

November 2025

Newsletter

United Methodist Church
of Dodge Center

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

Pastor: Chad Christensen
Email: revchriste5@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 December
Newsletter is
November 19

Pastor Chad's Ink

“For a while he refused; but later he (the unjust judge) said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice...” Luke 18:4-5a, NRSV.

The parable of the widow and the unjust judge is as much about persistent prayer as it is about crying out for injustice. Holly Hearon, a religion author, states that the parable confidently asserts that if a judge, who regards neither God nor people with respect, will finally yield to the persistent pleading of a defenseless widow, then God, who desires good things for God's people will surely respond to our prayers.

Many voices are raised to God daily on the account of injustices in the world. Prayers made in time of need. God's "switchboard" has always been lit up. We can always pray and know that there is a listening God hearing our prayers.

We all have our quirks in life...some of these problems that we experience involve loss...loss of life, loss of a dream, loss of you fill in the blank... Gut wrenching pain where we cry out—even if it is to question God, asking WHY?!! But, it is far better to question God than it is to go in silence not speaking to Him at all. God expects us cry out when we are in need. We were created to be relational beings—God wants us to love Him and love one another.

We can bother God, pester Him with our concerns, pray to Him about our injustices and all the more for our neighbor's injustice. And you will be heard day after day after day, by the One who loves you unconditionally and works His will in the proper course of time.

May this month of gratitude and thanksgiving give you time to reflect upon the important things in your life. A blessed November to you!

-Pastor Chad



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.



November Birthdays And Anniversaries

Birthdays

Ana Amunrud	2
Brady Freerksen	13
Chase Johnson	13
Amelia Peck	19
Blake Freerksen	19
Sheila Freerksen	21
Terry Berg	22
Larry Meeker	24

Anniversaries

Chad and Kelly Amunrud	6
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Thank You To Our November Volunteers!

Readers

November 2
November 9
November 16
November 23
November 30

Tyler Kispert
Kelly Amunrud
Janet Bugarin
Kathy Bartz
Janet Bugarin

Counters

November 2
November 9
November 16
November 23
November 30

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

Communion

Deb Papenfus

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



THANKSGIVING IS HERE

Thanksgiving is here
Have good cheer
Be with family and friends
Give a kiss or two
Tell someone you love them
Get on your knees and pray
Thank God for what you have
Don't worry about what you don't have
Thanksgiving is here
Lend a hand
Bring joy and peace
Think of all the things
That God has done
Give to the poor
Give a smile and hug
Someone needs you today
Say thank you and please

Poem by
Angel Plant

THE XO FACTOR

Dodge Center Community Thanksgiving Service

When: Sunday, November 23

Time: 6:00 pm

**Where: Anchor Of Hope Church
203 East Main Street**

Hosted by: Living Waters Church

November

2025



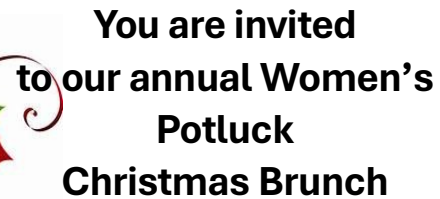
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Daylight Savings Time Ends. We fall back one hour.
2 8:30 Worship with Communion and All Saints Celebration	3	4	5 6:00 PM Confirmation	6	7	8
9 8:30 Worship with The MN Adult and Teen Challenge Men's Choir	10	11	12 No Confirmation	13 6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	14	15 9:30 WWAP
16 8:30 Worship and Sunday School	17	18 5:30 Ad Council	19 2:30 pm Circle Drive Devotions 5:00-6:00 Community Dinner 5:45- Children's Education 6:00 PM Confirmation	20	21	22
23 8:30 Worship & SS 6:00 pm Community Thanksgiving meal at Anchor of Hope 30 8:30 Worship and Sunday School 1st Sunday of Advent	24	25 9:30 Worship at Fairview led by Pastor Chad	26 No Confirmation	27 Office closed for Thanksgiving 	28	29

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

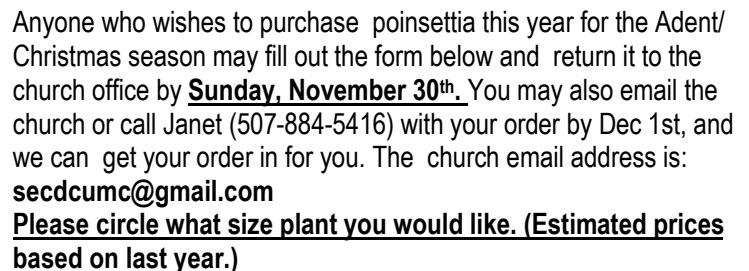
We invite all to come and enjoy an inspirational service
and join in a time of fellowship with our members
and staff in the service of the church
after the service over coffee and treats



All Saints Sunday is a Christian feast day commemorating all the saints who have gone before us and now rest in the Lord. The day serves as a time to remember those who have lived holy lives, to give thanks for their example, and to recognize the connection between the living, those who have died, and the saints in heaven. We will remember our United Methodist saints by lighting a candle in memory of them at our Sunday, November 2nd service.



Dodge Center
United Methodist Church
20 1st Street
Dodge Center, MN



In memory of:
In honor of:
Given by:

Sunday School

There are classes offered every Sunday for kids ages 3 years old through 6th grade. The classes will be during the 8:30 am worship. The children will start in worship and then go to class after the children's message. Beginning November 19th, we will be offering a Wednesday night alternative to Sunday School for this age group. You are invited to bring your family to the community dinner that night, which goes from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. At 5:45 the children will have a lesson led by Lisa O'Neil. You can also bring your child/children at 5:45 if you are not coming for the meal.

Note: On November 9th, we are having special guests, MN Adult & Teen Challenge Men's Choir, so there will be no Sunday School that morning. The children are encouraged to be in worship that day for their inspirational message.



Good On You!

--Many thanks to **Kelly Amunrud** for coordinating Benike Construction to complete the tuck pointing on the church building. The project was completed quickly and soundly, protecting the inside from the weather elements.

--We have a class of one confirmand this year, **Peyton Lepp**, and it can be challenging to be the only student in a class. But **Sawyer Deml**, confirmed last year, has committed to be with Peyton as another student in the class. We appreciate you coming back to class, Sawyer! Your presence enriches our time together.

--Thank you to **Shawn and Peyton Lepp** for cleaning the church yard of the walnut on the ground. This was a service project for Peyton's confirmation.

--What would we do without **Beth Hanggi**?!! Beth has been firmly on task for all things parsonage related, taking care of the property for the tenants there. Beth puts in a lot of work behind the scenes for that property.

--Thank you to the **Methodist congregation** from Pastor Chad for the gift card to The Union cafe. He has had some warm meals there on the recent cold rainy days.

*** **

All Saints' Sunday - November 2

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Meetings and Events in November



Ad Council

The next meeting will be held
Tuesday November 18th
at 5:30 PM.

Dodge Center Community Thanksgiving Service

When: Sunday, November 23
Time: 6:00 pm
**Where: Anchor Of Hope
Church**
203 East Main Street
**Hosted by: Living Waters
Church**

WWAP, Women With A Purpose will meet on November 15th at 9:30 . Join us for a time of fellowship with the women of our church and friends. We pray, have a devotion, and potluck snacks. Come and join us and bring a friend!



Adult Caregivers Support Group

We will meet Thursday
Nov. 13th from
6:00 to 7:30 pm.



Looking Ahead:

**In January, 2026, our worship time will
change to 10:00 am. Mark your calendars!**

NEW MEMBERS

Our Methodist church is seeking individuals and families interested in joining the church. Discernment on choosing a church for one's spiritual growth is a meaningful and deliberately slow process. During New Member Sundays, we recognize those who desire to join us in ministry through the church. Let Pastor know if you have in mind someone who is open to joining our church or considering attending a church. Pastor would be happy to touch base with them. Keep the ministry of outreach and prospective member recruitment in your prayers. Keep the ministry of outreach and prospective member recruitment in your prayers. Contact Pastor Chad at 507- 507-517-4160 or the church office at 507-374-6885.





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 November, we will meet on the
13th but not on the 27th due to
Thanksgiving**

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, Potatoes, Corn, and bars.

**Wednesday,
November 19th**

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 Lion's Club for
Santa Anonymous*

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

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094CA5AC2AA1FA7-59866350-umcfree>

We served 37 meals at our October Community Dinner and the donations received in the amount of \$147.00 will be given to Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge who will perform during our Worship service on November 9th at 8:30 am.



DODGE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 (REVISED)

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 August Ad Council minutes were distributed. Motion was made to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded and approved.

TREASURER: End of August balance \$16,434.18. (Set aside for parsonage \$5,755.46). Memorial fund end of August balance \$18,336.41.

Expenses/Future of the church: Tyler ran an excel spreadsheet that compares monthly expenses and incomes. From January through August 2025, we are currently coming up \$10,348 short with planned expenses. We had budgeted \$75,000 for 2025 but if expenses and giving continue we will have spent \$90,000 by December. Tyler will bring a detailed report next month to see if we can cut expenses anywhere.

TRUST FUND: End of August balance \$92,8917.51.

Tuck and Point: Kelly and Lisa met with Benike. They are able to do the repairs within the estimate of \$47,100. They are brick matching and once the brick is here they will notify Kelly to start the project which should take about 2 weeks. Will invoice once they are done.

Mold: Kelly met with Paul Davis Restoration 507-330-6530. There is surface mold so it is something they can clean, treat, Kilz, and then repaint. The quote was \$2500-\$3500. Kelly will verify that cost includes everything and then we will have them come after the brick exterior job is finished to avoid further damage if it rains. Motion was made to use Trust Funds for this project. Motion was seconded and approved. They also noted some bricks in the Sunday school rooms on the East wall that have deteriorated but it is not mold. Will look at this at a later date.

TRUSTEES:

Light: There is a light in the fellowship hall that needs to be replaced. Lisa will work to find someone to replace it. Broz electric was mentioned. Pastor Chad mentioned there may also be a light in the entry that needs attention too as it's dim.

SPRC: Pastor Chad, Beth, and Doris met for Pastor's annual review. The council received an email from Janet Bugarin asking to have the basement cleaning taken off her job duties. Suggestions were made on how to proceed including hiring someone vs asking if she would do just special tasks. Will review.

Parsonage: Discussion was held about raising the rent at the parsonage due to the upgrades, rising costs, etc. Kelly and Beth will draft a letter to send to the renters 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) Confirmation will be two Wednesday's a month as there is one confirmand. Discussion about suggestions for worship services.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- **October Community Dinner:** The meal will be soup, sandwiches, and dessert.
- **Church windows:** Discussion about church windows online vs desktop as the treasurer's computer doesn't work well. We discussed options and will readdress in December when the payment is due again to decide on purchasing online or a new computer. The online version is \$1428/year. Memorial money could be used.
- **Trinity rally:** An invitation to the Klevos farm on 9/21 was extended to our church to attend.
- **CCLI license:** This was tabled under next month.
- **Sunday school:** Options were discussed due to the low numbers such as a Wednesday night service or a combination of Sun/Wed. Sunday school will meet on Sundays in October to give more time for Lisa and Lois to discuss options.
- **Church future:** Discussions were held about what brings us joy, what feeds our souls in our current missions, what can we take a break from. Will continue this discussion.
- **Trunk or Treat:** We have been asked if we would like to do a trunk or treat at Green Shack on October 26 th . There was no interest.
- **Ad council:** As we have no nominations committee and we are coming up on another year, it was brought up that we give an invitation to church members to take their turn on ad council in some capacity with a two year term limit.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 21st at 5:30 PM

Kelly Amunrud, Administrative Council Secretary

(*one week later than usual)

Kelly Amunrud, Administrative Council Secretary

DCUMC: Pastor Chad's report for 8/6/25 through 9/7/25

Home/phone visits: 8 Pre-marriage/wedding planning visits: 0 Weddings: 0

Leading worship at facility: 2 (led Fairview and Circle Drive Manor) Funerals: 0; Burial (1)

Gerry Fahning at Spring Valley, 9-6-25. Vacation days taken since Jan. 1, 2025 through Sept. 7: 14 (Took Aug. 29-31 off, including one Sunday). Sick days in 2025: 3.5

Pastor Chad's Ministries & Activities:

- Planned and delivered general Sunday worship services; Arranged for Sunday substitutes while I was away.
- Newsletter articles and communications; creating promotional materials like posters and other advertising
- Attended all Tuesday men's studies at Trinity with Methodist men there
- Had my evaluation with Beth and Doris, SPRC committee, 9-26-25
- Served ice cream to Triton teachers during Week 1 in-service, with DC Triton Ministerium, 9-25-25
- Reading and study of upcoming Sunday scriptures and planning Methodist services for Sundays

UPCOMING Ministries & Activities

- Visiting our elderly members and getting to know members who have been less active in church activities
- Preparing for confirmation with Peyton Lepp

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



November 2025

Delmer and Joann Paulson



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED