

The Uniting Word March 2026

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, Tim & Timmy Bendick,
Scott & Leif Williamson, Roberta Lehto,
Solomon Rasner, Joseph Nyholm, Cale Campbell,
Chloe Conery, 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

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

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

Custodian: Scott McGregor

Choir director: Marsha Wainio

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:30am-3:30pm

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

The family of Arlene Dalpra would like to
thank everyone who contributed to her
funeral luncheon in any way. The luncheon
was wonderful and the family did not have to
worry about a thing.

Thanks again!



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

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



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
2 Pulled pork sandwiches with cole slaw & mac & cheese	3 Baked chicken quarters & mashed potatoes	4 Beef tips with mushroom gravy & potatoes
9 Chicken bacon ranch wrap & French fries	10 Enchiladas with beans & rice	11 Porcupine meatballs & mashed potatoes
16 Baked cheesy cod & home fries	17 Corned beef & cabbage with mashed potatoes	18 Pepper steak over rice
23 Italian beef sandwich & potato salad	24 Spaghetti over noodles	25 Pork chops & mashed potatoes
30 Raviolis with sauce	31 Pizza	



TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

	Acolytes	Altar	Caller	Church School Snacks	Counters	Lector	Usher
1	Lilli Johnson Owen Hendricks	Christine Perry Emily Hendricks	Lorna, Jean, and Laura	Maria Peterson	Harry Kallies Scott Kenney	Donna Gustafson	Mark Hegstrom Fynnly Ketola
8	Marisa Coonrod Evie Rasner	Christine Perry Emily Hendricks	Lorna, Jean, and Laura	Vicki West	Stephanie Nocerini Sally Hedtke	Vicki West	Maria Peterson
15	Nickolas Wrock Lydia Brzoznowski	Christine Perry Emily Hendricks	Lorna, Jean, and Laura	Diana Waligursky	Donna Gustafson Gail Koski	Brian Perry	Jim Waligursky
22	Avryl VanOss Brolan VanOss	Christine Perry Emily Hendricks	Lorna, Jean, and Laura	Nikki Kuzak	Scott McGregor Jeff Heimerl	Christine Perry	Jim Hakala
29	Lilli Johnson Evie Rasner	Christine Perry Emily Hendricks	Lorna, Jean, and Laura	No Release Time	Janie Bandaccari Christine Perry	Dean Hendrickson	Scott Kenney



2nd Sue Jacobson & Sara Starr
5th Jean Ann Aho & Ken Anderson
8th Jon Giuliani & Beau Loehr
14th Karen Willman
18th Audrey Williams
19th Zach Hautala
22nd Charlyn Jones, Geoff Lawrence,
& Jackie Giuliani
25th Noah Starr
27th Floyd Dropps & Liza Rucinski
28th Ann Wagner
29th Emily Hendricks & Brock VanOss
30th Dixie Gervenak, Brett Schiavo,
& Maradee Simbob
31st Reuben Rasner

4th Cheryle & Floyd Dropps



"In Like A Lion,
Out Like A Lamb"
by Lorie Hill

March roars in like a lion

So fierce,

The wind so cold,

It seems to pierce,

The month rolls on
And Spring draws near,

And March goes out

Like a lamb so dear.



Senior Day at FLLC

Monday, March 9, 2026

10am-2pm

Guest speaker will be Chris Harkness, a semi-retired Speech-Language Pathologist (former member of United) and the founder of Aging UP. Presentation will focus on empowering understanding, compassion, and innovation in aging and cognitive health. Suggested donation is \$15 to cover lunch. RSVP to the camp office by calling (906) 214-2267 or contact Ruth Warmanen at (906) 221-9124



HELLO Congregation!

The month of February sure was a snowy, cold one! I hope you all stayed warm and cozy during this crazy month.

We had *juuuust* enough for our annual congregational meeting! Thank you to everyone who stayed — we need a certain number of people for a quorum, and we made it by just two people!

Thank you to Tiffany and Vicki for joining our council. They have taken the spots of Geoff and Christine. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Geoff and Christine for their time and thoughtful input on the council over the past few years. Janie graciously agreed to stay on for another three years, and we thank her as well. We have a strong council, and I know we will continue to do right by our congregation.

At our last meeting, we held officer elections:

- I was nominated again for President and accepted.
- Pastor was nominated again for Vice President and accepted.
- Vicki was nominated as Secretary and accepted.
- Donna was nominated for Treasurer and accepted.

We are ready for the next year! Our council installation will take place on March 1st during Sunday service.

We began our Soup Suppers and Lenten services this month. These continue every Wednesday through March 25th. Soup is served at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, and the service begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

On March 4th, the confirmation classes will host Soup Supper, and on March 11th, the council will host. There are sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to contribute to these suppers.

It's tournament time at Forest Park, and we are so proud of our athletes! Vic, Eli, Dietrich, and Rueben worked hard this season and begin their tournament on February 25th. Elsie, Audrey, and Lorelei have also had a tremendous season — Varsity finished as Large School 9–0 conference champions! Their tournament begins March 4th. If you see any of our athletes, be sure to congratulate them on a job well done and wish them good luck.

We also have middle school volleyball players starting their season — Lydia, Lilli, Marissa, and Avryl have games coming up, so be sure to check the schedule. Good luck this season, ladies!

On March 8th, our release time kids will be singing. What joy they add to our service!

I would also like to put a spotlight on Altar Guild and Funeral Circles. I participate in both, and they are truly easy ways to serve.

Diana and I chair the two funeral circles. When I receive a call that a funeral will take place at our church, I gather my folder and begin making calls. Each person brings one dish — a hot dish, salad, dessert, or another essential item — and together it becomes a beautiful table of love. It may seem like a lot, but it's simply one item per person. When the family comes downstairs and sees the meal prepared for them, it is a powerful moment of comfort and care. It's something I take great pride in. If you would be willing to contribute in this way, please let me or Diana know. We would love to add you to our list.

Altar Guild may look complicated, but it's actually quite simple. The work that goes into it helps our sanctuary look welcoming and prepared each week. Some people even team up for their assigned month, making it even easier. Responsibilities include setting out communion each Sunday, tidying pews, placing the appropriate linens on the altar according to the church calendar, and restocking sign-in sheets and offering envelopes. It's very manageable, and I am happy to walk through the process with anyone who is interested or has questions.

Thank you all for the many ways you serve and support our church. We are blessed with such a caring and dedicated congregation!

Think spring!

Emily Hendricks





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 2pm RT	4 10am Bible Study 3:30/4:30p Conf. 4:30p Grace Circle 5:30p Soup Supper 5:45p Choir 6:30p Worship	5	6 9am Quilters	7 4pm Worship
8 9am Worship 10am Coffee hour 6pm AA	9 6pm Council mtg. 7pm AA	10 2pm RT	11 10am Bible Study 5:30p Soup Supper 5:45p Choir 6:30p Worship	12	13 9am Quilters	14
15 9am Worship 10am Coffee hour 6pm AA	16 7pm AA	17 2pm RT	18 10am Bible Study 3:30/4:30p Conf. 5:30p Soup Supper 6:30p Worship	19 12:30pm Blood Drive 2pm Service at ICMCF	20 9am Quilters	21 4pm Worship
22 9am Worship 10am Coffee hour 6pm AA	23 7pm AA	24 2pm RT	25 10am Bible Study 5:30p Soup Supper 5:45p Choir 6:30p Worship	26	27 9am Quilters	28
29 Palm Sunday 9am Worship 10am Coffee hour 6pm AA	30 7pm AA	31				



Properly Pious

There are a number of things we can do to try and feel more devoted to God, or make ourselves closer to God, or make our religion more sincere. These are actions, little actions that are outward expressions. Once I start listing them, I think you will understand. Before a meal we might say a simple prayer expressing gratitude to God for the food before us. Before we go to bed, we might take a moment and pray to God, reflecting on the day. When we wake up, we could pray again, or we can open the Bible and read a short passage, and that sets the tone for the day. These little actions we do to try and bring us closer to God, or to express our religion, are called pious actions, or acts of piety.

Some people refrain from eating certain foods because of what they believe about God, called fasting. Sometimes fasting is the full on refusal to eat anything for a period of time in an effort to understand God a bit more. Some folks volunteer for a local charity on a regular basis as an expression of their faith. Some engage in the habit of giving money to churches or charities. Piety can be more simple than that, though. The simple act of making the sign of the cross when someone says "the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" is an act of piety. Worshiping is a pious action. Choosing to listen to religious music, whether it is contemporary or choral, is a pious action.

In older days, some folks dedicated their lives as an expression of their faith by joining a monastery or some kind of cloistered community. I'm talking about becoming a monk or a nun and living in intentional community with others separate from the world. Piety. It was very common in the medieval period for people to travel around to be in the presence of the bones of the apostles, which were regarded as extremely holy, or to see the shroud which covered Jesus, or gaze on one of the shards of the cross that held him, or sit in the room that housed the Roman spear which pierced him. These are all called relics, and people would venerate these relics with such reverence that some have claimed that miracles were done while a relic was nearby. Piety.

As can happen with all things, even piety can become quite problematic, and humans have a way of twisting even the most religious of actions for selfish purposes. In Luther's day back in the 1500s, the veneration of relics was so problematic that he spoke out against it quite frequently. He noticed that people tended to worship the relic rather than the God who works mira-

cles, and on the other side of the relics there was a very lucrative trade. Problematic. In more modern days it is not uncommon to hear religious people boldly dictate that to be a true Christian you have to do certain things (speak in tongues, pray every day, study the Bible) or you can't do other things (don't drink, don't smoke, don't swear, don't play cards, don't associate with nonbelievers, don't don't don't). The list of dos and don'ts gets long and the problem is the unspoken law that gets created that defines what a "true Christian" looks like. This is nothing new. The Israelites (and nearly every other ancient civilization) got so hung up on piety that they too had unspoken laws about what their true faith looked like.

The pious actions themselves are not entirely bad, but when they become laws and markers defining "true religion," it is a fast and slippery slope down into the mud of the ancient human practice of the powerful keeping the weak in their place, or related to that, the extortion of money. Yep, it happens. It is no wonder that at the center of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), he spends time talking about the pious acts of giving, praying and fasting, and urges all of his hearers (us included) to make sure our pious actions are done in private. The reason for this is so that our piety can truly bring us closer to our heavenly Creator and remove any danger of 1) making our religion a show before the world, or 2) a law for others to follow. "Beware of practicing your piety before others," Jesus says. Instead, when you give, and when you pray, and when you fast, do these things in secret, "and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." It is no mistake that in the middle of Jesus' teaching about private piety is what he says about forgiveness: "if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6:14-15).

Jesus shines a spotlight on forgiveness and emphasizes how important it really is. It seems to me that Jesus makes forgiveness a non-negotiable. If you forgive, your Father will forgive; if you do not forgive, your Father will not forgive. Perhaps forgiveness is more important than *any* act of piety. Perhaps forgiveness is the primary marker of being a Christian rather than a list of dos and don'ts. Perhaps forgiveness is the heart of the gospel. Perhaps forgiveness is love. I think so.

Rev. D. J. Rasner

