

LUTHERAN LETTER



Union Evangelical Lutheran Church

July 2021

Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a servant to everyone, to win as many as possible. (I Corinthians 9:19)

This is the month when so many of our current restrictions are to be lifted so that we can move more freely and engage with people more fully. This is the month when we will be able to return to our worship place and again celebrate our faith in a more “normal” way. I want to be sure we give a heartfelt “THANK YOU” to our Reopening Team as they have met, regularly to keep up with the restrictions and develop protocols which would insure our health and safety. They have been the ones who have reviewed the governmental mandates and helped guide us to safely be the church.

It has been a taxing year for all of us, and we have many people at Union to thank and be thankful for, in keeping our ministry alive and thriving.

I wanted to remind all of us that the care and protocols we followed were not just for our own safety, but for those around us. We are guardians not only of our own health, but the health of those in the community to which we belong. We also are concerned about not only our own comfort level, but the comfort level of those who attend our Worship services. Many of us have been vaccinated and we feel empowered to be freer than we have been for these last fifteen months. But, we need to continue to be sensitive to those who don't have the same sense of empowerment. We need to be aware of the many parents who are still concerned about their children who haven't been vaccinated. We hope that will change in the coming months, but not at this time. We need to be aware that there are others who are still concerned about compromising their own health or the health of a loved one so they will continue to be very cautious. We need to be sensitive to those who still desire to maintain distance and wear a mask, or two, for whatever reason. I know many of us experienced a year with fewer colds and no flu this last season as well as fewer issues with allergies because of the protocols we were following this last year. As Paul stated, he is free from many of the normal restrictions others follow in life, but he is willing to accommodate others around him in order to help them find the level of freedom they can experience in Christ. Are we our brother's and sister's keeper? Yes. As Christians we are the ones called to be witnesses of Christ's grace, mercy, and love to everyone. We are the ones who are called to care for the friendless, encourage the hopeless, and help the ones who are lost find their home.

(cont. page 2)

Pastor (Cont.)

We belong not only to most loving and powerful God, but the creation in which we have been placed. We are not our own. Yes, we are given freedom to become the unique person God created us to be, but we also are given the responsibility of loving our neighbor. We have the privilege to serve those around us and sometimes that means accommodating their needs above our own. When we come back into the Sanctuary, let us come back in celebration and joy, but let us also come back ready to serve all those whom we meet. We have not only freedom in Christ but the privilege and the power to bring shalom to this world!

Pastor Camp

Vacation Bible School



Bring your donations to VBS every week or drop them off at church during office hours!

Northern Lehigh Food Bank will be “building” **back-to-school** packs for their clients.

Let’s help them by donating all kinds of school supplies: pencils, crayons, markers, glue sticks, rulers, notebooks, scissors.



THE PRAISE BAND News

You are invited

August 4th

@ 7pm

St. Timothy's

140 S. Ott Street Allentown

(No rain date)

Guest Preacher:

Pastor Camp

Musical Performers:

The Praise Band

Please join us in the grassy area across the street from the church. It is an outdoor event and you are asked to bring your own chair.

No RSVP needed!

Glory Ringers

Next rehearsal August 17th

Tuesdays at 7 pm

Union Chorale

Next rehearsal August 18th

Wednesdays at 7:45 pm

THE PRAISE BAND

Next rehearsal August 21st

Saturdays at 9 am

My heart,
O God,
is steadfast;
I will sing
and make music
with all my soul.

Psalm 108:1 NIV

Church REOPENING!

Indoor Worship Services

~~Weds., June 23 @ 7 pm~~

Weds., June 30 @ 7 pm

Worship Options beginning
Sunday, July 4th @ 9 am

- *Indoor (Nave)*

- *Parking Lot*

- *YouTube*



Shop on Amazon? Want to contribute to the church?

Shop on smile.amazon.com and elect Union Lutheran Church as your charity of choice. We get .5% of all eligible purchases! Last quarter Amazon Smile paid us **\$35.33!**

Let's watch that amount grow.



Council Report

Highlights from June - Church Council Zoom Meeting

Next Meeting: July 19, 2021 at 7 pm in the MLC

Review of finances-

Income:

Givings for May were higher than last year by 30.0%. Givings for May YTD 2021 are higher than last year by 7.2%.

Last May we recognized \$44,538 in miscellaneous income due to the PPP (Paycheck Protection Program).

As a result, total income for the month of May 2021 is lower than last year by 59.6% YTD total income is also lower than last year by 12.2%.

Expenses:

Expenses for the month are higher than last year by 24.4% and YTD expenses are higher than last year by 15.1%.

YTD personnel expenses are much higher than last year due to a full complement of salary personnel.

As a result, May experienced a loss of \$3,909 vs. last year's gain of \$40,832 due to the PPP monies.

YTD 2021 gain of \$10,791 is also lower than last year's gain of \$48,740 for the same reason

Staff Support -

held annual meeting with Terry Hoffman and Katie Stauter working on updating Katie's job description

Pastor's report -

working on all technical aspects of returning to in-person worship;

VBS kicked off with in-person & virtual versions with take home activity packets

Pastor is proud that ULC continued to help our "neighbors-in-need" during the pandemic with many outreach programs

Boy Scout Troops need to provide their own insurance since BSA is currently in bankruptcy proceedings.

Christian Life Committee -

working on videos to promote reconnecting to our church family

Property Committee -

old electronic devices were recycled

monitoring shrubs in the parking lot – no signs of bag worms

Social Ministry Committee-

collecting donations for refugees in LV foster homes,

investigating "adopt-an-apartment" program,

requesting Property Committee to make needed repairs to Lil Food Pantry

Fellowship Committee -

Plans are underway to celebrate paying off the church mortgage on Oct. 3rd.

Created summer worship packets for our at-home worshippers.

Worship/Music Committee - forming Organ Committee to study necessary repairs and possible upgrades for the organ

moved the location of organ and rearranged music seating/bell table areas

sending surveys to gather interest for Junior and Teen Choirs

Youth Group –planning fun activities for summer

Social Ministry Corner

THANK YOU! To everyone who donated to our Troop Collection or Bingo Prizes for Daybreak! Once again we did an excellent job and your generosity will be greatly appreciated by everyone involved in these campaigns.

Our next collection will be School Supplies for needy children so they can return to school in the fall with the supplies they might need. Watch for more information to come!

Currently we are looking for the following for our hunger missions:

Northern Lehigh Food Bank – Crackers

They are also looking for heavy lifting volunteers on Monday and Wednesday from 10 to Noon to unload trucks. You must be able to lift up to 50 lbs. Please call the food bank if you are able to help.

Parkland Cares – boxes of Granola Bars – Regular size boxes of Cereal – Pancake Mix – Syrup – Crackers (Cheeze-Its, Wheat Thins, etc)

Please bring all donations along to church or drop off during regular business hours.

Also a reminder that all donations for our Little Pantry should NOT be put in the pantry directly.

THANK YOU for your continued support of our committee!



Wow Bible Study

WOMEN OF THE WORD

will be taking a short hiatus and resume in September when, maybe, just maybe, we'll be able to meet in person! Let's pray and keep our fingers crossed! Thanks to everyone for their support and participation.

Linda Rebeck

The Social Ministry Committee is looking to support our local Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

Here are the 5 W's to see if this may be a ministry that you would like to help support!

Who? Although LIRS supports immigrants and refugees that have crossed the border into the United States, what moved me was their support of unaccompanied minors.

- At times these minors have living relatives in the US and need help to locate them and ultimately to be connected with them.
- LIRS provides support and temporary housing through Foster Care

What? Why should we care? Shouldn't these children stay in their own countries? If you have these questions, I challenge you to open your hearts to understand what might compel a parent to send a child alone to a new country of unknowns – which they feel might give them a chance at a better life.

Where? Right here in Pa! Unaccompanied minors are placed in foster homes in our area and all over the United States.

Why? Psalm 68:5 “Learn to do what is right! Promote justice! Give the oppressed reason to celebrate! Take up the cause of the orphan! Defend the rights of the widow!”

How? Are you a certified Foster Parent? If you are willing to open your home to a minor please reach out directly to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service at www.lirs.org. If you would like to financially support the people that are helping these children on their journey, please consider donating so that our church can do our part to support these children of need. Please prayerfully consider supporting this ministry, if you would like more information check out the LIRS website today!

“I would like to thank Pastor Camp and Susan Frickert for making my husband, Lou Whitaker’s memorial service a lovely event. I would also like to give thanks to God for a beautiful, sunny day.”

Kathy Whitaker

Thank you to all of you that serve as greeters, readers, musicians, vocalists! We could not do worship without you!

Church office staff

Do you want to know who was at church? Ask Patti Hoffman.

Want to know what car they drive? Ask Patti Hoffman.

Want to know how many communion cups they need in their bag? Ask Patti Hoffman.

Thank you to Patti Hoffman who has been taking attendance at all of our outdoor worship services! This step is important so that in the event of a Covid event, we can easily contact trace all worshippers!



THANK YOU



ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Colombia

In Colombia, nurse Carolina Camargo is part of the work God is doing through the Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELCO) and the church's *Justicia y vida* (Justice and Life) initiative, which is supported by **ELCA World Hunger**. Together with others, Carolina works toward future reconciliation in *Justicia y vida*'s "From War to Peace" project, which weaves ties of solidarity between the church and communities in Colombia that have been beset by violence for many years.

Carolina and other volunteers are at work in the area of Urabá. Since the 1990s, Urabá has witnessed a war involving the Popular Liberation Army, insurgents, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and paramilitary groups. The conflict led to more than 103 massacres in the region and some 32,000 people displaced between 1998 and 2002. Today, social leaders remain at risk from paramilitary units over disputes involving land. The peace process has been a long road for Colombia, and IELCO has been traveling on it for many years.

In San José, former combatants and their families are given a chance to start again through the work of the church. In San José de León, they are able to build and maintain homes and resume their former lives raising fish, pigs and chickens. It's a chance to rebuild some of what was lost in the years of conflict. Addressing conflict and working for peace are central to ending hunger. Conflict is one of the most significant reasons for hunger increasing around the world. The United Nations estimates that up to 80% of humanitarian needs around the world are caused by conflict.

Thanks to your generous support of **ELCA World Hunger**, leaders such as Carolina can keep working toward peace and justice. She says of the people with whom she works: "They are working together, united, to show the country and the world that this is the way to fight for peace."



Join the ULC Youth Group for a
Day at Knoebel's Grove
Saturday, July 17, 2021 12-9pm

FREE Parking **FREE** Admission
FREE Pavillion
We are in Pavillion Q.

Ride Tickets: 20% discount
\$20.00 book for \$16.00
Call the church office at
610-767-6884 or Email of-
fice@ulclv.org

Tickets are good forever.
Tickets are limited and will not be
available at the park.

**WILL HAVE INDIVIDUAL SNACKS AND
BEVERAGES AVAILABLE AT THE PAVIL-
ION AS WELL AS MASKS, HAND SANI-
TIZER AND FIRST AID KIT.**

**PACK YOUR LUNCH OR EAT IN THE
PARK.**

**GREAT VARIETY OF FOODS AT GREAT
PRICES.**

**YOU MAY LEAVE YOUR COOLERS, ETC.
AT THE PAVILION.**

Join us at the pavilion Q at 5:00 –
5:15 pm for Evening Vespers

www.knoebels.com

“Some jokes for older folks”

How many days in a week?
Six Saturdays and one Sunday.

What's the biggest gripe of retirees?
There is not enough time to get every-
thing done.

THE SENILITY PRAYER:

Grant me the senility to forget the peo-
ple I never like anyway, the good for-
tune to run into the ones I do, and the
eyesight to tell the difference!

These days about half of the stuff in
my shopping cart says,
“For fast relief”

I've sure gotten old!

I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip
replacement, new knees, fought pros-
tate cancer and diabetes. I'm half
blind, can't hear anything quieter than
a jet engine, take 40 different medica-
tion that make me dizzy, winded, and
subject to blackouts. Have bouts with
dementia. Have poor circulation; hard-
ly feel my hands and feet anymore.
Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92.

But thank goodness, I still have my
driver's license.

In Loving Memory

Betty Yorgey
Dorothy Petrokovich
Dr. William Kisthardt. III



Tate Joseph
McCready

Baptized June 27, 2021

Child of

Michael and Amanda
(Nagy) McCready



LEHIGH VALLEY
IRONPIGS

ULC @ IronPigs – Please join us Friday, September 3, 2021 for a night at CocaCola Park to watch the Lehigh Valley IronPigs face off against the Syracuse Mets. This event is back again by popular demand. First pitch is thrown at 7:05 pm and there are fireworks that night! The Lehigh Valley IronPigs have a complete listing to address COVID while at the park. Please referer to their website for the specifics and search for [IronPigs Readiness Plan](#). Tickets are \$12 and there will be gift card raffle again this year. Please call or email the office to RSVP by July 26th.

office@ulclv.org



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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
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."