



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

August



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

**"Therefore  
you also must  
BE READY,  
for the  
SON OF MAN  
is coming  
at an hour  
you do not  
expect."**

**Matthew 24:44, NRSV**

*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

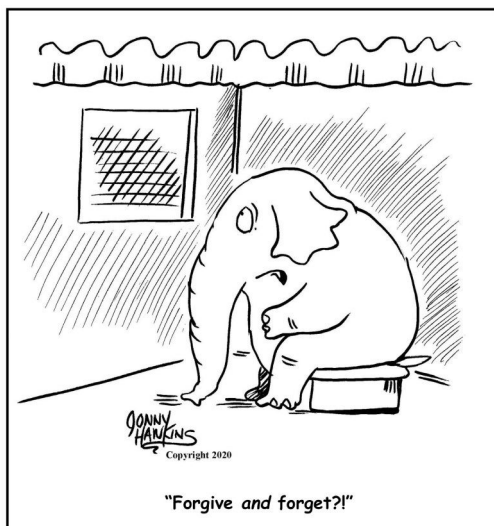
www.christsunited.org

(570) 875-1591

August 2025

### In This Issue:

Pastor Brian's Message	3-4
Saturday Evening Worship	5
Summer Special Music	5
Prayer List	6-7
Birthdays / Anniversaries	8-9
Serving Our Community	11
August Calendar	12-13
Social Ministry	14-15
WELCA	16-17
Annual Church Picnic	20



### Status of Accounts as of June 30

Total amount in checking account: \$102,259.02.

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

Income for June was \$16,752.52.

Expenses for June were \$14,915.15, resulting in a net income of \$1,837.37.

Benevolence for June was \$1,358.38.

## 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	570-590-5023	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

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

<b>Director of Music</b>	Jamie Johnson	570-590-1678
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ann Marie Dillman	570-449-2021
<b>Indoor Custodian</b>	Ann Ray Begis	570-590-2729
<b>Outdoor Custodian</b>	Dennis Wolfe	570-875-9085
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	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 undergird our program and the maintenance of our facilities as it encourages improved stewardship.*

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



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

As many of you know, our big family vacation was to Myrtle Beach during the last week of June.

While we were there, we went on a dolphin cruise. Now, there are speed boats you can take, and there are places all along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean that offer this. Michelle and I have found over the years that there is smaller company that is located in Little River, South Carolina. This small town is literally on the border of North Carolina and South Carolina. You have to drive from Myrtle Beach to this smaller place, and you board a smaller boat that follows a shrimp boat.

However, you get amazing views of dolphins. Why? It's simple- the dolphins also follow the shrimp boat, because they like to eat the shrimp that fall from the nets of the boats. You get to see the men working on the boat throw something every now and then that the dolphins eat.

As we were watching this, I noticed one of the men gather up some things, put them in a bag, and float them over to our boat. From there, one of the staff on our boat took the bag, put it on a table, and explored with all the kids on the boat the contents inside. It was a variety of non-shrimp catches that came up with the shrimp.

We saw a jellyfish, a few small crab, some fish, and yes, one baby shark.

Timmy gladly held the shark, as did Michelle. Your pastor wasn't having it.

— continued on page 4



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

## **Christian symbol**



**ALTAR** — This central furnishing in a Christian worship space is usually large, with a solid front that may be decorated with symbols or words. The flat surface, often covered with a cloth, is where the Communion elements are prepared and placed, reminding us of Jesus' sacrifice as the Lamb of God. In some churches, the altar looks more like a table, with open legwork. We remember that Jesus invites us into fellowship with God now and to the heavenly banquet for eternity. We place offerings on the altar to symbolize our sacrificial response to God's redeeming love.

They shared with us how all of these creatures coexist. How they share the same water. Yes, how some of them survive by eating the others. But I couldn't help but marvel at God's creation. How we have this earth where all of these diverse creatures, including us, exist and live together.

And in that, I saw a harmony.

As we left the boat, I looked over the pier that took us back to land. There, I saw a couple hundred hermit crabs existing and living amongst tall grass at the shore.

This planet, this creation, is a gift in and of itself. Let us appreciate all that God has given us!

-Pastor Brian Beissel



## Schedule for August:

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

August 6: The Donut Shop, Ashland

Monthly Evening Bible Study will be held on

August 13th at Green's in Lavelle at 6:00 p.m.



## WHO AM I?

*Did you know that some Old Testament books are named after prophets? Use the clues to figure out each prophet's name and write it on the lines. Then unscramble, use the circled letters to complete the sentence at the bottom.*

1. I was called to preach to Nineveh, but I ran from God instead. My book is number 32 in the Bible.  
I am \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .
2. I spoke God's message when the temple was being built. My book is number 37.  
I am \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .
3. Israel's unfaithfulness to God is compared to my unfaithful wife. My book is number 28.  
I am \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .
4. My book predicts punishment for wickedness and promises of comfort. It is book 23.  
I am \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .
5. I had dreams and visions. My book is number 27.  
I am \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .
6. I was often in danger because of my prophecies. I angered officials. My book is number 24.  
I am \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .
7. I was a shepherd from Judah who called people to turn to God and leave their selfish lives. My book is number 30.  
I am \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .
8. My book contains descriptions of strange visions. My book is number 26.  
I am \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .

Prophets are \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .



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

*Donation to Christ's Cupboard  
In Honor of CULC Fathers by:  
Simpson United Methodist Church.*

*Donation to Christ's United's 2025 VBS  
In Memory of Cheryl Varndell by:  
The Berger Family*



## **Church Council Highlights** **From June & July**

- Church Vacuum – Permission was granted to purchase a new vacuum cleaner
- Church Directory – Terry Shilling will get a group together to review the church directory and update addresses, phone numbers & email addresses of members.
- Contemporary service moved to 7/12 for month of July and 8/9 for the month of August.



**Sunday, August 24**  
**10:30 a.m.**

Join us for Back-to-School Sunday and our special Blessing of the Backpacks! We'll pray over students, teachers, and families as a new school year begins. Be sure to bring your backpack.

## **Saturday Evening 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 is celebrated by Intinction. **The worship service for August will be held on August 9.**



Sunday, August 24 at 11:30

**Worship - 10:30 a.m.**

Please note time change & come to worship in your casual picnic clothes.

Bring a covered dish, salad or dessert to share.

~ Sign up on the Bulletin board ~



On Sunday, July 6th we welcomed Tyler Knorr into membership of the family of God through Holy Baptism

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



## August Council Contact of the month is Kay Berner.

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 Kay, she can be reached at 570-875-1035.



***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.



## 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.

# Puzzle!

The biblical calendar had many feasts and festivals. They were connected with the changing of the seasons or special events.

Use the code to find the name of the special days the Israelites observed.

### CODE:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

### SEASON

### HOLIDAY

#### 1. End of Summer

New Year

I L H S S Z H S Z M Z S

#### 2. Fall

Day of Atonement

B L N P R K K F I

#### 3. Fall

Festival of Booths

H F P P L G S

#### 4. Winter

Festival of Rededication

S Z M F P P Z S

#### 5. Winter

Festival of Lots

K F I R N

#### 6. Spring

Festival of Unleavened Bread

K Z H H L E V I

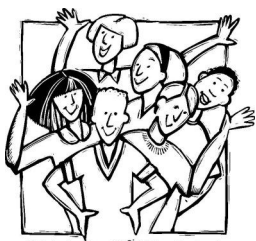
#### 7. Spring

Feast of Weeks/Pentecost

H S Z E F L G

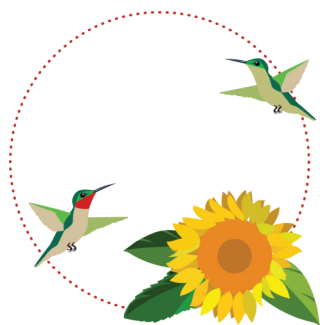
Answers: 1. Rosh Hashanah, 2. Yom Kippur, 3. Sukkoth, 4. Hanukkah, 5. Purim, 6. Passover, 7. Shavuot

# CULC SENIOR YOUTH GROUP




## Senior Youth Group (Grades 7 - 12)

Watch for the next activity  
scheduled for the Youth Group  
and plan to attend.





# SHINE FOR Jesus



This easy and colorful craft  
helps kids remember that  
Jesus is their light—  
no matter where they go!

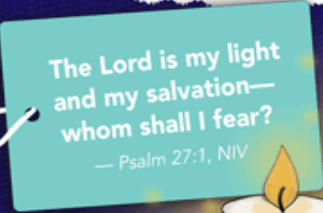

**What you need:**

- Clear plastic cup
- Battery tea lights
- Tissue paper squares (pre-cut)
- Glue stick
- Markers (optional)
- Stickers (optional)

**What you do:**

1. Use the glue stick to press colorful tissue paper squares around the outside of the cup.
2. Add a simple phrase like "Jesus is my Light" or use fun stickers to decorate.
3. Turn on the tea light and place it inside the cup.
4. Turn off the lights and let your lantern glow!

## 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

- July 27** – Dee Keefer (E. Tice)  
Randy (Boomer) Kimmel (R. Johnson)  
Frank Paul  
Faith Simpson (G. Kosmisky)  
*Families of Dan Bressler & Terry Allsop*
- July 20** – Brenda Klementovich (J. Towey)  
Susan Herb (D. Berner)  
Thomas Sage (T. Neumeister)
- July 13** – Connie Weinreich  
Texas Flood Victims  
Zack Metzinger
- July 6** – David Hinkel (K. Berner)  
*Family of Burdell Smith (K. Berner)*

**Please continue to pray for:** Corrine & Josh Coward, Jim Gruber, Annette Houser, Jack Houser, Jim Houser Jr., Allen Johnson, 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., Jim Fetterolf, 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, John Towey, Jr., Rose Varndell, Olivia Wagner, Karyssa Wenrich, Bev Wolfgang

## 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 Clark Family - Cyrus & Joan  
The Shilling Family - Terry  
The Zerby Family - Linda

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







1 Bianca McAndrew  
 2 Jada Habowski  
 3 Brad Rickert  
 Kelly Troup  
 4 Greg Lindenmuth  
 6 Braedyn Lazor  
 Tyler McGrath  
 7 Gary Schneider  
 8 Carey Wahalec  
 Caiden Weikel  
 Dustin White  
 9 Kaitlyn Werner  
 10 Deb Berner  
 Mason Buhay  
 Larry Schneider  
 11 Diane Heidlebaugh  
 Elizabeth McGrath  
 Alivia Potteiger  
 Riley Whritenour  
 12 Jamie Dengler  
 Bill Miller  
 Janet Towey  
 13 William Coward III  
 Michael Lassen  
 Emily Miller  
 14 Tammy Leshner  
 15 Angie Berger  
 Heidi Walsh

16 John Towey  
 17 Charley Demko  
 Seth Young  
 18 Melanie Schneider  
 19 Kimberly Shadle  
 20 Matt Wetzel  
 21 Kolby Cress  
 22 Alyssa Becker  
 Rebekah Ganes  
 23 Michael Monaghan  
 Dak Sisak  
 24 Louise Boyer  
 Keith Hostetter  
 26 Peggy Diczek  
 Katelyn Huber  
 Zachary Hummel  
 Brandy Schreiber  
 David Heyer  
 27 Penny Troutman  
 28 Paige Ganes  
 Dennis Marlow  
 Lauren Wagner  
 29 Desiree Dengler  
 Thomas Habowski  
 Morgen Sweitzer  
 30 Darlene Stank  
 Louise Lute  
 31 Jonathan Harhigh  
 Kelly Long

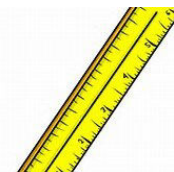
## School Kits needed for Lutheran World Relief

**Items may be brought in August 3 thru 31.**

Education is important in every community but especially those where poverty or disaster limits the options of young people looking to improve their lives. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children continue learning despite the hardships they face. These supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not.

### The supplies for each School Kit are:

- Four 70 sheet spiral notebooks
- One 30 centimeter ruler (or with inches and centimeters)
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with steel blades)
- One box of 16-24 crayons
- One 2 1/2 inch eraser
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- One sturdy drawstring back style cloth bag (14" x 17")



In the coming weeks the school supplies will begin to be in stores (much to the dismay of many children and adults) at great low prices so keep these items in mind.

Donations of any of these items should be placed on the table in the Narthex August 3 - 31.

Thrivent Action Team will pack the bags.







**“An Old Fashioned Picnic”  
WOMEN OF ELCA  
ANNUAL PICNIC  
at CHRIST'S UNITED  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2025  
6:00 PM**

All women of CULC are invited to the annual **indoor** picnic.

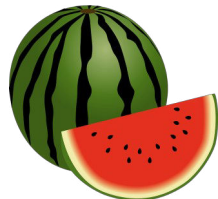
Invitations have also been extended to the women of Good Shepherd, Ashland and Friedens, Hegins.

Sign up on bulletin board to attend and bring a covered dish or dessert to share.

Bring a \$5.00 wrapped gift to be used for a game (if you wish to participate).



Come join in the fun, food, and fellowship  
In a cool, bug free environment!



08/07/99	John & Janet Towey
08/11/07	Dustin & Margaret Koons
08/12/72	Bill & Sandy Miller
08/13/04	Thomas & Barb Habowski
08/15/87	Jeffrey & Christine Brennan
08/16/03	Dean & Arlene Krise
08/19/17	Gerald & Sarah Stehr
08/25/73	Ron & Beth Andrews
08/28/76	Mike & Barb Stepanchick
08/29/81	Charles & Barbara Klauger
08/30/08	Don & Lynn Dillman

---

### **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

### **\*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.





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

437 Airport Road (Gordon)  
Ashland, PA 17921

**Monday, August 4, 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.

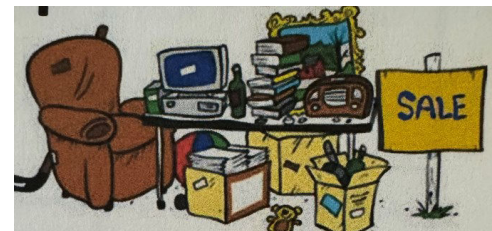
Open to the public and walk-ins are Welcome!

## Indoor Yard Sale Saturday, September 6 8:00am -2:00pm

All are welcome to join us in having an indoor yard sale. Rent a table for \$5 each. You may rent more than one table if you would like. Please call the church office or sign up on the bulletin board to rent a table. The deadline to sign up is September 3. Tables will be set up in the social hall and Narthex.

You must set up, be present at your table the day of the sale, clean up, and take home any items not sold. Set up will be Thursday, September 4 and Friday, September 5 during office hours, or you may set up Saturday morning.

We will also be using a Thrivent Grant to purchase food items to have available for sale. We will be selling hot dogs, chips, and drinks. Proceeds from table rentals and food sales will go towards our goal of building a well for Hope Ministries. The yard sale will be advertised on our Facebook page, by posters, and the T-102 community page. Even if you don't set up a table, come out and support this worthy cause by buying items from the yard sale and food stand. Thank you for your support!



?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

A few Bible books have only one chapter. Which of the following is not among them?

- A. Obadiah
- B. Philemon
- C. 1 John
- D. 2 John
- E. 3 John
- F. Jude

Answer: C



**Special Offering**  
**August 31**

# 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 ~

- June/July/August** - No Social Hour
- September**—Choir/ Worship & Music / LCM
- October**—Church Council
- November** - Social Ministry
- December** - Evangelism/ Endowment/Stewardship



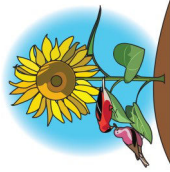
We will be collecting the following items for August:

## Peanut Butter & Jelly

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday  
**August 14, 2025**






## Serving Our Community of Faith in August:

Date	Congregational Rep/Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer
August 3	John Towey	Donna Wallace	Carla Mae Carl Allen Johnson c/d Robert Carl so	Vivan Brown AM Angie Berger Barb Anczarski	Sawyer Smith	Volunteer needed
August 10	Ken Dengler	John Towey			Maura Sweitzer	John Wagner
August 17		Beth Andrews			Remington Stehr	—
August 24		Mark Varndell			Maura Sweitzer	John Wagner
August 31		Barb Stepanchick			Bianca McAndrew	—



# August 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion	1:00 – 6:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive 		10:30 Seniors 12:00 Lunch W/ Pastor 6:00 WELCA Picnic 7:00 Church Council	7:00 Garden Club		6:00 Contemporary Worship Service
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30 Worship			10:30 Seniors  6:00 Bible Study at Green's, Lavelle	10:00 – 11:30 Christ's Cupboard  7:00 Reading Phillies game		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30 Worship  5:00 LCM / Property			10:30 Seniors			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:30 Worship with Blessing of Backpacks 11:30 Church Picnic 			8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors			
31						
9:30 Worship with Good Samaritan Offering					