

United In Christ Lutheran Church



Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

The Rev. 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.*

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.

Savior of the Nations Come

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;

Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
 was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
 Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
 out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

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

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-joyce! Re-joyce!
 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 preaching of John that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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

1 JOHN 3:1-3

¹See what kind of love has our Maker given us, that we should be called children of God; and we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know God. ²Beloved, now are we God's children and it has not yet been revealed what we will be. We do know that when God is revealed, we shall be like God, for we shall see God just as God is. ³And everyone who has this hope in God purifies themselves, just as God is pure.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Let us pray.

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

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 1:46-56

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁶“My soul magnifies the Holy One, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for ⁴⁸for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of God’s own womb-slave. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God’s name. ⁵⁰God’s loving-kindness is for those who fear God from generation to generation. ⁵¹God has shown the strength of God’s own arm; God has scattered the arrogant in the intent of their hearts. ⁵²God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴God has helped God’s own child, Israel, a memorial to God’s mercy, ⁵⁵just as God

said to our mothers and fathers, to Hagar, Sarah, and Abraham, to their descendants forever.”⁵⁶ And Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months then she 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

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.

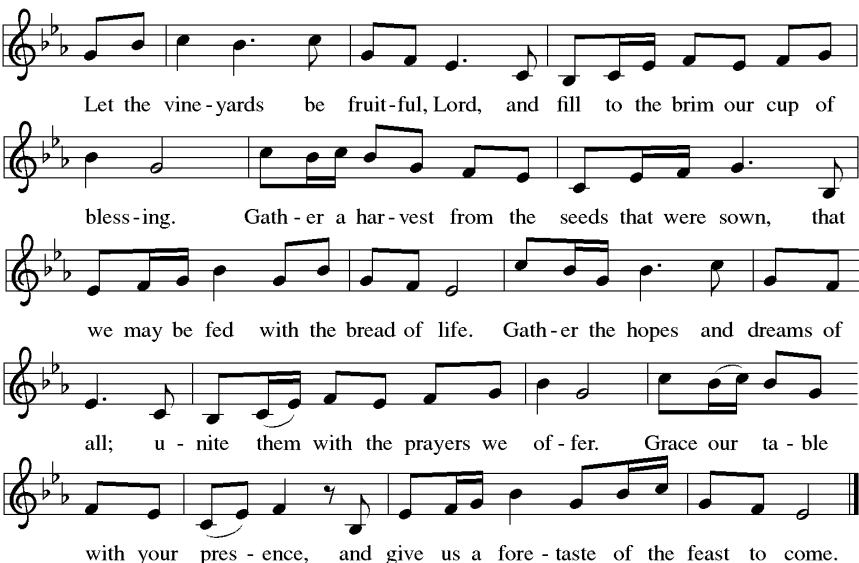
***Please fill out an Attendance Card,
and place the card in an offering plate.***

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



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:

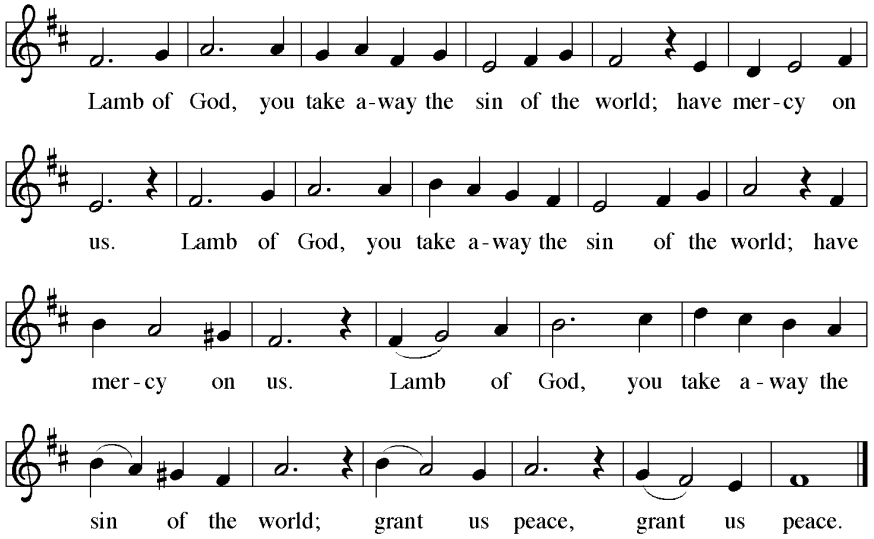
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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 - jice 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.

All Earth is Hopeful

To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell;
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task; this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

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 David and Marie Tanner
by The Stitzel Family and Michelle Davies.*

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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. 15 **ADVENT 3**
Worship, 10:00am
Social Hour, 11:15am
Christmas Caroling, 1:45pm
Synod Youth Advent Hike, 2:00pm
Synod Youth Christmas Party, 4:00pm
- Mon, Dec. 16 **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
Office Closed
Cub Scouts, 6:30pm
Boy Scouts, 6:45pm
- Tue, Dec. 17 Council Meeting, 6:30pm
- Wed, Dec. 18 Blue Christmas Worship, 7:00pm
- Fri, Dec. 20 Office Closed
- Sun, Dec. 22 **ADVENT 4**
Worship, 10:00am
Social Hour, 11:15am



Monday, Dec. 16th NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Worship Volunteers, please give the office any dates in January which you will not be available to serve during worship.

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 16th.

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

PRAYER REQUESTS: Kylee Fawcett, Mary Baker, Annette Baker, 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.

Scripture instructs us to lift one another up in prayer. The prayer chain takes two forms: telephone or email. If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain, please let Terri Cromwell know. Make sure you tell her if you would like a phone call or an email.



HAPPY *Anniversary*

Rob and Teena Zimmerman 12/21/02



Happy Birthday

Rodney Noll 12/16



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

Blue Christmas Worship

Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00pm
Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church
100 South Third Street, Lewisburg, PA



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

A circular graphic with a dark green background. At the top is a wreath of red berries and green leaves. In the center is a stylized tree with a white cross on its trunk. Below the tree, the text "UNITED IN CHRIST" is written in gold, followed by "Christmas Eve Worship" in a light green script font. Below that, "TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH" is written in gold, and "CANDLELIGHT SERVICES AT 6PM AND 11PM" is written in gold. The bottom right of the circle is decorated with a wreath of red berries and green leaves.

UNITED IN CHRIST
Christmas Eve Worship
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
CANDLELIGHT SERVICES AT
6PM AND 11PM

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 signup or contact the office if you are attending**

Youth Synod Advent Hike and Christmas Party

**Please
Signup!**

**Sunday
December 15th**



PAJAMA *Worship*



DECEMBER 29TH
Worship at 10:00am

Wear your PJs to church for
LESSONS & CAROLS!

**Church Office will
be closed beginning on
Christmas Day and will
reopen on January 6th.**





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. 15	Dec. 22	Dec. 24 6pm	Dec. 24 11pm
Worship Leader	Moran Lingenfelter	Lingenfelter Moran	Moran Lingenfelter	Moran Lingenfelter
Social Hour	L - R	S - Z		
Bread/Wine	J. Mertz	M. Shearer	K. Sprengle S. Weiser	R. Baker
Altar Guild	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey	S. Keifer ML Keifer	T. Cromwell
Digital Host	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey	K. Guffey	T. Cromwell
Front Door Greeter	M. Ketchem	A. Stark	D. Byerly	M. Hauck
	R. Whitesel	L. Olds	J. Byerly	P. Hauck
Side Door Greeter	R. Baker	K. Olds	K. Baker	ML Keifer
Lector	R. Sprengle	B. Swartz	V. Tyrell	M. Shearer
Ushers	L. Rabuck	B. Swartz	K. Criswell	A. Stark
	M. Rabuck	T. Swartz	Ken Baker	K. Olds
	M. Shearer	B. Troxell	L. Rabuck	L. Olds
	A. Stark	K. Arndt	M. Rabuck	
Communion Asst.	ML Keifer	M. Shearer	R. Kling	M. Shearer
	S. Stark	R. Sprengle	B. Swartz	M. Shearer
Guest Relations				
Offering Counter	R. Sprengle	L. Rabuck	R. Sprengle	M. Shearer
	M. Rabuck	P. Hauck	M. Rabuck	T. Cromwell

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 - 2:00pm
Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

VISIT US AT

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