



DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER



UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Justin G. Lingenfelter: Pastor

Cell: 610-973-4052

Email: pastor.justin17@gmail.com

Terri Cromwell: Office Administrator and OAKs Coordinator

Church Office: 570-568-2254

Cell: 570-850-5730

Church Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

Marilyn Gresh: Music

Home: 570-473-9406

Email: marilynngresh@hotmail.com

Terry Snyder: Sexton

Cell: 570-238-4666

Worship with Holy Communion - Sunday, 10am

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday, 9am to 2pm.

UIC COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bob Swartz, <i>President</i>	2 nd term, ends 12/2019
John Sheaffer, <i>V. President</i>	2 nd term, ends 12/2018
Cami Zimmerman, <i>Secretary</i>	1 st term, ends 12/2018
Wendy Wirth, <i>Treasurer</i>	2 nd term, ends 12/2017
Willard Hauck	1 st term, ends 12/2017
Elwood Brown	2 nd term, ends 12/2017
Frank Danowsky	1 st term, ends 12/2018
Charlie Dinsmore	1 st term, ends 12/2018
Annette Baker	2 nd term, ends 12/2018
Ken Criswell	1 st term, ends 12/2019
Amy Danowsky	1 st term, ends 12/2019
Marianne Murray	1 st term, ends 12/2019

Council Members are elected for a term of three years and no more than 2 consecutive terms.

United in Christ's Mission Statement:

Led by the Spirit, we follow Christ's call to honor God and neighbor through worship, learning, service, prayer, stewardship and invitation.

Mark Your Calendars

- SUN, DEC. 3** **ADVENT STARTS**
ACOLYTE TRAINING
ADVENT DECORATING
- SAT, DEC. 9** **BABY STEPS DIAPER PANTRY**
- SUN, DEC. 10** **YOUTH COOKIE ORDER DEADLINE**
- WED, DEC. 13** **OAKS**
COUNCIL MEETING, RUSTY RAIL
- SUN, DEC. 17** **CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS DUE**
POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE
- MON, DEC. 18** **JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
- SUN, DEC. 24** **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**
10AM, 7PM AND 11PM
- MON, DEC. 25** **CHRISTMAS DAY ~ OFFICE CLOSED**
- TUE, DEC. 26** **OFFICE CLOSED**
- FRI, DEC. 29** **YOUTH LOCK-IN**
- SUN, DEC. 31** **LESSONS AND CAROLS**

FROM THE PASTOR



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John 1:1-14

This prologue to John's gospel is hands down one of my favorite passages in all of scripture. For me, it serves as a reminder of the fullness of this season. Here, John tells us for whom it is we are waiting in this season of Advent. Yet, as he lays out his own nativity scene, he skips over the images familiar to us. John gives no attention to the manger or the stable. He leaves out angels and shepherds and stars and magi. In John's account, not even our dearly beloved Mary and Joseph are mentioned! Instead, as John begins to tell

the story of Jesus, he reminds his readers of just who this is. He reminds us that, as we enter into this season, we are waiting for the Word. Not just any word, but *the* Word. This is the Word who was in the beginning, the Word who was with God, and the Word who was God. This is the same Word through whom all things, including life for you and me, came into being. This is the Word who is the light and life of all people. This is the divine creating Word, now stepping into the created order.

GOD IS WITH YOU.

As we take this season of waiting and preparation to anticipate the arrival of the Word, we remember that when this Word enters the world, everything changes. When the baby is born, the promise is made unequivocally in his name: God is with us. God is with *you*. The fullness of God has come and revealed God's self in the Word made flesh, showing divine vulnerability in the infant Jesus. We have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Know that wherever you may be in your preparations this season, wherever you may be in your own sense of waiting, know that God has come to meet you and declare you as God's child. It's a promise and it's a Word that absolutely no darkness can overcome.

So are you ready? Are you ready for this Word to come into the world? Come and see!

Yours, united in Christ,



REFORMATION SUNDAY



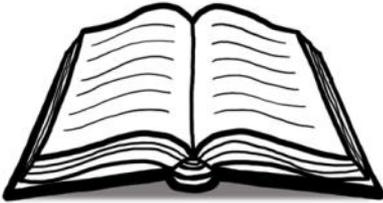
500
Reformation
Five Hundred Years 1517-2017



**On October 29,
we came forward
to nail our own
Reformation Theses,
our hopes and dreams
for our church,
to the big red door.**

TED Bible Study, Tuesdays @ 6:30pm

No, not Ted's Bible study, *TED* Bible study! TED is a conference held around the world where experts present on a wide range of topics in Technology, Entertainment, and Design.



TED Ideas worth spreading

Each week we will watch a presenter take the stage to share about their field of expertise and research. After hearing from the presenters, we will dive into scripture to see how the Bible informs us on the same topics that the folks from the stage are discussing. Each week, we will learn new and rich ways in which the Bible helps us to think about the world around us and how we are to live our call as Christians.

All are *always* welcome! No prior experience necessary!

PASTOR WILL BE AWAY

Pastor Justin will be on vacation beginning Monday, Dec. 25, returning Tuesday, Jan. 2.

If you need emergency pastoral care, continue to please call Pastor Justin and he will contact the pastor on call.

Christmas Eve Services

"To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." Luke 2:11-12

We hope that you will join us this Christmas Eve to gather around the manger to celebrate the birth of the Savior. Worship opportunities this Christmas Eve include:

- * 7:00pm Traditional Service
- * 11:00pm Christmas Unplugged

While both services will include Holy Communion and candle lighting, they will be led in two different styles. The 7:00pm Traditional Service will be musically led with our Christmas hymns and anthems played from the piano and organ. The 11:00pm Christmas Unplugged service will be musically led with songs and carols played from acoustic guitar.



Know that however and whenever you decide to worship, all are welcome here at United In Christ. Come and see!

"Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made know to us." Luke 2:15

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES

- Starting Sunday, December 3, if you have a church mailbox, you'll find your 2018 offering envelopes in your mailbox. If you do not have a mailbox, you'll find your 2018 offering envelopes in the fellowship hall on the SignUp table. If you do not get offering envelopes, but would like to, please see Terri in the office.



Support United In Christ while you shop!

United In Christ is now registered on AmazonSmile, just in time for your holiday shopping!

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a website operated and owned by Amazon. AmazonSmile website has the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your purchase to the charitable organization of your choice, at no cost to you.

It takes just 3 easy steps!

1. Go to smile.amazon.com
If you already have an Amazon account, sign in, and it will prompt you to select your charity.
2. Search for “United In Christ Lutheran Church”.
3. Confirm your selection.

That’s it. Don’t forget to tell your family and friends too!

To learn more about SmileAmazon visit,
www.smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi_aas

2017 GIVING STATEMENTS

All 2017 offerings must be handed in by Sunday, December 31. Anything given after December 31 will be entered as 2018. Statements will be ready for pickup on Sunday, January 21. Any statements not picked up on Sunday, January 21 will then be mailed out the week of January 22.

MEMBER UPDATES

Congratulations!

Colby Noll was baptized on Sunday, November 5.
Congratulations Colby!!

Happy Birthday



Ted McPherrin 12/3	Martha Ketchem 12/14
Jeff Snyder 12/5	Tina Snyder 12/14
Jane Mertz 12/6	Frank Danowsky Jr. 12/16
Nicole Cooley 12/7	Zoe Scott 12/19
Ken Baker 12/8	Ben Schade 12/25
Bob Keifer 12/9	Dylan Sheaffer 12/25
Karen Hauck 12/11	Ed Snyder 12/30
Gerald Kling 12/12	Nancy Baker 12/31
Virginia Criswell 12/12	

HAPPY *Anniversary*

Nelson & Esther Minium 12/1/02
Rob and Teena Zimmerman 12/21/02
Bob and Grace Yost 12/22/54



If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please call the church office with these dates.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED:

Our Members: Nelson and Esther Minium, Marie Tanner, Louella Swanger, Eleanor Phillips, Mel Baker Jr., Margaret Kahler, Ruth Stump, Arna Dershem, Cheryl Baker, Alice Snyder, Willard Hauck, George Rice, Meda Moyer, John and Shirley Russell, Irene Stark, Bob Keifer, John and Jen Sheaffer, Laurel Hertz, Bob Swartz, Alecia Engle, Teena Zimmerman, Gerald Baker, Elwood Brown, Lisane Snyder, Mark Rabuck, Mac Keifer, Shanna Martz, Grace and Bob Yost, Joan Ketchem, Viv Marsh.

Military: Brandon Wirth, Derek and Evy Rabuck.

Family and Friends: Fred & Ilsa Voss, Pastor Gary & Allie Owens, Ardith Wilkins, Mary Lazor, Sharon Clark, Pastor Peter Bergstresser, Sue Bearc, Sharon Rowe, Steve Rishel, Tom and Julie Shutt, Rita Grimes, Christina Koons, Lee Snyder, Fred Greenwalt, Lauren Hauck, Mike Moyer, Beverly Bardnard, Cathy Carpenter, June Eschbach, Elma Zeiber, Kimberly Barner, Trish Baker, Larry Erb, Patrick Payne, Abe Koons, Bob Klinger, Emma Baker, Lois Herbster, Paul and Ken Engle, Jonathan Gresh, Elwood Russell, Pat Klobe, Cindy Mertz, Randy Koons, Jon Noaker, Paul Cromwell, Bob Reedy.

We want to pray for you!

To add or remove someone from the prayer list, please call the office at, 570-568-2254 or email your request to, office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

DECEMBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	Dec. 3	Dec. 10	Dec. 17	Dec. 24 - 10am
Altar Guild	S. Weiser	J. Mertz	C. Troxell	S. Keifer
Greeter	G. Weiser	K. Noll	L. Danowsky	L. Rabuck
	R. Kling	S. Noll	J. Sheaffer	B. Keifer
	N. Walter	B. Swartz	Jen. Sheaffer	K. Noll
Acolyte	E. Danowsky	L. Shearer	A. Danowsky	E. Danowsky
Asst. Minister	C. Zimmerman	A. Baker	T. McPherrin	M. Shearer
Lector	M. Shearer	T. McPherrin	S. Keifer	Ken B.
Comm. Asst.	K. Koch	M. Baker	S. Keifer	T. Snyder
	K. Guffey	D. Shearer	S. Weiser	C. Troxell
Usher	K. Arndt	E. Brown	E. Brouse	L. Caris
	O. Arndt	S. Brown	L. Rabuck	K. Criswell
	C. Dinsmore	R. Kling	M. Rabuck	D. Shearer
	S. Dinsmore	K. Criswell	B. Koch	K. Arndt
Guest Relations	B. Troxell	G. Weiser	Ken B.	F. Danowsky
Offering Counter	C. Zimmerman	M. Rabuck	K. Guffey	W. Wirth
	K. Guffey	W. Wirth	J. Sheaffer	M. Shearer
Bread/Wine	S. Weiser	K. Criswell	W. Wirth	H. Marsh
Social Hour	L - R	S - Z	A - D	

Please take schedule out of newsletter and keep.

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled day, please trade with someone else on the schedule and then notify the office of the change. If you are unable to trade with someone, please call Terri Cromwell at the church, 570-568-2254.

DECEMBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	Dec. 24 - 7pm	Dec. 24 - 11pm
Altar Guild	S. Weiser C. Troxell	C. Zimmerman
Greeter	J. Snyder T. Snyder N. Walter	D. Baker Karen B.
Crucifer	TBD	D. Shearer
Acolyte	E. Danowsky TBD	B. Martz TBD
Torch Bearer	A. Danowsky TBD	L. Shearer TBD
Bible Bearer	T. McPherrin	M. Shearer
Asst. Minister	T. McPherrin	M. Shearer
Lector	B. Swartz	C. Zimmerman
Comm. Asst.	W. Wirth TBD K. Koch	
Usher	S. McPherrin B. Swartz T. Swartz B. Troxell	D. Baker Karen B.
Guest Relations	TBD	TBD
Offering Counter	W. Wirth M. Rabuck	C. Zimmerman M. Shearer
Bread/Wine	S. Noll O. Rishel	T. Snyder

	Dec. 31
Altar Guild	K. Guffey
Greeter	E. Brown S. Brown T. Swartz
Acolyte	L. Shearer
Asst. Minister	B. Swartz
Lector	A. Baker
Comm. Asst.	A. Baker M. Baker
Usher	B. Koch K. Koch J. Mertz S. Brown
Guest Relations	M. Mertz
Offering Counter	J. Sheaffer M. Rabuck
Bread/Wine	S. McPherrin
Social Hour	E - K

View on Digital Church Calendar

Visit our website, www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/calendar, to view UIC's Digital Church Calendar. Click on any "worship" event and you'll find the list of worship volunteers for that particular Sunday.

YOUTH AND FAMILY

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY ~ NOV. 12



**Congratulations
to all of our
Confirmands!**

Larissa Shearer
Breanna Martz
Zoe Scott
Owen Arndt (not pictured)



CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Youth Fundraiser



COOKIES HOMEMADE BY OUR YOUTH!

\$5 FOR 18 COOKIES

(mixed assortment)

Order forms are on the SignUp Table.
Cookie Order Deadline: Sunday, Dec. 10

COOKIE PICK-UP TIMES

Sat, Dec. 16 ~ 11am-12pm
Sun, Dec. 17 ~ after church

Youth Lock-In

All Youth and their friends are invited to the Youth New Year's Lock-In.

It's going to be a blast!



Bring a sleeping bag, pillow and pjs. Dinner will be provided, but please bring a drink and snack to share Friday night, along with a breakfast item to share Saturday morning.

Begins: Fri, December 29 at 6pm

Ends: Sat, December 30 at 10am

ACOLYTE TRAINING



On Sunday, Dec. 3 at 9am, the Holy Moly Club will be taking their regularly scheduled class time to learn how to serve as acolytes during worship. Any students who would like to learn and get some practice in are invited to attend!

ADVENT DECORATING



The Youth, along with the congregation, are decorating the church on Sunday, December 3, at 3pm. Please bring the whole family and join us in getting the church ready for the season.



SOCIAL MINISTRY

United In Christ has 3 ways you can share Christ with others this Christmas. You can sponsor a toiletry gift bag, bless someone without family with a gift this Christmas, or give a God's Global Barnyard animal through ELCA Good Gifts.

There are 16 residents at Country Comfort Alternative Living in New Columbia. For \$10, you can sponsor a toiletry gift bag, which will be filled with items like toothbrush, toothpaste, lotion, lip balm....etc.



To sponsor a toiletry gift bag, stop by the bulletin board in the fellowship hall and;

- Write your name on an ornament and pin it to the bulletin board.
- Then take a pink envelope, write "Gift Bag" and your name on it, put \$10 inside, then place it in the offering plate.



Starting Dec. 3, Annette Baker will have a list of Country Comfort residents that won't be getting any gifts this year, as they don't have family. If you would like to bless one of them with a gift, please see Annette after church.

Go **tail** it on the mountain.



Each year, Americans spend over \$300 billion on Christmas shopping. Imagine what would happen if even a fraction of that amount of money was spent to combat global hunger! With

ELCA Good Gifts, you can do just that! Choose from over 50 charitable gifts to give in honor of loved ones – from goats to water wells, school uniforms to food for refugees. All of these gifts can be given in honor of friends or loved ones as remarkable Christmas gifts.

Here at UIC, we have set up a Good Gifts Tree in the fellowship hall, with ornaments for all sorts of gifts. If you would like to purchase one of these Good Gifts for someone, simply take the ornament of the corresponding gift and place the designated payment in one of the pink special offering envelopes (checks payable to United In Christ), marking it with the type of gift you are purchasing. Then place the envelope and payment in the box beside the tree.

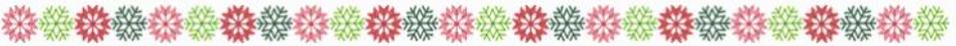
At the end of the season, we'll gather the orders and send them to ELCA Good Gifts. You can also always purchase through the ELCA Good Gifts website at ELCA.org/goodgifts.



Older Adults Kickin' it up! Monthly Senior Center



WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13, 10am-2pm



10am - Social Hour

11am - Free Bingo with Prizes

12pm - Free Lunch

2 Christmas TV Episodes



GRANT WRITING SEMINAR



Terri Cromwell (OAKs) and Jane Mertz (Rich Huff Fund) attended a Grant Writing Seminar at Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit in Milton on Thurs., Nov. 17. The all day event was sponsored by Susquehanna River Valley Visitors Bureau and organized by Penn State Cooperative Extension, and State Reps. Fred Keller and Lynda Schlegel Culver.

The event was very informative. Terri has begun looking into grants to insure the continuation of OAKs, Older Adults Kickin' it up!

RICH HUFF FUND



Baby Steps DIAPER PANTRY

PREVIOUS DIAPER PANTRY

Nov. 11, 2017 ~ 880 diapers distributed

NEXT DIAPER PANTRY

December 9 ~ 10-11:30am

Baby Steps Diaper Pantry is held on the second Saturday each month from 10-11:30 a.m. in United In Christ's Fellowship Hall. The pantry is open to caregivers of babies from the communities around Milton, Lewisburg, Mifflinburg, and Watsontown.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Please help us fill the sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias in memory or honor of those loved by members of the congregation at United In Christ.

After brightening our sanctuary, these beautiful plants can be taken home or you can choose for them to be delivered to members of our congregation who are unable to make it to church.

**COST IS \$6.50
BY SUNDAY, DEC. 17**

Dedicate a poinsettia by submitting an order form, along with payment. Order forms are in the fellowship hall on the sign-up table.

**Poinsettias are a beautiful gift to our Lord
and a wonderful expression of our love for
God and all he has given us!**

**Church Office will
be closed on
December 25 and 26,
and January 1.**



THANK YOU's

Dear United in Christ Family,

It has been a long journey for me as I started my seminary journey back in the Fall of 2011, but it was a journey that was worth it. I wanted to say thank you to my church family for the support throughout, not only in my seminary journey, but in my lifelong journey of faith in this place. Not only did you offer financial support, but you offered care, love, and great experiences that helped lead me to this place.

I am happy to announce that I officially graduated in May of this last year and am awaiting a first call. I was recently assigned to the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod and am starting talks with a potential congregation soon. I am excited for the next part of this journey and cannot say thank you enough for all the support you have given me over the years. I will continue to hold United in Christ in my heart as the place that taught me so much about faith, ministry, and the love of God.

*In Christian Love,
Felicia Swartz*

*Thank you so much for all of the phone calls, prayers, cards and visits after my knee surgery!
~ Peg Swinehart*

As we wind down the year, we would be remiss not to recognize those members of Church Council who are concluding their terms. Many thanks are due to Elwood Brown, Willard Hauck, and Wendy Wirth for their years of service, dedication, and leadership. Well done good and faithful servants!

UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1875 CHURCHES ROAD
LEWISBURG PA 17837

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Location: 1875 Churches Rd., Lewisburg, PA
Office Phone: 570-568-2254
Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net
Website: www.unitedinchristlutheran.net
Office Hours: Mon. thru Fri.: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.