

# United In Christ Lutheran Church



the good news is...

rooted in justice, mercy,  
& faithfulness

Fifth Sunday in Lent

*March 22, 2026*

*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.*

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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

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Jesus once said to a crowd, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone.” Friends, none of us are without sin. None of us get it right all the time. None of us can get by without God’s grace. Let us acknowledge this truth. Let us put down our stones as we turn to God for forgiveness.

*Silence is kept for self-reflection.*

**Holy God, we love to live our lives by the rules.**

**We love clear answers.**

**We love right and wrong.**

**We love swift justice.**

**We love to pick up stones, but you show us another way.**

**You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation.**

**You prioritize mercy over legality.**

**You prioritize people over tradition.**

**You prioritize love over everything.**

**Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters.**

**Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to you.**

**Forgive us. Soften our hearts.**

**Root us in mercy, justice, and love. Amen.**

Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way. Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion, and the same can be said for us. Hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

Our God is a God of mercy.

Our God is a God of compassion.

Our God is a God of grace.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way.

Thanks be to God for yet another second chance.

**Amen.**

*Chief of Sinners Though I Be*

1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his blood for me,  
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love! High - er than the heav'ns a - bove,  
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part balm to heal the wound - ed heart,  
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;  
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford by your Spir - it and your word!

died that I might live on high, lives that I might nev - er die.  
 deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.  
 peace that flows from sin for - giv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,  
 all my wants to him are known, all my sor - rows are his own.  
 When my way - ward heart would stray, keep me in the nar - row way;

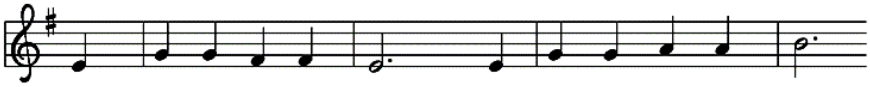
As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.  
 Love that found me—won - drous thought—found me when I sought him not.  
 faith and hope to walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.  
 He sus - tains the hid - den life safe with him from earth - ly strife.  
 grace in time of need sup - ply while I live and when I die.

**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.

Holy One, when you speak, we don't want to miss it. When you bend down and write in the dirt, when you move through the trees, when you wake with the dawn, when you tug on our heart, or whisper into our dreams, we don't want to miss it. So today we pray, clear out the cobwebs in our ears. Quiet the steady stream of thoughts marching through our minds. Open up space in our hearts so that we can receive your word for us today through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING

## MATTHEW 23:23-28

<sup>23</sup>“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others. <sup>24</sup>You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel!

<sup>25</sup>“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup>You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and of the plate, so that the outside also may become clean.

<sup>27</sup>“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which on the outside look beautiful but inside are full of the bones of the dead and of all kinds of uncleanness. <sup>28</sup>So you also on the outside look righteous to others, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

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

## JOHN 8:2-11

<sup>2</sup>Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. <sup>3</sup>The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, <sup>4</sup>they said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. <sup>5</sup>Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” <sup>6</sup>They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. <sup>7</sup>When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” <sup>8</sup>And once again he

bent down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup>When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. <sup>10</sup>Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” <sup>11</sup>She said, “No one, sir.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”]]

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

## SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**ELW 592**

### *Just As I Am, without One Plea*



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y\_a con - flict,  
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,  
 4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
 man - y\_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
 cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,  
 bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

## 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

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*Prayers continue with each petition ending:*

Hear us, O God,  
**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**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.**

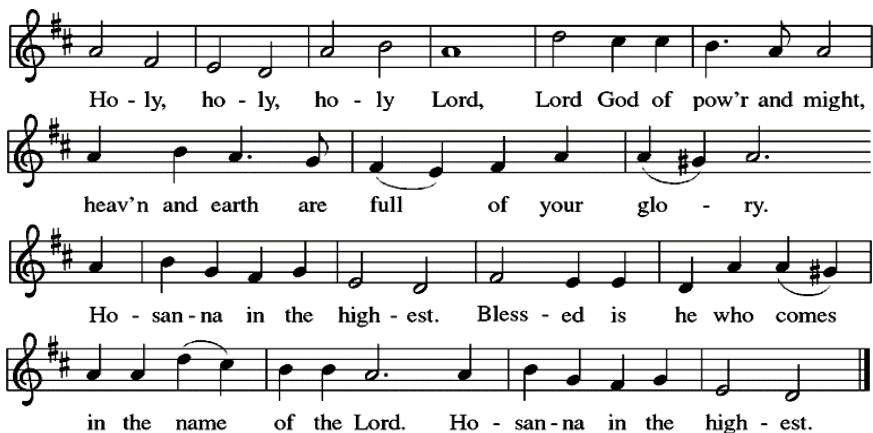
Lift up your hearts.

**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, 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 call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.  
 Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.  
 Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.  
 Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.  
 Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.  
 Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.  
 Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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 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***

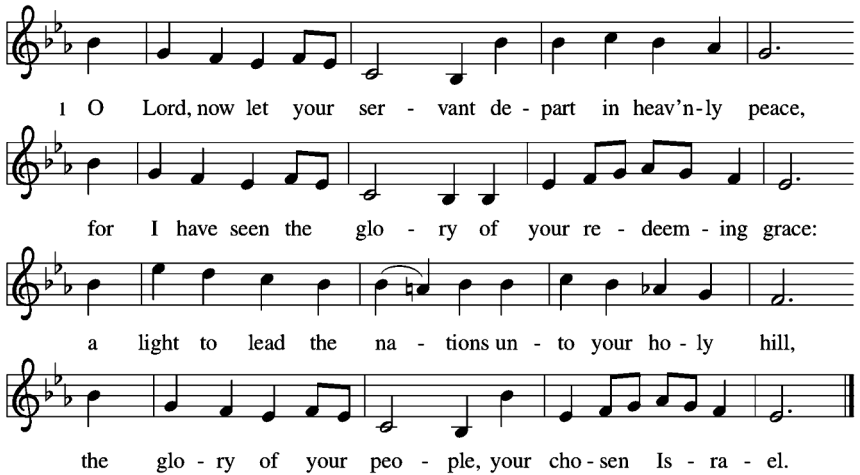
*Music will accompany the distribution of communion.*

## 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.

**God of salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your good news for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## 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.**

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -  
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in  
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

*Refrain*

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace! Tell the world something good!

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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# What's Happening at UIC

- Sun, Mar. 22     **FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
Worship, 10:00am  
Social Hour, 11:15am
- Mon, Mar. 23     Newsletter Deadline  
Cub Scouts, 6:30pm  
Boy Scouts, 6:45pm
- Tue, Mar. 24     Lenten Study, 6:30pm
- Wed, Mar. 25     Soup Dinner @ CELC, 6:00pm  
Holden Evening Prayer @ CELC, 7:00pm
- Thu, Mar. 26     Lenten Brunch Group, 11:00am  
Silver Moon Restaurant
- Fri, Mar. 27     Office Closed
- Sun, Mar. 29     **PALM SUNDAY**  
Worship, 10:00am  
Social Hour, 11:15am

## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE MONDAY, MARCH 23**

Any articles, events, photos, or thank you notes you'd like to have in the April Newsletter need to be in to the office by Monday, March 23.

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



Please email Terri in the office at  
[office@unitedinchristlutheran.net](mailto:office@unitedinchristlutheran.net) or  
call her at 570-568-2254

# UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Cheryl Stiber, Brandon Wirth, Judy Rishel, Mark Rabuck, Ron Baker, 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).

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

*Dave Davies 3/22*  
*Alyasdair Stark 3/26*  
*Brad Catherman 3/26*



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



**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!*



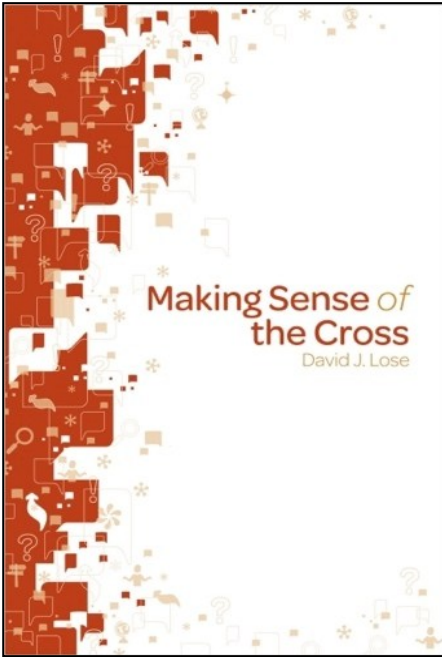
the good news is...  
a queen-sized bed

## 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.



# 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!

**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!**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday @ Christ's Lutheran**  
100 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Lewisburg, PA 17837

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday @ United In Christ**  
1875 Churches Rd.  
Lewisburg, PA 17837



We are collecting candy for the Easter Egg Hunt. Please place your candy donations in the box in the Narthex.

**Please no chocolates as they tend to melt  
in the eggs because of the sun**

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall on  
**Friday, April 3 at 9:00am**  
to fill all the plastic eggs. Come on out and help!

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## UIC LENTEN OFFERING

Lenten offerings will go to UIC's Pastor's Discretionary Fund. The fund is managed by Pastor Justin and is used for aid requests from members of the church and the community.

# Easter Breakfast

*Sunday, April 5th*  
*8:30am*



**Bring your family  
and join us Easter morning  
for a potluck breakfast.**



## ALTAR FLOWERS

Cost is \$35.

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





UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

# *Holy Week Worship*

JOIN US AS WE JOURNEY THROUGH DEATH INTO LIFE

MAUNDY THURSDAY: 4/2 ~ 6:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY: 4/3 ~ 6:30 PM

EASTER SUNRISE: 4/5 ~ 6:30 AM

EASTER SUNDAY: 4/5 ~ 10:00 AM

EVERY SUNDAY AT 10AM · 1875 CHURCHES ROAD, LEWISBURG

## 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.

# WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	March 22	March 29
Worship Leader	Katy	Justin
Social Hour	E - K	L - R
Wine	K. Guffey	S. Keifer
Altar Guild	T. Cromwell	M. Catherman
Digital Host	D. Murphy	M. Shearer
Front Door Greeter	Catherman Family	B. Swartz T. Swartz
Side Door Greeter	R. Kling	K. Baker
Lector	D. Davies	B. Catherman
Ushers	K. Arndt D. Baker K. Baker T. Cromwell	K. Criswell B. Guffey R. Kling J. Mertz
Communion Asst.	T. Cromwell D. Davies	ML Keifer R. Kling
Guest Relations	K. Noll	TBD
Offering Counter	K. Guffey J. Rutt	M. Shearer R. Baker

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**



**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)