

Life Together at Christ's United Lutheran Church



And they went with haste

and found **Mary**

and **Joseph,**

and **the baby**

lying in a manger.



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

Life Together at Christ's United

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Christ's United Lutheran Church

One God. One People. One Purpose.

437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921

www.christsunited.org

(570) 875-1591

December 2018

The December Newsletter is sponsored in Memory of Loved Ones by Ruby, Amy, Anita and Doug Fegley

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Status of Accounts as of September 31

Balance in Checking Account.....\$ 33,845.64.

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our 2018 Annual Budget of

\$202,057.36 is **\$16,838.11**

September income was \$15,334.73

Benevolence Gifts.....\$ 8,784.00

59% of our Benevolence goal of \$15,000.00 for 2018)



PASTOR LAURA'S MESSAGE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ's United Church Tree of Sharing will be up on December 1, the same day as our Live Nativity. ELCA Good Gifts will again be part of the Tree of Sharing. For \$30 you can purchase a piglet that when grown will provide money for a family who may have a failed harvest, medical expenses, or another unexpected need. A card to accompany this Good Gift has a picture of a pig dressed with a big red bow with the caption, "Go Tail it on the Mountain". Ha-ha!

I enjoy purchasing Good Gifts as Christmas gifts for family and friends: 10 little chicks (\$10) for my poultry farmer husband; a share of a cow (\$50) for my three nephews who drink chocolate milk; a water filter (\$30) for a friend who always has her water bottle in tow; school supplies (\$10) for my BFF who is a teacher.

As you take an ornament from this year's Tree of Giving, think of a loved one who could be blessed to have it given in their honor.

And in all our giving this holy season, may we be centered in the best gift of all: The Word made flesh who dwells among us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Your Sister in Christ,

Pastor Laura

P.S. I am grateful to serve as pastor of this congregation, grounded in Christ and so generous in giving to others.



December Council Contact of the month is Mark Varndell.

The Council Contact of the Month is the “on call” member of council, the person to call if you have concerns (other than pastoral concerns), or need access to the building. If you need to contact Mark, he can be reached at 570-875-2545.



**Council Member
of the Month**

Children's Sermon



Pastor Laura is asking for volunteers to help deliver the Children's Sermon in addition to her on Sunday mornings. She has lots of resources. You just need to “chat” with our youth. If interested, please see Pastor Laura for more information. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

A merry balance

In Luke 10:38-42, Martha gets a bad rap. After all, we need Marthas to get things done and to show hospitality. (Note that Martha is the one who opens up her home to Jesus in the first place!)

Marthas are needed in December, but holiday preparations shouldn't shift our focus from the reason for the season. When we become “worried and distracted” as Martha did (v. 41, NRSV), we're tempted to trade God's “one thing” (v. 42) for the world's many worthless things. Yet if we're only like Mary, we may forget to let the world know who we're celebrating!

So this Christmas, keep a proper balance between your inner Mary and your inner Martha. Take time to “be Mary,” kneeling at the manger, so that all the merry things you do as Martha have meaning and serve the newborn king.



Church Council Highlights from November:

- No Treasurer's report given due to Ann Marie's absence
- Pastor Laura will be leading four sessions on "*Holy Communion as a Means of Grace*" during Advent on Wednesday evenings beginning November 28 at 7:00 p.m.
- The final cost for the steeple cleaning and repair was \$900.
- Jim Chappell will be installing new LED bulbs in the fluorescent lights throughout the building. LCM will cover the cost of the bulbs.
- The hearing aid device system will cost \$1,200 and each receiver will cost \$54.00. Forrest Shadle will cover the system and 10 receivers. He will cover all costs in memory of his wife Dorothy.



Pastoral Acts

***Pastor Laura performed the following
Funeral:***

11/17/18 Geraldine Dillman

A sincere thank you

For all the prayers, concerns, acts of kindness, and caring for Dorothy and I during Dorothy's illness and passing.

Words can't express the comfort received from friends and our church family during this stressful time. Dorothy would have been very pleased with the joint participation of Father Rothemel and Pastor Laura in the Funeral Service and the delicious meal served by WELCA

following the service. We miss her very much.



Sincerely,
Dorothy, Forrest and Family



December

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Nancy Lindenmuth
- 3 Hiram Green
Asea Krah
- 4 Benjamin Geedey
Cheryl Weikel
Walter Wolfgang
- 5 Janna Gregis
Kristen Toldt
- 6 Daniel Cascarino
- 7 Beryl Stitzer
- 8 Anita Fegley
- 9 Robert Pennypacker
- 11 Cory Krise
Christopher Olson
- 12 Daniel Witner
- 13 Karleigh Economy
Shea Moyer
Bruce Pirie
- 14 Joey Anczarski
Tammy I. Harris
- 15 Ralph R. Johnson
Arlene Krise
Jessica Nagle
Leslie Shadle

- 16 Tammy L. Harris
Terri Whyne
- 17 Linda Brennan Panikkar
Cheryl Klinger
- 18 April Brennan
Lynn Dillman
Raven Marlow
Samuel Troup, Sr.
- 20 Richard Edmondson
Rachel Pancher
- 22 Jeff Brennan
- 23 Robert Carl
- 24 Ruth Wolfgang
- 25 Daniel Cunningham
David Hall
- 27 Brody Baker
Zackary Coward
- 28 Bonnie Dillman
Donald Klinger
- 29 Beth Andrews
William Cook
Jessica Gregis
Mike Stepanchick
- 30 Stephen Harhigh
Noelle Steinbauer
- 31 Lori Fox

December

ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/03/49 Elmer & Betty Waldick
- 12/05/08 Breann & Daniel Barker
- 12/07/02 Randy & Angie Lucas
- 12/11/93 Stephen & Tami Wagner
- 12/11/99 Erik & Sally Tice
- 12/28/10 Stephen & Brittany Harhigh

***During this Christmas
Season please remember our home-
bound members with visits, cards,
greetings, and prayers.***



Jean Cress, Mt. Carmel Nursing & Rehab
Center,

2616 Locust Gap Hwy., Mt. Carmel, PA 17851

Dean & Barb Fetterolf, 308 Main St., Ashland, PA 17921

Tommy & Rachael Green, 246 Airport Rd., Ashland, PA 17921

Jim Hepler, 501 Main St., Ashland, PA 17921

Oscar Troutman, Serenity Gardens Assisted Living,
135 Vermont Dr. Kulpmont, PA 17834

Elmer Waldick, 400 E. Biddle St., PO Box 5, Gordon PA 17936

Connie Welker, Shenandoah Manor Nursing Home,
101 E. Washington St., Shenandoah PA 17976

Ruth Wolfgang, Mt. Carmel Nursing & Rehab Center
2616 Locust Gap Hwy., Mt. Carmel, PA 17851

Linda Zerby, 42 Bryn Mawr Ave., Pottsville, PA 17901

“The North Schuylkill SWAT Club (Students With A Testimony) would like to take the opportunity to thank Christ’s United for all of the generous donations towards Operation Christmas Child. CULC alone contributed \$140 of the \$300 raised by various churches, faculty, and students at the school. We packed 25 boxes with essentials such as batteries, tissues, combs, and toys such as teddy bears and coloring books. The money raised went towards the toys in each box and the \$225 shipping fee.

Thank you again for your generosity.
- Steven Wolfgang”



We Offer our Prayers to...



November 25 – Dot Zeigenfuse (J. Pennypacker), Family of Sonia Troutman (B. Spencer), John Wolfgang, Family of Nick Spagnolo (E. Tice), Jack Hoffman (B. Liem), Nathan Berger (A. Berger, Wendy Farnsworth, Dean Fetterolf, Sally Zaharick (D. Zaharick)

November 18 – Family of Gerry Dillman, Family of Hubert Scheuren, Rhonda Heidlebaugh (D. Heidlebaugh), Mel Cappel (K. Berner), Family of Lou Harter

November 11 — Family of Pastor Lars Staaby, Jessie Witmer (J. Young), Family of Joan Young Blevins (J. Young)

November 4 – Deb Nelson (R. Berner), Albert Stehr (L. Lute), Family of Ruth Carl, Family of Joshua Parry (S. Tice)

Please continue to pray for our members: Tommy Green, Jim Hepler, Carl Lute, Dean Fetterolf, Irene Morgan, Gail Lorady, Pete Waldick, Wendy Farnsworth, John Wolfgang

And our friends: Dan Grow, Minah Horan, Michelle Ambrose, Donald Bulla, Carol Stehr, Joe Ferraro Jr., Mark Bennyhoff, Jesse Deeter, Robert & Sandra Beecher, Karyssa Wenrich, Elizabeth Brown & family, John Dubb, Joe Anczarski, Janet Berner, Susan Grant, Paul Troutman, Dave Bowen, Keith Morgan, Judy Trautman (G. Marquardt), Doris McGurl (L. Lute), Richard Berger (J. Gruber)

*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 or write their name on the Prayer Request sheet found on the Prayer Podium.*

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 Kessler Family — Nancy

The Monaghan Family — Christopher, Dianna,

Brooke, Patrick & Michael

The Pirie Family—Bruce & Anne





It's time to order Christmas Poinsettias!
The poinsettias are available in pink, white, or red.

Available in
1 plant per pot for \$9.75,
2 plants per pot for \$17.50
3 plants per pot for \$23.00

Please sign up on the bulletin board.

Make checks payable to Cathy Troutman.

*The deadline to order is
December 16th.*

OUR DECEMBER GRADUATES



David Hall will graduate on December 15th from Penn State University, Harrisburg with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering Technology. He has accepted a position with Mae Eitel in Orwigsburg and will begin working there in January.

Stefan Csellak Swanson will graduate in December from Shippensburg University with a Masters in Public Administration.





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

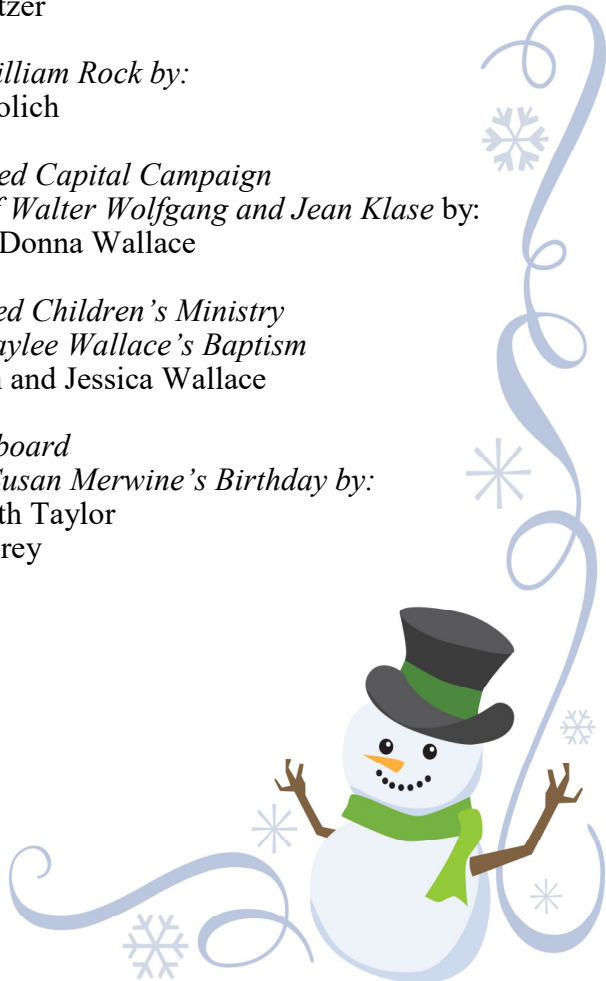
*In Memory of Dorothy Shadle by:
Forrest Shadle
Beryl Stitzer*

*In Memory of William Rock by:
Marge Bolich*

*To Christ's United Capital Campaign
In Memory of Walter Wolfgang and Jean Klase by:
Ron and Donna Wallace*

*To Christ's United Children's Ministry
In Honor of Kaylee Wallace's Baptism
by Bryon and Jessica Wallace*

*To Christ's Cupboard
In Honor of Susan Merwine's Birthday by:
Mary Ruth Taylor
Shirley Frey*



Serving Our Community of Faith in December:

Date	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer & Tag-a-long	Post Worship Greeter in Narthex	Post Worship Greeter at Door
Dec. 2 Advent 1	Beth Andrews	Allen Johnson Kay Berner Jim Gruber John Kimmel	John Towey Becky Spencer Donna Lassen	Nathan Berger	Nelson Berger	Mark Varn dell	Beth Andrews
Dec. 9 Advent 2	Barb Anczarski			Deidre Dengler	Raven Marlow & Hayden Marlow	Jim Gruber	Barb Anczarski
Dec. 16 Advent 3	Steven Wolfgang			Tyler Wolfgang	Joey McAndrew & Bianca McAndrew	Allen Johnson	Steven Wolfgang
Dec. 23 Advent 4	Donna Wallace			Kylie Mallams	Desiree Dengler & Kayla Werner	Laray Klinger	Donna Wallace
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 4:00	John Towey	Thomas Wolfgang Darlene Stank John Towey John Wolfgang	Maryanne Wolfgang Donna Wallace Dennis Wolfe	Carey Wahalec	Jacob Tice	Darlene Stank	Jim Gruber
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 7:30	Kay Berner	Ted Amborse Laray Klinger Deb Bener Richard Berner	Becky Spencer Kay Berner Donna Lassen	Ryan Walter	Jordan Walter	Jim Gruber	Kay Berner
Dec. 30	Angie Berger			Blake Olayo	Steven Wolfgang	John Towey	Angie Berger



To Our Church Family,

By the time you are reading this, our family will be past a significant anniversary. Not an anniversary of celebration, but one that will give us pause to reflect how much changed - not just in an instant - but over the last year. It will be a time of sadness, remembering a lost loved one, and thankfulness for life and healing. It also is a time to reflect on our faith and the healing hand of God on our girls.

On November 27, 2017, Ava, our niece Lilly, and mother/mother-in-law/grandmother Crystal were in a horrific car accident. Ava and Lilly survived with significant and life-threatening injuries; Crystal did not. The last year has been filled with differing emotions as we experienced grief at our family's loss, fear and sadness for the girls, and joy at every improvement and milestone through their recovery.

You all have helped us in so many ways, especially by praying for healing - both physical and emotional. The many kindnesses afforded to our family and the girls - whether visits, the monetary collection, cards & gifts, words of encouragement when needed most - each is cherished by all of us and we are truly grateful.

Ava will continue to attend medical appointments, for a yet undetermined length of time, to monitor the bone growth in her legs - making sure they are growing evenly. Lilly continues to heal, as her spinal damage was more significant than first thought, and will be monitored by her medical team. But, we rejoice at the recoveries they have made and pray for their continued progress.

We sincerely offer our thanks to each of you for your thoughts, prayers and other caring expressions during this most difficult experience.

With much love,

The Hubler Family



2019 Sponsorships

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



Sign up for: Altar Flowers \$25.00
Palms for Palm Sunday \$12.00
Worship Bulletins \$15.00
Special service bulletins \$10.00
Sanctuary Candle \$10.00
Children's Bulletins \$10.00
Monthly Newsletters \$40.00.

Payments for Altar flowers should be given to Cathy Troutman. All other payments should be made out to the church and given to Deb Hall in the church office.

Give Electronically

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

As Christ's United it is important to know what support we can depend on from our congregation members. By knowing what you are willing to commit financially, we are able to better plan for the future. Please consider setting up a recurring giving plan.

Automating your financial commitments means your contributions will be received on a steady, uninterrupted basis.

To set up a recurring giving schedule, visit us online at www.christsunited.org, locate the Online Giving button and set up your recurring giving schedule. The first time you give, you will select a password that will enable you to log in at any time and make changes to your giving or view your complete online giving history. Or if it's easier, just scan this QR code to get started.



SOCIAL MINISTRY



We will be collecting the following item for December:

Cereal

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday, December 13, 2018

Committee Schedule

- December—LCM
- January—WELCA
- February—Social Ministry
- March— Church Council
- April—LCM
- May—WELCA
- June – Christian Education/Youth
- July—Choir/Worship & Music
- August—LCM
- September— WELCA
- October—Church Council
- November—Evangelism/Endowment/Stewardship



Egg Carton Donations

Thank you to everyone who has been donating empty egg containers for Christ's Cupboard.

We haven't received eggs with the food delivery lately and have accumulated an abundance of egg containers. Please refrain from bringing them until we can use some of the supply.

Many thanks,
Christ's Cupboard Staff

Recyclables Collection



Many thanks to Suzanne Peel for graciously offering to take over the collection of recyclables.

Items being collected are:

- Unwanted eyeglasses - to be given to *Lions International*
- Used ink cartridges
- Used all-occasion greeting cards (*except Hallmark, American Greetings, Disney*) - **fronts only** - to be sent to St. Jude's Ranch for children.

Baskets for the items are located on the front table in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions about any of the items, please contact Suzanne. Thank you.



On behalf of the Staff of Christ's United:
May you have a most blessed, joyous
Christmas season. Jesus, Our Savior is born!





Joy to the WORLD

In Luke 2:10, the angels share good news that continues to bring great joy today.

Directions: Circle all the complete small "joy" words — forward only. Count the total. Bonus: See if you can find "Jesus" amid all the joy!

Two grids of jumbled letters are provided for the word search. The words "JOY" and "JESUS" are hidden within the letters.

TOTAL JOY = _____

The Recipe Swap

This month's recipe: Festive Cranberry Pineapple Salad
Submitted by Deb Hall.

Share
Your
Recipes



Festive Cranberry Pineapple Salad

Recipe Details

Yields: 14 1/2 cup servings

Ingredients

- 1 can (20 ounce) crushed pineapple in juice, undrained
- 2 (4 ounce) boxes raspberry flavored gelatin
- 1 can whole berry cranberry sauce
- 1 medium apple, chopped
- 2/3 cup chopped walnuts or pecans

Directions

1. Drain pineapple, reserving all liquid.
2. Add enough cold water to the reserved juice to make 3 cups liquid.
3. Bring to boil, remove from heat. Add gelatin, stir at least 2 minutes until completely dissolved.
4. Add cranberry sauce, stir until well blended..
5. Pour into bowl, refrigerate 1 1/2 hrs., or until slightly thickened, about the consistency of egg whites.
6. Stir in pineapple, apple, and nuts until well blended.
7. Transfer to serving bowl.
8. Chill 4 hrs. or until firm.

We are running out of recipes for the Recipe Swap. If you have a recipe (or several) that you would be willing to share, please email it or drop it off at the office. *Thank you.*





CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS MEAL

The annual Christmas meal will be held December 9th following the morning worship service. Stuffed chicken breasts, ham and green beans will be provided. Sign up on bulletin board to attend and to provide a side dish: POTATOES / HOT VEGETABLES / SALADS / ROLLS / DESSERTS. Entertainment will follow the meal.

Christ's United
Lutheran Church
Presents:
"A Christmas Gift"
**An interactive re-telling of the
Christmas Story**

Saturday, December 1, 2018 ~ 6:00 P.M.

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in our fourth annual Live Nativity! Food, decorations and an opportunity to meet the animal cast come together with the voices of local area congregational church choirs!

All donations benefit
Christ's Cupboard Food Pantry.
For more information
call 570-875-1591



Christmas Tree of Sharing

We will begin collecting items for the Tree of Sharing on December 1st. This year we will be collecting clothing items, food items for “Christ’s Cupboard”, and ELCA good gifts.



Tags will be available on the table in the hallway beginning on December 1. After you pick your selection please place the “ornament” on the Christmas tree. All children’s gifts are due back to the church by Sunday, December 16. Other gifts may be purchased and brought in up until Christmas Eve. Please place gifts under the tree. Thank you!



Communion and Contribution Records

Please assist the church in making an accurate report of all active, communing and contributing members of Christ’s United.

As we approach the end of our calendar year, it is important that everyone take a moment to complete one communion card and one offering envelope with your name and address. Either one or both can be found in the pew racks at any of our upcoming services.

Thank you for assisting the record keepers as we begin the church year with the Holy seasons of Advent and Christmas.

New offering envelopes for 2019 will be available mid December.



Christ's United Ministry Teams

Christian Education

Evangelism/Outreach

Lutheran Church Men (LCM)

Social Ministry

Stewardship

WELCA

Worship & Music

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.

From a church newsletter:

JOIN us for a holiday tea:

Family photos will be taken by the
Christmas tree.

RSVP by December 2

That's one talented evergreen!



CHURCH COUNCIL 2018

council@christsunited.org

	Phone	Term Expires
Dr. Kay Berner President	570-875-1035	Feb. 2020
Erik Tice Secretary	570-875-2681	Feb. 2020
Angie Berger	570-875-3598	Feb. 2019
Jim Gruber	570-875-2805	Feb. 2021
Jack Houser	570-875-0290	Feb. 2019
Nancy Lindenmuth	570-875-3138	Feb. 2021
Suzanne Peel	570-875-2218	Feb. 2021
Mark Varndell	570-875-2545	Feb. 2019
Steven Wolfgang	570-875-9660	Feb. 2020

PASTOR

Rev. Laura A. Csellak
570-652-1951
pastorlaura@christsunited.org

STAFF

Parish Visitor	Lois Sterling sterling.lois05@gmail.com	570-449-6947
Parish Administrator	Deb Hall office@christsunited.org Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-3:00	570-875-1591 570-789-9722
Director of Music	Diane Calhoun diane.calhoun@gmail.com	570-874-2580
Treasurer	Ann Marie Dillman treasurer@christsunited.org	570-875-2422
Indoor Custodian	Susan Herb	
Outdoor Custodian	Bill Price	570-875-4272
Financial Secretary	Christine Brennan	570-875-0720



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Life Together at Christ's United
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