

# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## MAY 2023

Well April has given us her best on shower's and now we look forward for the flowers in May. Flowers definitely need rain, you could say that they love rain. Without the rain the flowers would not grow. We as Christians need Jesus, we need his love so that we can grow. do we love him for who he is or for what he does for us. In our current issue of "Our Daily Bread" I found an article that comes from John 15: 9-17, that conveys the Greater Love of Jesus.

The devotion talks about how a policeman from France traded places with a hostage that a killer had taken and was using them as a human shield. Well in an ensuing scuffle he was injured and later died.

A minister who knew the police officer said that he attributed his heroism to his faith in Jesus. For in John 15:13 it says, "Greater love has no one that this; to lay down one's life for one's friend." If you recall these were words that Christ spoke to His disciples after their final meal together (Last Supper). Jesus told His friends to "Love each other as I have loved you" verse 12. Then Jesus laid down his life the next day for us, as he died on the cross to save us from our sins.

Now we may never be in the position that the policeman was in. But we need to remember that we are and will always have God's love. So, how can we be loving and show others that same love that Jesus has shown to us. How can we show others that we will put our plans and desires to the side to help and share the story of the love that he has showed us in our lives.

We are to love each other as Jesus loved us, and he loved us enough to give his life for us. We may not have to die for someone, but there are others ways to practice sacrificial love: listening, helping, encouraging, and giving. Is there someone that you know who is in need of this kind of love? If you do, please share it with them.

Jesus made the choice to love and to die for us, to invite us to live with him forever. We need to make a choice-to accept or reject his offer. I believe that we have all accepted his love and now is the time to share it with others. Our country and our world are in desperate times right now.

The prayer at the end of the devotion says it all.

"Dear Jesus, You died to give me life everlasting. May I live with gratitude for this gift and share it with those you put in my path." AMEN.

So, what are some ways that we can show Jesus's love to others in Schleswig, the state, the country, and the world. If you have any ideas I would like to know. Send me a text, e-mail, or just let me know when you see me.

In God's Love

Pastor Kirk



**Brayton Johannsen**

**Lay Leader Kirk Manchester**

**Confirmation 2023**



## MAY HYMNS ON THE CHIMES

**May 1** – 5 P.M. “Sweet Hour of Prayer” from the UCC Women’s Guild

**May 3** – 6:15 P.M. “Here I Am Lord” in memory of **Harlan & Barbara Buffum** from their family and friends

**May 4** – 5:15 P.M. “Lift High on the Cross” in memory of **Peter and Jane Pickel** from Rubie Kastner

**May 5** – 11:00 A.M. “On Eagles Wings” in memory of **Cheryl Wolterman** from Jodi Ehlers

**May 6** – 5:15 P.M. “On Eagles Wings” in memory of **Elmer Reimer** from the Reimer Family

**May 6** – 6:00 P.M. “Beautiful Savior” in memory of **Ruth Jess** from the Reimer Family

**May 11** – 5 P.M. “O, Jesus I Have Promised” in memory of **Lois Reimer** from Gary & Linda Reimer & family

**May 19** – 6:00 P.M. “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” in memory of **Emmogene Evers**, Johannes & Anna; William & Frieda; LaVaughn & Robert and Bud Peterson from Charles, Sandy & Bob & family.

**May 20** – 6:30 P.M. “Just As I Am” in memory of **Harvey Wellendorf & Ruth Wellendorf** from family

**May 26** – 6:00 P.M. – “Nearer My God to Thee” in memory of **Clarence Reincke** from his family

**May 29** – 11:15 A.M. “God Bless America” in honor of **Memorial Day**

## STEWARDSHIP FOR MAY

A different message this month from the usual! Each month I look at what has been happening in our church in the recent past and wait for inspiration. Today I am reflecting on the giving this past month. All I can say is, “thank you, thank you, thank you”!

Your financial donations have been generous. Attendance has been growing. Many people stepped forward to fill needed duties and served faithfully. We must celebrate all these things that have glorified God.

Our message for the month is gratefulness and keep up the great work.

Thank you to Candice and the CE committee for occasionally refurbishing the Kiddie bags. Those bags are well used. If you have any ideas or an item or two to donate, that is welcome. Let’s keep our kiddos happy to come!

**Challenge:** People who watch our service online comment that the church looks so empty. We would like to challenge all of you to help solve this problem. If we would all sit one or two pews more toward the front, perhaps we can get more people on the video. I think you would rather do that than to put the ropes up again. Will everyone help?

HAPPY  
Mother's  
DAY

## March Numbers for the Books

Date:	Attendance:	Contributions:
March 5	76	\$ 739.50
March 12	55	\$ 3697.37
March 19	60	\$ 5032.00
March 26	45	\$ 1536.25
Total:	236	\$ 9468.87
Average:	59	\$2367.22

Thank you to everyone who donated food for the Easter breakfast. It was nice to see such a good crowd for the breakfast, and awesome that we had plenty of food! Wendy, Shelby, Taylor and I would like to thank our families for stepping up to help serve and clean-up. Thank you Judy for manning the toaster. The free will donations will go to the church budget.

--Tammy

## TEMPORARY AID PROGRAM

### **May is our new Temporary Aid Program (TAP) month.**

For TAP to meet the needs of people in Crawford County, TAP depends on the regular contribution of basic food items. TAP no longer accepts donations of clothing.

At this time they are in particular need of sugar, flour, soups, crackers, cooking oil, tuna, canned tomatoes, tomato paste, tomato juice, macaroni, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, hamburger helper, tuna helper, complete pancake mix and syrup, laundry soap, dish soap, and personal hygiene products. There are many family necessities that cannot be purchased with food stamps like paper towels, toilet paper, disposable diapers, personal care products, soap, shampoo, laundry soap, etc.

Cash donations may be sent directly to TAP at PO Box 121, Denison, IA 51442. Your generosity is ALWAYS appreciated!

Let's come together to help those in need in our community and neighboring communities!

## EASTER THOUGHTS

Easter Sunday was one of those days I was so proud of our members. It reminded me of a Billy Ray Cyrus song. Some gave all, all gave some!

The usual people stood up in usual roles – greeting, assisting with offering and communion, music, children's sermon, unlocking doors, technology, filling coffee pots on Saturday, turning on lights, attending, and gifts of offering. Many filled multiple roles with some serious multi-tasking.

Then there was the special breakfast at colorfully decorated tables. A group of volunteers coordinated this event – Tammy Neubauer, Shelby Neubauer, Taylor Neubauer, and Wendy Bumann. The food was all donated by our members. Family members stepped in to help with serving, cleanup, and child supervision.

The Council and our members thank all of you. Attendance was 95, a new high for the year. We certainly proclaimed - He is Risen!

## JOY Boxes

The Evening Guild has JOY Boxes available on a table in the entryway. A JOY Box is beautifully wrapped and labeled for men, women, girls and boys. Each box is filled with 7 gifts and a Bible verse attached to each gift. Encourage the one who receives it, to open one gift each day of the week. Feel free to take one and share with someone to show them you care. There is no charge for these.

Evening Guild is asking the congregation for donations of items to help them continue to supply JOY Boxes. Examples of items would be: playing cards, chapstick, lotion, hand sanitizer, coloring books, puzzles, journals, etc. There will be a box for donations in the entryway.



Schleswig City-Wide Garage Sale is scheduled for June 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

Our church will be taking donations to host a garage sale to help with the general budget. If you bring large furniture, you will be responsible for it if it doesn't sell. Please let the church know of items you plan on bringing so that we can have it in the garage sale ad by May 17th. Donations can be brought to the church beginning May 30. Please watch the church bulletins for more information.



May 3 - Tasha DeBode  
Shelby Neubauer  
May 4 - Lorene Reimer  
May 6 - Cory Wiebers  
May 7 - Jared Curtis  
Linda Reimer  
May 8 - Kristy Clausen  
Kayla Kastner  
May 9 - Jeremy Paulsen  
May 11 - Sophia Luth  
May 12 - Naomi Friedrichsen  
Cheri Streck  
May 13 - William Lacey  
May 14 - Jamie Ipsen  
Delores Nemitz  
Jolene Whiteing  
May 21 - Ina Mae Bliesmann  
Connie Boger  
May 22 - MacKenzie Waldemar  
May 23 - Candis Denker  
May 24 - Roberta Jepsen  
Robert Kastner  
May 25 - Sydney Krohnke  
May 27 - Reed Slater  
May 28 - J.J. Steuk  
May 30 - Murlin Johannsen  
Gracie Outhouse  
Todd Meehan

## **MAY GREETERS**

May 7- John &Joan Cassens

May 14- Paul Outhouse & Shannon Cose

May 21- John & Arlis Bahnsen

May 28- Jim & Cheri Streck

## **MAY ACOLYTES**

May 7- Ryder Luth & Sophie Luth

May 14- Brayton Johannsen

& Taryn Johannsen

May 21- Jayton Bral & Journey Bral

May 28- Cale Paulsen & Jaxon Paulsen

## **MAY Technology**

May 7- Journey Bral & Jayton Bral

May 14- Jett Paulsen & Cale Paulsen

May 21- Jersey Bral & Haxton Bral

May 28- Ryder Luth & Sophie Luth

## **Technology**

**Thank you Leisha Kragel, Candice Bral and all the kids that have been running the technology these last few months. There will not be a schedule for the summer months. If anyone wants to operate the technology any Sunday, you are more than welcome to. If not, the camera will stay zoomed out for the entire service.**

## **March Financials**



### Income:

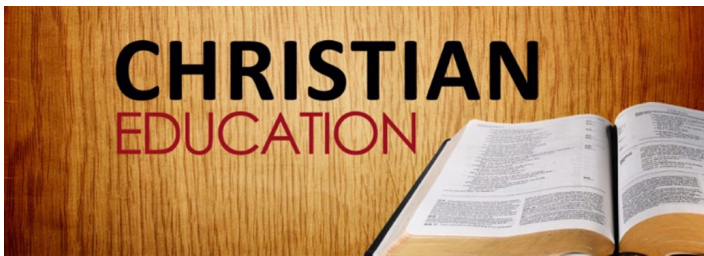
Weekly envelopes	\$ 10348.00
Loose Offering	\$ 140.12
Seasonal Offering	\$ 494.00
Misc. Offerings	\$ 398.00
Misc. Income	\$ 0.00
Interest Income-Gen. Fund	\$ 18.43
Investment Income	\$ 0.00
Total Income:	\$ 11398.55

### Expenses:

Association Dues	\$ 0.00
Insurance & Taxes	\$ 1906.63
Janitor Supplies	\$ 119.91
Misc. Expenses	\$ 0.00
Music	\$ 160.00
Office Expense	\$ 542.51
Pastor Expenses	\$ 4950.34
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 58.80
Supplies	\$ 184.68
Support Staff Salaries	\$ 3270.00
Utilities	\$ 2039.92
Total expense:	\$ 13232.79

Net Ordinary Income \$ (-1,834.24)





Palm Sunday is always one of my favorite days of the year. Everyone is extra joyous, the kids have the biggest smiles on their faces as they parade around the Sanctuary to the hymn, "All Glory, Laud and Honor" and all the members of the congregation are happy to see all the little ones in church. In Sunday School and at children's time, we talked about how Jesus came into Jerusalem. Jesus was a king, but not like other kings. Jesus was humble. We talked about how Jesus did not wear a golden crown and how he chose to make his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. We compared the excitement of watching Jesus ride a donkey into Jerusalem to watching our parade at Schleswig Calf Show Days.

In Sunday school, we are beginning to talk about all the things that happened after Jesus' resurrection. We talked about Doubting Thomas and how he needed to SEE the wounds in Jesus' hands and side to believe. We don't need to see Jesus to believe, "we can feel him in our hearts" is what one child said. I couldn't agree more.

### **Youth Group**

With Confirmation over for the school year, CE is going to get a Youth Group together. The 1st Youth group meeting will be Wednesday May 3rd from 5:30-7pm for grades 4th-9th.



A big THANK YOU to Tammy for the amazing Children's sermon on Easter Sunday.



New Business:

Quick Books: The cost will be \$1,599.00 to renew Quick Books.

Spring Grants: We have \$10,000 set aside for Spring Grants in the budget. We had requests from the Ida County Farm Bureau for \$2,500, the American Legion Post 645 for \$1,200, the Open Cupboard for \$3,000, and the Crawford County Ministerial Association for \$2,000. There is a total of \$8,700 in grant requests. There will be no decision at this time due to other upcoming obligations. Sandy will contact them about the delay.

Easter Plans: The service will be at 8:00 with the meal to follow. We will put in the announcements that we need a coordinator for the Easter breakfast. If that doesn't work, we will put a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Candice will send invitations to our confirmand.

Confirmation Details: The confirmation will be on Palm Sunday. Brayton will be our confirmand this year. Maundy Thursday will be his first Communion.

Garage Sale: This would be for the church's general fund and would be held in the church basement. This would be during the city-wide garage sale. This has been tabled until next meeting.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Boelter

**Senior Recognition is Sunday, May 7th. Please plan to attend the service so you can congratulate our Graduates, Colton Johannsen and Jaxon Paulsen on their accomplishment.**



### **Pilgrim Heights Summer Camp**

There are 2 camps available this summer:

Session 1 is for ages 6-11 years old and is July 16<sup>th</sup>-July 20<sup>th</sup>.

Session 2 is for ages 12-18 years old and is July 23<sup>rd</sup>-July 27<sup>th</sup>.

The cost is \$450 per child. There is money available through CSFD to pay part of the cost of camp, if any kids would like to attend this summer.

***You must contact the office by July 1st to qualify for help from CSFD.***



### **VBS 2023**

**June 25th-June 28th**

**5:30-8:00 PM**

**Ages 3- 6th grade**

**Register online at [ucc.mycokesburyvbs.com](http://ucc.mycokesburyvbs.com)**

**We are in need of volunteers for VBS, please consider sharing your time and talents.**



### **March 16, 2023 Minutes**

**Call to Order:** President Sandy Lacey opened the meeting. Those in attendance were Sandy, Leisha, Jeff, Judy, Seth, and John & Cheri (by phone).

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Kirk opened with a prayer.

**Childcare Financial Report:** Mike Goodin reported to the Council about the status of the Daycare. The Daycare raised \$23,000 net profit at their fundraiser. Extra income is at \$85,495.38. They have set money back for expenses. The Daycare owes \$416,000 on the note to the bank. Their grant application should be submitted within a month for \$280,000, bringing what they owe down to \$136,300. The church's only commitment will be the annual contribution to the childcare. In the future the Daycare will have to have annual fund raising. However, things should come together well.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the minutes from the last meeting and was seconded. Motion carried.

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

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

#### **Committee Reports:**

**CE:** They have had two meetings. VBS material has been chosen. They are going to make a list to create a curriculum for what kids need to learn before Confirmation. They want kids to go to church camp at Pilgrim Heights again. Pilgrim Heights is having two camps this year at a cost of \$450 per child. There are two students graduating high school this year.

**CSFD:** Meeting next Wednesday.

**CSFI:** Nothing to report.

**Property:** Ken fixed the sink in the back room; it's rusty and needs to be repaired. There is a need for new toilet seats.

**Spiritual Life:** They need to work on the Picnic in the Park and work with other groups to get this completed.

**Missions & Outreach:** Had a meeting and decided who would serve different lengths of terms.

**Stewardship:** Sandy is working on her new article.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor wants to buy Wendy a gift card and a cake for her years of service. Pastor did visitations at the care centers. He did a graveside service for Valera. Attendance on Wednesday services have been good.

#### **Old Business:**

**Streaming and Technology Update:** Technology is still acting up. There is concern that the kids aren't paying attention to the service while operating the technology upstairs.

**John Wulf Money:** Pastor wants to use some of this for the Picnic in the Park. Jeff thought some should go to the Daycare. Seth believes that some of the money should go to the city lights fund. Pastor thought it would be nice to give some to the Courtesy Fund and buying supplies for the bags. The previously mentioned ideas are just ideas currently. Nothing is set in stone.

**Council's Lenten Meal Report:** The meal went well. Not much was left over.

**Narthex—**The council is fine with the changes in the Narthex.

**Evening Guild:** The Evening guild wants to do their own fund raisers and not accept any money from the Kitchen Fund.