

# United In Christ Lutheran Church



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the good news is...

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together, the impossible  
is possible

Third Sunday in Lent

*March 8, 2026*

*Chad Hershberger*

# ***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.*

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## **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](http://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](mailto: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

## OPENING LITANY

As God draws us together here, let us celebrate the wardrobe God gives to us.

**God has given us hands to be kind [lift hands] and feet to walk humbly [stomp feet].**

When life is not what we expect . . .

**God invites us to pause and breathe [hands on chest, breathe deeply] and enjoy the calmness found in God's steadfastness.**

And when we make mistakes and hurt one another [tense shoulders] . . .

**God releases us [roll shoulders back] and embraces us in forgiveness [stretch arms open] and love [hug self]. Let love be our all-purpose garment!**

God, your kindness is all around us. Help us share your love with everyone— strangers and friends. When we feel empty, remind us that you are our endless source of love. Fill us, renew us, and send us to show your grace.

**Amen.**



*Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*

Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your prais-es.

I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heav-en to earth to show the way, from the earth

to the cross, my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave,

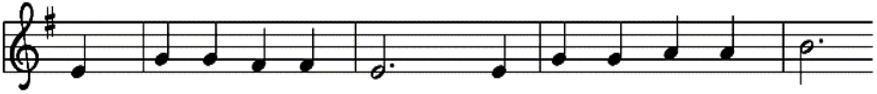
from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

**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



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands. Serve the Lord with gladness and come into God's presence with joy. Know that the Lord is God and God has made us. We are God's people and the sheep of God's fields. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

**The light breaks over the mountains and it opens our new day. That's like the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. He comes to us and makes all things new. Lord God, lead us forward in the new life you are giving us. Open our eyes to see your presence and your love around each corner, and in all things great and small. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## FIRST READING

## MICAH 6:6-8

<sup>6</sup>“With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup> Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

<sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

## SECOND READING

## COLOSSIANS 3:12-15

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## GOSPEL READING

## MARK 6:32-44

This is the Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>32</sup>And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. <sup>33</sup>Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. <sup>34</sup>As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. <sup>35</sup>When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; <sup>36</sup>send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." <sup>37</sup>But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" <sup>38</sup>And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." <sup>39</sup>Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup>So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. <sup>41</sup>Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup>And all ate and were filled, <sup>43</sup>and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. <sup>44</sup>Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SERMON

*He Came Down*

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;  
 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;  
 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;  
 he came down that we may have light; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.  
 he came down that we may have peace;  
 he came down that we may have joy;

**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**

In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness and bears the wounds of the world. Therefore, let us be bold as we pray, trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need.

*Prayers continue with each petition ending:*

Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

God, you create us to be so many different things. Most of all, you created us to be loved. May we know your love every moment of every day, and may we show your love to the world.  
**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](http://tithe.ly) by scanning the QR code to the right. You may also place your offering at [www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/giving](http://www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/giving) by clicking on the green “Give Now” button.



## OFFERTORY HYMN

*Refrain*

Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true. *End*

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray. *Refrain*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Together, let us pray.

**O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to the good news of his saving work. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

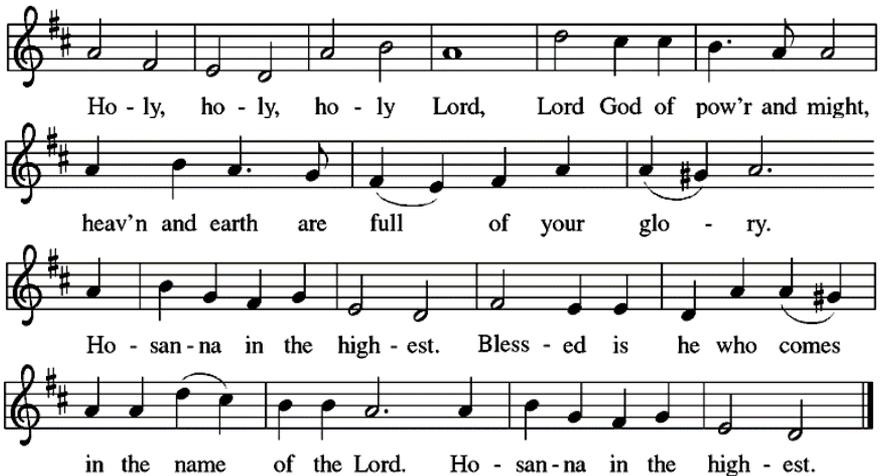
Lift up your hearts.

**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 and healthy that we should at all times and all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, through Christ our Lord. And here in this place, where your Word is taught and heard and treasured, where your people hear the voice of your Son—just as he once spoke by a lake, on the hillsides, and on the roads—so too, we are welcomed into his presence. As he walks near us, our hearts burn within; for he opens to us, and is, the Word of life. And so with the church on earth and all the community 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.

By foot he walked through the land. He slept first in a manger in a barn. He told stories on a lakeshore, and climbed a hill to teach us to love, be peacemakers, and do justice. Foxes have holes and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head and rest. And so he gives his whole life eternally, making peace to the last, a wanderer among us, yet walking so close.

In the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his followers, saying, "Take and eat, this is my body, given for you." Do this in recalling and walking with me.

In the same way, he took a cup, gave thanks and gave it to them to drink, saying, "This cup is the new promise in my blood poured out for you and for all people, for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in recalling and walking with me.

And so Christ Jesus is present in this meal, in this place, among God's people, because Jesus Christ has nowhere to lay his head and rest, but is busy always, gathering us like a shepherd, leading us through our wanderings, and bringing us, at last, home with God.

We who wander bless this place where we are now as a manger, a hill, a cross, an empty tomb, a table for nourishing us to go on, in Christ's abiding presence, love and forgiveness.

**Amen! Christ wanders among us. Come Lord Jesus!**

Send now, we pray, your holy Spirit, O Lord, the Spirit of truth and power, that we may know your Son in the breaking of the bread, in his Word and promise in his faithful death and resurrection and in his faithful ministry to each one, our community here, and our world now.

**Amen! Come Holy Spirit!**

# 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 Good News has been set at the table. Come! Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

**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***

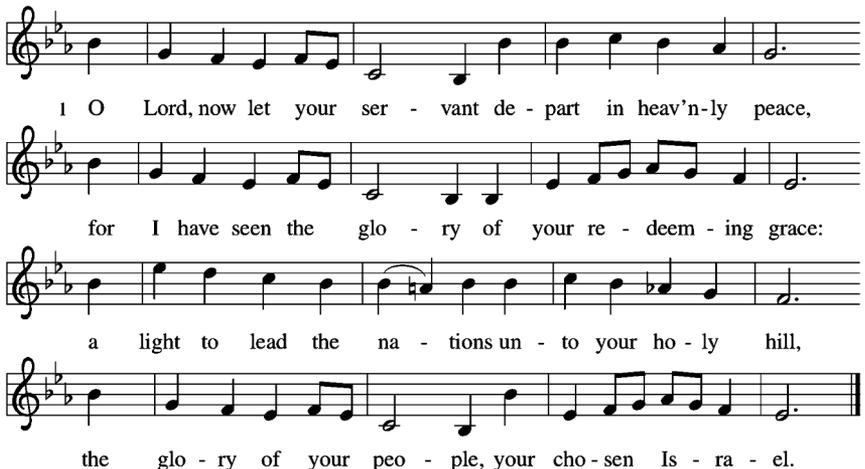
*Music will accompany the distribution of communion.*

## TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



I O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,  
for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:  
a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,  
the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

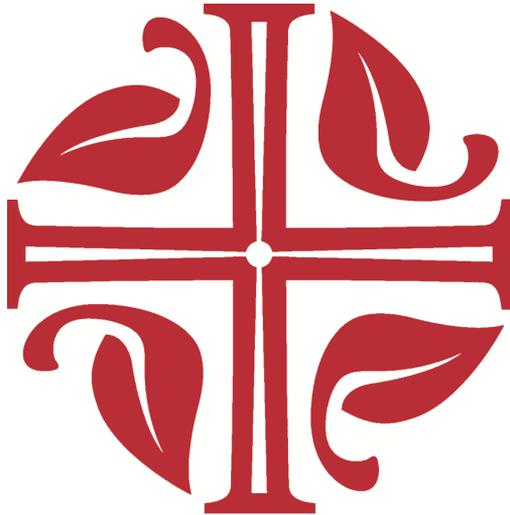
Together, let us pray.

**Lord God, we thank you for the refreshment you have given us here. We go from Christ's presence into Christ's presence, as we walk forward in your world, and finally home to you. We are beacons and reminders of your grace; helpers and comforters in your love; and courageous witnesses of your truth, among all with whom we travel, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

## BENEDICTION

As you leave this place, when you meet anger, speak with love. When you meet fear, speak with hope. When you meet pain, speak with gentleness. But no matter what, speak this good news. May almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**



## SENDING HYMN

*I Believe, I Do Believe*

## DISMISSAL

As we depart from worship, remember to take this message with you: You've been chosen by God for this new life of love. Go in peace. Wear God's love!

**Ok. We will!**

## POSTLUDE



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*After worship please join us in the fellowship hall  
for Social Hour with coffee and refreshments.*



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# UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Judy Rishel, Mark Rabuck, Ron Baker, family and friends of Brenda Bowser, family and friends of Harold Danowsky Sr., Rose Stitzel, Jayne, Patrick Moseley, Bob Troxell, Eugene Bain, Annette Baker, 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](mailto:office@unitedinchristlutheran.net).

# Happy Birthday

Wade Cooley 3/9



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



Today, Chad Hershberger, Camp Mount Luther Executive Director, is at our church to share about church camp!

Campers of all ages are invited to come this summer to Camp Mount Luther, located near Mifflinburg. Check out a summer brochure to see all the camps available for school-aged kids and families. Don't forget that if you register before April 15, you receive a discount. Church camping is an important faith developer. Encourage a child (or adult) to go to camp! For more information on Mount Luther, visit [www.campmountluther.org](http://www.campmountluther.org).



**March 1**

Queen Size Sheets/Pillow Cases

**March 15**

Queen Size Mattress Covers

**March 8**

Bed Pillows

**March 22**

Queen Size Blankets

*Bring new or gently used items to worship each Sunday!  
All donations will go to support the mission of DIG Furniture Bank in Milton!*



the good news is...

a queen-sized bed

## 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.

**RAISE THE REGION** SHL *Blaise Alexander* FAMILY DEALERSHIPS

**SUPPORT BABY STEPS DIAPER PANTRY**

**DONATE DURING**

**RAISE THE REGION 2026**

**MARCH 11-12, 2026**

**A 30-HOUR ONLINE GIVING CAMPAIGN**

**Baby Steps Diaper Pantry** is participating in this year's Raise the Region 2026. Raise the Region is a 30-hour online giving event that supports local nonprofits, such as our diaper pantry. It is organized by the First Community Foundation Partnership of PA and is made more important thanks to

support from Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships and many other sponsors that help stretch donations and offer prize opportunities.

With over 20,000 diapers given out each year, your donations will help to keep our pantry running. All money collected will be used to restock our diapers for families-in-need living within Milton, Warrior Run, Lewisburg, and Mifflinburg school districts.

### **How to Donate to Raise the Region:**

- Donations must be made online at [www.RaiseTheRegion.org](http://www.RaiseTheRegion.org)
- Type ***Baby Steps*** in the search bar
- A minimum of \$25 can be donated
- Credit or debit card donations only
- All contributions are tax-deductible

***Donations start  
March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm  
and end  
March 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm.***

~ Thank you!

# WHY CAMP?

## Parents & caregivers, we're with you.

**We're all on a mission together.** We want the kids in our lives to grow up with a safe place to have fun, grow in character, and connect with God and others. That's what camp does, and now we've got the research to support the truth that **camp experiences have lasting positive impacts on the lives on kids, their families, and communities.**

## So, Why Camp?

We want to see our kids **thrive**, and we want to choose activities, experiences, and opportunities for them that foster faith, develop characters, and build connections. Below, you'll find some statements that you'll likely agree with, alongside some insights from recent research on the difference camp makes. So, why camp? Because...



### **Kids thrive when they have a place for next-level fun.**

92% of campers site "fun" as the number one reason for attending camp.



### **Kids thrive when they have a place to truly unplug.**

97% of parents agree that camp is a place for young people to unplug from technology.



### **Kids thrive when they have a safe place to explore faith.**

90% of campers agree that "My questions about God and faith were taken seriously."



### **Kids thrive when they experientially develop character.**

85% of parents say that their child grew in self-confidence.



### **Kids thrive when they build positive relationships.**

91% of campers said they often or always felt supported and happy at camp.



**Camp Mount Luther** offers kids and families incredible summer camp experiences! The camp is located outside Mifflinburg. There are camp opportunities for all ages.

Learn more and sign up for camp by heading to [cammountluther.org/summer](http://cammountluther.org/summer)

[cammountluther.org](http://cammountluther.org) ✉ [cml@cammountluther.org](mailto:cml@cammountluther.org)

We know how boring summer can get.

# CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

is here to help!

*Like you, we think summer vacation should be fresh and fun, filled with new friendships and new experiences. Camp Mount Luther offers 400 acres and a host of awesome programs to feed your hunger for adventure.*

### 3 easy steps to your best. summer. ever.

1. Check out our Summer Camp brochure and pick your program
2. Register (scholarships are available)
3. Pack your bags and come to camp!

### Our promise to you:

1. You will be safe
2. You will be welcomed
3. You will be loved
4. You will have fun!



Register now!

*Don't suffer another long, boring summer! Come to camp and create friendships, memories, and faith that will last a lifetime!*



**CAMP MOUNT LUTHER**

[www.campmountluther.org](http://www.campmountluther.org)

355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844

570-922-1587

[cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org)



# Easter Flowers

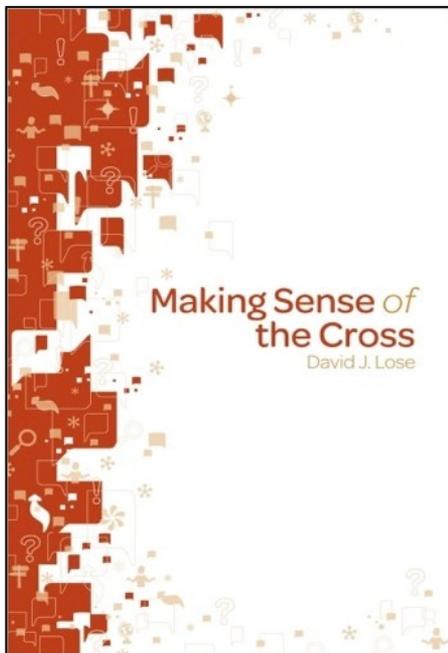
Flowers are a beautiful gift to our Lord and a wonderful expression of our love for God and all he has given us!



- \$3.50 Pansies, 4" pot
- \$11.25 Tulips, 6" pot
- \$11.25 Mini Daffodils, 6" pot
- \$14.50 Daffodils, 8" pot
- \$14.50 Lilies, 6" pot

**Order Deadline: March 15th**

*Order forms are on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.*



## LENTEN STUDY

Join us for the start of a new Lenten study series: *Making Sense of the Cross!* Beginning on **Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**, we will gather weekly with neighbors from CELC and MLC here at UIC for a video series that explores how the cross has been understood over time and how we might understand it as Christians today!



# OAKS

## SENIOR CENTER

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# Tuesday, March 10

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10:00 am Doors Open

10:30 am Free Bingo with Prizes

11:30 am Healthy Exercise  
during winter

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

# Spaghetti

**SATURDAY, MARCH 21**

**4PM-6PM**

United In Christ Lutheran Church  
1875 Churches Road, Lewisburg

**Boy Scout  
Troop 600  
Annual Fundraiser**



**\$10.00  
Takeout Only**

**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**



# WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	March 8	March 15	March 22
Worship Leader	Justin & Chad	Justin	Katy
Social Hour	S - Z	A - D	E - K
Bread/Wine	M. Catherman	K. Criswell	K. Guffey
Altar Guild	S. Keifer	ML Keifer	T. Cromwell
Digital Host	K. Guffey	B. Guffey	D. Murphy
Front Door Greeter	K. Guffey S. Danowsky	C. Robuck D. Robuck	Catherman Family
Side Door Greeter	B. Keifer	K. Guffey	R. Kling
Lector	H. Allegar	R. Baker	D. Davies
Ushers	D. Baker K. Baker T. Cromwell B. Guffey	K. Baker D. Baker B. Swartz T. Swartz	K. Arndt D. Baker K. Baker T. Cromwell
Communion Asst.	M. Shearer B. Swartz	D. Baker B. Catherman	T. Cromwell D. Davies
Guest Relations	G. Weiser	M. Mertz	K. Noll
Offering Counter	K. Guffey P. Hauck	B. Guffey R. Baker	K. Guffey J. Rutt

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](mailto:office@unitedinchristlutheran.net)

### **VISIT US AT**

Website: [www.unitedinchristlutheran.net](http://www.unitedinchristlutheran.net)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/UICLC](http://www.facebook.com/groups/UICLC)