

UNITED MONTHLY

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 12

December 2019

We are United to
EXPERIENCE Jesus,
SERVE others and
LIVE the Word!

We live out this mission
statement with our
core values of
Joyful Worship,
Authentic Community,
Faithful Witness and
Ridiculous Generosity.



*United Lutheran Church
is a congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America.*



*God's work.
Our hands.*

Coming into Christmas

The Church Year in our liturgical calendar begins with Advent (from Latin *adventus*, which means “coming into”), a four-week period of preparation before Christmas, which is second in importance in the Church Year only to Christ’s resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The story of Jesus during Advent is the story of hope coming into the world. When the time was just right, God the Father sent His Son, Jesus, into the world. The Advent season teaches us to prepare to receive Jesus, the hope of the world.

In Advent, we wait for our coming King.

Our King does not directly address many of the “hot-button” things today’s leaders or leaders-in-the-running do, such as immigration, health care, education, gun rights/reform, climate change, trade or executive privilege.

That doesn’t mean these aren’t important issues for us to wrestle with. These issues affect us and our representatives are responsible for discussing these.

Our king doesn’t promise to fix any of those issues—that is up to us. What our king promises us, what only God can deliver: forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. This is what Jesus came to bring us. This is what we celebrate at Christmas. This is what brings true and lasting change for the world God so loves!

As you “come into Christmas” this Advent season, may you anticipate the hope which comes with Jesus. Trusting Jesus’ promises for you, may you have the assurance of forgiven sins and may you have the peace of everlasting life to come.

Advent blessings in Christ,
Pastor Karl



Decorating

If you are in town for Thanksgiving weekend, please stay after worship December 1 to help decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season.

If you are traveling these holidays, we encourage you to find a church to worship at where ever you may be!



Christmas Eve Worship Services

Join us at United Lutheran as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, Tuesday, December 24!

Candlelight services with Holy Communion will be held at:

3pm (contemporary worship)

5pm (traditional worship)



December 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 No Sunday School 10AM Worship & Communion 11AM Christmas Decorating (All are welcome)	2	3 7-9PM Kitchen reserved	4 6PM Confirmation	5 9AM Mom's Group 12PM AI-Anon 1:30PM Pastor Karl @ OCLC for Communion service	6	7
8 9AM Sunday School 9AM Bible Study 10AM Acoustic Worship	9 4PM P.E.O.	10 9AM-3PM Quilting 3PM Deborah Circle 5:30PM Esther Circle	11 9AM-3PM Quilting 6PM Confirmation	12 9AM Mom's Group 12PM AI-Anon 6PM Church Budget Meeting	13	14
15 9AM Sunday School 9AM Bible Study 10AM Worship Sunday School Christmas Program 4:30PM Carols & Cocoa event at Frost Fire Resort	16 6PM Church Council meeting	17 12PM Writer's Group 7PM Rachel Circle	18 6PM Confirmation Caroling at MM Care Center	19 9AM Mom's Group 12PM AI-Anon	20	21
22 No Sunday School 10AM Worship	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 3PM Contemporary Candlelight 5PM Traditional Candlelight	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28
29 No Sunday School 10AM Worship	30	31				
Pastor Karl on vacation, Dec.26-30						
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Faith & Care

A big thank you to our Faith & Care Leaders who keep the church year running smoothly by finding individuals/families each month for reading, greeting, ushering, coffee, communion prep and assistants. This is not always an easy task and we so appreciate your time that it takes to volunteer to do this position!

- Darby & Brian Hart - Faith & Care #1
- Carol Hart - Faith & Care #2
- Skyler & Will Moline - Faith & Care #3
- Lisa Schuler - Faith & Care #4



Financial Update 10-31-19

October Offering \$11,158.00

	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
Offering Income	\$135,514.93	\$157,145.83
	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Total Income thru October	\$143,853.58	\$153,912.32
Total Expenses thru October	\$150,575.90	\$161,608.73

Thank you for your regular and year-end giving as we seek to make our ministry commitments through the end of the 2019 calendar and fiscal year! A simple, secure way to provide consistent giving is Bill Pay through your bank checking account.

Endowment

As of November 26, our Endowment Fund balance was \$114,508.98. If you would like to make a contribution to the United Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, please make checks payable to "InFaith Foundation" (which manages our endowment fund).

ULC Leadership 2019

President	Josh Overby
Vice President	Deidre Long
Secretary	Tara McFadden
Financial Secretary	Julie Johnson

Committee Council Representatives

Education	Carla Gemmill
Endowment	Karen Boe
Hospitality	Terry Jacobson
Property	Dean Hakanson
Stewardship	On Rotation

Non-voting Representatives

Pastor	Karl Breddin
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Council Notes 11-18-19 Mtg

Education Committee setup a children's quiet space outside the sanctuary.

Work has resumed with Jensen's on HVAC installation in the sanctuary. Chuck Downs will do any electrical updates.

Hospitality is working on pulpit supply for December 29 and March 15. They will setup for the Annual Meeting potluck.

Stewardship recommendations for Harvest Sunday funds dispersal were approved by Council. They will setup for the Harvest Sunday potluck. They are working on ideas to work with Seeds of Support in our partnership with Haiti, as their nation struggles with instability.

Esther Circle will be collecting hats, coats and mittens as Christmas gifts with social services to share with those in need.

Full Council minutes, treasurers reports and pastors' reports are posted monthly on the bulletin board in the hall across from the church kitchen.

November Memorials

No memorials were received in November.

Memorials may be given at any time by being mailed or brought to the Church Office at United Lutheran.

Sunday School

Greetings! Here we are into December already! This month, between Thanksgiving weekend, our Christmas program and Christmas break, we only have one lesson, "Jesus is Born." We hope you all can join us during worship on December 15th for the Christmas program - "The Littlest Angel Choir." Mrs. Hart has been working hard with the kids to learn all of the fun new songs, some of the older kids have been working on their parts and it will be a cute rendition of the Christmas story that we think you'll all enjoy. The education committee will also be providing treat bags for all the kids after worship that day!

In December, we will also continue our focus on the Apostle's Creed. We encourage the kids to start participating in this part of Sunday worship as well, as they become familiar with reciting the words.

We wish you all a Christmas season full of God's blessings!

Grace & Peace,
Carla Gemmill
Education Committee Chair

Confirmation

Students in 7-8 grade meet for confirmation instruction most Wednesdays at 6pm. Our December schedule:

December 4
Apostles' Creed, Article 2

December 11
Apostles' Creed, Article 3

December 18
Caroling at Maple Manor—meet at ULC

December 25 and January 1
No confirmation—Christmas

UNITED LUTHERAN AND
BIG PEMBINA/WALHALLA
LUTHERAN CHURCHES PRESENT

Carols and Cocoa

More info on this at our
"Events" page on Facebook!

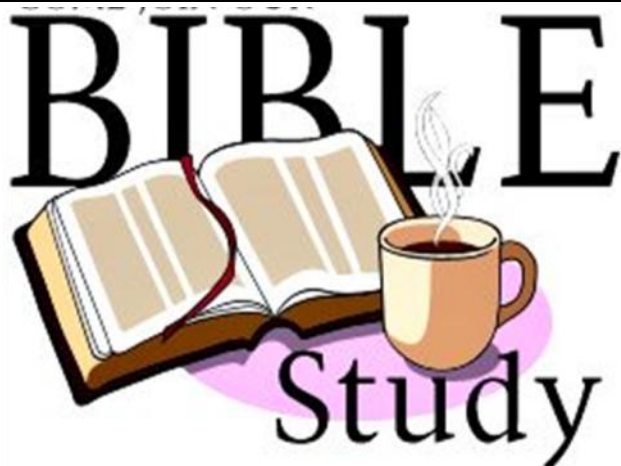
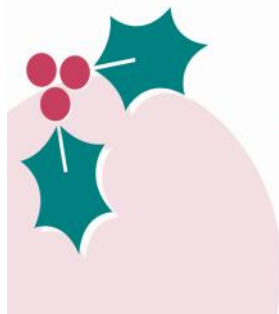
All Ages | lively music | delicious snacks

Sunday, December 15, 2019

4:30 p.m.

Frost Fire Park

Come early to check out
Frost Fire Park offerings, then stay for
carols and cocoa!



Generosity Help

Harvest Sunday

Thank you to those who brought food for our November 24 Harvest Sunday potluck, helped clean up afterward and who have given towards Harvest Sunday. Thanks especially to our Stewardship Committee for organizing the annual event. We have raised \$5,500 so far. We will accept Harvest Sunday donations until next Sunday, December 8.

Allocations for this year’s Harvest Sunday funds will be: Building Fund 30%, Week-END Hunger Project 10%, Synod Endowment 10%, Youth/Sunday School 10%, Park River Bible Camp 10%, Winter Clothing Drive 10%, Lutheran Campus Ministry 10%, Lutheran Disaster Response 10%. The clothing drive portion is for children at our area schools.

Socks, Hats and Mittens Collection

United Women are collecting socks, hats and mittens for all ages, men, women and children (toddlers too), to share with those in need through Cavalier County Social Services. New items only, please. Donations may be placed in the designated basket in the narthex and will be distributed to social services mid-December so they can be received in time for Christmas.

Youth Ministry Coordinator

United Lutheran Church is prayerfully seeking a Christian adult who loves God and loves youth, who wants to have fun with and mentor youth, primarily grades 7-12. This position may possibly include upper elementary children or young adults. This person will engage, support and equip parents in raising youth in the Christian faith.

Ideally, this person will: have a Lutheran background in the Christian church or have a willingness to work within a Lutheran church and its theology; be able to plan, organize, and communicate with others; be flexible, willing to learn and try new things.

Responsibilities:

Plan and lead 7-12 grade youth group events, at least once-per-month, but ideally more often. Youth events should include opportunities for faith formation, service to others and fun - all in a safe space.

Plan and coordinate summer 7-12 youth trip opportunities, including trip fundraising.

Work within a budget.

It is estimated that the Youth Ministry Coordinator will work twenty hours per month which includes planning as well as hands-on time. Some months may have less hours and months with trips will have considerably more.

Compensation:

\$5,000 per year, to be paid monthly or twice per month and to be reviewed annually.

Continuing education as agreed upon with pastor and/or church council.



Children’s Space

Our education committee has set up a “children’s quiet space” outside the church sanctuary in the fellowship hall. This is a space where parents can take young children from worship to nurse or just step out for a few minutes without going to the nursery.

The space can be moved if needed for extra seating in the fellowship hall.

Our children’s quiet space was made possible through donations and Thrivent Action Team seed money.

Surviving the Holidays

If you have lost a loved one, you may be wondering how you will survive the weeks leading up to Christmas. Are you dreading these holidays, knowing that everything has changed and that happy memories from past years can't be recreated?

Grief Share's "Surviving the Holidays" seminar is especially for people who are grieving a loved one's death. Areas which will be addressed include:

- How to deal with the many emotions you'll face during the holidays;
- What to do about traditions and other coming changes;
- Helpful tips for surviving social events;
- How to discover hope for your future.

This seminar will be offered December 7 at 10am, at the Langdon United Methodist Church.

Call Deb Balsdon for more info, 370-5711.



All-Saints Sunday

During our worship on November 2, we remembered our loved ones—saints in Christ—who passed away during the past year and in years past. As we mourn their loss, we look forward with hope to their resurrection.

We remembered and gave thanks for:

Margaret Long, Darrell Jensen, Ben Nuelle, Bernice Olson, Michael Muhs, Al Adam, Greg Olson, Judy Ullyott, Allyn Hart, Wayne Flom

We rejoiced for those baptized:

Cabri Domres, Ciara Kempert, Aspyn Kempert, Harper Metzger, Bentley McIntyre, Huxley Almen, Aubrey Dietrich, Hogan Christianson, Medora Coyle, Maida Coyle

Financial Peace University

Are you going into the holidays stressed about money?

Did our fall sermon series on stewardship make you wonder about how you might change your habits with money?

Are you ready to take control of your money? Financial Peace University (FPU) is a nine-lesson course designed to help you build a budget, dump debt, grow your wealth and leave money stress behind! Each lesson is based on biblical wisdom and common sense. In our FPU group, you'll be motivated and encouraged by others just like you! When you sign up for FPU, you'll get your member workbook and one free year of Financial Peace Membership with access to exclusive online tools to help you on your journey. Please contact Pastor Karl for more information.

We will meet Thursdays at 7pm from January 16-March 12 for less than one-and-a-half-hours each session. Financial Peace University has been incredibly positive for the Breddin household and we want others to experience this change as well. This is the third year we are offering this course.

Course registration is online at <https://www.fpu.com/1106505>. There is a \$99 fee to cover your membership packet and other online resources.

ULC Annual Meeting

United Lutheran Church will hold its annual meeting of the congregation after worship on Sunday, January 26.

Our meeting will include voting on updates to our constitution recommended by the ELCA. All members of United Lutheran are encouraged to be present for the meeting.

There will be a potluck after the meeting.

Prayers for Haiti

Due to ongoing instability in Haiti, Seeds of Support has put any future trips on hold. It is unlikely there will be any large scale trips for the next year. There may be some small exploratory/fact finding groups but only when it is safe for us and our Haitian friends.

Prayers of...

Healing

Gary Ridley, Brent Buresh (Betty Nelson's son-in-law), Willard Olsen, John & Sandy Almlie, Kynlee Pengilly, Patricia Scott, Clyde Anderson & Wilma Gemmill (Bernice Pengilly's sister).

Joy

Congratulations to Zach and Andrea Jacobson on the baptism of their daughter, Maren Grace. Her baptismal sponsors are Zane Jacobson, Jenny Jacobson & Matt Hall. Maren is the little sister to Harper, Riley and Hunter.

ULC invites you to be in prayer for those people listed. Please call the church office if you have additions to our prayer list.

At-a-Glance and General Announcements

Thank you to:

Lisa Schuler and Josie Long for their special music provided during the offering on November 17.

Esther Circle and volunteers for making scrumptious lefse available for purchase and supporting mission work.

Carla Gemmill and Kristi McDonald for donating the area rug and rocking chair for the new children's quiet space outside the sanctuary.

Large Print Bulletins

While in worship, if you struggle reading the words on the screen, your pew hymnal or pew Bible, we have large print bulletins available which include the full service order of the worship service (except songs). We also have in-ear speakers for hearing assistance. Ask an usher if you are in need.

Park River Bible Camp Job Opening

PRBC is seeking qualified candidates for an Associate Program Director, a full-time salaried position. Applications, resume and cover letter can be sent to info@parkriverbiblecamp.org.

United Quilters

Quilters meet the 2nd Tuesday and Wednesday of each month, September-April. If you can cut, sew or tie, you are welcome to come and help fulfill our mission. All materials, tools and machines provided; little experience required!

Poinsettias

All are welcome to purchase and display poinsettias for Christmas. They will be displayed on the altar through Advent and -pending their condition - the Christmas season. Please be sure your name and the person's name you would like to acknowledge are on the card.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee has begun its important work of nominations for committee and council positions. Please consider how you might help serve our congregation!

Carols and Cocoa

A holiday hymn sing with other area churches at Frost Fire Sunday, Dec. 15! The hill will be open until 4-4:30ish; then come inside to share in song and fellowship. Sponsored by ULC and Walhalla-Big Pembina parish. Bring a friend!

Offering Envelopes

2020 offering envelopes will soon be available to be picked up from the table in the fellowship hall. Please remember to not use your 2019 envelopes in the new year as each year the envelopes are renumbered.

If you have not used offering envelopes in the past and wish to but do not see a packet with your name, please let the church office know.

Christmas Decorating

If you are in town for the Thanksgiving weekend, please stay after worship December 1 to help decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season.

Periodicals

The new "Living Lutheran" periodicals are available in the narthex.

United Women

The triennial Convention of Women of the ELCA will be held July 14-16, 2020 in Phoenix, AZ. The theme will be "Just Love." Early-bird registration through January 6, 2020 is \$325; after that, registration is \$375 (excludes airfare). www.welcatg.org.

Missing Jacket/Lost Items

Did you accidentally take the wrong coat home November 24? A brown leather jacket was missing from the coat rack, with a similar, lighter brown leather jacket left behind.

Miscellaneous items can be found on the lost & found shelf in the narthex. Also unclaimed coats on the coat rack.

Weather Cancellation Notice

If inclement weather should arise, Pastor and Council President will make any decisions to cancel worship by 7:00 AM Sunday morning. A post will be made on our Facebook page. TV (WDAZ) and radio (KNDK) will also be notified.

Address Information

If you are leaving to go south and would like to receive the ULC newsletter, please let the church office know.

Mobile Food Pantry

The Great Plains Mobile Food Pantry will be at ULC's parking lot for distribution, Thursday, January 9, from 3:30-4:30pm. Come if you are in need! Volunteers are appreciated.

Grafton Lutheran Church

Bake Sale, December 7, 10AM until gone. Lefse, cookies and candies.

Carols & Candles, Evening of Wonders, A celebration of the birth of Christ!, Sunday, December 15, 7PM.

Christmas in the Park

Hosted by the Grand Forks Lions Club, November 29-December 31, Lincoln Park Drive, 5:30-10PM. Admission: \$6 car, \$10 Limo, \$20 Bus. Profits from the event are used to benefit local charities and help needy families.

Visit United online at www.unitedlangdon.org or call us at 701-256-2594.



1216 9th Avenue, Langdon, ND 58249

www.UnitedLangdon.org

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Return Service Requested

Worship and Ministry - December Schedule

December 1 - Worship & Communion

Reader - Nancy Coyle
Greeters - Josh & Sarah Overby family
Ushers - Charles & Marie Jordan
Communion Prep - Julie Johnson
Communion Assts - Diane Simmons,
Darrel & Karen Kempert
Coffee - Joan Schrader
Projectionist - Kassydy Hochhalter

December 8 - Blended Worship

Reader - Arik Christianson
Greeters - Daren & Sarah Christianson family
Ushers - Jim & Shannon Nuelle family
Acolytes - Jake Sanders & Jayden Lee
Coffee - Joanne Field
Projectionist - Brenna Schuler

December 15 - Worship (SS Christmas Program)

Reader - Monica Porterfield
Greeters - Brandon & April Smith family
Ushers - Dean & Connie Hakanson
Acolytes - Kassydy Hochhalter & Victor Long
Coffee - Arvid & Sandy Boe
Projectionist - Brennan Kitchin

December 22 - Worship

Reader -
Ushers - Ted & Linda Dahl

December 22 - Worship (continued)

Acolyte - Adam Hart
Coffee -
Projectionist - Gage Goodman

December 24 (3PM Contemporary)

Reader - Terry Jacobson
Greeters - Brynn Fischer & Landin Johnson
Ushers - Terry Jacobson
Acolytes - Meredith Romfo
Communion Prep - Josh & Sarah Overby family
Communion Assts - Sarah & Josh Overby
& Jeff Overby
Projectionist - Danny Hart

Council/Committees to fulfill remaining responsibilities

December 24 (5PM Traditional)

Reader - Tara Field
Greeters -
Ushers - Edwin Olson & Jason McFadden
Acolytes -
Communion Assts - Tara Field, Emma Field
Projectionist - Xavier Breddin
Council/Committees to fulfill remaining responsibilities

December 29 - Worship

Reader - Carol Hart
Usher - Terry Jacobson
Coffee - Julie Johnson