

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 2025 Newsletter

Here we are in the second month of the summer already. It is time to celebrate our Country's Independence.

I personally want to thank those who have helped with the successful service at the pond. First, we need to thank Judy for allowing us to come again to her place. I appreciate all the effort that you put in getting everything ready. Thank you to all those who went out and helped get ready for the service at the pond. I want to also thank all of you that were able to come out to the pond. The forty to fifty people that came I believe had a good time with the service (even though it was a tad bit windy). The food and fellowship after the service was a great time to sit and share in Christian Fellowship. A special thanks to Taylor for preparing the pulled pork. As always, the food was fantastic.

As we have discussed in church, again at the pond and in our prayers. How God is our everything, and without him nothing is impossible. In our struggles to be living a God-centered life, David has his confessions in Psalm 63. He acknowledges his creator, when he said, "I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you". For David had "seen" god and "beheld" His "power" and "Glory" (vs. 2). He declared God's steadfast love as "better than life" (vs 3). Then he prayed: "Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. I cling to you; your right hand upholds me" (vs. 7-8). God was clearly everything to David.

Can our lives become beacons that point others to a life-saving relationship with God when Jesus becomes our reason, our everything. In what ways does our life reflect that Christ is our reason, your everything. What do we need to do to surrender ourselves to say that He's our King?

I hope and pray that you and your families have an awesome July.

PRAYER: Dear Jesus, please help me truly live like You're our reason, my everything. AMEN.

God Bless,

Kirk Manchester





| | | | |
|------|----|---|-------------------|
| July | 1 | - | Lance Clausen |
| July | 2 | - | Josie McMinemee |
| July | 6 | - | Mindi Sieren |
| July | 7 | - | Carrie Johnson |
| July | 8 | - | Darrell Brodersen |
| | | | Laurie Hansen |
| July | 9 | - | Kim Brockman |
| July | 11 | - | Haxton Fineran |
| July | 15 | - | Delbert Schmidt |
| | | | Skylar Bielenberg |
| July | 18 | - | Ryan Woodward |
| July | 19 | - | Trevor Nemitz |
| | | | Evelynn Sharp |
| July | 20 | - | Carissa Barker |
| | | | Kinley South |
| July | 21 | - | Brinkley Thies |
| July | 22 | - | Colton Johannsen |
| July | 24 | - | Cierra Kastner |
| July | 25 | - | Roger Baer |
| July | 28 | - | Avery Sieren |
| | | | Dennis Bumann |
| July | 29 | - | Jamison Tressler |
| July | 30 | - | Dylan Krohnke |
| July | 31 | - | Sean Krohnke |

Spiritual Life thanks those that remembered to wear red to help celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

May Financials



Income:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Weekly envelopes | \$ 3298.00 |
| Loose Offering | \$ 337.22 |
| Seasonal Offering | \$ 3.00 |
| Misc. Offerings | \$ 0.00 |
| Misc. Income | \$ 73.47 |
| Interest Income-Gen. Fund | \$ 5.88 |
| Investment Income | \$ 2132.33 |
| Total Income: | \$ 5849.90 |

Expenses:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Insurance & Taxes | \$ 326.39 |
| Janitor Supplies | \$ 31.01 |
| Misc. Expenses | \$ 40.04 |
| Music | \$ 696.00 |
| Office Expense | \$ 410.33 |
| Pastor Expenses | \$ 5432.26 |
| Repairs and Maintenance | \$ 42.32 |
| Supplies | \$ 241.00 |
| Support Staff Salaries | \$ 3752.00 |
| Utilities | \$ 636.79 |
| Total Expenses: | \$ 11,612.14 |
| Net Ordinary Income | \$ (-5,762.24) |

May Numbers for the Books

| <u>Date:</u> | <u>Attendance:</u> | <u>Contributions:</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| May 4 | 47 | \$1517.25 |
| May 11 | 55 | \$1391.22 |
| May 18 | 35 | \$292.00 |
| May 25 | 62 | \$292.75 |
| Total: | 199 | \$3493.22 |
| Average: | 50 | \$876.30 |



Council Meeting Minutes May 21, 2025

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

Council members in attendance were Josie Krohnke, Leisha Kragel, Roberta Jepsen, John Bahnsen, Seth Neubauer and Jill Sedore. Kirk Manchester and Tammy Neubauer (Financial Secretary) were also present. John Fineran was absent.

Opening Prayer: Kirk opened with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes from the April 18, 2025 meeting and was 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 May bills. Seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

CE: Jessica has given kids a summer challenge to do some memorization to earn a free pizza certificate. Roberta complemented Jessica on doing a great job with Christian Ed this year. Planning for VBS in August is underway.

CSFD: They are trying to find a date for scholarship interviews and are considering possible donations to Crawford and Ida County food pantries.

CSFI: A CD was reinvested for 8 years.

Property: The elevator is repaired and a surge protector installed. A quote for a new door sensor, with new technology has been received but will not be installed at this time as the old one is still working.

Parking lot work has begun. A change order was discussed at great length to add new steps in the back alley for safer access to the dumpster from the basement and to remove and install new sidewalk along the east sanctuary windows to allow for proper water flow. New downspouts will also need to be installed on the chapel to run rain water underground and remove the icy sidewalk danger. Council discussed adding square poles along sanctuary windows to run downspouts down poles and underground, again to remove damage from water on concrete and for win-

ter safety. It was moved to approve a change order with Heiden Concrete for \$10,000 for the steps and sidewalk additions. A change order would also be approved for \$1,000 with Elevate roofing to add the downspouts on the chapel. A second was made and motion carried. This brings the current cost of project to approximately \$439,660. At this time, council agreed the addition of poles should be considered, but will have Property Committee investigate cost and propose a change order.

Spiritual Life: Some members served Easter breakfast with the help of additional volunteers. They are asking everyone to wear red to worship on June 8, to observe Pentecost. They will also be decorating the sanctuary for Pentecost.

Missions & Outreach: They organized an Easter Egg hunt for kids following worship on Easter and will be organizing the Community Picnic.

Stewardship: No report

Endowment: No report.

Pastor's Report: Council reviewed the report submitted, listing visiting elderly and giving communion, and preaching at Homestead once a month. He has attended community meetings and attended NW Iowa Association meeting. A wedding was also done this month. To meet criteria in his new contract, he has registered for a class to become a licensed lay minister and is working on other requirements to become licensed.

Old Business:

Kirk's Contract: Council reviewed the contract the sub-committee drafted. Changes to vacation and sick days were made by agreement of council members. The contract was presented to Kirk. He stated he would look it over. It was not signed at this time. The current contract will be extended until next meeting.

John Wulf Money: Seth suggested using some of the money to revive headstones at the Grant cemetery as many have fallen and are in disrepair. Many of those needing repair are veterans. Leisha noted the Morgan cemetery has headstones in disrepair as well. It was agreed money could possibly be given to each cemetery. Seth will contact board members for Grant and see if they would be interested in this project and will talk to a Battle Creek individual that does the headstone work to get an estimate of cost.

(Council Minutes Continued)

Summer Worship: The congregational vote revealed a 9 AM start time for worship, from June 1 through August 31, 2025.

Combine Missions/Spiritual Life: This was tabled as the committees have not met together.

Renter fertilizer reports and leases: The fertilizer reports have been turned in from both renters. Council agreed soil maps will be requested from each renter to ensure soil nutrient levels are adequate. This is the last year for the current leases. The church will not be terminating the leases.

New Business:

Worship at the pond: Since no plans have been made and it is short notice, council agreed there would not be church at the pond this year. The exception would be if Judy was set on having it. It was noted next year plans needed to be discussed in February or March to ensure time to make it a special event and publicize the event.

Parsonage Flag Pole: The pole at the parsonage is in poor repair. A new one has been ordered.

Summer Office Hours: Candice requested a change to office hours for the summer. It was moved and seconded to approve June through August office hours as Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 am -2 pm. Motion carried.

Kirk stated he will be taking vacation August 18-August 25.

The next meeting will be June 18 at 6:30.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Neubauer

Financial and Council Secretary



Thank you to Rhonda Pankau for making the beautiful altar floral arrangements for Pentecost, as well as the arrangement that adorns the piano in the sanctuary.

Notice the "vase" for the piano arrangement is an old blue hymnal!
Very creative Rhonda!



**Congratulations Cierra
Kastner on graduating
from Buena Vista University**



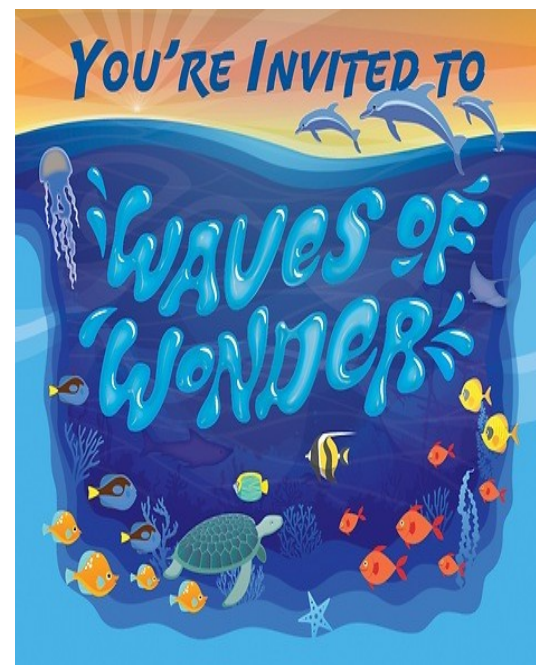
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

"We are getting excited for our Vacation Bible School program coming up August 3-6. A big thank you to Journey, June, and Candice for helping get our donated decorations from Zion Lutheran Church in Denison. Please sign your children/grandchildren up and/or sign up to be a volunteer.

There were only a few that showed up to our first mystery movie "Blue Miracle". The kids had a great time making their Father's Day project and other crafts. Please try it out at our second one on July 13th at 4:30pm. There will be a mystery movie appropriate for middle school and up, child care - including a short kids movie, craft(s), and a walk to the park, and light supper."



Jessica Jurgensen
CE Director



Hymns on the Chimes



July 3- 5:00 PM "Battle Hymn of the Republic" in memory of Palmer & Verline Peters from the Peters family

July 4- 4:00 PM "God Bless America" in honor of Independence Day from the UCC

July 4- 4:00 PM "Battle Hymn of the Republic" in honor of Independence Day from the UCC

July 4- 4:00 PM "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" in honor of Independence Day from the UCC

July 4- 4:00 PM "Army Goes Rolling Along" in honor of Independence Day from the UCC

July 9- 5:00 PM "The Old Rugged Cross" in memory of Roy Johnson from Zola Friedrichsen & family

July 15- 9 AM "God Will Take Care of You" from Bill & Joyce Petersen in memory of their parents

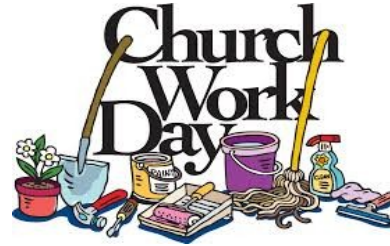
July 18 -5:00 PM "How Great Thou Art" in memory of Milroy Groth from Marlene Groth

July 18- 6:45 PM "It is No Secret" in memory of Ralph Miller from the Ralph Miller family

July 19- 6:15 PM "Home on the Range" in memory of Dale Lacey from Sandy Lacey and family

July 19- 7:00 PM "America the Beautiful" in memory of Edward W. Claussen from Craig Claussen

July 25- 12:00 PM "How Great Thou Art" in memory of Rawlo Kastner from Rubie Kastner



Church Work Day will be on Saturday, July 26th. We will be completing various projects around our church. Please be at the church by 8:00 am to lend a hand.

July Greeters

July 6- Verdell & Marlyn Kastner

July 13- Cal Kastner & Kevin Neubauer

July 20- Judy Strandburg & Patti Miller

July 27- Wayne & Ina Mae Bliesmann

July Acolytes

July 6- Ella Anders & Sophia Luth

July 13- Brayton Johannsen & Taryn Johannsen

July 20- Ryder Luth & Huntur Johannsen

July 27- Hayden Fineran & Haxton Fineran



Scholarship Sunday is scheduled for July 27th during the 9:00 am worship service. All scholarship recipients are asked to attend this service so they can be recognized.