

# UNITED MONTHLY

Volume 13, Issue 11

November 2023

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

We live out this mis-  
sion 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.

## Thank God for God

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Our family has a Thanksgiving tradition and you may have it as well. We go around the table and each person says one thing that they're thankful for. Like you, our family is thankful for spouses and kids, for jobs and for health; for food on our table and a place to call home. We're thankful for schools and education; we're thankful for the many events we are able to celebrate together; we're thankful for the memories we cherish of loved ones who are no longer with us; we're thankful for a country with freedoms and we're thankful for a church that feels like family.

I think it's a good tradition. Yes, there's always one person who can't take anything seriously (including this) and yes, there's always another person who takes everything way too seriously. But there is something powerful about group gratitude. Not only do we learn a little bit more about the people who are gathered together, but it also has the power to shift the dynamic of the room. Everyone stops. Everyone listens. Everyone shares in the thankfulness of the other.

The Apostle Paul wrote this: "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15). We have a lot to be thankful for this year and it is good and right for us to thank God for spouses, kids, jobs and health. But when Paul says, "We thank God for his indescribable gift!" he's talking about something specific. Actually, Someone specific. He isn't thanking God for things; rather, he is thanking God for Jesus. Or to say it another way, Paul is thanking God for God. The greatest gift that God ever gave the world was His Son, Jesus Christ, who was and is God in the flesh. This is really what Christmas is about: the idea that God became a man (this is what theologians call "the incarnation"). And although Paul knew nothing of our American holiday on the fourth Thursday of November, I think it's right for us to talk about Christmas at Thanksgiving. Not because I'm trying to rush past the wonderful holiday of Thanksgiving (which was my mother-in-law's favorite holiday) and get on to the next one; but because our gratitude on this holiday is informed by the next one.

This Thanksgiving, I encourage you to thank God for all of the people and things you can think of. Be specific in your gratitude; articulate and enumerate all of the blessings in your life, because, "Every good and perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17a). But I also encourage you this Thanksgiving to thank God for God. Don't just thank Him for what He's given you; thank Him for who He is. The purpose of all of these earthly blessings is not that we become infatuated with the gifts, but rather, to draw our eyes up to the Giver. He was the One who gave His Son so that you and I could be rescued from sin and have a right relationship with Him. God did all of this to be with us, because he loves us with an amazing sacrificial kind of love.

Thanks be to God! Happy Thanksgiving!

*Pastor Jodi*

**This Sunday, November 5**  
**"All Saints Sunday"**  
**worship service**  
**will be at 9AM due to a**  
**conflict for Pastor Jodi.**  
**Thanks for your understanding!**

# November 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 10:30AM Ministerial meeting 5:15PM Wednesday school 6PM Confirmation	2 12PM Al-Anon	3	4
5 9AM Worship with Holy Communion (note time change this once)  All Saints Sunday	6 6PM Library reserved	7	8 10:30AM Deborah Circle @ Senior Center 2PM Pastor Jodi @ Wheatland Bible Study 5:15PM Wednesday school 6PM Confirmation	9 10AM-2PM Pastors' Conference in Park River 12PM Al-Anon	10	11
12 10AM Blended Worship with Holy Communion	13 12PM Behavioral Task Force 5PM P.E.O.	14 9AM-3PM Quilting 5:30PM Esther Circle	15 9AM-3PM Quilting 2PM Rachel Circle 5:15PM Wednesday school 6PM Confirmation	16 12PM Al-Anon 3PM Lefse Days	17 8AM Lefse Days	18
19 10AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion and potluck to follow  (Harvest Sunday)	20 5:30PM Church Council meeting	21 10:30AM Pastors' Text Study in Cavalier 12PM Writer's Group	22 No Wednesday school No Confirmation	23 Happy Thanksgiving!	24	25
26 10AM Worship (No Communion)	27 5PM P.E.O.	28	29	30 12PM Al-Anon		

# Faith & Care #2

Leader - Carol Hart

Kari Agotness  
 Steven & Michele Anderson  
 Gene & Barb Arens  
 David & Teri Bodnar  
 Arvid & Sandy Boe  
 Rick & Carolyn Crockett  
 Ben Crockett  
 Daniel Crockett  
 Tara Domres  
 Brittany Farris  
 Bernie Goodman  
 Dean & Connie Hakanson  
 Travis & Megan Hakanson  
 Beth Hansen  
 Seth Hansen  
 Lawrence & Katie Henry  
 Kyle & Tiffany Hetletved  
 Tom & Lynda Hoyt  
 John & Kathie Johnson  
 Bob & Nadine Kempert  
 Jim & Connie Kjos

Charlie Klein  
 Caitlin Krekla  
 Robert & Lillian Lowery  
 JoAnn Mueller  
 Paul Myrvik  
 Grant & Betty Nelson  
 Karen Pederson  
 Paul Peterson  
 Stephen Ridley  
 PJ Rime  
 Mackenzie Rindy  
 Darrin & Becca Romfo  
 Troy & Rachelle Romfo  
 Bill Roy  
 Randy & Kim Rude  
 Angie Sanders  
 Arlaine Short  
 Brandon & April Smith  
 Gordon & Sharon Sondeland  
 Carl & Rebecca Tollefson  
 Carolyn Vik

# ULC Leadership 2023

President LeeAnn Knudson  
 Vice President Steve Hart  
 Secretary Kari Agotness  
 Financial Secretary Julie Johnson

### Committee Council Representatives

Education Angie Sanders, Kristy McDonald  
 Endowment On Rotation  
 Hospitality Terry Jacobson  
 Property Sara Goodman  
 Stewardship Katie Henry

### Non-voting Representative

Pastor Jodi Myrvik

# Financial Update 09-30-23

September Offering \$12,286.08

	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
Offering Income	\$137,840.00	\$141,401.25

	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Total Income thru September	\$142,686.75	\$143,191.04
*Total Expenses thru September	\$188,057.13	\$140,163.56

\*Please note, expenses include a \$30,000 transfer from the general fund in January and a \$20,000 transfer from the general fund in July. Both transfers were moved in to the dedicated building fund.

As of October 31, our Endowment Fund balance was \$98,301.94. If you would like to make a contribution to the Endowment Fund, please make checks payable to "InFaith Foundation" (which manages our endowment fund). Interest accrued yearly from this Endowment fund has been used at the end of each year to give back to needs within our community or special projects within the church.

# Council Notes 10-16-23 Mtg

Pastor has been busy with a baptism, funerals and Confirmation (25 students) and more activities to come. With a shortage of Pastors in the area, the Synod is working to build a wider strategy to assist with needs in other rural congregations. New membership Sunday will be December 3, Christmas program will be December 10

Angie reported that Wednesday school is going well. There are 18 full-time teachers and 6 subs.

Terry said they are still waiting to be approved as sponsors for Kerlange and her family. The UN has secured several countries coordinating to work to counteract gang violence in Haiti.

Katie shared that the Stewardship Committee did meal prep for families and that they have recommendations for Harvest Sunday which is November 19.

Committees will have meetings to discuss the makeup and schedule of each committee and speak about committee member reduction. Their proposed changes will need to be completed and turned in by November 1.

Julie shared that the church has received several mission requests; some local and some around the state. Will table until next meeting.

Department of Homeland Security will be coming the next day, asked for Council members to be present for the assessment of the church. Lunch will be served to those in attendance prior to the start of the evaluation.

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

This Sunday, November 5th, daylight savings time ends. Remember to set your clocks back Saturday night!



## Mental Health Awareness...The Stigma

Maybe you're someone who wonders why we have a mental health awareness segment in our church newsletter. So, here's why... As a supporter to those who have a mental illness or substance use disorder, I understand the importance of recognizing the high prevalence of mental illness and substance use disorders and so does the United Lutheran Church Council. We also know that when recognition is coupled with reeducation and understanding, health-seeking action can be taken. These actions lead to recovery, which is possible for everyone.

The sad reality is that the stigma surrounding mental illness and substance use disorders causes us to not talk about it and even ignore it. Yet, mental health and substance use disorder diagnoses are more prevalent than heart disease, diabetes, arthritis, migraines, osteoporosis and asthma. Misconception and misinformation have left many people with mental illness and substance use disorders afraid to talk about their experiences or to seek help. These issues coupled with the fact that many insurance companies do not reimburse for mental health illnesses at the same rate as for other illnesses multiplies the concern even further.

Stamp Out Stigma is an initiative spearheaded by the Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW) to reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness and substance use disorders. The campaign challenges each of us to transform the dialogue on mental health and substance use disorders from a whisper to a conversation. First, by recognizing the high prevalence of mental illness and substance use disorders; and secondly by reeducating ourselves, friends and family on the truths of mental illness and substance use disorders. **It's time to talk about it.** I hope you join me in accepting the challenge to stamp out stigma. It begins one person at a time.

## Harvest Sunday and Meals

November 19 is our annual "Harvest Sunday" when we celebrate God's blessings and give back with dedicated offerings, reaching out to meet needs in our area and beyond, in addition to our congregation's general budget. We give thanks that God is good and God's steadfast love remains. Following worship that day, we will have a **potluck**—if you are staying to eat, please bring a dish to share. After the potluck, please consider staying to help clean up. A gentle reminder, United Lutheran Church is a peanut free building. This means **no peanuts, tree nuts such as almonds, cashews, walnuts, or pistachios, or legumes, such as peas, chickpeas, lentils or soybeans; green beans and kidney beans are okay.**

Our Stewardship Committee is recommending Harvest Sunday allocation as follows:

- Building/Repair Fund (40%)
- Weekend Kids Hunger Project (15%)
- Cavalier County Transit (15%)
- Cavalier County Cancer Crusaders (15%)
- Langdon Area Schools for outstanding student lunch balances (15%)

On Tuesday, October 10, Stewardship Committee members met in the church kitchen and assembled three meals (that could be baked or frozen), along with buns and cookies to be delivered to nine families that have lost loved ones in the past year or so; and also three of our members currently living in Wheatland Estates. We are hoping that these families know how much they mean to our church family. Stewardship had fun doing the preparations, making their hearts happy and making God smile!



*Meals prepared by the Stewardship Committee*

## Communion Preparations

We are looking for a few individuals or partners to work on a rotation basis with preparing communion each month. Another behind the scenes activity! We are hoping to get about six individuals/partners to work on this rotation which would amount to about twice a year. If you're unable to do your month or a particular Sunday, there would always be backup. To receive more information, please contact Pastor Jodi or Julie in the office.

## Wednesday School

Lessons for November are November 1 “David & Goliath”, November 8 “David and the Lions Den” and November 15 “Israel Asks for a King. Please note that there will be **NO** Wednesday School on November 22 due to the short school week with the Thanksgiving holiday. On November 29, we will begin practicing for our Christmas program! This year’s program will be “Christmas Around the World” and will hand out lines November 8. Please let us know as soon as possible if your student(s) will not be able to participate in the Christmas program on December 10 so we can adjust parts accordingly.

There will be a BBQ Lunch following the Christmas program for anyone that can stay! The lunch is being implemented again from years back!

**K-6 Grade Wednesday School:** United Lutheran Church’s K-6 Grade Facebook page.

## Confirmation/Youth

Confirmation classes meet most Wednesdays at 6PM during the school year. The month of November’s schedule is as follows:

November 1	Temptation of Jesus
November 8	Jesus Calls His First Disciples
November 15	Jesus’ First Healings
November 22	<b>No Confirmation (holiday break)</b>
November 29	Jesus’ First Teachings

Watch for updated announcements on our Facebook pages with regards to United Lutheran student activities throughout the year. This site will be updated if there is school cancellation, weather related delays, etc. which may cause our Confirmation/Youth at the church to change.

**Confirmation and Youth Group:** United Lutheran Church’s Youth Ministry Facebook page.

## Bibles

During worship on October 1 and 15, bibles were given to 3-year olds and 3rd graders as a promise made at baptism “to place in their hands the Holy Scriptures.” We are excited to further your children’s faith formation at United Lutheran!

### 3-Year Olds

Declan Domres, Layeton Christianson, Holden Kreklau, Gigi Balsdon, Carsen Witzel, Aubrey Mostoller and Rylie Langerud

### Third Graders

Madden Mikkelsen, Ryann Farris, Brooke Gemmill, Kalleigh Rollness, Kollyns Schill, Sawyer Moline, Brynlee Koons, Breck Krivarchka, Kasen Roppel, Zoe Ritterman, Asher McKay, Kamden Mikkelsen and Riley Jacobson

## Haiti Update

We are still in a holding pattern, waiting for approval for Kerlange and her family but Kerlange is staying busy. She has organized and carried out another visit to the hospital in Ste Marc, taking basic supplies to 115 patients who have no resources for items like soap, disinfectant, paper products, etc. Kerlange gives her helpers packages of rice, beans, oil, sardines and other staples and encourages them, since they are blessed by the gift of food, to especially share with the elderly and children who beg in the market. Seeds of Support provides funding for this work as well as a day camp in Port au Prince organized by another translator, Joseph. He has periodic “Bible school” events for children who are not in school and have no activities during the day. Our partnership with St. Andrews and Seeds of Support continues to have a positive impact on the lives of ordinary Haitians.



*Above - Bags of basic needs for distribution.  
Below - Kerlange (second from the right) and her helpers.*



## Worship Notes

Contemporary Worship will be November 19th this month instead of Sunday, November 26 (Thanksgiving weekend). Also, there will not be communion on November 26 as Pastor Jodi will be away.

## New Member Sunday

Are you looking for a new church home and would like more information about becoming a member at United? Please fill out the tear-off card in the church bulletin and place it in the offering plate. You can also let Pastor Jodi or Julie know in the church office. We will be welcoming new members on Sunday, December 3.

## Prayers of...

### Healing

Caven Dahl (Hodgkin's lymphoma), David Roy, Julie Nelson, Steve Bulat, Joyce Johnson, Ken Carlson, Lenora Olson, Arlaine Short, Dennis & Vonnie Johnson and our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

### Grief for the Families of:

Linda and Larry Olson on the death of Linda's brother Lloyd Bruhn in late August.

Hans and Diane Reinhardt on the death of their son, Bil. His memorial service was held Thursday, October 12.

Betty Nelson; her memorial service was held on Friday, October 13.

Margaret Bata; she died on October 17 in Mandan.

Shirley Robinson on the death of Shirley's mother-in-law, Elsie Robinson.

### Joy

Congratulations to Becky Balsdon and Dillon McMahon on the baptism of their son, Connor John McMahon on October 1. Baptismal sponsors are Adrianna Reidhammer, Cindy Edwards and Patrick McMahon II.

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

## Lefse Days

Esther Circle is organizing their annual lefse days again, November 16 & 17 and the proceeds will be used for mission work. Lefse will be for sale the following Sunday on November 19th. Anyone wishing to help, please contact JoAnn Mueller at 256-3628 or if you want to observe this process of lefse days, feel free to stop by the church. Potato prep will be Thursday, the 16th at 3PM and rolling will begin at 8AM on Friday morning, the 17th.



## All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday is this Sunday where we will remember all the saints in Christ. The names of those who have died this past year will be read during a candle lighting service. All will be invited to come forward and light a candle in memory of a loved one if you wish.

**Please note, this Sunday's service will be at 9AM, for this one time only due to a conflict for Pastor Jodi.**

**Remember to turn your clocks back Saturday night of November 4 for Daylight Savings time!**



## October Memorials

**Carol Goodman** - Darryl & Bev Dahl (general), Elaine Haugen (music), Lenora Olson (building), Lawrence & Susan Fay Crockett (music), Jim & Faye Wilhelmi (music)

**Betty Nelson** - David & Ardyce Hennager (music), Kevin & Jan Stein (music), Carla Symons (general), Lenora Olson (building), Linden & Helen Johnson (music), Dale & Pam Luhmann (quilting), Corey & Julie Johnson (building), Lawrence & Susan Fay Crockett (garden), Linda & Dennis Balsdon (general)

**Bil Reinhardt** - David & Ardyce Hennager (general), Larry & Linda Olson (general), Ron & Cathy White (building), Kevin & Jan Stein (music), Carla Symons (general), Linden & Helen Johnson (music), Dale & Pam Luhmann (building), Charles & Marie Jordan (endowment), Corey and Julie Johnson, (building), Dan & Peggy Fischer (general), Jeff & Becky Overby (general), Lenora Olson (building), Ted & Linda Dahl (general), Elaine Haugen (general), Lawrence & Susan Fay Crockett (building), Linda & Dennis Balsdon (general)

**Garnett Kaercher** - Lawrence & Susan Fay Crockett (building)

**Margaret Bata** - Carol Hart (quilting), David & Ardyce Hennager (quilting)

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

# At-a-Glance and General Announcements

## Thank You to:

Carol Hart and Kathie Johnson for volunteering their time with planting and the upkeep with the flower garden and potted plants. They sure know how to keep the property looking beautiful!

Our youth for providing us with coffee and hot cocoa prior to worship and assisting with worship on October 29.

Catelyn Goodman for her special music provided on October 29.

Our wonderful Praise Band for leading us in worship with song. The band volunteers their time and talent for all of us to hear and enjoy. You are all appreciated!

Youth who participated in the Trick or Treat food drive for the Cavalier County Food Pantry and those who responded with donating food items. Kristy McDonald for preparing and serving the BBQ meal prior to the students starting on their mission!

## Holy Communion

Trying something new. United Lutheran has implemented weekly communion which began in October. Aware that regular attendance does not happen weekly any more for most families; United will offer the privilege of partaking in the Lord's Supper to everyone on a more routine basis. Like all new things, there may be some who will wonder why we "have" to do this. On the other hand, others may think it is a great opportunity and privilege to "get" to experience the visible presence of Christ in worship, as we proclaim the Gospel through Word and action every time we do this in remembrance of what Christ has done for us. As with all things new and old, we will evaluate and re-examine this as we move forward. Please share your input with Pastor Jodi or a Council member.

## Fall Back

Remember to set your clocks "back" one hour before going to bed, Saturday, November 4!

## Bakeless Bake Sale

The Rachel Circle is still collecting funds for their bakeless bake sale. If you have contributed, thank you so much for your generosity. Funds from the bake sale are used to support mission work. If you have questions, please contact Pam Luhmann or Karen Boe.

## Helping with Worship

Assistance with the projection responsibilities on Sunday morning is an important part of our congregational worship and is most appreciated. We are looking for a few more individuals (any age) to be part of this rotation. As a student, this service can be used as volunteer hours through the middle & high school! As an adult, this may satisfy your desire in helping with worship and being kind of behind the scenes! If you may be interested or have any questions, please contact the church office.

## United Quilters

Quilters meet the 2nd Tuesday and Wednesday of each month (9AM-3PM), September-April. If you can cut, sew or tie, you are welcome to come and help fulfill our mission. All materials, tools and machines provided; little experience required!

## 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](http://unitedlangdon.org)

## 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 and radio (KNDK) will also be notified.

## Visitation

If you know of individuals that should be added to our visitation list, please share with the church office or write on the "tear-off" section of the bulletin and place in the offering plate.

## Kitchen Pans & Lost Items

With the recent gatherings at the church, are you missing a pan? It may be in the church kitchen. Missing baby items, toys, sunglasses, readers, etc. they may be laying on the lost & found shelf in the narthex. Please check if one is yours!

## PRBC Fall Events

36th Annual Quilt Auction, Sunday, November 5, 2023, 11:30AM soup & sandwich lunch, 12:30PM Quilt viewing, 1:30PM Auction begins. Still looking for more quilts and/or quilt projects to auction off. Contact their office to arrange a pickup/drop off at [hello@parkriverbiblecamp.org](mailto:hello@parkriverbiblecamp.org) or call 701-284-6795.

Autumn Creative Retreat, November 10-12. Surround yourself with a community of creative people! Spend the weekend scrapbooking, quilting, taking art classes, getting massages, and enjoying a community in the relaxing serenity that the autumn season brings to our haven on the river. Meals provided, comfortable lodging, and devotions throughout the retreat. Different vendors with art supplies and classes available so bring yourself, your friends, a snack to share and the project that you are working on and join us for a weekend of fun and relaxation! \$150

## Covid Vaccine Information

CDC recommends adults age 65 and older to speak with their healthcare provider about receiving additional doses of COVID vaccine. People with compromised immune systems should receive a second dose of the updated COVID-19 vaccine, and potentially additional doses, for increased immune protection, with the approval of their healthcare provider.

## Pastor Jodi's Contact Information

[pjmyrvik@polarcomm.com](mailto:pjmyrvik@polarcomm.com)  
Cell phone number 701-265-2409

Visit United online at [www.unitedlangdon.org](http://www.unitedlangdon.org) or call us at 701-256-2594.



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## Worship and Ministry - November Schedule

### **November 5 - Worship with Holy Communion**

Reader - Seth Hansen  
Ushers - Dallas Witzel/Bobbi Hayes family  
Communion Assts - JoAnn Mueller  
                    Bobbi Hayes/Dallas Witzel family  
Acolytes - Hallie Overby & Reid Overby  
Projectionist - Brock Freer  
Coffee - Arvid & Sandy Boe

### **November 12 - Blended Worship with Holy Communion**

Reader - JoAnn Mueller  
Ushers - John Johnson & Paul Myrvik  
Communion Asst - Devin Hakanson  
Acolytes - Aiden Vikan & Sophia Vikan  
Projectionist - Adam Hart  
Coffee - Karen Pederson

### **November 19 - Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion**

Reader - Katie Henry  
Ushers - Travis & Megan Hakanson family  
Communion Asst - Connie Hakanson  
                    & Travis Hakanson family  
Acolytes - Carl Henry & Lavin Johnson  
Projectionist - Victor Long  
**Harvest Sunday Potluck**

### **November 26 - Worship (No Communion)**

Reader - Adam Hart  
Ushers - Paul Peterson & Ethan Peterson  
Acolytes - Prestyn Bodnar & Kyler Hanson  
Projectionist - Jaymee Reidhammer  
Coffee - Rick & Carolyn Crockett  
**(No Communion as Pastor Jodi is away)**

*Thank you to Shirley Robinson and Helen Johnson for being  
our communion prep individuals for the month of November!*