

The Uniting Word December 2025

Prayer List

Life is fragile, handle with prayer

Helen Beck, Brian Dalpra, Ray Farrell,
Helen Forslund, Dennis, Chris, & Kevin Wagner,
Mike Turner, Joe Bandola, Dave Rucinski,
Faye Heimerl, Timmy Bendick,
Scott & Leif Williamson, Roberta Lehto,
Solomon Rasner, Joseph Nyholm,
and Lorna Anderson

MEDICAL CARE FACILITY

Sandy Clark, Gail Dalpra, Carol Galbraith,
Dick Hendrickson, Jim McGregor, BettyAnn Niemi,
and Pearl Ross

VICTORIAN HEIGHTS

Dixie Gervenak, Clinton Ross, and Marv Tollefson

EVERGREEN HEIGHTS

Diana Bertola

Things we could always use
here at the church:

Toilet paper

Paper towel

Stamps

Small paper plates for
coffee hour

Napkins

Juice pouches (they have a
longer shelf life) for coffee
hour and release time kids



Remember to let the office
know if you want to place a
poinsettia on the altar for
Christmas Eve in memory or
in honor of loved ones!

United Lutheran Church

906-875-6591 website: www.unitedluth.com

Pastor: Rev. D.J. Rasner (906)231-4905
pastor.unitedluth@gmail.com

WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday 9 AM

Saturday 4 PM 1st & 3rd only (basement chapel)

Office manager: Christine Perry
(unitedluth@gmail.com)

Custodian: Scott McGregor

Choir director: Marsha Wainio

*Help us keep our records up to date by letting us know
of any changes to your address, phone number, or
email.*



All dinners include warm vegetables, salad bar, homemade soup, home-made desserts, coffee, tea, or milk

Reservations are required by 1:00pm the day of.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1 Lasagna with garlic bread	2 Chicken pot pie	3 Pulled pork sandwiches & potato salad
8 Breaded chicken patty & French fries	9 Sloppy joes & tater tots	10 Scalloped potatoes & ham
15 Pork steak with mashed potatoes & gravy	16 Rigatoni with garlic bread	17 Spanish rice casserole with rolls
22 Pot roast with potatoes & carrots	23 Baked chicken with rice pilaf & a roll	24 CLOSED
29 Hamburgers & French fries	30 Chicken a la King	31 CLOSED



	Acolytes	Altar	Caller	Church School Snacks	Counters	Lector	Usher
7	Joah Gathu Marisa Coonrod	Christine Perry Emily Hendricks	Laura, Lorna, and Jean	Janie Bandaccari	Harry Kallies Scott Kenney	Donna Gustafson	Jim Waligursky
14		Christine Perry Emily Hendricks	Laura, Lorna, and Jean	Allyson VanOss	Stephanie Nocerini Sally Hedtke		Jim Hakala
21	Jon Giuliani Nickolas Wrock	Christine Perry Emily Hendricks	Laura, Lorna, and Jean	No RT	Donna Gustafson Gail Koski	Marsha Wainio	Scott Kenney
24	Lilli Johnson Beau Loehr	Christine Perry Emily Hendricks	Laura, Lorna, and Jean			Christine Perry	Chris, Emily, and Owen
28	Gage Clements Isaac Williams	Christine Perry Emily Hendricks	Laura, Lorna, and Jean	No RT	Scott McGregor Jeff Heimerl	Charlotte Strom	Mike Brzoznowski



1st Kevin Giuliani & Hunter Loehr
2nd Anna Bandola
3rd Nikki Kuzak
16th Arlene Dalpra & Al Anderson
17th Arnold Ross
18th Richard Takala
21st Emily Johns
22nd Susanne Niemi
24th Carol Galbraith
28th Davey Rucinski
30th Tom Williams & Jaye Vanderpool
31st Paul Dalpra



6th Jean Ann & Joe Aho
12th Maria & Pat Peterson
28th Nancy & Ray Farrell



Confirmation 2025

Leroy Wrock, Lorelai Brzoznowski, Eden Starr,
Emma Bandola, Carter Seidel (Grace, Pembine),
and Reuben Rasner (I to r)

Congratulations to all these young people!



Big thanks to Charlie
Bandaccari for purchasing
this weather-resistant
arbor for our memorial
garden. No more scraping
and painting every year
just to make it look good!



It's beginning to look a lot like... CHRISTMAS!

As you all know, this is my favorite time of year. Even though we don't have any of the white stuff (yet!), I can still feel the magic of this wonderful season. I am so thankful to have each of you as part of mine and Owen's lives. There is truly something special about a church family.

Please keep all our friends and loved ones we've lost this year close in your hearts this Christmas. Though they may be physically gone, they're still present in our celebrations—you just have to keep an eye out for the signs. I'll miss visiting my grandma in our matching family pajamas on Christmas Day and hearing her say, "You didn't go downtown looking like that, did you?" And I'd reply, "Nope—just came to see you, Gram, and get a laugh out of you." She'll still be with us; I just need to keep my eyes and heart open.

We had a wonderful November! Thank you to Ruth and Wilma for organizing our Pep Rally to gather new recruits for the many small but important jobs in our church. If you'd like to learn more about how you can help, please contact me or Chris in the office for a Time and Talent sheet!

A big congratulations to our Forest Park Lady Trojan Volleyball teams for an outstanding season! Ava, Elsie, Audrey, Lorelai, and Rainey—we are so proud of you!

December will be a busy month as well.

- December 3, 10, and 17th-5:30pm Advent Soup Suppers and 6:30pm worship service
- December 13 – Craft Show in the Fellowship Hall, hosted by Harbor House
- December 14 at 10 a.m. – Release Time Christmas Program at Christ United Methodist Church. I can't wait to see all the kiddos this year—they're a great bunch and so excited to share this program. Come support them!
- Our Christmas Eve service will be at 4 p.m. again this year. I will be going live on the United Lutheran Church Facebook page so those far away can join us. Christmas Eve in our beautiful church is always magical, and this year the bell choir will be part of the service as well. I hope to see you all there.

May your holiday season be filled with love, light, magic, and all your favorite things. For those who will be traveling, prayers for safe travels. Merry Christmas!

Emily Hendricks

Council President



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*"May the God of hope fill
you with all joy and peace
in your faith, so that in the
power of the Holy Spirit
you may be rich in hope."*

– Romans 15:13













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December



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 2pm RT 7pm AA	2	3 10am Bible Study 5:30p Soup Supper 6:30p Worship	4	5 9am Quilters	6 4pm Worship
7 9am Worship w/bells & choir 10am Coffee hour 6pm AA	8 2pm RT 6pm Council meeting 7pm AA	9	10 10am Bible Study 3:30/4:30p Conf. 5:30p Soup Supper 6:30p Worship		12 9am Quilters	13
14 RT kids Christmas program @ CUMC 6pm AA	15 2pm RT 7pm AA		17 10am Bible Study 3:30p/4:30p Conf. 4:30p Grace Circle 5:30p Soup Supper 5:45p Choir 6:30p Worship	18	19 9am Quilters	20 4pm Worship
21 9am Worship 10am Coffee hour 6pm AA	22 NO RT 7pm AA	23	24		26	
28 9am Worship 10am Coffee hour 6pm AA	29 NO RT 7pm AA	30	31			

You Always Have The Poor

About a week before Jesus was arrested and executed, he was with his disciples at the house of his friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus. (See John 12:1-8 for the story.) While at the dinner, Mary took some really expensive, really fragrant perfume/ointment and bathed Jesus' feet, and then wiped them clean with her hair. The whole house was bursting with the fragrance of the ointment. Judas Iscariot had a problem with this episode. He suggested that it would've been better to sell the ointment (it was really expensive, after all) and then give the proceeds to the poor. That is a very noble suggestion. In fact, that is a great question: why didn't they sell it and give the money to the poor? Did I mention that it was really expensive? Imagine the positive impact that could have had. Judas' true motivation was described explicitly—he cared nothing for the poor but instead was the keeper of the purse for the party and regularly stole from it. With all this revealed to us, Jesus explained that Mary bought it for the day of his own burial, and then said something that is quite peculiar: **"You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."**

I have been paying close attention to how Christians are portraying themselves in today's society. I get the feeling that today's Christians, in general, are primarily concerned with their relationship with Jesus; that is the most important thing, after all. Right? And, I feel that this peculiar statement by Jesus, "you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me," is interpreted to say, "See! I told you! You have to prioritize your relationship with Jesus over everything and everyone else!" Well, yes. Your relationship with Jesus is incredibly important, but that's not what Jesus is saying. In fact, and here's the rub, *Jesus is not talking to me and to you*—Jesus is talking to Judas. He is telling Judas to leave Mary alone. He is telling Judas that Mary spent her money wisely. Jesus knows Mary and knows that she is concerned about the poor and is compassionate (loves) the poor and destitute. Jesus also knows Judas, and

knows that his love of money vastly overshadows his compassion (love) for the poor and destitute.

Back to you and me and to Christians today. While our relationship with Jesus is important, our love (compassion) for each other and for the poor and destitute is equally as important—that's right, "equally." At another dinner (John 13:1-35), Judas walked out right before Jesus emphasized the point I just made when he said, **"I give you a new commandment, that you love (compassion) one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."** Judas missed that point. Today's Christian cannot.

Soon we will celebrate the birth of the Savior of the world. His coming is for the salvation (wholeness and well-being) of the whole world . . . *the . . . whole . . . world.*

Rev. D. J. Rasner

