United In Christ Lutheran Church



First Sunday of Advent November 26, 2023

The Rev. Justin G. Lingenfelter

Welcome to our church!

We hope the service is meaningful, and uplifting, and that you will experience God's presence here.

May God bless you during worship today.



LARGE PRINT BULLETINS

Please see a greeter.

ELEVATOR

Please see a greeter.

REST ROOMS

Downstairs across from the church office.

DIAPER CHANGING TABLE

In fellowship hall family restroom.

Visit us at www.unitedinchristlutheran.net

UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Justin G. Lingenfelter: Pastor

Vicar Katy Moran: Senior Seminarian

Terri Cromwell: Office Administrator and OAKS Coordinator

Office: 570-568-2254

Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

Marilyn Gresh: Music

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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed by the holy Trinity, + one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.

We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression.

We are complicit in systems of exploitation.

We choose comfort over courage.

We are careless with creation's bounty.

Look upon us with mercy.

Turn our hearts again to you.

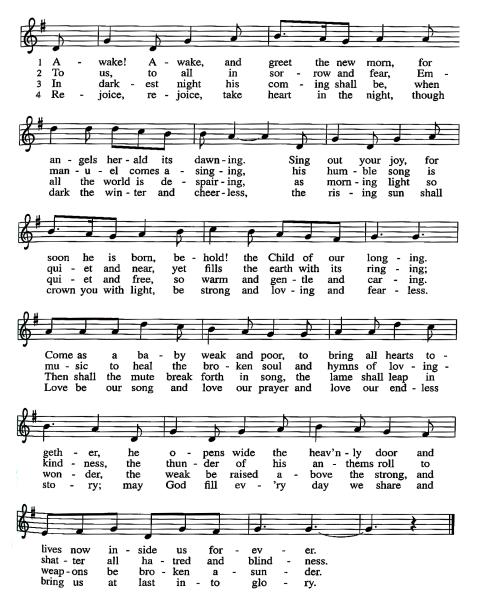
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of your waiting world.

Amen.

Hear these words of assurance:

God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

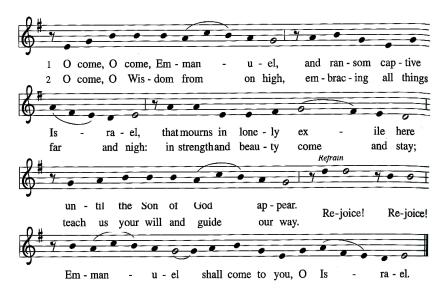


APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

⁷Now the messenger of the ALL-SEEING GOD found Hagar by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring that is beside the road to Shur. ⁸And the messenger said, "Hagar, slave-girl of Sarai, from where have you come and where are you going?" And she said, "From my mistress Sarai I am fleeing." ⁹The messenger of the INSCRUTABLE GOD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and subject yourself to her."

¹⁰The messenger of the WELLSPRING OF LIFE said to Hagar, "Greatly I will multiply your seed, so they cannot be counted for multitude." ¹¹Then the messenger of the FOUNT OF LIFE said to her: "Look! You are pregnant and shall give birth to a son, and you shall call him Ishmael (meaning God hears), for the FAITHFUL ONE has heard of your abuse. ¹²He shall be a wild ass of a man, with his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall live in the sight of all his kin."

¹³So Hagar named the LIVING GOD who spoke to her: "You are El-ro'I"; for she said, "Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing God?"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Let us pray.

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting, and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.



GOSPEL READING

LUKE 1:26-38

This is the Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town of Galilee, Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the name of the virgin was Mary. ²⁸And the angel came to Mary and said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Most High God is with you." 29 Now, she was troubled by the angel's words and pondered what sort of greeting this was. 30Then the angel said to her, "Fear not Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31And now, you will conceive in your womb give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High,, and the Sovereign God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. 33He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his sovereignty there will be no end." 34Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have not known a man intimately?" 35The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit, She will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the one born will be holy. He will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, Elizabeth your kinswoman has even conceived in her old age, and this is the sixth month for she who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the woman-slave of God; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel left her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

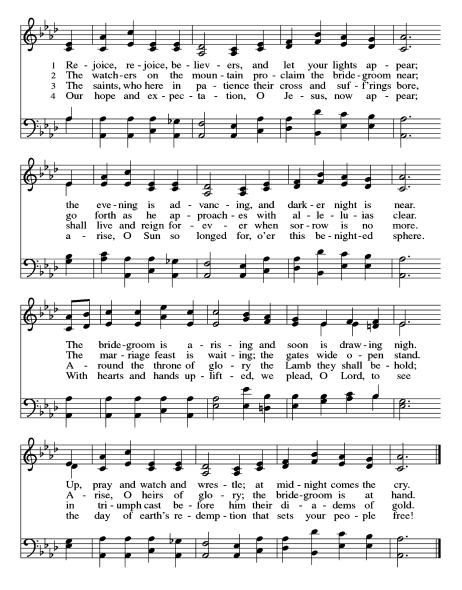
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 244

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers



APOSTLE'S CREED

Let us confess our faith using the Apostle's Creed: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

Prayers continue with each petition ending:

Merciful God,

Receive our Prayer.

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The minister and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord. Please share the peace at whatever level of physical contact with which you are comfortable.

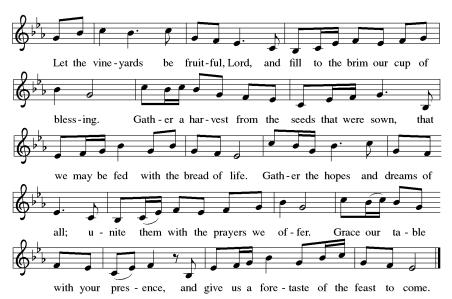
Please fill out an Attendance Card, and place the card in an offering plate.

OFFERING

You are invited to place your offering in one of the plates as they are passed or to make use of our online offering plate through tithe.ly by scanning the QR code to the right. You may also place your offering at www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/qiving by clicking on the green "Give Now" button.



OFFERTORY HYMN



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your our bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

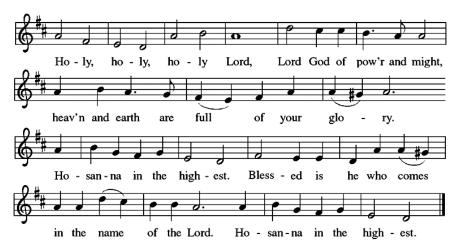
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

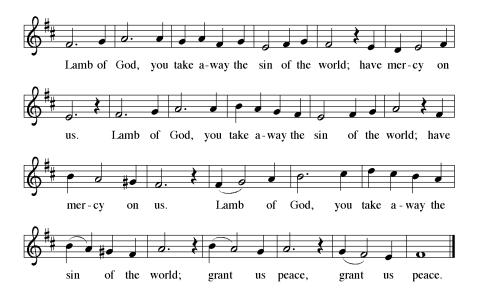
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

Thanks be to God.



COMMUNION

Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, and all people are invited to his table. Those who do not wish to receive communion are invited to receive a blessing.

The body of Christ, given for you. *The communicant may say:* **Amen**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. *The communicant may say:* **Amen**

Music will accompany the distribution of communion.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

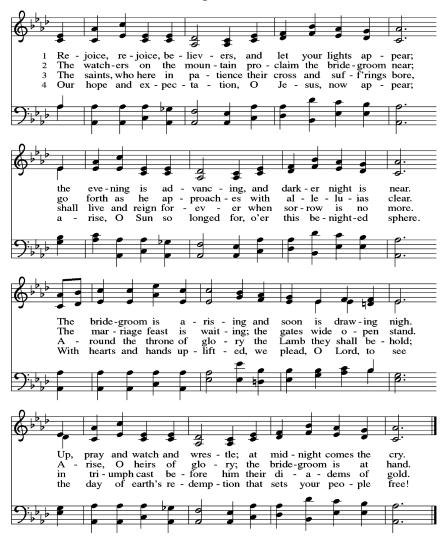
Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever.

The King Shall Come



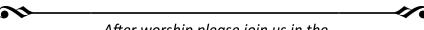
DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Today's altar flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor of Bob and Sue Keifer's anniversary.



After worship please join us in the fellowship hall for social hour.



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In this season of Advent, our biblical translations come from the work of the Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney, professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, TX. This season's lectionary texts and translations can be found in Dr. Gafney's work, A Woman's Lectionary for the Whole Church: Year W, copyright 2021, Church Publishing in New York, NY.

What's Happening at UIC

Sun, Nov. 26 ADVENT 1

Worship, 10:00am

Social Hour, 11:15am

Faith and Fun, 11:15am

Assembling Blessing Bags, 11:15am

Decorate for Advent, 11:15am

Mon, Nov. 27 Grief Support Group, 6:30pm

Cub Scouts, 6:30pm Boy Scouts, 7:00pm

Wed, Nov. 29 Theology on Tap, 6:00pm

Fri, Dec. 1 Office Closed

Senior Express Food Box Delivery

Sat, Dec. 2 Christmas Craft Workshop, 3:00pm-5:00pm

Sun, Dec. 3 ADVENT 2

Worship, 10:00am

Social Hour, 11:15am

Outreach Team Meeting, 11:15am

Make Christmas ornaments to decorate the

fellowship hall tree, 11:15am

Stick around after church today and help us decorate for Advent and to assemble Blessing Bags!





Please remember to pickup your December Newsletter today! Additional copies are on the Welcome Table.

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

PRAYER REQUESTS: Ken Baker, Annette Baker, Maryanne Headen, Walt Bingaman, Tom Wetzel, Peg Swinehart, Russ Wynn, Rosemary Fernsler, Ryan Hunter, Mark Rabuck, Shirley Russell, Bob Keifer, Marie Tanner, Viv Marsh.



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 and keep them on the prayer list for 4 weeks.

HAPPY

Inniversary

Mike and Jane Mertz 11/28/81

John and Shirley Russell 11/30/56

Happy Birthday

Woody Warren 11/28
Danielle Murphy 11/30
John Russell 11/30



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



Dedicate a poinsettia by submitting an order form no later than Sunday, December 3rd.

Order forms are on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

Cost is \$7.00 per plant

You may take your poinsettias home after worship on December 31st.



Mark your calendars for **Saturday, December 2**nd **from 3:00pm-5:00pm at United In Christ** for our free community Christmas Craft Workshop! This annual workshop is an opportunity for families to gather to make homemade Christmas decorations for around the house! This year we will be hosting our craft workshop with the communities of both Milton Lutheran Church and Christ's Evangelical Lutheran. If you've got the perfect idea saved on your Pinterest board and would like to help lead a craft station at this year's workshop, please let Pr. Justin know! Those joining are also invited to whip up a batch of cookies for a "to-go" style cookie swap! We hope you can join us! Come and see!



Outreach has 14 people who are in need of Christmas gifts, 4 at Country Comfort and 10 at Danville State Hospital. We will begin passing out info during social hour. If you would like to bless one, or more, of these people please see Donna Corazza during social hour in the fellowship hall.



Join us on Wednesday, December 6th at 6:00pm at Rusty Rail Brewing Company for a good old-fashioned holiday pub sing! Together with Lutherans from across the synod we will gather to belt out our favorite Christmas carols over a few of our favorite brews and a bite to eat! Touch base with Pastor Justin or Vicar Katy if you have any questions!



UPCOMING DIAPER PANTRY

December 9, 2023 at 10-11:30am 1 bag (40 diapers) per child. Newborn to size 6

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.

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.

Place these items in the baskets located in the Narthex.

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 in the kitchen.



As we begin the Advent Season and the season of gift giving, it is a good time to think of ways to help others.

Don't know what to get someone for Christmas?

How about a gift, in their name, that continues giving after Christmas?

Instead of purchasing a gift for someone that may be the wrong size or color or needs to be stored, why not give them the pleasure of knowing someone in need will receive a gift in their name.

Take a look at the ELCA Good Gifts tree in the fellowship hall. It is filled with ornaments for all sorts of gifts.

- * Please use the "pink" special offering envelopes which sit next to the tree.
- Write your name and the total amount you are giving.
- * Make sure you write what you are purchasing on the "for" line.
- Place cash or check (payable to UIC) in envelope.
- * Place envelope in the offering plate during worship or give to the office.
- * If you are purchasing this as a gift, you may take the ornament to give to the person you are purchasing this in honor of.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	Nov. 26	Dec. 3	Dec. 10
Social Hour	E-K	L-R	S-Z
Bread/Wine	K. Criswell	S. Keifer	S. McPherrin
Altar Guild	T. Cromwell	S. Keifer	M.L. Keifer
Digital Host	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey	M. Shearer
Front Door Greeter	M.L. Keifer	B. Swartz	K. Baker
	T. McPherrin	T. Swartz	K. Guffey
Side Door Greeter	G. Weiser	K. Baker	T. McPherrin
Lector	M. Shearer	A. Stark	B. Swartz
Ushers	C. Zimmerman	K. Arndt	S. Brown
	M. Shearer	D. Baker	T. Cromwell
	A. Stark	K. Baker	K. Criswell
	S. Swartz	Ken Baker	K. Guffey
Communion Asst.	T. McPherrin	B. Swartz	S. Weiser
	A. Stark	T. Cromwell	R. Sprenkle
Guest Relations	G. Weiser	Ken Baker	T. McPherrin
Offering Counter	C. Zimmerman	P. Hauck	L. Rabuck
	K. Guffey	M.L. Keifer	M. Shearer

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.



Lutheran Church

1875 Churches Rd. Lewisburg, PA 17837 570-568-2254

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Sundays at 10am

THE REV. JUSTIN G. LINGENFELTER

CHURCH OFFICE

Open Mon. - Thur. 8:00am - 12:30pm Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

VISIT US AT

Website: www.unitedinchristlutheran.net Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/UICLC