Life Together at Christ's United Lutheran Church


Join us for Worship -
Saturday 5:00 p.m. \&J Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:45 a.m.


## Christ's United Lutheran Church

437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921
www.christsunited.org (570) 875-1591
Volume 1, Issue 1
January 2013

- The January Newsletter is sponsored in Memory of George \& Martha Bolich, by Daughter, Connie Welker.


## Schedule of Events

- Epiphany, January 6
- Baptism of Our Lord, January 13
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25
- Newsletter Deadline for February Newsletter, January 15

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## Bible Study

New Year New Beginnings!

Join us for the first Bible Study of the New Year:
Creation! Lights flying into the sky as mountains erupt from the seas and the air is filled with the sounds of new life. Come and gather on Wednesdays at 7 pm or Thursdays at 10:30 am

starting Wednesday, 16 January 2013!

## Annual Reports Due!

| All Committee | deadline to submit | report. Our |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Secretaries and | all information or it | annual meeting is |
| Treasurers must | will not be included | on Sunday, |
| have their reports | in the annual | February 17 after |
| submitted to the | congregational |  |
| church office |  |  |
| by Monday, |  |  |
| January 28. |  |  |
| This is the |  |  |

All Committee Secretaries and Treasurers must have their reports submitted to the church office by Monday, January 28. This is the


Pastor Kim's Message
Brothers and Sisters,
Whew... glad that's over. Caroling, visiting, saying Merry Christmas to strangers, running all over town to make someone happy, cooking, donating, worshiping - Christmas was consuming. All the craziness is over. Now we can get back to normal.

As I sit to write this article our country and the world is still reeling from the slaughter of 6 adults and 20 children, mostly aged 6-7 years old, at an elementary school in Connecticut. A person with a history of mental illness broke into the school and began killing, stopping only when killing himself. Everyone who knew him knew something was wrong with him, but just did not know what to do about it.

There is no way to describe what happened as anything but tragic... devastating... unspeakable.
The loss of any child, especially to such evil, is wrong. Wrong, but sadly, the death of children in our world is horribly, disgustingly, normal.

Each and every day, twenty-one thousand - 21,000 - children die because of poverty, hunger, easily preventable diseases and illnesses, and other related causes. This does not include the five -5- children who die each and every day in the United States from child abuse. These cases rarely make the headlines. Reporters are not stationed in city alleys or at rural houses to listen to the screams or the muffled cries. Families mourn, neighbors cry, and others shake their heads, knowing it is wrong, but just not knowing what to do about it.

Odd isn't it - how we can call preparing for the birth of the Savior crazy, and violence - death - normal...


In this New Year,
Maybe,
Just maybe,
We need to give up on normal

And instead continue the craziness.

What would it be like if Christmas didn't end? The spirit, the sharing, the laughter, the worship, the family, the gifts... What if we refuse the "normal" of this world, instead continuing to prepare for Christ by getting our homes and our hearts ready:
reaching out to those around us with love;
working for the healing of the mentally ill;
sharing resources so the hungry are fed;
demanding medical care and clean water for children;
and praying - with our hearts and our hands - that the cycle of violence comes to a screaming stop.

It is a crazy idea. But what else could be "normal" for the followers of Jesus Christ?

Peace,
Pastor Kím

## Status of Accounts as of November 30

Balance in Checking Account.
.Negative \$966.08
Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our 2013 Annual Budget of $\$ 169,305.70$ is $\$ 14,108.81$.
Benevolence Gifts.
.\$17,776.00
( $87 \%$ of our Benevolence goal of $\$ 20,600.00$ for 2012)


## We Offer our Prayers to...

Members of Christ's United:
Gail Halye, Barb Anczarski, Nancy Shuey, Jack Houser, James Conrath, Pete Waldick, Sue Bendinsky, Judy Stepulitis, Mark Varndell, Jennie Kosmisky, Nancy Lindenmuth, Deidre Dengler

## Family \& Friends:

Judy Gross, Catherine Beury, Lois Blyler, Cameron Hemmingson, Mike Buriak, Barbara Nelson, Margaret Huhn, Debra Welker, Brandon Harris, Bob Foose, Bob Berger Jr., Bob Touchinsky, Judy Touchinsky, Royal Miller, Dennis Morgan, Sara Feese, Faye Geist, Elizabeth Hughes, Frank Ward, Fred Herb III, Scott Sincavage, Bob Wolfgang, Amanda Shoup Pascavage, Mary Shinkus, John Hood, Faye Zimmerman

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 pastor or the office in order that the list is always current. If you would like someone added please call the office: if someone is added to the prayer list on a Sunday morning during worship, please make sure you write it down and place a note on the secretary's desk.

## Continued Prayers for our shut-ins:

Howard Beury
Jean Cress
Palmer Kimmel, Mt. Carmel Assisted Living
Glenn Pennypacker, Treverton
Arlene Troup, Friendly Nursing Home
Randy Troutman
Brenda Wolfgang
Dean Wolfgang, Tremont Health \& Rehab
Jeanette Wolfgang
Ruth Wolfgang
Walter Wolfgang, Mt. Carmel Assisted Living
Linda Zerby


## Ashland Area Food Pantry

We will be collecting the following items for January:

## Spaghetti \& Spaghetti Sauce

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.


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<br>Schedule<br>January - Church Council<br>February-Social Ministry<br>March-LCM<br>April—WELCA<br>May-Christian Education<br>June-Worship \& Music<br>July-Evangelism/Outreach<br>August-Youth Group



Souper Bowl of Caring helps young people across America develop a stronger connection to their communities by caring for their neighbors in need. Join the movement that is transforming Super Bowl weekend into the nation's
largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving.
Learn more at tacklehunger.org.

Date / Time: Sunday, February 3, 2013
Christ's United
Location:
Collecting For: Ashland Area Food Pantry



## Day Camp?

One of the greatest tools Christ's United has for ministry is our building. But even with our busy ministry schedule, the morning hours often leave its halls and classrooms empty. One of the ministry ideas proposed is a Day Camp. As this idea is a tremendous
undertaking, Council has approved our investigation of community need and our ability by considering a 2013 Summer Day Camp here at Christ's
United.
Arrangements will need to be set by March
for us to accomplish this goal. If you are interested in serving on the planning team, please contact Sally Tice, Hannah Sterling,



Contact Us: youth@christsunited.org

The Youth Group had a fun filled pizza and movie night this past November. The night started out with us attending worship together. The kids signed cards for deployed soldiers, we had a "bop-it" challenge, ate pizza, made popcorn and watched the movie "Luther". Thank You to the those who joined us for the movie we hope you enjoyed it.

January 19th the Sr. Youth Group will be getting together but, it is a Mystery night.... we can only tell you to be at service for 5 pm and prepare for anything!!!!


As you head into 2013, create a special journal for the new year.

## What you need:

- Spiral notebook (with a plain-colored cover)
- Foam letters, numbers and shapes
- Stickers
- Jewels and glue (optional)

What you do:

- Decorate the notebook cover with letters and numbers. Options include "2013," "Journal" or your name.
- Decorate with foam shapes, stickers or jewels.
- Write in the journal daily - or whenever possible recording life events, thoughts, prayer requests and more.
- Keep the journal private or share it with your friends and family.


## (1) PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Want to start the new year off right?
Remember to always ask God for guidance.
Directions: Write each word (or word part) in the correct numbered box to complete Proverbs 16:3, NIV.


$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { 14-tab 18-Pro 7-ever 6-what } 15 \text {-lish } 8 \text {-you } 4 \text {-the } \\
& \text { 21-:3 16-your 9-do 1-Com 20-16 11-he 10-and 22-NIV } \\
& 3 \text {-to } 12 \text {-will } 19 \text {-verbs } 13 \text {-es } 2 \text {-mit } 17 \text {-plans } 5 \text {-LORD }
\end{aligned}
$$





## For the new year

H old fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
A ssemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)
P ray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)
P ray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)
Y ield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)
N eglect not your talents and opportunities
(Galatians 6:10)
E xamine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)
W ork diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)
Y ield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11, 16)

E xercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
A im for a perfect, mature faith (Hebrews 6:1)
R edeem the time (Ephesians 5:15-16)
-Gus Nichols

Each month we 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 for the December edition "Who are these people??" - Left to Right: First Row: Jody McAndrew, Angela Klinger, \& Amy Fegley. Second Row: Rev. Werley \& Brian Rickert.


## JANUARY 2013

## EPIPHANY

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | 1 New Year's Day <br> Office Closed | 2 |


| Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $3$ | 4 | 5 <br> Synod World Hunger Lock-in <br> 5:00 Communion Service |
| $10$ <br> 7:00 Marriage Preparation Classes | 11 | $12$ <br> 5:00 Communion Service |
| 17 <br> 10:30 Bible Study <br> 6:00 "Walk-n-Roll" <br> 7:00 Personnel Meeting | $18$ <br> The Confession of St. Peter | $19$ <br> 5:00 Worship Service 6:00 Sr. Youth Group |
| 24 <br> St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor 10:30 Bible Study 6:00 "Walk-n-Roll" 7:00 Marriage Preparation Classes | 25 <br> CONVERSION <br> ${ }^{\mathrm{OF} \text { ST. PAULL }}$ | 26 <br> St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor |
| 31 <br> 10:30 Bible Study 6:00 "Walk-n-Roll" <br> 7:00 Schuylkill Mission Dist. Council Meeting, @ Trinity, Pottsville |  |  |

Life Together at Christ's United

January Anniversary \& Birthdays



## Ladies Night Out

Neither the snow, wind, rain or dark of night will keep the ladies of Christ's United in because it is LADIES' NITE OUT!!! We'll be making the journey down to Pastor's neck o'the woods for a lively dinner at Ozgoods and then to Pastor Kim's house for desserts. We had 18 at our last dinner - let's double it this time! Please sign up on the bulletin board so we can reserve our table. Remember we car pool, so not everyone needs to drive! Because of the time of year, we will be leaving earlier - so please meet at the church

Sunday, January 6 @ 3:30

## New Member Classes

Welcome New Members!<br>New Members classes will be held on Sundays, 13 \& 20 of January during the education hour. Please share with everyone and anyone interested in becoming a member of Christ's United that they are invited to participate as we explore understandings of Baptism and

Communion, ministries of the congregation and the gifts of ministry each person wants to grow. Members will be welcomed during the Worship service on

Sunday, 27 January with a reception following.



## Marriage Preparation Classes

We celebrate that there are three marriages scheduled for the new year. Sessions for the soon-to-be spouses will be held on various nights in an attempt to accommodate various schedules. In January, we will meet on Thursdays, January 10th
and $24^{\text {th }}$ at 7 pm . In February, we will meet on Saturdays, February $12^{\text {th }}$ and $26^{\text {th }}$ at 2 pm , and in March on Mondays, March $11^{\text {th }}$ and $18^{\text {th }}$ at 7 pm . All couples will need to

attend all sessions. Please contact Pastor Kim for more information or with any questions.

## "Walk-n-Roll"




## Lenten Devotions

The Evangelism \& Outreach Committee started a new tradition to help us grow during Lent last year. Our congregation and community were filled by the Holy Spirit through the Lenten Devotional prepared by members
of Christ's United
(more than 125 were distributed!). This year we would ask that more people participate sharing their
 insights of faith by
writing one or more days of the devotional. No prior experience or expertise is required. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

## New Highway Clean-up Coordinator

Christ's United is looking for a new person to be in charge of the Adopt a Highway program. This is very easy and you would be required to get everyone together and organize our twice yearly clean ups of the two mile stretch of Route 901. If
you would be interested in taking charge of this job, please let the Pastor or Erik know. The first clean-up is not until
 Bolich for doing this job for the last 20 years. Marge is willing to help get the new volunteer started, so please help out if you can!


## Farm Family Appreciation Celebration Saturday, March 16, 2013

Sponsored in part by various religious, social and financial organizations


What Catered hot buffet meal, square dancing, and line dancing to show appreciation for farm families in Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, and Schuylkill Counties and the surrounding areas. Purpose: to build community among farm families and citizens.
Time Doors open at 6:15 PM (but no earlier)
Dinner buffet from 7- 8:00 PM (tables will be held for families that work late) A square dance and classic and modern country music by "The Majestics," with line dance music during intermissions - 8:00 to 11:00 PM


Where Hamburg Field House, Hamburg, PA - Exit \#30 off 1-78
Who Everyone is invited-farm family and farm family supporters! Children welcome!
Note No political or other solicitations. No alcoholic beverages permitted.



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



## Church Council Highlights from December:

- The council would like to meet with all committee chairpersons to discuss spending and keeping it in line with the budget.
- We are waiting for the proof of the new directory for review.
- The back of the church was painted and a new exit sign was installed.
- The Social Ministry Committee collected $\$ 60.00$ for the Jared boxes, items have been purchased and the boxes will be
packed \& distributed.
- The Stewardship Committee is hoping to have more participation by our members in coming to the Bible Studies.
- The Worship \& Music committee has decided that for festival services the choir will process differently when they enter the sanctuary.
- Since we have decided not to purchase new hymnals, a motion was made to pay for a
copyright license to use more music from the new hymnal account in the Memorial Fund.
- The Worship \& Music Committee would like to look at our sound system to use music available over the internet.
- DruAnn \& Keith Laudermilch are the new Sr. Youth Group advisors.


LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY
Saturday, January 26, 2013
St. John Lutheran Church, Boyertown, PA
8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
WEAVING OUR FAITH STORIES
(The offering will go to the ELCA Malaria Campaign; help us meet our goal of supplying four villages with mosquito nets. We would like to challenge LM Day participants to raise $\$ 1,000$ to reach this goal! Make checks out to Northeastern PA Synod with a note "ELCA malaria")

# Keynote address: The Rev. Paul Lutz <br> Luke 4:14-21 

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." Deuteronomy 6:4-9


# SyNOD News 

# Looking Forward to Our Ministry Together Doing What Matters 

I am looking forward to our ministry together in 2013!
What makes me excited about our future together?

- The vitality and commitment of members I meet during congregational visits;
- What I read in newsletters about congregations finding ways to do what matters using insights from our workshops.

Here are just four snippets from congregational newsletter articles:

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God is "on the loose" in the world - and we at St. John's Church are busy noticing God in action. During Vacation Bible School, we wrote down many of our "God sightings" and posted them on the wall in the Sanctuary. In August several people will share stories during worship of where they have witnessed God active in creation, in people, in our work and in our play.

$$
x \times \infty \times \infty
$$

The leadership of [our congregation] has found that becoming involved with the "Do What Matters" experience of the Northeastern PA Synod to be helpful in our life together. At the meeting at St. John's, Nazareth, more of our leaders became enthusiastic about the possibilities of the program in our particular setting...and we will use information
from the program as a basis for our annual leadership retreat.


$$
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$$

Our first congregational "Do What Matters" workshop was interesting for the group that showed up. We had almost 30 people in attendance. It was a good start to our discussion on where we would like our church to go in the future. Please come and share your ideas at the next meeting.

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We are beginning to see the light! The council
 meeting is no longer a dreadful 2 to 3 hours of indecision, misunderstanding and non-action; it is a pleasure! The members of council leave the meeting energized by the Spirit.

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I'd love to know what excites you about what your congregation is doing. Let me know at bishop@nepsynod.org and I will make sure your story gets into Synod News and on the synod website (www.godslove.org).

Tell me your story. It will help me share my joy about how God is on the loose in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.


Happy New Year!
Bishop Samuel Zeiser
$\propto \propto \propto \propto$


## 2013 Learning Ministries Day

## Saturday, January 26, 2013 Weaving Our Faith Stories

Keynote presenter: Pastor Paul Lutz (Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale). Pr. Lutz will talk about biblical storytelling. Hearing scripture told as story engages the listener in a powerful way and helps us see how our stories connect with the ongoing story of God's salvation.
Location: St. John Lutheran Church, Boyertown
Cost: \$25 (\$30 after January 11)
New workshop added: In addition to the many workshops that are available, another workshop, Telling the
 Story through Music, was added recently. Tom Yenser will lead this workshop.
A schedule, registration form, and workshop list may be found at www.godslove.org.


## Congregations: Support the 2013 World Hunger Lock-in

Youth in grades 7-12, young adults, advisors, and parents will gather at nine different locations around our synod on January 5-6 for the $\mathbf{2 0 1 3}$ World Hunger Lock-in.
Congregations can support the Lock-in in multiple ways. Click the Hunger Lock-in link on the synod website (www.godslove.org) to check out six ways your congregation can be involved and to see the list of supplies needed for the hygiene kits that participants will be assembling for victims of Superstorm Sandy. Supplies are needed by January 2.

Synod News
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Youth: Save These
Dates!
June 21-23, 2013 are the dates for the annual Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Lutheran Youth Fellowship Assembly at Muhlenberg College!
Make new friends. Sing. Study scripture. Have fun together. Worship. Discuss topics that matter to you.
Learn more by watching the video from last year's assembly. You'll find the link on the home page of the synod website, www.godslove.org. Check it out! And discover why you should be there.
By the way, that's Rachel Kurtz's
 awesome song, Make a Difference, you can hear in the background of the video.

## Farm Family Appreciation Celebration



Saturday, March 16, 2013 Hamburg Field House


Join friends and families from across the synod at the annual farm family appreciation celebration. This popular event has been held for over 10 years. A dinner buffet from $7-8$ p.m. will be followed by a square dance and classic and modern country music by "The Majestics," with line dance music during intermissions, from 8 to 11 p.m.
Information and a registration form are available at www.godslove.org.


Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA; 2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101; info@nepsynod.org; www.godslove.org


## Christ＇s United Committees

Auditing Committee
Christian Education education＠christsunited．org

Endowment Fund
Evangelism／Outreach evangelism＠christsunited．org

Finance
Lutheran Church Men（LCM）
Mutual Ministry
Nominating
Personnel
personnel＠christsunited．org
Property
property＠christsunited．org
Social Ministry
Stewardship
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．

## WELCA

Worship \＆Music


## oOps！

From a worship bulletin in Orlando，Florida：
sulluay
งレルレu1 unen nuuse
Come enjoy a special threat！
Thin … from $a$ tn 10 nout Gindar

This doesn＇t sound like much of a treat．

## CHURCH COUNCIL 2013

|  | Phone | Term Expires |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Melanie Bendinsky (Sec.) | 875-0646 | Feb. 2014 |
| Jim Chappell | 644-1602 | Feb. 2013 |
| Dean Fetterolf (VP) | 875-2765 | Feb. 2015 |
| Email: vicepresident@christsunited.org |  |  |
| Jim Gruber | 875-2805 | Feb. 2013 |
| Ian Bendinsky | 875-0646 (Youth Rep.) | Sept. 2013 |
| Gail Halye | 497-5337 | Feb. 2015 |
| Nancy Lindenmuth | 875-3138 | Feb. 2014 |
| Deb Price | 875-4272 | Feb. 2015 |
| Terry Shilling | 875-0412 | Feb. 2014 |
| Lois Sterling | 449-6947 | Feb. 2013 |
| PASTOR |  |  |
| Rev. Dr. Kim L. Lengert (610) 823-1960 |  |  |
| Email: pastorkim@christsunited.org |  |  |
| Treasurer | Ann Marie Dillman | 875-2422 |
| Financial Secretary | Christine Brennan | 875-0720 |
| Indoor Custodian | Sandy Marlow | 875-1341 |
| Outdoor Custodian | Donald Klinger | 875-2334 |
| ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR |  |  |
| David Schweinhart, Organ |  | 682-9553 |
| Email: organist@ch | ristsunited.org |  |
| Dan Krynak, Choir Direct |  | 276-6401 |
| Email: dan@christsunited.org |  |  |
| PARISH SECRETARY |  |  |
| Erik Tice | (home) | 875-2681 |
| Email: office@christsunited.org |  |  |
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