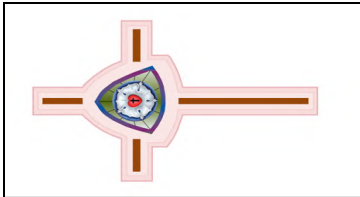


Christ's United Lutheran Church
437 Airport Road
Ashland, PA 17921
www.christsumited.org

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Life Together at Christ's United Lutheran Church



So if the son
sets you free,
you will be

Free
Indeed.

John 8:36



INDEPENDENCE DAY

*Join us for Worship
Sunday 9:30 a.m.*

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

July 2020

In This Issue:

Pastors Message	3-4
Pastoral Acts	4
Council Highlights	5
Birthdays & Anniversaries	6-7
Memorials	8
Indoor Custodian Position	10
Serving our Community	11
July Calendar	12-13
Social Ministry	14
Celebrating our Graduates	15
Prayer List	16
Matching Funds Update	18
Puzzle	19
Spaghetti Dinner	21



CHURCH COUNCIL 2020

council@christsunited.org

	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

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 May 31

Balance in Checking Account..... \$45,962.70

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

May income was \$15,364.70

Expenses for May were \$15,168.27 resulting in a gain of \$196.43.

Benevolence Gifts through May\$5,074.00

(34% 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,

A wise professor once said, "Not everything that happens is God's will; but God's will is seen in everything that happens." I suppose it does bring some sense of security to think that everything that happens is God's will, even the really bad things that occur. But often it is human sin that is the cause of bad things happening, as people turn against God's will of caring for the other. And sometimes nature is moving along as God set in place, including the floods, fires, and droughts. Personally, I do not believe it is God's will that COVID-19 be unleashed in our world to create havoc. Ah, but I do see God's will in the midst of this pandemic. Like those who...

- ◆ sew all those needed masks
- ◆ share their tech skills to tape and post worship services online
- ◆ call folks who live alone, are sick or homebound to brighten their day
- ◆ find creative ways to celebrate high school graduations
- ◆ grocery shop for neighbors who are elderly or with compromised immune systems
- ◆ juggle working from home, serving as a teaching assistant, and cooking three meals a day for their family
- ◆ work in hospitals, nursing homes, grocery stores and research facilities

I'm sure you can think of many other examples of God's will being done amid this pandemic. So, too, those who, following the killing of George Floyd, are reaching outside their comfort zone to under-

+Christian Symbol+



Jerusalem Cross

This complex cross, also called the Crusader's Cross or Fivefold Cross, has several interpretations. The main cross is composed of four tau (T) crosses representing the Old Testament law. The four small Greek crosses symbolize the fulfillment of the law in the gospel. The five crosses together represent the church's mission: to spread the gospel to the four corners of the earth. They're also

Life Together at Christ's United

— continued on page 4



stand the plight of black and brown Americans, and how systems still in place today allow injustices to persist.

"As we reopen to in-person indoor worship on Sunday, June 28 at 9:30 am, there will be Guidelines in place for which not everyone agrees. While differences of opinion need to be heard, I ask you to trust the work of our Safety Task Force, comprised of talented nurses who developed these with me to keep everyone as safe as possible. And trust too the work of our Worship and Music team in creating worship that is meaningful even as liturgical parts may be changed or omitted for now, again to keep self and neighbor as safe as possible. I see God's will at work in the valiant efforts of our Church Council, Safety Task Force, and Worship and Music team during this most challenging time. I hope you may too."

At a recent Zoom meeting for pastors in our Schuylkill Mission District, Dean David Rowe said: "Christ promises to be with us in Word and as we meet six feet apart from one another". Ah, yet



Pastoral Acts

Pastor Laura performed the following

Graveside Funeral Service:



Community Blood Drive

Christ's United Lutheran Church

Social Hall

437 Airport Road (Gordon)

Ashland, PA 17921

Monday, August 3, 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.

Communities Coming Together

Life Together at Christ's United





Spaghetti Dinner

Sponsored by

Lutheran Church Men

Watch for new date

Time: 4:00pm-7:00pm

Adults: \$10.00

Children 6-12: \$4.00

Children under 6: FREE

Dinner Includes:

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



Sponsored by
WELCA

BAKE SALE



Church Council Highlights from June

- As soon as it's announced that Schuylkill County is going to be in the green area, a letter will be sent to all our parishioners that we will be opening in 2 weeks with in-house services.
- When Schuylkill County goes green, Worship & Music will meet to decide what the service is going to look like without singing and how communion will be distributed.
- Pastor Laura thought that when we first reopen, we should not include Saturday services because of cleaning issues. After Sunday's service no one is going to be using the pews for another week. There



**July 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.



**Council Member
of the Month**



★ ★ ★ ★ JULY
Anniversaries

07/08/76 James & Jo Conrath
 07/08/95 Greg & Penny Lindenmuth
 07/10/93 Gary & Connie Weinreich
 07/10/93 Thomas & Michelle Hood
 07/28/01 Rick & Gail Lorady
 07/30/05 Susan & Shaun McNally



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, 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



PUZZLE

WATER WORKS!

The gospels record Jesus' miracles, many of which involve water.

Directions: Using the illustrated equations, fill in the blanks to describe each miracle. Use the Bible references for help.



+ e

Water changes to

JOHN 2:1-11



- k + d

Heals a man born

JOHN 9



- op +



- w

Calms a

MATTHEW 8:23-27



- d

Catch of

LUKE 5:1-11



- ch + er

Walks on

MATTHEW 14:22-33

Answers: wine, blind, storm, fish, water



No WELCA meetings are currently scheduled. Watch for the next one - all women of Christ's United are invited to meetings. No Fall Cluster Event is scheduled for this year.

We have been called to reach out to our neighbors in need both near and far. This year 58 knotted quilts, 50 School Kits, and 25 Personal Care Kits have been assembled for delivery to Lutheran World Relief warehouse in Maryland. Materials to complete the quilts and kits were provided by donations from our congregation and Thrivent Action Team grants. Thank you.

The School Kits sent out in 2019 were given to students in Djibouti (Africa) and the PC Kits went to Tanzania.

Matching Funds Update

Our Matching Funds continue to grow, almost tripling the initial \$5,000 challenged in the middle of March. By the end of May an additional \$2,298.00 was added to the \$12,030.00 amount, resulting in an impressive total of \$14,328.00!

Your donations will continue to be deposited in the General Fund so that our church can continue to meet it's financial obligations during these difficult times. Despite the many hardships resulting from this pandemic, our members have been faithful and generous to Christ's United, remembering that as they struggle, the church also struggles.

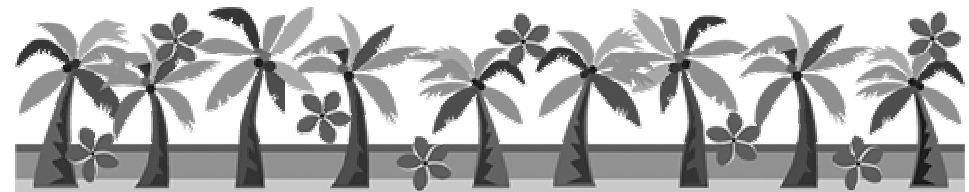
Again, I wish to thank everyone for being so generous in their contributions to Matching Funds, making the challenge a great success. May God's grace be upon you.

With gratitude,

Beth Andrews



2	Ryan Bendinsky	14	Peter Hepler
	Heather Schweinhart		Samuel Troup, Jr.
3	Mindy Burke	15	Samantha Schneider
	Dustin Koons	17	Wesley Long
	Joan Clark		Maura Sweitzer
	John E. Shilling		Tami Wagner
4	John Denchak	18	Ellie Chappell
5	Christopher Dillman		Jennifer Singleton
6	Chris Brennan	19	Jeffrey Hummel
	James Locker		Kylie Sisko
	Sally Tice	20	Richard Dengler
	Ron Wallace	22	Jeremy Rock
7	Jeremiah Johnson	23	Kimberly Miller
	Michelle Knorr	24	Tyson Fetterolf
	Rick Lorady		Fletcher Sterling
	Patrick Monaghan	26	Carla Mae Carl
	Jeffrey Sharp		Rachael Green
	Daniel Sisko		Thomas Wolfgang
10	Nelson Berger, Jr.		Zeke Shingara
11	Eric Singleton	27	Lydia Price
12	Dylan Barker	28	David Cunningham, Sr.
	William Harris		Diane Rock
13	Deb Price		Brayden Ladick
		29	Hannah Towey



Life Together at Christ's United



Taking measure of prayer

Fluency [in prayer] is a questionable endowment, especially when it is not accompanied with the weight of thought and depth of feeling. Some [people] pray by the yard, but true prayer is measured by weight, not by length. A single groan before God may have more fullness of prayer in it than a fine oration of great length.



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.



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

In memory of Oscar Troutman by:

His Children: Susan, Keith & Craig
Craig & Penny Troutman
Karen Weaver

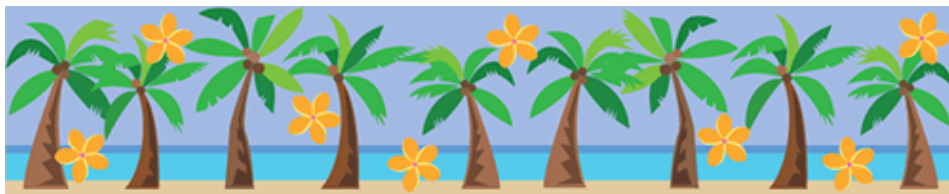
2020 Sponsorships

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.



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 Church Family,

Thank you all so very much for your prayers, cards, phone calls, texts and offers of "anything you need" while I recovered from surgery. Your kindness and thoughtfulness were so much appreciated. I'm truly grateful.

In Christ's love,
Deb Hall

Life Together at Christ's United



We Offer our Prayers to...

June 28 Ada J. (P. Lute)
Mike Petro (B. Stepanchick)
Rita Laspina

June 21 Annette Houser (T. Houser)
Robert Rickard (T. Shilling)

June 14 Anna James (V. Brown)
Linda Brown (V. Brown)
Bob Griffiths (B. Andrews)
Kathy Baas (T. Shilling)
Leroy Berner
Mylah (G. Marquardt)
Tommy Green
Kathleen Chuplis (N. Lindenmuth)
Connor Satterwhite (P. Dziczek)

Families of Oscar Troutman,

Lois Tiley (Cheryl Denchak's mother)

May 17 Gail Lorady
Jeanie Dudley (D. Price)
Richard Shoup (H. Brown)
Nellie Schlorff
Paul Brown (V. Brown)

Please continue to pray for: Carl (Mickey) Lute, Irene Morgan, Corrine & Josh Coward, 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), Jaden Leiby, Garth Swanson (Pr. Laura), Nancy Harner (R. Berner), Maddy Maurer (D. Wallace/C. Vardell), Harry Fishburn (G. Marquardt), Ruth Berner (R. Berner), Arlene Chillis (J. Pennypacker)

*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*

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:



16 The Lazor Family - Thomas, Amanda Kane,
Jaedyn, Aiden & Braedyn
The Smith Family - Melody



We appreciate the kindness and generosity from all of our church family during the month of April when we were all ill. It's so nice to feel the love from everyone at Christ's United. Thank you all so much.

Love,
Angie & Nelson Berger



The "wow!" factor

After the final notes concluded at a recent symphony performance in Boston, the conductor hadn't yet lowered his baton when a child exclaimed, "Wow!" The break in protocol, magnified by excellent acoustics, didn't upset the participants or audience, however. Instead, several later said it brought them great joy. One even called the moment life-changing.

The incident was especially meaningful because the child, a 9-year-old named Ronan, has autism and is generally nonverbal. Music, his family says, tends to attract his interest and make him happy. When symphony officials learned Ronan's identity, they arranged a private performance so he could meet some musicians.

How often do you shout "Wow!" — in a good way — at what you see and hear? You may tend to do so on vacation or while observing God's natural wonders, but what about during your day-to-day life? Think about the people you encounter and their talents — and your own. When have these sparked a "Wow!" of thanks to God?

Every blessing, large or small, is a wow-moment — a gift from God that warrants our praise.

Life Together at Christ's United





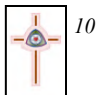
OUTDOOR FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Since we cannot hold our traditional Vacation Bible School this year, an outdoor family movie night is in the works with refreshments and a fun

Indoor Custodian Position

Due to the resignation of our Indoor Custodian, Susan Herb, we are now accepting applications for this position. Please contact the Church Office if interested.

Volunteers are covering church cleaning and we're trying to set up 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.



Deidre Dengler graduated from Tri-Valley High School. She will be attending Alvernia University to pursue a degree in Occupational Therapy.

Kaitlin Johnson graduated from North Schuylkill High School. Kaitlin plans to attend East Stroudsburg University majoring in Early Childhood Education and Special Education.

Kylie Mallams graduated from Tri-Valley High School and plans to attend Penn State University and major in Forensic Science.

Tyler McGrath graduated from Tri-Valley High School and will attend Bloomsburg University. He will major in Exercise Science.

Ryan Walter graduated from North Schuylkill High School. Ryan will be attending Pennsylvania College of Technology. He will major in Construction Management and minor in Business.

Bryce Weikel graduated from North Schuylkill High School



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

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



We will be collecting the following item for June:

Canned Vegetables

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday,





Serving Our Community of Faith in July:

Date	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte & Tag A Long	Crucifer	Post Worship Greeter in Narthex	Post Worship Greeter at Door
July 5 Worship Leader: Kay Berner	Sally Tice	John Kimmel Terry Neumeister Kay Berner Allen Johnson Cheryl Varndell-G	<i>We will not celebrate Holy Communion.</i>	Kaitlyn Werner	Jacob Tice	Council Member	Sally Tice
July 12 Worship Leader: Erik Tice	Mark Varndell			Joey McAndrew		Council Member	Mark Varndell
July 19	Donna Wallace			Blake Olayo		Cheryl Denchak	Donna Wallace
July 26	Beth Andrews			Ava Hubler		Peggy Dziczek	Beth Andrews



July 2020

			1 10:00 Seniors 7:00 Church Council	2	3	4 
5 9:30 Worship	6	7 9:00 Food Delivery	8 10:00 Seniors	9 10:00 – 12:00 Christ's Cupboard	10	11
12 9:30 Worship	13	14	15 Newsletter Deadline 10:00 Seniors	16	17	18
19 9:30 Worship	20 7:00 Evangelism/Outreach	21	22 10:00 Seniors	23	24	25 
26 9:30 Worship	27 6:00 Grief Support	28	29 9:00 Newsletter Assembly 10:00 Seniors	30	31	