

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, January 1:
Wednesday, January 3:
Wednesday, January 10:

Happy New Year!! -Church Office Closed
Church Office Closed
PK – 5th Grade Christian Education
Confirmation

Saturday, January 13:
Monday, January 15:
Wednesday, January 17:

Gathering- All Are Welcome 9:00am-12pm
Free Meal at Wesley's Kitchen 11am-12:30pm
PK – 5th Grade Christian Education
Confirmation

Wednesday, January 24:
Wednesday, January 31:

PK – 5th Grade Christian Education
Confirmation
PK – 5th Grade Christian Education
Confirmation

Pastor Kathy Kluis
Cell: 712-304-0636
kathykluis@hotmail.com

Office Hours
Monday – Friday 8:00am-3:00pm
Phone: 712-362-4886
Fax: 712-362-2357
umc@mchsi.com

Administrative Assistant: Leah Flores
Choir Director: Diane Blom
Church Treasurer: Nancy Anderson
Cleaning: Tony Olson
Finance Secretary: Pat Watt
Music Director: Randy Yackle
Media Team: Nancy Anderson, Larinda Mueller
Ryan Ross, Kristin Ross

Worship Sunday mornings at 9:30am

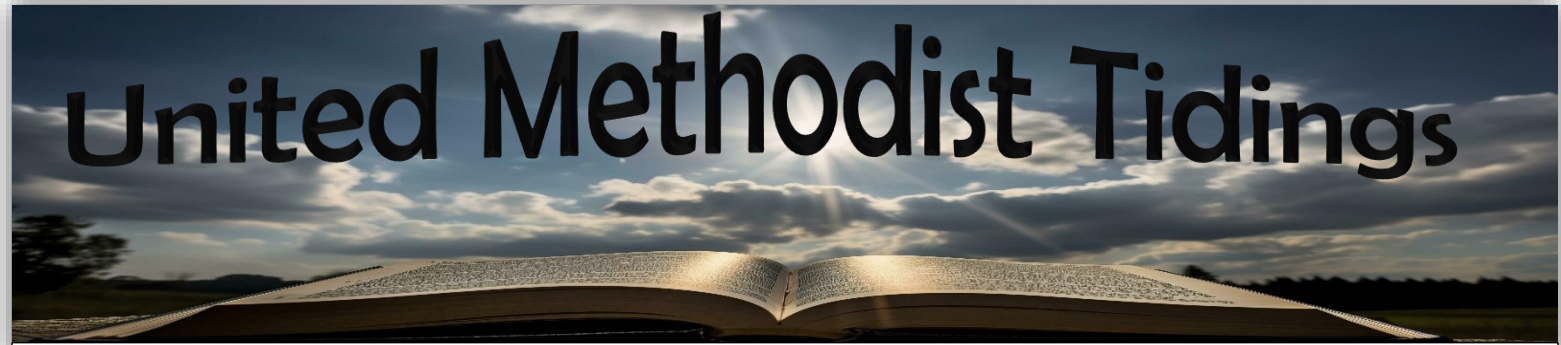


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Newsletter of the United Methodist Church of Estherville, Iowa

January 2024

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite Christmas poems is "The Work of Christmas" written by Howard Thurman.

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among the brothers,
To make music in the heart.

As we move forward with hope in 2024, we need to be doing what God has called us to do. Here and now where we are.

Luke 14: 28-30 gives us good reason to make plans for the future.

Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, "This person began to build and wasn't able to finish."

Many people in the Bible were people who planned, God had a plan.

What we need to do is set a plan in accordance with our vision. Not something written in stone or something that is so inflexible that it can't be changed or amended if needed as circumstances change or perhaps the Spirit guides us somewhere else.

With this in mind, here is an invitation for you to prayerfully and reflectively consider.

On Saturday, January 13, 2024, from 9:00 am to noon, all are invited to attend a meeting where we will discuss the work of our church for the calendar year of 2024. The following will be reviewed:

- the current vision statement (Connect to God, Grow in God, Serve with God)
- what resources we have available to us (volunteer hours, time, finances, energy, talents of people, others???)
- how we spend and use our resources (are we doing this in ways that align with our vision statement or are we not)
- how we are different from before
- what are our strengths and weaknesses
- what should our priorities be
- we will review a calendar's worth of ministry, events and look at the timing, value, and alignment of each one with or vision statement

Who is invited- anyone who cares to come, anyone who cares

In Christ,
Pastor Kathy

Continued →

By the way, I am learning that there are a few folks here who aren't on our membership role and some of them have never been asked...so here is your invitation to join the Estherville United Methodist Church on behalf of those who should have asked you, never asked you or you who couldn't figure out or didn't have the courage to ask yourself.

Would you like to be a member of the Estherville United Methodist Church?

Come and talk to me, or call my number, 712-304-0636. I usually try to keep office hours at the church on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00am-12pm. If I am not in my office, I am usually in the building walking, looming, tinkering, or exploring. I am easy to find. I am willing to do a two hour evening or after church on Sundays about basic membership if enough are interested.

Also, I am going to start a study group in mid-January, on Thursday mornings, I think. I am going to call it Basic United Methodist 101. We will talk about Wesleyan History, sacraments, how the theology was formed, we will review the vows of a United Methodist Member and polity, committees- who does what, etc....again if there is interest.

A Bible study is also in the works for Lent...more to come. Ash Wednesday is February 14th. Easter is early this year.

At the December Administrative Board Meeting it was decided that outside groups clarify the times they are meeting in the building and are asked to notify the church office if they will be in the building outside of those times. All groups will be sent an email with this information.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee wants to thank everyone for their continued support. We will be setting up an ADOPT A BILL bulletin board in the fellowship hall. We are so appreciative of everyone's continued support through the year of 2023. As we go into the new year of 2024, we will be challenged to make sure we continued our giving to your church. Presently we are running \$75,000 less income for the year. As a congregation we need to step up. Winter is always a struggle with the added costs of higher utilities and maybe some snow removal. LOL

Stewardship & Finance

Thank you to all who have turned in their pledge cards so far. Please consider pledging and return you pledge cards as soon as possible. This is crucial in determining our 2024 budget. Your pledge card can be changed at any time by calling Pat Watt at 362-4886. You can also leave a message for a return call. Also, you can sign up for automatic withdrawal at any time. You can obtain request forms from Leah, Pat, or Nancy. Thank you for supporting our Estherville United Methodist Church.

Blessings,
Pat Watt, EUMC Financial Secretary

STEWARDSHIP

Let's prayerfully consider your gifts to our church. Please pray we have another year of the most faithful giving congregation. I encourage you to sign up for automatic giving through your bank or credit union.

We rely on your pledges for our budget.

REMINDER:

Online giving is as easy as 1, 2 or 3

1. Bill pay through your financial institution

2. Easy tithe using your credit card. Sign up at: <http://www.esthervilleumc.com>

3. Automatic deduction through the church and your bank: monthly or semi-monthly. See Pat Watt.

January Ushers

Paul Fredrickson – Captain
Gary Myers
Don Edwards
Zach Edwards
Brian Morisch
Donna Fredrickson

January Cross Bearer

7 Alivia Crees
14 Addison Hooge
21 Moriah Reineke
28 Bridget Chrestiansen

January Acolytes

7 Cael Harvey
14 Ella Soper
21 Caiden Ingvall
28 Cael Harvey

Reminder: No Wednesday night Christian Education or Confirmation classes January 3, 2024, due to Christmas break. They will resume January 10th.

Paul & Donna Fredrickson
worshipped at St. Luke's
Lutheran Church in
Fairville (Cylinder), IA

ON AIR

Sponsor a Radio Broadcast

Sponsors are still needed for the 2024 radio broadcasts. Call the church office to reserve your date!

It is only \$65

Available dates:

January 7 th	January 14 th	February 4 th
February 25 th	March 24 th	March 31 st
April 7 th	April 21 st	April 28 th
May 12 th	May 26 th	

Please continue to pray for:

Lynn Anderson, Richard Baker, John Klein, Barb Carlson's brother-in-law, Ron Jacobsen, Roger Cassem, Ed Peterson, Audra Gruhlke, Carol Swartz's daughter-in-law, Dylon Peterson, Carol Williams and Elizabeth (Beth) Nosek.

January Greeters

7 Rod & Phyllis Alger
Mike & Deb Clague
14 Arlyn & Sue Omtvedt
Nancy Danielson
21 John & Jenny Christensen
Darrell & Gerry Boe
28 Steve & Pat Watt
Suzanne West

If you are willing to help usher for funerals (as needed) please contact Diane Blom at 712-362-2021

Susanna Wesley is selling cookbooks for \$5.00 each. You may purchase them during church office hours or check with Mavis King.

January Birthdays

- 03 Mona King
- 04 Don Edwards
- 05 Doug Jacobsen
- 07 Sharon Hooge
- 09 Laurie Harvego
- 10 Leo Ludwig
- Wrenlee Cowell
- 12 Stuart Johnson
- 13 Barbara Carlson
- 14 Morgan Soper
- 15 Joan Eveleth
- 16 Marcia Forsyth
- 17 Megan Karels
- 18 Faye Millsap
- 19 Ryan Jensen
- 20 Doug Evans
- 21 Donna Fredrickson
- 22 Barry Huntsinger
- Katelyn Chrestiansen
- 23 Kyran Hall
- 25 Pat Watt
- Michelle Ingvall
- 27 Grace Spalding
- 28 Shelley Lindell
- Beth Reineke
- 29 Pastor Kathy Kluis
- Brian Kesler
- 30 Carly Grange
- 31 Holly Jensen
- Jana Ludwig
- Addison Hooge

January Anniversaries

- 03 Roger & Sharen Cassem
- 13 Kalcey & Candace Harvey
- 24 Jerome & Faye Millsap

Committee Meeting
Reminders:
Church Council
January 30th 6:30pm
Education
January 16th 7:00pm
Finance
January 28th 10:45am
Outreach
January 9th 5:00pm
Trustees
January 14th 10:45am
Worship
January 9th 6:00pm

Circles are scheduled to meet as follows:

Martha
January 18th at 9:00am
Ruth
No meeting until March
Susanna Wesley
January 15th clean nursery 7:00 pm
Hostess: Mavis King
United Women in Faith
No meeting until March

OKOBOJI LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP
OUTREACH NIGHT
JANUARY 28TH
5:00-8:00 PM
\$5.00 PER PERSON
6TH – 12TH GRADERS
~WINTER GAMES~



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Happy New Year! -Church Office Closed	2 9:00am Staff Meeting 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop #544 RM#31	3 Church Office Closed 8:30am Estherville Area Ministerial Association -Duhigg Center	4	5	6
7 Communion Sunday 8:15am Chancel Choir Practice 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship Time 11:00am Central De Vida Worship	8 Pastor's Sabbath 9:30am Mat Loom Makers 4:00pm H.U.G. Puppets	9 9:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Outreach Committee Meeting 6:00pm Worship Committee Meeting	10 5:30pm PK - 5th grade Christian Education 6:45pm Confirmation	11	12	13 9:00am Gathering- All Welcome
14 8:15am Chancel Choir Practice 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship Time 10:45am Trustees Committee Meeting 11:00am Central De Vida Worship 3:45pm Twelve Mile Lakers 4-H Club	15 Newsletter Deadline Pastor's Sabbath 9:30am Mat Loom Makers 11:00am Wesley's Kitchen 7:00pm Susanna Wesley Circle-Clean Nursery	16 9:00am Staff Meeting 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop #544 RM#31 7:00pm Education Committee Meeting	17 5:30pm PK - 5th grade Christian Education 6:45pm Confirmation	18 9:00am Martha Circle	19	20
21 8:15am Chancel Choir Practice 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship Time 11:00am Central De Vida Worship	22 Pastor's Sabbath 9:30am Mat Loom Makers 4:00pm H.U.G. Puppets	23 9:00am Staff Meeting	24 5:30pm PK - 5th grade Christian Education 6:45pm Confirmation	25	26	27
28 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship Time 10:45am Finance Committee Meeting 11:00am Central De Vida Worship 4:15pm 6th - 12th grade Youth Group (will travel to Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp 5-8)	29 Pastor's Sabbath 9:30am Mat Loom Makers 4:00pm H.U.G. Puppets	30 9:00am Staff Meeting 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop #544 RM#31 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	31 5:30pm PK - 5th grade Christian Education 6:45pm Confirmation			



Setting up the Nativity



Memory Tree

Every year the United Women in Faith recognize two members of our church family that have shown their love of our church by the things they do. They were awarded certificates that say Special Mission Recognition on December 17th. Also, a donation will be made to missions in their honor and later they will receive pins. The two individuals selected were Larinda Mueller and Randy Yackle.

Larinda Mueller, along with her sister, were very successful as leaders of the high school UMYF. The kids loved what they did. The one thing that sticks out is a purple toilet that was passed around town as a fundraiser. The other thing that comes to mind is all the work she has done to develop and update the church's Facebook page. She also has been very instrumental in running the media. The pictures she adds to the screens are great. We are so thankful she stepped up and learned the new system so we can do a better job of broadcasting and sharing our service every Sunday. We are blessed to have her as a part of our church.

Randy Yackle and his sister Kelly put on the best trunk or treat night ever, 306 individuals came. He is already planning one for next year. What can we say about his music? It is inspirational to say the least. It moves us and sometimes brings tears to our eyes. He is always so good about working with the kids and their music endeavors. The guest singers have added so much to our services. He likes surprising different people presents to some of our members. We are blessed to have him as a part of our church.



Christmas Caroling

