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

Mailed 7/26/23

August



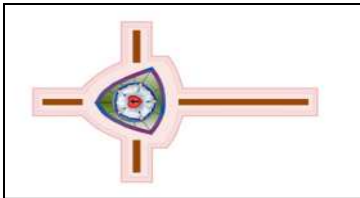
*The CULC Messenger*  
*God's Work,*  
*Our Actions*



*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

August 2023

## CHURCH COUNCIL 2023

	Phone	Term Expires
Kay Berner President	570-875-1035	Feb. 2026
Dennis Wolfe Vice President	570-875-9085	Feb. 2024
Morgen Sweitzer Secretary	570-682-8240	Feb. 2026
Robert Carl	570-590-7281	Feb. 2025
Ken Dengler	570-933-5144	Feb. 2025
Debra Price	570-205-6241	Feb. 2024
Darlene Stank	570-875-1644	Feb. 2025
Robert Sweinhart	570-682-3697	Feb. 2026
Jacob Tice	570-875-2681	Feb. 2024

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

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### Status of Accounts

Since there was no Church Council meeting held in July, no financial information was available.



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## 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

## **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.*

*Message from Designated Pastor Mindy...*



Do you, like me, turn mostly nocturnal during the dog days of summer and hide from the sun? Or are you out there soaking up the rays (with a good sunscreen, I trust)?

Either way, things seem to slow down a bit, and here is a gentle way to enhance your devotional life. Grab a hymnal (or find one on your electronics), find a friendly tree, sit under it, and browse. Rock out on your old favorites, if you like, but work your way through a few you don't know.

You can stop there, and I bet you'll be refreshed and uplifted. If you're having a good time, dig deeper. Go to the indexes. Look up hymns from different places and times, or multiple hymns by the same writer or composer. Look up the stories behind hymns. Some will amaze you!

And as you sit and enjoy God's creation, consider the diversity of the praise with which the Church responds—and revel in gratitude and joy.

## 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



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## **August 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,

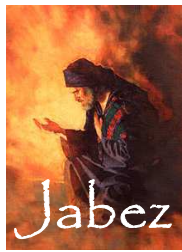


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## Member's Message from Vivian Brown...

Jabez was honored more than his brothers; and his mother named him Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain." Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from hurt and harm!: And God granted what he asked. *I Chronicles 4:9-10*



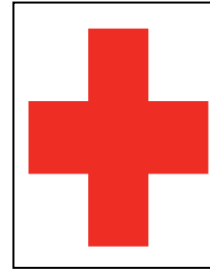
In the midst of I Chronicles, we find the prayer of a man named Jabez. The chapters and verses prior to, and immediately following are taken up with the official family tree of the Hebrew tribes. Name after name after name after name. Frankly, it can get a bit boring. But then we come to verse 9. All of a sudden (or at least it seems that way to me), Jabez is named. Immediately after verse 10, we are back to reading name after name after name after name (cue the boredom!). So why the pause for a prayer of a man who is mentioned one time in the entire Bible? I believe it's because Jabez wasn't afraid to pray BIG. Why not ask to be blessed? Why not ask for more to do for God? Why not ask God to be with you? Why not ask God for safety and peace?

This is a powerful prayer that greatly affected Jabez's life. God granted what he asked. That should come as no surprise to any of us. God is a merciful and gracious God. He wants to bless us with good things. Even if we have no words for a prayer, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words (*see Romans 8:26*).

I pray this prayer each time I leave my driveway and again before I fall asleep at night. I feel the blessings of God each and every day. Pray BIG, because God's answers are BIG.

Try this prayer or make up your own big prayer for a few weeks. Be bold. Be specific. Ask for God's blessings; His blessings never run out. Ask God to give you more work (not less) to do for Him. Ask God to be with you and guide you in His work; God does hold hands. Ask God to keep you from harm and evil.

During these dog days of August, enjoy God's blessing of creation, friendships, and brotherhood. Pray BIG. Wonderful things happen



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

437 Airport Road (Gordon)  
Ashland, PA 17921

**Monday, August 7, 2023**  
**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](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
to schedule an appointment.

### "God's Garden:



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**CULC  
YOUTH  
GROUP  
Activities**

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

**August 27** - Congregational Picnic- will help with games

**September** – Date TBD -  
Corn Maze

**October** - Trunk-Or-Treat

**November** - Christmas Cards-  
Date TBD- snacks and cookies

**December**- Joy through the Grove  
- Date TBD- Eat at OIP in Elysburg or somewhere else

Ask to help with congregation



Use simple ingredients and your imagination to bake these fluffy, cloud-like treats.

**What you need:**

- 3 egg whites
- ½ tsp. vanilla extract
- Mixer
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch
- Parchment paper

**What you do:**

1. Preheat oven to 300°. In a mixing bowl, combine egg whites and vanilla. Mix at medium speed until frothy.
2. While whisking, gradually add sugar and cornstarch. Keep whisking at high speed until stiff peaks form.
3. Spoon mixture onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Create fun shapes.
4. Bake 20 minutes. Cool and enjoy!



**Church Council Highlights**

- No Council meeting was held for the month of July.

**Daily reasons to celebrate**

Poor August, the only month without holidays! Still, there's lots to celebrate these final weeks of summer. Enjoy some summer flavors: August 1 is National Raspberry Cream Pie Day; August 2, National Ice Cream Sandwich Day; August 3, National Watermelon Day; August 10, National S'mores Day (have a bonfire!); and August 24 is National Peach Day.

If you share life with young kids, have a water balloon fight on — you guessed it — National Water Balloon Day, August 6! Head out for a final (National) Beach Day on August 30. Or head out for an intergenerational hike on National Trail Mix Day, August 31.



And don't forget to celebrate God's precious gifts of friends — National Friendship Day is the first Sunday in August; creation — Global Sleep Under the Stars Night is August 8 (prime time for meteor showers!); laughter — National Tell a Joke Day is August 16; and the opportunity to put God's love into action by serving others — on August 22, National Be an Angel Day, or August 28, National Thoughtful Day, and, for that matter, every day of the



## 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.**



- July 23** - Bob Rock (G. Rock)  
Ginny Rumbel
- July 16** - Susan Freshour (V. Brown)  
Sherry Ney (C. Brennan)  
Danielle Hutchinson (C. Varndell)  
Families of Ron James (V. Brown)  
Jim Kenney
- July 9** - Wilmer (Sonny) Quick (A. Berger)  
Beth Troup (D. Zaharick)  
Alice Bucher (D. Zaharick)  
Families of Jackie Babb  
Cheech Campbell (P. Dziczek)
- July 2** - Chris Moser (D. Zaharick)  
Family of Debbie Moyer

**Please continue to pray for:** Corrine & Josh Coward, Jim Gruber, Annette Houser, James Houser Sr., Jennifer Koch, Barbara Liem, Carl (Mickey) Lute, Dianna Monaghan, Irene Morgan (B. Andrews),

**Remember our Home-bound:** Diane Heidlebaugh, Jim Hepler, Nancy Kessler, Gail Marquardt, Richard Shoup, Anna Neumeister, Dot Zangari, Linda Zerby

**And Friends:** Michelle Ambrose, Robert Beecher, Mark Bennyhoff, Donald Bulla, Arlene Chillis, George Dornsife, Joe Ferraro Jr., Harry Fishburn, Bob Griffiths, Dan Grow, Minah Horan, Ron James, Kay Keefer, Tracy Maurer, Elizabeth Smith &

## 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 Panikkar Family - Chris & Linda  
The Weikel Family - Cory Sr. & Cory Jr.  
The Anthony Family - Stewart & Faith



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## 2022 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

## 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.**



Sunday, August 27 at

12:00 Noon

**Worship 10:30 a.m.**

Please note time change & come to worship in your casual picnic clothes.

Bring a covered dish,  
salad or dessert to share.

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



**In Memory of Jackie Babb by:**

- |                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Peggy & Frank Dzikczek | Dorothy Snyder             |
| Elaine & Rebecca Faust | Amy Wahalec                |
| Chris Brennan          | John & Lisa Snyder         |
| Don & Laray Klinger    | Carol & Jim Reiner         |
| Nina Kramer            | Brian & Elaine Mickatavage |
| William & Shirley Reed | Anson & Joan Snyder        |
| Tom & Martha Sosar     |                            |

**In Memory of John Kimmel by:**  
Barbara Peachy

**Donations to CULC Capital Campaign**



**The Lunch Bunch** the Lunch Bunch is meeting on **Tuesday, August 15 at 1:00 p.m.** at Creekside Restaurant, 116 Ringtown Blvd, Ringtown Everyone (women, men, teens) is invited.

Sign up on the bulletin board so reservations can be made and to

**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](http://www.christsunited.org) or scan



**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

**Save-worthy**

I was teaching a junior high Sunday school class about salvation and that age-old question, "Are you saved?" Before diving in, I asked the students what they collect and why. Answers included sports cards, coins, stamps and rocks — items you may have saved as a child too. We save because items seem special or interesting to us. Collecting implies worth and a desire to keep something safe.

In our class, that led to discussion about what it feels like to be saved by or for Jesus ... to be the "savee" instead of the "saver." How amazing that God deems us special, interesting and worthy of safekeeping. We are God's precious, well-loved "collection," and he's reserving space and preparing a place for each one of us.



Many sincere thanks to everyone for your prayers, cards, kind words and gathering to offer support on the loss of Jackie Babb. It was all so very much appreciated.

Thank you,



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Bianca McAndrew
- 2 Jada Habowski
- 3 Brad Rickert  
Kelly Troup
- 4 Greg Lindenmuth
- 6 Braedyn Lazor  
Tyler McGrath
- 7 Gary Schneider
- 8 Carey Wahalec  
Caiden Weikel  
Dustin White
- 9 Kaitlyn Werner
- 10 Deb Berner  
Mason Buhay  
Larry Schneider
- 11 Diane Heidlebaugh  
Elizabeth McGrath  
Alivia Potteiger  
Riley Whritenour
- 12 Jamie Dengler  
Bill Miller  
Janet Towey
- 13 William Coward III  
Michael Lassen  
Emily Miller
- 14 Tammy Leshner
- 15 Angie Berger

- 16 John Towey
- 17 Charley Demko  
Seth Young
- 18 Melanie Schneider
- 19 Kimberly Shadle
- 20 Irene Morgan  
Matt Wetzel
- 21 Kolby Cress
- 22 Alyssa Becker  
Rebekah Garnes
- 23 Michael Monaghan  
Dak Sisak
- 24 Louise Boyer  
Keith Hostetter
- 26 Peggy Dziczek  
Katelyn Huber  
Zachary Hummel  
Brandy Schreiber  
David Heyer
- 27 Penny Troutman
- 28 Paige Garnes  
James Houser  
Dennis Marlow  
Lauren Wagner
- 29 Desiree Dengler  
Thomas Habowski  
Morgen Sweitzer
- 30 Darlene Stank  
Louise Lute



## School Kits needed for Lutheran World Relief

Items may be brought in August 6 thru 27.

Education is important in every community but especially those where poverty or disaster limits the options of young people looking to improve their lives. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children continue learning despite the hardships they face. These supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not.

### The supplies for each School Kit are:

- Four 70 sheet spiral notebooks
- One 30 centimeter ruler (or with inches and centimeters)
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with steel blades)
- One box of 16-24 crayons
- One 2 1/2 inch eraser
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- One sturdy drawstring back style cloth bag (14" x 17")



In the coming weeks the school supplies will begin to be in stores (much to the dismay of many children and adults) at great low prices so keep these items in mind.

Donations of any of these items should be placed on the table in the Narthex August 6 - 27.

Thrivent Action Team will pack the bags.







The next WELCA meeting will be the annual indoor picnic on August 2 at 6:00 pm.



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 08/07/99 John & Janet Towey
- 08/11/07 Dustin & Margaret Koons
- 08/12/72 Bill & Sandy Miller
- 08/13/04 Thomas & Barb Habowski
- 08/15/87 Jeffrey & Christine Brennan
- 08/16/03 Dean & Arlene Krise
- 08/19/17 Gerald & Sarah Stehr
- 08/25/73 Ron & Beth Andrews
- 08/28/76 Mike & Barb Stepanchick
- 08/29/81 Charles & Barbara Klauger
- ~~08/30/08 Don & Lynn Dillman~~

**RED, WHITE, AND BLESSED!**  
**WOMEN OF ELCA**  
**ANNUAL PICNIC**  
**at CHRIST'S UNITED**  
**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2023**  
**6:00 PM**



All women of CULC are invited to the annual **indoor** picnic.

Invitations have also been extended to the women of Good Shepherd, Ashland / Friedens, Hegins / St. James, Pitman / Trinity, Valley View and Zion, Minersville.

Sign up on bulletin board to attend and bring a covered dish or dessert to share.

Games will be played but you **do not need to bring a gift.**

Also, a **RED, WHITE, AND BLESSED attire contest** will be held. A prize will be awarded to person voted on by



**Confirmation thank you!**

The Berger family would like to thank everyone who had a hand in the confirmation of Nelson R.

It warms my heart and I am proud to be a part of our CULC church family. Whether you taught Nelson confirmation class or Sunday School, Thank You. If you discussed hunting or fishing or just kept an eye peeled while he walked around your town with his friends, Thank You. Some of you had told me that I was a good mother for bringing our boys to church, Thank You. If you made several phone calls and emails to find a supply Pastor to confirm him, Thank You. Thanks for the delicious cake and refreshments. Thank You One and All because we don't want to forget anyone. It really does take a village to raise a child up right! We couldn't have done it without the help of our Church family!



## ATTENTION :

7th & 8th Graders or any student 12 years or older who hasn't been confirmed yet.



Come and join the 2023—2024 Confirmation Class.

Build your Faith on what you have learned in Sunday School plus so much more. God has an exciting plan for all of us.

Classes will begin in September 2023. Please contact the church office and let us know you will

## First Holy Communion Instruction



A First Holy Communion instruction class is being planned for Christ's United. The class is for children in the first grade or older. The first two instruction sessions will take place during the Sunday School hour immediately after worship. Then during a third session, we will enjoy baking the bread for the next scheduled Holy Communion service. For more information or to have your child included in this year's class, please call the church



## Sunday, August 27 10:30 a.m.

All youth are encouraged to bring their backpack to be blessed during the worship service. Please note change of Worship time for this week. Our annual picnic will be held immediately



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## Creator of the stars

The stars and sky testify to God's amazing power and creativity.

*Directions: Use the clues and Bible passages to fill in the blanks. Then transfer the circled letters (in order) to the spaces below to complete a verse of praise.*

God determines this and calls each star by name. *(Psalm 147:4)*

○ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

The heavens are the work of God's what? *(Psalm 8:3)*

\_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_ \_

What does God bring out one by one? *(Isaiah 40:26)*

\_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_

God made two great lights to do this. *(Genesis 1:16)*

○ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_

God promised Abraham this would be like the stars. *(Genesis 15:5)*

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

The sun, moon and stars have this. *(1 Corinthians 15:41)*

\_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_ \_

The lights in the sky serve as what? *(Genesis 1:14)*

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_ \_

The heave\_\_s declare the \_\_lory \_\_f \_\_od;  
the ski\_\_s \_\_roc\_\_aim the wo\_\_k of his ha\_\_ds.

PSALM 19:1, NIV

Answer: number, fingers, host, govern, offspring, splendor, signs; The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19:1, NIV

# 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.

~ 2023 ~

- June/July/August** - No Social Hour
- September**—Choir/  
Worship & Music / LCM
- October**—Church Council
- November** - Social Ministry



We will be collecting the following items for August:

**Cereal,  
Oatmeal,  
Pancake Mix  
& Syrup**

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.  
Thank You!  
The next food distribution date is



## Serving Our Community of Faith in August:

Date	Supply Pastor/ Worship Leader	Congregational Rep/ Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte(s)	Crucifer
August 6	Erik Tice		Jacob Tice	Kay Berner b Becky Spencer b Allen Johnson c/d Ted Ambrose so	Vivian Brown AM Barb Anezarski Barb Stepanchick	Mason Buhay	Dylan Buhay
August 13	Rev. Mindy Heppe		Sally Tice	→		Kayla Werner	—
August 20	Rev. William Zimmerman		Barb Stepanchick			Jacob Tice	—
August 27	Vivian Brown		John Towey			Remington Stehr	—

**Tabs for Labs collection discontinued**—Susquehanna Service Dogs no longer participates in the Tabs for Labs program. We are no longer collecting the tabs - you no longer need to save and bring the tabs to church. Thank you.



# August 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10:30 Seniors  6:00 WELCA – Annual Indoor Picnic "Red, White & Blessed"	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:30 Worship w / Holy Communion	<b>7</b> 1:00 – 6:00 Red Cross Blood Drive 7:00 Church Council	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10:30 Seniors	<b>10</b> 10:00 – 11:30 Christ's Cupboard distribution  6:30 Garden Club	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:30 Worship  5:00 LCM 6:00 Property Committee	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 1:00 Lunch Bunch @ Creekside Restaurant 116 Ringtown Blvd Ringtown	<b>16</b> 10:30 Seniors	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Worship & Music Mtg.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:30 Seniors	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 10:30 Worship w / Blessing of Backpacks 12:00 Noon – Annual Church Picnic 	<b>28</b>  6:00 Social Ministry	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors	<b>31</b>		