

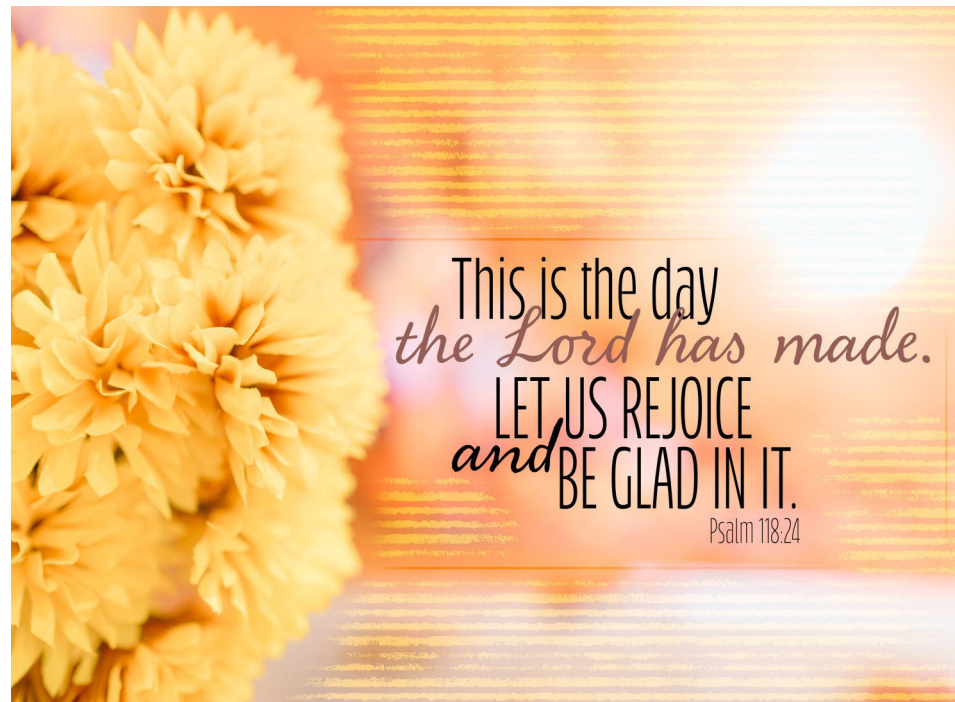


Christ's United Lutheran Church
437 Airport Road
Ashland, PA 17921
www.christsunited.org

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



This is the day
the Lord has made.
LET US REJOICE
and BE GLAD IN IT.
Psalm 118:24

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

September 2026

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Status of Accounts as of July 30

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

Income for June was \$18,580.96

Expenses for June were \$22,114.36.

resulting in a net loss for June was \$3,533.40.

Benevolence for June was \$2,089.49.

Income for July was \$13,101.76.

Expenses for July were \$14,549.30.

Net loss for the month of July was \$1,447.54.

Benevolence for July was \$685.63.

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	570-590-0781	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

Christian symbol



Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35), pointing to himself as the true source of spiritual nourishment. Bread also holds a central place in the Lord's Supper, where it represents Christ's body, given for us. Simple and sustaining, bread has become a lasting symbol of God's provision, Christ's presence, and the shared fellowship of believers.

BREAD — One of the oldest and most familiar foods, bread carries deep meaning throughout Scripture. In the Old Testament, God provided manna, or "bread from heaven," to sustain His people in the wilderness. In the New Testament,

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 undergird our program and the maintenance of our facilities as it encourages improved stewardship.



Grace and Peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!

It's amazing what can happen in one morning.

I recently had a morning, where, in the span of two hours, I had a conversation about a funeral, one about a baptism, and various other conversations during this month's food pantry distribution.

It was a very full two hours. Many different life transitions, including health issues, job changes, and major events in the church were all discussed. And as such, I ended up sitting and reflecting on a little bit of this. I have decided to share some of those reflections here.

Number one, it is really important that the church is involved in these things. That we have conversations every day with people to see what's going on in their lives. I fall into the trap as much as anyone else, but it is easy to want to move from one thing to the next and not give everything its current weight and space. Part of this I believe is our society's expectation that we all hurry up, hurry up, and if you haven't yet, hurry up. In this, we lose the important things. We lose the relationships, we lose quality time with those we care about, and we lose time with God.

Therefore, it is very important that we are intentional about meeting people where they are. I had opportunities to do that on that particular morning.

Do you spend too much time thinking about what's next rather than what is present? If you are a human being who breathes oxygen in the 21st-century, chances are you do. I think we're trained to do that in part.

It occurs to me that in the gospel, Jesus spends a lot of time telling his disciples to stop rushing him. In the gospel lesson last Sunday, there was a woman who comes up to Jesus, asking for her daughter to be healed, and the disciples' response is to tell her to go away. They even ask Jesus to tell her to do that.



First of all, imagine, thinking you can tell Jesus what to do.

Secondly, Jesus doesn't do what they say. He sees the woman. He truly sees her and he recognizes her story and even though there's this cultural resistance, he heals her daughter. But equally significant to the healing is the time that he spends with her despite others telling him not to.

There are days when I set a schedule and I have different points as to where I should be in different times of the day, but something happens and all or most of it goes out the window. At the end of the day, I'm called to be there for people. However, this is not just a pastors' calling. I know that this is not something that the corporate world gets. I know that this is not something that a lot of institutions understand. But please understand – people remember how you made them feel. People remember when you showed up for them. They also remember the opposite of these things.

So my prayer for all of us as we read this and think about this time when the school year is starting and the sports calendar has been looming and before you know it, it's time to plan for Christmas- keeping a calendar is secondary to keeping relationships. It's in the heart of our close connections that God is present.

May our loving God meet you in those relationships.

Peace,
Pastor Brian



Schedule for September:

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 September is as follows:

September 9 at the Huddle House, Lavelle



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

437 Airport Road (Gordon)
Ashland, PA 17921

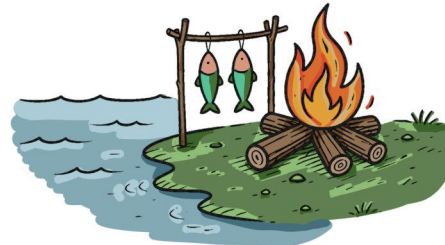
Monday, September 28, 2026
1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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!

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

After his resurrection, Jesus asked one of his disciples the same question three times: "Do you love me?" The disciple felt hurt, wondering why Jesus kept asking. Who was this disciple?



- A. James
- B. John
- C. Philip
- D. (Simon) Peter

Answer: D (John 21:17)

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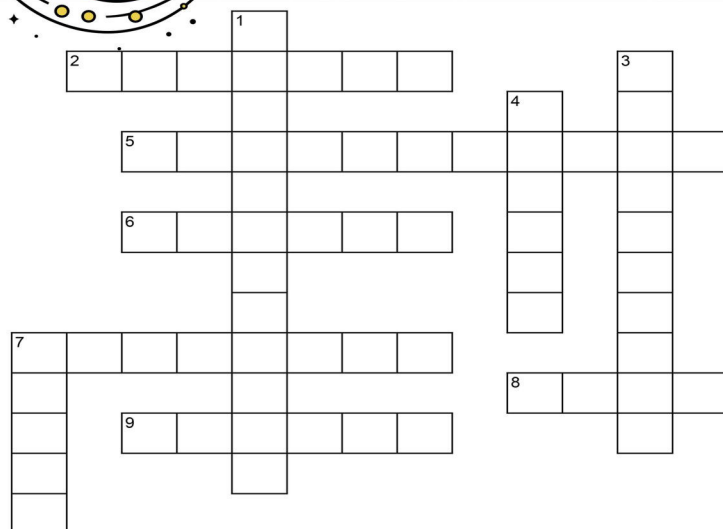


Puzzle!



BEATITUDES

Fill in the blanks below to complete the crossword. Answers are based on Matthew 5:1-13, NIV.



ACROSS

2. _____ and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.
5. Blessed are the _____, for they will see God.
6. Blessed are those who _____ and thirst after righteousness.
7. Blessed are the _____, for they will receive mercy.
8. Blessed are the _____, for they will inherit the earth.
9. Blessed are those who hunger and _____, for they will be filled.

DOWN

1. Blessed are the _____, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
3. Blessed are those who are _____ for righteousness' sake.
4. Great is your _____ in heaven.
7. Blessed are those who _____, for they will be comforted.

Answer key: 2 Across: Rejoice, 5 Across: pureinheart, 6 Across: hunger
7 Across: merciful, 8 Across: meek, 9 Across: thirst, 1 Down: poorin spirit
3 Down: persecuted, 4 Down: reward, 7 Down: mourn



**Council
Highlights**

Church Council Highlights From August

- A railing will be installed leading to the Altar area for ease of navigating the steps.
- A new camera is in the process of being installed above the door in the back of the nave. It will be able to focus on speaker/choir for a better online worship experience.
- The Finance Team is continuing to research best options for investments.
- The front door access code will be changed effective September 1st. Anyone needing access to the church should plan accordingly and have someone with access to the code with them to enter the church.



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/>

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God's Work, Our Actions



September Council Contact of the month is John Towey.

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 John, he can be reached at 570-205-2682.



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 Berger Family - Nelson H., Angie, Nelson R. & Nathan

The Dillman Family - Christopher, Sarah, Vivian & Aliza

The Stehr Family - Gerald, Sarah, Remington, Garrison & Aida



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



In Memory of Carl (Mickey) Lute by:

Mr. & Mrs. Elizabeth Hand
Don & Laray Klinger
Mark, Mark Jr. & Heather Klinger
The Lute Family
Jo-Ann Young
Ann Helwig

In Memory of Jim Hepler by:

Terry Shilling

In Memory of Jim Gruber by:

Chris Brennan
Pastor Bob & Nan Hoenich
Ron & Beth Andrews
Mary Davis
Gail Marquardt & Family
Jo-Ann Young & Karen Presto
Russ, Carrie & Zachary Hummel
Terry Shilling
Ted & Terry Ambrose
Rodney & Linda Paul & Family
Kenny & Tammy Dengler, Deidre & Desiree
Northern Schuylkill County Rotary Club
Richard L. Berger

To CULC's Christ's Cupboard

In Memory of Jim Hepler by:

Dennis & Tina Wolfe

In Memory of Jim Gruber by:

Ron & Donna Wallace
Erik, Sally & Jacob Tice
Terry & Dorothy Kessler
Don & Laray Klinger
Dennis & Tina Wolfe

An anonymous donation was made to the
Forrest and Dorothy Discretionary Fund
in memory of Jim Gruber.





CHICKEN BBQ

CHRIST'S UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

437 Airport Road, Ashland

(570) 875-1591

Saturday, September 19, 2026

3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

COST \$12.00 (*checks payable to LCM*)

~Eat in or Take Out~

MENU

1/2 Barbecued Chicken, Baked Potato, Corn
Dinner Roll & Butter, Dessert, Beverage

Limited tickets will be sold at the door.

Buy your tickets from LCM members, or call the Church Office.

Donations needed:

Your donations to complete the menu for the Annual Chicken Barbecue will be greatly appreciated. Please complete and return this sheet no later than **September 7th**. The sheet may be placed in the Chicken Barbecue Donation Box in the narthex or returned to the Church Office.

- _____ **One #10 can whole kernel corn**
- _____ **Cakes**
- _____ **12 pack soda (any brand/flavor)**
- _____ **24 Pack Bottled Water**
- _____ **20 lb. bag of charcoal**
- _____ **Cash**

Donations may be placed on the center island kitchen counter. **Please attach your name to your donation so we can account for it.** All donations except the baked goods must be in the church no later than September 14th so a final inventory can be taken and the remaining items may be purchased. Baked goods may be brought on **Friday, September 18** between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or **Saturday morning after 9:00 a.m.** **Your support is greatly appreciated!**

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.***



August 23 – Sally Tice (C. Hummel)

Jack Houser

Family of Bill Johnson

August 16 – Raymond Price (D. Price)

Timmy Beissel

August 9 – Kay Polukis (D. Hall)

Ann Ervin (S. Tice)

Brian Johnson

Families & Friends of Jane Ann Hepler

Dee Petusky

August 2 – Joanie Beecroft (Pr. Brian)

Family & Friends of Jim Gruber

Please continue to pray for: Annette Houser, Jack Houser, Jim Houser, Jr., Allen Johnson, Jennie Kosmisky, Gail Lorady, 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), Joe Ferraro Jr., Jim Fetterolf, Bob Griffiths, Cathy Groody, Dan Grow, Ann Helwig, Patty Kaufman, Zack Metzinger (J. Eisenhart), Kim Minning (A. Berger), Samantha Schifano, Elizabeth Smith & family, Linda Szuler (T. Wolfe), Joe Towey, John Towey Jr., Rose Varndell, Olivia Wagner



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





2 Faith Rickert
 3 Joyce Mallams
 Heather Young
 4 Frank Dziczek
 5 Vivian Brown
 Keri Johnson
 6 Donna Lassen
 7Carolynn Long
 8 David Becker
 Pastor Michelle Beissel
 Kay Berner
 Kenneth Marlow
 Mark Sharp
 9 Katie Knorr
 Terry Shilling
 Hailey Sisko
 Tanner Walacavage
 Doug Dean
 10 Josie Economy
 Shawn Romberger
 Bryon Rusinko
 11 Ken Dengler
 Abigail Zweizig
 13 Rachelle Demko
 Alanni Miller
 Tanner Harhigh

14 Penny Shadle
 16 Oliver McCormick
 17 Tina Dengler
 18 Traci Smith
 Cathy Troutman
 Blake Allison
 Ada Jackowiak
 20 Ted Ambrose
 Holly Bolich
 Renee' Walter
 22 Louise Gregis
 Frank Mattis
 23 Ava Hernandez
 24 Annette Houser
 Joshua Kanezo
 David Walter
 25 Nelson Berger, Sr.
 Jocelyn Judge
 Anne Pirie
 Tyler Wolfgang
 26 Susan Merwine
 27 Chelsea Stutzman
 28 John S. Wolfgang
 30 Beth Becker
 Rick Fritz
 Bernice Wilson



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 2026 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 4th. to a committee member: Vivian Brown, Carla Mae Carl, Tammy Dengler, Carrie Hummel, and Donna Wallace. The scholarships will be distributed on November 29, 2026.

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 29th when scholarships are given out during the worship service.



Pray for Our College Students

The next meeting of
Women of the ELCA is on

Wednesday, September 2nd
at 6:00 PM. All women of CULC
Are welcome to attend.

KANUGHTY KNOTTERS will resume knotting
quilts for Lutheran World Relief on Tuesday morn-
ings beginning September 22 at 9:00 am.
No sewing experience is required...just to be
able to tie a knot. For more information contact
Donna Wallace.



**September 26, 2026
at 8:00 AM.**

Come join us for the Highway
Cleanup on Saturday September 26. We will meet at the church at
8:00 A.M. Everyone is welcome. The more help we have the quick-
er we can finish. We hope to see many of you there for this im-
portant ministry by CULC.
Rain date is October 3.

CONFIRMATION CLASS for students in 7th & 8th
grade or older who have not yet been Confirmed are
being held on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Please
contact Pastor Brian or the church office if you will be
attending.



16



**Confirmation
— Class —**

09/10/05
09/12/15
09/16/72
09/18/65
09/21/13
09/22/90
09/24/16
09/25/76
09/26/92
09/26/97
09/27/08

Kenneth & Ann Welker
Andrew & Kelsey Blyler
Terry & Dorothy Kessler
Raymond & Emily Reichwein
Steven & Rachelle Demko
Terry & Cheryl Neumeister
Nicholas & Kayla Troutman
Robert & Carla Mae Carl
Brian & Faith Rickert
Russell & Carrie Hummel
Robert & Rose Pennypacker



2026 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 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.



Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 4, 2026

1:00 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.

All God's
Creatures



10

Indoor Yard Sale Saturday, October 10, 2026 8:00am - 1:00pm

All are welcome to join us in having another indoor yard sale. Rent a table for \$5 each. You may rent more than one table if you would like. Please call the church office or sign up on the bulletin board to rent a table. The deadline to sign up is October 2. Tables will be set up in the social hall and Narthex Wednesday evening October 7.

You must set up, be present at your table the day of the sale, clean up, and take home any items not sold. You may set up your items on Thursday, October 8 from Noon-4, Friday, October 9 during office hours, or if you need to set up Thursday or Friday evening, please call the office and arrangements will be made. You may NOT set up on Saturday morning.

We will have food for sale including hot dogs, soup, baked goods, bottled water and soft drinks. Proceeds from the table rentals, food & bake sale will benefit the Gordon Fire Company. Thank you for your support!

The Garden Club is hosting a Fall Plant Exchange!



Sunday, September 6 - Sunday, September 27

Anyone who gardens knows how plants multiply rapidly.

Do you have something you can divide and bring in to share with others?

Now is the perfect time to dig up and divide them. Bring in your: Iris bulbs, Peony tubers, Hostas, or any other plants you would like to share..

All are welcome to take what is on the table.



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 ~

September—Choir/
Worship & Music / LCM

October—Church Council

November - Social Ministry

December - Evangelism/
Endowment/Stewardship



We will be collecting the following items for September:

Canned Vegetables

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday
September 10, 2026



Serving Our Community of Faith in September:



Date	Congregational Rep/Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer
September 6		Jacob Tice	Donna Wallace b John Wolfgang d Thomas Wolfgang so	Jacob Tice AM Barb Stepanchick Dennis Wolfe	Karolyne Towey	Kimber Towey
September 13		Erik Tice			Timmy Beissel	—
September 20		Kay Berner			Maura Sweitzer	John Wagner
September 27		Larry Wolfgang			Eli Pennypacker	—



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			10:30 Seniors 6:00 WELCA			
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12
9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 Social Hour 10:30 Choir Practice			10:30 Seniors 12:00 Lunch with Pastor Brian 7:00 Church Council	10:00 – 11:30 Christ's Cupboard 		6:00 Contemporary Service
13 <i>Grandparents Day</i>	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30 Worship w/Dedication of ELW Hymnals 10:30 Choir Practice 5:00 LCM/Property	6:00 Social Ministry	1:00 Lunch Bunch @ Fairlane Diner	10:30 Seniors			9:00 Learning Ministry Days 3:00-6:00 Chicken BBQ
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30 Worship 10:30 Choir Practice		9:00 Knaughty Knotters	10:30 Seniors			8:00 Highway Clean-Up
27	28	29	30			
9:30 Worship 10:30 Choir Practice 	1:00 – 6:00 Red Cross Blood Drive 	9:00 Knaughty Knotters	8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors			<i>The CULC Messenger God's Work, Our Actions</i>