



November

# UNITY LUTHERAN NEWS

1500 Western Ave. Albany, New York 12203

Dear Friends of Unity Lutheran Church,

Greetings in the name of our Savior, Jesus! We don't often think of November as a month of ending, but for the church that is what it is. When you are next in worship holding a bulletin, look at the front cover and notice the title given to each Sunday. The first four Sundays of this month are titled in order, All Saints Day, the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday's After Pentecost, and the Last Sunday of the Church Year (also known as Christ the King Sunday). November begins with a remembrance of the faithful departed whom have been called home by the Father. We give thanks for their life and salvation even as we look forward to the reunion with them in heaven. The next two Sunday's scripture readings focus on the end times. The little snippets which God has revealed about that which is to come in this life prior to the triumphant return of Jesus. The final Sunday's title is self-explanatory. Christ the King will come again to destroy death and the devil and establish His Kingdom's reign eternally. Each year, we close our church year in November with a focus on the end. The end of all things.

One of the many beautiful parts of the Christian faith is that we accept and even find peace in endings and goodbyes, because we believe Jesus' promise that He will return and reign in glory! It is this hope which sees us through the challenges of each day. The grief with a loved ones' loss. The shame of sin. The sting of failure. The reality of our own death. Satan would use any one of these to derail us. To speak despair into our ears and let it fester in our hearts. For Christians, this is not so because of the promises of Jesus! Praise Be To God! Endings are not the end for us.

This year, there is a fifth Sunday in November. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, we transition our church calendar to begin the year anew. We begin the season of Advent. A season of expectation as we celebrate and remember again the birth of our Savior. It is a time of anticipation. Our church calendar year mimics the Biblical revelation of the end times. The end is not the end for us. It is a new beginning through Jesus.

Until the return of Christ, you and I will face many life endings. Many life failures. We will commit many sins. Some we intentionally commit and others we are unaware of at the time. Through each of these endings, may we cling to the beautiful truth of the Christian life: these endings are not the end. May we see God's big picture of salvation. May we learn to let go of our failures and our sins, leaving them at the foot of the cross. May we repent daily, receive forgiveness daily, and sing God's praises to all who will hear. As we do, may God's peace grow in our hearts and minds.

Endings are not the end  
Your Brother in Christ  
Pastor Jim Dorner



### CHRISTMAS AT SEA

Each year, the Albany Maritime Ministry sponsors Christmas at Sea. They collect wrapped items in shoeboxes and deliver them to the seafarers who visit the Port of Albany and Coeymans during the holiday season. It is a welcome gift for those men who are away from their families.

The Women's Group at Unity is asking for donated items for the gift boxes. Items requested are:: knit cap, gloves, socks, writing paper, envelopes, comb or brush, book, ear buds, toiletries (razor, shaving cream, shampoo, shower gel, new and gently used DVDs. No candy or other edibles, please. A box is located outside the church office for you donations. Thank you for helping out! We will meet on December 4th to gather the items and wrap them. Anyone is invited to lend a hand.





The dedication and Installation Service of Pastor Jim Dorner and Deacon Ed Kleinke held on Sunday, October 26, 2025. It was a wonderful day of three congregations (St. Paul, St. Matthew, and Christ) becoming one new church.

### **Updates from the Overflow Homeless Shelter**



Over the summer we received a certificate and thank you from the Capital Area Council of Churches for our help with the move of the Emergency Overflow Shelter to its new home at First Church in downtown Albany and our participation in the meal program to feed the men who are housed at the shelter in the winter months.

Unity Lutheran has agreed again to provide meals for the shelter for the coming season. A shelter meal calendar to cover everyday between November and April was prepared and Unity's Tuesday dates are: December 23, February 17 and April 14.

Can you help prepare a meal? Favorite dinners include: casseroles, meatloaf & mashed potatoes, chicken & rice, macaroni & cheese. A meal usually includes: an entree, vegetable or salad and a dessert. Because of dietary considerations, the shelter asks 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.

A sign-up sheet will be posted on the board in the narthex soon. If you have any questions contact Sheryl Baum. Thank you so much!



Hello everyone!

The month of October has been an extremely fun one. Halloween is always an exciting holiday for the kids, and they did not miss out on celebrating. The children have been coloring and crafting different Halloween decorations, decorating and carving pumpkins, discussing the intricacies of their costumes, and genuinely enjoying this "spooky" holiday. I would like to thank the Congregation for donating pumpkins to the program. Each kid was able to receive their own pumpkin to decorate/carve. All of the children were thrilled with their pumpkins and were so proud and excited to show their parents the work they had done. Thank you all very much; those seemingly small contributions go a long way, and I am grateful to all of you for your support.



With the end of Halloween means the coming of Thanksgiving. With this comes new lessons to be taught and new discussions to have about the glories of this world and of Our God. It is a time to reflect on the blessings we receive every single day, a time to be grateful for the loved ones we have, and time to thank our loving God. While Thanksgiving is not as exciting as the Halloween season for most 7-year-old children, I am sure we will all have a splendid time enjoying the blessings of community, education, and growth.

During this season I do not forget this congregation which has supported me and this program so much over this past year. Thank you and know that my job would not be possible (or even exist) without your support. Thank you and have a blessed month enjoying family, friends, and the Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,  
Jack Verhayden  
Afterschool Program Director



### **Cornerstone Cultural Dinner - Join Us!**

Around the time we begin cleaning up from the Holly Fair on November 15th, Cornerstone Campus Ministry students will begin arriving to use our kitchen. The ministry at SUNY Albany has many students from other countries and cultures. Each year, they come together and cook for one another dishes from home. This has become a fun tradition of feasting and fellowshiping. You are invited!! Come bring a cultural dish of your own to share and try others. Dinner will be served around 5:30pm. No sign up needed. Just come!

### **POT LUCK LUNCHEON**

Our next Pot Luck Luncheon will be on November 16th after worship. We would like all those who signed up for various committees to take a few minutes then and plan projects that they would like to see done here at Unity. Now that we are "official", let's get the ball rolling and all take part in the workings of our church family.



### **Thank You!!!**

As I reflect on last month's Dedication & Installation service I am filled with gratitude. First, to God for blessing our efforts and growing our congregation.

Second, to you all! The faithful Saints at the newly welcomed Unity Lutheran Church in Albany. For the flexibility and willingness to make incredible change. Selling properties, merging congregations, opening outreach programs, committing to worship and Bible study, planting and weeding to grow vegetables and a native garden. I could go on and on. This rag-tag group of people joined together at Unity, in unity, is a shining testament to a shared vision and commitment to see it through. A vision which seeks to grow us in discipleship and connect our neighbors to Jesus in compassion. So thank you all!



**Special thanks** to all those who stayed in leadership positions years after their terms ended.

**Special thanks** to all those who helped to plan, set up, serve, and attend our Dedication & Installation Service.

**Special thanks** to those who have spearheaded initiatives like the vegetable garden, GriefShare, the After-School program, and countless other things.

**Special thanks** to those who have volunteered to serve in worship as readers, altar guild, service stewards, and the like.

**Special thanks** to the Ladies Group at Unity. You have run a Craft Fair, planned the Holly Fair, and gifted the Dorner family with meals for weeks as Chelsea is nursing a broken wrist. Not to mention all the other projects and events you have supported.

May God continue to bless you, so that you can continue to bless Unity, and the community around us. After all, "We are growing as God's disciples, compassionately connecting our neighbors to Jesus"

### **FOOD PANTRY**

Because of the shortage of food for so many people, we will start to collect dry goods. Maybe we can help in a very small way. Bring a non perishable item (or more) We will have a box in the Narthex for collections. Thank you in advance for helping those who are having trouble putting food on their tables.





## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4. AUGUST DORNER
- 8. KADE FLYNN  
ANNETTE peter
- 11. MARTHA KRATZ  
ETHEL WHITEMAN
- 18 BRODEY FLYNN
- 20. JENNIFER BAIOTTO
- 22. JOAN ALDI  
TINA HARRIS
- 25. ADLEEN AKHTAR

## CANCELLATIONS AND CLOSINGS

**No one wants to hear it, but it is November. That 4 letter word will be soon upon us.**

**If the weather is bad, check with TV and radio stations for cancellations and closures at Unity. There will be notification on Capital News 9, channels 6,10,13, WXXA, and radio stations FLY92, WGY, WRVE, B-95.5.**

DATE	FLOWERS	SERVICE STEWARD	READER	ALTAR	COFFEE HOUR
11/2	The Brickmans to the Glory of God	Nathan Alexander	Dina Lee	Sylvia Grimes	OPEN
11/9	Pam Lupien in memory of her mother and father	Debbie Boomhower	Nathan Alexander	Alida Boshea	Pam Lupien
11/16	Helen Willis in memory of her husband, Bruce	Linda O'Keefe	Dina Lee	Sylvia Grimes	POT LUCK
11/23	Debbie and Bill Boomhower in memory of Robert and Shirley	James Welter	José Vega	OPEN	OPEN
11/30	OPEN	Andrew VanAcker	Lorraine Urbano	OPEN	OPEN







The  
Season  
of

# Advent

## READING PLAN

### Hope

- ◇ Day 1: Jeremiah 29:10-14
- ◇ Day 2: Romans 15:8-13
- ◇ Day 3: 1 Peter 1:3-12
- ◇ Day 4: Hebrews 10:19-39
- ◇ Day 5: Psalm 33
- ◇ Day 6: Titus 2:11– 3:8

### Joy

- ◇ Day 13: Philippians 4:4-9
- ◇ Day 14: Psalm 16
- ◇ Day 15: James 1:2-18
- ◇ Day 16: Psalm 30
- ◇ Day 17: Luke 2:8-20
- ◇ Day 18: John 15:1-11

### Peace

- ◇ Day 7: Isaiah 9:1-7
- ◇ Day 8: John 14:1-7, 25-31
- ◇ Day 9: John 16:25-33
- ◇ Day 10: Romans 5:1-11
- ◇ Day 11: Ephesians 2:11-22
- ◇ Day 12: Colossians 3:1-17

### Love

- ◇ Day 19: Micah 7:18-20
- ◇ Day 20: Romans 8:31-39
- ◇ Day 21: John 3:16-21
- ◇ Day 22: 1 John 4:7-21
- ◇ Day 23: Philippians 2:1-11
- ◇ Day 24: 2 Thessalonians 2:13 – 3:5
- ◇ Day 25: Ephesians 2:1-10

