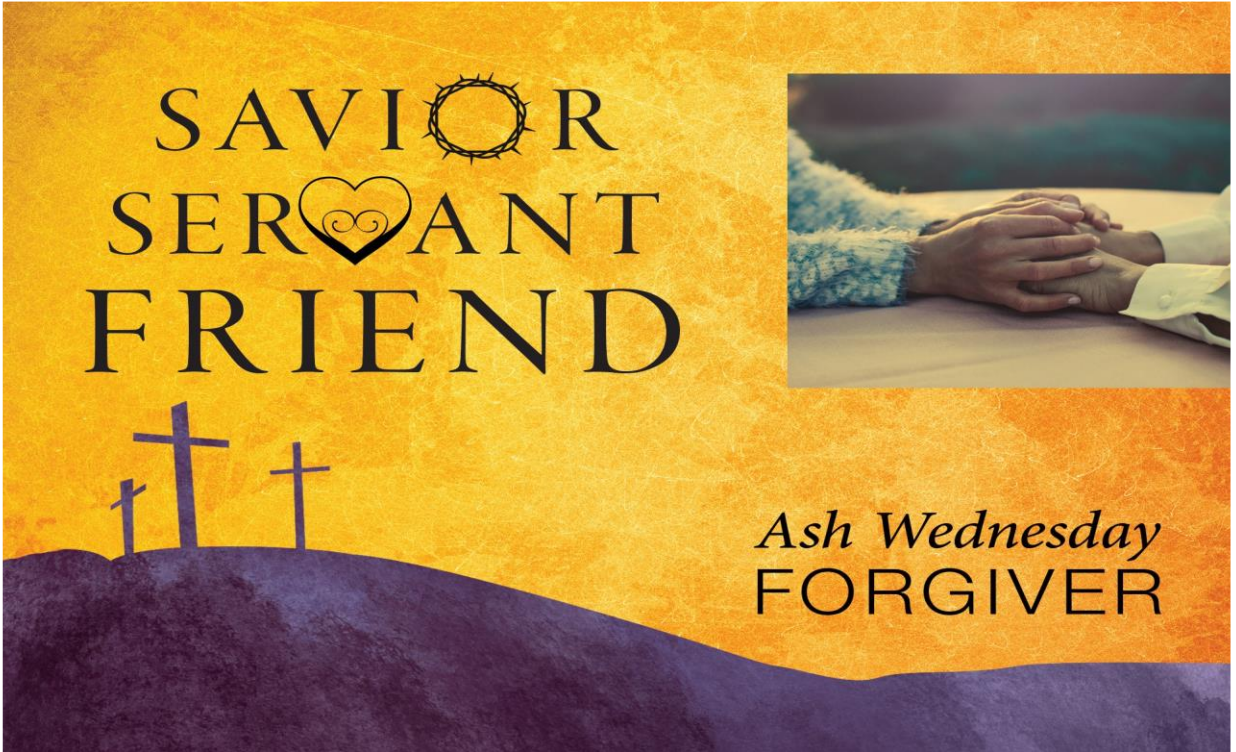




Union Lutheran Church

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www.ulcsalisbury.org



Ash Wednesday

Theme Verse: *I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father
I have made known to you. John 15:15*

March 5, 2025

4:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. Worship & Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the forty-day season of Lent. Its name is taken from the ancient biblical tradition of using ashes as a sign of repentance and human mortality. We come together today in humble and honest reflection on our own sinfulness, trusting in the forgiveness of our merciful Lord and in the promise that he has won for us in the cross.

Union Lutheran Church welcomes you as you join us in worship today. 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.

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

Savior Servant Friend, Service of the Word, and Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 1

Pastor and Congregation enter quietly.

Please place your Lenten offering in the basket as you enter. Lenten Offering will go towards the General Fund.

The altar candles lit represent Jesus' life and ministry. Each week we will extinguish candles, remembering how we, the human race, rejected Jesus Christ, the light of the world. This week the Christ Candle and only 6 candles on either side of the Altar Candles will be lit.

Psalm 51

LBW p. 239-240

Psalm 51 is read silently in preparation for worship.

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness*
and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.

⁵And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment.

⁶Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁷For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

⁸Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

⁹Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

¹⁰Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹¹Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

¹²Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

- ¹³Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- ¹⁴I shall teach your ways to the wicked,
and sinners shall return to you.
- ¹⁵Deliver me from death, O God,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.
- ¹⁶Open my lips, O LORD,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- ¹⁷Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,
but you take no delight in burnt offerings.
- ¹⁸The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
- ¹⁹Be favorable and gracious to Zion,
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
- ²⁰Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices,
with burnt offerings and oblations;
then shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar.

Prelude quietly plays in the background.

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Invocation

P We gather together in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Call to Worship

P A friend loves at all times,

C **And a brother is born for adversity.** (Proverbs 17:17)

P The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him,

C **And he makes known to them his covenant.** (Psalm 25:14)

P A man of many companions may come to ruin,

C **But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.** (Proverbs 18:24)

P What a friend we have in Jesus,

C **All our sins and griefs to bear!**

P Precious Savior, still our refuge—

C **Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

Hymn: *Jesus Sinners Will Receive*

1 **Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live And from God and heaven wander.
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

- 2 **We deserve but grief and shame, Yet his words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace and life proclaim; Here their ills have perfect healing
Who with humble hearts believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.**
- 3 **Sheep that from the fold did stray Are not by the Lord forsaken;
Weary souls who lost their way Are by Christ, the Shepherd,
taken In his arms that they may live: Jesus sinners doth receive.**
- 4 **I, a sinner, come to you With a penitent confession.
Savior, show me mercy, too; Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

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Tune: Maria Theresa, Katholisches Gesangburch, 1774 ~ LBW# 535 Holy God, We Praise Your Name

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Confession & Forgiveness

P Jesus, friend of sinners, hear me as I confess my sins.

C **My thoughts have befriended sin and shame, not truth and righteousness.**

P O Lord, you have searched me and known me! (Psalm 139:1)

C **My words have befriended lies and slander, not love and mercy.**

P Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. (Psalm 139:4)

C **My deeds have befriended hate and hurt, not peace and kindness.**

P You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. (Psalm 139:3)

C **Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

The congregation is invited to kneel or sit in a posture of humility.

P Most holy and merciful Father:

C **We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought word and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

P We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

C **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

C **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

C We confess to you, Lord.

P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

C We confess to you, Lord.

P Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

C We confess to you, Lord.

P Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

C We confess to you, Lord.

P Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

C We confess to you, Lord.

P Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C Accept our repentance, Lord.

P For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who came after us,

C Accept our repentance, Lord.

P Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

C Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen.

Please silently reflect on the ways that you have sinned and seek God's grace...

Please be seated.

Imposition of Ashes

Those who desire to receive ashes come forward.

As the ashes are applied to the forehead, the pastor says:

P: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

After all who desire ashes have received them, the pastor leads the congregation in the conclusion of the confession.

The congregation is invited to kneel or sit in a posture of humility.

P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C that we may show forth your glory in the world.

P By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,

C Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Pastor stands and addresses the congregation.

P Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that what we do may please him. May our lives be pure and holy, that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P Lord Jesus, you have invited us to take everything to you in prayer. You know our weaknesses and how we are heavy-laden. You know the burdens that we carry in our hearts and minds. Precious Savior, be our refuge. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us this Lent that we may know your friendship and love. 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.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: Joel 2:12-17

“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep and say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

New Testament Lesson: Colossians 1:9-14

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Holy Gospel: Luke 7:36-49

One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee’s house and reclined at table. And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the

hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner.” And Jesus answering said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” And he answered, “Say it, Teacher.”

“A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?” Simon answered, “The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.” And he said to him, “You have judged rightly.” Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this, who even forgives sins?”

Please be seated.

Sermon Topic: *Forgiver*

Pastor Heidi Punt

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Hymn: *Just As I Am, without one Plea*

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 2 Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 3 Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 4 Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

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

P Let us join together in confessing our faith with the saints who have gone before us, in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

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

P Amid our trials, temptations and troubles, we have a friend who sticks with us. Where else can we find a friend so faithful? And, so, we take it to the Lord in prayer. Jesus, you know our every weakness and have promised to be our friend, so we lift our prayers and raise our petitions. Lord, in your mercy,

After each portion of the prayers:

A Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P Jesus, deliver us from isolation, and give us a seat at your table where we receive your body and blood.

C **Jesus, what a privilege it is to be your friend. Amen.**

The congregation is invited to remain standing if the Lord's Supper is celebrated. The words of institution or another eucharistic prayer may be used here, then the Lord's Prayer, then the communion at the table.

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.

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 at the close of the table.

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 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**

Benediction

P Jesus has called you his own and made known to you all that he has heard from the Father. Go now in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **What a friend we have in Jesus!**

Hymn: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

**1 What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!**

**2 Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged, Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a Friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness-- Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**3 Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our Refuge-- Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In his arms he'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there.**

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Postlude

Congregation departs in silence as the Postlude is played.

The postlude echoes the prelude and What a Friend We Have in Jesus.

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Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 1 pages 56-76

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Those Serving Today

Pianist: Genevieve Baker

Acolyte: Bailey Wilhelm and Lucas Wilhelm

Altar Guild: Sonya Mulkey and Janet Overcash

Lay Readers: Mary Elizabeth Earnhardt, Lucinda Fraley and Ellie Wilhelm

Communion Assistants: Lucinda Fraley, Sonya Mulkey, Janet Overcash and Ellie Wilhelm

Ushers: Phil Cauble, Ali Davis, Don and Tara Davis

Sound System: Thad Mulkey, Dusty Morgan, Sr., and Dusty Morgan, Jr.

Live Streaming: Pete Nguyen

Offering Counters: Patsy Lyerly, Sonya Mulkey, and Vivian Sprinkle

Union News

The congregation is invited during the month of March to collect supplies for Mary Hutchens' July Mission trip to Slovakia. These supplies are basic items used for crafts. Smaller sizes work best. Supplies needed: Ball Point Pens(50), Pencils (100), Colored Pencils (25 boxes of 8), Pencil Sharpeners (2 doz), Construction paper (12 Pks), Scissors (some for younger kids and some for older ones) 20 each, Crayons and colored markers (20 box of ea), Dry Erase markers (6 pkgs), Clothes Pins (50), Popsicle sticks (Plain and colored) 4 pks plain, 2 colored paper clips and small binder clips (2 pks), Brads (2 pkgs), Chalk and sidewalk Chalk, Making tape and Blue painters tape, Elmers glue (2 doz), Glue sticks (2 doz), Cotton Balls (1g bag), Glitter (one 2 basic colors), Paint pallets with brushes (2 doz), Plain paper plates (pks 50), Bible crossword and word find books for ages 6-15 (2 for younger 2 for older), and Toilet paper rolls (4 doz).

Please place donations on the pew outside of the church office.

This Week's Schedule

Wednesday, March 5

Ash Wednesday

4:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. Worship & Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes (*Sanctuary*)

No Wednesday Choir rehearsal or Catechism Confirmation

Saturday, March 8

Turn your clocks back an hour before going to bed

Sunday, March 9, 2025

All loose offering will go towards the Gerald Bame Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Love offering will go towards Pastor Heidi Punt's trip to "Follow in Paul's Footsteps."

The monthly benevolence will go towards Spiritual Orphans Network (SON).

Collecting Craft Supplies for Mary Hutchens' July Mission Trip to Slovakia.

Sunday, March 9, 2025

9:20 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School Opening (*Chapel*)

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Rabbit Hole Adult Sunday School Class

Rededication of the Temple ~ Ezra 3:1-13; John 2:18-22

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School Class

A Space for God ~ Exodus 25-27; John 4:13-26

9:30 a.m.-9:45 a.m. Kids Choir (*Chapel*) & Union Youth Choir (*Choir Room*)

9:45 a.m.-10:20 a.m.

Children & Youth Sunday School

Rededication of the Temple ~ Ezra 3:1-13; John 2:18-22

All the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. (Ezra 3:11)

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-13; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

Sermon Series focuses on the Psalms and Gospel Readings: *Rise Up!*

During the Lenten Season, there will be no Hallelujah/Hymn of Praise/Salutation.

A brief called meeting of the Church Council will be held following the worship service to review the 2025 Church Yearbook for printing.

Executive Committee will meet following the Council meeting.

4:30 p.m. Union Youth

During Lent, the Altar Branches are given to the glory of God.

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

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

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

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2025 Church Council Members

2023-2025

Ali Davis
Vicki Hunter (Secretary)
Sharon Leazer
Dusty Morgan, Sr. (President)
Debbie Rinehart

2024-2026

Phil Cauble
Kevin Huffman
John Knight (Treasurer)
Thad Mulkey

2025-2027

Karen Barringer
Pete Nguyen (Vice-President)
Brad Trexler

+++++
Lay Ministers

Judy Boyd, Tara Davis, Steve Hutchens, John Kesler, Elbert Kluttz and Deena Lanning

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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)

