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610-767-6884 Church Office

Website: www.ulclv.org email: office @ulclv.org

Facebook.com/ulclv
Miller-Keystone Blood Center #1258 - ULC

Staff	
Pastor	The Rev. Gordon A. Camp pastor@ulclv.org
	Cell 610-554-8061
Pastor Emeritus	The Rev. Dennis W. Moore
Asst. to the Pastor	Cathy C. Shaffer
Sexton	Terry P. Hoffman
Parish Nurses	Dorothy Bealer Jane Borbe
Director of Music	Susan Frickert
Asst. Office Administrator	Katie Stauter

Congregation Council Members			
Officers		Committee Liaisons	
President	David Geiger	TBD 1/17/21 at 1pm	Gail Lafferty
Vice President	Patty Hersh		Kim Kuhlman
Secretary	Kandy Lang		Robert Drews
Treasurer	Cathy Shaffer		Jay Marakovits
			Sally Grim
Union Board Representatives			Hannah Geiger
President	Vacant		Brian Geren
Secretary	Kandy Lang		Kandy Lang
Delegates	Lynne Banzhoff		Debra Grundstrom
			Lynne Banzhoff
			Patti Hoffman

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

LUTHERAN LETTER



Union Lutheran Evangelical Church

January 2021

Happy New Year! We've probably never been more ready to welcome a new year as we are now. 2020 was strange and difficult and brought challenges we never even imagined we would face. Along with those challenges came feelings that we're still trying to manage. We all have emotional battles, but there is hope and there is victory. There is also a great potential danger. Look at Peter and Judas. Both failed Christ monumentally. One betrayed Jesus, the other denied even knowing Him. However, while Judas despaired to the point of suicide, Peter was restored and became the foremost leader of the early church. One ran from God, the other ran to God. As we look ahead to a hopeful new year, we want to focus all our attention and energy running to God, restoring hope and renewing our purpose. 2021 will come with its own challenges, but we are ready to face those challenges with full confidence in our Lord who has already overcome the world.



A huge THANK YOU to all who stepped up and made ministry happen at Union even in the midst of a pandemic.

To our Social Ministry and *ALL* of you who helped feed the hungry and reach out to the homebound.

To our Youth Group who made Christmas happen for the children at Jerusalem House.

To Mr. Josh & Liz Marakovits and all our VBS and Sunday School volunteers.

To Cathy, Kate, Terry & Patti who made the everyday things possible.

To Susan Frickert and all of our multi talented: soloists, musicians, the Union Chorale, the Praise Band, the Bell Choir. To all of you who participated in our worship services, as readers, "welcomers", and just helping to haul stuff.

To our decorating committee for making our worship spaces feel like worship.

To Patti Hoffman and her team that sent cards and made Advent a part of our daily lives.

God's Blessings!

Pastor Camp

ELCA WORLD HUNGER



ELCA World Hunger
“May God bless your thoughtful gestures”
Zimbabwe

In March 2019, Cyclone Idai made landfall, causing widespread flooding and destruction in parts of southeast Africa, including Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi. Reported as one of the worst tropical cyclones to affect Africa on record, the storm killed more than a thousand people, with many more missing.

Enia, a 60-year-old woman from the Chimanimani district of Zimbabwe, survived Cyclone Idai. She remembers saying goodnight to her husband as they went to bed that night. Just a few moments later, the rain started to pour, and they heard loud noises outside. Enia’s husband went to see what was happening. It was the last time she saw him alive.

“All of a sudden I saw rocks and muddy waters coming into our room through the windows,” she said, “and within the short period of time I was half-buried under the rubble, and it all happened so fast that I couldn’t figure out what was really happening.” Eventually, Enia escaped, but her husband did not. Enia was injured, and in addition to losing a loved one, she lost her home, food reserves, clothing and other property.

Through your gifts to **ELCA World Hunger**, Enia knows she’s not alone. Enia is one of more than 3,200 people in the Chimanimani district you helped support as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe distributed nonfood items for immediate relief and offered psychosocial support to survivors.

Because of her injuries, Enia can’t walk to the distribution center to pick up supplies, so things such as food, clothing and blankets have been brought to her. “May God bless you for your thoughtful gestures as I am able to survive,” she said.

Your gifts to **ELCA World Hunger** help the church respond to the needs of people after a disaster strikes. Working in collaboration with other disaster response organizations and church entities enables the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response.

Many Thanks

Thank you so much for being a sponsoring CWS Blanket congregation! Church World Service couldn’t do our Blankets ministry without congregations like yours. We are so grateful for your generosity.

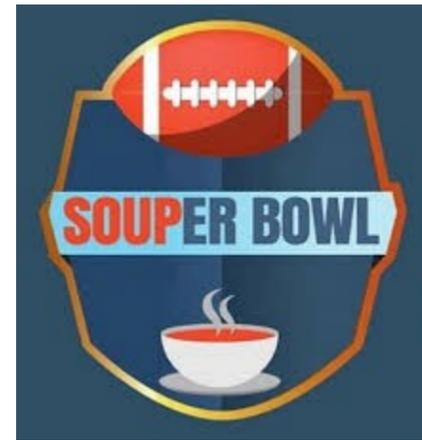
Attached is a banner for your congregation to use for either your church’s Facebook, website, newsletter, bulletin insert or all of the above! Could you please share this banner with your congregation? It is a great way to show your congregation how much their support of the CWS Blankets ministry is appreciated by many people here at home and around the world.

Church World Service



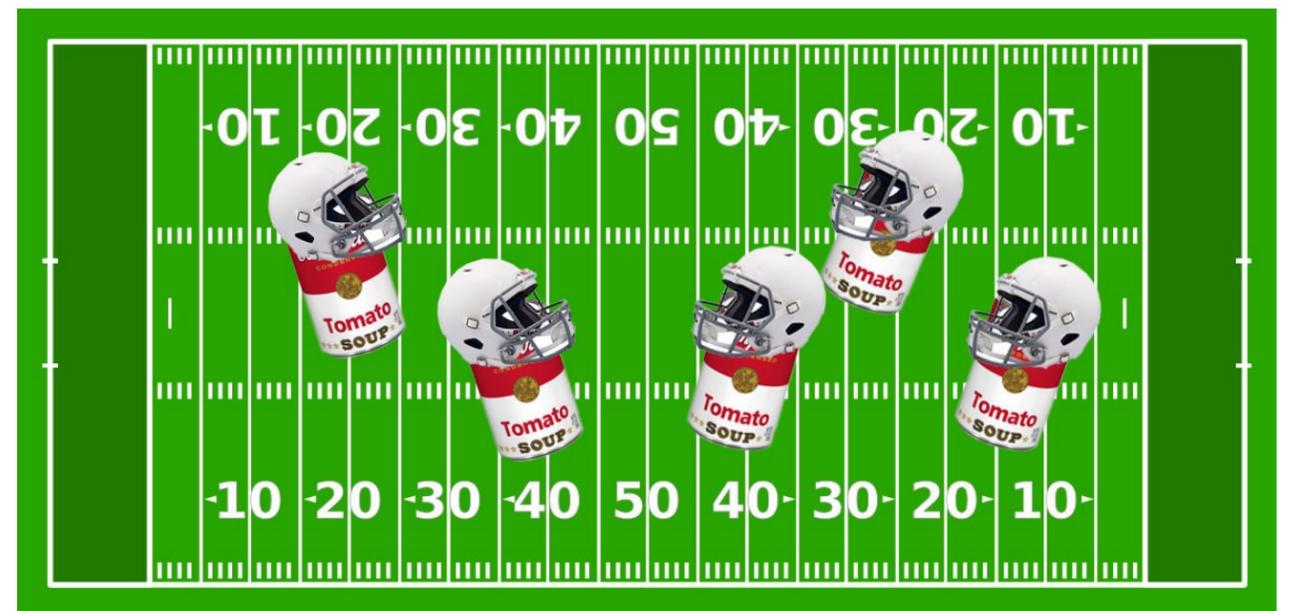
2021 “SOUPER” BOWL Challenge

EXCITING NEWS – in spite of the pandemic our Souper Bowl challenge lives on....while the NFL playoff to determine the 2 teams who will face off in the Super Bowl are ongoing during January, Union Lutheran will be having our own Souper Bowl Challenge.



Here is how it is going to work:

Starting January 10th – bring your soup can donations to worship and let us know if you are a fan of the AFC or NFC. Each week we will count the donated cans and provide an updated score for our “Souper Bowl Challenge”. Join us at worship on Feb. 7th (Super Bowl Sunday) to hear the announcement of Union Lutheran winner!!!





To all male Members of ULC

The Journeymen—this is the men's ministry group of Union Lutheran Church, and YES, you are already a member!

To: All the Men of Union Lutheran

MEN'S RETREAT

SAVE THE DATE

FEBRUARY 13, 2021

At this time, the plan is to hold our Men's Retreat via ZOOM. We will have a link for all to join.

Please plan on being with us for a day to recharge in God's Word, a day with the focus on the positive aspects of our world.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Ron Pugh, Journeymen Secretary

610-442-9710

RonPugh@RCN.com



There are so many Ministries at Union Lutheran The one I am involved in is Our Little Pantry, which is located right outside the main entrance to the church. The Little Pantry is simply "neighbors helping neighbors". We offer food and personal care items. It is not meant to supply long term needs for our neighbors. It is meant to take people over "the rough spots", when the pay check doesn't reach, or when we have an unexpected bill such as: car repairs, sudden sickness, or loss of a job. We offer help until the next check comes in or you can get to a Food Bank. For the past 9 months Our Little Pantry has been hit hard. I used to be able to take care and stocking myself. But during this time period I have had to ask for help. Let me say a large thank you to everyone who responded to my call for help by doing the shopping, stocking, and donating the items. What items are we looking for? We are looking for items which would make a hot meal. You can make a meal with cans of chicken or tuna, a bag of noodles, a can of cream soup, plus a can of vegetables could become a casserole. A tin of sauerkraut along with a tin of sausage and a pack of dehydrated mashed potatoes becomes Pork and Sauerkraut. Not exactly the way Mom made but a hot meal. A box of spaghetti and a can of spaghetti sauce with meat becomes another meal. Hot cake mix and syrup becomes another meal add those sausages and it becomes a substantial meal. A can of broth, canned meat, pasta, and vegetables becomes a soup. We want to get as hardy as a meal that we can for our neighbors.

There are many combinations that can be used, if you have any ideas, let us know we will be glad to use them. Right now the Pantry runs a little low at times so we are asking for hearty meal ingredients. Again a heartfelt thank you to anyone who helped us, it is much appreciated.

As we go into the New year we will follow Jesus instruction in John 21: 15-17, to feed His Sheep. May your holidays bring the Joy of Christ into your hearts and homes.

Submitted by Irene Folk

Join us for "Drive Thru Communion"

January 3rd and 17th

Pastor Camp will offer Holy Communion. Come anytime between 11:00 AM to noon.

Enter the parking lot and proceed to the covered entrance way. There Pastor will offer prayers, communion and a blessing.

Communion will be served using individual sealed cups which include both the wafer and grape juice.



Annual Chicken Pot Pie Dinner

Hosted by

The Journeymen of Union Lutheran

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the annual Union Lutheran Chicken Pot Pie dinner has been rescheduled

to May 8th, 2021.

SAVE THE DATE

As we get closer, more details will follow with times for the event.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office

or

Ron Pugh, Journeymen Secretary

Ronpugh@RCN.com

Council Report

Review of finances—Giving for November was higher than the previous year for the fifth month in a row; YTD giving is lower than last year by 2.2%; YTD giving with PPP included is higher than last year by 13.5%.

Expenses for November are higher than last year by a 2.7%; however YTD expenses are lower than last year by 9.0%. As a result, we had income of \$3244 for the month as opposed to a loss last year of \$347.

YTD income of \$50,385 is significantly higher than last year's loss of \$14,315. Even without the PPP our income YTD was \$5847.

Congregation Bi-annual Meeting to be held on February 28th following worship

Reopening Team—Recommends continuing worship in the parking lot for January and February.

Christian Education – Sunday School program will be emailed to church family; Happy Hour is meeting via Zoom, Cat Class finished studying the Ten Commandments via Zoom.

Social Ministry Committee - Social Ministry holiday outreach: Ingathering, care packages for homebound, Adopt-a-Family gifts to KidsPeace & children of NL Food Bank, collecting food for Advent Food Boxes, donated turkeys to NL Food Bank for Christmas Dinners.

Youth Group—shopped and wrapped gifts for the children of Jerusalem House Ministries. Youth held a Zoom gift exchange and Christmas party.

Thank you to
retiring Council members
Patty Hersh and Brian Bucks !!!!



Pastor's Report

Discussed plans for parking lot Christmas Eve services.

Thanks to all who are singing or providing music for Christmas Eve.

Thanks to the Social Ministry Committee for all of their outreach during the holidays.

Planning is underway for Lent.

New Members joining December 27th.

*Next Meeting
January 17th*

at 1 pm via

Zoom Conference



The newest
member

of the

Union Lutheran

Family



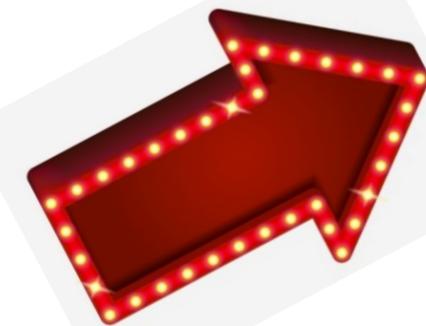
Dorothy Petrakovich



Join us on Sunday, February 28th following the outdoor worship service, for our Bi-annual meeting.

drive in Church

Held every Sunday starting Nov. 8th at 9am. You will be able to stay in your car and tune your radio to our very own Union Lutheran Church FM radio "station" or you can simply open your window and listen live!





Christmas Eve

"Parking Lot—Window Church"

Bible Study

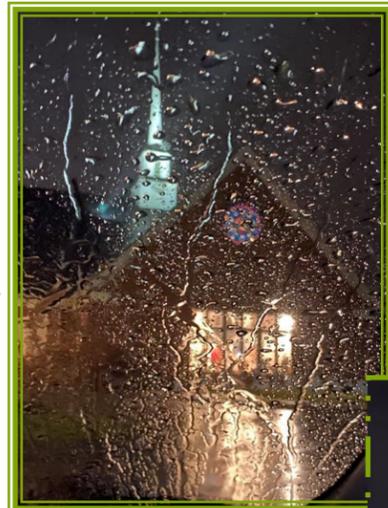
...please consider joining us for our monthly bible study via Zoom! Our next "meeting" is **Saturday, January 9, at 8 a.m.** and the topic for the next couple of months will be "Angels." Please call Linda Rebeck at 610-613-6196 or email at cre-buck@hotmail.com OR Linda.rebeck@gmail.com to make arrangements or learn more.

We'd love to "see" you!

(Note: we normally meet on the first Saturday but in January we're meeting on the 2nd Saturday.)



Sunday School is back in full swing, starting on Sunday, January 3rd! Tune in every Sunday as we sing, laugh, and learn about God!



"God will carry you through the storm"

Isaiah 43:2



What's happening in Happy Hour in January?

Join us on Zoom every Sunday morning at 10:30 AM. Zoom links are emailed weekly.

January 3rd – "Meet Susan Frickert – our Director of Music at ULC"

Can you imagine what it must be like to start a new job in the middle of a pandemic? Well, Susan Frickert hasn't "skipped a beat!!" We hear her beautiful music from our computers. We hear her play in our parking lot...honk, honk, honk!! Tune in to our Zoom and get to know our awesome new Director of Music!!

January 10th – "Taste & See" –

There is a lot in common between food and faith. Both are essential for healthy living, with food giving the body the nutrients it needs and faith connecting our souls with the ultimate source of love, joy and goodness. It's no coincidence that most churches focus on providing food for both hungry bodies and hungry souls. How is food and faith connected in your family and congregation?

January 17th – "Prepared for this moment"

Let's discuss an article from the *Living Lutheran* magazine about a Navy Chaplain who served on the hospital ship Mercy during the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak. Our very own, Pastor Jim O'Connor, retired Navy Chaplain will share insights from his own experiences.



January 24th – "Fit & Faithful" Charged with promoting the well-being of God's people, churches have traditionally tended to focus on spiritual health. But a growing movement among churches emphasizes physical health as well. In the process, they are helping people not only to have healthier bodies, but also to form new and deeper connections to their spiritual side.

January 31st - "They bring good news" Understanding the ELCA's rostered ministers-Ministers of Word and Sacrament and



DID YOU KNOW THAT ULC HAS 3 ELVES?

Patti Hoffman, Cindy Pugh, and Diane Ward stuffed Advent Packets which were handed out to all of the people who attended our parking lot worship service on the First Sunday of Advent.

Later that week, our elves hit the road driving over 100 miles from Schnecksville to Fogelsville to Bethlehem to Allentown to New Tripoli and everywhere in between delivering Advent packets to 75 families with young children.

There are reports of many giggles being heard flowing from their sleigh! Next time you see one of our elves, be sure to thank them for all their hard work!

Rumors are flying of a return of the giggling elves during Lent...stay tuned!



Diane Ward, Patti Hoffman & Cindy Pugh filling their car to deliver Advent packs to the door steps of their church family!



Photo of Advent Packs delivered to families with children



William and Jacob Geren just received their Advent Pack and they are showing off their homemade Advent Wreath

Merry Christmas

“Thank you for the Advent wreath and Christmas Gift Bag. Had a lot of my favorite things and I have enjoyed many of them already.

**Thanks again,
David Schneck”**

**“TO OUR CHURCH STAFF,
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
KEEP UP THE GREAT
WORK.**

**DOROTHY PETRAKOVICH
(SHARON MOYER'S MOM)”**

I can't be with you, but I hope you are all well and are staying safe. Wear your mask and wash your hands. Maybe one day the virus will be gone and people will get back to normal again. God Bless each and every one of you and Merry Christmas to all.

Love Your Church Friend, Eddie Luers

“Thank you to the members and Pastor of Union Lutheran Church for all the prayers and get well wishes. God has blessed me. He has taken my cancer away. Thank you again for all the prayers. God has heard you.

*A thankful friend in faith,
Sandy Hoffman”*

To my Church Family at Union Lutheran Church,

Thank you for all the beautiful cards and prayers. May you walk in the peace & love of our Lord and Saviour born this day.

God's blessings to all,

Brenda Rackl

*“Wishing you a beautiful holiday season and a New Year of peace and happiness. Blessings—
Pastor and Pat”*

“Thank you to our church family who make it possible to celebrate Christmas in such a joyful and loving way through their creative hard work, in spite of the many challenges during the pandemic!

Merry Christmas, Elmer & Lois Shaffer”

To Social Ministry Committee,

Thank you so much for the beautiful surprise gift. I felt like a child getting a Christmas gift. It made my heart smile. The throw is so lovely and all the goodies. Again, thank you for thinking of me.

Love in Christ, Barbara Fung

**“Pastor and Staff,
Happy Holidays –
om & Linda Trella”**

“Dear Friends at Union—Our prayers are for you during this challenging time. We ask that the promise of our Savior to be with us always will be your hope and strength. We are blessed and pray that our Lord will keep you in his loving care in this season and in the new year.

Peace and blessings to all, Pastor Mark Swanson & Laura Csellak”

“A giant thank you for the effort made by so many this pandemic year to bring us God's word and music !!! Just a few: the variety of outdoor settings for the weekly YouTubes; involving various individuals and groups in the services; the professional, interesting, and easy to access emails; the awesome musical YouTube for Christmas; the great website; having multiple ways to access services; clear communication about the response to the pandemic; and so much more!!!

Please pass on my appreciation to Pastor Camp, Cathy and Katie, Susan, Terry, the Choir, the Praise Band, the Bell Choir, our Council, and any of our readers and musicians you can. Blessings to all of you!
Love, Dianne”



Youth helping Youth

See the haul our Youth financed, shopped, wrapped and loaded for delivery. These gifts were delivered to Jerusalem House Ministries in Allentown.