

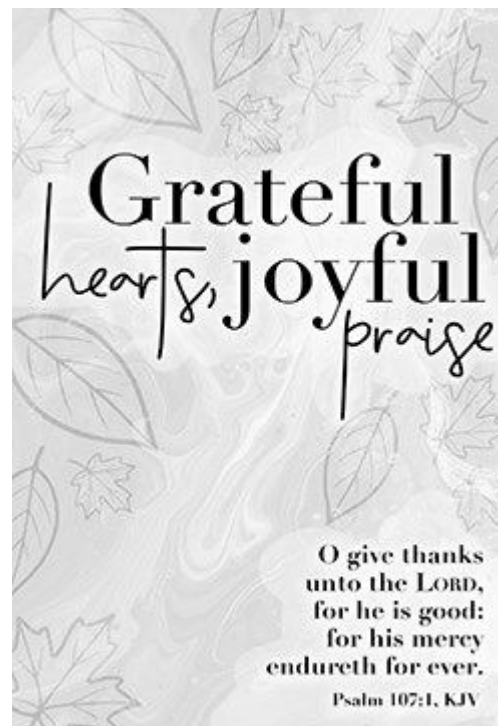
Christ's United Lutheran Church
437 Airport Road
Ashland, PA 17921
www.christsunited.org

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October



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

October 2025

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Status of Accounts as of August 31

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 August was \$11,697.16.

Expenses for August were \$14,959.21, resulting in a net loss of \$3,262.05.

Benevolence for August was \$1,269.49.

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



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

ADVICE FROM A PUMPKIN

Be well-rounded.
Get plenty of sunshine.
Give thanks for life's bounty.
Have a thick skin.
Keep growing.
Be outstanding in your field.
Think big!

—Ilan Shamir



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 from our Lord Jesus Christ,

As many of you know, I was at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix this past summer, the last week of July into August.

While I was there, we elected a new Bishop, Rev. Yehiel Curry, who is going to be installed shortly. I did not get to meet him face to face. However, I did get to meet Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, who is our outgoing Bishop, and who lead most of the proceedings.

It was the evening of my birthday, July 30, and friends of mine who knew her said they had to get me to talk to her face to face. "Why would she want to talk to me?" I asked.

Regardless, next thing I know, I am standing right in front of her in the lobby of the hotel where we were staying. The first thing I said to her? "I can't believe you like Sheetz over Wawa." It was all I could think of. Back in 2016, she was at our Synod Assembly, and they did a short video to get to know her. One question she was asked was, Sheetz or Wawa? She replied Sheetz, largely because she served most of her career in Ohio where there is no such thing as Wawa!

So yes, of all the things to say to the presiding Bishop, THIS is what I chose. And she laughed. And we talked about it a little bit.

Yes, I'm a Wawa guy. I'm really excited that we have one only 16 minutes from the church building, in Coal Township across from Wal-Mart. I have my reasons- the milkshakes are wonderful, the gas is cheaper (currently \$2.86/gallon as of the morning I am writing this), and the sandwich meat is, in my opinion, superior to Sheetz. You can get a cup of delicious meatballs.

But, in the end, the Bishop and myself were both children of the same God, serving in the same denomination. Of course she knew that I was kidding when I talked about her choice in the "Wawa vs. Sheetz" debate.

— continued on page 4

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



The one thing I noticed about her is that, now in her late 60s, she looked ready to retire. She was tired. She had a long day of running plenary sessions and managing an election of the person who will follow her as Bishop. But she still made time for me.

It made me think about how important it is that we show up for each other, all of us. How we make time for each other, even when we are exhausted, even when we have 10,000 things on our to-do list.

There's a story in scripture about this, how Jesus is trying to get away from the crowds to pray, and they just keep after him. Finally, he stops and teaches them. He has compassion for them.

May that compassion be in all of our hearts as we enter into the busyness of the fall.

Peace,
Pastor Brian



Schedule for October:

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

October 1: Danny's

Monthly Evening Bible Study will be held on October 22.



ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:
ARE YOU ATTENDING POST-
SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

(college, university, trade school, nursing/
medical school, business school, ENTERING THE MILITARY
SERVICE, OR ARE STARTING A JOB?

The Endowment Fund Committee is accepting requests for the 2025 scholarships of \$500 for full time students/military service and \$100 for employed graduates.

ADULT MEMBERS WHO HAVE ENROLLED IN POST
SECONDARY PROGRAMS ARE ALSO ELIGIBLE FOR
THE SCHOLARSHIP.

Active members of the congregation are eligible to receive a scholarship by submitting a letter of request by OCTOBER 5th. to a committee member: Vivian Brown, Carla Mae Carl, Tammy Dengler, Terry Shilling, or Tina Wolfe.

The letter should include: Your name and address, name of the school attending, or military branch, or employer, your status (freshman, senior, etc), field of study/certification or degree, and projected time of graduation.

Please be advised, you must be an ACTIVE MEMBER of the congregation and be present on November 30th when scholarships are given out during the worship service.



Pray for Our College Students





Council Highlights

Church Council Highlights From August & September

- Garden Club is hosting a Fall Plant Exchange for the month of September.
- We received a Thank you card for our mission support contributions.
- Picnic tables were repaired.
- The parking lot seams need sealing – LCM is getting estimates.
- On 9/14 we will celebrate Holy Cross Day.

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 October will be held on Oct 4.



October Council Contact of the month is Suzanne Peel.

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 Suzanne, she can be reached at 570-590-5023.



Council Member
of the Month

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

*Donations to Christ's Cupboard Food Pantry
In memory of Bob Keys by:*
Don & Laray Klinger
Bonnie Foose
Peggy & Frank Dzikczek



SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES

Sunday School classes are held on the first and third Sundays of each month (not on the second or fourth/fifth Sundays) following worship. All children are welcome and encouraged to attend.

CONFIRMATION CLASS for students in 7th & 8th grade or older who have not yet been Confirmed are being held on Sunday mornings following worship. Please contact the church office if you will be attending.

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.





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:

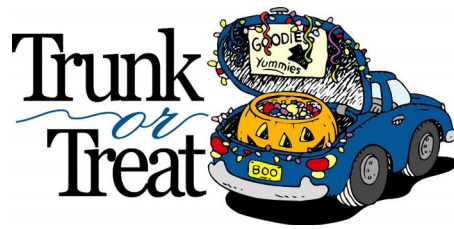
The Allison Family - David, Vanessa, Luke & Blake
The Cook Family - William
The Slsak Family - Dak



Puzzle!

Who made the following statements in the Bible?

1. "Am I my brother's keeper?"
Samuel, John, Cain, Andrew
2. "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you."
Peter, James, John, Paul
3. "What is truth?"
Herod, Pilate, Simon Magus, Cornelius
4. "Choose you this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!"
Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua
5. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
Nathaniel, John, Peter, Paul
6. "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?"
Herod Agrippa, Pilate, Caiaphas, Annas
7. "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go."
Rebekah, Rachel, Ruth, Rahab
8. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
Paul, Peter, James, Barnabas



Halloween is quickly approaching. We will hold our Trunk or Treat event on Sunday, October 26th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Sign up sheets will be posted on the Youth Bulletin Board for "Trunkers", candy donations and volunteers to help with the event. Sign up or call the church office if you would like to help, or plan to be a "Trunker."

Thank you,
Trunk or Treat Committee

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

September 21 – Ken Stauffer (V. Brown)
Christina Dudley (D. Price)
Candi Snyder
Karen Wolfgang (J. Chappell)
Families of Hanna Lisowski
Dr. Dwight Davis
Jerry Freiler
Mary Eileen McGuire (A. Dillman/K. Hansbury)
Charlie Kirk

September 14 – Rebecca Towey (J. Towey)
Janice Seitzinger (L. Wolfgang)

September 7 – Trevor Shilling
Cathy Meyers (K. Berner)
Pam Balsavage (D. Zaharick)
Zack Metzinger (J. Eisenhart)
Ed Rakowsky (J. Eisenhart)
Family of Bill Fisher Jr. (P. Dzaczek)

August 31 – D. Hirschhorn (S. Tice)
Family of Gary Krise (D. Berner)

Please continue to pray for: Corrine & Josh Coward, Jim Gruber, Annette Houser, Jack Houser, Jim Houser Jr., Allen Johnson, Jenny Kosmisky, Barbara Liem, Gail Lorady, Pearl & Carl Lute, Dianna Monaghan, 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

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ??

The book of Jonah tells the story of a prophet who ran from God, faced a storm and learned about God's mercy. Which of the following statements is **true**?

- A. Jonah told the sailors he was running from God, and they threw him overboard.
- B. The fish that swallowed Jonah washed up on the shores of Joppa.
- C. Jonah preached in Nineveh for forty days and forty nights.
- D. After the city repented, Jonah rejoiced and built an altar to the Lord.

Answer: A (See Jonah 1:9-15).



4	Lowell Martin	15	Brandon Hood
5	David Cunningham, Jr.		Nicole Hood
	Joshua Phelan		Connor Hoover
6	Tammy Buhay		James Lavelle
	William Dillman	17	Terry Neumeister
	Trever Harhigh		Autumn Peifer
	George Sterling	18	Ryan Walter
	Brooke Wolfe Maurer	19	Jennifer Bixler
7	Angie Lucas		Judy Fritz
	Forrest Shadle		Jacob Klinger
8	Francis Lally		Sandy Miller
10	Melanie Bendinsky		Maryann Wolfgang
	Barry Martin	20	Robert Liem
	Cole Young		Patti Kaufman
11	Dylan Buhay	22	Blake Olayo
	Michael McNeal	24	Francis Lally, Jr.
	Danielle White	25	Carrie Hummel
13	Jessica Wallace		Donna Wallace
	Mia Burke	27	Jennifer Deeter
	Aidan Lazor	28	Nancy Kessler
	Chad Weikel		Salina Krah
14	Michael Boyer	29	Cathy Troutman
	Tekla Kranzel	31	Tara Houser
	Anna Neumeister		
	Kelsey Blyler		



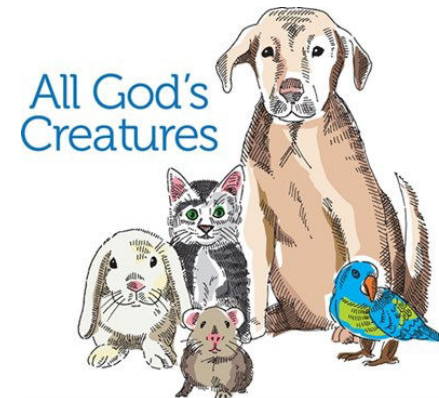
Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 5, 2025

2:00 pm



- ◆ All pets are welcome!
- ◆ All pets will be individually blessed.
- ◆ Service will be held in the Pavilion.
- ◆ For the safety and comfort of all attending,
all pets should be leashed or contained in safe carrier.





Pork & Sauerkraut Supper

Sponsored by the Lutheran Church Men

Saturday, October 18, 2025

3:00 – 6:00 pm

~Eat In or Take Out~

Christ's United Lutheran Church
437 Airport Road, Ashland

Dinner Includes:

Pork & Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes, Applesauce
Bread & Butter, Dessert, Beverage
(Hot Dog available as substitute for pork)

Adults: \$12.00 - Children age 12 & under: \$5.00

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

BAKE SALE - Sponsored by WELCA

DONATIONS NEEDED;

- _____ #10 Can of Applesauce
- _____ Cakes, Cookies, Brownies, or Cup Cakes
- _____ 12 or 24 Pack Soda (Any brand or flavor)
- _____ 24 Pack Bottled Water
- _____ Cash Donation

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, OCTOBER 5th**. Baked goods may be brought in on Friday, October 17th, 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.

Name _____ Phone _____



10/02/82	Keith & Brenda Yoder
10/02/99	Stephen & Wendy Harhigh
10/04/97	Paul & Jamie Johnson
10/05/85	Gerald & Cathy Stutzman
10/05/07	Brian & Brandy Bolich
10/06/62	Ivan & June Sweinhart
10/07/95	James & Michelle Lavelle
10/11/97	John & Maryann Wolfgang
10/12/19	Jason & Kimberly Miller
10/13/84	Joseph & Barbara Anczarski
10/16/76	Dennis & Tina Wolfe
10/17/09	Samuel & Kelly Troup
10/18/58	Don & Laray Klinger
10/22/05	Dean & Tammy Leshner
10/25/08	Bill & Mindy Burke
10/25/80	Gregg & Lois Sterling
10/25/08	Bill & Mindy Burke
10/29/11	Wesley & Kelly Long

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.

The CULC Messenger
God's Work, Our Actions



Harvest Home

As we welcome the cooler air and the farmers are bringing in the Harvest from the fields, Christ's United will be celebrating Harvest Home on October 12th. Please bring in non-perishable food items on October 5th or 12th to stock "Christ's Cupboard" to help those in need.

We are especially in need of the following items: canned fruit, soup, boxed potatoes, sweet potatoes (15 oz can), and canned vegetables. There will be a table in the Narthex for your donations.

Thank you!



The next meeting of Women of the ELCA is on Wednesday, October 1st at 6:00 PM. All women of CULC are welcome to attend.

LUNCH BUNCH

Thursday, October 23. we're traveling to

O.I.P

In Elysburg at 1:00 p.m.

Sign up on the bulletin board for making reservations and arranging transportation



American Red Cross Community Blood Drive

Christ's United Lutheran Church

437 Airport Road (Gordon)
Ashland, PA 17921

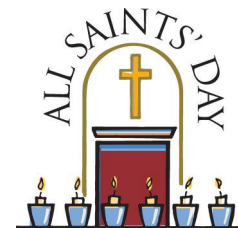
Monday, December 1, 2025
1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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!

Sunday, Nov. 2

All Saints Day is a time of both remembrance and celebration as we recognize that God spans all time, and for the family of God life has no end. Those who believe in Jesus Christ are Saints, saved by Christ, and blessed with eternal life.



As we gather we will lift up the names of those Saints who have joined the company of heaven in the past year, since last All Saints Day (November 3, 2024). We ask that you share their names with the church office by calling (570-875-1591), emailing (office@christsunited.org), or filling out the form below by Sunday, October 26th.

Name: _____

Date of Death: _____

Requested by: _____



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 ~
October—Church Council
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:

Stuffing Mix & 15 oz cans of Sweet Potatoes

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday
October 9, 2025



Serving Our Community of Faith in October:



Date	Congregational Rep/Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer
October 5	Mark Vardell	Kay Berner	Darlene Stank b Allen Johnson c/d Dennis Wolfe so	Erik Tice AM Beth Andrews Becky Spencer	Maura Sweitzer	Cole Johnson
October 12 Harvest Home		Larry Wolfgang			Nelson Berger	Tag-A-Long Timmy Beissel
October 19		Jacob Tice			Ava Hubler	Tag-A-Long Kimber Towey
October 26 Reformation Sunday		Vivian Brown		John Towey AM Dennis Wolfe Barb Stepanchick	Remington Stehr	John Wagner



October 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			10:30 Seniors 12:00 Lunch w/Pastor @ Danny's 6:00 WELCA			8:00 Highway Clean-Up Rain Date 6:00 Contemporary Service
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30 Worship W/ Holy Communion 10:30 Fellowship Hour 10:30 Choir Practice 10:45 Confirmation Class 2:00 Pet Blessing Service	7:00 Church Council	9:00 Knaughty Knotters	10:30 Seniors	10:00 – 11:30 Christ's Cupboard 		
12 Harvest Home	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30 Worship 10:30 Choir Practice 10:45 Learning Series	Columbus Day	9:00 Knaughty Knotters	Newsletter Deadline 10:30 Seniors			3:00 – 6:00 Pork & Sauerkraut Supper
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30 Worship 10:30 Choir Practice 10:45 Confirmation Class		9:00 Knaughty Knotters	10:30 Seniors 6:00 Monthly Bible Study at Green's	1:00 Lunch Bunch @ OIP Elysburg		
26 Reformation	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	
9:30 Worship W/ Holy Communion 10:30 Choir Practice 10:45 Learning Series 5:00 – 7:00 Trunk-or-Treat		9:00 Knaughty Knotters	8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors			