

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

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February



The CULC Messenger
God's Work,
Our Actions

BE JOYFUL IN
hope
 PATIENT IN
affliction
 FAITHFUL IN
Prayer
 Romans 12:12

Join us for Worship - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School - 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

February 2023

CHURCH COUNCIL 2022

	Phone	Term Expires
John Denchak President	570-875-4970	Feb. 2023
Vivian Brown Vice-President	717-275-5277	Feb. 2023
Angie Berger Secretary	570-875-3598	Feb. 2023
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
Jacob Tice	570-875-2681	Feb. 2024
Dennis Wolfe	570-875-9085	Feb. 2024

Youth Representative - Vacant

DESIGNATED PASTOR

Reverend Dana D. Heckman-Beil
570-875-0792

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	Drew Kissinger	
Financial Secretary	Christine Brennan	570-875-0720

The February CULC Messenger is sponsored
in Memory of Henry and Hilda Scheuren
by Donald Klingler & Family

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Status of Accounts as of December 31

Total amount in checking account: \$117,004.48.

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our
2023 Annual Budget of \$195,263.89 is \$16,271.99.

December income was \$\$24,978.90.

Expenses for December were \$9,508.99
resulting in a gain of \$15,469.91.

Benevolence Gifts through November were \$10,693.00
(71.3% of our Benevolence goal of \$15,000.00 for 2022).



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

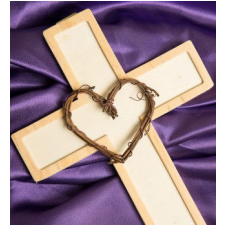
Christ's United Lutheran Church

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 under gird our program and the maintenance of our facilities as it encourages improved stewardship.



ECCE AGNUS DEI — Latin for “Behold, the Lamb of God,” this is the phrase John the Baptist uses twice to point out Jesus to others (John 1:29, 36). It marks Jesus’ Epiphany (manifestation, revelation) as the Anointed One (Christ, Messiah).



Pastor's Ponderings.

This month we will be celebrating the secular time of Valentine's Day. It's a wonderful day of celebrating love. This month and in the weeks to come we will also be celebrating a sacred love - a much deeper love than the sentimental type love that our culture celebrates. It is a love that is a true love - deep, giving, sacrificial, and enduring. It is the love of God shown to us in Jesus Christ.

As we begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, we will each be marked with the sign of that love as we are marked with the sign of the cross on our foreheads. As we do so, let us reflect on the depth of God's love - a love that is even more enduring and giving than any couple, adult, child, or family can know in our lives. When all other loves come to an end, the love of God we know in Christ will go on into all eternity. Christ's love is the ultimate love that sacrifices all on the cross for you and for me. The season of Lent calls each of us to reflect on the wonder and depth of that love. It calls us to reflect on our need for that gracious and forgiving love and then to be renewed by it so we may live out that love in our daily lives.



Look around you this Lenten Season and see the signs not of sentimental and superficial love, but signs of genuine, sacrificial and enduring love. Look for ways to be signs of that love for your family, your friends, your neighbors and your world. In so doing, you will truly celebrate love.

God loves you and so do I,

Pastor Dana



February 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, he can be reached at 570-590-7281.



Council Member
of the Month



ASH WEDNESDAY

Remember....

That you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Such are the words of blessing offered on Ash Wednesday, as we remember our humanity and God’s immortal love, shown to us in Jesus Christ.

It is a time of somberness in recognition of the love so strong that death could not break its grasp on us. Join us for Worship with Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes. On Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 P.M.



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

437 Airport Road (Gordon)
Ashland, PA 17921

Monday, February 6, 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!

Give Electronically

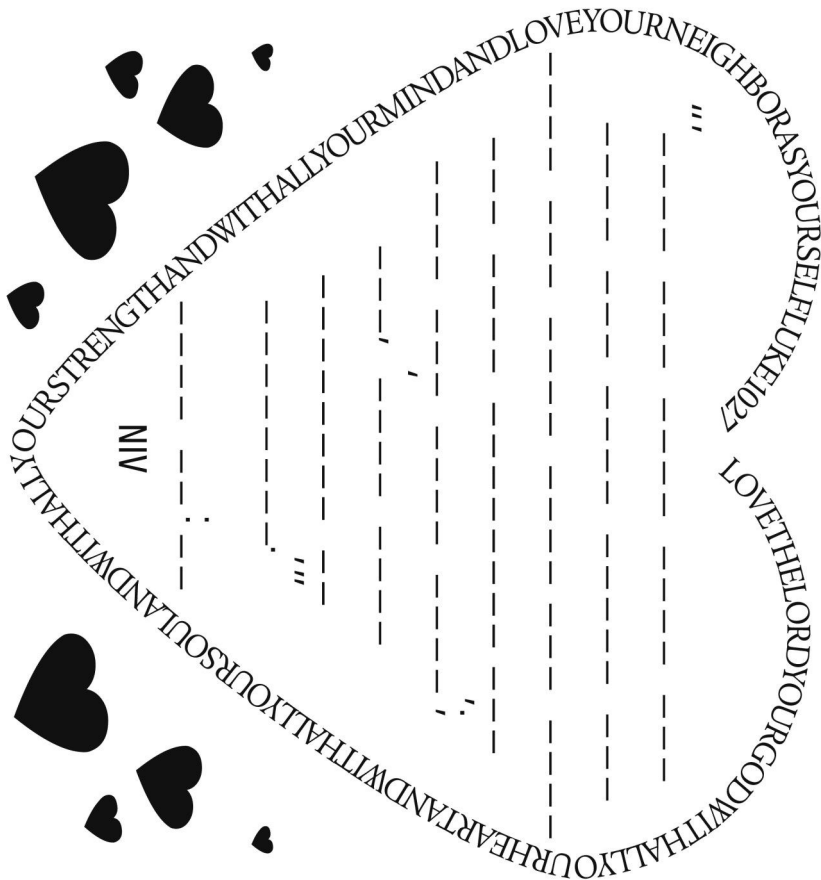
Checking/Savings Credit/Debit Card
Christ’s United accepts electronic donations

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.



Puzzle!

Draw lines to separate the words in the heart outline. Then, starting with "Love," write the words in order inside the heart to complete the two greatest commandments.



Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, Love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27, NIV



Church Council Highlights from December

- Income for December was \$24,978.90 which included, \$90.00 for Capital Campaign, \$500.00 Endowment, Shadle Investments \$149.86. Total expenses were \$9,508.99 which resulted in a gain of \$15,469.91.
- Christmas Eve service realized attendance of 102 at the 4 p.m. service, and 82 at the 7 p.m. service.
- Jacob Tice had a message from Boy Scout Troop 745 that said February 5th is Scout Sunday and the troop will attend service in their uniforms.
- John Denchak would like every committee to come up with ways to increase the interest of young people in our church.



**Sunday, February 19
10:30 a.m.**

Immediately after worship, on February 19 we will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting. Please plan to attend and support our ministries here at Christ's United.

We Offer our Prayers to...

January 22 – Michael Lassen (D. Lassen)
James Houser, Sr. (Tara Houser)
Dustin Coons (Pastor Dana)
Wayne “Webby” Weinreich (Connie Weinreich)
Lucy Snyder (K. Berner)

January 15 – Larry Wolfgang
Frank Towey (J. Towey)
Barry Oswald
Jarod Clark (Deb Price)
Harper Presto (K. Presto)
Deb Price
Tara Lang

Family of Leona Stancavage

January 8 – James Houser Sr.
Jane Fetterolf (Pearl Lute Sister-in-law)
John Pickle (S. Tice)
All those affected by the shooting at Geisinger Medical Center

Family of Percy Carl

January 1 – Dennis Motschenbacher (L & J. Wolfgang)
Mark Bennyhoff
Families of Dan Dutcavich (B. Spencer)
Diane Tarentelli
Suzie Fetterolf

Please continue to pray for: Corrine & Josh Coward, Jim Gruber, Jim Hepler, Bobby Liem (B. Liem), Gail Lorady, Carl (Mickey) Lute, Dianna Monaghan, Irene Morgan, Richard Shoup, Cheryl Varndell, Dot Zangari, Linda Zerby
Michelle Ambrose, Robert Beecher, Mark Bennyhoff, Donald Bulla, Arlene Chillis, Edward Emerich (L. Martin), Joe Ferraro Jr., Harry Fishburn (G. Marquardt), Bob Griffiths (I. Morgan), Dan Grow, Minah Horan, Pastor Bob & Donna Hughes (Grubers), Ron James (V. Brown), Kay Keefer (D. Calhoun), Tracy Maurer (C. Neumeister), Debbie Moyer (C. Carl), Elizabeth Smith & family, Karyssa Wenrich

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 Morgan Family - Irene
The Wallace Family - Bryon, Jessica, Marisa Seritsky & Kaylee
The Zweizig Family - Kenneth & Kim



2023 Sponsorships

The 2023 sponsorship sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board.
Sign up for:

Altar Flowers \$35.00
Worship Bulletins \$15.00
Children's Bulletins \$10.00
Sanctuary Lamp \$10.00
Monthly Newsletter \$40.00
Palm for Palm Sunday Worship \$12.00

Altar Flowers Procedure:

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.





CULC YOUTH GROUP Activities

Watch for details on upcoming Youth Group events.



Children of the LIGHT

This craft celebrates that now we are light in the Lord (see Ephesians 5:8).

What you need:

- A gallon zip-top plastic bag
- Permanent markers (dark colors)
- Black construction paper
- White cardstock
- Scissors

What you do:

1. Draw a self-portrait on the outside of the bag. Add details.
2. Insert the black paper and set the bag flat on a table. It should be tough to see your picture now.
3. On the white cardstock, draw a picture of a flashlight with a long beam of light coming out. Color the flashlight but leave the beam white.
4. Cut out the flashlight and light beam. Place them in the bag, over the black paper. When the white beam covers the black background under your picture, you can see your self-portrait clearly.

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 weekend. You may also have an email sent to you on Tuesdays with a list of those in need of your prayers. A phone chain notifies you of immediate needs. Please call the church office for more information.

Christmas Decorating and Un-decorating of the Church

Many thanks to everyone who helped decorate and/or undecorate the church for Christmas. Your help was greatly appreciated.



Through the centuries [people] have displayed many different symbols to show that they are Christians. They have worn crosses in the lapels of their coats, hung chains about their necks, even had special haircuts. Of course, there is nothing intrinsically wrong with any of this, if one feels it is [one's] calling. But there is a much better sign, a universal mark that is to last through all the ages of the church until Jesus comes back. ...

Love — and the unity it attests to — is the mark Christ gave Christians to wear before the world. Only with this mark may the world know that Christians are indeed Christians and that Jesus was sent by the Father.

—Francis Schaeffer



- 1 Ross Sterling
Kim Walacavage
Shelby Weikel
- 3 Stephen McGrath
- 4 Dennis Wolfe
- 5 Richard Weikel
Kenneth Zweizig
- 6 Brian Bolich
- 8 Kevin Clark, Sr.
Charlotte Schmidt
- 9 Kevin Clark, Jr.
Terry Kessler
Allison Rusinko
Kayla Werner
- 10 Rebecca Houser
Jason Miller
Mark Varndell
- 11 Vanessa Pirie
Tanner Wilson
Leo Young II
- 12 Chantelle Klinger
Edward Stepulitis
- 13 Rhonda Carl
Barb Habowski
Deana Leshner
- 14 Bobbi-Jo Hummel

- 15 Alaina Lindenmuth
Melissa Sisko
- 16 Daniel Sisko
Lois Sterling
- 17 Crystal Huber
- 18 Cyrus Clark
Jacob Tice
- 19 Dean Leshner
Pearl Lute
Shaun McNally
- 20 Jim Chappell
Cheryl Denchak
Mina Pennypacker
Bill Price
Jax Miller
- 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
- 28 Ann Welker
Wyatt Miller



SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12



In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since then, more than \$170 million has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that transforms the time around the Big Game into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and caring for those in need.

Through this mission, people learn they can make a positive difference in the world as they collect food, raise money and serve at hunger-relief charities and show caring and compassion in local communities across the country.

Share in God’s love for our neighbors in need and give generously on Souper Bowl Sunday (Feb 12). All of the donations collected will go directly to our Souper Bowl of Caring Charity of Choice:

Christ’s Cupboard Food Pantry

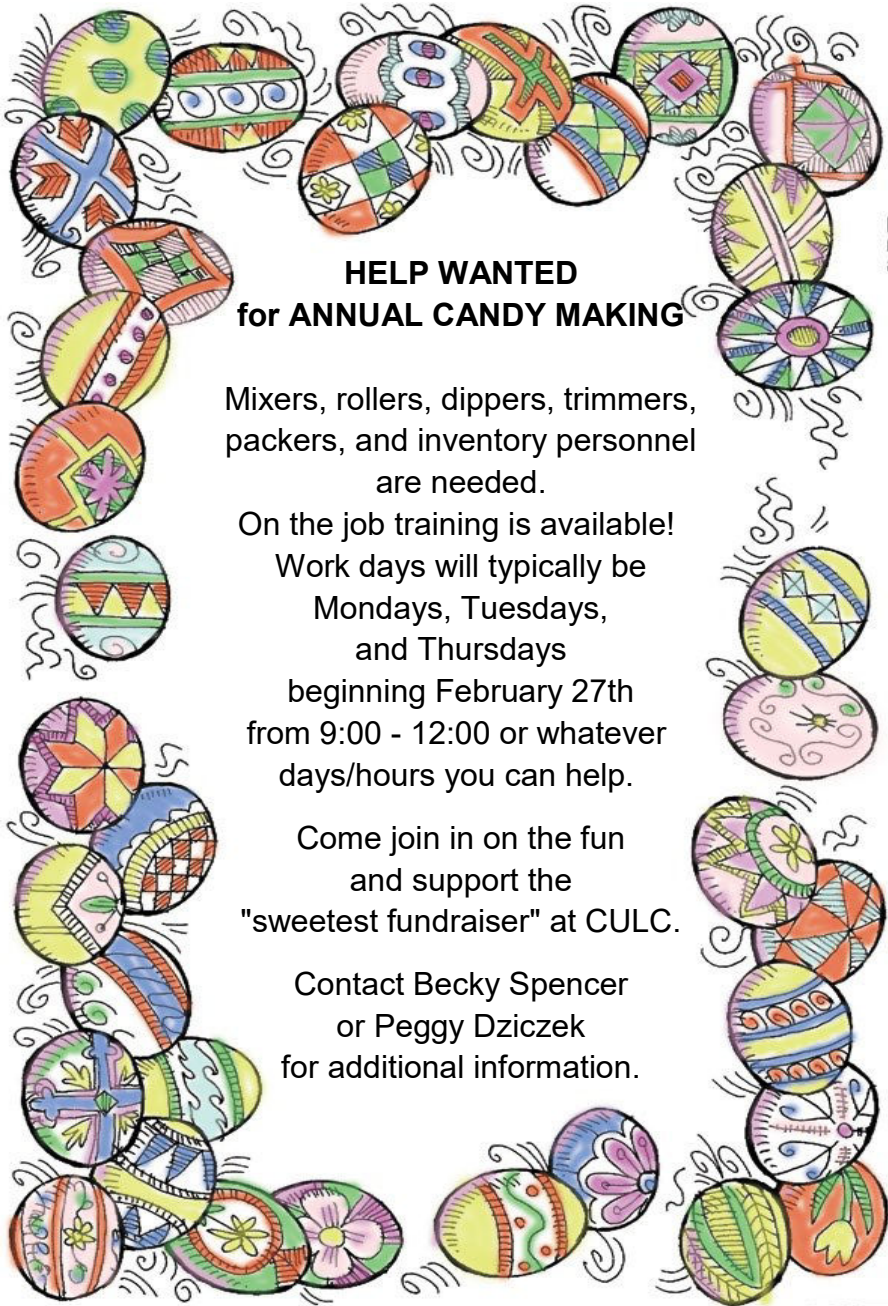
Suggested items for the “Souper” Bowl Collection:
Soup, Pancake Mix & Syrup, Juice, Cereal, Tuna,
Peanut Butter, Jelly, Spaghetti & Sauce, Canned Fruit.



The next WELCA meeting will be on
February 1st at 6:00 pm.
All women are invited to attend.



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



**HELP WANTED
for ANNUAL CANDY MAKING**

Mixers, rollers, dippers, trimmers,
packers, and inventory personnel
are needed.

On the job training is available!

Work days will typically be
Mondays, Tuesdays,
and Thursdays
beginning February 27th
from 9:00 - 12:00 or whatever
days/hours you can help.

Come join in on the fun
and support the
"sweetest fundraiser" at CULC.

Contact Becky Spencer
or Peggy Dziczek
for additional information.



Lenten signals

Why should we observe Lent? This 40-day season of repentance and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday has three important purposes. Lent helps us STOP, LOOK and LISTEN.

We observe Lent because it tells us to STOP and rest awhile — and to stop sinning. Lent tells us to LOOK inward for an honest self-examination, to look upward to see the cross of Jesus with healing and love, and to look forward to the hope of the Resurrection. And we observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN — to the voice of God, the words of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

STOP, LOOK and LISTEN! These commands that are so crucial for travel safety are also important for our journey through Lent.

Going out of our way

In mid-2022, Mediterranean Shipping Company, a world leader in container transport, voluntarily changed its routes, on the advice of scientists, to protect large populations of blue whales off the Sri Lankan coast. Going out of its way 15 nautical miles has led to a whopping 95% drop in whale strikes.

Jesus counseled people to go out of their way for one another, especially for the vulnerable: "If anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles." Further, "whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water ... will by no means lose his reward" (Matthew 5:40-41; 10:42, ESV).

Paul likewise urged his listeners to voluntarily give up eating meat, even if they didn't believe in and weren't challenged by the idols to which it had been sacrificed, for the sake of new believers with weaker faith (Romans 14).

Faith calls us to go out of our way for the sake of others; sometimes a wealthy corporation opts to do the same. God's hand is at work in both, protecting vulnerable humans and nonhumans alike.



Lenten Soup Suppers

The social ministry team will be hosting "Soup Suppers" during the Lenten season.



Our first "Soup Supper" is Wednesday, March 1. Please join us for a meal of soup and bread at 6:00 p.m. before worship.

We are in need of 3 - 4 different soup varieties each week. Please sign up on the bulletin board to make soup. A free will offering collected will go to World Hunger.



God of love — for, with and in us

An ancient heresy — that the God of the Old Testament was a God of judgment and wrath, while the God of the New Testament is a God of grace and love — still persists a bit. Yet God is the same God, with the same characteristics, throughout time. Way back in Genesis 3, God graciously sewed garments to clothe humans, although they had disobeyed him. And even in the Gospels, God's anger was evident through Jesus' response to temple moneychangers cheating the poor.

God always works for life and goodness in all things. Sometimes people misunderstand God's ways; sometimes God, like a human parent, uses "tough love." Mick Brooks writes: "The Old Testament is God for us, the time of Christ is God with us, and the age of the Holy Spirit is God in us" (*Every Day With Jesus*, Sept/Oct 2020). That may be a bit simplistic, but it's a good reminder that while God's ways of interacting with us vary, he — the God of Love — does not.

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 ~

- February** - Church Council
- March** - Social Ministry
- April** - Evangelism/
Endowment/
Stewardship
- May** - WELCA
- 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 January:

Oatmeal & Cereal

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday **February 9, 2023**



Serving Our Community of Faith in February:

Date	Supply Pastor/ Worship Leader	Congregational Rep/ Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Acolyte
February 5	Kay Berner	Vivian Brown	Becky Spencer	Ted Ambrose b John Wolfgang b Allen Johnson c/d Thomas Wolfgang so	Vivian Brown AM Deb Price Becky Spencer	Ava Hernandez	Blake Olayo
February 12	Donna Wallace		Erik Tice			Maura Sweitzer	
February 19 Transfiguration Sunday	Vivian Brown	Jacob Tice	Jacob Tice		Larry Wolfgang AM Beth Andrews Dennis Wolfe	Nathan Berger	
February 22 Ash Wednesday	Erik Tice		Sally Tice		Kay Berner AM Donna Wallace Donna Lassen	Jacob Tice	Bianca McAndrew
February 26			Barb Stepanchick			Joey McAndrew	Sawyer Smith, Tag-along



February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:30 Seniors 6:00 WELCA 6:30 Choir Practice	2 Groundhog Day	3	4
5 Scout Sunday 9:30 Worship w / Holy Communion 10:30 Fellowship Hour 10:45 Sunday School Adult Sunday School	6 1:00 – 6:00 P.M. Red Cross Blood Drive 7:00 Church Council	7	8 10:30 Seniors 6:30 Choir Practice	9 10:00 – 11:30 Christ's Cupboard distribution  6:30 Garden Club	10	11
12 Souper Bowl of Caring Collection 9:30 Worship 10:45 Adult Sunday School	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 10:30 Seniors 6:30 Choir Practice	16	17	18
19 TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY 9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 Congregational Mtg	20 Washington's Birthday	21	22 Ash Wednesday 8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors 7:00 Ash Wed Worship 8:00 Choir Practice 	23	24	25
26 9:30 Worship 10:45 Adult Sunday School	27	28				