



Unity Lutheran Church Newsletter

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Albany, New York 12203
518.464.2648



Dear Friends of Unity Lutheran Church,

He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! Greetings in the name of our Savior, Jesus.

As we enter our Easter season at church this year it hits me with mixed emotions. Usually, I view Easter as a turning point. The weather is usually warming up and the flowers usually popping through the dirt. The tone of worship is one of excitement and joy, as compared to the somber feelings of the Lenten season. However, as I write this, I can see it snowing out my window. With it I can feel the cold still clinging to the air and in my bones. It occurs to me that this is the same feeling we can sometimes have in our Christian life.

The reality of the empty tomb is that the victory is won. Jesus has conquered sin. He has stolen the sting of death with the promise of eternal life. His victory is our victory in faith. We can know that death is not the end. We can know that our sins are forgiven. Even with knowing this we can feel the cold still clinging to our hearts and minds. It is not uncommon to feel anxious. Worried. Lonely. Depressed. Sad. We wish we had more time with a loved one, departed. We get frustrated that a nagging sin continues to plague us. We can get tired from the daily grind of this life. We believe the truth of Jesus' victory and still find ourselves struggling.

This is, sadly, the reality of our life as a sinner and a saint. We are still sinners. The devil has been conquered and his fate is sealed, but his time has not yet come. This world has met the redeemer, but has not yet been fully redeemed. We are free from the eternal consequences of sin, but not yet free from sin itself. We are made saints through the blood of Jesus, but we still are plagued by sin and the troubles of this world.

One of my professors in college used to say, "we live in the now and not yet." Right now, because of Jesus, we are saved and made saints. The Holy Spirit dwells inside us and we are forgiven from our sins. But Jesus has not yet banished the evil one from this world. We are waiting on his return. We live in the now and not yet. It is for this reason that we can know and believe the joy of Easter and still feel...off.

Friends, from all that scripture reveals to us...this is normal. Just like that first Easter morning, joy and fear can exist at the same time. This is why we need to daily hear the words of the angel at the tomb and the resurrected Jesus to the woman that first day. Do Not Be Afraid! Satan would have us blind to the joy of the forgiveness Jesus won. We need to hear it ourselves and say it to one another. Do Not Be Afraid. The victory is won, but the struggle has not yet ended. We know the end. May knowing the end breathe life and warmth into the coldness of the lingering winter. Summer is near. Jesus will come again.

God's peace be yours until that day

Your Brother in Christ
Pastor Jim Dorner

CONGRATULATIONS

Easter Sunday was a wonderful day to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, but also some great occasions at Unity. Baptized on Easter was Vincent DonVito.

First Holy Communion was celebrated with Hunter Moran.

New Members: Melanie Hardage, Christian Olmoz, Shane Hilton.

We congratulate all and wish God's riches blessings on them. Welcome all to the Unity Family!



Hunter Moran with his parents, Jesse and Nancy Moran on his first Holy Communion

UNITY LADIES GROUP



The Unity Ladies Group meets on the third Saturday of each month (except summer). The next meeting will be on April 18th at 10 am. The May meeting will be on May 16th at 10 am.

Plans are underway for the second Rummage and Craft Sale. Save the date—May 31, 2026 from 10-2. Do you have some "treasures" that you would like to part with? Get a table and set up for the day. Many crafters are scheduled to be there also. Other plans are in the works. Events are planned throughout the year. Please be a part of the activities. Please join us!!

IT'S BECOMING GARDENING SEASON! OUR GARDENER, MARTHA KRATZ, (AND ABLE BODIED ASSISTANT, BUZ BARCLAY) WOULD LOVE SOME HELP GETTING OUR GARDEN READY AND PLANTING! SEE MARTHA IF YOU COULD LEND A HAND..



PORTALS OF PRAYER FOR APRIL—JUNE

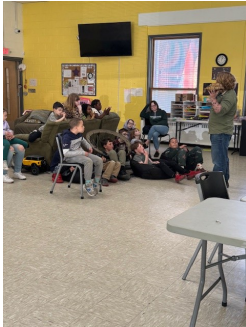
Portals of Prayer are available in the lobby of the church. Both pocket size and larger sizes are available



After-School Program



During the school break, the After School Program hosted a reptile show. They were able to touch and even hold the various reptiles.



Many thanks to the Unity Women's group who sponsored the program.

It won't be long before the summer is here. Please spread the word about our Summer Camp!

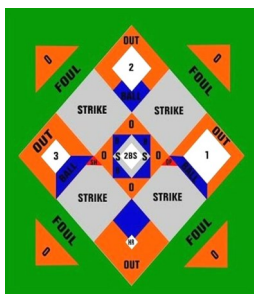


Shelter Dinners - Can You Help?

Thank you, thank you, thank you Sheryl Baum and Sue Meyer for preparing & delivering dinner to the homeless shelter at First Church in February! The men enjoyed a delicious meal of chicken & pasta, green bean and corn casseroles and brownies for dessert. It was much appreciated by those who rely on the shelter & food provided by the local community.

Our last scheduled dinner is on Tuesday, April 14, and the sign-up sheet is completely open. Can you help? A meal usually includes: an entree, vegetables or salad and a dessert. Because of dietary considerations, the shelter does ask that there be no meals with pork or fish. Meals for 25 men should be completely cooked and in disposable pans. Dishes can even be prepared ahead of time and arrangements made for delivery. Any questions, please contact Sheryl Baum at 518-312-5177. Thank you.

Because of the lateness of the newsletter, all things for the dinner were taken care of. Thanks to all!



THE UNITY INTERCUREH DART TEAM WON THE CHAMPIONSHIP (FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW)! THEY HOSTED THE ANNUAAL DART LEAGUE BANQUET A UNITY AND ENJOYED GREAT FOOD AND GREAT COMPANY. THE TROPHY WILL BE DISPLAYED (PROUDLY) IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL






- 3. DIANE KINGSTON
- 4. RENIE KLEINKE
- 7. SOLOMON GEBREYES
- 15. DINA LEE
- 21. JOSÉ VEGA
- 25. AMY KLEINKE



- 3. ZARISH MIRZA
- 4. LINDSEY GRUENWALD
- 14. BARBARA NOTTKE
- 14. MARTA STEPHANOS
- 23. DIANE BUNKOFF

		April		May	
		Alan Alexander		Daniel Long	
	Flowers	Service Steward	Reader	Altar	Coffee Hour
APRIL 5	Lori Seim in memory of her mother Wilma	Andrew VanAvker	Lorraine Urbano	Ophelia	
12	Dina Lee for her birthday	Steve Brickman	Dina Lee	Sylvia Grimes	Debbie Boomhower
19	James Welter in in memory of his parents' anniversary	Tom Calamaras	Nathan Alexander	Alida Boshea	POT LUCK
26	Len Ahders i	Nathan Alexnader	Len Ahders		
MAY 3	Diane and Richard Pahlke in celebration of their wedding anniversary	Sue Meyer		Suzanne and John Brockley	"Judy, Judy, & Lorraine"
10	In memory of Erika Kahler and for all the Moms of Unity Lutheran Church from the Kahler-Peter family	Andrew VanAcker	Dina Lee		Debbie Boomhower
17		Linda O'Keefe		Alida Boshea	POT LUCK
24	Andrew VanAcker in memory of mom, Frances VanAcker	Jamie Welter			Susan Willis
31	The Alexanders for-Bailey and Alex 58th wedding Anniversary	Lori Seim			



UNITY'S
Crafty
RUMMAGE
SALE!

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026

UNITY LUTHERAN ALBANY
1500 WESTERN AVE
ALBANY, NY 12203

Enjoy the Fun:

RUMMAGE - VENDOR SHOPPING - MUSIC
FOOD & REFRESHMENTS - RAFFLE PRIZES
COFFEE, BAKED GOODS & MORE!
- PLENTY OF PARKING -

Don't miss this blooming good time with family and friends!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



