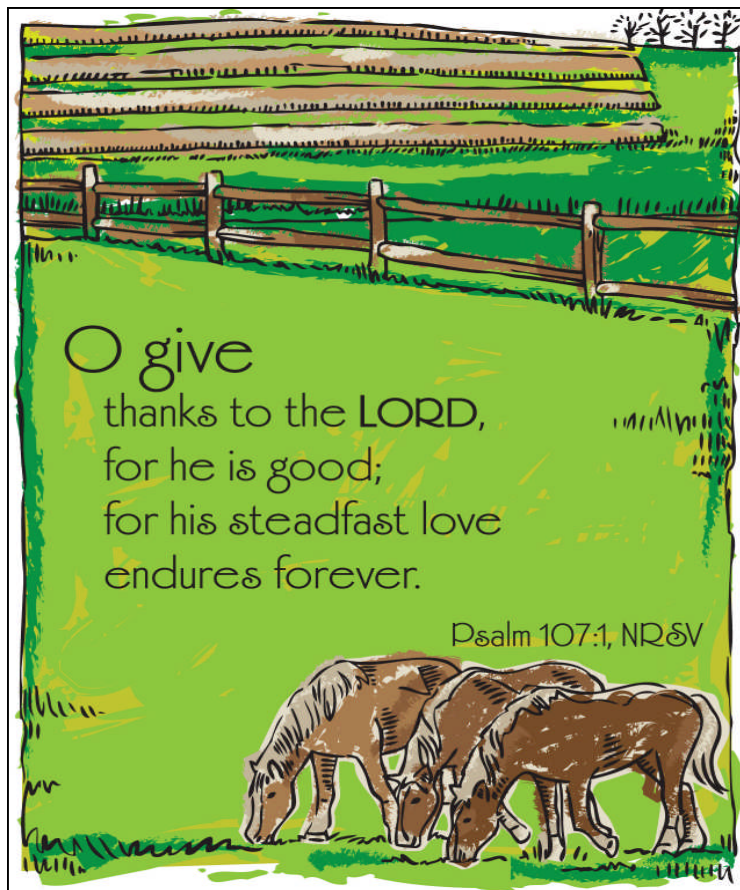


*Life Together at
Christ's United
Lutheran Church*



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



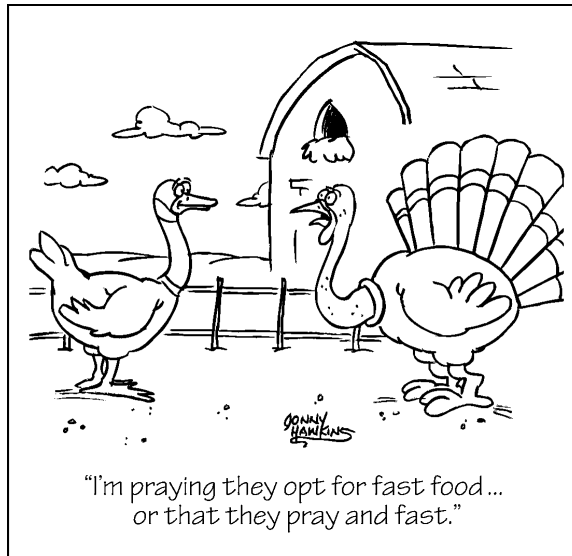


Christ's United
Lutheran Church
437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921
www.christsunited.org
(570) 875-1591

The November Newsletter is Sponsored in Memory of Donald H. Klinger by Don & Laray Klinger

In This Issue:

Pgs. 3-4 Pastor Kim's
Message
Pg. 5 Council Highlights &
Status of Accounts
Pg. 7 New Directory Update
Pg. 8 Prayer List
Pg. 9 "Who Are These
People?"
Pgs. 10-11 Sauerkraut
Supper
Pg. 12 Highway Cleanup
Pgs. 14-17 Social
Ministry
Pg. 18 All Saints
Commemoration
Pg. 19 Anniversary &
Birthdays
Pg. 20 Blessing Workshop
Pgs. 22-23 Calendar
Pgs. 24-30 Youth
Activities
Pgs. 34-35 Synod News
Pg. 36 Advent Workshop
Pg. 38 Bible Study
Pg. 39 Budget Meeting



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Message From

About the time this newsletter arrives, our thoughts will be filled with filling: whether you like it in the turkey or on the side. Preparation for Thanksgiving guides our trips to the grocery store, the vacuuming and laundry, the service on the car, and the telephone calls of travel plans. And rightfully so!



Pastor Kim

Thanksgiving is a feast – a time to come together with family and friends – a time of great celebration! Not a seat will be spared as we gather, some traveling from places afar and some just down the stairs. The table will be set, candles will be lit, and food – oh the food – will fill every corner of the table! Songs on the stereo, stories will be exchanged, sometimes more than one at a time, as children will be playing and dishes clanking, the air will be scented with the glorious offering of turkeys, ham, and vegetables. What a wonderful time! What a wonderful feast!

The images of the feast are not limited to the Thanksgiving holiday this month, as worship includes three feasts in the life of the church: Reformation, All Saint's, and Christ the King. Reformation is our celebration of the re-forming of the church, the joyous recognition of God's gift of grace. All Saint's is when we gather with all the people of God, those who have gone on to heaven before us and those who are yet to be baptized into the family of faith. And Christ the King – Christ is King! – when we celebrate the eternal rule of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Each a time for friends and family to come together in a joyous celebration, each a time for telling of stories and music filling the air, each time children playing and dishes clanking – oh and the meal – what a wondrous meal!

What, you don't remember? You don't remember the feast and celebration, the joy and laughter, the playing and clanking? Come, and remember.

- continued on page 4



Come, with family and friends, from near and far, and come. Come, for here the candles will be lit, the table set, the music playing, stories will be told, and the dishes clanking. Come, children of all ages, for this is a feast! The Lord Himself is our Host, and the feast His Body and Blood, the meal eternal life, and the celebration, unending.

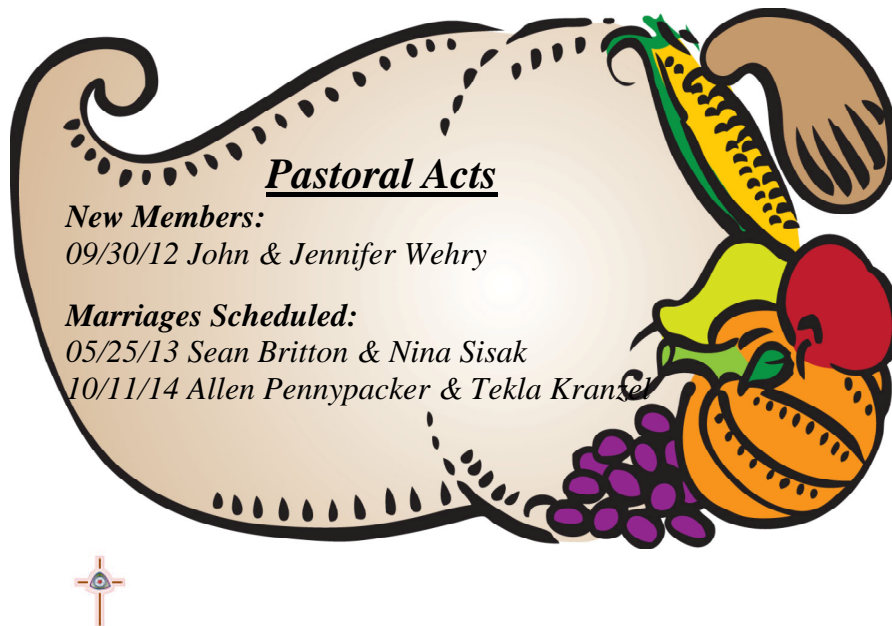
Come, for THIS is the Feast of our Lord!

Peace,

Pastor Kim



Thank you to Christ's United congregation and the Youth Group for the wonderful newspaper announcements for Clergy Appreciation month. It is such a Blessing to be with you all.
Pastor Kim



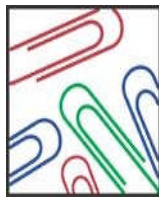
Church Council Highlights from October:

- The Evangelism Committee will be meeting with Life Touch to finalize the new directory.
- The Property Committee has begun working on the new drainage and resurfacing of the parking lot.
- Three members of the Social Ministry Committee will be giving a presentation at the “Jesus Calls Us” Workshop in Bernville.
- The Stewardship Committee will be hosting a workshop on November 3, titled “Blessed to be a Blessing”.
- Stewardship is also working with the Finance Committee on a programmatic budget.
- Time and Talent sheets will be distributed for 2013.
- The Junior Youth group had their first meeting, the older youth group is hosting a Fall Festival on October 27 and “Trunk-or-Treat” on October 28.
- It was agreed that the Mutual Ministry Committee is in need of new members since two of them are not able to attend meetings.
- The Grieving Committee will be incorporated into Social Ministry.
- The new Constitution that was accepted at the January congregational meeting was reviewed by the Synod office. They have made a few minor changes in wording. It was suggested that the Constitution be placed onto our website for members to review it before the annual congregation meeting in February 2013 when the changes will be reviewed and voted on.
- Nancy Lindenmuth & Dean Fetterolf will be meeting with Shadle Insurance to review our policy.
- Ian Bendinsky has been appointed as the new youth representative on council. His term will go until September 2013.

Status of Accounts

Balance in Checking Account.....	\$1,186.79
Investment Fund #55.....	\$25,000.00
Investment Fund #73.....	\$25,000.00
Memorial Account.....	\$17,586.21
Benevolence Gifts.....	\$14,918.00
(66% of our Benevolence goal of \$20,600.00)	





FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE At times people have left money on my desk in the office for various reasons.

Please DO NOT continue to do this.

We have had some money disappear and would like to put an end to this happening.

If you have money for memorials, bulletins, etc. Please give it directly to me, the pastor, or mail it to the office. Any money for altar or special flowers goes directly to Jane Pennypacker, it does not go to the office. Thank you for you help.

Erik Tice, Christ's United Secretary



Included with this Newsletter is your NEW Time & Talent sheet for 2013.

Please fill it out and return to the church office by Sunday, November 11. If you filled one out last year, PLEASE fill one out again for 2013. We take the tally from the current list as to which activities and committees you wish to participate in. Thank You!



*The following Memorial was given to Christ's
United since the issue of the last Newsletter:*

*\$10.00 in Memory of Paul Bereskie, Sr. by:
Peggy & Frank Dzialek*



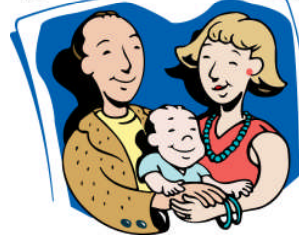
Evangelism Committee **Directory Update**

We would like to make everyone aware that when the new directory is published **all email addresses** that we have for members will be included. If you prefer NOT to have your email address listed in the directory, please contact the church office.

If anyone was unable to get their picture taken due to an emergency or conflict of scheduling, **you can still get your picture taken!** Please contact

Dennis or Tina Wolfe @ 875-1022 or tinaden@ptd.net to talk with them about scheduling. There will be a nearby church that is conducting photography sessions soon. You will be able to go there and get your picture taken if you would like to have it included in our directory.

**Church Photo
Directory**



We Offer our Prayers to...

Members of Christ's United:

Gail Halye, Emily Brennan, Brittany (Smith) Harhigh, Barb Anczarski, Jane Pennypacker, Nancy Shuey, Gerry Dillman, Dan Krynak, Emerson Wolfgang, Jack Houser

Family & Friends:

Judy Gross, Catherine Beury, Lois Blyler, Cameron Hemmingson, Mike Buriak, Barbara Nelson, David Major, Margaret Huhn, Harry & Marie Lengert, Debra Welker, Brandon Harris, Kelly & Bud Crosby, Bob Foose, Beryl Kubik, Bob Berger Jr., Bob Touchinsky, Judy Touchinsky

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



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 October edition "Who are these people??" - Left to Right: First Row: Kimberly Sadusky, Tiffany Sisko, Michelle Smith, Dawn Lucky, Amy Hudock. Second Row: Jill Johnson, Michael Smith, Dustin Wolfgang, Traci Rickert, Gary Schneider, Christopher Rickard. Third Row: Ronald Wolfgang, Dionne Wolfgang, Susan Wolfgang, Edward Stepulitis, Jr., William Dillman. Confirmation May 18, 1986.



Pork & Sauerkraut Supper



Sponsored by the Lutheran Church Men

Saturday, November 10, 2012

4:00 – 7:00 pm

Eat In or Carry Out

Christ's United Lutheran Church
437 Airport Road, Ashland

Dinner Includes:

Pork & Sauerkraut

Mashed Potatoes

Applesauce

Bread & Butter

Dessert

Beverage

(Hot Dog available as substitute for pork)

Adults: \$8.00

Children 6-12: \$3.00

Under Age 6: FREE

Ticket information: Call 875-1591
(Limited tickets available at the door)



SAUERKRAUT SUPPER

Saturday, November 10th, 2012

Sponsored by
Christ's United Lutheran Church Men
437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921



ITEMS NEEDED

- _____ Can of Decaf Coffee
- _____ #10 Can of Applesauce
- _____ Cakes, Cookies, Brownies, or Cup Cakes
- _____ 12 Pack Soda (Any brand or flavor)
- _____ Cash Donation

Donations may be placed on the center island in the kitchen. Please attach your name to your donation. All donations must be in no later than **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4th**. Baked goods may be brought in on Friday, November 9th, during office hours. Baked goods may also be brought in before noon on Saturday prior to the dinner.

Please return this sheet to the church office or place it in the box located on the table in the narthex.

Name _____ Phone _____





The fall clean-up of our section of Route
901 will take place on


Saturday, November 3

That's a bit later than usual but it was hard
to find a Saturday this fall that didn't have
some other important work going on.

Please plan to join us at the church at 8:00
a.m. where you will be given gloves and an
orange vest/back to mark you as a highway
worker. With 10 or 12 workers we can
finish in less than two hours. We've had
new workers the past two times and we'll
be delighted to have more. Interesting
things can be found along our
roadways.

Come and search with us.



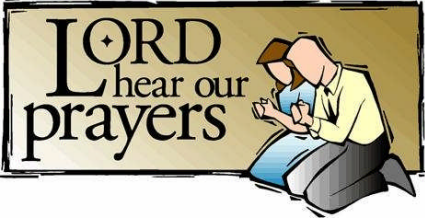


Birds of a feather flock together! From Pippins to Birds of Paradise, ladies from Christ's United shared stories as we enjoyed bird-themed sandwiches at Isaacs. Next month we will return to Red Lobster, where we broke all records for the stories told and the number of people telling them! Please sign 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 the church

Sunday, November 4
3:30 p.m.

Prayer Ministry

Christ's United is blessed with Prayer Circles who have dedicated themselves to a ministry of prayer for those in need. The Prayer Circle members, as well as other members of the congregation, pray for each individual listed daily. We have made a commitment to pray for each person in need, and to do so, we need to consistently review the prayer list so that each person is represented in prayer. Previously we have kept people on the list without further information for six months; however, we have received few updates and often find prayers have been answered with no further information to the office. We wish to celebrate the answer to prayers as well as insure that each person is lifted in prayer by name. Whenever a name is submitted due to a traumatic event or diagnosis, we will keep that person on the list for one month.





Social Ministry

Ashland Area Food Pantry

We will be collecting the following items for November:

Stuffing Mix & Gravy

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

November—Endowment Fund
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



Special Offering

Sunday, November 4

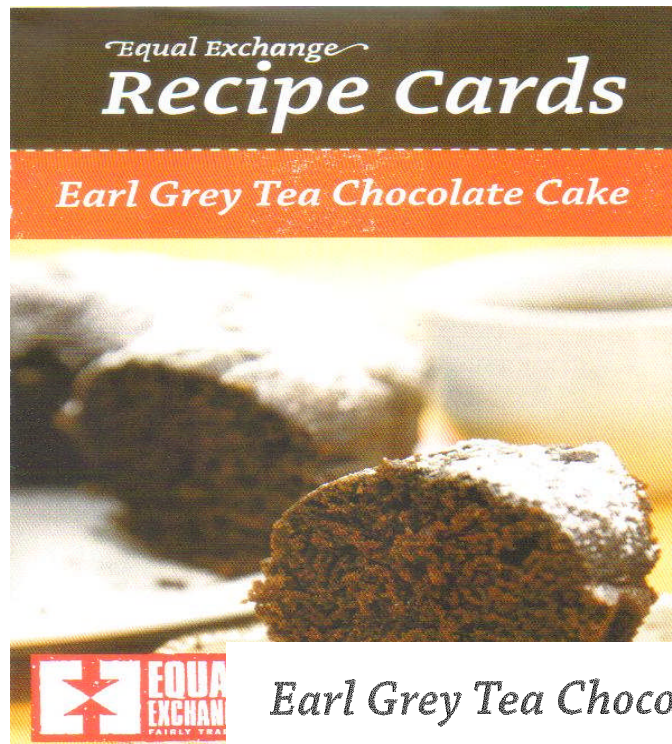
For Lavelle & Gordon Fire Companies

Please help us to support these two local fire companies in the great works that they do to keep us safe.



Kudos to Christ's United Social Ministry Committee members, Jim Gruber, Lois Sterling, & Erik Tice for presenting at the "Jesus Calls Us" workshop on Saturday, October 20 at Bern Lutheran Church. They held a presentation and educated our synod on "Social Ministry... Just Do It". They spoke about how ministries here at Christ's United have grown and affected our congregation, community, and world by what we do.





Earl Grey Tea Chocolate Cake

6 EQUAL EXCHANGE Earl Grey tea bags	2 c. all-purpose flour
1 c. boiling water	1 tsp. baking soda
1 stick (1/2 c.) butter	1 tsp. baking powder
3 eggs	1/4 tsp. salt
1 1/2 c. granulated sugar	1/2 c. plain yogurt
4 oz. dark chocolate, melted and cooled	powdered sugar for dusting

Heat oven to 350F. Coat an 8-cup fluted tube pan with cooking spray. Boil and pour 1 cup water over tea bags and steep for 3-5 minutes. Discard tea bags. Using a mixer, beat butter, eggs, and granulated sugar until fluffy. Blend in melted chocolate. Beat in flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt, yogurt, and brewed tea. Pour into pan. Bake 40-50 minutes. Remove from oven and let stand 5 minutes. Turn out of pan and cool. Dust with powdered sugar, slice, and enjoy!

Makes 10 servings.





*Our Coffee
Has Never Been
So Strong*

Every cup makes a difference. Equal Exchange trades fairly with coffee, tea and cacao farmer co-operatives in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Through Fair Trade these farmers are better able to:

- Support their families and stay on their land with better income and the support from their co-operatives.
- Build their own businesses: As members of democratically run co-operatives, farmers gain control of their own livelihoods and make strides together in agriculture and quality control.
- Improve their communities: With Fair Trade premiums farming communities make investments in education, health programs, and social services.
- Protect the forests, land and water where they farm.

.....
*Our great values and great taste
come together in the coffee we drink.*
.....



*for all who love
making a difference*

www.equalexchange.coop/community





On Saturday November 3 and Sunday November 4 during our worship services we will be remembering the following people who have passed away the past year.

For All the Saints

Members of Christ's United:

Larry Artman	12/12/11
Carl Pennypacker	01/14/12
Betty Fetterolf	02/13/12
Carol Cress	04/12/12
Julia Johnson	04/24/12

Friends & Family:

Margaret Hunter	12/03/11
Leon Schlorff	04/09/12
Betty Cray	04/29/12
Tom Scully	05/03/12
Kevin Holmes	05/10/12
Cheryl Sincavage	05/11/12
Martha Alexander	05/28/12
Parley Lassen	07/01/12
Elaine Schlorff	07/04/12
Oscar Nelson	07/31/12
Dorothy Boeshore	08/02/12
Paul Bereskie, Sr.	08/13/12
Mary Oliveri	08/20/12
Jeremiah Lassen	08/25/12
William Kaufman	09/09/12
Anna Adamson	10/18/12

If you have not sent your request into the office yet, please do so by Sunday, October 28. Thank you.



November Birthdays

- 1 William Dillman, Jr.
- 2 Charles Brain
- 3 Jeanette Wolfgang
- 4 Jennifer Geedey
Dean Krise
- 5 Brayden Koons
- 7 Joshua Coward
John Wolfgang
- 8 Steven Wolfgang
- 9 Jo-Ann Young
- 10 Gerry Dillman
- 11 Jordan Walter
JeanMarie Brayford
Samantha Sharp
- 12 Connie Weinreich
- 14 Deidre Dengler
- 16 Jack Houser
- 17 Nellie Schlorff
- 18 Oscar Troutman
- 19 Jo Conrath
- 20 Ken Warner
- 21 Carol Reiner
Breann Barker
- 23 Carl Lute
- 24 Dale Bolich
- 26 Suzanne Peel
- 28 Becky Spencer
- 30 Tammy Dengler
Justin Cramer
Marla Harper
Rusty McAndrew



November Anniversary

11/14/85 Frank & Peggy Dziczek



Blessed To Be a Blessing Workshop **Saturday, November 3, 2012**

We at Christ's United Lutheran Church are truly blessed in so many ways. Our blessings are so very much in response to God's abundant generosity to us.

A three hour workshop, 9-noon, will be held at Christ's United on Saturday, November 3, 2012, to introduce our congregation to the concept of Blessed to Be a Blessing and Consecration Sunday. Our presenter will be The Rev. D. Michael Bennethum, D. Min, and Associate of the Bishop for our synod.

Everyone of our family of faith is invited to attend this workshop to help us discern what motivates us as individuals to respond to the gifts we have received from God.

We will ultimately become familiar with Consecration Sunday which is a faith based program for our congregation's stewardship emphasis. Faith –based stewardship is a ministry that helps us to grow in faith, discover the generosity of God, and respond with trust and love.

A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Please join the stewardship committee, church council, and your family of faith on November 3 from 9-noon. Refreshments will be served.





Serving Our Community of Faith in November:



Date	Lector	Communion Assistants	Ushers	Acolyte	Crucifer	Greeter in Narthex	Greeter at Door
November 4	Kay Berner	Dot Zeigenfuse Jim Gruber Judy Stepulitis	Barb Stepanchick Dean Fetterolf Becky Spencer Robert Schneider	Samantha Brennan	Rebecca Houser	Dean Fetterolf	Pearl Lute
November 11	Erik Tice			Ryan Walter	Jordan Walter	Lois Sterling	Connie Welker
November 18	Sally Tice			Nathan Smith	Carey Wahalec	Beth Andrews	Ian Bendinsky
November 25	Donna Lassen	Dennis Wolfe John Denchak Barb Stepanchick		Anthony Kodack	Katie Kodack	Jim Gruber	Dennis Wolfe



November 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday																																																																																											
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<p>4 All Saints Sunday 9:30 Communion Service <u>Fire Company Offering</u> 10:45 Adult & Youth Sunday school, Confirmation class, Thrivent Voting 12:00 Acolyte Training 3:30 Ladies Night Out</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p>7:00 Church Council</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p>  <p>7:00 Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>6:00 Bible Study 6:00 "Walk-n-Roll" 7:00 WELCA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>10:30 E</p>																																																																																											
<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p>24th Sunday after Pentecost Veterans Day 9:30 Worship Service, Baptism 10:45 Youth Sunday school, Confirmation class 10:45 Annual Budget Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p>7:00 Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p>6:00 "Walk-n-Roll" 7:00 Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p>Newsle 10:30 E 12:00 - Pantry 7:00 Pe Meeting</p>																																																																																											
<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p>25th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 Adult & Youth Sunday school, Confirmation class</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p>6:30 Stewardship Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p>9:30 Newsletter Assembly 7:00 Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p>7:00 Thanksgiving Community Service, Zion UCC, Ashland</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>Office o</p>																																																																																											
<p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p>Christ the King 9:30 Communion Service, Distribution of Endowment Fund Checks 10:45 Adult & Youth Sunday school, Confirmation class</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">26</p> <p>6:00 Mutual Ministry Meeting 6:30 Grief Support Group</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p>7:00 Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p> <p>7:00 Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p>10:30 E</p> <p>7:00 S Mission Trinity</p>																																																																																											



Monday	Friday	Saturday
Bible Study Angelism/ Church Meeting	2  ALL SAINTS DAY	3 8:00 Highway Cleanup 9:00-12:00 Stewardship Workshop 5:00 Communion Service
Bible Study	9	10 Martin Luther's Birthday, 1483 4:00-7:00 Sauerkraut Dinner WELCA Bake Sale 5:00 Worship Service
Letter Deadline Bible Study 2:00 Food Personnel	16	17 5:00 Worship Service 6:00 Sr. Youth Group Dinner & hosting a Movie for congregation
Closed	23 Erik Vacation Office Closed	24 12:00 Jr. Youth Group Bowling  <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> 5:00 Communion Service
Bible Study Poughkill Dist. Council, Poughkeepsie	30 St. Andrew, Apostle	



Youth Group



Christ's United Lutheran Church

Contact Us: youth@christsunited.org

YOUth Ministry at Christ's United:

Many Thanks to Jeanmarie Brayford (Jr. Youth Leader), Keith and Druann Laudermilch (Sr. Youth Leaders), and Deb Price (Youth Coordinator) for their leadership of the Youth program (not forgetting the youth and parents).

Please watch and support the many activities that are happening!



	<p><u>Upcoming Events</u></p> <p>Saturday, November 3 Advent Workshop 1:00-3:00</p>	
	<p>Saturday, November 17 Dinner & a Movie Sr. Youth Event 6:00-9:00</p>	
	<p>Saturday, November 24 Bowling Jr. Youth Event 12:00</p>	

Wall of THANKS

During this season of gratefulness, create a special wall of thanks in your home.

I'm thankful for my Family
-Joey

What you need:

- Sticky notes
- Pens or markers
- Poster board (optional)

What you do:

1. Every day in November, have each family member write or draw on a sticky note someone or something they're thankful for. (Try not to repeat ideas.)
2. Display your notes on a wall or on poster board.
3. Read your list every day to remind you about God's many blessings.

Sharing toys with my friends
-SARA



Scholarships

On Sunday, November 25 we will be recognizing the following students who submitted their names to the Endowment Fund Committee. They will all receive a check for \$300.00. We wish them the best in their studies and future endeavors.

Ryan Bendinsky - He is a junior attending Kutztown University, and pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry.

April Brennan - She is a senior at Bloomsburg University and will be graduating in May 2013. She is studying English and Creative writing.

Laura Brennan - She is attending Lycoming College as and is a sophomore. She will be graduating in May 2015 and is majoring in Photography and Biology.

Allison Rusinko - She is attending Delaware Valley College and will graduate in the spring of 2016. She is studying Biology and Zoology.

Shale Waldick - He will be attending Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology in January 2013. He is pursuing a career in Masonry and is expected to graduate in 2015.

William Waldick, Jr. - He is attending McCann school of Business and will be graduating in 2014. He is pursuing a career in general Psychology and Business.

Tanner Wilson - He is a sophomore at Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology. He is expected to graduate in May 2013 with an Associates Degree.



Calling All Acolytes AND T-A-L's !

Reminder: Acolyte Workshop

Sunday, November 4 @ 12:00 noon

This workshop is for ALL acolytes, whether you have not yet served or you have served for 45 years. We will start off with some Pizza and Games (*including the famous candlestick relay*), and then get into the nitty gritty of acolyte service, answering such questions as: What do you do when the candle lighter stick goes out? What if I can't lift the offering plate? What if Pastor is so boring I fall asleep?

While we expect everyone, please call or sign up on the bulletin board to register so we can have enough pizza and prizes for all. Youth who have received First Communion are listed as acolytes for our worship services.



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



November: Prayer

We challenge you to notice how God talks to us through prayer.

Week one: Together, as a family, learn a new mealtime prayer. Say it each night this week.

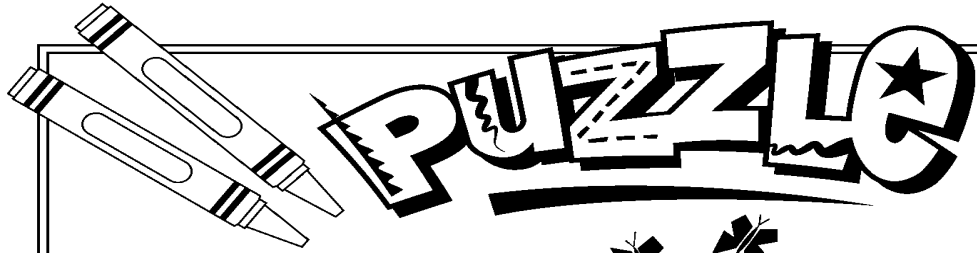


Week two: Decide as a family to set aside some time each day (like noon) to think about one another and whisper quiet prayers of thanks for each other.

Week three: Create a container (basket, jar, envelope) of blessings for each member of your family. Fill the container with slips of paper identifying why you are thankful for each family member.

Week four: Notice the empty chair at your table. (Remember it is placed there to represent God's presence in your home.) Discuss with your family how God affects your actions and conversations.





Be thankful for everything

When we're faithful, we see that God provides all we need.

Use the list of vowels below to complete the words of Ephesians 5:19-20, NIV.

i a a e u i i o u e a o e o a a i i a o o e
a e o e e i i e a e o o u o e u i E e i a I

"S__ng __nd m__k__ m__s__c__n
y__r h__rt t__ th__ L__rd,
__lw__ys g__v__ng th__nks t__ G__d
th__ F__th__r f__r __v__ryth__ng,
__n th__ n__m__ __f __r
L__rd J__s__s Chr__st."



__ph__s__ns 5:19-20, N__V



Answer:
Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks
to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
(Ephesians 5:19-20, NIV)



Fellowship Event:

The Confirmation Class is sponsoring a special
“movie night” fellowship event for the
ENTIRE congregation on
Saturday, November 17
7.00 pm.



Join us as we watch the most recent movie about the life of **Martin Luther**, the priest who began the Protestant Reformation and opened up our understanding of the breadth of **God's love.**

ATTENTION JR. YOUTH GROUP
LET'S GO BOWLING!!
NOVEMBER 24TH NOON TILL 2PM
MEET @ STRIKE ZONE ALLEYS -
POTTSVILLE
PARENTS ARE WELCOME TO STAY
AND ENJOY THE DAY WITH US!
JUNIOR'S WILL RECEIVE:
RENTAL SHOES - 2 GAMES OF BOWLING - PIZZA
PLEASE CONTACT:
JEANMARIE BRAYFORD 874-3767
OR ANGIE BERGER 875-3598
LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING ASAP SO WE
KNOW HOW MANY LANES TO RESERVE!
THANK YOU & GOD BLESS!



Anniversary Celebration Thank YOU!

What a joyous celebration of the 20th anniversary of the home of Christ's United Lutheran Church ministries! Special Thanks to Pastor Carl Shankweiler for delivering such a meaningful sermon, complete with handouts and quizzes; to Pastor Robert Hoenich for coming home to lead worship; to Pastor Jimmy Lee Werley for coming home to share in the celebration; to the Lorady Group, Rick Lorady, Michael Carl & Dwayne Hixon, for their inspirational (and funny) entertainment; to Sandy Miller and all her crew for a fabulous meal; to the Anniversary committee (Jack Houser, Chair; Jim Chappell, AnnMarie Dillman, Jim Gruber, Nancy Lindenmuth, Rick



Lorady, Terry Shilling, Connie Welker, Dennis Wolfe, and Joanne Young); and to all the members and friends who make Christ's United's building a home for this community.





THE PARISH PAPER

Ideas and Insights for Active Congregations

Coeditors: Herb Miller, Lyle E. Schaller, Cynthia Woolever – www.theparishpaper.com

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Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
2354 Grove Rd, Allentown, PA 18109-3044

A Service of the Synod's Leadership Development Ministry Team

September 2012 - Volume 20, Number 9

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Where Are the Unchurched?

About half of all Americans are affiliated with a church or congregation.¹ However, some parts of the country—like the Northeast, New Mexico, and Texas—with high percentages of Catholics, boast high affiliation rates. In these places, a congregation of some kind claims almost 59 percent of the population. Some upper Midwestern states—Nebraska, the Dakotas, Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin—are also highly churched. Western states typically show the lowest affiliation rates.

American congregational geography reveals a church landscape marked by dispersion and concentration. Churches affiliated with the largest U.S. denominations are *not* uniformly spread across the country.

Dispersion: Of 236 major U.S. religious organizations, only twenty-one denominational groups report adherents in all fifty states and the District of Columbia.

Concentration: Yet many of these twenty-one denominational groups' adherents are also extremely concentrated geographically. All twenty-one groups report that at least half of their adherents live in just ten states. Here are some of the major differences in denominational dispersion and concentration patterns.

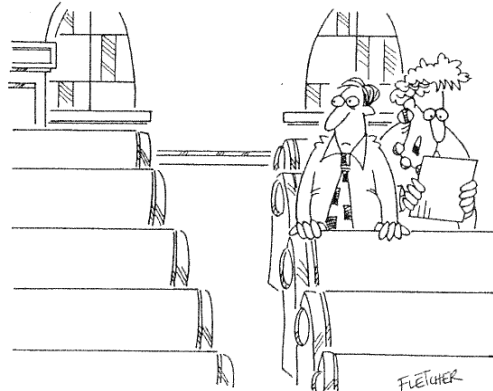
- United Methodists and Unitarian/Universalists are the *least* concentrated geographically (55% and 54% of their adherents, respectively, reside in just ten states).
- Other groups are slightly more concentrated, such as the Salvation Army and Presbyterians (58% of adherents reside in just ten states).
- Much more concentrated than other groups are Churches of Christ and Southern Baptists (72% and 75% of adherents, respectively, reside in just ten states).
- Muslims are *most* concentrated (86% of adherents reside in just ten states), with Mormons following not far behind (76% of adherents reside in just ten states). One in three Mormons resides in Utah.

The dispersion and concentration of religious groups affects how their members feel. Worshipers in low-concentration regions of their denomination may feel like outsiders or an overlooked minority. At the same time, holding a unique religious status in the community can fuel a cohesive, congregational identity and a strong sense of belonging among members.

The dispersion-concentration factor influences what effective congregations *do* as well. What works in one church setting will not necessarily work in another community with a different religious geography.²

Updating the Religion Atlas

In 1952, religious demographers began collecting information on congregations and adherents for every state and county. The Religion Census replicated that effort in 1971, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010. Their most recent census identifies 344,984 congregations with a total of just over 150 million adherents.



THESE NEW STATISTICS SAY OUR CHURCH
IS REALLY POPULAR WITH PEOPLE
WHO BELIEVE BUT DON'T BELONG.



The Religion Census shows that Mormons (Latter-day Saints), Muslims, and nondenominational Christians are on the rise across the country. In fact, the Mormon denomination is the fastest growing group in about one-third of the states. The Muslim population is growing at a faster rate than the general population, which grew about 10 percent between 2000 and 2010. Other faith groups experiencing significant growth include Pentecostals, Evangelicals, and Unitarian Universalists. Both Buddhists and Hindus have temples in most states now—adding to greater religious diversity in the western states and northern New England.

The new census also brings to light the impressive size of the nondenominational movement. Nondenominational and independent churches are now the third largest faith group, with more than 12 million adherents, claiming 4 percent of the U.S. population.³ In 48 states, nondenominational churches rank in the top five religious groups.

Americans Are Spiritual but Unchurched

This news challenges any prevailing myth that there is no one for churches to reach in their community. The past decade of change often hinders church leaders from a current feel for how many of their neighbors are unchurched. Members can also lose track of who really lives around the church.

Many people identify themselves as Christian, Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, or something else, yet do not affiliate with a specific church, parish, temple, or mosque.⁴ The rising tide of unaffiliated Americans is not evidence of increasing secularism because polls consistently show that most adults still believe in a personal God (seven out of ten adults). Why people continue to believe but decline to belong is an important question for all faith communities. This new information leads us to ask the right kinds of questions about the people in our community and can direct our focus outward. The essential jump is from this new information to action.

Map the Unchurched in Your Community

The Religion Census website provides information for every county in the U.S., and allows users to chart religious trends in their community. The website also displays national maps that show the geographic concentration of all major denominations.

First, go to www.thearda.com/rcms2010/ and select the county where your church is located. Next, make a list of the ten largest denominational groups in your county based on the number of adherents in 2010.

Also record the number of adherents for each of these top ten denominations and the percentage of the county population the number represents.⁵ (The website displays this information.) Finally, discuss with your leadership group:

- How does the unaffiliated percentage in our county compare to the national average of 49 percent unaffiliated?
- Compare the 2010 report to the report from 2000 on the website. Are the county's *largest* faith groups growing or declining in number of adherents? Is our congregation in one of the largest denominations?
- What implications does this growth or decline have for our congregation?
- In what ways does the religious makeup of our region influence how worshipers feel about their affiliation with our congregation?
- In what other ways does the religious profile of our county shape our congregation's ministries?

The Bottom Line

Each congregation's ministry occupies a niche within a specific religious landscape. Every church location holds the potential to be "a holy place because the reign of God can come anywhere. For Jesus, the holiness of a place is dependent . . . on whether the signs of the kingdom's presence are there."⁶ Is your congregation called to be a local expression of the kingdom of God? What is God's intention for your congregation in this place?

1. Information in this article is from *2010 U.S. Religion Census: The Religious Congregations and Membership Study* (Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies: 2012), www.thearda.com/rcms2010/.
2. Cynthia Woolever and Deborah Bruce, *Places of Promise: Finding Strength in Your Congregation's Location* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008), 27.
3. In comparison, the United Methodist Church membership claims about 3 percent of the U.S. population.
4. Robert C. Fuller, *Spiritual, but not Religious: Understanding Unchurched America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001).
5. Trey Hammond's "Leader Guide for Places of Promise" provides a worksheet for this exercise (<http://www.uscongregations.org/pdf/leaderguide.pdf>), 22-24. The guide has other sessions to help groups develop a local theology of place.
6. Robert M. Hamma, *Landscapes of the Soul: A Spirituality of Place* (Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 1999), 84.

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◆ SYNOD NEWS ◆

The Spirit of Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

November 2012



Doing What Matters: The Potato Project

An estimated 30 million Americans, including elderly people and children, go to bed hungry each night or not knowing when their next meal will be. [So does] one in six people in the local community. So what can you do about it...?

That statement appears on the home page of the Potato Project (ihartharvest.dyndns.org/). In 2008, one person asked himself that question. Here's the story of what happened next.



Four years ago, Walt Zawaski, a member of Trinity, Kutztown, was watching a television news report about a Midwestern farmer who had a bumper



potato harvest and donated the excess to a local food bank.

Walt got to thinking. He knew that many local families were struggling to put food on their plates. He also knew that he had an extra acre of land near his home in Fleetwood. Why not plant potatoes and donate them to Berks County food pantries? From those thoughts and



reflections, the Potato Project was born.

In 2009, with the help of church groups and Boy Scout Troops, Walt harvested 7,733 pounds of potatoes from his little acre – potatoes that ended up on the tables of the needy. The harvest was split between the Greater Berks Food Bank and some of their member agency food pantries in northern and eastern Berks County.



More acreage was offered for the project in 2010 and 2011. Over 28,000 pounds were harvested in the fall of 2010. Last year, 988 volunteers harvested a crop of 80,000 potatoes in 103-degree heat!



Walt Zawaski and the many volunteers working with the Potato Project are doing what matters. They are working together to be the church in their community, answering God's call to action.



When we are doing church together, we learn to pay attention to what God is already doing – in our lives, our congregations and the community around us. We keep our eyes open for the assets God has given us to work with. We are on the lookout for those things happening in and around us that make us say "Wow!" because it looks like God at work. We learn to see the needs that people have. And we are open to the possibility that God is at work, through those "wows!" and needs, calling us to action.

WOW!

So what are you doing that matters? Let us know at info@nepsynod.org.

Check out the Potato Project on Facebook!



Lots of photos, videos, and event information is on their Facebook page. Just type **IHartHarvest** in the search bar.





**Doing What Matters:
Youth Connecting Faith with
Life Experiences**

Attention, youth! Do perplexing faith questions keep popping up in your mind? Do you wonder what it means to be faithful in today's world? Are you having a tough time tying your faith into your everyday life?

Explore these and other questions with the bishop!



Youth interested in exploring their faith with Bishop Zeiser will be gathering with him from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on two Saturday mornings in the first months of 2013. In addition to this conversation with the bishop, youth will work together to create a YouTube presentation meant to inspire others to examine how they are part of God's ongoing story of salvation.



This is **not** Confirmation 2.0! This is an opportunity to dig deep and explore those nagging faith questions. Find out how YOU matter and what matters to God.

Interested? Contact Karen Matthias-Long (karen@nepsynod.org) **by November 15.**

**Preview Christmas Special
Featuring Hope, Reading**



One Christmas Story: People Rich in Spirit, a one-hour, commercial-free holiday special produced by Odyssey Networks, features the celebration of the birth of Christ at **Hope, Reading**. The special includes more than 25 interviews with faith leaders, city residents in need of help, and local leaders. It will air nationally on CBS television on **Christmas Eve at 11:30 pm. Preview the show on December 10 at 7 p.m.** at the Miller Center for the Arts at **Reading Area Community College.**

**Faith-A-Palooza!
REGISTER NOW!**



The second annual *Faith-A-Palooza* will be held for **senior high youth** and their advisors **November 10-11** at Pinebrook Bible Conference and Retreat Center in Stroudsburg. The **deadline for registration is October 31.**



The theme for the event is based on Rachel Kurtz's song, **Make a Difference.**

More information and registration materials are on the synod website, www.godslove.org. Sign up today!



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.



**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.

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



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.

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



Reminders!

The end of the year is coming quickly. Please remember the following and mark your calendars.



Saturday, December 1 @
6:00 pm

Annual Congregation Christmas Dinner

Saturday, December 8 @
6:00 pm

Everyone is invited, please
plan to attend and sign-up
on the bulletin board or
call the church office.



Christmas Dinner

Effective the first of the year the
Indoor Custodian position at CULC
will be vacant. Interested candidates
should forward their resume' and letter
of interest to the church office in care
of Ralph Jonson Personnel Committee
Chair. Any questions contact Ralph
Johnson @ 875-2904



Bible Study: Joshua

A seven week study that looks at the book of Joshua like we've never looked at it before! Sessions meet weekly, each session occurring both on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm and Thursdays at 10:30 am for your convenience. If you are unable to attend all the sessions, please participate in those you can attend. Come and explore God's Word!

Session #1 **Contextually Speaking**

Text: The Book of Joshua

A look at the Date, Authorship, Characters, and Theology of the Book of Joshua

Session #2 **God's Gift of the Land: The Passing of the Torch**

Text: Joshua 1- 2

A study of the new leadership in the new land. The impact of Joshua and Rahab on leadership and law.

Session #3 **God's Gift of the Land: Who's in charge?**

Text: Joshua 3- 6

The land is God's gift, and the leaders are God's servants to deliver the gift.

Session #4 **God's Gift of the Land: God's Anger**

Text: Joshua 7-9

The issue of autonomy versus ownership in our understanding of God.

Session #5 **God's Gift of the Land: A Time to Rest**

Text: Joshua 10-12

Consolidation of power, not peace as we think of it, guides the understanding of rest for Israel.

Session #6 **The Inheritance**

Text: Joshua 13 – 22


The understanding of land as *nahala*, and not earned or purchased, is foundational to a just society.

Session #7 **"Choose this day"**

Text: Joshua 23-24

The covenant of God, demonstrated throughout the book, is brought to a climatic conclusion.





Dear CULC Members,
 There is a Congregational Meeting scheduled for **Sunday, November 11, 2012** immediately following worship to review and vote on the budget for the Fiscal Year 2013. The Finance Committee met in October to put a budget together.

Copies of the proposed budget will be available for review the week prior to this scheduled meeting.

Ann Marie Dillman, CULC Treasurer

New Sponsorship Sheets Posted!

It is time to sponsor bulletins, newsletters, children's bulletins, the sanctuary candle, palms for

Palm Sunday and altar flowers for 2013. If you would

like to sign up, please see the bulletin board or call the church office at 875-1591. Thank You!



Altar Flowers



Bulletins





Sunday, September 30

Blessing of First Responders

Left to Right: Rev. Lengert, Jason Reichwein, George Brocious, Russ Hummel, George Dornsife, Francis O'Connell, Jeremy Hepler, & Philip Goody.

Bible Quiz

Complete this proverb from the Bible: "Better is a dinner of vegetables where love is ..."

- A. "... than a silver platter of meat and unresolved anger."
- B. "... than a fatted ox and hatred with it."
- C. "... than a prepared bird and family bickering."
- D. All of the above.



Answer: B (See Proverbs 15:17, NRSV.)



Christian Symbol

Stone Tablets—The tablets of stone symbolize God’s giving of the Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb).

They’re often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments—with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.



Annual CROP walk for Hunger Sunday, October 14



Above: Carrie Hummel, DruAnn Laudermilch.
Left: Ahrensfield, John, Maryann, & Thomas Wolfgang



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



From a worship bulletin in Colorado Springs, Colorado:

Bible Readings

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Prayers of Thanksgiving

We all have different names for God, don't we?



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 (Sec.)	875-0646	Feb. 2014
Jim Chappell	644-1602	Feb. 2013
Dean Fetterolf (VP)	875-2765	Feb. 2015
Email: vicepresident@christsunited.org		
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: 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

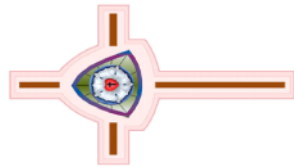
ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

David Schweinhart, Organist	682-9553
Email: organist@christsunited.org	
Dan Krynak, Choir Director	276-6401
Email: dan@christsunited.org	

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



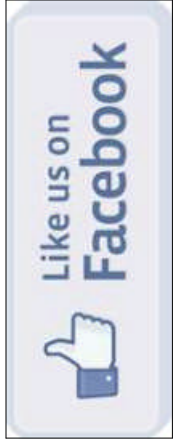


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