

*Life Together at
Christ's United
Lutheran Church*



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

Life Together at Christ's United

1





Christ's United Lutheran Church

One God. One People. One Purpose.

437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921

www.christsunited.org

(570) 875-1591

April 2017

In This Issue:

Pastors Message	3-5
Council Highlights	6
Youth Group News	8-9
Birthdays & Anniversaries	10
Memorials	11
Lenten Worship	12
Serving our Community	13
Calendar	14-15
Prayer List	16
Social Ministry	18
Baskets of Promise	19
Easter Flowers	20
Easter Candy	21
WELCA News	22-23
Red Cross Blood Drive	24



Status of Accounts as of FEBRUARY 28

Balance in Checking Account.....\$1,605.81

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our 2017 Annual Budget of \$179,318.00 is **\$14,943.17**

February income was \$16,112.08

Benevolence Gifts.....\$2,759.55
(13% of our Benevolence goal of \$20,000.00 for 2017)



Pastor Kim's Message

The Pastor's Part –

This is my last article for the newsletter as the pastor of this congregation. By the time it will be published my office will be emptied and the pulpit filled by a supply pastor. It is a time of mixed emotions for me, and for the congregation.

Ironically my leaving coincides with my arrival: both the first sermon preached and announcement of departure were in Lent, one week (and six years!) apart. For the first four years I commuted between my home in Robesonia and Airport Road. Two years ago I moved into a house in Germanville after renovating the house and building a garage, finally ending my hour – or more - commute. While the reasons for my departure were shared more fully with the congregation, it was not planned, nor am I going to another congregation. My departure is based in a question of identity and purpose.

Perhaps ironically, this year, 2017, is the 25th anniversary of Christ's United Lutheran Church being in its building. The new building – a single building – forever changed the future of ministry for the congregation, ending a history of individual chapels and creating a single worshipping community. The event was filled with struggle, more than question over a building: it was question of identity and purpose. Some questions still need to be answered...

In the very beginning of the building process the congregation had two pastors, the first of eight. The last two pastors were with the congregation for 15 years, with a one year vacancy between them, meaning six pastors were there for less than nine years: less than two years each (one and a half actually, though the average tenure of an ELCA pastor is 8.32 years). Why does this matter? Because the growth and stability of a congregation is directly linked to the length of time the pastor has been there. And people – whether pastors or members of the congregation – tend to stay longer when there is a clear understanding of identity and purpose.



It was the very first time I entered the building that I saw the Mission Statement hanging on the wall. The words burned in me – how could they not? – as I had never seen a Mission Statement like this before. But identity and purpose are not shared through words on paper: identity and purpose are seen in the life of the congregation. How people treat others. How people welcome others. How people respect others.

Do you want your identity and purpose to be defined by recent events? The history of the congregation is one of division: at this moment is the opportunity to forever change the future of this congregation, this community, and the greater church.

At this moment, this congregation has the opportunity to forever change the course of history.

How? By talking with each other.

Honestly talking about what has happened, bringing to light things that have happened in darkness, and forming a clear understanding of identity and purpose for the congregation, its ministries, and its pastors. By holding up that understanding and purpose whenever unrest arises, dealing with, not dismissing, the unrest as those who *are* united in Christ.

Although my time has been ended, I pray that my absence is enough to cause the conversation to begin.

May peace be in you.

Pastor Kim



Pastoral Acts

Baptism:

03/19/17 Matthew Ryan Geedey

Date of birth 10/12/16



Thank you.

It is easy during this time of grief to neglect the joy that was felt during our time together. In the past six years we have done amazing things – things that we were told could not be done – proof that it was the power of God being made visible among us. As I look back, thank you for the opportunity to share in ministry with you: this has been the

greatest time of ministry I have ever experienced. I pray that our experience of God may be the cause for both us to now look forward, confident that if we follow God's truth His light will shine through us. May God bless you and keep you. May God make His face shine and you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with love, and give you His peace.



Pastor Kim

Bible Studies * Blessing of First Responders * Blessing of the Animals
* Senior Youth * Junior Youth * Confirmation * Gettysburg * First Holy Communion * Prayer Vigil * Christ's Cupboard * Trunk or Treat
* Fellowship * Devotional Booklets * Kid's Bags * Grief Support Group * Library * Healing Service * Acolyte Academy * Ladies' Nite Out * Journey * Undie Sunday * Media Ministry * Ministry Teams * Computer System * Holden Evening Prayer * Seder Meal
And so much more...

Pastoral Care

Please remember that as Pastor Kim is no longer serving the congregation she is not available for pastoral care, including hospital visits, baptisms or funerals. In case of pastoral need, please call the church office for information.



Church Council Highlights from March:

- 1) Sue Herb was hired as the Indoor Custodian.
- 2) After much discussion with the members of Christ's United present, the council reluctantly accepted Pastor Kim's resignation.
- 3) Pastor Shankweiler was then asked to set up a candidate for the intentional interim post for approximately 1 year in order to help promote healing before a new minister would be called.
- 4) Pastor Kim's pension was discussed and we are waiting to hear about the interest before this can be corrected. She also will be paid according to accumulated vacation days and continuing education owed to her.
- 5) Pastor Kim's last working day at Christ's United is March 27.
- 6) Gregg Sterling's council position has been filled by Terry Shilling according to the constitution of Christ's United Lutheran Church.

March's council Member of the month is Angie Berger.

The Council Member of the Month is the "on call" member of council. The council member of the month is the person to call if you have any concerns (other than pastoral concerns), notice the church lights on at 11 p.m., or need access to the building.



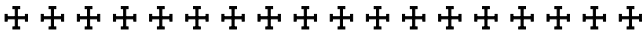
**Council Member
of the Month**





Baptismal Font:

A decision was made by council, as part of the healing process of Christ's United, to move the baptismal font to the narthex as a reminder of our baptism and our relationship with Jesus Christ. As you pass by, think of the healing waters of baptism, spiritual rebirth and the promise of salvation.



Expanding our view of service

We often think of serving in terms of Matthew 25: supplying food and clothing; caring for the sick, incarcerated and other “least of these” members of society — serving Jesus in the process. But we also can serve him with our unique talents and by doing things we love.



For example, Ged King, a barber in England, devotes some of his time off to giving homeless people free haircuts. Imagine Jesus saying, “For my hair was long and scraggly, and you cut it” — or “My heart was lonely, and you played music to lift my spirits. I could no longer read small print, and you read to me. I have to work two jobs, and you invited my child to spend afternoons crafting with you. My car broke down, and you repaired it.” Then the King will say, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father ... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:34, 40, NIV; emphasis added).





Sign-up to Make Hard Boiled/Colored Easter Eggs

For the Easter Egg Hunt on
Saturday, April 15

All donated Colored Eggs must be at
the church by Friday, April 14th

Saturday, April 15
11:00 a.m.

All children ages
0-11 are welcome!
Please sign up on
the bulletin board
so enough baskets
are prepared.



Easter Egg Hunt



YOUTH

Jr. Youth is for all elementary age members of Christ's United! Special activities

—including projects and field trips—occur throughout the year. Watch the Youth bulletin board and the Church FaceBook pages for the next adventure in the making!



JR & SR YOUTH JOINT ACTIVITY

Friday, April 7th at 6pm

We will meet at the church to color dozens and dozens of eggs as well as fill the Easter gift bags for the egg hunt participants. Light refreshments will be provided.

We are looking for donations of hard boiled eggs.
There is a sign sheet on the bulletin board.

SR YOUTH

Your participation is requested the day of the Easter Egg Hunt (**Saturday, April 15th**) in order to make this event successful. As in previous years, we will need your assistance with hiding eggs, putting on a puppet show, and overall organization of the event.

Hope to see you there!!



Life Together at Christ's United





APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2	Gail Lorady Arianna McAnaney	14	Ryan Wolfe Dorothy Zangari
3	Lewis Pennypacker Robert Rock	15	Jessica Wright
4	Heather Klinger Marisa Seritsky	16	Jeremy Knorr
5	Margaret Conner Bryce Hummel	17	Barb Liem Aaron Pancher
6	Barbara Brown Darcie Gruber	18	Caleb Dietrick
8	Courtney Krise Marjorie Lally Ivan Sweinhart	19	Anthony Kodack
9	Stephen Harhigh, Jr.	20	Russell Hummel Shale Waldick
11	Kaitlin Neumeister	21	David Pennypacker
13	Natalia Mulhall	23	Monica Klock
		24	Amanda Dillman Chad Klock
		25	Dianna Monaghan
		26	Keith Morgan Azure Waldick
		27	George Hepler
		28	Samantha Brennan Jill McNeal Marcus Peel
		30	Joseph Anczarski Dena Guenther



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

04/05/86	Ann Marie & William Dillman, Jr.
04/16/15	David & Nancy Cunningham
04/20/68	Ed & Judy Stepulitis
04/21/71	Daniel & Bonnie Sisko
04/23/60	Jim & Darcie Gruber
04/26/01	Mark & Cheryl Varndell
04/29/00	Stephen & Jennifer McGrath





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

In Memory of Randall Troutman by:

<i>Forest & Orpha Troutman</i>	<i>\$ 25.50</i>
<i>Sylvia & Glenn Troutman</i>	<i>\$ 25.00</i>
<i>Jo-Ann & Leo Young</i>	<i>\$ 20.00</i>
<i>Oscar Troutman & Family</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>

In Memory of Ralph Johnson, Palmer Kimmel, David Schwienhart, Jeanette Wolfgang, Sue Bendinsky, Randy Troutman, and Candace Alexander by:

Nancy Lindenmuth & Family \$150.00

In Memory of Benjamin Lockhart to the Endowment Fund by:

Laray & Donald Klinger \$ 20.00

In Memory of Denise "Denny" Marrone to Christ's Cupboard by:

Ed & Annetta Whitecavage \$ 10.00





During Lent all are invited as in faith we gather each Wednesday night for a Soup Supper and Worship. The Social Ministry Team introduces the meal at 6:00 by sharing information on ministries around the world, telling us how our actions are affecting the lives of others (for good!).

We then gather as light breaks the darkness in Holden Evening Prayer at 7 pm. This is a special time of faith, the gathering together deepening our understanding of God’s actions of love in Jesus Christ. Please set aside time in your schedule to share in this special practice of Lent and bring a friend!

Holy week worship



The journey of Holy Week takes us on the final steps of Jesus' to the cross. Each day brings us closer to the realization of God's gift, and prayerfully, closer to God. As the events leading to the crucifixion gain in momentum, so does our worship.

Maundy Thursday—On Thursday at 7:00p.m., we share Holy Communion, and then the altar is stripped and we leave in silence.

Good Friday Service will be held at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Services—we gather on Easter morning at 6:30 and 9:30 to celebrate God’s gift of eternal life through the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Serving Our Community of Faith in April:

Date	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte & Tag-a-long	Crucifer	Post Worship Greeter in Narthex	Post Worship Greeter at Door



April 2	Beth Andrews	Richard Shoup Frank Smith Darlene Stank Karen Smith	Jim Gruber Donna Lassen Angie Berger	Deidre Dengler	Amy Johnson	Beth Andrews	John Towey
April 5 Mid-Week	Melanie Bendinsky			Ralph Johnson		John Denchak	Cheryl Denchak
April 9 Palm Sunday	Donna Lassen		Dennis Wolfe John Towey Barb Anczarski	Brandon Hood	Nicole Hood	Angie Berger	Deb Berner
April 13 Maundy Thursday	Kay Berner		Jim Gruber Jo-Ann Young Angie Berger	Ryan Walter	Jordan Walter	—	Jim Gruber
April 14 Good Friday	Angie Berger					Beth Andrews	Irene Morgan
April 16 Easter 6:30	Darcie Gruber	David Hall John Towey Dennis Wolfe Jim Gruber	Melanie Bendinsky Jo-Ann Young Barb Stepanchick	Tyler Wolfgang	Jacob Tice	Melanie Bendinsky	Deb Hall
April 16 Easter 9:30	John Towey	Richard Shoup Frank Smith Darlene Stank Karen Smith	Becky Spencer Irene Morgan Donna Wallace	Steven Wolfgang	Zachary Hymmel	Vivian Brown	Richard Shoup
April 23	Vivian Brown			Kylie Mallams & Joey McAndrew	Blake Olayo	George Kosmisky	Jenny Kosmisky
April 30	Ryan Walter			Brandy Speer & Daniel Cunningham	David Cunningham	Gail Marquardt	Pearl Lute

We Offer our Prayers to...



PRAYER REQUESTS

*Please note that those experiencing a traumatic event are placed onto the Prayer List and will be kept on for one month. **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 you add someone to the prayer list on a Saturday evening or a Sunday morning during worship, please make sure you write it down and place a note on the prayer podium.*

March 19 – Emerson Wolfgang, Loretta Cook, Nicole Chidovich (P. Dzi-czek), Family of Denise Marrone, Alma & Bob Davis (B. Leim), Ian Bendinsky

March 12 – Linda Zerby (J. Young), Steve Minahand (J. Kosmisky), Helen Horan (M. Wolfgang), Steve Kerstetter (K. Johnson), Irene Morgan, Parnell-Umlauf Family (L. Lute), Family of Donald Schieb (P. Schaffer), Judy Fritz, Wendy Farnsworth (E. Chappell)

March 5 - Joey & Bianca McAndrew, Jean Wolfgang (T. Shilling), Family of Howard Beury, Sarah Shanks

February 26 – Linda Zerby (J. Young), Walter “Skip” Young (J. Young), Joan Young Blevins (J. Young), Linda Szuler (T. Wolfe), Deb Dean (V. Brown), Janice Cremi (C. Varndell), Beverly Wehry (R. Shoup), Joseph Shoup (R. Shoup), - Judy Fritz, Wendy Farnsworth (E. Chappell), Nada Matthews, Dean Fetterolf (B. Fetterolf), Judy Stepulitis, Benjamin Lockhart (M. Bendinsky), Gail Lorady, Heidi Walsh (T. Shilling), Ron Fox Jr. (G. Marquardt), Jean Welker, Helen Wolfgang (S. Wolfgang), Karyssa Wenrich (J. Clark), Elizabeth Brown (G. Marquardt), Barb Fetterolf, Harold Wink, Doris McGurl (L. Lute), Sandra Beecher (L. Lute)



Praying
Through
the Directory

Praying Through the Directory

Each month we will be listing three of our church faith families. We ask that you take the time and uplift them in prayer for their needs and spiritual journey.

This month we pray for:

The Dwayne Family—Ronald & Amy

The Dillman Family—William, Lisa, Brooke & Connor

The Neumeister Family—James & Sandra



The role of the cross



If the cross is the place where the worst thing that could happen happened, it is also the place where the best thing that could happen happened. Ultimate hatred and ultimate love met on those two crosspieces of wood. Suffering and love were brought into harmony. ...

To be “saved” requires a severance from the former life as clean and sharp as though made by a knife. There must be a wall of separation between the old life and the new, a radical break. That means death – death to the old life, in order for the new to begin. ... This wall of separation, this barrier, is the cross.

–Elisabeth Elliot, *A Path Through Suffering*

Give Electronically Checking/Savings Credit/Debit Card

Electronic Giving is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to our church. Go to www.christsunited.org or scan this QR code to learn how you can participate.



SOCIAL MINISTRY



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.

Fellowship Schedule

April—WELCA
May—Evangelism/Outreach
June— *Journey*
July—Youth Group
August—LCM/WELCA
September—Property
October—Stewardship



We will be collecting the following items for April:

Canned Fruit

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday,
April 6, 2017



BASKETS OF PROMISE



This Lent we're joining Lutheran World Relief's **Baskets of Promise** campaign. Each week, we'll collect a different item that we'll use to assemble Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations.

Our goal is to assemble 25 LWR Personal Care Kits during Lent.

HERE'S OUR COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

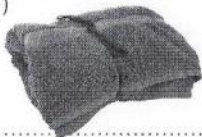
MARCH 5

Bars of Soap (4 to 5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping)



MARCH 12

Bath Towels (light-weight, (for quick drying) maximum 52" x 27", dark color recommended)



MARCH 19

Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)



MARCH 26

Combs - sturdy combs (no fine teeth or Picks)



APRIL 2

Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)



APRIL 9 (PALM SUNDAY)

Bars of Soap



For more information contact

Donna Wallace





Easter Flowers

Lilies \$9.50

Hyacinth \$9.00 *(Please specify White,
Lavender or Pink)*

Tulip \$9.00

Daffodil \$9.00

Deadline to order is April 2

Please Sign-up on the bulletin board in
the hallway to order.



Altar Flowers

2017 Sponsorships

The 2017 sponsorship sign up sheets
are posted on the bulletin board.

**We have lots of openings
available for the
remainder of this year.**





Women of
Christ's United
Lutheran Church

EASTER CANDY

\$10.50 lb. or \$5.50 ½ lb.

Coconut
Peanut Butter
Butter Cream

Peanut Rolls
P.B. Carmel
Cherry

*Also available:
Peanut Butter Crackers,
\$1.50 for a pack of 4*

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



WELCA News

NEXT WELCA MEETING

Due to Mid week Lenten services, WELCA is not scheduled to meet during Lent. The next meeting for WELCA will be held on May 3, at 7:00 p.m.

WELCA is currently making Easter candy. Help is needed! Check with Jo-Ann Young for the next scheduled work day.



Ladies Nite Out:

Sunday, April 2, 2017—This time we will head to O.I.P. in Shamokin for our afternoon of fun and fellowship. We will meet at the church to carpool at 3:30 p.m.

All ladies welcome!!



Women of ELCA Schuylkill Cluster Spring Event

Date: Saturday, April 29, 2017
8:30-9:00 A.M.-Registration
9:00-12:00 Noon-Program
followed by lunch

Location: Friedens Lutheran Church
510 E. Main St., Hegins

Topic: Vaccinations Across the Lifespan
Duane Daniels, PA Dept. of Health

Bible Study: Rev. Melinda Heppe

Sign up on the Bulletin Board by April 16th
Or contact Donna Wallace.





American Red Cross

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.™

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

Community Blood Drive

Christ's United Lutheran Church

Community Room
437 Airport Road (Gordon)
Ashland, PA 17921

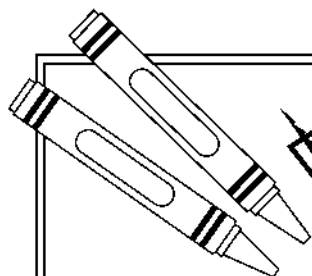
Thursday, April 6, 2017

1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Please contact Debbie Hall or call
1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2676) or visit
www.redcrossblood.org
to schedule an appointment.

Open to the public and walk-ins are Welcome!

The American Red Cross remains in the midst of a severe blood shortage and has issued an emergency call for blood and platelet donations. Ice, snow, and subfreezing temperatures in many states have led to blood drive cancellations.

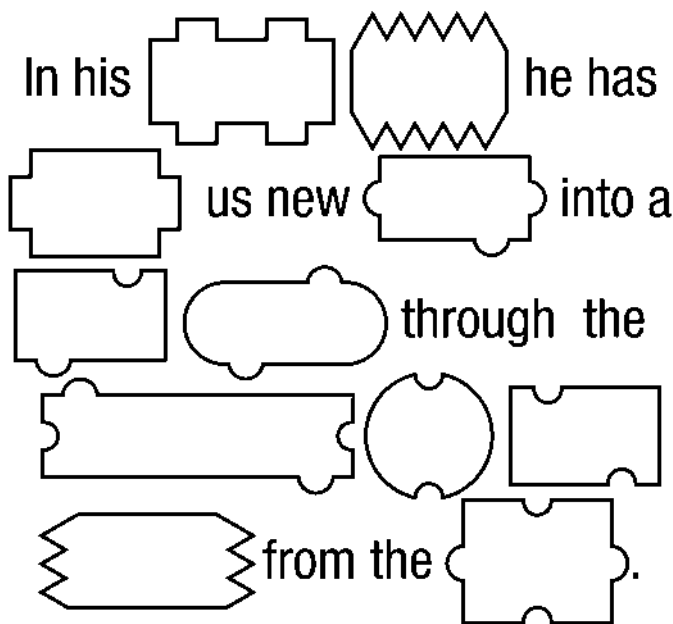
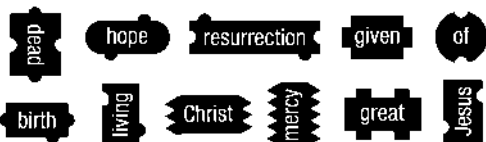


PUZZLE

> NEW LIFE <

How did God work through Jesus to give us new life at Easter?

Directions: Use the puzzle pieces from the box to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.



1 P E T E R 1 : 3 , N I V

Answer: In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3, NIV

Christ's United Ministry Teams

Christian Education
education@christsunited.org

Evangelism/Outreach
evangelism@christsunited.org

Lutheran Church Men (LCM)
lcm@christsunited.org

Social Ministry
socialministry@christsunited.org

Stewardship

WELCA
welca@christsunited.org

Worship & Music
music@christsunited.org

Christ's United Committees

Auditing & Finance Committees
finance@christsunited.org

Endowment Fund
endowment@christsunited.org

Mutual Ministry

Nominating
council@christsunited.org

Personnel
personnel@christsunited.org

Property
property@christsunited.org

***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 2017

council@christsunited.org

	Phone	Term Expires
Dr. Kay Berner vicepresident@christsunited.org	570-449-6940	Feb. 2020
Nancy Lindenmuth Secretary	570-875-3138	Feb. 2018
Beth Andrews	570-874-2381	Feb. 2018
Angie Berger	570-875-3598	Feb. 2019
Dr. Kay Berner	570-875-1035	Feb. 2020
Deidre Dengler	Youth Rep.	Sept. 2016
Terry Shilling	570-875-0412	Feb. 2019
Erik Tice	570-875-2681	Feb. 2020
John Towey	570-205-2682	Feb. 2018
Mark Varndell	570-875-2545	Feb. 2019
Steven Wolfgang	570-875-9660	Feb. 2020

PASTOR

STAFF

Parish Visitor lois@christsunited.org	Lois Sterling	570-449-6947
Parish Administrator office@christsunited.org Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-3:00	Deb Hall	570-875-1591
Director of Music music@christsunited.org	Diane Calhoun	570-874-2580
Treasurer treasurer@christsunited.org	Ann Marie Dillman	570-875-2422
Indoor Custodian	Susan Herb	
Outdoor Custodian	Bill Price	570-875-4272
Financial Secretary	Christine Brennan	570-875-0720



Like us on
Facebook

Life Together at Christ's United
27

