UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 2026
Volume 68 Issue 11

The Messenger
Monthly Newsletter
of United Lutheran Church
Telephone: 402-466-2277
Email: office@unitedlutheranlincoln.com

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR ANTHONY . . .

"*The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors . . . This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law with them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest*. . ." (Jer 31:31ff)

My sense is this: when we look back over our lives and think about our deepest relationships, we soon discover that they were (are) the type of relationships in which we were (are) able to "finish one another's sentences." They were (are) the relationships in which we knew what the other person was feeling and thinking before they ever spoke. We knew (know) their needs and desires before they were ever uttered.

Regarding such relationships, we might say, it's not so much that we "know" them. But that we "know with them."

This is what compounds the pain created by the deaths of those closest to us: we knew them so well that we often didn't know where we ended and they began.

Ponder for a moment those closest to you whose feelings, thoughts, desires you were able to discern before words were ever spoken. ++++ With that said . . .

Something similar is communicated by the prophet Jeremiah, above. It is a passage which is read on Reformation Sunday each year. And the reality being promised is extraordinary. And intimate. With God. Again:

"*This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law with them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest*. . ."

Let those words sink in. Don't simply skim over them as if you already know what they are communicating.

These words promise a time in which God is known – by you, me – in such a manner that God's desire stirs within us, animating us. These words promise a time in which "knowing the Lord' need no longer be taught, for we are so intimate with God that God's desire comes naturally. These words promise a time in which we do not simply "know" God, but "know with God."

We won't simply "know" God's love. We will live God's love. We won't simply "know" God's mercy. We will live God's mercy. We won't simply "know" God's will. We will live God's will. We won't know where we end and God begins.

The prophet points to a relationship with Christ so intimate that the words "Thy will be done" are no longer an uncomfortable demand which we attempt to make compromises with, but simply a description of the freedom to love as Christ has loved us.

These words of the prophet, in the end, are pointing to the promise of "faith."

What is "faith"?

Paul's is the best description: "It is no longer [we] who live, but Christ who lives in [us]." (Gal 2)

"Faith" is a description of a love for God so deep, so intimate, so fundamental to our identity, that God's love animates us.

"Faith" is a description of what happens when Christ animates us, acts through us; when we are in bondage to Christ's love and mercy and cannot free ourselves.

Though Reformation Sunday is behind us, "faith" means that Christ is God who animates us.

Peace, Pastor Anthony

Older.Wiser.Lutheran.Seniors.

O.W.L.S. will meet Thursday, November 12 at 11:00 a.m. in the fellowship area. Please sign up by Sunday, November 8. Also sign up to bring pot luck for the Thanksgiving meal. You don't have to bring an item to participate in the meal. Christmas gifts for Havelock Manor are due by December 6. Please check off your name on the list provided in Cheryl & Denice's office when you bring in your gifts. Gifts need to be wrapped or in a gift bag.

Deborah Circle

Deborah Circle will meet for Bible study and fellowship Wednesday, November 18 at 1:00 p.m.

Wonder Women

Wonder Women will hold their Christmas Celebration at United on Thursday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m. A meal will be served and we will play games. Prizes will be donated to the Lutheran Food Pantry. You can bring food or personal care items (shampoo, soap, toothpaste etc..). Any questions can be directed to Sheryel or Luanne.

SCRIP Cards May Be Purchased

SCRIP cards are sold before and after worship. You can also contact George Hill at 402-430-9554 to make a purchase.

Congratulations To . . .

Three times a year, teachers are asked to choose a Lincoln Sunrise Optimist Student of the Week and Maddie Kot was chosen for this award. Her teacher stated that Maddie leads by example, demonstrating exceptional dedication and composure in her role. She consistently delivers high quality work while fostering a supportive, respectful team environment. Maddie is a born leader. She is willing to help others and is always on task and ready to learn. Maddie helps her peers make good decisions as a leader. She is someone they listen to and look up to!

Congratulations, Maddie!

Polling Place

United will be a Polling Place for the 2026 Statewide General Election on November 3 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Narthex will be used for this event.

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 service on ***All Saints Sunday***, November 1. Those remembered:

Nancy A. Lind-Olson, November 21, 2025
Rebecca B. Rippe, December 13, 2025
Scott C. Behnken, December 22, 2025
Kenneth L. Koerner, January 9, 2026
Lloyd J. Thomsen, January 23, 2026
Byron E. Low, February 3, 2026
Victoria L. Miller, April 28, 2026
Donita L. Elrod, May 26, 2026
Barry L. Daffer, June 13, 2026
Gerald Van Amerongen, July 9, 2026
Diane L. Chrastil, August 15, 2026
Donna M. Gerken, September 12, 2026

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

Fall Events

We were happy to welcome the community to the Neighborhood Social and Trunk N Treat held in October!

Education

Text Study with Pastor Anthony:

Sundays at 8:45 a.m.

Mondays at 1:00 p.m.

SMILEY:

Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

Confirmation:

November 4 and 18, 5:30-6:25 p.m.

November 15 Forum

On Sunday, November 15, Dwight Thiemann from the Barnabas Community will be doing a forum following the worship service. Barnabas Community serves people in the North Bottoms and Belmont area with a free store, several meals each week and other services. He will be sharing with us the history of the Barnabas community and the work they do and how we might get involved.

Women of the ELCA

November is Thankoffering time for the Women of the ELCA. The Thankoffering service will be held on November 8. Give with gratitude for all your many blessings. Envelopes will be available in the "*Weekly Witness*" November 1. If you use a check, please make it payable to WELCA.

Fifth Sunday Offering

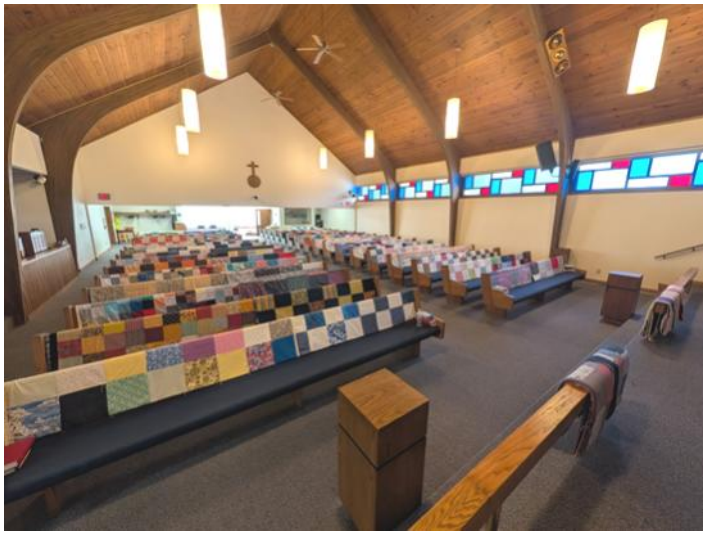
Sunday, November 29 is a Fifth Sunday. A special offering will be gathered for City Mission.

In Our Prayers . . .

Kay Henriksen
Sylva Finke
Enny Marrs
Jim Hauptmeier
Barb Westlake
Shirley Thomsen
Ron Asch
John Nason

United Quilters

The United Quilters displayed their work for Lutheran World Relief, Pine Ridge, and People's City Mission on October 25 and November 1. A total of 36 quilts, 20 knitted baby blankets, along with 20 baby and child size quilts and 18 blankets donated by Common Threads at Messiah Lutheran went to Pine Ridge, 53 quilts went to LWR, and 20 quilts were taken to the People's City Mission. There were also 5 quilts for graduates and 2 quilts donated to the Carol Joy Holling Camp Auction.



Advent Wednesday Services

The Holden Prayer service will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays December 2, 9, and 16.

Hanging of the Greens

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

Humble and Holy: Devotions for Advent & Christmas 2025-2026

Drawing on centuries of Christian tradition, *Comfort and Joy* draws attention to God's surprising presence and action as we prepare for Jesus' birth during Advent, rejoice at his arrival throughout the twelve days of Christmas and the day of Epiphany, and anticipate his future return. These devotions explore the first readings and gospel texts in the Revised Common Lectionary for the Sundays of Advent and Christmas in year B, as well as for the festival days of Christmas and Epiphany. Booklets may be picked up in the Narthex beginning November 22.

United Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report
Monday October 12, 2026

Submitted herewith is the Balance Sheet and Summary Treasure's Report for September 2026. In review of the September financial reports for United Lutheran Church, note the following items.

Cash Accounts:	09/30/26	09/30/25
Regular Checking:	$ 25,409.	$ 52,383
Memorial Fund Checking:	$ 51,021	$ 42,583
Saving Account	$ 31,814	$ 18,112
MIF Investment Endowment	$132,481	$137,879
Total Cash Balance	$243,725	$250,957

	Income	Expense	Difference
September Offering Income	$16,131		
September Operating Fund	$17,567	$26,699	$ -9,132
September Total Income/Expense	$19,347	$28,307	$ -9,060

The purpose of the Saving Account has been designated for Emergency Repairs to be accumulated to a maximum of $100,000. The purpose of the Account is to offset the Insurance Deductible amount which is 2% of the value of the Church for Wind and Hail Damage. The Account is to be funded from Script Profits plus transferring $1,000 per month from the Checking Account.

Emergency Repair Fund as of 8/31/26	$29,254
Regular Checking Transfer - August	$ 1,000
Regular Checking Transfer – September	$ 1,000
Script Donation	$ 500
3rd Quarter Interest Earned	$ 60
Emergency Repair Fund as of 8/31/26	$31,814

Comparison of Offerings vs Operating Expense 2026 vs 2025 through September

	General Fund Offerings	Operating Expense
2026	$213,339	$252,183
2025	$203,469	$245,745
Difference	$ 9,880	$ 6,438

Capital Facilities Offerings

Total Capital Facilities Offerings 2025	$21,636
Total Capital Facilities Offerings 2026	$72,049

Respectfully submitted:
Dean A. Jaeger

United Lutheran Calendar of Events
November 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 8:45a Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion 10:45a Fellowship 10:45a SMILEY 	**2** 9:00a LWR Quilters 1:00p Text Study	**3** 8:00a Polling Place 6:00p Girl Scouts	**4** 9:15a Staff Meeting 5:30p Confirmation 6:30p First Wednesday Service 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	**5** 6:30p Boy Scouts	**6** 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Al-Anon	**7** 9:00a – 12:00p Grounds cleanup
8 24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST **THANKOFFERING SUNDAY** 8:45a Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion 10:45a Choir concert & fellowship 10:45a SMILEY	**9** 1:00p Text Study 6:00p Congregation Council Meeting	**10** 10:00a Worship at Legacy Terrace 6:00p Girl Scouts	**11 VETERANS DAY** 9:15a Staff Meeting 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	**12** 11:00a O.W.L.S. 6:30p Boy Scouts	**13** 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Al-Anon	**14**
15 25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:45a Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion 10:45a Barnabus Community Forum 10:45a Fellowship 10:45a SMILEY	**16** 9:00a LWR Quilters 1:00p Text Study	**17** 6:00p Girl Scouts	**18** 9:15a Staff Meeting 1:00p Deborah Circle 5:30p Confirmation 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	**29** 6:30p Boy Scouts	**20** 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Al-Anon	**21**
22 CHRIST THE KING 8:45a Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion 10:45a Fellowship 10:45a SMILEY	**23** 1:00p Text Study 7:00p All Ministry Meeting Night	**24** 6:00p Girl Scouts	**25 THANKSGIVING EVE** 9:15a Staff Meeting 6:30p Holy Communion 	**26 OFFICE CLOSED** 	**27** **OFFICE CLOSED** 9:00a Hanging of the Greens 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Al-Anon	**28**
29 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:45a Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion 10:45a Fellowship 10:45a SMILEY 	**30**					

Set Your Clocks Back One Hour

Remember to "Fall Back" on November 1.

Office Hours

Office hours Monday through Friday: 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Office closed Thursday, November 26 (Thanksgiving Day) and Friday, November 27.

Watch the "Weekly Witness" for changes of upcoming events or check-out our website at: **www.unitedlutheranlincoln.com**
Our website contains the "Weekly Witness," Sunday worship bulletin, the "Messenger," and the calendar. The service can also be found on YouTube.

United Lutheran Church
5945 Fremont Street
Lincoln Nebraska 68507-1623

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Thanksgiving Eve Service with Holy Communion

Wednesday, November 25

6:30 p.m.

Food Ingathering

Please remember to bring non-perishables to Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 25. All food will be taken to the Lutheran Food Pantry for distribution to those in need.