

United In Christ Lutheran Church



Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

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: UIC Pastor

The Rev. Katy Moran: CELC Pastor

Terri Cromwell: Parish Administrator and OAKS Senior Center Director

Office: 570-568-2254

Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

Marilyn Gresh: Music Director

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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

Amen.

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

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 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,

Refrain
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 give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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

GENESIS 17:15-22

¹⁵Thus God said to Abraham, “Now as for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, for Sarah is now her name. ¹⁶And I will bless her, and indeed of her will I give you a son. And I will bless her, and she will become nations; rulers of peoples shall come into being from her.” ¹⁷Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, “Can a child be born to one a hundred years old? And can Sarah, ninety years old, give birth?” ¹⁸Then Abraham said to God, “If only Ishmael could live in your sight!” ¹⁹God said, “Nevertheless your wife Sarah shall give birth to a son for you, and you shall call his name Isaac. And I will establish my covenant with him, an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. ²⁰Now as for Ishmael, I have heard you and I will bless him and make him fruitful and I will make him exceedingly, exceedingly numerous and he shall be the father of twelve chieftains, and I will make him a great nation. ²¹But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall give birth to for you at this season next year.” ²²And when God had finished speaking with him, God ascended from Abraham.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Let us pray.

Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow sighing to flee away. Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand.

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.

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

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.

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

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

Prayers continue with each petition ending:

Lord, in your mercy.

Receive our Prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

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

Musical notation for the Offertory Hymn, consisting of five staves of music in a single system. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes.

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.

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

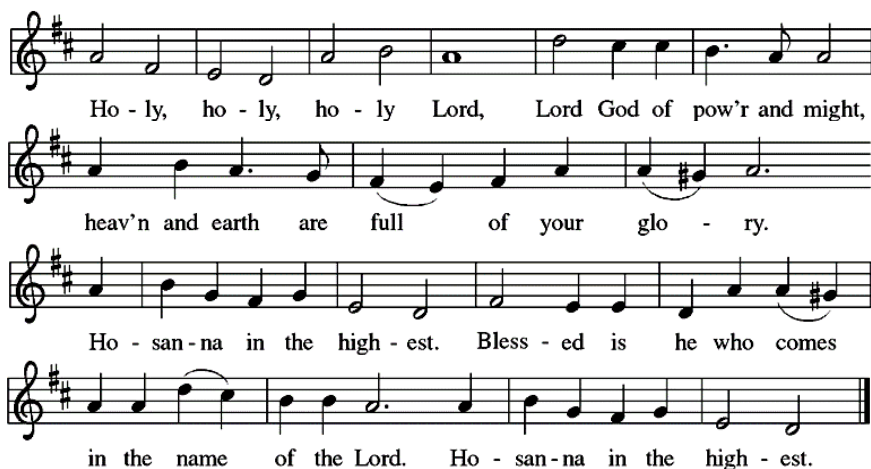
Lift up your hearts.

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

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to 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***

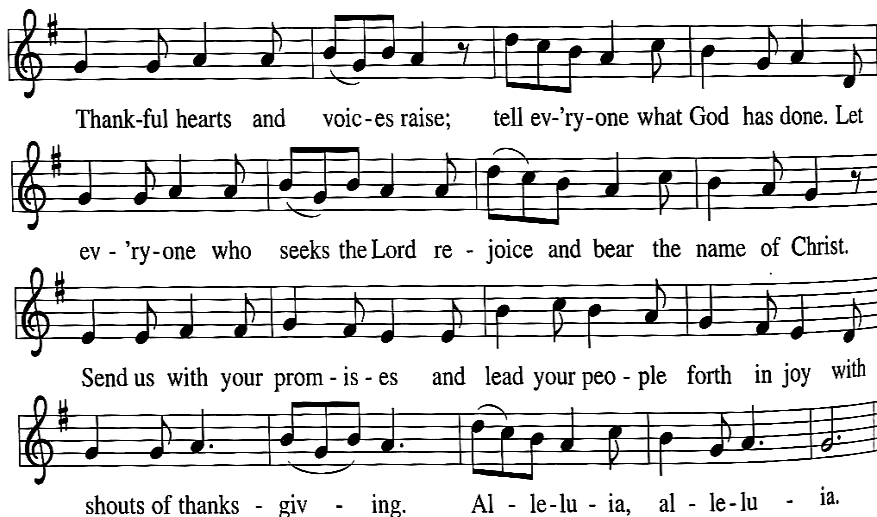
Music will accompany the distribution of communion.

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, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.

BENEDICTION

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, † bless and keep 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 Grace and Bob Yost
by Tobias Baker.*

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What's Happening at UIC

- Sun, Dec. 8 **ADVENT 2**
Poinsettia Order Deadline
Worship, 10:00am
Social Hour, 11:15am
Outreach Mtg., 11:15am
Fellowship Mtg., 11:15am
Faith Lab, 4:00pm
Youth Group, 6:00pm
- Mon, Dec. 9 Cub Scouts, 6:30pm
Boy Scouts, 6:45pm
- Tue, Dec. 10 OAKS Senior Center, 10:00am-1:00pm
Boy Scouts, 6:45pm
- Fri, Dec. 13 Office Closed
- Sat, Dec. 14 Baby Steps Diaper Pantry, 10:00am-11:30am
- Sun, Dec. 15 **ADVENT 3**
Worship, 10:00am
Social Hour, 11:15am
Christmas Caroling at BVLV, 1:45pm
Synod Youth Advent Hike, 2:00pm
Synod Youth Cmas Party, 4:00pm

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

PRAYER REQUESTS: Larry Fawcett, Aaron Murray, Delroy Caris, Rachel Lynn, Desiree Starks, Carol Troxell, Rosemary Fernsler, Ryan Hunter, Patrick Mosley, Mark Rabuck, Shirley Russell, 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.

We will email your prayer request to UIC's prayer chain
and keep them on the prayer list for 4 weeks.

Happy Birthday

Ken Baker 12/8

Bob Keifer 12/9

Karen Hauck 12/11

Tina Snyder 12/14



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



Poinsettias

ORDER DEADLINE: SUNDAY, DEC. 8TH

ORDER FORMS
ON BULLETIN
BOARD



HAVE YOU SEEN?

**LOST
AND
FOUND**



Did you leave something at church? Check out the LOST AND FOUND bin on the shelf by the restroom in the fellowship hall.

NEXT FAITH LAB

Our next Faith Lab will be on Sunday, December 8th at MLC, 1125 Mahoning Street, Milton. We will begin at 4pm and have dinner at 5:30pm.



**BUFFALO VALLEY
FAITH LAB**



Second Sunday of the Month
4:00pm-6:00pm
Free family dinner!

Sponsored by:



**You're invited to the launch of a
new monthly family faith
formation program!**

COMBINED LUTHERAN YOUTH GROUP

Milton Lutheran, United In Christ, and Christ's Lutheran have formed a Combined Lutheran Youth Group. Youth Group is for any student in grades 7-12. Youth Group will meet at 6:15pm on Sunday, December 8th, after Faith Lab, at MLC.

If you would like to join, or have questions, please see Pastor Justin or Pastor Katy.

Blue Christmas Worship

Wednesday, December 18th 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.

The faith communities of United In Christ Lutheran Church, Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 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 18, 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 Christ’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, 100 S. Third Street, Lewisburg, led by Pastor Justin Lingenfelter, Pastor Katy Moran, and Pastor Gary Schaeffer.

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





OAKS

SENIOR CENTER

Tuesday, December 10

10:00 am Doors Open

10:30 am Free Bingo with Prizes

11:30 am Presentation about Stress

12:00 pm Free Lunch



OAKS Senior Center is free and has no age requirements.
Everyone is welcome to join us!

United In Christ Lutheran Church

1875 Churches Road, Lewisburg ~ 570-568-2254

Follmer Lutheran Parish Presents...

Drive-Thru Live Nativity

Goodie Bags
for all
participants



Christmas
Hymn Sing
7 to 7:30 p.m.

6 to 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14

St. John Lutheran Church

70 S. Mill Road, Potts Grove (Milton if using GPS)

CHRISTMAS CAROLING



Caroling at Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village

Join us December 15 at 1:45pm

189 East Tressler Blvd., Lewisburg
1st floor lobby of the 2-story building with the portico
Please sign up or contact the office if you are attending



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 little order forms on the table so the office knows what you are purchasing.
- * Write your name, what you are purchasing, and the total amount you are giving.
- * Place cash or check (payable to UIC) in an offering envelope, along with order form.
- * 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. 8	Dec. 15	Dec. 22
Worship Leaders	Lingenfelter	Moran Lingenfelter	Lingenfelter
Social Hour	E - K	L - R	S - Z
Bread/Wine	S. McPherrin	J. Mertz	M. Shearer
Altar Guild	ML Keifer	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey
Digital Host	M. Shearer	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey
Front Door Greeter	D. Gottlieb G. Glathar	M. Ketchem R. Whitesel	A. Stark L. Olds
Side Door Greeter	R. Stitzel	R. Baker	K. Olds
Lector	S. Keifer	R. Sprenkle	B. Swartz
Ushers	T. Cromwell K. Guffey R. Kling S. McPherrin	L. Rabuck M. Rabuck M. Shearer A. Stark	B. Swartz T. Swartz B. Troxell K. Arndt
Communion Asst.	T. Cromwell E. Haussmann	ML Keifer S. Stark	M. Shearer R. Sprenkle
Guest Relations	B. Troxell	M. Mertz	M. Rabuck
Offering Counter	P. Hauck M. Shearer	R. Sprenkle M. Rabuck	L. Rabuck P. Hauck

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