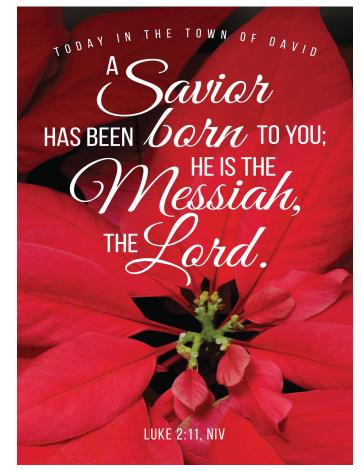
Life Together at Christ's United Lutheran Church





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

Life Together at Christ's United



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Social Ministry Prayer List "Who Are These People?"	Insert 16-17 18 19

The December Newsletter is sponsored in Memory of Norman & Roma Brown by Vivian Brown



Status of Accounts as of October 31

Balance in Checking Account......Negative \$303.02 Amount needed in offerings <u>per month</u> to meet our 2015 Annual Budget of \$172,675.00 is **\$14,389.58** <u>October income was \$12,670.38</u> Benevolence Gifts.....\$13,095.50 (65% of our Benevolence goal of \$20,000.00 for 2015)





Pastor Kim's Message

Brothers and Sisters,

Jolly old St. Nicholas, Lean your ear this way! Don't you tell a single soul, What I'm going to say; Christmas Eve is coming soon, Now, you dear old man, Whisper what you'll bring to me: Tell me if you can.

You don't have to be too young to have this song fill your head this month. Christmas is coming. Gifts are being wrapped. Dinners are being planned. And everyone – yes *everyone* – is a little curious about what they may get...

That new big screen TV. A necklace. A transformerator.

Whether it be anything from a car to a pony, everyone has something they want on their mind.

When the clock is striking twelve, When I'm fast asleep, Down the chimney broad and black, With your pack you'll creep. All the stockings you will find Hanging in a row; Mine will be the shortest one, You'll be sure to know. Johnny wants a pair of skates, Susie wants a sled Nellie wants a picture book, yellow, blue and red

There is a desire within us that causes a building excitement and anticipation, fueled by carols and decorations and dancing sugar plums. Even if Santa is intimately known to us we greet Christmas morning with more of a rush than exhaustion, scanning boxes and bags for the gift that is specially and specifically ours.

As I write this article, Christmas is not the only event looming on the horizon. Recent terrorist attacks in Paris have brought the world to the brink of world war once again, as nations seek to bank together against a hidden enemy.

- continued on page 4

Separation between police and communities continues to grow, leaving both unsafe, unprotected, as more allegations of racism, unlawful use of force, and abuse of power are brought forward.

Although more households have both adults working, family income continues to decline, causing more and more families to need assistance such as food pantries to function.

Almost twice as many children are diagnosed with developmental disorders today as were identified ten years ago.

Now I think I'll leave to you what to give the rest Choose for me dear Santa Claus, what you think is best.

Gifts of clothing, jewelry and toys may give a momentary thrill, but they are not going to give us the relief we need this Christmas. Look past the bows and ribbons to see the gift we may not want – but *need* - a gift that is specifically and specially ours. The gift of Jesus Christ.

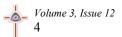
> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives." John 14:27

May the gift of peace that is the truth of Christmas be yours, this year and always.

Peace,

Pastor Kim





Church Council Highlights from November:

- An idea is floating to pursue Wednesday evening programing and educational opportunities. Because the hardest problem in the evening is meals, we might be able to form a partnership with the Vo-tech Culinary Program. Culinary students could make dinner on Wednesday nights using our commercial kitchen, starting sometime after Lent.
- Pastor Kim is now a member of the Gordon Fire Company and serves as Chaplain, so she will be attending the meetings.
- Four additional members of the Youth Group attended the Council meeting so that they would have insight into how the meeting is run. Council is looking for a new youth representative to serve a 1-year term. The Youth Group needs to elect a person and provide

Council with the elected results. 2) Steven's Youth Report: Trunk or Treat was a great turnout with approximately 206 children attending and \$265 raised for the youth groups. Thrivent provided \$250 grant money. According to John Towey, people attending the event wanted to know when our services were held. Erik is working on compiling names and addresses in order to send them Youth Ministry brochures.

 John Denchak made a motion that no scholarship should be sent out in the mail and given to no one but the recipient on either the Saturday or Sunday service. The motion was seconded by Helen Wolfgang with all in agreement. Recipients will receive a letter in the mail.



Monday, December 7

Beginning at 9:00 a.m., come out and help decorate the church for the Advent & Christmas seasons.



- 2 Nancy Lindenmuth
- 3 Howard Beury Hiram Green Asea Krah
- 4 Benjamin Geedey Cheryl Weikel Walter Wolfgang
- 5 Janna Gregis Kristen Toldt Lisa Waldick
- 6 Daniel Cascarino
- 7 Beryl Stitzer
- 8 Anita Fegley
- 9 Kathy Bulka Robert Pennypacker
- 11 Cory Krise Christopher Olson
- 12 Daniel Witner
- 13 Karleigh Economy Shea Moyer Bruce Pirie
- 14 Joey Anczarski Tammy I. Harris
- 15 Ralph R. Johnson
 - Arlene Krise Jessica Nagle
 - Leslie Shadle

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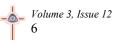
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- 16 Tammy L. Harris Terri Whyne
- 17 Linda Brennan Cheryl Klinger
- 18 April Brennan
 Lynn Dillman
 Raven Marlow
 Samuel Troup, Sr.
- 20 Richard Edmondson Rachel Pancher
- 22 Jeff Brennan
- 23 Robert Carl
- 24 Ruth Wolfgang
- 25 David Hall
- 26 Marian Brennan
- 27 Brody Baker Zackary Coward
- 28 Bonnie Dillman Donald Klinger
- 29 Beth Andrews William Cook Jessica Gregis Mike Stepanchick
- 30 Stephen Harhigh
- 31 Lori Fox



2/03/49	Elmer & Betty Waldick
2/05/08	Breann & Daniel Barker
2/07/02	Randy & Angie Lucas
2/11/93	Stephen & Tami Wagner
2/11/99	Erik & Sally Tice
2/15/73	Michael & Deborah Zaharick
2/28/10	Stephen & Brittany Harhigh





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

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

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

\$20.00 in Memory of Donald Bowman by: Louise Lute

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.





SENIOR YOUTH

Please join us for cookie baking at 2pm on December 12th. We will then attend the 5pm service. After the service we will car pool with the choir to go Christmas caroling to the shut-ins.

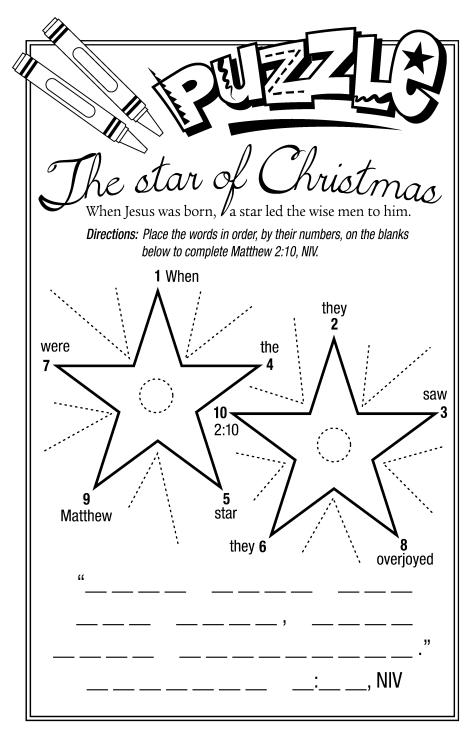


Remember that candy commercial declaring, "Big things come in small packages"? The prophet's message to tiny Bethlehem is similar: "Though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel" (Micah 5:2, NIV).

We've all felt too small for a certain role: too little to play with the big kids ... too skinny to make the football team ... short on the skills needed for a choice assignment. Perhaps we fear our gift of money is too little to make a difference, or the small amount of time we can volunteer isn't even worth it.

But God brings big things out of "small packages." From a newborn baby — merely six to eight pounds of helplessness — God brought salvation for the whole world. Rest assured, he'll do big things through you, too.

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Answer: "When they saw the star, they were overjoyed." Matthew 2:10, NIV



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.

Congregational Christmas Dinner and Celebration

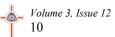
December 13th at 11:00 am following morning worship service.



All are welcome to join together to share a delicious meal and special entertainment. Ham and filled chicken breasts will be provided by WELCA and LCM.

Sign up on bulletin board to attend and, if you wish, bring a covered dish to share for the meal.

Musical entertainment will be provided by "The Sounds of Heaven" following the meal.





December 6th.



Praise God!

Plans are underway for a special new service Wednesday evenings at Christ's United using a live band and contemporary music (the kind you can hear on the radio). We are looking for anyone who

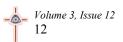
would like to participate either by leading part of the service, singing, or playing an instrument. Please speak with Keith or Pastor Kim if you are interested.





Sunday, December 20 3:00 p.m.

Even the joys of Christmas can be overwhelmed by the pain of grief. This service of Holy Communion is an opportunity to come together with others and receive comfort in the gentle presence of God. Candles, prayers, and the power of silence form a blanket of peace that covers all who participate.



			g our communy or ratul in December.	I Falul III	necelli		
Date	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte & Tag-a-long	Crucifer	Greeter in Narthex	Greeter at Door
December 6	Donna Wallace	Angie Berger John Towey Dennis Wolfe Jane Pennypacker	Barb Stepanchick Richard Shoup Jo-Ann Young	Carey Wahalec	Ralph Johnson	Stewart Anthony	Susan Ruzze
December 13	Barb Anczarski			Lydia Price & Bryce Hummel	Heather Klinger	Barb Stepanchick	Richard Shoup
December 20	Beth Andrews			Zachary Hummel & Alyssa Becker	Ashley O'Connor	Darlene Stank	Barb Stepanchick
December 24—4:00	Sally Tice	John Wolfgang Jim Chappell Jane Pennypacker Richard Shoup	John Towey Angie Berger Judy Stepulitis	Nathan Smith	Nathan Berger	Erik Tice	Sally Tice
December 24—7:30	Kay Berner	Barb Stepanchick David Hall Jim Gruber Kay Berner	John Denchak Irene Morgan Donna Wallace	Deidre Dengler	Kylie Mallams	John Towey	Dennis Wolfe
December 27	Tyler Wolfgang	Angie Berger John Towey Dennis Wolfe Jane Pennypacker		Tanner & Logan Walacavage	Steven Wolfgang	Mark Varndell	Cheryl Varndell

Serving Our Community of Faith in December:



Give a meaningful gift this holiday season. Donate blood.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Christ's United Lutheran Church

437 Airport Road - Ashland

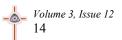
Thursday, December 3rd 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Please see Mr. Erik Tice, or call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit www.redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.

Open To The Public And Walk-Ins Welcome!



Give Something that Means Something⁹ Schedule your appointment today. Download the Blood Donor App | redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767



The American Red Cross encourages eligible blood donors to give something that means something during the holiday season.

- Give something that means something by donating blood this holiday season.
- Blood donations often decline during the winter due to holiday festivities, inclement weather and seasonal illnesses, like the flu.
- Patients don't get a holiday from needing blood or platelets. The need for donors is constant.
- **Blood donors of all types,** especially those with types AB, O negative, B negative and A negative, **are needed to ensure blood is available whenever and wherever needed.**
- Type AB donors have the universal plasma type, which can be given to patients of all blood types. There is a constant, often critical, need for type AB plasma.
- Type O negative is the universal blood type and can be transfused to patients with any blood type.
- Types A and B negative can be transfused to Rh-positive or negative patients.
- Eligible donors with type O negative, B negative or A negative blood are encouraged to give double red cells.

Be sure to complete a RapidPass prior to your next blood donation to save time at the blood drive. RapidPass lets donors complete the pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of donation, from the convenience of a computer at home or work. To get started, visit <u>redcrossblood.org/RapidPass</u> and follow the instructions.

SOCIAL MINISTRY



We will be collecting the following item for December:

Cereal

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

December—Church Council January—Choir February—Social Ministry March—Lutheran Church Men April—WELCA May—Christian Education June—Worship & Music July—Evangelism & Outreach <u>"Christ's Cupboard"</u> Next Distribution Date **Thursday, December 10** 10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon **We need more volunteers to** help distribute food, come out & join us!

Thank you to all the members of Christ's United that donated items and money to purchase gifts for the Seafarers International House. We collected enough items to fill 28 Satchels. Also, thank you to everyone who baked cookies. We filled 32 tins to give to Seafarers. All items will be picked up by a representative from Seafarers in New York City and then they will be delivered to ships that come into the harbor at New York. Thank you for helping us spread the gift of Christmas to those at sea!



Christmas Tree of Sharing

We will begin collecting items for the Tree of Sharing on December 1st. This year we will be collecting clothing items, food items for "Christ's Cupboard", and ELCA good gifts.

Tags will be available on the table in the hallway beginning on December 5, and after you pick your selection please place the "ornament" on the Christmas tree. All gifts are due back to the church by Sunday, December 20 for the children. Other gifts may be purchased and brought in up until Christmas Eve. Please place gifts under the tree. Thank you!





The Christmas Story comes to life at Christ's United! A live enactment of the Gospel of Luke puts us with the shepherds, angels, camels, donkeys, and wise men as Jesus' birth unfolds. Join in this beautiful event on Tuesday, 15 December, and bring a friend – it is a

powerful way of sharing Christ with others! There is a show at 6:00 & 8:00 p.m.

We Offer our Prayers to... Members of Christ's United:

Family & Friends:

Dean & Barb Fetterolf, Jennie Kosmisky, Jim Hepler, Barb Liem, Robert Schneider, David Schweinhart, Joyce Mallams, Deb Price, Connie Welker, Judy Stepulitis, John Wehry, Kolby Cress, Sandy Marlow

Sid Weit, Constance Anczarski, Lottie Ancharski



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, Delores Barr, Marianne Lord, Albert & Carol Stehr, Linda Szuler, Linda Brown, Drew Ressler, Tony Stanitis, Phil Brown, Nicole Welker, 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, Debra Najunas, Benjamin Lockhart, Will Rader, John Tobash, Christina Bloch, Margie Zimmerman, Glenn Zimmerman, Betty Green, Jim & Patty McGurl, Kristina Wesch, Ruth Carl, Linda Kopitsky, Lyla

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.

Salvadore, Marion Varndell, Kathy Ahrensfield, Rhanay Konar, Theresa Shin,

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 Dengler Family—Richard, Jennifer & Jamie The Fetterolf Family—Dean & Barb The Green Family—Randy, Barbara, Miranda & Ryan



These People???

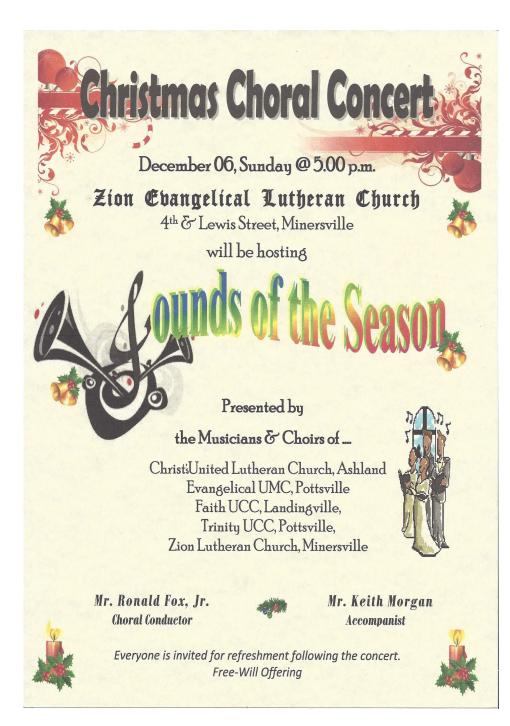


Each month we like to have a different picture from long ago. See if you can guess who some or all of the people in the picture are. The answers will be in next months "Life Together" Newsletter.

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. Pater's and Zions. Thank you!

Chapels: St. John's, St. Paul's, St. Peter's and Zions. Thank you!



Volume 3, Issue 12



Join us in celebrating the 100th Birthday of Marian Brennan,

on Saturday, December 26. Please send cards to her at: Providence Place, Connec-



tions Unit, 2200 First Ave., Pottsville, PA 17901. Marian is the oldest member of Christ's United! Have a very Happy Birthday Marian!



Life Together at Christ's United



You Tube

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!







During this Christmas Season please remember our shut-in members with visits, cards, greetings, and prayers.

Marian Brennan, Providence Place, Connections Unit, 2200 First Ave., Pottsville, PA 17901 Sue Bendinsky, Ridgeview Nursing, 200 Pennsylvania Ave., Shenandoah, PA 17976 Jean Cress, Mt. Carmel Nursing & Rehab Center, 2616 Locust Gap Hwy., Mt. Carmel, PA 17851 Dean & Barb Fetterolf, 308 Main St., Ashland, PA 17921 Palmer Kimmel, Broad Mtn. Nursing, 500 W Laurel St, Room 310-A, Frackville, PA 17931 Betty Miller, Luther Ridge, Room 126, 160 Red Horse Rd., Pottsville, PA 17901 Robert Schneider, PO Box 287, Valley View, PA 17983 Oscar & Randy Troutman, 365 Main St., PO Box 426, Lavelle, PA 17943 Connie Welker, Luther Ridge, Room 110, 160 Red Horse Rd., Pottsville, PA 17901 Harold Wink, 394 Main St., Ashland, PA 17921 Jeanette, Ruth, & Walter Wolfgang, Mt. Carmel Nursing & Rehab Center, 2616 Locust Gap Hwy., Mt. Carmel, PA 17851 Linda Zerby, 42 Bryn Mawr Ave., Pottsville, PA 17901

Life Together at Christ's United

2016 Annual Budget

Approved at Congregational Meeting November 8, 2015

174,914.20 Ministry Budget + 20,000.00 Benevolence Goal

39,898.94 Christian Education

Sunday school, VBS, Bible studies, First Communion, Confirmation, Egg Hunt, additional programs.

19,542.59 Evangelism

Informational pamphlets, special events, coffee fellowship, newsletter, communion cards, welcome packets, other programs.

24,849.83 Social Ministry

Christmas tree of sharing, "Christ's Cupboard", coffee & chocolate, Jared boxes, world hunger, grief group, other programs.

16,290.02 Stewardship

Time & talents, education, coupon collection, highway cleanup, prayer circles, visitation, Synodical events, other programs.

61,814.95 Worship & Music

Saturday & Sunday worship, choir, video projection, bulletins, music, altar guild, instruments, special services, usher training, other programs.

12,517.87 Youth

Trunk-or-treat, birthday party for Jesus, confirmation retreats, movie nights, pizza with pastor, crafts, Mother's day dinner, other events.





<u>2016 Sponsorships</u>



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

Sign up for: Altar Flowers \$25.00, Palms for Palm Sunday \$12.00, Worship Bulletins \$10.00, Sanctuary Candle \$10.00, Children's Bulletins \$10.00, and Monthly Newsletters \$40.00.

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.

Please assist the church in making an accurate report of all active, communing and contributing members of Christ's United. As we approach the end of our calendar year, it is important that everyone take a moment to complete one communion card and one offering envelope with your name and address. Either one or both can be found in the pew racks at any of

our upcoming services.

Thank you for assisting the record keepers as we begin the church year with the Holy seasons of Advent and Christmas.



New offering envelopes for 2016 will be available mid December.

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

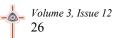
Property property@christsunited.org Christ's United Lutheran Church <u>Mission Statement</u>

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 Murfreesboro, Tennessee:

Our "living Nativity" will re-create the manger scent ...

What a realistic scene this promises to be!



CHURCH COUNCIL 2015 council@christsunited.org

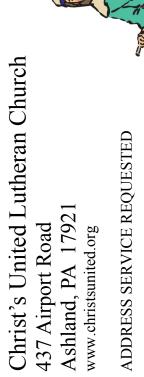
Phone Term E	
Beth Andrews 570-874-2381 Feb. 201	8
Stewart Anthony 570-644-0373 Feb. 201	8
Deb Berner 570-875-3209 Feb. 201	7
John Denchak 570-875-4970 Feb. 201	7
vicepresident@christsunited.org	
Deidre Dengler Youth Rep. Sept. 20	16
Donna Lassen 570-875-1530 Feb. 201	.6
Barb Stepanchick 570-875-1114 Feb. 201	6
John Towey 570-205-2682 Feb. 201	8
Helen Wolfgang 570-875-0758 Feb. 201	6
Deb Zaharick 570-875-2691 Feb. 201	7

PASTOR Rev. Dr. Kim L. Lengert 570-336-3110 pastorkim@christsunited.org

STAFF

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Parish Visitor	Lois Sterling	570-449-6947		
lois@christsunited.or				
Parish Secretary	Erik Tice	570-875-1591		
office@christsunited.org				
Office Hours: Monda	ay-Friday 9:30-3:00			
Director of Music	Keith Morgan, ALCM	570-516-1725		
music@christsunited				
Treasurer	Ann Marie Dillman	570-875-2422		
treasurer@christsunited.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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