

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

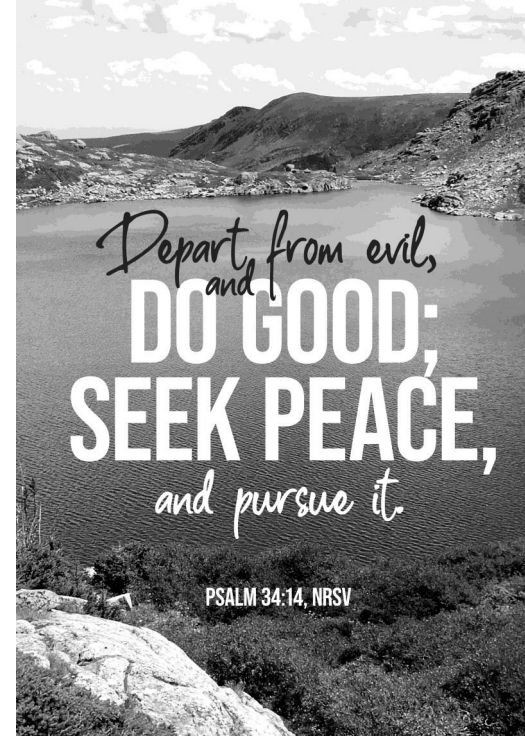
MAILED 7/28/21



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*Join us for Worship*  
*Saturday 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 9:30 a.m.*



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

*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

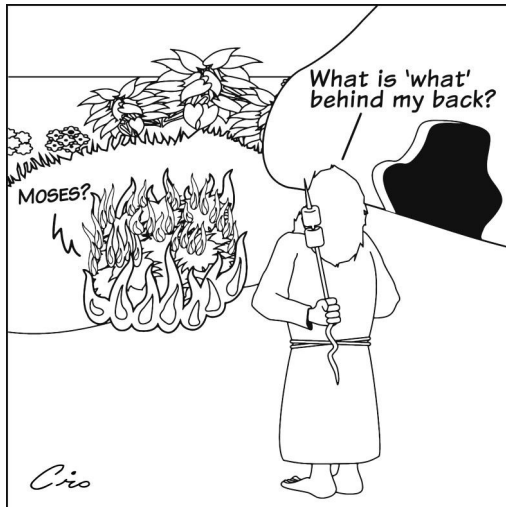
(570) 875-1591

August 2021

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The August CULC Messenger is sponsored  
in Memory of Dorothy Yoder  
by Mike Yoder



## Status of Accounts as of June 30

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our  
2021 Annual Budget of \$202,094.00 is **\$16,841.17**  
June income was \$14,507.45.

Expenses for June were \$14,004.99,  
resulting in a gain of \$502.46.

Benevolence Gifts through June is \$6,929.00  
(46 % of our Benevolence goal of \$15,000.00 for 2021)

## CHURCH COUNCIL 2021

	Phone	Term Expires
John Denchak President	570-875-4970	Feb. 2023
Vivian Brown Vice-President	717-275-5277	Feb. 2023
Beth Andrews Secretary	570-874-2381	Feb. 2022
Ted Ambrose	570-449-2193	Feb. 2022
Angie Berger	570-875-3598	Feb. 2023
Debra Price	570-875-4272	Feb. 2024
Barbara Stepanchick	570-875-1114	Feb. 2022
Stefan Swanson	610-849-6662	Feb. 2024
Dennis Wolfe	570-875-9085	Feb. 2024
Joseph McAndrew Youth Representative		

### PASTOR

Rev. Laura A. Csellak  
570-652-1951

pastorlaura@christsunited.org

### STAFF

**Parish Administrator** Deb Hall 570-875-1591  
office@christsunited.org 570-789-9722

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-3:00

<b>Director of Music</b>	Jamie Johnson	570-590-1678
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ann Marie Dillman	570-449-2021
<b>Indoor Custodian</b>	Ann Ray Begis	570-590-2729
<b>Outdoor Custodian</b>	Bill Price	570-875-4272
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Christine Brennan	570-875-0720



## 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.*

## Christian symbol



**LION**—A lion represents watchfulness and alertness. It also symbolizes Christ, the Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:4-5). A winged lion is the symbol of St. Mark, whose gospel focuses on Jesus' royalty and resurrection.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I struggled with what best to share in my final letter to you. What do you say to a beloved congregation with whom it's been a privilege to serve for three years, and from whom it'll be most difficult to leave?

While the whiteboard is tucked away for now, you probably remember the God Sightings we jotted down on that board. Folks saw God acting all over the place -- in relationships, nature, surprise encounters, and new insights. I experienced a remarkable God Sighting at the funeral for George Tallman last month at St. Peter's Church in Reinerton. Pastor Art Sonnenberg preached, having been both pastor and friend to George. During his homily, Pastor Sonnenberg mentioned that, on their gravestones, George and his wife Carol have listed not only the dates of their birth and death, but also of their baptism!

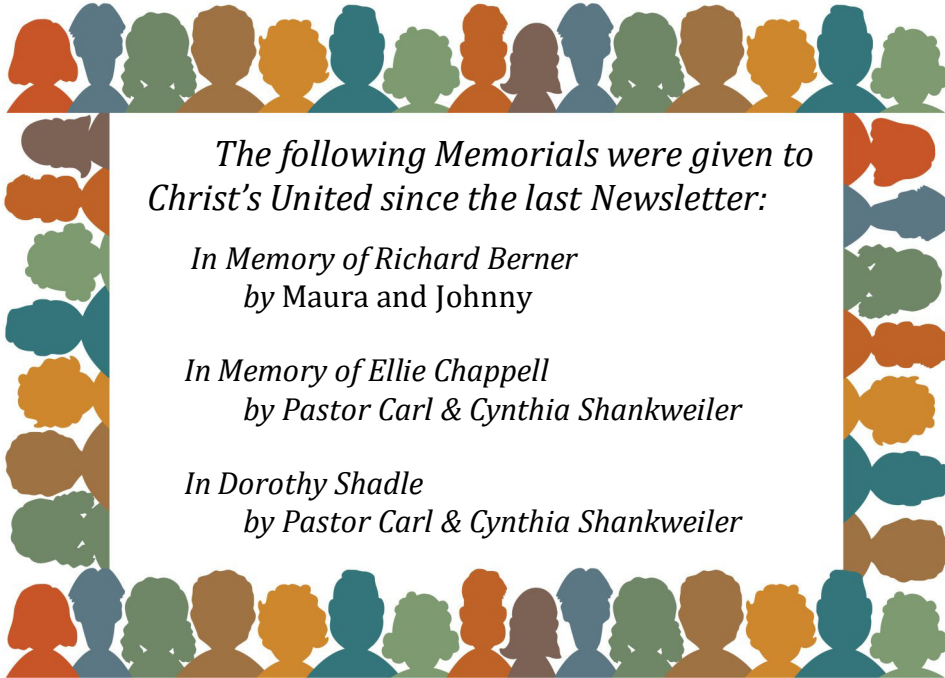
You may have heard the story of a man who stood to speak at a funeral. He referred to the dates on a gravestone, from the beginning of one's life to its end. He told the mourners that what mattered most was the dash between those years; that what is important is not how much we own, but how we "spend our dash" in living and loving during our lives. Linda Ellis wrote this poem in 1996; since then, a whole network has arisen called The Dash. Jesus had much to say about living simply in love during the days of our lives. And yet...

...what matters most is not what *we* do with our dash, but what *Jesus does* to and for us in Baptism. This Sacrament grounds everything we do with our dash. We are justly proud of the titles of our lives -- parent, coal miner, volunteer -- but the most precious title we hold is that of Child of God. And when we die, we'll join George and Carol Tallman, and all the other saints of God, in amazing "post-dash" life.

At the most difficult times of Martin Luther's life, he would shake his fist at the devil and shout "I am baptized!". In both trying and joyful times in life, we can cross our arms over our chest and proclaim the same. We are baptized! Amen! Alleluia!

Pastor Laura Csellak

P.S. I'm grateful for my dash with you: 2018-2021



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

*In Memory of Richard Berner  
by Maura and Johnny*

*In Memory of Ellie Chappell  
by Pastor Carl & Cynthia Shankweiler*

*In Dorothy Shadle  
by Pastor Carl & Cynthia Shankweiler*



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

Community Room  
437 Airport Road (Gordon)  
Ashland, PA 17921

**Monday, August 2, 2021  
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!



## Annual Vickie's Angel Foundation Walk And Basket Auction in Memory of Wendy Farnsworth

will be held Noon - 6:00 p.m. September 11th at Christ's United.

Shop & Drop for the basket auction will be Friday, September 10  
from 2:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.  
Drawing will be at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 11.

All money collected will benefit families fighting cancer.  
Sign up sheets for walkers & donations and more information  
will be posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

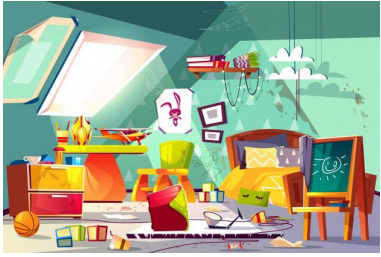
Any questions contact Deb Price at 570-875-4272.

Personalized Recognition Signs are available to order at  
\$20.00 each. Call the church office for more information.



(Example of Recognition Sign)





# CHURCH ATTIC CLEAN-UP

On Wednesday, August 4 at 9 a.m. we will be gathering in the “attic” of the church to organize the “treasures” that have accumulated over the last few years. If you are free that morning and would like to lend a hand, please join us!



Sunday, August 29 at 12:00 Noon

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Please note time change & come to worship in your casual picnic clothes.

Bring a covered dish, salad or dessert to share.



~Sign up on the Bulletin board~



## Church Council Highlights from July

- No Council Meeting was held in July. The next meeting will be on August 9th at 7:00 p.m.

## August Council Contact of the month is Beth Andrews

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 Beth, she can be reached at 570-874-2381.



## Sunday, August 29

All students are encouraged to bring their backpacks to be blessed during the worship service at **10:30 a.m.**

## We Offer our Prayers to...

**July 25** - Linda Zerby  
Forrest Shadle  
Jim Gruber (D. Gruber)  
Helen (D. Gruber)  
Deb Lentes (D. Hall)  
Ed Matalonis (C. Brennan)  
Amy Stauffer (C. Brennan)  
Pastor Laura  
Mary Ellen Coulter (D. Zaharick)  
Jesse Hepler (C. Varndell)

*Family of Joann Meade*

**July 18** – William Price, Sr. (B. Price)  
Karen Schwalm (C. Carl)

**July 11** – Elizabeth Anderson (K. Berner)  
Jake Klinger (P. Schaeffer)

*Family & Friends of Linda Kopitsky & Margaret Hood*

**July 4** – Cheryl Denchak (J. Denchak)  
Rose Varndell (C. Vandell)  
Ella Connolly (L. Boyer)  
Bob Yanni (D. Wallace)  
Richard Babb (J. Babb)  
Sandy Neumeister (P. Lute)

**Please continue to pray for:** Corrine & Josh Coward, Annette Houser, Jim Houser, Tara Houser, Carl (Mickey) Lute, Bobby Liem, Gail Lorady, Dianna Monaghan, Irene Morgan, Nellie Schlorff, Cheryl Varndell, Jo-Ann Young, Leo Young, Linda Zerby Michelle Ambrose, Robert Beecher, Elizabeth Brown & family, Donald Bulla, Arlene Chillis (J. Pennypacker), Joe Ferraro Jr., Harry Fishburn (G. Marquardt), Bob Griffiths (I. Morgan), Dan Grow, Minah Horan, Pastor Bob & Donna Hughes (Grubers), Ron James (V. Brown), Jaden Leiby, Keith Morgan (G. Marquardt), Lou Ann Olson (T. Shilling), Danny Quick (A. Berger), Albert Stehr, Carol Stehr, Judy Trautman (G. Marquardt), Karyssa Wenrich

*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. Please provide updates to the office in order that the list is always current. If you would like someone added, please call the office or write their name on the Prayer Request sheet found on the Prayer Podium.*



## School Kits needed for Lutheran World Relief

Items may be brought in August 8 thru 22.

Education is important in every community but especially those where poverty or disaster limits the options of young people looking to improve their lives. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children continue learning despite the hardships they face. These supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not.

### The supplies for each School Kit are:

- Four 70 sheet spiral notebooks
- One 30 centimeter ruler (or with inches and centimeters)
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with steel blades)
- One box of 16-24 crayons
- One 2 1/2 inch eraser
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- One sturdy drawstring back style cloth bag (14" x 17")



In the coming weeks the school supplies will begin to be in stores (much to the dismay of many children and adults) at great low prices so keep these items in mind.

Donations of any of these items should be placed on the table in the Narthex August 8 - 22.

Thrivent Action Team will pack the bags.



# Women of the ELCA



Attention ALL sisters of CULC!  
You are invited to a Tropical Paradise, the annual indoor covered dish picnic on

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11  
6:00 PM**

Sign up on the bulletin board to attend and indicate what food you will bring to share.

We will have a White Elephant Gift Game so each person is to bring a wrapped \$5.00 gift for the game (if you wish to participate).

We have also invited women from Good Shepherd, Ashland; Friedens, Hegins; St. James, Pitman; and Zion, Minersville.

We hope you will join us for food, fellowship, and fun in a cool, bug-free environment.





**GOOD SAMARITAN**

**Special Offering  
August 28 & 29**

# 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 Mallams Family - Dennis & Joyce, Kylie, Emilee  
The Swanson Family - Pastor Mark, Pastor Laura Csellak, Stefan, Luke & Laura  
The White Family - Ronald & Nicole, Danielle, Dustin

## **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 weekend, you may also have an email sent to you on Fridays with a list of those in need of your prayers. A phone chain notifies you of immediate needs. Please call the church office for more information.



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## **Dear heavenly Father**



Open my eyes, Creator of the universe, that I may see your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; open my ears, that I may hear what the heavens are telling me about your glory, which transcends all material bounds and yet deigns to reside with human beings.

May I ever marvel at your tender care for us, and give you thanks and praise forever. Amen.

—Prayer suggested by Psalms 8 & 19

# AUGUST



- 1 Bianca McAndrew
- 2 Jada Habowski
- 3 Brad Rickert
- 3 Kelly Troup
- 4 Greg Lindenmuth
- 6 Braedyn Lazor
- 6 Tyler McGrath
- 7 John Kimmel
- 7 Gary Schneider
- 8 Carey Wahalec
- 8 Caiden Weikel
- 8 Dustin White
- 9 Kaitlyn Werner
- 10 Deb Berner
- 10 Mason Buhay
- 10 Larry Schneider
- 11 Diane Heidlebaugh
- 11 Elizabeth McGrath
- 11 Alivia Potteiger
- 11 Riley Whritenour
- 12 Jamie Dengler
- 12 Bill Miller
- 12 Janet Towey
- 13 William Coward III
- 13 Michael Lassen
- 13 Emily Miller
- 14 Tammy Leshner
- 15 Angie Berger
- 15 Heidi Walsh

- 16 John Towey
- 17 Charley Demko
- 17 Seth Young
- 18 Melanie Schneider
- 19 Kimberly Shadle
- 20 Irene Morgan
- 20 Matt Wetzel
- 21 Kolby Cress
- 22 Alyssa Becker
- 22 Rebekah Garnes
- 23 Michael Monaghan
- 23 Dak Sisak
- 24 Louise Boyer
- 24 Keith Hostetter
- 26 Peggy Diczek
- 26 Katelyn Huber
- 26 Zachary Hummel
- 26 Brandy Schreiber
- 27 Penny Troutman
- 28 Paige Garnes
- 28 James Houser
- 28 Dennis Marlow
- 28 Lauren Wagner
- 29 Desiree Dengler
- 29 Thomas Habowski
- 29 Morgen Sweitzer
- 30 Darlene Stank
- 30 Louise Lute
- 31 Jonathan Harhigh
- 31 Kelly Long
- 31 Michael Steinbauer



## No kidding

Whatever our age, God calls us to model holy living for others.



*Directions: Match the animal young with its parent. Then write the letter answers in order below to complete 1 Timothy 4:12, NIV.*



- |                 |                   |            |              |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. ___ bear     | 9. ___ monkey     | A. fry     | I. hatchling |
| 2. ___ frog     | 10. ___ platypus  | B. fawn    | K. foal      |
| 3. ___ owl      | 11. ___ alligator | C. gosling | L. owlet     |
| 4. ___ horse    | 12. ___ giraffe   | D. cub     | M. puggle    |
| 5. ___ kangaroo | 13. ___ goose     | E. kid     | N. joey      |
| 6. ___ deer     | 14. ___ swan      | F. cygnet  | O. polliwog  |
| 7. ___ goat     | 15. ___ dog       | G. infant  | P. puppy     |
| 8. ___ fish     |                   | H. calf    |              |

“1on’t let any 2ne 3oo 4 down o 5 you 6ecaus 7  
 you 8re youn 9, but set an exa 10ple for the bel 11evers  
 in spec 12, in 13onduct, in love, in 14aith and in 15urity.”

1 TIMOTHY 4:12, NIV

Answer: D, O, L, K, N, B, E, A, G, M, I, H, C, F, P



# 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 2021 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 scholarship by submitting a letter of request by OCTOBER 3rd to a Committee member: Carrie Hummel, Barbara Liem, Stefan Swanson, Morgan Sweitzer, Mark Varndell, or Donna Wallace.

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 28th when scholarships are given out at worship service**



## AUGUST



08/07/99	John & Janet Towey
08/11/07	Dustin & Margaret Koons
08/12/72	Bill & Sandy Miller
08/13/04	Thomas & Barb Habowski
08/15/87	Jeffrey & Christine Brennan
08/16/03	Dean & Arlene Krise
08/19/72	John & Cheryl Denchak
08/19/17	Gerald & Sarah Stehr
08/24/63	Leo & Jo-Ann Young
08/25/73	Ron & Beth Andrews
08/28/76	Mike & Barb Stepanchick
08/29/81	Charles & Barbara Klauger
08/29/98	David & Renee Walter
08/30/08	Don & Lynn Dillman

### *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.



### 2021 Sponsorships

The sponsorship sign up sheets are now posted on the bulletin board. Sign up for:

- Altar Flowers \$25.00
- Worship Bulletins \$15.00
- Sanctuary Candle \$10.00
- Children's Bulletins \$10.00



Payments for Altar flowers should be given to Cathy Troutman. All other payments should be made payable to Christ's United and given to Deb Hall in the Church Office.

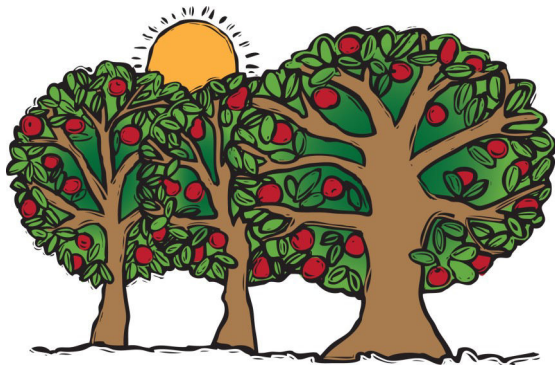
## A glimpse of grace

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!” (Isaiah 55:1, NIV). I thought of this verse when I read about a seven-acre farm in Atlanta where people can pick fruits and veggies straight off the trees and vines, like a fresh-air produce market but bigger — and all free!

The Food Forest at Browns Mill, located amid a “food desert” in a city where one-fourth of the population experiences food insecurity, offers 2,500 edible and medicinal plants for anyone in need. People take only what they can use, and volunteers harvest extras to distribute in the community. It’s one of about 70 free-food forests in the United States. To me, it looks like a glimmer of God’s kingdom.

Imagine a world where everyone’s basic needs are met: food, clean water, shelter, clothing, health care, education, meaningful work, love — and the fulfillment of assisting and supporting one another. Isaiah envisions this reality coming true. Sometimes, even in our troubled world, we catch a glimpse of God’s abundant grace, tangibly lavished on all. Even better, sometimes we’re blessed with the privilege of helping it happen.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



In observance of “Gods Work. Our Hands” Sunday (September 12) we are filling Flood Buckets for victims of flooding. We will be collecting items for the buckets from September 1st -19th. A table will be available in the Narthex for donated items.

### The supplies needed for each Flood Bucket are:

- Scouring pads
- Scrub brush
- Dust masks
- Sponges, assorted sizes
- Cleaning towels (reusable, like Easy Wipes®)
- 12 oz. bottle of liquid household cleaner (like Lysol®)
- 25 oz. bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn®)
- 50 oz. (or two 25 oz.) bottles of liquid laundry detergent
- Package of 48-50 clothespins
- Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- Two pairs latex gloves (long heavy-duty, like Playtex® dishwashing gloves, not thin ones for painting etc.)
- Work gloves
- 28-bag roll of heavy-duty trash bags (30-45 gallon)
- 6-9 oz. bottle of insect repellent (pump, drops or lotion, not aerosol)



# SOCIAL MINISTRY



We will be collecting the following items for August:

## Juice

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is  
Thursday  
**August 12, 2021**



**Fellowship Hour** will resume on October 3 and will be held after worship on only the first Sunday of each month.

## World Hunger Book & Puzzle Exchange

Do you love books? Do you have extra books you no longer want?

The Social Ministry team has a book & puzzle exchange table in the Narthex for the summer.

Bring in any of your soft or hard cover books that you no longer want and place them on the table. Then, if there are other books on the table you would like to read, take them home and enjoy the stories. We are looking for children's books, fiction, novels, mystery, non-fiction or others that you think would be of interest to someone else. If books aren't your interest, we will also be collecting puzzles! When you take a book or puzzle, leave a donation for world hunger to support the many ministries they have throughout the nation and world. We will not accept text books or encyclopedias. Thank you!



## Serving Our Community of Faith in AUGUST:

Date	Congregational Representative	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolytes	Crucifer	Greeter at the Door
August 1		Steven Wolfgang	Aaron Stepanchick Darlene Stank Dennis Wolfe Barb Stepanchick Jim Gruber-G	Erik Tice - AM Barb Stepanchick Dennis Wolfe	Jesse Cascarino		Allen Johnson
August 8		Barb Stepanchick			Hayden & Raven Marlow		Allen Johnson
August 15		Erik Tice			Logan Walacavage		Allen Johnson
August 22	Vivian Brown	Stefan Swanson			Blake Olayo & Ava Hernandez		Allen Johnson
August 29 Church Picnic	Jacob Tice	Sally Tice			Maura Sweitzer & Kayla Werner		Allen Johnson

# AUGUST 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion	<b>2</b> 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive 6:00 p.m. Sunday School Planning Meeting	<b>3</b> 6:00 p.m. Worship & Music Meeting	<b>4</b> 9:00 a.m. Church Attic Clean-out 10:00 a.m. Seniors	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
<b>8</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship	<b>9</b> 7:00 p.m. Church Council	<b>10</b> 6:00 P.M. Choir Picnic 	<b>11</b> 10:00 a.m. Seniors 6:00 P.M. WELCA Picnic 	<b>12</b> 9:00 a.m. Food Delivery 10:00 - 11:30 Christ's Cupboard 	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
<b>15</b> Newsletter Deadline 9:30 a.m. Worship 5:00 p.m. LCM 6:00 p.m. Property Committee	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00 a.m. Newsletter Assembly 10:00 a.m. Seniors	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
<b>22</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10:00 a.m. Seniors	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
<b>29</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship With Blessing of Backpacks 12:00 Church Picnic 	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				