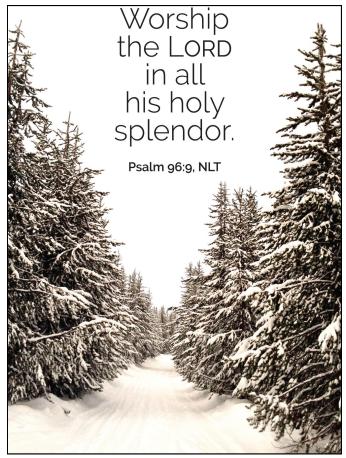
Life Together at Christ's United Lutheran Church





Join us for Worship Saturday 5:00 p.m. & Sunday 9:30 a.m. Journey & 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

Volume 4, Issue 1 January 2016

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The January Newsletter is sponsored in Memory of Carl Pennypacker by Jane & Family



Status of Accounts as of November 30

Balance in Checking Account......\$2,389.82 Amount needed in offerings <u>per month</u> to meet our 2015 Annual Budget of \$172,675.00 is **\$14,389.58**

November income was \$14,951.08

Benevolence Gifts......\$14,535.50 (73% of our Benevolence goal of \$20,000.00 for 2015)



Pastor Kim's Message

Brothers and Sisters,

We're in the height of the Christmas shopping push as I write this New Year article, and my email is dinging with "last chance" advertisements, and among them, twice a week, is an ad for new a new suitcase.

New suitcase? As a present?

Sure, I used to travel a lot. Sure, I've had to replace my suitcase a few times. Sure, it is worn so much that I no longer refer to it as "my suitcase" but instead it has become just a bag. But a new suitcase? Who wants that?

Actually, everyone. That's what the new year is about, isn't it? Emptying out the old and starting fresh. A chance for a new beginning.

A new start is something everyone could use. We start our life journey with a shiny new suitcase that every experience gets shoved into. Every pain, every mistake, every sorrow, jammed in with joys and celebrations, squeezing them down into the corners while leaving a lot of stinky sadness on top. The bag becomes our reputation, dragged along with us into every new adventure, a reminder of our past that no matter where we go or what we do cannot be escaped.

Oh, we may try to dress up our old bag with stickers and tags like "tradition" and "habit" but it does not change the truth: our bag is a weight that limits our future, weighing us down with a past we can not change.

So now at the end of the year we are dragging our bag with us, wanting

— continued on page 4

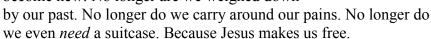
needing – a chance to let it behind and start new. We look to balloons dropping and champagne toasting and loud shouts of Happy New Year, but the truth – our old bag – remains. Oh sure, it may have a shiny new cover, but it is the same old junk we've been carrying ever other year, just more of it. It may be a new year, but it isn't a new start.

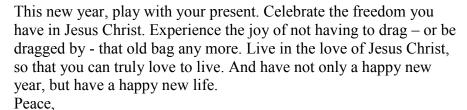
That's because we're looking at the wrong holiday. The new year begins with the date: the new start begins with the deed.

The deed performed by God in a lowly stable just a few days ago. The deed by which a child was born, who is called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. The deed by which a Saviour was given to us, God among us, Jesus the Christ.

The gift of Christmas is not a new suitcase in which our old bag is shoved into, where our pain can be hidden like a trick at a circus side show. Jesus is not a magician: He is a saviour. Jesus does not hide our pain, He takes it from us. The cross upon which Jesus died was on a hill: the hill of our old bags.

The gift of Christmas is the gift of a new start. Everything old has passed away and all has become new. No longer are we weighed down





Pastor Kim





Church Council Highlights from December:

- Jim Chappell obtained a garage door for the pavilion so that we can close off the section where we serve the food so that nothing disappears or gets damaged with the weather. Jim is still looking for a 36" outside door for the pavilion, possibly donated by Lowe's or Home Depot.
- WELCA will make a mortgage payment of \$1,388.
- Deidre Dengler, our new Youth representative, gave

- her report and thanked everyone for letting her be part of Council.
- Kitchen Manual: Beth shared with Council the Kitchen Manual which she created based on Jim Chappell's meeting with the Kitchen Crew on November 21st. The manual has a table of contents with instructions regarding the operation of all the kitchen appliances and will be kept in the kitchen for reference.





- 2 Katelyn BechtelBarbara PennypackerNathan Smith
- 3 Emily Reichwein
- 4 David Hepler Margaret Koons
- 5 Miles Hudock Kevin Wright
- 7 Katrina Economy Brenda Knorr
- 8 Craig Troutman
- 10 Laray Klinger Luke Young Liam Young
- 11 Harry Hepler Robert Schneider
- 12 Richard Knorr Jennifer Lettich-Snyder
- 13 Jesse Cascarino
 Trevor Wilson
 14 Ron Andrews
 Cheryl Neumeister

- 15 Karen Green Hannah Sterling
- 16 Rylee Nagle
- 17 Jim Gruber Deb Hall
- 18 Bill Burke
- 19 Deb Zaharick
- 20 Ian Bendinsky Nathan Hepler Jennie Kosmisky
- 21 Karen Schweinhart
- 23 David Chuplis
- 24 Katherine Bixler Rachel Hostetter
- 25 Steven Wagner
- 29 Sue Bendinsky
- 30 Allen Johnson Amanda Sterling





no	01/08/11	Douglas & Lindsay Fetterolf
on	01/13/72	Leroy & Deb Berner
S	01/20/05	Allen & Keri Johnson
neister	01/30/82	Craig & Penny Troutman

All Committee Secretaries and Treasurers must have their reports submitted Report to the church office by **DEADLINE** Monday, February 1, 2016. This is the deadline for all information or it will not be included in the annual congregational report. Save the Date: Our annual meeting is on Sunday, February 21 after worship. Thank You!

Give Electronically

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

As Christ's United prepares for a new year, 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, 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.



Remember:

We recycle many things here at Christ's United. Please bring your items in and help keep them out of area landfills.



Items Collected:

Metal tabs from cans

These are sent to a Service Dog training facility in Harrisburg. The money raised is used to help train the puppies. Collection bins are located in the kitchen, social hall, and hallway.

Aluminum cans

These are processed by the youth of the congregation and money raised goes to the youth so they can do special projects and trips throughout the year. Collection bins are located behind the church.

Old Cell Phones

We recycle any kind of old cell phone. A collection box is located on the bottom of the table in the hallway. Please remember to wipe any personal information off of your device before bringing it in. We do not accept chargers or cords.

Any kind of Ink or Toner cartridge

Many of us use a printer at home with our computer—we recycle all types of cartridges. They are sent to a recycling facility and we in turn get money back. Collection bins are located in the library.



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

\$1405.00 in Memory of Carrie Houser by:

Daniel & Bonnie Lamm

Angel & Beverly Bello

Don & Doreen Maurer

James & Mary Houser

Jack Houser

Nancy, Lisa, & Greg Lindenmuth

Iris Weller

Mike & Donna Lassen

Leo & Jo-Ann Young

Donald & Elizabeth Hand

Irene Morgan

Jim & Ellie Chappell

Ron & Beth Andrews

Carl & Pearl Lute

Don & Laray Klinger

Sarah Williams & Family

\$10.00 in Memory of Carrie Houser for "Christ's Cupboard" by: Donna & Ron Wallace

\$65.00 in Memory of Carrie Houser for the General Fund by:

Joseph & Beth Cataldo

Wilmer & Dorothy Quick

Danny & Cherrie

\$20.00 in Memory of Randy Harne by:

Louise Lute

\$10.00 in Memory of Anna Harner by: Ron & Beth Andrews

Youth Group News

SR. YOUTH GROUP

On Saturday, January 16, after church services, we will travel to St. Clair to the Hibachi grill. Please see Aaron or Tracy if you plan on attending. Reservations are needed to sit around the Hibachi grill.



Also, if you plan on attending the hockey game on February, 13 please sign up on the bulletin board by January 9th. Payment is due by that date.

Serving Our Community of Faith in January:

Date	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte & Tag-a-long	Crucifer	Post Worship Greeter in Narthex	Post Worship Greeter at Door
January 3	Melanie Bendinsky	Dot Zeigenfuse Jim Chappell Richard Berner Robert Carl	Melanie Bendinsky Barb Anczarski Kay Berner	Brandy Speer & Marisa Seritsky	Danielle White	John Denchak	Dennis Wolfe
January 10	Angie Berger		John Denchak Jim Gruber Donna Lassen	Jordan Walter	Ryan Walter	Helen Wolfgang	Beth Andrews
January 17	Deidre Dengler			Brandon Hood	Nicole Hood	Melanie Bendinsky	Deb Berner
January 24	Vivian Brown			Desiree Dengler & Dylan Buhay	Amy Johnson	Kay Berner	Vivian Brown
January 31	Donna Lassen			Blake Olayo	Charlie Sweinhart	Cheryl Denchak	Jim Gruber

January 2016				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs
				Tiew Ye
3 2 nd Sunday of Christmas 9:30 Communion Service 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Journey 3:30 Ladies Night Out	4 11:00 Worship at Luther Ridge 7:00 Church Council	9:00-12:00 "Knaughty Knotters" 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 Starting Anew	6 Epiphany 10:00 Seniors 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 WELCA	7:00 Evan
10 Baptism of Our Lord 9:30 Communion Service 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Journey 10:45 New Members Classes	11:00 Worship at Luther Ridge 6:00 Mutual Ministry	9:00 Food Delivery 9:00-12:00 "Knaughty Knotters" 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 Starting Anew	13 10:00 Seniors 10:00 Staff Meeting 4:30 Sr. youth pizza & food pantry set up	14 10:00-12:0 Christ's Cu
17 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 <i>Journey</i> 10:45 New Members Classes	18 9:30 Stewardship Team Meeting 11:00 Worship at Luther Ridge	19 9:00-12:00 "Knaughty Knotters" 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 Starting Anew	20 10:00 Seniors 10:00 Staff Meeting	7:00 Perso
24 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 Worship Service, Welcome New Members 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 <i>Journey</i>	25 Lenten Devotions Due 9:30 Newsletter Assembly 11:00 Worship at Luther Ridge 6:00 Grief Support Group	26 9:00-12:00 "Knaughty Knotters" 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 Starting Anew	27 10:00 Seniors 10:00 Staff Meeting	28
31 4th Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 Worship Service Good Samaritan Fund Offering 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Journey	Baptism of our Lord			

sday	Friday	Saturday
ris Day	1 Office Closed	2 5:00 Communion Service
gelism & Meeting	8 8:30 Staff Retreat	9 12:00 Social Hall Reserved 5:00 Communion Service
0 lpboard	15 Newsletter Deadline	5:00 Worship Service 6:00 Sr. Youth group trip to Hibachi Grill, St. Clair
onnel Meeting	22	23 5:00 Worship Service
	29	30 5:00 Worship Service
	EPIPHANY	





Hospital Volunteers Needed

If you are looking for a rewarding experience and want to help others, consider becoming a Volunteer at Schuylkill Health.

Volunteers generally serve a minimum 4-hour shift once per week in a variety of positions. Currently, our strongest need is at Schuylkill Medical Center East. We have a variety of opportunities and time slots.

For more information about volunteering, please contact Volunteer Services at 570-621-4193 or email mbardell@schuylkillhealth.com.

WELCA News



Sunday, January 3

Mineshaft Restaurant, Ashland No need to ride too far to experience the warmth of friendship at this new year gathering, Sign up on the bulletin board to attend.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love—the



discipline of Lent—help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

Exhortation for Ash Wednesday, Lutheran Book of Worship

During Lent it is an act of devotion that we journey with Christ to the cross. We do this by following the discipline of Lent. It is not an easy journey, but it is a journey of love. To help we journey together: using the daily devotions written by our family of faith at Christ's United. Please choose a text listed on the bulletin board. Read it, and listen to God speak, and then share your insight: through words or pictures, help us hear God speak too. The devotionals will be available the weekend before Ash Wednesday.

SOCIAL MINISTRY



We will be collecting the following items for January:

Diapers & Baby Wipes

Please place your donations in the shopping cart. Thank You!



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

January—Choir

February—Social Ministry
March—Lutheran Church Men
April—WELCA
May—Christian Education
June—Worship & Music
July—Evangelism & Outreach
August—Youth Group

"Christ's Cupboard"

Next Distribution Date **Thursday, January 14** 10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

We need more volunteers to help distribute food, come out & join us!



The Good Samaritan

Fund Special Offering January 30 & 31



YOUR CAR.....YOUR MARRIAGE BOTH RUN SMOOTHER WITH A TUNE UP!

Attention Married Couples: So you've done maintenance for your car—how about your marriage? Make 2016 the year you decide to attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend to learn how to make your marriage a more intimate, loving, Christian union.

Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends run from Friday night at 8 PM to Sunday around 4 PM and have been enriching marriages of couples of all ages for 40 years! In addition to the \$100 per couple registration fee, you will be given an opportunity near the end of the weekend to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward the continuation of the program. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included. The 2016 Pennsylvania Weekends are:

- April 8-10, 2016 in Lancaster, PA, at the all newly-renovated Heritage Hotel Lancaster, home of the unique tree-house-inspired restaurant, "Loxley's"
- April 22-24, 2016 at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College, PA, Happy Valley's premier conference center located on a guiet hillside with views of Nittany Mountain
- September 16-18, 2016 at Spruce Lake Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA, a new, hotel-style facility on Spruce Lake in the heart of the Pocono Mountains an hour north of Allentown October 21-23, 2016 at Olmsted Retreat Center, Ludlow, PA, a stunning, hotel-style retreat center adjacent to the Olmsted Mansion situated on a hillside in the Allegheny National Forest Registrations are limited, so act today to ensure that you can attend the Weekend of your choice. To sign up online, go to: www.GodLovesMarriage.org. For questions, or if you would like a brochure mailed to you, contact Pennsylvania Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or email: fischamber@comcast.net.

We Offer our Prayers to...

Members of Christ's United:

Dean & Barb Fetterolf, Jennie Kosmisky, Barb Liem, David Schweinhart, Joyce Mallams, Deb Price, Connie Welker, Judy Stepulitis, Sandy & Grant Marlow, Mary Houser, Nathan Berger

PRAYERS FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY

<u>Family & Friends:</u> Jane Fetterolf, Elizabeth Brown, Percy Deiter,

Barbara Bova, Patrice Rader, Irene Zaharick, Karyssa Wenrich, Charlie Young, Dianne Klem, Reese Burdette, Carson Boyle, Robert Berger, Sr., Harold Berner, Mary Umlauf, Paul Kimmel, Blake Kukuk, Doris Grohusky, Henry Shoup, Mary Ann Kimmel, Robyn Barrett, Kelly Schley, Tiffany Knupic, Judy Horan, Kim Brown, Terry Clemson, Ellie Dando, Lou Harter, Carol Schollberger, Dianne Rhoades, Marion Kaufman, Mary Ann White, James McAndrew, Ron Rowe, Jonathan Kosack, Lorraine Kerstetter, Mary Long, John Grodis, Ken Bennett, Marianne Lord, Albert & Carol Stehr, Linda Szuler, Drew Ressler, Tony Stanitis, Phil Brown, Dennis Eccleston, Betty Neumeister, Michael Pizzoli, Doris McGurl, Bill Dando, CJ Robichaux, Weston Rock, Rachael Balsavage, Deb Klinger, Tina Antalosky, Dorothy Sell, Patty Ann Burns, Annette Purnell, Benjamin Lockhart, Will Rader, John Tobash, Christina Bloch, Margie Zimmerman, Glenn Zimmerman, Betty Green, Jim & Patty McGurl, Kristina Wesch, Ruth Carl, Linda Kopitsky, Lyla Salvadore, Kathy Ahrensfield, Rhanay Konar, Theresa Shin, Sid Weit, George Freshour, Brian Berger, Judi Wright, Rylynn Libby, Linda Frew, Loretta Berner, Karen Hede, Lynn D'Attilio, Harry Lengert

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 it down and place a note on the prayer podium located in the Narthex.

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 Berner Family—Richard

The Cress Family—Jean

The Habowski Family—Tom, Barb, Sonya, Jake & Jada

WHO ARE

These People???



Each month we like to have a different picture from long ago. See if you can guess who some or all of the people in the picture are. The answers will be in next months "Life Together" Newsletter.

Answers from last months photo are: Left to Right, Front: Jill Amend & Robert Boyer. Angel: Brenda Coward. Third row: Bonnie Kahn, Linda Bilder, Terry Korn Shilling, Beth Boyer Andrews, Dorothy Leitzel. Forth row: Paul Snavely, David Neidig, Henrietta Hofinke, Joy Ann Lentes, Wayne Kaufman. Fifth row: Robert Amend, Bill Coward, Eugene Hubler, Walter Payne, Larry Wolfgang. St. Paul's Junior Choir early 1960's.

We are in need of more photographs. If you have any to share, please bring them into the church office for Erik to scan into the computer.

If you have any old pictures from Christ's United or any of the chapels that formed Christ's United, please provide pictures to the church office to be included in future "Life Together" Newsletters. Also provide the names of those that are pictured. I am also looking for pictures of the exterior of the Chapels: St. John's, St. Paul's, St. Peter's and Zions. Thank you!



Christ's United is expanding our media ministry. If you are able to work a computer or a camera, or have music you think would benefit

the worship service, please talk to Pastor Kim. Our goal is to expand the use of social media for Evangelism, especially our You Tube Channel! If you have not yet visited the Christ's United Facebook page, and joined our Facebook Group, check it out!



Collection of the Palms

Once we waved them with shouts of triumph in celebration of our Lord and King. Many then took their palms home - placing them on pictures, mantles, or the sun visor of their cars - any where that would remind them of that day. The palms were a sign of celebration: but now they are a sign of our mortality. Please bring your palms to Christ's United the last two weeks of January and place them in the bin in the gathering area. The palms will be burned, and the ashes used to anoint our heads on Ash Wednesday.

The ministry staff of Christ's United will be on a Retreat Friday, January 8 beginning at 8:30 a.m.





2016 Sponsorships



The 2016 sponsorship sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board.

Sign up for: Altar Flowers \$25.00, Palms for Palm Sunday \$12.00, Worship Bulletins \$15.00, and Monthly

Newsletters \$40.00. We especially need sponsors for bulletins on January 3 & 10!

Payments for Altar flowers should be made to Jane Pennypacker. All other payments should be made out to the church and given to Erik Tice in the church office.

Starting Anew

The new year is marked by promises to start anew, especially regarding eating habits and exercise. But what about faith? How can we start anew in faith by making a commitment to travel through this year <u>with</u> Jesus Christ, no longer just labeled a Christian but <u>living as</u> a Christian?

"Christian?" will explore faith in a new and challenging way, teaching us what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. This five week program will explore faith in all the facets of our lives. Make a new promise this new year: Tuesdays @ 7:00 p.m..

Christ's United Ministry Teams

Christian Education education@christsunited.org

Evangelism/Outreach evangelism@christsunited.org

Lutheran Church Men (LCM) lcm@christsunited.org

Social Ministry socialministry@christsunited.org

Stewardship

WELCA welca@christsunited.org

Worship & Music music@christsunited.org

Christ's United Committees

Auditing & Finance Committees finance@christsunited.org

Endowment Fund endowment@christsunited.org

Mutual Ministry

Nominating council@christsunited.org

Personnel personnel@christsunited.org

Property property@christsunited.org

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 reexamination 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.



From a worship bulletin in Detroit, Michigan:

DOMOUT TACAD

Help us honor academic exellence!

January Awarde Coromony

An awards ceremony is an excellent idea.

CHURCH COUNCIL 2015 council@christsunited.org

	Phone	Term Expires
Beth Andrews	570-874-2381	Feb. 2018
Stewart Anthony	570-644-0373	Feb. 2018
Deb Berner	570-875-3209	Feb. 2017
John Denchak	570-875-4970	Feb. 2017
vicepresident@chris	tsunited.org	
Deidre Dengler	Youth Rep.	Sept. 2016
Donna Lassen	570-875-1530	Feb. 2016
Barb Stepanchick	570-875-1114	Feb. 2016
John Towey	570-205-2682	Feb. 2018
Helen Wolfgang	570-875-0758	Feb. 2016
Deb Zaharick	570-875-2691	Feb. 2017

<u>PASTOR</u> Rev. Dr. Kim L. Lengert 570-336-3110 pastorkim@christsunited.org

STAFF

Parish Visitor	Lois Sterling	570-449-6947
lois@christsunited.	org	
Parish Secretary	Erik Tice	570-875-1591
office@christsunite	ed.org	
Office Hours: Mon	day-Friday 9:30-3:00	
Director of Music	Keith Morgan, ALCM	570-516-1725
music@christsunite	ed.org	
Treasurer	Ann Marie Dillman	570-875-2422
treasurer@christsu	nited.org	
Indoor Custodian	Cheryl Varndell	570-875-2545
Outdoor Custodian	Keith Morgan	570-516-1725
Financial Secretary	Christine Brennan	570-875-0720



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