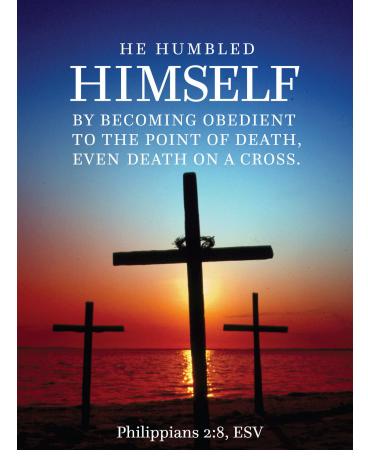
Life Together at Christ's United Lutheran Church





Join us for Worship Saturday 5:00 p.m. & Sunday 9:30 a.m. Journey & Fellowship 10:45

Life Together at Christ's United



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The March Newsletter is sponsored in Honor of All the Children of Christ's United the Berger Family



Status of Accounts as of January 31

Balance in Checking Account......\$6,877.29 Amount needed in offerings <u>per month</u> to meet our 2016 Annual Budget of \$174,914.20 is **\$14,576.18** <u>January income was \$12,397.67</u> Benevolence Gifts.....\$1,294.00 (6% of our Benevolence goal of \$20,000.00 for 2016)



Pastor Kim's Message

Brothers and Sisters,

Seriously?

When this newsletter is delivered to your door, we will have already begun the journey of Lent. After the excitement and miracles, we will now be entrenched in the violence and suffering. We will be hearing the predictions and the prayers, the shouts of the angry crowds, and then, the last words from the cross. We will watch as the limp body of Jesus is taken down from the cross and laid in another's tomb. We will feel our sighs of grief as the disciples, now lost, cower in fear.

That is the message we hear in Lent. Death and destruction. An end to the ways things were.

We so focus on that dark message that we are unable to hear the promise, spoken over and over again by Jesus, whose body may have been weakened but His voice strong in faith.

"On the third day, I will rise".

Third day? We can't get past the first. Jesus is dead, nailed to a cross, hanging there... just hanging there... it is that image, dread and unforgiving, upon which we focus. The cross – that cross – is always what is held before us. It is what we see when we look to the front of the church, what we wear on our necks, what has marked our foreheads.

We get so focused on the means of Jesus death, that we forget that Jesus is alive.

- continued on page 4

The women went to the cemetery to anoint Jesus' dead body. The disciples hid in the upper room because with Jesus dead, there was no one for them to follow. And we, well, its just beyond our comprehension: the guy was dead, end of story. The words and predictions really don't stick with us. Even in a world of computer generated reality, "I will rise again" just does not make any sense to us. Who even talks about that kind of stuff these days.

But that is the story of Easter. It is the truth of Jesus Christ.

Jesus did die. No one took His life, but Jesus offered – gave willingly – His life in obedience to God. Jesus died in order to enter into death, because death was the final separation. Death separated us from our family, friends, all of creation, and the creator... But God did not create us to be separate from Him; so the God of life, entered death, and blew the doors off.

Death could not restrain, could not contain, God. So, on the third day, Jesus who once was dead, is alive.

And for all those who can get past thinking that death is the end; those who hear the words of Jesus; those who grab hold of Jesus as he stands on the broken gates of death; those who "get" that Jesus is alive,

will live too.

Seriously.

Peace, Pastor Kim



Volume 4, Issue 3

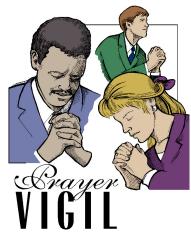


Church Council Highlights from February:

- Pastor Kim suggested having the Church Council retreat here from 9a-3p with someone else taking care of lunch, so that we can focus more on the event. She will try to get a volunteer to get lunch together.
- Donna made the motion to give more personal days with pay to the Parish Administrator. In March he will be here
 5 years which would give him
 9 personal days (2nd year 3 days, 3rd year 2 days, 4th year

2 days, 5th year 2 days). The pay cap would be 11 days. The motion was seconded by Helen Wolfgang. Ann Marie felt that it should be put in writing that a day off is 5 hours and that Personal time off is considered a 5 hour day.

• Outdoor Custodian: Keith Morgan has resigned from this position. He was willing to do summertime work such as cutting the grass but the job description won't be changed.



The power of prayer. It is not just a phrase, but a presence, a feeling that fills the sanctuary and us as we gather for the Prayer Vigil on Good Friday. Beginning at 7:00a.m., prayer becomes a constant force in the church as members and friends come and pray throughout the day. Each time slot is 30 minutes; please sign up at the bulletin board for one or more. Prayer guides are available at the entrance to help you in your offering.

For more information, please talk with Pastor Kim.

Chicken Pot Pie Dinner



Sponsored by the Lutheran Church Men Saturday, March 12, 2016 4:00 – 7:00 pm

Eat In or Carry Out

Dinner Includes: Chicken Pot Pie Lettuce w/ hot bacon dressing Applesauce Bread & Butter Dessert Beverage

Adults: \$9.00 Children 6-12: \$4.00 Under Age 6: FREE Ticket information: Call 570-875-1591 (Limited tickets available at the door)





Chicken Pot Pie Dinner Donation Sheet

Saturday, March 12, 2016 ITEMS NEEDED

_____ #10 Can of Applesauce

_____ Cakes, Cookies, Brownies, or Cup Cakes

12 or 24 Pack Soda (Any brand or flavor)

____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**, **MARCH 6th**. Baked goods may be brought in on Friday, March 11th, between 9:30 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. Baked goods may also be brought in <u>before noon</u> 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 _____



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

\$20.00 in Memory of Marian Varndell by: Ron & Beth Andrews

\$15.00 in Memory of Mary Houser for "Christ's Cupboard" by: Ron & Donna Wallace

\$290.00 in Memory of Mary Houser by: Carl & Pearl Lute Michael & Donna Lassen and family Donald & Laray Klinger Marie Fey John & Cheryl Denchak Jack Houser Iris Weller & Patsy Lins Leo & Jo-Ann Young Virgil & Ann Marie Smith

\$15.00 in Memory of Michael Zaharick for "Christ's Cupboard" by: Ron & Donna Wallace

\$235.00 in Memory of Michael Zaharick by: Ron & Beth Andrews Members of Church Council Richard & Geraldine Jaffe





- 2 Lynn Anczarski
- 3 Katie Brown Allen Pennypacker Jack Stitzer
- 6 Barbara Klauger7 Jessie Harris Alisia Knorr
- Donald Smith Jr.8 Mark Klinger
- Christopher Monaghan
- 10 Janet Quirk
- 12 Gregg Sterling Sierra Wagner
- 15 James Hepler
- 16 William Waldick
- 17 Kenneth Welker
- 18 Michael Miller
- 19 Jane Pennypacker Grantham Sterling
- 20 Hayden Marlow

- 21 Wendy Harhigh Mark Hepler Rickey Knorr
- 22 Susan Ruzze
- 23 Brian McAndrew Jacob Wetzel
- 26 Wyatt Hepler
- 27 Zachary Huber
- 28 Robert Green Amanda Houser Maynard Merwine
- 29 Nathan Berger Tiffany Cramer
- 30 Dennis Mallams Lori Sharp



03/17/07	David & Beth Becker
03/21/81	Rickey & Brenda Knorr
03/22/96	Leo & Heather Young
03/29/80	Leonard & Terri Whyne

We Offer our Prayers to...

February 21 – Family of Joseph Kelly Sr., Family of Faythe Mervine, Family of James Parke, Family of Aker Green, CJ & Sharyn Robichaux, Connie Welker, Walter Wolfgang, Linda Kopitsky, Gerry Budravage, Leona Sheipe, Robyn Barrett, Kim Brown, Michael Wolfgang

February 14 – Family of Tony Stanitis, Family of George Freshour, Family of Pat Monaghan, Jack Stitzer, Doug Fetterolf, Barb & Dean Fetterolf, Linda Mekosh, Robert Berger Sr., Susan Jiannino, Christine Klouser family

February 7 – Crystal Collette, Robert Sherman, Laura Miller, Gary Steinhart, Nellie Schlorff

January 31 – Family of Michael Zaharick, Family of Mary Houser, Barrie Neumeister, Beryl Stitzer, Deb Price, Wendy Farnsworth, Barb Liem

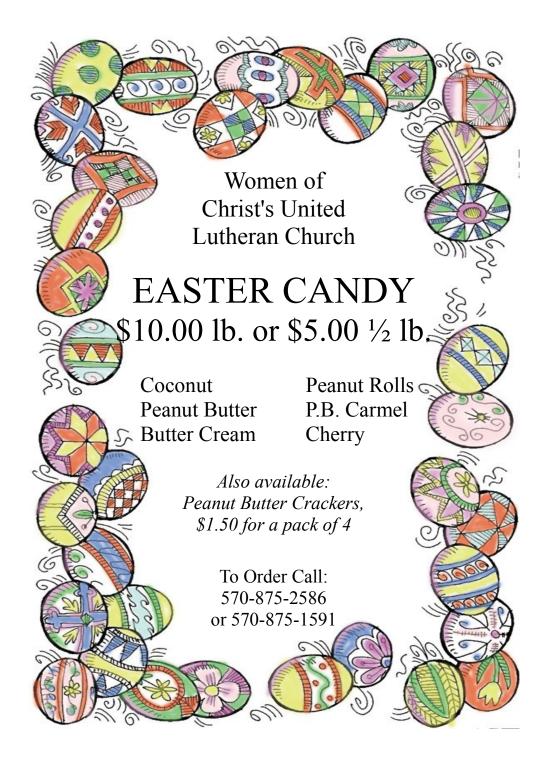
January 24 – Family of Edward Harter, Family of Doris Hinkel, Judy Fritz, Michael Monaghan, William Singley, Drew Ressler, Reese Burdette, Weston Rock, Bill Dando, Jane Fetterolf, Dianne Klem, Helen Posey, Lillian D'Angelo & parents, Margie Zimmerman, Doris McGurl, Judi Wright, Charlie Young, Karyssa Wenrich, Elizabeth Brown

Please note that those experiencing a traumatic event are placed onto the Prayer List and will be kept on for <u>one month</u> 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.

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 Berner Family—Tracy The Hall Family—Bud The Johnson Family—Allen, Keri, Amy & Cole



Life Together at Christ's United

JR & SR YOUTH <u>JOINT</u> ACTIVITY

Friday, March 18th at 6pm

We will meet at the church to color dozens and dozens of eggs as well as fill the Easter gift bags for the egg hunt participants. Light refreshments will be provided. We are looking for donations of hard boiled eggs. There is a sign sheet on the bulletin board.

SR YOUTH

Your participation is requested the day of the Easter Egg Hunt **(Saturday, March 26th)** in order to make this event successful. As in previous years, we will need your assistance with hiding eggs, putting on a puppet show, and overall organization of the event. Hope to see you there!!

Also, thank you to all who attended the hockey game in February. Christ United was well represented that evening with more than 30 of or our adults and youth attending the event. For many of you it was your first time at a hockey game. Hopefully you enjoyed it!!!



Serving Our Community of Faith in March:

Date	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte & Tag-a-long	Crucifer	Post Worship Greeter in Narthex	Post Worship Greeter at Door
March 2 Mid-Week	Mark Varndell	John Kimmel Laray Klinger Jane Pennypacker Becky Spencer		Blake Olayo			Darlene Stank
March 6	Cheryl Varndell		Donna Wallace Dennis Wolfe Maryann Wolfgang	Carey Wahalec	Steven Wolfgang	Helen Wolfgang	Barb Stepanchick
March 9 Mid-Week	Donna Wallace			Ralph Johnson			Erik Tice
March 13	Barb Anczarski			Danielle White & Marisa Seritsky	Brandy Speer	Beth Andrews	Sally Tice
March 16 Mid-Week	Kay Berner			Charlie Sweinhart			John Towey
March 20 Palm Sun.	Becky Spencer		Jo-Ann Young Kay Berner Barb Anczarski	Amy Johnson & Bryce Hummel	Desiree Dengler	Mark Varndell	Cheryl Varndell
March 24 Thursday	Beth Andrews		Jim Gruber Donna Lassen Angie Berger	Nicole Hood	Brandon Hood		Dennis Wolfe
March 25 Good Friday	Melanie Bendinsky						Beth Andrews
March 27 Easter 6:30	Donna Lassen	Robert Carl John Towey Jim Gruber David Hall	Melanie Bendinsky John Denchak Barb Stepanchick	Thomas Wolfgang	Tyler Wolfgang	Melanie Bendinsky	Cheryl Denchak
March 27 Easter 9:30	Kay Berner	Jane Pennypacker Kay Berner Dennis Wolfe Mike Steinbauer	Becky Spencer Irene Morgan Judy Stepulitis	Jordan Walter	Ryan Walter	Vivian Brown	Jim Gruber

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thur
		1	2 10:00 Seniors 10:00 Staff Meeting	3
		6:30 Choir Practice	6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Worship	7:30 Evan Outreach
6 4 th Sunday in Lent 9:30 Communion Service 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 <i>Journey</i> 3:30 Ladies Night Out	7 11:00 Worship at Luther Ridge 7:00 <i>Church</i> <i>Council</i>	8 9:00 Food Delivery 6:30 Choir Practice	9 10:00 Seniors 10:00 Staff Meeting 4:30 Sr. youth pizza & pantry set up 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Worship	10 10:00-12:(Christ's C
13 5th Sunday in Lent 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 <i>Journey</i>	14 11:00 Worship at Luther Ridge 6:00 <i>Mutual</i> <i>Ministry</i>	15 Newsletter Deadline 6:30 Choir Practice	16 10:00 Seniors 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Worship	17 7:00 Pers Meeting
20 Palm Sunday 9:30 Communion Service 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 <i>Journey</i>	21 9:30 Stewardship Team Meeting 11:00 Worship at Luther Ridge	22 9:30 Newsletter Assembly 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 Movie—The Passion	23 10:00 Seniors 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Seder Meal	24 Maundy T 7:00 Com Service
27 Easter Sunday 6:30 Sunrise Service 8:00 Easter Breakfast 9:30 Communion Service	28 11:00 Worship at Luther Ridge 6:00 Grief Support Group	29 6:30 Choir Practice	30 10:00 Seniors 10:00 Staff Meeting	31

sday	Friday	Saturday
and lines 9	4	5 12:00 Social Hall Reserved
igelism & Meeting		5:00 Communion Service
00 upboard	11	12 4:00-7:00 Chicken Pot Pie Dinner 5:00 Worship Service
onnel	18 6:00 Jr. & Sr. Youth groups coloring Easter eggs and filling gift bags	19 9:00-12:00 1 st Holy Communion Class 5:00 Communion Service
Fhursday munion	25 Good Friday Office Hours 9:30 -12:00 7:00-7:00 Prayer Vigil 12:00 Worship 7:00 Worship	26 11:00 Easter Egg Hunt LCM Prep for Breakfast





To my family at CULC ~

It is such a delight to finally have my name removed from the Prayer List after all these months.

If you sent a card... I thank you; If you called me on the phone... I thank you; If you included me in your prayers... I especially thank you.

God has heard those prayers and has put His healing hands on me so many times.

God answers prayers and I am so thankful. Love in Christ, Judy Stepulitis

Stewardship

The Stewardship Team is at it again! Seeking to help the people of God find a balance in life by following our baptismal charge – let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven – there are several programs in the works:

It's back! Financial Peace University is coming to Christ's United once again! FPU helps us get out of debt and into a biblical model of controlling our money (instead of money controlling us!). The new class is forming, so sign up now. Cost will be \$90 for the class and all materials.

Youth need FPU too! Credit cards and college seem to go together, leaving our youth with a great education – and a great debt load. A special version of FPU designed specifically for youth is coming this Summer – but don't wait – reserve your spot now and reap the benefits for years to come!

The Stewardship Team designs programs for our congregation and community that teach us how to use the time, talents, and treasures we have been given to glorify God. If this ministry interests you, please talk with Jim Gruber or Richard Berner about using your gifts in this way!





Celebrate! The Son who once was dead is now alive, and we shall live with Him! Lift your voices and your hearts in praise to the Lord of Life on Easter Sunday! Services are at 6:30 & 9:30 – this is a great time to bring a friend and family from out of town! The Lutheran Church Men are serving their annual breakfast that day as a gift to the congregation. Come and celebrate!

Give Electronically

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

At Christ's United it is important to know what support we can depend on from our congregation members. By knowing what you are willing to commit financially, we are able to better plan for the future. Please consider setting up a recurring giving plan. Automating your financial commitments means your contributions will be received on a steady, uninterrupted basis.

To set up a recurring giving schedule, visit us online at www.christsunited.org, locate the Online Giving button and set up your recurring giving schedule. The first time you give, you will select a password that will enable you to log in at any time and make changes to your giving or view your complete online giving history. Or if it's easier, just scan this QR code to get started.



SOCIAL MINISTRY



We will be collecting the following item for March:

Oatmeal

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



The month that your committee serves please help out in the kitchen before and after the service. Also, please bring in baked goods or other items for the snacks. Thank you.

Committee Schedule

March—Lutheran Church Men April—WELCA May—Christian Education June—Worship & Music July—Evangelism & Outreach August—Youth Group September—Property

"Christ's Cupboard"

Next Distribution Date **Thursday, March 10** 10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon **We need more volunteers to help distribute food, come out** & join us!

Join us each Wednesday during Lent at 6:00 p.m. for Soup!



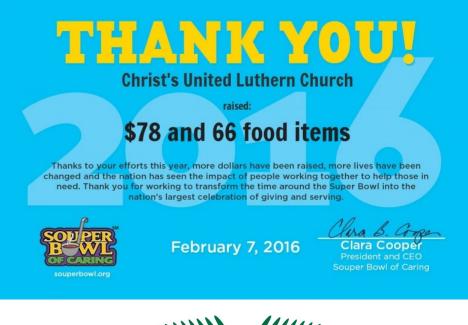


With your help, ELCA World Hunger has worked on hunger issues for more than 40 years, and together, we have made an incredible worldwide impact. Here in the United States, many Americans have been forced to choose between paying for food and other basic necessities. There is more work to do here at home and around the world. This Lent, we will join in the ELCA's World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving campaign. With a goal of \$2 million by Easter Sunday, this initiative will enable crucial work to get underway. Each week before our Mid-Week Lenten services at 6:00 p.m., we have a soup supper. The congregation is encouraged & welcome to join us. Each week we will have a short presentation about World Hunger and our offering will go toward reaching the ELCA's goal.

Ladies night out is March 6



Ladies – grab the green , brush up the brogue and bring out the blarney! We're celebrating a Saint Patrick's Day theme and we'll be telling our best Irish jokes in brogue and wearing clovers during March Ladies' Nite Out! We'll be gathering in the parking lot to carpool to the Wooden Keg for an Irish atmosphere and meal of fellowship. Please sign up on the bulletin board to reserve a seat, and sign up a friend while you're at it!





Funerals:

01/11/16 Marian C. Varndell 01/25/16 Edward R. Harter 01/26/16 Mary H. Houser 02/06/16 Michael J. Zaharick

New Members:

02/14/16 Diane Heidlebaugh, Jennifer, Tyler, Jonas & Elizabeth McGrath, Cathy Troutman **Marriages Scheduled:** 09/24/16 Nicholas Miller & Kayla Troutman 11/12/16 John Lisowski & Hannah Sterling





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 <u>25</u> LWR Personal Care Kits during Lent.

HERE'S OUR COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

Sponsored in part by:



ACTION TEAM

FEBRUARY 28 Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)



MARCH 6 Combs MARCH 13 Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)

MARCH 20 (PALM SUNDAY) Bars of Scap



Life Together at Christ's United

-@-

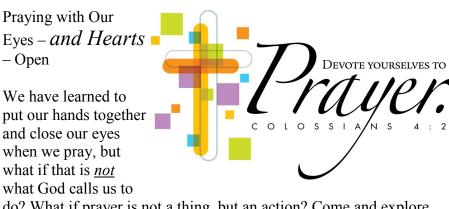




1st holy communion class

The body of Christ... the blood of Christ... given for you. We celebrate Holy Communion together as a family of God. Now is the time for some of our younger members to come forward to celebrate and share too! Each young person (grade 1 and up) is invited to First Holy Communion class, where we learn about the meal of God's love. We

will meet on the Saturday, March 19, before Palm Sunday, when youth and their families will receive Communion – together! All you need to bring is a bible and a parent – fun, learning, and experience are provided! We start promptly at 9:00a.m., and finish by noon, so don't be late on this important date!



do? What if prayer is not a thing, but an action? Come and explore God's call to see and feel prayer in your life Tuesdays at 7:00p.m.! Our journey begins on April 5th, no tickets necessary. See you there !





These People???



Each month we like to have a different picture from long ago. This months picture is of the placing of the cornerstone in 1992. Pictured is Forrest Shadle.

We are in need of more photographs. If you have any to share, please bring them into the church office for Erik to scan into the computer.

If you have any old pictures from Christ's United or any of the chapels that formed Christ's United, please provide pictures to the church office to be included in future "Life Together" Newsletters. Also provide the names of those that are pictured. I am also looking for pictures of the exterior of the Chapels: St. John's, St. Paul's, St. Peter's and Zions. Thank you!



Holy week

The journey of Holy Week takes us on the final steps of Jesus' to the cross. Each day brings us closer to the realization of God's gift, and prayer fully, closer to God. As the events leading to the crucifixion gain in momentum, so does our worship.

On Tuesday at 7:00p.m., you are invited to view The Passion, where the visual picture grabs our hearts. On Wednesday, we come together at 6:00p.m. to join in the ancient tradition of the Seder, the last meal Jesus shared with His disciples, recounting God's action in history.





On Thursday at 7:00p.m., we share in Christ's command as the feet of congregational representatives are washed, Holy Communion is shared, and then the altar is stripped and we leave in silence.

On Friday at 7:00p.m., we begin in that same silence as the cross is held before us and we hold on to it, leaving in darkness. The darkness greets us once again as we gather on Easter morning only to be shattered by the celebration of life in Jesus Christ. This is the journey of Holy Week: let us walk it together.





We especially need sponsors for Newsletters!

Payments for Altar flowers should be made to Jane Pennypacker. All other payments should be made out to the church and given to Erik Tice in the church office.



Christ's United Ministry Teams

Christian Education education@christsunited.org

Evangelism/Outreach evangelism@christsunited.org

Lutheran Church Men (LCM) lcm@christsunited.org

Social Ministry socialministry@christsunited.org

Stewardship

WELCA welca@christsunited.org

Worship & Music music@christsunited.org <u>Christ's United Committees</u> Auditing & Finance Committees finance@christsunited.org

Endowment Fund endowment@christsunited.org

Mutual Ministry

Nominating council@christsunited.org

Personnel personnel@christsunited.org

Property property@christsunited.org

Christ's United Lutheran Church <u>Mission Statement</u>

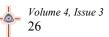
We the members of Christ's United Lutheran Church, Ashland, desiring to be blessed together with Word and Sacrament and to become more perfectly the Body of Christ in our world, do hereby commit ourselves to a mission which includes a creative reexamination of our worship life; a quality educational 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.



From a newsletter in Buffalo, New York:

ooth as for our henden suppors.
The menu features bowels of soup
A froguill offering will be taken

The thought of this bowls us over!



CHURCH COUNCIL 2016 council@christsunited.org

	Phone	Term Expires
Beth Andrews	570-874-2381	Feb. 2018
Stewart Anthony	570-644-0373	Feb. 2018
Deb Berner	570-875-3209	Feb. 2017
John Denchak	570-875-4970	Feb. 2017
vicepresident@chris	tsunited.org	
Deidre Dengler	Youth Rep.	Sept. 2016
John Towey	570-205-2682	Feb. 2018
Deb Zaharick	570-875-2691	Feb. 2017

PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Kim L. Lengert 570-336-3110 pastorkim@christsunited.org

STAFF

Parish Visitor	Lois Sterling	570-449-6947		
lois@christsunited.org				
Parish Administrator	Erik Tice	570-875-1591		
office@christsunited.org				
Office Hours: Monda	ay-Friday 9:30-3:00			
Director of Music	Keith Morgan, ALCM	570-516-1725		
music@christsunited	.org			
Treasurer	Ann Marie Dillman	570-875-2422		
treasurer@christsunited.org				
Indoor Custodian	Cheryl Varndell	570-875-2545		
Outdoor Custodian	Vacant Position			
Financial Secretary	Christine Brennan	570-875-0720		





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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



