

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

www.proctorlutheran.org

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pastorliz@proctorlutheran.org

council@proctorlutheran.org

Find us on Facebook:

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

March 2026

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

<p>1</p> <p>9am Worship 10am Sunday School</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7pm Proctor AA</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:15 Simple Supper 5:45 Worship at United</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10am Quilting</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9am Worship</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>1pm Visit & Chat 7pm Proctor AA</p>	<p>11</p> <p>4:30pm Confirmation 5:15pm Simple Supper 5:45pm Worship All at OSLC</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10am Quilting</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9am Worship 10am Sunday School</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7pm Proctor AA</p>	<p>18</p> <p>4:30pm Confirmation 5:15pm Simple Supper 5:45 Worship All at United</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10am Quilting 11am Pastor's Drop In Hrs 1pm Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9am Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7pm Proctor AA</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5:15pm Simple Supper 5:45pm Worship At OSLC</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10am Quilting 11am Pastor's Drop In Hrs 1pm Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9am Worship Palm Sunday Potluck Brunch after Worship 3-5pm Power of Love event at DECC</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7pm Proctor AA</p>				



**United Lutheran Church of Proctor
Thoughts from Pastor Liz**

Blessed Lent to you all.

This is a season of deepening and preparing for growth. The plants that have spent the winter dormant are soaking in the water of melting snow (or remain blanketed under it, depending on our weather). This time of deep rest is a pause before they burst forth with new life.

Lent is a season in which we have increased opportunities to soak in or rest under God's nourishing love for us. We have worship not only on Sundays, but also on Wednesdays. We have additional devotional resources. We can become more aware of God's love by being in spaces or engaging in practices that help us recognize God with us.

Our Lenten practices of worship, prayer, study, and service to neighbor aren't about making ourselves more deserving of God's love. We know that God loves us unconditionally: always and no matter what! God travels the distance to us, we don't need to meet God halfway. It's not that "we do our best and God does the rest."

Our practices are just that: a way of practicing the shape of Jesus' life. As Christians, we want our lives to reflect Jesus into the world. Our series this Lent grounds us in the core tenets of Jesus' ministry so that we know Jesus better as our teacher and guide. We trust the Spirit will empower us and lead us into living as Jesus invites us to live.

The joy of this season is that we are being rooted in God's grace together. We get to share in communal practices of worship, study, prayer, and service. I hope you are able to join in at least one of our Wednesday supper and worship events alongside your siblings at Our Savior's. It's really fun to remember that we are church together, and the community of Christ extends beyond our own community. We help each other experience and flourish under God's love.

God is with you!

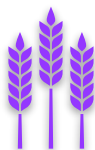
-Pastor Liz

Pastor Liz's Drop In Hours

Thursday at United 11-1pm
March 18 & 26

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



Wayne Fechner
Joyce Rosen
Peg Sweeney
Peggy Jugasek
Julie Saatoff-Betty & Jim's daughter
Char Reno Audrey's sister
Ardythe Graves

We keep all our friends at United & all in need in prayer. This prayer list includes those with emergent needs.

Call or email Pastor 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.

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 Sundays 10:00 am

Confirmation Class: Wednesdays 4:30-5:15pm:
March 11 at Our Savior's, March 18 at United.

Quilting: Every Thursday at 10 am

Visit & Chat at Limestone: Tuesday March 10th 1pm

Bible Study: Thursdays at 1pm March 19, 26, at United.



Palm Sunday Potluck Brunch: March 29th after worship
Please bring all food prepared to serve. Contact Gwen with any questions. 218-348-9675

Worship Wednesdays in Lent: 5:15 Supper, 5:45 Worship

We'll be alternating locations for worship.

Mar 4: United

Mar 11: Our Savior's

March 18: United

March 25: Our Savior's

Pick up your Lent Devotionals at church or find it in color online:
online.flippingbook.com/view/546389771

Walking the Palm Sunday Path:

The Power of Love March 29, from 3-5pm

This event will gather together Christians across denominations and center us in Jesus' vision for our community. Details are still being finalized but it will likely include some option for an outdoor parade and an indoor event at the DECC.

THANK You
Thank You
Thank You

Thank you to our council members who completed their terms of service:
 President Dan Saarela and Music/Worship Dennis Palm.

Dan came to the office of president with an eagerness to serve and a joy for the gospel. He inspired our council with his spiritual life, helping us ground in the Spirit's presence and remember that Jesus is the reason for our work as a church. He not only grew in his leadership as council president, but also engaged in learning through Luther Seminary's certificate program for lay leaders. Thank you, Dan!

Dennis brought his love for praising God through music and worship to his role on council. He sought to help all our members experience Jesus' great love for them every Sunday through music and participation. Dennis will continue to guide our congregation in praise through his work as our musician and service on the worship and music team. Thank you, Dennis!

Council Installation will be during worship on March 1st

We will continue to celebrate council members with a special fellowship time.

Thank you to all who are joining and continuing their service on our council.

We welcome Shannon Sweeney as our new council president. She comes with a deep love for God's church and this congregation, bringing skills in missional goal setting that will help us focus on the ministry God is calling us into.

We welcome Howard Simula as our new Evangelism chairperson. He brings a joyful commitment to serving our neighbors and an ability to welcome and connect to folks that will help us reach out in serve and love.

United Lutheran Church Of Proctor Congregation Council 2026

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>
President	Shannon Sweeney
Vice President	Gordy Westendorf
Secretary	Cheryl Fleckenstein
Treasurer	Audrey Berglund
Worship & Music	
Christian Education	Marcy Kimball
Fellowship	Janis Anderson
Evangelism	Howard Simula
Property	Mark Linne



Feeding America reports that 537,890 Minnesotans are facing hunger with 34% under the age of 18. Annual visits to food shelves are now 150% higher than prior to the COVID19 pandemic. Increased food prices, growing inflation rates, and slowing wage growth have put a significant financial strain on Minnesotans, making it difficult to maintain food security throughout the year. Food shelves will continue to be a critical resource to communities across the state.

The Proctor Food Super Shelf continues to provide for those with food insecurity. In 2025 this food shelf provided food to 1,299 households and distributed 72,163 pounds of food. Proctor Food Shelf is open every Wednesday from 10:00 to 1:00 in the PACC building. About a 25% increase in clients has been seen over the last year.

The March food campaign donations significantly help to provide nutritious meals for those in need. This campaign will run from March 1st to April 6th. Both nonperishable, currently dated food and monetary donations will be accepted at St. Rose Catholic Church, Forbes United Methodist Church and United Lutheran Church in Proctor. Donors may also drop off food or monetary funds at the food shelf during open hours. Donations by check can be mailed to Proctor Food Shelf at 100 Pionk Drive, Proctor, Minnesota 55810.



January Warm Clothing Drive Results

24 jackets	22 blankets	59 socks
19 gloves	2 pair boots	32 hand warmers
1 case wipes	21 hats	3 scarves
2 snow pants	1 case diapers	2 sweatpants
2 long sleeve shirts		

All items have been delivered to Duluth Harbor Rescue Mission.

Thank you to all the generous donors.

Treasurer’s Report Narrative for 1/31/2026

Receipts for January were \$11,129.54 for the General Fund and \$0 for Special Funds.

Expenses paid in January were \$7,997.67 from the General Fund and \$565 from the Special Funds, with \$100 from the Irving Youth Fund for VLM, \$465 from the Good Gifts/World Hunger Fund for donations from the Giving Tree collected in December.

That puts us over YTD budget for revenues by \$2,715 and under YTD budget for expenses by \$ 417, for a net gain of \$3,132.

The balance in special funds is \$26,074.54. Our CD at Mission Investment Fund is valued at \$213,168.67, with interest of \$2,605.38 added on November 28, 2025, our next accrued interest will be posted at the end of February, and \$10,207.09 in a CD at Mission Investment Fund, with interest of \$102.96 added on December 18, 2025 while our next accrued interest will be posted on March 18, 2026. This CD is designated for future repairs to the driveway and parking lot and originated from funds received from Hillside Gardens for that purpose due to their use of the driveways and parking lot while under construction. Please note that neither the principal nor interest in these CDs is available for spending at this time.

Audrey L. Berglund

General Fund	Jan 2026 Budget	Jan 2026 Actual	YTD 2026 Budget	YTD 2026 Actual
Income	\$8,415	\$ 11,130	\$8,415	\$ 11,130
Expenses	\$8,415	\$ 7,998	\$8,415	\$ 7,998
Net Income (Loss)		\$ 3,132		\$ 3,132



- **United Lutheran Church of Proctor
Congregation Council Meeting
Minutes: Sunday, January 11, 2026**
-
- **Present:** Pastor Liz, Gordy Westendorf, Janis Anderson, Mark Linne’, Audrey Berglund, Marcy Kimball
Absent: Dennis Palm, Cheryl Fleckenstein, Dan Saarela
Came to Order: The meeting was called to order by VP G. Westendorf at 12:12PM.
Devotions: No one was assigned from last month, so the meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor Liz. Gordy Westendorf will do devotions for the February meeting.
Approval of Minutes: see attached. Motion by M. Linne’, second by J. Anderson, approved unanimously.
Guest Speaker: Chris Pasek presented a document which showed a comparison of online giving platforms between Vanco (our current vendor) and Tithely. It outlined each vendor's features as well as future considerations for our congregation. It is the recommendation of the finance committee that we change vendors. There was a motion by J. Anderson, second by M. Linne’ to approve the switch of online giving vendors from Vanco to Tithely, giving the finance committee authority to do so. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee: see attached.

1). Audrey will present the 2026 budget at the annual meeting. 2). She will also include a discussion for the use of Immanuel Sale CD funds (both interest and principle) for future budgetary needs. 3). It was decided to use Proctor Pizza as our food vendor for this year's annual meeting, even though it may cost a little more, the council felt it was important to support our local businesses.

Approval of Treasurer's Report: Motion J. Anderson, second M. Kimball, approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Report attached

Pastor Liz asked questions regarding Lent this year. It was agreed to continue with the soup and sandwich offering every other week. The actual schedule as well as the service itself have yet to be determined. Finally, Pastor said that she is printing new constitutions and confirmed that we only need 30 members for a quorum at our annual meeting.

President's Report: none

Committee Reports:

Worship and Music: no report. There was discussion on a letter received from Karen Linne' questioning why we print the hymns in the bulletin when we have hymnals to use. She thought it was a waste of time, paper and ink

. It was reported that the church has not purchased paper for many months as it has been donated and we also have not gone over our printer rental allocation for ink. Our new copy machine rental will offer a stapling option that should save on our labor time. It was decided that we would ask the congregation at the annual meeting what they think regarding this bulletin issue. Mark volunteered to bring back the highlights of the discussion to Karen.

Christian Education: Sunday school has started and is held the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

Fellowship: 44 apple pies were made on 11/5/25. All of them have been sold creating a profit of \$660 for the general fund.

Evangelism and Service to Others: The congregation is collecting warm clothes (and hand warmers) for the month of January. There are still 2 weeks left. Audrey shared a Thank You letter from Veronica at Duluth Harbor Mission for our donation of toiletries last month.

Property:

Extension of the use of the church parking lot for the construction job at Hillside Gardens. The contractor has offered a donation of \$300 for January use. The containers should be gone by the end of January.

Thermostat issues for the church office heater. Brad Johnson is keeping an eye on the situation. It has not been consistent for several weeks.

Posting of the "Church Parking Only" signs. Signs seem to have been working, as no cars have been parking in those spots. Audrey reported that Grant had been returning to plow again when cars were parked there and NOT charging us for the second run. Hopefully parking compliance will continue.

New thermostat installed in church basement. Brad Johnson donated his time and cost of material for the project. The new thermostat has additional settings available. Instructions will be posted.

Mark has submitted his report for the annual meeting.

Hillside will be billed for their part of snowplowing their access driveway. Mark will check with Grant Forsyth on what he thinks is appropriate to bill them, as a percent of the total project cost.

Staff Reports: The council will schedule employee reviews after the annual meeting and a new council is in effect.

Unfinished Business: Audrey did not receive enough participation requests from the congregation to offer the Living Lutheran at a discount rate.

New Business: none

Ideas/Requests from Congregation: none

Announcements and Correspondence: Thank you card was previously mentioned.

Calendar:

The Annual meeting will take place on **January 25th** after church. Pizza will be served after the meeting. The next council meeting will be on **February 8th** at 7:30AM.

Church time will change on **February 1st** to a 9:00AM service.

End Meeting: Motion J. Anderson, second by M.. Kimball to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously.

Adjournment: 1:02PM

Minutes Submitted: Gordy Westendorf