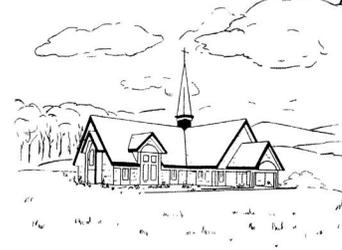


Christ's United Lutheran Church  
 437 Airport Road  
 Ashland, PA 17921  
[www.christsunited.org](http://www.christsunited.org)

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 Pottsville, PA  
 PERMIT NO. 25



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



Return to  
 the LORD  
 you GOD  
 for He is  
 gracious  
 and merciful.

*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

March 2026

## CHURCH COUNCIL 2026

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

### In This Issue:

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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 January 31

Total amount in checking account: \$78,120.16.

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

Income for January was \$8,016.19.

Expenses for January were \$28,239.86,  
resulting in a net loss of \$20,223.67.

Benevolence for January was \$1,125.71.



2

Please note that \$9,695.59 of the expenses  
was the removal of Christ's Cupboard from the  
general fund and two services were cancelled due to snow.



Like us on  
**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.*



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year as we enter the season of

Lent, someone will gently (and sometimes honestly!) ask:

“Why do Lutherans worship on Wednesdays during Lent?”

It's a good question.

Sunday is the “little Easter” we celebrate every week. Every Sunday we proclaim Christ risen. But Lent invites us to slow down and take the long road to the cross. Midweek worship helps us do exactly that.

Lent is a season of reflection, repentance, and renewal. It gives us space to examine our hearts, confess our sins, and remember our deep need for Christ's mercy. Gathering on Wednesdays interrupts the rhythm of our week in a holy way. In the middle of work, school, errands, and obligations, we pause. We pray. We listen. We refocus.

Midweek worship is not about adding something burdensome to your calendar. It is about making room for what matters most.

This year at Christ's United Lutheran Church, our Lenten theme is “**Conversations with Jesus.**”

Throughout these Wednesday services, we will listen in on some of the powerful and personal encounters people had with Christ:

- Nicodemus, who came with questions in the night.
- The Samaritan woman, who discovered living water.
- The man born blind, who received sight.
- Martha and Mary, who wrestled with grief and hope.
- And others whose lives were forever changed by a conversation with the Savior.

In each of these moments, Jesus meets people exactly where they are. He speaks truth. He offers grace. He transforms hearts.

And He still does.

## Christian symbol



22

**ROOSTER** — The rooster reminds us of Peter's threefold denial of Jesus on the night of his trial (Matthew 26:34, NIV). Because of this, it often symbolizes human weakness and faithlessness—especially when faith is tested. Yet, the rooster also calls to mind watchfulness. Its early-morning crowing echoes Jesus' words about being alert for his return: “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn” (Mark 13:35, NIV).

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



— continued on page 4

As we gather each Wednesday, we are invited not only to hear these conversations—but to enter into one of our own. What would you say to Jesus? What might He be saying to you this Lent?

I encourage you to make midweek worship part of your Lenten journey. Come as you are—tired, busy, hopeful, burdened. Come ready to listen. Come ready to be renewed.

Lent is not about perfection. It is about returning—returning to the Lord who first came to us.

I look forward to walking this season with you and gathering around Word and prayer as we journey toward the cross—and ultimately toward the joy of Easter morning.

In Christ's peace,

*Pastor Brian Beissel*



## Schedule for March:

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 March is as follows:

March 4: Huddle House, Lavelle



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

437 Airport Road (Gordon)  
Ashland, PA 17921

**Monday, April 6, 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](http://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](http://www.christsunited.org) or scan the QR code to learn how you can participate.



# Puzzle!

## HOW'S THE WEATHER?

Use the code below to fill in these forecasts in places where Jesus traveled:

### CODE:

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| A=☺ | D=☁ | H=❄ | M=☆ | P=◆ | T=■ | W=☒ |
| B=● | E=+ | I=* | N=↑ | R=● | U=□ | Y=⌊ |
| C=☼ | G=☼ | L=★ | O=↓ | S=○ | V=☒ | Z=⌊ |

Mt. Hermon ○ ↑ ↓ ☒

Jericho ❄ ↓ ■

Jerusalem ☆ \* ★ ❄

Dead Sea Area ■ ● ↓ ◆ \* ☼ ☺ ★ ❄ ⌊ ☺ ■

Sea of Galilee ❄ □ ○ ■ ⌊ ☒ \* ↑ ❄ ○

Mediterranean Coast ● ● \* \* ⌊ ⌊



Answers: snow, hot, mild, tropical heat, gusty winds, breezy



## Church Council Highlights From February

- WELCA will begin making Easter candy on February 9.
- NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Results for Church Council nominations: 2 confirmed yes; 1 maybe; 2 for last resort.
- Pastor Brian will begin leading worship at Zion Lutheran Church, Minersville. The president of their council and president of our council will meet and draw up a "Purchase of Services" contract, which can be cancelled by either council or Pastor Brian in the event it is not working.



**A First Holy Communion class** is scheduled for March 14 from 9:00 -12:00 noon. Anyone in First Grade or older who hasn't had First Holy Communion instruction is welcome and encouraged to attend. Please see Pastor Brian or call the church office to let us know who will be participating.



## March Council Contact of the month is Mark Varndell.

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 Mark, he can be reached at 570-205-8002.



## 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 Archer Family - Lisa
- The Dean Family - Doug, Katlyn & Parker
- The Smith Family - Joseph, Siena & Sawyer



# A SEASON OF HOPE

## March 1 - March 22

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 1

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



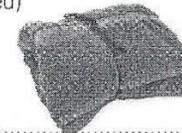
#### MARCH 22

Combs - sturdy combs  
(no fine teeth or  
Picks)



#### MARCH 8

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



Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)



#### MARCH 15

Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)



For more information contact

Donna Wallace





# Women of Christ's United Lutheran Church Easter Candy

**\$13.00 per pound**  
**\$6.50 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 15, 2026**

An order sheet is 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 22** - Deb Zaharick  
Diane Mervine (C. Brennan)  
Fay Snyder Cashwell (P. Hepler)  
Steve Wagner (K. D.)  
Mary Lou Johnston (J. Towey)

**February 15** –Tom Laudig (T. Ambrose)  
Bonnie Dillman  
Dale Reiner (D. Wallace)  
Fawn Eisenhart (J. Eisenhart)  
Patricia Yeager (J. Eisenhart)  
*Family of Scott Smith*

**February 15** – Helen Wolfgang (E. Tice)  
Bob James (V. Brown)  
Olivia Wagner (T. Shilling)  
Paul Brown (V. Brown)  
John Masser (E. Tice)  
Darrell Kehler (V. Brown)  
Bev Wolfgang (C. Carl)

**February 8** – Donald Boyer (E. Tice)  
Gina Adams  
*Families of Mike Yoder,  
Rev. David & Dolores Kistler*

**Please continue to pray for:** Jim Gruber, 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, Jim Hepler, Nancy Kessler, Gail Marquardt, Anna Neumeister, Richard Shoup, Karen Smith, Linda Zerby

**And Friends:** Michele Adams, Michelle Ambrose, Robert Beecher, Donald Bulla, Christana 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, Sarah Shanks (T. Wolfe), Trevor Shilling (A.M. Dillman), Elizabeth Smith & family, Linda Szuler (T. Wolfe), Joe Towey, John Towey Jr. Rose Varndell





|    |    |                   |
|----|----|-------------------|
|    | 16 | William Waldick   |
|    | 17 | Kenneth Welker    |
|    | 18 | Michael Miller    |
|    | 19 | Jane Pennypacker  |
|    | 20 | Grantham Sterling |
|    | 21 | Hayden Marlow     |
|    |    | Wendy Harhigh     |
| 2  |    | Mark Hepler       |
|    |    | Rickey Knorr      |
| 3  | 23 | Brian McAndrew    |
|    |    | Jacob Wetzel      |
|    | 24 | David Pennypacker |
| 5  | 26 | Wyatt Hepler      |
| 6  | 27 | Zachary Huber     |
| 7  | 28 | Robert Green      |
|    |    | Amanda Houser     |
|    |    | Maynard Merwine   |
| 8  |    | Chase Demko       |
|    | 29 | Nathan Berger     |
|    |    | Tiffany Cramer    |
| 9  | 30 | Dennis Mallams    |
| 12 |    | Dennis Cunningham |
|    |    | Gregg Sterling    |
|    |    | Sierra Wagner     |
|    |    | Mackenzie Miller  |
| 14 |    | Bonnie Steinhart  |
| 15 |    | James Hepler      |



|  |          |                       |
|--|----------|-----------------------|
|  | 03/02/74 | Larry & Jean Wolfgang |
|  | 03/21/81 | Rickey & Brenda Knorr |
|  | 03/22/96 | Leo & Heather Young   |



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

WELCA has begin making Easter candy. See page 18 for information.



### 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. before 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.



## Easter Egg Hunt

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup> at 11am. It is for ages 0-11. Please sign up by calling the church office at 570-875-1591 or by signing up at the bulletin board in the Narthex by Friday March 27<sup>th</sup> to ensure we have enough treats for all the children.



You can take your own pictures of your child with the Easter Bunny prior to the start of our Easter program. Please arrive early for pictures and registration. There will be a short program starting at 11am prior to the hunt.

We are asking for donations of individually wrapped small candies (no hard candy please) to fill the plastic Easter eggs and for the gift bags. Donated candy can be placed in the library and marked Easter Egg Hunt. A donation basket will be placed in the Narthex for any monetary donations to help defray the cost of the egg hunt. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

Volunteers are always needed to help on the day of the Egg Hunt. Please see a team member of the Egg Hunt if you are interested in helping out.

Thank you,

Barbara Stepanchick and the Easter Egg Hunt Team



## Daylight Saving Time Begins

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. As we “spring forward,” let’s also renew our hearts in faith and gratitude for God’s steadfast light that never fades.

## 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
- Palms for Palm Sunday \$15.00

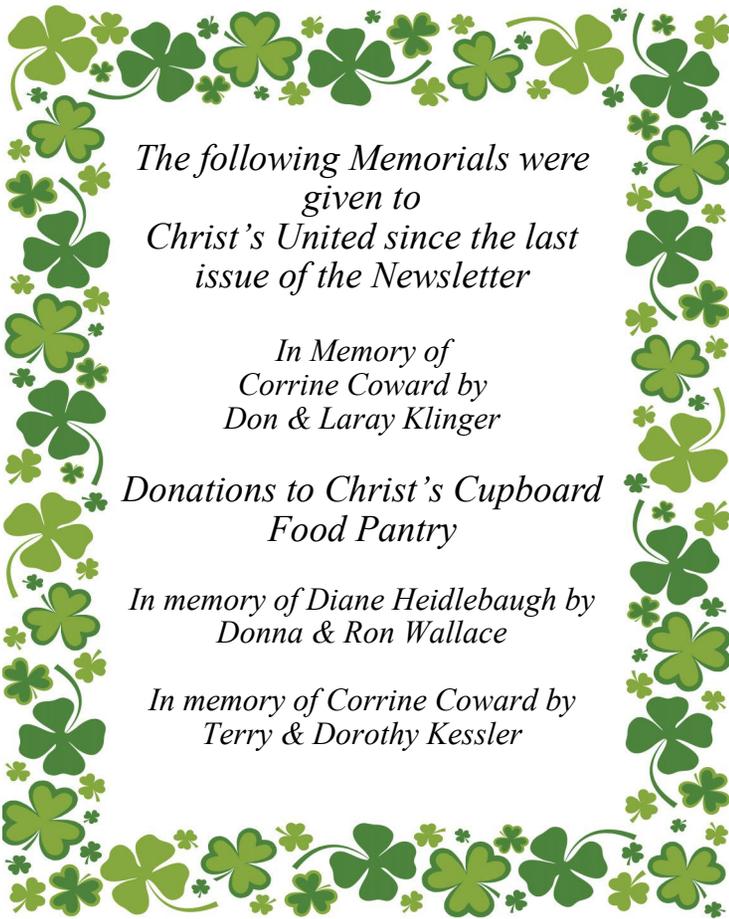


## \*For Altar Flowers:

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.





*The following Memorials were given to Christ's United since the last issue of the Newsletter*

*In Memory of Corrine Coward by Don & Laray Klinger*

*Donations to Christ's Cupboard Food Pantry*

*In memory of Diane Heidlebaugh by Donna & Ron Wallace*

*In memory of Corrine Coward by Terry & Dorothy Kessler*



**Serving Our Community of Faith in March:**



In Bible times, shepherds spent most of their days with their sheep—guiding them to food and water and guarding them from danger. When a sheep was injured, the shepherd treated the wound with a special liquid. What was it?

- A. Water
- B. Honey
- C. A salt solution
- D. Olive oil

Answer: D (See Psalm 23:5)



## 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.

Please place donations  
in the collection container  
In the Narthex.



*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.

- ~ 2026 ~
- 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 March:

## Boxed Potatoes

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday  
**March 12, 2026**

| Date                 | Congregational Rep/Announcements | Lector           | Ushers   | Communion Assistants                            | Acolyte        | Crucifer      |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|--|---|----------------|---------------|
| March 1              | Angie Berger                     | Angie Berger     | Carla Mae Carl b<br>Robert Carl c/d<br>Dennis Wolfe so | Kay Berner AM<br>Angie Berger<br>Barb Anczarski | Karolyne Towey | Kimber Towey  |
| March 4 Mid-Week     |                                  | Mark Vardell     |  |   |                |               |
| March 8              | John Towey                       | Jacob Tice       |  |   | Maura Swetzer  |               |
| March 11 Mid-Week    |                                  | Sally Tice       |  |   |                |               |
| March 15             | Ken Dengler                      | Erik Tice        |  |   | John Wagner    |               |
| March 18 Mid-Week    |                                  | Barb Stepanchick |  |   |                |               |
| March 22             |                                  | Kay Berner       |  |   | Cole Johnson   | Timmy Beissel |
| March 25 Mid-Week    |                                  | Larry Wolfgang   |  |   |                |               |
| March 25 Palm Sunday |                                  | Becky Spencer    |  | TBA AM<br>Ken Dengler<br>Becky Spencer          | Karolyne Towey | Kimber Towey  |



# MARCH 2026

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday              | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday   |
|--|---|----------------------|---|---|--|--|
| 1  | 2   | 3                    | 4   | 5   | 6 World Day of Prayer  | 7  |
| 9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion<br>10:30 Social Hour<br>10:30 Choir Practice<br>10:45 Sunday School, Learning Series   | 10:00 Bible Study<br><br>7:00 Church Council  |                      | 10:30 Seniors<br>12:00 Lunch With Pastor Brian<br><br>7:00 Mid-Week Lenten Worship            |   |  | 6:00 Contemporary Service<br><br> |
| 8  | 9   | 10                   | 11  | 12  | 13   | 14   |
| 9:30 Worship<br>10:30 Choir Practice<br>10:45 Learning Series<br><br>5:00 LCM / Property<br>6:00 Confirmation Class, | 6:00 Social Ministry<br>6:30 Financial Leadership Academy                           |                      | 10:30 Seniors<br><br>6:00 Soup Supper<br>7:00 Mid-Week Lenten Worship                         | 10 - 11:30 Christ's Cupboard<br><br> |  | 9:00-12:00 First Holy Communion Class  |
| 15   | 16  | 17 St. Patrick's Day | 18  | 19  | 20 First day of spring   | 21   |
| 9:30 Worship<br>10:30 Choir Practice<br>10:45 Sunday School, Learning Series   | 10:00 Bible Study   |                      | 10:30 Seniors<br><br>7:00 Mid-Week Lenten Worship   |   |  |  |
| 22   | 23  | 24                   | 25  | 26  | 27   | 28   |
| 9:30 Worship<br>10:30 Choir Practice<br>10:45 Learning Series<br><br>6:00 Confirmation Class                         |   |                      | 8:30 Newsletter Assembly<br>10:30 Seniors<br>6:00 Soup Supper<br>7:00 Mid-Week Lenten Worship |   |  |  |
| 29 Palm Sunday   | 30  | 31                   | April 1   | April 2   | April 3  | April 4  |
| 9:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion, Good Samaritan Offering<br>10:30 Choir Practice<br>10:45 Learning Series             |  |                      |   | Maundy Thursday<br><br>7:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion   | Good Friday<br><br>7:00 Worship  | 11:00 Easter Egg Hunt  |