

December 2022 Newsletter



"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'" *Isaiah 52:7*

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Denver, Pennsylvania 17517-0157
Church Telephone - 717-336-2141
Fax - 717-336-6475**

Email - faithunited@ptd.net

Website - www.faithunited-elca.org

**CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM:
[@faithunitedlutheran](#)**

Pastor Marissa Becklin

1005 Clearview Avenue, Ephrata, PA 17522

Cell: 717-203-6013

pastormbecklin@gmail.com

Update On Elevator Lift Project

The lift arrived last Monday, and was installed during the week. Drywall in the new enlarged coat room will take place next.

As we continue this project, we ask that you continue to pray about a financial gift toward our goal of \$25,000.00. We have currently raised \$21,016.00, meaning we have approximately \$3984.00 left to raise.

A Reminder: To be rostered as an active member requires a record of both communion and contributing to the Church. Final date for contributions this year is Sunday, December 25, 2022. Thank You for your generous support of our ministries.

Christmas Giving Tree Project:

All the grocery items and gifts are needed by December 11th. We will try to have a Committee Member "hanging" around the Christmas tree after the Church Services to answer any questions.



**Friday & Monday,
December 23 & 26**

Merry Christmas!

**Friday & Monday,
December 30 &
January 2**

Happy New Year!



Christmas Eve Services

Saturday, December 24

4:00 PM; 7:00 PM

(Both Include Candlelight)



Christmas Worship Service

Sunday, December 25

9:00 AM - Hymns & Carols

With Cookies To Follow

**Congregational Meeting
Budget, Agenda - Pages 18-19**

Join Faith United's Festival Choir For Christmas

Faith United is moving forward with a plan to have a Choir come together at the eight (8) festivals that take place throughout the Church Year. Everyone in our community is invited to join this Pop-Up Choir.

Festival Choir will come up front to sing an Anthem at the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service, and at the 9:00 AM Christmas Day Service. You're welcome to join one or both of these Pop-Up performances. Rehearsals will be following Sunday Worship the week prior to Christmas and immediately before Christmas Eve Worship: Sunday, December 18 following Worship—Saturday, December 24 at 3:30 PM. For questions, please contact Ellen Houser.

Advent Midweek Services

Join Pastor Marissa on Wednesday evenings in Advent for a short 30-minute Service to help us prepare our hearts for Christ's arrival and to make space for peace in this busy season: **Wednesdays - December 14, and 21 at 7:00 PM.**



**Deadline For January,
2023 Newsletter
Sunday, December 18, 2022**

2023 Offering Envelopes



Your 2023 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up on a table at the back of the Church

If you were missed, contact the Church Office.

Generic Offering Envelopes are available for use on the table with the bulletins.

A good alternative is "Simply Giving" which automatically remits your offering to the Church.

Contact the Church Office, 717-336-2141, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM for more details or Shirley Sweigart at: grammyss46@gmail.com or call 717-538-1946

Newsletter Update

Newsletters are published following Church Council meetings which are held the first Wednesday of each month.

WANTED

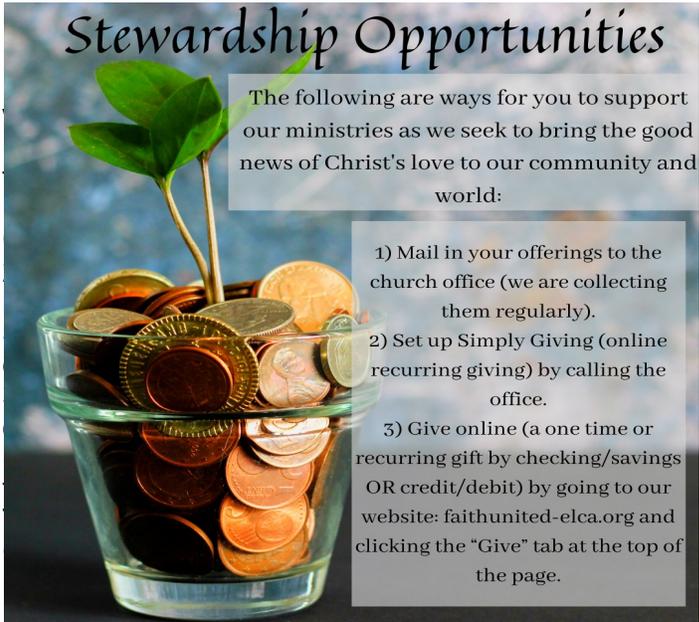
Recipes, inspirational articles, poetry, gardening tips, household tips, etc. to be used in Monthly Newsletters.

Please put your items in the Secretary's mailbox marked "Shirley Sweigart" in the Hallway. Thank You for sharing your useful items with your Church Family.

Church Office Requests

Please call the Church Office at 717-336-2141 when:

- You are in the hospital or prior to going to the hospital (or have a relative call for you). In order for the pastor to visit, someone needs to inform the Church.
- You are confined to your home for an extended period of time because of illness or accident;
- You are going to a rehab center or a nursing home;
- There is a change in your family status (birth, death, marriage, or divorce);
- You move to a new home, move out of the area, or go away to college or graduate school;
- You schedule a meeting or an event of a group or committee. In an effort to be open and communicative with everyone, we would like to include all scheduling on the Church Calendar and in the Weekly Bulletin.



Stewardship Opportunities

The following are ways for you to support our ministries as we seek to bring the good news of Christ's love to our community and world:

- 1) Mail in your offerings to the church office (we are collecting them regularly).
- 2) Set up Simply Giving (online recurring giving) by calling the office.
- 3) Give online (a one time or recurring gift by checking/savings OR credit/debit) by going to our website: faithunited-elca.org and clicking the "Give" tab at the top of the page.

Please continue to provide the Church Office with your email addresses (changes also) to be used for Newsletters, Schedules, etc.

Email your changes to:

faithunited@ptd.net. Thank You!

Photo Use Practice

In attending church events, photos may be taken to help keep shut-ins and friends of the church aware of the life and activities of Faith United. If you do not wish to be photographed, please let us know so we may honor your wishes. As a practice, we consider the privacy appropriate to people with special circumstances, but may not know of all sensitive situations. Your help is required or we anticipate permission is given.



Staff

Pastor — Pastor Marissa Becklin

Organists — Caryll Lausch

Cynthia Kauffman

Grady Daub

Festival Choir Director — Ellen Houser

Office Administrator and

Newsletter Editor — Shirley Sweigart

Custodian — Elizabeth Roman-Reich

From Pastor Marissa Becklin

Christ Our King

On Sunday, November 20 we celebrated Christ the King Sunday—the final Sunday of our church year. On that day we honor the fact that in the end, all that ever was or is or will be belongs to God. That Christ is our true King. And this message is worth reminding ourselves of, for good reason.

Christ the King Sunday is a relatively young holiday in the history of the Christian church. It didn't start being celebrated in the Middle Ages or in the 1500s, but actually was created in 1925, as a reaction to Benito Mussolini's rise to power. In reminding people that Christ is the Supreme Ruler of the World, the Italian Church of that time helped believers trust that no matter what kind of earthly powers a particular person amassed or expected, Christ would have the last and best word, always. The church hoped that this reminder would provide hope and life in the face of death and misuse of power—that it would transform the people of God to fiercely claim their identity as people of resurrection in the face of ones who proclaimed that death would have the final word. This day, Christ the King, offers assurance that we still need today—that no matter how many other powers try to claim our attention and allegiance, no matter what else happens in our world, in our nation, in our churches, in our homes, Christ is still the King of all.

This can be a challenge for us to get our heads around, because we don't really live in a world where kings and queens rule (at least in the same way). I love the show *The Crown*, a show about Queen Elizabeth the II, but it doesn't make me any more prepared to understand what it means to have Jesus as my King. Jesus is not, like those rulers today, a simple figurehead without much real authority. He is not merely a symbol for us that reminds of God's love while the really important people actually govern our lives. He is also not like other powerful leaders—dictators, war lords, etc.—who use the title of king or queen but instead total control. Jesus is not like that, either.

So what is Jesus' kingship like? What does it mean for us to be ruled by Jesus? Before we can answer what kind of king Jesus is, we need to answer this question first: what kind of king isn't he? And how do our assumptions about royalty and leadership keep us from understanding Jesus' power among us?

In the story of the Passion, When Jesus arrives at the place called The Skull, where he is to die, people immediately begin taunting him, shouting things like "If he is a king, let him save himself! And are you not the king? The chosen one? Save yourself and us!" Listen to those assumptions—a king is one who does not suffer, who does not die. Power does not show weakness, does not lose, does not admit vulnerability, does not admit defeat. Real kings can save their constituents—are in control of the fate of the people they govern over, and can use their unrelenting power to defeat others for the sake of the salvation of their own people. How do these assumptions, these expectations about power and how bad and weak vulnerability is—infect our hearts today?

Here he is: Jesus, the one who has come into the world that God so loves. Jesus, the one who cares so much about meeting us in our shame and giving us abundant life that he changes water into wine and then dances with us. Jesus, the one who takes off his outer robe so that he can kneel before us and wash our feet and teach us how to love one another. And in this reading, here is Jesus—the one who puts on a purple robe, a crown of thorns, and stands confidently while those he loves so dearly mock him and demand his death.

It is painful to hear the people in the story so blatantly reject Jesus. It is hard to hear how desperately they cling to violence, terror, and the regime of the empire—an empire that loves to kill and destroy and shame—and they would rather be a part of that than allow themselves to experience the love, vulnerability, and grace of Jesus.

The people in this story don't realize that they're standing in the presence of God (or, they know that they're standing in God's presence and are so terrified that they'd rather kill God than deal with what it might mean to receive abundant love). The words they hurl at Jesus, the assumptions about kingship and power that they hurl at Jesus, are painful and misplaced. And yet, these words also reveal a deep, painful truth—that when we have aligned ourselves with praise of power, glory, and never showing weakness, we have aligned ourselves with violence and death. Not love and justice. The people in this story have aligned themselves with Caesar, who also calls himself the Son of God. It is Caesar that they worship. There is no room for God in that equation.

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It's easy to read this story from our perspective today and think "how could they? Didn't they know?" To read, and be reminded of all those times when we have been astonished by the harsh words or opinions of others. To think of all the ways that the brokenness of this world has shown up in people around us and shocked us.

But as much as we want to think that this is a story about other people's allegiance, it's a story about our allegiance too. About where our loyalty lies. About who we really worship, who or what we really call the Son of God in our lives.

This story is one about being on trial. Jesus stands before the crowds, having been convicted to death on a cross. The king of all, the one who knows all of our hearts and our mistakes and our wrongdoings and our hopes and our fears stands in front of the Roman governor, knowing that this man's power is so small and limited—that the power to kill God is a joke, because nothing—not even death—will ever stop God. Jesus stands there, gets spit on, gets taunted, gets dressed in a purple robe and a crown of thorns, and gets laughed at. Hail Caesar, the people cry out. You are no king, they say.

This story is one about being on trial—but the ones who are really on trial are all the other characters in this story. The ones who are really on trial here in this story are you and I.

This is a story about all the ways we condemn ourselves by refusing to accept or acknowledge the power of Jesus, choosing instead the powers of empire, death, violence, and ignorance. Jesus says when he washes the disciples' feet that his servants will be known by their love, and that the servants of the empire will be known by their violence.

Whose servants are we, friends? When we leave worship, whose servants are we?

When we walk through the world and encounter those different from us, will we bear false witness against our neighbor? Will we mischaracterize those who are suffering in this world to help us feel more justified in our security? Will we worship our denomination, or our preferred political party, or our GPA, or our career, or our country more than we worship God?

Here's the thing—the answer to all of these questions is yes. Yes, we will think evil and violent thoughts about something or someone. Yes, every single one of us in this room will worship something more than God. Yes, all of us will, in our actions and our words, at least once, proclaim "Hail Caesar" rather than "Praise God."

It feels kind of awful to realize, but when given the chance, as broken human beings, we choose things that extinguish life over the one who has come to love the whole world. This reading makes us take that sharp breath in because it reveals a hard truth about all of us. We keep picking Caesar, picking Barabbas, picking the cross, rather than picking abundant life, vulnerability, love, and grace.

This is a story about being on trial, and we always come up short. And it is extremely important that we admit that and think long and hard about it. Because until we do, we cannot understand the kind of king that Jesus is.

Because this is a story about grace.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ comes to this earth to teach us about love and it was so high risk and terrifying to us that we fashion a crown of thorns and a cross for him. God builds community, and we respond by building a cross. And yet, in the face of mockery, violence, and hatred, Jesus still picks up that cross, walks to the place called the Skull, and lays down his life for us. He joins us in our suffering, letting us know that we don't go through anything in this life alone, because God is so compassionate that God knows what our pain and our agony feel like.

This is what grace is all about. This is what power looks like. This is what a real, holy, divine king looks like. Even when we beg for God's death rather than be vulnerable and admit our own failings, God chooses us. When we fashion a crown of thorns and shout "Hail Caesar," and treat each other horribly and ignore one another and refuse to consider the perspective of another person, God chooses us. When we think way too highly of ourselves and others, God chooses us. When we think too little of ourselves and others, God chooses us.

God keeps on choosing us, even when we laugh at God and doubt God's power.

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God keeps on choosing us, even when we try to kill God so that we don't have to deal with that annoying grace and truth stuff anymore.

God will keep on choosing us, friends. Always. May we learn how to live in response to being chosen and marked by God's love. May we remember that in the face of all the ugly powers of this world, the ugly powers of our own hearts, that Christ is more powerful than all of it. And his kingship is not marked by anger or hatred, but by love and tender vulnerability. By hope and the promise of newness.

Hallelujah, for as Richard Rohr once said: If Jesus is Lord, then Caesar is not. If Jesus is Lord, then the economy stock market are not. If Jesus is Lord, then my possessions, country, and job are not. If Jesus is Lord, then I am not. This is good news for us, beloved. Because being anything other than deeply loved by the one who created us and makes us new is above our pay grade.

Our King lives—he lives to make us all live. We have been set free by grace that claims our hearts and makes us new. Praise be to Christ, our true King. Amen

In Christ, Pastor Marissa



We are hosting Kid's Church during 9:00 AM Worship. Children will come up for the Children's Sermon, exit to Kid's Church, and return for Holy Communion.

We are also looking for volunteers to help lead this session with our kids once every few weeks—the curriculum is prepared for you, with minimal stress and preparation on your part! Please email Pastor Marissa at: pastormbecklin@gmail.com.



Have you been attending Worship with us online, and are looking for more information about joining our community in an official way? Membership is a mutual commitment between you and our congregation to love and support one another on our faith journey. If this interests you, please email Pastor Marissa at:

pastormbecklin@gmail.com.

Bible And Breakfast: Saturday, December 10 (Breakfast At 7:30



AM, Bible Study From 8:00-9:00 AM)

Join us for a morning of breakfast, fellowship, and Bible study.



Confirmation for 7th and 8th Graders

Meets after Sunday worship from 10:30am-11:30am in-person on the second and fourth Sundays of each month:



- September 11 (Parents AND Students)
- September 25
- October 9
- October 23: Retreat
- November 13
- November 27
- December 11
- January 8
- January 22
- February 12
- February 26
- March 12
- March 26
- April 23
- May 14
- May 28

Vaccine Clinic At Faith United Sunday, December 11, 2022 Following Worship

Tom Smith from Anderson's Pharmacy at Weaver's will provide the following vaccines at church after Worship on Sunday, December 11, 2022: Standard Flu Vaccine, Over 65 Flu Vaccine, Moderna Bivalent COVID-19 Booster, and Pfizer Bivalent COVID-19 Booster. For Flu Vaccines, please show Medicare Red White and Blue Card, Medicare Part D, or Private Insurance Card. For COVID-19 Boosters, show Insurance Card (those without insurance are still eligible for this booster). Questions about coverage can be referred to Tom day of vaccines.

To receive one or more of these vaccines, please use the sign-up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary.

**Faith United Evangelical
Lutheran Church Council Minutes
Wednesday, November 2, 2022, 6:30 PM**

FUEL Council Members Present: Bruce Carpenter, Jim Kreider, Janice Daub, Deb Demler, Lori Stover, Ellen Houser, Lisa Gable, Deb Anthony, Bob Gates, Scott Gola, Kelly Leshner and Pastor Marissa Becklin.

Devotions: Janice Daub read Luke 10:16 and 19. Beware of Snakes. She spoke of Charles Spurgeon right verses wrong and how our enemies use camouflage to confuse us. She finished with Thankfulness, a poem/prayer.

Treasurer's Report:

The draft for the 2023 budget has not been started yet.

Contributions seem steady from last year.

Pastor's Report:

Advent starts November 27.

Keeping in her prayers: The Gable Family after the passing of Mike's father; Arlene Monyer as she awaits her surgery which was rescheduled; Rich Billings is having surgery November 7.

Annual Congregational Meeting is coming up – December 11.

The Budget will need to be voted on via email from Council members so it can be published for the congregation in advance.

Committee Highlights:

Property, Jim Kreider: The lift project is moving along well. Heck Construction is just waiting for the physical lift at this point. Approximately four (4) weeks for that to arrive. Other areas to be worked on while waiting for the lift: Finish dry wall and paint the lift shaft. Block has been finished, waiting on doors.

A plumber was called in to look at and fix a plumbing back-up in the Kiddie Korner bathroom. This was due to coffee grounds being dumped down the drain in the sink at the back of the Sanctuary.

Family Ministry and Fellowship, Terri Kilrain: Bruce will take care of getting the subs for after Hanging Of The Greens.

Christmas Fellowship—will hold off on this for now. Plan to organize a big function after lift has been completed.

Old Business:

New Council members: Pastor will make an announcement at Church for volunteers.

New Business:

Tom Smith from Anderson Pharmacy would like to

hold a Vaccine Drive at the Church December 11. He will offer the two (2) types of flu vaccine and the COVID vaccine/booster.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:06 PM following the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Kelly Leshner

FUEL Council Secretary

**Congregation Council
Meeting
Wednesday, January 4, 2023
6:30 PM**

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Jim Kreider - President

Bruce Carpenter - Vice President

Kelly Leshner - Secretary

Scott Gola - Treasurer

Deb Anthony Janice Daub Deb Demler

Lisa Gable Bob Gates Ellen Houser

Terri Kilrain Lori Stover

Our Church Council made the decision in late 2020 to install in our Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall the most effective air-cleaning technology available. This technology is called needlepoint bipolar ionization, and was recommended to us by our HVAC specialist and by other congregations in the area. The technology uses ions (naturally-occurring charged particles) to neutralize all forms of air pollution, including viruses. These ions clean the air actively, unlike most air purification, which means that pathogens are neutralized quickly. [You can learn more about how it works at the manufacturer's website.](#) This technology is paired with our other mitigation efforts of distancing and proper mask-wearing to create a safer environment for In-Person Worship.

We continue to offer two opportunities for Worship each week: an In-Person and Online Service at 9:00 AM.

The choice, of course, for how you will Worship is yours—we will continue to work to maintain the safest environment possible in our Sanctuary for public Worship.

Whether you choose to attend In-Person or not at this time, Faith United is still your Church—a community that is here to support you and your faith, that is reaching into homes all across Lancaster County.



- December 16:** Denise Hackman
- December 19:** Kathleen Hafer, Brandon Boose
- December 21:** Craig Stover
- December 31:** Andrew Witmer

Anniversaries:

- December 21:** Matt and Sue Donley
- December 26:** Tracey and Steve Weidner



- January 1:** Kaylee Boose
- January 8:** Jaxson Burkholder
- January 15:** Meg May

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



80+ Birthdays

Blessings on your Birthday! Please remember our 80+ members with a card, visit, or phone call:

- William Ludwig - December 23** - 17 Keeler Avenue, Stevens, PA 17578
- Mary Ann Fichthorn - December 29** - 147 East Lancaster Avenue, Denver, PA 17517
- Barbara Boose - January 6** - Keystone Villa At Ephrata, Apartment 103, 100 North State Street, Ephrata, PA 17522.
- Helen Shirk - January 13** - Ephrata Manor Nursing 205, 99 Bethany Road, Ephrata, PA 17522
- John Luciani - January 13** - 1116 Marilyn Avenue, Ephrata, PA 17522

Adult Education About Lutheranism After Worship

Join Pastor Marissa and lay leaders in developing a deeper understanding of a Lutheran way of life. We'll learn together about history, liturgy, the eucharist, and more, all in a very approachable way. Join any Sunday you can!

Communion Bread



Please Sign the chart on the cabinet at the back to provide One Loaf of bread each Sunday.

Please Bring The Bread To The Church By Friday 9:00 AM—1:00 PM.



December/January Food Collection

Food, household, and personal items will be collected for the Giving Tree Christmas Families in December and Peter's Porch in January. Please check the list on the grocery cart for the items needed and deposit the items in the grocery cart.

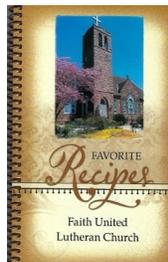
Coffee And Conversation



Coffee and Conversation is again being held following the Worship Service at the back of the Church.

Please sign the chart to provide the refreshments. Keep it simple.

For questions contact Terri Kilrain, 717-201-0099.



Church Cookbooks

Make Great Christmas Gifts! They are sold for \$10.00 each and are on the counter at the back of the Sanctuary. Proceeds benefit Faith United Youth Ministry.

More information contact Terri Kilrain, 717-201-0099.

Denver Lions Club Homemade Sauerkraut Sale



Packaged In 2 1/2 Quart Containers
\$10.00 Each

Pick up in Denver Park on Saturday, December 17 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

Church Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 AM to Noon.

To submit information for the bulletin or newsletter, please email Shirley Sweigart at:

grammyss46@gmail.com or grammyss@ptd.net or call 717-538-1946.



Faith United Evangelical Lutheran Church

357 Walnut Street, Denver, PA 17517
 Phone 717-336-2141 FAX 717-336-6475 Email: faithunited@ptd.net
 Website: faithunited-elca.org
CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM: @faithunitedlutheran



December 2022

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	Adult Education About Lutheranism Second Sunday Of Advent 9:00am Kid's Church 9:00am Live Stream and In-Person Worship Service	5	6 John Loeber Birthday 9:00am Cozy Comforters Sewing Group	7 7:00am Advent Midweek Service - In-Person And Live Streamed 8:30am REAL Life Community Services Young At Heart For 60 And Up, Adamstown Area Library, 110 West Main Street, Adamstown 7:30pm Congregation Council Meeting	8	9 Pastor Marissa's Day Off	10 7:30am Bible & Breakfast 8:00am Peter's Porch - Lititz Mennonite Church, 165 East Front Street, Lititz
11	Christmas Giving Tree Gift Deadline Congregational Meeting Following Worship Third Sunday Of Advent 9:00am Kid's Church 9:00am Live Stream and In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Confirmation For 7th And 8th Graders - 10:30-11:30 AM	12 12:30pm Parish Secretaries Meeting, Courtyard Cafe, Denver	13 12:00pm In-Person And Online Bible Study And Prayer Group	14 7:00am Advent Midweek Service - In-Person And Live Streamed 1:30pm Swamp Lutheran Church, Reinholds Food Pantry - Call 717-733-0345/717-336-2849	15	16 Pastor Marissa's Day Off	17 8:00am Peter's Porch - Zion Mennonite Church, 165 East Front Street, Akron
18	Adult Education About Lutheranism Festival Choir Rehearsal Following Worship Fourth Sunday Of Advent January 2023 Newsletter Article Deadline 9:00am Kid's Church 9:00am Live Stream and In-Person Worship Service	19	20 9:00am Cozy Comforters Sewing Group	21 First Day Of Winter 7:00am Advent Midweek Service - In-Person And Live Streamed 8:30am REAL Life Community Services Young At Heart For 60 And Up, Adamstown Area Library, 110 West Main Street, Adamstown	22	23 Church Office Closed Pastor Marissa's Day Off William Ludwig Birthday	24 Christmas Eve 8:00am Peter's Porch - Landis Valley Christian Fellowship Church, 2420 West Mill Road, Lancaster 3:30pm Festival Choir Rehearsal 4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship With Candlelight 7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship With Candlelight
25	Christmas Day Deadline To Commune And Contribute For 2022 Pick Up Poinsettias Following Worship 9:00am Kid's Church 9:00am Live Stream and In-Person Worship Service	26 Church Office Closed Stephen, Deacon and Martyr	27 John, Apostle and Evangelist 6:00pm Pack Bags For Peter's Porch	28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	29 Mary Ann Fichthorn Birthday	30 Church Office Closed Pastor Marissa's Day Off	31 New Year's Eve 8:00am Walking Group, Faith Memorial Garden

January 2023

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	Name Of Jesus 9:00am Kid's Church 9:00am Live Stream and In-Person Worship Service	2 Church Office Closed	3 9:00am Cozy Comforters Sewing Group	4 8:30am REAL Life Community Services Young At Heart For 60 And Up, Adamstown Area Library, 110 West Main Street, Adamstown 6:30pm Congregation Council Meeting	5	6 Barbara Boose Birthday Epiphany Of Our Lord Pastor Marissa's Day Off Pre-Order Deadline For Free Take Out Only Community Meal - Call 717-336-6748 3:00pm REAL Life First Friday Food Drive, Warehouse 916, Main Street, Denver	7 8:00am Peter's Porch - Faith United
8	Adult Education About Lutheranism Baptism Of Our Lord Undecorate Church Following Worship 9:00am Kid's Church 9:00am Live Stream and In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Confirmation For 7th And 8th Graders - 10:30-11:30 AM	9	10 12:00pm In-Person And Online Bible Study And Prayer Group	11 1:30pm Swamp Lutheran Church, Reinholds Food Pantry - Call 717-733-0345/717-336-2849	12 5:30am Free Take Out Only Community Meal, Trinity United Methodist Church, 420 Main Street, Denver - 5:30-6:30 PM	13 Helen Shirk Birthday John Luciani Birthday Pastor Marissa's Day Off	14 7:30am Bible & Breakfast 8:00am Peter's Porch - Lititz Mennonite Church, 165 East Front Street, Lititz

What's Happening at Faith United?

Send your pictures in for
next month's newsletter!



Follow Us On Instagram
for more photos!

@faithunitedlutheran



Hanging Of The Greens



Peter's Porch



Giving Tree



Boy Scouts Donate Food to Peter's Porch

The Upper Room Daily Devotional
 January — February, 2023
Christ In Our Home Daily Devotional
 January, February, March 2023
 Also, A Large Print Version is Available

Please call Shirley Sweigart, 717-538-1946 to set up an appointment to pick one up.



Peter's Porch

Faith United Evangelical
 Lutheran Church
 357 Walnut Street
 Denver, PA 17517

The First Saturday of Each Month

January 7, 2023
February 4, 2023
8:00-10:00 AM

Peter's Porch Is Back Inside

After moving to a drive-thru distribution model in April of 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Peter's Porch has moved back inside. Doors open to the public at 7:30 AM, and breakfast is served as clients wait for their turn to collect food. **This means that we need more volunteers!**

Please contact Pastor Marissa or Terry Burkholder if you are interested in helping on the first Saturdays of the month.

Bags for Peter's Porch are packed on the last Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM.



The Cozy Comforters need gently used sheets or fabric to use for their comforters. Please put your donations at the back of the Sanctuary or in the Cozy Comforters Sewing Room.

Children's Bulletins

ARE AVAILABLE

On Table At The Back Of Sanctuary

Proverbs Bible Study: Second And Fourth Tuesdays At Noon



Join Pastor Marissa and fellow congregants as we work our way through the wisdom tradition of Proverbs. Meets in-person, or via Zoom:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/411053586>

and follow the prompts. You can also call in by telephone to 1-929-205-6099 and enter our meeting ID: 411 053 586.

?? ? ? ? **Bible Quiz**

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

- A. "baby"; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
- B. "child"; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
- C. "youth"; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
- D. No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.



Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1-12).

Christian Symbol

OPEN BOOK: A book symbolizes the Bible, the written Word of God. When shown open, a book represents truth or revelation. Apostles and saints are often pictured holding an open book, understood as the New Testament writings of the early Christian church.



Connect With Us On Facebook!

For regular invitation to prayer, devotional reflections, and updates, follow us on Facebook:

@faithunitedelca.

Also, consider joining our Private group: Faith United Lutheran Church Community Building, where we are spending time getting to know one another and check in with each other.

We'd love to have you join us!

Lucky Me

If I was a rich man, with unlimited means,
I would ride around town, in a big limousine.
I would have a chauffeur, with a black suit and hat.
And a few pretty girls, just to sit on my lap.
I would have a big mansion, on top of a big hill.
Private doctors and nurses to attend me, if I am ill.
I would have lots of servants, some of which,
would scratch me, if ever I get an itch.
I would have a big yacht on my own private sea.
A solid gold remote, for a big screen TV.
A garage full of sports cars, second to none.
And a few Harley Davidsons, just for fun.
But those things elude me, and still I am blessed.
For I have much more, than some others possess.
I drive around, in an old pickup truck,
And I do my own fixin, if I get stuck.
My modest home is adequate for what I need.
I do not want a boat, on my own lake or stream.
I have a black plastic remote, that works just fine.
And those fancy sports cars require too much shine
time.
My most cherished possessions are my family and
friends,
A wife and kids that will love me, until it all ends.
I have a dog, when she sees me, she wags her tail.
They make me feel rich, and I know their love will
never fail.

R. Whitcomb

Committee Contacts

Interested in getting more involved? Contact the following people:

Care of Members: Lori Stover

Finance: Scott Gola

Christian Education: Brian Strohl

Information Technology (IT): Deb Demler

Staff Support: Brad Fichthorn

Property: Jim Kreider

Worship and Music: Bruce Carpenter

Peter's Porch Feeding Ministry: Terry Burkholder

Family Ministry and Fellowship: Terri Kilrain

Social Ministry: Dawn Frees

Vacation Bible School: Ellen Houser



Dear Friends,
Thank You so much for the cards, prayers and good thoughts sent my way over the past few months. This church community is such a blessing!

Arlene Brumbach

A most heartfelt **Thank You** for the prayers, cards, calls and other acts of kindness from Faith United during my recent recovery. A **Special Thank You** to Pastor Marissa.

Phyllis Dellinger

Dear Family of Faith United,

Thank You so much for the many Sympathy cards and messages of condolence upon the recent passing of my mother! I am grateful for your prayers on her behalf over the past 10 1/2 months and for the Get Well cards and Altar flowers that many of you wanted me to share with her during her stay at Ephrata Manor. She truly appreciated your thoughtfulness. Even though she only attended Faith United for a short time, she became familiar with many members of the congregation and enjoyed worshipping there.

Thanks also to Mae Raudenbush who visited my Mom on almost a daily basis. She was a really devoted friend.

Lastly, **Thank You** to Pastor Marissa for her concern and compassion for my Mom and for her ever-present love and support of me during this difficult journey. What a blessing she and all of you have been!

*Peace And Gratitude To All,
Cindy Kauffman*

Dear Friends of Faith United,

My **Thanks** for all the lovely cards and phone calls I received during my recent birthday. Your kindness and care is most appreciated. It is a blessing to be part of the family of Faith United.

Also, **Thanks** to our wonderful secretary, Shirley Sweigart.

God Bless, Caryl Lausch

Bible And Breakfast: Saturday, January 14 (Breakfast At 7:30 AM, Bible Study From 8:00-9:00 AM)



Join us for a morning of breakfast, fellowship, and Bible study on Epiphany.

Please sign the chart on the cabinet **ONLY** if you are providing

a casserole, etc.

HOPE

It's the kind of morning many of us dream of. Sleeping in, late breakfast, sipping coffee, and staring out the kitchen window at birds in the backyard. Then, suddenly, the sound of a bird striking a window jars us out of our weekend bliss. We run through the house toward the source of the sound, a large picture window, surprisingly on the opposite side of the house from the bird feeder. From inside we see nothing wrong, but we go out to look under the window. Tragically, there lays a small female downy woodpecker, apparently lifeless and obviously still. Without hesitation Marie scoops up the tiny bird. Immediately she cups her hands around it keeping the bird warm to prevent shock in case it is still alive. A sad smile on her face tells me it is just hanging on by a thread. She transfers it to a paper towel and resumes treatment, carefully cupping the bird in her hands. A slightly broken bill tip and a growing spot of crimson on the paper towel makes recovery appear out of reach. We of course fear the worst. "Her heart still beats," Marie says, looking for any hint of a good prognosis, as any veterinary technician should. Marie has pulled this off before, sometimes resuscitating unconscious birds until they struggle to break free of her hands and burst into flight, barely giving Marie time to step outside to release them back to the wild. "Whether the bird lives or dies is not up to us," she says. We both knew the odds were not good, and we struggle with our fear, trying not be too hopeless."

Hopeless...Hopeless...The word brings to mind a period in the spring time of my life and a lesson on hopelessness. The lesson came to me at lunch time on the job site when I worked for Earl Hertzog as a construction labor during my breaks from college so many years ago. "We take lunch at noon," Rodger Sweigart, the lead carpenter, told me along with other dos and don'ts like, "Don't over exert yourself, work smart. You have to last the whole day." And, "Break time is 10 minutes long not a second more." And, the most important rule, "When we break for lunch, no talking while Paul Harvey is on the air!" We had Paul Harvey on at lunch everyday. He'd come to us through a small portable FM radio tuned to WIOV 105 FM. Sure enough, everyone sat in silence in a circle around that radio making themselves as comfortable as possible on five gallon plastic drywall patch buckets or a wheelbarrow improvised as a chair. These are friends, neighbors, and my brother-in-law toughened by the reality that, unlike my professors at college who earned their living by thinking; these men, no less thoughtful, had to turn well thought out plans and mechanical drawings into real structures of concrete, wood, and asphalt shingles. They had to think and labor for their pay. The price of that paycheck was their skill, their time, sore backs, suffering the heat of summer, enduring the bone-chilling cold of winter and calloused hands. So it's no wonder that Paul Harvey news and commentary, everyday at noon, was an oasis of news, information, humor, and insight that those men and I craved after a hard morning of hot sun, scraped knuckles, or a hammer bruised thumb. He was from Oklahoma and descended from five generations of Baptist preachers. Like him or not (He was, at times, politically offensive to both the left and the right.), Paul Harvey's conservatism and immaculate oratory loomed over our circle of men like a surrogate father or wise older brother imparting wisdom and truth. A major feature of Paul's broadcast was a segment called: "The Rest of the Story." It was a radio bit where obscure but pivotal facts behind current events, history, or biography were revealed to the listener. These stories held us spellbound. It's too long ago to remember any one of these stories, but I do remember Paul Harvey saying one thing that sticks with me to this day. As a story that I can't recall came to a close, Paul finished with the line: "Beware of false hopelessness."

The play on words illustrated not only that hopelessness can be unfounded and not real, but is a dark fabrication of our own minds. If I close my eyes, I can still see the faces of fellow workers sitting around that radio, brows lifted, and wide eyed as their thoughts became galvanized by this unflinching pronouncement of hope.

Continued on Page 13

Continued from Page 12

However; when you hold in your hand a fragile small bird that appears to be dying, it's the fear of the bird's immanent death that seems to erode any hope of recovery. But still, this fear we have is still only an illusion that creates a false sense of hopelessness in our hearts. After all, the bird may very well live. So we struggle to cast aside our fears for the bird and wait for a small miracle that my wife and I hope will soon happen. In what seems longer than a few moments, the downy woodpecker's right eye opens. Then the left eye partly opens, blinks, and opens wide. The bird wiggles and Marie smiles. "We got to go out now!" she says. I open the door. Marie steps out, extends her arms towards the sky and opens her hands. Our patient explodes into the air with a flurry of wing beats and disappears into the distance. We look at each other while grinning from ear to ear and marveling at the bird's swift recovery and the small lesson it taught us about hope. Then it occurs to us that tomorrow is the first Sunday of Advent, a season in the church where scripture and worship speak about the hope of the coming Messiah. To pave the way for the infant Jesus, the angel Gabriel admonishes, first Zechariah, and then Mary, and also us to, "Fear not!" and embrace hope for the Prince of Peace is on the way. You might feel compelled to say, a little bird told us that too!

Advent Blessings To You!
Jim Redcay

The Poinsettias Decorating The Chancel and Nave Are Given:

In Memory Of:

My Husband Bob Fischer by Joyce Fischer
All My Loved Ones by Joyce Fischer
My Parents Howard and Marie Riddell by Linda Riddell
Bill Monyer by Arlene Monyer
George H. Cook by Karlene M. Cook
My Husband Lee by Teri Arment
Our Loved Ones by The Hegemans
Earl, Betty, James, Jackie, Larry Buchter by Barry and Debra Martzall
Clair, Evelyn, Thomas Martzall by Barry and Debra Martzall
Glenn Gerhart by Donna Gerhart
Loved Ones by Bruce and Jamie Carpenter
William Houser by The Houser Family
Skip Buohl by Lorna Buohl and Glenn and Lisa Beard
Ed Farrow by Ethel Farrow
Loved Ones by Pastor Marissa Becklin

In Loving Memory Of:

My Parents, Sister and Husband by Caryll Lausch

In Honor Of:

My Family by Teri Arment
The Birth Of Our Savior by Ann Roseboro
My Family, Friends and Church Family by Gloria Shober
My Family by Lori Wise

To The Glory Of God:

For The Birth Of Jesus Who Is The Christ, Our Lord by Deb Demler

Please Pick Up Your Plant(s) Following The Worship Service On Sunday, December 25.



Needing Tech Helpers On Sunday Mornings

We are looking for volunteers to run the livestream on Sunday mornings during Worship as part of a rotation. We will train you and have currently trained volunteers sit with you as you learn, and you will be accompanied by a comprehensive instruction booklet in the back as well. Youth are welcome to help in this way, too!



MEMBERS TO REMEMBER AT CHRISTMAS

Traci Krick
501 Pine Street
Denver, PA 17517

Helen Shirk
Ephrata Manor Nursing 205
99 Bethany Road
Ephrata, PA 17522

Evelyn Leisey
717 Pine Street
Denver, PA 17517

Florence Rutt
1327 Stony Lane
Lititz, PA 17543

Audrey Grill
C/O Michael Weinhold
11 Rose Court
New Holland, PA 17557

Smart Communications
PA DOC
Michael Roseboro
JF 6037 - SCI-Mahonoy
PO Box 33028
St. Petersburg, FL 33733
(WHITE ENVELOPES
ONLY PLEASE!!!)

Dorothy Hoyer
Apartment 501
300 St. Mark Avenue
Lititz, PA 17543

Caryll Lausch
126 North Fourth Street
Denver, PA 17517

Jack Dewald
Room 104
Brethren Village
3001 Lititz Pike
Lititz, PA 17543

Peggy Dewald
Room 340
4 Conestoga Drive
Lititz, PA 17543

Arlene Slabach
Maple Farm Nursing Center
Room 5
604 Oak Street
Akron, PA 17501

Ralph Whitcomb
Keystone Villa Room 221
100 North State Street
Ephrata, PA 17522

Lorna Buohl
977 Clearview Avenue
Ephrata, PA 17522

Mike and Diane Konopka
848 Oak Street
Denver, PA 17517

Sue Henkel
Landis Homes
Aspen Room 24
1001 East Oregon Road
Lititz, PA 17543

Lillian Troutman
c/o Denise Sensenig
80 Kline Road
Denver, PA 17517

Donna & Phil Deibler
1250 Peiffer Hill Road
Stevens, PA 17578

Dave Harnish
217 North Fifth Street
Denver, PA 17517

Matt Donley
116 West Fulton Street
Ephrata, PA 17522

Rich & Chris Billings
70 Rock Road
Ephrata, PA 17522

John Luciani
1116 Marilyn Avenue
Ephrata, PA 17522

Betty & Leroy Witmer
Keystone Villa Apartment 311
100 North State Street
Ephrata, PA 17522

Ron & Jean Worline
Muhlenberg Apartment 3321
300 St. Mark Avenue
Lititz, PA 17543

David & Kathy Steiner
234 Pfautz Hill Road
Stevens, PA 17578

Mae Raudenbush
Apartment 110
250 Park View Heights Road
Ephrata, PA 17522

Marie & Jim Redcay
95-A Tannery Road
Reinholds, PA 17569

Sue Means
15 Keith Court
Stevens, PA 17578

Heather & Jim Kreider
30 Cushion Peak Road
Wernersville, PA 19565

Lois Geist
2135 Brigadier Drive
York, PA 17404



December Worship

Third Sunday Of Advent Sunday, December 11, 2022

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11. A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.



Fourth Sunday Of Advent Sunday, December 18, 2022

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25. Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.



Nativity Of Our Lord: Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24, 2022

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96:1-13; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]. In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.



Nativity Of Our Lord: Christmas Day Sunday, December 25, 2022 Hymns & Carols

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!



January Worship

Name Of Jesus Sunday, January 1, 2023

Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8:1-9; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21. From the beginning, through baptism, we are called Christian. We are "Christ-ened" at the font. Bearing Christ's name, we share the same Father and are invited to address this parent intimately: Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of God. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year.

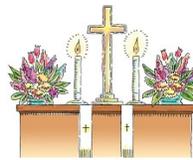


Baptism Of Our Lord Sunday, January 8, 2023

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29:1-11; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17. In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.



2023 Altar Flower/Bulletin Sponsor Sign-Up



Altar Flowers

The Altar Flower Chart for 2023 is on the board by the Walnut Street entrance. **New Format:** To sponsor flowers, sign your name on the chart; order the flowers from the florist of your choice, pay them and call Jamie Carpenter, 717-286-8821, to arrange to bring them to the Church. You will receive a paper in the mail to fill out with the wording you want in the Church Bulletin. Put it in the mailbox of "Shirley Sweigart" or call the Church Office, 717-336-2141.

The Bulletin Sponsor Chart for 2023 is on the board by the Walnut Street entrance. **Cost is \$25.00 per Sunday.**

You may call Shirley Sweigart, 717-538-1946 to get your name on either Chart.



Bulletins

Undecorate The Church

We will take down the decorations on Sunday, January 8, 2023 following the 9:00 AM Worship Service.



In Our Prayers

We ask you to daily pray for the following people and those in your life you know that are in need:

For Comfort Of The Holy Spirit:

Harriet Garber Family

Donald Gable Family

Millie Shober Family

Nadine Lied Family

Sophia Battisti Family

David Dexter Family

For Healing:

Donna Deibler

Rich Billings

Dorothy Hoyer

John Loeber

Dave Harnish

Cindy Kauffman

Deb Anthony

Matt Donley

Audrey Grill

Ethel Newman

John Luciani

Betty Witmer

Keiser Family

Julianna Beck

Mark Frees

Jared Snyder

Roland Gehman

Beverly Kilmer

Patricia Krick

Lydia Bearinger

Marlene and Joe Battisti

Bernita Wert

Arlo Schmidt

Victor Rodriguez

Sandy Madera

Joyce Hahn

Lauralyn Schrom

Patty Lang

Maggie Carpenter

Marilyn and George

Debbie Fischer

Eileen Norton

Carl Haberman

Florida Hurricane Residents

You're Also Invited To Call And/Or Send Cards.

Continuing Concerns

Arlene Slabach, Michele Lacy, Caryll Lausch, Traci Krick, Rob and Terri Macker, Lorna Buehl, Ethel Farrow, Ralph Whitcomb, Bill Ludwig, Helen Shirk, Lillian Troutman, Sue Henkel, Michael and Diane Konopka, Ronald and Jean Worline, Susan Means, Ethel Farrow, Peggy and Jack Dewald, Florence Rutt, Susan Hartman, Dave Steiner, Boose Family, Bill Burkholder, Day Fasnacht, John Werner, Reaser Family, Ginger Brubaker, Jim Kelly, Dennis Hill, Janice Houpp, Cathy McQuate, Terry Moyer, Betsy Sensenig, Marie McQuate, Glenn Beard Sr., Martha Sheaffer, Jean Wolf, Donald Ernst, Shirley Leathery, Ginny and Jim Stoltz, Tracy Augustine, Stan Henderson, Jeri Lynn Pickel, Dean Camp, Jed Weidner, Men and Women Serving in our Armed Forces.

UPDATE:

MASKS OPTIONAL



In response to the CDC's newest guidance for Lancaster County, **effective immediately, masks are optional at Faith United.** We give thanks for a low transmission rate in our county and decreased pressure on local hospitals that has made this guidance possible. We will continue to have masks available for those that wish to wear them.



Take Out Only Community Meal

No Charge

Thursday, January 12, 2023

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Pre-Order Required by January 6 & 20

Pickup Time - 5:30-6:15 PM

Trinity United Methodist Church

420 Main Street, Denver (Rear Entrance)

Call 717-336-6748 or

Email: swampcf@ptd.net

Devotional Walking Group

LAST SATURDAY
OF THE MONTH

8:00 AM

Meets at garden outside Faith
United Lutheran Church
(357 Walnut St.)

Join us for a short devotion, then
walk at your own pace (strollers
and pets on leashes welcome)

COMMUNION
HOMEBOUND



Communion Visits By Request

Pastor Marissa continues to offer in-home Holy Communion. She'd love to visit with you. To schedule a visit, contact the Church Office by Phone or Email; 717-336-2141; faithunited@ptd.net.



Adamstown Area Library Events

The Adamstown Area Library is a passport office for the United States Department of State. Passports are done by appointment only. Please call 717-484-4200 to make an appointment.

Adamstown Area Library is located at 110 West Main Street in Adamstown, next to the Post Office. Library hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM, Friday, 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM, and Saturday, 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM.

The Library will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and the day after Christmas - Saturday, December 24 through Monday, December 26. The Library will also be closed on New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, and the Monday after - Saturday, December 31 through Monday, January 2.

Elf On The Shelf - December 1-20. Elf On The Shelf is hiding in the Library! Tell the Librarian where you saw "Cocoa" (the Elf) and receive a raffle ticket to win a Basket of Prizes. Every day he will move, so stop in often to claim more raffle tickets.

Winter Reading Bingo - December 1-January 31. For readers 18 and older. Pick up a Bingo card at the Library, cozy up with books this winter, and enter to win a beautiful winter prize basket.

"Twinkling Stars" Baby Storytime - Every Thursday at 10:00 AM. Simple stories, rhymes, puppets, songs, and fingerplays for ages birth-2 with adult. Bring along your 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten packets to help achieve your goal! December 15, 22, 29.

"The Young and the Restless" Toddler Time - Every Thursday from 10:30-11:00 AM. Stories, songs and fingerplays, followed by an easy craft and free play. Bring along your 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten packets to help achieve your goal! For ages 2-3 with adult. December 15, 22, 29.

Monday Funday Flannel Board Stories - Monday, December 12 and 19 at 10:00 AM. Story re-telling is an important skill in developing language and memory skills, cause and effect, problem solving, and cooperation. For ages 2-6.

"Budding Bookworms" Preschool Storytime - Every Wednesday at 10:00 AM. Stories and an easy craft for ages 3-6 with adult. December 14, 21, 28.

Young At Heart - Wednesday, December 21 from 9:00 -11:00 AM. REAL Life Community Services invites you to Young at Heart, with free events for anyone age 60 and up. Join us at the Library for coffee, chatting, games, crafts, and more on the first and third Wednesday of each month. For more information, call 717-336-7797 or visit REALLCS.org.

Drop-In STEAM - Monday, December 12, drop-in from 2:00-5:00 PM. for LEGO® Club, Paper Circuits and Button Making. Explore Science, Technology,

Engineering, Art and Math through games, activities, and projects with Miss Maribeth. An adult is required to accompany children under 8.

LEGO Activity Bag Pickup - Monday, December 12, while supplies last. On the second Monday of each month there will be a new LEGO® packet for you to pick up, with instructions for a special project. Starting that day, you can pick up a kit in the Library foyer. One (1) per family please. For ages 5-12 years.

Marine Corps Reserve "TOYS FOR TOTS" - Drop off donations by December 13. Donations of new, unwrapped gifts are being accepted in the box located near the circulation desk through Tuesday, December 13.

Genealogy Group - Tuesday, December 13 at 6:30 PM. This group meets once a month for lively discussions, research help or short talks from genealogy researcher Ken McCrea. Join others with an interest in researching family history and learn more about online resources for genealogy research. For adults and older students.

Teen Take and Make Packet Pickup (Embossed Foil Sign) - Monday, December 19, while supplies last. Get creative with our ready-to-go kits! Check here each month to see what you can learn to make with just a few simple materials, provided to you at no cost, and a few easy instructions. Supplies are limited, so stop by to claim your bag today!

Almost Perfect Crimes - Tuesday, December 20 at 6:30 PM on Zoom. Join Miss Jess as we discover together "Whodunit!" Upon registration, you will receive the Zoom link and the Mini Murder Mystery Story. Additional clues and evidence will be revealed during our meeting as we try to solve the crime together. For ages teen/adult due to some graphic content.

MJWK (Miss Jess wants to Know) - All month. Teens, we want your opinion! Stop in the Young Adult and Teen Graphic Novel Book Section of the Library for the question of the month! With this simple voting passive program, teens can vote with a sticker dot to select their favorite. Results will be posted on our Facebook page at the end of the month. This month is "Perfect Pet Wars".

Story Challenge - All month. Read the story on the window next to the wheelchair ramp. Tell the circulation desk staff the answer to the question for a prize.

Fall/Winter I SPY Window Game - Stop in at the Library to "spy with your little eye" all the fun things on the window. List of items changes weekly. When you finish, come inside to receive your congratulatory sticker.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!



**Wednesday, December 21,
2022**



Approved by Finance Committee on 11/21/2022
 Approved by Council on
 Approved by Congregation on

11/21/2022

Updated as of 2022-12-08

	Working 2023 Budget	Actual Income & Expenses as of October 31, 2022	Working 2022 Budget	\$ difference prev. yr v current yr budget	% difference prev. yr v current yr budget
Income					
<i>Percentage based on historical data</i>					
Offerings	\$214,711.00	\$164,924.00	\$228,807.00	-\$14,096.00	-6.16%
Benevolence Contributions (Snyod)	\$18,000.00	\$14,694.00	\$18,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Building Contributions	\$15,000.00	\$11,058.00	\$20,000.00	-\$5,000.00	-25.00%
Communion Contributions	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Other Misc Designations (Advent, Christmas, etc)	\$5,000.00	\$15,203.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total Income	\$255,711.00	\$205,879.00	\$274,807.00	-\$19,096.00	-6.95%
Expenses					
Staff					
Pastor Salary & Housing*	\$62,110.00	\$53,712.00	\$59,520.00	\$2,590.00	4.17%
Pastor Social Security Offset	\$5,149.00	\$4,112.00	\$4,934.00	\$215.00	4.18%
Pension/Insurance	\$16,852.00	\$13,562.00	\$16,275.00	\$577.00	3.42%
Pastor Mileage	\$2,500.00	\$705.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Pastor Continuing Education/Professional Expenses	\$1,200.00	\$25.00	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Pastor Budget Subtotal	\$87,811.00	\$72,116.00	\$84,429.00	\$3,382.00	3.85%
Administrative Assistant Continuing Education	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Administrative Assistant Salary**	\$37,000.00	\$27,063.00	\$36,000.00	\$1,000.00	2.70%
Social Media Coordinator***	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	#DIV/0!
Family Ministry*	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	#DIV/0!
Music Event Coordinator****	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00	100.00%
Choir Director	\$0.00	\$4,621.00	\$6,528.00	-\$6,528.00	#DIV/0!
Youth Choir Director	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	-\$400.00	#DIV/0!
Organist**	\$9,000.00	\$7,200.00	\$9,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Custodians	\$6,000.00	\$1,993.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Workmen's Compensation	\$1,300.00	\$1,079.00	\$1,300.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Social Security	\$4,000.00	\$2,883.00	\$10,500.00	-\$6,500.00	-162.50%
Supply Pastor	\$1,000.00	\$586.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total Staff	\$146,411.00	\$117,841.00	\$155,457.00	-\$9,046.00	-6.18%
Office					
Office Supplies	\$6,000.00	\$3,471.00	\$7,000.00	-\$1,000.00	-14.29%
Postage	\$2,100.00	\$1,299.00	\$1,800.00	\$300.00	16.67%
Offering Envelopes	\$800.00	\$421.00	\$500.00	\$300.00	60.00%
Synod Assembly/Meetings	\$1,100.00	\$395.00	\$1,100.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total Office	\$10,000.00	\$5,586.00	\$10,400.00	-\$400.00	-3.85%
Utilities					
Water & Sewer	\$1,500.00	\$349.00	\$2,300.00	-\$800.00	-34.78%
Phone/Internet Service	\$3,500.00	\$1,059.00	\$4,000.00	-\$500.00	-12.50%
Electric	\$6,000.00	\$3,858.00	\$17,000.00	-\$11,000.00	-64.71%
Natural Gas	\$4,000.00	\$3,399.00	\$3,500.00	\$500.00	14.29%
Trash Removal	\$1,800.00	\$1,139.00	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total Utilities	\$16,800.00	\$9,804.00	\$28,600.00	-\$11,800.00	-41.26%
Committee Budgets					
	\$37,300.00	\$27,692.00	\$35,950.00	\$1,350.00	3.76%
Pastor's Discretionary	\$500.00	\$275.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Evangelism	\$2,000.00	\$136.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
General Benevolence (Snyod)	\$18,000.00	\$15,355.00	\$18,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Misc.	\$1,000.00	\$912.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Family Ministry	\$2,500.00	\$1,728.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	0.00%
IT (Technology)	\$6,000.00	\$3,476.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	100.00%
Fellowship	\$1,000.00	\$431.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	0.00%
Social Ministry	\$1,300.00	\$1,423.00	\$1,300.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Worship Supplies & Music	\$4,500.00	\$3,956.00	\$3,150.00	\$1,350.00	42.86%
Care of Members	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Committee Totals	\$37,300.00	\$27,692.00	\$35,950.00	\$1,350.00	3.76%
Property					
Property & Liability Insurance	\$10,000.00	\$9,441.00	\$7,000.00	\$3,000.00	42.86%
Repairs/Maintenance****	\$5,000.00	\$4,295.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Materials	\$2,000.00	\$62.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Building Repairs****	\$12,000.00	\$9,271.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Memorial Garden	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Snow Removal & Lawn Care	\$15,000.00	\$5,630.00	\$17,000.00	-\$2,000.00	-11.76%
Misc Expenses	\$800.00	\$1,069.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total Property	\$45,200.00	\$29,768.00	\$44,200.00	\$1,000.00	2.26%
Total Expenses	\$255,711.00	\$190,691.00	\$265,561.00	-\$9,850.00	-3.71%
Excess Revenue over Expenses as of October 31, 2022=				\$15,188.00	

<Line Items marked with an asterisk please refer to attached Notes Page>
 All revenue and expenses are rounded to the nearest dollar.



NOTES

^ Pastor Salary and Housing: Housing allowance as requested by Pastor for 2023 Budget Year is \$20,400 or \$850/per pay period.
Approved by Council on

^^ Administrative Assistant Salary: Increase represents standard industry practice

^^^ Social Media Coordinator: Will keep line for potential future need. As determined/requested by Council to not fund this category this budget year for that role is essentially been assumed by Pastor via our improved Social Media presence.

^^^^ Music Event Coordinator: This role was developed by Staff Support as interim replacement for Choir Director. Pay will be \$75.00 per event anticipating a total of 10 events.

*** Family Ministry:** Currently there is no salary being paid in this position. Expenses accounted for are Children's Sunday School, Bible & Breakfast, and any other expense as defined by Family Ministry Committee.

**** Organist:** This line item was determined as follows: The first 6 months assumes two services per week. The second half of the year assumes one service per week. The amount also assumes 7 special services in addition to normal church year. The pay rate per service is \$150.00.

***** Fulton Bank Loan Payments:** This loan was paid in full as of July 2021.
 Line item to remain for accounting purposes.

***** Repairs/Maintenance:** This category is defined as day to day general maintenance usually inside the church that is usually a smaller dollar amount and is \$500 and below not needing council approval.

****** Building Maintenance:** This category is defined as maintenance in which the cost is greater than \$500.00 and needs prior Council approval and is NOT a Capital Improvement project. Please see Capital Improvement plans attached to budget.

Summary Note: Budget revenue is increased by approximately 3.50% in 2023, based on estimated 2022 revenues. Expenses for 2023 are based upon budgetary estimates.

Capital Improvements						
Project Type	Projected Cost	Projected Offerings	Capital Improvement Fund	Amount Already Donated*	Residual Funds**	Deficit
None Scheduled						
Potential Project Slated for 2024						
TOTAL PROJECTED DEFICIT=			\$0.00			
*	N/A					
**	N/A					

**Congregational Meeting
 Sunday, December 11, 2022
 Immediately Following
 9:00 AM Worship**

AGENDA

**Invocation
 Reading and Approval of Previous
 Congregation Meeting Minutes**

**Election of Congregation Council
 Members**

2023 Budget and Approval

Endowment Fund Update

Any Other Business

Adjourn to Fellowship Time

SERVING DECEMBER, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

DATE	LECTOR	TECHNOLOGY	USHERS	OFFERING COUNTERS
December 11, 2022	Dawn Frees	Deb Demler	Linda Riddell Jeff Hartman	Dawn Frees Craig Stover Lori Stover
December 18, 2022	Angela Stewart	Scott Gola	June Wolf Don Wolf	Bruce Carpenter Jamie Carpenter Linda Riddell
December 24, 2022 4:00 PM	Jim Kreider	Scott Gola	Shirley Ludwig Bill Ludwig	
December 24, 2022 7:00 PM	Lori Stover	Deb Demler	Terri Kilrain Deb Anthony	
December 25, 2022	Harold Martzall	Deb Demler	Mary Stewart Jim Stewart	Deb Anthony Robert Gates Gloria Gates
January 1, 2023	Gloria Shober	Scott Gola	Jamie Carpenter Bruce Carpenter	Terri Kilrain Richard Billings Chris Billings
January 8, 2023	Deb Demler	Deb Demler	Angela Stewart Todd Stewart	Dawn Frees Craig Stover Lori Stover
January 15, 2023	Cindy Kauffman	Deb Demler	Teri Arment Harold Martzall	Bruce Carpenter Jamie Carpenter Linda Riddell
January 22, 2023	Ann Roseboro	Scott Gola	Cynthia Hegeman Tim Hegeman	Deb Anthony Robert Gates Gloria Gates
January 29, 2023	Todd Stewart	Deb Demler	Jennie Weinhold Chris Weinhold	Tim Hegeman Cynthia Hegeman Ann Roseboro
February 5, 2023	Dawn Frees	Scott Gola	Linda Riddell Jeff Hartman	Terri Kilrain Richard Billings Chris Billings
February 12, 2023	Angela Stewart	Deb Demler	June Wolf Don Wolf	Dawn Frees Craig Stover Lori Stover
February 19, 2023	Jim Kreider	Scott Gola	Shirley Ludwig Bill Ludwig	Bruce Carpenter Jamie Carpenter Linda Riddell
February 22, 2022 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Lori Stover	Deb Demler	Terri Kilrain Deb Anthony	
February 26, 2022	Harold Martzall	Scott Gola	Mary Stewart Jim Stewart	Deb Anthony Robert Gates Gloria Gates

Substitute: Melvin Schmeck, 717-336-5792

If you are unable to be present to count the offering, please call Melvin.

KID'S PAGE



Share the good news of Jesus' birth in a creative way.



What you need:

- Newspaper
- Bible
- Smooth, clean stones
- Pencil
- Oil paint pens
- Adult help



What you do:

1. In a well-ventilated area, cover a work surface with newspaper.
2. Read Luke 2:1-20 and choose key people and places to draw.
3. In pencil, sketch one drawing on each stone.
4. Follow directions on paint pens to fill drawings with color. Let dry.
5. Hide stones for younger siblings to find, set out a new stone each day or order them in a row and tell the Nativity story.



Seeking the story

Angels joyfully announced a special arrival in Bethlehem at Christmas.

Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.



WORD BANK

- Shepherds
- Child
- Nazareth
- Census
- Baby
- David
- Mary
- Travel
- Town
- Register
- Born
- Night

T	B	W	Y	A	Z	K	E	S	H	N	G	D	J	K
Q	O	Y	A	P	R	A	L	B	F	P	I	C	Q	L
N	R	W	X	B	E	Y	R	M	B	D	M	O	E	E
S	N	O	N	W	G	A	I	B	A	C	D	O	T	D
R	G	X	J	F	I	W	M	V	B	R	R	C	E	O
P	S	C	E	N	S	U	S	H	Y	U	Y	F	P	N
O	T	P	I	G	T	Q	C	N	T	G	M	U	S	T
O	A	N	D	B	E	C	H	I	L	D	N	Z	F	A
A	T	B	A	U	R	W	H	G	F	V	A	B	U	M
T	R	A	V	E	L	J	C	H	V	O	Z	G	N	H
F	B	Q	I	W	D	X	P	T	E	N	A	O	L	Q
Z	C	R	D	Q	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	V
R	U	V	Y	K	N	I	R	T	K	G	E	Y	I	R
K	V	A	Z	X	L	S	H	Y	T	P	T	J	S	K
L	L	E	S	M	J	Z	L	Q	R	U	H	V	W	X

"Today in the town of David a _____
has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

LUKE 2:11, NIV

Answer: Savior



Hospice & Community Care and the Pathways Center for Grief & Loss are offering the following programs.



As we are taking all necessary precautions for the health and safety of our patients and families, staff, volunteers and visitors related to the Coronavirus outbreak, our support group will be held In-Person and via

Zoom. Call the Pathways Center at (717) 391-2413 or (800) 924-7610 to receive Zoom credentials.

ADULT DROP-IN GROUPS

These free meetings, held online via Zoom and In-Person, include a presentation and an informal time to talk with others. Call the Pathways Center at (717) 391-2413 or (800) 924-7610 to discuss with a bereavement counselor who will also provide the log-in information.

Coping With The Loss Of A Child (Of Any Age): Monday, December 19, 6:30-8:00 PM, In-Person at Pathways Center For Grief & Loss, 4075 Old Harrisburg Pike, Mount Joy. Groups are led by Master's-level counselors and volunteers who have experienced the same type of loss. They provide time to share experiences and ask questions. Groups are designed for those within the first two years following the death of a loved one. Call to register.

GRASP (Grief Recovery After A Substance Passing): Tuesday, December 20, 6:30-8:00 PM, In-Person at Pathways Center For Grief & Loss, 4075 Old Harrisburg Pike, Mount Joy. This monthly group provides sources of help, compassion, and understanding for families or individuals who have had a loved one die as a result of substance abuse or addiction. Pre-registration for new attendees is required. For more information about location or Zoom details, or to register, contact Marjorie Paradise at mparadise810@comcast.net or (717) 951-2720.

Coping With The Holidays: Do you find that holiday traditions you once anticipated with great joy now leave you with feelings of uncertainty and sadness? Consider joining us for any of the following groups. These sessions may help you not only get through the holiday season, but perhaps find something positive during an otherwise difficult time. Registration deadline is two days prior to the group. Register online at pathways.hccnet.org/groups or call the Pathways Center. **Mount Joy Pathways Center For Grief & Loss 4075 Old Harrisburg Pike, Tuesday, December 13, 6:30–8:00 PM (Topic: *Living For Today*); Tuesday, December 20, 6:30–8:00 PM (Topic: *What Are The Gifts?*); Via Zoom, Wednesday, December 14, 6:30-8:00 PM (Topic: *Holiday Check-In And Discussion*).**

Newly Bereaved Program (Three (3) Week Series): Pathways Center for Grief & Loss 4075 Old Harrisburg Pike, Mount Joy, Wednesdays, January 11, 18 and 25, 2:00–3:30 PM. **Registration deadline: one week prior to the start of the group.** If your loss was recent, this series provides an overview of common grief responses and will help you to begin to identify coping tools. Space is limited; registration required. Call to discuss with a bereavement counselor to determine if the group will meet your needs.

Bereavement Workshop: What Now? Post-Holiday Survival Tips: Virtually Via Zoom, Thursday, January 26, 6:30–8:00 PM. **Registration deadline: January 24.** Many grieving individuals find themselves wanting to just “get through” the holidays as quickly as possible, aware of the many triggers that can accompany the holiday season. When the new year arrives and there is less to do, people may be surprised that they feel “let down” and a bit lost. This workshop will provide helpful tips for coping with your loss during those long winter months. To register, visit pathways.hccnet.org/groups or call the Pathways Center.

Support For Caregivers: If you are caring for a loved one, who is caring for you? Hospice & Community Care offers an online support group for caregivers of a loved one who is seriously ill. This group offers a place to share your experience with others who may understand. Offered the third Thursday of every month, 6:30–8:00 PM, the sessions are facilitated by a Master's-level counselor and a trained volunteer who has been a caregiver. To receive the link to participate in this free virtual opportunity, call (717) 391-2413 to speak with a counselor.

Individual Grief Support: The Pathways Center offers individual grief consultation for adults, children, teens and families. In-person support sessions are provided in Mount Joy and York, while adhering to the Center for Disease Control's recommended guidelines. Individual sessions by phone or online via Zoom are also an option. Counselors are available any time Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM–5:00 PM. Evening appointments may sometimes be available. Call the Pathways Center, (717) 391-2413, for more information or to set up an appointment.

Social Dine-Out Options: Do you feel as though the opportunities to socialize have changed after the death of your loved one? Does it seem as though the only people who truly understand what you are going through are others who are also grieving? The Pathways Center offers a variety of social options to choose from. Each participant pays for their own meal. These gatherings are facilitated by trained bereavement volunteers who have also experienced loss in the past.

Men's Breakfast: Tuesday, December 27, 8:00-9:30 AM, The Centerville Diner, 100 South Centerville Road, Lancaster. No registration needed. For more information contact Dan Farmer at 717-435-8023.

Dinner Out (For Men And Women): Saturday, December 10, 2:00 PM, Hoss's Steak & Sea House, 3604 East Market Street, York. RSVP to Connie Whitacre at 717-577-1138 or connie@mpiroofing.com at least three days prior to the event.

Call the Pathways Center at (717) 391-2413 or (800) 924-7610 to request the log-in address or phone number to participate in a Zoom group or to schedule a private Zoom meeting with a Pathways counselor. Visit our website at www.PathwaysThroughGrief.org for updated information about support groups.

Community Events

REAL LIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES INVITES YOU TO



YOUNG AT HEART

FREE EVENTS FOR ANYONE AGE 60 AND UP
COFFEE, CHATTING, CRAFTS, GAMES AND MORE!

1st & 3rd Wednesday Mornings
8:30am – 11:00am

Adamstown Area Library
110 West Main Street Adamstown, PA 19501

For more information or to RSVP call 717-336-7797
or visit our website at REALCS.ORG.



First Friday Food Drive

On the 1st Friday of each month
Between 3pm - 5pm
Drop off items at Warehouse 916

PLEASE NOTE:
All unexpired, unopened, nonperishable food donations are accepted. We list the items we REALLY need on our website each month and on Facebook. Thank you! For more information or questions, contact our office at 717-336-7797.

REINHOLDS, ADAMSTOWN AND SURROUNDING COCALICO AREA

FOOD PANTRY

EASS has a satellite location at
Swamp Lutheran Church

every 2nd Wednesday of the month
1:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Call 717.733.0345 or 717.336.2849
to let us know you are coming



Join us at Peter's Porch!



- 1st Saturday of the month, 8:00 - 10:00am
Faith United Lutheran Church
357 Walnut Street
Denver, PA 17517
717.336.2141
www.FaithUnited-elca.org
- 2nd Saturday of the month, 8:00 - 10:00am
Lititz Mennonite Church
165 East Front Street
Lititz, PA 17543
717.626.8327
www.LititzMC.org
- 3rd Saturday of the month, 8:00 - 10:00am
Zion Lutheran Church
435 Main Street
Akron, PA 17543
717.859.2100
www.ZionAkron.org
- 4th Saturday (STARTING 7/28/18), 8:00 - 10:00am
Landis Valley Christian Fellowship Church
2420 Kissel Hill Road
Lancaster, PA 17601
717.569.6051
www.LandisValleyFellowship.org

Providing a free breakfast and a bag of food for our neighbors
There is donated clothing at Lititz and Akron Peter Porches

Are you at risk of being evicted or having your utilities shut off?

ERAP Can Help!

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Eligibility is determined by:

- Income
- Covid-19 Experience
- Must a renter of a home or lot

For more details and to receive help, contact:

Ephrata Area Social Services
By Appointment b/x Mon-Fri, 9—4
717-733-0345 Or...

Northern Lancaster Hub
By Appointment
717-723-8258

Or visit:
www.LancasterHelp.rent

For those who do not qualify for ERAP, please reach out for help anyway before the situation becomes a crisis.



Swamp Lutheran Church

Denver Women's Club Meeting
Wednesday, January 18, 2023
7:00 PM

Minute To Win It! Fun Night

A fun night with games, prizes, and lots of laughs!

Faith United Fellowship Hall
Everyone Welcome

Introducing a new place in Northern Lancaster County for those experiencing homelessness

Open every Wednesday and Thursday from 8AM - 1PM starting April 7 at the Community Commons - side entrance 560 South Reading Rd. Ephrata, PA, 17522

FAITH UNITED EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
357 WALNUT STREET
P O BOX 157
DENVER PA 17517-0157

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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