

September 2025
Newsletter

United Methodist Church
of Dodge Center
PO BOX 98,
20 First Street NE,
Dodge Center, MN

Pastor: Rev. Chad Christensen
Email: revchris5@gmail.com
Cell phone: 507-517-4160
Pastor Chad's Office hours:

Sun: After worship
Mon. & Tues 9-noon
Friday- off
Sat. home visits
Other times by appt.

Administrative Assistant:
Janet Bugarin

Email: secdcumc@gmail.com
Office Phone: 507-374-6885
(please leave a message)

Website:
www.dodgecenterumc.org

Visit us and like us on Facebook!
(United Methodist Church
of Dodge Center)

**Worship Service is
at 8:30 am on
Sunday morning
in person and
online on Facebook.**

Deadline for
The October
Newsletter is
September 17th.



September



2025

Pastor Chad's Ink:

Stewardship - Dodge Center United Methodist Giving

September is here!! I hope your seasonal transition goes smoothly.

As you may know, our church needs \$2,211.00 each week to cover our budget expenses. **\$2,211.00 is the magic number.** We tend to fall behind in the summertime as people are busy with seasonal pursuits and don't find themselves in church as much.

We need everyone to pitch in and help cover our expenses to be a healthy church that is able to see through the plans that we make for ministry. Even if you are not in church regularly, our expenses are still a reality every month. We can increase and give to meet the needs. We've got this! We can do this!

One option you have besides in-person giving to the offering plate, or giving through Subsplash on-line, is to send your offering via check to the church:

Dodge Center United Methodist, PO Box 98, Dodge Center, MN 55927.

Our fall ministries are about to chime up once again... regular weekly Sunday school, Bible studies offered, WWAP meetings continue, Youth ministries are taken back up, and we can go on. The less newsy, yet necessary items, also need our attention, like maintaining office supplies, air conditioning, building cleaning, and building repairs that need to be made before winter....among other things.

We have a gem of a gift in being able to have a Methodist church right in Dodge Center. It needs faithful efforts, good management, loving care...AND giving... to be able to be God's stewards through our local church. Some have said that if there was no Dodge Center United Methodist Church they might likely stop going to church before they would decide on driving to another town for worship. Nobody wants to see that happen!

Come to church! Be a part of God's plans here! Bring your zeal in the faith and good spirit of vibrancy. The church remains the best place in which to invest yourself. To God's glory, this is possible, and God smiles upon our generosity. Let me know if you would like to discuss our church's stewardship.

Blessed September and opening to fall for you!

Pastor Chad



September Birthdays

Doris Weber	4
Dale Jensen	8
Ralph Burtis	14
Irelynn Bowman	18
Kathy Bartz	21
Kim Marquardt	23
William Martin	20

September Anniversaries

Isaac and Hannah Olson	17
Shawn and Terri Lepp	27
Roger and Sheila Freerksen	29

Thank You To Our September Volunteers!

Readers

September 7	Tyler Kispert
September 14	Janet Bugarin
September 21	Kelly Amunrud
September 28	Kathy Bartz

Counters

September 7	Kelly Amunrud and Doris Weber
September 14	Kim Marquardt and Lisa O'Neil
September 21	Shawn Lepp and Kelly Amunrud
September 28	Kathy Bartz and Doris Weber

Communion

Deb Papenfus

(If you are unable to do your duty on the assigned Sunday, please find a substitute.)



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our church has had a prayer shawl ministry for about 6+ years. Currently we have gifted all our shawls and we would like to replenish our supply. If anyone knows of someone who would be willing to knit or crochet a prayer shawl or two for us, that would be very much appreciated. A suggested size could be 24" x 60", but any size is welcome!

Contact Lois Lepp or the church office with questions. Also, any donations of yarn, full or partial skeins, would be appreciated and we will find someone to make a shawl.

These prayer shawls come with a poem saying they were prayed over when constructed. They are given to anyone who could use a little encouragement and comfort during a difficult time. 19 shawls were gifted between 2023 and March of 2025.

Please let us know how we may keep you in prayer. Pastor Chad will take your requests before worship or during joys and concerns on Sunday morning. You may also contact him directly other days or call the office with your prayer needs as well.



You're Invited!!!

Join us for our Annual Fundraiser Community Dinner

Suggested \$15 donation

(Open to anyone in the community)

United Methodist Church

20 1st Street NE

Dodge Center, MN

September 17, 2025

5:00-6:00pm (serving until gone)



Pork Loin

Mashed Potatoes & gravy

Green Beans & Dinner roll

Choice of dessert:

Bars

*****DINE IN & takeout available (no pre-sales)*****

The Link to sign up to donate bars is listed below:




<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094CA5AC2AA1FA7-58294366-umcfree>



2025

Dodge Center United Methodist Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Office Closed 	2	3	4	5	6
7 8:30-Worship and Communion, with Coffee Fellowship after the service	8	9	10	11 6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	12	13 9:30 am WWAP (Note the date change)
14 8:30-Worship with Coffee Fellowship after the service	15	16 5:30-Ad Board Meeting	17	18	19	20
21 8:30-Worship with Coffee Fellowship after the service	22	23 9:30 Worship led by Pastor Chad at Fairview	24 Newsletter Deadline	25 6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	26	27
28 8:30-Worship with Coffee Fellowship after the service	29	30				

Meetings and Events in September

Check out the Dodge Center UMC
website!

www.dodgecenterumc.org

Check out the events tab for an in-
teractive calendar or list of events!



Adult Caregivers Support Group

We will meet on
September 11th and 25th
from 6-7:30 pm.



School Van Drivers Needed:

Triton schools are in need of van drivers for special needs/at-risk kids on the West Concord route to get to the Kasson school on weekdays-- 7am route, and then again the 3:15pm route back to their home. Pay is \$40 per day.

Required is a physical exam by Klein Chiropractic in Dodge Center (paid in full by the school), a regular class license for driving a car (no CDL license needed), and a mandatory drug and alcohol test. The buses start running the first day of school, Tues. Sept. 2.

Contact Dave Hagen at the Triton bus garage if interested, at: (507) 273-4305.

Please wear your nametag
each Sunday. This is helpful
when we have visitors.
Thank you!

Ad Council

The next Ad Council meeting will be held
Tuesday, September 16th at 5:30 PM.

Women With A Purpose (WWAP)

WWAP will meet Saturday September 13th at 9:30 AM at the church. (Note the date change this month) Feel free to bring a friend and a snack to share if you wish. Join us for an informal time of devotions and fellowship.



One of the ministries I provide is pastoral counseling, simply listening to your story. If you have a relationship that is concerning you, I may be able to give you some guidance, or refer you to a qualified licensed counselor or other resources, with confidentiality. Let me know how I may be of aid to you.

Pastor Chad






CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

FIND A SUPPORT SYSTEM TODAY!

Build a support system with people who understand. This caregiver support group is a safe place for ALL caregivers, family, and friends who are caring for someone with chronic illness or dementia to share their concerns, needs and feelings.



Location:

Dodge Center United Methodist Church
20 1st Street NE
Dodge Center, MN 55927

Normal Date/Time:

2nd and 4th
Thursday of the month.
From 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

- ♦ Exchange practical information on caregiving challenges and possible solutions.
- ♦ Talk through issues and behaviors and find ways to cope
- ♦ Learn about community resources.
- ♦ Occasional educational speakers.
- ♦ Meetings are in-person.

**In September, we will meet on the
11th and on the 25th from
6:00-7:30 pm.**

Feel free to contact:

Beth Hanggi - 507-261-2989
United Methodist Church of Dodge Center
507-374-6885
(Please leave a message if there is no answer.)

Update from the Administrative Board

The Administrative Board and congregation members met with Rev. Michelle Hargrave, our District Superintendent, on Tuesday, August 19th . We had a very good discussion.

It came out in our discussion that we as a congregation are in mourning, of how our church was in the past. Our membership was more than double what it is today, our Sunday School was more, activities were maybe more also and why can't we be like we used to be. We mourn that loss of what we used to be. It was also brought out during the meeting that we are not DEAD! We are still serving our community and congregation. Maybe our numbers aren't to the degree we were 30-40 years ago, but we are still a needed, vital cog in the lives of this community and surrounding areas.

We now minister to people via the internet, charities, those who are lonely, in need of fellowship with no strings attached, a friend to talk to about things. We are reaching not only the United Methodist, but people of other denominations with our open hearts and open arms. They might not be members of our church or any church, but they are receiving our United Methodist LOVE. Our church is smaller in numbers but you as members are mighty and strong. We are alive and needed. We are God's workers and are showing that in the best way, by showing our neighbors and strangers in love. We are here and we are stronger than we think with God's Love.

In the next couple of months, please join our administrative council in reflecting on, praying for, and discerning the right path for the future of the church. If any changes, regarding our alignment with Trinity Lutheran, are decided on, it wouldn't happen until next July. However, Rev. Michelle Hargrave would like our decision made by late Fall. This would give her ample time to find another church/pastor to align with by the summer. Our strength and faith in God, will carry us through whatever plan he has for us.

God bless all of you!

DODGE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL DODGE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025 (REVISED)**

ATTENDANCE: Chad Christensen (Pastor), Beth Hanggi (SPRC), Kelly Amunrud (Trust Fund), Lisa O'Neil (Ad Council Chairperson), Tyler Kispert (Treasurer).

MEETING: Lisa called the meeting to order and Pastor Chad opened the meeting with a prayer.

SECRETARY: The June Ad Council minutes were distributed. Motion was made to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded and approved.

TREASURER: End of June balance \$17,537.44. (Set aside for parsonage \$7,615.11). Memorial fund end of June balance \$18,736.77. Rev. Buller was paid for preaching. There was a coffee pot replaced in the kitchen which was decided will be paid out of Memorial fund as there was money set aside for that. Effective immediately, check reimbursement will be done on the 1st Sun and 3rd Tues typically, otherwise net 30 days.

TRUST FUND: No statement available. Q2 giving was \$15,761.66. Our updated weekly needed amount is \$2,211. It was brought up that the church needs to have tuck point done to the brick. This will come out of the Trust Fund. Kelly is checking with someone who does this to get a quote.

TRUSTEES:

Parsonage: There was a broken spigot and the tenants fixed it but was also found all the outside spigots needed replacing. They did not notify us and asked if we could pay the rest of the bill as they had paid part of it. The board discussed and agreed to pay the balance. There will be a discussion that any future repairs have to come through us first.

Basement toilet: Beaver plumbing was able to fix the toilets and installed a grab bar.

Flooring: It was brought to the board that the bathroom flooring be replaced. This will be postponed as a discussion until Fall.

Door lock: The West door keypad is broken. The board voted to replace it as well as install a keypad at the East door.

SPRC: Pastor Chad has met with Michelle Hargrave for his evaluation. Beth will schedule to meet with the Pastor. Lisa and Beth will also be scheduling a walk through of the parsonage.

PASTOR: (See page 2)

OTHER BUSINESS:

- **August Community Dinner / worship/potluck:** We will have a joint worship/potluck on August 10th at 8:30 AM at the North Park Pavilion. Lisa will make a sign to hang up ahead of time.

- **Banners:** Janet requested to buy some new banners for the church. This was approved.

- **UMC survey:** This was tabled until a later meeting. Results online and on paper were very similar.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, August 19th at 5:30 PM

Kelly Amunrud, Administrative Council Secretary

DCUMC: Pastor Chad's report for 7/9/25 through 8/5/25

Home/phone visits: 7 Pre-marriage/wedding planning visits: 0 Weddings: 0

Leading worship at facility: 2 (led Fairview and Circle Drive Manor) Funerals: 0 Vacation days taken since Jan. 1, 2025 through Aug. 5: 11 (Took Sundays 7/6 & 7/13 off; first Sundays off this year). Sick days in 2025: 3.5

I had a 3-year-old boy at Trinity die on July 5, and his funeral was July 10. So, I worked on and off that week to prepare for the funeral. In the process I took 4 days off that week. I was also be off (prior-authorized) Fri-Sun., July 11-13.

Pastor Chad's Ministries & Activities:

- Planned and delivered general Sunday worship services; Arranged for Sunday substitutes while I was away.
- Newsletter articles and communications; creating promotional materials like posters and other advertising
- Attended all Tuesday men's studies at Trinity with Methodist men there
Choosing designs for new church banners
- Met with District Superintendent Rev. Hargrave for my evaluation and planning (7/2)

UPCOMING Ministries & Activities:

Visiting our elderly members and getting to know members who have been less active in church activities

PASTOR'S OFFICE HRS:

TRINITY office hours: Sun: 9:45-noon and into afternoon; Wed. & Thurs. 9-Noon at Trinity; Saturday: Pastoral visitation and final prep for Sunday for both churches; Also, on Saturday taking phone calls and ministering in community, periodically checking in at office when needed. Friday: day off.

DCUMC hours: Mon. & Tues.: 9-noon (w/secretary at UMC), Friday: day off; Pastor Chad's mobile number: (call/text) 507-517-4160 -End-

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

