



# ***Luverne UMC***

## ***December 2023 Messenger***

Merry Advent Everyone!

The season is upon us that leads us to Jesus!

I have so many awesome memories of what it means to be a family at Christmas. Honestly, we always did family well! It was something I remember from way back when in my life! I even have a special memory of a big person bending over my Christmas tree wearing a red suit when I was little. Why was I sleeping on the couch? I'm not sure...but the memory is there!

What a special time to look back in warmth and love! However, for me, my memories didn't include Jesus and church and another special family until much later in my life. I think often of how much more I missed out on.

What is happening within our faith family is something very special! I recall recent Sundays when we're so engrossed in discussion with each other that we begin our service as you are all getting to your seats! What a wonderful thing to know that our time together has become so important!

This season reminds us of what this is all about, it is about embracing the time we have with each other, who we celebrate and who gave us the reason!

We've gone through a great deal this year! Through discussion about the United Methodist denomination and disaffiliation, to celebrating 150 years of being a church. We can honestly say the deep things we have experienced have allowed us to grow closer together.

Advent and Christmas are about the celebration of Jesus, our Savior and remembering this little baby who has made a mark in our lives. As Steven Lawson from One Passion ministries said, Jesus did not come to create a holiday, he was born to die for sinners."

An interesting choice of words but filled with truth. What this statement reminds us of is that although we are sinners, we must be careful it doesn't become about us. Walking in faith and celebrating this precious time of year is significant! Sharing our faith as a faith family and as Christians is imperative! This is about Jesus and what an amazing gift to celebrate!

Thank you, Jesus, for giving me my faith family!!

Christmas Blessings!

*Pastor Jorie*

**UMC Luverne Members and Friends that live in Special Homes:**

**Mary Jane Brown Home**  
~ Bill Holling ~ David Johnson

**MN Veterans Home**  
~ Keith Luethje

**Poplar Creek Assisted Living**  
~ Annabelle Frakes



**The Oaks**  
~ Sally Cooksley

**The Tuff Home - Hills**  
~ Ralph Watts



**COMMUNION SUNDAY**  
**DECEMBER 10, 2023**

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**SHUT IN COMMUNION/VISITS**

**DECEMBER 13, 2023**

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**DECEMBER 19, 2023**



**ALIVE Field Trip - January 14**

**Officer Recognition Sunday - January 21**

**ALIVE meet in the youth Room - January 28**

**Chocolate Buffet and Spaghetti Feed - Feb. Date TBD**

**Ash Wednesday - February 14**

**Confirmation Retreat - February 18-19**

**The Prayer Chain**

Please call Jan Brandenburg @  
283-4059 for specific  
announcements or if you or  
someone you know needs extra  
prayer. We are here to help!

**The Prayer Chain list for the month of December is as follows:**

**WEEK OF December 3, 2023** - Marian Eatherton, Jack and Felicia Hanson, Ed and Cherise Ray Family, Jordan and Andrea Sparks Family, Jerry and Beth Wieman and praise and thanksgiving to Jesus.

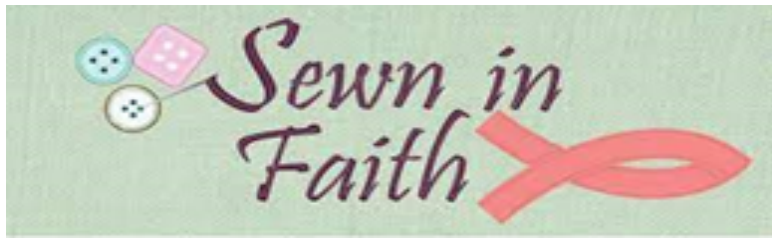
**WEEK OF December 10, 2023** - Jeff and Johnna Ahrendt Family, Josh and Ashley Christensen Family, Russ and Colleen Enga, James Hanson, Kevin Kraetsch and Sherri Smith, Clyde and Ginny Menning and for the finances of our church and tithing.

**WEEK OF December 17, 2023** - Dustin Aning and Melissa Wood Family, Sally Cooksley, Dale Hawes, Mark and Tammy Moeller, Dale and Cindy Reverts, Madison Crabtree and for Peace in our Nation.

**WEEK OF December 24, 2023** - Becky and Dan Anderson, Jesse and Ashley Connell Family, Daniel and Joci Fick, Jennifer Kruse Family, Aaron and Abby Moeller Family, Ian and Kristen Ruppert Family and for hearts that are searching.

**WEEK OF December 31, 2023** - Laura Hollaren, Gene Ashby, Carol Kor and Steve Ferguson, Darwin and Evelyn Reyne, Mary Gehrke, Pastor Dorie and Luther Hall Family and for the Lent and Easter Season.





Sewn In Faith continues to make quilts and that's not all, we have started making clothing protectors for nursing home patients. We have donated 20 clothing protectors to the Veterans Home and plan on donating some to the Mary Jane Brown Home next. A lot of baby quilts were given to the Alpha Center for unwed mothers.

One bath towel will make one clothing protector and one burpie bib. If anyone could use one or more burpie bibs, please let us know. We have been purchasing lightweight towels at Walmart as they are the correct weight that is needed. If you have any lightweight towels that you no longer need, please leave them on the pew outside of the sewing room (one floor down from the sanctuary). We will only meet once this month. Everyone is invited to join us.... You don't even need to sew – just come enjoy some fellowship and snacks!

Our next and only meeting this month is

December 12, 2023



Sponsor a broadcast for \$95. The chart for 2023 is on the bulletin board by the church office. Sign up today!!!!

Here is a list of our honoree supporters for November 2023:

**November 5, 2023** - This broadcast was sponsored in honor and remembrance of those we have left behind and in celebration for those who bring new life into our loving faith family. May we hold them all in our hearts and prayers.

**November 12, 2023** - This broadcast was sponsored in honor and recognition of Veterans Day yesterday. May we remember those who have laid down their life for our freedom and country. Let us honor those who were injured defending our freedom and are home now and those who are currently serving and keeping us safe. Land of the free because of the brave! God Bless!

**November 19, 2023** - This broadcast was sponsored in honor of Buster Rust. May he rest in peace and joy as he is now with our Savior in heaven. This broadcast was sponsored by Annabelle Frakes. We thank you Annabelle for sponsoring this morning's broadcast.

**November 26, 2023** - This broadcast was sponsored in honor of this upcoming holiday season! As we spend time with family and friends with yummy meals, Christmas shopping and opening gifts we can easily get caught in the hustle and bustle and lose sight of it all...the true meaning of Christmas: Jesus our Savior!! Take time out, thank and honor him for all he does for us!

December 2023 Silver Bucket



Luverne United Methodist Church

Free Community Meals

And also the

Annual Christmas Eve Dinner



These meals have been such a success and a wonderful opportunity to share our love and a meal with our community. Please give generously to this month's Silver Bucket so that we can continue providing these meals to those who would like to come!

All donations will go toward this cause.



This year's Endowment Fund grant applications are available. We will need them turned in to Josh Crabtree by December 1, 2023 so we will have time to review for grant disbursement. Thank you!





Our Prayer Warriors meet the second Sunday of every month. There is strength in numbers. Prayer Warriors are needed to help those we know personally in need and for things happening in our world today that need us to pray and stand strong together to overcome!

Our next meeting is December 10, 2023  
after our service in the sanctuary!

All are welcome!



It's back!! Don't forget to mark your calendars for our monthly Pizza Ranch Take Out Fundraiser Night on the 2nd Wednesday of each month! 10% of the proceeds will come back to the church to benefit our Children and Youth Wednesday night programs!

It's easy! Call or go into Pizza Ranch and get your order to go...bring it home...ENJOY the yumminess of your meal...and BAM...10% of your order is given back to our church...

Our first Take-Out Night is

DECEMBER 13, 2023



I would like to remind everyone to please check in at the office when you are coming in or leaving! It is so hard to know in this big building! And, also, if you are the last one out of the church, please be sure all doors are locked...thank you!



Please be sure to join us at our very special Hanging of the Greens Sunday Worship Service on December 3, 2023! This is an Annual Worship Service where we decorate our Sanctuary for the Christmas Season. After our very special service, please be sure to join us downstairs in our Fellowship Hall for our Annual Hanging of the Greens/Christmas potluck! Please bring a dish to share with everyone!



United  
Women  
in Faith

God's Circle  
December 5, 2023  
1:30pm



We are planning a women's tea event for December 5th at 1:30pm during our God's Circle meeting. We are planning on making Christmas decorations while having tea and enjoying each others company. If you are interested in attending, please talk to Mary, Sandy, or Pastor Dorie so we know how many supplies we need!

## Faith Family Feature

This month's Faith Family Feature is dedicated to our homebound members! Remember to reach out to those who may not be able to attend our services in person for whatever reason this season. Send a Christmas card or a Christmas treat. Let them know we love them. If you would rather reach out to them through a phone call (or maybe all three) just call the office and ask Jakki or Pastor Dorie to help you with that! A little love goes a long, long way so bring them cheer this holiday season! Here is the list below:

Raymond Hankins  
1516 E Avenue  
Worthington, MN 56187

Dale Hawes  
210 E. Oakland Avenue  
Luverne, MN 56156

Bill Holling  
110 S. Walnut Avenue #301  
Luverne, MN 56156

David Johnson  
110 S. Walnut Avenue #117  
Luverne, MN 56156

Russ and Colleen Enga  
1504 Blue Ridge Drive  
Luverne, MN 56156

Betty Luethje  
220 Oak Drive  
Luverne, MN 56156

Keith Luethje  
MN Vets Home  
PO Box 539  
Luverne, MN 56156

Stephen Foster  
120 N. Spring Street #405  
Luverne, MN 56156

Annabelle Frakes  
201 Oak Drive Apt. 402  
Luverne, MN 56156

Sally Cooksley  
203 Oak Drive Apt. 112  
Luverne, MN 56156

Ralph Watts  
Tuff Memorial Home  
505 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hills, MN 56138

Marvin Laackmann  
1487 115<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Luverne, MN 56156

Norbert and Laureen Fick  
121 N. Davison Street  
Luverne, MN 56156

Phyllis Mohr  
604 W. Warren Street  
Luverne, MN 56156

James Johnson  
120 W. Hatting Street #103  
Luverne, MN 56156



Be sure to mark your calendar for December 20th at 7pm! The Children's Christmas Program is coming! This year they're going with a Star Wars theme...with last year's Woodstock theme and its success, we cannot wait to see what the kids have in store!

**Annual Christmas Meditation**  
Friday, December 22, 2023 ~ 4pm - 7pm  
Luverne Palace Theater

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In the hope of expanding our community outreach, we will be holding our annual Christmas Meditation at the Luverne Palace Theater from 4:00-7:00pm on Friday, December 22, 2023.

During this time, you are encouraged to relax, perhaps reflect on the past year, remember the reason for the season, and take time out for yourself; away from shopping lists, cooking and baking lists, and other various stressors we may be facing this time of year.

You are welcome to take a seat in the theater, listen to peaceful piano music, and center yourself into the Christmas season. The theater will be darkened, lightened only by Christmas. As always, this is a free event and open to all and you are welcome to stay as long as your heart needs.

Christmas goodies and cider will be available in the lobby.

**Free Community Meal**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE ~ 6PM**

PLEASE SIGN UP AT CHURCH OR CALL THE OFFICE. THIS  
WILL HELP WITH FOOD PREPARATION AND PLANNING

ALL ARE WELCOME! ~ PICK-UP OPTION AVAILABLE ~

LUVERNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
109 N. FREEMAN AVE (507) 283-4529

\*\*WE ARE OFFERING THIS MEAL WITH A FREE WILL OFFERING IF YOU WISH  
HOWEVER, LUMC OFFERS THIS MEAL WITHOUT EXPECTATION OF GIFTS\*\*



We haven't shared this message for a while and past experiences have prompted the necessity to bring this to your attention again.

For a variety of reasons, including privacy laws, it becomes more important for all of you to be aware that your pastor does not automatically get information about you, especially when you need to see your pastor. Your pastor can be there for you only as she is aware, it becomes very important for you to communicate these needs to her or instruct a family member to do so. The days when caregivers/facilities automatically called the church no longer exist. The importance of letting your pastor know what's happening is completely up to you.

Please know your pastor is very willing to be with you whenever you need her - if she knows!





Please continue to turn in  
your Sunshine receipts. And  
remember, Sunshine Gift  
Cards are not a substitute  
for the receipts!



Just a reminder that there are Sunshine Food cards  
available in the office during the week and on Sundays.  
They make great gifts for the holiday season!

These work just like vouchers. These cards come in  
\$25, \$50, and \$100 increments. If you don't use it  
all...that is okay...this card holds the balance over for  
another time! Stop in and get some today.



|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 - Nova Like           | 19 - Harper VandenHoek  |
| 4 - Jerry Rigney        | 20 - Jay Mann           |
| Kasyn Kruse             | Caitlynn Moeller        |
| 5 - Paul Donth, Jr.     | Olivia Moeller          |
| 6 - Mitchell Schomacker | 23 - Aubrey Davis       |
| 7 - Adam VonHoltum      | 26 - Ashley Christensen |
| 10 - Blake Sauer        | 30 - Donald Ray         |
| 11 - Deb Hanson         | 31 - Jessa Dahl         |
| 13 - LaVonne Anderson   | Meg Petersen            |

*Food & Fellowship*  
a free community meal



January 24, 2024

February 28, 2024

March 27, 2024

Please Join Us  
FREE OF CHARGE  
5:30 PM

**LUVERNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

109 N. FREEMAN AVENUE  
LUVERNE, MN 56156  
(507) 283-4529

Pastor Dorie Hall  
(Home) 507-283-4551  
(Cell) 507-920-5278  
[pastor@umcluverne.com](mailto:pastor@umcluverne.com)  
[pastordoriehall77@gmail.com](mailto:pastordoriehall77@gmail.com)

Church Secretary  
Jakki Lindsley  
[jakki@umcluverne.com](mailto:jakki@umcluverne.com)

# Worship Responsibilities

| Date           | Lay Reader          | Hosts                      | Power Point       | Sound        | Counters                    | Worship Asst.  | Coffee                  | Gift Cards        |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Dec. 3</b>  | Sandy Vogt          | Dake and Vicki Slack       | Carol McDonald    | David Vis    | Jack and Felicia Hanson     | Willy Baker    | Bill and Maggie Paulsen | Karis Dwire       |
| <b>Dec. 10</b> | Christine VonHoltum | Bill and Maggie Paulsen    | Jeanne Bowron     | Matthew Fick | Everett and Jan Brandenburg | Mary Gehrke    | Lola Donth              | Sharron Betsinger |
| <b>Dec. 17</b> | Becky Anderson      | Wayne and Amy Kruger       | Reegan Gabrielson | Luther Hall  | Jack and Felicia Hanson     | Sandy Vogt     | Jeanne Bowron           | Brenda Stickling  |
| <b>Dec. 24</b> | Lola Donth          | Jason and Karla Kruse      | Jennifer Hilfers  | Jason Kruse  | Jack and Felicia Hanson     | Open           | Open                    | None              |
| <b>Dec. 31</b> | Travis Dwire        | Bryce and Ginger Scomacker | Jennifer Hilfers  | Matthew Fick | Jay and Bev Mann            | Emily Crabtree | Wyatte Kruse            | Mary Gehrke       |

| Communion            | Video     |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Dale and Vicki Slack | Beth Fick |

| Trustee of the Week                      |                |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|
| November 27, 2023 thru December 3, 2023  | Roger Carlson  |
| December 4, 2023 thru December 10, 2023  | Beth Fick      |
| December 11, 2023 thru December 17, 2023 | Laura Hollaren |
| December 18, 2023 thru December 24, 2023 | Al Aanenson    |
| December 25, 2023 thru January 1, 2024   | Jeanne Bowron  |



# November Budget

| General Budget Totals                      |           |                  |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| November 5, 2023 through November 25, 2023 |           |                  |
| Envelopes                                  | \$        | 22,548           |
| Loose Offering                             | \$        | 771.00           |
| Apportionments                             | \$        | 200.00           |
| Coffee Shop                                | \$        | 71.00            |
| <b>Online Giving (October)</b>             | <b>\$</b> | <b>3,825.00</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>\$</b> | <b>27,605.00</b> |
| Non Budget Donations                       |           |                  |
| Silver Bucket                              | \$        | 153.26           |
| Upper Room                                 | \$        | 4.00             |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>\$</b> | <b>157.26</b>    |
| <b>Auction/150th Dinner</b>                | <b>\$</b> | <b>2,227.45</b>  |
| <b>Totals</b>                              | <b>\$</b> | <b>27,605.00</b> |
|                                            | \$        | 157.26           |
|                                            | \$        | 2,227.45         |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                         | <b>\$</b> | <b>30,034.71</b> |



Church Membership is challenged this December!

When people ask me what I want for Christmas, I think about it and realize there are things on my “want” list, but nothing on my “need” list. God has been good to me and I love my church and church family. I live safely in a heated/cooled home and I have a family that I love. I have friends and I love being able to do things with them. I can go where I want. The blessings from God cause my cup to overflow again and again. So...I am paying a month’s apportionments to help support my church family and the missions of the church. I challenge others to consider doing the same. God is good!