

Christ's United Lutheran Church
 437 Airport Road
 Ashland, PA 17921
www.christsunited.org

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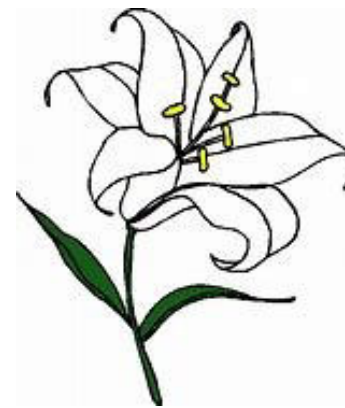
April



The CULC Messenger

God's Work, Our Actions

Blessed be the
God and Father
 of our
Lord Jesus Christ!
 by his great mercy
 He has given us a
New Birth
 into a
Living hope
 through the
 Resurrection
 of Jesus Christ
 from the dead.
 1 Peter 1:3 NRSV



Join us for Worship - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School - September through May
 1st & 3rd Sundays @ 10:45 a.m.

The CULC Messenger
 God's Work, Our Actions





Christ's United Lutheran Church

One God. One People. One Purpose.

437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921

www.christsunited.org

(570) 875-1591

April 2024

CHURCH COUNCIL 2024

	Phone	Term Expires
Kay Berner President	570-875-1035	Feb. 2026
Ken Dengler Vice President	570-933-5144	Feb. 2025
Morgen Sweitzer Secretary	717-858-9824	Feb. 2026
Robert Carl	570-590-7281	Feb. 2025
Darlene Stank	570-875-1644	Feb. 2025
Barbara Stepanchick	570-875-1114	Feb. 2027
Janet Towey	270-205-3420	Feb. 2027
John Towey	270-205-2682	Feb. 2027
Michael Yoder	570-205-1701	Feb. 2026

Youth Representative - Vacant

DESIGNATED PASTOR

Rev. Melinda Heppe
570-205-7450

STAFF

Parish Administrator Debbie Hall 570-875-1591
 office@christsunited.org 570-789-9722
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:00 am- 4:00 pm

Director of Music Jamie Johnson 570-590-1678
Treasurer Ann Marie Dillman 570-449-2021
Indoor Custodian Ann Ray Begis 570-590-2729
Outdoor Custodian Dennis Wolfe 570-875-9085
Financial Secretary Christine Brennan 570-875-0720

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Status of Accounts as of February 29

Total amount in checking account: \$144,459.34.

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our 2024 Annual Budget of \$203,168.00 is \$16,930.00.

Income for February was \$11,180.77.

Expenses for February were \$13,380.16, resulting in a net loss of \$2,199.39.

Benevolence for February was \$1,117.22.



Christ's United Ministry Teams

Christian Education
Evangelism/Outreach
Lutheran Church Men (LCM)
Social Ministry
Stewardship
WELCA
Worship & Music
Multimedia Ministry
Safety and Security Team

Christ's United Committees

Auditing & Finance Committees
Endowment Fund
Mutual Ministry
Nominating
Personnel
Property

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.

Christian symbol

VICTOR'S CROSS — Also called the conqueror's cross, the victor's cross is composed of the Greek cross, recognized by its four equal arms, adorned with Greek letters in each quadrant. The top left letters stand for *Jesus* and the top right letters stand for *Christ* (the horizontal lines above them indicate that they are abbreviations). The four letters across the bottom spell the Greek word for *conqueror*.



Message from Designated Pastor Mindy...

He is risen indeed!

I love that traditional Easter greeting, and I use it liberally. So when I answered the phone that way on the third day of Easter and the gruff voice on the other end replied, "It's Tuesday!" all I could do was laugh—and reply, "what—so he isn't risen anymore?"

Easter isn't over, folks, in fact we're just warming up. There are seven weeks of Easter, and then comes Pentecost! It gets better and better—not only did Jesus rise, he also ascended (so as to be everywhere) and sent the Holy Spirit (the comforter, the one who helps us keep on keeping' on)!

So how to keep the celebration happening? Be a little silly (a root of that word means "blessed," so own it!). Buy some Easter treats now that they're on sale, and break them out in a few weeks. It's never too late for an Easter egg hunt (assuming you're using plastic eggs).

But keep celebrating real Easter, too. Learn a new Easter hymn: you have lots of time to practice it. Say or sing, "Alleluia," every chance you get. Put the same energy into prayers of thanksgiving and celebration that you put into penance and solemnity during Lent. Pray for those you always pray for, but add prayers of thanksgiving for what God has given them and what they have given you.

Live your new life as fully as you can.

He is risen indeed!



Church Council Highlights From March

- Officers were elected and are as follows:
President – Kay Berner
Vice President – Kenny Dengler
Secretary – Morgen Sweitzer
- It was decided to move forward with the new alarm system from DM2 in Frackville. Kenny Dengler is in contact with Johnson Controls to cancel our service with them.

Member's Musings by Larry Wolfgang

The last time I wrote a message for our newsletter it was October, and we were preparing to enter the Fall Season. Now we have entered Spring, with another new season dawning upon us! I love all four seasons! I love watching the changes that each new season brings. God is constantly ready to surprise us, and we don't have to look far to be in awe of what God is doing in our world! Isn't it exciting?

As I write this, Easter is a week away. By the time you read it we will have celebrated Jesus's resurrection. He will have spent his "3 days in the tomb." (I always have to ponder that a bit—He was crucified and buried on Friday, spent Saturday in the tomb, and arose early Sunday morning!) But God can keep time differently than we do, can't he? "But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day" (2 Peter 3:8).

Just as God raised Jesus from the dead and called him out of the tomb, so he is calling the flowers and various plants to come out of the ground with new growth! The crocuses burst forth with such joy and brilliant colors! Daffodils are growing and are ready to show their fresh bright yellows on top of their green stalks. Hyacinths are pushing their way out of the ground and are ready to burst forth in brilliant purples, blues, and pinks! Perhaps you have already seen these miracles in your own gardens. God is creating new life all around us!

The flowers are beautiful, but I also love seeing new vegetables poke through the ground, and new growth forming on trees and bushes. Just a week ago Jean had commented that she did not see any of our rhubarb showing through the ground yet. Now some of those red stalks with brilliant green leaves are starting to show! I am anxious to see some green and purple asparagus shoots poking up in our backyard.



American Red Cross Community Blood Drive Christ's United Lutheran Church

437 Airport Road (Gordon)
Ashland, PA 17921

Monday, June 3, 2024
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!

CULC **YOUTH** **GROUP** **Activities**

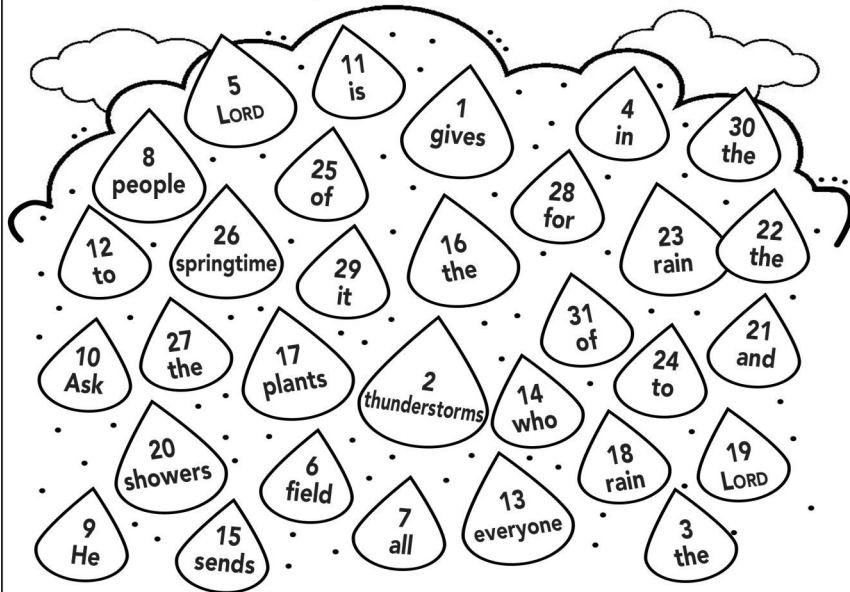
All kids who had First Communion and their families are welcome.

Watch the Newsletter for this year's schedule of Youth Group events.



Puzzle!

Complete a Bible verse about spring by writing the word from each raindrop on the correct numbered line below.



_____ 10 _____ 16 _____ 5 _____ 28 _____ 18
 _____ 4 _____ 22 _____ 26 ;
 _____ 29 _____ 11 _____ 3 _____ 19 _____ 14 _____ 15
 _____ 27 _____ 2 .
 _____ 9 _____ 1 _____ 20 _____ 31 _____ 23
 _____ 12 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 21 _____ 17 _____ 25
 _____ 30 _____ 6 _____ 24 _____ 13

Zechariah 10:1, NIV

Answer: Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. Zechariah 10:1, NIV

If I look closely, I can see some buds forming on our blueberry bushes. Maple trees, pear trees, and apple trees are also starting to show early signs of buds. I have been seeing Facebook posts from Washington, DC, showing the beauty of the pink cherry blossoms ready for viewing in our Nation's capital.

The Psalms have some beautiful images of God bringing forth new life! So many Psalms give us words to praise God. I searched for some Psalms that describe the new life of Spring. I know there are many more, and I am sure there are better images of new life from God. I was inspired by Psalm 148. Here are some parts of that chapter.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; Praise him in the heights! Praise him sun and moon; praise him all you shining stars! Praise the Lord from the earth; Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

In Psalm 147 I found: Sing to the Lord with Thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre. He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.

In Psalm 104 we find: You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, giving drink to every wild animal. From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work. You cause the grass to grow for the cattle and the plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the human heart, and bread to strengthen the human heart.

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. These all look to you in due season; when you give to them they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground. May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works.

All of God's creation sings praises to him! Can we do less? Let's close with the opening verses of Psalm 92:

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night. For you O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy!

Yours in Christ,

Larry Wolfgang



April Council Contact of the month is Robert Carl.

The Council Contact of the Month is the “on call” member of council, the person to contact if you have any concerns (other than pastoral concerns), or need access to the building. If you need to contact Robert, he can be reached at 570-590-7281.



PRAYER CHAIN



Each day members of Christ’s United bow their heads and lift their hearts in prayer for the ministries of this congregation and people in need.

A copy of the Prayer List is available at worship services each Sunday. You also have an email sent to you each week with a list of those in need of your prayers. A phone chain notifies you of immediate needs. If there is an immediate need of prayer, please call the church office. In the event the office is closed, Gail Marquardt (570-554-1075 or 570-933-1737) should be called to begin the prayer chain. Please call the church office for more information or to become a Prayer Chain Participant.

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 Berner Family - Leroy & Debra

The Quirk Family - Janet

The Whritenour Family - Derek, Amanda & Riley

Chicken Pot Pie Dinner

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Sponsored by

Christ’s United Lutheran Church Men
437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921

~Dine in or Take out ~



Sponsored by WELCA

DONATIONS NEEDED

- _____ Cakes
- _____ 12 or 24 Pack Soda (Any brand or flavor)
- _____ 24 Pack Bottled Water
- _____ 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, April 14**. Baked goods may be brought in on Friday, April 20th between 8:00 a. m. & 4:00 p.m. 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 CULC Messenger
God’s Work, Our Actions*



Chicken Pot Pie Dinner

Sponsored by the Lutheran Church Men

Saturday, April 20, 2024

3:00 – 6:00 pm

~Dine in or Take out~

Christ's United Lutheran Church
437 Airport Road, Ashland

Dinner Includes:

Chicken Pot Pie
Lettuce w/ hot bacon dressing
Applesauce
Bread & Butter
Dessert
Beverage

Adults: \$12.00

Children under age 12: \$5.00

Ticket information: Call 570-875-1591
(Limited tickets available at the door)



Sponsored by WELCA

We Offer our Prayers to...

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**. If you would like someone added, please call the office or write their name on the Prayer Request sheet found on the Prayer Podium. **Please provide updates to the office in order that the list is always current.**



March 24 – Bonnie Steinhart

Tammy Correll (C. Brennan)
Joe Monaghan (D. Zaharick)
Ryan Slotcavage (D. Zaharick)
Claudia Yutko (T. Wolfe)

Families of Jim Earls (P. Dziczek)

Paul Klevis (S. Anthony)

March 17 – Jane Pennypacker (L. Pennypacker)

Jackie
Christine Groody
Child friend of the Lutes (P. Lute)

March 10 – Cathy Groody (D. Gruber)

Eugene (Pappy) Heyer (V. Smith)
Connie Weinreich (S. Marlow)
Traci Smith (L. Rickert)

Families of Jack Meyers (C. Varndell)

Helene Youskitis

March 3 - Terry Neumeister (C. Neumeister)

Lois Andrews (B. Andrews)
Glenda Schronick (D. Zaharick)
Bob Kinlin (D. Price)
Brian Fusold (D. Price)
Tammy Dengler (K. Dengler)

Family and Friends of Irene Morgan

Please continue to pray for: Corrine & Josh Coward, Jim Gruber, Annette Houser, Jack Houser, James Houser Sr., Jenny Kosmisky, Barbara Liem, Gail Lorady, Pearl & Carl Lute, Dianna Monaghan, Jane Pennypacker, Cheryl Varndell, Heidi Walsh, Kayla Werner

Remember our Home-bound: Leroy Berner, Diane Heidlebaugh, Jim Hepler, Nancy Kessler, Marlene Lucas, Gail Marquardt, Anna Neumeister, Richard Shoup, Karen Smith, Dot Zangari, Linda Zerby

And Friends: Michele & Amber Adams, Michelle Ambrose, Robert Beecher, Donald Bulla, Joe Ferraro Jr., Harry Fishburn, Bob Griffiths, Dan Grow, Ann Helwig, Minah Horan, Tracy Maurer, Lisa Metzinger, Angie Romberger, Elizabeth Smith & family, Elaine Stone, Pastor Sunny, Joe Towey, Rose Varndell, Karyssa Wenrich

APRIL Birthdays

2	Gail Lorady	16	Jeremy Knorr
	Arianna McAnaney	17	Barb Liem
3	Lewis Pennypacker		Aaron Pancher
	Robert Rock		John Wagner
4	Heather Klinger	18	Caleb Dietrick
	Marisa Seritsky	19	Eli Pennypacker
5	Bryce Hummel	20	Russell Hummel
6	Barbara Brown		Shale Waldick
	Darcie Gruber	21	David Pennypacker
	Courtney Krise	23	Dustin Schreffler
8	Marjorie Lally	24	Amanda Whritenour
	Ivan Sweinhart	25	Dianna Monaghan
9	Stephen Harhigh, Jr.	26	Azure Waldick
	Maxwell Miller	27	George Hepler
10	Kathy Hansbury	28	Samantha Brennan
11	Kaitlin Sage		Jill McNeal
13	Natalia Mulhall		Marcus Peel
14	Ryan Wolfe	29	Parker Dean
	Dorothy Zangari	30	Joseph Anczarski
15	Jessica Wright		Deana Guenther



2024 Sponsorships

The new sponsorship sign up sheets are now posted on the bulletin board. Sign up for:



Altar Flowers \$35.00*
 Worship Bulletins \$15.00
 Special service bulletins \$10.00
 Sanctuary Candle \$10.00
 Children's Bulletins \$10.00
 Monthly Newsletters \$40.00

For Altar Flowers:

Please sign up by the bulletin board for week(s) you would like to sponsor Altar Flowers and call "Flowers From the Heart"

570-339-2519 to place order. **Cost is \$35.00.**

Please place order and make payment directly to the florist.

All other sponsorships, please make payable to CULC and give to Debbie in the Church Office.

Give Electronically

Checking/Savings Credit/Debit Card
Christ's United accepts electronic donations

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





The next meeting will be on April 3rd at 6:00 p.m. All women are invited to join us.

Women of ELCA Schuylkill Cluster Spring Event



April 13, 2024, 9:00—12:00
(Lunch following is optional)

Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church
518 East Main St.
Hegins, PA 17938

Program:

“Taking Action Against Food Insecurity Today”

Speaker:

Kay Jones

Commissioned Minister of Health, UCC, Orwigsburg

Bible Study:

Pastor Brian Beissel

St. Peter’s, Lutheran Church Pine Grove
Dean of Schuylkill Mission District

Sign up on bulletin board.

Cost covered by CULC WELCA



04/05/86	Ann Marie & William Dillman, Jr.
04/16/15	David & Nancy Cunningham
04/18/98	David & Christine Heyer
04/18/09	David & Jamie Pennypacker
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 donations were given to Christ’s United’s Memorial Fund since the last issue of the Newsletter

In Memory of Irene Morgan by:

Jo-Ann Young
Susan Davis
Christopher & Jenna Hubosky
Mary Moran
Beth & Ron Andrews
Don & Laray Klinger
Joe & Angie Babatsky

*Donation made to Christ’s Cupboard
In Memory of Irene Morgan by:*

Terry & Dorothy Kessler



Resurrection rumblings

In *Easter Earthquake*, James A. Harnish explores the "earthshaking promise" of Jesus' resurrection. Easter Sunday "shatters the power of fear," he writes. "Because Christ is risen, we no longer allow fear to dominate, control or manipulate us. We don't remain imprisoned in the tombs of our past failures or buried under the weight of present anxiety. In the risen Christ, old things pass away and everything becomes new."

Easter, Harnish adds, is proof that God hasn't forsaken us and is present among us. "The Resurrection contradicts the assumption that Christ resides on an ethereal cloud in a distant heaven. Rather, we find him on the dusty road that leads to the real stuff of our ordinary world."

Jesus' followers can find him everywhere, Harnish concludes. "The risen Christ will meet us along the confused, chaotic, fearful paths of our lives and speak the same words the women hear at the tomb, 'Do not be afraid.'"

Pastor Mindy's Media Moment

Movie: Cabrini

In theaters now. It isn't a pious movie, and there is some disturbing violence (none of it gratuitous). It is also a riveting story of the woman who started what was then the largest and farthest flung charity in the world. If you are ready to think deeply about how to do God's work in a wicked world, it is a must see.

Podcast: Bible Worm

You think a weekly Bible study following a lectionary we don't even use is it our cup of tea? I invite you to think again. Amy (a rabbi) and Bob (a Presbyterian minister) model what one can learn through honest interaction with friends from differing backgrounds.

The joy of Jesus

The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*



April 27, 2024 at 8:00 AM.

Come join us for the Highway Cleanup on Saturday April 27, 2024. We will meet at the church at 8:00 A.M. Everyone is welcome. The more help we have the quicker we can finish. We hope to see many of you there for this important ministry by CULC. Rain date is May 4..

The CULC Messenger
God's Work, Our Actions



SOCIAL MINISTRY



Fellowship Hour will be held after worship on only the first Sunday of each month September through May. See schedule below for your committee's turn to serve. Please sign up on the bulletin board to help.

~ 2024 ~

April - Evangelism/
Endowment/Stewardship
May - WELCA

June/July/August -
No Social Hour
September—Choir/
Worship & Music / LCM

October—Church Council
November - Social Ministry
December - Evangelism/
Endowment/Stewardship



We will be collecting the following items for March:

Peanut Butter & Jelly

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is
Thursday April 11, 2024



Serving Our Community of Faith in April:



Date	Supply Pastor/ Worship Leader	Congregational Rep/ Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte(s)	Crucifer
April 7	Rev. Mindy Heppe	Kay Berner	Erik Tice	Carla Mae Carl Allen Johnson c/d Robert Carl so	Vivian Brown AM Donna Wallace Beth Andrews	TBA	TBA
April 14	Pastor Ben Scott		Barb Stepanchick	—————→		Daniel Cunningham	—
April 21	John Towey		Mark Varnell			Remington Stehr	Eli Pennypacker Tag-a-long
April 28	Rev. Mindy Heppe		Beth Andrews			Nathan Berger	John Wagner Tag-a-long



April 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	1:00 – 6:00 Red Cross Blood Drive		10:30 Seniors 6:00 WELCA	6:30 Choir Practice		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 Fellowship Hour 10:45 Sunday School 2:00 Nave & Fellowship Hall Reserved	7:00 Church Council		10:30 Seniors	10 – 11:30 Christ's Cupboard 6:30 Choir Practice		
14	15 Tax Day	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 Worship			10:30 Seniors	6:30 Choir Practice		3:00—6:00 P.M. Chicken Pot Pie Dinner
21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School			Administrative Professionals Day 10:30 Seniors	6:30 Choir Practice		8:00 Highway Clean-up
28	29	30				
9 :30 Worship 10:30 Worship & Music Committee						<i>The CULC Messenger</i> <i>God's Work, Our Actions</i> 