

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MAILED 4/28/21



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



The CULC Messenger
God's Work,
Our Actions

THE HUMAN
 MIND MAY DEVISE,
 MANY PLANS,
but it is the
PURPOSE
 OF THE LORD
that will be
 ESTABLISHED.

PROVERBS
 19:21, ESV

Join us for Worship
Saturday 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:45 a.m.



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

May 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 May Newsletter is sponsored in Loving Memory of Elmer Waldick by Betty & Family

Pastors Message	3-4
Council Highlights	5
Graduate information request	7
Birthdays & Anniversaries	8-9
Welcome New Indoor Custodian	10
Serving our Community	11
May Calendar	12-13
Social Ministry	14
Puzzle	15
Prayer List	16
WELCA	18
Memorials	19
Spaghetti Supper	20
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
Indoor Custodian	Ann Ray Begis	570-590-2729
Outdoor Custodian	Bill Price	570-875-4272
Financial Secretary	Christine Brennan	570-875-0720

Status of Accounts as of March 31

Balance in Checking Account..... \$39,727.64.

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

March income was \$16,080.25

Expenses for March were \$29,473.93,
resulting in a loss of \$13,393.66.

(The expenses included \$11,608.38 to pay off of the mortgage.)

Benevolence Gifts through March is \$2,912.00

(19 % of our Benevolence goal of \$15,000.00 for 2022)



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

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 in Christ,

As many of you have heard, my husband, Pastor Mark Swanson, has resigned as pastor of Friedens Lutheran Church in Hegins and St. James Lutheran Church in Pitman, effective April 30. While he expected to serve those two congregations longer, a new venture in ministry became available, allowing him to be closer to his brothers in Western New York.

Of course, the question comes to mind what this means for my ministry with Christ's United Church. I love this congregation dearly and am so very privileged to serve as your pastor. No congregation I've served has stronger lay leaders, volunteers, outreach to the community, the ability to try new things, and commitment to Christ.

When will my ministry with you end? I do not know. For now, I am focused on the time we have together in ministry, building on the trust we share. My priorities remain preaching and enriching worship, faith formation, welcoming visitors, providing activities for youth and families, and taking every opportunity to interact with our neighbors.

Pastor Mark is given two days off each week in his new call. That means we will regularly be together. And the Frieden's Church Council has graciously allowed our son Stefan and me to remain in their parsonage. Such family connections will strengthen me as I serve with you.



Christian symbol



THREE INTERWOVEN CIRCLES—Each circle in this symbol represents one of the Persons of the Holy Trinity — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The circles, having no beginning and no end, signify the Trinity's eternal nature. The circles' interlacing symbolizes unity. In the center is a triangle, an ancient symbol of the Trinity.



A large stone in the Heritage Garden of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Easton boldly proclaims: "God will provide". And indeed, he does. The days ahead are exciting. Ministry opportunities abound. And new life in Christ flows freely and generously over us all.

Always your sister in Christ,

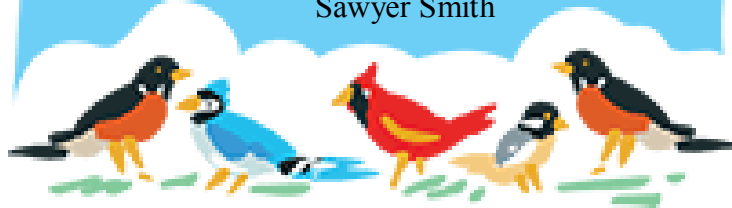
Pastor Laura+

Pastoral Acts

Pastor Laura performed the following

Baptisms:

4/3/21 Joseph Smith
Siena Smith
Sawyer Smith



All Creation Sings Hymnals

Have you noticed we are singing some hymns from the new "ACS" supplement hymnal? At the Worship and Music Committee Meeting on April 25 we decided it would be beneficial for the Choir to have copies of this Hymnal. We will be placing an order.

If anyone would like to purchase a hymnal for yourself, the cost is \$14.00. This includes the price of the hymnal, plus a small amount toward the shipping cost. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Please note...due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the hymnals are not to be left in the pews. Please take yours with you and bring it on Sunday. Deadline to order is May 16.



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.

Open to the public and walk-ins are Welcome!



SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL SUPPER

**SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2021
3:00-6:00PM**

~TAKE OUT ONLY~

Christ's United Lutheran Church
437 Airport Road, Ashland
(570) 875-1591, www.christsunited.org

Sponsored by Lutheran Church Men's Group

Adults: \$10.00
Children 6-12: \$4:00
Children under 6: FREE

Dinner Includes:
Spaghetti, Meatballs
Tossed Salad,
Bread & Butter
Dessert
Beverage

Limited tickets will be sold at the door. Buy your tickets from LCM members, or call the Church Office.

Everyone Welcome!



Church Council Highlights from April

- Pastor Laura informed council that the purchase of a new lawn-mower is a gift from Forrest Shadle. Thank you cards have been sent.
- Barb Stepanchick reported that the Easter Egg Drive-Thru went well. A nice group of volunteers packed 69 bags and distributed them.
- At the Endowment Committee meeting on 3/21 a motion was made to increase the annual scholarship from \$400 to \$500.
- WELCA had another successful year of candy making and sales. A small amount of candy is still available for sale. Beth Andrews said the Personal Care Kits will be assembled at the next meeting on Wednesday, April 7.
- Ann Marie Dillman made the motion to hire the Inside Custodian applicant, Ann Ray Begis with a 90 day trial period. The motion was seconded by Ted Ambrose with all voting in favor. Motion carried. Ann Marie will inform Jim Chappell, chair of Personnel Committee so that he can notify Ann Ray.

May Council Contact of the month is Dennis Wolfe.

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 Dennis, he can be reached at 570-875-9085.



**Council Member
of the Month**





New Lawn Mower

Many thanks to Forest Shadle for purchasing a new lawn mower for the church. The old one had finally seen its last mowing and needed to be replaced.

THANK YOU!!

I want to thank everyone who helped in any way with this year's Easter Egg Drive Thru. We packed and distributed 69 bags. Your donations and your time given were greatly appreciated and helped to make this year's drive thru a success. Hopefully next year we can have our annual Easter Egg Hunt as usual.



Thanks again,

Barbara Stepanchick and the Easter Egg Hunt Committee

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

In Memory of Richard Berner by:

Nellie Schlorff
George & Jennie Kosmisky
Beryl Stitzer
Nelson & Angie Berger & Family

Donations to CULC Capital Campaign

In Memory of Richard Berner by:

Michael & Donna Lassen

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.

"God spoke: 'Let us make human beings in our image, ... so they can be responsible for ... every animal that moves on the face of Earth'" (Genesis 1:26, MSG). Fevzi Uyar's care for stray dogs beautifully reflects God's intent for creation.



GERANIUMS

Day of Pentecost
May 23, 2021

If you wish to order Geraniums for Sunday, May 23rd, please sign up on the bulletin board. The cost of each Geranium is \$5.00. All payments should be given to Cathy Troutman.

Deadline to order is Sunday, May 9th.



Women of the ELCA



The next Women of ELCA Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 5th at 6:00 pm.**

All women of CULC are invited to attend.

Thank you to all who donated to the Lutheran World Relief “A Season of Hope - Baskets of Promise” project. Donations of items for Personal Care Kits, cash donations, and the Thrivent Action Team grant enabled us to assemble 30 PC kits and to purchase quilt batting for knotted quilts to be made this fall. People around the world are in desperate need of these very basic supplies and CULC continues to reach out to them. **THANK YOU!**



THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Thank you to all who helped with making Easter Candy. No matter what your job was, it was important; rollers, dippers, trimmers, packers, order takers!

Thank you to all who purchased candy. Without you our sale would not be a success.

This year we made 657 pounds of eggs, 936 bags of crackers and 40 bags of pretzels.

Another great year of Easter Candy Sale.

W.E.L.C.A.

Becky Spencer
Candy - Co-ordinator



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 June newsletter. Also, on Sunday June 13th we will be honoring all graduates as part of our worship service with a special Blessing. Please plan to attend this special service.

Please have all information into the church office by May 16th for inclusion in the Newsletter and Bulletin.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

What school are you graduating from

Future Plans _____





- 3 Brian Wetzel
- 4 Ann Marie Dillman
Tina Wolfe
- 6 Bryonna Bolich
- 7 Brittany Harhigh
Cory Lindenmuth
Gary Weinreich
Devan Fetterolf
- 8 Charles Bendinsky
Muoi Cunningham
Taryn Wilson
- 9 Joan Wolfgang
Erin Werner
- 10 Nina Britton
Katelyn Houser
Joshua Smith
Logan Walacavage
- 11 Cole Johnson
George Kosmisky
Kevin Sweinhart
- 12 Patricia Hepler
Jonas McGrath
- 14 Christine Klouser

- 15 Ralph Johnson
Robert Sweinhart
Benjamin Towey
- 16 Susan Edmonson
Jeff Hostetter
Beau Little
- 17 Kelly Dziadosz
- 18 Eli Rothermel
- 19 Barbara Anczarski
Michael Hudock
Steve Wilson
- 21 Sophia Wessner
- 22 Kaiden Dillman
Derek Whritenour
- 23 Chase Lower
- 25 Cory Weikel Jr.
Dustin Wolfgang
- 27 Jason Brown
Sarah Stehr
Amy Wahalec
- 31 Mark Stump



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 Lucas Family - Randy & Angela
- The Sterling Family - Ross, Amanda & Fletcher
- The Welker Family - Kenneth & Ann

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 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...



April 25 – Bob Keys (T. Ambrose)
Dana Rebuck (J. Pennypacker)
Julie Ann Ambruch (J. Pennypacker)
Tiffany (A. Berger)
Yeager Family (J. Johnson)

Family of Jim Troutman (L. Lute)

April 18 – Jack Houser
Jennifer Koch (B. Andrews)
Jim Hepler (P. Hepler)
Joan Madden (P. Hepler)

Family & Friends of Holly Schroeder (J. & L. Wolfgang)

April 11 -
Families and Friends of Neil Stefanisko (D. Zaharick)
Jim Masser (P. Lute)

April 4 – Ann Helwig (P. Lute)
Angie Balicki (T. Ambrose)
Ed Emerich (L. Martin)
Jennifer Koch

Family of Shelly Kaufman Mooney-sister of Lewis Kaufman
(L. & P. Kaufman)

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 (R. 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. you would like someone added, please call the office or write their name on the Prayer Request sheet found on the Prayer Podium.



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
05/31/03 Daniel & Melissa Sisko

CONFIRMATION MAY 23, 2021

Kaitlyn Werner has completed two years of Confirmation Instruction and will be Affirming her Baptism in the Rite of Confirmation on May 23, Pentecost Sunday.



Congratulations Kaitlyn!

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.



New Indoor Custodian

The position of Indoor Custodian has been filled. We welcome Ann Ray Begis as our new Indoor Custodian. Her start date was April 19. When you see Ann Ray, be sure to give her a warm welcome.

Many thanks to the teams of volunteers who worked tirelessly to keep our church clean and virus free in the interim.



Thank you!

Pastor Laura, Members and Council,

I really appreciate all of you giving me the opportunity to serve as your inside custodian.

I will do my best to keep your place of worship clean and tidy.

Should there be anything I overlooked or if there is something needed between my scheduled working hours, shoot me a text and I will be there ASAP. I'll do anything I can to help.

To each and every one of you...
Stay Healthy, Take Care and God Bless.

Ann Ray M. Begis
570-590-2729

Celebrating All Musicians...

Do you sing or play a musical instrument? We are asking all of CULC's singers and musicians to come forward. We would like to honor you on "Church Music Sunday" on June 6th. Please consider helping with special music for that day. Come join us in making a joyful noise to the Lord.

Please contact Director of Music, Jamie Johnson, for more information or to arrange special music.

SparkleBox © Copyright 2016, SparkleBox Teacher Resources (www.sparklebox.co.uk)





A lasting promise

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus speaks a final promise to the disciples.

Directions: Use the picture clues to find the letters. Then write that word below to complete Acts 1:8, NIV.

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

"But you will receive _____ when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

ACTS 1:8, NIV

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 taking their temperature with a digital thermometer, and 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 American Red Cross! Please see Deb Hall or Dorothy Kessler if interested.



We will be collecting the following items for May:
Soup & Peanut Butter

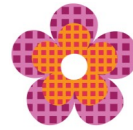
Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is
Thursday
May 13, 2021



Serving Our Community of Faith in May:



Date	Congregational Representative	Lector & Post Worship Greeter at the Door	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolytes	Crucifer	Post Worship Greeter in Narthex
May 2	Angie Berger	John Towey	Donna Wallace Tyler Wolfgang Thomas Wolfgang John Wolfgang	John Towey-AM	Logan Walacavage		
May 9		Mark Vardell			Blake Olayo & Ava Hernandez		
May 16	Jacob Tice	Kayla Werner			Mason & Dylan Buhay		
May 23 Day of Pentecost		Donna Wallace		Larry Wolfgang-AM	Maura Sweitzer & Kayla Werner		
May 30 Holy Trinity		Beth Andrews		Kay Berner-AM	Jacob Tice		



MAY 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 11:00 a.m. Visitation & 2:30 p.m. Memorial Service for Allison & AJ Houser 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
2 9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:45 a.m. Sunday School 5:00 p.m. LCM 6:00 p.m. Property Committee	3 7:00 p.m. Council	4	5 Cinco De Mayo 10:00 a.m. Seniors 6:00 p.m. WELCA	6	7	8 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
9 Mother's Day 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School 	10	11	12 10:00 a.m. Seniors	13  9:00 a.m. Food Delivery 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Christ's Cupboard	14 Newsletter Deadline	15 Armed Forces Day 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
16 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School	17	18	19 10:00 a.m. Seniors	20	21	22 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
23 PENTECOST (Wear red to worship) 9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:45 a.m. Sunday School	24 7:00 Social Ministry	25	26 9:00 a.m. Newsletter Assembly 10:00 a.m. Seniors	27	28	29 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
30 HOLY TRINITY 9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion	31  Memorial ★ Day ★					