



February 2024
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The Messenger
Monthly Newsletter
of United Lutheran Church
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THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR ANTHONY . . .

Too provocative not to share. That's the first thing I thought upon receiving one of my daily devotions. In it the author, celebrating his 32nd birthday, explains an exercise he conducted in order to celebrate that birthday, the passing of time it signals.

So, the author indicated, he spent the month leading up to his birthday asking a number of 90(+)-year olds one simple question. The question was this: "If you could speak to your 32-year old self, what advice would you give?"

As he observed, the responses were incredible, ranging from "fun, playful, and witty to deeply moving." In what follows are a selection of those responses. 25 to be exact. May they be "food for thought," provocative, and . . . maybe even edifying.

Now and then, break out the fancy china and drink the good wine for no reason at all.

Dance at weddings until your feet are sore.

Tell your partner you love them every night before falling asleep.

Don't fear sadness, as it tends to sit right next to love.

Treat your body like a house you have to live in for another 70 years.

Never raise your voice, except at a ballgame.

Do one good deed every single day, but never tell anyone about it.

Find the things that make your eyes light up. Do more of those.

Always remind yourself that your track record for making it through your bad days is perfect.

If something has a minor issue, repair it right away.

The most damning lie you can tell is the lie you tell to yourself.

No one has ever argued their way to happiness.

You may occasionally disappoint others, but make sure to never disappoint yourself.

Never let a good friendship atrophy.

When you meet someone, look them in the eye, give a firm handshake, and call them by their name.

The "good old days" are always happening right now.

Whenever you hug someone, make sure they are the one to let go first.

Taking no risk is the biggest risk you can take.

It doesn't have to be perfect for it to be wonderful.

If there's something bothering you, ask yourself whether it will matter in one month. If not, let it go right now.

Stop trying to change people who don't want to be changed.

You may win the argument, but if you lose the friend, what was the point?

Stubborn pride is the downfall of many men and women.

Do one thing that challenges your mind every single day.

Allow your kids to fail. You will hate it, but it's so important. (Without failure and suffering, there is no growth.)

There are more. Perhaps for later.

Peace and Provocative thoughts to you, Pr. Anthony



Sermon Series for Wednesday Evening — 6:30 p.m.

Paul's Letter to the Galatians: A Taste

Martin Luther referred affectionately to *Paul's Letter to the Galatians* as "My Katie." In *Galatians* Luther found the "most holy Gospel of Jesus Christ" in concentrated form. Luther would Lecture on *Galatians* in 1516-17, 1519, and later in 1531. The latter two lecture series were published in 1535, still provide a fundamental framework for understanding Luther's theology to this day for scholars and non-scholars alike.

Consisting of six relatively short chapters, Paul's Letter to the Galatians also provides an excellent entry point for reading the New Testament; for beginning the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the nature of Christian Freedom.

By no means an exhaustive outline, the intent behind this year's Sermon Series is provide a taste of the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to one of its most concentrated expressions in the New Testament, or *Paul's Letter to the Galatians*. Join us.

Devotions for Lent

"Gathered Into One" is the theme for devotions for Lent in 2024. These daily devotions begin on Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday. Each devotion begins with an evocative image and a brief passage from First Corinthians. The writers then bring their diverse voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers.

You may pick up your devotion booklet beginning Sunday, February 4, in the Narthex.



Baptism

Oliver Jon Johanson, son of Joshua and Emily Johanson, received the rite of Baptism on January 28. His baptismal sponsors are Brittany and Joe Synhorst.

Correction

The amount of funds to the Charm Satree Memorial Scholarship reported in the January "Messenger" should have been \$4,214.20.

Older. Wiser. Lutheran. Seniors.

O.W.L.S. will meet Thursday, February 8 at 11:00 in the Fellowship Area. Please sign up by Sunday, February 4 on the sheet provided in the Fellowship Area.

Jimmy John's is on the menu. Cost is \$7.



Wonder Women

Wonder Women will not meet in February but will serve the Lenten meal on February 21 at 5:00 p.m. Please sign up to help with this event.

Lenten Wednesday Offerings



Offerings during Lent on Wednesday nights have been designated for ELCA Good Gifts for where the gifts are most needed. This could be for farm animals, wells, education opportunities, and many other endeavors. Please give generously.

Thanks . . .

A huge thanks from the Altar Guild team to the following group for helping with setup and tear down of the Christmas trees. It's a big job and a lot of running steps. My apologies if I forgot anyone.

Susie Larson, Sue Hamm, Diane Clarke & Jeanette Heikes, Jonah & Amber Maas, Monica, Eli and Tillie Ash, Michael Schmidt, Michael Massa, Anders Sestak, Jason Schmeeckle, Marie Sandell, and Jake Green.

Thanks, Tonia Green

Thank you, United, for the clothes, hats, socks, toiletries, gloves and men and women clothing. Your donations are much appreciated.

Rhonda Mattingly, Bridges to Hope

Thank you, United OWLS (Older. Wiser. Lutheran. Seniors.), for your kindness and generosity of adopting all our residents this Christmas Season!!

Havelock Manor



Photo posted on Facebook

Thank you, United, for support the ministries of Women of the ELCA with your gift of \$595.67 from the ThankOffering. Your faithful generosity makes a real difference. Thank you!

**Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director
Women of the ELCA**

SCRIP Cards

SCRIP cards are available before and after service. Any questions contact George Hill at 402-430-9554.

United's Little Pantry and the Lutheran Food Pantry

Please remember non-perishable food items are needed for United's Little Pantry and the Lutheran Food Pantry. You may also support these by donating cash using our pew envelopes. Just write in where you want the money to be used.

In Our Prayers . . .

Jim Hauptmeier
Grace Boberg
John Nason

Don Green
Jeff Peterson
Nancy Lind-Olson

Our Sympathies to the following on the death of their loved ones. .

Family and friends of Darlene Willmann whose baptism came to fulfillment on January 21.

Education

SMILEY:

February 4, 10:45 a.m.
February 11, 10:45 a.m.
February 18, 10:45 a.m.
February 25, 10:45 a.m.

7th & 8th Grade Confirmation:

February 14, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
February 28, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Text Study with Pastor Anthony:

Sundays at 8:45 a.m.
Mondays 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.

Missed a Worship Service?

If you miss coming to church for worship, you can listen to the service over the Internet.

Go to www.unitedlutheranlincoln.com to "Church" and select "YouTube Recording" to view the service.

The audio of the service at "Listen Hear" on the homepage of the website.

You will also find the "Weekly Witness" and church bulletins on the website under "Communications".

United Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report-Revised

January 8, 2024

Submitted herewith is the Balance Sheet and Summary Treasurer's Report December 2023.

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

Cash Accounts:

	<u>12/31/2023</u>	<u>12/31/2022</u>
Regular Checking:	\$126,281	\$137,992
Memorial Fund Checking:	\$ 22,167	\$ 12,084
Saving Account:	\$ 5,247	\$ 8,504
MIF Investment:	<u>\$ 130,691</u>	<u>\$126,761</u>
Total Cash Balance:	\$ 284,386	\$285,342

December Offering Income:	\$30,580		
December Operating Fund Income:	\$32,539	December Operating Expense:	\$72,583*
Total December Income:	\$44,747	Total December Expenses:	\$85,760*

The total Operating Fund Expenses through December 2023 (\$400,755)* is \$13,522 more than the Total Operating Fund Income through December 2023 (\$387,233)*.

Total Expenses through December 2023 (\$463,459)* is \$ 741 less than Total Income through December 2023 (\$464,200)*. Total Expenses through December 2023 (\$463,459)* is \$34,169 more than December 2022 (\$429,290).

*Note: The 2023 Income and Expense numbers include Water Damage Insurance Payments and Expenses.

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 Savings Account Fund Balance (12/31/2023)	\$ 5,247
December Designated Donations	<u>\$ 950</u> (Not Transferred)
Renovation Cash Balance (12/31/2023)	\$ 6,197

Renovation Long Term Loan	Principal	Interest
Beginning Balance 11/30/2023	\$ 139,020.61	\$ 47,925.01
Payment 12/1/2023	465.47	\$ 728.43
Golf Scramble Proceeds — 12/6/23	4,214.20	
Add'l Payment (Nov/Dec)—12/6/23	<u>2,000.00</u>	
Principal Balance as of 12/31/2023	\$ 132,340.94	\$ 48,653.44

Monthly Loan Payments are made via Electronic Fund Transfer from Regular Checking on the 1st of the month. Effective October 1, 2023 the interest rate increased from 4.125% to 6.375%. Based upon the loan principal October 1st the revised monthly payment amount beginning November 1st is \$1,193.90 . An additional \$1,000.00 is being applied to the monthly payment thereby maintaining the payment similar to that prior to the interest rate increase.

Comparison of Offerings through 12/31/2023



General Fund Offerings 2023	\$252,038
General Fund Offerings 2022	\$252,405

Capital Facilities Offerings

Total Capital Facilities Offerings 2023	\$33,330
Total Capital Facilities Offerings 2022	\$34,217

Respectfully submitted, Dean A. Jaeger, Treasurer

UNITED LUTHERAN CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 6:30p Boy Scouts	2 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Al-Anon	3
4 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 8:45a Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion Fellowship Follows Service 10:45a Altar Guild Meeting 10:45a SMILEY 5:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	5 9:00a LWR Quilters 1:00p Text Study	6 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	7 9:10a Staff Meeting 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	8 11:00 O.W.L.S. 6:30p Boy Scouts	9 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Al-Anon	10
11 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 8:45a Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion Fellowship Follows Service 10:45a SMILEY 5:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 	12 1:00p Text Study 6:00p Congregation Council Meeting	13 10:00a Worship at Legacy Terrace 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:10a Staff Meeting 5:00p Meal served by Youth & Family 5:30p Confirmation 6:30p Service of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 	15 6:30p Boy Scouts	16 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Al-Anon	17
18 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 8:45a Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion Fellowship Follows Service 10:45a SMILEY 5:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	19 9:00a LWR Quilters 1:00p Text Study	20 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	21 9:10a Staff Meeting 1:00p Deborah Circle 5:00p Lenten Meal served by Wonder Women 6:30p Holden Prayer Service 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	22 9:00a Assemble March Newsletter 6:30p Boy Scouts	23 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Al-Anon	24
25 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT 8:45a Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion Fellowship Follows Service 10:45a SMILEY 5:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	26 1:00p Text Study 7:00p All Ministry Meeting Night	27 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	28 9:10a Staff Meeting 5:00p Lenten Meal served by Outreach Ministry 5:30p Confirmation 6:30p Holden Prayer Service 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	29		

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 recorded service is also on YouTube.



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Lenten Midweek Worship: Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Lenten Evening Meal: 5:00-6:15 p.m.
Free-will offering

February 14 Word and Sacrament; Receiving of Ashes

Meal served by United Youth. Meal will be Sloppy Joe's, dessert.
Proceeds are designated for Youth Events.

February 21 Holden Evening Prayer Service

Lenten meal served by Wonder Women. Meal will be a Ham & Potato Casserole, roll, dessert.
Proceeds are designated for White Cane. Sponsored by Thrivent.

February 28 Holden Evening Prayer Service

Lenten meal served by the Outreach Ministry. Meal will be a potato bar.
Proceeds are designated for the Lutheran Food Pantry. Sponsored by Thrivent.

March 6 Holden Evening Prayer Service

Lenten meal served by the Altar Guild. Meal will be pulled pork sandwiches with extras.
Proceeds are "To Be Determined."

March 13 Holden Evening Prayer Service

Lenten meal served by the Worship Ministry. Meal will be pizza, salad, and dessert bars.
Proceeds are "To Be Determined."

March 20 Holden Evening Prayer Service

Lenten meal served by the Christian Commitment Ministry.
Meal and proceeds are "To Be Determined."

March 31 Easter Sunday Breakfast

Rolls, bread, fruit, coffee, juice will be served by the Sunday School Staff & Students.
Proceeds are designated to ELCA Good Gifts.