

*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

**Volume 2, Issue 3
March 2014**

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The March Newsletter is sponsored in Memory of Ralph & Iva Wolfgang by Erik, Sally & Jacob Tice.



Status of Accounts as of January 31

Balance in Checking Account.....\$1,779.71
 Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our 2014 Annual Budget
 of \$172,298.00 is **\$14,358.17**
January income was \$11,384.04
 Benevolence Gifts.....\$1,162.00
 (6% of our Benevolence goal of \$20,600.00 for 2014)





Pastor Kim's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Reviewing the service for Ash Wednesday, the first worship service in Lent I read - “the disciplines of Lent...” - as if Lent wasn't depressing enough! (Just the sound of the word is depressing “laaaa-ent”, and now we're adding “disciplines” to it.) The term conjures up images of standing in a corner, a teacher wielding a ruler (remember those days?), and a scolding parent bending down to yell with a shaking finger. What a way to celebrate a season of the church!

But then again, we don't often think of “celebrating” Lent: our minds and hearts are instead filled by the weight of our sins and the thoughts of our own mortality. We traditionally approach this season with somber tones and a sacrificial penance of a favorite candy.

Why?

The word “lent” translates as “Spring” a time we are all excitedly awaiting, a time when flowers appear with bright colors, the trees are full of buds, the animals start hopping about and the days grow longer with the warmth of a bright sun in the beautiful blue sky. Certainly sounds like something worth celebrating...

And it is a celebration! Lent is a time to celebrate Baptism, that wonderful time when we all come together and the warm water washes over us and the Word of God fills us and all the sins stuck to us come off. The church fills with applause and songs and smiles as we stand forgiven, welcome brothers and sisters in the family of God.

Now that's something to celebrate!

— *continued on page 4*



And we do during Lent: not some wimpy half-hearted celebration, but a full blown one, giving our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength into it! During Lent we give everything we have, because Lent reminds us that everything we have has been given to us...

During Lent we celebrate by giving ourselves through prayer, worship, fasting, and service – disciplines – ways by which we come to understand the fullness of the gift we have been given. In Baptism God has washed away our sins: we are *forgiven*. The burden of sin is lifted off of us, no longer dragging us down in the despair of death, and now *we can live*. Lent is the spring time for our souls, a time for us to celebrate that we – you and me – are re-born!

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday – won't you come celebrate with us?

Peace,
Pastor Kim

Positions Open



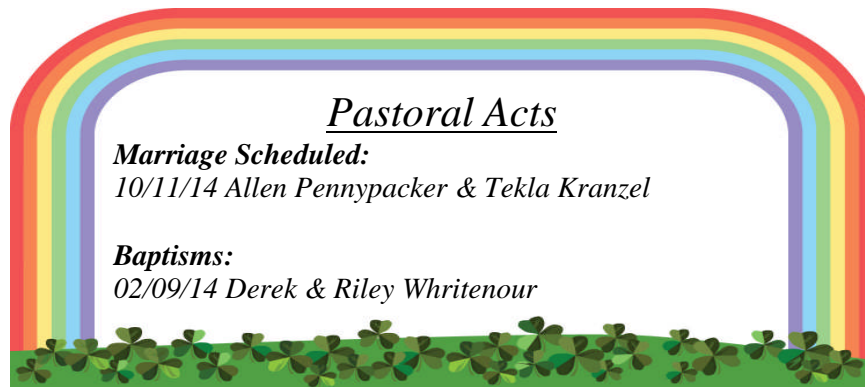
Christ's United is currently looking for an Organist, Choir Director, Day Camp Director, and Day Camp Advisors. These positions are staff for expanded ministries within the church and are part-time. For more information, please contact personnel@christsunited.org or call Pastor Kim Lengert.





Church Council Highlights from February:

- The Finance Committee will revisit the option of Electronic Giving, as less than 30% of our congregation gives 95% of the income.
- Sixteen people attended the Teacher's Appreciation Breakfast.
- Summer camp will be held from June 23—August 8 with a maximum of 30 children each week ages 6 yrs. up to 6th grade.
- The LCM will purchase a table with wheels for the drink refrigerator.
- The LCM will assist with finances for the youth group to attend the ELCA youth gathering in Detroit, MI in 2015.
- LCM is planning a trip to the Reading Phillies on June 27.
- The social ministry team is looking into store some staple food items in the storage room for those in the local community who need more food than they receive at the food pantry. Pastor Kim will donate a refrigerator for perishable items.
- WELCA is planning a trip to Sight & Sound to see "Moses" on August 14.
- WELCA & LCM paid for the repairs done to the refrigerator and freezer.
- Jean Marie Brayford will be stepping down as the Junior Youth group leader.
- Nancy Lindenmuth will replace Kitty Miner on the Auditing Committee.
- The property committee will be replacing the weather stripping at the main entrance and the west side double doors.
- A letter of resignation was received from Gail Marquardt.
- A network & backup system for the computers needs to be created.





Family Fun Night out @

Friendly's

Pottsville Location
Monday, March 10th
5:00pm - 8:00pm

Friday, March 7 the Junior & Senior Youth groups will be making baked goods & crafts to sell at Friendly's.

Grab your family for a night out of fun to support the Christ's United Youth Group!!! All orders, take-out or dine-in between 5 & 8 will count toward Christ's United Youth Group!

BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE

Sunday, April 13
3:00 p.m.

If interested please sign up on the bulletin board by the end of February, or contact any member of youth ministry team.
Watch out for more events to come your way!!!!



CHILDREN'S CAMP



Christ's United Lutheran Church Summer Camp!

Each day of Camp will have a full schedule of activities, & each week will have a special field trip. The first week will be June 23 and the last, August 4. Campers may be registered for one week or all seven. Discounts are available for families with more than one child and if you register for six weeks or more.

Registration is NOW OPEN!

Children ages 6 through 6th grade.

More information is available on www.christsunited.org, and on our FaceBook page.

If you are interested in helping with Camp or registering a Camper, please call the church office 570-875-1591 or email daycamp@christsunited.org.

We would like to thank everyone who made soup and donated items for the soup supper sponsored by the youth groups. Although the soup supper was not well attended, we did make a positive impact on the lives of a number of people from the congregation and the community. The youth hope to make it an annual event that will grow bigger and better each year.





ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES: Sign up for your spring Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend! Now that spring is just around the corner, it's time to give your marriage a fresh start; shake off those winter blahs, and pump some new love and romance into your relationship. **March 28-30, 2014** at Park Inn Radisson, West Middlesex, PA, where each couple has a king bed and their own hot tub--an hour north of Pittsburgh, just off of Interstate 80, and **April 25-27, 2014** at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College located on a quiet hillside with views of the Nittany Mountains. Weekends run from Friday at 8 PM to Sunday around 4 PM. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included. There is a \$45 per couple registration fee. Register today at www.GodLovesMarriage.org. For questions, or if you would like a brochure with a registration form mailed to you, contact PA Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber at 724-325-3166 or fjschamber@comcast.net.

Welcoming New Members

Welcome! Feeling “welcome” is the goal as we gather for each event at Christ’s United, and understanding the “ins” and “outs” of the congregation and Lutheran practices makes everyone feel more at home. Those interested in becoming new members are asked to join the New Member’s Class on Sundays, meeting at 11 on 9th and 16th of March. Those participating will be welcomed into membership the following weekend. We’ll meet in the Choir Room (far end of the Fellowship Hall, so stop and pick up some coffee and cake on the way!). Any questions, please talk with Pastor Kim. This is a great time to bring a friend!



Lent: Deepening our Faith

Lenten Discipline: Prayer

The Christ's United 2014 Lenten Devotionals are now available! Written by members of Christ's United, this devotional offers a daily Bible reading and reflection to help us grow in prayer as we celebrate Lent. Please pick up a copy of the devotional at the church and an extra copy to give to a friend.



Lenten Discipline: Worship

Mid week worship begins Wednesday, 5 March! Worship services will be held at Noon and 7:00 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, and then at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday in Lent. Our service this year will again be Holden Evening Prayer, and the sermon topic will focus on "Change". A Soup Supper, planned by the Social Ministry team will be held at 6:00 before the Midweek service. Please check the bulletin board if you are willing to share your favorite soup or bread, and gather your friends to come and be a part of this Lenten discipline!



LENTEN WORSHIP

Lenten Discipline: Fasting

Putting aside some of our treasures (and pleasures!) helps us to remember that all we have – all we are – is a gift from God. If chocolate is a passion, consider donating the cost to Lutheran World Relief and save the candy bar till Easter. Or, consider the gift of your own body and lose some Pounds for a Purpose, giving a donation to the food pantry for each pound lost.



Lenten Discipline: Service

The opportunities to share with others abounds! The Social Ministry at Christ's United helps us reach out with God's love both near and far. During Lent you'll see the entry to the church decorated with colorful chicks, in support of Lutheran World Relief. Boxes of toys for hospitalized children will appear in the Fall, and every day is an opportunity to fill the stomachs and hearts of those hungry around us with donations to the food pantry.

Watch the upcoming opportunities in the announcements, newsletter, website, and Facebook – together we will serve our Savior!



Sponsors are still needed for the following:

Six sponsors are needed for Palm Branches for Palm Sunday, \$12.00 each.

Good Friday Bulletin 4/18, \$10.00

Bulletins: 6/29, 8/10, 9/7, 9/14, 10/5, 11/2, 11/23, & 12/7, \$15.00 each.

Christmas Eve bulletin for the 4:00 & 7:30 service, \$10.00 each.



Newsletters: April, June, July, August, September, November, & December, \$40.00 each.

Please call the church office or sign up on the bulletin board if you would like to be a sponsor. Thank You!





We Offer our Prayers to...

Members of Christ's United:

Nancy Shuey, Jennie Kosmisky, Norene Stoker, Dean Fetterolf, Tom Lazor, David Pennypacker, Mae Hughes, Jack Houser, Matt Wetzel, Becky Spencer, Vicki Reeser, George Sterling, Sue Bendinsky, Leo Young, Chip Bendinsky, Ian Bendinsky

Family & Friends:

Dorothy Shadle, Fred Pillman, Evelyn Myers, Jane Fetterolf, Andrew Schronick, Hazel Smith, Nancy Harris, Diane Kehler, Royal Miller, Rosie & Eddie Klauger, Dawn Huntzinger, Lindsay Whyne, Jack Toner, Kelly Troup, Dorothy Horbach, Megan Frasnelli, Frances Kiefer, Gerry Dengler, Bonnie Lassen, Grace Mullaker, Herman Wagner, Betty Lindenmuth, Lucas Dengler, Sue Wentz, Bobbie Harris, Jared Morgan, Ron Andrews, Dennis Alexander, Karyssa Wenrich, Charlie Klinger, Greg Meisner, Khaleesi Rice, Mr. Brown, Lottie Anczarski, Mike & Ceil Carl family, Nada Matthews, Amanda Sterling, John Flowers, Harry & Marie Lengert, Denise Olacanovich, Michael Greco

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 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:



Marion Brennan, Providence Place
Jean Cress, Mt. Carmel Nursing
Palmer Kimmel, Mt. Carmel Assisted Living
Betty Miller, Luther Ridge
Arlene Troup, Friendly Nursing
Randy Troutman
Dean Wolfgang, Tremont Health & Rehab
Jeanette Wolfgang, Mt. Carmel Nursing
Ruth Wolfgang, Mt. Carmel Nursing
Walter Wolfgang, Mt. Carmel Assisted Living
Linda Zerby



Serving Our Community of Faith in March:

Date	Lector	Communion Assistants	Ushers	Acolyte	Crucifer & Tag-a-long	Greeter in Narthex	Greeter at Door
March 2	Becky Spencer	Barb Stepanchick Judy Stepulitis Donna Wallace	John Kimmel Robert Schneider Laray Klinger Becky Spencer	Nathan Smith	Charlie Schweinhart	Helen Wolfgang	Jane Pennypacker
March 5 Ash Wed.	Barb Stepanchick	Connie Welker Jo-Ann Young Barb Anczarski		Brianna Kodack	Katie Kodack	Susan Ruzze	Darlene Stank
March 9	Erik Tice			Tanner Walacavage	Trevor Wilson & Blake Olayo	Nancy Lindenmuth	Barb Stepanchick
March 12 Mid-week	Sally Tice			Ian Bendinsky			Erik Tice
March 16	Mark Vardell			Thomas Wolfgang	Tyler Wolfgang & Jacob Tice	Sally Tice	Mark Vardell
March 19 Mid-week	Cheryl Vardell			Ralph Johnson			Cheryl Vardell
March 23	Steven Wolfgang			Kate Neumeister	Taryn Wilson & Nicole Hood	Connie Welker	Beth Andrews
March 26 Mid-week	Donna Wallace			Azure Waldick			Melanie Bendinsky
March 30	Connie Welker			David Hall	Steven Wolfgang & Brandon Hood	Ian Bendinsky	Kay Berner

MARCH 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday																				
2 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:30 Communion Service 10:45 Youth & Adult Sunday school, Confirmation	3  6:00 Welcome Dinner 7:00 Church Council	4 6:30 Choir Practice	5 Ash Wednesday 12:00 Communion Service 7:00 Communion Service	6 7:00 <i>Evangelical Outreach</i>																				
9 1st Sunday of Lent 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 Youth & Adult Sunday school, Confirmation, New Members Class Daylight Saving Time Begins	10 5:00-8:00 Friendly's Family Fun Night 6:00 <i>Mutual Ministry Meeting</i>	11 6:30 Choir Practice	12 10:00 Ministerium Meeting @ Simpson 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Worship	13 7:30 School Mission D Council @																				
16 2nd Sunday of Lent 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 Youth & Adult Sunday school, Confirmation, New Members Class	17  6:30 <i>Stewardship Ministry Meeting</i>	18 6:30 Choir Practice	19 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Worship	20 9:30 New Assembly 7:00 <i>Personal Meeting Spring B</i>																				
23 3rd Sunday of Lent 9:30 Worship Service, Welcome New Members 10:45 Youth & Adult Sunday school, Confirmation	24	25 The Annunciation of Our Lord 6:30 Choir Practice	26 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Worship	27 12:00-2:00 Pantry																				
30 4th Sunday of Lent 9:30 Worship Service <u>Good Samaritan Fund Offering</u> 10:45 Youth & Adult Sunday school, Confirmation 3:00-8:00 Social Hall Reserved	31 6:00 Grief Support Group			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	F	2	3			9	10	1		16	17	1		23	24	2	
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SOCIAL MINISTRY



Ashland Area Food Pantry

We will be collecting the following items for March:

**Diapers, Baby Wipes,
Baby Powder
& Baby Food**

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

- March—LCM
- April—WELCA
- May—Christian Education
- June—Music & Worship
- July—Evangelism/Outreach
- August—Youth Group
- September—Property



**Special Offering
March 1, 2, 8, & 9**

**Good Samaritan Fund
Offering
March 29 & 30**

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On behalf of the Pediatric Department at Schuylkill Medical Centre South, thank you for the Jared Boxes you donated to our unit. Our patients have always enjoyed them. We appreciate the time and effort you put into making them. Again, thank you.

Sandy Lynch

Thank you to everyone that uses their Boyer's Caring & Sharing key chain tag. When you shop at Boyer's and scan your key chain, Christ's United receives a percentage of all sales. Last year, between June & December, Christ's United received \$179.67. If you would like to have a key chain tag, please pick one up in the Narthex or see Erik Tice. Keep using your key chain tag & help Christ's United!

New Items Available!

Now available from Lutheran World Relief:

Honey
Orange Marmalade
Strawberry Jam
Rice Cakes

Stop by the table in the Narthex and buy some today!

The jams are made with sugar from farmer co-ops in Paraguay, and the honey comes from a beekeeping co-op in Guatemala. Try some on Sunday morning during our Fellowship hour after worship!





Tab for Labs

Would you like to help service dogs without having to give a monetary donation?

We are going to start collecting tabs from cans that will do just that. St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Reading where Rev. Carol Kehler serves, is involved in this program. Pastor Kim will take our contributions home with her and Rev. Kehler will deliver the tabs to the proper place so all we need to do is drop them in our container. Look for the container to appear within the next few weeks, but please begin saving now.



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

*\$100.00 in Honor of Riley Whritenour's Baptism by:
Bill & Ann Marie Dillman*



FOSTER FAMILIES HAVE BEEN AROUND SINCE MOSES WAS RESCUED BY PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER

Today's children face difficult challenges. Many of them need a home and the support of a family when their birth families can't care for them.

KidsPeace National Centers for Kids in Crisis provides a network of human services for children, youth and families with social and emotional problems.

Foster parents provide a temporary home for these special children and youth. You can show them how a healthy family lives and solves life's problems.

Your family can provide a loving and structured home environment for these youngsters. You can help them adjust to a new home and get them involved in community activities. Each family receives training, supervision, and financial support.

This message is a call to your family to become part of a team for one or two of these young people. Please help.

FOR INFORMATION CALL:
KidsPeace FCCP
304 Railroad Street
Danville, PA 17821

Martha Brown @
1-800-876-0590



March Anniversaries & Birthdays



2	Lynn Anczarski Maya Budda		
3	Katie Brown Allen Pennypacker Jack Stitzer		
6	Barbara Klauger		
7	Jessie Harris Alisia Knorr	21	Wendy Harhigh
	Donald Smith Jr.		Mark Hepler
8	Mark Klinger Christopher Monaghan	22	Rickey Knorr
10	Janet Quirk	23	Susan Ruzze
12	Gregg Sterling Sierra Wagner	26	Brian McAndrew
15	James Hepler	27	Wyatt Hepler
16	Debbie Dudick William Waldick	28	Zachary Huber
17	Kenneth Welker		Robert Green
18	Michael Miller	29	Amanda Houser
19	Jane Pennypacker		Maynard Merwine
20	Hayden Marlow	30	Nathan Berger
			Tiffany Cramer
			Lori Sharp



03/07/53	John & Katie Kimmel
03/17/07	David & Beth Becker
03/21/81	Rickey & Brenda Knorr
03/22/96	Leo & Heather Young
03/29/80	Leonard & Terri Whyne





WELCA News

Candy!

CANDY!!!

CANDY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Now that we have your attention...We will continue to make candy until we have all orders filled and extras are made. If you are able to, please join us. There are a variety of jobs, and many hands make light work. Please contact Jo-Ann Young for the days we will be at the church.

Come out and help!!!



SAVE the DATE

Women of ELCA

Schuylkill Cluster Spring Event

APRIL 5, 2014

9:00-12:00



Trinity Lutheran Church, Pottsville

Topic: Advocacy for Liberia & the
Power of Women

Election of Cluster Coordinator &
Cluster Recorder.

Sign up on the bulletin board to attend.





Women of
Christ's United
Lutheran Church

EASTER CANDY

\$10.00 lb. or, \$5.00 1/2 lb.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Coconut | Peanut Rolls |
| Peanut Butter | P.B. Carmel |
| Butter Cream | Cherry |

*Also available: Chocolate Covered
Marshmallows & Peanut Butter Crackers*

To Order Call:
570- 875-2586, 570-875-0844,
or 570-875-1591

WHO

ARE

These People???

If you have any old pictures from Christ's United or any of the chapels that formed Christ's United, please bring them into the office. Please also provide the peoples names that are in the pictures. Your picture will be returned to you. Thank you. I am also looking for a picture of each of the Chapels: St. John's, St. Paul's, St. Peter's and Zions. If you have old pictures, please bring them in. Thanks!

“Ashes to Ashes”

Oh, divine Fire,
burst aflame in my life —
spontaneous combustion
to turn all that traps or crushes growth ...
 laziness
 busy-ness
 self-preoccupation
 worries and doubts
 indifference ...
to turn all that traps or crushes growth ...
into
ash.

Rendered to ashes by way of a Cross,
The world will know I've been graced by the Fire.

And finally, oh Fire divine,
I will come to know your light and warmth
in the sooty depths of my soul.

— Heidi Mann



Ministry of the Month

Each month during the coming year, we will focus on a certain Ministry group within Christ's United. There will be a display in the Narthex, inserts in the bulletins, pictures on the power point announcements, and on Sunday mornings the ministry of the month team will host the fellowship hour after worship. In February, we learned about the many different ministries that the Social Ministry Team is involved with.

This month, we will highlight the ministries of the Lutheran Church Men (LCM).

All male members of Christ's United are members of the LCM group. Each year we meet approximately six times to have a meal and a short meeting about our upcoming ministry events. There are many things that we

MEN'S MINISTRY



Chicken Barbecue

organize during the year. We host three dinners, the annual picnic and, the Easter Breakfast. We have an annual trip to see a Reading Phillies game, and give gifts to all the ladies on Mother's Day.

The Lutheran Church Men's Group supports many of the ministries within Christ's United, our community, and the world by giving monetary donations from the proceeds of our yearly fundraisers.

With the support of the members of Christ's United, we can all benefit from the ministries that come from and within the Men's Group.

We ask all male members of our congregation to join us at our next gathering on April 6 at 5:00 p.m. to find out more about the ways you can help!





Christ's United New Email Update System:

Upgrades to our office computer system now allow us to send an email to every member of Christ's United has supplied an email address. This system is used to announce weather delays or cancellations, or other significant events that require a quick notification of the congregation. If you have not yet provided an email address to the office (or can't remember whether you did), please email (office@christsunited.org) or call Erik (570-875-1591) today!

Thrivent Members

**Don't Forget to direct your
Thrivent Choice Dollars ®**

Eligible members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans who have been designated Choice Dollars: If you haven't already done so, be sure to direct your Choice Dollars by March 31, 2014. After that date, any undirected Choice Dollars will expire. Don't miss this opportunity to help support Christ's United. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-THRIVENT. If you need any help please contact our Thrivent Advocates, Erik Tice 570-875-2681 or John Wolfgang 570-875-3702.



Christ's United Committees

Auditing Committee

Christian Education
education@christsunited.org

Endowment Fund

Evangelism/Outreach
evangelism@christsunited.org

Finance

Lutheran Church Men (LCM)
lcm@christsunited.org

Mutual Ministry

Nominating

Personnel
personnel@christsunited.org

Property
property@christsunited.org

Social Ministry
socialministry@christsunited.org

Stewardship

WELCA
welca@christsunited.org

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.



From a worship bulletin in Kansas City, Missouri:

CONFESSION OF SIN

Take away my guilt and iniquity.

Wash me and I will be white as snow

Jesus takes our *guilt*; snuggle into his love — and a blanket!



CHURCH COUNCIL 2014

council@christsunited.org

	Phone	Term Expires
Deb Berner	570-875-3209	Feb. 2017
Carla Mae Carl	570-682-8943	Feb. 2015
John Denchak	570-875-4970	Feb. 2017
Dean Fetterolf	570-875-2765	Feb. 2015
vicepresident@christsunited.org		
Donna Lassen	570-875-1530	Feb. 2016
Deb Price	570-875-4272	Feb. 2015
Barb Stepanchick	570-875-1114	Feb. 2016
Helen Wolfgang	570-875-0758	Feb. 2016
Steven Wolfgang	Youth Rep.	Sept. 2014
Deb Zaharick	570-875-2691	Feb. 2017

PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Kim L. Lengert
570-336-3110
pastorkim@christsunited.org

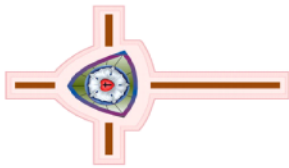
STAFF

Treasurer	Ann Marie Dillman	570-875-2422
treasurer@christsunited.org		
Financial Secretary	Christine Brennan	570-875-0720
Indoor Custodian	Cheryl Varndell	570-875-2545
Outdoor Custodian	Donald Klinger	570-875-2334
Organist	David Schweinhart	570-682-9553
organist@christsunited.org		
Interim Choir Director	Tekla Kranzel	570-875-2731
choir@christsunited.org		

PARISH SECRETARY

Erik Tice (home) 570-875-2681
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

