



THE LUTHERAN LETTER

NEWSLETTER

April 2023

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. (Genesis 1:31)

I sometimes marvel at how nothing really explains our world better than our faith. This thought comes to me especially during the season of Lent.

We read in Scripture that when God created our world it was described as good, and we still see this goodness in the majesty of God's creation. Yet, Scripture teaches that when sin entered our world it became broken, and we see this every time we watch the news, especially recently. We also read in Scripture that this brokenness or sin cuts through each one of us, because we all sin.

This is where the wonder of what we believe enters in. For Scripture teaches that although made in the image of God, we are so broken with sin we cannot save or heal ourselves. We need someone to do it for us, and the one who would come to do this would be Jesus.

He would die on the cross to take the judgment for our sins upon himself and then rise from the dead to defeat death, so that as a gift we might be forgiven and receive eternal life. This gift is then received by faith.

As we embrace this gift in faith it becomes God's healing and salvation in our lives.

The salvation offered through the death and resurrection of Jesus is what we remember in Lent. This Lenten season may we delight in this saving and healing work which Jesus would come to bring as we trust in him.

Pastor Camp

A message from Finance Committee

The last three years our congregation has lived through unusually trying times. We have been blessed to have survived a pandemic and the social and economic challenges that come with it. During these times we have continued to serve our membership and our community.

We found new ways to conduct Sunday worship services. We managed to keep our spiritual and social ministry going despite masks and distancing. We were able to find ways to serve the community around us by continuing to support the Northern, Lehigh and Parkland Cares Food Banks as well as running our own little pantry here at Union Lutheran. We found ways to continue offering fellowship and support to our membership despite the lack of personal contact that the pandemic placed on us.

This last year, 2022 was a strong year for us as we were finally able to bring a more normal Sunday worship and return to gathering in person. We have seen some growth in our membership and have added a new electronic sign to our campus making us more visible to the community. All of this came with an economic cost as we have faced a growing deficit in our budget. We have been able to maintain a strong cash flow thanks to our cash reserves and some timely contributions by members and in memory of former members.

We are concerned over the growing deficit in our budget. We are also concerned in our need for volunteers to help us bring things back to normal and grow our congregation and our service to the community.

We ask you to accept the Lord's challenge to gather your family together and discuss and pray for ways you can help volunteer to help in the Sunday service, volunteer to serve on a committee, or volunteer to help at social functions. When you volunteer, you are the heart of the congregation and when you donate to the church you are the life blood of this church. There is no price on forgiveness and we cannot earn our way into God's house, but if we are his faithful servants, we should want to do all we can to strengthen his church.

We know we cannot erase our deficit in one year or two but if we can change the expanding deficit to a shrinking one, we will be able to grow.

As a faithful servant of God, I ask you to show your faith by wanting to do all that you can.

HAPPY EASTER



Thank you to everyone who supported the Parkland Cares Easter Goodie Bag project! Social Ministry made 150 bags which will be given to Parkland Cares & distributed to children in our community to make their Easter special!



J O I N U S

EASTER EGG HUNT

Sat. April 1

@ 1pm

Ages 0-12

Goodie bags & prizes



Union Lutheran Church 5500 Rt. 873 Schnecksville

RSVP: 610-767-6884 or office@ulclv.org

What to bring:

your baskets for egg hunt, smiles for photos with the Easter Bunny
and your neighbors, friends, cousins

The first Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. in room 202

Please consider joining us on **Saturday, April 1**, when we'll conclude our look at the Ten Commandments, using Session 4 from the Bible Study in the *Gather* magazine. The author titles this session "Guardrails for love of God and neighbor" (commandments 7, 8, 9 & 10). In this final session of our study, we will consider sayings from Proverbs and other biblical wisdom related to minding our tongues, integrity in the marketplace, and practical ways to serve our neighbors.

Contact Linda Rebuck with any questions –
linda.rebuck@gmail.com or 610-613-6196.



Indonesia

For Bualazanolo, a rice farmer and father of five, a lack of opportunity in his Indonesian village made it very difficult to earn enough money to care for himself and his family. That is, until he connected with a local community development center that partners with **ELCA World Hunger**.

"I learned about rice farming from my parents," Bualazanolo says. "Even though I have worked hard, the harvest is not sufficient for my family's food needs for the whole year. Sometimes I have to borrow other people's rice and pay for it at the next harvest."

Initially, Bualazanolo was hesitant to introduce new techniques into his farming, but after connecting with the development center, he and other community members facing the same challenges received agricultural training and learned how to produce compost, maintain healthy soil, make use of natural pesticides, and more.

Gifts to **ELCA World Hunger** support this project and others like it helping people such as Bualazanolo get the training and tools they need to improve their livelihoods.

"At first, I was skeptical about the benefits of this training," says Bualazanolo, "but the center's staff continued to encourage and motivate me to start." With the training staff accompanying him, he put his new skills into practice. Now his rice yield not only feeds his family year-round, but leaves enough extra that he can sell to cover his children's school costs.

"Now my wife and I are happy because my rice production has increased," he says. "This is a sign that my rice farming skills have improved and gives us new hope and a better life. My wife and children and I can smile about our future."

If you would like to give new hope and a better life to people like Bualazanolo and his family, please be generous in your giving to **ELCA World Hunger**. You can use the pew envelopes or simply mail to, or drop off, your gifts at our ULC office.

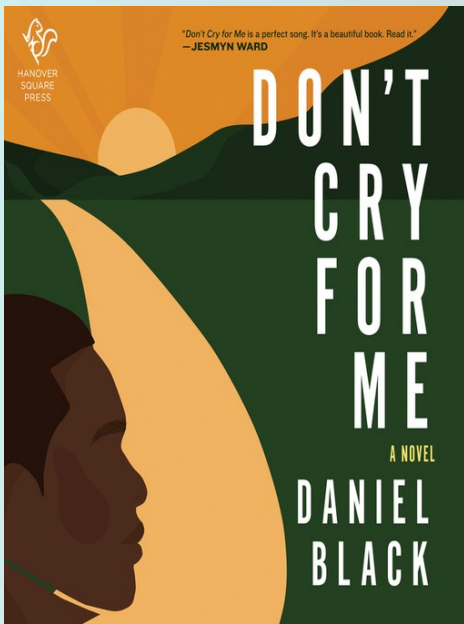
Blood Drive

April 30, 2023

We need 25 to participate

[RSVP Here!](#)





Our next selection is *Don't Cry for Me* by Daniel Black.

As Jacob lies dying, he begins to write a letter to his only son, Isaac. They have not met or spoken in many years, and there are things that Isaac must

know. Stories about his ancestral legacy in rural Arkansas that extend back to slavery. Secrets from Jacob's tumultuous relationship with Isaac's mother and the shame he carries from the dissolution of their family. Tragedies that informed Jacob's role as a father and his reaction to Isaac's being gay.

But most of all, Jacob must share with Isaac the unspoken truths that reside in his heart. He must give voice to the trauma that Isaac has inherited. And he must create a space for the two to find peace.

With piercing insight and profound empathy, acclaimed author Daniel Black illuminates the lived experiences of Black fathers and queer sons, offering an authentic and ultimately hopeful portrait of reckoning and reconciliation. Spare as it is sweeping, poetic as it is compulsively readable, *Don't Cry for Me* is a monumental novel about one family grappling with love's hard edges and the unexpected places where hope and healing take flight.

Join us in May to discuss this book. Watch for the exact date in the weekly bulletin.

Did you know that our church has a Little Free Library?

Under the front portico are two boxes. One houses the ULC Food Pantry and the other is our ULC Little Free Library. *Little Free Library* is a non-profit organization based in Minnesota. Their mission is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Libraries. Their motto is - ***Take a Book. Share a Book.*** The box is open 24/7. Anyone may take a book and it does not need to be returned. However, if you can share a book, it keeps the box full and provides variety for readers.

The Library Committee began our **Little Free Library in 2021** supplying it with books left from our September Bookfest. We envisioned it to be a way to enhance community outreach by providing users of our Food Pantry with books. Books for all ages are included in the box and it is filled as necessary. If you would like to donate books, please call the church office to find out when we are accepting books.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



JULY 17 - 21

5:30 FAMILY DINNER

5:45-8 VBS FUN



SIGN MY CHILD(REN) UP FOR FAITH, FUN AND FRIENDS!



SIGN ME UP TO VOLUNTEER ON THE "SPACE CREW"

*Crew Leaders, Station Leaders, Games, Bible Story,
Music Leader, Kitchen Crew, Art/Craft, Office Help*



DO NOT WAIT SIGN UP TODAY



Introducing...

Sip n' Share!

Come & share/listen in a relaxed setting.

No judgement, just genuine sharing. This is a space to discuss topics involving faith, identity, culture, politics, worship and more—"Cultivating Meaningful Conversations"



"Cultivating meaningful conversations"

April topics:

Who or what has influenced/changed your faith?

What style of worship service do you connect with?

FRI. APRIL 21
6 PM
at

Eight Oaks Distillery

7189 PA Rt. 309 New Tripoli

Food and drinks can be purchased.

Non-alcoholic options available.

Sign up online!
office@ulclv.org



Joyful Moments had a wonderful time on March 3rd when we visited the Zoellner Arts Center to see the show Circus Mechanics – Zephyr – A Whirlwind of Circus! This show was an hour and a half of high flying, tumbling and amazing circus acts! This was our first group outing and will not be our last! Our monthly meetings will be at church on the Third Thursday of each month from 5:30 – 7:30pm. Who can be a member? Our group is for those in our church or community that are without a partner, whether that be from being divorced, being widowed or being single. We would love to welcome you to our group! Each Third Thursday we will try to have a different themed meeting with fun activities to help us enjoy each other's company. Please reach out to Kate Geren or Kandy Lang if you are interested in joining in on this fun adventure! Kate – kateoconn@yahoo.com
Kandy - kandykandy033@yahoo.com

HOLY WEEK



Apr. 2 Palm Sunday

Worship 9am

Apr. 6 Maundy Thursday

Worship 7pm

Apr. 7 Good Friday

Worship 7pm

Apr. 9 Easter Sunday

Worship 9am

April Happy Hour

April 2

Think it's easy to lead worship? In church, as in life, things don't always go as expected. Join Pastor Camp, Pastor Gifford, and Pastor O'Connor as they recall some of the funny, unexpected, and downright odd things that they have experienced. Join us for "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Pulpit..."

April 9: No class today - Happy Easter

April 16: Holy Humor Sunday

Holy Humor Sunday is traditionally the Sunday after Easter, when we laugh at the Devil because Jesus Christ overcame death. Adult Sunday School invites you to join us on Sunday April 16th at 10:15am for some laughs, and groans and giggles. Presented by Patti Hoffman

April 23: Risen Movie and Lunch

Join us for lunch and a movie. We will be watching "Risen", which tells the story of a Roman tribune in 33 A.D. tasked with finding Jesus' body after his crucifixion. We'll also get to dissect the movie with a discussion afterwards. You can't have a movie without snacks, so we will be providing a pizza lunch as well!

April 30: Prayer Pretzels

Renowned Chef Terry Hoffman will lead the Sunday School, Youth Group, and Happy Hour in making "Prayer Pretzels". What are prayer pretzels, and how do they taste? Come on April 30th and find out!

YOUTH SUNDAY

Save the date: The Youth will be taking over services for the day!! Sunday May 7th is Youth Sunday, and the Youth have been hard at work planning and practicing. The Youth can not wait to express their faith by designing their own service!



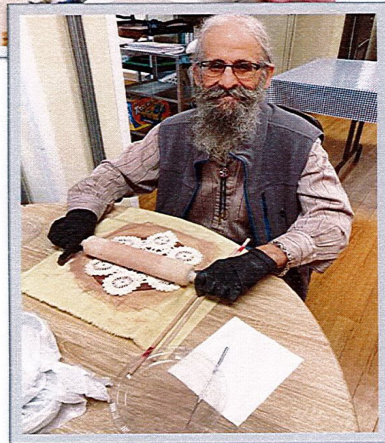
Youth enjoyed a great weekend renewing their faith, and had a ton of fun at Highpoint camp



The Youth also shopped for Jerusalem House, and filled great Easter baskets for the kids of Allentown.



*Volunteer
with
Slatington
Senior
Center!*



Lehigh County's Slatington Senior Center is looking for volunteers!!! The Slatington Senior Center is located at 425 Kuntz St. Slatington.

We are open from 9:30- 1:00 weekdays and need help serving lunch or leading an activity! Share your own gifts, talents and interests with others and spend some time each week with a group that appreciates your help!

If you are interested, please contact Heather Nicolella at 610-782-3253 or heathernicolella@lehighcounty.org



Northern Lehigh - Crackers and hygiene items

Parkland Cares - Mac & Cheese, Applesauce cups and pouches, Canned Soups, Granola Bars and Tuna and Chicken Snack Pouches

Our Little Pantry - Canned Ravioli and Pastas, Pancake Mix, Mac & Cheese, Boxed Pasta, Pasta Sauce in plastic containers

Please note!

Catechetical Class for April

**Moved from April 16 to
April 25th**

Girls Night Out April

14th at Teresa's

6561 Tilghman St. Allentown, PA

27th at Vivo

4558 Crackersport Rd Allentown, PA

RSVP with the office



Prayer Shawl Ministry

***will be meeting on Tuesday,
April 11 at 1:00 p.m.***

Do you know someone who could use some support or comfort in their life? We have prayer shawls that could be the support and comfort they need. Please contact me to arrange to receive a prayer shawl.

Sandy Castaldi

phone – 484-262-0425 or

text – 631-697-3078.

BAPTISM



Greyson Karl-Lee Kieffer

Baptized March 12, 2023

**Son of Ryan Jay Kieffer
& Sarah Ann (Drumm) Fister**

From the Cemetery Commission:

Part-time employment opportunities are available for caring for the Union Church Cemetery. Duties include the mowing of the cemetery property, weed eating around the memorials, preparing for and oversight of burials and cremations, prepare foundations for memorials, and general maintenance of cemetery grounds and property.

Candidates shall enjoy working outdoors, in all weather conditions, be familiar with lawn mowing equipment, be able to lift 50 pounds and perform light digging and raking of ground. Please contact Union Church Cemetery secretary/treasurer Phil Wehr at 610-767-3657 for more information.



Coffee with a Therapist

March 23 | 6 - 7 p.m.

Avoiding Injuries with Spring Activities

April 27 | 12 - 1 p.m.

Balance Screening and Fall Prevention

Join Good Shepherd Rehabilitation for free coffee and a chance to chat with our physical therapy experts.

Where: Union Evangelical Lutheran Church, 5500 Rt. 873, Schnecksville

RSVP: 610-769-7299 (Option 2)

GOOD SHEPHERD
REHABILITATION 

DON'T GET SCAMMED...



Lottery Scam

I received a call that I won 10 million dollars in a lottery. To receive the 10 million, I need to wire \$5000 to pay the taxes.

TAXES ARE ALWAYS TAKEN OUT OF THE LOTTERY WINNINGS



Email/Phishing Scam

A phishing scam is an email that looks suspicious and has a link to an outside website. If the link is clicked on, then scammers can gather personal information and commit identity theft.



Publishers Clearing House Scam

I was contacted by scammers claiming to be Publishers Clearing House. They told me I have to pay a fee to cover taxes to get the winnings sent to me.

THE PRIZE PATROL SURPRISES PEOPLE AT THEIR DOOR WITH A CHECK.

**LEHIGH COUNTY
OFFICE OF AGING
AND ADULT SERVICES**



Federal Fraud Hotline 855.303.9470

Faith
devoted



CHURCH
FAMILY



Support
generous
humility
accepting
Encouragement

humble
love
understanding
Prayers





Decorating committee hard at work with decor for the Lenten season!
How unique! Thank you!!!



Journeymen

April 8 at 7am

Coffee, bagels, friends & service!

Rm. 103-014





DESIGNER PURSE



Coach Michael Kors Kate Spade Vera Bradley

SUN, MAY 21, 2023

Doors open 11:30 am - Bingo Starts at 1 pm

Presale: \$25/20 games

At the door: \$30 (limited availability)

Special games, basket raffle tickets and food available for purchase the day of the event



UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH
5500 RT. 873 SCHNECKSVILLE

WWW.ULCLV.ORG
610-767-6884

Funeral Luncheon Hospitality – with the help and leadership of *amazing* volunteers, ULC has been able to offer luncheon opportunities to the families and guests at funerals. Jane Borbe has led this amazing service for 20+ years. At this time Jane will be stepping down as lead for this ministry. We are currently looking for an individual to take over. There are wonderful volunteers that will help to make the luncheons happen. The need is for someone to order the food, pick up the food and coordinate volunteers. Contact the office or talk to Pastor if you are interested.

*With deepest
sympathy
to his family*

Karl Drumm

Feb. 12, 1936—March 23, 2023

Union Evangelical Lutheran Church

5500 Route 873 Schnecksville, PA 18078

610-767-6884 Church Office

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

Facebook.com/ulclv



Union Lutheran Staff

Pastor	The Rev. Gordon A. Camp pastor@ulclv.org Cell 610-554-8061
Pastor Emeritus	The Rev. Dennis W. Moore
Treasurer	Cathy C. Shaffer
Director of Music	Susan Frickert
Communication Specialist	Katie Stauter
Sexton	Terry P. Hoffman
Faith Formation Coordinator	Josh Dietz
Parish Nurses	Dottie Bealer and Jane Borbe