

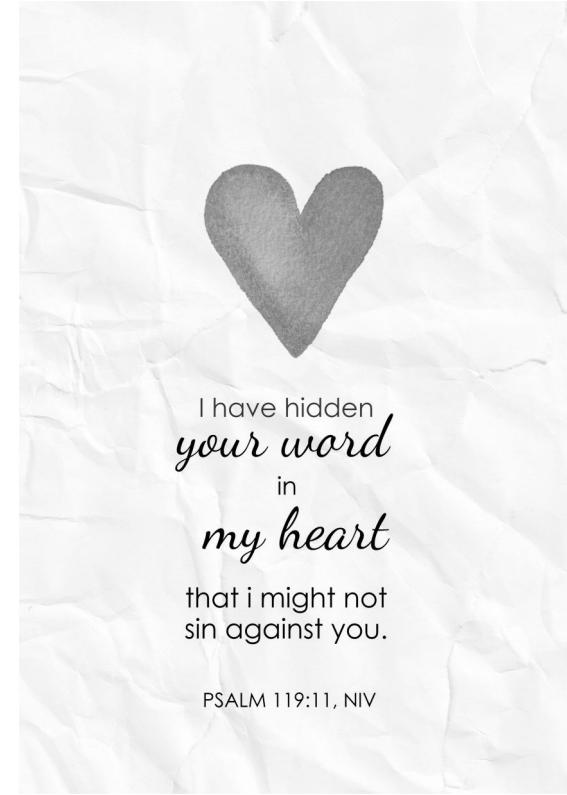
Christ's United Lutheran Church
 437 Airport Road
 Ashland, PA 17921
www.christsunited.org

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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

June 2026

CHURCH COUNCIL 2026

	Phone	Term Expires
John Towey, President	570-205-2682	Feb. 2027
Mark Varndell, Vice President	570-205-8002	Feb. 2028
Jamie Johnson, Secretary	570-590-1678	Feb. 2028
William Griffiths	570-640-1843	Feb. 2029
Debra Price	570-205-6241	Feb. 2029
Virgil Smith	570-205-6979	Feb. 2028
Barbara Stepanchick	570-875-1114	Feb. 2027
Janet Towey	570-205-3420	Feb. 2027
Kim Walacavage	570-590-9629	Feb. 2029
Youth Representative - Maura Sweitzer		

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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

Status of Accounts as of April 30

Total amount in checking account: \$74,200.45.

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

Income for April was \$737.49.

Expenses for April were \$18,826.64.

Net loss for the month of April was \$780.50.

Benevolence for April was \$737.49.



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.



Friends in Christ,

I need to go to Pittsburgh sometime soon.

But I don't really. I want to go there.

And you're asking, what's in Pittsburgh?

It's not the food, although Pittsburgh is a pretty underrated food town. It's not the baseball, as you all know, I'm a Phillies fan (although PNC Park with its view of the Pittsburgh skyline is a pretty nice place). I have a few friends who live in the area- pastors who serve in the South-eastern Pennsylvania Synod and friends from college. But it's not even them (we talk enough with the advantage of online communication).

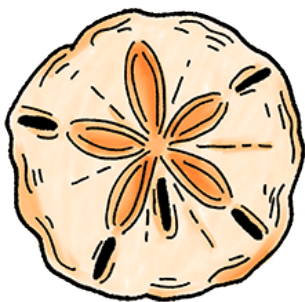
No, it's been about fifteen years since I was out there and stepped into the treasure trove that is Jerry's Records. It's an old, old warehouse piled high with LP's, 45's, and old 78's, some that date back more than 100 years ago. I just feel the need to flip through thousands and thousands of records- and for me, it would be mostly music from the 70s and 80s.

I said at the beginning that I need to go there, but notice that I corrected it. I want to go there. My home needs no more records in it. I have plenty of music. And I don't need any records, really- I just love the feeling of putting on a record, hearing the little hisses and pops, and enjoying the warm sound.

We live in a world where we confuse needs and wants all the time. I hear people saying that they NEED to go to the beach, especially now that I write this at the end of May. I hear people saying that they NEED to get the newest technology. This fall Apple will release the first foldable iPhone! And as the father of a nine-year-old, I am told often that he NEEDS things like Pokemon cards and Lego sets.



Christian symbol



22

SAND DOLLAR — These delicate shells, found in shades of white, tan and soft purple, come from sea urchins related to starfish and sea cucumbers. Their unique markings have long been associated with the story of Christ's birth and death. The faint images resemble a poinsettia and a lily, symbols often connected to Christmas and Easter. Five small openings are said to represent the four nails and the spear used at the crucifixion. Inside the shell are tiny shapes that look like doves, a reminder of the Holy Spirit.

Here's what we need this summer, my brothers and sisters in Christ:
We need connection. We need continual spiritual renewal. We need to love those God gives us to love.

One of my favorite stories in scripture is when the rich man tells Jesus that he has followed all of God's commandments, and Jesus responds by telling him great, now you just need to get rid of all of those pesky possessions. And the guy decides to just leave and turn back. Why? He thinks he needs all of this stuff. It defines him.

So yes my friends- your pastor, who has many possessions, is convicted by my faith too. Although lately, the thought of downsizing and decluttering sounds very, very good.

Peace to you as we walk our summer journey together!

-Pastor Brian Beissel



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

437 Airport Road (Gordon)
Ashland, PA 17921

Monday, June 1, 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!



Schedule for June:

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 June is as follows:

June 3: Mays

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.



The CULC Messenger
God's Work, Our Actions



Puzzle!

A Father's Love

Directions: Match the biblical children to their father, using the clues by the father's name. Then write the corresponding letter on the lines to complete the Bible verse below.

Shem, Ham & Japheth = M	John the Baptist = N
Solomon = O	Jacob & Esau = A
Jonathan = I	Cain, Abel & Seth = O
Jesus = C	Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar,
Rachel & Leah = S	Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Gad,
Isaac & Ishmael = P	Naphtali, Asher & Dinah = S

- God: "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." _____
- Adam: God gave him another son because the older killed the younger. _____
- Noah: His sons were blessed and told to multiply and replenish the earth. _____
- Abraham: God promised he would be a father of many nations. The Jews and Arabs descend from these two sons. _____
- Isaac: His older son sold his birthright, and his younger son tricked Isaac and received the blessings for the firstborn. _____
- Laban: He had two daughters; the older was tender-eyed and the younger was very beautiful. Both married Jacob. _____
- Jacob: Two wives and two handmaids gave him 12 sons and a daughter. _____
- Saul: His son was David's best friend. _____
- David: He had many children, but one was known for his wisdom, for having many wives and for building God's temple. _____
- Zechariah: His son, a cousin of Jesus, was born to be a messenger of repentance. _____

As a father has _____
on his children, so the LORD has
_____ on those who
fear him. *Psalm 103:13, NIV*



Answer: compassion



Church Council Highlights From May

- Christian Education: 2026 Vacation Bible School is being planned.
- The Financial Leadership Academy Team continues to research ideas to bring more people to the church.
- Pastor Brian showed the streaming cameras that Worship and Music discussed. The camera was on sale and purchased.
- A Purpose Statement was created and approved at the first FLA Team meeting in November and will be spoken at every service. The statement is as follows, If you ever felt left out, you are welcome here at Christ's United Lutheran Church, a family of Christ's love.

Bible Quiz

King David wanted to build a glorious temple for worshipping God and for housing the ark of the covenant. God, however, did not permit him to build it. Instead, God chose Solomon, David's son, to head up the building program. Why wasn't David allowed the honor of building the temple?



- A. David was getting too old to supervise such an undertaking.
- B. David had been a warrior and had shed blood.
- C. David had stopped taking God seriously.
- D. David's attention was required elsewhere.

Answer: B (1 Chronicles 28:3)

June Council Contact of the month is Barb Stepanchick.

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 Barb, she can be reached at 570-875-1114.



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 Becker Family - Beth & Alyssa

The Dengler Family - Kenny, Tammy, Deidre & Desiree

The Snyder Family - Kenneth & Jennifer

I Am the Bible

I am the Bible, God’s wonderful library.
I am always — and above all — the truth.



To the weary pilgrim, I am a strong staff.
To those who sit in darkness, I am glorious light.
To those who stumble beneath heavy burdens, I am sweet rest.
To those who have lost their way, I am a safe guide.

To those who are sick in sin, I offer healing, strength and forgiveness.
To the discouraged, I bring a glad message of hope.
To those distressed and tossed by the storms of life, I am an anchor, sure and steadfast.
To all who search for salvation, I reveal the Savior of the world.

I am the Bible.



Do you sing or play a musical instrument? If so, would you consider sharing your musical gifts with your church family this summer? The choir is on a well-deserved break and we are hoping to schedule a variety of special music throughout the season. Guitar, piano, flute, trumpet, harmonica - all are welcome! Soloists, duets, quartets—we’d love to hear you! Gospel, Contemporary, Classical, Praise - all will enhance our worship!

Contact Jamie Johnson to schedule a Sunday if you are willing to provide special music.





REMEMBERING OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

Father's Day is a time to thank our father and father-figures who work hard to keep our families safe and loved. Let us also remember God, our heavenly Father, who gives life to us all.

Use the grid to fill out the blanks below. To find the letter for each number, look down the column to the dot, and then go to the left to the letter. Write the letter on the appropriate blank.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
A						.														
B									.											
C										.										
D							.													
E																	.			
F								.												
G									.											
H	.																			
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U				.																
V		.																		
W																.				

16 1 6 3 10 5 17 6 3 14 15 2 17 3 1 17 8 6 3
 1 17 5 1 6 20 14 6 2 13 20 1 17 7 15 18 4 20
 3 1 6 3 16 17 20 1 15 4 14 7 9 17
 11 1 13 14 17 7 11 1 13 14 7 5 17 18 15 8 10 15 7

1 John 3:1, NIV

Answer: What great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

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.**



- May 24** - Fred Herb (T. Wolfe)
 Jim Gruber
 Mark Brown (V. Brown)
 Rita Shalamanda (M. Wolfgang)
 Tamara Bartholomew (M. Wolfgang)
 Jennifer Haber (J. Towey)
 Family of Jim Hepler
- May 10** - Jean Klinger (S. Tice)
 Families of Joe Boylan
 Susan DeArmit
- May 3** - Devon Brown (E. Tice)
 Gary Snyder (T. Wolfe)
 Janet Towey (J. Towey)
 Family of Cyrus Clark (J. Young)
- May 17** - Jack Wehry (E. Tice)
 Mickey Lute (A. Jackowiak)
 Brittany Wagner (A. Jackowiak)
 Tom Quinn (J. Eisenhart)
 Mary Rabbits (J. Eisenhart)

Please continue to pray for: Annette Houser, Jack Houser, Jim Houser, Jr., Allen Johnson, Jennie Kosmisky, Pearl & Carl Lute, Dianna Monaghan, Jane Pennypacker, Heidi Walsh, Kayla Werner, Linda Zerby

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

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



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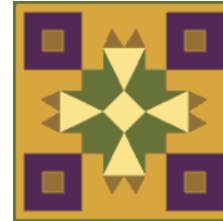


- 1 Maxwell Pennypacker
- Barb Stepanchick
- Ashley Williard
- 2 Michael Lucas
- 3 Thomas Hood
- Rose Pennypacker
- Nathaniel Shadle
- 4 Lindsay Fetterolf
- Douglas Fetterolf
- Michelle Lavelle
- Joseph Smith
- 5 Amber Krise
- James Reiner
- Ted Shadle
- 6 Robert Gross
- Kimberly Zweizig
- 8 Don Dillman
- Kayla Troutman
- 9 Shannon Marlow
- 10 Rhea McNally
- 11 Erik Tice
- 12 Randy Green
- Breonna Klinger
- 14 Jennifer McGrath
- William Waldick, Jr.
- 15 Julia Pirie
- 16 Dorothy Kessler
- 17 Daniel Barker
- Stephanie Cook
- William Coward, Jr.
- David Mullins III

- 18 Susan McNally
- Madelyn Wolfgang
- Meredyth Towey
- 19 Luke Allison
- Bruce Bitting, Jr.
- Gerald Stutzman
- Brenda Yoder
- 20 Bruce Bitting
- Joey McAndrew
- 21 Bryson Nagle
- Matthew Zweizig
- 22 Lindsay Bixler
- Ava Hubler
- 23 Amy Johnson
- 24 Linda Rickert
- Aidan Romberger
- 25 Gracelyn Anthony
- 26 Laura Brennan
- Michelle Hood
- Gerald Stehr
- 27 Richard Shoup
- Brandy Speer
- 29 James Johnson
- 30 Gail Marquardt
- June Sweinhart
- Ryan Heyer



**All are welcome to attend the
Women of the ELCA's
next meeting on
Wednesday, June 3, 2026
6:00 PM**



Blessing of Lutheran World Relief Quilts and Kits

A blessing for the 80 knotted quilts, 70 school kits, and 30 personal care kits will be given at the June 14th worship service. We will pray for those who will receive these items in their time of need as an out reach of love.

Thru contributions from the congregation and Thrivent Action Team funds, we were able to assemble the kits and receive batting for the quilts. The Knaughty Knotters completed the quilts.

The kits and quilts will be packed and taken to the In Gathering at Pioneer Pole Building on June 19 and then transported to LWR in Minnesota for distribution around the world. Thank you to all who contributed and volunteered to prepare items.

Called Friends by Christ



According to John's Gospel, Jesus said to those who knew him best, "No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends. ... You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit" (John 15:15-16, ESV).

The depth of Christ's friendship is seen in his willingness to give his life for his friends — and for us as well. "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you" (John 15:13-14, ESV).

By obeying our Lord and showing love to others, we demonstrate our friendship with Christ. Friendship with Christ and with one another is, according to the Christian layman and president Woodrow Wilson, "the only cement that will hold the world together."

Vacation Bible School

Join us for "Illumination Station"

Shining a light on who Jesus is



Students
Age 3 yrs-
6th Grade

Mon - Tues - Wed
July 21 - 23
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Each evening's experience includes
Bible Stories, Music, Crafts, Snacks

Register child(ren) on the bulletin board
or call the church office by July 1.

Please include Name, Age/Grade completed,
Parent/Guardian name and Phone Number.

A registration form with student information
must be completed on first night of VBS



06/04/77	Bill & Deb Price
06/09/12	Ross & Amanda Sterling
06/13/59	Carl & Pearl Lute
06/14/08	George & Jennie Kosmisky
06/15/92	Maynard & Susan Merwine
06/15/96	Bruce & Anne Pirie
06/15/02	Jeff & Rachel Hostetter
06/20/09	Jason & Katie Brown
06/26/10	Richard & Cheryl Weikel
06/30/11	Ted & Terry Ambrose

2026 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.

LEARNING MINISTRY DAYS

(Sponsored by the NEPA Faith Formation Resource Ministry Team)

Saturday, September 19, 2026

Theme:

“Who Do We Trust: Truth, Scams and AI”

Presenters: Dana Neely (PA Atty General Office)
& Rev. Roger Timm
Zion Lutheran church, Brodheadsville

See NEPA website for more detailed session descriptions

Cost: \$15 each day

Schedule: three 45-minute sessions

- 8:30-9:00 Registration
- 9:00-9:15 Opening
- 9:15-10:00 Session 1
- 10:00-10:15 Break
- 10:15-11:00 Session 2
- 11:00-11:45 Session 3
- 11:45-12:00 Closing
(no lunch provided)

REGISTER BY MAIL - send check with your name, home church, phone number and which session(s) you plan to attend:
Session III in Broadheadsville (Deadline 9/4/26)
To NEPA Synod Attn: Laurie Christman,
254 Grove Rd., Allentown, PA 18109

OR

ONLINE with credit card -
<https://nepasynod.org/learning-ministries-day/>



Are you or is some one you know graduating this year?

Please tell us about it! This includes all graduates from high school, college, or any higher education.

We would like to include information about all our graduates in the next newsletter.

Also, on Sunday June 7th we will be honoring all graduates as part of our worship service with a special Blessing. Please plan to attend.

Please have all information into the church office ASAP for inclusion in the Newsletter and Bulletin.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

What school are you graduating from

Future Plans _____



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 ~

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



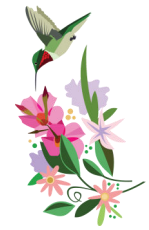
We will be collecting the following items for June:

Spaghetti Sauce

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

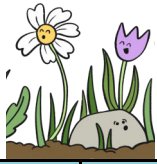
Thank You!

The next food distribution date is
Thursday
June 11, 2026



Serving Our Community of Faith in June:

Date	Congregational Rep/Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer
June 7	John Towey	Kay Berner	Barb Stepanchick Terry Neumeister Virgil Smith	Erik Tice AM Donna Wallace Deb Price	Nelson Berger	Timmy Beissel
June 14		Larry Wolfgang			John Wagner	—
June 21		Becky Spencer			Eli Pennypacker	—
June 28		Vivian Brown			Cole Johnson	—



JUNE

2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	 1:00 – 6:00 P.M. Red Cross Blood Drive		10:30 Seniors 12:00 Lunch with Pastor Brian 6:00 WELCA 7:00 Church Council		Synod Assembly	Synod Assembly
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion & Graduate Recognition			10:30 Seniors	10:00-11:30 Christ's Cupboard 		
14	15	16	17	18	19 Juneteenth	20
9:30 Worship Blessing of Quilts & Kits 		6:00 VBS Planning Meeting	10:30 Seniors			
21 Summer Begins	22	23	24	25	26	27
Father's Day 9:30 Worship 			8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors			6:00 Contemporary Service
28	29	30				
9:30 Worship						<i>The CULC Messenger</i> <i>God's Work, Our Actions</i> 