

Among the countless Christmas legends, there is a Polish one involving a Christmas spider. According to this legend, when Joseph was warned in a dream to flee from King Herod and the massacre which he intended to inflict upon the children of Bethlehem, several animals from the manger decided to accompany the Holy Family on their journey. Each of the animals was determined to protect the baby Jesus, and each felt sure his or her particular talents would prove invaluable in that task. There also happened to be a spider who wanted to come. Yet none of the other animals felt the spider would be helpful. After all, she was only an insect. She had no keen ears or sharp teeth, no strong bones and no claws whatsoever. However, the spider persistently pleaded to be included, until at last the other animals agreed she could join them, provided she did not get in the way.

As the journey unfolded, all of the other supposedly brave animals either were frightened off or else were distracted. With Herod's troops on the march, and with the Holy Family growing more and more tired, Joseph and Mary had little choice but to try and hide. Finding a small cave, they huddled inside, seeking shelter and rest, with the donkey and the spider their only remaining companions. Holding Jesus in her arms, Mary gently rocked him to sleep, and, for a while, it appeared everything would be fine. They realized that the soldiers were getting close and would soon find them. Seeking to be of help in some small way, the spider carefully wove a web over the opening of the cave to try to keep the family safe.

The spider had just finished her weaving when suddenly voices were heard outside the cave. The soldiers had caught up with the Holy Family, and they were diligently searching the entire area. When they came to the cave where the Holy Family was hidden, both Mary and Joseph held their breath, certain their doom was upon them. Yet the soldiers passed by the cave. One soldier said it was a waste of time to search it, since anyone who had entered the cave would have broken the spider's web over the opening. Thus it was that the seemingly insignificant spider saved the day; and the legend goes on to say that this is why we hang tinsel on our Christmas trees ... to remind us of the silver strands of the web which the little spider wove ... and to remind us that no act of kindness, no act of courage, no act through which we seek peace with justice is ever wasted.

Merry Christmas!





The decorating team was at it again! Many, many hours of hard work and the results are these stars, that will adorn the tree in the Gathering Space. Each star was hand cut from old sheet music, folded, glued and then decorated with glitter. The team created an assembly line in room 203 in order to make this happen! What a clever way to upcycle and decorate the tree as we prepare for our Savior's arrival! Thank you to ALL who donated their time and talents.





# "Christmas at Korney's"



Korney's Tavern @ Kornfeind's Market

**December 15th at 6pm**

**Sign UP**

*"Cultivating Meaningful Conversations"*



**Sunday, December 31**

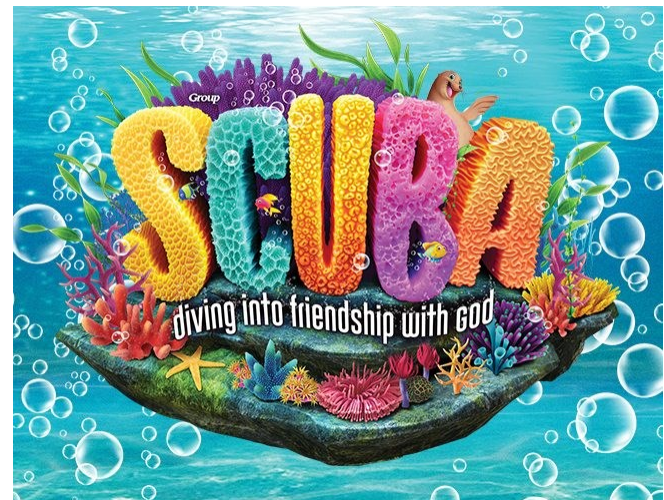
- Countdown to 10 am
- Goodies for the kiddos
- Grape Juice Toast with your church family



**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

**Tuesday, Dec. 12th**

**@ 1 pm**



**VBS 2024**

**June 24<sup>th</sup> - June 28<sup>th</sup>**

**5:45-8:00pm**

**Free Dinner 5-5:45pm.**

**We hope you can join us (and volunteer)!**

**January 13th**

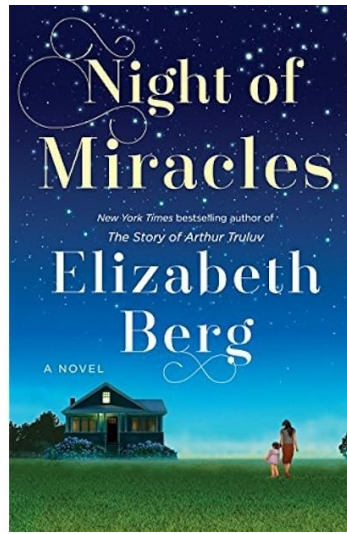
**Journeyman Chicken Pot Dinner**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Our next selection is

**The Night of Miracles**  
**by Elizabeth Berg.**

Lucille Howard is getting on in years, but she stays busy. Thanks to the inspiration of her dearly departed friend Arthur Truluv, she has begun to teach baking classes, sharing the secrets to her delicious classic Southern yellow cake, the perfect pinwheel cookies, and other sweet essentials. Her classes have become so popular that she's hired Iris, a new resident of Mason, Missouri, as an assistant. Iris doesn't know how to bake but she needs to keep her mind off a big decision she sorely regrets.



When a new family moves in next door and tragedy strikes, Lucille begins to look out for Lincoln, their son. Lincoln's parents aren't the only ones in town facing hard choices and uncertain futures. In these difficult times, the residents of Mason come together and find the true power of community--just when they need it the most.

.Join us Sunday, January 14 to discuss this heartwarming novel that reminds us that the people we come to love are often the ones we don't expect.



**BIBLE STUDY**

**Saturday, December 2, 9 a.m.,  
in room 206/207**

Join us as we go further into our study -- **“Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes,”** by Judy Yates Siker.

In December we'll look through Luke's lens and see Jesus as God's prophet who brings a radical message of inclusion for the outcast and reversal of fortune that will accompany the coming kingdom of God.

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, December 2!

Dec. 3

10:00 am Meet at church to carpool and shop  
for gifts for Jerusalem House Ministries

12:30 pm Eat Lunch at DiFiore's Pizza in Neffs

2:00 pm Parents pick up from church by Youth  
Group Room

Dec. 10

10-11 am Wrap gifts for Jerusalem House

Dec. 17

10:00 am Youth Group Christmas Party!  
Food, Bible Escape Room, Games

***Bring \$5 Exchange gift***

2 pm Deliver gifts & coats to Jerusalem  
House

3 pm Parents pick up from church by Youth  
Group Room

Dec. 24 No Youth Group-Merry Christmas

**Come as you are!**  
**Bring a friend!**

**YOUTH  
GROUP**





**RSVP**  
**HERE!**

**December 28**

**Wild Turkey Grill—**

**Twin Lakes Country Club**

**Annual Meeting**

**December 10th**

**after Worship**

**Closed Agenda**

**Budget Approval**

# December Donation Items



Canned veggies  
canned fruits  
canned soups

**Click here to donate**  
**and we will shop for**  
**you.**



*Poinsettia Sponsorship*

**\$10**

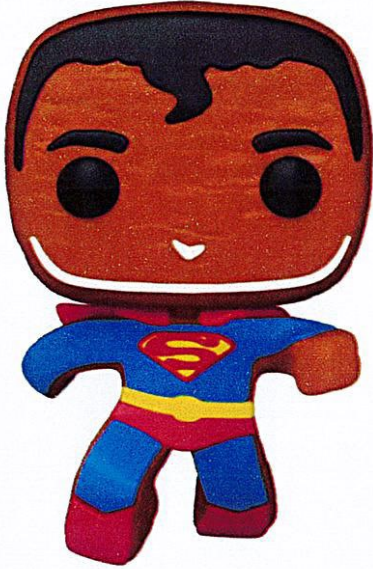
*Flowers can be picked up  
after the 9 pm worship on  
Christmas Eve*

Contact the office or

**Sponsor here**



# EYG COOKIE MAKING



SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 10TH  
11AM-1PM



- COOKIE BAKING AND TASTING
- GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING
- PIZZA, SNACKS, CANDY CANES
- CHRISTMAS MOVIES
- SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PLAY  
FILMING

JOIN US FOR OUR DECEMBER ELEMENTARY YOUTH GROUP (EYG) AS WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS! WE WILL BE MAKING AND EATING COOKIES, DECORATING GINGERBREAD HOUSES, AND FILMING OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PLAY! OUR FESTIVITIES WILL START AFTER SUNDAY SCHOOL.

RSVP TO THE CHURCH OFFICE  
SO WE KNOW YOU'RE COMING!

[RSVP Here!](#)



# Happy Hour

[Have an idea?](#)  
[Click Here!](#)

**December 3**, Herb Gifford will lead the Happy Hour class in dealing with twelve important faith questions by asking "What Do You Think?" Too often the Church has told people what to think rather than how to think. This session will allow us to freely share how we really feel without fear of judgmental reactions.

**December 10**, Happy Hour will be hosting a White Elephant Gift Exchange. Bring a wrapped ornament gift (something of \$5 value or less). It could be something awesome, funny, or a little odd...(maybe an ugly, old ornament you inherited from your great aunt?). We will take turn exchanging our gifts, unwrapping, and laughing at what we get. Oh, and people can "steal" gifts, so some festive fun will surely ensue! We encourage creativity!

**December 17**, Lectio Divina: Christmas Bible Verse Study (Led by Emily Black): Dr. Emily Black will once again lead her popular Lectio Divina, which is a sacred reading practice where you use a book as a "sacred text" (in this case, the bible) and then look for meaning related to a specific topic. The topic this time will be one of the Christmas gospels considering Christmas will be just over a week away. Join us on 12/17 for a festive time!

**December 24**, Merry Christmas—No Class Today

**December 31**, Happy New Year—No Class Today



## **ELCA WORLD HUNGER:**           Gambia

Anna Gomez is caretaker of a cashew farm in Gambia. Harvests give her an opportunity to work with neighbors and earn an income she can use to meet her family's needs. The work is hard, but Anna has remained steadfast in her commitment to the farm's success. The war in Ukraine has made local farms and jobs even more important for Anna and her neighbors in

Gambia. Ukraine is often called "the breadbasket of Europe," but in truth Ukrainian farmers feed people all over the world. More than 80% of Gambia's wheat imports come from Ukraine, and with these shipments slowed or halted, many Gambians face long-term food shortages and price inflation.

This is what makes the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of The Gambia (ELCG), supported by your gifts to **ELCA World Hunger**, especially important now. The cashew project in which Anna participated is one of several initiatives aimed at building food security and creating new opportunities for Gambians. In this project, women and girls from rural areas with high rates of poverty learn how to grow and market cashew nuts for income. With the additional money, women can afford food, clothing and school fees for their children.

For the girls, many of whom had dropped out of school because they couldn't afford to continue, the project means a new chance at getting an education. With the money they have earned, the girls have been able to pay exam fees and earn college credits so they can continue their studies.

The work has not been easy or smooth. Nevertheless, they persisted. When the only cashew processing facility in Gambia closed, the women and girls began transporting their cashews to a facility in neighboring Senegal, where they could sell the cashews for a higher price than they could in Gambia. The leadership training provided by the ELCG gave the women confidence to transform an obstacle into an opportunity.

Now they are using their training to grow their businesses, save for the future and invest in the young girls who work with them. With greater profits, increased confidence and new business leadership skills, the women and girls are working together toward a brighter future. Last year, 70% of the participants in the trainings are actively buying and selling cashews, already benefiting nearly 150 people in the community, with more neighbors expected to participate as the project grows.

The unfortunate reality of hunger is that the most vulnerable communities often have little control over the global forces impacting them. We may not be able to prevent every war or trade disruption, but the women and girls of the ELCG cashew project have demonstrated the power of investing in local communities and the change that comes from working and learning together. For Anna Gomez and her neighbors, it meant transforming a future of bleak economic forecasts into one filled with hope and new opportunities.

Your generous giving to **ELCA World Hunger** makes stories like this a reality for so many people in the United States and around the world. Please use the pew envelopes to give your gift or drop it off in our ULC church office, clearly marking it **ELCA World Hunger**.

[\*\*Donate to ELCA World Hunger\*\*](#)



Union Lutheran Church  
**Young Adult Homecoming  
Worship**

DEC. 24, 2023  
9 am

We invite all young adults  
coming home for Christmas,  
to participate in the worship  
service.

We at ULC are thinking of you,  
value you and miss you ALL!

*Worship Leaders*

*Communion Assistants*

*Worship Music participants*

*Readers*

*Greeters*

*Ushers*

Worship and Music will  
host a

Thank you brunch  
after worship.

**[Click here to RSVP](#)**



**3 pm-Family Service**

***Featuring the Junior Choir &  
StarSong***

**7 pm**

***Featuring the Praise Band &  
Glory Ringers***

**9 pm**

***Featuring the Union Chorale  
& Glory Ringers***

**Candlelight, Communion and  
Carols at all of the services**



# Advent Food Collection

The Social Ministry Committee is sponsoring a collection of food for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank and Parkland Cares that will take place like an Advent Calendar. Each day during Advent there will be a certain food item on the calendar to add to your box.

We will have a drop off for the boxes at the church the week of December 18 - 24, 2023 during office hours or at a worship and will deliver for the new year.

Please be sure all contents are plastic or cardboard.

- December 1 - Box of cereal
- December 2 - Small jar of peanut butter
- December 3 - Small box of granola bars
- December 4 - Canned soup of choice
- December 5 - Macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - Chicken noodle soup
- December 7 - Toothpaste
- December 8 - Small can of tuna
- December 9 - Canned peas
- December 10 - Jelly in plastic jar
- December 11 - Toothbrush
- December 12 - Syrup
- December 13 - Canned green beans
- December 14 - Box of pasta
- December 15 - Box or can of potatoes
- December 16 - Pasta sauce in plastic jar
- December 17 - Applesauce pouches/cups or fruit cups
- December 18 - Small box Nutri Grain bars
- December 19 - Small box oatmeal packets
- December 20 - Small box hot chocolate packets
- December 21 - Can of corn
- December 22 - Can of Chef Boyardee pasta
- December 23 - Pancake mix
- December 24 - Can of chicken

*Please join us and help our neighbors in need!*

# 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](mailto:office@ulclv.org)

**Facebook.com/ulclv**

## Union Lutheran Staff

<b>Pastor</b>	The Rev. Gordon A. Camp
	<a href="mailto:pastor@ulclv.org">pastor@ulclv.org</a> 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 Nurse</b>	Dottie Bealer

## 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.

