



# THE UNITER

United Lutheran Church Newsletter | Vol. 50 Issue No. 1 | January 2025

**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR**

**Sunday Mornings**

Worship at 10:15am  
Sanctuary  
Facebook Live  
1310Am KNOX

**Wednesdays**

Worship at 6:15pm

**Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday:  
8am - 4pm  
Fridays by appointment

**In this issue:**

Pastors Page.....pg. 2  
 Good Gifts Update.....pg. 3  
 Messy Church.....pg. 4  
 Backpack Event.....pg. 4  
 Church Women.....pg. 5  
 Coffee and Devos.....pg. 5  
 Youth Education.....pg. 6  
 United at the Ralph.....pg. 6  
 Hygge at United.....pg. 7  
 Memorials.....pg. 8  
 Pastoral Acts.....pg. 8  
 Financial Summary.....pg. 8  
 Calendar.....pg. 9

Worship in the New Year at United Lutheran Church

## Joyous Light

As the new year dawns, we continue to walk in the light God brings in Jesus! There are challenges all around, but God’s love, mercy, and grace in Jesus are ever present. The gifts God gives in and through Jesus are our source of strength and resiliency to continue living with gratitude and hope, and to work for God’s mercy and justice.

**WORSHIP WITH US** Sunday mornings - 10:15am in United’s Sanctuary  
Wednesday evenings - 6:15pm in the Lounge

**SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:15AM – UNITED’S SANCTUARY**

• **Sunday, January 5**

**Pick up your EPIPHANY BAGS following worship**, filled with resources to help you live in the joyous light of Jesus in this new year.

**Backpack event in the FH following worship.** Begin the new year with this opportunity to provide loving and needed service for our neighbors.

**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 6:15PM**

• **January 8 – Messy Church** – a way of being church for all ages to join in experiencing fun and faith formative activities centered in Christ. Celebrate the story of Epiphany through storytelling, creativity, and experiential learning! All ages are welcome! *(See pg. 4 for more info.)*

• **January 15 – Holden Evening Prayer**

• **January 22 – Prayer around the Cross and Communion**

• **January 29 – Hygge Event** - Hygge (pronounced “hoo-ga”) is defined as a quality of coziness and simplicity that creates a feeling of contentment or well-being and is largely practiced in Scandinavian cultures. You’re invited for an evening of warmth, community, and hope. You’ll leave with your own candle to shine throughout the winter months. *(See pg. 7 for more info.)*

## Pastors Page

---

I'm always a little sad when it is time to put the Christmas music away for another year. Listening to choir anthems, the old classics, and Pentatonix' version of "Come All Ye Faithful" brings times of joy and reflection. Yet, as the New Year dawns it is so important to remember that the One whose birth the angels sing brings joy, purpose, and promise for every season of our lives.

In January we'll be trying some new ways to worship on Wednesday night. I first experienced "*Messy Church*" when our daughter was working with youth in the United Kingdom. The hands-on activities help people of every age to engage the word wholly. **Holden Evening prayer** is a beautiful reflective liturgy; an opportunity to pause during busy schedules on wintery days. On **Sunday mornings** with light streaming into our sanctuary, at the table, in the Word, and through the community of believers, we are renewed in the *Joyous Light* that God brings to our lives and to the world.



**Never forget the importance of YOU** being present in our worship and our gatherings. A big part of why people come to church and join churches is because they are looking for connection and community. You never know when you may be just the connection, the friendly greeting, the listening ear, that someone really needs that day.

The Christmas carols may be tucked away for the season. But each day is an opportunity to remember that the birth of Jesus is reason to sing in every season. In these dark days, our call as God's baptized and beloved people is to let our lights shine and to keep singing in word and action, of God's gifts of hope and love given in Jesus.

Thank you to all whose gifts of talent and time added such beauty to our Advent and Christmas season: monthly volunteers, the altar guild, musicians, children's leaders, and so many more! Thank you also to those whose financial gifts have supported the ministries of this community for another year.

We do not know all that the new year will hold, but we know that God is holding us and that we have the good gift of one another.

*Peace,*

*Pastor Karla Coen-Tuff*

## Mark your calendars: ULC Budget Forum and Annual Meeting

---



**2025 United Lutheran Church Budget Forum February 5, 2025 at 6:15pm**

Come to the church Lounge on Wednesday February 5 at 6:15pm to learn about our proposed 2025 budget and review the past year's budget and ministry. A budget is the intentions of the congregation and it's ministry plans for the coming year. Learn about what we have done the previous year and our plans and goals for the future.

**The ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION will be Sunday, February 9th in conjunction with a lunch fundraiser hosted by the ULC youth!**

# Good Gifts Christmas Fair and Angel Tree Update



The Good Gifts Fair was a huge success with delicious chili, lovely African crafts to purchase, and a lineup of worthy charities to support from around the world and locally.

**With your purchases along with the ULC Foundation gift of \$10,000 our GRAND TOTAL is \$18,305.00!!! THANK YOU, ALL!**



2024 Good Gifts Fair	Total with ULC Foundation Match
<b>Gifts to Africa</b>	
Selian Hospice	3135
Foundation for Cancer Center in Tanzania	1985
Tanzania - ALMC Nursing Scholarship	3635
Tanzania - Moringe Sokoine School	3185
<b>Local</b>	
Global Friends Coalition	850
Phoenix Fund	725
Phoenix Backpack Program	1640
<b>ELCA Good Gifts</b>	
Simple Water Well	600
Cow	700
Goat	750
Pig	700
Chicks	400
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	
<b>18305</b>	

Thank you to Linda Paulson and the Good Gifts Fair committee for helping plan, organize, decorate and set up for the GGF, and those who sat at tables to answer any questions.

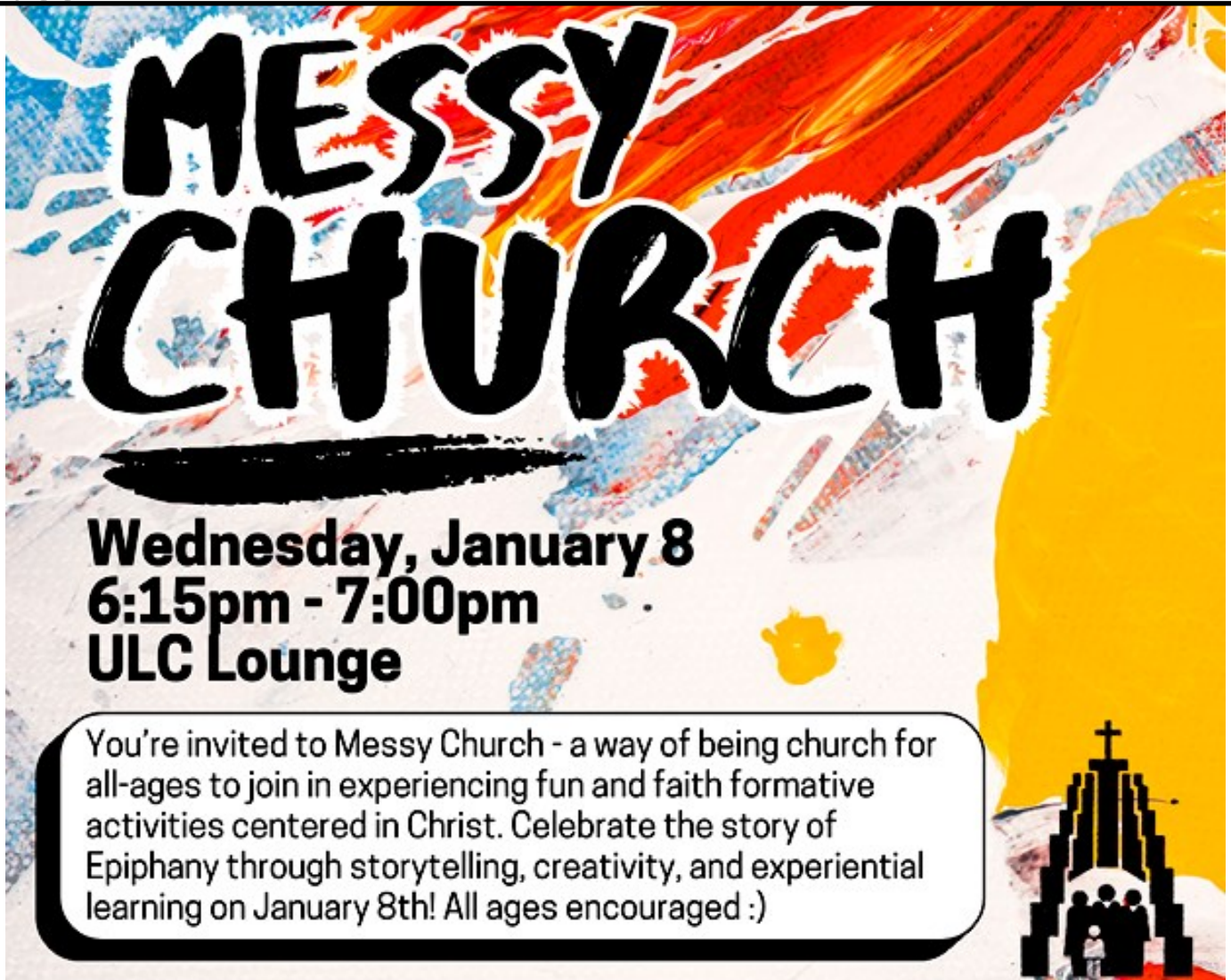
Also, thank you to all the volunteers who served and shared their delicious chili with all of us! What a treat to enjoy while we shopped!

THANK YOU!

*Special **THANK YOU** to the volunteers who set up the Angel Tree, to all of you who donated so generously to the students and families at Phoenix Elementary, and the students who came and picked up the gifts! You are appreciated!*

## Hygge at United Lutheran Church


---



# MESSY CHURCH

**Wednesday, January 8**  
**6:15pm - 7:00pm**  
**ULC Lounge**

You're invited to Messy Church - a way of being church for all-ages to join in experiencing fun and faith formative activities centered in Christ. Celebrate the story of Epiphany through storytelling, creativity, and experiential learning on January 8th! All ages encouraged :)



## Phoenix Backpack Event

---

**PHOENIX**  
ELEMENTARY  
**BACKPACK'S**

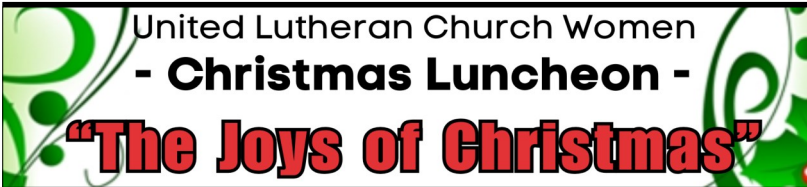
### **Phoenix Backpack Program**

**Backpack Packing Event**  
**for January & February**  
**Sunday, January 5th Following worship**  
**ULC Fellowship Hall**

For the 2023-24 school year, United Lutheran Church provided 2,210 weekend meals for our neighborhood school children. What an incredible and generous outpouring of caring!

Be part of the weekend backpack program by volunteering to pack weekend packs or by making a contribution to this important school year project. Simply designate your gift: United Lutheran Church backpack program.

## ULCW Christmas Luncheon Photos



Thank you to all who decorated, performed, cooked, served, and attended the annual ULCW Christmas Luncheon! A lovely time was had by all!

Photo credit: Ginny Bollman

## Coffee and Devos

Coffee AND DEVOS



Wednesdays, January 8 & 29 at 10:30am in the ULC lounge.  
All are welcome!

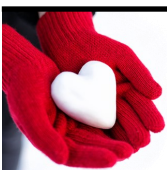
## ULCW Bible Study



The ULCW Bible Study will meet on Thursday, January 23rd at 1:30pm in the lounge.

All women are welcome to attend!

## Looking Ahead to February: United Serves Love Feast



*Looking ahead to February!*

United will be serving the Love Feast on Tuesday, February 25, 2025. Mark your calendars now and watch for volunteer opportunities to come.

# Youth Education in January

---

## BREAKFAST CLUB

- January 5 - Seek God
- January 12 - Discover God
- January 19 - We Worship God with Our Prayers
- January 26 - We Worship God with our Gifts



## FAITH FRIENDS

- January 8 - Seek God
- January 15 - Discover God
- January 22 - We Worship God with Our Prayers
- January 29 - Hygge Event 6:00pm - 7:30pm



## CONFIRMATION

- January 8 - Epiphany Lesson & Unhanging of the Greens
- January 15 - "Relationship Goals" CVIC speaker for parents & students
- January 22 - Extraordinary Leaders
- January 29 - Hygge Event 6:00pm - 7:30pm

## United at UND Hockey!

A promotional graphic for a hockey game. The background is black. At the top, the text "UNITED AT THE RALPH" is written in large, bold letters. "UNITED" is green, "AT THE" is white, and "RALPH" is green. Below this, there is a green and white logo of a stylized bird or eagle with the word "HOCKEY" underneath. To the right of the logo is a QR code. At the bottom, there is a white circle with a green location pin icon and the text "ENGELSTAD ARENA". Below that, a grey bar contains the text "UND vs MANITOBA" in white. At the very bottom, the text "JANUARY 4, 2025 | 6:07 PM" is written in white.

**Join United for  
a night of  
UND Hockey  
on Jan. 4, 2025!**

\$10 per ticket  
limited space available.

12 year old and under must be  
accompanied by an adult.

RSVP with QR code provided  
to claim your ticket.

# HYGGE

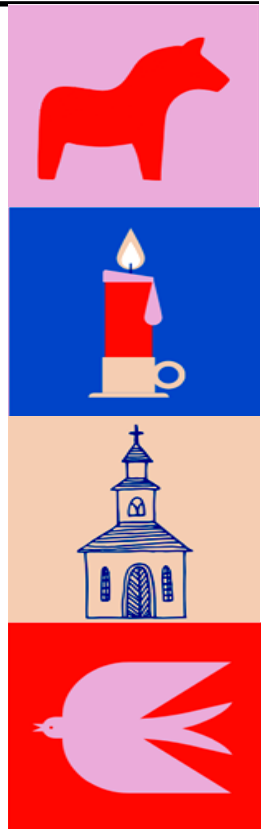
## AT UNITED LUTHERAN

**WED. JANUARY 29**  
**6PM - 7:30PM**

Hygge (pronounced “hoo-ga”) is defined as a quality of coziness and simplicity that creates a feeling of contentment or well-being. Hygge is a concept largely practiced in Scandinavian cultures.

**soup.**  
**candle-making.**  
**community.**

You're invited for an evening of warmth, community, and hope. You'll leave with your own candle to shine throughout the winter months. You're welcome to bring your own candle container - we'll have some too!



### Christmas Program and Angel Tree Shopping - Youth in action!



# Memorials and Gifts

## BACKPACK PROGRAM

*In Memory of ... Nancy A. Schulz* by Eileen Knutson

## CHOIR FUND

by Steve and Kim Keller

## PROPERTY FUND

*In Memory of ... Manny Olson* by Darrell & Ellen Nottestad

## RADIO FUND

*In Memory of ...*

*Harold Vold* by Marian Hansen

*Raymond Steffen* by Jean Wixo, Hank & Sandra Hefern

*Manny Olson* by Bonnie Gustafson

## ULCW

*In Memory of ...*

*Raymond Steffen* by Alice Davis, Virginia Linderman, John Knudson, Orlin & Colleen Akset, Joyce Reding, Rick & Linda Westby, Linda Coons

*Manny Olson* by Sharon Steffen

*Lula Bry* by Curtis & Barbara Olson

*Mae Gordon* by Curtis & Barbara Olson

*Marlene Johnson* by Curtis & Barbara Olson

## UNDESIGNATED

*In Memory of ...*

*Harold Vold* by Jerry & Merrie Rolland

*Harold & Eunice Vold* by Michael & Kim Sande

*Raymond Steffen* by Richard & Pat Grinde, Donna Larson

*Manny Olson* by Ruth Swenson, Duane Nelson, Family of Manny Olson, Mark & Marta Olson, Alan & Susan Olson, Kathy Monda, James & Mary Novak, Scott Maves, Karla Anderson, Dennis & Margaret Pazderic, Sheila Varnson, Mark & Rhonda Peterson, Helen Sanders, Barbara Young, Amy Peterson, Neil Olson, Donna Larson

*Clarence & Margaret Peterson* by Ruth Swenson, Amy Peterson, Nancy Peterson

*Alfred Hagen* by Curtis & Barbara Olson

*Stanley Lucht* by Curtis & Barbara Olson

## SPONSORED SUNDAY RADIO BROADCASTS

*December 15th* given in Honor of Bob & Georgene Reinertson by Mary, Tom, and Taylor Sand.

*December 22nd* given in Memory of Irvin & Gerri Thompson by Rodney & Bonnie Thompson.

*December 24th* given in Memory of Iva Schaefer by her family.

# Pastoral Acts



Jax Gordon - December 1, 2024



Manny Olson - December 4, 2024

# Financial Summary

## Income/Expense Statement

	Nov 2024 Actuals	Nov 2024 Budget	Nov 2023 Actuals	2024 YTD Actuals	% OF BUDGET YTD	2024 Annual Budget
<b>Income:</b>						
Regular Offering	35,933.26	31,416.67	32,210.23	276,081.63	73%	377,000.00
Other Receipts	6,005.92	8,916.67	5,996.15	163,220.46	153%	107,000.00
Restricted Contributions	33,286.26	21,784.17	27,755.85	262,981.17	101%	261,410.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75,225.44</b>	<b>62,117.50</b>	<b>65,962.23</b>	<b>702,283.26</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>745,410.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>						
Fellowship Ministry	517.49	462.50	765.29	7,895.97	142%	5,550.00
Administrative Ministry	5,643.59	3,291.67	3,658.37	43,911.75	111%	39,500.00
Invitation Ministry	1,830.04	1,837.50	1,781.79	20,613.79	93%	22,050.00
Outreach Ministry	1,349.54	2,150.00	1,603.94	21,748.51	84%	25,800.00
Physical Property Ministry	11,798.70	13,510.17	8,114.28	149,717.73	92%	162,122.00
Spiritual Formation Ministry	741.93	1,100.00	1,235.28	9,148.74	69%	13,200.00
Staff Support Ministry	35,589.51	38,836.50	35,614.19	424,153.52	91%	466,038.00
Youth & Family Ministry	139.03	929.17	84.14	7,926.69	71%	11,150.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57,609.83</b>	<b>62,117.50</b>	<b>52,857.28</b>	<b>685,116.70</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>745,410.00</b>
<b>Surplus / Short fall</b>	<b>17,615.61</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>13,104.95</b>	<b>17,166.56</b>		<b>0.00</b>



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2025 at United Lutheran Church</h1>						
			1 Happy New Year! Office Closed	2	3 Office closed	4 6:07pm - United at the Ralph
5 Pick-up Epiphany Bags 9:00am - Breakfast Club (LG) 10:15am- Worship with Holy Communion/Holm Baptism -Facebook LIVE or 1310AM KNOX Radio 11:15am - Coffee Fellowship and Phoenix Backpack Packing Event (FH)	6 6:30pm - English Teaching with Global Friends	7 9:00am-Quilting (FH) 1:30pm - Staff Meeting (106)	8 10:30am - Coffee & Devos (LG) 5:30pm-Sing & Ring Choir (CR) 6:15pm - Messy Church (LG) 7:00pm-Confirmation (FH) 7:00pm-Faith Friends 7:00pm-Cathedral Choir (CR)	9	10 Office closed 12:00pm - Free Lunch Friday (Christus Rex)	11
12 9:00am - Breakfast Club (LG) 10:15am- Worship with Holy Communion -Facebook LIVE or 1310AM KNOX Radio 11:15am - Coffee Fellowship (FH)	13 6:30pm - English Teaching with Global Friends	14 9:00am-Quilting (FH)	15 5:30pm-Sing & Ring Choir (CR) 6:15pm - Worship: Holden Evening Prayer (LG) 7:00pm-Confirmation (FH) 7:00pm-Faith Friends 7:00pm-Cathedral Choir (CR)	16	17 Office Closed	18
19 9:00am - Breakfast Club (LG) 10:15am- Worship with Holy Communion -Facebook LIVE or 1310AM KNOX Radio 11:15am - Coffee Fellowship (FH)	20 12:00pm-PEO (LG) 6:30pm - English Teaching with Global Friends	21 9:00am-Quilting (FH) 11:00am - Staff Meeting (106) 7:00pm - Outreach and Wellness Ministry (FH) 8:00pm-Council Meeting (LG)	22 5:30pm-Sing & Ring Choir (CR) 6:15pm - Worship: Prayer and Holy Communion (LG) 7:00pm-Confirmation (FH) 7:00pm-Faith Friends 7:00pm-Cathedral Choir (CR)	23 1:30pm-ULCW Bible Study (LG)	24 Office Closed	25
26 9:00am - Breakfast Club (LG) 10:15am- Worship with Holy Communion -Facebook LIVE or 1310AM KNOX Radio 11:15am - Coffee Fellowship (FH)	27 6:30pm - English Teaching with Global Friends	28 9:00am-Quilting (FH) 11:00am - Staff Meeting (106)	29 10:30am - Coffee & Devos (LG) 5:30pm-Sing & Ring Choir (CR) 6:00pm - Hygge at United (FH) 7:00pm-Cathedral Choir (CR)	<p><b>Annual Meeting of the Congregation is scheduled for Sunday, February 9, 2025</b> following worship, meeting in the Fellowship Hall along with a Youth Lunch Fundraiser. Please make plans to join us!</p>		

SA: Sanctuary; LG: Lounge located on the lower level; FH: Fellowship Hall located on the lower level; RM 106: Room 106 located down the hall from the office; LB: Library located at the end of the hall opposite the office; CR: Choir Room located on the upper level; YR: Youth Room located on the upper level; PL: Parking lot All events subject to change.

United Lutheran Church  
 324 Chestnut Street  
 Grand Forks, ND 58201  
 Phone: 775-4279 - Fax: 772-8001  
 Website: [www.unitedgf.org](http://www.unitedgf.org)  
 Email: [reception@unitedgf.org](mailto:reception@unitedgf.org)  
 Sunday Morning Broadcast:  
 KNOX 1310AM - 10:15am

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization  
 U. S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 Grand Forks, N Dak.  
 PERMIT No. 163

Pastor: Rev. Karla Coen-Tuff  
 Pastor: Rev. Peter Coen-Tuff  
 Dir. of Youth & Family Ministry: Molly Haagenon  
 Church Secretary: Christine Barta  
 Bookkeeper: Becky Knutson  
 Council President: Jim Bollman  
 Youth Education Director: Karen Syrstad  
 Custodian: Darren Lee  
 Cathedral Choir Director: Michael Marcotte  
 Sing & Ring Director: Ruth Ann Tuset

 Like us on facebook at United Lutheran Church in Grand Forks, ND - ELCA



Scan for more info on  
 United Lutheran Church!



**United  
 Lutheran Church**

**Sunday Mornings**

Worship at 10:15am  
 Sanctuary  
 Facebook Live  
 1310Am KNOX

**Wednesdays**

Worship at 6:15pm

**Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday:  
 8am - 4pm  
 Fridays by appointment

**DONATE ONLINE**



To make an online donation to  
 United Lutheran Church now,  
 please scan the QR code above.

**WHAT'S NEXT AT UNITED**

- Jan. 4: United at the Ralph - see pg. 6**
- Jan. 5: Phoenix Backpack Event following the 10:15am worship in the fellowship hall - see pg. 4**
- Jan. 8: Messy Church for all ages - see pg. 4**
- Jan. 8 & 29: Coffee and Devos - see pg. 5**
- Jan. 23: ULCW Bible Study - see pg. 5**
- Jan. 29: Hygge Event for all ages - see pg. 7**
- Feb. 5: Budget Forum - see pg. 2**
- Feb. 9: Annual Meeting and Youth Meal Fundraiser**
- Feb. 25: United will serve The Love Feast**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**