

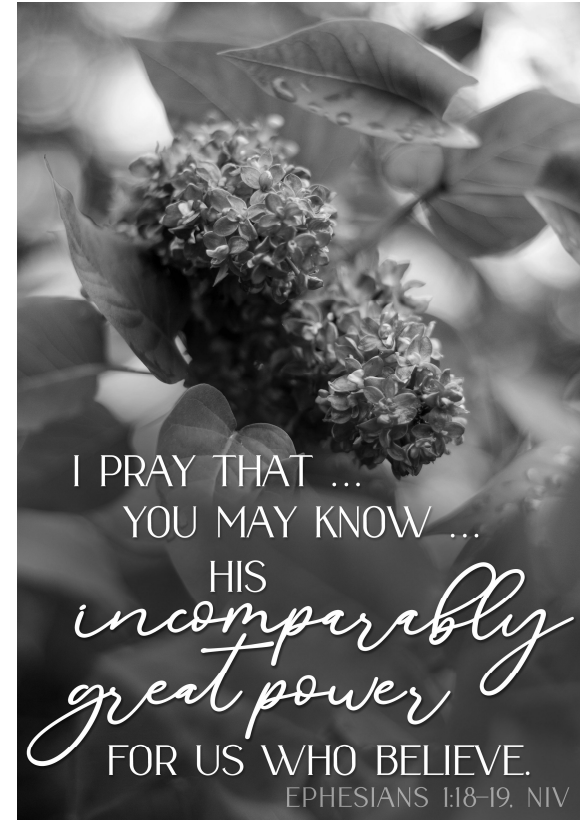
Christ's United Lutheran Church
437 Airport Road
Ashland, PA 17921
www.christsumited.org

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Life Together at Christ's United Lutheran Church



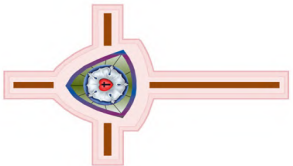
Join us

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
 May/June 2020

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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

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	

Status of Accounts as of April 30

Balance in Checking Account.....\$45,766.27.

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

April net income was \$41,858.72

Expenses for April were \$14,882.31.

Benevolence Gifts through April\$3,411.00
 (23% 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

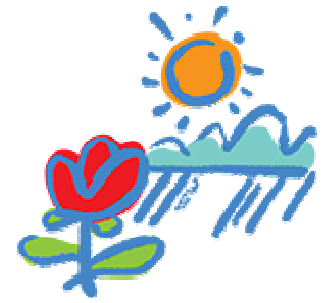
Christ's United Committees

- 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.



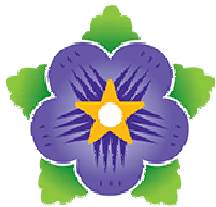
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The last week in April, Pastor Mark and I decided to add an online Prayer Service in addition to the Sunday services that have been posted weekly on our congregation's web and Facebook sites. The rationale for this was the many people in our congregation and community who desire our prayer even as we cannot now meet together in worship.

There are different ways to pray, everything from the Prayers of Intercession we use in our weekend services, to the prayer you offer at the dinner table, before bed, or while driving or taking a walk. In more formal prayers, each portion of the prayers ends with these or similar words: *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.* Or, *Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.* Did you know that prayer responses can be sung as well as spoken? Pastor Mark and I experimented with this in that online Prayer Service. We used "The Spirit Intercedes for Us" (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship* #180). The text is Romans 8:26 where St. Paul writes, "... (T)he Spirit helps us in our weaknesses; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but *the Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words*" (italics added).

Many of us feel weak these days, in large part because of the effects of the Coronavirus. Those who have contracted COVID-19, including several friends in our congregation and community, know that a symptom of this disease is extreme tiredness. Weariness also comes from fretting about possibly getting or transmitting the virus. Then there's the economic fallout caused by this virus, as well as the irritability that comes from spending so much time cooped up in

+Christian Symbol+



Violet

The violet, a symbol of humility, is used most often to refer to the Virgin Mary, whom St. Bernard (1090-1153) described as "the violet of humility." The purple flower also is sometimes used to express Christ's humility in assuming human form.



Life Together at Christ's United

— continued on page 4



our homes. Speaking for myself in this regard, there's the unkind words unfairly shouted at family members.

The good news is that Spirit comes into this mess to intercede on our behalf. That is, she intervenes to strengthen us in our weariness, remind us of the uselessness of worry, and provide options when it is difficult to pay bills or handle family stress. When I texted Jamie Johnson, our Director of Music, about the possibility of singing prayer responses, instead of typing *intercedes* I wrote *interferes*. We both laughed. Imagine the Spirit interfering with us! Then again, doesn't the Spirit sometimes help us by frustrating our futile efforts to handle things by ourselves, as well as interfering with the harsh and hurtful things we say to others and ourselves? It's true. The Spirit both intercedes and interferes on our behalf.

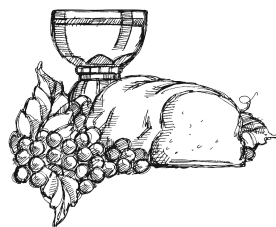
An important way the Spirit helps us in our weaknesses is by the work of the Church. During this unprecedented time when we cannot worship together, we support each other with words of encouragement by phone, text message and email. And turn to me for support as well. Simply call the Lu-



First Holy Communion

Congratulations to the following children who have completed First Holy Communion instruction: Cole Johnson, Emily Miller, Mackenzie Miller, Zeke Shingara and Remington Stehr.

We will celebrate their First Holy Communion during



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

Bake Sale sponsored by WELCA

**Community
Blood Drive**



Christ's United Lutheran Church

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

Monday, June 8, 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.

CONFIRMATION 2020

The following youth have completed two years of Confirmation Instruction and will be Reaffirming their Baptism in the Rite of Confirmation on an upcoming Sunday.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Nathan Wilmer Berger
Jesse Daniel Cascarino
Daniel Robert Cunningham
Jacob Wolfgang Tice

Welcoming the Holy

Abraham and Sarah welcomed three strangers who turned out to be the Lord. Jesus said, “If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple,” the giver will be rewarded (Matthew 10:42, NIV). An ancient Jewish proverb asserts: “Hospitality is one form of worship.” A Russian Orthodox monk is said to have told a younger one, “Sometimes I see a stranger coming up the road and I say, ‘Oh, Jesus Christ, is it you again?’” And an old Gaelic poem declares, “Often, often, often, goes the Christ in the stranger’s guise.”

Sometimes we think we must do something big to serve God. Today, when you smile at someone on the street, take time to entertain a child’s question, bring cookies to a new neighbor, thank a server or clerk ... know that you are serving Jesus, that you are worshipping God.



Church Council Highlights from April & May

- **April 13, 2020** a special meeting was conducted at 7:00 p.m. via conference call led by Ann Marie Dillman concerning Council’s approval of submitting a Payroll Protection Plan application to help cover payroll during the this time of social distancing. On Saturday April 11 Ann Marie was informed by the bank that we were preliminarily approved for a loan of \$27,700.
- After discussion, a motion was made by Terry Shilling to move forward with the application, seconded by Jim Gruber. All participants agreed. Motion carried.
- **May 4, 2020** Council Meeting was held via “Zoom”.
- Donated Matching Funds to date total \$12,030.
- WELCA donated \$1,388 for a mortgage payment.
- A new line item was added—COVID-19 PPP loan of \$27,700 to be as transparent as possible.
- A motion was made and carried that if it is lawful for us to hold worship services on May 30 & 31 we will resume worship on that weekend.
- After discussion, the consensus was to ease into Social Hour putting

June Council Contact of the month is Barbara Stepanchick.

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**



Council Liaisons

The following are the new Council liaisons to CULC's teams and committees. Contact information is also listed to reach them if you have a question or suggestion for that team or committee's ministry:

Ministry Teams

Christian Education: Angie Berger -570-875-3598
Evangelism/Outreach: Vivian Brown -717-275-5277
Lutheran Church Men: Ted Ambrose -570-449-2193
Social Ministry: Barb Stepanchick -570-875-1114
Stewardship: Jim Gruber -570-875-2805
WELCA: Beth Andrews -570-874-2381
Worship and Music: Terry Shilling -570-875-0412
Youth: Jacob Tice -570-875-2681
Multi-media: Jacob Tice -570-875-2681

Operational Committees

Auditing: Helen Wolfgang
Endowment Fund: Suzanne Peel -570-875-2218
Finance: Anne Marie Dillman - 570-875-2422
Mutual Ministry: Pastor - 570-875-1591
Nominating: TBD

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



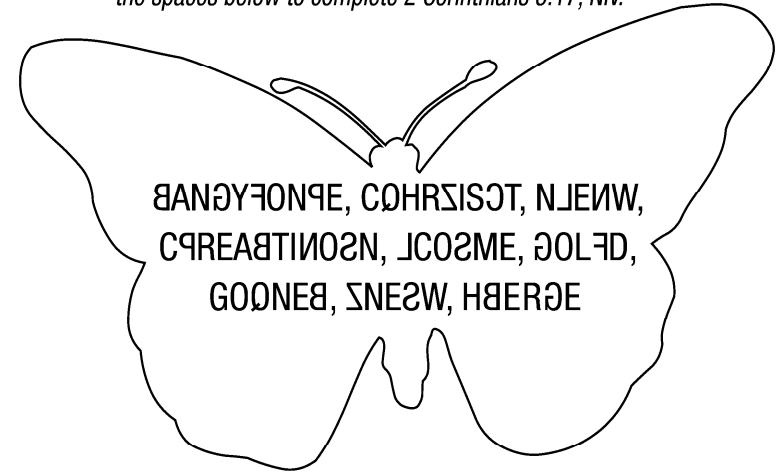
***Transformation*POWER**



Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly,
God transforms us from old to new.



Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



Therefore, if _____ is in _____,
the _____ has _____:

The _____ has _____,
the _____ is _____!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answers: anyone, Christ, new, creation, come, old, gone, new, here



All women of
CULC are
invited to
attend the next
WELCA

Matching Funds Update

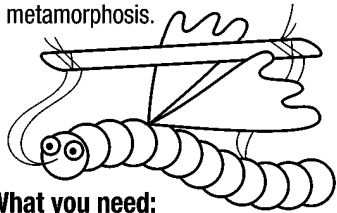
Approximately 6 weeks ago on March 14th, our Matching Funds challenge began just as we faced another unforeseen monumental challenge, the corona virus pandemic! At that time we were experiencing financial difficulties, even before the virus impacted our entire country including our churches and it's members financially. Despite not being able to come together to worship at Christ's United due to social distancing, as of April 30th we have raised \$12,030 in Matching Funds in a short period of time and under difficult circumstances through the grace of God!

I wish to thank the generosity of our members who participated in the challenge, realizing that many of you were not able to contribute due to the financial strains brought on by the virus. Several Thrivent members took advantage of Thrivent's Matching Funds challenge which was an extra \$1 for every \$2 donated, providing an additional boost to the campaign. Our goal of \$10,000 has been surpassed due to the dedication and commitment of our members.



CHANGED!

Make this cute puppet to show and tell the amazing story of metamorphosis.



What you need:

- Needle and string
- 12 small pom-poms
- Wooden craft stick
- Scissors
- Googly eyes
- Glue
- Coffee filter
- Markers

What you do:

1. Sew pom-poms together to make a caterpillar body. Tie off that string.
2. Thread another string up through the first pom-pom, leaving 12 inches to dangle. Repeat with the ninth pom-pom, leaving two dangling strings.
3. Wrap those strings around opposite ends of the stick, adjusting their length to about 6 inches. Tie in place.
4. Glue on eyes.
5. Flatten the coffee filter and draw a symmetrical design on it. Pleat in the center to create wings.
6. Move the caterpillar puppet by holding the stick. Glue on the wings as you describe the transformation into a butterfly.



3	Brian Wetzel	14	Christine Klouser
4	Ann Marie Dillman Tina Wolfe	15	Ralph Johnson Robert Sweinhart
6	Bryonna Bolich		Benjamin Towey
7	Brittany Harhigh Cory Lindenmuth Gary Weinreich Devan Fetterolf	16	Susan Edmonson Jeff Hostetter Beau Little
8	Charles Bendinsky Nancy Cunningham Taryn Wilson	17	Kelly Dziadosz
	Joan Wolfgang Erin Werner	18	Eli Rothemel
	Nina Britton Katelyn Houser Joshua Smith	19	Barbara Anczarski Michael Hudock Steve Wilson
	Logan Walacavage	21	Sophia Wessner
10	Cole Johnson George Kosmisky Kevin Sweinhart	22	Kaiden Dillman Derek Whritenour
11	Patricia Hepler Jonas McGrath	23	Chase Lower
	Andrew Charriez	24	Alison Houser
12		25	Cory Weikel Jr. Dustin Wolfgang
13		27	Jason Brown Sarah Stehr

VBS 2020



Mark your calendars!
Our 2020 Vacation Bible School
is set for July 26 thru 30.
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Watch for details!!

MAY

Anniversaries

05/04/85 Ted & Penny Shadle
 05/07/83 Chip & Melanie Bendinsky
 05/10/08 Robert & Jessica Nagle
 05/14/05 Allen & Cheryl Klinger
 05/16/14 Chad & Natasha Weikel
 05/18/02 Todd & Kim Walacavage
 05/19/73 Dale & Holly Bolich
 05/20/12 Ryan & Jodi MacNamara
 05/21/88 William & Tammy Harris
 05/25/13 Sean & Nina Britton
 05/27/93 Steve & Bernice Wilson
 Bryon & Jessica Wallace
 05/28/83 Ken & Tammy Dengler
 05/28/83 Kenneth & Kimberly Zweizig



JUNE

Anniversaries



06/04/77 Bill & Deb Price
 06/05/10 Chris & Dianna Monaghan
 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



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

We send our Congratulations and prayers for our 2020 High School Seniors as they graduate during this difficult time:

Deidre Dengler
 Kaitlin Johnson
 Kylie Mallams
 Ryan Walter



Please provide information on page 15 for your future plans so we can honor you in an upcoming Worship Service.

Life Together at Christ's United



We Offer our Prayers to...



May 10 Nellie Schlorff, Paul Brown (V. Brown), Deb Price, Nancy Harris & Family (D. Wallace)

Bennyhoff & Kane Families, Mr. & Mrs. Curt Martin

May 3 Donna Kuczawa, Richard Shoup (H. Brown)

Deb Hall, Dawn Huntzinger-Health (E. Tice)

Tommy Green

Terry Beaver (J. Young), Tim Bennett & Family (D. Hubler)

Families of Doris McGurl (L. Lute), John Houston, & Ted Reichenbach (J. Sweinhart)

April 24 Myla Davis (G. Marquardt), Robby Meyers (B. Liem)

Margariette Felegi (A. Berger), Jim Stevens (S. Wolfgang)

Earl Heiber (A. Berger)

April 17 Jack Houser,

Pastor Bob & Donna Hughes (Grubers)

Kathy Hower (J. Denchak), Bob Schmidt (J. Denchak)

Mark Hepler (P. Hepler)

Jacob Tice (S. Tice), Janice Kehler (V. Brown)

Paige Ganes (S. Peel), Jean Dudley

Families of: Frank J. Staudenmeier & Susan Grant

Please continue to pray for: Carl (Mickey) Lute, Irene Morgan, Gail Lorady, 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. Varndell), Anna James (E. Tice), 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:

The Lassen Family - Michael, Donna & Jesse Cascarino

The Smith Family - Frank & Karen

The Waldick Family - Betty, Azure



16

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

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 Berner

Richard Shoup

Brandy Speer



Life Together at Christ's United



Serving Our Community of Faith in May/June:

Date	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte & Tag A Long	Crucifer	Post Worship Greeter in Narthex	Post Worship Greeter at Door
May 31 Pentecost	Erik Tice	Dennis Wolfe Laray Klinger Darlene Stank Ted Ambrose Cheryl Vardell-G	Kay Berner AM Becky Spencer Barb Stepanchick	Kylie Mallams	Logan Walacavage	Terry Ambrose	Erik Tice
June 7 Holy Trinity	Jacob Tice	David Hall Jim Gruber Bryce Weikel Lowell Martin Becky Spencer-G	Vivian Brown -AM Dennis Wolfe Donna Wallace	Nathan Berger	Nelson Berger	Council Member	Jacob Tice
June 14	Steven Wolfgang			Dylan Buhay & Mason Buhay		Council Member	Steven Wolfgang
June 21	John Towey			Daniel Cunningham & Kayla Werner		Ted Ambrose	John Towey
June 28	Cheryl Vardell			Deidre Dengler & Maura Sweitzer		Richard Berner	Cheryl Vardell



Are you or someone you know graduating this year?

Please tell us about it!

This includes all graduates from high school, college, or any higher education.

We would like to

include information about all our graduates in the next newsletter. Also, in an upcoming service we will be honoring all graduates as part of worship with a special Blessing.

Watch for the date and plan to attend this special service.

Please mail or drop off your information into the church Office by May 31st for inclusion in the Newsletter and Bulletin.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

What school are you graduating from

Future Plans _____



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

- June – Christian Education/Youth
- 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

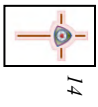


We will be collecting the following item for June:

Spaghetti & Sauce

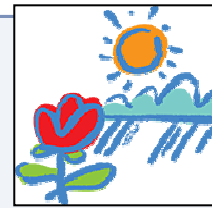
Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!
The next food distribution date is Thursday,



May 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 7:00 Council Meeting via "Zoom"	5 Cinco De Mayo	6	7 National Day of Prayer	8 May / June Newsletter Deadline	9
10 Mother's Day 	11	12	13	14 9:00 Food Delivery 10:00 Christ's Cupboard	15 9:00 Newsletter Assembly	16 Armed Forces Day
17	18 6:00 Grief Support 7:00 Evangelism /Out-reach	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day 	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00 Church Council	2	3 10:00 Seniors 7:00 WELCA	4	5	6 5:00 Holy Trinity Worship with Holy Communion
7 Holy Trinity Sunday 9:30 Worship with Holy Communion 5:00 LCM 6:00 Property Committee 	8 1:00 – 6:00 Red Cross Blood Drive	9 9:00 Food Delivery	10 10:00 Seniors	11 10:00 – 12:00 Christ's Cupboard	12	13 5:00 Worship with Holy Communion
14 Flag Day 9:30 Worship 	15 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 Social Ministry	16	17 10:00 Seniors	18	19	20 Start of Summer (Summer Solstice) 5:00 Worship with Holy Communion
21 Father's Day 9:30 Worship 	22	23	24 9:00 Newsletter Assembly 10:00 Seniors	25	26	27 5:00 Worship with Holy Communion
28 9:30 Worship	29 6:00 Grief Support	30				