

*Life Together at  
Christ's United  
Lutheran Church*



HE shall be  
the one of  
**PEACE.**

Micah 5:5, NRSV



*Join us for Worship -  
Saturday 5:00 p.m. & Sunday 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 10:45 a.m.*





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

**The December Newsletter is Sponsored in Memory of Steven  
Conniff & Lois Maurer by Ruby, Amy, Anita, & Doug Fegley**

**In This Issue:**

Pgs. 3-4 Pastor Kim's  
Message  
Pg. 5 Council Highlights &  
Status of Accounts  
Pg. 6 Prayer List  
Pg. 7 Advent Workshop  
Pgs. 8-11 Social Ministry  
Pg. 12 Anniversaries &  
Birthdays  
Pg. 13 Christmas Cantata  
Pg. 14 "Who Are These  
People?"  
Pg. 15 Ladies Night Out  
Pg. 16 Christmas Dinner  
Pgs. 18-19 Calendar  
Pgs. 20-25 Youth  
Activities  
Pg. 26 Poinsettia order form  
Pg. 27 Bible Study  
Pg. 28 Shut-in List  
Pg. 29 "Walk-n-Roll"  
Pgs. 30-31 Synod News  
Pg. 32 2013 Budget



*Celebrate the Savior*





Brothers and Sisters,

*Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly signing o'er the plains...*

It was two weeks before Thanksgiving on my regular commute that my radio scan button found the station playing Christmas carols. Incredulous and annoyed, I turned the radio off! It was not even Thanksgiving yet for Pete's sake – why such a hurry – why can't we just slow down and enjoy the season?

Yes, why can't we?

The preparations for Christmas as it is celebrated in our society overwhelm our already tired souls and bodies. We spend days cleaning, prepping, shopping, wrapping, and then  
in less than an hour  
very early in the morning  
it is all

done.

Gifts are unwrapped, the house is a mess, the food is soon to be eaten, the relatives will be going home, and the angels packed up for yet another year.

Did we forget that there are twelve days in Christmas? That it is a season to enjoy, not just a day?

The singing of the angels, the visitation of the shepherds, the words to Mary.

All take time...

Days, in fact...

— continued on page 4



So this year, why not slow down a bit. Let's enjoy the season of Christmas, that begins early one winter morning with a warmth that carries us throughout the year.

The season of Advent when we anxiously await the coming birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The slow rhythm of Christmas Eve as the worship builds to the climatic crescendo of love pouring down onto the earth at Bethlehem. And the days when all the people of the world came to know and proclaim the presence of the infant Lord.

Slow down my friends. Slow down so that you truly may hear the angels sing, see the shepherds worship, and know the presence of the Lord. Slow down, and celebrate the fullness of God's love. Slow down, and enjoy Christmas, for *these* are the *days* that our Lord has made.

May the blessing of Christmas fill you with the enjoyment of this *season*; the presence of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Peace,  
*Pastor Kim*



**Church Council Highlights from November:**

- The Finance Committee has presented a ministry based budget for 2013.
- The Evangelism Committee has taken pictures of the shut in members and the new directory is almost finished and will be submitted to Life Touch.
- Improvements to the parking lot have relieved much of the drainage problems.
- The Sr. Youth Group plans on meeting the third Saturday of each month and the Jr. Youth Group will meet on the fourth Saturday every other month.
- WELCA has given \$1,000.00 toward the cost of new music for the choir.
- Nine women from Christ’s United attended the Fall cluster meeting at Friedens Lutheran in Hegins.
- The Endowment Fund Committee will be presenting scholarships to seven students on November 25.
- The Endowment Fund Committee needs two new members next year, suggestions have been made and the people will be contacted.
- The changes to Christ’s United Constitution by Synod were made and highlighted for the congregation to review prior to our Annual meeting in February 2013.
- The council has suggested that the following be added to the fellowship hall guidelines - “Requests by non-members to use the fellowship hall must be reviewed and approved by Church Council.”

**Status of Accounts as of October 31**

Balance in Checking Account.....	<b>Negative—\$2,606.52</b>
Investment Fund #55.....	\$25,000.00
Investment Fund #73.....	\$25,000.00
Memorial Account.....	\$17,885.81
Benevolence Gifts.....	\$16,154.00
(79% of our Benevolence goal of \$20,600.00)	



## **We Offer our Prayers to...**

### **Members of Christ's United:**

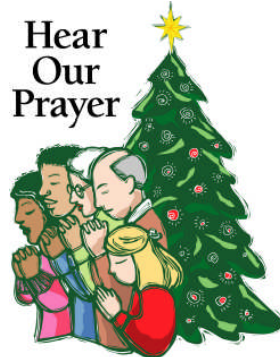
Gail Halye, Emily Brennan, Barb Anczarski, Jane Pennypacker, Nancy Shuey, Jack Houser, Louise Lute family, James Conrath, Pete Waldick, Sue Bendinsky, Judy Stepulitis

### **Family & Friends:**

Judy Gross, Catherine Beury, Lois Blyler, Cameron Hemmingson, Mike Buriak, Barbara Nelson, Margaret Huhn, Debra Welker, Brandon Harris, Bob Foose, Bob Berger Jr., Bob Touchinsky, Judy Touchinsky, Royal Miller, Dennis Morgan, Sara Feese, Faye Geist, Elizabeth Hughes, Benjamin Lockhart, Frank Ward

*Please note that those experiencing a traumatic event are placed onto the Prayer List and will be kept on for one month and then taken off.*

*Please provide updates to the pastor or the office in order that the list is always current. If you would like someone added please call the office: if someone is added to the prayer list on a Sunday morning during worship, please make sure you write it down and place a note on the secretary's desk.*



### **Continued Prayers for our shut-ins:**

Howard Beury  
Jean Cress  
Palmer Kimmel, Mt. Carmel Assisted Living  
Glenn Pennypacker, Treverton  
Arlene Troup, Friendly Nursing Home  
Randy Troutman  
Brenda Wolfgang  
Dean Wolfgang, Tremont Health & Rehab  
Jeanette Wolfgang  
Ruth Wolfgang, Mt. Carmel Nursing  
Walter Wolfgang, Mt. Carmel Assisted Living  
Linda Zerby



# Advent Workshop

**Saturday  
December 1**

**10:00 - 12:00**



## **Prepare the Way!**

Often lost in the early onset of Christmas music and holiday shopping sales, Advent is a season of preparation as we actively await the birth of our Savior, Jesus the Christ. The Advent workshop is an activity for families (of all shapes and sizes) to make something that will help you celebrate the season of Advent at home. Our project will be making a home Advent wreath for us to use with our weekly devotional. Registration is required; please sign up on the bulletin board so we have the correct number of supplies.

## **Preparing for Christmas**



Come and share with your family members in this activity workshop as we prepare the way!





# Social Ministry

## Ashland Area Food Pantry

We will be collecting the following items for December:

### **Cereal & 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

December—Choir  
January 2013—Church Council  
February—Social Ministry  
March—LCM  
April—WELCA  
May—Christian Education  
June—Worship & Music  
July—Evangelism/Outreach  
August—Youth Group







Help us to help others.

During December the Christmas tree in the Narthex will have tags on it with gift items needed for families, the Ashland Area food pantry, and also for Lutheran World Relief.

You can take one or more of the tags and then purchase the items. Please have items for the families, and the food pantry back to the church by Sunday, December 16 so they may be distributed.

Gifts for Lutheran World Relief may be purchased anytime before Christmas, just color the ornament that you want to buy and give your check for the amount listed to AnnMarie Dillman. You can purchase many different items including: worms, fruit tree seedlings, hens, piglets and many other items to help families throughout the world.



**From the Social Ministry Committee:**

Thank you to everyone that donated stuffed animals, we collected a total of 76 bears and other animals.

*On behalf of the Pediatric Department at Schuylkill Medical Center - South, I would like to Thank all of you who donated the stuffed animals for our unit. Our patient's have enjoyed them very much. Thank you again.*

*Sandy Lynch*

*Thank you! Your generous donation has brought a smile to a child's face. On behalf of the children at the Janet Weis Children's Hospital, Thank You!*

*The Child Life Team*



We also collected \$60.00 for the Jared Box project. We have ordered some items for the boxes and will be packing and delivering them soon.




**SPECIAL  
OFFERING**

**Good Samaritan  
Fund Offering  
Sunday, December 30**


A circular graphic containing several envelopes and red poinsettia flowers. To the right of the graphic, the words "SPECIAL OFFERING" are written in a serif font. Below the graphic, the text "Good Samaritan Fund Offering Sunday, December 30" is written in a bold, sans-serif font.

MAKING A  
**Difference**  
**2011**

Individuals, schools & congregations across the U.S.  
purchased Equal Exchange coffee to the tune of:

785,034 

that's

31,401,760 

which is equal to the entire annual harvest of:

**377**  
FAMILY  
FARMS

*Now put that in your cup  
and drink it!*



Lutheran  
World  
Relief

*Thank You*  
FOR SUPPORTING FARMING  
FAMILIES AROUND THE WORLD

Equal Exchange is a worker-owned co-operative offering  
100% fairly traded coffee, tea, chocolate and foods.





**Anniversaries**

12/03/49 Elmer & Betty Waldick  
 12/05/08 Breann & Daniel Barker  
 12/11/93 Stephen & Tami Wagner  
 12/11/99 Erik & Sally Tice  
 12/28/10 Stephen & Brittany Harhigh

**Birthdays**

3	Howard Beury	22	Jeff Brennan
4	Jonah Coward	23	Mary Cramer
	Walter Wolfgang		Robert Carl
7	Beryl Stitzer	24	Ruth Wolfgang
11	Cory Krise		Daniel Brennan
12	Daniel Witner	25	David Hall
13	Shea Moyer	26	Marian Brennan
	Karleigh Economy	27	Zackary Coward
14	Joey Anczarski		Brody Baker
15	Arlene Krise	28	Bonnie Dillman
18	April Brennan	29	Beth Andrews
	Lynn Dillman		
	Raven Marlow		





Community  
Cantata  
& Christmas Carol  
Sing-a-long

**Friday, December 21**

**7:00 p.m.**

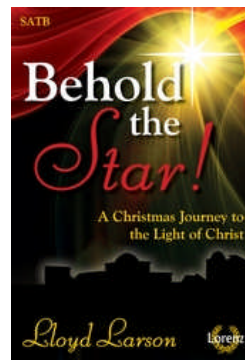
St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
Girardville

**&**

**Saturday, December 22**

**7:30 p.m.**

Christ's United Lutheran Church  
437 Airport Road, Ashland



Directed by Dan Krynak, a joint choir will present "Behold the Star!"  
Join us for this exciting cantata and experience the wonder of the  
Christmas season!



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.

Answers for the November edition "Who are these people??" -  
Left to Right: First Row: Billy Denchak, Susan (Raabe) Hudock, Janet Moyer, Mark Snavelly, Diane (Klinger) Rock, Helena (Rickard) Snyder, Terry Urbon. Second Row: Paul Snavelly, Bonnie Kahn, Linda (Bieder) Ohl, Beth (Boyer) Andrews, Wayne Kaufman, Brenda Coward, Gail Umlauf, David Neidig. Third Row: Mrs. Snavelly, Rev. Snavelly, Terry (Korn) Shilling, Sandra Waldick, Dorothy Leitzel, Marie Koon, June Kaufman.  
Early 1960's Youth Choir.





## Ladies Night Out

Neither the snow, wind, rain or dark of night will keep the ladies of Christ's United in because it is LADIES' NITE OUT!!! We'll be making the journey down to Pastor's neck o'the woods for a lively dinner at Ozgoods and then to Pastor Kim's house for desserts.

We had 18 at our last dinner – let's double it this time! Please sign up on the bulletin board so we can reserve our table. Remember we car pool, so not everyone needs to drive! Because of the time of year, we will be leaving earlier – so please meet at church at

**3:30 on Sunday, 6 January**

Pastor Kim normally takes Tuesdays and Fridays off from pastoral duties in order to keep up with her law practice; she is at Christ's United every other day of the week. If you have a pastoral emergency on one of those days please call her cell phone at 610-823-1960.



**Christ's United  
Congregational**



**Saturday,  
December 8  
6:00 p.m.**

**Cost: Freewill Offering**

**Menu:**

**Stuffed Chicken Breast  
Meatballs  
Filling  
Green Beans  
Cranberry Sauce & Cole Slaw  
Rolls & Dessert**

**Entertainment to follow the meal by  
"The Lorady's"**

Sign up on the bulletin board by November 30th.













# Serving Our Community of Faith in December:

Date	Lector	Communion Assistants	Ushers	Acolyte	Crucifer	Greeter in Narthex	Greeter at Door
<b>December 2</b>	Suzanne Peel	Melanie Bendinsky Lois Sterling Jo-Ann Young	John Wolfgang Kay Berner Dennis Wolfe Jim Gruber	Deidre Dengler	Desiree Dengler	Ian Bendinsky	Cheryl Denchak
<b>December 9</b>	Becky Spencer			Taryn Wilson	Amy Johnson	Jim Gruber	Cheryl Varnell
<b>December 16</b>	Barb Stepanchick			Mark Klinger	Samantha Schneider	Mark Varnell	Barb Stepanchick
<b>December 23</b>	Erik Tice			Ian Bendinsky	Cory Krise	Melanie Bendinsky	Gail Halys
<b>December 24 - 4:00</b>	Sally Tice	Judy Stepulitis Dean Fetterolf Connie Welker	John Wolfgang Dot Zeigenfusse Jim Gruber Jim Chappell	Steven Wolfgang	Kate Neumeister	Barb Fetterolf	Dean Fetterolf
<b>December 24 - 7:30</b>	Lois Sterling	Jane Pennypacker Donna Wallace Kay Berner	Robert Schneider Kay Berner Becky Spencer Dennis Wolfe	Azure Waldick	Rhonda Carl	Lois Sterling	Connie Welker
<b>December 30</b>	Cheryl Varnell			Charlie Sweinhart	Brooke Wolfe	Jane Pennypacker	Richard Berner

# DECEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday																																										
		<p style="text-align: center;">JANUARY 2013</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			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	31				
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																								
		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	31																																										
<p><b>2</b> 9:30 Communion Service 10:45 Adult &amp; Youth Sunday school, Confirmation class</p> 	<p><b>3</b> 9:00 Hanging of the Greens 10:00 <i>Worship &amp; Music Meeting</i>  7:00 <i>Church Council</i></p>	<p><b>4</b>  7:00 Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>5</b>  6:00 "Walk-n-Roll" 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 <i>WELCA</i></p>	<p><b>6</b> 10:30  6:00 C Rehea 7:00 C Educa</p>																																										
<p><b>9</b> 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 Adult &amp; Youth Sunday school, Confirmation class</p> 	<p><b>10</b>  7:00 <i>Social Ministry Meeting</i></p>	<p><b>11</b>  6:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Cantata Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>12</b>  6:00 "Walk-n-Roll"</p>	<p><b>13</b>  6:00 C Rehea</p>																																										
<p><b>16</b> 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 Adult &amp; Youth Sunday school, Confirmation class 5:00 <i>LCM</i> 6:00 <i>Property Meeting</i></p> 	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b>  6:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Cantata Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>19</b> 9:30 Newsletter Assembly  6:00 "Walk-n-Roll"</p>	<p><b>20</b> 12:00- Pantry 5:00 S Group Party 6:00 C Rehea</p>																																										
<p><b>23</b> 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 Birthday Party for Jesus</p> 	<p><b>24</b>   Office Hours 9:30-12  4:00 Communion Service 7:30 Communion Service</p>	<p><b>25</b>   <i>CHRISTMAS DAY</i>  Office Closed</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>																																										
<p><b>30</b> <b>1st Sunday of Christmas</b> 9:30 Worship Service <b><i>Good Samaritan Offering</i></b> 10:45 Adult &amp; Youth Sunday school, Confirmation class</p>	<p><b>31</b> <b>New Year's Eve</b></p>																																													



da	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 10:00-12:00 Advent Workshop  5:00 Communion Service 6:00 Choir Party
Bible Study  antata rsal <i>hristian tion Meeting</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  5:00 Worship Service 6:00 Congregational Christmas Dinner
antata rsal	<b>14</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>15</b>  <i>Christmas Cantata Rehearsal</i>  5:00 Worship Service 6:00 Fellowship Hall Reserved
2:00 Food  r. Youth Christmas  antata rsal	<b>21 St. Thomas, Apostle</b>  7:00 Cantata @ St. Joseph's Girardville	<b>22</b>  5:00 Worship Service  7:30 Cantata @ Christ's United
	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  5:00 Worship Service



Christmas Dinner



# Youth Group



**Christ's United Lutheran Church**


**Contact Us: [youth@christsunited.org](mailto:youth@christsunited.org)**



The Sr. youth group wishes to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make fall fest and trunk or treat a great success. What kind of surprises will be in store next year...

Can't wait to find out!!!



	<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <p>Thursday, December 20 Sr. Youth Group Christmas Party!</p>	
	<p>Sunday, December 23 Birthday Party for Jesus</p>	
	<p><i>Happy Birthday, Jesus!</i></p> 	

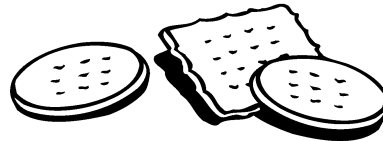


# Spread a little cheer

This holiday season, “spread” some cheer by giving a yummy treat that can be spread on crackers, bread or apple slices.

**What you need:**

- ½ cup chopped, crushed candied pecans
- ½ cup chopped fresh basil
- ½ cup chopped dried cranberries
- ¼ tsp. black pepper
- 8 oz. goat cheese log
- Decorative plastic wrap



**What you do:**

1. Combine the first four ingredients on a flat surface.
2. Roll the cheese log firmly in the nut mixture, coating all surfaces.
3. Wrap the log and give it, along with a box of party crackers, to neighbors, teachers and so on.





# cheerful giver

Jesus came to serve and give to others. This Christmas season, consider how you can follow Jesus' example by giving your time, love and kindness.

**Directions:** Cross out every *my*, *me* and *mine*. Then write the remaining words on the blanks below to read 2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV.



myeachmineofyoumeshouldmygiveminemewhat  
 youminemehaveminememinemydecidedmeinmy  
 myyourmineheartmemyminetomygivememinenot  
 minereluctantlymeormyunderminemycompulsion  
 minemymeforminemyGodminemylovesmy  
 meamyminecheerfulmymegivermineCorinthians

“ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ”  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ”  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ”  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ”

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 9:7, NIV

Answer:  
 “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give,  
 not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”  
 2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV



# 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



#### **December: Waiting**

*We challenge you to notice how God is with us while we are waiting.*

**Week one:** Purchase or unpack your nativity scene. Decide as a family



where you will display the nativity scene. Unpack and display only the stable. Each week we will challenge you to display and discuss new additions to the scene. This week talk about the places where Jesus could be born today.

**Week two:** Add animals and shepherds to the nativity scene. Set a timer for five minutes. Sit with the shepherds and animals and wait for the messiah to come. Discuss with your family how it felt to wait!

**Week three:** Add the manger to the nativity scene. Discuss with your family what a manger is (a feeding trough for animals). Why did Mary and Joseph put baby Jesus in a manger? Place your baby Jesus in the manger on December 25.

**Week four:** Add the Wiseman to the nativity scene. Discuss with your family what you would like to give to baby Jesus.



# **Sr. Youth Group Christmas Party**

**Thursday, December 20th**

**5:00 p.m. Dinner time  
then we party!!!!!!**

**Watch the mail for your invitation!**

If you don't receive an invitation and are between the ages of 12 & 18, please email Keith or DruAnn Laudermilch to let them know you are coming at [youth@christsunited.org](mailto:youth@christsunited.org).

**Deadline to RSVP, Sunday December 16.**







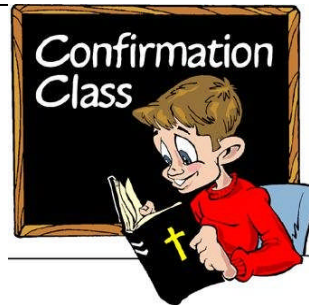
## Day Camp for Kids

halls and classrooms empty. One of the ministry ideas proposed is a Day Camp. As this idea is a tremendous undertaking, Council has approved our investigation of community need and our ability by considering a 2013 Summer Day Camp here at Christ's United. Arrangements will need to be set by March for us to accomplish this goal. If you are interested in serving on the planning team, please contact Sally Tice, Hannah Sterling, or Pastor Kim.

## Day Camp?

One of the greatest tools Christ's United has for ministry is our building. But even with our busy ministry schedule, the morning hours often leave its

A reminder that ALL confirmands are to participate in worship on either Saturdays or Sundays. We will start planning our 2013 retreat, so be sure to be at class! Parents – there is a homework assignment each week – is your confirmand doing his/her homework?????





**It's time to order your Christmas Poinsettias!**  
The poinsettias are available in marble, pink, white, or red.  
They are available in a 6" pot (5-7 blooms) for \$11.00 or a 8"  
pot (12-15 blooms) for \$22.50.

Also available are fresh green 24" wreaths decorated with  
pinecones and a bow for \$12.00.

Make checks payable to Jane Pennypacker. You may send this  
order form in to the office.

*The deadline to order is December 9<sup>th</sup>.*

**In memory/honor of:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Color** \_\_\_\_\_ **Size** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount** \_\_\_\_\_

**In memory/honor of:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Color** \_\_\_\_\_ **Size** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount** \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out and mail this form with your payment to the church or  
drop it off in the church office.



## Indoor Custodian

With sadness Council has accepted notice from Sandy Marlow that she will end her service as the indoor custodian at the end of the year. Sandy has done a fantastic job making our church home inviting to all who enter the doors. Many thanks to Sandy (and Grant) for all their hard work done with such love.

If you know of anyone willing to fill Sandy's shoes, please tell them to contact Ralph Johnson, Personnel Committee Chair @ 875-2904.



---

## Bible Study:

### The Joshua Campaign Comes to an End!

Joshua has reached the end of the conquest of Canaan, and we will celebrate God's victory at our last gatherings on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of December. We will take a break during Advent and come back together in January as we begin the new year at the



very beginning. Join the journey into the beginning of time as we watch the creation of the universe as recorded in Genesis. Every one is welcome!

Join the Journey!





*Please Remember our Shut-ins during the  
Christmas Season with visits, cards, greetings, and prayers.*

**Howard & Catherine Beury**, 768 Forrest Lane, Pottsville, PA  
17901

**Jean Cress & Jeanette Wolfgang**, 18 Rolling Meadows Rd., Ash-  
land, PA 17921

**Palmer Kimmel**, Mt. Carmel Nursing & Rehab Center, 2616 Locust  
Gap Hwy., Mt. Carmel, PA 17851

**Glenn Pennypacker**, 816 Cherry St., Paxinos, PA 17860

**Arlene Troup**, Friendly Nursing Home, 200 Taylorsville Mtn. Rd.,  
Pitman, PA 17964

**Randy Troutman**, 365 Main St., PO Box 426, Lavelle, PA 17943

**Brenda Wolfgang**, 100 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Apt. 3, Girardville, PA 17935

**Dean Wolfgang**, Tremont Health & Rehab Center, 44 Donaldson  
Rd., Tremont, PA 17981

**Ruth Wolfgang**, Mt. Carmel Nursing & Rehab Center, 2616 Locust  
Gap Hwy., Mt. Carmel, PA 17851

**Walter Wolfgang**, Mt. Carmel Nursing & Rehab Center, 2616  
Locust Gap Hwy., Mt. Carmel, PA 17851

**Linda Zerby**, 42 Bryn Mawr Ave., Pottsville, PA 17901



# "Walk-n-Roll"

*A walk party for your feet!*



A "walk to the music" choreographed walking class that combines walking with easy dance steps, non-complicated arm movements and fun!

*A safe and effective workout for everyone!*

This class has been so popular, that we are continuing it through December. We will continue to meet on

**Wednesday's @**

**6:00 p.m.**

in the church social hall. If you have not been to one of the classes, you can still join us! You may drop in for one or more classes with no obligation. A free will collection will be taken each week to offset the costs of the church utilities. Join Gail Lorady as she leads this energetic exercise class.



# ◆ SYNOD NEWS ◆

The Spirit of Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

December 2012



## ONE CHRISTMAS STORY: PEOPLE RICH IN SPIRIT



*CBS to air Odyssey Networks production on Christmas Eve*

Like so many of America's once bustling industrial centers, Reading, PA, has been on a downward spiral for decades. The city has lost factories, jobs and population. The latest economic recession amplified its burdens.

Something that Reading has never lost, however, is hope—hope and an abiding belief in the power of community.



Odyssey Network's **One Christmas Story: People Rich in Spirit** takes viewers to the heart of Reading for a celebration that reflects the true meaning of the holiday season—hope and caring.

**One Christmas Story: People Rich in Spirit** begins in the aptly-named **Hope Lutheran Church**, a symbol of hope in Reading's poorest neighborhood. There a diverse congregation gathers on Christmas Eve 2012 to share the joyful songs of the season and to hear the story of the birth of Christ. Four local choirs join the congregation in song, reflecting the diversity of the community.



Woven through the music and the readings are the stories of Reading citizens today—stories that illustrate the messages of the Gospel: sharing with neighbors, valuing the spiritual over the material, and welcoming the stranger.

Also featured in this Christmas special is a gathering, hosted by the **Salvation Army**, for

Reading citizens—both the needy and those who are reaching out to help with a warm welcome, shelter, food, and holiday



gifts. The parallels are striking between this gathering and the time-honored images from the Christmas story itself—the weary

travelers Mary and Joseph finding shelter, the Three Kings bringing gifts to the Child, the humble shepherds being honored by heavenly messengers, and Bethlehem, a downtrodden town in Judea, becoming the birthplace of the long-awaited Messiah.

**One Christmas Story: People Rich in Spirit** promises to be a unique and joyous celebration of Christmas that makes the story of the birth of Christ immediate and relatable to the world in which we live now.



CBS will air the one-hour program without commercials starting at **11:35 PM on Christmas Eve**.

You are invited to a special preview of

### **One Christmas Story: People Rich in Spirit**

**Monday, December 10, 7:00 p.m.**

Miller Center for the Performing Arts  
Reading Area Community College (RACC)

Directions and free parking information:

[www.racc.edu/MillerCenter/directions.aspx](http://www.racc.edu/MillerCenter/directions.aspx)





### God's People Doing What Matters — Together!

How do your mission support dollars help make ministry happen in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod?



You can **see** your dollars at work! Four videos are posted on the synod website at [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org) that show God's people doing what matters together, thanks to you. Just click the link on the home page – and while you are on that page, watch a 2½-minute video with clips from two of the stories.

1) St. John, Mahoning is grateful for the congregation's recently called pastor. Bishop Zeiser



celebrates the fact that mission support makes it possible for a new generation of rostered leaders to receive an affordable theological education.

2) This past May, the synod's World Hunger Appeal Team revived our tradition of holding a "bike for world hunger." This video clip looks at the way mission support provided the seed money for the event.



3) Since 2009, the Potato Project has been a growing ministry in the synod, reaching out to more and more ministry partners each year and providing fresh produce to a growing number of area



pantries. The Potato Project has received support from the synod and the ELCA's Domestic Hunger Grant program.

4) Youth and young adults tell Bishop Zeiser about their experience participating in the synod's LYF, a ministry that helps young people grow both in their faith and in their ability to be leaders. At each location, Bishop Zeiser highlights the way in which the ministry benefits from the mission support giving of congregations.



The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod—doing what matters in potato fields and Lutheran Youth Fellowship groups, at a world hunger event and the calling of a new pastor, on bicycles and tractors.

### Thank you!



### Weaving Our Faith Stories: LM Day, January 26, 2013 St. John, Boyertown

*Weaving Our Faith Stories*, the 2013 Learning Ministries Day, features **Pastor Paul Lutz** (Trinity, Lansdale) as the keynote presenter. Pr. Lutz will talk about biblical storytelling.

Workshops include recording your baptismal story, telling our faith story through music, tweeting your story, arts and crafts, and dealing with bullying.



*Weaving Our Faith Stories* will be held at **St. John, Boyertown, PA on January 26, 2013**. More information at [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org).



### For Your Calendar

**January 5-6, 2013: Youth World Hunger Lock-in;**

multiple locations around the synod.

**May 7, 2013: Lutheran Day at the Capitol, Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill, Pa.**

**June 14-15, 2013: Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly, Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre.**



Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA; 2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101; [info@nepssynod.org](mailto:info@nepssynod.org); [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org)





**2013 Annual Budget**

Approved at Congregational Meeting November 11, 2012

**\$ 169,305.70 Ministry Budget**  
**+ 20,600.00 Benevolence Goal**

**\$ 58,880.20 Worship & Music**

**\$ 35,775.63 Christian Education**

**\$ 28,932.87 Stewardship**

**\$ 20,601.40 Social Ministry**

**\$ 18,077.60 Evangelism**

**\$ 7,038.00 Youth**

**Budget for the New Year**





# MERRY CHRISTMAS

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!  
May the blessing of God's most precious gift of Jesus Christ fill  
your hearts with joy and peace this Christmas and always.  
Pastor Kim, Erik, David, Dan, Sandy, Don, Ann Marie, &  
Chris*

Please assist the church in making an accurate report of all active, communing and contributing members of Christ's United.

As we approach the end of our calendar year, it is important that everyone take a moment to complete one communion card and one offering envelope with your name and address. Either one or both can be found in the pew racks at any of our upcoming services.

Thank you for assisting the record keepers as we begin the church year with the Holy seasons of Advent and Christmas.



Offering envelopes for 2013 will be available mid December for your convenience.



## Christ's United Committees

Auditing Committee

Christian Education  
education@christsunited.org

Endowment Fund

Evangelism/Outreach  
evangelism@christsunited.org

Finance

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.*

~~oops!~~

From a worship bulletin in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina:

Hymn of the Day

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Gospel Reading

We've always *heard* this carol differently.



# CHURCH COUNCIL 2012

Visit us on the Web at: [www.christsunited.org](http://www.christsunited.org)

	Phone	Term Expires
Melanie Bendinsky (Sec.)	875-0646	Feb. 2014
Jim Chappell	644-1602	Feb. 2013
Dean Fetterolf (VP)	875-2765	Feb. 2015
Email: <a href="mailto:vicepresident@christsunited.org">vicepresident@christsunited.org</a>		
Jim Gruber	875-2805	Feb. 2013
Ian Bendinsky	875-0646 (Youth Rep.)	Sept. 2013
Gail Halye	497-5337	Feb. 2015
Nancy Lindenmuth	875-3138	Feb. 2014
Deb Price	875-4272	Feb. 2015
Email: <a href="mailto:youth@christsunited.org">youth@christsunited.org</a>		
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](mailto: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  
Email: [organist@christsunited.org](mailto:organist@christsunited.org)

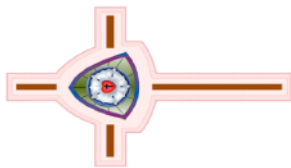
Dan Krynak, Choir Director 276-6401  
Email: [dan@christsunited.org](mailto:dan@christsunited.org)

## PARISH SECRETARY

Erik Tice (home) 875-2681  
Email: [office@christsunited.org](mailto:office@christsunited.org)

Office hours Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Office Phone (570) 875-1591





# Christ's United Lutheran Church

437 Airport Road

Ashland PA 17921

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Pottsville, PA  
PERMIT NO. 25

