



Union Lutheran Church

4770 Bringle Ferry Road
Salisbury, NC 28146
704.636.5092
office@ulcsalisbury.org
www.ulcsalisbury.org



2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

January 19, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

The gifts of God are given for the sake of the whole faith community. God cares for all aspects of human life. We see this through Paul's teaching that all spiritual gifts are valuable and work together for the sake of the whole church. And again, Jesus, even though he was not ready to reveal his true identity to the world, changed water into wine at a wedding saving a family from the pain of certain humiliation.

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

Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 1

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart* (arr. Costello)

Nancy Sloop

Altar Candles and the Christ Candle 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: *How Great Thou Art*

LBW# 532

1 **O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;**

Refrain

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!**

2 **When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; *Refrain***

3 **But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin; *Refrain***

4 **When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" *Refrain***

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989. Text © 1953 S.K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road, Pacific City, OR 97135 (ASCAP). Renewed 1981. All rights reserved. (ASCAP) © Copyright 1953 by Stuart K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc. © Copyright 1953 by Manna Music, Inc. Augsburg Fortress License # SBL10475H © AF Hymns License

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*)

LBW p. 57-58

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen

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

LBW p. 60-61

C This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Salutation (*2 Timothy 4:22*)

LBW p. 62

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, you restrain the powers of heaven and earth. Mercifully hear your people's prayers for peace in our time. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and 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: Isaiah 62:1-5

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. ⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

L Here ends the reading.

New Testament Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

¹Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit. ⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

L Here ends the reading.

Kids Choir Anthem: *This Little Light of Mine*

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) *Allegro*, from Canonic Sonata No. 1 (Georg Philipp Telemann)

Brent Bingham and James (Jimmy) Stokes, Jr.

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

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

Holy Gospel: John 2:1-11

¹On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. ³When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” ⁴And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” ⁵His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” ⁶Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. ⁹When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.” ¹¹This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon Series: *Meet My Jesus! At the Wedding*

Pastor Heidi Punt

1st week: Meet My Jesus! At the River

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Hymn of the Day: *Jesus, Come! For We Invite You*

WOV# 648

- 1 **Jesus, come! For we invite, guest and master, friend and Lord;
Now, as once at Cana's wedding, speak and let us hear your word:
Lead us through our need or doubting, hope be born and joy restored.**
- 2 **Jesus, come! Transform our pleasures, guide us into paths unknown;
Bring your gifts, command your servants, let us trust in you alone:
Though your hand may work in secret, all shall see what you have done.**
- 3 **Jesus, come! In new creation, heav'n bought near in pow'r divine;
Give your unexpected glory, changing water into wine:
Rouse the faith of your disciples-come, our first and greatest Sign!**
- 4 **Jesus, come! Surprise our dullness, make us willing to receive
More than we can yet imagine, all the best you have to give:
Let us find your hidden riches, taste your love, believe, and live!**

Text: Christopher Idle, b. 1938 Tune: Harold Friedell, 1905-1958 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Co. Music © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin Augsburg Fortress License # SBL10475H © AF Hymns License

Apostles' Creed (**Romans 10:9-10**)

LBW p. 65

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

** Or, He descended to the dead.*

***Or, the holy Christian 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. 66

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 offering will go towards the Building & Repair Fund.

The monthly benevolence will go towards Congo Mission International.

Anthem: *Praise the Lord* (Carl Nygard, Jr.)

Chancel Choir

MEAL

God invites us to His table.

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Offertory (1 Corinthians 10:16-17)

LBW p. 66

C **Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offertory Prayer

LBW p. 67

A Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

The Great Thanksgiving (2 Timothy 4:22)

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:

Sanctus (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9; Revelation 4:8-11)

LBW p. 69

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Words of Institution (32)

LBW p. 69

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

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.

Agnus Dei (John 1:29)

LBW p. 72

C **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

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.

Communion Music: *We Three Kings*

Belles & Beaus

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 (Psalm 105:1-2)

LBW p. 72-73

C **Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Post-Communion Prayer

LBW p. 74

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen

us through this gift, in faith toward you and fervent love toward one another; for the sake of 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: *Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart*

LBW# 325

1 Lord, thee I love with all my heart; I pray thee, ne'er from me depart;
With tender mercy cheer me. Earth has no pleasure I would share,
Yea, heav'n itself were void and bare if thou, Lord, wert not near me.
And should my heart for sorrow break, my trust in thee can nothing shake.
Thou art the portion I have sought; thy precious blood my soul has bought.
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord,
Forsake me not! I trust thy Word.

2 Yea, Lord, 'twas thy rich bounty gave my body, soul, and all I have
In this poor life of labor. Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place
May glorify thy lavish grace and serve and help my neighbor.
Let no false doctrine me beguile, let Satan not my soul defile.
Give strength and patience unto me to bear my cross and follow thee.
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord,
In death thy comfort still afford.

3 Lord, let at last thine angels come, to Abr'hams bosom bear me home,
That I may die unfearing; and in its narrow chamber keep
My body safe in peaceful sleep until thy reappearing.
And then from death awaken me, that these mine eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, thy glorious face, my Savior and my fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer attend,
And I will praise thee without end!

Text: Martin Schalling, 1532-1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878, alt. Tune: B. Schmid, Orgeltabulatur-Buch, 1577
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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

Please be seated.

Postlude: *Rondo Passacaglia*

Belles & Beaus

Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 1 pages 56-76

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The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Dawn Frick Merrell and her devotion to the music ministry at ULC by Ron Chase and Debra Cauble-McPherson.

Attendance Update

January 12		Sunday School was cancelled due to road conditions
January 12	79	Worship & Holy Communion

Part 5: The Office of the Keys* (i.e. the power of forgiveness in Christ)



What is the Office of the Keys? It is the unique power which Christ has given to his Church on earth to forgive the sins of penitent sinners, and to retain the sins on the impenitent, so long as they do not repent.

As Christ himself declares: “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.” (John 20:23)

“Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 18:18)

**Note: This small section on the Office of the Keys serves as a bridge between the sections on Baptism and Confession. Though not authored by Luther or contained in the Book of Concord, it has been included in many editions of the Catechism since Luther’s death.*

(Martin Luther’s Small Catechism Sola Publishing 2010 Edition Pocket Version page 26)

During the period of January 1-15, 2025, the Union Lutheran Church General Fund received revenues totaling **\$7,224.00**. During this same period, the General Fund expended **\$(13,454.68)**. The result of this two-week period is a revenue deficit of **\$(6,230.68)**. The church property insurances for the first quarter, \$(3,757.50), were paid during this period.

John Knight, Union Lutheran Church Treasurer

Those Serving Today

Organist: Nancy Sloop

Trumpets: Dr. James Stokes, Brent Bingham

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, Dusty Morgan, Sr., and Dusty Morgan, Jr.

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 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

Sermon Series: *Meet My Jesus! At the Wedding*

Celebration of Dawn Merrell's Music Ministry in the large fellowship hall. All are invited!

This Week's Schedule:

Tuesday, January 21

4:00 p.m. Haiti Pastors Bible Study online

6:30 p.m. Joshua Bible Study (*large fellowship hall*)

Wednesday, January 22

4:00 p.m. Joshua Bible Study (*large fellowship hall*)

6:30 p.m. Catechism Confirmation (*Drew Wise SS Conference #1*)

Sunday, January 26, 2025

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

King Saul's Big Mistake ~ 1 Samuel 28:3-19; Hebrews 4:9-13

Saul said to his servants, "Seek out for me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her." (1 Samuel 28:7)

Rabbit Hole Adult Sunday School Class

King Saul's Big Mistake

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School Class

The Lord Is Righteous ~ Hebrews 12:18-29; Psalm 145

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Nehemiah 8:1-10; Psalm 19:1-14; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:16-30

Sermon Series: *Meet My Jesus! At Church*

2:00 p.m. Mission Outreach (*Drew Wise SS Class Conference #1*)

4:00 p.m. Luther League at Faith Lutheran Church, Faith

Altar Flowers are available for reservations.

Deadline for newsletter articles is Sunday, January 26.

The 2025 Church Yearbook is an annual publication that reflects the life of Union Lutheran Church for the past year, planning and scheduling for the coming year, and includes the current church membership directory. We want to get it out to the members of the congregation as soon as possible. Please assist the church office by reviewing names (committees, teams, organizations, umbrellas), contact information for you, your families and friends, contacting coordinators of interest in participating in the schedule for 2025.

Pastor Heidi Punt will be attending the **NALC Clergy Retreat** from **January 27-January 30**, in San Antonio, Texas. This year's theme, "Generous Confessionalism."

Tuesday, January 28

6:30 p.m. Joshua Bible Study (*large fellowship hall*)

Wednesday, January 29

4:00 p.m. Joshua Bible Study (*large fellowship hall*)

6:30 p.m. Catechism Confirmation (*Drew Wise SS Conference #1*)

The February Messenger and Handouts will be printed Friday, January 31, 2025.

Saturday, February 1

4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Wedding Shower (*large fellowship hall*)

The congregation is invited for a wedding shower in honor of Morgan and Michael (Pastor Heidi's son) from 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 1, in the large fellowship hall.

The NALC Carolinas Mission Region invites 6th-12th graders for our annual Youth Retreat at the Beach "Legacy" from March 14-16, 2025 at Garden City Chapel and Retreat, Murrells Inlet, SC. Cost is \$120 per person.

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), Ann Tucker (Piedmont Health & Rehab Center)

Homebound/Shut-ins Members – Sarah Bame, Rachel Earnhardt, Teresa Kesler, James & Jean Kluttz, William Page, Rev. TC & Mary Plexico, 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 – Pastor Enok Haamer, 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), Jane Stoner (Noah Cauble’s grandmother), 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)

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“It was all I ever wanted to do” Celebration held for 57-year music ministry
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By Karen Kistler karen.kistler@salisburypost.com

SALISBURY — “Music speaks when words cannot.” That’s what Dawn F. Merrell said when sharing about her years of music ministry and how music has touched her. Merrell has been involved in music ministry for close to 57 years serving as church staff and interim positions at various churches in the Rowan County area. A special celebration will be held Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at Union Lutheran Church, 4770 Bringle Ferry Road, Salisbury with a luncheon to follow in the Dutch Meeting Hall. Heidi Punt, pastor of the congregation, said this is not a retirement party but a celebration of her ministry. “She is stepping away from leading worship music with the congregation,” said Punt, and added that “because of her heart for music, we totally expect her still being available.” Punt said that Merrell has had a big influence in the Salisbury community and would like many people to attend the special occasion and said that if people could not attend the service, they are encouraged to come to the meal and celebrate with them.

There will be a time to share your favorite story about Merrell, and attendees are asked to come prepared to tell those stories.

Merrell is married to Frank Merrell and they have two sons, their oldest, Franz Merrell, died in 2002 from cancer, and their youngest Judson Merrell is a Lutheran pastor in Lexington, S.C. He is married to Carrie and they have two daughters, Addison and Camryn.

Merrell's love for music began at an early age as she said "it was all I ever wanted to do." At the age of eight, she said her mom got her into piano lessons that summer. She was a wonderful teacher, she said; however, she added that she was scared of her because she carried a ruler with her all the time, but she was also very excited about her first lesson. The summer she started piano lessons, a little boy in her neighborhood was also taking lessons and Merrell remembered the two of them being taken to the dining room table. "I thought my mother told me I was going to learn to play the piano," Merrell said, "and I'm at the dining room table." It was there they were doing all kinds of finger exercises after which they went to the piano. With her father being a minister, they moved around and she had several piano teachers along the way and ended up in Salisbury "with a very fine teacher, Mrs. Laura Garner," she said.

She was born in Newberry, S.C. and it was when her father became the minister of Union Lutheran Church in 1962 that the family made their move to Salisbury. Merrell remains a member of Union Lutheran Church and has served as interim organist at the church for years, along with other responsibilities including leading the bell and chancel choirs, developing a children's choir, helping with youth services, leading Sunday and midweek services, helping plan services and "helping develop a love of music in the congregation," said Punt. Along with playing the organ, she also plays piano and is learning to play the harp, which Merrell said is on her bucket list. "That is something I am doing for me," she said. This desire to learn the harp began when she was approximately seven or eight, when "I Love Lucy" was very popular. On the show Ricky Ricardo had a band and a harpist was in the band. "I always thought she wore this wonderful 1950s cool dress and she would play and I thought that was the most wonderful thing to be," she said. Then she remembered the huge Christmas concerts put on by Converse and Wofford colleges and Spartanburg's choral group with the harpist taking front stage. "I just thought it was the most fascinating thing" and following graduation she had the opportunity to work with various harpists and she vowed to one day she would do that and she has. However, she said that the harp is something she is doing for herself and has no desire to be a professional harpist, but to just be able to play and it's just her thing.

Merrell graduated from college in Greensboro, which was a women's college and is now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. It was during her college years that she started as an organist in 1968, to pay her way through school, graduating with a degree in organ.

Merrell has used her talent playing in churches for many years, with paid positions at Union Lutheran Church, Salisbury; New Hope, Kannapolis; St. Mark's Lutheran, China Grove; and Haven Lutheran in Salisbury. She began filling interim positions when she first retired in 2010, or as she said, when she thought she was going to retire. These have included churches in the

Rowan County area, Faith, Statesville and Albemarle. Serving as accompanist for a concert choir for more than 16 years, accompanying and later directing the Salisbury Choral Society and accompanying at the Lutheran Church camp in Arden are additional times Merrell has served. And, Merrell not only plays the organ, but also teaches organ lessons and if noted that anyone is interested in taking lessons, they can contact her via email at dfmmusic@bellsouth.net. She is teaching organ “to try to prepare young people,” she said, noting that many colleges no longer have sacred music programs and they are desperate for church musicians and are encouraging young people to enter that field. There are lots of responsibilities involved with music ministry, she said, telling that “when you commit to something you should be there.”

Music has been a special part of Merrell’s life and she said that growing up in the church has had a lot to do with why it has touched her so deeply. “I was always around music, and I always had piano lessons twice a week for 10 years, and I knew I always felt a strong calling to do church work,” she said. It wasn’t her desire to be a minister, telling that her father was one and her son is one, and when she was growing up women weren’t ministers. “I had no desire to do that. I wanted to do music,” she said. Paraphrasing a quote from a book that a friend gave her explains her desire to do music, she said. “One quote is in there that really hit home to me, she said, and it is “if you’re born with music in you, there’s nothing you can do about it.” Music ministry takes lots of time that people don’t realize, Merrell commented, including duties of going through music, selecting songs, planning what songs to sing for each service, when children would sing, when bells are to be played and juggling all that with everyone’s schedules.

In stepping aside, Merrell said she was going to miss it, but there are projects that she wants to complete and things she wants to do, and she just does not have the time to do them now. When speaking about her time in music ministry, she said she was “honestly and truthfully going to miss it,” but as found in the book of Ecclesiastes, Merrell said there is a time for everything, and “this is my time.”

Read more at: <https://www.salisburypost.com/2025/01/16/it-was-all-i-ever-wanted-to-do-celebration-held-for-57-year-music-ministry/>

For a number of years Dawn Merrell served on the staff of Music Week at Lutheridge, sometimes as a Handbell Clinician, other times as an accompanist for various choirs which were always directed by well-known composers. She has had the honor of serving three times as accompanist for the composer Carl Nygard, Jr. as he worked with various groups he directed over the years. In 2000, at the initial Sunday evening staff meeting, he presented her with an anthem that he had composed for the choir he was directing that year and which he dedicated to Dawn. Being composed specifically for Lutheridge, the anthem lyrics speak of the beauty of the mountains. The piece was premiered at the final Music Week concert. This is the anthem you heard today.