

The Lutheran Letter

NEWSLETTER

February 2025

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not inisit on its way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, ensures all things. Love never ends.” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

It’s February, the month of Valentine’s and heart-shaped boxes of candy...so what else is a pastor to write about in the newsletter but love? Thanks to the mass commercialization of Valentine’s Day, love is everywhere. Love is all around us!

Is it really, though? I mean, sure, our culture is highly proficient in and dedicated to promoting romance. I’ve lost count of the number of jewelry commercials on TV today, and I tip my cap to the advertising folks.

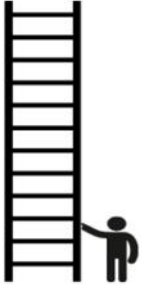
But while romance is as abundant as ever, it seems that love is a different story at the moment. It seems that love is harder to come by in the public sphere. Violence always leads off the news broadcasts. Public discourse has become hostile to the extent that political differences have even driven wedges between close friends.

But as people united in Christ, we are called by God to love others even if it’s not the most popular thing to do. Fortunately, the Bible is a great resource to help us do this! One of the best descriptions of love in the Bible is the passage I quoted above, written by the Apostle Paul in his first letter to the Corinthian church. These words to the Corinthians are some of the most enduring words in the Bible and are familiar to many people because they are often read at weddings.

Despite that common use, though, the implications of the kind of love described in 1 Corinthians 13 are wide-ranging. Loving with this sort of patience and gentleness invites others into our lives, providing fertile ground for relationships to grow. Strangers we may at first lump into a category become individual people we truly see, know, and appreciate. Love like Paul describes can topple the walls of fear and discord that seem to be so effectively separating people right now.

Raise the roof

Click here
to donate!



Help us climb the donation ladder in 2025!

25 YEARS AGO, UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH DEDICATED ITS NEW SANCTUARY. SINCE THEN, OUR CAMPUS HAS BECOME A HOME FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE. NOW, OUR ROOF IS AT THE END OF ITS LIFESPAN. THE PURPOSE OF OUR CAMPAIGN IS TO RAISE \$180,000 TO REPLACE THE ROOF AND CLEAN THE STEEPLE. A NEW ROOF KEEPS OUR BUILDING VIABLE, WHICH PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES TO FURTHER GOD'S MINISTRY. PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE "RAISE THE ROOF" CAMPAIGN ALONG WITH YOUR ANNUAL GIVING.

Estimate of Giving

Using the form below, please indicate your financial commitment for the Raise the Roof 2025 campaign.

Please return this form to the office via email, mail, or the offering plate by February 16th, 2025.

My/Our financial contribution to the Raise the Roof campaign will be:

\$ _____ per week/month/year (please circle)

Name: _____ Envelope #: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Preferred contact method: Phone/Email (please circle)

Soup Sale

Sponsored by The Journeymen of
ULC and Mr. Bill's Poultry.



Chicken Noodle Soup &
Turkey Lasagna Soup

\$10/quart

Contact the church office at 610-767-6884 or Ron Pugh at 610-442-9170 or email at RonPugh@rcn.org to place your order.

Don't wait too long! Orders are due by **February 2nd** and only 30 quarts of each soup are available for sale.

All soup orders will be delivered to the church for pickup on **Sunday February 9th.**



Larry E. Snyder Memorial Craft Show



Hosted by Union Lutheran Church
5500 Route 873, Schnecksville, PA 18078

It's back! Union Lutheran Church's Holiday craft show is now the Larry E. Snyder Memorial Craft Show. For the first time since 2020, please join us for this popular seasonal event.

5 APRIL
9:00AM -
3:00PM

BAKE SALE
KIDS CRAFT AREA
LUNCH AVAILABLE

Crafter applications wanted! Please visit www.ulclv.org/connect to download an application, or contact Union Lutheran Church:

610-767-6884 | office@ulclv.org



2ND
ANNUAL

YARD SALE

YOUTH
GROUP
FUNDRAISER

Tables
available to
rent \$10 each

Food
Trucks

Saturday, May 3rd, 8am-2pm

ULC, 5500 Rt. 873 Schnecksville, PA 18078

\$25/parking
spot

Reserve now!



610-767-6884

office@ulclv.org

SIP IN Share

February 21st at 6pm—Villa Lentini
(2700 Balliet St, Coplay, PA 18073)

The EYG and Youth Group Snow Tubing event was a success! It's hard to say who had more fun—the youth or Pastor!



The Journey Men is the men's ministry group of Union Lutheran.

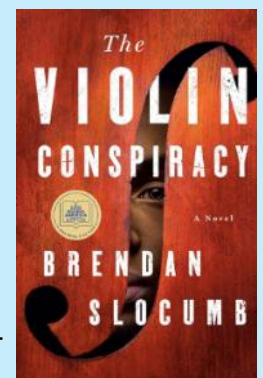
We believe in putting God's word forward, and also have a good time doing it.

This is a great way to meet other men in the church. We provide help throughout our Church Community as we can, from cash donations to helping a member in need with a project.

We meet the second Saturday of the month in Room 102, downstairs in the church. If you have any questions, please give [Ron Pugh](mailto:RonPugh@rcn.com) a call (610-442-9170) or an email (RonPugh@rcn.com) and he will be happy to discuss the Journey Men with you!

BOOK CLUB

Our next selection is *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb. Ray McMillian loves playing the violin more than anything. Nothing will stop him from pursuing his dream of becoming a professional musician. Not his mother, who thinks he should get a real job, not the fact that he can't afford a high-caliber violin, not the racism inherent in the classical music world. When he makes the startling discovery that his great-grandfather's fiddle is actually a priceless Stradivarius, his star begins to rise. Then with the international Tchaikovsky Competition—the Olympics of classical music—fast approaching, his prized family heirloom is stolen. Ray is determined to get it back. But now his family and the descendants of the man who once enslaved Ray's great-grandfather are each claiming that the violin belongs to them. With the odds stacked against him and the pressure mounting, will Ray ever see his beloved violin again?



Join us March 16th to discuss this mystery and cheer for the resilience of Ray as he

ELCA WORLD HUNGER— Cambodia

Kay Peh and Nouv Vann live in Kampong Chang, a province in central Cambodia where 85 percent of the people are farmers. Kay Peh and Nouv Vann live on a plot of land they received through a social land concession, a government program intended to provide people who don't own land with space for homes and to generate income through agricultures.

Often the land granted by the government is small, remote and not ready for farming. For Kay Peh and Nouv Vann, the first few years on their new land were difficult. The land was covered with stumps and thick bushes, making it unusable for growing crops. However, supported by your gifts to **ELCA World Hunger**, the family and 524 others received help to clear their land so it could be used for growing crops to eat and sell at the market.

They settled in and put up a fence, planted fruit trees and built a house. They were also able to grow their first crop of watermelons, selling it for the equivalent of about 75 US dollars, generating their first income from the land.

Income-generating activities help families pay for essentials like food, medical costs and school fees, while microloans enable starting or upgrading small businesses. These and other long-term solutions to ending hunger are at the center of the programs supported by **ELCA World Hunger**.

Gifts to **ELCA World Hunger**, which partners locally with an organization called Life with Dignity (LWD), also helped in other ways. Kay Peh and Nouv Vann also received solar panels to recharge a battery-powered lantern and flashlight, giving them access to electricity. They also received six hens, a flock that has since multiplied to 30 chickens. They raise the chickens to sell during the dry seasons and support themselves. Earning income in the dry season has enabled Kay Peh and Nouv Vann to purchase seeds. Along with watermelon, they now grow spinach, cilantro, shallots, pumpkins and gourds.

“Life With Dignity doesn't just provide financial support, but moral and technical support too,” Kay Peh said. “I have learned a lot from the training courses on farming techniques, and LWD has been here for every step.”

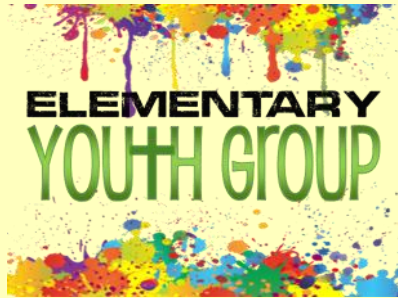
A long-standing partner of **ELCA World Hunger**, LWD is run by local leaders working to empower rural communities, like Kay Peh's, to reclaim their rights and engage in sustainable land management. Your gifts to **ELCA World Hunger** are brought together with the skills, capacity and resources of local communities to make transformative change.

To continue your generous giving to **ELCA World Hunger**, use the pew envelopes or bring/send your gifts to our ULC office, marking them clearly **ELCA World Hunger**.

Joyful Moments

once Alone but now Together

Join us on **February 8th** at **12pm** for our rescheduled, Loved Ones Celebration with a special guest speaker and mission project.



2/23—Pokémon Party: 11am—1pm

3/22—Video Game Night: 6pm-10pm



February 27th @ 6pm

FAMILY NIGHT OUT



Play **Cornhole** at the ULC Family Life Center! Snacks & water will be provided.

WHEN:

- ✓ January 29th, 6-8pm
- ✓ February 12th, 6-8pm
- ✓ February 26th, 6-8pm



ALL ARE WELCOME!

📞 Ron Pugh
610-442-9170

📍 Contact the church office
for more information

Youth Group meets every other
Sunday from 10-11am

Join us February 2nd, February 16th, March 2nd, March 16th, March 30th, and April 13th.

Upcoming Events

Video Game Night @ ULC

- Saturday March 22nd, 6pm-10pm

Craft Show (the Youth will have a table)

- Saturday April 5th, 9am-3pm

Yard Sale Fundraiser

- Saturday May 3rd, 8am-2pm



S.O.S. has a new name AND a new schedule for 2025!

1/26–Bad Words in the Bible, Pt 1 (Led by Pastor Camp). *Check out the Bible’s “bad” words! These words pop up a lot in the scriptures, but they’ve kind of lost their punch in how we talk today. Let’s take a closer look at what they really mean!*

2/9–Bad Words in the Bible, Pt 2 (Led by Pastor Camp)

2/16–Bad Words in the Bible, Pt 3 (Led by Pastor Camp)

3/2–The Jesus Story, Pt 1 (Led by Herb Gifford). *How did an obscure carpenter become the savior of the world? Join Herb as we explore the miraculous tale of Jesus over six sessions.*

3/9–The Jesus Story, Pt 2 (Led by Herb Gifford)

3/16–The Jesus Story, Pt 3 (Led by Herb Gifford)

3/23–The Jesus Story, Pt 4 (Led by Herb Gifford)

3/30–The Jesus Story, Pt 5 (Led by Herb Gifford)

4/6–Poetry with Ed Romond. *Renowned author and Faith Forum favorite, Ed Romond, joins us to shar his newest poetry. Bring your own poetry or ideas to share with Ed!*

4/13–The Jesus Story, Pt 6 (Led by Herb Gifford)

4/27–Holy Humor Sunday. *Ready for a laugh? Join us for our annual Holy Humor Sunday! Find the funny side of the bible as we share some good old Christian laughter! B.Y.O.J. (Bring your own jokes!)*

5/4–May The 4th Be With You: Religion in Star Wars (Led by Josh Dietz) *May 4th is National Star Wars Day because “May 4th” sounds like “May the force”. Join Josh as he explores how religion is portrayed throughout Star Wars in a galaxy far, far away!*

Hearts for Music is Headed to Rome!



This is Joy and it happens to be the perfect name for her!



Ethan and Morgan are siblings!



Scan here to donate!

Villages in Partnership

Villages in Partnership is a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing critical needs such as food security, water, education, infrastructure, economic development, and healthcare in Malawi.

ULC's member, Emily Steward, BSN, RN and three other registered nurses are embarking on a life-changing medical mission to Sakata, Malawi. On March 13, 2025, they begin their mission to serve a community in dire need of medical attention. They will be working alongside twenty other medical professionals to operate a free clinic for three days, providing care to thousands of villagers who otherwise only have access to healthcare twice a year.

As part of our mission, we are collecting donations to help us fill eight 50lb suitcases with medical supplies, medications, and other essential items for the villagers. In addition, we are also seeking financial support to help cover ground fees, medical supplies, and much needed food and water for the villagers.

How You Can Help:

Donate Medical Supplies: Any expiration dates should exceed September 2025

- Old suitcases (that will be left behind in Malawi)
- Flip flops
- Vaseline
- Chapstick
- Children's OTC pain medicines (liquid and chewable)
- Adult OTC pain medicines (no gel caps)
- Acid reflux meds
- Antibacterial ointments
- Antifungal ointments
- Hydrocortisone
- Band-Aids
- Gauze
- Shampoos
- Soaps
- Ziploc snack bags
- Small kids toys
- Story books with black characters
- Diaper creams
- Medical supplies that are still usable but are going to be thrown out



Your generosity will make a significant difference in the lives of the Malawian people and Villages in Partnership participants are truly grateful for your support. Thank you for helping to bring care, hope, and healing to those who need it most.

Financial Donations



Monetary Donations: Your financial contribution will help us purchase additional medical supplies, cover travel expenses, and support the ongoing work of Villages in Partnership. You can also sponsor a goat for the village community for \$75.

Spread the Word: Even if you're unable to donate, sharing our mission with others is a valuable way to support us.

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 | Sue Mosser treasurer@ulclv.org |
| Director of Music | Susan Frickert sfrickert2001@gmail.com |
| Office Manager | Kaitlin Beltz office@ulclv.org |
| Communication Specialist | Emily Black ministries@ulclv.org / 215-713-4160 |
| Sexton | Rich Reimert 484-547-5461 |
| Faith Formation Coordinator | Josh Dietz suprman@ptd.net / 610-844-8606 |
| Parish Nurse | Dottie Bealer |

Congregational Council Members

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Brian Geren | Council President/Property Committee/Union Board VP |
| Charles Mosser III | Council Vice President |
| Barbara Mahoney | Council Secretary & Christian Life Committee |
| Sue Mosser | Council Treasurer |
| Robert Drews | Library Committee |
| Debra Geiger | Fundraising Committee/Union Board Alt. |
| Sherwood Geiger | Worship & Music Committee/Union Board Member |
| Sally Grim | Social Ministry Committee/Union Board Secretary |
| Debra Grundstrom | Staff Support Committee/Union Board Alt. |
| Ryan Parker | Fellowship Committee/Union Board Member |
| Mike Busser | 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.

