

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

MARCH

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 Pottsville, PA
 PERMIT NO. 25



The CULC Messenger
God's Work,
Our Actions



"Even now," declares the LORD,
 "return to me with all your heart."
Joel 2:12, NIV

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

March 2025

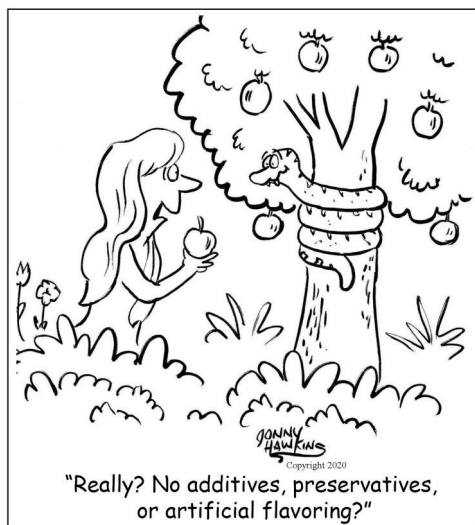
CHURCH COUNCIL 2025

	Phone	Term Expires
Kay Berner	570-875-1035	Feb. 2026
Jamie Johnson	570-590-1678	Feb. 2028
Suzanne Peel	570-875-2218	Feb. 2026
Virgil Smith	570-205-6979	Feb. 2028
Barbara Stepanchick	570-875-1114	Feb. 2027
Morgen Sweitzer	717-858-9824	Feb. 2026
Janet Towey	570-205-3420	Feb. 2027
John Towey	570-205-2682	Feb. 2027
Mark Varndell	570-205-8002	Feb. 2028

In This Issue:

The March CULC Messenger is sponsored in Memory of Henry & Hilda Scheuren by Donald & Laray Klinger

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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

Status of Accounts as of January 31

Total amount in checking account: \$123,522.36.

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

Income for January was \$17,754.28.

Expenses for January were \$19,243.17, resulting in a net loss of \$1,488.89.

Benevolence for January was \$1,059.49.



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.

Message from Pastor Brian



Grace and Peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ,

I grew up resenting Ash Wednesday. That's a strange way to begin this letter, isn't it?

But please understand- I grew up under the watchful eye of a grandmother who grew up in the E.C. Church in Locust Dale. She herself grew up under the watchful eye of a mother who taught her to beware of anything "too Catholic." So my Mom-Mom (yep, that's what I called her) taught me the same. For years we would go to Ash Wednesday services at Zion Lutheran in Frackville and just not go up for ashes.

As I went to Seminary, I started to learn about the practice. From my grandmother's perspective, it was awful because people would wear crosses on their foreheads all day and then get to "parade around" their Christianity. It was like boasting, "look what a good Christian I am."

Perhaps some people do take it that way. But in fact, this is not what the ashes on our foreheads are supposed to mean.

When we receive the ashes, it is an invitation to look at ways in which we need Jesus. We need Jesus for salvation. We need Jesus to give us a guide on how to live our lives. Without Jesus' example, we don't learn to love our neighbor as ourselves. We don't learn to turn the other cheek. We don't learn to love our enemies.

Of course, even with Jesus telling us to do those things, we often don't anyway. Which is why we even further need that example and need to look for inspiration.



— continued on page 4

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



Christian symbol

ANKH, OR ANSATE CROSS — Originating in Egyptian hieroglyphics, this symbol represented life and regeneration. The shape and meaning made perfect sense to ancient Christians, who appropriated it as a sign of eternal life.



The ashen cross we receive on our foreheads reminds us that we are in this life tied to sin and brokenness and cannot free ourselves. It is a sign not of our greatness, but of our limitedness. It reminds us that it took Jesus' death to reconcile us to God, not because of any work that we have done, but because God loves us so much that he would give Jesus' life up for us.

So live freed by this, but also live aware that God is God, and we are not. We are sinners in need of constant forgiveness and grace. Therefore, we work to give that grace and forgiveness to others.

See you along the way this Lenten Season!

-Pastor Brian Beissel



Schedule for March:

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

March 5: No Lunch (Ash Wednesday)
March 12: Mr. Coney, Mt. Carmel
March 19: Danny's, Ashland
March 26: Cracker Barrel, Frackville

EVENING BIBLE STUDY

As we are having our Midweek Lenten Services, we will not have our Bible Study at Green's. We will resume in April. On April 23 we will engage in a Bible Study around the person of Judas.



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

437 Airport Road (Gordon)
Ashland, PA 17921

Monday, April 7, 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!

CULC SENIOR YOUTH GROUP



Senior Youth Group
(Grades 7 - 12)

Senior Youth Group
Activities are resuming.
Anyone in grades 7 thru 12 is
welcome to participate.
Watch for upcoming events
and join.

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Resting in Jesus



An old hymn declares:

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto me and rest.
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn and sad.
I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad. (Horatius Bonar, 1846)

Many people these days feel exhausted by division, the news, hatred that seems louder than love. More than ever, we who are “weary, worn, and sad” need to hear Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest.”

Jesus wants to be our resting place — but not so we can hide forever from reality. Instead, he offers a place of refreshment where we can relax long enough to remember that not everything is bad; there is gospel to share. Not everything is hatred; God’s love is stronger.

Resting in Jesus, we focus on God’s goodness. We are reminded of love shown by kind people to those in trouble, bold voices speaking for justice, warm friendships that brighten our days. Gladdened by rest, we rise again. Jesus walks with us, as always. We can lean on him every step of the way.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



Don’t forget to turn your clocks
ahead one hour
before going to bed
on Saturday, March 8th.



Church Council Highlights From February

- Lutheran Church Men met to set their calendar for 2025. Robert Carl and Ken Dengler were recognized for the work they did on the new electronic sign. A blessing of the sign will take place in the spring.
- Social Ministry met and planned the Easter Egg Hunt. Some future plans include a shoe collection and a benefit concert for Diakon.
- The Lunch Bunch is on hold for winter.
- Due to Ash Wednesday, the next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m.



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 March 5th.

March Council Contact of the month is Barbara 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 Brown Family - Timothy & Barbara

The Shadle Family - Forrest

The Young Family - Jo-Ann & Karen Weikel-Presto

The Lenten desert



During the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year), Christians figuratively follow Jesus into the desert. Just as our Savior spent 40 days fasting and facing temptation, we focus on self-reflection and contrition.

In an 1873 hymn, Claudia Hernaman wrote, “O Lord, throughout these forty days, you prayed and kept the fast. Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.”

The desert experience of Lent serves a clear purpose, filling us up rather than depleting us. “This is what Lent is meant to be,” writes theologian Ron Rolheiser.

“Time in the desert to courageously face the chaos and the demons within us and to let God do battle with them through us. The result is that we are purified, made ready, so the intoxicating joy of Easter might then bind us more closely to God and each other.”



“Souper bowl” of caring results:

We had food items and \$166 donated.
Eagles - \$120 \ Chiefs - \$46



Puzzle!



Fill in the blanks with the tiny creatures mentioned in each verse (all NIV). Then search for those words in the puzzle below.

- Proverbs 6:6 _____
- Psalm 78:45 _____
- Matthew 23:24 _____
- Judges 14:8b _____
- Acts 12:23 _____
- Leviticus 11:22 _____
- Leviticus 11:22 _____
- Deuteronomy 7:20 _____
- Exodus 16:20 _____
- 1 Samuel 24:14 _____
- Isaiah 50:9 _____
- Isaiah 59:5 _____
- Leviticus 11:22 _____
- Leviticus 11:22 _____



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



Answers: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket

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

- February 23** - Bill Begis
Lincoln Boigt (D. Price)
Robert Lubinsky (K. Berner)
Frank Paul
Families of Rev. William Zimmerman & Paul Noll (P. Dziczek)
- February 16** - Jim Houser Sr. (A. Berger)
Karen Tocca (D. Price)
Leroy Berner (D. Berner)
Joe Minnie (T. Neumeister)
Cheryl Varndell (M. Varndell)
Jimmy Houston (T. Wolfe)
- February 9** - Blanche Rowe
Gary Hinkle
Casualties, Families & Responders of plane crashes
Families of Dave Fetterolf & Tony Catizone
- February 2** - Eva Price (D. Price)
Jim Fetterolf (M. Sweitzer)
Jed Webb (V. Brown)
Richard Shoup (D. Wallace)
Bob Kinlin (D. Price)
Rick "Fish" Herring (E. Tice)
Families of Terry Geist, Lou Fetterolf & Karen Schreffler

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, 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, 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



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
12	Gregg Sterling	27	Zachary Huber
	Sierra Wagner	28	Robert Green
	Mackenzie Miller		Amanda Houser
14	Bonnie Steinhart		Maynard Merwine
15	James Hepler		Chase Demko
16	William Waldick	29	Nathan Berger
17	Kenneth Welker		Tiffany Cramer
		30	Dennis Mallams



MARCH

anniversaries

03/21/74	Larry & Jean Wolfgang
03/21/81	Rickey & Brenda Knorr
03/22/96	Leo & Heather Young

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:

MARCH 9

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



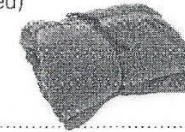
MARCH 30

Combs - sturdy combs
(no fine teeth or Picks)



MARCH 16

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



April 6

Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)



April 13 (PALM SUNDAY)

Bars of Soap



MARCH 23

Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)



For more information contact

Donna Wallace



All women of CULC are welcome to attend the next meeting of Women of the ELCA on Wednesday, May 7 at 6:00 PM

Women of ELCA Justice Event

2025 NEPA WELCA JUSTICE EVENT

Christ's United Lutheran Church
437 Airport Road,
Ashland, PA 17921

10:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
(9:30 Registration & light breakfast)

SIGN UP ON BULLETIN BOARD BY MARCH 10.
PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

Psalm 82:3-4 Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.



We are very happy to welcome Joan Beecroft, Bill Griffiths and Dan Niu into membership at Christ's United. We are blessed by your presence, and rejoice in sharing ministry with you – Welcome!



Tell your story

In his *Confessio*, St. Patrick shares his fascinating biography, placing Jesus at the center. Believers should follow suit, especially in a culture that is “ignoring and forgetting the Christian story,” states Father Billy Swan. At WordOnFire.org, the Irish Catholic priest writes:

“Our calling is to retell the greatest story ever told and to help people find their place within the drama in which God has created them to participate. Like St. Patrick, we retell that story not as detached bystanders but as witnesses whose lives have been changed by being drawn deeper into the dynamics of the great love story of God and his people.”

Patty Breen, a lay minister in Michigan, also finds inspiration from the fifth-century saint. “The journey and life story of St. Patrick invite us to wrestle with and consider these questions,” she writes. “Who is God for me? How do I contribute to the coming of the kingdom of God? What is God’s plan for my life? Where am I invited to serve?”

Writing down our own *Confessio*, or faith story, is “a way to remember and see God’s presence with you at each step of your life,” adds Breen, “even at times when you weren’t necessarily following God.”



WELCA will begin making Easter candy on March 10th. Watch the bulletin for further dates. Help is welcome!





During Lent all are invited as in faith we gather each Wednesday night for a Soup Supper and Worship. The Social Ministry Team introduces the meal at 6:00 by sharing information on ministries around the world, telling us how our actions are affecting the lives of others (for good!). We then gather as light breaks the darkness in Holden Evening Prayer at 7 pm. This is a special time of faith, the gathering together deepening our understanding of God's actions of love in Jesus Christ.



Bible Quiz

Complete this sentence which introduces a well-known Bible story: "The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of ____."

- A. flowers
- B. sheep
- C. rocks
- D. bones



Answer: D (See Ezekiel 37:1, NIV.)



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.

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.



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



We will be collecting the following items for March:

Canned Vegetables

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday **March 13, 2025**



Lenten Soup Suppers

The Social Ministry Team is hosting "Soup Suppers" during the Lenten season.

Our first "Soup Supper" is Wednesday, March 12. 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.



Serving Our Community of Faith in March:







Date	Congregational Rep/Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer
March 2 Transfiguration Sunday	John Towey	Donna Wallace	Darlene Stank b Allen Johnson c/d Ted Ambrose so	John Towey AM Ken Dengler Barb Stepanchick	Maura Sweitzer	John Wagner
March 5 Ash Wednesday	—	John Towey		Kay Bernera AM Becky Spencer Donna Wallace	Marisa Seritsky	Volunteer Needed
March 9 Lent 1	Angie Berger	Beth Andrews			Nelson Berger	—
March 12 Mid-Week	—	Mark Verndell				—
March 16 Lent 2		Barb Stepanchick			Cole Johnson	—
March 19 Mid-Week	—	Sally Tice				—
March 23 Lent 3		Jacob Tice			Ave Hubler	—
March 26 Mid-Week	—	Erik Tice				—
March 30 Lent 4		Larry Wolfgang			Eli Pennypacker	—



March 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 6:00 Contemporary Worship Service
2 Transfiguration 9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 Social Hour 10:45 Sunday School, Conf. & Learning Series 1-4 Social Hall Reserved 5:00 LCM/Property	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday 10:30 Seniors  7:00 Worship W/ Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes	6 6:30 Choir Practice	7	8 
9 9:30 Worship 10:30 Egg Hunt Meeting 10:45 Learning Series	10 9:00 WELCA candy making begins	11	12 10:30 Seniors 12:00 Lunch With Pastor 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Worship	13  10 - 11:30 Christ's Cupboard 5:30 Worship & Music Mtg. 6:30 Choir Practice	14	15
16 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Learning Series	17 St. Patrick's Day Newsletter Deadline 	18 7:00 Church Council	19 10:30 Seniors 12:00 Lunch With Pastor 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Worship	20 Spring Begins 6:30 Choir Practice	21	22 10:30 First Communion Class
23 9:30 Worship	24	25	26 8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors 12:00 Lunch With Pastor 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Worship	27 6:30 Choir Practice	28	29 10:00 WELCA Justice Event at Christ's United
30 Good Samaritan Fund Offering 9:30 Worship 10:45 Learning Series 6:00 Youth Group	31					