

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



 **FEBRUARY**



The CULC Messenger
God's Work,
Our Actions

**But God
Demonstrates**

His own love
for us in this:
While we were
still sinners,
Christ died
FOR US.

Romans 5:8 NIV

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

February 2026

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Status of Accounts as of December 31

Total amount in checking account: \$98,343.83.

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our 2026 Annual Budget of \$223,228.00 is \$18,602.33.

Income for December was \$35,052.28.

Expenses for December were \$17,953.34, resulting in a net income of \$17,098.94.

Benevolence for December was \$1,043.49.

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

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



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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.*

Christian symbol



CORNERSTONE — The cornerstone is a symbol for Christ. It has Old Testament roots in Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 28:16). In the New Testament, Christ is called the cornerstone in Ephesians 2:20. The IHC and XP on the stone's sides are abbreviations for "Jesus" and "Christ" in Greek.



Grace and Peace to you from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

PASTOR BRIAN'S
MESSAGE

I'm a child of the 1980s. And I'm male. This means that when I was a small child, I watched "He-Man and the Masters of the Universe." I had the toys. I could still hum the cartoon theme. I specifically remember that if you woke up early enough, you could watch TWO episodes of the cartoon, one at 6 and one at 6:30, which was early enough that my mom and grandmother could still watch "Good Morning America" at 7:00.

So just this week, a trailer was released, and yes, they are indeed making a live action movie from this cartoon franchise that is more than 40 years old (there was one made in the 80s with Dolph Lundgren, Ivan Drago from Rocky IV, as He-Man, but it didn't look quite like the cartoon every boy in that time knew). Maybe this is because there are no new ideas at all when it comes to movies that are coming out. Seriously- take a look at all the remakes and sequels and such that have been released or will be in the future.

I watched the trailer. And I was in awe. It was like my childhood had come back to life! It brought back memories of my mom helping me to find rare figures (I remember her calling around to every K-Mart in a 50 mile radius of Frackville) and seeing the commercials. Then I grew up. Kind of.

I am excited to introduce my son to this same thing that captivated my mind when I was a child. We do that, don't we? We hope that our kids like the same things that we do. Then we have a little moment of disappointment when they turn out to be different than us.

This is all to say that soon we will enter the season of Lent. Before we do, we will witness the Transfiguration of our Lord, where we see Jesus on the mountaintop with Moses and Elijah, leaving no doubt in mind of the disciples there with him that Jesus is exactly who he says he is - he is Lord of Lords, he is God's Son. Then the voice of God shows up and says - LISTEN TO HIM!



What does it mean to listen to him? Well, this Lenten season in our midweek sermon we will have a series called “Conversations with Jesus,” where we will deliberate over that very question. Life is often not what we want it to be. For me, the 1980s are long gone. Perhaps there are some good things about that. Perhaps some not. I recently found an old receipt from when my mom went to Hess’s department store to buy some outfits. She essentially outfitted me for the entire fall for around \$100! Try doing that today.

So we are reminded, in the midst of a world that likes to sell us on nostalgia and comfort, that Jesus asks us and directs us to go out into a world that looks very different than what makes us comfortable. He calls his disciples to stay in a land that doesn’t understand Jesus’ message.

When I was a kid and watched that cartoon, there was always a little segment that reminded the kids of the moral message the episode was trying to convey. Sometimes it was about dealing with sadness, once there was even one warning kids about drug use. One such message taught that the theme of the episode was that we are all given a special ability, and the name of that ability was “love”.

We are all sent to love this world that God gives us and its people. Let us go and radically love!

See you along the way,

Pastor Brian Beissel



Schedule for February:

All lunches are a time to gather and meet up with your pastor. There is no agenda, we can simply speak about whatever might be on your mind! All Lunches begin at 12 noon. The Schedule for February is as follows:

February 4: Cracker Barrel, Frackville



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

437 Airport Road (Gordon)
Ashland, PA 17921

**Monday, February 2, 2026
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

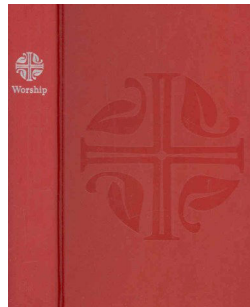
Electronic Giving is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to our church. Go to www.christsunited.org or scan the QR code to learn how you can participate.



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Evangelical Lutheran Worship Pew Edition



As the changing times have come, it has come time for us to transition to the newest hymnal. Released for the first time in 2007, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* includes selections from the green LBW and blue With One Voice, in addition to all new settings. Included are the settings we at Christ's United already use, in addition to ten other settings.

As time has progressed, the Sundays and Seasons programs we use in the office and for worship planning use more and more the ELW and not the green LBW. With this change, the time has come for us to make a switch. There will still be times we use hymns and settings from the green book.

We also are now worshipping using a projector, which means that we do not necessarily need one hymnal for each worship participant. Many of you use the books less and less and the screen more. Still, we need to have sufficient copies to meet copyright law standards.

You have an opportunity to sponsor the "new" (almost 20 years old) hymnal! Copies are \$26.50 each, and you can make your hymnal in honor or in memory of a loved one.

There is a copy of the Hymnal on the table in the Narthex for anyone wishing to see it.

Name: _____

Copies: _____

In Honor or Memory of (circle one Please):



Church Council Highlights From January

- Financial Leadership Academy Team (FLAT) – performed a ministry inventory – back Sunday school rooms to be organized.
- Inside Greeter training will be held February 1st.
- Approval granted for Christ's Cupboard to open checking account to manage food pantry expenses/donations.



On Sunday, January 11th we welcomed Raymond Price into membership of the family of God through Holy Baptism

Sunday, February 15
10:30 a.m.

Immediately after worship, on February 15 we will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting.

Please plan to attend and support our ministries here at Christ's United.



February Council Contact of the month is John Towey.

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 John, he can be reached at 570-205-2682.



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 Anthony Family - Stewart & Faith

The Cunningham Family - David, Nancy, David, Daniel & Dennis

The Smith Family - Frank & Karen



God's love is never meant to stop with us; it's meant to flow through us. When we love others, we reflect his very heart. As 1 John 4:12 (NIV) reminds us, "If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."


This is the true mark of a Christian — love that reaches beyond comfort zones, opinions and differences. Jesus said in John 13:35 (NIV), "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

The world is watching, not to see how loudly we profess our faith but how deeply we practice it. Every act of compassion, every gentle word and every moment of grace reveals something divine — God's love at work in us. The more we give that love away, the more it grows within us, mirroring the heart of Christ, who gave Himself for all.

So ask yourself: Does the world recognize you as his disciple by the way you love?

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

The New Testament uses several Greek words to describe love. Which of the following best represents the **selfless, sacrificial love** that God shows to humanity?



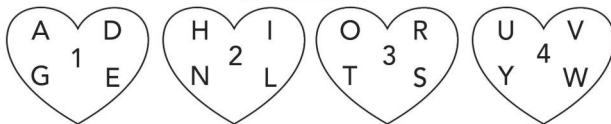
A) Eros
B) Phileo
C) Agape
D) Storge

Puzzle!

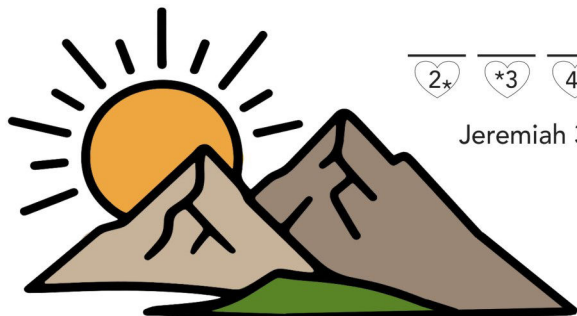
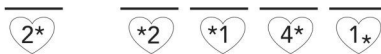
We see hearts everywhere and love sharing cards and greetings with friends and family.

Use the code to discover a special message from God — perfect for any day, any month.

CODE:



"



Jeremiah 31:3

Answer: "I have loved you with an everlasting love."

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.**



January 25 –

Gerard Clark (D. Price)
Kevin Clark (Pastor Brian)
Erin, Kaitlyn & Kayla Werner
Christana Dudley (D. Price)
Dave Kessler (D. Price)
Family of Corinne Coward

January 18 –

Donald Boyer (E. Tice)
Nancy Lindenmuth (P. Lute)
Marty Kutsco (T. Ambrose)
Lou Yeager (E. Werner)
Don Maurer (A. Berger)
Dave Johnson
Families of Vince Zincavage
Mike Kelly

January 11 –

Jean Rabideau (C. Weinreich)
Family of Denise Derr Maloney
(P. Dziczek)

January 4 –

Terry Shilling
Ken Connor (T. Wolfe)
Scott Smith (M. Smith)

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

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

And Friends: Michelle Adams, Michelle Ambrose, Robert Beecher, Donald Bulla, Margarite Felegi, Joe Ferraro Jr., Jim Fetterolf, Cathy Groody, Dan Grow, Zack Metzinger (J. Eisenhart), Kim Minning (A. Berger), Angie Romberger, Bailey Romberger, Samantha Schifano, Sarah Shanks (T. Wolfe), Trevor Shilling (A.M. Dillman), Elizabeth Smith & family, Linda Szuler (T. Wolfe), Joe Towey, John Towey Jr. Rose Varndell, Olivia Wagner (T. Shilling), Bev Wolfgang

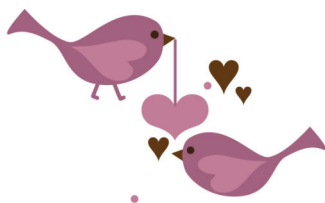
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- 1 Ross Sterling
Kim Walacavage
Shelby Weikel
- 3 Stephen McGrath
- 4 Dennis Wolfe
- 5 Richard Weikel
Kenneth Zweizig
- 6 Brian Bolich
- 8 Kevin Clark, Sr.
Charlotte Schmidt
- 9 Kevin Clark, Jr.
Terry Kessler
Allison Rusinko
Kayla Werner
- 10 Rebecca Houser
Jason Miller
Mark Varndell
- 11 Vanessa Pirie
Tanner Wilson
Leo Young II
- 12 Chantelle Klinger
Edward Stepulitis
- 13 Rhonda Carl
Barb Habowski
Deana Leshner
- 14 Bobbi-Jo Hummel

- 15 Alaina Lindenmuth
Melissa Sisko
- 16 Daniel Sisko
Lois Sterling
- 17 Crystal Huber
- 18 Cyrus Clark
Jacob Tice
- 19 Dean Leshner
Pearl Lute
Shaun McNally
- 20 Jim Chappell
Mina Pennypacker
Bill Price
Jax Miller
- 21 Kylei Long
- 22 Teresa Ambrose
Gavin Dwane
Kolton Fetterolf
Brielle Smith
- 23 Ricky Williard
- 24 Zalen Williard
- 26 Geoffrey Dudick
- 27 Denise Hepler
- 28 Ann Welker
Wyatt Miller



**All are welcome to attend the
Women of the ELCA's
next meeting on
Wednesday, February 4, 2025
6:00 PM**



WELCA will begin making
Easter candy on February 9th.
Watch for further dates.
Help is welcome!



Lenten Soup Suppers

The Social Ministry Team is hosting
"Soup Suppers" during the Lenten season.
Join us every other Wednesday (**Feb. 25,**
March 11, and March 25) at 6:00 p.m. be-
fore worship for a meal of soup and bread.

We are in need of 3 different soup varieties for each supper.

Please sign up on the bulletin board to make soup.

A free will offering collected will go to World Hunger.



Mid-Week Lenten Worship Services

We gather each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in Holden
Evening Prayer. This year's scripture each week
will focus on "Conversations with Jesus" between

- 1) Satan, 2) Nicodemus,
- 3) the Samaritan woman at the well
- 4) Mary & Martha, and 5) Lazarus.



Charity Concert to Benefit H2Ope Well & Education Projects

Saturday, February 21 at 6:00pm

Christ's United Lutheran Church

437 Airport Road, Ashland

Featuring:

CULC Praise Band

Bill Jackovich, Organist

Allen Artz, Organist

Christ's United Choir

Rick Lorady

And More!

FREE will offering will be collected to Benefit H2ope.

Refreshments to follow!

*All are Welcome
for this
Special Event!*



Remember....

That you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Such are the words of blessing offered on Ash Wednesday, as we remember our humanity and God's immortal love, shown to us in Jesus Christ. It is a time of

somberness in recognition of the love so strong that death could not break its grasp on us. Service will be held at 7:00 pm on February 18th.



02/13/93
02/14/10
02/16/95
02/21/53
02/23/85

Ron & Donna Wallace
Nelson & Angie Berger
Traci & Donald Smith Jr.
Cy & Joan Clark
David & Denise Hepler

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.



Sunday February 8

TACKLE HUNGER



In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."

Since then, over \$220 million has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that transforms the time around the Big Game into the nation's largest celebration of giving and caring for those in need.

Through this mission, people learn they can make a positive difference in the world as they collect food, raise money and serve at hunger-relief charities and show caring and compassion in local communities across the country.

Share in God's love for our neighbors in need and give generously on Souper Bowl Sunday. All of the donations collected will go directly to our Tackle Hunger Charity of Choice:

Christ's Cupboard Food Pantry

To learn more, visit: TackleHunger.org

Please place all food or monetary donations on the table in the Narthex. Monetary donations will be used to purchase more food.
All items will go to "Christ's Cupboard".



Serving Our Community of Faith in February:

Mark your calendars...

Indoor Yard Sale Saturday, May 2, 2026 8:00am -2:00pm

All are welcome to join us in having another 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 April 29. 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, April 30 and Friday, May 1 during office hours, or you may set up Saturday morning.

We will be serving hot dogs, soup, bottled water and soft drinks.



Bridge 127 Collection Ash Wednesday through Easter (February 18 - April 5)



Our project during Lent will be to collect socks and in the package/unopened under garments for males and females of all ages. They will be given to those who come to Bridge 127 in Pottsville for assistance.

There will be a collection container in the Narthex.



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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.

~ 2026 ~

February - Church Council
March - Social Ministry
April - Evangelism/
 Endowment/Stewardship
May - WELCA
June/July/August -
 No Social Hour

Please note...Church council recently approved our food pantry to have its own checking account. Therefore, if you are interested in giving a monetary donation you may now write a check directly to "Christ's Cupboard Food Pantry" and give it to Food Pantry Treasurer, Dorothy Kessler, cash donations are also accepted.



We will be collecting the following items for February:

Canned Vegetables

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is
 Thursday
February 12, 2026

Date	Congregational Representative Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer
February 1	Angie Berger	Vivian Brown	Becky Spencer b Darlene Stank c/d Ken Dengler so	Vivian Brown AM Becky Spencer Barb Stepanchick	Nelson Berger	Cole Johnson
February 8	John Towey	Deb Hubler			Ava Hubler	—
February 15 Transfiguration Sunday		Barb Anczarski		Erik Tice AM Dennis Wolfe Beth Andrews	Karolyne Towey	Kimber Towey
February 18 Ash Wednesday		Donna Wallace		John Towey AM Donna Wallace Deb Price	Maura Sweitzer	John Wagner
February 22		John Towey			Remington Stehr	Eli Pennypacker
February 25 Mid-Week		Beth Andrews			—	—



FEBRUARY



2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 Choir Practice 10:45 Sunday School, Confirmation Class, Learning Series	2  GROUNDHOG DAY 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 - 6:00 Red Cross Blood Drive	3	4 10:30 Seniors 12:00 Lunch With Pastor Brian 6:00 WELCA 7:00 Church Council	5	6	7 6:00 Contemporary Service
8 Souper Bowl Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:30 Choir Practice 10:45 Learning Series	9	10	11 10:30 Seniors	12 10 - 11:30 Christ's Cupboard 	13	14 Valentine's Day 
15 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:30 Worship 10:30 Annual Congregational Meeting	16 Newsletter Deadline 10:00 Bible Study	17	18 Ash Wednesday 10:30 Seniors 7:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion & Imposition of ashes	19	20	21 6:00 H ₂ OPE Charity Concert
22 1st Sunday of Lent 9:30 Worship 10:30 Choir Practice 10:45 Learning Series	23	24	25 8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Worship	26	27 <i>The CULC Messenger</i> <i>God's Work, Our Actions</i> 	28