

Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year. At least that's what the song says. Yet it always seems to be so stressful. There's the decorating you've got to do, and the lights that always seem to be half burned out. Then there's the gift buying! You want to get everything just right to show someone you really care. And let's not forget the family gatherings, the meals, the church services, and the weather!

Christmas may be wonderful, but it's hard to remember that. It's so easy to get bogged down in stress and anxiety. And for what? No matter how hard we work, Christmas never seems to be as perfect as we think it should be. Our Christmases are never as glamorous as the ones we see in the media. Despite our best efforts, we can never quite achieve a Norman Rockwell perfect Christmas.

That's why I'm so glad that this Sunday we're having the Little Ones' Preschool with us in worship. While we may see flaws and imperfections or get wrapped up in memories of how things "used to be," the Little Ones don't. To them, everything is brand new. Their young eyes don't see the flaws. Instead, they see love and wonder. They don't see a Christmas tree that could use a few more ornaments; they see a magical sign that Christmas is here. They don't ask why the Nativity scene is missing a piece; they ask to hold the shepherds and hear the story.

Children are amazing like that. I think that's why Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs" (Matthew 19:14). Children are able to see the joy in the world that we often miss. They look at God's creation with awe and wonder. They hold trust and hope in others. They aren't weighed down by cynicism and stress.

This holiday season, let's try to be like children. Let's allow ourselves, even for a moment, to step back from the endless lists and expectations and simply look with fresh eyes. Let's notice the small kindnesses, the shared laughter, the quiet moments of grace that so often slip past us.

Because when we do, we might rediscover that the wonder of Christmas hasn't gone anywhere, we've only been too busy to see it. And at the center of that wonder is Jesus Himself, coming to us not in grandeur or perfection, but as a child, small, fragile, and full of promise. He reminds us that God's greatest gifts rarely arrive the way we expect, yet they meet us exactly where we are.

So may we enter these days with softened hearts, open hands, and renewed hope. And may we find, like the children, that Christmas is still every bit as wonderful as it has always been because Christ is still with us, Emmanuel, God with us, bringing light into every imperfect moment.

### **Advent Series: "A Grace Filled Christmas."**

It will be discussing the three types of grace as we prepare for Christmas.  
We will have a discussion led Sunday School after worship.

December 14th: Little Ones' Sunday BRUNCH  
December 21st: Topic Sanctifying Grace, John 15:1-11  
God Bless, Pastor Ed

## **Disciples and Dragons Youth Group Is meeting every other Sunday at 6 PM**

Online giving is available for your convenience  
Scan the QR code for the direct link. Also, at lakevilleumc.org



### **Turkey Supper Recap**

Total Served: 476 Dine In: 97 Carry Out: 379  
Income \$8,256.65  
Expenses \$1,657.21  
Profit \$6,599.44

**Thank You** for donations and supporting the successful Country Shoppe and Bake Sale.  
\$802.00 was raised for the Sewing Group. Thank You Again!

**TOPS Club** meets at LUMC on Mondays, 4:00 PM, Room 206, use north east door.

### **Looking Ahead**

**Little Ones' Sunday Brunch – Sunday, Dec. 14 Brunch and visit with Santa**

**Disciples & Dragons Youth Group – Sunday, Dec. 14, 6 PM**

**Food Pantry – Tuesday, Dec. 23, 3-6 PM**

**Family Christmas Eve Worship – Wednesday, Dec. 24, 5 PM**

**Candlelight Christmas Eve – Wednesday, Dec. 24, 11 PM**

**NO Euchre/Game Night in December**

**Disciples & Dragons Youth Group -Sunday, Dec. 28, 6-8 PM**

**The Ad Council Committee met on November 11, 2025,  
minutes from the meeting are available in the church office.**

**Food Pantry Needs:** pancake mix, ketchup, saltine crackers, cereal – all kinds, jelly or jam, peanut butter, flour, dishwashing soap, soup with meat, mashed potatoes, ranch dressing, diced tomatoes **The Food Pantry is open to anyone in the Union North school district as well as to our church family on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month 3 – 6 PM**

### **Sunday Fellowship Time Refreshments Schedule**

**Dec 14 Brunch Dec. 21 Adam & Jennie Dec. 28 \_\_\_\_\_**

**Sign up at the bulletin board outside the kitchen door.**

### **Sunday Kids Church Schedule**

**Dec 14 \_\_\_\_\_ Dec. 21 \_\_\_\_\_ Dec. 28 Hope**

**Sign up at the bulletin board outside the kitchen door.**