

Athens Christian Church
8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM
Worship Services



July 5, 2026

**“Blessed is the
nation whose God
is the Lord.”**

Psalm 33:12

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:

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/Tech Minister
217-652-5433
Evan Noggle,
Youth Minister/217-415-5644
Morgan Wells, After School
Program/217-414-5433
Tsoetsy ("Choe-chee") Harris
General Ministry Intern
618-303-2865

Elders:

Jeremy McDaniel,
217-971-9416
Doug Wendler,
217-652-2133
Jack Brown,
217-741-0381

GriefShare Ministry:

Carla Knox,
217-415-5032

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 33: 2-6

Battle Hymn of the Republic #692 (v. 1-4)

My Country 'Tis of Thee #695 (v. 1-4)

Announcements Video

Prayer Requests & Praises: Ken Gennicks

America the Beautiful #690 (v. 1-4)

Military Video & Gospel Quartet

Sermon: Ken Gennicks

“People of the Bible:

Samuel on Government at 250 Years!”

(I Sam. 8; Rom. 13:1-7; Mt. 22:21; Ps. 33:12-22; Song 2:4)

Invitation Hymn:

Have Thine Own Way, Lord #400 (v. 1 & 4)

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 Worship Services

The Lord Will Provide

Revelation Song

Worthy

Announcements Video

Prayer Requests & Praises: Ken Gennicks

Military Video & Gospel Quartet

Sermon: Ken Gennicks

“People of the Bible:

Samuel on Government at 250 Years!”

(I Sam. 8; Rom. 13:1-7; Mt. 22:21; Ps. 33:12-22; Song 2:4)

Cornerstone

Build My Life

Communion & Offering Meditation: Josh Harris

Quietly move to Communion & Offering
tables before exiting.

AM Sermon Notes

“People of the Bible:

Samuel on Government at 250 Years!”

(I Sam. 8; Rom. 13:1-7; Mt. 22:21; Ps. 33:12-22; Song 2:4)

INTRODUCTION

Our Bible studies are from people in the Bible. On this 250th birthday, we can be thankful God has blessed us with:

- | | |
|----|----|
| A. | E. |
| B. | F. |
| C. | G. |
| D. | H. |

The Prophet Samuel warned God's people against their demand for a king: *“The bigger the government, the smaller the citizen.”* A group in I Chron. 12:32 “understood the times and knew what to do,” requiring a thorough Christian worldview constructed and tempered by:

1. The ongoing study of _____
2. The ongoing study of _____ history
3. The ongoing study of _____ history
4. The ongoing study of _____ history
5. The ongoing study of _____

I. _____ (Mt. 22:21; Ps. 33:12)

A. _____

B. _____

II. _____ (Mt. 22:21; Song 2:4)

A. _____

B. _____

CONCLUSION

Banners hold deep meaning, carefully crafted as a sign to represent our values. The Bible says, *“His banner over me is love”* (SS 2:4). One glaring difference in the two banners today: one represents the temporary, one represents the eternal. Are you a citizen of Heaven (John 3:16)?

Prayer Requests

At Memorial: Karla Daubs, Elaine Bachman

At St. John's: Lenny Monroe (Kendall Kollmann's friend)

At St. Louis: David Scherpensky (Angie Fritz's friend)

At Chicago: Hayes Johnson

Tests: Landin Evans (Terry/Deb Claypool's grandson), Bob Folkerts, Tammy Garner, Linda Hoffman's son, Sue Bishop's sister, Debbie Bolton, Mary Magee, Bree Chandler, Angie Sutheard, Mike Sleight (surgery/July 30), Geri Gesling, Nancy Bell, John/Jacqui McDaniel, Debbie Ethell, Albert Beard, Jim Kennett (chemo/radiation), Wimer/Darlene Kern, Andrea Gladden, Jeff Lopian, Sr. (chemo/ radiation), Raymond Poe, Jerry Talkington

At home: Elijah/Bodie Budke (Meagan's sons), Darren

Stewart, Sandy Magee (hospice), Rena Hiatt, Dave Primm, Jamie Roemer, Marvin Vance, Terry Wunderle, Nancy Nale's mom, Tom/Ruth Novy, Jill Cleer (Arcadia), Kevin/Carrie Lee/Colton Ingham, Dawn Medley, Jackie Hines' nephews/brother, Nancy Rudolph, Shari Fletcher's dad, Brian Lewis' dad, Charlie Ford, Jerry Purcell, Jae Russell's dad, Joe DeRosa (failing health)

Touched by death: Alice Lasswell's Family (brother passed away), Kristine Elliott's Family (niece passed away), Steve Allen family (Tracy's dad)

Transitions: Dick Bachman/Steve Gutierrez/Louie Murray/Charles “Butch” Mester/Joann Kirchgesner/Rosalie Ingram (Villa), Mary Prior (Mason City), Erna Weatherby/Jan Schoenhard/Bob Moore (Countryside), Carolyn Cole (Concordia), Marge Ray/ Vivian Rankin (Vonderlieth), Chuck VanHuss (Jacksonville), Kevin Kennett (Hillsboro), Tanner Hull (Basic/Brittanie Basso's son), John Dee (Geri Bell's dad/Springfield Suites), Chris McIntyre (Lincoln Recovery/Raymond), Earl (Sue) Furlong, Laurie Jockisch (Cyndee Blakeman's relative/hospice), Lester Crawford (Linette Hughes' dad)

DR: Lindsey Norvell/July 10-19

Ministry Intern: Tsoetsy Harris/till Aug. 14

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

International Conference on Missions: Nov. 12-14/St. Louis

ACC Mission to Kenya: March 5-14, 2027

Blake Canterbury: [facebook.com/monroechurchplant](https://www.facebook.com/monroechurchplant)

Capital Stewardship Campaign: EXCEL (2026-2028)

Our missionaries/military/terrorism/nation

Each other/unspoken needs

1613 Mens Conference

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JULY 17 - 18, 2026

AT ATHENS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| JOHN LOVELL PASTOR JOBY MARTIN BRAD GEARY | BRIAN DAWKINS NICK FREITAS JEFF TIEGS | ANTHONY MUNIZ MATT EVERSMANN KRIS PARONTO |
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AGENDA

FRIDAY, JULY 17
5:00PM: DOORS OPEN
6:00-9:00PM CONFERENCE & MUSIC
LIVESTREAM IN WORSHIP CENTER
MEAL: SANDWICH, CHIPS, APPLE,
COOKIES, WATER

SATURDAY, JULY 18
7:00AM DOORS OPEN, REFRESHMENTS
8:00-11:45AM CONFERENCE & MUSIC LIVESTREAM IN
WORSHIP CENTER
11:45-1:15PM LUNCH BREAK, FLC (MEAL: PULLED PORK,
BEANS, CHIPS, ETC. WATER/SODA)
1:15-5:00PM CONFERENCE LIVESTREAM
5:00-6:00PM RECAP AND PRAYER

\$10

Questions, contact Darin Fritz [REGISTER NOW](#)

Summer Connection

at Athens Christian Church

Sunday, August 2, 11:30am-2:00pm

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| <p>11:30am-12:30pm Lunch in the Family Life Center: hamburgers, hot dogs, pasta salad, chips, ice cream & drinks provided. Sign up in the lobby or online with # attending.</p> | <p>12:30 - 2:00pm (outside) Car/Tractor Show, Pickleball Tournament, Playground, Gaga Ball, 9-Square, 3 on 3 Basketball, Kids Water Games</p> <p>1:00-2:00pm (inside) Volleyball Cards & Board Games</p> |
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Passion 2026

REGISTRATION OPEN!

YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 18-25)
DECEMBER 29-31, 2026
GLOBE LIFE FIELD
ARLINGTON, TEXAS

It's All About Camp This Summer!

Give your kids a break from screens and a boost in faith this summer! Church camp offers a unique experience where they'll build lifelong friendships, grow in independence, and encounter God in a whole new way.

It's more than just a week away—it's a life-changing investment in their future! Check out the many camp options at Lake Springfield Christian Assembly (lscacamp.org) and Little Galilee Christian Camp. (littlegalilee.org)

Summer Camp Credit

\$100 Church Camp Credit to those who attend Athens Christian Church!

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| <p>Lake Springfield Christian: Enter Code: ATH100D-2026 www.lscacamp.org</p> | <p>Little Galilee Christian: Enter Code: 26ATHCC100 www.littlegalilee.org</p> |
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wednesday night CONNECTION

AT ATHENS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2 - NOVEMBER 11

Supper: 5:40-6:15 pm Study: 6:30-7:30 pm

7 adult classes KIDS C.I.U.B. birth-6th grade ROOTED Jr./Sr. High (6:30-8:00)

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us!

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|---|--|---|
| <h4>MEN'S STUDY</h4> <p>LED BY DARIN FRITZ & BRAD LASSWELL</p> | <h4>WOMEN'S STUDY</h4> <h3 style="font-style: italic;">Women of the Word</h3> <p>LED BY DEBBIE PENROD & JJ BREAZEALE</p> | <h4>YOUNG ADULTS</h4> <p>LED BY KENNEDY HALE & OLIVIA BAKER</p> |
| <h4>FIRM FOUNDATIONS</h4> <p>LED BY SHANE BAKER & JARROD REMPEL</p> | | |
| <h4>MARRIAGE STUDY</h4> <p>LED BY KEITH & RACHEL GENNICKS MATT & TSOETSY HARRIS</p> | <h4>GENERAL BIBLE STUDY</h4> <p>LED BY ANTHONY BOLTON & DOUG WENDLER</p> | <h4>GRIEFSHARE</h4> <p>LED BY CARLA KNOX & SHELLY CURRY</p> |
| <p>KIDS C.I.U.B. birth-6th grade</p> | <p>ROOTED Jr./Sr. High (6:30-8:00)</p> | |

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MISSIONS

November 12-14, 2026
America's Center Convention Complex
St. Louis, MO

SAVE THE DATE & JOIN US!

ACC has covered the admission cost for anyone from our church family who would like to attend.

Trail Life Troop IL-0109 at Athens Christian Church This Fall

Trail Life USA is a Christ-centered outdoor adventure and character development program for boys that focuses on leadership, service, and growing in faith through activities like camping, hiking, and skills development.

Planning Team: Anthony Bolton, John Hines, Darin Fritz, Donnie Fritz, and Jarrod Rempel

traillifecconnect.com/connect/tkz2eog5uduk

Open House at ACC

Tuesday, 8/25, 5:30-7 pm

Applying Today's Sermon to Your Life

- Our 2026 sermons are drawn from the lives of "People in the Bible." As we celebrate our nation's 250th birthday this weekend, our Verse-of-the-Week is Psalm 33:12, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." Today's Bible study in I Samuel 8 finds God's prophet, Samuel, warning God's people against their demand for a king to rule over them. Samuel is warning them, "The bigger the government, the smaller the citizen," (I Sam. 8:10-20). Why is this truth so timeless? Did the people listen to Samuel? Why, or why not?
- Our Bible study today suggested five requirements for a thorough Christian worldview. Which of the five is your greatest strength? Which is your weakness? What could you do to develop a more informed, complete Christian worldview? What is the value of this? What action steps will you take to do so now?
- Our nation's founding documents were mentioned today because yesterday was our nation's Independence Day. Enroll in an excellent, free, online, 12-part study of our U.S. Constitution at Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Michigan (www.hillsdale.edu). This fascinating study explains our Constitution established limited government, but a government with sufficient powers to protect American's God-given rights to *Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness*.
- Answer the following as TRUE or FALSE:
 - T F The colors of the American Flag were chosen because they look good.
 - T F The Bible is too old to be relevant to modern times.
 - T F Any study of world history is a boring, waste of time.
 - T F Christians don't need to be familiar with U.S. history.
 - T F Any study of Church history is pointless because we have the Bible.
 - T F Any study of current events is merely a distraction.
 - T F A flag is a banner representing a nation, a group, or a person.
 - T F The bigger the government, the smaller the citizen.
 - T F I am willing to read and study to be more usable to God.
- What similar values are held in the founding documents represented by both the American and the Christian flags? What differences can be found between these documents? Why is it valuable to the Christian's worldview to be keenly aware of these similarities and these differences?
- How is the price that was paid similar under both the American flag and the Christian flag? How is the price that was paid different? What is the price that continues to be paid under both banners? Why is it valuable to the Christian's worldview to remain keenly aware of these similarities and differences?
- Is there freedom in Christ to be patriotic, whether one lives in the United States, in Poland, in Brazil, or in other foreign countries? Read Romans 13:1-4 and I Timothy 2:1-2. How do these Bible texts speak to this question?
- In light of today's Bible study, I will:

Today & This Week

SUNDAY, JULY 5 - Red, White, & Blue Sunday

Salute to our Military & Veterans!

7:30 am Prayer with the Pastors (WC)
8:00 am Traditional Worship Service (nursery birth-2 yrs/3-5 yrs.)
9:15 am Contemporary Worship Service
9:15 am Sunday School for all Ages:

- Adult Classes:
 - » The Bible Recap, led by various ACC members (Rm. 223)
 - » Deep Divers, led by Anthony Bolton (Rm. 106)
 - » Kingdom Seekers led by Terry Henrikson (Rm. 202)
 - » Christian Living, led by Harry Schirding & Doug Wendler (Rm. 203)
 - » The Ambassadors, led by Dan Haynes (Rm. 105)
- Jr./Sr. High School (Rm. 113/114)
- Kids C.L.U.B. for 4 yrs.-kind., 1st-3rd gr., 4th-6th gr.
- Childcare for birth-3 years

10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service
•Kids C.L.U.B. K-6th gr./Childcare birth-4yrs
4:00 pm CIY Prayer Night

112 Students & Leaders to Christ in Youth Conference
Lincoln, Nebraska, July 6-10

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|--|---|-----------------|
| MONDAY, JULY 6 | 9:00 am Chair Aerobics (FLC) | ROMANS 14 |
| TUESDAY, JULY 7 | 8:00 am Men's Bible Study (Rm. 223) | ROMANS 15 |
| WEDNESDAY, JULY 8 | 9:00 am Chair Aerobics (FLC) | ROMANS 16 |
| THURSDAY, JULY 9 | 10:00 am Prophecy Watch Study (Rm. 106) 6:00 pm Worship Team Practice (WC) | 1 CORINTHIANS 1 |
| FRIDAY, JULY 10 | Church Office Closed 9:00 am Chair Aerobics (FLC) | 1 CORINTHIANS 2 |
| SATURDAY, JULY 11 | | |
| 7:30 am Washington Street Mission Breakfast Served by ACC (408 N 4th St, Springfield) | | |
| SUNDAY, JULY 12 | | |
| 7:30 am Prayer with the Pastors (WC) | | |
| 8:00 am Traditional Worship Service (nursery birth-2 yrs/3-5 yrs.) | | |
| 9:15 am Contemporary Worship Service | | |
| 9:15 am Sunday School for all Ages/Childcare for birth-3yrs. | | |
| 10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service | | |
| •Kids C.L.U.B. for K-6th grade/Childcare for birth-4yrs. | | |
| 4:00 pm Elders' Meeting (Rm. 105) | | |
| 5:30 pm Prayer Gathering Hosted by CIY Students (Youth Rm.) | | |
| 6:00 pm CIY Report Night & Ice Cream Social (WC & FLC) | | |