

United In Christ Lutheran Church



Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 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, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

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

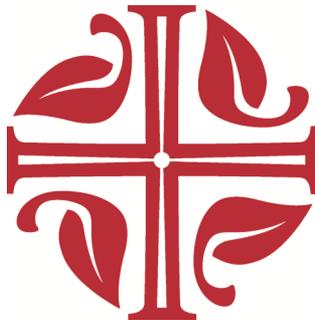
Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,

we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. † You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.



People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

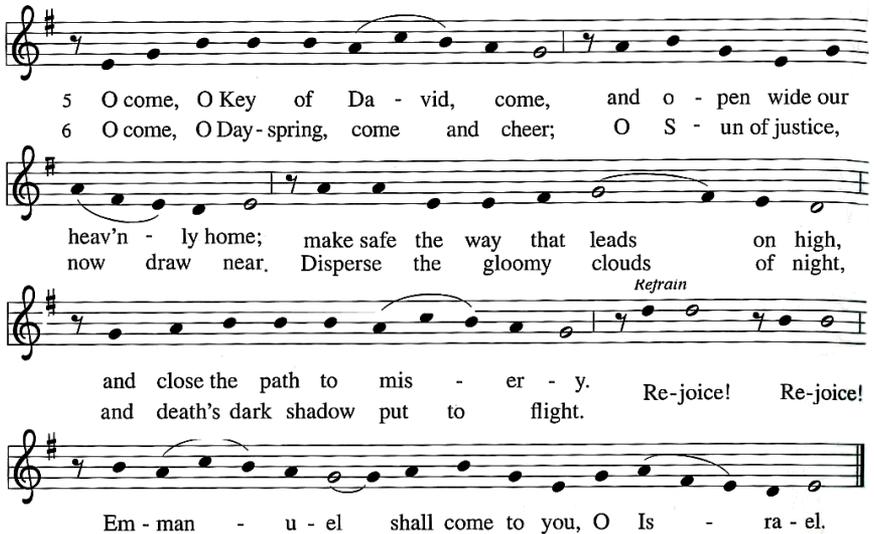
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the father 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 to 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!

RESPONSIVE READING

PSALM 115:9-15

⁹ Israel, trust in the HOLY ONE OF OLD! Their help and their shield is she.

¹⁰ **House of Aaron, trust in the HOLY ONE OF SINAI! Their help and their shield is she.**

¹¹ You who revere the HOLY ONE, trust in the HOLY ONE! Their help and their shield is she.

¹² **The FAITHFUL ONE remembers us; she will bless; she will bless the house of Israel; she will bless the house of Aaron.**

¹³ She will bless those who revere GOD WHO IS HOLY, both small and great.

¹⁴ **May the GENEROUS ONE add to, increase, you all, both you and your children.**

¹⁵ May you all be blessed by the AGELESS ONE, Maker of the heavens and the earth.

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 1:46-56

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, 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 and] Sarah and Abraham, to their descendants forever.” ⁵⁶And Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months and 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

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

Prayers continue with each petition ending:

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
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.

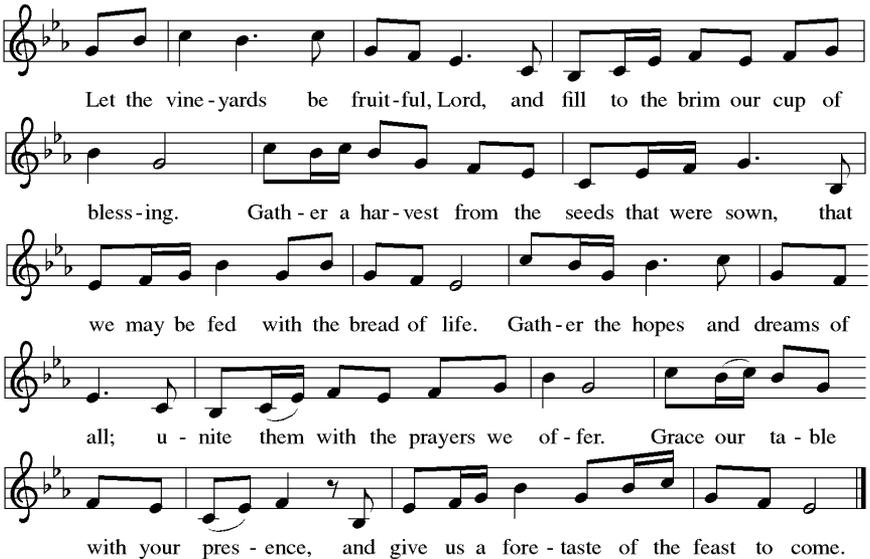
***Please fill out an Attendance Card,
and place the card in an offering plate.***

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

Together, let us pray.

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

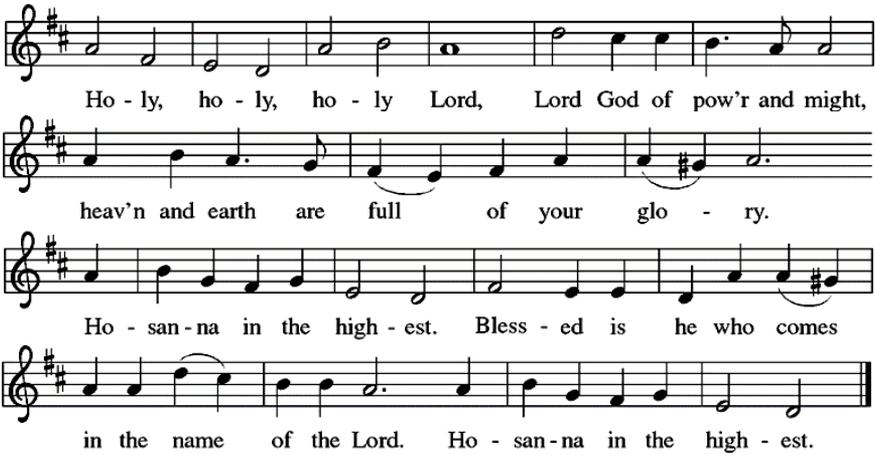
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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:

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.



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.

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

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

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

Together let us pray,

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen

BENEDICTION

May God who comes among us, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

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.



DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE



*Today's altar flowers are given
to the Glory of God
in honor of George Guffey's birthday.*

After worship please join us for social hour.

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What's Happening at UIC

- Sun, Dec. 14 **ADVENT 3**
Worship, 10:00am
Social Hour, 11:15am
Outreach Meeting, 11:15am
- Mon, Dec. 15 Office Closed
Cub Scouts, 6:30pm
Boy Scouts, 6:45pm
- Tue, Dec. 16 Council Meeting, 6:00pm
- Wed, Dec. 17 Blue Christmas Worship @ CELC, 7:00pm
- Fri, Dec. 19 Office Closed
- Sun, Dec. 21 **ADVENT 3**
Worship, 10:00am
Social Hour, 11:15am
January Newsletter Deadline

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

Any articles, events, photos, or thank you notes you'd like to have in the January Newsletter need to be in to the office by Sunday, December 21st.

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



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

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

PRAYER REQUESTS: Scott Cutter, Brenda Bowser, Elwood Brown, Sandy Brown, family and friends of Shirley Russell, Debbie, Jayne, Daniel Danowsky, Melissa, Patrick Moseley, Gigi Pray, Ted McPherrin, Bob Troxell, Eugene Bain, Annette Baker, Mark Rabuck, 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

Tina Snyder 12/14

Rodney Noll 12/16



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

Blue Christmas Worship

Wednesday, December 17th 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.

**Church Office will
close beginning on
Christmas Day and will
reopen on January 5th.**





OFFERING AND ENVELOPES

You will find your 2026 offering envelopes in your mailbox. If you do not get offering envelopes, but would like to, please let Terri in the office know.

All offerings for 2025 must be in to the church office by Sunday, December 29th. Any deposits made after December will be credited to your 2026 offerings.



PAJAMA Worship



DECEMBER 28TH
Worship at 10:00am

Wear your PJs to church for
LESSONS & CAROLS!

LET US KNOW



Please let us know when you are in the hospital or have an upcoming surgery. Call the church office at 570-568-2254 to let us know. Please do not assume that if you tell someone in church that the office or pastor will find out.

Because of confidentiality issues, it's best if you contact Pastor Justin or the church office directly.

IMPORTANT LINKS

For easy access, bookmark these pages on your computer or add the page to your tablet or smartphone's home screen.

UIC's website: www.unitedinchristlutheran.net

Worship and Bulletins: Print the Sunday bulletin so you can follow along. You can also view past bulletins and worship services.

www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/worship

Church Calendar: Stay up-to-date on everything that's happening at UIC.

www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/calendar

Online Giving: www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/giving/

Newsletter Archive: Read current and past newsletters.

www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/newsletter

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/unitedinchristlutheran

Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/UICLC/



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	Dec. 14	Dec. 21	Dec. 24 ~ 6pm	Dec. 24 ~ 11pm
Worship Leader	Justin	Katy	Justin and Katy	Justin and Katy
Social Hour	A - D	E - K		
Bread/Wine	S. Keifer	S. McPherrin	J. Mertz K. Sprenkle	M. Shearer
Altar Guild	B. Guffey	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey S. Keifer	M. Keifer
Digital Host	D. Murphy	B. Guffey	K. Guffey	
Front Door Greeter	L. Rabuck M. Rabuck	D. Byerly J. Byerly	B. Swartz T. Swartz	Cromwell Family
Side Door Greeter	K. Noll	B. Keifer	R. Stitzel	
Lector	T. McPherrin	M. Shearer	V. Tyrell	M. Shearer
Ushers	R. Kling L. Rabuck M. Rabuck M. Shearer	K. Arndt B. Troxell K. Guffey K. Baker	D. Baker K. Criswell R. Kling S. McPherrin	T. Cromwell D. Murphy R. Baker M. Keifer
Communion Asst.	B. Catherman D. Davies	D. Murphy D. Baker	R. Kling B. Catherman T. McPherrin	T. Cromwell D. Murphy
Guest Relations	G. Weiser	T. McPherrin		
Offering Counter	P. Hauck J. Rutt	M. Shearer R. Stitzel	L. Rabuck T. Stitzel	R. Baker 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.



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