

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

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JANUARY



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.

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

January 2025

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Status of Accounts as of November 30

Total amount in checking account: \$133,663.46.

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our 2024 Annual Budget of \$203,168.00 is \$16,930.00.

Income for October was \$11,868.72.

Expenses for October were \$25,085.13, resulting in a net loss of \$13,286.41.

Benevolence for October was \$871.82.

CHURCH COUNCIL 2024

	Phone	Term Expires
Kay Berner President	570-875-1035	Feb. 2026
Ken Dengler Vice President	570-933-5144	Feb. 2025
Morgen Sweitzer Secretary	717-858-9824	Feb. 2026
Robert Carl	570-590-7281	Feb. 2025
Darlene Stank	570-875-1644	Feb. 2025
Barbara Stepanchick	570-875-1114	Feb. 2027
Janet Towey	270-205-3420	Feb. 2027
John Towey	270-205-2682	Feb. 2027
Michael Yoder	570-205-1701	Feb. 2026

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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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



Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

It starts now, my brothers and sisters. I mean, it's already started— I've been here since the beginning of November.

But now with Christmas behind us, living in the reality of the Word made flesh, our work truly begins. Starting this month, a few things will be happening that are different than before. My idea is to get us thinking about our faith even more concretely than we have since we have been here, so three things will happen beginning this month designed to work towards this goal.

1. I am going to offer weekly lunch opportunities to get together, anyone who wants to do so, and simply talk to me about life and our faith and how they intersect. We're going to give this the creative title of "Lunch with Pastor Brian". Just to make it simple, everyone pays for their own food and we have some time together. All lunches will begin at 12 noon. So for January, the schedule is as follows:
 - a.) January 8: May's Ashland
 - b.) January 16: Pastor will be with Lunch Bunch at Francesco's, Shenandoah
 - c.) January 22: Dutch Kitchen, Frackville
 - d.) January 29: Cracker Barrel, Frackville
2. I am going to offer a monthly evening Bible Study. Originally I was going to offer this on January 15, but I now have a Synod event that evening. So on January 22, we will meet at Green's in Lavelle at 6 PM. We will eat and then have a Bible Study together. I will share that evening some scriptures from Acts that we don't usually discuss.

Christian symbol



NOAH'S ARK — The image of an ark, or boat — often shown with pairs of animals — recalls the story of Noah and the "Great Flood" in Genesis. The floodwaters represent God's judgment on sin, while the ark reminds us of his gracious power to save and redeem. In this account, Christians see a foreshadowing of our baptism into Christ: "And baptism, which [God's rescue of Noah and his family] prefigured, now saves you ..." (1 Peter 3:21, NRSV).

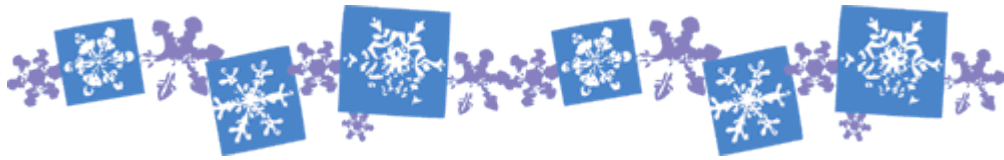


— continued on page 4

3. We will begin planning activities that will reboot our Youth Group. My hope is that within a year's time we can really have this going and do some neat stuff. My end goal is that we send youth to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota in June 2027.

We have a lot to do together, my friends, and I am excited. I hope you are too.

See you along the way,
Pastor Brian Beissel



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

437 Airport Road (Gordon)
Ashland, PA 17921

Monday, February 3, 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
to schedule an appointment.

Open to the public and walk-ins are Welcome!

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

When 12-year-old Jesus stayed at the Jerusalem temple as Joseph and Mary started traveling home, after how many days did his parents find him?

- A. 1 day
- B. 2 days
- C. 3 days
- D. 7 days



Answer: C (See Luke 2:46.)

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.



January 5th will be CULC's second Arts Sunday. Our theme in 2025 will be candles and the candle symbol. As it states in Psalm 18:28 - For thou wilt light my candle: the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness.



We invite anyone who has a craft whether it is knitting, crocheting, painting, drawing, coloring, weaving or any other handicraft to bring it in for display. We also request that if you have a craft with a candle/candle symbol or have the time and feel like making a new craft please incorporate a candle or candle symbol. Please have your craft here by Saturday January 4th for display on January 5th so that everyone can look at this display during our social hour. Crafts may be dropped off at the church during the week of December 30th during church office hours. There will be a table set up in the narthex for the crafts and crafts will be arranged on Saturday January 4th. If dropping a craft off on Saturday January 4th please drop off between the hours of 10AM-12 noon.

As it states in Matthew 5:15 - Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let the light of CULC crafters shine in 2025.



Church Council Highlights From December

- Church Council will now meet on the first Wednesday of each month to better accommodate Pastor Brian's schedule.
- Pastor Brian's installation service will be held on January 19, 2025.
- New LED Sign has been installed.



There is a bag of miscellaneous jewelry that has been found throughout the church hanging on the bulletin Board in the hallway. If you are missing anything, please check to see if its in there.

Annual Committee Reports Due

All Committee Secretaries and Treasurers:

Please have your reports submitted to the church office by Monday, January 20, 2025.

This is the deadline for all information so it can be included in the Annual Congregational Report. Our annual meeting is on Sunday, February 16th after worship.

Thank You!



December 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.



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:

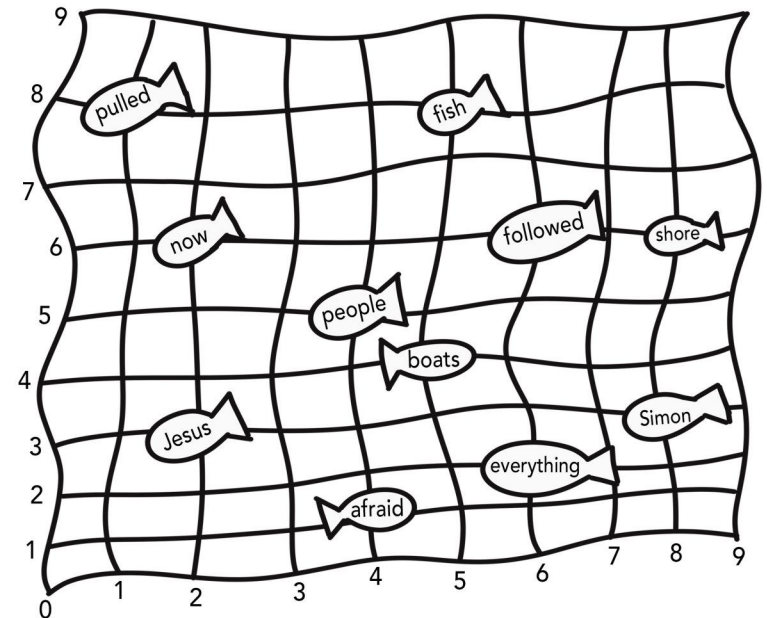
- The Britton Family - Nina
- The Scheuren Family - Thomas & Susan
- The Yoder Family - Keith & Brenda



FISHING DIRECTIONS

When fishermen obeyed Jesus and let down their nets, they caught so many fish that their boats began to sink! Simon Peter fell at Jesus’ knees. What happened next?

Directions: Use the coordinate clues to locate the correct words and complete Luke 5:10-11 (NIV) below. The first number in each clue pair goes across, and the second number goes up.



Then Jesus said to _____, “Don’t be _____; from _____
(2, 3) (8, 3) (4, 1) (2, 6)
 on you will _____ for _____.” So they _____ their
(5, 8) (4, 5) (1, 8)
 _____ up on _____, left _____ and _____ him.
(5, 4) (8, 6) (6, 2) (6, 6)

Luke 5:10-11, NIV

Answers: Jesus, Simon, afraid, now, fish, people, pulled, boats, shore, everything, followed

A year that whispers Jesus

For author Nancy Tichy, a small holiday gift once sparked big-picture thoughts about Christian living. One December she received a kitchen towel with the message "I want a Christmas that whispers JESUS." That prompted thoughts of what it's like to have an entire year that whispers Jesus.

For starters, that involves daily quiet time, devotion and prayer. "Sometimes I wake with the thought of a person on my mind," writes Tichy. "I'm quiet with this impression, interceding for the family member or friend until it has lifted. Could this be a whisper from our Savior?"

Many other daily occurrences are "worthy of [Jesus'] whispered response of love," Tichy points out. That's true whether we're distracted by tasks and troubling thoughts or buoyed by encounters with contentment and joy. "For me," she writes, "whispering is part of intimacy, and that is what I want to make a hallmark of the coming year. I want closeness with our Savior that enables me to hear from him, even when he whispers."

O Lord, let my
New Year's resolution
be to
follow you
more closely
and to
trust in your
loving guidance.

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.**



- Dec 15** - Janet Krise (D. Berner)
Val Beinmeiller (D. Zaharick)
John Towey (J. Towey)
Dave Fetterolf (C. Weinreich)
Connie Weinreich
*Families of Leroy Hinkle (K. Berner)
Iris Houser Weller (P. Lute)
Angie Neary (C. Varndell)*
Family & Congregation of Pastor Mark Mentz
- Dec 8** - Jim Houser Jr. (A. Berner)
Marguerite Felegi (A. Berger)
- Dec 1** - Renee Williams & Family
Family of Michelle Herb
- Nov 24** - Cheryl Varndell
Jane Herb (F. Berg)
Family of Mary Kay Cray

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



- 1 Jamie Johnson
- 2 Katelyn Bechtel
Barbara Pennypacker
Nathan Smith
- 3 Emily Reichwein
- 4 David Hepler
Margaret Koons
- 5 Miles Hudock
Kevin Wright
- 7 Katrina Economy
Brenda Knorr
- 8 Craig Troutman
- 10 Laray Klinger
Luke Young
Liam Young
- 11 Harry Hepler
- 12 Richard Knorr
Jennifer Lettich-Snyder

- 13 Jesse Cascarino
Trevor Wilson
- 14 Ron Andrews
Cheryl Neumeister
- 15 Karen Green
Hanna Lisowski
- 16 Rylee Nagle
- 17 Jim Gruber
Debbie Hall
- 18 Bill Burke
- 19 Deb Zahrack
- 20 Ian Bendinsky
Nathan Hepler
Jennie Kosmisky
- 21 Karen Schewinhart
Bryce Weikel
- 23 David Chuplis
- 24 Katherine Bixler
Rachael Hostetter
- 25 Steven Wagner
- 30 Allen Johnson
Caleb Steinbauer
Amanda Sterling

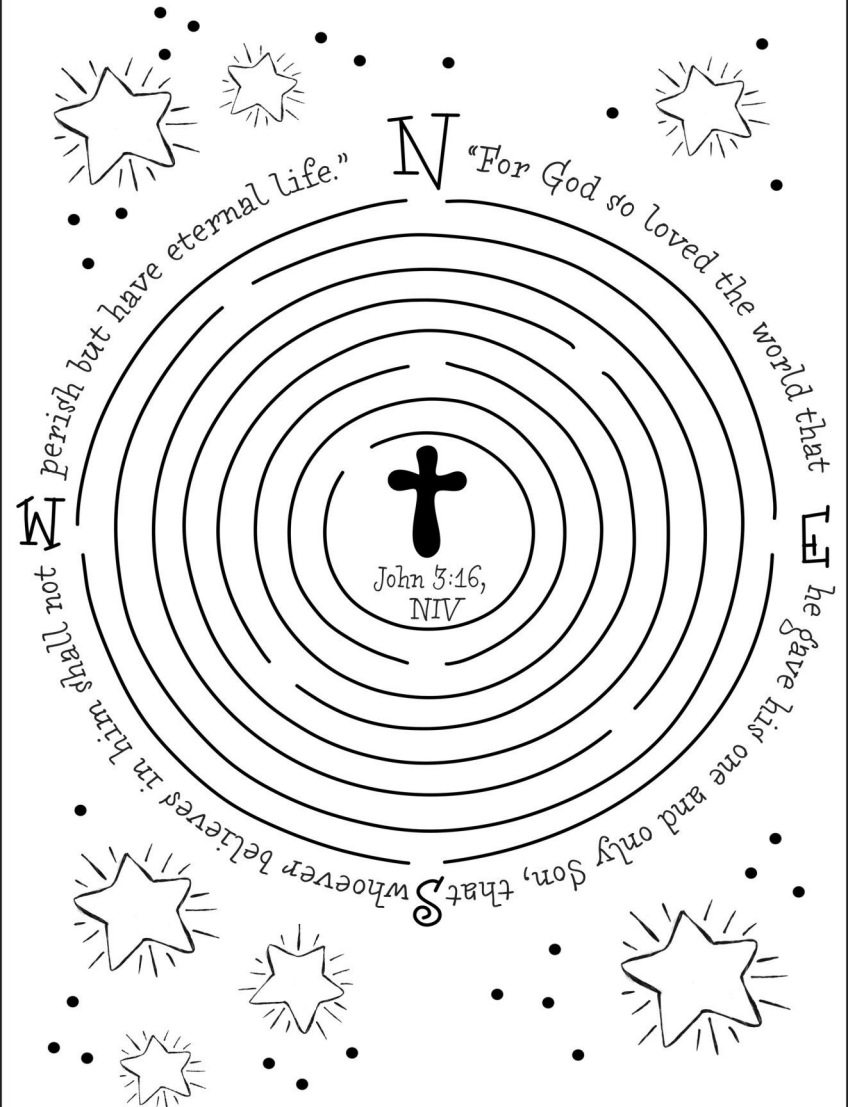


- 01/08/11 Douglas & Lindsay Fetterolf
- 01/13/72 Leroy & Deb Berner
- 01/20/05 Allen & Keri Johnson
- 01/30/82 Craig & Penny Troutman



Puzzle!

Complete the maze to help people from all directions hear the good news. Then, starting at the N (north) and going clockwise, read John 3:16, NIV.



All are welcome to attend the
Women of the ELCA's
next meeting on
Wednesday, January 8, 2025
6:00 PM



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



LUNCH BUNCH

This month the Lunch Bunch group
is headed to
Francesco's in Shenandoah,
on **January 16th at 1:00.**

Please sign up on Bulletin Board so reservations and
transportation can be arranged.

*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.

A prayer for spiritual growth

When my spiritual vision is foggy, help me to find my way.

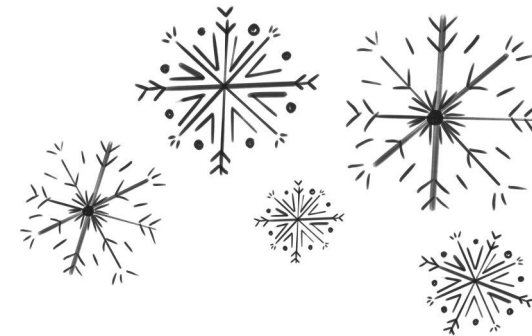
When my understanding is incomplete, open my mind and
increase my patience.

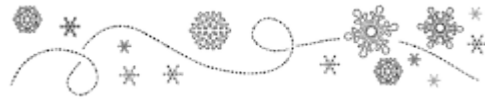
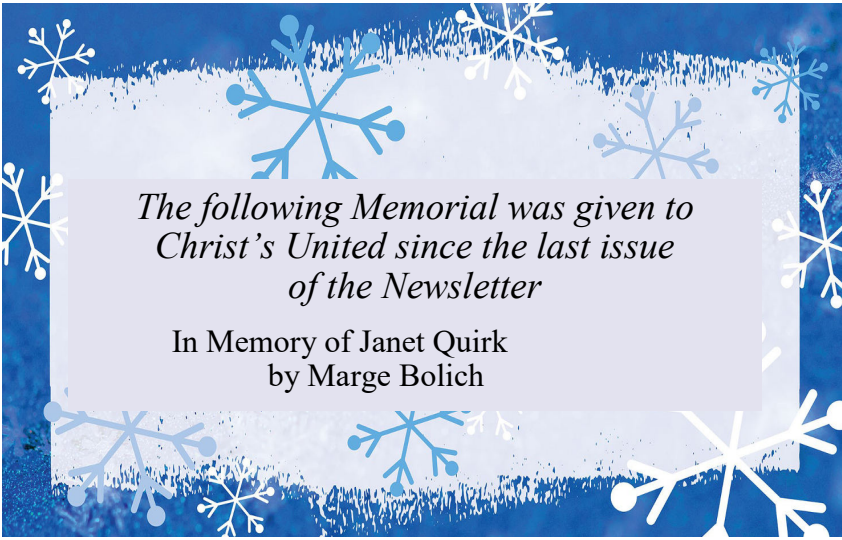
When my indifference blocks my senses, touch my heart.

When worry or fear raise their voices, speak to my faith.

Let your Spirit permeate my longings as well as my living and
my loving. Amen.

—Peggy Ferrell, *Prayers and Poems*





Dear Christ's United Family,

Thank you so very much for your generous Christmas gifts.

Your kindness and support are always so greatly appreciated by all of us.

Wishing everyone a very happy, healthy New Year filled with many blessings.

Sincerely,

Christ's United Staff:

*Pastor Brian, Ann Ray, Chris, Ann Marie,
Debbie, Jamie & Dennis*



New Year's blessing

The eighth day of Christmas,
the eighth day of Creation,
the Next New Day,
New Year's Day.

May every day be a new year's day for you:
a chance to forgive and be forgiven,
to start again.
May you take courage to begin anew. ...

As you let go of the year past,
may you ... in your free fall find yourself held
by an eternal love that has come ages to be with you,
and will carry you all the way to the end. ...

Every day may you trust your belovedness,
your freedom from having to prove yourself,
and receive the grace that is given to you.

May this year be a year of grace and hope.

—Steve Garnaas-Holmes, unfoldinglight.net



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



We will be collecting the following items for January:

Cereal & Oatmeal

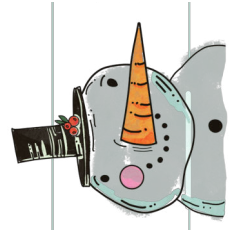
Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday **January 9, 2025**



Serving Our Community of Faith in January:



Date	Congregational Rep/Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer
January 5	John Towey	Kay Berner	John Wolfgang b Allen Johnson c/d Thomas Wolfgang so	Vivian Brown AM Dennis Wolfe Donna Wallace	Remington Stehr	Logan Walacavage
January 12 Baptism of Our Lord	Kay Berner	Lary Wolfgang	→	Larry Wolfgang AM Deb Price Beth Andrews	Kayla Werner	Kaitlyn Werner
January 19		Becky Spencer			Eli Pennypacker	
January 26		Vivian Brown			Ava Hubler	

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day	2 6:30 Choir Practice	3	4
5 9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 Social Hour 10:45 Sunday School, Confirmation Class, Learning Series	6 Epiphany of Our Lord 	7	8 10:30 Seniors 6:00 WELCA 7:00 Church Council	9  10 – 11:30 Christ's Cupboard 5:30 Worship & Music Committee Meeting 6:30 Choir Practice	10	11
12 Baptism of Our Lord 9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:45 Learning Series	13 6:00 Social Ministry	14	15 10:30 Seniors	16 1:00 Lunch Bunch @ Francesco's, Shenandoah 6:30 Choir Practice	17	18
19 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School, Confirmation Class, Learning Series 4:00 Pastor Brian 's Installation service	20 	21	22 10:30 Seniors	23 6:30 Choir Practice	24	25
26 9:30 Worship	27	28	29 8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors	30 6:30 Choir Practice	31 	