

# United In Christ Lutheran Church



*Second Sunday of Advent*

December 3, 2023

*Vicar Katy Moran*

# ***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.*

*Special thanks to Tom Booth, lay worship leader from Christ's  
Evangelical Lutheran Church, for presiding over communion today.*

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## **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](http://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](mailto: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.

**Amen.**

*Blessed Be the God of Israel*

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
 2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
 3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-pare the way,

and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da-vid's tree.  
 the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;  
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.

So have the proph-ets long de-clared that with a might-y arm  
 that we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise  
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease

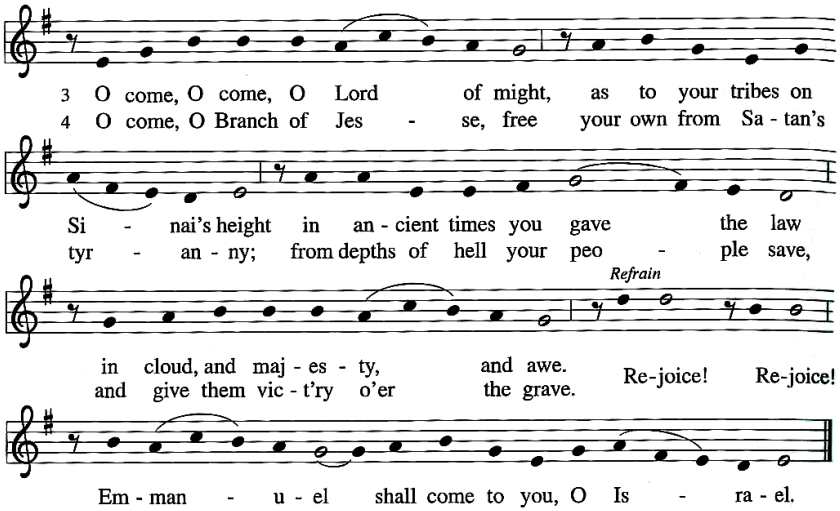
God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.  
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

## 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



3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Sa - tan's  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING

## ROMANS 8:18-25

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the daughters and sons of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the daughters and sons of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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.

**Amen.**



2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

## GOSPEL READING

## LUKE 1:39-45

This is the Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>39</sup> Mary set out in those days and went to the hill country with haste, to a Judean town. <sup>40</sup> There she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> Now when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> Elizabeth exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> From where does this [visit] come to me? That the mother of my Sovereign comes to me? <sup>44</sup> Look! As soon as I heard the sound of your greeting in my ear, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> Now blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of those things spoken to her by the Holy One."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SERMON

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
 2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

**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.

**Amen.**

## **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.*

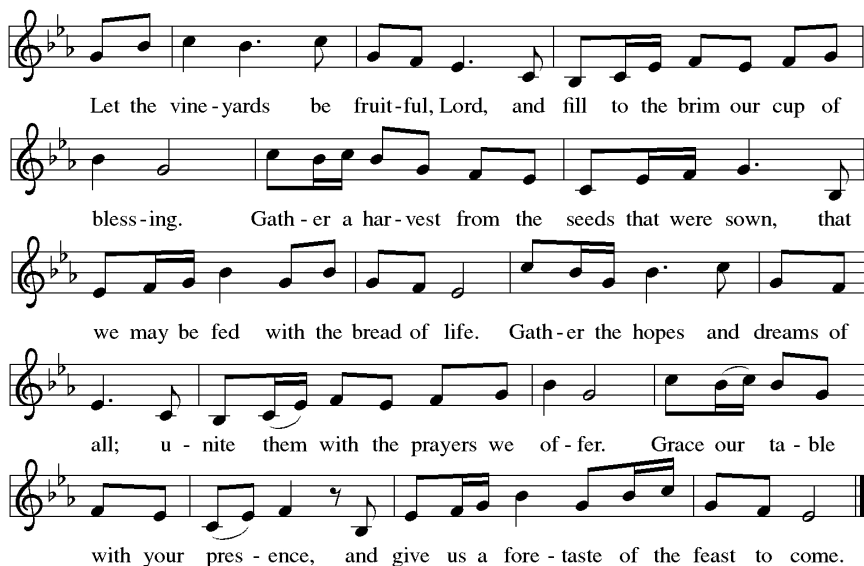
***Please fill out an Attendance Card,  
and place the card in an offering plate.***

## 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](http://tithe.ly) by scanning the QR code to the right. You may also place your offering at [www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/giving](http://www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/giving) by clicking on the green “Give Now” button.*



## OFFERTORY HYMN



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## 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.**

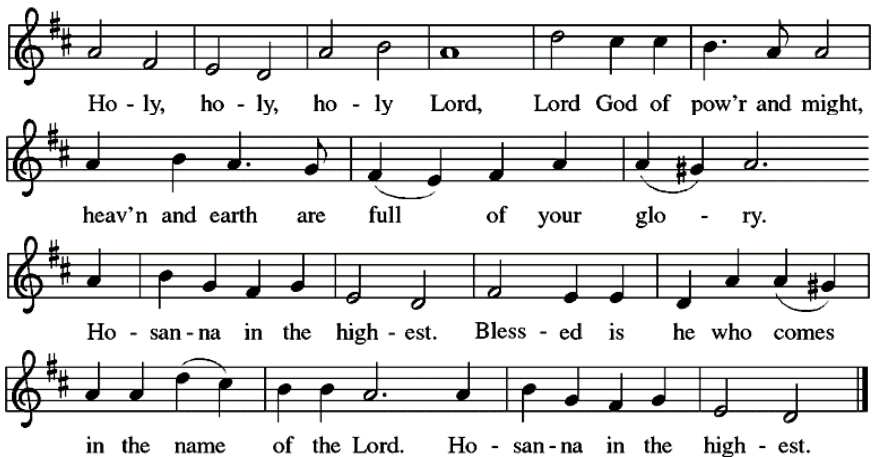
# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## 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.

**Amen.**

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let  
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.  
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with  
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

## 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.

**Amen.**



*Hark, the Glad Sound!*

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of grass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.



## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.  
Thanks be to God!

## POSTLUDE



*Today's altar flowers are given  
to the Glory of God  
in memory of parents, Dave and Winnie Neilson,  
and husband, Mac Keifer,  
by Mary Lou Kiefer*

*After worship please join us in the  
fellowship hall to make Christmas ornaments.*

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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, 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  
**Poinsettia order deadline**
- Mon, Dec. 4      Cub Scouts, 6:30pm  
Boy Scouts, 7:00pm
- Tue, Dec. 5      Boy Scouts, 7:00pm
- Wed, Dec. 6      Beers and Carols, 6:00pm
- Fri, Dec. 8      Office Closed
- Sat, Dec. 9      Baby Steps Diaper Pantry, 10:00am
- Sun, Dec. 10     **ADVENT 3**  
Worship, 10:00am  
Social Hour, 11:15am  
Faith and Fun, 11:15am  
Fellowship Team Meeting, 11:15am  
Youth Group, 1:00pm

# UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Emily McAuliffe, Casey Higgins and Kimberly Gordon, 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](mailto: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 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*



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

# Poinsettias



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.



Join us on **Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** 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!



# OAKS

SENIOR CENTER

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Tuesday, December 14

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10:00 am - Doors Open

10:30 am - Free Bingo with prizes

11:30 pm - Christmas Craft

12:00 pm - Free Lunch



UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

1875 Churches Road, Lewisburg PA 17837





*"Christmas Caroling Through Victorian Lewisburg."*

When: Saturday, December 16.

Time: 6:00 pm.

Where: Christ Lutheran Church

100 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Lewisburg

Please join us for a fun evening of spreading Christmas joy!  
Christmas goodies & hot chocolate will be waiting for everyone after signing.

\*\*\*DON'T FORGET TO DRESS WARM AND BRING A FLASHLIGHT \*\*\*

# Blue Christmas Worship

Wednesday, December 20th at 7:00pm  
Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
100 South Third Street, Lewisburg, PA



A service of hope for those remembering loved ones no longer with us amid the holidays.

A circular graphic with a dark green background. At the top, there is a branch of holly with red berries and green leaves. In the center, there is a stylized tree with a white cross in its trunk and colorful leaves. The text "UNITED IN CHRIST" is written in yellow capital letters, and "Christmas Eve Worship" is written in a green cursive font. Below this, the service times are listed in yellow capital letters: "SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH", "MORNING SERVICE AT 10AM", and "CANDLELIGHT SERVICES AT 6PM AND 11PM". At the bottom right, there is another branch of holly with red berries and green leaves.

**UNITED IN CHRIST**  
*Christmas Eve Worship*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH**  
**MORNING SERVICE AT 10AM**  
**CANDLELIGHT SERVICES AT**  
**6PM AND 11PM**





# Baby Steps DIAPER PANTRY

## 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



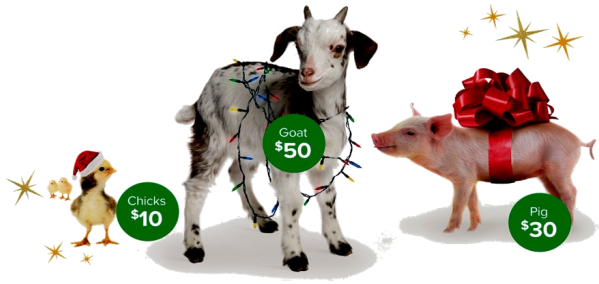
Social Ministry collects non-perishable food items each week. Your donations get delivered to the **Our Little Free Pantry** in West Milton, by the gas station across from the on ramp to 15.

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

	Dec. 3	Dec. 10	Dec. 17
Social Hour	L - R	S - Z	A - D
Bread/Wine	S. Keifer	S. McPherrin	J. Mertz
Altar Guild	S. Keifer	M.L. Keifer	K. Guffey
Digital Host	K. Guffey	M. Shearer	T. Cromwell
Front Door Greeter	B. Swartz T. Swartz	K. Baker K. Guffey	M. Ketchem R. Whitesel
Side Door Greeter	K. Baker	T. McPherrin	G. Weiser
Lector	A. Stark	B. Swartz	E. Haussmann
Ushers	K. Arndt D. Baker K. Baker Ken Baker	S. Brown T. Cromwell K. Criswell K. Guffey	R. Kling S. McPherrin J. Mertz L. Rabuck
Communion Asst.	B. Swartz T. Cromwell	S. Weiser R. Sprenkle	C. Troxell D. Baker
Guest Relations	Ken Baker	T. McPherrin	M. Mertz
Offering Counter	P. Hauck M.L. Keifer	L. Rabuck M. Shearer	M. Rabuck 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.

**United In Christ**



**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](mailto:office@unitedinchristlutheran.net)

**VISIT US AT**

Website: [www.unitedinchristlutheran.net](http://www.unitedinchristlutheran.net)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/UICLC](http://www.facebook.com/groups/UICLC)