

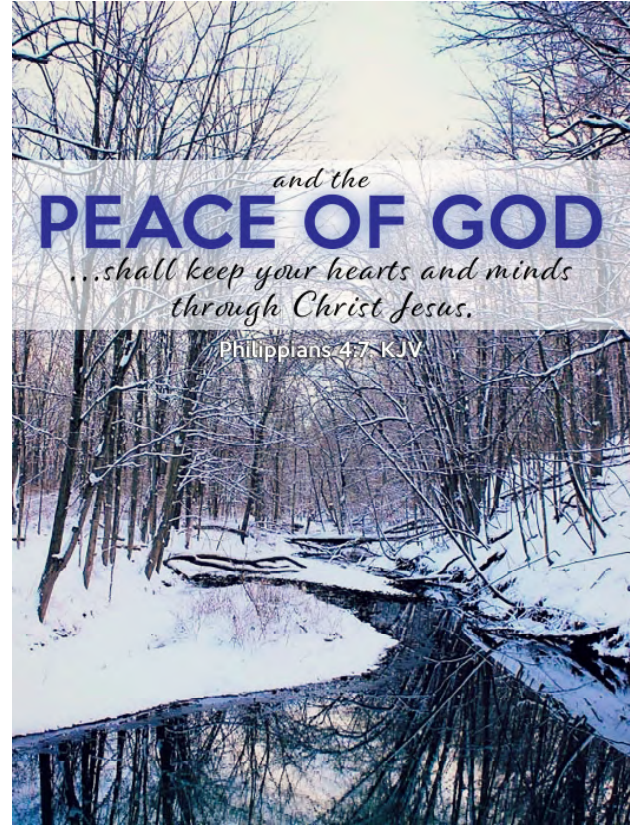
Christ's United Lutheran Church  
 437 Airport Road  
 Ashland, PA 17921  
[www.christsunited.org](http://www.christsunited.org)

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MAILED 12/30/20

2021  
*January*

# Life Together at Christ's United Lutheran Church



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

January 2021

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The January Newsletter is sponsored  
*In Memory of Ellie Chappell*  
by Richard Berner



"Because he works from home. That's why we never see God in person."

## 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 office@christsunited.org	570-875-1591 570-789-9722
<b>Director of Music</b>	Jamie Johnson	570-590-1678
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ann Marie Dillman	570-449-2021

## Status of Accounts as of November 30

Balance in Checking Account..... \$49,777.34

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

November income was \$18,053.35

Expenses for November were \$15,194.19 resulting in  
a gain of \$2,817.98 .

Benevolence Gifts through November.....\$10,511.75  
(70 % of our Benevolence goal of \$15,000.00 for 2020)



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

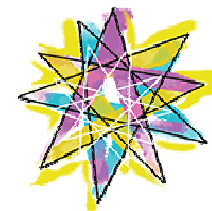
## Christ's United Committees

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.*



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When you receive this newsletter, the present year will be over – or nearly over. With many others, you are probably thinking, “Good riddance to 2020!” It was a most difficult of years. Yet Christians, and certainly Christ's United Church, are often at our best when times are tough. Our God was at work as we worshipped online for a time; kept in close touch with those alone; volunteered to clean the church until we find a new indoor custodian; contributed generously toward ELCA Good Gifts for those in need -- even purchasing a \$500 cow. Wow! And our Church Council, Safety Task Force, and Worship and Music team worked especially hard to keep our ministry and mission going through this pandemic.

Yet even as a vaccine for COVID-19 is now in mass production and distribution, for a while each of us will still need to do our part to keep each other safe. And this with the holidays over, and months to go before longer and warmer days return. That means we might still find ourselves in the doldrums. So, I thought it was a good time to introduce a fun contest – a Name the Church Newsletter Contest. Here's how it works:



## ?? Bible Quiz ??

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

- A. “baby”; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
- B. “child”; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
- C. “youth”; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
- D. No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.



Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1-12.)



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— continued on page 4

Life Together at Christ's United



































- ◆ Suggest names for our newsletter – as many as you want. Other congregations use names such as *The Cross* and *The Messenger*. You might want to think in terms of alliteration, that’s “the occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words”.
- ◆ There is no age limit. Our youngest and oldest members are encouraged to submit suggestions along with everyone else.
- ◆ The deadline for submission is **January 31**. Give your suggestions to me.
- ◆ Our Mutual Ministry Team, consisting of Vivian Brown, Suzanne Peel, and John Towey, will choose the winner. So that they will not be unfairly biased, the team will not know who submitted each title.
- ◆ The winner receives a \$30 gift card.

Have fun with this. And if doldrums persist, remember that *Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome.*

In the Light of Christ,

Pastor Laura+

											
	<b>Pastoral Acts</b>										
	Pastor Laura performed the following										
	Funerals:										
	12/2/20 Richard Dengler										
	12/5/20 Dorothy T. Yoder										
											



That's the way it is with stress. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on. As with the glass of water, we have to put our burdens down for a while and rest to get refreshed. Then we can carry on with the burden-holding stress longer and better each time practiced. Don't carry them through the evening and into the night.

In future articles, more ways of coping with stress along with the symptoms of strokes will be addressed. HAAA would also like to remind residents to have a file of life brochure with a list of their medications (preferably on the refrigerator) available for ambulance personnel when they arrive at your home. If you do not have a copy of the file of life, please contact the ambulance building 570-682- 3598 and someone will come to your house to explain it.



## AMERICAN RED CROSS Community Blood Drive

**Christ's United Lutheran Church  
Social Hall  
437 Airport Road (Gordon)  
Ashland, PA 17921**

**Thursday, February 4, 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](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
to schedule an appointment.

# HEGINS AREA AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION OFFERS TIPS ON STRESS

As we enter the holiday season and the increased number of COVID-19 cases throughout the country, more and more persons are experiencing stress in their lives. The Hegins Area Ambulance Association would like to assist persons in our area in understanding the causes of stress, in recognizing the symptoms of stress, and in developing strategies on coping with stress. These articles are also designed to give family and friends information on how to spot stress so they might be able to help someone they know experiencing stress.

The causes of stress are numerous. Because of the pandemic, there is an increase in stress because of financial concerns. Small businesses are struggling and workers are being laid off. Political and health issues are also contributing to stress levels rising, as well as the effect of the pandemic on our schools. This coupled with families dealing with the loss of loved ones either due to the pandemic or those loved ones passing away during past holiday seasons makes it all the more stressful.

So what are some signs or symptoms of stress? Here are several with more to be included in a future article:

- depression/anxiety
- isolation from others
- over/under eating
- disorganization
- impatience
- sleeplessness
- lack of purpose
- increase in blood pressure and heart rate

A way to understand what stress does to a person is to take a 12 oz. glass of water and hold it. The absolute weight of the water doesn't matter. It depends on how long you hold it. If you hold it for a minute, that's usually not a problem. If you hold it for an hour, you will probably have an ache in your arm. If you hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case it's the same weight, but the longer you hold it, the heavier it becomes.



## Church Council Highlights from December

- Pastor Laura said that she was blown away by the faith and enthusiasm of the three confirmands--Ava Hubler, Kaitlyn Werner and Marisa Seritsky. They are incredible young women and we had a great discussion during Confirmation Class.
- Pastor Laura asks that the follow-up letter to people who hadn't completed their Commitment Cards in mid-November be sent out.
- For Christmas Eve Services it was recommended by the Worship & Music Team:
  1. Because of social distancing, chairs will be set up in the Social Hall and possibly the Narthex for overflow.
  2. To facilitate Communion in a timely manner, we will have two stations--one in the Nave and one in the Social Hall.
  3. LED candles will be purchased to use in place of flame candles to help with social distancing.
- A Motion was made for the purchase of equipment for Facebook live streaming for Christmas services. Pastor Laura shared information from Steven Wolfgang's research of the possibility and equipment. The camera is called the Mevo Start. It is inconspicuous and allows you to customize shots while filming, giving you the ability to zoom, cut, and pan from anywhere in the room. These can all be preset, so it would be easy for whoever is running the camera to switch between shots. This camera will cost \$400.00 and the camera stand is another \$80.00.
- Pastor Laura suggested we hold a contest to name our Newsletter. Members of the Mutual Ministry Committee will select the winner.

---

## January Council Contact of the month is Jim Gruber.

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 Jim,



## Treasurer Position Open

Effective December 31, 2020, Ann Marie Dillman is 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 Annual Reports Due



### All Committee Secretaries and Treasurers:

Please have your reports submitted to the church office by Monday, January 25, 2021.

This is the deadline for all information so it can be included in the annual congregational report.

Our annual meeting is on Sunday,

February 21st after worship.

## 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 Jacob Tice.

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

In Memory of John "Jack" Johnson by:

Larry & Jean Wolfgang and Linda & Barry Shoop  
Ralph & Eileen Johnson  
Don & Laray Klinger  
Grant & Sandy Marlow  
Grace Johnson & Family  
Kimberly & Todd Walacavage  
The Dengler Family  
Julie Klinger

In Memory of Richard Dengler by:

The Jack Johnson Family  
Julia Klinger  
Grace Johnson & Family  
Ralph & Eileen Johnson

In Memory of Jack Johnson, Ralph "Cappy" Johnson, Anna "Grammy D" Dengler & Richard & Jane Dengler by Ralph, Jennifer and Ralph Johnson

In Honor of Grace Johnson by

Ralph, Jennifer and Ralph Johnson

## *Donations to CULC Capital Campaign*

In Memory of Dorothy Yoder by

Jim Chappell  
Michael Yoder

In Memory of Richard Dengler, Jack Johnson and Dorothy Yoder by

Terry & Dorothy Kessler  
Ron & Donna Wallace

In Memory of Ruby Fegley, Ellie Chappell and Jack Johnson by Nelson & Angie Berger & Family

# Women of the ELCA



The next Women of ELCA Meeting  
will be held on  
**Wednesday, February 3rd**  
at **6:00 pm.**

All women of CULC are invited to attend.

## New CULC Car Magnets

Thank you to Cheryl Varndell and Deb Hall for designing our new car magnets. We think we've ordered enough for every car of CULC's members... as well as extras for whoever else might like one. Call the church office to request yours.

## 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



## STATEMENT OF FAITH

Jacob Tice

Good Morning everyone,

Ever since I was a little baby my mom and dad brought me to church. When I was three months old they would take me to Bible school, because they helped with Bible school. Before I would go to bed my Mom would read to me about the fishermen and when Jesus walked on the water, those were my favorite Bible stories. We would also say the Lord's prayer every night.

As I have gotten older I grew more and learned more about Jesus and the Church. From going to Bible school to helping with Bible school. From singing songs in Bible school to helping the adult choir sing at Christmas, and from watching my dad be on Church Council to me being on Church Council as the Youth representative and Multi-Media helper.

My favorite part about Church was having my Family and friends at church with me. I always liked Sunday school, my favorite teacher was my cousin Steven Wolfgang. When I would go to Sunday school I always had a fun time.

Confirmation to me is becoming an adult not only also in life but in the church. It means being responsible in the Church Community, and it means that people respect you more because you know more about the Church and Jesus. I think confirmation is not the end of your Church life it's a new beginning because you still have a lot to learn in the church and community.

I always liked church and being in the Church Community. I always liked being Acolyte and Crucifer, it was always fun and I liked helping the pastor. I always liked singing in the choir with my mom. I like being Lector and I hope I can do it some more.

I will always continue to grow in faith and learn more about Jesus and the Church, and I hope that I will continue to learn more and that my friends who are being confirmed with me will learn more also.



# JANUARY



- 1 Jamie Johnson
- 2 Katelyn Bechtel  
Barbara Pennypacker  
Nathan Smith
- 3 Emily Reichwein
- 4 David Hepler  
Margaret Koons
- 5 Miles Hudock  
Kevin Wright
- 7 Katrina Economy  
Brenda Knorr
- 8 Craig Troutman
- 10 Laray Klinger  
Luke Young  
Liam Young
- 11 Harry Hepler
- 12 Richard Knorr  
Jennifer Snyder
- 13 Jesse Cascarino

- 14 Ron Andrews  
Cheryl Neumeister
- 16 Rylee Nagle
- 17 Jim Gruber  
Deb Hall
- 18 Bill Burke
- 19 Deb Zaharick
- 20 Ian Bendinsky  
Nathan Hepler  
Jennie Kosmisky
- 21 Karen Schweinhart  
Bryce Weikel
- 23 David Chuplis
- 24 Katherine Bixler  
Rachel Hostetter
- 25 Steven Wagner
- 30 Allen Johnson  
Amanda Sterling

# JANUARY



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

## 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 - Nancy
- The Stehr Family - Gerald, Sarah, Remington, Garrison, Aida

## **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:



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

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





## We Offer our Prayers to...

**December 27** - Anna James (V. Brown)

John, Maryann, Thomas & Tyler Wolfgang (S. Tice)

Bob Griffiths (I. Morgan)

Anette Houser (A. Berger)

Darryl & Marilyn Liebig (J. Brennan)

*Family of Bonnie Lassen*

**December 20** –Jo-Ann Young

Robert Carl (C. Carl)

Mike Yoder (C. Kush)

Christine Herb & Family (D. Berner)

**December 13**– Cheryl Varndell doing very well-grateful for continued prayers

Stu Anthony also doing well and thankful for prayers (F. Anthony)

Kora Kellie Bayless (J. Babb)

William Price Sr. (D. Price)

Charlie Leitzel & his family (C. Varndell)

Arnie Harner (P. Dziczek)

**December 6** – Betty Waldick

Nellie Schlorff (S. Marlow)

Michael Dembinsky (G. Lorady)

*Families of Jack Johnson, Richard Dengler, Jennifer Burke & Dorothy Yoder*



**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, Richard Shoup, Cheryl Varndell, Jo-Ann Young, Linda Zerby (J. 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), Ron James (V. Brown), Jaden Leiby, Deborah Lynch (G. Marquardt), Keith Morgan (G. Marquardt), Mylah (G. Marquardt), Lou Ann Olson (T. Shilling), Albert Stehr, Carol Stehr, Garth Swanson (Pr. Laura), 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.*

## 2020 CHRISTMAS DECORATING

A big THANK YOU to the following individuals who gave of their time to come in and help decorate the church for the Christmas Holidays:

Jim Chappell (lighting)

Andrew Klinger (assistant lighting)

Peggy Diczek

Vivian Brown

Beth Andrews

Deb Berner

Donna Wallace

Terry Ambrose



*Jack Houser, Organizer*



### 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.



### NAME THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST



We are holding a contest to name the church newsletter. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Enter as many suggestions as you wish. Winner will receive a \$30 gift card. Deadline to enter is January 31. Members of the Mutual Ministry Team will select the

Pastor Laura thanks everyone for their prayers, support and many kindnesses during Advent and Christmas and for the Congregation's generous financial gift.



Dear Christ's United Family,

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

Your generosity and support is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Christ's United Staff:

Pastor Laura, Ann Marie, Bill, Chris,



# Whoopie Pie Fundraiser



Christ's United will be selling Weaver's Whoopie Pies beginning in March. There will be six flavors available: chocolate with white filling, chocolate with peanut butter, chocolate chip with white filling, red velvet with white filling, shoofly with molasses and oatmeal raisin with white filling.

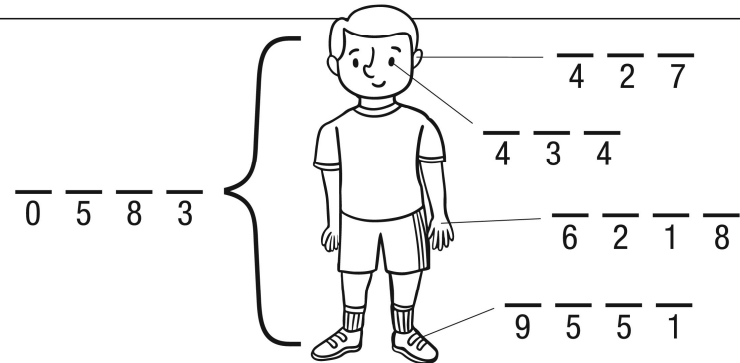
Cost is \$2.00 each and we will make a profit of \$1.00 per pie. Anyone who wishes to help sell can pick up an order sheet in the office. There will be someone in the Narthex on Sunday mornings during the month of March and an order sheet will be on the bulletin board. All orders must be turned in by March 21. Money is due with order. Pies will be ready for pickup on April 17. If you have any



# WORKING IN UNISON

Just as body parts work in unison, the church – the body of Christ – is to work together for God's purposes.

*Directions: Fill in the letters for each body part. Add up each part's number total, and use those totals to complete the Bible passage.*



Now if the  $\frac{\quad}{20}$  should say, "Because I am not a  $\frac{\quad}{17}$ , I do not belong to the  $\frac{\quad}{16}$ ," ... And if the  $\frac{\quad}{13}$  should say, "Because I am not an  $\frac{\quad}{11}$ , I do not belong to the  $\frac{\quad}{16}$ ," it would not for that reason stop being part of the  $\frac{\quad}{16}$ . If the whole  $\frac{\quad}{16}$  were an  $\frac{\quad}{11}$ , where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole  $\frac{\quad}{16}$  were an  $\frac{\quad}{13}$ , where would the sense of smell be? ... As it is, there are many parts, but one  $\frac{\quad}{16}$ .

1 CORINTHIANS 12:15-17, 20, NIV

# Ignite the Church Conference 2021

# SOCIAL MINISTRY



Meeting under the theme “Adopting a New Reality: Living Into a Fresh Vision for God’s Church,” the 2021 Ignite the Church conference will be a virtual event composed of monthly webinars. This free series will include sessions on hybrid community, creative expressions of church, justice and the common good, and encouragement in the face of fatigue. Monthly webinars will run January through April. Learn more



We will be collecting the following items for January:

## Soup

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday, **March 11, 2021.**



## Do you subscribe to Living Lutheran?

Living Lutheran helps you stay connected with this church, providing news on social issues, congregational life, global and domestic mission, faith and family, spiritual practices and resources, and more. From now until Jan. 31, you can get three years of Living Lutheran for only \$36 with the code CHURCHTO-




## Serving Our Community of Faith in January:



Date	Congregational Representative	Lector & Post Worship Greeter at the Door	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolytes	Crucifer	Post Worship Greeter in Narthex
January 3	John Denchak	Deb Hubler	Terry Neumeister John Kimmel Kay Berner Allen Johnson		Jacob Tice		
January 10 Baptism of Our Lord	TBD	Steven Wolfgang		Larry Wolfgang - AM	Ava Hubler		
January 17	TBD	Donna Lassen			Jesse Cascarino		
January 24	TBD	Becky Spencer			Maura Sweitzer		
January 31	TBD	Barb Stepanchick			Logan Walacavage		

# JANUARY 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> New Year's Day 	<b>2</b> 5:00 Worship
<b>3</b> 9:30 Communion Worship 10:45 Confirmation Class	<b>4</b> 7:00 Church Council	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  <b>EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 5:00 Worship
<b>10</b> Baptism of Our Lord New Members Received 9:30 Communion Worship 10:45 Sunday School & Confirmation Class	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>16</b> 5:00 Worship
<b>17</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School & Confirmation Class 10:30 Worship & Music	<b>18</b> Martin Luther King Jr. 	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Inauguration Day	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 5:00 Worship
<b>24</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School & Confirmation Class	<b>25</b> 7:00 Social Ministry	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00 Newsletter Assembly	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 5:00 Worship
<b>31</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School & Confirmation Class						