



# Luverne UMC

## February 2024 Messenger

Happy beautiful January everyone!

Is it fair to say that we have seen everything in the weather this month? Wow! Fifty degrees the weekend of Christmas with rain and just a month later, 12 inches of snow, blizzard conditions, below zero and wind chills even colder than that....and now we are thawing! People from Minnesota are hardy souls for sure! And I am thankful for that hardiness! How about you?

One of the things we were set to celebrate this month was our leadership! Unfortunately, doing so was scheduled for a very cold Sunday and our attendance was low and we had set it to the side for a later date.

We are blessed to have a whole bunch of people taking on leadership roles and responsibilities and I wanted to take a minute to say thank you to each and every one of you. What I wonder is if you know how important you are to this faith family and all that happens within it! We have amazing people who work hard in our Family Ministries teaching and assisting and planning, as well as loving on our kids young and old, Trustees who keep this building in good condition (you may not realize this but almost **every area** of our church has been tended to in the last ten years or so), we have a beautiful group of ladies who go out visiting our shut ins with me, a group of special people who help me with Community meals every month....we have so many people who are present on Sundays and help with worship, those who lead Bible studies, a dedicated group of people who tend to our financial matters, we have people who strive to keep various groups together like God's Circle (which was the UMW prior) and those who are trying to create new groups), we have talented people who help plan our Sundays and other special worship events, and special people who create events for our membership and for our community to let them know they are loved and cared for. And all these areas create relationships and connections to each other and beyond! They build and embrace with all that Jesus came to give us! And it is good!

If I were to have you all together and ask you to rise as we thank you, I would imagine that almost all of you would rise in response to the call.

That's what it means to be a faith family. We are living out one of the most important pieces of the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus told us that we were to love each other as (I) have loved you, and he adds to love the Lord your God as yourself as well. In love, we care for each other, encourage, and support each other and ultimately build relationships with each other and those in the world. Hebrews 10:24-25 tells us this:

*"...let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching".*

As a member of this faith family, we do more than "show up and occupy a pew" on Sunday. We are striving to build and strengthen a foundation of faith in our own lives as well as everyone we spend time with here. We are all considered leaders in this faith family, because of our relationships! Thank you for being a part of this adventure and embracing the walk of faith!

Let us read and remember these wonderful scriptures as we continue through this month and beyond:

- **1 Corinthians 16:14:** Do everything in love.
- **1 Peter 4:8:** *Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.*
- **Ephesians 4:2-3 :** *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*
- **Hebrews 10:24-25 :** *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Be Blessed Everyone!

*Pastor Doree*

UMC Luverne Members and Friends that live  
in Special Homes:

Mary Jane Brown Home  
~ Bill Holling ~ David Johnson  
~ Phyllis Mohr

MN Veterans Home  
~ Keith Luethje

St. Clair Creek Assisted Living  
~ Annabelle Frakes



The Oaks  
~ Sally Cooksley

The Tuff Home - Hills  
~ Ralph Watts



COMMUNION SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 11, 2024

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SHUT IN COMMUNION/VISITS

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

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FEBRUARY 20 , 2024



Faith Family Event - March 3

Lenten Season - February 14 - March 28

FUEL Auction/MN Hotdish Meal - March 24

Palm Sunday - March 24

Easter Sunday - March 31

## 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 February is as follows:

**WEEK OF February 4, 2024** - Wayne Biever, Everett and Jan Brandenburg, Travis Frakes, Wayne Holmgren, Thomas Porter, Roger and Sandy Vogt and for UMC Ministries in our state.

**WEEK OF February 11, 2024** - David Noerenberg, Sondra Coulter, Mary Gehrke, Marie Paulsen, Vicki Walker, Stephen Foster and for Revival of our Nation.

**WEEK OF February 18, 2024** - Patrick and Andrea Bennett Family, Mark Dahl and Dr. Diane Kennedy, Brett and Marissa VanderPoel Family, Keith and Betty Luethje, Shane and Katie Sauer Family and for our Senior Care Ministry.

**WEEK OF February 25, 2024** - John and Jeanne Bowron, Shawn and Gretchen Davis, Cody and Elly Gehrke Family, David Johnson, Fran Vos and for Rock County Ministries.



"Sewn In Faith will begin displaying quilts that have been made so the congregation can see and learn more about our mission. Quilts are given to non-profit organizations as well as to those who are homebound or are facing a serious health condition. If a quilt is going to a specific person prior to being displayed, it will be notated on the quilt. Some people have asked to purchase quilts in the past so this will continue to be an option. If interested, please contact Becky Anderson or one of the other members of Sewn in Faith."

Due to the weather, we couldn't meet in December so there really isn't much to report on yet. However, February will be a different story as we have purchased numerous large totes of fabric. What a blessed way to start the new year!

We meet on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 where we will work on finishing quilts and Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 when we will be making other projects (to be decided). We enjoy much fellowship and would love to have you join us (remember - no experience required).







Sponsor a broadcast for \$95. The chart for 2024 is on the bulletin board by the church office. Sign up today!!!!

Here is a list of our honoree supporters for January 2024:

**January 7, 2024** - This broadcast was sponsored in honor of the two pastors who are sharing their messages with us and being here while our Pastor is away. It was/is wonderful to have both of you. Pastor Laura Borman last week and today we welcome Pastor Nancy Manning. Thank you for your time and wisdom!

**January 14, 2024** - This broadcast was sponsored in honor of the leaders of our church. You are so important to all of us and we need your help to inspire our youth to grow in faith and their church and keep things running smoothly! Thank you for all you do!

**January 21, 2024** - This broadcast was sponsored in prayer to all of those that are suffering from homelessness, grief and mental illness. All of these things are a reality here in our community. We pray for them to find help they need and for Jesus to comfort them in their time of need. May they be rescued from the storm within and around them.

**January 28, 2024** - This broadcast was sponsored in support to our Compassion Fund and the 16th Annual Chocolate Buffet and Spaghetti Dinner. All free will donation will go toward our Compassion Fund to help those in need on the local level.



Remember - everything you buy at the grocery store (not the gas station) is eligible for the 1% cash back that our church receives. The money collected for this goes to the Compassion Fund which helps individuals in need.

For the year 2023 (thru 12/17/23), the receipts totaled \$146,704.36 so 1% of that is \$1,467.05. This is an increase of \$141.29 over 2022 and \$563.03 over 2021 which shows that every little bit helps.

Thank you for your support!



## February 2024 Silver Bucket



This month's Silver Bucket is our own Luverne UMC Compassion Fund. This is a fund that is used to help those in need on the local community level of Luverne. It can assist with many things within reason and to help fund our free Community Meals. All donation will go toward this ministry.

In February we also have a Trunk Ministry for Soup-er Bowl a collection of soup to go out to the Rock County Food Shelf.



### Silver Bucket Offering List for 2024

As you know, each month we at the Luverne UMC have a special monthly offering to a certain area or organization in need. Here is your Silver Bucket offering list for 2024...

**February** - Compassion Fund

**August** - Suicide Walk/Hotline

**March** - Trustee Fund

**September** - Emma Norton

**April** - Heifer International

**October** - SHARE

**May** - Love Offering

**November** - REACH Literacy

**June** - Rock the Edge

**December** - Christmas/Community Meals

**July** - Food Shelf

### Trunk Ministry Offering for 2024

**February** - Soup-er Bowl

**July** - Food Shelf

**October** - Undy Sunday



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.






16th Annual *Spaghetti Dinner & Chocolate Buffet*  
 Sunday, February 4  
 4:30 to 6:30pm  
 Luverne United Methodist Church  
 Fellowship Hall  
 109 N Freeman

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥  
*Treats to-go will be available!*

Free Will Donations - Proceeds to the LUMC Compassion Fund ♥ *Everyone welcome! Bring a friend*



**God's Circle**  
**February 6, 2024**  
**1:30pm**

*Lord -  
 Raise Up  
 Warriors,  
 who will fight  
 on their knees,  
 who will worship  
 You with their  
 whole heart.*

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  
 February 11, 2024  
 after our service in the sanctuary!  
 All are welcome!



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 next Take-Out Night is  
 February 14, 2024

*Rejoice In The Lord Always*



*... It's Kids Sing Sunday...  
 February 18, 2024*

# LENTEN Schedule

| Date        | Service         | Location           | Pastor      | Theme                    |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| February 14 | Ash Wednesday   | First Presbyterian | Dorie Hall  | Love                     |
| February 21 | Lenten Week 1   | United Methodist   | Steve Voris | Peace                    |
| February 28 | Lenten Week 2   | First Presbyterian | Dorie Hall  | Kindness and Gentleness  |
| March 6     | Lenten Week 3   | United Methodist   | Steve Voris | Generosity and Goodness  |
| March 13    | Lenten Week 4   | First Presbyterian | Dorie Hall  | Faithfulness             |
| March 20    | Lenten Week 5   | United Methodist   | Steve Voris | Patience and Forbearance |
| March 28    | Maundy Thursday | First Presbyterian | Dorie Hall  | Traditional Text         |
| March 29    | Good Friday     | United Methodist   | Steve Voris | Traditional Text         |

**ALL SERVICES LISTED ABOVE ARE AT 7PM**



We need volunteers to make coffee, and serve after the February 21, March 6 and March 20 Luverne UMC Lenten services. We also need volunteers to make bars and cookies.

If you are interested in helping or have questions, please contact Christine VonHoltum at the number below.

(507) 351-5535  
Thank you!

## Faith Family Feature

This month's Faith Family Feature is everyone who helps with our digital media for ministry. Our outreach to the community is so important! It is accomplished with the technology of live streaming, radio broadcasting and those who work in our sound booth each Sunday. Special thanks go out to our soundboard team: David Vis, Matthew Fick, Luther Hall, and Jason Kruse. Our PowerPoint providers: Jennifer Hilfers, Jeanne Bowron, Reegan Gabrielson, Journey Dwire, and for a long time, Carol McDonald. Beth Fick for making our videos.

Also, we wish to thank Shannon Dwire for her help with our Live Streaming services; not to mention the rest of our technology services and software. She makes it easier for all of us to connect online through VANCO, FlockNote, ShareFaith, Facebook and the church website. I hope no others were left out because without ALL of you, we could not reach as many people as we do! Thank you all for your help in this area of our outreach ministry.

Currently, we are looking for more help with our live streaming. Anyone who may be interested in helping in this area, please speak to Shannon Dwire or Pastor Dorie.



We have a meeting scheduled to plan for the Lenten Season and our Annual Auction which will be held on March 24, 2024 (Palm Sunday). This is our biggest fundraiser which “fuels” our FUEL ministry! We will also begin to talk about summer activities.

The Confirmation Class will be attending two events in the coming months: our annual Confirmation Retreat at the Grandstay in February and the Confirmation Conference in March, along with a game afternoon on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The end of our regular classes will be celebrated with a party at Bowling Alley on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Details will be forthcoming. We ask that you continue to pray for this area of our church as we strive to build a strong Christian foundation for our kids.

Moms and Dads, Grandpas and Grandmas.... THANK YOU for sharing your kiddos with us and helping us build their faith in Jesus!





The M&M Committee would like to let you know about our next Faith Family Event which will be held:

**March 3, 2024**

It is our plan to have an afternoon of Games and Snacks. We are aware that there are those who absolutely love Pinochle and those who would love to learn how to play it, so that's one of the things on our agenda! Along with UNO, and other fun games we want to play, we will spend time in fellowship and laughter and all kinds of things. This event will be a youth event as well and is meant to foster relationship within our faith family. SNACKS will be provided! Please plan on joining us for a great afternoon!

## Food & Fellowship

a free community meal



**February 28, 2024**

**March 27, 2024**

**April 24, 2024**

**Please Join Us  
FREE OF CHARGE  
5:30 PM**



- |                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 - George McDonald   | 17 - Morris Fick             |
| Josey Klosterbuer     | 20 - Solomon Nielson         |
| 4 - Dr. Diane Kennedy | 21 - Ashley Connell          |
| 5 - Daniel Fick       | Riley Anderson               |
| 6 - Terry Nelson      | 24 - Josiah Schmidt-Natte    |
| 7 - Colby Crabtree    | 26 - Rev. Dr. Deborah Mariya |
| 8 - Brenda Stickling  | Peggy Nelson                 |
| 9 - Beth Wieman       | 28 - Drew Fick               |
| 14 - Jim Hanson       |                              |



## JUST A REMINDER

If you are interested in getting in touch with any of our homebound faith family members and haven't gotten the time with all the holiday hustle and bustle...no worries just look in your December Messenger for the list of those members or contact the office for an address and phone number for any of them. All is appreciated! A kind gesture can make not only their day, but yours as well!

## 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)

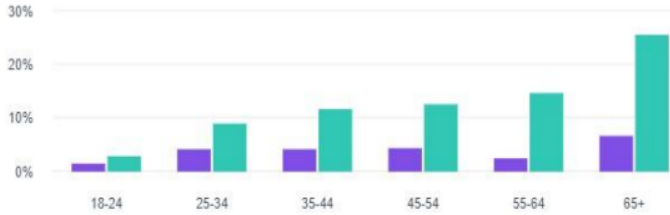
**Church Secretary  
Jakki Lindsley  
[jakki@umcluverne.com](mailto:jakki@umcluverne.com)**

# 2023 STATS AND INFORMATION

## Who watches our Facebook LiveStream?

### Age and Gender

Men 23.60%  
Women 76.40%



|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Luverne, MN      | 215 |
| Sioux Falls, SD  | 28  |
| Lamberton, MN    | 12  |
| Worthington, MN  | 12  |
| Pipestone, MN    | 11  |
| Lakefield, MN    | 8   |
| Hardwick, MN     | 7   |
| Sanborn, MN      | 7   |
| Beaver Creek, MN | 6   |
| Hills, MN        | 6   |

## FaceBook LiveStream Church Services Online

While we want everyone to attend in person, this ministry is for those unable to attend in person and the service continues to be available online  
We have 508 Followers to our Facebook page

### Facebook Activity Measured in 3 ways:

1. Peak Viewers - highest viewers during livestream
2. Reach - how many have seen post at least once since post
3. Engagement - Reactions/Comments

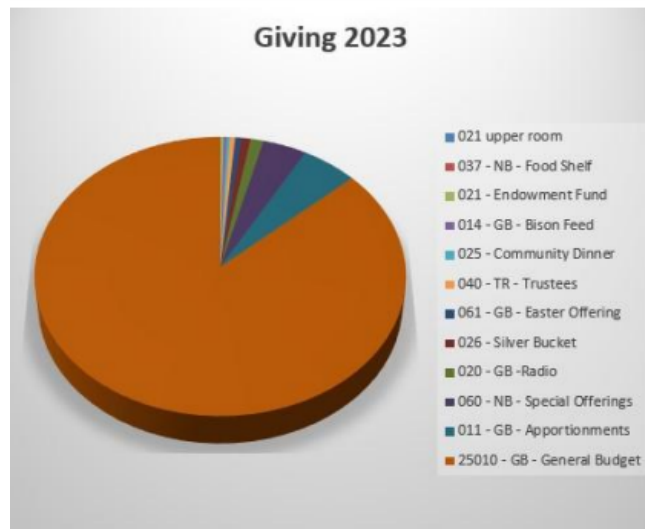
| Dates<br>Week of: | Peak | Reach  | Engagement |
|-------------------|------|--------|------------|
| Dec 3             | 11   | 164    | 25         |
| Dec 10            | 9    | 133    | 6          |
| Dec 17            | 6    | 137    | 7          |
| Dec 24            | 10   | 165    | 5          |
| Dec 31            | 8    | 133    | 8          |
| Jan 7             | 6    | 152    | 3          |
| Jan 14            | 16   | 661    | 43         |
| AVERAGE           | 9.43 | 220.71 | 13.86      |

### Peak, Reach and Engagement



## In-Person Attendance

- **Average In-Person Attendance**  
2023 = 63 People  
2022 = 60 People
- **Highest In-Person Attended Services**  
2023 = 96 on April 2  
2022 = 122 on April 17



\$212.92 average gift

66 households gave 958 gifts totaling \$203,973.02. Nice!

In December of 2023, the UMC Endowment committee met to review the grant applications that were received for the 2023 UMC Endowment Fund disbursement. The committee was happy to be able to fund nearly \$5900 in grant monies this year. These dollars will go to help fund projects in technology, worship and music, trustees project focused on church security, and continued efforts to meet the church's mission through quilting and sewing projects.

At the time of writing this newsletter submission, we would like to take this opportunity to provide insight and awareness to the endowment committee process and also look toward the future. This year the timing of our grant cycle was delayed. Usually the grant cycle happens in the late summer with grants being awarded in the early fall. Annually, the Endowment committee looks back at the Endowment fund financial performance for the year prior and using the recommended annual disbursement recommendation formula from the Luverne Area Community Foundation, a percentage of the total endowment balance is determined available to be disbursed for grant purposes. Typically, this amounts to around 5% of the fund balance being granted each year. Over the past several years we have averaged over 5% return on the endowment fund, thus we have been able to maintain, and even grow slightly, the principal balance within the endowment.

Based on the charter of the Endowment committee, the covenants made with, and guidance given from the founders and initial stewards of the endowment fund, the endowment fund committee uses those guidelines to grant the dollars available to the grant requests received.

As we look back on the past couple of years, the amount of new donations to the Endowment Fund have been few. The committee has discussed potential plans to revisit a fundraising meal where the proceeds would go to the Endowment fund. Other fundraising opportunities as well as ways to educate and engage people in ways that they can support the United Methodist Church through gifts to the Endowment Fund, have also been considered but no set plans for any particular events have been made.

If you have any questions about the UMC Endowment Fund, you have a desire to help support the Endowment Fund with a gift, or you would like to participate on the Endowment Fund Committee, please reach out to Josh Crabtree, Mary Gehrke or Bryce Schomacker to inquire.



# Worship Responsibilities

| Date           | Lay Reader       | Hosts                        | Power Point       | Sound        | Counters                    | Worship Asst.  | Coffee                          | Gift Cards       |
|----------------|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Feb. 4</b>  | Maggie Paulsen   | Darwin and Evelyn Reyne      | Jeanne Bowron     | David Vis    | Jack and Felicia Hanson     | Becky Anderson | Travis and Shannon Dwire Family | Brenda Stickling |
| <b>Feb. 11</b> | Bryce Schomacker | Bill and Maggie Paulsen      | Jennifer Hilfers  | Luther Hall  | Everett and Jan Brandenburg | Felicia Hanson | Emily Crabtree                  | Mary Gehrke      |
| <b>Feb. 18</b> | David Vis        | Shane and Katie Sauer Family | Reegan Gabrielson | Matthew Fick | Jack and Felicia Hanson     | Willy Baker    | Bill and Maggie Paulsen         | Christine VH     |
| <b>Feb. 25</b> | Sandy Vogt       | Christine VonHoltum          | Journey Dwire     | Jason Kruse  | Jay and Bev Mann            | Jeanne Bowron  | Lola Donth                      | Becky Anderson   |

| Communion  | Video     |
|------------|-----------|
| Jim Hanson | Beth Fick |

| Trustee of the Week                      |                  |
|--|------------------|
| January 29, 2024 thru February 4, 2024   | Morris Fick      |
| February 5, 2024 thru February 11, 2024  | Al Aanenson      |
| February 12, 2024 thru February 18, 2024 | Jack Hanson      |
| February 19, 2024 thru February 25, 2024 | Bryce Schomacker |
| February 26, 2024 thru March 3, 2024     | Roger Carlson    |

# January Budget

(Includes the last 2 Sun. in December)

| General Budget Totals                      |           |                  |
|--|-----------|------------------|
| December 24, 2023 through January 28, 2023 |           |                  |
| Envelopes                                  | \$        | 16015.00         |
| Loose Offering                             | \$        | 813.83           |
| Apportionments                             | \$        | 20.00            |
| Reimbursements                             | \$        | 1700.00          |
| Online Giving (December)                   | \$        | 5,965.00         |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>\$</b> | <b>24,513.83</b> |
| Non Budget Donations                       |           |                  |
| Silver Bucket                              | \$        | 114.74           |
| Endowment                                  | \$        | 90.00            |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>\$</b> | <b>204.74</b>    |
| <b>Sewn in Faith</b>                       | <b>\$</b> | <b>100.00</b>    |
| <b>Totals</b>                              | <b>\$</b> | <b>24,513.83</b> |
|  | \$        | 204.74           |
|  | \$        | 100.00           |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                         | <b>\$</b> | <b>24,818.57</b> |



We finished the year strong with all of our bills and apportionments paid as well as having a balance to start the new year! Thank you to all of you who met the challenge and did what you could to help us meet our budget!

## FINANCIAL THINK TANK:

We have scheduled a meeting to discuss how we might improve the financial area of our church. Are there ideas as to different policies we can put in place, how we can do additional outreach, share information, and how we might do better during the year rather than waiting until the end of the year to catch up. If you have experience in this area, are interested or would like to share ideas, we would love to have you join in this time! The meeting is scheduled for:

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 ~ 6:30 pm.

