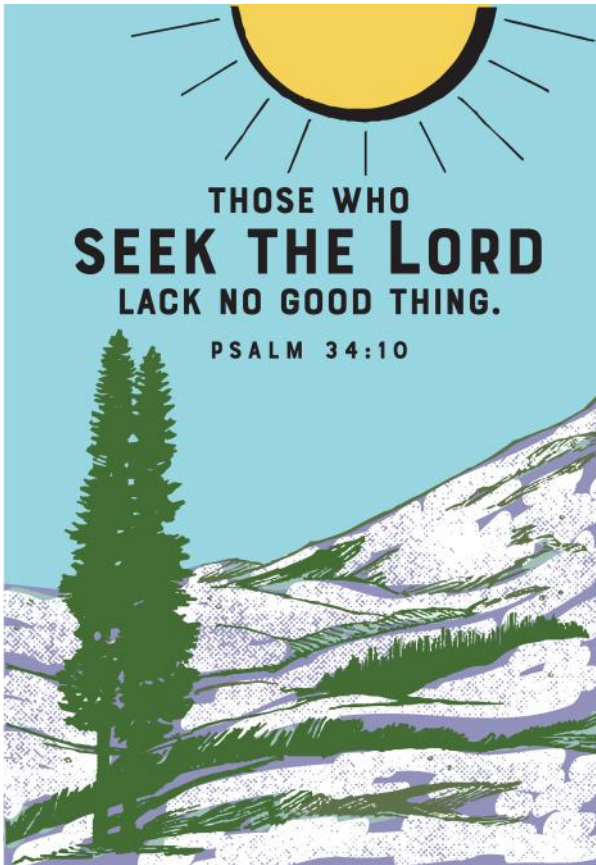


*Life Together at
Christ's United
Lutheran Church*



*Join us for Worship
Saturday 4:30 p. m. & Sunday 9:30 a. m.
Journey & 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 2018

In This Issue:

V.P. Kay's Message	3
Council Highlights	4
Birthdays & Anniversaries	6-7
Prayer List	8
Letters of thanks	9
Serving Our Community of Faith	11
Calendar	12-13
WELCA News	14
Memorials & Honorariums	15
Family Movie Event	17
Puzzle	18
Recipe Swap	19
Blood Drive	20



Status of Accounts as of November 30

Balance in Checking Account.....negative \$11,107.12

Total negative balance year to date \$-1,448.89. .

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our 2017 Annual Budget of

\$179,318.00 is **\$14,943.17**

November income was \$21,908.18

Benevolence Gifts.....\$9,980.73

(49.90% of our Benevolence goal of \$20,000.00 for 2017)





Message from Council V.P. Kay

Happy New Year!

Wow! A whole year has come and gone, and with it has come numerous changes for us here at Christ's United. Some have been good changes and others not so good. No one likes to make changes. We like things to stay the same – familiar, comforting, and friendly. Change takes us out of our comfort zone. We find ourselves in uncharted territory that can be scary and confusing.

But change can also help us to grow. I think that we as a congregation have done just that. We have learned to rely more on God to guide us. We have learned to put our trust in Him and on one another. The ministries at Christ's United continue to flourish. The Living Nativity was wonderful as we shared the story of Jesus' birth to those in the community. Christ's Cupboard still provides for many families in need each month. The Christmas Tree of Giving continues to be a wonderful holiday tradition. When needed everyone has pulled together to make these ministries happen. Just look at Bible school and Trunk and Treat.

At this time of the year people make resolutions to start the New Year – to make their lives better. Some will resolve to quit smoking and others to lose weight. Still others will try to exercise more or to eat healthier. Unfortunately for many, after just a few short weeks they fall off the band wagon and the resolutions are forgotten.

So at this start of a brand New Year, I encourage all of you to resolve to serve the Lord completely with your heart, soul, and mind. I encourage you to resolve to put Christ first in your life – to truly be Christ's United. Let us put our petty differences behind us and instead let us work together in the future to be united in Christ. And let us keep this resolution in our hearts throughout this coming year. Let us be open to any changes that 2018 will bring, and let us embrace them with joy knowing that God is the one in charge. Let us follow and trust in the Lord as He leads us down this exciting new path.

Yours in Christ,

Kay Berner, Vice- President of Church Council





Council Highlights

Church Council Highlights from December:

- General Checking Account Balance as of 11/30/17: \$11,107.12
- Total deficit for the year is \$-1,448.89.
- Annual Congregational Christmas Dinner, held on Dec 3 was a great success.
- Endowment Fund Scholarships of \$400 each were given on November 26 to five students.
- “Building An Engaged Church” Workshop with Pastor Segond has been rescheduled to January 6th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

January’s council Member of the month
is Kay Berner.



The Council Member of the Month the “on call” member of council, person to call if you have any concerns (other than pastoral concerns), notice the church lights on at 11 p.m., or need access

All Committee Secretaries and Treasurers:
Please have your reports submitted to the church office by Monday, January 29, 2018. This is the deadline for all

information so it can be included in the annual congregational report. Our annual meeting is on Sunday, February 18 after worship. Thank You!



Prayer for a new beginning



Dear Lord, touch me with your Spirit of truth so I may be honest about my sins and failures. Forgive me for treating your covenant lightly and at times ignoring it completely. Help me truly seek and know forgiveness for all the hurts I've caused, for harboring ill will and for any hardness of heart I may have. Please renew a right spirit within me that I may become more Christ-like and that my life may daily reveal your love and light. In your name. Amen.

The Meaning of Epiphany

Epiphany, which comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means “an appearance” or “a revealing.” Centuries ago, the church set aside January 6, the 12th day after Christmas, to mark the revealing of Jesus as Christ to the wise men, who were Gentiles. Jesus’ first followers were Jewish, so the revelation of the divine Christ to the non-Jewish magi reminds us that Jesus came to earth to save the whole world.

Symbols of Epiphany include light, a star, a crown (or three crowns) and a globe or stylized portrayal of the world. The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity.

On the church calendar, the Epiphany season lasts until Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter.





January BIRTHDAYS

2	Katelyn Bechtel	16	Rylee Nagle
	Barbara Pennypacker	17	Jim Gruber
	Nathan Smith		Debbie Hall
3	Emily Reichwein	18	Bill Burke
4	David Hepler	19	Deb Zaharick
	Margaret Koons	20	Ian Bendinsky
5	Miles Hudock		Nathan Hepler
	Kevin Wright		Jennie Kosmisky
7	Katrina Economy	21	Karen Schweinhart
	Brenda Knorr	23	David Chuplis
8	Craig Troutman	24	Katherine Bixler
10	Laray Klinger		Rachel Hostetter
	Luke Young	25	Steven Wagner
	Liam Young	30	Allen Johnson
11	Harry Hepler		Caleb Steinbauer
12	Richard Knorr		Amanda Sterling
	Jennifer Lettich-Snyder		
13	Jesse Cascarino		
	Trevor Wilson		
14	Ron Andrews		
	Cheryl Neumeister		
15	Karen Green		
	Hannah Lisowski		





January

ANNIVERSARIES

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



A penguin “parable”

During storms, emperor penguins huddle for warmth, taking turns at the center and on the perimeter of the group. While incubating eggs, up to 6,000 male penguins have been observed clustering for shelter against the harsh Antarctic winter. Partially grown chicks gather in protective “crèches” (French for “cribs”); often surrounded by a colony of adults, these groupings ward off predators and cold.



In stormy times, humans also need supportive groups; we can’t survive alone. A church family allows us to take turns giving and receiving care. Amid social upheaval, injustice, illness, natural disaster and any loss or crisis, God invites us to gather for protection and warmth. In the church community, we support and strengthen one another and are empowered to go out again into the less-sheltered world.



We Offer our Prayers to...

December 31— Rebecca Hepler (V. Hepler), Laura Miller (M. Varndell), Pete Waldick, Family of Randy Moyer, Sally Zaharick (D. Zaharick)

December 24 - Gail Lorady, Jean Cress (S. Tice), Carl Lute (P. Lute), Adam Zaharick (D. Zaharick), Devin Fowler (T. Shilling)

December 17 – Irene Morgan, Minah Horan (R. Berner), Kristel Brennan (C. Brennan), Kathy Bauers (C. Brennan), Janet Quirk, Hannah Lisowski (L. Sterling)

December 10 – Hoenich Family, Jesse & Jeanette Zerby (T. Dengler), Lewis Young (J. Young), Gail Lorady, Family of Harry Lengert

Please continue to pray for: Ava Hubler, Lilly Hubler, Wendy Farnsworth, Nathan Onorofsky; Barbara Stanell, Barrie Neumeister, Doloris Kulpcavage, Wesley Kuzcawa, Richard Berger, Julie Rutko, Eileen Kurtz, Albert Stehr, Michelle Ambrose, Donald Bulla, Carol Stehr, Joe Ferraro Jr., Mark Bennyhoff, Jesse Deeter, Robert & Sandra Beecher, Karyssa Wenrich, Elizabeth Brown, Doris McGurl

*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 Brain Family — Charles & Janice

The Huber Family — Crystal, Zachary, & Katelyn

The Schreiber Family—Brandy



Dear Christ's United Family,

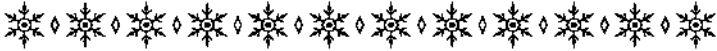
Thank you everyone for your prayers, visits, cards, phone calls and kind thoughts!

I've appreciated them and want you to know they helped so much during my recovery.

May God bless all of you.

Sincerely,

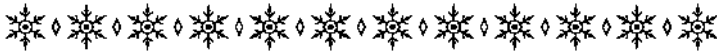
Jim Gruber



Dear CULC Staff / Congregation,

We want to thank you all for all your prayers, well wishes, caring & love for our family in the passing of our mom (Elizabeth Gable) and sister (Hillary Pellish). Thank you to Lois Sterling for the many visits. Thank you to Terry Shilling for adding them to the Prayer List. We appreciate everything. Thank you for being there for us and continuing to be.

Heidi & Rick Walsh & Haley Monae



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.



Three questions

There's a tale of a traveling priest who was confronted by a soldier in pre-revolutionary Russia. Rifle in hand, the soldier barked, "Who are you? Where are you going? Why are you going there?"

Instead of answering, the priest asked how much the soldier was paid — and offered double if the soldier would challenge him with those three questions each day as he passed by.

Those three important questions can guide us on our journey through the brand-new year ahead. For Christians, thankfully, the answers are clear:

- Who are you? "I'm a child of God!"
- Where are you going? "I'm going out into the world!"
- Why are you going there? "I'm going out of love for Jesus, who died for me!"

Place these questions and answers in a spot where you can see them each day. Then go forward confidently, knowing "whose" you are and what your purpose is.



2018 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, and
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.

Serving Our Community of Faith in January :

Date	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte & Tag-a-long	Crucifer	Post Worship Greeter in Narthex	Post Worship Greeter at Door
January 7 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i>	Darcie Gruber	John Denchak Jane Pennypacker Kay Berner John Kimmel	Dennis Wolfe Donna Lassen Becky Spencer	Logan Walacavage	Tanner Walacavage	Kay Berner	Darcie Gruber
January 14 <i>2 Epiphany</i>	Angie Berger			Brian O'Connor & Joey McAndrew	Ashley O'Connor	Angie Berger	Jim Gruber
January 21 <i>3 Epiphany</i>	Donna Lassen			Danielle White & Kaitlyn Werner	Amy Johnson	Darcie Gruber	Donna Lassen
January 28 <i>4 Epiphany</i>	Gail Marquardt			Ryan Walter & Dianna Leshner	Jordan Walter	Jim Gruber	Darcie Gruber

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.

Where did they go?

The items donated to Lutheran world Relief in June, 2017 were tracked this year. The 53 quilts went to Georgia (a region of Eurasia); the 25 personal care kits and 50 school kits went to Bosnia. They will be a blessing to the people who receive them.



LADIES NITE OUT

January 7, 2018

We are going to Brewer's in Shamokin. 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 Congregational Christmas meal was a delicious “experience”. Thank you to Ellie & Jim Chappell with assistance from Rhonda Carl for preparing the ham and stuffed chicken breasts. The “sides” and desserts provided by those attending were very tasty, too. Thank you to Diane Calhoun for organizing the entertainment about Christmas carols.

In Memory of:



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

To Christ's United Lutheran Church Capital Campaign

In Memory of:

Our Parents:

By John & Cheryl Denchak

To Christ's United Matching Funds Challenge

In Memory of:

Marian Brennan

By Janet Quirk

Ralph "Cappy" Johnson

By Grace Johnson

Malcolm & Betty Boyer & Hilda Tielman

By Dean & Barbara Fetterolf

Our Parents

By John & Cheryl Denchak

Margaret Shoup

By Richard Shoup

Robert Deifenderfer

By Dot Zangari

Julia Johnson

By Jack & Frieda Johnson

Lillian, Paul, & Mary Lynn Bereskie

and Michelle Leigh Anczarski

By Joseph, Barbara, Lynn & Joey Anczarski

Our Nana & Poppy Berger

By Nathan & Nelson Berger

In Honor of:

Carla Mae, Robert & Rhonda Carl

By Anna Neumeister



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 items for January:

Diapers, wipes, etc.

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is
Thursday,
January 11, 2018



16





Family
Movie Event
FEB. 17, 2017 5:30-8 pm
Ages 0-100

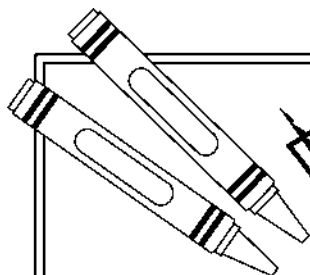
Everyone Welcome
Bring a comfy Pillow and Blanket
if you wish
Hope to see you all there!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THIS
EVENT

Dr. Kay Berner is going to let us use her
copy of "Risen" for the March Family
Movie Event

For more information Please contact
the church office at 570-875-1591.





PUZZLE

A NEW CREATION



The apostle Paul says everyone who believes
in Jesus becomes brand new.



*Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the
blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.*

THIEROEFQORXEIDFAMNYAON
SEILSITNCVHRKISDTTBHEWNE
QWCDREYATMIOC�HFASWCOR
MEGTHWEOF LDXHASSGZONL
ETJHEWNEQWIDSHREROE

! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV

The Recipe Swap

Each time we get together here at Christ's United, many delicious covered dishes are brought to share. Wouldn't it be great if we could share the recipes for these yummy dishes. If you have a recipe you're willing to share please drop it off at the office and we will feature it in new recipe section of an upcoming issue of the newsletter. Thanks for sharing!!



This month's recipe -- World's Best Ambrosia by Jo Ann Young.

World's Best Ambrosia

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 - 29 oz. can Fruit cocktail | 8 oz. Sour Cream |
| 1 - 8 oz. can Pineapple Tidbits | 3 C. Cool Whip |
| 1 - 11 oz. can Mandarin Oranges | 1 C. Miniature Marshmallows |
| 1/2 C. Maraschino Cherries, rinsed | |
| 1 box (1 oz.) Cheesecake Sugar Free Pudding | |

Drain all fruit (if packed in syrup, rinse) and drain.
Combine fruit, sprinkle with pudding mix. Stir in sour cream and cool whip. Mix well. Fold in marshmallows 1 hour before serving.

Jo Ann Young





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 5, 2018
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!

Dear Christ's United Family,

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

Your generosity and support is very much appreciated.



Sincerely,
Christ's United Staff

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.



Christ's United Ministry Teams

Christian Education
education@christssunited.org

Evangelism/Outreach
evangelism@christssunited.org

Lutheran Church Men (LCM)
lcm@christssunited.org

Social Ministry
socialministry@christssunited.org

Stewardship

WELCA
welca@christssunited.org

Worship & Music
music@christssunited.org

Christ's United Committees

Auditing & Finance Committees
finance@christssunited.org

Endowment Fund
endowment@christssunited.org

Mutual Ministry

Nominating
council@christssunited.org

Personnel
personnel@christssunited.org

Property
property@christssunited.org

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.

So faith by itself,
IF IT HAS NO WORKS,
is dead.



JAMES 2:17, NRSV



CHURCH COUNCIL 2017

council@christsunited.org

	Phone	Term Expires
Dr. Kay Berner	570-875-1035	Feb. 2020
vicepresident@christsunited.org		
Nancy Lindenmuth	570-875-3138	Feb. 2018
Secretary		
Beth Andrews	570-874-2381	Feb. 2018
Angie Berger	570-875-3598	Feb. 2019
Terry Shilling	570-875-0412	Feb. 2019
Erik Tice	570-875-2681	Feb. 2020
John Towey	570-205-2682	Feb. 2018
Mark Varndell	570-875-2545	Feb. 2019
Steven Wolfgang	570-875-9660	Feb. 2020

DESIGNATED PASTOR

Rev. Brian Beissel
570-516-1787

STAFF

Parish Visitor	Lois Sterling	570-449-6947
lois@christsunited.org		
Parish Administrator	Deb Hall	570-875-1591
office@christsunited.org		570-789-9722
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-3:00		
Director of Music	Diane Calhoun	570-874-2580
diane.calhoun@gmail.com		
Treasurer	Ann Marie Dillman	570-875-2422
treasurer@christsunited.org		
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
23

