



Union Lutheran Church

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1st Sunday of Christmas

December 28, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates from the late 19th century. It was originally devised by the Bishop of Truro, England, and was a response “to discourage a different festive spirit found in the local Cornish pubs.”

In this service, we listen to Scripture lessons which recount the fall in the Garden, the promise of a Messiah, and the realization of that promise in the birth of Jesus. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other musical selection that reflects on the lesson’s message. The service progresses from darkness to light, as we move from the hopelessness of Adam’s fall into the glorious reality of the Redeemer’s coming.

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.

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

Christmas Liturgy and Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 1

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *Joseph, Dearest, Joseph Mine* (arr. Roger Wilson)

Altar Candles are lit at this time representing Jesus' life and ministry.

The four Advent Candles and Christ Candle are lit at this time. The meaning of the candles:

Hope Candle is called the Prophecy Candle, it symbolizes hope and the anticipation of the Messiah, recalling the Old Testament prophecies of his coming.

Peace Candle is known as the Bethlehem Candle, it represents the peace Christ brings and commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

Joy Candle sometimes is represented by a pink candle, also called the Shepherd's Candle, and it symbolizes the joy of the shepherds and the joy of anticipating Christ's birth and return.

Love Candle represents the love of God that surrounds and fills us and the love that Christ came to bring.

Christ Candle is the white candle in the center is lit on Christmas Day, symbolizing Jesus as the light of the world.

GATHERING

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

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Invocation (Mathew 28:19)

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

C **Amen**

Dialogue (Revelation 22:16, Luke 9:58, John 3:16, John 8:12, Psalm 98:1-3)

P Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

C **By day and night he shines for all to see.**

P Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

C **that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**

P God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

C **so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**

P Jesus is the light of the world.

C **Jesus is the light of our lives.**

P Sing to God a new song!

C **A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.**

**1 Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him Born the king of angels:**

Refrain: Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

**2 The highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal, Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain***

**3 Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God In the highest: *Refrain***

**4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing: [*Refrain*]**

Text: attributed to John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786 Sts. 1, 3-4 tr. Frederick Oakley, 1802-1880; st. 2 tr. unknown Tune: attributed to John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786

Greeting (*John 1:14, 2 Corinthians 13:14*)

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us; the love of the Father who created us in his own image; and the communion of the Holy Spirit, the giver of all good gifts, be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

WORD

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

Homily: *It's Still Christmas*

Pastor Heidi Punt

Scripture Reading

Kevin Huffman

Please remain seated and engage by listening attentively.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. (*Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18*)

**1 Of the Father's love begotten, Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see, Evermore and evermore.**

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite Tune: plainsong, mode V, 13th cent.

Scripture Reading

Deena Lanning

Please remain seated and engage by listening attentively.

Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek. ² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And he shall be their peace. (Micah 5:1-5)

Hymn: *Once in Royal David's City* (stanzas 1 & 4)

WOV# 643

**1 Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little Child.**

**4 Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see Him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
there His children gather 'round, bright like stars, with glory crowned.**

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-1895 Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

Scripture Reading

Jared Knight

Please remain seated and engage by listening attentively.

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the

power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

³⁸ And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:26-35, 38)

Hymn: *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* (stanzas 1-2)

WOV# 632

**1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came, with wings as drifted snow,
With eyes as flame: “All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!**

**2 “For know a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations lauded and honor thee,
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady.” Gloria!**

Text: Basque carol, para Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924 Tune: Basque carol, arr. C. Edgar Pettman, 1865-1943, and John Wickham Arr. © 1955 E. H. Freeman, Ltd., ren. 1983, admin. *Glenwood Music Corp.*

Scripture Reading

Karen Morgan

Please remain seated and engage by listening attentively.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus. (Matthew 1:18-25)

Hymn: *What Child Is This* (stanzas 1-2)

LBW# 40

**1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!**

**2 Why lies he in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!**

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898 Tune: English ballad, 16th cent.

Please remain seated and engage by listening attentively.

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” ¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Luke 2:8-20)

Hymn: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

LBW# 71

1 **Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain **Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

2 **Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain***

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

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864 Tune: French carol

Scripture Reading

Mary Elizabeth Earnhardt

Please remain seated and engage by listening attentively.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶ “‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’” ⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search

diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. (Matthew 2:1-12)

Hymn: *We Three Kings of Orient Are* (stanzas 1 & 5)

WOV# 646

**1 We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we travers afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

Refrain **Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

**5 Glorious now behold him arise, King of God and Sacrifice;
Heav’n sings alleluia; alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain***

Text: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891. Alt. Tune: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891.

Scripture Reading

Robyn Arey

Please remain seated and engage by listening attentively.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was in the beginning with God.³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men.⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-14)

Hymn: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (stanza 1)

LBW# 60

**1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic hosts proclaim "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain: **Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king!"**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 (alt.) Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Nicene Creed (Romans 10:9-10)

LBW p. 64

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

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

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

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

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

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

P With gratitude for the gift of Christ the Savior, let us draw near to our heavenly Father in prayer, asking his mercy for the Church, the world, and all who need his loving-kindness.

A brief silence

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, merciful Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

Sharing of the Peace (2 Thessalonians 3:16)

LBW p. 66

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

Offering

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

All loose offering will go towards the Youth Missions Fund.

The monthly benevolence will go towards Battered Women's Shelter.

Offertory: *O Come All Ye Faithful* (arr. by Burton)

Dawn Merrell, Harpist

MEAL

God invites us to His table.

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Hymn: *From Heaven Above* (stanza 7)

LBW# 51

**7 Look, look, dear friends, look over there! What lies withing the manger bare?
Who is that lovely little one? The baby Jesus, God's dear Son.**

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546 Tr. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship Tune: V. Schumann, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1539

Offertory Prayer

LBW p. 68

(Romans 12:1; Proverbs 3:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 1 Thessalonians 5:18; 2 Corinthians 9:7)

P Let us pray. Blessed are you,

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

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

LBW p. 68-71

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

Hymn: *From Heaven Above* (stanza 14)

LBW# 51

**14 "Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us his Son has giv'n."
With angels sing in pious mirth: A glad new year to all the earth!**

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546 Tr. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship Tune: V. Schumann, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1539

Words of Institution (33)

LBW p. 70

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

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We

give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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

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

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

LBW p. 71

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

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

Please be seated.

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

LBW# 67

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

Text: North American, anonymous, 19th cent. Tune: American, 19th cent.

Distribution of Communion (*Mark 14:23*)

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

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

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

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

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Blessing

P Great are the works of the Lord. Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. Now may you be blessed in the name of God Most High: Father, Son, and + Holy Spirit. (*Psalm 111*)

C Amen.

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

LBW# 55

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

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866 Tune: German Carol, 14th cent.

Post-Communion Prayer

P We give you thanks, O God, that you have fed us with Christ's precious body and blood, forgiven us through this Sacrament, and given us a new beginning. Send us now into the world you love, to share Christ's sacrificial love with all we meet.

C Amen.

SENDING

Benediction (Numbers 6:22-27)

The minister blesses the congregation, using this or another appropriate blessing.

P Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

C Praise God, all creatures here below!

P You are the shepherds telling the story.

C We tell it in the streets and across the land.

P You are the wise ones worshipping with thanksgiving.

C We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

P You are the angels announcing peace.

C We live with you and go now in peace.

P Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

Hymn: *Joy to the World*

LBW# 39

**1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3 No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

**4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748 Tune: George F. Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.

Dismissal (**Matthew 28:19-20**)

P You have been nurtured in Word and Sacrament and heard
C **that Jesus Christ is born!**

P Union Lutheran Church you are sent in peace
C **to share the Good News.**

Postlude: *Christmas Favorites* (arr. James Fischer)

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Those Serving Sunday, December 28

Guest Organist: Brenda McCombs

Acolytes: Scott and Jennifer Curlee

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

Readers: Kevin Huffman, Deena Lanning, Jared Knight, Karen Morgan, Genevieve Baker,
Mary Elizabeth Eanhardt and Robyn Arey

Communion Assistant: Janice Goodman

Ushers: Larry Barringer, Phil Cauble, Tara Davis and Adam Thompson

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

Live Streaming: Pete Nguyen

Offering Counters: Tara Davis, Cathy Kluttz Painter, and Ronald Vellines



*Due to printing in advance, the **attendance information** for Sunday, December 21, Wednesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve), and Sunday, December 28, will be included in the January 4, 2026 Sunday's bulletin.*

January 2026 - Dates & Times are subject to change (revised 1/26/25)						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec. 28 1 st Sunday of Christmas 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Lessons & Carols 1:00 p.m. Cauble Family Christmas (Old Pine Center) 1:00 p.m. Dusy Morgan, Sr. (Dutch Meeting Hall) <i>Pick-up 2026 Offering Envelopes</i>	Dec. 29	Dec. 30	Dec. 31 New Year's Eve 12 noon 1 Minute Prayer <i>No Catechism, Handbells, or Chancel Choir</i>	1 New Year's Church Office is closed.	2	3 6:00 p.m. Church Council & Staff Christmas (Borders Concepts, Lexington)
4 th Sunday after Christmas 9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion 12 noon Lunch and Planning for Jan. 11 youth	5 9:00 a.m. Christmas decorations removal from Sanctuary & Education Building	6 Epiphany 6:30 p.m. Amos Bible Study	7 6:30 p.m. Catechism (Conference #2)	8 10:00 a.m. Good Timers 4:00 p.m. Mission Outreach	9	10 8:30 a.m. The Great Rake
11 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> 9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Church Council Installation, Reaffirmation & Recognition 12 noon Town Hall Meeting 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Union Youth Games & Bible Study	12	13 2:00 p.m. Mary & Martha Circle 6:30 p.m. Amos Bible Study	14 4:30 p.m. Congregation & Community Meal 6:30 p.m. Catechism (Conference #2)	15	16	17 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Leadership Council Retreat (ILC)
18 9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Recognition of 25 Years of Ministry 12 noon Offering Counters Training 2:00 p.m. Lay Ministers 4:00 p.m. Reception of 25 Years of Ministry	19 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i> Union Youth activity	20 6:30 p.m. Amos Bible Study	21 6:30 p.m. Catechism (Conference #2)	22 6:30 p.m. Property, Cemetery & Columbarium	23	24
25 9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Commissioning of Lay Ministers 2:00 p.m. Emergency Response Team 4:00 p.m. Luther League (Faith, Faith)	26	27 6:30 p.m. Amos Bible Study NALC Clergy Retreat, Virginia Beach	28 6:30 p.m. Catechism (Conference #2) NALC Clergy Retreat, Virginia Beach	29 NALC Clergy Retreat, Virginia Beach	30 February Messenger & Handouts printed	31

Deadline for newsletter articles
Deadline for 2025 Church Yearbook information

During the period of December 01, 2025- December 15, 2025, the Union Lutheran Church General Fund received revenues totaling \$17,843.25.00. During this same period, operating expenses, including payroll, totaled \$(13,095.35). The result of this report period is a positive revenue flow of \$4,747.90. For the year to date, the church is operating at a revenue deficit of \$(13,077.65).

The above figure, \$(13,077.65), is the approximate deficit for the operating expenses of the church for the current year. The church's deficits, which have been carried over for a number of years past, as of the October 2025 financial reports approved by council on December 16th, the actual church deficit stands at \$(40,039.92).

John Knight, ULC Treasurer

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Let's deck the halls and have a ball! Staff & Council and your guest are invited to our annual Church Staff and Leadership Christmas Party. Join us for a festive evening of food, laughter, and holiday fun as we celebrate another successful year together. We look forward to seeing you there! Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, January 2, 2026.

- **Where:** Border Concepts, Inc., 115 Lexington Pkwy, Lexington, NC 27295
- **When:** Saturday, January 3, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
- **Details:** Please bring a \$25 wrapped gift.

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The **2026 offering envelopes** for Adults and Children are available from the front pew for pick up during the Christmas Holidays.

It would be of great help when picking up your offering envelopes to also pick up family and friends you'll be visiting with during the holiday. This will help keep down the cost of postage. Thank you!

Please do not use them until Sunday, January 4, 2026.

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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, Jason Earnhardt, Susan Knight, Doris Ludwick, Patsy Lyerly, Richard and Kay Lyons, Troy Painther, Raelynn Rodgers, Dalton Thompson & Brad Trexler

Continual Prayer – Amy Dunford (Scott & Jennifer Curlee's friend), Union Fire Department #76, Global Missions (Congo, SON Ministries, Slovakia & Haiti), especially those affected by political unrest & those affected by natural disasters (Jamacia, Haiti, Alaska, North Dakota, Dominican Republic)

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