



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



The CULC Messenger *God's Work,* *Our Actions*

LOVE
the Lord your God
with all your
HEART
and with all your
SOUL
and with all your
STRENGTH
and with all your
MIND...

L U K E 10 : 27

Join us for Worship - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School - October through May
1st & 3rd Sundays @ 10:45 a.m.
Contemporary Worship Service -
First Saturday of each month at 6:00 p.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

July 2025

In This Issue:

Pastor Brian's Message	3-4
Saturday Evening Worship	5
Summer Special Music	5
Prayer List	6-7
Birthdays / Anniversaries	8-9
Serving Our Community	11
July Calendar	12-13
Social Ministry	14-15
WELCA	16
Trip to Reading Phillies	17
VBS 2025	21



Status of Accounts as of May 31

Total amount in checking account: \$100,421.65.

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our 2025 Annual Budget of \$227,589.00 is \$18,965.75.

Income for May was \$10,436.67.

Expenses for May were \$16,228.76, resulting in a net loss of \$5,791.87.

Benevolence for May was \$754.49.

CHURCH COUNCIL 2025

	Phone	Term Expires
John Towey, President	570-205-2682	Feb. 2027
Kay Berner, Vice President	570-875-1035	Feb. 2026
Morgen Sweitzer, Secretary	717-858-9824	Feb. 2026
Jamie Johnson	570-590-1678	Feb. 2028
Suzanne Peel	570-590-5023	Feb. 2026
Virgil Smith	570-205-6979	Feb. 2028
Barbara Stepanchick	570-875-1114	Feb. 2027
Janet Towey	570-205-3420	Feb. 2027
Mark Varndell	570-205-8002	Feb. 2028

Youth Representative - Maura Sweitzer

PASTOR

Rev. Brian Beissel

570-516-1787

***Pastor Brian's Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. or other times by appointment.

STAFF

Parish Administrator Debbie Hall 570-875-1591
office@christsunited.org 570-789-9722
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30 am- 4:30 pm

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	Dennis Wolfe	570-875-9085
Financial Secretary	Christine Brennan	570-875-0720



Christ's United Ministry Teams

Christian Education
Evangelism/Outreach
Lutheran Church Men (LCM)
Social Ministry
Stewardship
WELCA
Worship & Music
Multimedia Ministry
Safety and 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 under
gird our program and the
maintenance of our facilities as it
encourages improved stewardship.*

Christian symbol



22

PELICAN — In the Middle Ages, the pelican came to represent Jesus' sacrifice of his blood for the world. According to legend, a mother pelican, in times of famine, would pluck open her chest and feed her young with her own blood. An alternate myth was that she fed her dying young with her blood to revive them, losing her own life in the process. The depiction of a pelican with a drop of blood on her chest is called "the pelican in her piety."

Message from Pastor Brian



Grace and Peace to you from our Risen Lord!

I hope you all at least poke your heads into the church building the evenings of July 21-23. These are the dates of our Vacation Bible School, and I hope you witness even just a fraction of the children's activity in those dates.

VBS has been something I remember dating back to my own childhood, and not only does it give parents a chance to take a breather and let us take care of them for two hours a night, but it gives us the opportunity to share the gospel with kids, both those connected to our congregation at CULC and those who are not.

The first night, we will be exploring the idea that God wants to spend time with us, and so we will be talking about Jesus inviting children into his presence. The second night, we will be talking about how God cares about what happens to us, and we will be using the story of Jesus calming the storm from the boat. On the third and final night, we will learn all about how God keeps his promises, so we will explore Jesus' teaching of God caring for even the smallest things such as flowers and small birds.

Maybe you need to hear those words too. I certainly do. It matters to me, in a world full of worry and conflict, that we have a God who is not far off from us, but in fact wants to know us inside and out. It's important that we have a God who protects us, and it's important that we have a God who wants everyone, even those who might sometimes be pushed aside, to be in his presence. One of my main learnings in seminary was in my Systematic Theology class, when we discussed that what happened to Jesus was important because in our Trinitarian theology, what happened to Jesus happened to God. So yes, all of those things that Jesus says to us in scripture reveals God's will do us.



*The CULC Messenger
God's Work, Our Actions*



— continued on page 4

And just as God cared for the children, we all must care for them. People have said to me in congregations before, “the children are our future.” Yes, but the children are also our PRESENT. They are here now, and they have opinions, and they have ideas, and just like us, they want to be able to express them and feel heard. This is why our children’s sermons in worship are important. And I don’t know about you, but I find that they sometimes challenge me in a good way!

Peace be to you as we prepare for VBS. Come and see what we are up to!

-Pastor Brian Beissel



Schedule for July:

Your Pastor invites you to lunch! Here is the schedule for July.
Lunch begins at 12 noon.

July 2: Dutch Kitchen, Frackville

Monthly Evening Bible Study will be held on

July 9th at Green’s in Lavelle at 6:00 p.m.
(This will be the last session on Judas.)



Vacation Bible School



Join us for “**Magnified**”
and *Discover the Bigness of God*
In the Smallest of Things



Students
Age 3 yrs-
6th Grade

Mon - Tues - Wed
July 21 - 23
6:00 - 8:00 PM

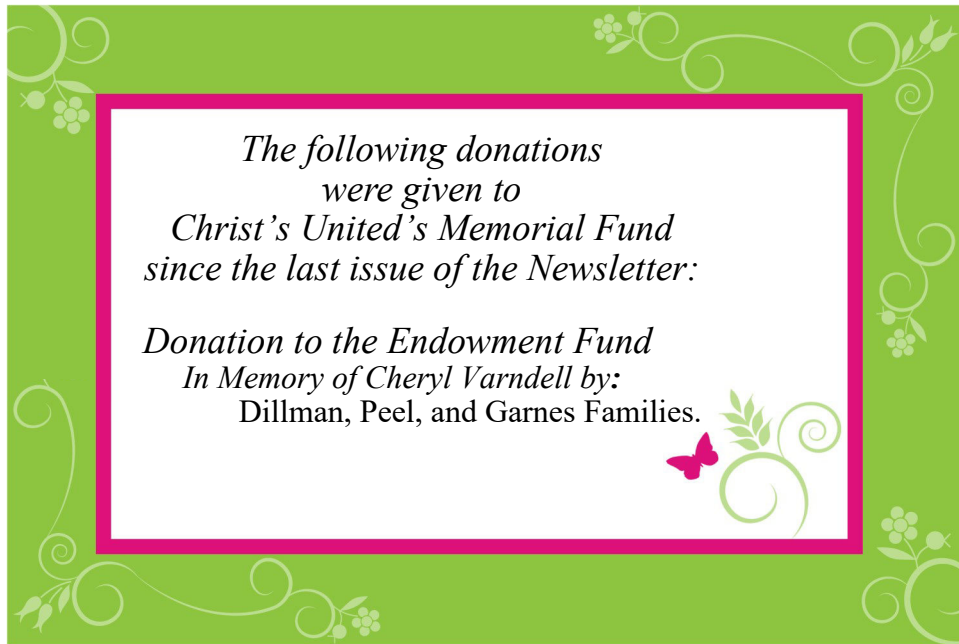
Each evening’s experience includes
Bible Stories, Music, Crafts, Snacks

Register child(ren) on the bulletin board
or call the church office by July 1.

Please include Name, Age/Grade completed,
Parent/Guardian name and Phone Number.

A registration form with student information
must be completed on first night of VBS





A prayer for the Fourth

Loving God, we thank you — the true Father of our country — for the blessings of this land and the gifts of cultures around the world. Prompt us to strive for justice for all, at home and abroad. Remind us, in the words of the hymn, that “this is our Father's world” and that your goodness prevails. Amid tragedies and conflicts, guard us against despair. Help us focus on the kindness evident daily: from generous neighbors to conscientious public servants (because most are). On Independence Day and every day, “O let [us] ne’er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.” Amen.



Spend time with God this summer



20



Council Highlights

Church Council Highlights From June

- There were no Council Highlights available at the time the newsletter was printed.

Saturday Evening Contemporary Worship Service



Join us at 6 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month as our new Praise Band leads us in an informal worship service with uplifting music. Holy Communion is celebrated by Intinction. **The worship service for July will be held on July 12.**



Summer Music

Do you sing or play a musical instrument? If so, would you consider sharing your musical gifts with your church family this summer? The choir is on a well- deserved break and we are hoping to schedule a variety of special music throughout the season. Guitar, piano, flute, trumpet, harmonica - all are welcome! Soloists, duets, quartets-we'd love to hear you! Gospel, Contemporary, Classical, Praise - all will enhance our worship!

Contact Jamie Johnson to schedule a Sunday if you are willing to provide special music.

July Council Contact of the month is Pastor Brian.

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 Pastor Brian, he can be reached at 570-516-1787.



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.

A copy of the Prayer List is available at worship services each Sunday. You also have an email sent to you each week with a list of those in need of your prayers. A phone chain notifies you of immediate needs. If there is an immediate need of prayer, please call the church office. In the event the office is closed, Gail Marquardt (570-554-1075 or 570-933-1737) should be called to begin the prayer chain. Please call the church office for more information or to become a Prayer Chain Participant.



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 Chappell Family - Jim

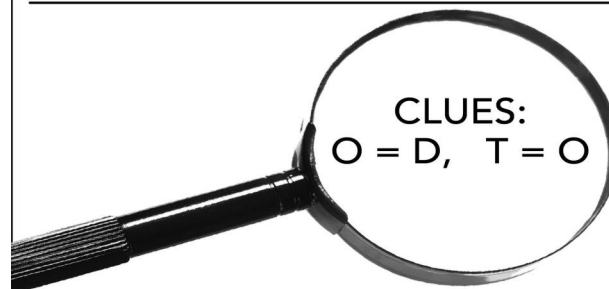
The Shilling Family - John E.

The Zangari Family - Michael, Tammy & Herbert



Puzzle!

For this cryptogram, use the clues
to decode Proverbs 27:1, NIV.



$\frac{O}{T} \frac{O}{D} \frac{O}{F} \frac{O}{D} \frac{O}{E} \frac{O}{D} \frac{O}{B} \frac{O}{P} \frac{O}{O} \frac{O}{B} \frac{O}{E} \frac{O}{D} \frac{O}{Y} \frac{O}{O}$

$\frac{O}{O} \frac{O}{D} \frac{O}{U} \frac{O}{D} \frac{O}{H} \frac{O}{H} \frac{O}{D} \frac{O}{L} \frac{O}{Z} \frac{O}{D} \frac{O}{H} \frac{O}{G} \frac{O}{D} \frac{O}{Y}$

$\frac{O}{T} \frac{O}{D} \frac{O}{F} \frac{O}{D} \frac{O}{N} \frac{O}{F} \frac{O}{D} \frac{O}{L} \frac{O}{L} \frac{O}{R} \frac{O}{B} \frac{O}{O}$

$\frac{O}{B} \frac{O}{T} \frac{O}{B} \frac{O}{G} \frac{O}{U} \frac{O}{B} \frac{O}{G} \frac{O}{E} \frac{O}{H} \frac{O}{A} \frac{O}{F} \frac{O}{M}$

Proverbs 27:1, NIV


CULC SENIOR YOUTH GROUP



Senior Youth Group (Grades 7 - 12)

Watch for the next activity
scheduled for the Youth Group
and plan to attend.






SHOO fly!

Make this candle to keep
uninvited insects from your
outdoor summer meals.


What you need:

- Lime
- 10-20 whole cloves
- Birthday candle
- 4 toothpicks
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Have an adult slice the lime in half.
Cut off the rounded end of one half
so it can stand without rolling.
2. Insert 10 cloves into the cut sides of
each half.
3. Stand the bottom half on a plate.
Insert the candle in the center.
4. Insert the 4 toothpicks in the cut side
of the bottom half. Then place the
other half atop the toothpicks.
5. Before dinner, have an adult light the
candle that's between the two lime
halves. The flame's heat will warm the
lime and create a smell that insects
don't like.
6. Supervise the flame. Blow it out when
it reaches the bottom lime.



We Offer our Prayers to...

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**. If you would like someone added, please call the office
or write their name on the Prayer Request sheet found on the Prayer Podium.
Please provide updates to the office in order that the list is always current.



PRAYER REQUESTS

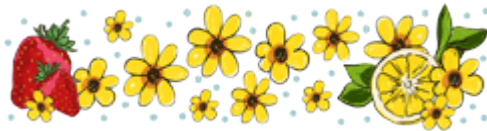
- June 22** – John Towey Jr. (J. Towey)
Family of Mike Evans (Z. Hummel)
- June 15** – Clemie Snyder (K. Dengler)
Dan Bressler (V. Brown)
Denise Smith (C. Weinreich)
- June 8** – Dennis Wolfe
Carla Walters (G. Marquardt)
Elizabeth Hand (B. Spencer)
Don Hand (B. Spencer)
- June 1** – J.T. Wilcox (D. Zaharick)
Families of Daniel Werner,
David Boppel, Sr.
Rick Walsh

Please continue to pray for: Corrine & Josh Coward, Jim Gruber, Annette
Houser, Jack Houser, Jim Houser Jr., Allen Johnson, Jenny Kosmisky, Barbara
Liem, Gail Lorady, Pearl & Carl Lute, Dianna Monaghan, Kayla Werner,
Remember our Home-bound: Leroy Berner, Diane Heidlebaugh,
Jim Hepler, Nancy Kessler, Gail Marquardt, Anna Neumeister, Richard Shoup,
Karen Smith, Linda Zerby

And Friends: Michele & Amber Adams, Michelle Ambrose, Robert Beecher,
Donald Bulla, Ed Emerich, Joe Ferraro Jr., Jim Fetterolf, Bob Griffiths, Cathy
Groody, Dan Grow, Ann Helwig, Minah Horan, Donna Hughes, Bob Kinlin, Lisa
Metzinger, Angie Romberger, Bailey Romberger, Samantha Schifano, Sarah
(Herb) Shanks (T. Wolfe), Elizabeth Smith & family, Pastor Sunny Stock, Elaine
Stone, Linda (Herb) Szuler (T. Wolfe), Joe Towey, Rose Varndell, Olivia Wagner,
Karyssa Wenrich, Bev Wolfgang



		13	Deb Price
			Todd Walacavage
		14	Peter Hepler
			Samuel Troup, Jr.
2	Heather Schweinhart	15	Samantha Schneider
3	Mindy Burke	17	Wesley Long
	Dustin Koons		Maura Sweitzer
	Joan Clark		Tami Wagner
	John E. Shilling	18	Jennifer Singleton
5	Christopher Dillman	19	Kylie Sisko
6	Chris Brennan	20	Dylan Heyer
	James Locker	22	Jeremy Rock
	Sally Tice	23	Kimberly Miller
	Ron Wallace	24	Tyson Fetterolf
7	Jeremiah Johnson		Fletcher Sterling
	Michelle Knorr	26	Carla Mae Carl
	Rick Lorady		Rachael Green
	Patrick Monaghan		Thomas Wolfgang
	Jeffrey Sharp		Zeke Shingara
	Daniel Sisko	27	Lydia Price
9	Larry Wolfgang	28	David Cunningham, Sr.
10	Nelson Berger, Jr.		Diane Rock
	Keith Yoder		Brayden Ladick
11	Eric Singleton		Jamie Pennypacker
	Deb Hubler	29	Hannah Towey
12	Dylan Barker	30	Pastor Brian Beissel
	William Harris		Kylie Mallams
		31	Barbara Fetterolf



CULC is heading to READING FIGHTIN PHILS vs. Akron Aeros

“Celebrate Your Faith Night”

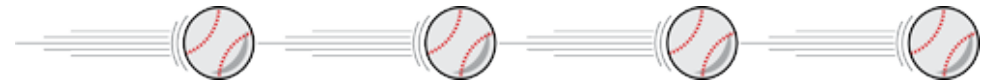
w/fireworks after the game

THURSDAY, August 14, 2025 – 7:00 P.M.

Cost \$37 – includes Buffet on the Deck Pavilion

Please sign up on the bulletin board.

(Name & How many Attending)



The first day of vacation Bible school

One summer afternoon, a grandfather picked up his 4-year-old grandson at church. “Well, Jason, how did you like your first day of vacation Bible school?”

“It was great!” the boy replied. “We heard some stories and drew some pictures. Then we went out to play, and when we came back in God had juice and cookies waiting for us!”



There is no WELCA meeting in July.
The next meeting of the
Women of the ELCA will be on
Wednesday, August 6 at 6:00 PM
for the Annual Indoor Picnic.

Watch for details!!
All women of CULC are
welcome to attend.



Congratulations to the following youth who
affirmed their baptism through the Rite of
Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday.

Bianca McAndrew
Maura Sweitzer
Eli Pennypacker



07/08/76	James & Jo Conrath
07/08/95	Greg & Penny Lindenmuth
07/10/93	Gary & Connie Weinreich
07/10/93	Thomas & Michelle Hood
07/15/22	Derek & Amanda Whritenour
07/28/01	Rick & Gail Lorady
07/30/05	Susan & Shaun McNally
07/30/22	Zach Ridall & Rhonda Carl
07/31/70	James & Carol Reiner

2025 Sponsorships

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



Altar Flowers \$35.00*
Worship Bulletins \$15.00
Special service bulletins \$10.00
Sanctuary Candle \$10.00
Children's Bulletins \$10.00
Monthly Newsletters \$40.00

*For Altar Flowers:

Please sign up by the bulletin board for week(s) you would like to
sponsor Altar Flowers and call "Flowers From the Heart"
570-339-2519 to place order. **Cost is \$35.00.**

Please place order and make payment directly to the florist.

All other sponsorships, please make payable to CULC
and give to Debbie in the Church Office.





American Red Cross Community Blood Drive Christ's United Lutheran Church

437 Airport Road (Gordon)
Ashland, PA 17921

Monday, August 4, 2025
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!

We were blessed to have
Archlet Duverne with us in February
as he told us more about the H2Ope
Ministry.



H2Ope Ministries™ is a non-profit organization dedicated to alleviating one of the single biggest problems facing families living in extreme poverty in Haiti: access to water. Through a simple, yet highly effective method of building individual water reservoirs for vulnerable families, we are helping to transform communities in rural Haiti.

Join us as we begin raising funds - Our goal is to build one 5,500-gallon reservoir to help a family in need. The total needed to build the reservoir is \$2,500.

There will be a water jug in the Narthex for you to contribute your loose change and monetary donations. Let's build a reservoir!!!

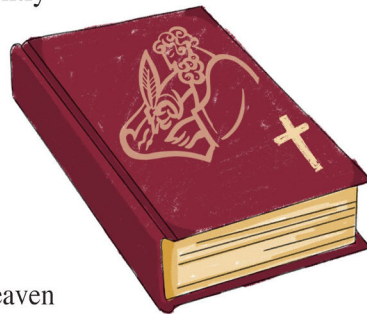


Bible Quiz

In a parable of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, someone named Lazarus features prominently while other characters go unnamed.

Who is Lazarus in this story?

- A. a friend Jesus raised from the dead
- B. a rich man dressed in fine linen
- C. a poor beggar at the rich man's gate
- D. the brother of the poor man
- E. an angel who carried the poor man to heaven



Answer: C (See Luke 16:19-31.)

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.



SOCIAL MINISTRY



Fellowship Hour will be held after worship on only the first Sunday of each month September through May. See schedule below for your committee's turn to serve. Please sign up on the bulletin board to help.

~ 2025 ~

- June/July/August** - No Social Hour
- September**—Choir/ Worship & Music / LCM
- October**—Church Council
- November** - Social Ministry
- December** - Evangelism/ Endowment/Stewardship



We will be collecting the following items for July:

Pasta Sauce

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday
July 10, 2025



Serving Our Community of Faith in July:



Date	Congregational Rep/Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer
July 6	John Towey	Vivian Brown	Becky Spencer b Allen Johnson c/d Ken Dengler so	Kay Berner AM Dennis Wolfe Donna Wallace	Sawyer Smith	Volunteer needed
July 13	Kay Berner	Deb Hubler			Maura Sweitzer	John Wagner
July 20	Angie Berger	Mark Varnedell			Remington Stehr	—
July 27		Barb Anczarski			Maura Sweitzer	John Wagner



July 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5
			10:30 Seniors 12:00 Lunch W/ Pastor Brian		GOD BLESS AMERICA	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion	7:00 Church Council	6:00 Social Ministry	10:30 Seniors 6:00 Bible Study @ Greens	10 – 11:30 Christ's Cupboard 		6:00 Contemporary Service
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30 Worship 10:30 Worship & Music meeting			10:30 Seniors			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30 Worship 5:00 LCM/Property	 6:00 – 8:00 Vacation Bible School	 6:00 – 8:00 Vacation Bible School	10:30 Seniors 6:00 – 8:00 Vacation Bible School			
27	28	29	30	31		
9:30 Worship  12			8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors		<i>The CULC Messenger God's Work, Our Actions</i>	