

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

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The CULC Messenger
God's Work,
Our Actions

**GOD SHED
HIS GRACE
ON THEE**



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

July 2026

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Status of Accounts as of May 31

Total amount in checking account: \$72,086.68.

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

Income for May was \$16,476.14.

Expenses for May were \$18,589.91.

Net loss for the month of April was \$2,113.77.

Benevolence for May was \$798.71.

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		

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

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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.*



Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

It is good to celebrate significant anniversaries. As you are all aware, during the month of July we will celebrate the 250th birthday of this country. We have already had concerts, there's a big fair happening down at the nation's capital, and people are doing all kinds of things to commemorate the occasion.

What perhaps we take for granted is that although the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, it wasn't as if that was the end of the work of building a nation. We didn't simply adopt this mostly Thomas Jefferson-written document, call it good, and then just let things happen.

No, hard work had to follow. First, we had to continue to fight for our independence. The Revolutionary War had started in the spring of 1775, and it wouldn't really end until the September of 1783. So the Declaration of Independence wasn't the end of things- it was more towards the beginning. In fact, one year after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, in 1777, the Second Continental Congress fled to Baltimore because it looked very possible that the British were going to capture the city of Philadelphia, which they did eventually occupy for a time. What follows is a history lesson you may very well already know, but it involves an alliance with France, questions about George Washington's leadership (that he eventually answered with good results), and all kinds of things until the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783 and the British crown formally acknowledged the independence of the former colonies.

I bring all of this up because I think we as a church have something to learn from this. We, as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, have Social Statements about all kinds of things. There's one on peace. There's one on civic life. There's one on race. As congregations, we make all kinds of documents. Recently we have begun to use an Identity Statement in worship, which was approved by council. It is in addition to our Mission Statement, which this congregation has hanging in the hallway outside of our sanctuary.

— continued on page 4

Christian symbol



SHELL — A scallop shell, often shown pointing downward with three drops of water falling from it, is a Christian symbol of baptism and the washing away of sin. The three drops of water represent the Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

From the earliest centuries of the church, the shell was connected with baptism because it could be used to pour water over a person's head. In a time when many baptisms took place in rivers, lakes or outdoor settings, a simple shell served as a natural vessel, reminding believers that God uses humble, ordinary things to accomplish sacred purposes.

Today, the scallop shell continues to appear in baptismal fonts, church art and Christian design. It quietly proclaims the message of baptism: washed by grace, claimed by God and welcomed into the family of faith.

Making statements like this is one thing. Living into them is another thing entirely. There's work that needs to be done- critical work about communicating these ideas, working out how they play out in our life as a church community, asking big, deep questions that might change how we or others think- yes, this is much more in depth than simply releasing a statement.

We will be having many opportunities to discuss these things in the near future. I hope and pray that you dive into them with your church family. It is only by sharing our thoughts that we learn from each other and grow as a family of Christ.

Peace,

Pastor Brian Beissel



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

437 Airport Road (Gordon)
Ashland, PA 17921

**Monday, August 3, 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 July:

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 July is as follows:

July 15: Huddle House, Lavelle



Bible Quiz



Jesus said that his followers are the "light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). It wouldn't do much good to hide a light under a bushel, he said. It should be put on a lamp-stand to give light in the house. Then Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see ..."



- Choose the ending of Jesus' sentence:
- A. their way and not stumble.
 - B. how good and faithful you are as my servants.
 - C. your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
 - D. in their darkness.

Answer: C (Matthew 5:16, NIV)

Puzzle!

One of a Kind

The scrambled words and phrases below are all drawn from Scripture. Unscramble each one to reveal the correct biblical term or phrase. After solving them, transfer the circled letters in order to the lines at the bottom of the page to uncover the final message.

1) eiVn _ _ () _

2) ilLy fo teh elaVly

_ _ _ _ _ () _ _ _ _

3) abLm fo dGo _ _ _ () _

4) estMar _ _ _ _ _ () _

5) eJuss _ _ _ _ _ () _

6) okRc _ _ _ _ _ () _

7) rdBea fo eiLf _ _ _ _ _ () _

8) higLt fo hte dorWl _ _ _ _ _ () _

9) voaSir _ _ _ _ _ () _

10) doLr _ _ _ _ _ () _

11) ishCrt _ _ _ _ _ () _

12) ehSprhed _ _ _ _ _ () _

13) hTe doWr _ _ _ _ _ () _

14) rncPie fo cePae _ _ _ _ _ () _



What do all these words have in common?

Answers: Vine; Lily of the Valley; Lamb of God; Master; Jesus; Rock; Bread of Life; Light of the World; Savior; Lord; Christ; Shepherd; The Word; Prince of Peace; Names of God's Son



Church Council Highlights From June

- Lutheran Church Men reported that the Spaghetti Dinner was successful. Chicken BBQ will be September 19th.
- Financial Leadership Academy Team meeting will be in July (possibly 7/16) everyone is welcome to attend the FLA meetings.
- Jeffrey Freeman, a financial associate from Thrivent, came to discuss investment options for the church. The Finance Committee will review the information provided.
- A new camera was purchased for live streaming services on Facebook - it needs to be installed.
- The Boyers "Caring & Sharing" Key Tags distributed to scan at the registers no longer work. People must download the new app and designate the funds to go to Christ's United. See below
- There will be no council meeting in July. The next regular meeting will be by August 5 at 7:00 p.m.



The Boyers "Caring & Sharing" Key Tags distributed to scan at the registers no longer work. You must sign up for "My Boyer's X-tra Savings" and download the app.

Once signed up, sign in through the app and choose your organization to support from the Caring & Sharing list. Your selected organization will receive 1% of your total spend and will be donated once every six months.

To download the app, stop in Boyer's for a flyer with a QR code or log on here:

<https://www.boyersfood.com/rewards/>

The CULC Messenger
God's Work, Our Actions



July Council Contact of the month is Barb Stepanchick.

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 Barb, she can be reached at 570-875-1114.



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 Begis Family - Ann Ray & Bill

The Dengler Family - Randy, Nicole, Lucas, Greyson & Raelynn

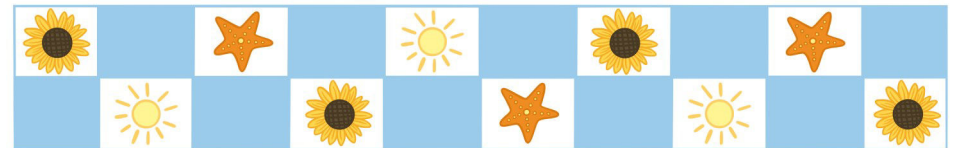
The Spencer Family - Becky



Our Awesome God

When our lives are focused on God, awe and wonder lead us to worship, filling our inner being with a fullness we may never have thought possible. Awe prepares the way for God's transforming power within us. This transformation of our inner attitudes takes place as awe leads us into wonder, admiration, reverence, surrender and obedience before God.

—James Houston, *The Transforming Power of Prayer*



Do you sing or play a musical instrument? If so, would you consider sharing your musical gifts with your church family this summer?

The choir is on a well-deserved break and we are hoping to schedule a variety of special music throughout the season. Guitar, piano, flute, trumpet, harmonica - all are welcome! Soloists, duets, quartets—we'd love to hear you! Gospel, Contemporary, Classical, Praise - all will enhance our worship!

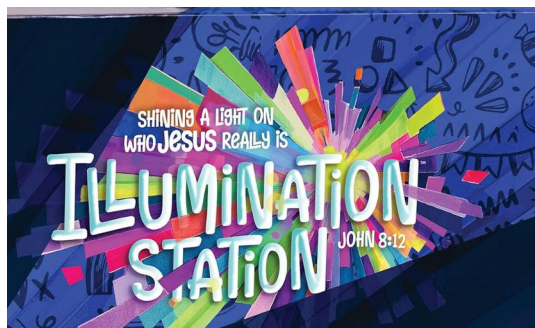
Contact Jamie Johnson to schedule a Sunday if you are willing to provide special music.



Vacation Bible School

Join us for "Illumination Station"

Shining a light on who Jesus is



Students
Age 3 yrs-
6th Grade

Mon - Tues - Wed
July 20 - 22
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Each evening's experience includes
Bible Stories, Music, Crafts, Snacks

Register child(ren) on the bulletin board
or call the church office by July 1.

Please include Name, Age/Grade completed,
Parent/Guardian name and Phone Number.

A registration form with student information
must be completed on first night of VBS

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.***



June 28 – Robert Liem (B. Andrews)
Mary Lou Johnston (J. Towey)
Barry Oswald (J. Towey)
Ron Rowe (J. Kosminsky)
Jim Gruber (D. Hall)
Nancy Lindenmuth
Families of Robbie Leim
Carl Lute
Frank Paul
Michelle Adams

June 21 – Jim Houser Jr. (His Family)
Irving (J. Houser)
Pete Oesterle (L. Wolfgang)
Family of Jeannette Freiler
(A. Dillman)

June 14 - Richard Shoup
Mark Varndell

June 7 – Frank Dziczek
Gail Schalles (B. Yoder)

Please continue to pray for: Annette Houser, Jack Houser, Jim Houser, Jr., Allen Johnson, Jennie Kosmisky, Pearl Lute, Dianna Monaghan, Jane Pennypacker, Heidi Walsh, Kayla Werner, Linda Zerby

Remember our Home-bound: Leroy Berner, Nancy Kessler, Gail Marquardt, Anna Neumeister, Richard Shoup, Karen Smith

And Friends: 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, Trevor Shilling (A.M. Dillman), Elizabeth Smith & family, Linda Szuler (T. Wolfe), Joe Towey, John Towey Jr., Rose Varndell



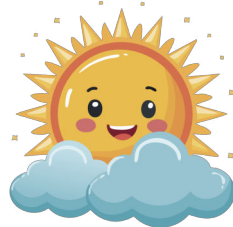
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2 Heather Schweinhart
 3 Mindy Burke
 Dustin Koons
 Joan Clark
 John E. Shilling
 5 Christopher Dillman
 6 Chris Brennan
 James Locker
 Sally Tice
 Ron Wallace
 7 Jeremiah Johnson
 Michelle Knorr
 Rick Lorady
 Patrick Monaghan
 Jeffrey Sharp
 Daniel Sisko
 9 Larry Wolfgang
 10 Nelson Berger, Jr.
 Keith Yoder
 11 Eric Singleton
 Deb Hubler
 12 Dylan Barker
 William Harris
 13 Deb Price
 Todd Walacavage
 14 Peter Hepler
 Samuel Troup, Jr.
 15 Samantha Schneider

17 Wesley Long
 Maura Sweitzer
 Tami Wagner
 18 Jennifer Singleton
 19 Kylie Sisko
 20 Dylan Heyer
 22 Jeremy Rock
 23 Kimberly Miller
 24 Tyson Fetterolf
 Fletcher Sterling
 26 Carla Mae Carl
 Rachael Green
 Thomas Wolfgang
 Zeke Shingara
 27 Lydia Price
 28 David Cunningham, Sr.
 Diane Rock
 Brayden Ladick
 Jamie Pennypacker
 29 Hannah Towey
 30 Pastor Brian Beissel
 Kylie Mallams
 31 Barbara Fetterolf



School Kits needed for Lutheran World Relief

Items may be brought in August 2 thru 30.

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
- 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 2 - 30.

Thrivent Action Team will pack the bags.

***Please note** - due to a generous donation, we have enough pens and pencils. None are needed this year.





All are welcome to attend the
Women of the ELCA's
next meeting on
Wednesday, August 5, 2026
6:00 PM



* The following Memorials were given to *
* Christ's United since the last issue of the News- *
* letter *
*
* In Memory of Jim Hepler by *
* Ron & Beth Andrews *
*
* To CULC's Worship & Music Fund *
* In Memory of Jim Hepler by *
* Friends and Family *
*
* To CULC's ELW Hymnal Fund by *
* Don and Laray Klinger *



07/08/76	James & Jo Conrath
07/08/95	Greg & Penny Lindenmuth
07/10/93	Gary & Connie Weinreich
07/10/93	Thomas & Michelle Hood
07/15/22	Derek & Amanda Whritenour
07/28/01	Rick & Gail Lorady
07/30/05	Susan & Shaun McNally
07/30/22	Zach Ridall & Rhonda Carl
07/31/70	James & Carol Reiner



2026 Sponsorships

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



ALTAR
FLOWERS

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 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.

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.



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/>



OUR 2026 GRADUATES

Ava Hubler graduated from North Schuylkill Jr. Sr. High School. She will be pursuing a Bachelor's of Fine Arts at Bloomsburg University and then pursuing her Master's in Education. She hopes to become an art teacher in the future.

Joey McAndrew graduated from North Schuylkill Jr. Sr. High School. He plans to attend Harrisburg School of Technology and Robotics.

Marisa Seritsky graduated from North Schuylkill Jr. Sr. High School and plans to pursue a career in Law Enforcement.

Carey Wahalec graduated from Susquehanna University with a B. S. in Finance. He plans to become a Certified Financial Planner.

MAY HE GRANT
YOUR
HEARTS
DESIRES & MAKE ALL
YOUR
PLANS SUCCEED



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 ~

- 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 July:

Instant Oatmeal

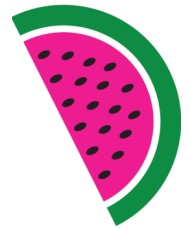
Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday
July 9, 2026



Serving Our Community of Faith in July:



Date	Congregational Rep/Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer
July 5	John Towey	Deb Hubler	Darlene Stank Becky Spencer Ken Dengler	John Towey AM Angie Berger Barb Anczarski	Karolyne Towey	Kimber Towey
July 12		Barb Anczarski			Maura Sweitzer	—
July 19		Donna Wallace			John Wagner	—
July 26		John Towey			Timmy Beissel	—



2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			10:30 Seniors 12:00 Lunch with Pastor Brian @ Huddle House			Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion			10:30 Seniors	10:00-11:30 Christ's Cupboard 		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30 Worship	6:00 Social Ministry Meeting		10:30 Seniors	6:00 Worship & Music Meeting 6:00 Finance Committee Meeting		6:00 Contemporary Worship Service
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30 Worship 5:00 LCM / Property	 6:00 – 8:00 VBS	 6:00 – 8:00 - VBS	10:30 Seniors 6:00 – 8:00 - VBS			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:30 Worship			8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors			