

Life Together at Christ's United Lutheran Church



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





Christ's United Lutheran Church

One God. One People. One Purpose.

437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921

www.christsunited.org

(570) 875-1591

February 2019

In This Issue:

The February Newsletter is sponsored in Honor of our 9th Wedding Anniversary by Nelson and Angie Berger

Pastor Laura's Message	3 & 4
Pastoral Acts	4
Council Highlights	5
Birthdays & Anniversaries	6
Painting Party	7
Memorials	10
Serving Our Community of Faith	11
Calendar	12-13
Red Cross Blood Drive	14
Sponsorships	15
Social Ministry	16
"Souper" Bowl Sunday & Youth Group	17
Adult Sunday School & Bible Study	18
WELCA	20
Puzzle	21



Status of Accounts as of December 31

Balance in Checking Account.....\$32,378.47

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our 2019 Annual Budget of

\$203,448.31 is **\$16,954.03**

December income was \$24,704.42

Benevolence Gifts.....\$ 12,718.00

85% of our Benevolence goal of \$15,000.00 for 2018)



PASTOR
LAURA'S MESSAGE



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of the joys of being the new pastor in a congregation is learning the different God-given talents of its people. In the half year now serving at Christ's United Church, I have delighted in witnessing your talents in worship, learning ministry, on leadership teams, and certainly in the community events of *Trunk or Treat* and the *Live Nativity*. Then there's the acting talents of those who performed in our Stewardship skit "*The Wizard of Pledge*" back in November.

That stewardship skit was not CULC's first foray into sharing God's story through drama; you performed skits during Lenten mid-week services when Pastor Hoenich served here. In an effort to carry on this tradition, I found the drama "*Lent in the Attic*" written by John Trump, pastor of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Columbia, South Carolina. He earned a Bachelor's degree in English from Muhlenberg College followed by a Master's degree in Fine Arts in theater from Columbia University's School of the Arts in New York.

Pastor Trump notes that our journeys as disciples of Christ can sometimes be interrupted or sidetracked. The Lenten dramas looks at how God works to bring us back around. The setting for each skit is the attic of a home. Our Advent Buzzard, whom some will recall from a recent children's sermon, will be the one important prop in all the plays.



As we prepare for these dramas on Wednesday evenings in March and April, pray about how God may be calling you to participate as part of your journey as a disciple of Christ. In addition to actors, we'll need narrators as well as attic props such as trunks, plastic storage containers, garment bags...and cobwebs?

For now, **let's find a name for our congregation's acting group.** *Christ's United Theater (CUT)? Christ's United Players (CUP)? Drama at Christ's United (DACU)?* You'll come up with more creative ideas. Bring your titles to me by February 10. Our Church Council will pick the winning entry who will receive a \$30 gift card to their favorite restaurant, store or charity.

Grateful for the many God-given talents in our congregation and community,

Pastor Laura+



Pastoral Acts

Pastor Laura performed the following

Baptism

1/5/19 Jennifer Lynn Deeter

Funeral:

1/12/19 Robert Berger, Jr.



Church Council Highlights from December:

- Income for the month of December was \$24,704.42.
- Expenses for December totaled \$19,588.97, leaving a surplus for the month of \$5,115.45.
- Souper bowl weekend is February 2 & 3; we are in need of Cereal and breakfast items for Christ's Cupboard.
- Sunday, February 24 there will be a painting party. The cost is \$30 and includes all supplies (see pg. 7 for more information).
- Joey McAndrew will be leading the Children's Sermon on January 20.



Council Member
of the Month

February Council Contact of the month is Angie Berger.

The Council Contact of the Month is the “on call” member of council, the person to call if you have any concerns (other than pastoral concerns), or need access to the building. If you need to contact Angie, she can be reached at 570-875-3598.

Sunday, February 17 11:00 a.m.

Immediately after worship, on February 17, we will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting. Please plan to attend and support our ministries here at Christ's United.



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.



- 1 Ross Sterling
Kim Walacavage
- 3 Stephen McGrath
- 4 Dennis Wolfe
- 5 Richard Weikel
Kenneth Zweizig
- 6 Brian Bolich
Paul Troutman
- 9 Terry Kessler
Allison Rusinko
- 10 Rebecca Houser
Jason Miller
Mark Varndell
- 11 Vanessa Pirie
Tanner Wilson
Leo Young
- 12 Chantelle Klinger
Edward Stepulitis
- 13 Rhonda Carl
Barb Habowski
Deana Leshner
- 14 Bobbi-Jo Hummel

- 15 Alaina Lindenmuth
Melissa Sisko
Behret Steinbauer
- 16 Vicki Reeser
Daniel Sisko
Lois Sterling
- 17 Crystal Huber
- 18 Cyrus Clark
Jacob Tice
- 19 Dean Leshner
Pearl Lute
Shaun McNally
- 20 Jim Chappell
Cheryl Denchak
Micah Hepler
Mina Pennypacker
Bill Price
- 21 Kylei Long
- 22 Teresa Ambrose
Gavin Dwane
Kolton Fetterolf
Brielle Smith
- 23 Ricky Williard
- 24 Zalen Williard
- 25 Charlie Klauger
- 26 Geoffrey Dudick
- 27 Denise Hepler
Nicole Steinbauer
- 28 Ann Welker



- 02/13/93 Ron & Donna Wallace
- 02/14/10 Nelson & Angie Berger
- 02/16/95 Traci & Donald Smith Jr.
- 02/19/66 Dean & Barb Fetterolf
- 02/21/53 Cy & Joan Clark
- 02/23/85 David & Denise Hepler
- 02/28/70 William & Corrine Coward

PAINTING PARTY



On Sunday, February 24 from 2:00 – 4:30 pm, we will hold a painting party sponsored by Janeen Hershey of PaintAway.

Janeen is a local York artist who has come to many churches with her gift of painting. She instructs a festive and fun event that you won't want to miss.

Painters will be guided step-by-step to create their very own masterpiece! No art experience or background required. It's a time for everyone to discover the artist in themselves! Everything is supplied: canvas, paint, brushes, apron and easel. Light refreshments will be served.

Please sign up by February 14 so we can provide a count for supplies. Cost is \$30 (cash, or checks made payable to Janeen Hershey). Everyone is welcome! – teens and adults, men and women, neighbors and friends.

WORSHIP CANCELLATION PROCEDURE

If worship needs to be cancelled because of inclement weather, a message will be recorded on the church answering machine with details. If its bad weather outside and there's a possibility that worship may be cancelled, please call before venturing out in a storm.



We Offer our Prayers to...



January 20 - Family of Robert Berger Jr., Family of John Bova (B. Spencer), Family of Jesse Witmer (J. Young), Evelyn Jones (J. Denchak), Cathy Hare (T. Wolfe), Scarlet & Elias Spencer (B. Spencer)

January 13 – Family of Jesse Deeter, Family of Ron Klusman

January 6 – Diane Brennan (E. Chappell)

December 30 – John Towey, Dot Zeigenfuse (J. Pennypacker), Family of Ruby Mullen (D. Wallace), Katie & Jacob, Jill Keener (G. Marquardt), Anna James (V. Brown), Kenneth Lahr (J. & E. Chappell), Diane Klem (L. Klinger), Mel Cappel (K. Berner)

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

And our friends: Jessie Witmer (J. Young), Deb Nelson (R. Berner) 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), Albert Stehr (L. Lute)

*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 Kimmel Family — John

The Moyer Family — Ben, Gwen, Shae & Isla

The Nagle Family — Robert, Jessica, Bryson & Rylee



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. For the past several years these Prayer Teams have been silently serving God, the world, and us.

If you are committed to the power of prayer, please join one of these teams. Prayer lists are available at worship services each weekend, and a phone chain notifies you of immediate needs. Please call the church office for more information.



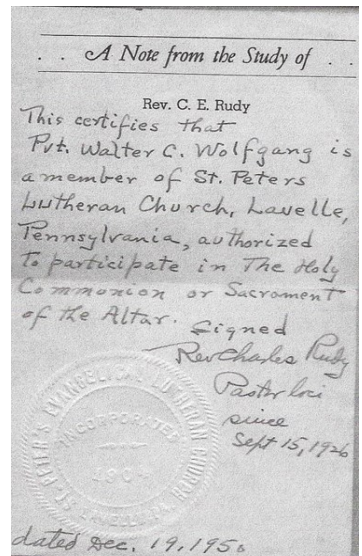
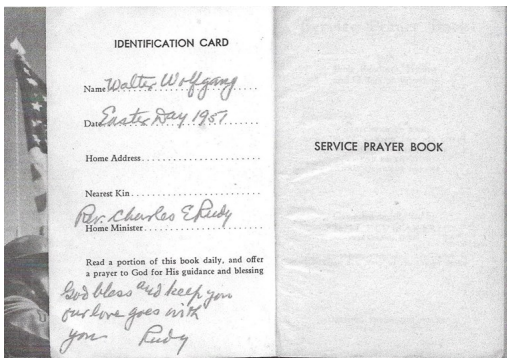
I would like to thank everyone who either sent a card, get well wishes, or said a prayer during my recent hip replacement surgery. Your thoughtfulness and kindness was deeply appreciated.

Thank you,
John Wolfgang Family

A treasure found

These items were found among Walter Wolfgang's treasured keepsakes by his family. How neat to see some history from one of the chapels which joined together to form Christ's United.

Thanks for sharing Wolfgang Family.





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

In Memory of Gerry Dillman by:

Cindy & Jackie Peel
Gordon Area Senior Citizens
Jo-Ann & Leo Young
Sandy Deeter & sister, Carolyn
Russ, Carrie & Zachary Hummel
Judy & Jimmy Spaar
Holly Wetzell
Michael & Donna Lassen
Robert & Carla Mae Carl
Anna Neumeister
John & Peggy Kowalick
Dean & Barbara Fetterolf
Gail Marquardt
Alfred & Eleanor Kennedy

In Memory of Sally Zaharick by:

Sharon M Strauss
Jack Wallauer
Deborah Enterline

*In Memory of Ann Dengler (Grammy D) and Ralph Johnson (Cappy) by:
Ralph, Jen, and Ralph Johnson*

To Christ's United Endowment Fund

In Memory of Parents by Linda Zerby

To Christ's United Capital Campaign

In Memory of Sally Zaharick by Don & Laray Klinger

In Memory of Gerry Dillman and Sally Zaharick by:

Angie Berger & Family
Ron Donna Wallace

Serving Our Community of Faith in February:

Date	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer & Tag-a-long	Post Worship Greeter in Narthex	Post Worship Greeter at Door
February 3 Epiphany	Barb Stepanchick	Richard Berner Jo-Ann Young Donna Wallace Robert Carl	Becky Spencer Kay Berner Barb Anczarski	Joey McAndrew	Dylan Buhay	Kay Berner	Barb Stepanchick
February 10 Baptism of Our Lord	John Towey			Raven Marlow	Steven Wolfgang & Hayden Marlow	Mark Varndell	John Towey
February 17	Erik Tice			Nelson Berger	Nathan Berger & Kayla Werner	John Towey	Jim Gruber
February 24	Sally Tice			Marissa Seritsky	Danielle White Bianca McAndrew	Ted Ambrose	Terry Ambrose



American Red Cross

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.™

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

Community Blood Drive **Christ's United** **Lutheran Church**

Community Room
437 Airport Road (Gordon)
Ashland, PA 17921

Monday, February 4, 2019
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!

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 made payable to Cathy Troutman. All other payments should be made to the church and given to Deb Hall in the church office.

Give Electronically

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

At 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



The month that your committee serves please help out in the kitchen before and after the service. Also, please bring in baked goods or other items for the snacks. Thank you.

Committee Schedule

- 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
- December—LCM
- January—WELCA



We will be collecting the following item for February:

Breakfast items

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is
Thursday,
February 14, 2019





**LET'S
#TACKLE
HUNGER**

BRING YOUR DONATIONS TO HELP THOSE IN NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY.
Let's Tackle Hunger! Together we can turn the nation's largest weekend of football into
the largest weekend of giving.

Items Needed for
this year's
"Souper" Bowl of
caring on
Saturday, Feb 2 &
Sunday, Feb 3

Breakfast Items:
Cereal
Juice
Oatmeal
Peanut Butter
Pancake Mix
Syrup

Please place all food
donations on the table
in the Narthex. Monetary
donations will be collected
also and used to purchase
food. All items will go to
"Christ's Cupboard".



YOUTH GROUP PLANNING MEETING AT WHEEL RESTAURANT

On Saturday, February 2 at 5:00 p.m. the youth group will meet here at CULC parking lot to car pool to the Wheel Restaurant in Pottsville for fun and fellowship and to make plans for the coming year. All youth are encouraged to attend. We will also need adults to drive.

Please sign up on bulletin board so reservations and transportation arrangements can be made. For more information, contact Dr. Kay Berner. At 570-875-1035.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



Did you know...we also have a Sunday School class for adults? We meet at 10:45 each Sunday in the Library. On February 3rd we will be starting a new course study entitled “*If You Want to Walk on Water, You’ve Got to Get Out of The Boat*”.

So grab a cup of coffee and a snack and join us in the library. No life jacket required.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

CULC, Friedens, and St. James will share in a Lenten Bible Study on the Book of Ephesians.



This will take place at 6:00 pm on Tuesday evenings (3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2 and 4/9) at St. James, 153 Main Rd., Pitman, PA, 570-648-9440. A light supper will be offered.

Pastor Mark Swanson will lead the sessions, and Pastor Laura will assist.

Affectionately yours



St. Valentine, a Roman priest, was martyred in 270 A.D. for loving Jesus. Some sources say he performed weddings after the emperor banned them; others say he rescued Christians from Roman prisons. Two centuries later, the pope declared February 14 St. Valentine’s Day.

According to legend, the priest signed his letters “Your Valentine.” Later, Christians followed suit to honor him. By the mid-1700s, friends and sweethearts exchanged heart-shaped trinkets or sent handwritten notes of affection on February 14.

Growing food security in Nepal

NEPAL
ELCA.org/hunger



On their 1,500 square meters of land in Jayaprithvi, Nepal, Kala and her seven other family members must grow enough food to feed themselves. But their production was only lasting six months, leaving them looking for other jobs to survive the rest of the year.

Everything changed when Kala began to participate in an agricultural training program and joined a related women's farming group. The program is organized by United Mission to Nepal, supported in part by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger.

"It gave me energy and motivated me to start vegetable cultivation," Kala says.

Kala can now feed her family throughout the year and has more to spare to sell at the market. With this comes not only food security but also greater income so she can send her

children to school and build a safety net for things like medical expenses.

The additional income is about \$1,000 USD, a significant boost in a country where the gross domestic product per capita is about \$730 USD, according to the World Bank.

"I am very much pleased with the regular support and would like to thank all the helping hands ... for showing me the way of income generation and building up my confidence level by organizing and delivering training in the group," Kala says.

Thanks to your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, farmers like Kala can access resources that make it possible for their families to have a brighter, healthier future.

WHF18

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support innovative solutions that fight hunger and poverty in more than 60 countries around the world, including the United States.

Will you help with your gift today?

YES! I would like to support ELCA World Hunger (WHG0038)

- I have enclosed my gift of \$100
 I have enclosed my gift of \$250
 Other \$ _____

Mail Make your check payable to "ELCA World Hunger." Place your gift in your congregation's offering plate or mail it to:

ELCA
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Online ELCA.org/hunger/donate

Phone 800-638-3522



ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Women of the ELCA

All woman are invited to attend the WELCA meeting on FEBRUARY 6th at 7:00pm.

It's time to make candy.... plans to start making the tasty chocolates on February 25th are underway. All are welcome. On the job training is available. Many hands make the work light. We will be working throughout the Lenten season.



LADIES NIGHT OUT

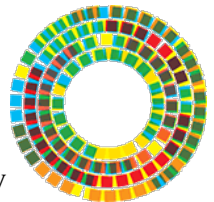
March 3, 2019

We are going to Mar Lin to **Palermo's**. We will be leaving CULC parking lot at 3:30.

PLEASE SIGN UP on the bulletin board to attend so reservations and transportation plans can be made.

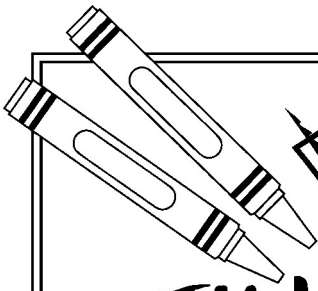
The church as mosaic

A mosaic consists of thousands of little stones. Some are blue, some are green, some are yellow, some are gold. When we bring our faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the beauty of each stone. But as we step back from it, we can see that all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of these stones can tell by itself.



That is what our life in Christ's United Church is about. Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Nobody can say: "I make God visible." But others who see us together can say: "They make God visible." [Christian] community is where humility and glory touch.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen



PUZZLE

WITH LOVE FROM ABOVE

The Bible is full of special words from our loving God.

Directions: Using the messages on the candy hearts, complete the Bible verses (all NIV) below.



God is our _____ and _____,
an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

“Surely I am with you _____.” Matthew 28:20

And the _____ of God ... will guard
your hearts and your minds in
_____. Philippians 4:7

Whoever lives in _____ lives in God,
and God in them. 1 John 4:16

_____ love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18

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:

Register now for this special event:

The retreat is for married husbands and wives.

Join us on Feb. 15 and 16

Is there any other kind?



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
Lowell Martin	570-875-1043	Feb. 2019
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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Facebook

Life Together at Christ's United
23

