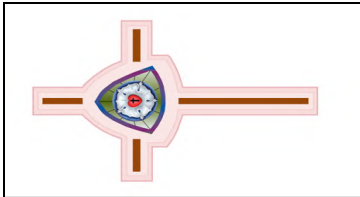


Christ's United Lutheran Church
437 Airport Road
Ashland, PA 17921
www.christsumited.org

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Life Together at Christ's United Lutheran Church



Join us

for Wor-

ship

Saturday 5:00 p.m. & Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School (September thru May) 10:45
& Fellowship 10:30

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

January 2020

In This Issue:

The January Newsletter is sponsored
in Honor of our Family
by Joan & Cyrus Clark

Pastors Message	3-4
Council Highlights	5
Birthdays & Anniversaries	6
Live Nativity	8
Baptisms & New Members	9
Text alerts from CULC	10
Serving our Community	11
Calendar	12-13
Social Ministry	14
Prayer List	16
WELCA	18
Learning Ministries Day	19
Puzzle	20



Status of Accounts as of November 30

Balance in Checking Account.....\$ 7,568.90

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our
2019 Annual Budget of \$203,448.31 is **\$16,954.03**

November income was \$14,940.65

Expenses for November were \$15,093.68

Benevolence Gifts through November\$11,369.00

(70% of our Benevolence goal of \$16,320.00 for 2019)

CHURCH COUNCIL 2019

council@christsunited.org

	Phone	Term Expires
Erik Tice President/VP	570-875-2681	Feb. 2020
Beth Andrews Secretary	570-874-2381	Feb. 2022
Ted Ambrose	570-449-2193	Feb. 2022
Dr. Kay Berner	570-875-1035	Feb. 2020
Jim Gruber	570-875-2805	Feb. 2021
Suzanne Peel	570-875-2218	Feb. 2021
Terry Shilling	570-875-0412	Feb. 2021
Barbara Stepanchick	570-875-1114	Feb. 2022
Steven Wolfgang	570-875-9660	Feb. 2020

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
Indoor Custodian	Susan Herb	
Outdoor Custodian	Bill Price	570-875-4272
Financial Secretary	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

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.

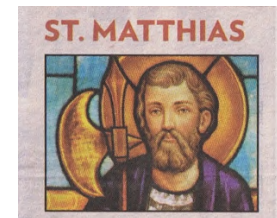


Dear Brothers and Sisters,

At First Lutheran Church, West Palm Beach, Florida, my home congregation when I was in Jr. and Sr. High School, they once put on a play about the disciples. I don't remember much about it except that my father donned a robe and head covering to portray Matthias. Who's Matthias?

The list of the twelve disciples include: Simon Peter; Andrew; James, son of Zebedee; John; Philip; Bartholomew; Thomas; Matthew; James, son of Alphaeus; Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot; and Judas Iscariot. There's no Matthias on the list because he was added later to replace Judas, the betrayer of our Lord. For the election process two candidates were suggested, a certain Joseph Barsabbas and Matthias. Simon Peter together with about 120 other followers of Jesus prayed, and then cast lots. That's how Matthias became the twelfth apostle.

At our Annual Meeting on February 16 we will elect new members to our Church Council. Unlike those early followers of Jesus, casting lots will not be part of the election process but, like them, prayer will play an important role. Please look around and consider who might best serve in this important leadership role in the life of our congregation.



Serving on Council involves a night out once a month, keeping abreast of what's happening in our congregation and community, and overseeing one area of our ministry (Christian Education, Evangelism/Outreach, Lutheran Church Men, Social Ministry, Woman of the ELCA, Youth and Multimedia). While this involves time and commitment, it also affords the blessing of serving more closely with others and being supported by a strong staff, ministry teams, and operational committees. And the joy of leading in this vibrant, growing congregation.

If you have someone in mind to serve on Council, please contact any member of our Nominating Committee: Kay Berner, Erik Tice, Steven Wolfgang, Morgan Schweitzer, JoAnn Young, or Mark Varndell.

The feast day for St. Matthias, Apostle is February 24. As we commemorate him this month, may we remember that each of us is a saint through the waters of Holy Baptism. All of us are gifted by the Holy Spirit with unique gifts and abilities. Not all are called to lead; but some are. Please contemplate whether you, or someone you know, may be one to serve on Church Council and lead our congregation at an exciting time.

Pastor Laura+



Prayers please for Pastor Laura for healing from hip surgery on 12/30. During her recovery during the month of January we will be blessed by worship leadership by our Assisting Ministers, Pastors Bob Hoenich and Mark Swanson, and seminarian Luke Csellak Swanson. Best wishes for a speedy recovery, Pastor Laura.



4



Communities Coming Together



Community Blood Drive **Christ's United** **Lutheran Church**

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

Thursday, February 6, 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
to schedule an appointment.

Open to the public and walk-ins are Welcome!

Life Together at Christ's United

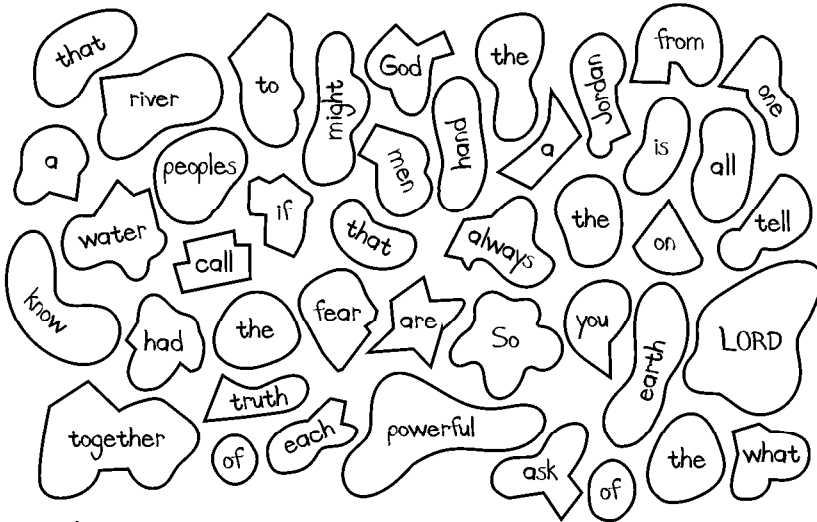




Reminder rocks

When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, they set up stones for a special reason.

Directions: Shade all the rocks that aren't completely rounded. Unscramble the remaining rocks to reveal a message from Joshua 4:24, NIV.



So _____ the _____ the
 _____ the _____
 _____ the _____.

JOSHUA 4:24, NIV

Answer: So that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful. Joshua 4:24, NIV

Church Council Highlights from December:

- Hershey Bears Hockey game on 3/14/20 and Rail Riders Faith and Family Night baseball game on 4/25/20 are in the works.
- WELCA approved paying half of the remaining cost of the freezer. LCM covered the other half after the Social Ministry's Memorial grant of \$850.00 is used for payment.
- Multimedia Ministry - we need someone to coordinate Facebook with the Newsletter and PowerPoint.
- Endowment Committee will be going over the bylaws which specify "an independent audit by a third party who is neither a member of the commit or of CULC will be completed annually".
- The new freezer will be delivered on December 3 from the Restaurant Supply Store which gave the best price.
- Schuylkill Mission District requested the use of the church for their Spring Assembly on May 3rd at 2:00 pm. WELCA will be asked to provide light refreshments.
- A lengthy discussion was held in reviewing the fellowship hall and wedding guidelines.
- The Constitution needs to be reviewed because the ELCA has come out with guidelines for a new model constitution. Amendments and additions are underlined and there are deletions. Erik Tice, Beth Andrews and Terry Shilling will review it together.

December Council Contact of the month is Jim Gruber

The Council Contact of the Month is the "on call" member of council, the person to call if you have any concerns (other than pastoral concerns), or need access to the building.

If you need to contact Jim, he can be reached at 570-875-2805.



Council Member of the Month



JANUARY Birthdays

2	Katelyn Bechtel Barbara Pennypacker Nathan Smith	14	Ron Andrews Cheryl Neumeister
3	Emily Reichwein	16	Rylee Nagle
4	David Hepler Margaret Koons	17	Jim Gruber Debbie Hall
5	Miles Hudock Kevin Wright	18	Bill Burke
7	Katrina Economy Brenda Knorr	19	Deb Zaharick
8	Craig Troutman	20	Ian Bendinsky Nathan Hepler
10	Laray Klinger Luke Young	21	Jennie Kosmisky Karen Schweinhart
11	Liam Young	23	Bryce Weikel David Chuplis
12	Harry Hepler Richard Knorr Jennifer Lettich-Snyder	24	Katherine Bixler Rachel Hostetter
13	25 30	Steven Wagner Allen Johnson Caleb Steinbauer Amanda Sterling	
	Jesse Cascarino Trevor Wilson		

JANUARY Anniversaries

01/08/11	Douglas & Lindsay Fetterolf
01/13/72	Leroy & Deb Berner
01/20/05	Allen & Keri Johnson
01/30/82	Craig & Penny Troutman

Learning Ministries Day 2020 Vision 2020

There's something for everyone
(not just Christian Education people!)
Saturday, January 25, 2020
(snow date Saturday, February 1)
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Union Lutheran Church, Schnecksville
Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Brenda Smith,
Program Director, ELCA Faith Practices and Book of Faith

The workshops will have to do with the ELCA Vision 2020 themes of A Thriving Church, An Equipping Church, A Welcoming Church, A Visible Church, and a Well-governed, Connected, and Sustainable Church.

Check out the Synod website for this and other synodical events:
<http://nepasynod.org>

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.



Women of the ELCA

Women of ELCA Meeting
Wednesday, January 8th at **6:00 pm**
(note change of day and time-
the first Wednesday in January is New Year's Day)



Ladies Night Out

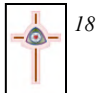
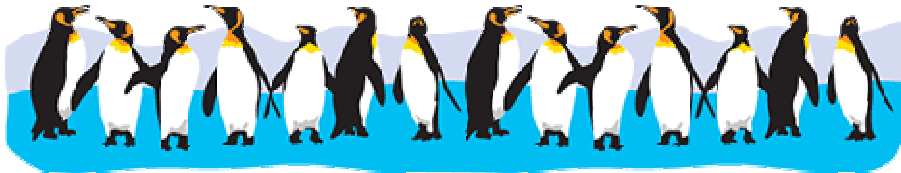
January 5 at 4:00pm
at **The Ashland Diner**.
Sign up on bulletin board to attend.

Pictorial Directory update.

Our new directories will be arriving soon. Everyone who had photos taken will receive a copy of the directory. They will be available for pick-up at the church.



Our special thanks to our Pictorial Directory Team: Beth Andrews, Carla Mae Carl, Keri Johnson, Dorothy Kessler and Terry Shilling who worked so diligently to make sure our new directory is up to date and accurate.



18

The following Memorial donations was given to Christ's United since the last newsletter:

*In memory of Wendy Farnsworth
by Barbara Fetterolf*

*In Memory of Mother, Dad & Brother Don
by Linda Zerby*



Committee Annual Reports Due

All Committee Secretaries and Treasurers:

Please have your reports submitted to the church office by Monday, January 27, 2020.

This is the deadline for all information so it can be included in the annual congregational report. Our annual meeting is on Sunday,

February 16th after worship.



Life Together at Christ's United



"A Christmas Gift" Living Nativity

The 5th annual Live Nativity held on Saturday, December 14th was a great success! The rain ceased, the sun began to shine and the winds blew to usher in this great performance featuring costumed actors, live animals, Christmas carols, beautifully designed Biblical sets, food and fellowship. We were fortunate to receive another Thrivent Grant to offset expenses. A free-will offering was collected for Christ's Cupboard. A big thank-you to the following people who made this wonderful event possible, especially Jim Chappell who put much time and energy into bringing his vision to life.

They include:

Director: Jim Chappell
Introduction: Pastor Laura Csellak
Costumes: Donna Wallace
Cast Coordinator: Beth Andrews
Narrators: Angie Berger, Becky Spencer, Pastor Mark Swanson
Mary: Keri Johnson
Joseph: John Towey
Baby Jesus: Regan Kratovich
Gabriel: Donna Wallace
Wise Men: Zackary Hummel, Aaron Stepanchick, Larry Wolfgang
Inn Keeper: Richard Berner
Shepherds: Nathan Berger, Joey McAndrew, Jax Miller, Zeke Shingara
Herod: Jack Houser
Scribes: Kay Berner, Cheryl Varndell, Barb Stepanchick
Angels: Barb Anczarski, Terry Ambrose, Deb Berner, Vivian Brown,
Cheryl Denchak, Laray Klinger, Donna Lassen, Bianca McAndrew,
Darlene Stank, Maura Sweitzer, Karolyne Towey, Kayla Werner,
Tina Wolfe, Jean Wolfgang, Deb Zaharick
Choir: Beth Andrews, Pastor Laura Csellak, Deb Hall, Bill Price,
Forrest Shadle, Mark Varndell
Trumpet Soloist: Ron Andrews
Staging Crew: Robert Carl, Jim Chappell, Bill Price, Ed Stepulitis,
Mark Varndell, Dennis Wolfe, Larry Wolfgang
Audio: John Towey, Jr.
Projectionist: Jesse Cascarino
Traffic Control: John Denchak
Photographer: Carla Mae Carl
Kitchen Crew: Ellie Chappell, Peg Dziczek,
Carrie Hummel, Donna Wallace
Narthex Table: Terry Shilling



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.

2020 Sponsorships

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

Altar Flowers \$25.00
Palms for Palm Sunday \$12.00
Worship Bulletins \$15.00
Special service bulletins \$10.00
Sanctuary Candle \$10.00
Children's Bulletins \$10.00
Monthly Newsletters \$40.00.



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.

Dear Christ's United Family,

Thank you so much from all of us for your Christmas gifts.

Your generosity and support is *very* much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Christ's United Staff

*Pastor Laura, Ann Marie, Bill, Chris,
Debbie, Jamie, & Susan*



Life Together at Christ's United



We Offer our Prayers to...



December 22 - Louise Lute, Corrine & Josh Coward, Tim Smith (L. Rickert), Erin Werner, Pastor Laura, Richard Moser & family (P. Lute); Bob Kahler, Sue, Maryann (D. Wallace) Family of Melvin Cappel (K. Berner)

December 15 – Family of Helen Horan, Nancy Harner, Raymond Fey, Ken Mack & Family (E. Tice)

December 8 - Deb Price, Madelyn Maurer (E. Chappell), Garth Swanson (Pr. Laura), Family of Freddy Rabbits (K. Hansbury), Family of Shelly Fetterolf (D. Stank), Darren Hockenberry (E. Werner), Children of the Mission of the Good Shepherd (WELCA)

December 1 – Chris Houtz (E. Chappell), Steve Shepler (E. Chappell), Rafael (I. Morgan), Family of Marian Kaufman (D. Zaharick)

Please continue to pray for: Irene Morgan, Carl (Mickey) Lute, Gail Lorady, Dan Grow, Minah Horan, Michelle Ambrose, Donald Bulla, Carol Stehr, Joe Ferraro Jr., Robert Beecher, Karyssa Wenrich, Elizabeth Brown & family, Judy Trautman (G. Marquardt), Doris McGurl (L. Lute), Lou Ann Olson (T. Shilling), Ron James (V. Brown), Pastor Bob Hughes (J. Gruber), Donna Kuczawa, Anna James (V. Brown), Jaden Leiby

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.

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 Kratovich Family - Joshua, Sarah & Regan

The Sisak Family - Dak

The Vardell Family - Mark & Cheryl

& Joey & Bianca McAndrew



Living Nativity - 2019



Pastoral Acts

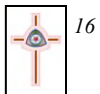
Pastor Laura performed the following

Baptisms:

12/08/19 Emily Rose Miller
Jax Ryan Miller
Mackenzie Ann Miller
Wyatt Michael Miller
Zeke Carter Shingara

Affirmations of Baptism:

On December 8th we also welcomed into new membership:
Larry and Jean Wolfgang
And
Kimberly (Shingara) Miller



Mark your calendars now for March 14, 2020. Our congregation will be attending a Hershey Bears Hockey game.

Cost is \$20.00

Please sign up on bulletin board for ticket count.

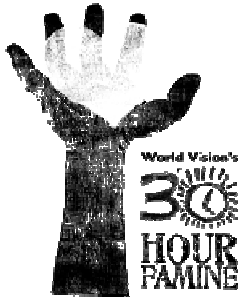
Fun for young and old!

Plan to attend!!

Deadline to sign up is February 2.



30 Hour Famine Youth Event



The Youth Group will be participating in the 30 Hour Famine on February 28 - 29 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Ashland. This event is an unforgettable day-and-a-half retreat of going without food to raise funds for the hungry...and learn and experience what hunger feels like.

Sign up for Text Alerts



You can receive mobile alerts from Christ's United!

We will send out text alerts during severe weather events to notify the congregation of cancellations/updates.

Simply text @culc123 to 81010 and enter your name when it asks.

Recyclables Collection Reminder



Suzanne Peel is collecting and processing donations of items for repurposing.

Items being collected are:

- Unwanted eyeglasses - to be given to *Lions International*
- Used ink cartridges
- Used all-occasion greeting cards (*except Hallmark, American Greetings, Disney*) - **fronts only** - to be sent to St. Jude's Ranch for children.

Baskets for the items are located on the front table in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions about any of the items, please contact Suzanne. Thank you.

A BIG THANK YOU

To the members who came out on December 3rd to help decorate the church for the Christmas Season:

Jim & Ellie Chappell
Donald & Laray Klinger
Donna Wallace
Beth Andrews
Peggy Dziczek

Cyrus Clark
Barbara Liem
Terry Ambrose
Andrew Klinger



Your help was very much appreciated.

Organizer,
Jack Houser



SOCIAL MINISTRY



The month that your committee serves please help out in the kitchen before and after the service. Also, please bring in baked goods or other items for the snacks. Thank you.

Committee Schedule

- January—WELCA
- February—Social Ministry
- March— Church Council
- April—LCM
- May—WELCA
- June – Christian Education/Youth
- July—Choir/Worship & Music
- August—LCM
- September– WELCA
- October—Church Council
- November—Evangelism-Outreach/
Endowment/Stewardship
- December—LCM



We will be collecting the following item for January:

**Diapers,
Wipes,
Etc.**

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is
Thursday,
January 9, 2020.



Serving Our Community of Faith in January:

Date	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte & Tag-a-long	Crucifer	Post Worship Greeter in Narthex	Post Worship Greeter at Door
January 5	Barb Anczarski	Barb Stepanchick Aaron Stepanchick Kay Berner John Towey		Hayden Marlow & Raven Marlow	Kaitlyn Werner	Council	Barb Anczarski
January 12 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i>	Angie Berger		Larry Wolfgang - AM Becky Spencer Donna Wallace	Daniel Cunningham	Logan Walacavage	Council	Angie Berger
January 19 <i>2 Epiphany</i>	Kay Berner			Desiree Dengler & Kayla Werner	Jesse Cascarino	Terry Ambrose	Kay Berner
January 26 <i>3 Epiphany</i>	Vivian Brown			Dylan Buhay & Mason Buhay	Jacob Tice	Richard Berner	Vivian Brown

January 2020



			1 New Year's Day	2 6:30 Choir Practice	3	4 5:00 Worship/Communion
5 9:30 Worship No Holy Communion 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School for all	6 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 9:00 Food Delivery & Set Up 7:00 Church Council	7	8 10:00 Seniors 6:00 WELCA	9 10:00 – 12:00 Christ's Cupboard 6:30 Choir Practice	10	11 5:00 Worship/Communion
12 Baptism of Our Lord 9:30 Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School for all	13	14	15 Newsletter Deadline 10:00 Seniors	16 6:30 Choir Practice	17	18 5:00 Worship/Communion
19 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School for all	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  7:00 Evangelism / Outreach	21	22 10:00 Seniors	23 6:30 Choir Practice	24	25 9:00 Learning Ministries Day @ Union Lutheran, Schnecksville 5:00 Worship/Communion
26 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School for all	27 Deadline for Annual Committee Reports 6:00 Grief Support		29 9:00 Newsletter Assembly 10:00 Seniors	30 6:30 Choir Practice	31	