

UNITED MONTHLY

Volume 12, Issue 12

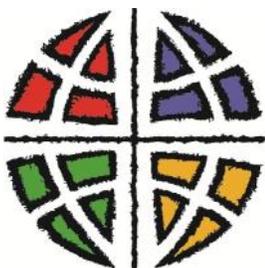
December 2022

We are United to
EXPERIENCE Jesus,
SERVE others and
LIVE the Word!

We live out this mission statement with our core values of
Joyful Worship,
Authentic Community,
Faithful Witness and
Ridiculous Generosity.



United Lutheran Church
is a congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America.



God's work.
Our hands.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Here we are...full circle...one complete year of ministry together! And I thank God for you always in my prayers!

We have been on quite a journey the past twelve months. We have followed in the steps of Jesus as he was birthed in a stable, as he walked the dusty hillsides of Galilee, opened blind eyes and made the lame to walk again, as he taught the multitudes and the disciples, as he was crucified, and rose again. We have celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, reflected on the mission of the Church, and what it means to be a disciple of the Christ. Once again we, arrive on the doorstep of Advent to begin again the journey that reminds us who we are and whose we are.

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. Thessalonians 1:2

I am so very thankful for this opportunity to be in ministry with you. As a family, we have been welcomed, embraced, encouraged and supported. We have shared in the joyous celebrations of births, baptisms, confirmations, birthdays, anniversaries and soon a wedding. We have also walked together through the death of loved ones. We have been blessed with youth eager to participate in service, worship and fellowship.

I thank you for being United! I thank you for being open to new ideas and new suggestions, for being patient with me, for letting me be me and for keeping on smiling! I thank you for being sensitive and attentive to the needs and concerns of your neighbors and friends. I thank you for caring for each other and lifting each other up in Christian love. I thank you for being "The Church"..."The Body of Christ" beyond the church walls. I thank you for joyfully serving.

And I wonder what this new year will bring? What will be the joys and sorrows? What will be the challenges and opportunities? What will cause us to fall on our knees in praise and worship to our gracious and merciful Lord? I wonder and my heart is full knowing we will do it together.

I thank God for you always in my prayers and I ask that you pray for me and my family as we continue doing ministry together.

In Christ,

Pastor Jodi

Join us for Candlelight services with Holy Communion as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, Saturday, December 24:

3pm (Contemporary Worship)
5pm (Traditional Worship)

Please note, there will **not** be a Sunday, Christmas Day worship service.



December 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 12PM AI-Anon	2 4-7PM Sanctuary reserved	3
4 10AM Worship with Holy Communion (New Member Sunday) 11AM Nominating Committee meeting	5 7PM Lisa Schuler's Honors Recital (open to the public)	6 5PM Budget Planning meeting	7 5:15PM Wednesday School 6PM Confirmation 7PM Youth Group	8 12PM AI-Anon	9	10
11 10AM Blended Worship (Christmas Program) 2PM Pastor Jodi @ Maple Manor	12	13 No Quilting 9:30AM Memory Loss Support Group 5:30PM Esther Circle	14 No Quilting 11:15AM Deborah Circle @ Senior Center 5:15PM Wednesday School 6PM Confirmation	15 12PM AI-Anon 6PM Church Council meeting	16 Wedding rehearsal	17 Christianson & Roy wedding
18 9:30AM Coffee/Cocoa served by the Youth 10AM Worship with Holy Communion 1:30PM Pastor Jodi @ OCLC 7PM Lisa Schuler's Christmas Recital (open to the public)	19	20 No Writer's Group 2PM Rachel Circle	21 5:15 Wednesday School 6PM Confirmation at the Food Pantry	22 12PM AI-Anon	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 3PM Contemporary 5PM Traditional
25 No Christmas Day Worship Merry Christmas!	26	27	28 No Wednesday School No Confirmation	29 12PM AI-Anon	30	31

Endowment Gifts

There are so many ways to sustain our church, but one of the best kept secrets is to put the Endowment Fund in your will or estate plan. There are so many ways to give from your estate plan, but the net benefit is the same: you sustain our church long into the future. Interest accrued yearly from this Endowment fund has been used, most years, at the end of each year to give back to needs within our community or special projects within the church.

For more information about how our Endowment Fund works, contact one of our Endowment Committee members: Ken Carlson, Tyler Balsdon, Dan Fischer, Kyle Rollness or John Johnson. You may also contact the InFaith Community Foundation at 800-365-4172 (which manages our endowment fund).

Financial Update 10-31-22

October Offering	\$20,973.00	
	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
Offering Income	\$157,658.03	\$158,000.00
	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Total Income thru October	\$164,572.82	\$143,291.61
*Total Expenses thru October	\$156,320.95	\$138,954.88

*Please note, last year's expense includes a transfer from the general check book to the dedicated fund to pay off the HVAC note of \$11,332.45.

As of November 30, our Endowment Fund balance was \$94,422.92.

Thank you for the early Sunday mornings and the late Wednesday nights.

Thank you for the seeds you plant & disciples you nurture.

Thank you for the sermons you preach and the prayers you lift up.

Thank you for the wise counsel & the words of encouragement.

Thank you for the sacrifice and service.

On the one year anniversary of being our Pastor, it's through people like you that Jesus shows His love for us. You, Paul and Sophie are one of God's greatest blessings to United Lutheran.

Thank you for all you have done this past year.



ULC Leadership 2022

President	Deidre Long
Vice President	LeeAnn Knudson
Secretary	Diane Simmons
Financial Secretary	Julie Johnson

Committee Council Representatives

Education	Kim Hart, Kristi McDonald
Endowment	Tyler Balsdon
Hospitality	Terry Jacobson
Property	Steve Hart
Stewardship	Abby Borchardt

Non-voting Representative

Pastor	Jodi Myrvik
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Council Notes 11-21-22 Mtg

New membership Sunday is December 4. Working on making the projection screen more visible.

Kim reported they are still receiving between 55-60 students for Wednesday school. Confirmation students packed Thanksgiving baskets at the food pantry. Will have treat bags for Christmas program.

Endowment will not be able to offer an outside donation this year due to the stock market.

Three new walk in doors will be installed at the parsonage. Still waiting on bids for further roof repair on the church.

Abby gave the recommendation from the Stewardship Committee for Harvest Sunday funds disbursement. Mission of this final quarter is the "Giving Tree". First quarter of 2023, there will be a winter clothing drive for the elementary school students.

A few changes will be made to the new Social Media Policy. No additional mission distributions will be made while the building is in need of repairs.

There are some slight ELCA Constitution changes with the wording. A budget planning meeting will be scheduled the first week of December. Working on Christmas Eve sign-up schedule for Council.

Council minutes and treasurer's report are posted monthly on the bulletin board in the hall across from the church kitchen.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee will have a meeting following worship this Sunday, December 4 in the library. Please help the committee and consider how you might serve our congregation this next year. Feel free to reach out to Carol Hart, Trevor Romfo, Edwin Olson, Josh Overby, Rachelle Romfo and Bernie Goodman.

Building Update

The Property Committee continues to diligently assess and plan for implementation of cost effective ways to preserve and maintain our church property. The Committee is waiting on bids to repair other areas of the roof. We love our church building but many areas of the building have started to show their age. A report of this process will be shared at our Annual Meeting in January.

Christmas Program

The Christmas Program, presented by our Wednesday school students will be held on December 11 during worship. Please let the Education Committee or Kristy McDonald know if your child will not be able to participate in the program.

All Saints Sunday

On November 6, we honored those who have started their life in Christ this past year through baptism at United Lutheran: *Huxley Overby, Mac Mikkelsen, Raevyn Metzger, Vincent Howatt and Petyon Welsh*

And we remembered those whom in this past year have passed on to life eternal through the promise of Jesus' resurrection: *Dennis Pengilly, Ronald Peterson, Robert Vik*

And we remembered others close to our hearts whose names were submitted for this day: *Hjalmer & Florence Gustafson, Ervin Gustafson, Kevin Boe, Mark Myrvik, Lyle Lothspeich, Peggy Maeyaert, Herb Olson, Greg Olson, Roger Koebernick, Janice Pederson, Nicole Landsem, Ray Elenbaum, John & Sandra Almlie, James Forcum, Barbara Connell, Sharon Olson and Doug Dulmage*



Lefse Days



The Esther Circle and several volunteers made and sold some very delicious lefse to support mission work. Many thanks, even to the potato prep crew the night before. It is so wonderful to have fun and fellowship while serving for a great purpose!



Harvest Sunday

On November 21, we celebrated our annual "Harvest Sunday" and we thank those who have contributed, to the Stewardship Committee for setting up for the potluck and those that helped clean up. We will continue to welcome Harvest Sunday funds through December 4. Allocation of funds are:

Building Fund (40%); Sunday School (15%); Langdon Area Schools lunch program for outstanding student balances (15%); ULC Quilting group to put towards a purchase of a new sewing machine (30%). As of the newsletter printing, \$7,515 has been contributed.

The Journey of Grief

Did you know that feelings of grief can happen for a number of reasons? Death, disappointments, challenging events, news of a new diagnosis, chronic illness or terminal illness, the loss of something as simple as a normal routine and even disappointment can result in grief. Grief by definition is the feeling of sorrow or deep sadness. Each grief journey is as unique as the individual who walks its path.

Grief may be experienced in a variety of ways...emotionally, physically, cognitively, psychologically and even spiritually. The reactions of our minds and bodies to grief can include symptoms such as fatigue, sleep disturbances, appetite changes, mood fluctuations, forgetfulness, loss of concentration and even despair. Coping with all of these potential responses may be overwhelming, but there are some things you can do to manage your grief while continuing to function day-to-day.

Accept your feelings. Feelings are neither right nor wrong, they just are. Sadness, loneliness, fear, confusion, anger...these are among the many feelings you may experience. They are completely normal. **Be patient with yourself.** Grief is an intensely personal process. There is no magic time frame. Grief will take as long as it takes. **Pay attention to physical needs.** As difficult as it may seem, making every effort to get adequate sleep, eat nutritionally balanced meals and fit in regular exercise and intentional relaxation can do wonders. **Accept the help of others.** Understand that grief is hard work. It requires a great deal of energy and can be exhausting. Even though we place a high value on self-sufficiency, it is important to ask for, and accept, help from those close to you. Sharing your story out loud is one key to healing.

Grief during the holidays is hard. If this is your first holiday season after the death of a loved one, you might be grappling with whether you should carry on traditions while grieving. And guess what? It's perfectly normal and important to give yourself some grace. Again, **let yourself feel the way you feel!** Everyone copes with loss in their own way. Your emotional responses to loss are valid and are part of your unique healing process. Don't waste energy on feeling ashamed or guilty about your feelings. **Be open to adjusting your holiday traditions.** The first holiday after the passing of a loved one is often the hardest, especially if the loss is unexpected. When a loved one dies, some families find comfort in the familiar and incorporate a time of remembrance into their holiday celebrations. Others find the usual traditions too painful, especially if the loss occurred recently. If this is the case, it can be helpful to celebrate the holiday in an entirely different way and consider resuming traditions when you're ready. You might find it helpful to change the location of a celebration and consider taking a trip or visiting a family member in a different city. Some prefer to be alone in their grief, and that's okay too. Simply explain your need to your family and friends, who'll likely care and understand.

Incorporate a time of remembrance into your holidays. How you celebrate the life of someone who died is unique to you, depending on what the person meant to you and how you feel comfortable commemorating your relationship. Give a toast, have those gathered together share a story or memory of the person, light a candle, light and launch paper lanterns or balloons, or say a special prayer. Only you will know what's right for you. And remember not all in your family will agree. They all will have individual needs. Try to find something that works for everyone. **There isn't one right way to deal with grief during the holidays.** Everyone copes differently and you'll find ways that are easier or more helpful for you than others. Allow yourself to feel the emotions, listen to yourself during this time and seek help if you need it. Taking care of yourself, sharing memories and being surrounded by supportive people are a few great ways to get through this time, but you have to decide what works best for you.

Confirmation, Wednesday School & Youth Group



Confirmation 2022 - Pastor Jodi, Tyson Gemmill, Graci Witzel, Tanner McDonald, Sophia Nuelle, Theo Romfo, Jaymee Reidhammer and Kade Hanson.

Confirmation (6PM)

December 7 - The Exodus

December 14 - Ten Commandments

December 21 - Packing Christmas boxes at the Food Pantry

December 28 - **No Confirmation - Christmas break**

(Watch for further updates on the ULC Facebook Youth Ministry page or the K-6 Youth page).

Wednesday School

December 7 - Christmas Program Practice

December 11 - Christmas Program Practice 9-10AM

Christmas Program during worship at 10AM

December 14 - Christmas Party

December 21 - Singing at the Maple Manor

December 28 - Off...Christmas Vacation

Youth Group - (7th - 12th Grade) meets December 7 at 7PM.

Bring Your Basket

On November 13, Pastor Jodi and Julie Johnson traveled to Trinity Lutheran Church in Edinburg to attend an event called "Bring Your Baskets" along with others from the Grafton Conference. Our Eastern North Dakota Synod Staff were on hand to introduce themselves and the roles they play in our synod: Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth, Pastor Brad Skogen, Associate with the Bishop for Congregational Leadership and Transition; Deacon Laura Carson, Associate with the Bishop for Formation and Administration; Deacon Erin Powers, Director for Evangelical Mission; and Alyssa Holmen, Administrative Assistant.

The theme for the event was Bring Your Baskets, weaving together what we have and where we're going. In groups we studied Mark 6:34-44. We also shared and discerned: Who we are now, What we are called to do, and Who is our neighbor. The information that was gleaned from this event will be shared by the synod in an upcoming newsletter article. It will also be used to set synod priorities in the coming years as part of a visioning process that is currently in place in the synod.

Giving Tree

For the last quarter of 2022, the Stewardship Committee is encouraging donations to the "Giving Tree" located in the Bread Pan Bakery. (The tree contains tags with items for making sure families have gifts for Christmas in our community). Cash donations are accepted until December 10 at the church and then will be given to the Giving Tree committee to help purchase the remainder of items needed. Thank you for your support!

November Memorials

Ervin Reuther - Carol Hart (endowment)

Ronald Peterson - Don & Evelyn Klein (building), Lenora Olson (building), Wayne & Nancy Coyle (building), Rick & Carolyn Crockett (quilting)

Memorials may be mailed or dropped by the Church Office at United Lutheran at any time.

Prayers of...

Healing

Lois Jones (Val Olson's cousin, cancer), Diane Reinhardt, Bob Kempert, Caven Dahl (Hodgkin's lymphoma), Michelle Kaercher (breast cancer), Ole Olson, the Roy family, Gatland Maritz and our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

Grief

The family of Charlotte Soli, on the death of her daughter, Carla (Soli) Sandness.

The family of Ervin Reuther in his passing. Ervin and Sandra were long time members of United Lutheran before moving away in their retirement.

We invite you to pray for those individuals listed. Please call the church office if you have additions to our prayer list.



What great joy with lots of baptisms in November! Left - the family of Brandon & Courtney Krom, Remmi, Prestyn and newly baptized Ender and baby Annie. Below center - Kayla Krom and newly baptized, Kamdyn Mikkelsen. Bottom right - the family of Brandon Downs & Mackenzie Rindy, newly baptized, Brynleigh. Welcome children of God!



At-a-Glance and General Announcements

Thank You to:

Elroy Rude in making the beautiful cross used for All Saints Sunday.

Chloe Koons for her special music provided during worship on November 6.

Gerald & Sue Anderson for fixing the furnace and replacing the outlets in the parsonage.

Laura Dease in her donations of pictures for the Confirmation Students, one for our display case and also donating the picture of Pastor Jodi to be displayed in the library along with ULC's prior pastors.

Janet Jacobson for leading worship on November 27 along with the guest organist, Lane Lindseth.

DeLynn Carlson, Corey Johnson, Peggy Fischer, Sophie Myrvik & Pastor Jodi, Shirley Robinson and Helen Johnson for their decorating in and around the church for Christmas.

New Member Welcome

New member welcome will be this Sunday, December 4. It is not too late to become a member at United, please contact Pastor Jodi or Julie in the church office.

Offering Envelopes

2023 offering envelopes are available to be picked up from the table in the fellowship hall. Please remember to not use your 2022 envelopes in the new year as each year the envelopes are renumbered.

If you have not used offering envelopes in the past but wish to, please let the church office know. If you have been giving regularly through bill pay, we did not prepare an envelope packet for you but we surely can, please let us know.

Reuther Address

If you would like to send condolences to the Reuther family on the passing of Ervin, Sandra's address is: 14369 Grand Oaks Drive, Baxter, MN 56425

Poinsettias

All are welcome to purchase and display poinsettias for Christmas. They will be displayed on the altar through Advent and - pending their condition - the Christmas season. Please be sure your name and the person's name you would like to acknowledge are on the card.

Quilting Group

The quilters will not meet in the month of December.

Weather Cancellation Notice

If inclement weather should arise, Pastor and Council President will make any decisions to cancel worship by 7:00 AM Sunday morning. A post will be made on our Facebook page. TV (WDAZ) and radio (KNDK) will also be notified.

Gifts of Grain

Did you know that farmers may find significant tax savings through donating grain directly to United Lutheran or another favorite charity? By doing this, the church or other charity gets the proceeds of selling the donated grain and the donating farmer gets tax deductions at a better rate than just cash donations. To learn more about this "bountiful" way of giving, visit with your tax advisor and be sure any donations are processed properly through the elevator.

Address Information

If you are leaving to go south and would like to continue receiving the newsletter, please let the church office know of this change. The newsletter is also found on our website unitedlangdon.org

Transportation

Are you someone that would like to come to church but have no way of getting here? There are individuals that can help with this. Please let the church office know. We would love to have you join us in person for worship and fellowship.

Pastor Jodi's Contact Information

pjmyrvik@polarcomm.com
Cell phone number 701-265-2409

Christmas Fun Fest

The Legion Riders are hosting a kids event on December 4, 2-5pm. Fun, Games, Crafts, Snacks and Music. All are welcome, come and see Santa! Langdon American Legion.

National Crisis Hotline

Dial 988 for a direct connection to compassionate, accessible care and support for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress – whether that is thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crisis or any other kind of emotional distress. Dial 988 if you are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

Covid-19 Vaccines

To be protected against the two viruses that cause flu & COVID, you need both vaccines. Annual flu vaccines protect against #flu, and #COVID vaccines protect against COVID. vaccinateyourfamily.org/current-flu-season #NotJustTheFlu

Yes, you can get your annual flu vaccine and a COVID vaccine (including a booster dose) at the same time. #NotJustTheFlu vaccinateyourfamily.org/current-flu-season

Memory Loss Support

Memory Loss Support meets the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30AM at United Lutheran. Come if you are in need of support for your loved one.

ULC Annual Meeting

United Lutheran Church will hold its Annual Meeting of the congregation after worship on Sunday, January 22. Bring a dish to share and join in for a potluck and fellowship after the meeting.

Visit United online at www.unitedlangdon.org or call us at 701-256-2594.



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Return Service Requested

Worship and Ministry - December Schedule

December 4 - Worship with Holy Communion

Reader - Andrea Jacobson
Ushers - Shannon & Sheri Winnege
Communion Prep - Karen Boe
Communion Assts - Zach Jacobson, Val Olson
& Katie Johnson
Acolytes - Ramsey Peterson & Josie Mikkelsen
Projectionist - Brock Freer
Coffee - Darren & Lisa Gellner family

New Member Sunday

December 11 - Blended Worship

Reader - Linda Balsdon
Ushers - Ted Dahl & Keith Dahl
Acolytes - Aiden & Sophie Vikan
Projectionist - Adam Hart
Coffee - Mitchell & Melissa Almen family

Christmas Program

December 18 - Worship with Holy Communion

Reader - Adam Hart
Ushers - Travis & Megan Hakanson family
Communion Prep - Rick & Carolyn Crockett
Communion Assts - Dean & Connie Hakanson
& Paul Peterson
Acolytes - Carl Henry & Prestyn Bodnar

December 18 - Worship continued

Projectionist - Victor Long
Coffee - Arvid & Sandy Boe

December 24 - Worship (3PM Contemporary)

Reader - Steve Hart
Ushers -
Communion Prep -
Communion Assts -
Acolytes - Finley Crockett & Dentyn Schill
Projectionist - Nathan Kitchin

Council/Committees to fulfill remaining responsibilities

December 24 - Worship (5PM Traditional)

Reader -
Ushers -
Communion Prep -
Communion Assts -
Acolytes - Sophie Myrvik & Ella Goodman
Projectionist - Jaymee Reidhammer

Council/Committees to fulfill remaining responsibilities

December 25 - No Christmas Day Worship