

Unity Lutheran Church *"The Gifts of God are Free"*

Every time Unity gathers in worship, we extend an invitation to everyone present to partake in the Lord's Supper, saying together: "The gifts of God are . . . FREE!" I first experienced a congregation saying these powerful words when I spent a couple weeks with Abiding Hope Lutheran Church in Littleton, Colorado. In the wake of the Columbine school shooting, most churches in the area declined as the tragedy overwhelmed people. Yet at that same time, Abiding Hope was one of the fastest growing congregations in the ELCA.

The difference was Abiding Hope's focus on God's grace. Not a cheap grace that glosses over hardships and avoids challenges. But rather, the costly grace of Jesus' death and resurrection. The costly grace of the eternal Son freely choosing not to regard equality with God as something to exploit for his own comfort, but instead emptied himself in humility to take on the form of a servant. The costly grace of the divine becoming human and dwelling among us. The costly grace of entering into human suffering on the cross. Because it is only this costly grace of solidarity that overcomes death to offer us new life.

We know that whenever we face hardships and challenges, God is there with us offering new life. We have experienced this together at Unity. And we can count on God's faithfulness moving forward. In the months ahead, we anticipate taking a big step in our visioning process. This summer our development committee will submit their recommendation to council for the best option in redeveloping our building in order to secure our congregation's financial future and equip us in Jesus' mission for the long term. Council will then share this proposal with the congregation along with the project timeline. Ultimately, this will be the congregation's decision to make together, and we will have a year to be in conversation about it while we consider drafts and offer our input prior to a congregational vote.

Throughout our conversations and prayerful discernment, we will lean into God's grace. And as we do every time the Spirit gathers us for Holy Communion, we will extend God's grace to one another. This summer in worship we will be studying God's Word with the theme we joyfully proclaim together, "The Gifts of God are FREE!". Each week, we'll be shaped by God's costly grace as we read from the letters of the New Testament and dive deeper into God's gifts of assurance, humility, gentleness, love, community, and much more. You're invited. Love invites you in.

Shalom!
Pr. Kevan



Summer Newsletter 2026

**Unity has TWO ways to join our worship services if you are unable to make it in person,
Here are the links.**

Watch it live stream at: <https://facebook.com/unitymilwaukee>

Watch the recording on YouTube at: [Unity Lutheran Church - YouTube](#)

Visioning Retreat with Leighton Ford Rescheduled

Our last visioning retreat with Kevin Ford, from Leighton Ford Ministries, has been rescheduled for Saturday and Sunday, October 17 – 18, 2026. We will NOT be meeting on September 19-20, 2026 as previously announced. The retreat will be held in Unity's Fellowship Hall. More details will be available at the date gets closer. All members of Unity are welcome!

Spanish Ministry Update from Vicar Josefa

Brothers and sisters, the church is a place for everyone, where you are welcomed and accepted, regardless of your immigration status. On the first Sunday of March, we had Spanish service with a participation of 12 people, and for April 5, the resurrection day of our Lord Jesus Christ, we had a participation of 14 Latino siblings, and 3 Anglo-Saxon siblings who supported us with their presence, and on April 19, Brother Saul was introduced as a new member of our Unity (Bilingual) church. We have more Latino siblings to participate in church, but they stay home for fear of being detained by immigration agents. Our siblings who always participate in the worship service come with the vision of expanding the ministry, taking the message of our Lord to the place where they are. I continue to visit homes, to those Latino families who feel good and can receive the message and word of our loving God. I continue studying at Wartburg Seminary. I have already finished the subject of Pastoral Care. In this subject I learned a lot, how to help our brothers in times of pain and suffering, I finished this subject on April 6 and from this response, the Candidacy Committee invited me to an interview about Endorsement, in which I presented myself and I was approved, in order to continue celebrating the Worship Services. All this achievement is thanks to the great support of Pastor Kevan Penvose, who guides me on the path to my call from our Lord and the support of all the English-speaking siblings for opening the doors for me to carry out the Latino ministry. The Unity Spanish service is held on the first Sunday of each month at 12:00 noon. I invite all Unity members who want to participate. English translation is offered, and after each service a delicious lunch is offered. Join us! The next services in Spanish are: June 7, July 5, August 2. The love of our Lord Jesus Christ invites you!



Active Adult Center News

Unity's Active Adult Center welcomes all our neighbors and friends for Lunch, Games, Bible Study, Conversations and more! We are looking to invite new members to our Active Adults this Fall! Bring your friends, family members, and neighbors to join us when we return this fall on September 8 at 9:30AM!!

Kids Time

Thanks to all the adults who help lead our ministry. And thanks to all the kids who come to have fun growing in God's word. Kids Time is on a break over the Summer and will be resuming with all the fun and songs September 13.



Unity Choir



Unity's Choir will be taking a break for the summer months. We look forward to hearing everyone's wonderful voices again this fall!

Join Us for an Evening of Music and Fun!

Jazz at the Vine!!

All are invited to join us on Thursday, July 9th for Jazz at the Vine at Humbolt Park from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. This informal event is welcome to everyone of all ages! Jazz music will be provided by Jeanne Marie Farinelli Trio. Beverages are available for purchase. There may be food available for purchase or you are welcome bring your own snacks. There is a playground behind the beer garden for the children. We'll meet at one of the picnic tables. If you prefer, bring your own lawn chair. Come, visit with Unity members and friends, and enjoy an evening of great music!

RIC NEWS

Book Club

Our next book for the book club is centered around the topic of immigration. Unity will order books for those who are interested. The book that we will be reading is *Beyond Welcome: Centering Immigrants in Our Christian Response to Immigration* by Karen Gonzalez. Dates for the book club are June 23rd, July 7th and 21st, and we will meet at the Starbucks on Holt Ave (in front of Home Depot) at 7pm.

Pride Parade

Pride Parade is on June 7th. We start walking at 2pm. Last year we left Unity Church around 12pm doing carpooling for those that wanted to participate and parked in the same area to walk over to the staging area off Greenfield and 1st St. This is the plan for this year again, as this was successful. There is a sign-up sheet for coordinating carpooling on the Usher's Table in the back of the narthex.

For those that want to march in the parade, please wear either a Unity T-shirt or something PRIDE related. You are welcome to bring candy to pass out.

Pride Worship Service

"Celebrating our Diversity as God's Children" Thursday, June 11th at 6:30pm, at Ascension Lutheran Church, 1236 Layton Blvs, (aka South 27th St in Milwaukee) If you play an instrument, or if you sing and want to be part of Pride Worship, here's your chance! We are looking for volunteers to be part of the Pride Worship Band or Choir. If you are interested, please email Chuck chuck.gmsric@gmail.com

Reconciling Works Giving Envelope

For the month of June, there is an envelope that is to give a donation to the Reconciling Works organization that helps to support RIC congregations with education, materials, and resources to continue to work of being inclusive and affirming spaces. Please consider donating to this cause.



Save the Date-CommUNITY Learning Event

The next community education event hosted by Unity will be Saturday evening, October 10 featuring author Karen Gonzalez. We will be reading her book *Beyond Welcome: Centering Immigrants in Our Christian Response to Immigration* during our RIC book club this summer! We look forward to seeing you then!

Volunteers Needed!!

Our faithful volunteers are greatly appreciated! We are in need for additional volunteers for Sunday mornings. A few of the high-need areas are Cantors, Ushers, Producer/Director, and Online Ministers. If you would like to learn more about any of these roles, or other worship roles, and/or receive training on any position, please send an email to unity@unitymilwaukee.org or leave a voicemail message to the Unity Office.

CommUnity Meal Dates

We are now serving hot meals twice each month. If you have any questions, please contact Unity's office, or Lynn Rinderle.
Hot Meal Dates: June 3rd & 17th, July 1st & 15th, August 5th & 19th



Election Day Bakesale!

Election Day Bake Sale: A Sweet Success!

A huge thank you to everyone who made our April 7th Election Day Bake Sale such a wonderful success! Whether you donated delicious goodies, helped staff the table, or stopped by to buy a treat, your contribution was appreciated. It was a beautiful day of fellowship as we spent time chatting with our neighbors and welcoming the community into our space. Thanks to your generosity and hard work, we raised a total of \$850 for our church ministries!

Our next bake sale is scheduled for the election on **Tuesday, August 11th**. We are currently looking for a volunteer to take the lead on organizing this upcoming event, as Sarah Brauhn is unavailable to chair this one. If you are interested in helping out, please reach out to Sarah. She is more than happy to share her notes and get you set up for success!



Property Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to assist with various property projects pertaining to cleaning and general upkeep. If you are interested in assisting with projects, please reach out to Jake Schroeder or Chelsea in the office.



Unity's Food Pantry & Clothing
Open Every Wednesday
5:00PM - 6:00PM



Summer Newsletter 2026

YouthWorks Returns

We are eager to welcome and host this years YouthWorks groups! We have three groups arriving this summer. Our first group will be arriving June 1st – June 3rd.

Our second group will be arriving June 15th- June 19th.

The Third group will be with us August 19th – August 22nd

Outreach Ministry News

Our meal ministry occurs year-round so if you can, please volunteer or come for dinner!

We continue to need volunteers for:

First Wednesdays:

5pm-6pm Serving Team

6pm-7:30pm Clean-up Crew

Second Wednesdays:

1pm-2:30pm Prepare To-Go Meals

Third Wednesdays:

1:30pm-4:30pm Prepare Hot Dinner and Set Up Dining Hall

5pm-6pm: Serving Team

6pm-7:30pm: Clean-up Crew

Fourth Wednesdays:

1pm-2:30pm Prepare To-Go Meals

Fifth Wednesdays:

1pm-2:30pm Prepare To-Go Meals



Council Highlights

- We Welcomed the following new members to Unity: Jennifer and Erich Fisher, Saul Morales, and Linda Lubner.
- The council reviewed and approved the Development Timeline draft.
- Council approved the repair of the retaining wall in the back alley. This is a temporary fix as a permanent solution is explored.
- Council agreed to support Josefa's Spanish-language ministry through 2026. Her pastoral internship of her program is scheduled to end this summer.
- Met and reviewed the winter warming shelter season with Nick Tomaro, County Housing. Suggested improvements for the 2026-27 season were discussed.

News From the Development Committee

On behalf of the Development Committee and Council, we would like to share an update on our progress with the congregation. Work continues with our Owner's Rep, Derek Taylor, as we explore redevelopment opportunities. Council has directed the committee to prioritize keeping the winter emergency warming center, should our zoning appeal for it get approved following March 2028. In the most recent months, we have met with potential partner organizations to gauge both interest and feasibility and are close to bringing a proposal to Council. At this point we anticipate this approximate timeline:

June 2026 -- Development Committee submits a high-level test fit/site plan project proposal to Council

August 2026 -- Congregational info session to share project proposal

Fall 2026 -- Development Committee identifies developer to create a draft plan

February 2027 -- Congregational info session with draft plan

April 2027 -- Development Committee proposes final plan to council

May 2027 -- Council votes on final plan to recommend it to the congregation

June 2027 -- Congregational info session with final plan

August 2027 -- Congregational Meeting and vote on final plan

If you have any questions about redevelopment work, please bring these to Pastor Kevan so that they may be shared with the Development Committee.

Jake Schroeder, Laura McVann, Jack Kosmoski, Pastor Kevan Penvose



Outreach for Hope Devotion Article

If you have not had the opportunity to view, please take a moment to look at our article written by Pastor Chris from Outreach for Hope. The article highlights all of our efforts in our Outreach programs.

<https://www.outreachforhope.org/lenten-devotions-details?recordId=recO8n0XPwvlgObZ8>



Fall 2026 Newsletter is Tuesday, August 11.
Please Send Submissions to Chelsea
Office.Admin@unitymilwaukee.org

Stewarding our resources for Jesus' mission

Thank you for your generosity and for sharing your blessings and supporting Unity's ministries. This is our financial situation (General Fund) through April 2026.

Total Income	\$89,216.49 YTD	Annual Budget	\$236,683.00
Total Expenses	\$92,941.48 YTD	Annual Budget	\$236,636.00



Use your QR Code Reader on your phone to give securely through the VANCO giving app.



Summer Newsletter 2026

Sunday Worship Schedule

If You Would Like To Serve In Any Of These Ministries, Please Contact The Office.

	06/07/2026	06/14/2026	06/21/2026	06/28/2026	07/05/2026
Ushers	Gary Goetsch, Kitty Dinauer, Calvin & Joey *Scout Sunday*	Jacki Davis, Chris Davis, Wayne Pratis, Calvin & Joey	Gary Goetsch, Kitty Dinauer, Rita Smith, Josefa Puerta-Villacrez	Jacki Davis, Chris Davis, Jorge Torres-Munoz, Bill Gamm	Gary Goetsch, Kitty Dinauer, Bill Gamm, Josefa Puerta-Villacrez
Online Host	Laura McVann	Heather Willette	Patsy Lenz	Rita Smith	Patsy Lenz
Director/Producer	Kyle Davis	John Lyden	John Lyden	Kyle Davis	Kyle Davis
Altar Guild	Stacy Davis	Alyssa Gamm	Mary Dukes-Hamrick	Erin Denk	Josefa Puerta-Villacrez
Lector	Jody Stack	Janet Dunst	Nick Latona	Lynn Rinderle	Alyssa Gamm
Communion Assist.	Janet Dunst	Mary Dukes-Hamrick	Nancy Baker	Jody Stack	Janet Dunst
	07/12/2026	07/19/2026	07/26/2026	08/02/2026	08/09/2026
Ushers	Jacki Davis, Chris Davis, Wayne Pratis, Josefa Puerta-Villacrez	Gary Goetsch, Kitty Dinauer, Rita Smith, Jorge Torres-Munoz	Gary Goetsch, Kitty Dinauer, Jorge Torres-Munoz, Josefa Puerta-Villacrez	Jacki Davis, Chris Davis, Wayne Pratis, Rita Smith	Gary Goetsch, Kitty Dinauer, Wayne Pratis, Josefa Puerta-Villacrez
Online Host	Rita Smith	Patsy Lenz	Laura McVann	Heather Willette	Patsy Lenz
Director/Producer	John Lyden	John Lyden	Kyle Davis	John Lyden	Kyle Davis
Altar Guild	Erin Denk	Mary Dukes-Hamrick	Alyssa Gamm	Josefa Puerta-Villacrez	Erin Denk
Lector	Lynn Rinderle	Nancy Baker	Nick Latona	Nancy Baker	Wayne Pratis
Communion Assist.	Jody Stack	Josefa Puerta-Villacrez	Nancy Baker	Mary Dukes-Hamrick	Jan Dunst
	08/16/2026	08/23/2026	08/30/2026	09/06/2026	09/13/2026
Ushers	Jacki Davis, Chris Davis, Wayne Pratis, Bill Gamm	Gary Goetsch, Kitty Dinauer, Jorge Torres-Munoz, Josefa Puerta-Villacrez	Gary Goetsch, Kitty Dinauer, Bill Gamm, Rita Smith	Jacki Davis, Chris Davis, Wayne Pratis, Jorge Torres-Munoz	Gary Goetsch, Kitty Dinauer, Bill Gamm, Calvin & Joey
Online Host	Rita Smith	Heather Willette	Patsy Lenz	Rita Smith	Laura McVann
Director/Producer	John Lyden	Kyle Davis	Kyle Davis	John Lyden	Kyle Davis
Altar Guild	Josefa Puerta-Villacrez	Erin Denk	Stacy Davis	Josefa Puerta-Villacrez	Stacy Davis
Lector	Janet Dunst	Nancy Baker	Wayne Pratis	Lynn Rinderle	Jody Stack
Communion Assist.	Jody Stack	Janet Dunst	Nancy Baker	Mary Dukes-Hamrick	Josefa Puerta-Villacrez



Summer Newsletter 2026

We remember the following people as we pray...

Ebony Brown and family (friends of Unity); **Gail** Senelon (AAC member); **Mary** Cicerelli (member); **Jeff** Tessmer (son of Marge); **Keith** Mueller (brother of Kim Thomas); **Jean** Weibner (mother of Tricia Skinner); **Don** Plant (friend of Jeff Kornreich); **Blake** Oleson (friends of Unity); **Dorothy** C. (outreach member); Pastor **Kevan** Penvose; **Patsy** Lenz (member); **Patricia** Orłowski (friend of Unity); **Sandy** LeBombard (friend of Unity); **Jerry & Nellie** Javorski; **Cindy** Larson (friend of Frank Jendisa); **Bonnie** Ziowkoski, **Lori** Jameson (member); **Kathy** (friend of Unity); **Joan** (friend of Unity); **Jack** Badalik (friend of Unity); **Andy** Wegner (member); **Mary** Noe; **Robin** Servantez (friend of Lori Jameson); **Kim** Deschler; **Justin, Nathan, and Frank**, (friends of Unity); **Jamie** Kornreich (member); **Elaine** Kornreich (member); **Joe, Shelly,** and **Joey** Tuzzo (friends of Unity); **Jeannine** Lau (member); **Thom R. Bagley, Marty; Cindy** Bereiter; **Susan ; Paula, Cathy, Lee; Hernandez** family; the **Toni Fare family** (member); **Nicholas** Whitehead (member); **Rita** Smith & **Jr.** (members); **Thurston, Isaac, Eric,** the **Zolinsky family; Tricia** Skinner (member); **Scott** Neumann (friend of Cindy Flechner); **Dennis** Block (member), **Matthew Robert Van Etta** (dad of Ophelia); **Pam** Padgett (member); **Wayne** Pratis (member); **Dave** Emmons (Friend of Unity); Family & Friends of **Chuck** Williams (member); **Jason** (Friend of Unity); and **Dave** (Friend of Unity); **Susan** Johnson, and **Catherine** Rhode (Dear Friends of Ross); **Patty** Monte (Friend of AAC); **Mary & Mike** Deikalo (Friend of AAC); **Cindy** Flecher (member); **Sue** Brauhn (mother of Tyler); **Janis** Morris (member).

**Please notify the office to add or remove someone from Unity's prayer list.*



Summer Newsletter 2026

"The Gifts of God are FREE!"

Scripture Messages & Daily Readings

"In Servant Leadership"

May 31st

Sunday Acts 6:1-7

Monday Acts 6:8-15

Tuesday Acts 7:1-22

Weds. Acts 7:35-50

Thurs. Acts 7:54-60

Friday Acts 8:1-13

Sat. Acts 9:1-22

"God-Given Assurance"

June 7th

Sunday Acts 17:16-31

Monday Acts 18:1-16

Tuesday Acts 18:24-26

Weds. Acts 19:1-10

Thurs. Acts 20:17-32

Friday Acts 21:15-26

Sat. Acts 21:27-36

"Keep Showing Up"

June 14th

Sunday Acts 22:6-21

Monday Acts 22:22-29

Tuesday Acts 23:1-11

Weds. Acts 24:10-21

Thurs. Acts 26:1-11

Friday Acts 26:19-29

Saturday Acts 28:23-31

"Unstoppable Joy"

June 21st

Sunday Philippians 1:1-18a

Monday Psalm 24

Tuesday Psalm 34

Weds. 1 Chron. 29:11-13

Thurs. John 19:23-30

Friday John 19:31-42

Saturday Psalm 31:9-18

"Uplifting Humility"

June 28th

Sunday Philippians 2:1-13

Monday Psalm 118:21-29

Tuesday Malachi 4:6

Weds. Psalm 122

Thurs. Isaiah 9:1-7

Friday Isaiah 7:10-16

Saturday Luke 1:26-38

"Gentleman & Peace"

July 5th

Sunday Philippians 4:4-9

Monday Psalm. 145:13-21

Tuesday Luke 1:46-55

Weds. Luke 2:1-14

Thurs. Isaiah 61

Friday Luke 4:14-21

Saturday Psalm 95

"Reconciled in Full"

July 12th

Sunday Colossians 1:15-23

Monday Matt. 6:24

Tuesday Zechariah 9:9-10

Weds. John 12:12-19

Thurs. John 16:5-14

Friday Isaiah 53

Saturday Matthew 27:33-54

"New Life"

July 19th

Sunday Colossians 3:1-17

Monday Luke 6:18-23

Tuesday Psalm 22

Weds. Rev. 21:1-7

Thurs. Romans 6:1-14

Friday Romans 6:15-23

Sat. Romans 8:1-7

"The Word of Life"

July 26th

Sunday 1 John 1:1-4

Monday John 1:6-8

Tuesday Romans 8:31-39

Weds. Romans 10:5-21

Thurs. Romans 11:25-36

Friday Romans 12:1-8

Sat. Romans 12:9-21

"Walking in the Light of God"

August 2nd

Sunday 1 John 1:5-22

Monday Luke 9:46-48

Tuesday Rom. 13:8-14

Weds. Rom. 14:1-12

Thurs. 1 Cor. 1:10-18

Friday 1 Cor. 2:1-13

Sat. 1 Cor. 8:1-13

"The Spirit of Truth"

August 9th

Sunday 1 John 3:23-4:6

Monday Luke 6:43-45

Tuesday 1 Cor. 9:19-27

Weds. 1 Cor. 11:17-26

Thurs. 1 Cor. 12:4-31

Friday Gal. 1:11-24

Sat. Gal. 2:15-21

"Abiding Love"

August 16th

Sunday 1 John 4:7-21

Monday John 14:16-17

Tuesday Gal. 3:1-14

Weds. Gal. 3:19-29

Thurs. Gal. 4:1-7

Friday Gal. 4:8-10

Sat. Gal. 4:21-31

"Vision of the Living One"

August 23rd

Sunday Revelation 1:9-20

Monday Psalm 51:7-12

Tuesday Gal. 5:1-15

Weds. Gal. 5:16-26

Thurs. Gal. 6:1-10

Friday Gal. 6:11-18

Sat. Eph. 1:1-14

"Community of All Peoples"

August 30th

Sunday Rev. 7:9-17

Monday John 1:16-18

Tuesday Rom. 8:31-39

Weds. Rom. 10:5-21

Thurs. Rom. 11:25-36

Friday Rom 12: 1-8

Sat. Rom 12: 9-11



Summer Newsletter 2026



Summer Newsletter 2026

Mission: We share the heart of Jesus in the community by loving people through life's struggles.

Vision: Love invites you in. Community cultivates growth. Compassion sends us out.

Values: Affirm All
Follow Jesus
Empower Individuals
Cultivate Community

STAFF

Kevan Penvose, Pastor kevan.penvose@unitymilwaukee.org
Chelsea Sieger, Administrator office.admin@unitymilwaukee.org
Maureen Woyci, Bookkeeper bookkeeping@unitymilwaukee.org
Michael Lindemeyer, Musician
Paul Lindstrom, Housekeeper
Doug Henning, Groundskeeper

Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Friday is Pastor Kevan's day off.

COUNCIL (council@unitymilwaukee.org)

Erin Whitehead-President
Laura McVann – Vice President
Stacy Davis – Treasurer
Sarah Brauhn -Secretary
Massamba Smith Jr.
Jim Liedtke

ENDOWMENT (endowment@unitymilwaukee.org)

Jody Stack – Chair
Jill Wisniewski – Treasurer
Nick Latona
Rachel Hahn

Thank you!

Unity Lutheran Church

1025 E Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53207

414-744-6311

www.unitymilwaukee.org

