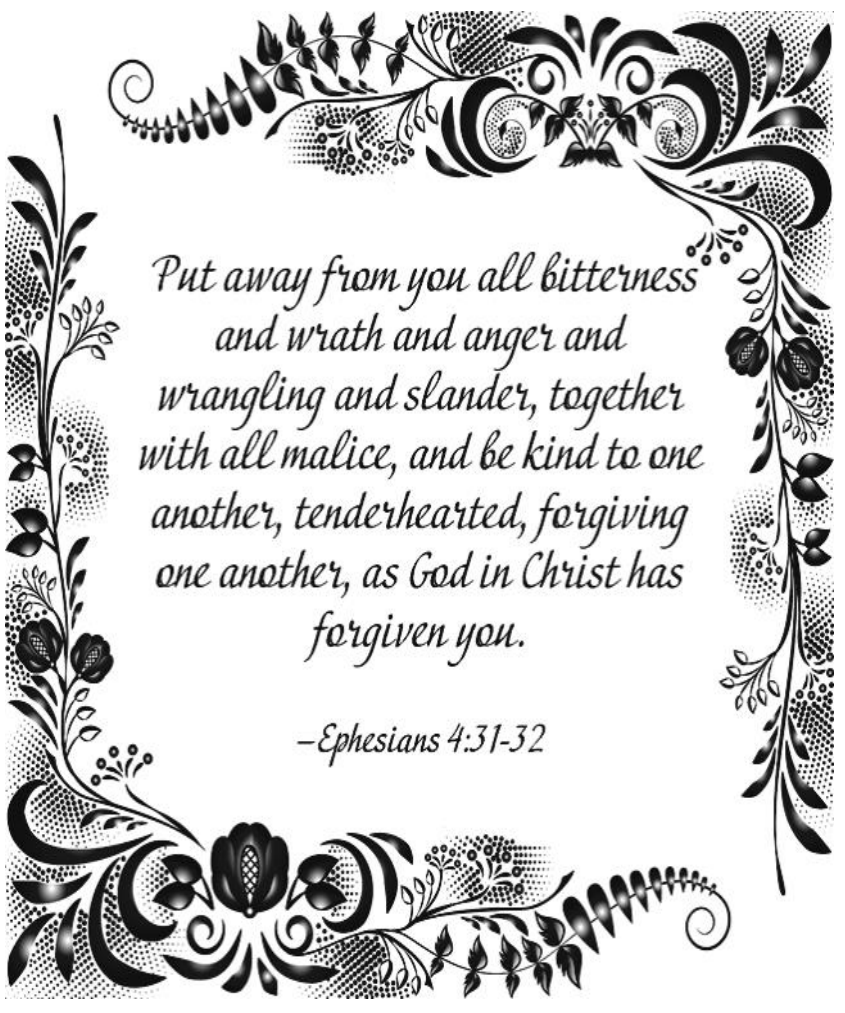




OCT/NOV 2020 NEWSLETTER

A decorative border of black and white floral and leaf patterns surrounds the central text. The border features intricate scrollwork, leaves, and small flowers, with a stippled or dotted background effect.

*Put away from you all bitterness
and wrath and anger and
wrangling and slander, together
with all malice, and be kind to one
another, tenderhearted, forgiving
one another, as God in Christ has
forgiven you.*

-Ephesians 4:31-32

UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Justin G. Lingenfelter: Pastor

Terri Cromwell: Office Administrator and OAKS Coordinator

Office: 570-568-2254

Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

Marilyn Gresh: Music

DIGITAL WORSHIP

Sunday, 10am

UIC COUNCIL MEMBERS

Lisa Rabuck - President	1 st term, ends 12/2021
Emma Danowsky - Co President	1 st term, ends 12/2021
Kathy Guffey - Vice President	1 st term, ends 12/2021
Ken Baker - Treasurer	1 st term, ends 12/2020
Cami Zimmerman - Secretary	2 nd term, ends 12/2021
Ken Criswell	2 nd term, ends 12/2022
Charlie Dinsmore	2 nd term, ends 12/2021
Amber Erb	1 st term, ends 12/2022
Jen Sheaffer	1 st term, ends 12/2022

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.

FROM THE PASTOR



Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1:2-11

Dear United In Christ,

I miss you.



Let me say it again: I really do miss you. It's been over six months now since our congregational council made the difficult decision to refrain from in-person worship and I miss you. I miss the faces in the pews staring back (and sometimes nodding off) in the midst of sermons. I miss the sounds of our faith-filled songs of praise lifted on even the most overtired voices. I miss the smells and sounds of Peg getting everyone's morning coffee together each week. I miss the proud announcements and updates on potty training from Wade smack dab in the middle of our 'young folks' "special time together up front." I miss the rhythm and ritual of our corporate liturgy shared among God's faithful community there on

the hill. I miss your laughter. I miss your tears. I miss your prayers. I miss your joy. I miss *you*.

Maybe you feel the same way. Maybe you also miss one another. Maybe you miss the regularity that physically gathered worship brought each passing Sunday. Maybe you miss the familiar rituals that worship had in store. Maybe you miss the fellowship of physical community. Maybe you miss post-worship brunch at Country Cupboard. Maybe you miss having each other to lean on when the going gets rough. Because let's be honest and let's call a thing what it is: the past six months have kind of sucked. It's been a difficult time together, not just as Church, but as a community, a nation, and world. We've had our hands full trying to deal with a global pandemic that has devolved into divisive partisan strategies. We've been faced with civil unrest around the humanity and treatment of our neighbors of color. All this while we've hurtled toward the hyper-polarity of one of the most divisive political elections we've seen in living memory. This is to say NOTHING of the natural disasters of hurricanes and wildfires that have scourged our country. Oh, and wasn't there something about murder hornets?



I mean, to say we've had a lot on our plates would be the understatement of 2020. Everywhere we turn it seems there is one more dilemma, one more disaster at hand. And I don't know about you, but to me it's been exhausting. It's been nerve-racking. It's been disheartening. At times it's even been frightening. There have been many moments in the past six months where the gift of this physically gathered community could have been a welcomed relief from the seeming onslaught of the world around us. Maybe you, too, have missed the rhythm and regularity that Sunday mornings on the hill provides in the midst of unpredictable days. Maybe you have also missed the fellowship of familiar face shining the reassurance of God's presence in your midst. Maybe you, too, have longed for

nothing more than the opportunity to be physically present alongside one another and share each other's' burdens. The fact of the matter, it seems, is that now more than ever we could use the blessed gift of community that God has provided here.



It might just be that right now, our lasting plea is the same that Paul once bore to the community at Philippi: “For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.” From his words of expressed longing, it seems that Paul wanted nothing more than to be with this community, despite the fact that he was not able to do so physically. It’s as if we’ve folded the cords of time to shorten the distance between Paul’s words and our reality since it seems that we also know exactly what that longing feels like. We know what it feels like to want to physically be with the community we love.

But maybe this newfound proximity to Paul can also give us the glimpse of promise and hope we need to meet our own time as well. Rather than simply commiserate with the evangelist, we might just be able to take heart from what he offers the community at Philippi. After all, through the difficulty, through his own trials and tribulations, Paul is able to see straight into the heart of the matter and still give thanks for what the community he is now distanced from has to offer. “I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now,” he writes. Even without being among them, Paul *knows* that the Philippians continue to steep themselves in the work of the Gospel, and for that he gives thanks.

And just the same, United In Christ, Paul's gratitude for the Philippians becomes my gratitude for *you* as well. While things have certainly looked different and even taken their toll over the past few months, one thing has been absolutely certain: you are a people and community of *good news*. I mean, did you know that this past summer, we have had a range of 68-115 people gathering around our online worship services? During this time, we have even been able to welcome numerous visitors in worship thanks to the gift of technology allowing us to reach out in new ways! A few Sundays ago, I noticed we had no less than *half a dozen* visitors in worship that I have never met in-person before! Even more, this past Spring, your willingness to share in worship online allowed us to welcome members from other faith communities in worship! There were times in those weeks when we were gathering with over *160 people at a time* each Sunday morning! The icing on the cake is that, through it all, we have had more worship volunteers than ever helping to lead services each and every week! All of this is to say that *clearly* your commitment to being people of this proclaimed Gospel has not diminished one bit during this time.



Even more, you have continued to find ways to keep *sharing* that good news into the world! Beyond sharing our worship far and wide, you have found ways to adapt and continue the work of embodying that good news for the world around us. For months now, our Wednesday night study group has continued to engage twenty-five to thirty members of our community for tough conversations about where the rubber of our faith meets the road of our lived experiences in the world. Even while their in-person gatherings have been on hiatus, our OAKS volunteers have continued to provide monthly home-delivered meals for all of our senior participants; a blessing that not only has provided the relief of one meal figured out, but also the chance to combat the isolation that our physical distancing might otherwise entail. Meanwhile,

our Diaper Pantry volunteers have continued to steadfastly provide much needed relief for families in our area with their drive-through pantry model which still continues to regularly give out over 1,000 diapers each month! Most recently, we have had incredible volunteers stepping up to help provide faith formation resources for our students and families to engage in at their own pace from home!

These are all signs of God's love and good news being shared in this world and I could not be more encouraged by what you have to offer! Indeed, by these signs, I am encouraged, just as Paul was, that "that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."



See, United In Christ, I *do* miss you, but I am also ridiculously grateful for you. As I've said to a number of folks recently, I would never wish to go through a global pandemic with *anyone*, but if there's any community I would choose to do so with, it would be this one. Your passion for and embodiment of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the community of the Holy Spirit continue to sustain us through even the most difficult of times together. Despite all of the challenges we continue to face, my conviction that God is up to something incredible here has only grown in recent months.

From such sure grounding, then, I do have one request of you all. Throughout the challenges that this pandemic has brought, your congregational council has gone above and beyond to take due diligence in making the most difficult decisions I've ever seen come across an agenda before. As such, please continue to hold

your leadership in prayer by name. Lift up Lisa, Emma, Kathy, Cami, Ken, Kim, Amber, Charles, Jen, Ken, and Terri on a regular basis. None of them signed up for a pandemic in their terms on Council. As they continue to navigate myriads of expectations from both folks who are anxious to gather in-person *and* from folks who have made the measured safety decision to physically distance for the foreseeable future, each decision brings the prayerful question of “are we doing right by our community?” These are not easy times for them either.

Thank you, United In Christ. The grace of this community has been on full display recently, which has been an absolute God-send in this time. Thank you for your continued patience, understanding, and genuine love as we chart this course together throughout the weeks, months, and years ahead. Know that my love and gratitude for you has only grown to fuller measure. For now, my continued prayer is joined with Paul’s: “that your love may overflow more and more” with each passing day.

Missing you, but united in Christ,

~ Pastor Justin



On Sunday, February 23
we said *Thank You*
to Terry Snyder
for his 4 1/2 years
of service as the
church’s Sexton.



Baby Steps

DIAPER PANTRY

Number of diapers handed out
at our monthly diaper pantry.

MAR. 2020	1,880
APR. 2020	960
MAY 2020	1,040
JUN. 2020	1,760
JUL. 2020	1,800
AUG. 2020	1,000
SEPT. 2020	1,080
OCT. 2020	1,200

NEXT DIAPER PANTRY

November 14 ~ 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.

GATHERED TOGETHER, SENT TOGETHER

SERVICES OF UNITY

As we move ever closer to this year's presidential election, it feels to many as if we have never been more divided within our country, within our communities, and even within our own households. The questions posed to us on this year's tickets run deep and stir within us visceral convictions of what must be done. Yet, in just a short time now, people of genuinely good faith will arrive at the polls to cast their ballots towards *both* sides, candidates, and parties. Faith-filled folks will be voting for both candidates and both parties, so how do we find new life together when it feels like there will have to be winners and losers among us?



Recently, we heard Jesus' call to render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's. As people of faith, then, we know that no matter which way we have voted, no matter which way our *neighbors* have voted, we are one together in the Christ who claims us. As we look to answer the questions of how we will live as one community beginning on November 4th and beyond, this year we will be making sure we start off on the right footing with Christ as our cornerstone in our life together *no matter those results*

In order to be reminded of that sure-footing together, we will be joining with the community of faith in the Milton Lutheran Parish for two joint services of unity bookending the election. Join us on **Monday, November 2nd at 5:30pm** for a socially distanced parking lot worship service at United In Christ where we will be joined by Pr. Gary Schaeffer and the Milton Parish to worship together and remember the baptism by which we have *all* been claimed together in the community of Christ. From this steadfast remembrance, we will then head to the polls on November 3rd in our acts of civil responsibility.



Following election day, please join us again on **Wednesday, November 4th at 5:30pm** for a socially distanced parking lot worship service at Christ Lutheran Church in Milton (1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847). There we will join in a service of Holy Communion where we will remember that, no matter the events or results of the day prior, we are all joined in the one body of Christ. There we will be met by the one who comes to sustain us, nourish us, and reconcile us one to another for our shared life together.

We hope you can join us for these services as we gather to remember our unity to one another in the God who claims us. Come and see!

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

OCTOBER 18

Jen Sheaffer
Dylan Sheaffer
Ken Baker
Kathy Guffey
Kamden Swanger
Sherry Bingaman

NOVEMBER 15

Jen Sheaffer
Dylan Sheaffer
Ken Baker
Kathy Guffey
Kamden Swanger
Sherry Bingaman

OCTOBER 25

Kyle Swanger
Michelle Shearer
Gabbie Heckman
Theresa Furman
Bob Swartz
Donna Byerly

NOVEMBER 22

Kyle Swanger
Michelle Shearer
Gabbie Heckman
Theresa Furman
Bob Swartz
Donna Byerly

NOVEMBER 1

Dalton Shearer
Emma Danowsky
Mary Lou Keifer
Ted McPherrin
Annette Baker
Jeff Byerly

NOVEMBER 29

Dalton Shearer
Emma Danowsky
Mary Lou Keifer
Ted McPherrin
Annette Baker
Jeff Byerly

NOVEMBER 8

Larissa Shearer
John Sheaffer
Amy Danowsky
Cami Zimmerman
Jane Mertz
Ruby Baker

*Be on the lookout for a message from
Pastor Justin to set up a recording time.*

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

TERRY AND CINDY SNYDER 11/2/15
MARK AND LISA RABUCK 11/8/75
WILLARD AND DAM HAUCK 11/13/71
BOB AND SUE KEIFER 11/25/61
MIKE AND JANE MERTZ 11/28/81
JOHN AND SHIRLEY RUSSELL 11/30/56



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
JAMES ARNDT 11/1
OWEN ARNDT 11/4

KATHY GUFFEY 11/4
ALECIA ENGLE 11/9
TRUDY SWARTZ 11/9
MARY BAKER 11/15
MIKE BAKER 11/19
ELIZABETH DIVERS 11/22
WOODY WARREN 11/28
DANIELLE SCOTT 11/30
JOHN RUSSELL 11/30



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

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

Bob Keifer, Celia Warren, Frank Danowsky, Marie Tanner, Sonja Noll, Irene Stark, Peg Swinehart, Alice Snyder, Greg Seibert, Harold Snyder, Collette Richards, Pat Thomas, Gladys Guffey, Terry Funk, Darv Krouse, Rob Lockwood, Terry Smith, Rodney Heckert, Rebecca Otuszewski, Bonnie Heddings Lyons, Roger Neilson, John Denius, Family and Friends of Joe Moyer, Jamie.



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 8 weeks.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS



Stop by the church and pick up daily devotionals. You will find them outside by the kitchen door.

BABY GRAND PIANO

A couple from Sunbury who were downsizing wanted to donate their grand piano to a faith community. UIC has been blessed with the incredible gift. If you're curious about what it took to get a 450 pound, 130 year-old baby grand piano from Sunbury to UIC, check out the photos below!





OAKS

SENIOR CENTER

In April, OAKS decided to halt meeting in-person. However, OAKS Committee has continued to provide meals on a monthly basis. Since April, we have delivered 296 meals.

The following people have helped cook, package, and/or deliver all those meals: Ken and Ruby Baker, Sherry Bingaman, Terri Cromwell, Ted and Shirley McPherrin, Jane Mertz, Lisa Rabuck, Larissa and Michelle Shearer, and Tina Snyder.

FALL FRISBEE GOLF DAYS



In October, CML will be hosting Fall Frisbee Fundays at Camp Mount Luther. Each Sunday in October at 4:00 p.m. the director will be at the A-Center for anyone who would like to play a round of Frisbee Golf.

No need to sign-up.
Just show up to play.

Camp Mount Luther - Sundays at 4pm

Social Ministry



Ruby and Ken Baker, Lisa Rabuck, Sherry Bingaman, Theresa Furman, and Mary Lou Keifer helper at the youth Food Distribution on Friday, August 21. They packed up about 30 large grocery bags of food for

Lewisburg kids. The Rich Huff Fund provided the fresh produce. Young women from Bucknell University carried the bags and boxes to patrons cars.



Many thanks to everyone who dropped off school supplies for donation to the Milton School District! Kathy Guffey's car was PACKED to the brim!

Thank you for your generosity and care for the students in our community and a special thanks to Kathy for coordinating the transport of school supplies!





Upper Susquehanna Synod

God's work. Our hands.

BISHOP'S OCTOBER BLOG



It is early morning on October 1, 2020 and, according to my calendar, I should be on the road to the airport to catch a flight to Chicago for the Fall Gathering of the Conference of Bishops. But I'm not. Travel is not happening right now, and yet the Conference of Bishops will still gather...virtually. We will cram the work of five days together into two days online

– the work will get done – we will worship together – it will be good – and we will “see” one another, just in a different way. From Chicago, I would be heading straight to Trinity Seminary in Columbus, Ohio for a seminary Bishop's visit with two of my colleagues. But again, I won't be going there. Another two days of virtual conversations, meetings, and worship with the students, faculty and staff of the seminary.

These are changes that I continue to live with, just as everyone else is experiencing changes with which they need to live. It is different, and some days quite challenging. But in the midst of all these changes there are also blessings. Have you noticed the blessings?

Instead of rushing through the crowds in airports, sitting on an airplane for two hours, and wondering if it is safe for me and others to be in these spaces, I'll be able to spend time this morning with colleagues for a conference meeting and time

with our Global Ministry team. I'll be able to breathe fresh air blowing in through my "office" window at home and watch the trees outside my window sway with the crisp fall breeze, while I sit at my computer in jeans and a camp shirt. My cat will keep me company throughout the day, I will still be able to be in contact with the synod office, and I'll see my husband when he returns home from work. Those things might not seem like much to others, but to me – they are blessings.

Blessings

Throughout these many months of change, due to the pandemic, I have seen many blessings across our synod territory. The blessings of creativity and a willingness to adaptive. The blessings of care and concern for those we love and strangers alike. The blessing of seeing our congregations, our leaders, continue to BE the church in their communities even when they could not go to their church buildings. We have learned new things about each other and what we can do together in what is possibly the most challenging time of this current age. There have been blessings for sure.

But there has also been pain, suffering, loss and grief. I do not make light of these. They are real, they have impacted our way of life and communities, and like everything else – they have changed us. Can there possibly be any sense of blessing in the midst of these things? I believe there is.

For me, it is quite simple...the blessing in all these things is the promised presence of God.

Truth is, there have been harder times for humanity throughout human existence. Though many of us have never seen, or lived through, something like this pandemic, we will get through it. Now don't get me wrong. By saying "we will get through it" isn't to say that I'm not worried because God will protect every hair on my head and those of my loved ones from this virus. What I mean is that God will provide the strength and the courage and the faith and the hope to believe in the promise of the resurrection, so that whether I live or whether I die, I am the Lord's. I believe I read that somewhere in scripture. Hmmm. That is the blessing.

For today, though, I'm going to hang on the blessing of being alive and empowered by God to continue to do the work placed before me. To focus on BEing the church where I am, with the abilities that God has given to me and the new possibilities that God is pointing me to ... and not focus on what is no longer on my calendar or why things can't just be like they always were.

This is a new day, filled with blessings, and I don't want to miss a single one.

Shalom,
Rev. Barbara J. Collins, Bishop
Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA

ONLINE ANTI-RACISM WORKSHOP

We want to talk about race, racism, and racial justice as a church. We see the need and feel the deep divide in our country and even in some of our communities and congregations. But how do we start? How can we help our church community begin to have conversations about race that are scriptural, educational, helpful? What if we have few or no people of color in our congregation? How do we have healthy conversation around such a charged issue?

The Upper Susquehanna Synod is offering this training to rostered ministers, lay ministry professionals, and congregation members. The training will be led by the Lower Susquehanna Synod's Toward Racial Justice team with training to foster healthy and holy conversation so that congregations have the tools and confidence to deepen discussions and take action.

The workshop will address three important aspects of anti-racism work:

- 1) Talking about Race: Language, vocabulary, people skills, and best practices.
- 2) History and systemic racism in the United States.
- 3) How to begin conversations and action in your congregation or ministry context.

The four-hour training will be virtual via ZOOM and will run from 9am-11am and 12:30pm-2:30pm on Saturday November 7, 2020. Registration closes one week prior to the workshop. Please contact Pr. Justin if you would like to participate in that online workshop!

THE FREEDOM OF A CHRISTIAN

A 3-seminar series on THE FREEDOM OF A CHRISTIAN, presented by the ELCA Wittenberg Center will be held as a Zoom meeting. The dates are below.

Please visit the church's Facebook group and see Sherry Bingaman's post on October 4 for the link to register.

Session 1: Wednesday, October 28, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

Dr. Santos presents: Luther's The Freedom of a Christian from Neuroscience and Liberation Theology Perspectives.

Session 2: Thursday, October 29, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

Dr. Penumaka presents: The Freedom of a Christian: Living in Christ and Loving our Neighbors.

Session 3: Friday, October 30, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

Pr. Peñaranda presents: The Freedom of a Christian: When Faith Gets Political.

AN EVENING AT SHADE MOUNTAIN WINERY

This is a fundraising opportunity to share fellowship, entertainment, and enjoy locally produced wine, all to benefit Camp Mount Luther. For everyone's safety, should COVID-19 infections in the area increase significantly, or CDC or PA officials restrict public gatherings, the event will be canceled.

Friday, November 6, 2020

First Seating: 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Second Seating: 6:30-7:30 p.m.



16140 Route 104
Middleburg, PA 17842

Menu to include:

Club Sandwich with Tortellini Salad,
Chips, Dessert, a glass of wine

*Face coverings and social distancing
are expected while in the building.
Guests will sit with those whom they
arrive.*

SPACE IS VERY LIMITED

Make your reservations by calling 570-922-1587 or emailing cml@campmountluther.org. Cost is a donation to camp. Consider a donation that is equal or greater to the food and entertainment provided. If you choose to purchase any bottles of wine that evening, a portion of the proceeds will be given to Camp Mount Luther. If you cannot make it that night, you can visit Shade Mountain Winery from November 6 to November 13 and purchase wine and indicate it is for the Camp Mount Luther fundraiser.



THANK YOU

A big "Thank You" to Lisa Rabuck, Sherry Bingaman, Theresa Furman, and Mary Lou Neilson Keifer and Ken Baker for your help at the youth Food Distribution.

~ Ruby Baker

Your kindness means the world to me. I thank you all so much for my meals.

~ Martha Lilly (OAKS member)

Thank you for sharing your ministry will all.

~ Deb Jones & Dennis Mallams

Love to all of you. Thank you so much for our food and masks. Thank you for everything you do for us. We know how hard you work.

~ Peg Swinehart & Helen Barsh



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