

What Will Grow this New Year?

With the New Year celebrations come the inevitable challenges to make a “new you” for yourself. Whether it be new fitness routines or dieting, this time of year is always so predictable.

The world tells us we can remake ourselves in whatever image we choose. This drive to remake ourselves harkens back to Adam & Eve. Even though they were made in God’s own image and likeness, they desired to remake themselves and, as the serpent promised, become like their own little gods.

During Christmas we sing all of our favorite Christmas carols that remind us of what Christ came to do in this world. One of those hymns, Joy to the World, has this beautiful stanza:

No more let sins and sorrows grow nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

We are taken back to Genesis, the “curse” of the Fall into Sin. It speaks of “thorns” infesting the cursed ground. But it also speaks of something wonderful. It speaks of the Christ coming and bringing blessings; blessings that continually flow over His church from His pierced side. It is from out of this sacrifice of Jesus that the greatest blessing occurs which this stanza also speaks of. The stanza says, “No more let sins and sorrows grow.”

We have no idea what will “grow” in this New Year. We hope it is filled with good days, but I bet it is safe to say there will be trying times. Thanks to Christ though, what will grow in this New Year are not our sins, but the forgiveness of our sins. Thanks to Christ, what will grow this New Year are not sorrows, but a grief that is mingled with the precious hope of the resurrection of the dead which provides us the greatest of comforts.

Pastor Camp

Behind the scenes
photos of members
of our church family
as they
decorate the church
for Christmas.



Journeyman Annual Gift Exchange—2023 Edition!

This is such a fun event they had it twice to make sure all that wanted to could participate!



Carl Gillikin, Ronald Bealer, Ron Bedics



Back: Dan Grim, John Shaffer, Roy Bottjer, Terry Hoffman

Front: Carl Gillikin, Ron Pugh, Jim Hersh



Sign UP

Friday, January 19th at 6pm

TGI Fridays

395 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA 18103

(Near Dorney Park)

“Cultivating Meaningful Conversations”

January Donation Items



Peanut Buter &

Jelly (plastic)

Applesauce cups

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



Saturday, January 6, 9 a.m.

room 206/207

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

In January, John’s lens is the one
through which we will see Jesus as the
Word of God made flesh who dwells
among us.

Attending all sessions is not necessary
for understanding and participation.
Workbooks will be provided. Ques-
tions? Please call or text Linda Rebuck
at 610-613-6196 or

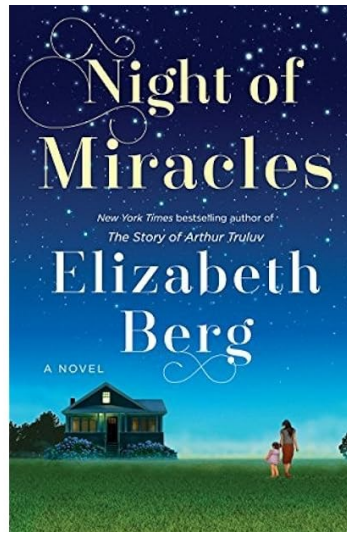
Linda.Rebuck@gmail.com.

Looking forward to seeing you on
Saturday, January 6!

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.

Holy Baptism

Mason Cole Yerger

Carter Rhys Yerger

Parents: Dylan Yerger

Mackenzie (Hoffman) Yerger



Youth Sunday

Planning meeting

10:15 am

Sunday, January 7th!

**Sunday, January 14th
4pm-5pm.**

We will be hosting a NERF BATTLE!
We will have an all-out Nerf war
throughout the church! Bring any
Nerf weapons you have.

Don't have a Nerf weapon?

Don't worry, we'll have extras!

And we'll have snacks! Can't wait
to see you there!!



RSVP NOW!

**YOUTH
GROUP**

meets every week from
10:15-11:00am. Join us
for laughter, discussion,
and faith-based fun!

Come as you are!

Bring a friend!

**SUNDAY
SCHOOL**

Join us on Sunday mornings
from 10:15-11:00am
starting in the Family Life
Center.

We are still looking for
extra teachers/
substitutes. The lessons
will be provided for you.

Please contact Josh at su-
prman@ptd.net, call/text
him at 610-844-8606, or
message the church
office if interested.

Who does the ULC Youth Group Shop for each year?

The primary outreach for our youth at ULC is Jerusalem House Ministries. JH is a mission in center city Allentown which services local families in its surrounding community.

This year our youth sponsored 40 Easter Baskets, organized a coat drive which collected 50+ coats and purchased, wrapped and delivered over 100+ Christmas Gifts for the children in which JH serves. This COULD NOT be done without the support of their church family.

The congregation's support of fundraisers, coat drives and collections throughout the year enables our youth to serve the community in this capacity. What a great example of Youth serving Youth!

We are so proud of each and everyone of them for making a difference so close to home!



ULC Youth Group with Dan Adams, JH Director while delivering the children's Christmas gifts.



Please enjoy the various images of the youth group shopping, wrapping, assembling and delivering the items this year!



Happy Hour

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

1/7: Paper Airplanes

(Led by Josh Dietz): What is the history of paper airplanes? What's the best way to make them fly? And most importantly, what does it have to do with church? Join us on January 7th and find out!

1/14: Lectio Divina

(Led by Emily Black): Dr. Emily Black will once again lead a Lectio Divina. Lectio Divina 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. Join us on 1/14 as we dive in together!

1/21: Immigration: Welcome the Stranger

(Led by Grace Olson): Join us as we dive into the history of immigration, both in the bible and in our present day lives. Jesus said to welcome the stranger, yet why are we so scared to let them in?

1/28: How to Choose a Bible

(Led by Herb Gifford)

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Fifty Years

In 2024, **ELCA World Hunger** celebrates fifty years of global impact. Each month we bring you stories of how people are helped by this ministry of our Church and will continue to share the opportunities afforded to us to reach out to those in need.

The **ELCA World Hunger** program has not only transformed the lives of countless numbers of people around the world, it has transformed our Church as well. Together we have learned how hunger, poverty and other justice issues intersect. We have deepened our understanding of how our baptism calls us to "strive for justice and peace in all the earth." We have been strengthened in hope by the decline in hunger since we began this work half a century ago. And we have nurtured relationships with local communities to ensure that the work we support will be sustainable, effective and authentic.

Union Lutheran has been a part of this story - a story of faith in action - doing far and wide what we could not do by ourselves, but in partnership with all the congregations of the ELCA. For us it is a story filled with hope, but more than that, it is a story of being free to love boldly and be a church that responds in generosity and courage, responding to God's invitation to transform the world. Despite the challenges we face, the story goes on. In faith, we know how it will end: "They will hunger no more, and thirst no more, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 7:16-17).

Thank you for your faithful giving to **ELCA World Hunger**. Please continue to be generous in your use of the envelopes in the pew racks, or bring/send your gifts to our ULC church office, marking them plainly **ELCA World Hunger**.

[Donate to ELCA World Hunger](#)

The Northern Lehigh Valley Mission District Ingathering.

Cathy Smith and Patty Hersh have been Co-Chairs of The Northern Lehigh Valley Mission District's Christmas Ingathering for the past 13 years. Each year under their leadership, the Lutheran churches in our mission district, organize a Christmas Ingathering. The Ingathering benefits a number of organizations within our community whose purpose is to serve and support others. The selected organizations provide the team with a list of items needed. Each church individually collects the items and the first Sunday of every December, they gather with the donations, sort and distribute. Their day also includes a worship service, which was lead this year by Pastor Camp and Susan Frickert provided the worship music. This year the highlighted recipient was the Kindness Project, which supports foster and adoptive families across Eastern PA. Brian Holtzhafer, TKP's Board President was present to speak on the mission and specifics of this amazing cause. The day ends with a lunch and fellowship. This year the Christmas Ingathering supported The Kindness Project, The Allentown Rescue Mission, The Sayre Center, Kidspeace, Ripple Community, Inc. and Gracedale Nursing Home.

Thanks to all ULC who contributed to the efforts.



Cathy Smith and Patty Hersh
with a donation pile that was sent to the
Allentown Rescue Mission



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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 Nurse	Dottie Bealer

Congregational Council Members

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

