

Minister's Minute

"Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night, they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest!"
~ Isaiah 62:6

There are all sorts of metaphors for who a pastor is or what role they play in the life of a congregation. I myself like the word "sentinel."

The word itself is not used that much anymore. If it didn't happen to be part of the name of Milwaukee's newspaper there would be almost no use of it around here.

In the Bible though, it's used frequently. Sometimes it is used in its literal sense; the word refers to someone who stands guard or arrives with a message. It's more often used figuratively, as a description of the prophets who tried to speak a divine word to the people.

The reason I like it though, is its unique usage in the passage with which this Minister's Minute begins, from Isaiah 62. The sentinels referred to there are not posted by God, but by the people. Their charge is to never be silent. Their charge is to remind God, day and night, of the plight of the people and God's promise to restore, renew, and redeem.

I like that image, don't you? God needs no reminders and ideally we'd just count on that. But few things about life are ideal. We end up doubting ourselves, each other, and our God. We end up feeling alone. We end up stuck in so many ways.

God will be there in those moments, but since so much about faith is imprecise we all feel like we maybe should or have to do something. In reality, maybe waiting or silence would be better, but we humans are do-ers, so do something we must!

Well, if you have to do something, why not be constantly involved in reminding God of, well, everything? It's called prayer. It can be spoken, sung, or part of the actions we take in life. In telling it to God, we also tell it to each other and ourselves... all that we need, all that our world needs, all that we long to have forgiven, and all for which we are thankful.

As a pastor, you never actually lead a congregation. You're part of it. You all need each other. Maybe the best you can do is be a really good sentinel. You encourage others to be vocal in their love and honesty before God. You add your voice when someone in the company of believers awes you with their sacrifice or courage. You soften your heart when you behold the disappointment or shame someone holds onto, knowing the community has already let it go and that healing will come when that person lets it go too.

The sentinel gives voice to what the people long to be: loved and able to love. Unique but never alone. Encouraged by familiar voices while also seeking out those that have been silent or silenced.

It's a great role, this job as sentinel. It's yours as much as mine. No one retires from it, that's for sure.

So up to the top of the walls of the City of God we go. Shouting encouragements to a God who needs none but who perhaps does smile at our persistence. And in return we smile back, able to continue down life's path toward what the gospels call the "Kingdom of God," but which we perhaps know better by the angelic visitor's words at the Nativity: Good News. Great Joy. For all the people.

~ John

O Come Let Us Adore Him



During their Christmas Programs, our Sunday School children did a beautiful job giving voice and song to the angelic visitor's words at the Nativity: Good News. Great Joy. For all the people.

Two-Campus Ministry in Brookfield, Wis. • unitybrookfield.org

Christ the King: 4600 Pilgrim Rd. • Zip: 53005 • (262) 781-7600

Cross of Life: 20700 W. North Ave. • Zip: 53045 • (262) 781-7600



Celebrate. Share. Renew.



It's the *Ideal* Time of Year to Invite Others to UNITY!

With a New Year comes new starts, which means now is a *perfect* time to invite someone to join us at UNITY. Especially after the holidays have past, people long to be part of a community... or to learn, or to praise God, or to do significant things in the lives of others. *This is the essence of discipleship here at UNITY!* Nothing is more meaningful than a personal invitation, and chances are really good they'll enjoy it here. We encourage you to pray about who might need an invitation that might come only from you, and then extend it.

"Inviting others to help us with our work in the Church helps them feel needed and helps them feel the Spirit." ~C.M. Christensen

Apply Now for Adult Faith Trip to Orcas Island, April 22-27, 2024, with Muriel! Application Deadline is January 16.

Several people have asked Pastor Muriel to lead a trip to her hometown. After initial info, there is definitely enough interest! **Muriel will bring a group to Orcas Island for a week (April 22-27) to focus on faith while exploring the island.** We'll walk through a mini version of UNITY's Confirmation program through class time and hands-on activities in the woods, beaches, ferry boats, and waterfalls of the Pacific Northwest, before ending the week with a reaffirmation of Baptism. We'll stay in two Airbnb's overlooking Puget Sound and we'll prep meals together. Cost will be your plane ticket plus \$600 for lodging, food, and transportation. You'll probably meet some of Muriel's people, and the Tulip Festival will be in bloom!

The trip will be capped at 16 people for space, and we'll need at least 11 people to make it cost effective. If interested, talk to Muriel. **Applications will be on UNITY's website and will be due, along with deposits, by January 16.** A pre-trip meeting will be held in March.



ADVENT FEST 2023: Thanks for Joining Us as We Began the Season Together in UNITY!





Relive the Magic! Click the Images Below for Videos

Thanks to ALL who made Advent and Christmas such a special time of year at UNITY. In case you missed something along the way or simply want to relive those magical moments, [click on the images below for a compilation of all four Christmas Programs, a Christmas Message from our Pastors, and Annual Christmas Card Video](#). Our thanks to Caitlin Dominski for her many talents!



We Return to Regular Winter Worship Times

Whether it's at our Cross of Life campus, Christ the King campus, or online, worship *wherever* it works!

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm WORSHIP at COL

SUNDAYS

8:30 am WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am WORSHIP at CTK

10:30 am WORSHIP at COL

ONLINE After 5 pm on Saturdays



Sunday School Birthday Cake Drive Thru January 14

We just celebrated Jesus' birthday. What a perfect time to help others celebrate theirs! Sunday School kids are collecting birthday cake mix, frosting, candles and party ware (plates, cups, etc.) to create Birthday Gift Bags for families shopping at the Waukesha Food Pantry. **Please drop off your birthday supply donations at either campus through Sunday, January 14. Thank you so much!**



December 16-17 was a weekend to remember at UNITY, as 116 Sunday School students shared the Nativity story through music and story during our Christmas Programs at all services. Thanks to our students, teachers and families who made it possible. An email was sent to members on December 24 with links to photos from each of our four services! If you didn't receive it, please contact our church office.



Sing & Ring in the New Year with All-Music Tuesdays!

Enjoy a weekly evening together making music with family and friends during All-Music Tuesdays! ALL are welcome to join a group at any time! **Sign up by clicking on link below.**

COL NORTH FELLOWSHIP HALL:

6:00-6:30 pm: [Joyful Noise](#)

Kids in PreK-Grade 1

Directed by Janet Day

6:30-7:15 pm: [Celebration Choir](#)

Kids in Grades 2-6

Directed by Janet Day

7:15-8:15 pm: [Fellowship Choir](#)

Grade 7-Adult

Directed by Molly Pufall-Brown

Accompanied by Lynn Key

COL SANCTUARY:

6:15-7:15 pm: [Gloria Dei Bells](#)

Late Intermed. to Advanced Ringers

Directed by Stacey Nordmeyer

7:15-8:15 pm: [Hosanna Bells](#)

Begin. to Early Intermediate Ringers

Directed by Stacey Nordmeyer

Servanthood Blitz for Sunday Schoolers on January 15

Do you have off from school on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day? **Sunday School kids in grade 2 and older are invited to join us for Servanthood Blitz on Monday, January 15, from 9 am to 12:30 pm at COL!** On this national day of service, help us serve our partners. We'll clean pill bottles and nursery toys, decorate cookies, make snacks, and prepare craft packages for travel to the kids in El Salvador. Wear your favorite sports jersey or t-shirt. Pizza lunch will be provided. Adults, we could use *your* help on this day, too! Contact michelle@unitybrookfield.org.





Mitten Tree at CTK, Mitten Bin at COL through January



The Mitten Tree in CTK's narthex and the Mitten Bin at COL will continue to accept your donations throughout January. This is a great way to help the kids at Hephatha Lutheran Church stay warm!

Items will be picked and sent to Hephatha in early February. These are much-needed replacements for items that fall by the wayside. Questions? Contact Jane Boorse at janeboorse43@gmail.com or 262-781-1373. Thanks for these heart- (and hand- and head-) warming gifts!



Special thanks not only to all of you who took tags from our Angel Trees (above) to purchase gifts for our partners, but also to our many "angels" who decorate our spaces so beautifully for Christmas!

Donations Needed for El Salvador Trip by February 2

Our next Mission of Healing Trip to El Salvador will be February 11-18, and Salvadoran kids and adults love working with arts and crafts between stops at the clinic. **Can you provide craft supplies? Please bring items to either campus by February 2:**

Beads • Cording • Stickers
Coloring Books for Kids & Adults
Colored Pencils • Colored Markers
Pencil Sharpeners • School Scissors
Glue Sticks (non-liquid)
Chenille Stems • Foam Shapes
Construction & Patterned Paper



Thanks to the angels who helped make and/or deliver Christmas Bags to our homebound or hardshipped members. This is a special ministry that blesses those within our faith family.

Show Some LOVE at Our Blood Drive on February 15

This Valentine's Day, show your LOVE at UNITY's Blood Drive on Thursday, February 15, from 1:00-6:00 pm at our COL campus. To select your time, go to the Red Cross Sign Up page for UNITY, found on our Sign Up web page. (We are no longer using SignUp Genius for this, but it's still on our Sign Up web page.) OR, call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) and provide the Sponsor Code: UNITYBROOKFIELD. Need help? Contact Marilyn Ranney at 414-975-5606 or ranneymarilyn@gmail.com.



Scholarship Fund Thank You!

November was graduation month in El Salvador, and many of our students hit big milestones. There are so many stories to celebrate, but especially notable are Pastor Rafael's oldest daughter Aurora, who graduated from university with a degree in Communications, and Rutilio's four high school seniors, pictured below, left to right: Nancy, Staysi, Andrea & Leydi. Because of your generosity during this year's ES Scholarship Pledge-a-Thon, we were able to increase our yearly funds to Rutilio enough to enable all four to start college next month. *And* they are just four of the 50+ students at Cordero de Dios Church and the Rutilio Grande Community receiving educational funds thanks to you! The first round of funds for 2024 was sent to them on December 15. What a powerful thing to be part of! Thank you!





Partner of the Month: Food Pantry Serving Waukesha County

As UNITY continues partnering with The Food Pantry Serving Waukesha County, we thought it would be nice to hear from their new Executive Director, Lyndsay Johnson:

"I would like to thank the members of UNITY Lutheran Church for their generous support of The Food Pantry Serving Waukesha County. We have been blessed to have a positive relationship with UNITY over the years and I am grateful to have the opportunity to continue to build that relationship. The UNITY congregation lives the motto of donating time, talent and treasure to support your community in need. In 2023, UNITY members donated time volunteering at the Food Pantry. We have also benefitted by having talented members of your congregation on our Board of Directors to provide leadership direction to this organization.

The UNITY congregation has also generously donated money and food to support the Food Pantry, including, most recently, our Holiday Meal Program. Your donations helped ensure that members of the Waukesha County community had food to celebrate the holiday season. UNITY has been a generous supporter of our mission and I am so grateful for your ongoing support."

This is so well stated by Lyndsay and is a reminder of our importance to this long-time partner of ours. *The Food Pantry Serving Waukesha County is seeing an unprecedented number of clients this year, and our support is needed now more than ever.* Visit our [Vimeo page](#) and check out [Lyndsay's presentation](#) from our Adult Forum on November 12, 2023. Please, if you have a chance, review this as it contains some facts about the needs of this important partner.

Please mark your calendars for the Food Pantry's Annual Fundraiser on Saturday, May 18, 2024, in CTK's Backyard. (More info will be coming.) Thanks so much to all of you at UNITY for being such a valuable partner to the Food Pantry Serving Waukesha County!

~ Ron & Ellen Vermillion, Advocates



Our Fall Bag Sales raised \$3,762 for the Waukesha Food Pantry!



RENEW ... through Involvement!

For Young Adults: Our Newest Small Group: 20Somethings!

Attention all 20Somethings! A new Small Group has formed just for you! We've already enjoyed gatherings at Lakefront Brewery, Milwaukee Brat House in Shorewood, and Bluemound Bowl, so watch for more dates TBA and join us with your ideas for more places to go. All young adults are invited as we hang out and talk about our next events for this new group. Questions? Contact is Matt Griepentrog: matt@unitybrookfield.org or 262-787-8820. *Come be a part of the fun with us!*



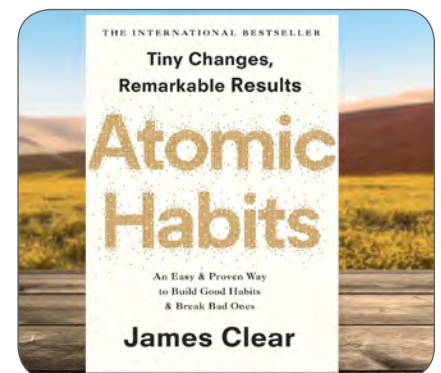
Adult Forum: Photo Editing Tips with Brad: January 14

UNITY Member and Photography Guru Brad Wilkins returns to teach us more about photography! This time around, he'll show us how to organize our photo libraries, edit amazing pictures, and back up our precious creations! **Join us Sunday, January 14, at 9:30 am at COL.** *Did you know...? UNITY has a Photography Group! Contact Brad at bwilkins012@gmail.com to be added to the email distribution list so you know about upcoming photo projects.*



Mini Book Club: "Atomic Habits" on January 21 & 28

Start off the New Year right! **We'll discuss the book "Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones."** Patricia Pelzel will walk us through the book, so **join us two Sundays – January 21 & 28 – at 9:30 am at the COL Campus.** Reading the book in advance is recommended but definitely not required! *Have ideas for Adult Programming at UNITY? Contact is Matt Griepentrog: matt@unitybrookfield.org or 262-787-8820.*





Important Help is Needed with Snow Removal at CTK & COL!

Can you help keep our campuses safe for visitors? Snow removal help is needed at both campuses! This involves shoveling and/or snow blowing, depending on the depth of the snow. At CTK we clear all the sidewalks and the dumpster area. At COL we clear the sidewalks, and if possible, also the dumpster enclosure and rear-side exit doors. Sign up for a week or two at either campus through [SignUp Genius](#) on our [Sign Up web page](#). OR, simply call our church office at 262-781-7600 and we'll put you on the schedule! You can do this on your own time with the hopes that shoveling occurs within 12 hours or so of the snowfall. Questions about snow blowing, salting, or accessing our buildings? Contact Property Chair David Koenen at davidkoenen@wi.rr.com, Property Manager Denny Thompson at dennyt325@yahoo.com, or Lynn Key at lynn@unitybrookfield.org. Thank you!

"Where does the white go when the snow melts?" ~ Hugh Kieffer

Sponsors Needed for Altar Flowers! 2024 Signup is LIVE

Thank you for the beauty you bring to the altar when you give flowers! Sponsors are needed at both campuses, and signing up is easy. [Simply visit our SignUp Genius for the 2024 calendar and for all the details you need.](#) This is a convenient way to choose a weekend and campus, and the cost is only \$25 (payable by check or [online](#)). You can take flowers home at the end of the weekend's last service, but please return the vase as soon as you can. If you have questions or need assistance signing up, email [Nancy Kostanski](#) or [Lynn Key](#), or call the church office at 262-781-7600.



Spotlight on Small Group: Sew Comfy

UNITY's Sew Comfy Group makes heart-shaped pillows for people recovering from breast cancer surgery ([photo below](#)). Froedtert Hospital receives most of the pillows, and in the past few months, the UW Cancer Center in Pewaukee has provided pillows to some of their patients. **In 2023 alone, Sew Comfy made 472 pillows!** If you would like to share a pillow with someone who will be undergoing breast cancer surgery, please take one from the basket at either campus! **Want to support their ministry? They are always accepting donations of bright, colorful prints of 100% cotton fabric.** Two yards of fabric yields six pillows. Fabric can be dropped off in the baskets at either campus entrance. This Small Group really appreciates you Big Time!

"When life gives you scraps, make a quilt!" ~ M. Ferris

New Year, New YOU: Come join a SMALL GROUP at UNITY! Let Us Help You Find Your Fit

Want to Find Your Tribe?

Creative Connections

Schedules vary based on seasonal crafts. Contact is Joan Krause: joankrause@wi.rr.com. **Next: TBA**

Moms Group

Third Tuesdays: 5:30 pm at COL. Contact is Natalie Kamenick: natalie@unitybrookfield.org. **Next: Jan. 16**

Photography Group

Monthly via emails and in person 1-2 times per year. Contact is Brad Wilkins: bwilkins012@gmail.com. **Next: TBA**

Quilting Group

Every Monday: 9:30 am in COL Art Room. Contact is Linda Anderson: llanderson1705@gmail.com **Jan. 8-29**

Sew Comfy Group

Second Thursdays: 9 am in COL Art Room. Contact is Tami Miller: tamimiller119@gmail.com. **Feb. 8**

Want to Start a New Chapter?

Men's Thursday Book Group

Second Thursdays: 7 pm at homes. Contact is Mark Nelson: milwnelson@aol.com. **Next: Jan. 11 at G. Bonk's**

Women's Thursday Book Group

First Thursdays: 7 pm, Locations TBA. Contact is Patty Polczynski: ppolczynski10@gmail.com. **Jan. 4**

Do You Like to Meet & Eat?

Ladies Tuesday Lunch

First Tuesdays: 11:30 am at Maxim's. Contact is Nancy Kostanski: nancy@unitybrookfield.org. **Next: Jan. 2**

Lunch Bunch

Second Wednesdays: 11:30 am at Maxim's. Contact is Esther McKee: emckee1@gmail.com. **Next: Jan. 10**

Men's Saturday Breakfast Group

Third Saturdays: 7:30 am in COL Kitchen. Contact TBA. **Next: Jan. 20**

Our Newest Small Group!

20Somethings (for Young Adults)

As Scheduled: Contact is Matt Griepentrog: matt@unitybrookfield.org. **Next is TBA; Contact Matt to receive emails.**

Below: Our Sew Comfy Group, which makes pillows for people with breast cancer, made 472 pillows in 2023 alone! What a blessing.



Men's First Tuesday Breakfast

First Tuesdays: 7 am at The Corners Restaurant in Pewaukee. **Next: Jan. 2**



2023 Finance Update and Anticipating 2024

UNITY, your financial support during December was abundant!

We went into December with an operating deficit of about \$96,000 and were even farther behind in relation to budgeted giving. We needed at least our second biggest December ever to break even for 2023. Due to super strong support, we achieved our second largest December ever! We believe we have also reached break-even for the year on an operating basis, which is remarkable! Thank you all, many times over, for your support of our ministries.

Combined with the strength of our special appeals for partners during 2023, it was a year of need after need being met. The time and talents shared by hundreds of you coupled with financial gifts also made by hundreds of you helped us meet our goals. Thank you!

Let's Make 2024 Our Sweetest Year!

If you combine our pledges and ongoing EFTs, shortly after Christmas we were within 2 pledges of our goal of 300 pledges for 2024! Of the 298 commitments, over 40 were from people who had not pledged before! Our strongest years of the past five (2018 and 2022) were when the pledge responses exceeded 300. Thank you for the great response!

If you have not yet pledged for 2024, it's not too late to do so. The easiest way to pledge is to visit the [Stewardship page](#) on our website at [unitybrookfield.org](#). Our sincere thanks for your continued support of UNITY! YOU are an important part of our Sweet Story!

STEWARDSHIP APPEAL:
It's not too late to Pledge!
Visit our [Stewardship web page](#).



Money Matters

It's a New Year! January is a busy time for the Finance Team. First, we do an in-depth analysis of last year's finances. We take that analysis with the results of the Stewardship Appeal and different teams requests, and put together a preliminary budget. This year we will be adding into the budget for the Pastoral Call Process and what needs that team has. With this, we are able to meet with the HR Team to finalize the increase in salaries for the upcoming year. The Finance Team then meets again to make the puzzle of a budget work. This is usually our longest meeting of the year. There are conversations about what the buildings will need, what amounts should be given to benevolence, and staffing needs, to name a few. Once we have made all of the necessary changes and the budget balances, we bring it to Council. At the Council meeting we sometimes make more changes. Then we conclude with our final budget.

Keep your eyes open for a few dates in February. We will have a meeting to go through the previous year's finances and the budget. This is a great time for any questions you may have. Usually, a week or two after this we will have the Annual Meeting, where the congregation will approve the budget. There will be more info coming soon with these dates.

As always, contact me at alzastrow@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

~ Adrienne Krueger, Treasurer



Thanks to ALL who made Advent Fest 2023 the special event it was – including Marv Wunder, who once again shared his Wunder-ful gift of Christmas music!

Council Corner

"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."
~ Isaiah 43: 18-19

It's a New Year! A new year gives us time to reflect on last year and look forward to the coming year.

It gives us time to look back and see all of the things we accomplished or didn't. All the ways we changed or grew or didn't. A time to have us look back and see if we checked off any of those boxes on our Bucket List, or maybe we just added to the list.

This past year was the first time I checked off a couple items from my Bucket List. My husband and I went to Iceland, and we saw the Northern Lights. We were able to enjoy them on two different nights and they truly are magical. My second check this past year was a partial one. I have always wanted to drink Guinness in Ireland because I heard the Guinness in Ireland is different. While in Iceland, we went to an Irish pub called the Irish Man. They had Guinness on tap that was imported from Ireland! While it was not a Guinness in Ireland, it was one made in Ireland; a partial check!

The problem with Bucket Lists is they are not on our annual goals. They are there to be done by the time our time here on earth is complete. So, they are pushed down on the level of importance for another day or another time. But we don't know when our time here will be done. Sometimes we have an idea, but unfortunately sometimes it is very unexpected. **I challenge you this year to make one of your Bucket List items a goal for 2024.** Check that box! Climb that mountain, see that waterfall, swim with the dolphins or visit that winery in Italy. It is such an amazing feeling of completion.

~ Adrienne Krueger, Treasurer

**Make 2024 YOUR
Year of the Bucket List!**



Pastoral Call Team is Ready for Action!

UNITY's Council gives great thanks to the 17 faithful and generous members who offered to serve on the Call Team for the search for our next pastors.

From that pool they picked a group of "at large" members to be joined by reps from youth, the HR Team, Council, and the pastors. **Those serving include: Nelson Brownell, David Engle, Mary Huss, Matt Jolliff, Jim Johnsen, Linda Johnson, Logan Kemper, Mark Krause, Davida Kroepfl, Jessica Schrieber and Melanie Varin.**

If you know any of them, you know they are committed and big-hearted people from a huge variety of backgrounds who all trust God and care deeply about our community. We are blessed to have them! The same can be said of those who were ultimately not chosen, all of whom have offered to help and support in any way they can. **Please keep the team in your prayers as they begin meeting on our behalf, and we give thanks to God for all the good people in our midst!**

Search Continues for UNITY Youth Director

Unlike past searches that have brought 8-12 resumes, we have only received two for our Youth Director position. Despite this, UNITY's Youth Program continues every week, and it is the strongest when our teens and parents are actively involved. Thanks to all who have been a part, and know there's always room for more! **If you or someone you know is interested, contact Eric Borkenhagen at ericnborkenhagen@gmail.com or 262-442-6283.** Find a Job Description at the "Youth Director" link under "Job Posting" on our [Sign Up](#) web page.



Blessed by Visitation Ministry – Both Ways! Two Messages from Jim Ahlquist, Minister of Member Care



Happened again the other day. Went to bring a word of love, care, and hope to a member of UNITY who was struggling with life. I walked out of the room blessed beyond measure! Don't we all yearn for those experiences that bring meaning and purpose? I sensed that hunger as people at both campuses put together gift bags before Christmas for the home-bound, among others touched by illness and death this past year. Volunteers showed up in large numbers, excited to deliver LOVE in what seemed a small way.

Most of us are searching for ways to fill the "hollows of our hearts" and find fulfillment in our crazy world. We want the same for our kids and grandkids, knowing we so often look in all the wrong places. Allow me to invite you to such an experience – Visitation Ministry! Thanks to those who are already doing this: providing kind, thoughtful words through a phone call or card, a visit with cookies, and even Communion. As I make my way around our membership, the numbers and the needs for Visitation are so much greater!

If you're interested in helping to provide Visitation Ministry, please join us for an initial and informational meeting on THURSDAY, JANUARY 11: 1:00 PM at CTK and 6:00 PM at COL. If you would like to attend, please call the Church Office at 262-781-7600 or contact me. This will be a gathering of current visitation people and others who may be interested in such an experience! We will look at contacts, who is covered and who isn't for visitation, discuss Communion (you don't have to do this), and other ways of reaching out.

You will be a blessing to others, and I promise you, YOU WILL BE BLESSED!
If you would like to PROVIDE Visitation Ministry, please contact me at jim@unitybrookfield.org or 715-210-2245 (cell).



Happened again the other day. A member received some difficult news weeks before and thought the caring staff at UNITY knew all about it. No longer do hospitals or other places notify us. Often these days, surgeries are outpatient and you go home feeling much worse than before. It's up to you or your family to let us know what's going on. If you would rather keep the information on the private prayers of a pastor(s), that's okay. If you would like to receive a visit or Communion, please let us know.

If you have lost a close loved one, or find yourself (or family/friend) alone and homebound, please let us know as well. The Pastors and Staff at UNITY care about all of you and want to be there for you during those difficult times. Our Visitation Team will be ready and honored to pray and commune with you.

Life is so often difficult, but we are so much better together as a caring community with the help of God! **If you or someone you know would like to RECEIVE Visitation Ministry, please contact me at jim@unitybrookfield.org or 715-210-2245 (cell).**

Whether you could use a little TLC or you'd like to provide some to others, you have a special place with UNITY's Visitation Ministry. Read more above and contact [Jim Ahlquist](#).





Please note this calendar is tentative. Watch your email, our website and Facebook for updates.



Christ the King Campus



Cross of Life Campus

Colors denote campuses *only*;
Join in, either place, at any time!

Worship Schedule

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm: WORSHIP at COL

SUNDAYS

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

ONLINE After 5 pm on Saturdays



Sundays in January

January 7

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

3:00 pm: Sr. High: Snow Tubing at
Sunburst, then time at Horner-Iblers'
5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns

January 14

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: Adult Forum at COL: Photo
Editing Tips with Brad Wilkins

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

6:00 pm: Sr. High: Create Memory Tiles
at COL for Waukesha Parade Memorial

January 21

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: Mini Book Club at COL:
"Atomic Habits" Part 1

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

6:00 pm: Sr. High: Pre-Finals Relaxation
Night at COL

January 28

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: Mini Book Club at COL:
"Atomic Habits" Part 2

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

Time TBA: Sr. High: Escape Room

Monday, January 1 ~ New Year's Day

Tuesday, January 2

7:00 am: First Tuesday Men's Breakfast:

The Corners Restaurant in Pewaukee

11:30 am: Ladies Tues. Lunch: Maxim's

Wednesday, January 3

6:15 pm: Confirmation Orientation

Thursday, January 4

7:00 pm: Women's Thursday Book Group

Saturday, January 6

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

5:00 pm: Online Service Posted

Monday, January 8

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, January 9

6:00-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

7:00 pm: Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 10

11:30 am: Lunch Bunch for All: Maxim's

6:15 pm: Confirmation Classes

Thursday, January 11

1:00 pm: Visitation Ministry Mtg. at CTK

6:00 pm: Visitation Ministry Mtg. at COL

7:00 pm: Men's Thursday Book Group
at Greg Bonk's Home

Friday, January 12

5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns

Saturday, January 13

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

5:00 pm: Online Service Posted

Monday, January 15

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

9:00 am: Servanthood Blitz at COL:

Sunday School Kids, Grade 2 & Up

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, January 16

5:30 pm: Moms Group at COL

6:00-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

Wednesday, January 17

5:45 pm: Confirmation Dinner

6:15 pm: Confirmation Classes

Saturday, January 20

7:30 am: Men's Breakfast Group at COL

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

5:00 pm: Online Service Posted

Monday, January 22

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, January 23

6:00-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

Wednesday, January 24

6:15 pm: Confirmation Classes

Saturday, January 27

9:00 am: Volunteer at Food Pantry

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

5:00 pm: Online Service Posted

Monday, January 29

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

5:45 pm: Volunteer at Food Pantry

Wednesday, January 31

6:15 pm: Confirmation Classes





UNITY ~ January Birthdays

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Sarah Nustad
Geoff Sheldon | 15. Sharon Giessen
Teddy Groth
William Komassa | 24. Kim Bell
Emma Jansen
Steve Johnson
Nick Kammers
David Piontek
Katharine Work |
| 2. Todd Chambers
Frank Riederer
Jim Seftar | 16. Benjamin Kindler
Nicholas Maritz | 25. Callie Alft
Roger Anderson
Emma Jester |
| 3. Kathleen Brass
Sarah Cameron
Lucas Edgerly
Esther McKee
Victor Schultz | 17. Christine Nelson
Tiffany Reay | 26. Pam Anderson
Sam Brown
Adam Feller
Sarah Ocampo |
| 4. Thomas Kindler
Arianna McCumber | 18. Jill Barney
Joan Krause
Nicki Shady | 27. Michele Houdek
Kelsey Morrison
Heather Savignac
Aidan Sheldon |
| 5. Jan Constable
Jonathon Gutzeit
Ron Hurab
Paul Johnson
Ross Pelzel
Irene Secora | 19. Heather Berglund
Evan Knoernschild
Tami Miller
Molly Nemcek
Lisa Reid
Brad Wilkins | 28. Jim Ahlquist
Hannah Wickland |
| 6. Brian Krier
Kathy Savignac | 20. Stacy Geiss
Jo Gould
Mark Nemcek
Jacob Riederer
Erica Ruiz
Cheryl Schiesl
Trevor Skaife
Abby Winn | 29. Jolene Epding
Dan Hastings
Kim Keup
Adam Klick
Jeana Lein |
| 8. Lauren Conlin
Darren Gill | 21. Richard Cantu
David Nemcek
Samuel Whitehead | 30. Kevin Driscoll |
| 9. Liane Blouin
Anna Drescher
Karen Hartzler
Kimberly Knoernschild | 22. Nathan Bublitz
Jerry Malcore
Anden Nellis
James Schumacher | 31. Alexander Eidem
Connor Hubert
Bob Rusk |
| 10. Tammy Lee
Kerri Muche
Patty Polczynski
Ethan Sitterly
Ruby Soik | 23. Joanne Durand
Karl Eidem
Gabe Gonzales
Matt Griepentrog
Tim Nustad
John Peterson | |
| 11. Owen Zimmer | | |
| 12. Robert Brophey
Bernd Bruhnke | | |
| 14. Joseph Gobis
Sarah Gutzeit
Grace Leverenz
Jake Voss
Shirley Wenzel | | |



***"Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve.
Middle age is when you're forced to." ~ Bill Vaughan***

Minister's Minute

"As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him."
~ Jesus calls first disciples, Mark 1:16-20

On January 31 our 41 Confirmation students (7th and 8th grade) took their final test on the Gospels, one of the six trimesters in their program. For the past 8 weeks they've been learning to recognize the unique voices of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and the last (and hardest) part of the test is a page with 12 different Gospel passages, each unidentified. The students' task is to figure out, based on their characteristics, which Gospel each passage is from.

The above passage is one of the 12. And if YOU took the test you would of *course* know this was from Mark because of the use of Mark's most common catch phrase, "immediately." And of *course* you would recognize that only the action-oriented Gospel of Mark would use "immediately" in chapter 1 and have already launched right into Jesus' ministry, without bothering to include a genealogy, poem, birth story, or poignant profile stories of the temple and people like Anna and Simeon found in the other gospels. "Let's get going" says Mark!

Meanwhile, our newly assembled Pastoral Call Team has hit the ground running to compile our Ministry Site Profile (MSP), a 14-page document that is like a very expanded job description, which uses both demographics and reflection questions to convey who we are to potential pastor candidates. That Call Team has the unenviable task of capturing in just 14 pages why we love this place, why candidates could too, and how we see God calling our community to follow the Spirit into the future.

And they hope to do all of this in time to share a draft with you at our upcoming Annual Meeting on February 25! It is very rare for a church to be able to even start the MSP process before current pastors leave, let alone publish their profile, and this will give us a great head start going into this double call process.

The Call Team will need your help to do this. You all are our best evangelists for this place. They will look to you for help in putting into words what this place means to us, how we take the Gospels seriously but don't take ourselves too seriously, how we enjoy each other, how we find purpose in our partnerships.

There will be 5 "Congregational Input Meetings" – in person and on Zoom – and a survey for anyone who can't join in person. (See dates at right.)

What called you to drop your nets and join in the work of this place?

On Sunday, January 21, the Spirit gave me a fun reminder of my own "why".... I had included in that weekend's sermon some slightly obscure and more than slightly graphic Bible passages from the prophets about tyrants being torn from their thrones and carcasses scattered in the desert for scavengers.... Confirmation students are tasked with filling out "c-mail" notes during worship with their reactions to the service, and a student came up to me after worship with a half-filled-out c-mail form, the biggest eyes, and hugest smile and said, "No way that stuff is really in our Bible!"

Far more than knowing all the right answers to any test, my real prayer for our Confirmation students is that they fall in love with our scriptures, or at least get enough of a sense of who Jesus is to be intrigued about what else they might discover down the road. That they'd learn how to form and be part of a community focused on others rather than self. And that they'd have something to hang on to when life gets hard.

It is my prayer for any potential future pastors here too. Not that they would have all the right answers, but that they would fall in love with you and this place, or at least get enough of a sense of who we are to be intrigued about what we might discover together. That together we can share the great joy of having a purpose beyond ourselves and people to lean on when life is hard.

Pray for those 41 students as they begin Trimester 3, pray for the Call Team as they begin their work, and pray for any pastor to come to be blessed as I have been. May we follow Jesus together!

~ Muriel

CONGREGATIONAL INPUT MEETINGS

Please attend at least one!

Sunday, February 11

9:30 am at COL & 10:30 am at CTK
(after worship at each campus)

Tuesday, February 20

6:30 pm on Zoom (link to come)

Wednesday, February 21

5:45 pm at COL (before Lent Worship, during Soup Supper)

Thursday, February 22

7:00 pm at CTK



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 25 • 9:30 am
In Person at COL & CTK and Zoom
See page 5 for Worship Schedule

PRE-MEETING INFO FORUMS

Sunday, February 18:
9:30 am at COL • 10:30 am at CTK



Two-Campus Ministry in Brookfield, Wis. • unitybrookfield.org

Christ the King: 4600 Pilgrim Rd. • Zip: 53005 • (262) 781-7600

Cross of Life: 20700 W. North Ave. • Zip: 53045 • (262) 781-7600



Lent as Shared Faith Exploration; Bloom with Us!

Our overall theme for Lent this year is: ***"Bloom! Growing Healthier Yourself and Making It Healthier for Others Too."*** Our Worship & Music team is excited about this theme because "health" has both personal and social determinants, which makes it a lot like faith. Our Adult Programs team is excited because the idea of blooming where we're planted is a great place to focus our spiritual attention during Lent. We'd love it if everyone can play a role in that focus! **We're hoping you'll read our Lenten Daily Devotional Emails and are looking for people to write them as well!** Please read more on this page and Bloom with us in Faith this Lent!

Daily Devotional Emails: Sign Up to RECEIVE Them

We plan to create daily faith explorations, or devotions, for Lent that will be emailed to anyone who signs up for them – a plan similar to what we've done in the past. **Sign up through SignUp Genius by clicking HERE to receive them.**

Daily Devotional Emails: Sign Up to WRITE One

Why would you write a Lenten Daily Devotional? Because yours is a perspective which maybe no one else will bring! It's true. They're short (about 250 words). They can be personally reflective or can quote statistics. They can be a small story from your own life or a dive into a Bible passage. You could choose to write on one day of a particular week based on what interests you. This is a deeper-than-superficial way for us to speak and listen to each other. ***We would love for you to be one of the 49 authors of these important ways to grow together in faith ... that is, Bloom!*** **Sign up through SignUp Genius by clicking HERE to contribute!** Questions? Contact Matt Griepentrog, Adult Programs Director, at matt@unitybrookfield.org.

Ash Wednesday Services: Noon at CTK • 7 pm at COL

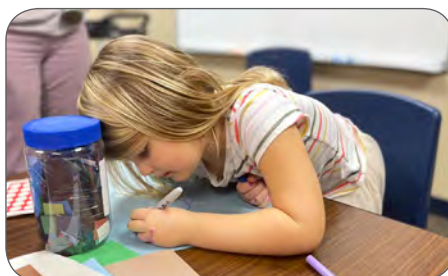
Lent begins on February 14 with Ash Wednesday. Worship services will be at noon at our CTK campus and 7 pm at our COL campus. We will gather to remember that we are the Lord's in our living and our dying through the ritual of the "Imposition of Ashes." A black cross made from ashes of palm branches will be placed on the foreheads of anyone who wishes to receive it as a sign of our humanness, but also as a sign of who we are in Christ through our baptism.



Lent For Littles Program: Tuesdays, Feb. 20-Mar. 19

Lent For Littles program is back for 2024! Each Tuesday during Lent (February 20-March 19) enjoy a simple and kid-friendly meal from 5:30-6:00 pm at our COL campus, followed by family activities for kids and their adults to do together. Activities from 6:00-6:30 pm will be geared toward Grade 1-6, and 6:30-7:00 pm activities will be geared toward PreK-Grade 1 to mirror the schedule for any kids in choir ... but come whenever it works for you! ***Please note that ALL families are welcome to join our Lent for Littles Program!***

Can you Lend a Hand with Lent for Littles Meals? We are in need of one shopper and one meal maker/server for each week. **Please sign up through SignUp Genius by clicking HERE.**



Lent Wednesdays: Worship & Meal: Feb. 21 - March 20

Join us for a meal & worship the five Wednesdays following Ash Wednesday: February 21-March 20.

At Christ the King: We'll begin with a meal of soup and sides at noon, then transition into a short time of worship and be sent on our way by 1 pm.

At Cross of Life: Dinner is served from 5:30 pm until worship begins at 6:50 pm, with the evening typically closing by 7:30 pm. Each week we serve a soup and a side.

Can you help with Lent Meals?

We are blessed to have many Small Groups hosting Lent Wednesdays and helping with setup, soup & entree making, and serving & cleanup. But we still need shoppers and desserts! **For CTK there will be a paper sign-up. For COL, sign up through SignUp Genius by clicking HERE.**

NEW THIS YEAR: SOUP GROUP!

We plan on making the soup each week in the COL kitchen at 2 pm on Wednesdays. Do you like to cook but think it's more fun with others? Jump in for a fun time of cooking together led by Nancy Kostanski! Questions? Contact nancy@unitybrookfield.org.



LENT WEDNESDAYS

12:00 pm: Soup & Worship at CTK
5:30 pm: Soup Supper at COL
6:00 pm: Confirmation Classes
6:50 pm: Worship at COL

DON'T JUST LIVE...





Weekly Online Bible Study: February 15-March 14

Introducing our Weekly Online Bible Study during Lent: *"Timely Truths: Our Most Important Beliefs and Why They Matter in a De-Churching World."* Be a part of this weekly study led by John Horner-Ibler. We will meet **online five Thursdays: February 15-March 14, from 7:00-8:00 pm. There are 3 ways to be a part of this:**

- 1) Join the Zoom session and participate in real time (link coming);
- 2) Watch it on Facebook. Participate via a slightly delayed texting feature;
- 3) Watch it after the fact on your own time on [UNITY's website](#).

These sessions will be Bible Study & Book Club mix. We suggest reading *The Great Dechurching: Who's Leaving, Why Are They Going, And What Will It Take To Bring Them Back?* by Jim Davis and Michael Graham. We'll read 3 chapters a week and look at the 5 realms of understanding in our faith tradition: covenant & community, invitation & inclusion, healing & forgiveness, freedom & sacrifice, and divinity & love. The study will look at the decline in church participation, particularly since 2010, and what a church like UNITY might do to get ahead of a curve that needn't discourage us. The Bible always has much to teach, and new research opens our eyes to the good changes that lie ahead for Jesus' people.

Special "One Night Only" Small Groups During Lent

Don't just live ... Bloom! Come join our "One Night Only" Small Groups!

This year for Lent, we are offering four unique, one-time experiences for groups to come together and experience our Lent theme in different ways. Each group will meet one time and learn about our theme during their time together. **Sign up through [SignUp Genius](#) by clicking [HERE](#).**

BLOOM & BAKING

**Thursday, February 22
7:00-8:30 pm at COL**

Join us as we bake desserts for our servant partners!

BLOOM & BOURBON

**Thursday, March 7
7:00-8:30 pm at Host Home**

Join us for a night of bourbon tasting! Bring a bottle of your favorite to share.

BLOOM & BOARD GAMES

**Monday, March 11
7:00-8:30 pm at COL**

Join us for a Game Night! We'll end with a devotion and short discussion. All ages are welcome to play and childcare will be available.

BLOOM & BULBS

**Thursday, March 14
11:00-12:30 pm at CTK**

Join us for an *afternoon* of Spring Garden Planning! You'll receive bulbs to take home for planting.

Looking Back on Lent 2023: We Have Always Bloomed!



Sunday Lent Bible Studies Coming to COL & CTK in March

**March 3, 10 & 17: 9:45 am at COL
Led by Pastor Dave Meissner**

Our Lenten theme calls for us to "Bloom Where You Are Planted!" That's both challenging and exciting! But the Bible shows us how to *practically* make it happen. **We'll look at:**

- How to grow and mature in our faith
- How to consult with God in our daily decision making
- What Jesus has to say about our Christian values and morals.

If you want to grow in your walk with Jesus and are ready for something more than usual, join Pastor Dave Meissner as he leads this 3-week study.

**March 3, 10 & 17: 10:30 am at CTK
Led by Matt Griepentrog**

Watch for more info about Matt's Bible Study focused on our "Bloom" theme, then join us for great discussions!





Prayers for Our El Salvador Travelers: February 10-17

Our Mission of Healing Trip to El Salvador will be held February 10-17.

The group will include UNITY members and friends, plus travelers from Atonement Lutheran Church in Muskego. **Please pray for our 24 travelers:** Greg Buck, Cari Corozza, Debbie Dolata-Drent, Cindy Dostal, Mary Ehrsmann, Julie Elliott, Jolene Epding, Eric Gravenkamp, Mike Gutzeit, Julie Hoesly, Emily Johnson, Janice Johnson, Mike Johnson, Justin Kuehl, Megan Meiklejohn, Sue Mours, Mike Ocampo, Alice Otto, Muriel Otto, Samantha Ranney, Trisha Smith, Sean Stevens-Fabry, Erika Taipala and Alice Thompson.

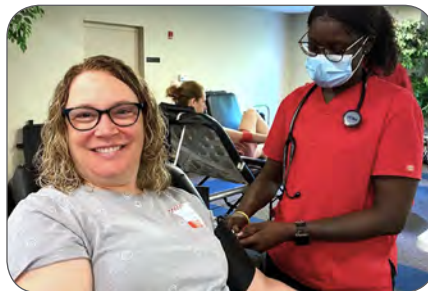
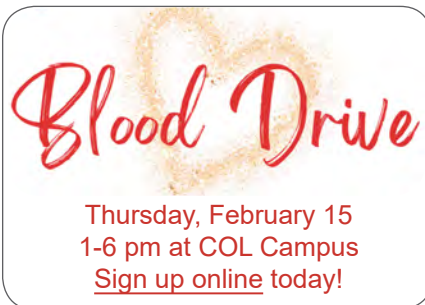
Our group will travel on February 10, worship with Cordero de Dios on February 11, and visit a different town each day from February 12-15 to help run a clinic and health fair. Then on February 16 they will enjoy some important playtime with our partners, then travel home on February 17.

Blessings on this important ministry and praying for safe travels for all!



Show Some LOVE at Our Blood Drive on February 15

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day – a day full of hearts and love. How appropriate that the next day is our Blood Drive! **Please donate at UNITY's Blood Drive on Thursday, February 15, from 1:00-6:00 pm at our COL campus.** To select your time, go to the Red Cross Sign Up page for UNITY on our Sign Up web page. OR, call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) and provide the Sponsor Code: UNITYBROOKFIELD. Need help? Contact Marilyn Ranney at 414-975-5606 or ranneymarilyn@gmail.com. Appointments are recommended, but walk-ins are welcome. *Thank you!*



Bread of Healing Needs RN's in Paid & Volunteer Roles

Bread of Healing is looking to fill RN positions: paid staff and volunteer.

If interested in even just a conversation, please contact Barbara Horner-Ibler at barbara.horner@breadofhealing.org.

Paid RN position: 10-20 hours/week.

This is a community nursing position, working in a great clinic with wonderful patients and a welcoming atmosphere. We need an RN individual to supplement existing RN staff. (UNITY member Kathy Nevermann is one of them!) Hours can be very flexible, even from week to week. They vary from 8 am-7 pm, accommodating early morning and evening people! The primary responsibility is to maintain patient flow through the clinic: checking blood pressures and blood sugars, following up on labs, drawing labs, rooming patients and handing off to providers. If you aren't confident in certain skills, no worries! We teach people all the time (nursing students, pharmacy students, medical students, social work students, etc.). We are really good at that! So come and join us ... or at least, come and talk to us!

Volunteer RN positions: Same as the above position description but on a far more flexible schedule of only 4 hours at a time: once per week, month or quarter; you decide! Our patient base is expanding as patients lose coverage they had through the pandemic under Badger Care. We need your help!



Thanks to all who participated in our Servanthood Blitz on January 15! Check out the numbers at right to see the impact our Sunday School kids had on our community, and see more great photos on our Facebook page. What a blessing to be a blessing!

Servanthood Blitz by the Numbers: What a Blessing!

Check out what our Sunday School kids accomplished on January 15 during Servanthood Blitz! They ...

- Made 114 Birthday Bags
- Made 9 Fleece Blankets
- Decorated 221 Cookies
- Cleaned 1000's of Nursery Toys
- Prepared 100 Craft Kits for the kids in El Salvador

The energy in the building was amazing thanks to the 45 kids and 10 adults who blessed others during this National Day of Service. *Thank you!*



Annual Meeting: Sunday, February 25 at 9:30 am

Please make every effort to attend our Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 25, at 9:30 am. We'll have a shortened 8:30 am worship at COL, then people can remain in the building for the meeting at 9:30 am. For those at the CTK campus, come to CTK at 9:30 am, grab your doughnut & coffee and head into the sanctuary for the meeting ... then stay for a worship service at 10:45 am! **A Zoom link will be available for anyone attending our Annual Meeting at home.** Please watch for that to come through email. **NEW THIS DAY:** There will be a worship service and Sunday School at both COL AND CTK at 10:45 am, along with a live-streamed worship service at 10:45 am for those at home.

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 25 • 9:30 am
In Person at Both Campuses & Zoom



Pre-Annual Meeting Forums on Sunday, February 18

Our Pre-Annual Meeting Info Forums will be held on Sunday, February 18, at 9:30 am at COL and 10:30 am at CTK. Join our Treasurer Adrienne Krueger and Finance Chair Phil Roemaat, along with other Council members, to hear how 2023 ended and get the 2024 budget they will propose the following weekend. In addition to reading reports from our Staff and Council members, you'll be able to review financial info and ask any questions you have. *This is the perfect pre-meeting opportunity!*



PRE-MEETING INFO FORUMS

Sunday, February 18
9:30 am at COL • 10:30 am at CTK

UNITY's Pastoral Call Team Has Been Commissioned

Our Pastoral Call Team was "commissioned" during all worship services on January 27 & 28. They have begun their task, learning about how the process works to search and call next pastors, and preparing to compile UNITY's Ministry Site Profile (MSP), a detailed document that conveys who we are as a church to potential candidates, with everything from church financial history, area demographics, staffing structure, priorities and mission.

The group is made up of 8 "at large" members plus reps from Youth, the HR Team, Council, and the pastors. They are committed and big-hearted people from a wide variety of backgrounds who all trust God and care deeply about our community.

Our "commissioning" service on January 27-28 included a laying on of hands, a charge to the work, and a reminder of the support of this church and presence of our God with them. They appreciate all the prayers already being lifted on their behalf. We give thanks for all the good people in this place, and those yet to come!

Those serving on the Pastoral Call Team include: Nelson Brownell, David Engle, Mary Huss, Jim Johnsen, Linda Johnson, Matt Jolliff, Logan Kemper (Youth Rep), Mark Krause (HR Rep), Davida Kroepfl (Council Rep), Jessica Schrieber & Melanie Varin. Please continue to keep them in your prayers!

Can You Sponsor Altar Flowers?

Thanks for beautifying our spaces with altar flowers! Sponsors are needed at both campuses. **Visit our [SignUp Genius for the 2024 calendar and for more details.](#)** Cost is only \$25 (payable by check or [online](#)). Need assistance signing up? Please email [Nancy Kostanski](#) or [Lynn Key](#), or call the church office at 262-781-7600.



Congregational Input Meetings: Please Attend!

Our Pastoral Call Team has set the dates for the Congregational Input Meetings to help them convey who we are to prospective pastor candidates. **Meeting dates are:**

Sunday, February 11

9:30 am at COL & 10:30 am at CTK (after worship at each campus)

Tuesday, February 20

6:30 pm on Zoom (link to come)

Wednesday, February 21

5:45 pm at COL (before Lent Worship, during Soup Supper)

Thursday, February 22

7:00 pm at CTK

They will also send a survey version for anyone for who can't make the in-person meetings, and they hope to share results and a draft of the church profile at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25, at 9:30 am.

Our Call Team will also take the next few months to introduce themselves to you and share what UNITY means to them, so watch for that info ... and thank you for commissioning them in prayer on January 27 & 28!



Celebrate. Share. Renew.

Moms Group Meets Feb. 20

Moms Group is a time for moms of all ages and stages to share stories, pray together, and deepen their faith. We start by serving dinner. Kids eat together with childcare, then join choir practice or play in the nursery while adults gather upstairs in the art room for dinner and a devotion. Most kids are in 3rd grade and under but anyone is welcome to join us for Moms Group!

We meet the third Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7:30 pm at COL. Our next gatherings for the program year are: February 20, March 19, April 16 & May 21. **Come find your tribe with us!**



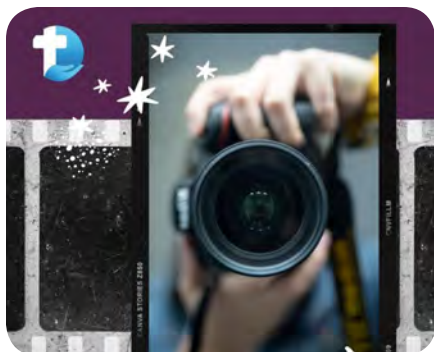
Adult Forum: Ellen Blathers, Golden Opps, on February 4

We will welcome guest speaker, Ellen Blathers, Executive Director of Golden Opportunities, on Sunday, February 4, at 9:30 am at COL. Golden Opportunities Partnership, Inc. ("Golden Opps") is a Mentorship Program that was launched in early 2021. It helps men who have graduated from addiction rehabilitation treatment programs successfully re-enter society, while at the same time experience life renewal and spiritual transformation through Jesus Christ. Learn more at goldenopp.org. *Pictured below: Ellen Blathers at their first Annual Awards Banquet on September 28, 2023.*



Photography Group Meets March 16; Aim to Join Us

All are invited to our next meeting of UNITY's Photography Group on Saturday, March 16, from 8:45-10:45 am at Birch & Banyan Coffee: 150 E. Capitol Dr. in Hartland. What to bring: your stories, questions (and equipment if you have an equipment question), and successes and challenges. One question to answer will be: "What are your Photographic Goals for 2024?" RSVP ASAP to Brad Wilkins at bwilkins012@gmail.com.



Be a Blessing TO Others through Visitation Ministry

Most of us are searching for ways to fill the "hollows of our hearts" and find fulfillment in our crazy world. We want the same for our kids and grandkids, knowing we so often look in all the wrong places. **We have the perfect opportunity for you here at UNITY: Visitation Ministry!** Thanks to those who are already doing this: providing kind, thoughtful words through a phone call or card, a visit with cookies, and even Communion. You are such a blessing to us! As we look around our membership, the need for Visitation continues to grow. The beautiful (and unintended, unavoidable) irony is that if you are a blessing to others, YOU will also be blessed! **If you would like to PROVIDE Visitation Ministry, please contact Jim Ahlquist, our Minister of Member Care, at jim@unitybrookfield.org or 715-210-2245.**

Be Blessed BY Others through Visitation Ministry

There are many tough situations we face, and for whatever reason, we sometimes choose to face them alone. But that's not how it has to be, or how it should be! Whether you've received difficult news, or are facing health concerns, or have lost a loved one, or find yourself alone and/or homebound, please reach out to us. If you wish to keep the information on the private prayers of a pastor(s), that's okay. **If you would like to receive a visit or Communion, our Visitation Team would be honored to do that!** Life is so often difficult, but we are so much better together as a caring community with the help of God! **If you or someone you know would like to RECEIVE Visitation Ministry, please contact Jim Ahlquist, our Minister of Member Care, at jim@unitybrookfield.org or 715-210-2245.**

"When I was a child and would see scary things on the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" ~ Fred Rogers

Help others by being a part of our Visitation Ministry! Get details above.

Searching for Youth Director

Thanks to the teens and parents who continue to be so actively involved, our Youth Program at UNITY remains strong! (Remember: any high school age teen is welcome to join in any activity at any time.) **We are still searching for a Youth Director. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Eric Borkenhagen at ericnborkenhagen@gmail.com or 262-442-6283.** You can find a Job Description at the "Youth Director" link under "Job Posting" on our [Sign Up web page](#).



Puzzle Library is Now Open!

Our new Jigsaw Puzzle Library at COL outside of Room 202 is open and available for your use! While you may have put the pieces together, did you know...? **We have a great Puzzle Library web page that shows photos of our selection!** It also gives instructions on how to check out and return puzzles, so there's no need to puzzle about it. Puzzles range from 200 to 3,000 pieces so you're sure to find one that fits. This is great fun for families, shut-ins, or those who love jigsaw puzzles! **Check it out today!**





Council Corner

The winter season, which rolls into February, always impacts me in a couple of ways. The first way is that Christmas spirit, that stays in our hearts, flows on through Valentine's Day, and lets us know to love ourselves so that we can love others. As it says in Psalm 139:14, *"I will give thanks to you because I have been so amazingly and miraculously made. Your works are miraculous, and my soul is fully aware of this."*

I truly make special efforts to plan events with family and friends, since there's no better way to beat the cold, snow or flu (or whatever else is going around with those long Wisconsin winters) without feeling cooped up inside our homes. The efforts could be as simple as making a phone call to reconnect, playing cards, or maybe organizing a Super Bowl party that gets us together to touch one another's hearts and feel connected!

The second way I am impacted by the winter season and February is the starting of Lent. Lent is a time of renewal and an anticipation of spring. Already my wife Diana and I are planning on expanding our garden, complete with a tall fence to ward off deer and other "critters." Our current smaller garden, near the northwest property line, does not get enough full day sun for plants to grow properly and therefore suffers dearly due to fully grown trees with limited light access. Before that garden can be built, our backyard must be cleaned up since the heavy snow and ice storms caused many busted branches to fall.

This cleanup work will extend to everyone around the area, which leads me to UNITY's property – which has also taken a beating. Clearly I am aware of fallen debris, near-fallen trees, busted branches, squashed bushes and a host of problems that will surface with the Spring Cleanup (or possibly earlier) work! Please allow me to plan for this needed future work. **There is an "All Teams" Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 13, at 6 pm, where we can address these situations and take the appropriate planning and actions.**

Thank you, everyone, for your ongoing support in 2024!

~ David Koenen, Property Chair

Mark Your Calendars!

Lock-In: Confirmation

Friday, March 1: 6:30 pm to midnight

Lock-In: Grades 2-3

Friday, March 8 at 7 pm to

Saturday, March 9 at 7 am

Lock-In: Grades 4-6

Friday, March 15 at 7 pm to

Saturday, March 16 at 7 am

First Communion Classes

Thursdays, May 9 & 16: 6:30-7:45 pm

First Communion Weekend

Saturday & Sunday, May 18 & 19

Vacation Bible School

Monday, June 17-Thursday, June 20

12:30-4:00 pm

(Aftercare available 4:00-5:00 pm)

Confirmation Bible Camp

Sunday, June 23 to Friday, June 28

(Confirmation Year 1 students)

East Coast Road Trip

Tuesday, July 9 to Friday, July 12

(Confirmation Year 2 students)

Sr. High Summer Trip

Sunday, July 14 to Sunday, July 21

(ELCA National Youth Gathering)



*"Whoever makes a garden
Has oh so many friends:
The glory of the morning,
The dew when daylight ends,
And rain and wind and sunshine
And dew and fertile sod,
For he who makes a garden
Works hand in hand with God."*

~Author Unknown



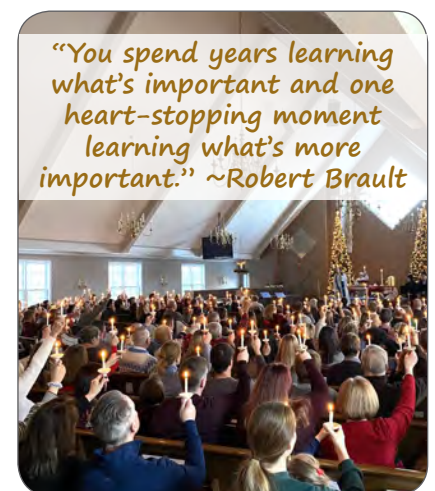
Money Matters

What a Sweet End to 2023!

Thank you for the remarkable response in giving and pledges. **The congregation responded to UNITY's budget needs and set a new record for the highest amount given in December! We ended 2023 with a surplus!** For the pledges, we made it to our goal of 300, and the financial commitments helped create the 2024 budget that will be voted on by the congregation at the Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, February 25, at 9:30 am.

In 2024, the Stewardship Team will bring you information on how everyone has time or talents that can benefit our church community. We will highlight how UNITY's volunteers are as equally important as the financial gifts UNITY receives. **Begin to think about something new that you might want to try.** My husband and I served as Ushers for the first time during a Christmas Eve service because a staff member directly asked us to help. We were nervous, especially with the lighting of all the candles while singing Silent Night, but no fires were started, and it was rewarding to see the lit-up church from a new angle. *Now I am tapping you on the shoulder just as someone tapped me to be an Usher. Imagine what new perspectives you may gain by saying "yes!"*

Trisha Smith, Stewardship Chair





Please note this calendar is tentative. Watch your email, our website and Facebook for updates.



Christ the King Campus



Cross of Life Campus

Colors denote campuses *only*;
Join in, either place, at any time!

Worship Schedule

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm: **WORSHIP at COL**

SUNDAYS

8:30 am: **WORSHIP at COL**

9:30 am: **WORSHIP at CTK**

10:30 am: **WORSHIP at COL**

ONLINE After 5 pm on Saturdays

Sundays in February

February 4

8:30 am: **WORSHIP at COL**

9:30 am: Adult Forum at COL: Ellen Blathers, Golden Opportunities

9:30 am: **WORSHIP at CTK**

10:30 am: **WORSHIP at COL**

5:00 pm: Sr. High Ski Trip Returns: COL
5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns

February 11

El Salvador Mission of Healing Trip

8:30 am: **WORSHIP at COL**

9:30 am: Congreg. Input Meeting: COL

9:30 am: **WORSHIP at CTK**

10:30 am: Congreg. Input Meeting: CTK

10:30 am: **WORSHIP at COL**

February 18

8:30 am: **WORSHIP at COL**

9:30 am: **PRE-ANNUAL MEETING INFO FORUM at COL**

9:30 am: **WORSHIP at CTK**

10:30 am: **PRE-ANNUAL MEETING INFO FORUM at CTK**

10:30 am: **WORSHIP at COL**

6:00 pm: Sr. High: Youth Board at COL

February 25

8:30 am: **WORSHIP at COL**

9:30 am: **Annual Meeting in place of Worship at CTK**

9:30 am: **ANNUAL MEETING: BOTH CAMPUSES In-Person & Via Zoom**

10:45 am: **WORSHIP at COL:**
NEW: This Day Only

10:45 am: **WORSHIP at CTK:**
NEW: This Day Only

10:45 am: **WORSHIP ONLINE**
NEW: This Day Only

Thursday, February 1

7:00 pm: Women's Book Group

Friday, February 2 ~ Groundhog Day

5:30 pm: Sr. High Ski Trip Departs COL

Saturday, February 3

Sr. High Ski Trip at Devil's Head

5:00 pm: **Worship at COL**

5:00 pm: **Online Service Posted**

Monday, February 5

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, February 6

7:00 am: Men's First Tuesday Breakfast

11:30 am: Ladies Tues. Lunch: Maxim's

6:00-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

Wednesday, February 7

4:45 pm: Partner Meal Prep at COL

5:45 pm: Confirmation Dinner

6:15 pm: Confirmation Classes

Thursday, February 8

9:00 am: Sew Comfy Group at COL

7:00 pm: Men's Thursday Book at CTK

Friday, February 9

5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns

Saturday, February 10

El Salvador Mission of Healing Trip

5:00 pm: **Worship at COL**

5:00 pm: **Online Service Posted**

Monday, February 12

El Salvador Mission of Healing Trip

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, February 13

El Salvador Mission of Healing Trip

6:00-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

6:00 pm: Council Mtg: Early (All-Teams)

Wednesday, February 14

ASH WEDNESDAY

El Salvador Mission of Healing Trip

12:00 pm: **WORSHIP at CTK**

7:00 pm: **WORSHIP at COL**

Thursday, February 15

El Salvador Mission of Healing Trip

1:00 pm: Blood Drive at COL

7:00 pm: Lenten Online Bible Study

Friday, February 16

El Salvador Mission of Healing Trip

Saturday, February 17

El Salvador Mission of Healing Trip

7:30 am: Men's Saturday Breakfast: COL

5:00 pm: **Worship at COL**

5:00 pm: **Online Service Posted**

Monday, February 19

Presidents Day

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, February 20

5:00 pm: Lent for Littles at COL

5:30 pm: Moms Group at COL

6:00-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

6:30 pm: Congreg. Input Meeting: Zoom

Wednesday, February 21

LENT WEDNESDAY

12:00 pm: **Soup & WORSHIP at CTK**

2:00 pm: Soup Group (Makers) at COL

5:30 pm: **Soup Supper at COL**

5:45 pm: Congreg. Input Meeting: COL

6:00 pm: Confirmation Classes

6:50 pm: **WORSHIP at COL**

Thursday, February 22

7:00 pm: Small Group: Bloom & Baking at COL Campus

7:00 pm: Lenten Online Bible Study

7:00 pm: Congreg. Input Meeting: CTK

Saturday, February 24

9:00 am: Volunteer at Food Pantry

5:00 pm: **Worship at COL**

5:00 pm: **Online Service Posted**

Monday, February 26

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, February 27

5:00 pm: Lent for Littles at COL

6:00-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

Wednesday, February 28 ~ LENT WED

LENT WEDNESDAY

12:00 pm: **Soup & WORSHIP at CTK**

2:00 pm: Soup Group (Makers) at COL

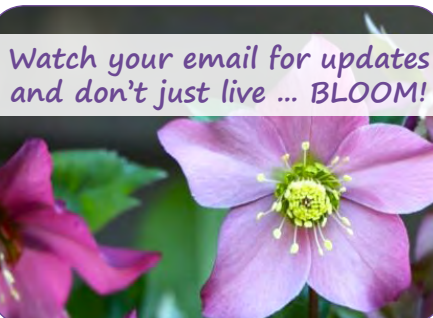
5:30 pm: **Soup Supper at COL**

6:00 pm: Confirmation Classes

6:50 pm: **WORSHIP at COL**

Thursday, February 29

7:00 pm: Lenten Online Bible Study



Minister's Minute

The first few weeks coming back from my sabbatical have been a whirlwind with the beginning of Lent, working with the Call Team, preparing for the Annual Meeting and getting caught up on all I missed, not to mention everything else happening. It's been crazy, but also a blessing!

Thank you for the gift of a sabbatical! Having last had the opportunity for one in 2015, and in light of all that has changed in the past three years and the upcoming transitions, it was a window of opportunity that likely would not have been possible again for a couple years, so thank you!

I'm especially grateful to John and Muriel and the rest of our staff for all that they did in covering for my absence, along with Eric Borkenhagen, our Youth Chair, who along with John and a little help from Ryan Johnson, has been a constant leader each week for our youth.

Some of you have asked about what all I got to do. I'm not going to be able to share it all here, but maybe I can share more on a Sunday afternoon. One of the things that was so valuable was the chance to visit other congregations – some in person and some virtually through their website and online worship service. There are a lot of great congregations of all sizes filled with good people doing creative things with deeply meaningful rituals. They're serving needs in ways like never before, often as a result of listening to their members and their community, and sometimes because things fell into their laps.

Sadly, there were a lot of congregations that are struggling.

Other than Christmas Eve and a few services led by their Praise Band in worship, I witnessed NO special music. No adult vocal choirs, no adult bell choirs, no kids or youth choirs, no one playing an instrument as a solo. A few places had song leaders to sing along with the hymns.

Of the places I visited, there wasn't a regular Sunday School that welcomed kids to just pop in. One place had Sunday School once or twice a month, based on if they had teachers signed up. In a lot of places, it was clear you had to register in advance because it wasn't obvious where they were even meeting in the building. Same with Nurseries. One place even had a sign saying it was "closed" because they had no one to staff it, which made it feel off limits for a parent to even just sit with their kids.

Many of the places that once had been the leaders in multi-site ministry had no mention of their second campus. Or, if there still was worship happening, you couldn't tell there was any connection between the two locations: no mention of it, no staff going back and forth, and no evidence of being able to share the same resources.

Some of these congregations were once much larger than UNITY, so while this year will bring transition and change (since there are more "see you arounds" to say), there is also so much we have to give thanks for as a congregation.

The strength of some of our most vital ministries, including Christian Education (Sunday School and Confirmation), Worship Involvement, and Servant Ministries is no small thing, and it is through these ministries that people are often first drawn in here.

We also recognize that with a little more staffing and input into what is needed by members, the areas we need to build back up or grow include our Youth program, our Adult Programs, and ways we can bring people together in worship or community in ways we haven't done yet before! There are lots of exciting possibilities for us to explore!

There's way more I'd love to share, but there's more I'd love to hear from YOU!

1.) Feel free to email, call, or text me to set up a time for coffee or lunch to talk, or let me know if you'd be interested in an hour to hear more Sabbatical highlights and reflections.

2.) Let me know if you have any creative ideas of your own. Watch for more that I'd love to experiment with, along with others from our staff, including:

- "Come Away with Jesus" – a Summer Bible Study series ON the water!
- Worship Experiences to feed your Spirit
- An overnight Women's Retreat either later this Spring or early this Fall
- An afternoon Men's Retreat featuring a favorite tool to show, a project to work on together, and a little game of golf without all the walking.

There's more to come, but for now, it's good to be back and to think about what we most need in order to Bloom!

~ Sherrie

*Continue Blooming in Your Faith
and Growing in God's Love as we
Journey to the Cross Together!
See Holy Week Schedule on page 3.*



Two-Campus Ministry in Brookfield, Wis. • unitybrookfield.org
 Christ the King: 4600 Pilgrim Rd. • Zip: 53005 • (262) 781-7600
 Cross of Life: 20700 W. North Ave. • Zip: 53045 • (262) 781-7600



Celebrate. Share. Renew.



Lent as Shared Faith Exploration; Bloom with Us!

This year's Lent Theme is: "Bloom! Growing Healthier Yourself and Making It Healthier for Others Too."

"Health" has personal and social determinants, which makes it a lot like faith, and the idea of blooming where we're planted is a great place to focus our spiritual attention during Lent.

Thanks to our many members who have written Lenten Daily Devotionals!

If you'd like to receive Lenten Daily Devotionals in your email, sign up through our [Lent 2024 web page](#) by clicking [HERE](#). Want to read them but don't want more emails? View them at any time on our [Lent 2024 web page](#)!

DON'T JUST LIVE...



Lent Offerings to Re-Roof Elementary School in Rutilio

UNITY's 2024 Lent offerings will go toward re-roofing the elementary school at Rutilio Grande, one of our **El Salvador partners**. Anything you give designated for "Lent Offering" (at church or donated online) will go toward that project. If we raise more, extra dollars will help create a fenced-in area around the preschool. **Our overall goal is \$15,000**, which would be enough for the roof and half the fence. Thank you for helping us share beyond ourselves this Lent!



Lent For Littles & Families on Tuesdays: All Welcome!

Lent For Littles & Families is held through March 19 on Tuesdays from 5:30-7:00 pm at our COL campus.

Enjoy a simple, kid-friendly meal from 5:30-6:00 pm, followed by family activities for kids and their adults to do together. Activities from 6:00-6:30 pm are geared toward Grade 1-6, and activities from 6:30-7:00 pm are geared toward PreK-Grade 1 to mirror the schedule for any kids in choir ... but come whenever it works for you! *ALL families are welcome to join us!*

Can you lend a hand with these meals? We need one shopper and one meal maker/server for each week. **Sign up through our [Lent 2024 web page](#) by clicking [HERE](#).** An email will be sent to the shopper in the days prior to the meal with a list of needed items. *Thank you for your help!*



Check out our
**[LENT 2024
WEB PAGE!](#)**

*It's one stop shopping
for All-Things-Lent!*

Lent Wednesdays: Enjoy Meal & Worship at CTK, COL

Through March 20, come for a meal and worship on Lent Wednesdays!

We live stream the COL worship service each week to [Facebook](#).

At Christ the King: We begin with a meal of soup and sides at noon, then transition into a short time of worship and be sent on our way by 1 pm.

At Cross of Life: Dinner is served from 5:30 pm until worship at 6:50 pm (which is also live streamed), with the evening closing by 7:30 pm. Each week we serve a soup and a side.



Can you help with Lent Meals?

We are blessed to have many Small Groups hosting Lent Wednesdays and helping with setup, soup & entree making, and serving & cleanup. But we still need shoppers and desserts! **For CTK there will be a paper sign-up. For COL, sign up by clicking [HERE](#).** **NEW THIS YEAR: SOUP GROUP!** We make soup each week in the COL kitchen Wednesdays at 2 pm. *Just show up for a fun time of cooking together led by [Nancy Kostanski](#)!*



BLOOM through LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES!

See page 5 for info about our:

- Sunday Bible Studies: March 3, 10, 17
- One Night Only Small Groups: March 7, 11, 14
- Craft & Bloom Creative Event: March 10
- Online Bible Study: through March 14





Easter Flower Sale: Order Forms Due March 21

As is tradition at both campuses, Easter flowers you purchase will be "planted" around our altars. You can choose from a variety of flowers and take them home following any Easter Sunday worship. If you indicate that flowers are in "memory of" or in "honor of" someone, their names will be printed in our Easter bulletin. **Order Forms are due no later than Thursday, March 21.** Forms are in our bulletins, on our [Sign Up web page](#) and are attached to this newsletter. Paper copies are in each narthex. Contact is Matt Griepentrog at matt@unitybrookfield.org.



Worship Volunteers Needed During Lent & Holy Week

UNITY's Worship Volunteer Schedule includes Lent Wednesdays and Holy Week services, however these services will NOT automatically schedule anyone. **Please check out Worship Volunteer opportunities for Lent Wednesdays and Holy Week and sign up wherever you may be able to help.** Thank you for all the ways you enable our members to come together to worship! If you have questions or need assistance signing up, contact Nancy Kostanski at nancy@unitybrookfield.org or 262-389-4445. *Thanks for helping us Bloom together in worship this season!*



Maundy Thursday Service to Feature Seder Meal

Our Maundy Thursday worship service on March 28 at 7 pm at our CTK campus will include a **Seder Service**. Featuring symbolic foods, this is a simplified version of the Passover Meal that Jesus ate with his disciples. Our last Seder Meals were in 2015 at COL and in 2017 at CTK.

Our Easter Vigil will be at 5 pm on Saturday, March 30 at COL. It is a simplified version of the 4-hour vigil kept by the ancient church. **Join us for this special service!**



Easter Sunday Breakfast at CTK on March 31

There will be a Potluck Easter Breakfast on Sunday, March 31, after the 9:30 am service at our Christ the King campus. A signup sheet is at the coffee table. Options for items to bring include a casserole or salad, Danish, eggs (dye or jello), 1-2 gallons of milk, and orange or fruit juice. Set-up will be Sunday morning at 8 am if you want to come early and help. Contacts are Diana Koenen at dstobbs@sbcglobal.net or Barb Borkenhagen at barbborkenhagen@yahoo.com.



Continue to the Cross with Holy Week & Easter Services!

Eve of Palm Sunday • March 23

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Palm Sunday • March 24

8:30 am: Worship at COL

9:30 am: Worship at CTK

10:30 am: Worship at COL

Come with palm branches and shouts of "Hosanna!" to enter Holy Week.

Congregation will gather in the narthex at CTK and in the Fellowship Hall at COL, then process in for worship. It will be a celebration!



Maundy Thursday • March 28

7:00 pm: Worship at CTK

*At Jesus' table, we come with hungry hearts longing for forgiveness. Come for a **Seder Service** of symbolic foods.*

Good Friday • March 29

12:00 pm: Worship at CTK

7:00 pm: Worship at COL

A solemn – but not sad – day as we proclaim triumph & victory of the cross.

Easter Vigil • March 30

5:00 pm: Worship Vigil at COL

6:45 pm: Worship at CTK: Brief Outdoor Service in Pavilion followed by Easter Egg Hunt

From darkness emerges light!

Easter Sunday • March 31

Note: ALL services include placing flowers in the cross

8:00 am: Worship at COL

9:30 am: Worship at CTK followed by Potluck Easter Breakfast

9:30 am: Worship at COL

11:00 am: Worship at COL

Christ is Risen! Come sing it, shout it, experience the love that His life brings!





Welcome Home to Our 24 El Salvador Travelers!

Our Mission of Healing Trip travelers returned from El Salvador.

Their week included four days of clinics (where they saw approximately 465 patients!) as well as worship and relationship-building with our partners. We give thanks for the ministry of our 24 travelers: Greg Buck, Cari Corozza, Debbie Dolata-Drent, Cindy Dostal, Mary Ehrsmann, Julie Elliott, Jolene Epding, Eric Gravenkamp, Mike Gutzeit, Julie Hoesly, Emily Johnson, Janice Johnson, Mike Johnson, Justin Kuehl, Megan Meiklejohn, Sue Mours, Mike Ocampo, Alice Otto, Muriel Otto, Samantha Ranney, Trisha Smith, Sean Stevens-Fabry, Erika Taipala and Alice Thompson. **See the Partner of the Month article below, and check out the pictures at right and on our Facebook page.** Our next trip to El Salvador will be July 23-30, 2024.

Bread of Healing Openings: See Attached Flyer

Our partner Bread of Healing Medical Clinic has a variety of open positions, both paid and volunteer.

Please see the flyer attached to the electronic version of this newsletter for details, and contact Barbara Horner-Ibler at barbara.horner@breadofhealing.org if you have questions. For more info about the clinic, visit breadofhealingclinic.org.



Aspen Center & UNITY: Events Planned This Year

Mark your calendars and plan ahead to join us for these fun events with our Aspen Center partners!

Sunday, April 28 • 12:00-1:30 pm
Hunt for Happiness • Aspen Center
We'll do a little crafting and learn how to make and keep a Gratitude Journal.

Saturday, June 1 • 9:00-10:30 AM
Gardening Event • Aspen Center
Aspen Center residents will help plant annuals (in-ground or into pots) for UNITY campuses and Aspen Center, followed by sub sandwiches & sodas.

Sunday, August 18 • 11:30-1:00 pm
"Family" Reunion • CTK Campus
UNITY families will supply salads, buns, and meat for a grill-out picnic under the pavilion ... with whoever you define as "family!"

Sunday, October 6 • 10:30-11:30 am
Dog Play Date • CTK Campus
We'll have sign up time slots for families to bring their dogs to enjoy some attention from Aspen residents.

Saturday, December 14 • 1-2 pm
Celebrate Christmas • Aspen Center
We'll enjoy some pre-holiday time with Cookie Decorating & Cider. Join us!

Questions? Contact Cindy Boyd at dcboyd1985@sbcglobal.net.
Thanks to all who joined us on February 23 as we showed Valentine's love to Hephatha friends by packing trail mix and tying fleece blankets!

Partner of the Month: Cordero de Dios / Mission of Healing Trip Recap ~ by Julie Hoesly

Another Mission of Healing Trip to El Salvador that began on Saturday, February 10, was completed at approximately 1:45 am on Sunday, February 18, when the last of our travelers landed in Milwaukee. We were a tired, sweaty bunch filled with nothing but gratitude and love for our group and the people we left behind in El Salvador. It was quite a week!

Photos from the trip are above and at right, with many more on our Facebook page. For details, please speak directly to one of our travelers (names are above) but here are a couple highlights:

- * We went to both old and new places to deliver care. **In total, we saw approximately 465 patients.** We commented that as a whole, they seemed a little healthier this year!
- * Our area for emotional support and mental health was busier this year as the focus on this area of health becomes sharper.

We appreciate the support and prayers of the congregation for this trip and encourage you to consider getting involved early if you have interest. Our next relationship-building trip to El Salvador will be July 23-30. **Applications will be on our Sign Up web page and are due by MAY 1.**

Looking ahead, our next Mission of Healing Trip to El Salvador will take place February 15-22, 2025.





Sunday Lent Bible Studies: March 3, 10 & 17

Whether you attend our Cross of Life or our Christ the King campus, we've got a Sunday Lent Bible Study for you!

March 3, 10 & 17: 9:45 am at COL
Led by Pastor Dave Meissner



Our Lent theme calls for us to **"Bloom Where You Are Planted!"** That's both challenging and exciting! But the Bible shows us how to *practically* make it happen. **Together we'll look at:**

- How to grow and mature in our faith;
- How to consult with God in our daily decision making;
- What Jesus has to say about our Christian values and morals.

March 3, 10 & 17: 10:30 am at CTK
Led by Matt Griepentrog



Matt's Bible Study will be focused on our Lenten theme of Bloom, so grab your cup of coffee and **join us for some great discussions on how we can "Bloom Together!"**

Weekly Online Bible Study Continues through March 14



We continue a Weekly Online Bible Study during Lent: **"Timely Truths: Our Most Important Beliefs and Why They Matter in a De-Churching World."**

It's not too late to join! This study, led by John Horner-Ibler, meets **online 5 Thursdays: February 15- March 14, from 7:00-8:00 pm. There are 3 ways to be a part:**

- 1) Join the Zoom session and participate in real time;
- 2) Watch it on Facebook. Participate via a slightly delayed texting feature;
- 3) Watch it after the fact on your own time on UNITY's website.

Suggested reading for this Bible Study/Book Club: *The Great Dechurching: Who's Leaving, Why Are They Going, And What Will It Take To Bring Them Back?* by J. Davis and M. Graham.

One Night Only Small Groups: March 7, 11 & 14

Join our **"One Night Only" Small Groups!** We're offering unique, one-time experiences for groups to come together and *bloom* through our Lent theme. **Sign up on SignUp Genius through our Lent 2024 web page.**

BLOOM & BOURBON



Thursday, March 7
7:00-8:30 pm at Host

Join us for a night of bourbon tasting! Bring your favorite to share.

BLOOM & BOARD GAMES



Monday, March 11
7:00-8:30 pm at COL

Join us for a Game Night! All ages are welcome and childcare is available.

BLOOM & BULBS



Thursday, March 14
11:00-12:30 pm at CTK

Join an *afternoon* of Spring Garden Planning! You'll even get bulbs to take home with you.

Spring Flower Sale to Bloom March 16 to April 14

Our Spring Flower Sale will begin on **Saturday, March 16**, with order forms due by **Sunday, April 14**.

Order forms will be at each campus after worship services and on our Sign Up web page. We have great flowers to choose from, and all are reasonably priced. Flower Pickup will be at our *CTK campus only* on Friday, May 17, from 5:00-7:30 pm. Spring Flower Sale contact is Sherrie Lorbeck at sherrie@unitybrookfield.org. Proceeds benefit our Sr. High summer trip, so thanks for helping us raise some "green!"



Come Bloom & Craft with Us on March 10 at 9:30

Our Creative Connections Small Group invites all adults with creative interests to join us for community and creative energy while we make a **Blooming Lent Cross!** A pre-stained wooden board will be wrapped with twine to create a cross and decorated with floral accents (photo below). You'll find success as Joan Krause walks the group through creating this project as a wonderful gift or addition to your home. **Join us Sunday, March 10, from 9:30-11:30 am in COL's Art Room upstairs.** The cost is \$10 to be collected the day of the event. **Contact Fonda Kapitan at fmkapitan@gmail.com by MARCH 2 with questions or to sign up.** This gives us time to gather all the materials for the group. Special thanks to Frank Riederer for supplying the wood boards with routed edges.



Your Lenten Offerings in 2017 showed some love to the Food Pantry by helping them purchase a van. They returned the love by putting UNITY's logo on it!



Farewell Celebration for Gail Anklam: March 10 at 9:30

With recent changes in her life, Gail Anklam will soon relocate to Appleton to be near her daughter and grandchildren. We are so grateful for the 35+ years that Gail has been part of UNITY. She's put her heart and boundless TLC into our kids in the nursery, been behind the scenes to help weddings run smoothly, delivered home communion, and much more. Please join us to say farewell and to celebrate "Miss Gail" on Sunday, March 10, at 9:30 am at COL as our Fellowship Hall transforms into a giant nursery. It will be a small-scale Gail Gala! We're looking for folks to join Pastor Sherrie to plan fun centers, activities, and food. You can contact her at sherrie@unitybrookfield.org. And if you have "then & now" photos of your kids who have been in Gail's care, please send those to Sherrie. **NOTE: We are hoping that literally anyone under the age of 35 who was ever in our nursery – or anyone whose wedding Gail helped run – can attend our 8:30 or 10:30 am service on March 10.** We'll try to surround Gail with as many of her peeps as possible as we celebrate her work among us. It's our turn to wrap HER up in OUR arms, so come help us do just that!



Lock-In Season is Here!

KIDS: Be sure to lock in the fun!

Lock-In: Confirmation

Friday, March 1: 6:30 pm to midnight

Lock-In: Grades 2-3

Friday, March 8 at 7 pm to
Saturday, March 9 at 7 am

Lock-In: Grades 4-6

Friday, March 15 at 7 pm to
Saturday, March 16 at 7 am



Farewell Celebrations for John Horner-Ibler

After 27 years with UNITY, John Horner-Ibler will be ending his time with us as pastor. **Please watch for more details to come, but for now, below are some TENTATIVE plans for John's Farewell Celebrations.**

Saturday, March 16: All Day Event

We'll work on a servant activity in the morning, enjoy something fun in the afternoon, and have a blast with Game Night at COL in the evening following our worship service at 5 pm.

Post-Service Receptions:

- Saturday, April 6 • 6:00 pm at COL (following worship service)
- Sunday, April 7 • 9:30 am at COL (between worship services)
- Sunday, April 14 • 10:30 am at CTK (following worship service)

Want to be a part of the team that plans these gatherings? Contact Pastor Muriel or Pastor Sherrie.



Pastoral Call Team: Check Out Their Web Page!

Many thanks to our Pastoral Call Team for the work they're doing to search for replacements for Pastor John and Pastor Muriel. Be sure to check out the new Pastoral Call Team web page and learn more about each member – including their answers to "What UNITY Means to Me."

Thanks also to those who attended our Congregational Input Meetings.

Held at five times in February, they offered members an opportunity to provide their feedback as a way to help the Call Team convey who we are to prospective pastor candidates. If you were unable to attend, please complete the [Online Survey](#). The feedback is being used to create the [Ministry Site Profile \(MSP\)](#), which will be provided to potential candidates. A DRAFT of the MSP is on the [Call Team web page](#). Please check it out and provide your input!

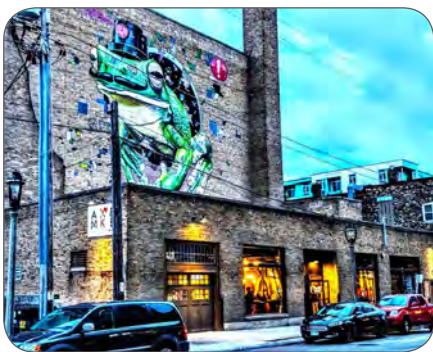


Meet our Pastoral Call Team! Front row, left to right: Nelson Brownell, Melanie Varin, Linda Johnson, Davida Kroepfl, Jessica Schrieber and Mary Huss. Back row, left to right: Logan Kemper, Jim Johnsen, Matt Jolliff, Mark Krause and David Engle. Visit our [Pastoral Call Team web page](#) to learn more about each of them.



20Somethings Small Group: Axe Throwing on March 1

UNITY's newest Small Group is 20Somethings, and all young adults are invited to join us for our outings! **Our next 20Somethings event will be Axe Throwing at Axe Milwaukee on Friday, March 1, at 7 pm.** Meet there (1924 E. Kenilworth Place) and bring \$20. There is free street parking available nearby. Feel free to bring a friend, and watch for more outings to be scheduled if you can't make it for this one. Our 20Somethings contact is Matt Griepentrog at matt@unitybrookfield.org or 262-787-8820.



Educational Scholarships: Applications Due by April 1

UNITY has four (4) \$1,000 educational scholarships available.

They are available for our high school, new, or current college students who are attending a University, College, or School of Higher Education this year.

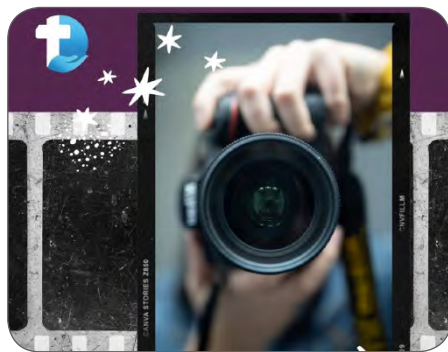
Applications are due by Monday, April 1. If you would like to apply or have questions, please contact Matt Griepentrog at matt@unitybrookfield.org, Don Bock at dandcock@sbcglobal.net, or any pastor for more information and details. Get in touch for this great educational opportunity offered through UNITY!



*Hats off to UNITY's
Education Scholarships!*

Photography Group Meets March 16; Aim to Join Us!

Join us for Photography Group on Saturday, March 16, 8:45-10:45 am at Birch & Banyan Coffee: 150 E. Capitol Dr. in Hartland. Bring stories, questions (and equipment if you have an equipment question), successes and challenges. One question will be: "What are your Photographic Goals for 2024?" Monthly Photo Theme: Black and White (B&W) or monochrome. Consider bringing a B&W photo to share (phone or print is best) and talk about the experience! RSVP ASAP to Brad Wilkins at bwilkins012@gmail.com.



Moms Group Meets Next on March 19; All Welcome

Moms Group is a time for moms of all ages and stages to share stories, pray together, and deepen their faith. We start with dinner. Kids eat together with childcare, then join choir practice or play in the nursery while adults gather upstairs in the art room for dinner and a devotion. Most kids are in 3rd grade and under but anyone is welcome! **We meet on third Tuesdays from 5:30-7:30 pm at COL.** Come join our gatherings: **March 19, April 16 & May 21.** We invite you to find your tribe with other UNITY moms!



Would You Consider Serving on a Church Council Team?

Our church is run by 11 teams of members, each covering one area of our life together. Each team has a chair, who serves on our Church Council, and a group of members who works together on all kinds of tasks – everything from audits to marketing to party-throwing. The teams are: Communication and Technology, Adult Programs, Christian Education, Finance, Group Opportunities, Invite (New Members), Property, Servant Ministries, Stewardship, Youth, Worship and Music. How often they meet varies by team. Most meet 4 times per year, twice on our "All Teams" nights and twice individually, and they work on various projects in between. **It is important work, and we need lots of good people to do it. Right now the Invite Team and Group Opportunities Team especially could use more people.** The Invite group runs our twice-yearly New Member classes and works to welcome and support new arrivals to UNITY. Group Opportunities is in charge of quarterly social events (game nights, festivals, walks, anything fun!) to bring people together. Questions? Contact any council chair through our [Church Council web page](#) or talk to a staff member. For Invite, contact Anna Jansson at ajansson8@gmail.com; Group Opportunities is Tiffany Reay at reayt5@gmail.com.



Raise your hand if you appreciate the work done by our Church Council. Better yet, LEND your hand by joining one of our Teams!



Jesus Karaoke to Return!

After a successful run last year, we're looking ahead to our next performance of Jesus Karaoke! Please mark your calendars for these **TENTATIVE** dates, knowing that more concrete details will be released closer to the time. (We couldn't wait to share because we're pretty excited!)

Writers Bible Study

Tuesdays:

April 2, 9 & 30 and May 7, 14 & 21
6:00 pm at COL

Cast Rehearsals

Tuesdays:

May 28 & June 4
6:00 pm at COL

Performances

Saturday, June 8

Sunday, June 9

Watch for more info coming soon!



UNITY's Visitation Ministry

Visitation Ministry is an important part of who we are at UNITY. Are you looking to RECEIVE a visit or home Communion? Or would you like to be part of our Team to help PROVIDE visits, calls or Communion to our members? Contact Minister of Member Care Jim Ahlquist at jim@unitybrookfield.org or 715-210-2245.



Recap: Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held Sunday, February 25, 2024 at 9:30 am. The meeting was attended by 221 people either in-person or on Zoom. Something that is now fairly unique about UNITY is that our constitution asks for a quorum of 10% of our confirmed membership (confirmed in the faith that is, so basically age 14 and up). In our case, this year that came to 189 people. Most congregations set a much lower standard, but we have intentionally bucked that trend because our Councils and staff have felt that it's just so vital as many people as possible be conversant with the priorities and operation of the congregation. This surely helps UNITY over the long run such that our leadership pool remains deep and people's awareness of overall trends remains good.

This year's meeting focused on reports from all our ministry areas for 2023 and also approved a budget for 2024. See Finance Chair Phil Roemaat's article on page 9 for more info. We elected Todd Blatnik, Jim Johnsen and Fred Varin to serve on the 2024 Church Council Nominating Team. We elected John Allar, Melissa Bemus, Mary Huss, Aaron Prohuska and Trisha Smith to serve as our voting members to the annual Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly in May.

Members of the Call Team spent time updating the congregation on their process and progress to date. Congregational Input Meetings were held throughout February and a survey of all congregation members remained open until February 28. A rough draft of our congregation's "resume" for candidates to read is available on our Call Team web page. It is called the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) and involves a detailed discussion of our history, priorities, demographics and needs. This rough draft will continue to undergo revision based on the survey results, and the Call Team plans to present a final version to the Church Council for approval at its March meeting. Once approved by the Council, the MSP will be filed with the ELCA, and candidates anywhere can see our 75-word summary statement. They can request a full version of the MSP from our Synod Bishop.

Thanks to everyone who attended at any of our campuses (COL-91, CTK-78 or online-52). A huge thank you to our Technology Team led by Communications & Technology chair Ed Dominski and Matt Griepentrog, and Natalie Kamenick from our staff, for their work in keeping us connected both for the Annual Meeting and then for the joint Worship service that immediately followed. One of the dreams of our somewhat distant past was to be successfully connected by technology in our two physical spaces, and that now happens on a regular basis. Capabilities like that create more options for participation and no church can have enough of those!

Searching for Youth Director; Come Be a Part of Our Team!

Thanks to the teens and parents who continue to be so actively involved, our Youth Program at UNITY remains strong! (Remember: any high school age teen is welcome to join in any activity at any time.) We are still searching for a Youth Director. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Eric Borkenhagen at ericnborkenhagen@gmail.com or 262-442-6283, or Pastor Sherrie at sherrie@unitybrookfield.org. A Job Description can be found at the "Youth Director" link under "Job Posting" on our Sign Up web page.





Council Corner

It is March, we are in the season of Lent, and Easter is just around the corner. Last year (2023) we had great turnouts at our worship services. Like last year, the Easter Services will be filled with lots of music and fellowship.

On Maundy Thursday at 7 pm at our CTK campus we are going to have a Seder, hosted by Pastor Muriel.

Families hold a Seder on the first and sometimes second night of Passover. It is fundamentally a religious service set around a dinner table, where there's an order in which participants eat, pray, drink beverages, sing, discuss current social justice issues and tell stories. We haven't done one since 2015 at COL and 2017 at CTK.

When Easter ends, so does our long relationship with Pastor John. Happy Retirement, John! Then a few months later Pastor Muriel will be moving on to a new adventure. We wish you nothing but the best. The Pastoral Call Team is already working hard to find new pastors for us. Please be patient with them; it is a hard process.

Our Worship and Music Team will be very active helping Pastor Sherrie and our Interim Pastors.

We look forward to another successful summer of worship services – indoors at COL and outdoors at CTK. Ideas for different types of services are being suggested. If you have an idea, please contact me at steve.johnson61@gmail.com. We are also looking for summer music. If you want to sing or play an instrument as special music, please contact me or Lynn Key. I know there are a lot of musicians in our UNITY Community!

~ Steve Johnson,
Worship & Music Chair



Money Matters

Thank you to all who attended UNITY's Annual Meeting on February 25. I am appreciative of where we ended the year financially in 2023.

Highlights for 2023 were:

- Giving was up 3% compared to 2022.
- We ended the year with a \$33,509 surplus. This was an awesome surprise to where we thought we would be in December. With the surplus, we will share with our partners via benevolence (25%) and reserve the remainder (75%) for the upcoming call process expenses.
- Total benevolence is over \$311,000. This includes the 12.5% that is earmarked from UNITY's giving plus the special appeals throughout the year, including Lenten & Thanksgiving offerings and our support for our partners in El Salvador via our trips and scholarships.
- This marks back-to-back years with a surplus. Often UNITY has a surplus one year and follows it up with a deficit. I am hopeful 2024 can continue the streak.

For 2024, I am excited and yet nervous for what is to come:

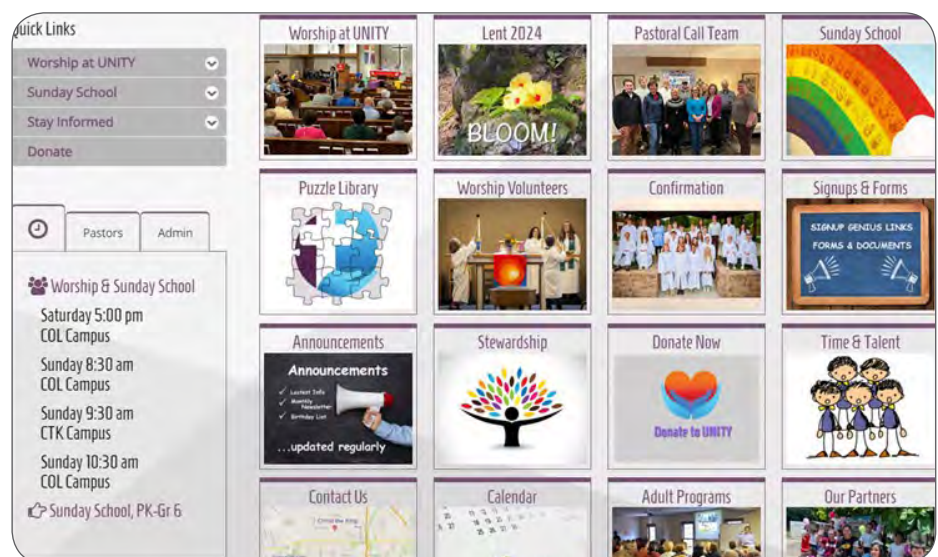
- We budgeted for a 4% increase in giving. I am hopeful that we can sustain this giving after very successful years for 2022 and 2023.
- We will continue to give 12.5% of giving to our benevolence partners.
- The biggest changes for 2023 to 2024 budget related to staffing:
 - The staff will receive a 3% increase.
 - Pay increases for Pastor Muriel and Pastor Sherrie to move them closer to Synod guidelines.
- An additional \$5,000 budgeted for the Call process.
- With many changes in staffing, there are known unknowns in the budget:
 - We will have two Interim Pastor positions that will likely be filled in the year.
 - We have an open Youth Director position that has remained open for nearly 9 months.
 - We have a Pastoral Call process that is getting kicked off.

We will continue to keep the congregation apprised as to how we are trending throughout 2024 for both giving and expenses.

Thank you for all that you do to support UNITY. I wish you and your family a reflective Lenten season as we await Easter.

~ Phil Roemaat, Finance Team Chair

Check Out Our Newly Revamped Homepage! (Thanks, Ann Hill!)





Please note this calendar is tentative. Watch your email, our website and Facebook for updates.



Christ the
King Campus



Cross of
Life Campus

Colors denote campuses *only*;
Join in, either place, at any time!

Sundays in March

March 3

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:45 am: Bible Study at COL w/Dave M.

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:30 am: Bible Study at CTK w/Matt G.

10:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns

6:00 pm: Sr. High: Music Night

March 10 ~ Daylight Saving Begins

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: Gail Ankla's Farewell at COL

9:30 am: Bloom & Craft Group at COL

9:45 am: Bible Study at COL w/Dave M.

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:30 am: Bible Study at CTK w/Matt G.

10:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

6:00 pm: Sr. High: Chopped Food Night

March 17 ~ St. Patrick's Day

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:45 am: Bible Study at COL w/Dave M.

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:30 am: Bible Study at CTK w/Matt G.

10:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

6:00 pm: Sr. High: Nerf Gun Night

March 24 ~ PALM SUNDAY

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

March 31 ~ EASTER SUNDAY

Special worship times today only

8:00 am: WORSHIP at COL

**9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK followed
by Potluck Easter Breakfast**

9:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

11:00 am: WORSHIP at COL

Friday, March 1

6:30 pm: Lock-In: Confirmation

7:00 pm: 20somethings: Axe Throwing

Saturday, March 2

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

5:00 pm: Online Service Posted

Monday, March 4

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, March 5

7:00 am: Men's Breakfast: The Crossings

11:30 am: Ladies Tues. Lunch: Maxim's

5:30 pm: Lent for Littles & Families: COL

6:00-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

Wednesday, March 6 ~ LENT WED.

12:00 pm: Soup & WORSHIP at CTK

2:00 pm: Soup Group in COL Kitchen

5:30 pm: Soup Supper at COL

6:00 pm: Confirmation Classes

6:50 pm: WORSHIP at COL

Thursday, March 7

7:00 pm: Lenten Online Bible Study

7:00 pm: Women's Book Group

7:00 pm: Small Group: Bloom & Bourbon

Friday, March 8

5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns

7:00 pm: Lock-In Begins: Grades 2-3

Saturday, March 9

7:00 am: Lock-In Ends: Grades 2-3

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

5:00 pm: Online Service Posted

Turn Clocks Ahead 1 Hour Before Bed

Monday, March 11

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

7:00 pm: Small Group: Bloom & Board

Games at COL Campus

Tuesday, March 12

5:30 pm: Lent for Littles & Families: COL

6:00-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

7:00 pm: Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 13 ~ LENT WED.

12:00 pm: Lunch Bunch Group at CTK

12:00 pm: Soup & WORSHIP at CTK

2:00 pm: Soup Group in COL Kitchen

5:30 pm: Soup Supper at COL

6:00 pm: Confirmation Classes

6:50 pm: WORSHIP at COL

Thursday, March 14

9:00 am: Sew Comfy Group at COL

11:00 am: Small Group: Bloom & Bulbs
at CTK Campus

7:00 pm: Lenten Online Bible Study

7:00 pm: Men's Thursday Book Group

Friday, March 15

7:00 pm: Lock-In Begins: Grades 4-6

Saturday, March 16

John's Farewell Celebrations: All Day

7:00 am: Lock-In Ends: Grades 4-6

7:30 am: Men's Saturday Breakfast: COL

8:45 am: Photography Group: Birch & B.

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

5:00 pm: Online Service Posted

Monday, March 18

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, March 19

5:30 pm: Lent for Littles & Families: COL

5:30 pm: Moms Group at COL

6:00-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

Wednesday, March 20 ~ LENT WED.

12:00 pm: Soup & WORSHIP at CTK

2:00 pm: Soup Group in COL Kitchen

5:30 pm: Soup Supper at COL

6:00 pm: Confirmation Classes

6:50 pm: WORSHIP at COL

Saturday, March 23 ~ Palm Sunday Eve

9:00 am: Volunteer at Food Pantry

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

5:00 pm: Online Service Posted

Monday, March 25

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, March 26

6:00-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

Thursday, Mar. 28 ~ Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm: WORSHIP & SEDER at CTK

Friday, March 29 ~ Good Friday

12:00 pm: WORSHIP at CTK

7:00 pm: WORSHIP at COL

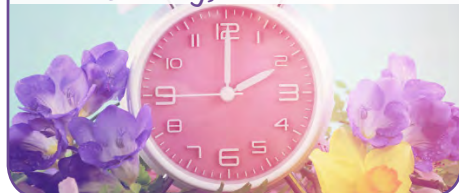
Saturday, March 30 ~ Easter Vigil

5:00 pm: Online Service Posted

5:00 pm: WORSHIP VIGIL at COL

**6:45 pm: WORSHIP at CTK Outdoor
Pavilion, then Easter Egg Hunt**

Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday, March 10



HAPPY
Easter





UNITY ~ March Birthdays

1. Bob Koremenos
Annalise Nordstrom
Steve Oberst
Dawn Suharski
Kevin Zimmer
2. Heidi Blatnik
Jennifer Cape
Annie DeBauche
Cindy Ebenhoch
Kenley Fogltanz
Rachel Laska
James Leifer
Erica Pergande
Glen Weitzer
3. MaryJo Eggert
John Koeble
Russ Lein
Emily Shannon
Michael Tostrud
Polly Wozniak
Ethan Zembinski
Tara Zembinski
4. Susan Bryden
Ellen Vermillion
Harper Zimmer
5. Matthew Loverine
Matt Siderits
Zachary Steichen
6. Lia Borkenhagen
Maddy Flynn
Joe Wolfe
Bob Young
7. Allan Bengston
Elsa Ebenhoch
Gregory Heideman
Nathan Olson
Julie Schultz
8. Alex Brown
Jesse Niederbaumer
Elizabeth Peterson
Melanie Stuber
9. Debbie Benning
Beverly Brownell
Kayla Grabowski
Kim Jester
Beau Komassa
Morgan McLean
Sarah Morton
Helen Peterson
10. Kerri Harmelink
Marie Hastings
Alexander Janke
Christine Keim
Julie Smith
Kim Urchell
11. Aleda Chambers
Debbie Haynes
Steven McConville
12. Amber Dryer
Katy Komassa
13. Milene Below
Mara Chambers
Jenny Collins
Jeffrey Hynes
Mark Krause
Jon Stepanek
14. Joshua Benning
Chuck Bohl
Harlan Mueller
15. Sandra Noll
Cheryl Thomsen
Gabriel Weitzer
16. Charles Buege
Chris Driscoll
Melissa Hanson
Wayne Happel
Kendall Klick
Stephanie Olsson
17. Jade Epding
Ellie Miesfeld
Nicholas Urban
18. Mackenzie Swart
Ralph Volkmann
Hailey Walter
19. Jane Boorse
Thomas Heal
Ethan Kahle
Daniel Kluge
Fred Schlapman
Diana VanSlyke
20. Diana Anderson
Mark LaBissoniere
Lauren Lehmann
Scott Shannon
Cami Stiedaman
Erika Taipala
21. Kollyns Smith
23. Skylee Egan
Judy Ertel
Matthew Lorbeck
Colette Rentmeester
Gregory Schrieber
Alex Wistrom
25. Aiden Klick
Diane Kotula
Lee Lawrence
Bill McCutcheon
Chad McFadden
Parker McGinty
Maddy Paradis
Vicki Sadowski
Kyra Wolfe
26. William Chetney
Marjorie Kipp
Katie Zarling
27. Sharron Daly
Eileen Griffiths
John Hamm
Lucy Hamm
Curt McConville
Trevor Perry
Bryan Schultz
Rebekah Wickert
28. Lauren Benning
Patricia Bitterberg
Ava Hoffmann
Eli Hoffmann
Natalie Karrels
Ian Weitmann
29. Max Herington
Brian Klick
Emerson Kromm
30. Joshua Graesser
Jack Guenther
Pearl Haack
Allie Running
Natalie Vogt
31. Michael Dandridge
Dave Engle
Scott Reay
Nora Schneider



"Say what you want about aging; it's still the only way to have old friends." ~ Robert Brault

Easter Flowers Order Form 2024

UNITY Lutheran Church • CTK & COL Campus



Easter Sunday is March 31, and in keeping with tradition, flowers you purchase will once again be “planted” around our altars to help us celebrate this special occasion.

You have a variety of beautiful flowers to choose from, which are listed on the order form below, along with the cost for each. (The plants will be purchased from Shady Lane Greenhouses.)

Please complete the order form below and place it with your **check made payable to “UNITY Lutheran Church”** in the offering plate or pay via our [Donation web page](#) **by Thursday, March 21.**

Note: If you indicate that the flowers are in “memory of” or in “honor of” someone, their names will be printed in our Easter bulletin.

Flowers may be picked up on Easter Sunday following any service you attend. Service times on March 31 are 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am at our COL campus and 9:30 am at our CTK campus.

Thank you for helping to beautify our spaces for Easter services!

Questions? Contact Bookkeeper Matt Griepentrog: matt@unitybrookfield.org / 262-787-8820.

Easter Flowers Order Form 2024 • CTK & COL Campus

Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

In Honor of: _____ In Memory of: _____

I would like to purchase flowers for THIS CAMPUS: CTK _____ COL _____

Hydrangeas	\$35.00	# of plants: _____	x \$35.00 = Amount Due: \$ _____
Azaleas	\$33.00	# of plants: _____	x \$33.00 = Amount Due: \$ _____
Mums	\$22.00	# of plants: _____	x \$22.00 = Amount Due: \$ _____
Easter Lily	\$21.00	# of plants: _____	x \$21.00 = Amount Due: \$ _____
Tulips	\$20.00	# of plants: _____	x \$20.00 = Amount Due: \$ _____
Daffodils	\$20.00	# of plants: _____	x \$20.00 = Amount Due: \$ _____
Hyacinths	\$20.00	# of plants: _____	x \$20.00 = Amount Due: \$ _____

Form & payment due by Thursday, March 21.

Total Enclosed: \$ _____



Minister's Minute

"A young man named Eutychus, who was sitting in the window, began to sink off into a deep sleep while Paul talked still longer. Overcome by sleep, he fell to the ground..." ~ Acts 20:9

NOTE: The following conversation somehow recently took place between myself and the two Horner-Ibler dogs who've been part of our family over the years. Phoenix came first. She had a proud curved tail, was super athletic, and way too smart for Barb or I to ever train properly. Taz came next and there's some possibility he never even learned his own name much less any of ours. Neither athletic nor especially cute, Taz excelled in general loyalty and became fast friends with anyone who scratched his belly. Collectively, one word irritated us all: Squirrel!

Phoenix: Let's go! Let's go. Throw me another frisbee!

John: You know I just had my shoulder surgery! I can't throw a frisbee for another month.

Phoenix: You're got two arms don't you? Come on, just one!

John: You hate it when I throw left-handed: too much curve, no distance.

Taz: Did someone mention left-overs?

Phoenix: Bro, no one mentioned food anywhere in this conversation.

John: It's okay Taz, Phoenix is just getting a little anxious in the absence of exercise.

Phoenix: How about a stick? If you can't throw me a frisbee, throw me a stick!

John: We're just taking a walk. No frisbees, no sticks, just us taking my first retirement walk.

Taz: Retirement? What's that?

Phoenix: I'll take that one. Taz, in terms you can understand, retirement is sort of like getting your belly scratched all day while you think about....

John: Shhhh... look how close it is. Phoenix, you go left, Taz, you go right and you'll catch it!

Phoenix: On it! We've got you this time, squirrel! Uff da!

Taz: You ran into me!

Phoenix: That's because *you* went left instead of right. Do you *still* not know your directions?

Taz: I know a *lot* of things, including something you don't know!

Phoenix: Like what?

Taz: I know that John here, received an award when he recently retired.

Phoenix: Dude, is that true?

John: Well, sort of. They dedicated a new hand dryer in the bathroom in my honor.

Phoenix: Hand dryer?

John: Whenever it goes on, they'll think of me. Something about hot air....

Phoenix: You sure that's an honor?

John: Admittedly marginal, but no matter how long any of my sermons were, I never pulled a Paul and Eutychus-ed someone.

Taz: Eutychus-ed? Even I know that's not a word.

John: He's the guy in Acts 20 who fell out a window when Paul just kept talking and talking. Fell 3 stories. Everyone thought he was dead. But Paul brought him back to life and you know what Paul did then?

Phoenix: Threw his beloved dog a frisbee?

Taz: Gave his loyal dog an extra good scratch?

John: He kept talking. Until dawn.

Phoenix: You're right, that's a whole 'nother level of long. You never did that.

John: Exactly. This is why I can retire with my head held high.

Phoenix: Because you never bored someone to death?

John: Not literally at least. But enough about me. Where should we go next?

Taz: Let's go down JOY Street. Isn't that where you said God lives?

Phoenix: And then a run through GOOD NEWS Place? Jesus teaches us that's where he'll be.

John: And then maybe just one last stop at UNITY?

Taz: Do they allow pets?

John: Their doors are open to all, Taz, that's what I'll miss the most.

Phoenix: That and the treats, right?

John: One refig or the other did always have some sort of yummy leftover.

Taz: Leftovers! See I told you they were part of this conversation!

Phoenix: Geesh. He's right. He sort of outsmarted us there, John.

John: It's a new day, for sure, Phoenix. Like all the others these last 27 years, one filled with gratitude for all the UNITY people who've filled my soul.

Taz: Hey, dog, his eyes are getting that wet-look-thing going.

Phoenix: Did you just forget my name?

Taz: Maybe. But once he gets like this he can't speak anymore.

Phoenix: No real way to say a thousand thank you's and pray a million blessings....

Taz: No way to say it, just a heart that will always hold onto UNITY.

Phoenix: Well, we'd better wrap it up for him then. I'll do the countdown.

Taz: I honestly can't even remember the numbers.

Phoenix: I got you, pup... 3, 2, 1...

Taz and Phoenix: DONE!

~ John, Barbara, David and Michael



Join us as we say Farewell to John at Post-Service Receptions on April 6, 7 & 14. See page 2.

Two-Campus Ministry in Brookfield, Wis. • unitybrookfield.org

Christ the King: 4600 Pilgrim Rd. • Zip: 53005 • (262) 781-7600

Cross of Life: 20700 W. North Ave. • Zip: 53045 • (262) 781-7600



Celebrate. Share. Renew.



Celebrate John Horner-Ibler! Receptions April 6, 7 & 14

Join us as we celebrate Pastor John and all that we've shared over the past 27 years! We will mark his last two weekends at each campus with vignettes in his honor and time after the services to eat, talk, reminisce, poke a little fun, share a lot of gratitude, and enjoy time together as we bless him on his way. **Come to our Post-Service Receptions for John:**

- **Saturday, April 6 • 6:00 pm at COL** (following worship service)
- **Sunday, April 7 • 9:30 am at COL** (between worship services)
- **Sunday, April 14 • 10:30 am at CTK** (following worship service)

We'll have giant cards to sign, and if you want to make a financial gift in his honor, contributions will be shared between the UNITY Backyard Fund and the Bread of Healing Clinic's Tooth Fairy Fund for dental services. If you can help with any of the receptions (set up, decorations, food, greeting, activities) contact Muriel or Sherrie.

Donate Your Time & Talent!

Looking for another way to thank John for his ministry among us and put into action what we've learned from him? How about donating your Time & Talent? For the past 27 years, John has taught us – *and lived out firsthand* – the importance of sharing our gifts with others, both inside and outside our walls. **Let's show John that his work among us is never ... "done!"** See page 8 for more info about donating your Time & Talent and be sure to check out the awesome new Time & Talent Video! *Come share your gifts inside and outside this faith home that John helped us build.*



Thanks for the Memories, John! From Worship to Serving to Gathering, you have helped build an incredible Faith Community



Thanks for Celebrating "Miss Gail" Anklaam on March 10

Our heartfelt thanks to "Miss Gail" Anklaam for blessing the lives of so many in our congregation over the past 35 years! She has loved and watched over thousands of children in our Nursery while befriending their parents, and has coordinated lots of weddings. As she relocates to Appleton to be near her daughter and grandchildren, may her heart (and arms) be as full of love as she has always made ours. **Thanks to all who attended her Farewell Celebration on March 10, and be sure to check out the 50+ pictures on our [Facebook page](#)!**





Worship Volunteers Needed!

UNITY's Worship Volunteer Schedule includes Lent Wednesdays and Holy Week services, however these services will NOT automatically schedule anyone. **Please check out Worship Volunteer opportunities for Holy Week & Easter and sign up wherever you can help.** If you need assistance signing up, contact Nancy Kostanski at nancy@unitybrookfield.org or 262-389-4445.

Sign Up for Easter Sunday Breakfast at CTK

There will be a Potluck Easter Breakfast on Sunday, March 31, after the 9:30 am service at CTK. A signup sheet is at the coffee table. Options to bring include a casserole or salad, Danish, eggs (dye or jello), 1-2 gallons of milk, and orange or fruit juice. **Set-up will be Sunday morning at 8 am if you want to come early and help.** Contacts are Diana Koenen at dlstobbs@sbcglobal.net or Barb Borkenhagen at barbborkenhagen@yahoo.com.



Lent Offerings to Re-Roof Rutilio's Elementary School

UNITY's 2024 Lent offerings will go toward re-roofing the elementary school at Rutilio Grande, one of our El Salvador partners. Anything you give designated for "Lent Offering" (at church or donated online) will go toward this project. If we raise enough for that project, then extra dollars will go to create a fenced-in area around the preschool. **Our overall goal is \$15,000**, which would be enough for the roof and half the fence project. **As of this writing we have collected \$8,686.** Check out the Roof Project Video on our Vimeo page and thank you for helping us share beyond ourselves!

Complete Your Journey with Holy Week & Easter Services!

Maundy Thursday • March 28

7:00 pm: Worship & Seder at CTK
At Jesus' table, we come with hungry hearts longing for forgiveness.

We will eat elements of the Seder, or traditional Passover meal which Jesus celebrated with his disciples the night before his crucifixion. The service will take place in the CTK Fellowship Hall (Gathering Place) and move in the direction of the communion meal we so associate with that Last Supper.



Good Friday • March 29

12:00 pm: Worship at CTK
7:00 pm: Worship at COL
A solemn – but not sad – day as we proclaim triumph & victory of the cross.

We mark the most somber day on the Christian calendar by each placing a nail in the cross and walking in the footsteps of those who were part of that fateful day.



Easter Vigil • March 30

5:00 pm: Worship Vigil at COL
6:45 pm: Worship at CTK: Outdoor in Pavilion, then Easter Egg Hunt
From darkness emerges light!

We shorten the 4-hour traditional vigil to 75 minutes, moving from the darkness of Good Friday to the light of Easter. The service ends as joyous proclamation of Good News! The outdoor version at CTK is much shorter still, aimed at all ages but especially friendly to children who end the service with a backyard Easter Egg Hunt! Done by 7:15 pm. We'll move inside if inclement weather.



Easter Sunday • March 31

8:00 am: Worship at COL
9:30 am: Worship at CTK, then Potluck Easter Breakfast
9:30 am: Worship at COL
11:00 am: Worship at COL

Christ is Risen! Come sing it, shout it, experience the love that His life brings!

It's the Resurrection of our Lord! The celebrative word we buried Ash Wednesday returns in full voice, with placing flowers on the cross at all services, ringing bells for everyone, and music to lift our souls.



"He is not here for He has RISEN,
just as He said." ~Matthew 28:6





Join a Meet & Greet for BOH's Dr. Taylor on April 11

All are invited to a Meet & Greet with Dr. Clifford Taylor, the new Executive Director of the Bread of Healing Clinic, on Thursday, April 11. The evening begins at 5:00 pm with Social Introductions, followed by the Program from 6:00-7:00 pm. The event will be held at Eastbrook Church, located at 5353 N. Green Bay Ave. in Milwaukee. Parking will be available in the main lot and refreshments will be served. **RSVP to 414-977-0001 or office@breadofhealing.org.** Please join our partner in welcoming Dr. Taylor! Our Servant Advocate for BOH is Diane Dressler at ddressler@wi.rr.com.



Aspen Center: Come Make Gratitude Journals April 28

Along with the weather warming up soon, so are our events with Aspen Center clients! As the seasons change, we enjoy the warmth, sunshine, and flowers blooming – lots for which to be grateful. **On Sunday, April 28, we'll meet at Aspen Center from 12:00-1:30 pm for a craft project, then work on Gratitude Journals.** Ideas for writing prompts and different types of journaling will be provided. During April and May, we'd love to help Aspen with something they requested last year: construction of two raised bed gardens in their backyard. And on Saturday, June 1, from 9:00-10:30 am, we'll get our hands dirty with our Aspen friends by planting pots of flowers and some veggies in those new garden beds! If you're interested in helping with ANY of these events/projects, please contact Cindy Boyd dcboyd1985@sbcglobal.net or 262-424-3610.



Applications for El Salvador Summer Trip Due by May 1

Our El Salvador Summer Trip will be July 23-30. Applications are due by May 1 and will be on our [Sign Up web page](#). This is our relationship-building trip, which folks have described as part VBS, part camping, and part cultural immersion. It includes time with both Cordero de Dios, a Lutheran church community, and Rutilio Grande, a rural Catholic community. If you have any health or safety concerns, talk with trip leaders before applying. Trip cost is \$500 for in-country expenses plus the price of your airfare (usually around \$800-\$900). If you are a UNITY member, the church will cover the \$500 in-country expenses as a thank you for your service. Questions or interested? Contact Muriel at muriel@unitybrookfield.org. **Please see details on the Application and join us for what our former travelers consider a life-changing experience. We hope you come find out why for yourself!**



April Service Opportunities

Meals for (and with) Serenity Inns
Sunday, April 7 & Friday, April 12
from 6:00-7:00 pm; kids welcome

Partner Meal Prep in COL Kitchen
Wednesday, April 10 • 4:45-6:30 pm

Meet & Greet BOH's Dr. Taylor
Thursday, April 11 • 5:00-7:00 pm
Eastbrook Church; see article above

Serve at Waukesha Food Pantry
Saturday, April 27 • 9:00 am-noon
Monday, April 29 • 5:45-8:00 pm

Gratitude Journals at Aspen Center
Sunday, April 28 • 12:00-1:30 pm
See article above for upcoming events

Thanks to your generosity,
Sunday School kids assembled
114 Birthday Bags for the
Waukesha Food Pantry!





Garden Work Party at Cross Lutheran on May 4

Join us for a Garden Work Party at Cross Lutheran Church on Saturday, May 4, from 9 am-noon.

Help us shovel mulch, turn over beds, and get Cross's Community Garden ready for the growing season ... all while eating hot dogs and getting to know some of the members at this fascinating, multi-cultural and always history-making congregation! It's the perfect project for those who are looking to serve others outside of our local community while enjoying the beautiful weather. **Interested in going? Contact John Allar at Johnallar@gmail.com.**



Food Pantry Fundraiser on May 18 in CTK's Backyard

Join us as we help host a fundraiser for the Food Pantry as they celebrate 46 years of serving Waukesha County!

Theme: The Breakfast Club

Date: Saturday, May 18 • 10 am-Noon

Location: Backyard at CTK Campus

Food: Breakfast Catered by Tuscan Hall

Cost: \$50 Per Person

Purpose: To raise awareness and financial support for the Food Pantry

Space is limited, so sign up ASAP by clicking [here!](#) (Also on our [Facebook](#).)

We are also looking for your help:

Friday, May 17: 4 pm: Event Set Up

Saturday, May 18: 9-10 am: Set Up

11:30-12:30: Clean Up

To volunteer at the event or donate a Silent Auction item, contact Ellen or Ron Vermillion at evermill61@gmail.com.



Our CTK Backyard was the location of the Food Pantry's Breakfast Club Fundraiser on October 1, 2022. Join us on Saturday, May 18, from 10 am-noon in the Pavilion!

Sign Up is Live for Blood Drive on Saturday, June 1

Thanks to all who donated at UNITY's Blood Drive on February 15. **Please continue giving the gift of LIFE by donating at UNITY's next Blood Drive on Saturday, June 1, from 7 am to 11 am at our COL campus.**

Sign up by going to [UNITY's Sign Up web page](#) and clicking on the [Blood Drive sign-up](#). There you'll see our private donation page on the Red Cross website. Need help signing up? Contact Marilyn Ranney at 414-975-5606 or ranneymarilyn@gmail.com.

Read more about the American Red Cross in the article below.



Partner of the Month: American Red Cross – Blood Donation

This month we recognize our Blood Drive partner, the American Red Cross. **Red Cross provides approximately 40% of the blood products needed across the U.S.** The blood we collect at UNITY is used locally and is also distributed regionally or anywhere the need is great.

Working with the Red Cross at UNITY has been a very efficient, streamlined process. Donating blood takes about 45-60 minutes from start to finish. In trauma situations the immediate need is for O Negative blood, but there are many who need blood products for blood disorders, cancer, burn trauma, or surgery. Red Cross takes all blood types and won't turn you away based on blood type.

Whether it be providing care at Bread of Healing, sending a medical team to El Salvador to provide clinics, or serving those with addiction, blood donation is another facet of UNITY's mission to serve. Blood donation is a healing and lifesaving gift, and you never know when you or a loved one might need a transfusion.

Our next Blood Drive will be held on Saturday June 1, from 7-11 am. (See [article above](#).) Please consider signing up at the [UNITY sign up page](#) if you are able to donate. For any questions, please contact Marilyn Ranney, our Blood Drive Advocate, at 414-975-5606 or ranneymarilyn@gmail.com.





New Member Gatherings: April 11 & 18 from 6:30-8:00 pm

We hold periodic gatherings (a.k.a. "classes") for anyone who wants to join UNITY. Our next New Member Gatherings will be held on two Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 pm: April 11 at our COL campus and April 18 at our CTK campus. If you already know you want to join, these are for you. If you simply want to learn more about this place, these are perfect, too! We eat together, learn about Christian and Lutheran practices, and get to know each other in a relaxed environment. If possible, attending both sessions is ideal. Dinner is provided and childcare is available.

What does "join" actually mean? It's a mutual commitment to be each other's faith community and to invest in the relationships that make that possible. We're a "lots-of-opportunities, come-in-at-your-own pace" congregation that strives to be open and playful, yet serious about passing on the faith through learning and serving.

If you plan to attend, please contact our Invite/New Member Chair Anna Jansson at ajansson8@gmail.com or 414-882-9608. Let her know at that time if you'd like childcare and if you have dietary specifications.

Everyone: Come celebrate with us on New Member Weekend: MAY 4-5!



We invite you to join UNITY's TWO-campus ministry, where we offer DOUBLE the opportunities to Celebrate, Share and Renew together as a Faith Family!

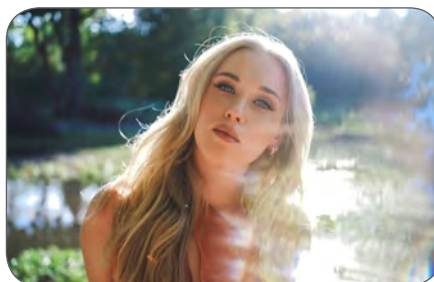
Spring Flower Sale in Bloom; Orders Due April 16

Our Spring Flower Sale is now in full bloom, with order forms due by Tuesday, April 16. Order forms will be at each campus after worship services and are now on our [2024 Spring Flowers web page](#). We have great flowers to choose from! Flower Pickup will be at our CTK campus only on Friday, May 17, from 5:00-7:30 pm. Contact is Sherrie Lorbeck at sherrie@unitybrookfield.org. Proceeds benefit our Sr. High summer trip to the ELCA National Youth Gathering, so thanks for helping us raise some "green!"



See Nora Collins in Concert on April 18 at EGWC!

Enjoy a concert by Nora Collins: singer-songwriter, Brookfield native and UNITY member, on Thursday, April 18, at the Elm Grove Woman's Club. Social Hour starts at 6 pm; food and beverages are available for purchase on-site. Concert will start at 7 pm. Ticket prices are: Adults: \$22; Students (age 6-17): \$12; Children under 6 are free. Purchase tickets at egwc.org/events/nora-collins. All proceeds benefit the Elm Grove Woman's Club. EGWC is at 13885 Watertown Plank Rd. in Elm Grove.



Twentysomethings: Birthday Extravaganza on April 12

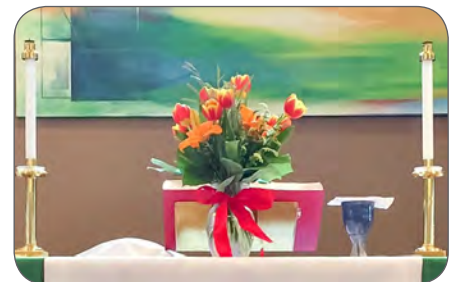
Calling all Twentysomethings to join us for our Birthday Extravaganza on Friday, April 12! (Time & location are TBA.) Who's the guest of honor? ALL of our Twentysomethings! We're gathering to give thanks for the life we've all been given, so a Birthday Extravaganza is in order. Sound fun? Contact Matt Griepentrog at matt@unitybrookfield.org or 262-787-8820 to get the details as soon as we have them ... then be sure to celebrate us! "A birthday is just the first day of another 365-day journey around the sun. Enjoy the trip!" ~ Author Unknown



Come be a part of Twentysomethings, our newest (and coolest) Small Group!

Help Beautify our Worship Spaces with Altar Flowers

Looking for the perfect way to commemorate a meaningful occasion while beautifying our worship spaces at the same time? Sponsor altar flowers for a weekend! Visit our [SignUp Genius](#) for the 2024 calendar and more details. Cost is only \$25, payable by check or online. Need help signing up? Email [Nancy Kostanski](mailto:Nancy.Kostanski@unitybrookfield.org) or [Lynn Key](mailto:Lynn.Key@unitybrookfield.org), or call church at 262-781-7600. At the end of the last service, you are welcome to take your flowers home and return the vase as soon as you can to either campus.





Adult Forum on April 14: Authoring a Book



Have you ever considered authoring a book but don't know how to go about it? Melanie Varin will share her story of how her book "Ignite Topline Growth" came to be! **Join us on**

Sunday, 14, at 9:30 am at COL for "Authoring a Book with Melanie Varin: The Process from Planning to Producing to Publishing!"

Adult Forum: on April 21: Call Team Update: *Tentative*

Mark your calendars for what is now tentatively scheduled and will be confirmed closer to the date. **Join us (tentatively) on Sunday, April 21, at 9:30 am at COL for our Adult Forum that will feature a Call Team Session.** Come hear the latest news on our Call Team process from several members of our Call Team.



Adult Forum: on April 28: Finance Forum: *Tentative*

Mark your calendars for what is now tentatively scheduled and will be confirmed closer to the date. **Join us (tentatively) on Sunday, April 28, at 9:30 am at COL for our Adult Forum that will feature a Finance Forum 101.** Hear all about tools you can use in your financial planning, like RMDs, ACHs, EFTs, DTCs and more!



Casting Call for Spring Bible Study/Musical: Jesus Karaoke! (Note: Bible Study/Writers Group Begins on Tuesday, April 9)

Students, Writers, and Singers, take note! Once again UNITY has a Spring Musical in the works: Jesus Karaoke! This year's version will be both written and performed by members, with a 5-week Bible Study followed by a 3-week rehearsal and performance run. In April and May we will do a Bible Study to learn about the core stories of our faith. Each week's homework will be to describe them in our own words and brainstorm songs that capture their meaning. Anyone interested in learning more about our sacred scriptures is encouraged to join the Bible Study, which will meet Tuesdays at 6 pm (*schedule below*) at the COL campus or online. Then, we will turn those summaries and songs into this year's Jesus Karaoke script, and recruit a cast of singers, readers, and tech support. The cast will do two rehearsals (May 28 & June 4) then perform at all 3 worship services on June 8 & 9. There is literally zero musical talent required to join the cast; it is basically lip synching! You DO need some good energy and a willingness to put yourself out there in front of the world's most supportive audience. Or you can just read! **You can choose to do just the Bible Study/Writers Group ... just the show ... or be part of both.** Email Muriel at muriel@unitybrookfield.org. Open to 6th grade and up.

Our Casting Call for our Spring Musical starts ... NOW!

Writers Bible Study: Tuesdays: April 9 & 30 and May 7, 14 & 21 • 6 pm at COL

Cast Rehearsals: Tuesdays: May 28 (at COL) & June 4 (at CTK) • 6 pm

Performance Weekend: (*Trust us; this really is a show you don't want to miss!*)

Saturday, June 8: 5:00 pm service at COL

Sunday, June 9: 8:30 am service at COL • 10:00 am service at CTK



New Vanco Donation Web Page to be Launched in April

UNITY's Vanco Donation page will be getting a visual refresh this month!

Everyone's username and password will remain the same – and our usual menu of giving options will also be there. It will just look a little more modern! If you have any questions or need assistance with the new page, please get in touch with Matt in the office: matt@unitybrookfield.org or 262-787-8820. **Below is what it will look like!**



General Fund

Donate



Lent Offering

Help contribute to Rutilio's fund for roof repair.

Donate



Easter Flowers

Enter total payment amount for Easter altar flowers. Due by March 21.

Pay



Council Corner

April has arrived! For many of us, faster than we anticipated and maybe would have hoped for. April brings with it a very big transition for our wonderful church community. For those of us who have known Pastor John for years, months, or maybe even just days, it is clear the impact his departure will have will be felt by all. But! **As Pastor John makes his way into retirement (woohoo!) we know there are pastors out there making their way to us. So with saying goodbye we also get to say hello!** And from what I have seen since joining UNITY, we are fantastic at saying hello! Welcome! We are happy you are here!

The month of April also brings the opportunity for New Members to be welcomed in. (See article on page 6.) Twice a year UNITY holds new New Member Gatherings and a New Member Welcome Weekend in which we celebrate those who have chosen our very special church as a place to join in worship and fellowship. So in more ways than one, we here at UNITY have the privilege to extend ourselves both to our neighbors in the pews and to any visiting pastors. We get to share with them our warmth and our smiles and our willingness to say hello! Welcome! We are glad you are here!

For Pastor John, "May the Lord, Mighty God bless and keep you forever. Grant you peace, inner peace, faith for every endeavor." You will be missed! But, may you leave the UNITY you wholeheartedly helped to shape and create knowing we will continue to welcome all who walk through the doors just as you always have.

~ Anna Jansson,
Invite/New Member Team Chair



Call Committee Update

As you know, we spent some time in March gathering feedback from the congregation about our priorities in worship, Christian education, service ministries, and general topics. We asked what you would like to see more of, see less of, and continue to offer as a congregation. **Thank you to the many folks who attended Congregational Input Meetings in person or on Zoom, and who completed surveys. Your input was extremely helpful!**

Our Congregational Input Sub-committee will be analyzing and summarizing your input, so we can share it with you at a later date. The good news is that the Call Committee was pretty in tune with sentiments shared, so your input was consistent with where we were headed.

The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) sub-committee used your input to complete the document required by the Synod. (See latest draft on Call Team web page.) It was shared with the Call Committee, and a few minor tweaks were made before submitting to the Council. The Council also added some suggested edits and approved the MSP wholeheartedly. Subsequently, the MSP was submitted to the ELCA Milwaukee Synod. This will start the process of making our needs, wants, and wishes known to prospective candidates.

To better understand and fully appreciate the process, Kristin Nielsen of the Milwaukee Synod will be meeting with the Call Committee in April. We will also meet to develop our interviewing strategies, so that we fully and consistently vet each candidate who comes our way.

Thank you for your continued prayers for each member of the Call Committee, for prospective pastoral candidates, and for the process, in general. We feel your support!



Money Matters

Happy Spring! As we finish our first quarter of the year, I wanted to let you know how we are doing so far. On February 25, the congregation voted at the Annual Meeting and approved our new 2024 budget. **As of the end of February, we are behind the budget in givings by \$15,360.** We still have plenty of time, but the Finance Team realized we need to be more forthcoming with how the church is doing financially. While this information is available at any time to anyone within the church (simply email me at alzastrow@yahoo.com and I will let you know!), we wanted to make sure we are putting it out there more as well.

Givings:

January	\$ 84,503
February	\$ 77,294
Year-to-Date	\$161,797
Budget-to-Date	\$177,157

As always, if you have any questions, please email me!

~ Adrienne Krueger, Treasurer

Time & Talent 2024: T&T!

Be connected in our commUNITY through our Time & Talent Form! Use the QR Code below or visit our Time & Talent web page. Hover over any item and an explanation bubble will tell you more about it. **And check out our T&T Video!** T&T makes it possible for you to contribute your time and talent to Christ's ministries in this place and it allows you to be included in things like Bible Studies & Small Groups to feed your soul. Giving and receiving is our collective lifeline as a congregation. Thanks for considering your important part in the whole.



Minister's Minute

Thank you for all the ways you took time to give thanks to John for his ministry here over the past 27 years! I'm glad we decided against having his last Sunday be on Easter. We couldn't figure out how he could be at all the services at each campus *and* have time to talk to people before and after each service! Having the Open Houses along with the Game Night and the Serving Day beforehand allowed him to just spend time with people, which is what he wanted most of all.

Not only was it a sight to see John's face light up in great delight at various points over the past few weeks, but it was great to see the way people at each service did the same, even erupting into spontaneous applause when the Children's Message worked with great success, or after the vignette of John, Muriel and me, mostly remembering our lines! I mention this because there is something special that happens when a pastor and a congregation are able to get to know each other throughout the years.

There is so much shared history through life's highs and lows, but also a familiarity with each other too. You know each other's personalities and the things they love and are passionate about. They have earned your trust and they know that you are there for them too. You're able to rejoice when they rejoice, and if necessary, weep when they weep.

While it is never easy to say goodbye and open the door to a change, it was also good to have reason to celebrate... for people to come together, including members who moved away, some who grew up here or raised their families here but now live elsewhere. It was touching to hear words of thanks from our youngest and oldest members.

I was struck by how, as people talk together – especially when they are able to trust one another – they often learn from each other's life experiences.

The parents of kids who are at the stage above you, who are able to listen as you enter this new stage completely unprepared and unsure of how you'll get through it. They've already "been there, done that" and can both reassure and offer practical wisdom and insight.

Those who have walked the road of caring for a loved one and are able to pass along advice on how to take care of yourself in the midst of it, while also knowing how to advocate for loved ones and how to figure out all the paperwork and details that no one tells you about. These are just a couple examples.

The staff and I are so very grateful for all of you and your prayers for us during this time! We feel them and we thank you for recognizing it will be a big change for us.

As we all find our way through what lies ahead, we will have to get to know new leaders in our midst. We'll have to be careful not to expect them to BE JOHN, for as you know, there really only is ONE John Horner-Ibler! We'll have to be patient with them as they get to know us and who we are, and allow them to bring their own unique skills and energies to the mix as we continue to listen for the Spirit's leading in this new season.

Many of you have graciously reached out to ask what you can do to help your church staff family during this time of transition, so here are a few things I want to highlight the importance of, especially right now....

• Say Yes to invitations from staff regarding where we most need help.

This may be in helping to be a part of the 11 ministry teams that do the majority of the work we are a part of, from inviting and learning, serving, worshiping and communicating the Good News, to taking good care of our spaces, to being a place for members and the community to gather.

• Sign up to be a part of the rotation to do ONE thing for worship. (There are just as many behind the scenes roles as there are roles that involve speaking. You'd be trained on anything you do sign up for!) Check out the [Time and Talent](#) section on our website.

• Keep coming to worship! Seriously. I know it's getting harder. Sunday mornings are no longer "sacred." They are jam-packed with every game, birthday party, family brunch, graduation. If not in person, worship online! Let us know what ideas you have to improve worship or what you loved most about it. It's what feeds the staff with energy and allows us to connect with you. Plus, your participation in person or virtually is an example to those who look to you.

• Keep supporting all that UNITY does with your continued giving. We try so hard to keep expenses, including staffing, as low as possible, but given our size and the ministries we offer and the partners we are connected to, we become limited in our potential to keep growing deeper in those relationships and our impact to respond to the needs of our UNITY family. Thank you for giving all that you do in all the ways that you do!

• Keep telling your friends and neighbors you're a part of UNITY! Our kids are usually the best inviters, but you can be too! You don't have to try to steal people from somewhere, but if they are looking for a church home, be bold and tell them what you love about UNITY!

With thanksgiving for John's ministry and for all of you,

~ Sherrie

Two-Campus Ministry in Brookfield, Wis. • unitybrookfield.org

Christ the King: 4600 Pilgrim Rd. • Zip: 53005 • (262) 781-7600

Cross of Life: 20700 W. North Ave. • Zip: 53045 • (262) 781-7600





Special Note from John Horner-Ibler

Hopewell Reformed Church, Hopewell Junction, NY (in Youth and Children's Ministry) and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, New Holstein, WI (as Pastor) were my two previous congregational ministries. They couldn't have been more different, but I loved them both and pray I ended well with each of them. Since people from both places still talk to me, I'm hoping that's a good sign.

Though nothing at all on scale with a birth or death, the end of a pastorate is cut from the same sort of cloth. It becomes a holy moment where past and future merge and you can really be immersed in the moment. And then, the Spirit blows and we move forward to an eternity of next things....

In this holy moment, it's so important to me that you know how deeply thankful I am for anyone who joined, left, or still is a part of UNITY. My failures and omissions in ministry are many but I hope you can trust that none were intentional. The biggest enemy was always time... never enough of it to follow up or slow down to be with all of you as much as your lives deserve.

As for worship? All of you, especially the Saturday night crowd, got a lot of off-track sermons from me over the years, but I was always trying. The hardest thing about closure in ministry, I think, is gratitude. I feel it so deeply to so many of you, but as soon as I mention one name, I should mention a thousand and that literally would not be enough.

I guess maybe the one group I will single out is the 800-900 Confirmation students who came through our program in my time, nearly all of whom had to appear in one Lenten vignette, presentation, or another. There may be no harder time in life to be vulnerable than middle school, and yet every one of you got up there and gave it a shot. And perhaps the congregation, which always applauded you, is the thing you should remember from that: a community of love is never disappointed when one of its members risks on behalf of the whole.

My other gratitude is for your care of the Horner-Ibler family. You never expected Barb to be whatever a "pastor's spouse" is supposed to be in so many churches. You let David and Michael grow up here like all the other kids; you valued their unique situation without imposing a standard of perfection. And, you supported our family-wide passion for the science-faith-healing link. No child of God should be separated from the best possible spiritual and medical help in a time of need. This, we are quite sure, is a Jesus-thing for any and all.

I leave you in such caring and amazing pastoral hands; Muriel in the short term, Sherrie for the longer term. To me, both embody THE attributes most essential in a pastor: get your hands dirty, travel with the people, and hold what members share with you in love and deepest confidentiality. As you look forward to your next pastors, Muriel for a season and Sherrie for several, will be the glue that embodies those essential traits.

And, it's a wrap! Valuing the past, we dive into the future, held together by our two great celebrations, Christmas and Easter. We are a loved and purposed people, sent forward to add our lives to what the angels are shouting still: Jesus is born! Christ is risen! Good News! Great Joy! For all the people!

~ John

Farewell and THANK YOU to John H-I!

Thanks to all who attended Pastor John Horner-Ibler's last worship services or Farewell Celebrations on April 6, 7 or 14 as he ended 27 years of ministry among us. If you couldn't attend John's last sermons on Easter Sunday, or the last vignettes performed in his honor, you can find them on our [Facebook page](#), along with more photos from worship and our Open Houses!





New Member Welcome Weekend is May 4-5

We will welcome our Spring 2024 New Members during New Member Welcome Weekend on May 4-5.

Please join us as we do what we do best as a faith family: welcome others! **Before then, be sure to "meet" these New Members in the flyer attached to this newsletter.**

We have 7 new households who are joining, so let's wrap them up in our collective UNITY arms! Questions? Please contact Invite/New Member Chair Anna Jansson at ajansson8@gmail.com. *Welcome, new friends!*



Come Celebrate First Communion: May 18-19

First Communion Classes will be held on two Thursdays, May 9 & 16, from 6:30-7:45 pm at COL for kids in grade 3 and older. **First Communion Weekend will be held May 18-19 at all services at both campuses.**

Everyone is encouraged to join us to celebrate this special milestone in the life of our faith family! Any questions? Contact Christian Education Director Michelle Aprahamian at michelle@unitybrookfield.org. We hope to see you at the Lord's Table for this special party for our kids and their families!



Bring Cereal Boxes in May for Domino Run/Van Cram

Sunday School kids will collect cereal boxes for the Waukesha Food Pantry during the month of **May**. Please drop them off in either narthex or bring them into church when you come to worship. **We will have a Cereal Box Domino Run/ Cram the Van event on Sunday, June 2, at all services at both campuses!** You'll help our Sunday School kids beat last year's Domino Run of 477 boxes (which beat our former record of 375) while helping them feed families in need!



MHE: Free Movie Night Concerts at CTK on June 2

The Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble (which includes UNITY members Stacey Nordmeyer and Lynn Key) will hold two Movie Night Concerts at our CTK campus. **Join us on Sunday, June 2, at 3:30 or 6:30 pm at CTK for "Memorable Movie Moments Heard through Handbells!"** The MHE will play music from popular movies such as "Frozen," "Muppets," "Star Wars" and more! There is no charge for the shows; there will be a free will offering. Find more info at milwaukeehandbells.org and join us!



Sunday School Ends June 1-2; ABC SSS Begins June 23

We'll top off the year with ice cream sundaes during Sunday School on June 1-2 at both campuses. **THEN ... ABC Summer Sunday School will be held during Sunday services from June 23 to August 25: 8:30 am at COL and 10:00 am at CTK.** Designed for kids in Pre-K to Grade 3, each week celebrates a new letter of the alphabet through Bible stories, crafts, games, activities, and a snack. There's **NO sign up**; just *show up!* *Remember: friends and guests are always invited to join us for ABC Summer Sunday School!*



Summer Worship Hours Begin on June 8-9

Our summertime worship schedule begins the weekend of June 8-9:

- **Saturdays: 5:00 pm at COL**
- **Sundays: 8:30 am at COL**
- **Sundays: 10:00 am at CTK: Outside in Pavilion**

CTK's 10:00 am service will be outside in our Pavilion, weather permitting. **We will actually begin outside worship at CTK on June 16 so we can enjoy Jesus Karaoke inside on June 9.** Our June newsletter will have more details on outdoor worship services at CTK.





Food Pantry Fundraiser: Online Auction begins May 1

Good news: Tickets to the Waukesha Food Pantry Fundraiser in CTK's Backyard on May 18 have sold out! *Thanks to all who are attending!* More good news: **Bidding for Silent Auction items is available online beginning Wednesday, May 1. Click [HERE](#).** Would you like to donate to this partner as they celebrate 46 years of serving Waukesha County? Click [HERE](#). If you can help with Setup on Friday, May 17, at 4 pm or Saturday, May 18, at 8 am, or help with Cleanup on Saturday, May 18, at noon, please contact Ellen Vermillion at evermill61@gmail.com. Thank you for helping us feed hungry people!



Garden Work Party at Cross Lutheran on May 4

Join us for a Garden Work Party at Cross Lutheran Church on Saturday, May 4, from 9 am-noon.

Help us shovel mulch, turn over beds, and get Cross's Community Garden ready for the growing season ... all while eating hot dogs and getting to know some of the members at this fascinating, multi-cultural and history-making congregation! It's the perfect project for those who are looking to serve others outside of our local community while enjoying the weather. All ages are welcome! **Interested in going? Contact John Allar at Johnallar@gmail.com.**



Garden Work Days in May and June 1 at Aspen Center

June is Gardening Month! And to celebrate, we're going to construct raised bed gardens at Aspen Center (something they've requested for years) then help with planting. **Construction of garden beds is planned for May.** If you want to help, please contact Cindy Boyd at dcboyd1985@sbcglobal.net or 262-424-3610. **On Saturday, June 1, from 9:00-10:30 am:** We'll help Aspen plant annuals and perennials in those fabulous new raised beds along with some snazzy pots for the front of their residence. Refreshments (sub sandwiches & sodas) will be provided! Contact [Cindy Boyd](#) if you can help!



Partner of the Month: Serenity Inns

An excerpt from a recent graduate of Serenity Inns (SI): "When I first came to Serenity Inns, I wanted to get clean so I could go back out and use. Seeing the recovery at meetings, I was amazed at the men who had gotten clean and stayed clean. I wanted what they had. My view of using and recovery changed, and I thought I was worth it. I began believing in myself and took steps to improve my life."

The long-term partnership UNITY has established with SI has greatly helped to support an ongoing community need for residential treatment for men who choose recovery and have no insurance or funds to pay for their treatment.

To further help address the overdose crisis with the necessary treatment and support to recover from substance use disorder, **SI is excited to announce that a new Residential Treatment Facility is being built across the street from SI at 2830 W. Brown Street. Please visit their website at www.serenityinns.org/newbuilding.**

Lastly... **please consider joining us for a Dinner Fellowship on either the first Sunday or second Friday of each month.** This servanthood activity gives volunteers the opportunity to serve and have dinner with the residents as well as hear how these men are progressing in their recovery journey. See the [SignUp Genius](#) on our [Sign Up web page!](#) **Next dates to join us:** May 5 & 10, June 2 & 14, July 7 & 12, August 4 & 9.

Want to be more involved with Serenity Inns? Contact me at bflynner@aol.com.

*~ Brian Flynn,
Serenity Inns Servant Advocate*



Next Blood Drive on June 1

Thanks to all who donated at UNITY's Blood Drive on February 15! **Please continue giving the gift of LIFE by donating at UNITY's next Blood Drive on Saturday, June 1, from 7 am to 11 am at our COL campus.**

Sign up by going to [UNITY's Sign Up web page](#) and clicking on the Blood Drive sign up. There you'll see our donation page on the Red Cross website. Need help signing up? Contact Marilyn Ranney at 414-975-5606 or ranneymarilyn@gmail.com.

Fall Blood Drive is on Thursday, September 19, from 1-6 pm at COL.





Spring Outdoor Cleanup on May 4 at CTK Campus

Spring Outdoor Cleanup at our CTK campus will be on Saturday, May 4, from 9 am-noon. Many hands are needed to help prepare the backyard for outdoor worship and enjoyment this spring and summer. **Please see details in the latest bulletin on what needs to be done.** Questions, contact David Koenen at davidkoenen@wi.rr.com.



Adult Forum on May 5: Computer Safety

Allen Krueger, President/Systems Architect at Krueger Communications, will discuss safety on your home and work computers, how often you should change your passwords, avoiding online scams, and keeping your personal information private. **Join us Sunday, May 5, at 9:30 am at COL for this important safety topic.**



Adult Forum on May 19: Orcas Island Trip Recap

Join us on Sunday, May 19, at 9:30 am at COL for an Orcas Island Trip Recap! Hear from our travelers who returned from the Orcas Island retreat held April 22-27. They'll share pictures and stories from this fantastic trip.



Casting Call for Spring Bible Study/Musical: Jesus Karaoke! Bible Study/Writers Group Continues May 7, 14 & 21

Once again UNITY has a spring musical in the works: a new version of last year's Jesus Karaoke show! This year's version will be both written and performed by members, with a 5-week Bible Study followed by a 3-week Rehearsal and Performance run. You can choose to do just the Bible Study, just the show, or be part of both. The Bible Study will run in April and May, and will study the core stories of our faith. Each week's homework will be to describe them in our own words and brainstorm songs that capture their meaning. The class will be on Tuesdays at 7:30 pm at Cross of Life, or you can listen after the fact on our podcast.

Then, we will turn those summaries and songs into this year's Jesus Karaoke script and recruit a cast of singers, readers, and tech support. The cast will do two rehearsals on May 28 & June 4, then perform at all three services June 8 & 9.

There is zero musical talent required to join the cast; it is basically lip synching. You DO need some good energy and a willingness to put yourself out there in front of the world's most supportive audience. Plus it is SO much fun! Open to 6th grade and up. **To be a part, email Muriel at muriel@unitybrookfield.org.**

Our Casting Call for our Spring Musical starts ... NOW!

Writers Bible Study: Tuesdays: April 9 & 30 and May 7, 14 & 21 • 7:30 pm at COL

Cast Rehearsals: Tuesdays: May 28 (at COL) & June 4 (at CTK) • 6:00 pm

PERFORMANCE WEEKEND:

Saturday, June 8: 5:00 pm service at COL

Sunday, June 9: 8:30 am service at COL • 10:00 am service at CTK



Grief Group on May 15 & 22: 6:30-8:00 pm at COL

When Life Isn't the Same

If you have lost a spouse or a parent or someone else close to you, the grieving doesn't end after the funeral. We invite you to a safe space where you can share more about where you are at in your journey ... learn more about the stages of grief ... and get help finding your way through what you need most for the road ahead.

We invite you to join us for our Grief Group, held two Wednesdays, May 15 & 22, from 6:30-8:00 pm at our Cross of Life campus. If possible, attending both evenings is helpful. These gatherings will be led by Pastor Jim Ahlquist and Pastor Sherrie Lorbeck. If this is the right time for you, or if someone you know could benefit from being a part of this, please RSVP to Jim at jim@unitybrookfield.org or 715-210-2245.

Grief never ends... But it changes. It's a passage, not a place to stay. Grief is not a sign of weakness, nor a lack of faith...

It is the price of love.



Moms Group Meets Next on May 16: Now at CTK!

Moms Group is a time for moms of all ages and stages to come together to talk, eat, laugh, cry, support and pray. *Our Spring/Summer Schedule is now in effect! We meet third Thursdays, 5:30-7:00 pm at our CTK Campus. Next gatherings: May 16, June 20, July 18 & August 15.* Dinner and childcare always provided. Kids can be in the backyard or in the nursery with sitters. Come find your tribe with us!



Spring Flower Pickup: May 17 & 18 at CTK

Thanks to all who ordered from our Spring Flower Sale! All proceeds benefit our Sr. High Summer Trip to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July. **Spring Flower Pickup will be at our CTK campus on Friday, May 17, from 5:00-7:30 pm & Saturday, May 18, from 9:00-11:00 am.** Questions? Please contact Sherrie Lorbeck at sherrie@unitybrookfield.org.



Lawn Mowing Help is Needed at Both of Our Campuses

The season you've been waiting for is here! Sign up now to drive COL's John Deere power-packed riding lawn mower or CTK's super-charged zero-turn riding lawn mower! In addition to the riding mowers, there is a self-propelled walk-behind mower, a gas-powered leaf blower, and a gas-powered string trimmer to handle the work at each location. **What to know before you mow:**

- The trimming and mowing process typically takes about two hours at COL, somewhat longer at CTK, and is generally needed only once per week.
- Ideally the mowing should be done in the Wednesday–Saturday morning time frame (weather permitting) so the grounds look good for weekend services and weddings.
- At CTK, the Inside Crew uses the push mower to cut areas around the prayer garden and church sign. The Outside Crew cuts everything around the parking lot using the riding mower.

Register by June 10 for VBS on June 17-20: Primero Dios!

Be part of this year's VBS program: Primero Dios, Pasaporte Por El Salvador! It's another *Playful with a Purpose* VBS as we learn all about our partners in El Salvador. We will play, sing, eat, laugh, learn, craft, and pray. Don't forget to invite your friends, neighbors, cousins and grandkids!

Visit our [VBS 2024 web page](#) to get more details and to register by JUNE 10. In the meantime, here's what you need to know:

Dates: Monday, June 17, through Thursday, June 20

Times: 12:30-4:00 pm | CTK campus

Aftercare: until 5:00 pm (\$5/day)

Cost: \$30/child, \$60 max/family*

*The cost should never prevent participation. If it's a difficulty, contact Michelle Aprahamian.

BE A VBS KID: Completed a year of Preschool through Grade 5

BE A CREW LEADER: Completed Grade 6 through Sr. High

BE A SITE WORKER: College age through Adults

Join us on Thursday, June 20, at 4:30 pm for Family Night! Food will be served from 4:30-5:15 pm. Parents, grandparents, and siblings are invited to a VBS Fiesta! Join us for VBS songs and games, and see what everyone loved most about our VBS week.

Questions? Contact Michelle Aprahamian at michelle@unitybrookfield.org or 414-732-8615.

Come join your friends for one of the best weeks of the year at UNITY. It's a Passport to FUN!



Sign up today through [SignUp Genius](#) on our [Sign Up web page](#) to be part of this important crew! Questions? Contact Property Chair David Koenen at davidkoenen@wi.rr.com.





Council Corner

TRUSTING GOD.... A season of uncertainty can be scary and stressful. I have found myself questioning "what's next" for important areas in my life. Yet, rather than being worried, stressed or scared, I have found peace. Why? I AM TRUSTING GOD.

I realize this time is bringing me closer to God. It has been a time of spiritual growth and strength like I have never experienced before. This journey has been filled with prayer, Scripture, Bible studies, faith podcasts, devotionals, and discussions with people that have spoken encouragement, support and the love of Jesus into my life. While it has not been an easy time, the Bible continues to provide me daily encouragement, hope, strength, comfort and reminders of God's love and faithfulness.

Working through this uncertainty has brought with it reminders that have provided me strength and most importantly, drawn me closer to Jesus. For me, it has all come down to trusting God. No. Matter. What. Easier said than done for sure. These reminders have been instrumental in my spiritual growth amidst the unknown, but also serve as powerful reminders for all of us during difficulties we face in this broken world. My list below has given me encouragement, peace and helped to redirect me to stay focused on trusting God. (Highlights "Trusting God," Jerry Bridges).

1. Trusting God is a daily choice.
2. Trusting God is active.
3. Trusting God is based on will, not feelings.
4. Trusting God means persistent prayer and relationship with Him.
5. Trusting God means praising Him despite circumstances.
6. Trusting God takes an open heart, ready to receive.
7. Trusting God takes open eyes to see Him.
8. Trusting God means His will and time.
9. Trusting God includes a grateful heart, always.
10. Trusting God means belief in 3 truths in the Bible: a) God is sovereign; b) God has infinite wisdom; c) God is perfect love.

"We must see our circumstances through God's love instead of seeing God's love through our circumstances" (Bridges). May this message bring you comfort and encouragement. Dive into your Bible to know God better. To know God, is to trust God.

~ **Susie Sprecher, Adult Programs**

Money Matters

The first quarter giving was an okay start to the year. In 2024, \$268,816 was given compared to \$293,087 in the first quarter of 2023, for a decline of 9%. In short bursts, variations like this are not predictive, but we would rather be ahead instead of behind on giving. We encourage everyone to keep pace with your pledges for 2024.

We also encourage you to review your personal Q1 UNITY giving statement that was emailed to members in mid-April. Please get in the habit of checking the statement to ensure:

- The amount matches what you intended to give; and
- Your contribution went to the right area, such as the general fund or a special appeal.

If you believe anything needs to be corrected, it is best to catch it and reach out promptly so it can be addressed. This helps UNITY keep accurate accounting and prevents a rush situation when corrections need to be made and used for members' tax records. The contact person is Financial Secretary Craig Nelson at craigwnelson7@gmail.com. Thank you for supporting our ministries!

~ **Trisha Smith, Stewardship Chair**

Lenten Offerings Exceeded Our Goal!

Our goal for this year's Lenten Offering was \$15,000, and thanks to your generosity, we raised \$17,115! The funds are designated toward two school projects in Rutilio Grande, one of our El Salvador partners. The first \$8,000 is enough to reroof the (leaking) elementary school roof, with the remaining \$9,115 funding more than half of their \$14,000 project to create a secure fenced-in area around the preschool.

Connecting in the Future: From John Horner-Ibler

My last day on the UNITY payroll was April 30. After that date I am *still* alive and always interested in your lives. What I am *not*, after that date, is one of your called pastors. I encourage you to be in touch with Sherrie, Muriel (and Jim in the pastoral care area) for any ministry needs. That request carries forward to future interim pastors and especially to those people who will be called as your future settled pastors. Love them deeply, lift them in your prayers, and depend on them to help lead, serve, and care for you as your pastors. **Personal connection is not a problem. If you want to be in touch, here's my info:**



Mailing address: 5811 Hacker Drive West Bend, WI 53095

E-mail address: johnhorneribler@gmail.com

Cell phone: 414-313-9380

Love to all and special prayers for our Call Team, Council and future candidates. And to all, keep Jesus' humility and love at the center of your week and dreams.

~ **John**

Keep Connecting with Us!

Despite being "down" a pastor, we are no less here for you! Please continue to reach out to us at any time.

Pastor Sherrie Lorbeck:
sherrie@unitybrookfield.org
Cell: 414-477-7762

Pastor Muriel Otto:
muriel@unitybrookfield.org
Cell: 712-254-6515

Pastor Jim Ahlquist:
jjim@unitybrookfield.org
Cell: 715-210-2245

Don't know who to contact? Call our Church Office at 262-781-7600. Often times they can assist you with your needs. If not, you will be directed to the proper person. *The important thing is to stay in touch with us!*





PASTORAL CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE ~ from Melanie Varin, Committee Co-Chair

Members of the UNITY Call Committee and Pastor Kristin Nielsen from the ELCA Milwaukee Synod led Adult Forums on Sunday, April 21, 2024, at both campuses. Below is a summary of the information shared.

Congregational Input

The Congregational Input sub-committee reported on the feedback received from over 120 members during our survey and input gathering sessions. Here are just some of the highlights:

- Members love sermons that connect to daily life, are energizing and welcoming, and reflect our pastors' passion and humor.
- Over the next five years, members would like to see more service involvement with local partners, reinstating food pack service projects, and getting out of our comfort zone.
- Regarding education and learning, members want to find a Youth Director to bolster teen opportunities, stay committed to a strong Sunday School program with key celebration milestones, and add more learning opportunities for adults, especially Bible studies.

If you would like more detailed information about the data gathered, please reach out to any member of the call committee. You can easily do so through our [Pastoral Call Team web page](#), where you will also find the newest info as we update it.

Ministry Site Profile

The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) sub-committee took all the information from the congregational input sessions into consideration when writing our MSP. The 75-word summary of our church is the part of our MSP that ALL prospective pastors can view. Those who are interested in learning more can reach out to the Milwaukee Synod to request the full version of the MSP. The full version includes our top five ministry tasks, our requested gifts for ministry, lots of statistics about our congregation and surrounding neighborhoods, as well as ample opportunity for us to explain who we are and how we operate. See our website for the full version.

Pastor Kristin shared that when a prospective pastor reaches out to request our MSP, the Synod also requests their candidate profile, which is almost as lengthy and detailed as an MSP. The Synod also carefully reviews any recommendation or assessment provided by the Bishop of the prospect's Synod. They also have a discussion with the prospect. They then assess the gifts of the candidate with the needs of the congregation before making any recommendation for consideration. They are providing a screening function to ensure we don't waste our time with prospects who will not be a good fit.

Pastor Kristin also shared that approx. 30 other churches in the Milwaukee Synod are also in the call process at this time. The Synod doesn't have a "first come, first served" philosophy; they weigh each congregation's needs as equally as possible.

Also, with the blessing and support of the Milwaukee Synod, UNITY is about six (or more) months ahead of the normal schedule for a pastoral call. It is typical that a call committee is not even formed until months AFTER a pastor leaves and one or more town hall sessions can be held for congregational input. Thankfully we were able to form our call committee late in 2023 with meetings already early in 2024, about four months before Pastor John's departure. This demonstrates incredible flexibility on the part of the Synod, for which we are very grateful!

Next Steps

Next steps for the call committee include conducting a "mock" interview, which is a requirement of the Synod. Then the Synod will start looking for potential matches between candidates who express interest in UNITY and our needs as stated in our MSP. This process may take several months, so your patience and prayers are appreciated.

Initial interviews with any candidate may be conducted virtually, depending on the location of the candidate. Serious contenders will then be invited for an in-person interview along with an opportunity to talk with staff and visit the local area.

Once the call committee finds at least one candidate they unanimously consider a great fit for UNITY, they will present him/her to the Church Council, who will then meet the candidate. If they agree, the Council will recommend the candidate to the congregation, who will then vote on the call.

The call committee is committed to keeping the congregation informed throughout this process. Some elements of the process are by necessity confidential. If a committee member is not able to share as much as you might like to know, please extend them grace, and know they are attempting to work in the best interests of the congregation as a whole. They will share as much as they are able at any given time.

Thank you for your ongoing support, prayers, and encouragement as we continue to journey through this process.



Get to know our Pastoral Call Team! Front row, left to right: Nelson Brownell, Melanie Varin, Linda Johnson, Davida Kroepfl, Jessica Schrieber and Mary Huss. Back row, left to right: Logan Kemper, Jim Johnsen, Matt Jolliff, Mark Krause and David Engle. Visit our [Pastoral Call Team web page](#) to learn more about each of them.



Please note this calendar is tentative. Watch your email, our website and Facebook for updates.



Christ the King Campus



Cross of Life Campus

Colors denote campuses *only*;
Join in, either place, at any time!

Worship Schedule

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm: WORSHIP at COL

SUNDAYS

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

ONLINE After 5 pm on Saturdays



Sundays in May

May 5 ~ New Member Weekend

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: Adult Forum at COL: Computer Safety with Allen Krueger

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns

6:00 pm: Sr. High: Event TBA at COL

May 12 ~ Mother's Day

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

May 19 ~ First Communion Weekend

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: Adult Forum at COL:

Orcas Island Trip Recap

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

6:00 pm: Sr. High: Event TBA at COL

May 26 ~ Holiday Weekend

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

No Sunday School due to Holiday

Thursday, May 2

7:00 pm: Women's Thursday Book Group

Saturday, May 4 ~ New Member Wknd

9:00 am: Outdoor Spring Cleanup at CTK

9:00 am: Garden Work Party: Cross Luth.

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

5:00 pm: Online Service Posted

Monday, May 6

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, May 7

7:00 am: Men's Breakfast: The Crossings

11:30 am: Ladies Tues. Lunch: Maxim's

6:00-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

7:00 pm: Church Council Meeting

7:30 pm: Jesus Karaoke: Writers Study

Wednesday, May 8

11:30 am: Lunch Bunch Group: Maxim's

4:45 pm: Partner Meal Prep at COL

Thursday, May 9

9:00 am: Sew Comfy Group at COL

6:30 pm: First Communion Class at COL

7:00 pm: Men's Thursday Book Group

Friday, May 10

5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns

Saturday, May 11

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

5:00 pm: Online Service Posted

Monday, May 13

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, May 14

6:00-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

7:30 pm: Jesus Karaoke: Writers Study

Wednesday, May 15

6:30 pm: Grief Group at COL

Thursday, May 16

5:30 pm: Moms Group at CTK

6:30 pm: First Communion Class at COL

Friday, May 17

5:00 pm: Spring Flower Pickup at CTK

Saturday, May 18 ~ First Communion

7:30 am: Men's Saturday Breakfast: COL

9:00 am: Spring Flower Pickup at CTK

10:00 am: Food Pantry Breakfast at CTK

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

5:00 pm: Online Service Posted

Monday, May 20

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, May 21

7:30 pm: Jesus Karaoke: Writers Study

Wednesday, May 22

6:30 pm: Grief Group at COL

Saturday, May 25 ~ Holiday Weekend

No Sunday School due to Holiday

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

5:00 pm: Online Service Posted

Monday, May 27 ~ Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 28

6:00 pm: Jesus Karaoke: Cast Rehearsal





UNITY ~ May Birthdays

1. Austin Filipek
Jonathan Lehmann
Emily Rooney
Rudy Schneider
Andrew Zarling
2. Collin Dowling
Kya Emerson
John Houterman
Peter Meiklejohn
Carol Volkmann
Elise Weiss
3. Jeanne Bonk
Teddy Register
Dona Taipala
4. Tommie Bohl
Nora Collins
Maxim James
Clem Pape
Mathew Polczynski
Steve Schultz
Connor Shady
Courtney Shady
Dane Valdovinos
5. Ryan Behring
Jackson Hanson
Sheryl Hurab
Mikayla Jurasovich
Erendirani Lopez-Townsend
Brady Poetzel
Jennifer Weiss
6. Greta Brown
Kristin Kemper
7. Lola Bond
Clare Cameron
Barbara Ehlers
Bennett Hahn
Susie Hilgart
Paul Karrels
Lauren Kossoris
8. Reid Estacio
Jessica Loomis
Kay Maas
Josi Matel
Jim Miller
Jill Peterson
Tom Richter
Cole Schumacher
Kyleigh Schumacher
Amber Soik
9. Colin Moser
10. Logan Czarnik
Elliott Griepentrog
Mike LeClaire
Jason Lettenberger
Keegan Muche
11. Bill Gehrking
Renee Krogwold
Ryan Nordmeyer
Terry Secora
Ainsley Taipala
Joan Trainor
12. Sophie Bussen
Ann Hill
Fonda Kapitan
Paige Koppelman
Stella Loverine
Jessica Schrieber
13. David Koenen
Kiersten O'Rourke
Evan Prescott
Matthew Thomsen
Owen Zimmer
14. Ryan Boyd
Gregory Heal
Olivia Houterman
Lewis Wozniak
15. Thomas Benning
Satya Hamilton
Linda Johnson
Katie Moser
16. Penny Berglund
Paul Burby
Debbie Riederer
Ben Stobbs
Sara Weix
17. Elise Bjorklund
James Bonk
David Collins
Andrew Denu
Danita Hahn
Clark Varin
18. Phoebe Jorgensen
Renee Lowerr
Clyde Reay
Barry Von Hoff
19. Oliver Block
Kathy Bruhnke
Kamryn Dembny
Megan Dwyer
Dan Kemper
Peyton Polczynski
Collin Rogahn
20. Kelly Berglund
Tony Sitterly
21. Paula Dryer
Luna Loverine
Cameron Running
Jill Stephens
Lauren Tostrud
22. Jay Hill
Brett Koppelman
Emma Okupniak
Jack Olson
Patricia Pelzel
23. Patrick Dowling
Natalie Fahey
Stacey Grattiger
Madeline Krogwold
Christina Lindner-Dwyer
Brandan Stobbs
Sally Thomas
24. Bridget Henk
William Kiefer
McKenna Vraney
25. Melissa Dressler
Adrienne Krueger
Katie Kuchar
Emma Larson
Paula Young
26. Dylan Grabowski
Linda Kirmis
Glenn Turco
Heidi Wettstein
27. Edward Bjorklund
Patrick Conway
Tom Daly
Audrey Groneck
Kiley Keup
William Nowak
Kayla Scott
Jack Swain
28. Everett Harmelink
Melissa Oberst
Keelin Watters
29. Hannah Burby
Tom Hochuli
Elise Sprecher
30. Arthur Bussen
Kathy Conrad
Laura Dressler
Pat Leeds
Mike Mendola
Jeremy Swain
31. Jane Hetzel
Hugo Kipp
Ken Kostanski
Madeline Peterson

*"In childhood, we yearn to be grown-ups. In old age, we yearn to be kids.
It just seems that all would be wonderful if we didn't have to celebrate
our birthdays in chronological order." ~ Robert Brault*





UNITY Lutheran Church • New Members • Spring 2024



BRAY, Katie & Jon Betsy (8), June (6) & Ada (3)

We live in Brookfield with our three daughters: Betsy (8), June (6) and Ada (3). We met and were married in Milwaukee and then moved to Chicago where we spent 10 years. We moved back home in 2020 and have been enjoying meeting so many new people. Jon leads the Strategy function for CCC Intelligent Solutions, a software company based in Chicago. Katie is an Accountant, currently focused on raising our three daughters. As a family we enjoy biking, hiking and doing anything active in nature. We love to travel, play tennis, and cook family meals. We look forward to being a part of UNITY!



BRESKE, Randy & MCMAHON, Janet

By the grace of God, Janet and Randy found each other after losing their spouses to illness much too soon. Together for 5 years now, they sold their respective homes in Wauwatosa and moved to Brookfield over a year ago. Janet has 2 married sons and 2 grandsons. Randy has 3 married sons and 8 grandchildren with #9 expected soon! Both are retired; Janet's career was in public health and non-profit leadership, and Randy held leadership roles in the commercial lighting industry. They enjoy theater, concerts, reading, the gym, road trips, time at their lake home in Lake Tomahawk, hiking, paddle boarding, and snowshoeing. Finding a church home together has been important to their new life journey and they are excited about the energy and spirit at UNITY Lutheran Church.



EDWARDS, Dawn Emma (11) & Sara (9)

We were members of Wellington Park Lutheran Church and I was the church president. We enjoyed helping so many people that were in need with our clothing giveaway and our food pantry. When our church closed at the end of last year, we wanted to go to a church close to home. We moved to Brookfield in December of 2021. My son Steven just got married to his beautiful bride Claire in December of 2023. They live in Menasha. Emma and Sara were both junior bridesmaids. My husband Matthew is a tow truck driver. I work in Customer Service for a Pet distribution center. Emma is going to be graduating 5th grade this year from Burleigh Elementary. Sara is in 3rd grade. Right now our excitement is working on getting the vegetable garden going and re-doing the flower beds in the front of the house. During summer weekends, we enjoy going on our pontoon boat, fishing, and swimming, and I enjoy taking sunset pictures. If we are not on our boat, you most likely will find us in the backyard sitting by the fire, enjoying the family.



Celebrate. Share. Renew.



LUNAK, Jordan & Zac Bradley (10), Logan (8), Hollis (5) & Fiona (2)

We live in Brookfield with our four kids: Bradley (10), Logan (8), Hollis (5) and Fiona (2). We are originally from North Dakota but fell in love with the Milwaukee area after attending Marquette University for graduate school. Jordan is a Dentist and teaches at Marquette University School of Dentistry and practices at a private practice in Waukesha. Zac is a Clinical Associate Professor in Biomedical Sciences at UW-Milwaukee. We keep busy traveling around to all the kids' sports and activities. We like to spend time with family outdoors and traveling. And of course, cheer on our favorite Wisconsin sports teams!

Please meet more New Members on the back page, then join us in welcoming them!



UNITY Lutheran Church • New Members • Spring 2024



MIESFELD, Julie & Joel Sophie (13), Ellie (12), Roslyn (9) & Clara (7)

We are excited to be setting down roots in Brookfield! Our oldest daughters were baptized at UNITY, and we return to UNITY after a 6-year stint in California. Joel is an Assistant Professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin and Julie is a Physical Therapist at Froedtert. We spend most of our time these days trying to keep up with our four active daughters – Sophie (13), Ellie (12), Roslyn (9) and Clara (7) – in whatever sports, plays, dance recitals they happen to be in. We look forward to being a part of the UNITY family!



Celebrate. Share. Renew.



TOUSSAINT, Jamie & John Eloise (16), Genevieve (14) & Josephine (9)

Jamie and John moved to Brookfield in August of 2022 with their 3 kids – Eloise (16), Genevieve (14) and Josephine (9) – and are excited to be back in the Midwest. They met and were married in Chicago, but spent the past 8 years living in Colorado. Eloise is very involved in the theatre program at BC where she is a sophomore. Ginny is an 8th grader at WHMS who participates in theatre, forensics, choir and soccer. Josie is a 3rd grader at BrookEl who keeps busy with basketball, Brownies and dance, and has recently started climbing classes. John is a Project Executive with Gilbane and Jamie is a stay-at-home mom who is involved in all sorts of various volunteer opportunities at the girls' schools. As a family, they love camping, hiking, time on and in the water, loud game nights, and craziness with their two dogs, Winnie and Roo.



VREELAND, Joan

We were members of Wellington Park from 1960 until it closed in December of last year. In that time I was head of Altar Guild, and had a clothing pantry for which my husband would bring a truckload of clothes from Sussex twice a week that would be given away the first Saturday of each month. I also helped out with our medical supply and food pantries. I was a member of the Church Council for more years than I can remember, and we were Stephen Ministers. We were married at Wellington Park and our children were all baptized there.

UNITY MISSION STATEMENT:

“United in Christ we ... Celebrate in our worship and lives, Share with generous purpose, Renew our communities and the creation ... all through the One who keeps us together in ministry.”



Whether you join us at our Cross of Life campus, our Christ the King campus, or our “virtual” campus online, we’re glad to have you with us as we Celebrate, Share, Renew in the best way possible: together in UNITY!



We pray that we may be a blessing to each of our New Members as they bless us with their presence and gifts of the Spirit.

Minister's Minute

"Be careful, then, how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of your time... be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to one another, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God."
~ Ephesians 5:15-20

I find it amusing that in Ephesians chapter 5, an at-times tedious and moralizing discourse about holy living, the writer cautions us not to unwisely fritter our time away on inconsequential activities and to instead put our time to its highest and best possible use... singing.

How often in our productivity-obsessed culture do we think of making music as an optional extra? Nice but not essential? Not according to the author of Ephesians, who was certainly no touchy feely artisan but still names making music as THE foundation of our life of faith.

During the past month, each of our UNITY choirs performed their final piece of this program year. Watching them I was filled with gratitude, not just for that particular piece, but for all they have shared throughout the year and the work they put in each week for our benefit.

I love hearing our adult choir sing. That many voices joined together adds an electricity and energy to the service that nothing else can.

I love hearing our handbell choirs ring. The way each person has their own notes but all play together, it is the most beautiful visual and auditory analogy of community.

I love hearing our praise band play. The melodic repetition of phrases gets us out of our heads so instead of thinking ABOUT God we actually FEEL God there with us.

And of course I love hearing our kids sing. Especially mine! (Biased.) This was Sal's first year in choir. Much to her great frustration she is not old enough for Vacation Bible School, Lock Ins, or Sunday school (though somehow she manages to sneak in from time to time). But when she turned THREE and was let out of the nursery to join choir, she was PUMPED. And she takes the responsibility of singing very seriously. She practices in her crib. She practices in her car seat. She keeps tabs on which days are rehearsals and which weekends are choir weekends. Everyone at daycare knows when kids choir is on, she makes sure of it. This is her job.

Guess what? It is your job too. Whether you sing in a sanctuary or in the shower, you were made to make music. It is not an optional extra or a leisurely luxury. It is essential, what you were made to do.

On May 28 a delightful hodge podge of people gathered in the sanctuary for our first rehearsal for Jesus Karaoke, our faith-told-through-pop-songs mini spring musical. When we share it with you on June 8 and 9, we won't have worked as hard, practiced as long, or performed with nearly the polish of our UNITY music groups, but we will do it with joy and silliness, giving thanks to God for music and the way it helps us get to the heart of faith. If you are there that weekend in worship, you might as well sing along!

Our gratitude to everyone who makes music happen at UNITY, and to each of you reading this for the ways you add your music to the world. Thanks for singing to one another. We give thanks to God for you!

~ Muriel



Don't miss UNITY's spring musical, Jesus Karaoke, performed during all worship services June 8 & 9. Whether you're in the cast or in the audience, you're supporting the important role of MUSIC in our faith community!

"Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise." ~ Martin Luther



Two-Campus Ministry in Brookfield, Wis. • unitybrookfield.org

Christ the King: 4600 Pilgrim Rd. • Zip: 53005 • (262) 781-7600

Cross of Life: 20700 W. North Ave. • Zip: 53045 • (262) 781-7600



Celebrate. Share. Renew.



Voting Meetings on June 1 & 2 for Church Council Positions

5-minute Congregational Voting Meetings to elect Council Members will be held after each worship service on June 1 & 2. Please stay for these few minutes and help us reach our quorum!

There are 7 positions on the ballot: President, Adult Programs, Communications & Technology, Finance, Property, Servant Ministries, and Youth.

We thank Outgoing Council members for their service, each of whom served 2 terms of 2 years: Ed Dominski (Commun. & Tech.), Phil Roemaat (Finance), Jackie Herington (Servant Ministries) & Eric Borkenhagen (Youth).

We thank Outgoing Council members for their service, each of whom served a 2-year term: Susie Sprecher (Adult Programs) & David Koenen (Property).

We also thank Outgoing Council members for their terms: Colleen King (one 1-year term as President and two 2-year terms as Christian Ed chair, for a total of 5 years), as well as Youth Reps Claire Dominski & Josef Keup.

Additionally, we thank Council members continuing their service: Davida Kroepfl (Christian Education), Tiffany Reay (Group Opp's), Anna Jansson (Invite/New Members), Trisha Smith (Stewardship), Steve Johnson (Worship & Music), Leslie O'Connell (Recording Secretary) & Adrienne Krueger (Treasurer).

Lastly, we thank our Nominating Committee members: Todd Blatnik, Eric Borkenhagen, Jackie Herington, Jim Johnsen, Fred Varin & Sherrie Lorbeck.

All of these individuals have been such strong leaders and UNITY is in a better place because of them. Please join us in thanking them for their service to UNITY!



Jesus Karaoke to be Performed at All Services June 8 & 9!

Trust us: you don't want to miss UNITY's spring musical: a new version of last year's Jesus Karaoke! **Join us for this year's amazing performances:**

Saturday, June 8: 5:00 pm service at COL

Sunday, June 9: 8:30 am service at COL • 10:00 am service at CTK



Register by June 10 for VBS on June 17-20: Primero Dios!

Be part of this year's VBS program: Primero Dios, Pasaporte Por El Salvador! It's another *Playful with a Purpose* VBS as we learn all about our partners in El Salvador. We will

play, sing, eat, laugh, learn, craft, and pray. Don't forget to invite your friends, neighbors, cousins and grandkids!

Visit our VBS 2024 web page to get more details and to register by Monday, JUNE 10. In the meantime, here's what you need to know:

Dates: Monday, June 17, through Thursday, June 20

Times: 12:30-4:00 pm | CTK campus

Aftercare: until 5:00 pm (\$5/day)

Cost: \$30/child, \$60 max/family*

*The cost should never prevent participation. If it's a difficulty, contact Michelle Aprahamian.

BE A VBS KID: Completed a year of Preschool through Grade 5

BE A CREW LEADER: Completed Grade 6 through Sr. High

BE A SITE WORKER: College age through Adults

Join us on Thursday, June 20, at 4:30 pm for Family Night! Food will be served from 4:30-5:15 pm. Parents, grandparents, and siblings are invited to a VBS Fiesta! Join us for VBS songs and games, and see what everyone loved most about our VBS week.

Questions? Contact Michelle Aprahamian at michelle@unitybrookfield.org or 414-732-8615.

Come join your friends for one of the best weeks of the year at UNITY. It's a Passport to FUN!





Summer Worship Hours Begin on June 8-9

Our summertime worship schedule begins the weekend of June 8-9.

Connect with your UNITY faith family... whether inside, outside or online!

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm WORSHIP at COL

SUNDAYS

8:30 am WORSHIP at COL

**10:00 am WORSHIP at CTK
Outside in Pavilion*
*Begins June 16**

ONLINE After 5 pm on Saturdays

CTK's 10:00 am service will be outside in our Pavilion, weather permitting. **We will actually begin outside worship at CTK on June 16 so we can enjoy Jesus Karaoke inside on June 9.** Come join us as we enhance our worship with the beauty of nature!

Details about outside worship:

- In addition to our Pavilion, we will have a few shade tents set up.
- If you come and can bring a lawn chair, please do. We'll have lots of chairs pre-set but extras always help.
- ABC Summer Sunday School for PreK-Grade 3 is offered. Kids will be outside most days
- Nursery is available in the building.
- Services will move inside if there is a thunderstorm, high winds or a heat index above 95.



*Graduate
Recognition:
June 1-2
All Services*

Cereal Box Domino Run & Cram the Van Event June 2

Through June 2, Sunday School kids are collecting cereal boxes for the Waukesha Food Pantry. They're hoping to beat last year's Domino Run of 477 boxes as a way to help feed families in need in our community.

We will hold a Cereal Box Domino Run/Cram the Van event on Sunday, June 2, at ALL of our worship services. Please join us for this fun way to celebrate the achievement of our Sunday Schoolers, who thought "outside the box" for this appeal!



MHE Performs Movie Night Concerts at CTK on June 2

The Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble (which includes UNITY members Stacey Nordmeyer and Lynn Key) will hold two Movie Night Concerts at our CTK campus. **Join us on Sunday, June 2, at 3:30 or 6:30 pm at CTK for "Memorable Movie Moments Heard through Handbells!"** The MHE will play music from popular movies such as "Frozen," "Muppets," "Star Wars" and more! There is no charge to attend; there will be free will offerings. Find more info at milwaukeehandbells.org and join us! It will be a night to remember as we relive classic movie moments.



Join us for "Sundae" School Celebrations June 1-2

We wrap up regular Sunday School at both campuses with **End-of-Year Celebrations on Saturday, June 1, and Sunday, June 2.** Come "top off" another great year with ice cream sundaes! *A very heartfelt thanks to all of our Sunday School teachers for the important work of sharing the Good News with our children! Want to help lead ABC Summer Sunday School?* Check out the article below, then contact Michelle Aprahamian at michelle@unitybrookfield.org.



ABC Summer Sunday School Runs June 23-August 25

ABC Summer Sunday School will be held during Sunday services from June 23 to August 25: at COL at 8:30 am and at CTK at 10:00 am. Designed for kids in Pre-K to Grade 3, each week celebrates a new letter of the alphabet through Bible stories, crafts, games, activities, and a snack. *There's NO sign up; just show up! Friends and guests are always invited!* **We are in need of ABC Summer Sunday School Teachers. Can you help?** All materials are provided, so teaching ABC is as easy as 123. Contact Michelle Aprahamian at michelle@unitybrookfield.org.





Give the Gift of LIFE at Blood Drive on Saturday, June 1

Thanks to all who donated at UNITY's Blood Drive on February 15. **Please continue giving the gift of LIFE by donating at UNITY's next Blood Drive on Saturday, June 1, from 7 am to 11 am at our COL campus.**

Sign up by going to [UNITY's Sign Up web page](#) and clicking on the [Blood Drive sign-up](#). There you'll see our donation page on the Red Cross website. Need help signing up? Contact Marilyn Ranney at 414-975-5606 or ranneymarilyn@gmail.com. **Our Fall Blood Drive is on Thursday, September 19, from 1-6 pm at COL.**



Come Planting at Aspen Center on Saturday, June 1

June is Gardening Month! To celebrate, we helped construct raised bed gardens at Aspen Center in May. **Next project: come plant with us on Saturday, June 1, from 9:00-10:30 am.** We'll help them plant annuals and perennials in those fabulous new raised beds and in some snazzy pots for the front of their residence. Refreshments (sub sandwiches and sodas) will be provided! If you want to help, please contact Cindy Boyd at dcboyd1985@sbcglobal.net or 262-424-3610. Aspen Center is at 2000 W. Bluemound Road in Waukesha.



Summer Bag Sales to be Held June 1-2 & June 8-9

UNITY will hold its Summer Bag Sales on June 1-2 & 8-9 to benefit the Waukesha Food Pantry. Food needs are higher than ever! Let's get the food pantry stocked up for the summer now that kids are eating at home instead of school. Funds donated will allow the Food Pantry to make bulk purchases of their most needed items right now: eggs and chicken. They get eggs for about \$1.50/dozen; for chicken they can usually find deals for \$1.75/lb. **Your purchase of a \$10 "bag" will buy 3 dozen eggs and 3 lbs. of chicken!**



A Food Pantry Thank You!

On May 18 we were honored to host the Waukesha Food Pantry's Breakfast Club Fundraiser in the CTK Pavilion, which raised over \$43,000! Thank you to all students and adults who helped set up, clean up, attend, and support the event, where they shared their most recent data on food insecurity among clients. In addition to more clients seeking food assistance than ever before, over half their clients now report running out of food funds before the end of the month, which is *double* the percentage reporting that only two years ago. We give thanks for all the good people working to feed our neighbors. [Sign up on our Sign Up web page](#) to serve at one of UNITY's Food Pantry shifts!



Partner of the Month: Hebron Housing Services

60! That's the number of men, women and kids housed at Juno House and Siena House during one week in May. Fortunately, that number has dropped to a more manageable 42, about 11 of whom are children.

Juno House, the home for women and families, has been renovated and that project has now been completed.

Our donations to Hebron Housing Services helped fund this upgrade.

The youth program we supported with our Kitchen Kits has grown to 30 households. This program is partially funded by the state; participants are in Waukesha, Washington and Ozaukee counties. Some are singles while others include children. These young people may stay in the program for up to 3 years if they are in school and progressing with that program, working full- or part-time, and making progress with the youth program requirements. This can include things like budgeting, cooking, laundry, household management skills, and childcare if appropriate. In general, "adulting."

One of the problems facing the program is the lack of affordable rents. Also, landlords may be unwilling to rent to applicants who have been evicted in the past or who have a less than stellar credit rating. Fortunately, because rents are guaranteed by the state, some landlords are willing to work with Hebron to help these kids get a start.

A big thanks to two groups of UNITY folks who were willing to get dirty, or... frosted! On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the kids who gathered at the COL campus decorated sugar cookies which were delivered to Juno House as a treat for the residents. Also, in recognition of Pastor John's service to us, a group of men, women and kids cleaned and organized the storage area at Siena House. You are all greatly appreciated!

Thanks to everyone who contributes money, time, books, toys, cookware, and muscle power to Hebron Housing Services. *Everything you do makes life better for our neighbors.*

~ Jane Boorse, Servant Advocate



Grief Group Continues at COL: June 12 & 26, 6:30 pm

When Life Isn't the Same

If you have lost a spouse or a parent or someone else close to you, the grieving doesn't end after the funeral. We invite you to a safe space where you can share more about where you are at in your journey ... learn more about the stages of grief ... and get help finding your way through what you need most for the road ahead.

We encourage you to join us for our Grief Group, held the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. Our next meetings will be June 12 & June 26 from 6:30-8:00 pm at our Cross of Life campus. These gatherings will be led by Pastor Jim Ahlquist and Nicole Krause. If this is the right time for you, or if someone you know could benefit from being a part of this, please join us! If you have questions or just want to discuss whether this is the right place for you, contact Pastor Jim at jim@unitybrookfield.org or 715-210-2245.

"I don't think people understand how stressful it is to explain what's going on in your head when you don't even understand it yourself."

~ Sara Keirsten Quin



GRIEF GROUP
June 12 & 26
6:30-8:00 pm
COL Campus

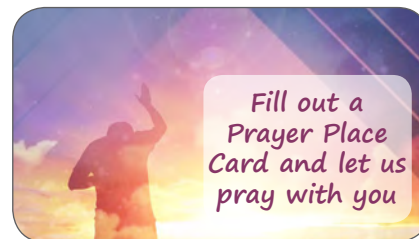
UNITY Member Care is Always Here for You

You don't have to face life's ups and downs alone. Whether it's an unexpected hospitalization, a recent diagnosis, the death of a loved one, the loss of a job, addiction, anxiety, depression, or virtually anything else, UNITY's pastors are only a call, text, or email away. Please never hesitate to reach out – whether we're the only stop you'll make or just the first step in a longer care process. **See pastoral contact info on page 7.**

Prayer Place Cards are in Each Narthex for You

If you have a prayer request to include in the Prayers for Friends & Family section in the bulletin, cards are available in each narthex near the bulletin board.

Simply fill out the request and pin it to the bulletin board or place it in the offering basket and it will be included in upcoming bulletins. Prayer requests remain on for 4 weeks. If you need further prayer, repost as often as needed. Any questions, contact Nancy Kostanski at nancy@unitybrookfield.org or 262-781-7600.



Fill out a
Prayer Place
Card and let us
pray with you

Lawn Mowing Help is Needed at Both of Our Campuses

The season you've been waiting for is here! Sign up now to drive COL's John Deere power-packed riding lawn mower or CTK's super-charged zero-turn riding lawn mower! In addition to the riding mowers, there is a self-propelled walk-behind mower, a gas-powered leaf blower, and a gas-powered string trimmer to handle the work at each location. **What to know before you mow:**

- The trimming and mowing process typically takes about two hours at COL, somewhat longer at CTK, and is generally needed only once per week.
- Ideally the mowing should be done in the Wednesday–Saturday morning time frame (weather permitting) so the grounds look good for weekend services and weddings.
- At CTK, the Inside Crew uses the push mower to cut areas around the prayer garden and church sign. The Outside Crew cuts everything around the parking lot using the riding mower.

Sign up today through [SignUp Genius](#) on our [Sign Up web page](#) to be part of this important crew! Questions?

Contact Property Chair David Koenen at davidkoenen@wi.rr.com.



Come be part of the important crew that keeps our grounds at our CTK and COL campuses looking great! **Sign up to mow through our [Sign Up web page](#).**



Our new Interim Pastor, Eric Silberschmidt, joined Lunch Bunch Group on May 8. Meet Eric yourself on Sunday, June 2, at 9:30 am at COL or 10:30 am at CTK! Also know that ALL are welcome to join our Lunch Bunch gatherings. They meet on second Wednesdays at 11:30 am at Maxim's on Capitol Drive in Brookfield.



Pastor Eric Silberschmidt



We are delighted to welcome Pastor Eric Silberschmidt, who joined UNITY in May 2024 as an Interim Pastor. He brings with him a wealth of pastoral experience, having served with the

Greater Milwaukee Synod for more than three decades. **We encourage you to read Pastor Eric's Bio that's attached to the electronic version of this newsletter, and to attend a MEET & GREET WITH PASTOR ERIC ON SUNDAY, JUNE 2: 9:30 AM AT COL & 10:30 AM CTK!** You can reach him at eric@unitybrookfield.org or 262-716-9854.

Josi Matel: COL Nursery

There's a new pair of arms waiting to welcome the kiddos in our COL Nursery on Sunday mornings! **Josi Matel has stepped into Gail Anklam's former role and is already expanding the relationships she has with our families.** As someone who grew up within COL and has served as a Sunday School teacher, she is right at home in her new position. According to Pastor Sherrie, "She's doing a phenomenal job, especially trying to fill very big shoes. Having been a Nursery kid herself and knowing Gail all those years, she just 'gets it' and how important her job really is on Sunday mornings!" Since we no longer have Sunday School Coordinators, Josi is asking that parents leave their cell phone numbers with her in the event their little ones are sad or aren't feeling well during worship. *Please join us in welcoming Josi to the UNITY team!*



Nicole Krause Steps in for Interim Youth & Servant Ministry



UNITY is excited to welcome one of its own into a staff role! **Nicole Krause began with us on May 15, assisting in a variety of roles with which she is already very familiar.** A member of UNITY

since she was 4 years old, Nicole grew up immersed in our culture and having experienced almost all of our programs.

Musically, she was a part of it all – from singing in Joyful Noise and Celebration Choir, to playing handbells in middle school and high school, to singing and song leading in high school and as an adult. As a youth she participated in Sunday School, VBS and camps, and attended Youth trips – ECRT, Boundary Waters, Summer Servant Trips and the ELCA National Youth Gathering.

She also served on our Church Council: as a Youth Rep in high school for 1 year and as Chair of our Invite/New Member Committee for a 2-year term. In fact, her parents, Mark and Joan Krause, were in the very first New Member group with John Horner-Ibler in 1997.

At UNITY, Nicole will assist with an assortment of jobs where needed. As she explains, "I'll be helping out with VBS, with Youth events when Confirmation resumes, and with our Sr. High program. I'll also be shadowing Muriel for Servant Ministries and taking over some of those areas, such as coordinating plans and travel for El Salvador trips. There are also other areas, such as leading Grief Groups, where I'll be able to step in and help."

"I've always tried to be involved as I can," Nicole says. "Even after I moved away, I gravitated back here. This is a transitional time in my life so I'm hoping not only to lean on my UNITY family, but also to give back to UNITY because they've been there so much for me."

Nicole began working as a Funeral Director at Krause Funeral Homes & Cremation Services in 2019.

"For me, working at Krause was such a gift," Nicole says. "I know my capabilities were appreciated and I appreciated working there, being able to help the community in a way not many other people can. But the time during Covid was so busy and stressful that I needed to step away and get some clarity to look at the bigger picture. That doesn't mean I'm stepping away from the funeral business completely. I'm still holding my license and am more than happy to answer questions people have about funeral planning and services."

After Nicole married Matt Groehler in 2023, she took a year off from working as a career break and to live in Cozumel, Mexico for 3 months. "We did a lot of sightseeing and scuba diving, and we immersed ourselves in the culture. I'm grateful for the opportunity to live somewhere different. We also hiked over 700 miles of the Appalachian Trail, backpacking from Georgia up to Virginia. I had no hiking experience before that, but I really got to embrace nature and find the perspective I was seeking. At that point I realized things in my marriage weren't working out the way I thought they would. Matt and I have separated after being together for 11 years, but it's amicable and we wish nothing but the best for each other."

Now back in Wisconsin and living in an apartment in Oconomowoc, Nicole is excited to embrace this next phase in her life. "I'm most looking forward to experiencing UNITY in a different way that will make me fall in love with it even more and in a whole new way," she says. "Honestly? It's the people that make this place, and the longevity of the members speaks for itself. The staff works tirelessly and (seemingly!) effortlessly to keep people updated, and the outreach and support to the community is above and beyond any congregation I've ever seen. I'm very much looking forward to fostering that."

Feel free to reach out to Nicole at any time at nicole@unitybrookfield.org or 262-227-2271.

Please join us in warmly welcoming our three newest staff members to the UNITY team and reach out to introduce yourself!



Council Corner

"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven." ~ Ecclesiastes, 3:1

During the weekend of May 18-19 our church celebrated First Communion with 29 of UNITY's young people. My oldest child, Max, was in this energetic group, and it was fun to help him make his special chalice and the bread for the meal. It was a first for him, and a first for me too. **I remember my First Communion fondly.** It was a warm spring day, and I got to wear an early 90s brown suit and I was surrounded by my family. Watching Max share in his First Communion meal with our family was a special event. My daughter, Emme, wanted to partake too, but she'll have to wait two more years. Hopefully we will get another warm spring day, but regardless, she will be surrounded by her family.

I am not a patient person by nature. I get fidgety and want to complete the task at hand. I feel that way too about UNITY's call process. Since Pastor John announced his retirement, I wanted to have the answers immediately – where are we going, what's happening next? But that's not the way life works. I appreciate all the work being completed by the Call Committee, as they focus not on speed, but on finding a pastor who fits well with UNITY and working to ensure UNITY fits with that pastor.

And I am excited to have Pastor Eric Silberschmidt join us as an Interim Pastor. He dove in headfirst, preaching in early May and attending our May Church Council meeting. Welcome, Pastor Eric, and thank you for being willing to work with UNITY during this transitional time.

Like the verse from Ecclesiastes above, there is a season and a time for everything – whether it be the excitement and joy of celebrating your child's First Communion or exercising the necessary patience as a part of a Pastoral Call process.

**~ Phil Roemaat,
Finance Team Chair**

Money Matters

Through the end of April, UNITY is in a good financial position. UNITY's giving was \$365,000, which is slightly behind budget (\$380,000) and below last year at this time (\$383,000). Expenses were \$404,000, which is lower than budget (\$419,000) and higher than last year (\$396,000). When put together, the financial position is negative by \$39,000, but it's right where we planned to be (budget of -\$39,000). All and all, this is a solid operating position going into the summer. Summer giving tends to wane a bit, something that the Finance Team and the Church Council will watch and communicate with the Congregation.

If you are interested in the church's finances, we would love to have you join the Finance Team. The team meets

several times a year, focusing on the church's financial health and any risk-related issues. The meetings are heavier in December and January, as the group focuses on finalizing the prior year and setting next year's budget. If you are interested in learning more, feel free to reach out to Adrienne Krueger (Church Treasurer) at alzastrow@yahoo.com or me at paroemaat@gmail.com.

Thank you for the role you play in keeping us financially healthy!

**~ Phil Roemaat,
Finance Team Chair**

Thank You from John H-I

Barb, David, Michael and I extend to UNITY our thanksgivings beyond words.

Your grace in acknowledging my departure and in surrounding our family in love for 27 years is a gift beyond measure. We were all just together for a few days and spent more than a few hours recalling the ways UNITY was both a home for us to return to and a harbor from which to launch.

In particular I want to thank the hundreds of you who wrote notes of thanks and encouragement. Your stories and words will fuel me for a lifetime. The special offerings to the CTK Backyard Fund (\$3,883.50) and Tooth Fairy Fund (\$14,433.50, for those in need of restorative dental work at the Bread of Healing Clinic) are beyond amazing. Thank you so much for sharing abundantly towards places and projects that can be so life-filling.

As I express thanks on my departure I also am excited to express a welcome to Eric Silberschmidt on his arrival. How life-giving to have a new voice, new eyes, and new love for Christ's people and work!

And finally, as a small metaphor on life, Barb and I routinely put out oranges and grape jelly to attract orioles to our place in Brookfield for 27 years and also routinely failed to see even one pay us a visit. Here in our new surroundings, we can't keep the jelly filled! The orioles pounce on it. Same old strategy but in a different place with new friends to be found. So maybe, it's not really about change or continuity. It's just that God works new things all the time and the best surprises are that old and new get along just fine where grace abounds. Peace and joy!

~ John Horner-Ibler

Keep Connecting with Us!

We are here for you! Please continue to reach out to us at any time.



Pastor Sherrie Lorbeck:
sherrie@unitybrookfield.org
Cell: 414-477-7762



Pastor Eric Silberschmidt:
eric@unitybrookfield.org
Cell: 262-716-9854



Pastor Muriel Otto:
muriel@unitybrookfield.org
Cell: 712-254-6515



Pastor Jim Ahlquist:
jim@unitybrookfield.org
Cell: 715-210-2245

Don't know who to contact? Call our Church Office at 262-781-7600. Often times they can assist you with your needs. If not, you will be directed to the proper person. *The important thing is to stay in touch with us!*



Eric Silberschmidt: Interim Pastor at UNITY



When Pastor Eric Silberschmidt joined UNITY as an Interim Pastor in May 2024, he brought with him more than three decades of pastoral experience with the Greater Milwaukee Synod.

Most notably he served for 20 years (2001-2021) with Christ Lutheran Church in Salem/Paddock Lake, Wis., where he retired as their Senior Pastor. He then served as the Bridge Pastor/Interim Associate Pastor for 9 months at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Oconomowoc (2021-2022), and most recently at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kenosha (July 1, 2022-April 1, 2024).

Prior to beginning his 20-year stay at Christ Lutheran, he served as an Associate Pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Portage, Wis. (1995-2001). His very first ministry assignment was as an Associate Pastor at Immanuel and Wilmington Lutheran Churches in Caledonia, Minn. (1992-1995).

It was in 1992 that Eric graduated from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. with his Master of Divinity. Leading up to that time, he earned a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison, where he majored in Political Science and Journalism, then did his graduate work in Secondary Education and Human Performance at UW-La Crosse.

Eric previously served on the Greater Milwaukee Synod Council as a Council Member-Clergy for Kenosha/West Racine Cluster. He also served as a Group Leader at Attic Corrections in Baraboo, Wis., a treatment center for domestic violence, and as a part-time Chaplain at Divine Savior Hospital in Portage, Wis.

Eric and his wife Vickie live in Greendale and have three adult children who live in the area: Suzanne, Erica and Charlie. Eric is a fan of Wisconsin sports, especially the UW-Madison men's basketball team. He also likes attending concerts and enjoys swimming at a high school near his home.

Eric first learned of the opening at UNITY through the Synod office. "I had just finished up an interim time at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kenosha on Easter Sunday," he said. "I spoke with the Synod staff about other opportunities with interim ministry and what my next steps might be, and that led to a conversation about coming to UNITY... and here we are!"

According to Pastor Sherrie, while Eric won't be called on to lead the Call Process like so many interims do, he will help lead worship and take full part in the pastoral team and rotations. As Sherrie said, "He really enjoys ministry, loves people and getting to know their stories, and is open to being a part of a staff team. In fact, he was already up for being looped into a vignette on First Communion weekend!"

When asked about how he perceives his upcoming role at UNITY, Eric explained it this way: "In my mind, interim ministry is meant to make sure the church remembers they're the church, even while they're in the process of change and new opportunities – that we're not waiting around for someone to arrive. We're focusing on the ministry that needs to be done *right now*. One task for an Interim Minister is to be the person who helps make sure ministry happens. The congregation at UNITY is already involved in the Call Process, so as an Interim Minister, I'm called to assist during that process as needed."

As to his Ministry Priorities, Eric says, "I understand a life of faith as being rooted in connection. We have the opportunity to live each day exploring our connection to GOD and our connection to our neighbor. As people of faith, I believe that we are all called to offer our gifts and talents to have an impact on the world around us. Faith is a participation sport! My particular call is to public ministry rooted in Word and Sacrament ministry. My call isn't different or better than anyone else's. It is just specific to me. I feel a significant part of my call is to help empower, equip, guide, and create space to help others live out their Baptismal identity as a child of GOD who is built for

ministry and sent to have an impact in Christ's name. We are all called to lives of Discipleship – seeking to follow Jesus, continue his ministry, and share GOD's love. That is why worship time together is often ended with a reminder of our call. 'Go in peace and serve the Lord' is our homework assignment! It's more than Lutheran code language for 'See you next Sunday.'"

Eric looks forward to meeting our congregation members and fostering the Spirit among us. "I am excited by the energy of this place," he said. "In interim ministry, I try to help congregations ask what they are called to do with joy and excitement – in worship, in growing in faith, and in service. So it is encouraging to walk into a place with a lively, positive attitude. It's fuel for the work we do together."

Feel free to reach out to Pastor Eric and extend a welcome! He can be contacted at eric@unitybrookfield.org or via his cell phone at 262-716-9854.

• • • • •

"Faith is a participation sport!"

" 'Go in peace and serve the Lord' is our homework assignment! It's more than Lutheran code language for 'See you next Sunday.' "

~ Pastor Eric Silberschmidt



Above: Pastor Eric and his wife Vickie in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Please introduce yourself to Pastor Eric and give thanks for his ministry among us!

Minister's Minute

"When the Day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly from Heaven there came a sound like a great wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting." ~ Acts 2: 1-2

During the last several weeks, people have asked me about my experience of life and worship at UNITY. One of the ways I've responded is "It's been a whirlwind!" Just to be clear, a whirlwind is good! Preaching my first Sunday at UNITY, Vignettes, Jesus Karaoke, and Vacation Bible School all happened in the first few weeks. The Spirit has been blowing like crazy. It has been great to see the Church alive, and ministry being done, and memories being created. Babies and young adults have been baptized. First Communion have been celebrated. Singing and dancing have happened on numerous occasions. Yes, by Lutherans! (No, really. I saw it with my own two eyes!) So many people have shared their gifts and talents to the glory of God. "Suddenly from Heaven there came a sound like a great wind." Blow Holy Spirit blow!

Like I said, "It has been a whirlwind!" But it's Summer, surely things will settle down. Right?! Well, not so much! It turns out that the Church is hitting the road this Summer. Outdoor worship at the CTK campus has started up – giving us a new and different chance to experience the Holy Spirit blowing like a great wind! We'll do our best to keep the altar flowers upright despite those Holy Spirit breezes. All sorts of trips are happening this Summer as well. Confirmation Camp is happening in late June. Then after the Fourth of July, there is the East Coast Road Trip, the National Youth Gathering, and a trip to support our ministry partners in El Salvador! Blow Holy Spirit blow!

The Holy Spirit blows and the Church comes to life ... even in the Summer! Some people think of Summer as a time for a sabbatical – an intentional break or time away. UNITY has reminded me that "sabbatical" is also related to the word "sabbath" – that time away isn't just about getting away. Sabbath is a time set apart for worship, rest, counting our blessings, giving thanks, and being recharged. Sabbatical (and Summer) aren't really about time away or time apart from our Church family. Sabbatical and Summer are meant to be chances to see and experience God's loving presence again – maybe in a new and different way. I love campfires and I love fireflies. They are two of my favorite things about Summer. Time away in the woods reminds me of the wonders of God's love at work in our world. We are called to be refreshed and fed by our Sabbatical time. We are invited to experience worship and the beauty of God's creation in the Summertime. S'mores may be the third Summertime sacrament!

It's my prayer that I keep experiencing UNITY as a whirlwind – that the Holy Spirit blows and the Church comes alive. It's also my prayer that we all experience the Sabbath in Summer.

Giving thanks for Summer and whirlwinds and all of you!

~ Pastor Eric



Our Summer Theme is "Come Away With Jesus" ... and we invite you to do that on ALL of our summer trips! Read more about this on page 2 and visit our "Come Away" web page ... now and throughout the summer!



June 17-20
Vacation Bible School

June 23-28
Imago Dei Camp

July 9-12
East Coast Road Trip

July 16-22
ELCA Youth Gathering

July 23-30
El Salvador



"Summertime is the Heaven of the year." ~ James H. Potts

Two-Campus Ministry in Brookfield, Wis. • unitybrookfield.org
Christ the King: 4600 Pilgrim Rd. • Zip: 53005 • (262) 781-7600
Cross of Life: 20700 W. North Ave. • Zip: 53045 • (262) 781-7600



"Come Away with Jesus This Summer" on ALL of UNITY's Trips!

This summer, we invite you to "Come Away with Jesus" on our summer trips. Take a moment now and throughout the summer to visit our awesome "Come Away" web page to view video clips of trip highlights as we visit these destinations *together!* After all ... Jesus is the very *best* companion to have on our faith journeys.

Vacation Bible School	VBS Kids, Crew & Site Leaders	June 17-20
	<i>From CTK to El Salvador using a "Passport"</i>	
Imago Dei Camp	Year 1 Confirmation Students	June 23-28
	<i>Clintonville, Wisconsin</i>	
East Coast Road Trip	Year 2 Confirmation Students	July 9-12
	<i>Kohler Andrae, Newport, Peninsula & High Cliff State Parks</i>	
ELCA Youth Gathering	Sr. High Students & Adults	July 16-22
	<i>New Orleans, Louisiana</i>	
El Salvador	Summer Travelers; names on page 4	July 23-30
	<i>Cordero de Dios & Rutilio Grande</i>	

Upcoming Trips in July

Please pray for our travelers as they journey in faith on their trips during July.



Imago Dei Confirmed Faith!

Confirmation kids had a faith- and fun-filled time at Imago Dei Camp!



VBS: A Passport to Fun!

THANK YOU to all who made "Primero Dios" ("God First") such a success! Our 4-day Vacation Bible School, held June 17-20 at CTK, was "Playful with a Purpose" as we learned about our partners in El Salvador. We played, prayed, sang, ate, laughed, learned, crafted and connected with 126 young people, 45 crew leaders, and over 40 adult volunteers. The energy was off the charts, and we are grateful to all who took this "Pasaporte Por El Salvador" faith journey. **Check out the videos and pictures on our Come Away with Jesus web page!**





Enjoy Summertime Worship Through September 1

Summer worship hours run through Labor Day weekend. Keep connecting with your faith family throughout the summertime ... whether inside, outside or online, we love to worship in UNITY.

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm WORSHIP at COL

SUNDAYS

8:30 am WORSHIP at COL
Live-Stream to Facebook;
on website after service

10:00 am WORSHIP at CTK
Outside in Pavilion;
weather permitting

11:00 am Coffee Hour: CTK Narthex

Every Sunday after worship at CTK, join us for Coffee Hour in CTK's narthex. Even when we worship in the Pavilion, we continue the tradition of coffee, treats and fellowship inside.

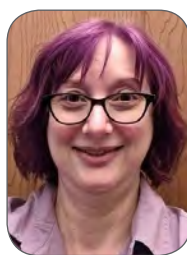
Details about outside worship:

- In addition to our Pavilion, we will have a few shade tents set up.
- If you come and can bring a lawn chair, please do. We'll have lots of chairs pre-set but extras always help.
- ABC Summer Sunday School for PreK-Grade 3 is offered. Kids will be outside most days
- Nursery is available in the building.
- Services will move inside if there is a thunderstorm, high winds or a heat index above 95.

Reminder to those who need extra consideration in accessing the pavilion: You are welcome to get dropped off on the asphalt driveway in front of the pavilion, or if you are driving, you may park along the edge of the driveway near the pavilion, allowing continued access to other vehicles for dropping off/picking up.



Guest Preacher on July 6-7: Reverend Tina Ettinger



On July 6-7 we will be blessed to welcome Reverend Tina Ettinger.

Tina is on staff at our partner Aspen Center, a residential recovery facility in Waukesha for men and women. She will bring the message and share about the healing and transformation she gets to witness in her work with Aspen residents, our "resident" experts in resurrection. Please join us in warmly welcoming Reverend Tina to UNITY!



Changes to Online Worship: Now Live-Streaming

This summer we are transitioning from weekly pre-recorded online worship services to live-streamed worship. Our online worship service had been pre-recorded on Thursdays and Fridays, edited together and uploaded to our website by 5 pm on Saturdays. Live-streaming now frees up about 15-20+ hours weekly for our staff to devote to other needs. **We are now live-streaming from COL every Sunday at 8:30 am, which can be viewed LIVE on Facebook or on our Worship web page at any later time.** Thanks you for your understanding as we work out possible challenges.



Backpacks for Hephatha due August 4: Please Take a Tag!

Beginning July 13, we're running our annual backpack drive for kids at our partner, Hephatha Lutheran Church. At either campus, simply grab a tag listing school supplies, fill a backpack with the supplies, and return it to either campus by **August 4**. Last year you provided 68 bags! Figuring the cost of the bag and supplies, each one costs \$70-\$110. Multiply that by 68 and it's a substantial contribution. Then do the math for a single, lower-income household in the Hephatha congregation with 2-3 school-age kids, and you can see what a huge benefit these backpacks are. *Thank you!*



ABC Summer Sunday School Runs through August 25

Join us for ABC Summer Sunday School during Sunday services through August 25: COL at 8:30 am and CTK at 10:00 am. Designed for kids in Pre-K to Grade 3, each week celebrates a new letter of the alphabet through Bible stories, crafts, games, activities, and a snack. *There's NO sign up; just show up! Friends and guests are always invited! We are in need of ABC Summer Sunday School Teachers. Can you help?* All materials are provided, so teaching ABC is as easy as 123. Please contact Michelle Aprahamian at michelle@unitybrookfield.org to be a part of this.





Food Pantry Volunteer Event at Retzer Center on July 13

To all of our Waukesha Food Pantry Volunteers: **Please join the Food Pantry for their Summer Volunteer Appreciation Gathering to be held Saturday, July 13, from 1-5 pm at Retzer Nature Center in Waukesha.** Come enjoy lots of good food, great games, fun fellowship, and a special presentation by Wendy Jones: "Trivia, Folklore, and Fun Facts: An Unusual Exploration of Nature." If you plan to attend, please RSVP to wendy@waukeshafoodpantry.org. *This is a great opportunity to give thanks for the blessing of being able to serve others!*



Thanks from the Food Pantry

Our Summer Bag Sales on June 1-2 & 8-9 for the Waukesha Food Pantry raised \$2,449, allowing us to buy a LOT of chicken and eggs for them. Each \$10 "bag" purchased 3 dozen eggs and 3 lbs. of chicken, so thank you for helping us feed hungry people! **We always need volunteers at the Waukesha Food Pantry.** Each month, we help there on fourth Saturdays from 9:00 am-noon and fifth Mondays from 5:30-8:00 pm. **We especially need help on two summer Saturdays: July 27 & August 24.** Sign up on our Food Pantry SignUp Genius. *Thanks!*



Hoping for Donations for El Salvador Trip by July 14

Thanks to everyone who donated books in Spanish! **Our group would also love to bring small host gifts (candles, Wisconsin-themed items or clothing) or any of these new or gently used activity supplies:** play dough, yarn, embroidery thread, letter beads, pony beads, perler beads, coloring books (both adult and child), pipe cleaners, nail polish, little hair ties, bouncy balls, hacky sacks, beach balls, glow sticks, acrylic paint markers, washable markers, scissors, and an iron. **Please drop items off at either campus by Sunday, July 14. Thanks!**



Please Pray for Travelers on El Salvador Trip: July 23-30

Our summer relationship-building trip to visit our partners in the Rutilio Grande community and at Cordero de Dios Lutheran Church in El Salvador will be July 23-30. **Please pray for the safe journey of our 19 travelers:** Caitlin Dominski, Jenny Dressler, Laura Dressler, John Horner-Ibler, Michael Horner-Ibler, Natalie Kamenick, Josef Keup, Kim Keup, Nicole Krause, Beth Nichols, Laura Nichols, Cate O'Connell, Katie Rader, Gavin Rupe, Kylie Sprecher, Susie Sprecher, Muriel Otto, Alice Otto and Sal Otto. **God's blessings to them on their ministry!**



Partner of the Month: Bread of Healing Clinic

The Bread of Healing Clinic has been able to continue adding and enhancing the services provided to our patients. The physician specialists now include a general surgeon. One of the patients who is routinely seen at the Florist Avenue Clinic had successful leg surgery to address a problem which has limited his mobility for years. When he came in for follow-up he was smiling broadly and doing well, making all the efforts and coordination by clinic staff to accomplish this well worth it.

With an increase in the clinic's ability to provide Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) to diabetic patients, there is a growing list of patients who benefit from this technology. (UNITY's Thanksgiving Offerings raised over \$5,200 for BOH to purchase CGM's for its patients, so thank you!) The patients are able to see their blood glucose levels at any time and adjust their eating and activities accordingly. They come to the clinic on a regular basis to get supplies and to review their progress.

One of the current patients showed great improvement in his average readings after about 2 months with CGM. With this improved control, he reported feeling better both physically and mentally.

The picture below shows Kathy Nevermann, R.N., Dr. Barbara Horner-Ibler, and Diane Dressler R.N. at the Florist Avenue Clinic. This branch of the clinic is open on Wednesdays to serve patients on the north side of the Milwaukee community.

~ Diane Dressler, Servant Advocate





Stock Sale Going on NOW for Sr. High Summer Trip

Our Sr. High kids and adult chaperones will be at the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 16-22.

We are currently holding a Stock Sale to help raise funds for this trip.

Please look for the envelope displays at each campus. You will be invited to complete your information – along with the amount of stock you wish to purchase – and leave it in the envelope. As a special thanks, you will receive updates from our week in New Orleans. *Thank you for your support!*



Grief Group Continues at COL on July 10 & 24 @ 6:30 pm

Have you lost someone you love? Come join us for our Grief Group, held the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. We meet next on July 10 & 24 from 6:30-8:00 pm at our COL campus.

These gatherings are led by Pastor Jim Ahlquist and Nicole Krause. If this is the right time for you, or if someone you know could benefit from being a part of this, join us! If you have questions or just want to discuss whether this is the right place for you, contact Pastor Jim at jim@unitybrookfield.org or 715-210-2245.



Moms Group Meets Next July 18 & Aug 15 at CTK

Moms Group is a time for moms of all ages and stages to come together to talk, eat, laugh, cry, support and pray. ***We meet on third Thursdays from 5:30-7:00 pm at our CTK Campus. Next gatherings are on July 18 and August 15.*** Dinner and childcare are always provided. Kids can play in the backyard or be in the nursery with sitters. Come find your tribe with other moms ... and let your kids find theirs with other friends! These evenings are a win-win for everyone.



Lawn Mowing Help Needed

We are fully in lawn mowing season and we need your help keeping our grounds looking great. Many weeks are open. In addition to power-packed riding mowers, there is a self-propelled walk-behind mower, a gas-powered leaf blower, and a gas-powered string trimmer at each campus. The trimming and mowing process is generally needed only once per week, and is ideally done in the Wednesday–Saturday morning time frame. ***Get all the details you need and sign up today through SignUp Genius on our [Sign Up web page](#) to be part of this important crew at UNITY!***



Pavilion Helpers are Needed

We are in need of help setting up for Outdoor Worship held in our CTK Pavilion on Sundays at 10 am through the summer. This is your chance to be a Coordinator Extraordinaire Outdoor (CEO)! As CEO, you will be the point person overseeing the setup, and there should be enough Sundays for everyone to take a turn. If you are unable to be at CTK on your day, please let any of the pastors know as soon possible. This position is weather permitting, so check Saturday morning's church email. ***Please sign up through the "Pavilion Worship Helpers" [SignUp Genius](#) on our [Signup web page](#). Thank you!***



Puzzle Library is For YOU!

Our Jigsaw Puzzle Library at COL outside of Room 202 is open and available for your use. While you may have put the pieces together, did you know...? ***We have a great [Puzzle Library web page](#) that shows photos of our selections!*** It also gives instructions on how to check out and return puzzles, so there's no need to puzzle about it. Puzzles range from 200 to 3,000 pieces so you're sure to find one that fits. This is great fun for families, shut-ins, or those who love jigsaw puzzles. ***Check it out today! It's family-friendly fun ... for free. :)***





Council Corner

As you have probably heard during services and have read in the bulletins and newsletters, the UNITY congregation Council recently introduced some new members to replace folks at the end of their terms. (See page 7 to see all Council members.) **I am in the middle of my two-year term, and wanted to share why I chose to join.** (Of course, this is also to plant the seed in your mind about either joining a committee or being on the Council!) :)

When I got the telephone call asking me to lead the Group Opportunities committee, I decided to say yes and become more involved because I realized how much my family has gained from this congregation. We've been attending and participating in Sunday School and other youth activities for 20 years. It's been an important place for us and our kids that doesn't rely on technology or competition but focuses on faith and values.

To be honest, I didn't entirely know what I was really getting into, and I questioned if I really had the talent for this. However, what made the experience gratifying was getting to know the other Council members better – people who I had seen in the pews for many years, now interacting with them, and being able to get to know them. It really is all about building our community the best we can together, because it's our relationship with each other that truly matters.

I encourage you to consider joining a committee or dipping your toe by volunteering at a future event. I can assure you it is a judgment-free zone of people who just want to help themselves and others move forward in their journeys.

The big push on the Time & Talent sheets has passed, but we are always accepting new input. Simply click on the Time & Talent Form icon on UNITY's homepage (also found on the Stewardship page).

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work."

~ 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

~ **Tiffany Reay, Group Opportunities**

Money Matters

Happy Summer! **We are halfway through the year and we are on track with the budget!** At the time I am writing this, we do not have June numbers yet, but when we do we will be communicating a mid-year review of the financials. The Finance Team, Stewardship Team and Church Council decided this year we wanted to give more information throughout the year. Stay tuned for those updated figures and enjoy your Summer! As always, please contact me at alzastrow@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

~ **Adrienne Krueger, Treasurer**

Connected to Nature

We are blessed to have a *literal* connection to the community and nature in our backyard at CTK. **On Sunday, June 30, after 10 am worship, 22 people joined the GO Committee to explore the trails behind CTK.** We encourage you to walk the Greenway Trail this summer and throughout the year!



Directly above: A view of CTK as seen from the Greenway Trail.

Call Committee Update

The UNITY Call Committee continues to meet on a regular basis. We are exploring candidates as provided by the Milwaukee Synod. We are a bit challenged by summer schedules – for both the candidates and committee members – so things are moving a bit more slowly now that summer has started. We are still grateful to be way ahead of the normal curve for typical Call Committee timelines.

When we have something concrete to share, we will do so. Thank you, again, for your continued prayers and words of encouragement. It takes a village and you are an important part of the equation!

~ **Best regards,
UNITY Call Committee**



Keep Connecting with Us!

We are here for you! Please continue to reach out to us at any time.



Pastor Sherrie Lorbeck:
sherrie@unitybrookfield.org
Cell: 414-477-7762



Pastor Muriel Otto:
muriel@unitybrookfield.org
Cell: 712-254-6515



Pastor Eric Silberschmidt:
eric@unitybrookfield.org
Cell: 262-716-9854



Pastor Jim Ahlquist:
jim@unitybrookfield.org
Cell: 715-210-2245

Don't know who to contact? Call our Church Office at 262-781-7600.

Often times they can assist you with your needs. If not, you will be directed to the proper person. *The important thing is to stay in touch with us!*





Giving Thanks for the Dedicated Service of Your Church Council Members!

The ministries of our church are run by 11 Teams of volunteers, each led by a member of our UNITY Church Council. These teams are the lifeblood of our church, working always – often behind the scenes – to sustain and grow the work of God among us. Council Chairs (*pictured below*) are gearing up for the program year. Please join us in thanking them for their service!



Adult Programs Todd Blatnik

Todd.Blatnik@wi.rr.com
Offers faith-based education for adults



Stewardship Trisha Smith

Trisha.SmithWI@gmail.com
Celebrates our ministries and invites giving to maintain them

Other Church Council members (those not leading one of our 11 Teams) are listed below.

We thank ALL of our Council members for their invaluable time and dedication to our ministry!



Christian Education Davida Kroepfl

dakroepfl@gmail.com
Supports Sunday School & Confirmation programming



Worship and Music Steve Johnson

steve.johnson61@gmail.com
Creates meaningful and life-giving worship opportunities



President Phil Roemaat

paroemaat@gmail.com



Commun. and Technology Bert Perrizo

Bert.Perrizo@gmail.com
Cares for and develops tech capabilities at both campuses



Youth Nancy Oberhauser

Nancy.A.Oberhauser@gmail.com / Supports programming for our youth



Recording Secretary Leslie O'Connell

loljo3@gmail.com



Finance Tim Herman

TimHerman14@gmail.com
Oversees financial health of the congregation



Group Opportunities Tiffany Reay

sreays@gmail.com
Organizes social events to connect members



Treasurer Adrienne Krueger

alzastrow@yahoo.com



Invite / New Members Anna Jansson

ajansson8@gmail.com
Welcomes new members into our community



Property Allan Bengston

AllanBengst234@gmail.com
Cares for facilities and grounds at both campuses



Servant Ministries Ellen Vermillion

evermill61@gmail.com
Connects members to serve with our community partners

We also thank our **Outgoing Council Members** for their service:

Colleen King • President
Susie Sprecher • Adult Programs
Ed Dominski • Commun. & Tech.
Phil Roemaat • Finance
Jackie Herington • Servant Ministries
David Koenen • Property
Eric Borkenhagen • Youth
Michelle Aprahamian • Staff Rep



Staff Rep Natalie Kamenick

natalie@unitybrookfield.org

Brief Bios of all of our Council members can be found on our Church Council web page. Please join us in thanking them for their service when you see them!

*"The broadest, and maybe the most meaningful definition of volunteering: Doing more than you have to, because you want to, in a cause you consider good."
~ Ivan H. Scheier*

Shown at right: Outgoing Council President Colleen King "passes" the baton (er, gavel) to new Council President Phil Roemaat at the Church Council meeting on June 11.





Please note this calendar is tentative. Watch your email, our website and Facebook for updates.



Christ the King Campus



Cross of Life Campus

Colors denote campuses *only*;
Join in, either place, at any time!

Summer Worship Times

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm **WORSHIP at COL**

SUNDAYS

8:30 am **WORSHIP at COL:**
Live-Stream to Facebook;
on website after service

10:00 am **WORSHIP at CTK:**
Outside in Pavilion;
weather permitting

11:00 am **Coffee Hour: CTK Narthex**



Sundays in July

July 7 ~ *Holiday Weekend*

No ABC Sunday School (Holiday)

8:30 am: **WORSHIP at COL: Streamed**

10:00 am: **WORSHIP at CTK: Outside**

11:00 am: Sr. High: Pre-Trip Update &
Covenant Signing at CTK

5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns

July 14

8:30 am: **WORSHIP at COL: Streamed**

8:30 am: **ABC Sunday School: COL**

10:00 am: **WORSHIP at CTK: Outside**

10:00 am: **ABC Sunday School: CTK**

July 21

Sr. High: ELCA National Youth Gathering

8:30 am: **WORSHIP at COL: Streamed**

8:30 am: **ABC Sunday School: COL**

10:00 am: **WORSHIP at CTK: Outside**

10:00 am: **ABC Sunday School: CTK**

July 28

El Salvador Summer Trip

8:30 am: **WORSHIP at COL: Streamed**

8:30 am: **ABC Sunday School: COL**

10:00 am: **WORSHIP at CTK: Outside**

10:00 am: **ABC Sunday School: CTK**

Monday, July 1

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, July 2

7:00 am: Men's Breakfast: The Crossings

Thursday, July 4 ~ *Independence Day*

Saturday, July 6 ~ *Holiday Weekend*

5:00 pm: **Worship at COL**

Monday, July 8

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, July 9

East Coast Road Trip

Wednesday, July 10

East Coast Road Trip

11:30 am: Lunch Bunch Group: Maxim's

6:30 pm: Grief Group at COL

Thursday, July 11

East Coast Road Trip

Friday, July 12

East Coast Road Trip

5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns

Saturday, July 13

1:00 pm: Wauk. Food Pantry: Volunteer
Appreciation Gathering at Retzer

5:00 pm: **Worship at COL**

Monday, July 15

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, July 16

Sr. High: ELCA National Youth Gathering

Wednesday, July 17

Sr. High: ELCA National Youth Gathering

Thursday, July 18

Sr. High: ELCA National Youth Gathering

5:30 pm: Moms Group at CTK

Saturday, July 20

Sr. High: ELCA National Youth Gathering

5:00 pm: **Worship at COL**

Monday, July 22

Sr. High: ELCA National Youth Gathering

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, July 23

El Salvador Summer Trip

Wednesday, July 24

El Salvador Summer Trip

6:30 pm: Grief Group at COL

Thursday, July 25

El Salvador Summer Trip

Friday, July 26

El Salvador Summer Trip

Saturday, July 27

El Salvador Summer Trip

9:00 am: Waukesha Food Pantry

5:00 pm: **Worship at COL**

Monday, July 29

El Salvador Summer Trip

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

5:30 pm: Waukesha Food Pantry

Tuesday, July 30

El Salvador Summer Trip



Minister's Minute

I was in the 8th grade when I remember first hearing about the ELCA National Youth Gathering. I wasn't even old enough to attend, but I remember hearing about how high school youth from all across the country would come together for a week of inspiring worship, the opportunity to serve and to learn more about what the Church is and how we are a significant part of it.

This year's Gathering in New Orleans fulfilled just that. I'm so glad our young people (and us adults too) got to experience it all and the power of being together with 16,000 other people for the same reason.... a love for Jesus, and a longing to hear that no matter what we face, we have been created by God to be who we are! Each with incredible gifts, life experiences and abilities to share for the good of those around us! When we are able to listen to the stories of others, including the painful, difficult parts they have known, we hopefully become filled with a greater awareness of situations we could never even imagine, but that are realities for people all across our world. In so doing, and as we continue to hear who Jesus has created us to be and the power he gives to us, it hopefully leads us to be people of action, to love and serve one another.

Hopefully, wherever life has led you this summer, you've had a chance to look around for where you have felt God's presence or heard Christ's voice calling out within your mind's thoughts. As we savor these last few weeks of longer days, I pray that you also are able to be a part of the next major transition now upon us in our faith family as we prepare to send Muriel and Andrew and Alice and Sal with our blessings as they prepare for the next chapter in their life.

It's so very hard for a pastor to know God's timing in things. A pastor never wants to stay too long, especially when they have nothing left to give that the congregation needs.

And yet, even as our heart longs for the opportunity to be close to family or to make decisions based on what we think is best for our family, it is still so very hard to let go of a place and a people we have loved SO VERY MUCH and who have loved us and our family in return! I trust this is so for Muriel, so I hope you will help to send her with our deepest thanks, our blessings for all that God has in store for her and her family (*with hands laid on her head and shoulders so she can feel the power of it!*), and a bit more laughing than crying. Muriel came up with just a few of her favorite things that include cookie potlucks, tailgating at a Brewer's game, costumes, and most of all, being together in worship and around the table for a MEAL (or two or three!) *Watch for more info on that.*

Check out the opportunities and come be a part of the celebrations and farewell. If your summer schedule has you traveling, know that Muriel would also love hearing from you with a text, phone call or card! We'll have a giant one you can sign in the narthex, and if you'd like to contribute to a special gift to what's near and dear to her in honor of her almost 11 years of ministry, you can do that as well in person or online. (*Just add "Muriel" in the memo line.*)

Come September, as the season starts to lead us into Fall and the beginning of a new program year with all the weekly rhythms of worship, learning and serving opportunities, I hope you will Rally back to be a part of each week!

Isn't it interesting, though, that God always keeps us moving forward? Even in the mountain places of our lives, worshiping with thousands to worshiping with those we are connected to even when we can't fully hear or understand one another's language? There is still more work to be done, that God needs us for and needs us to help support, so that others can benefit from its gifts, just as we have throughout our lives. Gifts, that keep coming, when we most need, out of the blue, in every way divinely possible, to help us remember what we always seem to forget... "You were created... to be...." So, remember that, live into what that means for you simply and know that it was out of God's love that you and all things came to be! Thanks be to God!

~ Sherrie



The ELCA National Youth Gathering was a powerful week of worship with 16,000 others who share a love for Jesus.



Thanks for 11 great years, Muriel! We have been blessed by your many gifts!

*Muriel will end her nearly 11 years with us at the end of August.
See page 7 for all the ways we're celebrating her ministry!*

Two-Campus Ministry in Brookfield, Wis. • unitybrookfield.org

Christ the King: 4600 Pilgrim Rd. • Zip: 53005 • (262) 781-7600

Cross of Life: 20700 W. North Ave. • Zip: 53045 • (262) 781-7600



Celebrate. Share. Renew.



Register NOW for Sunday School! Begins Sept. 7-8

Rally Weekend on September 7-8 marks the beginning of Sunday School for PreK-Grade 6. (Or as our kids like to call it, "FUNDAY School!") Each week's Bible lesson includes games, crafts, activities, conversations and connections. **Register your child through our SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION PAGE.** Pick a time that works best, knowing that as your schedule requires, your kids are welcome in *any* Sunday School class:

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm Pre-K-Gr 6 at COL

SUNDAYS

8:30 am Pre-K-Gr 6 at COL

9:30 am Fusion Gr 7-8: COL

9:30 am Pre-K-Gr 6 at CTK

10:45 am Pre-K-Gr 6 at COL



Registering your child for Sunday School is important!

The data base helps with communications and announcements for all events and activities. Questions? Contact Christian Education Director Michelle Aprahamian at 414-732-8615 or michelle@unitybrookfield.org.

Sunday School Leaders Needed at Both Campuses

Be a blessing to our Little Ones!

We need 9 Leaders per weekend and are asking that adults sign up to lead 1 or 2 times per month (*see times above*). Lessons are provided for you, and you'll be part of a Teaching Team so you can adjust your schedule as needed! **Sign up through our Sunday School web page or contact Michelle Aprahamian at michelle@unitybrookfield.org or 414-732-8615.**



Rally Weekend: Sunday School Meet & Greet

Sunday School families: come to our Meet & Greet during Rally Weekend!

Parents of Preschoolers and those NEW to Sunday School: You're invited to tag along with your child during Sunday School to help with the transition and learn more about what happens. If you'd like, you'll be notified when it's Communion time and you can head back to church while your child finishes with their activities.

ALL Families: After each worship, Sunday School Leaders will bring the kids to the Fellowship Hall at COL and the Narthex at CTK so families and teachers can take time to meet, talk, and enjoy refreshments together. See our full schedule at left.

If you haven't already done so, REGISTER ONLINE NOW for Sunday School!



Sunday School Coordinator Might be the Role for YOU!

Are you interested in helping out with Sunday School but aren't sure if you want to teach? **We are looking for Sunday School Coordinators!** We could use one volunteer for each Sunday School hour at our COL campus: Saturdays at 5 pm and Sundays at 8:30 am & 10:45 am. You would help teachers and kids as an "extra" set of hands to run for supplies or extra copies, help kids with projects, or help with any other kids' needs that arise. Interested? **Contact Michelle Aprahamian at michelle@unitybrookfield.org / 414-732-8615.**

Bible Basics Class for 2nd Graders (or older) & Parents

We will hold a Bible Basics Class Thursday September 19, from 6:30-7:30 pm at COL. Bible Presentations are September 21-22 at all services.



Sunday School Teachers will be Scheduled Using MSP

UNITY will use Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP) for scheduling teaching starting Rally Weekend. You may be familiar with it as it has been used for many years to schedule worship volunteers (ushers, greeters, etc.) This will facilitate scheduling teachers and requesting subs, and will also avoid conflicts of being scheduled for other volunteer positions when scheduled to teach! *And* it can coordinate schedules with linked family members as well!

You'll get emails from Nancy Kostanski, Volunteer Coordinator, before being scheduled, asking about service and class preferences, dates you are not available, etc. Once the schedule is produced, you will get an email with all your scheduled dates, and automatic reminders will come out the week before you are scheduled as well. With the downloadable app you can also see all your and your family's information.

This is a great tool for our teachers!





Enjoy Summertime Worship through September 1

Summer worship hours run through Labor Day weekend. Keep connected with your faith family this summer ... whether inside, outside or online. **We now live-stream to VIMEO.**

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm WORSHIP at COL

SUNDAYS

8:30 am WORSHIP at COL
Live-Stream to VIMEO;
on website after service

10:00 am WORSHIP at CTK
Outside in Pavilion;
weather permitting

11:00 am Coffee Hour: CTK Narthex

Please Note: Worship Service at CTK on SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, will be held INDOORS. (A community partner is using the pavilion for their worship service that day.)

Reminder to those who need extra consideration in accessing the pavilion: You are welcome to get dropped off on the asphalt driveway in front of the pavilion, or if you are driving, you may park along the edge of the driveway near the pavilion, allowing continued access to other vehicles for dropping off/picking up.

A Cappella Concert to be at CTK on August 26 @ 7 pm

All are invited to a free concert under CTK's Pavilion on Monday, August 26, at 7 pm. Come enjoy the sounds of the two a cappella groups from Brookfield East High School: **"Unaccompanied Minors"** and **"Genesis."** (Fun "note" ... UNITY member Kyra Jester performs with Unaccompanied Minors.) *Please bring your own lawn chairs if possible.*



"Return to Regular" During Rally Weekend: Sept. 7-8

On Rally Weekend, September 7-8, we return to our programming year schedule and offerings, including:

- Worship & Sunday School Times
- Choirs for Adults & Youth
- Sr. High & Youth Events
- Service Opportunities
- Adult Education & Small Groups

Watch emails for the latest updates!



Fall Worship Times: COL Changes BACK to 10:45 am

When we return to our regular program year worship schedule on September 7-8, we will move the later service at COL from 10:30 am BACK TO the time of 10:45 am. We had thought the 8:30, 9:30 and 10:30 times might make it easier for people to remember, but it didn't provide enough transition time between worship and the education hour to allow pastors and members to go back and forth as needed. Hopefully the extra 15 minutes will allow us to get back to offering both Sunday School and Adult Ed opportunities in between services at COL.

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm: WORSHIP at COL

SUNDAYS

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL



Regular
Worship Hours
Begin Sept. 7-8

Instrument Petting Zoos to Be Held Rally Weekend

Kids! Get to know the instruments at UNITY at our Instrument Petting Zoos held during all Sunday School classes on Rally Weekend! Be sure to join us September 7-8 to find out which instruments YOU like best. These Petting Zoos are a popular attraction, but please ... we ask that you do not feed the instruments.



Music Rehearsals Resume in September; All Welcome!

At UNITY, music is an important part of our worship experience. Those who attend our services are moved by it, and those who share their gift of music are glorifying the Lord in a very personal way. We invite you to join one of our music groups! *All are welcome and there are never any auditions.* **Rehearsals for our music groups begin in September, so watch for a schedule coming soon.**

In the meantime, think about which group might be the best fit for you and the other members of your family:

Joyful Noise Music Makers:

Kids in PreK-Grade 1

Celebration Music Makers:

Kids in Grades 2-6

Fellowship Choir:

Grade 7-Adult

Gloria Dei Bells:

Late Intermed. to Advanced Ringers

Hosanna Bells:

Begin. to Early Intermediate Ringers





Hephatha Backpacks: Please Return by August 4

Thanks to everyone who took a tag for our annual Backpack Drive for kids at our partner, Hephatha Lutheran Church! **This is just a reminder that all backpacks are due to either campus by Sunday, August 4.** Last year our members provided 68 bags! Figuring the cost of the bag and supplies, each one costs \$70-\$110. Multiply that by 68 and it's a substantial contribution. Then do the math for a single, lower-income household in the Hephatha congregation with 2-3 school-age kids, and you can see what a huge benefit these backpacks are. *Thank you!*



Update & Another Thank You from the Food Pantry

The following email is from the Waukesha Food Pantry in response to our Summer Bag Sales:

I was able to buy 1,040 packages of chicken tenders for \$1,910 and I bought 227 dozen eggs with the rest. That chicken will last multiple weeks. The eggs will last 2 days, but I bought more chicken because I get such a good deal on it! Thank you so much for the generous donation. Please let the congregation know how helpful this donation was for us!

~ Laura Amenda, Food Resource Mgr.



Aspen Center on Aug. 18: "Family Reunion" at CTK

In 2024 we are participating in events every other month with Aspen Center – which means our next event will be in August. *Did you know that August is National Family Fun Month?* This provides the perfect opportunity to acknowledge the diversity that exists within the term "family." And what better way to celebrate than a "Family Reunion" and grilling out with our friends from Aspen Center! **Join us under the CTK Pavilion on Sunday, August 18, (after service) from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.** We're looking for UNITY families to help grill out and supply salads and desserts for a picnic under the pavilion. Please sign up through SignUp Genius on UNITY's website. UNITY will supply hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, and drinks. UNITY staff is on board for leading some fun games, too! Hope to see you there! Questions? Please contact Cindy Boyd at dcboyd1985@sbcglobal.net.



Next Blood Drive: Thursday, Sept. 19 • 1-6 pm • COL

Please give the gift of LIFE at UNITY's Blood Drive on Thursday, September 19, from 1-6 pm at our COL campus. Sign up by going to UNITY's Sign Up web page and clicking on the Blood Drive sign-up. There you'll see our donation page on the Red Cross website. Need help signing up? Contact Marilyn Ranney at 414-975-5606 or ranneymarilyn@gmail.com.



Hephatha to Join Us Aug. 24 at CTK for Worship & Dinner

We are blessed with a beautiful outdoor space at our CTK campus, and there's no better way to enjoy it than with our partners. **Join us on Saturday, August 24, as our friends from Hephatha Lutheran Church join us for worship at 5 pm, followed by dinner, fellowship and playing in CTK's Backyard beginning at 6 pm.** **NOTE: This Saturday only: 5 pm worship will be outside in CTK's Pavilion, not at COL.** Sunday Services will be held as usual: 8:30 am at COL & 10 am at CTK (outdoors). *Below: Hephatha joined us at CTK for worship and fellowship on July 8, 2023.*



El Salvador Trip was a Blessing for Us and Them

Our summer relationship-building trip to visit our partners in the Rutilio Grande community and at Cordero de Dios Lutheran Church in El Salvador took place July 23-30 ... and it was filled with so many blessings. **We give thanks for the safe return of our 19 travelers and thank them for their important ministry!** We encourage you to view the video reels on our "Come Away with Jesus" web page. **Travelers will be speaking about their experiences in worship the weekend of August 10-11.**





Lutherdale Fest Quilt Auction August 10: Online & In-Person; Bid on Quilts Made by UNITY Member Cindy Boyd!

Throughout the year, UNITY's Sew Comfy Group makes heart-shaped pillows for people having breast cancer surgery. These pillows are available in the narthex for members to give to friends or family who may have a need for one. Pillows are donated to Froedtert Hospital and UW Cancer Center for their patients throughout the year.

UNITY member Cindy Boyd has beautifully created quilts from the fabric scraps from these pillows. **Two of Cindy's quilts have been generously donated to Lutherdale Church Camp for their Quilt Sale & Auction.** "Cheerio Cancer" (below, left) exudes a message of hope lovingly stitched into a quilt.



"Fly Away Home" (below, right) was created during the darkness of 2020 and includes a rainbow of colors to bring light and happiness to its new owner.

The Lutherdale Fest Quilt Auction is on Saturday, August 10, from 9 am-3 pm. Quilts will be for sale or are in a live auction which begins at 10 am. There is a Pre-Fest at Lutherdale on Friday, August 9, from 4-7 pm, which includes a preview of the quilts and a Fish Fry. For more info and to view all quilts for sale, visit lutherdale.org. Lutherdale is located at N7891 U.S. Hwy 12 in Elkhorn, Wis. All are welcome to attend both events, and remember: you can bid in person or via their live auction!



Grief Group Continues on August 14 & 28 @ 6:30 pm

Have you lost someone you love? Come join us for our Grief Group, held the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. We meet next August 14 & 28 from 6:30-8:00 pm at our COL campus.

These gatherings are led by Pastor Jim Ahlquist and Nicole Krause. If this is the right time for you, or if someone you know could benefit from being a part of this, join us! If you have questions or just want to discuss whether this is the right place for you, contact Pastor Jim at jim@unitybrookfield.org or 715-210-2245.



Moms Group Meets on August 15 @ 5:30 at CTK

Moms Group is a time for moms of all ages and stages to come together to talk, eat, laugh, cry, support and pray. **We meet on third Thursdays from 5:30-7:00 pm at our CTK Campus. Next gathering is on August 15.** Dinner and childcare are always provided. Kids can play in the backyard or be in the nursery with sitters. Come find your tribe with other moms ... and let your kids find theirs with other friends! These evenings are a win-win for everyone.



Join Lunch Bunch Group on August 14 @ 11:30 am

Come join our Lunch Bunch Group the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 am at Maxim's. Our next gathering is on August 14.

Everyone is welcome, no matter your age or stage: younger, older, singles, couples, regular or occasional. *Just show up!* The nice thing about Maxim's is that seating is endlessly expandable. If you have any questions before you come, please contact Esther McKee at 262-246-6443. Maxim's is located at 18025 W. Capitol Drive in Brookfield. *Simply show up for a time of fellowship!*



Tonight Only Band Concert: August 21 @ 6:30 pm at CTK

Hey everyone! UNITY's favorite band is back! **The Tonight Only Band will perform a FREE concert Wednesday, August 21, at 6:30 pm in CTK's Pavilion.** Come to hear hits that span from the 60's through (almost) today! There's nothing better than live music outside on a summer evening, so head over to CTK for great songs performed by this band that features UNITY members Mark Krause (Guitar), Ty Hauser (Bass), Jay Hill (Keyboard/Guitar) and David Wickert (Vocals/Guitar), as well as Paul Whitaker (Drums), Laura Lehmann (Vocals) and Paula Treacy (Vocals). See you there!





Council Corner

In May, I was one of the UNITY members who participated in the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly held at the Italian Community Center. It was a wonderful experience that showed me how our church is part of a larger, like-minded faith community that is making a positive difference in Wisconsin, the United States, and the world, and is supporting its congregations and their members.

The Greater Milwaukee Synod is a geographic grouping of congregations, extending from Sheboygan down to the Illinois border and from Lake Michigan to the western edge of Waukesha County. We are one of 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Our synod is made up of 115 congregations led by Bishop Paul Erickson and a 17-member Synod Council.

The Synod Assembly had business, education, celebration and worship. The business matters included approving the synod budget, considering constitutional and bylaw changes, and electing individuals for governing committees and to represent our synod at the 2025 ELCA churchwide assembly. Resolutions were considered and voted on, including a resolution authored by Pastor John Horner-Ibler to enhance the call process. (It was passed!) We saw videos and heard speakers telling us about the great works being done, such as on world hunger, global refugees, and diversity. The assembly celebrated anniversaries (like Pastor Jim Ahlquist's 40th ordination anniversary) and retirements (like Pastor John's retirement).

A special experience was the worship service, designed to honor indigenous people. The service followed the Lutheran worship pattern, but the words and music were derived from a variety of Native American sources. Many members of the Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit, located in Milwaukee, honored us by volunteering for various worship roles.

Consider holding the dates for the 2025 Synod Assembly on your calendar.

It's coming to the Brookfield Conference Center on May 30-31, 2025. It expanded my understanding of the ELCA organization and reinforced my love for our faith community.

~ Trisha Smith, Stewardship

Money Matters

Are you interested in learning more about how UNITY receives financial donations? Would you like an update on UNITY's 2024 budget?

Come to the Adult Forum on Sunday, September 22, at 9:30 am at the COL campus. The Stewardship Team is hosting an informal presentation on all things financial for UNITY.

For the Forum: You can help select the topics! Let a Stewardship Team member or pastor know what information YOU are interested in hearing about. **Donation topics might include statistics on:**

- The number of families giving to UNITY;
- The most popular methods families use to donate;
- How often families donate (weekly, monthly, yearly);
- Giving patterns over a calendar year & multiple years;
- How pledges are counted; and
- How reliable are pledges;

The budget update will show where the 2024 UNITY budget is at for revenues and expenses and how that compares to previous years. Questions? Contact Stewardship Chair Trisha Smith at trisha.smithwi@gmail.com.

~ UNITY Stewardship Team:
Trisha Smith, Steve Taipala,
Brian Olsson, Kelsey Morrison

Call Committee Update

We are grateful to the Milwaukee ELCA Synod for sending the UNITY Call Committee several pastoral candidates for review. We are in active dialog with at least one candidate and have also dismissed one candidate. As noted last month, we are working around summer vacation schedules but are still making progress. We understand our role as both vetting potential pastors per our Ministry Site Profile as well as providing great UNITY PR to candidates, so they find us appealing as a next step in their Christian journey. We continue to sing the praises of UNITY in order to provide a positive impression and highlight the many wonderful people and ministries that make up our collective impact as UNITY Lutheran Church. We trust God will guide us to the pastors who will be the best fit and provide great leadership for our future. We appreciate your patience and continued prayers of support!

~ Melanie Varin,
Committee Co-Chair

"God's gifts are measureless, and there shall be eternal Summer in the grateful heart." ~Celia Thaxter



Photo taken in El Salvador

Keep Connecting with Us!

We are here for you! Please continue to reach out to us or to your pastors:.



Sherrie Lorbeck:
sherrie@unitybrookfield.org
Cell: 414-477-7762



Eric Silberschmidt:
eric@unitybrookfield.org
Cell: 262-716-9854



Muriel Otto:
muriel@unitybrookfield.org
Cell: 712-254-6515



Jim Ahlquist:
jim@unitybrookfield.org
Cell: 715-210-2245

Don't know who to contact? Call our Church Office at 262-781-7600.

Often times they can assist you with your needs. If not, you will be directed to the proper person. *The important thing is to stay in touch with us!*



A Letter from Muriel

Dear UNITY Family,
When we shared the news of our pastoral transition plan back in October of

2023, our parting seemed AGES away, hardly worth even considering yet. And now we are on our last month together! When we did share the news, you responded so graciously. The kind words and prayers you've offered have given me such energy to end well, encouragement launching into the future, and gratitude for all we've shared these past almost 11 years.

A little update on our plans... the decision to leave came from our desire to find our permanent home, hopefully near some portion of family (both sides are a bit scattered), with timing that was good for UNITY. This is still the hope, but we don't know yet where that will be. Trying to make such big choices and to job search in the midst of our usual life chaos was a bit much, so we decided to just focus all our energy on finishing strong here and take the fall to regroup. Our kids are on track to return to their Milwaukee schools in September while I take some time off ministry to figure out what is next. We trust God will lead us to the right place at the right time!

With the start of a new year and new staff in place, September is a good time for us to transition out. So I will wrap up my UNITY time at the end of August even though we'll still be in the area. You are in great hands with Pastors Eric, Jim, and Sherrie, and Nicole Krause will be lending staff support to most of my areas for now. Their faith, skill, and heart make it SO much easier to step away from all of you and a place I love so much!

Let's make the most of our last month together, hey? We've planned several chances to be together that we hope will be fun, easy, and connectional – and that include all our favorite things about this place! Summer schedules are crazy but come to one if you can, and let's keep praying for each other, ok? Thanks be to God!

~ Muriel

Farewell Brewers Game & Tailgate for Muriel: Aug. 10

Join us to take Mo & family out to the ball game Saturday, August 10!

We will meet at COL at 4 pm and caravan to the game for a tailgate and the 6:10 pm Brewers game against the Cincinnati Reds. We'll sit together and cheer the Brewers on to a win! Plus, the giveaway for this game is a Contreras City Jersey! Ticket cost is \$33 per person; the family maximum price is \$70. **Please visit the [SignUp Genius web page](#) to RSVP and to choose an item to bring along. Visit our [Vanco web page](#) to pay online.** Come along and sing it with us: "Take Mo out to the baaaaaalll gaaaaame...!" **Worship still being held August 10.**



Come for Cookie Potlucks for Mo: August 17, 18 & 25

Join us for Cookie Potlucks to celebrate Mo: Saturday, August 17, after the 5 pm service at COL ... Sunday, August 18, after the 8:30 am service at COL ... and Sunday, August 25, after the 10 am service at CTK. Bring ANY cookies you like: store-bought, homemade... the more variety, the better! It's Mo's favorite food. (If you bring homemade, bring the recipe as a keepsake for Mo!)



Farewell Luncheon: Sunday, August 25 @ 11 am at CTK

We will celebrate Muriel and thank her for her ministry among us at a Farewell Luncheon on Sunday, August 25, following 10 am worship service at our CTK campus. Come join us to lift up her nearly 11 years with us. After all ... the Mo the Merrier!



Perfect Parting Gifts for Mo: A Costume Chest!

Other than all the cookies in the kitchen, Mo's favorite thing about this church is the *plethora* of costume options. **Help build a costume collection for Muriel to bring to her next church!** Bring in anything you think might be fun, both kid- and adult-sized. Think costumes, hats, masks, Bible story props (new or used!) for vignettes, VBS, Christmas programs, acting out Bible stories, etc. *Thanks!*

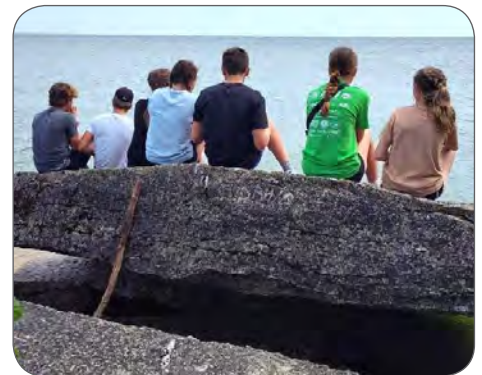




Have You “Come Away with Jesus” on Our Summer Trips?

In our July newsletter we invited you to “Come Away with Jesus” on our summer trips. We introduced our awesome new “Come Away” web page for viewing video reels of trip highlights so we could visit these destinations *together*. We also shared photos from the two trips we had already taken. From June 17-20 our VBS kids traveled from CTK to El Salvador using a “Pasaporte,” and from June 23-28 our Year 1 Confirmation Kids traveled to Imago Dei Village Camp in Clintonville, WI. Since then, we’ve taken three more summer trips. **To experience these trips for yourself, visit our [“Come Away with Jesus” web page!](#)**

East Coast Road Trip • Year 2 Confirmation Students • July 9-12



ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans • Sr. High Students & Adults • July 16-22



El Salvador (Cordero & Rutilio) • Summer Travelers • July 23-30



“Jesus himself came up and walked along with them.” ~Luke 24:15

Minister's Minute

"Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." ~ Psalm 23:6

Approximately 465 cookies later and our final week with you arrived. We have felt so loved these last few weeks, and so known, and so fed, in every sense of the word! We take courage from that as we launch into our new chapter, carried on your prayers and God's grace.

When we initially planned for this September departure last fall, we assumed we would have a new destination lined up by this time, somewhere we could settle down by family. We... don't! Our family is in multiple places (Washington, Iowa, Michigan, D.C.), good church jobs are scarce, and trying to make such big choices and job search in the midst of our usual life chaos was a bit much, so we decided to just focus all our energy on finishing strong at UNITY and take the fall to regroup. Our kids will return to their Milwaukee schools next month while I take some time off to figure out what is next. It was a good decision. I can't imagine packing up our whole lives on top of everything else this summer. I can't even imagine packing up my office!

When we decided to defer the move, at first I was disappointed. It seemed like it would be so much cleaner to say goodbye to you, load up the car, and have you send us off to the next faith community. And for you (and us) to KNOW where you were sending us!

Honestly, this has been more powerful. You have joined us in the uncertainty in such a beautiful way. You've shared your own stories of moves and big decisions and holy timing, assured us of your prayers, reminded us that God has got this. You are so wise! Meanwhile you are jumping in with full hearts and such great energy to this next chapter of UNITY. What a good instinct on your part!

Our faith communities are fragile and precious, and every time you show up, speak up, share money, share skills, share about your life, say prayers, ASK for prayers, ASK FOR HELP, each one of these acts lays another brick in the firm foundation of this place. Keep being good to your staff and each other, learning from partners, and enjoy being together... all already particular strengths of this place.

For the various programs I was part of, strong leaders are in place to continue good work. The servant ministry team has a person appointed to each of our partners. They know them and are constantly in touch with them, and able to keep us connected on how best to share time and resources. The El Salvador trips have leadership teams made up of past travelers who know the people and the drill. The call team is the most capable group of humans I have ever had the pleasure of seeing in action. Church council is a great mix of old and new. The community is strong. Thank you... it is because of you.

And then of course there is your staff. I will miss working with them more than I can say. I could endlessly extol the virtues of all of them, but I will limit myself to just two.

Nicole Krause. Working alongside Nicole this summer has been a balm for my soul. It is HARD to step away from ministries and relationships in which we are deeply invested. Watching her lead the East Coast Road Trip kids in songwriting, pray over youth at Hephatha, and sit down with leaders in El Salvador, I was powerfully reminded of the story of Queen Esther: "you came to your position for just such a time as this." Her humor, adventurousness, and connective instincts are just what is needed for this work.

Plus she is WAY more organized than I could ever hope to be! Knowing most of my program areas are passing into her hands, I can let go, at peace.

Pastor Sherrie. She is just the right person to lead this next season. Unless you have been right in the inner-workings of UNITY life, you have only seen the tip of the iceberg of her gifts as a pastor. Many of us see her big heart, which she wears delightfully on her sleeve, but few have gotten to see the full scope of her skill. I've never seen anyone able to be so detail-oriented, so future-oriented, and so Jesus-oriented all at the same time. Her ability to hold everyone's stories at once gives her wide-reaching good judgement. Trust her instincts, which are nearly always right. Between your staff, your partners, yourselves, and your God, UNITY is in the Best Hands.

Going forward... with Council's blessing I will reappear briefly on Confirmation Day to cheer on our former students as they take this big step of faith. I have included info below for non-work email and phone so you know how to reach us, and will share news of our plans as they fall into place. (They WILL eventually, right?)

There is something sacred in this... that though we will be apart, both UNITY and our family will be in this time of change and search together. What a good chance to practice faith and trust! And it feels so much more possible when we don't have to do it alone. Let's embrace it together, cheer each other on, pray without ceasing, and keep pointing each other toward the Good News of Great Joy that is always both all around us and just up ahead.

~ Muriel

murielotto6@gmail.com / (712) 254-6515
2773 S. Logan Ave., Milwaukee 53207



Two-Campus Ministry in Brookfield, Wis. • unitybrookfield.org

Christ the King: 4600 Pilgrim Rd. • Zip: 53005 • (262) 781-7600

Cross of Life: 20700 W. North Ave. • Zip: 53045 • (262) 781-7600



Register NOW for Sunday School! Begins Sept. 7-8

Rally Weekend on September 7-8 marks the beginning of Sunday School for PreK-Grade 6. (Or as our kids like to call it, "FUNDAY School!") Each week's Bible lesson includes games, crafts, activities, conversations and connections. **Register your child through our [Registration web page at unitybrookfield.org](https://www.unitybrookfield.org).** Pick a time that works best, knowing that as your schedule requires, your kids are welcome in *any* Sunday School class:

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm Pre-K-Gr 6 at COL

SUNDAYS

8:30 am Pre-K-Gr 6 at COL

9:30 am Fusion Gr 7-8

9:30 am Pre-K-Gr 6 at CTK

10:45 am Pre-K-Gr 6 at COL



Registering your child for Sunday School is important!

The data base helps with communications and announcements for all events and activities. Questions? Contact Christian Education Director Michelle Aprahamian at 414-732-8615 or michelle@unitybrookfield.org.

Sunday School Leaders Needed at Both Campuses

Be a blessing to our Little Ones!

We need 9 Leaders per weekend and are asking that adults sign up to lead 1 or 2 times per month (*see times above*). Lessons are provided for you, and you'll be part of a Teaching Team so you can adjust your schedule as needed! **Sign up through our [Sunday School web page](https://www.unitybrookfield.org) or contact Michelle Aprahamian at michelle@unitybrookfield.org or 414-732-8615.**



Rally Weekend: Sunday School Meet & Greet

Sunday School families: come to our Meet & Greet during Rally Weekend!

Parents of Preschoolers and those NEW to Sunday School: You're invited to tag along with your child during Sunday School to help with the transition and learn more about what happens. If you'd like, you'll be notified when it's Communion time and you can head back to church while your child finishes with their activities.

ALL Families: After each worship, Sunday School Leaders will bring the kids to the Fellowship Hall at COL and the Narthex at CTK so families and teachers can take time to meet, talk, and enjoy refreshments together. See our full schedule at left.

If you haven't already done so, [REGISTER ONLINE NOW for Sunday School!](https://www.unitybrookfield.org)



Sunday School Support Might be the Role for YOU!

Interested in helping with Sunday School but don't want to teach?

We are looking for Sunday School Support! We could use one volunteer for each Sunday School hour at our COL campus: Saturdays at 5 pm and Sundays at 8:30 am & 10:45 am.

You'd work with a team of volunteers on a weekly rotating schedule so you'd help only 1-2 times per month. There to assist the Sunday School Leader, you might help with a craft, assist a child who needs a bathroom break or some quiet time outside of the classroom. You are an extra set of hands to gather supplies or help with clean-up, and are the "go to" for any last minute or unexpected needs. *No teaching experience is necessary* – just a love for kids and an understanding of the impact one adult can have on a child's Faith journey.

Contact Michelle Aprahamian at michelle@unitybrookfield.org.



Sunday School Teachers will be Scheduled Using MSP

Attention Sunday School Teachers! UNITY will again use the **Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP)** for scheduling teaching starting with Rally Weekend, September 7-8.

You will get emails from [Nancy Kostanski](mailto:Nancy.Kostanski@unitybrookfield.org), Volunteer Coordinator, before being scheduled asking about service and class preferences, dates you are not available, etc. **Once the schedule is produced, you will get an email with all your scheduled dates;** automatic reminders will come out the week before you are scheduled as well. With the downloadable app you can also see all your information, as well as your family's information. Not only does MSP facilitate scheduling teachers and requesting subs, it avoids conflicts of being scheduled for other volunteer positions when you are scheduled to teach. This was a great help last year making it easier for everyone working with our Sunday School kids!





Fall Worship Schedule Resumes September 7-8

Regular programming resumes Rally Weekend, September 7-8.

Please note that our late service at our COL campus has moved BACK to the time of 10:45 am. See the article below for more info, then join us in worship!

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm: WORSHIP at COL

SUNDAYS

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL:

Live-stream & available after

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL



Fall Worship Times at COL FALL BACK to 10:45 am

On Rally Weekend, September 7-8, the later service at COL moves from 10:30 back to the time of 10:45 am.

We had liked the easy-to-remember schedule of 8:30 / 9:30 / 10:30 am, but the education hour held between services suffered, and the staffing was complex. It is our hope that the extra 15 minutes between services will allow more time for more robust education opportunities for adults and confirmation students, as well as for pastors and musicians traveling between campuses.



"Return to Regular" During Rally Weekend: Sept. 7-8

On Rally Weekend, September 7-8, we return to our programming year schedule and offerings, including:

- Worship & Sunday School Times
- Choirs for Adults & Youth (See schedule at right)
- Sr. High & Youth Events
- Service Opportunities (See page 4)
- Adult Education & Opportunities (See page 5)

Watch emails for the latest updates, then run, don't walk, to re-join your faith family this fall!



Instrument Petting Zoos to Be Held Rally Weekend

Kids! Get to know the instruments at UNITY at our Instrument Petting Zoos held during all Sunday School classes on Rally Weekend! Be sure to join us September 7-8 to find out which instruments YOU like best. (These Petting Zoos are a popular attraction, but please ... we ask that you do not feed the instruments.) Once you find your favorite instrument consider joining a music group! Check out our rehearsal schedule at right. Since your mom or dad will be driving you, see if they want to join too!



All-Music Tuesdays Resume in September; Sign Up Now!

All-Music Tuesdays resume in September and run every Tuesday night through mid-May (except holiday weeks). Nursery and child care available. Parents, join an adult music group that rehearses on the same night as your child's youth music group! Can't make it every week? No problem! Talk to our music staff with questions. **Registration is LIVE, so SIGN UP (and get descriptions) by clicking on the links below!**

JOYFUL NOISE MUSIC MAKERS

Starts September 24

PreK-Grade 1

6:00-6:30 pm

COL North Fellowship Hall

Directed by Janet Day



CELEBRATION MUSIC MAKERS

Starts September 24

Grade 2-Grade 6

6:30-7:15 pm

COL North Fellowship Hall

Directed by Janet Day



HOSANNA BELLS

Starts September 24

Grade 6-Begin. Adult

7:15-8:00 pm

COL Sanctuary

Directed by Stacey Nordmeyer



FELLOWSHIP CHOIR

Starts September 10

Grade 7-Adult

7:15-8:15 pm

COL North Fellowship Hall

Directed by Molly Pufall-Brown

Accompanied by Lynn Key



GLORIA DEI BELLS

Starts September 10

College Age-Adult

6:15-7:15 pm

COL Sanctuary

Directed by Stacey Nordmeyer





RSVP by September 2 for Celebration of Recovery

Join us Thursday September 12, for the Serenity Inns (SI) Annual Celebration of Recovery event! RSVP online at serenityinns.org/events by Monday, September 2. As in years past, UNITY will cover half of the \$125 per person cost of the event, so notify Servant Advocate Brian Flynn at bflynn@aol.com or 414-803-6025 when you have registered. UNITY will then send the balance of \$62.50 to SI.

SI Celebration of Recovery Event

Date: Thursday, September 12
5:00 pm: Doors Open; enjoy a Silent Auction & Raffle
6:30 pm: Dinner
Location: Italian Community Center, 631 E. Chicago St. in Milwaukee.
(Free parking south of building)

Evening Highlights:

- Master of Ceremonies: Mark Strehlow, CBS58
- Serenity Inns Resident
- Alumnus of the Year
- Recognize Community Partner
- Silent Auction & Raffles (cash, check, credit card)



Next Blood Drive: Thursday, Sept. 19 • 1-6 pm • COL

Please give the gift of LIFE at UNITY's Blood Drive on Thursday, September 19, from 1-6 pm at our COL campus. Sign up by going to [UNITY's Sign Up web page](#) and clicking on the [Blood Drive sign-up](#). There you'll see our donation page on the Red Cross website. Need help signing up? Contact Marilyn Ranney at 414-975-5606 or ranneymarilyn@gmail.com.



Thanks to YOU ... 66 backpacks filled with school supplies were delivered to Hephatha on August 6. Thanks for a strong start to the kids' school year!

Volunteer Treasurer Needed for Bread of Healing Clinic

We give thanks for UNITY member Doreen Brecheisen who has served as the Treasurer for Bread of Healing free clinic in Milwaukee, for the past four years. **We are looking for the next great person to fill this role. Might this be your next calling?** The position involves working with the accountant's financials to produce monthly reports for the board and assisting with the budget. It's a combination of monthly in-person meetings and working from home, and involves around 10 hours/month. Accounting background and knowledge of QuickBooks would be big assets. Doreen would be happy to talk with anyone interested in the role (norskjohnson@gmail.com) or you can reach out to Barb Horner-Ibler at 414-313-9430. Thanks for considering this! Want to learn more about this important, long-time partner of UNITY's? Please visit their website at breadofhealingclinic.org.

Save the Date for DOGGIE PLAY DATE at our CTK Campus with our Aspen Center Friends on Sunday October 6. More details to come!

Partner of the Month: Rutilio Grande in El Salvador

This year's Partnership Trip to El Salvador (July 23-August 1) was another raving success. Our group of 19 (almost a record!) nimbly navigated both airports and language barriers to celebrate, worship, play, and converse with our partners at Cordero de Dios and in Rutilio Grande. Pastor Rafael of Cordero set the (informal) theme for our trip: sowing seeds in good soil. In Rutilio, we celebrated the use of our Lenten offering (seeds in good soil), which is their new fence/landscaping around the preschool and the new roof of the elementary school. In a divine moment, we got to "break-in" the new roof during a deluge. As always, a group climbed Cerro Chino (the big hill), and others stayed behind to run activities at the elementary school or help with chores at the preschool. We shared a day in the shade of ancient volcanoes with both partner communities and partook in various activities they planned for us.

We sang, we danced, we played, and we crafted! The trip closed out with time spent in worship with Cordero, absorbing the beauty of a botanical garden and the beach, and learning about the living message represented by Saint Oscar Romero. Throughout the trip, Cordero, Rutilio, and our group celebrated both Pastor John and Pastor Muriel, who have both put an immense amount of effort into this partnership, as this was both of their final official trips to El Salvador. Unsurprisingly, both partners outdid themselves in gifts and in the celebrations. Feel free to reach out to me (michaelhorneribler@gmail.com) or any past travelers if you'd like to hear a more specific perspective on the trip!

~ Michael Horner-Ibler, Advocate



Mark Your Calendars for our 2025 El Salvador Trips!
February 15-22: Medical Clinic • August 5-12: Relationship-Building



Sheepshead Small Group Begins September 5 & 19

Play Sheepshead with us the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at our CTK campus! Beginners or those interested in learning are also welcome to join. Our gatherings will be on September 5 & 19, October 3 & 17, and November 7 & 21. After November we'll determine if we need to adjust numbers, frequency, etc. Special thanks to Mary Huss, who will be the ringleader (er, contact person) for this Small Group. Questions? Contact Mary Huss at mhwhis@hotmail.com. Thanks to all who joined Muriel to play on August 15 (photo below) and on August 20 as part of her farewell. As Muriel said before she left, "God help me, if Sheepshead becomes my UNITY legacy, I will die happy!"



Bible Basics & Presentations

Bible Basics Class will be held on Thursday, September 19, from 6:30-7:30 pm at COL. It's for all second grade (and older) students and one adult. We'll explore the Bible, play a game, and celebrate with ice cream. Bibles will be presented September 21-22 at the service of your choice.



Monday Morning Bible Study begins September 16

Are you looking for a NEW weekly Bible Study group where you can connect with others while enriching your spirituality? Pastor Eric has the Bible Study you've been seeking! Start your week with Eric as he leads a study that follows the worship lectionary. Join us every Monday at 10 am in Room 202 at our COL campus beginning September 16. Come take a deep dive into the weekly scripture readings.



Theology on Tap Returns! September 17: Raised Grain

Join your UNITY friends to enjoy good beer, good conversations, and God as we resume Theology on Tap: Tuesday, September 17, at 7:30 pm at Raised Grain Brewing. Non-beer drinkers are welcome; must be 21 or older. Contact Matt at matt@unitybrookfield.org to tap into more info... or just show up at Raised Grain, located at 1725 Dolphin Dr. in Waukesha. Lift some spirits and raise your spirits as we talk about the Spirit!



Men's Saturday Breakfast: September 21 @ 7:30 am at COL

Our Men's Saturday Breakfast Group meets on Saturday, September 21, at 7:30 am at our COL campus. The breakfast is a casual time to get to know each other with a brief discussion of the week's gospel. To ensure we have enough food, let us know if you'll attend by contacting Todd Blatnik (todd.blatnik@wi.rr.com) or Matt Griepentrog (matt@unitybrookfield.org). Join us on third Saturdays at 7:30 am at COL. Next dates are October 19, November 16 and December 21.

Men Serving: Tool Time: September 21 @ 9:00 am at CTK

Dust off your power tools and join other UNITY men outside at our CTK campus on Saturday, September 21, from 9:00-11:00 am as we build wood planter boxes for the COL campus. Sign up for Tool Time: Men's Service Morning through [SignUpGenius](https://www.signupgenius.com). Please bring any tools you have to help complete the job, and be sure to bring your own safety gear. Questions? Contact Todd Blatnik (todd.blatnik@wi.rr.com) or Matt Griepentrog (matt@unitybrookfield.org). If you're available at 7:30 am, you're invited to join our Men's Saturday Breakfast Group. See article above, then come get fueled up for the task at hand!



The patio, backyard and Greenway Trail at our Christ the King Campus are all available for YOU to use, so come savor the seasons outdoors... at any time!



Adult Forum on Finances: September 22 at 9:30 am

Are you interested in learning more about how UNITY receives financial donations? Would you like an update on UNITY's 2024 budget?

Come to the Adult Forum on Sunday, September 22, at 9:30 am at the COL campus. The Stewardship Team is hosting an informal presentation on all things financial for UNITY.

For the Forum: You help select the topics! Let a Stewardship Team member or pastor know what information YOU are interested in hearing about. **Donation topics might include statistics on:**

- The number of families giving;
- The most popular methods families use to donate;
- How often families donate (weekly, monthly, yearly);
- Giving patterns over a calendar year & multiple years;
- How pledges are counted; and
- How reliable are pledges;

The budget update will show where the 2024 budget is at for revenues and expenses and how it compares to previous years. Questions?

Ideas for topics? Please contact Stewardship Chair Trisha Smith at trisha.smithwi@gmail.com.

Adult Forum on Trip Recaps: September 29 at 9:30 am

Whether you traveled with us or journeyed vicariously through our "Come Away with Jesus" web page, **come hear (and see) more about our summer trips from the travelers who were there!** This summer's experiences were both uplifting and grounding (literally, thanks to our camping), so come live out the fun for yourself. **Join us on Sunday, September 29, at 9:30 am at COL.** (Enjoy some great trips without all the travel and packing!)



Check out our weekly emails sent Wednesdays & Saturdays for all the latest news.
Not getting them? Contact natalie@unitybrookfield.org.

Do You Have Ideas for Adult Programming? Let Us Know!

Planning for our fall and winter Adult Forums, Small Groups, and Bible Studies is underway. Please reach out to our new Adult Programs chairperson, Todd Blatnik, at todd.blatnik@wi.rr.com with topics you're interested in hearing about or presenting, along with anyone you know who could be a presenter of a given topic. One of our best offerings at UNITY is quality Adult Programming. Help us continue to provide great opportunities by sharing your ideas for groups, events, studies, or speakers.



Grief Group Continues in September: Watch for Dates

Have you lost someone you love? Watch for our Grief Group to resume in September with dates announced soon. These gatherings are led by Pastor Jim Ahlquist and Nicole Krause. If this is the right time for you, or if someone you know could benefit from being a part of this, join us! If you have questions or just want to discuss whether this is the right place for you, contact Pastor Jim at jim@unitybrookfield.org or 715-210-2245. Come be among friends.

"I'm exhausted from trying to be stronger than I feel."
~ Author Unknown



Tonight Only Band Concert on August 21 at CTK was a HIT!



GRIEF GROUP
continues in
September;
Dates TBA



Call Committee Update

The UNITY Call Committee continues to work through the process of vetting candidates who have expressed an interest in joining the team at UNITY Lutheran Church. The Milwaukee Synod of the ELCA recently provided another candidate for review and consideration.

The committee typically begins each new dialog with an introductory interview – sometimes by video call, but in person if possible. If there is a mutual interest in continuing the conversation, we attempt to meet in person if distance is not an obstacle. In subsequent discussions, we dive deeper into each candidate's qualifications and motivation for considering a move to UNITY. If the conversation appears to get serious, we also include information about the Brookfield / Milwaukee area.

Any discussions about salary and compensation are referred to the HR Committee. We are attempting to use ELCA standards as much as possible but have learned that not all synods share the same guidelines. Thankfully, the HR Committee provides their expertise when these kinds of challenges arise.

At each step of the process, both the candidate(s) and the committee have the option to back out or proceed. We are prayerfully considering every stage of the process and ask for your continued prayers as things unfold. We are anxious to see and share progress but are seeking discernment and trusting in God's timing. We know the importance of this decision and have big shoes to fill, so we don't want to rush into anything that may not be in our best long-term interest. Thank you for your patience, prayers, and unwavering support!

~ **Melanie Varin,**
Call Committee Co-Chair

*We thank the members of
UNITY's Call Committee for
the work they continue
to do on our behalf.*

Money Matters

We are halfway through the year and we are on track with the budget! Year to date through June 2024, we are about \$6,000 under budget for giving, expenses are about \$1,000 less than the comparable period last year, and there is about a \$44,000 deficit through May. This is normal due to the seasonality of the budget. This is a positive financial picture, particularly in light of the pastoral transitions and a budgeted 4% increase in giving. The set-up of ACH and Venmo donation options (QR code or @unitylutheranchurch) has been helpful. [Click here for the link to our Donation web page.](#)

Are you interested in learning more about how UNITY receives financial donations? Would you like an update on UNITY's 2024 budget? **Attend the Adult Forum to be held Sunday, September 22, at 9:30 am at COL. The Stewardship Team is hosting an informal presentation on all things financial for UNITY.**

Please contact Stewardship Chair Trisha Smith at trisha.smithwi@gmail.com with topics you would like to hear about at the Adult Form or me at timherman14@gmail.com if you have questions about finances.

~ **Tim Herman, Finance Chair**



Our Hephatha partners joined us for outdoor worship at CTK followed by food and fellowship on August 24.

Council Corner

Talent welcome. Tenacity encouraged! Team up with Council. With the new church year in our sights, your new UNITY Council met in mid-August. It was a mashup of familiar and new – as new team leaders elected in June joined seasoned Council members.

In honor of her last Council meeting, Pastor Muriel Otto authored the Pastor's Report. She reflected on how many things have changed, while so many have stayed the same in her nearly 11 years here. She encouraged: *"Keep that tenaciousness, UNITY.... The strength that moves a church to not stand still but to PUSH, both for old things worth preserving and new things worth trying."*

Your new Council brings energy, ideas, and foresight that will continue to help UNITY to thrive – a magnet that attracts and serves people from the littlest ones to the wise modern elders among us.

Curious? You're invited – no, encouraged! – to join a team. It's an ideal time to raise your hand. Council teams are forming now. While the commitment is modest and flexible, the rewards are priceless. Pick an area that intrigues you and put your fingerprints on who we are and what we do. Plus, faces you see across the aisle or in the narthex will become friends.

Teams include: Christian Education, Youth, Adult Programs, Worship & Music, Communications & Technology, Invite (new member), Group Opportunities (social gatherings), Servant Ministries, Property, Stewardship, and Finance. Visit the ["Meet Our Church Council"](#) section on the UNITY website to get acquainted. We have a hunch you have good ideas – and tenacity. We welcome you to join a team. Talk to a pastor or any of us.

~ **Leslie O'Connell,**
Recording Secretary

*Check out the web page
"Meet Our Church Council"
and consider becoming one of
our Team members.*



Confirmation Wrap Up: Sept. 8 @ 4:30 pm at CTK

Confirmation Wrap-Up will be held on Sunday, September 8, at our CTK campus from 4:30-7:30 pm.

This event will be split into two time slots: 4:30-6:00 pm is for our upcoming graduating 9th graders, and from 6:00-7:30 pm they'll be joined by their parents and Sr. High members to meet, play games, make new connections, enjoy dinner, and plan logistics for their Confirmation Weekend on September 14-15. We need parent volunteers to shop and help serve dinner. Contact Nicole Krause at nicole@unitybrookfield.org or Sherrie Lorbeck at sherrie@unitybrookfield.org if you're interested.

Confirmation Orientation: Sept. 18 @ 6:15 pm at COL

All Confirmation students and at least one adult are asked to join us on Wednesday, September 18, from 6:15-7:45 pm at our COL campus. We will be going over the schedule & expectations, and answer questions for the upcoming year.

Confirmation Wrap-Up:

Sunday, September 8 • 4:30-7:30 pm at CTK

Confirmation Weekend:

September 14-15 • All services • 9th Graders

Confirmation Kick-Off:

Sunday, September 15 • 4:00-6:00 pm at CTK

Confirmation Orientation/Info Meeting:

Wednesday, September 18 • 6:15-7:45 pm at COL

Confirmation Classes Begin:

Wednesday, September 25 • 6:15-7:45 pm at COL

Confirmation Dinners:

Wednesdays, 5:45-6:15 pm at COL • As Scheduled



Confirmation Weekend: Sept. 14-15 at COL & CTK

UNITY will celebrate Confirmation Weekend on September 14-15 at both campuses. Come and help congratulate our Graduating Class of 2024! Eleven of our students will be joyously celebrating their accomplishments and officially be seen as adults in the church!



Confirmation Classes Begin: Sept. 25 @ 6:15 pm at COL

Confirmation Classes for 7th & 8th graders begin on Wednesday, September 25, from 6:15-7:45 pm at our COL Campus. (See schedule of Confirmation Dinners at right.) Classes will run through Wednesday, May 7, except for holiday weeks.



Confirmation Kickoff: Sept. 15 @ 4:00 pm at CTK

Our 7th & 8th graders and their parents are invited to join us on Sunday, September 15, from 4:00-6:00 pm at our CTK campus. We will share a meal, officially meet classmates and parent volunteers, and get excited for the new year to come. Don't miss this fun event!



Confirmation Dinners Begin: Sept. 25 @ 5:45 pm at COL

Confirmation Dinners will be held one Wednesday per month from 5:45-6:15 pm prior to classes at COL beginning September 25.

Please mark your calendar for the remaining dinners: October 16, November 13, December 18, January 15 & February 7. Lent Soup Suppers follow in March & April, and we'll "top off" the year with our Annual Ice Cream Trough on Wednesday, May 7, at 7:30 pm ... an event not to miss!



All Confirmation info is continuously being updated on our website. Please check back periodically for more details and sign-ups on our [CONFIRMATION WEB PAGE](#). Contacts are [Nicole Krause](#) and [Sherrie Lorbeck](#).



Bill Hubert is New Webmaster



Bill Hubert officially joined the UNITY staff in June 2024 as the new Webmaster to work with Ann Hill on maintaining the church's website. Bill graduated Summa Cum Laude from Herzing University in April 2015

with a bachelor's degree in Software Development. He has worked with Northwestern Mutual, Easy Metrics, Inc., and other companies.

Bill began to attend UNITY in Fall 2021, becoming a member with his family the following year. You may have seen Bill on the stage, song leading either with an accompanist or the Praise Band, and most recently rocking with the many talented singers of our church, including his son, in Muriel's Jesus Karaoke production. What drew Bill to UNITY, in addition to the close proximity to his home, was the beautiful Cross of Life campus and the feeling of family you get when you walk in the doors of both campuses. It also came with the opportunity to reunite with Kevin and Stacey Nordmeyer in the Praise Band, having performed music together years ago at Redeemer EFC in Milwaukee.

Bill and his wife, Kelly, an Oncology Nurse at Froedtert Hospital, have lived in Brookfield since 2004. They have a 12-year-old son, Connor, who plays percussion in his junior high school band, and a 4-year-old Cockapoo named Lucky. In his spare time, Bill enjoys singing, golfing, video gaming, volunteering, and spending time with family. **Bill can be reached at bill@unitybrookfield.org.**



Our heartfelt thanks to ANN HILL for her work as our Webmaster since March 2015. Ann, you are tremendous!

We Said Farewell to Muriel in True Mo "Fashion" (Literally!)





Please note this calendar is tentative. Watch your email, our website, and Facebook for updates.



Christ the King Campus



Cross of Life Campus

Colors denote campuses *only*;
Join in, either place, at any time!

Worship & Sunday School Fall Schedule: Sept. 7-8

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm: WORSHIP at COL
Sunday School Pre-K-Gr 6

SUNDAYS

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL
Sunday School Pre-K-Gr 6

9:30 am: Fusion Gr 7-8

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK
Sunday School Pre-K-Gr 6

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL
Sunday School Pre-K-Gr 6

Sundays in September

September 1 ~ *Labor Day Weekend*
No Sunday School due to Holiday

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

10:00 am: WORSHIP at CTK

11:00 am: Coffee Hour at CTK

5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns

September 8 ~ *RALLY WEEKEND*

Meet & Greet in Sunday School
Instrument Petting Zoos: Sunday Sch

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

4:30 pm: Confirmation Wrap-Up at CTK

September 15 ~ *Confirmation Wknd.*

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

4:00 pm: Confirmation Kick-Off at CTK

September 22 ~ *Bible Presentations*

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: Adult Forum at COL: Finances
with Your Stewardship Team

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

September 29

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: Adult Forum at COL: Summer
Trip Recap with Travelers

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

Monday, September 2 ~ *Labor Day*

Tuesday, September 3

7:00 am: Men's Breakfast: The Crossings

Thursday, September 5

6:30 pm: Sheepshead Small Group: CTK

7:00 pm: Women's Thursday Book Group
at Patty Polczynski's Home

Saturday, September 7

RALLY WEEKEND

Meet & Greet in Sunday School

Instrument Petting Zoo: Sunday Sch.

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Monday, September 9

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, September 10

6:15-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL:
Fellowship Choir & Gloria Dei Bells

7:00 pm: Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 11

11:30 am: Lunch Bunch Group: Maxim's

Thursday, September 12

9:00 am: Sew Comfy Group at COL

5:00 pm: Serenity Inns' Celebration
of Recovery Event at ICC

Friday, September 13

5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns

Saturday, September 14

Confirmation Weekend

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Monday, September 16

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

10:00 am: Bible Study w/Pr. Eric at COL

Tuesday, September 17

6:15-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL:

Fellowship Choir & Gloria Dei Bells

7:30 pm: Theology on Tap: Raised Grain

Wednesday, September 18

6:15 pm: Confirmation Orientation for
Students & Parents at COL

Thursday, September 19

1:00 pm: Blood Drive at COL

6:30 pm: Bible Basics Class at COL

6:30 pm: Sheepshead Small Group: CTK

7:00 pm: Men's Thursday Book Group
at Mark Nelson's

Saturday, September 21

Bible Presentation Weekend

7:30 am: Men's Breakfast Group at COL

9:00 am: Men Serving: Tool Time at CTK

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Monday, September 23

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

10:00 am: Bible Study w/Pr. Eric at COL

Tuesday, September 24

6:00-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL:
ALL Vocal & Bell Choirs

Wednesday, September 25

5:45 pm: Confirmation Dinner

6:15 pm: Confirmation Classes Begin

Saturday, September 28

9:00 am: Serve: Waukesha Food Pantry

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Monday, September 30

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

10:00 am: Bible Study w/Pr. Eric at COL

5:30 pm: Serve: Waukesha Food Pantry

UNITY, Thanks Again for Another Amazing Summer... Together!





UNITY ~ September Birthdays

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Scott Emerson
Beckett Koch
Caden Koch
Andrew Otto
Molly Swain
Jamie Toussaint | 11. Don Bock
Jacob Gravenkamp
Peter Grunwald
Lucy Heideman
Rhonda Nelson
Barb Patterson | 19. Kevin Anderson
Allison Hartwig
Aiden Nodolf
Collins Olson | 26. Kenneth DeBauche
Joseph Korban
Kelly Shoff
Viola Tatera |
| 2. Nolan Bauer
Greg Jurasovich
Michele Nelson
Grace O'Connell
Liz Runyon
Kerrie Swart | 12. Tristan Butkiewicz
Barbara Eder
Dawn Edwards
Joy Kloster
Jimmy Matel
Julie Sanicola
Benjamin Sheldon
Dana Vaughan | 20. I.J. Bemus
Leah Bublitz
Karen Eidem | 27. Michael Barney
Samuel Johnson
Elena Reiter |
| 3. Vivian Clark
Erika Lowerr
Bryan Mueller
David Savignac | 13. Jack Currier
Jodi Gillitzer
Megan Kading
Mitchell Mueller
Abygail Tausend | 21. Timothy Berglund
June Bray
Joan Carnell
Missy Fogltanz
Evelyn Maassen
Christopher Nelson
Katie Oldenburg
Rachel Weitzer | 28. Nicole Brucker
River Bryden
Claire Dominski
Kirsten Nitschke
Rick Swan
Stephen Taipala |
| 4. Cindy Boyd
Ananya Ebenezer
Kate Jorgensen | 14. Kim Klug
Liliana Morton
Patty Zais | 22. Al Bredemus
Kenny Kostanski
Adam Shady
Ashley Shady
Sarah Stewart
Fred Varin
Barb Weix | 29. Benjamin Halbach
Jennifer Hauser
Jeffrey Hynes II
Ashleigh Meany
Melanie Nelson
Skylar Quinnell |
| 5. Rebecca Lawrence
Anna O'Rourke | 15. Lakyn Graves
Jeff Kading
Ashley Knight
Chris Savignac
Oyvind Wistrom | 23. Melissa Bemus
Kalista Butkiewicz
Brecken Fischer
Mark Miller
Lisa Nass
Craig Ochs
Mark Shady | 30. Ryan Cape
Joy Czarnik
Michael Horner-Ibler
Linda Langer
Abby Rose |
| 6. Kaitlyn Heling | 16. Jency Engle
Mariana Garcia
Marlene Jernberg
Nicole McCumber | 24. Carol Mendola
Harkin Schefus
John Turco
Allison Work | |
| 7. Cheryl Axford
Mark Beyer
Brad Kaatz
Tracey Klein
Frank Komorowski
Brian Register | 17. Lillian Bell
Tim Dressler
Colin Knoernschild
Sal Otto
Liam Sternberg
Cecelia Weitmann | 25. Ken Dembny
Ralph Gould
Lisa Jansen
Nicole Johnson
Laura Kelley
Keira Kroepfl
Robert Machac
Becky Whelpley | |
| 8. Travis Bond
Brooke Conway
Nancy Kerr Oberhauser
Jensen Tatera
Denny Thompson | 18. Ellaanne Bauer
Quinn Gumieny
Bradley Lunak
Matt McInnis
Robin Nordstrom | | |
| 9. Rick Bartelme
Jana Emerson
Sam Flor
Matt Kamenick
Thomas Lee
Charlotte Quinnell
Ric Schneider | | | |
| 10. Jill Severson | | | |



"No matter how old a mother is, she watches her middle-aged children for signs of improvement." ~ Florida Scott Maxwell

Minister's Minute

"This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."
~ Psalm 118:24

At UNITY, the preacher also writes the Call to Worship in the bulletin each weekend. The last couple times I've written the Call to Worship, I have included this verse from Psalm 118. I think it's a vibrant reminder that we are called to worship and praise God and the best time to do it is right now – today. We don't have to wait until we get to Church. We don't have to wait for something to happen.

The topic of when and how much to praise God came up again during worship on Sunday, September 22. We sang our Hallelujahs as part of the Gospel acclamation. After going through the song once, the worship musician stopped playing but some people kept singing and praising God. Then there was a hilarious discussion about whether two verses was too many praises to be singing to God! All I could think about was the verse from Psalm 118: "This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it." I thought the discussion was hilarious because I believe that we are never in danger of praising God "too much" and that right now is the best time to praise God for our blessings!

I try to remember all that as we prepare to go through October. On the one hand, October in Wisconsin may be my favorite month of the year. My favorite color is orange and October is the month of orange – with leaves changing colors and pumpkins everywhere. On the other hand, October is sort of the time in-between. September is when Fall starts, family schedules shift, school has begun, Rally Sunday happens, and so many ministry teams roar back into action. Then, November and beyond are about the holidays (even Halloween is almost in November) and all those special times and special celebrations. October is the time in-between.

It is my hope and prayer that UNITY doesn't see itself that way. One of the mistakes that Churches make when they are in the Call Process is thinking they are living in the in-between times – looking back at what used to be or looking ahead waiting for something to happen. When we do that, we stop seeing all of God's beautiful blessings happening right now. *"This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."*
~ Psalm 118:24

The Call Committee is continuing their work. They are busy setting up interviews and seeking great leadership for UNITY. Please pray for their work. But during these times (that feel like in-between times), we have work to do as part of the Church family at UNITY too. Now, more than ever, the Church family is called into action and into ministry. Jesus' ministry was always active. He was at work among the people – feeding, teaching, healing, and loving. We are called to be Disciples. We are called to follow Jesus. We are called to active ministry too.

It may be October and it may feel tempting to wait for something to happen, but right now is the best time to be at work praising God for our blessings and sharing God's love with our neighbors. Right now is the best time to be the Church. This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Worship, Sunday school, and Confirmation. Servant ministry and community partnerships. Adult programming and fellowship groups. Baptisms and Holy Communion. This is the work that the Lord has given us. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

~ Pastor Eric

As Pastor Eric points out in Minister's Minute, October is an "in-between" time in so many ways. But at UNITY, we are called to active ministry now. See inside for our events coming in October – only a few of which are here:

Sheepshead Small Group
October 3 & 17 at CTK

Quilting Group & Sew Comfy
Displays at COL & CTK
October 5 & 6

Dog Play Date with Aspen
October 6 at COL

Grief Group
October 9 & 23 at COL

Autumn Fest & Movie Night
October 11 at CTK

Indoor & Outdoor Cleanups
October 12 at CTK
October 19 at COL

Mass Meal Prep for Partners
October 16 at COL

Fall Walk to Coffeetown
October 20 from COL

Empty Nest, Full Hearts
October 21 at COL

Theology on Tap
October 24 at Vennture

20Somethings: Halloween
Costume Karaoke
October 25 at Vennture

Adult Boundary Waters Mtg.
October 27 at COL





Quilting Group & Sew Comfy Items Displayed October 5-6

Join us in worship the weekend of October 5-6 as we lift up in prayer two of our Small Groups and display their lovingly created gifts:

- **The Quilting Group will display a selection of their quilts.** They sew easy quilts that are sent to various organizations, such as Serenity Inns, Aspen Center and Lutheran World Relief. They also take donations of cotton material and/or sheets (full, queen, king: flat or fitted) for projects.
- **Sew Comfy will display a selection of the heart-shaped pillows they make.** They sew several hundred each year that are given to people going through breast cancer treatment/surgery/recovery. They are always looking for cheerful, soft 100% cotton fabric donations.



Autumn Fest & Movie Night at CTK: Friday, October 11

Are you ready to celebrate the arrival of sweater weather and pumpkin everything? **Join us for UNITY's Autumn Fest & Movie Night on Friday, October 11, 5:30-8:00 pm at our CTK campus!** Together we'll enjoy dinner, campfire toasts, pumpkin decorating and a pumpkin (egg) hunt. The evening will conclude with a special outdoor screening of the movie "Up." What better way to embrace the days getting shorter? **Those interested in attending can indicate their intentions through SignUpGenius as a way to help us plan.** The link is also included in our email communications, and is on our Sign Up web page. We hope to see you there as we fall back into one of our very favorite seasons!



Indoor & Outdoor Cleanups: CTK: Oct. 12 | COL: Oct. 19

Please lend a hand (or two) at our Fall Indoor & Outdoor Cleanups on Saturdays, 9 am-noon: at CTK on October 12 and COL on October 19. We need *lots* of people to rake, trim, pull weeds, pull annuals and prep the grounds for winter. Please bring garden gloves and a rake if you can. At our CTK campus we will do cleanup of debris from tree-dropping that will occur prior to October 12. At our COL campus we also have a lot of tree trimming that will be the main focus of the cleanup, so please bring chain saws, extender-type trimmers and trailers if you have them. **Outdoor cleanups will be held rain or shine.**

At both campuses, our church home interiors need some TLC. We will be doing some deep cleaning like you would with your own home. Watch for more details of what items would be helpful to bring from home. Many hands make light work, so please come help us spiff up our buildings, inside and out! Questions? Contact Denny Thompson at dennyt325@yahoo.com or 262-844-0556. **Lunch for all will be provided at both campuses.**



Your help is needed at Fall Indoor & Outdoor Cleanups



Congratulations and best wishes to UNITY's Confirmation Class of 2024!



Enjoy a fall walk on the Greenway Trail behind CTK!



Check Out Our Fall Worship & Sunday School Schedule

Our Fall worship and Sunday School schedules are in full swing. We invite you to join your faith family wherever and whenever it works for you!

Worship & Sunday School:

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm: WORSHIP at COL
Sunday School PreK-Gr 6

SUNDAYS

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL
Live-streamed & on website anytime
Sunday School PreK-Gr 6

9:30 am: Fusion Gr 7-8

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK
Sunday School PreK-Gr 6

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL
Sunday School PreK-Gr 6

Worship With Us In Person or Via Live-Streaming

We would love to see you at any worship time and campus that works for you! No matter if it's been one week or all summer, there's always a place for you... and your presence adds to our joy as we gather together to give thanks to God. **If it doesn't work out for you to worship with us in person, we invite you to worship with us LIVE on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am through our live-stream.** Simply click on the link at the top of our [Worship web page](#), or watch any time afterward either there or on our [Vimeo page](#). Thanks to all of you who are faithfully watching each week! Please don't hesitate to let us know your thoughts as we keep learning how to make it feel as if you are right here with us ... because to us, you are!



BEGIN Thanksgiving Service on November 20 ... at COL!

Our BEGIN (Brookfield Elm Grove Interfaith Network) group is bringing back their Thanksgiving Service in person... and to help make it happen, **UNITY is hosting!** Please join us on Wednesday, November 20, at 7 pm at the COL campus. UNITY has been a part of BEGIN for the past 20 years, and this yearly gathering has always attracted people from all our local faith communities. It's been such an easy way to learn more about other faith traditions, see worship spaces you might otherwise not visit, and meet people from other faith communities. Plus we'll end the evening by enjoying sweets! Watch for more info to come. We're hoping to create ways for Confirmation students to add their gifts to the service, and perhaps for others to be part of a choir that learns a song before the service to share. **We're looking for people to help us ...** from spreading the word, to making people feel welcome while they're here, to providing delicious desserts. Contact Lynn Key at lynn@unitybrookfield.org or Sherrie Lorbeck at sherrie@unitybrookfield.org.



All-Music Tuesdays: All are Welcome to Join Any Time

All-Music Tuesdays run every Tuesday night through mid-May (except holiday weeks). Parents, join an adult music group that rehearses on the same night as your child's youth music group! Can't make it every week? No problem! Talk to our music staff with questions. Nursery and child care are available. **Register and get details by clicking on links below!**

JOYFUL NOISE MUSIC MAKERS

PreK-Grade 1

6:00-6:30 pm
COL North Fellowship Hall
Directed by Janet Day



CELEBRATION MUSIC MAKERS

Grade 2-Grade 6

6:30-7:15 pm
COL North Fellowship Hall
Directed by Janet Day



FELLOWSHIP CHOIR

Grade 7-Adult

7:15-8:15 pm
COL North Fellowship Hall
Directed by Molly Pufall-Brown

HOSANNA BELLS

Begin. to Early Intermediate Ringers

7:15-8:00 pm
COL Sanctuary
Directed by Stacey Nordmeyer

GLORIA DEI BELLS

Late Intermed. to Advanced Ringers

6:15-7:15 pm
COL Sanctuary
Directed by Stacey Nordmeyer

Come glorify the Lord with music!

UNITY: Where Sunday School is Known as Funday School!

Sunday School classes for PreK-Grade 6 resumed during worship hours on Rally Weekend (September 7-8), but it's never too late to join! **Register your child through our [Registration web page](#).** Pick a time that works best, knowing that as your schedule requires, your kids are welcome in any Sunday School class. Any questions? Contact Michelle Aprahamian at michelle@unitybrookfield.org.





Dog Play Date with Aspen at COL on October 6

It's back! We're having a Dog Play Date with our dogs and our friends from Aspen Center! **Join us on Sunday, October 6, from 9:30-10:30 am at UNITY's Cross of Life campus.** Contact Cindy Boyd at 262-424-3610 or dcboyd1985@sbcglobal.net with any questions. Learn about upcoming events with Aspen Center on page 5 in our POM article. In the meantime, be sure to join us on October 6!



Blood Drive: Update and Signup for December 7

Thanks to all who donated at UNITY's Blood Drive on Thursday, September 19! Due to an unforeseen Red Cross supply truck issue, the Blood Drive got started later than expected and some donors had to be called to cancel or reschedule. Thanks to our UNITY donors for displaying calm and patience with this matter. The Red Cross was incredibly grateful to UNITY for taking it in stride. **Despite the delay, a total of 20 life-giving products were collected.**

Please Note: Signup is now live for our Holiday Blood Drive on Saturday, December 7, from 7-11 am at our COL campus. Sign up by going to [UNITY's Sign Up web page](#) and clicking on the Blood Drive sign-up. Need help? Contact Marilyn Ranney at 414-975-5606 or ranneymarilyn@gmail.com.

Let's Get Cookin'! Mass Meal Prep Resumes October 16

One Wednesday each month at 4 pm, 4 adults will work with 4 Confirmation students to whip up a delicious recipe in the COL Kitchen for 25 men at Aspen Center! It's easy: cooking stations are all set up and ready for our Sous Chefs to step in. What if cooking isn't your thing but you still want to help? *No problem!* We also need 1 or 2 shoppers, 2 home bakers, and 1 meal delivery driver. It's a *big* team effort, so what a blessing you will be! **Cooking dates are: October 16, November 6, December 11, January 8, February 12 and May 7 – all from 4:00-6:30 pm. Sign up online by clicking on the appropriate links: [Adult Signup](#) or [Confirmation Signup](#).** Questions? Contact Cindy Flynn at 262-391-7870 or cindyloflynn@aol.com.

Over the years, UNITY Confirmation kids and congregation have consistently made meals for these partners: Springdale House (this goes back many years!) Serenity Inns, Juno House, Siena House, and this year, Aspen Center! *UNITY, you are so amazing.* Thank you for sharing your time to fill not only the stomachs of men in recovery, but also their hearts!

Volunteer Treasurer Needed for Bread of Healing Clinic

We give thanks for UNITY member Doreen Brecheisen who has served as the Treasurer for Bread of Healing free clinic in Milwaukee for the past four years. **We are looking for the next great person to fill this role. Might this be your next calling?** The position involves working with the accountant's financials to produce monthly reports for the board and assisting with the budget. It's a combination of monthly in-person meetings and working from home, and involves around 10 hours/month. Accounting background and knowledge of QuickBooks would be big assets. Questions? Contact Doreen at norskjohnson@gmail.com or Barbara Horner-Ibler at 414-313-9430.

"There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread." ~ Mahatma Gandhi

Applications Due for El Salvador Trip: November 16

Our Mission of Healing Trip to El Salvador will be February 15-22, 2025. Application and deposit deadline: November 16. Cost: if you are a UNITY member, church will pay all your in-country expenses. You just pay the plane ticket (approx. \$700).

Similar to previous, pre-Covid years we will travel on Saturday, visit our sister church Cordero on Sunday, help the Salvadoran Lutheran Church with their traveling health fair Monday-Thursday (setting up in a different town each day), play on Friday, and travel home on Saturday. The offerings at the health fair always vary based on what our group can offer, but it's usually a combination of basic wellness checks, health education (on topics like nutrition, reproductive health, mental health, oral health) and activities for kids. The Salvadorans have asked if we can do extra emphasis on mental health this year.

Skills needed: anyone can apply, but these are the skills/backgrounds we could most use this year:

- Behavioral/mental health training
- Medical providers (advanced practice professionals, PAs, physicians)
- Nurses
- Pharmacy
- Art
- Kids/education
- Yoga/relaxation/expressive arts



We also always need 3-4 "willing to do anything" worker-bee-type people. No Spanish is needed, although it's always a plus. **Application is on our [Sign Up web page](#).** For more info, contact Nicole Krause at nicole@unitybrookfield.org.





There are Plenty of Opportunities to Serve at UNITY! Come Find Your Fit Right Here at Home

UNITY has several areas where we need help on a periodic basis – or on a continual basis but with a small time commitment. See if anything here fits the bill for you. If not, watch our bulletins to see if there is something new added to the list that you'd like to help with.

- **Weekly at COL:** After the Sunday 10:45 am (last) service or anytime in the few days after, we could use someone to clean up the coffee and tea carts (wash coffee pot, put dirty cups in the dishwasher, restock cart with clean cups, etc.). We could also use a rotating group of people rather than just one.

- **Quarterly at COL:** Take the Acolyte and Worship Assistant robes, and the fine linens used for communion, home to spot any stains, wash, iron if needed (mainly fine linens) and return in time for the next worship service.

- **Periodically at COL:** Go through the sanctuary occasionally (maybe once per month?) and refill the holders with visitor cards, offering envelopes and scribble sheets for kids, plus sharpen or replace missing pencils. Can be done any time.



However you serve, whether it's cleaning toys and coffee carts or cooking meals for our partners, we appreciate your time!

Partner of the Month: Aspen Center • LSS Addiction Treatment Facility in Waukesha

What a year we've had with our partner Aspen Center – full of changes and surprises! Aspen Center is Lutheran Social Services' first medically monitored community-facility in Waukesha County, which provides comprehensive addiction treatment. Although Aspen Center initially offered services to both men and women, due to demand they switched to solely male clients in January 2024. They currently have 26 people working on their recovery journey; as of September 20 there are 13,127 collective days of sobriety at the Aspen Center. **Since the beginning of the year, Aspen has had 68 successful completions. WOW!** UNITY's love and generosity for all our ministry partners is such an incredible gift, spiritually and financially, especially as the Aspen clients journey to recovery from their addiction disease. It is a powerful gift to restore wholeness and strength for service in His Kingdom!

A portion of our Benevolence Fund is used to fund clients in need to receive the gift of recovery and restoration. This can take the form of scholarships for the residents, or for the residential treatment center, or whatever staff deems a priority. We also allot a portion of our budget for events and projects with the clients. Aspen staff and clients have asked me to express their gratitude for the congregation's generosity and outpouring of love and support for Aspen.

In 2024, UNITY planned events with Aspen every other month. Here's a quick rundown of some of them:

- In February for our Servanthood event, we tied fleece blankets for our friends at Hephatha, and then shared a pizza dinner;
- In April we decorated tile coasters, got tips on how to keep a gratitude journal, and provided each client with their own journal book;

- In June, thanks to the dedication of our members, we were able to install several raised bed gardens in Aspen's backyard and then helped them plant vegetables and flowers. This project was one that Aspen had requested and they were so very grateful to have completed.

Unfortunately, due to a Covid outbreak at Aspen, our August event had to be cancelled. **We still have several events coming up in 2024 that we're looking for volunteers to help with:** our popular Doggy Meet & Greet on October 6 (p. 4), preparation of this year's Thanksgiving Dinner in November, and Cookie Decorating & Cider in December. There will also be tags on the Giving Trees at Christmastime for the residents and staff at Aspen. If you would like to help in any way with Aspen Center, please feel free to contact me at dcboyd1985@sbcglobal.net or 262-424-3610.

~ Cindy Boyd, Servant Advocate



Plan now to be part of the team that makes Thanksgiving Dinner for the residents of Aspen Center! In addition to a coordinator, we'll need shoppers, delivery people, and lots of cooks throughout the week and on Wednesday, November 27.



Play Sheephead at CTK on October 3 & 17 @ 6:30 pm

You're invited to play Sheephead with us the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at our CTK campus! Beginners or those interested in learning are also welcome to join. **Our next gatherings will be held on October 3 & 17 and November 7 & 21.** After November we'll determine if we need to adjust numbers, frequency, etc. Questions or need more info? Please contact Mary Huss at mhwhis@hotmail.com.



Theology on Tap Returns! October 24: Vennture Brew

We had such a great time at our last Theology on Tap in September that we're doing it again! **Come tap into a good time with us on Thursday, October 24, at 7:30 pm at Vennture Brew Co. in Brookfield.** Enjoy good beer, good conversations, and God. Non-beer drinkers are welcome; must be 21 or older to join. Feel free to RSVP to Matt Griepentrog at matt@unitybrookfield.org or just show up! Vennture Brew Co. is located at 2970 N. Brookfield Road; formerly known as Biloba. Hope to see you there!



"Whoever drinks beer, he is quick to sleep; whoever sleeps long, does not sin; whoever does not sin, enters Heaven! Thus, let us drink beer!" ~ Martin Luther

Grief Group Meets at COL on October 9 & 23 @ 6:30 pm

Have you lost someone you love? Our Grief Group meets next on October 9 & 23 from 6:30-8:00 pm at our COL campus. These gatherings are led by Pastor Jim Ahlquist and Nicole Krause. If this is the right time for you, or if someone you know could benefit from being a part of this, join us! If you have questions or just want to discuss whether this is the right place for you, contact Pastor Jim at jim@unitybrookfield.org or 715-210-2245. Come be among friends.



20Somethings: Halloween Costume Karaoke: October 25

Calling all 20Somethings to join us for Halloween Costume Karaoke on Friday, October 25, at 7:30 pm at Vennture Brew Co. in Wauwatosa.

Get your costume ready and come bark at the moon with your best vocal riffs this side of the grave! Meet at 5519 W. North Ave. in Milwaukee (Wauwatosa).

Ideas for Adult Programming?

Planning for our fall and winter Adult Forums, Small Groups, and Bible Studies is underway. Please reach out to our new Adult Programs chairperson, Todd Blatnik, at todd.blatnik@wi.rr.com with topics you're interested in hearing about or presenting, along with anyone you know who could be a presenter of a given topic. Help us continue to provide great opportunities by sharing *your* ideas for groups, events, studies, or speakers.

*"Anyone who keeps on learning not only remains young, but becomes constantly more valuable."
~ Henry Ford*

Empty Nest, Full Hearts at COL on October 21 @ 7 pm



New and seasoned Empty Nesters are invited to our event, "Empty Nest, Full Hearts," at COL on Monday, October 21, from 7:00-8:15 pm.

Life is full of meaningful milestones, and this event is designed to celebrate one of life's most transformative moments: the empty nest. Whether you're a single adult or a couple, this is a time to reflect on emotions and changes that come with children leaving home. Whether you're excited about this chapter of life or apprehensive, join us for sharing and connecting (and desserts!). We'll guide each other in navigating this new chapter, while connecting our journey at home with the wider faith community.

Monday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Eric

Are you looking for a weekly Bible Study where you can connect with others and enrich your spirituality? Pastor Eric has what you're seeking! **Join us on Mondays at 10 am in Room 202 at our COL campus.** Start your week with Eric as he leads a study that follows the worship lectionary (the three-year cycle of Scripture readings used in worship). You'll take a deep dive into the weekly scripture readings, but won't be left behind if you miss a week or more. Bring a friend and join us!



*"The bible is a remarkable fountain: the more one draws and drinks of it, the more it stimulates thirst."
~ Martin Luther*



Adult Forum: October 6: Pets, Aspen & Students

Come hear stories from the residents of Aspen Center and meet some UNITY pets! You are welcome to bring your own pet as well! We'll also be joined by our Confirmation students. **Join us on Sunday, October 6, from 9:30-10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall at COL.**



Adult Forum: October 20: Fall Walk to Coffeerville

We'll enjoy a scenic fall walk together on the Fox River Trail as we go to Coffeerville, grab a drink and a treat, and walk back to church. **We'll meet on Sunday, October 20, at 9:30 am by the COL fireplace.** (Coffeerville is located at 2825 N. Brookfield Rd. in Brookfield.) What a great fall event!



Adult Forum: October 27: Adult Boundary Waters Trip

Are you interested in the summer adventure of a lifetime? Come hear all about our Adult Boundary Waters trip and how you can be a part of the excitement! Our Sr. High group has gone to the Boundary Waters several times and loves it! **Join us Sunday, October 27, at 9:30 am at COL.**



Confirmation Information: Note Important News!

NEW this year: We are offering Confirmation classes on Sunday nights AND Wednesday nights after hearing from so many of our young people who didn't want to miss Confirmation because it conflicted with a team practice night! Our Orientation meeting was on September 18 where we went through everything about the program and the coming year, so please contact Nicole Krause at nicole@unitybrookfield.org or Sherrie Lorbeck at sherrie@unitybrookfield.org if you are interested in being a part. Classes have started so let us know *soon* if you'd like to join! **All Confirmation classes are held at our COL campus: Sundays from 6:00-7:30 pm and Wednesdays from 6:15-7:45 pm.** This trimester's lesson focuses on Values and the Choices We Make and why we worship!

Confirmation Sunday Fusion began September 29, with next gatherings on October 6 & 13 from 9:30-10:30 am in COL Room 208. Our partner focus for this session is Aspen Center. Confirmation students and parent volunteers can sign up on the Confirmation SignUpGenius link.

New Confirmation C-Mail Format:

We are trying something new this year for our Confirmation Program. Students will have the opportunity to write their C-Mails either on paper or electronically! This means you may see students on their phones during worship. We are entrusting the students with a big responsibility to have access to their phones during worship. This is a way to make it easier for students to use a format that they're more comfortable with. It also allows us to share pictures back and forth to engage and connect. Paper versions will still be at both campuses. *See C-Mail questions at left!*



Confirmation C-Mails: A Way to Connect With Our Kids

If you see Confirmation kids on their phones during service, they might be completing their C-Mails electronically! Questions they answer each week:

- 1.) What happened in your life this past week? Attach any photos or videos.
- 2.) Share something that caught your attention in service. (Was there a music group? How did kids react to Children's Message? Tell us your reaction.)
- 3.) What was the *main point* of today's sermon? Include: an example or story used, your reaction to what was said, and what it taught about the Bible.
- 4.) Families and sports are great things to be thankful for. *Dig a little deeper* and share something beyond family, house, food, etc. you're thankful for.
- 5.) Serving others is an important part of living a life that follows Jesus and it's an expectation of this program. Which opportunities are you signing up for?



Council Corner

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." ~ Romans 8:28

Fall means different things to different people depending on where you are in life: back to school, return of fall sports like football and volleyball, and the trees turning colors. At UNITY, fall means back into the swing of Christian education starting with Rally Weekend and leading into 7th and 8th grade Confirmation kickoff. If helping with Christian education is your calling, please reach out to Michelle Aprahamian, Nicole Krause or Pastor Sherrie.

Fall also picks up activities for the Finance Team. Through August, UNITY's finances are behind budget. This is usual for the results through August as givings tend to drop off in the summer and pick back up in the fall. While the current deficit is a little higher than usual, we are optimistic that this gap will be closed by the end of the year. We will monitor the budget and keep you informed along the way. In September, Church Council unanimously approved increasing Pastor Sherrie's pay up to Synod guidelines. Not only is this the right thing and long overdue, but it empowers the Call Committee to say "Yes, we pay our pastors at Synod guidelines."

The pastoral call process continues. I have been through changes in leadership at work and in other churches I have belonged to. This is the first time in my memory I have been through a Pastoral Call process. This is very different from changes in leadership at work where the change happens quickly and the challenge is to adapt to the new leadership style. With the Call process, we put the proverbial phrase "patience is a virtue" to the test. The Call Committee continues to work on finding two pastors who will be mutual fits for UNITY.

Like the verse from Romans, there is a purpose, and a time, and good things will come. **We look forward to what the fall season brings and wait patiently while the Pastoral Call process continues.**

~ Tim Herman, Finance Team Chair

Call Committee Update

The UNITY Call Committee has been busier than usual in recent weeks. Upon mutual decision, another candidate was removed from consideration.

We explored the process of making our Ministry Site Profile (MSP) available for review by more potential candidates and learned there is not a great way to ensure ALL potential pastoral candidates see it. This is because when posting the MSP, we have to select a category for Senior Pastor OR for Associate Pastor. Given that we use a pastoral team approach, neither category is a perfect fit. Initially we posted the MSP only under the Senior Pastor category, but recently, with support of the Synod, it is posted under BOTH categories. **This enables more potential candidates to see our MSP and express interest.** Fortunately, this has led to an increasing number of folks reaching out to the Synod with the desire to learn more about UNITY. We are currently in the initial phases of dialog with three pastoral candidates. It is too early to tell if any of them will surface as serious contenders, but we are delighted to see more interest and engagement.

Please continue to pray for the right two people to raise their hands and say they want to be a part of our mission and ministry here at UNITY. And please pray for the Call Committee to have the appropriate discernment to be led to the best pastors for us and our community. Thank you for your ongoing support!

~ Melanie Varin, Call Cmte. Co-Chair

Money Matters

Happy Fall! As we approach this time of year, we are able to see a little clearer how we are doing in regard to the budget.

The Finance Team spends quite a bit of time in January trying to make our best estimate of where givings and expenses will be for the year. It can be hard to see how the year is going early in the year, but now is about this time where we can start to see what it looks like.

While we are up in givings from this time last year, we are under budget in givings by about \$30,000. Our expenses are a little under what we budgeted as well. We are trying to support Pastor Sherrie and Pastor Eric as much as we can through this transition by making sure they have the staff to support them. As a Council, it has been discussed how important it is to compensate the staff to what this market is requiring.

We still have three months left of 2024, so it is very possible that we will reach our budget. This is very important for creating the budget for next year.

~ Adrienne Krueger, Treasurer



Have you seen our revamped [VANCO donation page](#)?

(Spoiler alert: it's super nice!)



Special thanks to John Horner-Ibler & Muriel Otto who returned to UNITY to perform a vignette with Sherrie Lorbeck & Nicole Krause during Confirmation weekend!

Minister's Minute

As this month begins, you may feel a little anxiety about what this season will bring for UNITY, our country, and most of all, for you and your family. I hear you, and despite being a person who believes in the amazing grace, life-creating wisdom and unconditional love of God, I have to admit that I have been a life-long worrier.

Even when I recognize how much lies outside of my control in the grand scheme of things, instead of taking a deep breath and turning toward God, I often find myself trying to control as much as I possibly can!

When we focus on seeking to change what we can, or work on what we have the power to change within ourselves, we have found a good place for our nervous energy. But when we go over that fine line and start trying to control what others do or what we think they "should" do or how they "should" act, we lose sight of what our role is and how to use our gift within God's bigger picture.

I remember a time when I was in Confirmation and our senior pastor had our class of 25 line up. In this quiet, sort of mysterious way, he began to share with us this gift he had been given from when he was a young boy that gave him a sort of spiritual intuition.

This gift allowed him to be able to read people, almost as if he could read their minds and what had shaped who they were and what they believed.

As he went down the line holding his hands over our outstretched hands, I remember the anticipation I felt as he came to me, and then I saw his hands start to tremble over mine! He looked me in the eyes, and I already knew that I, too, had been given this "gift."

I fell for it hook, line and sinker.

The whole point of that little lesson was to teach us to not believe everything that we hear. But instead, to question it. To use our minds to evaluate it. To check it out with other people we trust and to choose what we believe on our own, and not just because of what others told us to believe. I wonder if sometimes, in our humanness, we put too much emphasis on leaders, believing or hoping that they will change our lives for the better.

Congregations in denial that they are dying earnestly seek to call a "young" pastor with high expectations that their energy will be what "saves" them from having to close. But no matter how gifted any pastor is, their gifts will never be enough to "save" a church that has already chosen death over life.

While I continue to pray for good things to come from future leaders, I also know that regardless of how "young" they are or how many years of "experience" they have in ministry, they will still be NEW to UNITY – and you all have been here longer by far and have had far more impact on the lives of those who have come through these doors and those with whom we are connected.

It's part of what makes UNITY such a strong, healthy, vibrant and joy-filled congregation. Not perfect, because Lord knows none of us are; but it's Jesus, I believe, who pulls us all together, regardless of any differences in how our past experiences have shaped us or the beliefs we currently hold. And it's Jesus who looks us straight in the eyes to tell us, "You've got a gift, did you know that?" To perceive what lies beyond the surface in others. To catch a glimpse of the vision that Jesus had for our world and understand that while Jesus brought it into focus, we are needed to make it real for those around us.

Trusting this is what allows each of us to be less afraid of the future and more focused on being engaged in every small thing that gives life to or lightens the load of another, or makes God's love known.

Keep shining bright, people of God!

(Whether or not there is a power outage at church on a Sunday night!)

~ Sherrie



On Sunday, October 27, UNITY lost power, along with the surrounding area. While our Sr. High kids were carving pumpkins, our Confirmation students were learning about Baptism and this LIGHT of Christ that shines within us. Both groups calmly pulled out their cell phones to use as flashlights and created their own light. Ironically, it became a very POWER-full experience to see our kids use their gifts to work together.





Thanksgiving Offerings: Lutheran Disaster Response

Our Thanksgiving Offerings will go to Lutheran Disaster Response – an ELCA organization – to continue helping those affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Hitting the coast of Florida within weeks of each other, these hurricanes ravaged states across the Southeast. With your help, Lutheran Disaster Response will continue to support people affected by Helene, Milton, and other storms that may strike this season. Gifts to "Hurricane Response" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by hurricanes until the response is complete.

UNITY is providing envelopes marked ELCA Disaster Response for the purpose of donating. **You can make donations in several ways:**

- Cash or check payable to UNITY Lutheran Church marked "Hurricane Response"
- Pay through UNITY's website: visit the [Donate Now](#) web page, click on [Other Giving](#) and specify it's for Hurricane Response
- Use the credit card machines at either campus
- Use Venmo

Need assistance? Contact Bookkeeper Matt Griepentrog at matt@unitybrookfield.org. Thank you for helping others in such great need.

As part of the ELCA, Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, they stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. [Learn more HERE.](#)

"Jesus never says to the poor: 'Come find the church,' but he says to those of us in the church: 'Go into the world and find the poor, hungry, homeless, imprisoned.'"

~ Tony Campolo

New Member Gatherings Continue November 10

Our first Fall New Member Gathering was held on Tuesday, October 29, at our COL campus; the second will be on Sunday, November 10, from 12:00-2:00 pm at our CTK campus. Because the information at each is different, attendance at both is encouraged.

If you weren't able to attend the first one but want to join in the fall, please contact Anna Jansson at ajansson8@gmail.com. Otherwise, stay tuned for our Spring New Member Gatherings!

Dates for our Fall New Member Weekend will be announced soon.

Calling All Bakers: We Have a Knead for You at UNITY!

We have an idea for a Christmas Cookie baking event and we'd like you to be a part of it! You'll be able to come to either campus and share recipes, use our kitchens, and make the time breeze by while you enjoy mixing and baking with others.

Hopefully we can help support the Cookie Buffet at Advent Fest on Friday, December 6! If we're able to roll out enough, the Sr. High would love your help and experience with a Cookie Walk as a new fundraiser to help support next year's summer trip. If this sounds like fun, contact Group Opportunities Chair Tiffany Reay at sreays@gmail.com.



Mark Your Calendars for Advent Fest on December 6

Ready for some cookies, caroling and Christ-centered fun to get into the spirit of the season? Mark your calendar now for one of our most popular events!

Advent Fest will be held on Friday, December 6, from 5:30-8:00 pm at our COL campus. Together we'll enjoy dinner, worship, crafting, music, and an evening of fun for the whole family. Watch for more info to come, along with signups for Advent Fest crafts that are for ALL ages and stages. (*Children in 3rd grade and younger must be accompanied by an adult.*) **Don't miss this much-loved UNITY tradition!**





Check Out Our Fall Worship & Sunday School Schedule

Our Fall worship and Sunday School schedules are in full swing. We invite you to join your faith family wherever and whenever it works for you!

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm: WORSHIP at COL
Sunday School PreK-Gr 6

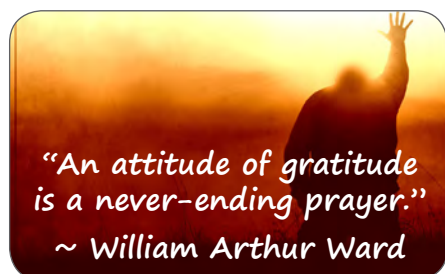
SUNDAYS

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL
Live-streamed & on website anytime
Sunday School PreK-Gr 6

9:30 am: Fusion Gr 7-8

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK
Sunday School PreK-Gr 6

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL
Sunday School PreK-Gr 6



All Saints Weekend Will Be November 2 & 3

UNITY will remember all members who have died this past year by including their names in worship during All Saints Weekend on November 2 & 3. Please come be among your faith family and friends, especially if you have lost a loved one this past year. If you are struggling with loss, we offer a Grief Group where you can find solace with others who are also going through this journey. Learn more information in the Grief Group article on page 6, but join us for All Saints Weekend regardless.



BEGIN Thanksgiving Service on November 20 ... at COL!

Our BEGIN (Brookfield Elm Grove Interfaith Network) group is bringing back their Thanksgiving Service in person... and to help make it happen, **UNITY is hosting!** Please join us on Wednesday, November 20, at 7 pm at the COL campus. UNITY has been a part of BEGIN for the past 20 years, and this yearly gathering has always attracted people from all our local faith communities. It's been such an easy way to learn more about other faith traditions, see worship spaces you might otherwise not visit, and meet people from other faith communities. We'll end the evening with sweets!

We are in need of greeters, dessert makers or buyers, dessert set up/ servers, and singers! To learn a song to share, simply come early at **6:15 pm**. To be a part of this incredibly special gathering, please contact Lynn Key at lynn@unitybrookfield.org or Sherrie Lorbeck at sherrie@unitybrookfield.org.



All-Music Tuesdays: ALL are Welcome to Join Any Time

All-Music Tuesdays run every Tuesday night through mid-May (except holiday weeks). Parents, join an adult music group that rehearses on the same night as your child's youth music group! Can't make it every week? No problem! Talk to our music staff with questions. Nursery and child care are available, and there are never auditions; ALL are welcome! Register under "UNITY Music" on our Sign Up web page ... then come glorify the Lord with your music!

Thanksgiving Eve Services: 1 pm at CTK & 7 pm at COL

Join us as we come together to give thanks for our many blessings! Thanksgiving Eve Services will be held on Wednesday, November 27. Join us at either campus:

- 1:00 pm: Christ the King
- 7:00 pm: Cross of Life

At both CTK and COL we'll enjoy worship and communion, followed by a Pie Social. Please bring a pie to share if you have the time, but stay for food and relaxed conversation regardless. *This is an important time to gather together as the family that we are and to offer thanks and praise for all God has blessed us with.*



At UNITY, We Give Thanks For Our "Funday" School!

"Funday" School is fun, engaging and educational for all students in PreK-Grade 6 ... and it's never too late to join! Register your child through our Registration web page. Pick a time that works best, knowing that as your schedule requires, your kids are welcome in any Sunday School class. **Needed: Sunday School Support people to assist Sunday School Leaders!** Contact Michelle Aprahamian at michelle@unitybrookfield.org or Nancy Kostanski at nancy@unitybrookfield.org.





Hephatha Partner Appreciation Event on November 2 @ 3 pm

You're invited! Join us for Hephatha's Partner Appreciation Day event on Saturday, November 2, at 3 pm for in-person worship followed by dinner.

RSVP ASAP to srdenu2@gmail.com!

As Hephatha says, "We thank God for you! We are grateful for your serving in the Gospel with us and we hope you can join us for this special time of giving thanks to God and honoring you, our mission partners!" If you are unable to attend in person, visit Hephatha100.com for a "one click" link to join the worship via Zoom.

Hebron's Annual Gala Nov. 9: Attend and/or Volunteer!

Hebron Housing Services' 2024 Annual Gala will be held on Saturday, November 9, at the Milwaukee Marriott West in Waukesha. As their largest fundraising event of the year, this elegant evening will feature:

5:00 pm: Appetizers, Open Bar, Raffles & Silent Auction

6:30 pm: Plated Dinner with Wine, Program & Live Auction

After Program: Live Music & Cash Bar
Formal attire is requested, and all proceeds will go to support Hebron's two emergency shelters – Juno House (*below left*) and Siena House (*below right*) – which provide services to individuals and families facing homelessness in Waukesha County. **To purchase tickets or browse/bid/buy auction items, or to donate, visit hebronhouse.org/events.**

NOTE: Volunteers are needed to help ensure the success of this event! They are looking to fill several different shifts and roles, which include: setting up, tearing down, greeting guests, checking coats, assisting with the Silent Auction, and more. **For more info and to sign up to help, visit Hebron's SignUpGenius page found on UNITY's Sign Up web page.** Questions? Contact Advocate Jane Boorse at janeboorse43@gmail.com.



Holiday Bag Sales to be November 2-3 & 9-10

We are committed to helping feed hungry people, and one way we do this is by helping the Food Pantry of Waukesha County stock its shelves. **Holiday Bag Sales will be between services November 2-3 & 9-10 at both campuses. Bags of groceries will be "sold" for \$10 each during these two weekends.**

Questions? Contact our new Food Pantry Servant Advocates Melanie Rooney at melrooney7@gmail.com or Bill Rooney at billrooney017@gmail.com. *Below: the amount of food you helped purchase during our 2023 Holiday Bags Sales!*



Let's Get Cookin'! Mass Meal Prep Continues November 6

One Wednesday each month at 4 pm, 4 adults work with 4 Confirmation students to whip up a delicious recipe in the COL Kitchen for 25 men at Aspen Center! It's easy! Cooking stations are set up and are ready for our sous chefs to step in. Don't care to cook but still want to help? We also need 1 or 2 shoppers, 2 home bakers, and 1 meal delivery driver. **Cooking dates are: November 6, December 11, January 8, February 12 and May 7 – all from 4:00-6:30 pm.** Sign up online by clicking on these links: [Adult Signup](#) or [Confirmation Signup](#). Contact is Cindy Flynn at 262-391-7870 or cindylouffylynn@aol.com.



Applications Due for El Salvador Trip: November 16

Our Mission of Healing Trip to El Salvador will be held February 15-22, 2025. Application and deposit deadline is Saturday, November 16. Cost: if you are a UNITY member, church will pay all your in-country expenses. You just pay the plane ticket (which is approximately \$700).

Similar to previous, pre-Covid years we will travel on Saturday, visit our sister church Cordero on Sunday, help the Salvadoran Lutheran Church with their traveling health fair Monday-Thursday (setting up in a different town each day), play on Friday, and travel home on Saturday. The offerings at the health fair always vary based on what our group can offer, but it's usually a combination of basic wellness checks, health education (on topics like nutrition, reproductive health, mental health, oral health) and activities for kids. The Salvadorans have asked if we can do extra emphasis on mental health this year.

Skills needed: anyone can apply, but these are the skills/backgrounds we could most use this year: Behavioral/Mental Health training; Medical Providers (advanced practice professionals, PAs, physicians); Nurses; Pharmacy; Art; Kids/Education; and Yoga/Relaxation/Expressive Arts. We also always need 3-4 "willing to do anything" worker-bee-type people. No Spanish is needed, although it's always a plus. **Application is on our [Sign Up web page](#).** For more information, contact Nicole Krause at nicole@unitybrookfield.org. Come join us for what travelers describe as a life-changing experience!





Do You Have Furniture You Would Like to Donate?

Our partner Hephatha Lutheran Church is assisting Holy Cross Lutheran Church with their "Share Our Best" Furniture Ministry. This ministry, which was begun a couple years ago to help kids avoid having to sleep on the floor, relies on donations of furniture that *they will pick up*. They are looking for furniture that is in reasonably good condition – primarily beds (single, full and queen sizes, with frames and bedding) – as well as dressers, kitchen tables and chairs, and other pieces. **Do you have any furniture you'd like to donate?**

Please contact Hephatha Servant Advocate Shirley Denu at srdenu2@gmail.com so the donation and pickup can be coordinated. Thank you for helping with this important ministry that directly impacts the quality of life at home for so many in need.

Can You Help with Aspen's Thanksgiving Dinner?

Be a part of the team that makes Thanksgiving Dinner for Aspen Center residents! Holidays are tough for people new to recovery, and all are away from their homes for the program. Let's encourage them with a home-cooked Thanksgiving meal! We need a coordinator, shoppers, delivery people, and lots of cooks throughout the week and on Wednesday, November 27. To help, contact Cindy Boyd at dcboyd1985@sbcglobal.net or 262-424-3610.



Our Partner Serenity Inns Has a New, Expanded Home!

Serenity Inns has a new facility for men struggling with substance use that will serve an additional 56-60 men per year. The new location at 2830 W. Brown St. expanded upon their current facility at 2825 W. Brown St. **Read more and see photos in the article that appeared online in Biz Times on August 25 by clicking [HERE](#).** UNITY makes and delivers meals to residents on the first Sunday & second Friday of each month. Sign up through [SignUpGenius](#) on our Sign Up web page.



Partner of the Month: Cross Lutheran Church

As I just recently assumed a position as a Servanthood Advocate, I would like to begin by expressing appreciation to John Allar for his years of service in this role. He shared his time and talents by helping to coordinate engaging events, such as the "Garden Work Party" that helped to prepare the church's community garden for planting. I also appreciate the wisdom that he shared with me in order to continue this important partnership.

This month, I had an opportunity to spend time talking with Pastor Michelle Townsend de Lopez, who serves as the lead pastor for the church. The conversation was very productive as I learned a great deal about the history of their congregation and the long-standing relationship with UNITY.

We spoke about past efforts to connect our congregations and began to brainstorm new opportunities. **We will continue meeting in the coming months as we discuss ways for our congregations to further build our connection.**

Cross Lutheran continues to offer a Food Pantry to community members. UNITY has directly supported these efforts by donating paper grocery bags (with handles) and sturdy plastic grocery bags. During my recent visit to the church, I delivered two large boxes full of donated bags. **They appreciate our donations of bags, which can be left at either campus.** Thank you for the ongoing support!

~ Justin Kuehl, Servant Advocate

Blood Drive on December 7

Please give the best gift of all at our Holiday Blood Drive on Saturday, December 7, from 7-11 am at our COL campus. Sign up by going to [UNITY's Sign Up web page](#) and clicking on the [Blood Drive sign-up](#). Need help? Contact Marilyn Ranney at 414-975-5606 or ranneymarilyn@gmail.com.



Please give at our Holiday Blood Drive!

Saturday, December 7
7-11 am at COL



UNITY members Mike Ocampo and Trisha Smith (Justin Kuehl's wife) at Cross Lutheran's Garden Work Party in May 2024.



Join us for Cookie Decorating & Cider on Saturday, December 14, from 1-2 pm at Aspen Center!



Join Pastor Eric for Monday Morning Bible Study!

Are you looking for a weekly Bible Study where you can connect with others and enrich your spirituality? Pastor Eric has what you're seeking!

Join us on Mondays at 10 am in Room 202 at our COL campus.

Start your week with Eric as he leads a study that follows the worship lectionary. You'll dive into the weekly scripture readings, but won't drown if you miss a week or more. Bring a friend and join us. The water's great!



Sunday Bible Study at CTK on November 3 & 10

Join Matt Griepentrog as he leads a 2-week Bible Study looking at stories of Thanksgiving and how biblical characters expressed their gratitude:

Sundays, November 3 & 10 at 10:30 am at our CTK campus.

Grab a cup of coffee and join us!



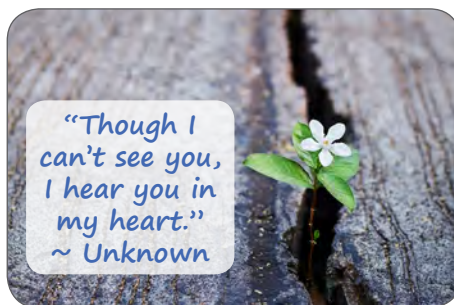
When asked about his time at our Adult Forum on October 6, Duncan Joliff gave it "2 paws up!" Come and see for yourself what all the pets and people LOVE about

UNITY's Adult Program offerings, and be sure to let us know what topics YOU would like to see covered. (See Duncan's sister Hannah on page 7.)

Grief Group Meets at COL on November 6 & 20; Times Vary

Grief Group will continue meeting on modified Wednesdays through the end of the year. **The next meeting is on November 6 from 6:30-8:00 pm, followed by November 20 with a modified time of 5:30-7:00 pm. Both are at COL in Room 202.**

When Life Isn't the Same.... If you have lost a spouse or a parent or someone else close to you, the grieving doesn't end after the funeral. We invite you to a safe space where you can share more about where you are at in your journey ... learn more about the stages of grief ... and get help finding your way through what you need most for the road ahead. **We invite you to join us for our Grief Group.** These gatherings are led by Pastor Jim Ahlquist and Nicole Krause. If this is the right time for you, or if someone you know could benefit from being a part of this, please join us! **A Zoom link can be provided if you're not able to meet in person.** If you have questions or want to discuss whether this is the right place for you, contact Pastor Jim at jim@unitybrookfield.org or 715-210-2245.



Play Sheephead at CTK on November 7 & 21 @ 6:30 pm

Join us for Sheephead on 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 6:30 pm at CTK!

Next dates are November 7 & 21 and December 5 & 19. Sheephead is a 5-player trump-style partner card game which takes a while to learn but will hook you! Our group is open to players of all ages and skill levels. Don't know how to play? Don't worry! We have plenty of Sheephead veterans who are happy to teach you! Questions? Contact is Mary Huss at mhwis@hotmail.com.



Theology on Tap Returns November 13 at Vennture

Theology on Tap continues ... and for that we give thanks! (We also give thanks that they're giving us special discounted prices for being a church group. Amen to that!) **Tap into a good time on Wednesday, November 13, at 7:30 pm at Vennture Brew Co. in Brookfield** (2970 N. Brookfield Rd.). Enjoy good beer, good conversations, and God. Non-beer drinkers are welcome; must be 21 or older to join. RSVP to Matt Griepentrog at matt@unitybrookfield.org or just show up!

Interested in Our Adult Boundary Waters Trip?

In case you missed our October 27 Forum about the Adult Boundary Waters Trip, plans are in the works to offer this trip to adults of UNITY. Information is still being gathered that will help us plan the best trip possible. All skill levels will be welcome, so there's no need to be intimidated! If you think the trip is something you're interested in, please contact Matt Griepentrog at matt@unitybrookfield.org.





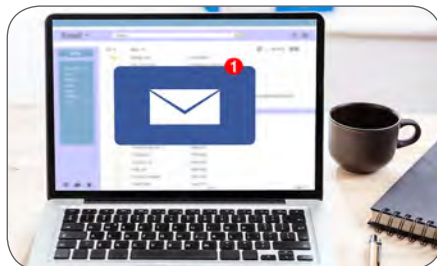
20-30Somethings: Come to Camp Bar on November 25

Calling all 20-30Somethings to join us on Monday, November 25, at 7:30 pm at Camp Bar Tosa (6600 W. North Ave. in Wauwatosa). We'll play trivia and meet up with friends who are in town for Thanksgiving!



Please Be on the Lookout for Emails from UNITY

If you are not receiving emails from UNITY, please check your spam or junk mailboxes. Many of them are going there due to increased security measures put in place by email providers. If this is occurring, please contact Lynn Key at lynn@unitybrookfield.org or Nancy Kostanski at nancy@unitybrookfield.org to confirm we have your correct email address(es) and so we can notify our support team of which service provider you have. We don't want you to miss hearing from us, and we *certainly* don't want to miss hearing from YOU!



*"The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place."
~ George Bernard Shaw*

New Paper Envelope System Coming to UNITY in 2025

Envelopes enveloping gifts. Envelopes sitting in a drawer. Envelopes tossed into the recycle bin. Our personal experiences are all of the above. Do you write checks or give cash for your giving to UNITY? Do you do it weekly or monthly? Do you miss a month and then send in a larger check in a different envelope? If so, do you find the right date and use that one? Does it matter?

UNITY spends quite a bit of money on having custom weekly envelopes made. Then more is spent on mailing them. This is money that can be redirected to other ministries. For those who do not use all their envelopes, then this is waste that does not have to be created.

We hear you! **Come next year, we are moving to a new envelope system for members.** In January, we will reduce the envelopes down to 12 a year, plus some extra ones to use for special holidays, unless a member requests more.

Look for more information toward the end of the year! But, until then, may you envelope your generosity in your giving in an envelope (or electronically or any way that inspires you)!

Do YOU Have Ideas for Our Adult Programming?

Planning for our fall and winter Adult Forums, Small Groups, and Bible Studies is well underway. Please reach out to our new Adult Programs chairperson, Todd Blatnik, at todd.blatnik@wi.rr.com with topics you're interested in hearing about or presenting, along with anyone you know who could be a presenter of a given topic. Providing quality Adult Programming is one of UNITY's greatest offerings, so help us continue to provide great opportunities by sharing your ideas for groups, events, studies, or speakers. Thank you for your input!



Thanks to all our furry and non-furry friends who joined us for our Dog Play Date with Aspen Center residents at our COL campus on October 6!



Our Adult Forum on October 20 was a fall walk to Coffeerville! It was a beautiful day made that much better with coffee, conversation and community.

Put Your Grocery Bags to Use!

Speaking of paper products that sit unused, taking up space in your cupboards and drawers.... Do you have paper (or plastic) grocery bags you no longer need? Rather than creating more waste by tossing them (or letting them take up valuable real estate in your home), please bring them to church! **Cross Lutheran Church runs a Food Pantry and is always in need of paper grocery bags with handles and sturdy plastic grocery bags.** Bags can be dropped off at our COL campus in the entryways or at our CTK campus on the coat rack shelf across from the office.



**In need of a new home ...
at Cross Lutheran Church!**



Council Corner

November is one of my favorite months of the year. Like many folks, I feel that I am settled back into my daily routines, as the vacations of summer feel like forever ago. It's also one of those months where being inside and in a place of quiet reflection is easier to do, as it's cold, dark, and often rainy outside. I am also excited, as we are looking forward to Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas.

In the rush of everyday life, I find it hard to always be thankful. It's also hard to be thankful when things don't seem to go my way or not fast enough. And perhaps, it's not always easy to realize that it's on God's time and his way, and not my own. The month of November provides a chance to pause for a moment, and realize all of God's blessings he has given me, my family, and UNITY. Thanksgiving season provides that opportunity to pause and reflect.

At UNITY, I am thankful for the community we have and our ability to share outside the four walls of our church. Whether it's through our regular sharing via benevolence with our partners, participating in the Red Cross Blood Drives, or giving to ad hoc needs, such as those who were recently affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton ... I am thankful for all that we do together in God's name.

Leading up to Thanksgiving, I encourage you to embrace this time and to pause and reflect upon all the blessings God has given to you, your family, and UNITY. May you and your family have a very Happy Thanksgiving.

~ Phil Roemaat, President



"Give thanks to the LORD for he is good." ~ Psalm 107:1

Money Matters

Thank you for all you do to share Christ's love through your time and financial gifts to UNITY, especially in this time of pastoral transition.

UNITY needs your help to finish the year strong. Year-to-date giving is \$795,513, which is \$23,736 (or 2.9%) below the 2024 budget though \$14,545 (or 1.83%) above this time last year. With the approved 2024 budget based on an increase in giving to meet UNITY's needs and commitments, UNITY is currently at a \$125,468 deficit.

Please help UNITY keep pace with our 2024 pledges and the approved budget passed at the Annual Meeting in February. UNITY's expenditures are expected to be at the level approved in the budget. Together we can raise the needed revenue by year-end to keep UNITY in a financially healthy position.

Also, please look in your email for your third quarter financial statement. Take a few minutes to review it for accuracy. If you have any questions about your statement, please contact Financial Secretary Craig Nelson at craigwnelson7@gmail.com.

Thank you again for your support!

~ UNITY Stewardship Team:
Trisha Smith, chair, Kelsey Morrison, Brian Olsson, and Steve Taipala



UNITY: Celebrating the Past and Committing to the Future!

2025 Pledge Drive Begins!

Celebrate the Past, Commit to the Future with the 2025 Pledge Drive! It's that time of year again ... a time to both reflect on what we've done and to look ahead to the future. **The Stewardship Pledge Drive will begin the weekend of November 9 & 10, 2024. This year, we will Celebrate the Past and Commit to the Future.**

In the coming weeks, you'll see a video celebrating the strength of UNITY! We want to show off how much UNITY has grown and done in 2024. This past year has seen some big changes, but we are still strong and growing. That calls for a celebration!

We also have a lot of big things in our future that all congregation members can impact to shape how UNITY will look. For that we'll share with you a video with updates on UNITY's financial needs and how you can commit to the future by pledging your financial stewardship for 2025, which is essential to the 2025 budgeting process. There will be plenty of fun to be had still this year, so get ready for another amazing pledge drive!

~ UNITY Stewardship Team:
Trisha Smith, chair, Kelsey Morrison, Brian Olsson, and Steve Taipala

**2025 STEWARDSHIP
PLEDGE DRIVE
BEGINS NOVEMBER 9-10**

*Celebrate the Past,
Commit to the Future*



**For more info and to pledge,
watch for our updated
Stewardship web page!**



Pastoral Call Committee Update

The UNITY Call Committee continues to be active!

To provide a summary to date, we have received a total of six candidates from the Synod. Of those, we have conducted five first interviews, moving three candidates along to a second interview and one-on-one meetings with Pastor Sherrie. We are currently in continued discussions with one candidate who has recently met with staff. Hopefully more good news to come soon on that front. In addition, we continue to work with the Synod in looking for additional candidates.

As a reminder of what to expect when the Call Committee reaches a unanimous decision about a candidate, we will introduce and recommend that person to the Church Council, by first meeting with the Council to share information about the candidate and provide input to the Council on how we arrived at our recommendation.

The Council can then ask the Call Committee for additional information about the candidate or ask to meet the candidate, perhaps over dinner with the Call Committee.

From there, the Council will vote on their recommendation. If approved, they will call a Congregational Meeting to take place. The congregation will be given at least two weeks' notice of this meeting, and at this meeting the Council and the Call Committee will share information about the candidate, answer questions from the congregation, and then a vote will be taken to accept the recommendation brought by the Church Council from the Call Committee to extend a call to the Pastoral Candidate.

Please continue to pray for the Call Committee to have the appropriate discernment to be led to the best pastors for us and our community. Thank you for your ongoing support!

~ Linda Johnson, Call Cmte Co-chair



We give thanks for our Call Committee! Front row, left to right: Nelson Brownell, Melanie Varin, Linda Johnson, Davida Kroepfl, Jessica Schrieber and Mary Huss. Back row, left to right: Logan Kemper, Jim Johnsen, Matt Jolliff, Mark Krause and David Engle. Visit our [Pastoral Call Team web page](#) to learn more about each of them.

Calling All Thrivent Members: "Choice Dollars" Can Support Us

If you have any life insurance policies or annuities or anything with Thrivent, you may be eligible to direct what's known as "Choice Dollars" to the beneficiary of your choice. These are dollars that aren't used or given to you if you don't do anything, and you have to log in to your account and choose where to direct them EVERY year. If your yearly premiums or your total investments are not high enough to qualify for these Choice Dollars, you *still* can apply for what's known as a Thrivent Action grant.

This allows you to receive two \$250 gift cards per year to use for supplies to fund a ministry event related to education, serving or fundraising. This is super easy to do, and last year, we received an additional \$4,000 in money to support what we do because of members who applied! Please contact Pastor Sherrie at sherrie@unitybrookfield.org for more information and for the wording for project ideas. *Your continued support of UNITY is appreciated and impacts more lives – in more ways – than we will ever know.*

Member Care: Here for YOU

You don't have to face life's ups and downs alone. Whether it's a hospitalization, a recent diagnosis, the death of a loved one, the loss of a job, addiction, anxiety, depression, or literally anything else, the pastors are only a call, text, or email away. Please never hesitate to reach out – whether we're the only stop you'll make or just the first step in a longer care process.

Keep Connecting with Us

We are here for you! Please continue to reach out to us or to your pastors:



Sherrie Lorbeck:
sherrie@unitybrookfield.org
Cell: 414-477-7762



Eric Silberschmidt:
eric@unitybrookfield.org
Cell: 262-716-9854



Jim Ahlquist:
jim@unitybrookfield.org
Cell: 715-210-2245

Don't know who to contact? Call our Church Office at 262-781-7600.

Prayer Place Cards

If you have a prayer request you'd like included in the Prayers for Friends and Family section in the bulletin, there are cards available in the narthex near the bulletin board. You can fill out the request and pin it to the bulletin board. You can also fill out a card and place it in the basket and it will be included in the upcoming bulletin. These prayer requests will stay for 4 weeks; if you need further prayer, repost as often as needed. Question? Contact Nancy Kostanski at nancy@unitybrookfield.org.





Please note this calendar is tentative. Watch your email, our website, and Facebook for updates.



Christ the King Campus



Cross of Life Campus

Colors denote campuses *only*;
Join in... either place, at any time!

"Thanksgiving was never meant to be shut up in a single day."
~ Robert C. Lintner

"Though right it is to GIVE thanks, true gratitude will LIVE thanks."
~ Arthur Quilterman

"Gratitude is as important for feeding your soul as eating is important for feeding your body."
~ J.L.W. Brooks

Sundays in November

November 3 ~ Bag Sales

All Saints Weekend

Daylight Saving Ends: Fall Back

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:30 am: Bible Study at CTK:
Stories of Thanksgiving

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns
6:00 pm: Confirmation Classes at COL

November 10 ~ Bag Sales

UNITY Pledge Drive Begins

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:30 am: Bible Study at CTK:
Stories of Thanksgiving

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

12:00 pm: New Member Gathering: CTK
5:30 pm: Confirmation Dinner at COL
6:00 pm: Confirmation Classes at COL

November 17

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

6:00 pm: Confirmation Classes at COL

November 24

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

Saturday, November 2 ~ Bag Sales

All Saints Weekend

3:00 pm: Hephatha Partner Appreciation

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Turn clocks back 1 hour before bed

Monday, November 4

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

10:00 am: Bible Study w/Pr. Eric at COL

Tuesday, November 5

7:00 am: Men's Breakfast: The Crossings

6:00-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

Wednesday, November 6

4:00 pm: Mass Meal Prep: COL Kitchen

6:15 pm: Confirmation Classes at COL

6:30 pm: Grief Group in COL Room 202

Thursday, November 7

6:30 pm: Sheepshead Small Group: CTK

7:00 pm: Women's Thursday Book Group

Friday, November 8

5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns

Saturday, November 9 ~ Bag Sales

UNITY Pledge Drive Begins

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

5:00 pm: Hebron's Annual Gala: Marriott

Monday, November 11 ~ Veterans Day

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

10:00 am: Bible Study w/Pr. Eric at COL

Tuesday, November 12

6:00-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

Wednesday, November 13

11:30 am: Lunch Bunch Group: Maxim's

5:45 pm: Confirmation Dinner at COL

6:15 pm: Confirmation Classes at COL

7:30 pm: Theology on Tap: Vennture

Thursday, November 14

9:00 am: Sew Comfy Group at COL

7:00 pm: Men's Thursday Book Group

Friday, November 15

Staff & Council Retreat at COL

Saturday, November 16

7:30 am: Men's Breakfast Group at COL

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Monday, November 18

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

10:00 am: Bible Study w/Pr. Eric at COL

Tuesday, November 19

6:00-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

Wednesday, November 20

5:30 pm: Grief Group in COL Room 202

6:30 pm: Confirmation Classes Combine to be part of BEGIN Service

7:00 pm: BEGIN Interfaith

Thanksgiving Service at COL

Thursday, November 21

6:30 pm: Sheepshead Small Group: CTK

Saturday, November 23

9:00 am: Serve: Waukesha Food Pantry

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Monday, November 25

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

10:00 am: Bible Study w/Pr. Eric at COL

7:30 pm: 20-30Somethings at Camp Bar in Wauwatosa

Tuesday, November 26

6:00-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

Wednesday, November 27

All Day: Thanksgiving Meal Prep for Aspen Center in COL Kitchen

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICES:

1:00 pm at Christ the King*

7:00 pm at Cross of Life*

**Both services followed by Pie Social*

Thursday, November 28

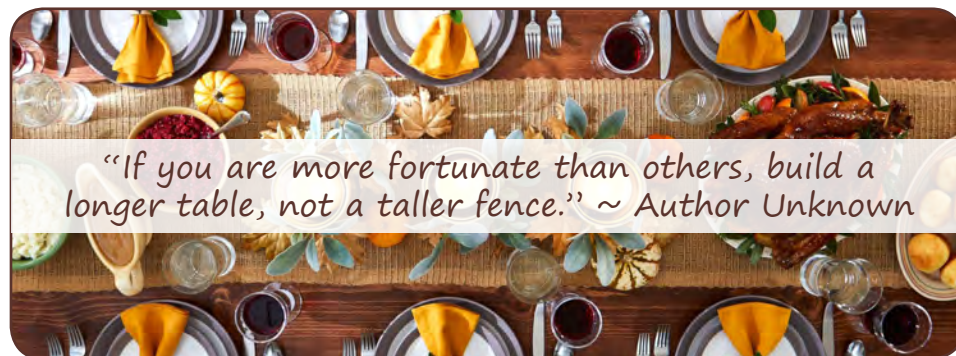
THANKSGIVING DAY

Happy Thanksgiving from UNITY staff!

Saturday, November 30

Holiday Weekend

5:00 pm: Worship at COL





UNITY ~ November Birthdays

1. Charles Borkenhagen
Greta Brecheisen
Kristin Fritsche
William Heal
Julie Hochuli
Kristin Jolliff
Ella Maassen
Sue Swan
2. Tatum Krier
Joel Miesfeld
Kelsey Nolden
Adrianna Tarantino
4. Aiden Behring
Debbie Cape
Michael Collins
John Steigerwald
Alexander Walz
5. Eric Thomas
6. Katherine Dolan
Fletcher Gumieny
Nancy Jaessing
Lisa Kahle
Karen Kobs
Michael LeClaire
Ginny Toussaint
7. Marcia Abbrederis
Corina Canitz
Tim Culhane
Will Komassa
8. Brendan Dolan
Adam Geiss
Sophia Miesfeld
Maxwell Sitterly
Samantha Syse
Erin Zimmer
9. Dynese Driscoll
Katie Geske
Madelyn Gorgen
Dianne Klebenow
Amie Lalor
Molly Work
10. Mark Hilgart
Cathy James
Elrid Johnson
Anna Knowles
Thomas Longtin
Benjamin Secora
11. Katie Behring
Lloyd Brown
Josef Keup
John Kossoris
Lizzy Kuehl
Christine Morrison
Shelley Watters
12. Mary Beyer
Krista Kiefer
Phil Roemaat
13. Sophie Drescher
Emma Jansson
Carrie Vogt
Dexter Welch
Lisa Welch
Brian Wickert
Nelson Wirth
14. Grace Adams
Allyson Flynn
Samuel Kerr
Jeff Ranney
Jacob Schneider
Philip Shady
Lindsey Swain
Kathleen Wolf
15. Adam Fogltanz
Tracy Gobis
Jay Haynes
Peter Lorbeck
Roslyn Miesfeld
Emmett Nelson
Amanda Pape
Tracy Schefus
16. Erin Dandridge
Kevin Jacobson
Kyra Jester
Jack Kerr
Devin Klick
Emily Lowerr
Ryan O'Rourke
Brian Olsson
Eileen Peterson
Meg Smith
17. Ava Borkenhagen
Margaret Debauche
Ila Groth
Ryan Johnson
Chris Loomis
Vivian Nelson
Carson Riehl
Heidi Sojkowski
Kathy Turco
Oliver Welch
19. Josh Bemus
Evelyn Groneck
Haylie Schultz
Bob Zembinski
20. Karissa Garcia
Benjamin Roche
Samuel Roche
Nora Schrieber
21. Bob Baudo
Kim Estacio
Spencer Gravenkamp
Alan Klebenow
22. Mary Beth Graham
Caitlin Hoyer
Collette Tatera
Audra Watson
23. Neal Borkenhagen
Jacoby Perrizo
Geoff Watters
24. Joan Blaschke
Michael Kroepfl
Eric Lalor
Marilyn Ranney
Gavin Running
25. Lori Collins
Linda Jorgensen
Natalie Winn
26. Miley Gill
Heather Paradis
27. John Horner-Ibler
Eric Jacobson
Richard Klein
28. Ann-Marie Bergman
Elizabeth Cobb
Erwin Estacio
Jeff Oldenburg
29. Perry Lee
Thomas Oldenburg
Heather Zimmel
30. Grayson Harder
Susan Soerens



"There is always a lot to be thankful for, if you take the time to look. For example, I'm sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt." ~ Unknown

Minister's Minute

The first trimester of Confirmation on the topic of Worship, Values and Choices just wrapped up where we explore in part how we make decisions and how, when it comes to the most significant ones we make, the more time we take to pray, talk about it with others and think about it, the better! Choosing where to someday go to school or choosing the next pastor is not a decision we want to flip a coin over!

I wish each of them and all of you would have had the opportunity to observe our Call Team over the past year.

From day one, they have taken this request so seriously, beginning with getting to know each other and share what they most love about UNITY, building trust so that they could also be completely open and honest with each other too. They have spent countless hours in meetings, in prayer and reflection, in interviews and discussions, on top of already-busy lives and schedules. All along, they have created interview questions based on the needs they heard from all of you through the Congregational Feedback Sessions and have remained focused on trying to find a pastor they thought would be a good fit for UNITY at this time.

They recognized that no one will ever be quite like John or Muriel and that they'd have to work within a Call process system that is imperfect, relying on the Synod to give us candidates to interview.

However, they were able to name our unique blend of being grace based, continuing to learn from Christ through the Bible, welcoming, servant oriented, and playful to best describe who we are as a congregation and sought to search for the gifts we most need.

I am so deeply grateful for each of them, for the perfect mix of experience, perspective, love for our congregation and vision for where God is leading us!

They, along with the members of our Council, have been such an incredible blessing to lead us in this time of transition and to continue to build up each of our ministry areas to be strong and vibrant ways of empowering people to continue to live out our mission as Christ's people.

You will hear more about a pastor that they and I would like you to meet. Phil Roemaat, our Council President, now brings this candidate to you on behalf of the Council and with the unanimous recommendation of the Call Team.

Please take some time to read through everything that Leslie O'Connell (from our Council) and Melanie Varin (from our Call Team) helped to "summarize" about all that we could share with you about our interactions with, impressions of, and all the hours of conversations we had with references and others in order to make sure that he was who he appeared to be... engaging, faith-full, motivated, creative, hard-working, able to laugh, a deep thinker, a boat builder (*yes, you read that correctly!*) and so much more.

Hopefully, you'll have a chance to meet him over the course of December 7-8 and feel free to talk more with anyone from the Call Team or Council or Staff in the weeks to come as we do our best to keep sharing more about who he is and what we have heard and observed in him! **Mark your calendars for a Special Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, December 22, at 9:30 am for the purpose of Voting to extend a Call to Pastor Justin Kierzek!**

This Thanksgiving Eve, I also am so deeply filled with gratitude that you all first took in taking a risk on voting to call ME to serve with you some eighteen years ago on July 30, 2006, when you voted to call me to serve, first at Cross of Life and then at UNITY.

The blessings that you and those we now call saints have added to my life and my family are more than I could ever fully share my gratitude for, so I simply say, "Thanks be to God for all you!"

I also give thanks for two colleagues, who I have spent a lot of years serving alongside, learning from, sharing so many of life's highs and lows with, reflecting on the Scriptures and all the questions of life with, being challenged by, and having my spirit be renewed by, along with the joy of getting to know their families. No pastor is close to being perfect. We all are just trying to do our best in any given moment to juggle all the things we carry, along with all the hopes and dreams we have for what we can do together as the people of God.

I also give thanks for my husband, Matthew and our four kids: George, James, Emily and Peter, who have to carry the load of me trying to do this work that I still feel so called to. It's hard to fully put it into words without making it seem as if they aren't also important, but I see how my life has been changed for the better because of the church family I was blessed to be a part of and I so long for that for them to experience too! Thank you for all the ways that you seek to be that and have been that for them and for the ways I trust you will continue to for every future pastor and their family!

*With deep gratitude for all of you,
~ Sherrie*

MEET PASTOR JUSTIN!

Without further ado ... we invite you to "meet" Pastor Justin Kierzek in a letter from him on page 2, then join us in person after any worship service on December 7 & 8 for Meet & Greet!

Two-Campus Ministry in Brookfield, Wis. • unitybrookfield.org

Christ the King: 4600 Pilgrim Rd. • Zip: 53005 • (262) 781-7600

Cross of Life: 20700 W. North Ave. • Zip: 53045 • (262) 781-7600



Celebrate. Share. Renew.



Letter to the Congregation

To the UNITY Congregation:

On behalf of the UNITY Council, we are pleased to affirm and present for congregational member vote the unanimous recommendation of the UNITY Call Team to extend a call to Pr. Justin Kierzek to join the pastor team at UNITY. Pr. Sherrie has shared that she enthusiastically supports extending the call to Pr. Justin.

We are so grateful for the work of the Call Team and Pr. Sherrie, who have spent many hours in meetings and discussions since January relying on God's help and direction to discern new pastors for UNITY. Since September, the Call Team, Pr. Sherrie, Staff and Council have gotten to know Pr. Justin personally and professionally.

As the relationship deepened, enthusiasm for Pr. Justin has grown. He is well-suited to the values, mission, and aspirations of UNITY – who we are and who we are becoming. As a pastor, he is passionate about connection and community, education programs for adults and youth, and creativity to meet the demands of a changing world of ministry.

We invited Pr. Justin to tell us more about himself in his own words. Read on in the article at right!

~ Phil Roemaat, Council President

MEET PR. JUSTIN!

Please join us for "Meet & Greets" after all of these service times:

Saturday, December 7

5:00 pm at COL

Sunday, December 8

8:30 am & 10:45 am at COL

9:30 am at CTK

SPECIAL VOTING MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION:

Sunday, December 22 at 9:30 am

Please attend in-person at either CTK or COL or via Zoom.

A quorum of members must participate; a two-thirds majority vote in favor of the call is required.

Introducing Pr. Justin Kierzek



Greetings! My name is Justin Kierzek. I am blessed and honored to be a candidate for a pastoral role at UNITY, and I pray that God will work

in and through all of us as we each discern this call.

From my early interviews with Pr. Sherrie and the Call Team, I sensed that there was something special in the making – shared values, a deep respect for Christian education for adults and youth, and a calling to do God's work through partnerships and collaboration both within the congregation and in our larger community. My sense of compatibility grew as I got acquainted with the UNITY Staff and Council.

Here's more about me and my somewhat unconventional path into ministry. Throughout my career, I've been blessed with opportunities to serve. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2007, I was drawn to work with youth through AmeriCorps/VISTA with Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). In time, this led me to roles as a middle school teacher and as an assistant principal.

Doors opened for me to serve in program leadership for two different nonprofits in Milwaukee -- Lead to Succeed and All Hands Boatworks. Playing to my strengths in education and collaboration, I led innovative programs that build life skills, hope, and resilience for students.

In 2018, I felt a calling to ministry after a particularly inspiring sermon at Mt. Carmel Lutheran. Logic attempted to quiet the voice. How would it be possible – as a husband and father of young children – to pursue the demands and expense of ministry education? As I shared my convictions, my family, coworkers, and friends affirmed and encouraged me. God has interesting ways of working in our lives! Luther Seminary (St. Paul, MN) awarded me a full scholarship, and I earned my Master of Divinity in 2021.

I accepted my first call as solo pastor at Living Faith Lutheran Church, an urban congregation in Racine, in 2021. It had big ambitions as it attempted to merge two congregations. I worked to create outreach teams, strengthen partnerships, and develop new connections with community organizations and neighboring churches. I was able to be creative in worship and used technology to amplify teaching in Bible studies, confirmation, and Christian education that engaged kids and adults. After prayerful reflection, this past spring I felt God calling me to a new chapter in ministry.

As for my family – my wife, Christine, and I have been married for ten wonderful years, and we're blessed with three lively and curious children: Alice (9) and twins Jon and Lily (6).

In my (sparse!) free time, I love being outdoors kayaking and hiking. I find peace and inspiration in the beauty of God's creation.

I hear that UNITY has its share of sports fans (and friendly rivalries!). I love Wisconsin sports and follow the Brewers, Packers, and Bucks.

Through my interviews and exploring ministry here at UNITY, I have seen, heard, and felt the work of God through those whom I have met. There is warmth and joy that can be felt here in all that you do. I feel that we share a way of looking at our faith and how we can make a difference for each other and our community.

This is an important time for UNITY. I pray that God will work in and through all of us as we each discern this call. I look forward to meeting many of you soon.

*~ In Christ's love,
Pastor Justin*

Watch for more details about Pr. Justin on the UNITY website and email, and be sure to join us for the "Meet & Greets" on December 7 & 8 and the Special Voting Meeting of the Congregation on December 22.



Join the Faith-Filled FUN at Advent Fest on December 6

Ready for some cookies, caroling and Christ-centered fun to get into the spirit of the season? Be sure to join us for one of our most popular events! **Advent Fest will be held on Friday, December 6, from 5:30-8:00 pm at our COL campus.** Together we'll enjoy dinner, worship, crafting, music, and an evening of fun for the whole family. Crafts are for ALL ages and stages, and sign up is now LIVE for crafts! **NOTE:** *There are 6 different crafts to choose from, so click on the tab in the top menu bar. Spots do fill up quickly!*



Sign Up Now for Advent Fest Crafts; Spots Fill Up Quickly!

Advent Fest Crafts are for ALL ages and stages. Visit our [SignUpGenius](#) NOW to see which spots are still available! *Click on the menu bars on top.* Children in 3rd grade and younger must be accompanied by an adult.



HELP NEEDED AT ADVENT FEST!

Are you able to bring a side dish or dessert for the Potluck?
Are you able to help with Set Up, Serving, Clean Up, or a variety of other tasks?
Sign up through [SignUpGenius](#) on our Sign Up web page!

As Advent Fest Ends, Help Sr. High Begin a Cookie Walk

We are holding a Cookie Walk at Advent Fest! **In addition to enjoying cookies there, we will be offering take-home boxes!** Cookies will be sold by the pound and used as a fundraiser for the Sr. High's summer trip to the Boundary Waters. Thanks to all our many bakers and those who brought cookies to share at Advent Fest. **You can also pick out and take home cookies the following day during the Blood Drive!** Questions about this Sr. High fundraiser? Contact Tiffany Reay at sreays@gmail.com.



Poinsettia Sale will Run through December 10

Christmas Poinsettias you purchase will be placed around our altars and sanctuaries to decorate for Christmas services. Flowers may be taken home following *any* Christmas Eve Service on December 24, and sponsors will be listed in our Christmas Eve bulletins. Order forms are in a [pdf](#) or [online](#) on our [website](#), are in each narthex, and are attached to this newsletter. You can also pay online through [Vanco](#) on our [Donate web page](#). **Order forms and payment are due Tuesday, December 10.** Thanks for beautifying our spaces and supporting our Sr. High! Contact is [Matt Griepentrog](#).



Don't Miss Our Christmas Programs: December 14-15

Come see and hear our Sunday School children sing and tell the Greatest Story Ever Told as they share the Good News of Jesus' birth. **Our annual Christmas Programs will be presented at all worship services the weekend of December 14-15. JOIN US:**

Saturday, December 14:
5:00 pm Cross of Life

Sunday, December 15:
8:30 am Cross of Life
9:30 am Christ the King
10:45 am Cross of Life



Can You Help with Worship During the Holidays?

If you'll be home for the holidays, please consider volunteering for worship services. We will need help since we have extra times to fill! If you can be a part, contact Nancy Kostanski at nancy@unitybrookfield.org.





Winter Worship & Sunday School Schedule

Join your faith family in worship wherever and whenever it works!

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm: WORSHIP at COL
Sunday School PreK-Gr 6

SUNDAYS

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL
Live-streamed & on website anytime
Sunday School PreK-Gr 6

9:30 am: Fusion Gr 7-8

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK
Sunday School PreK-Gr 6

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL
Sunday School PreK-Gr 6

Looking for Christmas Eve & Post-Christmas Musicians!

Calling all musicians to share their gifts with UNITY this season!

Christmas Eve: These services are such a wonderful time to share your musical gifts in an easy group setting with fellow music lovers, and there is such beautiful music to share! Plus you can still join your family to enjoy the rest of the worship service.

Weekend service after Christmas:

Come share a Christmas selection, whether a solo, a piece with a family member or friend, or play your instrument with the piano/organ while everyone sings Christmas Carols.

To share your music, contact Lynn Key at lynn@unitybrookfield.org.



Unaccompanied Minors: Concert on Dec. 19 at CTK

Unaccompanied Minors will perform their Winter Concert on Thursday, December 19, at 6 pm at our Christ the King campus. Enjoy the sounds of the season by Brookfield East's premiere a cappella group, which includes UNITY member Kyra Jester.

Christmas Eve Services Offer Times for Everyone at UNITY

Celebrate the birth of our Saviour with your UNITY faith family! Choose from a variety of options below, then join us.

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

2:00 pm COL Campus
In-person and Live-Streamed

2:00 pm * CTK Campus

4:00 pm * CTK Campus

4:00 pm * COL Campus

7:30 pm * COL Campus

10:30 pm * COL Campus

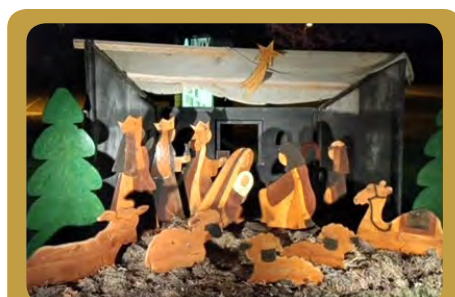
** Services offering Communion*

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day

No in-person worship services;

Online Christmas Message available



*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."
~ John 1:5*

Come Enjoy Our Special Seasonal Services!

Friday, December 6

5:30 pm: Advent Fest at COL

Joyful Noise & Celebration Choirs

Sat. & Sun., December 7 & 8

5:00 pm, 8:30 & 10:45 am at COL

Featuring Music by our Adult Choirs

Saturday, December 14

5:00 pm at COL

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 15

8:30 & 10:45 am at COL

Sunday School Christmas Programs

9:30 am at CTK

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 15

3:00 pm at CTK

Blue Christmas: A Service of Hope

Sunday, December 22

9:30 am at CTK

Featuring Music by our Adult Choirs

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24

2:00 pm at COL

Readings, Carols & Candlelight
Special Message for the Children
Music: Children's Choir

In-Person and Live-Streamed

2:00 pm at CTK

Readings, Carols & Candlelight
Special Message for the Children
Music: Bell Choir / Communion

4:00 pm at CTK

Readings, Carols & Candlelight
Special Message for the Children
Music: Praise Band / Communion

4:00 pm at COL

Readings, Carols & Candlelight
Special Message for the Children
Music: Brass Choir / Communion

7:30 pm at COL

Readings, Carols & Candlelight
Music: Fellowship Choir
Communion

10:30 pm at COL

Readings, Carols & Candlelight
Music: String Ensemble
Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25

No service, but online message



Gift Bags: Our 2 Campuses Offer 2 Special Ministries

Christmas Gift Bags at CTK for Homebound: December 10

Reaching out to members who are homebound is an important part of our ministry. Every year we assemble and deliver gift bags to let them know we're thinking of them, especially during the holidays. **We will gather on Tuesday, December 10, at 1:00 pm at our Christ the King campus to assemble and deliver gift bags to homebound members.** If you can be a part, please contact Jane Boorse at janeboorse43@gmail.com or 262-781-1373.



Christmas Gift Bags at COL for Hardships: December 21

Each year we deliver simple gifts around Christmas to member households (approx. 30-60) who have experienced grief, loss or unique hardship during the year. If you've ever been on the *receiving* end of these gifts, you know how meaningful it is. **This ministry involves assembling gift bags and delivering them on Saturday, December 21, beginning at 9:30 am at our Cross of Life campus.** If you're interested, please contact Michelle Wilkins at mlwilkins012@gmail.com by **Saturday, December 14.**



Trees at UNITY Come Alive This Season with Blessings for Our Partners. Help Spread Love This Holiday and All Winter Long!

Mitten Tree at CTK, Mitten Bin at COL Warm Hearts

In UNITY tradition, the Mitten Tree will come alive in CTK's narthex and the Mitten Bin will arrive at COL in time for Advent Fest on Friday, December 6.

Our two campuses offer the same great way to help the kids at our partner church Hephatha and their neighborhood kids stay warm this winter! CTK's tree will be in the narthex and COL's bin will be near the doors at the west (fireplace) entrance. **Please note: Items will be picked and sent out several times during the season.** These are much-needed replacements for items that fall by the wayside. Questions? Contact Jane Boorse at janeboorse43@gmail.com or 262-781-1373. *Thanks for warming kids' hands, heads and hearts this holiday ... and all winter long!*



A Literal Tree of Mittens!

Angel Trees: Gifts for Our Partners Due December 18

Beginning December 6, "Angel Trees" at each campus are an easy way to give this Christmas. Each tree is adorned with tags for small thank you gifts for: staff at our partner ministries; presents for kids at our partner churches; gifts for Bread of Healing Clinic and Hebron Housing Services; and residents at Aspen Center and Serenity Inns. **Here's how it works:**

- 1) Pick a tag off the Angel Trees and follow the gift suggestions.
- 2) Return gift to the campus where you picked it by **Wed. December 18.** Gifts should be delivered wrapped and labelled with gifted name only.
- 3) Volunteers will deliver them in time for Christmas! **Can you help deliver gifts on Thursday, December 19, or Friday, December 20?**

Contact Jackie Herington at 262-399-5689 or jackieswan10@hotmail.com.



Angel Tree Gifts from 2023



Give the Gift of LIFE at Our Blood Drive on December 7

Please give the best gift of all ... the gift of LIFE ... at UNITY's Holiday Blood Drive: Saturday, December 7, from 7-11 am at our COL campus. Sign up by going to [UNITY's Sign Up web page](#) and clicking on the [Blood Drive sign-up](#). Need help signing up? Contact Marilyn Ranney at 414-975-5606 or ranneymarilyn@gmail.com.



Let's Keep Cookin'! Mass Meal Prep on December 11

On one Wednesday each month, 4 adults work with 4 Confirmation students to whip up a delicious recipe in the COL Kitchen for 25 men at Aspen Center! It's easy! Cooking stations are set up and are ready for our sous chefs to step in. Don't cook but still want to help? We also need 1 or 2 shoppers, 2 home bakers, and 1 meal delivery driver. **Dates: December 11, January 8, February 12 & May 7 – all from 4:00-6:30 pm.** Sign up online by clicking: [Adult Signup](#) or [Confirmation Signup](#). Contact is Cindy Flynn at 262-391-7870 or cindylouflynn@aol.com.



THANKS TO YOU...
November Bag Sales raised \$2,911 for the Waukesha Food Pantry to help feed hungry people!

Cookie Decorating & Cider at Aspen on December 14

Enjoy pre-holiday fun with Aspen friends! Join us on Saturday, December 14, from 1:00-2:00 pm at Aspen Center for **Cookie Decorating & Cider**. No need to RSVP; just show up! Cookies will stay there for the men to enjoy. Aspen Center is at 2000 W. Bluemound Rd. Contact is Cindy Boyd at dcboyd1985@sbcglobal.net or 262-424-3610.



Can You Help with Hebron's Christmas Dinner?

Be a part of the team that makes Christmas Dinner for the residents of Hebron Housing Services! Hebron continues to house an increasing number of people and depends on community support to keep their programs going. **They are looking for a Christmas Dinner Coordinator to direct a UNITY crew to shop and cook for the families there over the holidays.** Cooking will occur on December 21, 22 or 23. Contact Jane Boorse at 262-227-9645 or janeboorse43@gmail.com.

"Homemade meals are life's most pleasant fuel." ~Terri G

Partner of the Month: Hephatha Lutheran Church

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

And, when it comes to Hephatha, I do "give thanks in all circumstances." I am so grateful that God brought Hephatha into my life. I also give thanks for the weekend I was blessed with Cross of Life (UNITY) 28 years ago.

Each year I write this article, I talk about how amazing UNITY's generosity is, and this year is certainly no different as evidenced by just a few of UNITY's gifts:

- Sunday School lunches
- 66 backpacks full of school supplies
- Diapers and lunches each month for Strong Baby Sanctuary Saturdays
- Furniture donations to Share Our Best Furniture Ministry, which are then delivered to Hephatha
- Gifts from our Angel Trees at both our COL & CTK campuses
- Mittens, hats & scarves for the kids from the Mitten Tree & Mitten Bin

Many members from Hephatha joined us in Brookfield on April 6 as we wished Pastor John the best, and again for a farewell to Pastor Muriel on August 24 with a beautiful service, dinner, and a blessing of the van we helped purchase.

Thank you to everyone who made these wonderful gifts possible, and to Pastor Mary Martha and Chris Keim, who are always my lifeline.

Merry Christmas, Everyone!

~ Shirley Denu, Servant Advocate

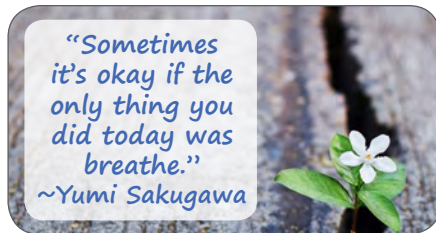




Grief Group Meets at COL on December 4 & 18 @ 6:30 pm

Have you lost someone you love? Please join us for our Grief Group: Wednesdays, December 4 & 18 from 6:30-8:00 pm in COL in Room 202.

Grieving doesn't end after the funeral. We invite you to a safe space where you can share where you are at in your journey and where we support each other in these gatherings led by Nicole Krause. If you have questions or want to discuss whether this is the right place for you, please contact Nicole at nicole@unitybrookfield.org. **There is no need to RSVP; simply show up. A Zoom link is provided if you're not able to meet in person.**



Bible Study on December 8: Born in Bethlehem

Join us for a Christmas Bible Study on Sunday, December 8, at 9:30 am at COL: "Born in Bethlehem."

Together we'll look at Bethlehem and its significance to the Christmas story. We will see the small town come to life through the lens of the hit series "The Chosen." Grab a cup of coffee and join us for this special seasonal study led by Matt Griepentrog!



Interested in Our Adult Boundary Waters Trip?

In case you missed our October 27 Forum about the Adult Boundary Waters Trip, plans are in the works to offer this trip to adults of UNITY. Information is still being gathered that will help us plan the best trip possible. All skill levels will be welcome, so there's no need to be intimidated! If you think the trip is something you're interested in, please contact Matt Griepentrog at matt@unitybrookfield.org.

Blue Christmas Service at CTK on December 15

Sometimes, the holidays are just hard. Whether you're facing the first Christmas with an empty chair at the table, or coping with a diagnosis, or just not feeling the "holly jolly" of the season, this is a service for you. Candlelight, communion, and a quiet space for prayer and reflection will all be a part of it. **Join us at our CTK campus for our Blue Christmas worship service on Sunday, December 15, from 3:00-4:00 pm.** Contact Sherrie Lorbeck at sherrie@unitybrookfield.org or Lynn Key at lynn@unitybrookfield.org for more info or to be a part of this service of hope.



Help Needed Outside with Snow Removal at COL & CTK

The snow has already started falling, so if you don't mind helping to clear the sidewalks and throw some salt down, **we could really use your help with snow removal at either of our campuses.** Please see all details in the [SignUpGenius](#) on our [Sign Up](#) web page. We ask for a 1-week commitment starting on Wednesdays and running through the following Tuesday.



A Holiday Ode to UNITY's 12 Small Groups

Sung to the tune of "Twelve Days of Christmas"

"On the 12th Day of Christmas, we met with our Small Groups...."

Twelve Crafters Crafting,
Eleven Lunchers Bunching,
Ten Men at Breakfast,
Nine Men a'Reading,
Eight Guys at Crossings,
Seven Moms a'Meeting,
Six Photogs Snapping,
Five Quilters Quilting,
Four Sewers Sewing,
Three Carders Carding,
Two Women Reading,
And some folks in their 20s and 30s!"



Do YOU Have Ideas for Our Adult Programming?

Adult Programs is always looking for new ideas as we continue to plan new forums and events.

Please reach out to Adult Programs chairperson, Todd Blatnik, at todd.blatnik@wi.rr.com with topics you're interested in hearing about or presenting, along with anyone who could be a presenter of a given topic. Help us by sharing *your* ideas for groups, events, studies, or speakers!

"One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals." ~ Jean Vanier



Council Corner

2024: What a year for worship! UNITY Music grows and thrives – thanks to Brass Quintet on Easter and Christmas, and of course, our fabulous Praise Band, Handbell Ensembles and Choirs! I am looking forward to all the wonderful music during Advent and Christmas.

Our online presence continues to grow. Many people tune in to our weekly online services, not just from our area, but from all over the U.S. and even some other parts of the world. All the different podcasts are a great way to hear the message as well. You can find those on our [Worship web page](#).

Because of our inviting, friendly and multiple formats of worship, we have gained many new members and there are more who are ready to join. (Six new households joined in November.) Visitors love the friendliness, not only of our pastors and staff, but also of you, the congregation of UNITY. I know we have had a few volunteers from our visitors who aren't even members yet. That's because of *you!*

Speaking of volunteering ... please consider being a volunteer at worship. We need more people to do so, especially since attendance at all services is growing. If you're interested in being a part or would like to know more about the roles, contact Nancy Kostanski by emailing nancy@unitybrookfield.org or by calling the church office at 262-781-7600.

UNITY is a great place for worship, and every year since we have become UNITY, we have become stronger as a congregation, and it is great to see our in-person numbers going up. Please don't feel pressured to come in person, but it is always good to see you!

Have a wonderful and blessed 2025.

~ **Steve Johnson,**
Worship & Music Chair

United in Christ we ... Celebrate in our worship and lives, Share with generous purpose, Renew our communities and the creation ... all through the One who keeps us together in ministry.

Money Matters

We are in the home stretch for the year and we are behind budget. Year to date through October 2024, we are about \$46,000 under budget for giving. We need your help to close the gap by the end of the year. **As we near the end of the year, we ask you to consider additional ways to give to UNITY:**

- One-time cash donation
- Appreciated stock
- Required minimum distribution from your retirement account

Please contact Matt Griepentrog at matt@unitybrookfield.org for more information about these giving options.

UNITY's 2025 pledge drive is underway. The total amount pledged is a key piece of information the Finance Team uses to develop the 2025 budget to keep UNITY in a financially healthy position. Please consider an increase for 2025 and turn in your pledges. For all you need, visit our ["Pledge for 2025" web page](#).

Please contact me at timherman14@gmail.com if you have any questions about finances.

~ **Tim Herman, Finance Chair**

2025 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE DRIVE:

*Celebrate the Past,
Commit to the Future*



To pledge, please visit our [Pledge for 2025 web page!](#)

Don't forget to complete your [Time & Talent Form!](#)

2025 Pledge Drive

Celebrate the Past, Commit to the Future with the 2025 Pledge Drive!

We invite you to reflect on the abundance in your own life and consider how you can contribute financially and with your time and talents to our church.

Memories and Hopes Portion

We are gathering Memories from 2024 and Hopes for 2025. Everyone can participate (kids and adults).

Find a blue or purple half-sheet in the narthex or download the form from UNITY's "Pledge for 2025" web page. Once completed, hang the sheet up in the narthex. Be sure to check out the photo boards and posted memory/hope sheets in the narthex. Enjoy some coffee and fellowship as you view the displays!

Financial Portion

As we look to the future, we see a lot of big things. We see a fuller UNITY staff to achieve our goals and adapt to changing congregational needs. We see our amazing staff earning market-based pay. We see UNITY completing deferred property items at both campuses to ensure the security, protection and beauty of our spaces. We see continued growth and support for internal ministries and our servanthood partners. **We set the goal of 300 pledges by Sunday, DECEMBER 8, because pledges are essential to our ability to budget and plan.** Please consider committing to a 6% increase in your giving for 2025 to help UNITY accomplish our goals. If you feel especially able, consider a 10% increase. If you want to do more but not that much, a 3% increase gets us half-way!

Visit our "Pledge for 2025" web page to complete your pledge online; paper sheets are in narthex.

Thank you for all do to help us Celebrate the Past, Commit to the Future ... together!

~ **Stewardship Team:**
Trisha Smith (chair)
Kelsey Morrison
Steve Taipala
Brian Olsson





Please note this calendar is tentative. Watch your email, our website, and Facebook for updates.



Christ the King Campus



Cross of Life Campus

Colors denote campuses *only*;
Join in, either place, at any time!

Worship Schedule

SATURDAYS

5:00 pm: WORSHIP at COL

SUNDAYS

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

Sundays in December

December 1

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns

6:00 pm: Confirmation Classes at COL

6:00 pm: Sr. High: Christmas Tree Setup

No Sunday School due to holiday

December 8

Meet & Greets with Pr. Justin after all services at both campuses

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: Bible Study at COL:

Born in Bethlehem

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

5:45 pm: Sr. High: Escape Room

6:00 pm: Confirmation Classes at COL

December 15

Christmas Programs at all Services

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

3:00 pm: Blue Christmas at CTK:

A Service of Hope

6:00 pm: Confirmation Classes at COL

6:00 pm: Sr. High: White Elephant: COL

December 22

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: Special Meeting of the Congregation: Pastor Justin

9:45 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

December 29

8:30 am: WORSHIP at COL

9:30 am: WORSHIP at CTK

10:45 am: WORSHIP at COL

No Sunday School due to holiday

Monday, December 2

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, December 3

7:00 am: Men's Breakfast: The Crossings

6:00-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

Wednesday, December 4

6:15 pm: Confirmation Classes at COL

6:30 pm: Grief Group in COL Room 202

Thursday, December 5

7:00 pm: Women's Thursday Book Group

Friday, December 6

5:30 pm: Advent Fest at COL

Saturday, December 7

7:00 am: Holiday Blood Drive at COL

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Meet & Greet w/Pr. Justin after service

Monday, December 9

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, December 10

1:00 pm: Gift Bag Assembly & Delivery at CTK for Homebound

6:00-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

7:00 pm: Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 11

11:30 am: Lunch Bunch Group: Maxim's

4:00 pm: Mass Meal Prep: COL Kitchen

6:15 pm: Confirmation Classes at COL

Thursday, December 12

9:00 am: Sew Comfy Group at COL

7:00 pm: Men's Thursday Book Group

Friday, December 13

5:45 pm: Serve Dinner at Serenity Inns

Saturday, December 14

1:00 pm: Cookie Dec. at Aspen Center

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Christmas Program during Service

Monday, December 16

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, December 17

6:00-8:15 pm: All-Music Tuesday at COL

Wednesday, December 18

6:15 pm: Confirmation Classes at COL

6:30 pm: Grief Group in COL Room 202

Thursday, December 19

6:00 pm: Unaccompanied Minors at CTK

Saturday, December 21

7:30 am: Men's Breakfast Group at COL

9:30 am: Gift Bag Assembly & Delivery at COL for Hardships

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

Monday, December 23

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

Tuesday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

2:00 pm Worship at COL Campus

2:00 pm Worship at CTK Campus

4:00 pm Worship at CTK Campus

4:00 pm Worship at COL Campus

7:30 pm Worship at COL Campus

10:30 pm Worship at COL Campus

Wednesday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

No in-person worship services

Saturday, December 28

9:00 am: Serve: Waukesha Food Pantry

5:00 pm: Worship at COL

No Sunday School due to holiday

Monday, December 30

9:30 am: Quilting Group at COL

5:30 pm: Serve: Waukesha Food Pantry

Tuesday, December 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE





Advent and Christmas Services at UNITY • 2024



Cross of
Life Campus



Christ the
King Campus

Join in ... either
place, any time!

Advent Fest Friday, December 6 at COL

- 5:30 pm: **Potluck Dinner:** Ham and rolls provided.
Sign up online to bring dishes to pass.
- 6:15 pm: **Brief Service:** Sing the carols of the season!
Enjoy a vignette from Confirmation Students and
music from Joyful Noise & Celebration Choirs.
- 6:45 pm: **Crafting & Decorating:** Sign up online to make
a craft, OR be a part of decking the halls and
sanctuary trees! Sing along with Marv Wunder on
his accordion, and enjoy cookies & hot chocolate.
- 8:00 pm: **Evening wraps up.**

Special Seasonal Services

Saturday-Sunday, December 7-8
COL: Music by our Adult Choirs

Saturday-Sunday, December 14-15
COL: Sunday School Christmas Program
CTK: Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 15
3:00 pm: Blue Christmas at CTK: A Service of Hope

Sunday, December 22
CTK: Music by our Adult Choirs

Sunday School Christmas Programs

Saturday, December 14
5:00 pm • PreK-Grade 6 • COL

Sunday, December 15
8:30 am • PreK-Grade 3 • COL
9:30 am • PreK-Grade 6 • CTK
10:45 am • PreK-Grade 3 • COL



Christmas Eve Tuesday, December 24

2:00 pm: COL Campus
Readings, Carols and Candlelight
Special Message for the Children
Music: Children's Choir
In-Person and Live-Streamed

2:00 pm: CTK Campus
Readings, Carols and Candlelight
Special Message for the Children
Music: Bell Choir
Communion

4:00 pm: CTK Campus
Readings, Carols and Candlelight
Special Message for the Children
Music: Praise Band
Communion

4:00 pm: COL Campus
Readings, Carols and Candlelight
Special Message for the Children
Music: Brass Choir
Communion

7:30 pm: COL Campus
Readings, Carols and Candlelight
Music: Fellowship Choir
Communion

10:30 pm: COL Campus
Readings, Carols and Candlelight
Music: String Ensemble
Communion



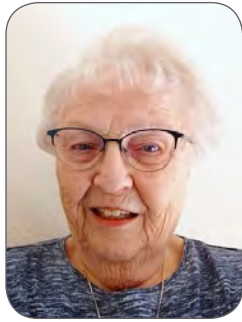
Christmas Day Wednesday, December 25

Watch for a **Christmas morning video**
that will be sent by email. Enjoy the day
as you give thanks for our Savior!

*"For unto you is born this day in
the city of David a Savior, who
is Christ the Lord." ~ Luke 2:11*



UNITY Lutheran Church • New Members • Fall 2024



BUTH, Deanna “Dee”

I moved to the area after my husband passed away to be closer to my daughter. I have been retired for 10 years and am enjoying every minute of it. I love to travel, swim, and take long walks.

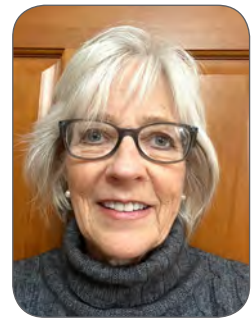


LLANAS, Dean & Beth Katie (7) & Lauren (4)

We are the Llanas Family: Dean, Beth, Katie (7) and Lauren (4). We reside in Brookfield but we are certainly not homebodies! We are active with mountain biking, camping, swimming and all things travel! When we are at home you'll find us hanging out by the fire pit. We cherish friends and family and are delighted to be a part of UNITY.



Celebrate. Share. Renew.



MACKENZIE, Joanne

My husband Alan and I and my 3 children – Brian, Jessica and John – were long-time members of Cross of Life a few decades ago (!) when we resided in Brookfield. Alan passed away in February 2024. We held his Celebration of Life service at UNITY-Cross of Life campus. Presently all of my children reside out of state: Boston, Minneapolis and Chicago. I have 5 grandchildren. I volunteer at the Wildlife in Need Center in Oconomowoc and at the Waukesha Food Pantry. I am happy to reactivate my membership with UNITY!



MANGANARO, Lucas & Crystal Megan (19), Rachel (18) & Nico (15)

Lucas works in supply chain/procurement consulting and Crystal is a stay-at-home mom. Megan is in her second year at University of Minnesota on a Physical Therapy track, Rachel is in her senior year at the High School of Health Sciences and plans to study engineering. Nico is in his sophomore year at Brookfield Central and enjoys sports and computers. We also have two dogs – Sammy and Scout – and a bunny named Blue.



**Please join us in welcoming
these New Members to
our UNITY family of faith!**



MOURS, Bryan & Sue

We met after being widowed and we celebrate our 10th Anniversary at the end of November. We have 4 children, along with their spouses, and 7 grandchildren. Bryan is semi-retired from the landscape software industry. Sue is a retired nurse practitioner. We live in Sussex and have a lake home in Keshena, WI. We like outdoor activities, we especially enjoy family time, and love to travel. We are happy to join UNITY after attending for several years.

**United in Christ we ...
Celebrate in our worship and lives,
Share with generous purpose,
Renew our communities and the
creation ... all through the One who
keeps us together in ministry.**

UNITY Christmas Flowers Order Form • 2024



Please note: All Poinsettias will be in GREEN FOIL.

In keeping with tradition at both UNITY campuses, Christmas flowers you purchase will be arranged around our altars to help us decorate for our services. **Flowers may be taken home following ANY Christmas Eve service on December 24.**

Please complete the order form below. Because it is for *both* campuses, **please indicate which campus you are purchasing flowers for.** You may place the order form with your **check made payable to “UNITY Lutheran Church”** in the offering plate at either campus or return it to either of our campus offices by **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10.**

Thank you for helping us adorn our sanctuaries for this special time of year, and for supporting a great cause! **Proceeds from the flower sales will benefit our Senior High Youth Group.** If you have any questions, please contact Bookkeeper Matt Griepentrog at matt@unitybrookfield.org or 262-787-8820.

Please remember to take your flowers after Christmas Eve service to enjoy them at home!

UNITY Christmas Flowers Order Form • 2024

Name: _____ Phone: _____

EMail: _____ In Celebration of Christ's Birth: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

I would like to purchase the following flowers for THIS CAMPUS: CTK _____ COL _____

Jingle Bells Poinsettia: \$15 # of plants: _____ x \$15 = Amount Due: \$ _____

White Poinsettia: \$15 # of plants: _____ x \$15 = Amount Due: \$ _____

Pink Poinsettia: \$15 # of plants: _____ x \$15 = Amount Due: \$ _____

Red Poinsettia: \$15 # of plants: _____ x \$15 = Amount Due: \$ _____

Payment due to UNITY by Tuesday, December 10

Total Enclosed: \$ _____