. Tyler is a graduate of Athens High School and has been serving as Director of Student Ministries at Okolona Christian Church since 2021. We'll also welcome Silas McCormick, who will be helping us celebrate in all three services. Together, as a congregation, we will spend time in prayer over our ministers and their families—asking God to bless them and to open our eyes to needs we can help meet.



Tyler Basso



Silas McCormick

"Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding." – Jeremiah 3:15 (NIV)

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART

KEN GENNICKS, SENIOR MINISTER

KEN@ATHENSCHRISTIAN.NET

Fall Preaching Intern: Josh Harris, September 29 - December 24

Josh Harris is serving as our Fall Preaching Intern until December 24 before he attends Ozark Christian College in Joplin, Missouri in January 2026.

Introduce yourself to Josh as he serves on our team and pray now for God's call upon his life in ministry!



Faith Promise Campaign: Sunday, October 19 - Sunday, November 23

Back in the 1990s, ACC's leaders resolved not to continue building or remodeling at our old Main Street location. We prayerfully concluded our church family's best future was to relocate. Our people studied a half-dozen sites for a new church campus until prayerfully choosing our current 25 acres. We knew it would be expensive, but we believe the mission for Christ is worth it all! Since then, because our congregation is self-supporting, we've hosted nine capital stewardship campaigns through the years to fund our efforts:

- Building Because We Care (1999-2001)
- Moving By Faith (2002-2004)
- For Such a Time as This (2005-2007)
- VISION 2012: Connecting More People to Jesus (2008-2010)
- M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan: Making Adjustments, Seeking The Eternal Reward (2012-2013)
- 4 Our Future (2014-2016)
- Treasure in Heaven (2017-2019)
- Run The Race (2020-2022)
- Let Your Light Shine (2023-2025)

Six Sundays this Fall, October 19 - November 23, our Bible studies will highlight Bible people who inspire our faith, commitment, finances, generosity, and sacrifice:

- Sunday, October 19: "EXCEL in this Grace of Giving: 'The Widow's Oil'" (2 Kings 4:1-7)
- Sunday, October 26: "EXCEL in this Grace of Giving: 'The Rich Fool'" (Luke 12:13-21)
- Sunday, November 2: "EXCEL in this Grace of Giving: 'The Macedonian Churches'" (2 Corinthians 8)
- Sunday, November 9: "EXCEL in this Grace of Giving: 'The Widow of Zarephath'" (1 Kings 17)
- Sunday, November 16: "EXCEL in this Grace of Giving: 'Barnabas'" (Acts 4:33f; 9:23f; 11:19f)
- Sunday, November 23: "EXCEL in this Grace of Giving: 'Solomon on Personal Financial Management'" (Proverbs)

The New Testament says, "But just as you EXCEL in everything: in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us, see that you also EXCEL in this Grace of Giving" (2 Corinthians 8:7). This "faith promise" is between you and God as you're saying to Him, "Lord, if You provide, I will give \$_____ by faith during the next three years of 2026, 2027 and 2028, with no obligation if my life situation changes." The decision to align your financial choices with your faith is pivotal. At ACC, we value Giving! Stand with us!

Worship, Connect, & Serve the Lord with Us!

We hope you will Worship, Connect and Serve the Lord together with us now:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Wednesday Night Connection: 5:40-7:30 PM, Now-November 12 | • Drive Away Hunger Food Drive: Sunday, November 23 |
| • Ministers Appreciation Day: Sunday, October 5, Guest Speakers- Tyler Basso preaching & Silas McCormick | • Christmas Candle Lighting: Sunday, November 30-Sunday, December 28 |
| • Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes: October/November | • Hanging of the Greens: Monday, December 1, 10:00 AM |
| • EXCEL Capital Stewardship Campaign: Sunday, October 19-Sunday, November 23 | • Kids' Christmas Program: Sunday, December 7, 4:00 PM |
| • Trunk or Treat: Sunday, October 26, 2:00-3:30 PM | • Christmas Around the Piano: Sunday, December 14, 6:00 PM |
| • Joe Effinger & Evansville team: Sunday, November 2 | • Christmas Coffee & Pastries: Sunday, December 21, 8:30-11:00 AM |
| • Veteran's Day Sunday: November 9 | • Christmas Eve Services: Wednesday, December 24, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, & 6:00 PM |
| • Youth Sunday: November 16, led by our youth all morning | |

Please invite a friend to Worship, Connect and Serve together every week!



GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS AT ACC!!

We have a great season planned for Young @ Heart and several trips planned for our retired friends to enjoy. Check out our lineup for Young @ Heart and Senior Trips in the coming year!:

YOUNG @ HEART

- We kicked off September with a report from members of our church who traveled this past summer to the Dominican Republic, a devotion by Terry Henrikson and a great meal.
- October 14 - History of the Cherry Mine Disaster by Jack Rooney - Devotion by Barb Siddons
 - Meal: Sleight corn dogs, chili, fruit, desserts
- November 11 - Dinah the Comfort Dog by Roxy Seifert - Devotion by Lorna Baker
 - Meal: Turkey, dressing, gravy, potatoes, corn casserole, rolls, desserts
- December 9 - Athens Jr/Sr High Choirs - Devotion by Ken Gennicks
 - Meal: Ham, mac and cheese, green beans w/bacon, desserts
- January 13 - The Wonderful Watery World of Rivers by Jason DeBoer - Devotion by Evan Noggle
 - Meal: Ham & Beans, taco soup, cornbread, desserts
- February 10 - Menard County Singers - Devotion by Shane Baker
 - Meal: Meatloaf, baked potatoes, corn, desserts
- March 10 - Early Fur Trading in North America by Ken Weil - Devotion by Morgan Wells
 - Meal: Chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, fruit salad, rolls, desserts
- April 14 - Alpaca of Indian Point Hills by Bart & Rhonda Leinberger - Devotion by Melba Baker
 - Meal: Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, rolls, desserts
- May 12 - Senior Sing-a-long and Trivia by Ashley Cantrall - Devotion by Ashley Cantrall
 - Meals: Sliders, coleslaw, chips, watermelon, desserts

SENIOR TRIPS

- Saturday, October 4 - The Great Pumpkin Patch in Arthur and Shady Crest Market
- Friday, November 21 - The Barn III Dinner Theater: Plaid Tidings
- Saturday, December 6 - Milikin Vespers & Dinner at Cracker Barrel
- Sunday, December 21 - The Hoogland, Dueling Piano Christmas/Possibly Obed & Isaacs
- Tuesday, January 27 - Pizza & Snacks Game Day at ACC
- Sunday, February 15 - Arlee Theater Matinee
- Saturday, March 21 - Old State Capitol & Golden Hour Bake House
- Saturday, April 11 - Davis Mansion & Garden of Paradise in Bloomington
- Saturday, May 2 - Monticello Railway Museum & Downtown Area Restaurants & Shops
- Saturday, May 9 - Glory Days' Parade

For a complete list and additional details, pick up a Senior's Flyer in the lobby or check out our website at <https://athenschristian.net/sr-ministry> or scan the QR Code -->



New Babies!

Blessings to you all!

Congratulations to **Brandon and Veda Keppler** on the birth of their son, **Keegan Michael Keppler**. Keegan was born on August 23, 2025 and weighed 7lbs 8oz and is 19 inches long. Welcomed home by his big sister & brother, Josie and David!



Congratulations to **John and Sarah Haggard** on the birth of their son, **Cooper Ray Haggard**. Cooper was born on September 1, 2025 and weighed 6lbs 8oz and is 19 inches long. Happy grandparents are John and Lori Haggard!



WHOLE HEARTED WORSHIP
ASHLEY CANTRALL, WORSHIP MINISTER
ASHLEY@ATHENSCHRISTIAN.NET



Plan Ahead for the Kids' Christmas Musical at ACC!

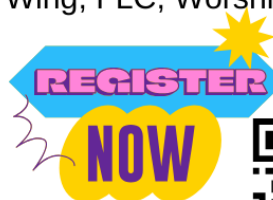
The holiday season is just around the corner, and we're excited to bring back an old tradition at Athens Christian Church — the Kids' Christmas Musical! This special program is open to children in grades 1–6 and gives kids the chance to learn, grow, and shine as they share the story of Christmas in a fun and meaningful way. With practices beginning Sunday, November 2, families can mark their calendars now to be part of this exciting journey.

Practice Schedule

- Sundays in November (Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30), 2:00 – 3:30pm | Kids' Wing, FLC, Worship Center
- Saturday, December 6, 9:00 – 10:30am | Athens Christian Church

Performance: Sunday, December 7

- 4:00 – 6:00pm | Worship Center (Cookie Fellowship to follow!)



Why Join?

- Kids will experience the joy of working together to tell the Christmas story.
- Families get to enjoy a Christ-centered tradition that builds community.
- It's a chance for children to share their gifts while making holiday memories that last a lifetime.

Sign Up Today!

We'd love to have your child be part of this year's musical! To register, simply scan the QR code provided in our announcements or on posters around the church. It's quick, easy, and helps us prepare.

Communion & Pew Stocking Financial Update: AUGUST 2025

Communion Preparation:

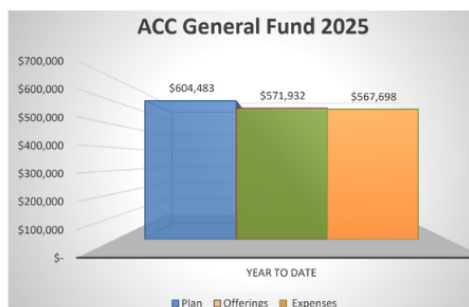
October - Sharon Judd

November - Gary & Sharon Clark

Pew Stocking:

October - Carole & Clarence Yancy

November - Vickie Freeland



General Fund

Offering \$65,851.88

Expenses \$92,136.88

Building Fund

Offering: \$35,467.34

Loan Payment: \$8,138.31

We will pay
down an
additional
\$26,953.79
in loan
principal!

Community Christian Events

Lake Springfield Christian Assembly

- November 1: LSCA Fall Night Out, FREE, 6:30-8:00pm
- November 7-9: Pre-teen Retreat, \$135, 3rd-5th graders
- November 15: Fall Work Day

For more information or to register, please
go to www.lscacamp.org

Springfield Right to Life

- October 5: Life Chain - various locations in Springfield, 2:00-3:30pm

Little Galilee Christian Camp

- October 3: Senior Saints Day, \$20, 8:00am-2:00pm
- October 4: Ladies Day, \$20, 9:00am-2:00pm
- October 16-18: Scrapbook/Crafts #2

For more information or to register, please go to
www.littlegalilee.org





NEWS & EVENTS
EVAN NOGGLE
EVAN@ATHENSCHRISTIAN.NET



Rooted

I have now been at ACC for over a year, and it has been a blessing to see how God is moving in the lives of our Junior High and High School students! Some of the highlights include attending a weekend conference at Ozark Christian College, hosting "5th Quarter" events that averaged 60 students for games and a gospel message, studying the book of Acts together at WNC, and taking 73 students and leaders to CIY Move where many made first-time decisions to follow Christ. It has been very cool to see students take ownership of their faith and be so committed to bringing their friends to follow Jesus. We are looking forward to see all that God will continue to do in the year ahead!

Things you can pray about:

1. For students to have the boldness to live out their faith among their peers.
2. That upperclassmen can become confident student-leaders.
3. That leaders can make connections that deeply affect the students' lives.
4. That we teach biblical truths that are heard and understood well by everyone.
5. For our upcoming CIY trip to Lincoln, Nebraska. Our goal is to take **100** students and leaders!

Junior High & High School Ministry Volunteers:

Emma Noggle, Nick Pierson, Layne Hill, Tsoetsy Harris, Jeremy McDaniel, Glen Bell, Melisa Mizeur, Janelle Link, Cassie Sokolis, Grant Purchis, Olivia Baker, Cole Halsey, Austin Montgomery, Laurie Ingram, Nicholas McDaniel, Josh Harris, Curt Reichling, Elise Fritz, Jaelyn Lasley, Morgan Wells



**MONDAY MORNING
HIGH SCHOOL GROUP**
**7:15 - 7:30 AM
BREAKFAST**
**7:30-8:00 AM
PRAYER AND STUDY
AT ATHENS CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**
**EVERY MONDAY, SEPT. 8 - DEC 15,
WHILE ATHENS SCHOOL IS IN SESSION**

**CHRIST IN YOUTH 2026
REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

Registration is open for all students currently in 8th grade through high school seniors to join us in Lincoln, NE July 6-10, 2026 for CIY. We already have over 75 youth registered to go!! We're now planning for a second charter bus full of excited teens. Tickets become available October 7! They sell out fast, so we need to be ready with our numbers. Register now and pay \$100 non-refundable deposit to secure your spot!

25 SPOTS REMAIN!!!

Register and pay at
athenschristian.net/ciy
or  **SCAN ME!**

MOVE
July 6-10, 2026
Lincoln, NE

High
School
ONLY
Trip to ...



**Saturday, Oct 4,
5:30 - 10:00pm**

WE ARE TAKING A TRIP TO RADER FAMILY FARMS IN BLOOMINGTON, IL TO GO THROUGH A NON-SCARY NIGHT CORN MAZE! WE WILL MEET AT THE CHURCH AND LEAVE ON THE BUS AT 5:30 AND BE BACK BY 10:00PM. IT IS \$10 TO GET IN, BUT THEY WILL ALSO BE SELLING SOME FOOD AND DRINKS THAT WILL COST EXTRA. MAKE SURE YOU BRING YOUR OWN MONEY! REGISTER ONLINE!

5TH QUARTER
AT ACC AFTER THE HOME GAME ON

**Friday,
October 24**

7th -12th grade 9:30-11:30 PM
Join us for Food, Fun, and Fellowship!





KID'S CLUB & FAMILY MATTERS
LORNA BAKER, CHILDREN'S MINISTER
LORNA@ATHENSCHRISTIAN.NET



God is doing amazing things in ACC Kids Club! Both on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights, our children's ministry is growing—not only in numbers, but more importantly, in their knowledge and love for the Lord. On Wednesday nights, we've seen such an increase in kids that **we've opened a 5th classroom** to better serve our birth–6th grade students. **What a blessing it is to see so many young hearts filling our church each week!**

Even more exciting than the growth in numbers is the **growth in God's Word**. Our 1st–3rd graders are learning how to study their Bibles for themselves, while our 4th–6th graders are discovering the power of prayer. To encourage their prayer life, we've added a beautiful prayer wall in their classroom where kids can write down and lift up their requests. A very special thank you goes to Terry and Sandy Knoles for helping make this vision a reality—you've created a space where kids can grow deeper in prayer and dependence on God. As we watch our kids learn to pray, we are reminded of Jesus' words in Matthew 19:14: "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."



Here are a few verses on prayer that we are sharing with our kids:

- **Philippians 4:6** – "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."
- **Jeremiah 29:12** – "Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you."
- **1 Thessalonians 5:17** – "Pray without ceasing."

Please pray for our children as they grow in faith & learn what it means to walk with Jesus every day.

Save the Date: Trunk or Treat! 🎃

Trunk or Treat is one of our biggest community outreach events of the year and is taking place on Sunday, October 26 from 2:00–3:30 PM in our ACC Parking Lot! We are once again partnering with the Athens Parent Teacher Organization, which means the entire Athens School District will be invited. This year, we are preparing to welcome over 500 kids with fun, treats, and most importantly, the gospel message of Jesus Christ. What an incredible opportunity to share God's love with our community!

👉 How you can help:

- Volunteer: Decorate a trunk, help with setup/cleanup, or serve during the event.
- Donate candy: We'll need a lot of candy to bless 500+ kids! Drop off donations in the church lobby collection bins.
- Pray: Cover this event in prayer—that every child and family who comes would hear and experience the love of Jesus.



Thank You

- Ken, Thank you so much for the wonderful service you gave for my dad. Also to the ladies who made the food and served the lunch, I want to say "Thank You!" It was delicious! **The Family of Merle Messersmith**



FUSE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
MORGAN WELLS, DIRECTOR
MORGAN@ATHENSCHRISTIAN.NET



This school year at FUSE After School, our theme is "Do It Afraid." We want our kids to know that following Jesus doesn't mean we'll never face fears - but it does mean we don't have to face them alone. God is with us every step of the way, and He gives us His Spirit to help us grow and live with courage.

Each month, we'll focus on one of the Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). These aren't just nice character traits—they are evidence of God's Spirit working in us. As we learn about each fruit, we'll explore how it helps us overcome fears and live boldly in faith.

September – Love: I can love others because God first loved me.

October – Joy: Even when life is hard, I can have joy because God is with me.

November – Peace: I can be thankful and content because God provides.

December – Patience: I can wait with a good attitude because God is faithful.

January – Kindness: God's kindness to me helps me show kindness to others.

February – Goodness: I can do good because God is good.

March – Faithfulness: Even when it's hard, I can stay true to God.

April – Gentleness: I can respond with gentleness because Jesus is gentle with me.

May – Self-Control: Self-control helps me make wise choices.



Through Bible lessons, age-appropriate activities, and hands-on learning, kids will discover that they can "Do It Afraid" - not because they are strong, but because God is with them. Our staff will embark on this journey with the students through monthly meetings and Bible study. We're excited to see how this year's curriculum not only teaches kids and staff about the Fruits of the Spirit but also equips them to face life's fears with faith and courage.

Senior News

Young at Heart



History of Cherry Coal Mine Disaster

Tuesday, October 14

9:30: Free Blood Pressure checks

10:00: Presentation on the History of Cherry Coal Mine Disaster by Jack Rooney

11:00 lunch: Sleight corn dogs, chili, and fruit

Devotion by Barb Siddons

The next **Young at Heart** will be on **Tuesday, October 14 from 10:00 AM-Noon**. Free blood pressure checks will be available from 9:30-10:00 AM. October's presentation will be on the **History of Cherry Coal Mine Disaster by Jack Rooney**. Devotion will be by Barb Siddons and a free hot meal will be **Sleight corn dogs, chili, and fruit**. Sign up in the church lobby. If you have any questions, please call the church office. **Team 3 is doing desserts.**

SENIOR TRIP

Saturday, October 4

Arthur, Illinois

The Great Pumpkin Patch & Shady Crest Market

- Meet at ACC at 9:00 AM
- Cost: Pumpkin Patch \$6 senior fee, your meal & shopping
- Seniors only
- Sign up in the lobby



Team 3:

- Sandy Beatty
- Peg Biggs
- Mary Buttry
- Betty Ethell

Sign up now for the next **Senior Trip to the Great Pumpkin Patch & Shady Crest Market in Arthur, IL on Saturday, October 4**. We will leave the church at 9:00 AM. Cost is your meal and shopping.



SHADY CREST
MARKET



Save
The
Date



- Monday Morning High School Bible Study: Mondays thru December 15, 7:15-8:00 AM
- Men's Bible Study: Tuesdays, 8:00 AM
- Chair Aerobics: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays: 9:00-10:00 AM
- Fall Wednesday Night Connection: Wednesdays, thru November 12, Athens Christian Church, Supper 5:40-6:15 PM, Classes 6:30-7:30 PM (GriefShare/Youth Group 6:30-8:00PM)
- Senior Trip (50+) to Pumpkin Patch & Shady Crest Market, Arthur, IL: Saturday, October 4, Meet at ACC at 9:00 AM
- High School Night Corn Maze at Rader Farms (High School Only): Saturday, October 4, Meet at ACC at 5:30 PM. Return at 10:00 PM
- Minister Appreciation Sunday: October 5, Guest Speakers Tyler Basso & Silas McCormick, All three services
- Monthly Community Prayer Gathering: Sunday, October 12, Worship Center, 5:30-6:00 PM
- Young At Heart: Tuesday, October 14, 9:30 AM-Noon
- 5th Quarter for Jr High/High School: Friday, October 24, 9:30-11:30 PM
- Trunk or Treat: Sunday, October 26, 2:00-3:30 PM

- Monday Morning High School Bible Study: Mondays thru December 15, 7:15-8:00 AM
- Men's Bible Study: Tuesdays, 8:00 AM
- Chair Aerobics: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays: 9:00-10:00 AM
- Fall Wednesday Night Connection: Wednesdays, thru November 12, Athens Christian Church, Supper 5:40-6:15 PM, Classes 6:30-7:30 PM (GriefShare/Youth Group 6:30-8:00PM)
- Impact Life Blood Drive: Saturday, November 1, 8:00-11:00 AM
- JH/HS trip to LSCA, Fall Night Out: Saturday November 1, 5:45-8:45 PM
- Guest Worship, Joe Effinger & Team: Sunday, November 2, All three services
- High School Only, "The Event": November 6-8, Ozark Christian College
- Veteran Sunday: November 9, All three services
- Monthly Community Prayer Gathering: Sunday, November 9, Worship Center, 5:30-6:00 PM
- Youth Sunday: November 16, All three services
- Youth Friendsgiving: Wednesday, November 19, 6:00-8:00 PM
- Senior Trip (50+) to The Barn III, Goodfield, IL: Friday, November 21, Meet at ACC at 4:00 PM
- Drive Away Hunger: Sunday, November 23, 7:30-11:00AM

WASHINGTON STREET
MISSION SERVICE DAY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11



"athenschristianil"
www.facebook.com/athenschristianil

www.athenschristian.net
217-636-8463
(Monday-Thursday 8:30-4:30)

Please check the church website, App, Facebook, or call the church office for the most up-to-date information.

Athens Christian Church
PO Box 260
Athens, IL 62613

Return Service Requested

Senior Minister, Ken Gennicks	217-415-5724
Associate Minister, Shane Baker	217-415-9035
Worship/Technology Minister, Ashley Cantrall	217-652-5433
Children's Minister, Lorna Baker	217-502-1256
Youth Minister, Evan Noggle	217-415-5644
After School Program Director, Morgan Wells	217-414-5433
Preaching Intern, Josh Harris.	217-971-8371

September 25, 2025

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