



# The Lutheran Letter

## October Newsletter 2020

### A YEAR LOST TO LOCUSTS?

There's a verse from the prophet Joel that's stuck in my mind for years. Israel has suffered through a horrible and devastating infestation of locusts followed by drought. The people call out to God for mercy. God responds. God makes his presence known to them and declares that relief is on the way. He promises that the land will be green and bountiful again. Not only does God promise a turnaround in their circumstances, he makes this straightforward promise: God says, through Joel, *"I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten"* (Joel 2:25).  
"I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten."

It's not just that the future will be better. It's that God is going to ... what? ... tack on years to their lives to make up for the years of suffering? Or make the next few years so spectacular that Israel will feel they came out even? We don't know precisely what God had in mind with these words. But they're a powerful reminder of just who we're dealing with when we're dealing with our God. Or, it's probably better to say, we're reminded just who's dealing with us.

This is the God who created and continues to create the world. This is the author of time. This is God who is limitless in compassion as well as in power. This is our God who holds our years in his loving hands.

Which leads me to ask ... How's this particular year going for you? Are you one of the many, many people who find themselves saying they just want 2020 to end? Does it feel like a lost year, not much more than one disaster after another? Have the events of this year—pandemic, economic free-fall, schools closing, hurricanes, wildfires, lost loved ones and lost time with loved ones—felt like an inescapable horde of locusts eating their way through your days and nights, leaving nothing green behind?

Well, God is going to more than make up for the limitations of this year, its griefs and its losses. God is going to repay us for this year the "locusts" have eaten. God is going to bless us with life, joyful and fulfilling life, that will make what we've lost look like a speck in the rearview mirror. We've seen it in Jesus Christ and we're given it in Jesus Christ. Life abundant and eternal. Life in the presence of God.

Remember these words from John's vision in Revelation, a glimpse of what's to come:  
*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." (Revelation 21:3-5)*

My dear Union Family, these words are trustworthy and true. Our hope, at all times, is in the trustworthy and true promises of God. Our reliance on God is just more obvious during sometimes than others. This is one of those times when our hope gets a chance to shine. May your hope and trust in God be strong and shining. May it light up not just your own life but also the lives of everyone around you.

Pastor Camp





Check out the highlights of our September 21<sup>st</sup> Zoom meeting.

#### **Financial Report:**

- Giving for July/August 2020 were higher than July/August 2019.
- Year-to-date giving is lower than last year by 5.9% but with the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) YTD income is higher than last year by 15.8%
- Expenses for August 2020 were lower than August 2019 by 13.9%.
- YTD expenses are lower than 2019 by 6.4%. Most of the reduction in expenses is due to lower personnel expenses.
- As a result, August 2020 recorded income of \$2300 as compared to August 2019 loss of \$10,400.
- 2020 YTD income equals \$50,500 higher than 2019 \$2,800 YTD. We are in an enviable cash position and appear to be financially strong for the future.

- The current balance of the church mortgage as of the end of August is \$32,086.

#### **Reopening Team report:**

- Next meeting is Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am

#### **Committee reports:**

- Awaiting information and feedback from the Cemetery Association regarding creating a Memorial Ash Garden
- Social Ministry – God’s work our Hands Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> collecting Arts & Crafts supplies to benefit DayBreak, Drive through Halloween Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, Thanksgiving Turkey donations to Parkland Cares and the Northern Lehigh Food Bank, Christmas Adopt a Family and Ingathering being planned.
- Christian Ed. – Virtual Sunday School kicked off Sunday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>
- Happy Hour and Youth Group are meeting in person following the Outdoor worship service.
- The 2019/2020 Confirmands to be Confirmed Sunday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>
- 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Sunday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>
- Beginning to investigate replacing the current outdoor sign with a digital sign
- Next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM location TBD

## Worship Schedule

Sunday	Oct. 4	9am	Outdoor
Sunday	Oct. 11	9am	Outdoor
Sunday	Oct. 18	9am	Outdoor
Sunday	Oct. 25	9am	Outdoor

In the event of rain, outdoor worship will be cancelled.

Remember, our online worship services will continue to be emailed to you every Sunday morning and Wednesday evening and posted on the church's website at [www.ulclv.org](http://www.ulclv.org). Click on the blue button "Click here for Virtual Worship".

Additionally, you can listen to Pastor Camp's weekly scripture reading and sermon by calling 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.

Our Reopening Team and Church Council are constantly monitoring the Covid-19 situation. In the meanwhile, please do not hesitate to call the church office at 610-767-6884 or Pastor Camp at 610-554-8061.

## Shoes Shoes Shoes...

Thrivent partnered with Samaritan's Feet to hold a back-to-school "shoe raiser" to purchase shoes for kids who are returning to school. For every picture of a shoe that was submitted, Thrivent donated \$2.00 to Samaritan's Feet.

Our awesome youth raised \$146 by sending pictures of their sports shoes, flip flops on Christmas trees, baby pictures in dad's boots and more!!!





From Our Parish Nurses:

### 11 Foods that Lower Cholesterol

If your diet gave you high cholesterol, it can lower it too !!

1. Oats - An easy first step to improving your cholesterol is having a bowl of oatmeal or cold oat based cereal like Cheerios for breakfast. It gives you 1 to 2 grams of soluble fiber.
2. Barley and other whole grains
3. Beans - Beans are especially rich in soluble fiber. They are a very versatile food.
4. Eggplant & Okra - These are two low - calorie vegetables are good sources of soluble fiber.
5. Nuts - Almonds, Walnuts, Peanuts, and other nuts are good for the heart. Eating 2oz. of nuts a day can slightly lower LDL.
6. Vegetable Oils - Using oils such as canola, sunflower, safflower, and others in place of butter, lard, and shortening when cooking or at the table helps lower LDL.
7. Apples grapes, strawberries, citrus fruits. - These fruits are rich in pectin, a type of soluble fiber that lowers LDL.
8. Foods fortified with sterols and stanols. - Getting 2 grams of plant sterols and stannous a day can lower cholesterol by about 10%.

9.Soy - Eating soybeans and foods made from them, like tofu and soy milk, can assist in lowering the cholesterol.

10. Fatty Fish - Eating fish two or three times a week can lower LDL in two ways: by replacing meat, which has LDL -boosting saturated fats and by delivering LDL - lowering omega 3 fats. Omega - 3s reduce triglycerides in the bloodstream and also protect the heart by helping prevent the onset of abnormal heart rhythms.

11. Fiber supplements. - Supplements offer the least appealing way to get soluble fiber.

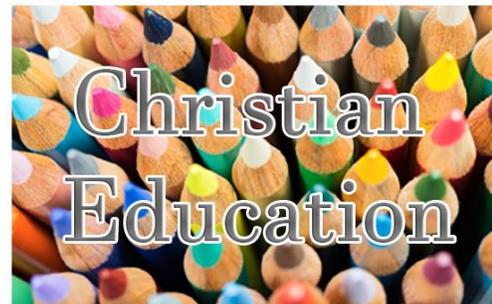
Total cholesterol - Should be under 200mg/dL

LDL cholesterol - Should be under 100mg/dL

HDL cholesterol - Over 40mg/dL for a man. Over 50mg/dL for a woman

Triglycerides - Under 150mg/dL

Article published by the Harvard Heart Letter



**I hope everyone is off to a fantastic start of the school year! Sunday School will be held virtually this year. Watch for a new video every Sunday morning to dance, sing, and learn about God!**

# ELCA World Hunger



## CAMBODIA

### **Watermelon Farming Generates Sustainable Income**

Kay Peh and Nouv Vann live in Kampong Chhnang, a province in central Cambodia, where 85% of the people are farmers. They live on a plot of land received through a government program that provides land to build a home and generate income from farming.

Often the land given by the government is small, remote and not ready for farming. For Kay and Nouv the first few years were very difficult. Their piece of land was covered with stumps and thick bushes. It was not suitable for growing crops, but then **ELCA World Hunger** stepped in. Through your generous gifts Kay and Nouv, along with 524 additional families, received help to clear the land. Now they were ready to plant crops that would later be harvested and produce income.

Kay and Nouv put up a fence, planted fruit trees and built a house. They grew their first crop of watermelons and sold them at market for about \$75.00.

**ELCA World Hunger** also helps in other ways. Through a partnership with a local organization called "Life with Dignity" your gifts helped Kay and Nouv to obtain solar panels for their roof. Now they had electricity. They could now use rechargeable lanterns and flashlights. They also received six chickens that soon grew into a flock of thirty. The sale of chickens allows them to survive the dry season and support themselves. For five chickens, they get about \$17.50. And along with watermelons they now also grow spinach, shallots, pumpkins and other vegetables. It's hard work, but it gives them a much more comfortable and hopeful life.

Your gifts to **ELCA World Hunger** empower long-standing partnerships like "Life with Dignity" and they help people like Kay and Nouv to reclaim their rights and engage in sustainable land management.



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.

Through all of your donations in September we are ending the month with a **mortgage balance of \$32,086** - a decrease of \$1,400. Way to go!

**Let's pay it off**  
**completely!!**



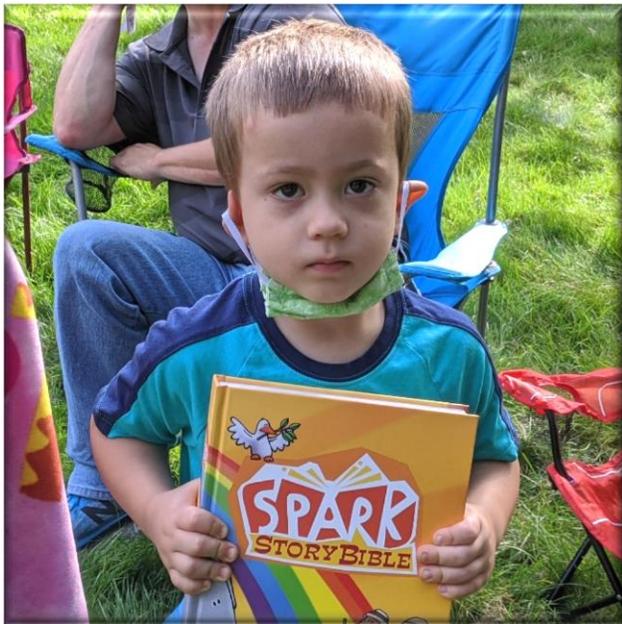
WOW (Women of the Word) Bible Study - please consider joining us for our monthly bible study via Zoom! We "meet" the first Saturday of each month at 8 am and because we meet virtually, you're in the comfort of your own home and can even wear your PJs if you wish (no shaming here!).

Please call Linda Rebeck at 610-391-8986 or email at [crebeck@hotmail.com](mailto:crebeck@hotmail.com) OR [Linda.rebeck@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.rebeck@gmail.com) to make arrangements or learn more.

We'd love to "see" you!

Our next Bible Study is Saturday, October 3, 8 am

Take a look at our three-year old's receiving their very own Spark Story Bibles, while our 5<sup>th</sup> Graders are getting ready for Cat Classes with their study Bibles.



Ben Argot, Julie Bleiler,  
Orion Faylor, Lainey Hersh,  
Lorelei Keppel, Luke Marakovits,  
T. J. McGowan, Adelaide Miller,  
Madison Pepler, Sam Smith,  
Genevieve Tegtmeyer,  
Clarabella Urban

What does one do with masks galore?...  
Why, **TIE DYE**, of course!!!



Thank you to Cindy Camp who led our awesome youth with their first service project of this crazy year. Our church received 5,500 plain white cotton masks. Cindy saw the opportunity to involve our youth and to “jazz” up the masks. Take a look at all of the tie-dyed masks. We will be sharing the masks with our church family during an upcoming worship service.



**God's work.**  
Our hands.

**When:** Sunday October 25<sup>th</sup>

**How Can I Help?** - We will be collecting art supplies for DayBreak (the program offered by the Conference of Churches for the emotionally and physically challenged as well as people living with addiction or HIV/AIDS)

**Needs:** individual packs of markers, glitter/gel pens, glue sticks, water color paints, construction paper, tissue paper, googly eyes, beads, bead jewelry kits, scratch art papers, acrylic paint, plastic sun catchers to paint, wooden crafts to paint, popsicle sticks and air dry clay

Please bring your donation to Outside Worship or drop at the church front door before 10/25.

We will also be providing petitions to be signed and returned to our elected officials advocating homelessness and feeding the poor.

Thank you for your continued support!

*The Social Ministry  
Committee*

*Below is a letter from a member who was recently added to the prayer list. Keep praying!*

*#powerofprayer*

September 17, 2020

Union Lutheran Church  
Pastor Gordon Camp  
5500 Route 873  
Schnecksville, PA 18078

Dear Pastor Camp

I'm writing this letter to express my gratitude to the parishioners of the Union Lutheran Church for their kind prayers during my treatment for mantle cell lymphoma. Everyone knows what the ravages of cancer can do, however, let me tell you what cancer cannot do. Cancer is so limited it cannot cripple love. It cannot shatter hope. It cannot corrode faith. It cannot eat away peace. It cannot destroy confidence. It cannot kill friendship. It cannot shut out memories. It cannot silence courage. It cannot reduce eternal life. It cannot quench the spirit.

Life is good. Enjoy every day you have left in this world doing what the Almighty has destined you to do. I will continue to serve the Lord as an educator, as long as I am able, by teaching youth about environmental issues and how to solve these problems making this a better world.

As a small token of appreciation, I would like to make a monetary donation to anyone experiencing hardship during this pandemic. May God bless the members of this parish and keep them safe and healthy in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Your humble servant

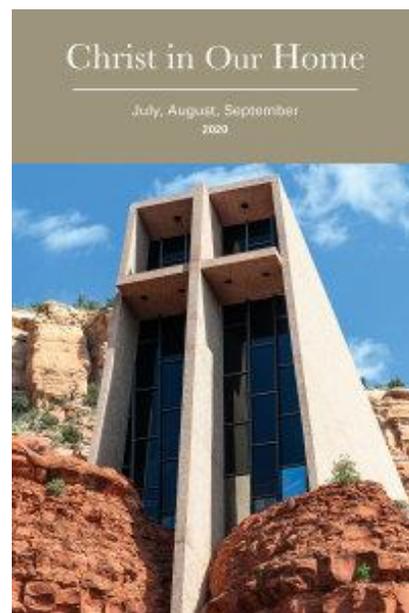


Charles J. Kopcho

“Christ in Your Home” devotionals for Oct-Dec. are available.

You can pick one up at any of the outdoor worship services or by contacting the church office. Did you know they are also digital? You can sign up for a daily email with the same info as the booklets.

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category/286137/Christ-in-Our-Home>



**Christ in Our Home: Email Edition**

*With the outbreaks of coronavirus disease 2019 in North America and around the world many people may be without a physical copy of Christ in Our Home. To assist with devotional life during this time, we are offering a limited-time complementary email subscription.*

## "Trunk or Treat"



**Saturday, October 31st**  
Drive through  
(Following CDC Guidelines)  
2 – 3 pm

### What is different?

- Children and parents will be asked to stay in their vehicles and drive along a pre-determined "parade" route.
- The Trunk or Treat parade route will begin off of Rt. 873 at the UCC church, continue through the Union Cemetery and move along through the Lutheran church parking lot. Vehicles will exit onto Rt. 873 from the Lutheran Church parking lot.
- Members of the UCC and Lutheran Church will line the parade route dressed in their Halloween Best!
- Participants are encouraged to dress up for this event and there will be a controlled number of distribution points along the way for candy distribution.

### How can you help?

- Donate manufacturer pre-wrapped candy or money and we will shop for you.
- Dress up in your Halloween Best and stand along the parade route and wave to the vehicles as they drive past.



2020

Remember our Holiday Craft Show?

Remember walking elbow to elbow in the hallways with excited shoppers?

Remember a Family Life Center filled with the smells of yummy food and the buzz of the huge crowd?

Well, you guessed it. We are going to have to keep remembering, because it just is not safe to invite the community to this great event.

Let's hope that 2021 will bring an end to the pandemic and a return to hosting great events like our Holiday Craft Show!



**ABC's of this year's event**

- A. Online Raffle
- B. Event Dates October 14th - October 28th
- C. Winners announced October 31st
- D. Visit the church website or our Facebook page for the "link" to purchase chances and select baskets (between 10/14 & 10/28)
  - a. Don't have access to a computer - no problem. Call the office and we can record your baskets and collect cash or a check. We will have a printed catalog of baskets available.
- E. Want to help donate? We will be so thankful you did!  
Baskets, cash, gift cards for local businesses, items for baskets and the committee will assemble.  
Anything helps!!!  
Consider supporting local businesses who have supported us in the past:  
(Crystal Springs, Nevulis Beverage, DiFiores, King Kone, Weis, Happy Feet. Subway, Imperial Auto, True Value, Jaindl, Hampton Lanes)
- F. Ticket Packages \$10 for 25 tickets, \$20 for 50 tickets, \$30 for 75 tickets, \$40 for 100 tickets, \$50 for 125 tickets, \$100 for 250 tickets
- G. Contact:  
Church Office at [office@ulclv.org](mailto:office@ulclv.org) 610-767-6884  
Patti Hoffman at [queenofbaskets2020@gmail.com](mailto:queenofbaskets2020@gmail.com) 484-223-5760



*Event details have all been altered to adhere to physical distancing.  
Contactless payment options available.  
We are excited for this year's Basket Party as we have adjusted  
the event to keep everyone safe.*

# 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](mailto: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**

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

**Office Hours:** M,W,F – 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM; T, Thur – 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
**Website:** [www.ulclv.org](http://www.ulclv.org)    **email:** [office@ulclv.org](mailto:office@ulclv.org)    **Facebook.com/ulclv**

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

