



Union Lutheran Church

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www.ulcsalisbury.org



2nd Sunday of Christmas

January 5, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

The topic of wisdom is a thread that runs through today's readings. The wisdom of the world is not the same as the wisdom of God, and the reality is that it takes knowing God's Word to grasp the difference. Too often we rely on our own "wisdom" which is actually foolishness. God's wisdom is a gift that is granted to us through faith and in obedience to our Lord who is the very source of what is wise.

Union Lutheran Church welcomes you as you join us in worship this morning. Please fill out the communion/visitor card so that we can be made aware of your presence. If you have questions or are interested in the ministries and life of Union, please see the pastor, contact the church office, or scan the QR code.

We welcome children to be a part of worship. A nursery is also provided for those attending to the needs of infants and small children.

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal

With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal

P=Pastor, C=Congregation, L=Lay Reader

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ORDER FOR WORSHIP

Christmas Liturgy and Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 1

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* (arr. Carol Tornquist)

Altar Candles and advent candles are lit at this time.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Invocation (Matthew 28:19)

LBW p. 56

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

Brief Order of Confession & Forgiveness (1 John 1:8-9)

LBW p. 56

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Absolution (John 20:22-23)

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

Hymn: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

LBW# 44

- 1 **Infant holy, infant lowly, For his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, Bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!**
- 2 **Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, Praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!**

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.

Tune: Polish carol

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Apostolic Greeting (**Romans 1:7**)

LBW p. 57

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

Kyrie (**Mark 10:47**)

Hymn: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (stanza 4)

LBW# 41

- 4 **O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

Augsburg Fortress License # SBL10475H © AF Hymns License

Hymn of Praise (**Luke 2:14; John 1:29; Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9**)

Hymn: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (stanza 3)

LBW# 60

- 3 **Hail the heav'nborn Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us second birth.**

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Salutation (2 Timothy 4:22)

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Almighty and everlasting God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son, we might be made to abound in good works. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Old Testament Lesson: 1 Kings 3:4-15

The first lesson is from the 3rd chapter of 1 Kings.

⁴The king {Solomon} went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?" ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days." ¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

L Here ends the reading.

Psalm 119:97-104 *The Psalm of the day is read responsively.*

L ⁹⁷ Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.

C ⁹⁸ **Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.**

L ⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.

C ¹⁰⁰ **I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.**

L ¹⁰¹ I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.

C ¹⁰² **I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me.**

L ¹⁰³ How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

C ¹⁰⁴ **Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.**

New Testament Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14

The second lesson is from the 1st chapter of Ephesians.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

L Here ends the reading.

Children's Message

Children are invited to come forward for the Children's Message.

Following the Children's Message, the children are asked to sit with their families.

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation (John 6:68)

Hymn: *Angels We Have Heard on High* (stanza 3)

LBW# 71

**3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Refrain**

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:40-52

⁴⁰The child {Jesus} grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. ⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon: *Grow Up...*

Pastor Heidi Punt

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Hymn of the Day: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

LBW# 198

- 1** **Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending Comes our homage to demand.**
- 2** **King of kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.**
- 3** **Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way;
As the Light of light, descending From the realms of endless day,
Comes, the pow'rs of hell to vanquish, As the darkness clears away.**

4 **At his feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, As with ceaseless voice they cry:
“Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!”**

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829-1885, alt.

Tune: French folk tune, 17th cent.

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Nicene Creed (**Romans 10:9-10**)

LBW p. 64

P As the shepherds and angels responded we also get to respond by confessing our faith.

C **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

**Or, We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.*

* Prayers of the Church (**1 Timothy 2:1-4**)

LBW p. 65

A Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each portion of the prayers:

A Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

Sharing of the Peace (**John 20:19**)

LBW p. 65

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

Offering (Malachi 3:10)

The Offering is received as the Lord's Table is prepared.

All loose offerings will go towards the Social Ministry Fund.

The monthly benevolence will go towards the Congo Mission International.

Anthem: *He Shall Reign Forevermore* (Chris Tomlin & Matt Maher)

Andrew Baker and Elizabeth Baker, duet

MEAL

God invites us to His table.

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Offertory Hymn: *What Child Is This* (stanza 3)

LBW# 49

**3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

Tune: English ballad, 16th cent.

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Offertory Prayer (Psalm 96:7-8; Psalm 100:4)

LBW p. 68

A Let us pray. Blessed are you,

C O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Great Thanksgiving (2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136)

LBW p. 68-71

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary . . . (*Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:*) we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Hymn: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (stanza 4)

LBW# 50

**4 All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

Words of Institution (33)

LBW p. 70

(Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4)

LBW p. 71

C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

Please be seated.

Those who are assisting with Holy Communion are asked to come forward at this time.

Hymn: *Away in a Manger* (stanza 3)

LBW# 67

3 **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

Distribution of Communion (Mark 14:23)

All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the form of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

Please fill out the communion card in the pew and hand to the Usher as you follow their directions to the communion station.

Gluten Free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request.

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Blessing (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

LBW p. 72

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen

Post-Communion Canticle (Luke 2:29-32)

Hymn: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (stanza 3)

LBW# 55

**3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866

Tune: German Carol, 14th cent.

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Post-Communion Prayer

LBW p. 74

P Let us pray. Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

LBW p. 74

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
C Amen

Hymn: *Lo, How a Rose Is Growing*

LBW# 58

**1 Lo, how a rose is growing, A bloom of finest grace;
The prophets had foretold it: A branch of Jesses's race
Would bear one perfect flow'r Here in the cold of winter
And darkest midnight hour.**

**2 The rose of which I'm singing, Isaiah had foretold.
He came to us through Mary Who sheltered him from cold.
Through God's eternal will This child to us was given At midnight calm and still.**

**3 The shepherds heard the story The angels sang that night:
How Christ was born of Mary; He was the Son of light.
To Bethlehem they ran To find him in the manger As angel heralds sang.**

**4 The flow'r, so small and tender, With fragrance fills the air;
His brightness ends the darkness That kept the earth in fear.
True God and yet true man, He came to save his people
From earth's dark night of sin.**

**5 O Savior, child of Mary, Who felt all human woe;
O Savior, king of glory, Who triumphed o'er our foe:
Bring us at length, we pray, To the bright courts of heaven And into endless day.**

Text: German, 15th cent.; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang, Koln, 1599
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Blessing & Dismissal (Matthew 28:19)

**P You have been nurtured in Word and Sacrament now go therefore and make disciples of
all nations**

C Baptizing them in the name of the Father, † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

P Union Lutheran Church you are sent!

C Amen, amen, amen

Postlude: *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* (English carol, 18th cent.)

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Those Serving Today

Pianist: Genevieve Baker

Acolyte: Adam Thompson

Altar Guild & Communion Assistants: Deena Lanning and Karen Morgan

Communion Assistant: Kevin Huffman

Lay Readers: Deena Lanning, Karen Morgan, and Doris Shepherd

Ushers: Phil Cauble, Don and Tara Davis, and Frank Merrell

Sound System: Thad Mulkey

Live Streaming: Pete Nguyen

Offering Counters: Jennifer Curlee, Ali Davis, and Doris Shepherd

Union News

Western NC needs: new Wool Socks and new Hand Warmers
Please place donations on the pew outside of the church office. Thank you.

Sunday, January 5, 2025

9:15 a.m. Kids Choir

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

The Victory of Deborah's Army ~ Judges 4:1-16; Luke 14:31-33

Deborah said to Barak, "Up! For this is the day in which the LORD has given Sisera into your hand. Does not the LORD go out before you?" (Judges 4:14)

Rabbit Hole Adult Sunday School Class

The Victory of Deborah's Army

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School Class

The Lord Is King ~ 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Psalms 9-10

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Christmas Liturgy & LBW Setting 1

1 Kings 3:4-15; Psalm 119:97-104; Ephesians 1:3-14; Luke 2:40-52

3:00 p.m. 250th Anniversary Committee

4:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling

Bring your voice and wear something festive as we continue a holiday tradition for all ages! Today, Union will continue to spread the holiday cheer by singing **Christmas Carols** in the community. Join us as we sing good cheer for all to hear. No experience or talent necessary, just joy for the world!

This Week's Schedule

Monday, January 6	9:00 a.m. removal of Christmas decorations
Tuesday, January 7	6:30 p.m. Joshua Bible Study (<i>large fellowship hall</i>)
Wednesday, January 8	<u>Time change:</u> 4:00 p.m. Joshua Bible Study (<i>large fellowship hall</i>) 6:30 p.m. Catechism Confirmation (<i>Drew Wise SS Conference #1</i>)
Thursday, January 9	10:00 a.m. Good Timers (<i>small fellowship hall</i>) Program: Frank and Dawn Merrell's Mississippi River Trip Lunch provided at the church 6:00 p.m. Worship & Music (<i>Drew Wise SS Conference #1</i>)

Sunday, January 12, 2025

9:15 a.m. Kids Choir

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

David's Music for Saul ~ 1 Samuel 16:14-23; Luke 11:24-28

Whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. (1 Samuel 16:23)

Rabbit Hole Adult Sunday School Class

David's Music for Saul

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School Class

The Lord Is Majestic ~ Isaiah 52:1-12; Psalm 47, 93

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

LBW Setting 1

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Romans 6:1-11; Luke 3:15-22

12 noon Retirement Party Drop-in for Squirt (*Dutch Meeting Hall*)

4:30 p.m. Union & Salem Youth

Please send any pictures you have of Dawn Merrell to Pastor Heidi Punt by January 12.

Altar Flowers are available for reservations on Sunday, January 12.

All women are invited to the **Mary & Martha Circle** on **Tuesday, January 14**, at **2:00 p.m.** in the Drew Wise Sunday School Class.
Cathy Painther will be sharing the program.

*Mark your calendars now to attend the **Church Council and Leadership Retreat** on **Saturday, January 18**, from **9:00 a.m.-12 noon** hosted at Borders Concepts, Lexington.*

This retreat will give Union's leadership an opportunity to discern God's vision for 2025 and help us navigate with refreshed purpose!

Committees, organizations, and members are encouraged to come and be part of the discussion.

*If you will be attending, please contact the church office by **Thursday, January 16**, as lunch and packets will be provided.*

The Church Council will meet for their regular monthly meeting following the Leadership Retreat at 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 19, 2025

9:15 a.m. Kids Choir (Sanctuary)

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

David Fights Goliath ~ 1 Samuel 17:3-11, 24-26, 40-49; 1 John 4:4-6

David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone. (1 Samuel 17:50 ESV)

Rabbit Hole Adult Sunday School Class

David Fights Goliath

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School Class

The Lord Is Active ~ Isaiah 66:1-14; Psalm 103:1-14

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 128; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Celebration of Dawn Merrell’s Music Ministry

12 noon Congregational Luncheon (*Dutch Meeting Hall*)

Deadline for newsletter articles.

Altar Flowers are available for reservations.



You are invited to join Union Lutheran Church (ULC) on **Sunday, January 19, 2025**, at **10:30 a.m.** for a **Celebration Worship** in honor of **Dawn Frick Merrell’s Music Ministry** at ULC and other congregations.

A luncheon will follow worship in the Dutch Meeting Hall. *(Please bring food to share. The Church Council will provide meat and drinks.)*

Please send any pictures you have of Dawn to Pastor Heidi Punt by Sunday, January 12. Be sure to have a favorite story ready to share during the luncheon.

All members of the **Christian Education Umbrella** are invited to an **Appreciation Dinner & Team Building** in the large fellowship hall on **Thursday, January 23**, at **6:00 p.m.**

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Part 4: Holy Baptism

The Daily Purpose of Baptism – Part 1



What is the significance of baptizing with water? *It signifies that the old Adam in us, together with all sins and evil desires, should be drowned by daily repentance and sorrow for sin, and be put to death, and that the new person should come forth every day and rise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.*

(Martin Luther’s Small Catechism Sola Publishing 2010 Edition Pocket Version page 25)

Attendance Update

December Sunday School Attendance

22 47
29 34

2024 Sunday School Attendance

Total 2,247 (52 weeks)
Average 43

December Worship Attendance

22 130
24 20 4:00 p.m.
24 105 7:40 p.m.
29 75

2024 Worship Services Attendance

Total 5,672 (52 weeks)
Average 109

During the period of December 16th -31st, 2024, the Union Lutheran Church General Fund received revenue totaling **\$10,944.26**. During this same period, the General Fund expended **\$(8,643.44)**. The result of this two-week period is a positive revenue of **\$2,300.82**. Of the revenues received for the General Fund during this period, \$7,215.00 were received from contributions from the congregation, \$3,654.26 was received from North Carolina Department of Revenue for sales tax refunds, and \$75.00 were received for use of the fellowship halls.

John Knight, Treasurer; Union Lutheran Church

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Our Love and Sympathy is extended to the Family of Doris Page on her death, December 22, 2024. A memorial service will be scheduled in 2025.

Our Love and Sympathy is extended to the Family of Patsy Sigmon on her death, December 27, 2024. Celebration of Life service for Patsy Sigmon was held Saturday, January 4, 2025, at Union Lutheran Church

Please note as of Christ the King Sunday, we have refreshed our prayer list and kindly ask that you please resubmit your prayer requests by contacting the church office. If you have a praise report, we are always happy to hear about them too and invite you to share with the church office to include in our monthly newsletter.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

Nursing Homes – Brenda Mahaley (Autumn Care Room 815), Ruth Monroe (Autumn Care Room 818), Jean Ray (Autumn Care Room 201) & Jay Rusher (Autumn Care), Pat Kluttz (Brookdale Room 56)

Homebound/Shut-ins Members – Sarah Bame, Rachel Earnhardt, Teresa Kesler, James & Jean Kluttz, William Page, Rev. TC & Mary Plexico, Macky Swicegood, Ann Tucker (Oak Park Retirement), Billy Waller & Michael Walton

Sick/Surgery/Recovery – Steve Arey, Rev. Randall Cauble (ICU), Jean Kluttz, Richard Lyons, Jr., Sylvia Peeler, Macky Swicegood, Jamie Troutman, Ann Tucker, Wayne & Pam Vellines

Continual Prayer – Rev. Doug Hefner Family (daughter died in car accident), Tommy Lamb (Pam Vellines’ uncle), Patsy Lyerly, Dr. Sean Malone (Pam Vellines’ friend), Jeff Matthews (cancer patient), Della Morgan (Pam Vellines’ mother), Edward Young (Sharon Moore’s friend), Union Fire Department #76, Global Missions (Congo, Slovakia, and Haiti), especially for our NC neighbors affected by natural disasters & those affected by political disasters

Please let us know...church staff are not automatically made aware of you or your family members and loved ones who are in the hospital, Hospice, a nursing home or shut-ins at home. This means we cannot minister to them without you letting us know. Please contact the church office (704) 636-5092 to keep us informed.

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OUR MISSION: Christ Centered ~ Mission Driven~ Traditionally-Grounded ~ Congregationally Focused (Matthew 28:18-20)

OUR 2024 VISION: “Love God and Love our Neighbor” (Mark 12:30-33)

OUR 2024 ACTION PLAN: “By feeding, clothing, visiting, helping...” (Matthew 25:35-40)

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Union Lutheran Church

Church Office Hours: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

Pastor Heidi Punt, Senior Pastor (pastor@ulcsalisbury.org)

Phil Cauble, Facility Manager

Genevieve Baker, ULC Staff Support (office@ulcsalisbury.org)

