

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

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August



The CULC Messenger
God's Work,
Our Actions

Be **KIND.**
 EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV

.....

== **SERVE** ==
 others. 
 1 PETER 4:10, NIV

.....

HONOR
 Christ *the* Lord.
 1 PETER 3:15, ESV

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 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 - Maura Sweitzer

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

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



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.

Message from Designated Pastor Mindy...



Sometimes when I'm pondering how slowly your call process is going, I think (and sometimes say), "You would think that some pastor would come here just so they could look at this view while they write their sermons." And that tends to make me think about ways in which we might use this gift to the glory of God. More frequent outdoor worship is an obvious starting point, but I suspect that there is much more that might arise with prayerful consideration. Consider that an invitation.

And while you're at it, consider other gifts that you, as individuals or as a congregation, could celebrate more and use more for the sake of God's world. I believe that all of us have a whole collection of differing gifts, many of which we leave unwrapped on the shelf. Why? Sometimes because the gifts we have shared haven't been valued by those around us, sometimes because they're so big they're a little scary, sometimes because they're not a gift we particularly wanted.

Here's a proposal: let's help one another discover, acknowledge, and use our gifts. Let us be brave and honest in exploring our gifts (sometimes their purpose takes a while to become clear). And let us thank the Giver with humility and enthusiasm.

Christian symbol



WEDDING RINGS — The exchange of wedding rings isn't found in Scripture. It came into practice among Christians in the late ninth century. The unending circle profoundly symbolizes a couple's mutual promises of ongoing love and commitment, as well as God's promise of eternal love that surrounds all — including each couple and marriage.





Church Council Highlights From July

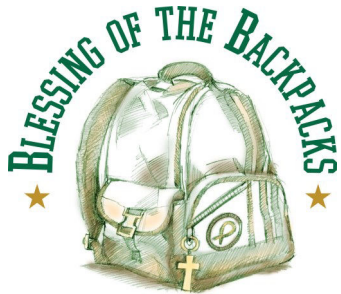
No regular Council meeting was held in July.

August Council Contact of the month is Morgen Sweitzer.

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 Morgen, she can be reached at 717-858-9824.



Council Member
of the Month



Sunday, August 25 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 afterwards.



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

437 Airport Road (Gordon)
Ashland, PA 17921

**Monday, August 5, 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!

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.



CULC YOUTH GROUP Activities

Due to lack of attendance, Youth Group Activities are suspended until further notice.

Could you become a Licensed Lay Minister?

Have you ever asked yourself “What is God calling me to do right now in my life? How can I best serve God and my neighbor? What gifts do I have that I am not using?” If so, becoming a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) could be the answer to these profound discerning questions. The church has always needed and benefited from lay leaders and the variety of gifts they bring to the church community.

God calls each and every one of us to use our particular set of skills and talents to serve our church community through loving service and by sharing the Good News we have in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Licensed Lay Ministers will be licensed by our Synod Bishop to perform certain duties within specific congregations or 6261 ministry communities. Duties may include: leading worship and preaching, leading Bible studies, visiting hospitals, the homebound, and others who request a visit. Also, potential for receiving authorization to perform Sacraments (holy communion, baptisms, funerals, and marriage ceremonies) in special circumstances.

If you would like to learn about becoming a Licensed Lay Minister, go to nepasynod.org and select Licensed Lay Ministry tab to learn more details. There is a LLM Handbook at Quik Links. You can also email Pr. Jira Albers, the LLM Director at llm@nepasynod.org (lower case LLM) with any questions you might have.



Member's Message by Vivian Brown



For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1

August. August brings many changes to our lives. Our little ones heading off to school, perhaps for the first time. Our taller ones heading off to college or to the military or to jobs near and far. Marriages, moving to a new opportunity, retirement. Other changes are not as exciting: illness, death, natural disasters.

However, change is not an enemy. God is good; He gives us each other. Even in the midst of change, we find comfort knowing that Jesus walked on Earth and knows what it is like. As Christians, we know that God can work through any change and that everything happens for a reason.

God's hand is at work in our lives. All we need to do is rely on His strength by reading the Bible. Ephesians 6:17 says “Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” Arm yourself with this sword! Life is not promised to be smooth sailing. Changes are inevitable. We might not see the purpose behind our experiences; however, we can trust that God has a greater plan.

A certain passage of Scripture has given me comfort more than once — Jeremiah 29:11. “For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (NIV)

While change can be hard, we can embrace it. Let us trust God's plan. He transforms us through each change, big or small, easy or difficult. Remember that you are His followers and you carry the sword of the Spirit!

Your sister in Christ,
Vivian





Sunday, August 25 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.

~ Sign up on the Bulletin board ~

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.



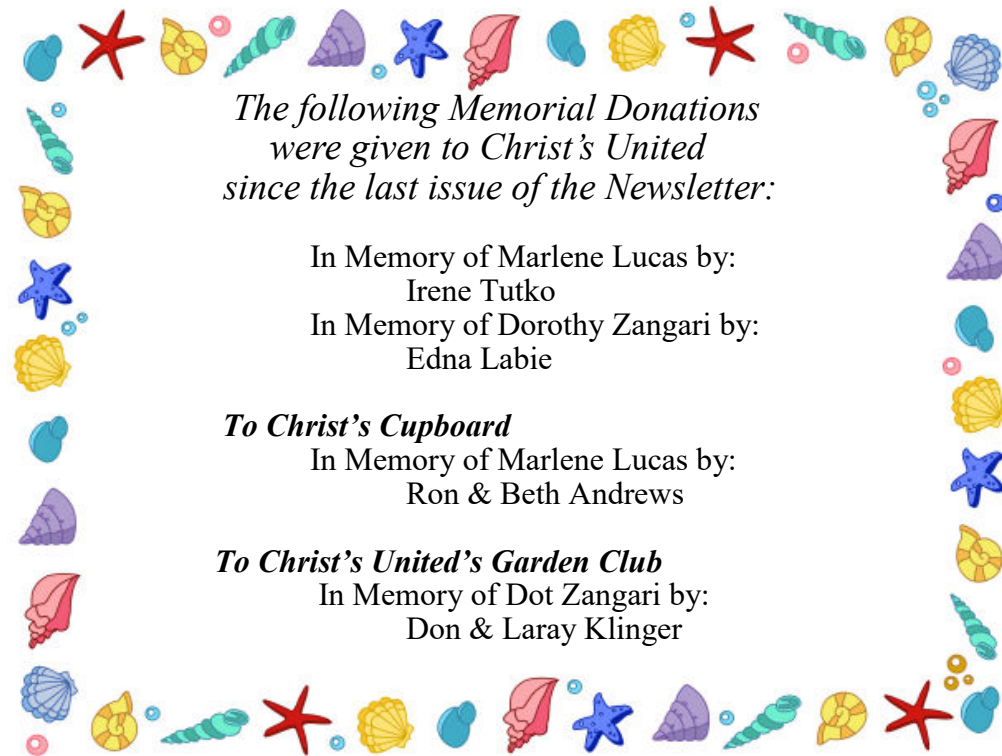
A copy of the Prayer List is available at worship services each
Sunday. You also have an email sent to you each week with a list of
those in need of your prayers. A phone chain notifies you of immedi-
ate needs. If there is an immediate need of prayer, please call the
church office. In the event the 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 Bolich Family - Dale & Holly
The Rickert Family - Brian & Faith
The Wolfgang Family - Donna



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

In Memory of Marlene Lucas by:
Irene Tutko

In Memory of Dorothy Zangari by:
Edna Labie

To Christ's Cupboard

In Memory of Marlene Lucas by:
Ron & Beth Andrews

To Christ's United's Garden Club

In Memory of Dot Zangari by:
Don & Laray Klingner

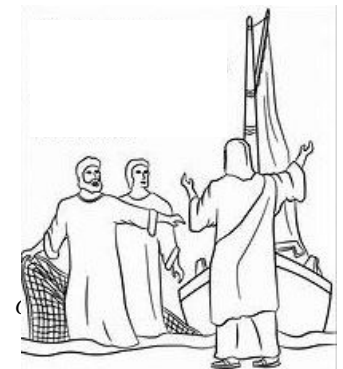
SONG LYRICS

Jesus called them one by one,
Peter, Andrew, James and John,
Next came **Phillip, Thomas** too,
Matthew and Bartholomew.

Yes, Jesus called them,
Yes, Jesus called them,
Yes, Jesus called them,
He called them one by one.

James, the one they called the less,
Simon also **Thadaeus**,
Twelve apostles **Judas** made,
Jesus was by him betrayed.

Yes, Jesus called them,
Yes, Jesus called them,
Yes, Jesus called them,
He called them one by one.







BY THE SEASHORE

The sea and its creatures are evidence of God's intention and purpose in creation.

Directions: Unscramble the words. Then copy the circled letters in order below to complete Psalm 104:24-25, NIV.



DASN
LHSELS
USN
ESEDAIS
BHECA
LALUBMER
WRTEA
FRUS
VWSEA



□ _ _ _

□ _ _ □ □ _

□ _ _ _

□ □ _ _ _



□ _ _ □ _

□ □ □ _ □

□ □ _ _

□ □ _ _

□ □ _ _

How many are your works, LORD!
In wisdom you made them ____;
the earth is full of your creatures.
There is the __ __ __, vast and spacious,
teeming with _____ beyond number —
living things both large and small.
Psalm 104:24-25, NIV

Answers: sand, shells, sun, seashell, beach, umbrella, water, surf, waves, all, sea, creatures

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 21 - Ruth Swatski (D. Wallace)
Jim Houser Sr. (A. Berger)
Kim M. (A. Berger)
Sherry Wolfgang (L. & J. Wolfgang)
Dave Fetterolf (C. Weinreich)

Families of Joe Kelly

Brandon Harris

July 14 - Lois Andrews (B. Andrews)
Christine Heyer (J. Towey)
Matthew Payne (E. Werner)

July 7 - Linda (Herb) Szuler (T. Wolfe)
Sarah (Herb) Shanks (T. Wolfe)

June 30 - Bailey Romberger (L. Rickert)
Anthony Parisse (S. Tice)
Bob Kinlin (D. Price)
Kelly Kline (D. Price)
Tom Alberts (B. Anczarski)

Please continue to pray for:

Corrine & Josh Coward, Jim Gruber, Annette Houser, Jack Houser, Jim 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, Gail Marquardt, Anna Neumeister, Richard Shoup, Karen Smith, Linda Zerby

And Friends:

Michele & Amber Adams, Michelle Ambrose, Robert Beecher, Donald Bulla, Ed Emerich, Joe Ferraro Jr., Harry Fishburn, Bob Griffiths, Cathy Groody, Dan Grow, Ann Helwig, Minah Horan, Tracy Maurer, Lisa Metzinger, Angie Romberger, Samantha Schifano, Elizabeth Smith & family, Elaine Stone, Joe Towey, Rose Varndell, Karyssa Wenrich, Bev Wolfgang

AUGUST Birthdays

1	Bianca McAndrew	16	John Towey
2	Jada Habowski	17	Charley Demko
3	Brad Rickert		Seth Young
	Kelly Troup	18	Melanie Schneider
4	Greg Lindenmuth	19	Kimberly Shadle
6	Braedyn Lazor	20	Matt Wetzel
	Tyler McGrath	21	Kolby Cress
7	Gary Schneider	22	Alyssa Becker
8	Carey Wahalec		Rebekah Garnes
	Caiden Weikel	23	Michael Monaghan
	Dustin White		Dak Sisak
9	Kaitlyn Werner	24	Louise Boyer
10	Deb Berner		Keith Hostetter
	Mason Buhay	26	Peggy Dziczek
	Larry Schneider		Katelyn Huber
11	Diane Heidlebaugh		Zachary Hummel
	Elizabeth McGrath		Brandy Schreiber
	Alivia Potteiger		David Heyer
	Riley Whritenour	27	Penny Troutman
12	Jamie Dengler	28	Paige Garnes
	Bill Miller		James Houser
	Janet Towey		Dennis Marlow
13	William Coward III		Lauren Wagner
	Michael Lassen	29	Desiree Dengler
	Emily Miller		Thomas Habowski
14	Tammy Leshner		Morgen Sweitzer
15	Angie Berger	30	Darlene Stank
	Heidi Walsh		Louise Lute
		31	Jonathan Harhigh
			Kelly Long

School Kits needed for Lutheran World Relief

Items may be brought in August 4 thru 25.

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 4 - 25.

Thrivent Action Team will pack the bags.





“Under the Sea”
**WOMEN OF ELCA
 ANNUAL PICNIC
 at CHRIST'S UNITED
 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2024
 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.

Bring a \$5.00 wrapped gift to be used for a game (if you wish to participate).

Also, an **UNDER THE SEA attire contest** will be held. A prize will be awarded to person voted on by attendees.



Come join in the fun, food, and fellowship
 In a cool, bug free environment!



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

2024 Sponsorships

The sponsorship sign up sheets are 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.

Do you LOVE Gardening?

The Garden Club will be hosting a Plant Exchange!
Sunday, September 8 - Sunday, September 29
Anyone who gardens knows how plants multiply rapidly.
Do you have something you can divide and bring in to share with others? Now is the perfect time to dig up and divide them.
Bring in your: Iris bulbs, Peony tubers, Hostas, and other perennials.



Also, if you have gladiolas, calla lily bulbs, seeds or other items to share - Bring them also.

All are welcome to take what is on the table to plant at home in your garden for beautiful blooms next year!



Garden Club Work Day

Come out to help on Monday, August 5

We will meet at 9:00am

Projects to be done include:

- * Weeding
- * Cleaning & installing a pump in the Fountain
- * Mulching
- * Staining the two Benches

All help is appreciated & all are Welcome!



ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES: ARE YOU ATTENDING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS (college, university, trade school, nursing/medical school, business school, ENTERING THE MILITARY SERVICE, OR ARE STARTING A JOB?

The Endowment Fund Committee is accepting requests for the 2024 scholarships of \$500 for full time students/military service and \$100 for employed graduates.

ADULT MEMBERS WHO HAVE ENROLLED IN POST SECONDARY PROGRAMS ARE ALSO ELIGIBLE FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP.

Active members of the congregation are eligible to receive a scholarship by submitting a letter of request by OCTOBER 1st. to a committee member: Terry Ambrose, Carla Mae Carl, Becky Spencer, Terry Shilling, or Jo-Ann Young.

The letter should include: Your name and address, name of the school attending, or military branch, or employer, your status (freshman, senior, etc), field of study/certification or degree, and projected time of graduation.

Please be advised, you must be an ACTIVE MEMBER of the congregation and be present on December 1st when scholarships are given out during the worship service.



Pray for Our College Students

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 ~

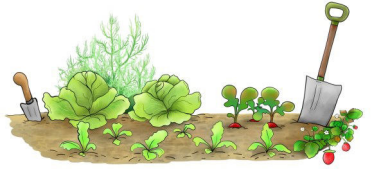
- June/July/August** - No Social Hour
- September**—Choir/ Worship & Music / LCM
- October**—Church Council
- November** - Social Ministry
- December** - Evangelism/ Endowment/Stewardship

We will be collecting the following items for August:
Canned Fruit
Please place your donations in the shopping cart.
Thank You!
The next food distribution date is Thursday
August 8, 2024

How to plant a Special Garden

First, plant five rows of peas: Preparedness, Promptness, Perseverance, Politeness and Prayer. Next to them, plant three rows of squash. Squash Gossip, Squash Criticism and Squash Indifference. Then five rows of lettuce. Let us be Unselfish, Let us be Faithful, Let us be truthful, Let us Love one another. And no garden is complete without turnips. Turn up for Church, Turn up with a Smile, Turn up with Determination.

Submitted by Pearl Lute



Serving Our Community of Faith in August:



Date	Supply Pastor/ Worship Leader	Congregational Rep/ Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer
August 4	Rev. Mindy Heppe	John Towey	Mark Varnell	Darlene Stank b Allen Johnson c/d Virgil Smith so	John Towey AM Barb Stepanchick Ken Dengler	Ava Hubler	Cole Johnson
August 11	Pastor Ben Scott	Kay Berner	Beth Andrews	→		Bianca McAndrew	
August 18	Rev. Mindy Heppe		John Towey			Maura Sweitzer	John Wagner
August 25	Rev. Mindy Heppe		Donna Wallace			Kaitlyn Werner	



August 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion	9:00 Garden Club Work Day 1:00 – 6:00 Red Cross Blood Drive		10:30 Seniors  6:00 WELCA Annual Indoor Picnic <i>"Under the Sea"</i>	10:00 – 11:30 Christ's Cupboard 		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30 Worship	7:00 P.M. Church Council		10:30 Seniors			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30 Worship			10:30 Seniors			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10:30 Worship with Blessing of Backpacks 12:00 Annual Church Picnic			8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors			<i>The CULC Messenger</i> <i>God's Work, Our Actions</i> 