

**“By grace you have been saved”**

As August winds down that means one thing is coming - school!

There were two things that I did not always like about school: the stress and grades. I never was a bad student at school, nor did I ever get bad grades. (Well make that really bad grades) In fact, I often got good ones. Despite that, the pressure and work to get an “A” can be intense. Perhaps you remember the many nights of studying to make sure that you would get an “A” on a test or final. Or the many hours of work that would go into a paper, and then getting nervous to see what grade you would get.

Being graded is a normal part of life though. We are graded and evaluated by our performance not just at a place like school, but in our work or social lives as well. Our status and standing at work is determined by how well we perform and by how our boss or supervisor may “grade” us. At home, we can be “graded” as a spouse, parent, grandparent, sibling, friend, cousin, or neighbor strictly by what we do.

We even see the same in our spiritual life. When we compare ourselves and our lives against God’s Commandments, we see that we get a failing grade. We don’t even come close to passing, even if God would round up or grade on a curve.

Fortunately, when it comes to our salvation and relationship with God, it is not based on what we do, but rather what *He* does. Paul makes that clear in Ephesians 2. He says, “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved...” If you didn’t see Paul’s point here, he repeats it again a few verses later. He says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” We are saved not by what we do, but rather by what Jesus has done for us: He died and rose again for us. He saved us when we were *dead in our trespasses*, when we had a “failing grade.” We are saved by His grace, not by our “grade” or works. Jesus’ righteousness and merits are given and applied to us. God sees us as righteous in His sight and not as sinners who deserve condemnation. Our salvation is accomplished and certain. We don’t need to fear about that, or doubt it. In Christ, you have a passing grade.

*Pastor Camp*



# "From Lament to Praise: The Psalms"

*in concert*



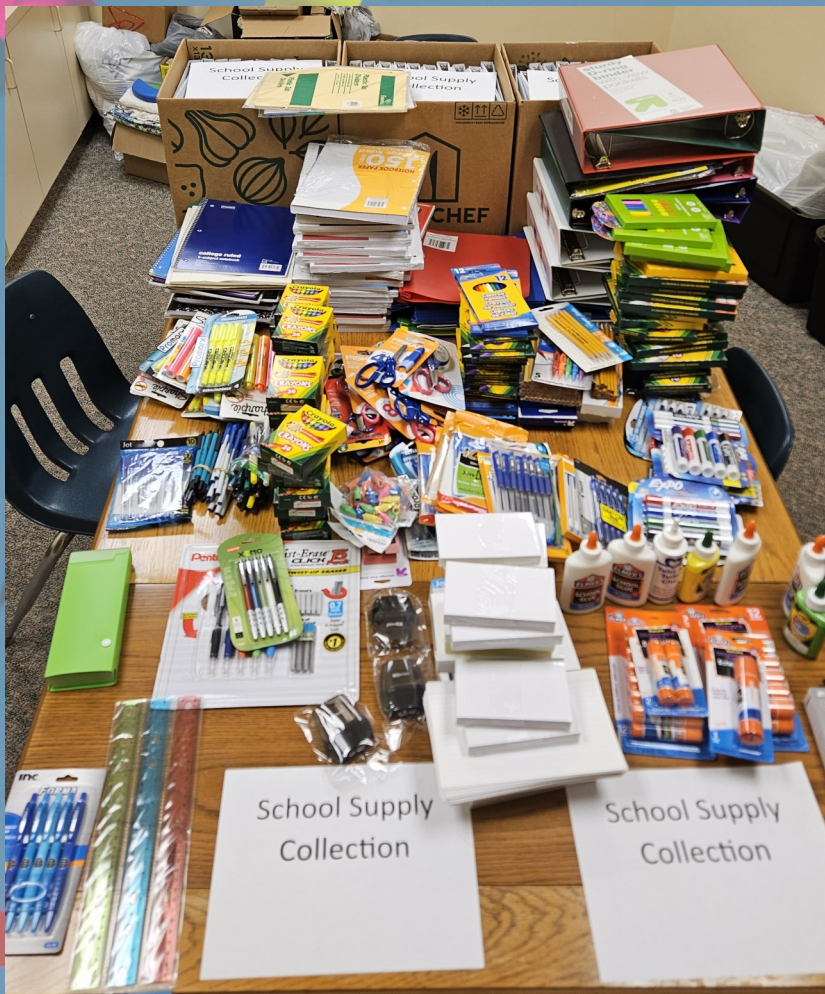
Directed by Susan L. Frickert

Sunday, September 24, 2023 at 4:00 pm

Ticket Donation  
\$10

Union Lutheran Church  
5500 Rt. 873 Schnecksville, Pa

610-767-6884  
office@ulclv.org



**Thanks to  
everyone who  
donated school  
supplies!  
Community  
children will be  
ready for back  
to school due to  
your support!**



## BIBLE STUDY

Saturday, September 2, 9 a.m., in room 202



Come join us as we embark on our next Bible Study – **“Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes,”** by Judy Yates Siker.

The author invites us on “a journey to expand our understanding of who Jesus was and is – a journey of our hearts and minds, a journey that we will take together.” She invites us to be good conversation partners, sharing with one another as we experience the various lenses through which Jesus is seen and how these perspectives impact our understanding of Jesus.

This Bible Study consists of nine lessons each exploring the question “Who is Jesus?” looking through a particular theological lens.

For example, Who is Jesus according to Mark?

- ... according to Matthew?
- ... according to Paul?
- ... according to the Hebrews?
- ... according to other Abrahamic faiths?
- ... according to contemporary cultural interpretations?

Attending all sessions is not necessary for understanding and participation. Workbooks will be provided. Questions? Please call or text Linda Rebuck at 610-613-6196 or [Linda.Rebuck@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.Rebuck@gmail.com).

Looking forward to seeing you on Saturday, September 2!



**Sept. 28th @ 6 pm**

**Plaza Azteca**

2835 Lehigh St.

Allentown, PA 18103

**RSVP Here!**

**Save the Date**

**Oct. 21st**

**Trunk  
or  
Treat**



**Fall Fun/Halloween Party**

**October 29th**

**11 am after worship**

*Food, Halloween stations,  
friends. Formal RSVP to follow*

**SIP IN**  
**Share**  
**September 15th**  
**@ 6pm**



**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

**Sept. 12 @ 1pm**

**“Thank you for the prayers and get well wishes  
while I’ve been recovering from surgery.  
I am grateful to have a supportive and loving church  
family. I am thankful for all your prayers. “**

**Bob Banzhoff**



# VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone,  
iPad & Android



Our church directory is a great resource tool to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for **Instant Church Directory**  and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to **CREATE A LOGIN** the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.



## HELP FIGHT HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY



### Northern Lehigh

dry pasta, Mac & Cheese, canned fruits, canned vegetables

### Parkland Cares

canned soup, Mac & Cheese, ravioli, tuna

### Our Little Pantry

September - canned pasta, tuna and chicken.

The following are the items we stock in our pantry

canned pasta, tuna, chicken, vegetables, fruits, soups - cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix syrup - dry pasta and pasta sauce - Mac & Cheese, peanut butter and jelly, applesauce cups.

Each Month we will be featuring a few of these items but feel free to purchase anything that is on the list for donation. Reminder no glass jars, please.

**[Click here to donate and we will shop for you.](#)**





# September 10th

**Sunday School:** Sunday School will start its new season on Rally Day (Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>). Starting September 17<sup>th</sup>, Sunday School will then meet every week from 10:15-11:00am. We are also looking for teachers for this upcoming session! You could volunteer weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or simply be a substitute! The lessons will be provided for you. Please contact Josh at [su-prman@ptd.net](mailto:su-prman@ptd.net), call/text him at 610-844-8606, or message the church office if interested. Contact him before he contacts you ;)

**Youth Group:** Youth Group will start its new season on Rally Day (Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>). Starting September 17<sup>th</sup>, Sunday School will then meet every week from 10:15-11:00am. In the meantime, we are getting ready for the ELC Youth Gathering 2024, which will be held in New Orleans from July 16<sup>th</sup> - July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024! All eligible youth (8<sup>th</sup> Grade to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade) are invited to join. An informational meeting was held in August with Pastor Camp and the Youth Group Leaders. Please reach out to the church office if you have ANY INTEREST in going. Registration information is due Sept. 22nd!!!

**Elementary Youth Group:** Our next Elementary Youth Group (EYG) outing will be on at Rolling Hills Golf Course on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from Noon-1pm. We ask that families pay for their child(ren) to play one round of golf, but we'll provide an ice cream treat at the end! EYG is open to anyone in elementary school. Feel free to bring a friend! Our October EYG will be held on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 11am (after Sunday School). We'll be having a Halloween Pizza Party!

**VBS:** Please mark your calendar for VBS 2024, which will be held from Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> through Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024! We will be keeping the same format: 5:45-8:00pm, with dinner served for free from 5-5:45pm. We hope you can join us (and volunteer)!





**Join us for our first meeting of this new season on Rally Day (Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>). The Fall 2023 calendar will be distributed on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Here are the topics for the next few weeks:**

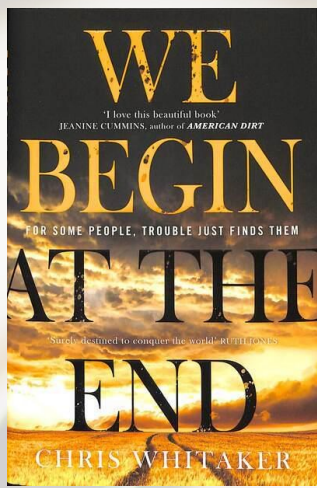
9/10: Music with Susan: Our first session is “Music with Susan”, where our amazing Director of Music, Susan Frickert will lead us as we learn some music, play some instruments, and make some Joyful Noise!!

9/17: The Essence of Worship (Led by Herb Gifford): A study and discussion led by Herb Gifford, looking at liturgy as a way of making worship relevant, connecting with other believers, avoiding self-serving, subjective practices and worshipping God in Spirit and truth.

9/24: Creation, Part 1: Biblical (Led by Pastor Camp): Join us for a 2-part series on Creation. Pastor Camp will lead the first session on 9/24, where he will take present a biblical perspective of creation, the creation story, and how the story of creation is still relevant in today’s world. Graeme Camp will lead the second session on Creation on 10/1.

10/1: Creation, Part 2: AI Creation (Led by Graeme Camp): Continuing our 2part series on Creation, Graeme Camp will lead a session on 10/1 looking at Creation from a technological perspective. God created us, and now we have a chance to serve as creators of life; specifically in the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Are we playing God? What is our role? Join us on 10/1 to find out!





Our next selection is *We Begin at the End* by Christian Whitaker.

Walk, the chief of police, has never left the coastal California town where he grew up. He's still trying to heal the old wound of having given the testimony that sent his best friend, Vincent King, to prison decades before. Now, thirty years later, Vincent is being released.

Duchess is a thirteen-year-old self-proclaimed outlaw. Her mother, Star, grew up with Walk and Vincent. Walk is in overdrive trying to protect them, but Vincent and Star seem bent on sliding deeper into self-destruction. Star always burned bright, but recently that light has dimmed, leaving Duchess to parent not only her mother but her five-year-old brother. At school the other kids make fun of Duchess—her clothes are torn, her hair a mess. But let them throw their sticks, because she'll throw stones. Rules are for other people. She's just trying to survive and keep her family together.

A fortysomething-year-old sheriff and a thirteen-year-old girl may not seem to have a lot in common. But they both have come to expect that people will disappoint you, loved ones will leave you, and if you open your heart it will be broken. So when trouble arrives with Vincent King, Walk and Duchess find they will be unable to do anything but usher it in, arms wide closed.

Chris Whitaker has written an extraordinary novel about people who deserve so much more than life serves them. At times devastating, with flashes of humor and hope throughout, it is ultimately an inspiring tale of how the human spirit prevails and how, in the end, love—in all its different guises—wins.

Discussion Sept. 24th at 10:15am



## “Project Warmth”

supports  
Northern Lehigh  
Food Bank

winter hats

Gloves

Scarves

cozy socks

blankets

lap robes

afghans

Youth and adult sizes  
New or  
handmade only



## ELCA WORLD HUNGER Babcock Ranch, Florida

When Pastor Matt Shapton began his first call, he didn't have an office in a church building or an established congregation to serve. What he did have was a golf cart, which he rode around downtown Babcock Ranch in his clerical collar and stole, offering communion to his new neighbors. His wasn't a traditional way of starting a church, but that was by design. Matt wanted to help create something new, in a new way.

Matt became interested in mission development while he was studying at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. The idea of building new missions from the ground up appealed to him. Before discerning his call to ministry, he had a career as a skilled tradesman and small business owner. He identifies himself as self-driven, with an entrepreneurial spirit, saying, "I like having the ability to change the narrative a little."

When Matt chose to concentrate on mission development, the staff at Wartburg nominated him to receive a \$10,000 Mission Developer Scholarship from ELCA Fund for Leaders. This special scholarship provides support for students with extraordinary gifts for church-planting, above and beyond the cost of tuition. He was also receiving support from his home congregation, so his Fund for Leaders scholarship relieved some of the financial pressure on that community.

Matt is extremely grateful for the support he received from his church and from the donors who made his Fund for Leaders scholarship possible. "Having this faith community around me — not only in prayer and discernment but also to say, 'You know what? We're going to help you through this, we believe in you, we support you, we trust that it's a good investment for the whole church' — that was the thing that allowed me to take the step."

After graduating from seminary, Matt moved with his wife and four kids to Babcock Ranch in hope of starting a new ELCA mission there. The Babcock Ranch website calls it "tomorrow's hometown." Its first residents arrived in 2018, and it is the first solar-powered city in the United States. The ELCA Florida-Bahamas Synod identified it as a good place for a new mission, partly because the city's focus on sustainability aligns with the ELCA's commitment to environmental stewardship.

As a pastor, Matt wanted to grow a ministry that was deeply rooted in the community and that truly met the needs of his neighbors. In winter 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, he remembers, "People were just hungry for church. They wanted to be loved, they wanted to connect." So, he began leading outdoor services in addition to offering communion from his golf cart. He recalls people being brought to tears as they received the eucharist because they hadn't been to church in so long.

Pastor Matt's mission, the Community Church, has grown since those initial golf cart days. First the group met for worship in his house; every Sunday he and his wife would move all their living room furniture into their bedroom to clear space for services. Eventually the congregation outgrew the Shaptons' living room and began renting the gym at the local community center. Matt hopes to construct a permanent church building that can serve the congregation and the wider community. Worship, he explains, is only a small part of what the Community Church does. "We come here to be fed and sent out."

After Hurricane Ian the congregation collected donations and served meals to people who had been displaced by the storm. Recently the group hosted its third annual Earth Day fair, with everything from food trucks to Smokey the Bear. "We are part of everything that happens in this community," he says.

Pastor Matt is grateful to the supporters of ELCA World Hunger for all the work they have made possible. "Thank you for empowering innovative ministry," he says. "Thank you for walking alongside people who would not otherwise have the opportunity to be creative — to re-envision what the church looks like for the future." He hopes that donors such as you will continue to invest in **ELCA World Hunger** and in mission developers, and to spread the word. Your support will strengthen ministries such as the Community Church in the present and the future. Please use the **ELCA World Hunger** envelopes in the pew racks or send, or bring, your offerings to our ULC church office, clearly marking them for **ELCA World Hunger**.



OLD FRIENDS - NEW FRIENDS

# YOUTH GROUP

We have a big year coming up!

**SEPTEMBER 10TH** 10:15am

**MUM SALE** fundraiser now!

**TRUNK OR TREAT** Oct. 21

**BASKET SOCIAL** Oct. 27, 28





# Book Fest 2023

Sunday, Sept. 10th

10-Noon

Family Life Center

Can you help with a volunteer shift?  
email [bjsm2@ptd.net](mailto:bjsm2@ptd.net) or [ministries@ulclv.org](mailto:ministries@ulclv.org)



**Book donation times  
OR  
deliver to church office**

9/5 @ 6:30pm-8pm

9/7 @ 6:30pm-8pm

9/9 @ 9am - Noon

**Event**

**volunteers needed:**

9/5 @ 6:30pm-8pm

9/7 @ 6:30pm-8pm

9/9 @ 9am - Noon

**Event**

**volunteers needed:**

9/10 @ 10am-Noon

9/10 @ Noon - 12:30pm

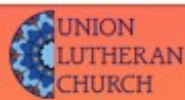
**Union Evangelical Lutheran Church is looking for a Treasurer, as Cathy Shaffer is retiring.**

*The Treasurer is a part-time position and is accountable to the Pastor, the Church Council, and the congregation. The Treasurer is also an officer of the congregation. Candidate must have the ability to: prepare financial reports, process payroll, perform bookkeeping functions, and monitor investments. This position, although approximately 15 hrs./week, is flexible with adjustments made for the demands of the church year.*

*Compensation of \$19+/hour, depending on experience. To be reviewed after 90-day probationary period. Paid vacation is awarded based on length of continuous service with the church. A 5% employer contribution to 403B.*

*These hours may be fulfilled in the church office, at home, at evening meetings or by other special arrangements as agreed to with the Pastor. The Staff Support Committee will support the personal and administrative needs of the Treasurer. Applicants shall submit all resumes to the Union Lutheran Church of-  
fice via email [office@ulclv.org](mailto:office@ulclv.org)*





# Basket Party

5500 Rt. 873 Schnecksville, Pa



## October 27 5-8pm & October 28 9am-2pm

Drawing will start at 2 pm

Pre-order Tickets  
5 sheets for \$20  
or  
\$5 sheet at  
the door

Ticket Sales:  
[www.ulclv.org](http://www.ulclv.org)  
Office hours  
after worship

New Adult Socks  
& Underware or  
Bag of non  
perishable food =  
1 FREE  
sheet of tickets

Kids-  
come in costume  
for a chance to win  
Giant Kids Basket

? | 610.767.6884 office@ulclv.org

Pick up  
Baskets

Oct. 27 3-5pm Family Life Center  
Oct. 28 10am - Noon Family Life Center  
Oct. 31 4pm - 7pm Front Dor

Kitchen will be open.

Special Raffles for High Priced Items!



PA HEARTS FOR MUSIC IS PLAYING AT...



**EASTERN PA DOWN  
SYNDROME CENTER'S ANNUAL**

# BUDDY WALK

PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
THE START OF THE  
FALL SEASON OF HFM!

**PERFORMANCE:**  
SAT. OCTOBER 7TH  
FROM 3 TO 4PM



## REHEARSAL DATES :

MON. SEPTEMBER 11TH:  
4:30 - 5:30 PM

MON. SEPTEMBER 18TH:  
4:30 - 5:30 PM

MON. SEPTEMBER 25TH:  
4:30 - 5:30 PM

FRI. OCTOBER 6TH:  
4:30 - 6:30 PM

**PLEASE VISIT [ULCLV.ORG](http://ULCLV.ORG) AND CLICK ON THE  
HEARTS FOR MUSIC LOGO TO REGISTER!**

**TIKTOK AND INSTAGRAM:**  
[@HEARTS\\_MUSIC\\_PA](https://www.instagram.com/HEARTS_MUSIC_PA)



# FUNSTERS

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28** – A “Golf Cart” tour of the **RODALE INSTITUTE** in Kutztown followed by lunch at **FOLINO'S ESTATE WINERY**. The tour provides information about the farm, the current research projects and how Rodale Institute is helping heal our planet through regenerative organic agriculture. Cost for the tour is \$12.50 pp and lunch is on your own. While not all the details can be confirmed with Rodale until a later date, it appears we will be limited to a group of 20. Please contact Roy Bottjer (610-217-5343 or 610-217-5140) if you are interested in being included in the tour.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28** – Carpool to the **HUNTERDON HILLS PLAYHOUSE** in the Clinton ,NJ area for lunch (5 entrees to choose from) and a matinee performance of “**CHRISTMAS AT THE PLAYHOUSE**” written especially for HHP by award winning writers. Cost \$82pp. Contact Millie Ruth (610-760-1731) for additional information. Payment should be made directly to Millie no later than October 30.

## Coffee with a Therapist!

Save the date: September 28th 6-7 pm

“Occupational Therapy and how it benefits you with your everyday activities.”

*Presented by: Good Shepherd Therapy*

<https://www.goodshepherdrehab.org/blog/what-is-occupational-therapy/>

[Sign up today!](#)





# Elementary Youth Group Mini Golf

Join us Sunday,  
Sept. 17th  
Noon - 1 pm

Our next Elementary Youth Group (EYG) outing will be on at Rolling Hills Golf Course on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from Noon-1pm.

We ask that families pay for their child(ren) to play one round of golf (\$8.50 per round), but we'll provide the ice cream treat at the end!

EYG is open to anyone in elementary school.  
Feel free to bring a friend!

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**Rolling Hills Recreation**  
4565 Spring Hill Rd  
Schnecksville  
(off of Sand Spring Road)

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# Union Evangelical Lutheran Church

5500 Route 873 Schnecksville, PA 18078

610-767-6884 Church Office

**Website:** [www.ulclv.org](http://www.ulclv.org) **email:** office@ulclv.org

**Facebook.com/ulclv**

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

Congregational Council Members	
<b>Charles Mosser, III</b>	Council President/Union Board Member
<b>Kandy Lang</b>	Council Vice President
<b>Valerie Snyder</b>	Council Secretary & Christian Education/Union Board Alt.
<b>Cathy C. Shaffer</b>	Council Treasurer
<b>Robert Drews</b>	Library Committee/Union Board Member
<b>Debra Geiger</b>	Fundraising Committee/Union Board Alt.
<b>Sherwood Geiger</b>	Worship & Music Committee
<b>Brian Geren</b>	Property Committee & Mentoring Committee/Union Board VP
<b>Sally Grim</b>	Social Ministry Committee/Union Board Secretary
<b>Debra Grundstrom</b>	Staff Support Committee
<b>Patti Hoffman</b>	Fellowship Committee
<b>Barbara Mahoney</b>	Christian Life Committee
<b>Jason Marakovits</b>	Finance Committee

A copy of the monthly Council Meeting Minutes can be found on the bulletin board in the upstairs hallway or in the church office.

