

Minister's Minute

Happy New Year, Church Family!

After the blur of December, January always seems to sneak up on me. One minute I'm coaxing a stubborn strand of Christmas lights to turn on for just one more year, and the next I'm staring at a new calendar wondering how we arrived in 2026 already. I usually spend the first few weeks of the new year accidentally writing the wrong year on bulletins, checks, sticky notes, and just about everything else. December flies by too quickly with worship services, celebrations, family gatherings, travel, and all the "just one more cookie couldn't hurt" moments and it's completely normal to feel both grateful and a bit worn out as it ends so abruptly. To me, the shift from the hustle and bustle of December to the quieter days of January can feel a little like the air being let out of a balloon. As decorations come down and routines return, life settles back into something more ordinary; unless, of course, we decide to make a change.

That's where New Year's resolutions often come in. Some of us love them. Some of us avoid them. And some of us have already let them go by the first week of January. Rather than seeing them as a test of willpower or self-improvement, faith invites us to see resolutions as intentions of how we hope to live and who we are becoming with God's help.

That doesn't mean making resolutions that require superhero stamina or reinventing every corner of our lives overnight. (If you've already organized your spice rack or made it to the gym by January 2, please celebrate and keep going!) Instead, we're invited into something more sustainable and often more transformative: paying attention to the small ways God is already at work around us.

The Book of Lamentations reminds us that God's mercies "are new every morning." *Every morning*; not just at the start of a new year. God offers fresh grace on days when we feel energized and hopeful, and also on days when we need an extra cup of coffee just to find our gloves. Grace doesn't depend on our readiness or motivation. It simply arrives, again and again, as a gift from God. With that amazing grace in mind, perhaps this year our resolutions might look less like goals and more like faithful practices that begin with questions. What if we resolve to notice God's presence more often? What if we resolve to listen a little longer before reacting? What if we resolve to offer kindness where it's least expected? As we begin to pay attention to the small things, we begin to recognize God's work unfolding all around us in conversations that lift us up, moments of unexpected peace, or even interruptions that turn out to be opportunities for grace. Small things are rarely small. Instead, they are often the beginnings of renewal.

As we move beyond Christmas and into the season of Epiphany, we rejoice that in Jesus, God's light is revealed not just to a few, but to all. Epiphany reminds us that even a small light can guide the way, and that God works through ordinary people and everyday moments to reveal something holy. My hope for UNITY in 2026 is that we continue to see these holy moments all around us and that we grow together, trusting that God's grace is already meeting us along the way. In that trust, the year ahead isn't something we face with fear or pressure to have everything figured out, but with confidence rooted in God's faithfulness and in the community we share here. If you're so bold as to take on a resolution for the year ahead, please consider this: resolve to take notice of the small things at work all around you and wonder what God might be up to.

As we enter another year together, I am deeply grateful for your kindness, your generosity, and your willingness to show up for one another as a church family. My prayer is that in the year ahead, we will continue to be a community where God's grace is celebrated and practiced, where hope is nurtured, and where no one walks alone.

*Grace and peace,
Justin*



Two-Campus Ministry in Brookfield, Wis. • unitybrookfield.org
 Christ the King: 4600 Pilgrim Rd. • Zip: 53005 • (262) 781-7600
 Cross of Life: 20700 W. North Ave. • Zip: 53045 • (262) 781-7600





We Celebrated the Season in UNITY!

Advent Fest 2025 on December 5: The Spirit of the Season Began at UNITY!



Advent Fest was an evening of food, singing, worship and crafts. Thanks to our Advent Fest Planning Team, Craft Leaders, Confirmation Students, Marv Wunder who led caroling on his accordion, and all others who set up, cleaned up and decorated!

Kids in Our Sunday School Christmas Programs Told the Very BEST Story of All!



Sunday School students shared *The Greatest Story Ever Told* during Christmas Programs at all services the weekend of December 13-14. Watch the [compilation video](#) on our [Vimeo page](#)! Special thanks to our kids and all the volunteers.



Regular Worship & Sunday School Schedule Continues

Come as you are and join us for worship! If you can't attend in person, we invite you to worship with us online during our 8:30 am livestream. Simply visit our [Worship web page!](#)

Worship & Sunday School:

SATURDAYS

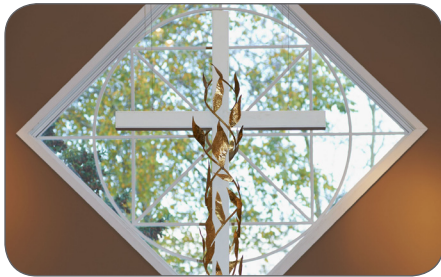
5:00 pm: WORSHIP at COL
Sunday School PreK-Gr 6

SUNDAYS

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL
(Live-streamed)
Sunday School PreK-Gr 6

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK
Sunday School PreK-Gr 6

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL
Sunday School PreK-Gr 6



Relive the Christmas Magic through UNITY's Vimeo Page

Thanks to ALL who made Advent and Christmas such a special time of year at UNITY. **In case you missed something or simply want to relive those magical moments, be sure to visit UNITY's Vimeo page at vimeo.com/unitybrookfield.** Here you'll find the video of our Children's Christmas Programs, the Christmas Eve service that livestreamed at COL, our Christmas Day Video Message and more. Take a moment to [visit Vimeo](#) to keep that Christmas spirit alive!



Sunday School Kids to Hold Servant Sundays!

In January and February during Sunday School, our students will be participating in Servant Sundays. We will once again hold the Birthday Gift Bag Drive for the Food Pantry (see article below), in addition to performing a variety of other ministry tasks for our servant partners – such as assembling Craft Kits for the kids in El Salvador for our Mission of Healing Trip February 14-21 and tying fleece blankets for our friends at Hephatha Lutheran Church. Watch for more info to come, but please plan to support our Sunday School kids in any way you can! With questions, please contact Michelle Aprahamian at michelle@unitybrookfield.org.



Sunday School Birthday Gift Bag Drive Thru January 18

We just celebrated Jesus' birthday. What a perfect time to help others celebrate theirs! Sunday School kids are collecting birthday cake mix, frosting, candles and party ware (plates, cups, etc.) to create Birthday Gift Bags for families at the Waukesha Food Pantry. **Please drop off your donations at either campus through Sunday, January 18.** Questions about any Sunday School events? Please contact Michelle Aprahamian at michelle@unitybrookfield.org.



Sing & Ring in the New Year with All Music Tuesdays!

Enjoy a weekly evening together making music with family and friends during All Music Tuesdays! ALL are welcome to join a group at any time. There are no auditions and childcare is available. **Get more details by visiting our [Music web page](#).**

COL NORTH FELLOWSHIP HALL

6:00-6:30 pm: Joyful Noise

Kids in PreK-Grade 1

Directed by Sydney Haines

6:30-7:15 pm: Celebration Choir

Kids in Grades 2-6

Directed by Sydney Haines

7:15-8:15 pm: Fellowship Choir

Grade 7-Adult

Directed by Molly Pufall-Brown

Accompanied by Lynn Key

COL SANCTUARY

6:15-7:15 pm: Gloria Dei Bells

Late Intermed. to Advanced Ringers

Directed by Stacey Nordmeyer

7:15-8:15 pm: Hosanna Bells

Begin. to Early Intermediate Ringers

Directed by Stacey Nordmeyer

Worship Volunteers are Needed! Can You Help?

The Worship Volunteer Schedule goes through Ash Wednesday, February 18. Please let us know about any weekends you are *not* available to serve, or sign up for services where you'd like to help. **We will NOT automatically schedule anyone for Ash Wednesday services on February 18, so please sign up where you can help.** Thank you for helping us gather together to worship! Questions? Contact Lynn Key at lynn@unitybrookfield.org or a pastor.





Let's Get Cookin'! Partner Meal Prep is on January 7

Each month we count on 17 amazing volunteers to prepare a home-cooked meal for 30 men in recovery at Aspen Center. Your participation in this ministry is vital and so appreciated. Together we are making a direct impact... *just ask the guys!*

Are you available for just two hours (4:00-6:00 pm) on one of the Wednesdays below? The meal is organized and led by Michelle Wilkins & Kathy Turco ... *no cooking talent required!* We need Shoppers, Sous Chefs, Home Cooks, Home Bakers and Delivery Drivers. There is a place for YOU in this ministry, so join us! This is a great opportunity for our Confirmation parents as well, so please consider joining your student.

Our next Partner Meal Preps are held on these Wednesdays from 4:00-6:00 pm at COL: January 7, February 4, April 8, May 6 & June 3. **Sign up online by using these links on our Sign Up web page:** Adults: Click [HERE](#). Confirmation Students: Click [HERE](#). Questions? Contact Cindy Flynn at 262-391-7870 or cindylouflynn@aol.com.



Have fun while feeding others! Be part of our Mass Meal Preps for the 30 residents of Aspen Center.

Mitten Tree at CTK, Mitten Bin at COL Still Warming Hearts

CTK's Mitten Tree and COL's Mitten Bin will continue to accept donations. This is the perfect way to help the kids at our partner church Hephatha and their neighborhood kids stay warm this winter! Scarves and hats are welcome, but nice, warm mittens and gloves are *especially* needed. CTK's tree is in the narthex and COL's bin is near the doors at the fireplace entrance. **Items will be picked and sent out several times this winter.** These are much-needed replacements for items that get misplaced. Questions? Contact Jane Boorse at janeboorse43@gmail.com or 262-227-9645. *Thank you!*



Hebron Shelters is in Need of Many Types of Donations

Hebron Housing Services operates three shelters, and they are in need of your donations throughout the year ... especially during cold winter months.

Needed items include:

- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Sanitizing Wipes
- Floor Cleaner
- Paper Towels
- Laundry Detergent
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Twin Size Bed Sheets
- Fresh Food: Eggs, Milk, Meat (do not leave in vestibule)
- Ziploc Bags (all sizes)
- Garbage Bags (13- & 30-gallon)
- Bleach
- Sponges
- Hand Soap
- Toilet Paper
- Razors

Please place your donations in the labeled boxes at either campus. COL's is in the sanctuary entrance vestibule. Contact is Jane Boorse at janeboorse43@gmail.com or 262-227-9645. *Thank you!*

Show Some LOVE at Our Blood Drive on February 5

This year, be someone's Valentine ... because you're just their "type!" Donate at UNITY's Blood Drive on Thursday, February 5, from 1:00-6:00 pm at our COL campus. Sign up at [UNITY's Sign Up web page](#) and click on the [Blood Drive sign-up](#). Need help signing up? Contact Marilyn Ranney at 414-975-5606 or ranneymarilyn@gmail.com.



Thanks for a successful Blood Drive on December 6!

Total Pints Collected: 28
Estimated Lives Saved: 84

Mark Your Calendars for 2026 Blood Drives:

- Thursday, Feb. 5 1-6 pm
- Saturday, May 30 7-11 am
- Thursday, Sept. 10 1-6 pm
- Saturday, Dec. 5 7-11 am

BLOOD DONATIONS:

Did You Know...?

- Less than 38% of Americans are eligible to give blood or platelets, but of those, less than 10% actually donate each year.
- The Red Cross needs to collect about 12,500 blood donations and more than 2,700 platelet donations *each day*.
- The blood collected by the Red Cross helps millions of patients in approx. 2,500 hospitals and other facilities.
- 82% of blood donations are given at Blood Drives hosted by organizations like ours.



Donations Needed for El Salvador Trip by February 8

Our next Mission of Healing Trip to El Salvador will be February 14-21, and the Salvadoran kids and adults *love* working with arts and crafts between stops at the clinic. **If you can donate any of the following items, please bring them to either campus, labeled "El Salvador Mission of Healing," by Sunday, February 8:**

- Beads • Cording • Stickers
- Coloring Books for Kids & Adults
- Colored Pencils • Colored Markers
- Pencil Sharpeners • School Scissors
- Glue Sticks (non-liquid)

Other Supplies Needed:

Reading Glasses (non-prescription, new rather than used), toothbrushes, and 4 or 5 cloth-covered checked bag-sized luggage. **Please place donations in Pastor Justin's office at COL.** Questions? Contact Nicole Krause at nicole@unitybrookfield.org.



Please Give to Food Pantry Using the "Big 8 to Donate"

The Waukesha Food Pantry accepts donations throughout the year. Below is their list of "Big 8 to Donate," which are the items most needed by their clients. Please consider this list next time you're out shopping. Collection baskets are in the entryway near the narthex at each campus.

BIG 8 TO DONATE:

- Cereal
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Vegetables
- Whole Grains (pasta, rice)
- Canned Beans (pinto, kidney)
- Canned Protein (tuna, chicken, salmon)
- Baby Items (diapers, wipes, formula)



Please, no food past expiration date. Questions? Contact Melanie Rooney at melrooney7@gmail.com or Bill Rooney at billrooney017@gmail.com. *Thank you!*



Learn About Our Servant Partners ... then Serve!

Servant Ministry begins in the conscience of a congregation and within the walls of a church ... creating a safe and forgiving place for all who seek refuge inside those walls. Servant Ministry then moves *beyond* the walls to neighborhoods, communities, and to a world in need of healing. *More than anything else, Servant Ministry is focused on turning believers into disciples.*

If you're ready to become a disciple in 2026, we invite you to learn more about UNITY's Servant Partners by visiting our [Servant Ministries Partner web page](#). From there, click on each partner to see where you might "find your fit!"

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."
~ Desmond Tutu



Partner of the Month: Cordero de Dios in El Salvador

Nineteen travelers are busy making preparations for our annual Mission of Healing trip to El Salvador, coming up February 14-21. While the week takes us to different villages around San Salvador, we begin our trip with a Sunday spent with Pastor Rafael and the congregation of Cordero de Dios.

Cordero is located in an urban area of San Salvador. It is always a joyful reunion as we are welcomed by so many members of our partner congregation. We worship together, share a meal, play games, and connect on so many levels, despite the language barrier. Every year we can see the impact of UNITY's support in the form of updated facilities and technologies, programming and education.

On the first day of clinics, we return to Cordero and transform it into a place where over 100 people are seen and cared for by our team. Over the years, we have seen significant gains in the overall health of the congregation, which is extremely heartwarming.

We encourage everyone to participate in this impactful ministry! There are several ways you can help: donate items for the trip (a list will be posted in the weekly bulletin), help organize/pack suitcases, consider joining us as a traveler next year, or make a special donation earmarked for El Salvador. Most importantly, please lift up these travelers in your prayers.

~ Julie Hoesly, Servant Advocate



During last year's Mission of Healing trip, travelers provided care to 400 people in four clinic locations over four days.



Attend Our Bible Study on January 6, 13 & 20 @ 6 pm

Join us for a special Bible Study in January: "Lead Like Her: A Look at the Leading Ladies of the Bible." It will be held on three consecutive Tuesday nights – January 6, 13 & 20 – from 6:00-7:00 pm at COL in Room 202. Childcare will be provided. Questions? Contact Matt Griepentrog at matt@unitybrookfield.org. Come gather with us for great discussions and be inspired by these women!



Sheepshead Dates Changed to January 12 & 26, 15 & 29

Due to New Year's Day falling on the first Thursday, Sheepshead has adjusted their dates for January. Join them at CTK on these NEW dates: Mondays, January 12 & 26 @ 1:00 pm and Thursdays, January 15 & 29 @ 6:30 pm. They will return to their regular schedule in February: second & fourth Mondays at 1:00 pm and first & third Thursdays at 6:30 pm. Contact is Mary Huss at mhwis@hotmail.com.



UNITY Bowling Night on January 22 for All Adults

Join us for a fun night on the lanes! We will meet for two games of bowling on Thursday, January 22, at 6:30 pm at Krueger's Bowling in Menomonee Falls (N87W16471 Appleton Ave.). Adults of all ages and bowling skill levels are welcome! Plan for \$15 for the cost of bowling and shoes. Sign up through [SignUpGenius](#) on our [Sign Up web page](#). Questions? Contact [Matt Griepentrog](#).



Do YOU have something you'd like to learn more about? We are always looking for new ideas as we plan our Adult Forums and events! Reach out to Todd Blatnik at todd.blatnik@wi.rr.com with topic ideas.

New Year, New You! Consider joining one of UNITY's Small Groups. Meet friends, use your talents, foster or find new interests. Visit our [Small Groups web page](#) to see if there's a group for you. Then join us!

One way to "Renew through Involvement" is to volunteer during worship services! Take a moment now to visit our [Worship Volunteers web page](#), then contact Lynn Key at lynn@unitybrookfield.org.

Adult Forum on January 11: Donut (& Coffee) Social!

Gather for some purely social time as we mingle with other members and enjoy coffee and donuts. You won't really *learn* anything... other than how many donuts your fellow members can eat! **Bring your sweet tooth to our Adult Forum on Sunday, January 11, at 9:30 am at our COL campus to enjoy a tasty treat in a judgment-free zone!**



Adult Forum on January 18: Williamsburg: Duane Maas

Have you ever wanted to visit Williamsburg, Virginia? You can do so from the comfort of your seat as UNITY member Duane Maas shares his insights and experiences from his time there. **Join us for our Adult Forum on Sunday, January 18, at 9:30 am at our COL campus to "witness Williamsburg" for yourself, thanks to Duane!**



Adult Forum on February 1: Aging Parents (Room 202)

Join Jen Nowak and Eric Gravenkamp as we share resources, answer questions about our parents' aging journey and help support each other. This can often be a difficult period in your life. Come together with others to hear tips on how to navigate this time. *It is very powerful to know you are not alone.* **Join us Sunday, February 1, at 9:30 am in COL Room 202.**





Flower Sign Up for 2026 is LIVE; Sponsors are Needed!

Sponsors are needed each week for Altar Flowers at both campuses. All the details you need are on the [SignUpGenius](#), and the 2026 calendar is now on that web page. This is a convenient way to choose a weekend and campus, and the cost is only \$25 (payable by check or [online](#)). You can take flowers home at the end of the weekend's last service, but please return the vase as soon as you can. If you have questions or need help signing up, please contact [Lynn Key](#) by calling the UNITY office at 262-781-7600. This really is the perfect way to decorate *and* commemorate!

Help is Needed with Snow Removal at Both COL & CTK

Winter is here, and we need help keeping our sidewalks clear and safe at both campuses. If you're willing to shovel or salt, please sign up through [SignUpGenius](#) on our [Sign Up web page](#). You'll commit to one campus for one week (Wednesday–Tuesday). Once you sign up, you'll receive instructions and a reminder before your start date. *Thanks for helping to keep our campuses safe!*



In the New Year and Beyond, Invite Others to UNITY

With a New Year comes new starts, which means now is a *perfect time to invite someone to join us at UNITY*. Especially after the holidays have gone, people long to be part of a community...or to learn, or to praise God, or to do significant things in the lives of others. *This is the essence of discipleship here at UNITY!* We believe nothing is more meaningful than a personal invitation, and chances are good they'll enjoy it here. We encourage you to pray about who might need an invitation that might come only from you, then extend it. Let's all be good disciples for UNITY in 2026 and grow our family of faith.

UNITY's Sew Comfy Group Receives \$3,000 Grant from Green Bay Packers Foundation!

Exciting news! The Sew Comfy group at UNITY is honored to receive a grant from the Green Bay Packers Foundation! Sew Comfy was represented by Tami and Mark Miller at the awards luncheon held at Lambeau Field on December 17.

The Green Bay Packers Foundation issues grants each year to nonprofit organizations throughout the state of Wisconsin. This year, the Foundation focused on awarding grants to organizations that will use the funds for health and wellness among others.

In this year's distribution of annual grants, the Foundation awarded \$1.5 million to 398 civic and charitable groups throughout the state of Wisconsin.

With these disbursements, the Foundation has distributed more than \$25.7 million for charitable purposes since it was established in 1986.

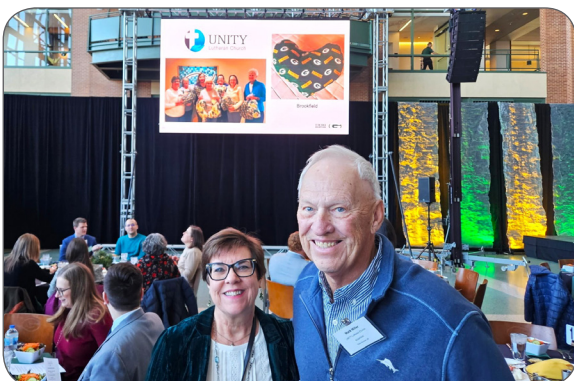
Sew Comfy provides pillows to people who will undergo surgery at Froedtert's Breast Cancer Center or UW ProHealth's Breast Cancer Center in Pewaukee. Heartfelt letters of support from the nurse coordinators were included in the grant application.

In 2025, Sew Comfy Group donated 577 pillows to these organizations. Pillows are also available at the entry door at each campus for anyone to share with someone who would benefit from this. Please help yourself if you know someone who could use one!

The \$3000 Green Bay Packers Foundation grant will help offset Sew Comfy's costs of the pillows, which includes fiberfill and fabric. With the grant, the group hopes to offer more team-focused fabrics (Packers, Brewers, Badgers) which are favorites of the recipients!

Sew Comfy is grateful to receive the Green Bay Packers Foundation grant and is proud to continue the meaningful work of creating pillows for persons facing a difficult surgery. We thank the Packers Foundation for their generous support of organizations like ours.

For further info about the Packers Foundation and to see more photos from the luncheon, click [HERE](#).



Tami and Mark Miller represented our Sew Comfy Group at the Green Bay Packers Foundation luncheon at Lambeau Field on December 17.



Members of our Sew Comfy Group include (left to right): Tami Miller, Sandi John, Doreen Brecheisen, Julie Cozad, Cindy Boyd, Dianne Klebenow and Mary Jo Eggert. Not pictured are Barb Feest and Sheila Schrieber.



Council Corner

“He said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.’”

~ Matthew, 9:37-38

I'm one who usually takes down my Christmas decorations before New Year's Day, but they will be up a little longer this year. January is a time to make plans for the upcoming year – some make resolutions, some set goals, and some just hope things are better this year.

In January, we look back at UNITY's finances for 2025 and start the budgeting process for 2026. Through November, givings have caught up to last year, and December is off to a strong start. We will need a strong finish to reduce the deficit we have for 2025. The HR and Finance teams will work to develop a budget for 2026 that we will present at the Financial Forum on February 15 (9:30 am at COL and 10:30 am at CTK) and ask the Congregation to approve at the Annual Meeting on February 22 (9:30 am in person at COL & CTK and via Zoom).

Now that Christmas is over, we hunker down to make it through January and February. It's great that the days are getting longer, and we look forward for the year that's ahead of us.

~ Tim Herman, Finance Chair

Call Committee Update

The latest version of our Ministry Site Profile (MSP) has been posted on our website on our Pastoral Call Team web page. Personal information (such as names, phone numbers, and email addresses) has been redacted for privacy and security reasons. If anyone has questions, please reach out to any member of the Call Committee.

~ Melanie Varin, Call Committee Co-Chair

We thank our Call Committee members for their dedication!

Money Matters

Happy New Year! That's a wrap on 2025! At the time of writing Money Matters, we're still finalizing the 2025 accounting. Check out next month's newsletter for a full update on how UNITY did financially in 2025.

As we start the year, I'm busy working on the 2026 budget. I've already begun digging in and I look forward to collaborating with Council, the HR Team, and our pastors to put together a solid budget for the congregation.

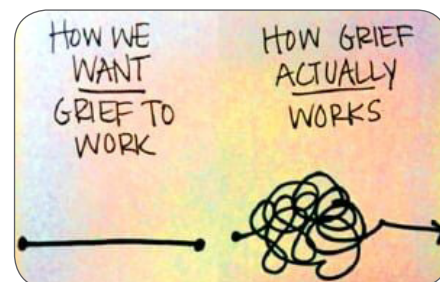
We'll review the final 2025 numbers and the proposed 2026 budget during the Finance Forum on Sunday, February 15, and at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 22. (See articles at right; more details to come.)

Feel free to reach out anytime with questions at michelled1119@yahoo.com. Thank you!

~ Michelle Duerr, Treasurer

Grief Group will Gather at COL on January 14 & 28

Have you lost a loved one? Grief Group will meet on Wednesdays, January 14 & 28, from 6:30-8:00 pm at COL in Room 202 (upstairs). We invite you to a safe space where you can share more about where you are at in your journey ... learn more about the stages of grief ... and get help finding your way through what you need most. If this is the right time for you, or if you know someone who could benefit, please join us. **A Zoom link can be provided if you're not able to meet in person.** If you have questions or want to discuss whether this is the right time and place for you, please talk with one of our pastors. **There is no need to RSVP; simply show up and be among friends.**



Pre-Annual Meeting Forums on Sunday, February 15

Our Pre-Annual Meeting Info Forums will be held on Sunday, February 15, at 9:30 am at COL and 10:30 am at CTK. Join Treasurer Michelle Duerr and Finance Chair Tim Herman, along with other Council members, to hear how 2025 ended and get the 2026 budget they will propose at our **Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 22 (see below)**. In addition to reading reports from our Staff and Council members, you'll be able to review ministry summaries and ask any questions you have.



PRE-MEETING INFO FORUMS
Sunday, February 15
9:30 am at COL • 10:30 am at CTK

Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 22 at 9:30 am

Please make every effort to attend our Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 22, at 9:30 am. At COL we'll have a shortened 8:30 am worship, then people can remain in the building for the meeting at 9:30 am. For those at the CTK campus, come to CTK at 9:30 am, grab your doughnut & coffee and head into the sanctuary for the meeting ... then stay for a worship service at 10:45 am! **A Zoom link will be available for anyone attending our Annual Meeting at home.** Please watch for that to come through email. **NOTE: There will be a worship service and Sunday School at CTK at 10:45 am this day only. COL will still hold its regular worship service & Sunday School at 10:45 am.**





UNITY ~ January Birthdays

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2. Todd Chambers
Frank Riederer
Jim Seftar | 15. Sharon Giessen
Teddy Groth
William Komassa | 25. Callie Alft |
| 3. Kathleen Brass
Sarah Cameron
Esther McKee
Victor Schultz | 16. Benjamin Kindler
Nicholas Maritz | 26. Sarah Ocampo |
| 4. Thomas Kindler
Arianna McCumber | 17. Christine Nelson
Tiffany Reay | 27. Kelsey Morrison
Heather Savignac |
| 5. Jan Constable
Paul Johnson
Irene Secora | 18. Jill Barney
Joan Krause
Nicki Shady | 29. Jolene Epding
Dan Hastings
Kim Keup
Adam Klick |
| 6. Brian Krier
Kathy Savignac | 19. Tami Miller
Lisa Reid
Brad Wilkins | 31. Alexander Eidem
Connor Hubert |
| 8. Darren Gill
Abigail Halbach | 20. Jo Gould
Erica Ruiz
Cheryl Schiesl
Abby Winn | |
| 9. Liane Blouin
Karen Hartzler
Kimberly Knoernschild | 21. Richard Cantu | |
| 10. Tammy Lee
Julie Miesfeld
Kerri Muche
Ethan Sitterly
Ruby Soik | 22. Eric Godfrey
Jerry Malcore
Anden Nellis
James Schumacher | |
| 11. Owen Zimmer | 23. Joanne Durand
Karl Eidem
Gabe Gonzales
Matt Griepentrog
Tim Nustad
John Peterson | |
| 12. Robert Brophey
Bernd Bruhnke | 24. Kim Bell
Emma Jansen
Steve Johnson | |



“Birthdays! What music in the world! In these unresting times, when nothing intellectual, economic, social, political, seems stable; when customs and traditions hoary with age are mixed with explosive elements, this oldest of institutions is not in danger of yielding to destructive forces.”

~ John Ross Macduff, 1893

Minister's Minute

I still remember my first trip to El Salvador on the Mission of Healing trip and how Pastor Norma pulled me into the Spiritual area with the other pastors who would listen to and pray with people coming through the clinic we set up in a new community each day. There were these four posters that had been created around the themes of Love, Light, Peace, Joy, that the pastors would talk with people about as it related to what they had shared about what they needed prayer for.

As the pastors all talked through their plan for the week of what to do when people came to our area and how I could be a part of it, I offered to read a verse from the Spanish Bible I had brought, even though my pronunciation skills were lacking as was my ability to count beyond 10, they would turn to me at the Light poster and invite me to read from Psalm bent siete, *the 23rd Psalm, or so I thought they had said.*

All morning long, when Norma gave me my cue, I was ready with the 23rd Psalm, verse 1, struggling to speak it in Spanish. It wasn't until lunch time as the pastors were all sitting around the table together and I looked at all these beautifully created posters with their themes, I realized that when I was asked to read from the Psalm at the Light poster, there is NOT one single mention of light in the 23rd Psalm, but Psalm 27, on the other hand is, "The Lord is my Light and my Salvation; of whom shall I fear."

As I slowly started questioning what Psalm they had spoken in Spanish and then realized I had been saying the wrong Psalm the whole morning, they all burst out laughing. Then Norma tells me in this very loving, motherly sort of way, "It is okay, because you are a pastor and the 23rd Psalm is very pastoral." Talk about grace extended! I'm sure she also was making some connection from light to how God is like a Shepherd who leads us all our days!

Anyhow, Pastor Santiago taught me a song set to the words of the 27th Psalm. (Also, probably because he couldn't handle how painful it must have been to hear me trying to read in Spanish.) Now, thankfully, my ears were able to pick up that melody far better than how to speak. In fact, it's a song I still remember how to sing!

On Sunday, January 25, as I was able to worship with my family in our yearly journey south (so sorry, but I am praying for all of you in the midst of these awful temperatures!) we sang one of the hymns first in English, and then in Spanish. I have to say I was impressed with how well I at least had an idea how each word was to be sung fitting the melody, but then, the slides on the wall switched to some odd combination of letters I had never seen before. I didn't have the slightest clue on how to pronounce them, but as I listened to the song leaders sing these strange looking combinations of letters, they then went into singing in harmony in a church with the acoustics to make it sound even more heavenly and it brought tears to my eyes.

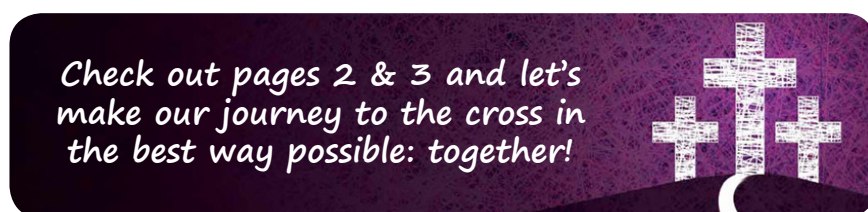
I was struck by how different the same song could sound to our ears and yet God is able to hear each language perfectly, with no need for translation, and that even when people are attempting to sing or come together to reflect Christ's light through our presence, prayers, and the power we have to be a Good News people, it's from here that God is able to make possible what we never could imagine. For whatever seems impossible at this time, within UNITY, within our partners, within our lives, within our world, may we trust in the God who is both our Light and our Salvation and our Shepherd who leads us all our days!

~ Sherrie



ANNUAL MEETING
 Sunday, February 22 • 9:30 am
 In Person at COL & CTK and Zoom

PRE-MEETING INFO FORUMS
 Sunday, February 15:
 9:30 am at COL • 10:30 am at CTK



Two-Campus Ministry in Brookfield, Wis. • unitybrookfield.org
 Christ the King: 4600 Pilgrim Rd. • Zip: 53005 • (262) 781-7600
 Cross of Life: 20700 W. North Ave. • Zip: 53045 • (262) 781-7600



Pre-Annual Meeting Forums on Sunday, February 15

Our Pre-Annual Meeting Info Forums will be held on Sunday, February 15, at 9:30 am at COL and 10:30 am at CTK. Join Treasurer Michelle Duerr and Finance Chair Tim Herman, along with other Council members, to hear how 2025 ended and get the 2026 budget they will propose at our **Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 22 (see below)**. In addition to reading reports from our Staff and Council members, you'll be able to review ministry summaries and ask any questions you have.



PRE-MEETING INFO FORUMS
Sunday, February 15
9:30 am at COL • 10:30 am at CTK

Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 22 at 9:30 am

Please attend our Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 22, at 9:30 am. At COL we'll have a shortened worship at 8:30 am, then people can remain in the building for the meeting at 9:30 am. For those at the CTK campus, come to CTK at 9:30 am, grab your doughnut & coffee and head into the sanctuary for the meeting ... then stay for a worship service at 10:45 am! **A Zoom link will be available for those attending our Annual Meeting at home.** Please watch for that to come through email. *There will be a worship service and Sunday School at CTK at 10:45 am. COL will still hold its regular worship service & Sunday School at 10:45 am.*

ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, February 22 • 9:30 am
In Person Both Campuses & Zoom



Pre-Lenten Bible Study Continues February 1 & 8

To prepare for Lent, we're holding a 3-week Bible study entitled "Growing Nearer to God." Led by Dave Meissner, it's being held on January 25, and February 1 & 8 at 9:30 am in COL Room 202.

Together we'll explore:

- The purpose of Lent – a time to grow closer to God.
- Paths for spiritual growth – studying the Bible and discovering practical ways to grow in Christ.
- Your personal plan – Develop a plan for deepening your awareness of God in daily life during Lent.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, and this study is a wonderful way to prepare your heart and strengthen your faith. No registration needed, just bring your Bible and an open heart!



Lent 2026 Web Page to be Coming Soon!

Are you looking for one-stop shopping for all your Lenten needs and questions? **Just as we've done in years past, we will once again host a Lent 2026 Web Page on UNITY's website.** Watch for it to arrive!



Ash Wednesday Services: February 18 @ Noon & 7 pm

Lent begins on February 18 with Ash Wednesday. Worship services will be at noon at our CTK campus and 7 pm at our COL campus. We will gather to remember that we are the Lord's in our living and our dying through the ritual of the "Imposition of Ashes." A black cross made from ashes of palm branches will be placed on the foreheads of anyone who wishes to receive it as a sign of our humanness, but also as a sign of who we are in Christ through our baptism. Begin your Lent journey here with us!



Lenten Offerings: Power in Connection

Our Lenten offerings will support computers and technology for Hebron House and the Bread of Healing Clinic ... helping ensure that vital connections for care, learning, and communication remain strong. Throughout Lent, we will track our progress using a battery image, symbolizing how your generosity builds *power* through *positive connection*. Watch for updates to come ... from a variety of *outlets*!





Lent Wednesdays Feature New Schedule and New Format!

We invite you to join us for this year's Lenten Theme: "Feed My Flock – A Simple Meal, A Sacred Time" ... a weekly gathering centered on community, nourishment, and reflection. On each Wednesday of Lent, we will share a simple meal *with* worship and pause together to be fed by the One who feeds us! We'll gather on five Wednesdays – February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18, and March 25.

At BOTH campuses, the meal and worship will occur at the same time. After you serve yourself, we will eat and worship together at the tables in CTK's Narthex and in COL's Fellowship Hall.

Please join us on Lent Wednesdays:
12:00 pm: Lunch with Worship at CTK
6:00 pm: Dinner with Worship at COL

Our worship will include readings from *Psalms, Job, Acts of the Apostles*, and others, inviting thoughtful reflection and prayer as we prepare our hearts for Easter.

What's on the Menu?

At CTK we will continue our tradition of Potluck Soup Lunch

At COL we will enjoy these items:

- Week 1: Chili and Corn Bread
- Week 2: Pasta Bar
- Week 3: Taco Bar
- Week 4: Breakfast for Dinner
- Week 5: Baked Potato Bar



A Chicken Nugget option will be available for kids each week (except for Week 4).

Confirmation students: Please plan to arrive at 5:45 pm and head upstairs to Room 208 for Large Group Time. You'll then head downstairs for the rest of the evening, including dinner and worship with your Small Groups. Parents are encouraged to come into the Fellowship Hall and find a seat at a table, and visit until everything begins.



Can You Help Us with Lent Wednesdays?

For Lenten Lunches at CTK: We need people to provide soups, sides, and desserts. There will be paper signups at *both* campuses, since some COL worshipers attend the CTK lunch. (Special thanks to Karen Sporleder, who does all the setup and cleanup at these events!)

For Lenten Dinners at COL: Join our Meal Making Group at 3:00 pm (see info below) or help with the following:

- Shop for items ahead of time
- Provide desserts (homemade or store-bought are equally great)
- Set out food and beverages (custodians set up tables & chairs)
- Prep last-minute before serving
- Clean up (hopefully not very time-consuming since many hands help at the end of service)

For helping at COL, there will be paper signups at both campuses, in addition to a SignUpGenius coming online soon! Individuals or groups (like a Small Group!) are invited to help. *Questions about signing up or need help doing so?* Contact Lynn Key at lynn@unitybrookfield.org or 262-781-7600.

Meal Making Group at COL: Join us Wednesdays at 3:00 pm.

Do you like to cook but not do it alone? Each Wednesday we make the meal in the COL kitchen at 3:00 pm. Jump in for a fun time of cooking together led by Diana & David Koenen and Sandi John. There's no need to sign up; just show up! *Questions about cooking?* Contact Diana Koenen at dlistobbs@sbcglobal.net or 262-853-7081.



Mark Your Calendars for Holy Week Service Times!

Eve of Palm Sunday • March 28
5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Palm Sunday • March 29
8:30 am: Worship at COL
9:30 am: Worship at CTK
10:45 am: Worship at COL

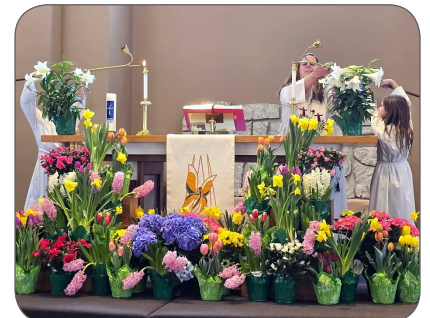
Maundy Thursday • April 2
7:00 pm: Worship at CTK

Good Friday • April 3
12:00 pm: Worship at CTK
7:00 pm: Worship at COL

Easter Vigil • April 4
5:00 pm: Worship Vigil at COL

Easter Sunday • April 5
8:00 am: Worship at COL
9:30 am: Worship at CTK, then Potluck Easter Breakfast
9:30 am: Worship at COL
11:00 am: Worship at COL

Note: A staffed nursery will be available during all services at both of our campuses.





Blood Drive on February 5: SEVERE BLOOD SHORTAGE

You may have seen this on the news, but on January 20, a National Appeal for blood began.

This means blood is being sent to hospitals faster than it is being donated. There hasn't been an appeal for a few years, so this is significant! *Of special note:*

- **This is a severe blood shortage.** Hospital needs have stayed the same, but they're now outpacing the number of available blood donations.
- **The blood supply has dropped by 35% over the past month.**
- **This is the worst flu season in 20 years.** Donors are asked to wait 24 hours after their last symptom which has reduced the number of eligible donors.
- **Over 400 blood drives have been canceled due to winter weather this month.** There are still several weeks left of winter and more storms could potentially further impact the blood supply.
- **The shortage is especially significant for blood types O-, O+, A-, and B-.** Donors with these blood types are encouraged to donate red cells through a Power Red donation.
- **As a thank you, anyone who donates between January 26 and February 28 will receive a \$20 e-gift card to the merchant of their choice** (e.g. Amazon, Target, Starbucks, etc.). Visit redcrossblood.org/heart to see all options.

PLEASE Donate at UNITY's Blood Drive on Thursday, February 5, from 1:00-6:00 pm at our COL campus. Sign up at UNITY's Sign Up web page and click on the Blood Drive sign-up. Need help signing up? Contact Marilyn Ranney at 414-975-5606 or ranneymarilyn@gmail.com. ***If you EVER considered donating blood, now is the time to do so.***



Donations Needed for El Salvador Trip by February 8

Our next Mission of Healing Trip to El Salvador will be February 14-21, and the Salvadoran kids and adults love working with arts and crafts between stops at the clinic. **If you can donate any of these items, please bring them to either campus, labeled "El Salvador Mission of Healing," by Sunday, February 8:**

- Beads • Cording • Stickers
- Coloring Books for Kids & Adults
- Colored Pencils • Colored Markers
- Pencil Sharpeners • School Scissors
- Glue Sticks (non-liquid)

Other Supplies Needed:

Reading Glasses (non-prescription, new rather than used) and toothbrushes. **Please place donations in the bins labeled for this in the narthex at either campus.** Questions? Contact Sherrie Lorbeck at sherrie@unitybrookfield.org. *Thanks for anything you can give!*



Prayers for Our El Salvador Travelers: February 14-21

Our group for the February Mission of Healing Trip to El Salvador will include UNITY members and friends, plus travelers from Atonement Lutheran Church in Muskego. **Please pray for our 18 travelers:** Cari Corozza, Cindy Dostal, Mary Ehresman, Eric Gravenkamp, Mike Gutzeit, Julie Hoesly, Janice Johnson, Mike Johnson, Rachel Johnson, Justin Kuehl, Sherrie Lorbeck, Rachel Manganaro, Sue Mours, Nancy Oberhauser, Sam Ranney McBride, Amy Spomer, Alice Thomson, and Fred Varin.

They'll travel on February 14, worship with Cordero de Dios on February 15, and visit a different town each day from February 16-19 to help run a clinic and health fair. On February 20, they'll debrief the week with our Salvadoran pastors and leaders and then each other, then they'll have lunch by the beach catching up with Pastor Muriel and her daughters Alice and Sal, along with Muriel's aunt and cousin who are visiting for a few days. They will travel home on Saturday, February 21.



Blessings on their important ministry and safe travels to them all.

Help Feed Hungry People at Hebron Housing Shelters

Hebron Housing Services needs volunteers to help pick up and deliver food to its facilities in Waukesha. How does it work? It's as easy as 1-2-3!

- 1) Pick up food at Chick-fil-A at 1454 Capitol Dr. in Pewaukee between 9:30-9:45 am (*note new time*). Food will already be prepared and paid for.
- 2) Deliver food as follows and they will take their portion:
 - Siena House at 1519 Summit Ave. (*New stop; pictured at right*)
 - Sentry House at 1210 Sentry Dr.
 - Juno House at 812 N. East Ave.
- 3) Deliver any remaining food to the Hope Center at 101 W. Broadway in Waukesha. *That's all there is to it!*

UNITY is responsible for delivery every other Monday. To see which dates still need delivery drivers and to sign up, please visit SignUpGenius on our Sign Up web page. Questions or need help signing up? Contact Servant Advocate Jane Boorse at janeboorse43@gmail.com or 262-781-1373. *Thank you!*





Share Our Best Furniture Ministry Helps Those in Need

Share Our Best Furniture Ministry is a partnership of congregations across the ELCA Synod to collect gently-used furniture and household items and share them with people in need. Please take a moment to read the letter from Andy Dederich, Share Our Best Furniture Ministry Coordinator:

*Hello Friends and Partners with Christ!
I am reaching out to you for your help.*

As you may know, the Share Our Best Furniture Ministry has been working for the past 5 years to gather furniture that has useful life. We then work with a number of partners to deliver that furniture to provide hope and comfort to those in Milwaukee and surrounding areas.

We have 2 needs right now.

1. We are short of beds and dressers.
We will take queen-, full- and twin-size beds. We will take them with mattresses, box springs, frames and bedding. Any parts of these are ok, and we need to have pieces with useful life. For dressers, upright or chest of drawers are preferred. If they are horizontal or bureau style, they need to be less than 60 inches long.

2. We need some help with moving the furniture. *We are doing all the pickups and deliveries with a small staff. It sometimes is difficult to manage as it is only when people contact us to pick up something, then we need people available. We are NOT a service.*

In 2025 we delivered to more than 60 locations and over 50 beds. This has helped to get families to have members not sleep on the floor. We appreciate any consideration and help. We run our ministry on a small budget and have begun and provide letters asking for free-will donations for our pickups.

Learn about this ministry by clicking [HERE](#). To donate furniture or help with deliveries, contact Andy Dederich at shareourbest@holycrosslutheran.org.



Update: Mitten Tree & Bin

A big, huge, stupendous thank you, UNITY! As of mid-January we sent out 117 pairs of gloves and mittens... 116 hats... and 12 scarves – in addition to other sorts of winter gear – to our friends at Hephatha! **The Mitten Tree at CTK and Mitten Bin at COL will remain in place until mid-February.** At that time, all remaining items will be picked up and delivered. **Until then, please be on the lookout for mittens especially!** They are much needed replacements for those that fall by the wayside. *Thank you for your support of Hephatha!* Contact is Jane Boorse at janeboorse43@gmail.com or 262-227-9645.



Share Our Best Furniture Ministry has been able to get beds to 28 children over the past year, thanks to donations like yours.

Partner of the Month: Bread of Healing Clinic

The Bread of Healing Clinic (BOH) is celebrating its 25th year of providing care to patients who do not have health insurance. Care is provided to over 2,000 patients at the current three locations, and there are plans to open a fourth clinic on the south side of Milwaukee. The clinic is supported by grants from organizations such as Care Source and Direct Relief and by other donors and volunteer staff members.

A major update this year is the transition to electronic patient records. The Epic system enables patient data to be accessed across all clinics. It enables patient referrals and records to transfer from hospital systems smoothly and securely. Staff and volunteers, some of whom are UNITY members, are meeting the challenge of learning the new system.

The new Executive Director, Erica Wright, joined the clinic in August. Erica grew up in Milwaukee and was formerly at the Milwaukee Health Department. She will help pilot the clinic through the challenges described in a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article on December 15, 2025, entitled, “Wisconsin’s Free Clinics Fill Gaps as Thousands Expected to Go Uninsured,” which featured BOH. Demand for care is expected to rise as tax credits expire and premiums for insurance rise. Meeting this need will be a major focus for 2026.

~ Diane Dressler, Servant Advocate

Want to learn more about the Bread of Healing Clinic? Visit their website at breadofhealingclinic.org to see all the ways to become involved.



Thank you to everyone who voted for Bread of Healing Clinic! We're excited to share that in October, they became one of two recipients of the \$50,000 CareSource grant! This incredible support will help Bread of Healing reach even more uninsured neighbors who often fall through the gaps in health care access. Together, we're helping make compassionate care possible for all.



Adult Forum on February 1: Aging Parents: Room 208

Join Jen Nowak and Eric Gravenkamp as we share resources, answer questions about our parents' aging journey and help support each other. This can often be a difficult period in your life. Come together with others to hear tips on how to navigate this time. *It is very powerful to know you are not alone. Join us Sunday, February 1, at 9:30 am in COL Room 208. Note new location for this gathering.*



Hit the (Indoor!) Links at X-Golf on February 26

Calling all UNITY Golfers! Beat the winter chill and hit the virtual links with us at American Family Field on Thursday, February 26. We're shooting for a time of **6:30 pm** but will confirm that two weeks prior. Low- and high-handicap golfers are welcome! Cost is \$30 for golf; food and beverages are available for purchase. You can bring your own clubs or rent for \$10/set per hour, or you can borrow from Matt's bag (he golfs right-handed). Am Fam Field is located at 1 Brewers Way in Milwaukee. Sign up online for our X-Golf Outing found on our Sign Up web page. Any questions? Contact Matt Griepentrog at matt@unitybrookfield.org. Come get the better of this cold snap and warm up with an indoor game of golf. What could be better *fore* February?



Important Reminder: Beware of Phishing Emails

Please remain alert and cautious when it comes to phishing emails. Phishing is a type of scam where someone sends an email pretending to be a trusted person or organization in order to steal personal information or money. These messages often create a sense of urgency or ask for help, donations, or gift cards.

How to protect yourself:

- Always check the sender's email address carefully.
- All official UNITY emails will only come from an address ending in @unitybrookfield.org
- Emails from UNITY staff will also include official UNITY logos in the email signature at the bottom.
- UNITY will NEVER ask for gift cards by email, text, or phone.
- The only time we ask for gift cards is for the Angel Tree, and those requests are always made in person directly from the tree.

If you ever receive a message that seems suspicious or you are unsure whether it is legitimate, please do NOT respond or click any links. Instead, contact the church office directly at 262-781-7600.

Because It's Still Winter...

Help is Needed with Snow Removal at Both Campuses

Since we're still deep in the heart of winter, we still need help keeping our sidewalks clear and safe at both campuses. Please get details and sign up through SignUpGenius on our Sign Up web page. You'll commit to one campus for one week.



But Because We Also Have Faith That Spring Will Come...

Help is Needed with Spring Cleanups – Indoor & Outdoor – on Saturdays: April 11 at CTK & April 18 at COL

Indoor and Outdoor Spring Cleanups will be held on Saturdays from 9 am-noon at our CTK campus on April 11 and at our COL campus on April 18. Indoors, we'll do deep cleaning like you would do at home (high dusting, vacuuming corners, etc.). Please bring step stools and vacuums with hoses if possible. Outdoors, many hands are needed to help us rake, clear planting beds, take down dead trees, and prepare our grounds for the season. We'll have lots of tools on site, but if you have them, please bring pruners, rakes, wheelbarrows, trailers to help us haul brush, etc.

At the COL campus we will rebuild a retaining wall on the west side and plant landscaping material on the east end. There's lots to do! Lunch is provided and outdoor cleanup is held rain or shine. Contact is Denny Thompson at dennyt325@yahoo.com.





Money Matters

It's hard to believe that we are already one month into 2026. The Church Council has been busy with all things finance during its January Council Meeting. With that in mind, **please add these key dates to your calendar: Pre-Annual Meeting Forums on February 15 (9:30 am at COL and 10:30 am at CTK) focused on UNITY's finances, and Annual Congregational Meeting on February 22 at 9:30 am at both campuses and via Zoom** for those who are not able to attend in person. *We sincerely appreciate your participation to achieve quorum.*

Reflecting on 2025, UNITY had a deficit of roughly \$50,000 with flat giving over the past three years (2023-2025). The deficit was caused by a few factors including, lower than budgeted giving, higher property costs, and higher than budgeted salaries and benefits. On a positive note, UNITY has a strong cash position of roughly \$230,000, even factoring in the deficit. Said another way, UNITY had (and still has) savings to weather the storm.

Budgeting for 2026 was challenging this year for the Church Council. These conversations are always hard, as the Council members try to discern what is a want versus a need. And with my six years on Council, this year was the hardest, as we grappled with prioritizing property costs, staffing salaries & benefits, and benevolence. Council weighed between an everything we want budget (which created a deficit of over \$200K) and a stripped-down balanced budget, that included a 3% increase in giving.

After a lot of reflection and tough discussions, the Council arrived at a recommended budget that has a planned deficit of \$33,000. Here are the main highlights of the budget:

- Budgeted for a 3% increase in giving
- Increased salaries and benefits for the pastors, based on Synod Guidelines, and 2% increase for staff. The Council recognized how hard both the pastors and staff work, and felt it was important to prioritize keeping the good people we have.

- Replacing some of the staff who departed UNITY late in 2025, but not in a one-for-one way. The Council is also committing to working with the pastors and staff to find efficiencies in the work they are currently doing, which might mean cutting back in some areas.

- A decrease in benevolence percentage from 12% to 10% (based on revenue projections, roughly \$25,000 cut). Unfortunately, this means our partners suffer too.

- Flat team budgets, which includes property of \$92,000. If there are significant property needs, these are not planned or budgeted for.

So, what does this all mean? Unlike many churches, our tough decisions thankfully don't mean letting staff go or selling property. We are blessed as a Congregation. However, the Council recognized that this trend is unfortunately not sustainable for the long term.

So, what can you do? Three things.

First, please come and ask questions about the budget and be engaged at the Forum on February 15. The Church Council members want to put the realities in front of the Congregation. **Second**, evaluate if you can increase your giving. As noted in the bulletins during the past few weeks, thoughtfully pledge. Based on the number of households giving to UNITY, the amount of annual increased giving would need to be \$84 per household for the planned budget and \$164 per household to "balance" the budget for 2026. We recognize that our households come in a wide range of sizes, shapes and capabilities. This likely means more from some and less from others, but the Church Council felt this was attainable. **Lastly, pray.** Pray that God will lead us in our decision making, pray that we will listen to his guidance, and pray that we will follow God's will for us and our ministry together at UNITY.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Finance Chair Tim Herman at TimHerman14@gmail.com or Treasurer Michelle Duerr at michelled1119@yahoo.com or me at paroemaat@gmail.com.
Thanks for all you do to support UNITY.

~ Phil Roemaat, Council President

2026 Pledge Appeal

We invite you to reflect on how you have been blessed this past year and throughout your life! As we move forward into 2026, we also ask you to pray about how you could share your gifts with UNITY to help us best continue to live out our mission. **For all you need to know, visit our "Pledge for 2026" web page! Once there, you will have several different options:**

Write your Giving Goal number on the [Online Pledge Form](#) at the bottom of the [Pledge for 2026 web page](#).

EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) giving:

- If you are an EXISTING EFT giver, we invite you to increase your giving by downloading, filling out and sending a Change of Giving form by clicking [HERE](#).

- To set up a NEW EFT, you can open our [Vanco page](#) to fill out and submit a new pledge online.

- If you prefer, you can download, fill out and submit a [NEW EFT Form](#), along with a voided check to our Financial Secretary, Mark Hilgart, via email at markunitychurch@gmail.com.

OR, click [HERE](#) to see all the ways you can give to UNITY and contact Matt Griepentrog at matt@unitybrookfield.org or 262-787-8820 if you have questions.

Prefer to pledge in person?

- Pick up a packet of envelopes to give by cash or check. Packs of 12 regular envelopes and 5 Lenten envelopes can be found in the Narthex at both campuses.

- Pick up a Pledge Card in the narthex of either campus and submit your completed card, along with any updated EFT form. Place in the Offering Plate at either campus or in the Stewardship Appeal box in the church office at either campus.

You can also download a copy of the Pledge Card to complete ahead of time by clicking [HERE](#).

Thank you for your generosity and for all you do to LOVE and SERVE the Lord!





Council Corner

*“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”
~ Psalm 90:12*

Connecting with Our Community

In early February I will be going on a trip with a group of girlfriends. I am looking forward to the time spent **connecting** with friends, but I know it will take a lot of preparation to make sure everything is coordinated at work and at home.

Our vibrant Christian Education program will soon announce dates for the Sleep-Under and Lock-Ins for our Sunday School kids. These are great opportunities for the kids to **connect** in a different and fun way. Kids can make new friends or strengthen existing friendships. To make these events successful, it takes a lot of planning and volunteers. We are so very blessed at UNITY to have many members contribute to these events.

Please look at the Christian Education section of the bulletin for other upcoming activities – and more great ways to **connect** with your church family. If you have any questions about our program, want to get more involved, or have feedback to share, please contact Michelle Aprahamian at michelle@unitybrookfield.org or me at dakroepfl@gmail.com.

As we approach the season of Lent and reflect on how we each want to live the life we’ve been given, I pray we all remember that our earthly lives are short and that each day is a gift to shine God’s light to all we encounter.

~ **Davida Kroepfl**,
Christian Education Chair

See our [Sunday School web page](#) for some delightful videos!



UNITY’s 10-Year Anniversary: Help Us Plan a Celebration!

Happy Anniversary to US! We are coming up on the 10-year anniversary of UNITY. On April 17, 2016 (photos below are from the congregational meeting), we voted on:

- Our new name: UNITY Lutheran Church, Inc.
- Our new mission words: Celebrate, Share, Renew
- Our new mission statement: United in Christ we... *Celebrate* in our worship and lives... *Share* with generous purpose... *Renew* our communities and the creation... all through the One who keeps us together in ministry.
- Our new Constitution and Bylaws.

So let’s celebrate 10 years of UNITY! **We are looking for a team of people who would like to collaborate and develop a plan for this wonderful celebration.**

If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Lynn Key at lynn@unitybrookfield.org or speak with any of the pastors. We would love to have your input as we mark this very special milestone in the life of our congregation!





UNITY ~ February Birthdays

1. Sadie Morrison
2. Casey Dwyer
4. Nolan Block
Nancy Gutzeit
Hannah Korban
Jessica Lee
Pam Nakamura
Glenn Soderstrom
5. Evelyn Griepentrog
Sandy King
6. Cheryl Caraulia
Kayla Gill
Ella Heideman
Gloria McFadden
John Vaughan
7. Dan Block
Barb Feest
8. Bret Berglund
Cecelia Brownell
Cathy Buck
Ryan Hegna
Dennis Hollman
Mackenzie Kiefer
Ron Nakamura
9. Taylor Canitz
Emma Edwards
Jane Nortman
Jill Peterson
10. Jeff Harris
Lukas Jolliff
11. Elli Harder
T.J. Roche
12. Chris Butkiewicz
Alexander Nustad
13. Thomas Winn
14. Ava Griepentrog
Craig Nelson
15. Maxwell Fogltanz
Kim Jonas
16. Gail Anklam
Gary Ertel
Scott Hanson
Henry Stepanek
Reese Vrab
17. Gary Guenther
Paul Jaessing
Addison Kahle
Erin Quinnell
18. Audrey Schrieber
Celeste Zembinski
19. Sarah Brown
Mitchie Ferguson
Nicholas Olberding
Eric Silberschmidt
20. Nicholas Blatnik
Steven Boyd
Bree Godfrey
Parker Godfrey
Sadie McInnis
Daniel Thomsen
21. Jeff Bryden
Tyler Hauser
Eden Kemper
Jason King
Janet McMahon
Catherine Murphy
Amy Ross
Anna Sitterly
22. Lauren Cervero-Vrab
Jean Daul
Brett Milkent
23. Danny Brownell
Margaret Henes
Ruth Ann Higgins
Davida Kroepfl
Christopher Salani
Marley Wozniak
24. Dan Bell
David Feest
Eric Gravenkamp
Diane Laska
Neal Nygard
Kristin Weitmann
25. Aaron Botsch
Vern Hetzel
26. Caitlin Dominski
27. Nathan Eggert
Samuel Soik
28. Kelsey Guenther
Nicholas James
Jennifer Loverine
Frances Paradis
- (29. David Horner-Ibler)



“The first fact about the celebration of birthdays is that it is a good way of affirming defiantly, and even flamboyantly, that it is a good thing to be alive.”

~ Gilbert K. Chesterton

Minister's Minute

Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first Commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

~ Matthew 22: 37-39

During the month of March, we are now fully into the Season of Lent. Some of my earliest Lenten memories center around the question: "So... what are you going to give up for Lent?" Now, why we were supposed to give up something for Lent in the first place wasn't always made entirely clear. Usually the answer was something along the lines of "Well, that's what you're supposed to do during Lent." Sometimes the answer tried to go a little deeper.

A few times people mentioned that Lent was a time of sacrifice and so we needed to make a sacrifice of our own during Lent. We were told that our Lenten sacrifice was supposed to remind us of Jesus' sacrifice. Even as a kid, that always struck me as a confusing answer. I just could never understand how my sacrifice of M&Ms for a few weeks (before I made a pig of myself with all my Easter candy) was "kind of like" Jesus sacrificing his life for us up on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins!

To be honest, I'm still sort of at that same place today. Giving up something for Lent can help us clear out some of the "clutter" in our lives. I think most of us could benefit from a little simplifying or re-prioritizing of our day-to-day lives. Giving up something isn't a bad idea. I just don't think it connects us to what Jesus did for us.

Later on, I found out that Lent was understood as a Season of Sacrifice but it was also known as a Season of Repentance. Repentance is a "churchy" word. It's not a word that is used very much in non-church settings and so we tend to make the idea of Repentance more complicated than it has to be. "Repentance" means: to turn toward God. Changing our choices and changing our priorities to try to follow Jesus more closely – that's the work of Repentance. That's why instead of asking, "What are you going to give up for Lent?" it was always more helpful for me to ask, "How can I have a positive impact during Lent?" or "What can I do to love and serve others today?"

Our sacrifices will never be like Jesus' sacrifice but we can try to use our time during the Season of Lent to have a positive impact on the world around us. Can we be kinder? Yes, we can. Can we be more loving and forgiving? Yes, we can. Can we use the Annual Meeting as an invitation to get involved in the work and ministry of the Church? Yes, we can. Can we use the Season of Lent to do our best to turn toward God and to seek to do God's will? Yes, we can.

I don't see Lent as a sad time of the year when we sing songs written in minor keys. Lent is an invitation to turn toward God and to use our gifts and talents to serve our Lord. May your journey through the 40 days of Lent be a blessing to you.

~ Eric




Come to the Cross with Us!
 Watch our bulletins, email campaigns and Facebook page for the latest Lenten events.

Two-Campus Ministry in Brookfield, Wis. • unitybrookfield.org
 Christ the King: 4600 Pilgrim Rd. • Zip: 53005 • (262) 781-7600
 Cross of Life: 20700 W. North Ave. • Zip: 53045 • (262) 781-7600





Lent Wednesdays Feature New Schedule and New Format!

We invite you to join us for this year's Lenten Theme: "Feed My Flock – A Simple Meal, A Sacred Time" ... a weekly gathering centered on community, nourishment, and reflection. On each Wednesday of Lent, we will share a simple meal *with* worship and pause together to be fed by the One who feeds us! We'll gather on five Wednesdays: February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18, and March 25.

At BOTH campuses, the meal and worship will occur at the same time. After you serve yourself, we will eat and worship together at the tables in CTK's Narthex and in COL's Fellowship Hall.

Please join us on Lent Wednesdays:
12:00 pm: Lunch with Worship at CTK
6:00 pm: Dinner with Worship at COL

Our worship will include readings from *Psalms, Job, Acts of the Apostles*, and others, inviting thoughtful reflection and prayer as we prepare our hearts for Easter.

What's on the Menu?

At CTK we will continue our tradition of Potluck Soup Lunch

At COL we will enjoy these items:

- Week 1: Chili and Corn Bread
- Week 2: Pasta Bar
- Week 3: Taco Bar
- Week 4: Breakfast for Dinner
- Week 5: Baked Potato Bar



A Chicken Nugget option will be available for kids each week (except for Week 4).

Confirmation students: Please plan to arrive at 5:45 pm and head upstairs to Room 208 for Large Group Time. You'll head downstairs for the rest of the evening, including dinner and worship with Small Groups. Parents are encouraged to come into the Fellowship Hall and find a seat at a table, and visit until everything begins.



Can You Help Us with Lent Wednesdays?

For Lenten Lunches at CTK: We need people to provide soups, sides, and desserts. There are paper signups at *both* the CTK and COL campuses. (Special thanks to Karen Sporleder, who does all the setup and cleanup at these events!)

For Lenten Dinners at COL: Join our Meal Making Group at 3:00 pm (see info below) or help with the following:

- Shop for items ahead of time
- Provide desserts (homemade or store-bought are equally great)
- Set out food and beverages (custodians set up tables & chairs)
- Prep last-minute before serving
- Clean up (hopefully not very time-consuming since many hands help at the end of service)

For helping at COL, there are paper signups at both campuses, in addition to a [SignUpGenius](#) found on our [Lent 2026 web page](#). Individuals or groups (like a Small Group!) are invited to help. *Questions about signing up or need help doing so?* Contact Lynn Key at lynn@unitybrookfield.org or 262-781-7600.

Meal Making Group at COL: Join us Wednesdays at 3:00 pm.

Do you like to cook but not do it alone? Each Wednesday we make the meal in the COL kitchen at 3:00 pm. Jump in for a fun time of cooking together led by Diana & David Koenen and Sandi John. There's no need to sign up; just show up! *Questions about cooking?* Contact Diana Koenen at dlstobbs@sbcglobal.net or 262-853-7081.



Find All Things Lent on Our Lent 2026 Web Page!

Looking for one-stop shopping for all your Lenten needs and questions? Visit [UNITY's Lent 2026 Web Page on UNITY's website](#). Check it out!



This Year's Lent Offerings: Power in Connection

Our Lenten offerings will support computers and technology for Hebron House and the Bread of Healing Clinic ... helping ensure that vital connections for care, learning, and communication remain strong. Throughout Lent, we will be tracking our progress using a battery image, symbolizing how your generosity builds *power* through *positive connection*. Watch for it!



2026 Lent Theme:
*Feed My Flock –
A Simple Meal, A Sacred Time*

"Take time enough for your meals, and eat them in company whenever you can."

~ Edward E. Hale



Worship Volunteers Needed During Lent & Holy Week

The new Worship Schedule goes through Sunday, June 7. **We will NOT automatically schedule anyone for Lent Wednesdays and Holy Week (other than Easter Saturday), so please check those dates and sign up where you can.** If you have questions or need help signing up, contact Lynn Key at lynn@unitybrookfield.org. Paper sign-ups are at both campuses for Holy Week if you prefer to sign up that way.



Looking for Dancers for Palm Sunday Weekend!

Palm Sunday weekend is one of the most festive of the church year, and part of that festivity is a procession of the congregation from the Fellowship Hall / Narthex into the Sanctuary at the start of worship. **It is our tradition to have dancers leading that procession.** *Anyone* in grade 1-high school is invited! *No dance experience needed; just a willingness to move, have fun and learn!* Contact Lynn Key at lynn@unitybrookfield.org.

To ALL Sunday School children:

Want to be a part of the festive fun with NO coordinated movements? Simply gather by the dancers before worship on Palm Sunday weekend, pick up a colorful scarf or a palm, and YOU can join in the procession too!



Potluck Easter Sunday Breakfast at CTK on April 5

There will be a Potluck Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 5, after the 9:30 am service at our CTK campus. Signup sheets for items are in the narthex at both campuses. Items include: Breakfast Casserole (6); Mixed Fruit for Fruit Bowl (6); Fruit Juice or Orange Juice (4); Danish/Pastry (6); Gallon of Milk (2); and Dyed Easter Eggs or Jello Eggs (2). Sign up is also available for Cleanup after breakfast. The local Boy Scouts are setting up tables and chairs for this event, but anyone is welcome to come early on Sunday morning to help with last-minute preparations. Contacts are Diana Koenen at dlstobbs@sbcglobal.net or Barb Borkenhagen at barbborkenhagen@yahoo.com.

Easter Flower Sale: Order Forms Due March 22

As is tradition at both campuses, Easter flowers you purchase will be "planted" around our altars. You can choose from a variety of flowers and take them home following any Easter Sunday worship on April 5. If you indicate that flowers are in "memory of" or in "honor of" someone, their names will be printed in our Easter bulletin. **Order Forms are due by Sunday, March 22.** Forms are attached to the electronic version of this newsletter and found online on our Sign Up web page. Paper copies will be in each narthex. Contact is Nancy Oberhauser at nancyo@unitybrookfield.org. This is such a meaningful way to honor those you love while beautifying our spaces!



Celebrate with UNITY at Our Holy Week & Easter Services!

Worship with us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

Palm Sunday Eve • March 28

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Palm Sunday • March 29

8:30 am: Worship at COL

9:30 am: Worship at CTK

10:45 am: Worship at COL

We'll have a procession of the congregation from the Fellowship Hall / Narthex into the Sanctuary at the start of worship, with liturgical dancers (UNITY kids) leading the way!

Maundy Thursday • April 2

7:00 pm: Worship at CTK

We will eat elements of the Seder, or traditional Passover meal which Jesus celebrated with his disciples on the night before his crucifixion. Service will move in the direction of the communion meal we associate with that Last Supper.

Good Friday • April 3

12:00 pm: Worship at CTK

7:00 pm: Worship at COL

We mark the most somber day on the Christian calendar by each placing a nail in the cross and walking in the footsteps of those who were part of that fateful day.

Easter Vigil • April 4

5:00 pm: Worship Vigil at COL

We shorten the four-hour traditional vigil, moving from the darkness of Good Friday to the light of Easter. Service features our children's choirs and ends as a joyous proclamation of Good News!

Easter Sunday • April 5

8:00 am: Worship at COL

9:30 am: Worship at CTK,

then Potluck Easter Breakfast

9:30 am: Worship at COL:

In Person and Livestreamed

11:00 am: Worship at COL

Join us for great music, a special time for children (how will a certain word make its return this year?), communion, flowers on the cross, ringing bells, music to lift our souls, and the great Good News: Christ is Risen Indeed!

A staffed nursery will be available all services at both of our campuses.



Welcome Home to Our 18 El Salvador Travelers!

Our 18 travelers returned home from their Mission of Healing Trip to El Salvador on February 21.

Their week included four days of clinics as well as worship and relationship-building with our partners. They were a blessing to so many, and we give thanks for their time, travel, and compassion. **See our [Facebook page](#) for photos, and thank you to these travelers:**

Cari Corozza, Cindy Dostal, Mary Ehresman, Eric Gravenkamp, Mike Gutzeit, Julie Hoesly, Janice Johnson, Mike Johnson, Rachel Johnson, Justin Kuehl, Sherrie Lorbeck, Rachel Manganaro, Sue Mours, Nancy Oberhauser, Sam Ranney McBride, Amy Spomer, Alice Thomson, and Fred Varin.



A Blood Drive Thank You: Feb. 5 Broke a UNITY Record!

Thank you for helping to make our Blood Drive on Thursday, February 5, such a huge success. During a Severe Blood Shortage, we had 43 donors... **the most people ever at a UNITY blood drive while with the Red Cross!** We are grateful to everyone who donated, helped with promotion and set up, and offered encouragement. We were also glad to welcome several *community* members who joined us as donors and expressed an interest in learning about UNITY!



Let's Get Cookin'! Our Next Partner Meal Prep is on April 8

Each month we count on 17 volunteers to prepare a home-cooked meal for 30 men in recovery at Aspen Center. **We have a variety of roles, so choose which one you enjoy!** We need Shoppers, Sous Chefs at church, Home Cooks, Home Bakers and Delivery Drivers. **Not a cook? Not a problem!** The evening is organized and led by Michelle Wilkins and Kathy Turco who will be in the kitchen with you! Our amazing adult and confirmation volunteers are simply the helping hands that make the magic happen. **Join us Wednesdays from 4:00-6:00 pm at COL: April 8, May 6 & June 3. Sign up with links:** Adults: Click [HERE](#). Confirmation Students: Click [HERE](#). Contact is Cindy Flynn at 262-391-7870 or cindylouflynn@aol.com.



Mitten Tree & Mitten Bin Were Decked Out with LOVE

A big thank you for all the hats, mittens and scarves that were placed on the Mitten Tree at CTK & in the Mitten Bin at COL this winter. How many were there? A whopping **153 hats and 154 pairs of gloves and mittens** of every imaginable color and size! They have been packed up and shipped off to Hephatha and the bin and tree are tucked away for this season. We are grateful for the hats and mittens and for your caring hearts!



Hebron Shelters is in Need of Many Types of Donations

Hebron Housing Services operates three shelters, and they are in need of your donations throughout the year. **Needed items include:**

- Bleach
- Sponges
- Paper Towels
- Floor Cleaner
- Sanitizing Wipes
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Ziploc Bags (all)
- Garbage Bags (13- & 30-gallon)
- Razors
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Hand Soap
- Toilet Paper
- Laundry Detergent
- Bed Sheets (twin size)

Please place your donations in the labeled boxes in the entryway at either campus. Contact is Jane Boorse at janeboorse43@gmail.com or 262-227-9645. *Thank you!*





Spotlight on a Special Partnership: Mt. Meru Coffee Project

Doing justice never tasted so good!

Relaxing with a warm mug in your hands, take a sip of rich, smooth, satisfying premium 100% arabica coffee from the Mt. Meru Coffee Project (MMCP). Then think about how it is possible that this amazing coffee comes to you.

The beautiful slopes of Mt Meru, Tanzania are ripe for growing coffee. Nearly 1,000 small-scale farmers in the region are directly supported through MMCP. Since 2019, farmer training has helped 750 farmers learn essential techniques to enhance quality and yield. MMCP coffee is grown using practices that protect the environment and ensure a resilient livelihood for our farmers. Coffee "cherry" is hand-picked, dried to remove husks and then green beans taken to market.

Unlike the global market, the Project provides a fair-market price for premium coffee from our participating farmers. This fair-trade price helps increase farm income, allowing farmers to afford healthcare, educate their children, and support their families. **By choosing Mt. Meru Coffee, you help Tanzanian families and communities flourish.**

Each year MMCP imports 8-12 tons of beans from Tanzania to Milwaukee. The beans are stored by our partner roaster and roasted to order on a weekly basis. A dedicated team of volunteers work just a few hours each Monday and Tuesday morning at Martin Luther Lutheran Church to process and fulfill all the weekly orders from local congregations and online orders from customers around the US. Fresh roasted beans are ground, bagged and packaged to either ship or deliver. Volunteer hands, God's work.

Why Mt Meru coffee?
High Quality.
Ethical Sourcing.
Fair Trade Standards.



For product info go to mtmerucoffee.org. Instructions for registering are on our [Sign Up web page](#) under "Mt. Meru Coffee Documents." Your orders will be delivered to church. Orders from COL can be picked up in the kitchen on the cart with the Mt. Meru sign. Orders from CTK can be picked up behind the coffee counter. Want help with online ordering? Contact Janet McMahon at 414-550-3110 or janetamcmahon@gmail.com.

The Mt. Meru Coffee Project is one element of the Global Partnership between the Greater Milwaukee Synod (ELCA) and the Diocese of Meru (ELCT) in Northern Tanzania. farmers as a way to support them.



Attend the Adult Forum on the Mt. Meru Coffee Project on Sunday, March 8, at 9:30 am at COL.



RENEW ... through Involvement

UNITY's 10-Year Anniversary: Help Us Plan a Celebration!

Happy Anniversary to US! We are coming up on the 10-year anniversary of UNITY. On April 17, 2016 (*photos here are from the congregational meeting*), we voted on:

- Our new name: UNITY Lutheran Church, Inc.
- Our new mission words: Celebrate, Share, Renew
- Our new mission statement: United in Christ we... *Celebrate* in our worship and lives... *Share* with generous purpose... *Renew* our communities and the creation... all through the One who keeps us together in ministry.
- Our new Constitution and Bylaws.

So let's celebrate 10 years of UNITY! **We are looking for a team of people to develop a plan for this wonderful celebration.** If you're interested, please contact Lynn Key at lynn@unitybrookfield.org or speak with any of the pastors. We'd love to have your input as we mark this very special milestone in the life of our congregation!





Adult Forum on March 8: Mt. Meru Coffee Project

UNITY is proud to have a special partnership with the Mt. Meru Coffee Project, which is one element of the Global Partnership between the Greater Milwaukee Synod (ELCA) and the Diocese of Meru (ELCT) in Northern Tanzania. This Fair Trade, non-profit project imports 100% premium Arabica coffee from small-scale rural farmers as a way to support them. **Read about this in the article on page 5, then join us on Sunday, March 8, at 9:30 am at COL to learn even more and enjoy some samplings of their coffees!**



Adult Forum on March 15: Aging Parents in Room 202

Join Jen Nowak and Eric Gravenkamp as we share resources, answer questions about our parents' aging journey and help support each other. This can often be a difficult period in your life. Come together with others to hear tips on how to navigate this time. It is very powerful to know you are not alone. **Join us on Sunday, March 15, at 9:30 am in COL Room 202 as we continue this series.** *Special thanks to Jen and Eric for their time and dedication to this ongoing forum. It is so very appreciated by all who attend!*



Adult Forum on March 22: Join us for a Donut Social!

Come join us for some purely social time as we mingle and enjoy coffee and donuts together! **We'll gather for some yummy goodness on Sunday, March 22, at 9:30 am at COL.** You won't necessarily *learn* anything during this forum (other than how many donuts your fellow UNITY members can eat), but it IS in keeping with our Lenten Theme of "Feed My Flock – A Simple Meal, A Sacred Time." (So if you think about it, we almost *have* to eat donuts during Lent! Think of it as delicious fuel for our journey....)



Grief Group: March 11 & 25 at COL @ 7 pm (Later Time)

Have you lost a loved one? Grief Group will meet on Wednesdays, March 11 & 25, from 7:00-8:00 pm at COL in Room 202 (upstairs). *Please note the later time since these are held on Lent Wednesdays.* We invite you to a safe space where you can share, learn, and get help finding your way. If you're not able to meet in person, a Zoom link can be provided. If you have questions or want to discuss if this would be right for you, please talk with one of our pastors. **There is no need to RSVP; simply show up and be among friends.**



Join Ax Throwing at Falls Axe & Escape on March 26

Come release some energy and have a lot of fun while you're doing it! **Join us for Axe Throwing at Falls Axe & Escape on Thursday, March 26, from 6:30-7:15 pm.** Cost is \$27 per person. Falls Axe & Escape is located at N80 W14942 Appleton Ave. in Menomonee Falls. Watch for a SignUpGenius link coming soon to our [Sign Up web page](#) and join us! In the meantime, learn more about the facility and all they offer by visiting fallsaxeandescape.com ... and be sure to check out some great photos and videos on their [Facebook page!](#)



"Spring Cleanup" Saturdays: April 11: CTK • April 18: COL

Indoor and Outdoor Spring Cleanups will be held on Saturdays from 9 am-noon at our CTK campus on April 11 and at our COL campus on April 18. Indoors, we'll do deep cleaning like at home (high dusting, vacuuming corners, etc.). Please bring step stools and vacuums with hoses if possible. Outdoors, many hands are needed to help us rake, clear planting beds, take down dead trees, and prepare our grounds for the season. We'll have lots of tools on site, but if you can, please bring pruners, rakes, wheelbarrows, trailers to help us haul brush, etc. **At COL we will also rebuild a retaining wall on the west side and plant landscaping material on the east end. Lunch is provided and outdoor cleanup is held rain or shine.** Contact is Denny Thompson at dennyt325@yahoo.com.



Check out our [WEBSITE CALENDAR](#) for all that's available to you! From Small Groups and Servanthood opportunities, to Adult Forums and activities, there's sure to be something for YOU!



Money Matters

At UNITY's Annual Meeting on February 22, 2026, Treasurer Michelle Duerr and I presented the 2025 results and the congregation approved Church Council's proposed budget for 2026.

Review of 2025

Giving was \$1,211,889, and expenses were \$1,262,072, which resulted in a deficit of \$50,183. Actual giving was slightly lower than budgeted. Pay and property expenses were higher than they were in 2024, education and communications & technology were lower than they were in 2024. Most of the other expenses were in line with budget.

The church's balance sheet remains strong. Total operating cash is \$233,610 which is a little more than two months of operating expenses. UNITY used reserves to pay for several nonrecurring expenses in 2025.

2026 Budget

The congregation approved Church Council's proposed budget which has a planned deficit of \$33,000. The main highlights of the budget:

- 3% budgeted increase in giving.
- Salary increases for pastors based on Synod Guidelines, and 2% increase for staff. The Council recognized the experience and dedication of the pastors and staff, and is committed to prioritize keeping compensation in step with market and retaining good people.
- Replacing some of the staff who departed UNITY late in 2025, but not in a one-for-one way. The Council is also committing to work with the pastors and staff to find efficiencies in the work they are currently doing, which might mean cutting back in some areas.
- A decrease in benevolence percentage from 12% to 10% (based on revenue projections, roughly \$25,000 cut). From our partners' perspective, this is a 20% reduction in the dollars we share with our partners.
- Flat team budgets, which includes property of \$92,000. If there are significant property needs, these are not planned or budgeted for.

Please contact me at timherman14@gmail.com if you have any questions about finances.

~ Tim Herman, Finance Team Chair

The 2025 Annual Report is on our [Sign Up web page](#). Simply click [HERE](#).

Lock-In Season is Here!

Kids: Enjoy an overnight of fun with Sunday School friends! *Get details and sign up using the links below.*

[Lock-In: Grades 4-6 at COL](#)

Friday, March 13 at 7:00 pm to
Saturday, March 14 at 7:30 am

[Sleep Under: 4K-Grade 1 at CTK](#)

Friday, March 20 from 6-8 pm
(Like a lock-in without sleepover)

[Lock-In: Grades 2-3 at CTK](#)

Friday, April 24 at 7:00 pm to
Saturday, April 25 at 7:30 am


If the sleep over part isn't for you, then head out when the others are ready to settle in for sleep (around 9:30 pm).



If you can't be goofy with your friends at a Lock-In, when CAN you be goofy?? (We highly recommend it.)

Invite Others to UNITY

With the Lent season upon us, now is the *perfect* time to invite someone to join us at UNITY. Especially as we draw near to Holy Week, people long to be part of a community... or to learn, or to praise God, or to do significant things in the lives of others. *This is the essence of discipleship here at UNITY!* We believe nothing is more meaningful than a personal invitation, and chances are good they'll enjoy it here. We encourage you to pray about who might need an invitation that might come only from you, then extend it. Let's all be good disciples for UNITY in 2026 and grow our family of faith. It's one more way to Feed our Flock!



The Loving Lutherans Challenge

**UNITING HEARTS
TO CREATE A LASTING LEGACY**

**\$1 million goal
EXCEEDED!**

**Loving Lutherans
gave \$1,118,238**

**397 Loving Lutherans
congregations**

THANK YOU to all who contributed to Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan through the Loving Lutherans Challenge held in 2025!



Please note this calendar is tentative. Watch your email, our website, and Facebook for updates.



Colors denote campuses *only*;
Join in, either place, at any time!



Sundays in March

March 1

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns

6:00 pm: Sr. High: Waukesha

Food Pantry Food Roundup

March 8 ~ *Daylight Saving Begins*

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: Adult Forum at COL:

Mt. Meru Coffee Project

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

6:00 pm: Sr. High: Info Night for

Appalachia Service Project Trip

March 15

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: Adult Forum at COL:

Aging Parents

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

March 22

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: Adult Forum at COL:

Donut Social

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

March 29 ~ *PALM SUNDAY*

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

Monday, March 2

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, March 3

7:00 am: Men's Tuesday Breakfast at
The Crossings

6:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

Wednesday, March 4

LENT WEDNESDAY: New Schedule

12:00 pm: Lunch with Worship at CTK

3:00 pm: Meal Making Group at COL

5:45 pm: Confirmation Classes at COL

6:00 pm: Dinner with Worship at COL

Thursday, March 5

6:30 pm: Sheepshead Group at CTK

7:00 pm: Women's Thursday Book Group

Saturday, March 7

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Turn clocks ahead 1 hour at bedtime

Monday, March 9

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

9:30 am: Food Delivery for Hebron

1:00 pm: Sheepshead Group at CTK

Tuesday, March 10

6:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

Wednesday, March 11

LENT WEDNESDAY: New Schedule

12:00 pm: Lunch Bunch at CTK

12:00 pm: Lunch with Worship at CTK

3:00 pm: Meal Making Group at COL

5:45 pm: Confirmation Classes at COL

6:00 pm: Dinner with Worship at COL

7:00 pm: Grief Group at COL (*new time*)

Thursday, March 12

9:00 am: Sew Comfy Group at COL

7:00 pm: Council Meeting

7:00 pm: Men's Thursday Book Group

Friday, March 13

5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns

7:00 pm: Lock-In at COL: Grades 4-6

Saturday, March 14

7:30 am: Lock-In at COL Ends

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Monday, March 16

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, March 17

6:00 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

Wednesday, March 18

LENT WEDNESDAY: New Schedule

12:00 pm: Lunch with Worship at CTK

3:00 pm: Meal Making Group at COL

5:45 pm: Confirmation Classes at COL

6:00 pm: Dinner with Worship at COL

Thursday, March 19

6:30 pm: Sheepshead Group at CTK

Friday, March 20

6:00 pm: Sleep Under at CTK: 4K-Gr. 1

Saturday, March 21

7:30 am: Men's Saturday Breakfast: COL

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Monday, March 23

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

9:30 am: Food Delivery for Hebron

1:00 pm: Sheepshead Group at CTK

Tuesday, March 24

6:00 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

Wednesday, March 25

LENT WEDNESDAY: New Schedule

12:00 pm: Lunch with Worship at CTK

3:00 pm: Meal Making Group at COL

5:45 pm: Confirmation Classes at COL

6:00 pm: Dinner with Worship at COL

7:00 pm: Grief Group at COL (*new time*)

Thursday, March 26

6:30 pm: Axe Throwing at Falls Axe

Saturday, March 28

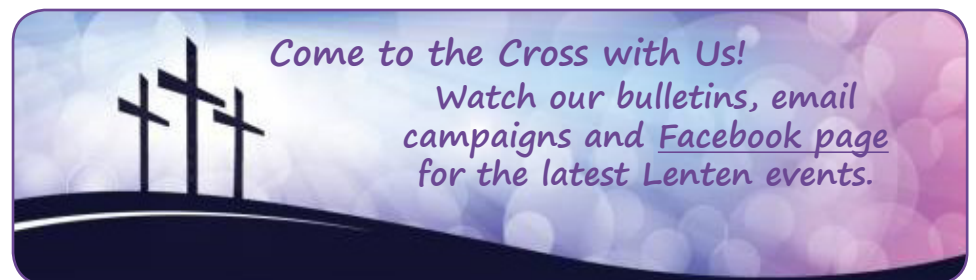
EVE OF PALM SUNDAY

9:00 am: Waukesha Food Pantry

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Monday, March 30

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL





UNITY ~ March Birthdays

1. Bob Koremenos
Annalise Nordstrom
Steve Oberst
Dawn Suharski
Kevin Zimmer
2. Heidi Blatnik
Jennifer Cape
Annie DeBauche
Cindy Ebenhoch
Kenley Fogltanz
Rachel Laska
James Leifer
Erica Pergande
Emily Reinhardt
Glen Weitzer
3. MaryJo Eggert
Russ Lein
Emily Shannon
Polly Wozniak
Ethan Zembinski
Tara Zembinski
4. Susan Bryden
Ellen Vermillion
Harper Zimmel
5. Matthew Loverine
Lisa Maritz
Matt Siderits
Zachary Steichen
6. Lia Borkenhagen
Maddy Flynn Pipl
Joe Wolfe
Bob Young
7. Allan Bengston
Elsa Ebenhoch
Gregory Heideman
Nathan Olson
Julie Schultz
8. Alex Brown
Jesse Niederbaumer
Elizabeth Peterson
Melanie Stuber
9. Debbie Benning
Beverly Brownell
Kayla Grabowski
Kim Jester
Beau Komassa
Morgan McLean
Sarah Morton
Helen Peterson
Scott Kain
10. Kerri Harmelink
Marie Hastings
Alexander Janke
Christine Keim
Julie Smith
Kim Urchell
11. Aleda Chambers
Debbie Haynes
Steven McConville
12. Amber Dryer
Katy Komassa
13. Milene Below
Mara Chambers
Jenny Collins
Jeffrey Hynes
Mark Krause
Jon Stepanek
14. Joshua Benning
Chuck Bohl
Harlan Mueller
15. Sandra Noll
Cheryl Thomsen
Gabriel Weitzer
16. Charles Buege
Chris Driscoll
Melissa Hanson
Wayne Happel
Kendall Klick
Stephanie Olsson
17. Jade Epding
Ellie Miesfeld
Nicholas Urban
18. Mackenzie Swart
Ralph Volkmann
Hailey Walter
19. Jane Boorse
Thomas Heal
Ethan Kahle
Daniel Kluge
Fred Schlapman
Diana VanSlyke
20. Diana Anderson
Mark LaBissoniere
Lauren Lehmann
Scott Shannon
Cami Stiedaman
Erika Taipala
21. Kollyns Smith
23. Judy Ertel
Matthew Lorbeck
Colette Rentmeester
Gregory Schrieber
Alex Wistrom
25. Aiden Klick
Diane Kotula
Lee Lawrence
Bill McCutcheon
Chad McFadden
Parker McGinty
Maddy Paradis
Vicki Sadowski
Kyra Wolfe
26. William Chetney
Marjorie Kipp
Oliver Skarie
Katie Zarlina
27. Sharron Daly
Eileen Griffiths
John Hamm
Lucy Hamm
Curt McConville
Trevor Perry
Bryan Schultz
Josie Toussant
Rebekah Wickert
28. Lauren Benning
Patricia Bitterberg
Ava Hoffmann
Eli Hoffmann
Natalie Karrels
Ian Weitmann
29. Max Herington
Brian Klick
Emerson Kromm
30. Joshua Graesser
Jack Guenther
Pearl Haack (103)
Allie Running
Natalie Vogt
31. Michael Dandridge
Dave Engle
Scott Reay
Nora Schneider



*Happy Birthday to
Pearl Haack,
Charter Member at
Christ the King, who
turns 103 on March 30.*



"Birthdays are good for you. Statistics show that the people who have the most live the longest."

~ Larry Lorenzoni

Minister's Minute

In Wisconsin, April is the ultimate weather wildcard. One day the sun shines warmly, our heavy coats are finally on the hooks, and we're convinced that real spring has arrived. Then, maybe only twenty-four hours later, the temperature dives, the snow returns, and we find ourselves wondering if winter will ever truly let go. Eventually, though, the ground softens and signs of life begin to appear.

If you step outside on one of those cool, damp evenings and listen closely, you might hear it: the first, solitary *peep* from a nearby wetland. It's a tiny, high-pitched sound, but it's the first real sign that the long winter is finally losing its grip. That sound is coming from the "spring peepers," a small type of frog found on the eastern half of the North American continent. Their scientific name is *pseudacris crucifer*, a reference to the small, dark mark in the shape of a cross on their backs. Even before the leaves on the trees form and open, these tiny "cross-bearers" are already announcing that life is coming back. It seems fitting.

Of course, their reemergence doesn't happen in an instant. It takes a chunk of late March and into April for that single, lonely peep to grow and build into a chorus. If we're being honest, faith often grows in a similar way. We sometimes imagine that spiritual growth should be dramatic and instantaneous like a sudden flash of summer temperatures that we want to last. But for most of us, faith grows more like a cool Wisconsin spring. It begins in the shallows of the pond and deepens as we ask more questions. It takes root in a short prayer during a stressful week, in the love shared during an honest conversation, or in a song's words of hope that stay with us long after worship has ended.

Along with the changing temperatures, April carries us through the most meaningful moments of the church year. During Holy Week, we walk with Jesus through the whole human experience: celebration, betrayal, grief, and the cross. Scripture doesn't try to sugarcoat or skip over the uncertainty. Instead, it shows us that God is present right in the middle of the mess, even when it is hardest to see a way forward.

Easter is the greatest reminder that God is always at work bringing hope out of what looks like a dead end. After the crucifixion, the disciples were certain the story had reached a silent and cold conclusion. But Easter morning revealed something they did not expect: death was not the end. Hope was not lost. God had the final word and that word was life! In many ways, that first Easter mirrors what we see happening outside our windows right now. What once looked lifeless is starting to move and breathe again. Before long, those quiet peeps from the wetlands won't be solitary anymore. Instead, they will grow into a loud, joyful symphony; a reminder that God's promise of new beginnings is real and worth the celebration for what lies ahead.

The Good News of Easter isn't just something that happened long ago, it's something God continues to reveal in our lives today. Again and again, God meets us in uncertain moments and leads us toward hope. Sometimes faith appears in big, dramatic ways, but more often it's found in kindness, forgiveness, and looking out for one another, even as the chorus grows. As the season shifts, I invite you to pause and notice those small signs of new life. Where is hope popping up for you lately? Where have you experienced a little extra grace or unexpected joy? Where might God be inviting something new to take root?

Even after the longest and most difficult winter, that early spring song rings out as a reminder of what's to come. For us, that promise is at the heart of Easter – a promise that continues to guide us through every season of life. May this early spring fill your days with renewed hope, and may the joy of the resurrection remind you that God is always at work, bringing new life into the world and into each of us.

Peace,
Pastor Justin



Easter Services at UNITY: Weekend of April 4-5

Saturday	5:00 pm at COL
Sunday	8:00 am at COL
	9:30 am at CTK
	9:30 am at COL
	11:00 am at COL



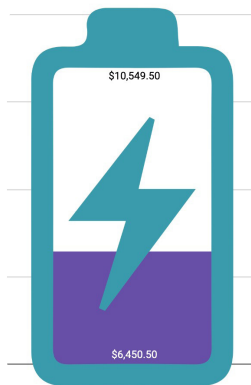


This Year's Lent Offerings: Power in Connection

Our Lenten offerings will support computers and technology for Hebron House and the Bread of Healing Clinic ... helping ensure vital connections for care, learning, and communication remain strong.

BOH has been doing paper charting since their beginning, and they are now converting to computerized charting, using the EPIC system, with the help of their partner, Aurora Health Care. With this switch, they need computers for every exam room, for each doctor, for the check-in person, and the pharmacist at each of their three locations, in addition to other tech needs to assist in patient communication, etc.

For Hebron Housing Services, you might ask, "Why do women living in a homeless shelter need a computer?" It's for the same reasons that we all do. To check "help wanted" ads. To write a resume. To apply for a job. To apply for housing assistance. To check on apartments for rent. If they have children, to keep in contact with schools and teachers. For the case managers, they carry them with them to visit clients, and they need updated ones. They are an indispensable tool as they try to help their clients on their paths to success. We, at UNITY, can be one of the steps on that path.



As of March 31, we have raised **\$6,450.50** toward our goal of **\$17,000!** To give online, please visit the [Lent Offering](#) site on our [Give Now](#) web page.

Our Lenten Journey Began with Ash Wednesday

Thanks to all who joined us for **Ash Wednesday services** at noon at CTK or at 7 pm at COL. It is always good when we can journey *together!*



Spring Flower Sale Soon in Bloom; Orders Due April 26

Our Spring Flower Sale will soon be in bloom, and order forms are due by Sunday, April 26. Order forms will be at each campus after worship services and will be on our **2026 Spring Flowers web page.** We have great flowers to choose from, and proceeds benefit Sr. High's summer trip, the Appalachia Service Project.

Flower pickup will be at our CTK campus:

- Thursday, May 14 • 4:00-6:00 pm
- Friday, May 15 • 3:00-7:00 pm
- Saturday, May 16 • 8:00-11:00 am



Home Communion Ministers Are Needed; Can You Help?

If you enjoy visiting with people, please consider bringing communion to our members who are unable to worship in person. We will provide you with simple training and your very own communion kit. Sign up to visit one person a month or more as your time allows. Visits typically range from 30 minutes to one hour. If you are interested in learning more, talk to one of the pastors or contact Nancy Oberhauser at nancyo@unitybrookfield.org.





Worship Volunteers Needed!

The new Worship Schedule goes through Sunday, June 7. **We will NOT automatically schedule anyone for Holy Week (other than Easter Saturday), so please check dates and sign up where you can.** If you have questions or need help signing up, contact Lynn Key at lynn@unitybrookfield.org. Paper sign-ups are at both campuses for Holy Week if you prefer to sign up that way.



Sign Up for Potluck Easter Sunday Breakfast at CTK

There will be a Potluck Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 5, after the 9:30 am service at our CTK campus. A signup sheet for items to bring is at the coffee table at CTK. Items include: Breakfast Casserole (6); Mixed Fruit for Fruit Bowl (6); Fruit Juice or Orange Juice (4); Danish/Pastry (6); Gallon of Milk (2); and Dyed Easter Eggs or Jello Eggs (2). Sign up is also available for Cleanup after breakfast. The local Boy Scouts have set up tables and chairs for this event, but anyone is welcome to come early on Sunday morning to help with last-minute preparations. Contacts are Diana Koenen at dlstobbs@sbcglobal.net or Barb Borkenhagen at barbborkenhagen@yahoo.com.



Complete Your Journey with Holy Week & Easter Services!

Maundy Thursday • April 2

7:00 pm: Worship & Seder at CTK
We will eat elements of the Seder, or traditional Passover meal which Jesus celebrated with his disciples on the night before his crucifixion. Service will move in the direction of the communion meal we associate with that Last Supper.



Good Friday • April 3

12:00 pm: Worship at CTK
7:00 pm: Worship at COL
We mark the most somber day on the Christian calendar by each placing a nail in the cross and walking in the footsteps of those who were part of that fateful day.



Easter Vigil • April 4

5:00 pm: Worship Vigil at COL
We shorten the four-hour traditional vigil, moving from the darkness of Good Friday to the light of Easter. Service features our children's choirs and ends as a joyous proclamation of Good News!



Easter Sunday • April 5

8:00 am: Worship at COL
9:30 am: Worship at CTK, then Potluck Easter Breakfast
9:30 am: Worship at COL In Person & Livestreamed
11:00 am: Worship at COL
Join us for a special time for children (how will a certain word make its return this year?), communion, flowers on the cross, ringing bells, music to lift our souls, and the great Good News: Christ is Risen ... He is Risen Indeed!



A staffed nursery will be available all services at both of our campuses.

Complete your journey to the Cross with your UNITY family!

Looking Ahead: Summer Worship Begins on June 13-14

Our summer worship schedule remains the same as last year and begins the weekend of June 13-14. Come join us in (and at) UNITY!

- Saturdays: 5:00 pm at COL *
- Sundays: 8:30 am at COL
- Sundays: 10:00 am at CTK

Outside in Pavilion, weather permitting

*** Some Saturdays will be held outside at CTK; watch for those dates!**





Help Feed Hungry People at Hebron; Driver Needed April 6

Hebron Housing needs volunteers to pick up and deliver food to its facilities and we still need a driver for Monday, April 6. It's as easy as 1-2-3!

- 1) Pick up food at Chick-fil-A at 1454 Capitol Dr. in Pewaukee between 9:30-9:45 am. (It's prepped/paid for.)
- 2) Deliver food as follows:
 - Siena House at 1519 Summit Ave.
 - Sentry House at 1210 Sentry Dr.
 - Juno House at 812 N. East Ave.
- 3) Deliver remaining food to the Hope Center at 101 W. Broadway in Waukesha. *That's all there is to it!*

UNITY delivers every other Monday. Sign up through [SignUpGenius](#) on our [Sign Up web page](#). Questions? Contact Jane Boorse at janeboorse43@gmail.com or 262-781-1373. *Thank you!*



Next Partner Meal Preps to be on April 8, May 6 & June 3

Each month we count on 17 volunteers to prepare a home-cooked meal for 30 men in recovery at Aspen Center. **We have a variety of roles, so choose which one you enjoy!** We need Shoppers, Sous Chefs at church, Home Cooks, Home Bakers and Delivery Drivers. **Not a cook? Not a problem!** The evening is organized and led by Michelle Wilkins and Kathy Turco who will be in the kitchen with you! Our amazing adult and confirmation volunteers are simply the helping hands that make the magic happen.

Join us Wednesdays, 4:00-6:00 pm, at COL: April 8, May 6 & June 3.
Sign up with links: Adults: Click [HERE](#). Confirmation Students: Click [HERE](#). Contact is Cindy Flynn at 262-391-7870 or cindylouflynn@aol.com.

SignUpGenius is Pure Genius; Use It to Serve Others!

UNITY uses SignUpGenius for many of our opportunities. This online sign-up program simplifies event sign-ups for us AND for YOU! It makes registering quick and convenient, and each page provides details about that event. **If you haven't been there lately, check out our [Sign Up web page](#), where you'll find SignUpGenius links for many of our servanthood opportunities:**

- [Waukesha Food Pantry](#)
- [Blood Drives](#)
- [Serenity Inns Monthly Dinners](#)
- [Food Delivery for Hebron Shelters](#)
- [Partner Meal Prep for Aspen Center](#)

On our [Sign Up web page](#) you'll also find **Mt. Meru Coffee Project documents**, including [instructions for ordering](#) and an [available coffee list!](#)



Help Provide Meals for the Men at Serenity Inns

Serenity Inns (SI) provides a treatment program for men struggling with substance use disorder on their journey to recovery. UNITY makes and delivers a meal to the men on the first Sunday and second Friday of each month.

Want to be involved? Here's how:

Make a Meal: Prepare food for 12 men and have others deliver the meal. Simply drop it off at the COL Campus before 5:00 pm that day.

Deliver the Meal to SI and Share in Dinner Fellowship with the men: To carpool, be at COL by 5:00 pm. The meal starts at 5:45 pm. SI is located at 2825 W. Brown St. in Milwaukee.

Sign up through [SignUpGenius](#) on our [Sign Up web page](#). Questions? Contact Brian Flynn at bflynn@aol.com or 414-803-6025.

El Salvador Summer Trip: Applications due May 17

Join us for a week of meeting friends and exploring the culture and sites of El Salvador! NO Spanish is needed – just a willingness to laugh and communicate through hand gestures and Google Translate, plus the basics you already know. We'll also have translators with us! It's a week filled with so many opportunities to go deeper in your faith as we make special connections. Anyone age 16-18 (with a parent) and older is welcome to join. **Our trip will take place Thursday, July 30, to Wednesday, August 5. Registration deadline is May 17.** Applications are outside of Pastor Sherrie's office and will be on our [Sign Up web page](#). Have questions or want to see if this trip is for you? Talk with Sherrie!



Please Donate at Our Blood Drive on Saturday, May 30

Our next Blood Drive will be held on Saturday, May 30, from 7:00-11:00 am at our COL campus. Sign up for your time at [UNITY's Sign Up web page](#) and click on the [Blood Drive Sign Up](#). Need help signing up? Contact Marilyn Ranney at 414-975-5606 or ranneymarilyn@gmail.com. *For more info about this important partner, check out the article on page 5.*





Partner of the Month: American Red Cross • Blood Donations

Did you know...? Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.

That is why UNITY has made blood donation a part of our servant ministry for well over 20 years. We have partnered with the American Red Cross for just over three years for their blood donation services.

By rolling up a sleeve (literally), donors can play a critical role in the treatment of accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or sickle cell disease. UNITY donors and the community are invited to take part in blood donation for hospital patients in our own neighborhood and across the nation. *The blood products from a single donation can help up to three individuals. That's a tremendous impact!*

The blood donation process is easy! Simply sign up on the UNITY donation page, [UNITY Blood Drive](#), (found on our [Sign Up web page](#)) and pick the time that works best for you.

You will receive an email confirmation, and on the day of the blood drive, you will receive a reminder message along with a link to complete the RapidPass online health questionnaire. Once at church, you will be in and out the door in under an hour and will get to enjoy some fabulous treats afterward.

Our next Blood Drive will be held on Saturday, May 30, from 7-11 am at our COL campus. Please consider signing up if you are able to donate. As a reminder, teens aged 16 and older can donate with parental consent and if they meet height and weight requirements.

For any questions, or assistance with signing up, please contact me at 414-975-5606 or ranneymarilyn@gmail.com. Additional information can be found at RedCrossBlood.org. Thank you!

~Marilyn Ranney, Servant Advocate



RENEW ... through Involvement

Last Call: Help Us Plan Our 10-Year Anniversary Celebration!

Happy Anniversary to US! We are coming up on the 10-year anniversary of UNITY. On April 17, 2016 (*photos here are from the congregational meeting*), we voted on:

- Our new name: UNITY Lutheran Church, Inc.
- Our new mission words: Celebrate, Share, Renew
- Our new mission statement: United in Christ we... *Celebrate* in our worship and lives... *Share* with generous purpose... *Renew* our communities and the creation... all through the One who keeps us together in ministry.
- Our new Constitution and Bylaws.

So let's celebrate 10 years of UNITY! **We are looking for a team of people to develop a plan for this wonderful celebration.** If you're interested, contact Lynn Key at lynn@unitybrookfield.org or speak with any of the pastors. We'd love to have your input as we mark this very special milestone in the life of our congregation!





Adult Forum on April 12: Aging Parents (Room 202)

Join us as we continue our series on **Aging Parents** for a special topic this month: **“How to know when it’s time for a change.”** We’ll share resources, answer questions, and help support each other through what can be a difficult time. **Join us Sunday, April 12, at 9:30 am in COL Room 202 for this timely and important topic.**



Adult Forum on April 19: Cuban Adventure w/Varins

Have you ever wanted to visit Cuba, but first wanted to talk to someone who’s been there? Or are you simply interested in learning more about their culture? **Join Fred and Melanie Varin on Sunday, April 19, at 9:30 am in the COL Fellowship Hall as they share photos and stories from their recent trip to Cuba.**



Adult Forum on April 26: Join us for a Donut Social!

Come for some purely social time as we mingle and enjoy coffee and donuts together! **We’ll gather for yummy goodness on Sunday, April 26, at 9:30 am in COL’s Fellowship Hall.** (You won’t necessarily *learn* anything from this forum, other than how many donuts your fellow UNITY members can eat!) :) Treat yourself ... to treats!



Spring Cleanup on Saturdays: April 11: CTK • April 18: COL

Indoor and Outdoor Spring Cleanups will be held on Saturdays from 9 am-noon at our CTK campus on April 11 and at our COL campus on April 18. Indoors, we’ll do deep cleaning like at home. Please bring step stools and vacuums with hoses if possible. Outdoors, many hands are needed to rake, clear planting beds, take down dead trees, and prepare grounds for the season. We’ll have lots of tools, but if you can, please bring pruners, rakes, wheelbarrows, trailers to help us haul brush, etc. **At COL we will also rebuild a retaining wall on the west side and plant landscaping material on the east end.** **Lunch is provided; outdoor cleanup held rain or shine.** Contact is Denny Thompson at denny325@yahoo.com.



Bring Cereal Boxes in May; Pantry Forums May 3 & 17

Sunday School kids will collect cereal boxes for the Waukesha Food Pantry during May. Place them in either narthex or bring them into church when you come to worship. We will have a **Cereal Box Domino Run/ Cram the Van event the weekend of June 6-7 at all services.** Please help our kids feed hungry people!

Speaking of the Food Pantry.... **Lyndsay Johnson, Director of the Waukesha Food Pantry, will be our guest speaker at two Forums: Sunday, May 3, at 9:30 am at COL and Sunday, May 17, at 10:30 am at CTK.** She’ll share their vision for the future, including their new building and capital campaign.



Walking Group Resumes in May; Step Up and Join Us!

Ready for spring, fresh air, and some exercise? Join the UNITY Walking Group! Time flies when you’re walking, talking and doing something good for your health. **Join us for our Walking Group dates in May:**

Thursday, May 7

Meet at 10:00 am at COL and we’ll walk on the north Fox River Trail to Coffeerville. (Coffeerville is located at 2825 N. Brookfield Rd.)

Wednesday, May 20

Meet at 10:00 am at COL and we’ll walk the south Fox River Trail.

You are welcome to join this group and meet up with us whenever it works in your schedule! Text Debbie Riederer at 262-587-2656 to get on the text chain.





Council Corner

April has arrived, bringing with it the fresh energy of spring. As the days grow longer and the first signs of new life appear around us, we're reminded of the many ways renewal shapes our shared life at UNITY. This season always seems to arrive quickly, but it brings a welcome sense of momentum and possibility.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Annual Meeting. Your engagement, thoughtful questions, and commitment to UNITY's mission help guide our work throughout the year. It's encouraging to see so many members invested in the direction and health of our congregation.

This spring also marks an important period of work for our Communications & Technology Committee, the team that supports the technological needs of both our staff and congregation. Their efforts ensure that the tools we rely on – from communication systems to worship technology – remain dependable and effective for the ministries we share.

Several key projects are underway. In the coming months, the committee will lead an office suite migration designed to address the communication challenges many have experienced when contacting staff. Additionally, both the Cross of Life and Christ the King campuses will receive enlarged screens to enhance visibility during worship and events. These improvements will support clearer communication, more engaging services, and a more welcoming environment for all who gather with us.

As we move into April, may the spirit of spring inspire us toward connection, growth, and renewed purpose. UNITY continues to be a place where all are welcomed, supported, and encouraged – and we are grateful to walk this season together.

~ Bert Perrizo, Chair of Communications & Technology

Money Matters

We are off to a strong start in 2026! **During the first two months of the year, total giving reached \$195,429, which is approximately \$11,000 above budget.** This is wonderful momentum to see early in the year, and I hope we can keep it going as we move further into 2026.

The Finance Committee held our first meeting of 2026, where we were pleased to welcome two new members. Welcome to Bill Nortman and Roger Schrieber! It is always encouraging to see UNITY members stepping forward and getting involved in the financial stewardship of our church. As a reminder, the 2026 approved budget includes a planned deficit of \$33,000. During our meeting, the committee discussed the importance of closely monitoring expenses – particularly in our largest cost areas: salaries, benefits, and property. We also talked about the importance of transparency and keeping the congregation informed along the way. Please be sure to come back to future Money Matters articles and be on the lookout for financial updates in the bulletins.

As always, feel free to reach out to me at michelled1119@yahoo.com or Tim Herman, Finance Chair, at timherman14@gmail.com with any questions regarding UNITY's Finances.

~ Michelle Duerr, Treasurer

Congrats, Pastor Muriel!



Pastor Muriel is now the Children, Youth & Family Minister at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church in Bellingham, WA. If

you'd like to send her a card or contact her, you may do so at this address:

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
2600 Lakeway Dr.
Bellingham, WA 98229

If you'd like to send a card to her home address, please call UNITY's office at 262-781-7600 for that information.

Scam or Spam? Two Alerts

Scam Alert: We are aware that scammers are texting members pretending to be Pastor Sherrie. Please know:

- Pastor Sherrie will never ask for gift cards, money, or personal info via text.
- If you receive a suspicious message, do not respond. Report it as spam.
- Do not click any links or share personal information.

If you are ever unsure, please call the church office at 262-781-7600 to verify. Thank you for staying vigilant and helping protect our church family.

Are we in your spam? Please check!

For some time we have had issues with communications from UNITY email addresses going into spam/junk email boxes, even when the sender is in the receiver's contacts, or even when we are responding to your email. Our Communications & Technology Team is investigating changes we hope will eliminate this problem. Until then: **if you find our emails in your spam box, please mark the sender as safe to receive from.** That should eliminate the problem going forward. If it doesn't, be sure to let us know!

If you are not receiving emails from us at all, please contact Lynn Key at 262-781-7600 to ensure we have your correct email address(es). We don't want to miss you, and we don't want you to miss hearing from us!



Can you please help sponsor Altar Flowers? Get details and sign up through [SignUpGenius](#).



Please note this calendar is tentative. Watch your email, our website, and Facebook for updates.



Colors denote campuses only; Join in, either place, at any time!



Sundays in April

April 5 ~ EASTER SUNDAY
Special worship times today only
No Sunday School (Holiday)
8:00 am: WORSHIP at COL
9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK, then
Potluck Easter Breakfast
9:30 am: WORSHIP at COL
11:00 am: WORSHIP at COL
 5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns

April 12
8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL
 9:30 am: Adult Forum in COL Rm 202:
 Aging Parents
9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK
10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

April 19
8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL
 9:30 am: Adult Forum at COL: Cuban
 Adventure with the Varins
9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK
10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

April 26
8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL
 9:30 am: Adult Forum at COL:
 Donut Social
9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK
10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

Wednesday, April 1 ~ April Fool's Day

Thursday, April 2 ~ Maundy Thursday
7:00 pm: WORSHIP at CTK
 7:00 pm: Women's Thursday Book Group

Friday, April 3 ~ Good Friday
12:00 pm: WORSHIP at CTK
7:00 pm: WORSHIP at COL

Saturday, April 4 ~ EASTER VIGIL
5:00 pm: Worship at COL
No Sunday School (Holiday)

Monday, April 6
 9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL
 9:30 am: Food Delivery for Hebron

Tuesday, April 7
 7:00 am: Men's Tuesday Breakfast at
 The Crossings
 6:00 pm: Anniversary Planning Team
 Meeting at COL

Wednesday, April 8
 11:30 am: Lunch Bunch at Maxim's
 4:00 pm: Partner Meal Prep at COL
 6:00 pm: Confirmation Classes at COL
 6:30 pm: Grief Group at COL

Thursday, April 9
 9:00 am: Sew Comfy Group at COL
 7:00 pm: Men's Thursday Book Group

Friday, April 10
 5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns

Saturday, April 11
 9:00 am: Spring Cleanups at CTK:
 Indoor & Outdoor
5:00 pm: Worship at COL



Monday, April 13
 9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL
 1:00 pm: Sheepshead Group at CTK

Tuesday, April 14
 6:00 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

Wednesday, April 15
 6:00 pm: Confirmation Classes at COL

Thursday, April 16
 6:30 pm: Sheepshead Group at CTK
 7:00 pm: Council Meeting (*new date*)

Saturday, April 18
 7:30 am: Men's Saturday Breakfast: COL
 9:00 am: Spring Cleanups at COL:
 Indoor & Outdoor
5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Monday, April 20
 9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL
 9:30 am: Food Delivery for Hebron

Tuesday, April 21
 6:00 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

Wednesday, April 22
 6:00 pm: Confirmation Classes at COL
 6:30 pm: Grief Group at COL

Friday, April 24
 7:00 pm: Lock-In at CTK: Grades 2-3

Saturday, April 25
 7:30 am: Lock-In at CTK Ends
 9:00 am: Waukesha Food Pantry
5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Monday, April 27
 9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL
 1:00 pm: Sheepshead Group at CTK

Tuesday, April 28
 6:00 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

Wednesday, April 29
 6:00 pm: Confirmation Classes at COL





UNITY ~ April Birthdays

1. David Hess
Nathaniel Maritz
2. Scott Czarnik
Greg Hoesly
Jenna Korban
Malia Soderstrom
3. Jeff Wickland
4. Kathryn Ehlers
Sue Spencer
5. Caroline DeBauche
Marissa Huotari
7. Chad Cape
Mike Johnson
Jack Koehler
8. Harrison Borkenhagen
10. Laura Buege
Erik Eidem
Marv Wunder
11. Adelyn Hoffmann
Emerson Huotari
Katherine Maas
Emily Nemcek
12. Lucy Geiss
Brooklyn Reinhardt
Lisa Walz
Aaron Welch
13. Melissa Grabowski
David Kapitan
14. Ellen Block
Barbara Borkenhagen
Tracy Karrels
Ardyce Myhre
Kevin Nass
15. Austin Alft
Barb Hegna
Kirk Hegna
Kevin Kromm
Patricia Petran
Donna Pingel
Drew Steichen
Scott Strehlow
Camden Watson
16. Ainsley Morrell
Declan Morrell
17. Leah Bengs
Keira Ferguson
Owen Prescott
Carole Syse
19. Brooke Basile
Grant Basile
Lois Berg
Richard Durand
Austin Hauser
Mason Hauser
Clifford Henes
Mark Kindler
Christina Kirmis
Brock Krueger
20. Anne Dowling
Marlene Hess
Sara Jester
Conrad Kirmis
21. Logan Kemper
Lauren Koremenos
Jayna Schultz
22. Brooks Jorgensen
Ryan King
23. Ronald Carnell
Cindy Graettinger
William James
Brendan King
Adrik Nellis
Hunter Stuber
Katie Voss
24. Charles Cameron
Julie Hoesly
Sherrie Lorbeck
Janice Martin
Jon Savignac
Don Schaefer
25. Vincent Bengs
Michelle Duerr
Natalie Kotula
Abigail Manby
Jenna Register
Evan Taipala
26. Lois Brownell
Ellie Lalor
Amanda Meyer
Jamie Pratt
27. Graham Kamenick
Colleen King
Andrew Mueller
28. Maya Anderson
Brian Finnegan
29. Mary Jo Gehrking
Luna Morrison
Suzanne Taipala
30. Benjamin Botsch
Barb Hemmingsen
Addie Nitschke
Paul Schmidt
John Toussaint



“Who doesn’t awaken on their birthday with a tingle, a heart-skip of excitement? A thrill of a thrill, a nascent throb? In any case, a heightened awareness of a period of personal significance. Of specialness. Our birthday is the anniversary of our self, the blessing of the fact of our being.”

~ Donna Henes

Minister's Minute

The Thursday after the Spring elections, our BEGIN (Brookfield Elm Grove Interfaith Network) group met for its monthly meeting where the topic was the spiritual practice of fasting and what role it played in each of our traditions or not.

Our Jewish friends shared more about Passover and remembering how God delivered their ancestors from the hand of slavery in Egypt during the time of Moses, and how, because they had to be ready to go, they prepared "unleavened" bread (*not requiring time to rise*). Today, Jewish people fast during the days of Passover by not eating anything that contains wheat, but instead eat matzah (*the flat crackers we had as part of our Maundy Thursday worship*).

For our Muslim friends, they shared that more than honoring a ritual obligation by refraining from all food and even water from sunrise to sunset, it's about practicing self-control and reflecting on how you are living, so that through your words and your actions, you are not spreading lies or using anger, but rather you are seeking to be closer to God (Allah) and reflecting on when the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) received the words of the Qur'an (*the sacred texts for Muslims*).

It was a blessing for me to learn more from each of them and it made me reflect on how I, too, could draw from the reasons and purposes that lie at the foundation of fasting for each of them. I found myself once again filled with gratitude for this group, grateful to be a part of a group where each tradition and person was respected and valued and where curiosity and openness leads to a place of a greater understanding and shared connection for what we are able to do together.

While Mayor Steve Ponto was recently re-elected to serve another term in the City of Brookfield after being challenged by alderman Mike Hallquist, the news came out about the atrocious comments made by alderman Kris Seals regarding those who are Muslim.

They were such extreme, hateful comments to make, but probably the most unbelievable part was how he tried to dismiss it by saying that what gets said online doesn't matter! As a leader who is elected to serve, everything one says and does MATTERS! This isn't to say that leaders don't make mistakes, because we do even when trying to do our best, but all of us as people of faith have to be aware that what we say and do does matter! It's one thing to believe something based on what we've been taught to think or out of our own fear or ignorance, but it's another to actively go out of our way to promote such ideas through giving voice to them, whether online or in person. Thankfully, Alderman Seals has resigned and the Muslim community has already reached out to him, extending a branch of forgiveness and love through an invitation to learn more about who they are and their faith.

We pray for Mayor Ponto and all those who have been elected to serve. For all the work that they do, difficult decisions they have to wrestle with, while seeking to address the needs of our community while casting a vision of what the future could hold... where neighbors know a little more about each other and where we work together, instead of just casting the blame, in order to make this community we are a part of something that looks a little closer to the one God might long for it to be... built on love.

~ Peace, Sherrie



Seder meals are a special part of our Maundy Thursday worship as we learn about and experience other cultures.

VOTING MEETINGS for Council Members will be held June 6-7 after all worship services. Please stay for 5 minutes after service.

Two-Campus Ministry in Brookfield, Wis. • unitybrookfield.org
 Christ the King: 4600 Pilgrim Rd. • Zip: 53005 • (262) 781-7600
 Cross of Life: 20700 W. North Ave. • Zip: 53045 • (262) 781-7600

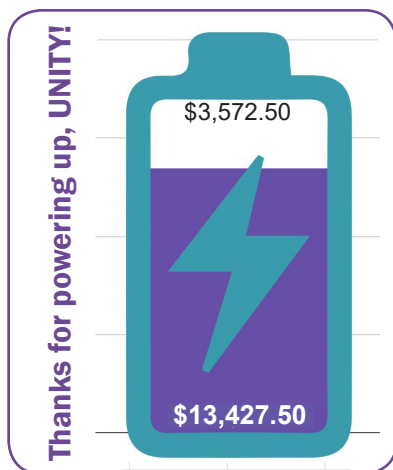




Lent Offerings Raised \$13,427.50 to Power Up!

Thank you for your incredible generosity this Lenten season in helping us raise \$13,427.50!

Through our Power in Connection offering, your gifts will support technology for Hebron Housing Services and the Bread of Healing Clinic – strengthening connections for care, learning, and communication. Your impact is already making a difference!

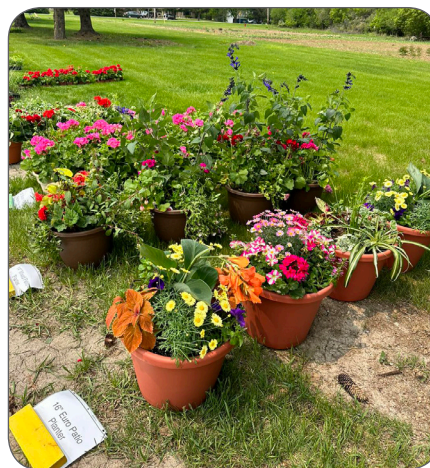


Spring Flower Pickup on May 14, 15 & 16 at CTK

Thanks to all who ordered from our Spring Flower Sale! All proceeds benefit Sr. High's summer servant trip to Appalachia in July. **Spring Flower Pickup will be at our CTK campus:**

Thursday, May 14 • 4:00-6:00 pm
Friday, May 15 • 3:00-7:00 pm
Saturday, May 16 • 8:00-11:00 am

Contact is Nancy Oberhauser at nancyo@unitybrookfield.org.



Come Celebrate with Us! First Communion to be May 16-17

First Communion Classes will be held on two Thursdays, May 7 & 14, from 6:30-7:45 pm at COL for kids in grade 3 and older. **First Communion Weekend will be held May 16-17 at all services at both campuses.** Everyone is encouraged to join us at the Lord's Table to celebrate this special milestone with students and their families! Questions? Contact is Michelle Aprahamian at michelle@unitybrookfield.org.



Register Today for Vacation Bible School: June 22-25 at CTK

VBS will be held Monday, June 22, to Thursday, June 25, from 12:30-4:00 pm at our Christ the King campus. (Aftercare is available until 5:00 pm.) Sign up online today to be part of this year's program: **"Home Plate, where we will help Strike Out Hunger!"** It's another Playful with a Purpose VBS as we learn all about our partnership with the Waukesha Food Pantry. We will play, sing, eat, laugh, learn, craft, explore God's great creation, and pray. Be sure to invite your friends, neighbors, cousins, and grandkids! All are welcome and invited to attend!

Come be part of our Team as a:

- **VBS Kid:** Completed a year of preschool thru Grade 5
- **Crew Leader:** Completed Grade 6 through Sr. High
- **Site Worker:** College age through Adults

Sign up today for any of these roster spots on our [Home Plate VBS web page!](#) Questions? Contact Michelle Aprahamian at michelle@unitybrookfield.org.



Attend our Extra Inning: Join us Thursday, June 25, immediately following VBS for Family Night! Parents, grandparents, and siblings are invited to our VBS Tailgate, where we'll serve food from 4:15-5:00 pm. Join us for VBS songs, games, and see what everyone loved most about our VBS week.

We are in need of Volunteers to help in several ways: set up on June 19, help with the VBS Tailgate on June 25, clean up on June 26, or even help from home. Get more info and sign up through our [Home Plate VBS web page](#). *Thank you!*





Summer Worship Begins Weekend of June 13-14

Our summer worship schedule remains the same as last year and begins the weekend of June 13-14. Come join us in (and at) UNITY!

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm: WORSHIP at COL

SUNDAYS

**8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL
In Person & Livestream**

**10:00 am: WORSHIP at CTK
Outside in Pavilion,
weather permitting**



Adult Musicians: Celebrate on May 19 @ 5:30 pm at CTK

Before we break for the summer, we're having a celebration for our adult musicians (and their families) who shared their gifts of music in worship.

Please join us Tuesday, May 19, at 5:30 pm in the CTK backyard as we end our year on the right "note!"

We will provide food and beverages; you are welcome to bring a side, dessert or other beverages to share, but it's not required. Come have fun with your fellow musicians! Need more info? Contact Lynn Key at lynn@unitybrookfield.org or 414-507-5888.



Bring Cereal Boxes in May for Domino Run & Van Cram

Sunday School kids will collect cereal boxes for the Waukesha Food Pantry during the month of May.

Bring your boxes with you to Sunday School so Sunday School kids can count them each week! **We will have a Cereal Box Domino Run/Cram the Van event on Sunday, June 7, at COL at 8:30 am & 10:45 am, and at CTK at 9:30 am.** Please help us beat our all-time high Domino Run of **477 boxes** and help feed families in need in our community! *Thank you!*

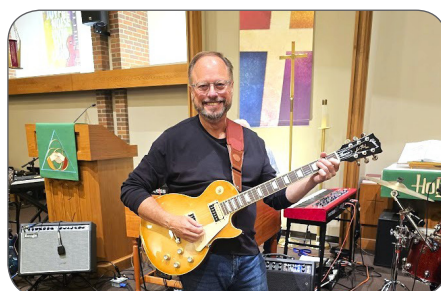


Looking for Special Music to be Shared During Worship

We invite you to Sing, Ring, or Play!

Share your musical gifts in worship ... and know that your solo or ensemble pieces are always welcome! Contact Director of Music Ministry Lynn Key at lynn@unitybrookfield.org or 414-507-5888 if you'd like to share something. Come enhance worship!

Note: Our regular musical groups will be on summer hiatus, which is why we're especially in need of musicians to share their gifts with us in summer. Please consider sharing yours!



Join us for "Sundae" School Celebrations June 6-7

We wrap up regular Sunday School at both campuses with End-of-Year Celebrations on Saturday, June 6, and Sunday, June 7. Your kids won't want to miss this special annual tradition as we "top off" another great year with ice cream sundaes! It's a fun and yummy way to end our year together. *We'd like to extend a very heartfelt thanks to ALL our Sunday School teachers for the important work of sharing the Good News with our children. You are a blessing!*



Home Communion Ministers are Needed; Is This For You?

If you enjoy visiting with people, we are in need of more people to help us visit and bring communion to our members who are not able to get to worship in person. We will give you simple training and your very own communion kit to use, and you can sign up to visit one person a month or more as your time allows. Visits can range anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour. If you're interested in learning more, please talk to one of the pastors or Nancy Oberhauser at nancyo@unitybrookfield.org.





Next Partner Meal Preps to be on May 6 & June 3

Each month we count on 17 volunteers to prepare a home-cooked meal for 30 men in recovery at Aspen Center. **We have a variety of roles, so choose which one you enjoy!** We need Shoppers, Sous Chefs at church, Home Cooks, Home Bakers and Delivery Drivers. **Not a cook? Not a problem!** The evening is organized and led by Michelle Wilkins and Kathy Turco who will be in the kitchen with you! Our amazing adult and confirmation volunteers are simply the helping hands that make the magic happen.

Join us Wednesdays, 4:00-6:00 pm, at our COL campus: May 6 & June 3.

Sign up with links: Adults: Click [HERE](#). Confirmation Students: Click [HERE](#). Contact is Cindy Flynn at 262-391-7870 or cindylouffylynn@aol.com.



El Salvador Summer Trip: Applications due May 17

Join us for a week of meeting friends and exploring the culture and sites of El Salvador! NO Spanish is needed – just a willingness to laugh and communicate through hand gestures and Google Translate, plus the basics you already know. We'll also have translators with us! It's a week filled with so many opportunities to go deeper in your faith as we make special connections. Anyone age 16-18 (with a parent) and older is welcome to join. **Our trip will take place Thursday, July 30, to Thursday, August 6. Registration deadline is May 17.** Applications are outside of Pastor Sherrie's office and are now on our [Sign Up web page](#). Have questions or want to see if this trip is for you? Talk with Sherrie!



Please Donate at Our Blood Drive on Saturday, May 30

Our next Blood Drive will be held on Saturday, May 30, from 7:00-11:00 am at our COL campus. Sign up for your time at [UNITY's Sign Up web page](#) and click on the [Blood Drive Sign Up](#). Need help signing up? Contact Marilyn Ranney at 414-975-5606 or ranneymarilyn@gmail.com. **If you're considering whether to donate, please consider this:**

- Less than 38% of Americans are eligible to give blood or platelets, but of those, less than 10% actually donate each year.
- The American Red Cross needs to collect around 12,500 blood donations and more than 2,700 platelet donations ... each day!
- 82% of all blood donations are given at local Blood Drives like UNITY's.



Partner of the Month: Serenity Inns Recovery Program

The following is an excerpt from a recent graduate who reflects on his recovery journey:

"Because of Serenity Inns, I have life and the chance to give back. Now in sober living, I am rebuilding family ties, rediscovering creativity through poetry and music, and finding pride in calling Milwaukee home. I see recovery as a gift that allows me to inspire others."

As a longtime partner of Serenity Inns, UNITY members continue to inspire hope and help support lasting recovery for these men. Our commitment helps Serenity Inns to transform lives... one person, one family, one day at a time.

Please consider joining us for Dinner Fellowship on either the first Sunday or second Friday of each month at 5:45 pm at 2825 W. Brown Street in Milwaukee.

This servanthood activity gives volunteers the opportunity to serve and have dinner with the residents as well as hear about their recovery journey. Or you can make the meal for the 12 residents and drop it off at our COL campus by 5:00 pm so it can be delivered. Get more details and sign up through our [Serenity Inns Dinner Fellowship SignUpGenius](#).

Lastly, mark your calendar for their Annual Celebration of Recovery Event on Thursday, September 17, at 5 pm at the Wisconsin Club. Their largest fundraiser of the year, this popular event features dinner, a silent auction and raffles, recognition of a community partner, and testimony from a Serenity Inns resident. It's a powerful evening that celebrates the recovery of men made possible through dedicated partnerships like ours.

To learn more about Serenity Inns, visit serenityinns.org. To find out more about UNITY's ministry among them, visit our [Serenity Inns Partner web page](#).

If you have questions or would like to become more involved, feel free to contact me directly at 414-803-6025 or bflynn@aol.com.

~ Brian Flynn, Servant Advocate



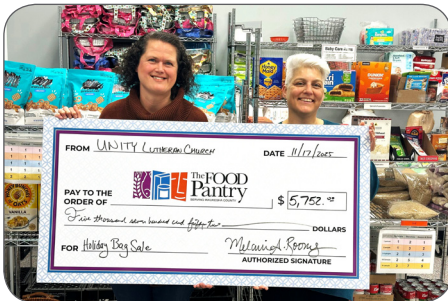


Adult Forums: May 3 & 17: Waukesha Food Pantry

Lyndsay Johnson, Director of the Waukesha Food Pantry, will share the Food Pantry's vision for the future, including their new building and capital campaign. **She will lead TWO Adult Forums (same, different locations):**
Sunday, May 3 @ 9:30 am at COL
Sunday, May 17 @ 10:30 am at CTK

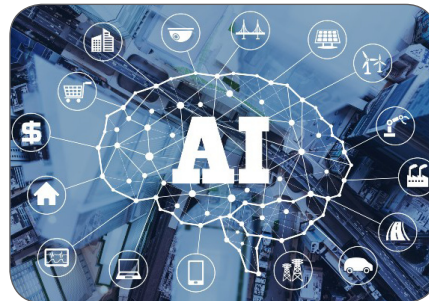
Want to learn more about this long-time partner of ours prior to the forum? Visit waukeshafoodpantry.org.

Below: Lyndsay Johnson and Melanie Rooney, Servant Advocate, pose with a "check" for \$5,752 that UNITY raised through our holiday Bag Sales.



Adult Forum: May 17 at COL: AI (Artificial Intelligence)

Join us on Sunday, May 17, at 9:30 am at COL as UNITY member Ed Harder shares with us creative ways to use AI. Curious about how to actually use AI in everyday life – not just talk about it? This forum is all about practical tips, creative shortcuts, and real-world tricks that make AI tools genuinely useful. Whether you're streamlining work, planning events, writing smarter, or just experimenting, come and hear what's working (and what's not). No hype, just helpful ideas you can put to use right away. *(This and ONLY this announcement was partially written by AI.)* :)



Adult Forum: May 31 at COL: It's Another Donut Social!

Back by popular demand ... join us for some purely social time as we mingle and enjoy coffee and donuts together! **We'll gather for a Donut Social on Sunday, May 31, at 9:30 am in COL's Fellowship Hall.** Our Sunday School families, especially, have found this to be a great way to connect instead of heading out the doors after service. It turns out we Lutherans love to linger ... and we invite you to join in the fun! Besides: there are no calories in the food you eat at church. (We're pretty sure that's a thing. Maybe Martin Luther wrote that? Not sure, but that's our story and we're stickin' to it!)



Walking Group Resumes on May 7 & 20; Step Up & Join!

Ready for spring, fresh air, and exercise with friends? **Join our Walking Group!**

Thursday, May 7

Meet at 10:00 am at COL and we'll walk on the North Fox River Trail to Coffeerville (2825 N. Brookfield Rd.).

Wednesday, May 20

Meet at 10:00 am at COL and we'll walk the South Fox River Trail.

You are welcome to join this group and meet up with us whenever it works in your schedule! Text Debbie Riederer at 262-587-2656 to get on the text chain.



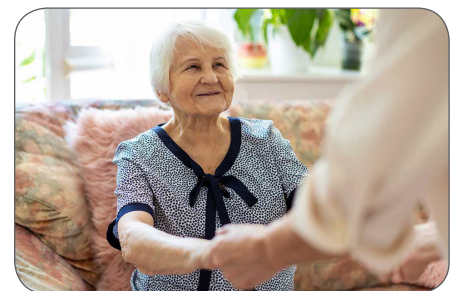
Join Another Walking Group (Behind a Lawn Mower!)

Looking for a great way to get in your steps (or riding time) in the fresh spring air? Help us mow at either campus! Both COL and CTK have riding mowers and walk-behind mowers for the smaller "inside the sidewalk" areas. We're looking for volunteers for a one-week time period, Wednesday-Tuesday. **Find all the info you need and sign up through [SignUpGenius](#) on our [SignUp web page](#).** Questions? Contact Property Manager Denny Thompson: dennyt325@yahoo.com.

Special Note: COL family, we could really use your help! Our lawn mowing signup sheet tends to fill quickly at CTK, but we still have several open spots at COL. If you're able to lend a hand, we'd love to have you. Training is available and it's a great way to serve together! Thank you!

Alzheimer's Forum is Now Available on Our Website

At our Adult Forum on March 15 we enjoyed a special presentation by Wendy Betley, Sr. Program Director at the Alzheimer's Association, who shared important information about the newest advances in Alzheimer's treatment. If you weren't able to join us – or you know someone who could benefit from her expertise – **visit our [Adult Programs web page](#) to watch the [video from Wendy's presentation](#).** She shared lots of interesting info on new insights and treatments to combat this disease!





Worship Volunteers Help Make Worship Run Smoothly; Be Part of Team UNITY!

Did you know...? There are 11 Worship Volunteer roles to fill for each service at both COL and CTK, often requiring more than one person in that role. That's a LOT of spots to fill each weekend, and we could use your help! **Please visit our [Worship Volunteers web page](#) to get more details about each Worship Volunteer role and see where you might find your place.** (Below is the number of volunteers needed at each service for *each campus*.) Interested or have questions? Please contact Lynn Key at lynn@unitybrookfield.org or 414-507-5888. New volunteers are welcome (and encouraged!) at any time!



Greeters are the folks who stand by the front doors and say "Hello" to the people who are coming into church. It's an easy job, and makes visitors feel welcomed. *2 Greeters per service.*

Ushers hand out bulletins, count attendance, take the offering, and direct the congregation to the altar for communion. *2 Ushers per service.*

Communion Assistants help serve the communion meal. They hold the cup trays, saying "The blood of Christ, shed for you." *3 CA's per service.*

ABC (Altar, Baptism, and Communion) is the group that sets up for services. The altar is prepared according to the church year calendar; communion is set up by service. This group also sets out the special items (water, baptismal cloth, candle, and oil) for any baptisms at their service time. *1 ABC group per service.*

Reader is the one who reads the lessons for the service. *1 Reader per service.*

Acolytes lead the Pastor and Worship Assistant up to the altar. The acolytes carry the cross and the candlelighters to light the altar candles. During the service they take the offering plates and communion elements from the ushers, and help serve communion. At the end of the service, they extinguish the altar candles and take the flame back out of the sanctuary. After taking First Communion, our Grade 3-6 youngsters are eligible to serve as acolytes. *2-3 Acolytes per service.*

Worship Assistant is the term for the layperson that helps lead the service. They fill in for the reader, if one is not scheduled. They write prayer petitions, which are shared during the Prayers of the People, help serve communion, and assist during baptisms. *1 WA per service.*

Worship Coordinator makes sure the other scheduled helpers are at service, pulls last-minute substitutes for unfilled positions, and makes sure the worship volunteers perform their duties when needed. *1 WC per service.*

Sound Tech is the position for running the soundboard. The sound tech controls volume for all the microphones used in worship. *1 Sound Tech per service.*

Visual Tech is the position for running the worship visuals for the sanctuary monitors. The visual tech starts/stops the announcement slides and controls lyric slides for the hymns. The visual tech at CTK Campus also controls the sound. *1 Visual Tech per service.*

Counters record monetary offerings and prepare the offering for deposit after the services. *2-3 Counters are scheduled to count each Wednesday evening at COL.*



Outdoor Worship at our CTK campus on Sundays at 10 am begins on June 14. Services are held outdoors in our pavilion, weather permitting.





Council Corner

At a recent Council meeting, members were asked to tell what we liked best about UNITY. That was an easy question for me to answer! **I am proud to be a part of a congregation that values servant ministry.** We are more than a just a church, we live our faith by serving others in our community and beyond. What's really outstanding is that we model this to our youngest members by encouraging them to learn about our partners and participate in activities that serve our partners.

Our ten partners include: two El Salvadorian congregations, two inner city churches, two addiction and recovery treatment centers, a homeless shelter, a food pantry, a free health clinic and a blood center. Each partner has an advocate from UNITY who communicates with them to find out their needs and to help organize and promote ways for our members to get involved with this ministry. **I'd like to give a BIG shout-out to our advocates:** Jane Boorse, Cindy Boyd, Shirley Denu, Diane Dressler, Brian Flynn, Julie Hoesly, Michael Horner Ibler, Justin Kuehl, Marilyn Ranney, Bill Rooney and Melanie Rooney. **(See contact info below, at right.)**

At the Annual Meeting on February 22, Council members shared that in 2025, 12% of all member giving went towards benevolence to benefit our partners. In addition, directed member giving also helped support our partners. On behalf of the Servant Ministry team, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for your generosity to our partners. I am hopeful that despite having to reduce benevolence from 12% to 10% this year, UNITY members will continue to support our partners. I encourage you to learn how you can get involved in this meaningful ministry.

~ Ellen Vermillion,
Servant Ministries Chair

To learn more about our partners, we encourage you to visit UNITY's "[Our Partners](#)" web page. To contact a Servant Advocate, click on the linked names at right.

Thanks from Mt. Meru

Whether you're grabbing a hot cup of coffee before service or sipping one during an Adult Forum, we hope you're enjoying the delicious taste of Mt. Meru coffee, served at both of our campuses. We're proud to partner with the Mt. Meru Coffee Project, an ELCA global partnership that supports small-scale rural farmers in Tanzania, and *we thank all of you who have been ordering coffee!*

If you'd like to purchase some for your home, you can choose from regular and decaf, four flavors of coffee, samplers in 4- or 6-packs, and "Perfect Pot" mini packs that brew one full pot. **For product info go to mtmerucoffee.org.** **Instructions for registering** are on our [Sign Up web page](#) under "Mt. Meru Coffee Documents." Want help with online ordering? Contact Janet McMahon at 414-550-3110 or janetmcmahon@gmail.com. Enjoy a great brew ... at church or at home!

"Is 'enthusiastically' an appropriate answer when someone asks me how I take my coffee?" ~ Keith Wynn



Kids! Come Camping with Us!

Summer Bible Camp at Crossways Imago Dei Village near Clintonville will be available for Sunday School students (completed grades 2-6) and Year 1 Confirmation Students. Sunday school students have both full- and half-week options: Sunday, July 12 to Friday, July 17 for the full week or Wednesday, July 15 to Friday, July 17 for the half-week.

There is still time to sign up and join Mrs. Aprahamian and Pastor Sherrie for this amazing time of making friends, enjoying God's creation and so many activities – from swimming to biking to nature walks, an "Escape Room Cabin" experience, daily worship filled with songs and skits, and so much more! UNITY will even help with part of the cost, thanks to the funds we received from Wellington Lutheran Church when they closed. **To Register, visit crosswayscamps.org.** Go through all the prompts, selecting Week 6 at Imago Dei Village (IDV) and use the code: 26UNITYBK_FULL at registration to receive \$250 off the full week. (If you have two children coming, enter a separate SIBLING code for additional savings). *Come for summertime fun!*



Contact an Advocate to Be Involved with a UNITY Partner

American Red Cross
Aspen Center
Bread of Healing Clinic
Cross Lutheran Church
ES: Cordero de Dios
ES: Rutilio Grande
Hebron Housing Svcs.
Hephatha Lutheran
Serenity Inns Recovery
Waukesha Food Pantry
Waukesha Food Pantry

Marilyn Ranney
Cindy Boyd
Diane Dressler
Justin Kuehl
Julie Hoesly
Michael Horner-Ibler
Jane Boorse
Shirley Denu
Brian Flynn
Melanie Rooney
Bill Rooney

ranneymarilyn@gmail.com
dboyd1985@sbcglobal.net
ddressler@wi.rr.com
justin.kuehl4@gmail.com
jrhoesly@gmail.com
michaelhorneribler@gmail.com
janeboorse43@gmail.com
srdenu2@gmail.com
bflynn@aol.com
melrooney7@gmail.com
billrooney017@gmail.com



Please note this calendar is tentative. Watch your email, our website, and Facebook for updates.



Colors denote campuses *only*;
Join in, either place, at any time!

Sundays in May

May 3

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: Adult Forum at COL:
Waukesha Food Pantry

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns
6:00 pm: Sr. High: Wii Competition:
Mario Kart & Just Dance

May 10 ~ *Mother's Day*

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

May 17 ~ *First Communion*

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: Adult Forum at COL:
All About AI (Artificial Intelligence)

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:30 am: Adult Forum at CTK:
Waukesha Food Pantry

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

12:00 pm: Summer Trip Info Meeting
at COL: Bible Camp & ECRT

6:00 pm: Sr. High: Fire Pit & Games
in CTK Backyard

May 24 ~ *Holiday Weekend*
No Sunday School

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

May 31

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: Adult Forum at COL:
Donut Social

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

Time TBA: Sr. High: Outdoor Movie
Night in CTK Backyard

Saturday, May 2

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Monday, May 4

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

9:30 am: Food Delivery for Hebron

Tuesday, May 5

7:00 am: Men's Tuesday Breakfast at
The Crossings

6:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

Wednesday, May 6

4:00 pm: Partner Meal Prep at COL

6:00 pm: Confirmation Classes (Last)

6:30 pm: Grief Group in COL Room 202

7:30 pm: Confirm. Ice Cream Trough

Thursday, May 7

10:00 am: Walking Group: North Fox
River Trail to Coffeerville

6:30 pm: First Communion Class at COL

6:30 pm: Sheepshead Group at CTK

7:00 pm: Women's Thursday Book Group

Friday, May 8

5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns

Saturday, May 9

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Monday, May 11

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

1:00 pm: Sheepshead Group at CTK

Tuesday, May 12

6:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

Wednesday, May 13

11:30 am: Lunch Bunch at Maxim's

Thursday, May 14

9:00 am: Sew Comfy Group at COL

4:00 pm: Spring Flower Pickup at CTK

6:30 pm: First Communion Class at COL

7:00 pm: Men's Thursday Book Group

7:00 pm: Council Meeting

Friday, May 15

3:00 pm: Spring Flower Pickup at CTK

Saturday, May 16 ~ *First Communion*

7:30 am: Men's Saturday Breakfast: COL

8:00 am: Spring Flower Pickup at CTK

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Monday, May 18

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

9:30 am: Food Delivery for Hebron

Tuesday, May 19

5:30 pm: End-of-Year Celebration at CTK
for Adult Musicians

Wednesday, May 20

10:00 am: Walking Group: South Fox
River Trail

6:30 pm: Grief Group in COL Room 202

Thursday, May 21

6:30 pm: Sheepshead Group at CTK

Saturday, May 23 ~ *Holiday Weekend*

9:00 am: Food Pantry Closed: no service

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

No Sunday School

Monday, May 25 ~ *Memorial Day*

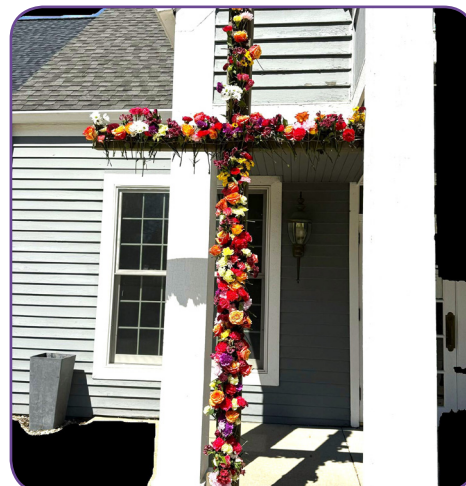
Saturday, May 30

7:00 am: Blood Drive at COL

5:00 pm: Worship at COL



Let your heart be good soil and
bloom where you are planted!



Thanks for journeying to the Cross(es) with us this Lent & Holy Week!



UNITY ~ May Birthdays

1. Austin Filipek
Jonathan Lehmann
Emily Rooney
Rudy Schneider
Andrew Zarling
2. Collin Dowling
Kya Emerson
John Houterman
Peter Meiklejohn
Carol Volkmann
Elise Weiss
3. Jeanne Bonk
Teddy Register
Dona Taipala
4. Tommie Bohl
Nora Collins
Maxim James
Clem Pape
Mathew Polczynski
Steve Schultz
Connor Shady
Courtney Shady
Dane Valdovinos
5. Ryan Behring
Jackson Hanson
Sheryl Hurab
Mikayla Jurasovich
Erendirani Lopez-Townsend
Brady Poetzel
Jennifer Weiss
6. Greta Brown
Kristin Kemper
7. Lola Bond
Clare Cameron
Barbara Ehlers
Bennett Hahn
Susie Hilgart
Paul Karrels
Lauren Kossoris
8. Reid Estacio
Jessica Loomis
Kay Maas
Josi Matel
Jim Miller
Jill Peterson
Tom Richter
Cole Schumacher
Kyleigh Schumacher
Amber Soik
9. Colin Moser
Aria Rogahn
10. Logan Czarnik
Elliott Griepentrog
Mike LeClaire
Jason Lettenberger
Keegan Muche
11. Bill Gehrking
Renee Krogwold
Ryan Nordmeyer
Terry Secora
Ainsley Taipala
Joan Trainor
12. Sophie Bussen
Ann Hill
Fonda Kapitan
Paige Koppelman
Stella Loverine
Jessica Schrieber
13. David Koenen
Kiersten O'Rourke
Evan Prescott
Matthew Thomsen
Owen Zimmer
14. Ryan Boyd
Gregory Heal
Olivia Houterman
Lewis Wozniak
15. Thomas Benning
Satya Hamilton
Linda Johnson
Katie Moser
16. Penny Berglund
Paul Burby
Debbie Riederer
Ben Stobbs
Sara Weix
17. Elise Bjorklund
James Bonk
David Collins
Danita Hahn
Clark Varin
18. Phoebe Jorgensen
Renee Lowerr
Clyde Reay
Barry Von Hoff
19. Oliver Block
Kathy Bruhnke
Kamryn Dembny
Megan Dwyer
Dan Kemper
Peyton Polczynski
Collin Rogahn
20. Kelly Berglund
Tony Sitterly
21. Paula Dryer
Lauren Llanas
Luna Loverine
Cameron Running
Jill Stephens
Lauren Tostrud
22. Jay Hill
Brett Koppelman
Emma Okupniak
Jack Olson
Patricia Pelzel
23. Patrick Dowling
Stacey Grattiger
Madeline Krogwold
Christina Lindner-Dwyer
Sally Thomas
24. Bridget Henk
William Kiefer
McKenna Vraney
25. Melissa Dressler
Adrienne Krueger
Katie Kuchar
Emma Larson
Paula Young
26. Dylan Grabowski
Linda Kirmis
Glenn Turco
Heidi Wettstein
27. Edward Bjorklund
Patrick Conway
Tom Daly
Audrey Groneck
Kiley Keup
William Nowak
Kayla Scott
Jack Swain
28. Everett Harmelink
Melissa Oberst
Keelin Watters
29. Hannah Burby
Tom Hochuli
Elise Sprecher
30. Arthur Bussen
Kathy Conrad
Laura Dressler
Pat Leeds
Mike Mendola
Jeremy Swain
31. Jane Hetzel
Hugo Kipp
Ken Kostanski
Madeline Peterson

*"The only thing worse than having another birthday is not having another one."
~ Andy Rooney*



Minister's Minute

I know what they say about Old Dogs and learning new tricks but recently this old dog learned a new word. That word is "Maycember." This word means that the month of May is getting to be a lot like the month of December. There are special events every single weekend. There are special end-of-year or Holiday events. There are special concerts at schools. The whole month is chock full of special events. Maycember was something I never saw before, but once you see it and see the parallels between the two months, you can't un-see it.

That made me think about the month of June. Do the parallels continue? January follows the month of December and it begins with a little break after Christmas. Things shut down for a couple of weeks but kids soon go back to school and the rest of us return to our regular routine – not quite at the same pace as during the Christmas season. Everybody gets the chance to catch their breath and recharge their batteries a little bit.

For many of us the month of June offers a little bit of that catching of our breath. Some of us try to get away to some place Up North or something like that. But if you look at the calendar, Summer around UNITY is not a time to kick back and relax. Some of our most iconic ministry moments happen during the Summer, starting in the month of June. Is it time for us to make up a new word? **That word would be "Junecember!"**

Instead of being a time for a break, June seems to be the time when things start to rev up for the Summer. June begins with the last Sunday of Sunday School and more cereal boxes than anyone thought possible. And while one of the points of all of these cereal boxes is the fun of seeing all those boxes tip over, the real point of the exercise is to lift up the needs for food in our communities.

Hunger is part of many people's lives. That is why the Waukesha Food Pantry is one of our ministry partners.

Outdoor worship starts in June. Somehow, there is just a different feel when we gather in the pavilion for worship. Counting our blessings just comes a little more naturally in the great outdoors.

Graduations and grad recognitions happen during June. We celebrate with all our grads and send them off surrounded by our prayers.

Vacation Bible School happens during the month of June. VBS is a multi-generational ministry of the entire Church. It is the ultimate example that it takes an entire village to help raise up the Church of tomorrow. It is silly and it is sweaty and it is the Church at work creating memories for all who are part of the action!

June is also a time of preparation for all the many things that happen during the Summer. UNITY does trips! We have Sunday School camp at Imago Dei. We have middle schoolers going on the East Coast Road Trip. We also have the Appalachian Service Project for our High Schoolers. Plus there is also a trip to El Salvador. Lots of the prep for all this travel happens during the month of June as well.

There will also be concerts and other special events at the pavilion. There will be family camping at CTK and 10-Year Anniversary events too. I give thanks that our Church family is busily at work doing ministry and supporting our partners, no matter what month it is. **I guess "Junecember" is a thing around here!**

Thanks be to God!

~ Eric



UNITY has so many activities that make up the month of "Junecember!" Read Pastor Eric's Minister's Minute to learn more about this.

VOTING MEETINGS FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS

Held June 6 & 7 after all services.
Please stay for 5 minutes to help us "reach" our quorum!





Voting Meetings for Council Positions June 6-7

5-minute Congregational Voting Meetings to elect Council Members will be held after each worship service on June 6 & 7. Please stay and help us reach our quorum!

We thank all our Outgoing Council Members for their service:

- Phil Roemaat (President)
- Tim Herman (Finance)
- Todd Blatnik (Adult Programs)
- Ellen Vermillion (Servant Ministries)
- Nancy Oberhauser (Youth)
- Leslie O'Connell (Recording Sec.)
- Mike Kroepfl (Youth Rep)

We appreciate their gifts of time and talent, as well as the work of our Nominating Committee members.

Council Members help us reach new heights. YOU can help us reach our meeting quorum!



10-Year Anniversary Party to be Held on Sunday, June 28

April 17, 2026, was the 10-year anniversary of Cross of Life and Christ the King uniting to form UNITY Lutheran Church, and this calls for a celebration. **Join us for UNITY's 10-Year Anniversary Party on Sunday, June 28!** More info will come soon, but for now, some details:

- **Date: Sunday, June 28**
- **Worship: 10:00 am at CTK**
Note: NO worship at 8:30 am at COL this day
- **After worship: Stay for brunch, fun games and special activities!**

Watch your bulletins, emails and announcement slides for more details to be revealed on the festivities!



Invite Others to Join UNITY, Especially During Summer!

With summer upon us and people relaxing into the season, now may be a good time to invite someone to join us at UNITY... especially for our outdoor worship at CTK on Sundays at 10 am! People long to be part of a community... or to learn, or to praise God, or to do significant things in the lives of others. *This is the essence of discipleship here at UNITY!* We believe nothing is more meaningful than a personal invitation, and chances are good they'll enjoy it here. We encourage you to pray about who might need an invitation that might come only from you, then extend it. Let's all be good disciples and grow our family of faith.



Register TODAY for Vacation Bible School: June 22-25 at CTK!

VBS will be held Monday, June 22, to Thursday, June 25, from 12:30-4:00 pm at our Christ the King campus. (Aftercare is available until 5:00 pm.) Sign up online today to be part of this year's program: **"Home Plate, where we will help Strike Out Hunger!"** It's another Playful with a Purpose VBS as we learn all about our partnership with the Waukesha Food Pantry. We will play, sing, eat, laugh, learn, craft, explore God's great creation, and pray. *Be sure to invite your friends, neighbors, cousins, and grandkids!* All are welcome and invited to attend!

Come be part of our Team as a:

- **VBS Kid:** Completed a year of preschool thru Grade 5
- **Crew Leader:** Completed Grade 6 through Sr. High
- **Site Worker:** College age through Adults

Sign up today for any of these roster spots on our [Home Plate VBS web page!](#) Questions? Contact Michelle Aprahamian at michelle@unitybrookfield.org.



Attend our Extra Inning: Join us Thursday, June 25, immediately following VBS for Family Night! Parents, grandparents, and siblings are invited to our VBS Tailgate, where we'll serve food from 4:15-5:00 pm. Join us for VBS songs, games, and see what everyone loved most about our VBS week.

We are in need of Volunteers to help in several ways: set up on June 19, help with the VBS Tailgate on June 25, clean up on June 26, or even help from home. Get more info and sign up through our [Home Plate VBS web page](#). *Thank you!*





Summer Worship Begins Weekend of June 13-14

Our summer worship schedule remains the same as last year and begins the weekend of June 13-14. Come join us in (and at) UNITY!

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm: WORSHIP at COL

SUNDAYS

**8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL
In Person & Livestream**

**10:00 am: WORSHIP at CTK
Outside in Pavilion,
weather permitting**



Join us for “Sundae” School Celebrations on June 6-7

We wrap up regular Sunday School at both campuses with End-of-Year Celebrations on Saturday, June 6, and Sunday, June 7. Your kids won't want to miss this special annual tradition as we “top off” another great year with ice cream sundaes! It's a fun and yummy way to end our year together. *We'd like to extend a very heartfelt thanks to ALL our Sunday School teachers for the important work of sharing the Good News with our children. You are such a blessing!*



Cereal Box Domino Runs & Cram the Van on June 7

Sunday Schoolers are still collecting cereal boxes for the Waukesha Food Pantry. Please bring your boxes to worship or Sunday School and help us beat our record of **477 boxes!** Then, be sure to join us for our annual **Cereal Box Domino Run & Cram the Van event to be held at all services on Sunday, June 7.** Every box you donate helps provide meals for families in need in our community. Thank you for helping us make a difference ... one cereal box at a time!



Free MHE Concert at CTK on June 1 @ 7 pm: “Prisms”

The Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble will hold a free concert at our CTK campus on Monday, June 1, at 7 pm. This is the final concert in their spring 2026 tour, which takes them to three venues in Indiana and Illinois over the preceding weekend. This event is free and open to the public; offerings will be taken. Invite friends, neighbors, and anyone who loves music! Find more info at milwaukeehandbells.org or pick up a flyer at either campus narthex. MHE includes UNITY members Stacey Nordmeyer and Lynn Key.



Looking for Special Music to be Shared in Worship

We encourage you to come Sing, Ring, or Play! Please share your musical gifts in worship ... and know that your solo or ensemble pieces are always welcome in this wonderful, judgement-free zone! Contact Lynn Key at lynn@unitybrookfield.org or 414-507-5888 if you'd like to share something. Come enhance worship!

Note: Our regular musical groups are now on summer hiatus, which is why we're especially in need of musicians to share their gifts with us in summer.



ABC Summer Sunday School Runs June 28-August 30

ABC Summer Sunday School will be held during Sunday worship from June 28 to August 30: at COL at 8:30 am and at CTK at 10:00 am. Designed for kids in Pre-K to Grade 3, each week celebrates a new letter of the alphabet through Bible stories, crafts, games, activities, and a snack. *There's NO sign up; just show up! Friends and guests are always invited!* **We need ABC Summer Sunday School Teachers.** All materials are provided! Contact Michelle Aprahamian at michelle@unitybrookfield.org.





Last Call! Sign Up for Blood Drive on Saturday, May 30

Our last Blood Drive until fall will be held on Saturday, May 30, from 7:00-11:00 am at our COL campus.

Sign up for your time at [UNITY's Sign Up web page](#) and click on the [Blood Drive Sign Up](#). Need help signing up? Contact Marilyn Ranney at 414-975-5606 or ranneymarilyn@gmail.com. *Want to know how much your gift is needed?* Less than 38% of Americans are eligible to give blood or platelets, but of those, less than 10% actually donate each year ... and the American Red Cross needs to collect 12,500 blood donations and more than 2,700 platelet donations every single day!



Garden With Us at Aspen Center on June 6 @ 9 am

Break out those gardening gloves and trowels! Join us on Saturday, June 6, from 9:00-10:30 am or so to help plant the raised bed gardens at Aspen Center! We'll do some weeding in the front, pot up some flowers for the front beds, and plant some veggies and herbs in the back. Come help us beautify their outdoor spaces! Aspen Center is located at 2000 W. Bluemound Rd. in Waukesha. Any questions? Please contact Cindy Boyd at 262-424-3610 or DCboyd1985@sbcglobal.net. *"I have found the best place to seek God is in a garden." ~ Bernard Shaw*



A Heartfelt Thanks for Partner Meal Preps!

Our Partner Meal Preps are a great example of perfect strangers who come together to share love to a group of men in recovery through a meal ... and our UNITY volunteers never cease to amaze! **Thanks to all of you who work together in our COL kitchen (and from home) to provide delicious meals each month to the 30 men at Aspen Center.** (We always hear they're members of the Clean Plate Club when they get a meal from us!) Your willingness to show up and have fun together is inspirational and powerful. *Watch for our next dates in the fall!*



Partner of the Month: Hebron Housing Services

Hebron Housing Services is a long-time partner of UNITY's, and there are many ways we provide ministry.

If you visit Juno House, the family homeless shelter of Hebron Housing Services, you will see a colorful handmade quilt on each bed. **Our UNITY quilters create some of these quilts**, and it sends a message that we care about you and know that you are going through a rough time. Best of all, these quilts go with guests when they transition to their new home.

This year, half of our Lenten offerings – totaling \$6,708.75 – went to Hebron to upgrade their technology. The case workers got new computers for helping clients with job searches, locating apartments, and applying for housing assistance. They are also being used to help clients improve their computer skills, which is so important today.

Around Christmas, moms made cookie dough and our kids cut out and baked cookies for **Hebron's annual Jingle Jam Christmas party.**

Another way we help Hebron is by delivering Chick-fil-A food to three shelters on Monday mornings, twice each month. These meals are popular with clients and are a real treat for them. **We need volunteers to make deliveries.** Get details and sign up on our website on the [Sign Up web page](#) by clicking on "Food Delivery for Hebron Shelters" and selecting dates that work for you. **It's as easy as 1-2-3:**

- 1) Show up at the Chick-fil-A on Capitol Drive in Pewaukee at 9:30 am; employees will load up your car and you're off.
- 2) At each drop off, Hebron employees will select the items they want and you're on your way to your next stop.
- 3) Any remaining food is delivered to the Hope Center on Broadway in Waukesha.

That's all there's to it! In two hours you're back home with your feet up, a cup of coffee in your hand, and the warm fuzzy feeling you get from a job well done.

Finally, a big thank you from all the people at Hebron – staff and clients – who you help with your donations of household supplies, money, quilts, cookie and deliveries. You are truly the face of "God's work, our hands."

For more info, visit our [Hebron Ministry web page](#) or visit [Hebron's website](#).

~ Jane Boorse, Servant Advocate



From Chick-fil-A in Pewaukee to Hebron Housing Shelters in Waukesha: UNITY delivers lots of smiles along with delicious meals. Sign up through [SignUpGenius](#) to be part of our Delivery team!



Walking Group Keeps Trekking June 8, 16, 24 & 29

Want to get some fresh air and exercise? Join the **UNITY Walking Group!** Time flies when you're walking, talking and doing something good for your health. We walk on local trails and invite you to meet up with us whenever it works in your schedule. Whether you join us once or every time, we'd love to have you come along! To get the latest dates and any changes in plans (think Wisconsin weather!) text Debbie Riederer at 262-587-2656 to get added to the text chain.

We meet at 10:00 am on these dates:

Monday, June 8

Mitchell Park off of River Rd.
Meet at playground parking lot.

Tuesday, June 16

Mound Zion Park on North Ave.
between Pilgrim and Lilly Rd.
Parking is provided.

Wednesday, June 24

Meet at COL and we'll walk to
Foxbrook Park on Barker Rd.

Monday, June 29

Beverly Hills Park, on Beverly
Hills Dr. off of Brookfield Rd.

*"Of all the paths you take in life,
make sure a few of them are dirt."
~ John Muir*



Join our Walking Group in June, when we (hopefully) won't be wearing our winter coats! See schedule above.

Enjoy a Sweet Treat at Our Donut Social on June 14

Back again by popular demand, we'll gather for a Donut Social on **Sunday, June 14, at 9:30 am in COL's Fellowship Hall.** Let's mingle together with coffee and yummy donuts before we get pulled in great but different directions with the busy demands of our summer schedules. (And isn't having too MUCH to look forward to a great problem to have?) With Father's Day on June 21, followed by VBS the week of June 22, then our 10-Year Anniversary Party on June 28 at CTK (see page 2 for more info), this is the perfect time to partake of some pastry, people!



Help is Needed with Lawn Mowing, Especially at COL

The mowing season is here and this means we need your help. COL family, we could really use your help! Our sign up sheet tends to fill quickly at CTK, but we still have several open spots at COL. If you're available to lend a hand, we'd love to have you. Training is available and it's a great way to serve together. [Find all the info you need and sign up through SignUpGenius on our Sign Up web page.](#) If you need a tutorial or have questions, contact Denny Thompson at dennyt325@yahoo.com.



Free Summer Concert Series at CTK: July 15, 28 & Aug. 5

Our free Summer Concert Series in the CTK Pavilion returns!

Wednesday, July 15 ~ 6:30-7:30 pm
"AOK (Accompany of Kids)"

Kids' song and dance troupe based in Menomonee Falls

Tuesday, July 28 ~ 6:30-9:00 pm
"Tonight Only" ~ Classic rock from

the 60's to (almost) now, featuring several UNITY members... and the return of the Ice Cream Truck!

Wednesday, August 5 ~ 6:30-9:00 pm
"Paddygrass" ~ Performs a mix of

Irish bluegrass and gospel music, with UNITY's own Stacey Nordmeyer!



Home Communion Ministers are Needed; Is This For You?

If you enjoy visiting with people, we are in need of more people to help us visit and bring communion to our members who are not able to get to worship in person. We will give you simple training and your very own communion kit to use, and you can sign up to visit one person a month or more as your time allows. Visits can range anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour. If you're interested in learning more, please talk to one of the pastors or Nancy Oberhauser at nancyo@unitybrookfield.org.





Council Corner

Every Christmas, my parents give me a 365-day calendar that features a daily Bible verse or devotional message.

Recently, the calendar shared a Bible verse that made me reflect about my experiences serving on the Church Council:

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

My involvement began when Greg Schrieber, who was the Finance Chair at the time, invited me to join the Finance Team in 2017. In June 2020, I became Finance Chair, and since June 2024, I have been serving as Council President. Over the years, a lot has happened at UNITY – some experiences have been joyful, while others have been difficult. Despite everything, I am deeply grateful. Being part of the Church Council has allowed me to connect with members of the Congregation I might not have met otherwise. I have gained a better understanding of what matters most to the Congregation and have built closer relationships with the staff and pastors. None of this would have been possible if Greg hadn't invited me to join the Finance Team. And for that, I give thanks.

Like many people, life is always busy in our household. It would have been easier to say “no,” but God led me to “yes” each time. **If you're at all interested in joining a team or Council, I would encourage you to try it.**

Lastly, I want to express my appreciation to several important parties. Thank you to my fellow Council members for which I have served on UNITY's Church Council – not all issues were easy, and I appreciated the collaboration to make the best decisions on behalf of the Congregation. Thank you to the UNITY pastors and staff – I have seen firsthand your hard work to keep the church running and your passion for UNITY. Thank you to the Congregation for entrusting me to serve – I appreciated your thoughts and candor to help shape the path forward for UNITY.

*With much gratitude,
Phil Roemaat, Council President*

Money Matters

Through April 30, 2026, we are on track with the approved budget. Givings are higher than both the approved budget and givings through April 30, 2025, and expenses are in line with both budgeted spending and through April 30, 2025.

Actual givings for the month ending April 30, 2026, were \$381,000 compared to the approved budget amount of about \$369,000 and the month ending April 30, 2025, amount of about \$351,000. As we move into fall, the Finance Team will continue to monitor givings and update the congregation.

Please contact me at timherman14@gmail.com if you have any questions about finances.

~ Tim Herman, Finance

Keep Connecting!

Please remember you can reach out to our pastors at *any* time:

Sherrie Lorbeck:
sherrie@unitybrookfield.org
Cell: 414-477-7762

Justin Kierzek:
justin@unitybrookfield.org
Cell: 414-275-1947

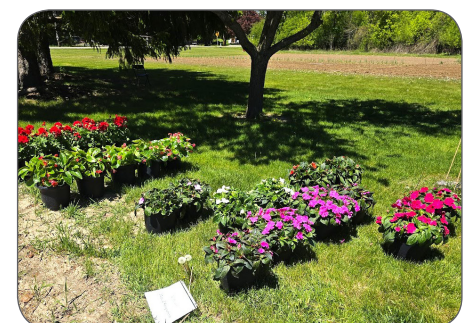
Eric Silberschmidt:
eric@unitybrookfield.org
Cell: 262-716-9854



Kids! Come Camping with Us!

Summer Bible Camp at Crossways Imago Dei Village near Clintonville will be available for Sunday School students (completed grades 2-6) and Year 1 Confirmation Students. Sunday school students have both full- and half-week options: Monday, July 12 to Friday, July 17 for the full week or Wednesday, July 15 to Friday, July 17 for the half-week.

There is still time to sign up and join Mrs. Aprahamian and Pastor Sherrie for this amazing time of making friends, enjoying God's creation and so many activities – from swimming to biking to nature walks, an “Escape Room Cabin” experience, daily worship filled with songs and skits, and so much more! UNITY will even help with part of the cost, thanks to the funds we received from Wellington Lutheran Church when they closed. **To Register, visit crosswayscamps.org.** Go through all the prompts, selecting Week 6 at Imago Dei Village (IDV) and use the code: 26UNITYBK_FULLL at registration to receive \$250 off the full week. (If you have two children coming, enter a separate SIBLING code for additional savings). *Come for summertime fun!*



*Sr. High Spring Flower Pickup was held on May 14-16 at CTK. **Thanks to your generous orders, we raised over \$9,000 to support this year's Sr. High summer trip with the Appalachia Service Project!** Thank you for your support!*



Giving Thanks for Our Choirs and Our First Communion Celebrations. We Are So Very Blessed!



Sydney Haines, Children's Choir Director, received a send-off and blessing from Celebration Choir on Sunday, April 26.



Our Fellowship Choir sang a special anthem on Mother's Day on Sunday, May 10, featuring Jeff Stark (left) as soloist.



First Communion was held on May 16-17 for 30 of our young people who learned all about the history behind this sacred meal and how Jesus invites us to remember him every time we partake in it. We were delighted to share it with all of them!



Please note this calendar is tentative. Watch your email, our website, and Facebook for updates.

 **Christ the King Campus**  **Cross of Life Campus**
Colors denote campuses *only*;
Join in, either place, at any time!

Summer Worship Times

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm WORSHIP at COL

SUNDAYS

**8:30 am WORSHIP at COL:
In Person & Livestream**
**10:00 am WORSHIP at CTK:
Outside in Pavilion
(weather permitting)**



Sundays in June

June 7

REGULAR WORSHIP HOURS

Graduate Recognitions
Sundae School Celebrations
Cereal Box Dominos & Cram the Van
**VOTING MEETINGS FOR COUNCIL
MEMBERS AFTER ALL SERVICES**

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

3:00 pm: Sr. High: Pool Party & Senior
Sendoff at Home2Suites

5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns

June 14

SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: Donut Social at COL

10:00 am: WORSHIP at CTK: Outside

June 21 ~ *Father's Day*

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

10:00 am: WORSHIP at CTK: Outside

June 28

**ABC Summer Sunday School Begins
No Worship or Sunday School at COL
Today; Join us at 10:00 am at CTK!**

10:00 am: WORSHIP at CTK: Outside

10:00 am: ABC Sunday School: CTK

**11:00 am: 10-Year Anniversary Party
for UNITY at CTK Campus!**

Monday, June 1

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

9:30 am: Food Delivery for Hebron

Tuesday, June 2

7:00 am: Men's Tuesday Breakfast at
The Crossings

Wednesday, June 3

4:00 pm: Partner Meal Prep at COL

Thursday, June 4

6:30 pm: Sheepshead Group at CTK

7:00 pm: Women's Thursday Book Group

Friday, June 5

7:00 pm: Lock-In at CTK: Confirmation

Saturday, June 6

Graduate Recognitions

Sundae School Celebrations

7:30 am: Lock-In at CTK ends

9:00 am: Gardening at Aspen Center

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

**6:00 pm: VOTING MEETING FOR
COUNCIL MEMBERS (5 minutes)**

Monday, June 8

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

10:00 am: Walking Group: Mitchell Park

1:00 pm: Sheepshead Group at CTK

Wednesday, June 10

11:30 am: Lunch Bunch at Maxim's

6:30 pm: Grief Group in COL Room 202

Thursday, June 11

9:00 am: Sew Comfy Group at COL

7:00 pm: Men's Thursday Book Group

7:00 pm: Council Meeting

Friday, June 12

5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns

Saturday, June 13

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Monday, June 15

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

9:30 am: Food Delivery for Hebron

Tuesday, June 16

10:00 am: Walking Group: Mound Zion

Thursday, June 18

6:30 pm: Sheepshead Group at CTK

Saturday, June 20

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Monday, June 22

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

12:30 pm: Vacation Bible School at CTK

1:00 pm: Sheepshead Group at CTK

4:00 pm: VBS After Care at CTK

Tuesday, June 23

12:30 pm: Vacation Bible School at CTK

4:00 pm: VBS After Care at CTK

Wednesday, June 24

10:00 am: Walking Group: Meet at COL
for walk to Foxbrook Park

12:30 pm: Vacation Bible School at CTK

4:00 pm: VBS After Care at CTK

6:30 pm: Grief Group in COL Room 202

Thursday, June 25

12:30 pm: Vacation Bible School at CTK

4:00 pm: VBS Family Night at CTK

Saturday, June 27

9:00 am: Volunteer at Food Pantry

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Monday, June 29

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

9:30 am: Food Delivery for Hebron

10:00 am: Walking Group:

Beverly Hills Park

5:45 pm: Volunteer at Food Pantry

BLESSINGS ON OUR SUMMER "TRAVELERS"

Vacation Bible School
East Coast Road Trip
Sunday School Bible Camp
Confirmation Bible Camp
Sr. High Servant Trip
El Salvador Summer Trip

June 22-25
July 7-10
July 12-17
July 12-17
July 18-25
July 30-August 6



UNITY ~ June Birthdays

1. Kate Harder
Sonora Stark
Dustin Vrab
2. Joleen Tichelaar
Emry Zimmer
3. Todd Blatnik
Lynne Happel
Ben Zimmer
Jack Zimmer
4. Emily Cape
Lisa Korban
Megan Manganaro
Kaylin O'Rourke
5. Jonny Day
Scott Larson
Keegan Lerner
Collin Shannon
6. Mary Johnsen
7. Michelle Aprahamian
Jackie Hauser
Joanne Rentmeester
John Steigerwald
8. Roger Benjamin
Ella Fjellman
Katie McInnis
Wes Olsson
Sharon Roeder
Melanie Rooney
9. Andrew Schneider
Caroline Schneider
10. Britta Brown
Joshua Johnson
11. John Allar
Joyce Graef
Lynn Key
Janice Meissner
Sharon Prohl
12. Kaden Kaatz
Justin Kahle
Dave Patterson
Tom Vogt
13. Karen Anderson
Bennett Fohr
Marc Lawrence
Aaron Nodolf
14. Jolene Hansen
15. Jeff Botsch
Joshua Botsch
Carrie Halbach
A.J. Niederbaumer
16. Betty Bredemus
John Graettinger
17. Rory Finnigan
Nancy Walz
18. Jan Brophey
Graham Nygard
19. Abigail Hill
Nicholas Hill
Owen Jansson
Grant Running
20. Eliza Van Hoorn
21. Rileigh Loomis
Bonnie Malcore
Nikki Ranney
22. Mason Fogltanz
Angela Gill
Nancy Kostanski
Jason Servi
Laura Strehlow
23. Jon Bray
Becky Conway
Evan Oberst
Thomas Oberst
Mike Ocampo
Riley Wistrom
24. Garrett Czarnik
John Epding
Hollis Lunak
Crystal Manganaro
Nico Manganaro
Henry Paradis
Marlene Scholz
Finley Wistrom
25. Joy Griepentrog
Sarah Heideman
Cathy Jacobson
Janice Johnson
Autumn Krier
Dave Meissner
Jeff Sawatzke
Kyle Soderstrom
26. Quinn Brownell
Raven Epding
Barb Meiklejohn
Natalie Schneider
27. Sam Docksey
Shari Voigtschild
Jan Von Hoff
28. Grayson Loomis
Matthew Nustad
29. Logan Graesser
Katelyn Malcore
30. Zach Dinusson
Sharon Koeble
Nate Lawrence
Katie Smith
Chris Wagner



***"My childhood may be over, but that doesn't mean playtime is."
~ Ron Olson***