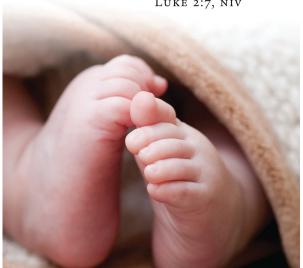
# Christ's United Lutheran Church ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED 437 Airport Road www.christsunited.org





She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger...

LUKE 2:7, NIV



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

Life Together at Christ's United

1





### 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 12 December 2016

#### In This Issue:

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The December Newsletter is sponsored by Ruby Fegly

The November Newsletter was sponsored in loving memory of their son, Don by Donald and Laray Klinger



#### Status of Accounts as of October 31

Balance in Checking Account.....negative \$3,193.16

Amount needed in offerings <u>per month</u> to meet our 2016 Annual Budget of \$174,914.20 is **\$14,576.18**October income was \$15,865.55

Benevolence Gifts......\$14,804.71 (74% of our Benevolence goal of \$20,000.00 for 2016)



#### **CHURCH COUNCIL 2016**

council@christsunited.org

	<b>E</b>	
	Phone	<b>Term Expires</b>
Beth Andrews (Secretary)	570-874-2381	Feb. 2018
Stewart Anthony	570-644-0373	Feb. 2018
vicepresident@christ	sunited.org	
Angie Berger	570-875-3598	Feb. 2019
Deb Berner	570-875-3209	Feb. 2017
John Denchak	570-875-4970	Feb. 2017
Deidre Dengler	Youth Rep.	Sept. 2016
Gregg Sterling	570-449-6940	Feb. 2019
John Towey	570-205-2682	Feb. 2018
Mark Varndell	570-875-2545	Feb. 2019
Deb Zaharick	570-875-2691	Feb. 2017

#### **PASTOR**

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

**STAFF** 

Parish Visitor	Lois Sterling	570-449-6947			
lois@christsunited.	org				
Parish Administrator	Deb Hall	570-875-1591			
office@christsunite	ed.org				
Office Hours: Mone	day-Friday 9:30-3:00				
<b>Director of Music</b>	Keith Morgan, ALCM	570-933-5916			
music@christsunite	ed.org				
Treasurer	Ann Marie Dillman	570-875-2422			
treasurer@christsunited.org					
Indoor Custodian	Cheryl Varndell	570-875-2545			
Outdoor Custodian	Bill Price	570-875-4272			
Financial Secretary	Christine Brennan	570-875-0720			



#### **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 <u>Christ's United Committees</u> 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

#### Pastor Kim's Message



The Pastor's Part:

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.

Turkey, ham, stuffing and cranberries. Travelling over hill and over dale. The cold and darkness as transition into the light and sound of worship. Family and friends, together around the table. Presents strewn throughout the living room.

This is the tradition of Christmas. It is the reason that music and elves occupy every corner of our lives during December, the reason that stores have long lines, the reason that travel plans are being made, the reason grocery stores have turkeys stacked to the ceiling. It is the reason that people get stressed, tempers get short, depression gets overpowering, and families' debt increases. But is it the reason for Christmas?

In the darkness of the night, when the world was asleep and only the outcast stared into the darkness, the heavens opened with praise and Its light shined above a stable, where the God of the universe, Jesus, the Christ, was born for the salvation of the world.

No turkeys, no hams, no ribbons or bows, no boxes, no paper, not even a single cranberry rolling around. Christmas is the tradition of <u>presence</u>, not presents. It is the tradition of gathering with family and friends to celebrate the gift we have in Jesus Christ, God born among us, to be with us so that we can be with Him.

Am I suggesting that you give no gift this Christmas? No, quite the contrary. I am suggesting exactly the opposite. I am asking you to give the most precious gift you have: your faith in Jesus Christ.

As family and friends gather, remind them why by telling the story of Jesus' birth. Tell them how Jesus changed the world – changed you – and the life He offers them. Join together in worship not because it is what you do on Christmas, but because you want to celebrate what means so much to you *with* those who mean so much to you. Together feast on the presence of God in the gifts of His life.

And together, share that presence with others. Consider trading a tie that will only be worn once for a meal through Christ's Cupboard that will feed a family for a week. Consider substituting a toy that will be played with for a month with a gift to the Endowment Fund that will help provide an education that will last a lifetime. Consider setting aside the time you could be shopping for a gift in a store to be used taking a child to worship for a year.

This Christmas, celebrate the reason, and continue the tradition that was started so long ago...

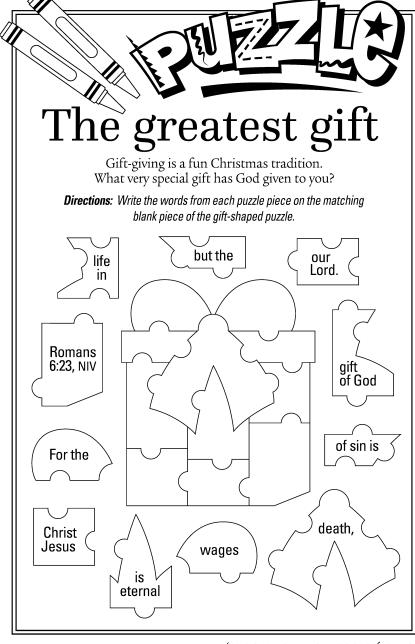
Peace, Pastor Kim



#### Pastoral Acts

Marriages : 11/12/16 John Lisowski & Hannah Sterling

Memorial Service: 11/29/16 Matthew Wolfgang



Answer: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23, MIV  $\,$ 



#### **Community Blood Drive**

#### **Christ's United Lutheran Church**

Community Room 437 Airport Road (Gordon) Ashland, PA 17921

#### Thursday, December 01, 2016 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Please Contact Debbie Hall or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2676) or visit www.redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.

Open to the Public and Walk-Ins are Welcome!



Scan to schedul

#### Give Something that Means Something.®

1-800-RED CROSS | redcrossblood.org Download the Blood Donor App

[ 11 ] • Order ID: 344408 • Qty: 2561501-080354534 Red Cross

#### **Church Council Highlights from November:**

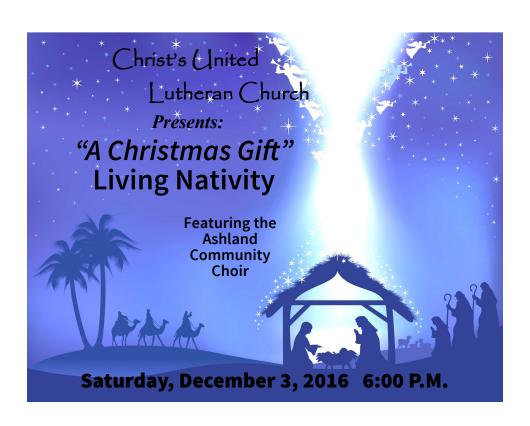
- \*Trunk or Treat was attended by 250 children and adults.
- \*General Checking Account-negative \$3,193.16.
- \*Benevolence @74% of goal.
- \*The second refrigerator to be used for Christ's Cupboard has arrived. Wegman's has taken care of the electrical work.
- \*Average weekly worship attendance for October 2016--130
- \*John Denchak is researching radios that could be used by volunteers for Live Nativity, Highway Clean-up and Trunk or Treat.



December's council Member of the month is

Beth Andrews

The Council Member of the Month is the "on call" member of council. The council member of the month is the person to call if you have any concerns (other than pastoral concerns), notice the church lights on at 11 p.m., or need access to the building.



Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in an outside Live Nativity! Food, decorations and an opportunity to meet the animal cast come together with the sounds of the Ashland Community Choir!

> All donations benefit Christ's Cupboard Food Pantry.

> > For more information call 570-875-1591

Bring a lawn chair and a friend!

It's time to order Christmas Poinsettias!

The poinsettias are available in marble, pink, white, or red. Available in 1 plant per pot for \$9.00, 2 plants per pot for \$12.00 3 plants per pot for \$15.00



4 plants per pot for \$22.50

Please sign up on the bulletin board.

Make checks payable to Jane Pennypacker. The deadline to order is December 11<sup>th</sup>

#### **2017 Sponsorships**

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



Altar Flowers

Sign up for: Altar Flowers \$25.00, Palms for Palm Sunday \$12.00, Worship Bulletins \$15.00, Special service bulletins \$10.00, Sanctuary Candle \$10.00, Children's Bulletins \$10.00, and Monthly Newsletters \$40.00.

Payments for Altar flowers should be given to Cathy Troutman. All other payments should be made out to the church and given to Deb Hall in the church office.

## WELCA News

#### **DECEMBER WELCA MEETING**

The December meeting for WELCA will be held December 7 at 7:00 p.m.

#### Congregational Christmas Meal



The annual Christmas meal will be held on December 11th following the morning worship service. Stuffed chicken breast and ham will be provided. Sign up on bulletin board to attend and to provide a side dish POTATOES / HOT VEGETABLES SALADS / ROLLS / DESSERTS).

Entertainment will follow the meal.

#### Ladies Nite Out:

We need old friends to help us grow old and new friends to help us stay young. Letty Cottin Pogrebin Laugh and the world laughs with you. Cry and you cry with your girlfriends. Laurie Kuslansky



Come sit by the fire as we begin the new year reminiscing of where we have been and dreaming of where we will go! Please bring a covered dish to share and meet at Pastor's on Sunday January 8, 2017. Carpooling from the church is advised to help with parking! Sign up on the bulletin board!



#### Cookies Needed

Following the Live Nativity on December 3, we will be offering Hot chocolate and cookies everyone who attended the program.

We are in need of cookie donations. Please consider donating a couple dozen for the evening to be sure we have enough for everyone.

A sign up sheet is on the Bulletin Board.

Please bring cookies to the church at your convenience or bring them along Saturday for the program.

Thank you!



#### **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 4, 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 18 for the children. Other gifts may be purchased and brought in up until Christmas Eve. Please place gifts under the tree. Thank you!



## SR. YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY/SLEEPOVER Dec 9th at 6pm

Review the bulletin board for items needed for the Christmas party. Bring your sleeping bags, pillows, games and movies for a fun filled night of laughter. Don't forget your \$10 neutral gift. Hope to see everyone there!!

> Merry Christmas Sr. Youth, From Aaron and Tracy



Got cans? In the back of Christ's United building are large bins for your aluminum cans. The Sr. Youth sort and bag the donated cans for recycling, and use the money collected for

special activities. Please be generous and drop off your aluminum cans when you come to church!



## 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.

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. We are also looking for pictures of the exterior of the Chapels: St. John's, St. Paul's, St. Peter's and Zions. Thank you!



#### Sunday, December 18 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.





BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE with COMMUNION Dec 18, 3:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP with COMMUNION 4:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP with COMMUNION 9:30 a.m.

#### NEW YEAR'S WORSHIP with COMMUNION

New Year's Eve-Saturday, 5:00 p.m. New Year's Day-Sunday, 9:30 p.m.





2	Nanc	y Lindenmuth
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- 3 **Howard Beury** Hiram Green Asea Krah
- Benjamin Geedey 4 Cheryl Weikel Walter Wolfgang
- Janna Gregis 5 Kristen Toldt
- 6 Daniel Cascarino
- 7 Beryl Stitzer
- 8 Anita Fegley
- 9 Kathy Bulka
  - Robert Pennypacker
- Cory Krise 11 Christopher Olson
- Daniel Witner 12
- 13 Karleigh Economy Shea Mover Bruce Pirie
- 14 Joev Anczarski
- Tammy I. Harris

- 15 Ralph R. Johnson Arlene Krise Jessica Nagle Leslie Shadle
- Tammy L. Harris 16 Terri Whyne
- Linda Brennan 17 Chervl 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 Daniel Cunningham 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 Noelle Steinbauer
- 31 Lori Fox





#### TO THE MEMBERS OF CHRIST'S UNITED:

It is again that time of year when we prepare our church for the coming Christmas season. Your help in these projects, if your schedule allows, will be greatly appreciated.

#### 27 November (Sunday):

Following the 9:30 a.m. service the three Christmas trees need to be brought into the church and put in their stands. Please wear your jeans to church if you can assist and thank you in advance.

#### 28 November (Monday):

On this day we will trim the trees and hang the lighted holly. We will start at 9:00 a.m. and with the help of 10 - 12 people we usually finish in 3 to 4 hours – around lunch or shortly after.

We usually have a lot of fun working on the project and anticipating how beautiful it will look when finished. If you have a few hours to spare, please come join us, your help will be very much appreciated.

> Jack Houser, Coordinator







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.

#### **Fellowship Schedule**

December—Church Council January—Choir/Worship & Music February—Social Ministry March-LCM April—WELCA May—Evangelism/Outreach June-Journey



We will be collecting the following items for December:

#### Cereal

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016.



12/03/49 Elmer & Betty Waldick 12/05/08 Breann & Daniel Barker 12/07/02 Randy & Angie Lucas 12/11/93 Stephen & Tami Wagner 12/11/99 Erik & Sally Tice 12/28/10 Stephen & Brittany Harhigh



**During this Christmas** Season please remember our homebound 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 Ralph "Cappy" Johnson, Mt. Carmel Nursing & Rehab Center, 2616 Locust Gap Hwy., Mt. Carmel, PA 17851 Palmer Kimmel, Broad Mtn. Nursing, 500 W Laurel St, Room 310-A, Frackville, PA 17931

Randy Troutman, Tremont Group Home Connie Welker, Shenandoah Manor Nursing Home, 101 E. Washington St., Shenandoah PA 17976 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

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 2017 will be available mid December



## Give Electronically

#### **Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving**

As Christ's United 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.

| Post Worship | Post Worship of Faith in December: Crucifer Acolyte & Serving Our Community Communion

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. For the past several years these Prayer Teams have been silently serving God, the world, and us.



If you are committed to the power of prayer, please join one of these teams. Prayer lists are available at worship services each weekend, and a phone chain notifies you of immediate needs. Please see Pastor Kim for more information.



Keith

On behalf of the Staff and Pastor: May the miracle of Christmas give you joy and peace this holiday season and everyday, Jesus, Our Savoir is

born!

Deb Pastor Kim Ann Marie

Volume 4, Issue 12

#### We Offer our Prayers to...

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

Please note that those experiencing a traumatic event are placed onto the Prayer List and will be kept on for one month. Please provide updates to the office

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

**November 20** – Katheryn Kerstetter, Jean Welker, Stanley, Nancy Wolfgang (T. Wolfe), Heidi Walsh (T. Schilling), Sandra Beecher (L. Lute)

**November 13 -** Mary Klemanski (G. Marquardt), Dorothy Stanitis, Janinie Lucas, Harold Wink, Ginan Spittler, Family of David Gombert, Judy Fritz, Keith Morgan, Dean Fetterolf, Barb Fetterolf, Karyssa Wenrich (J. Clark)

November 6 - Jim Artz (B. Andrews), Barbara Pennypacker (L. Sterling), David Schweinhart, Judy Stepulitis, Deb Price, Barb Liem, Irene Morgan, Bud Hall, Charles Reed (T. Neumeister), Ruth Miller (K. Berner), Carol Romberger (E. Tice), Laray Klinger October 30 - Elizabeth Brown (G. Marquardt), Barrie Neumeister (P. Neumeister), Ron Fox (K. Morgan), Evelyn Dobrowolski (D. Price), Judi Wright (G. Marquardt), Doris McGurl (L. Lute),

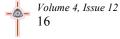
#### **Praying Through the Directory**

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 Harris Family—William, Tammy, Colt, Jessie, Tammy & Brooke

The Demko Family—Rachael, Steven & Charley
The Maurer Family—Jeff



			Assistants	Tag-a-Long		Greeter in Narthex	Greeter at Door
Dec. 4 2nd Sunday of Advent	Barb Anczarski	Kay Berner John Towey Barb Stepanchick Dot Zeigenfuse	Donna Wallace Richard Shoup Jo-Ann Young	Brandy Speer	Ralph Johnson	Beth Andrews	George Kosmisky
Dec. 11 3rd Sunday of Advent	Beth Andrews			Desiree Dengler & Deanna Lesher	Amy Johnson	John Towey	Pearl Lute
Dec. 18 4th Sunday of Advent	Ryan Walter			Brandon Hood & Bryce Hummel	Nicole Hood	Gail Marquardt	Irene Morgan
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m.	Kay Berner	John Wolfgang Thomas Wolfgang Dot Zeigenfuse John Kimmel	Donna Lassen Barb Anczarski Kay Berner	Ryan Walter	Jordan Walter	Jane Pennypacker	Susan Ruzze
Dec 24 Christmas Eve 7:30 p.m.	Melanie Bendinsky	Darlene Stank Barb Stepanchick Richard Berner Laray Klinger	Jim Gruber John Denchak Melanie Bendknsky	Tyler Wolfgang	Carey Wahalec	Barb Stepanchick	Darlene Stank
Dec. 25 Christmas Day	Vivian Brown		Becky Spencer Irene Morgan Barb Stepanchick	Zachary Hummel	Jacob Tice	Richard	Erik Tice

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Blood	1:00-6:00 Red Cross Blood Drive	2	3 10:00 Living Nativity rehearsal 6:00 Living Nativity
<b>4</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:30 Communion Service 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Journey 5:00 LCM 6:00 Property Meeting	5 11:15 Worship @ Luther Ridge 7:00 Church Council	6 9:00 Food Delivery 6:30 Choir Practice	7 10:00 Seniors 10:00 Staff Meeting 4:30 Sr. youth pizza & food pantry set up 7:00 WELCA	8 10:00-12:00 Christ's Cupboard 7:00 Journey Team Meeting	9 Youth Sleepover	10 5:00 Worship Service
11 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:30 Worship Service 11:00 Annual Christmas Dinner	12 11:15 Worship @ Luther Ridge 7:00 Social Ministry Team Meeting	6:30 Choir Practice	14 10:00 Seniors	15 Newsletter Dead- line 12:00-2:00 Ashland area food pantry @ Good Shepherd	16	5:00 Worship Service
18 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Fellowship 10:30 Worship & Music Meeting 10:45 Journey 3:00 Blue Christmas Worship	11:15 Worship @ Luther Ridge 6:00 Grief Support	20 6:30 Choir Practice	21 10:00 Seniors	9:30 Newsletter Assembly	23 Office Hours 9:30-12:00	24 Christmas Eve Car Sel 4:00 Communion Service 7:30 Communion Service
25 Christmas Day 9:30 Communion Service	Group  26 Office Closed	27 6:30 Choir Practice	28 10:00 Seniors	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 5:00 Communion Service

