



Luverne UMC

December 2024 and January 2025 Messenger

Dearest Faith Family!

It is the season of Hope, Love, Peace and Joy! It is the season of Jesus! Remember the saying...the “reason for the season is Jesus?” What an exciting time of year, full of family, friends, beautiful lights, trees, joy, yummy food, meditation piano interludes, decorating, baking cookies, pictures with Santa, smiles and giggles and kids. I could go on and on. For a while, I got kind of lost in that season, trying to bring back to life the magic the Christmas season offered me as a kid. Oh, I fell into the magic.... having a dream one night that I could’ve sworn Santa was right next to me, putting gifts under the tree while I slept. I won’t forget that moment ever, struggling to believe it was just a dream!

There have been times in life where that magic isn’t so real and times you wonder if you will ever feel it again; where did it go? Was I only dreaming about it? Life can be a struggle, sometimes really painful. We all know this.

But there is something more than the magic the secular world tries hard to put into Christmas. The best part of it is, the magic doesn’t fade away or make us wonder if it was ever real.

That Something More is Jesus Christ.

And what we see happen in Jesus is that we take a step into the world of faith and discover something more wonderful than magic!

A little baby was born into our world many, many years ago...back in ancient history...a baby meant to bring us into a world of peace and joy, giving us hope and the promise of forever. That little baby came into the world to change our world. A precious little one who came to save the world, not through magic, but with his life and through our hearts.

There is nothing better than God using us to walk hand in hand with people and helping them to see Jesus...maybe in new ways, maybe through a renewed or saved life, in giving, supporting, encouraging and watching God work within them. We don’t always believe it will happen, it’s kind of how we view magic - maybe it will, maybe it won’t work, but the best thing of all is that when our sharing is blessed by God, there is no doubt it will become what God wants it to be and become. Lives change, eyes get clearer, hearts warm, and Jesus lives on. And it has nothing to do with magic...but wholly and only through the love of God!

Pastor Jorie

UMC Luverne Members and Friends that live in Special Homes:

Mary Jane Brown Home
~ Bill Holling ~ David Johnson - Phyllis Mohr

MN Veterans Home
~ Keith Luethje - Wayne Biever

Poplar Creek Assisted Living
~ Annabelle Frakes

The Oaks
~ Sally Cooksley

The Tuff Home - Hills
~ Ralph Watts - Marvin Laackmann



COMMUNION SUNDAY
DECEMBER 8, 2024 AND JANUARY 12, 2025



SHUT IN COMMUNION/VISITS

DECEMBER 11, 2024 AND DECEMBER 17, 2024

JANUARY 8, 2025 AND JANUARY 21, 2025



Annual Chocolate Buffet and Spaghetti Dinner - February - date TBD



Sunshine Grocery Cards - Available to buy Sundays and work hours

Prayer Chapel - Every Wednesday from 9am-7pm

God's Circle - 1st Tuesday of each month at 1:30pm - December 3 and January 7

Prayer Warriors - 2nd Sunday of each month - December 8 and January 12

Sewn in Faith - 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1:30pm - December 10 and January 13

Prayer Chain

We are here to help! If you have someone special you would like us to pray for you may contact Jan Brandenburg at (507) 283-4059 or you can call the church office during business hours.



The Prayer Chain list for the month of December 2024 and January 2025 is as follows:

WEEK OF December 1, 2024 - LaVonne Anderson, Linda Hanson, Jason and Karla Kruse Family, Brian and Courtney Richters, Mike and Christine Reverts and answers and guidance in all ways.

WEEK OF December 8, 2024 - Marian Eatherton, Jack and Felicia Hanson, Ed and Cherice Ray Family, Jerry and Beth Wieman and praise and thanksgiving to Jesus.

WEEK OF December 15, 2024 - Dan and Becky Anderson, Jesse and Ashley Connell Family, Daniel and Josi Fick, Jennifer Kruse Family, David and Amanda McDonald, Ian and Kristen Ruppert Family and for hearts that are searching.

WEEK OF December 22, 2024 - Josh and Ashley Christensen Family, Russ and Colleen Enga, James Hanson, Ginny Menning, Riley and Journey Anderson and for the finances of our church and tithing.

WEEK OF December 29, 2024 - Dustin Aning and Melissa Wood Family, Sally Cooksley, Jacob Fick, Mark and Tammy Moeller, Dale and Cindy Reverts and for the Lent/Easter Season.

WEEK OF January 5, 2025 - Kim Donth, Pastor Dorie and Luther Hall Family, Colby Crabtree, Madigan Flom, Laura Hollaren and for the Epiphany Season.

WEEK OF January 12, 2025 - Al and Dixie Aanenson, Paul, Jr. and Lola Donth, Raymond Hankins, Mara and Lay Verepaw, Ralph Watts, and for the ALIVE ministry program.

WEEK OF January 19, 2025 - Mary Gehrke, Jon and Erika Menning Family, Travis Frakes, Christine VonHoltum, Charles Brezins and Karen Buus and for evangelism.

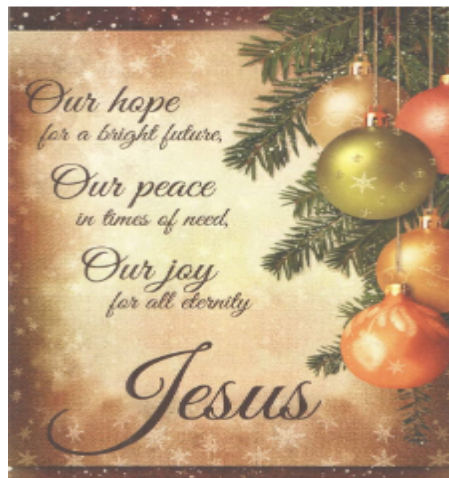
WEEK OF January 26, 2025 - Adam and Amanda Breheny Family, Sue Stroh, Bryce and Ginger Schomacker Family, Rick and Deb Ward, Diana Schwartz and for the Annual Christmas Eve dinner.



Our Live Streaming area is being studied and researched to determine direction since the Radio has dropped our Broadcast. Please stay tuned for updates on this important area and continue watching and sharing the Facebook live stream. Thank you for your patience!

facebook.com/umcluverne/live

Words to Live By:



December 2024 Silver Bucket:



Our free Christmas Dinner and Community Meals

These 2 meals have been such success and a wonderful opportunity to share our love and a meal with our community. Please give generously to this month's Silver Bucket so that we can continue providing these meals to those who would like to come!

All donations will go toward this cause.



January 2025 Silver Bucket



UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human caused disasters – be it famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events - to alleviate suffering and to be a source of help and hope for those left most vulnerable. We provide relief, response and long-term recovery grants when these events overwhelm community's ability to recover on their own.



Endowment
Fund

The Endowment Grant Applications are now available on the table in the Narthex . These applications are for projects in the church that present:

- A clear and defined issue of need,
- A plan to help solve the problem
- Collaboration among relevant organizations
- Creative utilization of existing resources
- A strong evaluation component

We welcome calls from applicants prior to submitting a grant request and will be glad to assist in completing the application form. Thank you from the Endowment Fund Committee.

Please remember applications are due by December 1, 2024. The Endowment Committee will meet December 16, 2024 at 6pm to go over applications



*A Brown Family Christmas Event
Browns Century Theater
LeMars, IA- December 3, 2024*



December 8, 2024 -- 10:30 am

Please be sure to join us at our very special Hanging of the Greens Sunday Worship Service. This is an Annual Worship Service where we decorate our Sanctuary for the Christmas Season.

This is always a fun time for our youth as well, as they have special ornaments to decorate our Christmas tree. It is always beautiful after we are done decorating so please be sure to come and be part of bringing Christmas to our Sanctuary.



After our very special service, please be sure to join us downstairs in our Fellowship Hall for our Annual Hanging of the Greens/ Christmas potluck!

Our Men's Group held their first Bible Study of the "Man in the Moon" on Sunday morning November 10th. This is a down to earth Bible study/devotion jumping into some of the common areas of life men often deal with. Bryce Schomaker is heading up this important group for our church. Their meeting next Saturday is scheduled for December 14th at the Pizza Ranch. Bible study will take place every other Sunday at the church. Please check your calendars for details. We would love to have all our men join us for this important gathering. You certainly can solve the problems of the world with a little Jesus and a whole lot of men! See you!





As you can see, we have been busy, busy busy! The ladies of Sewn in Faith and the youth group got together and drew on cloth and then made their creations into pillows. What a fun night that was and we should definitely do that again!



December 10, 2024, we have dinner plans. We will meet at 11:30am at Howling Dog. Bring your appetites.

Sewn in Faith donated twin size quilts to Project Sweet Dreams and SHARE. We are currently working on making items for visitors as well as those in need. Please feel free to join us. We are meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1:30pm in the Sewing Room - one floor down from the main floor.

We have some old spare sewing machines that we no longer use. Two of these do work, but need to be oiled and we have a third one that hasn't been checked. You are welcome to take them for free, but you may also do a free will donation to help fund the Sewn in Faith program. If you choose to make a donation, make checks out to Sewn in Faith or cash is fine as well. You may give them to Becky. Thanks!



The Children's Sunday School class meets every 3rd Sunday of the month at 9:45am. It has been written wrong on the calendar for a bit!

The upcoming meeting dates are:

December 15, 2024
January 19, 2025



Our teachers and youth have been working hard getting ready for their Annual Children's Christmas Program titled:

"Room in the Stable"

Please be sure to join us
December 18, 2024 at 7pm

It will be a very special night!

Isaiah 9:6 says: *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace".*

Taking A Closer Look...

Family and Children's Ministry

This area of our faith family has been incredibly busy. We enjoyed the fall with corn mazes, a Halloween party and haunted farms. We are finding that maybe we need a bigger challenge than the places we have visited several times already. We will work on this for the future

Right now, we are busy practicing our Christmas program which will be presented on December 18th at 7pm.

The program is titled "*Room in the Stable*" and will include all ages.

Our youth have really enjoyed FUEL Sunday School. It is reserved for the third Sunday of each month at 9:45am which includes lessons adapted for Sunday and encourages the kids to participate in our Worship Service that follows.

We have put together Thanksgiving Baskets for our shut ins and made Blessings Bags to be available for our congregation who may want to offer them to people in need or homeless people they may see in the coming cold months. Everyone is invited to attend our "Hanging of the Greens" Service, which always includes kids and their families and is a special way to usher in the special Holiday!

Our Community Meals

Please be aware that after Thanksgiving, we also have another Holiday Community Meal coming up. Christmas Eve's Community Meal will mark our 12th year of sharing food and fellowship with our community. Our Silver Bucket of December supports this meal and the extra is put into other meals. We have touched many people through this time, always hearing how special people feel to have a place to go on Christmas Eve means a lot!

Over this last year we have served over 700 people with our meals. We also prepared and gave meals for flood relief in Rock Valley and have had several groups participate in this great evening! You can be proud to be a part of serving this free meal to those who may be alone on Christmas, those who would enjoy having a hot meal prepared for them, please invite them to our Christmas Meal and remind them that, as always, this is a free meal for all who attend and is always on the fourth Wednesday of every month.

God's Circle

Our Fifth Tuesday group traveled to the Windmill Farm near Jasper MN this month. Eye opening, mouth dropping... there were so many kinds of windmills fulfilling many purposes! (even a washing machine in the wars) They came from all over the world and were marked accordingly: one leg, three legs, three blades, lots of blades; windmills you could live in, that bring you water, that are just pretty! Oh my! Terry was a wonderful host and told us many great stories and facts we would not know about the normal path of life! We so enjoy this time together! It was an incredible visit!

Hanging of the Greens and Potluck

Our annual Hanging of the Greens Service will be held on December 8, 2024, and is titled "Traditions." This has become a special time for our faith family as we come together to bring our church alive for the Christmas Holiday. Please join us as we decorate and enjoy our time together and learn about the various traditions that have been around in our world and in our families. We will follow this special service with a Potluck in our Fellowship Hall. The best part of this service is the kids who participate and provide the decorations and the joy of being together.

Christmas Traditions

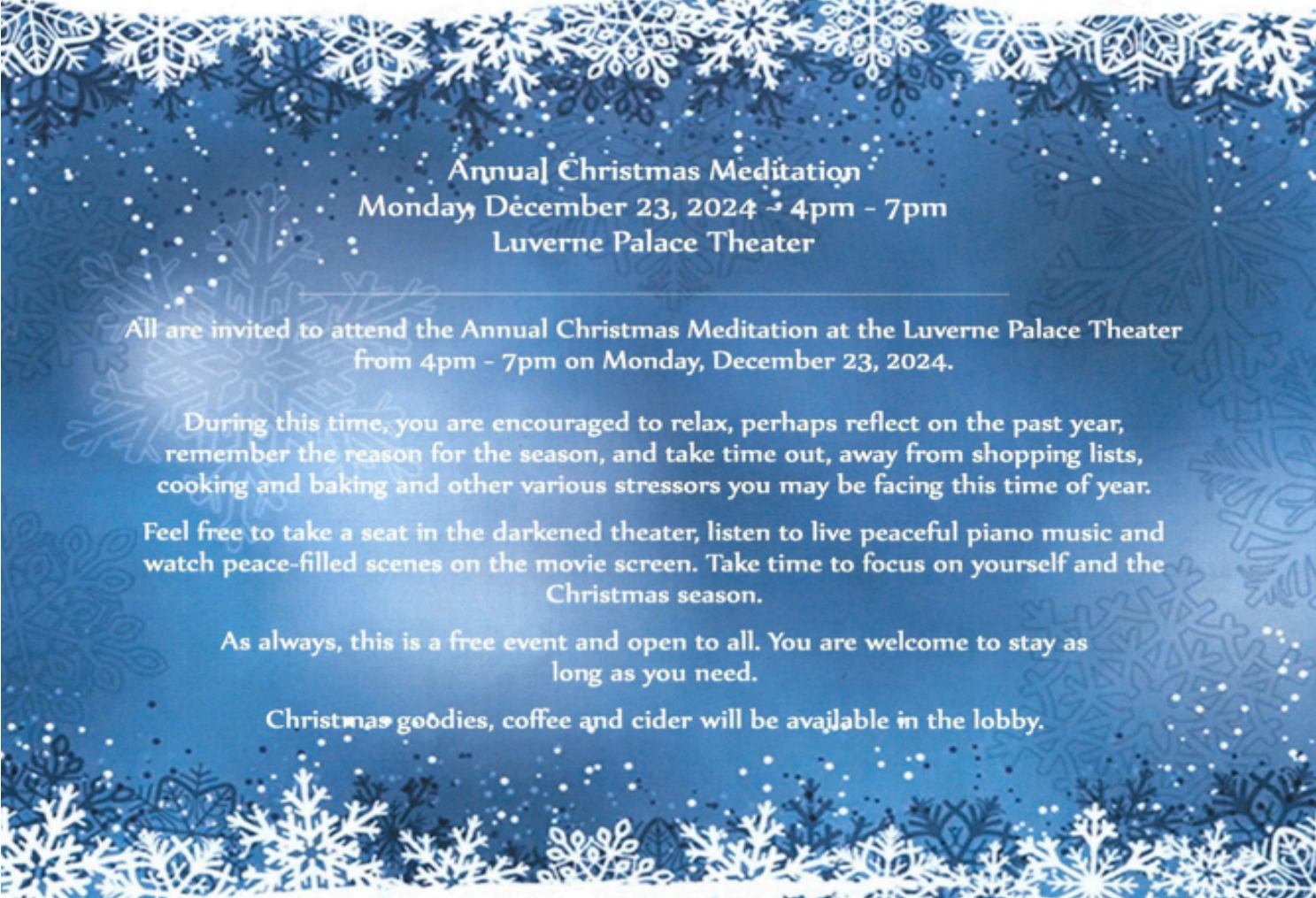
As we move into the holidays, we will build our Hanging of the Greens Service around our Traditions. Do you or anyone in your family hold fast to a family tradition, if so, we would love to hear the story. Please talk to Pastor Dorie if there is a special tradition in your family! It has been fascinating to hear how some of those older traditions have really fallen off and others have popped up and the attachment we have to them.

Pizza Ranch Night

2025 Calendar

We have been so blessed to be in an awesome partnership with the Pizza Ranch in town. In case you are not aware, the second Wednesday of the month is designated as Luverne UMC night. This means that a portion of what comes in that night is given to support the Children's area of our church in putting together our programming and our missions. We are so appreciative of this special blessing. This also becomes an opportunity for you to support our kids, because we know how much you love Pizza Ranch. It is also a way to support the Pizza Ranch as they are one of the most giving and supportive businesses in town. It's like wow.... paying for a pizza and maybe including a tip.... supports not only the business, but also the children's ministry and you get a yummy meal too! WOW, Good Deal!

The Family Ministry Team (mostly Shannon Dwire) is excited to share with you that they will be offering 2025 calendars. These calendars will be filled with pictures of the times we have together in our ALIVE and FUEL areas. It includes VBS, Thanksgiving Baskets, Hanging of the Greens, Inspiration Hills, the Chocolate Buffet and many more. We will be selling them in an effort to continue supporting the ministries we enjoy through the year.



Annual Christmas Meditation Monday, December 23, 2024 ~ 4pm - 7pm Luverne Palace Theater

All are invited to attend the Annual Christmas Meditation at the Luverne Palace Theater from 4pm - 7pm on Monday, December 23, 2024.

During this time, you are encouraged to relax, perhaps reflect on the past year, remember the reason for the season, and take time out, away from shopping lists, cooking and baking and other various stressors you may be facing this time of year.

Feel free to take a seat in the darkened theater, listen to live peaceful piano music and watch peace-filled scenes on the movie screen. Take time to focus on yourself and the Christmas season.

As always, this is a free event and open to all. You are welcome to stay as long as you need.

Christmas goodies, coffee and cider will be available in the lobby.

Free Community Meal

CHRISTMAS EVE ~ 6PM

PLEASE SIGN UP AT CHURCH OR CALL THE OFFICE. THIS
WILL HELP WITH FOOD PREPARATION AND PLANNING

ALL ARE WELCOME! ~ PICK-UP OPTION AVAILABLE ~

LUVERNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
109 N. FREEMAN AVE (507) 283-4529



****WE ARE OFFERING THIS MEAL WITH A FREE WILL OFFERING IF YOU WISH
HOWEVER, LUMC OFFERS THIS MEAL WITHOUT EXPECTATION OF GIFTS****



I just wanted to say a few words to all of you as to how important this faith family is to me and my family...you have seen my family grow and change over the years...both my children and my grandchildren, and even my PCA's have changed a few times as well...let's hope this one stays a while!

Anyway, with that said I hope all of you have a joyous christmas and I wish you the very best for the new year to come!!

Much love to all of you and God bless!

Jakki and her sidekick...(is she mine or am I her sidekick)...Jessica

Date	Lay Reader	Hosts	Power Point	Sound	Counters	Worship Asst.	Coffee	Grocery Cards
Dec. 1	Travis Dwire	Jerry and Ann Rigney	Jennifer Hilfers	David Vis	Felicia Hanson	Emily Crabtree	Lola Donth	Karis Dwire
Dec. 8	Sandy Vogt	Ian and Kristen Ruppert	Journey Anderson	Luther Hall	Everett and Jan B.	Jack Hanson	Jeanne Bowron	Sharron Betsinger
Dec. 15	Christine VonHoltum	Cathy Rust/Sue Stroh	Reegan Gabrielson	Jason Kruse	Gene Ashby	Lola Donth	Wyatte Kruse	Brenda Stickling
Dec. 22	Becky Anderson	Darrel and Eleanor Siebert	Jennifer Hilfers	Riley Anderson	Jay and Bev Mann	Mary Gehrke	Felicia Hanson	Christine VH
Dec. 24	Lola Donth	Bryce Schomacker	Jeanne Bowron	David Vis	Felicia Hanson	No WA	No Coffee	No Grocery Cards
Dec. 29	David Vis	Dale and Vicki Slack	Jeanne Bowron	Jason Kruse	Felicia Hanson	Josh Crabtree	Mary Gehrke	Karis Dwire

Communion	Video
Dale and Vicki Slack	Beth Fick

Trustee of the Week	
November 25, 2024 thru December 1, 2024	Al Aanenson
December 2, 2024 thru December 8, 2024	Roger Carlson
December 9, 2024 thru December 15, 2024	Bryce Schomacker
December 16, 2024 thru December 22, 2024	Laura Hollaren
December 23, 2024 thru December 29, 2024	Morris Fick
December 30, 2024 thru January 5, 2025	Jack Hanson

January 2025 Sunday Worship Responsibilities

Date	Lay Reader	Hosts	Power Point	Sound	Counters	Worship Asst.	Coffee	Grocery Cards
Jan. 5	Travis Dwire	Jessie Hoiland/ Jeanne VH	Jennifer Hilfers	David Vis	Felicia Hanson	Becky Anderson	Vicki Slack	Sharron Betsinger
Jan. 12	Mary Gehrke	Justin VanWyhe	Reegan Gabrielson	Luther Hall	Everett and Jan B.	Felicia Hanson	Jeanne VandeHoef	Brenda Stickling
Jan. 19	Jim Hanson	Roger and Sandy Vogt	Journey Anderson	Jason Kruse	Gene Ashby	Willy Baker	The Dwire Family	Christine VH
Jan. 26	Laura Hollaren	Al Aanenson	Jeanne Bowron	Riley Anderson	Jay and Bev Mann	Jeanne Bowron	Josh and Emily Crabtee	Karis Dwire

Communion	Video
Ashley Christensen and Reegan Gabrielson	Beth Fick

Trustee of the Week	
January 6, 2025 thru January 12, 2025	Beth Fick
January 13, 2025 thru January 19, 2025	Jeanne Bowron
January 20, 2025 thru January 26, 2025	Al Aanenson
January 27, 2025 thru February 2, 2025	Roger Carlson



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|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 - Nova Like | 19 - Harper VandenHoek |
| 4 - Jerry Rigney | 20 - Jay Mann |
| Kasyn Kruse | Caitlyn Moeller |
| 5 - Paul, Jr. Donth | Olivia Moeller |
| 6 - Mitchell Schomacker | 23 - Aubrey Davis |
| 7 - Adam VonHoltum | 26 - Ashley Christensen |
| 10 - Blake Sauer | 30 - Donald Ray |
| 11 - Deb Hanson | 31 - Jessa Dahl |
| 13 - LaVonne Anderson | Meg Petersen |



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|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Crew Crabtree | 15 - Amy Kruger |
| 2 - Alyssa Frakes | Marty Rigney |
| Oliver Connell | 16 - Yssi Entzie |
| 4 - Kathy Schadwinkel | Josh Crabtree |
| 7 - Darwin Reyne | 21 - Journey Anderson |
| Keela Fick | Linda Reisdorfer |
| 9 - Jan Brandenburg | 24 - Kim Donth |
| 10 - Amber Arends | 29 - Matthew Lupkes |
| 11 - Phyllis Mohr | Jeanne Bowron |
| Kinley Dwire | Marvin Laackmann |
| Brad Petersen | 30 - Jessamy Dwire |
| 12 - Beth Fick | 31 - Mike Aanenson |
| 13 - Wyattte Kruse | |

It's new! We have a QR code This code will make it much easier to do online giving! Just scan the code with your phone and it will bring you right to it.

If you are not familiar with QR codes and need help with this, have questions, or want more information about the code or online giving you may speak to Shannon Dwire!



LUMC Scan to Give!

LUVERNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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(Cell) 507-920-5278

pastor@umcluverne.com
pastordoriehall77@gmail.com

Church Secretary
Jakki Lindsley
jakki@umcluverne.com



Just a reminder...If you are interested in getting in touch with any of our homebound faith Family members and haven't gotten the time with all the hustle and bustle. Please contact the office for an address/phone number for any of our homebound members. A kind gesture can not only make their day but yours as well.

November Budget



General Budget Totals		
November 3, 2024 thru November 17, 2024		
Envelopes	\$	4,960.00
Loose Offering	\$	485.00
Apportionments	\$	20.00
Broadcasting / LiveStream	\$	0.00
Online Giving (October)	\$	0.00
Total Budget	\$	5,465.00
Non-Budget Donations		
Silver Bucket	\$	102.80
Holy Spirit Cafe	\$	0.00
Food Shelf	\$	0.00
Endowment	\$	25.00
Technology	\$	500
Upper Room	\$	0.00
Total Non-Budget	\$	627.80
Trustees		
General	\$	
Sump Pumps	\$	0.00
Roofing	\$	0.00
Total Trustees	\$	0.00
Misc. Giving	\$	0.00
Grand Total	\$	6,092.80

We are in that vital time of year where we find need in our budget area. We have a Financial Committee working hard to bring about a readjusting in this area to eliminate the annual struggle for our end of year. We are asking for special monetary gifts this month to reconcile our budget and get us back to even. We need you!

November has been the month of giving thanks and we have shared many words through the month to encourage an attitude of gratitude. One of those words is generosity and it is a word that is more than merely giving. You might remember our messages with Paul being in jail, speaking to a heart that was full of love not based on the gifts from the Philippians, but of the spirit which lived in both of them supporting their faith. Or possibly the servants who cared for the gifts their Master gave them...maybe you remember the special people we have sharing ministry in our church. And how about the Israelites who were finally free of slavery and who were ready and willing with grateful hearts to give from their belongings to provide a place of worship, a place where God would always be near.

Paul tells us to "remember this...Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Through the rich scripture we read, Jesus calls us to live generous lives, not only with our material possessions, but also with our time, talents and compassion. Can we hear the call and embrace this lifestyle of generosity, one that mirrors HIS selfless love! The world needs God and His church!

2024



December



2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 1st Sunday of Advent 9:30am - Admitts Sunday School/ Men's Sunday School 9:45am - Coffee 10:30am - Live Streamed Worship Service 4:30pm - Genesis/Peve Brothers Bible Study Endowment Applications Due	2 6:30pm - Genesis/Peve Brothers Bible Study	3 1:30 pm - God's Circle A Brown Family Christmas concert 6:30 pm - Ms M Meeting	4	5 8pm - NA Meeting	6	7 8pm - AA Meeting
8 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:30am - Admitts Sunday School/ Men's Sunday School 9:45am - Coffee 10:30am - Live Streamed Worship Service Communion Sunday Prayer Warriors 4:30pm - Genesis/Peve Brothers Bible Study HANGING OF THE GREENS/POTLUCK	9 6:30pm - Genesis/Peve Brothers Bible Study	10 1:30 pm - Sewing Faith	11 9am - Open Prayer Chapel 10am - Scripture Verse 6:15pm - FUEL 6:30pm - Communion 8pm - AA Mtg Pizza Ranch Take out Night	12 8pm - NA Meeting	13	14 9:30am - Men's Meeting PIZZA Ranch 8pm - AA Meeting
15 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:30am - FUEL/Admitts Sunday School 9:45am - Coffee 10:30am - Live Streamed Worship Service 4:30pm - Genesis/Peve Brothers Bible Study ALIVE Christmas Party	16 8pm - Endowment Meeting 6:30pm - Genesis/Peve Brothers Bible Study	17 10 am - Scripture Verse 6pm - Trustee Meeting 6:30 pm - Church Contact	18 9am-7pm - Prayer Chapel 7pm - Christmas Program 8pm - AA Meeting	19 8pm - NA Meeting	20	21 8pm - AA Meeting
22 4th Sunday of Advent 9:30am - Admitts Sunday School/ Men's Sunday School 9:45am - Coffee Hour 10:30am - Live Streamed Worship Service 4:30pm - Genesis/Peve Brothers Bible Study	23 4pm-7 pm - Christmas Bible Study - Palace Theater 6:30pm - Genesis/Peve Brothers Bible Study	24 8pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service 8pm - Christmas Eve Meal	25 OFFICE CLOSED NO CLASSES UNTIL JANUARY 8TH PD Vacation thru January 7th 8pm - AA Meeting	26 8pm - NA Meeting	27	28 8pm - AA Meeting
29 1st Sunday after Christmas Day 9:30am - Admitts Sunday School 9:45am - Coffee 10:30am - Live Streamed Worship Service 4:30pm - Genesis/Peve Brothers Bible Study Special Offering - Holy Spirit Cafe	30 6:30pm - Genesis/Peve Brothers Bible Study	31 5th Tuesday Event New Year's Eve Party		13		