

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

March



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

In this the  
*Love of God*  
 was made manifest  
 among us, that  
 God sent his  
*only Son*  
 into the world,  
 so that we  
*might live*  
 through him.

1 John 4:9, ESV



*Join us for Worship - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.*  
*Sunday School - 1st & 3rd Sundays @ 10:45 a.m.*  
*Mid-Week Lenten Services - Wednesdays 7:00 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

March 2023

### In This Issue:

Monthly Member Message	3-4
Council Highlights	5
Prayer List	6
Easter Egg Hunt	7
Birthdays / Anniversaries	8
Lenten Worship Series	10
Serving our Community	11
March Calendar	12-13
Social Ministry	14-15
WELCA	16-18
Easter Candy	17
Blood Drive	21



## Status of Accounts as of January 31

Total amount in checking account: \$116,372.93.  
 Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our  
 2023 Annual Budget of \$195,263.89 is \$16,271.99.  
 January income was \$11,406.28 .  
 Expenses for January were \$12,037.83  
 resulting in a loss of \$631.55.  
 Benevolence Gifts for January were \$983.00.

## CHURCH COUNCIL 2023

	Phone	Term Expires
Kay Berner President	570-875-1035	Feb. 2026
Dennis Wolfe Vice President	570-875-9085	Feb. 2024
Morgen Sweitzer Secretary	570-682-8240	Feb. 2026
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
Robert Sweinhart	570-682-3697	Feb. 2026
Jacob Tice	570-875-2681	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



## 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.*

## *Member's Message*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to Lent! No one has probably ever told you that before.

Here we are in the month of March, where it is still cold, damp, sometimes snowy, and dreary. It's a time of transition, not Winter but not yet Spring. Or at least feeling like Spring. Lent is a time of transition also. We transition from our old sinful selves, into a new creation in Christ.

We spring the clocks ahead, and "gain" an hour of daylight in the evening. However, we lose that hour of daylight in the morning. Our lives are like that sometimes, we gain something of great value only to lose it once again. We strive to be a better Christian and keep falling down. One day I was working on a sermon for church, I had just finished up and was happy with what I had written. Then a customer came into the shop, one who is a little annoying and gets under your skin type. And you just want to go UGH! What a reality check! Lord, help me to love those who are difficult, those who are different from me, those who strike a nerve. Sin keeps dragging us into a never-ending dreary pit. We are stuck, the ashes of our sin have made a mess of our lives. Those ashes of a lifetime of sin. When we were marked with ashes on Ash Wednesday in the sign of the cross on our forehead, we are forever reminded of the guilt we carry with us. We judge others, we talk unkind words, we don't love our neighbor like we should. We continue to sin. A dreary life.



## Christian symbol



**SHAMROCK** — St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, "Is this one leaf, or three?" Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.



That's how it seems, dreary. Isn't that how Lent feels also? Dreary. Welcome to Lent! That's what God tells us! He welcomes us with open arms and a loving embrace. Lent. It is his time to bring us back to him in glory. He wants us to be reminded of all those ashes, but he wants us to be free from them also. He welcomes us into this Lenten season to be washed clean of all our sin.

We know that the season of Spring begins in March and with that comes warmer weather, flowers bursting forth from the earth, we have a new hope in the month of April. We also know that after Lent comes Easter! God knows that when we lay ourselves bare before him during Lent we transition into something greater than all our sin. He brings us ever closer to him during this time of ashes, into repentance. He is making us a new creation, just like in Lent there becomes a new creation in Easter!

Transitioning with you in this Lenten journey,

Erik Tice



Don't forget to turn your clocks  
**ahead one hour**  
before going to bed  
on Saturday, March 11th.



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

437 Airport Road (Gordon)  
Ashland, PA 17921

**Monday, April 3, 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](http://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](http://www.christsunited.org) or scan the QR code to learn how you can participate.



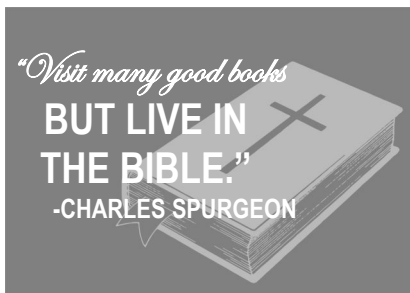
# CULC YOUTH GROUP Activities



All kids who had First Communion and their families are welcome.

- 1) Will try to go glow bowling March 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday night
- 2) April 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Dye and stuff Easter eggs along with pizza and drinks
- 3) April 8<sup>th</sup> help hide eggs
- 4). May 6<sup>th</sup> Help crush cans and then campfire and game night at Tices’.
- 5) June 4<sup>th</sup>- Miniature golf and ice cream- congregation is invited
- 6) July- Knoebels- Date TBD- congregation is invited
- 7) August - Congregational Picnic- will help with games
- 8) September – Date TBD- corn maze
- 9) October Trunk R Treat
- 10) November Christmas Cards- Date TBD- snacks and cookies
- 11) December- Joy through the Grove- Date TBD- Eat at OIP in Elysburg or somewhere else

Ask to help with congregation dinners and road clean up



## Church Council Highlights from February

- Income for January was \$11,406.28 which included, \$337.00 for Capital Campaign, \$135.00 Endowment, Shadle Investments \$155.16. Total expenses were \$12,037.83 which resulted in a loss of \$631.55
- LCM: The Electronic sign was tabled until the furnace issue has been resolved. They have all dinners planned for 2023 which includes the Easter morning breakfast on April 9, 2023. The additional 4 dinners will occur in April, May, September and October. The church picnic for 2023 will be on August 27.
- WELCA - Candy making will start Feb. 27, 2023
- Youth Group - Meeting on Saturday Feb. 11, 2023 at Roma Pizza in Pottsville at 11am to plan 2023 activities.
- Jim Chappell presented Council with estimates that he received regarding the replacement of the furnace. He will present the estimates again at the congregational meeting.

## March Council Contact of the month is Ken Dengler

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 Ken, he can be reached at 570-933-5144.



Council Member  
of the Month



## We Offer our Prayers to...



- February 26** – Sherry Ney (C. Brennan)  
Jean Morgan (J. Pennypacker)
- February 19** – George Dornsife (J. Babb)  
Barb Liem (Deb Berner)  
Evelyn Menne (T. Neumeister)
- February 12** – Mary Heverling (T. Wolfe)  
Rev. William Zimmermann  
Angie Balicki (T. Ambrose)  
Larry Schneider (K. Berner)
- February 5** - Robbie Liem (B. Liem)  
Jack Houser  
Harper Presto (K. Presto)  
Tara Lang  
*Family of Tommy Macaluso*

**Please continue to pray for:** Corrine & Josh Coward, Jim Gruber, James Houser Sr., 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, Wayne “Webby” Weinreich, 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 Nagle Family - Robert, Jessica, Bryson, Rylee  
The Wallace Family - Ron & Donna  
The Allison Family - David, Vanessa, Luke & Blake



## 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.



Gordon Area Senior Citizens meets on each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

Lunch is shared after 11:00 and a relaxing afternoon is spent usually playing Bingo.

We would be glad to have some more members come out one Wednesday and see if it’s for you. Its much better than sitting at home. We’d be glad to have you.

# A SEASON OF HOPE

This Lent we're joining Lutheran World Relief's **Baskets of Promise** campaign. Each week, we'll collect a different item that we'll use to assemble Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations.

Our goal is to assemble 25 LWR Personal Care Kits during Lent.

## HERE'S OUR COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

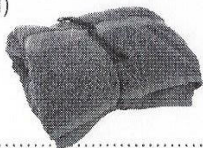
### February 26

Bars of Soap (4 to 5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping)



### MARCH 5

Bath Towels (light-weight, maximum 52" x 27", dark color recommended)



### MARCH 12

Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)



### MARCH 19

Combs sturdy combs (no fine teeth or Picks)



### MARCH 26

Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)



A Thrivent Action Team grant is being received to support the project as well as purchase quilt batting.

*Donna Wallace*

For more information contact \_\_\_\_\_

## 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.



Many thanks for the prayers and kind words from her family on the loss of Jane Fetterolf. They were all very much appreciated. Carl "Micky" Lute and Dianna Monaghan are also grateful for your continued prayers for healing.



Our Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 8th at 11 AM for ages 0-11. Please sign up by March 31st to the church office at 570-875-1591 or to Barbara Stepanchick at 570-875-1114. If leaving a message please include the child's name, age and gender. Prior to the egg hunt pictures

can be taken with the Bunny using your own camera. We will not be doing dyed hard boiled eggs this year due to the cost. Instead we will be filling plastic eggs with individual wrapped (non hard) candy that fits into the plastic eggs. Any help or donations would be greatly appreciated.

Thank You,

Barbara Stepanchick  
& Easter Egg Hunt committee

The CULC Messenger  
God's Work, Our Actions





**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

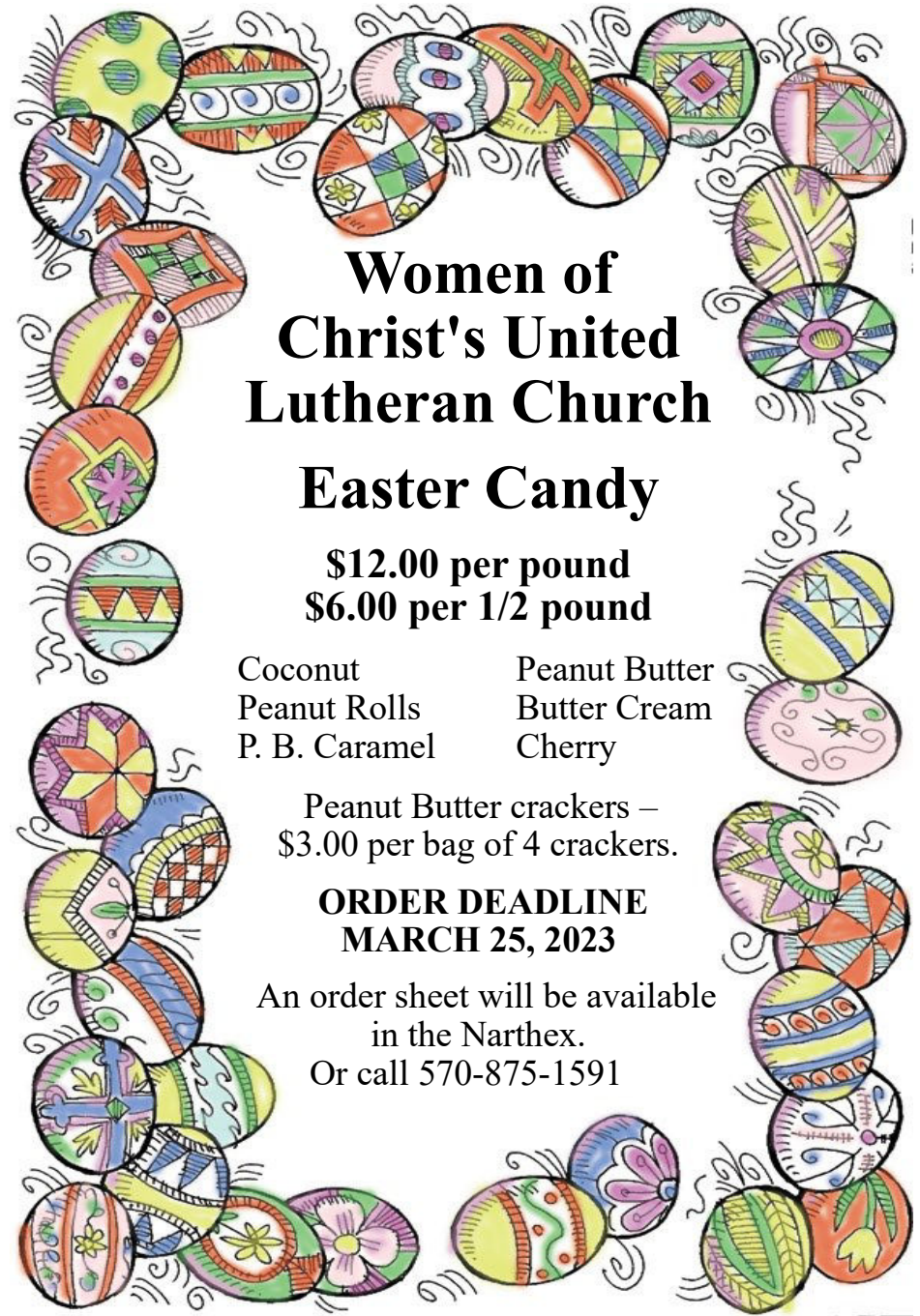
- 2 Lynn Anczarski
- 3 Katie Brown
- Allen Pennypacker
- 5 Melanie Weikel
- 6 Barbara Klauger
- 7 Jessie Harris
- Alisia Knorr
- Donald Smith Jr.
- 8 Mark Klinger
- Christopher Monaghan
- 9 Dennis Cunningham
- 10 Janet Quirk
- 12 Gregg Sterling
- Sierra Wagner
- Mackenzie Miller
- 15 James Hepler

- 16 William Waldick
- 17 Kenneth Welker
- 18 Michael Miller
- 19 Jane Pennypacker
- Grantham Sterling
- 20 Hayden Marlow
- 21 Wendy Harhigh
- Mark Hepler
- Rickey Knorr
- 22 Susan Ruzze
- 23 Brian McAndrew
- Jacob Wetzel
- 24 David Pennypacker
- 26 Wyatt Hepler
- 27 Zachary Huber
- 28 Robert Green
- Amanda Houser
- Maynard Merwine
- Chase Demko
- 29 Nathan Berger
- Tiffany Cramer
- 30 Dennis Mallams



**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

- 03/21/81 Rickey & Brenda Knorr
- 03/21/74 Larry & Jean Wolfgang
- 03/22/96 Leo & Heather Young



**Women of  
Christ's United  
Lutheran Church**

**Easter Candy**

**\$12.00 per pound  
\$6.00 per 1/2 pound**

- Coconut
- Peanut Butter
- Peanut Rolls
- Butter Cream
- P. B. Caramel
- Cherry

Peanut Butter crackers –  
\$3.00 per bag of 4 crackers.

**ORDER DEADLINE  
MARCH 25, 2023**

An order sheet will be available  
in the Narthex.  
Or call 570-875-1591





There will be no WELCA meetings in March or April.  
 The next WELCA meeting will be on May 3rd at 6:00 pm.  
 All women are invited to attend.

## Women of ELCA Schuylkill Cluster Spring Event

April 29, 2023 9:00—12:00  
 (Lunch following is optional)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
 Orwigsburg

**Program:** Health & Wellness Programs  
 Jenny Wagner  
 Diakon community Service

**Bible Study:** Pastor Dana Heckman-Beil  
 Good Shepherd, Ashland

Registration due by April 17th  
 Sign up on bulletin board.

Cost covered by CULC WELCA



### Thrivent Choice Dollars®

Eligible clients with membership can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds. These recommendations are shared by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches.

To be eligible to direct Choice Dollars as part of Thrivent Choice®, you must be a client with benefit membership. Individual eligibility is also based on at least one of the following:

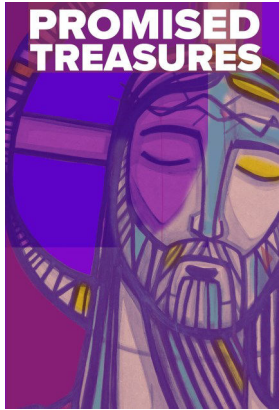
- Having \$750 or more in annual billed premiums of qualifying life and health insurance products.
- Having \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying life insurance and annuity products.

Eligibility is determined monthly and reevaluated on an annual basis. If you are a member of Thrivent and have Choice Dollars to direct to an organization, please consider directing yours to Christ's United Lutheran Church.

All 2022 Choice Dollars must be directed by March 31, 2023, or they will expire, and you will lose those dollars. If you need any assistance with directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars®, please contact Erik Tice for additional information.



**Don't forget to direct Choice Dollars®**



## PROMISED TREASURES

MATTHEW 13:52

This Lenten season, we have a fresh opportunity to embrace God’s amazing love for us, His baptized children, in new ways. St. Paul clearly says that “faith comes from hearing” (Romans 10:17), but the Gospel is also communicated through the physical senses of sight, smell, touch, and taste. Jesus mentions that a good teacher not only brings out new treasures but reminds people of old and rich treasures as well (see Matthew 13:52). So each Wednesday in Lent, we will take a weekly journey to concretely see, smell, touch, and taste a number of biblical elements. Our Lenten series is called *Promised Treasures*. Just as Israel wandered through the wilderness under Moses for forty years, awaiting the Promised Land, we await heaven in the wilderness of this life. Life as exiles in the wilderness of this world is not easy and pain-free. In this vale of tears, we await our real home, the new promised land of heaven. Until we enter our eternal promised land, however, the Lord calls us to be His light in this dark world (see Colossians 3; Ephesians 4). This series will begin with ashes, then proceed to salt, water, light, bread, and finally, palms. Then, during Holy Week, the focus shifts toward water and blood, wood, fragrant oil, and finally, on Easter, milk and honey. All these beautiful Old and New Testament elements will remind you of God’s eternal love in Christ, fill you with renewed hope, and increase your joy, knowing that because we are His baptized children, God is near to us now more than ever.



**Serving Our Community of Faith in March:**

## 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.

## Come be energized

After some time away from the church, author Donald E. Miller returned to the fold. He writes: "One thing that brought me back ... was asking simply: What are the alternatives to the church? Where are the communities that sanction the pursuit of meaning and truth as a legitimate enterprise? that have material and personal resources to assist in this search? that provide regular occasions for confession of failures? that renew and inspire? that provide a setting where children are nurtured? where family members can be buried? where births can be celebrated? where social issues can be debated?"

Miller concludes: "There are a number of institutions that deal with one or several of these questions, but historically the church has demonstrated its ability to energize all of these activities."



# 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 ~
- 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:

## Spaghetti & Sauce

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

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



Date	Supply Pastor/ Worship Leader	Congregational Rep/ Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte(s)	Crucifer
March 1 Mid-Week	Erik Tice	—	Mark Vardell	Kay Berner b Becky Spencer b Allen Johnson c/d Robert Carl so g	John Towey AM Barb Stepanchick Donna Wallace	Dylan Buhay	Mason Buhay
March 5	Kay Berner	Dennis Wolfe	John Towey				
March 8 Mid-Week	Erik Tice/ Lois Sterling	—	Beth Andrews			Remington Stehr	—
March 12			Barb Anczarski				—
March 15 Mid-Week	Erik Tice/ Lois Sterling	—	Donna Wallace				—
March 19		Jacob Tice	Angie Berger			Nelson Berger	—
March 22 Mid-Week	Erik Tice/ Lois Sterling	—	Kay Berner				—
March 26	Vivian Brown	Angie Berger	Beth Andrews			Kayla Werner	—
March 29 Mid-Week	Erik Tice/ Lois Sterling	—	Jacob Tice				—



# March 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 10:30 Seniors  6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Mid-Week Lenten Worship	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:30 Worship w / Holy Communion 10:30 Fellowship Hour 10:45 Sunday School & Adult Sunday School	<b>6</b> 7:00 Church Council	<b>7</b> 6:30 Choir Practice	<b>8 Int'l. Women's Day</b> 10:30 Seniors  6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Mid-Week Lenten Worship	<b>9</b> 10:00 – 11:30 Christ's Cupboard distribution  	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12 Daylight Saving Begins</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Adult Sunday School	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6:30 Choir Practice	<b>15</b> 10:30 Seniors  6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Mid-Week Lenten Worship	<b>16</b>	<b>17 St Patrick's Day</b>  	<b>18</b> 10:00 Garden Club
<b>19</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	<b>20 Start of Spring (Spring Equinox)</b>  6:00 Social Ministry	<b>21</b> 6:30 Choir Practice	<b>22</b> 10:30 Seniors 6:00 Soup Supper  7:00 Mid-Week Lenten Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25 Earth Hour</b> 10:00 Garden Club
<b>26</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Adult Sunday School	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:30 Choir Practice	<b>29</b> 8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors  6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Mid-Week Lenten Worship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	