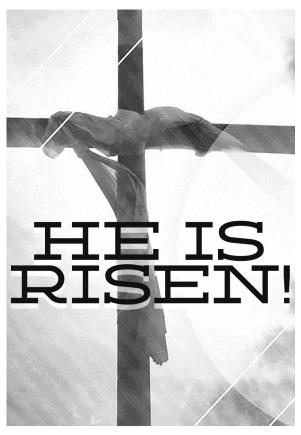
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Christ's United Lutheran Church 437 Airport Road Ashland, PA 17921 www.christsunited.org





The CULC Messenger God's Work, Our Actions



Join us for Worship - Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School - 1st & 3rd Sundays @ 10:45 a.m. Maundy Phursday & Good Friday at 7:00 p.m. Easter Morning - 6:30 & 9:30 a.m.







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Status of Accounts as of February 28

Total amount in checking account: \$112,320.51.

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our 2023 Annual Budget of \$195,263.89 is \$16,271.99.

February income was \$11,673.66.

Expenses for February were \$15,726.08.

resulting in a loss of \$4,052.08.

Benevolence Gifts for February were \$1,014.50.



CHURCH COUNCIL 2023

	Phone	Term Expires
Kay Berner	570-875-1035	Feb. 2026
President		
Dennis Wolfe	570-875-9085	Feb. 2024
Vice President		
Morgen Sweitzer	570-682-8240	Feb. 2026
Secretary		
Robert Carl	570-590-7281	Feb. 2025
Ken Dengler	570-933-5144	Feb. 2025
Debra Price	570-205-6241	Feb. 2024
Darlene Stank	570-875-1644	Feb. 2025
Robert Sweinhart	570-682-3697	Feb. 2026
Jacob Tice	570-875-2681	Feb. 2024

Youth Representative - Vacant

DESIGNATED PASTOR

Vacant

STAFF

Parish Administrator Debbie Hall 570-875-1591 office@christsunited.org 570-789-9722
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:00 am- 4:00 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	Drew Kissinger	
Financial Secretary	Christine Brennan	570-875-0720



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

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.

Christian symbol

DOORPOSTS — The image of a blood-marked doorframe is from the Passover account in Exodus. God directed the Israelites to slaughter lambs for a final meal and paint their doorposts with the blood. God sent the Angel of Death to kill the firstborn sons of Egypt, but the blood signaled that the Destroyer should "pass over" those homes. Likewise, the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, sayes us from eternal death.

Member's Message



Parallels & Prophesies

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Quite a few years ago, I attended the musical performance "Behold the Lamb" at the Sight and Sound Millennium Theatre. The last scene was especially powerful with stark contrasts. The spacious stage was divided, depicting two different yet parallel scenarios. On the left, Jesus had just been born and his mother Mary was lovingly wrapping him in swaddling cloths. She placed him in a manger which was a feeding trough thought to be in a cave or grotto. On the right, Jesus had just been crucified and Joseph of Arimethea was lovingly wrapping his body in a burial shroud before placing him in a cave. Just as the swaddling cloth protected the infant Jesus from harm, the burial cloth also protected and preserved the body. Often the cloth was white, symbolizing purity and holiness.

According to Luke 2:12, at the time of Jesus birth, an angel spoke to the shepherds referring to swaddling cloths as a sign to find the Messiah. Since Luke made it a point to mention the swaddling cloths, it is theorized that they were a prophetic reference to Jesus' burial cloths. After a period of time, Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus to express their devotion, love and respect. While gold is fit for a king, frankincense and myrrh are fragrant resins used at the time of burial which are also a foreshadowing of Jesus' death. After Jesus' crucifixion, when the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome, who were myrrh bearers, also brought spices to anoint Jesus' body to express their devotion, love and respect.

When the women arrived at the tomb, they found the stone rolled away and the inside was empty. When Peter and another disciple arrived, they saw strips of linen lying by themselves. Jesus was no longer bound by earthy ties and was in the process of transitioning into a heavenly being. The burial cloth was folded separately from the linen strips and it has been described as a cocoon from which the resurrected Christ emerged.

The rolled away stone and empty tomb serve as evidence of the Resurrection. Jesus didn't need an angel to roll away the stone in order to come out of the tomb, the stone needed to be rolled away so that we can enter, see and believe. Because Jesus died for our sins, we no longer have the burden of sin weighing us down like a heavy stone. One day our tombs will be empty as we will be raised up to eternal life. Then our strife will be over and our battle will be won. Hallelujah, Jesus lives and so will we!

Yours in the risen Lord,

Beth Andrews



April Council Contact of the month is **Deb Price**

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 Deb, she can be reached at 570-205-6241.





American Red Cross Community Blood Drive Christ's United Lutheran Church

437 Airport Road (Gordon) Ashland, PA 17921

Monday, April 3, 2023 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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!

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.







All kids who had First Communion and their families are welcome.

- 2) April 1st Saturday 10:00 a.m. Dye and stuff Easter eggs along with pizza and drinks
- 3) April 8th help hide eggs
- 4). May 6th Help crush cans and then campfire and game night at Tices'.
- 5) June 4th- Miniature golf and ice cream- congregation is invited
- 6) July- Knoebels- Date TBD-congregation is invited
- 7) August Congregational Picnic- will help with games
- 8) September Date TBD- corn maze
- 9) October Trunk R Treat
- 10) November Christmas Cards-Date TBD- snacks and cookies
- 11) December- Joy through the Grove- Date TBD- Eat at OIP in Elysburg or somewhere else

Ask to help with congregation dinners and road clean up



Whip up a plate of these cute, healthy treats!

What you need:

- Celery sticks
- Cherry tomatoes
- Cucumber circles
- Olives
- Cream cheese spread
- Fresh basil leaves (optional)
- Adult help

What you do:

- 1. Have an adult help you wash and cut the veggies.
- 2. Spread cream cheese inside the celery rods.
- 3. Place a cucumber circle upright in the cream cheese to make a bug body.
- 4. Add the tomato as a head.
- 5. Arrange basil leaves on a plate and place the veggie bugs on them.
- 6. Making different-shaped bugs with your favorite veggies. Enjoy!



Council Highlights

Church Council Highlights from March

- Income for February was \$11,673.66 including \$102 from Souper Bowl donations. Expenses for February was \$15,726.08, which resulted in a net loss of \$4,052.08.
- Pastor Dana submitted a resignation letter, resigning as our designated pastor as of 3/15/23. A new Designated Pastor will need to be found.
- The Garden Club has selected paver stones for the Prayer Garden pathway.
- We received a thank you note from Cyrus and Joan Clark to everyone for the birthday and anniversary cards and well wishes.
- Schuylkill District Assembly is 4/30/23 at 2 pm to be held at Jerusalem Lutheran in Schuylkill Haven. The backup location is St. Paul's in Orwigsburg. Someone from the congregation should be present.

Our Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 8th at 11 AM for ages 0-11. Please sign up by March 31st to the church office at 570-875-1591 or to Barbara Stepanchick at 570-875-1114. If leaving a message please include the child's name, age and gender. Prior to the egg hunt pictures can be taken with the

Bunny using your own camera. We will not be doing dyed hard boiled eggs this year due to the cost. Instead we will be filling plastic eggs with individual wrapped (non hard) candy that fits into the plastic eggs. Any help or donations would be greatly appreciated.

Thank You,

Barbara Stepanchick & Easter Egg Hunt Committee





We Offer our Prayers to...

March 26 -- John Kimmel

George Dornsife (J. Babb)

Joe Coddington (J. Babb)

Denise Lingo

Family of Tara Lang (D. Berner)

March 19 - Barbara Liem

Sean Kramer

March 12 -- Forrest Shadle

Jean & Larry Wolfgang

Browning Ramsey

Erin Werner

Grace Johnson (A. Johnson)

Ted Shadle

Brody Campbell (J. Pennypacker)

Family of Fran Mitten (P. Dziczek)

March 5 – Erika (Strobel) Wesch (D. Wallace)

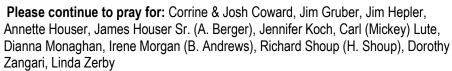
Wade Bucher (G. Marquardt)

Lisa Wolfgang (L. & J. Wolfgang)

Paula Deitrich (E. Tice)

Rosemary Groody (A. Berger)

Family of Frank Gronski (A. Berger)



Michelle Ambrose, Robert Beecher, Mark Bennyhoff, Donald Bulla, Arlene Chillis, Joe Ferraro Jr., Harry Fishburn, Bob Griffiths, Dan Grow, Minah Horan, Pastor Bob & Donna Hughes, Ron James (V. Brown), Kay Keefer, Tara Lang, Tracy Maurer (C. Neumeister), Debbie Moyer (C. Carl), Elizabeth Smith & family, Wayne "Webby" Weinreich (C. Weinreich), Karyssa Wenrich

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 Neumeister Family - Anna

The Walsch Family - Heidi

The Ambrose Family - Ted & Terry



Chicken Pot Pie Dinner

Saturday, April 22, 2023 Sponsored by Christ's United Lutheran Church Men 437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921

~Dine in or Take out ~



Sponsored by WELCA

DONATIONS NEEDED

 _ 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**, **April 16.** Baked goods may be brought in on Friday, April 21st, between 8:00 a. m. & 4:00 p.m. Baked goods may also be brought in <u>before noon</u> on Saturday prior to the dinner.

Please return this sheet to the church office or place it in the box located on the table in the narthex.

Name _	 		 	
Phone				





Chicken Pot Pie Dinner

Sponsored by the Lutheran Church Men



Saturday, April 22, 2023 3:00 – 6:00 pm

~Dine in or Take out ~

Christ's United Lutheran Church 437 Airport Road, Ashland

Dinner Includes:

Chicken Pot Pie
Lettuce w/ hot bacon dressing
Applesauce
Bread & Butter
Dessert
Beverage

Adults: \$12.00 Children under age12: \$5.00

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



Sponsored by WELCA

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 weekend. You may also have an email sent to you on Tuesdays with a list of those in need of your prayers. A phone chain notifies you of immediate needs. Please call the church office for more information.



Palm Sunday - Sunday, April 2 9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday - Thursday, April 6 7:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Good Friday - Friday, April 7 12:00 noon—7:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil 7:00 p.m. Worship

Resurrection of Our Lord - Sunday, April 9

6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service with Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Easter Worship Service with Holy Communion







APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Gail Lorady Arianna McAnnaney
- 3 Lewis Pennypacker Robert Rock
- 4 Heather Klinger Marisa Seritsky
- 5 Bryce Hummel
- 6 Barbara Brown
 Darcie Gruber
 Courtney Krise
- 8 Marjorie Lally Ivan Sweinhart
- 9 Stephen Harhigh, Jr. Maxwell Miller
- 10 Kathy Hansbury
- 11 Kaitlin Sage
- Natalia Mulhall
- 14 Ryan Wolfe Dorothy Zangari
- 15 Jessica Wright

- 16 Jeremy Knorr
- 17 Barb Liem Aaron Pancher John Wagner
- 18 Caleb Dietrick
- 19 Eli Pennypacker
- 20 Russell Hummel Shale Waldick
- 21 David Pennypacker
- 23 Dustin Schreffler
- 24 Amanda Whritenour
- 25 Dianna Monaghan
- 26 Azure Waldick
- 27 George Hepler
- 28 Samantha Brennan Jill McNeal Marcus Peel
- 29 Parker Dean
- 30 Joseph Anczarski Deana Guenther



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES



04/16/15 04/18/09 04/18/98 04/21/71 04/23/60 04/26/01 04/29/00 Ann Marie & William Dillman, Jr.
David & Nancy Cunningham
David & Jamie Pennypacker
David & Christine Heyer
Daniel & Bonnie Sisko
Jim & Darcie Gruber
Mark & Cheryl Varndell

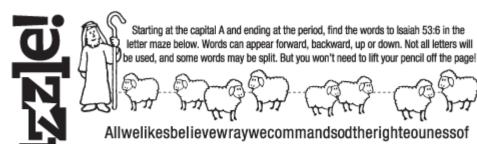
Stephen & Jennifer McGrath

The God who hides

Isaiah declares, "Truly, you are a God who hides himself, O God of Israel, the Savior" (45:15, ESV). But why would God hide? Isn't our knowing God the point? Martin Luther explained that God hides in unexpected places so as not to be found where the world assumes a god would be — in power, status, fame, wealth — but to be found in weakness, humility and places of suffering.

"Those who have found God in the cross of Jesus Christ," said 20th-century theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "know how wonderfully God hides himself in this world and how he is closest precisely when we believe him to be most distant." So God assures us of his presence in the humble manger, among the poor and outcast during his ministry, in the excruciating suffering of the cross, and with us in every struggle.

God hides not to avoid us but so we will discover him precisely where we need him most, and where others need us most.



allwelikesbelievewraywecommandsodtherighteounessof gospeltohsrevealstartehtestimonysnsalordrtheiniquity rightasisepraisedwsilfooaputownwayaposahumcornersfo heavenouerisagoneadogivsicaruootgercorlaidoireasonsus returncaphaventrustedeallturnedrespossesnhtruths.lla

Salah 53:6, NRSV

Answer: All we like streep have gone astray, we have all runned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.







There will be no WELCA meetings in March or April.

The next WELCA meeting will be on May 3rd at 6:00 pm.

All women are invited to attend.

Women of ELCA Schuylkill Cluster Spring Event

April 29, 2023 9:00—12:00 (Lunch following is optional)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Orwigsburg

Program: Health & Wellness Programs
Jenny Wagner
Diakon community Service

Bible Study: Pastor Dana Heckman-Beil Good Shepherd, Ashland

Registration due by April 17th Sign up on bulletin board.

Cost covered by CULC WELCA



Whose celebration?

I just can't thank everyone enough for the celebration of my 80th Birthday. I am forever beholding to those who changed their vacations, worked through the weekend with such effort making the fantastic array of great food, not even mentioning the desserts.

As I stood back and took it all in, what came to my mind was the love and fellowship represented by our church family, the teaching of Jesus bearing such a great presence in the life of our members. It surely was a celebration of Christ's United. God bless you all!

With love, Jim Chappell



Thrivent Choice Dollars®

Eligible clients with membership can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds.



These recommendations are shared by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches.

To be eligible to direct Choice Dollars as part of Thrivent Choice®, you must be a client with benefit membership. Individual eligibility is also based on at least one of the following:

- •Having \$750 or more in annual billed premiums of qualifying life and health insurance products.
- •Having \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying life insurance and annuity products.

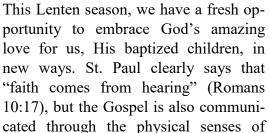
Eligibility is determined monthly and reevaluated on an annual basis. If you are a member of Thrivent and have Choice Dollars to direct to an organization, please consider directing yours to Christ's United Lutheran Church.

All 2022 Choice Dollars must be directed by March 31, 2023, or they will expire, and you will lose those dollars. If you need any assistance with directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars®, please contact Erik Tice for additional information.



Promised Treasures

MATTHEW 13:52



sight, smell, touch, and taste. Jesus mentions that a good teacher not only brings out new treasures but reminds people of old and rich treasures as well (see Matthew 13:52). This series began with ashes, then proceeded to salt, water, light, bread, and finally, palms. During Holy Week, the focus shifts toward water and blood, wood, fragrant oil, and finally, on Easter, milk and honey. All these beautiful Old and New Testament elements will remind you of God's eternal love in Christ, fill you with renewed hope, and increase your joy, knowing that because we are His baptized children, God is near to us now more than ever.

Jesus answers our uncertainties

Thomas didn't believe the other disciples when they said Jesus had risen. The two travelers to Emmaus despaired over Jesus' death, uncertain what might come next.

During our life of faith, we all face questions, doubts and despair. In *Fearless*, Max Lucado says Jesus' responses to us echo his responses to the disciples. His answer to our doubt is the same as with Thomas: "Touch my body" — which we do every time we connect with the church (the body of Christ), wounds and all. As with the Emmaus disciples, Jesus urges us to ponder his story found in Scripture — which we do through Bible reading and study. Today, just as long ago, Jesus meets his followers — in his body, in his Word — and strengthens our faith.



Serving Our Community of Faith in April:

ALTAR

2023 Sponsorships

The 2023 sponsorship sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board.

Sign up for:

Altar Flowers \$35.00 Worship Bulletins \$15.00 Children's Bulletins \$10.00 Sanctuary Lamp \$10.00 Monthly Newsletter \$40.00 Palm for Palm Sunday Worship \$12.00

Altar Flowers Procedure:

Please sign up by the bulletin board for week(s) you would like to sponsor Altar Flowers and call

"Flowers From the Heart" 570-339-2519 to place order.

Cost is \$35.00.

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.



April 29, 2023 at 8:00 AM.

Come join us for the Highway Cleanup on Saturday April 29, 2023. We will meet at the

church at 8:00 A.M. Everyone is welcome. The more help we have the quicker we can finish. We hope to see many of you there for this important ministry by CULC. Rain date is May 6..







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.

~ 2023 ~

April - Evangelism/ Endowment/ Stewardship

May - WELCA
June/July/August No Social Hour
September—Choir/
Worship & Music / LCM

October—Church Council

November - Social Ministry **December** - Evangelism/

Endowment/Stewardship



We will be collecting the following items for April:

Peanut Butter & Boxed or Canned Potatoes

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday April 13, 2023



Date	Supply Pastor/	Congrega- tional Rep/	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte(s)	Crucifer
	Worship Leader	Announce- ments		Becky Spencer g			
April 2 Palm Sunday	Erik Tice	Angie Berger	Vivian Brown	Terry Neumeister b John Towey b Allen Johnson c/d Ken Dengler so	Vivian Brown AM Angie Berger Deb Price	Logan Walacavage	Desiree Dengler
April 6 Maundy Thursday	Erik Tice		Deb Hubler		Donna Wallace AM Becky Spencer Beth Andrews	Bianca McAndrew	Volunteer
April 7 Good Fri.	Erik Tice		Donna Lassen	-			
April 9 6:30 a.m.	Erik Tice	Jacob Tice	Becky	Terry Neumeister b Carla Mae Carl b Allen Johnson c/d Ken Dengler so	Kay Berner AM Dennis Wolfe Donna Wallace	Ava Hubler	Marisa Seritsky
April 9 9:30 a.m.	Rev. Melinda Heppe		Barb Stepanchick	John Kimmel b Barb Stepanchick b Allen Johnson c/d Aaron Stepanchick so	Vivian Brown AM Donna Lassen Barb Anczarski	Cole	Amy Johnson
April 16	Kay Berner	Jacob Tice	Erik Tice	*See April 2		Nathan Berger	Sawyer Smith
April 23			Jacob Tice			Joey McAndrew	
April 30			Sally Tice	→		Kaitlyn Werner	





April 2023

				ULU		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						10:00 Youth Group meet to fill Easter Eggs / pizza
2 PALM SUNDAY 9:30 Worship w / Holy Communion 10:30 Fellowship Hour 10:45 Sunday School	3 1:00 – 6:00 Red Cross Blood Drive 3:00 - 6:00 Garden Club Work Day 7:00 Church Council	4 6:30 Choir Practice	5 10:30 Seniors	6 Holy Thursday 7:00 Worship w / Holy Communion	7 Good Friday 7:00 Worship	8
9 EASTER 6:30 Worship w / Holy Communion 7:30 Easter Breakfast 9:30 Worship w / Holy Communion	10	11	12 10:30 Seniors	13 10:00 – 11:30 Christ's Cupboard distribution	14	15
9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	17	18 Tax Day (Taxes Due)	19 10:30 Seniors	20	21	22 Earth Day 10:00 Garden Club 3:00 - 6:00 Chicken Pot Pie Dinner
9:30 Worship 10:45 Adult Sunday School	24	25	26 Administrative Professionals 8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors 6:30 Choir Practice	27	28 Arbor Day	8:00 Highway Clean-up
30 Good Samaritan Fund Offering 9:30 Worship 10:30 Worship & Music Mtg. 10:45 Adult Sunday School						Earth Day