



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

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OCTOBER 2026



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.

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

October 2026

In This Issue:

Pastor Brian's Message	3-4
Council Highlights	5
Prayer List	6-7
Birthdays / Anniversaries	8-9
Serving Our Community	11
October Calendar	12-13
Social Ministry	14-15
WELCA	16
2026 Scholarship requests	17
Pork & Sauerkraut Supper	18
Puzzle	20



Status of Accounts as of August 31

The balance in the General Fund is \$49,375.94.
 Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our
 2026 Annual Budget of \$223,228.00 is \$18,602.33.
 Income for August was \$21,922.88
 Expenses for August were \$37,945.52.
 Net loss for the month of August was -\$16,022.64.
 Benevolence for August was \$1,225.49.

CHURCH COUNCIL 2026

	Phone	Term Expires
John Towey, President	570-205-2682	Feb. 2027
Mark Varndell, Vice President	570-205-8002	Feb. 2028
Jamie Johnson, Secretary	570-590-1678	Feb. 2028
William Griffiths	570-640-1843	Feb. 2029
Debra Price	570-205-6241	Feb. 2029
Virgil Smith	570-205-6979	Feb. 2028
Barbara Stepanchick	570-590-0781	Feb. 2027
Janet Towey	570-205-3420	Feb. 2027
Kim Walacavage	570-590-9629	Feb. 2029
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



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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

Christian symbol



LAMP — In Bible times, lamps were small but essential sources of light, especially during the dark hours of night. Scripture often uses the image of a lamp to represent God's guidance, truth and wisdom. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path," reminding believers that God's Word directs each step of life. Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids also connects the lamp with wisdom and spiritual readiness (Matthew 25:1-13). In addition, the lamp is sometimes used to symbolize the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the gift of life itself. Because of these meanings, the lamp has become a lasting symbol of God's guidance, faithful living and the light of Christ shining in the darkness.

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.*



Grace and Peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!

We are 509 Years old this month. That is, the Lutheran Reformation started in Wittenburg, Germany in 1517.

And let me tell you, it was scary. Scary for a young Roman Catholic monk, Martin Luther, who stepped out in faith when he saw that the practices of the large organization that was the Church were in fact getting in between the people and the God that they worshipped. He saw how much money was involved, where the Church was literally selling their loved one's salvation (as if such a thing were possible).

He saw how little people were encouraged to explore their faith, as many came to worship in a language they themselves did not speak. Thus, it became Luther's passion to translate the Bible into German, the actual speaking language of his particular country.

He saw how relational things were being diminished over the time, and worked to correct that in providing a Small Catechism for families to pass on their faith and live it out.

And guess what? The powers that be didn't like it. At one point, Martin Luther's very life was threatened, and if it wasn't for the protection of the king of Germany, he might not have been able to do the important work that he accomplished.

It was a major change. And it was scary. I am sure that many did not follow because they weren't comfortable with that change.

It's scary to make changes. I've noticed that often, when someone in our world does something even a little bit different, immediately criticizing voices emerge. People complain when a sports league makes rule changes (although, if I'm going to be honest, I can go on for awhile about the practice of automatically putting a runner on base during extra innings in a baseball game). If a musical artist tries something new, part of the fanbase will automatically react negatively. I get it. We don't like change.

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God's Work, Our Actions



— continued on page 4

But we are a living, breathing society. We are a living, breathing church. If we don't look at our surroundings, and our culture, and seek to interact with it in a different way, we very well can end up obsolete, out of touch, and seen as a relic. None of us wants that.

So this month, you will see some changes. The advent of an after school program, the emergence of a Prayground, and a new Bishop that will be installed the end of the month? That's a lot of change.

I know we've already seen the coming of a new hymnal. And I know that it is indeed an adjustment! Thinner pages, different hymn numbers (I still have the LBW numbers memorized but can't learn the new ELW ones yet). But let me share with you that I remember being a child, when we switched to the green Lutheran Book of Worship from the old Service Book and Hymnal. My grandmother was angry. She swore she wouldn't attend worship.

It's a part of life, and we will go through it together. We as a church of tradition, must also keep an eye on the future, as Dr. Luther did many, many years ago.

Peace,
Pastor Brian Beissel

But over time, she found things to like about that hymnal (and by the way, some of the hymns are in fact reverted to their older counterpart in the new hymnal, not the newer).



Pray Ground is opening!

Attention to all who care for young children! We will be erecting a Prayground beginning October 4! What is a Prayground? It is a place for young children to keep themselves busy while giving parents the opportunity to participate in worship. In the narthex, behind the glass doors, there will be tables with coloring books and activities relating to the lessons placed, with comfortable chairs for parents or guardians to participate in worship and tend to their children. This idea has been happening across the church in congregations around our country, and is meant to provide a welcoming environment for families in addition to giving our children the opportunity to creatively explore their faith. While everyone is welcome to sit where they wish, we are excited to offer this option to families who would like to keep their children busy during worship. Keep an eye out for it as we will bless this new ministry during worship!

Harvest Home

As we welcome the cooler air and the farmers are brining in the Harvest from the fields, Christ's United will be celebrating Harvest Home on October 4th & 11th. Please bring in any non-perishable food item to stock "Christ's Cupboard" to help those in need. We are especially in need of the following items: cereal, spaghetti and sauce, canned fruit & vegetables and potatoes (white or sweet), and jelly. We have also applied for a Thrivent Financial Action Team grant to help purchase food. There will be a table in the Narthex for your donations.



Halloween is quickly approaching. We will hold our Trunk or Treat event on Sunday, October 25th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Sign up sheets will be posted on the Youth Bulletin Board for "Trunkers", candy donations and volunteers to help with the event. Sign up or call the church office if you would like to help, or plan to be a "Trunker."

Thank you,
Trunk or Treat Committee

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Puzzle!

NAMES OF GOD

Every name of God tells us something about his power, love and care for his people. Use the Scripture clues to uncover just some of these special names.



F _____ (Matthew 6:9)

A _____ and O _____ (Revelation 1:8)

I A ____ (Exodus 3:14)

Y _____ (Exodus 6:2-3)

G _____ M _____ H _____ (Genesis 14:19)

G _____ A _____ (Genesis 17:1)

R _____ (Psalm 18:2)

J _____ (Psalm 75:7)

F _____ (Psalm 18:2)

H _____ O _____ (Isaiah 40:25)

Answer key: Father, Alpha and Omega, I AM, Yahweh, God Most High
God Almighty, Rock, Judge, Holy One



**Council
Highlights**

Church Council Highlights From September

- Pastor Brian will resume bible study. It will take place every other week at 10:30 am starting October 5th.
- In an effort to keep the congregation better informed, the Council Minutes will be posted in the church.
- The Finance Committee will be organizing a budget meeting this month. Any special requests for money needed for any committee should be brought to the Finance Committee to be included in the creation of the new budget.
- The color printer in the office has not been working and is outdated. A new printer was purchased.
- The code for the key pad to enter the front door of the church is being changed. Anyone needing access to the church should plan accordingly and have someone with access to the code with them.



LUNCH
WITH THE
PASTOR

Schedule for October:

All lunches are a time to gather and meet up with your pastor. There is no agenda, we can simply speak about whatever might be on your mind! All lunches begin at 12 noon.

The next lunch will be:

October 7th at the Huddle House, Lavelle

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October Council Contact of the month is Janet Towey.

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 Janet, she can be reached at 570-205-3420.



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

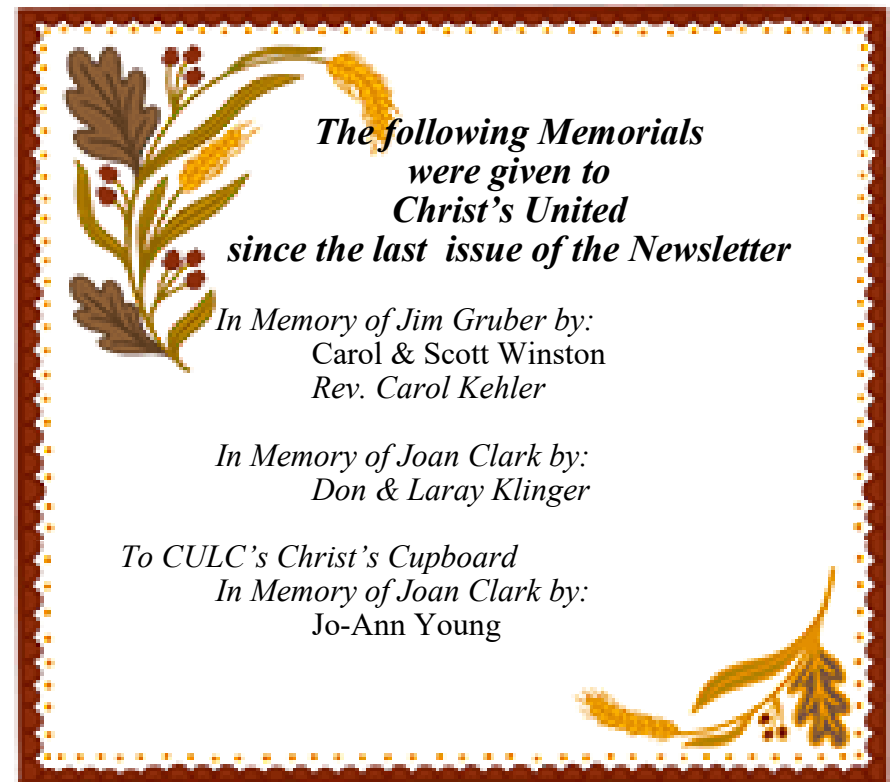
Each month we will be listing three of our church faith families. We ask that you take the time and uplift them in prayer for their needs and spiritual journey.

This month we pray for:

The Berner Family - Dr. Kay

The Dillman Family - Don, Lynn & Kaiden

The Steinhart Family - Bonnie



Collection and Special Guest on October 18



Mrs. Pamela Ulicny, retired science teacher from the Tri-Valley School District, will be giving a sermon here at Christ's United Lutheran Church during our service on October 18. She will be sharing with us her experiences of mission work in South Africa, including helping develop a program that enables people to light their homes using solar lanterns. She was with us during our Contemporary Service in September, and she shared the news that she will be heading back to South Africa in November.

To support this important ministry, we will have a special offering that morning for Pam's work, and in addition we will be collecting feminine pads for her to take to that country, a special need in her work with young women.





Pork & Sauerkraut Supper

Sponsored by the Lutheran Church Men

Saturday, October 17, 2026

3:00 – 6:00 pm

~Eat In or Take Out~

Christ's United Lutheran Church
437 Airport Road, Ashland

Dinner Includes:

Pork & Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes, Applesauce
Bread & Butter, Dessert, Beverage
(Hot Dog available as substitute for pork)

Adults: \$12.00 - Children age 12 & under: \$5.00

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

BAKE SALE - Sponsored by WELCA

DONATIONS NEEDED;

- _____ #10 Can of Applesauce
- _____ Cakes, Cookies, Brownies, or Cup Cakes
- _____ 12 or 24 Pack Soda (Any brand or flavor)
- _____ 24 Pack Bottled Water
- _____ Cash Donation

Donations may be placed on the center island in the kitchen. Please attach your name to your donation. All donations must be in no later than **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4th**. Baked goods may be brought in on Friday, October 16th, between 9:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m. Baked goods may also be brought in **before noon** on Saturday prior to the dinner.

Please return this sheet to the church office.

Name _____ Phone _____

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.***



September 27 – Louise Lute (A. Krise)
Richard Artz (K. Dengler)
Elizabeth Hand (B. Spencer)
Anne Latsco (D. Zaharick)

September 20 - Sally Tice (C. Hummel)
Linda Szuler (T. Wolfe)
Fred Richter (K. Dengler)
Gail Schalles (Yoders)

Families of Doris Smith
Corporal Harry Guinther

September 13 – Michael Laudeman
Family of George Canavan

September 6 - Frank Carr (M. Sweitzer)
Bonnie Kranzel (M. Snyder)
Mark Fessler (D. Price)
Dak Sisak

Families of Joan Clark
Rosemary Beaver (J. Towey)

Please continue to pray for: Annette Houser, Jack Houser, Jim Houser, Jr., Allen Johnson, Jennie Kosmisky, Gail Lorady, Pearl Lute, Dianna Monaghan, Jane Pennypacker, Heidi Walsh, Kayla Werner, Linda Zerby

Remember our Home-bound: Leroy Berner, Nancy Kessler, Gail Marquardt, Anna Neumeister, Richard Shoup, Karen Smith

And Friends: Michelle Ambrose, Robert Beecher, Donald Bulla, Christina Dudley (D. Price), Joe Ferraro Jr., Jim Fetterolf, Bob Griffiths, Cathy Groody, Dan Grow, Ann Helwig, Patty Kaufman, Zack Metzinger (J. Eisenhart), Kim Minning (A. Berger), Samantha Schifano, Elizabeth Smith & family, Linda Szuler (T. Wolfe), Joe Towey, John Towey Jr., Rose Varndell, Olivia Wagner





- 4 Lowell Martin
- 5 David Cunningham, Jr.
Joshua Phelan
- 6 Tammy Buhay
William Dillman
Trever Harhigh
George Sterling
Brooke Wolfe Maurer
- 7 Angie Lucas
Forrest Shadle
- 8 Francis Lally
- 10 Melanie Bendinsky
Barry Martin
Cole Young
- 11 Dylan Buhay
Michael McNeal
Danielle White
- 13 Jessica Wallace
Mia Burke
Aidan Lazor
Chad Weikel
- 14 Michael Boyer
Tekla Kranzel
Anna Neumeister
Kelsey Blyler

- 15 Brandon Hood
Nicole Hood
Connor Hoover
James Lavelle
- 17 Terry Neumeister
Autumn Peifer
- 18 Ryan Walter
- 19 Jennifer Bixler
Judy Fritz
Jacob Klinger
Sandy Miller
Maryann Wolfgang
- 20 Patti Kaufman
- 22 Blake Olayo
- 24 Francis Lally, Jr.
- 25 Carrie Hummel
Donna Wallace
- 27 Jennifer Deeter
- 28 Nancy Kessler
Salina Krah
- 29 Cathy Troutman
Raymond Price
- 31 Tara Houser



ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES: ARE YOU ATTENDING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS (college, university, trade school, nursing/medical school, business school, ENTERING THE MILITARY SERVICE, OR ARE STARTING A JOB?

The Endowment Fund Committee is accepting requests for the 2026 scholarships of \$500 for full time students/military service and \$100 for employed graduates.

ADULT MEMBERS WHO HAVE ENROLLED IN POST SECONDARY PROGRAMS ARE ALSO ELIGIBLE FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP.

Active members of the congregation are eligible to receive a scholarship by submitting a letter of request by OCTOBER 4th. to a committee member: Vivian Brown, Carla Mae Carl, Tammy Dengler, Carrie Hummel, and Donna Wallace. The scholarships will be distributed on November 29, 2026.

The letter should include: Your name and address, name of the school attending, or military branch, or employer, your status (freshman, senior, etc), field of study/certification or degree, and projected time of graduation.

Please be advised, you must be an ACTIVE MEMBER of the congregation and be present on November 29th when scholarships are given out during the worship service.



Pray for Our College Students

The next meeting of Women of the ELCA is on Wednesday, October 7th at 6:00 PM. All women of CULC Are welcome to attend.



KANUGHTY KNOTTERS has resumed knotting quilts for Lutheran World Relief on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 am. No sewing experience is required...just to be able to tie a knot. For more information contact Donna Wallace.



10/02/82	Keith & Brenda Yoder
10/02/99	Stephen & Wendy Harhigh
10/04/97	Paul & Jamie Johnson
10/05/07	Brian & Brandy Bolich
10/05/85	Gerald & Cathy Stutzman
10/06/62	Ivan & June Sweinhart
10/07/95	James & Michelle Lavelle
10/11/97	John & Maryann Wolfgang
10/12/19	Jason & Kimberly Miller
10/13/84	Joseph & Barbara Anczarski
10/16/76	Dennis & Tina Wolfe
10/18/58	Don & Laray Klinger
10/22/05	Dean & Tammy Leshner
10/25/08	Bill & Mindy Burke
10/25/80	Gregg & Lois Sterling
10/29/11	Wesley & Kelly Long



SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES

Sunday School classes are held on the first and third Sundays of each month (not on the second or fourth/fifth Sundays) following worship. All children are welcome and encouraged to attend.



Confirmation
— Class —

CONFIRMATION CLASS for students in 7th & 8th grade or older who have not yet been Confirmed are being held on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Please contact Pastor Brian or the church office if you will be attending.

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.



2026 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 place order and make payment directly to the florist.**

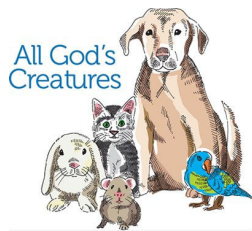
All other sponsorships, please make payable to CULC and give to Debbie in the Church Office.

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God's Work, Our Actions



Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 4, 2026
1:00 pm



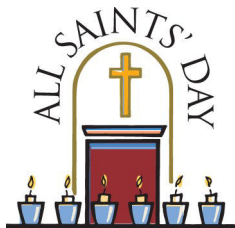
- ◆ All pets are welcome!
- ◆ All pets will be individually blessed.
- ◆ Service will be held in the Pavilion.
- ◆ For the safety and comfort of all attending, all pets should be leashed or contained in a safe carrier.



Sunday, Nov. 1

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 2, 2025). We ask that you share their names with the church office by calling (570-875-1591), emailing (office@christsunited.org), or filling out the form below by Sunday, October 25th.



Name: _____

Date of Death: _____

Requested by: _____

Indoor Yard Sale

Saturday, October 10, 2026
8:00am -1:00pm



All are welcome to join us in having another indoor yard sale. Rent a table for \$5 each. You may rent more than one table if you would like. Please call the church office or sign up on the bulletin board to rent a table. The deadline to sign up is October 2. Tables will be set up in the social hall and Narthex Wednesday evening October 7.

You must set up, be present at your table the day of the sale, clean up, and take home any items not sold. You may set up your items on Thursday, October 8 from Noon-4, Friday, October 9 during office hours, or if you need to set up Thursday or Friday evening, please call the office and arrangements will be made. You may NOT set up on Saturday morning.

We will have food for sale including hot dogs, soup, baked goods, bottled water and soft drinks. Proceeds from the table rentals, food & bake sale will benefit the Gordon Fire Company. Thank you for your support!

After School Youth Group

Approved months ago by our congregation council, our After School Program will begin as soon as it is approved by the North Schuylkill School Board. This group will meet on the Tuesday and Thursday of each week from 3:30 until 6:00 or parent pick up, and will only run during the school year itself. The cost for participation in this program is \$20 per week, with \$30 for two children from the same family. This will provide for supplies and activities for the kids, in addition to offsetting the cost to CULC for utilities.

Registration forms will be available in the office beginning October 1. While transportation and volunteers have been successfully sought out, we certainly welcome any additional volunteers who would like to help. All volunteers will be asked to complete necessary free clearances to comply with synodical regulations.

The hope, pending approval, is that we will begin this afterschool program later on in October. For this first year, we are limiting registration to ten children, with the option to increase if there is interest and enough volunteers.



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.

~ 2026 ~
October—Church Council
November - Social Ministry
December - Evangelism/
 Endowment/Stewardship



We will be collecting the following items for October:

Canned Fruit

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday
October 8, 2026



Serving Our Community of Faith in October:



Date	Congregational Rep/Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer
October 4		Becky Spencer	Kay Berner b Ted Ambrose d John Towey so	Vivian Brown AM Beth Andrews Donna Wallace	Garrison Stehr	Remington Stehr
October 11		Vivian Brown			Cole Johnson	—
October 18		Deb Hubler			Maura Sweitzer	John Wagner
October 25		Barb Anczarski			Kimber Towey	Karolyne Towey



OCTOBER 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
						8:00 Highway Clean-Up rain date
4 Harvest Home	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 Social Hour 10:30 Choir Practice 10:45 Sunday School 1:00 Pet Blessing 6:00 Confirmation class	10:30 Bible Study 6:00 Worship & Music 6:30 Stewardship	9:00 Knaughty Knotters	10:30 Seniors 12:00 Lunch with Pastor Brian 6:00 WELCA 7:00 Church Council	10:00 – 11:30 Christ's Cupboard 		8:00 Indoor Yard Sale 6:00 Contemporary Wordship Service
11 Harvest Home	12 Columbus Day	13	14	15	16	17
9:30 Worship 10:30 Choir Practice 1:00 Garden Club Clean-up & Meeting			10:30 Seniors			3:00 – 6:00 Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30 Worship 10:30 Choir Practice 10:45 Sunday School 6:00 Confirmation class	10:30 Bible Study	9:00 Knaughty Knotters	10:30 Seniors			
25 Reformation	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween
9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 Choir Practice 5:00 Trunk-or-Treat		9:00 Knaughty Knotters	8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors		<i>The CULC Messenger</i> <i>God's Work, Our Actions</i> 	