

Union Creek Lutheran Church
PO Box 246
Akron, Iowa 51001

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2026 Lent Mid-Week Suppers & Bible Study

Lent Suppers at 6:00 p.m. and Bible Studies at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays: February 25 / March 4, 11, 18, 25 / April 1

The Bible Study will be an adult refresher course on Luther's Small Catechism:

Week One: Commandments 1-3

Week Two: Commandments 4-10

Week Three: Apostles' Creed

Week Four: The Lord's Prayer

Week Five: Sacrament of Holy Communion

Week Six: Sacrament of Baptism

Please join us for a cup of tea and a round-table discussion
as we explore Luther's Small Catechism.

*Union Creek Lutheran Church is a member of the SD Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

The Creation is the monthly publication of Union Creek Lutheran Church

PO Box 246 • 31030 481st Avenue
Akron, Iowa 51001-0246

2025 Church Council

Numbers indicate term/year

Patti Ericson 2/3

* Connie Tentinger 2/1

President Nick McKee 1/3

Vice President Tom Podzimek 1/3

Lance Johnson 1/2

Jim Bundy 1/2

Felicia Miller 1/2

Sherri McKee, Treasurer
April Sommervold, Financial Secretary
(not on Council)

**Elected for 2025*

Patti *will not* be eligible for reelection.
Nick & Tom *will* be eligible.

Worship With Us!

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School
(September – mid-May)

VBS: First full week of August

Communications

[https://www.facebook.com/
UnionCreekLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/UnionCreekLutheranChurch)

2025 Council President

Lance Johnson

605.934.2737

2025 Council Vice President

Tom Podzimek

605.933.0848

Joni Noble, Church Secretary

31357 481st Avenue, Akron, IA 51001

712.552.7669

joni.noble123@gmail.com

Offering & Attendance

January 4—Attendance 55 / Offering: \$1,860

January 11—Attendance: 40 / Offering: \$985

January 18—Attendance: 31 / Offering: \$595

February Scripture Readings

February 1: Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

February 8: Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20

February 15: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

February 22: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

Prayer Concerns

Ron Simers and family

PeeWee Kincaid

Becky Kjose

Duane Forslund

Ron Siemers

Marilyn Heeren

Staff Sgt. Daniel Kincaid

Penny & Richard Britt

Kristal McKee

Doug Eckmann (Kristal's father)

Dylan Haverhals

Nettie Dunham (Becky's mother)



February Birthdays

Calvin Doty-1

Gene Ericson-1

Janet Tentinger-2

Val Hohenstein-5

Bruce Ericson-10

Darin Johnson-11

Louis Cauthen-11

Adley Johnson-21

Blakely Johnson-21

Karston Jacobson-22

MaLinda Nohava-23

Jade Morehead-26

Eloise Doty-27



Monthly / Weekly Worship Duties

February Communion & Bread

Betsy Ann

March Communion & Bread

Deb V

FEBRUARY 1

Greeters: Dwight/Sherry
Usher & Bell: Dwight
Lector: Sherri
Fellowship: Dwight/Sherry

FEBRUARY 8

Greeters: Alan/April
Usher & Bell: Alan
Lector: April
Communion: April
Fellowship: Alan/April

FEBRUARY 15

Greeters: Lance/Betsy Ann
Usher & Bell: Lance
Lector: Lance
Fellowship: Lance/Betsy Ann

FEBRUARY 22

Greeters: Lance/Betsy Ann
Usher & Bell: Lance
Lector: Lance
Communion: Sherri
Fellowship: Lance/Betsy Ann

MARCH 1

Greeters: Brad/Deb
Usher & Bell: Brad
Lector: Brad
Communion: Deb
Fellowship: Brad/Deb

MARCH 8

Greeters: Gary/Karen
Usher & Bell: Gary
Lector: Karen
Fellowship: Gary/Karen

MARCH 15

Greeters: Kirk/Felicia
Usher & Bell: Kirk
Lector: Kirk
Communion: Felicia
Fellowship: Spring Brunch

MARCH 22

Greeters: Kevin/Paulette
Usher & Bell: Kevin
Lector: Paulette
Fellowship: Kevin/Paulette

MARCH 29

Greeters: Alan/April
Usher & Bell: Alan
Lector: April
Fellowship: Alan/April



Union Creek Council Minutes

January 21, 2026

Present: Jim Bundy, Lance Johnson, Tom Podzimek, Felicia Miller, Patti Ericson, Nick McKee, Connie Tentinger, Sherri McKee, Treasurer.

President Lance called the meeting to order.

Secretary’s Report: Tom made a motion to accept the reports and Patti seconded. MC.

Treasurer’s Report:

Balance 11.30.25.....	\$46,073.12
Inflows.....	7,903.13
Outflows.....	2,428.47
Balance 12.31.25.....	\$51,547.78

Youth Committee: There are order forms for the sub sandwiches. Please get them back to Sherri soon as they are trying to beat the record from last year for 300 sandwiches. The Youth Committee has met and a lot of exciting things are planned for the year.

Old Business: Christy Harkness came from the Synod Council to talk to us about any questions or concerns we have for the synod. We had a good conversation with her and a big thank you to her for coming.

A motion by Felicia, seconded by Tom to destroy the ballots from the election in December. MC.

NEW BUSINESS: The Budget Committee met January 19 and presented the proposed budget to the council. A motion was made by Jim, seconded by Felicia to present the

budget at the Annual meeting of the church. MC.

A motion by Jim seconded by Patti for Election of officers for the council which are: President Nick McKee, Vice President Tom Podzimek, Secretary Connie Tentinger. MC. A motion made by Lance seconded by Felicia to elect April Sommervold as financial secretary and Sherri McKee as Treasurer. MC.

A CD is coming due. A motion by Jim, seconded by Patti to just let it renew. MC.

Joni talked about our call committee starting to look again for a new pastor and they will be meeting with the call committee from Roseni soon. Our call committee is Lance Johnson, Tom Podzimek, Nick McKee, Joni Noble, Letitia Robinson and Ryland McKee.

Our new website should be ready to go by February per Sherri.

The council discussed the joint Ash Wednesday service since we don’t have a full time pastor.

Next Meeting: February 11, 2026 (due to Ash Wednesday being February 18) at 7:30 p.m.

Being no further business a motion by Patti, seconded by Nick was made to adjourn the meeting. MC.

We all said the Lords Prayer .

Connie Tentinger, Council Secretary

Youth 2026 Noisy Offering News

Our Noisy Offering gifts, collected on the last Sunday of each month, will still be matched by the Union Creek Youth and will be directed towards ELCA Good Gifts.

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference. ELCA Good Gifts is your opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs that mean the most to you and the people you love. Every project in every community starts with listening. We believe that our congregations, companion churches, and partners know their communities best. That's why they identify the needs and priorities in their communities, as well as the solutions they believe will make the biggest impact.

Many other organizations are doing wonderful work around the world, and some do work in similar ways. A main difference between the ELCA and other programs is that this church receives almost all the money to fund its work directly through its congregations and members, and almost all the money that we distribute goes to support the work being carried out by our congregations, global companion churches, and ecumenical partners. This is unique because the church is our delivery system. It is successful because the church is present in far corners of the world and is already connected and trusted in communities. And finally, it is sustainable. Our churches and partners are the ones who identify local needs and solutions; we just help make those dreams a reality.

The items we have chosen are real examples from projects currently supported through different church-wide ministries. The projects have been planned by our partners – meaning that each community receives exactly the kind of support they need and none of what they

don't. Your donation will be used where it is needed most within the wider category of each gift you've selected. (For example, a gift of vaccinations may be used to support other healthcare initiatives.) This allows our church to stay adaptive, flexible, and effective in the work that we do. Because we seek to honor your generosity and keep administrative costs low, we do not track individual financial gifts to specific families or locations in the U.S. or abroad. More than 85 percent of your gifts directly support our programs. Less than 15 percent is used for administration and fundraising.

January - Computer for a community center

Your gift of a computer for a community center can help students who lack access to technology at home complete their schoolwork and acquire tech skills that will prepare them for the future.

February - Environmentally Friendly cookstove

Traditional cooking stoves can consume a significant amount of wood and fill small homes with hazardous smoke, leading to a range of health issues for families. More efficient stoves can burn a variety of fuels, produce less smoke, and maintain heat better, which means families burn less wood and face fewer health risks.

March - Feed a refugee family for a month

Lutherans are known for their active role in the lives of refugees. While refugee camps shelter people who have fled their homes due to war and violence, food supplies are critical to helping families stay healthy after a long, dangerous journey to safety.

April - Fish Farm

Give your neighbor a fish, and they'll eat for a day. Give your neighbors a community fish farm, and they'll eat for a lifetime. A fish farm begins with a pond, training, and a few fast-growing fish.

May - Latrine

A startling 2.3 billion people lack access to basic sanitation, including toilets. A new latrine, along with training to help with maintenance and hygiene, leads to a much healthier community, not to mention a safer way to take care of business.

June - Mosquito nets for a family

In many places around the world, just one bite from an infected mosquito can transmit malaria and lead to serious illness or death. A mosquito net can protect those most at risk — especially small children and older adults — from this life-threatening disease.

July - Motorbike for a pastor

How beautiful are the feet (and the wheels) of those who bring good news! Motorbikes help church leaders share the message of God's love in Jesus Christ with people in the most remote villages and communities.

August - Nutrition for a child for a month

Foods high in protein and vitamins help keep tummies full and immune systems strong. Your support shows children who have lost one or both parents that someone cares.

September - Safe birth

Give a child a healthy start from day one. This gift connects a mother with health care workers who provide early screenings, education in disease prevention, and pre- and postnatal care, ensuring the safe delivery of a healthy baby.

October - Seminary for a week

The future of this church relies on the next generation of leaders. Help future pastors and deacons throughout the ELCA say "yes" to God's call to ministry by supporting and encouraging outstanding candidates for seminary.

November - Stock a backpack with food

More than 30 million children in the United States depend on federal school-meal programs to stay well-nourished and ready to learn. This gift helps children maintain the same level of nutrition over the weekend and when school is not in session.

December - Support an ELCA Missionary

You can be part of an ELCA missionary's story as they serve in Jesus' name around the world. Missionaries accompany neighbors as teachers, pastors, doctors and more. God calls us into the world — together. Your gift makes this life-changing ministry of sharing God's love possible.

Union Creek Youth have also selected 12 local non-profits that will each receive a \$100 donation.

- ◆ USD Luther Center, Vermillion
- ◆ Siouxland Youth for Christ
- ◆ Church on the Street, Sioux Falls
- ◆ SDSU Luther Center, Brookings
- ◆ Lutherans Outdoors So. Dak. Wish List
- ◆ Ronald McDonald House Charities of SD
- ◆ Alcester-Hudson Backpack Program
- ◆ Akron-Westfield Backpack Program
- ◆ Akron Utilities Anonymous Donation
- ◆ Alcester Utilities Anonymous Donation
- ◆ Akron Care Center Activities Dept.
- ◆ Alcester Care Center Activities Dept.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	<p><i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i> <i>Todd Hakl</i> <i>Naomi Graves, Organist</i> 9:00 a.m. Worship Svc 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School</p>			<p>7:00 p.m. Youth Meeting</p>			<p>10:00 a.m. Sub Prep & Delivery</p>
8	<p><i>5th Sunday after Epiphany</i> <i>Souper Bowl of Caring</i> <i>Pastor April Peterson</i> <i>Mike Pedersen, Organist</i> 9:00 a.m. Communion Svc 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School</p>			<p>7:30 p.m. Council</p>			
15	<p><i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i> <i>Pastor David Bentz</i> <i>Mike Pedersen, Organist</i> 9:00 a.m. Worship Svc 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School</p>			<p>Ash Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Joint Service at Union Creek</p>			
22	<p><i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> <i>N.O.: ELCA Good Gifts,</i> <i>Environmentally Safe Cook Stove</i> 9:00 a.m. Communion Svc 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School</p>			<p>6:00 p.m. Lent Supper 7:00 p.m. Lent Bible Study</p>			

February