



December 2021
Volume 63 Issue 12

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

“As for the things you are admiring, the time is coming when not even one stone will be left upon another. All will be demolished.” (Luke 21:6, CEV)

Such is the declaration of Jesus Christ, a response to those admiring the grandeur and glory, the immensity, of the Temple in Jerusalem.

It is the Gospel reading for the First Sunday in Advent. Jesus Christ is preparing us for the End.

Or is he preparing us for a New Beginning?

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This past year I have thought a lot about “endings.” This past week, I have thought intensely about “endings.”

As the final seconds ticked off of my son’s high school football career, I thought about all the time invested, all the early mornings, all the travel, all the stadiums, all the pre-game talks, all the post-game reflections . . . and now the end has arrived.

“Endings” are rarely signaled with grand displays. More often they occur quietly, routinely.

As my son approaches the end of the first semester of his senior year, I think about the end of his high school education. I think of all the study, all the coursework, all of the teachers and mentors that have influenced him. In our home we have always viewed teachers and mentors as extensions of our family.

“Endings” are very much on my mind with regard to other matters; matters of life and vocation, their directions and changes.

“Endings” are a bit scary, for the future is veiled until the present. Even the most cogent plans must pass the snuff of life’s exigencies. And routines and landmarks we once enjoyed, which once sustained normalcy and a sense of stability, get replaced for new, unanticipated ones.

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But I also know my son is being birthed into a new beginning. So we celebrate. And I know that one of the great joys of life, of vocation, is the joy of being birthed into new beginnings.

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“As for the things you are admiring, the time is coming when not even one stone will be left upon another. All will be demolished.” Those tied to such *things* only hear that the End is near.

But there are others, birthed in the Spirit, who give thanks that a New Beginning is nigh.

But come to think about, isn’t that the logic of the life of Baptism? namely, that from the death of the Old . . . the New Creation, its new possibilities, give flight?

- Neal Anthony

Wisdom from the Christian Commitment Team:

“Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.” – Mark Twain



Sylas James Berggren was baptized on November 14. Sylas is the son of Thomas Berggren and Melisa Fanders. He was born on October 15, 2009. His sponsors are Samuel and Kelly Berggren.

Callen Reed Hansen was baptized on November 21. Callen is the son of Derek and Brittany Hansen. He was born April 27, 2021. Sponsors for Callen are Tyler Coufal and Erin Murray.

Wonder Women

To all ladies: Wonder Women will meet December 2 at church at 6:00 p.m. for a meal of salads and appetizers.

Cedars Youth Services is the service project chosen by Wonder Women for this Christmas season. Please bring any of the following items to the December 2 meeting: hygiene items, notebooks, underwear, socks, sports bras, blankets. These gifts are for young adults, male and female.

Deck the Tree for "Bridges to Hope"



Women and men reentering society and the work force urgently need work or winter gloves, hats, caps, scarves, socks, underwear, belts, wallets, white t-shirts. Cash is also accepted. Indicate the offering is for "Bridges to Hope."

(John and Vicki Miller)

Deborah Circle

Wednesday, December 8 11:15 a.m.

This time is for Bible Study and Fellowship.

The December meeting will be a time to enjoy a meal at Perkins Restaurant on North 27 Street. Contact Luanne Schwartzkopf by December 5 at 402-438-7150 to verify your attendance.

Bring two dozen cookies that will be taken to the People's City Mission.

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

The next meeting for O.W.L.S. is on Thursday, December 11 at 9:00 a.m. Everyone 60+ is invited. The meal will be Valentino's pizza, salad and Christmas cookies. Cost is \$7.00.

Please sign up in the fellowship area.



Poinsettias



If you wish to provide a poinsettia for Christmas worship, fill out an envelope provided by the offering plate indicating to whom the plant is dedicated.

Poinsettias will cost \$10. Deadline for ordering will be December 19. You may pick up your plant after Christmas Day service.



boundless
CAROL JOY HOLLING CAMP 2022

Carol Joy Holling Camp 2022

Plan now to attend the Carol Joy Holling Camp during the summer of 2022. The camp schedule for 2022 is available at caroljoyholling.org.

There is an Early Bird discount of \$50 which applies to all full-week sessions at Carol Joy Holling Camp. Register before January 31, 2022, to receive the discount.

Annual Reports & Candidate Profiles

Deadline for submitting 2021 annual reports and candidate profiles is Wednesday, December 29.

United Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report November 8, 2021

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

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

On the balance sheet, our cash position remains good with Regular Checking \$196,510, Savings \$17,200, Memorial Fund \$14,988, and MIF Investment \$122,007 for a total of \$350,705.

The October Offering Income was \$16,803. Total October Operating Fund Income was \$18,561.

Note: October Income does not include October 31st offerings.

The October Operating Expense was \$28,374. Total October Expenses were \$52,399.

Note: Golf Scramble Expenses of \$12,112 were paid during October.

The Total Operating Fund Expenses through October 2021 (\$237,794) are \$48,784 less than the Total Operating Fund Income through October 2021 (\$286,578). Offerings through October 2021 (\$228,940) are \$6,449 more than October 2020 (\$222,491). Total Income through October 2021 (\$333,986) is \$15,502 more than Total Income through October 2020 (\$315,864). Total Expenses through October 2021 (\$329,596) are \$44,691 greater than October 2020 (\$284,905).

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 Saving Account Balance (10/31/2021)	\$ 17,200
October Designated Donations	<u>1,846</u> (Not Transferred)
Renovation Fund Balance (10/31/2021)	\$ 19,046

Renovation Long Term Loan	Principal	Interest to Date
Beginning Balance 9/31/2021	\$ 270,616.77	\$ 29,334.65
Payment 10/1/2021	1,226.49	917.51
Special Donation — 10/11/2021	<u>8,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Principal Balance as of 10/31/2021	\$ 261,390.28	\$ 30,252.16

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. October Capital Improvement Donations are less than half of monthly Loan Payment.

◇ Does not include \$10,938 Church Mutual Insurance Payment.

Respectfully submitted, Dean A. Jaeger, Treasurer

Comparison of Envelope Offerings - 2021 vs 2019 & 2020						
Month	2019 Donations	2019 Total	2020 Donations	2020 Total	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
31-Oct	\$18,748.31	\$236,018.93	\$16,256.00	\$221,522.64	\$16,683.00	\$217,039.01

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 December the recommendation is the film ***I Am Sam***. This is the compelling story of Sam Dawson, a mentally-challenged father raising his daughter Lucy with the help of a unique group of friends. As Lucy turns seven and begins to intellectually surpass her father, their close bond is threatened when their unconventional living arrangement comes to the attention of a social worker who wants Lucy placed in foster care.

The film is on Netflix and at the Lincoln Public Library.

In Our Prayers . . .

Glenn Sorensen John Nason Sue Ray

Our Sympathies to . . .

The family and friends of Cliff Becker as they mourn his death on October 28.

Mike and Donita Elrod and family as they mourn the death of Donita's brother, Harold Hansen, who died on November 4.

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 December 1 and 15, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Sunday School

Sunday School for all ages will be held on December 12 at 10:30 until 10:55. We will enjoy lessons, fellowship, and service for our community.

Adult Education

Text Study, Mondays,
December 6, 13, 20 at 1:00 p.m.

In Our Prayers

Please let the church office know if there has been a birth, baptism, marriage, illness, or death in your family that you would like to share. Let us know if someone is hospitalized or needs our prayers. If you give your permission, this request will be added to the list of prayers in the "Weekly Witness."

If you would like immediate prayers for the individual, the office will initiate the Prayer Chain.

SCRIP Cards May Be Purchased

If you are interested in buying SCRIP cards contact George Hill at 402-430-9554 or before service. This is a good time to order SCRIP cards for Christmas gifts.

Lutheran Food Pantry

Please bring your food items to United on Sunday or during office hours of 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon, Monday through Friday.

Items needed include:

1 pound bag of rice

Hamburger helper

Peanut Butter

Pancake mix

Canned Peas and other canned vegetables (not green beans or corn)

Personal hygiene items and monetary donations are also accepted.

Canned fruit

Dry pasta noodles

Pork and beans

Syrup

Canned chicken



Canned meals with meat (spaghettios, ravioli, stew)

Saltine crackers Instant potatoes

Juice (large cans or plastic bottles)

Ramen noodles

UNITED LUTHERAN CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:10a Staff Meeting 5:30p Confirmation 6:30p Holden Advent Service	2 6:30p Boy Scouts 7:00p TOPS #485	3 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Northeast Alanon <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-size: small;"><i>Pastor's personal time off: Friday 12:00 noon until Sunday at 7:30 a.m.</i></div>	4
5 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:45a Sermon Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion Fellowship Follows Service	6 9:00a LWR Quilters 1:00p Text Study	7 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	8 9:10a Staff Meeting 6:30p Holden Advent Service	9 6:30p Boy Scouts 7:00p TOPS #485	10 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Northeast Alanon <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-size: small;"><i>Pastor's personal time off: Friday 12:00 noon until Sunday at 7:30 a.m.</i></div>	11
12 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:45a Sermon Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion Fellowship Follows Service	13 1:00p Text Study 6:00p Congregation Council Meeting	14 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	15 9:10a Staff Meeting 5:30p Confirmation 6:30p Holden Advent Service	16 6:30p Boy Scouts 7:00p TOPS #485	17 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Northeast Alanon <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-size: small;"><i>Pastor's personal time off: Friday 12:00 noon until Sunday at 7:30 a.m.</i></div>	18
19 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:45a Sermon Text Study 9:30a Worship Service Fellowship Follows Service	20 9:00a LWR Quilters 1:00p Text Study	21 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	22 9:10a Staff Meeting 6:30p Holden Advent Service	23 6:30p Boy Scouts 7:00p TOPS #485	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:30p Candlelight Service with Holy Communion 7:00p Candlelight Service with Holy Communion 	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00a Holy Communion 
26 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 8:45a Sermon Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion Fellowship Follows Service	27	28 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	29 9:10a Staff Meeting	30 9:00a Assemble January Newsletter 6:30p Boy Scouts 7:00p TOPS #485	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Northeast Alanon <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-size: small;"><i>Pastor's personal time off: Friday 12:00 noon until Sunday at 7:30 a.m.</i></div>	

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.



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Advent

Sundays of Advent:

December 5, 12, and 19
with lighting of the
Advent Wreath during each service.

Midweek Advent Worship:

Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15, 22
6:30 p.m.—Holden Evening Prayer

Christmas Worship



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

with Holy Communion
Friday, December 24
4:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day

with Holy Communion
Saturday, December 25
10:00 a.m.