

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

November 2025



Seeing the Future

There was a great multitude . . . from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages standing before the throne and before the Lamb. Revelation 7:9

Predicting the future has always been an unscientific exercise. Whether it's financial investing, sports betting, or the Farmer's Almanac, what we know for sure about the future is that we can't know for sure what is going to happen. We do our best to plan well, to anticipate what could go wrong and make back-up plans. New babies, weddings, a job change are all things we may look forward to, but have factors which we cannot control.

November is the month of the church year when we begin to look forward to the end of time as we know it, and beyond into God's eternity. The last Sunday of the church year, in late November, is known as Eternity Sunday, or Christ the King Sunday. For those of us in the United States, this is often the Sunday just before we celebrate Thanksgiving. It's an interesting intersection of harvest and hope and abundance.

You may recognize the image at the top of the page as the eighth and final stained glass (if you go from left to right) in Creekside's Worship Center. The concept came early, but the design took a little work, because it's a vision of eternity, and no one on our committee knew exactly what that looks like. We do get some clues from the book of Revelation, and that's where the inspiration for this design came from; specifically from Revelation 7:9: a vision of a great multitude of people, too many to count, from all tribes and people and languages. This echoes the celebration of Pentecost, the birth of the church, when people from all nations heard the good news of Jesus Christ in their own language. It's a vision of the future which we look toward but has clearly not yet arrived. As Christians, we are called not only to look toward a day when all people will be gathered at the throne of God, but to work toward a day when that is a reality.

In this season when we are reminded of the abundance of our own resources, we give thanks for the work which is happening for people of all languages and tribes—for Church of the Brethren members and organizations who are standing with immigrant communities in this country or shepherding Church of the Brethren congregations in S. Sudan, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, or India. The crown of this image proclaims that Christ is King, and that is the future we are headed for; the cross reminds us that it takes sacrifice to get there and that we are called to follow Christ, who made that sacrifice for us and for all people.

Blessings to you and your families as you celebrate this season. May we extend our thanks and generosity to the whole family of God.

In the name of Christ the King,
Pastor Rosanna

PASTOR'S REPORT

I am grateful for the ways in which Creekside members and friends are active on our property and in our community. This has been work of our Outreach Team and Followers of Faith, but is not limited to them. Thanks to everyone who has worked in Creekside's Seed to Feed garden and processing tomatoes this season: you are all invited to the Seed to Feed potluck at Creekside on Tues., Nov. 11 at 6 pm. We look forward to celebrating your work, and God's abundance through the harvest and what we have been given to share with our neighbors in need. Outreach Team has donated gently used coats (adult & children's sizes) to CCS food pantry. Followers of Faith gave \$1500 to Hearts United for Bristol. We have shared mutual aid with sisters and brothers in the Church of the Brethren who are suffering because of having a family member deported or detained because of immigration status. We have built another accessibility ramp through SAWs and have requests to build more in Elkhart County. We have been blessed and have blessed others through your generosity and skill.

You have been generous in sharing ideas with the Pathfinder Team as we discern what we are being called to be/do as a congregation over the next 3-5 years. Thank you for sharing ideas and imagination.

I have just completed Mission and Ministry Board meetings in Elgin, IL and am looking forward to a week in Florida with family—including some grandchildren. Advent planning is already underway (!) and Diane Lund and the Worship Team are beginning to coordinate special music and celebration of that season. The Church Board is preparing for our November congregational meeting (*more in this Connection*); my thanks to Deana Ward for her leadership in 2025. If a Gifts and Placement Team member has contacted you to see if you will serve in an elected role, I hope you said "Yes!"

I am looking forward to the Fall Festival on Nov. 1—planned by Christian Ed and Children's Activity director Jessica Pahl and the New Life class. A more somber observation of the season will happen during worship on Sun., Nov. 2 when we remember and celebrate the lives of friends who joined the communion of saints in the past year. Some of those losses are still fresh in our minds and our hearts.

I anticipate needing to make a trip to California in the coming months—possibly on short notice—to help my mother move into an assisted care setting at Hillcrest Homes. The timing will depend on availability of an apartment and her cooperation, neither of which is certain at this time. Thank you for your prayers as my family moves forward.

The end is near! The close of the church year is the end of November when we celebrate Christ's victory over death and eternal promises, and give thanks for all the ways we are invited to participate in the reign of Christ. Nov. 30 is the first Sunday of Advent, as we remember God's promises and anticipate the birth of a child in Bethlehem.

God bless you— *Pastor Rosanna*

FROM THE CHURCH BOARD CHAIR:

My friends, This year is speeding by. Halloween is around the corner and soon we'll be anticipating Christmas. But please don't overlook thanksgiving. There is so much to be thankful for. I'm personally thankful for all of you. You guys have added so much joy to my life and I'm truly thankful for that.

Our congregational meeting is coming up on Nov. 16. Here are some topics we plan to discuss:

- The Board is considering bringing in someone to talk to us about safety in our church. We will do a quick hand count to gauge interest in this. (*You may remember that we already have a "Safety Protocol" from 2016 that addresses what to do in severe weather, medical emergencies, helping strangers, etc. This document does not address what to do in an active shooter situation.*)
- We are changing how we handle our memorial donations. In the past we've asked the family what they would like the funds spent on. All current memorials will be handled that way. The new policy will put the funds in a general memorial donation fund. Creekside teams will be welcome to use the fund with Board approval.
- We will be collecting a Love Offering this year with proceeds given to SAWs, Susanna's Kitchen, SPA, and South Sudan. *More info in Love Offering article in this Connection.*
- We will finalize our 2026 budget and slate at the congregational meeting.

On a lighter note, we're also celebrating Jay Ganger's 92nd birthday that day! If you have questions about anything in this article, please talk to me or any board member. I hope you come to the meeting.

In Jesus' love— *Deana Ward, Church Board Chair*

ALL SAINTS' REMEMBRANCE, NOVEMBER 2

Creekside's service of remembrance will be Nov. 2. This is for members and friends of Creekside who have joined the company of saints since Nov. 1, 2024. If you have someone you would like to have mentioned in the service that Sunday, please contact Pastor Rosanna with their full name, birth date and death date no later than **Tues., Oct. 28**. Creekside members will automatically be included.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOVEMBER 16

Creekside's Fall Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, November 16 following worship. You will receive meeting information by email or in your Creekside mailbox by Nov. 2. Thank you for looking through this information and asking questions *before* the meeting so we can use our time efficiently.

Meeting information will include the 2026 Budget and a slate to elect church leaders for the coming year; there will also be reports from the Church Board and Pathfinder Team (*see article below*).

November 16 is Jay Ganger's birthday, and his family will be providing a snack to share during the Fellowship time. Please celebrate with Jay by bringing a greeting or card for his birthday!

Pastor Rosanna, for Church Board

LOVE OFFERING 2025

On behalf of the Church Board and Finance Team, THANK YOU for your consistent and generous support of Creekside through the past year. We have set and met financial goals and offerings for special projects (such as the new roof and MCC School kits), and our Outreach Team and Followers of Faith have supported local, domestic, and international outreach: Camp Mack, Church Community Services, Hearts United for Bristol, the Deportation Defense Response Fund, and Wycliffe International

This November and December, if you can make a donation above and beyond your regular tithe, 100% of those gifts will be shared between these four ministry organizations:

Susanna's Kitchen *Meals to the homeless in the city of Elkhart*

SPA Ministries *Women's ministry in Elkhart*

SAWs (Servants at Work) *accessibility ramps for low-income homeowners, based in Indianapolis*

S. Sudan *International aid through the Church of the Brethren Global Ministries*

Thank you for considering a gift through Creekside Church. God bless you.

Pastor Rosanna for the Church Board and Finance Team

PATHFINDER TEAM

The Pathfinder Team met in person with Everence consultant Colin Saxton on Oct. 14 to discuss the comments and questions we received from adult Sunday School class discussions on the 12th. Thank you to everyone who participated in those discussions. Here are some of the things we heard on Oct. 12

- Creekside's Mission Statement is familiar, but we could review it more often.
- We are generally doing a good job living into this mission; the easiest part to identify is our sharing through outreach, and organizations with whom we partner—CCS, SAWs, HUB, etc.
- Celebration could be both praise for the work of God through Christ in worship, but also markers in our lives and the life of this community which we celebrate together.
- Several groups mentioned seeking God's love through a gathering (perhaps including a meal) for fellowship and prayer, open to friends/neighbors as well as small groups, Bible study, prayer groups.
- Being is important, but we still have to do something.

We will schedule a Zoom meeting to gather input from folks who were not able to join us on the 12th. If you are not able to attend either of these meetings, we'd be happy to have your responses in writing; contact Pathfinder Team and we can share a worksheet with you electronically or as a paper copy.

We went over your responses with Colin Saxton, and will share them with the Church Board at their meeting on Oct. 16. It was our initial intention to have 1-2 clear suggestions in time for the November congregational meeting, but this task is much more involved than we expected; we will report our progress at the meeting. We welcome the support and prayers of the members and friends of the congregation.

Steve Barton for The Pathfinder Team: Pauline A, Steve B, Larry F, Karen G, Anne G, Tim Morphey

PREPARE TO SING!

Advent begins November 30, which is the Sunday after Thanksgiving!

In addition to the many cherished hymns and songs of the season, we wanted to include a new song this year entitled, "Sing We the Song of Emmanuel" by Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa and Stuart Townend.

We thought it would be helpful for you to hear it before Advent begins. You may find the song by following the link listed below, by searching for the title on YouTube, or simply searching for it by title on the Internet. If you receive the newsletter via email, the link is also included in that email.



May the music bless your day as we prepare to celebrate Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us!
Diane Lund, for the Worship Team

<https://youtu.be/XT9FiAaZJ74?si=5c96c7VczPQ3MxDE>

2025 FALL CREEKSIDE LANDSCAPING TEAM REPORT

Many thanks to these people for their work this summer and fall in major landscape areas bordered with edging—for weeding, deadheading perennials & pruning:

Cary Kelsey, Tim & Diane Lund, Sharli Pletcher, Pauline Arnold, Ryan Prah, Steve & Jean Barton, Karen Kohler, Anne Wilson, Larry Ford, Kathy Royer, Stephen & Judy De Pue.

The following areas are in need of one or two more volunteer caretakers: Two smaller beds along south side of driveway, Bed outside kitchen, Small Garden by walk to Prayer Garden.

Thank you for considering being a volunteer for landscape team!— *Judy De Pue, Chair*

FROM THE FINANCE TEAM CHAIR:

Thank you all for your contributions to Creekside Church. Your support allows us to have an impact in our community and maintain this beautiful building we worship in. This year we put on a new roof, installed a digital sign, cleaned the carpets, and supported many worthy ministries in our community and beyond. Without your time and talents, Creekside would not have the Seed to Feed garden, Family Jamboree, Fall Festival, Bible School, and other outreach activities. Your donations of time and finances in 2026 will allow us to continue outreach as well as have the parking lot redone.

Karen Kohler, Finance Team Chair

A NOTE FROM EVERENCE

Although church membership is in decline, many who attend report doing so more than once a week. A study conducted by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research found 46% of American Christian churchgoers attend church services in multiple locations in person and/or online. The survey of 24,000 churchgoers found that increased online access as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic may have driven up multi-church attendance. The survey showed that most people who attend multiple services do so both in person & online, and that younger people were more likely to seek out multiple church communities.

A reminder for those of you who use Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) in making donations to Creekside [or any other 501(c)(3) organization]. If you are over 70½ years old and are required to make Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from an IRA, you know that money you take from your IRA that year becomes taxable and you pay taxes on it when you file the following April. By making contributions to Creekside through a QCD, that money becomes tax-exempt, so you will not pay taxes on that portion of your RMD. If you need more information about making QCDs, talk to your banker, financial rep, someone at the firm that takes care of your IRA, or a financial rep at Everence Financial in Goshen. For this year, I would suggest you make your QCD in Nov. or early Dec. at the latest so you are sure to qualify for the exemption for 2025 taxes and don't get caught up in a last-minute rush.

Larry Ford, Everence Representative for Creekside.

The Bee Line IS IT FALL YET?

By the time you read this, we're starting to see leaves falling from the trees. We've all noticed that fall weather has been late this year and the bees know it, too. Our bees are getting anxious now, preparing for cold weather and frankly, so is the Bee Team.

Hot weather and many distractions have prevented us from tending the hives like we should and it's time for us to harvest the honey and prepare the hives for winter.

Tom and George, who I mentioned in last month's Bee Line, haven't been able to get to our hives to do much more than check on them. We are still anticipating helping them harvest and spin the honey sometime soon. Once that is done, we will need help straining and bottling the golden nectar. Hint, hint! The good news is, that doesn't involve getting stung and you get a taste of fresh honey! Ron Nicodemus already has "orders" for several jars of honey so I hope we get a decent amount from the hives this year. (Don't worry, Fellowship Team, we won't leave the kitchen a sticky mess!)

Speaking of Ron, I hear that his "Bee Talks" have become popular. He recently made a presentation to about one hundred school kids where Jessica Prah! teaches and we look forward to seeing some pictures from that event. That's just a reminder that the Creekside Bee Ministry goes much further than just having a bunch of honey bees and selling honey.

That's all for now; remember to Bee Kind.
Steve Barton for the Bee Team



BUCKEYE MAKING

It's that time again: We need your help to make Buckeyes, the ever-popular, quick to sell-out item for Creekside's Cookie Candy Walk.

Thursday, November 20, 2025, 1 pm

Schedule (Times are approximate):

1 pm—2 pm: Shape dough

1:30 pm—2:30 pm: Melt chocolate; dip dough

2:00 pm—3:30 pm: Weigh and package buckeyes

Please bring a rimmed cookie sheet, standard size.
Look for a sign-up sheet in early November.

Thank you for your part in making this year's Cookie Candy Walk a success!

Deb Kauffman and Diane Lund

The holiday season will be here before long and we are already dreaming of sugarplums!

Please mark your calendars for the

COOKIE - CANDY WALK

Saturday, December 6, 2025 8:00 -11:30 am

More details to follow!



NOVEMBER

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Schmucker, Beth
- 7 Arnold, Maddison
- 7 Buchanan, Esther
- 7 Hoke, Lodema
- 7 Marcin, Tiara
- 7 Shultz, Wylan
- 8 Prah! , Jessica
- 12 Griffith, Anne
- 13 Rassi, Irene
- 16 Ganger, Jay
- 16 Vardaman, Lisa
- 19 Carlson, Kyle
- 20 Arnold, Brian
- 20 Houser, Emily
- 24 Barwick, Cathy
- 26 Stutsman, Kathy
- 28 Rodgers, Valerie

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Miller, Myron & Sandy
- 27 Ellis, Donald & Vicki

EVENTS

- 1 Fall Festival, 2:00-4:00 pm
- 11 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
- Seed to Feed potluck, 6:00 pm
- 12 Finance Team, 2:00 pm
- 14 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 16 Congregational meeting, 10:45 am
- 20 Buckeye Making, 1-3:30 pm
- Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 27 Happy Thanksgiving!

The Creekside Connection

A publication of Creekside Church of the Brethren



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The Creekside Connection is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of church programs and to report news about the people of Creekside Church.

