

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 2024 Newsletter

As we stop for a second to catch our breath from a very busy March. The Easter (lent) season is over, or is it? We have just celebrated the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. We enjoyed the time that we have spent with our family, watching the kids/grandkids finding Easter eggs over and over again. Eating a dinner with family/friends.

The last couple of weeks of March we had to prepare for hopefully and prayerfully the last chance (s) of snow and the cold temperatures. Staying inside during this time provides us a great time to read, "Our Daily Bread" and the Scripture that go along with it. Praying and spending time listening to God and what he wants us to do.

I would like to draw your attention to March 21st thru March 31st articles. They tell us about how helping others and showing our love to one another as God has shown to us. Like the man who gave rides in a trishaw (three wheeled bike) to the elderly, to see friends, get an ice cream cone, or just a ride around town so that they could get outside and feel the fresh air blowing in their hair. Or how about the restaurant owner in Wisconsin bought gift cards from other restaurants and gave them to his customers to help the other businesses in his town stay open during COVID. These are just a couple of examples of how Christians love one another by doing what they could do to show love towards others. As the scriptures say in 1John 3:18, "Let us not love with just words or speech, but with actions and in truth."

God showed us his extravagant love by giving us Jesus, who then showed us the ultimate sacrifice by dying on the cross, so that we could have eternal life. How could we ever show that kind of love for others. We have all said at one time or another that we would die so that someone else could live. Whether it was our partner, our children, grandchildren, or a friend.

The story on March 25th is a story of how family, friends, co-worker, and the community came together to help a couple who had two sets of identical twins just 13 months apart. In Matthew 25: 31-46, Jesus tells a parable to make the point that when we serve others, we serve God. After listing acts of service, including providing food for the hungry, drinks for the thirsty, lodging for the homeless, clothes for the naked, and healing for the sick. Jesus concludes, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brother and sister of mine, you did for Me." Imagining Jesus as the ultimate recipient of our kindness is true motivation to serve in our communities, families, churches, and the world. When he prompts us to sacrificially invest in the needs of others, we serve Him. When we love others, we love God.

So, as I mentioned earlier is it over, I don't believe that it is ever over. God has asked us to help others (no matter who they are). We are to help others with food, shelter, and clothing. So, how can WE individually or as a church help those who are in need in our community or the world.

That is the question that I ask you today as we head into the spring and summer. How do WE give back to others, how do we show love to others, even though the season of Lent is over. Or is It?

So, I leave you with this prayer:

Loving God, open my (our) eyes to the needs of others around me, so I can help meet others needs and love you better. AMEN.

May God's blessing be with you this month.

Pastor Kirk Manchester

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
Kimberlynn Beeler
- 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 5th. Please plan to attend
the worship service to congratulate
our graduate, Gracie Out-
house on her ac-
complishments.**



VBS 2024

We are in need of volunteers for Vacation Bible School, which will be held Sunday, June 23rd-Wednesday, June 26th from 5:30 pm-8:00 pm. You can sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or call the office.



Pilgrim Heights Summer Camp 2024

There are 2 camps available this summer:

Session 1 is for ages 6-11 years old and is July 14th-July 18th.

Session 2 is for ages 12-18 years old and is July 21st-July 25th.

The cost is \$450 per child. Monetary help available through CSFD for part of the cost of camp.

Please contact the office by July 1st, if your children are interested.



Julie Christie's 85th Birthday Open House

Sunday, April 28th

at the Schleswig Golf Course

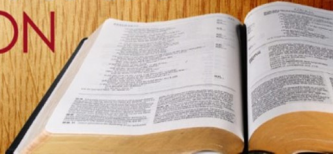
from 2-5 pm

Don't let ANYONE
look down on YOU
because you are YOUNG
But set an EXAMPLE
to the BELIEVERS
in SPEECH
LIFE
LOVE &
PURITY.
1 Timothy 4:12



**Hayden Fineran, Cale Paulsen, Ryder Luth, Jayton Bral
Lay Leader Kirk Manchester
Confirmation 2024**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Our bible verse we are currently working on is Psalm 8:3-4 “When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?”

We have been learning about the Creation. There have been a lot of good questions and thoughts as we have read through the first parts of Genesis. The children have also gotten to look up a lot of bible verses (sometimes through a game called “Drawing swords”) as we discussed objects surrounding St. Patrick’s Day, and soon Palm Sunday and Holy Week. The children will bring home handouts for Holy Week and I hope the parents were able to enjoy reading along with each day leading up to Easter Sunday. Confirmation Sunday will have already happened when you receive this, but I pray that the rainy and potential snowy weather brings us much needed moisture, but that everyone is also able to stay safe.

Our CE committee helped with the Lenten Service meal on March 13th. We served walking tacos to nearly 50 people. I appreciate all that were able to help and brought bars.

Remember there will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday.



*Palm
Sunday*



Council Minutes

February 15, 2024

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Vice President John Dorfler.

Those present were John Dorfler, Josie Krohnke, Leisha Kragel, Jeff Boelter, Pastor Kirk, Cheri Streck and John Bahnsen (Phone), and Seth Neubauer. Missing was John Fineran.

Opening Prayer: Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the January 21st and the February 4th minutes was made and seconded. The motion carried.

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

Bills to be Paid: The bills to be paid with additional fees for Pastor's computer for \$49.00, an Annual License of \$290.00 to One License, and an additional \$250.00 to Gross & Co. for a total of \$8,393.63 were discussed. A motion was made to pay the bills and was seconded. The motion carried. An additional \$8,943.92 was taken from the JAC account for 2 TVs for the Sanctuary and Farm Property Taxes.

Committee Reports:

CE: They are having a meeting on the 18th. The miniblinds have been installed in the updated classroom. Skating party is in the works. The kids will be singing this Sunday. Jill Sedore is working on a mystery supper and possibly inviting high schoolers. Going to a concert is being considered.

CSFD: A joint meeting with CSFI and Gaylen Bahnsen.

CSFI: Same as CSFD

Property: They, Elevate, are working on the roof and waiting for the snow to thaw. They are expecting a payment. Dishwasher in the parsonage was fixed. The sidewalk in front of the church is broken and needs to be fixed.

Spiritual Life: They are doing a meal next Wednesday. They will be performing a church service in May and the Easter meal.

Missions & Outreach: As of today, they are doing a meal for Lenten service. They will be meeting this Sunday after church.

Stewardship: John Dorfler is the new Council representative for this committee.

Pastor's Report: Met with the ladies in the Nursing Homes. He is working on Easter plans. He performed the Ash Wednesday service. Trying to get the kids together for preparing and reading their Statements of Faith. They will be confirmed on March 24th. They will have their first communion on Maundy Thursday. Pastor is taking vacation on May 5th through the 8th.

Old Business:

Council's Lenten Meal: The Lenten meal was a success. \$285 was raised and will be put in the Church's general fund. John D. thanked everyone for their efforts.

TVs-purchased and installed

Council Reorganization—each council member should be the representative for one and only one committee: Josie will be the representative to the Spiritual Life Committee. John Dorfler will work with the Stewardship Committee.

Lenten Service Schedule: We will continue with the 6:00 PM meals and around 6:45 will be the service. Wednesday services will now be downstairs. Maundy Thursday Service will be at 7:00 in the Sanctuary with no meal served with that service. Easter Sunday service will be at 8:00 AM followed by a brunch.

New Business:

Spring Grants Approaching: These will be discussed at a future meeting. They are due March 1st.

John Wulf Money Ideas: \$17,658.45 just arrived for charitable use in the community. The council needs to come up with ideas for charitable uses for this money.

Easter Plans—Service time (at 8 am this year) and breakfast plans (Spiritual Life will organize this year). Mentioned previously under Old Business.

Easter Lily Fund idea (in packet): This is going to be thought about a little more then introduce next year before Ash Wednesday.

Confirmation/Palm Sunday: Trying to get the kids together for preparing and reading their Statements of Faith. They will be confirmed on March 24th. They will have their first communion on Maundy Thursday. There was a motion and the motion was seconded to write a letter to TKE to terminate our services. We will change to the Schumacher Corporation. Motion carried.

Adjourned with Prayers, Concerns, Celebrations, & The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Boelter

Tuesday, February 20th Council Minutes

The council was informed that we need to pay TKE the remaining \$2,204.78 for elevator repairs. This was the amount left unpaid from a previous decision by the council. We did this under protest. The council felt that we were overcharged for labor, trip fees, and for unfixed problems with the elevator. After a lengthy discussion, the council decided to pay the remaining fees. The motion was made to pay TKE and seconded. The motion carried. This meeting took place via a group text.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Boelter

Sunday, February 25th Council Minutes

Vice President, John Dorfler opened the meeting. Those in attendance were John F., Seth, Leisha, Pastor Kirk and John B. (by phone) and Cheri tried to connect by phone but call was dropped. Guest: Ken Boger from Property Committee.

Ken explained the need for a new contract for some issues developing during the installation of the new roof due to the past years storm. Ken has been in contact with the insurance agent from New York and Elevate about the situation and this amount will also be paid by the insurance company. It was decided due to these additional repairs needing done to the roof to consolidate the contracts. A motion was made that Elevate will be the general contractor overseeing these additional repairs of \$74,736.00 a total of \$334,263.00. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

With no other discussion the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted by,

Leisha Kragel, Board Member



The first word this month is congratulations! Last month we asked for volunteers to step forward and fill the hostess duty for the Wednesday Lenten services that hadn't been claimed. The need was filled in a timely manner and we all enjoyed a variety of light meals before our evening service. This congregation steps up when the need is there. Thank you. Income was designated to committees or budget by each hostess group.

What needs for volunteers are upcoming? There are a few Sundays that CE can use some teachers to give the committee a break. Parents keep those kids coming for Sunday School and worship. We look forward to them singing in church one more time before summer break. It is such a delight to see those young ones come forward for the children's sermon. They are our future!

Soon CE will be looking for volunteers for VBS. They will need teachers, guides, cooks, donations of food and more. Help where you can. Spread the word to family and friends and invite those who are not members of our church to join the fun and learning.

With a busy summer with all kinds of activities, don't forget your church. Keep your giving current and watch for opportunities to serve. What special events are our committees planning? We don't know yet but watch for opportunities for fellowship and participation.

THANK YOU to everyone who donated food for the Easter brunch.

THANK YOU to the Spiritual Life Committee for stepping forward and organizing this special brunch in honor of our confirmands: Jayton, Hayden, Ryder, and Cale.

THANK YOU to all the committees and individuals who planned and served the Lenten meals before our Wednesday services this year.



Laity Sunday

Spiritual Life will be organizing Laity Sunday on May 5. They will be contacting members to help lead the worship service. Leaders will help with small parts of the worship service, from leading prayers, leading the call to worship, reading scriptures to giving the sermon. If you would like to volunteer to take part, please contact any member of Spiritual Life or call the church office. Members are Tammy Neubauer, Jenny Boelter, Sue Boland, Kim Korwes and Joan Cassens.

APRIL GREETERS

April 7- Verdell & Marlyn Kastner

April 14- Zola Friedrichsen & Vicky Brown

April 21- Ed Neddermeyer & Colin Neddermeyer

April 28- Marla Teut & Carol Krohnke

APRIL ACOLYTES

April 7- Hayden Fineran & Haxton Fineran

April 14- Huntur Johannsen & Gracie Outhouse

April 21- Jayton Bral & Journey Bral

April 28- June Jurgensen & Sophie Luth

February Numbers in the Book

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Contributions:</u>
Feb. 4	54	\$415.50
Feb.11	45	\$1031.00
Feb 18	51	\$650.75
Feb. 25	43	\$516.25
Total	193	\$2613.50
Average	48	\$653.37



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 1st**

February Financials



Income:

Weekly Envelopes	\$2969.00
Loose Offering	\$122.50
Seasonal Offering	\$47.00
Misc. Offering	\$385.00
Misc. Income	\$70.87
Interest Income- General Fund	\$30.89
<u>Total Income:</u>	\$3525.26

Expenses:

Association Dues	\$0.00
Insurance & Taxes	\$368.18
Janitor Supplies	\$201.37
Misc. Expenses	\$0.00
Music	\$120.00
Office Expense	\$1626.39
Pastor Expense	\$5127.27
Payroll Expenses	\$0.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$2908.50
Supplies	\$0.00
Support Staff Salaries	\$4201.00
Utilities	\$2309.34
<u>Total Expense:</u>	\$16862.05
<u>Net Ordinary Income:</u>	-\$13336.79