



The Epistle



Unity Lutheran Parish ~ December 2024
**Parish Office will be closed for
Christmas Wednesday thru Friday,
December 25th thru 27th.**

From the Pastor

Advent, the time of waiting!

The church season of Advent is the time of waiting for Jesus, waiting to celebrate His birth, and waiting for His second coming.

Waiting, hoping, anticipating. This last year I can understand the waiting and hoping. For far too long we had to put up those angry, mean political ads. Not everyone is happy with the election, but I believe most if not all are happy with the end, (no strike that) temporary end of the political ads.

As we will hear on Christ the King **Sunday**, no matter who is elected president, Christ is King. Christ is King forever and King in giving us a forever with God in heaven.

This advent season we sing the hymns of Advent, sing about the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We sing of the hope and anticipation of the coming or return of our Lord.

I think of a verse from each of two Advent Hymns.

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn
ELW #242

*“Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald it’s dawning. Sing out your
joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our
longing. Come as a baby weak and poor, to
bring all hearts together, he opens wide the
heav’nly door and lives now inside us forever.”*

We sing of Jesus coming and bringing the hope of salvation for all.

We’re still waiting. “For soon he is born...”
Now with one that longs for Jesus to come into our lives.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
ELW #254 (the second verse)

*“Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and
yet a king; born to reign in us forever, now thy*

*gracious kingdom bring. By thine own
eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by
thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy royal
throne.”*

Be in our hearts, “By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone...”

The culture will sing **Christmas** carols, knowing that Jesus, our Savior has come already, but in Advent we like to be reminded to wait for the best to come. The best to come is salvation in Jesus the Messiah, we know that, but in Advent, we also await His return.

The world will start to sing Holiday songs, some **Christmas** songs about the birth of Jesus, some seasonal songs about a warm fire in winter weather, or some about a Snowman that comes to life, but in Advent we sing about Christ coming, to celebrate His birth, and await Christ’s return.

Enjoy the time with family and friends.
I pray you will be blessed this Holy Season.

Pastor Bob

Confirmation Class News!!!

Malta

Class schedule for December 2024.

December 4 – Review for confirmation Jeopardy.

December 11 – Confirmation Jeopardy!

December 18 – NO Class

December 25 – NO Class

(Enjoy the Holy Day with your family)

January 1, 2025 – NO Class

(School is still on winter break)

January 8 – Back to Class! 😊

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

Whitewater

December 4 – Review for confirmation
Jeopardy.

December 11 – Confirmation Jeopardy!

December 18 – NO Class

December 25 – NO Class

(Enjoy the Holy Day with your family)

January 1, 2025 – NO Class

(School is still on winter break)

January 8 – Back to Class! 😊

Scripture discovery

We meet at **10 am on Monday mornings.**

In December we will look at the
upcoming **Sunday** morning Scripture
readings. Bring a friend.

Please join us; there is always room for one
more, invite a friend.

Pastor Bob

Christmas Eve Worship for the Parish is:

4pm – Whitewater Lutheran

7pm – Malta Lutheran

Prayer Time throughout the month

Give thanks to God for our salvation in Jesus.

Pray for peace in our nation and the world.

Let's continue to pray for each other.

Pray for safe Holidays for all.

WELCA BOARD MEETING

November 14, 2024

Opening: Jan Kirkwood opened the meeting with all
reciting the Purpose. There were 5 ladies present,
Elaine Enerson, Rosemary S. Veseth, Sharon
Kindle, Jan Kirkwood & Marlene Holman.

Secretary minutes: The October 10, 2024 minutes
were reviewed. The motion was made by Marlene to
accept minutes, 2nd by Rosemary & passed.

Correspondence: The MT/N. WY Synodical
Women's newsletter and new President Ella Tweten
is from Nashua. We had Thank you cards from the
Food Bank for our gift of money, and Patti
Armbrister from Hinsdale for the starter plant she
bought.

Treasurer report: Elaine gave a detailed report the
account. We are still in the black. We also went over
our yearly donations given to different organizations
in town. A motion was made by Marlene accept
treasurer report, 2nd by Rosemary & passed.

Committee Reports/Action: Jan said quilts were
put on pews to be blessed on Nov. 17th during the
9:00am MLC worship. We have 20 all cotton and

20 poly/cotton quilts done. There are 4 High School
Seniors. 25 School Kits weighing 80# were boxed
for Lutheran World Relief.

Committee Witness: Prayer Chain is automated to
congregation members. If you would like your name
added put your name on the Stewardship sign-up
paper in the entry way.

Old Business: Our Bazaar had a good amount of
pies, baked goods, garden items, canned jellies and
lefse. Cards & napkins were discounted \$5.00.
Handcrafted items, pot holders, kitchen towels, and
Gnomes in a cup.

Thanks to all! Your donations helped to make it a
successful day.

New Business: We had a discussion on the
WELCA memorial plaque. It was decided to add the
ladies when they pass. All agreed.

Another discussion on Funeral lunches and
sometimes we came out even & maybe not. We
were charging \$4.00 so Marlene made a motion to
charge \$5.00 straight across the board. Prices have
gone up so much and you can't go downtown, and it
costs a lot for whatever. All agreed.

We thanked Pastor Bob for the Bible Study after.

**Nov. 17th Quilt Blessing will be during the
9:00am MLC worship.**

**Nov. 24th Thank Offering will be during the
9:00am MLC worship.**

December 11th Christmas Luncheon:

**Wednesday, December 11th at noon (12:00pm)
at the GN Lodge room. Hope you can come!**

[Sign-up list will be available at MLC in December]

**December 15th Children's Christmas Program
will be during the 9:00am MLC worship.**

Next Board Meeting: Thur. January 9, 2025
1pm WELCA meeting & 2pm Bible Study.
Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year to all!

Closing: with all praying the *Lord's Prayer*.

Faithfully submitted by: Marlene Holman

Thank You!

*The ladies of Malta Lutheran Church (WELCA)
would so much want to express our thanks to
each of you who supported our annual bazaar on
Saturday, Nov. 2nd. Thanks for all our members
who faithfully and generously support our annual
each and every year you 'out do'. With so many
events going on during the weekend, we
appreciate that you take the time to work, bake
and attend. Blessings for the upcoming holidays
and "God Willing" you will be back next year.*

Thanks again and Happy Holidays!



Secretary Note: The Parish Office will be closed for Christmas on Wed. Dec. 25th through Fri. Dec. 27th, and January 1, 2025. Please contact LPA Rick Mikkelson with any questions and he will contact me. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! SO.

Newsletter Lifeline: Wednesday, Dec. 18th for January 2025! Can you believe it?

Do you have a January birthday to add?

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!



- 6 - Julie (Petrie) Goodman
- 10 - Janet Henry
- 21 - Diana Mastel
- 21 - Linda Soiseth
- 22 - JBrent Petrie
- 24 - Esther Ruud

A letter to Malta Lutheran Church

After many, many years of ordering supplies and seeing that the altar candles are lit on a weekly basis, I am needing to step down and give the responsibility to another willing individual.

Give me a call at (406) 654-2086. I am more than willing to give you a detailed description on what I've done throughout the years.

Ron Lundman

Correspondence: Change of Address

Sharon Kienenberger
c/o Timber Creek Village
155 34th Ave. W. Apt. 18
Havre, MT 59526

Correspondence:

Pastor Bob, Sarah and all those at Unity Lutheran Parish,

Thank you for such a beautiful Baptism Day. It was so wonderful celebrating Caroline and meeting everyone. Thank you for everything and to everyone for contributing to our special day. We are so grateful for your kindness.

Best Wishes and Happy Holiday Season, Savannah, Jacob, Henry & Caroline



Thank You! The Malta Food Bank is extremely grateful for the response to the Trick or Treat night. Special thanks to all the church youth groups that collected, the volunteers that sorted and weighed food and everyone that donated food and money. Total donated was 2,009 pounds! above: Sokoya Love, Macey Lien, Tony Boos, Leila Oxarart and Greg Oxarart.



The Youth Groups filled shoeboxes and packaged them to be delivered to Elim Lutheran Church on November 20th. Thank you to all who donated and helped to fill the shoeboxes. They had a total of 50 shoeboxes filled, double last year!



It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! The 2024 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 8, 2025. 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 26, 2025 my prediction not set yet!]. Hand in directly, mail to PO Box 1379, email unity@itstriangle.com or fax 406-654-1464. I thank you for all assistance, Parish Secretary Sarah Osmundson.

Malta Lutheran Church **2024 Stewardship Drive**

Give financial support for our current church needs:

- Building Fund (general repairs, basement carpet repair project, Nursery Cry Room update)
- Technology Fund (update of outdated computers & software, future projector lightbulb replacement)
- 2025 Vacation Bible School supplies and cost of FLBC camp leaders

Serve our church:

- Sign up to be a Sunday worship minister, reader or a projector attendant. Someone will help you learn what to do!
- Serve on a hospitality group, help make Lenten soup or help with funerals
- Get involved as a Youth Group helper or leader

Attend our church

- Sundays, Wednesday Youth Group, planned events
- Attend TO our church in your stewardship of our church

Grow!

- Become involved in activities in our church (church council, Men in Mission, WELCA, chair exercise group, Scripture Discovery, Sunday evening craft/sewing ladies)

Please contact the parish office 406-654-1434 for any questions you may have! We are happy to help!



Stewardship
a way of life