

United In Christ Lutheran Church



Third Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

Chad Hershberger

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.

Amen.

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

(sung to the music of All Glory Laud and Honor)

- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
- 2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
- 3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
- 4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.

Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
 A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
 send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

5 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our
 6 O come, O Day - spring, come and cheer; O S - un of justice,
 heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,
 now draw near. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and close the path to mis - er - y. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 and death's dark shadow put to flight.
 Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; 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

JUDGES 13:2-7

²There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. His wife was barren, having borne no children. ³And the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, "Although you are barren, having borne no children, you shall conceive and bear a son. ⁴Now be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, or to eat anything unclean, ⁵for you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor is to come on his head, for the boy shall be a nazirite to God from birth. It is he who shall begin to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines." ⁶Then the woman came and told her husband, "A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like that of an angel of God, most awe-inspiring; I did not ask him where he came from, and he did not tell me his name; ⁷but he said to me, 'You shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the boy shall be a nazirite to God from birth to the day of his death.'"

The Word of the Lord.

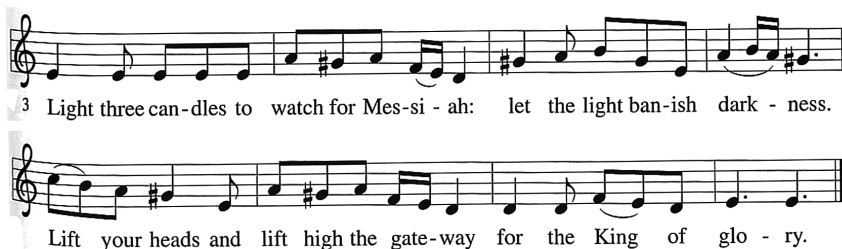
Thanks be to God!

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.



3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 1:39-56

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." ⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One

has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 251

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior’s praise!
 2 To all who live in ho-ly fear your mer-cy ev-er flows.
 3 To Is-ra-el, your ser-vant blest, your help is ev-er sure;



You looked up-on my low-li-ness, and I am full of grace.
 With might-y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex-pose.
 the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil-dren will se-cure.



Now ev-’ry land and ev-’ry age this bless-ing shall pro-claim—
 The ruth-less you have cast a-side, the low-ly throned in-stead;
 Sing glo-ry to the Ho-ly One, give hon-or to the Word,



great won-ders you have done for me, and ho-ly is your name.
 the hun-gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un-fed.
 and praise the Pow’r of the Most High, one God, by all a-dored.

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.

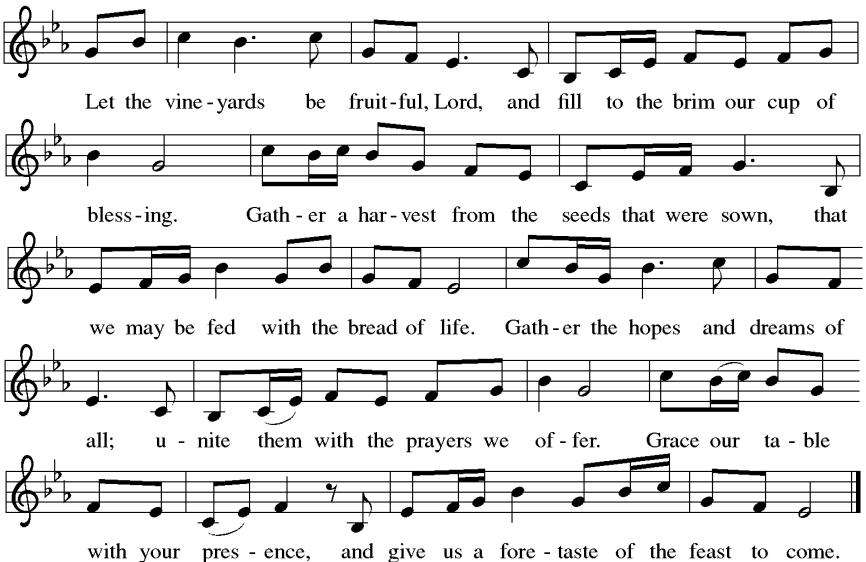
***Please fill out an Attendance Card,
and place the card in an offering plate.***

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 by scanning the QR code to the right. You may also place your offering at 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.

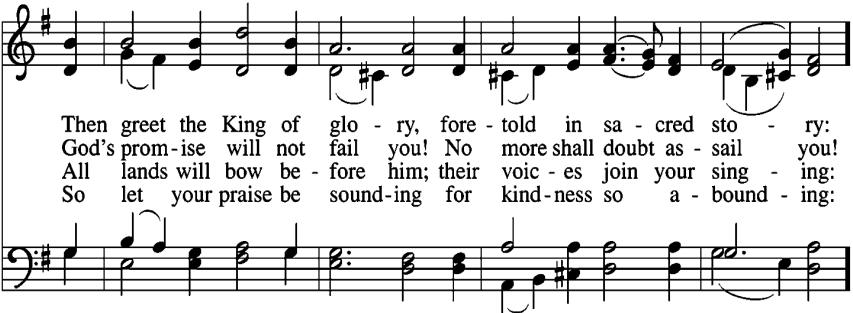
Amen.

Prepare the Royal Highway


1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE



*Today's altar flowers are given
to the Glory of God
in memory Ginny Criswell, and John and Dot Criswell
by Ken Criswell*

*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, 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
- Mon, Dec. 11 Cub Scouts, 6:30pm
Boy Scouts, 7:00pm
- Tue, Dec. 12 OAKS Senior Center, 10:00am-1:00pm
Cub Scouts, 6:30pm
Boy Scouts, 7:00pm
- Fri, Dec. 15 Office Closed
- Sat, Dec. 16 Caroling in Lewisburg, 6:00pm
- Sun, Dec. 17 **ADVENT 4**
Worship, 10:00am
Social Hour, 11:15am
Faith and Fun, 11:15am

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

PRAYER REQUESTS: Emily McAuliffe, Casey Higgins and Kimberly Gordon, Ken Baker, Annette Baker, Maryanne Headen, Walt Bingaman, Tom Wetzell, 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.

Happy Birthday

Karen Hauck 12/11

Tina Snyder 12/14

Rodney Noll 12/16



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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**ATTENTION
WORSHIP
VOLUNTEERS**

Worship Volunteers, please give the office any dates in January which you will not be available to serve during worship. After you are scheduled it will be your responsibility to trade with someone else on the schedule if you are not available to serve that day. Any articles, events, photos and/or thank you notes you'd like to have printed in the January Newsletter need to be in the office **by Monday, December 18.**



OAKS

SENIOR CENTER

Tuesday, December 14

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

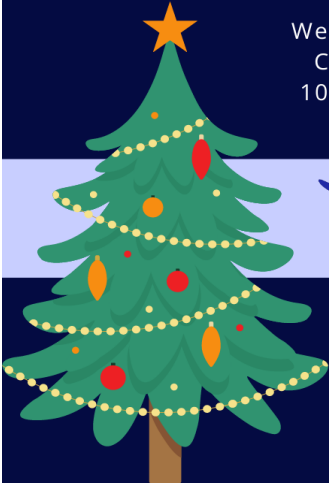
100 South 3rd Street, Lewisburg

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

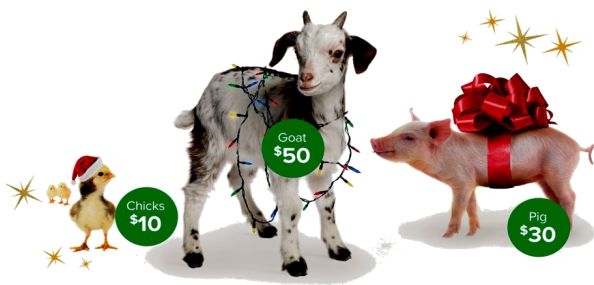


A service of hope for those remembering loved ones no longer with us amid the holidays.

A circular graphic with a dark green background and a red border. 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 on its trunk. Below the tree, the text "UNITED IN CHRIST" is written in yellow, followed by "Christmas Eve Worship" in a green script font. At the bottom, the text "SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH" is written in yellow, followed by "MORNING SERVICE AT 10AM" and "CANDLELIGHT SERVICES AT 6PM AND 11PM" in yellow. 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



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. 10	Dec. 17	Dec. 24, 10am
Social Hour	S - Z	A - D	
Bread/Wine	S. McPherrin	J. Mertz	S. Noll
Altar Guild	M.L. Keifer	K. Guffey	C. Troxell
Digital Host	M. Shearer	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey
Front Door Greeter	K. Baker K. Guffey	M. Ketchem R. Whitesel	T. Cromwell R. Baker
Side Door Greeter	T. McPherrin	G. Weiser	K. Noll
Lector	B. Swartz	E. Haussmann	R. Sprenkle
Ushers	S. Brown T. Cromwell K. Criswell K. Guffey	R. Kling S. McPherrin J. Mertz L. Rabuck	M. Rabuck M. Shearer B. Swartz T. Swartz
Communion Asst.	S. Weiser R. Sprenkle	C. Troxell D. Baker	T. Cromwell R. Kling
Guest Relations	T. McPherrin	M. Mertz	K. Noll
Offering Counter	L. Rabuck M. Shearer	M. Rabuck C. Shreck	Ken Baker K. Guffey

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

VISIT US AT

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