

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Well fall has arrived, and that four-letter word that starts with an “S” will be here way to soon. October has been a very busy month around here, for everyone in the church. We had a couple of funerals and of course we had our chicken dinner. The early reports are saying that we served about the same amount as last year. That is between 340-370 meals. Thank you to everyone that was able to help in one way or another.

In a small way we showed the community the kind of love and service Peter encourages us all to offer one another. In his letter to believers in Jesus who’d been scattered and exiled, the apostle indicates that they ought to “love each other deeply” and use their gifts “to serve others” (1Peter 4:8). Whatever skills and abilities He’s equipped us with are gifts we can use to benefit others. As we, our words and action can bring honor to God.

Peter’s words were especially important to those he wrote to, for they were experiencing a season of pain and isolation. He encouraged them to serve one another during the time of distress to help them bear up under their trials. Though we may not know the specific pain another person experiences, God can help us to show empathy as well as graciously and cheerfully serve on another with our words, resources, and abilities. May God help us serve others as a reflection of his love. We may not use so much our words with the community, but we did share our service and our baked goods.

We look forward to having our “Trunk or Treat”. Here we are also serving our community in a little different way. We are sharing a safe and fun place for the kids to get treats in a Christian atmosphere. Thank you to the CE committee for sponsoring this event every year. We are sharing God’s love with everyone that chooses to attend. We are also serving and worshipping our father in heaven.

The prophet Isaiah declared the benefits of focusing on our heavenly father. “You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you” (Isaiah 26:3). He encouraged God’s people to be committed to seeking Him in the Scriptures and connecting with Him through prayer and worship. Those faithful ones would experience a confident trust built through their established fellowship with the father. As God’s children, we can cry out with boldness: “Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal” (v. 4) Why? Because our Father in heaven is trustworthy. He and the Scripture never change.

As we keep our eyes fixed on our heavenly Father, He will keep our feet planted firmly in His hands. We can count on Him to continue being loving, faithful, and good forever!

As we continue to find different ways that we can serve others, don’t let us forget that we are also serving or Father.

As we are now into November we want to remember some events this month. The first would be election day, November 4th so go out and vote. Veterans Day, November 11, the day we say thank you for all those who have support this Country in the Military. We Celebrate Totenfest on the 17th, where we remember those who have passed in our Church. Then at the end of the month we celebrate Thanksgiving, November 28th when we celebrate our blessings of our harvest and a time for families to get together.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for using Scripture to remind us of Your unchanging character and everlasting faithfulness. We ask for your guidance in helping us ways to serve others as well as you in this upcoming month. AMEN.

Have a blessed Month of November.

Pastor Kirk Manchester

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 21, 6:15 pm **"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"** in memory of Phyllis Clausen from UCC Evening Guild

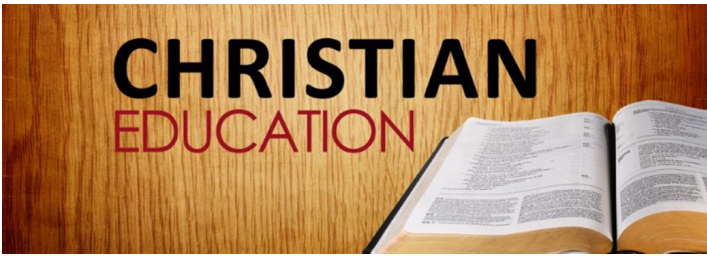
Nov 22, 6:15 pm, **"Old Rugged Cross"** in memory of Laverna Jensen from family & friends

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
Mark Sharp	11/12
Clinton Stecker	11/12
Journey Bral	11/13
Judy Strandburg	11/13
Emma Holloway	11/15
Jason Clausen	11/17
Jaxon Paulsen	11/19
Pam Gronau	11/24
Ross Kastner	11/25
Jill Sedore	11/26
Matthew Clausen	11/27
Mark Kastner	11/27
Jeannetta Knief	11/29
Kirk Manchester	11/29
Ken Boger	11/30

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



We have been learning a lot and having fun in Sunday School this month as we continue to work through the Parables! The kids have been acting as shepherds as they take care of their “sheep”, working as a team, helping their lost “sons” return home with a “feast”, and making their own “toys” (out of tin foil) instead of taking their “inheritance”. Our next couple of Parables are “The Parable of the Vineyard Laborers” Matthew 20:1-15 and “The Parable of the Mustard Seed” Matthew 13:31-32 if you would like to follow along. Coming into November we may have 7 kids in our older class and 13 kids in our younger class! How amazing is that?! Here is another interesting number... Over the last month we have only had 2 volunteers outside of our CE committee to help with Sunday School. We are not asking you to teach, unless you would like to, just to help with the kids so the teacher can be more effective. I have the next sign up sheet on the table in the Narthex. Please devote a Sunday to come have fun with us!

On October 27th we hosted our Annual Trunk or Treat with the Missions committee. We had 11 creative “trunks” and over 45 kids pass through. On November 17, Christian Education will be hosting a Mystery Dinner for youth group. Watch for more details. We will start to transition into working on our Christmas Program that will take place during Church on December 1st.



Totenfest



**RECOGNITION AND DEDICATION
OF MEMORIALS**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2024

A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

TOTENFEST SUNDAY

A Litany of Remembrance will be included in the Service of Worship on Sunday, November 17th in honor of the following people who have joined the Church Triumphant.

- Roy Johnson.....1/4/2024
- Gloria Ipsen.....1/10/2024
- Joyce Petersen.....3/17/2024
- Jason Wiebers.....9/13/2024
- Sandra Bumann.....9/16/2024
- Phyllis Clausen.....10/13/2024
- Roger Wonder.....10/23/2024

We invite the family, relatives and friends of the deceased members to make a special effort to attend this treasured remembrance service.



November Greeters

November 3- Jim & Jolene Whiteing

November 10 - Mark & Katie Sharp

November 17 - Larry & Pat Weibers

November 24 - Charlie & Kelli Anders

November Acolytes

November 3 - Hayden Fineran

& Haxton Fineran

November 10 - Jersey Bral & Journey Bral

November 17 - Jayton Bral

& Brayton Johannsen

November 24 - Ella Anders & June Jurgensen



September Numbers for the Book

Date:	Attendance:	Contributions:
9-1	41	\$320.00
9-8	64	\$3320.00
9-15	Community church	
9-22	51	\$2072.00
9-29	45	\$258.00
Total:	201	\$5970.00
Average:	50	\$1492.50

September

Financials



Income:

Weekly envelopes	\$	6100.00
Loose Offering	\$	107.00
Seasonal Offering	\$	8.00
Misc. Offerings	\$	0.00
Misc. Income	\$	158.98
Interest Income-Gen. Fund	\$	6.76
Investment Income	\$	2772.60
Total Income:	\$	9153.34

Expenses:

Travel & Meetings	\$	0.00
Insurance & Taxes	\$	2290.56
Janitor Supplies	\$	58.28
Misc. Expenses	\$	40.00
Music	\$	160.00
Office Expense	\$	385.48
Pastor Expenses	\$	5349.47
Payroll Expenses	\$	0.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$	128.94
Supplies	\$	0.00
Support Staff Salaries	\$	3665.50
Utilities	\$	1983.17
Total expense:	\$	14061.40
Net Ordinary Income	\$	(-4908.06)

Outdoor Locking Dropbox



The church's new locking drop box is ready to use. It is located on the brick wall by the Narthex doors under the awning. This drop box can be used after office hours to drop off or pick up items (such as information or keys) If you need to pick up papers or keys after hours, Candice can put items in the box and give a one-time code to unlock the drop box.





STEWARDSHIP NOVEMBER 2024

It's that time of year!
Nearly every day the
mail brings a request

from some worthy charitable organization for financial support during the holiday season. While most are legitimate and honest endeavors, my budget can't support all. I am sure yours won't either. We need to prayerfully consider which we choose to support. We must say no to some.

While you are doing that contemplation, I ask that you put your church and its endeavors at the top of your list. We will be asked to support and contribute to our lunch at Santa Claus Day. Mission committee will have a Christmas project – undetermined yet. Then, there is your gifts to the budget. Hopefully you have kept up during the year so you aren't facing a deficit.

One small way you can save our church some money is conserving our resources. Tolerate a degree cooler temperatures to save fuel. Bring some of those note pads that come in the charity letters to put in the busy bags. Kids love stickers, too. Our children love to draw and write. Recycle your communion order of service for reuse. Little things, but can add up to a little bigger thing!

Then pick the charitable organizations you want to support. Let God lead you in your choices!

The children's Christmas program will be during the worship service on Sunday, December 1st.

HANGING OF THE GREENS & AVENUE OF TREES

Hanging of the Greens and the Avenue of Trees decorating will take place on **Sunday, November 24 following the worship service.** We ask that trees be decorated so all are up by the first Sunday of Advent on

December 1st.

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 on Saturday, December 7th. 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!!





Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2024

Call to Order: Council President, Cheri Streck, opened the meeting.

Those in attendance were Cheri, John D., John F., John B., Seth, Josie, Leisha, and Kirk. Absent: Jeff

Opening Prayer: Kirk opened with a prayer

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 seconded. Motion carried.

Bills to be Paid: A motion was made to pay the August bills as listed and was seconded by Josie. Motion carried. A motion was made to pay the additional bill of \$122.20 for Kirk's mileage by and seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

CE: CE had a meeting on August 4th. They are continuing to work on the CE Director job description. Confirmation begins on Sept. 25th. No one has signed up to teach Sunday School. CE members will take turns teaching. They are getting burned out. CE discussed Trunk or Treat for October 27th 2-4 pm. Jessica will ask Missions committee to help. CE also discussed youth (5th-12th grade) activity ideas: caroling and making cookies, lock-in, movie, bowling, and skating. They planned an escape room activity and had 13 kids come. CE discussed having Sunday School during church. No decision was made.

CSFD: No report

CSFI: The money for the parking lot project is an account to grow until it is needed in the spring to pay for the parking lot.

Property: No report

Spiritual Life: No report

Missions & Outreach: Meeting on September 29th after worship

Stewardship: No report

Pastor's Report: The calf show day float was a success with handing out fly swatters. Did a funeral.

Old Business:

Calf Show Day float went well. Many council members rode the float or walked/ran handing out fly swatters and ride tickets. Candy was thrown from the float too.

Yearly Audit- Tammy met with Ben Hansen on August 22 to review the books. Ben does a review rather than an audit. It has been decided to vote to change the wording in the by-laws at the annual meeting in January regarding the word "audit." Ben will be coming to the November Council Meeting.

Parking Lot/Special Congregational Meeting- The parking lot project passed at the Special Congregational meeting on Sept. 8th. The parking lot project is scheduled for Spring 2025.

New Business:

Chicken Dinner: Raised price from \$12 to \$13 for the meal. Cheri, Judy, & Marla are organizing it. They have had one meeting so far. Profit goes into general budget. Asking 7 people to make the pasta salad this year.

Locking Dropbox: This would allow members to drop off/ pick up items after office hours. This dropbox has a code, key, and one time code to open it. Council packets can be placed inside for Council members to pick up after hours. Property Committee will install the dropbox. A motion to buy a locking dropbox was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Technology: We need more volunteers to do technology for when Candice and Leisha are gone. Cheri suggested our confirmand do it. John F. will talk to his son about helping with technology. John B. said he would watch how to do it sometime. Cheri and Leisha each donated a rolling chair for the technology.

Employee Retirement plan: Tabled until next meeting



(Continued)

Grants: Schleswig School Supply/Teacher Reimbursement: \$500 from JAC and \$2,500 from John Wulf Estate. OABCIG Skills USA Club: \$2,300. Neighbor Helping Neighbor: \$5,000. Crossroads of Crawford County: \$20,000. Denison High School Food Pantry: \$5,000. First United Methodist Church: \$10,000. Immanuel Lutheran Preschool: \$2,000 from John Wulf Estate. Mapleton St. Peter's UCC: \$10,000. A motion to give a total of \$52,800 from the JAC account was made and seconded. Motion carried. A motion to give \$4,500 from the John Wulf Estate was made and seconded. Motion carried.

With no other discussion a motion was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Candice Bral, Office Secretary

50 years of Evening Guild

Rev. and Marilyn Ratzlaff hosted what was to be known as The Evening Guild of the United Church of Christ on November 4, 1974. The ladies were given a tour of the church from the kitchen to the sanctuary. Rev. Ratzlaff encouraged the ladies to create an evening of devotions monthly while seeking out friendships within the church family and to assist the youth groups and Sunday School.

The program really took off when Rev. Moore and his wife Ginger accepted the call to become pastor of the Schleswig United Church of Christ.

The member ship dues were set at \$3.00 a year with a birthday donation of an extra \$2.00. There were around 22 ladies that became faithful members.

Over the years these ladies hosted many guest speakers, they had Father/Son and Mother/Daughter banquets, eventually took over Easter Breakfast and Staley's Chicken Dinner. They purchased many kitchen items including the first dishwasher, carpet for the Narthex and Chapel, hosted Quilt shows, Tur of homes, Avenue of Trees, monetary donations to the Schleswig Schools, creation of JOY Boxes, created a fund for the round tables and padded chairs for fellowship hall, were generous to the church budget, painted Sunday School rooms, donated toys to kiddie-kare room, donated to the towns 125th with the purchase of a planter, eventually these ladies took over kitchen duties for members funerals.

These ladies are deeply appreciative for the gals that participated over the years. Many lifelong friendships were created. Phyllis Clausen, Bev Peters, Linda Reimer and Phyllis Sedore are 4 of the original members still active. Sheila Ferry, Zola Friedrichsen, Janet Lafrentz, and Lorene Reimer have been longtime faithful members.

Congratulations and Thank you ladies. Fifty years of faithful service to your church and community is to be admired.