



The Lutheran Letter

July Newsletter 2020

When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, for they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. – (Matthew 9:36)

This pandemic has affected all of us and has, without a doubt, contributed to the violence that has erupted in our cities. Covid-19 has led to people losing their jobs and filing for unemployment, it has led to frontline workers begging for proper protection because their lives depend on it, and it has taken a massive toll on our country's mental health.

*In these moments...
The past and the future pivot.
In these moments...
The inner life can help us reach out for the life of reconciliation.
We turn to each other.
We ask the difficult questions.
We hear the difficult answers.
It changes us.
We turn to each other.
We have the possibility of making something new together.
Our prayer deepens our action.
May we all be reconciled.
Living in the unity for which all were created.*

Despite all the death that surrounds us, the injustices, the pains, the losses, the laments, God's compassionate hands holds every one of us—on whichever side of life or death we find ourselves. But God does more than hold us. In Jesus, God summons us to a compassionate way of living in community, of exorcizing the demons of racism and hatred, and of journeying with him on the path of harmony and reconciliation.

When he saw the crowds, he had
compassion for them, because
they were harassed and helpless,
like sheep without a shepherd.
Matthew 9:36 ESV



Church Council News

Council members held a virtual meeting using Zoom in June. Check out the meeting highlights.

Review of finances:

Offerings YTD are down by 12.4%. However with the addition of funds from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), our cash position is strong enough to absorb this drop in giving. \$19,633.81 was transferred from the PPP to the General Fund covering payroll, utilities and mortgage interest payments for May. \$24,904.19 remains in the PPP account.

Due to your contributions to Vision20/20 Fund, we were able to lower our mortgage payment in May from \$899 to \$400.34. Our current balance of the mortgage is \$40,421.65.

Council created a Reopening Team who will study how and when to safely reopen in-person worship services and the use of our church building. Watch for future updates!

Pastor's report:

- Thank you to all volunteers who help with recording our virtual worship services.
- Thank you to Liz Marakovits for designing our upcoming virtual VBS.
- Thank you to Doug Kuhlman for setting up a sound system for upcoming outdoor worships.
- Thank you to Susan Frickert for starting Glory Ringers practices, a

Union Chorale Quartet and instrumental soloists.

Council approved the hiring of Katie Stauter to our church staff as the Assistant Office Administrator with the starting rate of \$15/hour.

Property Committee purchased a sprayer and sanitizer which will be used to clean our facility.

Cemetery Commission discussed a request by one of our members to spread loved one's ashes in our woodland. The Commission reports that spreading human ashes is not allowable under PA law.

Boy Scouts requested permission from both the UCC and ULC Councils to hold meetings in church buildings and in the Boy Scout Camp. Request denied due to difficulty of adhering to physical distancing.

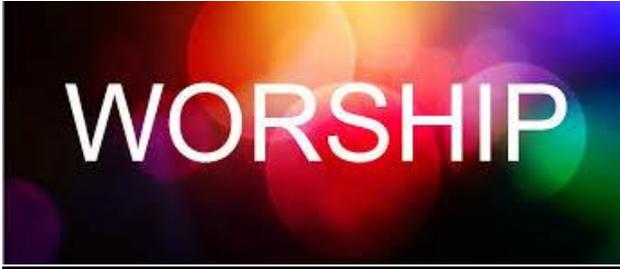
Social Ministry thanks all for their food donations for the Lil Pantry, Northern Lehigh Food Bank and Parkland Cares Food Pantry. Also, thanks for all of your donations for the Ripple homeless program.

Worship & Music Committee thanks the church staff for virtual worship services and for Susan Frickert reengaging our musical groups.

Youth Group members are still meeting via Zoom by playing games and discussing current events.

Council accepted the resignation of Jackie Bucks as Director of the Learning Ark Preschool. Additionally, due to Covid-19 the preschool will not be opening for the 2020-21 school year.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 20th at 7 PM location TBD.



Sunday Worship Services will continue to be emailed to you every Sunday morning. Check out **previous worship services or Wednesday devotions** by going to our website: www.ulclv.org. Click on the blue button "Click here for Virtual Worship".

Outdoor Worship Services will be held in the outdoor worship area behind the church building on Wednesday, July 8th from 7:00 to 7:30 PM. Bring your chair(s) or blanket; wear your mask(s); and enjoy worship and Holy Communion following safe physical distancing recommendations. Mark your calendars: July 8, July 22. August 5, August 19.



Wafer & juice Communion Cups will be used to celebrate Holy Communion at our outdoor worship services.

A Welcome Team (wearing masks & gloves) will greet you as you arrive for outdoor worship. They will place Communion cups and worship bulletins in a new plastic bag for your use during worship. Following worship, you will be asked to place your bulletins and

Communion cups back in your plastic bag and dispose of it.

Your safety is very important to us!

July worship schedule:

- July 1 Wednesday online devotions
- July 5 Sunday online worship
- July 8 Wednesday Outdoor Worship
7:00 PM @ ULC
- July 12 Sunday online worship
- July 15 Wednesday online devotions
- July 19 Sunday online worship
- July 22 Wednesday Outdoor Worship
7:00 PM @ ULC
- July 26 Sunday online worship
- July 29 Wednesday online devotions

Pastor Camp and our Reopening Team are closely monitoring protocols from the CDC, the local government and the ELCA in order to determine when it will be safe to reopen ULC. Stay tuned for updates.



We extend our sympathies to the families of:

Susan Behler and Henry Shankweiler
who passed away last month.

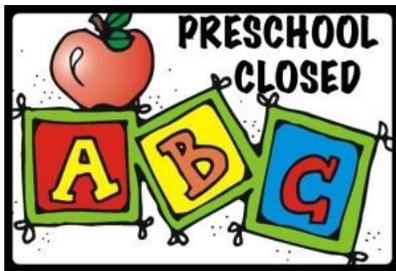
**Listen to Worship Services
on your Phone**



Hearing Pastor Camp's weekly scripture reading and sermon is only a phone call away...just call 610-885-8237.

This phone call is free and will allow those who do not have access to a computer to hear Pastor's weekly message.

Check it out...Call 610-885-8237!



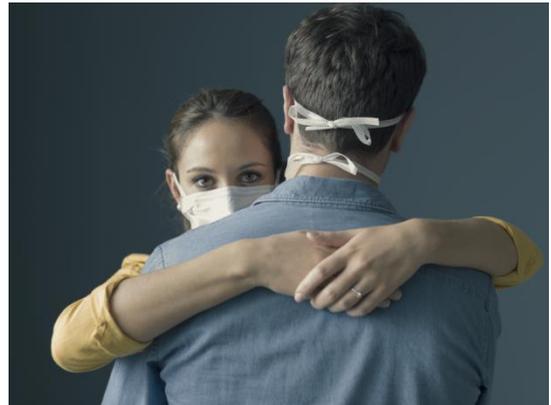
**Learning
Ark
Christian
Preschool**

by Jacqueline V. Bucks-Director

Due to concerns about the current situation with the Covid-19 virus and with careful consideration of the current CDC guidelines, we feel it is necessary to close our preschool for the 2020/2021 school year. Please know that this decision was prayerfully made with the health and safety of our students and staff in mind.

ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES!

If the Coronavirus has put stress on your marriage, you are not alone! Lutheran Marriage Encounter has scheduled a couple of Weekends this fall, and we believe that you will find that attending a Weekend will help you renew and revitalize your marital relationship no matter whether your marriage is in great shape or if you could really use some help.



The Weekends currently scheduled are:

**September 18-20 at the Heritage Hotel
Lancaster in Lancaster PA**

**October 16-18 at the Olmsted Retreat in
Ludlow, PA, an hour north of Pittsburgh.**

Scholarships are available for those in need of financial assistance. Registrations will be very limited as we plan to provide ample space in the conference room for each couple. If the virus should cause us to cancel the Weekend, your registration will be transferred to a later Weekend or refunded if you wish. Sign up now, www.GodLovesMarriage.org.

Don't miss this opportunity to enhance and enrich your relationship! For questions, please contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, 724-325-3166.

“Meet”Katie Stauter



“Let’s start this new adventure!” are the words that Katie Stauter exclaimed as the newest member of our church staff. Katie will be sharing her vast array of talents as our Assistant Office Administrator. She is the “behind the scenes” person producing all of those great YouTube worship and devotional videos that have been essential during the pandemic!

Katie surely is **not new** to this congregation. She is a lifelong member. Many may know her as the daughter of Terry and Patti Hoffman. Others may recognize her as the lady with the camera hanging from her neck at VBS. Teaching Sunday School, working in the kitchen, serving on the Call Committee that brought Pastor Camp to ULC, she is always very involved in the life of ULC.

Katie worked in Contract Dining Services Management for 17 years. Most recently she worked for Digital Photographic Imaging as a professional photographer taking shots for the Iron Pigs, Senior portraits for Northwestern Lehigh and Parkland Schools and many family/children shoots. What brings Katie to make this career change is “the quality of life that working at ULC will bring me and allow me to be more available and present in my children’s lives.” What mother doesn’t understand that!

Katie is married to Cris who is a Web Developer for the Lehigh Valley Health Network. Their children, Ella age 11 will be going to 6th Grade at the Orefield Middle School and son Finn age 7 is headed to 2nd Grade at Ironton Elementary. Cash, their Chihuahua mix, “rescued them” 4 years ago.

In her “free-time”, Katie enjoys photography, cooking, spending time in their swimming pool and enjoying outdoor life. Having a family of soccer players, many hours are spent travelling to their practices and tournaments.

Katie is very excited for the opportunity to work with her church family more closely and to play a larger part in all aspects of church life.

With her servant heart and her many skills/talents, Katie will be keeping our communications moving into the future...Welcome to the Team, Katie!!!



Memorial Day Worship Service



Northern Lehigh Food Bank and the Parkland Cares Pantry help to serve the food needs of our extended local communities. Since our building is currently closed, it is difficult to drop off food donations. Dianne Gillikin has volunteered her front porch as a drop off spot. Dianne and Carl live only a minute or two from the church at 5168 Stahley Dr. Schnecksville. Place your bags on their porch and Dianne will ensure that your donations get to the food banks.

Urgent needs are: peanut butter, jelly, cereal, pasta, pasta sauce, soup, crackers, rice, beans, syrup, pancake mix, and toilet paper, but all donations are appreciated and useful!

How can you keep the ministries of ULC thriving?



Please consider helping to maintain our financial health by contributing to ULC in one of the following ways:

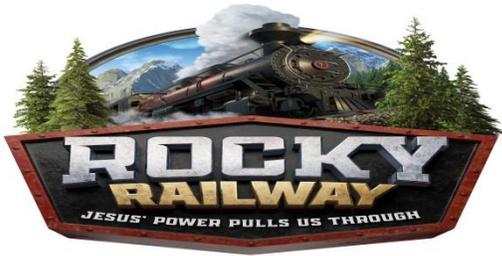
1. Simply use an envelope from your packet and mail your offering to:
Union Lutheran Church
5500 RT 873
Schnecksville PA 18078
2. To give your offering electronically, go to our website: www.ulclv.org and click on the Give tab or simply follow this link: <https://ulclv.org/give/>
3. Amazon Smile – Shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/23-1507824 and Amazon donates to Union Lutheran Church.

Lil Pantry – We are so blessed to be able to help our community by providing food in our Lil Pantry. It is being used heavily. How can you help? Either drop off your food donations directly to the Lil Pantry or mail a check to Union Lutheran Church. We will purchase food and restock as needed.

Women of the Word

"WOW" (Women of the Word) Bible Study continues to meet! We use Zoom to hold a virtual Bible study. To join our next meeting, please contact Linda at crebuck@hotmail.com. She will share the Zoom invite.

We use Bible Studies which appear in the monthly magazine, *GATHER*, which is produced by the Women of the ELCA (WELCA).



VBS 2020

This summer's ROCKY RAILWAY VBS program will

"keep on chugging" right into your living room!

No social distancing will **"close down our tracks."**

Jesus' Power **"Pulls us Through!!!"**

Let's spread out the VBS fun and learning throughout the summer. Each Wednesday, for 5 weeks, (July 8, 15, 22, 29 & August 5), we will unveil one of our action-packed VBS days.

All you need to do is click on the link that we email to you and your kids will see their ULC friends and learn the lesson, sing along with the music, and of course dance with **"Pharaoh Pharaoh!"**

Parents - be sure that your kids don't miss out. Why not send an email to office@ulclv.org and let us know what email address to send your child(ren)'s VBS fun.

Grandparents, Aunts/Uncles, Neighbors – think of the kids in your life. We would be happy to send our VBS love to them as well....send us their name and email address to office@ulclv.org!

Klotz Scholarship- Attention post-high school students – scholarship money is available through the Klotz Scholarship Fund. This is a one-time scholarship that will be awarded on a competitive basis by a selection committee who will review applicants from our church family. Eligible candidates must be active members of Union Lutheran Church and be enrolled in a post-secondary program and have completed at least one year of school to apply. All post-high school students enrolled in any post-high school education college, trade school or technical school are invited to apply. If interested, please contact the church office at office@ulclv.org for an application. Deadline to apply is July 15th.



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Hi Church Family,

I wanted to thank you all for your part in Abigail's recovery. We still have a long road ahead but thanks to you, we have come so far! Your love, support, guidance and prayers are the reason we are still standing. We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts and know we appreciate you all. The Birthday Parade was great! It was an awesome morale booster. We needed it! Please continue to pray for Abigail and we can't wait till we can worship again together. You are truly our angels on Earth. They say it takes a village and I'm thankful for the amazing village we have!! You all have helped me keep my sanity and gave us hope. We are not alone. Thank you!! We love

you all and hope to see you soon  *Stacy,
Edward, Abigail, Todd, and Jarett*



Look at our youth volunteering in the community. Keaira (Kiki) Lutz is helping to build a dog park at Kolaphechka Park as her Girl Scout Gold Award.



Kiki is joining her friend, Katie Mericle, as the handicap playground is constructed.

- You can help fund these projects by:
- sponsoring a brick (\$75)
- or
- purchasing commemorative t-shirt (\$20)

Please contact Joann Michael for details (570-691-8578).

Learning Ark Christian Preschool Graduation Fun

With the help of Zoom, we celebrated preschool graduation. Take a peek!!



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Wearing mortarboards at kitchen tables!



by Judy Gifford

MILWAUKEE

For Reformation Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, which is more than 110 years old, the decision to sell its 47,000 square foot facility and move into a smaller one in the heart of the city brought a great deal of change.

"Selling your building," said Pastor Marilyn Miller, "totally makes you rethink everything. We were in a state of transition, closing some ministries and praying about what to start."

The relocation gave Reformation an opportunity to serve its new neighborhood. African American infants in Milwaukee are three times more likely than white infants to die before their first birthday. Looking at these statistics, the congregation saw an opportunity to serve through safe sleep trainings and fairs where parents receive information and pick up supplies such as diapers. Safe sleep practices include making the baby's sleep area in the same room as the parents and putting babies to sleep on their backs in a crib with only a mattress covered by a tight-fitting sheet. Parents are told that the CDC (Center for Disease Control) strongly recommends against co-sleeping or sharing a bed with a child. Milwaukee has a Strong Baby Sanctuary initiative which is supported in part by your gifts to **ELCA World Hunger**. It is a resource the congregation makes use of in its program.

Amez is one of the lay leaders at Reformation. In 2016 he lost an infant son. "I woke up," he says, "grabbed my boy and started tickling him like I usually do to wake him up, and he didn't. He didn't wake up at all."

Pastor Miller feels that supporting parents who have lost a child is a vitally important part of the congregation's ministry. "When parents come in," she says, "who have lost a child and they begin to share with us those fragile, tender stories, we are able to walk with them, pray with them, and reassure them. It becomes a powerful witness to God's goodness in the world."

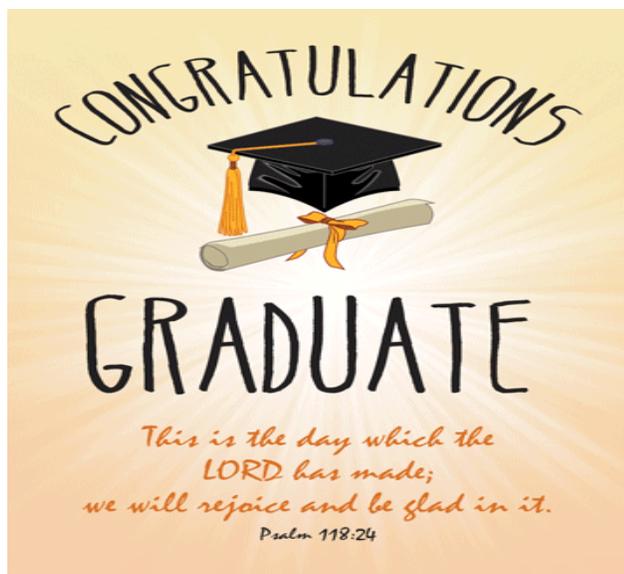
Reformation Church also serves its neighbors through youth work programs, a community garden, a store for low-cost children's and household items as well as a number of other ministries. The congregation may now be operating in a smaller space, but their ministry has not slowed down one bit. Indeed, it has grown and continues to grow.

Pastor Miller says, "We can't just do church for us. The whole point is to take our faith out the door and make a connection with people in our community and to share the gospel."

Much of what they do is made possible thanks to your gifts to **ELCA World Hunger**.



**Union Lutheran Church
2020 High School & College
Graduates**



Graeme G. Camp

Graduated Summa Cum Laude on Dec. 14, 2019
B.S. in Management of Information Systems
Eberly College of Business & Information technology
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Employed in the IT Department of Just Born, Inc. of
Bethlehem since December

Morgan B. Collins

James Madison University Class of 2020
Major - B.S. Hospitality Management
Minors - Economics and Business

Brad Drews

From Parkland High School
Attending LCTI/LCCC goal is to become a nurse

Olivia Joy Geiger

From Elizabethtown College
BS IN Health and Occupation
Continuing her education to complete the 5 year
program for her Masters in Occupational Therapy

Ben Gillikin

From Kutztown University
Bachelors in Computer Science

Aleksander Gulkewicz

From Lehigh University - BS in Environmental
Engineering. Plans to continue to attend Lehigh
University to earn a Masters of Arts degree in
Environmental Policy

Gavin Palmer Kemery

From Moravian College
B.A. & Honors in English with a writing Arts
Certification and a Minor in Economics

Kayla Kinney

From Parkland High School
Attending Bloomsburg University

Justin Kuhlman

From Parkland High School
Attending Drexel University
Majoring in Animation

Sarah Lang

From Parkland High School
Attending LCCC
Majoring in Business

Ainsley Long

From Parkland High School
Attending the University of Alabama

Bailey Miller

From Northampton High School
Attending Cedar Crest College
for her BSN in Nursing-would like to further her
education to become a nurse anesthetist.

Ava Schaller

From Parkland High School
Attending Lehigh University

Matt Shaffer

From Kutztown University
Masters of Education in School Counseling

Taryn Wagner

From Northwestern Lehigh High School
Attending Shippensburg University



Vision 20/20

by Cathy Shaffer - Treasurer

The Vision20/20 campaign began almost 3 years ago with the purpose of paying off the church mortgage and setting funds aside for future building maintenance.

I am happy to report that with your generous donations, we just hit another benchmark. In May, we were able to request Neffs Bank to recalculate our mortgage payment. It was reduced from **\$899.00** to **\$400.34!**

Remember when our original payment amount was almost \$11,000? Look at all the great progress we have made!!

Did you realize that our mortgage balance now is only **\$40,421.65?**

Let's pay it off completely!!

Keep those contributions to the
Vision20/20 Fund coming!



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

Staff:

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

Pastor Emeritus:

The Rev. Dennis W. Moore

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

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