

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

Well, August is here, no matter if we are ready for it or not, it is here. The church parking lot is looking so nice. Thank you, property committee for taking this project on and seeing it through till the end. Church work day has gone and past and I would like to thank those who came and helped clean up our church inside and out. Please don't forget that Vacation Bible School start on August 3rd and goes until the 6th. There is still time to sign up and help, Help is needed in the kitchen and team leaders for the groups as they move around from activity to the next.

Have you ever felt like you were overwhelmed with life. Work, the kids, maybe your health, or a parent's health. Let's face it none of us is getting any younger. It's gotten to the point to where you just want to scream. Maybe you are asking God why? I hope and pray that you have asked God for his help in this matter. God will never give you anything that you can't handle, especially when it is something that he can help you with.

Well, in the bible was having this feeling, He was attacked by his son, betrayed by his close friend, and helpless over the ensuing violence in Jerusalem, David himself that, "Fear and trembling have beset him." (Psalm 55:5). But David had chosen to trust God. He believed, "God will never let the righteous be shaken" (vs. 22). Years of trusting the Almighty had taught David that although trouble may unsteady us, those who place their faith in God will never be irrevocably lost and hopeless. "They will never fall for the Lord holds them by the hand" (37-24). David knew God would support him with His strength and wisdom: "I call to God, and the Lord saves me" (55:16).

God, will always be there for us, no matter what is happening in our life's. When life get's tough or when it get's us down we need to look to him for

our strength. How does God remind you that he won't let you be shaken? How can you entrust your trouble to him? Prayer is the ultimate way to talk to God and asking him for his help. This is not just a one-time thing. You will need to continue with prayers.

Dear God. I thank you for helping me to walk through the days ahead.

-Kirk Manchester



Sunday, August 24th--9 am service

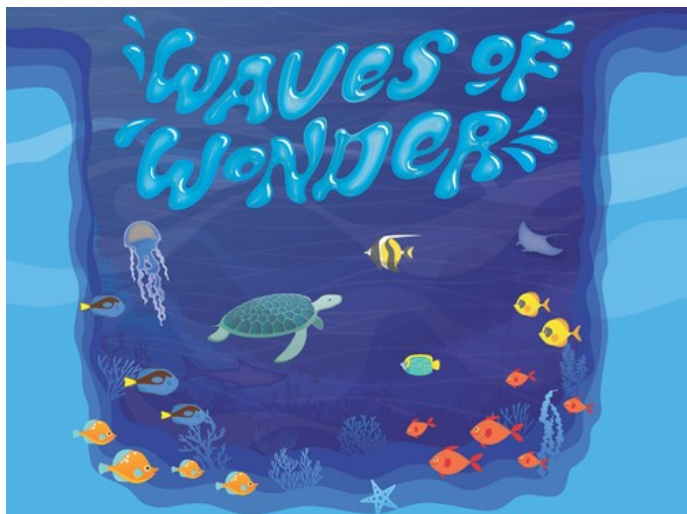
The Spiritual Life Committee is planning this service. If you are willing to help with a part of the service, please email or call the office.

Clothing & Kleenex Drive

The Missions Committee will be doing a clothing and Kleenex drive for the Schleswig School. Please bring Kleenex and unisex kids clothing size youth small - adult. Clothing can be new or gently used.

The last day will be Sunday, August 24.





August 3rd- August 6th
5:30 pm- 8:00 pm

Vacation Bible School is officially here! A huge thank you to the Christian Education committee, all of our volunteers, and food donations! Without your support it would not be possible to pull off this event for our local youth. We currently have 25 children signed up.

Our Youth Fellowship were involved in helping with setting up our donated decorations. We will have a Church potluck on our family night of VBS starting at 5:30pm at the Schleswig Shelter House on August 6th. There will be burgers and hot dogs cooked by a few members of the Property Committee, fellowship, games, crafts, and the pool available to all. Please bring a side or dessert if you would like.



In July we held our Mystery Movie #2. For those that were unable to attend, please watch "The Shack". It is a great one. The kids played games, walked to Lutheran's VBS, and had a mystery cross painting craft. Our next summer date is August 24th. Please see upcoming details in our Church Bulletin and/or Facebook page as it gets closer.



August Acolytes

August 3- Jett Paulsen & Cale Paulsen

August 10- Ella Anders & June Jurgensen

August 17- Ryder Luth & Sophia Luth

August 24- Brayton Johannsen
& Huntur Johannsen

August 31- Taryn Johannsen & Averı Valentine

August Greeters

August 3- Gary & Beverly Peters

August 10- Carol Krohnke & Marla Teut

August 17- Conner & Kambrie Reimer

August 24- Ken & Connie Boger

August 31- Sue Boland & Talsha Johannsen



August 1 - LaWayne Gronau

1 - Shane Lacey

August 3 - Barry Nemitz

3 - Seth Neubauer

August 4 - Elliot Neubauer

4 - Royce Neubauer

4 - Ella Anders

4 - Beverly Peters

August 6 - Jessica Jurgensen

6 - Gunnar Barker

August 8 - Brenden Sieren

August 9 - Candice Bral

August 13 - Vanessa Zimmer

13 - Kim Korwes

August 14 - Mary Lu Wennihan

August 16 - Lyndi Johannsen

16 - Noah Sharp

August 18 - Reid Johannsen

August 19 - Marlene Baer

August 20 - Campbell Tressler

August 21 - Kevin Neubauer

August 22 - Vicky Brown

August 24 - Marvel Bahnsen

August 29 - Delbert Clausen

29 - David Henningsen

Numbers for the Books

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Contributions</u>
June 1	40	\$ 310.00
June 8	38	\$ 169.25
June 15	36	\$ 867.00
June 22	45	\$ 349.00
June 29	45	\$ 1277.00
Total:	204	\$ 2972.25
Average:	40	\$ 594.45

GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR **FALL 2025**

Applications are due in the
office by September 1st.



Council Meeting Minutes

June 18, 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, Roberta Jepsen, John Bahnsen, Seth Neubauer. Kirk Manchester and Tammy Neubauer (Financial Secretary) were also present. Jill Sedore was absent.

Opening Prayer: Kirk opened with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2025 meeting and seconded. Motion carried.

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

Bills to be paid: A motion was made to pay the June bills and was seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

CE: Showed a movie June 14. Attendance was poor but the movie was good. Jessica has picked up the VBS decorations from a church in Denison.

CSFD: Scholarship interviews are scheduled for June 28.

CSFI: Have not met.

Property: Parking lot work is progressing. Lawns will be sprayed when weather conditions are right.

Spiritual Life: Decorated the sanctuary for Pentecost. Laity Sunday has been set for August 24.

Missions & Outreach: The community picnic has been cancelled for this year, due to the construction and the condition of the lawn.

Stewardship: No report

Endowment: No report.

Pastor's Report: Council reviewed the report submitted, listing visiting elderly and giving communion,

preaching at Homestead once a month and other pastoral duties. Psychological evaluation is scheduled and his class will run from June 23-October 17 to become a licensed lay leader.

Old Business:

Kirk's Contract: It was moved and seconded to approve Kirk's contract as revised. Motion carried.

Worship at the Pond: Kirk is planning to go forward with worship at the pond June 22, even with the extreme heat expected.

John Wulf Money: Seth talked to a board member of the Grant Cemetery about a donation to repair and level some headstones. He is waiting to hear back if they are interested in this. Leisha will be checking into the same need for Morgan Cemetery. Seth has received an estimate of cost per headstone. A decision was tabled at this time.

Kevin Neubauer was contacted about the deteriorating bench in front of the post office that was given in memory of Fred and Elsie Carstensen in 1999. Since this is not a donation from Jens A. Carstensen or Carstensen Brothers Memorial, council feels it is not our right or responsibility to remove and/or replace it. Leisha will talk to Mayor Beth Winquist about this.

Since the basketball hoop was in bad shape in the parking lot, it will be replaced using John Wulf funds. It was moved and seconded to purchase and install a new basketball hoop with funds from John Wulf. A cap of \$2,000 was given to ensure a quality, non-adjustable hoop is installed. Motion carried.

Combine Missions/Spiritual Life: The chairs of the committees have spoken and agree this may be a good idea due to the number of active members of each committee. This would require a by-laws change so would need to be presented at the annual meeting.

New Business:

Council discussed phone call coverage when Candice is not in the office. After discussion, it was decided the current phone message is appropriate for coverage as it refers to Kirk's cell phone in case of emergency. Non-emergent callers can leave a message and their concern will be addressed the next day the office is open.

(Council Minutes continued)

Parking lot traffic was addressed. Staff and others have noted the heavy use of the parking lot as a street by the general public and the high rate of speed vehicles travel at. Chains and gates were discussed with a general consensus that is not welcoming. After discussion, it was moved and seconded to purchase 3 signs to "slow down and watch for children" at the entrances.

There was discussion about installing cameras outside the church due to an increase in vandalism. Seth will be contacting a company about cameras to install. Roberta will also contact a company she is familiar with for an estimate. Leisha moved and Josie seconded to allow a \$5000 budget to purchase and install cameras.

A bill for partial payment for parking lot work was received just before the meeting. It was moved and seconded the motion to approve the payment.

John Dorfler requested additional handicap parking spaces be added on the west side of the church when the parking is painted. Council decided two spaces on the west side of the church and two or three on the north side of the chapel should be sufficient. The congregation will be asked to use the big parking if they have no difficulties walking and leave the other unmarked spaces that are closer to the church for those not as mobile.

The next meeting will be July 16 at 6:30.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Neubauer
Financial and Council Secretary

August Stewardship

It has been a while since we talked about the way you can support the budget of our church. We all know our personal budgets are a challenge these days. So, too, is balancing the church budget. Day to day expenses of utilities, upkeep, employee salaries, supplies, and everything else continues to rise. Our church is fortunate to have large bequests and gifts that allow us to do many philanthropic gifts as well as major repairs. Our individual giving needs to support the operation of the church. We all know it hasn't kept up for many years! I challenge you to do what you can to help balance the operating budget.

Our personal giving can come in many ways. Some put in cash or checks as the offering plate is passed each Sunday. Many have automatic donations from their bank account or brokerage accounts or IRAs. I applaud any and all methods

I do want to draw attention to the giving vouchers on the table in the Narthex. We created them several years ago so those who give in some automatic method can have something to put in the collection plate when it is passed. The object was to demonstrate giving to the children. Children love to imitate adults and we want to teach them to give of what they have. It might be only a few pennies or a quarter but it teaches them about giving. It is a good habit to establish. I encourage you to consider picking up a voucher and dropping it in the plate.

Church Work Day 2025

A huge thank you goes out to the Property Committee for organizing everything for Church Work Day and all those that helped out.



June Financials



Income:

Weekly envelopes	\$	2198.00
Loose Offering	\$	197.25
Seasonal Offering	\$	2.00
Misc. Offerings	\$	0.00
Misc. Income	\$	174.15
Interest Income-Gen. Fund	\$	13.45
Investment Income	\$	0.00
Total Income:	\$	3304.85

Expenses:

Insurance & Taxes	\$	3024.15
Janitor Supplies	\$	9.63
Misc. Expenses	\$	21.40
Music	\$	388.00
Office Expense	\$	1494.40
Pastor Expenses	\$	7272.62
Repairs and Maintenance	\$	288349.79
Supplies	\$	183.50
Support Staff Salaries	\$	3849.75
Utilities	\$	685.44
Total expense:	\$	305278.68

Net Ordinary Income \$ -301,973.83

Mark your Calendars:

Our worship service will change back to 10 am beginning September 7



HYMNS ON THE CHIMES

August 8 - 6:15 PM in memory of Kali Renae Barker from Glenn & Renae Barker & family - "Jesus Loves the Little Children"

August 8 - 6:15 PM in memory of Kali Renae Barker from Glenn & Renae Barker & family - "Jesus Loves Me"

August 13 - 6:00 PM in memory of Norman Friedrichsen from the Friedrichsen family - "On Eagles Wings"

August 17 - 9:15 AM in memory of their parents from John & Wilma McClellan & family - "Morning Has Broken"

August 18 - 5:00 PM in memory of Rev. Alfred & Marguerite Rinne from Mary Lu Rinne Smith - "His Eye is on the Sparrow"

August 21 - 6:15 PM in honor of Don Meyer's Birthday from his Family & Friends - "On Eagles Wings"

August 22 - 7:15 PM in memory of Albert & Caroline Paulsen from Dorene Hollander - "Just As I Am"

HELP WANTED

Organized individual to run our chicken dinner fundraiser on Sunday, October 19th. Let the office know if you are willing to help.

