



October 2019 NEWSLETTER



*Let the fields and their crops burst out with joy!
Let the trees of the forest sing for joy.*

Psalm 96:12

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

Office: 570-568-2254

Cell: 570-850-5730

Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

Marilyn Gresh: Music

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Email: marilyngresh@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

| | |
|--|--|
| Cami Zimmerman - President | 2nd term, ends 12/2021 |
| Charlie Dinsmore - V. President | 2nd term, ends 12/2021 |
| Ken Baker - Treasurer | 1st term, ends 12/2020 |
| Lisa Rabuck - Secretary | 1st term, ends 12/2021 |
| Ken Criswell | 1st term, ends 12/2019 |
| Bob Swartz | 2nd term, ends 12/2019 |
| Kathy Guffey | 1st term, ends 12/2021 |
| Rick Whitesel | 1st term, ends 12/2021 |
| Emma Danowsky | 1st term, ends 12/2021 |
| Syann Steward | 1st term, ends 12/2021 |

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

- SAT, OCT. 5** **GINNY CRISWELL'S
CELEBRATION OF LIFE**
- WED, OCT. 9** **OAKS SENIOR CENTER**
- SAT, OCT. 12** **BABY STEPS DIAPER PANTRY**
- SUN, OCT. 13** **HARVEST HOME SUNDAY
CROP WALK
HAYRIDE AT ST. JOHNS**
- WED, OCT. 16** **COUNCIL MEETING**
- FRI, OCT. 18** **CORN MAZE: ALL CHURCH**
- SAT, OCT. 19** **HILKERT REUNION**
- MON, OCT. 21** **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
- SUN, OCT. 27** **REFORMATION SUNDAY
FAITH AND FUN WORSHIP**
- SUN, NOV. 4** **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**
- SUN, NOV. 24** **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

FROM THE PASTOR



We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

Galatians 2:15-21

Dear United In Christ,

Would you like the good news or the bad news?

The Bad News: You cannot make it on your own. You cannot save yourself. I'm sorry to have to break it to you, but there's simply no two ways about it: no matter what you do, no matter how hard you might try, you cannot earn your own salvation. It's a tough pill to swallow, believe me, I know. If I had it my way, there'd be a checklist of tasks to accomplish by which I could measure my progress. If I had it my way, there would be a metric to indicate that I'd made it, that I'd secured the salvation I need. If I had it my way, I'd be able to earn/work/pay enough to show and prove that my life in Christ is secured beyond any shadow of a doubt.

Unfortunately, this is not how it works. There simply is not enough you or I could ever do to earn our place in God's kingdom by our own merit. The reality is that you and I simply aren't good enough. As Paul puts it to the Galatians, we know that we

are not justified by our works of the law, but instead we are found to be *dead* to that law. Even when it comes to the simple acts of belief or faith, we end up leaving ourselves stranded. As Luther says in his explanation of the third article of The Creed in the *Small Catechism*, “I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him.” The long and short of it is, we’ve got nothin’!

The Good News: You don’t *need* to make it on your own. You have been freed from saving yourself. I’m happy to be the one to break it to you because there’s no two ways about it: no matter what you’ve done, no matter how hard you’ve fallen, you are not too far from your salvation! It’s a wonderful gift to receive, believe me, I know. Because Christ has it his way, there’s no checklist of shortcomings by which our failures are encoded. Because the Holy Spirit is on the move, there is an assurance that’s paved it, that we’ve been secured in the salvation we need. Because things turn out God’s way, we’ve already been given/gifted/assured of enough to be joined to Christ’s resurrection, in order that we might know the fullness of abundant and everlasting life in God’s presence.

Fortunately, this is the God at work. This is the God who has come to greet us and deem us worthy of being in God’s presence. It’s the natural conclusion to Luther’s confession above; that while his own strength and understanding are surely not enough, “instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel.” His reminder to the people is that there is nothing we can do for ourselves to earn God’s love or life, but instead God graciously decides to come and greet us with such gifts freely given through faith. This understanding sits at the crux of the Reformation and is worth celebrating once again this month. It’s our opportunity to remember that, as Paul puts it, we have been crucified with Christ, dying to all the ways in which we try to save ourselves, but it is now that Christ who lives in us, making us new and joining us to the unfolding drama of God’s love.

There could be no better news than this! It is, after all, *the* good news!

In this month of being reformed, may you find the joy of such good news coming to greet you. May you come to know the assurance that Luther and the Reformers sought to impart; that you are not alone. You're works do not save you, but thanks be to God for the grace that surely does! Happy Reformation!

Yours, united in Christ,



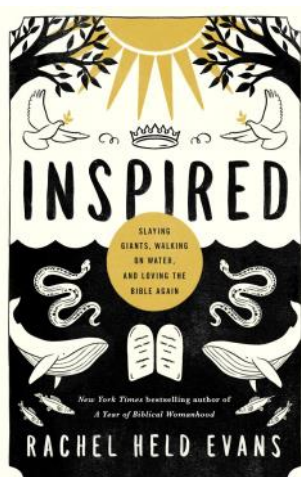
UIC COMMUNITY NIGHT OUT

Is it even Fall if you don't tackle a corn maze? Fortunately, we have the opportunity for you! The whole congregation is invited to join in on this month's UIC Community Night Out!



Join us on **Friday, October 18th at 5pm** as we head over to Ard's Farm to take on their pirate-themed corn maze! Price is \$10 at the venue, children 2 and under are free. We hope to see you there!

FALL BOOK STUDY



It is not too late to join us for our Fall Book Study here at UIC. While we began at the end of last month, we will continue to meet on **Wednesdays at 6pm** throughout October and into November. Together, we will work through Rachel Held Evans' book: *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*. Together, we will engage in conversation that help us unpack what we encounter in scripture and consider how to hear words written millennia ago in the present day to encounter the God who is greater than

the pages themselves. Copies of the book are \$10 each, but assistance is available if the purchase would prevent participation.

Please see the signup sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall to add your name to the list! If you have any questions, please see Pr. Justin. All are welcome and we hope you will join us! Come and see!

From the publisher:

"If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, then what is it? What do people mean when they say the Bible is inspired? When Rachel Held Evans found herself asking these questions, she began a quest to better understand what the Bible is and how it is meant to be read. What she discovered changed her life – and it will change you too.

Drawing on the best in recent scholarship and using her well-honed literary expertise, Evans examines some of our favorite Bible stories and possible interpretations, retelling them through memoir, original poetry, short stories, soliloquies, and even a short screenplay. Undaunted by the Bible's most difficult passages, Evans wrestles through the process of doubting, imagining, and debating Scripture's mysteries. The Bible, she discovers, is not a static work but is a living, breathing, captivating, and confounding book that is able to equip us to join God's loving and redemptive work in the world."



OAKS

SENIOR CENTER

Wednesday, Oct. 9

10:00 am - Social Hour

11:00 am - Free Bingo with prizes

12:00 pm - Free Lunch

1:00 pm - 1790 Census
by Bruce Teeple





HARVEST HOME

SUNDAY

Please bring non-perishable food
and can items to the church
by Friday, Oct. 11.

We will bless these items on
Harvest Home Sunday, Oct. 13.



Fresh items will only be accepted on Oct. 13.

Please no home canned items!



Donations may be placed in
the baskets in the church Narthex.

**Cash or check donations will also be collected
and designated for CROP WALK.**



United In Christ is putting together a team to walk in the Lewisburg CROP Walk on **Sunday, October 13**. If you are interested in joining the team please contact Michelle

Shearer, UIC's CROP Walk Rep, at church or by phone at 570-768-8316.



Baby Steps

DIAPER PANTRY

NEXT DIAPER PANTRY

October 12~ 10-11:30am

1 bag (40 diapers) per child.

Newborn to size 6

Baby Steps Diaper Pantry is for families-in-need living within the Milton, Warrior Run, Mifflinburg, and Lewisburg school districts.

ALTAR FLOWERS



Altar flowers are a beautiful gift to our Lord and a wonderful expression of our love for God. It honors loved ones and gives thanks for special people and events in our lives.

The cost is \$30. You may take your flowers home with you after service.

Flower Chart is located in the office.

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

Our Members: family and friends of Mel Baker Jr, Joan Ketchem, family and friends of Ginny Criswell, Sonja Noll.



Family and Friends: Laurie Heintzeman, Colby Heintzeman, Morgan Heintzeman, Glen Van Dyke, Katarina Lopez, Derick Hunter, family and friends of Charlie Fegley, Lila Collins, Courtney Price.

Are you or a loved one in need of prayer?

Submit your prayer request by calling 570-568-2254 or emailing it to office@unitedinchristlutheran.net.

We will email your prayer request to UIC's prayer chain. We'll print prayer requests for 6 weeks.

OCTOBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

* Please remove from newsletter and post on your fridge.*

| | 10/6 | 10/13 | 10/20 | 10/27 |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Altar Guild | J. Mertz | K. Guffey | S. Keifer | C. Troxell |
| Greeter | Ken B. | E. Brown | K. Noll | B. Keifer |
| | R. Baker | S. Brown | S. Noll | S. Keifer |
| | R. Kling | L. Rabuck | P. Swinehart | K. Guffey |
| Acolyte | E. Danowsky | D. Sheaffer | C. Noll | K. Swanger |
| Asst. Minister | T. McPherrin | M. Shearer | B. Swartz | C. Zimmerman |
| Lector | S. Bingaman | T. McPherrin | Jen Sheaffer | |
| Comm. Asst. | A. Baker | M. Baker | R. Kling | T. McPherrin |
| | K. Koch | S. Weiser | W. Wirth | M. Murray |
| Usher | W. Wirth | A. Baker | K. Arndt | B. Koch |
| | D. Baker | E. Brouse | O. Arndt | K. Koch |
| | Karen B. | L. Caris | J. Mertz | D. Shearer |
| | Ken B. | S. McPherrin | L. Rabuck | L. Shearer |
| Guest Rel. | M. Rabuck | B. Troxell | Ken B. | G. Weiser |
| Offering Counter | M. Shearer | K. Guffey | C. Zimmerman | P. Hauck |
| | C. Shreck | J. Sheaffer | M. Rabuck | W. Wirth |
| Bread/Wine | R. Baker | S. Bingaman | C. Zimmerman | Ken B. |
| Social Hour | L - R | S - Z | A - D | E - K |

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled day, please try to trade with someone 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, and she will find a replacement for you.

MEMBER UPDATES



HAPPY *Anniversary*

JOHN AND JEN SHEAFFER 10/6/01
CHRIS LEE AND DAWN WARREN 10/10/11
JEFF AND TINA SNYDER 10/15/94
TOM AND MARILYN GRESH 10/18/69
RICK AND KATHY GUFFEY 10/25/86



Happy Birthday

LINDA CARIS 10/1
NOAH SNYDER 10/1
SHIRLEY RUSSELL 10/10
VIVIAN MARSH 10/17
RUBY BAKER 10/20
KELSEY LINGENFELTER 10/20
DYLAN CROMWELL 10/23
MEL BAKER 10/25



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



IN MEMORIAM

Ginny Criswell

Dec. 12, 1947 - Aug. 23, 2019



Virginia "Ginny" Ranck Criswell, 71, of New Columbia entered into rest on August 23, 2019 at UPMC Williamsport Hospital, surrounded by her family.

Born on December 12, 1947 in Williamsport, the daughter of the late Charles Edgar Ranck and Lydia Ranck. On September 1, 1968, she married Kenneth John Criswell, who survives. Together, they shared 50 years of memories.

Ginny was a graduate of Lewisburg HS Class of 1965 & Empire Beauty School Class of 1966. Ginny was a homemaker. Her family was her foremost priority in life. Being confined to a wheelchair since 1990, and on a ventilator since 2004, she continued to be strong, and fought every day to keep life as normal as possible. Ginny was so special, an inspiration to all who were blessed to know her. Ginny was a member of United In Christ Lutheran Church, 1875 Churches Road, Lewisburg Pa., where she and Ken first met in 1964. Ginny was so organized, and enjoyed cooking and baking for her family, and extended family, especially Christmas dinners, and birthdays. She wrote every family members' name on the calendar each year, including nieces and nephews, great nieces & great nephews, and sent birthday cards to each. She enjoyed tending to her flowers, both indoor & outdoor. Ginny and Ken enjoyed traveling in their accessible camper, having traveled this year to South Carolina, visiting her sister Donna's family, Cape Henlopen, Lewis Delaware with family, and Maine with Granddaughter Emma.

Surviving in addition to husband Ken, are sons & daughters-in-law, Brent & Kelly Criswell, Josh & Stacie Criswell, Ben & Kim Criswell, granddaughters Emma Criswell & Alexa Barton, sister and brother-in-law Donna & Bob Molchan, brothers and sisters-in-law, Bill and Debbie Criswell, Keith and Diane Smith, Jerry Badger, and nieces & nephews Luke and Mindy Criswell, Michele and Patrick Moseley, Zach Smith, Mark and Jackie Molchan, Michele Nielsen, Matt Molchan, Monica and Shawn Geiger, and many great nieces & nephews. She was preceded in death, in addition to her parents, by sister Trudy Badger.

Family and friends are invited to a Celebration of Life Service on Saturday, October 5, 2019 at United In Christ Lutheran Church, 1875 Churches Road, Lewisburg Pa. Visitation time from 10:00am to 11:00am with services at 11:00am.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Ginny's memory may be sent to Muscular Dystrophy Assoc., PO Box 97075, Washington, DC 20090-7075, online @ www.mda.org, or United In Christ Lutheran Church, 1875 Churches Road, Lewisburg, Pa 17837.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

The following memorial donations have been given in memory of a dedicated member whose generosity, faithfulness and love will live on through the ministry of this congregation well into the future.

Mel Baker Jr.

Rosemary Kling, Joan Solomon, Michele Kessler.

Ginny Criswell

Peg Swinehart.



**These memorial gifts
will enable the ministry
of this church to continue
in a strong and
vibrant way.**

LET US KNOW



Please let us know when you are in the hospital or have an upcoming surgery. Call the church office at 570-568-2254 or Pastor Justin at 610-973-4052 to let us know. Please do not assume that if you tell someone in church that the office or pastor will find out.

Because of confidentiality issues, it's best if you contact Pastor Justin or the church office directly.

YOUTH AND FAMILY

Here are a few pictures from September's Faith and Fun Worship.



Parable of the lost sheep.



ST. JOHN'S HAYRIDE



St. John's Lutheran Church in Potts Grove has invited us to their hayride on Sun, Oct. 13. Hotdogs at 5:30 and the hayride will begin at 6pm. If you are planning on going please add your name and how many will be attending to the sheet on the UIC Announcements Board in the Fellowship Hall.

NEXT FAITH & FUN WORSHIP

Be sure to mark you calendar for our next Faith and Fun Worship service on Reformation Sunday, **October 27th** at 10am! This will be yet another great opportunity to engage our students in faith formation alongside worship that morning.

You won't want to miss it!

In addition, if you have not yet already received your "Faith and Fun at Home" resource to engage students in the weekly lessons and reinforce what we hear on Sundays, be sure to talk to Sherry Bingaman or Pastor Justin after worship. These resources provide age-appropriate activities to share in as a family each week. Supplies for each week's crafts and activities can also be picked up in the Sunday School room after worship! Be sure to make use of this fantastic resource!



CHURCH COMMUNITY UPCOMING EVENTS

At the Buffalo Valley Conference in the Upper Susquehanna Synod, it was discussed and decided that communication is key to the success of the ministries of our local ELCA Churches.

Each congregation represented at the meeting now has a volunteer who will forward events of note from his/her parish to Mindy Bartholomew. Mindy will include these events in a monthly conference newsletter.

Also, to enhance communication conference wide, Jonathan Moser created a Buffalo Valley Conference Facebook page. Pastor Kate Drefke and Ann Gardner will assist in administering the page. You can visit the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bvcuss.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1st Evangelical Lutheran Church - 404 Market Street, Mifflinburg
Weekly - Apple Dumpling Fundraiser - \$6 per pan of 2 dumplings
Made weekly during the month of October. Pick up weekly on
Thurs 4pm-9pm or Fri 7am-12pm. Call 570-966-0266 to order.
Proceeds benefit 3 area families and Mifflinburg Area Christian Youth.

1st Evangelical Lutheran Church - 404 Market Street, Mifflinburg
Saturday, Oct. 5 - Community Meal
Every 1st Saturday of the month

Zion Lutheran Church - 39 Paradise Street, Turbotville
Wednesday, Oct. 9 - Jolly Bunch Program - 10:30am
Presentation: Alvira and the Ordnance: An American Dream Denied. The village of Alvira and the massive TNT plant built there at the onset of World War II are the subject of a 30-minute film

presentation by Steve and Martha Huddy of Williamsport. Lunch will follow at an area restaurant. Please contact the church office (570-649-5195) by Monday, October 7, if you plan to attend.

1st Evangelical Lutheran Church - Watsontown Park
Saturday, Oct. 12 - Family Fall Festival - 1pm-4pm
Free hotdogs, s'mores, and apple cider. Also free pumpkin decorating and more.

St. John's Delaware Run - 6590 Musser Lane, Watsontown
Thursday, Oct. 24 - Community Meal
Every 4th Thursday of the month

Christ's United Lutheran Church - 13765 Old Turnpike Rd, Millmont
Thursday, Oct. 31 - Trunk-or-Treat - 6pm-8pm
Church members will be set up in the parking lot to hand out treats to the children. Many come in costume and decorate their vehicles. The Youth Group will provide drinks.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



Worship Volunteers, please give the office **any dates in November** which **you will NOT be available** to serve during worship. After you are scheduled it will be your responsibility to trade with someone else on the schedule if you are not available to serve that day.

Any articles, events, photos and/or thank you notes you'd like to have printed in the November Newsletter need to be in the office **by Monday, October 21.**



Upper Susquehanna Synod

God's work. Our hands.

EVENING AT SHADE MOUNTAIN

Come to Shade Mountain Winery on November 1, to share fellowship, entertainment, and enjoy locally produced wine, all to benefit Camp Mount Luther. The event runs from 6pm-8pm. Entertainment will be provided by KJ Reimensnyder-Wagner, a local musician who sings folk music. The menu will include heavy appetizers, dessert, and one glass of wine per person. SPACE IS LIMITED. Please make your reservations with the camp office at 570-922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org.

If you choose to purchase any bottles of wine that evening, a portion of the proceeds will be given to Mount Luther. We ask all participants to make a donation to the camp that evening, equal or greater to the food and entertainment provided.

FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT

All women are invited to the Fall Women's Retreat sponsored by Camp Mount Luther and the Upper Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization. The day-long retreat will feature a presentation led by Rev. Sarah Hershberger titled, "We All Are One in Mission." The retreat will take place at the camp on Saturday, November 2, 2019. It will run from 9:30am-3:00pm. The day will begin with refreshments. The cost of \$20 per person includes coffee and tea, snacks, lunch, and the program. You are encouraged to bring a friend! Registration deadline is October 25. To register, contact Mount Luther, 355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844. Checks should be made payable to Camp Mount Luther. If you have questions, call the camp at (570) 922-1587 or e-mail cml@campmountluther.org.

MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION



The Social Ministry collects non-perishable food items each month. Your donations get delivered to Mazeppa Manna and HandUP on an alternating basis.

If you are able, please purchase any of the following items and place in the wicker baskets in the Narthex.

Peanut Butter

Canned Spaghetti Sauce

Sweet Cereal

Noodles

Instant Mashed Potatoes

Canned Tuna

Brownie Mix

Canned Chicken

Sugar (small bag)

Chef Boyardee

Flour (small bag)

SOCIAL HOUR



Social Hour is a time for us to stay connected with each other while enjoying a light snack. If your last name begins with one of the letters listed for that Sunday's Social Hour, please bring a snack to share and help to clean up afterwards.

A LITTLE **HUMOR** TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY.



**I renamed my
wifi network to
“Police Surveillance
Van #02”.
That should keep
the neighbors on
their toes for
a while.**

**The youth pastor fell
asleep in the staff
meeting. So we laid
some clothes on the
chairs and exited
quietly.**

**Then we blew a
trumpet.**

THANK YOU

Thank you for the comfort bags you gave to our agency filled with various necessities and goodies. They were distributed to children we work with and were very well received. These children, whether living with their birth or foster families, are sometimes dealing with a great deal of stress. Receiving a gift like a comfort bag can brighten their day and let them know there is kindness in the world and people who care.

Sincerely,

Jamie Batman, Foster Care Coordinator



**“The Pastor keeps referring to
‘this morning’s text’ ... but which one?”**

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.