



The Epistle

Unity Lutheran Parish ~ December 2025

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve

Dec. 25 & 26 – Christmas office closed.

January 1, 2026 – New Year's office closed.



From the Pastor

“What to say? How about Have a Blessed Holy Season”

I had a chance to look back over the years to see what I had written in the December Newsletters.

It is amazing how some things have changed, and some concerns are still the same. In 2008, I reflected on a “Wish List” for Christmas.

I wish that the economy would get better, and that we continue to share.

I wish that individuals were allowed to say, “Merry Christmas.” at all retail stores.

I wish that there was no more disease or illness.

I wish that we truly loved our neighbor as our self. That we really got along with each other.

I wish that we could experience “heaven on earth” all the time. Well, maybe this is just another wish that falls under peace, and all confessing Jesus is Lord.

Well enough about the wishes, these “wishes” are truly what I pray for. Maybe you can join me in these prayer requests as well and say to God, “I want that, Daddy.” I also believe that God responds, “So do I.”

Many of those are the same.

Now on to the December 2009 Newsletter
The thought was, “what gifts should we give?”
“Christmas gift suggestions:

For your enemies – forgiveness.

For a friend – your heart.

For family – your love and caring.

For all – charity.

For every child – a good example.”

For yourself – respect.

--via Rev. Sam Laswell

Korean Presbyterian Church
Redford, MI

The December 2009 Joyful Noiseletter

And then I added, another gift to give “**For God – give yourself**”

I am grateful that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Hebrews 13:8

God has kept His promise, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6, NIV)

At least God's love for humanity is constant.

I pray you are blessed by God this Holy Season.

Pastor Bob

Confirmation Class News!!!

Malta and Whitewater

Malta -

Class schedule for December 2025.

December 3 – **Review for Confirmation Jeopardy**

December 10 – **Confirmation Jeopardy!!!!**

December 17 – No Class, Christmas Break

December 24 – No Class, Christmas Break

December 31 – No Class, Christmas Break

We will meet again on January 7, 2026

The MLC youth night meal is at 6pm with classes starting at 6:30. We will be finished each evening at about 7:15.

Whitewater – We meet after school at
Whitewater Lutheran Church
December 3 – **Review for Confirmation
Jeopardy**
December 10 – **Confirmation
Jeopardy!!!!**

Enjoy your Christmas Break
We will meet again on January 7, 2026

Scripture Discovery

We meet at **10 am on Monday mornings**.
This month we will look at the upcoming
Sunday morning readings. Bring a friend.
Please join us; there is always room for one
more, invite a friend.

December schedule:

December 1 – Scripture Discovery

December 8 – Scripture Discovery

December 15 – Scripture Discovery

December 22 – Scripture Discovery

December 29 – Look in the bulletin for
announcements

*If there is interest in an evening Bible Study,
please let me know.*

Pastor Bob

Prayer Time throughout the month

Pray for peace.

Pray that God will reform, realign us in
growing in our relationship with our Creator
Pray for the world leaders.

Challenge for us all – to live out God's love
for the world.



You're Invited!
***Sunday, December
14th to the Malta
Lutheran Church
9:00am Worship &
Children's
Christmas
Program.***

***Following service
enjoy Birthday
cake for baby
Jesus at
Fellowship!***



**You're Invited! Sunday,
December 21st to The Whitewater
Lutheran Church 11:15am
Worship/Communion &
Children's Christmas Program.
Following service, the 4H will
have tractor hayrides and a
chili/taco soup feed (free will
donation) at the North 40!**





Secretary Note: reminder the Parish Office will be closed for Christmas on Dec. 25th & 26th and New Year's Jan. 1st.
Merriness to all!

Do you have a January birthday to add?

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!



6 – Julie (Petrie) Goodman
10 – Janet Henry
17 – Julie Moore
21 – Diane Mastel
21 – Linda Soiseth
22 – J. Brent Petrie
24 – Esther Ruud

EARLY Newsletter Lifeline: Monday, Dec. 22nd for January 2026! Reports Please!! Thanks SO



Brawl of the Wild collection results... BOBCATS \$81.00 and GRIZZLIES \$71.86, Thank you!

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! The **2025 Annual Reports** will soon need to be written and handed in to the Parish Secretary. Last year they were due by the 2nd Wednesday in January. ***Please all Ministry members have reports in by Wednesday, January 14, 2026.***

This may seem early but it isn't since booklets need to be ready in time for the Whitewater annual meeting usually held the week before the Malta annual meeting on [Sunday, January 25, 2026 my prediction not set yet!].

Hand in directly, mail to PO Box 1379, Malta 59538

email unity@itstriangle.com

I thank you for all assistance,
Parish Secretary Sarah Osmundson.

The cost is \$50 to sponsor a Sunday morning KMMR Radio Broadcast:

contact Parish Office by mail:

POB 1379, Malta, MT 59538

Phone: 406-654-1434

leave message

Email: unity@itstriangle.com

Thank you for your donation!

The ord's aughter Christmas edition no "L"
"The One whose throne is in heaven sits laughing."

Psalms 2:4

What is a vegan's favorite Christmas song?

Soy to the World!

What do donkeys send out near Christmas?

Mule-tide greetings.

Why did the Christmas tree go to the dentist?

It needed a root canal!

What is green, covered in Christmas lights and Christmas bulbs, and goes ribbit?

A mistle-toad.

How do Christmas trees get their email?

They log-on.

How did Joseph and Mary weigh baby Jesus at birth?

They had a weigh in the manger.

What did the Christmas tree do after its bank closed?

It started his own branch.

What do grapes sing at Christmas?

'Tis the season to be jelly.

What do you call an elf that runs away from Santa's workshop?

A rebel without a Claus!

What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar?

He got 25 days!

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O' Happy Day

The MLC Youth Groups enjoyed some Reformation & Halloween fun on Wednesday, October 29th. A potluck was held for supper then the groups changed up the usual classroom schedule. Pictured below is the kindergarten thru 4th grade. They enjoyed an evening of pumpkin decorating, lesson, games & treats in the Wick Hall.

The pre-confirmation, Confirmation and High School got a map of Malta from the Food Bank for the annual Trick or Treat Drive, taking in several pounds of food donations and money to help fill the pantry.

Pictured left are helpful heavy box lifters Trace Stolem, Braun Sims, Keavin Simser & Silo Marino at the Food Bank. Below Food Bank coordinator June Cornell helps keep control of the chaos.

Thank you to all who provided the potluck, lessons and drove the older kids to collect. Thank you, young ladies and gentlemen, for serving the community!

*Thank you also to the youth for setting up the long tables in Wick Hall for the WELCA annual Bazaar held Saturday. Your continued service to congregation and community are appreciated!
From all of us at Unity Lutheran Parish.*





The Malta Youth Groups packed shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse operation Christmas Child. Thrivent 'Live Generously' t-shirts were given to everyone who participated. Thank you to the generous donations that make this all happen. Everyone had a wonderful time packing shoe boxes and writing letters to recipients. (Wed. Nov. 19th)

Hosanna, The Chosen

Mark 11:9 — Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, “Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

I get my hosannas and halleluiahs mixed up.
Halleluiah is for praise songs and worship.
Hosanna is for palm branches.
Yes, two different things.

Halleluiah praises God for all He has done; it's a Revelation word, what the elders say as they praise the Lord in Heaven; what we say when we praise the Lord in worship.

Hosanna praises God for bringing the Messiah, it means, “Lord, save us we pray.” It was shouted while waving palm branches, a symbol of the Lord's Army, a military image, and it quotes Psalm 118:25 -- O Lord, save us, and grant us success. Blessed is he who come in the name of the Lord, from the house of the Lord, we bless you.

Both are good praise-y words, both are almost interchangeable, but each is used specifically.

I don't worry if I say Hosanna when I mean Halleluiah or Visa when I mean Versa. Still, it is nice to know that each has specific purpose and each rather transcends language -- I suspect that Halleluiah in English is much the same word in German or Chinese or Zulu. (I could be wrong, but I don't think so.). I also consider the H-less spelling -- Alleluia -- the same, although if I am wrong, I do apologize.

Still, Hosanna is a good word to shout to King Jesus (focus of our One-King rallies) and

Halleluiah is a good word to sing to our Lord Jesus, our Savior.

And I cannot help but sing the camp song that college roommate Roger taught me nearly 50 years ago:

Ho-Ho-Ho Hosanna

Ha-Ha-Ha-leluiah

He-He-He-He saves me

I've got the joy of the Lord in me.

Hosanna, or Halleluiah, or even Hosuliah or Hallanna, serve the same purpose for me: Praise the Lord, who saves us. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Thank you, Jesus. Let's do church!

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“I” – Liner

“Dear Santa, this year, for Christmas, I would like a fat bank account and slim body; please don't mix it up like last year.”

WELCA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, November 13, 2025

Opening: Jan Kirkwood opened the meeting with all reciting The Purpose. There were 4 ladies present, Elaine Enerson, Rosemary S. Veseth, Marlene Holman, & Jan Kirkwood.

Secretary minutes: The October minutes were approved as written.

Correspondence: There were 3 letters from the School of the Deaf & Blind, St. John's Foundation and the Lamp Lighter for donations.

Treasurer report: Elaine gave a detailed report of the checking & saving accounts. It all looked good, Marlene made a motion to accept treasurer report, 2nd and passed.

Committee/Action Reports: Jan reported that we put 24 school kits together, weighing 77 lbs. Also, 19 quilts so 7 boxes are ready to take to Havre First Lutheran Church on Nov. 25th.

New Business: 2025 Bazaar & yearly donations brought in \$1000 so ten \$100 community donations will be delivered. *Note changes to the 2026 Fall Bazaar included in December newsletter.*

Next Board Meeting: Dec. meeting will be at luncheon. *The no host WELCA Christmas noon luncheon @GN is Wednesday, December 10th. All ladies are welcome! There will be a sign-up list at MLC starting Nov. 30th.*

Closing: with all praying the Lord's Prayer.

Faithfully submitted by: Marlene Holman



Ladies You're Invited to the annual WELCA no host noon (12:00pm) luncheon at the GN Lodge Room on Wednesday, December 10th. Come celebrate another year of decorating, contributing, fundraising, donating and fellowship celebrating the women of ELCA. Thank you for another year your continued service and remembrance of past members!

WELCA BAZAAR NEWS & CHANGES FOR 2026

Hello members: We, the WELCA Women, are thinking about a different approach to raising money for the community, donations and scholarships in 2026 instead of the annual fall Bazaar. This idea was given to us by another fundraiser: A bake~less Bake Sale! It was presented as follows...

BAKE~LESS Bake Sale Fundraiser!

A bit of news we have to say these busy days, who has the time to bake pies, cookies, or even cake? We thought of a plan that's truly grand and feel quite sure that you'll understand. In an envelope, please put the price of pie or cake or something nice.

We hope you will give with a willing heart. Wishing success for our bake~less Bake Sale!

Thank you



MLC HELP WANTED AND VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Do you like to organize & be a team leader?

WELCA would like a volunteer Group #1 Chairperson. Please contact Jan Kirkwood

MLC is still in need of a Janitor and a Financial Secretary/Treasurer. Applications available entrance of MLC. Contact Pastor Bob or Sarah.