



THE LUTHERAN LETTER

January 2019



2019 is almost here. For some, it's scary how quickly 2018 disappeared. For others, they can't wait to turn the page because this is the year they plan to graduate or perhaps get married. In either case, however, who of us knows what 2019 will bring? In all seriousness, who of us knows what tomorrow will bring?

If you have ever worried and fretted about the future our gracious God has given us a very powerful verse, nestled right in the middle of the Old Testament book of Jeremiah. The prophet Jeremiah was one who had very good cause to be worried about the future. Day after day he took a beating because he stood up for God's truth and proclaimed God's Word. But God lifted Jeremiah's eyes up to see the future and to know the truth about what was in store for him. God said to Jeremiah and he says to you: **"I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."**

Talk about comforting and encouraging words! This is God's ultimate plan for all believers—a plan that meets its fulfillment

in heaven, and yet believers find fulfillment of these promises even now.

Let's be clear, God is not promising you an extraordinary amount of money in the lottery. He's not saying that you won't ever get cancer or some other disease. He's telling you and me that HE KNOWS. He knows the plan—the ultimate plan—which centers upon Jesus.

Because of Jesus we have the sure hope of heaven. Because of Jesus we have a future that is free from all sin, shame, sorrow and sadness. Because of Jesus our Savior who lived and died and rose in our place, we don't have to worry or fret about what 2019 will bring. No matter what happens, through faith in Jesus our future is set. God knows it and he wants you to know it too.

As we journey into 2019, we can make plans, we can set goals. Above all, we can have confidence because our LORD God knows the ultimate plans he has for us—and he's already shared them with us! Live in this confidence and share these promises, for there are many around us who are deeply concerned what the future holds. Tell them about Jesus who knows!

Blessings this new year!

Pastor Camp

December 2018 Church Council News...

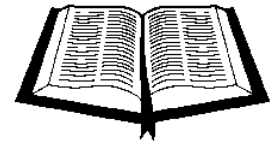
By Cathy Shaffer

Assistant to the Pastor

- ❖ Financial report: We are anticipating a deficit for the year of about \$16,000 - \$20,000 which is an improvement over last year and our cash position should be sufficient going into 2019.
- ❖ Dianne Gillikin asked Council to consider becoming a polling location for North Whitehall. Council discussed and will make a recommendation in January.
- ❖ A motion was made to donate \$250 from the Living Legacy Mission Interest Fund to help sponsor the NEPS Farm Family Appreciation Celebration.
- ❖ Pastor reported that funds were used from the Pastor's Discretionary account and the Youth Group accounts along with personal donations in order to purchase "tons" of toys, crafts, books and 60 soccer balls to help brighten Christmas for the children of Jerusalem House Ministries. Thanks to all who donated winter coats and warmers. The youth delivered everything along with trays of homemade cookies!
- ❖ Pastor asks for two volunteers to serve as delegates to the Mission District Assembly and the NE PA Synod Assembly in June.
- ❖ Social Ministry reports that Ingathering was successfully hosted at ULC this year.
- ❖ Thank you to the Communication Committee for drafting newsletter articles and informative presentations during worship about the Vision20/20 campaign.
- ❖ Thank you to Fellowship Committee for hosting a fun Happy Birthday Jesus – ULC has "Talent" gathering and a Christmas Painting Party!
- ❖ Church Council Installation will be Sunday, January 6th during the 8 AM worship service. Council reorganization luncheon will be held on Sunday, January 13th at 11:30 AM.
- ❖ Next Council meeting is Monday, January 21st at 7:00 PM. All are welcome.



Happy Hour By Cathy Shaffer



Happy Hour is ULC's adult forum that brings in outstanding leaders and also uses local talent to provide learning, inspiration and fellowship.

Join us every Sunday at 9:15 AM in Room 202 for a wide variety of experiences ranging from serious study and discussion to outright humor and hilarity.

January 6th, 13th, 20th - Let's watch the movie "I Can Only Imagine" and Patti Hoffman will lead discussions.



"Growing up in Greenville, Texas, Bart Millard suffers physical and emotional abuse at the hands of his father, Arthur. When Arthur becomes terminally ill, he finds redemption by embracing his faith and rediscovering his love for his son. Years later, Bart's troubled childhood and mended relationship with his dad inspires him to write the hit song "I Can Only Imagine" as singer of the Christian band MercyMe."

Jan. 27th - Modern Parables - Watch a DVD about the parables and let's discuss!



From the Director of Music Ministries

By Susan Hartney

“Through the Church the song goes on.” This is the third stanza’s last line of “Holy God, We Praise Your Name”. These words have been going through my head for the last few weeks. Our ensembles have been diligently rehearsing Advent and Christmas music. The New Year is approaching rapidly; the first Sunday in 2019 is the Feast of the Epiphany, celebrating Jesus as the light of the world.

“Through the Church the song goes on.” Have you considered singing or playing an instrument with one of our ensembles? Were you ever told that you can’t sing by family, friends, or teachers? The first line of the hymn “Lift Every Voice and Sing” IS “lift every voice and sing”, not “lift some voices and sing”. The directive is clear. We are to praise God with every voice, “till earth and heaven ring”.

Everyone sings, even those people who say they don’t. We sing in the shower (everyone sounds great in the shower!), in private, in public. We hum, we whistle. Music is an integral, active part of our physical beings. We participate musically even when we don’t realize it.

The New Year is a great time for resolutions. Many people make them, for various reasons: a healthier lifestyle, pursuing higher education, spending more time with family and friends – the list goes on and on. If your resolution is to spend more time with your church family, why not join one of our musical ensembles? I guarantee you will be welcomed warmly! Please see me if you have any questions!

Youth Group News...



Youth Group shopping for Jerusalem House Kids



Youth Group delivered winter coats and Christmas Gifts to Jerusalem House Ministries

MEET...

By the Communications Committee

OUR NEWLY ELECTED CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

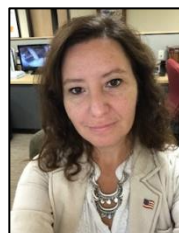


Kaiti Snyder - I am a recent graduate from Cedar Crest College with my Master's in art therapy and I currently work in the counseling field. I enjoy spending time with my family, going for walks with my dog, Colby, and making art. My church life is also very important to me. I currently volunteer with Altar Guild, Acolyte Assisting, and various church events. I also serve as an Assisting Minister.

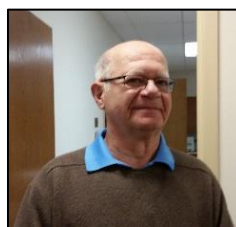


Kim Kuhlman — While I am newer to Union Lutheran, I am not new to the Lutheran church. I was baptized, raised, and confirmed in the Lutheran church. I have served in many different capacities in the various congregations where I have been a member. I was elected the Vice President of our synod's Lutheran Youth Organization as a high schooler and served as a delegate to the National Lutheran Youth Gathering my senior year in high school. During college at Wartburg (Lutheran school in Waverly, IA), I joined and eventually helped to co-lead a faith-based group called Faith Alive. Those helped build a foundation for serving in the church. Since then I served in many different capacities. Some of those include being a worship leader, youth group leader and coordinator, Sunday school teacher, Sunday School Superintendent, VBS co-director, council member, and a chaperone to a National

Youth Gathering. We have enjoyed making Union Lutheran our church home after moving to Pennsylvania and are excited to have opportunities (like playing Dorothy) to be more involved all the time.



Kandy Lang - I have been a member at Union Lutheran since 2005. In those years since my family has joined ULC, we have been active members in many ways. My husband and I co-lead Elementary Youth Group for two years. I have helped with Vacation Bible School as a station leader, Sunday School as a teacher and as an assistant to Cindy Pugh. I have served as an Acolyte Assistant, and a substitute sexton for Jake when needed. I have always tried to give back to Union Lutheran in whatever way was asked of me. Currently I work in a confidential setting as the District Receptionist at Northwestern Lehigh School District in the Administrative Building. I serve as Booster Club Secretary for the Parkland Music Booster Club as well as the Parkland Dance Team Booster Club. I would be grateful to serve on Council for ULC, because I am excited to see our church grow and thrive and I would like to help make that happen.



Donald Weaver is finishing his first term on Council. He has served on Council, Union Board, Cemetery Board, Property Committee and other volunteer positions. He is married to Ruth for 46 years, has 2 daughters and 1 granddaughter. Member of our congregation since 1974. He retired from PPL after 40 years. Served in the United States Army for 3 years.

CALLING ALL JOURNEYMEN!!!!

Journeymen - ALL MEN WELCOME! Meets on the 2nd Saturday of every month at 7:00AM. Join them at The Parkland Restaurant, 2702 Walbert Ave, Allentown. Your FIRST meeting is FREE.

SAVE THE DATE! Journeymen Chicken Potpie Dinner – January 12, 2019.

JOURNEYMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY



Pennies for chickens



Join with the Children's Sunday School in collecting pennies to provide chicks for needy families through ELCA World Hunger. Put your pennies in the collection jug found in the Gathering Space.

BRAZIL

Strengthening the rights of women through fair trade and solidarity



In 1996 the state of Rio Grande do Sul, was in a period of political and economic crisis with high rates of unemployment.

Isabel Cristina de Souza Cunha and her husband, Harold, were two of the many people who lost their jobs. Without income, there was no guarantee of food on the table or the means to purchase necessities. As Isabel looked for opportunities, she heard about the fair- and solidarity-trade movement.

The Child Nursery linked to the Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil where Isabel's children attend, proposed that the parents form a business cooperative to support those affected by the financial crisis.

Starting and growing the cooperative – today called Cooperbum – required hard work of Isabel and other members. To bolster their efforts and address larger challenges, including operating a women-led business, Cooperbum joined the Fair and Supportive Trade Network. The Network Project was launched by the Lutheran Foundation of Diakonia in 2012 with partnership and support from the **ELCA World Hunger**. The network brings together enterprises focusing in the area of food production, handicrafts, manufacturing and recycling.

Working with the Network has provided improvements in product quality, investments, and new consumers. Cooperbum's associates have seen improvement in income and the quality of life.

Your gifts to **ELCA World Hunger** help people here in the USA as well as across the world.

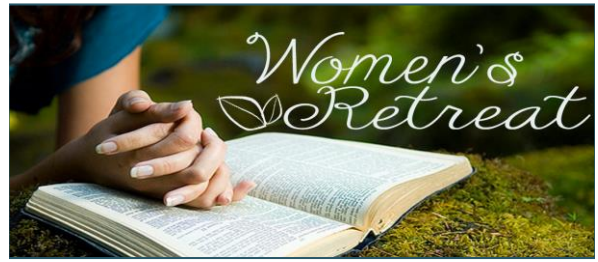




Decorating the Church for Christmas



Save the Date



Women's Retreat

Friday, February 8, 2019

Saturday, February 9, 2019

Hosted by Jodi Segner

- Friday Night snacks.
- Saturday morning a continental breakfast.
- Saturday lunch will be provided.

Look in the yellow pages and the women's bulletin board in the Hallway for more information.

Call Cindy Pugh at 610-216-4713 or email softball8@rcn.com with any questions.

Support us when you shop this holiday season

Buy your gifts and holiday essentials at smile.amazon.com.

You shop. Amazon donates.

amazonsmile





*Holy Baptism
Myles Joseph Weinert
November 18, 2018*



*Holy Baptism
Austin & Brooke Drozdowski
November 25, 2018*

Soupoff 2019

Help us fill empty bowls for World Hunger at our soup/dessert luncheon on Sunday, February 3, 2019 at 11:30 AM. It's that time of year to start searching through your recipes and find a prize winning soup and/or dessert recipe. Tickets and signups for the soup and dessert contest will be in January so start thinking about your prize winning recipes. All Proceeds go to World Hunger. If you have any questions don't hesitate to call Cathy Smith 215-872-4013.



**FEED THE
HUNGRY**





Vision 20/20 - Next Step to Success **by Debra Geiger**

We have an exciting update on Vision 20/20. December 31st will end our first full year of collection. When we started, our three year goal was to collect \$400,000.00. We can now say we are clearly on our way to meet this goal. The actual cash received to date is \$129,932.00 with the additional pledges of \$124,285.00, we have over a quarter of a million dollars towards our goal.

We just submitted another \$50,000.00 to the bank and the balance of our loan now stands at \$154,853.00 (down from our original \$2,250,000.00) and our monthly payments are down to \$1360.00 per month (down from \$10,700.00). We have come a long way. Thanks to all of you. With your continued support, we hope to pay our loan off within the next year (not in January of 2030 - the time frame of our loan). We already have over \$10,000.00 toward our next \$50,000.00 pay-down.

As we climb our mountain it gets steeper and our goal may be harder to reach but we have faith that our congregation will succeed with our quest. Our vision is not over when our mortgage is paid. The monies collected until the end of 2020 will be used to help replace our current air-conditioning/heating units. We had to replace 2 units this year but we had enough in our building and maintenance fund to cover these (note: this fund is now depleted). These units cost approximately \$15,000.00 each and we have 12 more to go. Please continue to contribute as you are able (no amount is too small), to help us meet our goal to have our church mortgage free and our ability to cover maintenance requirements.



The Learning Ark Christian Preschool

By Jackie Bucks, Director

As I reflect over the past few months since we started preschool, I am so proud of what our students have accomplished in such a short amount of time. Academically, we are well on our way to becoming math geniuses! Our preschoolers can add and subtract, they can read a number line and use it to help with math problems and are working on graphing! Our "Question of the Day" provides them with math and reading opportunities and it always amazes me when they actually work together to read the question.

Our students love to sing as you might know if you attended our Breakfast with Santa! They worked hard to learn a whole Nativity mini musical to perform for our guests. Our children and their parents also have kind and generous hearts! One of our preschool moms teaches in Allentown School District, so we decided to adopt her classroom. Our preschoolers were sad that her students might not have any Christmas presents this year, so each family adopted a child or two and sometimes three and shopped for them! I am so blessed to have such wonderful families who are willing to share their resources with others in need.

If you would like to join our preschool family, we start our second semester on Monday, January 7th. We would love to have you join us for our adventure in learning!!!

Many thanks to the following people who helped make our Breakfast with Santa such a success!!!

Chef Terry and his lovely assistant Miss Patti for the yummy breakfast! To all his elves in who helped in the kitchen... Carl and Dianne Gillikin, Jim Hersh, Dick Handwerk, Jeff Sweigert, John Shaffer, Shirley Rennolds, and Ella Stauter. And to our Youth Group who helped in the Holiday Shoppe, the craft room and much more! Thanks to Kaiti Snyder for designing such beautiful crafts for the children to make!

To Mr. Bill, the Geiger Family Farm and Crystal Spring Farm for their generous donations!!!

To Cathy Shaffer and Donna Remaly for all of their help and support!

To our musicians, Jordan Bucks, Debra and Glenn Hofmann, and our preschoolers a big thank you for putting us in the Holiday Spirit!!!

A big thank you to all the preschool parents who helped create those beautiful "gingerbread preschoolers" and who spent countless hours setting up the Holiday Shoppe, dining room and Santa's photo display!

And to my husband Brian Bucks for all of his help bringing countless decorations from our house and setting up in the Family Life Center and for being my support in this crazy, hectic, wonderful time of year!!!

Wishing you and your family many Christmas blessings,

Miss Jackie



The Learning Ark
Christian Preschool
UNION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Breakfast with Santa



Prayer Shawl Ministry



All women are welcome to be part of this important ministry. If you like to knit or crochet, please join us. We'd love to have you!

If you have any questions, contact Carolyn Bottjer, 610-395-6867, cbottjer@gmail.com. If you know of someone who lives out of the area who could use a prayer shawl, please contact Cathy Smith, 215-872-4013, kckkcsmith@hotmail.com, and she will be happy to mail one for you. You can also contact her if you would like to deliver one in person.



GNO

(Girls' Night Out)

A time of food and chatting and getting to know each other

JANUARY 11, 2019

6:00 PM

We meet at

DiFiorie's Pizzeria Restaurant
Nefts, PA

Order what you want from the menu and pay for your own dinner/drinks.

RSVP the Church Office 610-767-6884



CHICKEN POT PIE DINNER

January 12, 2019

4:30 - 7:00 PM

Snow Date Jan. 19, 2019

Dinner will be served buffet-style and will include biscuits with honey butter, pickled cabbage, macaroni and cheese, applesauce, assorted beverages and cake for dessert.

A limited number of dinners will be sold, so buying tickets in advance is highly recommended or you may miss out!

COST: Adults=\$10 advance; \$12 at the door;

Children 3-12 = \$5

Children under 3 = free.

NO TICKETS WILL BE RESERVED.

Discounted advance tickets can be purchased in the Church Office during normal business hours.



Union Lutheran Church
5500 Route 873
Schnecksville PA 18078
610-767-6884
www.ulclv.org

All proceeds will be used for the Journeymen's charitable outreach ministry.

Parish Nurses

By Dottie Bealer
Jane Borbe

WINTER WALKING

Walking is the simplest way to stay active, even during the cold weather months. Here are some Walking Tips to make your walk safe & staying warm at the same time.

1. Ease into it - Start slowly to give muscles a chance to warm up
2. Walk at a Moderate or Slow Pace
3. Drink Water - Dry winter air is dehydrating.
4. Stay Safe - Find parks, bike paths, high school tracks etc. Always wear reflective gear. If it gets really cold, try walking at the mall.
5. Aim to wear three layers - You can always peel layers off.
6. Avoid Cotton - Try material that will keep moisture away from your skin.
7. Wear Gloves, Hat & Neck Gaiter (a muff for your neck).

OUR LITTLE PANTRY

By Irene Folk



One thing I am grateful for is the Ministry of The Little Pantry and of all who participated in making this Ministry happen. Your generous donations have helped many of our neighbors.

As we go into the winter months we again will ask for dried food products. We suggest: cereals, pancake mixes, dehydrated soups and stews, and pasta. We also ask for personal care products.

If you would like to see what we have in stock or get some ideas, speak to me on a Sunday morning and I will be glad to show you the donated items.

Dianne Gillikin and I are working together to coordinate donations to both the Pantry and Food Bank. We hope to make the most use of your donations. To those who find it hard to shop for food, we do accept monetary donations for the Pantry.



ULC Library Book Club

By Barb Mahoney

Our next book will be *The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women* by Kate Moore is the incredible true story of the women who fought America's Undark danger.

The Curies' newly discovered element of radium makes headlines across the nation. From body lotion to tonic water, the popular new element shines bright in the otherwise dark years of the First World War.

Meanwhile, hundreds of girls toil amidst the glowing dust in radium-dial factories. The glittering chemical covers their bodies; they light up the night like industrious fireflies. With such a coveted job, these "shining girls" are the luckiest alive — until they begin to fall mysteriously ill.

But the factories that once offered wonderful opportunities are now ignoring all claims of the gruesome side effects, and the women's cries of corruption. As the fatal poison of the radium takes hold, these brave women find themselves embroiled in one of the biggest scandals of America's early 20th century, as well as in a groundbreaking battle for workers' rights.

Join us, **Sunday, January 13th at 9:15 AM** to discuss the awe-inspiring strength, courage and tenacity of these young women. Their quest led to life-changing regulations, research into nuclear bombing, and ultimately saved hundreds of thousands of lives.



Sunday School decorating
Ingathering Bags



Sunday Morning Fellowship

Your Help Is Needed!!!

Volunteers are needed to host our Sunday Morning Fellowship. All you need to do is set up coffee, tea, and cold drinks, and clean up afterwards. The Fellowship Committee will provide cookies. If you are interested, please sign-up on the bulletin board or call the church office. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

Thank You To Our Office Volunteers

Jane Borbe, Sally Crowe, Thomas Crowe, Barbara Fung, David Geiger, Debbie Geiger, Linda Geissinger, Judy Gifford, Deb Grundstrom, Richard Handwerk, Don Hoffman, Patti Hoffman, Sandy Hoffman, Robert Krause, John Krisko, Marion Krisko, Ellen Miller, Kathy & Adam Parker, Shirley Rennolds, Stacey Rice, Richard Ruth, Art Schneck, Carol Schneck, Shirley Schneck, Barbara Spohn, Peggy Twardzik, Donald and Ruth Weaver.



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.



Women's Fellowship & Bible Discussion

1st Sat. of each Month @ 8:00 AM

Schnecksville Diner.

More info? Contact the Church Office,
JoAnne Bailey, or Cathy Shaffer

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 2019. Please sign-up on that list or call Cheryll Kosar for bulletins (610-417-1340). 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".

Union Lutheran Parish Register

New entries from November 19, 2018 – December 15, 2018

Baptisms

Austin Joshua Drozdowski November 25, 2018

Brooke Jane Drozdowski November 25, 2018

Reynold, Dena, Hayden Gabel December 9, 2018

New Members

Richard & Debra Bauer & Catherine Becker November 25, 2018

Sandy Castaldi December 9, 2018

TREASURER'S REPORT				
43,434.00				
92% of year complete				
		Current Period	Year to Date	% of budget
INCOME:				
Unrestricted Contributions		26,733.75	268,860.45	0.73
Other Income		<u>224.25</u>	<u>544.89</u>	
Total Income		26,958.00	269,405.34	
EXPENSES:				
Budgeted		36,840.95	298,273.66	0.81
Nonbudgeted		<u>-244.02</u>	<u>-834.70</u>	
Total Expenses		36,596.93	297,438.96	
Excess Income over Expenses		-9,638.93	-28,033.62	
		=====	=====	
November Contributions -				
- Mortgage Reduction		2,720.00		

**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 Rev. Gordon A. Camp email: pastor@ulclv.org

Pastor Emeritus: The Rev. Dennis W. Moore

Staff: Cathy C. Shaffer, Assistant to the Pastor email: office@ulclv.org
Susan Hartney, Director of Music Ministries email: suzyflute@aol.com
Donna M. Remaly, Assistant Office Administrator & Newsletter Editor email: office@ulclv.org
Terry P. Hoffman, Sexton
Dorothy Bealer, Parish Nurse
Jane Borbe, Parish Nurse

Congregation Council: Lynne Banzhoff, Dave Fermato, Irene Folk, David Geiger, Deb Grundstrom, Patty Hersh, Gail Lafferty, Jay Marakovits, Charles Mosser, Valerie Snyder, Donald Weaver

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

Email 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: Jackie Bucks, Preschool Director

Website: www.learningarkpreschool.com

Email address: preschool@ulclv.org

ULC supported missionary: Krystle Moraska-Madrussan & Ignacio Madrussan