



2025

518 464-2648

UNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1500 Western Ave. Albany, New York 12203

Dear Friends of Unity Lutheran,

Greetings from Christ Jesus during this fall season. Whether you read this at the beginning of October or the end will determine your surroundings. At the beginning you will still see most trees green and full. By the end you will see a variety of fall colors and even some trees stripped bare of leaves and brown. It truly is a season of dramatic change. If God can work such dramatic change in our surroundings, he certainly can make such dramatic change in our lives.

All changes for the better come from and begin with God and His love for us. It is out of this love for His creation that He sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection have won for us salvation and forgiveness of sins. If we do not begin here and acknowledge with thanksgiving what He has done for us, we run the risk of thinking any change we have in our outward lives will make us more worthy or more appealing to God. My friends, right now you are already worthy and appealing to God because of Jesus' love and obedience. There is nothing more you can add to your life which will cause God to favor or love you more. Let the power of that reality set in! Let it free your heart from doubt or even despair.

Despite that reality, we live in and contribute to a sinful world. Each of us can identify areas of our life which are ready for change. Even a dramatic one. A beautiful part of the Christian's life is that any change we make...we make with the help of God's Holy Spirit. Jesus calls Him, "The Helper" who lives with us and guides us to better follow God's commandments. And it is just that, following His commandments, which has the ability to make dramatic changes in our lives. Specifically, the commands to love God and love our neighbor, is always in need of change. The curse of humanity is that, left to ourselves, we will always make ourselves the center of our world. We put our own needs and desires first thinking it will bring us peace or contentment. It always leaves us wanting more.

As we turn our hearts and efforts toward loving and serving those around us, the Holy Spirit has a way of working God's peace and contentment into our lives. The more we focus on what Jesus has already done for us and how we might respond in kindness to those around us, the more God changes our hearts and minds. What a beautiful way He has worked for us to change!

In this season of dramatic changes may we be known by others for our love. Ask God to show you ways to grow in love for Him and for your neighbor. Trust the Holy Spirit's guidance. When he puts someone on your heart, call them. Reach out and help as the need arises. Let others know that you are praying for them and thinking of them often. Watch how God changes your own heart and changes your relationship with these. Dramatic change is all around us in this season. May you contribute to it with your life.

Receive God's peace
Your Brother in Christ
Pastor Jim Dorner

Just show up!

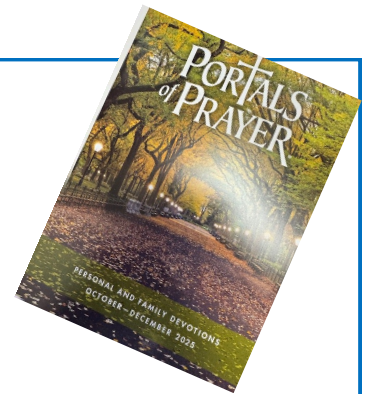
In *A Million Little Ways* (Revell), Emily Freeman says in order for Christians to “show up as you are with what you’ve been given,” we must confront these statements:

- I’m not cut out for this.
- Someone else can do it better.
- People might not like it.
- I have nothing to offer.
- I hate my calling.
- It’s a waste of time.
- It’s too much work.
- Who do you think you are?

“A million loud voices ... keep us from the million little ways [Jesus] wants to show up through us to the world,” Freeman writes.

Portals Of Prayer

Do you read portals of prayer each day? It is a great way to begin your day with a little word from God. Portals of Prayer for October through December are available in the back of the church. Please help yourself to one and keep it in a handy place to read every day. It might be just the lift you need.



How Can I Help?



If you find yourself asking this question about our church or our after-school program...here's how! We find ourselves constantly purchasing supplies and crafts and new things for the kids to do. There is how an Amazon Wish List which we will keep updated with our current supply needs. If you feel so led, please click the link below and purchase something to help. It will be shipped directly to us. Thank you for your

support

Please click on the link below to take you to our Amazon Wish Page.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2KFB246OA4MR7?ref_=wl_share

Or use the QR code to go to the Amazon Wish Page.



ALSO—If you would like to come in some afternoon and make something with the children, please let Jack know. The kids love to do crafts and bake!

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Hello everyone!

We have had a wonderful first month of school here at Unity Lutheran. It has been beautiful getting back out and biking, playing basketball, playing soccer, making bead necklaces, and accessorizing barbies. The building has been filled with laughter, love, joy, and the occasional gleeful yell. Now that teachers have begun assigning homework, we have also had many kids take advantage of the opportunity to use this space for learning. Multiplication tables, reading lists, and even musical instruments are being practiced here every day. The ups and downs of helping the kids get back into the school routine are challenging at times but a joyful reminder of our own growth. As the year goes on, we look forward to facilitating and seeing continued maturation in their social and academic skills.



While the kids have not been exactly thrilled to get back into a homework routine, they are thrilled to be back in the building playing with their friends. They are also very much looking forward to next month. I am constantly being asked about my Halloween plans and my costume ideas. Kids have been discussing with great enthusiasm their favorite candies, traditions, and costume designs. It has been a joy to watch the kids socialize, connect, and laugh in such innocent and positive ways.

Thank you all for your continued support. The help we provide to kids daily would not be possible without this congregation. Thank you for being so kind, accepting, and supportive of these children.

Sincerely,
Jack Verhayden
Afterschool Program Director

CHRISTMAS AT SEA

The Women's group will be collecting items for the Christmas at Sea Boxes and then wrapping them in a gift box. Purchase some items and put them in the box in the Narthex. Suggestions to include: 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. These small packages of gifts mean so much to the seafarers who are away from their homes during the holidays. Thanks in advance for your support!





You are invited to join us

**Dedication and Installation
of
UNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Sunday, October 26, 2025
4 PM**

**Dinner to follow
(please sign up online or on the sign-
up sheet in the Narthex)**





HOLIDAY FAIR

Saturday, November 15, 2025
10-4
Crafts and "Treasures"

Do you have some things you would like to sell?
Buy a table and set up your "shop".

If you would like more information or to "buy"
a table, please contact
Mayra Vega at
UnityLutheranAlbanyEvents@gmail.com



UNITY WOMEN'S GROUP will meet on Saturday, October 18th at 10 am. Plans for the Holly Fair will be finalized.

SET UP for the dinner after the Dedication and Installation will be on Saturday, October 25th. Please come and help out!!



5. NICHOLAS ALEXANDER
7. DAVID RUSSO
8. SELAM GEBREYES
11. LORRAINE URBANO
13. MARTIN KAHLER
14. CRAIG JONES
20. ALEXIS KLEINKE
22. PAM LUPIEN
23. LINDA O'KEEFE

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES FOR NOVEMBER ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY OCTOBER 20th.



ELDER
Alan Alexander

The Best Gift for Your Pastor

October is Pastor Appreciation Month—a time to recognize and encourage those who faithfully shepherd our churches. But if you've ever asked a pastor how to show your gratitude, the answer probably isn't plaque or applause. More often than not, it's simple: "Pray for me."



Even the Apostle Paul didn't ask for much personally, except for the prayers of fellow believers. In his letter to the Romans, he wrote: "Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and relax in your company" (Romans 15:30–32, NASB).

This October—and every month—encourage your pastor by offering your prayers, support, and kind words. Ministry can be demanding, but knowing the church is lifting them up makes all the difference.

DATE	FLOWERS	SERVICE STEWARD	LAY READER	ALTAR	COFFEE HOUR
10/5	Linda O'Keefe in celebration of Ellie's Birthday	Nick Alexander	José Vega	Linda Calamaras	Sue Meyer
10/12	The Alexanders in celebration of Nick's birthday	Andrew VanAcker	Len Ahders	Sylvia Grimes	Ophelia Amegashie
10/19	The Esterby and Fantos families in memory of Ed Chartier	Tom Calamaras	José Vega		POT LUCK
10/26	Linda O'Keefe in celebration of the dedication and installation	Steve Brickman	Lorraine Urbano	Sylvia Grimes	

