

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
A Place For All. No Exceptions.

6822 Grand Avenue, PO Box 7135
Duluth, MN 55807
218-624-0061

The Reverend Katherine Cornell

In-Church & Online
Sunday Worship 10:00 am
asburyduluth.org/about-us/worship/

Office Hours
Monday-Thursday:
10:00 am to 3:30 pm
Closed Fridays & the
1st Monday of each month

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Messenger

Asbury UMC Christmas Program

Our Christmas program was a lot of fun and gave us a different look at the nativity. It also reminded us, in a unique way, what the 23rd Psalm tells us. Sunday School children chose their individual parts and helped with the costumes. The donkey (Ruby Thain) and rooster (Charles Crumb) created their own costumes. The sheep costumes were created by Donna Mickelson. All other costumes were part of our Christmas collection. Our Asbury Singers sang "Sing We the Song of Emmanuel."

Many people made the program possible and a huge thank you goes to all of them. We are blessed to have the support of our Asbury family without which we would not be able to share our programs and music. We had many helpers behind the scenes, Kim Herrig, Mylah Duncan, Sandy Winklesky and Donna Mickelson to name a few!

In January we will again look at miracles and Easter!



Photos by Dawn Jones





A Penny For Your Thoughts

New Year's Traditions

Do you have a New Year's tradition? Some watch the Times Square Ball Drop or observe as the new year is rung in around the world. Others set resolutions, or have words and phrases that guide them through the year.

In past years, my husband Brian and I took time on New Year's Day to reflect on the past year — celebrating joys and achievements, acknowledging challenges, and giving gratitude to God for relationships and experiences in our lives. We then take some time to dream into the new year. What are our hopes for our health, for our relationships, for growth personally and professionally? Then, what will hinder us and what will help us? Finally, we offer all of these hopes and dreams, challenges and opportunities to God.

No matter your traditions, the new year offers us a wonderful time to remember that God's grace and love are available for us each and every day. God is all about new beginnings and having another chance to live into the very best of who we are and who we want to be.

In the Minnesota Conference of the United Methodist Church, we share our mission of "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" with all other United Methodists around the world. In the Minnesota Conference, our vision is to "love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously." Our values include "being rooted in Jesus, inclusive of all persons, grounded in Wesleyan theology, and engaged in the work of Justice and Redemption."



At Asbury we live out those values through our own mission and vision statements. "At Asbury UMC we believe God's words and ways are key to abundant life for us and for our community. Asbury UMC is a welcoming, active congregation that exists to serve, grow, build, and bless our congregation, community, and the world."

So this new year, as we consider God's grace that always goes before us, inviting us into deeper relationships with God and the world around us each day, let us learn and live into these statements through our words and actions each day.

And through it all, we have one another and God's Holy Spirit to join us on the journey.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastoral Care: Please notify the church office (218-624-0061) if you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care for illness, hospitalization or surgeries.

In case of emergency and there is no answer at the church, please contact Pastor Katherine at 828-263-2035 or email at kcornell@wnccumc.net. Pastor's day off is on Friday and she works from home on Mondays.

Thank You!

Dear Asbury Members and Friends:

Thank you to everyone who donated toys and money to the Salvation Army Toy Drive. Your generosity has made Christmas more joyful for many children.
— Dennie and Sharon Parendo

Dear Outreach Team of Asbury UMC:

The partner families, volunteers and staff of the Western Lake Superior Habitat for Humanity thank you for your generosity and support of the Habitat mission in our local area. Your gift of \$100 will go to good use helping our work in our community. During this time, as we focus our time and energy on building safe, decent and affordable housing and repairing homes across our community, your support is more important than ever. The joy and power in the local Habitat mission is that by building homes we also bring local folks together to build our regional community. Your gift will multiply and continue to give well into the future.
— Darren Schmitt, Executive Director

Dear United Women in Faith:

Thank you for your generous donation of \$1,350 to the Duluth Salvation Army. We are deeply grateful for your support as we work together to serve those in need. On behalf of our entire team, thank you for your generosity, compassion and kindness. Your gift helps us provide for some of the most essential needs in our community from warm meals to safe shelter. Your support truly makes a difference.
— Cyndi Lewis, Community Engagement Director

Our 2025 Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings went to TPUMM in support of local ministries and towards our 2025 MN Annual Conference Apportionments.

Our January free-will Outreach Offering collection is for FREE Community Breakfast Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Attendance . . .

Dec. 7	71 In-church/56 views
Dec. 14	64 In-church/68 views
Dec. 21	60 In-church/43 views
Dec. 24	135 In-church/32 views

Scripture Readers . . .

Jan. 4	Donna Mickelson
Jan. 11	Jan Akervik
Jan. 18	Terry Olson
Jan. 25	Carol Johnson

Leadership Recognition -- January 18

On January 18 during our Sunday service we will be recognizing and praying for the leadership of our church. If you are involved with any of our leadership teams or serve as the chair of any of those teams, please make a special effort to be in church. We are so thankful for the effort that each of you give and we look forward to recognizing you on January 18.

Pledge Cards Thank You!

We have a total of \$148,652.00 pledged for our 2026 Operating Budget from 63 pledge units! **Thank you for your generosity and commitment to the ministry, people and programs of Asbury UMC!**

Church-School Partnership Team News

What a busy team! Continuing the food distribution program at Laura MacArthur Elementary School is a major part of the Team's connection with the school. Eighty food bags are distributed each week with each bag weighing about 10 lbs. The Team is also assisting with "The Giving Tree" event. This program allows families to send in gift requests for their children. They are blessed with the opportunity to come to school on selected days close to Christmas to pick up the requested gifts at no charge to the families. This is a fun event, lots of laughing, talking as well as the joy of seeing the faces of the adults as they receive the gifts selected for their child(ren).

Alice Brenny is keeping the conference informed of the Team's opportunities with Laura MacArthur. As far as Alice knows at this time, Asbury UMC is the only church in the northern part of the district participating in this program!

Blessings to all; stay safe and have a blessed Christmas and New Year!
— Asbury Church-School Partnership Team



- 9 Debbie Merrick
- Dave Stromgren
- 17 Jim Gimpel
- 18 Ron Brosdal
- Sue Soder
- 20 Mike Akervik
- 23 Lindsey Miller
- Angelique Thibault
- 26 Kaylee Randa
- 27 Michael Cornell
- Aidan Thibault
- 28 Kathy Downs
- Anita Fagerstrom
- 29 Bergen Blazevic
- 31 Alice Brenny

*Not included?
Please contact the
church office at 624-0061.*

Asbury News



Quilt Stories

HOPE QUILT (provided by Dawn Jones)

Dawn started quilting after she retired. She never thought she would be a quilter but says she enjoys it very much. Scandinavian quilt stories are found in folktales depicting the historical migration of Scandinavian immigrants who brought quilt-making traditions to America with them. Scandinavian folklore, nature, and traditional motifs were used to create quilts that told stories of their heritage. The red deer, or stag, is a significant subject in both traditional and modern Norwegian and Scandinavian folk art.

The red color in Scandinavian art symbolizes a welcome touch of color to the often-grey landscapes. It can symbolize hope for the life that perhaps cannot always be seen, but we know that God is at work to bring about.

PEACE QUILT (provided by Dawn Jones)

Pieced quilts are a very special and important part of American craft history and art-making. They also have a lot of stories connected to them.

Early quilting circles for early settlers were crucial social and practical hubs where women gathered for events like “quilting bees” to make necessary items like bed coverings, which were often gifts for weddings, births, or soldiers.

These gatherings provided community and support during harsh conditions, allowing women to share knowledge, stories, and laughter while stitching together practical and beautiful quilts. Peace was obtained while “Piecing” together quilts of necessity and love.

Many people believe that early American quilters only made quilts from their left-over clothing scraps making do with the little they had without any other alternative. While some quilters did use fabric left-overs, store-bought fabric was fairly cheap and easy to come by, even in America’s early days.

During times of war, quilting circles made quilts for soldiers, which served as symbols of love and support. “When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.”

JOY QUILT (provided by Jean Abramson estate)

This quilt was made by Jean Abramson for her oldest grandson’s High School Graduation. It took her two years to make it and all the quilting is hand stitched. Jean’s daughter-in-law says it reminds her of joy for several reasons:

First of all there is joy in the way the fabrics come together. Though Jean did not consider herself a decorator, she believed that if she sat with the fabrics long enough, God would have them come together in a beautiful way — even if what she had didn’t seem to work well at first.

Secondly, the nature in the quilt brought joy as nature does for so many of us. Jean worked on this quilt at her cabin and was able to look out at the nature around her.

Finally, there is joy in being able to give a precious gift. Have you ever found or made a wonderful gift for someone? Did it bring you joy? During Advent, we celebrate the coming of Jesus in the world, God’s gift that brings joy.

LOVE QUILT (provided by Patty Bennett)

Patty’s Grandma Myrtle was the creator of this quilt. She was born in 1889 in Duluth, MN. Patty did not know her very well, but did know that her life was not easy. Myrtle had eight children, 6 boys and 2 girls. One son and one daughter died from the Spanish flu in 1918. She raised her family through the Great Depression, when families struggled just to provide basic needs for themselves. And, she daily had to put up with Patty’s Grandpa, who all of the grandchildren agreed was very grumpy.

Continued on page 6 . . .

Calendar

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Gentle Yoga meets on Wednesdays, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall (unless otherwise specified). Call Cheryl Zupec at 218-343-4478 for more info.</p> <p>Asbury Singers practice each Sunday except Praise Sunday from 9:00 to 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. They practice at 9:30 am on Sundays they sing.</p> <p>The Praise Team practices each Wednesday at 6:30 pm and on Praise Sunday at 9:00 am.</p>				<p>1</p>  <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	2	3
<p>4</p> <p>EPIPHANY SUNDAY 9:00 am, Asbury Singers 10:00 am, Worship/Communion 10:15 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH 5:00-7:00 pm Youth at Norton Park UMC</p>	<p>5</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 am Bone Builders, FH</p> <p>11:30 am, MS Group, FH</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH</p> <p>9:30 am UWF Board Meeting, WR</p> <p>5:30 pm, YOGA, FH</p> <p>6:30 pm, Praise Team</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:30 am Bone Builders, FH</p> <p>4:30 pm SPRC, WR</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Dumpster Pick Up</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30—10:30 am 11:00 am-1:00 pm Damiano Center Volunteers</p>
<p>11</p> <p>BAPTISM OF THE LORD 9:00 am, Asbury Singers 10:00 am, Worship/Birthday 10:15 am, Bible Bingo 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH</p>	<p>12</p> <p>2:00 pm Knitting Klub, WR</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 am Bone Builders, FH</p> <p>4:30 pm Outreach, WR</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH</p> <p>9:30 am Trustees, WR</p> <p>1:30 pm, Finance, WR</p> <p>5:30 pm, YOGA, FH</p> <p>6:30 pm, Praise Team</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30 am Bone Builders, FH</p> <p>11:00 am Prayers In Action, WR</p> <p>1:00 pm Faith Circle, WR</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION 9:00 am, Praise Team 10:00 am, Worship/Praise 10:15 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH 5:00-7:00 pm Youth at Norton Park UMC</p>	<p>19</p> <p>MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY</p> <p>9:30 am Green Door Book Group, WR</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 am Bone Builders, FH</p> <p>1:00 pm Love/Hope Circle, WR</p> <p>6:00 pm Ad Council, WR & Zoom</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH</p> <p>5:30 pm, YOGA, FH</p> <p>6:30 pm, Praise Team</p> <p>MESSENGER DEADLINE</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:30 am Bone Builders, FH</p> <p>11:00 am Prayers In Action, WR</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Dumpster Pick Up</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00-10:30 am Free Community Breakfast, Our Savior's</p>
<p>25</p> <p>UWF SUNDAY ASBURY SINGERS 9:30 am, Asbury Singers 10:00 am, Worship Debbie Merrick preaching 10:15 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30 am Bone Builders, FH</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH</p> <p>1:00 pm Communications, WR</p> <p>5:30 pm, YOGA, FH</p> <p>6:30 pm, Praise Team</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:30 am Bone Builders, FH</p> <p>11:00 am Prayers In Action, WR</p> <p>PASTY ORDER DEADLINE</p> <p>MESSENGER EMAILS/MAILS</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>8:30—10:30 am 11:00 am-1:00 pm Damiano Center Volunteers</p>

Asbury News

Quilt Stories from page 4 . . .

This quilt design resembles a crazy quilt, which came into fashion in the late 1800s. It was popular in upper class homes, using pieces of beautiful cloth and detailed embroidery techniques. Grandma Myrtle was not from an upper class home and her crazy quilt does not exactly fit the fine pattern. Her quilt was most likely made during the Great Depression and out of necessity. With five hungry sons and one daughter, Grandma Myrtle had to become creative at keeping her family fed and warm.

For the quilt, she cut fabric from family clothes that were no longer usable to wear and sewed them onto an old sheet. The back of the quilt was made from her old drapery. Nothing went to waste.

It always surprised Patty that Grandma Myrtle didn't cut the loose threads left after sewing. Perhaps it was because she was so busy when the quilt was assembled, she could quickly move on to other tasks that needed to be done.

Love is the perfect word to describe this quilt. Grandma Myrtle probably knew this quilt was not going to win awards for beautiful sewing techniques, but it was her love for her family that inspired her creation. She knew this quilt would keep her children warm during cold winter nights.

Patty cherishes all those loose threads. They make her love and appreciate Grandma Myrtle for her dedication and love to her family.

Prayers In Action Gathering

Beginning on Thursday, January 15 at 11:00 am, people interested in gathering to share, reflect, and respond to one another in care and support will gather in the Wesley room. We will also meet on January 22 and 29.

Led by Pastor Katherine and Cathy Sampson, it is a time to be intentional about supporting one another, praying for one another and our city, state, country, and the world, and committing to this from Philippians 4:5b-7, *The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.*

Beyond claiming God's abiding love and peace for us, we will explore ways we can act in sharing that love with others; to live generously. All are welcome.



Join the Prayer Chain!

Asbury's Prayer Chain is a way to communicate urgent prayer requests to our members and friends. We know that prayer is powerful, so we want to be able to lift up people in prayer as needs arise. We are currently seeking additional team leaders and team members. Here is how you can help:

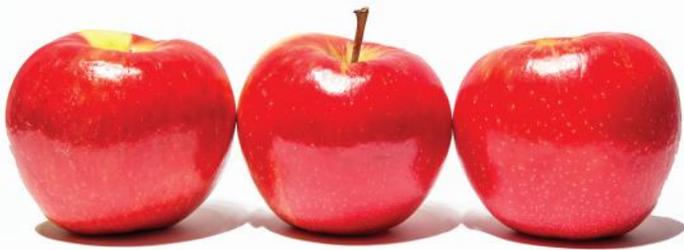
- Join as a team leader who contacts other Prayer Chain team members with any urgent prayer requests to activate the Prayer Chain.
- Join as a team member who prays when contacted by a team leader. Team leaders also pray.

If you are interested, please call Gary Winklesky, our Prayer Chain facilitator, to let him know you would like to be added as a team leader, team member or both. God chooses to work through us, and prayer is one way in which we can participate in God's work of love in this world. Please join us!

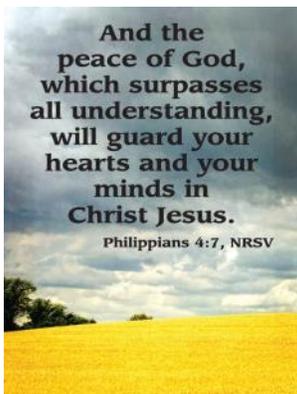
How the Prayer Chain Works

If you or a family member would like to request prayers, contact Gary, 218-390-6384 or email/call the church office at asburyumcduluth@hotmail.com, 218-624-0061.

If you are requesting prayers for someone other than yourself or a family member, ***please ask permission to share the information*** especially if you are using a person's name in the prayer request. **It is important that "Prayer Requests" remain confidential within our church congregation.**



Healthy Resolutions



Asbury News

Damiano Center Volunteers

We will continue volunteering at the Damiano Center throughout 2026. Dates to volunteer in 2026 are January 10 and 31, March 14, May 9 and 30, July 11, August 29, September 12, October 31 and November 14. Two to three volunteers are required for each shift. The first shift is from 8:30 to 10:30 am and the second shift is from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. A sign-up sheet for January is on the table in the Narthex.

Pasty Sale — February 6-7

It's soon time for pasties again! February 5-7 will be pasty making time. Sale days are the 6th and the 7th. Your help is needed for this huge project.

We peel veggies and make dough on Thursday, February 5. On February 6-7 the crew will roll out crusts, fill crusts, crimp, bake, cook and package.

We also need a clean-up team—not hard but necessary! Please see schedule below for times to help!

There will be a sign in the Narthex to sign-up plus an order form on the table where you can place your order for pasties. Be sure to order your pasties early by the deadline.

**ORDER DEADLINE Noon on January 29.
No orders will be accepted after that date!**

Pick Up Times:

Friday, February 6 from NOON to 2:00 pm
Saturday, February 7 from 10:00 to NOON
All pasty orders need to be picked up by NOON on February 7.

Pasty Sale Work Schedule

Thursday, February 5

8:00 am Mix crust. This is not hard and we will teach you.
Men and women peel veggies.

Friday, February 6

7:00 am — 2:00 pm Preparation and baking of pasties.
NOON Four people are needed for clean up, **six volunteers would be great!**

Saturday, February 7

7:00 am — NOON Pasty baking—come and learn how to bake pasties.
NOON Six people needed for clean up, **8 or more would be terrific!**

COME WHEN YOU CAN AND STAY FOR AS LONG AS YOU CAN!

Worship In January

There are three ways to participate in worship:

- 10:00 am at Asbury UMC on Sundays. Join us live at 10:00 am and join us for fellowship, coffee and treats in the Fellowship Hall after worship.
- 10:00 am livestream service on Sundays via YouTube as the live service is taking place. An email with the YouTube link and an online worship bulletin is sent out prior to each Sunday.
- Or, you can watch the YouTube service at anytime by logging in using the link provided for each Sunday.

January Worship Theme: We begin our worship in the new year on January 4 with the Celebration of Communion as we talk about God's plan for the fullness of time. On January 11, we remember our baptism as we hear about Jesus being baptized. We welcome our Praise Team to lead us on January 18. We will also recognize our leadership within our congregation that day. Finally we celebrate our United Women In Faith on January 25 along with the Asbury Singers and our own Debbie Merrick leading and preaching. Come and join us for a wonderful month of worship!

January 4

Scripture Passages:

John 1:10-18

Ephesians 1:3-14

Message: "The Ultimate Plan"

January 11

Scripture Passages:

Isaiah 42:1-9

Matthew 3:13-17

Message: "Requires Watering"

January 18

Scripture Passages:

John 1:35-42

Isaiah 49:1-7

Message: "Read Yourself In"

January 25

Scripture Passages:

TBD

Debbie Merrick preaching

Message: "How Do We Hear the Voice of God?"



2025 Christmas Poinsettias

In Memory of

My husband, parents
and sister

In Celebration of

My family
Jan Akervik

In Memory of

Our Parents
Jack and Pat Anscomb

In Memory of

My husband Clark

In Celebration of

My family
Patty Bennett

In Memory of

Dick & Pat Puhl
*Cherie, Izzy, Bergen,
Everly Blazevic*

In Honor of

Asbury UMC's
wonderful staff:
Martin, Phyllis & Shirley

In Honor of

My family: Brian,
Michael, James, Sage,
David & Dino

In Celebration of

The Congregation of
Asbury
Pastor Katherine Cornell

In Memory of

My family
Dawn Jones

In Celebration of

Our family
Steve & Barb Kokotovich

In Memory of

Louise O'Day Hover
Carol & Darrell O'Day

In Memory of

Loved Ones
*Bonnie Schroeder-Palmi
and Duane Palmi*

In Celebration of

A full recovery
David Stromgren

In Memory of

My son, Ross Wagner,
on what would have
been his 50th birthday

In Honor of

My family
In Celebration of
My grandchildren
Nancy Wagner

In Memory of

Parents and
Grandparents

In Celebration of

Daughter Lisa Greene
Gary & Sandy Winklesky



*Our Advent and Christmas Eve bulletins were provided
by Jan Akervik in memory of her husband, Mike.*

UPCOMING



AUMC 2026 Events

February 6-7, 2026 **PASTY SALE**

Call 218-624-0061 to order.

Deadline to order: **NOON on January 29**

April 21, 2026, 4:30 to 6:00 pm

DRIVE THROUGH MEATBALL DINNER

Preorder tickets to reserve dinner —

limited tickets at door

Preorder container of 6 meatballs.

Preorders call 218-624-0061.

Deadline to preorder and pay: **April 12**

Checks made out to Asbury UWF
or exact cash please!

June 5, 2026 **DONUT SALE**

Preorders recommended. Call 218-624-0061.

Deadline to order: **May 31**

TBD **RUMMAGE SALE**

9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

TBD **PASTY SALE**

Call 218-624-0061 to order.

Deadline to order: **TBD**

TBD **FALL PANTRY**

9:00 to 11:00 am, Fellowship Hall

homemade apple pies (frozen to take-and-bake);

freshly fried donuts; 350 pasties (come early!);

pickles, jams, jellies and more;

Cookie Table; breads, baked goods;

craft/knit items



2026 Elected Leadership

Thank you to all who serve —

*both those who are going off committee membership
and those who are continuing or beginning!*

You are an important part of the ministry and organization of our church!

Administrative Council

Facilitator Sandy Winklesky
Recording Secretary Patty Bennett
Treasurer Pat Anscomb
Lay Leader Steve Kokotovich
Lay Delegate to Annual Conference Steve Kokotovich
Pastor Katherine Cornell

Ministry Team Facilitators

Board of Trustees Nancy Wagner, Terry Olson
Finance Larry Sampson
Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Barb Kokotovich
Scholarship Shelly Vanneste
Outreach Steve Kokotovich
Membership Candy Kokotovich
Worship Renee Randa
Youth Council
Christian Education Sandy Winklesky, Alice Brenny
Visitation Karen Gokey
UWF President Bev LeClair, Dawn Jones
Landscaping Pam Perich
At-Large Member Amy Kokotovich

Christian Education Team

Facilitators Sandy Winklesky, Alice Brenny
Children's Church Sandy Winklesky
Family Fall Festival
Christmas Program Christian Education Committee
SS Teachers Sandy Winklesky, Ruby Slennes, Alice Brenny
Adult Education Pastor Katherine
At Large Members Patti Barber, Beth Peterson,
..... Sue Baker, Carol Johnson

Worship Team

Facilitator Renee Randa
Members: Phyllis Kruell, Alice Brenny, Kim Herrig, Sue Soder
..... Cherie Blazevic, Pam Perich, Debbie Johnson, Drew Lundgren
Children's Music Ruby Slennes
Music Coordinator/Organist Phyllis Kruell
Praise Team Leaders Kim Herrig, Phyllis Kruell
Altar Candle Care Leila Lundberg
Certified Lay Speakers Debbie Merrick, Sue Soder
Communion Stewards Mick & Kathy Levinski, Dawn & Dennie Parendo
Ushers Sue Soder (Head Usher), Steve Kokotovich, Avon Power,
..... Nancy Wagner, Mick & Kathy Levinski, Donna & Steve Mickelson,
Technology Kim Herrig, Phyllis Kruell, Pam Perich, Debbie Merrick,
..... Dawn Jones, Steve Kokotovich, Shelly Vanneste,
..... Nathan Nylund, David Cornell, Amy Kokotovich, Izzy Blazevic
Pastor Katherine Cornell

Fine Arts Team Jan Akervik, Judy Pearson, Leila Lundberg, Dawn Jones

Visitation Team

Facilitator Karen Gokey
Members Pat Anscomb, Phyllis Wolden, Avon Power,
..... Patty Bennett, Jan Akervik, Cindy Yewell, Sandy Winklesky,
..... Sue Newberry, Kathy Levinski, Pastor Katherine

Outreach Team

Facilitator Steve Kokotovich
CHUM Representative Sandy Winklesky
Team Members Dawn Parendo, Judy Hill, Myma Thompson,
..... Sharon Picconatto, Sue Baker, Julie Brackett, Pastor Katherine

Membership Team

Facilitator Candy Kokotovich
Team Members Sue Newberry, Sharon Parendo, Patty Bennett
Cherie Blazevic, Bonnie Schroeder-Palmi, Sue Soder, Pastor Katherine
Prayer Chain Facilitators Gary & Sandy Winklesky

Board of Trustees

Co-Facilitators Nancy Wagner, Terry Olson
Class of 2026 Donna Mickelson, Steve Hill, Joe Kokotovich
Class of 2027 Terry Olson, Peter Downs, Evan Town
Class of 2028 Nancy Wagner, Jim Anderson, Paul Rigstad

Landscaping Team

Facilitator Pam Perich
Team Members Jeanne Rychlak, Dale Thorpe, Mick Levinski,
..... Jerry Smith, Dick Wolden, Charles Crumb
..... Stan Johnson, Donna Mickelson

Staff/Pastor Parish Relations

Facilitator Barb Kokotovich
Class of 2026 Dawn Parendo, Carol Johnson
Class of 2027 Dennie Parendo, Ruth Thorpe
Class of 2028 Barb Kokotovich, Greg Fox
Lay Leader Steve Kokotovich
Pastor Katherine Cornell

Finance & Stewardship Team

Facilitator Larry Sampson
Team Members Julie Arnt, Judi VanDell, Jan Akervik, Shelly Vanneste
Administrative Council Chair Sandy Winklesky
Treasurer Pat Anscomb
Second Signer Larry Scanlon, Judi VanDell
Trustee Co-Chairs Nancy Wagner, Terry Olson
SPRC Chair Barb Kokotovich
Lay Leader Steve Kokotovich
Offering Counters Lynn Tollefson (lead counter), Sharon Picconatto,
..... Mary DeMars, Karen Gokey,
..... Kathy Levinski, Sue Newberry
Memorials Karen Gokey, Cindy Kari

Communications Team

Team Members Cathy Sampson, Alice Brenny, Dawn Jones
..... Dale Rogers, Cindy Kari, Judy Skorich, Pastor Katherine

Scholarship

Facilitator Shelly Vanneste
VanKleek Representative Ruth VanKleek Thorpe
Maida Representative Jeff Maida
Team Members Donna Mickelson, Dennie Parendo,
..... Sheila Fox, Lynn Tollefson

Lay Leadership (formerly "Nominations")

Facilitator Rev. Katherine Cornell
Lay Leader Steve Kokotovich
Class of 2026 Dawn Parendo, Bonnie Schroeder-Palmi
Class of 2027 Joe Kokotovich, Sue Soder
Class of 2028 Shelly Vanneste, Cindy Yewell
Pastor Katherine Cornell

Kid's Corner



TRANSLATE GOD'S WORD

The Bible we use is translated into English from other languages.
"Translate" the verse below using the code.

CODE			
E = △	L = □	R = †	
A = ■	G = ●	M = ↗	S = ■
B = X	H = ◀	N = †	SH = ☀
D = ◀◀	I = ▲	O = ☼	T = 🎵
	K =	P = □	TH = ♥

Y ◀ ■ □ □ ▲ ■ ♥ △

W F ☼ † △ ◀ ☼ ▲ † ◀◀ ■

W ▲ ■ ◀◀ ☼ ↗ ■ † ◀◀ ♥ △

W ☼ † △ ◀ ☼ ● △ 🎵 ■

U † ◀◀ △ † ■ 🎵 ■ † ◀◀ ▲ † ●

Proverbs 3:13

Answer: Happy is the one who finds wisdom and the one who gets understanding.



Celebrate the beauty of winter with these fun snowflake-inspired treats!

What you need:

- Graham cracker squares or sugar cookies
- White frosting or marshmallow fluff
- Pretzel sticks (snowflake arms)
- Shredded coconut or white sprinkles
- Mini marshmallows or candy pearls



What you do:

1. Frost each cracker or cookie.
2. Arrange pretzel sticks in a crisscross for the snowflake base.
3. Sprinkle with coconut or sprinkles for snow.
4. Add marshmallows or candy pearls to the ends for detail.

Lesson tie-in:

Remind kids that God made each of us unique—just like no two snowflakes are alike!
(Psalm 139:14, KJV)

Precious
in His
Sight



UWF 2025 Awards

The UWF 2025 awards will be presented on UWF Sunday, January 25, 2026. The Special Mission Award will be awarded to Donna Mickelson, Gifts to Missions honorees are Cindy Yewell and Sharon Picconatto, Special Recognition honoree is Phyllis Wolden. Gifts in Memory: Joyce Park, Flossie Johnson and Ruth Bloomquist.



Hugely Successful Advent Tea

Our Advent Tea was held Saturday, December 6 at 2:00 pm with about 85 guests attending. We gathered in the Sanctuary for our program and enjoyed music from Ripple Effect. Later, everyone gathered in the Fellowship Hall to view the beautifully set tables and partake of a delicious dessert buffet. Our free-will offering this year went to Laundry Love.



A huge thank you to Pastor Katherine, and everyone who helped make this delightful event a success.
— The Advent Tea Team

Scripture Keys to a Joyful New Year

Hold fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)
Pray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18)
Pray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)
Yield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Neglect not your talents and opportunities (Galatians 6:10)
Examine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)
Work diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11,16)
Exercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
Aim at sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)
Redeem the time (Ephesians 5:15, 16) — Gus Nichols

UWF Meetings

- UWF board members meet at 9:30 am in the Wesley Room on the 1st Wednesday of each month. **The UWF Board will meet January 7.** Donna Mickelson will be our hostess and provide devotions.
- Love/Hope Circle meets at 1:00 pm in the Wesley Room on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. New members always welcome. **Love/Hope Circle will meet on January 20.** (Weather permitting.)
- Faith Circle meets at 1:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Wesley Room. New members always welcome. **Faith Circle will meet on January 15.** We will collect pledges for the 2026 year and discuss the February pasty sale. Jan Akervik will be our hostess and share our devotions.
- Knitting Klub meets at 2:00 pm in the Wesley Room on the 2nd Monday of the month. New members always welcome. **The Knitting Klub will meet on January 12.**
- Green Door Book Group meets at 9:30 am in the Wesley Room on the 3rd Monday of each month. **The Green Door Book Group will meet on January 19.**
- **Bone Builders Plus meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30 to 10:30 am. They will resume meeting on January 6.** They do not meet on holidays or if there is a special event at Asbury. Bone Builders Plus is a program to improve balance, muscle strength, bone density and increase energy. It helps to prevent falls and improve dexterity. Participants enjoy increased socialization. Call Jan Akervik at 218-626-1539 for more information.

Asbury United Methodist
PO Box 7135
Duluth MN 55807

Return service requested

Meet Our Staff



Pastor:..... Katherine Cornell
Administrative Asst.:Shirley Brandt
Music Coordinator/Organist:Phyllis Kruell
Praise Team Leaders.....varies
Custodian: Martin Larson
Ad Council Chair:Sandy Winklesky
Treasurer:Pat Anscomb
FinanceLarry Sampson
Lay Leader/Outreach: Steve Kokotovich
Trustees:Nancy Wagner, Terry Olson
UWF President.....Bev LeClair, Dawn Jones
SPRC ChairBarb Kokotovich
Worship ChairRenee Randa
Christian Ed.: Alice Brenny/Sandy Winklesky
Scholarship Shelly Vanneste
Membership Candy Kokotovich
VisitationKaren Gokey

This newsletter is e-mailed/mailed monthly by Asbury UMC, Duluth MN.

EDITORS: The Rev. Katherine Cornell; Shirley Brandt, Admin. Asst.

CHURCH OFFICE:

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NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE: January 22 for February 2025 Messenger.

Please submit all articles of interest to Shirley in the church office by the deadline listed above.
Items may be dropped off, e-mailed or mailed. Thank you.

Worship With Us

Every Sunday at 10:00 am.

NOTE:

1st Sunday of each month we share Holy Communion,
2nd Sunday we recognize those celebrating birthdays.
3rd Sunday our music is led by our Praise Team.
***Every Sunday we give thanks and celebrate
God's great gifts and presence in our lives.***



Asbury's Vision & Mission Statement

Vision: At Asbury UMC, we believe God's words and ways are key to abundant life for ourselves and our community.

Mission: Asbury UMC is a welcoming, active church that exists to serve, grow, build, and bless our congregation, community, and the world.