

Life Together at Christ's United Lutheran Church



The Gentiles are ...
sharers together
in the promise
in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3:6, NIV



*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

1





Christ's United Lutheran Church

One God. One People. One Purpose.

437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921

www.christsunited.org

(570) 875-1591

January 2019

**The January Newsletter is sponsored in Honor of
Allen & Keri's Anniversary and Allen's Birthday
By Allen, Keri, Amy and Cole Johnson**

In This Issue:

Pastor Laura's Message	3 & 4
Pastoral Acts	4
Council Highlights	5
Birthdays & Anniversaries	6
Prayer List	7
FHC Winery Tour	9
Memorials	10
Serving Our Community of Faith	11
Calendar	12-13
Red Cross Blood Drive	14
Social Ministry	16
Puzzle	18
Recipe Swap	19
Ladies Night Out	20
Learning Ministries Day	21



Status of Accounts as of November 30

Balance in Checking Account.....\$ 27,263.02.

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

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

November income was \$13,571.88

Benevolence Gifts.....\$ 11,308.00

75% of our Benevolence goal of \$15,000.00 for 2018)

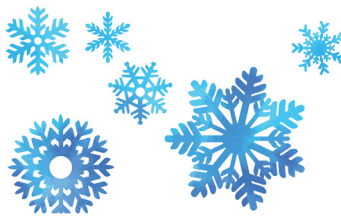




Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Within days of the deadly shooting of twelve members of the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, I received an email from the Muslim Association of the Lehigh Valley (I was on their mailing list because confirmands and adults from the St. Andrew's congregation had participated in several interfaith events there). The email expressed condolences and prayers for those who had lost loved ones in the shooting. I was struck by this outpouring of care since Muslims and Jews have been historic enemies.

Sometimes we are afraid that associating with people of a different faith might harm our own Christian faith. I remember a parent of one of our confirmands refused to allow his son to attend a program at the MALV because of fear that Muslims would try to convert him from Christianity. Sadly, this young man missed out on rich hospitality, new learning...and great snacks! Rather than attempting to draw us away from Christianity, the Muslim leaders helped us see what we share in common, in addition to some of the differences (like women not allowed to be in a leadership role in worship).



At our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod's Learning Ministry Day on January 26, nearby at Jerusalem, Schuylkill Haven, the keynote speaker will be Elsayed "Steve" Elmarzouky, spokesperson for the Reading Muslim Community. Steve is past president of the Islamic Center of Reading, and chaplain in the correctional and healthcare systems in Berks County. He speaks about his personal journey of faith as a practicing Muslim in Egypt and the U.S. and how his understanding of Islam reflects principles familiar to all people of faith. Teachers from Lutheran congregations around our Synod will be enriched in their teaching after hearing from Steve. How neat!

I am looking forward to attending this Learning Ministry Day with several of our Sunday School teachers. But as the publicity says, "There is something for everyone (not just Christian education people)". So, my hope is that others of you will join us. More information can be found on the Synod's website: nepasynod.org. Please call the Church Office if you will join us. The deadline is January 11.

Sometimes Christians, Jews and Muslims are referred to as People of the Book. Jews have the Old (First) Testament, Muslims the Koran, and Christians our Bible. As Martin Luther said, "God's word is our great heritage". I feel that our understanding of God's Word can be enriched through our association with other people of faith. What do you think?

Always your sister in Christ,

Pastor Laura+



Pastoral Acts

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

12/15/18 Sally Zaharick

Church Council Highlights from December:

- Income for the month of October was \$15,842.45.
- WELCA paid a mortgage payment
- Total Expenses for October were \$21,026.66, leaving a deficit of \$5,184.21. Balance in checking account—\$28,661.43.
- Total income for November was \$13,571.88.
- Expenses for November—\$14,970.29, leaving a deficit for November of \$1,398.41. Balance in checking account—\$27,263.02.
- Pastor Laura reported there were a total of 15 people that increased their giving on the 2019 Commitment cards and a .35% increase in giving overall.
- Endowment Scholarships were handed out to four youth members in November.
- Due to health issues, Nancy Lindenmuth has resigned from council. Her term expires in February 2021. According to the church constitution if a council member's place becomes vacant, the council shall elect by majority vote a successor until the next annual meeting. All agreed that Lowell Martin should be asked to fill the vacancy.



**Council Member
of the Month**

January Council Contact of the month is Steven Wolfgang.

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 Steven, he can be reached at 570-875-9660.

All Committee Secretaries and Treasurers:
Please have your reports submitted to the church office by Monday, January 28, 2019. This is the deadline for all information so it can be included in the annual congregational report. Our annual meeting is on Sunday, February 17 after worship.
Thank You!





- 2 Katelyn Bechtel
Barbara Pennypacker
Nathan Smith
- 3 Emily Reichwein
- 4 David Hepler
Margaret Koons
- 5 Miles Hudock
Kevin Wright
- 7 Katrina Economy
Brenda Knorr
- 8 Craig Troutman
- 10 Laray Klinger
Luke Young
Liam Young
- 11 Harry Hepler
- 12 Richard Knorr
Jennifer Lettich-Snyder
- 13 Jesse Cascarino
Trevor Wilson
- 14 Ron Andrews
Cheryl Neumeister
- 15 Karen Green
Hannah Lisowski

- 16 Rylee Nagle
- 17 Jim Gruber
Debbie Hall
- 18 Bill Burke
- 19 Deb Zaharick
- 20 Ian Bendinsky
Nathan Hepler
Jennie Kosmisky
- 21 Karen Schweinhart
- 23 David Chuplis
- 24 Katherine Bixler
Rachel Hostetter
- 25 Steven Wagner
- 30 Allen Johnson
Caleb Steinbauer
Amanda Sterling



- 01/08/11 Douglas & Lindsay Fetterolf
- 01/13/72 Leroy & Deb Berner
- 01/16/ Michael & Nicole Steinbauer
- 01/20/05 Allen & Keri Johnson
- 01/30/82 Craig & Penny Troutman

Dear Christ's United Family,

Thank you so very much from all of us for your generous Christmas gifts.

Your kindness and support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Christ's United Staff



I would like to thank everyone who helped with the Trunk or Treat on Sunday October 28th. Trunk or Treat was again a huge success with around 230 children attending the event.



Thank you,
The Trunk or Treat Committee



A big “thank you” to the following people who gave of their time to come in on December 3rd to participate in getting the church ready for the Christmas Holidays:

Don & Laray Klinger
Barbara Liem
Beth Andrews
Jim & Ellie Chappell
Nellie Schlorff
Sandy Marlow
Diane Heidlebaugh

Donna Wallace
Peggy Dziczek
Terry Ambrose
George Holmes
Andrew Klinger
Michael Lassen

Jack Houser,
Organizer



We Offer our Prayers to...



December 30 – Diane Brennan (E. Chappell),

December 23 – John Towey, Dot Zeigenfuse (J. Penny-packer), Family of Ruby Mullen (D. Wallace), Katie & Jacob

December 16 – Family & Friends of Sally Zaharick (D. Zaharick), Bill, Family & Friends of Donna Melochick (A. Berger), Jill Keener (G. Marquardt), Anna James (V. Brown), Kenneth Lahr (J. & E. Chappell)

December 9 – Family & Friends of Lori Fetterolf (T. Shilling), Family & Friends of Mark Chuplis (L. Lindenmuth), Family & Friends of Pres. George H.W. Bush, Donna (S. Berger), Diane Klem (L. Klinger), John Towey, Tina Wolfe, Ella Wolfe, Fred & Jean Bloss (G. Marquardt), Family of Mary Klemanski (G. Marquardt), John Wolfgang, Wendy Farnsworth, Dean Fetterolf, 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 Kessler Family — Terry & Dorothy

The Morgan Family — Irene

The Potteiger, Chad , Heather & Alivia





Dear Members and Friends of Christ's United,

Thank you so very much for your concern and support, your acts of kindness and contributions in memory of our mother, and especially for all your prayers during the last several months.

Thank you to Pastor Laura for a beautiful service, the women of the ELCA for their time and help, and to all who made our mother's service so beautiful. We have always thought of our church as our family, and as our family, you supported us in our need. Thank you!

Sincerely,
The Family of Gerry Dillman



First Holy Communion Class Tour of Red Shale Ridge Winery

Pastor Laura has arranged for a tour of the Red Shale Ridge Winery in Hegins as part of the First Holy Communion instruction on Sunday, February 17th. All class participants, families and anyone interested may attend.

Please sign up on the bulletin board no later than January 27 so Pastor Laura has a count for reservations for the tour.

We will learn how wine is made and share in fellowship.





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

In Memory of Gerry Dillman by:

Jack Houser
Frank & Karen Smith
Chris Brennan
Tom & Donna Wallauer
Virgil & Ann Smith Family
Carol Reiner
Margaret Mary Brown
Dr. Kay Berner
Marlene Lucas

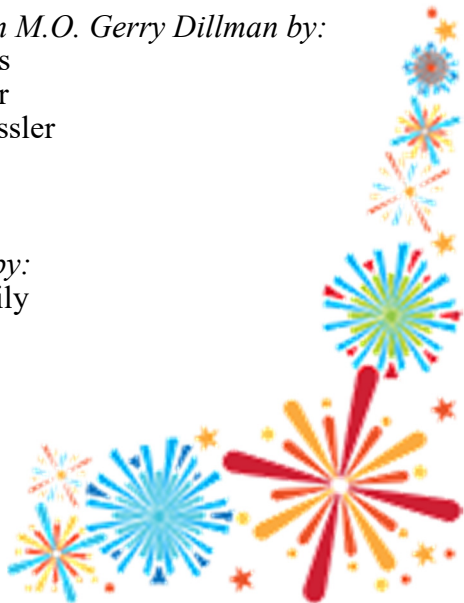
*In Memory of Gerry Dillman & Dorothy Shadle by:
Cyrus & Joan Clark*

To CULC Capital Campaign M.O. Gerry Dillman by:

Ron & Beth Andrews
Don & Laray Klinger
Terry & Dorothy Kessler
Connie Welker

To CULC Children's Fund by:

Ruby Fegley & Family



Serving Our Community of Faith in January:



Date	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer & Tag-a-long	Post Worship Greeter in Narthex	Post Worship Greeter at Door
January 6 Epiphany	Darcie Gruber	John Denchak Becky Spencer Angie Berger John Towey	Donna Wallace Barb Stepanchick Darlene Stank	Ralph Johnson	T.J. Heidlebaugh	Mark Vardell	Darcie Gruber
January 13 Baptism of Our Lord	Kay Berner		Jim Gruber Jo-Ann Young Donna Lassen	Amy Johnson	Ava Hubler	Jim Gruber	Kay Berner
January 20	Angie Berger			Kylie Maillams	Blake Olayo & Bianca McAndrew	Donna Wallace	Angie Berger
January 27	Becky Spencer			Logan Walacavage	Tanner Walacavage	Darlene Stank	Becky Spencer



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 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



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

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
December—LCM

We will be collecting the following item for December:

Diapers, wipes, etc.

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is
Thursday,
January 10, 2019





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

Suzanne Peel is collecting and processing donations of items for repurposing.

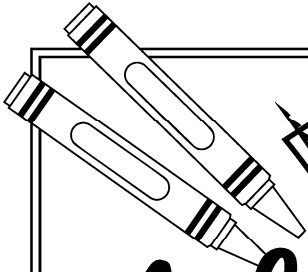


Items being collected are:

- 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.





PUZZLE

A fresh start

Baptism is a blessing because it changes us and gives us hope.

Directions: Write the boxed letters in the squares below. Then unscramble those letters to form two words that complete the Bible verse and represent the gift of baptism.



We were therefore buried with him
through baptism into death in order that,
just as Christ was raised from the dead
through the glory of the Father,
we too may live a _____.

Romans 6:4, NIV

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

The Recipe Swap

Share
Your
Recipes



Hermit Cookies:

2 cups raisins	1/4 tsp allspice
1 cup water	3 eggs
1 tsp baking soda	1 tsp vanilla
1 cup shortening	4 cups flour
2 cups sugar	1 tsp baking powder
1 1/2 tsp cinnamon	1 tsp salt
1/4 tsp nutmeg	

Boil raisins in water, drain and save 1/s cup liquid. Cool raisins; add soda to them. Combine shortening, sugar and spices. Add eggs one at a time, beating after each addition. Add vanilla and reserved liquid. Stir in flour, baking powder and salt. Add raisins. Chill. Drop by tablespoonfulls on greased cookie sheet. Bake at 375 for 12—15 minutes. Don't allow to brown or will be crisp. To store, place wax paper between layers.

Recipe from Dec. 2018 *Fishwrapper* (taken from Basics & More cookbook)

Reading resolutions

Every January, many Christians resolve to read the entire Bible in one year. That's a worthy goal, but God doesn't require us to read a certain number of verses or chapters per day. Instead, he tells us to simply be in his Word — and thus be with him — so he can grow our faith, light our path and assure us of his love and forgiveness. God's Word is a precious gift, but we need to “unwrap” it!

F.B. Meyer offers this helpful advice for a new year of discovering (and rediscovering!) Scripture: “Read the Bible, not as a newspaper, but as a home letter. If a cluster of heavenly fruit hangs within reach, gather it. If a promise lies upon the page as a blank check, cash it. If a prayer is recorded, appropriate it and launch it as a feathered arrow from the bow of your desire. If an example of holiness gleams before you, ask God to do as much for you. If the truth is revealed ... entreat that its brilliance may ever irradiate ... your life.”



Women of the ELCA

Calling all women of Christ's United.
The next **WELCA meeting** will be Wednesday,
JANUARY 3RD at 7:00 pm.
join us.



LADIES NIGHT OUT

January 6, 2019

We are going to Shamokin to **OIP**.
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.

Kingfisher faith

In a video on his publisher's website, Eugene Peterson tells of watching a kingfisher repeatedly dive for fish in a lake. Peterson counted 37 dives before the kingfisher caught its supper! "And he's the king fisher!" Peterson chuckles. From that bird-watching episode, he gleaned a ministry lesson: It may take a long time and many attempts — maybe dozens! — before something works out.



God calls us to live out his love faithfully, even when we don't seem to be accomplishing anything. Maybe we extend 36 invitations to worship, work 36 monthly shifts at a food bank or utter 36 prayers without seeing results. "What's the point?" we wonder. But the kingfisher urges us on: "Maybe number 37 is the charm!"

In the words of St. Paul (and mixing fishing and farming metaphors): "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9, NIV).

Learning Ministry Day

There's something for everyone, not just Christian Education people. Saturday, January 26, 2019 (snow date Saturday, February 2). 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. @ Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Schuylkill Haven. Many workshops to choose from, crafts, key note speaker Elsayed “Steve” Elmarzouky, spokesperson for the Reading Muslim Community; Lunch will be provided. Full details on poster on bulletin board in hallway. Through December 31, the cost for the event per person is \$30. After that date, the cost will be \$45.



Lessons in wise faith

“The Magi teach us true faith,” said Martin Luther. Given the obstacles they encountered, we would understand if they had given up altogether!

First, the travelers were “off the mark,” coming to Jerusalem to seek a newborn king in a “royal palace.” Then, directed to Bethlehem, the wise men found a sight “so utterly out of keeping with a king” — a poor young woman and child, in a “poor hut” — that one might expect them to head straight home. “But,” declares Luther, “with a great, strong and full faith they ... follow the word of the prophet and the witness of the star in all purity of heart,” bowing to worship and honor the Savior.

—Based on Luther’s sermon for the Festival of the Epiphany (1522), Luther’s Works

