

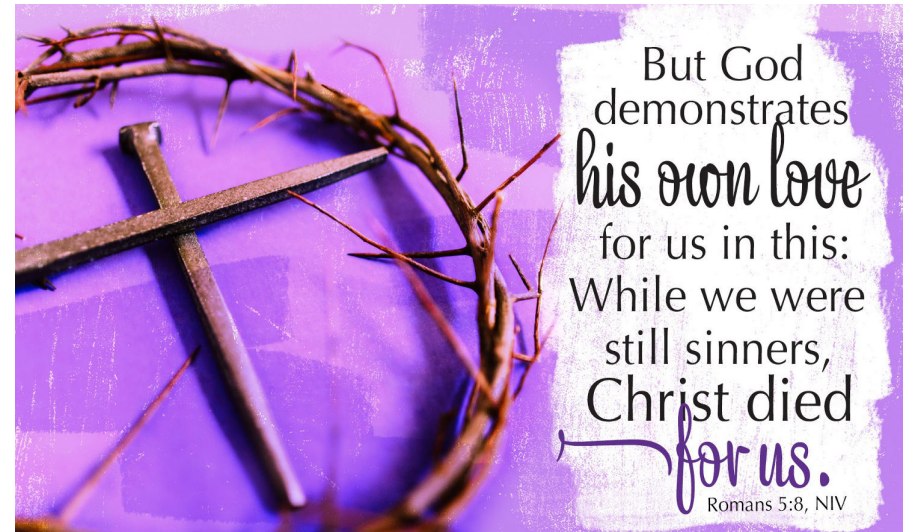
Christ's United Lutheran Church  
437 Airport Road  
Ashland, PA 17921  
[www.christsunited.org](http://www.christsunited.org)

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Pottsville, PA  
PERMIT NO. 25

April



## *The CULC Messenger* *God's Work,* *Our Actions*



*Join us for Worship - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.*  
*Sunday School - October through May*  
*1st & 3rd Sundays @ 10:45 a.m.*  
*Contemporary Worship Service -*  
*First Saturday of each month at 6:00 p.m.*



*The CULC Messenger*  
*God's Work, Our Actions*





## Christ's United Lutheran Church

One God. One People. One Purpose.

437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921

www.christsunited.org

(570) 875-1591

April 2025

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The April CULC Messenger is sponsored in Memory of my sister, Jane by Kay Berner

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## Status of Accounts as of February 28

Total amount in checking account: \$118,701.84.

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our 2025 Annual Budget of \$227,589.00 is \$18,965.75.

Income for February was \$13,349.73.

Expenses for February were \$18,170.25, resulting in a net loss of \$4,820.52.

Benevolence for February was \$1,035.96.

## CHURCH COUNCIL 2025

	Phone	Term Expires
John Towey, President	570-205-2682	Feb. 2027
Kay Berner, Vice President	570-875-1035	Feb. 2026
Morgen Sweitzer, Secretary	717-858-9824	Feb. 2026
Jamie Johnson	570-590-1678	Feb. 2028
Suzanne Peel	570-875-2218	Feb. 2026
Virgil Smith	570-205-6979	Feb. 2028
Barbara Stepanchick	570-875-1114	Feb. 2027
Janet Towey	570-205-3420	Feb. 2027
Mark Varndell	570-205-8002	Feb. 2028

Youth Representative - Maura Sweitzer

### PASTOR

Rev. Brian Beissel  
570-516-1787

**\*Pastor Brian's Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays  
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. or other times by appointment.

### STAFF

**Parish Administrator** Debbie Hall 570-875-1591  
office@christsunited.org 570-789-9722  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30 am- 4:30 pm

**Director of Music** Jamie Johnson 570-590-1678  
**Treasurer** Ann Marie Dillman 570-449-2021  
**Indoor Custodian** Ann Ray Begis 570-590-2729  
**Outdoor Custodian** Dennis Wolfe 570-875-9085  
**Financial Secretary** Christine Brennan 570-875-0720



Like us on  
**Facebook**

The CULC Messenger  
God's Work, Our Actions



## 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 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.*



22

## **Christian symbol**

**PALM BRANCH** — When Jesus entered Jerusalem days before his death, crowds welcomed him by waving palm branches, common symbols of victory and rejoicing. Churches still use them to remember that occasion, knowing that Jesus' crucifixion was the ultimate triumph over sin and death. As early as Leviticus 23:40, God commanded Israel to use palms in a festival of rejoicing. In Revelation 7:9-10, Christian martyrs carry palm branches as they praise the Lamb before God's throne.

## ***Message from Pastor Brian***



Grace and Peace from our Lord Jesus Christ!

Something happened at the Pastor's Lunch a few weeks ago:

Nobody showed up! Then the same thing happened two weeks after that. So I ate my food and went off to the next thing.

I'm not saying this to complain! No, I have done lunches like this at other congregations I've served, and the same thing eventually happens. We do things like this so that people get to know me, and now a lot of you know me!

So, starting in April, we will be having the Pastor's Lunch on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. Perhaps a time will come when we do it once per month. I think I will always have it at least that month. Not only have they been enjoyable, but it's a different way for us to experience each other and that is always a good thing.

This reminds me of the story of Paul in Acts. Nobody expected that one of the main Pharisees would become a follower of Jesus Christ, but that's exactly what happened! So, the church had to readjust.

So we from time to time have to readjust.

When I was in seminary, I was taught that the number one most desired trait of a pastor was flexibility.

It's not just a pastor, though. We all have to be flexible- to give each other the space and time that we need and to be who we are as Christ's United. It was that flexibility that allowed four churches to get to the point where they became one vibrant church!

— continued on page 4

*The CULC Messenger  
God's Work, Our Actions*





We see this in Jesus' story all the time. There's this one story I'm thinking of where Jesus is talking to a sick person and the disciples essentially say, "we don't have time for this! Let's get moving!"

Of course, Jesus heals the person. And God's love is revealed.

May God's love be revealed to you this Lenten season!

-Pastor Brian Beissel

# Chicken Pot Pie Dinner

Sponsored by the Lutheran Church Men



**Saturday,**

**April 26, 2025**

**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: \$14.00**

**Children under age 12: \$5.00**



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

**Sponsored by WELCA**



## **Schedule for April:**

Your Pastor invites you to lunch! Here is the schedule for April. Each lunch begins at 12 noon.

April 2: May's, Ashland

April 16: Dutch Kitchen, Frackville

## **Saturday Evening Contemporary Worship Service**

We are resuming Saturday evening worship as a Contemporary Worship Service. Join us at 6 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month as our new Praise Band leads us in an informal worship service with uplifting music. Holy Communion will be celebrated by Intinction.



## **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 13**. Baked goods may be brought in on Friday, April 25th between 9:00 a. m. & 4:00 p.m. Baked goods may also be brought in **before noon** on Saturday prior to the dinner.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*The following donations were given to Christ's United's Memorial Fund since the last issue of the Newsletter:*

In Honor of Ralph & Eileen Johnson's  
50th Wedding Anniversary  
By Ralph & Jen



**May 3, 2025 at 8:00 AM.**

Come join us for the Highway Cleanup on Saturday May 3, 2025. 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 10.

## ***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](http://www.christsunited.org) or scan the QR code to learn how you can participate.



## **Church Council Highlights** **From March**

- Officers were elected for 2025: President - John Towey; Vice President - Kay Berner; Secretary - Morgen Sweitzer.
- Vacation Bible School will be held in July. Dates to be determined.
- Youth Group will meet on March 30 at 6:00 to bake cookies to take to nursing homes.
- Synod Assembly will be held at East Stroudsburg on May 30 & 31. Two volunteers are needed to attend.



**Palm Sunday - Sunday, April 13**  
9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

**Maundy Thursday - Thursday, April 17**  
7:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
and Foot washing

**Good Friday - Friday, April 18**  
12:00 noon—7:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil  
7:00 p.m. Worship

**Resurrection of Our Lord - Sunday, April 20**  
6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service  
with Holy Communion  
9:30 a.m. Easter Worship Service  
with Holy Communion



## April Council Contact of the month is Morgen Sweitzer.

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 Morgen, she can be reached at 717-858-9824.



## PRAYER CHAIN

Each day members of Christ’s United bow their heads and lift their hearts in prayer for the ministries of this congregation and people in need.

A copy of the Prayer List is available at worship services each Sunday. You also have an email sent to you each week with a list of those in need of your prayers. A phone chain notifies you of immediate needs. If there is an immediate need of prayer, please call the church office. In the event the office is closed, Gail Marquardt (570-554-1075 or 570-933-1737) should be called to begin the prayer chain. Please call the church office for more information or to become a Prayer Chain Participant.



## Praying Through the Directory

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

*This month we pray for:*

The Brown Family - Vivian

The Shadle Family - Leslie, Max Franklin, Jolene & Sally

The Young Family - Leo, Heather, Cole, Seth, Liam & Luke



# Puzzle!

First, write the word that fits each definition. Then transfer those letters to the correct numbered lines below, completing John 20:17 (NIV). Finally, unscramble the circled letters to complete the sentence at the bottom.

- Water that falls from the sky 1 2 3 4
- Birds lay these in a nest 5 6 7 8
- A newly hatched hen 9 10 11 12 13
- These bloom in spring 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
- A caterpillar transformed 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29
- Dirt mixed with water 30 31 32

J 5 8 31 20 8 2 3 32 ... " I 2 30

2 20 12 25 4 32 11 4 6 24 16 30 29

F 2 23 10 18 26 2 4 32 29 16 22 1

F 2 24 10 25 19 23 16 30 29 G 16 32


2 4 32 29 16 31 1 G 16 32 "

John 20:17, NIV

Jesus has \_\_\_\_\_ !

Answers: rain, eggs, chick, flowers, butterfly, mud; Jesus said "... I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." (John 20:17, NIV) Jesus has risen!





## Women of Christ's United Lutheran Church

### Easter Candy

**\$13.00 per pound**  
**\$6.50 per 1/2 pound**

Coconut	Peanut Butter
Peanut Rolls	Butter Cream
P. B. Caramel	Cherry

Peanut Butter crackers –  
\$3.00 per bag of 4 crackers.

**ORDER DEADLINE**  
**APRIL 11, 2025**

An order sheet is available  
in the Narthex.  
Or call 570-875-1591

## We Offer our Prayers to...

Please note that those experiencing a traumatic event are placed onto the Prayer List and will be **kept on for one month and then taken off**. If you would like someone added, please call the office or write their name on the Prayer Request sheet found on the Prayer Podium. **Please provide updates to the office in order that the list is always current.**



### PRAYER REQUESTS

**March 23** – Ben Spencer (B. Spencer)  
Dawn & Marlin Leshner (V. Brown)  
Audrey Kehler (V. Brown)  
Carol Hoy (V. Brown)  
Barry Oswald (J. Towey)  
Amber Dengler (A. Berger)  
Linda Rickert (M. Kubis)  
Mila Clor (D. Price)  
Jane Pennypacker  
Jim Houser Sr. (A. Berger)

*Family of Janet Bitterman*

**March 16** – Al Johnson (K. Dengler)  
Jim Fetterolf (M. Sweitzer)  
Kim Minning (A. Berger)  
Cheryl Varndell (M. Varndell)

**March 9** – Linda Zerby (J. Young)  
Mary Jo Leonhardt (S. Tice)  
John Towey Jr. (J. Towey)  
Brenda Stief (J. Eisenhart Jr.)

*Families of Susan O'Neil & Judy Weihl*

**March 2** – Leroy Berner (K. Berner)  
Olivia Wagner (T. Shilling)  
Janet Krise (D. Berner)  
Heidi Sisak (J. Kosmisky)  
Victims of shooting at York Hospital

*Family of Rev. William Zimmerman*

**Please continue to pray for:** Corrine & Josh Coward, Jim Gruber, Annette Houser, Jack Houser, Jim Houser Jr., Jenny Kosmisky, Barbara Liem, Gail Lorady, Pearl & Carl Lute, Dianna Monaghan, Kayla Werner,

**Remember our Home-bound:** Leroy Berner, Diane Heidlebaugh, Jim Hepler, Nancy Kessler, Gail Marquardt, Anna Neumeister, Richard Shoup, Karen Smith, Linda Zerby

**And Friends:** Michele & Amber Adams, Michelle Ambrose, Robert Beecher, Donald Bulla, Ed Emerich, Joe Ferraro Jr., Bob Griffiths, Cathy Groody, Dan Grow, Ann Helwig, Minah Horan, Donna Hughes, Bob Kinlin, Lisa Metzinger, Angie Romberger, Bailey Romberger, Samantha Schifano, Sarah (Herb) Shanks (T. Wolfe), Elizabeth Smith & family, Pastor Sunny Stock, Elaine Stone, Linda (Herb) Szuler (T. Wolfe), Joe Towey, Rose Varndell, Karyssa Wenrich, Bev Wolfgang



2	Gail Lorady	16	Jeremy Knorr
	Arianna McAnaney	17	Barb Liem
3	Lewis Pennypacker		Aaron Pancher
	Robert Rock	18	John Wagner
4	Heather Klinger		Ivan Sweinhart
	Marisa Seritsky	19	Caleb Dietrick
5	Bryce Hummel	20	Eli Pennypacker
6	Barbara Brown		Russell Hummel
	Darcie Gruber	21	Shale Waldick
	Courtney Krise	23	David Pennypacker
8	Marjorie Lally	24	Dustin Schreffler
9	Stephen Harhigh, Jr.	25	Amanda Whritenour
	Maxwell Miller	26	Dianna Monaghan
10	Kathy Hansbury	27	Azure Waldick
	Diane McCormick	28	George Hepler
11	Kaitlin Sage		Samantha Brennan
13	Natalia Mulhall	29	Jill McNeal
14	Ryan Wolfe	30	Marcus Peel
15	Jessica Wright		Parker Dean
			Joseph Anczarski
			Deana Guenther



04/05/86	Ann Marie & William Dillman, Jr.
04/09/55	Jim & Pat Hepler
04/16/15	David & Nancy Cunningham
04/18/98	David & Christine Heyer
04/18/09	David & Jamie Pennypacker
04/21/71	Daniel & Bonnie Sisko
04/23/60	Jim & Darcie Gruber
04/26/01	Mark & Cheryl Varndell
04/29/00	Stephen & Jennifer McGrath



# A SEASON OF HOPE

This Lent we're joining Lutheran World Relief's **Baskets of Promise** campaign. Each week, we'll collect a different item that we'll use to assemble Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations.

Our goal is to assemble 25 LWR Personal Care Kits during Lent.

## HERE'S OUR COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

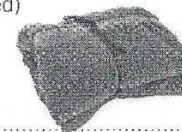
### MARCH 9

Bars of Soap (4 to 5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping)



### MARCH 16

Bath Towels (light-weight, maximum 52" x 27", dark color recommended)



### MARCH 23

Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)



### MARCH 30

Combs - sturdy combs  
(no fine teeth or Picks)



### April 6

Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)



### April 13 (PALM SUNDAY)

Bars of Soap



For more information contact

Donna Wallace







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

## Women of ELCA Schuylkill Cluster Spring 2025 Event

**WHERE:** Trinity Lutheran jChurch  
300 West Arch Street,  
Pottsville, PA 17901

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 26, 2025  
8:30—9:00 Registration / refreshments  
9:00—12:00 Program  
(Lunch optional following program)

### PROGRAM TOPIC:

Life Changes: Getting Your Affairs in Order  
Danielle Wychulis, Compassus Hospice

### BIBLE STUDY:

Rev. Carol Kehler, retired ELCA Pastor

**Sign up on Bulletin Board by April 13th.**



## 2025 Sponsorships

The sponsorship sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board. Sign up for:

Altar Flowers \$35.00\*  
Worship Bulletins \$15.00  
Special service bulletins \$10.00  
Sanctuary Candle \$10.00  
Children's Bulletins \$10.00  
Monthly Newsletters \$40.00  
Palms for Palm Sunday \$15.00

### \*For Altar Flowers:

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.

## Plant Exchange

The Garden Club will be hosting a Spring Plant Exchange from Sunday, April 27 through Sunday, May 18.

Anyone who gardens knows how rapidly plants multiply. Do you have something you can divide and bring in to share with others?

Everyone is welcome to take what is on the table to plant at home in your garden for beautiful blooms!



*Welcome,*  
**New Member**

We are very happy to welcome Melissa Kubis into membership at Christ's United. We are blessed by your presence, and rejoice in sharing ministry with you – Welcome!



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

437 Airport Road (Gordon)  
Ashland, PA 17921

**Monday, April 7, 2025**  
**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](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
to schedule an appointment.

Open to the public and walk-ins are Welcome!

## CULC SENIOR YOUTH GROUP



**Senior Youth Group**  
(Grades 7 - 12)

The Senior Youth Group  
will meet on March 30 to bake  
cookies to take to local nursing  
homes.



Serving Our Community of Faith in April:



Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 19th at 11:00 a.m. The Easter Bunny will be here at 10:15 if you would like to take your own child's picture with the bunny before the program starts. **Please register your child/children ages 0-11 by Friday, April 11th so enough candy/gifts can be purchased.**

Please include name, age, and gender of each child when registering.

Due to the rising prices of eggs, we will be doing plastic eggs again this year. We would appreciate any donations of small individually wrapped candy for the eggs (please no hard candies) and small toys that will fit in the eggs. Last year we filled over 1600 plastic eggs with candy/toys which were hidden for the children to find. We anticipate doing the same or more this year. Items can be left in the church library.

We are also looking for empty toilet paper or paper towel rolls to be used for games at the egg hunt. They can also be left in the library.

Any monetary donations to help defray the cost of the egg hunt would be greatly appreciated.

Please join us on April 19th for the fun. We are always grateful for any help you can provide.

Thank you,  
Barb Stepanchick and the Easter Egg Hunt Team



## VBS 2025

A meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 22 at 6 p.m. to plan Vacation Bible School for this year. Anyone interested in helping is welcome to attend the meeting.

# SOCIAL MINISTRY



**Fellowship Hour** will be held after worship on only the first Sunday of each month September through May. See schedule below for your committee's turn to serve. Please sign up on the bulletin board to help.

~ 2025 ~

**April** - Evangelism/  
Endowment/Stewardship  
**May** - WELCA  
**June/July/August** -  
No Social Hour



We will be collecting the following items for April:

## Cereal & Oatmeal

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is  
Thursday  
**April 10, 2025**



## Lenten Soup Suppers

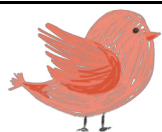
The Social Ministry Team is hosting "Soup Suppers" during the Lenten season.

Our first "Soup Supper" is Wednesday, March 12  
Please join us Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. before worship for a meal of soup and bread.

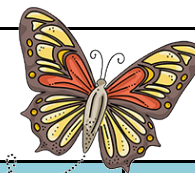
We are in need of 3 - 4 different soup varieties each week.  
Please sign up on the bulletin board to make soup.  
A free will offering collected will go to World Hunger.

Date	Congregational Rep/Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer
<b>April 2</b> Mid-Week		Kay Berner	Donna Wallace <b>b</b> Allen Johnson <b>c/d</b> Virgil Smith <b>so</b>			—
<b>April 6</b> Lent 5	Kay Berner	Becky Spencer		Vivian Brown <b>AM</b> Dennis Wolfe Deb Price	Maura Sweitzer	Nelson Berger
<b>April 9</b> Mid-Week		Angie Berger			—	—
<b>April 13</b> Palm Sunday	Kenny Dengler	Vivian Brown		Larry Wolfgang <b>AM</b> Angie Berger Barb Anczarski	Eli Pennypacker	Cole Johnson
<b>April 17</b> Maundy Thurs.		Deb Hubler		Kay Berner <b>AM</b> Beth Andrews Becky Spencer	Marisa Seritsky	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
<b>April 18</b> Good Friday		Angie Berger			—	—
<b>April 20</b> Easter 6:30	Jacob Tice	John Towey	Barb Stepanchick <b>b</b> Allen Johnson <b>c/d</b> Terry Neumeister <b>so</b>	John Towey <b>AM</b> Barb Stepanchick Ken Dengler	Sawyer Smith	Remington Stehr
<b>April 20</b> Easter 9:30	Kay Berner	Barb Anczarski	Carla Mae Carl <b>b</b> Allen Johnson <b>c/d</b> Robert Carl <b>so</b>	Kay Berner <b>AM</b> Donna Wallace Deb Price	Joey McAndrew	Biance McAndrew
<b>April 27</b>		Donna Wallace	See April 2		Ave Hubler	—





# April 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			10:30 Seniors 12:00 Lunch With Pastor  6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Worship	6:30 Choir Practice		6:00 Contemporary Worship Service
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 Social Hour 10:45 Sunday School & Confirmation Class	1:00 – 6:00 Red Cross Blood Drive	7:00 Church Council	10:30 Seniors  6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Worship	 10 – 11:30 Christ's Cupboard 6:30 Choir Practice		
13 Palm Sunday	14	15 Tax Day	16	17 Maundy Thurs	18 Good Friday	19
9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion			10:30 Seniors 12:00 Lunch With Pastor	7:00 Worship W/ Holy Communion & Foot Washing	7:00 Worship W/Holy Communion	11:00 Easter Egg Hunt
20 Easter Sunday	21	22	23 Administrative Professionals Day	24	25	26
6:30 Easter Sunrise Service w/Holy Communion 8:00 Easter Breakfast 9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion		6:00 VBS Planning Meeting	10:30 Seniors	6:30 Choir Practice		3:00 – 6:00 Chicken Pot Pie Dinner
27	28	29	30			
9:30 Worship   12			8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors			