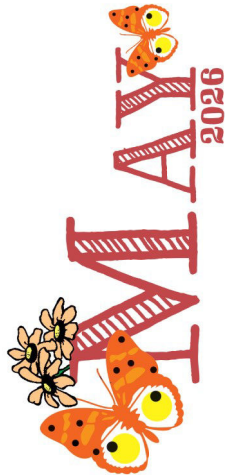


Christ's United Lutheran Church
 437 Airport Road
 Ashland, PA 17921
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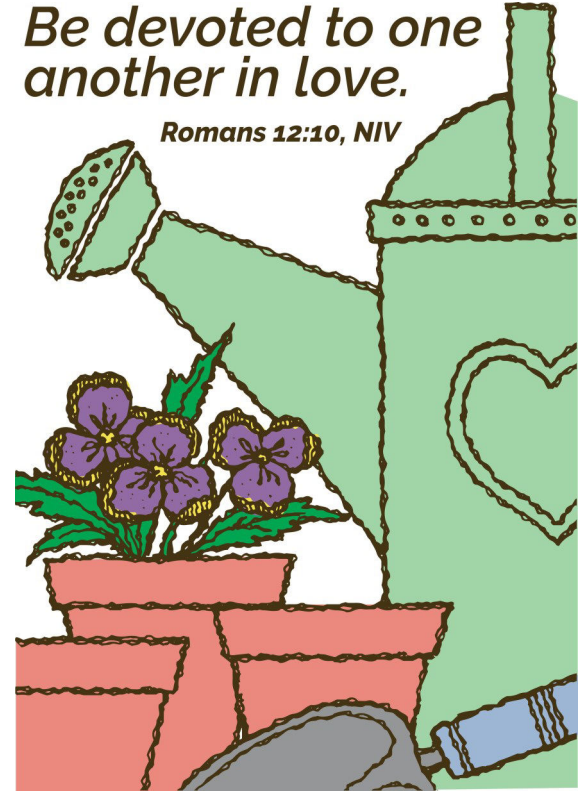


The CULC Messenger

God's Work, Our Actions

Be devoted to one another in love.

Romans 12:10, NIV



*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

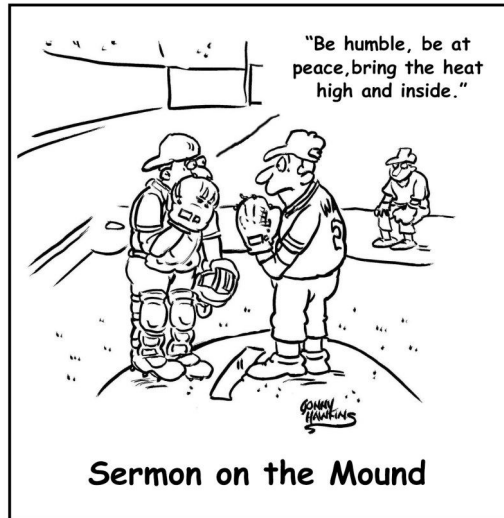
May 2026

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		

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 March 30

Total amount in checking account: \$74,980.95.

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

Income for March was \$19,384.83.

Expenses for March were \$18,900.65.,
resulting in a net gain of \$484.18.

Benevolence for February was \$1,072.49.



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.



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

I had a free large fry from McDonald's today. In my college years, when they were fairly cheap, it was a pretty frequent occurrence. I'd get two (99 cent) double cheeseburgers, a drink, and a large fry. No wonder I ballooned to about 300 pounds!

But yes, I do on occasion stop at the McD's in Frackville on the way down to the church office. It just so happened I had enough points to have a free large fry! Understand that these days, I barely eat fries at all. It's not good for me.

But I downed them, and then I paid the price in the form of a fairly bad stomachache. Yeah, my body 20 years later can't quite handle things the same either. I'm down quite a bit from what I weighed in college, and my body has a way of reminding me why.

So I thought, why did I do this? At the time, I figured hey, it was awhile, splurge (calorically) for once!

I think this points to the human experience for a lot of us. It's not just about food- there are old habits, old ways, that we'd like to return to sometimes because they remind us of a time. Sometimes that time wasn't even that great, but we knew the rules of the day and we knew how to live. The comfort of all of that is attractive.

I think about that as I think of the post-resurrection appearances of the disciples. Many times when he appears, the thought of his followers is, "happy days are here again!"

But that's not quite what Jesus offers. At the Ascension (Ascension Day is May 14 this year), the disciples ask him, "is this the time when you are now going to restore Israel to its former glory?" Jesus answers this by ascending to heaven, and then angels say quite abruptly, "why are you staring at the sky?" In other words, hey disciples, now is the time for you to get to work and proclaim the resurrection and grow the church!

— continued on page 4

Christian symbol



22

CEDAR TREE — A species of evergreen used to decorate for Christmas, the tall cedar tree symbolizes Christ's majesty year-round. Cedars of Lebanon, which have grown to 130 feet, were known to Old Testament people. "The trees of the LORD are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted" (Psalm 104:16, NIV). David's palace and both Solomon's palace and temple were built of cedar wood. The word cedar is found 75 times in the Bible. Due to its evergreen nature and longevity, this tree is associated with eternal life and thus sometimes used in cemetery landscaping.

So our faith is not about nostalgia. I remember years ago Ringo Starr, the drummer for the Beatles, said “I was born nostalgic.” I can relate. Especially living here, I can remember many things that, if I focus on them long enough, make me yearn for the past. But there’s a present here. There’s a world here. There’s things that we need to be about now. And yearning for the past doesn’t accomplish any of that.

That doesn’t mean we can’t from time to time enjoy creature comforts. But, as I learned today, they aren’t always what they’re cracked up to be. Only Christ gives us true comfort and true hope.

So let’s talk about ways we can point others towards that hope.

Peace,

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 May:

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 May is as follows:

May 6: The Huddle House, Lavelle

Congratulations to Garrison Stehr who received his First Communion at the 9:30 Easter Morning Worship Service.



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.



May

Puzzle!

In spring and summer, we remember mothers and fathers with special days. Find the parents of these Biblical children. Check the verse given for help.



- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Joash (2 Kings 11:2) | A _____ |
| Obed (Matthew 1:5) | B _____ |
| Joseph (Genesis 35: 22-24) | _____ C _____ |
| John the disciple (Matthew 4:21) | _____ D _____ |
| John the Baptist (Luke 1:13) | _____ E _____ |
| Lo-Ruhamah (Hosea 1:6) | G _____ |
| Jezreel (Hosea 1:4) | H _____ |
| Esau (Genesis 25:28) | I _____ |
| David (1 Samuel 16:19) | J _____ |
| Jacob (Genesis 25:28) | _____ K _____ |
| Samuel (1 Samuel 1:19-20) | _____ L _____ |
| Gershom (Exodus 2:21-22) | M _____ |
| Samuel (1 Samuel 1:19-20) | _____ N _____ |
| Jesse (Matthew 1:5) | O _____ |
| Gershom (Exodus 2:21-22) | _____ P _____ |
| Joseph (Genesis 35: 22-24) | R _____ |
| Isaac (Genesis 21:3) | S _____ |
| John the Baptist (Luke 1:13) | _____ T _____ |
| Jonathan (1 Samuel 14:1) | _____ U _____ |
| Solomon (1 Kings 2:1) | _____ V _____ |
| Jesus (Matthew 1:18) | _____ Y _____ |
| James (Matthew 4:21) | Z _____ |



Church Council Highlights From April

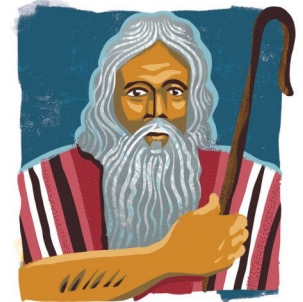
- Christian Education: 2026 Vacation Bible School is being planned.
- LCM: Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner is scheduled for May 16th,
- Garden Club's Spring plant exchange will be Sundays during May. Work/clean-up day will be March 28 at 10:00am.
- Multimedia Ministry: Council discussed training additional church members to operate the camera for Facebook. Pastor Brian will have a training day for any interested members. The creation of a multimedia schedule was discussed. Stewardship will add this to the time and talents sheets in Oct/Nov so that a schedule can be created in the future.



?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

In what land and at what age did Moses die?

- A. The land of Israel; 100 years old
- B. The land of Canaan; 70 years old
- C. The land of Moab; 120 years old
- D. The land of Judah; 102 years old



Answer: C (See Deuteronomy 34:5, 7:)

May Council Contact of the month is Virgil Smith.

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 Virgil, he can be reached at 570-205-6979.



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 June 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.

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.



Please have all information into the church office by May 14th for inclusion in the Newsletter and Bulletin.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

What school are you graduating from

Future Plans _____

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 Baker Family - Jason, Dana & Brody

The Dengler Family - James & Sherry

The Smith Family - Virgil & Ann Marie



Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner



Sponsored by
the Lutheran Church Men
Saturday,
May 16, 2026
3:00 – 6:00 pm
~Dine in or Take out~

Christ's United Lutheran Church
437 Airport Road, Ashland

Dinner Includes:

Spaghetti, Meatballs, Tossed Salad, Bread & Butter
Dessert & Beverage

Adults: \$12.00

Children under age 12: \$5.00

Ticket information: Call 570-875-1591
(Limited tickets available at the door)



Sponsored by **WELCA**

DONATIONS NEEDED

_____ lbs. #9 Spaghetti	_____ Cakes
_____ # 10 can Spaghetti Sauce	_____ Soda
_____ # 10 can Tomato Paste	_____ Cash Donation
_____ 24 Pack Bottled Water	

Donations may be placed on the center island in the kitchen. Please attach your name to your donation. All donations must be in no later than **SUNDAY, May 10**. Baked goods may be brought in on Friday, May 15th between 9:00 a. m. & 4:00 p.m. Baked goods may also be brought in **before noon** on Saturday prior to the dinner.

Please return this sheet to the church office or place it in the box located on the table in the narthex.

Name _____

Phone _____

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.**

April 26 – Susan DeArmit (D. Gruber)	April 12 – Sue Hudock (K. Presto)
Gary Snyder (T. Wolfe)	Tommy Scheuren
Chris Moser (D. Price)	Families of Sawyer Smith
Rich Cooper (S. Tice)	Barbara Artz (D. Wallace)
Ann Marie Buzalko (K. Berner)	Teddy Maurer (D. Wallace)
Kim Wylie (T. Wolfe)	April 5 – Linda Szuler (T. Wolfe)
Mick Lute (P. Lute)	Tammy Dengler
April 19 - Jim Gruber	Harper Presto (J. Young)
Gail Lorady	Nancy Masser (V. Brown)
Tom Quinn (J. Eisenhart)	Diane Reed
Fawn Eisenhart (J. Eisenhart)	Jim Houston, Jr. (T. Wolfe)
Linda Zerby (J. Young)	Family of Vince Rossi
Family of Howard Laird (V. Brown)	

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, Jim Hepler, 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, Sarah Shanks (T. Wolfe), Trevor Shilling (A.M. Dillman), Elizabeth Smith & family, Linda Szuler (T. Wolfe), Joe Towey, John Towey Jr., Rose Varndell



The CULC Messenger
God's Work, Our Actions



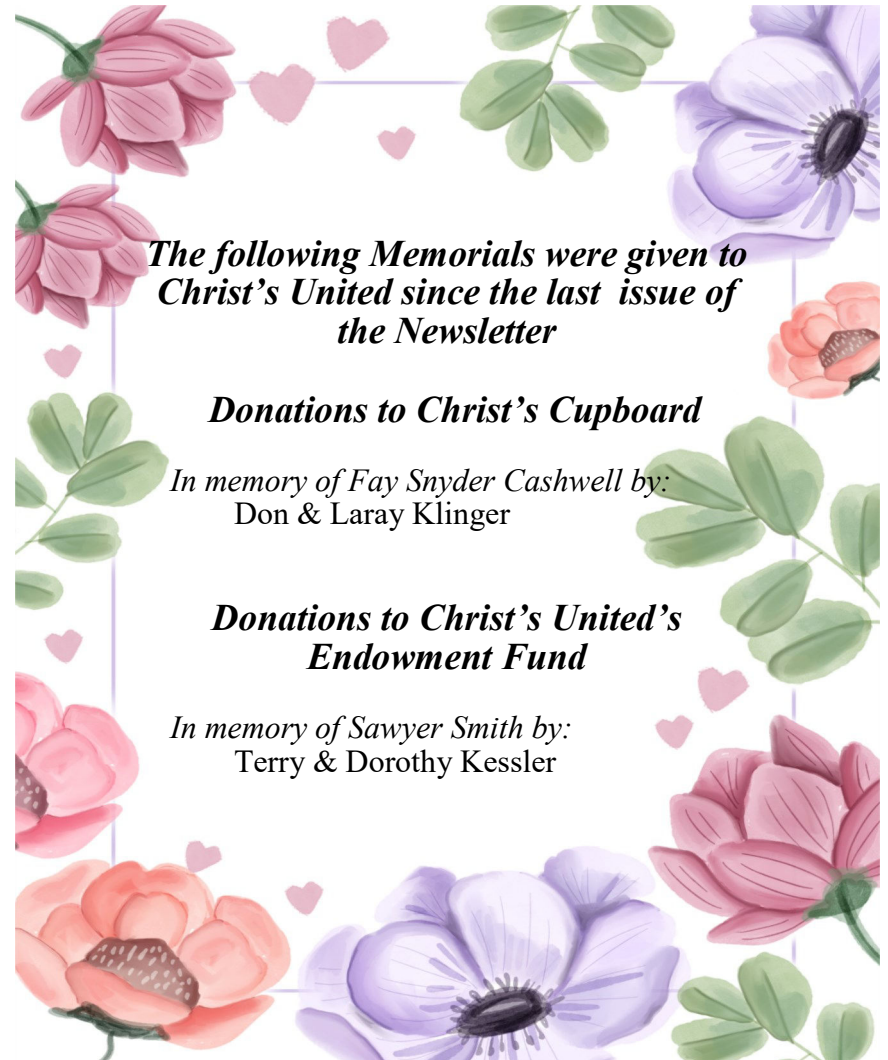


- 1 Jolene Franklin
- 3 Brian Wetzel
- 4 Ann Marie Dillman
Tina Wolfe
- 6 Bryonna Bolich
- 7 Brittany Harhigh
Cory Lindenmuth
Gary Weinreich
Devan Fetterolf
- 8 Charles Bendinsky
Muoi Cunningham
Taryn Wilson
- 9 Joan Wolfgang
Erin Werner
- 10 Nina Britton
Katelyn Houser
Joshua Smith
Logan Walacavage
- 11 Cole Johnson
George Kosmisky
Kevin Sweinhart
- 12 Patricia Hepler
Jonas McGrath

- 13 Timmy Beissel
- 14 Christine Klouser
- 15 Ralph Johnson
Robert Sweinhart
Benjamin Towey
- 16 Susan Edmonson
Jeff Hostetter
Beau Little
- 17 Kelly Dziadosz
- 18 Eli Rothermel
- 19 Barbara Anczarski
Michael Hudock
Steve Wilson
- 21 Sophia Wessner
- 22 Kaiden Dillman
Derek Whritenour
- 23 Chase Lower
- 25 Cory Weikel Jr.
Dustin Wolfgang
- 27 Jason Brown
Sarah Stehr
Amy Wahalec-Clark
- 31 Mark Stump



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



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

Donations to Christ's Cupboard

*In memory of Fay Snyder Cashwell by:
 Don & Laray Klingner*

***Donations to Christ's United's
 Endowment Fund***

*In memory of Sawyer Smith by:
 Terry & Dorothy Kessler*

Thank you to everyone that helped out in anyway for this year's Easter Egg Hunt. Your gifts of candy, plastic egg filler treats and monetary donations were all greatly appreciated and helped defray the costs of the egg hunt.



We had 82 children sign up and approximately 74 children participated in the hunt. Over a thousand plastic eggs were filled for the children to find. It was an amazing sight to see.

I appreciated all the time spent helping with shopping, filling the gift bags (which is a big project) and helping the day of the egg hunt. Everyone was a big help and made the work load easier.

Respectively submitted,
Barbara Stepanchick



- 05/04/85 Ted & Penny Shadle
- 05/10/06 Pastor Brian & Pastor Michelle Beissel
- 05/10/08 Robert & Jessica Nagle
- 05/14/05 Allen & Cheryl Klinger
- 05/16/14 Chad & Natasha Weikel
- 05/16/22 Richard & Helen Shoup
- 05/18/02 Todd & Kim Walacavage
- 05/19/73 Dale & Holly Bolich
- 05/20/12 Ryan & Jodi MacNamara
- 05/21/88 William & Tammy Harris
- 05/27/93 Steve & Bernice Wilson
- 05/27/17 Bryon & Jessica Wallace
- 05/28/83 Ken & Tammy Dengler
- 05/28/83 Kenneth & Kimberly Zweizig
- 05/31/03 Daniel & Melissa Sisko

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.



GERANIUMS

Day of Pentecost
May 24, 2026

If you wish to order Geraniums for Sunday, May 24th, please sign up on the bulletin board. The cost of each Geranium is \$6.00. Please make checks payable to Christ's United.

Deadline to order is Sunday, May 10th.

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/>



Indoor Yard Sale

Saturday, May 2

8:00am -2:00pm

All are welcome to join us in having an indoor yard sale. Rent a table for \$5 each. You may rent more than one table if you would like. Payment is due when you sign up, NO REFUNDS. 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, Narthex, & hallway.

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 BEFORE 8:00am.

We will also be using a Thrivent Grant to purchase food items to have available for sale. We will be selling hot dogs, chips, drinks, desserts, and other items.

Proceeds from table rentals and food sales will go to the Lavelle Fire Company to help cover the costs of the new fire truck that they just purchased. The yard sale will be advertised on our Facebook page, by posters, and the T-102 community page.

Even if you don't set up a table, come out and support this worthy cause by buying items from the various vendors set up for the yard sale and food stand.

Thank you for your support!

Please note - there are no more tables available to rent, but everyone is welcome to come and shop.



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 ~

- May - WELCA
- 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 May:

Canned Vegetables

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is
Thursday
May 14, 2026

May 9, 2026 at 8:00 AM.

Come join us for the Highway Cleanup on Saturday May 9. We will meet at the church at 8:00 A.M. Everyone is welcome. The more help we

have the quicker we can finish. We hope to see many of you there for this important ministry by CULC. Rain date is May 23.



Serving Our Community of Faith in May:

Date	Congregational Rep/Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer
May 3	Kenny Dengler	Mark Vardell	Kay Berner b Ted Ambrose/d John Towey so	Kay Berner AM Barb Anczarski Ken Dengler	Maura Sweitzer	John Wagner
May 10	Angie Berger	Jacob Tice			Remington Stehr	—
May 17	John Towey	Sally Tice			Cole Johnson	—
May 24 Day of Pentecost		Barb Stepanchick		Volunteer Needed AM Becky Spencer Barb Stepanchick	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
May 31 Holy Trinity		Erik Tice		Vivian Brown AM Dennis Wolfe Beth Andrews	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed



MAY 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						8:00 – 2:00 Indoor Yard Sale 8:00 Garden Cleanup 6:00 Contemporary Service
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 Social Hour 10:30 Choir Practice 10:45 Sunday School 6:00 Confirmation Class			10:30 Seniors 12:00 Lunch with Pastor Brian 6:00 WELCA 7:00 Church Council			8:00 Highway Clean-Up
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14 Ascension of Our Lord	15	16
9:30 Worship 10:30 Choir Practice 	6:00 Social Ministry		10:30 Seniors	10:00-11:30 Christ's Cupboard 	Newsletter Deadline	3:00-6:00 Spaghetti & Meatball Supper
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30 Worship 10:30 Choir Practice 10:45 Sunday School 5:00 LCM / Property 6:00 Confirmation Class	6:00 Garden Club		10:30 Seniors			8:00 Highway Clean-Up Rain Date
24 Day of Pentecost	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 Choir Practice			8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors			
31 Holy Trinity						
Good Samaritan Offering 9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion						<i>The CULC Messenger God's Work, Our Actions</i> 