

United In Christ Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

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, 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.



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

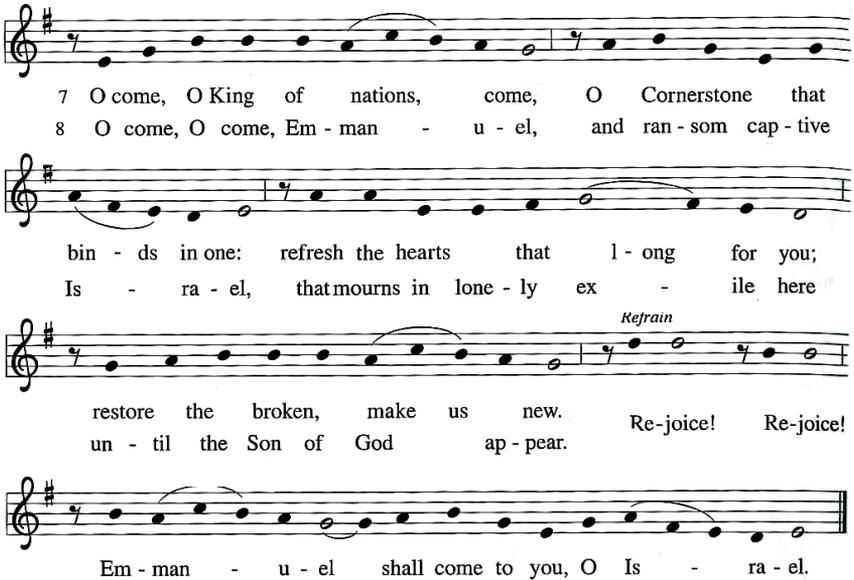
pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

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



7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that
8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive

bin - ds in one: refresh the hearts that l - ong for you;
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here

Refrain
restore the broken, make us new. Re-joice! Re-joice!
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

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 SAMUEL 2: 1-10

¹Hannah prayed and she said, "My heart exults in the HOLY ONE OF OLD; my horn is lifted up in my God. My mouth [opens] wide against my enemies, for I will rejoice in my victory. ²"There is none like the MOST HIGH, none besides you; there is no rock like our God. ³Speak proudly no more, multiplying pride, nor let arrogance come from your mouth, for the AGELESS GOD is a God of

knowledge, and by God deeds are accounted. ⁴The bows of the mighty are broken, yet the feeble gird on warrior-strength. ⁵Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, yet those who were hungry are fat. She who was barren has birthed seven children, yet she who has many children languishes. ⁶The CREATOR OF ALL kills and gives life; brings down to Sheol and raises up. ⁷The GRACIOUS ONE makes poor and makes rich; brings low and also lifts up. ⁸God raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from heaps of human waste to seat them with the nobles and inherit a seat of honor. For to the CREATOR belong the pillars of the earth, and on them God has set the world. ⁹God will guard the feet of the faithful who belong to God, but the wicked will perish in shadow, for it is not by might that one prevail. ¹⁰The HOLY ONE OF SINAI! Those who strive against God shall be shattered; God thunders against them from heaven. The FOUNT OF JUSTICE will judge the ends of the earth; God will give strength to God's ruler and exalt the power of the anointed of God."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

TITUS 3:4-7

⁴But when the graciousness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵God saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to God's mercy. ⁶This Spirit God poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by God's grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of life eternal.

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.



4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 1:18-25

This is the Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 1st chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸Now this is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah happened: When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to have a child in her womb from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Joseph her husband was a just man and unwilling to shame her, he wanted to divorce her secretly. ²⁰But when he deliberated this, suddenly an angel of the Most High God appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for in her is conceived a child from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this happened to fulfill what had been spoken by the Most High God through the prophet: ²³"Look now! The virgin shall conceive a child in her womb and give birth to a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel," Which

translated means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph got up from sleep, he did as the angel of the Most High God commanded him. He took her as his wife, ²⁵yet did not know her sexually until her birthing of a son and named him Jesus.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 266

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.



yel 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.

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.

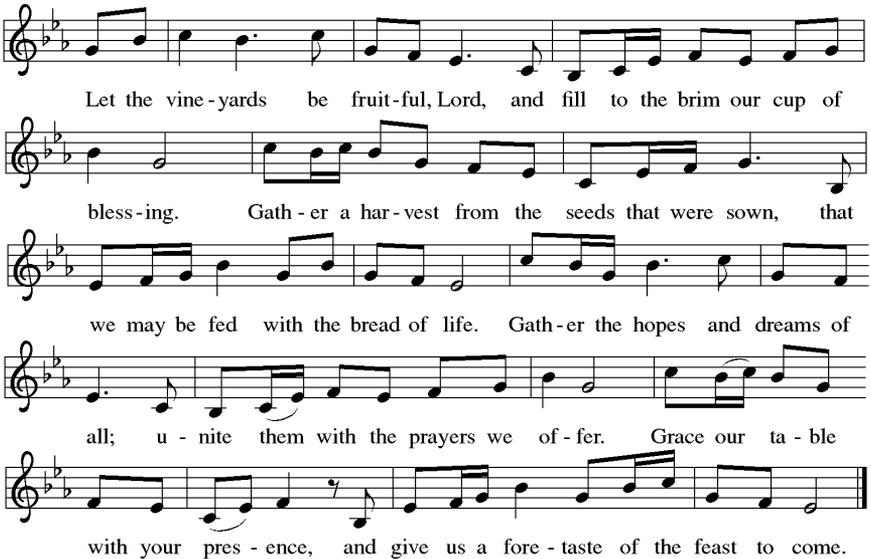
***Please fill out an Attendance Card,
and place the card in an offering plate.***

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.

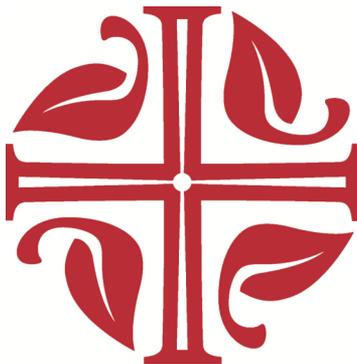
Lift up your hearts.

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:



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

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***

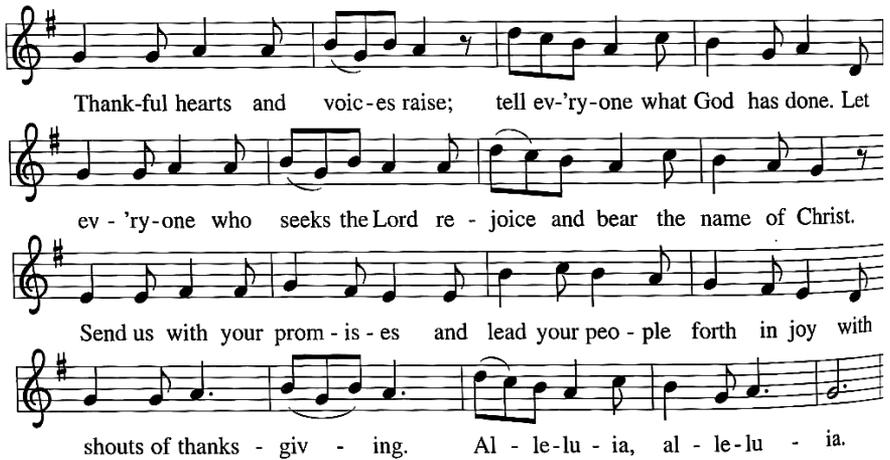
Music will accompany the distribution of communion.

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.

Prepare the Royal Highway

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

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 Tim and Rose Stitzel's anniversary.*

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What's Happening at UIC

- Sun, Dec. 21 **ADVENT 4**
Worship, 10:00am
Social Hour, 11:15am
January Newsletter Deadline
- Wed, Dec. 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**
Candlelight Worship, 6:000pm
Candlelight Worship, 11:000pm
- Wed, Dec. 25 **CHRISTMAS**
Office is closed until January 5th
- Sun, Dec. 28 **LESSONS AND CAROLS**
PAJAMA SUNDAY
Worship, 10:00am
Social Hour, 11:15am

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
Anniversary

Rob and Teena Zimmerman 12/21/02

Tim and Rose Stitzel 12/24/71



Happy Birthday

Dylan Sheaffer 12/25



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

UNITED IN CHRIST

Christmas Eve Worship

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

CANDLELIGHT SERVICES AT
6PM AND 11PM

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





PAJAMA *Worship*



DECEMBER 28TH

Worship at 10:00am

Wear your PJs to church for

LESSONS & CAROLS!

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.

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. 21	Dec. 24 ~ 6pm	Dec. 24 ~ 11pm
Worship Leader	Katy	Justin and Katy	Justin and Katy
Social Hour	E - K		
Bread/Wine	S. McPherrin	J. Mertz K. Sprenkle	M. Shearer
Altar Guild	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey S. Keifer	M. Keifer
Digital Host	B. Guffey	K. Guffey	
Front Door Greeter	D. Byerly J. Byerly	B. Swartz T. Swartz	Cromwell Family
Side Door Greeter	B. Keifer	R. Stitzel	
Lector	M. Shearer	V. Tyrell	M. Shearer
Ushers	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.	D. Murphy D. Baker	R. Kling B. Catherman T. McPherrin	T. Cromwell D. Murphy
Guest Relations			
Offering Counter	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