

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

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June



The CULC Messenger
 God's Work, Our Actions



The CULC Messenger
God's Work,
Our Actions



Join us for Worship - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School - September through May
1st & 3rd Sundays @ 10:45 a.m.



Christ's United Lutheran Church

One God. One People. One Purpose.

437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921

www.christsunited.org

(570) 875-1591

June 2024

CHURCH COUNCIL 2024

	Phone	Term Expires
Kay Berner President	570-875-1035	Feb. 2026
Ken Dengler Vice President	570-933-5144	Feb. 2025
Morgen Sweitzer Secretary	717-858-9824	Feb. 2026
Robert Carl	570-590-7281	Feb. 2025
Darlene Stank	570-875-1644	Feb. 2025
Barbara Stepanchick	570-875-1114	Feb. 2027
Janet Towey	270-205-3420	Feb. 2027
John Towey	270-205-2682	Feb. 2027
Michael Yoder	570-205-1701	Feb. 2026

Youth Representative - Maura Sweitzer

DESIGNATED PASTOR

Rev. Melinda Heppe
570-205-7450

STAFF

Parish Administrator Debbie Hall 570-875-1591
 office@christsunited.org 570-789-9722

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:00 am- 4:00 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

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Status of Accounts as of April 30

Total amount in checking account: \$137,073.18.
 Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our
 2024 Annual Budget of \$203,168.00 is \$16,930.00.
 Income for April was \$14,114.38.
 Expenses for April were \$8,763.93,
 resulting in a net income of \$5,350.45.
 Benevolence for April was \$1,942.22.



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 undergird our program and the maintenance of our facilities as it encourages improved stewardship.

Message from Designated Pastor Mindy...



And so begins the long Green Season.

Technically, of course, the church calls it “The Sundays After Pentecost”, for which the liturgical color is - yep, green. For farmers, it’s the growing season. For everyone, it’s summer time (although the Pentecost Season stretches well into autumn, and there’s a point to that, too”

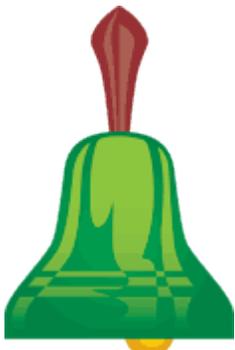
But for now, the earth is full of growth and promise. Revel in it! And learn from it, too. Appreciate the diversity of the plant life around you, and consider the balance that nature finds. Consider how you can best nurture the bit of nature God has put around you—and consider how God both nurtures and sustains you—and what gifts/fruits with which you have been gifted for the sake of the community into which we have been placed.

And enjoy. Gifts are not just useful! They are opportunities for gratitude, for celebration, for enjoyment!

Consider, too, your place in the chain of giving. How can you use your gifts to support life, love, and joy?

As the old hymn (best known to some of us from its use in “Godspell”) says,

“All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above.
Then thank the Lord, O Thank the Lord, for all God’s love.



Christian symbol

BELL — A bell symbolizes the call to worship, reflected in the ringing of bells in many churches to announce or open a service. A bell also symbolizes the proclamation of the Gospel to the world: hence, the ringing of church bells at the close of some services as worshipers depart to spread Christ’s good news in their daily lives.





Church Council Highlights From May

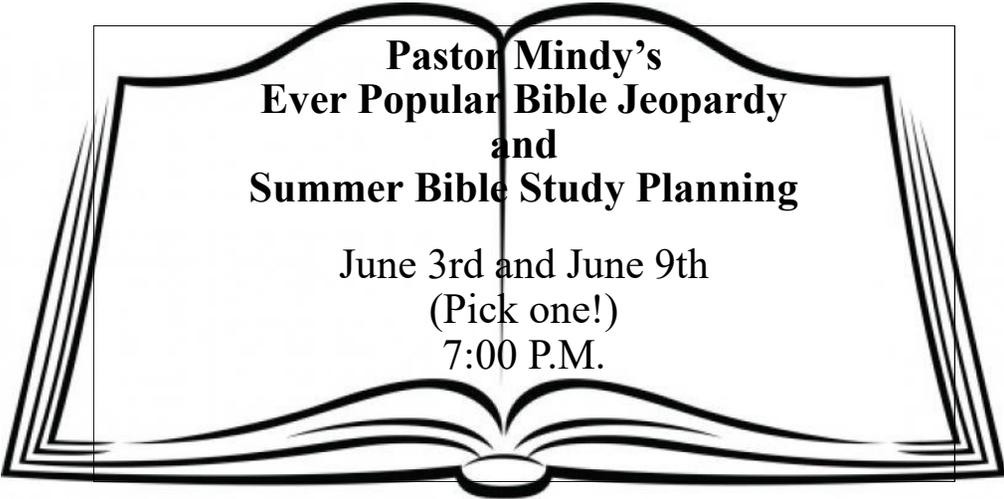
- Chicken Pot Pie Dinner was a success. Spaghetti Supper scheduled for May 18.
- Installation of new alarm system by DM2 is complete and online.
- We received a thank you and donation from the Gordon Cub Scouts for use of our parking lot to hold their Rain Gutter Regatta.

June Council Contact of the month is Darlene Stank.

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 Darlene, she can be reached at 570-875-1644.



Council Member
of the Month



Pastor Mindy's Ever Popular Bible Jeopardy and Summer Bible Study Planning

June 3rd and June 9th
(Pick one!)
7:00 P.M.



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

**437 Airport Road (Gordon)
Ashland, PA 17921**

**Monday, June 3, 2024
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!

An ode to dads

God took the strength of a mountain, the majesty of a tree,
the warmth of a summer sun, the calm of a quiet sea.

The generous soul of nature, the comforting arm of night,
the wisdom of the ages, the power of the eagle's flight.

The joy of a morning in spring, the faith of a mustard seed,
the patience of eternity, the depth of a family need.

Then God combined these qualities,
when there was nothing more to add,

He knew his masterpiece was complete,
and so, he called it ... Dad.

—Author unknown



Puzzle!

Use the list of names to identify each thankful Bible character.
Then use the symbol code to complete Psalm 79:13, NKJV.

NAMES: Elijah, Naaman, Mary & Martha, paralyzed man, Jairus, Moses, Rahab, Hannah

Led his people through the Red Sea.

Jericho fell, but she and her family were saved.

Her prayer was heard and she gave her son to God.

Ravens brought him food.

Cured of his leprosy, he worshiped God.

Their brother was raised from the dead.

Lowered through a roof, Jesus healed him.

Jesus brought his daughter back to life.

WE ... W LL G VE Y NKS F EVE ;

WE W LL S W F Y ISE

LL GENE NS. Psalm 79:13, NKJV

Answers: Moses, Rahab, Hannah, Elijah, Naaman, Mary & Martha, paralyzed man, Jairus; We ... will give You thanks forever; We will show forth Your praise to all generations. Psalm 79:13, NKJV

Member's Message by Donna Wallace



June is the time of year when we see rapid growth change happening in God's creation. Flowers, fruits, and vegetables come into full bloom and continue through the summer. They fulfill their purpose in creation. God created us to fulfill a purpose too. We are created in the image of God and we will experience change and growth in our lives. The Lord God truly is the source of ultimate happiness and an abiding relationship with Him leads to our fruitfulness. "The Fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." (Galatians 6:22)

What change or growth will the summer bring for you? School graduates will be moving on to the next life phase (work, college, military service). God will be with them in their new endeavor to grow and blossom.

The knotted quilts, personal care kits, and school kits that were created by our CULC family will be delivered to Lutheran World Relief later this month. Imagine the comfort these items will provide to people around the world who are in great need. "God is not unjust: he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them." (Hebrews 6:10)

As we begin to experience the "lazy, crazy days of summer", what growth will you experience? Participate in worship where ever you vacation, volunteer at Christ's Cupboard, help with making plans for future programs at CULC, or reach out to the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in prayer and watch your life blossom.

Donna Wallace



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.



Prayer Ventures on CULC 's Facebook page

Each month, we will post "Prayer Ventures" on our Facebook page.

Prayer Ventures are prayer petitions offered by the ELCA as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world. If you don't use Facebook, you can find the Prayer Ventures on the ELCA website: www.elca.org/Resources/PrayerVentures.

Praying Through the Directory

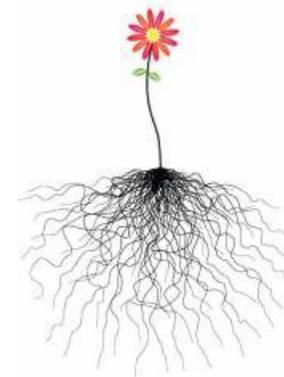
Each month we will be listing three of our church faith families. We ask that you take the time and uplift them in prayer for their needs and spiritual journey.

This month we pray for:

- The Bitting Family - Bruce & Jean
- The Reiner Family - James Jr. & Caron
- The Wolfe Family - Dennis & Tina

Don't be root-bound

As a new gardener, Jan Riggenschach used to treat bedding plants with extreme care, setting them into soil without disturbing the roots. Eventually she learned that rough — even ruthless — treatment is better in the long run.



"If the plant has been growing in its pot so long that the roots are circling the bottom, I jab my finger into the bottom of the soil and pull down to untangle the roots," Riggenschach wrote in her gardening column. "If the whole pot is filled with circling roots, I have to be merciless. I don't worry if I break some of the roots. That's better than allowing the roots to continue to circle when the plants are growing in the garden."

In the same way, it's easy to grow complacent and inward-focused in our walk with God. But bunched-up roots can't reach out for sustenance. So for maximum faith growth, dare to let God shake you up from time to time!

CULC YOUTH GROUP Activities

All kids who had First Communion and their families are welcome.

Watch the Newsletter for upcoming Youth Group events.





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.**

May 26 – Sara Shanks (T. Wolfe)
Erin Gower
Jimmy Houston (T. Wolfe)
Linda Herb Szuler (T. Wolfe)
Family of Jack Zerby

May 19 – Joann Chesney (C. Varndell)
Micky Lute (P. Lute)
Gwen Spencer (B. Spencer)
Linda Mitchel (R. Green)
Mary Ann Wishnefsky (C. Varndell)
Families of Beth Yost (P. Dziczek) & Summer Kuerter (V. Brown)

May 12 – Lois Andrews (B. Andrews)
Dan Bressler (V. Brown)

May 5 – Bev Wolfgang (C. Carl)
Dorothy Brown (V. Brown)
Danny Grigas (J. Johnson)
David Fetterolf

Please continue to pray for: Corrine & Josh Coward, Jim Gruber, Annette Houser, Jack Houser, Jim Houser, Jenny Kosmisky, Barbara Liem, Gail Lorady, Pearl & Carl Lute, Dianna Monaghan, Jane Pennypacker, Cheryl Varndell, Heidi Walsh, Kayla Werner

Remember our Home-bound: Leroy Berner, Diane Heidlebaugh, Jim Hepler, Nancy Kessler, Marlene Lucas, Gail Marquardt, Anna Neumeister, Richard Shoup, Karen Smith, Dot Zangari, Linda Zerby

And Friends: Michele & Amber Adams, Michelle Ambrose, Robert Beecher, Donald Bulla, Ed Emerich, Joe Ferraro Jr., Harry Fishburn, Bob Griffiths, Cathy Groody, Dan Grow, Ann Helwig, Minah Horan, Tracy Maurer, Lisa Metzinger, Angie Romberger, Elizabeth Smith & family, Elaine Stone, Pastor Sunny, Joe Towey, Rose Varndell, Karyssa Wenrich

The CULC Messenger
God's Work, Our Actions



FOLLOWING OUR FATHER'S WILL

Jesus always did his Father's will. What does our heavenly Father desire of us?

*Directions: Using the coordinates, circle the corresponding words.
Then add those to the blanks below to complete John 6:40, NIV.*

Coordinates

T3, R1, F6, E2, T1, H5, A6, R4, F5, T5, H3, F2, A4, E6

	F	A	T	H	E	R
1	Father	them	the	believe	that	who
2	have	will	if	heart	to	live
3	perish	whoever	everyone	shall	shall	give
4	God	eternal	send	into	Him	believes
5	in	come	him	Son	rest	with
6	looks	and	forever	Where	life	hope

"For my Father's will is that _____

and I will raise them up at the last day." *John 6:40, NIV*



WELCA

Many Lutheran churches no longer have WELCA groups (not enough interest or participants).

We at CULC are very fortunate to have an active WELCA group, however our group is getting smaller and smaller as time goes by. There was a time in this church building when as many as 25 ladies came out to our regular monthly meeting, now we average 6 to 8 women.

WELCA is our ladies group and is open to ALL women of CULC. We meet the 1st Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. We have a devotional reading, minutes from the previous meeting, treasurers report, business meeting (discussion of upcoming events at CULC) and light refreshments, there is also time for fellowship with the ladies.

We would like feed back as to how we can have more women participate before we become one of those churches who no longer has and Active WELCA group.

Perhaps --

Another meeting day?

(Keep in mind other activities that happen at CULC)

Another meeting time?

More activities? tell us what?

Please share your thoughts and ideas with us, there will be a box in the Narthex for your suggestions.

Hope to see you ALL at the next regular meeting of WELCA, June 5 at 6:00 p.m.

1	Maxwell Pennypacker	16	Dorothy Kessler
	Barb Stepanchick	17	Daniel Barker
	Ashley Williard		Stephanie Cook
2	Michael Lucas		William Coward, Jr.
3	Thomas Hood		David Mullins III
	Rose Pennypacker	18	Susan McNally
	Nathaniel Shadle		Madelyn Wolfgang
4	Lindsay Fetterolf		Meredyth Towey
	Douglas Fetterolf	19	Luke Allison
	Michelle Lavelle		Bruce Bitting, Jr.
	Joseph Smith		Gerald Stutzman
5	Amber Krise		Brenda Yoder
	James Reiner	20	Bruce Bitting
	Ted Shadle		Joey McAndrew
6	Robert Gross	21	Bryson Nagle
	Kimberly Zweizig		Matthew Zweizig
8	Don Dillman	22	Lindsay Bixler
	Kayla Troutman		Ava Hubler
9	Shannon Marlow	23	Corrine Coward
10	Rhea McNally		Amy Johnson
11	Erik Tice	24	Linda Rickert
12	Randy Green		Aidan Romberger
	Breonna Klinger	25	Gracelyn Anthony
14	Jennifer McGrath	26	Laura Brennan
	William Waldick, Jr.		Michelle Hood
15	Julia Pirie		Gerald Stehr
		27	Richard Shoup
			Brandy Speer
		29	James Johnson
		30	Gail Marquardt
			June Sweinhart
			Ryan Heyer





**WELCA meets Wednesday,
June 5th at 6:00 p.m.**
Come join us for planning
upcoming events and fellowship.



LUNCH BUNCH

Join the Lunch Bunch group at
Di Maggios (La Dolce Casa),
16 West Broad St., Tamaqua
on **June 11th at 1:30.**

Please sign up on Bulletin Board so reservations and
transportation can be arranged.

Knotted quilts, school kits, and personal care kits
for Lutheran World Relief will be blessed during
the June 9th worship service.



06/04/77	Bill & Deb Price
06/09/12	Ross & Amanda Sterling
06/13/59	Carl & Pearl Lute
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
06/26/10	Richard & Cheryl Weikel
06/30/11	Ted & Terry Ambrose



Do you sing or play a musical instrument? If so, 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.



2024 Sponsorships

The new sponsorship sign up sheets are now 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.



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.



OUR 2024 GRADUATES

Nathan Berger is graduating from North Schuylkill High School and Schuylkill Technology Center, Frackville. Nathan plans to enroll in an Adult Education course at Schuylkill Technology Center, Frackville for Automotive Technology. Then to Thaddeus Stephens in the fall of 2025.

Daniel Cunningham is graduating from North Schuylkill High School.

Jacob Tice is graduating from North Schuylkill High School and plans to attend Bloomsburg University to study Secondary Education Social Studies.

**MAY HE GRANT
*G YOUR *
HEARTS
DESIRES & MAKE ALL
— YOUR —
PLANS' SUCCEED**

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.

~ 2024 ~

- 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 June:

Cereal

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday
June 13, 2024



Serving Our Community of Faith in June:



Date	Supply Pastor/ Worship Leader	Congregational Rep/ Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer
June 2	Rev. Mindy Heppe	John Towey	Angie Berger	Thomas Wolfgang Allen Johnson c/d John Wolfgang so	Vivian Brown AM Beth Andrews Dennis Wolfe	Dylan Buhay	Mason Buhay
June 9	Pastor Ben Scott	Kay Berner	Kay Berner			Maura Sweitzer	John Wagner Tag-a-long
June 16	Rev. Mindy Heppe		Deb Hubler			Nathan Berger	—
June 23	John Towey		Vivian Brown			Logan Walacavage	Eli Pennypacker Tag-a-long
June 30	Rev. Mindy Heppe		Becky Spencer			Remington Stehr	—



June 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion & Graduate recognition	1:00 – 6:00 P.M. Red Cross Blood Drive		10:30 Seniors 6:00 WELCA			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:30 Worship w/ Blessing of Quilts	7:00 Church Council	1:30 Lunch Bunch at Di Maggios (La Dolce Casa), Tamaqua	10:30 Seniors	10:00 – 11:30 Christ's Cupboard 		
16 Father's Day	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30 Worship 			10:30 Seniors			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:30 Worship			8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors			
30						
9:30 Worship – Good Samaritan Fund Offering						<i>The CULC Messenger</i> <i>God's Work, Our Actions</i> 