

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 2023 Newsletter

Pastor's Pen

As we prepare for the celebration of Easter, I thought that it might be a good idea to take a look a little closer at the meaning and significances of when it was started and some of the history of Easter.

Easter, Is Major festival of the Christian church year, celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus on the third day after his Crucifixion. It is a joyful festival and a time of redemption, Easter brings an end to the period of time and preparation that constitutes Lent. The word Easter is sometimes said to have been derived from Eostre, a Germanic goddess of spring, but other origins of the term more closely associated with Christian traditions have been proposed. Easter has acquired a number of religious and popular customs. The Easter worship service is one of the high points of the Christian faith. The colouring of eggs and tales of a rabbit who decorates and hides eggs are among the folk customs associated with the holiday and are enjoyed by Christians and also by some non-Christians in many places. The colorful Easter eggs you decorate with your family are actually symbols of new life and rebirth. Ancient Christian communities in Mesopotamia would stain eggs red to represent the blood of Christ, which was shed at the crucifixion. The eggs also signify the empty tomb of Jesus. Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the last day of the Holy Week, consisting of several days — each with their own significance. These include:

Palm Sunday: commemorating when Jesus entered Jerusalem

Holy Thursday: commemorating the Last Supper and washing of feet

Good Friday: commemorating Jesus' crucifixion and death

Easter Sunday: commemorating the resurrection of Jesus

As we prepare to head into Holy Week let us not forget what or Lord Jesus Christ went through for us. His death was to take away all our sins, so that we may live. He did this as a human like us.

Then to prove his greatness he arose from the grave to prove that he was of the father.

So as the snow melts away (hopefully) and spring is coming just around the corner. We think of the spring activities that we enjoy doing. Let us remember that just as spring comes out of the winter months, Jesus came out of the tomb after his death to show us that he is Gods son. So, don't forget what the true meaning of what Easter means to all of us Christians.

Sources use in writing this article:

www.britannica.com

www.chaseoaks.org

usatoday.com

Kirk Manchester

Maundy Thursday service
is at 7 pm, April 6th in the
Sanctuary.

APRIL HYMNS ON THE CHIMES



April 5th 5:00 P.M. "Jesus Loves Me" in honor of their children from Gordon & Pam Hoyt

April 7th 6:00 P.M. "On Eagle's Wings" in memory of Alvera Reincke from her family

April 14th 6:15 P.M. "How Great Thou Art" in memory of Amy Meyer from her family

April 14th 6:15 P.M. "His Eye is on the Sparrow" in memory of Amy Meyer from her family

April 15th 5:00 P.M. "In the Garden" in memory of Jennifer Claire Jess and Jacqueline Jess Powell from Harwin & Dorothy Jess

April 21st 10:15 A.M. "In the Garden" in memory of Lena Dorothea Carstensen from UCC

April 21st 5:00 P.M. "He Leadeth Me" in memory of Lena, Johann, Hans Carstensen and Anna Harder from UCC

April 28th 10:15 A.M. "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" in memory of Jens Carstensen from UCC

April 29th 5:30 P.M. "On Eagle's Wings" in memory of Cole Schneider from the UCC Choir



- April 3 - Jim Steuk
Kyleigh Schultz
- April 5 - Alexis Moore
- April 6 - Marla Teut
- April 7 - Craig Johannsen
- April 8 - Roslyn Velasquez
- April 9 - John Dorfler
- April 10 - Jayton Bral
- April 11 - Nick Bahnsen
Trey Kline
Anthony Larson
- April 13- Janice Ferry
Neil Kragel
- April 14 - Brian Wellendorf
Kailee Jorgensen
Kelsey Jorgensen
- April 18 - Sandra Bumann
- April 22 - Jacob Boelter
Ryan Bumann
Joan Cassens
- April 23 - Hayden Gronau
- April 24 - Huntur Johannsen
- April 25 - Kim Kragel
- April 26 - Caleb Denker
- April 28 - Tracy Kastner
- April 29 - Kristine Kastner
Lydia Wiebers
- April 30 - Julie Christie

**Senior Recognition is Sunday,
May 7th. Please plan to attend
the worship service to congratulate
our graduates, Jaxon Paulsen
and Colton Johannsen, on their
accomplishments.**



CHRISTIAN SERVICE FUND SCHOLARSHIP FORMS are available to college students and high school seniors. If you need an application form, you can download an application from our website www.uccschleswig.org or you can pick one up in the office.

All applications are due back in the church office by **APRIL 3rd**.

Easter Lily Fund

The church office will be ordering Easter Lilies or Tulips for \$15 each. Donations may be made in honor or memory of a loved one or you may purchase a plant. Forms are available on the table in the Narthex. Donations must be in the church office by April 3rd. As in previous years, a special insert will be in the Easter Bulletin. If you purchase a plant, you are welcome to pick it up after the service on Easter Sunday.



Easter Breakfast will follow the 8 am Easter service. Donations of egg bakes, rolls/muffins, orange juice, and milk are still needed. Sign up in the Narthex or call the office.



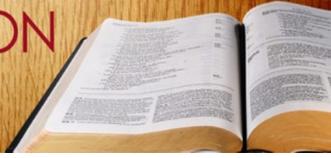
Evening Guild

Evening Guild members-Sheila, Janet, Zola, Lorene, Phyllis C, Phyllis S, and Linda met at 10:00 a.m. on February 21st - a short meeting was held and the gals all agreed to continue as we have in the past- mostly text and phone calls. February 28th- several of the group got together to create Joy Boxes. Thank you to Candice for her help setting up a new area for our display.

In the past nearly 50 years as a group we have sponsored many activities to generate our income - chicken dinner fundraiser for comfy chairs and round tables in fellowship hall. We purchased and paid for the first dishwasher, served Lenten meals, sponsored Avenue of Trees (20 years this Christmas), paid for carpet in chapel and staircase. Sponsored Easter breakfast (with the help of Al, Randy, Neil, and Gary) donated many years to Schleswig Elementary School, created quiet bags for children to use at worship, donated countless times to the church budget, purchased kitchen items and small appliances, supported financially families in need, delivered cookies to shut-ins, Soup to Go, postage for Operation Christmas Child, lamination for Christian Ed. No - we don't always meet but we sure do exist!! We try to do good things for our church and community - we try to uplift those we come in contact with- quietly, faithfully following the example of our great creator. We thank all the volunteers who have helped us along the way. We'd sure love to grow as a group if you'd like to help us out, please just call one of us.

Respectfully,
Linda Reimer

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Each Sunday morning, we read from our Children's Bible. Sometimes June and Ella will volunteer to read the story to Lacey and Jules. I love seeing them be role models to the younger ones.

Last month, our activities ranged from painting to playdough to cooking. When we learned about Jesus healing the blind man, the kids were instructed to take their playdough and split it into two pieces and place them over their eyes, when I said "Jesus spit in the dirt and put mud on the blind man's eyes" Some kids were 100% sure about this.

During our lesson on Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, we made "Lazarus dogs" to help us remember how Lazarus had died and that Jesus prayed to God and brought Lazarus back to life. This was to prove to the people that God sent Jesus to us, ultimately to die on the cross and save us from our sins.



Each week, we have discussed Easter and the real reason we celebrate it. The girls used playdough to retell the Easter story by making a tomb and Jesus on the cross.

As the CE director, I feel it is very important to use objects to help our children make a connection and remember our Bible stories.

WE DID IT! We surpassed our goal of \$1060 for Heifer International. We collected a total of \$1218.31. Thank you to everyone who supported our project. On March 19th, we celebrated with cupcakes. Thank you Candice and kids for making the sweet treats. The money we sent to Heifer International was matched by Heifer's donors to help **three times** as many families!!! Great job everyone!

Pilgrim Heights Summer Camp 2023

There are 2 camps available this summer:

Session 1 is for ages 6-11 years old and is July 16th-July 20th.

Session 2 is for ages 12-18 years old and is July 23rd-July 27th.

The cost is \$450 per child. There is money available through CSFD to pay part of the cost of camp, if any kids would like to attend this summer.

Please contact the office, if your children are interested.

VBS 2023

We are in need of volunteers for Vacation Bible School, which will be held Sunday, June 25th-Wednesday, June 28th from 5:30 pm-8:00 pm.

You can sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or call Candice in the office.





We have often mentioned the arms of stewardship, treasures, time, and talents. This month we will focus on

treasures. As council has often told you, our gift of treasures only meets about half the needs for our general budget. We are eternally grateful for the Carstensen Brothers gift of cash that earns dividends on a regular schedule that meets that shortfall.

Our message this month is ways you can help grow our general budget giving. We understand many of our member's personal budgets are very tight in these times of inflation. Some are very comfortable and we would hope you could be more generous to our church.

We will share some ideas for those with the tight budgets by using your time and talents to help the cause. Let us look at methods to reduce the costs of running our church.

Be aware of practices to reduce energy costs. Your REC or utility company offers suggestions in their newsletters – turn off unneeded lights, adjust thermostats in small increments, LED bulbs, etc. Perhaps we could lower our thermostat a degree or two in the winter and raise it some in the summer. We already use remote control to move thermostats from maintenance settings to occupied setting. If a degree or two change makes you uncomfortable, dress in layers. If the fans cause a draft where you sit, explore other locations in the sanctuary to avoid the draft. We already use almost all LED bulbs.

Perhaps you could choose to do some of the larger cleaning tasks. This is a big building and routine cleaning takes a large amount of time each week. If you or a committee would take care of cleaning refrigerators or freezer, wash windows, or some other job. Consult

with Jolene on what would help.

Help make our newsletter interesting and vibrant. Periodically write and type an article to update the congregation on what your committee is doing or planning. Type your own committee minutes and email to Candice. Write news about your family or committee plans and send to Candice for the Sunday bulletin. Meet deadlines for submission.

Reduce our postage costs. Get your newsletter by email and print at home. Check your mailbox regularly so that can be a viable means of communication.

Some other ideas – learn to run the technology on a regular basis. Volunteer to coordinate an event or project. Direct memorials to specific projects. Spray the weeds in the sidewalk cracks.

Our members already do much to help. Take one more step to assist. If all do something, we can make an impact.



Amelia Kay Neubauer received the Sacrament of Baptism during our worship service on March 19th. We pray for Amelia, her parents, Seth and Taylor, her sponsor's, Alyssa & Shelby, as they help Amelia grow her faith in God. Grandparents are Kenny and Mae Blum and Kevin and Tammy Neubauer. Great grandparents are Roger and Joan Androy and Sandy Lacey.



Church Council Minutes February 16, 2023

Call to Order: President Sandy Lacey called the February Council meeting to order. Pastor Kirk opened with a prayer.

Attendance: Present were Sandy, Jeff, Leisha, Pastor Kirk, Leisha, Judy, Cheri by phone, and Seth. Absent was John.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report: A motion to approve the Financial Report was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Bills to be Paid: A motion to approve that the bills be paid was made and seconded with changes for Lasagna Pans which come from the kitchen fund and the Flowers which come from the courtesy fund. Motion carried. Property taxes will be paid in early March.

Committee Reports:

CE: Heifer International is doing well and the committee looked at VBS materials.

***CSFD:** Nothing to Report

CSFI: CDs are coming due.

Property: Checked and bought a new washing machine. Set up tables for the funeral. They need to epoxy the outdoor rug that was hit by the snowplow. Also, they attached internet to the top of the church. They want to repair the parking lot.

***Spiritual Life:** Signed up for a Lenten Meal.

***Missions & Outreach:** Figured out who would serve length of terms (Three-, Two-, and One-year terms.) They will meet soon and come up with ideas of what they will be doing in the future.

Stewardship: Article about stewardship opportunities in March is in the newsletter.

Pastor's Report: Kirk is going to Mike's fundraiser and giving the opening prayer. There have been lots of funerals. He will visit nursing homes tomorrow. Kirk met with the Denison Pastors Association and discussed Neighbors Helping Neighbors. He also is setting up meetings for committees and getting a new membership Sunday planned. Next month, Wendy will have been playing here for 40 years. Something special is being planned.

* **Committees that will receive a \$1,000 start up fund to get them going with projects. Motion made and seconded. Motion carried.**

Old Business:

Streaming and Technology Update: They are getting the Sunday services on the website.

John Wulf money: We have \$14,415.59 to give to the betterment and assistance of the Schleswig community. The Council needs to come up with ideas for giving this money.

Confirmation Update: Brayton is working toward his confirmation. There are five weeks left until confirmation.

Council's Lenten Meal: We will make the Ash Wednesday meal. Leisha will do the shopping for supplies.

(Council Minutes continued)

New Business:

Easter Plans: We tabled this part of the meeting.

Spring Grants Approaching: There are no grant requests in currently. There should be grant applications by March 1st.

Giving Statement Ideas: Put in the newsletter that their giving statements will be made available upon request from the office.

Rearrange Narthex: Candice would like to rearrange the Narthex to avoid congestion by the sign-up sheets. It was decided that Candice can try this, and we will see if it works.

Council Reorganization and Sunday Duties: We need to elect officers. Motion made and seconded that officers stay the same. The motion carried. Sandy is President, Cheri is Vice President, and Jeff will continue as Secretary. Leisha will be the CE representative in place of Patti. Other representation will remain the same.

Linda Reimer and Lorraine Reimer: The funeral planning group had a meeting to reorganize. They have lost a member or two. They also discussed funding for the group and supplies. If they ever needed something the funds were always available. They now must go through the Kitchen Fund. They want their funds to go into a fund for the Evening Guild instead of the Kitchen Fund. They don't want to change the bookkeeping system that they have had in the past. They want their own account to use without any outside strings attached. Ben Hanson from Gross and Company needs to talk to this committee to see how to make this work. The motion was tabled.

Leisha expressed her frustration with getting kids to run the screens and computers during church service.

A motion was made and seconded to allow Leisha Kragel to sign checks for the church. The motion carried.

Next Meeting: March 16, 2023, at 7:00 pm

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned after the saying of The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Boelter

Schleswig's 125th Anniversary

There is a committee that is trying to make a book to commemorate Schleswig's 125th Anniversary in September 2024. They would like to include all businesses that are active at present. They would also like information on those that have come and gone. They would like you to submit pictures and information about your business. Please have your information in by April 1st, 2023.

Any questions, call Beverly Peters 712-269-1225.

Scan pictures and stories to garybev@gmail.com

Or mail to: Schleswig 125th Celebration

% Beverly Peters

PO Box 366

Schleswig, IA 51461

APRIL GREETERS

April 2- Julie Christie & Judy Strandburg
April 9 (Easter)- Murlin Johannsen & Leisha Kragel
April 16- Kelli Rupert & Janet Lafrentz
April 23- Jeff & Jenny Boelter
April 30- Verdell & Marilyn Kastner

APRIL ACOLYTES

April 2- Brayton Johannsen & Cale Paulsen
April 9 (Easter)- Huntur Johannsen
& Gracie Outhouse
April 16- Colton Johannsen & Jaxon Paulsen
April 23- Jayton Bral & Jersey Bral
April 30- Hayden Fineran & Haxton Fineran

APRIL TECHNOLOGY

April 2- Hayden Fineran & Haxton Fineran
April 9 (Easter)- Ryder Luth & Cale Paulsen
April 16- Huntur Johannsen & Jett Paulsen
April 23- Brayton Johannsen & Taryn Johannsen
April 30- Sophie Luth & Gracie Outhouse

February Numbers in the Book

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Contributions:</u>
Feb. 5	63	\$834.27
Feb.12	50	\$499.75
Feb 19	48	\$1015.01
Feb. 26	49	\$146.30
Total	210	\$2495.33
Average	52	\$623.83

February Financials



Income:

Weekly Envelopes	\$2538.00
Loose Offering	\$93.33
Seasonal Offering	\$9.00
Misc. Offering	\$0.00
Misc. Income	\$48.41
Interest Income- General Fund	\$16.12

Total Income: \$2704.86

Expenses:

Association Dues	\$0.00
Insurance & Taxes	\$406.90
Janitor Supplies	\$9.63
Misc. Expenses	\$0.00
Music	\$200.00
Office Expense	\$620.48
Pastor Expense	\$4950.34
Repairs and Maintenance	\$412.24
Supplies	\$442.78
Support Staff Salaries	\$3590.00
Utilities	\$2417.56
<u>Total Expense:</u>	\$13049.93
<u>Net Ordinary Income:</u>	-\$10345.07