

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

May



*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*



*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

May 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

The May CULC Messenger is sponsored  
in Memory of Loved Ones  
by Kay Berner

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### Status of Accounts as of March 31

Total amount in checking account: \$131,722.73 .  
 Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our  
 2024 Annual Budget of \$203,168.00 is \$16,930.00.  
 Income for March was \$14,416.92.  
 Expenses for March were \$27,153.53,  
 resulting in a net loss of \$12,736.61.  
 Benevolence for March was \$1,486 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...*

Pentecost!

Red geraniums are a nice start. Red, for fire, is the liturgical color, of course! And it can be used liberally in clothing and scarves draped here and there and...then there was the year I put a temporary red streak in my hair and brought the can to church in case there were other takers (there were).

Fire isn't just red, of course. There's orange and yellow and iridescent blue and gold for continuity with Easter.

But of course Pentecost isn't just about fire. Acts says the event started with a sound like that of a violently blowing wind. Bright wind socks, anyone? Pinwheels?

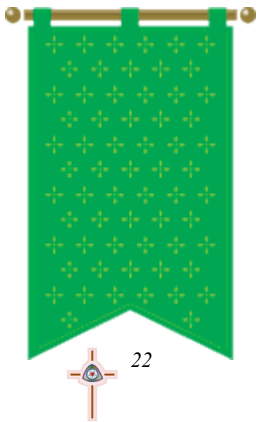
And what is the "wind" that often moves pinwheels? Breath, right?

So, the Hebrew word ruach just so happens to mean both breath and spirit. The Spirit of God breathes life. And when we sing, "Breathe on Me, Breath of God," we are signaling openness, but as the King James puts it "the Spirit bloweth where it listeth." Sometimes God's breath is the gentlest of cooling breezes on a fevered brow, promising continued life. Sometimes it is a cyclone that picks us up and drops us in a strange place, unsure of anything except that we're not in Kansas anymore. God is not tame, but is goodness and life. Surrender, live, and celebrate!



## Christian symbol

**GREEN** — Green is the traditional liturgical color for the weeks after Pentecost (as well as the season of Epiphany). The Pentecost season largely overlaps with spring and summer, which is fitting because green symbolizes growth: growth of plant life and crops, and growth of the church in discipleship and faith.



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WEAR RED FOR  
**Pentecost**  
SUNDAY, MAY 19

The CULC Messenger  
God's Work, Our Actions





## Church Council Highlights From April

- Chicken Pot Pie Dinner is scheduled for 4/20.
- 112 Easter bags were filled for the Egg hunt for 106 registered.
- Installation of new alarm system by DM2 is scheduled to begin 4/15.
- Permission was granted to Gordon Cub Scouts for use of our parking lot to hold their Rain Gutter Regatta on 4/21.
- Maura Sweitzer has been appointed Youth Council Representative.



### *Member's Message* by Dr. Kay Berner

The daffodils are finally blooming as are the tulips and hyacinths. The grass is turning green. The trees are budding with both leaves and flower blossoms. Color seems to be everywhere. The cold and dreariness of winter is finally past, and spring is right around the corner. I am reminded once again that our awesome God of creation is still in control.



As I sit to write this article a solar eclipse was recently seen over a large portion of the United States. People traveled from all over to experience this amazing example of God's creation. And again, I was reminded that God is still in control as these facts of nature continue to occur.

When I read about the possibility of war in the Middle East, the war in the Ukraine, the ongoing threat from China, the floods, the famine, the hurricanes and other forces of nature, it is a little harder to see that God is still in control. Yet He indeed is. I have never heard so much talk about us living in the end times as I have in the past year or so. In Matthew 24:7-8 Jesus says, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains." Jesus tells us to keep watch and be prepared as no one knows the day or the time in which He will return to call His children home, except God of course.



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

437 Airport Road (Gordon)  
Ashland, PA 17921

**Monday, June 3, 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](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
to schedule an appointment.

Open to the public and walk-ins are Welcome!

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## **CULC** **YOUTH** **GROUP** **Activities**

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

Watch the Newsletter for this year's schedule of Youth Group events.





# Puzzle!

Fill in the horizontal rows using the clues. Then, using the number codes, complete the squares below to read three Beatitudes from Luke 6:20-21, NIV.

Grassy area behind a house

Blooms that have petals

Spring precipitation

Puffy and white in the sky

Soil

Lawn

Must be weeded and tended

Tiptoe through these

Baby sheep

We need food and this

God made this from nothing

A sign of God's promise

These, in April, bring May flowers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19				
20	21	22	23	24	25		
26	27	28	29				
30	31	32	33	34			
35	36	37	38	39	40		
41	42	43	44	45	46		
47	48	49	50	51			
52	53	54	55	56			
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	
72	73	74	75	76	77	78	

And so, we must be prepared. It is not enough to know about Jesus, but we need to truly know Him. To do this we must read the Bible because it tells us who He is, and we must pray to Him – to really talk to Him. How else do you get to know someone except by talking to Him. Paul tells us in Romans 10:9-10 how to be saved. He writes “That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”

And so even during these troubling times we see examples of God’s love for us. We see evidence that He is still in control. But we also need to be prepared for when He sends his Son, Jesus Christ, again to claim His beloved children. In order to rise with Him in glory we need to believe in our hearts and proclaim with our mouths that He is Lord of All. It is not enough to just know about Him but we need to truly know Him.

Yours in Christ,  
Dr. Kay Berner



## May 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.



The CULC Messenger  
God's Work, Our Actions



	1	10	13	15	25	39	38		2	7	13		5	22	23		12	73	11
17	31	39		45	22	63	7		9	70	56		5	22	23	58	46		
	27	15		61	73	13		4	18	19	30	26	22	49		22	9		
30	63	26		1	47	55	72	78	39	26		60	77	59		5	74	23	
	12	73	70		73	23	40	35	13	56		64	70	75		9	11	65	
5	63	23		75	18	10	47		1	76		72	48	61	27	34	9	44	13
26		1	43	55	72	78	76	24		2	7	13		5	22	23		75	73
22		12	59	39	45		64	63	52		9	22	58		5	70	42		
52	44	10	47		10	2	23	35	73										

Answers: backyard, flowers, rain, clouds, dirt, grass, garden, tulips, lambs, water, creation, rainbow, showers, "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh."



# GERANIUMS

**Day of Pentecost  
May 19, 2024**

If you wish to order Geraniums for Sunday, May 19th, please sign up on the bulletin board. The cost of each Geranium is **\$5.50**. Checks should be made payable to Christ's United.  
**Deadline to order is Sunday, May 5.**

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## 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 Berner Family - Tracy

The Reichwein Family - Raymond & Emily

The Wilson Family - Steve, Bernice, Tanner, Trevor & Taryn



# Spaghetti Supper

Saturday, May 18, 2024

Sponsored by

Christ's United Lutheran Church Men  
437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921

~Dine in or Take out ~



Sponsored by WELCA

## DONATIONS NEEDED

- \_\_\_\_\_ Cakes
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12 or 24 Pack Soda (Any brand or flavor)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24 Pack Bottled Water
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cash Donation

Donations may be placed on the center island in the kitchen. Please attach your name to your donation. All donations must be in no later than **SUNDAY, May 12**. Baked goods may be brought in on Friday, May 17th, between 8:00 a. m. & 4:00 p.m. Baked goods may also be brought in before noon on Saturday prior to the dinner.

Please return this sheet to the church office or place it in the box located on the table in the narthex.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_





## SPAGHETTI SUPPER

**SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024  
3:00-6:00PM**

**Christ's United Lutheran Church  
437 Airport Road, Ashland**

(570) 875-1591, [www.christsunited.org](http://www.christsunited.org)

**Sponsored by Lutheran Church Men's Group**

**Adults: \$12.00**

**Children under 12: \$5.00**

### Dinner Includes:

**Spaghetti, Meatballs  
Tossed Salad,  
Bread & Butter  
Dessert  
Beverage**

Limited tickets will be sold at the door. Buy your tickets from LCM members, or call the Church Office.

**Bake Sale sponsored by WELCA  
*Everyone Welcome!***



**BAKE SALE**

**Sponsored by WELCA**

## **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 up-dates to the office in order that the list is always current.***



**April 21** – Dorothy Brown (V. Brown)  
Jim. Klemanski (G. Marquardt)  
Susan Freshour (V. Brown)  
Fred Herb (V. Brown)  
Jerre Snyder (L. Wolfgang)  
John Snyder (L. Wolfgang)  
Deb Zaharick (D. Price)

**April 14** – Summer Kuerter (V. Brown)  
Lewis Pennypacker & Family (P. Lute)

**April 7** – Cheryl Vardell  
Jim Houser Sr. (A. Berger)  
Jim Houser Jr. (A. Berger)  
Elaine Fetterolf (C. Vardell)  
Sam Troup Sr. (M. Smith)  
Sam Troup Jr. (M. Smith)  
Faith Anthony (S. Anthony)  
Dave Fetterolf  
Katie Dando Smith & Family (D. Wallace)

**March 31** – Dan Bressler (V. Brown)  
*Family of Arlene Merritt*

**Please continue to pray for:** Corrine & Josh Coward, Jim Gruber, Annette Houser, Jack Houser, Jenny Kosmisky, Barbara Liem, Gail Lorady, Pearl & Carl Lute, Dianna Monaghan, Jane Pennypacker, 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, Dot Zangari, Linda Zerby

**And Friends:** Michele & Amber Adams, Michelle Ambrose, Robert Beecher, Donald Bulla, 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 Vardell, Karyssa Wenrich

# MAY Birthdays

3	Brian Wetzel	14	Christine Klouser
4	Ann Marie Dillman Tina Wolfe	15	Ralph Johnson Robert Sweinhart
6	Bryonna Bolich		Benjamin Towey
7	Brittany Harhigh Cory Lindenmuth Gary Weinreich Devan Fetterolf	16	Susan Edmonson Jeff Hostetter Beau Little
8	Charles Bendinsky Muoi Cunningham Taryn Wilson	17	Kelly Dziadosz
9	Joan Wolfgang Erin Werner	18	Eli Rothermel
10	Nina Britton Katelyn Houser Joshua Smith Logan Walacavage	19	Barbara Anczarski Michael Hudock Steve Wilson
11	Cole Johnson George Kosmisky Kevin Sweinhart	21	Sophia Wessner
12	Patricia Hepler Jonas McGrath	22	Kaiden Dillman Derek Whritenour
14	Christine Klouser	23	Chase Lower
		25	Cory Weikel Jr. Dustin Wolfgang
		27	Jason Brown Sarah Stehr Amy Wahalec
		31	Mark Stump



## 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.

## 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.





The next meeting will be on May 8th at 6:00 p.m. All women are invited to join us.

 **MAY** *Anniversaries*

05/04/85	Ted & Penny Shadle
05/10/08	Robert & Jessica Nagle
05/14/05	Allen & Cheryl Klinger
05/16/14	Chad & Natasha Weikel
05/18/02	Todd & Kim Walacavage
05/19/73	Dale & Holly Bolich
05/20/12	Ryan & Jodi MacNamara
05/21/88	William & Tammy Harris
05/22/22	Richard & Helen Shoup
05/27/93	Steve & Bernice Wilson
05/27/17	Bryon & Jessica Wallace
05/28/83	Ken & Tammy Dengler
05/28/83	Kenneth & Kimberly Zweizig
05/31/03	Daniel & Melissa Sisko



I would like to thank everyone for supporting this year's Easter Egg Hunt. Your donations of plastic eggs, candy to fill the eggs, the chocolate crosses for the gift bags and monetary donations to purchase items for the plastic eggs and to fill the gift bags were a big help and were greatly appreciated.

This year the easter Egg Hunt team packed 112 gift bags with religious items, sweet treats and toys. We filled over 1100 plastic eggs with candy and toys for the egg hunt. We had approximately an amazing 106 children participating this year in the egg hunt. It was wonderful to see the church overflowing with children and adults and feel the excitement all around us.

We also added games this year which were very well received.

Thanks again,

Barbara Stepanchick &  
Easter Egg Hunt Team



*Welcome*  
New Members

On April 7th we welcomed into membership of the family of Christ's Untied, Ada Jackowiak. Ada is a sister of Carl Lute.



We also welcomed through Holy Baptism, Sally Leann Franklin and Nevaeh Rose Colon. Sally is the daughter of Leslie Shadle and Max Franklin and Great Granddaughter of Forrest Shadle. She joins a big sister, Jolene. Sally's Sponsors are Nathaniel Shadle and Sara Maurer. Nevaeh is the daughter of Sondra Colon. Her Sponsors are Alexandra and Chris Curran.

## Pastor Mindy's Media Moment

I've yet to hear a comment in this column. If it has been helpful, piqued your interest in something new, or if you've read it, let me know and I'll resume. If there's something else you would like to see, let me know about that!

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**CONGRATULATIONS** to Jacob Tice on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, Scouting's highest award. Jacob's Court of Honor was held on Sunday, April 7.



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



**In Honor of Jacob Tice's Memorial Garden Eagle Scout Project by:**  
Carla Mae & Robert Carl

**To Christ's Cupboard  
In Memory of Irene Morgan by:**  
Ron & Donna Wallace



**Are you or is some one you know graduating this year?**

Please tell us about it! This includes all graduates from high school, college, or any higher education.

We would like to include information about all our graduates in the June newsletter.

Also, on Sunday June 2nd we will be honoring all graduates as part of our worship service with a special Blessing. Please plan to attend.

Please have all information into the church office by May 15<sup>th</sup> for inclusion in the Newsletter and Bulletin.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

What school are you graduating from

\_\_\_\_\_

Future Plans \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



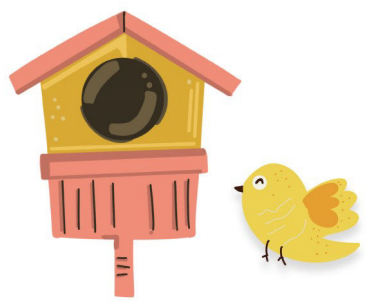
# SOCIAL MINISTRY



**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 ~

- 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 May:

## Canned Fruit & Soup

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday **May 9, 2024**



## Serving Our Community of Faith in May:

Date	Supply Pastor/Worship Leader	Congregational Rep/Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer
May 5	Rev. Mindy Heppe	John Towey	John Towey	Barb Stepanchick Allen Johnson c/d Dennis Wolfe so	Erik Tice AM Barb Stepanchick Ken Dengler	Cole Johnson	Sawyer Smith
May 12	Pastor Ben Scott		Donna Wallace	→		Daniel Cunningham	—
May 19 Day of Pentecost	Rev. Mindy Heppe		Barb Anczarski		John Towey AM Barb Anczarski Angie Berger	Bianca McAndrew	Ava Hubler
May 26 Holy Trinity	Rev. Mindy Heppe		Cheryl Varnell		Kay Berner AM Deb Price Becky Spener	Jacob Tice	Joey McAndrew



# May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			10:30 Seniors 6:00 WELCA	6:30 Choir Practice		8:00 Highway Clean-up Rain date
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 Fellowship Hour 10:45 Sunday School	7:00 Church Council		10:30 Seniors	10 – 11:30 Christ's Cupboard 6:30 Choir Practice		
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30 Worship  Happy Mother's Day			10:30 Seniors	6:30 Choir Practice		3:00—6:00 P.M. Spaghetti Supper
19 Pentecost	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:45 Sunday School  Pentecost Sunday			10:30 Seniors	6:30 Choir Practice		
26 Holy Trinity	27	28	29	30	31	
9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 	Memorial Day		8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors			