

# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

The month of Love. As we head into the month of February, thoughts look towards Valentine's Day. A Holiday we share with our loved ones: like our spouses, children, and very close friends. The gifts we give is usually flowers and candy chocolate of course or maybe Peep's. There are those that believe this is a great time to propose to that special someone. Many feel that this holiday was started by the Hallmark company just to sell more cards.

Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, though written Valentine's didn't begin to appear until after 1400. The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned.

Love is great and powerful emotion/feeling. The greatest of this is the love of Jesus Christ. We are to love like Jesus showed to everyone. Praying for guidance and compassion to strengthen our own resolve. Praying for our enemies will prevent hardness of our heart during difficult times. Showing them love is what God has asked us to do. As he said, win them over with love. Putting the needs of others ahead of our own needs. It may be a simple or great act, but it always needs to be done humbly. Showing love to other by forgiving is an example that Jesus ask us to do. We promise to forgive every time we pray when we start out; "Our Father who art in Heaven..."

We need to remember that everything that has been given to us was by the grace of God. He loves us so much that he gave us his son who died for us. This was visible in the movie that the CE committee showed just the other day. Remember that we are just stewards of this time, our talents, and treasures that we have, this is what God has given us in a way that we can help others.

So, how do we show love for others? We have mentioned how we show love for our family and friend at this time of years. What about other Christians who need our help? Do we need to be told what to do or do we just take action and do it. Our purpose is to be good stewards of what has been given to us. Our time and our talents are what he wants us to use to help others.

In Christian Love, Pastor Kirk



## Hymns on the Chimes

- February 8<sup>th</sup> 5:45 PM **“Now Thank We All Our God”** in memory of Frank & Clara Jensen from Burdell & Orpha Jensen and family
  - February 10<sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM **“I Love to Tell the Story”** from the Dorcas Society
  - February 14<sup>th</sup> 11:15 AM **“Love Lifted Me”** Valentine’s Day from UCC
  - February 19<sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM **“How Great Thou Art”** in memory of Mr. & Mrs. D.C. Engelking from Dorene Hollander
  - February 24<sup>th</sup> 6:15 PM **“Blessed Assurance”** in memory of Charles Jessen from Dorothy Jessen
  - February 25<sup>th</sup> 7:15 PM **“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”** in memory of Arlo Jahn from Arlene & Kevin Jahn
- February 28<sup>th</sup> 10:15 AM **“Nearer My God to Thee”** in memory of Inge Carstensen from UCC



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Feb 1	Gaylen Bahnsen
	Jim Whiteing
	Pat Wiebers
Feb 5	Zola Friedrichsen
	Sheryl Gosch
	Michelle Raisch
Feb 7	Nathan Schumann
Feb 8	Craig Claussen
Feb 11	Duane Zimmer
	Janice Stern
Feb 15	Stefany Lopez
Feb 17	Jordan Stender
Feb 18	Dakota Miller
Feb 19	Jamie Rusch
Feb 22	Katie Slater
Feb 24	Mike Goodin
Feb 26	Taryn Johannsen
Feb 27	Gary Reimer
	Jerrod Johannsen

## **Congratulations!!**

Congratulations to Cierra Kastner for being named to the Dean’s List at Buena Vista University for the 2022 Fall Semester.

Congratulations to Trevor Nemitz for being named to the Dean’s List at Buena Vista University for the 2022 Fall Semester.

## December Financials



### Income:

Weekly Envelopes	\$4652.00
Loose Offering	\$225.28
Seasonal Offering	\$252.00
Misc. Offering (Poinsettia Fund)	\$490.00
Misc. Income	\$113.42
Chicken Dinner Income/ Donations	\$0.00
Interest Income- General Fund	\$10.84
Investment Income	\$902.47
<u>Total Income:</u>	\$6646.01

### Expenses:

Association Dues	\$2214.45
Insurance & Taxes	\$1907.02
Janitor Supplies	\$9.63
Misc. Expenses	\$247.33
Music	\$816.00
Office Expense	\$630.50
Pastor Expense	\$4951.30
Payroll Expenses	\$200.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$1722.70
Supplies	\$98.22
Support Staff Salaries	\$2925.00
Utilities	\$1980.10
<u>Total Expense:</u>	\$17702.25
<u>Net Ordinary Income:</u>	- \$11056.24

## December Numbers for the Book

Date:	Attendance:	Contributions:
December 4	75	\$ 474.53
December 11	47	\$1631.75
December 18	58	\$1085.00
December 24	74	\$2283.00
Total:	254	\$5474.28
Average:	64	\$1368.57

### February Acolytes

February 5- Jaxon Paulsen & Colton Johannsen  
 February 12- Journey Bral & Taryn Johannsen  
 February 19- Jett Paulsen & Huntur Johannsen  
 February 26- Jayton Bral & Hayden Fineran

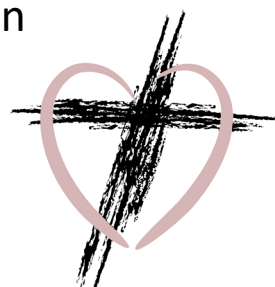
### February Greeters

February 5- Neil & Kim Kragel  
 February 12- Larry & Pat Weibers  
 February 19- Cal Kastner & Derek Johannsen  
 February 26- Lawayne & Pam Gronau

Ash Wednesday - February 22.

Meal at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall

Service at 6:30 pm in  
 the Sanctuary.



# Council Meeting

## December 14, 2022

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Sandy Lacey. Those present were Sandy, Jeff, Patti, Cheri & John (by phone), Judy, and Seth. Absent was Pastor Kirk.

**Opening Prayer:** President Sandy opened with a prayer.

**Approval of minutes:** The minutes were approved by a motion and seconded. The motion carried.

**Approval of financial report:** The financial report was approved by a motion and seconded. The motion carried.

**Bills to be Paid:** Bills to be paid with an addition of \$78.31 for Jim and Cheri Streck for Christmas Goody Bags for a total of \$4,583.31 was approved by a motion and seconded. The motion carried.

### Committee Reports:

**CE:** There will be a bake sale January 15th. The kids will be collecting change during children's time for Heifer's International.

**CSFD:** Second semester scholarship checks are ready to be handed out. Kids did a great job during the chicken dinner. Charitable contributions have been decided for the upcoming year. Thanked John Dorfler for his time on the committee.

**CSFI:** Several CDs are coming due and need to be redone.

**Property:** nothing to report

**Spiritual Life:** Christmas Decorations were completed.

**Missions & Outreach:** The Christmas sale went well.

**Stewardship:** Article out for approval for the next newsletter

**Pastor's Report:** Visitations have been made. Preaching at the Reed House.

### Old Business:

**Streaming and Technology:** Going back to the old way of doing things on Facebook and getting Candice some help.

**Table and Cupboards:** Gave the tables away from the Sunday School Room. Jolene took the cupboards.

**Fine Tune Details on Voting for Missions Committee:** Working on getting the people for this committee. Terms for 3 years, 2 years, and 1 year will be drawn from the hat.

### New Business:

**2023 Budget:** Everything has gone up and become more expensive. A detailed budget was looked at by the Council. The budget for next year (\$160,400) with an increase of \$17,800 was approved a motion and was seconded. The motion carried.

**Poinsettia Fund Idea for 2023:** Instead of buying Poinsettias next year, we purchase a poinsettia tree. When people donate to the fund, we put a poinsettia on the tree. People really do not want the poinsettias that are on the altar. This sounds like a nice solution. A motion was made and seconded that we allow Candice to approach this tree idea. The motion carried.

**Record Annual Meetings on USB to keep in Safe for Historical Purpose:** Council thought this sounded like a good idea. A motion was made to record the meeting and seconded. The motion carried.

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

### ANNUAL MEETING VOTING RESULTS

Council Quorum Amendment

Results: 33 YES 0 NO

Nominating Amendment

Results: 32 YES 1 NO

Our Church's Wider Mission Amendment

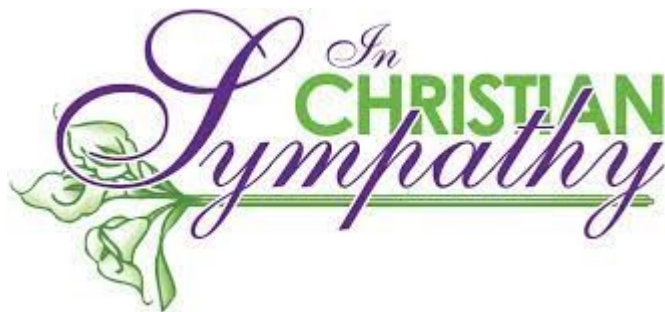
Results: 32 YES 0 NO

## **Spring Grant Applications**

SPRING GRANT APPLICATION

DEADLINE IS MARCH 1ST

Reminder: Applications for grants from the Carstensen Family Memorial Trust are due in the church office by March 1st. There is a limited amount for Spring Grants. Application forms are available online at [www.uccschleswig.org](http://www.uccschleswig.org) or from the church office.



**The family of Arlis Neddermeyer**

**The family of Alan Sedore**

## **LENTEN SERVICES**

As we look ahead on the calendar, our Lenten Services begin on February 22nd. There will be a meal at 6pm with the service beginning at 6:30 pm. If you or your group would like to plan and serve a meal, please call the church office (676-3917) or sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

## **APPRECIATION FOR MISSIONS AND OUTREACH**

If the third amendment to the bylaws passes at our annual meeting, the Missions and Outreach committee will be reorganized. Only one of the current members chose to run for the new committee.

We need to thank the current committee for their years of hard work. They have spearheaded Operation Christmas Child, the Santa Claus Day fundraiser, served Lenten meals, and many other mission projects over the years.

The committee met recently and voted to donate \$2800 to GoServ Global. This charity is active in Haiti and is supported by Conwell Larson from Kiron. Their emphasis at this time is an addition to their school which will allow them to increase from 800 students to approximately 1100 students, continuing to dig wells for safe water sources, and building structures to house some newly developed churches. Our church will receive notice later on which project received our donation. This is a proven, successful mission we are supporting. Congratulations on an excellent choice!

Again, thanks for your service. We look forward to welcoming the retiring committee members to new areas of service at our church.

## STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

Every month we address how our membership can practice stewardship. This month I want to feature our January 8th worship service as stewardship in action.

The TIME aspect: Attendance was excellent. Some members stepped out of their familiar “box” and stepped into different roles. Kirk was ill so a member led the service. Another member did the children’s message. Many individuals helped Candice with the young people of the church – supervising baking, packaging, and totting items to the table for the bake sale. A different member was honing her tech skills with the technology broadcast. Dalton and the Property Committee worked hard on the persistent ice on the sidewalks. Group one from the council stepped in to cover the duties of ushering, recording, counting, and other tasks when the person who was supposed to do it stepped into the pulpit. The activity after the service as all the decorations (inside and outside) were dismantled and stored. The young people are to be commended for their work packing and carrying things to the balcony area. Young legs do some of those things better than the older legs of many of us!

The TALENT ASPECT: Storytelling, baking, counting, collecting, and enthusiastically supporting. Some of this happens every week but it was more than evident this particular day. Patience was exhibited with the occasional goofs of those in unfamiliar roles.

The TREASURES aspect: Generosity for both the bake sale and bucket collection. The usual collection plates were pretty generous, too. The Heifer International project has a wonderful start toward their goal. Even our youngest children enthusiastically collected change in the red buckets. No treats provided today so you had to buy a treat!

If you didn’t attend, you missed a wonderful opportunity to see our church working together like a well-oiled machine!

## 2023 Election Results

Church Council:	Leisha Kragel	(2027)
Christian Education:	Talsha Johannsen	(2026)
	Jill Sedore	(2026)
CSFD Committee:	Linda Reimer	(2026)
	Shelby Neubauer	(2026)
Property Committee:	Ken Boger	(2026)
	Huntur Johannsen	(2026)
Missions & Outreach:	Taylor Neubauer	(TBD)
	Jersey Bral	(TBD)
	Connie Boger	(TBD)
	Roberta Jepsen	(TBD)
	Julie Christie	(TBD)
Spiritual Life:	Joan Cassens	(2026)
	Jenny Boleter	(2026)

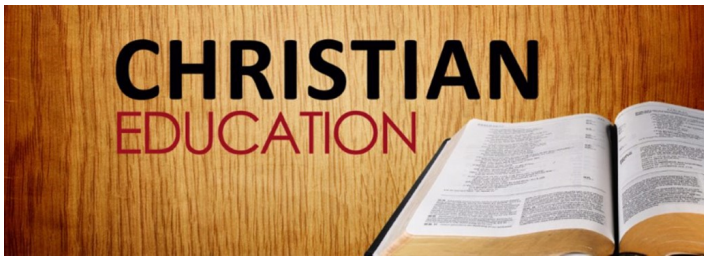
### **INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5th** will be installation of newly elected Council and Committee persons during the worship service.

We welcome Leisha Kragel for a first term on the Church Council, Talsha Johannsen and Jill Sedore to Christian Education, Linda Reimer and Shelby Neubauer to the CSFD committee, Ken Boger and Huntur Johannsen to Property Committee, Taylor Neubauer, Jersey Bral, Connie Boger, Roberta Jepsen, and Julie Christie to Missions and Outreach, and Joan Cassens and Jenny Boelter to Spiritual Life. Thank you for your service to our Lord and congregation.

**Please be present at this service if you were elected at the Annual Meeting.**





Christian Education kicked off the new year with a very busy month! We began the year with a new mission project: Heifer International. The children chose animals they would like to purchase for Heifer International, which total to \$560. The Wednesday School kids and Confirmation kids baked on January 4th to prepare goodies for the bake sale. On Sunday morning, the Sunday School kids were also busy baking items for the bake sale that followed the church service. They raised \$282 from the bake sale.

Thank you to Tammy Neubauer for the wonderful children's sermon on Jesus' baptism on January 8th. The children really loved going on a "field trip" to look at the baptismal font and the stained glass window.

Following children's time, the children walked out into the congregation with little red buckets in hand. It was so great to see so many church members with Ziploc baggies full of change to put in the little red buckets. There was a total of \$45.65 in the little red buckets.



THANK YOU to everyone who supported their fundraising efforts on January 8th. A generous donation of \$250 was made the following day towards the Heifer International Project. All together, \$577.65 was

raised, which was more than their goal; so the children added a heifer to their list of animals to purchase, bringing their new goal to \$1060. They will be doing the "Little Red Bucket Collection" again on Sunday, February 5th.

On Sunday, January 22, Christian Education hosted a movie day in the afternoon. Son of God was playing for the adults and teens and The Prince of Egypt was playing in the meeting room for the younger kids. Thank you to Jessica Jurgensen for running the movie for the younger kids and to Candice Bral for running the movie for the adults and teens. It was a great afternoon with popcorn, cookies, fellowship, and the movies. If you would like to borrow the DVD's, please call the office.



THANK YOU to Leisha Kragel for making phone calls and getting a schedule for technology in the works. Leisha and Candice have been training more people. The kids are doing a fantastic job! THANK YOU to everyone who helps with the livestreaming each Sunday. We know many people at home who really enjoy it.



Hayden and Haxton Fineran livestreaming the January 22 worship service.