



## Union Lutheran Church

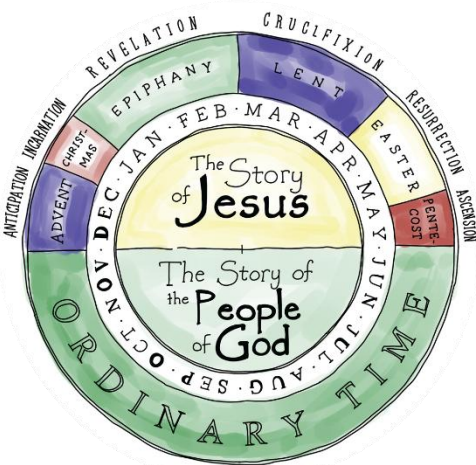
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### Monthly Musings

The sun feels like a warm blanket pulled too high, making the air wiggle over the red clay ground. My Sunday dress is itching my neck. I walk carefully and do not scratch, so the dirt doesn't ruin my white lace trimmed socks. Inside the church, it's a little bit cooler, like hiding under a big pine tree. It smells like old paper and the snuff my Dad would keep in his pocket. When the music of the organ triumphantly bellows over the congregation and everyone gathers in, I can feel the music in my tummy, like a drum beating right through the creaky wooden bench. I watch a tiny dust bunny casually float in a beam of morning light. It dances right over the Pastor's head and settles on a hymnal in the front pew. It's time for "Gottesdienst" (worship).

While church looks different now and while I am the Pastor leading worship now, I am still so thankful that the heart of worship is still the same, even 50 years later. Our Lutheran worship is a beautiful intersection of ancient tradition and the liberating message of the Gospel. It is not merely an activity performed by believers, but a "Divine Service"—a rhythmic encounter where God meets His people through Word and Sacrament, and in turn, the people respond with praise and thanksgiving.



Unlike worship services centered on human action or entertainment, Lutheran worship is fundamentally "Christ-centered," focusing on the presence of Jesus through His Word and Sacraments. We gather not to do something for God, but to receive the forgiveness, life, and salvation He has already won for us through Christ's death and resurrection.

Lutheran worship moves in a consistent heartbeat: our Lord speaks and we listen; then, we respond to Him with prayer and praise. The service typically offers the read, spoken and heard Word, which serves to convict the heart (Law) and comfort the soul (Gospel). The meal at Christ's table is central to our worship, offering Christ's actual body and blood for the forgiveness of sins.

We follow a structured, liturgical form of worship, often using orders of service that have been passed down through centuries of Christian history. The service includes certain sections: **(Gathering:** Beginning in God's Triune name (Invocation); **Confession & Absolution:** Humbly admitting our sins

to receive God's assurance of forgiveness; **Service of the Word:** Readings, Hymns, and Sermon; **Service of the Sacrament:** Communion; **Sending:** Being sent into the world for mission and daily vocation.)

The use of candles, crucifixes, vestments (special clothing for pastors and those assisting in worship), and church art and symbols helps us focus our attention on Christ. These are all meant to pull us away from the world and its distractions.

Congregational singing of hymns is a hallmark of Lutheran worship, stemming from a rich musical tradition. We sing because music is a gift from God that conveys the Gospel and allows the whole body of believers to participate actively. Although the Reformation began in Germany, our worship includes traditions from across the globe and thousands of years of church history.

While Sunday is the primary time for corporate worship, Lutheran worship spills over into daily life, where we serve our neighbor as a response to God's love.

We also follow a liturgical calendar (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost) that helps us focus on the life of Christ throughout the year and allows us to worship in harmony with other Lutheran and often Protestant churches all over the world.

Worship as a Lutheran is a "time set apart" to receive the treasures of God. Whether in a highly liturgical service with organ music or a more contemporary setting, the heart of our worship is always the same: **God gives His gifts and we receive them with praise.**

As I conclude my musings this month I leave you with a vivid memory of when my husband and I attended a worship service in Turkey.

Stone arches climb to meet the air,  
A silent, breathless, holy prayer.  
The world outside is lost and far,  
Our Savior knows just who we are.  
    The stained glass paints the floor in blues,  
    With ruby reds and golden hues,  
    A light that tells God's sacred story,  
    Reflecting His almighty glory.  
I stand within the towering nave,  
A humble soul that seeks to crave,  
The quiet peace that fills this place,  
And feel the breath of saving grace.  
    Therefore come, bow down before him,  
    the Lord our Maker,  
    Come, now is the time to worship!

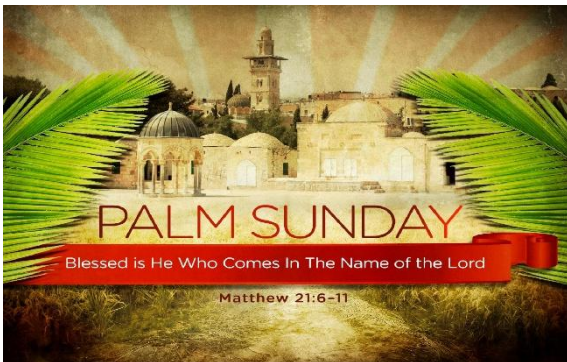


Your Pastor,  
*Heidi W Punt*



As **Holy Week** begins on Palm Sunday we are drawn into the dramatic turn of events of the last days of Jesus' life. On Sunday, he is welcomed into Jerusalem with shouts of joy and roaring of "hosannas." By the end of the week he will be betrayed, arrested, and abandoned by the Passover pilgrims and his closest friends. Things turn quickly from a parade to a death sentence which is carried out on a cross between two thieves.

Journey with us through Holy Week at Union Lutheran Church!



**March 29, 2026**

*Palm Sunday is the day we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, one week before His resurrection (Matthew 21:1–11). As Jesus entered the holy city, He neared the culmination of a long journey toward Golgotha. He had come to save the lost (Luke 19:10), and now was the time—this was the place—to secure that salvation. Palm*

*Sunday marks the start of what is often called "Holy Week," the final seven days of Jesus' earthly ministry.*

### **Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026**

Loose Offering: Special Offering Fund

Benevolence: North American Lutheran Seminary

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

Deadline: Potted Flower list

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

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  
Triumphant Entry

John 12:12-19; Psalm 24:3-10

*They took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (John 12:13)*

## **Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026**

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

Rabbit Hole Sunday School Class

Triumphant Entry

John 12:12-19; Psalm 24:3-10

Drew Wise Sunday School Class

Waiting for God's Peace

Revelation 5:8-14; Isaiah 2:2-4, 11:6-10;

John 18:28-38; Ephesians 4:4-6, 13-19; Acts 17:26-28

*All are welcome to pick up palm branches as you enter the Sanctuary!*

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

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:19-26;

Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 21:1-11

Sermon: *Holy Chaos*

*For those who do not wish to keep their palm, please return the palm to the box when leaving.*

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 29, the Altar Candles and only 1 candelabra candle on each side will be lit.

## **Those Serving on Palm Sunday, March 29**

**Altar Guild:** Patsy Lyerly, Angie Poole & Vivian Sprinkle

**Acolytes:** Bailey Wilhelm & Lucas Wilhelm

**Crucifer:** Nikki Nguyen

**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

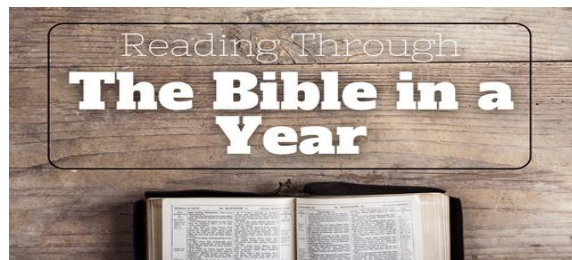
**Sending Sunday Visitors Cards:** Deena Lanning



### ***Chapel Time at Autumn Care***

*"I was in prison and you visited me..." Matthew 25:36 reminds us that visiting the lonely is visiting Christ. Many residents at Autumn Care are unable to attend regular church services and often feel isolated.*

*Our congregation has the privilege of sponsoring **Chapel Time on Wednesdays, April 1 & 22, at 2:00 p.m.***



**Catechism** on Wednesdays, April 1, 15, 22 & 29 at 6:30 p.m.

*Catechism will not meet the week of Easter.*  
Focus: Reading through the Bible in a Year  
Location: Pastor Heidi's office



### Belles & Beaus

Wednesday, April 1, at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 5, at 9:00 a.m.

Location: Sanctuary

The **Belles & Beaus** will have a vacation and resume rehearsals in July in preparation of Homecoming.



Wednesday, April 1, at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 5, at 9:30 a.m.

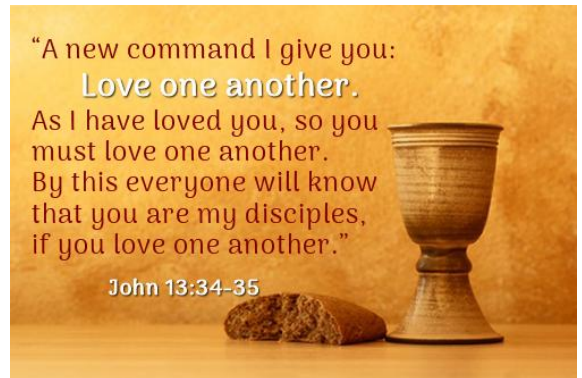
Location: Sanctuary

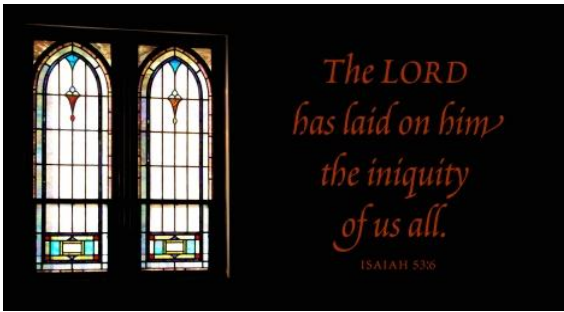
The **Chancel Choir** will have a vacation and resume rehearsals in July in preparation of Homecoming.



**Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2026**  
**4:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary**  
*Exodus 24:3–11; Psalm 116:12–19;*  
*Hebrews 9:11–22; Matthew 26:17–30*

*As Jesus gathered his closest friends for a Passover meal, he instituted what the Church calls, “Holy Communion.” He informed the disciples that he would not eat with them again until all things were fulfilled in the kingdom of God. As he blessed the bread and wine, he also blessed his followers with a life-giving gift. In return for that gift, one among them would betray him, but that would be no surprise to Jesus.*





### Good Friday, April 3, 2026

4:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Isaiah 52:13–53:12; Psalm 22:1–31;  
Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9; John 18:1–19:42

*The solemnity and reality of Good Friday can affect us deeply as we get in touch with our own sinfulness and culpability in Jesus' suffering and death. Knowing that his death was drawing near he uttered, "I thirst." When he received his last sip of sour wine he proclaimed, "It is finished." Indeed it seemed as if darkness had won, that death was the last word, but even in the dark God continued to act.*



### 🔒 All-Nighter Alert: Youth Lock-In! 🔒

Our annual Good Friday Youth Lock-In is officially on the calendar for April 3 following the evening service. We will walk with Jesus to the cross and like his disciples sit at the foot of the tomb. Lock-in will end Saturday at 6:00 a.m.

**What to Bring:** Bible, sleeping bag, pillow, comfortable clothes, prayerful hearts, etc.



### Embracing the Silence Good Friday Vigil, April 3 Following evening service to 7:30 a.m. Saturday

As we approach Holy Week, it is easy to jump ahead to the joy of Easter Sunday. However, the true weight of our salvation is found in the dark, silent hours of Good Friday. This year, we invite you to take part in our church's Good Friday Prayer Vigil, a dedicated time to sit with the reality of Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

### What is a Prayer Vigil?

A vigil is an act of "keeping watch." On Good Friday, we are not simply waiting for the weekend; we are standing at the foot of the cross, reflecting on the immense love that led Jesus to suffer for us. It is a time for silence, prayerful reflection, and adoration, recognizing the profound mystery of the Cross.

### Join Us

We invite you to join us in the sanctuary on Friday, April 3, following the Good Friday evening service for a time of quiet meditation and community prayer. ***Please sign up for a time slot!***

Let us, with thankful hearts, remember the ultimate sacrifice that bought our freedom, as we prepare our hearts for the resurrection.

*No Stations of the Cross this year.*



### **Easter Flowers on Saturday, April 4, at 9:15 a.m. for the Inside Cross**

As we approach the joyous celebration of the Resurrection, we invite you to participate in a beautiful Easter tradition. White flowers, such as daffodils and spirea for the inside cross, have long symbolized the purity, innocence, and divinity of Christ. The flower blooms announce the Good News that He is risen!



### **Potted Flowers for Easter Sunday**

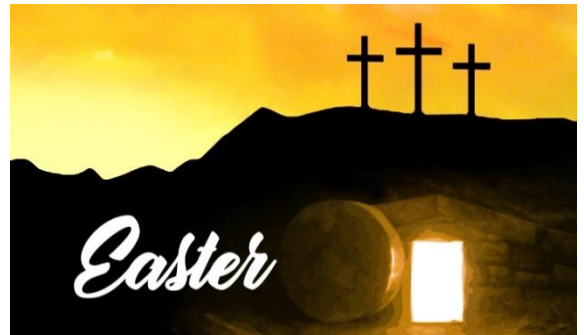
*Everyone is invited to bring spring into the Sanctuary this **Easter Sunday, April 5.** As we make our way through Lent to the glory of Easter morning we look forward to*

*members bringing their own beautiful spring potted flowers.*

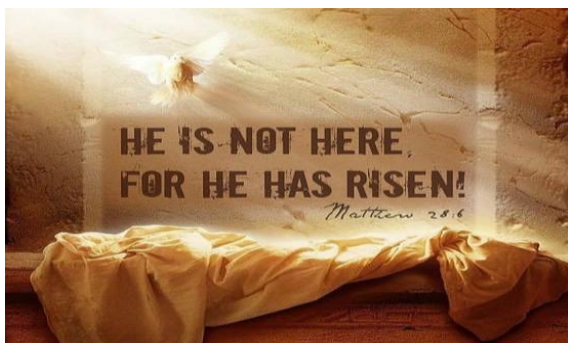
*Examples are: tulips, hydrangeas, geraniums, peace lily, gerbera daises, etc.*

*Please remember to **mark** your potted flowers before you **drop them off** on **Saturday, April 4, between 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.***

*An Easter Potted Flowers booklet of flowers placed in honor and/or in memory of loved ones will be provided. **Deadline** to turn in the form (located on page 19) to the church office by Palm Sunday, March 29.*



*The **Season of Easter** is one of joy and renewed hope as we celebrate the miracle of all miracles: Jesus is risen from the dead, alleluia! The whole church, in heaven and on earth, sings of God's glorious power and rejoices in the new reality brought to human life through Christ - death no longer has the last word. The Savior of the world has overcome sin, death, and the devil for the sake of all those who believe in the power of God. Jesus has triumphed, and believers are promised eternity.*



## **Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026**

*You are invited to bring flowers from your yard for the outside cross.*

Loose Offering: Mission Outreach Fund

Benevolence: Lutheran Military Veterans & Families, Inc.

Project: supplies for our local VA

Deadline: Good Timers & Friends RSVP  
Frank & Dawn Merrell

Altar Flowers (2 flower arrangements):  
Linda Kesler

**7:30 a.m.** Sunrise Service (*Dutch Meeting Hall*)  
Exodus 14:10–15:1; Psalm 118:15–29; 1  
Corinthians 15:1–11; John 20:1–18

**8:15 a.m.** Easter Breakfast (*Dutch Meeting Hall*)

**9:00 a.m.** Belles & Beaus

**9:15 a.m.** Easter Egg Hunt & Games

**9:30 a.m.** Chancel Choir

**9:30 a.m.** Children & Youth Sunday School  
Mary Encounters the Risen Jesus  
John 20:11-18; Romans 6:1-11  
*Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord.” (John 20:18)*

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

Rabbit Hole Sunday School Class

Mary Encounters the Risen Jesus  
John 20:11-18; Romans 6:1-11

Drew Wise Sunday School Class  
Resurrection: The Future Hope  
Luke 24:1-12; 1 Corinthians 15:3-20, 50-58;  
Revelation 22:1-5

**10:30 a.m.** Easter Service (*Sanctuary*)  
Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 16:1-11; Colossians  
3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10  
Sermon: *On the Move*



## **Those Serving in April**

**Altar Guild:** Cathy Painter, Jennifer & Scott Curlee

**Acolytes:** Jennifer & Scott Curlee

**Communion Assistants:** Cathy Painter, Jennifer & Scott Curlee, Elbert Kluttz & Wilhelm Family

**Lay Readers:** Sharon Leazer, Jennifer & Scott Curlee & Elbert Kluttz

**Ushers:** Larry Barringer, Ron Chase, Adam Thompson & Ronald Vellines

**Live Streaming:** Pete Nguyen

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

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

**Sending Sunday Visitors Cards:** Adam Leffew & Addison Queen



Monday, April 6

*The church office business hours will resume Tuesday, April 7, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.*

*Are you interested in participating and volunteering for our church's first Annual Cruise'n? We need your invaluable insight as we navigate preparations for the May 16 fundraiser.*

*Join the Mission Outreach at their next meeting **Wednesday, April 8, at 4:00 p.m. in Conference #1.***



Wednesday, April 8, at 4:30 p.m.

Dutch Meeting Hall

Menu: Ham, Green Beans, Potato Salad,

Corn, Bread, Drinks and Dessert

A free will offering will be collected.

Everyone is welcome at our table! Whether you are looking for a hot meal, good company, or just a break from cooking, please join us for fellowship and food.

Phil Cauble, Don Davis are coordinating the meal.

## Good Timers

Thursday, April 9, 2026

10:00 a.m. in the Dutch Meeting Hall



We are delighted to invite you to a special morning where Frank & Dawn Merrell will share the highlights of their recent trip to Greece!

Everyone is invited!

Mark your calendars for a relaxing gathering filled with stories, photos, and Greek-inspired treat!

**Good Timers & Friends**, please kindly RSVP Frank & Dawn Merrell by Easter Sunday, April 5, so they can plan and prepare the delicious Greek inspired lunch on Thursday, April 9. You can reach them at 704-636-9471 or [dfmmusic@bellsouth.net](mailto:dfmmusic@bellsouth.net)



Join us for **Line Dancing** at **Union Lutheran Church** on **Fridays, April 10, 17 & 24 at 6:00 p.m.!** Come learn, dance, enjoy great music, and fellowship with us. No partner or experience necessary. See you in the **Old Pine Center!**





**Sunday, April 12, 2026**

Loose Offering: Gerald Bame Memorial Scholarship Fund

Benevolence: Lutheran Military Veterans & Families, Inc.

Project: supplies for our local VA

Altar Flowers (2 flower arrangements):

Open for reservations

**9:30 a.m.** Children & Youth Sunday School  
The Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3:1-30; Acts 5:27-29

*“Be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” (Daniel 3:18)*

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

Rabbit Hole Sunday School Class

The Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3:1-30; Acts 5:27-29

Drew Wise Sunday School Class

Authority: Belonging to God

Proverbs 31:4-9; Mark 12:17; Romans 13:1, 6-8; 2 Peter 2:13-17

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

Acts 5:29-42; Psalm 148:1-14; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31



A **Called Congregational Meeting** will be held **Sunday, April 12**, following worship in the Sanctuary of Union Lutheran Church. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the following items and use money from the Property Land Sale to cover the expenses of \$68,458.79:

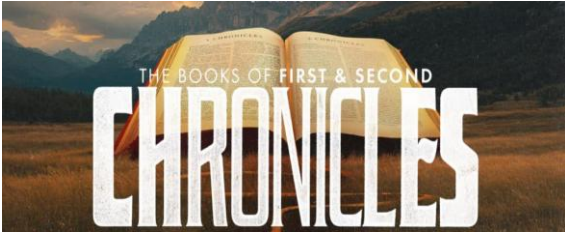
- Seal the bricks on the front of the church to address moisture problems in the Narthex. (Gerald Rimmer: \$9,650.00)
- Repair well damage caused by moisture inside the Sanctuary and Narthex. (William Ryan: \$5,234.54)
- Replace the heat pump in the Sanctuary with a new unit. (Medley Electric: \$18,775.00)
- Replace two gas furnaces in the Old Pine Center (one is not operational and the other is over 30 years old). (Medley Electric: \$14,260.00)
- Replace the carpet in the Sanctuary, including the balcony, which requires removing and installing pews. (Putnam Carpet: \$18,037.25)
- Professional clean the pew cushions in the Sanctuary. (Tom’s Carpet Cleaners: \$1,251.00)
- Professional clean more than 300 chairs in the fellowship halls. (Tom’s Carpet Cleaners: \$1,251.00)

Union Lutheran Church is hosting the **Piedmont-East Clergy meeting on Tuesday, April 14, at 9:30 a.m. in Conference #1.**



Hi Ladies, let's take a break and get together for encouragement, program, fellowship, and refreshments! The **Mary & Martha Circle** will catch up and read the Word on **Tuesday, April 14, at 2:00 p.m. in Conference #1.**

Thank you to Cathy Painter for providing the refreshments and sharing God's Word!  
We look forward to seeing you there!



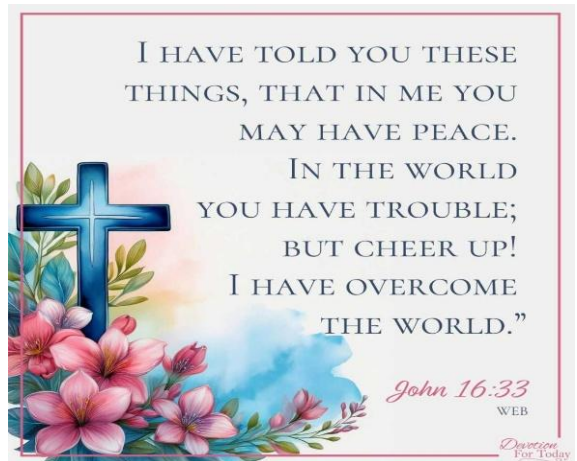
Join us for an eight-week Bible Study on **1 & 2 Chronicles on Tuesday evenings, April 14-June 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the Dutch Meeting Hall.**

*Chronicles retells the history of Israel from Adam to the Babylonian exile, but it focuses exclusively on the Kingdom of Judah (the Davidic line). Unlike Kings, which focuses on judgment, Chronicles focuses on hope, tracing the Messianic line and the central role of worship in life.*

**Worship & Music** will meet **Thursday, April 16, at 6:00 p.m. in Conference #1.** The purpose of the meeting will be to review past worship services and prepare for upcoming services.



*Pastor Heidi, Union Youth, and Adults will be attending the **Carolinas Mission Region Youth Spring Retreat** from **Friday, April 17-Sunday, April 19, at Garden City Chapel, Murrells Inlet, SC.** This year's theme is "Faith in Action" (James 2:17).*



## Sunday, April 19, 2026

Loose Offering: Building & Repair Fund

Benevolence: Lutheran Military Veterans & Families, Inc.

Project: supplies for our local VA

Altar Flowers (2 flower arrangements):

Ron Chase

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

The Spirit Comes at Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21; 2 Corinthians 4:1-5, 13-15

*Divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. (Acts 2:3)*

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

Rabbit Hole Sunday School Class

The Spirit Comes at Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21; 2 Corinthians 4:1-5, 13-15

Drew Wise Sunday School Class

Children: Gift and Model

Psalms 8; Matthew 18:1-6; Mark 9:36-37, 42, 10:13-16; Luke 2:1-20

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

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-14; 1 Peter 1:17-25; Luke 24:13-35

Pastor Heidi, Union Youth and Adults will be returning from the CMR Youth Spring Retreat.

**4:00 p.m.** Church Council (*Conference #1*)

*The Afterschool Day Care Planning Team will have a pow wow on Tuesday, April 21, at 6:00 p.m. to continue discussing details and preparations.*

Cathy Painter has reserved the fellowship hall and kitchen on Saturday, April 25, for the Myers Family Reunion.

Myers Family, it's time for a family reunion on Saturday, April 25! Join us for a day of food, fun, and catching up. Paper products will be provided.



***Monthly Benevolence Focus:  
Lutheran Military Veterans & Family  
Ministries, Inc.***

*Helping veterans let go of their past, engage in the present, and have hope for the future.*

*LMVFM is a Christian non-profit (501c3) faith based ministry. We are dedicated to serving military veterans, military contractors and their families in need of care and assistance, regardless of their faith or religious affiliation. We offer resources, assistance and training to congregations and other care providers to assist veterans, military contractors and their family members. In order to keep Christ at the center of this mission, LMVFM does not solicit or accept government funding.*

**Local VA April Project collections:** travel size hygiene products such as deodorant, lotions, toothpaste, shampoo, body wash, (except mouthwash) etc; Men's 32-48 pants that have cargo pockets (no jogging pants); small box of Kleenex; word searches, cross words, etc.; non-perishable snacks  
*Please place donations on Lectern side.*

### **Sunday, April 26, 2026**

Loose Offering: Youth Missions Fund

Benevolence: Lutheran Military Veterans & Families, Inc.

Project: supplies for our local VA

Altar Flowers (2 flower arrangements):  
Dawn Merrell

**9:30 a.m.** Children & Youth Sunday School  
The Lord's My Shepherd  
Psalm 23; John 10:11-18, 27-30  
*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. (Psalm 23:1-3)*

**9:30 a.m.** Adult Sunday School  
Rabbit Hole Sunday School Class  
The Lord's My Shepherd  
Psalm 23; John 10:11-18, 27-30  
Drew Wise Sunday School Class  
Family: Distinct and Obedient  
2 Samuel 7:25-29; Matthew 19:3-9;  
Ephesians 6:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:3-5;  
Deuteronomy 6:3-9

**10:30 a.m.** Worship  
Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23:1-6; 1 Peter 2:19-25;  
John 10:1-10

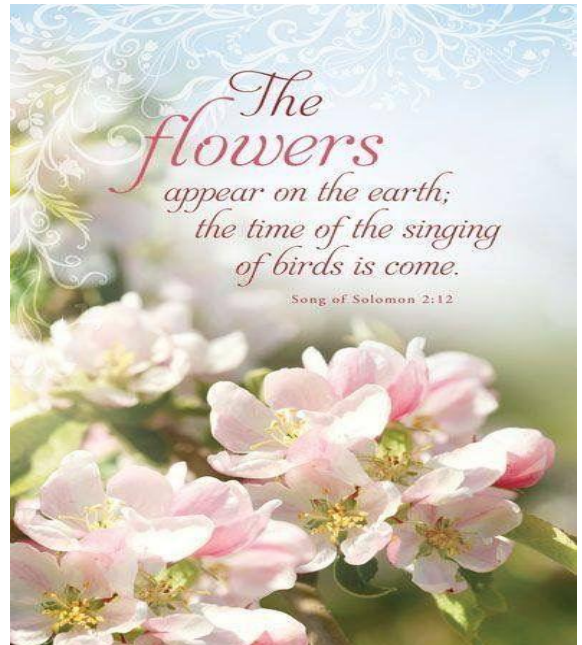
Micah Nguyen will share the Word with us while Pastor Heidi is away attending Continuing Education.

**4:00 p.m.** Luther League *(Location TBD)*

*Honorariums and Memorials Gifts Given to the Glory of God during March*

*Gifts were received for the General Fund, Benevolence Fund, Cemetery and Gerald Bame Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of James M. "Red" Swicegood, Sr. and Dorothy "Dot" Potts Swicegood by: James "Macky" Swicegood, Jr.*

Our Love and Sympathy is extended to Charles Hartley & Family on the death of Becky Hartley, Saturday, March 7.



## We need YOU!



As valued members and friends of our congregation, you know that Union Lutheran Church is dedicated to 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); and our Action Plan: Responsible management of God's entrusted resources—time, talent, treasure & mission. (Genesis 1 & 2).

We are excited to announce an upcoming fundraising event to support: **First Annual Cruise'n on Saturday, May 16, from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**How You Can Help?** This fundraiser will need our church family to help make it a reality.

There are three vital ways you can support this mission:

1. **Attend & Enjoy:** Your presence strengthens our community. Tickets are **\$1 each** and **\$2 each** for **50/50** drawing, with proceeds directly funding Mission Outreach & Youth.
2. **Volunteer Your Time:** We are looking for volunteers to help with [event setup and clean up, serving drinks, greeting guests, etc.]. Every hour of your time makes a significant difference! A sign up sheet will be passed around beginning on Palm Sunday, March 29.
3. **Donations:** 1) If you cannot attend but wish to support the cause, a gift of any

size is deeply appreciated. 2) Thrivent members please request \$250 of Thrivent Action monies for the event. 3) Donate canned drinks, bottled water, chips, baked goods, etc.

We are truly blessed by your ongoing faithfulness and generosity. Together, we can continue to be a beacon of hope in our community.

Any questions, please contact Robyn Arey or a member of Mission Outreach.

With gratitude, Mission Outreach Team

### ***Carolinas Mission Region Annual Convocation***

*Friday, May 1-Saturday, May 2*

*Location: Christiana Lutheran Church  
Theme - Unashamed Workers for Christ*

*Delegates: Judy Boyd,  
Deena Lanning, and Pastor Heidi Punt  
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary  
Lutheran Studies Advisory Board:  
Frank Merrell*

*"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15*

*The Apostle Paul charged Timothy to do his best to present himself to God as one approved, a worker who had no need to be ashamed because of his inability to knowledgeably proclaim the Word of truth rightly. The same goes for us today. As disciples of Christ each of us should know God's word well enough to be able to rightly talk about it to others apologetically.*

***You do not have to be a delegate to attend.  
All are welcome!***

Union Lutheran Church ★

# FIRST ANNUAL CRUISE'N ★

- ✓ Rain or Shine
- ✓ All Years Models Cars & Trucks
- ✓ Fun for all ages!
- ✓ Food & Beverages
- ✓ 50/50 tickets & more!

📅 **Saturday**  
16 May 2026

🕒 **9:00 AM**  
**2:00 PM**

📍 **4770 Bringle Ferry Rd**  
**Salisbury, NC 28146**

## CONTACT US

📞 704.636.5092

🌐 <https://ulcsalisbury.org/>





"We're looking for a church with a vibrant, active congregation... that we can quietly observe from the back pew."

### Attendance Report

#### February Sunday School

1	Cancelled due to inclement weather & icy road conditions
8	37
15	37
22	<u>38</u>
Total	112
Average	37

#### March Sunday School

1	36
8	32
15	42
22	_____
29	_____ Palm Sunday

#### February Worship & Holy Communion

1	Cancelled due to inclement weather & icy road conditions
8	100
15	86
22	<u>103</u>
Total	289
Average	96

#### March Worship & Holy Communion

1	106
8	90
15	110
22	_____
29	_____ Palm Sunday

#### Lenten Worship Report

February	
18	59 Ash Wednesday
24	50
March	
3	40
10	50
17	40
24	_____



*"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 placer.*

*Avenues of Giving:*

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

## **Corrections to the 2026 Church Yearbook:**

Added Addison Diane Queen – Affirmation of Faith Confirmation page 4

Corrected Christian Education Chair to Vicki Hunter and Vivian Sprinkle to Vice Chair pages 28 & 30

Added Vicki Hunter in Christian Education Table page 30

Changed Karen Barringer to Communion Assistant instead of Lay Reader pages 35, 44, 47, 49

Added Brad Trexler as Lay Reader on pages 38, 44, 47, 49

Removed Mallory Eagle and Moses Miller on pages 36-37, 44, 47, 49

Corrected spelling in Budget pages 41-42 and reformatted Budget page 42

Removed Becky Hartley's name on pages 112 and 119

Corrected Jason Earnhardt's contact information page 118

Added Pamela Queen's mobile number page 124

## **March Highlights...**

- In March, Sunday musicians, both laity and professionals have been called upon to lead the worship services. In March, the following shared their musical talents with us, Genevieve Baker, Dawn Merrell, Brenda McCombs, and Becky Lippard.
- Saturday, March 7, volunteers gathered to work on Billy Waller's home. Many projects were completed. Thank you for

the donations and volunteers! Workdays will be scheduled in the future to complete more tasks needed at Billy's home.

- 2026 Church Yearbooks were available for pick up on Sundays, March 8 & 15. Thank you to Patsy Lyerly, Doris Shepherd, and Vivian Sprinkle for assisting Genevieve Baker in printing, punching, and collating.
- Sunday, March 8, the congregation prayed for Jason Earnhardt.
- Governance Board (Church Council and Umbrella Chairs) met for their first quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 15.
- A Called Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, March 22, following worship for review and voting on the 2026 Church Yearbook.
- A church workday beautifying the grounds and church facility was held on Saturday, March 28. Thank you to everyone who participated!
- Gerald Bame Memorial Scholarship application were due Palm Sunday, March 29, to the church office.
- March Benevolence: North American Lutheran Seminary
- March Monthly Project: Amazon & Walmart Gift Cards as well as cash for Melanie Corn, sponsored Seminarian



## Good Timers Report

The Good Timers met March 12, 2026 in the Dutch Meeting Hall with Deena Lanning presiding. Doris Shepherd had the devotions. Ruby Leazer won the door prize. We had 15 members and 3 visitors (Aaron Butler, Tammy & Thomas Heintz) present.

March birthdays: Karen Morgan (3), Frank Merrell (14), Nancy Kesler (20) and Judy Boyd (30).

There were no anniversaries to report.

Sick Report: Sarah Bame, Betty Sue and Glenn Lowder

The program today was given by Eric Beaver, volunteer prison ministry. Piedmont is the closest prison. They have differing things for the inmates to do. Prisons are extremely expensive.

We had lunch at Lakeview.

Respectfully Yours,  
Ruby Leazer, Secretary

## Good Timers Treasurer's Report March 2026

Beginning Balance	\$287.62
Ending Balance	\$287.62

Respectfully,  
Dick Shue, Treasurer

Blessed be the  
*God and Father*  
of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Who according to His great  
**mercy** has caused us to  
*be born again*  
*to a living hope*  
through the resurrection of  
**Jesus Christ**  
from the dead [1 Peter 1:3](#)

## 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? \_\_\_\_\_

++++  
**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



## April Birthdays

Thursday, April 2	Caylea Cline
Friday, April 3	Daisy Martin
Saturday, April 4	Don Davis
Wednesday, April 8	Noah Cauble
Thursday, April 9	Steve Walton
Friday, April 10	Moses Miller
Monday, April 13	Janie Lesley
Thursday, April 16	John Knight
Friday, April 17	Hannah Patton Barbee
Saturday, April 18	Ruth Monroe
Tuesday, April 21	Abbey Deaton Ashton Lambert
Wednesday, April 22	Avery Cline
Thursday, April 23	Marvin Nunn
Friday, April 24	Rachel Earnhardt
Saturday, April 25	Sam Nguyen
Sunday, April 26	Ali Davis



## April Anniversaries

Saturday, April 11	Elbert and Cheryl Kluttz
Tuesday, April 21	Joe and Sylvia McDaniel
Tuesday, April 28	Vernon and Janet Overcash

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

**April - Dates & Times are subject to change**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
3-18-26  Benevolence: Lutheran Military Veterans & Families, Inc. Project: supplies for our local VA			1 2:00 p.m. Chapel Time Autumn Care 6:30 p.m. Catechism <i>(Pastor's Office)</i> 6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	2 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 4:00 p.m. Worship & Holy Communion <i>(Sanctuary)</i> 6:30 p.m. Worship & Holy Communion <i>(Sanctuary)</i>	3 <i>Good Friday</i> 4:00 p.m. Worship <i>(Sanctuary)</i> 6:30 p.m. Worship <i>(Sanctuary)</i> 7:30 p.m. ULC Youth Lock-In 7:30 p.m. Prayer Vigil	4 6:00 a.m. Youth Lock-in ends 7:30 a.m. Prayer Vigil ends 9:15 a.m. inside flowers cross 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. potted flowers drop off
5 <i>Easter</i> 7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service 8:15 a.m. Easter Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Belles & Beaus 9:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt & Games 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir 9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion	6 <i>Church Office is closed.</i>	7	8 4:00 p.m. Mission Outreach <i>(Cruise 'n)</i> 4:30 p.m. Congregation & Community Meal <i>In observance of the Holiday, No Catechism will not meet this week.</i>	9 10:00 a.m. Good Timers	10 6:00 p.m. Line Dancing <i>(Old Pine Center)</i>	11
12 9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion 12 noon Called Congregational meeting	13	14 9:30 a.m. Piedmont-East Clergy <i>(ULC)</i> 2:00 p.m. Mary & Martha Circle 6:30 p.m. 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chronicles Bible Study	15 <i>Tax Day</i> 6:30 p.m. Catechism <i>(Pastor's Office)</i>	16 6:00 p.m. Worship & Music	17 6:00 p.m. Line Dancing <i>(Old Pine Center)</i> CMR Youth Spring Retreat <i>(Garden City Chapel &amp; Retreats, Murrells Inlet, SC)</i>	18 CMR Youth Spring Retreat
19 9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion 4:00 p.m. Church Council CMR Youth Spring Retreat <i>Deadline for newsletter articles</i> <i>Deadline for list of High School, Tech, and College graduates</i>	20	21 6:00 p.m. Afterschool Day Care Planning Team 6:30 p.m. 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chronicles Bible Study	22 2:00 p.m. Chapel Time Autumn Care 6:30 p.m. Catechism <i>(Pastor's Office)</i>	23	24 6:00 p.m. Line Dancing  <i>May Messenger &amp; Handouts printed</i>	25 Myers Family Reunion <i>(Dutch Meeting Hall)</i> Contact: Cathy Kluttz Painter
26 9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 2:00 p.m. ERT 4:00 p.m. Luther League	27	28 6:30 p.m. 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chronicles Bible Study	29 6:30 p.m. Catechism <i>(Pastor's Office)</i>	30		