

## JANUARY 2025 LUMC Newsletter

### Pastor's Column



As we begin our new year, I want to visit the magi much as we ponder their visit to Jesus. We are not sure who they are. Some call them kings, some call them magi. We know they came for the east and we know they followed a star. They knew something was up. The signs were in the cosmos. I looked up and saw some

bright stars this week as I walked outside to bring my trash to the curb. It was a brisk evening. There was snow on the ground. I thought of the words, "in the bleak midwinter, snow on snow."

The magi followed a very bright star. They were not sure exactly where the king was to be born. So they went to the king's palace to ask not knowing that only stirred up a hornet's nest. Then Herod, who didn't know until they came that a king was going to be born, became on high alert. So he went to the religious scribes to find the place the child would be born. He was a cruel king and only thinking of himself. He was jealous of this child to be born. He was afraid and he capitalized on the fear of the nation. "When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him"

He wanted to eliminate the competition. So, he did what any self-serving, vindictive man of power would do, he lied. "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

The magi found the child, bowed down and worshiped him. They were told in a dream, not to return to Herod. So they went home by another way. James Taylor has a song called: home by another way. You may listen to it here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nX6aPdx9btY> .

One line in his song, "Steer clear of royal welcomes. Avoid a big to-do. A king who would slaughter the innocents will not cut a deal for you."

These foreigners saw something the religious folks and the state leaders did not. The religious and the government saw threat where the magi saw truth. The one they had been anticipating was in their midst and they missed it.

So Herod became enraged and set out for revenge. He slaughtered babies 2 years old and younger trying to kill Jesus. So, Mary and Joseph fled their countries violence and became refugees in Egypt.

An epiphany is an aha moment. Epiphany day is January 6<sup>th</sup>, 12 days after Christmas where we remember the magi. Epiphany season in the church is the time we note the manifestation of God. It is the enlightenment of our faith. There are seasons of mystery and dark nights of the soul. Epiphany is a season of light beginning with that bright star so many years ago. Wise men and women still seek God. When fear overtakes us, step out and faith. When we distrust the foreigner, remember the magi saw what the locals did not. When we want to reject immigrants, remember the holy family's plight from violence to save their very lives.

*Jonette Gay*



### JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH

Rise Against Hunger is January's Mission of the Month (green envelope). "Rise Against Hunger is growing a global movement to end hunger by empowering communities, nourishing lives and responding to emergencies. Using the Global Hunger Index, they target communities in need. They work with local leaders to harness the strengths of their communities and tackle their own food and nutrition security challenges." The goal of Rise Against Hunger is to end global hunger,

Rise Against Hunger has created 4 pathways to end hunger. See [Riseagainsthunger.org](http://Riseagainsthunger.org)


1- Empowering Communities pathway promotes improvements in agricultural production and rural livelihoods to help individuals increase incomes and access to food.

2- Nourishing Lives pathway is a bridge to sustainability. It provides nutrition and encourages education through school feeding, vocational training and health clinics.

3- Responding to Emergencies pathway deploys food and aid to communities where it is needed most. Communities that are suffering from droughts to floods, being in conflict zones, and in political crises.

4- Growing the Movement pathway is necessary to assure that hunger is ended around the globe. Rise Against Hunger engages hundreds of thousands of volunteers and advocates each year to build awareness and activation.

LUMC will be participating on March 16, 2025 in packaging 10,000 meals in 2 hours. You will need to register. Detailed information with link to register online will be available soon! See you there!



*I am no longer my own, but thine.  
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.  
And now,  
O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
thou art mine, and I am thine.  
So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven.  
Amen.*

*John Wesley's Covenant Prayer*

### Outreach Mission Ministry Feeding the Homeless

LUMC has volunteered for several decades to deliver and serve a hot meal to the people sheltered at the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County in Upper Darby, PA. The number of meals has varied over time from 35 to 150. Currently, we are preparing and delivering 50 meals on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month.

The Outreach Mission Ministry Committee is overseeing the Feeding of the Homeless program. Our 2 co-captains for 2025 are Sarah Noll and Donna Thompson. They coordinate the menu and ask people to cook 4 meat casseroles and 2 vegetable casseroles. The other items that are needed to complete the meal are announced in the church bulletin and Lima Beans. Those other items such as rolls, bottled water, fruit, and dessert (can be store bought) are a basic assignment of purchase and deliver to church by the designated Sunday.

We want to include as many people who attend LUMC and their friends in following Christ's commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself". This act of service is mentioned in Matthew 25:44-45 TLB. "Then they will reply, 'Lord when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?' And Jesus will answer, 'When you refused to help the least of these my brothers, you were refusing to help me.'"

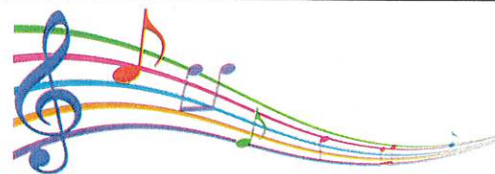


Registration for the 2025/2026 school year at Lima Christian Nursery School will begin **on January 2nd**. Our preschool program accepts potty-trained children between the ages of 3 and 5. The After-Kindergarten program is available for morning kindergarten students at Glenwood and Indian Lane. Please call our school office for more information or to schedule a school tour at 610-566-9303 ext.2.



### Blanket Valentine's

Blanket Valentines to send to someone in need will be on sale in January. They are \$5.00 each. You can send someone a warm, woolen blanket through Church World Service. Please write your check out to LUMC and mark the memo of your check with Blanket Valentine. You can call the church office or Lilian Wright (610-358-1717) to order some.



### Mark your calendars and join us for these upcoming concerts!

Sun., Feb. 2, 2025 3pm  
"Principally Harps" featuring two of America's finest harpists, Janet Witman and Mindy Cutcher

Sun., Mar. 9, 2025 3pm  
St. Patty's Day concert - Connolly @ Murphy and Company



United  
Women  
in Faith

We wish you and your family a joy filled, healthy, and peaceful New Year. May God continue to bless you abundantly in all of your endeavors.

### Lima Outreach Mission Projects

Please mark your January calendar to round up socks to bring to church. Your donated socks will be delivered locally to those who need them. During January and February, we will have Valentine cards for you to purchase to support Church World Service missions around the globe and in USA.

### **Volunteers in Service to Others**

### Fidget Quilt Fellowship News

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 will be the first meeting of the Fidget Quilters at Nancy Ellis' house. We meet from 1 to 3 PM. The time will go by quickly while we are creating Fidget Quilt squares and talking about our 2024 holiday events. A picture is taken of the arranged squares that will become our winter and Valentine quilts. We say goodbye and see you next month to Nancy's community friends. Next Nancy and Ruth Smiley will sew first the squares together, then front and back together, and finally, sew the binding around the 4 edges. The finished quilt is photographed for posting on the church website and in the Lima Beans. Then it is your turn to take the fidget quilt off the church alter rail where it's displayed with a prayer shawl. You deliver it to someone who will enjoy using it to keep their fingers busy. Thank you for helping us with the final step in this multi-step process. You are invited to partake in the first step of selecting, arranging and fastening fidget items on square pieces of cloth. You will not know if it is fun nor if the fellowship is engaging if you do not come try it. Hope to see you at Nancy's! Contact Nancy Ellis with your questions, text or call her on 610-547-7501.

### Knit and Crochet Fellowship News

January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 will be the first meeting in the new year of the Knit and Crochet Fellowship at the church in the Disciples Den room. We start at 1:30 and end by 3:30. Those ladies actively working on a project bring it along. We sit in a circle to see and listen to each other while doing our needle work.

At the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, we divided the 131 sets of winter hat and scarves created for God's children in need. All four local missions on our list received the number that they had requested. The Life Center, where we feed the homeless received 40 sets plus 7 sets to be a reserve for a Code Blue event. Pathways of PA for homeless mothers and their children received 13 sets for mothers and 31 for their children. First Media Methodist Clothes Closet received 20 sets and Chester City Team received 20 sets. We thank you for your prayers and donations of yarn. Happy 2025 New Year!

We want to include as many people who attend LUMC and their friends in following Christ's commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself". This act of service is mentioned in Matthew 25:44-45 TLB. "Then they will reply, 'Lord when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?' And Jesus will answer, 'When you refused to help the least of these my brothers, you were refusing to help me.'"

Thank you for sharing your time and resources last year to feed the homeless. We, the Outreach Mission Ministry Committee, look forward to having you join us in 2025 as you do your special part in feeding the homeless. Your prayers, monetary donations, and/or physical help will an opportunity to give God the glory.