

*Life Together at
Christ's United
Lutheran Church*



*Join us for Worship -
Saturday 5:00 p.m. &
Sunday 9:30 a.m.*





Christ's United
Lutheran Church
437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921
www.christsunited.org
(570) 875-1591

**The August Newsletter is Sponsored in Memory of Donna Dann
by her Mother, Marie Lengert.**

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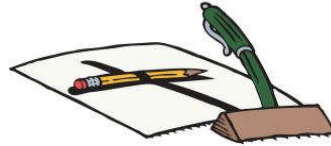
Sponsor Needed:

If you would like to sponsor the
Newsletter for September,
please call the church office.
875-1591



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Message From



Pastor Kim

The purchase of my home included several antiques, left by the previous owner. Did I say antiques? Perhaps a better term would be relics. Aside from the ancient cats that were left in the barn, I was left with an old hot water heater that leaked and a furnace with an efficiency rating of six... and that is when it wasn't running. So since I had to pay for a new system anyway, I put in central air conditioning. Very nice considering the current weather.

The new system hums quietly along keeping every corner of my home filled with a fresh, cool breeze – a delightful and restful change when I walk through the door. All is well... except at night.

You see, something happens in the dark of night. At the very darkest moments, you know just before the dawn, when the night is the quietest, darkest, and you can hear every sound and the outside air is still, and you wake up from the silence with apprehension as you feel your heart beating, then,

my air conditioning stops.

In the stillness, in the darkness, with the outside temperatures lower, the sensors in the house do not pick up on my internal discomfort. But I'm uncomfortable. I'm stuffy. And I'm hot. So I head downstairs, stumbling over dogs, back up again for my glasses, then down squinting in the light, sure that somehow the air conditioner had been turned off. But you know, it never is off: it is just waiting, waiting there for the opportunity to once again invigorate me with the cool breeze and comfort me in my distress.

Ahh, so what has this to do with church and our faith?

— continued on page 4



Well, often our interaction with God is the same as my interaction with my air conditioner. During the day time of our lives, when things are going well for us and we are comfortable, we are quite content with God. *God serves us well.*

But during the night of our lives, when the darkness of troubles cloud over us and we are uncomfortable, when we can feel the heat of Satan's breath and the fear of our own mortality, our cry joins that recorded by the psalmist in Psalm 42.3: "*My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?"*"

But God has not stopped, nor failed, nor has gone off...He is there, watching, waiting, ready, not to *serve* us, but to *save* us.

Our life may not always be comfortable, but God always gives us rest. May the comfort and peace that is the presence of God "condition" your life.

Peace,

Pastor Kim



Church Council Highlights from July

- When our current contract expires with the service agreement for the copier, we will be looking into another company.
- We are now paying a deposit fee at Wells Fargo bank, council agreed that we need to look for a bank without hidden fees.
- The results of the latest nitrate testing were good.
- The worship & music committee would like to have more volunteers to serve on the committee, and they are also looking for new choir members.
- Interviews were held on July 3 for two candidates for the choir director position.
- There will be an “All Church Committee Day” on Thursday, August 16 @ 6:30.
- There is a great deal of clothing left from the social ministry give-away, they are looking at places to donate it to.

Special Council Meeting on July 8

- A letter was read from the personnel committee for the recommendation of hiring Dan Krynak as the new choir director. The motion passed and his start date will be August 1.

Status of Accounts

Balance in Checking Account.....	\$1,284.56
Investment Fund #55.....	\$25,000.00
Investment Fund #73.....	\$25,000.00
Memorial Account.....	\$23,877.48
Benevolence Gifts.....	\$10,062.50
(49% of our Benevolence goal of \$20,600.00)	



~~oops!~~

From a church bulletin in Hilton Head, SC:

JOIN US FOR THE FELLOWSHIP PICNIC!!!
Just bring yourself as an appetizer.
We'll meet at Liberty Park at noon.

Those church members must be awfully tasty.

WELCA Picnic

All women of Christ's United
are invited to join us on
Wednesday, August 1 @ 6:00
pm for our annual picnic.

Please bring a covered dish
to share & a \$3.00 gift for
our activity games.



We Offer our Prayers to...

Those recently added to our Prayer List...

Gail Halye, Jeff Maurer, Ruth Wolfgang, Faye Geist, Deanna Frantz,
Nada Matthews, Frank Pytak, Gail Spleen

Please Continue to Pray for...

Scott Hoffman, Adda Miller, Audrey &
Fred Pillman, Bill Griffiths, Glenn
Pennypacker, Terry Halye, Irene
Morgan, Mary Oliveri, Melissa Byers,
Joe Lentowski, Ashland Area
Ministerium, Jim Hepler, Robert Rock,
Barb Anczarski, Beryl Kubik, Natalie
Tracy, Carol Guistwite, Mandy



OF THE RIGHTEOUS
IS POWERFUL
AND EFFECTIVE.

James 5:16, NRSV

Fetterolf, Alexis Schmidt, Emma Fishburn, Brenda Wolfgang, Carl
Lute, Catherine Tenedios, Howard & Catherine Beury, Sharon Kostura,
Devon Fowler, Carol Brennan, Beverly Fetterolf, Herman Wagner, Skip
Raabe, Eileen Lindenmuth, Lambert Haupt, Donald Kerestes, Robert
Welker, EvaAnn Barkafski, David Major, Joseph Roshannon, Barbara
Nelson, Judy Gross, Linda Kahler, Brandon Harris, Heather Fetterolf,
Grant Marlow, Linda Zerby, Carol (Cook) Brennan, Margaret Huhn,
Nancy Shuey, Bob Lynn, Elaine Wallace, Joel Ruscavage, Sonya
Oldland, Fred Herb III, Melanie Alt, Steven Hall, Shirley Zaharick, Bob
Foose, Jennifer Coch, Gerry Dillman, Jean Cress, Carrie Houser, Pete
Waldick, Megan Geise, Emily Brennan, Azure Waldick, Marie & Harry
Lengert, Mark Eiswerth, Alyssa Burnham, Kayla Heim, Kelly & Bud
Crosby, Dot Zeigenfuse, Dorothy Berge

Please call the Church Office (875-1591)...

...if you or a relative are admitted to a hospital,

...if your phone number or address change, or

...if you have a prayer concern.

*Thank you for helping us to serve you better. The church office hours
are Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*



New Pictorial Directory



**FOR ALL MEMBERS OF
CHRIST'S UNITED**

Go online to schedule your
photo, www.christsunited.org
Or Call the church office at 875-1591





Member **DIRECTORY**

Picture Dates:

Thursday & Friday, August 2 & 3 from 2:30-8:50;

Saturday, August 4 from 10:00-5:00;

Thursday & Friday, September 6 & 7
from 2:30-8:50;

Saturday, September 8 from 10:00-5:00.

If you would like to have your picture taken with your pet, please schedule it near the end of the day.

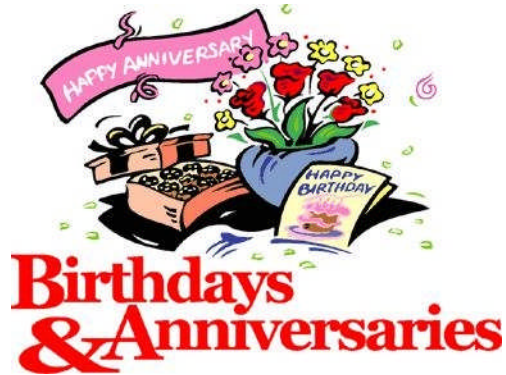


Make sure to ask all your friends, family & neighbors if they would like to have their picture taken. They may also schedule a family portrait time slot, they just won't be in our directory.



August Birthdays

- 1 Bianca McAndrew
- 2 Jada Habowski
- 3 Janice Brain
- 6 Braedyn Lazor
- 8 Carey Wahalec
- 9 Kaitlyn Werner
- 10 Mason Buhay
- 11 Alivia Potteiger
- 12 Bill Miller
- 13 William Coward III
Michael Lassen
- 14 Tammy Leshner
- 15 Heidi Walsh
Angie Berger
- 16 Carrie Houser
- 20 Irene Morgan
Aidan Romberger
- 22 Rebekah Garnes
Alyssa Becker
- 24 Louise Boyer
Keith Hostetter
- 26 Zachary Hummel
Peggy Dziczek
- 28 Paige Garnes
Lauren Wagner
Dennis Marlow
- 29 Morgen Sweitzer
Desiree Dengler
- 30 Darlene Stank
Louise Lute



August Anniversaries

- | | |
|----------|------------------------|
| 08/05/95 | Terry & Gail Halye |
| 08/09/47 | Jack & Beryl Stitzer |
| 08/12/72 | Bill & Sandy Miller |
| 08/16/03 | Dean & Arlene Krise |
| 08/19/72 | John & Cheryl Denchak |
| 08/21/10 | Matt & Morgen Sweitzer |
| 08/22/53 | Bobbie & Anna Harner |
| 08/24/63 | Leo & Jo-Ann Young |
| 08/25/73 | Ron & Beth Andrews |
| 08/29/98 | David & Renee Walter |
| 08/30/08 | Don & Lynn Dillman |

If your birthday/anniversary is listed incorrectly or you would like your name added to or removed from the list, please contact the church office.



WHO

ARE

These People???



Each month we have a different picture from long ago. See if you can guess who some or all of the people in the picture are. The answers will be in next months "Life Together" Newsletter.

If you have any old pictures you would like to share from Christ's United's past, please bring them into the office for Erik to scan into the computer. Also, please include a list of those pictured.

Answers for the July edition "Who are these people??" - Left to Right: Front Row: Stephanie Cheddar, Anita Fegley. Back Row: Edward Sadusky, Rev. PeggySue Peffer. Confirmation: June 10, 1984.





Social Ministry

Ashland Area Food Pantry

We will be collecting the following items for August:

Juice & Peanut Butter

Please place your donations in the shopping cart. Thank You!



The month that your committee serves please help out in the kitchen before and after the service. Also, please bring in baked goods or other items for the snacks. Thank you.

Committee Schedule

August—Youth Group
September—Evangelism/
Outreach
October—Stewardship
November—Endowment Fund
December—Choir
January 2013—Church Council



Lutheran Disaster Response Special Offering & Temple Talk Sunday, August 19

Lutheran Disaster Response is administered in our area by Lutheran Congregational Services, a member of the Liberty Lutheran family of services. They work with ecumenical partners as well as county departments of emergency management to plan and meet long term needs from disasters.

Lutheran Disaster Response is a program that helps disaster survivors meet long term unmet needs. Here in Eastern Pennsylvania, we seek to serve residents of all backgrounds and circumstances and we help volunteers and groups from many different faiths and community groups engage in helping with this effort.

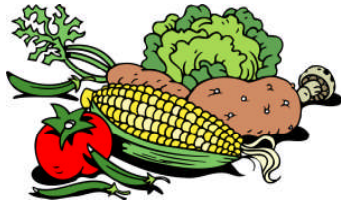
When Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee hit our region hard in late summer 2011, Lutheran Disaster Response helped early on by recruiting, training, and organizing volunteers to staff disaster recovery centers and help remove mud and debris from about 40 flooded homes. We are now in the process of walking with homeowners who have outstanding rebuilding needs. Our volunteers not only swing hammers and pound nails, but they also provide leadership for long term recovery committees, who do the hard work of coming up with community based long-term recovery committees for meeting these needs. There are currently long-term recovery committees in Montgomery, Luzerne, Susquehanna, Schuylkill, Wyoming, Sullivan, Berks, and Bradford Counties.



World Hunger Table

Beginning in August, the social ministry committee will be sponsoring a World Hunger Table every Sunday through the end of September.

Please bring in items to place onto the table such as: baked goods, produce from your garden, house plants, perennials, flowers, etc.



In return members from the congregation may help themselves to anything that they can use. If you would like to give a monetary donation for items that you take from the table, it will be sent to ELCA World Hunger.



You may also place a monetary donation in the world globe if you prefer not to take any items.



Costa Rica

Meet Flor

Most people in El Jardin, Costa Rica, work in the banana and pineapple plantations that surround the village. The work is hard, the wages are low, and over the generations, the villagers have lost their knowledge about growing other crops.



Recognizing the need for more food, income and sources of employment, the Lutheran church in El Jardin, supported by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, uses its land for an ecological agriculture program. Flor and her neighbors learn about soil fertility, crop rotation and plants. They're growing vegetables to eat and also plants that can be turned into products like shampoo and insect repellent.

Flor says she didn't know anything about rose hips when they started; now she grows them and uses them to make drinks and jam. "It's nice not to have to buy so many things now, and to be able to make them instead," Flor smiles. She has also become treasurer of the group. Eventually, they hope to sell their products in shops beyond their own village.

Flor's new skills and knowledge have made her very hopeful about the future. But Nehemias, the program's manager, says the changes are much bigger than that. With so many in the village involved — including the children — there is a new sense of community, pride and mutual support that will bring benefits for years to come.

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support programs and projects that help change lives in more than 60 countries around the world. Will you help with your gift today?



Blood Drive
Wednesday, August 15
1:00 - 6:00 p.m.



Can You Help Us??

The Red Cross will be having another Blood Drive at Christ's United. We have been asked to sponsor the canteen. We need two people to be the hosts/ hostesses at the canteen where the beverages and cookies are given to the donors before they leave. It's a really easy, nice job. The hours are 12:30 until 6:00, but if you can serve only part of that time, it would be a great help.

We also need some homemade cookies, if you would be willing to make or buy some it would be a great help.

Benefits of Donating Blood

- It feels great to donate!
- You get free juice and delicious cookies.
- It's something you can spare – most people have blood to spare... yet, there is still not enough to go around.
- You will help ensure blood is on the shelf when needed – most people don't think they'll ever need blood, but many do.
- You will be someone's hero – in fact, you could help save more than one life with just one donation.



The following Memorials were given to Christ's United since the issue of the last Newsletter:

*\$45.00 in Memory of Elaine Schlorff by:
Donald & Laray Klinger
Dean & Barb Fetterolf*

*\$25.00 in Memory of Margaret Hunter by:
Leo & Jo-Ann Young*

*\$210.00 in Memory of Betty Cray by:
Friends
John & Lynn Morgan
Terry Shilling
Cheryl Kawa
Jim & Brenda Stepanchick
Leo & Jo-Ann Young
Donald & Laray Klinger*

*\$20.00 in Memory of Betty Cray for the Endowment Fund by:
Connie Welker*



First Responders: Police, Fire, and Emergency Services Personnel

A special Service of Blessing will be held in September on the Day of St. Michael and all Angels to honor all who serve. St. Michael is the patron saint for first responders, Michael being the archangel who leads the armies of Heaven. Please tell all those first responders you know to look forward and plan for this special celebration of their service!



Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry Team

Family Faith Challenge!



Family faith challenge guidelines for the year

- Worship God together once a week
- Gather together around a table six times a week
- Have an empty chair at the table to represent God's presence
- Make sure each person has his/her time to talk without interruptions
- Read from an age-appropriate Bible for your children



August: By the Water's Edge

We challenge you to notice how God walks with us wherever we are.

Week one: Visit a place near water. Enjoy a picnic lunch. Enjoy God's presence with you. Notice how we feel God's presence near living waters.



Week two: At your place of worship, find the baptismal font. Dip your fingers into the baptismal font and give thanks to God for calling you "a child of God."

Week three: Notice when you are thirsty. Take time to realize how much we need water. Drink a glass of water and think about the many ways God refreshes us.



Week four: Think about a time when you were very sad and moved to tears. In your Bible, read Luke 11:35, "Jesus wept." Remember Jesus is with us even when we are sad.



"Lutheran Basics"

Lutheran Basics will focus on creation, the Trinity, grace, & much more.

"How the Bible Came to Be: From Papyrus to iPad"

Pastor Greg Frey will lead this workshop.

The workshops are ideal for Sunday school teachers, VBS staff, congregation committee members, high school youth, congregational council members and more.

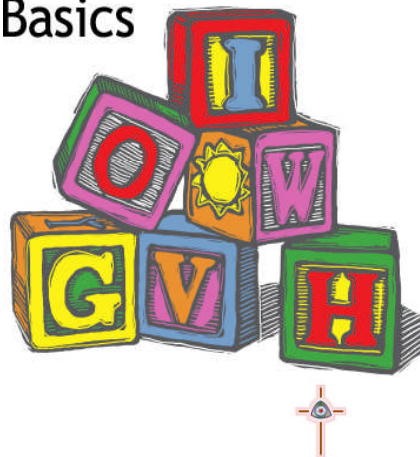
Saturday, August 25 **Christ's United Lutheran Church, Ashland.**

Time: First workshop ("How the Bible Came to Be: From Papyrus to iPad") will be offered from 10-12. Lunch will be served at 12 PM. "Lutheran Basics" will be offered from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM. Come for the whole day - or just for the workshop you would like to attend!

Cost: \$10 per person

If you are interested in attending, please sign-up on the bulletin board and take a flyer.

**Back to
Basics**



Schuylkill Mission District News

Did you know that...

- You are a part of the Schuylkill Mission District?
- There are 29 congregations within our District?
- That there are clusters within our District?
- That you can find out information about other churches and what activities they are doing ?

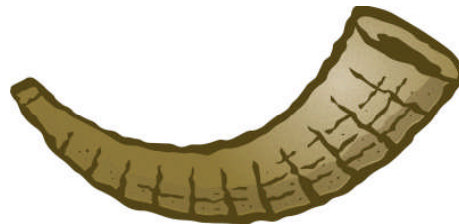
All of this information and much more can be found on the NEW Web site for the Schuylkill Mission District!!!

Visit Us at:
www.lutheransalive.org

Christian Symbols

Trumpet—In the Old Testament, trumpets, often made from ram horns, called people to worship or war (and often promised victory).

Joshua and the Israelites used trumpets to fell the walls of Jericho. Under Gideon, the small Israelite army blew trumpets and smashed jars to confuse the Midianites into surrender. The New Testament says trumpets will sound at the Last Judgment and the resurrection of the dead. In Revelation 11, a seventh trumpet proclaims God's final and complete triumph.



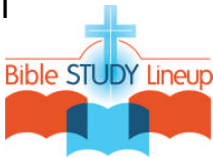



Serving Our Community of Faith in August:

Date	Lector	Communion Assistants	Ushers	Acolyte	Acolyte	Greeter in Narthex	Greeter at Door
August 5	Donna Lassen	John Denchak Connie Welker Melanie Bendinsky	Ryan Bendinsky Darcie Gruber Jim Gruber John Denchak	Sierra Wagner	Lauren Wagner	Dean Fetterolf	Jim Gruber
August 12	Suzanne Peel			Thomas Wolfgang	Carey Wahalec	Jim Chappell	Dennis Wolfe
August 19	Becky Spencer			Azure Waldick		Cheryl Denchak	Cheryl Vardell
August 26	Barb Stepanchick			Taryn Wilson	Amy Johnson	Mark Vardell	Barb Stepanchick



AUGUST 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday																																																																																											
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<p>5¹⁰th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Communion Service, affirmation of Baptism 10:45 Adult Sunday school 10:45 <i>Endowment Fund Meeting</i> 12:00 Social Hall Reserved 5:00 LCM 6:00 <i>Property Meeting</i> 7:00 Grief Support Group</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>Erik Vacation</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>Erik Vacation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>Erik Vacation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p>Erik Vacation</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6:30 Ev Outreach 7:00 CH Educational</p>																																																																																											
<p style="text-align: center;">12</p> <p>11th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 Adult Sunday school</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p>7:00 <i>Social Ministry Meeting</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p>7:00 <i>Church Council</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15 Mary, Mother of Our Lord Newsletter Deadline 1:00-6:00 Red Cross Blood Drive 6:15 <i>Anniversary Committee Meeting</i> 7:00 Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p> <p>10:30 B</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6:30 AI Comm</p>																																																																																											
<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p>12th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Worship Service, temple talk by Julia Menzo <u>LDR Special Offering</u> 10:45 Adult Sunday school 7:00 Grief Support Group</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p>7:00 <i>Worship & Music Meeting</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>9:30 Newsletter Assembly 7:00 Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p> <p>10:30 B 12:00-2 Pantry</p>																																																																																											
<p style="text-align: center;">26</p> <p>13th Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Congregational Picnic 7:00 Grief Support Group</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p>The Martyrdom of St. John The Baptist 7:00 Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p>																																																																																											



Monday	Friday	Saturday
10:00 Pictures for Directory	3 2:30-8:50 Pictures for Directory	4 10:00-5:00 Pictures for Directory 10:30 Baptism of Maura Sweitzer 5:00 Communion Service with SWiM Christian Rock Band 6:00 Food, 7:00 Concert
Evangelism/ Prayer Meeting Christian Prayer Meeting	10 Erik Vacation	11 5:00 Worship Service
Bible Study Church Bazaar Event	17 Youth Group Trip to Knoebels	18 5:00 Worship Service
Bible Study 12:00 Food	24 St. Bartholomew, Apostle	25 10:00-2:30 NEPA Synod "Faith Formation" Workshop 5:00 Worship Service
	31	



Youth Group



Christ's United Lutheran Church

Contact Us: youth@christsunited.org

Attention ALL YOUTH!

Sunday, August 26
Bring your School Backpack
along to church.

We will be having a special
"Blessing of the Backpacks"
during our worship service
that morning at 10:30.

**PRAY
for our
Students**





**Christian Alternative
Rock Band**

**Saturday
4 August 2012
5 p.m. Worship
7 p.m. Concert**

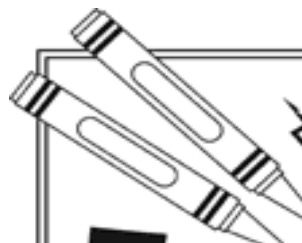
SWiM will be leading contemporary worship at 5 pm,
followed by a food break before the concert!

ALL are WELCOME!

Cost is \$1 plus item for our local Food Pantry

Sponsored by Christ's United Youth
Contact Deb Price, Youth Director for more info at
youth@christsunited.org or 570-875-1591






PUZZLE

TRUE TREASURE

The Bible speaks often of "treasure" – where we can find it, who gives it and who can have it.

Directions: Match the puzzle pieces to the correct shape. Then write the letters to learn what Matthew 6:21 (niv) says about treasure. (Younger children can cut out the shapes and glue them onto the correct spaces.)



Matthew 6:21, niv

Answer: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21, niv)



Bible Quiz

In a parable, Jesus likens the kingdom of heaven to treasure hidden in a field. When someone finds it, what does he do?

- A. Takes the treasure and keeps it for himself
- B. Buries it again, then sells all his possessions in order to buy the field
- C. Approaches the owner of the field, offering to buy the treasure
- D. Takes the treasure, sells it and gives the money to the poor



Answer: B (See Matthew 13:44.)





Make friends, play games, have fun!

Camp Noah is a fun-filled camp for 1st - 6th graders. At camp, Camp Noah is a week-long day camp for children impacted by disaster, offered in your own community. These camps provide a safe and fun atmosphere for children to play, process and heal from their disaster experience.



At camp, children participate in creative activities and fun games designed to help them explore their feelings, and learn life-long resiliency skills. Camp activities are specifically intended to help them feel more prepared and confident about the future.

Every child that attends camp receives:

- A Camp Noah T-shirt
- A fully-equipped Camp Noah Preparedness Backpack
- Arts and craft supplies for activities
- A handmade quilt and other unique gifts
- Healthy meals and snacks



Register Today – space is limited!

Cost: FREE!

Additional funding to offer Camp Noah in your community has been provided through the generosity of local and national donors and supporters.

www.campnoah.org

CAMP WEEK:

August 6-10, 2012
8:30 am to 3:00 pm

LOCATION:

Outwood Lutheran
Church Pavilion
(Intersection of Old Forge
Road and Oak Grove Road)
Pine Grove, PA 17963

For more information o
to register contact:

Rev. Barry Spatz at
570-345-8216

Camp Noah Registration Form

Camp week August 6-10, 2012

Child's Name: _____

Grade entering next fall: _____

Parent or Guardian's Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email Address: _____

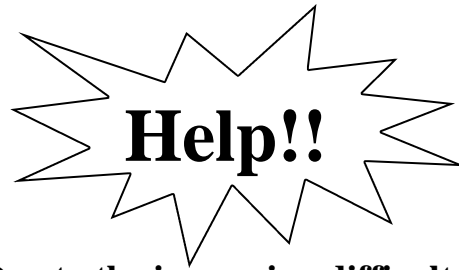
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Additional children/grade: _____

CAMP IS FREE OF CHARGE.

Return this form to: **Rev. Barry Spatz**
316 Suedberg Road
Pine Grove, PA 17963





Due to the increasing difficulty at the area post offices with the way bulk mailing is sent out;

Please take the following survey.

In what way would you prefer to receive your “Life Together” Newsletter?

- Sent by Postal Mail (the way you get it now)**
- Sent via Email**
- Pick it up at the church**
- View on the church web site**
- None (take my name off the mailing list)**

Please help us to serve you better by either cutting out and returning this sheet to the church office or call the church (875-1591) with your preference.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Thank you for your help!



WELCOME!

The search is over: we welcome **Dan Krynak** as our new Choir Director! Many may know him from his early days at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Dan has recently moved "back home" from the Harrisburg area, where he had served several churches as their Church Musician and also both the Men's and Women's choruses as the Artistic Director. He has both undergraduate and graduate degrees in music and conducting. His first day with us will be August 1st – choir slots are available - so please join in welcoming him to his home with Christ's United!



Come Journey with Ruth!

Our next Bible Study series begins on Wednesday, 15 August. Come explore the journey of Ruth

from her land to the people of God. We will look at the traditions of the people involved, and the implications of Ruth's (and Naomi's and Boaz') actions. Everyone is welcome, and encouraged to read the entire book of Ruth prior to the start of the study. Our schedule will be Wednesdays at 7pm with the lesson repeated on Thursdays at 10:30 am.

No experience necessary!



THE PARISH PAPER

IDEAS AND INSIGHTS FOR ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS

Coeditors: Herb Miller, Lyle E. Schaller, Cynthia Woolever - www.TheParishPaper.com

July 2012 - Volume 20, Number 7

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What Message Are We Sending about Giving?

The largest source of congregational income is what individuals contribute through their offerings, pledges, donations, and dues. On average, nine out of every ten dollars a church receives come from what individuals give. Churches rely much less on other income sources such as trust funds, investments, bequests, and charges for use of their facilities. The typical worshiper gives an average of about \$1,500 a year, which breaks down to \$125 a month or \$28 each week.¹

What encourages or discourages members to give financially to their church? Part of the answer lies with the factors that motivate individuals. A second part of the answer rests with factors associated with the congregation itself.

Why Do People Give to the Church?

Research findings from a University of Notre Dame study on the motivations for religious giving identified four reasons people offer for making financial contributions to their church.²

They were taught to give. Many churchgoers say that they follow the example set by their parents or other important adults. Essentially, their habit of generous giving stems from the training they received as they were growing up. They internalized that concept and continue a giving practice as adults.

Their beliefs and values foster giving. Worshipers often attach significant theological meaning to their financial contributions. The belief that everything belongs to God—including one's material possessions—prompts some members to return a portion to the church. Others say that they give out of a sense of gratitude for God's love and goodness. Church members who express a sense of religious duty to give believe that God requires giving or that it is what the Bible teaches.

They respond to needs. Contributors often say that they want to contribute to God's work in the world. Worshipers who know about needs locally or globally report that they contribute to support those causes.

They give out of guilt. People can also give because they want to avoid the negative emotional consequences of *not* giving. For some, guilt is a motivator for giv-

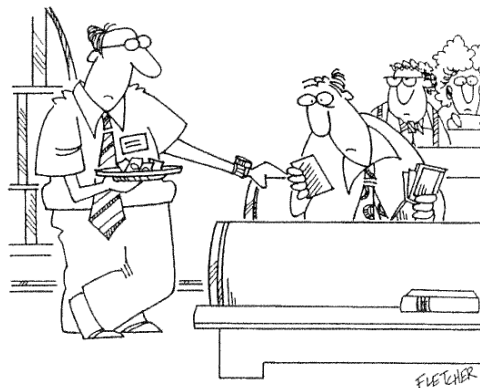
ing. These givers say that if they do not give, they will be doing something wrong or letting someone down.

What Are the Obstacles to Giving?

Despite their relative affluence, American Christians give less than two percent of their income to charity. While some factors push people to give, other things constrain people to give less or nothing at all. The Notre Dame research also reveals several interesting challenges to generous giving.

They feel insecure financially. Some worshipers indicate that they cannot give as much as they would like because they lack the resources to do so. They are afraid to give away money due to the risk of losing security or status. However, people at all income levels offered this reason—hinting that, in many cases, the *perception* of security plays a larger role than actual resources.

They show signs of giving illiteracy. When interviewed, many members were confused about what the standard of giving should be and about how to apply this standard. Some members held the belief that they



...THE OFFERTORY SOFTLY PLAYS...
USHERS MOVE THROUGH THE SANCTUARY...
AND EUGENE CONSULTS HIS
"CALCULATE YOUR TITHE" CHART.



are high givers when in reality they were not. What are the sources of this giving misperception? Members might not know about others' giving habits (how often and how much), especially if there are processes to shield worshipers' privacy. Or the individual or household simply does not keep track of how much they give.

They experience a comfortable level of guilt. Another obstacle to generous giving is a low level of guilt. When members feel guilty about not giving more and yet they do not experience enough discomfort, their giving stagnates. In the absence of strong push factors, a little guilt goes a long way to prevent increased giving.

What Does Our Method Say About the Message?

Just as individuals are not all alike, the congregations they attend are quite different too. Differences in church theological beliefs and tradition set the stage for particular financial approaches. Among churches, three philosophies, which are linked to typical giving methods, are common.³

Tithing churches. In these churches, all members understand that to be in good standing with God and the congregation they need to tithe 10 percent of their annual household income. As a result, the church does not ask members to pledge. Nor does the church hold an annual stewardship program or annual appeal. Many conservative Protestant churches (like Assembly of God or Seventh-Day Adventist) fit in the category of tithing churches.

Pledging churches. These churches favor tithing but tend to believe it is unrealistic to expect all members to tithe. As a result, the church asks members to consider an annual dollar amount or a percentage of their annual household income when making a financial pledge. Typically, these churches conduct an annual stewardship campaign. Many mainline Protestant churches (like Evangelical Lutheran, Presbyterian, and United Methodist) fit in this category.

Offering churches. Some churches believe in tithing and pledging but they do not stress either. As a result, they rarely launch annual campaigns, do little teaching about the theology of giving, and offer little guidance about the spiritual meaning of gifts. To increase giving, church leaders emphasize the size and quality of programs, costs of buildings and properties, and future plans. While churches of all denominations can fall in this category, the majority of Catholic parishes fit here.

Motivation + Method = Results

The percentage of tithers is the key feature that distinguishes one congregation from another. Overall, only one in four worshipers report tithing to their church. Yet

among conservative Protestant members, four in ten are tithers. Fewer mainline Protestants (only two in ten) and Catholics (only one in ten) tithe regularly to their church. These percentages relate to the proclaimed message and methodology used in these congregations.

When worshipers make their giving decisions based on a percentage of their annual income—the pattern for conservative Protestants—their church's total contributions soar. Contributions are somewhat lower when worshipers decide instead on an annual amount to give—a pattern common among mainline Protestants. Worshipers' contributions are lowest when the amount is decided on a weekly basis—a typical pattern in Catholic parishes, where contributions per worshiper are about half that of Protestant churches.

The Bottom Line

High contributors are also high in motivation. As one member stated, "You put your money where your blessing is." *Low givers* focus on giving obstacles. They mention tight budgets and seem misinformed about expectations. They tend to provide an additional rationale for giving less—that time spent volunteering is a substitute for their below-average giving. In reality, worshipers who invest the most time also invest the most money.

High-percentage-tithing churches teach giving-literacy to children and adults by linking faithful giving to faithful living. Leaders encourage a movement to percentage giving with the goal of growing that percentage over time.

Ultimately, leaders need to answer these questions: How do we communicate the connection between faith and money? Do we use methods and strategies that help members make the connection? Do we focus on the need for the giver to give or on the church's budget gaps? Are we willing to change the culture of giving in our church?⁴

1. Cynthia Woolever, "Getting to the Bottom of a Full Collection Plate," <http://www.uscongregations.org/pdf/how-values-enhance-giving-woolever-ppt.pdf>.
2. B. Vaidyanathan and P. Snell, "Motivations for and Obstacles to Religious Financial Giving," *Sociology of Religion*, 72:2 (2011), 189-214.
3. Dean Hoge, et al., *Money Matters: Personal Giving in American Churches* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996), 98-127.
4. See *Church Effectiveness Nugget, Vol. 5: How to Increase Financial Stewardship* (www.TheParishPaper.com).

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New-and-Improved WEBSITE



www.christsunited.org

Our NEW website is now online.

If you have a computer, please go on and see all the items and information you can access.

Our church calendar, newsletter, & upcoming events are listed. There is contact information for church employees and council members. Make a point to add it to your favorites!

You can also follow the link to schedule your photo for the new pictorial directory!



If you belong to facebook, Please make sure you “like” Christ’s United! We need at least 30 people to “like” us so that we get more benefits.



Christ's United Committee Event

On Thursday, August 16 at 6:30 we will be having our first all committee event, and invite both committee leaders and all members to participate.



During this two hour time slot we will learn:

- What are committees for other than getting us out at night;
- Why do I want to be on a committee;
- How do committee's get anything done;
- What our committees can do together to serve Jesus Christ.

Whether you have been on a committee since the dinosaurs roamed the earth or if you don't even know what a committee is, this event needs you. Our goal is to have most of our church participate (doesn't everyone want to serve Christ?). Desserts will be provided, just bring your ideas! For more information, please speak with Dean Fetterolf or Pastor Kim.

A dark and stormy night

During a loud summer thunderstorm, a mother tucked her son into bed. As she turned off the light, he asked with a tremor, "Mommy, will you sleep with me tonight?"

The mother smiled and gave her son a reassuring hug. "I can't, dear," she said. "I have to sleep in Daddy's room."

After a long silence, the boy replied, "The big sissy."



Congratulations To: Congratulations To:

Matt & Morgen Sweitzer on the birth of their daughter, Maura Joan, on Tuesday, July 17. She weighed 7lbs. 7oz. & is 20 inches long.



Bus Trip to see Jonah at Sight & Sound
Thursday, July 12
Thanks to WELCA for
organizing this event!



Christ's United Annual Picnic



Come & Join the Fun!

Sunday, August 26

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Please note time change & come to worship in your casual picnic clothes. There will be no Sunday school.

Picnic 12:00 Noon

Food

Music by the Lorady bunch

Games and More!

Sign up on the bulletin board or call the church office.

Please bring a covered dish to share.



◆ SYNOD NEWS ◆

The Spirit of Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

August 2012

Highlights of the 2012 Synod Assembly

Over 600 people gathered at the Sovereign Arena in Reading for the 25th annual assembly of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod **June 15-16, 2012**. The assembly theme was *God's People Doing What Matters Together*, with an emphasis on sharing what God's people are doing in the synod's congregations.

Twenty-six
forum
sessions on



twenty different topics began the assembly. Subjects included technology, responding to bullying, and church consolidations and mergers. Participants commented that they wished they had time to attend more than two, since there were so many interesting topics.



Throughout the weekend, **Bishop Zeiser** encouraged communication and idea-sharing. Several times he posed a question and invited attendees with electronic devices to reply



on the synod's blog. Responses were projected on the assembly screens at the end of sessions. (You can see the questions and answers and add your own responses on **Potluck Postings** at nepsynod.wordpress.com.)

An open question-and-answer session with the bishop on Saturday morning and panel responses to written questions in the afternoon made the assembly feel less formal and more interactive.

Reports from ministry teams and committees focused on successful projects and how they are being adapted and re-imagined in different settings.



"Birds of a Feather" Groups Gather

Groups of people with common interests or responsibilities flocked together on Friday evening to get acquainted and exchange ideas. From council

BIRDS presidents to
of a webmasters,
FEATHER they heard



what was working—or not—and collected contact information in what the Connection Building Ministry Team hopes will be the beginning of several new networks of information and support.

Seeds Sown in High-Energy Worship



"A sower went out to sow," Bishop Zeiser reminded us in his sermon on Mark 4:1-9, and our faithful God promises an abundant harvest, even from the diverse soils that make up the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. The Friday evening service was enlivened by the worship leadership of singer-songwriter Rachel Kurtz, who



has been featured at several ELCA Youth Gatherings. Worship began with representatives of various walks of life carrying in the altar, filling the font, and turning the

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

plenary hall into a worship setting as we celebrated



Christian vocation. A Latin jazz ensemble, a brass quintet and a children's choir drawn from local churches and afterschool programs brought excitement to the service.

Resolutions Concerning Immigration and Christian Education Adopted

Leaders primarily from the West Berks Mission District introduced a resolution calling on the synod to study the

issues surrounding immigration. The resolution was adopted after it had been

amended to encourage not only study but engagement with legislators concerning the plight of immigrants. A second resolution encouraged support of the Lutheran Association of Christian Educators as a way to enrich education efforts within the ELCA. The final resolution adopted by the assembly affirmed our commitment to the ELCA Malaria Campaign as we seek to raise \$15,000,000 by 2015 to eradicate malaria in Africa.



Jodi Slattery Brings Greetings from the ELCA

Ms. Jodi Slattery, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop for Governance, was the ELCA



representative to the assembly. She shared a video greeting from Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson and emphasized Bishop Hanson's observation that we are a church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Elected at the Assembly

Synod Council: Pr.



Lee Diefenderfer, Sr. Ramona Daily, James Parks

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia: David Hinrichs

Voting Members of 2013

Churchwide Assembly: Clergy:

Michael Bennethum, Fred Opalinski, Mary Gade, Cheryl Meinschein, Susan Ruggles, Maritza Torrez Dolich, Martin Milne, Lori Kochanski, Jeremiah Sassama; **Lay Male:** Charles Moon, Mark Hammond, Brandon Wood, Mark Stana, James Parks, Craig Babcock, Raymond Schneider, Brian Geiger, Charles Rush; **Lay Female:** Karen Matthias-Long, Kristen Opalinski, Diane McElwee,

Lauren Blatt, Hannah



Wallace, Heather Moon, Melodee Leshner, Cathy Cooper, Alice Baer.

The Lutheran Youth Fellowship met in assembly at Muhlenberg College June 22-24. During their time together, participants focused on **bullying**. As a result of the bullying workshop, one participant developed a Facebook page to help educate people about bullying.

Two workshops – **Games with a Purpose** and **Making Prayer Beads** – enabled participants to teach games and to teach others how to make prayer beads, which they did in workshops at the *Citizens with the Saints* Youth Gathering Rally the following day. Both workshops were led solely by LYF youth.

In addition to workshops, plenary sessions, group building activities, and social time, the assembly elected mission district representatives and new officers. The elected officers are Rachel Fackenthal, president (St. Peter, Bethlehem), Daniel Graf, vice president (Trinity, Reading), Meeghan Rossi, secretary (Christ, Penn Forest Twp.), and Destiny Stauffer, treasurer (Christ, Penn Forest Twp.).

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA; 2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101; info@nepsynod.org; www.godslove.org





Saturday, September 15, 2012
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Christ's United Lutheran Church

437 Airport Road, Ashland
(570) 875-1591

COST \$8.00

MENU

½ Barbecued Chicken
Baked Potato
Corn
Dinner Roll
Butter
Dessert
Beverage

Limited tickets will be sold at the door.
Buy your tickets from the LCM members or the Church Office.

Everyone Welcome!



CHICKEN BARBECUE

DONATION SHEET

Saturday, September 15, 2012
4:00-7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Christ's United Lutheran Church Men

Your donations to complete the menu for the Annual Chicken Barbecue will be greatly appreciated. Please complete and return this sheet no later than **September 9th**. The sheet may be placed in the Chicken Barbecue Donation Box in the narthex or returned to the Church Office.

- _____ **One #10 can whole kernel corn**
- _____ **Can of Decaf Coffee**
- _____ **Cakes, cupcakes, cookies, etc.**
- _____ **12 pack soda (any brand/flavor)**
- _____ **20 lb. bag of charcoal**
- _____ **Cash**

Donations may be placed on the center island kitchen counter. **Please attach your name to your donation so we can account for it.** All donations except the baked goods must be in the church no later than September 9, so a final inventory can be taken and the remaining items may be purchased. Baked goods may be brought on **Friday, September 14** between 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. or **Saturday morning after 9:00 a.m.**

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Name _____

Phone _____



Christ's United Committees

Auditing Committee

Christian Education
education@christsunited.org

Endowment Fund

Evangelism/Outreach
evangelism@christsunited.org

Finance

Grieving Committee

Lutheran Church Men (LCM)

Mutual Ministry

Nominating

Personnel
personnel@christsunited.org

Property
property@christsunited.org

Social Ministry

Stewardship

WELCA

Worship & Music

Christ's United Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

We the members of Christ's United Lutheran Church, Ashland, desiring to be blessed together with Word and Sacrament and to become more perfectly the Body of Christ in our world, do hereby commit ourselves to a mission which includes a creative re-examination of our worship life; a quality educational program for all ages; intentional witnessing; a serving spirit; and an integrated support system which will undergird our program and the maintenance of our facilities as it encourages improved stewardship.



CHURCH COUNCIL 2012

Visit us on the Web at:

www.christsunited.org

	Phone	Term Expires
Melanie Bendinsky	875-0646	Feb. 2014
Jim Chappell	644-1602	Feb. 2013
Dean Fetterolf (VP)	875-2765	Feb. 2015
vicepresident@christsunited.org		
Jim Gruber	875-2805	Feb. 2013
David Hall	875-6342	Sept. 2012
Gail Halye (Sec.)	497-5337	Feb. 2015
Nancy Lindenmuth	875-3138	Feb. 2014
Deb Price	875-4272	Feb. 2015
youth@christsunited.org		
Terry Shilling	875-0412	Feb. 2014
Lois Sterling	449-6947	Feb. 2013

PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Kim L. Lengert
(610) 823-1960

Email: pastorkim@christsunited.org

Treasurer	Ann Marie Dillman	875-2422
Financial Secretary	Christine Brennan	875-0720
Indoor Custodian	Sandy Marlow	875-1341
Outdoor Custodian	Donald Klinger	875-2334

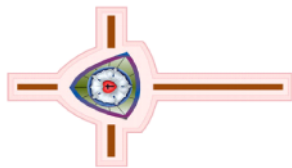
ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

David Schweinhart, Organist	682-9553
Dan Krynak, Choir Director	276-6401

PARISH SECRETARY

Erik Tice	(home) 875-2681
Email: office@christsunited.org	
Office hours	Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Office Phone	(570) 875-1591

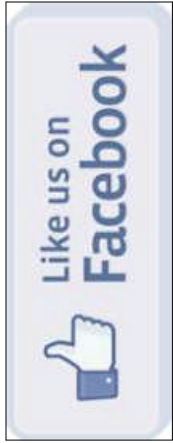




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August 2012