



Christ's United Lutheran Church  
437 Airport Road  
Ashland, PA 17921  
[www.christsunited.org](http://www.christsunited.org)

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Pottsville, PA  
PERMIT NO. 25

June



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



*Join us for Worship - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.*  
*Sunday School - October through May*  
*1st & 3rd Sundays @ 10:45 a.m.*  
*Contemporary Worship Service -*  
*First Saturday of each month at 6:00 p.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

June 2025

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### Status of Accounts as of April 30

Total amount in checking account: \$106,213.52.

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our 2025 Annual Budget of \$227,589.00 is \$18,965.75.

Income for April was \$15,066.31.

Expenses for April were \$19,523.76, resulting in a net loss of \$4,457.45.

Benevolence for April was \$665.38.

## CHURCH COUNCIL 2025

	Phone	Term Expires
John Towey, President	570-205-2682	Feb. 2027
Kay Berner, Vice President	570-875-1035	Feb. 2026
Morgen Sweitzer, Secretary	717-858-9824	Feb. 2026
Jamie Johnson	570-590-1678	Feb. 2028
Suzanne Peel	570-590-5023	Feb. 2026
Virgil Smith	570-205-6979	Feb. 2028
Barbara Stepanchick	570-875-1114	Feb. 2027
Janet Towey	570-205-3420	Feb. 2027
Mark Varndell	570-205-8002	Feb. 2028

Youth Representative - Maura Sweitzer

### PASTOR

Rev. Brian Beissel

570-516-1787

**\*Pastor Brian's Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays  
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. or other times by appointment.

### STAFF

**Parish Administrator** Debbie Hall 570-875-1591  
office@christsunited.org 570-789-9722  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30 am- 4:30 pm

<b>Director of Music</b>	Jamie Johnson	570-590-1678
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ann Marie Dillman	570-449-2021
<b>Indoor Custodian</b>	Ann Ray Begis	570-590-2729
<b>Outdoor Custodian</b>	Dennis Wolfe	570-875-9085
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Christine Brennan	570-875-0720



## 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.*

## Christian symbol



22

**RIVER** — In the Bible, rivers (and other bodies of water) often represent deliverance, salvation, freedom and cleansing. The Jordan River is especially prominent: The Israelites crossed it to enter the Promised Land after God delivered them from slavery, and John baptized Jesus (and many other people) there. The image of crossing the Jordan River has long been a metaphor for death — crossing from earthly to heavenly life, from worldly struggles to the bliss of God's kingdom, from physical ailments to the wholeness of a resurrection body.

## **Message from Pastor Brian**



Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

I end up having a lot of interesting conversations (such as the one I talked about in May where the woman was aghast at me for not wearing a coat on a Saturday morning). One of the “perks” of my vocation is that I am invited into peoples’ lives simply on the basis of being a pastor, and I really, really get to know the people. At least I hope I do.

I’ve been thinking a lot about who we are and how we communicate that to people. Sometimes we have things we don’t want people to know about us

And you know what? I think a lot of those things are universal.

I don’t care who you are - you have something in your past that you do not want anyone to know. You have things in your family history that you are uncomfortable talking about. You likely have a personal struggle you would like to hide away.

However, my brothers and sisters -we are all in this together. Sometimes this may be a reluctant together, but we are all indeed in this life together, both the times when we feel like we have it together and the times when we are struggling. And I have a feeling, for most of us, we have it together far less than we would like to admit.

So this summer, come and join in the conversations. And let us work together to cultivate an environment where nobody is afraid to share their true self.

You’ve probably noticed that I share in my sermons stories that don’t necessarily paint me in the best light. This is absolutely intentional. Not only does it go along with what I was taught in seminary, but I believe those stories make me relatable (and, for good or bad, they are largely true with the possibility of an identity being changed here or there).

— continued on page 4

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



Sometime soon, we are all going to have something come up that will cause stress that we didn't plan (and, really, there's no such thing as planned stress).

Sometime soon, we are all going to hear news that we don't want to hear, be it about our area, a friend, or even ourselves.

Sometime soon, we are all going to do something that we will regret, out of anger or jealousy or some other emotion that we don't want to feel.

BUT

Sometime soon, you will be a source of support for someone that God has put in your path.

Sometime soon, you will experience unexpected joy that God has placed in your life.

Sometime soon, the Phillies will win the World Series err, strike that. That's the earthly, not the heavenly. Sometime soon, you will have the opportunity to make your blessings spread out to be another's blessing.

Peace to you on the way,

Pastor Brian Beissel



## Schedule for June:

Your Pastor invites you to lunch! Here is the schedule for June. Lunch begins at 12 noon.

June 4: Danny's, Ashland

Monthly Evening Bible Study will be held on

June 11th at Green's in Lavelle at 6:00 p.m.

# Vacation Bible School



Join us for "Magnified"  
and *Discover the Bigness of God*  
*In the Smallest of Things*



Students  
Age 3 yrs-  
6th Grade

Mon - Tues - Wed  
**July 21 - 23**  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Each evening's experience includes  
Bible Stories, Music, Crafts, Snacks

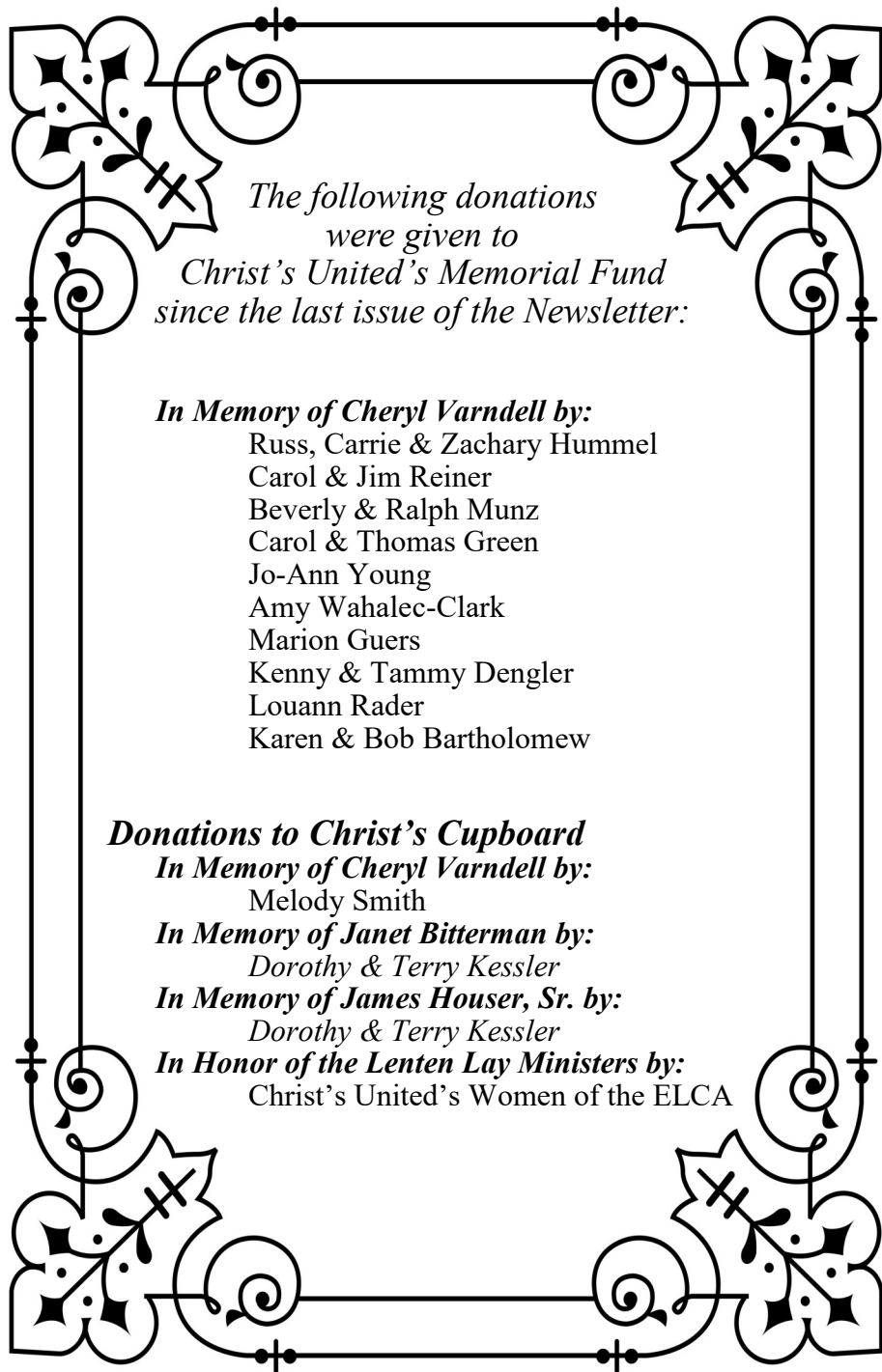
Register child(ren) on the bulletin board  
or call the church office by July 1.

Please include Name, Age/Grade completed,  
Parent/Guardian name and Phone Number.

A registration form with student information  
must be completed on first night of VBS







## Council Highlights

## Church Council Highlights From May

- There was no regular Council meeting held in May.



## Saturday Evening Contemporary Worship Service

Join us at 6 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month as our new Praise Band leads us in an informal worship service with uplifting music. Holy Communion is celebrated by Intinction. **The worship service for June will be held on June 14.**



*Summer Music*

Do you sing or play a musical instrument? If so, would you 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.

## June Council Contact of the month is John Towey.

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 John, he can be reached at 570-205-2682.



## 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 Carl Family - Rhonda Carl and Zachary Ridall  
The Shadle Family - Ted, Penny & Kimberly  
The Zak Family - Jacob & Deborah



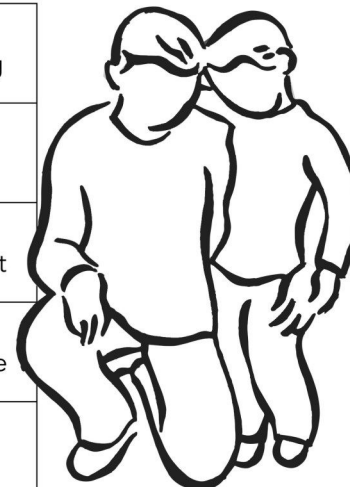
## FATHERS OF FAITH

Fathers do amazing things for their families, but the greatest gift our dads can share with us is their faith in God.

Complete this puzzle to read Isaiah's advice to fathers.

*Directions: Working left to right, first write down all the 1's in the word blanks.  
Continue with the 2's and finally the 3's.*

<b>1</b> The	<b>2</b> as	<b>3</b> tell	<b>1</b> living
<b>2</b> I	<b>3</b> their	<b>1</b> the	<b>2</b> am
<b>3</b> children	<b>1</b> living	<b>2</b> doing	<b>3</b> about
<b>1</b> they	<b>2</b> today	<b>3</b> your	<b>1</b> praise
<b>2</b> parents	<b>3</b> faithfulness	<b>1</b> you	



\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

*Isaiah 38:19, NIV*

Answers: The living, the living—they praise you, as I am doing today; parents tell their children about your faithfulness. Isaiah 38:19, NIV

# CULC SENIOR YOUTH GROUP




**Senior Youth Group**  
(Grades 7 - 12)

Watch for the next activity  
scheduled for the Youth Group  
and plan to attend.




## IN MY FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

Make this keepsake to express  
love for your dad or another  
special man this Father's Day.




**What you need:**

- White construction paper (11" x 13" sheet)
- Pencil
- Black permanent marker
- Crayons or paint



**What you do:**

1. In the center of the paper, trace your foot in pencil. Darken the outline with marker.
2. Color or paint the footprint. Let it dry.
3. Trace your father's foot (same side) on top of your footprint (with yours in the middle of his).
4. Color or paint his footprint. Let it dry.
5. Sign your names and the date at the bottom.



## 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.**



## PRAYER REQUESTS

**May 25 –** Dennis Wolfe  
Carla Walters (G. Marquardt)  
J.T. Wilcox (D. Zaharick)  
Families of Daniel Werner  
David Boppel, Sr.  
Rick Walsh

**May 18 –** Frances Bressler (V. Brown)  
Family of Diane Rodes (B. Price)

**May 11 -** Carl (Mick) Lute (P. Lute)  
Heidi Walsh (T. Shilling)

**May 4 –** Christina Dudley (Deb Price)  
Jeff Brennan  
Family of Rick Bender (K. Dengler)

**Please continue to pray for:** Corrine & Josh Coward, Jim Gruber, Annette Houser, Jack Houser, Jim Houser Jr., Allen Johnson, Jenny Kosmisky, Barbara Liem, Gail Lorady, Pearl & Carl Lute, Dianna Monaghan, Kayla Werner,

**Remember our Home-bound:** Leroy Berner, Diane Heidlebaugh, Jim Hepler, Nancy Kessler, 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., Jim Fetterolf, Bob Griffiths, Cathy Groody, Dan Grow, Ann Helwig, Minah Horan, Donna Hughes, Bob Kinlin, Lisa Metzinger, Angie Romberger, Bailey Romberger, Samantha Schifano, Sarah (Herb) Shanks (T. Wolfe), Elizabeth Smith & family, Pastor Sunny Stock, Elaine Stone, Linda (Herb) Szuler (T. Wolfe), Joe Towey, John Towey Jr., Rose Varndell, Olivia Wagner, Karyssa Wenrich, Bev Wolfgang





- 1 Maxwell Pennypacker  
Barb Stepanchick  
Ashley Williard
- 2 Michael Lucas
- 3 Thomas Hood  
Rose Pennypacker  
Nathaniel Shadle
- 4 Lindsay Fetterolf  
Douglas Fetterolf  
Michelle Lavelle  
Joseph Smith
- 5 Amber Krise  
James Reiner  
Ted Shadle
- 6 Kimberly Zweizig
- 8 Don Dillman  
Kayla Troutman
- 9 Shannon Marlow
- 10 Rhea McNally
- 11 Erik Tice
- 12 Randy Green  
Breonna Klinger
- 14 Jennifer McGrath  
William Waldick, Jr.
- 15 Julia Pirie

- 16 Dorothy Kessler
- 17 Daniel Barker  
Stephanie Cook  
William Coward, Jr.  
David Mullins III
- 18 Susan McNally  
Madelyn Wolfgang  
Meredyth Towey
- 19 Luke Allison  
Bruce Bitting, Jr.  
Gerald Stutzman  
Brenda Yoder
- 20 Bruce Bitting  
Joey McAndrew
- 21 Bryson Nagle  
Matthew Zweizig
- 22 Lindsay Bixler  
Ava Hubler
- 23 Corrine Coward  
Amy Johnson
- 24 Linda Rickert  
Aidan Romberger
- 25 Gracelyn Anthony
- 26 Laura Brennan  
Michelle Hood  
Gerald Stehr
- 27 Richard Shoup  
Brandy Speer
- 29 James Johnson
- 30 Gail Marquardt  
June Sweinhart  
Ryan Heyer



## OUR 2025 GRADUATES

**Dylan Buhay** is graduating from North Schuylkill High School. He plans to pursue a career in Cyber Security.

**Logan Walacavage** is graduating from North Schuylkill High School. He plans to apply to a State Correctional Facility as a Corrections Officer.

**Kaitlyn Werner** graduates from North Schuylkill High School.

**Deidre Dengler** is graduating from Alvernia University. She has earned her Masters Degree in Occupational Therapy.

**Desiree Dengler** graduated from Penn State Schuylkill with a degree in Radiological Science

**Amy Johnson** graduated from Penn State Schuylkill with a degree in Radiological Science

MAY HE GRANT  
YOUR  
HEARTS  
DESIRES & MAKE ALL  
YOUR  
PLANS SUCCEED





The next meeting of  
Women of the ELCA is on  
Wednesday, May 7 at 6:00 PM.  
All women of CULC are  
welcome to attend.



### **Blessing of Lutheran World Relief Quilts and Kits**

A blessing for the 80 knotted quilts, 50 school kits, and 25 personal care kits will be given at the June 15th worship service. We will pray for those who will receive these items in their time of need as an out reach of love.

Thru contributions from the congregation and Thrivent Action Team funds, we were able to assemble the kits and receive batting for the quilts. The Knaughty Knotters completed the quilts.

The kits and quilts will be packed and taken to the In Gathering at Pioneer Pole Building on June 20 and then transported to LWR in Baltimore, MD for distribution around the world. Thank you to all who contributed and volunteered to prepare items.

## ***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](http://www.christsunited.org) or scan the QR code to learn how you can participate.



06/04/77	Bill & Deb Price
06/09/12	Ross & Amanda Sterling
06/13/59	Carl & Pearl Lute
06/14/08	George & Jennie Kosmisky
06/15/92	Maynard & Susan Merwine
06/15/96	Bruce & Anne Pirie
06/15/02	Jeff & Rachel Hostetter
06/20/09	Jason & Katie Brown
06/26/10	Richard & Cheryl Weikel
06/30/11	Ted & Terry Ambrose

## **2025 Sponsorships**

The sponsorship sign up sheets are 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.





# American Red Cross Community Blood Drive Christ's United Lutheran Church

437 Airport Road (Gordon)  
Ashland, PA 17921

**Monday, June 2, 2025**  
**1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

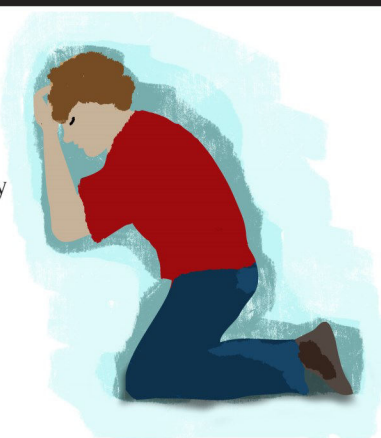
Please contact Debbie Hall or call  
1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2676) or visit  
[www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
to schedule an appointment.

Open to the public and walk-Ins are Welcome!

## ?? Bible Quiz ??

Who said to the prophet Nathan,  
"I have sinned against the LORD?"

- A. Reuben, for selling Joseph into slavery
- B. Jacob, for deceiving Isaac and stealing his brother's birthright
- C. Rahab, a prostitute
- D. David, considered Israel's greatest king



Answer: D (See 2 Samuel 12:13.)



We were blessed to have Archlet Duverne with us in February as he told us more about the H2Ope Ministry.



H2Ope Ministries™ is a non-profit organization dedicated to alleviating one of the single biggest problems facing families living in extreme poverty in Haiti: access to water. Through a simple, yet highly effective method of building individual water reservoirs for vulnerable families, we are helping to transform communities in rural Haiti. Join us as we begin raising funds - Our goal is to build one 5,500-gallon reservoir to help a family in need. The total needed to build the reservoir is \$2,500. Our first fund raiser will be held Saturday, June 7 as part of the Gordon Townwide Yard Sale. We will be selling hot dogs and drinks at 305 McKnight Street. Stop in and support this worthy cause!

There will also be a water jug in the Narthex for you to contribute your loose change and monetary donations. Let's build a reservoir!!!

## Bridge 127 Collection



### During the month of June

Bring in your NEW or Nearly New shoes  
We are collecting shoes of all kinds, Dress shoes, Sneakers,  
Sports shoes and others  
For Men, Women, and Children

Please make sure they are lightly used, we cannot accept worn out or old shoes. They still have to have some life in them so they may be given to those who come to Bridge 127 in Pottsville for assistance. There will be a collection container in the Narthex.



# 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.

~ 2025 ~

- June/July/August** - No Social Hour
- September**—Choir/ Worship & Music / LCM
- October**—Church Council
- November** - Social Ministry
- December** - Evangelism/ Endowment/Stewardship



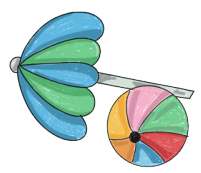
We will be collecting the following items for April:

## Canned & Boxed Potatoes

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday  
**June 12, 2025**



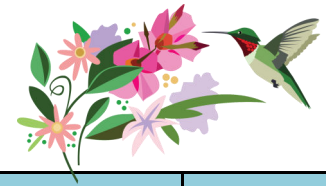
## Serving Our Community of Faith in June:



Date	Congregational Rep/Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer
June 1	Jacob Tice	Jacob Tice	Barb Stepanchick Allen Johnson Terry Neumeister	Larry Wolfgang Ken Dengler Barb Anczarski	Cole Johnson	Eli Pennypacker
June 8 Day of Pentecost	Angie Berger	Erik Tice		Erik Tice Angie Berger Barb Stepanchick	Nelson Berger	Joe McAndrew
June 15 Holy Trinity		Kay Berner		John Towey Becky Spencer Donna Wallace	Cole Johnson	Volunteer needed
June 22		Larry Wolfgang			Kayla Werner	—
June 29		Becky Spencer			Ava Hubler	—



# June 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion Blessing of Graduates	 1 - 6 pm Red Cross Blood Drive		10:30 Seniors 12:00 Lunch with Pastor Brian 6:00 WELCA 7:00 Church Council			
8 Day of Pentecost	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion & Rite of Confirmation			10:30 Seniors  6:00 Bible Study at Green's, Lavelle	10 - 11:30 Christ's Cupboard 		 6:00 Contemporary Worship Service
15 Holy Trinity	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion & Quilt Blessing 			10:30 Seniors			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:30 Worship			8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors			
29	30					
9:30 Worship Good Samaritan Fund Offering					<i>The CULC Messenger</i> <i>God's Work, Our Actions</i>	