

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

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December



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

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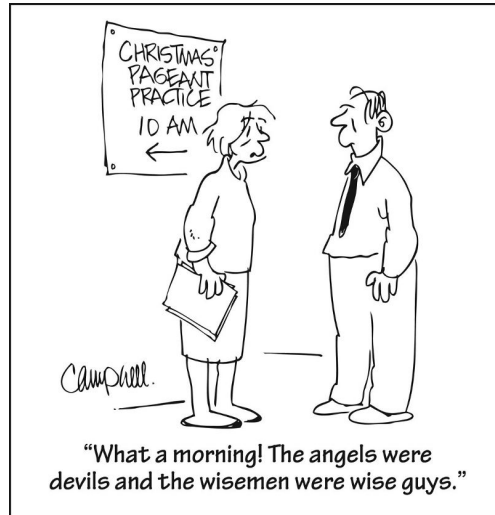
(570) 875-1591

December 2023

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The December CULC Messenger is sponsored in Memory of Carol Klinger by Donald & Mark Klinger & Families



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
Outdoor Custodian Dennis Wolfe 570-875-9085
Financial Secretary Christine Brennan 570-875-0720

Status of Accounts as of October 31

Total amount in checking account: \$132,147.35.
Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our
2023 Annual Budget of \$195,263.89 is \$16,271.99.
Income for October was \$13,380.23.
Expenses for October were \$10,123.89.
resulting in a net profit of \$3,256.34.
Benevolence for October was \$1,125.89



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...



Blessed Advent!

It's a short season, but so rich. And it happens when nature itself is telling us to slow down, to reflect, to take time to look at the stars (they're out for so many hours!)

Don't let the powers of this world rob you of this opportunity. You get to decide how much "Christmas stuff" you want to get caught up in. (The first Christmas was not burdened with excess spending or excess consumption. This one doesn't need to be either).

One way to meditate on the promise of the season is by reading, reflecting on, cuddling up with Advent hymns. And if you use the LBW, you'll have one for every day of the season excepting Sundays (when you get plenty) Note: never mind what the LBW says, "Joy to the World" is an Advent hymn—read the lyrics!

An under celebrated hymn, and among the oldest in our hymnal, is "Savior of the Nations, Come." Chant it, don't sing it, and the power of the imagery will sink right into you.

God is preparing you for something. All through your life, God is preparing, guiding. Sit with that this season.



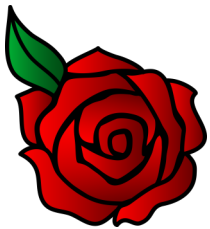
December Council Contact of the month is Darlene Stank.

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 Darlene, she can be reached at 570-875-1644.



Council Member of the Month

Christian symbol



ROSE — This flower, often shown as stylized artwork, is a symbol for Advent, the promise of the Messiah and Jesus' nativity. A white rose represents the Virgin Mary, and a red rose stands for martyrs. A wreath of roses symbolizes heavenly joy.

Member's Message by Vivian Brown

Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify thee. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. Psalm 63:3-4

Silence. The silence of nightfall, perhaps an owl hooting in the distance. I invite you to go outside at night and view the silent majesty of the December sky. The silence of a walk in the woods, perhaps the sound of an animal's footsteps scurrying (hopefully in the opposite direction if it's a bear!). The silence of the Nativity. The Nativities that we display in our homes evoke thoughts of silence. Perhaps the animals are lying down or quietly eating. The angel smiling down on the Holy Family. Mary and Joseph looking with awe and wonderment at the Baby. And the Baby Himself, lying in the manger, not crying, maybe even sleeping.

Advent. The season of Advent is dedicated to the anticipation of the arrival of Jesus. During this season of Advent, we can engage in prayer, meditation, and Scripture study that emphasize hope, peace, love, joy. Advent is a time of candlelight, reflection, and expectation. Advent is a time to get ready for Christmas so that we can truly celebrate the Holy Birth.

Use the Nativity in your home not merely as a decoration but as a silent reminder to you of God's precious gift to us — the gift of His Son, Jesus the Christ. God gave His Gift to us purely out of His love for us. We didn't work for this Gift. The Gift was given through God's grace. During this busy and oftentimes noisy time of year, prayerfully and soulfully think about God's grace, His blessings, His Gift. As you silently gaze at the Nativity in your home during this season, I pray that each one of you feels the presence of God deep in your heart and soul. God's presence in your life — what a gift!



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

**437 Airport Road (Gordon)
Ashland, PA 17921**

**Monday, December 4, 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
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.

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





During this Christmas Season please remember our homebound and members serving in the Military with, cards, greetings, and prayers.

Leroy Berner, 1351 Deep Creek Rd., Ashland, PA

17921

Corrine Coward, 520 Dutchtown Rd., Ashland, PA 17921

Pvt. David L. Cunningham Jr, MAT PLATOON

Marine Corps Detachment

Dam Neck 2088 Regulus Ave.

Virginia Beach, VA 23561

Diane Heidlebaugh, Grandview Nursing & Rehab,

78 Woodbine Ln., Danville, PA 17821

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

Nancy Kessler, Mt. Carmel Nursing Home,

2616 Locust Gap Highway, Mt. Carmel, PA 17851

Ryan Kosmisky, 714 Clay Loop, San Antonio, TX 78227

Bobbie Liem, 212 Biddle St., PO Box 127, Gordon, PA 17936

Marlene Lucas, 447 Main St., Ashland, PA 17921

Gail Marquardt, 154 Stein Rd., Ashland, PA 17921

Irene Morgan, 1400 Nissley Rd., Landisville, PA 17538

Anna Neumeister, Providence Place, 2200 First Ave,

Pottsville, PA 17901

Richard Shoup, 204 Peter St., Ashland, PA 17921

Karen Smith, Broad Mountain Nursing Center, 500 Laurel St.

Frackville, PA 179221

Beryl Stitzer, 302 E. Biddle St., PO Box 136, Gordon, PA 17936

Dorothy Zangari, Providence Place, Room 137

2200 First Ave, Pottsville, PA 17901

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

Pastor Mindy's Media Moment

A miscellany of inspiration of varied sorts

—PODCAST.

Christian History Almanac

5 minutes daily: biographies, overviews of movements and conflicts... all sorts of things worth knowing. It's put out by a group called 1517 which is into a variety of projects worth checking out.

—BOOK

The Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis

It's about bus trips from hell to heaven: visitors may stay if they like. Spoiler: many don't. It's dated (1946) but the themes are timeless, and the understanding of human weakness and willfulness and God's grandeur and grace will draw you in. There is a copy on the bookshelf in the pastor's office: if you borrow it, please leave a note.



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.



Church Council Highlights From November

- Pastor Mindy reported that Bible study has taken off.
- LCM—Pork and sauerkraut dinner was a success, next meeting will be in December.
- Stewardship Committee planning “Generosity Sunday” on Nov. 12. Mark Varndell to give Temple Talk on Nov. 12th, Deb Price the following week.
- Ushers will resume carrying the Communion Elements from the Narthex to the Altar after the choir anthem, as was the process prior to covid.
- Annual Budget Meeting will be held on Nov. 12.

Christmas Poinsettias!

Poinsettias are available in pink, white, or red.



Sizes available:

- 1 plant per pot for \$12.00
- 2 plants per pot for \$17.50
- 3 plants per pot for \$24.00

Please sign up on the bulletin board.

Make checks payable to CULC and drop them in the church office.

The deadline to order is December 10.

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 Pennypacker Family - Jane
- The Welker Family - Kenneth & Ann
- The Becker Family - Beth & Alyssa



ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIPS



The Endowment Committee is pleased to announce that during the worship service on November 26, the following students received a scholarship check to assist in furthering their education:

Deidre Dengler is in her 4th year of a 5-year program at Alvernia University. She will graduate with a Master’s Degree in Occupational Therapy.

Desiree Dengler is in her 1st year of a 2-year program at Penn State University, Schuylkill Haven. She is studying Radiology Sciences.

Carey Wahalec is a Sophomore at Susquehanna University studying Business/Finance. Carey plans to pursue a career as a Financial Advisor.

Bryce Weikel is in his third year at the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport. He is working toward a Bachelor’s Degree in Building Automation Engineering.



NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, November 26th we welcome into the membership of the family of Christ’s United:



Jamie Johnson
John Lisowski
Diane McCormick
Krista Stump and her daughter, Olivia





2023 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.



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.



November 26 – John Towe, Jr. (J. Towe)

Sandy Neumeister (P. Lute)

Lute Family (P. Lute)

Families of Wayne "Webby" Weinreich

Jerome Derenzo-killed in car accident

on Rt 901 in Lavelle

November 19 - Dennis Keffer (E. Tice)

Andrew Schronick (D. Zaharick)

November 12 - Jane Pennypacker

Jack Houser

November 7 - Jerry Freiler (K. Hansbury)

Heidi Walsh

Karen Smith

Please continue to pray for: Corrine & Josh Coward, Rick Fritz, Jim Gruber, Annette Houser, James Houser Sr., Barbara Liem, Gail Lorady, Pearl & Carl Lute, Dianna Monaghan, Irene Morgan, Cheryl Varndell

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: Michelle Ambrose, Robert Beecher, Mark Bennyhoff, Donald Bulla, Arlene Chillis, George Dornsife, Joe Ferraro Jr., Harry Fishburn, Bob Griffiths, Dan Grow, Minah Horan, Tracy Maurer, Angie Romberger, Elizabeth Smith & family, Pastor Sunny, Karyssa Wenrich



2 Nancy Lindenmuth
 3 Asea Krah
 4 Cheryl Weikel
 5 Janna Gregis
 Kristen Toldt
 6 Daniel Cascarino
 7 Beryl Stitzer
 8 Anita Fegley
 9 Robert Pennypacker
 10 Makena Dean
 11 Cory Krise
 Christopher Olson
 12 Daniel Witner
 13 Karleigh Economy
 Shea Moyer
 Bruce Pirie
 14 Joey Anczarski
 Tammy I. Zangari
 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.
 Tim Hubler
 20 Richard Edmondson
 Rachel Pancher
 Regan Kratovich
 22 Jeff Brennan
 Siena Smith
 23 Robert Carl
 25 David Hall
 Daniel Cunningham
 27 Brody Baker
 Zackary Coward
 28 Bonnie Dillman
 Donald Klinger
 Sawyer Smith
 29 Beth Andrews
 William Cook
 Jessica Gregis
 Mike Stepanchick
 30 Stephen Harhigh
 31 Lori Fox
 Christine Heyer



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



**CONGREGATIONAL
 CHRISTMAS MEAL**

**DECEMBER 10
 11:00 a.m.**

following morning worship

**BAKED HAM and BAKED CHICKEN
 GRAVY / HOT AND COLD DRINKS
 will be provided by WELCA and LCM**

**Sign up to attend and include what you will bring
 as a side dish to share.**

**Indicate what specifically you will contribute:
 FILLING**

**HOT VEGETABLES
 (yams, corn, green beans, etc)**

**SALADS
 (coleslaw, cranberry sauce, broccoli, veggies, etc.)**

DINNER ROLLS

**DESSERT
 (cake, pie, pudding, etc)**



The next WELCA meeting will be on December 6th at 6:00 pm.
All women are invited to join us.

LUNCH BUNCH

Stay tuned for the date and place for the next Lunch Bunch. All are invited.



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

In Memory of Emerson Wolfgang by:

Ken & Tammy Dengler
Brian & Jennifer Wetzel
Catherine Wolfgang
Jim Chappell
Jo-Ann Young
Don & Laray Klinger

Donations to Christ's Cupboard

In Honor of Birthday of Susan Merwine by:

Mary Ruth Taylor

Advent & Christmas Events at CULC:



Congregational Christmas Meal -
December 10, 2023 following worship

Christmas Eve Worship
with Holy Communion
Saturday, Dec 24, 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
with Holy Communion -
Saturday, Dec 24
Special Music - 7:00 p.m.
Worship begins - 7:30 p.m.



Communion and Contribution Records

Please assist us 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. Both can be found in the pew racks at any of our upcoming services.

Thank you.

New offering envelopes for 2024 will be available soon.



Christmas Tree of Sharing

We will again begin collecting items for the Tree of Sharing on Sunday, November 26th. This year we will be collecting clothing items and toys for children up to age 18 and also ELCA good gifts.



Tags will be available on the table in the hallway beginning December 3rd. 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 17th. ELCA good gifts may be purchased up until Christmas Eve. Please place gifts under the tree. Thank you!

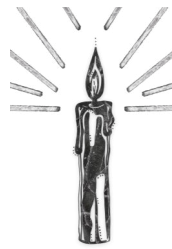
Serving Our Community of Faith in December:

When Christmas Hurts

A service of remembrance and Healing

Will be held at Good Shepherd Church on Sunday, December 3, 2023
At 6:00 p.m.

The Rev. Dana D. Heckman-Beil M. Div. will preside.
Hosted by Kull-Heizenroth Funeral Home



WISHING YOU A
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Jamie

Chris

Ann Ray

On behalf of Christ's United's Staff:
May the miracle of Christmas give you joy and peace this holiday season and all through the new year.
Jesus, Our Saviour is born!

Ann Marie



Dennis

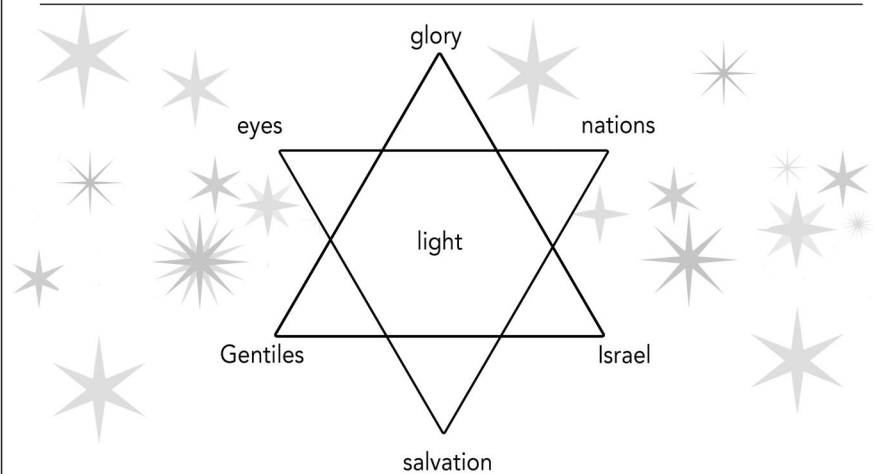
Debbie



SIMEON'S SIGHT

When Joseph and Mary brought baby Jesus to the temple, they heard a special prophecy from Simeon.

Directions: Using the star key, write the words in the correct spaces to complete Luke 2:30-32, NIV.



"For my _____ have seen your _____, which you have prepared in the sight of all _____: a _____ for revelation to the _____, and the _____ of your people _____."

Luke 2:30-32, NIV

Answers: eyes, salvation, nations, light, Gentiles, glory, Israel

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.

We will be collecting the following items for December:

Pasta Sauce & Peanut Butter

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!



The next food distribution date is Thursday
December 14, 2023



Date	Supply Pastor/ Worship Leader	Congregational Rep/ Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Acolyte
December 3 1st Sunday of Advent	Rev. Mindy Heppe	Dennis Wolfe	Barb Stepanchick	Darlene Stank Ted Ambrose Allen Johnson c/d John Wolfgang so Becky Spencer G	John Towey AM Deb Price Becky Spencer	Mason Buhay	Dylan Buhay
December 10 2nd Sunday of Advent	Rev. Sunny Stock		Mark Varnell			Nelson Berger	—
December 17 3rd Sunday of Advent	Pastor Ben Scott		John Towey			Logan Walacavage	—
December 24 4th Sunday of Advent	Erik Tice		Barb Anczarski			Maura Sweitzer	
December 24 4:00 p.m.	Rev. Mindy Heppe		Donna Wallace	Tyler Wolfgang b Thomas Wolfgang b Allen Johnson c/d John Wolfgang so	Erik Tice AM Donna Wallace Donna Lassen	Cole Johnson	Remington Stehr
December 24 7:30 p.m.	Rev. Mindy Heppe		Beth Andrews	Becky Spencer b Robert Carl b Allen Johnson c/d Dennis Wolfe so	Larry Wolfgang AM Beth Andrews Dennis Wolfe	Bianca McAndrew	Joey McAndrew
December 31	Erik Tice		Kay Berner			Kayla Werner	Sawyer Smith



December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Advent 1	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 Fellowship Hour 10:45 Sunday School 5:00 LCM 6:00 Property Committee	1:00 – 6:00 Red Cross Blood Drive 7:00 Church Council	9:00 Christmas Decorating of the Church	9:45 Bible Study 10:30 Seniors 6:00 WELCA	6:30 Choir Practice		
10 Advent 2	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30 Worship 11:00 Congregation Christmas meal			9:45 Bible Study 10:30 Seniors	10 – 11:30 Christ's Cupboard 6:30 Choir Practice		
17 Advent 3	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School			9:45 Bible Study 10:30 Seniors	6:30 Choir Practice		
24 Advent 4	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
9:30 Worship Christmas Eve 4:00 Worship W/ HC. 7:00 Special Music 7:30 Worship w/ HC			8:30 Newsletter Assembly 9:45 Bible Study 10:30 Seniors	6:30 Choir Practice		1:00—5:00 Fellowship Hall Reserved
31 New Year's Eve						
Good Samaritan Fund 9:30 Worship 