



Union Lutheran Church

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4th Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

***The Common Thread:** There are sighted people with no insight. And there are the blind who see. "Look, you blind, that you may see!" This insightful vision involves being led, "looking to the right," and going in a new, previously unknown way. This is how "children of the light" walk: they follow Jesus. In following that glorious pool of brilliance, the Light of the World shines upon them.*

Union Lutheran Church welcomes you as you join us in worship this morning. Please fill out the communion/visitor card so that we can be made aware of your presence. If you have questions or are interested in the ministries and life of Union, please see the pastor, contact the church office, or scan the QR code.

We welcome children to be a part of worship. A nursery is also provided for those attending to the needs of infants and small children.

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal ~ With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal
P=Pastor, C=Congregation, L=Lay Reader

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ORDER FOR WORSHIP

Sola Publishing Alternate Lenten Liturgy and Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 2

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *Lenten Prelude in D* (by J. K. F. Fischer)

The altar candles lit represent Jesus' life and ministry. Each week we will extinguish candles, remembering how we, the human race, rejected Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Today the Altar Candles and only 3 candelabra candles will be lit.

GATHERING

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

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Invocation (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 3:16-17, 18:20)

P We are gathered in the name of the one God: Father, and of the Son, ✚ and Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Brief Order of Confession & Forgiveness (Lamentations 3:40-41; Romans 3:23; John 3:16-17; Colossians 1:13-14; Hebrews 2:14; 1 John 1:9, 3:8; Matthew 25:34-40; Proverbs 14:31, 19:17; Isaiah 58:6-7; James 2:15-17; Job 31:16-22; Ezekiel 16:49; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Psalm 51:12)

P In this season of Lent, let us draw near to the Lord and examine our hearts and minds for the ways in which we have fallen short of the glory of God.

Silence for self-reflection and examination

P Holy God,
C **You sent your Son, Jesus, into the world to save us from the power of sin, death, and the devil. We confess that we have failed in many ways to follow him in our lives. We have forsaken the poor and hungry, we have neglected the sick and sorrowful, and we have looked out for our own needs rather than the needs of others. Forgive us, we pray, and restore us to a new and right relationship with you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution (Luke 20:17)

P The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone; all those who believe in Christ are living stones in his holy house. Hear his Word of forgiveness and be comforted by his love. You are made new again by the blood of Christ who gave himself for us so that we might be holy and precious in his sight.

C Amen.

Hymn: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

WOV# 649

**1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.**

Refrain

**In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**2 I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.**

Refrain

**3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain***

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 © 1970, 1975 Celebration, admin. The Copyright Co Tune: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 © 1970, 1975 Celebration, admin. The Copyright Co.

Apostolic Greeting (*2 Corinthians 13:14*)

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who saves us through faith, the love of the Father who gifts us with every good gift, and the communion of the Holy Spirit who fills us with all wisdom, be with you all.

C And also with you.

Kyrie (*Mark 10:47*)

LBW p. 78-79

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Amen.

Hymn of Praise is omitted during the season of Lent.

Salutation (*2 Timothy 4:22*)

LBW p.82

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that we, who for our evil deeds worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of your grace, may mercifully be relieved; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

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

Children are invited to come forward for the Children's Message.

Children's Message

Following the Children's Message, the children are asked to sit with their families while the congregation sings

Hymn: *Kids Lenten Song* (tune of Frère Jacques)

Prayer and fasting and almsgiving

We are meant to repent

Forty days of sacrifice

Being super extra nice

This is Lent. This is Lent.

Repeat

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 42:14-21

The first lesson is written in the 42nd chapter of Isaiah.

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. ¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. ¹⁶And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. ¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." ¹⁸Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! ¹⁹Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD? ²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. ²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

L Here ends the reading.

Psalm 142 *The Psalm of the Day is read responsively.*

L ¹With my voice I cry out to the LORD; with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.

C ²**I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him.**

L ³When my spirit faints within me, you know my way! In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

C ⁴**Look to the right and see: there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul.**

L ⁵I cry to you, O LORD; I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.”

C ⁶**Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low! Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me!**

L ⁷Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name! The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.

New Testament Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14

The second lesson is written in the 5th chapter of Ephesians.

⁸... {F}or at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

L Here ends the reading.

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Lenten Gospel Verse *Return to the Lord* (Joel 2:12-13)

LBW p. 83

C **Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 9th chapter.

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

Holy Gospel: John 9:1-41

¹As {Jesus} passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on

my eyes, and I washed, and I see.”¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them.¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind.²¹But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.”²²(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.)²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.”²⁵He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”²⁸And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”³⁰The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him.³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind.³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.”³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?”⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon: *The Gift of Seeing*

Pastor Heidi Punt

Refrain

**Healer of our ev'ry ill, light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.**

**1 You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain***

**2 In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love. *Refrain***

**3 Give us strength to love each other, ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *Refrain***

**4 You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *Refrain***

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Nicene Creed (*Romans 10:9-10*)

LBW p. 84

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 Let us lift our hearts and voices to the Lord in prayer, that he would be merciful to his people.

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, gracious 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 (John 20:19)

LBW p. 86

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Offering (Malachi 3:10)

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

All loose offerings will go towards the Building & Repair Fund.

The monthly benevolence will go towards the North American Lutheran Seminary.

Organ Offertory: *Slane* (by Paul Manz)

MEAL

God invites us to His table.

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Offertory *Create in me a clean heart, O God* (Psalm 51:10-12)

LBW p. 96

C **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

Offertory Prayer

P God of love, you have provided for our every need from your abundant bounty. Grant us grateful hearts that we may give generously to those in need and thereby show your love to the world around us.

C **Amen**

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

LBW p. 88-91

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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

Sanctus *Holy, Holy, Holy* (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9; Revelation 4:8)

LBW p. 89

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

Words of Institution (33)

LBW p. 90

(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.

P 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. 91

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

Please be seated.

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

Agnus Dei *Lamb of God* (John 1:29)

LBW p.92

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

Distribution of Communion (Mark 14:23)

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

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

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

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

Communion Music

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Blessing (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

LBW p.92

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

Post-Communion Canticle *Lord, now let your servant* (Luke 2:29-32)

LBW p. 93-94

C **Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people: A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

Post-Communion Prayer (James 1:12)

P Blessed is the one who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

C Amen

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

LBW p. 95

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen

Hymn: *Be Thou My Vision*

WOV# 776

- 1 **Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:
Thou my best thought, by day and by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**
- 2 **Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my soul's shelter, Thou my high tower,
Raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**
- 3 **Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou, and Thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.**
- 4 **Light of my soul, after victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.**

Sending (Matthew 28:18-20, 3 John 1:8; Ephesians 4:15-16; Romans 15:15-16)

P Here at Union Lutheran Church we are Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded and Congregationally Focused.

C **We are fellow workers of the Gospel, Unified in Christ.**

P Union Lutheran Church you are sent.

C **Amen, Amen, Amen!**

Postlude: *G Minor Postlude* (by J. S. Bach)

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2026 Attendance Report

March 8	32	Sunday School
March 8	90	Worship & Holy Communion
March 10	50	4th Tuesday in Lent

Teaching Moment: Lutherans at Worship ~ Glossary of Lutheran Terms

Paten (Plate which holds bread for consecration and distribution in Holy Communion.)

Peace (The portion of the Holy Communion liturgy in which the presiding minister blesses the congregation, saying “The peace of Christ be with you always,” after which the people exchange the peace of the Lord.)

Pentecost (A principal festival of church year, occurring 50 days after Easter, which celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit to the disciples in Jerusalem.)

Post-Communion (The prayers, song, and blessing after the Holy Communion.)

(Lutherans at Worship by S. Anita Stauffer, Gilbert A. Doan, and Michael B. Aune page 94)

Those Serving March 15, 2026

Guest Organist: Brenda McCombs

Altar Guild: Patsy Lyerly, Angie Poole & Vivian Sprinkle

Acolytes: Bailey Wilhelm & Lucas Wilhelm

Communion Assistants: Patsy Lyerly, Angie Poole & Vivian Sprinkle

Lay Reader: Brad Trexler

Ushers: Larry Barringer, Ali Davis, Don & Tara Davis

Live Streaming: Pete Nguyen

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

Offering Counters: Jennifer Curlee, Ali Davis, & Doris Shepherd

Sending Sunday Visitors Cards: Deena Lanning

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Our Love and Sympathy is extended to Charles Hartley & Family on the death of Becky Hartley, Saturday, March 7.
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During the period of February 16, 2026, through March 01, 2026, the Union Lutheran Church General Fund received revenues totaling **\$9,841.00**.

During this same period, operating expenses, including payroll, totaled **\$(14,013.16)**. The result of this report period is a negative revenue flow of **\$(4,172.16)**.

Expenses for this period include payments to Duke Energy for the months of January & February, in the amount of **\$(4,893.15)**.

For the year to date, the church is operating at a revenue deficit of **\$(5,651.66)**.

John Knight, ULC Treasurer

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Sunday, March 15, 2026

Loose Offering: Building & Repair Fund

Benevolence: North American Lutheran Seminary

Monthly Project: Amazon & Walmart gift cards for Melanie Corn, sponsored Seminarian

2026 Church Yearbooks are available for pick up. (Please take only one per family, thank you!)

During the Lenten Season, we use twigs and branches instead of flowers to symbolize penitence, spiritual dryness, and preparation for Easter's rebirth, as flowers represent joy and celebration, which are set aside during this somber, reflective season of self-emptying and focus on Christ's sacrifice, mirroring the desert journey. Bare branches signify the spiritual "emptying" of sin, awaiting the new life of Easter, much like dormant plants awaiting spring.

9:10 a.m. Union Youth Choir

9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School

The Day of the Lord

Malachi 4:1-6; Matthew 17:1-13

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.
(Malachi 4:5)

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

Rabbit Hole Sunday School Class

The Day of the Lord

Malachi 4:1-6; Matthew 17:1-13

Sunday, March 15, 2026

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

Drew Wise Sunday School Class

Giving to the Community

Exodus 20:12-17; Deuteronomy 15:1-11; Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 10:25-37; James 1:27, 2:14-17

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Isaiah 42:14-21; Psalm 142:1-7; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Sermon: *The Gift of Seeing*

During Lent, the altar candles lit represent Jesus' life and ministry. Each week we will extinguish candles, remembering how we, the human race, rejected Jesus Christ, the light of the world. On Sunday, March 15, the Altar Candles and only 3 candelabra candles will be lit.

Rescheduled: 12 noon Christian Education (Please bring a bag lunch.)

Governance Board of the Congregation is made up of the **Pastor, Church Council & Umbrella Chairs**. This Board will meet for their first quarterly meeting, **Sunday, March 15**, at **2:00 p.m.**, to review past events, projects, etc., and upcoming events, projects, etc.

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Tuesday, March 17

5:00 p.m. After School Care Meeting

6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal (*Dutch Meeting Hall*)

Meal is prepared by the Church Council

6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship Service "*Crisis in Identity*" (*Dutch Meeting Hall*)

7:30 p.m. ULC Scholarship Trustees (*Dutch Meeting Hall*)

Wednesday, March 18

6:30 p.m. Catechism (*Pastor's Office*)

6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Genevieve Baker, ULC Staff Support, will be out of the office (*Jury Duty*)

Friday, March 20

9:00 a.m. Book Bible Study (*Juice Life*)

6:00 p.m. Line Dancing (*Old Pine Center*)

Saturday, March 21

1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Robert Honeycutt's Visitation (*Dutch Meeting Hall*)

Robert Honeycutt's Family has reserved the large fellowship hall for all day.

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Sunday, March 22, 2026

Loose Offering: Youth Missions Fund

Benevolence: North American Lutheran Seminary

Monthly Project: Amazon & Walmart gift cards for Melanie Corn, sponsored Seminarian

Deadline: newsletter articles and recommendations from the congregation for financial advisors

Sunday, March 22, 2026

for consideration to John Knight, Treasurer

During the Lenten Season, we use twigs and branches instead of flowers to symbolize penitence, spiritual dryness, and preparation for Easter's rebirth, as flowers represent joy and celebration, which are set aside during this somber, reflective season of self-emptying and focus on Christ's sacrifice, mirroring the desert journey. Bare branches signify the spiritual "emptying" of sin, awaiting the new life of Easter, much like dormant plants awaiting spring.

9:10 a.m. Union Youth Choir

9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School

Plot of the Council ~ John 11:45-57; Acts 4:1-12

“What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”

(John 11:47-48)

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

Rabbit Hole Sunday School Class

Plot of the Council

John 11:45-57; Acts 4:1-12

Drew Wise Sunday School Class

Welcoming Others in Christ

Colossians 3:1-11; Ruth 1:1-18; John 4:5-10, Acts 10:1-11:18

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130:1-8; Romans 8:1-11; John 11:1-45, 46-53

Sermon: *Not a Bang nor a Whimper*

During Lent, the altar candles lit represent Jesus’ life and ministry. Each week we will extinguish candles, remembering how we, the human race, rejected Jesus Christ, the light of the world. On Sunday, March 22, the Altar Candles and only 2 candelabra candles will be lit.

A **Called Congregational Meeting** of Union Lutheran Church will be held **Sunday, March 22**, following worship in the Sanctuary with the purpose of discussing, reviewing and voting on the 2026 Church Yearbook.

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

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*The **Finance Team** is seeking the congregation’s advice on recommending local financial advisors to assist in investing portions of the land sale proceeds. Please submit names to John Knight, Treasurer, by Sunday, March 22. The Finance Team will select **four** advisors during their Wednesday, March 25, meeting.*

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Updated date: Come join us to beautify the church grounds and facilities for Holy Week on **Saturday, March 28, at 9:30 a.m.!** Bring your supplies, tools and anything you think could be useful.

Please note that Christmas Flowers will be removed and discarded from the Cemetery.
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Union Lutheran Church is pleased to announce that applications for the **Gerald Bame Memorial Scholarship** are available for pick up from the church office (blue top table).

Deadline to the church office: Palm Sunday, March 29
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Potted Flowers

You are invited to add to the beauty of our Sanctuary this Easter by placing and dedicating potted flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one. The beautiful flowers will adorn the Sanctuary serving as a living tribute to those who have touched our lives.

Dedications will be listed in the Potted Flowers booklet.
Please drop off to the Sanctuary your signed potted flowers on Saturday, April 4, between 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

You may take your plant(s) home after Easter Sunday, April 5.
Deadline: Palm Sunday, March 29

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

From _____

How many potted flowers? _____

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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), Sarah Bame (Brookdale Room 9), Pat Kluttz (Brookdale Room 56), Donnell Miller (Bethany Woods, Albemarle), Rachel Earnhardt (The Laurels), Charles Hartley (The Laurels Room 301), Mike Taylor (Trinity Oaks), Ann Tucker

(Oak Park Retirement Room 236)

Homebound/Shut-ins Members/Special Needs –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 – Judy Boyd, Ken Davis, Jason Earnhardt, Robin Huffman, Susan Knight, Doris Ludwick, Patsy Lyerly, Richard and Kay Lyons, Raelynn Rodgers, Brad Trexler & Pat Wiles

Continual Prayer – Rita Volker (Pastor Heidi’s aunt), Union Fire Department #76, Global Missions (Congo, SON Ministries, Slovakia & Haiti), Friends & Families of the avalanche victims (friends of Robyn Arey’s son), especially those affected by political unrest & those affected by natural disasters (Jamacia, Haiti, Alaska, North Dakota, Dominican Republic)

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

OUR VISION: Fellow Workers of the Gospel - Unified in Christ. (**3 John 1:8; Ephesians 4:15-16; Romans 15:15-16**)

OUR ACTION PLAN: Responsible management of God’s entrusted resources—time, talent, treasure & mission. (**Genesis 1 & 2**)

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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*)

2026 Council adopted motto: *“As leaders of Union Lutheran Church we will work together as one, reflecting Christ and stay true to the Word, as we share the Word.”*

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

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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

