

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

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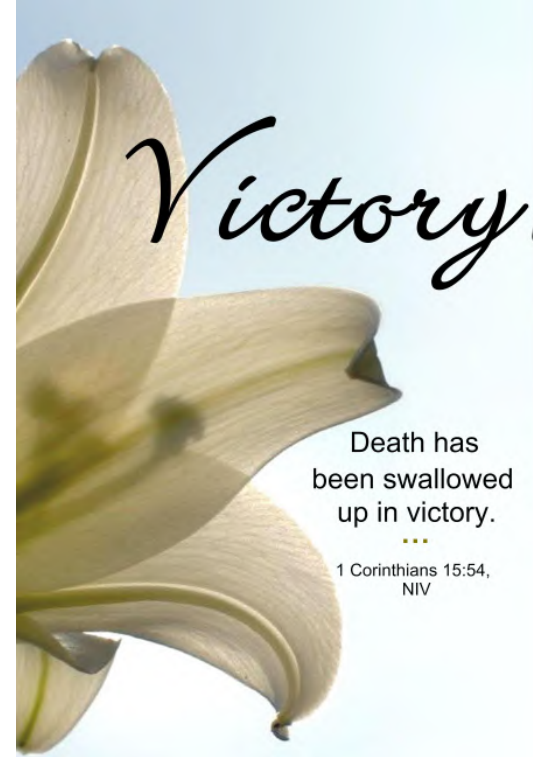
MAILED 3/24/21



Life Together at Christ's United



The CULC Messenger
God's Work,
Our Actions



Join us for *Worship*
Saturday 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:45 a.m.



Christ's United Lutheran Church

One God. One People. One Purpose.

437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921

www.christsunited.org

(570) 875-1591

April 2021

CHURCH COUNCIL 2021

	Phone	Term Expires
John Denchak President	570-875-4970	Feb. 2023
Vivian Brown Vice-President	717-275-5277	Feb. 2023
Beth Andrews Secretary	570-874-2381	Feb. 2022
Ted Ambrose	570-449-2193	Feb. 2022
Angie Berger	570-875-3598	Feb. 2023
Debra Price	570-875-4272	Feb. 2024
Barbara Stepanchick	570-875-1114	Feb. 2022
Stefan Swanson	610-849-6662	Feb. 2024
Dennis Wolfe	570-875-9085	Feb. 2024
Joseph McAndrew Youth Representative		

In This Issue:

The April Newsletter is sponsored in Loving

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PASTOR

Rev. Laura A. Csellak

570-652-1951

pastorlaura@christsunited.org

STAFF

Parish Administrator	Deb Hall	570-875-1591
	office@christsunited.org	570-789-9722
	Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-3:00	
Director of Music	Jamie Johnson	570-590-1678
Treasurer	Ann Marie Dillman	570-449-2021

Status of Accounts as of February 28

Balance in Checking Account..... \$53,121.30

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our

2020 Annual Budget of \$202,094.00 is **\$16,841.17**

February income was \$15,636.22

Expenses for February were \$16,530.82 resulting in
a loss of \$894.60.

Benevolence Gifts through February—N/A at time of newsletter
(9 % of our Benevolence goal of \$15,000.00 for 2021)



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Life Together at Christ's United



Christ's United Ministry Teams

Christian Education
Evangelism/Outreach
Lutheran Church Men (LCM)
Social Ministry
Stewardship
WELCA
Worship & Music
Multimedia Ministry
Security Team

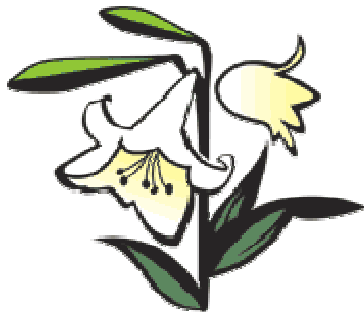
Christ's United Committees

Auditing & Finance Committees
Endowment Fund
Mutual Ministry
Nominating

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.



LILY—The lily that blooms around Easter is a symbol of Christ's resurrection because it rises from a seemingly lifeless bulb decaying in the ground. It is also used as a symbol of Christ himself. The lily, a symbol of purity, is often used to represent the Virgin Mary.



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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The first day of April this year brings The Triduum, the great Three Days from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday. In it we walk with our Lord Christ from his Last Supper with his disciples to his joyous Resurrection from the dead; and we are changed. What life-giving changes does our Lord bring to you this April? Certainly, the increased number who have received their COVID-19 vaccine is one positive change, as are the stimulus checks that are arriving. So, too, that more students this fall will be back in the classroom. These are positive external changes that God brings to us. But there are internal changes as well. This brings to mind the hymn "Change My Heart, O God" (ELW #810)

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
You are the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

What heart changes is our Lord bringing to you this month? With whom in your family or church family do you need reconciliation? It's easy to dismiss such an inquiry, thinking there is no one with whom we need to work out differences. Or else we know full well where the conflict lies, but see no hope of resolution. Recently I read an editorial by Mustafa Nuur in the *Patriot News* out of Harrisburg. The writer is a refugee from Somalia who owns a restaurant in Lancaster. He has heard angry voices shout "Terrorist!" at him, as well as "Go back to where you came from!" In truth, he and his family fled terror in Somalia. His mother and three brothers are employed

— continued on page 4

Life Together at Christ's United



One day Mustafa received an email from a man telling him that refugees like him are a drain on society. Instead of ignoring it, Mustafa met the guy for coffee. It turns out they both had lost their fathers at a young age. Both were the oldest children in their families. They shared the same burdens, hopes and dreams. Turns out neither was the monster the other one thought he was.

I do not pretend that this is as easy as it sounds. Still, as Mustafa's father used to say: "If you know someone's story, it's very hard to hate them". And you and I are not left to our own devices in pursuing reconciliation. We have the CULC family to help us. Most importantly, we have the God who gave his only begotten Son to die and rise again for our sake, and who changes our hearts in surprising and wonderful ways.



Community Blood Drive Christ's United Lutheran Church

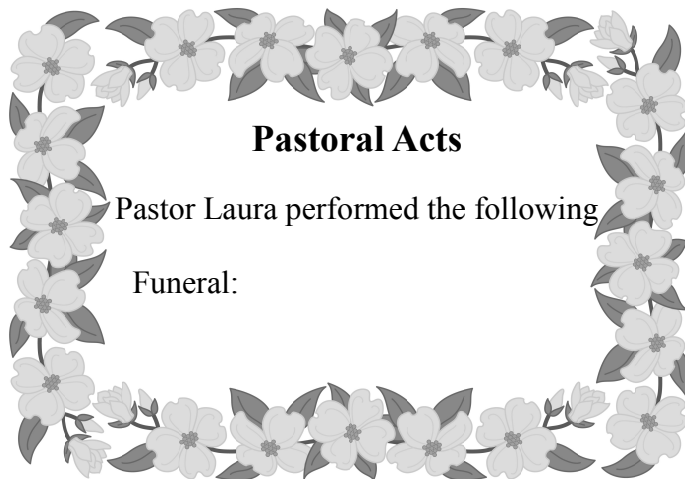
Community Room
437 Airport Road (Gordon)
Ashland, PA 17921

**Monday, April 5, 2021
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!

Life Together at Christ's United



Pastoral Acts

Pastor Laura performed the following

Funeral:

New Members



On Saturday, April 3 at our 5:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Service we will welcome into membership of Christ's United through Baptism, Joseph and Siena Smith and their 8-year-old son, Sawyer.

Chicken Pot Pie Dinner

Sponsored by the Lutheran Church Men

Saturday, April 17, 2021

3:00 – 6:00 pm

Take-out Only

Christ's United Lutheran Church
437 Airport Road, Ashland

Dinner Includes:

Chicken Pot Pie
Lettuce w/ hot bacon dressing
Applesauce
Bread & Butter
Dessert
Beverage

Adults: \$10.00

Children 6-12: \$4.00

Under Age 6: FREE



Church Council Highlights
from March

- Easter Egg Hunt - Since there will be no hunt for eggs due to COVID restrictions, it was decided to change the event to an Easter Egg Drive Thru which will take place on Saturday, April 3 from 10:30-11:30.
- Barb Stepanchick made the motion that we move the money, budgeted for “Wishmaker Funds” to “Ministry for Children” so it can be used wherever needed, seconded by Angie Berger with all in favor. Motion carried.
- Ann Marie Dillman recommended having someone who knows diagnostics service the office computer to determine why it's not fully functioning. Angie suggested American Computer in Frackville which gives good service. Deb Price made the motion that we contact American Computer to look at the computer system, ~~seconded by Dennis Wolfe with all in favor. Motion carried.~~

April Council Contact of the month
is Stefan Swanson.

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 Stefan,



The Little Things



The thoughtfulness of others never ceases to amaze me. Some people are so good at seeing ways to help others, no matter how small the need. There is certainly no shortage of that thoughtfulness here at Christ's United Lutheran Church. Whether it be the various ways people participate in donations of food and supplies or money, volunteering to help in functions that help both our community and the world abroad, visiting those who are sick or unable to leave their home, simply thinking to send a card to say they care, and seeing something they can fix or improve within our church. It is that kind of thoughtfulness I want to thank Carla Mae and Robert Carl for. As it turns out, Robert can make beautiful things out of wood. Carla Mae noticed the stack of books being used as a stand for the organ lamp and asked if I would like one made of wood. The very next service, Robert came in with a beautiful, wooden stand that looks like it is part of the organ itself! This is one just of the many ways that people here at Christ's United show, that big or small, the thoughtfulness of others can make a difference in the lives of those we seek to help! Thank you Carla Mae and Robert, and all of those here at Christ's United, who find even the smallest of ways to help others.

Sincerely,



Easter Egg Drive Thru
Saturday, April 31
10:30—11:30 a.m.
Children ages 0 - 11



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

In Memory of Richard Berner by:

Dr. Kay Berner
Ted & Terry Ambrose
Donald & Laray Klinger
Erik & Sally Tice
Leo & Jo-Ann Young
Leo & Lee Ann Cognetti
Allen & Ann Fertig
William Mower
Alfredo & Dorian Cola
Bruce & Marianne Lord
Ms. Jeanine Cola
Frank & Peggy Dziczek
Peel and Dillman Families
Robert & Carla Mae Carl
Cyrus & Joan Clark



Donations to CULC Capital Campaign

In Memory of Richard Berner by:

Ron & Beth Andrews
Terry & Dorothy Kessler
Ron & Donna Wallace
Russ & Carrie Hummel

In Memory of Dorothy Yoder by
Russ & Carrie Hummel

Donations to CULC Endowment Fund

In Memory of Richard Berner by



Life Together at Christ's United



Women of the ELCA

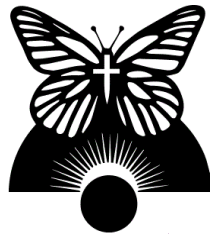


The next Women of ELCA Meeting
will be held on
Wednesday, April 7th
at **6:00 pm.**

All women of CULC are invited to attend.

Believing in

Sometimes we get caught up in thinking we need to understand God in order to have faith. But faith is more about trust than knowledge; it's more about believing in someone than believing information. A child, for instance, doesn't have to know the precise roads to Grandma's house; he only needs to believe *in* his parents and their ability and desire to get him there safely. Similarly, we need not understand all the intricacies of how God works; we can take a cue from the disciples and let belief *in* the risen Christ transform and empower us.



In the words of Madeleine L'Engle (*The Rock That Is Higher*):
"The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and



Palm Sunday - Sunday, March 28
9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday - Thursday, April 1
7:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Good Friday - Friday, April 2
7:00 p.m. Worship

Easter Vigil - Saturday, April 3
5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion and
Baptism of Joseph, Siena & Sawyer Smith

Resurrection of Our Lord - Sunday, April 4
6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service
with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Easter Worship Service
with Holy Communion



Life Together at Christ's United



APRIL



- 2 Gail Lorady
Arianna McAnaney
- 3 Lewis Pennypacker
Robert Rock
- 4 Heather Klinger
Marisa Seritsky
- 5 Margaret Conner
Bryce Hummel
- 6 Barbara Brown
Darcie Gruber
Courtney Krise
- 8 Marjorie Lally
Ivan Sweinhart
- 9 Stephen Harhigh, Jr.
Maxwell Miller
- 11 Kaitlin Sage
- 13 Natalia Mulhall
- 14 Ryan Wolfe

- 15 Jessica Wright
- 16 Jeremy Knorr
- 17 Barb Liem
Aaron Pancher
John Wagner
- 18 Caleb Dietrick
- 20 Russell Hummel
Shale Waldick
- 21 David Pennypacker
- 23 Dustin Schreffler
- 24 Amanda Dillman
- 25 Dianna Monaghan
- 26 Azure Waldick
- 27 George Hepler
- 28 Samantha Brennan
Jill McNeal
Marcus Peel
- 29 Parker Dean
- 30 Joseph Anczarski
Dena Guenther

APRIL



- 04/05/86 Ann Marie & William Dillman, Jr.
- 04/16/15 David & Muoi Cunningham
- 04/21/71 Daniel & Bonnie Sisko
- 04/23/60 Jim & Darcie Gruber
- 04/26/01 Mark & Cheryl Varndell



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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 Lucas Family - Marlene

The Sterling Family - Gregg & Lois

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.

2021 Sponsorships

The sponsorship sign up sheets are now posted on the bulletin board. Sign up for:



Monthly Newsletters \$40.00

- Altar Flowers \$25.00
- Worship Bulletins \$15.00
- Special service bulletins \$10.00
- Sanctuary Candle \$10.00
- Children's Bulletins \$10.00

Payments for Altar flowers should be given to Cathy Troutman. All other payments should be made payable to the church and given to

We Offer our Prayers to...



March 21 -- Joan Berner (K. Berner)

Jennifer Koch
Lori Ann Purnell (T. Shilling)
Forrest Shadle (J. Chappell)
Leo Young-now at home
Mike Crawford (J. Deeter)
Joan Tumolo (N. Lindenmuth)
Jennifer Perez (Jackie Babb)

*Families of Carol Ferguson (K. Laudermilch)
Karli Snyder*

March 14 – Deana Leshar

John Kimmel (S. Marlow)
Mike Dudley (D. Price)

Family of Darlene Masser

March 7 – Tom Rizzardi Sr.

Family of Garrett Hultins (S. Peel)

February 28 – *Family of Richard Berner*

Please continue to pray for: Stewart Anthony, Corrine & Josh Coward, Jim Gruber, Jim Hepler, Annette Houser, Jim Houser, Tara Houser, Carl (Mickey) Lute, Bobby Liem, Gail Lorady, Dianna Monaghan, Irene Morgan, Nellie Schlorff, Cheryl Varndell, Jo-Ann Young, Leo Young, Linda Zerby

Michelle Ambrose, Robert Beecher, Ruth Berner (R. Berner), Elizabeth Brown & family, Donald Bulla, Arlene Chillis (J. Pennypacker), Joe Ferraro Jr., Harry Fishburn (G. Marquardt), Bob Griffiths (I. Morgan), Dan Grow, Minah Horan, Pastor Bob & Donna Hughes (Grubers), Ron James (V. Brown), Jaden Leiby, Keith Morgan (G. Marquardt), Lou Ann Olson (T. Shilling), Danny Quick (A. Berger), Albert Stehr, Carol Stehr, Judy Trautman (G. Marquardt), Karyssa Wenrich

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.



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On behalf of myself and my family, I would like to thank everyone who gave monetary gifts, cards, flowers and words of condolence through Uncle Richard's illness and death. Your support meant more than I can express. I would especially like to thank Pastor Laura for her kindness to me and my family during this time of grief. Her words of caring and her prayers were a source of great strength. It is times like these that we really learn to appreciate those around us and their support. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart.

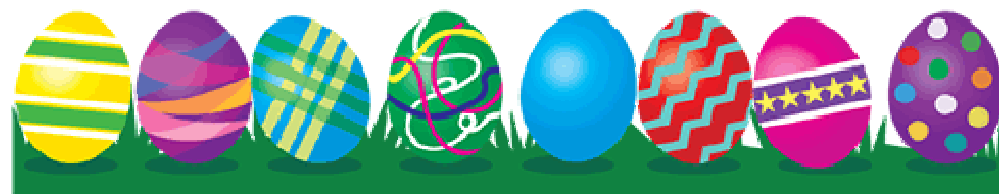


Yours in Christ,

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.



Life Together at Christ's United



Indoor Custodian Position

The position of Indoor Custodian is still available. Please contact the Church Office if you are interested or know someone who might be.



If you can lend a hand, volunteers are covering church cleaning. We have a schedule of several groups of four or five volunteers to clean each week. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in helping please call Jo-Ann Young at 570-875-2586 or the church office 570-875-1591. Thank you.

Whoopie Pie Pick-up



Whoopie Pies will be at the church for pickup on **April 7**. Since no time has been determined yet when they will be here, we encourage you to call before coming to pick up your order. If you have any questions, please see Terry Shilling.

Cultivating kindness



Kind hearts are the gardens.
Kind thoughts are the roots.
Kind words are the flowers.
Kind deeds are the fruits.

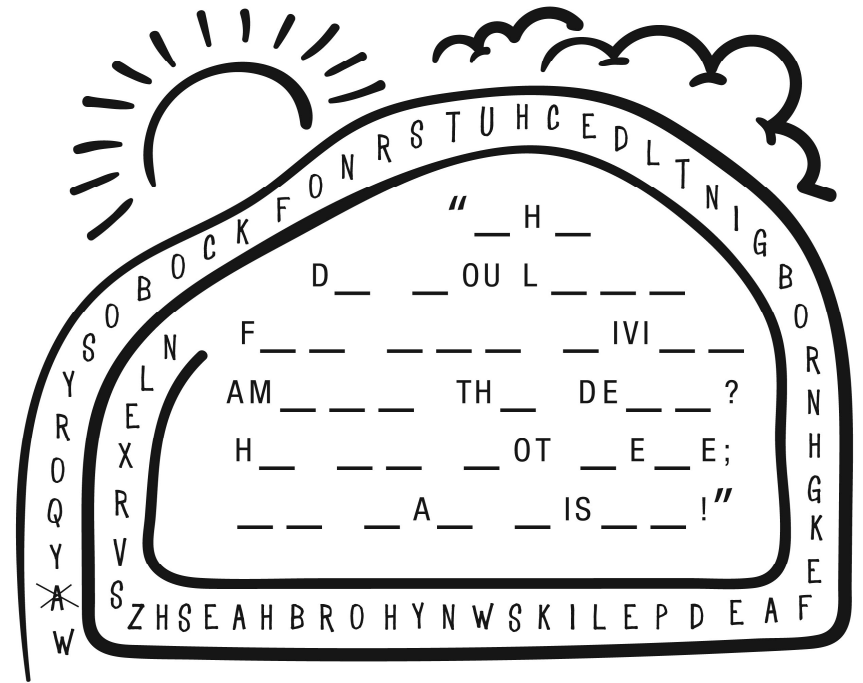
Take care of your garden
and keep out the weeds.
Fill it with sunshine,
kind words and kind deeds.



EASTER MORNING message

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.



LUKE 24:5-6, NIV

Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV



SUNRISE SURPRISE

The hidden surprise in these sweet rolls hints at the reason behind Easter's joy.

What you need:

- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 10 uncooked frozen rolls, thawed
- 10 large marshmallows
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ cup melted butter
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Grease a round baking dish. Sprinkle pecans on the bottom.
2. Flatten each roll. Place a marshmallow in the center, wrap dough around it and pinch edges together.
3. Combine sugar and cinnamon. Dip each roll into melted butter and coat with cinnamon-sugar. Place in pan, seam side down.
4. Sprinkle brown sugar and remaining butter over rolls. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise 30 minutes.
5. Bake at 350 degrees until golden brown, about 30 minutes. Cool in pan.
6. As you bite into a roll, you'll see the marshmallow has melted, leaving an empty center — just like Jesus' empty tomb!

SOCIAL MINISTRY



We will be collecting the following items for April:

Canned Fruit

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday



Serving Our Community of Faith in April:

Date	Congregational Representative	Lector & Post Worship Greeter at the Door	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolytes	Crucifer	Post Worship Greeter in Narthex
April 1 Maundy Thursday		Donna Lassen	Lowell Martin Ted Ambrose John Denchak	Kay Berner-AM	Joey & Bianca McAndrew		
April 2 Good Friday		Becky Spencer					
April 4 - 6:30 am Easter	Barbara Stepanchick	Erik Tice	Allen Johnson Carrie Hummel Becky Spencer Robert Carl	Erik Tice-AM	Kayla & Kaitlyn Werner		
April 4 - 9:30 am Easter	John Denchak	Angie Berger	Aaron Stepanchick Kay Berner Barb Stepanchick	Vivian Brown-AM	Marisa Seritsky & Ava Hubler		
April 11	Stefan Swanson	Stefan Swanson	Lowell Martin Ted Ambrose John Denchak		Nelson & Nathan Berger		
April 18	Vivian Brown	Sally Tice			Hayden & Raven Marlow		
April 25	Jacob Tice	Jacob Tice			Jesse Cascarino		

APRIL 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Holy Thursday 7:00 Maundy Thursday Worship	2 Good Friday 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil 7:00 Good Friday Worship	3 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Easter Egg Drive Thru 5:00 p.m. Easter Vigil
4 EASTER SUNDAY 6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Easter Worship with Holy Communion	5  1:00 - 6:00 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive 7:00 p.m. Council	6	7 10:00 a.m. Seniors Whoopie Pie orders available for pick up 6:00 WELCA	8 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Christ's Cupboard	9	10 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
11 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School & Confirmation Class	12	13	14 10:00 a.m. Seniors	15 Tax Day Newsletter Deadline	16	17 3:00-6:00 p.m. Chicken Pot Pie Dinner 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
18 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School & Confirmation Class	19	20	21 Administrative Professionals Day 10:00 a.m. Seniors	22 Earth Day	23	24 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
25 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Worship & Music 10:45 a.m. Sunday School & Confirmation Class	26	27	28 9:00 Newsletter Assembly 10:00 a.m. Seniors	29	30 Arbor Day	