



**United Lutheran
Church**

305 West 3rd Street

PO Box 367

Laurel, NE 68745

402-256-3622

www.aflc.org/laurel

ulc4ljc@yahoo.com

2007
ANNUAL REPORT
of
UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
for the
Annual Meeting
of the Congregation
Sunday, January 20, 2008
10:30 a.m.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Statistics.....	3
Pastor's Report.....	5
Reports.....	6
Financial Reports.....	8
Proposed Budget.....	11
WMF Reports.....	12
Ballot.....	15

**THE MISSION OF
UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH**
is to reach out in love,
providing a place of peace and comfort
to be nourished through the Word,
Sacraments and fellowship,
living our faith by example,
and inviting others to share
our love of the
Lord Jesus Christ.



United Lutheran Church

THE STATISTICAL REPORT for 2007

Accessions to Membership

By Baptism:

Julia Kaja Johnson
Joslyn Marie Johnson
Garrett Michael Klausen
Koby Andrew Detlefsen
Bradyn Jennings Burris
Kylla Annakay Klausen

Adult Membership:

Rick Obermeyer

Membership Losses

By Death:

Florence Rasmussen
Henry Arp
Carsten Graverholt
Marjorie Arp
Elverna Bingham
Walter Schutte

By Transfer:

Todd & Judi Twiford
Mary Jo Twiford (baptized only)
Laura Twiford (baptized only)
Norma Johnson

Youth Confirmed:

Abygayl Holloway
Kayla Wiese

Funerals:

Florence Rasmussen
Henry Arp
Carsten Graverholt
Marjorie Arp
Elverna Bingham
Walter Schutte

Marriages:

Nolan and Candace (Patefield) Mack

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE RECORD

Total number of Sundays on which Services were held.....	51
Average attendance per Sunday.....	99
Total number of other Services held.....	10
(Ash Wednesday, Lenten Services, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve)	
Total Enrollment in Sunday School (grades Pre-K thru High School).....	61
Average attendance in Sunday School per Sunday.....	30

Average Attendance per Sunday for Worship in:	2003	111
	2004	115
	2005	120
	2006	110
	2007	99

New Members baptized/transferred into United Lutheran in:	2003	6
	2004	8
	2005	8
	2006	8
	2007	7

Members of United Lutheran who passed away/relocated/joined other churches:	2003	8
	2004	4
	2005	4
	2006	11
	2007	11

MEMBERSHIP:
 Baptized 461
 Confirmed 360

Pastor's Annual Report 2008

The Psalmist encourages us to *"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him."* Psalm 34:8 NIV. What he is telling us is that the Lord is not simply this God that we should hold in high esteem and who lives in a distant place called Heaven, but His goodness is something that we must experience personally in the here and now to really know how good He is.

How do we experience the goodness of God? By walking in faith, living our lives instructed by His word, and placing our needs before Him in prayer. When Jesus walked on this earth, He set an example for us of how to live in close fellowship with our Heavenly Father. Even in the darkest hours of His crucifixion, Jesus drew even closer to His Father and had the strength to follow the course laid before Him to obtain the joy that would be His. As we see in Hebrews 12:2: *"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

I have no higher agenda this year than that each one of those in the United Lutheran Church family might experience the goodness of the Lord and the joy that God sets before those who follow Him. May the Great Shepherd equip this shepherd and all of His pastors and missionaries to that end.

I began my official duties on September 24 of 2007 enabling me to spend a week with Pastor Lynn Qualm acquainting myself with the community and the congregation. During my short time here I have conducted worship each Sunday, led the adult Sunday School class, taught the Jr. and Sr. confirmands, led the Wednesday morning Bible Study, and conducted services at Hillcrest Care Center. I have visited shut-ins and made hospital visits as well. I attend meetings of church boards and committees when possible and I also have begun this year to teach the WMF Bible study which I will continue to do when there are no conflicts. I conducted only one ministerial act, the funeral of Walter Schutte, Pastor Qualm's official acts are listed elsewhere.

I have assembled some material into a website for the church: www.afic.org/laurel and will continue to edit it and make it more inviting to web visitors and more useful for our membership. The church office also has a new email address: ulc4ljc@yahoo.com which you can use to contact Alvina or myself.

The call committee is in the process of contacting and interviewing a candidate for Pastor of United Lutheran and it is likely that there will be a permanent pastor in place by this time next year. Thus, this is my first and last Pastor's Annual Report. I look forward to seeing what the year holds in store for the congregation and for each of you who have a part in what God is doing here in Laurel.

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in the heavenly realms
with every spiritual blessing in Christ."* Ephesians 1:3 NIV

Pastor Brian Davidson

TRUSTEE REPORT

2007 was an interesting year for the United Lutheran Trustees. We were thankful for all the help received by congregation members.

We were able to prevent an indoor swimming pool in the parsonage's basement. With much quick response, sump pumps were added to remove excess subsurface moisture. These pumps have been permanently plumbed into the sewer system and wired in through the service panel.

We hired a professional to remove and prevent further entrances of bats into the church. With the Carpet Committee's relentless efforts, we now have a quality carpet in our church. Financial settlement is complete regarding our carpet.

The sidewalk from our main church entrance to the alley was replaced with a wider walk. This will accommodate easier casket movement during funerals.

A new Memorial Committee was set up with guidelines. This committee was set up with all trustees as members as well as our Council Vice-President and a member at large from the congregation who serves a two-year term.

There are a few goals we are working toward for 2008. We are planning to shingle the sanctuary. We need to resurface the parking lot and possibly expand our lot. We also plan to be more active with the memorial committee. Not all of these projects may be completed in 2008, but they are in the planning.

We prefer not to name people who have done volunteer services for us. We do greatly appreciate all the help we receive. We know the Lord is blessing this congregation.

United Lutheran Trustees
Marlin Bose
Scott Urwiler
Jerry Johnson

PARISH EDUCATION

When I sat down and started to think back through the year of all the things that had happened that should be included in this report from Sunday School, VBS, the activities this summer with the kids at the river and the party at the swimming pool. Then there are all the people involved that need to be thanked for organizing and helping to make all this possible. I was not sure where to start, but then began thinking about a set of memory verses that Kolby had learned for his Awana lesson that he recited to me earlier this evening. It was John chapter fourteen verses one thru six. Jesus was talking to His disciples and telling them that He was going to prepare a place for them in Heaven and that He was the only way by which they could get there. This made me realize what we really need to remember and what should be included in this report. Yes we have had a lot of fun activities and it all takes a lot of volunteers to help put it on, but the reason that we do it is to teach our children (and hopefully ourselves) that Jesus is the only way that we can get to that place that He has went to prepare for us.

I do also want to take this time to thank all that have helped this past year. Without the efforts of a lot of people doing what they can it would not be possible. We have had good attendance this last year in Sunday School and the teachers have given the kids many stories and verses that they can learn from. We also had the VBS team here again from the AFLBS that brought excitement and more learning of Jesus to the 50 to 60 kids that attended each night. A group of ladies have also begun a Bible Study that meets once a month that hopefully has encouraged them in God's word. Sunday School continues with the curriculum that we have been using the last year with grades Pre K thru 6th. The Jr. and Sr. High students have been do a study on "World Views" and how to live in this culture from a biblical world view. This study was also tried to get started with some of the younger adults in the congregation but did not get going well. This is something that hopefully we can keep working on.

Thanks again to all who help make this possible and let us remember that it is not just about having these programs but about teaching our children, and the rest of us as well, that it is all about a relationship with Jesus and that we can know as it says in John 14:6 that, *"Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life and that no one comes to the Father except through Him."*

Doug Olson, Chairman, Parish Ed Committee

DEACONS REPORT

I would like to take this time to thank all of our usher teams and to those who help usher at funerals.

A big thanks to all that were greeters and lectors this past year. It is greatly appreciated.

Also a big thank you to Alvina for all she does and to the ladies that help in the kitchen for funerals and special events as well as the Sunday morning coffee. Thank you to Marilyn Jensen for heading up the coffee hour.

A heartfelt thank you to Doug Olson for running the sound system each and every week.

We always welcome suggestions you might have, so don't hesitate to contact one of us.

Deacons

Greg Urwiler

Joe Ankeny

Walt Urwiler

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

In 2007 United Lutheran gave \$49,289.27 for stewardship helping to spread the gospel of Christ. This represents an increase of 5.82% over last years giving. Deuteronomy 8:18a — *“Remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth.”* This table shows how the ULC stewardship is helping to spread God's word. We are supporting these several different ministries that are shown in this chart:

2007 Stewardship Annual Report

Missions	Benevolence Offerings	Mission Sundays	Special Offerings
AFLC-50% of Reg. Benev.	10,836.99		
VISION-25% of Reg. Benev.	5,418.51		
Norfolk Rescue Mission	800.00	1,981.00	
STEMM	800.00		
Reaching the Unreached (Togo)	600.00	4,905.00	
Eagle Nest Ministries	800.00		
Haven House (Wayne)	800.00		
AFLC College Campus Ministry	800.00		
Sioux City Gospel Mission	800.00		
Community Benevolence	1,975.10		
Rebecca Johnson Fund		7,566.00	
Ron Foster Family Concert			1,093.00
AFLC World Missions			2,500.00
Aaron & Anna C.		3,247.00	
AFLC World Missions (CD # 2)			4,366.67
Totals = \$49,289.27	\$23,630.60	\$17,699.00	\$7,959.67

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2007

CURRENT
Balance 01/01/07 \$ 9,891.82

INCOME

Current	\$ 92,420.92	
Benevolence	22,696.82	
Community Benevolence	2,349.89	
Mission Sundays	17,899.00	
Special Missions	<u>7,959.67</u>	
	\$ 143,326.30	<u>143,326.30</u>

\$ 153,218.12

EXPENSES

Current	\$ 89,023.88	
Benevolence	21,655.50	
Community Benevolence	1,975.10	
Mission Sundays	17,699.00	
Special Offerings	<u>7,959.67</u>	
	\$ 137,390.73	<u>137,390.73</u>

Balance 12/31/07 \$ 14,904.97

MAINTENANCE
Balance 01/01/07 \$ 2,955.66

INCOME

Deposits	\$ 6,181.04	
Interest	62.40	
Cement Funds	1,482.00	

EXPENSES \$ 5,355.88

Balance 12/31/07 \$ 5,325.00

MEMORIAL
Balance 01/01/07 \$ 24,978.48

INCOME

Memorials	\$ 5,385.27	
Cement Projects	2,500.00	
From Current Account	2,200.00	
Fundraiser	1,350.00	
Interest	412.48	

EXPENSES \$ 25,104.57

Balance 12/31/07 \$ 11,721.66

LUTHER LEAGUE

Balance 01/01/07		\$ 165.04
INCOME	\$ 3,425.00	
EXPENSES	2,910.08	
Balance 12/31/07		\$ 679.96

TIME CERTIFICATE #1

Balance 01/01/07		\$ 2,013.66
INTEREST	\$ 62.00	
PAID OUT (Camp)	255.00	
Balance 12/31/07		\$ 1,820.66

TIME CERTIFICATE #2

Beginning Balance 01/01/07		\$ 44,000.00
INTEREST	\$ 2,366.67	
PAID OUT (AFLC World Missions)	4,366.67	
Balance 12/31/07		\$ 42,000.00

Mitzi Urwiler, Treasurer

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FEDERATION

The WMF voted in January to hold 3 (three) General meetings this year instead of 2 (two). General meetings were held in January, April and September. The April meeting was held at Hillcrest Care Center so the members from there could attend. We had a very good turnout.

The following is a list of the things we have accomplished throughout the year. They are not necessarily listed in the order in which they occurred.

- Honored our elderly members with a reception
- Honored the graduating Seniors with a reception and quilts made by Anita Gade
- Honored the Confirmands with a reception
- Sent quilts to Sioux City Gospel Mission, Norfolk Rescue Mission and Orphan Grain Train
- Remembered our Servicemen on Valentine's Day and Christmas
- Gave a donation towards the purchase of the pew cushions
- Sent money to Holdredge to be used towards the power outage
- Held a Spiritual Assessment for our members
- Cleaned the Church
- Held a Guest Day with 7 churches invited
- Served a lunch when the Foster family entertained
- Held Thank Offering Service in November
- Circles hosted bingo at HCC every other month
- Served several funerals throughout 2007
- Served 4 (four) meals during VBS
- Circulated the Traveling Aprons as a fundraiser
- Held our Annual Fall Dinner
- Packed Christmas Plates and distributed them
- Helped serve the Lenten Breakfast
- Helped with the farewell for Pastor & Kay Qualm
- Both Circles met every month except August
- Seven ladies attended the WMF Conference in Sioux Falls

I do hope that I haven't forgotten anything. So you see we have been very busy. We would certainly welcome all ladies of the Church to take part in all or any of our activities.

Your Sister in Christ—
Phyllis Rubeck

BALLOT FOR 2008 OFFICERS

Vice President (2 year term)

_____ Doug Olson

Treasurer (3 year term)

_____ Karen Thompson

Deacon (3 year term)

_____ Robert Patefield

Trustee (3 year term)

_____ Marlin Bose

Parish Education (2 year term)

_____ Rozanne Hintz

Financial Secretary (1 year term)

_____ Verneal Gade
_____ Lee Dahl

Nominating Committee (1 year term - need three)

Second Assistant Sunday School Superintendent

Officers for 2008

President - Lathan Detlefsen

Secretary - Gwen Jorgensen

Deacons - Joe Ankeny, Walt Urwiler

Trustees - Scott Urwiler, Jerry Johnson

Parish Education - Robyn Hirschman

Sunday School Superintendents - Racquel Holloway, Mindy Christensen