

# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Here we are in November already. Fall has seemed to just fly by this year. Harvest has been going well for most and then there is some who have had some difficulties with weather and other mechanical things. The two of the last three Sundays has gone very well here at the Church.

First, we had our annual Chicken Dinner. We served between 330-340 people. We thank Shannon again for all the work she put in with all the planning. Another thank you goes out to all the people who worked at serving up the meal. They worked like an assembly line that works together everyday. The kids who were the runners and delivering the food to everyone. I can't forget to say thank you to the ladies taking care of the green beans in the basement or for those who were carrying food in and out of the church to be served. Staley's chicken says enough, I had one lady tell me that she came from Denison just get the chicken. It was so good to see everybody work together.

Then on the next Sunday, we had our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Trunk or Treat. A big thank you goes Candice for planning this activity. In which there was seventeen trunks that was there for the kids to enjoy the different candies, mystery boxes, and other prizes that they could win from the different trunks. There were monsters, Mario brothers, cowboys, donuts, horses, and an ambulance. And that was just some of the trunks that could be found. Thank you for the horses. It was so good to see the Church and the community come together to make this a memorable afternoon for the kids.

With both of these events, it was great to see the turn out that we had. How members of this church came together for the betterment of the community.

The teamwork that was shown between everyone was awesome. The Bible defines teamwork as simply as "the body of Christ and the people are a team. The body is not supported by only person but instead of all the people; all of us." When we are one, we work stronger. Teamwork is also the key to living life in harmony with each other.

As it says in the book of Matthew 18: 20, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Or in Romans 8:28 where it says, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

We are all here to do Gods work and to do it with one another is better than doing it by ourselves. So, doing things for the church and doing them with the church is a great thing and the outcomes are that much better when they are done in Christian love.

Pastor Kirk

Have a blessed November

What are you thankful for?

## NOVEMBER HYMNS ON THE CHIMES



Nov 1, 6:30 pm, ***"Just as I Am"*** in memory of  
Leroy & Genevieve Brodersen and Darriel &  
Bernadine Landgraf from Darrell & Marcia

Nov 2, 5:00 pm, ***"How Great Thou Art"*** in memory of  
Leola Claussen from Craig Claussen

Nov 5, 5:30 pm, ***"How Great Thou Art"*** in memory of  
Rubie Kastner from UCC Choir

Nov 9, 6:30 pm, ***"In the Garden"*** in memory of Alan  
Teut from family

Nov 11, 5:15 pm, ***"America the Beautiful"*** in honor  
of Veteran's Day from UCC

Nov 15, 5:00 pm, ***"An Evening Prayer"*** in memory of  
Clara Wonder from the Wonder family

Nov 19, 11:00 am, ***"The Lord's Prayer"*** in memory of  
Walter Huebner from UCC

Nov 20, 6:15 pm, ***"Ten Thousand Angels"*** in memory of  
William Petersen from UCC Choir

Nov 22, 6:15 pm, ***"Old Rugged Cross"*** in memory of  
Laverna Jensen from family & friends

Nov 30, 6:15 pm, ***"Battle Hymn of the Republic"***  
in memory of Dick Iversen from Marian Iversen



Shelby Barker	11/1
Genevieve Clausen	11/1
Hayden Hipnar	11/2
Tyson Teut	11/5
Gavin Grau	11/6
Sandra Lacey	11/7
Jersey Bral	11/9
Nancy Pearson	11/10
Clinton Stecker	11/12
Journey Bral	11/13
Judy Strandburg	11/13
Emma Holloway	11/15
Jason Clausen	11/17
Jaxon Paulsen	11/19
Phyllis Clausen	11/21
Pam Gronau	11/24
Ross Kastner	11/25
Jill Luth	11/26
Matthew Clausen	11/27
Mark Kastner	11/27
Jeannetta Knief	11/29
Kirk Manchester	11/29
Ken Boger	11/30

**The children's Christmas  
program will be during  
the worship service on  
Sunday, December 3rd.**

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School has been going great! The Christian Education Committee has been taking turns teaching the 2 groups of children on Sunday mornings. On Sunday, October 22, the children were learning about the trinity, which is a hard concept, even for adults. We used candy corn to help explain the concept. The Littles cut paper and made their own candy corn with the labels: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. This will be a continued discussion, but they did an awesome job! And no one walked out with a new haircut.



## TRUNK OR TREAT

We had beautiful weather for Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 22nd. It was a bit breezy at times, but still absolutely perfect weather for it. This year's trunk or treat was the best we have had since starting it in 2015. (Covid and weather prevented us from having it in 2020. ) We had 16 trunks and at least 58 trunk or treaters. We received support from the Schleswig Volunteer Fire Dept and EMT's, Crossroads of Crawford County, Dirt Don't Hurt Clothing Company, and many members of our congregation. Thank you Jessica Jurgensen (and girls) for bringing horses and to Kelli and Ella Anders for bringing bunnies. All of the kids really enjoyed petting them. Thank you to everyone that had a trunk. A big thank you to the Missions and Outreach committee for purchasing 6 ready to use kits for members to borrow. Trunk or Treat was a great community event and I hope we have it again next year.

Go to Schleswig United Church of Christ on Facebook to see even more pictures of this fun event.





# Totenfest



## RECOGNITION AND DEDICATION

### OF MEMORIALS

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023**

A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

## TOTENFEST SUNDAY

A Litany of Remembrance will be included in the Service of Worship on Sunday, November 19th in honor of the following persons who have joined the Church Triumphant.

Arlis Neddermeyer.....1/18/2023

Alan Sedore.....1/27/2023

Valera Stern.....2/17/2023

Michael Landon.....7/28/2023

*We invite the family, relatives and friends of the deceased members to*

## November Greeters

November 5- Jim & Jolene Whiteing

November 12 - LaWayne & Pam Gronau

November 19 - Larry & Pat Weibers

November 26 - Julie Christie & Leisha Kragel

## November Acolytes

November 5 - Journey Bral & Taryn Johannsen

November 12 - Hayden Fineran

& Haxton Fineran

November 19 - Jayton Bral

& Brayton Johannsen

November 26 - Ella Anders & June Jurgensen

## AVENUE OF TREES

Hanging of the greens and the Avenue of Trees decorating will take place on Sunday, November 26 following the worship service. We ask that trees be decorated so all are up by the first Sunday of Advent on December 3rd. Please contact the church office at 676-3917 to reserve your stand.



## MISSION COMMITTEE HEADS-UP

The Mission Committee will again be serving the luncheon on Santa Claus Day. We will be asking for donations of desserts and ground beef.

Please watch for the sign-up sheets in the Narthex This is our main fundraiser for mission projects and well received by Crafters. We would really appreciate your volunteering so we don't need to start making phone calls. Thank you all!!



# September

## Financials



### Income:

Weekly envelopes	\$ 3523.00
Loose Offering	\$ 52.75
Seasonal Offering	\$ 8.00
Misc. Offerings	\$ 0.00
Misc. Income	\$ 120.42
Interest Income-Gen. Fund	\$ 31.06
Investment Income	\$ 453.70
Total Income:	\$ 4188.93

### Expenses:

Association Dues	\$ 0.00
Insurance & Taxes	\$ 1914.29
Janitor Supplies	\$ 214.33
Misc. Expenses	\$ 0.00
Music	\$ 160.00
Office Expense	\$ 393.51
Pastor Expenses	\$ 4950.34
Payroll Expenses	\$ 0.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 274.21
Supplies	\$ 343.32
Support Staff Salaries	\$ 3130.00
Utilities	\$ 2070.77
Total expense:	\$ 13450.77
Net Ordinary Income	\$ (-9261.84)

## September Numbers for the Book

Date:	Attendance:	Contributions:
9-3	58	(9-3 & 9-10 together)
9-10	70	\$1445.00
9-17	40	\$695.75
9-24	55	\$1395.00
Total:	223	\$3535.75
Average:	56	\$883.94

### IT WAS A SUCCESS

We have not counted the money, paid the bills, tallied meals served, totaled the net income or fully evaluated Sunday's chicken dinner. We do know we served over 300 meals, the food was excellent, we did not run out of anything, and many people worked together with no unkind or cross words heard. We will have a full report by next month.

We were concerned we would not serve as many because fields were wet with no combines and crews working. We still had big orders, extra donations, and good attendance. Staley's did their usual organized, good job!

Thank you to all who baked, worked, made calls, invited friends and relatives to join them, did pre-event duties like dishing salads and packaging rolls. Special thanks to Shannon and family for organizing the event. I don't like to single out any faction of workers but our young people earned lots of respect and appreciation. The elevator was not working so they toted things up and down the stairs to the kitchen. That is certainly not a job for someone like me with "old" legs and limited endurance. They did a great job.

Stayed tuned for the rest of the story!





## **NOVEMBER STEWARDSHIP**

The end of the year is fast approaching. That means the council will be working to develop the budget for the church's general fund to present to the congregation for approval at our annual meeting. This is not an easy task!

Our income is variable. Dividends from the Carstensen Brothers stock fund does not usually vary a lot. Even if the stock prices go up or down the percent of income is basi-

cally steady. The chance of a big drop would need to have a company or companies drop their dividend substantially. That has not happened in many years. Raises in dividends are usually modest amounts with slow gains. This income provides more than 50% of our money for the budget.

The next source of income is special fund-raising projects – chicken dinner, some Lenten meals (most committees use that income to bolster committee projects), unexpected bequests, garage sale income, and other special projects.

The third revenue producing area is congregational giving. That tends to be totally unpredictable. We have been able to balance the budget in recent years because of generous giving by our members and cost cutting of expenses. This is your pledges, Sunday giving, and other gifts.

The other half of the equation is expenses! Most of that is pure guess. We know our propane costs for the next year. Other bills arrive with increases on a regular basis. Do we pay more for salaries to keep our good employees? Elevator inspections and service steadily increase. Tuning the pianos and organ service grows each year. Utilities creep up. Insurance costs are escalating

Major repairs and half of property insurance and financial inspection (it is not a full audit) are paid 50% from the Carstensen Farm Account. Christian Education budget is supported from the Farm Account. Some special events (for instance Worship at the Pond) are paid from this account.

Despite all the increased spending, we have been able to continue giving to worthwhile projects and requests from our bequests. We cannot support every worthy cause but we prayerfully choose where the money goes. These gifts should be mission oriented and doing God's work.

Does this all sound like your personal budget? We know it does. That is why we ask you to prayerfully consider your gifts to the church. Plan ahead and set aside something each month to help keep the doors open! Another way to help the budget is to give of your time to accomplish some of the tasks around the church. We cannot hire everything done. Our committees do an excellent job of filling those gaps. If you are not active on a committee, maybe it is time that is a way you can support your church.

A quote from Jana Stanfield, a song writer – "I cannot do all the good that the world needs. But the world needs all the good that I can do." Let that become your motto and do all the good you can do!



## Church Council Minutes

September 21, 2023

Call to Order—President Sandy Lacey called the meeting to order. Those present were Sandy, John D., Leisha, Jeff, Pastor Kirk, John B., Seth, and Judy. Absent was Cheri.

Pastor Kirk opened the meeting with a prayer.

A motion to approve the July 20th minutes was made and was seconded. The motion carried. A motion was made to approve the August 24th minutes and seconded. The motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the financial report and was seconded. The motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the bills to be paid (amended to \$6, 783.89) and was seconded. The motion carried. The property committee is looking into switching elevator repair companies. There is a sizable bill for the elevator, and the service by TKE has not been up to par. The bill for TKE was not approved at this time, until more of an explanation is made.

### Committee Reports:

CE: Leisha reported that they had a great Rally Day. Candice will teach Pre-K and volunteers will teach through 8th grade. They will not be doing technology because they want the students being more involved with the church service. After some discussion, the council decided to keep confirmation at two years starting in 7th grade. As of now, Trunk or Treat will be on October 22nd.

CSFD: Jeff had nothing to report.

CSFI: Cheri was absent. Gaylen re-invested CDs.

Property: The elevator needs looked at, but property is not happy with TKE.

Spiritual Life: Judy had nothing to report.

Missions & Outreach: John B. had nothing to report.

Stewardship: Sandy had nothing to report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor visited people in Omaha Hospitals. He had a graveside service for Paula Kinney. Kirk met with the confirmands and their parents. He also helped with the golf tournament. The fire extinguishers have been updated, but we need one in the furnace room. Pastor is looking into a Bible study group and future ways to sow seeds in the community.

### Old Business:

Approval of July minutes: This was completed earlier in the meeting.

Worship time on October 14th will be at 5:30 on Saturday October 14th.

The Recorder is here and available to operate.

Daycare Update: The grant has not come through yet.

### New Business:

JAC Grants: These are proposed amounts. The council will vote on these at the next meeting.

Crossroads of Crawford County asking for \$40,000 (\$20,000 proposed grant)

Neighbor Helping Neighbor asking for \$3,000 (\$3,000 proposed grant)

Schleswig Community School asking for \$3,000. (\$1,000 proposed grant)

Schleswig Golf Course asking for \$10,000 (\$1,000 proposed grant)

Christmas Cheer Committee asking for \$5,000. (\$3,000 proposed grant)



## **(Continued)**

The proposed amount by the council will total \$28,000. This will be voted on at the next meeting.

Claussen CD: This needs to be renewed by September 22nd.

Elevator Repairs: The property committee is looking into switching elevator repair companies. There is a sizable bill for the elevator, and the service by TKE has not been up to par. The bill for TKE was not approved at this time, until more of an explanation is made.

Chicken Dinner: Looking to cut some costs. Staley's will cater. It will be drive-through. The workers will pay for their meals. The meal will not be free.

Sanctuary Curtains: This will be discussed at a later date.

Confirmation: After some discussion, the council decided to keep confirmation at two years starting in 7th grade.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer, concerns, and celebrations.

## **Council Minutes**

### **Virtual Meeting**

**October 9, 2023**

Present: All were present via cellular devices.

A motion was made and seconded to pay TKE Elevator Company a total of \$6,180 for repairs on the church elevator. The amount will come from the farm account. The motion carried and the necessary repairs will be made.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Boelter

