



THE LUTHERAN LETTER

NEWSLETTER

February 2024

From Ashes to Holy Days

Before there is light there is darkness. Before there is birth, there is pain. Before every meaningful moment there is a time of preparation, a time of longing. Lent is the forty days that we set aside to enter into the wilderness of our souls and find that place of quiet, openness and emptiness. Lent is more than about self-denial and giving up indulgences, it is about preparation and encounter. It was in the desert where Jesus encountered the demons of his deepest temptations, but it was also where he found God's sustaining presence and love.

Wednesdays in Lent we will reflect on a series of poems written by Phucc Luu, Phd. Dr. Luu is an artist, philosopher theologian and a Quaker. These poems are stories about finding home. Jesus' journey is also like our journey, an attempt to capture the place of longing in every heart; it is an attempt to go back to the garden. However, as we make our way through life, we come to realize that Eden is a distant dream, a reality that we might not ever come into being. We either become cynical or attempt to build our own paradise. In contrast, Jesus' life was not about this long lost garden, but something greater, a new Eden, a new Jerusalem, a new Kingdom. However, in order to find this new home the journey might take a detour through the wilderness, and what we may find there might test the very core of who we are.

Join the Journey: 7:00 PM Wednesdays

February 14th through March 20th

Pastor Camp

FIRST COMMUNION

Instructional Class for child and parents:

March 10th 10 a.m.

(Meet in Nave)

Receipt of First Communion Maundy Thursday worship:

Thursday, March 28th 7 p.m.

*All children 1st grade and older are eligible to receive
1st Communion.*

Contact the office to sign up.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 25 after worship

Open Agenda

Review of Annual Report

Worship Style Update

1st Sunday of the Month	Traditional Worship (Settings from The Lutheran Book of Worship)
2nd Sunday of the Month	Praise Worship
3rd & 4th Sundays of the Month	Blended Worship

**GOOD SHEPHERD REHABILITATION
INVITES YOU TO**

Coffee With A Therapist

Physical Therapy & Chronic Pain

Visit us for a **free** talk on how physical therapy can treat your specific pain and allow you to enjoy your favorite activities.

Complimentary coffee will be served.

March 11, 2024 · 12 - 1 p.m.

Union Evangelical Lutheran Church

5500 PA-873 | Schnecksville

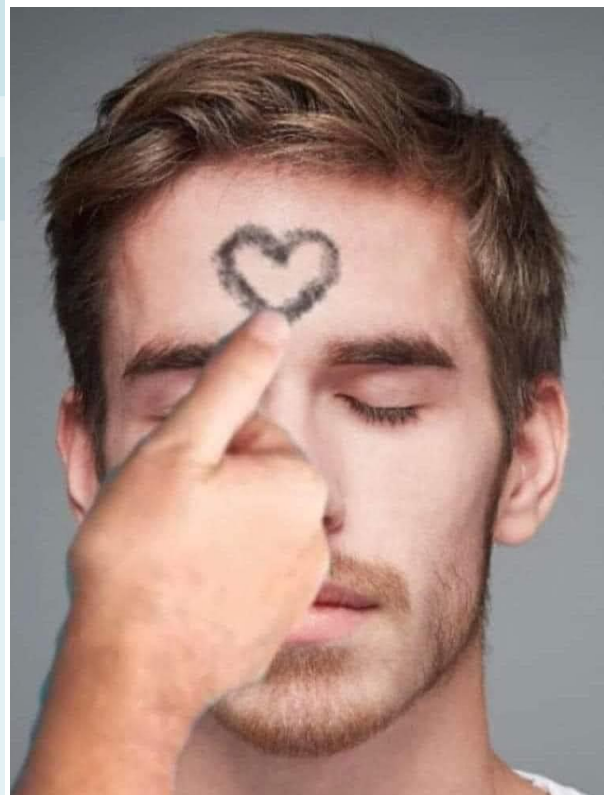
RSVP: 610.769.7299

[RSVP with church office](#)

Good Shepherd
Rehabilitation



goodshepherdrehab.org



When
Valentine's Day
falls on
Ash Wednesday



Sign UP

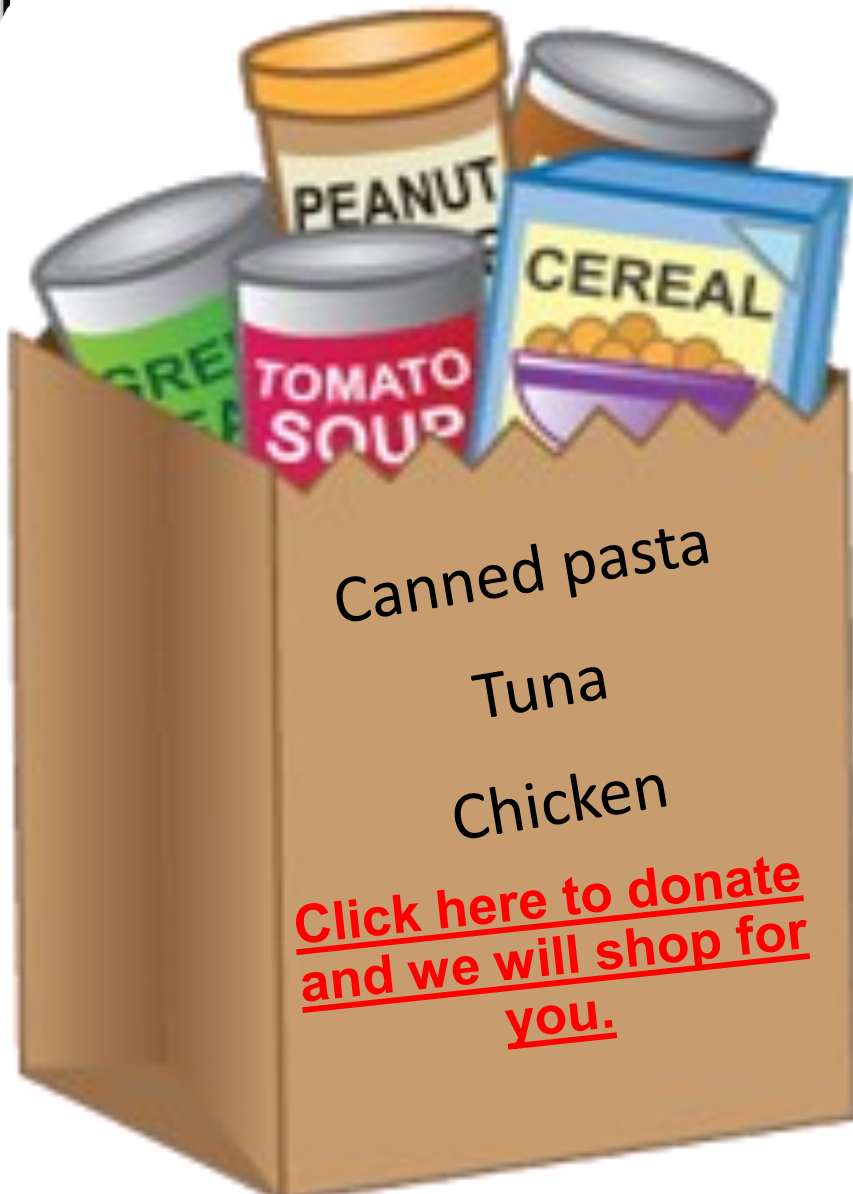
Friday, February 16th at 6pm

"Lent us not forget our ashes"

BJ's Brewhouse - 665 North Krocks Rd, Allentown
(Hamilton Crossings off of Rt 222)

"Cultivating Meaningful Conversations"

February Donation Items



**Saturday, February 3, 9 a.m., in
room 206/207**

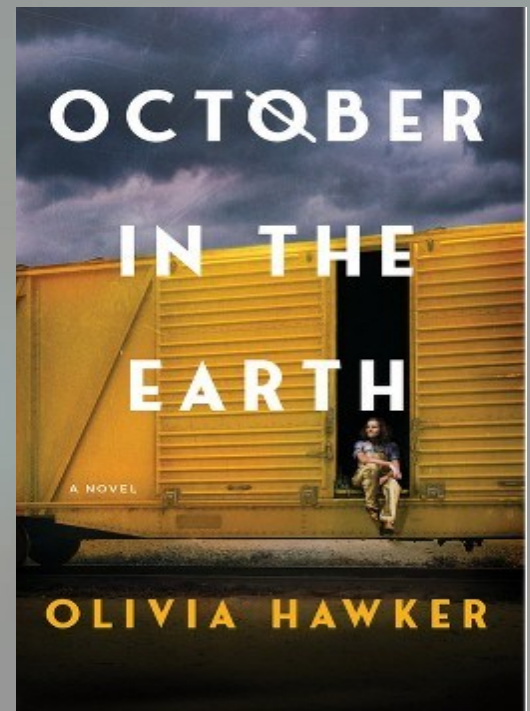
Please consider joining us as we continue our study -- **"Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes,"** by Judy Yates Siker.

In February we will look through the Apostle Paul's lens and see that he stresses the cross of Christ in understanding true discipleship. (What does that mean? Come and find out!)

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.

Our next selection is [October in the Earth](#) by Olivia Hawker. In Depression-era Kentucky, a defiant wife embarks on an impulsive and liberating journey. Del Wensley, wife of the most celebrated preacher in Harlan County, tries to mind her place. Until her husband's infidelity pushes an already strained marriage to a breaking point. Clinging to her last hope for self-respect, Del turns her back on the rigid life she's known. A coal train is rolling through the valley. With her eyes wide open to the unfamiliar, and to the freedom she craves, Del takes to the rails. Rumbling across America, Del is soon drawn into a transient community among outcasts—and finds a special friend in Louisa Trout. A nomadic single mother, Louisa teaches Del the ways of the boxcars and promises to help her reach a migrant enclave where Del can learn the skills she'll need to survive. But as they move forward together under desperate circumstances, even the closest of bonds threatens to break. With the Depression taking its toll, Del must gather her strength and faith. As she carries on toward one unknown after another, her life becomes a fulfilling, sometimes dangerous, and exhilarating adventure. But no matter the risks, it's a life that she alone controls.



Join us Sunday, March 17 to discuss Del and Louisa, feel the pain and abject poverty that came with the Great Depression whilst also witnessing a beautiful friendship developing between two women from completely different sides of the track.

LENT

Ash Wednesday

Feb. 14, 2024

11 am & 7 pm Worship

Virtual

Soup Supper

Feb. 21, 28, Mar, 6, 13, 20

5:45 pm

Lent Worship

Holden Evening Prayer

Feb. 21, 28, Mar, 6, 13, 20

7 pm Worship

Virtual

Lenten Series:

10:15 a.m. in Room 206-207. Herb Gifford will lead a six-part series titled "Who is Jesus?"

Join us every week during Lent as we explore this question together:

Sunday, 2/18, 2/25, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24.



Palm Sunday
March 24, 2024
9 a.m. & Virtual Worship

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Maundy Thursday  
\*First Communion\*



March 28, 2024  
11 a.m., 7 p.m. & Virtual Worship

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Good Friday
March 29, 2024
7 p.m. & Virtual Worship



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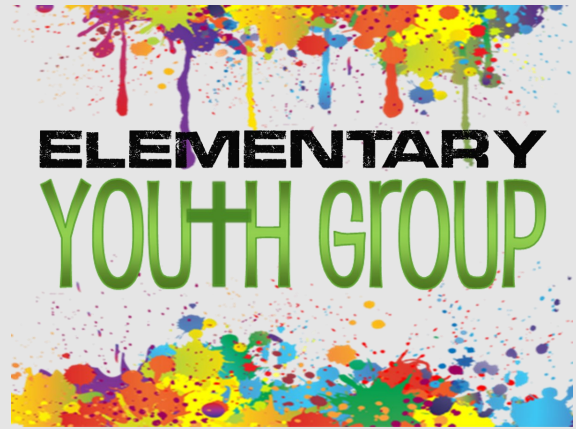
Easter Sunday  
March 31, 2024  
9 a.m. & Virtual



Our next Elementary Youth Group (EYG) will be held on

Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 3pm-4pm. We will be bowling at Jordan Lanes (731 Jordan Pkwy, Whitehall, PA 18052). Its \$9 a person to bowl for the hour (and \$3.79 shoe rental). Families and siblings are welcome to join!

RSVP to the office if you plan to attend.



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 is in



full swing! Join us on Sunday mornings from 10:15-11:00am starting in the Family Life Center. **Please note:**

**There will be no Sunday School on February 18<sup>th</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup>.** In addition, we are still looking for extra teachers/substitutes. The lessons will be provided for you. Please contact Josh at [suprman@ptd.net](mailto:suprman@ptd.net), call/text him at 610-844-8606, or message the church office if interested.





12 boxes to  
Parkland  
Cares and 12  
boxes to  
Northern  
Lehigh and  
our  
Little Pantry  
filled!!!



**Photos from the Advent Food Collection. Thank you to everyone who donated a box of non-perishable food.**

## **ELCA National Youth Gathering:**

We have a group of youth going to the 2024 ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans! They will be flying down in July. Please keep an eye out on their various fundraisers to help them have a successful trip. One such fundraiser will be our Church Yard Sale, held on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. You can pay to host your own table. More information to come, but mark your calendars now!



## ELCA WORLD HUNGER-Iraq

This is the story of Ana, who lived with her husband and four children in a safe, secure village in Sinjar, a town in northern Iraq. But then an ISIS attack changed everything. Ana lost several family members in the attack, including her father, mother, brother and sister. Trying to figure out what might be next for their family, Ana and her husband survived tough conditions, without food or water, before moving into a temporary camp. Eventually they returned to Sinjar, but it had been destroyed.

The ISIS attack traumatized Ana. Overwhelmed and unsure where to turn, she decided to seek medical treatment. When her friends and neighbors heard about her situation, they recommended that she visit a women's center in Sinjar for support. The women's center is part of a larger project, supported by **ELCA World Hunger**, that empowers women and

youth from marginalized communities to claim their fundamental rights in Iraq. The project builds on relationships that **ELCA World Hunger** has established through prior work with local communities supported by **ELCA World Hunger** in Sinjar and Sumel, and works with local neighbors to build sustainable livelihoods.

"I visited the center and explained my situation to the staff, who were very helpful and kind," Ana says. The staff recommended that she participate in individual and group sessions aimed at supporting people such as Ana as they struggle to cope with traumatic experiences in their everyday lives.

"During my participation in those sessions, I realized I was not alone and that many other women were facing similar struggles," says Ana. "We were able to openly discuss our problems with each other and learn from each other. These sessions really increased our awareness and helped us manage and overcome our problems and stress, allowing us to feel positive and alive again."

With the center's support, Ana and other women facing similar challenges are better equipped to cope with the stress of rebuilding their lives after such significant loss. Such support is critical in equipping neighbors to overcome the poverty and hunger that often result from violence and vulnerability. With the support of **ELCA World Hunger**, Ana can envision and begin to claim a hopeful future for herself and her family.

Thanks to your giving to **ELCA World Hunger**, stories like Ana's abound around the world. Please continue to generously give, using the pew envelopes. You can also mail your gifts to the church office or drop them off in person.

[Donate to ELCA World Hunger](#)





# Hearts for Music



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE SPRING  
SEASON OF HEARTS FOR MUSIC!**

UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
5500 ROUTE 873,  
SCHNECKSVILLE, 18078

**LIVE STREAM CONCERT  
WITH OHIO HFM  
MAY 7TH @ 7PM**

**Dress rehearsal, Mon, May 6th  
4:30-6:30pm**

## REHEARSAL DATES:

**FRIDAYS FROM 4:30-5:45 PM  
JAN. 26TH -MAY 3RD**

**NO REHEARSAL:  
2/16, 2/23, 3/29 & 4/26**

**SNOW DAYS WILL BE MADE UP ON  
SUNDAYS WHENEVER POSSIBLE**



**ADDITIONAL  
PERFORMANCE  
OPPORTUNITIES  
COMING SOON!**

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

**EMAIL OR CALL US  
610-767-6884  
[HFMPA@HEARTSFORMUSIC.ORG](mailto:HFMPA@HEARTSFORMUSIC.ORG)**

**TIKTOK, INSTGRAM,  
FACEBOOK:  
[@HEARTS\\_MUSIC](https://www.instagram.com/HEARTS_MUSIC)**



# 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>                   | Sue Mosser                                                               |
| <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                                           |
| <b>Brian Geren</b>         | Council Vice President/Property Committee/Union Board Pres. |
| <b>Valerie Snyder</b>      | Council Secretary & Christian Education                     |
| <b>Sue Mosser</b>          | Council Treasurer                                           |
| <b>Robert Drews</b>        | Library Committee/Union Board Alt.                          |
| <b>Debra Geiger</b>        | Fundraising Committee/Union Board Alt.                      |
| <b>Sherwood Geiger</b>     | Worship & Music Committee                                   |
| <b>Sally Grim</b>          | Social Ministry Committee/Union Board Secretary             |
| <b>Debra Grundstrom</b>    | Staff Support Committee                                     |
| <b>Ryan Parker</b>         | Fellowship Committee/Union Board Member                     |
| <b>Barbara Mahoney</b>     | Christian Life Committee/Union Board Member                 |
| <b>Mike Busser</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.

