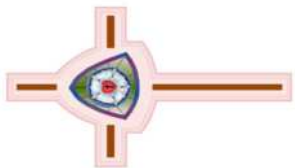


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ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Pottsville, PA  
PERMIT NO. 25

# Life Together at Christ's United Lutheran Church

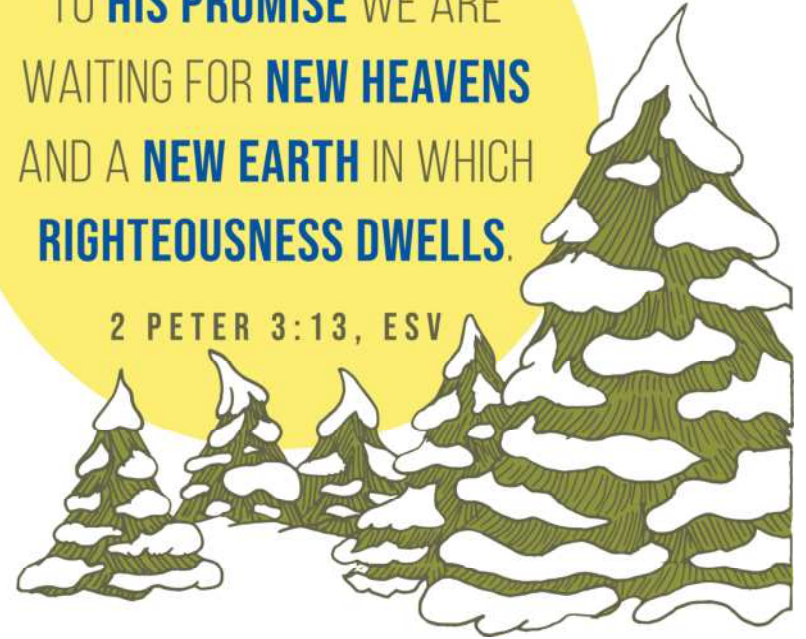


Christ's United Lutheran Church  
437 Airport Road  
Ashland, PA 17921  
[www.christsunited.org](http://www.christsunited.org)



BUT ACCORDING  
TO **HIS PROMISE** WE ARE  
WAITING FOR **NEW HEAVENS**  
AND A **NEW EARTH** IN WHICH  
**RIGHTEOUSNESS DWELLS.**

2 PETER 3:13, ESV



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

*Life Together at Christ's United*





# Christ's United Lutheran Church

One God. One People. One Purpose.

437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921

www.christsunited.org

(570) 875-1591

December 2020

The December Newsletter is sponsored  
*In Memory of Parents Jim & Catherine*  
by Kay Berner

### In This Issue:

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## Status of Accounts as of October 31

Balance in Checking Account..... \$46,959.36

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our  
2020 Annual Budget of \$202,094.00 is **\$16,841.17**

October income was \$20,397.93

Expenses for October were \$18,965.57 resulting in  
a gain of \$1,432.36.

Benevolence Gifts through October.....\$9,658.75  
(64 % of our Benevolence goal of \$15,000.00 for 2020)

## CHURCH COUNCIL 2020

	Phone	Term Expires
John Denchak President	570-875-4970	Feb. 2023
Terry Shilling Vice President	570-875-0412	Feb. 2021
Beth Andrews Secretary	570-874-2381	Feb. 2022
Ted Ambrose	570-449-2193	Feb. 2022
Angie Berger	570-875-3589	Feb. 2023
Vivian Brown	717-275-5277	Feb. 2023
Jim Gruber	570-875-2805	Feb. 2021
Suzanne Peel	570-875-2218	Feb. 2021
Barbara Stepanchick	570-875-1114	Feb. 2022
Jacob Tice Youth Representative	570-875-2681	

### PASTOR

Rev. Laura A. Csellak

570-652-1951

pastorlaura@christsunited.org

### STAFF

<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Deb Hall	570-875-1591
	office@christsunited.org	570-789-9722
	Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-3:00	
<b>Director of Music</b>	Jamie Johnson	570-590-1678
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ann Marie Dillman	570-449-2021
<b>Indoor Custodian</b>	Position Open	
<b>Outdoor Custodian</b>	Bill Price	570-875-4272
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Christine Brennan	570-875-0720



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  
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.*

## **A Sacred Summary**

The simple shepherds  
heard the voice of an angel  
and found their Lamb;  
the wise men  
saw the light of a star  
and found their Wisdom.

—Fulton J. Sheen

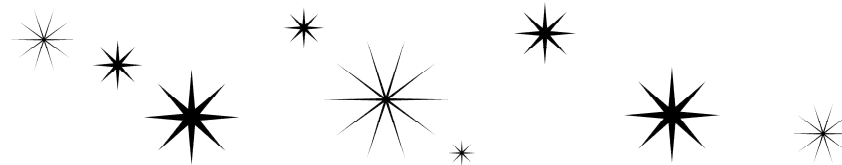


Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

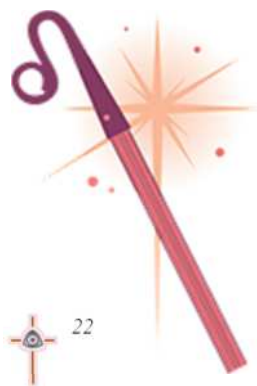
“Come, Lord Jesus” is engraved three times on our family’s brass Advent wreath. And one of our mealtime prayers begins, “Come Lord Jesus, be our guest”. We Lutherans don’t spend as much time as certain other Christians in talking about Jesus’ return. This is mostly because we leave the details in God’s hands. After all, in Matthew 24:36, Jesus says that he himself knows not the day and hour of his return. Yet Jesus promises he will return. Just scan the 24th chapter of Matthew’s Gospel for “Signs of the End of the Age” and “The Necessity for Watchfulness”.

Waiting has taken on new meaning during this pandemic. Early on it was waiting to get a hair cut or for more toilet paper to be placed on store shelves. Now it’s waiting to be called back to work or for unemployment benefits to arrive. And, for more than one of us in our congregation, waiting for COVID test results.

My prayer is that the practice this virulent disease has given us in waiting might hold us in good stead to anticipate our Lord Christ’s return. For that to happen, we’ll need to manage the fear, impatience, boredom, and dread that can plague us. If we dwell solely on these sentiments, it will be hard for hope to get through to us. And without hope, as Proverbs 29 tells us, the people perish – if not in body, then certainly in mind or spirit.



— continued on page 4



As I write this letter, the biopharmaceutical company Pfizer has just announced a COVID vaccine that looks promising. That gives us hope for managing this pandemic. But that doesn't touch the hope we Christians know because God's Son was born for us... and promises to come again. So, when we awake each morning, may we say, "This is the day the Lord has made" followed by, "Come again, Lord Jesus, be our guest".

Waiting and Watching with you,

Pastor Laura+



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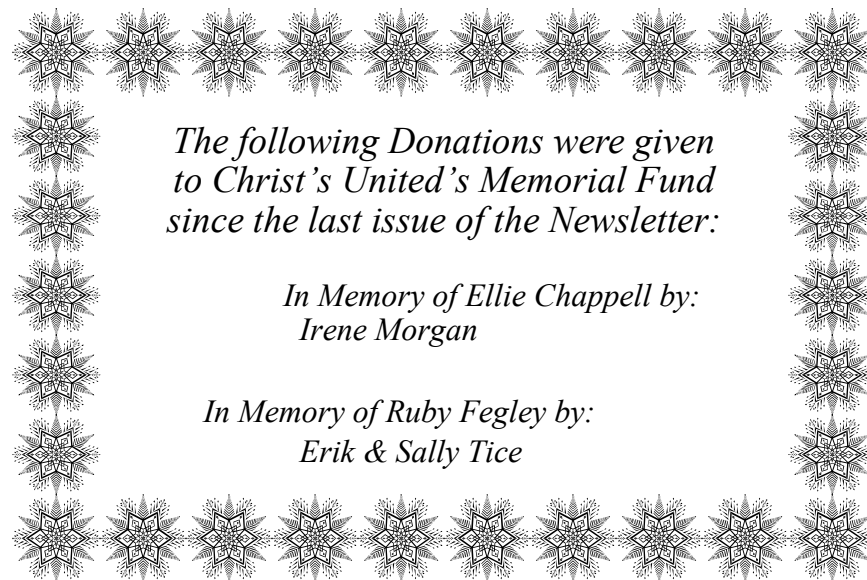
**We will hold Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Worship Services with  
Holy Communion on**

Thursday, Dec 24, at 4:00 p.m.  
and 7:30 p.m.



Masks are required and Social Distancing procedures  
will be followed.

We are looking in to the possibility of streaming  
one of the services on Facebook Live.



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

*In Memory of Ellie Chappell by:  
Irene Morgan*

*In Memory of Ruby Fegley by:  
Erik & Sally Tice*



Tuesday, December 1st at 9:00 a.m.  
we will decorate the church for  
Christmas. Any and all help will be greatly  
appreciated.

## **Indoor Custodian Position**

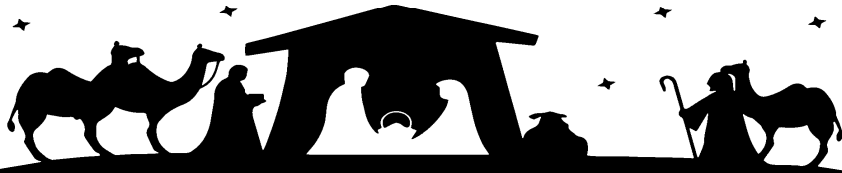
We are still accepting applications for the  
position of Indoor Custodian. Please contact the  
Church Office if you are interested.

Volunteers are covering church cleaning. We have  
a schedule of several groups of four or five volunteers  
to clean each week. If you are interested in helping please call  
Jo-Ann Young at 570-875-2586 or the church office  
570-875-1591. Thank you.



# Puzzle!

Use the code to complete Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus, our Savior.



CODE:

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
R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q

10 23 13 17 14 6 18 21 21

11 14 12 10 21 21 14 13

6 24 23 13 14 1 15 4 21

12 24 4 23 2 14 21 24 1

22 18 16 17 3 8 16 24 13

14 5 14 1 21 10 2 3 18 23 16

15 10 3 17 14 1 25 1 18 23 12 14

24 15 25 14 10 12 14

I S A I A H 9 : 6 , N I V

Answer: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Isaiah 9:6, NIV



## Church Council Highlights from November

- WELCA identified 18 shut-ins or people who can't come to church. At the next meeting on 12/2 we will be putting together Christmas gift boxes to distribute to them.
- John Denchak read a letter from Ann Marie Dillman to Christ's United as her formal resignation from her position as Treasurer effective 12/31/2020.

### December Council Contact of the month is Ann Marie Dillman.

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 Ann Marie, she can be reached at 570-449-2021.



Council Member  
of the Month

### Treasurer Position Opening

Effective December 31, 2020, Ann Marie Dillman will be stepping down as Treasurer for Christ's United. We have been truly blessed with Ann Marie's service and dedication to Christ's United for many years. We wish her the very best and thank her for a job well done. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, in filling this position please notify the office or a member of the Personnel Committee.



*During this Christmas  
Season please remember our  
homebound members with  
cards, greetings, and prayers.*



**Tommy & Rachael Green**, 246 Airport Rd.,  
Ashland, PA 17921

**Jim Hepler**, 501 Main St., Ashland, PA 17921

**Nancy Kessler**, Serenity Gardens Assisted Living,  
135 Vermont Dr., Kulpmont PA 17834

**Anna Neumeister**, Providence Place, 24 Hikes Hollow Rd.,  
Pine Grove, PA 17963

**Betty Waldick**, 400 E. Biddle St., PO Box 5, Gordon, PA 17936

**Leo Young**, 318 McKnight St., PO Box 144, Gordon, PA 17936

**Dorothy Zeigenfuse**, 6585 Upper Rd., Shamokin, PA 17872

**Linda Zerby**, 42 Bryn Mawr Ave., Pottsville, PA 17901

### 2020 Christmas Poinsettias!

Available in:

- 1 plant per pot for \$10.00
- 2 plants per pot for \$16.00
- 3 plants per pot for \$23.00



**Please sign up on the bulletin board.**  
Make checks payable to Cathy Troutman.  
*The deadline to order is December 13<sup>th</sup>.*

### Confirmands' Statements of Faith

As a requirement for Confirmation, each Confirmand writes a personal "Statement of Faith". Several were willing to have theirs printed. This month's (on the following page) is written by Jesse Cascarino.



## American Red Cross

The need is constant.  
The gratification is instant.  
Give blood.™

[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | 1-800-RED CROSS

### Community Blood Drive

### Christ's United Lutheran Church

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

**Monday, December 7, 2020**  
**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!

# Women of the ELCA



The next Women of ELCA Meeting  
will be held on

**Wednesday, December 2nd  
at 6:00 pm.**

All women of CULC are invited to attend.



## Drive-Thru

I would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way with this year's Trunk or Treat Drive Through event. The monetary and treat donations were very generous. The teamwork was great and we packed 200 bags of treats which was a task in itself. We handed out 111 bags at the drive through event. We gave out an additional 30 bags as outreach to the community who were unable to attend the event. This pandemic has caused the Trunk or Treat event to be done differently, but with the outstanding participation and donations that we received we were able to provide a great Trunk or Treat event despite the pandemic. Again, thank you to everyone who has helped make this event a success.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Stepanchick*  
Trunk or Treat committee

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

Jesse Cascarino

Soon after I was born I was brought here to Christ's United Lutheran Church by my parents to be baptized. As I got older I attended Church and Sunday school. There I learned bible stories, prayers & songs. I especially love the song "Amazing Grace" and even can play some of it on my guitar. I feel very blessed to have gone to church since I was little. I learned bible stories and that God's son Jesus Christ truly died on a cross to save me and anyone who believes. What I learned by attending church I try my best to respect others and treat people in a loving, kind manner. Even when I don't want to. We know the devil tempts us but through the love of Jesus we need to be better and make good choices between "good" and "evil". When I was small I recommended we hang more crosses on the walls in the house and told my Nana our house didn't have enough "protection". Even as a child I wanted God & Jesus to look over me and my family and felt better with more crosses on the wall. I found myself praying when times were bad and when I felt pressured.

At church I have many mentors to look up to. Mark Varndell, Steven Wolfgang, Jim Chappell and Pastor Laura. They have greatly influenced me in the young man I am today, not only when I'm inside of church but also outside of church too. I enjoyed giving my time as a crucifer, acolyte and power point at the service on Sunday. Taking pictures at Bible School all week and presenting them on a power point presentation with music. Also I enjoyed helping Jim with the live nativity on the power point. Giving of your time is very rewarding but most of all the relationships you make is in itself a true blessing. I hope someday I will be able to mentor young people so they also know our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Attending Church, Sunday school and catechism further taught me, The Lord's Prayer, Apostle's Creed, The Ten Commandments, along with many bible stories. My favorite Psalm is Psalm "23", "The Lord is my shepherd". I am so blessed to have a wonderful family who support me and guide me. My second family is "My Church Family". I know when times get hard if I reached out to anyone of them they would be there for me and that is a wonderful feeling.

In closing, every time I attended worship, Sunday school or any church activity I learned about Jesus Christ and it has shaped who I am. I feel blessed because of it.

# DECEMBER Birthdays

2	Nancy Lindenmuth	17	Linda Brennan Panikkar
3	Hiram "Tommy" Green		Cheryl Klinger
	Asea Krah	18	April Brennan
4	Cheryl Weikel		Lynn Dillman
5	Janna Gregis		Raven Marlow
	Kristen Toldt		Samuel Troup, Sr.
6	Daniel Cascarino	20	Richard Edmondson
7	Beryl Stitzer		Rachel Pancher
8	Anita Fegley		Regan Kratovich
9	Robert Pennypacker	22	Jeff Brennan
11	Cory Krise	23	Robert Carl
	Christopher Olson	25	David Hall
12	Daniel Witner		Daniel Cunningham
13	Karleigh Economy	27	Brody Baker
14	Shea Moyer		Zackary Coward
	Bruce Pirie	28	Bonnie Dillman
14	Joey Anczarski		Donald Klinger
	Tammy I. Harris	29	Beth Andrews
15	Ralph R. Johnson		William Cook
	Arlene Krise		Jessica Gregis
	Jessica Nagle		Mike Stepanchick
	Leslie Shadle	30	Stephen Harhigh
16	Tammy L. Harris	31	Lori Fox
	Terri Whyne		
	Stefan A.C. Swanson		



To our Church Family at Christ's United:

We thank you for your thoughtful cards and phone calls of concern during Stu's illness. We appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

With thanks,  
Stu and Faith Anthony

## 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 Lindenmuth Family - Greg, Penny, Cory & Alaina

The Stank Family - Darlene

The Watkins Family - Richard & Diane

## **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 new sponsorship sign up sheets are now posted on the bulletin board. Sign up for:

Altar Flowers \$25.00

Worship Bulletins \$15.00

Special service bulletins \$10.00

Sanctuary Candle \$10.00

Children's Bulletins \$10.00

Monthly Newsletters \$40.00

Palms for Palm Sunday \$12.00



Payments for Altar flowers should be given to Cathy Troutman. All other payments should be made out to the church and given to Deb Hall in the church office.



## We Offer our Prayers to...



**November 22** – Jim Gruber (D. Gruber & D. Hall)  
Neida Hayes (B. Spencer)  
Ann Marie Brezlosky (B. Spencer)  
Jane Van Horn (B. Spencer)  
Barbara Pennypacker (B. Spencer)

*Families of Jimmy Stein (M. Varndell) & Ed Shrawder (K. Johnson)*

**November 15** - Keith Morgan (G. Marquardt)  
Larry & Robert Jr. Schneider-Valley View fire victims  
Ken Dengler  
Bob Keys (T. Ambrose)  
Susan Tuttle (T. Ambrose)

*Family of Bill Pharo*

**November 8** – Jamie Johnson  
Danny Quick (his family)  
Joanne Jacabage (Toweys)  
Cheryl Muno (M. Varndell)

**November 1** – Anna Neumeister (C. Carl)  
Erin Werner (K. Werner)  
Ray Brennan (C. Brennan)  
Robert Rickard (T. Shilling)  
Ann Marie Hill (D. Zaharick)  
Sarah Puketza (D. & T. Wolfe)  
Jessica Connor (D. & T. Wolfe)

*Family of Paul Diefenderfer*

**Please continue to pray for:** Stewart Anthony, Corrine & Josh Coward,  
Jim Hepler, Carl (Mickey) Lute, Bobby Liem (B. Liem), Gail Lorady, Dianna  
Monaghan (P. Lute), Irene Morgan, Nellie Schlorff, Richard Shoup,  
Cheryl Varndell, Jo-Ann Young

Michelle Ambrose, Robert Beecher, Ruth Berner (R. Berner), Elizabeth Brown &  
family, Linda Brown (V. Brown), Donald Bulla, Arlene Chillis (J. Pennypacker), Joe  
Ferraro Jr., Harry Fishburn (G. Marquardt), Bob Griffiths (B. Andrews), Dan Grow,  
Nancy Harner (R. Berner), Minah Horan, Pastor Bob & Donna Hughes (Grubers),  
Anna James (V. Brown), Ron James (V. Brown), Jaden Leiby, Deborah Lynch  
G. Marquardt), Mylah (G. Marquardt), Lou Ann Olson (T. Shilling), Albert Stehr,  
Carol Stehr, Garth Swanson (Pr. Laura), Judy Trautman (G. Marquardt), Karyssa  
Wenrich, Everyone affected by CoronaVirus

**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.**

## DECEMBER Anniversaries

12/05/08	Breann & Daniel Barker
12/07/02	Randy & Angie Lucas
12/11/93	Stephen & Tami Wagner
12/11/99	Erik & Sally Tice
12/28/10	Stephen & Brittany Harhigh



## Give Electronically

### Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

It is important to know what support we can depend on from our congregation members. By knowing what you are willing to commit financially, we are able to better plan for the future. Please consider setting up a recurring giving plan. Automating your financial commitments means your contributions will be received on a steady, uninterrupted basis.

To set up a recurring giving schedule, visit us online at [www.christsunited.org](http://www.christsunited.org), locate the Online Giving button and set up your recurring giving schedule. The first time you give, you will select a password that will enable you to log in at any time and make changes to your giving or view your complete online giving history; or if it's easier, just scan this QR code to get started.



Hello EVERYONE! It's me, Cheryl Varndell!

I want to take a moment to THANK you all for the beautiful cards, gift cards, flowers, phone calls, visits, gift bags, FOOD, Monetary gifts, homemade meals (YIKES) Prayers, the ride to Fox Chase (Pastor Laura), Love and support. It has been so humbling and I am truly blest to have my Church family behind me during this battle of mine. I can feel the love and the prayers are working or I would not be having some good days, sprinkled with some not so good days. I have some hurdles to get thru yet, but as most of you know....

"I am woman hear me roar!"

The battle continues 🙏❤️👊

Again ....THANK YOU ALL  
Your Sister of CULC

*Cheryl Varndell*



\*\*\*\*\*



Thank you to everyone who donated to the "Helping Heroes this Holiday 2020" ministry. It was a HUGE success. There were Pringles, popcorn and protein fruit mixes. We had foot powder, eye drops and aspercreme lotion. A ton of candy, Tastykakes, and Middleswarth BBQ chips. Cash for shipping and a card were included. Taryn's family was overwhelmed with emotion, after seeing all the support from our Christ's United Family.

Thank you, Thank you and Thank you.

May you all have a Blessed Holiday season!

Angie Berger and the Harris Family



## Christmas Tree of Sharing



We will again begin collecting items for the Tree of Sharing on Saturday, December 5th. This year we will be collecting clothing items and toys for children up to age 18 and also ELCA good gifts.

Tags will be available on the table in the hallway beginning December 5th. After you pick your selection please place the "ornament" on the Christmas tree. All children's gifts are due back to the church by Sunday, December 20th. ELCA good gifts may be purchased up until Christmas Eve. Please place gifts under the tree. Thank you!

## ELCA Good Gifts Cow



Because of the generosity of the members of CULC, we have met our goal of raising \$500 by December 31st to buy a cow through ELCA good gifts. In fact, we had exceeded our goal by the middle of October, raising \$501.53. That's worth mooing about!

Through your outreach, a family in a third world country will have a source of milk and cheese, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell at the market.

Thank you for making a difference!

Social Ministry Team



# LET IT snow!

Create a winter wonderland with this fun craft.



### What you need:

- Glass jar with lid but no label
- Laminated photo (that will fit in the jar)
- Small plastic Christmas trinkets
- Hot or waterproof glue
- Container with spout
- 1 cup distilled water
- 3 tsp. glycerin
- Glitter



### What you do:

1. Unscrew lid and flip jar upside down. Glue the photo and trinkets to the inside of the lid, standing upright.
2. In a container, mix water and glycerin. Pour the mixture into the jar, leaving space at the top.
3. Spoon in some glitter.
4. When glue is dry, attach the decorated lid tightly. Shake the jar to see "snow" swirl and settle.

## SOCIAL MINISTRY



We will be collecting the following items for December:

## Peanut Butter & Tuna

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is  
Thursday,  
December 10, 2020.



## Serving Our Community of Faith in December:

Date	Congregational Representative	Lector & Post Worship Greeter at the Door	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolytes	Crucifer	Post Worship Greeter in Narthex
December 6	Jacob Tice	Donna Wallace	Darlene Stank Nathan Berger Donna Wallace Lowell Martin Dorothy Kessler-G	Kay Berner - AM	Daniel Cunningham		
December 13	TBD	Beth Andrews			Ralph Johnson		
December 20	TBD	Angie Berger			Desiree Dengler		
December 24 Christmas Eve 4:00	TBD	Barbara Anczarski	John Kimmel Darlene Stank Thomas Wolfgang John Wolfgang	John Towey - AM	Nathan and Nelson Berger		
December 24 Christmas Eve 7:30	TBD	Kay Berner	Ken Dengler John Denchak Robert Carl Allen Johnson	Vivian Brown - AM	Kaitlyn and Kayla Werner		
December 27	TBD	Vivian Brown			Marisa Seritsky		

# December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 9:00 Christmas Decorating of Church	<b>2</b> 10:00 Seniors  6:00 WELCA	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  5:00 Worship
<b>6 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY of ADVENT</b> 9:30 Communion Worship 10:45 Sunday School & Confirmation Class	<b>7</b>  1:00 – 6:00 Red Cross Blood Drive 7:00 Council	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10:00 Seniors	<b>10</b> 10:00 – 12:00 Christ's Cupboard Distribution  	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  5:00 Worship
<b>13 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY of ADVENT</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School & Confirmation Class	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>16</b> 10:00 Seniors	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  5:00 Worship
<b>20 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY of ADVENT</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School & Confirmation Class	<b>21</b> Start of Winter (Winter Solstice)  	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:00 Seniors	<b>24</b>  4:00 Christmas Eve Worship 7:30 Christmas Eve Worship	<b>25</b> Christmas  	<b>26</b>  5:00 Worship
<b>27</b> 9:30 Worship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00 Newsletter Assembly 10:00 Seniors	<b>31</b> NEW YEAR'S EVE		