



Union Lutheran Church

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2025 November Messenger

Volume 11

Bearing Fruit for Jesus

Dear Friend in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

In the coming weeks our congregation will be involved in an exciting stewardship program titled ***Bearing Fruit for Jesus: His Grace and Power at Work within You***. Jesus said, “*I am the Vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit*” (John 15:5). When we abide in Jesus, it follows naturally that we bear fruit. Fruit characterizes the life of a Christian. During the three-week program, we will grow in our understanding of how we bear fruit for Jesus.

Under the banner of **Bearing Fruit for Jesus**, you are invited to join us in this program as we grow as stewards of all that God gives us. The sermon messages and Bible studies will offer these weekly themes:

- **Dates: November 4, 5, 6 & 9** Fruitful Use of Time
- **Dates: November 11, 12, 13, & 16** Fruitful Use of Talents
- **Dates: November 18, 19, 20 & 23** Fruitful Use of Money (Harvest Sunday)

God prepares and equips us so we can use all of his gifts to his glory. God’s deeds of fruit are seen in and through us as we use the gifts that he has given to us, giving reasons for others to praise the Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

It is my/our prayer that you will attend the Bible study sessions, which will open up God’s Word so you can better understand what it means to be bear fruit for Jesus. May we all grow stronger in our commitment to serve him as we continue to experience all the blessings he entrusts to us.

Please return the enclosed commitment form to church on **Harvest Sunday, November 23**, or return it to the church office when convenient. (Extra commitment forms are available). I ask that, as you approach your commitment decisions, you seek God’s guidance in prayer. Let love guide you in your decision.

Serving and working together in Christ,

P.S. Remember all the ministries of Union Lutheran Church in your prayers always.

One Day Mission Trip to Burnsville, NC
Saturday, November 1

Union Lutheran Church in cooperation with several other area churches, will be partnering and ministering to the people of Burnsville, NC, by being the “hands” and “feet” of Christ on Saturday, November 1.

Participants will meet in Burnsville at 8:00 a.m. and will work on multiple building sites and covering several trades.

Snider Family Reunion have reserved the Old Pine Center on Saturday, November. 1



All Saints Sunday, November 2

Loose Offering: Mission Outreach Fund

Mission Project: collection of gift cards for Seminarians (lectern side)

Benevolence: Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Altar Flowers were given to the glory of God by Cathy Kluttz Painter

9:15 a.m. Little Lutherans (music)

9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School
All Saints Scavenger Hunt

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

Rabbit Hole Sunday School
All Saints Scavenger Hunt

Drew Wise Sunday School
Jeremiah’s Rescue ~ Jeremiah 20:1-6, 37:1-38:28; 43:1-7; Romans 13:1-10

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion
Revelation 7:2-17; Psalm 149; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12
Sermon: *Life in God’s Kingdom*

Remembering those who have gone on to the Church Triumphant

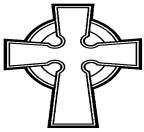
3:00 p.m. Christmas Program & Music



All Saints is the day when we remember those who came before us in faith, who ran the race and persevered until the end. Our hope is grounded in the resurrection of Christ as we think of our loved ones who have passed from this earthly life to a life that continues even more fully in the presence of God. We have much to be joyful about as we meditate upon God’s great love and faithfulness to his people.

This All Saints' Sunday, we invite families and friends to join us as we remember and celebrate the lives of the faithful who have gone before us. We will give thanks for the beloved saints in our lives—family members, friends, and fellow believers—who have guided us on our journey of faith.

Together, we will honor their memory and rejoice in the promise of eternal life we share in Christ.



WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS WE
REMEMBER LOVED ONES WHO
HAVE GONE BEFORE US TO THE
CHURCH TRIUMPHANT SINCE LAST
ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY.

MEMBERS OF UNION

William "Bill" Lindsay Broadway
Doris Jean Smith Bame Page
Patricia "Patsy" Morgan Sigmon
Steven "Steve" Lou Peeler
Hardy William Page, Jr.
Bevis Ann Safrit Norris
Wayne Whitley Vellines
John Walter "Jay" Rusher

EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS

Jane Stoner
(Noah Cauble's grandmother)
Ginger Lemley McNally
(Faye Kesler's niece)
Sharon Bullock
(Sylvia Peeler's daughter)
Todd Randall Huffman
(Janet Overcash's son)
Romas Henry Shuping
(Leda Belk's brother)
Della Morgan
(Pam Vellines' mother)
Tom Roberts
(Geneviev Baker's uncle)
Dorothy "Dot" Lee Baker Davis
(Ken Davis' mother)
Lakey Curlee
(Scott Curlee's stepmom)

Bill Barringer
(Larry Barringer's brother)

Doris "Dottie" Sue Kluttz
(Sarah Holshouser's sister)

Kenneth Coughenour
(Paul Coughenour's brother)

[These names come from our bulletins and newsletters over the past year, 11/3/24-11/2/25. If we have inadvertently omitted the name of your loved one, please accept our apology for the error. We know each person is very important to you.]

On Sunday evenings this fall, Prs. Andrew Weisner and Nathan Yoder are offering a seminar (**Lutheran Worship and Sacramental Practice Seminar**) on liturgy and sacramental practice. Through lecture and "hands-on" instruction, this course will serve as an accessible introduction to, and a thorough review of, the fundamentals of conveying the gospel in worship.

Several ULC members are participating.

On November 2, 16, 23 & 30 the seminar will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Troutman.

Bearing Fruit for Jesus

Fruitful Use of Time

Tuesday, November 4, at 6:30 p.m.
(Dutch Meeting Hall)

Wednesday, November 5, at 4:00 p.m.
(Conference #1)

Thursday, November 6, at 10:00 a.m.
(Conference #1)

Sunday, November 9, at 9:30 a.m.
(Sunday School)



Bearing Fruit for Jesus!

Coming Soon...

In the next couple of weeks, you will hear a lot about bearing fruit because our stewardship theme for this year is **Bearing Fruit for Jesus!: His Grace and Power at Work within You.**

Fruit trees are one of the many wonders of God’s creation. To see the beauty of the tree and its fruit, to enjoy its taste, and to realize that it all came from a tiny seed is almost beyond

our comprehension. An apple seed is planted in the ground, and, with water and sun as nourishment, miraculously a seedling surfaces that develops into a fruit tree. After a period of time, the apple tree fulfills its mission by bearing apples.

We, as Christians, are like that apple tree. We, too, have been fed and nourished by God so we can bear fruit. *“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last”* (John 15:16). Jesus tells us *“I am the Vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing”* (John 15:5). The life and power of any plant is found in its vine. The vine uses the branches to produce its fruit. The branch is simply a growth of the vine, produced by it and appointed to bear fruit. The branch exists only because the vine makes it possible.

Fruit characterizes the life of the Christian steward. When we stay firmly connected to Jesus, we are told that we *“will bear much fruit.”* Christ has given us the task of ministering to the needs of others and spreading the Gospel. As we stay connected to him through his Word and Sacraments, we discover God’s perfect will for us, and we are empowered to please him by bearing fruit (Colossians 1:9-10). God has created us to bear fruit (Ephesians 2:10), but only through Christ is it possible for us to do so.

“Since we live by the Spirit,” Paul exhorted, *“let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other”* (Galatians 5:25-26). As children of God, we have this fruit because his Spirit lives in us, not as a result of our own efforts. We do cease to bear fruit when we give in to our sinful natures, becoming, in Paul’s words, *“Conceited, provoking and envying each other.”* We are to *“Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness”* (Ephesians 5:11a), but are to *“Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord”* (Ephesians 5:8b-10).

Go and bear fruit!

One Minute Prayer at 12 noon
Wednesdays, November 5, 12, 19 & 26



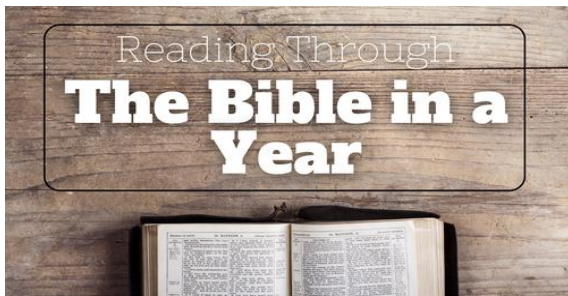
The congregation is invited to stop where you are and pray for one minute of intentional prayer for Union Lutheran Church and church finances every Wednesday.

Set an alarm on your phone as a reminder or gather in our Chapel.



Belles & Beaus October Rehearsals
Wednesdays, November 5, 12 & 19
6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Chancel Choir October Rehearsal
Wednesday, November 5
7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary



*This year, **Catechism** will focus on **reading through the Bible** in the year and connecting the dots with the Catechism. Anyone 7th grade – Adults are invited to participate.*

Wednesdays, November 5, 12 & 19
6:30 p.m. in Conference# 1

Mission Outreach will meet Thursday, November 6, at 5:00 p.m.

Installation of flooring in the East Wing will begin on Saturday, November 8.

Sunday, November 9

Loose Offering: Gerald Bame Memorial Scholarship Fund

Mission Project: collection of gift cards for Seminarians (lectern side)

Benevolence: Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Altar Flowers (open for reservations)

9:15 a.m. Little Lutherans (music)

9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School
Bearing Fruit for Jesus

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
Bearing Fruit for Jesus

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; 2 Peter 1:5-11; Luke 13:6-9

Pulpit Exchange: Rev. Dr. Nathan Yoder

Recognition of Veterans

3:00 p.m. Luther Games at Holy Trinity, Gastonia

Christmas Program & Music will not meet this week.



Mary & Martha Circle

Date & Time: Tuesday, November 11, at 2:00 p.m.

Location: Conference #1

Program: Kay Morgan

Refreshments: Susan Knight & Kay Morgan

During their gathering, the **Mary & Martha Circle** for this Thanksgiving is continuing its beloved tradition of filling **15** Thanksgiving baskets to our homebound and senior members. The Carolers will deliver the baskets in December.

This ministry is an expression of God's love in action, reminding those who cannot join our communal feast that they are a cherished part of our church family. As the Apostle Paul wrote, *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ"* (Galatians 6:2).

We invite every member of our congregation to participate in this powerful act of service and connection by providing "goodies" and items to be included in their Thanksgiving Basket. Please contact Cathy Painter for more information!

Bearing Fruit for Jesus *Fruitful Use of Talents*

Tuesday, November 11, at 6:30 p.m.
(Dutch Meeting Hall)

Wednesday, November 12, at 4:00 p.m.
(Conference #1)

Thursday, November 13, at 10:00 a.m.
(Conference #1)

Sunday, November 16, at 9:30 a.m.
(Sunday School)



2nd Wednesday of the month

Congregation & Community Meal

Warm Up with Comfort Food: Support Our Chicken Pie & Salad Fundraiser! Get ready for a taste of tradition!

Our Fundraiser is just around the corner, and we invite you to join us for a delicious meal for a great cause. Every plate is made with love by our dedicated volunteers led by Jan Huffman & Nikki Nguyen.

This month's event will be held **Wednesday, November 12 at 4:30 p.m.** in the **large fellowship hall**.

Whether you're dining in with family and friends or grabbing a carry-out order to enjoy at home, your support helps us make a difference. All proceeds will benefit the ministries of the congregation through the General Fund.

Suggested donation: \$10 per person

The sounds of songs and music will fill the Dutch Meeting Hall on Thursday, November 13, at 10:00 a.m. The "Y" Singers are presenting a special concert just for Union Lutheran Church! All are invited! Please bring finger foods and snacks to share!



Pastor Heidi Punt is inviting women to a **Book Bible Study** on Friday mornings at **9:00 a.m.** at **Juice Life, Salisbury**, kicking off on **Friday, November 14!**

This **Book Bible Study** is not limited to any congregation or denomination, simply women gathering in the Word.

Are you interested? Please purchase and bring Lysa Terkeurst's book ***It's Not Supposed to Be this Way*** and your Bible with you on Friday, November 14, at Juice Life, 712 Jake Alexander Blvd W, Salisbury, NC 28147 (704) 603-8959.

Installation of flooring in the East Wing will continue Saturday, November 15.

Sunday, November 16

Loose Offering: Building & Repair Fund

Mission Project: collection of gift cards for Seminarians (lectern side)

Benevolence: Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Altar Flowers (open for reservations)

Deadline for newsletter articles

9:15 a.m. Little Lutherans (music)

9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School
Bearing Fruit for Jesus

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
Bearing Fruit for Jesus

10:15 a.m. Part 1: Constitution & By-Laws
2nd vote on ratification of amended changes
(Sanctuary)

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion
Job 29:11-17; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Matthew 25:14-30
Sermon: *Using What You've Got*

12 noon Part 2: Annual Meeting resumes
(Dutch Meeting Hall)

Join us for our **Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 16, 2025 at 10:15 a.m.** before Welcome & Announcements in the Sanctuary for the Constitution ratification vote. The meeting will be suspended for worship and will resume at **12 noon** for the remaining business in the large fellowship hall. A light lunch will be provided by members of the Church Council.

Hard copies of the Annual Meeting Packet is available in the Narthex.

2:00 p.m. Church Council

3:00 p.m. Christmas Program & Music

Piedmont-East Clergy will meet Tuesday, November 18, at 9:30 a.m. at Christiana Lutheran, Salisbury.

My family and I would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation and thanks for the kindness you have shown. We appreciate you. Thank you for showing your love and support to us. Your cards, notes, letters and gifts have been so kind and generous.

Pastor Heidi Punt

Bearing Fruit for Jesus
Fruitful Use of Treasures

Tuesday, November 18, at 6:30 p.m.
(Dutch Meeting Hall)

Wednesday, November 19, at 4:00 p.m.
(Conference #1)

Thursday, November 20, at 10:00 a.m.
(Conference #1)

Sunday, November 23, at 9:30 a.m.
(Sunday School)

clearly, increase our faith, and break spiritual strongholds in our lives. As the Apostle Paul understood, fasting can lead to greater spiritual power and righteousness (**2 Corinthians 6:5**).

Join us Wednesday, November 19, at noon-Thursday, November 20, at noon, as we collectively dedicate ourselves to intentional prayer and fasting, asking God to move in powerful ways in our church and finances.



Intentional Prayer & Fasting

Wednesday, November 19, at noon-Thursday, November 20, at noon

Jesus didn't say, *if* you fast, but *when* you fast (**Matthew 6:16**). He understood the power of intentionally setting aside our earthly appetites to focus on spiritual growth. Fasting is more than simply abstaining from food; it is a biblical discipline that helps us tune out distractions and turn our attention fully toward God.

When we intentionally pair prayer with fasting, it becomes a powerful way to humble ourselves before God and declare our dependence on him. Our hunger pangs or the craving for the thing we've given up become a tangible reminder to instead pray and seek God's presence. This spiritual resetting can help us hear from God more



Union Lutheran Church will be sponsoring Chapel Time at Autumn Care on Wednesday, November 19, at 2:00 p.m. Come join us as we minister to the residents of Autumn Care!

Honorariums and Memorials Gifts Given to the Glory of God during October

A gift was received for the Cemetery Fund in memory of Doris "Dottie" Kluttz by:
Jean Ray





The Great Rake

When: Saturday, November 22

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Who Can Come: Everyone is welcome

What to Bring: Rakes, Work Gloves, Warm Clothes, Leaf Blower, and any other yard equipment

On Saturday, November 22, we're going to be a blessing to a few in our church body and community who could really use the extra hand. Families are welcome to join us too! This is a great opportunity to be the "hands and feet of Christ" in a practical way.

We will meet at the church parking lot at 8:30 a.m., and load the vehicles, and try to be on the road to head over to the first house by 9:00 a.m.

Depending on how many homes we will be ministering to, we may break for lunch at the church at 12 noon and enjoy some pizza. Then we will go back out and finish the yards we have left.

If you need help with your yard, please contact Thad Mulkey or the church office.

Christ the King & Harvest Sunday, November 23

Loose Offering: Youth Missions Fund

Mission Project: collection of gift cards for Seminarians (lectern side)

Benevolence: Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Altar Flowers (open for reservations)

9:15 a.m. Little Lutherans (music)

9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School
Bearing Fruit for Jesus

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
Bearing Fruit for Jesus

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion
1 Chronicles 29:10-16; Colossians 1:9-13;
Matthew 6:19-24, 33

Sermon: *First Things First for our King*

Our church is a "first things first" church where God's Word is truth and where the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are faithfully administered. Our church is a "first things first" church with a vision for missions and ministry. Our church is a "first things first" ministry where we serve and work together in Christ with time and talents. Our church is a "first things first" congregation where all people are cared for, where families are nourished, where marriage is uplifted, where young and old are encouraged to live fruitful lives. It begins in your heart, touches your home, and extends to your fruitful use of time, talents and treasures.

Bearing fruit as stewards of time, talents, and treasures is the fruit of faith that seeks first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. Then, everything else will fall into place.

On Harvest Sunday, November 23, everyone is encouraged to turn in their Commitment Form and Time & Talent Survey.

Location of forms: November *Messenger* Handouts and will be available in the Narthex.

Sunday, November 23 *continued*

3:00 p.m. Christmas Program & Music

5:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Service (Old Church of OLC) sponsored by Christiana and Organ Lutheran Church



On this last day of the Church year (Christ the King), we celebrate the kingship of

Jesus as we hear of God's impending judgment and the separation of the righteous from the wicked. As he was led toward death, our Savior warned those who mourned that things would get worse before they got better. Moments later, from the cross of his murder, he pronounced a thief forgiven and assured him they would meet in Paradise soon.

During the week of November 24, the Advent Wreath will be placed in the Sanctuary.

In observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday, Catechism and Handbells will not meet on Wednesday, November 26.

The Church Office will print the December Messenger & Handouts on Wednesday, November 26.

The church office will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday, November 27, and Friday, November 28.

Sunday, November 30

Loose Offering: General Fund

Mission Project: collection of gift cards for Seminarians (lectern side)

Benevolence: Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

You may notice that our floral arrangements have been replaced by simple greenery during the season of Advent. As a season of spiritual preparation and quiet reflection before the joy of Christmas, Advent traditions use greenery to symbolize the eternal life offered through Christ, rather than the more celebratory symbolism of flowers. We invite you to join us in this time of quiet anticipation.

9:15 a.m. Little Lutherans (music)

9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School
Isaiah's Vision of God's Throne
Isaiah 6:1-12; Revelation 4:2-8

I heard the voice of the Lord saying "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" (Isaiah 6:8)

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

Rabbit Hole Adult Sunday School
Isaiah's Vision of God's Throne
Isaiah 6:1-12; Revelation 4:2-8

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School
Ezekiel's Vision
Ezekiel 47:1-12; Revelation 7:9-17

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion
Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:8-14;
Matthew 24:36-44

Sermon Series on Isaiah: *Proclaim Hope*



Advent is a time of waiting and expectant watching for the coming of the Messiah. We wait for the Christ child in the manger in Bethlehem, but also for the return of Christ in all of his glory on that last day. The tone of our worship should reflect the theological tension between wistful waiting and joyful anticipation. In the Church we are called to put aside the trappings of the world in this season before Christmas, and wait patiently for the King of kings.

Those Serving in November

Acolytes: Scott and Jennifer Curlee

Altar Guild, Communion Assistants, and Lay Readers: Scott and Jennifer Curlee and Cathy Kluttz Painter

Communion Assistant: Janice Goodman

Ushers: Phil Cauble, Ali Davis, Don Davis, and Elbert Kluttz

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

Live Streaming: Pete Nguyen

Offering Counters: Patsy Lyerly, Sonya Mulkey and Vivian Sprinkle

November Benevolence Focus

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary combines a rich tradition with cutting-edge educational innovation. Rooted in the gospel and God's Word, the seminary seeks to develop Christian leaders who are thoughtful, globally aware, spiritually mature and ready for a broad array of ministries. We are deeply privileged to have a history that includes people of vision in the founding and development of what is now Gordon-Conwell such as A. J. Gordon, Russell Conwell, Harold John Ockenga and Billy Graham. They provide a heritage and paradigm from which we are moving into the future. While being historically orthodox and evangelical, we seek to address the issues of our times with both relevance to the culture and faithfulness to Christ and God's truthful Word.

Gordon-Conwell is unique with its broad array of students from 85 denominations and 50 different countries. We offer multiple sites and delivery systems to meet the varied needs you might have as a prospective student. These include a classical model of residential education at the South Hamilton, MA campus; an urban context offering classes in five languages in downtown Boston, MA (CUME); and adult educational models in both our Charlotte, NC campus and our offerings in Jacksonville, FL. Along with these campuses we have online offerings to address student needs, despite location and vocational commitments. And our Doctor of Ministry programs, delivered at various locations, are geared to provide strength and renewal for your own ministry and calling.



"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it." (Malachi 3:10).

Tithing is giving back to God what is His in the first place.

Avenues of Giving:

- *Weekly Sunday Offering*
- *Mail*
- *<https://ulcsalisbury.org/give-online/>*
(Please note a service fee is charged for online giving.)



Offering Counters

Counting the offering is a ministry of trust and stewardship. We are seeking faithful volunteers to join our dedicated counting teams to serve in this essential role.

- Teams rotate monthly serving every three months as this time.
- Counting takes place following the Sunday worship service and any other

worship services that may occur during the month.

- Training will be provided.

If you are interested in serving our church in this important way, please contact Jennifer Curlee or the church office.

Attendance Update

September Sunday School

7	39
14	44
21	36
28	<u>45</u>
Total	164
Average	41

October Sunday School

5	39
12	22
19	36
26	<u>34</u>
Total	131
Average	33

September Worship & Holy Communion

7	104
14	103
21	99
28	<u>116</u>
Total	422
Average	105

October Worship & Holy Communion

5	96
12	92
19	102
26	<u>90</u>
Total	380
Average	95



October ULC Highlights...

- Find the apple(s) in Sunday's bulletin began on Sunday, September 28-October 26. Winners: Patsy Lyerly (September 28), Bailey Wilhelm, Jesse Morgan, Jr., and Avery Cline (October 5), Sam Nguyen (October 12), Jared Knight (October 19), and Sharon Leazer (October 26).
- We continued to call upon Sunday musicians both laity and professionals to lead the worship services while the church searches for Music Director/Organist. In October, Genevieve Baker, Dawn Merrell, Brenda McCombs, and Becky Lippard provided the music.
- Beginning in October, the congregation intentionally prays for Union Lutheran Church and our finances every Wednesday at 12 noon.
- Saturday, October 4, several members of Union served at Dan Nicholas Park's Autumn Jubilee by being Park Attendants. Thank you to Thad Mulkey and Dusty Morgan, Sr., for coordinating the volunteers. Dan Nicholas Park donated \$500 towards our Youth.
- Sunday, October 5, Dawn Merrell, Chef Teacher, taught volunteers how to make Dumplings.
- Blessing of the Domestic Animals was held Sunday, October 5, at 4:00 p.m. at the basketball court.
- Chicken & Dumplings Congregation & Community Meal Fundraiser was held on Wednesday, October 8. Thank you to Phil Cauble, Dawn Merrell, and the many volunteers who cooked and served. Cost was \$182.14 with \$1,135.00 received leaving a total of \$952.86 of proceeds for the General Fund. Thank you for making this event a success!
- Phil Cauble, Don Davis, and Adam Leffew attended the NALC Men's Oktoberfest at Holy Trinity, Gastonia, on Sunday, October 12.
- Thursdays, October 16 & 23, a Facilitator Training was held to assist those leading the November Bible Study of *Bearing Fruit for Jesus*.
- Due to a mathematical error, the 90 Days Participants doubled up so the readings would be completed by the end of October. On Tuesday, October 21, was the last day of the 90 Days Spiritual Fitness of reading Paul's Biblical Letters (thirteen books of the Bible).
- Friday, October 24, the Annual Meeting Packet was sent via email and printed for the congregation.
- Congratulations to Noah Bradley Trexler as he affirmed his baptism on Sunday, October 26.
- Thank you to Sharon Moore for providing a stole for Noah Trexler's Confirmation.
- Reformation & Confirmation Sunday, October 26, the 90 Days Participants were recognized: Genevieve Baker, Phil Cauble, Debbie Cauble-McPherson, Ron Chase, Don and Tara Davis, Lucinda Fraley, Brad and Jan Huffman, Cheryl Kluttz, Deena Lanning, Sharon Leazer, Sonya Leazer, Betty Sue Lowder, Patsy Lyerly, Gladys Morgan, Jesse "Junior" Morgan, Karen Morgan, Thad and Sonya Mulkey, Pete, Nikki, and Sam Nguyen, Vuthy Niles, Cathy Painter, Doris Shepherd, and Vivian Sprinkle.

- Thank you to Kay Morgan and volunteers for providing the Confirmation Reception in honor of Noah Trexler outside on Sunday, October 26.
- Friday, October 31, Genevieve Baker and Frank Merrell attended the McDaniel/Yoder Seminar at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.
- Thank you to everyone who made this year’s Trunk or Treat Event a success! Thank you to Don Davis for coordinating the food and Dusty Morgan, Sr., for coordinating the event. We could not offer this safe environment for our members and community without you!
- Mission Outreach October Project: water bottles with proceeds to Water Missions
- October Benevolence Focus: Water Missions

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Dear Union Lutheran Church,

Your contribution has made such a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve – thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Your donation shows that you truly care about our cause and the work we do. Thank you for your continued support! Words cannot express how much your donation means to us.

Donations: Thank you for the food donation for the pantry. We appreciate our continued support.

Linda Austin, Director OLC Pantry/Outreach Program

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Dear Friends of Family Crisis Council of Rowan, Inc.,

Thank you for your generous support of Family Crisis Council of Rowan, Inc. Your financial and in-kind contributions make it possible for us to provide safety, support, and hope to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and commitment to our mission. Together, we are making a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

With Heartfelt Appreciation, Family Crisis Council of Rowan, Inc.

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An Invitation from St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Salisbury

Dear Union Lutheran Church,

The members of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Salisbury, would like to invite you on a Christian Tour bus trip to the Amish Country including the play *Joshua*, then travel to Washington DC to see the Museum of the Bible and the Museum of the Army.

We are looking at starting the trip on Wednesday, May 6, 2026 and returning on Saturday, May 9, 2026. By making our own trip, Christian Tours will send someone to St. Paul’s to sign us up and collect the fees. Then, the day of the trip the bus will pick us up at the church.

The cost of the trip is \$998.00 per person – double occupancy or \$1,209.00 for singles. Christian Tours offers a 2% discount per person with reservations and deposits made 95 days ahead of the trip, or a 5% discount if the reservation is paid in full with cash or checks 95 days before departure. *Union Church Office has a copy of the trip flyer.*

Presently we need a list of people wanting to go so that Christian Tours can start building the trip. Please take a moment and check your calendars to commit to this trip.

Please contact Susan Bernhardt 704.637.0155 if you intend to go. I am sure this will be a great time of fun, fellowship, and learning about the Bible. We will let you know when we fill the bus!

Susan Bernhardt, Outreach Committee

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Our Love and Sympathy is extended to the Family of John Walter "Jay" Rusher on his death, Saturday, September 27.

Our Love and Sympathy is extended to Paul Coughenour and Family on the death of his brother, Kenneth Coughenour, on October 2.

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Good Timers Report

The Good Timers met in the Dutch Meeting Hall on Thursday, October 9, 2025 with Deena Lanning, presiding. Ruth Goodman had the devotions. Vivian Sprinkle won the door prize.

There were no birthday to report.

Wedding anniversaries: Rev. Dieter & Rev. Heidi Punt (10), Marvin & Phoebe Nunn (13), Phil & Linda Cauble (25).

We had 17 members and 3 visitors (Dillon Broome, Tim Kesler, Sandra Kesler-Kidd) in attendance. The offering received was \$52.00.

The "Y" Singers will have the program in November. Please bring finger foods to share.

We will meet the third Thursday in December at Frank & Dawn Merrell's house for a drop-in.

Our program today was given by Sandra Kesler-Kidd (Rufty-Holmes Senior Center) on breathing exercises while being seated.

Deena Lanning had the blessing before we went to Lakeview for lunch.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ruby Leazer, Secretary

Good Timers Treasurer's Report for October 2025

Beginning Balance (October 1, 2025)	\$199.62
Received	\$52.00
Disbursed (Program)	\$25.00
Ending Balance (October 31, 2025)	\$226.62

Respectfully Submitted
Dick Shue, Treasurer

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UMBRELLA

September 21, 2025

The Christian Education Umbrella met on September 21 with the following in attendance: Judy Boyd, Jan Huffman, Vicki Hunter, Susan Knight, Deena Lanning, Patsy Lyerly, Sonya Mulkey, Pastor Heidi Punt, and Vivian Sprinkle.

Pastor Heidi Punt opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved with a motion by Jan Huffman and seconded by Sonya Mulkey.

Treasurer's Report:

Bible Studies	-	\$563.72
Gerald Bame Memorial Scholarship	-	\$642.70
Jimmy Troutman Scholarship	-	\$753.00
Sunday School	-	\$2,182.26
Family Ministry	-	\$9,048.54
Youth Missions	-	\$9,747.87
Good Timers	-	\$199.62

Completed Business:

- a. Good Timers enjoyed a trip to "Mayberry" on Thursday, July 24, and led worship on Sunday, August 31.
- b. ULC Youth met at Phil's house on Saturday, September 6. Attendance was low.
- c. Little Lutherans' first event, September 7, was hosted by Mary Hutchens. Attendance was low.
- d. Sunday School Extravaganza, July 27, a few kids stayed.
- e. Sunday School Superintendents: Sonya Mulkey and Jan Huffman

Continuing Business:

- a. Sunday School: Stewardship small groups begin in November. Facilitator Training on Thursdays, October 16 & 23, at 6:30 p.m.
- b. Catechism: Noah Trexler to be confirmed. Moses Miller has another year.
- c. Good Timers: Apple Picking Day Trip on Saturday, October 18, in Spruce Pine, NC. Congregation is invited.
- d. Little Lutherans: Apple Picking Day Trip with Good Timers
- e. ULC Youth: taking a break till January 2026
- f. Luther League: meets every 4th Sunday at different churches
- g. 90 Days Spiritual Fitness (August 12-October 28): going well
- h. Christmas Program: going well
- i. Stewardship Small Groups (November 12-28): *Bearing Fruit for Jesus*

- j. Confirmation Reception: Reformation Sunday, October 26, with Kay Morgan in charge of refreshments
- k. Christmas Caroling: Sunday, December 7, at 2:00 p.m.
- l. Day Care: on hold

New Business:

- a. Discussed beginning a mid-week story hour which will include the community
- b. Election of 2026 Officers: Susan Knight, President; Vicki Hunter, Vice President; Patsy Lyerly, Secretary; Jan Huffman, Treasurer
- c. Friday, October 24: 18-25 + years old will meet for supper at Goose & Monkey, Lexington, NC
- d. Trunk or Treat Event (Friday, October 31): Everyone is encouraged to decorate a trunk or donate candy
- e. Saturday, November 1: one day mission trip to Burnsville, NC

Next meeting: Sunday, December 14, after worship. Please bring a bag lunch.

Meeting closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Patsy Lyerly, Secretary

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Congregational Council Minutes

September 21,2025

Members Present: Ali Davis, Vicki Hunter, Sharon Leazer, Ethan Wilhelm, Kevin Huffman, John Knight, Karen Barringer, Pete Nguyen, Pastor Heidi Punt

Pastor Heidi led devotions

The meeting was called to order by Pete Nguyen, Vice President.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the August 18 meeting. Motion carried.

John Knight, treasurer, presented the financial report. \$10,000.00 has been received to extend the deadline for the sale of the land until December 31,2025. The buyer has a new lawyer handling the sale. The money has been transferred to the Thrivent money market account. The account has accrued approximately \$320.00 in interest. There was discussion regarding ways to increase revenue to decrease the current budget deficit. \$555.81 was raised for SMI Haiti. A motion was made and seconded to approve the financial report as presented in the handouts. Motion carried.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor provided a handout. The following was added: There is a one-day mission trip planned to Burnsville, NC on November 1, 2025. The CYG will be held in Roanoke, VA.

The cost is \$327.00/per person. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report as presented. Motion carried.

President's report: No report

Vice President's report: No report

Committee & Umbrella reports:

1. Campus Maintenance umbrella: Phil Cauble informed council that the speakers over the choir, and the other side are not currently working.
2. Christian Education Umbrella: Meeting is scheduled for 5 pm today.
3. Finance Umbrella: Ethan Wilhelm was elected as council representative until the end of the year.
4. Mission Outreach Umbrella: No report
5. Worship Umbrella: Organists are scheduled through April, 2026, except 12/31/25
6. Human Resources Umbrella: Staff contracts are ready to be signed.

Old/Continuing business:

It was reported that the first Congregation & Community meal went well.

New Business:

1. A motion was made and seconded to schedule the annual Congregational meeting for November 16, 2025. Notification will be placed in the October and November Messenger. Motion carried.
2. The 2026 Ministry Support plan was presented by Amanda Cauble. The following amendments were made:
 - a. A motion was made and seconded to add a line item for new computers in the amount of \$3,200.00.
 - b. A motion was made and seconded to add a line item for advertising in the amount of \$1,000.00
 - c. Benevolence- The amount budgeted for NALC was increased to \$11,000.00. A motion was made and seconded to give John Knight permission to write the check without a co-signer. Motion carried. The amount budgeted for Carolina's Mission Region was reduced from \$1,500.00 to \$500.00. The amount budgeted for Spiritual Orphan's Network was reduced to \$1,500.00. Funding for Food for the Poor, and Water Missions International was cut. The amount budgeted for NALC disaster relief was reduced to \$1,500.00. The total amount budgeted for Benevolence totals \$28,000.00

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Ministry Support Plan as amended, to be presented at the Annual Congregational meeting. Motion carried.

- 3. This year’s Stewardship Program will be *Bearing Fruit for Jesus*. This will be held during the Sunday School hour November 2-November 23.
- 4. Pastor Heidi will be out of the office October 10-13, attending SON board meeting.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

The next executive meeting: October 19,2025

The next council meeting: October 19, 2025 at 2:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Hunter, Secretary

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John Walter “Jay” Rusher, 96, of Salisbury, passed away on September 27, 2025, after a period of declining health.

Born on July 31, 1929, in Rowan County, Jay was the son of the late Walter Lee Rusher and Essie Mahaley Rusher.

Jay graduated from East Spencer High School and retired from Norfolk Southern Railroad as Chief Yard Clerk. He was a member of Union Lutheran Church.

In addition to his parents, Jay was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Geneva Shuping Rusher; his son-in-law, Wayne Hoffman; his brothers, James, Willie, Clyde, Paul, Glenn, Worth, Floyd and Robert Rusher; and his sister, Mae Snider.

He is survived by his daughter, Deborah Hoffman; his son, Mike Rusher (Debra); and his two grandsons, Matthew Hoffman and Mark Rusher, who will cherish his memory.

A private graveside service will be held at Rowan Memorial Park.

Carolina Cremation is assisting the Rusher family. Online condolences may be made at www.carolinacremation.com.

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Please note on Christ the King Sunday, November 23, 2025, we will refresh our prayer list and kindly ask that you please resubmit your prayer requests by contacting the church office.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

Nursing Homes – Brenda Mahaley (Autumn Care Room 815), Ruth Monroe (Autumn Care Room 818), Jean Ray (Autumn Care Room 201), Pat Kluttz (Brookdale Room 56), Donnell Miller (Bethany Woods, Albemarle), Ann Tucker (Oak Park Retirement Room 236)

Homebound/Shut-ins Members/Special Needs – Sarah Bame, Tom Cole, Kiki Deaton, Rachel Earnhardt, Madison “Drew” Harrington, Linda Hartley, Pete Honbarrier, Howell and Teresa Kesler, James & Jean Kluttz, Glenn and Betty Sue Lowder, Harold Miller, Rev. TC & Mary Plexico, Macky Swicegood, Billy Waller & Michael Walton

Sick/Surgery/Recovery – Ken Davis, Robin Huffman, Cheryl Kluttz, Susan Knight, Doris

Ludwick, Patsy Lyerly, Richard and Kay Lyons, Pastor Heidi Punt, Raelynn Rodgers, Dalton Thompson, Brad Trexler, Pam Vellines & Roy Zimmermann

Continual Prayer – Millie Ann Barringer (Larry Barringer’s mother), Ashley Burleson (Lanny and Connie Burleson, former members, daughter), Sylvia Dunn (Elaine Bowles’ sister-in-law’s mother), Johnnie Earnhardt (Pete Nguyen’s friend), Rev. Cathy Fanslau (NALC Pastor), Jay Goodman (Janie Lesley’s friend), Zachary Hall (Sonya Leazer’s coworker), Angie Humes (Janice Goodman’s friend), Mitzi Jackson (John Knight’s sister), Jeff Matthews (cancer patient), Alex and Nadia Punt McCoy, (Pr. Heidi Punt’s daughter and son-in-law), Cathy Robbins (Janie Lesley’s sister), Patty Shaver (Pat Wiles’ daughter & Elaine Bowles’ sister), Mike Taylor (Phoebe Nunn’s brother), Cindy Terzi (Vivian Sprinkle’s daughter), Union Fire Department #76, Global Missions (Congo, Slovakia, and Haiti), especially those affected by political unrest & for our NC neighbors affected by natural disaster

Prayers for Comfort: Larry Barringer’s Family, Lela and Tyler Brooks, Sarah Holshouser’s Family, Don Simmons Family (guest organist), Wayne Vellines Family

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 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)
Ethan Wilhelm (6-month term)

2024-2026

Phil Cauble
Kevin Huffman
John Knight (Treasurer)
Thad Mulkey

2025-2027

Karen Barringer
Pete Nguyen (Vice-President)
Brad Trexler

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Lay Ministers: Tara Davis, Vicki Hunter, Steve Hutchens, 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)
Pastor T. C. Plexico, Pastor Emeritus



November Birthdays

Tuesday, November 4	Kathleen Agner Harley Cauble Phoebe Nunn
Wednesday, November 5	Phil Cauble Ruth Goodman
Thursday, November 6	Janice Goodman
Friday, November 7	Justin Goodman Sharon Leazer
Sunday, November 9	Sarah Bame
Monday, November 10	Martin Luther (1483)
Tuesday, November 11	David Holshouser
Thursday, November 13	Thad Mulkey
Tuesday, November 17	Jill Miller Dick Shue
Thursday, November 20	Tom Cole
Friday, November 21	Lloyd Miller Sharon Moore
Sunday, November 23	Andrea Eagle
Saturday, November 29	Deena Lanning



November Anniversaries

Saturday, November 1	Larry and Karen Barringer
Tuesday, November 4	Dusty and Lisa Morgan
Sunday, November 23	Scott and Tonya Shepherd-Darling



Have we missed your birthday or anniversary? Please contact the church office (704) 636-5092 – we don't want to leave anyone out!

November Calendar – dates/times subject to change

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
10-30-25 November Project: collecting gift cards for seminarians. November Benevolence Focus: Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary November <i>Messenger</i> to include Annual Meeting, 2026 Proposed Budget, Constitution, By-Laws (2 nd vote), NALC Amendments notice November <i>Messenger</i> to include <i>Bearing Fruit for Jesus</i> stewardship program Every Sunday except Nov. 9 several members are attending the 7:00 p.m. <i>Lutheran Seminar (Holy Trinity, Troutman)</i>						1 6:00 am Mission Trip to Burnsville 12 noon Snider Reunion (<i>Old Pine Center</i>)
2 All Saints Sunday 9:15 a.m. Little Lutherans (Music) 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion 3:00 p.m. Christmas Program & Music <i>Daylight Savings Time ends</i> <i>Bearing Fruit for Jesus bulletin & sign-up</i>	3	4 6:30 p.m. Bearing Fruit for Jesus (<i>Dutch Meeting Hall</i>)	5 12 noon 1 Minute Prayer 4:00 p.m. Bearing Fruit for Jesus (<i>Conference #1</i>) 6:30 p.m. Catechism (<i>Conference #2</i>) 6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	6 10:00 a.m. Bearing Fruit for Jesus (<i>Conference #1</i>) 5:00 p.m. Mission Outreach	7	8 <i>Installation of flooring (East Wing)</i>
9 9:15 a.m. Little Lutherans (Music) 9:30 a.m. Bearing Fruit for Jesus 10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Guest Pastor, Rev. Dr. Nathan Yoder (<i>Pulpit Exchange</i>) 3:00 p.m. Luther Games (<i>Holy Trinity, Gastonia</i>) <i>Recognition of Veterans</i> <i>No Christmas Program & Music this week</i>	10 Martin Luther's Birthday (1483)	11 Veteran's Day 2:00 p.m. Mary & Martha Circle 6:30 p.m. Bearing Fruit for Jesus (<i>Dutch Meeting Hall</i>)	12 12 noon 1 Minute Prayer 4:00 p.m. Bearing Fruit for Jesus (<i>Conference #1</i>) 4:30 p.m. Congregation & Community Meal 6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus 6:30 p.m. Catechism (<i>Conference #2</i>)	13 10:00 a.m. Bearing Fruit for Jesus (<i>Conference #1</i>) 10:00 a.m. Good Timers (<i>Y Singers - Dutch Meeting Hall</i>)	14 9:00 a.m. Book Bible Study (<i>Juice Life</i>)	15 <i>Installation of flooring (East Wing)</i>
16 <i>December articles deadline</i> 9:15 a.m. Little Lutherans (Music) 9:30 a.m. Bearing Fruit for Jesus 10:15 a.m. Part 1 Annual Meeting (<i>Sanctuary</i>) 10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion 12 noon Part 2 Annual Meeting (<i>Dutch Meeting Hall</i>) 2:00 p.m. Church Council 3:00 p.m. Christmas Program & Music	17	18 9:30 a.m. Piedmont-East Clergy (<i>Christiana, Salisbury</i>) 6:30 p.m. Bearing Fruit for Jesus (<i>Dutch Meeting Hall</i>)	19 12 noon 1 Minute Prayer Intentional Fasting begins 2:00 p.m. Autumn Care Chapel Time 4:00 p.m. Bearing Fruit for Jesus (<i>Conference #1</i>) 6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus 6:30 p.m. Catechism (<i>Conference #2</i>)	20 10:00 a.m. Bearing Fruit for Jesus (<i>Conference #1</i>) 12 noon Intentional Fasting ends	21	22 8:30 a.m. The Great Rake
23 Christ the King & Harvest Sunday 9:15 a.m. Little Lutherans (Music) 9:30 a.m. Bearing Fruit for Jesus 10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion 3:00 p.m. Christmas Program & Music 5:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Service (<i>Organ, Salisbury</i>)	24 <i>Advent wreath (Sanctuary)</i>	25	26 12 noon 1 Minute Prayer <i>In observance of the Holiday: No Catechism or Handbells</i> <i>December Messenger is printed</i>	27 Thanksgiving <i>Church Office is closed.</i>	28 <i>Church Office is closed.</i>	29
30 1 st Sunday of Advent & Harvest Sunday 9:15 a.m. Little Lutherans (Music) 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion						