

the lifeline

ATHENS
christian
CHURCH

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 4 will be a special day of celebration! We'll hear from guest preacher Casey McCormick, a Timothy of Athens Christian Church and former Youth Minister and Associate Minister. He graduated from Lincoln Christian University in 2009 and is married to Jen McCormick and they have two daughters in Junior High. Casey is currently the Lead Minister at Mt. Pulaski Christian Church.

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. May this also be a time to encourage, uplift, and remind our ministry families how deeply they are loved and appreciated by their church family.

"Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers... nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock." 1 Peter 5:2-3

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART

KEN GENNICKS, SENIOR MINISTER
KEN@ATHENSCHRISTIAN.NET



A Solution for Both Lonely People & for Quiet Churches

We live in a time of lonely people and quiet churches. Without meaningful relationships, people are disconnected, lonely, and friendless. Meanwhile, empty churches sit quiet and unused for six or even seven days a week. How can we solve these two issues of lonely people and quiet churches? Why couldn't our Family Life Center serve as a "church gym" to reach individuals and families for Christ and His Church? For several years, we've been doing it at ACC with sports and recreational ministries. Teams and leagues through the local church naturally build relationships over time because people keep showing up, seeing each other, and sharing a common experience. It's not formal or intimidating to newcomers. Here in the coming months, we are hoping to bring more sports and recreation opportunities to ACC, and in order to do that, we are conducting a small, quick survey to see what opportunities are best for people to connect, build relationships, stay active, and serve others. To take this survey now, please scan the QR code below or look for a paper copy in the lobby. This will take you to our Sports & Recreation Ministry webpage, where you can also see what opportunities we currently have, such as chair aerobics, pickleball, basketball, archery, and ladies workout. There is also a great article by Sam Rainer called "Lonely Nation, Quiet Church: How Sports and Recreation Ministries Solve Both." Read more by going to <https://tinyurl.com/ywpdzup8>.

A Healthy Local Church is the Hope of the World!

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

- Wednesday Night Connection: Through November 11, 5:40 - 7:30 PM
- Ministers Appreciation Day: Sunday, October 4; Casey McCormick preaching
- Trunk or Treat: Sunday, October 25, 2:00-3:30 PM
- Joe Effinger & his Evansville team: Sunday, November 8
- International Conference on Missions: November 12-14/St. Louis Center (theicom.org)
- JH/Sr. High students "Friendsgiving" supper/party: Wednesday, November 18, 6:00-8:00 PM
- Young Adult Sunday: Sunday, November 29, 8:00, 9:15 and 10:30 AM
- Kids' Christmas Program & Cookie Fellowship: Sunday, December 6, 4:00-6:00 PM
- Youth Sunday: Sunday, December 13, 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM



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

Wednesday Night Connection: Through November 11

Plan to bring everyone Wednesdays for supper, then groups for all ages, including:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Young Adults: The Ten Commandments (Kennedy Hale/Olivia Baker) | • I Corinthians 16:13-14 Men's Study: (Darin Fritz/Brad Lasswell) |
| • GriefShare: (Shelly Curry/Carla Knox) | • Marriage: (Matt/Tsoetsy Harris & Keith/Rachel Gennicks) |
| • Ladies Study: Women of the Word (Debbie Penrod/J.J. Breazeale) | • I & II Peter: (Anthony Bolton & Doug Wendler) |
| | • Foundations: (Jarrod Rempel & Shane Baker) |

EXCEL in this Grace of Giving: 2026-2028

We're thankful for everyone who is faithfully giving in spite of today's challenges. Thank you for making a financial commitment-by-faith for 2026-2028, which we call, *Excel* (2 Corinthians 8:7). Your commitment goes like this, "If the Lord provides, I will give \$_____." This is called a "faith promise", or a "faith commitment." This commitment is by faith, with no obligation if your life situation changes. The hope of the world is a healthy, local church!

Come PRAY & CONNECT with us!

Our elders and ministers host prayer gatherings on the second Sunday of each month at 5:30 PM (Ephesians 6:18), led by volunteers:

- October 11, 5:30 PM: led by Harry Schirding
- November 8, 5:30 PM: led by Shane Baker

Let's Worship, Connect and Serve Him together every week! Please invite a friend and join us! A healthy local church is the hope of the world!



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

- October 13 - Don't Wrestle, Just Nestle-PRAY. A Corrie ten Boom presentation - Devotion by Polly Wise
 - Meal: Pulled pork, baked beans, coleslaw, desserts
- November 10 - Smile Maker Comedy Magic Show by Richard Landry - Devotion by Tsoetsy Harris
 - Meal: Turkey, dressing, gravy, potatoes, corn casserole, rolls, desserts
- December 8 - Athens Jr/Sr High Choirs - Devotion by Lorna Baker
 - Meal: Ham, sweet potatoes, green beans w/bacon, desserts
- January 12 - Drone Presentation by Jacob Rotherham - Devotion by Evan Noggle
 - Meal: Cheeseburger soup, vegetable soup, cornbread, desserts
- February 9 - Collection Around the Room by our Young @ Heart Members - Devotion by Shane Baker
 - Meal: Lasagna, green beans, breadsticks, desserts
- March 9 - Camp Ellis Presentation by Rick Klinedinst - Devotion by Melba Baker
 - Meal: Chicken pot pie casserole, fruit salad, rolls, desserts
- April 13 - Henson Robinson Zoo Animals by Sophia Roseberry - Devotion by Morgan Wells
 - Meal: Breakfast Casserole, sausage gravy and biscuits, desserts
- May 11 - Wooden It Be Lovely Presentation by Program Participants - Devotion by Ashley Cantrall
 - Meals: Ham/Cheese Sliders, coleslaw, chips, watermelon, desserts

Senior Trips

- Saturday, October 24 - Scenic Drive to Pere Marquette State Park & Lodge
- Saturday, December 5 - Dana Thomas Christmas House Tour
- Friday, December 18 - Chatham Cafe & Light Up the Park Drive Thru
- Tuesday, January 19 - Pizza & Snacks Game Day at ACC
- February - TBD - Arlee Theater Matinee
- Thursday, March 18 - A Visit to Elkhart & Lunch
- Saturday, April 24 - American Giants Museum and Country Aire Restaurant in Atlanta
- Saturday, May 8 - Glory Days Parade
- Saturday, May 22 - Wheels of Time Museum in Peoria

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 -->



Dessert Team



The **Dessert Team** for
October's **Young at Heart** will
be **Team 3**:

- **Sandy Beatty**
- **Sue Bishop**
- **Peg Biggs**

- **Mary Buttry**
- **Betty Ethell**

*Financial
Update*

**August,
2026**

Building Fund: Offering: \$20,433.12
Loan Payment: \$7,473.24
*\$15,175.98 extra will be paid towards principal.

General Fund:
Offering \$66,080.65
Expenses \$106,300.84



WHOLE HEARTED WORSHIP

ASHLEY CANTRALL, WORSHIP/TECHNOLOGY MINISTER

ASHLEY@ATHENSCHRISTIAN.NET

There's a lot happening at Athens Christian Church—and Sunday morning is only part of it!

One of the easiest ways to stay connected throughout the week is through our ACC app and social media pages. From upcoming events and ministry opportunities to photos, reminders, service updates, and ways to get involved, we're working to make it easier than ever to know what's happening at ACC.

Here are a few simple ways you can help us stay connected:

- Download the ACC app and turn on notifications so you don't miss important updates.
- Follow ACC on Facebook and Instagram for reminders, photos, announcements, and a glimpse at what's happening throughout the week.
- Like, comment, and share! When you interact with our posts, you help more people in our church—and our community—see them.
- Invite someone in. See an event, ministry, or Sunday service that makes you think of someone? Send it their way!

Our digital spaces aren't meant to replace gathering together—they're another way to keep our church family informed, connected, and engaged while also helping people in our community discover ACC.

So if you haven't already, find us online, download the app, and help us spread the word about what God is doing at Athens Christian Church!

Community Christian Events

Little Galilee Christian Camp

- Ladies Day: Saturday, October 3, \$30
- Scrapbook Retreat #2: October 15-18 Cost Varies
- High School Paintball Retreat: October 16-18, \$125

Community Prayer & Worship

- Athens Community Park
- 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM
- Contact Darin Fritz with any questions

Rough Edges, Virginia, IL

- Last Friday of Every Month, 6:00 PM
- Contact Darin Fritz with any questions



Communion & Pew Stocking

Communion Preparation:

- October: Colleen Baker & Melissa Wheeler
- November: Gary & Sharon Clark

Pew Stocking:

- October: Clarence & Carole Yancy
- November: Vickie Freeland & Carol Basso



LIFE CHAIN Sunday

October 4. from 2-3:30pm

PRO-LIFE PRAYER WARRIORS WILL GATHER FOR LIFE CHAIN AND STAND IN QUIET PRAYER AS A PUBLIC WITNESS TO THE SANCTITY OF ALL HUMAN LIFE FROM CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH.

LOCATIONS IN SPRINGFIELD, IL:

- 519 N. BRUNS LANE, RIGHT TO LIFE OFFICES
- STEVENSON DRIVE, NEAR LITTLE FLOWER CHURCH
- SANGAMON AVENUE NEAR ST. ALOYSIUS CHURCH
- MACARTHUR BLVD, FROM S. GRAND TO LAUREL ST



Parent-Child Dedication

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

8:00 OR 10:30 AM



All parents are invited to dedicate themselves to raise their child (of any age) in a Godly way -prayerfully- until he or she can make this decision on his or her own to follow God.

PLEASE SUBMIT A CHILD PHOTO AND FAMILY PHOTO BY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 WHEN YOU REGISTER ONLINE.



NEWS & EVENTS
EVAN NOGGLE
EVAN@ATHENSCHRISTIAN.NET



Youth Ministry Grade Update: As of this semester, we are welcoming 6th grade students to be a part of the Youth Ministry for Wednesday Night Connection and Sunday Morning Sunday School. 5th Quarter and our other Youth Ministry events throughout the year will remain for 7th–12th grade students. We will continue to communicate with parents anytime there is an event or opportunity that includes our 6th graders! Reach out if you have any questions about this!

Things you can pray about for Youth Ministry:

1. Pray for students to have the boldness to live out their faith among their peers.
2. Pray leaders can make connections that deeply affect the students' lives.
3. Pray we teach biblical truths that are heard and understood well by everyone.
4. For our upcoming CIY trip to Wheaton, Illinois on July 5-10, 20-27. Please pray for the students deciding whether to go on this trip.

Junior High & High School Ministry Volunteers:

Please pray over our volunteers: Molly Alderman, Lorna Baker, Shane Baker, Olivia Baker, Glen Bell, Beth Ferrill, Brad Ferrill, Shari Fletcher, Donnie Fritz, Elise Fritz, Tammy Garner, Cole Halsey, Tsoetsy Harris, Nathan Hesson, Layne Hill, Laurie Ingram, Janelle Link, Alex Marcum, Jeremy McDaniel, Nicholas McDaniel, Sara McDaniel, Clayton McNeal, Melisa Mizeur, Austin Montgomery, Nicole Muench, Mia Neisler, Noah Neisler, Emma Noggle, Nick Pierson, Cassie Sokolis, Morgan Wells, Polly Wise

CHRIST IN YOUTH
MOVE
6-DAY SUMMER CAMP FOR
CURRENT 8TH THRU 12TH GRADE STUDENTS
JULY 5-10, 2027
WHEATON, IL
Register Here!

Find Your Place to Serve: Helping Hands Ministry

At ACC, we want everyone to find a place to serve! God has given each of us different gifts, abilities, and experiences, and there are many ways to use them to care for others.

One of our ministry teams is Helping Hands, led by Donnie Fritz. This team steps in when practical help is needed in our church family and community. Helping Hands assists with things like helping people move, doing yard work or clean-up for the elderly or those needing an extra hand, and helping with clean-up after storms or other unexpected needs.

You don't have to be available for every project to be part of Helping Hands! If you'd like to receive emails about upcoming projects and help when your schedule and abilities allow, please contact Donnie Fritz at [\(217\) 414-3330](tel:2174143330) or cntryby81@yahoo.com.

Sometimes showing the love of Jesus looks like a helping hand, a few hours of your time, and a willingness to serve!

High School Overnight Trip to St. Louis
Friday, Nov. 13 - Sat, Nov. 14

- Only **\$15** per student (for lodging)
- Learn about Global Missions!
- Visit 300 different mission booths!
- Stay overnight at a church!
- Hear Messages and Worship!

Student ICOM Registration

SICOM
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
MISSIONS



Trunk or Treat! Sunday, October 25 | 2:00–3:30 PM | ACC Parking Lot

Trunk or Treat is one of our biggest community outreach opportunities of the year! Once again, we are partnering with the Athens Parent Teacher Organization, which means families throughout the entire Athens School District will be invited. As we prepare to welcome 500+ kids and their families, our goal is about so much more than candy and decorated trunks. For some families, this may be one of the only times they step onto our church property or interact with our church family. We want to use this opportunity to share the hope of the Gospel, show the love of Jesus, and plant Gospel seeds that God can use to make an eternal difference.

👉 How You Can Help:

- **Host a Bible-Themed Trunk:** Gather your family, small group, Sunday School class, or friends and create a fun trunk that points kids to Jesus. Contact Lorna or Morgan to host a trunk.
- **Volunteer:** Help with setup, cleanup, welcoming families, or serving during the event. Every smile and conversation is an opportunity to show the love of Jesus.
- **Donate Candy:** We'll need LOTS of candy as we prepare for 500+ kids! Donations can be dropped off in the collection bins in the church lobby.
- **Pray:** Pray for every child and family who will attend. Ask God to open hearts to the Gospel and help us clearly demonstrate and share the love and hope found in Jesus.

This is more than a community event—it's a mission opportunity right in our own backyard! Together, let's create a fun and welcoming afternoon where families experience the love of Christ, hear the Good News of Jesus, and leave with Gospel seeds planted in their hearts.

🎄 Jingle to the Manger! 🎵

Calling all 1st–6th graders! This Christmas, we're inviting YOU to be part of Jingle to the Manger: A Kids Christmas Musical! Whether you love to sing, act, or simply want to have fun with friends, there's a place for you. Together, we'll tell the Christmas story in a fun and meaningful way as we remind everyone that through all the lights, presents, music, and excitement of Christmas, Jesus is the greatest reason to celebrate! Practices will be every Sunday in November from 2:00–3:30 PM, with our final practice on Saturday, December 5 from 9:00–10:30 AM. The musical will be presented Sunday, December 6 at 4:00 PM, followed by a cookie fellowship! 1st–6th graders, sign up and come Jingle to the Manger with us! ❤️ 🎄





This school year at FUSE After School, our theme is **"Make It Your Own,"** based on 2 Timothy 1:5. Just as Timothy's faith was influenced by his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice, kids learn about faith from the people around them. Our goal is to help them begin discovering what they believe, why they believe it, and what it means to personally follow Jesus. Each month will focus on another step in making faith their own:

September – Know It: Discover who God is.

October – Read It: Learn to use and understand God's Word.

November – Thank Him: Notice God's goodness and practice gratitude.

December – Celebrate Him: Discover why Jesus came.

January – Talk to Him: Build a habit of prayer.

February – Love Like Him: Learn to love others like Jesus.

March – Jesus Gave It All: Understand the Gospel, cross, and resurrection.

April – Follow Him: Take practical steps of obedience.

May – Share It: Put faith into action and share Jesus with others.

Through Bible lessons, activities, discussion, and honest questions, we hope kids will grow from simply hearing about faith to developing a sincere and personal faith of their own.

Celebrating God's Provision

After serving our church for more than 20 years, three of our heating and air conditioning units needed to be replaced. Because of God's provision and the faithful generosity of our church family, we were able to replace all three and pay for them completely in cash! Every dollar given helps advance God's Kingdom. Part of that stewardship is maintaining a beautiful, welcoming, and well-cared-for building where people can worship, learn, grow, serve, and experience the love of Jesus. Thank you, ACC, for your faithful giving. God provides, His people give faithfully, and we are grateful!

"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." — 1 Corinthians 10:31

New Members

Please welcome
our new members
with a card or
warm greeting!



- **Alexis Lewis:**
 - Baptized August 30
 - 14498 Prairie TRL
Athens, IL 62613
- **Hunter Pierson:**
 - Baptized August 30
 - 11262 Post ST, Athens, IL 62613
- **Kasen Dunning:**
 - Baptized August 30
 - 207 W. Marion ST, PO Box 202,
LaGrange, MO 63448
- **Jared Richards:**
 - Baptized August 30
 - 602 Rainbow DR, Athens, IL 62613
- **Amanda Wiediger:**
 - Baptized September 6
 - 901 W. Wind Rose LN
Athens, IL 62613
- **Rosie Ogden (Sister) & Remi Ogden (Brother):**
 - Both Baptized September 13
 - 12988 Price ST
Petersburg, IL 62675
- **Guy Fritz (Husband) & Debbie Fritz (Wife):**
 - Both Baptized September 20
 - 23316 Lincoln Trail RD
Oakford, IL 62673



OCTOBER

SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER



- Chair Aerobics (FREE for All Seniors): Weekly on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays, 9:00-10:00 AM
- Men's Bible Study: Tuesdays, 8:00 AM
- Wednesday Morning High School Bible Study: Wednesdays, while school is in session, 7:15-8:00 AM
- Fall Wednesday Night Connection: Wednesdays until November 11, Supper 5:40-6:15 PM, Classes 6:30-7:30 PM (GriefShare/Youth Group 6:30-8:00 PM)
- 5th Quarter: Friday, October 2, 9:30-11:30 PM, 7th-12th grade students
- Washington Street Mission Breakfast served by ACC: Saturday, October 10, 7:30-10:30 AM
- Monthly Prayer Gathering at ACC: Sunday, October 11, 5:30-6:00 PM
- Young at Heart Senior Fellowship: Tuesday, October 13, 10:00-Noon (Blood pressure checks at 9:30 AM)
- Trail Life: Tuesdays, October 13 & 27, 6:00-7:00 PM
- 5th Quarter: Friday, October 16, 9:30-11:30 PM, 7th-12th grade students
- Senior Trip to Pere Marquette: Saturday, October 24, 8:00 AM-3:00 PM
- Trunk or Treat: ACC Parking lot, Sunday, October 25, 2:00-3:30 PM
- Impact Life Blood Drive: Saturday, October 31, 8:00-11:00 AM

- Chair Aerobics (FREE for All Seniors): Weekly on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays, 9:00-10:00 AM
- Men's Bible Study: Tuesdays, 8:00 AM
- Wednesday Morning High School Bible Study: Wednesdays, while school is in session, 7:15-8:00 AM
- Fall Wednesday Night Connection: Wednesdays until November 11, Supper 5:40-6:15 PM, Classes 6:30-7:30 PM (GriefShare/Youth Group 6:30-8:00 PM)
- Parent/Child Dedication: Sunday, November 1, 8:00 & 10:30 AM services
- Veterans Sunday & Joe Effinger & Team Lead Worship: Sunday, November 8, All three services
- Monthly Prayer Gathering at ACC: Sunday, November 8, 5:30-6:00 PM
- Young at Heart Senior Fellowship: Tuesday, November 10, 10:00-Noon (Blood pressure checks at 9:30 AM)
- Trail Life: Tuesdays, November 10 & 24, 6:00-7:00 PM
- ICOM Conference: November 12-14, St. Louis, MO
- JH/HS Friendsgiving: Wednesday, November 18, 6:00-8:00 PM
- Drive Away Hunger: Sunday, November 22, 7:30-11:00 AM, ACC Parking Lot
- Mission Trip Fundraiser: Sunday, November 22, 5:00-7:00 PM
- Young Adult Sunday, November 29, All three services



"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

September 24, 2026

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