

WE WELCOME EVERYONE!

United Lutheran Church of Proctor

701 Third Avenue

Proctor, MN 55810

Northeastern Minnesota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's Work: Our Hands.

Welcome to United Lutheran of Proctor

Sunday worship 9:00 am

Serving our community

and the world

as we connect with

one another and God.

Within this newsletter are various events
hosted by United during the month.

You are invited to all.

We look forward to seeing you.

United Lutheran Church of Proctor

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Find us on Facebook:

[Facebook.com/proctorlutheran](https://www.facebook.com/proctorlutheran)

FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9am Worship 10am Sunday School 2pm Lake Superior Conf. 4pm Council Retreat	3	4 6:30pm Generous Together Zoom 7pm Proctor AA mtg	5 12:50pm Visit neighbors at LifeStone 4:30pm Confirmation	6 9am Pastor's Drop In Hours 10am Quilting 1pm Bible Study	7	8
9 7:30am Council mtg 9am Worship	10	11 7pm Proctor AA mtg	12	13 10am Quilting	14	15
16 9am Worship 10am Sunday School 5pm Womens/Moms Group	17	18 7pm Proctor AA mtg	19	20 9am Pastor's Drop In Hours 10am Quilting 1pm Bible Study	21	22
23 9am Worship	24	25 7pm Proctor AA mtg	26 4:30pm Confirmation Class	27 9am Pastor's Drop In Hours 10am Quilting	28	



United Lutheran Church of Proctor Thoughts from Pastor Liz

Dear Beloved Ones,

The store shelves are stocked with heart-shaped candy and that can only mean we're approaching the month of LOVE!

Valentine's Day will draw love to our minds, and we might all have very different reactions. There might be grief, anger, anticipation, disappointment, joy, celebration, and stress, among other emotions. The thing with the commercial holiday is that it's focused on a specific type of love, and couples that with a pressure to buy and consume.

As a church who worships the God of love, we can turn our minds from that consumeristic focus to the fullness of God's love and our call to live as God's beloved. God's love has room for every person. God's love is unconditional.

Someone recently told me about an experience of serving alongside people that reminded them that humans are complex and our needs and abilities are complex. There's a difference in loving people generally and loving the person in front of you. Generally, we can love people, honor their worth, etc. Humans as a whole can be just fine. It's the specificity that gets hard. That's when we are all too aware of that thing that person does that annoys us, the way that person has hurt us, how they have broken our trust, or we become aware of our differences and disagreements and the discomfort we feel. Then we're not so sure about loving *that* person.

Jesus' ministry was all about loving *that* person. He brought together people who would feel uncomfortable with each other (fishermen and tax collector!) in order to teach them to be a community. He touched the untouchables and let others touch him (Matthew 8:1-3, Luke 8:43-48, Luke 7:36-50). He let people get close, with all their issues, their smells, their sickness. He asked them what they needed, not assuming he knew what they wanted (Luke 18:35-43). That's what loving in specific looks like. That's what Jesus calls us to replicate today.

We are building a community within our church that strives to love each person like Jesus loves them. We are learning to trust each other so that we can share what's really going on in our lives and experience care and compassion from our fellow members. From confirmands sharing their high and lows, teams carrying prayer requests, and women supporting each other as they raise kids, our church is making space for us to learn to love each other. Entry level trust is being build around coffee and over dinner, and as we greet each other for Sunday worship. Then our church turns outward to extend Jesus' love to more folks in our community. We serve in food shelves, direct donations, and collaborations with social services. We are sent every Sunday, filled with a sense of God's love for us, so that we can share that love in every space we go. We are missionaries of a love that is different than the one being sold this season, we go to live and witness to the power of a love without cost, a love shown to us through Jesus.

God is with you!
Pastor Liz

Pastor Liz's Drop In Hours

Pastor Liz has drop in office hours on Thursdays 9-11am and others by appointment. To ensure a meeting, please email her at pastorliz@proctorlutheran.org or leave a voicemail at 218-461-0933.

In Our Prayers



In sympathy,
Marge Lind with death of her brother "Buster" Blaine
Carolyn & Brad Johnson with the death of her mother Kathy.

We keep all our friends at United & all in need in prayer. This prayer list includes those with emergent needs. Call or email Paster Liz with any prayer requests.

Unless requested to Pr. Liz with an update, names will be removed from this immediate need list after 2 months

Visitation List:

Would you like to receive regular visits in your home or care center? Or do you know someone else who might? Email or call Pastor Liz to be included on the list.



Christ in Our Home Daily Devotional
Pick up the latest copy at church

Note from the editor:

Please send all submissions to Marty,
No later than the 20th of the month.
martjj36@gmail.com



Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 am
Sunday School 1st & 3rd Sunday 10:00 am

Confirmation Class: Feb 5 & 26 4:30-5:15 pm

Confirmands are developing spiritual practices in community and exploring the Old Testament, focusing on Genesis this month as we celebrate how God worked in the lives of ordinary people and continues to work in ours!

Quilting Thursdays 10 am.

Women Raising Children/ Mother's Group meets Feb 16, 5-6:30pm to build a supportive community of faith.

Celebrate Neighbors: Join in fellowship with our neighbors at Lifestone the 1st Wednesday of the month, meeting at church at 12:50pm.

Revelation Bible Study: Discover words of hope in this sometimes confusing book of the Bible! Thursdays at 1pm Feb 6 & 20 in United's conference room. *A night class can be offered to an interested group of 4+.

United Council Retreat Feb 2: 4-6:30pm: The council will gather to focus on roles, goals, and God's invitation to our congregation for the upcoming year.

Ash Wednesday March 5: Save the Date!

Generous Together:

A team of leaders from United and Our Savior's joined others from across the synod for a training event in January around the topic of generosity. We centered with stories of those who have taught us to be generous and celebrated examples of generosity already happening in our churches, communities, synod, and ELCA. Later in the month, we had our first session to learn about narrative spending plans, telling the story of the impact we can have through our financial support of our church. In February, the leadership team will be learning about planned giving and endowments. Those not on the leadership team are welcome to come to these zoom sessions, so let Pr. Liz know if you'd like the link! Stay tuned for some fun, interactive congregational learning events that will bring together both our congregations and people of all ages to celebrate God's generosity and our generous responses for the sake of our neighbors!

13th Annual Chili Contest for CHUM at Our Savior's February 20, 4:30-6PM :

Join your neighbors at Our Savior's (4831 Grand Ave, Duluth) as they raise money for CHUM. Call Robert to enter your chili: 218-576-7043. All you can eat chili, dessert bar, beverages, and a vote for "best chili" for \$6 or \$3 for those under 9.

EcoFaith Summit April 5 at First Lutheran, Duluth: Register Today!

**Earth's Cries, Earth's Call
Becoming Midwives of Hope for the
Healing of Creation**
[https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org/
ecofaith-summit-2025](https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org/ecofaith-summit-2025)



RESULTS FROM THE ELCA GOOD GIFTS ADVENT TREE

Thanks so much to the 17 families who purchased ornaments from the advent tree in December. The purchases were 6 goats, 2 pigs, 2 Bibles, 3 school supplies, 4 roosters, 4 chicks, 1 feed 50 at soup kitchen and 5 honey bees. The total came to \$724 and has been sent to the ELCA World Hunger Project. Through this project, United Lutheran has helped to feed and raise families out of poverty around the world.

Practical Radicals: Seven Strategies to Change the World

Book study, led by Rev. Larry Johnson begins Feb 4 with two options: 11 AM at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1710 East Superior Street
6:30 PM at First Lutheran Church, 1101 East Superior Street
Would you like to change the world from the way it is to the way it could be? We invite you to learn how to become a Practical Radical by joining our Chum book study and discussion group, reading Practical Radicals: Seven Strategies to Change the World, by Deepak Bhargava and Stephanie Luce. Register: tfaforms.com/5158982

**United Lutheran Church of Proctor Northeastern
Minnesota Synod – ELCA Congregation Council
Meeting Minutes Sunday, December 8, 2024**

Present: Pr. Liz Davis, Janis Anderson, Dan Saarela, Gordy Westendorf, Mark Linne, Dennis Palm, Gwen Nelson, Marcy Kimball

Absent: Audrey Berglund, Lisa Larson, Deb Vanneste

Came to Order: 12:04pm

Devotions

Approval of Minutes: M. Janis, S. Dennis – Approved.

Treasurer’s Report/Finance Committee

Approval of Treasurers Report: M. Mark, S. Janis – Approved.

Pastor’s Report

- New Advent series “Words for the Beginning”
- Christmas Eve worship will be 4pm Our Savior’s; 6pm United
- Time to start thinking about Lent- will we want a midweek something? Soup and service at night? Less formal service at night around dinner? Midday something rather than at night? Ash Wednesday is March 5; Easter is April 20. Pastor Liz suggested that each Council member talk to three congregants to receive some feedback as to what they would like for Lenten services.
- Generous Together: Hope to have a team of folks from Our Savior’s and United. First meeting is a retreat on January 11 from 10am to 2pm at Grace in Hermantown. Then the commitment would be leading an event at church once a month. Possibly having evening Zoom meetings once a month as well.
- Moms & Women Parenting Group met Oct 27, Nov 17, TBD Dec 15?
- 1 funeral scheduled in Dec- Jim Unden at Our Savior’s
- Visitations continue, frequent ICU/Hospital visits this month, 1 other hospital person, plan to see remaining shut-ins or reach out this month
- Caroling Dec 11, 4:30-5:30 for walkable locations. Confirmands welcome everyone to join!
- I serve on CHUM Board; Congregational/ Advocacy Committee
- I serve as dean of the Lake Superior Conference, providing support and programming for those serving in our local churches and ministries.
- NEMN Synod Reconciling in Christ exploration; event Dec 14 at Gloria Dei.
- Pastor Greg Garmer’s funeral is Sat Dec 28, 11am.
- Fall: Grief Lectionary, 1pm Thursdays, started in Oct, finished Dec 5
- Celebrating Advent learning and crafting opportunities Nov 13, for all ages- lots of energy and fun!
- Young Adult Discernment Cohort had a great retreat Nov 15-16, closing event Dec 16
- 9-session study on Revelation starting mid-January. Time and location TBD, books need to be ordered before Christmas, \$10.
- Holidays off & vacation: Dec 25-Jan 1. Hymn sing for Dec 29.
- Might take one or two other random days or half days when I’m not scheduled for office hours or events.

President’s Report – Nothing to report

Committee Report

- **Worship and Music:**
 - Choir singing on Dec 15 and possibly Christmas Eve
 - Joint choir with Our Savior’s on December 22 or Christmas Eve. Dennis to connect with Jennifer.
 - May have special music for Christmas Eve service
 - Dennis will tune the piano before Christmas Eve service.
- **Christian Education:**
 - Next Sunday School is December 15, students will practice for their program
 - Sunday School program will be December 22
- **Fellowship:**
 - Christmas Women’s Luncheon was successful. Thank you to all who participated and volunteered. 67 women attended. Up four from last year.
 - Planning a gathering for January/February 2025

- **Evangelism and Service to Others:**
 - In December, selling ornaments - Good Gifts for World Hunger.
 - In January, warm clothing drive for Harbor Mission in Duluth.
- **Property:**
 - Big thank you to Brad Johnson, Reg Southerton and Steve Jonland for their hard work on the Property Committee
 - New clock in the meeting room
 - Cleaned the elevator shaft – about 2 to 3 inches of water from spring rainfall was on the basement level floor and not drying out. It has been pumped out.
 - Installed electrical outlet in the furnace room for the sump pump that has been using an extension cord.
 - Improved method to hang the outside banners on the chimney by the church entryway.
 - Posted notes: Inside the elevator and at each elevator entrance. In case someone is in the elevator and cannot get out – call 911. If the elevator is not working and nobody is trapped in it, call Arrow Lift for help.
 - Elevator is having troubles again just like it did last time we called for service. The door sometimes opens and closes but the elevator does not go up and down. Arrow Lift is scheduled to look at it Tuesday 12/10/2024 between noon and 2:00. That is the soonest they could come!
 - Storage room under Pastor's office was closed and locked and the key to it was not in its usual place. Property Committee should have access to all rooms in the church. Will attempt to get copies of all keys.

Staff Reports – Pastor Liz is continuing to help Tammy with organizing her time.

Unfinished Business

New Business

- Date has been set for our annual meeting - Sunday, January 26
- Council members – Please submit your annual reports as soon as possible, but no later than December 31.
- Luther Social Services of MN sent a letter requesting a donation. Council decided not to give a donation this year.

Ideas/Requests from Congregation

Announcements and Correspondence

Calendar:

Next meeting: **Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 12:00pm after church**

End Meeting: 12:50pm

Adjournment: M. Janis, S. Dennis – Approved.

Minutes submitted : Marcy Kimball



Treasurer’s Report Narrative for 12/31/2024.

Receipts for December were \$11,518.03 for the General Fund and \$2,456.60 for Special Funds, \$1,442.44 for the Women’s Christmas Luncheon, including a few donate backs, \$724 for Good Gifts/World Hunger and \$290.16 to Memorials from dividends, including a merger bonus dividend from Proctor Federal Credit Union.

Expenses paid in December were \$8,103.91 from the General Fund and \$1,835.58 from the Special Funds, with \$100 from the Irving Youth Fund for VLM, \$451.76 from the Irving Youth Fund for reimbursement of Vacation Bible School (aka Day Camp) and various confirmation expenses throughout the year, \$1,283.82 for the Women’s Christmas Luncheon, which again included several donate backs.

That puts us under YTD budget for revenues by \$9,134 and under YTD budget for expenses by \$5,306, for a net loss of (\$3,828). The main reason for this net loss continues to be the cost of property insurance. However, our increased receipts in December tremendously helped our bottom line numbers for the year 2024. Please also note our receipts for general fund expenses in December were \$2,517 more in December than the amount estimated when we prepared our budget for 2025 and also \$2,332 more than in December for 2023. Thank you to all of you who helped in that regard. This makes me feel a lot better about our budget for 2025.

The balance in special funds is \$30,756.49, with collections for Good Gifts/World Hunger that will be sent to the ELCA in January after we are positive we have received all donations. Our CD at Mission Investment Fund is valued at \$203,017.58, with interest of \$2,481.31 added on November 29, 2024, our next accrued interest will be posted at the end of February. Please note that neither the principal nor interest in this CD is available for spending at this time.

Audrey L. Berglund

General Fund	Dec 2024 Budget	Dec 2024 Actual	YTD 2024 Budget	YTD 2024 Actual
Income	\$8,233	\$11,518	\$98,796	\$89,662
Expenses	\$8,233	\$ 8,104	\$98,796	\$93,490
Net Income (Loss)		\$ 3,414		(\$ 3,828)

