

The Lutheran Letter

MAY Newsletter 2020

From Pastor Camp...

Dear Union Family,

Praised be the Eternal God, Source of the Universe...

...who has given us a new day where we are alive and we too can see the difference between day and night, between light and darkness, between true and false, and between appropriate concern and panic.

...who has made us to be free. While our ability to be in physical community may be limited, help us see that we are still free to make choices every minute, every day.

...who opens the eyes of the blind. Please God, open the eyes of those in positions to make decisions for the community, for those researching new tests and vaccines, and cures. Give them the peace of mind to be clear-eyed as they do their work.

...who provides clothes for the naked. We all feel so incredibly vulnerable. As you clothed Adam and Eve as they left the garden, please give us the protection we need to stay healthy – physically and emotionally.

...who frees the captive. Free those carrying the burden of the community. Be present to them so that they do not feel alone in their decisions.

...who lifts up the fallen. Help us to recover, to stand straight again. Please send special blessings to the families and friends of those who have died or are suffering.

...who makes firm each person's steps. Give the leaders of our nation and all nations the resolve and the patience to deal with this crisis in the way that You would have them act.

...who girds Your people with strength. Let us come together as a community of support so that we are not isolated and alone. Let us find strength in You.

...who gives strength to the weary. Give strength to those working in the medical clinics and hospitals and to helpers everywhere.

Let each of us understand what our role is in this effort to repair the world in partnership with you O Lord.

Pastor Camp



When, When, When....

will we be able to worship together in our beautiful Sanctuary?

We sure wish that we would have the exact answer to the question that we are all asking. Please know that we are following directives from the medical community and PA government.

When it is safe to be together again, we will contact you by email/website/phone. Until then, keep worshipping on Wednesdays – Service of Word & Prayer Sundays – Worship Service & Kids’ Sunday School Lesson

All worship services are emailed. If you would like to watch previous services, click **Devotions** on our website (www.ulclv.org).



We extend our sympathies to the families of **Jean Geiger and Renee Cury** who passed away last month.

How can you help to keep the ministries of ULC thriving?



The work of our church continues through times of joy and times of crisis. Your church staff has been working very hard to maintain our ministries for all of our members and community by using new technologies like offering online devotionals and by using old ways like creating a simple phone chain to reach those without access to email/internet.

Our last worship service was held on March 8th. Since then we have been receiving offerings from folks who are mailing their offerings and by those who are using our online giving methods. Please consider helping to maintain our financial health by contributing to ULC in one of the following ways:

1. Simply use an envelope from your packet and mail your offering to:
Union Lutheran Church
5500 RT 873
Schnecksville PA 18078
2. To give your offering electronically, go to our website: www.ulclv.org and click on the Give tab or simply follow this link: <https://ulclv.org/give/>

Thank you for maintaining the work of our church!





**LOOK at all of
the ministry
happening at
ULC.....**

Sewing Masks



Thank you to Linda Geissinger for organizing "Project – Sewing Masks". Members of our church sewed over 1100 masks which were donated to local hospitals and to community members.

Thank you to: Bob & Bonnie Krause, Georgene Brobst, Shirley Schneck, Shirley Rennolds, Kerry Geissinger, Kandy Lang, Barb Mahoney, Dave & Deb Geiger for sewing, cutting material, and donating material!

Email news – Especially during this time, we are sharing a lot of information via email. If you would like to be added to our email list, contact us at office@ulclv.org.



Do you know.....that **Patti Hoffman** mailed over 200 handmade cards to all of our ULC families! WOW!!!

Welcome to our Director of Music

Susan L. Frickert



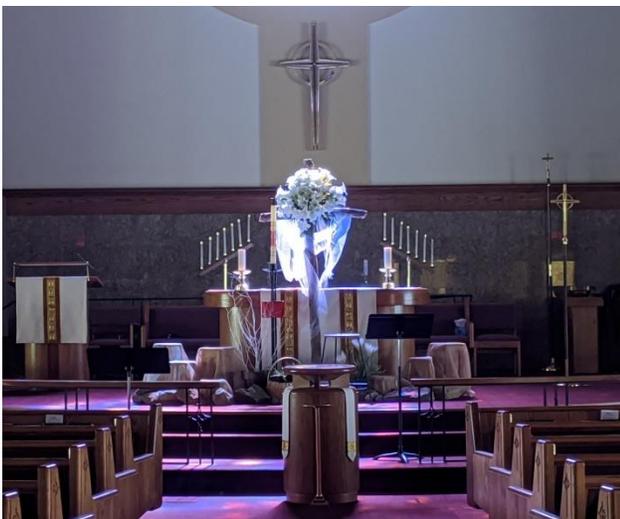
Susan is all moved in to the Office and Choir Room and soon you will be seeing and hearing her on our YouTube worship services. Welcome to our staff!



Thanks to our Decorating Committee

Gail & Chuck Allison,
Lynne & Bob Banzhoff, Bill & Lori Beck,
Sandy Castaldi, Sherwood Geiger,
Gail & Dave Lafferty,
Shirley Rennolds, Shirley Schneck

*Though we did not get to see many of your
decorations in person, they certainly did
enhance Pastor Camp's Devotional
Messages!*



Lil Pantry – Food Donations

Hunger does not take a break during times of crisis...our Lil Pantry is being used heavily. Please drop off your food donations and place them directly into the pantry located outside our main entrance.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, mail your check to the office indicating Food Pantry.

Clothing Bins Closed

The USAgain Clothing Company has closed the clothing collection bins (located in our lower parking lot) during this health crisis. Please do not bring any donations. The boxes are sealed shut during this time. When they are available, we will inform you. Thanks for your cooperation.



Meet...

The Rev. Dr. Hartland H. Gifford

by the Communication Committee

Hartland “Herb” Gifford was born in Hartford, Connecticut, on April 29, 1934. He attended local schools and graduated from Wethersfield High School in 1952. He holds four degrees, Bachelor of Arts, Upsala, College, 1956; Bachelor of Divinity, Augustana Theological Seminary, 1959; Master of Divinity, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, 1972; and, Doctor of Ministry, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, 1986.

Ordained in 1960, Herb has served parishes in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. From 1973 to 1987 he was a staff member of the Division for Parish Services of the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) in Philadelphia. For a brief time in 1988 he was Director of Public Relations for the American Bible Society, with offices in New York City.

On June 7, 1959, Herb married Carol Jean Lincke and they had two children, John and Diane. Carol died of breast cancer in 1983. Herb then met and married Judith Johnson Coleman in 1986. Judy had a son, Matthew, and a daughter Jeanne. Matthew was tragically killed in 2011 by a deranged shooter in California.

Herb and Judy joined Union in 1999. They have been active in the life of our congregation since then. Herb has been a greeter, lector, communion assistant, and a teacher for the Happy Hour Class as well as serving on a number of committees. On occasion he supplied when the pastor was away. More recently he served with Pastor Gene Parker during the interim between Pastor Swanson leaving and Pastor Camp arriving. Judy has been a greeter, a lector, a communion assistant, chair of the Worship Committee and a member of the Praise Band. She served two terms on Council and was a member of the committee that recommended Pastor Camp for call to Union. She helps in the church office on occasion, answering the phone, and proof-reading.

If you would ask Herb what he learned from a lifetime of ministry in the Lutheran Church, he'd probably begin by observing that it is vitally important to teach people how to think and make the faith their own. “Far too often,” he says, “the Church has been very good at telling people what to think, but not how to think.” Another conviction he has from years in the ministry is what the congregation is called to be. As he says, “God isn’t interested in the congregation being successful. Rather, what God is calling us to be is faithful.” He says, “If we would first ask what God is calling us to be and do, we could solve a lot of the problems that arise when we start arguing with each other over what we personally want.” Herb’s favorite Bible verse is John 13:34 in which Jesus says to his disciples, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.” Herb says, “That sums up what our faith is all about. If we all were to love God and our neighbors as ourselves, just think what a wonderful world this would be.”

Over the years Herb has written and edited many books, articles and pamphlets. One of his favorite pastimes is collecting and publishing jokes in book form. He also writes books of nonsense. He says they are the ones that help to keep him sane. In addition, he maintains a library of books related to aviation, aircraft and aeronautics, things he has been interested in since he was a child. He also has a good-sized library of movies and TV shows.

In a very non-scientific survey, we found one person at Union who says they are glad Herb is a member of our congregation. A second said she wasn't sure, but "maybe."



Supporting Recovery after California Wildfires

by Judy Gifford

In late 2018, wildfires raged across both northern and southern California, destroying thousands of homes, displacing hundreds of thousands of people, and nearly wiping out the town of Paradise. Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) quickly went into action and through your gifts to LDR and **ELCA World Hunger** we are walking alongside those impacted by towering flames.

Lutheran Disaster Response and **ELCA World Hunger** continue to work with Lutheran Social Services of both Northern and Southern California along with the ELCA Synods in the region. Your generous giving helped survivors with essentials like groceries and clothing. Long-term needs, such as rebuilding homes and replacing lost property continue to be met daily.

Emotional and spiritual care is provided by trained staff and volunteers.

Your giving allows the Church to work alongside other organizations to fill unmet needs. In northern California, for example, Faith Lutheran Church of Chico worked with the furniture company *Living Spaces* to enroll more than 200 survivors in a program to receive free mattresses. When trucks from southern California arrived carrying the donated mattresses, the people of Faith Church distributed them to evacuees, but they didn't stop there. In addition, they offered time for prayer, a loving presence, and a \$100 gift card from Lutheran Disaster Response and Lutheran Social Services of Northern California, so people could buy sheets, pillows, and a blanket to go with the free mattress.

The road to recovery has been long and arduous, but your giving to **ELCA World Hunger** and Lutheran Disaster Response has helped so many people to put their lives back together. Thank you for standing by those in need and helping them as much as you can.



Terry Hoffman – hard at work!!

You might think that with the ULC building closed Terry would not have too much to do. **WRONG...** he has repainted 5 classrooms, deep cleaned the kitchen, scrubbed and burnished all of the tile floors. Just wait until the weather turns warmer... Thanks Terry for all that you do to keep ULC shining!!!



What do you do when you have 60 potted Easter flowers on order???

Share them with our church family and community!!! On the Saturday before Easter a dedicated team of volunteers left the ULC campus. A few teams stayed in the Schnecksville Area while others headed North, South, East and West delivering to those who we felt would appreciate a gift of Springtime from their church family.

Thanks to our delivery teams:

Gail & Chuck Allison,
Lynne & Bob Banzhoff, Bill & Lori Beck,
Sherwood Geiger, Pastor Camp
Gail & Dave Lafferty



Women of the Word

"WOW" (Women of the Word) Bible Study continues to meet! We use the Bible studies which appear in the monthly magazine, *GATHER*, which is produced by the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (WELCA). Linda Rebeck emails the study to any who would like to participate. Please email Linda at crebeck@hotmail.com.

From your Parish Nurses....

**Wear a mask...
cover your nose & mouth**

Snug fit – It should lie comfortably against the side of your face and be secured with ties or ear loops.

Layer up – Include multiple layers of fabric in your face mask, but make sure to allow for breathing without restriction.

Wear with care – When putting on and removing your mask, do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth. While your mask is on, try not to touch or adjust it. This will reduce the chance of the virus moving from your mask to your hands, or vice versa. Wash your hands immediately before putting the mask on and after taking it off.

Keep it clean – Make sure your face mask can be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to its shape. Clean it after every use.

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unable to remove the mask without assistance.

**Stay up to date and get the facts.
LVHN.org/COVID19**



Union Evangelical Lutheran Church

5500 Route 873
Schnecksville, PA 18078
610-767-6884 Church Office

Our Mission is to follow Jesus and serve as He would.

Pastor:

The Rev. Gordon A. Camp
email: pastor@ulclv.org
cell: 610-554-8061

Pastor Emeritus:

The Rev. Dennis W. Moore

Staff:

Cathy C. Shaffer, Asst. to the Pastor
Susan Frickert, Director of Music
Terry P. Hoffman, Sexton
Dorothy Bealer & Jane Borbe, Parish Nurses

Your Congregation Council Members

Officers

President: Dave Geiger
Vice President: Patty Hersh
Secretary: Kandy Lang
Treasurer: Cathy Shaffer

Union Board Representatives

President: Donald Weaver
Secretary: Brian Geren
Delegates: Lynne Banzhoff & Patty Hersh
Alternates: Debra Grundstrom & Gail Lafferty

Committee Liaisons

Christian Education: Gail Lafferty	Library: Sally Grim
Christian Life: Kim Kuhlman	Property: Donald Weaver
Communication: Brian Geren	Social Ministry: Patty Hersh & Kandy Lang
Fellowship: Brian Bucks	Staff Support: Debra Grundstrom
Finance: Jay Marakovits	Worship & Music: Lynne Banzhoff

Learning Ark Christian Preschool: Jackie Bucks, Preschool Director

Website: www.learningarkpreschool.com

Email address: preschool@ulclv.org

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

Website: www.ulclv.org **email:** office@ulclv.org **Facebook.com/ulclv**

Lehigh Valley Hospital & St. Luke's Hospital Church Code #349

Miller-Kevstone Blood Center #1258 - ULC