



October 2025 NEWSLETTER



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

WORSHIP: SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.

www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/worship/

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00am - 2:00pm

COUNCIL MEMBERS	Michelle Shearer.....President	2 nd term, ends 12/2027
	Beth Guffey.....Vice President	1 st term, ends 12/2027
	Kathy Arndt.....Treasurer	2 nd term, ends 12/2027
	Ruby Baker.....Secretary	1 st term, ends 12/2027
	Ken Criswell.....	1 st term, ends 12/2026
	Kristie Koch.....	1 st term, ends 12/2026
	Randy Sprenkle.....	1 st term, ends 12/2026

Council Members are elected for a term of three years and no more than 2 consecutive terms.

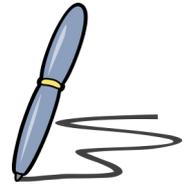
United In Christ's Mission Statement:

Led by the Spirit, we follow Christ's call to honor God and neighbor through worship, learning, service, prayer, stewardship and invitation.

Mark Your Calendars

WED, OCT. 1	PACKING MITON PANTHER PACKS BONHOEFFER STUDY
FRI, OCT. 3	FOOD BANK DELIVERY
SUN, OCT. 5	PET BLESSING FAITH LAB, CELC
TUE, OCT. 7	W&M COMMITTEE MEETING
WED, OCT. 8	BONHOEFFER STUDY
THU, OCT. 9	SUPPLYING GETTING AHEAD MEAL
SAT, OCT. 11	BABY STEPS DIAPER PANTRY
SUN, OCT. 12	OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING
MON, OCT. 13	INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY OFFICE CLOSED
TUE, OCT. 14	OAKS SENIOR CENTER
SAT, OCT. 18	TRUNK-OR-TREAT, MLC
SUN, OCT. 19	FAITH LAB, UIC HAYRIDE, ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
TUE, OCT. 21	COUNCIL MEETING
SUN, OCT. 26	REFORMATION SUNDAY
WED, OCT. 29	THEOLOGY ON TAP

FROM THE PASTOR



Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Luke 18:9-14

Dear United In Christ,

Are you familiar with the concept of schadenfreude? It’s a noun imported from German (in case the spelling didn’t make that clear) that refers to taking pleasure or finding satisfaction in someone else’s misfortune. In its most literal sense, it is “harm (Schaden) joy (freude).” It’s what I think fueled the craze around America’s Funniest Videos; after all, who doesn’t get a kick out of watching a dad get whacked by a blindfolded toddler swinging a piñata stick or a snow tuber taking out a TV reporter down the slope? It’s a sensation we’ve managed to make go viral with funny clips of people tripping/falling/slipping in any number of unlikely environments!

While the lighthearted stuff is all well and good, there is admittedly a more sinister side to such cultural schadenfreude. It’s tucked away into the smug satisfaction we get at seeing *that* coworker finally get their comeuppance. It wells up in us as the “I tried to tell you” starts to form on our lips in response to the

news being brought to us by the friend or family member. It gleefully rejoices when we see the headline that someone on the other side of the aisle finally got what we felt was coming.

But I'm also pretty sure this is precisely what Jesus was trying to nip in the bud with his parable here. You can hear the schadenfreude rising up in the Pharisee's comparative analysis: "Thank you, God, that I am not like *those* other people! I've got the lofty course!" His so-called prayer seems more of a gloating session than anything else! Yet, for all of his perceived accomplishments and pious acts, Jesus says it is not *he* who is justified, but rather the far-off tax collector beating his breast in self-aware humility. An awareness of his own shortcomings and foibles – a humble confession of his own sin – is rendered as the more justified posture by Jesus.

Maybe this is the corrective measure we need as well. It's easy, it seems, to let the schadenfreude take root in us given the fertile ground of our dog-eat-dog values in this world with its competing systems and structures. It's easy to stand and gloat over others when we feel like we've made it where others have fallen short. But here (particularly in this month of Reformation) we are reminded that we are called to not delight in one another's misfortune, but to work for one another's good. We are duly reminded that, freed by the grace of God that comes as a gift for you and me alike, we are no different from one another.

As our weekly confession reminds us, you and I and every neighbor around us have fallen short of the glory of God; we're standing on the same level ground. Here in this level place, there is no longer room for schadenfreude or its cousin, self-righteous satisfaction. Here in this level place, finding ourselves equal recipients of the grace and love and forgiveness of God, we are turned outward into a humble self-aware service toward the neighbors beside us. Here in this level place, we are robbed of any grounds to thank God that we are not like *them* (whoever *they* might be), but are drawn into new relationship by the God claiming us each in turn.

May this month, therefore, draw you into such Godly ground. As we prepare to commemorate the gifts of being re-formed, may we do so by seeing our neighbors anew. May we grow in such an awareness of shared identity and shared reception of God's gifts. May we be a part of the response that bridges the gap between Pharisee and tax collector and builds a stronger shared humanity in God's care. May we put away the schadenfreude in favor of the true joy of Christ made real with each neighbor we greet in grace.

Yours, united in Christ,

~ Pastor Justin

UNITED IN CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO

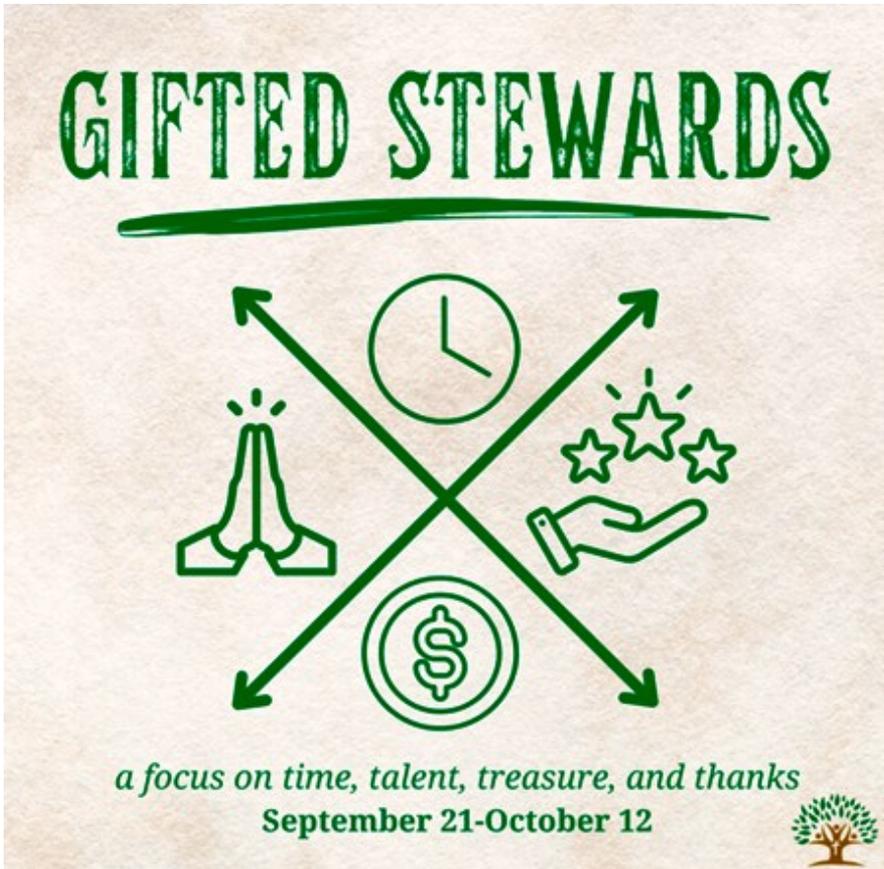
Theology on Tap

JOIN US AT RUSTY RAIL
6:00 PM ON
OCTOBER 29TH



GIFTED STEWARDS SERIES

Join us for our four-week worship series (September 21 – October 12) focusing in on the ways in which we can be stewards of the gifts God has given us! Together, we will reflect on the ways in which we return our time, talent, treasure, and thanks to God and to the community in Christ! See you there!





OAKS

SENIOR CENTER

Tuesday, October 14

10:00 am Doors Open

10:30 am Free Bingo with Prizes

11:30 am Halloween Craft

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



HAPPY *Anniversary*

John and Jen Sheaffer 10/6/01

Chris Lee and Dawn Warren 10/10/11

Randy and Kristin Sprenkle 10/14/00

Jeff and Tina Snyder 10/15/94

Tom and Marilyn Gresh 10/18/69

Aaron and Beth Guffey 10/28/17



Happy Birthday

Linda Caris 10/1

Cheryl Robuck 10/5

Shirley Russell 10/10

Ella Catherman 10/12

Ruby Baker 10/20

Kelsey Lingenfelter 10/20

Lizzie Sprenkle 10/22

Dylan Cromwell 10/23

Jaxon Baker 10/24

Mel Baker 10/25



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

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Oct. 26
Worship Leader	Justin	Justin	Michelle	Justin
Social Hour	S - Z	A - D	E - K	L - R
Bread/Wine	J. Mertz	M. Shearer	K. Sprenkle	S. Weiser
Altar Guild	T. Cromwell	S. Keifer	M. Catherman	K. Guffey
Digital Host	B. Guffey	D. Murphy	K. Guffey	T. Cromwell
Front Door Greeter	Catherman Family	D. Byerly J. Byerly	K. Baker S. Brown	L. Rabuck M. Rabuck
Side Door Greeter	R. Baker	B. Keifer	R. Kling	G. Weiser
Lector	M. Shearer	R. Baker	R. Sprenkle	B. Swartz
Ushers	K. Arndt D. Baker K. Baker S. Brown	B. Guffey R. Kling J. Mertz M. Shearer	L. Rabuck M. Rabuck B. Swartz T. Swartz	K. Arndt B. Guffey D. Baker K. Baker
Communion Asst.	D. Murphy T. Cromwell	B. Swartz D. Baker	C. Robuck B. Catherman	R. Sprenkle S. Weiser
Guest Relations	G. Weiser	M. Mertz	K. Noll	M. Rabuck
Offering Counter	B. Guffey L. Rabuck	M. Shearer M. Rabuck	P. Hauck K. Guffey	L. Rabuck M. Shearer

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'S PRAYER LIST

PRAYER REQUESTS: family and friends of Rick Guffey, family and friends of Diane Gottlieb, Bertie Danowsky, Patrick Moseley, Gigi Pray, Ted McPherrin, Bob Troxell, Eugene Bain, Annette Baker, Carol Troxell, 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, be sure you tell her if you would like phone calls or emails.

SENIOR EXPRESS FOOD BOXES

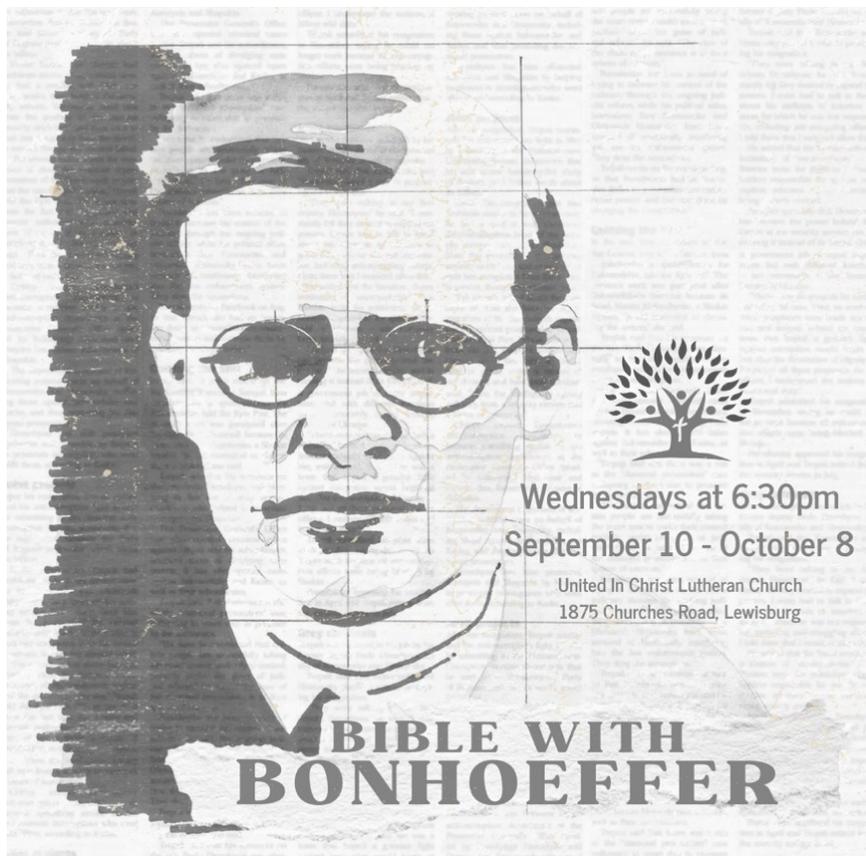
Food boxes will be delivered to UIC by the Central Pa Food Bank on Friday, October 3rd.

Delivery teams, please make plans to deliver your food boxes the following week.



BIBLE WITH BONHOEFFER STUDY

We will continue with our five-week study series on **Wednesday, October 1st and 8th at 6:30pm** as we dive into scripture alongside the life and convictions of 20th century Lutheran pastor, theologian, and martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Formed in the decades following WWI and living as a German during the rise of Nazism and onset of WWII, Bonhoeffer developed works that provide deeply impactful insight into the convictions of faith as they met the realities of the troubled world around him. Each week we will dive into scripture together while using reflections from Bonhoeffer's works to continue wrestling with the meaning of faith in the world! We hope you will join us for study and reflection!



**BUFFALO VALLEY
FAITH LAB**

Scan to sign up!

1st and 3rd Sundays of the Month
4:30pm-6:30pm
September-May
Grades K-6
Free family dinner!

1st Sunday @ Christ's Lutheran
100 S. 3rd Street
Lewisburg, PA 17837

3rd Sunday @ United In Christ
1875 Churches Rd.
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Join us for our family-focused faith formation experience. We will be gather every first and third Sunday of the month; first Sundays will be at Christ's Lutheran in Lewisburg and third Sundays here at UIC! The experience has something for all kids from K-6 as well as adult formation to accompany the lessons the kids are learning! Plus, each gathering ends with a free meal!

Don't have kids in the age group but still want to help the program?

We need people to host the meal portion of one of the monthly gatherings here at UIC! We'd love to have your help along the way! Please see the signup sheet in the fellowship hall.

Please take note: On Sunday, October 19th we will meet earlier than usual, 4:00pm, for a shortened Faith Lab then we'll carpool over to the hayride at St. John's Lutheran Church in Pottsgrove.



Autumn Hayride

5 p.m. Sunday, October 19

St. John's Lutheran

Food & Fun!
70 S. Mill Road, Milton

RSVP to Lois Buck
lbuckpa@dejazzd.com
by Oct. 15

Please signup at church or
contact the office.



We need people to decorate trunks
and we need candy.

You can sign up on the bulletin board
to host a trunk.

There is a box in the Narthex
for candy donations.



Baby Steps DIAPER PANTRY

UPCOMING DIAPER PANTRY

October 11, 2025 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 of Milton, Lewisburg, Mifflinburg, and Watsontown.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Cost is \$35.

Flower Chart is in the Fellowship Hall. You may take your flowers home after worship.





SERVING OPPORTUNITY

Packing food bags for
MILTON PANTHER PACKS
Wednesday, October 1st ~ 6pm-7pm
ST ANDREW'S UMC
102 Lower Market St, Milton



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19TH

Any articles, events, photos, or thank you notes you'd like to have in the November Newsletter need to be in to the office by Sunday, October 19th.

Worship Volunteers, please give the office any dates in November which you will not be available.



Please email Terri in the office at office@unitedinchristlutheran.net or call her at 570-568-2254

Use our partner
number when you
donate to
CommunityAid!
#30192



Every donation using our
partner number supports
ministries at UIC!

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.

UIC COMMITTEES

FELLOWSHIP: Al Stark(c), Kathy Arndt, Kathy Guffey

FINANCE: Kathy Arndt(c), Karen Baker, Jared Rutt

HOME COMMUNION: Kathy Guffey, Michelle Shearer, Bob and Trudy Swartz.

OAKS: Terri Cromwell(c), Kathy Arndt, Ruby Baker, Sherry Bingaman, Shirley and Ted McPherrin, Jane Mertz, Lisa Rabuck

OUTREACH: Michelle Shearer(c), Heather Allegar, Kathy Arndt, Ruby Baker, Sherry Bingaman, Kathy Guffey, Al Stark

PROPERTY: Randy Sprenkle(c), Ken Criswell, Dave Baker, Elwood Brown, Scott Danowsky, Mark Rabuck, Tim Stitzel

RICH HUFF: Shirley McPherrin(c), Kathy Arndt, Kim Criswell, Kathy Guffey, Jane Mertz, Michelle Shearer, Sharon Weiser

SENIOR EXPRESS: Sherry Bingaman(c), Rowe Family, Michelle Shearer, Bob and Trudy Swartz, Warren Shipe

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Terri Cromwell, Marilyn Gresh, Sue Keifer, Rosemary Kling, Connie Shreck, Sharon Weiser



UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1875 CHURCHES ROAD
LEWISBURG PA 17837

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Location: 1875 Churches Rd., Lewisburg, PA

Office Phone: 570-568-2254

Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

Website: www.unitedinchristlutheran.net