

United In Christ Lutheran Church



Seventh Sunday
after Epiphany

February 23, 2025

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, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

In All Our Grief



1 In all our grief and fear we turn to you.
 2 Help us to put a - side the an - gry word,
 3 You did not e - ven spare your on - ly Son.
 4 God, when we suf - fer all that we can bear,



O God, you know all that we think or do,
 the clen - ching fist, the wish and will to hurt.
 He lived our griefs and bore all e - vil done,
 then let us know that you in truth are near



you know the pain we put each oth - er through.
 Teach us the way in which love best is served.
 but through his cross, re - demp - tion has been won.
 and will not leave us lost in all our fear.

Refrain



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, grant us 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



Ⓐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Ⓑ Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

GENESIS 45:3-11, 15

³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 6:27-38

This is the Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 6th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

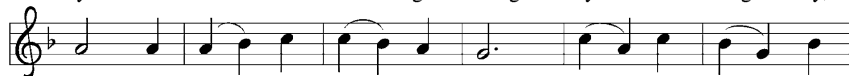
1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry
 3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy
 4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy
 trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us
 life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-
 let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,
 find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;
 more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,
 ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with
 Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.
 its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
 with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.
 crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Prayers continue with each petition ending:

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.
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.

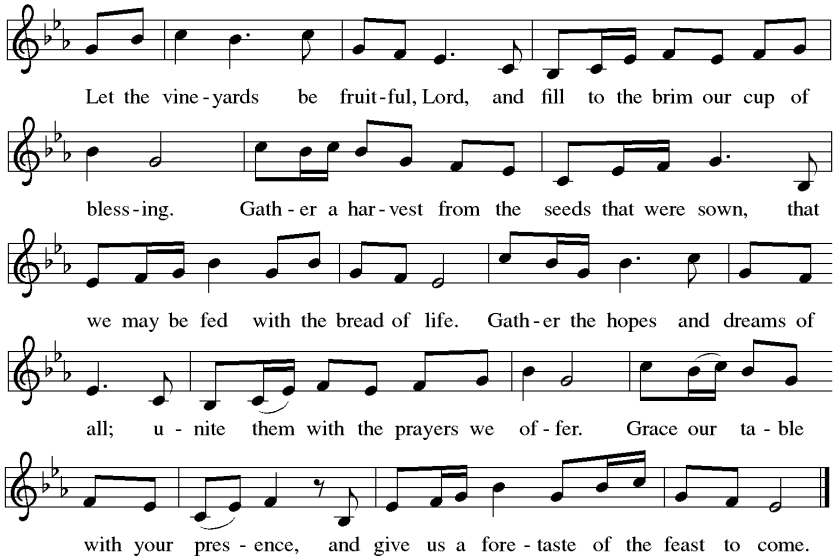
***Please fill out an Attendance Card,
and place the card in an offering plate.***

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 [tithely](http://tithely.com) 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 of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

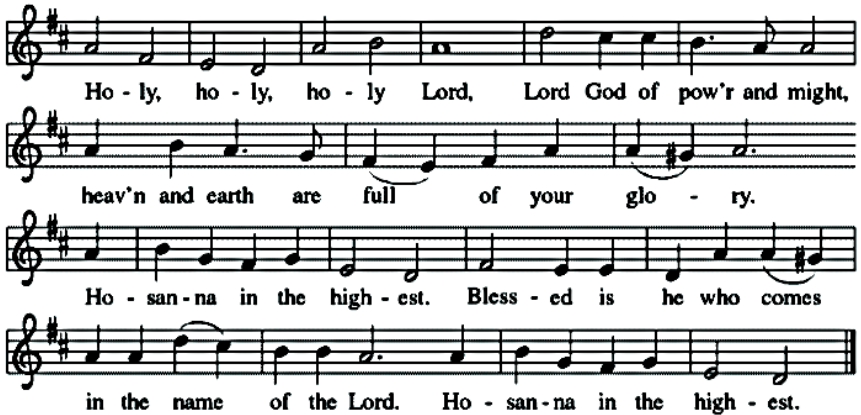
Lift up your hearts.

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, who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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.



The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'The Great Thanksgiving'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,'. The second staff continues with 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.' The third staff starts with 'Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes' and the fourth staff concludes with 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.'

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among; us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, power of the Most High, one God, 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 COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal
of gladness.

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

May 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 all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



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,

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

Amen.

O Christ, Our Hope

1 O Christ, our hope, our heart's de - sire, cre - a - tion's might-y
 2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den of our
 3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som has been
 4 Oh, let your might-y love pre - vail to purge us of our
 5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry ev - er

4 Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by
 sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to
 paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in
 pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by
 be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through



7 ho - ly love out-poured, by ho - ly love out-poured:
 make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.
 robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.
 mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied.
 all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

DISMISSAL



Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



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



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What's Happening at UIC

- Sun, Feb. 23 Worship, 10:00am
 Congregational Meeting, 11:15am
 Social Hour, 12:15pm
 CML Fundraiser Dinner @ CML, 4:00pm-6:00pm
- Mon, Feb. 24 Cub Scouts, 6:30pm
 Boy Scouts, 6:45pm
- Wed, Feb. 26 Packing Milton Panther Packs, 6:00pm
- Fri, Feb. 28 Office Closed
- Sun, Mar. 2 Worship, 10:00am
 Social Hour, 12:15pm

Annual Congregational Meeting



Sunday, February 23rd

The meeting will take place immediately following worship service. All members are encouraged to attend.

At the meeting we will hear the 2024 Annual Report, vote on sealing the steeple and learn about UIC's financial future!

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

PRAYER REQUESTS: John Oliver, Paul Hilkert, Leroy Baker, Mary Baker, Annette Baker, Rachel Lynn, 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 Birthday

John Heckman 2/25



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



SERVING OPPORTUNITY

Packing food bags for
MILTON PANTHER PACKS

Wednesday, February 26th ~ 6pm-7pm

ST ANDREW'S UMC

102 Lower Market St, Milton



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!

Tuesday, March 4th @ 5:30pm

We'll bring the pancakes.
You bring your favorite toppings!





OAKS

SENIOR CENTER

Tuesday, March 11th

10:00 am Doors Open

10:30 am Free Bingo with Prizes

11:30 am Native Americans,

Union County Historical Society

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



Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, March 5th at 7:00pm

United In Christ Lutheran Church

1875 Churches Road

Lewisburg, PA 17837



*"Remember that you are dust and
to dust you shall return."*



WORDS IN THE WILDERNESS

A study with the Psalms through Lent.

Tuesdays, March 11- April 8 @ 6:30pm

United In Christ Lutheran Church





Boy Scout Troop 600 Spaghetti Dinner (Take-out Only)



Come out and enjoy a hot spaghetti dinner made with delicious homemade sauce, while supporting our troop

Date: Saturday, March 15, 2025

Time: 4:00 pm-6:00 pm

Location: United in Christ Lutheran Church--
1875 Churches Road, Lewisburg

Cost: \$10 per meal--Tickets available in advance from the scouts and can be purchased upon arrival.
\$8 Jars of sauce available while quantities last

We are also collecting food items for the **Panther Packs** program. The Panther Pack program helps feed children in our community who are hungry on the weekends. When you pick up your spaghetti dinner, you can drop off any food items then. All donations are greatly appreciated. Also, meals are packed on the first Wednesday of the month at St. Andrew's Church in Milton.

1. Food item cannot be in glass
2. Food item must be non-perishable and not expired
3. Food items must be easy for a child to open or prepare on their own
4. Canned food items must have pop top lids
5. Food items must be individually packaged



The Panther Packs weekend backpack food program has been feeding Milton Area School District elementary students for the past eight years. Each Friday, a bag of non-perishable food is placed into students' backpacks by their teachers. Bags contain two breakfast items, two prepared meals (e.g. pasta, noodles or lunch), a fruit, and a snack item. Every other month a jar of peanut butter is sent home. This fall, we are currently feeding 271 children each weekend. Numbers tend to increase as the cold weather approaches. This program runs all year, January - December.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO DO A FOOD DRIVE,

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALLY PACKAGED ITEMS ARE NEEDED:

- Ramen noodles
- Canned pasta (Pop Top Lids)
- Soup, stew, chili (Must come with pop-top)
- Mac and cheese (Individual cups)
- Tuna or chicken packs or small, pop-top cans
- Individual sized boxes of cereal
- Granola Bars/Breakfast Bars
- Oatmeal packs
- Pop tarts
- Fruit cups
- Apple sauce cups
- Soft-o cups with fruit
- Pudding cups

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	Feb. 23	March 2	March 5
Worship Leader	Pastor Justin	Pastor Justin	Pastor Justin
Social Hour	S - Z	A - D	
Bread/Wine	S. Weiser	M. Catherman	R. Baker
Altar Guild	K. Guffey	S. Keifer M. Catherman	ML Keifer M. Catherman
Digital Host	M. Shearer	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey
Front Door Greeter	C. Robuck D. Robuck	R. Baker K. Baker	B. Swartz T. Swartz
Side Door Greeter	K. Noll	G. Weiser	K. Noll
Lector	R. Sprengle	A. Stark	D. Davies
Ushers	T. Cromwell R. Kling J. Mertz B. Swartz	M. Shearer B. Swartz T. Swartz B. Troxell	A. Stark L. Olds K. Olds D. Baker
Communion Asst.	S. Weiser D. Baker	E. Haussmann ML Keifer	T. Cromwell C. Robuck
Guest Relations	M. Mertz	G. Weiser	K. Noll
Offering Counter	C. Shreck R. Sprengle	K. Guffey P. Hauck	M. Shearer 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.



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