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Miller-Keystone Blood Center #1258 - ULC

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Director of Music	Susan Frickert
Asst. Office Administrator	Katie Stauter
Sexton	Terry Hoffman
Parish Nurses	Dorothy Bealer
	Jane Borbe

Congregation Council Members

Officers		Committee Liaisons	
President	Patti Hoffman	Worship and Music	Lynne Banzhoff
Vice President	David Geiger	Library Committee	Robert Drews
Secretary	Kandy Lang	Property Committee	David Geiger
Treasurer	Cathy Shaffer	Finance Committee	Hannah Geiger
		Comm. & Reopening Team	Brian Geren
Union Board Representatives		Social Ministry	Sally Grim
Vice President	David Geiger	Staff Support	Debra Grundstrom
Secretary	Brian Geren	Christian Life	Kim Kuhlman
Member	Robert Drews	Christian Education	Gail Lafferty
Member	Sally Grim	Social Ministry	Kandy Lang
Alternate 1	Lynne Banzhoff	Fellowship	Jason Marakovits
Alternate 2	Debra Grundstrom		

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

LUTHERAN LETTER



Union Lutheran Evangelical Church

February 2021

Ash Wednesday starts Lent by focusing our hearts on repentance and prayer, through confession of our sin and need for God's mercy.

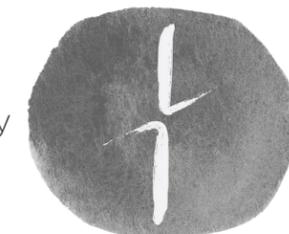
Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks believers to set aside time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.

The ashes symbolize two main things: death and repentance. Ashes are equivalent to dust, and human flesh is composed of dust (Genesis 2:7).

When we receive ashes, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy.

With this focus on our own mortality and sinfulness, we can enter into the Lenten season solemnly, while also looking forward in greater anticipation and joy of the message of Easter and Christ's ultimate victory over sin and death.

Ash Wednesday



40 Days of Lent

Pastor Camp

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Kenya

Raised in a Maasai community in Kenya, Evelyne was first exposed to the Women's Literacy Program of the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC) while attending a seminar on girls' rights. Only 14 years old at the time, she was preparing to start high school, even as her father was arranging for her to marry into a polygamous marriage with a much older man.

Evelyne tried to explain to her father that she wanted to continue her studies, but he refused to listen. With only two days remaining before her wedding, Evelyne reached out to Alice Mwanginga, coordinator of the women's department at KELC. Alice, alongside her church, began working with Evelyne to help her leave her situation and continue her education. With the help of police, she moved to a nearby community. The marriage was called off, but her father was furious and refused to welcome her back home.

Evelyne was safe, but she needed support to realize her dream of a high school education. Through the Women's Literacy Program, supported by ELCA World Hunger, KELC has been able to provide her with fees and other resources needed to attend secondary school. Evelyne has thrived in her studies, and her teachers praise her hard work and good grades, certain she has a bright future ahead.

Eventually, church leaders and community elders worked with Evelyne as she mended her relationship with her father. Seeing what a strong, intelligent woman she had become, he acknowledged that continuing her education had been the right choice for her, and gave her a traditional blessing to encourage her to succeed in school.

"The program has given me a sense of joy and fulfillment that I can give hope to the hopeless girls who are being oppressed," Evelyne said. "It has given me a reason to work hard and help to improve the lives of others."

Your generous gifts to ELCA World Hunger make stories like Evelyne's possible.



Just a Heartfelt Thank You to anyone who donated items for Our Little Pantry. Our Pantry is being heavily used and you who donated bring home the phrase "Neighbors Helping Neighbors". We thank you again for your generosity.

Also, thank you to those who do the shopping or fill up the Pantry. There are days the Pantry must be filled up multiple times. We have a dedicated crew working on this job.

If you have any questions just ask. We will be glad to answer them and also feel free to make any suggestions. Again, THANK YOU. Submitted by, Irene Folk

Advent Food Collection Recap

73 can of tuna
64 snacks
62 beans
199 soups
55 PB&J
46 brownies
115 rolls of TP
80 hygiene items
12 sauce
50 fruit
63 cereals
79 corn
53 applesauce
53 instant potatoes
58 rice
81 mac & cheese
32 hot cocoatea
67 carrots
beef stew
71 green beans
76 canned pasta
44 oatmeals
Great job, ULC!



Lenten Series...

QUESTIONS IN THE WILDERNESS

Life in a fallen world is a life where we often experience the wilderness—and God’s people aren’t spared. Sometimes we end up in the desert because of our own sin, and sometimes God leads us into the wilderness (just like He did with Israel and Jesus) to test our hearts and refine our faith. Lent is a kind of voluntary entering into the wilderness, as we invite God to refine our confidence in Him. In this series, we consider five key questions that emerge in the wilderness.

Wednesday evenings in Lent we will gather virtually to participate in a Holden Evening Prayer Service and brief mediation. Bulletins will be digital and sent along with the video link via email at 7 pm each evening. Or can be found on our website,

www.ulclv.org and our FaceBook page, [@unionlutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/unionlutheranchurch)

Since we are not able to gather together to have soup and fellowship, included will be recipe cards for a soup and bread of the week, to prepare at your home.

Week 1: WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

Genesis 3:1-7

Week 2: WILL GOD SHOW UP?

Psalms 38:15-22

Week 3: WHERE IS GOD LEADING?

Matthew 4:1-4

Week 4: HOW CAN I GET CLEAN?

Psalms 51:7-12

Week 5: WHAT WILL NOURISH MY FAITH? Matthew 26:26-29

Feb.17th—Ash Wednesday

Feb. 24th, Mar. 3rd, Mar.10th,

Mar. 17th, Mar. 24th

Food Bank News

Greetings to all participating churches of the Northern Lehigh Food Bank, Pastors, Board Members and Volunteers.

Happy New Year to everyone. As stated previously, Dale Breyfogle will be retiring at the end of March as Director of the food bank. Her years of service of feeding families in the community have been such a value to us all. Her leadership over the years has grown the food bank into what we all see today. A fully stocked food bank that provides a generous number of groceries, toiletries, fresh fruit, and vegetables, baked goods, milk, bread, eggs, frozen meats, and more to over 220 families a month.

We encourage everyone to send her "cards of well wishes" for her upcoming retirement and "tons of thanks" for her years of service to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. Gift cards to local restaurants, businesses, food stores, or visa cards make good gifts to add to these cards. Cards should be sent to:

The Northern Lehigh Food Bank
c/o Dale Breyfogle
PO Box 255
7884 Center Street
Slatington, PA 18080

We would normally have given Dale a special send-off party but due to the pandemic, our plans had to be altered. We hope everyone will send a card of thanks to Dale starting March 15 - March 31, 2021.

An update on the search process: Advertisements for the position have been posted in several newspapers. Responses have come in slowly. Interviews will begin next week and continue as needed. More information will follow in February.

Peace to all,

Phil, Julie, Karlene, Pastor Jim

Join us for "Drive Thru Communion"

February 7th & 21st

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 in-



A separate mailing with the service bulletin and ashes will be sent to your homes to use in the virtual Ash Wednesday service,

February 17th at 7pm.



Council Report

New Council Members Welcomed

Review of finances—

Givings for December were lower than last December by 33.5% as the weather was bad in addition to not having in church services. YTD givings are lower than 2019 by 7.5%. YTD givings with PPP are higher than last year by 5.5%.

Expenses for December are higher than last December by 18.4% as worship/music and youth ministry were substantially higher than last year. YTD expenses are lower than last year by 6.3% as personnel and mortgage expenses were much lower.

As a result our monthly income was much lower in December of 2020 but our YTD income in 2020 of \$51,281 is more than 4 times 2019 income. Council decided to pay off the remaining mortgage balance of \$5468.39 using rental income.

Fellowship

Advent packets were delivered to members, Lenten packets are being prepared

Social Ministry Committee

distributing food collected in Advent Boxes; collecting canned soup for Souper Bowl Challenge

Worship & Music

hand bells polished & additional tables bought for new players



Pastor's Report

-thanked everyone who helped during the Christmas Eve worship services, Lenten preparations are underway, Confirmation, First Communion are scheduled

-Ash Wednesday worship will be online with families receiving worship bulletin and ashes via mail;

-Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship to be held in parking lot; 2 services on Easter

Next Meeting
February

Feb. 15th

7 PM via
Zoom



The newest member

of the

Union Lutheran

Family



William Dimmich

"Bill"

Bi-**Annual Meeting**

Join us on Sunday, February 17th following the outdoor worship service, for our Bi-annual meeting. Purpose of this meeting is to review the annual reports. This is an open agenda meeting.

in
Loving Memory

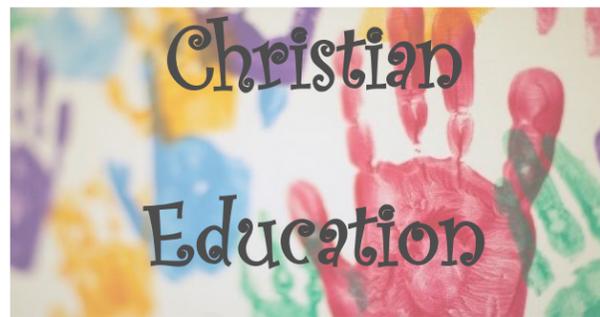
**Dorothy Stephen,
mother of Denise Geiger**



WOW (Women of the Word) Bible Study

...please consider joining us for our monthly bible study via Zoom! Our next "meeting" is **Saturday, February 6, at 8 a.m.** In this second of a series of four, we will continue our discussion of angels concentrating on heavenly beings who serve as witnesses and agents of warning for the people of God.

Please call Linda Rebeck at 610-613-6196 or email at crebeck@hotmail.com OR Linda.rebeck@gmail.com to make arrangements or learn more. We'd love to "see" you!



Cold outside? Warm your heart with our weekly Sunday School lessons! Come sing, laugh, and learn about God with us!



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.

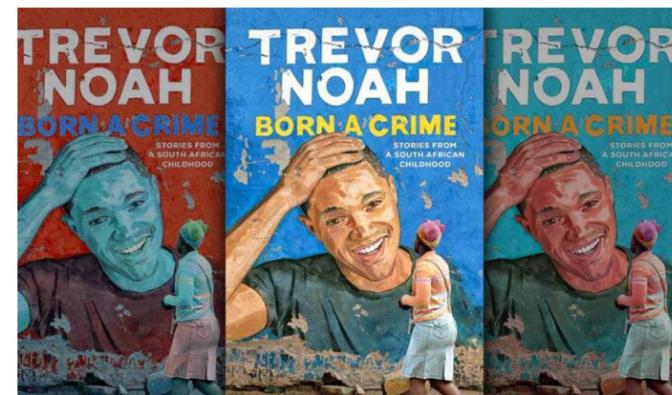
If you have any questions, please contact:

Ron Pugh, Journeymen Secretary



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

What's happening in Happy Hour in February?...Watch for the weekly emails for topic of the week!



BOOK CLUB -

Trevor Noah's book - Born a Crime: Stories from a South

African Childhood on Monday, March 1 @ 7 pm via Zoom.

The memoir of one man's coming-of-age, set during the twilight of apartheid and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed.

Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of The Daily Show began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle.

Born a Crime is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.

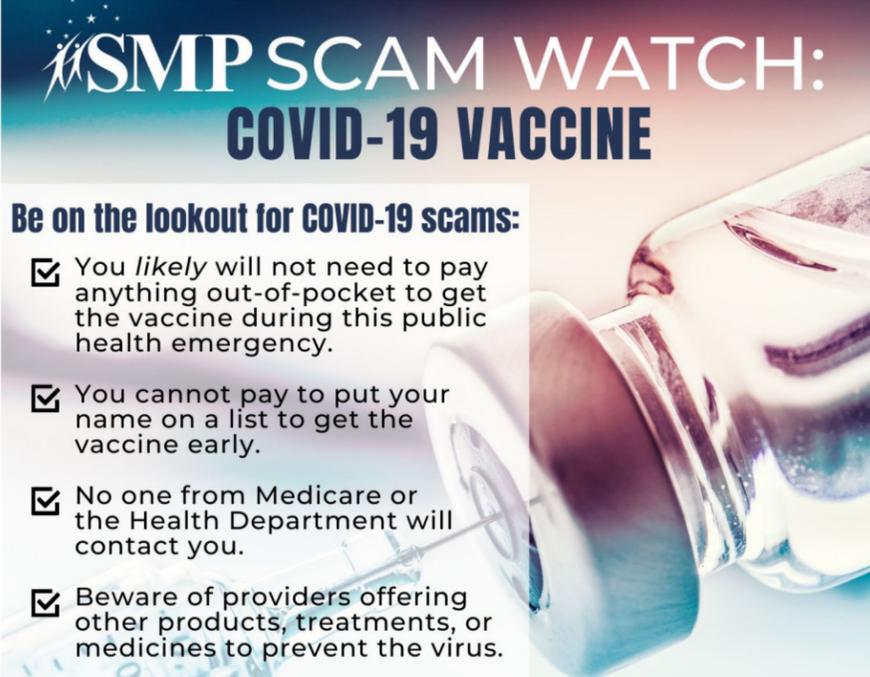
Contact the church office or email Barb Mahoney at bjsm2@ptd.net to get the Zoom invitation.

From our Parish Nurses

LEHIGH TIMES

Winter 2021
LEHIGH COUNTY AGING & ADULT SERVICES

COVID-19 Vaccine Scam Watch



SMP SCAM WATCH: COVID-19 VACCINE

Be on the lookout for COVID-19 scams:

- ☑ You *likely* will not need to pay anything out-of-pocket to get the vaccine during this public health emergency.
- ☑ You cannot pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine early.
- ☑ No one from Medicare or the Health Department will contact you.
- ☑ Beware of providers offering other products, treatments, or medicines to prevent the virus.
- ☑ No one from a vaccine distribution site or health care payer will call and ask for your Medicare number, Social Security number, or banking information to sign you up for a vaccine.

Contact the SMP to report Medicare fraud, errors, or abuse at 877.808.2468 or at smpresource.org.

SUPPORTED BY GRANT # 90MPCRD002 FROM ACL

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Special points of interest:

- If you know someone who is interested in receiving this Enewsletter, please have them contact Kim at (610) 782-3096 or email kimberlymelusky@lehighcounty.org.
- Feel free to print or email this newsletter.

COVID-19 VACCINE FAQs

Is there a difference between the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and should I choose one preferentially?

• Both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are nearly identical, so there are no appreciable benefits of getting one over the other.

We recommend scheduling an appointment at a location that is convenient for your schedule both now and for the required booster in 3-4 weeks.

Can everyone get the vaccine?

When considering if the vaccine is right for you, it is important to consider the actual population in which the vaccine was studied.

Pfizer vaccine:

This trial included only individuals that were 16 and older. No children were enrolled. There were also no pregnant/lactating women or immunosuppressed patients who were enrolled. Of the study participants:

- 40% were >55 and 25% were > 65
- 83% were White, 28% Hispanic/Latinx, and 9% Black/African American
- 46% had at least one comorbidity
- 35% were obese

Moderna vaccine:

This trial included only individuals that were 18 and older. No children were enrolled. There were also no pregnant/lactating women or immunosuppressed patients who were enrolled. Of the study participants:

- 25% were > 65
- 79% were White, 20% Hispanic/Latinx, and 9.8% Black/African American
- 22% had at least one risk factor for severe COVID-19 infection

While there are limited data on the following special populations, we have attempted to summarize the considerations for each group and our general recommendation for considering vaccination.

Can persons with a current or prior history of COVID-19 infection get the vaccine?

• Data from clinical trials suggest the vaccine is safe and likely efficacious in persons with evidence of a prior COVID infection.

• Based on the estimated duration of antibodies from COVID infection as well as evidence suggesting that reinfection is uncommon in the 90 days after initial infection, vaccine deferral could avoid interference of the natural antibody response with vaccine-induced immune responses.

We favor deferring vaccination for 90 days from the time of infection.

Can persons on quarantine for a COVID exposure or out-of-state travel still get the vaccine?

We recommend deferring vaccination until the quarantine period is over in order to ensure affected individuals don't actually have COVID infection.

Can persons who previously received passive antibody therapy for COVID-19 get the vaccine?

• There are currently no available data on the safety and efficacy of vaccine in persons who received monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma as part of COVID-19 treatment.

• Based on the estimated half-life of such therapies as well as evidence suggesting that reinfection is uncommon in the 90 days after initial infection, vaccination deferral could avoid interference of the antibody treatment with vaccine-induced immune responses.

We favor deferring vaccination for 90 days from the time of receipt of antibody treatment.

COVID-19 VACCINE FAQs

Can persons with underlying medical conditions get the vaccine?

• The vaccine may be administered to persons with underlying medical conditions who have no contraindications to vaccination.

• Clinical trials demonstrated similar safety and efficacy profiles in persons with some underlying medical conditions, including those that place them at increased risk for severe COVID-19, compared to persons without comorbidities.

We strongly favor vaccine administration in individuals with comorbidities that might put them at increased risk for severe COVID infection.

Can immunocompromised persons get the vaccine?

• There are currently no available data on the safety and efficacy of the vaccine in people with HIV infection, other immunocompromising conditions, or who take immunosuppressive medications or therapies.

• Based on current knowledge, experts believe that mRNA vaccines are unlikely to pose a risk for people who are immunosuppressed.

• In the setting of underlying immunosuppression, there is a potential for reduced immune responses and the need to continue to follow other preventive measures (i.e. masking, distancing, avoiding crowds, etc.) to protect against COVID infection.

• Persons with HIV infection, other immunocompromising conditions, or who take immunosuppressive medications or therapies might be at increased risk for severe COVID-19.

• Because of the complexities with different forms of immunosuppression, the appropriateness and timing of vaccine needs to be carefully considered between the patient and provider.

We favor vaccine administration in immunocompromised persons in most situations after careful discussion with the patient's physician.

Can pregnant women get the vaccine?

• There are currently no available data on the safety and efficacy of the vaccine in pregnant people.

• Based on current knowledge, experts believe that mRNA vaccines are unlikely to pose a risk for people who are pregnant.

• Observational data demonstrate that while the absolute risk is low, pregnant people with COVID-19 have an increased risk of severe illness, including illness resulting in ICU admission, mechanical ventilation, or death. Additionally, they might be at an increased risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes, such as preterm birth.

• When making a decision, pregnant people and their health care providers should consider the level of COVID-19 community transmission, the patient's personal risk of contracting COVID-19, the risks of COVID-19 to the patient and potential risks to the fetus, the efficacy of the vaccine, the side effects of the vaccine and the lack of data about the vaccine during pregnancy.

We favor vaccine administration in pregnant women if they are interested after careful discussion with the patient's obstetrician.

Can lactating women get the vaccine?

• There are currently no available data on the safety and efficacy of the vaccine in lactating people or the effects of mRNA vaccines on the breastfed infant or milk production/excretion.

• Based on current knowledge, experts believe that mRNA vaccines are unlikely to pose a risk to the breastfeeding infant.

We favor vaccine administration in lactating women if they are interested after discussion with the child's pediatrician.

COVID-19 VACCINE FAQs

Making the best informed decision about COVID vaccination

How does the vaccine work?

The COVID vaccine is an mRNA vaccine.

- mRNA technology is new, but not unknown. They have been studied for more than a decade.
- mRNA vaccines do not contain a live virus and do not carry a risk of causing disease in the vaccinated person.
- mRNA from the vaccine never enters the nucleus of the cell and does not affect or interact with a person's DNA.

Is the vaccine approved?

Vaccines from both Pfizer and Moderna are being released by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under emergency use authorization (EUA).

An EUA may be issued by the FDA to allow access to critical medical products that may help during a public health emergency. An EUA is different from approval/licensure.

The following criteria must be met for an EUA to be issued:

- The product will be used for a serious or life-threatening disease or condition.
- Based on the totality of scientific evidence available, it is reasonable to believe the product may be effective.
- The known and potential benefits of the product outweigh the known and potential risks of the product.
- There is no adequate FDA-approved alternative available.

Is the vaccine recommended?

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issued an interim recommendation for use of the vaccines for the prevention of COVID-19 as follows:

- Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in persons aged ≥16 years
- Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in persons aged ≥18 years

Is the vaccine effective?

Both vaccines were found to be 95% effective in preventing COVID infection.

Is the vaccine safe?

The vaccine was **well-tolerated** and the rate of adverse effects was low.

- The most common reactions were injection site pain, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, and joint pains.

There were no safety concerns after an average of 2 months of patient monitoring.

- There were no serious neurological adverse effects.
- There are no concerns with any negative effect of the vaccine on male or female fertility.

COVID-19 VACCINE FAQs

Can adolescents get the vaccine?

• While the vaccine is approved for individuals age 16 and above, only 153 participants out of >40,000 were aged 16-17 years.

• While vaccine safety and efficacy data in this age group are limited, there are no biologically plausible reasons for safety and efficacy profiles to be different than those observed in persons 18 years of age and older, and no safety concerns were observed in these individuals.

We favor vaccine administration in adolescents aged 16-17.

Can you get the COVID vaccine along with other routine vaccinations?

• There are no data as far as the interaction between COVID-19 vaccination and other vaccines.

We recommend that other vaccines should not be given for two weeks before or after COVID-19 vaccination.

Are there any contraindications to receiving the vaccine?

• Do not administer the vaccine to individuals with a known history of severe allergic reaction (e.g. anaphylaxis) to any component of the vaccine which include polyethylene glycol (PEG), lipids, and sucrose.

• Allergies to food, latex, or insects are not considered a contraindication, but for anaphylaxis to injectables, 30 minutes of observation is recommended, rather than the typical 15 minutes.

Will St. Luke's require its employees to get the COVID vaccine?

While we are encouraging vaccination in all eligible individuals, the vaccine is not mandatory at this time.

How can I learn more?

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html



COVID-19 Vaccines

LVHN: 484-884-1767

St. Lukes: 1-866-785-8537