

A New Year, a new me!

That phrase will fill our Facebook feeds for weeks as January rolls around and people try to use January 1st as the starting line for a new life. Whether it's losing weight, quitting smoking, or finally traveling more, we treat the New Year as the season for reinvention. The turning of the calendar becomes our signal to start turning ourselves around. And after all that 2025 brought, thank goodness it's finally over. 2026 feels like a clean slate.

But we all know how this usually goes. We've made the resolutions. We've sworn this year will be different. Gym memberships get purchased, but by February the treadmills are mostly empty. Diets last until the pizza craving gets too strong. On January 1st we're determined to change. By February 1st we've quietly moved on.

That can be discouraging, but it's also human. Change is hard. Our daily lives have momentum, and once we're moving in a certain direction, shifting course takes real effort. It's often easier to keep drifting along than to fight against the current. That's why so many resolutions fade away.

We run into the very same struggle in our faith lives. At some point, each of us has made a promise, a decision, to change after encountering the love of God. Grace touches our hearts, and we feel the call to become something more. We long to grow, to live better lives, to truly follow Christ.

And yet, that kind of change is demanding. It means seeing others not as obstacles or strangers, but as children of God. It means setting aside our own priorities and placing God first. It means letting go of the world's rules and learning to live by Christ's.

If we try to do this on our own, we will fail. Sheer willpower isn't enough. Left to ourselves, we slip back into old habits and familiar patterns. Our behavior might change for a moment, but our hearts remain the same. Before long, we are right back where we started.

That's why the best New Year's resolutions are never kept alone. Real change requires support and accountability. The same is true in our faith. We need one another, brothers and sisters in Christ, who encourage us, challenge us, and walk alongside us. It is together, supporting and holding one another accountable, that we begin to grow into the people God calls us to be.

Above all, we must rely on God. With the Lord, all things are possible. It is God who strengthens us, guides us, and carries us forward. And when we stumble, when we slide back into old ways, we can return to God for the grace to begin again.

We seek this change not for self-improvement alone, but in gratitude. We are responding to what God has already done. Love freely given. Grace poured out. Forgiveness offered. Salvation secured. That is what moves us forward. That is what shapes us into the people we were always meant to be.

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



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

Thank you for the Christmas gifts - Gary Behnke

Looking Ahead

Disciples & Dragons – Sunday, Jan. 11, 6 PM

Blood Drive – Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2:30 – 6:30 PM at Palmer's

Food Pantry – Tuesday, Jan. 13, 3 -6 PM

David Court Celebration of Life – Sunday, Jan. 18, 4 PM
at Palmer's. Visitation with family after the service.

No Preschool – Monday, Jan. 19 – MLK Jr. B-Day

Fellowship Committee Meeting – Monday, Jan. 19, 6:30 PM

Euchre/Game Night – Saturday, Jan. 24, 4 PM

Chili Cook Off – Sunday, Jan. 25, about 11 AM

Disciples & Dragons – Sunday, Jan. 25, 6 PM

Food Pantry – Tuesday, Jan. 27, 3-6 PM

Ad Council Meeting – Monday, Feb. 9, 6:30 PM

Mary Magdalene Mission Circle – Tuesday, Feb. 17, 7 PM

Ash Wednesday Service – Wednesday, Feb. 18, 6:30 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, dish washing 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 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month 3 – 6 PM**

Sunday Fellowship Time Refreshments Schedule

Jan 11 Dixie Jan 18 Jean L. Jan 25 Martha

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

Sunday Kids Church Schedule

Jan 11 _____ Jan 18 _____ Jan 25 Hope

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