



The Lutheran Letter

Reclaiming the Sabbath – Worshiping the God we learn about & learning about the God we worship.

January 2015

Volume XLIV

Number 1



The Pastor's Peace

We have started a few new traditions over the past couple of years. One of those has been to line the center aisle on Palm Sunday with new children's clothing as we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the

people laying down their cloaks and palm branches along his journey. Last year over 360 articles of new clothing was sent to the Allentown School District for children there. Another tradition we started last year was to distribute the Spark Story Bible to our three-year olds.

Sometimes when we make such an offering we forget to follow-up to determine how effective our efforts were. Well, I want to tell you that the families who have responded to me have said we hit this ministry "out of the park." "My child wants to have me read a story every night before bedtime." "When I'm not reading a story from the Bible, she just sits and turns the pages." "It's become a bedtime routine." It doesn't get much better than this when our goal is to put the Word of God into the hands of our youngest members.

As we approach our Lenten and Easter times again, keep this in mind. Lining the center aisle with new clothing for children is a wonderful gift for those families in need of assistance in providing for their children. And, it's a great way of honoring our Lord as well. And, sponsoring a Spark Story Bible for our youngest members helps our young families get off to a great start of introducing God's Word to our children on a level they can understand.

What we do as a congregation does make a great difference in the lives of others and is a tangible way of honoring and worshipping our Lord.

In Christ's peace,

Pastor

Council Report December 2014 By Pastor Moore



- The Council recommendation regarding hosting same-gender weddings at ULC will be mailed to members January 15th. It will be an item of new business at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 15th at the conclusion of the 10:45 a.m. worship service
- This year's expenses are up over 2013 by about 7% with the greatest increase in the area of building expenses. We are currently about .5% ahead of giving for the same period from last year
- Council approved a \$500 donation from the interest in the Benevolent Mission Endowment to go to the NEPS Family Farm Appreciation Celebration in March, 2015. ULC has 4 working farm families as members

- Council approved the continuation of missionary support for Krystle and Ignacio, who are the ELCA's Regional Representatives in South America of \$1,000 from the Mission Support interest in the Living Legacy Endowment fund
- G.O.D.'s Team presented the list of those members inactive for a period of two years: 6 requested to be removed from the roll; 54 either requested to be moved to affiliate member status or did not respond and Council moved them to affiliate member status
- Re-organizational meeting for Council will be held on Saturday, January 10th at 9:00 AM
- There are still 2 vacant seats on Council, if you are a voting member and interested in serving on Council, please contact a member of Council or the Church Office

Biannual Congregational Meeting

Actions taken:

1. The 2015 budget was approved as presented.
2. The constitutional changes were adopted as received.

WORSHIP MATTERS by Judy Gifford

FAQs

What is a sacrament for Lutherans?

For Lutherans, a sacrament:
Is something Jesus commanded us to do,
Uses a physical element—something we can see,
touch and sometimes taste, and
Is connected with God's promise, the word of God,
which gives faith.

Lutherans maintain that using these criteria, only Holy Baptism and Holy Communion qualify as sacraments.

We believe that God encounters us both in word (preaching, song, prayer) and sacrament: Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. When Lutherans refer to "the means of grace" they are referring to the gifts of word and sacrament.

It is in the regular pattern of sharing in the sacraments that we discover their centrality for our faith. In the sacraments we receive no less than the gifts of Jesus Christ, signs of God's mercy and forgiveness. As we celebrate them, we are marked and nourished as Christ's body and strengthened for our life together.

WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY 8:00 AM/10:45 AM

January Commemoration

January 21 – Agnes, martyr, died around 304

Agnes was a girl of about thirteen living in Rome, who had chosen a life of service to Christ as a virgin, despite the Roman emperor's ruling that outlawed all Christian activity. The details of her martyrdom are not clear, but she gave witness to her faith and was put to death as a result, most likely by the sword. Since her death, the church has honored her as one of the chief martyrs of her time.

UNITED STATES

Harvest of Joy in Illinois

The people of Faith Jubilee Community Church, an ELCA congregation in suburban Chicago, harvest more than vegetables from their community garden. They harvest joy and hope for the congregation's youth and seniors.



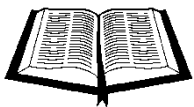
In this economically depressed area, young people face high unemployment and seniors face high expenses. The congregation wondered how they could connect the two generations for the benefit of both – and the community garden inspired an idea for making and nurturing that connection.

The elders teach the congregation's youth and with their guidance, the young people are learning how to start up and operate their own landscaping, lawn care, and snow removal businesses – vital services for seniors who want to stay in their homes, maintaining the community ties they've built up over the years. An **ELCA World Hunger** Domestic Hunger Grant helped purchase equipment for the congregation to lease to the young entrepreneurs until they can afford to buy their own.

ELCA World Hunger supports more than 400 local projects, ranging from backpack ministries to community gardens like Jubilee's to neighborhood renewal programs across the United States. Thank you for your support.



Many thanks to the dedicated, talented team who decorated the church for the Christmas season – Chuck & Gail Allison, Bill Beck, Bob & Lynne Banzhoff, Debbie & Joe Burke, Sherwood Geiger.



**Adult Sunday School
"Happy Hour"**
Cathy Shaffer

Join the Happy Hour Gang in Room 103-104 (downstairs) at 9:15 AM. There is always a joke of the day, much laughter and even some learning and discussion!

Jan. 4 – Let's welcome Pastor Gene Parker, retired pastor of the ELCA and member of ULC, as he leads the first class of the New Year.

Jan. 11 & 18 - We all know the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, but what if we had to say what the Gospel according to Jesus is? Come and explore this question with Herb Gifford.

Jan. 25 & Feb. 1 – Let's watch the movie, "God's Not Dead". A devout Christian student (Shane Harper)

refuses to disavow his faith. His college philosophy professor (Kevin Sorbo) makes him prove the existence of God or else he will fail him. Come watch the movie for the first time or come watch it again!!

SAY A PRAYER
 Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away.
 "Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer," said his mother.
 "I don't need to," the boy replied.
 "Of course, you do," his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house."
 "That's at our house," Johnny explained. "But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook."

**From the Director of
Music Ministries**
By Susan Hartney



A dear friend of my husband and mine hosts a wonderful party on New Year's Eve. There is an abundance of excellent food and drink as well as exciting, fun conversation. As we look forward to ringing in the New Year, we reflect on the past year and share our hopes and dreams for the year to come. Broken resolutions are discussed and dismissed, buried with the fading year. New resolutions, anticipating the joys of the New Year, are born. A New Year brings new opportunities. To paraphrase one of the characters in the movie *Forrest Gump*, it's like getting a second chance.

Almost everyone I know makes New Year's resolutions – to become healthier, to save money, to learn a new skill, to be kinder to others – the list is endless. If one of your resolutions is to become more

active in your church, I encourage you to consider joining one of our many musical ensembles. You do not need to audition! If you like to sing, if you have an interest in bells and chimes, if you play an instrument, we will warmly welcome you! Please feel free to speak with anyone who participates in an ensemble, or come to me with your questions.

Happy New Year to all of you!



Encouraging spiritual inclusion for people with intellectual & developmental disabilities

Rejoicing Spirits Worship Service

Come join us as we enrich the spiritual lives of the intellectual and developmentally disabled. This is an all-inclusive, adapted non-denominational worship and fellowship time that delivers God's message of love and a great way for the disabled and their caregivers to socialize and network. The service is the 4th Sunday of every month @ 9:30 AM.

The Learning Ark Christian Preschool

By Jackie Bucks,
Director



Many thanks to all who helped with "Breakfast with Santa"!

I want to take this opportunity to thank Terry and Patti Hoffmann for taking on such a big project. Lori and I could not have done this without you and we are truly grateful that you prepared such a feast for our second annual "Breakfast with Santa"!

A big thank you to; Miss Lori and my preschool families, Pastor Moore, Cathy Shaffer, Donna Remaly, The Journeymen, Women's Café, to the numerous volunteers who made this event possible and of course a big thank you to Santa for loving our children so much!!! Watching their faces light up as he walked around to greet each child personally was the highlight of the morning! The Journeymen's gracious donation of the food for the breakfast and help in preparing it was very much appreciated. We were also very grateful

for the donations of desserts by the preschool parents and Women's Café.

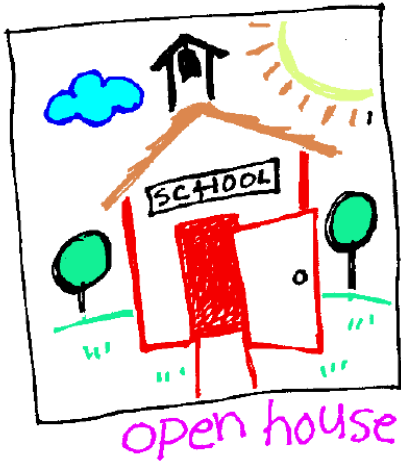
Many thanks to Tim and Deb Geiger for providing potatoes and to Crystal Spring Dairy for providing milk for our breakfast! To our hostess Patty Hersh and to Celia Metzger and Barry Berger, many thanks for all of your help in the dining room. A heartfelt thank you to Terry Hoffman, Harold Estrada and Brian Bucks who helped to create magic in the Family Life Center by setting tables, chairs and Santa's Christmas Wonderland! To Cathy Shaffer who greeted everyone, collected tickets, took care of the financial end of the breakfast and contacted volunteers for us, Lori and I are truly grateful! Also many thanks to our elves Julie Grace, Karen Berger and Brooke Wejksner who helped the children shop at the Holiday Shoppe, took inventory and packaged all of the unsold items for return at the end of the day!!!

Special thanks to Glen Remaly for setting up our sound system and to my daughter Jordy, my piano student Steven Berger, our adorable preschoolers and my dear friend Debbie Hofmann and her daughter Megan Halbert for providing such wonderful Christmas music for this event.

Many thanks to Skylar Williams and her wonderful assistants Madison and Lisa Williams for taking such beautiful photos of the children with Santa and a big thank you to Donna Remaly, for all of her help and expertise with printing the photos of Santa and the children. To Kaiti Snyder...we offer many thanks for her artistic expertise in designing and assisting the children with beautiful Christmas crafts today.

We appreciate all of the help that Sharon and Dylan Moyer and the many preschool and church family members provided. It was amazing to see how quickly they removed every trace of the breakfast and set up for Sunday School! And to our vendors, Aerosoles Shoes, Usborne Children's Books, Tastefully Simple and 31 for their gracious donation of 15% of sales to our preschool we are truly grateful!!!! To Glenn and Debbie Hofmann for providing such beautiful Christmas trees for our fundraiser we offer many thanks. Last, but not least, a big thank you to my husband Brian for all of his help with this event...I could not have done it without you!

The Learning Ark Christian Preschool



You will have an opportunity to tour our preschool, review curriculum and register your children for the 2015/16 School Year!

Thursday, January 22, 2015
6 to 8pm

Snow date: Thursday, January 29th

- ❖ Classes are available for 3s, 4s and Pre-K
- ❖ "Two by Two" Parent & Me for 1s, 2s and young 3s
- ❖ We offer open enrollment throughout the year!!!

The Learning Ark Christian Preschool of Union Lutheran Church
5500 Route 873, Schnecksville, PA 18078

www.learningarkpreschool.com * 610-767-6884 preschool@ulclv.org



Please join us as we set sail to learn, sing and grow!

Journeymen Christmas Party and Happenings... By Carlton Gillikin

The Journeymen held their year-end meeting and Christmas Gift Exchange on Saturday December 6th in the Family Life Center (see group picture). Following the meeting the men prepared and served the breakfast meal for the Preschool's "Breakfast with Santa". The group donated the funds to purchase the meal. The men also selected, purchased and wrapped 7 children gifts from tags on the church's Adopt a Family Christmas Tree and donated 3 - Weis \$25 gift cards to be used in 2015 for needy families. During the year end meeting President Carlton Gillikin transferred leadership to Jim Hersh - the 2015 Journeymen President. The next breakfast meeting will be on Saturday January 10th, 7:00 AM at Villa Rosa Restaurant. Following this meeting the men will begin preparing for the Chicken Pot Pie Dinner later that day. The Journeymen's Bean Bag (Corn Hole) competition once again will begin in January... look for the announcement dates in the bulletins. All men of the congregation are already members of "The Journeymen" and are always welcome to attend any of our events.



Journeymen Chicken Pot Pie Dinner - January 10, 2015

The Journeymen will be holding their annual Chicken Pot Pie Dinner in the Church Family Life Center on Saturday January 10, 2015 from 4:30 to 7:00 PM with a snow date of January 17, 2015. Purchase of tickets

in advance is preferred and will be on sale by the Journeymen on Sunday, January 4, 2014 or they may be obtained through the Church Office. Cost of Adult tickets are \$8.00 in advance or \$10.00 at the door. Children tickets, ages 12 and under, are \$5.00.



Soup-Off 2015

How many more bowls can you fill with one empty bowl? Help us fill empty bowls for ELCA World Hunger at our 5th annual soup and dessert luncheon, Sunday, February 1, 2015, following the 10:45 AM worship service. Signups for the soup and dessert contest will be in January so start thinking about your prize winning recipes.

Come and taste the soups and desserts the admission price is \$10.00 per person or \$25.00 per family. Proceeds go to ELCA World Hunger.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to call Cathy Smith at 570-943-3045.

Womens' Café News By Lois Steward



Tenth Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA

Have you heard the news yet? The Tenth Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA is going to be held in Minneapolis, MN, July 13-16, 2017. If you have never attended one of these gatherings, please talk to JoAnne Bailey or Lois Steward. These two women went to the Ninth Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA this past July in Charlotte, NC and have many exciting memories they can share with you.

A challenge has been made to increase the number of women from our church to attend this event in 2017. JoAnne and Lois would love to have others join them (they are pre-registered to attend the Tenth Triennial Gathering) and have set a challenge of getting at least six other women to attend with them. What a great slumber party this would be!

Over 500 women have already registered. Remember we have over two years to save toward making this wonderful journey together. Contact Lois Steward

(610-767-5808) for further information on how to register for the gathering in 2017.

St. Francis Center for Renewal Retreat

Hey ladies, are you in need of a weekend away where no one will bother you, you can sleep late and get to do what you want to do? Then why not join other women from our church community on a one night retreat at the St. Francis Center for Renewal in Bethlehem, PA Friday, January 16, 2015 through Saturday, January 17th, 2015.

You will get to enjoy time with your sisters in Christ and choose to participate in some planned activities or just enjoy some peaceful time in and around the retreat center. The cost of this wonderful weekend is \$65.00 which will include your lodging, breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Contact the Church Office to register. Come join us, you deserve a restful weekend away!



Parish Nurses
By Dottie Bealer
Jane Borbe

Lunch — the healthy way.

Adopt healthy habits in 2015 From the Harvard Newsletter.

From fast food restaurants and delis exploding with high-calorie sandwiches to salad bars stocked with high-fat and high-sugar add-ons, lunchtime can be a minefield of temptation for those trying to eat a healthy and balanced diet.

But a healthful and enjoyable lunch can be done. These simple tips can help.

Your meal should include lean protein, whole-grain carbohydrates, and produce. Roughly half of your plate should be vegetables or fruit; one-quarter should be lean protein such as fish, chicken, turkey, tofu, beans, or low-fat cottage cheese; and one-quarter should be whole grains, such as one slice of whole-grain bread, or half a cup of brown rice, whole-wheat pasta, or quinoa. You might include a small amount of healthy fat, such as a tablespoon of oil-and-vinegar dressing on your salad.

Salad and cheeses can be a good way to go, but you need to be careful. Regular salad dressings, cheeses,

and mayonnaise-based salads (such as tuna, chicken, and egg salads) can contain unhealthy fats, hidden sugar, and salt. Not to mention lots of calories. Here's the trick to a healthy and satisfying lunch salad.

Step 1: Build a vegetable base. Load your plate with leafy greens and raw or grilled vegetables.

Step 2: Add some protein — a few scoops of garbanzo or kidney beans. Beans are an excellent source of fiber — and they're filling! Other good selections include grilled chicken, low-fat cottage cheese, or chopped eggs. Go light on the cheese. A sprinkle of a strongly flavored cheese like feta or Parmesan can deliver flavor with fewer calories.

Step 3: Add a small amount of healthy fat. Sprinkle on the nuts and seeds. They are high in heart-healthy unsaturated fat and healthy protein, give you a feeling of fullness, and help food stay in your stomach longer. You might also opt for a dash of oil and vinegar.

Step 4: Whole grains and fruit make a nice addition to a creative salad. Look for whole grains like barley or bulgur wheat to sprinkle on top. Or add a few slices of fruit.

Prayer Chain

Prayer requests can be made through the Prayer Chain. For daytime requests, please call Cathy Shaffer at 610-767-6884 or 610-799-4506 from 9:00 AM–5:00 PM. For evening requests, call Pat Moore at 610-533-5552 from 6:30 -10:30 PM.



From The Church Office

If you are going away for an extended period of time, please contact the church office. We will gladly hold your church mail for you until you return or send it to you if you have a temporary address.



To Our Office Volunteers...

Jane Borbe, Carolyn Bottjer, Georgene Brobst, Sally Crowe, Thomas Crowe, Barbara Fung, David Geiger, Debbie Geiger, Linda Geissinger, Judy Gifford, Julie Grace, Deb Grundstrum, Don Hoffman, Sandy Hoffman, Betty Laubach, John Krisko, Marion Krisko, Ellen Miller, Kathy & Adam Parker, Stacey Rice, Richard Ruth, Art Schneck, Carol Schneck, Shirley Schneck, Barbara Spohn, Peggy Twardzik, Donald and Ruth Weaver.

Bulletin & Flower Sponsors

Each week, we ask people to sponsor Bulletins and flowers for the worship services. Sign-up lists are on the Gathering Space bulletin board for 2014. Please sign-up on that list or call Cheryl Kosar for bulletins (610-261-0242). The cost for worship bulletins is \$20.00, and children's bulletins are \$3.00.



We also need sponsors for the worship flowers. The cost per vase is \$15.00. Please sign-up on the bulletin board or call Linda Houser at 610-799-2396. (Please note: after the worship services, **ALL of the vases of flowers will be delivered to homebound members of our congregation.**) Your Sponsorship may be paid when you sign-up or paid on the Sunday you are sponsoring. Please use a pew envelope and indicate "bulletin or flower sponsor".

Bible Facts

Armor Every Christian Should Have

Cast off the works of darkness, and put on the *armor of light* (Romans 13:12). Put on the *whole armor of God*, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil and to withstand in the evil day. Start by having your loins girt and with *truth* (Eph 6:11-14). Have on the *breastplate of righteousness* (Eph 6:14). Have your feet shod with the *preparation of the gospel of peace* (Eph 6:15). Above all, take the *shield of faith* to quench all of the fiery darts of the wicked (Eph 6:16). Take the *helmet of salvation* (Eph 6:17). Take the *sword of the Spirit* which is the Word of God (Eph 6:17).

Union Lutheran Parish Register

New entries from November 17, 2014 – December 15, 2014

Deaths

Betty M. Wechsler – November 28, 2014

TREASURER'S REPORT

November 30, 2014

92% of year complete

	Current Period	Year to Date	% of budget
INCOME:			
Unrestricted Contributions	34,105.31	337,573.18	83.47%
Other Income	<u>3,887.91</u>	<u>3,986.50</u>	
Total Income	37,993.22	341,559.68	
EXPENSES:			
Budgeted	28,111.23	350,473.61	87.10%
Nonbudgeted	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,749.48</u>	
Total Expenses	28,111.23	352,223.09	
Excess Income over Expenses	9,881.99	(10,663.41)	
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November Contributions -			
- Mortgage Reduction	3,663.33		

*You can lay the foundation for ministry for future generations.
Remember Union Lutheran Church in your will.*



Union Evangelical Lutheran Church

The mission of UELC is to follow Jesus; to be a Christ centered worshipping, learning and serving family of faith; to teach the Word; and to witness God's inclusive love for individuals, our community and the growing and ever changing world.

Pastor: The Reverend Dennis W. Moore

Home Address: Aptmt H11
1312 N. 13th St.

Whitehall, PA 18052

Phone: 610-533-5479

E-mail: pastor@ulclv.org

Staff: Susan Hartney, Director of Music Ministries

E-mail: suzyflute@aol.com

Cathy C. Shaffer, Assistant to the Pastor

Donna M. Remaly, Assistant Office Administrator

Terry P. Hoffman, Sexton

Dorothy Bealer, Parish Nurse

Jane Borbe, Parish Nurse

Jackie Bucks, Preschool Director

Congregation Council: Chuck Allison, Michael Busser, Dave Fermato, Debra Geiger, Julie Grace, Patti Hoffman, Skie Kramp, John Kuoni, Jim Mason, Charles Mosser, Cindy Pugh, Lois Steward, Jeff Sweigart

ULC supported missionary: Krystle Moraska-Madrussan & Ignacio Madrussan

Church Office Phone: 610-767-6884

Church Office Hours: M, W, F 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM;
T, Th 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

E-Mail Address: office@ulclv.org

Website: www.ulclv.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ulclv

FAX: 610-767-9611

Lehigh Valley Hospital Church Code #349

St. Luke's Hospital Church Code #349

Miller Keystone Blood Center #1258 – ULC

Learning Ark Christian Preschool

Website: www.learningarkpreschool.com

E-Mail Address: preschool@ulclv.org