



Christ's United Lutheran Church  
437 Airport Road  
Ashland, PA 17921  
[www.christsunited.org](http://www.christsunited.org)

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ORGANIZATION  
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**PAID**  
Pottsville, PA  
PERMIT NO. 25

**NOVEMBER**



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



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

November 2024

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## 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

### PASTOR

Rev. Brian Beissel  
570-516-1787

### 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

<b>Director of Music</b>	Jamie Johnson	570-590-1678
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ann Marie Dillman	570-449-2021
<b>Indoor Custodian</b>	Ann Ray Begis	570-590-2729
<b>Outdoor Custodian</b>	Dennis Wolfe	570-875-9085
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Christine Brennan	570-875-0720

## Status of Accounts as of September 30

Total amount in checking account: \$146,114.16.

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our 2024 Annual Budget of \$203,168.00 is \$16,930.00.

Income for September was \$11,374.93.

Expenses for September were \$10,128.64, resulting in a net income of \$1,246.29.

Benevolence for September was \$710.00.



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**Facebook**

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

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.*

Message from  
Pastor Brian



Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

So here we are, starting a new journey together! I am excited. As I write this, I am actually sitting in the office at St. Peter's in Pine Grove, with boxes everywhere. There are even some on a hand truck waiting for me to drive them up to Christ's United!

We have much to accomplish, my brothers and sisters in Christ. The good news is that you've been doing a lot of it already! But it is my plan that we work together to build on the work that you have been doing for years. This means more outreach to the downtrodden, more hope to the hopeless, more opportunities for families to introduce their children to the Gospel.

This means all of us- you and me- have to take an adaptable approach. We don't always do adaptation well. I was just talking the other day about my frustration about the loss of the Radioshack at the Schuylkill Mall (actually, this was in my last sermon at St. Peter's, so if you listened to that online, you're getting it again). Timmy had one of my old Sony Walkmans not too long ago, listening to music on a cassette (he might be the only one of his generation to even know what a cassette is). He accidentally dropped it on the ground outside of our house, and a few pieces came out of the battery pack.

He said, "what do we do?" and I replied that about 20 years ago, I would have taken it up to the Radioshack in the mall, bought a part of two for about a buck each, and replaced it. Now, we had to order it from Amazon. Before, I had someone in the store who could guide me and help me get what I need. Now, I'm just guessing. And the whole thing had me a little frustrated.

## **Christian symbol**



22

**ALMOND** — In Numbers 17:1-8, God settles a dispute among the Israelites by directing Moses to obtain a staff from each of Israel's 12 tribes and to place the staffs in the Tent of Meeting. The one representing the tribe God chose would sprout. The next day, not only had the staff of Aaron, representing the tribe of Levi, sprouted; it had blossomed and borne ripe almonds. Thus, the almond came to symbolize God's approval. By extension, it also represents the Virgin Mary, who found divine favor and was chosen to bear God's Son.

— continued on page 4

Like I said, we don't always do good with the need to adapt. But we all know that it is a necessity of our times. So in the church, we find new ways to convey a timeless message of Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent to save the world from the condition of sinfulness.

We live in a world that sometimes doesn't think it is in need of saving. But oh, we do! Take a look at the mess we've built for ourselves. We live in a world full of greed, a world where people let things fall apart even when they try to convince themselves that they are doing otherwise, and a world where terrible things happen to very good people. Yet our message of Christ crucified and risen is hope for all of us, now as much as it was 2,000 years ago when it happened.

I am excited for our adventure together. Let us adapt with God leading us all the way!

-Pastor Brian Beissel



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

437 Airport Road (Gordon)  
Ashland, PA 17921

**Monday, December 2, 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](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
to schedule an appointment.

Open to the public and walk-ins are Welcome!



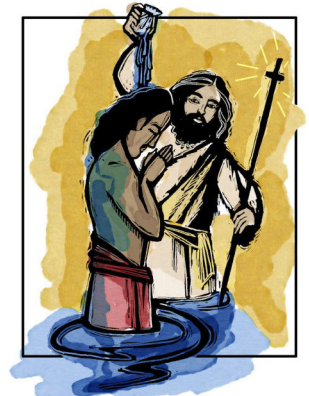
### Church Council Highlights From October

- Lutheran Church Men report: There were 160 Chicken Dinners sold. The Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner is coming up on October 19.
- Hot dogs & hot chocolate will be served for Trunk-or-Treat which will be held on October 27.
- Stewardship report: Plans are laid out for Time & Talent, Commitment Sunday and Pledge Cards.
- WELCA report.: Tentative Date for Christmas Dinner is December 8, 2024.
- A special offering for Hurricane Helene Victims will be held for 2 Sundays in October.

## ?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

Shortly after the birth of the church at Pentecost, which apostle(s) taught an Ethiopian official about Jesus and then baptized him?

- A. Philip
- B. Peter and Andrew
- C. James
- D. Paul and Silas



Answer: A (See Acts 8:26-40.)



# Be prepared ... to wait

My husband always keeps a book handy. When he picks up our kids or heads to an appointment, a current title is tucked securely under his arm. He expects to wait — and is prepared to do so. What could have been a frustrating delay turns into extra time to delve further into the story.

I, on the other hand, get caught off-guard if a doctor runs late or a meeting runs long. As the minutes tick by, my down time gets wasted — unless I quietly reflect on God's goodness, return an email, take a short walk or chat with the person next to me.

"Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord," says Psalm 27:14 (NIV). That's an important reminder as Advent nears. Scripture advises us to use our waiting time wisely, preparing for God and drawing closer to him. What will you do while you wait for Jesus?

—Janna Firestone



## ***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](http://www.christsunited.org) or scan the QR code to learn how you can participate.



## ***Member's Message*** by Kay Berner



I just returned from visiting my family in Texas. I was thankful that my flights down and back were uneventful. I was grateful that I arrived and returned safely. I also was thankful that I was able to see my Aunt Betty, at least one more time, as in a few weeks she will be 102. It was a true blessing to spend 10 days with my family.

On the flight home, I couldn't help but think how easy it is to be thankful for the good things in life. It is easy to be grateful for a newborn baby, a graduation or a birthday. It is a joy when someone gets a new job or a new home. We all give thanks to God when a loved one gets better after an illness. But it is not as easy to give thanks during the dark times in our lives — the death of a loved one, the loss of a job, a disaster like hurricanes Helene and Milton. When things in our lives don't go as planned, it is hard to find anything for which we are thankful.

And yet Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus". He doesn't say be thankful when things are going great, but rather in all circumstances. It is not easy to always find something to be grateful for, but we can thank God that He is with us during the dark times of our lives. We do not have to face them alone, for God walks with us each and every day of our lives.

So in this season of Thanksgiving, let us give thanks to God for all the blessings He bestows upon us as well as for His faithfulness as He walks with us through this journey we call life.

Yours in Christ, Kay Berner



## October Council Contact of the month is Michael Yoder.

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 Michael, he can be reached at 570-205-1701.



## 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 Brennan Family - Jeffrey, Christine, April & Laura

The Rock Family - Robert & Gayle

The Wolfgang Family - John, Maryann, Thomas & Tyler



## The extraordinary amid the ordinary

A violinist once performed in the New York City subway, entertaining passersby for 45 minutes. A few tossed him cash, totaling about \$30 by the time he concluded.

Little did anyone know, Joshua Bell was one of the world's best violinists. That day, he played one of the most complex musical pieces ever written on an instrument worth \$3.5 million. Indeed, a few days earlier Bell had performed a sold-out concert in Boston, where tickets averaged \$100.

Sometimes God does extraordinary things right in the middle of our ordinary lives, yet we don't notice. You're offered an opportunity you almost pass up, thinking it's not worth your time or effort. But upon taking part, you find it leads to your life's calling. Or someone crosses your path, but overlooking their worth, you brush them aside, missing out on a blessing God had for you through them.

And what about you? Do you undervalue yourself as “nothing special,” just an “ordinary” person? Look closer; think again. For an ordinary baby born long ago to an ordinary couple in an ordinary stable in an ordinary town was none other than ... God's Son! And you? Why, you are also an extraordinary child of God!





## BECAUSE OF WHO GOD IS

Thanks to who God is, we can talk to him in prayer.

*Directions: Unscramble the descriptions of God, using the Bible references as clues. Then write the circled letters below to complete Psalm 109:26, NIV*

Psalm 145:8	SGAICURO	<input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _
Job 36:5	HGIYMT	<input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _
Psalm 90:2	LTAVREENISG	_ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _
2 Peter 3:9	INETTPA	_ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/>
1 Thessalonians 5:24	FUFHIATL	<input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _
Isaiah 40:25	OYHL	_ <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _

Help me, Lord my \_\_od;  
save \_\_e \_\_ccording \_\_o  
your un\_\_ailing I\_\_ve.

*Psalm 109:26, NIV*

## 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.**



**Oct. 27 --** Cheryl Varndell  
Kaylee Wallace (L. Boyer)  
Terry Shilling  
Colton Shronick (D. Zaharick)  
Bob Kinlin (D. Price)  
*Families of* Larry Morgan (J. Tice)  
Dawn Huntzinger

**Oct. 20 –** John Towey Jr. (J. Towey)  
Jane Pennypacker  
*Families of* Dave Harper  
Judy Horan  
Louie Chillis (P. Lute)

**Oct. 13 –** Pastor Peggy Sue Pfeffer (E. Tice)  
*Family of* Janet Quirk

**Oct. 6 –** Mike Evans (T. Ambrose)  
Everyone affected by Hurricane Helene  
*Family of* Lee Zimmerman

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

**Remember our Home-bound:** Leroy Berner, Diane Heidlebaugh, Jim Hep-ler, 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., Bob Griffiths, Cathy Groody, Dan Grow, Ann Helwig, Minah Horan, Beverly Kane, Tracy Maurer, 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, Karyssa Wenrich, Bev Wolfgang





1	James Dengler	16	Melody Bosco
	William Dillman, Jr.		Jack Houser
	Robert Nagle		Jean Wolfgang
	Jessica Shadle	19	Randy Lucas
4	Dean Krise	20	Charles Sweinhart
5	Brayden Koons	21	Breann Barker
7	Joshua Coward		Jean Bitting
	John W. Wolfgang		Carol Reiner
8	Daylon Long	23	Tracy Berner
	Steven Wolfgang		Carl Lute
9	Amy Fegley	24	Dale Bolich
	Jo-Ann Young	25	Bernie Marquardt
11	Brooke Harris	26	Suzanne Peel
	Jordan Walter	27	Cathy Stutzman
12	Deanna Hepler	28	Becky Spencer
	Connie Weinreich		Garrison Stehr
13	Rick Walsh	29	Remington Stehr
14	Deidre Dengler	30	Tammy Dengler
	Brian Rickert		Rusty McAndrew
	Cory Weikel, Sr.		



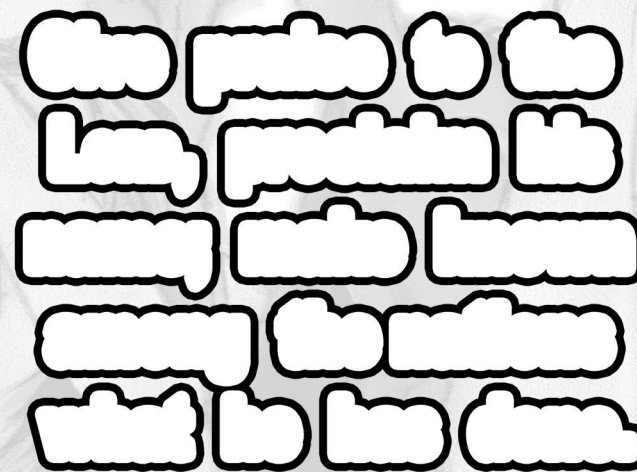
11/12/05	Tim & Deb Hubler
11/12/17	John & Hannah Lisowski
11/14/85	Frank & Peggy Dzielczek
11/19/11	Ken & Jen Snyder
11/20/82	Bruce & Jean Bitting
11/30/96	John & Joan Wolfgang

# Puzzle!

Discover a psalm of thanks from David by matching the words in the list to the shapes below.

## WORD LIST

nations proclaim the what to make done Give  
name among Lord known the he praise has his



1 Chronicles 16:8, NIV

Answer: Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. 1 Chronicles 16:8, NIV





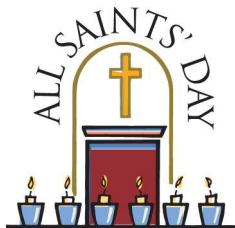
All are welcome to attend the  
Women of the ELCA's  
next meeting on  
Wednesday, November 6, 2024  
6:00 PM



Standard time returns on  
November 3, 2024  
Remember to turn your  
clocks back one hour on  
Saturday, November 2nd  
before going to bed.

## Sunday, Nov. 3

All Saints Day is a time of both remembrance and celebration as we recognize that God spans all time, and for the family of God life has no end. Those who believe in Jesus Christ are Saints, saved by Christ, and blessed with eternal life.



As we gather we will lift up the names of those Saints who have joined the company of heaven in the past year, since last All Saints Day (November 5, 2023). We ask that you share their names with the church office by calling (570-875-1591), emailing ([office@christsunited.org](mailto:office@christsunited.org)), or filling out the form below by Sunday, October 27th.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_



The Annual Budget meeting will take place on Sunday, November 10th following worship. The budget will detail the costs of doing ministry, broken down into the larger ministry areas such as Education, Social Ministry, and Worship (and more!). Please take the time to review the proposed budget with thanksgiving and prayer for the blessings from Christ at work here at Christ's United. To help us prepare, the ministry budget will be available on October 27th.

## 2024 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

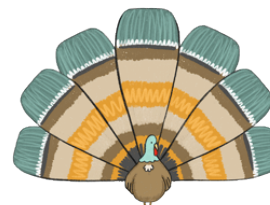
### \*For Altar Flowers:

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.



The CULC Messenger  
God's Work, Our Actions

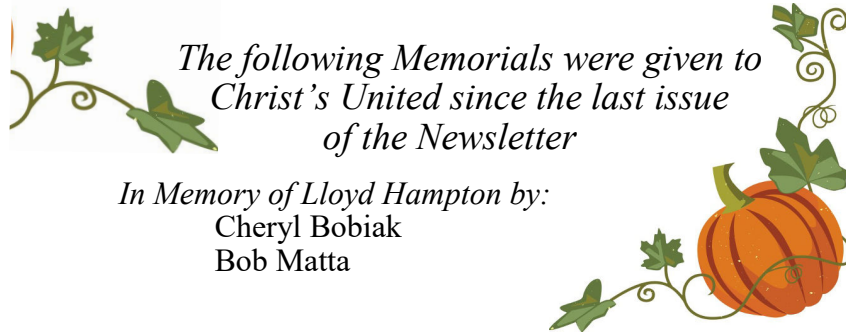




## Thank God for the Little Things

Thank you God for little things  
That often come our way.  
The things we take for granted  
but don't mention when we pray,  
The unexpected courtesy,  
The thoughtful, kindly deed,  
A hand reached out to touch us  
in the time of sudden need.  
Oh make us more aware, dear God,  
of little daily graces  
That come to us with "sweet surprise"  
From never dreamed of places.

-Helen Steiner Rice



*In Memory of Lloyd Hampton by:*  
Cheryl Bobiak  
Bob Matta



## SAVE THE DATE

Christ's United Congregational  
Christmas Meal—December  
8th following the morning  
worship service. Watch for  
details and sign up in the  
coming weeks.



## ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIPS



The Endowment Committee is pleased to announce that during the worship service on **December 1st** the following students will receive a \$500 scholarship check to assist in furthering their education:

**Deidre Dengler** is attending Alvernia University in Reading. She's in her 5th year of a 5 year program. She will graduate in May of 2025 with a Masters Degree in Occupational Therapy.

**Desiree Dengler** is attending Penn State Schuylkill Campus and will graduate in August 2025 with a degree in Radiological Science.

**Amy Johnson** is also attending Penn State Schuylkill Campus and will graduate in August 2025 with a degree in Radiological Science.

**Carey Wahalec** is attending Susquehanna University. He will graduate in the spring of 2026 with a Bachelor of Science in Finance.

**Jacob Tice** is a Freshman at Commonwealth University—Bloomsburg. He is studying Secondary Education with a minor in Social Studies.

**Bryce Weikel** is attending PA College of Technology, Williamsport. He is in his 4th and final year to receive a Bachelor Degree in Electrical Engineering.

The congregation is encouraged to attend this service to show your support and offer prayers for the successful future of the Scholarship Recipients.

There will be a special offering for the **Endowment Fund** on **December 1st**. Please be generous to support our youth with their future endeavors.



The CULC Messenger  
God's Work, Our Actions



# 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 ~  
**November** - Social Ministry  
**December** - Evangelism/  
 Endowment/Stewardship

~ 2025 ~  
**January** - WELCA  
**February** - Church Council  
**March** - Social Ministry  
**April** - Evangelism/  
 Endowment/Stewardship  
**May** - WELCA  
**June/July/August** -  
 No Social Hour



We will be collecting the following items for October:

## Canned Vegetables

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is  
 Thursday  
**November 14, 2024**

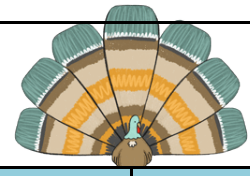


## Serving Our Community of Faith in November:

Date	Congregational Rep/Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte(s)	Crucifer
November 3 All Saints	Kay Berner	Jacob Tice	Barb Stepanchick Allen Johnson Ken Dengler	Kay Berner AM Deb Price Becky Spencer	Nelson Berger	Kaitlyn Werner
November 10		Barb Stepanchick			Mason Buhay	Dylan Buhay
November 17		Mark Varnell			Ava Hubler	—
November 24 Christ the King		Beth Andrews		Vivian Brown AM Barb Stepanchick Ken Dengler	Remington Stehr	Logan Walacavage



# November 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3 All Saints</b>	4	5 Election Day	6	7	8	9
9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 Social Hour 10:45 Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Learning Series - "Discovering Jesus...."	7:00 Church Council		10:30 Seniors  6:00 WELCA	6:30 Choir Practice		
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
9:30 Worship 10:30 Annual Budget Mtg.	Veterans Day	9:00 Knaughty Knotters	10:30 Seniors	10:00 - 11:30 Christ's Cupboard  6:30 Choir Practice		2:00 Memorial Service for Janet Quirk
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Learning Series - "Discovering Jesus..."		9:00 Knaughty Knotters	10:30 Seniors	6:30 Choir Practice		
<b>24 Christ the King</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28 Thanksgiving Day</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:45 Learning Series - "Discovering Jesus..."		9:00 Knaughty Knotters	8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors		<i>The CULC Messenger</i> <i>God's Work, Our Actions</i>	