

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

NON-PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Pottsville, PA
 PERMIT NO. 25

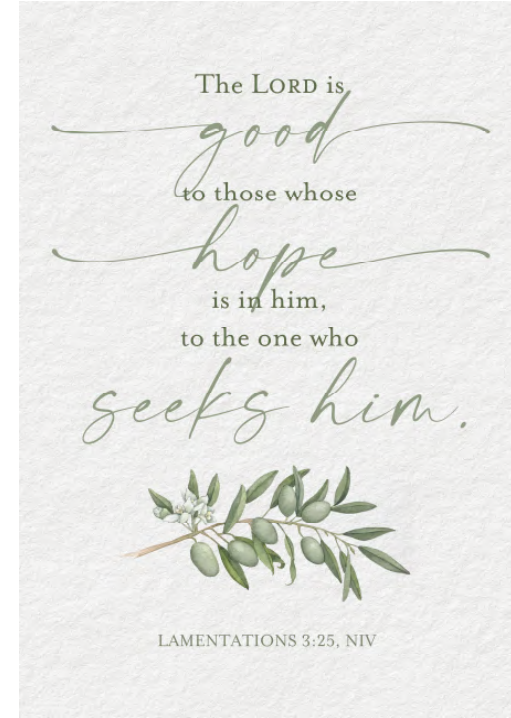
MAILED 5/26/21



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



The CULC Messenger
God's Work,
Our Actions



The CULC Messenger
God's Work, Our Actions





Christ's United Lutheran Church

One God. One People. One Purpose.

437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921

www.christsunited.org

(570) 875-1591

June 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 June CULC Messenger is sponsored
in Memory of Dorothy Yoder

Pastors Message	3-4
Council Highlights	5
Congratulations to our Grads	7
Birthdays & Anniversaries	8-9
Memorials	10
Serving our Community	11
June Calendar	12-13
Social Ministry	14
Puzzle	15
Prayer List	16
WELCA	18
World Hunger Book Exchange	18
Red Cross Blood Drive	21



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 April 30

Balance in Checking Account.....\$41,185.95.

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our
2021 Annual Budget of \$202,094.00 is **\$16,841.17**

April income was \$17,507.25.

Expenses for April were \$16,048.94,
resulting in a gain of \$1,458.31.

Benevolence Gifts through April is \$3,876.00

(26 % of our Benevolence goal of \$15,000.00 for 2021)



The CULC Messenger
God's Work, Our Actions



Christ's United Ministry Teams

Christian Education

Evangelism/Outreach

Lutheran Church Men (LCM)

Social Ministry

Stewardship

WELCA

Worship & Music

Multimedia Ministry

Security Team

Safety Task Force

Christ's United Committees

Auditing & Finance Committees

Endowment Fund

Mutual Ministry

Nominating

Personnel

Christ's United Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

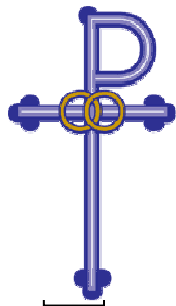
We the members of Christ's United Lutheran Church, Ashland, desiring to be blessed together with Word and Sacrament and to become more perfectly the Body of Christ in our world, do hereby commit ourselves to a mission which includes a creative re-examination of our worship life; a quality educational 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,

You may recall Bette Midler's hit song of the mid 1990s entitled, "God is Watching Us (From a Distance)". One line goes like this: "From a distance you look like my friend, even though we are at war. From a distance I just cannot comprehend what all this fighting's for". It really is a beautiful ballad. But if I only focus on the title, I get hung up on it. For one thing, a song of childhood pops into my mind. It's called "Oh, Be Careful Little Eyes What You See...For the Father up above is looking down below". Other verses include being careful about what your ears hear, your tongue says, your hands do, and mind thinks. If God is watching me, he'll see all my mess ups, and have good reason to punish me.

But what really bothers me about God watching us from a distance is that, in Jesus, our Lord God comes near. God is not just watching us from above, but is right here with us at home, school, work, play and most especially at worship. And God is not watching to note every flaw. God is watching with hopeful expectation that we will live as God's faithful people. God sees all those moments where we help others without fanfare. God sees when we forgive or apologize. And



Christian symbol

WEDDING SYMBOL—This version of the Chi Rho features two interlocking rings on a cross. It symbolizes the partnership a husband and wife make with God as they unite. The Wedding Cross also



— continued on page 4

The CULC Messenger
God's Work, Our Actions



I'd be a rich woman if I had dollar for every time someone said to me, "Pastor, I pray all the time, and I don't need to come to Church for that." It's true. The prayers you offer to God from bed, ball field, or desk are equally important to those offered at worship here at Christ's United Church. Yet away from Church you don't share fellowship with other Christians. Yes, gathering with other Christians can be messy, but it also offers blessings you'll miss out on if you stay away. And when you pray on your own, it's much easier to make God in your own image, instead of the other way around. While God still loves you, he probably feels like a loving aunt or uncle who rarely gets visited.

As God watches us engage in the daily joys and struggles of life, God cheers us on. God beams with pride. "Did you see what she just did? Did you see what he just said? I love seeing them grow in faith!" God is not judging us from a distance, but loving us up close and personal.

Pastor Laura+

P.S. There's much to share in this June at CULC. Church Music Sunday on June 6. Honoring our graduates on June 13. Hope to



Pastoral Acts

Pastor Laura performed the following

Funerals:

5/1/21 Alison M. Houser



American Red Cross

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

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

Community Blood Drive Christ's United Lutheran Church

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

Monday, June 7, 2021
1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

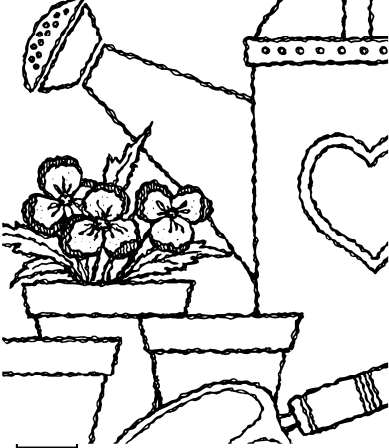
Please contact Debbie Hall or call
1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2676) or visit
www.redcrossblood.org
to schedule an appointment.

No boundaries

Love is a commitment to seek the good and to work for the good and welfare of others. It doesn't stop at our front door or our neighborhood, our religion or race, or our state's or [our] country's border. This is one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth, as the hymn goes. It often calls us to step outside of what we thought our boundaries were, or what others expect of us. It calls for us to sacrifice, not because doing so feels good, but because it's the right thing to do.

Be devoted to one another in love.

Romans 12:10, NIV



Make a sunflower, which turns its head to follow the sun.

What you need:

- Paper plate
- Yellow marker
- Scissors
- Yarn (black and brown)



What you do:

1. Color the entire plate yellow.
2. Around the edge, cut out an odd number of triangles. Evenly space the cuts to form flower petals.
3. Poke a hole in the plate's center. String black yarn through the hole and over one triangle cut. Tie a knot at the back of the plate.
4. Continue looping yarn through the hole and over the remaining cuts. Secure the end. The flower should look like a wagon wheel with black spokes.
5. Tie the brown yarn to a black "spoke." Weave the brown yarn over and under the spokes in a circle. Continue until the sunflower has a large center. Then tie the end.
6. Display your craft as a reminder to follow the Son, Jesus!



Church Council Highlights from April

- Pastor Laura reported that she had a total of 16 contacts in April. She and Pastor Mark will get their 2nd vaccine on May 4, and 2 weeks after that she thinks that she can do homebound visits with Holy Communion, if the homebound person would be open to her visiting.
- Angie Berger told Pastor Laura that she believes we can probably have VBS this summer.
- Pastor Laura said that we will again be hosting the Steeple Run for motorcyclists on 6/26 sponsored by St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Valley View.
- Mayer & Kehler did a service call on one of the freezers and found that it was leaking Freon. Repairs would be costly and if we purchased a new freezer from them the cost of the service call would be waived and they would take the old freezer away. The new freezer was installed and cost \$949.00.
- Barb Stepanchick explained that hymnals would be placed in the Narthex starting on Sunday for anyone who wanted to use them during the service.
- Pastor Laura mentioned the confidential survey used at St. Peter's Church in Reinerton in order to make decisions on when to reduce Covid precautions. It doesn't need to be signed, and filling it out is voluntary. This approach seemed more favorable than asking individuals if they've been vaccinated as they enter worship. The surveys which consist of seven bullets will be placed in the bulletins for two weeks starting on Sunday, May 9. A box will be available

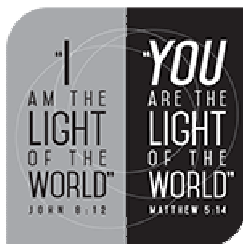
June Council Contact of the month is Ted Ambrose

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 Ted,



See light, be light

In January 2021, National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman presented her poem "The Hill We Climb" at the presidential inauguration. The final lines read: "For there is always light, / if only we're brave enough to see it. / If only we're brave enough to be it."



How often we long for light! In recent years we've agonized amid pandemic, angry politics and new awareness of racism. Some have suffered deep sorrow. But Jesus says, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12) and invites us to turn to him. God is always bringing light into darkness, through helpers, healers, peacemakers, friends. Sometimes bravery is required to turn our focus from the negative to the positive — to see the light of God.

Jesus also says, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14, emphasis added) and calls us to brighten the gloom. That requires bravery, as Gorman notes, but as Christians we're urged to look for light not just to make our own lives better but to



Christ's United Lutheran Church will be returning to most pre-pandemic activities effective May 29, 2021.



Dogs' best friend

A 71-year-old graduate in Turkey has become an inspiration to many. Fevzi Uyar had retired after teaching biology for 42 years but decided to pursue another degree. Known as the "grandfather" of homeless animals, he routinely traveled 90 miles every two days to feed stray dogs, who came to recognize his van. Uyar also built dozens of plywood shelters, complete with rugs and blankets, for the dogs.

But Uyar often encountered dogs needing medical care and racked up debts with a local veterinarian, so he enrolled in classes himself. The recent graduate now vaccinates and treats the animals he loves so much.

~~oops!~~

From a church sign in Denver, Colorado:

~~you are invited to a
Musical Celebartion!~~

~~Monday at 7 p.m.~~

That must've been quite a *celebration!*



Women of the ELCA



The next Women of ELCA Meeting will be held on
Wednesday, June 2nd
at **6:00 pm.**

All women of CULC are invited to attend.



Ladies Night Out:

On the road again! Ladies Night Out will go to Country Diner in Hegins on JUNE 27TH.

Please sign up on bulletin board so reservations can be made and carpooling arranged.

We will leave church parking lot at 3:30.

World Hunger Book & Puzzle Exchange

Do you love books? Do you have extra books you no longer want?

The social ministry team will have a book & puzzle exchange table in the Narthex during the summer.

Bring in any of your soft or hard cover books that you no longer want and place them on the table. Then, if there are other books on the table you would like to read, take them home and enjoy the stories. We are looking for children's books, fiction, novels, mystery, non-fiction or others that you think would be of interest to someone else. If books aren't your interest, we will also be collecting puzzles! When you take a book or puzzle, leave a donation for



Ralph H. Johnson is graduating from Tri Valley High School. He will be attending Pennsylvania College of Technology to major in Forestry.

Tanner Walacavage is graduating from North Schuylkill High School. He plans to continue playing baseball at Misericordia University and major in Medical Imaging.

Crystal Collette is graduating from Capella University with a Doctorate in Healthcare Administration with a specialization in Leadership. Crystal currently works for Centra Health as the Director of Autism Services and plans to continue to pursue higher level leadership roles



MAY HE GRANT
YOUR
HEARTS
DESIRES & MAKE ALL
YOUR
PLANS SUCCEED

The CULC Messenger
God's Work, Our Actions



JUNE



- 1 Maxwell Pennypacker
Barb Stepanchick
Ashley Williard
- 2 Michael Lucas
- 3 Thomas Hood
Rose Pennypacker
Nathaniel Shadle
Greg Zaharick
- 4 Lindsay Fetterolf
Douglas Fetterolf
Michelle Lavelle
Joseph Smith
- 5 Amber Krise
James Reiner
Ted Shadle
- 6 Robert Gross
Kimberly Zweizig
- 8 Don Dillman
Kayla Troutman
- 9 Shannon Marlow
Pastor Mark Swanson
- 10 Rhea McNally
- 11 Erik Tice
- 12 Randy Green
Breonna Richardson
- 14 Jennifer McGrath
William Waldick, Jr.

- 17 Daniel Barker
Stephanie Cook
William Coward, Jr.
David Mullins III
- 18 Susan McNally
Madelyn Wolfgang
Meredyth Towey
- 19 Luke Allison
Bruce Bitting, Jr.
Gerald Stutzman
- 20 Bruce Bitting
Joey McAndrew
- 21 Bryson Nagle
Matthew Zweizig
- 22 Lindsay Bixler
Betty Waldick
- 23 Corrine Coward
Amy Johnson
- 24 Linda Rickert
Aidan Romberger
- 25 Gracelyn Anthony
- 26 Laura Brennan
Michelle Hood
Gerald Stehr
- 27 Richard Shoup
Brandy Speer
- 29 James Johnson



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 Lute Family - Carl & Pearl
- The Stitzer Family - Beryl

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



2021 Sponsorships

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

- Altar Flowers \$25.00
- Worship Bulletins \$15.00
- 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 payable to the church and given to Deb Hall in the church office.

We Offer our Prayers to...



- May 23** – Robert Burns (B. Liem)
 Lisa Troutman Foulds (D. Stank)
 Debbie Morgan (I. Morgan)
Families of Ellie Kennedy & Robert Malia (Lindenumuths)
 Tiffany Kase (A. Berger / J. Johnson)
- May 16** – Dot Zeigenfuse (B. Andrews)
- May 9** -- Robbie (I. Morgan)
 CarolAnn Marcinowski (C. Brennan)
 Dot Zangari
 Sandy Neumeister (P. Lute)
Family of Harold Blacker-CULC Building Contractor (F. Shadle)
- May 2** – Matthew Lucas (V. Brown)
 Nick Zinzer(D. Price)
 Brian Berger (A. Berger)
 Theresa Deibert (D. Zaharick)
 Julie Ann Ambruch (J. Pennypacker)
 Yeager Family (J. Johnson)

Please continue to pray for: Stewart Anthony, Corrine & Josh Coward, Jim Gruber, 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, 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.




06/04/77	Bill & Deb Price
06/09/12	Ross & Amanda Sterling
06/13/59	Carl & Pearl Lute
06/13/15	Ryan & Katelyn Bendinsky
06/14/08	George & Jennie Kosmisky
06/15/02	Jeff & Rachel Hostetter
06/15/92	Maynard & Susan Merwine
06/15/96	Bruce & Anne Pirie
06/20/09	Jason & Katie Brown
06/25/88	Pastor Mark Swanson & Pastor Laura Csellak
06/26/10	Richard & Cheryl Weikel
06/30/11	Ted & Terry Ambrose

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.





“Dads are most ordinary men turned by love into heroes, adventurers, storytellers and singers of song.”





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

In Memory of Richard Berner by:
Irene Morgan

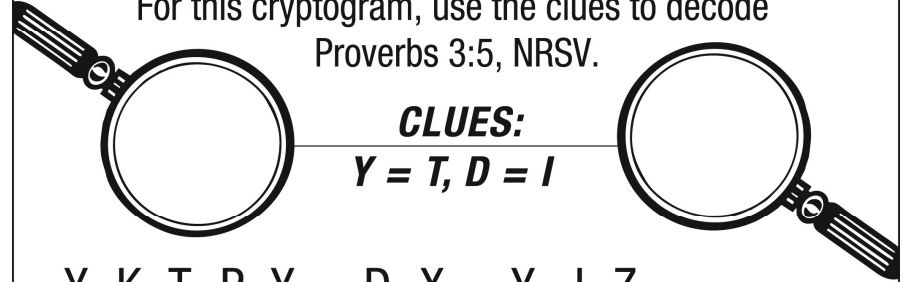
In Memory of Alison Houser and A.J. Charriez by:
Grace and Bob May



"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under the trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time."

Puzzle!

For this cryptogram, use the clues to decode Proverbs 3:5, NRSV.



CLUES:
Y = T, D = I

Y K T P Y D X Y J Z

V Q K R F D Y J O V V

C Q T K J Z O K Y, O X R

R Q X Q Y K Z V C Q X

C Q T K Q F X D X P D L J Y.

Answer: Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. Proverbs 3:5, NRSV

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Do you like helping people?
Do you have a few hours to spare?
We need your HELP!

The social ministry team is looking for someone to help with the Red Cross Blood Drives. Blood Drives are held one afternoon from 1:00-6:00 pm, every other month. We need a volunteer to help out with checking donors in when they arrive. This would include helping them to register on the computer. The Red Cross volunteers will offer you assistance in learning the process and if you need any help throughout the afternoon. The next blood drive is Monday, June 7. Bring a good book to read along with you and spend the afternoon helping Christ's United and the



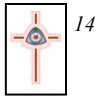
We will be collecting the following items for June:

Spaghetti & Sauce

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is



Fellowship Hour will resume the first Sunday of October after worship.



Serving Our Community of Faith in June:



Date	Congregational Representative	Lector & Post Worship Greeter at the Door	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolytes	Crucifer	Post Worship Greeter in Narthex
June 6 Church Music Sunday	Mark Vardell	Barb Anczarski	Allen Johnson Terry Neumeister Kay Berner	Larry Wolfgang - AM Barb Anczarski John Towey	Ralph Johnson		Council Member
June 13		Steven Wolfgang			Amy & Cole Johnson		Council Member
June 20		Kay Berner			David & Daniel Cunningham		Pearl Lute
June 27	Vivian Brown	Angie Berger			Desiree Dengler		Darlene Stank

JUNE 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10:00 a.m. Seniors 6:00 p.m. WELCA	3	4 SYNOD ASSEMBLY	5 SYNOD ASSEMBLY 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
6 CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY 9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 Worship & Music 	7 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive 7:00 p.m. Council	8	9 10:00 a.m. Seniors	10 9:00 a.m. Food Delivery 10:00 – 11:30 Christ's Cupboard Distribution	11	12 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
13 9:30 a.m. Worship 2021 Graduates Honored & Blessing of Quilts 	14 FLAG DAY	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 10:00 a.m. Seniors	17	18	19 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
20 Start of Summer FATHERS DAY 9:30 a.m. Worship 	21 <i>Summer Begins</i>	22	23 9:00 Newsletter Assembly 10:00 a.m. Seniors	24	25	26 St. Andrews Methodist Church Steeple Run 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
27 9:30 a.m. Worship 3:30 Ladies Night Out	28	29	30 10:00 a.m. Seniors			