

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

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November



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



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

Sunday School - October through May

1st & 3rd Sundays @ 10:45 a.m.

Contemporary Worship Service -

*First Saturday of each month at
6:00 p.m.*

The CULC Messenger
God's Work, Our Actions





Christ's United Lutheran Church

One God. One People. One Purpose.

437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921

www.christsunited.org

(570) 875-1591

November 2025

The November issue of the CULC Messenger
is sponsored in Memory of
Donald H. Klinger
by Donald & Laray Klinger

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Status of Accounts as of September 30

Total amount in checking account: \$95,733.28.

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

Income for September was \$11,320.48.

Expenses for September were \$16,065.76,
resulting in a net loss of \$4,745.28.

Benevolence for September was \$909.71.

CHURCH COUNCIL 2025

	Phone	Term Expires
John Towey, President	570-205-2682	Feb. 2027
Kay Berner, Vice President	570-875-1035	Feb. 2026
Morgen Sweitzer, Secretary	717-858-9824	Feb. 2026
Jamie Johnson	570-590-1678	Feb. 2028
Suzanne Peel	570-590-5023	Feb. 2026
Virgil Smith	570-205-6979	Feb. 2028
Barbara Stepanchick	570-875-1114	Feb. 2027
Janet Towey	570-205-3420	Feb. 2027
Mark Varndell	570-205-8002	Feb. 2028

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



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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 under
gird 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,

Well, here we are. We have officially been in ministry together for a year. As of November, I have been the pastor at Christ's United Lutheran Church for one year.

I have really enjoyed my first year here with you. We have charted a course together, restarted our youth group, restarted Saturday worship, although in a different way, completed our first vacation Bible school since Covid, and in many ways, just continued the tremendous ministry this congregation was doing before I arrived.

Like many congregations, we've had financial challenges this past year. This is part of why we formed a Financial Leadership Academy team to look at what we can do as a congregation.

So you're probably reading this and asking yourself, what is Financial Leadership Academy? This is actually a program in the United Methodist Church that Michelle completed in the end of September. It's all about looking through the various ways the church could increase income – not simply just so that there's enough money to fulfill our budget, but the program actually goes way beyond that. It's about funding ministry. And it looks at the reality of the church – a reality that says churches are less and less likely to be able to fulfill their budgets only through offering.

So we have formed a team to look at this program here at Christ's United. Along with our council, that team is going to construct goals this month. Following that event, we will be meeting with other committees and teams to dream and vision together what our future will look like.

I have said numerous venues, what my vision for this congregation is, in that as time progresses, I see us going on to serve the whole of northern Schuylkill County. Christ's Cupboard is one way in which this already happens. Families come from all across the area.

— continued on page 4

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

Christian symbol



CIRCLE — The circle is a symbol for God, as well as for eternity, due to its lack of a beginning or an end. It also reminds us of how the church year (not unlike the secular calendar) flows from season to season and moves smoothly from Christ the King Sunday (the culmination of the liturgical calendar) to the First Sunday of Advent (a new beginning). Indeed, the One who rules all is the same One whose first and final comings we anticipate anew during Advent.



*The following donations were given to
Christ's United's Memorial Funds
since the last issue of the Newsletter:*

In Memory of Hannah Lisowski by:

Jo-Ann Young
Kay Berner
Sherri & Mark Hammer
Patricia Rusnak

In Memory of Barbar Liem by:

Terry Shilling
Don & Laray Klinger
The Walacavage Family

In Memory of Richie Kosmiski by:

Don & Laray Klinger

Donations to Christ's Cupboard

In Memory of Hanna Lisowski by:

Peggy & Frank Dziczek
Donna & Ron Wallace
Beth & Ron Andrews
Terry & Ted Ambrose
Tina & Dennis Wolfe
Dorothy & Terry Kessler

In Memory of Barbara Liem by:

Beth & Ron Andrews
Dorothy & Terry Kessler
Peggy & Frank Dziczek
Tina & Dennis Wolfe
Donna & Ron Wallace

In Memory of Richie Kosmisky by:

Dorothy & Terry Kessler

Donations to Christ's United's Worship & Music Ministry

In memory of Hannah Lisowski by:

John & Janet Towey



Church Council Highlights **From October**

- Cracks in parking lot are scheduled to be sealed.
- Upcoming youth group meetings: October 19th 6pm – bowling in Pottsville, November 9th 5pm – cookie baking; December date TBD – Christmas movie night.
- Motion made to present the proposed budget to the Congregation at the Budget Meeting on November 9.
- Jim Chappell hung brackets for the projector used for worship.

Saturday Evening Contemporary Worship Service

Join us at 6 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month as our new Praise Band leads us in an informal worship service with uplifting music. Holy Communion is celebrated by Intinction.

The worship service for November will be held on Nov 1st.



November 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.



**Council Member
of the Month**





The Annual Budget meeting will take place on Sunday, November 9th following worship. The budget will detail the costs of doing ministry, broken down into the larger ministry areas such as Education, Social Ministry, and Worship (and more!). Please take the time to review the proposed budget with thanksgiving and prayer for the blessings from Christ at work here at Christ's United. To help us prepare, the 2026 budget will be available on October 26th.



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 Ambrose Family - Ted & Terry

The Coward / McDemus Family - Wendy & Brandon

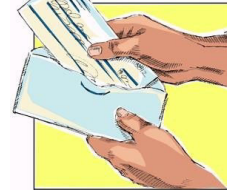
The Sisko Family - Daniel & Bonnie

ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Endowment Committee is pleased to announce that during the worship service on **November 30th** this year's college students will receive a scholarship check to assist in furthering their education:



Endowment Fund



The congregation is encouraged to attend this service to show your support and offer prayers for the successful future of the Scholarship Recipients.

Giving Thanks for All Things



It's easy to list the blessings in life: good health, family, a satisfying career, a comfortable home. We might even be thankful for things others take for granted such as freedom and clean drinking water, reliable transportation and food enough to eat. Then there are the little things, such as gardens, sunrises, pets and coffee.

But what about life's storms or unanswered prayers? Should we be thankful for these? Loss and hardship remind us of our dependence on God. He uses trials to draw us closer to him, to show us that He is our rock and refuge. In misfortune and grief, we discover God's comfort and strength. Should we not, then, be thankful for the storms, too?



CULC SENIOR YOUTH GROUP



Senior Youth Group (Grades 7 - 12)

Watch for the next activity
scheduled for the Youth Group
and plan to attend.



Standard time returns on
November 2, 2025
Remember to turn your
clocks back one hour on
Saturday, November 1
before going to bed.

**Thankful
garland**

Celebrate the season of gratitude by
creating a colorful Thankful decoration.

What you need:

- Construction paper in a variety of fall colors
- Pencil, marker, or crayons
- Yarn, ribbon, or raffia
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Spray bottle filled with water
- Real leaves (Optional)
- Wooden or plastic beads, cereal with holes (Cheerios, Froot Loops, etc.), or any dried pasta with a hole (Optional)

What you do:

1. Draw or trace leaf shapes onto construction paper.
2. Lay the paper flat and spray with water until the paper is completely wet.
3. Crumple the wet paper into balls.
4. Open the paper and let the sheets dry flat.
5. When dry, cut out each leaf.
6. On each leaf, write the name of one person or thing you're thankful for.
7. Punch a hole in each leaf.
8. Lace the leaves, beads, cereal, and pasta onto the yarn, ribbon, or raffia.
9. Tie the ends and hang your garland.

**Give thanks in all
circumstances; for
this is God's will for
you in Christ Jesus.**

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

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

October 26 - Regnal Leibensperger
Trevor Shilling (A.M. Dillman)
Lori Knorr (D. Berner)
Earl Heiber (A. Berger)

October 19 – Jenny Kosmisky
Margarite Felegi (A. Berger)
Sam Tavmekus (K. & B. Yoder)
Family & Friends of Barb Liem

October 12 – Ruth Swatski (D. Wallace)
Tina Alexander (D. Zaharick)
Families of Richie Kosmisky & Joe Cesari

October 5 – Jackie from Red Cross
Fred Echevarria (E. Tice)
Linda Zerby (J. Young)
Zack Metzinger (J. Eisenhart)
Ed Rakowsky (J. Eisenhart)
Families of Keith Morgan & Ken Stauffer

Please continue to pray for: Corrine & Josh Coward, Jim Gruber, Annette Houser, Jack Houser, Jim Houser, Jr., Allen Johnson, Pearl & Carl Lute, Dianna Monaghan, Jane Pennypacker, Heidi Walsh, 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., Jim Fetterolf, Bob Griffiths, Cathy Groody, Dan Grow, Ann Helwig, Minah Horan, Donna Hughes, 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, John Towey, Jr., Rose Varndell, Olivia Wagner, Karyssa Wenrich, Bev Wolfgang



NOVEMBER *birthdays*

1	James Dengler	16	Melody Smith
	William Dillman, Jr.		Jack Houser
	Robert Nagle		Jean Wolfgang
	Jessica Shadle	19	Randy Lucas
4	Dean Krise	20	Charles Sweinhart
5	Brayden Koons	21	Breann Barker
7	Joshua Coward		Jean Bitting
	John W. Wolfgang		Carol Reiner
8	Daylon Long	23	Tracy Berner
	Steven Wolfgang		Carl Lute
9	Amy Fegley	24	Dale Bolich
	Jo-Ann Young	25	Bernie Marquardt
11	Brooke Harris	26	Suzanne Peel
	Jordan Walter	27	Cathy Stutzman
12	Deanna Hepler	28	Becky Spencer
	Connie Weinreich		Garrison Stehr
14	Deidre Dengler	29	Remington Stehr
	Brian Rickert	30	Tammy Dengler
	Cory Weikel, Sr.		Rusty McAndrew

A Thanksgiving Prayer

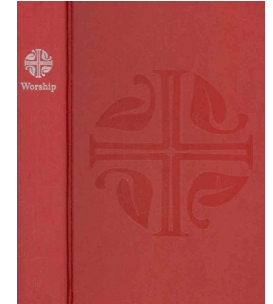
Gracious God,
thank you for every good gift—
for the food before us,
the people around us,
and the love that surrounds us.
Help us to pause, reflect, and rejoice
in Your constant goodness and grace.
May our hearts overflow with gratitude,
not just today, but every day.



8

Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Pew Edition



As the changing times have come, it has come time for us to transition to the newest hymnal. Released for the first time in 2007, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* includes selections from the green LBW and blue With One Voice, in addition to all new settings. Included are the settings we at Christ's United already use, in addition to ten other settings.

As time has progressed, the Sundays and Seasons programs we use in the office and for worship planning use more and more the ELW and not the green LBW. With this change, the time has come for us to make a switch. There will still be times we use hymns and settings from the green book.

We also are now worshipping using a projector, which means that we do not necessarily need one hymnal for each worship participant. Many of you use the books less and less and the screen more. Still, we need to have sufficient copies to meet copyright law standards.

You have an opportunity to sponsor the "new" (almost 20 years old) hymnal! Copies are \$26.50 each, and you can make your hymnal in honor or in memory of a loved one.

Name: _____

Copies: _____

In Honor or Memory of (circle one Please):

???

Bible Quiz

???

James 1:17 reminds us about the source of every blessing. According to this verse, how is God described?

- A. The one who changes like shifting shadows
- B. The giver of wisdom to the faithful
- C. The Father of heavenly lights who does not change
- D. The one who rewards those who are generous

Answer: C (See James 1:17)

MEMBER DIRECTORY



Updates for Our Member Directory

We are currently updating family information in the church member directory. If you have moved, changed phone numbers, had children, got married, etc. please let us know so we have your current information.

Please call the church office with any new information.

Thank you!



NOVEMBER anniversaries

11/12/05	Tim & Deb Hubler
11/14/85	Frank & Peggy Dziczek
11/19/11	Ken & Jen Snyder
11/20/82	Bruce & Jean Bitting
11/30/96	John & Joan Wolfgang

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

*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.



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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.



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

**437 Airport Road (Gordon)
Ashland, PA 17921**

**Monday, December 1, 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!



The next meeting of
Women of the ELCA is on
Wednesday, November 5th
at 6:00 PM.

All women of CULC are
welcome to attend.

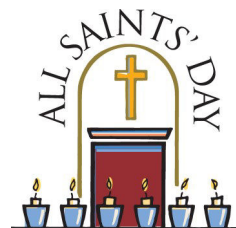


SAVE THE DATE

Christ's United Congregational
Christmas Meal—December
14th following the morning
worship service. Watch for
details and sign up in the
coming weeks.



All Saints' Sunday: Honoring the Faithful



On November 2, we'll observe All Saints' Sunday during morning worship. This is a time to remember and give thanks for those who have gone before us in faith—family, friends and fellow believers who have touched our lives and pointed us to Christ.



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 ~
November - Social Ministry
December - Evangelism/
 Endowment/Stewardship

~ 2026 ~
January - WELCA
February - Church Council
March - Social Ministry
April - Evangelism/
 Endowment/Stewardship
May - WELCA
June/July/August -
 No Social Hour



We will be collecting the following items for September:

Peanut Butter & Jelly

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.
 Thank You!

The next food distribution date is
 Thursday
November 13, 2025



Serving Our Community of Faith in November:



Date	Congregational Rep/Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer
November 2 All Saints	John Towey	Deb Hubler	Donna Wallace b Allen Johnson c/d Ted Ambrose so	Kay Berner AM Donna Wallace Deb Price	Eli Pennypacker	Cole Johnson
November 9		Mark Vardell			Nelson Berger	—
November 16		Barb Anczarski			Maura Sweitzer	Tag-A-Long Kimber Towey
November 23 Christ the King		Donna Wallace		Erik Tice AM Angie Berger Barb Anczarski	Remington Stehr	John Wagner
November 30 Advent 1 Endowment Offering		John Towey			Sawyer Smith	Tag-A-Long Timmy Beissel



November 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						6:00 Contemporary Service
2 All Saints Sunday	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:30 Worship W/ Holy Communion 10:30 Fellowship Hour 10:30 Choir Practice 10:45 Sunday School & Confirmation Class	10:00 Bible Study	9:00 Knaughty Knotters	10:30 Seniors 12:00 Lunch w/Pastor Brian 6:00 WELCA 7:00 Council			
9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15
9:30 Worship 10:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Budget Meeting		9:00 Knaughty Knotters 6:00 Social Ministry	10:30 Seniors	10:00 – 11:30 Christ's Cupboard 		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30 Worship 10:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship & Music 10:45 Sunday School & Confirmation Class	10:00 Bible Study	9:00 Knaughty Knotters	10:30 Seniors			
23 Christ the King	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:30 Worship W/ Holy Communion 10:30 Choir Practice 10:45 Learning Series 		9:00 Knaughty Knotters	8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors	Thanksgiving Day HAPPY <i>Thanksgiving!</i> 		
30 Advent 1	December 1					
9:30 Worship – Endowment Scholarships / Offering 10:30 Choir Practice 10:45 Learning Series 6:00 Diakon Benefit Concert	9:00 Christmas Decorating  Help Us "Spruce" Up the Church!					