

The Uniting Word October 2025

Prayer List

Life is fragile, handle with prayer

Helen Beck, Brian Dalpra, Ray Farrell,
Helen Forslund, Dennis Wagner, Gary Gish,
Kristy Ropiak, Mike Turner, Joe Bandola,
Dave Rucinski, Faye Heimerl, Barbara Snyder,
Timmy Bendick, Scott & Leif Williamson,
Roberta Lehto, Solomon Rasner, Joseph Nyholm,
Kathy Haile, 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



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 (in person or drive-up)

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

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

Custodian: Scott McGregor

Choir director: Marsha Wainio

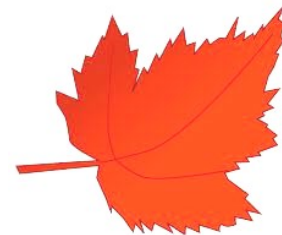
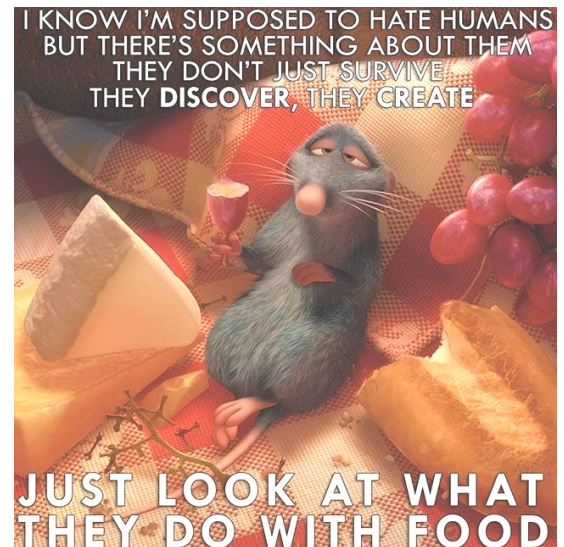
*Help us keep our records up to date by letting us know
of any changes to your address, phone number, or
email.*



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 Reuben sandwich & potato salad
6 Spaghetti & garlic bread	7 Meatballs with cheesy potatoes	8 Asian night! Mongolian beef & crab rangoons
13 Cabbage rolls with dinner rolls	14 Hard or soft shell taco with rice & beans	15 Meatloaf with garlic potatoes
20 Chicken fajitas & cowboy caviar	21 Chef's choice	22 Pork chops with mashed potatoes & gravy
27 Pizza	28 Baked chicken & baked potatoes	29 Lasagna & garlic bread



USHERS' SCHEDULE

	Acolytes	Altar	Caller	Church School Snacks	Counters	Lector	Usher
5	Jon Giuliani Gage Clements	Bev Smith	Lorna Anderson Jean K. Aho	Janie Bandaccari	Harry Kallies Scott Kenney	Jim Hakala	Cary Gustafson
12	Lydia Brzoznowski Owen Hendricks	Bev Smith	Lorna Anderson Jean K. Aho	Allyson VanOss	Stephanie Nocerini Sally Hedtke	Brian Perry	Brian & Nolan Perry
19	Gage Clements Marisa Coonrod	Bev Smith	Lorna Anderson Jean K. Aho	Maria Peterson	Donna Gustafson Gail Koski	Harry Kallies	Jon Aho
26	Gage Clements Lilli Johnson	Bev Smith	Lorna Anderson Jean K. Aho	Vicki West	Scott McGregor Jeff Heimerl	Anna Bandola	Don Smith

2nd Laura Reid
 3rd Rainy VanOss
 5th Lorelai Brzoznowski
 6th Cynthia Lehto
 7th Josephine Rucinski
 14th Claudia Nocerini
 15th Don Smith
 16th Karen Groop
 18th Janie Bandaccari & Jonica Rucinski
 19th Jim McGregor
 21st Christine Perry
 23rd Wilma Kallies
 25th Jennifer Hand
 26th Zach Aberly
 27th Tanner & Trevor Williams
 28th Laine Peterson
 29th Merle Schiavo & Loghan Clements



4th Jean & Jerry Aho
 19th Diana & Jim Waligursky
 29th Sue & Tom Strahan
 Christine & Gerard Valesano

Sometimes quilting coffee hour turns into a birthday celebration!

Rally Day is for the start of our
 Release Time classes, receiving
 Bibles, and always a good excuse for
 cake!
 Congratulations to our 1st graders!



“Autumn, the season that teaches us that change can be beautiful.”-Heather Stillufsen

Hello Congregation!

Let's recap September quickly and then head right into October!

As of August 31st, Pastor is back full time! Hooray!!! To kick off his return we had a wonderful Parish service and picnic at FLLC and boy, it was one beautiful day! We had a great crew out there and the food is always great! Thanks to Diana and Jim for organizing all that every year.

We had our yearly Rally Day to kick off the start of our Release Time program. Izzy received her Bible, and the Handbell Choir is back. They sounded wonderful and I am so thankful for those ladies that add beautiful music to our service. If anyone is even curious about what Handbell choir is all about, they practice at 10:30 on Sundays and play the second Sunday of the month, September-May. I know they would welcome anyone to come play with them.

Release time started back up on the 15th. The collaboration with United Methodist is once again working beautifully. Thank you to Amanda and Chris for teaching our fifteen 4th and 5th graders on Mondays at our church. Tuesdays are at United Methodist, and they have eighteen 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders taught by Donna, Donna, and Pastor DJ. We have an amazing list of snack providers as well.

Senior choir started back up this month. They sounded great and are always looking to add new members. They practice on Wednesdays from 6-7pm and sing on the first and third Sundays.

Confirmation class is starting back up. This includes 6th-8th graders. Please look for information regarding the parent meeting and then schedule for class. There will be class on 2 Wednesdays a month after school; 6th will be in one class and then 7th and 8th will be after that. I will have a snack helper list for these classes again at the parent meeting. Affirmation of baptism for our 9th graders that completed confirmation will be on October 26th. Please join us for a wonderful service and goodies after.

I want to give a shoutout to Jen Williams for joining altar guild!! We are so appreciative of your time. If anyone else would like to join altar guild, please come talk to Chris or myself and we can tell you how easy it is, but very important!

Emily Hendricks

Church council President



Pastor being Pastor with
some of our youth!

Never a dull moment
with this guy!





Parish service and picnic 2025

It was a beautiful, sunny day!

An eagle paid us a visit, but the picture was just a dot if it were to fit on the page!

We sang, worshipped, and had a great meal.

You should all really join us next year!



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10am Bible Study 5:30pm Highway Cleanup 6pm Choir 6:30pm Parent Conf. mtg.	2	3 9am Quilters	4 4pm Worship
5 9am Worship w/Choir 10am Coffee hour 6pm AA	6 2pm Release Time 7pm AA	7 2pm Release Time	8 10am Bible Study 6pm Choir	9	10 9am Quilters	11
12 9am Worship w/Handbell choir 10am Coffee hour 6pm AA	13 2pm Release Time 6pm Council Meeting 7pm AA	14 2pm Release Time	15 10am Bible Study 3:30/4:30pm Confirmation 4:30pm Grace Circle 6pm Choir	16	17 9am Quilters	18 4pm Worship
19 9am Worship 10am Coffee hour 6pm AA	20 2pm Release Time 7pm AA	21 2pm Release Time	22 6pm Choir	23	24 9am Quilters	25
26 9am Worship 10am Coffee hour 6pm AA	27 2pm Release Time 7pm AA	28 2pm Release Time	29 10am Bible Study 3:30/4:30pm Confirmation 6pm Choir	30	31 9am Quilters	



Our Handbell Choir has started their year!

We are so blessed to have this group of women who enrich our service on the 2nd Sunday of every month!

Our Senior Choir has started their year, also!

You can hear the sweet voices on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month.

What a blessing to have these talented folks and they would love if you would join in!



Just some pictures of our beautiful church grounds!

Cheryle Dropps has been hard at work over the summer keeping our gardens looking great!

Thanks to everyone who has been a part of this ongoing project. We are all very proud of our church!



Who's In Charge Here?

I have been staggered. One thing after another. It's like being in a boxing ring that has a post in the middle and I'm tied to it while five other boxers just keep going at me. One thing after another. One hit after another and it's hard to know which one is worse. By the time I am beginning to process one hit, another one comes almost immediately and my mind is drawn to that one. That's what it's like . . . it's staggering.

We have taken an awfully high number of hits as a society, one right after another . . . bam, bam, bam . . . and I feel like we are completely powerless to stop it. Part of our society rejoices, part of our society rages, and a large part of our society is staggered. As each hit comes and steals our attention, it is so easy to forget about the hits that came before. I am going to address one that has so quickly been forgotten.

It has always been understood that churches are not allowed to engage in partisan politics, and there are ramifications for those that do. In 1954, Congress passed an amendment prohibiting churches and charities that fall under 501(c)3 status from endorsing particular political candidates or campaigning on behalf one candidate over another. As a church leader, I cannot stand in front of a church and tell everyone who to vote for, or who to not vote for. Likewise, no church can issue statements to tell its members who they should and should not vote for. Violations of that amendment results in a revocation of tax exempt status and possibly imposing further tax fines on those organizations. Churches can, however, engage in free discussion over policies and issues that the government is tackling that are morally objectionable. Churches can respond to those, but churches cannot tell people who to vote for or against.

On July 7, 2025, the IRS responded to a lawsuit challenging the Johnson Amendment and arguing that the amendment infringed on the church's freedom of speech. In a shock to churches everywhere, the IRS consented with the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, which now opens the possibility that churches can be more partisan and endorse specific candidates without having their tax-exempt status revoked. With such meticulous care, I have been trained to make sure that church and state remained separate. Now, it seems, that line between church and state is significantly blurred.

I will be straight with you: the IRS has made a significant mistake. Yes, it is important to address issues that are morally objectionable and to respond to them from our faith. It is important to speak on policies that are contrary to the faith we profess. It is wrong, however, for any church to get involved in the campaign efforts for one candidate over another. It is wrong to use the pulpit for partisanship. And, I know you know that.

Practically, I think of it this way. I cannot imagine any of the

churches I have ever been connected with tolerating me telling them who to vote for. If I did, I suspect some folks would passionately agree with me, some folks would passionately disagree (and be downright angry), and the rest would be irritated, at best, that I'm mixing faith and politics. I imagine people getting up and leaving during the service. I imagine the angry phone calls and meetings. I imagine some individuals would thank me for saying something they agreed with. I imagine those things because I have lived those things. Those are responses I have experienced already, just by lawfully addressing issues and policies and comments that are inconsistent with our faith in Jesus, and those experiences have been incredibly painful.

As your pastor, my commitment to you is that I will not allow this church to endorse political candidates. While I may have my personal opinions, I will not tell you who to vote for and I will not tell you who I will vote for. I will not allow anyone to put up a sign in our church yard. I will not let this church make a public proclamation of who it supports, unless it be that of Jesus. You see, our political processes and our partisan preferences must be kept in check by the truth that we proclaim, as a church, that Jesus is Lord, and no one else. Jesus is Christ, no one else. Jesus is king, no one else. Jesus reigns, and we are his servants.

—Rev. D. J. Rasner

