

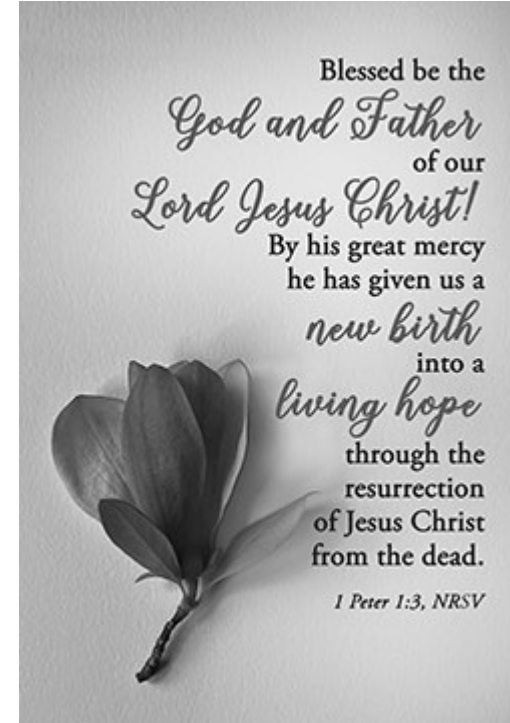
Christ's United Lutheran Church
 437 Airport Road
 Ashland, PA 17921
www.christsunited.org

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March



The CULC Messenger
God's Work,
Our Actions



Join us for Worship - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School - September 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

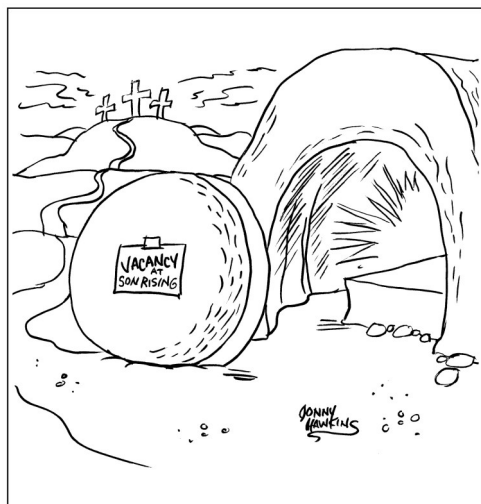
March 2024

CHURCH COUNCIL 2024

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

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Youth Representative - Vacant

DESIGNATED PASTOR

Rev. Melinda Heppe
570-205-7450

STAFF

Parish Administrator Debbie Hall 570-875-1591
office@christsunited.org 570-789-9722

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:00 am- 4:00 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 January 31

Total amount in checking account: \$146,658.73.

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

Income for January was \$16,948.79.

Expenses for January were \$11,454.27, resulting in a net income of \$5,494.52.

Benevolence for January was \$1,412.00.



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.



Christian symbol

BUTTERFLY — The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus' lifeless body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ's resurrection — and ours.



Message from Designated Pastor Mindy...

Since Mother Nature scrambled our plans for Ash Wednesday Worship, here's a reprise of what I would have told you there. Reboot Lent!

But first a few words about those post snow-storm days.

I came to church the morning after the snow stopped. I got in fine, but the phone didn't work (neither did my cell phone, for reasons unconnected to the storm). I flipped the light switch, and a different light dawned. So, I walked down to Allen Johnson's where I heard the thump of a generator and learned that PP&L was already out, reporting no return of power till Thursday.

I let it be known as I could (another story) that I would be here for worship on Wednesday, that we would improvise according to conditions and that whoever came, came.

Ash Wednesday at dusk found me in the parking lot. The keypad failed that day so I couldn't get the ashes.

As the time of worship approached, I turned on my driver's car lights and pointed them at the road. As cars approached, I'd hop out and wave. Maybe I was a little too far back. Some cars slowed and went past. A fair few pulled in and turned around (I prayed for all of them). A grand total of 2 cars and 4 people pulled up for a snippet of Scripture and a prayer. It was lovely, I hope it's a little different next year.

Now to the message.

I don't usually go for laughs on Ash Wednesday(!) But sometimes something offers such a real and unexpected perspective that laughter is really the only possible response. So, in the tide of clergy attempts to connect Valentine's Day to Ash Wednesday (they ranged from terrible to blasphemous) someone posted a meme:

Smarmy guy to pretty woman: "So what are you doing on Valentine's Day?"

Pretty woman: "Rubbing dirt onto people's faces and telling them they're going to die."

The church and the world are different places. The world does everything it can to evade the very idea of death. The church puts the awareness of death in, and literally, on our faces.

And it is a powerful thing. I remember my emotions as young pastor the first time I told the cute baby I'd baptized the week before, the dear elder saints whose funerals I was pretty sure I'd conduct before the year was out, my father - "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return." It still rocks me.

But we can say that -boldly with full awareness of what death is, because we know that death is more than just death. We know through the witness of Jesus Christ that although dust we are, we are beloved dust, ensouled and used by the creator to make even more vibrant and compelling declarations of God's love for us. Death after Jesus' resurrection is still death, but not the end.

And so Lent gives us the opportunity - the necessity! - of being brutally honest about what we are and what God is and the acting into new ways of showing God's love and goodness.

I tend to alternate these three Ash Wednesday blessings: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return," "Repent and believe the Gospel," and "You are beloved dust." Sit with each of them for a while.



Church Council Highlights From February

- The code on the front door key pad was changed on 2/12. Heads of committees will be given new the code.
- Fire alarm system needs to be upgraded or replaced. Since it could cost more than \$15,000 congregation's approval is needed. It will be addressed at congregational meeting.
- Fellowship hall furnace needs to be replaced. Approval is needed by congregation, it will also be addressed at congregational meeting.
- Volunteers are needed for our multimedia team.



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

437 Airport Road (Gordon)
Ashland, PA 17921

Monday, April 1, 2024
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!

CULC **YOUTH** **GROUP** **Activities**

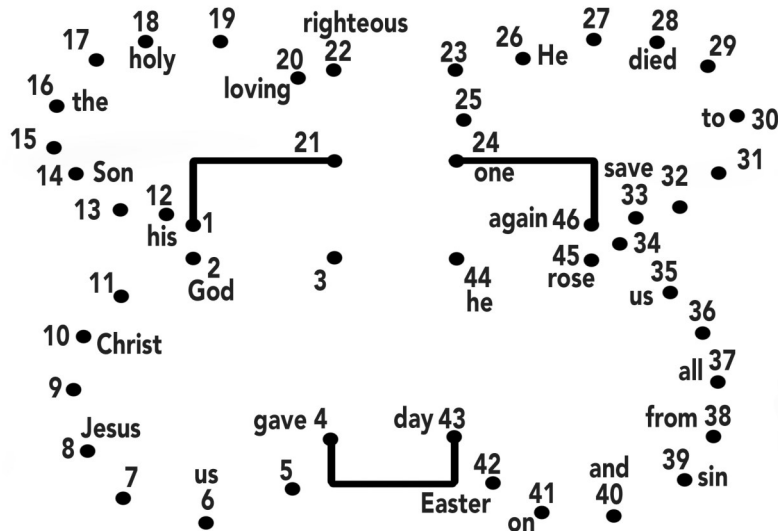
All kids who had First Com-
munion and their families are
welcome.

Watch the Newsletter for this
year's schedule of Youth Group
events.



Puzzle!

Connect the dots to find two symbols of Easter. Then write the words in the correct blanks to complete an Easter poem.



2	4	6	8	10	12	14
16	18	20	22	24		
26	28	30	33	35	37	38
40	41	42	43	44	45	46

Answer: God gave us Jesus Christ, his Son, the holy, loving, righteous one. He died to save us all from sin, and on Easter day he rose again.

Member's Message by Angie Berger



Lenten season is a time for Reflection. We are a few weeks into our Lenten season. As we once again revisit and entertain the idea of our 2024 resolutions. Allow me to suggest the 3Rs.

Renew

Repent

Respond

Renew - your mind, Dump out all your negative thoughts and renew your mind with fresh new goals and ideas for 2024. Repent - Ask God for forgiveness then (this is very difficult) forgive yourself and move onto greater paths along life's journey. Respond - Once your mind is clear, and you are completely focused on positive thoughts, You have asked the Lord and yourself for forgiveness. Respond - Put into motion all the positive ideas you have planned and be the Best version of yourself. Afterall, just be yourself because everyone is already taken.

By setting realistic goals instead of 24 changes in 24 why not, 2-4 changes. Maybe read 2 scriptures a day, or 4 verses. Ease into your new goal instead of trying 23 verses in 1 day and becoming discouraged. While you are thinking of the 3Rs "Renew" "Repent" "Respond" please remember that Prayer will enhance your experience. When do you have your God-Time? My GodTime is in the morning I read my devotional and Pray over the message for the day. Then I pray over our prayer list and for my own family, friends and neighbors. I only spend 10 minutes. In a house of 4 people with 2 teenagers and a furry kid, 10 minutes to myself is Golden. It helps me get my day started correctly on the right mindset.

I challenge each and everyone of you reading this today to read 2 verses of scripture daily and I guarantee your life will see positive changes. Try my 3Rs theory on for yourself, and make a goal to be the Best version of yourself in 2024 and beyond (please contact me if you accept the challenge, cant wait to hear the results).

Lenten season is a time for renewal, so why not start today. One of my favorite Bible verses is Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Another favorite is Luke 5:16 "But Jesus himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray". Even Jesus needed some time to pray and renew. God equipped all of us with a superpower, which is Prayer. Use your superpower as you "Renew", "Repent" and "Respond" this Lenten season and enjoy your new version of yourself for the rest of 2024 and beyond.

Your sister in Christ,
Angie

March 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 Berner Family - Dr. Kay

The Price Family - Bill, Deb & Lydia

The White Family - Ron, Nicole, Danielle & Dustin

2024 Sponsorships

The new sponsorship sign up sheets are now 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 Worship \$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.

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.





Women of Christ's United Lutheran Church Easter Candy

\$12.00 per pound
\$6.00 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
MARCH 21, 2024

An order sheet will be 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.**



February 28 – Terry Neumeister (C. Neumeister)

Lois Andrews (B. Andrews)
Glenda Schronick (D. Zaharick)
Bob Kinlin (D. Price)
Brian Fusold (D. Price)
Tammy Dengler (K. Dengler)

Family and Friends of Irene Morgan

February 21 - George Troutman (J. Towey)

Kayla Werner (K. Berner)
Erika Wesch (D. Wallace)

February 18 – Maryann Wishnefsky (C. Varndell)

February 11 – Erin Werner (K. Berner)

Family of Mark Bennyhoff

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

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

And Friends: Michele & Amber Adams, Michelle Ambrose, Robert Beecher, Donald Bulla, Joe Ferraro Jr., Harry Fishburn, Bob Griffiths, Dan Grow, Ann Helwig, Minah Horan, Tracy Maurer, Lisa Metzinger, Angie Romberger, Elizabeth Smith & family, Elaine Stone, Pastor Sunny, Joe Towey, Rose Varndell, Karyssa Wenrich



MARCH Birthdays

2	Lynn Mescia	18	Michael Miller
3	Katie Brown	19	Jane Pennypacker
	Allen Pennypacker		Grantham Sterling
5	Melanie Weikel	20	Hayden Marlow
6	Barbara Klauger	21	Wendy Harhigh
7	Jessie Harris		Mark Hepler
	Alisia Knorr		Rickey Knorr
	Donald Smith Jr.	23	Brian McAndrew
8	Mark Klinger		Jacob Wetzel
	Christopher Monaghan	24	David Pennypacker
9	Dennis Cunningham	26	Wyatt Hepler
10	Janet Quirk	27	Zachary Huber
12	Gregg Sterling	28	Robert Green
	Sierra Wagner		Amanda Houser
	Mackenzie Miller		Maynard Merwine
14	Bonnie Steinhart		Chase Demko
15	James Hepler	29	Nathan Berger
16	William Waldick		Tiffany Cramer
17	Kenneth Welker	30	Dennis Mallams



Don't forget to turn your clocks **ahead one hour** before going to bed on Saturday, March 9th.

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:

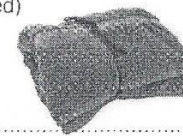
February 18

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



February 25

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



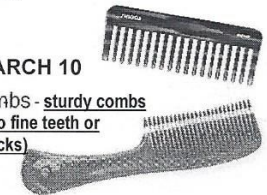
MARCH 3

Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)



MARCH 10

Combs - **sturdy combs** (no fine teeth or Picks)



MARCH 17

Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)



MARCH 24 (PALM SUNDAY)

Bars of Soap



For more information contact

Donna Wallace



The next meeting will be on April 3rd at 6:00 p.m. All women are invited to join us.



Women of ELCA Schuylkill Cluster Spring Event



April 13, 2024, 9:00—12:00
(Lunch following is optional)

Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church
518 East Main St.
Hegins, PA 17938

Program:

“Taking Action Against Food Insecurity Today”

Speaker:

Kay Jones

Commissioned Minister of Health, UCC, Orwigsburg

Bible Study:

Pastor Brian Beissel

St. Peter’s, Lutheran Church Minersville
Dean of Schuylkill Mission District

Sign up on bulletin board.

Cost covered by CULC WELCA



03/21/81
03/21/74
03/22/96

Rickey & Brenda Knorr
Larry & Jean Wolfgang
Leo & Heather Young

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Lent is a season when we take a look at our lives in view of God’s mercy toward us in the sacrifice of his Son for us on the cross. We, in turn, are called by God, especially during this time of repentance and reflection, to be living sacrifices for him, displaying our devotion to him in word and deed. Jesus helps us to see the richness of God’s mercy in his life, death and resurrection. Join us each Wednesday in Lent for our worship services using Holden Evening Prayer and as we explore the Lenten series "In View of God's Mercy" by theology professor David Peter. We will focus our eyes of faith on the meaning behind God’s mercy made manifest in Christ.

Pastor Mindy’s Media Moment

Books - Take and Read by Eugene Price. Not a recent book, but in this case, that doesn't much matter. It's a collection of extremely short reviews of particularly good spiritual books. Categories include Poets, Worship and Liturgy, Sin and the Devil, Place, and Jesus, among others. I'll leave it on my desk 'til Easter. If you're looking for a good read, you'll find one here. Let me know about it.

Music - Jesus Christ Superstar. Ok, I'm showing my age, but I cannot do Good Friday without this. I first heard the London Stage recording in the home of conservative Irish Catholic friends of my parents who got it immediately. I was dumbfounded. I still am. Find a place alone and listen straight through.

Pressed

Gethsemane, the name of the place where Jesus prayed before his betrayal, is an Aramaic word for “olive press.” During Bible times, olives were pressed three times to remove all the valuable oil. Before being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus felt the full pressing weight of our sins on his shoulders. Surrounded by olive trees, praying fervently while sweating drops of blood, the perfect Son of God asked his heavenly Father three times to remove the cup of suffering.

Instead of removing that trial, God used it to redeem and save humankind. Likewise, God uses our hardships to refine and strengthen our faith.

In *The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi*, TV host Kathie Lee Gifford and Messianic Rabbi Jason Sobel speculate that if Peter, along with James and John, hadn't fallen asleep in Gethsemane, he may have had the strength to not deny Jesus later that night.

“All of us must be vigilant to watch and pray so that we don't succumb to the temptation to deny the Lord when we go through the olive presses of life and feel like we are being crushed by our situation and circumstances,” the authors write. “We must remember that it is the crushing that brings out the true inner value and worth of the olive.”



Serving Our Community of Faith in March:

Date	Pastor/ Worship Leader	Congrega- tional Rep/	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Acolyte
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Maybe some of you wonder why the Lenten Services bulletins have been sponsored by Nancy Lindenmuth & Family since 1987. Well, our sister Bertha Fetterolf Ernest passed away 38 years ago in August 1986. Nancy thought about how Bertha sat with her to worship, and realized nobody sponsored the bulletins at Lent. So since 1987, Nancy & Family, and a few years ago, Carl & Pearl Lute joined her to honor some loved ones at this time: Sister, Bertha F. Ernest, Walter Lindenmuth, Pearl's daughter-in-law Mary Beth Lute, and our sister –in-law Jane Fetterolf. They are thought about and missed every day. We thank God we had them to love and know they are in his heavenly care. Nancy & I are grateful to be able to keep their memory alive and can thank God every Lent especially .

Pearl & Nancy

Our annual Easter Egg hunt will be held on Saturday March 30th at 11 AM. 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. The hunt will be held regardless of weather (hopefully no snow). Please register your child/children ages 0-11 by Friday March 22nd. Please include age and sex of each child when registering. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board at the church or register by calling the church at 570-875-1591.



We will be doing plastic Easter eggs again this year. We would appreciate any donations of small individually wrapped candy or toys for in the eggs (no hard candies please). Items can be left at the church and will be needed by March 22nd. Any monetary donations to help defray the cost of the egg hunt would be greatly appreciated.

Please join us on March 30th for the fun. We are always grateful for any help you can provide.

Thank You,
Barb Stepanchick and the
Easter Egg Hunt Team

The CULC Messenger
God's Work, Our Actions



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.

~ 2024 ~

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



We will be collecting the following items for March:

Cereal & Oatmeal

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday
March 14, 2024




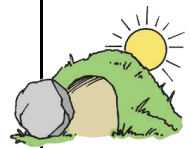


Lenten Soup Suppers

The Social Ministry Team is hosting "Soup Suppers" during the Lenten season. Our first "Soup Supper" is Wednesday, February 21. 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.

March 3	Pastor Mindy Heppe	Jacob Tice	John Towey	Terry Neumeister b Allen Johnson c/d Ken Dengler so	Kay Berner Donna Lassen Donna Wallace	Joey McAndrew	Bianca McAndrew
March 6 Mid-Week	Erik Tice	Donna Wallace	Donna Wallace				
March 10	Pastor Ben Scott	Barb Anczarski	Barb Anczarski			Nelson Berger	—
March 13 Mid-Week	Erik Tice	Cheryl Vardell	Cheryl Vardell				
March 17	Pastor Mindy Heppe	Angie Berger	Angie Berger			Logan Walacavage	—
March 20 Mid-Week	Erik Tice	Donna Wallace	Donna Wallace				
March 24 Palm Sunday	Pastor Mindy Heppe	Vivian Brown	Vivian Brown		Vivian Brown Barb Stepanchick Ken Dengler	Ava Hubler	Maura Sweitzer
March 28 Maundy Thursday	Pastor Mindy Heppe	Deb Hubler	Deb Hubler		Erik Tice Barb Anczarski Angie Berger	Jacob Tice	Daniel Cunningham
March 29 Good Fri	Pastor Mindy Heppe	Becky Spencer	Becky Spencer				
March 31 Easter 6:30 a.m.	Erik Tice	Jacob Tice	Jacob Tice	Becky Spencer b Allen Johnson c/d Virgil Smith so	John Towey Deb Price Becky Spencer	Cole Johnson	Sawyer Smith
March 31 Easter 9:30 a.m.	Pastor Mindy Heppe	Sally Tice	Sally Tice	John Wolfgang b Allen Johnson c/d Dennis Wolfe so	Kay Berner Beth Andrews Dennis Wolfe	Kayla Werner	Kaitlyn Werner

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 Fellowship Hour 10:45 Sunday School	7:00 Church Council		10:30 Seniors 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Mid-Week Lenten Worship	6:30 Choir Practice		
10 Daylight Savings Begins	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30 Worship			10:30 Seniors 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Mid-Week Lenten Worship	10 - 11:30 Christ's Cupboard 6:30 Choir Practice		
17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 			10:30 Seniors 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Mid-Week Lenten Worship	6:30 Choir Practice		
24 Palm Sunday	25	26	27	28 Maundy Thursday	29 Good Friday	30
9:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion			8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors	7:00 Maundy Thursday Worship w/Holy Communion	12 noon - 7p.m. Prayer Vigil 7:00 Good Friday Worship	11:00 Easter Egg Hunt
31 Easter Sunday						
6:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:00 Easter Breakfast 9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 						<i>The CULC Messenger</i> <i>God's Work, Our Actions</i> 