



# NEWSLETTER

"Sharing the hope of Jesus in a troubled world"

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February 2026

## United in Christ Lutheran Church

(608) 846-5902

[www.unitedinchristlutheranchurch.org](http://www.unitedinchristlutheranchurch.org)

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A congregation of the



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

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**Regular Office Hours:** By Appointment  
**Weekly Worship:** Sundays @ 8:30 a.m.

## From the Congregation President...

To My Fellow United In Christ Members,

February has arrived and the icy temperatures seem reluctant to release their grip.

Many thanks to each and every one of you that helped to make the UIC Annual Meeting the success that it was! Thanks to Bishop Joy for being the steadying force while we navigated sorrow, sadness and loss following Bob's passing.

Thank you to Chet, Marie, Mark, Dennis, and Karen for your efforts and hard work you all put into being members of the UIC Church Council in 2025. A special thank you to Dennis as your term ends. I believe that I not only speak for myself, but for the entire congregation in extending you sincere thanks and gratitude for your efforts over the last 6 years!

Would you please join me in welcoming Kim to the UIC Council as we enter 2026 with much work and many tasks ahead of us.

As always, The Council is extremely grateful for your financial support during these difficult times. We would like to ask you all for your continued support through your offerings and volunteerism as we work our way through 2026.

God's blessings to all and please, if you have any questions, compliments, concerns, or complaints, don't hesitate to let me know. Many hands do make light work of any project!!!

Dale Molnar  
608-212-8433

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## February Calendar

Sunday, February 1	8:30 am - Worship - fellowship following
Sunday, February 8	8:30 am - Worship - fellowship following
Tuesday, February 10	5:00 pm - Church Council meeting
Sunday, February 15	8:30 am - Worship - fellowship following
Wednesday, February 18	11:30 am - Lunch Bunch (at BB Jack's)
Wednesday, February 18	1:00 pm - Ash Wednesday Worship
Sunday, February 22	8:30 am - Worship - fellowship following

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## Working For Christ in February

**Altar Guild:** Marie Rasmussen-Hall

**Head Usher:** Chet Gabris

### 02/01/2026

Ushers: Norm Harris and Mark Harris

Reader: Chandra Diring

Communion: Karen Millard

### 02/8/2026

Ushers: Dennis Stephenson and Ann Olsen

Reader: Rona Anderson

Communion: Chet Gabris

### 02/15/2026

Ushers: Chet Gabris and Darryl Horton

Reader: Thomas Smith

Communion: Ann Olsen

### 02/22/2026

Ushers: Henry Lipke and Marie Rasmussen-Hall

Reader: Dennis Stephenson

Communion: Marie Rasmussen-Hall

## February Birthdays

02/18 > Donna Colby

02/21 > Mara Millard

## Financial Update - As of January 31, 2026

Offerings YTD	=	\$4,610.00 (does not include Jan 25th offering)
(Expected/Budgeted Offerings YTD)	=	\$7,000.00)
Expenses YTD	=	\$1,849.73

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## Prayer Concerns

**Rev. Yehiel Curry**, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

**Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe**, Bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin - ELCA

The **Evangelical Lutheran Church of America**

For the **people of United in Christ Lutheran Church**

**John Kincaid** - brother-in-law of Chet Gabris - at St. Mary's Care Center

**Heather Fjelstad-Bunce** - niece of Dennis Stephenson - has Leukemia

**Joanne Quam** - continued rehabilitation at home

**Geno Lainberger** - at Madison Health & Rehab Center

**Kathy Olsen** - sister-in-law of Dick & Ann Olsen - lung cancer

**Monique Diring** - mother of Chandra Diring - continued health concerns

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## Thank You

Geno Lainberger would like to thank everyone that sent Thanksgiving and Christmas cards to her. She is still at Madison Health & Rehab Center.

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## February Church Council Meeting Highlights

This is a section which would usually be filled in by Bob. Just another one of those things that he did and only one of the items on the very long list of things he did for our church. Bob was surely missed this past Sunday, and he will continue to be missed throughout the year here at United In Christ. May his soul rest in peace. I am sure he is finding plenty of things to do and talk about in heaven.

The January council meeting was primarily to approve the proposed budget for 2026. Most of the budget items are easier to project since they do not change significantly from year to year. The main area that is difficult to project is the Personnel category. This was made much more difficult this year since we do not have a current Pastor. The salary and benefits for a new Pastor mainly depend on their time in ministry and their age. There are the questions of if they require us to provide health insurance, health insurance for a spouse and possibly children, whether they live in Dane County, and how many Sundays a month they will lead worship services. The council decided to project the 2026 budget based on calling a new Pastor with 10 years in ministry and an age of 50 years old. Once this was decided it was projected that our current congregation should attempt to call a half-time Pastor due to the overall annual expenses. The proposed budget for a half-time pastor came out to \$109,493.62 expenses and projected \$76,700.00 offerings. These numbers project a \$32,793.62 budget deficit for the year based on having a half-time pastor for the entire year. This deficit will decrease as time goes on without having a called pastor and continued use of Pulpit Pastors.

Submitted by Paul Anderson



United in Christ  
Lutheran Church

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