



## Union Lutheran Church

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



2026 January *Messenger*

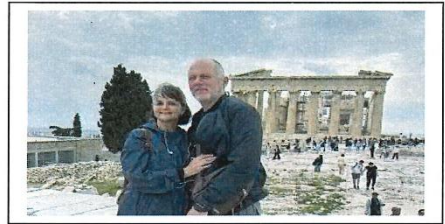
Volume 1

### Christmas Greetings from Dieter and Heidi

Merry Christmas and blessings for the New Year!

This past year was filled with meaningful milestones and opportunities for ministry.

In March, Dieter and Heidi traveled to Greece and Turkey, walking in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul while sharing the journey with fellow believers. To stand in the shadows of the Parthenon and other sites where a defense for our faith in Jesus Christ was offered, is truly inspiring and reminds us that the message remains to be as relevant now as it was then.

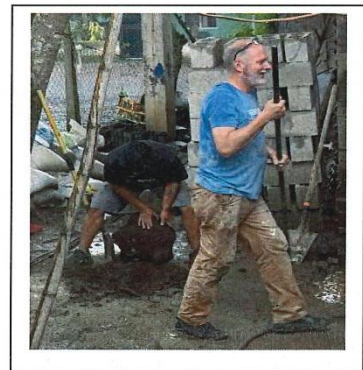


Soon after returning, Michael and Morgan got married. It was a beautiful wedding in the mountains near Asheville—a truly joyful and blessed weekend with new found friends and family from near and far. We were reminded again of how God has surrounded us with a village of people who carry us in their hearts.

Later in the year, Dieter and Heidi joined members of Holy Trinity on a mission trip to Guatemala. The experience was very humbling. Houses were built, as stoves and showers were also installed. All the while VBS for over 100 children was presented. Part of the mission also had us visit homes to pray with



families, while delivering food or water purification systems. But most significant were the relationships that were forged not just among us as a group but with the people we got to serve.



Mission trips to the NC mountains to help with victims still recovering after Hurricane Helene also filled our summer, as Union Lutheran invited multiple congregations to join forces. The need is still great and many have not yet returned to their homes. However every little thing reminds the people there that they have not been forgotten.

Heidi continues to serve and Global worker to Haiti being creative in doing so since the situation there is still very unstable. She was also asked to serve on the Spiritual Orphans Network and is preparing to do mission work in previously communist countries.

Some of you might remember us walking you through the Bible in 90 Days? Dieter now serves in the international board that oversees the ministry.

As a family we have many reasons to celebrate. Angelique and Jan are finally building their lives together on the same continent as Jan now lives in the United States following the approval of his green card. They live in the Charlotte area, building their careers. Nadia and Alex have decided to return to school and further their education. Alex in the health field and Nadia in Education. Michael and Morgan are settling into their lives as homeowners and full-time employees in Raleigh.



In November, Dieter traveled to South Africa to celebrate his mother's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. While there, some time was taken to connect with the extended family and the congregation that he grew up in. It is always good to celebrate our roots, all the while anticipating what God can do in the future.

In October, Heidi experienced a health scare but is now recovering well, for which they give thanks to God and to the many who offered prayers and support.

Dieter and Heidi are grateful for the continued blessings of congregational life and for God's work through His Church. They extend heartfelt thanks to all who walk alongside them in faith.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6, ESV)

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

Dieter and Heidi Punt

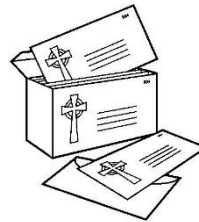


## ***Season's Eatings!***

*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.*

- ***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.

*We look forward to seeing you there! Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, January 2, 2026.*



The **2026 offering envelopes** for Adults and Children will be 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.**

If you received a physical offering envelopes in 2025, the same number has been assigned for 2026, with few exceptions.

To receive a physical envelope please contact the church office.

## Sunday, January 4, 2026

Loose Offering: Mission Outreach Fund

Benevolence: Spiritual Orphans Network (SON)

Mission Project: Craft Supplies for SON Mission Trip

**9:30 a.m.** Children & Youth Sunday School  
Boy Jesus in the Temple

Luke 2:41-52 ~ Psalm 48:1-14

*All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. (Luke 2:47)*

**9:30 a.m.** Adult Sunday School

Rabbit Hole Sunday School Class

Boy Jesus in the Temple

Luke 2:41-52 ~ Psalm 48:1-14

Drew Wise Sunday School Class

Sin and Forgiveness ~ Isaiah 59:1-8;

Genesis 3:1-24; 1 John 1:5-2:6

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion

1 Kings 3:4-15; Psalm 119:97-104;

Ephesians 1:3-14; Luke 2:40-52

**12 noon** G Baker, E Bowles, Franklin Bowles, Caden Madden, Micah Nguyen, and Ethan Wilhelm *(lunch and planning for Jan 11 Youth event)*

## ***Volunteers Needed: Helping Hands for "Undecorating" the Church***



*The Christmas season has filled our church with warmth and beautiful reminders of Christ's birth, and we want to*

*extend a huge thank you to everyone who helped make our sanctuary and educational building look so festive.*

*As we move into the Epiphany season (beginning January 6, 2026) and look forward to the new year, it is time to carefully put away our Advent and Christmas decorations for another year.*

*Many hands make for light work! We need your help to carefully pack up the ornaments, take down the wreaths, and store everything safely. This is a great opportunity to enjoy some fellowship while tidying our shared space.*

***We especially need a few stronger individuals to assist with the larger items, such as the Nativity scene components and the larger trees.***

*Please join us on:*

- ***When:*** Week of January 4, 2026
- ***Location:*** The Sanctuary and Education Building

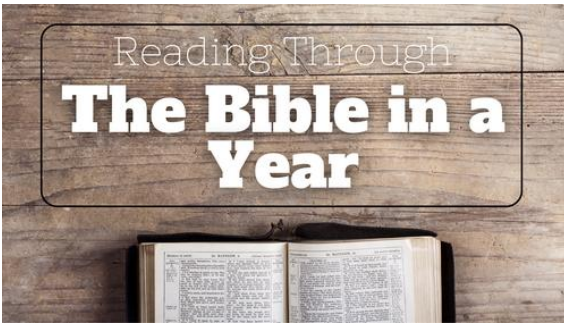
*We hope to see you there!*



## **6-week Bible Study focused on the Book of Amos.**

**Tuesday, January 6, 2026-Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.** join us as we walk through the book of Amos, chapter by chapter and discover Jesus in every corner.

Come and learn practical ways to lead a meaningful life, while resting securely in Gods promises of restoration and healing.



### Catechism

**Focus:** Reading Through the Bible in a Year

**Dates:** Wednesdays, January 7, 14, 21 & 28

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Conference #2

### Good Timers



*We are delighted to invite you to our next Senior Members Group (Good Timers) or of any age, gathering at Union Lutheran Church. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together*

*for fellowship, encouragement, and to share in God's Word.*

### Details:

- **Date:** Thursday, January 8, 2026
- **Time:** 10:00 a.m.
- **Location:** Old Pine Center

*We look forward to enjoying this time together in the Lord!*

*The Mission Outreach Umbrella will meet Thursday, January 8, at 4:00 p.m. in Conference #1.*



### The Great Rake

**When:** Saturday, January 10

**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, January 10, 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.



### ***Season of Epiphany***

*The word Epiphany refers to a "manifestation" or "appearance" of God. Throughout this season of the Church year, we hear many stories of how Jesus manifested the power of God in his earthly ministry, teaching with authority, performing miracles, casting out demons, and healing diseases. We celebrate this Season of Light by giving glory to Jesus Christ, the True Light who has come into the world.*

### **Sunday, January 11, 2026**

Loose Offering: Gerald Bame Memorial Scholarship Fund

Benevolence: Spiritual Orphans Network (SON)

Mission Project: Craft Supplies for SON Mission Trip

Alar Flowers: Open for reservation

**9:30 a.m.** Children & Youth Sunday School  
Mary Listens to Jesus

Luke 10:38-41; Galatians 2:15-21

*The Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be*

*taken away from her."* (Luke 10:41-42)

**9:30 a.m.** Adult Sunday School

Rabbit Hole Sunday School Class

Mary Listens to Jesus

Luke 10:38-41; Galatians 2:15-21

Drew Wise Sunday School Class

Repentance and Faith ~ Mark 1:14-20;

Isaiah 1:10-21; Ezekiel 18:20-23, 27-32;

Luke 15:11-24; Acts 2:38-39

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29:1-11; Romans 6:1-

11; Matthew 3:13-17

**10:30 a.m.** Church Council Installation

(Don Davis, Vice President; Ethan Wilhelm,

Secretary), Reaffirmation (Karen Barringer,

Phil Cauble, Kevin Huffman, John Knight,

Treasurer; Thad Mulkey, Pete Nguyen,

President; Brad Trexker, and Recognition

(Ali Davis, Vicki Hunter, Sharon Leazer and

Dusty Morgan, Sr.)

**Following Worship** Town Hall Meeting in the large fellowship hall. Light Lunch will be provided.

### **Union Youth Games, Bible & Music**

*"Hey! We're hanging out with the **Union Youth, Sunday, January 11, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.**! It's going to be a chill afternoon with games and some great conversation about secular music with the Bible. We'd love to see you there—bring a friend! ♪ **Location: Old Pine Center.***



Dear Church Family,

*May the grace of God be with you.*

*You are warmly invited to attend our upcoming Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, January 11, 2026 following the worship service. We will gather in the **Dutch Meeting Hall** to discuss the future of our ministry, specifically focusing on Land Sale monies, forestry program, and anything else brought forward.*

*Your input is valuable, and this is an opportunity to share your thoughts, ask questions, and hear updates from our leadership.*

- **When:** Sunday, January 11, 2026
- **Where:** Dutch Meeting Hall
- **Agenda:** Land Sale monies and forestry program
- Light Lunch will be provided.

*We look forward to your presence and fellowship!*



**Mary & Martha Circle**  
Tuesday, January 13, 2026  
2:00 p.m.  
Conference #1

Be prepared, a surprise awaits at the January Circle gathering! Refreshments, Program, and 2026 Mission by Cathy Kluttz Painter.

Thank you to Debbie Cauble-McPherson for a delightful and joyful time for Christmas! The house was indeed festive, bright and made us merry!! The food was delicious and enjoyed by all!

All Ladies are invited!

Cathy Kluttz Painter



**COMMUNITY MEALS**  
— LOVE IN ACTION —

**Congregation & Community Meal**

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Dutch Meeting Hall

4:30 p.m.

Proceeds: General Fund

Hostesses: Judy Boyd & Vicki Hunter

Menu: Sloppy Joes, Baked Beans, Fries,

Cookies, and Drinks

Suggested Cost: \$10 per person

*The congregation & community are invited to join us each month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, for a Congregation & Community Meal! Proceeds: General Fund*



Dear Church Family,

We are gearing up for our **Annual Leadership & Council Retreat**, on **Saturday, January 17, 2026 from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** at the church! This is a crucial time for our pastor, staff, and ministry leaders to step away from the busyness of ministry, connect with one another, and seek God's direction for the coming year.

Whether you are a staff member, small group leader, or volunteer, we need you there!

Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, January 16, 2026.

### **Sunday, January 18, 2026**

Loose Offering: Building & Repair Fund

Benevolence: Spiritual Orphans Network (SON)

Mission Project: Craft Supplies for SON Mission Trip

Altar Flowers: Open for reservation

**9:30 a.m.** Children & Youth Sunday School  
Jesus Calls Matthew

Matthew 9:9-13; Romans 5:1-11

*Jesus said: "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."* (Matthew 9:13)

**9:30 a.m.** Adult Sunday School

Rabbit Hole Sunday School Class

Jesus Calls Matthew

Matthew 9:9-13; Romans 5:1-11

Drew Wise Sunday School Class

Prayer and Humility

Psalms 141; Nehemiah 1:4-11; Daniel 6:10; Matthew 6:5-15; Luke 18:1-14; John 17:1-26; Genesis 18:25-27; Luke 18:9-14; 1 John 5:14-15

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion  
Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42a

**10:30 a.m.** Recognition of Genevieve Baker's 25<sup>th</sup> Year in the Ministry

**12 noon** Offering Counters Training

**2:00 p.m.** Lay Minister



**4:00 p.m.** Join us to honor 25 Years of Hard Work and Service as Office Administrator, Staff Support Person, Genevieve Baker, on Sunday, January 18, at 4:00 p.m. The reception is hosted by the ULC Council.

*The **Union Youth** will have a fun adventure on **Monday, January 19**, while they're out of school in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.*

*Thursday, January 22, at 6:30 p.m. the Property, Cemetery & Columbarium members will meet in Conference #1.*

**Sunday, January 25, 2026**

Loose Offering: Youth Missions Fund

Benevolence: Spiritual Orphans Network (SON)

Mission Project: Craft Supplies for SON Mission Trip

Altar Flowers: Open for reservation

Deadline: Newsletter articles and Church Yearbook Information

**9:30 a.m.** Children & Youth Sunday School  
Parable of the Good Samaritan  
Luke 10:25-37; 1 John 3:11-18

*A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers... But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. (Luke 10:30a, 33)*

**9:30 a.m.** Adult Sunday School

Rabbit Hole Sunday School Class  
Parable of the Good Samaritan  
Luke 10:25-37; 1 John 3:11-18

Drew Wise Sunday School Class  
Call and Growth

Colossians 2:1-7; John 1:40-42; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 3:12-26; Colossians 1:9-11; Hebrews 6:1-3; Matthew 4:18-20; 16:16-18; John 21:15-18; 2 Peter 3:14-15, 18

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion  
Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1-9 (10-14); 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-25

**10:30 a.m.** Commissioning of Lay Ministers

(Tara Davis, Vicki Hunter, Steve Hutchens, Elbert Kluttz, Deena Lanning, and John Kesler)

**2:00 p.m.** Emergency Response Team

**4:00 p.m.** Luther League (*Faith, Faith*)

***Deadline for 2026 Yearbook Reports & Information: January 25, 2026***

*The 2026 Church Yearbook is an annual publication that reflects the life of Union Lutheran Church for the past year, planning and scheduling for the coming year, and includes the current church membership directory. We want to get it out to the members of the congregation as soon as possible. Please assist the church office by reviewing names (committees, teams, organizations, umbrellas), contact information for you, your families and friends, contacting coordinators of interest in participating in the schedule for 2026.*

The **Clergy Retreat** is a yearly gathering designed for pastors, deacons, seminarians, and those serving in ministry within the North American Lutheran Church. It provides a dedicated time away from daily responsibilities to rest, worship, and be renewed in the company of fellow servants of the Gospel.

Theme: Worship & the Reality of God

Pastor Heidi Punt will be attending the Clergy Retreat at Virginia Beach, VA, from **Tuesday, January 27-Thursday, January 29.**

*The church office will print the February Messenger & Handouts on Friday, January 30, 2026.*

## ***Spiritual Orphans Network (SON)***

### *January Benevolence Focus*

*SON Network continues to develop and nurture international partnerships that produce a strong network of people, ministries, and resources between European, African, and North American believers.*

*We accomplish this by sending short and long-term missionaries.*

*SON missions teams host cross-cultural English Bible Camps and schools for children; Life & Adventure Retreats for teens; and Bible studies for adults. Overseas teaching opportunities also exist for pastors and ministry leaders in a variety of settings and terms of service, through SON Regional Learning Centers. Long-term and career missionaries are also called, equipped, and sent to serve in specific kingdom-building capacities that help empower, equip, and grow the visions for ministry of our indigenous co-workers, overseas. This is how relationships are strengthened, disciples are made, and the Body of Christ is equipped for Kingdom Building.*

*From the historic fall of communism to the steady progress being made, the work of God in these nations is best described by the prophet Habakkuk:*

*“Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told.” -Habakkuk 1:5, ESV*

*Out of the hard and rocky soil of atheistic communism, God has prepared a field ripe for harvest!*

***To God be the glory!***



**SPIRITUAL  
ORPHANS  
NETWORK**

**Engage.  
Reclaim.  
Transform.**

Connecting Spiritual Orphans to the Global Family of Christ

During the month of January, Union will be **collecting craft supplies** for mission trips this year:

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-mini-fasteners that can help you hold together layers of material, like cardstock (2 pkgs), Chalk and sidewalk Chalk, Masking 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 keep in mind that smaller sizes are easier to pack and place supplies on the pew outside of the church office.





**Those Serving in January 2026**

**Acolyte:** Adam Leffew and Addison Queen

**Altar Guild & Communion Assistants:** Deena Lanning and Karen Morgan

**Communion Assistant:** Adam Leffew, Deena Lanning, Karen Morgan, and Addison Queen

**Lay Readers:** Deena Lanning and Karen Morgan

**Ushers:** Larry Barringer, Don and Tara Davis, and Frank Merrell

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



**Save the Date**

Carolinas Mission Youth Spring Retreat from April 17-29, 2026 at Murrells Inlet, SC.

Theme: Faith in Action (James 2:17)

Get ready for an incredible weekend of worship, teaching, fellowship, and fun as we grow closer to Jesus together by the coast!

Details and registration coming soon!

***Altar Flowers***

*Have you ever wondered how the beautiful flowers appear on our altar every Sunday? Union Lutheran Church has a long tradition of having fresh live flowers placed on the altar for worship.*

*Fresh flowers are symbols of the resurrection and new life promised through Jesus Christ and are used throughout the year to enhance the worship experience in the church Sanctuary.*

*Individuals or families may sign up for any given week to provide altar flowers. Flower Chart sign up is in the Narthex.*

*The flowers are a wonderful way to honor special occasions (birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, baptisms, holidays, etc.) or remember loved ones and friends who have passed away.*

*Please check with Genevieve Baker in the church office to reserve a date to provide the altar flowers. You are responsible for ordering and delivering the flowers to the church on Sunday mornings by 9:30 a.m.*





### **Inclement Weather Policy**

In the event of inclement weather on Sunday or weekdays, we will publish a notification of cancellations or delays on our church website and announce it using the Phone Tree. We encourage all church members, guests, and staff to observe all safety precautions by staying off the roads during extremely dangerous weather conditions.

### **Sunday Inclement Weather Policy**

Union Lutheran Church will make every reasonable effort to be open for 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and 10:30 a.m. worship service every Sunday.

In the event of extreme weather conditions, Sunday services and other activities may be cancelled to ensure the safety of our members and guests.

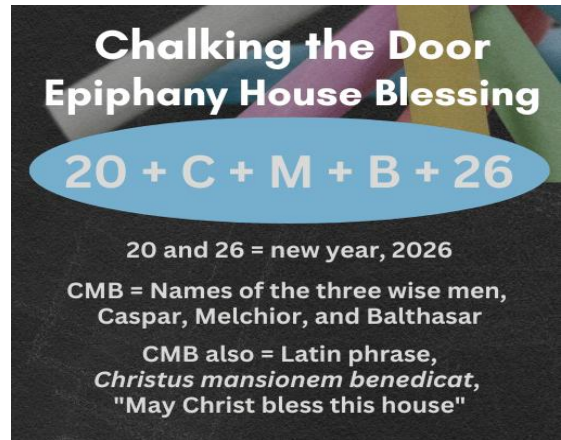
### **Weekday Inclement Weather Policy**

When weather and/or road conditions are adverse during the week, weekday activities or events may be canceled or postponed. Detailed announcements will be posted on our church website and announced by using the Phone Tree

*2025 Yearend Statements will be sent out by the end of January.*

### **Epiphany House Blessing**

Using chalk, mark the current year and the initials of the Magi above the outside doorways to your home. Place a cross in between each of the letters. It should look something like this:



After completing the above markings pray the following prayer:

*May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is Lord of all people forever and ever. Amen.*

The legendary names of the three Magi are: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The initials CMB also stands for the Latin words "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" which means: "May Christ bless this house."

The marking over the doors should be left all year round as a sign that yours is a Christian home.



*"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.)*

**Attendance Update**

**November Sunday School**

2	37	
9	51	week #1
16	47	week #2
23	44	week #3
30	<u>34</u>	
Total	213	
Average	43	

**December Sunday School**

7	37	
14	36	
21	47	
28	_____	

**November Worship & Holy Communion**

2	138
9	101
16	110
23	104
30	<u>92</u>
Total	545
Average	109

**December Worship & Holy Communion**

7	110	
14	108	
21	105	
24	21	4:00 p.m.
24	124	7:40 p.m.
28	_____	

**Advent Worship**

December 2	31
December 9	33
December 16	<u>39</u>
Total	104
Average	35



**"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh" (Matthew 2:11).**

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

A gift was received for the Music Fund in  
honor of the Chancel Choir by:  
Roy Zimmermann's Family

A gift was received for the General Fund in  
honor of Elbert Kluttz by:  
Ruffy-Holmes Outdoor Adventure Club

A gift was received for the Cemetery Fund  
in memory of Kent Goodman by:  
Ruth Goodman

A gift was received for the Cemetery Fund  
in memory of Norman Kluttz Holshouser  
(September 14, 1928-September 2, 2021),  
Rebecca Holshouser Maye (March 17, 1931-  
February 16, 2015), and Sylvia Ann  
Holshouser Fraley (August 9, 1937 –  
January 6, 2021) by:

Their Siblings, Gus Holshouser, Jimmy  
Holshouser, and Sandra Holshouser

A gift was received for the General Fund in  
memory of Henry Mink by:  
Janet Overcash

A gift was received for the Organ Fund in  
memory of Henry Mink by:  
Frank and Dawn Merrell

Gifts were received for the General Fund in  
memory of Andrea Misenheimer by:  
Scott Misenheimer

Gifts were received for the General Fund in  
memory of Roy Zimmermann by:  
Robert and Sandra Melton  
Janet Overcash

A gift was received for the Organ Fund in  
memory of Roy Zimmermann by:  
Frank and Dawn Merrell

*Our Love and Sympathy is extended to the  
Family of Roy Edward Zimmermann (April  
6, 1938-December 8, 2025).*

*thank you*

Dear Pastor Heidi,

Thank you for being true to the Word (2  
Timothy 4:2), for reflecting on Jesus (Matthew  
5:16), and for being a Blessing (Genesis 12:2).  
You are appreciated!

Union Lutheran Church Staff

*At Christmas, when I think about the true  
meaning of the season, of caring, of sharing,  
of giving, I think about Union Lutheran  
Church because that's the kind of Church  
you are!*

*I thank God for you at Christmas and all  
times!*

*Respectfully, Genevieve Baker*

Dear Union Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your  
thoughtfulness and generosity this holiday  
season! I truly appreciate your thoughtful  
gifts and your continued support!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a  
happy New Year!

Sincerely, Phil Cauble

## December Highlights

- For Advent, our theme was *The Case for Christmas*. Services were held on Tuesday evenings with a light meal prior.
- We celebrated with John and Nancy Kesler on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Sunday, December 7.
- Thank you to everyone who shared Christmas to our shut-ins and nursing home residents with carols on Sunday, December 7.
- Tara Davis, Pete Nguyen, and Pastor Heidi Punt concluded the Lutheran Seminar at Holy Trinity, Troutman, on Sunday, December 14.
- Thank you to everyone who volunteered and served at the Firemen's Banquet on Friday, December 12. Union is honored to be able to sponsor our appreciation for the service of Union's Fire Department. Thank you to Mike Cauble and Tara Davis for coordinating this event.
- We welcomed Harley Kay Cauble and Andrea Marie Cauble as baptized members by Holy Baptism on Sunday, December 14.
- We welcomed Adam Lee Leffew, Addison Diane Queen and Scott Michael Queen as baptized and confirmed members by Affirmation of Faith on Sunday, December 14.
- A great big **THANK YOU** to everyone who adopted an angel this year! Your generosity enabled us to bless 18 individual children and youth across 11 families from the Battered Women's Shelter this holiday season.
- Land Sale Timeline:
  - August 21, 2022, purpose of the Called Congregational meeting was to consider the possibility of pursuing the sale of approximately sixty-seven acres of the Eller property located on Walton Road.
  - A Land Sale Committee was formed: Larry Barringer, Phil Cauble, Scott Curlee, Lucinda Fraley, Tommy Goodman, Kevin Huffman, Matt Miller, Chair. Eddie Morgan and Thad Mulkey.
  - February 10 2023, an Appraisal Report was completed.
  - May 19, 2023 an Option to Purchase Agreement was available for review.
  - June 18, 2023, the congregation of Union Lutheran Church met on Sunday June 18, 2023, following Sunday service. The purpose of the meeting was to vote to sale approximately 67 acres of property located off of Walton Rd. The proposed contract from the potential buyer had been presented to the congregation for review via the monthly newsletter earlier in the month.
  - December 18, 2025, the land sale closed.
  - Thank you to Lucinda Fraley for her invaluable legal expertise!
- On Sunday, December 21, the Christmas Program, *A Christmas to Believe In*, was enjoyed by all. The cast featured almost 30 of our children, youth and adults who range in age from 3 months to 88 years. The play features two narrators who tell the traditional Christmas story

from the Gospel of Luke while costumed performers act out the story. The congregation sang traditional Christmas carols to help amplify the story. Narrator #2 admits at the beginning that she is not sure she believes it all. She had believed in Santa Claus (and you know what happened there!) She becomes engaged with the story as it continues, wondering what will happen to Mary and the baby Jesus. At the end, she is convinced that the story is true. She finds it really is “*A Christmas to Believe In!*”



- Cast & Crew: Adam Thompson (Narrator 1), Sonya Leazer (Narrator 2), Jill Miller (Mary), Matt Miller (Joseph), Elizabeth (Nikki Nguyen), Dusty Morgan, Jr., (Zechariah), Jared Knight (Angel Gabriel), Karen Barringer, Megan Cline, Ellie Harrington, Zoie Harrington, Marley Kluttz, Ashton Lambert, Lexie Lambert, Betty Sue Lowder and Lisa Morgan (Other Angels), Sam Nguyen (Herod), John Knight and Brad Trexler (Advisors), Ethan Wilhelm (Solider), Hudson Miller (Star), Noah Trexler, Bailey Wilhelm, and Lucas Wilhelm (Wisemen), Avery Cline, Sharon Leazer, Jesse Morgan, Jr., and Wyatt Thompson (Townspeople), Brad Huffman, Moses Miller, Dalton Thompson, and Luke Whitley (Shepherds), Jan Huffman, Susan Knight, and Pastor Heidi Punt (Directors), Sonya Mulkey (Pianist), Pete Nguyen and Dusty Morgan, Sr. (Soundboard & Lights), Adam Leffew, Addison Queen, and Scott Queen (Props), Cheryl Kluttz (Costumes), Joan Kerns, Vivian Sprinkle and Janie Vellines (Refreshments Coordinators).
- We also wish to thank the Little Lutherans, Chancel Choir and Bells & Beaus for contributing to the Christmas program.
- Thank you to everyone who shared Christmas goodies!
- Thank you to the volunteers who put together treat bags for our children and youth!

- The congregation celebrated Christmas with two Candlelight Services on Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve, at 4:00 p.m. and 7:40 p.m.
- During the year so many people volunteer behind the scenes who go unnoticed. We thank you for giving of your time, talents, and treasures!
- The congregation celebrated the Christmas Season with a Lessons & Carols Service on Sunday, December 28.
- On behalf of Union Lutheran Church we would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the Anonymous Donor who purchased an outside electronic sign for the church.
- December Project: Adopt an Angel for the Battered Women's Shelter
- December Benevolence Focus: Battered Women's Shelter



### Oldest and Youngest at the Christmas Program



John Cauble

Larry and Karen Barringer's Granddaughter, Ryleigh Barringer

+++++

**Good Timers**

December birthdays: Pat Kluttz (6), Bety Sue Lowder (13)

December wedding anniversary: John and Nancy Kesler (5)

The Good Timers met at the home of Frank and Dawn Merrell for fun and fellowship on Thursday, December 18, 2025. An enjoyable time was held by all. Thanks to Frank and Dawn for hosting this event.

Respectfully yours,  
Ruby Leazer, Secretary

**Good Timers Treasurer's Report**

Beginning Balance (December 1, 2025)	\$235.62
Ending Balance (December 31, 2025)	\$235.62

Respectfully submitted,  
Dick Shue, Treasurer

+++++

**CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING**

November 16, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Dusty Morgan, President, prior to the worship service. Ballots were distributed to voting members of the congregation, for the constitution ratification vote. After the votes were collected, the meeting was suspended until after worship.

The meeting re-convened after worship in the Dutch meeting hall. Agendas were distributed, and the minutes from the last meeting were approved. It was announced that the constitution ratification was approved, with 71 yes votes, and 0 no votes.

Under the new constitution, the slate of nominees for vice president/president elect was presented from the 2025 nominating committee. The nominees are Randy Patton and Mike Cauble. The floor was opened for nominees for Council Vice President. Don Davis was nominated. A motion was made and seconded to close nominations. Don Davis was elected Vice President.

The floor was opened for nominations for Council Secretary. Ethan Wilhelm and Debbie McPherson were nominated. A motion was made and seconded to close nominations. Motion carried. Ballots were distributed, collected, and counted. Deb Mcpherson was elected to the office of Secretary.

A slate of nominees for the 2026 nominating committee was presented. The committee is comprised of 2 council members and 4 lay members. The nominees were Jan Huffman, Vicki Hunter, Patsy Lyerly, Dawn Merrill, Dusty Morgan, Sr, and Vivian Sprinkle. The floor was opened for additional nominees for the 2026 nomination committee. Lynn Coughenhour, Lucinda

Wilhelm, Ron Chase, and Dusty Morgan, Jr. A motion was made and seconded to close nominations. Motion carried. Ballots were distributed, collected, and counted. The following were elected to serve: Vicki Hunter, Dusty Morgan Sr, Jan Huffman, Dawn Merrill, Lucinda Fraley, Dusty Morgan, Jr.

The floor was opened for nominations for delegates for Carolina's Mission Region convocation. Judy Boyd, and Deena Lanning were nominated to attend. A motion was made and seconded to approve them as the delegates. Motion carried.

The floor was opened for nominations for delegates to participate in the on line NALC convocation. Tara Davis and Amanda Cauble were nominated. A motion was made and seconded to close nominations. Tara and Amanda were elected as delegates.

x

The 2026 Ministry Support plan was presented. Changes to line items were reviewed. Changes to benevolence distribution were also reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the support plan as presented. Motion carried.

Lucinda Fraley made a motion to transfer the \$40,000.00 received as non refundable earnest money toward the purchase of real property by Carolina Quarries held in a money market at Thrivent to the general fund to eliminate the deficit in the general fund. The motion was seconded. After much discussion, there was a call to question to vote. The motion passed with 44 yes votes, and 7 no votes. A motion was made and seconded to move the money on December 26<sup>th</sup> 2025. The motion passed with 26 yes votes, and 23 no votes.

Lucinda Fraley made a motion to authorize the financial team to transfer money from the general fund held at Thrivent as needed to prevent a deficit from occurring again during 2026, and that the authorization be revisited annually. The motion passed with 44 yes votes.

A motion was made and seconded to ratify the amended changes to the NALC constitution. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Vicki Hunter, Secretary

## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES

November 16, 2026

Members Present: Ali Davis, Vicki Hunter, Sharon Leazer, Dusty Morgan Sr, Ethan Wilhelm, Phil Cauble, Kevin Huffman, John Knight, Thad Mulkey, Pete Nguyen, Brad Trexler, Pastor Heidi Punt.

Dusty Morgan, Sr called the meeting to order. Ethan Wilhelm led devotions.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the October meeting as amended with typo corrections. The motion carried.

John Knight distributed and reviewed the financial reports. There was discussion regarding assessing land use across the street from the church, and potentially designating it as forestry. No motion was made, and no action taken at this time. Financial reports were approved as presented.

Pastor's Report: The pastor requested November 29-December 7 as vacation if a supply pastor can be found. If not, she would lead worship on the 7<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made and seconded to approve the request. Motion carried.

Vice President Report: no report

### Committee and Umbrella Reports:

Campus Maintenance: The floors have been completed. The trim work still needs to be completed.

Mission Outreach: There are several fundraisers being planned.

### Old/Continued Business:

1. Land Sale: The buyer has a new lawyer handling the sale, and progress is being made to close the deal.
2. There will be no Congregation and Community meal held in December.
3. The Annual Congregational meeting will be held November 16, 2026
4. Bearing Fruit for Jesus "harvest Sunday" will be November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Apple pie and ice cream will be served after service.
5. Advent offering is designated for Benevolence.

New Business:

1. A leadership/council retreat is scheduled for January 17, 2026 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. It will be held at the church.
2. Sunday, January 18 2026 Genevieve Baker will be recognized for her 25 years total of service in Support Staff ministry.

The next council meeting will be held December 14. 2025 at 2 pm

The meeting adjourned at with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vicki Hunter, Secretary

+++++



**Roy Edward Zimmermann**, born on April 6, 1938, in Seattle, Washington, passed away on December 8, 2025, at the age of 87. His life was marked by a deep passion for music and dogs.

Roy graduated from high school in 1956. He was awarded a vocal scholarship in music at Central Washington College of Education in Ellensburg, Washington. During his time there, he toured with the "Central Singers" concert band from 1956 to 1960 and formed a vocal quartet in the style of

"The Four Freshmen."

He dedicated several years to teaching vocal and instrumental music at Dr. Martin Luther College and Academy in New Ulm, Minnesota, from 1961 to 1965. In 1962, Roy married Janice Ann Laust in Newport, Minnesota. Their marriage spanned 56 years before Janice's passing to her heavenly home in 2018. They were blessed with three children: Terry Jo Schuh (Joe) of South St. Paul, Minnesota, Martin Kenneth Zimmermann (April) of China Grove, North Carolina, and Scot Cole Zimmermann of Salisbury, North Carolina. Roy and Janice were also proud grandparents to Benjamin Schuh and Olivia Schuh, both of South St. Paul, Minnesota.

In 1966, Roy was hired by Univac, the Defense Systems Division of Sperry Corporation, in St. Paul, Minnesota. He served in various management roles until 1986, after which he transferred to the Salt Lake City division of Sperry Corporation. Roy took advantage of an early retirement inducement in 1993.

A service of Christian comfort will be held at Union Lutheran Church 4770 Bringle Ferry Road, Salisbury, NC 28146 at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, December 10th.

Words of comfort and memories may be shared at [www.linn-honeycutt.com](http://www.linn-honeycutt.com).

Linn-Honeycutt Funeral Home, China Grove, NC is honored to be serving the Zimmermann family.

+++++

**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

*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.*





Advent 2025

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ!

**The Lutheran Studies Program at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (GCTS)** is committed to cultivating pastors who will preach and teach in accordance with Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. Our robust Lutheran curriculum is complemented by the rich ecumenical tradition of faithful biblical scholarship that Gordon-Conwell offers as one of the country's leading seminaries.

Since May 2023, the Lutheran Studies Program at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Charlotte has been a part of the **North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) Network**. We now have 9 NALC students enrolled at Gordon-Conwell—more than in any Network school apart from the seminary center at Trinity, Ambridge—as well as students from other Lutheran church bodies.

Currently, the Gordon-Conwell program is funded separately from the NALS/NALC. Our seminarians here qualify for NALS need-based scholarships from the NALC theological education fund (up to 80% tuition), but all other expenditures are not yet part of the NALS budget. We are in the process of making that happen, but we need your help to grow the program in the interim. We therefore ask that you consider giving to the Lutheran Studies Program in addition to your offerings for the NALS. Funds will go to support the GCTS Lutheran Studies Program as a whole, including scholarship opportunities for all Lutheran students, regardless of church body affiliation. Your contributions will therefore be a wonderful outreach for confessional renewal across denominational lines.

If you would like to make a gift, please make your check out to Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, with "Lutheran Studies" notated in the memo line. If your gift is an honorarium or a memorial, please include a separate note. Checks can be mailed to:

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary  
Lutheran Studies Program  
14542 Choate Circle, Charlotte, NC 28273

A blessed Advent and joyous Christmas to you and your congregations!

In Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Nathan H. Yoder  
NALS Faculty  
Director, GCTS Lutheran Studies Program

++++  
**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)

++++

**2026 Church Council Members**

**2024-2026**

Phil Cauble  
Kevin Huffman  
John Knight (Treasurer)  
Thad Mulkey

**2025-2027**

Karen Barringer  
Pete Nguyen (President)  
Brad Trexler

**2026-2027**

Don Davis (Vice-President)  
Ethan Wilhelm (Secretary)

++++

**Lay Ministers:**

Tara Davis, Vicki Hunter, Steve Hutchens, Elbert Kluttz and Deena Lanning

++++

**Union Lutheran 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



## January Birthdays

Friday, January 2	Vivian Sprinkle
Tuesday, January 13	Randy Patton
Thursday, January 15	Paul Coughenour
Friday, January 16	Robyn Arey
Saturday, January 17	Genevieve Baker
Sunday, January 18	Ann Tucker
Monday, January 19	Hudson Miller
Saturday, January 24	Cathy Kluttz Painter
Wednesday, January 28	Jeff Holshouser Kay Lyons
Friday, January 30	Sonya Mulkey



## January Anniversaries



Thursday, January 1	Dillon Broome and Karen Morgan
Saturday, January 10	Howell and Teresa Kesler
Monday, January 19	Garland and Emily Jones

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

**January 2026 - Dates & Times are subject to change (revised 12-26-25)**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
Dec. 28 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Lessons & Carols 1:00 p.m. Cauble Family Christmas ( <i>Old Pine Center</i> ) 1:00 p.m. Dusty Morgan, Sr. ( <i>Dutch Meeting Hall</i> ) Pick up 2026 Offering Envelopes	Dec. 29	Dec. 30	Dec. 31 New Year's Eve 12 noon 1 Minute Prayer No Catechism, Handbells, or Chancel Choir	1 <i>New Year's Church Office is closed.</i>	2	3 6:00 p.m. Church Council & Staff Christmas ( <i>Borders Concepts, Lexington</i> )
4 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <i>Epiphany</i> 6:30 p.m. Amos Bible Study	7 6:30 p.m. Catechism ( <i>Conference #2</i> )	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 ( <i>Conference #2</i> )	15	16	17 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Leadership/Council Retreat ( <i>ULC</i> )
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 ( <i>Conference #2</i> )	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 ( <i>Faith, Faith</i> ) Deadline for newsletter articles Deadline for 2025 Church Yearbook information	26	27 6:30 p.m. Amos Bible Study <i>NALC Clergy Retreat, Virginia Beach</i>	28 6:30 p.m. Catechism ( <i>Conference #2</i> ) <i>NALC Clergy Retreat, Virginia Beach</i>	29 <i>NALC Clergy Retreat, Virginia Beach</i>	30 <i>February Messenger &amp; Handouts printed</i>	31