



December
2022
NEWSLETTER



UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Justin G. Lingenfelter: Pastor

Vicar Katy Moran: Intern

Terri Cromwell: Office Administrator and OAKS Coordinator

Office: 570-568-2254

Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

Marilyn Gresh: Music

WORSHIP: SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.

www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/sermons/

Office Hours: Monday- Friday 8:00am - 12:30pm

UIC COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kathy Guffey, <i>President</i>	2 nd term, ends 12/2024
Emma Danowsky, <i>Co President</i>	2 nd term, ends 12/2024
Lisa Rabuck, <i>Vice President</i>	2 nd term, ends 12/2024
Jen Sheaffer, <i>Secretary</i>	1 st term, ends 12/2022
Ken Baker, <i>Treasurer</i>	2 nd term, ends 12/2023
Kathy Arndt	1 st term, ends 12/2024
Ken Criswell	2 nd term, ends 12/2022
Kim Criswell	1 st term, ends 12/2022
Theresa Furman	1 st term, ends 12-2024
Michelle Shearer	1 st term, ends 12/2024

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

FRI, DEC. 2	SENIOR EXPRESS FOOD DELIVERY
SUN, DEC. 4	ADVENT 2 SOCIAL MINISTRY MEETING CONFIRMATION YOUTH GROUP SHARING OUR TABLES COMMUNITY MEAL
TUE, DEC. 6	THEOLOGY ON TAP
THUR, DEC. 8	SUPPLYING GETTING AHEAD MEAL
SAT, DEC. 10	BABY STEPS DIAPER PANTRY
SUN, DEC. 11	ADVENT 3
TUE, DEC. 13	OAKS SENIOR CENTER
SAT, DEC. 17	CHRISTMAS CAROLING
SUN, DEC. 18	ADVENT 4 YOUTH GROUP
MON, DEC. 19	THEOLOGY ON TAP
TUE, DEC. 20	COUNCIL MEETING
WED, DEC. 21	BLUE CHRISTMAS
SAT, DEC. 24	CHRISTMAS EVE
SUN, DEC. 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS!!! DIGITAL WORSHIP SERVICE
MON, DEC. 26	OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE WEEK
SUN, JAN. 1	LESSONS AND CAROLS PJS WORSHIP
MON, JAN. 2	OFFICE CLOSED
WED, JAN. 4	UIC PACKING MEALS AT MILTON PANTHER PACKS

FROM THE PASTOR



The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:2-7

Dear United In Christ,

There are very few moments in my childhood that have been filled with more wonder and curious possibility than the annual rush of catching that first glimpse of what waited beneath the tree every Christmas morning. Whether it was coming downstairs at 6:00am after my brother's annual Christmas morning wake-up call or arriving at our grandparents' house and heading straight to the room annexed for gift corralling, seeing the sea of mystery sitting beneath the tree was always a sight to behold. That first glimpse was always filled with such intense wonder, our little minds reeling with the seemingly infinite possibility of what treasures all that tinsel and ribbon held

together. It's always been a real Schrödinger's Christmas situation as we tried to figure out what it all might just contain; to say that we were hopeful in the days leading up would be an absolute understatement.

So, how high is your hope right now? We've turned the corner now! With Thanksgiving in the rearview mirror, with our sanctuary decorated in its anticipatory Advent blue, with the radio stations turning over to their seasonal holiday marathon, how high is your hope and anticipation this season? Do you find yourself putting a lot of stock in wondering what could be this Christmas? Do you get caught in the anticipation hoping that the season might carry with it all that you can imagine?

Admittedly, a lot of our hopes and anticipation may have changed over the years. Maybe you aren't wondering about what will be under the tree, but rather who will be around it. Maybe your anticipation isn't hung up on the trimmings on the table, but rather on the test results you're waiting to hear. Maybe you aren't concerned about what kind of gift you'll manage to score, but what kind of world is around the corner in a time when all seems to be on edge. Maybe you're coming into this Christmas with a hope against hope that seems qualitatively different from the anticipation of years gone by.

It turns out, the ancestors of our faith knew a thing or two about such hope and anticipation. Living as a people in diaspora, having lost their royal lineage, existing as strangers in a strange land, the people of Israel found themselves with little to cling to other than a shred of hope. They dreamed of the one who would restore their people and their identity. You can hear the heights of their hope in the titles they ascribe to the one for whom they wait: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. These are lofty expectations. They are weighty hopes of a people not always knowing where they will go next, but knowing whom to turn to.

Just the same, with whatever uncertainty and anticipation you may find yourself carrying, this is the same hope worth clinging to. As we wait in anticipation, we do so trusting – hoping – that the same one worthy of such lofty ascription is once more breaking into our midst. This is, after all, the very celebration we make space for in this coming Christmas season. Whatever uncertainty we may carry, we gather trusting that God is still entering into this world, entering into our lives, entering into our gatherings to bear God’s redeeming love for this weary world.

So, may you hold the hope, United In Christ. May your anticipation and wonder only grow in this season of Advent. In whatever darkness that may surround, may you find the wonderful anticipation of seeing a great light, the light of God’s faithful Word being born for this world. May you know the joy of God’s accompaniment with you this Christmas.

Yours, united in Christ,

~ Pastor Justin

**Church Office will
be closed the week
after Christmas and
also on January 2nd.**



UNITED IN CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO

Theology on Tap

JOIN US AT RUSTY RAIL
6:00 PM ON DEC. 6TH
AND DEC. 19TH



Do you have some burning questions about the Bible, faith, or God?

Join us for Theology on Tap! This December we will be meeting at Rusty Rail Brewing on Tuesday December 6th and on Monday December 19th. Bring your questions to put in the stein, grab your drink of choice, and be ready to dive into our faith together as a group—we might not settle on an answer, but we can at least try! We will meet at 6:00 pm to grab food, drinks, and socialize a bit before starting discussion at 6:30 pm. Email Pastor Justin or Vicar Katy if you plan to attend or have any questions about the specifics.

'IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS'

Jesus said, "Give, and it will be given to you." -Luke 6:38

Why is it so hard to find that all-too-elusive "perfect gift" for the loved ones in your life? For many of us, it's because they already have everything they need and most of what they want.

It sometimes feels impossible to find a gift that won't be banished to that closet for unwanted, unneeded, and unused presents -- alongside the loud ties, the strong perfumes, the unread books, and the garish sweaters.

When it comes to gift-giving, it's often said, "It's the thought that counts." If that's true, why do we still put so much emphasis on the gift?

This year focus on the thoughts behind your Christmas gifts. Thoughts in keeping with the season. Thoughts of meeting real needs and giving where it will be much appreciated. With so many disadvantaged people in the world, at least some of our Christmas budget would be well spent helping our needy neighbors.

If you are buying for a loved one who has everything, consider instead giving a monetary donation in their honor to a worthy charity that helps the poor. Some charities, such as Heifer International and ELCA Good Gifts, let you buy a specific item – such as a goat or pig for a family, or a water well for a village – to help people in the developing world.

Make the gift in your loved one's name or honor, and then describe it in a card attached to a low-cost "token" gift, such as a small box of chocolates or a bottle of wine. The better part of your gift will go to someone who truly needs it, and your loved one will share the joy of loving and helping your neighbors in need.

Just remember, 'It's the thought that counts!'

Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipquy.com.

END OF YEAR GIVING

Double your impact and help us build up the future of United In Christ!

All contributions designated for UIC's "Capital Projects" will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$35,000!

DONATE NOW



As you prepare your year-end giving, please consider making a contribution to United In Christ's Capital Expense Fund as we prepare for the upcoming roof, window, and steeple projects on the horizon. This year, you can double your impact thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor who will match any funds designated for UIC's "Capital Expense Fund" dollar-for-dollar up to \$35,000 for the duration of the project campaign!

Thank you for your continued financial partnership!

ADVENT OFFERINGS

In your offering envelope booklets you have envelopes for Advent Offerings. This year, all Advent Offerings will be split equally between Haven Home and Our Little Free Pantry.

Haven Home is a homeless shelter in Sunday and Our Little Free Pantry is the food pantry by the post office in West Milton.

Blue Christmas Worship

Wednesday, December 21st at 7:00pm
United In Christ Lutheran Church
1875 Churches Road, Lewisburg, PA



The faith communities of United In Christ Lutheran Church, Saint Paul's United Church of Christ, and Milton Lutheran Church invite you to join us as we gather for worship on one of the longest nights of darkness of the year, **Wednesday December 21, at 7 p.m.**

While for many, Advent and Christmas are seasons of light, we also know that this season can be a season of physical and emotional distress. On this night, we will acknowledge at this time of year that we may be confronted with fear, sadness, loss and shattered hope, perhaps from the loss of a loved one, seasonal depression or simply a feeling you can't explain.

This is why, as communities of faith gather, we will honor "Blue Christmas" this year as a service of acknowledgement and a journey of faith to seek to understand how "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it," as is recorded in John 1:5. How can this light help us through what can become the hardest time of the year? Join us as we acknowledge, explore, worship and support one another as we fellowship together.

The service will be held at United In Christ Lutheran Church, 1875 Churches Road, Lewisburg, led by Pastor Justin Lingenfelter, Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo, and Pastor Gary Schaeffer.

Please consider joining us as we are surrounded with warmth and welcome in a time to seek hope and healing. ***All are welcome!***

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 times this Christmas Eve include:

*** 7:00pm Candlelight Service**

*** 11:00pm Candlelight Service**

music will begin at 10:45pm

*"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*





UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE

CHRISTMAS DAY (ONLINE)!

Sunday, December 25th at 10:00am
Join us on Facebook or at
www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/sermons



Gather around with the family beneath the tree at home to celebrate Christ's arrival with us this Christmas Day with our Christmas-from-home *online* worship service! Instead of trekking out to hold worship in the church building, we invite you to join us for digital worship live at 10:00am or gather any time later in the day once worship is posted. Tune in live via the church's Facebook page or website or find it later in either place or on YouTube! Wherever you are, we hope you take this opportunity to gather with loved ones surrounding you this Christmas Day!

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Starting Sunday, December 11, if you have a church mailbox, you'll find your 2023 offering envelopes in your mailbox. If you do not have a mailbox, you'll find your 2023 offering envelopes in the fellowship hall. If you do not get offering envelopes, but would like to, please see Terri in the office.

PAJAMA Worship

JANUARY 1ST

Worship at 10:00am

Wear your PJs to church for
LESSONS & CAROLS!



Be sure to come JUST as you are – or rather just as you roll out of bed – for our annual service of Christmas Lessons and Carols on January 1st! We get it; we're *also* going to be tired and groggy after all of your New Year's Eve festivities! That's why you're invited to wear your favorite PJ's to worship! Gather in as we cozy up for the most comfortable service of the year!

2022 GIVING STATEMENTS

All 2022 offerings must be handed in to the office by Saturday, December 24. Anything given after December 24 will be entered as a 2023 offering.

Statements will be ready for pickup on Sunday, January 22. Any statement not picked up on Sunday, January 22 will then be mailed out.

If you have recently moved, please make sure the office has your new mailing address.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

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

	Dec. 4	Dec. 11	Dec. 18
Social Hour	S - Z	A - D	E - K
Bread/Wine	S. McPherrin	J. Mertz	S. Noll
Altar Guild	K. Guffey	S. Keifer	M.L. Keifer
Digital Host	K. Guffey	S. Bingaman	T. Cromwell
Front Door Greeter	Jen Sheaffer	K. Baker	A. Stark
	J. Sheaffer	R. Baker	T. Cromwell
Side Door Greeter	Karen B.	S. Brown	K. Guffey
Lector	T. Furman	P. Hauck	S. Keifer
Ushers	B. Troxell	K. Arndt	A. Stark
	C. Troxell	D. Baker	K. Baker
	B. Furman	Karen B.	K. Criswell
	T. Furman	S. Brown	K. Guffey
Communion Asst.	C. Troxell	A. Stark	T. Furman
	S. Weiser	C. Zimmerman	D. Baker
Guest Relations	G. Weiser	K. Baker	T. McPherrin
Offering Counter	K. Baker	B. Furman	P. Hauck
	J. Sheaffer	K. Guffey	C. Shreck

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.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	Dec. 24 7pm	Dec. 24 11pm	Jan. 1	Jan. 8
Social Hour			Worship & Music Committee	L - R
Bread/Wine	J. Sheaffer C. Troxell	M. Shearer	S. Weiser	C. Zimmerman
Altar Guild	C. Troxell	T. Cromwell	D. Byerly	C. Zimmerman
Digital Host	K. Lingenfelter	M. Shearer	K. Guffey	T. Cromwell
Front Door Greeter	D. Byerly J. Byerly	B. Swartz T. Swartz	M. Ketchem R. Whitesel	R. Kling L. Rabuck
Side Door Greeter	M.L. Keifer	C. Zimmerman	K. Noll	G. Weiser
Lector	T. McPherrin	S. Bingaman		A. Stark
Ushers	S. McPherrin J. Mertz L. Rabuck B.J. Koch	T. Cromwell C. Zimmerman	B. Swartz T. Swartz Jen Sheaffer M. Shearer	K. Arndt D. Baker Karen B. K. Baker
Communion Asst.	M.L. Keifer T. McPherrin Jen Sheaffer		M. Shearer B. Swartz	C. Troxell S. Weiser
Guest Relations			M. Mertz	K. Noll
Offering Counter	T. Furman L. Rabuck	M. Shearer C. Zimmerman	M.L. Keifer J. Sheaffer	L. Rabuck K. Guffey

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HAPPY Anniversary

Rob and Teena Zimmerman 12/21/02



Happy Birthday

Ted McPherrin 12/3

Jeff Snyder 12/5

Jane Mertz 12/6

Nicole Cooley 12/7

Ken Baker 12/8

Bob Keifer 12/9

Karen Hauck 12/11



Martha Ketchem 12/14

Tina Snyder 12/14

Zoe Scott 12/19

Dylan Sheaffer 12/25

Ed Snyder 12/30

Nancy Baker 12/31



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

PRAYER CHAIN

Scripture instructs us to lift one another up in prayer.

If you would like to be part of the prayer chain,
please let Terri Cromwell know.

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

Prayer Requests: Dale Strassner, Alec Brock, Dave Wall, Liz Smith and Baby Grace, family and friends of Matt Rosamilia, family and friends of Michael McCollum, Mark Rabuck, Ryan Hunter, Rusty, Shirley Russell, Russ Wynn, Viv Marsh, Gladys Fawcett, Alice Snyder, Marie Tanner, Peg Swinehart, Martha Ketchem, Bob Keifer.



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.



OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Thursday
8a.m. - 2p.m.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	
October 30 ~ 65	November 13 ~ 80
November 6 ~ 78	November 20 ~ 62



OAKS

SENIOR CENTER



Tuesday, December 13



10:00 am - Doors Open

10:30 am - Free Bingo with prizes

11:30 pm - Geisinger 65 Forward
What is it?
Come find out!



12:00 pm - Free Lunch



**OAKS IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US.**



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Dedicate a poinsettia by submitting an order form, along with payment, **no later than Sunday, December 11th**.

COST IS \$6.50

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

Please print clearly

Name: _____

Number of Poinsettias I'd like to purchase: _____

* Remember, the cost of each poinsettias is \$6.50

List below the names of those your poinsettias will be given in memory or honor of.

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

YOUTH AND FAMILY



UIC has been invited to caroling by the congregation of Christ Lutheran in Lewisburg. What a wonderful way to help spread the joy of the season.

Saturday, December 17 ~ 6pm
Christ Lutheran Church
100 S. 3rd. Street, Lewisburg

We will stroll through downtown Victorian Lewisburg caroling and then head back to the church for hot chocolate and cookies. Be sure to dress festively and for the weather! Let us know you are joining us by signing up on the **Caroling Signup Sheet** in the fellowship hall.

Holiday Fun for All Ages
Open to all level of Singers!

YOUTH GROUP



Confirmation and Youth Group will meet on Sunday, December 4 at 1pm at Milton Lutheran Church.

Youth Group will also meet again on Sunday, December 18 at 1pm at Milton Lutheran Church.

Youth Group is open to all students in grades 7-12 and typically runs for about 1 1/2 hours!

If you are, or have, a youth member interested in being part of Youth Group, please reach out to Pastor Justin or Vicar Katy and they'll get you connected!



Baby Steps
DIAPER PANTRY

UPCOMING DIAPER PANTRY

December 10, 2022 10-11:30am

1 bag (40 diapers) per child.

Newborn to size 6

Social Ministry

We will have a brief meeting on Sunday,
December 4th at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

Everyone is invited to join us!

BLESS SOMEONE THIS CHRISTMAS



There are 5 residents at Country Comfort assisted living home that won't be getting any gifts this year, as they don't have any family.

If you would like to bless one of them with a gift, please stop by the table in the fellowship hall on Sunday, December 4th or 11th to get a name.

**Please bring your wrapped gifts to church
by Sunday, December 18th.**

Social Ministry will also be blessings all of the residents at County Comfort, and all of our Senior Express Food Box participants, with care bags this Christmas.

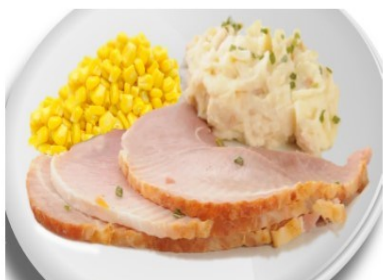


SHARING OUR TABLES

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

A ministry partnership of Milton and West Milton congregations.

Saint Paul's at 1125 Mahoning Street, Milton



Sunday, December 4

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Join us for a meal of Ham,
mashed potatoes, corn, and cake

Eat-in or Take-out

Partners in Ministry: Milton Lutheran Church, Saint Paul's United Church of Christ, United In Christ Lutheran Church, and St. Paul's AME Church.

Signup sheets for food donations and volunteers are in the fellowship hall. Please stop by and take a look!

MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION



Social Ministry collects non-perishable food items each week. Your donations get delivered to the **Our Little Free Pantry** in West Milton, by the gas station across from the on ramp to 15.

During cold month, please do not donate items in glass containers since the pantry is open to the elements outside.

Place these items in the baskets located in the Narthex.

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 will set up a Good Gifts Tree in the hallway by the offices, 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.

MILTON PANTHER PACKS

Milton Panther Packs provides backpacks of food over the weekends, when school meals are not available. Every week there are over 250 children that take home food backpacks.



On Wednesday, January 4th we will be helping pack bags of food for Milton Panther Packs. We need 20 people!

If you can help please add your name to the signup sheet in the fellowship hall.

SENIOR EXPRESS FOOD BOXES

Food boxes will be delivered on Friday, December 2. Volunteers, please make plans to deliver your boxes shortly after they are delivered.



ATTENTION AMAZON SHOPPERS



What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. You can choose from over one million organizations to support.

To learn more, visit the church website.

http://unitedinchristlutheran.net/uic_amazonmile/

IMPORTANT LINK!



For easy access, bookmark this page on your computer or add the page to your tablet or smartphone's home screen.

Church Calendar: Stay up-to-date on everything that's happening at UIC and Sunday's Worship Volunteers are listed each week under each "worship" event.

www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/calendar

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 \$35. You may take your flowers home with you after service.

Flower Chart is located in the Fellowship Hall.

WELCOME AREA



In the Welcome area in the Narthex you will find Christ In Our Home and The Word In Season devotionals, as well as Living Lutheran Magazine, and Our Daily Bread devotionals. You will also find additional copies of our monthly newsletter, also in large print. Please help your self to any of these!

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
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Website: www.unitedinchristlutheran.net
Office Hours: Mon-Thur, 8am-12:30pm