

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 2025 Newsletter

Here we are with two blizzards, happening the last couple of weeks. March has really been a lion lately I can't wait for it to turn into a lamb.

As we are looking for April to hurry up and arrive, we start thinking about everything that we need to do. Farmers are thinking about getting into the fields and getting them ready for planting. Schools are thinking about, will we get a spring break, High Schoolers are thinking about Prom and seniors are thinking about graduation and what will their futures bring. Will it be college or will they need to find a job.

We as Christians are looking forward to Easter, we celebrate our risen Savior. Jesus arose from the tomb and came back to the disciples. We have Mary and Mary arriving at the grave on that Sunday morning and finding it empty. Mary Jesus's mother was in utter shock that someone had come and taken her son. Who would of done that, did someone steal his body or did the gardener move his body. When she noticed someone else in the tomb with her. she thought that it was the gardener and asked where he had moved the body, Mary did not realize that it was Jesus himself.

In the book of Matthew, specifically chapter 28: 5-8 it states, The angel said to the woman, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here: he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him. Now I have told you." So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Christ died on the cross for us, he died for our sins. That slow and painful death so that we may live. Is there greater sacrifice that one could do for us. We as Christian struggle with life, sin, and problems of this world. We struggle sometimes with even believing all that Jesus did for us during this time. He endured beatings, being ridiculed, and having false accusa-

tions made about him. We cannot forget what Jesus for us ever, especially at this time of year.

Prayer;

Oh Lord, you love this world so much that you gave your one and only Son, that we might be called your children too. Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace during this Easter season. Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice. Let us have eyes that look upon Your grace and rejoice in our salvation. Please help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell your good news to the world. All for your glory do we pray, Amen.

Have a great April and Easter Holidays,

Kirk Manchester



WELCOME
New Members

On Sunday, March 16, 2025 during the worship service, we were thrilled to welcome new members: Kellie Anders, Kambrie Dau, Conner Reimer, Rhonda Pankau, and Ron Pankau into the Schleswig United Church of Christ. Each of you brings unique gifts and perspectives that enrich our church family. We look forward to getting to know you all better and working together to serve our community and spread God's love.

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 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





Join us
for
**EASTER
BRUNCH**

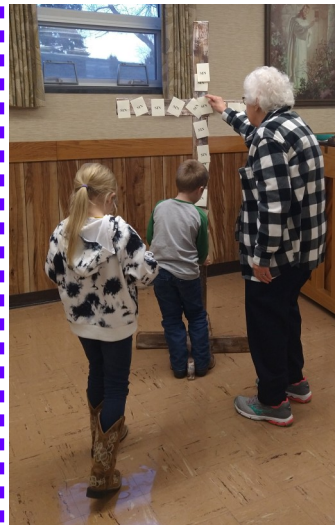
The Spiritual Life committee will be hosting a free will offering Easter Brunch following the 8 a.m. worship service on Easter morning. There are sign up sheets on the table in the narthex asking for donations of egg bakes or muffins/rolls/breads. Please have your donation to the kitchen by 7:45 Easter morning. If you are signing up to bring an egg bake, please have it fully baked when you drop it off. Ovens will be on to keep egg bakes warm, but not to bake them. Crock pot recipes would also work. If you have an insulated carrier for your casserole dish, consider using it. The committee would welcome any extra help cleaning up. We hope to see you there to enjoy this time of fellowship.

2025 EASTER FUND

We are trying a new idea this year, rather than purchasing live lilies and tulips for Easter, congregants will be asked to tack their sins on a cross and pray for forgiveness during Lenten services each week. Easter morning the sins will be washed clean and will be replaced with beautiful artificial flowers, funded by "Easter Lily" fund donations.

We appreciate donations of any amount in memory or in honor of loved ones. There will be an insert in the Easter service bulletin; it will look just like it has in previous years.

Please use the form below or pick one up on the table in the Narthex.



2025 Easter Fund



DONATION AMOUNT: \$ _____

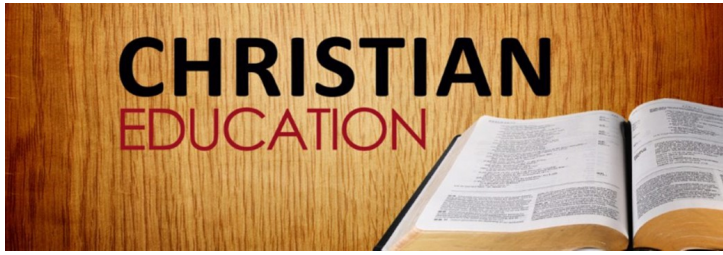
SAME MESSAGE AS THE PREVIOUS YEAR: YES NO

In memory of or in honor of:

Given by:

PLEASE PLACE IN THE OFFERING PLATE, THE MAILBOX BY THE CHURCH OFFICE, THE OUTDOOR DROPBOX, OR DROP OFF AT CHURCH OFFICE DURING BUSINESS HOURS BY APRIL 14TH. THANK YOU.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



We have been exploring our way through the 40 days of Lent this month in Sunday School. From discussing how long it takes from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday and all of the important moments in between through fun crafts and stories. On March 16th, we learned more about the scripture John 3:16 and what it means to us. Throughout April we will continue to work through the 40 days of Lent.

The Youth Fellowship kids have had a lot of opportunities this month. The 5th and 6th grade girls played bells in Church on March 16th. On March 21st, 5th-12th graders were able to attend the Winter Jam concert in Des Moines. On March 30th we had our Youth led Sunday in Church. Our next event will be a bake sale after Church on May 4th.

The Light Lounge Bible Study is still gathering every Sunday at 9:00am. For those following along at home with the video series, on April 6th we will be on Lesson #12. My goal is still to have good discussions, fellowship, and getting to know each other better. We would love for you to come in and try it out! We also need volunteers for Sunday School. Occasionally we have had to have just one class due to not enough teachers and helpers. The sign up sheet is in the Narthex.





Council Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2025

Call to Order: Council President, John Fineran, opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Council members in attendance were, John Dorfler, Josie Krohnke, Leisha Kragel, Seth Neubauer, Roberta Jepsen and by telephone, John Bahnsen and Jill Sedore. Kirk Manchester, Tammy Neubauer (Financial Secretary) and Candice Bral (secretary), were also present.

Opening Prayer: Kirk opened with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2025, January 26, 2025, and text meeting on January 29, 2025. The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

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

Bills to be paid: A motion was made to pay the February bills with the change of reducing the amount of the sound bar to \$81.39. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

CE: They continue to work on the job description for the CE Director and they are planning youth Sunday for March 30.

CSFD: Scholarship applications for 2025-2026 school year are due April 1. Money for church campers has been set aside and full scholarships will be available for anyone wishing to attend church camp. Two additional gifts have been given to people in need of assistance.

CSFI: No report. Committee members and duties of this committee were explained after questions from council members. Members are: Gaylen Bahnsen, Wendy Bumann, Sandy Lacey and Roberta Jepsen is the council rep.

Property: Will meet next week. No additional report.

Spiritual Life: Book review has been completed with 8-11 people attending different nights. Two members will be serving lunch to anyone attending the Christmas tree decoration workshop February 23. Meeting scheduled February 25.

Missions & Outreach: They will be serving a Lenten meal.

Stewardship: No report

Endowment: No report. Committee members and duties were explained after questions from council members. Members are Mike Goodin, Roberta Jepsen, Paul Outhouse and Leisha is the council rep.

Pastor's Report: Council reviewed the report submitted, listing visiting elderly and giving communion to a shut in couple, attending skating party, book review and anniversary party. Has attended committee meetings and has scheduled wedding counseling dates with a couple. He is preparing Lenten services.

Old Business:

Westside Church: Kirk has not been in touch with them. He is waiting to hear if they will schedule church at 8:30 for only 45 minutes, so he can be in Schleswig for 10 am service.

Teacher Appreciation: Gift cards were distributed to Day Care, School and Preschool employees. They were very appreciative and numerous thank you cards were passed around to be read.

New Member Day: Five individuals have been expressing interest in joining our church for some time. Candice will contact them immediately to set up the best date in March to welcome them into our church. Tentative date is March 16, with March 23 as a back-up date.

New Business:

Council Lenten Meal: Council will be serving soup and sandwiches on Ash Wednesday. Plans were made with council members providing the food. A list of assigned contributions is in the office.

Cross for Lent & Easter Lily Fund: Candice explained a new idea she and Tammy have for Lent and Easter. Rather than purchasing live lilies and tulips for Easter, congregants will be asked to tack their sins on a

(Council Minutes Continued)

cross and pray for forgiveness during Lenten services each week. Easter morning the sins will be washed clean and will be replaced with beautiful artificial flowers, funded by "Easter Lily" fund donations.

John Wulf Money: \$17,227.90 was received earlier this month. A motion was made and seconded to give \$1200 to the VFW to send 2 boys and 1 girl to Boys and Girl State. Motion carried. There was discussion about other ideas. Roberta will do research into what needs the library has that we could help with.

Employee contracts: Employee contracts were discussed. Only Kirk and Candice have contracts. Candice pointed out that she is not fulfilling the hours her contracts states, since she is substitute teaching also. A motion was made and seconded, that Candice's contract is not necessary and should be destroyed, since it isn't relevant in the current circumstances with a light workload at church. She is an hourly employee and is not paid if she doesn't work. Motion carried. Kirk's contract will be reviewed, updated and needs to be signed at the May meeting. Other employee job descriptions will be updated as recommended by the CPA after his review of operating procedures.

Council Duties: There was brief discussion about council duties on Sunday mornings.

CE Budget: Jessica submitted a budget running from September 2024-September 2025. Since there is money in their account at this time, council asked that the budget be prepared to run January 2025 through December 2025 so it is consistent with other financials for the church. There is money reserved in the JAC account for the CE budget and will be moved to CE after a new budget is presented and/or the need arises.

The next meeting will be March 19 following the Lenten worship service.

With no further discussion, a motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The Lord's Prayer was recited and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Neubauer

Financial and Council Secretary

January 20, 2025

A meeting was held by text to approve a bill that was received the day after the regular meeting. \$235.59 for furnace repair to Verlin's Plumbing. A motion was made to approve this bill to be paid and seconded. Motion carried.

March 7, 2025

A meeting was held by text to discuss one of the applications for a grant. The 8th grade boys are going to state and filled out a grant, but would need the money by March 21st. It was brought up to use John Wulf money and to give \$400 per child, like what was done for the American Legion for Boys State and Girls State. There are 6 boys from Schleswig, so a total of \$2,400 was proposed. A motion was made to award \$2400 for 8th grade Schleswig basketball team going to state from the John Wulf money. The motion was seconded. Motion carried.



We haven't talked a lot recently about the arm of talent in Stewardship (you know – treasure, talent, and time). Our congregation has many people employing various gifts of their talent in our church. I would like to especially mention a few of them.

Jessica Jurgensen is a paid employee as Christian Education Director.

She employs many of her talents creating learning opportunities for our children and adults as part of her job. Recently she has launched the Light Lounge program. At 9:00 on Sunday mornings several people join in the meeting room for coffee/water and a light snack. They have an opportunity to visit for a few minutes before the video of the day starts at 9:15. Attendance varies up to 12 adults. Many have brought their children for Sunday School. Some arrive a bit late as they have been doing other duties around church such as leading the children in practice for singing or bells. Jess's able assistant, Josh, starts the 30-minute video from the Revive School. We have been exploring the Pentateuch (also known as the Torah or the first five books of the Bible). These are interesting and thought-provoking discussions. This is a different approach to Bible study than we have done at our Schleswig UCC. Great idea and implementation, Jess!

Tammy Neubauer and her Spiritual Life committee planned an opportunity to study the book, Mostly What God Does, by Savannah Guthrie. The group was led by Jack Johnson. We met for four evenings (around ice and snow!) to read and discuss Savannah's thoughts about her Christian beliefs and experiences. It was a great opportunity to mingle with other members and contemplate what we had read. We learned that mostly what God does is love us, unconditionally.

Pointing out these two outstanding efforts is certainly not to diminish the other myriad talents our members employ on a regular basis. Things such as planning funeral dinners, making Christmas decorations for our tree, leading Sunday School classes, creating Joy boxes, turning on the lights, playing the organ, and so much more. This article would be pages long if I listed everything volunteers do around the church. Some are small and others are very large but they all help to make us a more vital church.

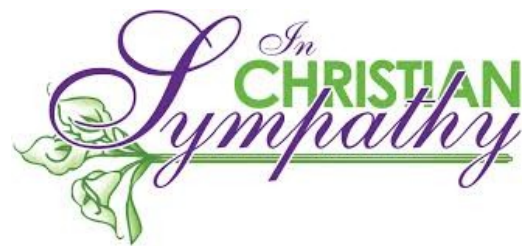
What are some of the talents God has given you? You all have some talent; I don't care how old or young you are. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we can serve and worship God through our work using the wisdom, understanding, and skills He has given us. Get your thought process going and see what more we can create, be it large or small. God recognizes all our gifts. And we can always pray gratefully for the inspirations of others.



**CHRISTIAN SERVICE
FUND SCHOLARSHIP
FORMS** are available to
college students and high

school seniors. Application forms may be found on the church website:
www.uccschleswig.org or you can pick one up in the office.

All applications are due back in the church office or placed in the outdoor drop box by **TUESDAY, APRIL 1st**



The family of Derek Johannsen

The family of Marlene Baer

APRIL GREETERS

April 6- Jeff & Jenny Boelter

April 13- Charlie & Kellie Anders

April 20 (Easter)- Josh & Jessica Jurgensen

April 27- Steve & Roberta Jepsen

APRIL ACOLYTES

April 6- Jersey Bral & Journey Bral

April 13- Jayton Bral & Hayden Fineran

April 20 (Easter)- Cale Paulsen & Jett Paulsen

April 27- Ella Anders & Taryn Johannsen

February Financials



Income:

Weekly Envelopes	\$7798.00
Loose Offering	\$136.55
Seasonal Offering	\$2.00
Misc. Offering	\$25.00
Misc. Income	\$73.47
Interest Income- General Fund	\$1.79
<u>Total Income:</u>	\$8036.81

Expenses:

Association Dues	\$0.00
Insurance & Taxes	\$1002.26
Janitor Supplies	\$49.63
Music	\$240.00
Office Expense	\$681.68
Pastor Expense	\$5436.26
Payroll Expenses	\$0.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$235.59
Supplies	\$202.50
Support Staff Salaries	\$4557.00
Utilities	\$1812.97
<u>Total Expense:</u>	\$14217.89
<u>Net Ordinary Income:</u>	-\$6181.08

February Numbers in the Book

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Contributions:</u>
Feb. 2	44	\$586.30
Feb.9	46	\$444.00
Feb 16	57	\$6284.25
Feb. 23	59	\$477.00
Total	206	\$7791.55
Average	51	\$1947.89

