

December 2025

Newsletter

United Methodist Church
of Dodge Center

PO BOX 98,
20 first Street NE,
Dodge Center, MN

Pastor: Chad Christensen
Email: revchrste5@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 mornings

Deadline for
The January
Newsletter is
December 17



Pastor Chad's Ink



“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

Luke 2:14 (KJV)

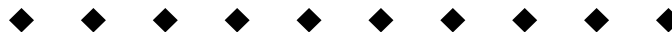
By: S. Thevanesan (New York, USA)

In Sri Lanka, the island nation where I was born, Christmas is celebrated by all people regardless of their background or religion. When we read Luke 2:14, we see that no one is excluded. Christmas is an invitation to everyone to hear the good news of Jesus' birth.

Long before the first Christmas, Jesus's birth was predicted by the prophet Isaiah. And in Matthew 1:23 we read that in fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, Jesus is to be called Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." In these scary and confusing times, the word Emmanuel resonates powerfully in my soul. God is with us all!

Christmas offers us a time to focus on the nature of God, the goodness of creation, the sacredness of all people, and the ways the holy and secular mingle. God is with us in joy and sorrow, in poverty and wealth, in waking and in sleeping. God makes us merry, bears our pain, keeps our peace, and reconciles us. God is truly with us always.

Prayer: Eternal God, thank you for giving us Emmanuel, a reminder of your everlasting presence. Help us to see you in every part of creation in this holy season. Amen.



Monday Afternoon Advent Worship & Study

1:30 p.m.-December 1, 8, and 15

Half hour worship then half hour Bible study on Advent texts

~Come join us and bring a friend~



Nomination of Council Officers for 2026

We have need in our church for new Administrative Council officers for next year, 2026.

Para. 249 in the Book of Discipline states that the following officer positions serve on the Administrative Council of the local church. Please carefully consider seeking one of these positions for next year.

If you are interested in serving in one of these roles, place your name on the line by the position description. You may also nominate someone for a position (after securing their permission). This nomination page should be submitted to the church office or Lisa O'Neil, present Ad. Council chair, no later than Friday, December 12, 2025.

_____ Chairperson of the church council. This officer is the primary leader of the congregation, sets the Ad. Council meeting agendas, and leads the meetings. (Currently, Lisa O'Neil) _____

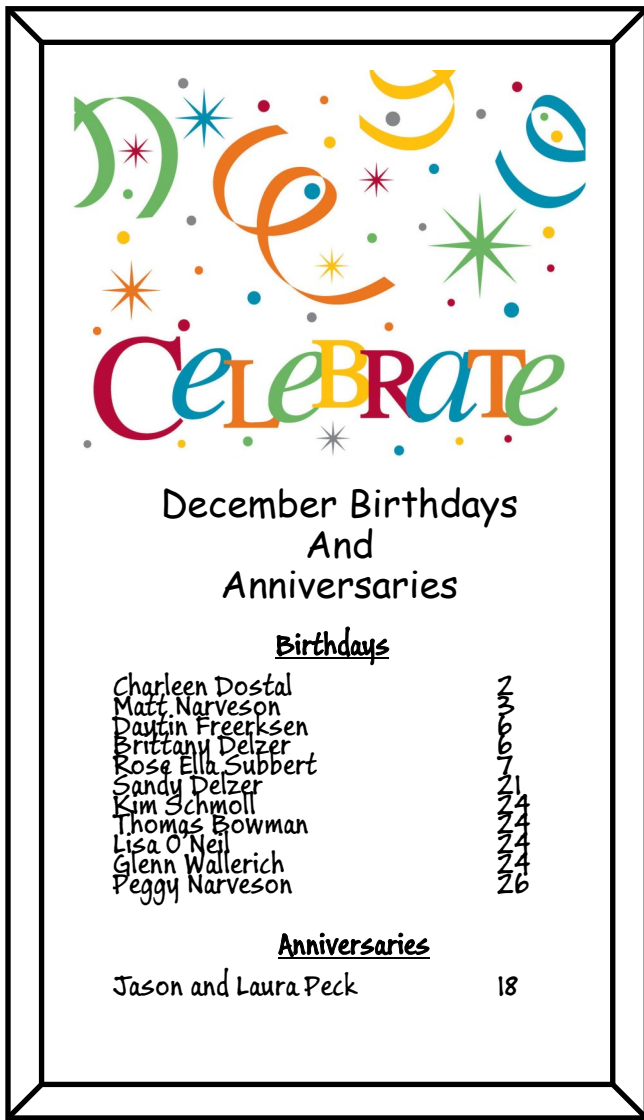
Recording secretary. This officer takes records minutes of all Council meetings, submits them for approval, then for print in the newsletter. The secretary may be a resource on past transactions of business from prior meetings, or years. (Currently Kelly Amunrud) _____

Treasurer. This officer works with collecting and dispersing funds. Overseeing fund balances and offerings, and paying vendors, and staff paychecks are among these duties. The treasurer reports on church finances at each Ad. Council monthly meeting. (Currently Tyler Kispert) _____

Staff-Parish Relations Committee chair. This committee oversees staff relations, conducts with other committee member(s) evaluations of staff and pastor, listens to concerns from and about staff or pastor. Evaluations are conducted twice per year. Parsonage relations to tenants also fall under this position. (Currently Beth Hanggi) _____

Trustee chair. At least one trustee, who cares for the church and parsonage properties shall be on the Ad. Council. This trustee chair cares for the church building and parsonage house and their respective properties, addressing maintenance issues as they come up. (The whole Ad. Council has been acting as the trustees as there are no trustees at this time. We desire that the trustee chair position be filled.)

Again, if you are interested in serving in one of these roles, place your name on the line by the position description. You may also nominate someone for a position (after securing their permission). This nomination page should be submitted to the church office or Lisa O'Neil, present Ad. Council chair, no later than Friday, December 12, 2025.



Thank You To Our December Volunteers!

Readers

December 7
December 14
December 21
December 24
December 28

Tyler Kispert
Lisa O'Neil
Janet Bugarin
Kelly Amunrud
Kathy Bartz

Counters

December 7
December 14
December 21
December 24
December 28

Kim Marquardt and Doris Weber
Kelly Amunrud Lisa O'Neil
Lisa O'Neil and Doris Weber
Kelly Amunrud and Shawn
Kim Marquardt and Kathy Bartz

Communion

Deb Papenfus

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



**Have a Blessed
Christmas Season!**



Thanks to all who
attended the
MN Adult and Teen
Challenge
Program during worship
on November 9th. We
raised a total of \$417.00
for the group.



December 2025



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 1:30 pm Advent Worship/ Bible Study	2	3 6:00 Confirmation	4	5	6
7 8:30 Worship with Communion and Sunday School 2nd Sunday of Advent	8 1:30 pm Advent Worship/ Bible Study	9	10	11 6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	12	13 9:30-11:30 Women's Potluck Christmas Brunch
14 8:30 Worship and Sunday School 3rd Sunday of Advent	15 1:30 pm Advent Worship/ Bible Study	16 5:30 pm Ad Board Meeting	17 5-6:00 pm Community Dinner	18	19	20
21 8:30 Worship and Sunday School-Pot Luck Snacks during coffee fellowship 4th Sunday of Advent	22	23 9:30 Worship at Fairview led by Pastor Chad	24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service No Confirma-	25 Office Closed 	26	27
28 8:30 Worship and Sunday School	29	30	31 No Confirmation	1 Office Closed 		



NOTE EXTENDED DEADLINE:

Anyone who wishes to purchase poinsettia this year for the Advent/Christmas season may fill out the form below and return it to the church office by **Sunday, December 7**. You may also email the church (secdcumc@gmail.com) with your order by Dec 8th, and we can get your order in for you. The church email address is: **secdcumc@gmail.com**

Please circle what size plant you would like. (Estimated prices based on last year.)

4 1/2" plants - \$5.00 each

6 1/2" plants - \$12.00 each

7 1/2" plants - \$25.00 each

Please circle what color you would like. (Colors cannot be guaranteed).

Flower colors:

Red, dark red, white pink, and jingle bells (red & white)

The names of those honored and remembered will be listed in the bulletins on December 21st and on Christmas Eve.

You may take your plant home after the Christmas Eve service, or leave it for a couple of weeks for altar adornment.

In memory of:

In honor of:

Given by:



You are invited to our annual Women's Potluck Christmas Brunch

Date: Saturday, December 13, 2025

Time: 9:30 to 11:30

Come for food, fun and fellowship along with Carol singing. Bring a friend or two!!

You may bring a **wrapped treat**, homemade or purchased, for the gift exchange.

Any questions, contact Lois Lepp at 507-421-3474 or Janet Bugarin at 507-884-5416

Dodge Center

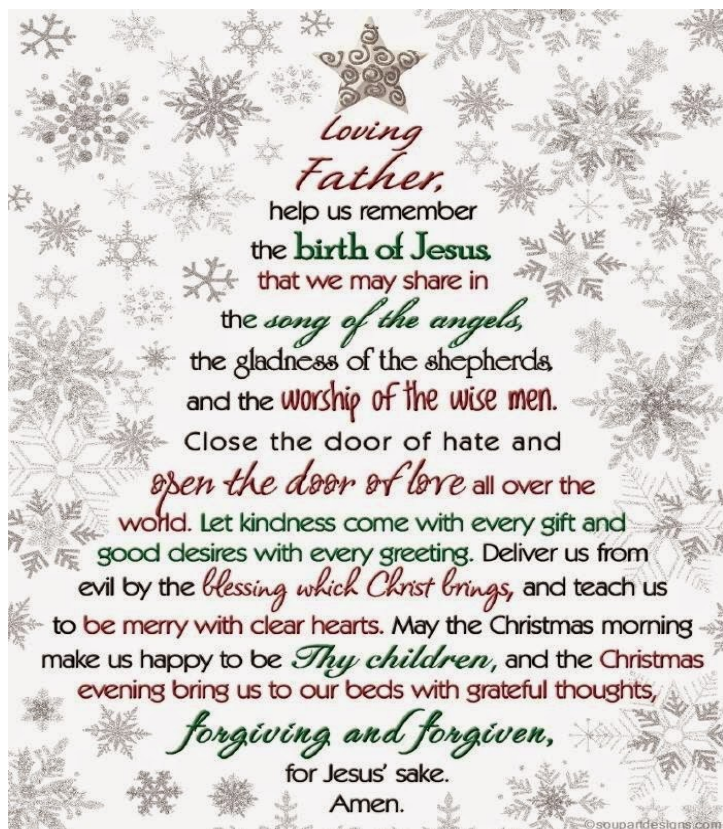
United Methodist Church

20 1st Street

Dodge Center, MN



During Coffee Fellowship on December 21st, we are invite you to stay bring a Christmas treat to share for "potluck snacks." No worries if you happen to forget, or are not able to bring something, just stay for the Christmas fellowship!



Sunday School News

JOIN US for Sunday School during the 8:30 am worship AND the 3rd Wednesday of the month, at 5:45 pm.
Children ages 3 years old—6th grade are invited to attend.



Shelter

Just as God rescues, the character of God is also one of protection and provision. In this unit, children will learn to see God as a protector and provider for many diverse people in many diverse circumstances. Children will come to learn that they can trust God to protect them, as well as rely on God to send people in their lives to offer faithful love and protection.

Unit 2 Faith Focus: God protects us.

Memory Verse: Let your loyal love and faithfulness always protect me. (Psalm 40:11)

Unit 2 Sessions

God's Protection (Psalm 121)

God Is with David (1 Samuel 17:1-51a)

God Protects and Provides for Elijah (1 Kings 17:1-7)

Esther Protects God's People (Book of Esther)

Unit 2

SHELTER

God protects us.

God's Protection

Psalm 121

God Is with David

1 Samuel 17:1-51a

God Protects and Provides for Elijah

1 Kings 17:1-7

Esther Protects

God's People

Book of Esther

Meetings and Events in December



Ad Council

The next meeting will be held
Tuesday,
December 16th



Monday Afternoon Advent Worship & Study

1:30 p.m.-December 1, 8, and 15

Half hour worship then half hour Bible study on Advent texts

~Come join us and bring a friend~



Adult Caregivers Support Group

Note Worship Time Change

We will continue to worship at 8:30 through June of 2026. This is a change from what was listed in the November Newsletter.

We will meet Thursday
December 11th from
6:00 to 7:30 pm.
No meeting on the 25th.






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
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 December we will meet on the 11th but not on the 25th due to it being Christmas Day.

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.)

You're Invited!!

Join us for a...

Community Dinner

Menu: Turkey Tetrazzini and all the fixings.

**Wednesday,
December 17th.**

Time: 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Dodge Center United Methodist Church
Corner of 1st Street and 1st Avenue NE

FREE WILL DONATIONS ACCEPTED

*Donations this month will go to the
Dodge County Sheriff's Emergency Fund*

Sign up to donate your time or food items for the meal. There is a signup sheet at the church.





DODGE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025**

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

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

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

TREASURER: End of September balance \$22,839.38. (Set aside for parsonage \$6014.05). Memorial fund end of September balance \$18,338.67.

Expenses/Future of the church: Tyler discussed the budget which showed a projected income of \$73,204, however after Q3 giving currently sits at \$49,103.49 with an average of \$16,367.83 each quarter which would put us short \$7,732.68 for the year. We have spent more on building operations than budgeted for as well.

TRUST FUND: End of September balance \$94,100.46. There was a withdrawal made of \$47,100 (\$17,000 cash and \$30,100 from one of our investments +\$7 withdrawal fee) to pay for the brick work. Wells Fargo advised we review our investments after this withdrawal. Kelly will call and find out their suggestions and bring it to the November meeting. Q3 giving: \$16,165.40.

TRUSTEES:

Tuck and Point: Benike has finished the brick. They finished in less time than planned so we are awaiting the final invoice. There were 17 bricks left which are available if any bricks pop up. Travis Delzer will repair as he has them at his house and worked on the project. Kelly also asked Travis to look at the brick in the classrooms on the west wall. There is water seeping down the side of the building which has caused brick blow out there as well. That is a bigger job of digging down on the outside to repair. Also, there is a water drainage issue as there is water sitting around the foundation so this will need to be looked at at some point.

Mold: Kelly received a finalized quote from Paul Davis of \$3,425.92 to remove the mold, put a coat of Kilz type material on the walls, and then one coat of paint. Motion was made to proceed and seconded. Kelly will arrange to have this work done at their first available date. They also recommended we have 3 dehumidifiers in the basement to avoid further mold. Lisa will talk with Colin about our options.

SPRC: There is a hedge on the south side of the parsonage property that is shared with the neighbor. They would like to remove a tree along with the hedge. The neighbor is going to get Beth a quote to see if we could split the cost to have it removed. Beth will bring the quote to the Ad Council to approve.

Parsonage: A letter has been sent to the renters at the parsonage that effective January 1, 2026 rent will increase to \$1,200 and be revisited in six months with a possible increase again on July 1, 2026.

PASTOR: (See page 2) Of note that worship time will change to 10 AM starting January 1, 2026 for six months.

Special Services

- Thanksgiving Services: Thanksgiving services will be on November 23rd in the evening (time to be determined) hosted by Living Waters Church (Anchor of Hope church).

- All Saints Sunday: All Saints Sunday will be on November 2 nd

- December extra services: Pastor Chad would like to add some additional services during the day on Monday afternoons around 1 / 1:30 PM on December 1, 8, and 15. Trinity will hold their additional service on December 17 th .

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Annual Conference forms: Lisa sent an email with the information to all Ad Council members. Due dates of December 1 st and at charge conference are set.

- MN Teen & Adult Challenge: The men's choir will perform November 9 th with fellowship provided before and after. Kelly will bring muffins and fruit; Lois will bring meat, cheese, crackers; Lisa will bring donuts and coffee creamer; Kathy will bring a french toast bake.

- November Community Dinner: The meal will be turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn, and bars. Donations will go to Santa Anonymous.

- Church windows: Discussed Church Windows program and decided to continue with the desktop version due to the higher cost of online version. Motion was made to instead purchase a new laptop for the treasurer with Memorial Funds as the current laptop is about 5 years old. Tyler will contact Church Windows to find out what specs are needed and bring it to the November meeting. Motion was seconded and approved.

- Church future: A decision has been made to discontinue our partnership with Trinity Lutheran effective June 2026. Ad Council members will meet with them next week to notify them.

- Sunday school: In addition to Sunday morning Sunday School Lisa would like to try a Wednesday night option. She will do this on the 3 rd Wednesday at 5:45 PM after our community dinner. Sunday School is for ages 3 years old to 6 th grade. Class will start/be held up front in the sanctuary. Discussion was also held about a Christmas program and Kathy Bartz will work on this.

- Christmas Eve service: Will be held at 7 PM on December 24 th .

- Ad Council structure/position transitions: There will be an article placed in the November and December newsletter regarding open positions on Ad Council that will be transitioned out over the next year. All interested parties will apply and the Ad Council will review.

- Johnson Trust: Lisa will attend a meeting to get more information about a letter that was received.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 18 th at 5:30 PM

Kelly Amunrud, Administrative Council Secretary

DCUMC: Pastor Chad's report for 9/8/25 through 10/3/25

Home/phone visits: 11 Pre-marriage/wedding planning visits: 0 Weddings: 0

Leading worship at facility: 2 (led Fairview and Circle Drive Manor) Funerals: 0; Burials: 0.

Vacation days taken since Jan. 1, 2025 through Oct. 3: 14 (includes 2 Sundays). Sick days in

2025: 3.5

Pastor Chad's Ministries & Activities:

- ☐ Planned and delivered general Sunday worship services
- ☐ Preparing and delivering confirmation for Peyton Lepp
- ☐ Newsletter articles and communications
- ☐ Attended Pastor's Prayer meeting, 10/2 (Kasson Presbyterian Church)
- ☐ Writing invitations to Sunday school youth
- ☐ Community Meal, 10/15
- ☐ Planning Thanksgiving DC service, Nov. 23 with Dodge Center ministers; held at Living Waters (Anchor of Hope church)
- ☐ Preliminary planning for Advent in December

UPCOMING Ministries & Activities

- ☐ Making home calls to church members

PASTOR'S OFFICE HRS: DCUMC hours: Mon. & Tues.: 9-noon (w/secretary at UMC),

Friday: day off; Pastor Chad's mobile number: (call/text) 507-517-4160

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.

THE NEWSLETTER
Dodge Center United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 98
Dodge Center, MN 55927
507-374-6885



December 2025

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

