

LUTHERAN LETTER



Union Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 2021

As we begin to see signs of spring's arrival, we are hopeful that we can begin to move more freely around our community and region. God has a way of bringing hope to life as the trees, flowers, and all of nature begins to bloom. It has indeed been a hard winter.

Please join us in praying for our community and church as we watch the recent trends in public health. As the temps climb up and the case counts descend, and as vaccinations increase, we are hoping to be able to enjoy a fuller experience in our faith community.

The vaccine is not a magic shield, unfortunately. Vaccination means that it's less likely the vaccinated person will become ill but they can still carry the virus and infect others. The most recent CDC guidance says vaccinated family members and small groups can gather, but for everything else all the original guidance is still in play – double masking, social distancing of at least 6 feet, and avoid gatherings (like indoor church).

Like so many of you, not only am I longing for a spring thaw outdoors, I long for a pandemic thaw, which I trust will come as more and more people across the world are vaccinated. I long for communities to gather again in person, without fear of contracting a virus, that for some means serious illness, and for still others, death. It will be good to no longer enter a room and wonder if someone unknowingly carries the threat of this disease.

We long for glimmers of hope, of change, of resurrection, of honesty and fairness, justice and peace. Some in our community have lost beloved family and friends, others struggle with illness, still others with difficult relationships at work or at home. Being alive is a tremendous gift, but it can also be so hard.

We do have places to turn. We claim a God who created us and all that is, who loves us unconditionally. We have a way to live shown by Jesus that brings life, not just to us, but to those our lives touch.

And even though there is still patches of snow on the ground, we can feel in our bones that spring is coming, and it won't be stopped. Easter reminds us of that ... no matter how cold, how dark, how desperate life becomes, warmth, light, and new life does come.

Pastor Camp

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

ELCA WORLD HUNGER



Zimbabwe

Silvester had little or no opportunity in his village to make enough money to care for himself and his family until he connected with the "Rise and Shine Garden", a program supported by Lutheran Development Services in Zimbabwe - an **ELCA World Hunger** partner.

Silvester, along with other people in the same community facing the same challenges, started working in a vegetable garden. They were able to sell their produce and receive training to start a village savings and loan group (VSL). They help one another by supporting entrepreneurial ventures through the pooling of money as well as making loans available to group members. They share ideas and learning. Through these efforts Silvester has raised enough money to build a home and purchase chickens and pigs that will provide even more economic opportunities.

"When we joined the garden project and VSL groups, we were the laughingstock in the village," Silvester says, "but now I have managed to buy a stand (to sell goods) and build a house. I also built a toilet with a bath compartment. I own four chickens. The list is endless." In addition, Silvester is now able to care for his aging parents.

Gifts to **ELCA World Hunger** support projects like this, helping people like Silvester get the training and tools they need to improve their own lot in life. In more than 60 countries, including right here at home, your generous gifts to **ELCA World Hunger** allow us to walk with companions and partners who are hard at work providing food, health care, agricultural training, safe water, education, livelihood support and much, much more.

2



5 HEALTHY SEASONAL FRUITS

1. *Apples* - Contain phytochemicals called flavonoids, mostly in the peel. Flavonoids reduce inflammation, which is related to a lower risk of diseases like cancer, heart disease, and dementia. It is suggested to slice & bake them with a little butter & cinnamon, then using them to top cereal, ice cream, or yogurt. Or pan-sear slices, then roast them with chicken or pork.
2. *Clementines* - Each little fruit has 131mg. of blood pressure controlling potassium & 36mg. of Vitamin C. Also, Clementines contain a lot of water, making them very hydrating. They may be added to salads or dip slices in melted chocolate for a healthy dessert.
3. *Cranberries* - Are high in anthocyanins and flavonols, phytochemicals that reduce dementia risk. Make a raw cranberry relish to serve with poultry by pulsing some in a blender with orange slices & a little honey. Fresh (or frozen) is best: Store-bought cranberry sauces & dried cranberries can be high in added sugars!
4. *Grapefruit* - Half a grapefruit provides more than half of your daily need for Vitamin C. Vitamin C helps keep the immune system strong. Pink & Red Grapefruit contain heart-healthy antioxidants. But certain drugs - including some for cholesterol, high blood pressure, and anxiety - interact negatively with grapefruit, so check with your doctor first.
5. *Pomegranates* - The juicy seeds contain two types of antioxidants associated with heart health. By drinking the fruit's juice, you will lose most of the fiber & some other benefits you'd get from eating whole seeds. Sprinkle these jewel-like seeds into green, grain, and fruit salads or toss with roasted vegetables.



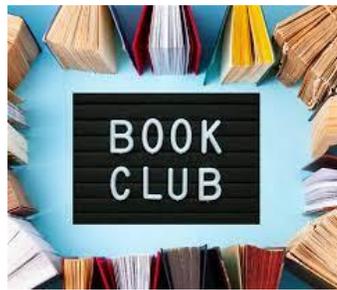
Join us for "Drive Thru Communion" April 4th & 25th

Pastor Camp will offer
Holy Communion.

4/4/21: 10:00-10:30 am
4/25/21: 11:00—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.



The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd.

"I am Ana. I was the wife of Jesus." Raised in a wealthy family in Sepphoris with ties to the ruler of Galilee, Ana is rebellious and ambitious, a persistent seeker with a brilliant, curious mind and an audacious spirit. She yearns for a pursuit worthy of her life, but finds no outlet for her considerable talents. Defying the expectations placed on women, she engages in secretive scholarly pursuits and writes narratives about neglected and silenced women. When she meets the eighteen-year-old Jesus, each is drawn to and enriched by the other's spiritual and philosophical ideas. He becomes a floodgate for her intellect, but also the awakener of her heart. Their marriage unfolds with love and conflict, humor and anguish in Nazareth, where Ana makes a home with Jesus, his brothers, James and Simon, and their mother, Mary. Here, Ana's pent-up longings intensify amid the turbulent resistance to the Roman occupation of Israel, partially led by her charismatic adopted brother, Judas. She is sustained by her indomitable aunt Yaltha, who is searching for her long-lost daughter, as well as by other women, including her friend Tabitha, who is sold into slavery after she was raped, and Phasaelis, the shrewd wife of Herod Antipas. Ana's impetuous streak occasionally invites danger. When one such foray forces her to flee Nazareth for her safety shortly before Jesus's public ministry begins, she makes her way with Yaltha to Alexandria, where she eventually finds refuge and purpose in unexpected surroundings. Grounded in meticulous historical research and written with a reverential approach to Jesus's life that focuses on his humanity, *The Book of Longings* is an inspiring account of one woman's bold struggle to realize the passion and potential inside her, while living in a time, place, and culture devised to silence her.

We will meet to discuss this book on Monday, April 26 @ 7 pm via Zoom. Email Barb Mahoney at bjasm2@ptd.net or call the church office to receive the Zoom invitation.

Council Report

Review of finances

- Givings for February were higher than last year by 8.9% with YTD 2021 givings are higher than 2020 by 10.1%.
- Expenses for the month are higher than last year by 7.6% but YTD expenses are lower than last year by 4.1%.
- Paycheck Protection Program of the Small Business Act (PPP) loan was converted to a grant – requiring no repayment.

Property

- HVAC unit #8 will be replaced – cost \$23,925
- Committee obtaining replacement costs for remaining 6 HVAC units in order to help Finance Committee

Christian Life

- Drafting communications to church family celebrating mortgage payoff and transition to supporting future building maintenance
- Studying how to increase YouTube channel “like & subscribe” & posting videos highlighting the ministries of ULC

Social Ministry Committee

- Moved food pantry to Room 201
- Making Easter baskets for homebound members
- Loud Offering divided between World Hunger, Northern Lehigh Food Bank and Parkland Cares Food Pantry

Sent \$2000 from the Robert & Betty Krause Disaster Relief Fund to the ELCA Disaster Relief for Texas

Youth Group

- 17 youth went snow tubing
- Purchased supplies & built 60 Easter Baskets for children of Jerusalem House
- Created video about Moses for the Sunday School children

Union Board

- worked with Boy Scout Troop 57 to resolve leadership questions

Staff Support

- meeting with all staff members individually via Zoom (April – June)



Fellowship Committee

- Drive Thru Easter Egg event planned for March 27th
- Preparing Holy Week Worship Kits for those who cannot attend parking lot worship

Worship and Music

- Palm Sunday – Pastor will lead worship outside from the portico as weather allows
- Services will continue to be broadcast to car radios.
- Outdoor seating section will be available
- Added a new antenna to broadcast system to improve reception in cars

Christian Education

- VBS will follow a hybrid model creating YouTube videos and outdoor sessions on Sundays following worship (June 20, 27 July 11, 18, 25)
- Sunday School YouTube videos created by Josh Dietz are being viewed by more and more folks.
- Happy Hour continues via Zoom at 10:30 AM with a variety of topics and leaders
- First Communion instruction scheduled - March 28th

Next Meeting
April 19th at 7 pm via

Zoom



Virtual Happy Hour

Join us on Zoom every Sunday at 10:30 AM.

You do not have to be a "Bible scholar" to join in;
our sessions are very informal.

Watch your emails each week to receive your Zoom link!

Click to be put on the [Zoom link list!](#)

April 4 - EASTER "VACATION"

April 11- HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

Let's celebrate Jesus' victory over the grave by "laughing" at the darkness! Join Ron Pugh and Cathy Shaffer and be ready to laugh.

April 18- EVERYBODY HAS SOME...MAYBE YOU EVEN ARE ONE.

What are we talking about? Grandparents!!!! Join Patti Hoffman as we talk about "the Spirituality of Grandparenting". How did your grandparents influence your faith? How are you sharing your faith with your grandkids?

April 25- DEALING WITH GRIEF DURING COVID-19.

Erin Heintzelman will talk with the class about how Heintzelman Funeral Home needed to come up with creative ways for the community to grieve while keeping everyone safe.

WHAT A YEAR it has been for us at ULC! We have continued to find ways to worship and help the community around us. That alone is enough to celebrate. But, we also paid off our mortgage! Thanks to all of you for your contributions and dedication to this project.



What a blessing to be mortgage free!...Take a moment to let that sink in and be thankful!

You may be wondering, what comes next? Like many of you, we have ongoing expenses to care for our facility. Our next step is to create a fund for future building maintenance. Our most pressing need is to replace our aging HVAC system. We have 10 units that keep our building comfortable year round. Three of those have already been replaced with a work order for a 4th just put in at a cost of \$23,925. Because of you, we were able to do that.

Just like any home, our church home needs to be cared for as well. Our goal is now to build up a **“nest egg”** to be able to care for our building.

Let’s make this our next goal in order to help keep our church home up and running.

How can you make this happen? Use your “Future Building Maintenance Projects” offering envelope or use our online giving portal at <https://ulclv.org/give/>.



Chicken Pot Pie Dinner Hosted by the Journeymen

RESCHEDULED

Due to the
COVID-19 Pandemic,
The annual January/May
Chicken Pot Pie dinner
has been rescheduled to

October 2021

SAVE THE DATE!

A new menu may be in place for
October, with the intent of having
a full course Chicken Pot Pie dinner
in January of 2022!

More information will follow

Questions??

Contact Ron Pugh

Journeymen Secretary

610-442-9710

RonPugh@RCN.com

Youth Group—Creating Easter Baskets
for the Jerusalem House Ministries





Bible Study

...please consider joining us for our monthly bible study via Zoom! Our next "meeting" is Saturday, April 3, at 8 a.m. In this final session of this series, we will continue our discussion of angels concentrating on "feasting, funny, alleluia angels" who come to tell us news we are hungry to hear!

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

*Spring is right around the corner,
and the weather is getting warmer.
Why not bring your very own seat
and sit outside of your car for a worship treat.*

OK I know I'm no Shakespeare....

*But, why not bring your chair and
sit outside in our designated
seating area.*

**All are welcome to continue to sit
in their car. The worship will be
broadcasted on 97.3FM **AND** there
will be speakers for those that
wish to sit outside.**

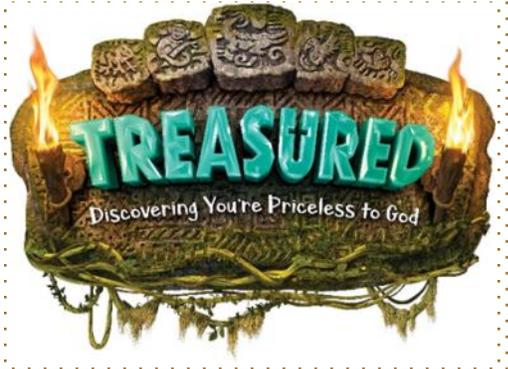
+ Bring your mask 

+ Bring your chair 

+ Bring your faith 

We will do the rest!

VBS 2021



*Check out the 2 ways to enjoy VBS
this year-your choice!*

"At-Home VBS" - watch our VBS videos emailed
directly to your home

or

Join us Sundays, June 20, 27 and July 11, 18, 25

- ⇒ 9:00 AM worship outside
- ⇒ 9:45 - 10:30 AM Family (parent & kids) VBS: skits, crafts, games outside & watch our VBS videos at home.

All children ages 3 through 5th grade are welcome.

Parents, please join in on the fun with yo !

<https://ulclv.org/vacation-bible-school-sign-up/>



9



10TH ANNIVERSARY

Paper Prayers Card Ministry is celebrating a
10 year Anniversary in April 2021

I started out sending homemade cards to the shut ins and folks on the prayer list, averaging about 10 -15 cards a month. Presently, I am sending an average of 70 cards a month. I am still sending to Shut-ins and prayer list, but I have included family and friends of members at ULC and folks in the community. The farthest I send to is Washington state.

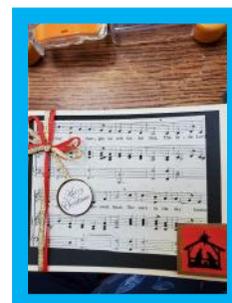
Because of Covid many of our members can't come out to services. They live alone and/or are struggling, so I added them to the list. Doing this lets them know the congregation is thinking of them and that they are an important part of Union and not forgotten.

I don't need to know why, just who could use a card. You can notify me at pattiahoffman@gmail.com or talk to the ladies in the office.

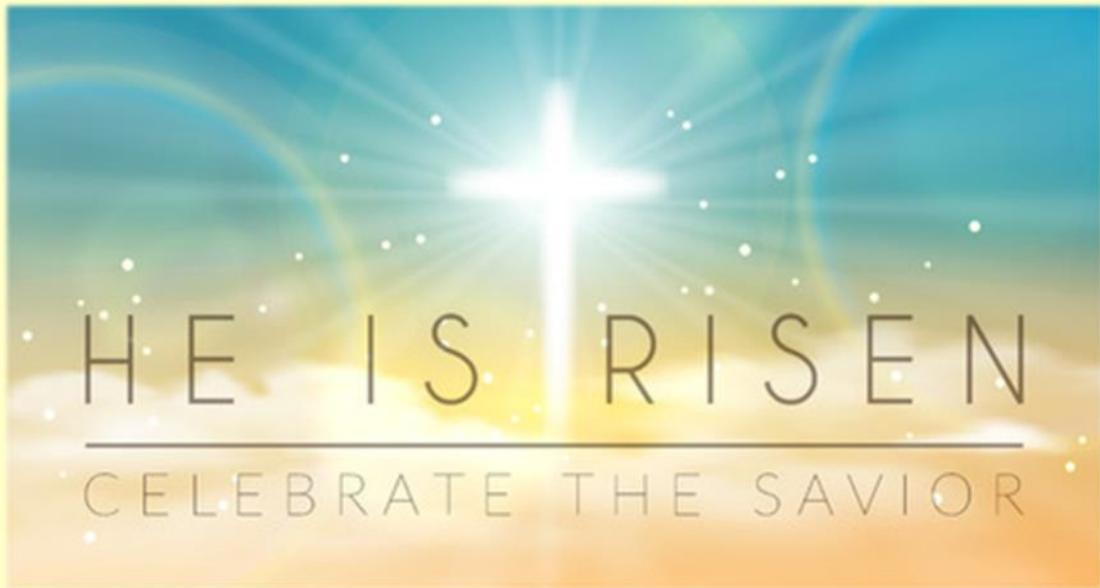
The cards are made from recycled cards and other paper, drawings and decorations. I still need cards, any kind of holiday, birthday, sympathy etc. You can give them to the greeters on a Sunday morning or drop them off at the church. I also need greeting card envelopes.

Thank you for your kind feedback over the years. Hearing your stories has made me very happy, humbled and grateful that the Paper Prayers Card Ministry makes a difference in your lives. It is a mission that I love and enjoy doing.

Patti Hoffman



Easter Sunday April 4, 2021



Come celebrate the day that love conquered the grave!

- ✝ We will hold services
9:00 AM and 11:00 AM.
- ✝ Drive thru Communion is offered from
10:00 - 10:30 AM.
- ✝ All services will be emailed and they
can also be found on our website at
www.ulclv.org (click here)



5500 Route 873 Schnecksville, PA 18078

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
Director of Music	Susan Frickert
Asst. Office Administrator	Katie Stauter
Sexton	Terry P. 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."