



November 2021
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The Messenger
Monthly Newsletter
of United Lutheran Church
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THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR ANTHONY . . .

A decade and a half ago I was called to long-term pulpit supply for a congregation on the south side of Chicago. Historically it was comprised of hard-working, blue-collar families, many of whose husbands and fathers gave themselves to the steel mills by the lake front on the southside. Originally the congregation, along with the community, was situated in what was considered a rural part of Chicago-land.

Some decades ago, perhaps up through the 1980's, the congregation reflected the bustle of a community still inhabited by school-aged families. Its Sunday School and Confirmation class sizes, its congregational programming, reflected a community of solid employment, growing families, and a community deemed desirable to entertain growing families.

Then transition occurred. The steel mills began closing down. Other large employers either shut down or relocated elsewhere for the sake of cheaper labor. The community surrounding the congregation took on a demographic tone other than the WASP one which flourished up until that point. The long-held homes of the community's original families became rental housing which now hosted occupants more provisional in their habitation.

Those who had lived in the community for decades, having sent their children to the community public schools, having lived within blocks of the congregation, had evacuated in droves to communities farther away, some 10, 15, 20, 25, even 30 miles away to the west, southwest. But, now older—in their 60's, 70's and 80's, their kids long grown and gone—they drove back into the community for church each Sunday. They would worship for an hour. They would have coffee for an hour. And then they'd evacuate the community until the next Sunday. Other than an aging group of quilters who met during the day—all retired—nothing much went on during the week.

Comprised of a committee structure which once brimmed with year-round evangelism, mission, stewardship, and social activities, now the committee of popular interest was the finance committee and its related functions. As one colleague calls it, the "Committee of Anxiety and Scarcity." To the point: the focus of the congregation became that of self-preservation. No longer was it a congregation driven by ministry—mission, outreach, openness to new people, new colors and economic brackets of people, but a chapel fighting like hell to self-preserve. When a human body ceases to thrive, it, too, focuses its energies on self-preservation. Just before it dies.

To actually say "we're dying" would take too much emotional honesty in that congregation. To make finances the focus of the ministry would speak with actions the words they were not ready to vocalize. Many of my colleagues joked—learning that the congregation was in the call process—that it needed a "hospice chaplain" instead. + + + + Amid all of this, having said "yes" to an interview with them, I do remember their main concerns being the location of the announcements and the choices of hymns during worship, in addition to the handful of weeds routinely missed by the lawn care man next to the building.

The ship is sinking. And you're concerned about the arrangement of the deck chairs? No thank you.

The beautiful irony of life, Christ demonstrates, is that it flourishes when it gives itself away, its energies are harnessed outward. Self-preservation is the Devil's temptation.

- Pastor Anthony



Welcome to Our Newest Members

The following were received into membership on October 17:

Thomas Berggren, Don Green, Wanda Grothen, Wayne & Marlene Janssen, Julia Johanson, Ryan LoChiano, Janis Peck, Stephen Peck, Ruth Steffens, and Scott and Rachel Van Dyke. Be sure to introduce yourself and make them welcome.



We Rejoice . . .

At the birth of Hannah Mae McNamee who was born on September 21 to Sean and Amanda McNamee.

Women of the ELCA



November is Thankoffering time for the Women of the ELCA. Even during the pandemic, the Churchwide work of the Women of the ELCA continues. Give with gratitude for all your many blessings. Envelopes will be available in the "Weekly Witness" November 14. If you choose to use a check, please make it payable to WELCA.

Four women from United attended the Bi-Annual Convention on October 1-3 at Carol Joy Holling. Luanne Schwartzkopf was elected Vice-President of the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization to a two-year term.

Bible Presentation

Alexis Frazier, a third grader, was presented a *Good News Bible* on October 3. Theresa Webster was the teacher as Alexis and her family gained knowledge of the various parts of the Bible. Pictured are Nicholas, Alexis & Michelle Frazier.



Hanging of the Greens

Everyone is invited to come and make the sanctuary ready for Advent and Christmas on Saturday, November 27 at 9:00 a.m.

In Memory



Each year we remember those who have died in the faith during the previous church year. They are remembered by the ringing of a bell as their name is read at worship services on **All Saints Sunday**, November 7. Those remembered:

- Charmain Satree, November 6, 2020
- Dave Kingery, December 10, 2020
- Ida Truax, December 25, 2020
- Ken Westerhold, January 16, 2021 (Non-member)
- Nicole Otto, January 27, 2021
- Michelle Tichota, February 2, 2021 (Non-member)
- Kay Rung, February 15, 2021
- Bud Nelsen, March 19, 2021
- Betty Ottens, April 2, 2021
- Terry Otto, May 30, 2021
- Bonnie Damkroger, June 28, 2021 (Non-member)
- Denny Stubbendick, July 5, 2021
- Kevin Headlee, July 19, 2021 (Non-member)
- Roger Cronk, August 2, 2021
- Florence Hill, October 16, 2021

Please keep these saints and their loved ones in your prayers of remembrance and thanksgiving on All Saints Sunday.

Older. Wiser. Lutheran. Seniors. (For those over 60)

The next meeting for O.W.L.S. is on Thursday, November 11 at 11:00 a.m. Everyone 60+ is invited. The meal is Pot-luck. Sign up by November 7. If you cannot bring a dish, come join us anyway! There's always plenty of food.



Upcoming Retreats at Carol Joy Holling Camp

Check out the following retreats at the website CJHCenter.org:

Middle School Retreat—November 12-14

Mother & Tween Daughter Retreat—November 20-21 High School Retreat—December 29-30

United Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report October 11, 2021

Submitted herewith is the Balance Sheet and Summary Treasurer's Report for September 2021.

In review of the September financial reports for United Lutheran Church, note the following items:

On the balance sheet, our cash position remains good with Regular Checking \$222,656, Savings \$18,304, Memorial Fund \$14,987, and MIF Investment \$122,007 for a total of \$377,954.

The September Offering Income was \$18,456. Total September Operating Fund Income was \$59,127.

Note: September Income includes \$30,057 Golf Scramble Income.

The September Operating Expense was \$21,200. Total September Expenses were \$23,806.

Note: All Golf Scramble Expenses have been paid.

The Total Operating Fund Expenses through September 2021 (\$209,884) are \$58,502 less than the Total Operating Fund Income through September 2020 (\$268,386). Offerings through September 2021 (\$212,137) are \$5,919 more than September 2020 (\$206,218). Total Income through September 2021 (\$307,770) is \$15,502 more than Total Income through September 2020 (\$292,268). Total Expenses through September 2021 (\$277,196) are \$16,069 greater than September 2020 (\$261,127).

Donations designated for Capital Improvements and/or the 2018 Renovation Project are Transferred from the Regular Checking Account to the Saving Account on a monthly basis.

Renovation Fund Balance (9/30/2021)	\$ 18,304 (Savings)
September Designated Donations	<u>1,040</u> (Not Transferred)
Renovation Fund Balance (9/30/2021)	\$ 19,344

Renovation Long Term Loan	Principal	Interest to Date
Beginning Balance 8/31/2021	\$ 271,808.78	\$ 28,382.66
Payment 9/1/2021	<u>1,192.01</u>	<u>951.99</u>
Principal Balance as of 9/30/2021	\$ 270,616.77	\$ 29,334.65

Monthly Loan Payments are made via Electronic Fund Transfer from Regular Checking on the 1st of the month. The Monthly Loan Payment amount (\$2,144) is transferred from the Renovation Fund (Saving Account) to Regular Checking monthly. September Capital Improvement Donations are less than half of monthly Loan Payment.

Comparison of Envelope Offerings - 2021 vs 2019 & 2020						
Month	2019 Donations	2019 Total	2020 Donations	<u>2020 Total</u>	2021 Donations	2021 Total
31-Jan	\$22,174.40	\$22,174.40	\$25,634.32	\$25,634.32	\$25,756.80	\$25,756.80
28-Feb	\$26,805.05	\$48,979.45	\$23,608.00	\$49,242.32	\$22,847.00	\$48,603.80
31-Mar	\$36,593.63	\$85,573.08	\$26,323.00	\$75,565.32	\$35,104.75	\$83,708.55
30-Apr	\$24,035.93	\$109,609.01	\$19,996.92	\$95,562.24	\$18,199.50	\$101,908.05
31-May	\$23,263.50	\$132,872.51	\$38,941.73	\$134,503.97	\$22,523.00	\$124,431.05
30-Jun	\$22,535.89	\$155,408.40	\$16,089.11	\$150,593.08	\$17,831.00	\$142,262.05
31-Jul	\$19,499.62	\$174,908.02	\$15,214.00	\$165,807.08	\$17,729.00	\$159,991.05
31-Aug	\$19,249.00	\$194,157.02	\$22,615.56	\$188,422.64	\$22,012.96 *	\$182,004.01
30-Sep	\$23,113.60	\$217,270.62	\$16,844.00	\$205,266.64	\$18,352.00	\$200,356.01

Respectfully submitted, Dean A. Jaeger, Treasurer

Thanks . . .

Dear Congregation,

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center Project. More than 265 hygiene kits, 45 quilts, and 17 receiving blankets were given. Also, \$800 was given for the Job Corps. This could only have been done through the generosity of United. Whether it was with money donations, specific items for the hygiene kits, or fabric, sheets, and thread for the quilts, or those who assembled and delivered these gifts, your expression of love of Christ reaches out to our neighbors in need. We are all blessed to be a part of this "labor of Love."

Outreach Ministry

Lutheran World Relief Quilters

A total of 157 quilts and blankets were given this year:

People's City Mission—35 LWR—58

Graduates—6

Pine Ridge—41 quilts, 4 blankets, 17 baby blankets
Quilts on display in the Sanctuary on October 24 & 31 numbered 93.

Peace and Justice

In light of the Outreach Ministry's mission to advocate for peace and justice, they are recommending a book and/or movie each month for you to gain an understanding of other's experiences.

For November the recommendation is the book or film ***Ruby Bridges***. Based on the true story of six-year-old *Ruby* who was chosen to be the first African-American to integrate her local elementary school in New Orleans. She was subjected to the true ugliness of racism. The film is available at Lincoln Public Libraries in DVD form and on the Disney Network. The book is at the Lincoln Public Libraries in the Juvenile Biography section.

SCRIP Cards May Be Purchased

If you are interested in buying SCRIP cards contact George Hill at 402-430-9554. George will either deliver the SCRIP cards to be picked up at the church or to your home.

In Our Prayers . . .

Glenn Sorensen

Collette Siegman

Cliff Becker

John Nason

Monte Ray

Sue Ray

Our Sympathies to . . .

Keith & Ruth Pearson and family as they mourn the death of Ruth's brother-in-law, Rev. Julius Peterson, of Red Oak, Iowa.

Fran Otto and family as they mourn the death of Fran's sister-in-law, Mary Wing, of Lincoln.

The family and friends of Florence Hill who died on October 16.

Laura & Ken Thalken and family as they mourn the death of Ken's mother, Agnes Thalken, who died October 21.

Sunday School

Sunday School for all ages will be held on November 14 and 28 at 10:30 until 10:55. We will enjoy lessons, fellowship, and service for our community

Noisy Offering

The Noisy Offering for October, November, and December is designated for our youth attending the 2022 National Youth Gathering.

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation for the 7th and 8th graders will be held on November 3 and 17, 5:30-6:30 p.m. This is a change from the usual second and fourth Wednesdays due to Thanksgiving.


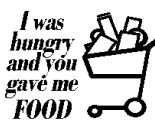

Adult Education

Text Study, Mondays,
November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 1:00 p.m.

Deborah Circle

Wednesday, November 10 1:00 p.m.
This time is for Bible Study and Fellowship.

UNITED LUTHERAN CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 9:00a LWR Quilters 1:00p Text Study	2 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	3 9:10a Staff Meeting 5:30p Confirmation	4 6:30p Boy Scouts 7:00p TOPS #485	5 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Northeast Alanon	6  <i>Pastor's personal time off: Friday 12:00 noon until Sunday at 7:30 a.m.</i>
7 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 8:45a Sermon Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion Fellowship Follows Service	8 1:00p Text Study 6:00p Congregation Council Meeting	9 10:00a Worship at Legacy Terrace 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	10 9:10a Staff Meeting 1:00p Deborah Circle	11 11:00a O.W.L.S. 6:30p Boy Scouts 7:00p TOPS #485	12 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Northeast Alanon	13 <i>Pastor's personal time off: Friday 12:00 noon until Sunday at 7:30 a.m.</i>
14 25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:45a Sermon Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion Fellowship Follows Service 10:30a Sunday School THANKOFFERING SUNDAY	15 9:00a LWR Quilters 1:00p Text Study	16 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	17 9:10a Staff Meeting 5:30p Confirmation	18 6:30p Boy Scouts 7:00p TOPS #485	19 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Northeast Alanon	20 <i>Pastor's personal time off: Friday 12:00 noon until Sunday at 7:30 a.m.</i>
21 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY 8:45a Sermon Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion Fellowship Follows Service	22 1:00p Text Study 7:00p All Ministry Meeting Night	23 9:00a Assemble December Newsletter 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	24 9:10a Staff Meeting 6:30p Holy Communion/ Food Ingathering 	25 THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED 	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 9:00a Hanging of the Greens <i>Pastor's personal time off: Friday 12:00 noon until Sunday at 7:30 a.m.</i>
28 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:45a Sermon Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion Fellowship Follows Service 10:30a Sunday School	29 1:00p Text Study	30 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous				

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Remember to move your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, November 6.



Office Hours

Office hours Monday through Friday: 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon

Watch the "Weekly Witness" for changes of upcoming events or check-out our website at:

www.unitedlutheranlincoln.com

Website contains the "Weekly Witness," Sunday worship bulletin, "Messenger," calendar, and audio of the service.
 The service is live streamed on YouTube and is located there after the service has ended.



United Lutheran Church
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Thanksgiving Eve Service
with Holy Communion
Wednesday, November 24,
6:30 p.m.

Food Ingathering

Please remember to bring non-perishables to Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 24. All food will be taken to the Lutheran Food Pantry for distribution to those in need.

