

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

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July



The CULC Messenger
God's Work,
Our Actions



"WHAT SHALL WE SAY THE
 KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE?"
Mark 4:30, NIV

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

www.christsunited.org

(570) 875-1591

July 2024

CHURCH COUNCIL 2024

	Phone	Term Expires
Kay Berner President	570-875-1035	Feb. 2026
Ken Dengler Vice President	570-933-5144	Feb. 2025
Morgen Sweitzer Secretary	717-858-9824	Feb. 2026
Robert Carl	570-590-7281	Feb. 2025
Darlene Stank	570-875-1644	Feb. 2025
Barbara Stepanchick	570-875-1114	Feb. 2027
Janet Towey	270-205-3420	Feb. 2027
John Towey	270-205-2682	Feb. 2027
Michael Yoder	570-205-1701	Feb. 2026

Youth Representative - Maura Sweitzer

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

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Status of Accounts as of May 31

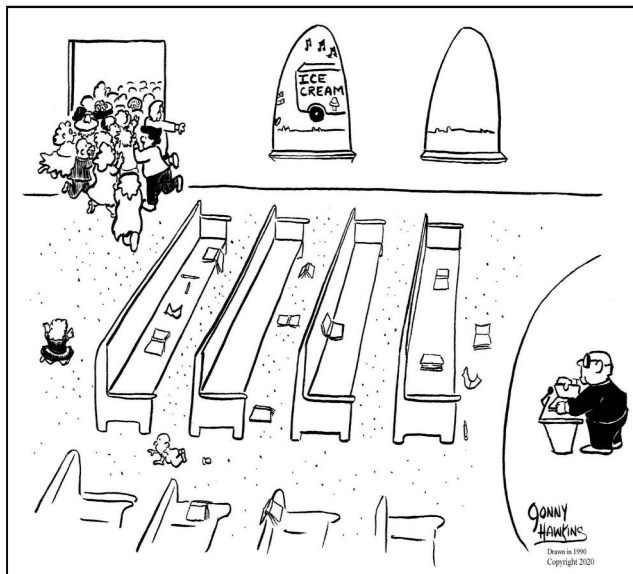
Total amount in checking account:
\$132,646.03

Amount needed in offerings per month
to meet our 2024 Annual Budget of
\$203,168.00 is \$16,930.00.

Income for May was \$13,327.31.

Expenses for May were \$17,754.46,
resulting in a net loss of \$4,427.15.

Benevolence for May was \$1,039.00.



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...



Take nice sip of coffee—real or metaphorical—sit back, and imagine Christ's United 10 years from now.

I'm going to guess that many of us first envisioned things pretty much as they are now: worship following a pattern similar to what it has been (perhaps with enhanced technology), groups still carrying on the servant work of the church (and I cannot tell you often enough how impressed I am with what you do for God's hurting world), pretty much the same group of people.

And of course, we know that's unlikely. OK, ten years maybe, but 15 or 20? Improbable. We are not a young crowd, and we are unlikely to manage a Sarah and Abraham trick and repopulate the church with babies. Even if we do, we're not doing a banner job of keeping them involved. That is, of course, not a unique situation. I am impressed with how faithful acolytes are at showing up when assigned, and I wonder whether more responsibility might make them likelier to attend when they're not serving?

Granted that we are unlikely to discover a mother lode of similar people (although you did that brilliantly and bravely when you merged) how can this congregation begin to think about being Church—with our Lutheran integrity intact—for others? Who might they be? what might it look like?

I'm proposing a task force to consider these issues. I have no agenda here, I'm just proposing prayerful thought discussion, research, and willingness to try to hear what the Spirit might be whispering. Interested? Let me know.



Christian symbol

CATHEDRAL FLOOR PLAN —

Traditionally, a cathedral is laid out in the shape of a cross. The lower section or nave (from Latin for ship), along with the transepts (the arms of the cross), is where the congregation sits. The choir sits on either side of the chancel. Despite our common terminology, the sanctuary (from Latin for holy) isn't the full worship space but the area right before the altar. The location of the lectern, from which Scripture is read, and pulpit, used for preaching, may vary.



Church Council Highlights From June

- Total in the General Fund is \$132,646.03.
- Memorial account balance is \$51,005.58.
- Income for May was \$13,327.31.
- Expenses for May were \$17,754.46.
- No regular Council meeting is scheduled for July.
- A special meeting will possibly be scheduled to discuss investments.

July Council Contact of the month is Barb Stepanchick.

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 Barb, she can be reached at 570-875-1114.



Council Member
of the Month



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

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

**Monday, August 5, 2024
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!

There will be a meeting
of the Garden Club
on Thursday, July 11
at 6:30 P.M.



**Garden
Club**

Redeeming 'wasted' time

In *Just Like Jesus*, Max Lucado writes that the average American spends a total of six months waiting at stoplights, eight months opening junk mail, 18 months looking for items we've lost and five years standing in line. All the while, many of us grumble: "What a waste of time! I could be doing something much more important! *Where* are my keys?"

But Lucado suggests that we give these moments to God. Rather than whispering to ourselves, we can speak to God in prayer. "Simple phrases such as 'Thank you, Father,' 'Be sovereign in this hour, O Lord,' 'You are my resting place, Jesus' can turn a commute into a pilgrimage," he writes. "You needn't leave your office or kneel in your kitchen. Just pray where you are. Let the kitchen become a cathedral or the classroom a chapel. Give God your whispering thoughts."

When we do this, "the common becomes uncommon," Lucado adds. What's more, "wasted" time becomes valuable; boring waits become meditative; the lost — your time, if not also your keys — is redeemed.

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.



Member's Message by Angie Berger

When I think of July I think about sunny weather, picnic celebrations and sharing and making memories to cherish. We can get so caught up in the current events of our lives that we lose sight of where it all began. Our father in heaven is responsible for all of creation. He created everything on earth and he created us. Please do not forget to appreciate the world around you as in Genesis chapter 2. Have you ever noticed how the clouds makes dancing figures in the sky? A beautiful sunrise, sunset or the green grass. It is so easy to go on with our busy lives and forget to just stop for a moment and appreciate Gods' work.

We were at our camper and two squirrels caught my eye. I just stopped and watched as they ran from one tree to the next, up higher and higher, gleefully, chasing one another then jumping out onto limbs, they were having a blast. This is just one example, please do not forget to stop and breath for a moment. It helps to relax you and quiets the soul, reminding us of the fulfillment God had intended for us to experience.

God passed on to us his love, compassion and forgiveness to enjoy and to share in our lives. He made the ultimate sacrifice for us in Jesus. He wants us to live according to his plan he has already laid out since before we were born. Feeling his love and forgiveness and stopping to appreciate one of his many creations is the best feeling. Share his love with others around you and "Stop to smell the roses" (as they say) once in a while.

Witness a sunrise or sunset – relax and enjoy Gods' masterpieces. Look in the mirror to see just one of Gods greatest creations.

"This is the day the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it."
Psalm 118:24

Your sister in Christ,

Angie Berger

Bible Quiz

In the final poem of Psalms, what musical instrument is mentioned as a means to praise the Lord?

- A. brass
- B. percussion
- C. strings
- D. woodwinds
- E. all of the above



Answer: E (See Psalm 150:3-5.)

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.

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 Bolich Family - Brian, Brandy, Bryonna & Jasmine
- The Rickert Family - Brad
- The Wolfe Family - Ron, Trisha, Ryan & Brooke



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

In Memory of Marlene Lucas by:
Bill & Sandy Miller
Grant & Sandy Marlow
Edna Labie
Donald & Laray Klinger

To Christ's Cupboard

In Memory of Marlene Lucas by:
Ron & Donna Wallace
Terry & Dorothy Kessler

In Memory of Dorothy Zangari by:
Ron & Beth Andrews
Ron & Donna Wallace
Terry & Dorothy Kessler

To Christ's United's Good Samaritan Fund

In Honor & Memory of Fathers of CULC by:
WELCA

To Christ's United's Endowment Fund

In Memory of Dorothy Zangari by:
Jo-Ann Young

CULC YOUTH GROUP

Activities



Due to lack of attendance, Youth Group Activities are suspended until further notice.

*The CULC Messenger
God's Work, Our Actions*

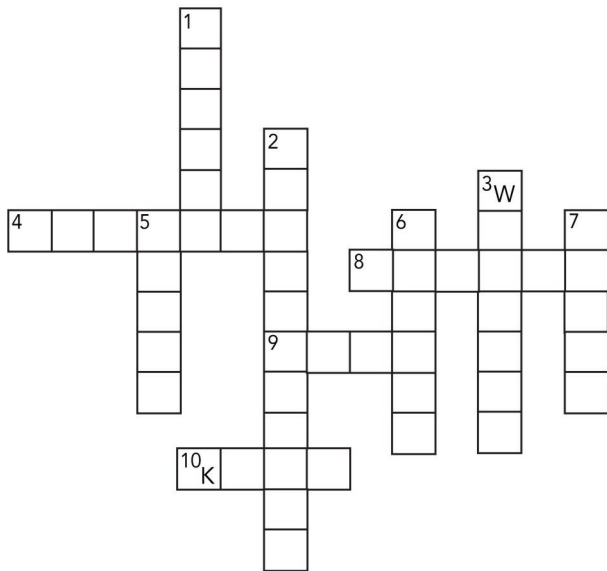




THE WONDER OF STARS

The heavens display evidence of God's great power.
What else does the Bible say about the sky?

Directions: Use the clues and Bible references (all NIV) to complete the crossword.



DOWN

- The sun, moon and stars do this to God. (Psalm 148:3)
- God made these as numerous as the stars. (Genesis 26:4)
- Don't do this to the stars and sky. (Deuteronomy 4:19)
- What do the heavens declare? (Psalm 19:1)
- The moon and the stars do this at night. (Psalm 136:9)
- When we're pure, we do this like the stars. (Philippians 2:15)

ACROSS

- The heavens are the work of these. (Psalm 8:3)
- On what day did God create the stars? (Genesis 1:14-19)
- God calls each star by this. (Isaiah 40:26)
- A star announced the arrival of him. (Matthew 2:2)

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.**

June 23 – Anthony Parris (S. Tice)
Bailey Romberger (L. Rickert)
Leroy Berner (D. Berner)
Julie Klinger
Connie Weinreich (S. Marlow)
Samantha Schifano (C. Varndell)
Families of Marlene Lucas
Dave Matthews (C. Varndell)

June 16 - Laura Thomas (E. Werner)
Families of Robert May
Dorothy Zangari
Paul Hepler

June 9 – Judy Moser (P. Lute)
Bev Wolfgang (C. Carl)

June 2 – Erin Gower
David Fetterolf
Jimmie Houston (T. Wolfe)
Linda Herb Szuler (T. Wolfe)

Please continue to pray for:

Corrine & Josh Coward, Jim Gruber, Annette Houser, Jack Houser, Jim Houser Jenny Kosmisky, Barbara Liem, Gail Lorady, Pearl & Carl Lute, Dianna Monaghan, Jane Pennypacker, Cheryl Varndell, Heidi Walsh, Kayla Werner

Remember our Home-bound:

Leroy Berner, Diane Heidlebaugh, Jim Hepler, Nancy Kessler, Marlene Lucas, Gail Marquardt, Anna Neumeister, Richard Shoup, Karen Smith, Linda Zerby

And Friends:

Michele & Amber Adams, Michelle Ambrose, Robert Beecher, Donald Bulla, Ed Emerich, Joe Ferraro Jr., Harry Fishburn, Bob Griffiths, Cathy Groody, Dan Grow, Ann Helwig, Minah Horan, Tracy Maurer, Lisa Metzinger, Angie Romberger, Elizabeth Smith & family, Elaine Stone, Pastor Sunny, Joe Towey, Rose Varndell, Karyssa Wenrich



2	Heather Schweinhart	13	Deb Price
3	Mindy Burke		Todd Walacavage
	Dustin Koons	14	Peter Hepler
	Joan Clark		Samuel Troup, Jr.
	John E. Shilling	15	Samantha Schneider
5	Christopher Dillman	17	Wesley Long
6	Chris Brennan		Maura Sweitzer
	James Locker		Tami Wagner
	Sally Tice	18	Jennifer Singleton
	Ron Wallace	19	Kylie Sisko
7	Jeremiah Johnson	20	Dylan Heyer
	Michelle Knorr	22	Jeremy Rock
	Rick Lorady	23	Kimberly Miller
	Patrick Monaghan	24	Tyson Fetterolf
	Jeffrey Sharp		Fletcher Sterling
	Daniel Sisko	26	Carla Mae Carl
9	Larry Wolfgang		Rachael Green
10	Nelson Berger, Jr.		Thomas Wolfgang
	Keith Yoder		Zeke Shingara
11	Eric Singleton	27	Lydia Price
	Deb Hubler	28	David Cunningham, Sr.
12	Dylan Barker		Diane Rock
	William Harris		Brayden Ladick
			Jamie Pennypacker
		29	Hannah Towey
		30	Kylie Mallams
		31	Barbara Fetterolf



Northeastern PA Synod 37th Assembly was held on Saturday, June 8th at Atonement Lutheran, Wyomissing.

I (Donna Wallace) "attended via Zoom as CULC delegate and voted by iPhone connection. The assembly sessions were recorded and are able to be viewed by all interested on nepasynod.org/assembly2024/. A report of some of the assembly highlights was provided to Council. A few are listed below.

1) Resolution to reaffirm Synod's commitment to welcoming and loving the whole body of Christ.... we encourage and invite all people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, races and ethnicities, ages, socioeconomic statuses, abilities, citizenship and migration statuses to participate fully in the life and work of the church. (YES - 266 NO - 38)

2) Mission District Assembly Dean shall be selected from ministers, under call or retired whose congregational membership is in the Mission District. (YES - 266 NO - 32)

3) A Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) who is serving as a pastoral presence on a congregation shall have voice and vote at Synod assembly. (YES - 271 NO - 19)

The 6261 Ministry Community pilot group was introduced and spoke about how it is being set up to serve six Reading congregations (6261 stands for 6 congregations working together with 2 ordained pastors, 6 lay ministers, and 1 deacon).



I want to thank all of my family at CULC who helped me raise \$625.00 this year for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. I appreciate your support.

Love,
Maura



Save the Date
 Women of ELCA Picnic
"Under the Sea"
 August 7, 2024
 6:00 pm
 Details to follow in August newsletter.



QUILTS and KITS for LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

A few weeks ago there was a post on Facebook about LWR in Baltimore showing hospitality to the seafarers on ships trapped on board by the March 26 crash into the Key Bridge in Baltimore Harbor. The crews did not have visas that would allow them to leave their ships. LWR provided 150 quilts and personal care kits across seven ships. **It could have been some of the quilts and Personal Care kits that CULC donated this past year!**

This year the Knaughty Knotters completed 81 knotted quilts. Thank you to the "knotters" who prepared and finished the quilts. The quilts along with 50 school kits and 40 Personal Care kits were blessed at June 9th worship service and will be taken to In Gathering on June 21st.

Thank you to all who donated material or batting, items for school and Personal Care kits, or made monetary donations to help make this happen.

Also thank you for Thrivent Action Team grants provided by CULC member to purchase supplies.

The power of your compassionate donates and time to create quilts brings comfort and hope to our neighbors both near and far!



- | | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 07/08/76 | James & Jo Conrath |
| 07/08/95 | Greg & Penny Lindenmuth |
| 07/10/93 | Gary & Connie Weinreich |
| 07/10/93 | Thomas & Michelle Hood |
| 07/15/22 | Derek & Amanda Whritenour |
| 07/28/01 | Rick & Gail Lorady |
| 07/30/05 | Susan & Shaun McNally |
| 07/30/22 | Zach Ridall & Rhonda Carl |
| 07/31/70 | James & Carol Reiner |



Do you sing or play a musical instrument? If so, consider sharing your musical gifts with your church family this summer. The choir is on a well-deserved break and we are hoping to schedule a variety of special music throughout the season. Guitar, piano, flute, trumpet, harmonica - all are welcome! Soloists, duets, quartets-we'd love to hear you! Gospel, Contemporary, Classical, Praise - all will enhance our worship!

Contact Jamie Johnson to schedule a Sunday if you are willing to provide special music.

2024 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.

Prepared for a purpose

Timothy Dalrymple, president and CEO of *Christianity Today*, was a successful Stanford gymnast with Olympic dreams. But he broke his neck before the 1996 Olympic Trials and never reached his sport's "promised land." Although the injury led to chronic pain, Dalrymple doesn't regret his pursuit or even the fall.

Even while hospitalized, he experienced "a profound assurance" of God's loving presence. "If I could know the peace of God even when my health and hopes were stripped away from me, then what did I have to fear?" he writes. "It was a liberating revelation. Since God is with us even in the valley of the shadow of death, we need fear no evil, for no evil can take God away."

In the long run, so-called failure can matter more than victory, Dalrymple learned. "The purpose of my gymnastics career was never to purchase a few shining moments of gold-medal glory but to prepare me for the rest of my life. It was never about making me a champion. It was about [shaping me into the image of Christ and] making me an instrument [for the glory of Christ and for the good of the world]."



ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES: ARE YOU ATTENDING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS (college, university, trade school, nursing/medical school, business school, ENTERING THE MILITARY SERVICE, OR ARE STARTING A JOB?

The Endowment Fund Committee is accepting requests for the 2024 scholarships of \$500 for full time students/military service and \$100 for employed graduates.

ADULT MEMBERS WHO HAVE ENROLLED IN POST SECONDARY PROGRAMS ARE ALSO ELIGIBLE FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP.


Active members of the congregation are eligible to receive a scholarship by submitting a letter of request by OCTOBER 1st, to a committee member: Terry Ambrose, Carla Mae Carl, Becky Spencer, Terry Shilling, or Jo-Ann Young.

The letter should include: Your name and address, name of the school attending, or military branch, or employer, your status (freshman, senior, etc), field of study/certification or degree, and projected time of graduation.

Please be advised, you must be an ACTIVE MEMBER of the congregation and be present on December 1st when scholarships are given out during the worship service.



Pray for Our College Students

The CULC Messenger
God's Work, Our Actions 

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.

~ 2024 ~

- 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 June:

Peanut Butter

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is
**Thursday
July 11, 2024**





Serving Our Community of Faith in July:



Date	Supply Pastor/ Worship Leader	Congrega- tional Rep/ Announce- ments	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer
July 7	Rev. Mindy Heppe	Kay Berner	Erik Tice	Becky Spencer b Allen Johnson c/d Ted Ambrose so	Erik Tice AM Kay Berner Donna Wallace	Kaitlyn Werner	Kayla Werner
July 14	Pastor Ben Scott		Jacob Tice	→		Sawyer Smith	—
July 21	Rev. Mindy Heppe		Sally Tice			Marisa Seritsky	—
July 28	Pastor Ben Scott		Barb Stepanchick			Joey McAndrew	—

July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			10:30 Seniors			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion			10:30 Seniors	10:00 - 11:30 Christ's Cupboard 6:30 Garden Club Meeting 		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 Worship			10:30 Seniors			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 Worship 10:30 Worship & Music Mtg			8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors			
28	29	30	31			
9:30 Worship  12			10:30 Seniors			<i>The CULC Messenger</i> <i>God's Work, Our Actions</i> 