



September Life Lines 2025

Volume 40 Issue 9

September 2025

Christ Lutheran Church
481 SNEAD DRIVE
FAIRFIELD GLADE, TN 38558
PHONE: (931) 484-7273

Connect with us at:
info@christlutheranffg.org
www.christlutheranchurchffg.org
[https://facebook.com/
christlutheranchurchffg](https://facebook.com/christlutheranchurchffg)



PASTOR:
THE REV. LEWIS A. GROCE
lewis111661@gmail.com
(615) 925-9903

September Readings

September 6 & 7

13th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading..... Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm.....Psalm 1

Second Reading.....Philemon 1-21

Gospel.....Luke 14:25-33

September 13 & 14

14th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading.....Exodus 32:7-14

Psalm.....Psalm 51:1-10

Second Reading1 Timothy 1:12-17

Gospel.....Luke 15:1-10

September 20 & 21

15th Sunday after Pentecost

First ReadingAmos 8:4-7

Psalm.....Psalms 113

Second Reading.....1 Timothy 2:1-7

Gospel.....Luke 16:1-13

September 27 & 28

16th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading..... Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Psalm.....Psalm 146

Second Reading.....1 Timothy 6:6-19

Gospel.....Luke 16:19-31





September 2025 Birthdays

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<i>1</i> <i>Brenda Koster</i>	<i>2</i> <i>John Lazur</i>	<i>3</i> <i>Sandy Frohs</i> <i>Janice Martin</i>	<i>4</i> <i>Marie Carlson</i>	<i>5</i> <i>Ed Litman</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> <i>Dave Seaver</i>	<i>10</i> <i>Bob Ruef</i>	<i>11</i> <i>Kay Wode</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> <i>Jennifer Chilcote</i> <i>Ann Sloan</i>
<i>14</i> <i>Andrew Straw</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> <i>Sue Straw</i>	<i>17</i> <i>Paula Rehorst</i> <i>Janice Rhind</i>	<i>18</i> <i>Sheryl Reeser</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> <i>Kathleen Welch</i>
<i>21</i> <i>Bill Stran</i>	<i>22</i> <i>Heather Pelfrey</i> <i>Nancy Pierce</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> <i>Barbara Grove</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> <i>Larry Nowicki</i> <i>Helen Shekeruk</i>				

September 2025

Anniversaries



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<i>1</i> <i>Ed & Lynne Schwaberow (57)</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> <i>Tom & Denise Brown (54)</i> <i>Chris & Pan Mattheis (33)</i>	<i>5</i> <i>Dave & Bonnie Irvin (55)</i> <i>Donn & Linda Vance (55)</i> <i>John & Pam Masterson (17)</i>	<i>6</i> <i>Neil & Janice Martin (33)</i>
<i>7</i> <i>Dave & Jana Cyrus (51)</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> <i>Mike & Linda Morgan</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> <i>Richard & Diana Wessels (7)</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> <i>Ken & Becky Bigelow (43)</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> <i>Dick & Eve Pry</i>
<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> <i>Jon & Judy Hammond (58)</i>				



*Pastor
Lewis Groce*



We are looking at offering another GriefShare class beginning in September, if there is interest in doing so. I will be taking over this class from Ms. Donalson. So, before I get to the ask, here is some basic information about GriefShare. Because we all need help at some points in our faith journey.

Q How does GriefShare compare with other grief support options?

A While other grief support sites may offer a phone or video consultation with a professional, we have found a group support setting to be crucial for healing. One-on-one counsel is certainly helpful, but a more complete healing is found in the context of having people walk alongside you on the grief journey.

Q How many weeks does the group last?

A GriefShare groups last 13 weeks, and you can begin attending at any time. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the full 13-week group more than once. People have said they find new tips and guidance each time, as they are dealing with new seasons of grieving.

Shamelessly appropriated from the GriefShare website:

Our ministry

Grief Share's parent ministry is Church Initiative. Church Initiative is a nondenominational, nonprofit ministry serving more than 20,000 churches worldwide. From its headquarters in Wake Forest, North Carolina, the ministry creates and publishes video-based curricula to help churches minister to people experiencing life crises.

Core values

Church Initiative is committed to producing small group resources and materials that are Christ-centered, biblically based, and designed for ministry conducted through the local church.

Our mission

Our mission is to equip local churches to mobilize lay ministry teams to help people hurting because of a major life crisis.

If you, are someone you love, is dealing with loss (doesn't have to be recent), please contact the Pam in the Church Office and let us know your name, phone and email. We will compile a list and let you know if the class "makes." We need at least 6 people for a class.

This is a good program for people who need to know and feel that we are not alone as we navigate loss. It is a show of strength to ask for help and to invite others to walk with you through a "season of loss." If you are interested, let us know - and then come and find out how GriefShare can help you and help you to help others!

That's right! Because even as you are hurting, the ability to share that pain can benefit someone else. Just knowing that you "aren't the only one" has tremendous benefits. I hope you will give serious consideration to participating in GriefShare.

God's Peace-

Pr. Groce

Christ Lutheran's Council Corner



WELCOME TO THE COUNCIL'S CORNER!!!

We are trying something new! Rather than seeing a message from the Council President, Council members will be contributing monthly articles. Did you know that the Council consists of congregational members? Any voting member is welcome to be on our governing body. I am a 2 yr. appointed Member at Large. I accepted this position as I wanted to be a contributing member and help where it was needed. There are 7 members on Council. One of our jobs is when each team sends in a monthly report to us on what they are doing, and if they have any questions or needs. As a group, Council discusses the issue, giving our thoughts and opinions. If action is needed, a vote is taken, with the belief that we are acting in the best interests for the congregation.

You may have heard our President, Gary D., would be stepping down from this position in 2026. He had already extended his term, as no one was willing to take this position. This position has a job description in our by-laws. Gary chose to extend himself to many other places of need, but not required. We are looking for a congregant to step into this roll – all that is required, is to fulfill the duties listed in said by-laws.

We also have a Treasurer, Dave I. who too, has extended his term as no one was willing to take this position. Finances are an important part of the church. When you have heard him speak at meetings, you knew our financial position was solid.

We all have different skills and talents that could be used to help "run" our church – being on a team, helping with funerals, volunteering for special projects, being on Council, donating \$ to causes that arise, and the list goes on.

Right now, we know we will have those Council positions open in 2026. Also, several teams are in need of acquiring more members.

Guidance and assistance would come with all positions. Your help is needed! Our church runs smoothly with the help of all who contribute. Won't you prayerfully consider filling one of these positions: any future openings in the Council and any team positions where needed?

Debby Goergen – Member-at-Large

COFFEE HOUR

AT

CLC



Did You Know? Every Sunday at 8:30 CLC has a Fellowship Coffee Hour.
We meet in room "B"

Stop at the kitchen pass through window; help yourself to a cup of coffee or tea. If you prefer a cold drink just ask, and whoever is hosting that morning would gladly get you something out of the refrigerator. Also, grab a treat to have with that beverage. Hope to see you there!

If you could host a coffee hour that would be very appreciated! However, we know people get busy and can't always step up. Perhaps you like to bake and you could just donate that way. All you have to do is make something that we could serve at a morning coffee hour, wrap it up and stick it in the church freezer with a date and your name on the package. This would make it easier for the ones who host often. This way they just have to come and make coffee and put some of your delectable's out.

Please see or call Becky Bigelow for any questions you might have.

931-250-3832

Prayer Ministry:

Beverly Olin is praying for those not ready to share their concerns with everyone. Beverly will lift your requests up in prayer everyday until you are ready to remove someone from her list. If you've never had the opportunity to listen to Beverly pray corporately, you know all those on her list will be feeling her loving words sent directly to God. Please contact Beverly directly. Blessings abound.





Yehiel Curry Elected Presiding Bishop of the ELCA
July 30, 2025

PHOENIX — The Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected July 30 to serve a six-year term as presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly being held July 28–Aug. 2 at the Phoenix (Ariz.) Convention Center.

Curry was elected on the fifth ballot. There were 799 votes cast, with 400 votes needed for an election. Curry received 562 votes, and the Rev. Kevin Strickland, bishop of the ELCA Southeastern Synod, received 237 votes. Curry is the first Black presiding bishop of the ELCA.

Speaking to the assembly after his election, Curry reflected on his membership at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Ill., where he eventually became a lay mission developer while he participated in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries program, which prepares individuals for ordained ministry in the ELCA, with a focus on emerging ministry contexts like ethnic-specific, multicultural, rural and inner-city settings. He spoke to the assembly about his initial hesitation in accepting that first ministry role.

“Perhaps I’m out there in one of you,” Curry said. “I never saw myself as good enough, so for two years, I said no. I finally said yes. When I said yes, your support, this church’s support, of that ministry meant everything. So if you want to know what your benevolence dollars look like, it looks like me, and I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment.”

Curry has served as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod since 2019. He previously served as mission developer (2009-2012) and pastor (2012-2019) of Shekinah.

He received a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., in 1995 and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) in 2013. LSTC is one of seven ELCA seminaries.

The churchwide assembly, the chief legislative authority of the ELCA, is meeting under the theme “For the Life of the World.” The assembly will participate in plenary discussions to make decisions about the work of this church. They will also spend time in worship and engage in various ways of theological reflection.

Taken from ELCA website

The Jewish Community has 2 upcoming holidays that we are invited to celebrate with them.

Rosh Hashanah is the New Year in Judaism. The biblical name for this holiday is Yom Teruah.

It is the first of the High Holy Days, as specified by Leviticus 23:23–25, that occur in the late summer/early autumn of the Northern Hemisphere.

**Rosh Hashanah evening Monday, September 22 at 7 pm
Rosh Hashanah morning Tuesday, September 23 at 11 am**

Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the year in Judaism. It occurs annually on the 10th of Tishrei, corresponding to a date in late September or early October.

For traditional Jewish people, it is primarily centered on atonement and repentance.

Yom Kippur Kol Nidre evening Wednesday, October 1 at 7 pm

**Yom Kippur afternoon Thursday, October 2 at 5 pm
The Yom Kippur afternoon service is followed by a dairy break-the-fast pot luck meal.**

Please note that these services are longer than the Friday Shabbat service and are led by a Rabbi.

The services are held in the fellowship area at Christ Lutheran. If you plan to attend the pot luck meal the cost is \$15 and we would need to know by September 22nd that you plan to attend to let the Jewish Congregation know how much food to plan for.

Thank you for your support of our Jewish Community.

The Education team.

Barrel Ministry



Through September and October, CLC will be accepting your slightly used coats or new coats for children and adults. This is our Barrel Ministry until November when they will be passed out to those in need! Men's coats, women's coats, children's coats, baby coats and teen's coats are all needed!

***Thanks for sharing,
your Service Team***



Now that's amore!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR SECOND ANNUAL SPAGHETTI SUPPER OCTOBER 9, 2025

Tickets will go on sale on Sunday, August 31, 2025 for \$10.00 each. Don't miss this opportunity to support the Peavine Care Center and the Phoenix School and enjoy a delicious meal of spaghetti with meat sauce and/or Italian sausage and all the fixings.

Volunteers to help in the kitchen and dining area to cook, collect tickets, serve, clear tables, and wash dishes will be needed.

Please sign up on the service bulletin board as you are able.
Sign-ups will be posted on August 31.

If you are able to sell tickets, please contact:
Linda LeBreux 508 243-3144 or j.lebreux@comcast.net



Friendly reminder that
Bible Study
“The Gospel of Luke”

For those who signed up classes begin
Monday September 8, 2025 at 9:30 am

Sessions will be held every Monday morning and
will offer an opportunity for in-depth study,
meaningful discussion, and spiritual growth.

Cathy Lada at (847) 971-9473

We look forward to growing in faith together!



JOSE' Jalapeño Says... Save the Date!!

**Get ready to
turn up the heat at...**

CLC's Annual Chili Dinner Friday, November 7, 2025

Serving begins at 5:00 PM

Christ Lutheran Church

**Hosted with heart (and maybe a little spice) by
your Fellowship Team!**

**Come for the chili, stay for the fellowship,
and bring your appetite—we promise
it'll be muy delicioso!**



Bread of Life:

Thanks to those preparing and serving food for the August meal. Approximately 70 individuals were fed and nourished. With cooler weather on the horizon, we expect the need to grow. We are blessed to have a Via De Cristo reunion group volunteer to purchase, prepare and serve the September meal!

Gather a group of friends and pick a month; it's a fun way to spend time together and serve our community. Funds may be available by using a Thrivent gift card (ask a Thrivent member to request this) I'm always available to help with menu planning and/or quantities.

Remember, no government (federal, state, local) monies are used to support the Bread of Life Mission; it is completely operated by individuals like us.

Grateful for each of you for helping with this ministry





Roll the Dice and Pass the Fun!
Game Night – Saturday, September 6
Christ Lutheran Church | 6:00 PM

Calling all high rollers, word wizards, strategists, and snack sharers—Game Night is back, and it's your Move!

On Saturday, September 6, join us at Christ Lutheran Church for an evening of laughter, friendly competition, and good old-fashioned fun. Whether you're a **Scrabble** champ, a **Monopoly** mogul, or just trying not to sink someone's **Battleship**, there's a seat at the table just for you.

Don't come hungry! We're playing by **Potluck Rules**, so bring a snack to share—sweet, salty, or somewhere in between. It's the perfect way to fuel up for a round of **Clue** or that intense **Uno** showdown.

So gather your tokens, shuffle your decks, and make sure to roll in by 6:00 PM—we're ready to deal you in!

No RSVP required. Just bring your game face, your favorite board games (if you have any), and of course... a snack.

Let the games begin!



Follow-up from CLC's End of Life Seminars

A huge thank you to all who were able to attend our End-of-Life Seminars. We got a great deal of positive feedback and hope to repeat the seminar next year. Meanwhile here are some resources with more to come.

IN THE LIBRARY:

Book and video *Being Mortal*. Booklets related to end of life

FAIRFIELD GLADE RESIDENT SERVICES:

Five Wishes, a booklet to help you plan for how you might wish to be cared

WEB SITES:

CaringInfo.com

<https://www.medicare.gov/publications/02154-medicare-hospice-benefits.pdf>

[Hospice Compare](#) website





Dear Beloved Southeastern Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ. I write to you today with a full heart and deep gratitude. As many of you know, I recently had the opportunity to walk a path of discernment regarding the call to serve as Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. I want to thank each one of you who prayed for me, encouraged me, challenged me, and walked alongside me during this deeply personal and vulnerable journey.

This discernment process was the most vulnerable thing I have ever done in my life. It came at great personal and spiritual cost, and yet, it also gave me space to speak, to bear witness, and to remain rooted in the deep conviction that God is still calling us—to truth, to justice, to hope, and to love.

In John 21, the risen Jesus turns to Peter and asks, “Peter, do you love me?” And when Peter answers yes, Jesus says, “Feed my lambs... Tend my sheep... Feed my sheep.” That question echoes in my heart even now, not as a test, but as a tender invitation. In this season, I have tried to respond with honesty and trust, even when it required great vulnerability. I am proud of how I was able to show up, and I remain grateful for the sacredness of the journey.

Though I was not called to serve in this new role, I give thanks for our Presiding Bishop-Elect Curry and want to publicly share my prayers and full support for him and his family as they step into this sacred call. We are the body of Christ together, and I will do absolutely all I can to support him and the work ahead, for the sake of the church and the life of the world.

Serving as your bishop continues to be one of the greatest honors of my life. I remain committed to walking with you as we seek to feed and tend God’s people in every corner of this synod. May we continue to live into the love Christ has shown us and answer his call with courage and compassion.

**With gratitude and peace,
+The Rev. Dr. Kevin L. Strickland
Bishop, Southeastern Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**





Stephen Ministry:

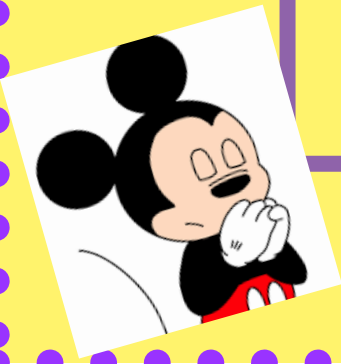
Stephen Ministers are here to help.
Please contact Pastor Groce for
referral information.



In Our Thoughts & Prayers



- **Vicki Deierlein**
- **Glen Goergen**
- **Gisela Reinhardt**
- **Becky Utz**
- **ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL**
- **Kiswahili Lutheran Mission Church**, Nashville, mission partner
- **ELCA Global Mission**
- Janice Cahill friend of Jan Deibel
- Dwight Smith—Larry & Diane Camp son in law
- Dennis Pero—Diane Camp's brother
- Sandi Paykin –Relative of Botsford family
- Grant Whiffen—Brother of Larry Whiffen (Long term care)
- Ivory Scwaberow-Daughter in law of Ed & Lynne Scwaberow
- Terri Gawrych– Niece of Barbara Kalmar



Blessing of the Pets

Sponsored by Council of Churches

Monday, October 6 at 10:30 AM
at St. Francis Catholic Church

All are welcome to bring their beloved pets — great and small — to receive a special blessing in recognition of the joy, companionship, and unconditional love they bring into our lives. Whether furry, feathered, or scaled, every creature is a reflection of God's creation and is cherished in the eyes of our faith.

Join us as we celebrate the spirit of love, peace, and care for all living things!



Service

CALLING ALL THRIVENT MEMBERS

Have you ever applied for a Thrivent Action Team grant? It is an EXTRA bonus that your membership provides and does not come out of your account.

Did you know that you could get \$250 seed money for a worthwhile project?

Did you know that our Phoenix school painting project would qualify?

Did you know that our Spaghetti Supper to raise funds for Peavine Care Center, the Phoenix School, and World Hunger really could use that seed money to maximize our fund raising?

Maybe your heart is touched by the backpack program, providing Easter Baskets for the Kids affiliated with House of Hope, Thanksgiving gift cards for the needy, or gifts for kids who might get nothing for Christmas.....



If you have a Thrivent membership and would like to support these efforts, please contact

Kay Landrus at 931 200-4962
or email her at kaylandrus@gmail.com.
She will be able to walk you through the process.

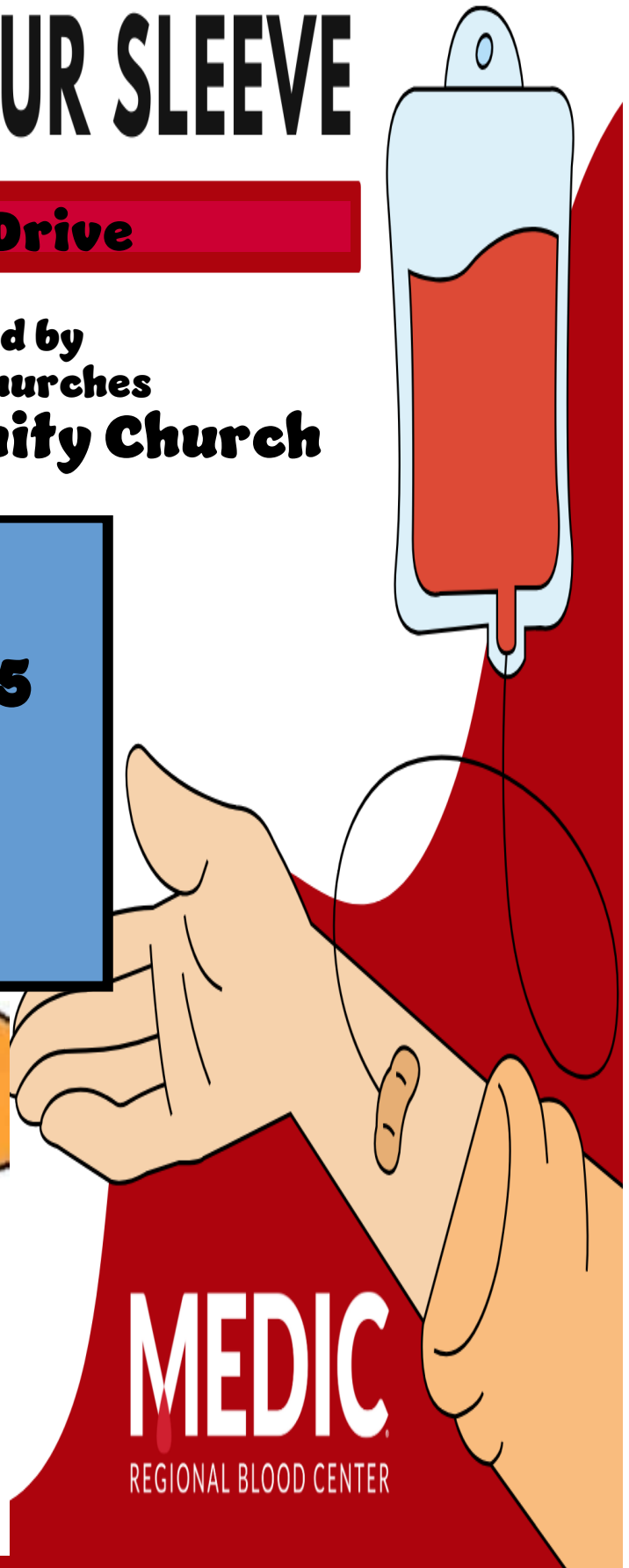


ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVE

Blood Drive

**Sponsored by
Council of Churches
@ FFG Community Church**

**Friday
October 3, 2025
10:00 am
To
3:00 pm**



MEDIC
REGIONAL BLOOD CENTER



FORE a Great Cause!

Christ Lutheran Church Golf Tournament

In Honor of *Pastor Joe Nilsen*

For those who have signed up. Mark your calendars for a day on the green! There are a few team spots open so time is of the essence to sign up. Don't miss out on Sunday, September 14 for the annual CLC Golf Tournament as we tee off in memory and celebration of Pastor Joe Nilsen—a man who loved his faith, his family, and maybe a few rounds of golf, too.

Whether you're a seasoned pro, a weekend warrior, or just in it for the laughs and mulligans, it's going to be a joyful day of fellowship and friendly competition.

DINNER TO FOLLOW at the church!

All are welcome—even if you're not golfing!

If you'd like to join us just for dinner, please sign up in the church office and submit the \$15 dinner fee ASAP so we can prepare enough food and fellowship for everyone.

Let's honor Pastor Joe the way he'd want—with laughter, community, and a good time shared by all.

**Get a team together and help Common Grounds,
who employee children from the Phoenix School and Hilltoppers.**



AT COMMON GROUNDS, WE
PROVIDE INCLUSIVE JOB
OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE
WITH INTELLECTUAL AND
PHYSICAL DISABILITIES.
EMPOWERING OUR
EMPLOYEES TO
THRIVE, CONTRIBUTE TO
THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND
DEVELOP VALUABLE SKILLS
IN A SUPPORTIVE AND
RESPECTFUL ENVIRONMENT.
OUR MISSION IS TO FOSTER
INCLUSION AND SERVE
EXCEPTIONAL COFFEE WITH
A PURPOSE.

GOLF FUNDRAISER TOURNAMENT

OCT. 18, 2025 9 AM

**BEAR TRACE
GOLF COURSE**

**SIGNUP BY
OCTOBER 4**

WIN PRIZES

Ties Broken By Scorecard
Prizes Awarded at the After-Golf Banquet

First Place \$300 per team
Second Place \$200 per team
Third Place \$100 per team
Fourth Place \$48 per team

Closest to pin on all par 3's \$35 Men or Women
Long Drive \$35 Men and Women

\$100 PER PERSON 4 PERSON SCRAMBLE



Includes Green Fees,
Cart, Awards Banquet

AGENDA

8:00 - 8:45 AM Golf Registration & Lite Breakfast

9:00 AM Shotgun Start

Lunch and Awards to Follow

Register Now

Common Grounds

152 W First St Crossville

More Info: Denise Esman: (269)303-2781 or Jim Castle: (614)266-0333