

*Life Together at  
Christ's United  
Lutheran Church*



**IF YOU OFFER YOUR  
FOOD TO THE HUNGRY  
AND SATISFY THE NEEDS  
OF THE AFFLICTED, THEN  
YOUR LIGHT SHALL RISE  
IN THE DARKNESS.**



**ISAIAH 58:10, NRSV**

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





# Christ's United Lutheran Church

One God. One People. One Purpose.

437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921

www.christsunited.org

(570) 875-1591

March 2019

## In This Issue:

The March Newsletter is sponsored in Honor of  
Great-grandchildren by Grace Johnson

Pastor Laura's Message	3 & 4
Pastoral Acts	4
Council Highlights	5
Birthdays & Anniversaries	6
Lenten Bible Study	7
Prayer Requests	8
Youth Group "Lock-in"	9
Memorials	10
Serving Our Community of Faith	11
Calendar	12-13
Red Cross Blood Drive	14
Sponsorships	15
Social Ministry	16
Chicken Pot Pie Dinner	17
PUzzle	18
Easter Candy	19
WELCA	19-21



## Status of Accounts as of January 31

Balance in Checking Account.....\$24,149.07

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our 2019 Annual Budget of

\$203,448.31 is **\$16,954.03**

January income was **\$12,981.22**

Benevolence Gifts.....\$ 916.00

6% of our Benevolence goal of \$16,320.00 for 2019)





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Another Lent will soon be upon us, with the age-old Christian dilemma of what to give up: Chocolate? Diet Coke? Swearing? Such denial is supposed to provide time for the Discipline of Lent: fasting, almsgiving and prayer. Yet *taking something on* can also aid us in this Discipline, aiding us to reflect deeply on Christ's suffering and death for our salvation.

We offer two enriching activities designed to support us in our Discipline of prayer. One is **mid-week soup and worship**. The food served at CULC is always superb, and I'm guessing the soup selections will be no exception. Worship that follows will include two pieces from the beloved *Holden Evening Prayer*. An added treat will be weekly skits entitled "Lent in the Attic". These dramas combine humor with a focus on baptism and discipleship. Writer Pastor John Trump says, "Sometimes our journeys can be interrupted or sidetracked. How does God work to bring us back around?" These performances will show us how. You won't want to miss this!

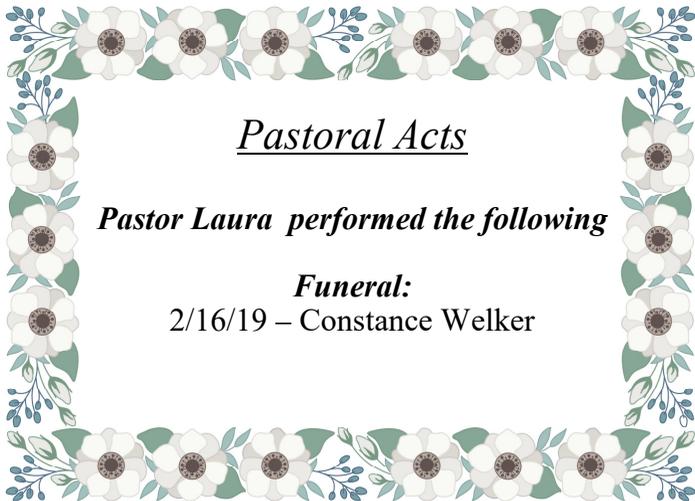
The second event to support our Discipline of prayer is a **Tuesday evening Bible Study on the book of Ephesians**. Simply meet in the CULC parking lot at 5:30 p.m. to carpool to St. James Lutheran Church in Pitman. A light supper will be served at 6 p.m. as we delve into this book filled with praise for our God who destined us for adoption as children through Jesus Christ. By 7:30 you will be on your way home.



Jesus fasted and was tempted by the devil for 40 days in the wilderness. That's why the Church provides 40 days for you and me to contend with our demons who try to lure us away from Jesus' unconditional and abiding love. But as Luther reminds us, they "cannot win the day. The kingdom's ours forever!". Tuesday evening Bible Study and Wednesday evening worship provide needed reminders of this truth.

Do join us.

Your sister in Christ,  
Pastor Laura+



## Children's Sermon



Pastor Laura is asking for volunteers to help deliver the Children's Sermon in addition to her on Sunday mornings. She has lots of resources. You just need to "chat" with our youth. If interested, please see Pastor Laura for more information. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

## Church Council Highlights from February:

- Income for the month of January was \$12,981.22.
- Expenses for January totaled \$20,315.62, leaving a deficit for the month of \$7,334.40 partially due to one Sunday worship service being cancelled because of the weather.
- Lutheran Church Men Annual Picnic will be 8/25/19. Dinners scheduled: 3/9-Chicken Pot Pie, 5/4-Spaghetti; 9/14-Chicken BBQ; 11/2-Pork & Sauerkraut
- Six youth will receive First Holy Communion on Transfiguration Sunday (March 3)
- The Senior Youth Group went to The “Wheel” in Pottsville on February 2.
- The next Youth Group event will be a “Lock-in” at the church on March 22.
- All lights in the building have been replaced with LED, all of the windows will be cleaned when the weather gets nicer.
- Church Directory—Pictures have been scheduled to take place August 13-15.
- 50th Anniversary of CULC: formed in 1969 when the 5 chapels joined. A committee will be organized - It would be nice to have someone from each chapel. Planning for a celebration in the fall, possibly on Reformation Sunday.



**Council Member  
of the Month**

### March Council Contact of the month is Dr. Kay Berner.

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. If you need to contact Kay, she can be reached at 570-875-1035.





- 2 Lynn Anczarski
- 3 Katie Brown  
Allen Pennypacker
- 6 Barbara Klauger
- 7 Jessie Harris  
Alisia Knorr  
Donald Smith Jr.
- 8 Mark Klinger  
Christopher Monaghan
- 9 Dennis James Cunningham
- 10 Janet Quirk
- 12 Gregg Sterling  
Sierra Wagner
- 15 James Hepler
- 16 William Waldick

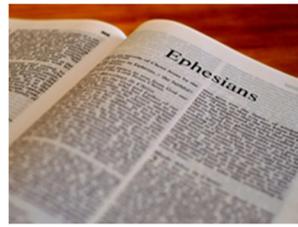
- 17 Kenneth Welker
- 18 Michael Miller
- 19 Jane Pennypacker  
Grantham Sterling
- 20 Hayden Marlow
- 21 Wendy Harhigh  
Mark Hepler  
Rickey Knorr
- 22 Susan Ruzze
- 23 Brian McAndrew  
Jacob Wetzel
- 24 Pastor Laura Csellak
- 26 Wyatt Hepler
- 27 Zachary Huber
- 28 Robert Green  
Amanda Houser  
Maynard Merwine
- 29 Nathan Berger  
Tiffany Cramer
- 30 Dennis Mallams



- 03/17/07 David & Beth Becker
- 03/21/81 Rickey & Brenda Knorr
- 03/22/96 Leo & Heather Young
- 03/29/80 Leonard & Terri Whyne

## ***LENTEN BIBLE STUDY***

CULC, Friedens, and St. James will share in a Lenten Bible Study on the Book of Ephesians.



This will take place at 6:00 pm on Tuesday evenings (3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2 and 4/9) at St. James, 153 Main Rd., Pitman, PA, 570-648-9440.

Pastor Mark Swanson will lead the sessions, Pastor Laura will assist.

Please sign up for a count for a light supper being offered.



We will be celebrating Holy Communion at our 5:00 p.m. Saturday evening worship throughout the Easter season. Afterwards, our Worship and Music team will seek your feedback on this.



We thank Lois Sterling for serving as our Parish Visitor for the past five years. She steps down to follow other pursuits in her life. Lois has touched many lives with her caring words, keen insight, and attentive listening. On an upcoming Sunday we will formally recognize and thank Lois for having engaged in this important ministry as a staff member of our congregation.

### **WORSHIP CANCELLATION PROCEDURE**

If worship needs to be cancelled because of inclement weather, a message will be recorded on the church answering machine with details. If its bad weather outside and there's a possibility that worship may be cancelled, please call before venturing out in a storm.



## We Offer our Prayers to...



**February 24** –Family of Connie Welker, Family of Bobbie Lerch (P. Dziczek), Barry Martin, Jacob Tice (E. Tice), Larry Wolfgang, Dean Fetterolf, Family of Cathy Hare, Damon Dillman Family (D. Calhoun), Glenda Schronick (D. Zaharick), Susanne Williams (J. Chappell), Bill Snover (T. Shilling)

**February 17** -- Dot Quick (A. Berger), Brandy Speer & Baby Charlotte, Family of Eva Beekly (B. Spencer), Tina (Deb Price), Jeanette Zerby (T. Dengler), Crystal Collette (D. Lassen), Donna Kuczawa (J. Gruber), John Lisowski

**February 10** – Leo Young, Anna James (V. Brown), Family & friends of Tommy Schronick (D. Zaharick), Irene Zaharick (D. Zaharick), Pastor Dennis Carroll, Nancy Kessler

**February 3** - Luke Smeltz (V. Brown), Carla Mae Carl, Pat Horan (M. Wolfgang), Greg Zaharick (D. Zaharick), Paul Troutman (S. Wolfgang), Kathy Ahrensfield (C. Varndell), Diane Heidlebaugh, Jim Berger (A. Berger)

**Please continue to pray for our members:** Tommy Green, Jim Hepler, Carl Lute, Dean Fetterolf, Irene Morgan, Gail Lorady, Pete Waldick, Wendy Farnsworth, Dot Zeigenfuse

**And our friends:** Deb Nelson (R. Berner), Dan Grow, Minah Horan, Michelle Ambrose, Donald Bulla, Carol Stehr, Joe Ferraro Jr., Mark Bennyhoff, Jesse Deeter, Robert & Sandra Beecher, Karyssa Wenrich, Elizabeth Brown & family, John Dubb, Joe Anczarski, Janet Berner, Susan Grant, Paul Troutman, Dave Bowen, Keith Morgan, Judy Trautman (G. Marquardt), Doris McGurl (L. Lute), Richard Berger (J. Gruber), Albert Stehr (L. Lute)

*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.*

## 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 Kimmel Family — Richard  
The Price Family — William & Debra  
The Ruzze Family — Susan



## 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.

---



Don't forget to turn your clocks **ahead one hour** before going to bed on Saturday, March 9th.

---

## Youth Group Lock-In

March 22nd at 5:30 p.m.

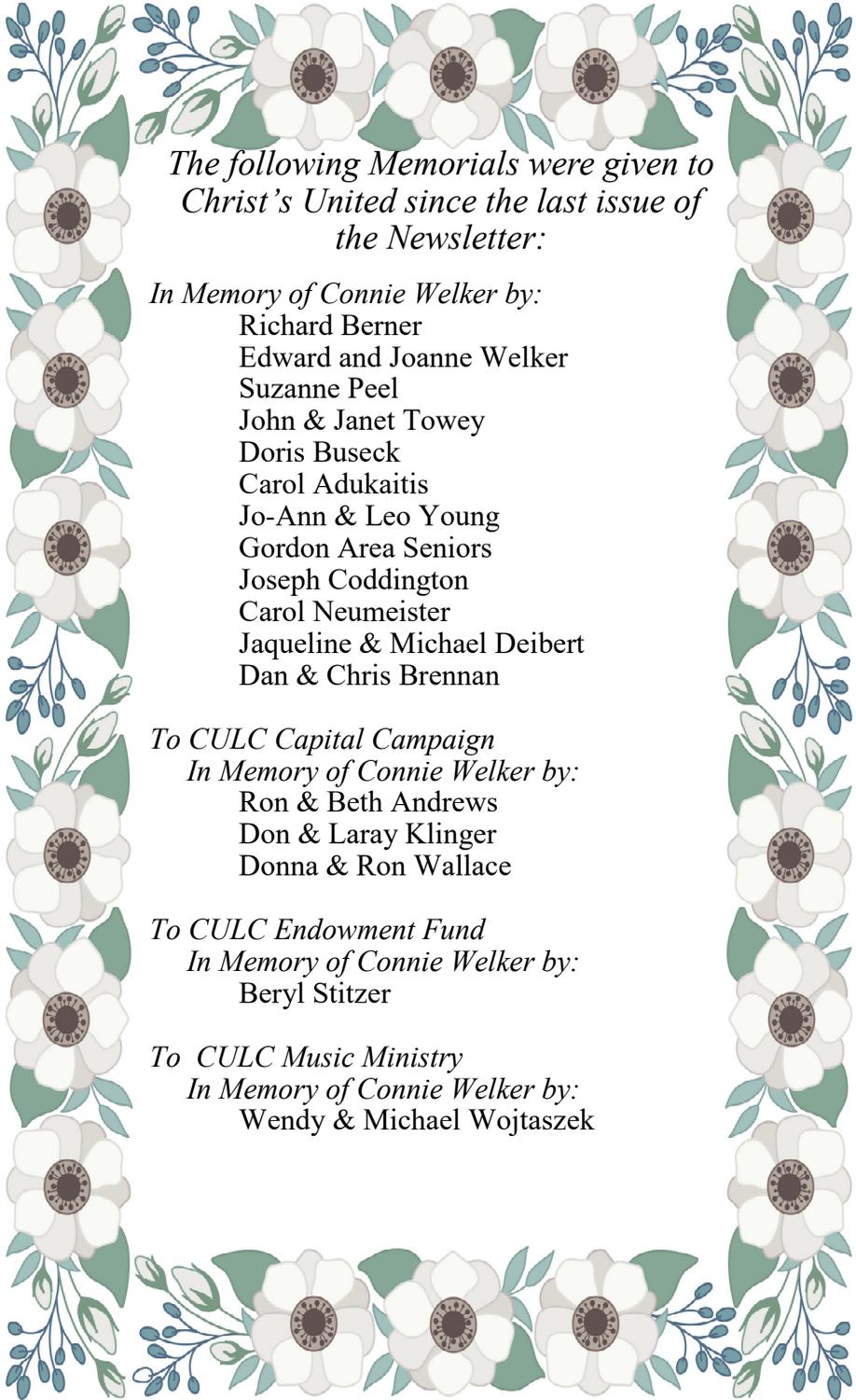
Pizza, T-shirt decorating,  
and other fun activities

Sign up on Bulletin board and include  
your t-shirt size. Bring a friend!



June 1. **Synod Assembly.** *"Freed in Christ for a New Day."* Genetti Inn and Suites in Hazleton. This is a one-day event.

We thank Jim Chappell and Becky Spencer for serving as CULC's voting members. Visitors from our congregation are invited at a cost of only \$20 (which covers the cost of the full luncheon). Any and all are encouraged to attend. More information will be placed on the synod website as it becomes available ([nepasynod.org](http://nepasynod.org))



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

*In Memory of Connie Welker by:*

Richard Berner  
Edward and Joanne Welker  
Suzanne Peel  
John & Janet Towey  
Doris Buseck  
Carol Adukaitis  
Jo-Ann & Leo Young  
Gordon Area Seniors  
Joseph Coddington  
Carol Neumeister  
Jaqueline & Michael Deibert  
Dan & Chris Brennan

*To CULC Capital Campaign*

*In Memory of Connie Welker by:*

Ron & Beth Andrews  
Don & Laray Klinger  
Donna & Ron Wallace

*To CULC Endowment Fund*

*In Memory of Connie Welker by:*

Beryl Stitzer

*To CULC Music Ministry*

*In Memory of Connie Welker by:*

Wendy & Michael Wojtaszek

**Serving Our Community of Faith in March:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Acolyte &amp; Tag-a-long</b>	<b>Crucifer</b>	<b>Post Worship Greeter in Narthex</b>	<b>Post Worship Greeter At Door</b>
<b>Mach 3</b>	Vivian Brown	John Wolfgang Thomas Wolfgang Tyler Wolfgang Ted Ambrose	Dennis Wolfe Donna Lassen Maryanne Wolfgang	David Cunningham	Daniel Cunningham	Mark Varndell	Vivian Brown
<b>Mach 6 Ash Wed</b>	Mark Varndell		John Denschak Jo-Ann Young Jim Gruber	Deidre Dengler		Beth Andrews	Mark Varndell
<b>March 10</b>	Jacob Tice			Hayden Marlow & Raven Marlow	Desiree Dengler	Jim Gruber	Jacob Tice
<b>March 13 Mid-Week</b>	Beth Andrews			Jacob Tice			
<b>March 17</b>	Amy Johnson			Ashley O'Connor & Kayla Werner	Tyler Wolfgang	Donna Lassen	Barb Anczarski
<b>March 20 Mid-Week</b>	Donna Wallace			Joey McAndrew			
<b>March 24</b>	Steven Wolfgang	<b>Usher:</b> Nathan Berger		Ryan Walter	Carey Wahalec	Angie Berger	Steven Wolfgang
<b>March 27 Mid-Week</b>	Darcie Gruber			Kylie Mallams			
<b>Mach 31</b>	T.J. Heidlebaugh			Brian O'Connor	Jordan Walter	Terry Ambrose	Ted Ambrose



# American Red Cross

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

## Community Blood Drive Christ's United Lutheran Church

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

**Monday, April 1, 2019**  
**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](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
to schedule an appointment.

Open to the public and walk-ins are Welcome!



## Save the date

Be included in the new  
Christ's United Lutheran Church  
directory.

Photography dates:

**Tuesday, August 13th**  
**Wednesday, August 14th**  
**Thursday, August 15th**



# 2019 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 made payable to Cathy Troutman. All other payments should be made to the church and given to Deb Hall in the church office.

## ***Give Electronically***

### **Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving**

At Christ's United 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](http://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 it's easier, just scan this QR code to get started.



# 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

March— Church Council  
April—LCM  
May—WELCA  
June – Christian Education/Youth  
July—Choir/Worship & Music  
August—LCM  
September— WELCA  
October—Church Council  
November—Evangelism/  
Endowment/Stewardship  
December—LCM  
January—WELCA  
February—Social Ministry



We will be collecting the following item for March:

## Spaghetti & Sauce

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday, March 14, 2019



## Lenten Soup Suppers

Wednesday's at 6:00  
Sign up on the bulletin board to provide soup or bread for our meal.  
Each week the Social Ministry Team will have a

# Chicken Pot Pie Dinner



Sponsored by the Lutheran Church Men  
**Saturday, March 10, 2018**  
**4:00 – 7:00 pm**

Eat In or Carry Out

### Dinner Includes:

Chicken Pot Pie  
Lettuce w/ hot bacon dressing  
Applesauce  
Bread & Butter  
Dessert  
Beverage

Adults: \$9.00

Children 6-12: \$4.00

Under Age 6: FREE

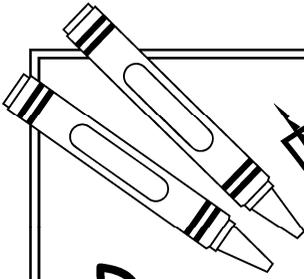
Ticket information: Call 570-875-1591  
(Limited tickets available at the door)

*Bake*  *Sale*

Sponsored by WELCA

*Life Together at Christ's United*  
17





# PUZZLE

## Decode The days

At this time of year, God's creation "springs" to life.

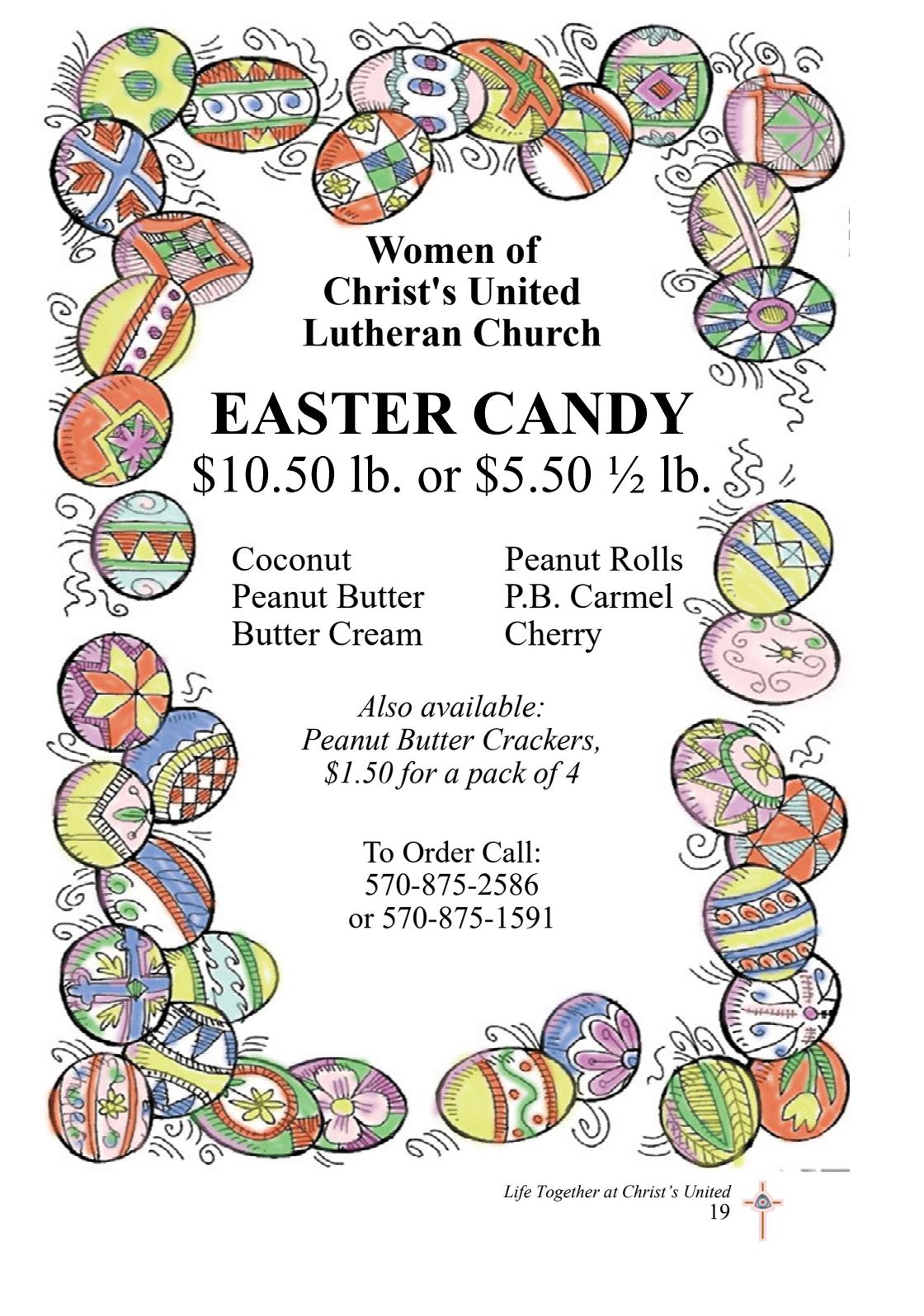
*Directions: After reading Genesis 1:1–2:3, write the correct Creation day number under each picture. Then add up each day's total and write it on the correct blank below.*

**Day 1** (light) \_\_\_\_ **Day 2** (waters) \_\_\_\_ **Day 3** (land and plants) \_\_\_\_ **Day 4** (heavenly bodies) \_\_\_\_

**Day 5** (birds and water animals) \_\_\_\_ **Day 6** (land animals and people) \_\_\_\_ **Day 7** (God rested) \_\_\_\_

Answers: Day 1 = 3, Day 2 = 3, Day 3 = 10, Day 4 = 6, Day 5 = 10, Day 6 = 15, Day 7 = 2



**Women of  
Christ's United  
Lutheran Church**

**EASTER CANDY**  
**\$10.50 lb. or \$5.50 ½ lb.**

Coconut  
Peanut Butter  
Butter Cream

Peanut Rolls  
P.B. Carmel  
Cherry

*Also available:  
Peanut Butter Crackers,  
\$1.50 for a pack of 4*

To Order Call:  
570-875-2586  
or 570-875-1591



## **Women of the ELCA**

It's time to make candy.... plans to start making the tasty chocolates on February 25th are underway. All are welcome. On the job training is available. Many hands make the work light. We will be working throughout the Lenten season.



### ***LADIES NIGHT OUT***

**March 3, 2019**

We are going to Mar Lin to **Palermo's**. We will be leaving CULC parking lot at 3:30. **PLEASE SIGN UP** on the bulletin board to attend so reservations and transportation plans can be made.

**SAVE THE DATE – MAY 4, 2019 (8:30-12:00)**

Women of ELCA Schuylkill Cluster Spring Event  
St. Paul's (Summerhill), Auburn

Program: Opioid Crisis presented by Monsignor Glosser  
Schuylkill Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance

Bible Study presenter Pastor Laura Csellak

### **SEASON OF HOPE for Lutheran World Relief**

LWR has distributed Personal Care Kits and Mission Quilts to many countries around the world that experience disaster or economic struggles. During Lent, a display area in our narthex will collect items needed to assemble Personal Care Kits by Women of ELCA.

Thrivent Action Team Seed Money will help to purchase quilt batting to then create knotted quilts by Knaughty Knotters.

A knotting demonstration will be set up March 20 in social hall.

**FYI** - The 25 Personal Care Kits and 56 quilts donated to LWR by

CULC in 2018 were distributed to people in Ethiopia.

Here's the 2019 collection schedule:

# BASKETS OF PROMISE



This Lent we're joining Lutheran World Relief's **Baskets of Promise** campaign. Each week, we'll collect a different item that we'll use to assemble Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations.

Our goal is to assemble \_\_\_\_\_ LWR Personal Care Kits during Lent.

## HERE'S OUR COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

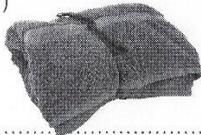
### MARCH 10

Bars of Soap (4 to 5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping)



### MARCH 17

Bath Towels (light-weight, maximum 52" x 27", dark color recommended)



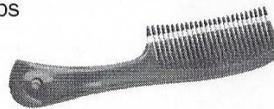
### MARCH 24

Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)



### MARCH 31

Combs



### APRIL 7- PALM SUNDAY

Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)



### APRIL 24

Bars of Soap



For more information contact \_\_\_\_\_

*Donna Wallace*



## Christ's United Ministry Teams

Christian Education  
Evangelism/Outreach  
Lutheran Church Men (LCM)  
Social Ministry  
Stewardship  
WELCA  
Worship & Music

## 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.*



## *Living sacrifices*

*To search our souls, to meditate,  
will not suffice for Lent.  
To share the cross, to sacrifice;  
these are the things God meant.*



# CHURCH COUNCIL 2019

council@christsunited.org

	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Dr. Kay Berner President	570-875-1035	Feb. 2020
Erik Tice Secretary	570-875-2681	Feb. 2020
Ted Ambrose	570-449-2193	Feb. 2022
Beth Andrews	570-874-2381	Feb. 2022
Jim Gruber	570-875-2805	Feb. 2021
Suzanne Peel	570-875-2218	Feb. 2021
Terry Shilling	570-875-0412	Feb. 2021
Barbara Stepanchick	570-875-1114	Feb. 2022
Steven Wolfgang	570-875-9660	Feb. 2020

## PASTOR

Rev. Laura A. Csellak  
570-652-1951  
pastorlaura@christsunited.org

## STAFF

<b>Parish Administrator</b> office@christsunited.org Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-3:00	Deb Hall 570-875-1591 570-789-9722
<b>Director of Music</b> diane.calhoun@gmail.com	Diane Calhoun 570-874-2580
<b>Treasurer</b> treasurer@christsunited.org	Ann Marie Dillman 570-875-2422
<b>Indoor Custodian</b>	Susan Herb
<b>Outdoor Custodian</b>	Bill Price 570-875-4272
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Christine Brennan 570-875-0720



Like us on  
**Facebook**

*Life Together at Christ's United*  
23

