

# UNITED MONTHLY

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1

January 2020

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.*

## From Synod Bishop Terry Brandt

I am writing to inform you that I have accepted an offer to serve as Vice President of Advancement at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. My last day of serving as your bishop will be January 14. It was a surprise to me when I was notified I had been nominated for consideration and it has certainly surprised me the process has resulted in a new call coming my way.

I am grateful to Presiding Bishop Eaton for the wonderful support during my time of discernment. With the Synod Council, an Interim Bishop has already been appointed: Larry Wohlrabe, former Bishop to Northwestern Minnesota Synod.

It has been an honor to serve among you for the past twelve years—first as Associate with the Bishop and for the last six years as your Bishop. This announcement brings a multitude of emotions as names, faces and wonderful ministry moments are running through my mind. This has been a call of a lifetime and I am grateful.

I leave with a sense of accomplishment in many things and also a longing for some things left undone. That being said, I know if I felt like everything was accomplished, I probably would have stayed too long. My friends, just as God is up to something new in my life, the same is true for Eastern North Dakota Synod. Eastern North Dakota is an amazing synod. Whatever challenges may lie ahead pale in comparison to the abundant opportunities to continue living out the mission statement to “life in love as we serve, equip and challenge God’s people.” God is faithful and has provided committed, engaged and creative leaders, both rostered and lay, all across this synod.

I thank God for each of you and will miss partnering with you.

I leave with a deep appreciation for the Synod staff. They are good and faithful people who are committed to gospel work on behalf of the entire synod. They will continue to serve you extremely well.

Please know I will use my last weeks of service doing whatever I can to end well and pass the baton to Interim Bishop Wohlrabe and a new bishop to be elected in June. I invite you to join me in moving into this unknown future trusting and believing we are led by the promises of God, the presence of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In Christ,  
Bishop Terry A. Brandt



The above letter came as a surprise to me and many other pastors and leaders in our synod. Bishop Terry Brandt was elected the same weekend that United Lutheran extended your call to Pastor Rebecca and myself. He will be missed.

This March 29, representatives from United Lutheran will gather in Edinburg with reps from the other churches in the Grafton Conference of our synod to nominate individuals to serve as the next bishop to our Eastern North Dakota Synod. That election will take place at our synod assembly, June 6-7.

I welcome any questions or interest you may have in this process.

Pastor Karl

# January 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Happy New Year!	2 9AM Mom's Group 12PM Al-Anon 1:30PM OCLC Communion Service	3	4
5 9AM Sunday School 9AM Bible Study 10AM Worship with Holy Communion 2PM ULC leads worship at Maple Manor	6	7	8 6PM Parent/Student Confirmation meeting	9 9AM Mom's Group 10:15-11:15AM Mobile Food Pantry 12PM Al-Anon	10 Scrapbooking	11 Scrapbooking
12 9AM Sunday School 9AM Bible Study 10AM Acoustic Worship	13 4PM P.E.O.	14 9AM-3PM Quilting 3PM Deborah Circle 5:30PM Esther Circle 7PM Rachel Circle	15 9AM-3PM Quilting 7PM Confirmation—community youth game night at St. Alphonsus ( <b>note different time!</b> )	16 9AM Mom's Group 12PM Al-Anon 7PM Financial Peace University (FPU) Pastor Conference in Edinburg	17	18
19 9AM <b>Cross-Generational Sunday School for all ages</b> 10AM Worship with Holy Communion 11AM Take down Christmas decorations	20 6PM Church Council meeting	21	22 6PM Confirmation	23 9AM Mom's Group 12PM Al-Anon 7PM FPU	24	25
26 9AM Sunday School 9AM Bible Study 10AM Contemporary Worship 11AM <b>Annual Meeting and Potluck</b>	27 7PM PRBC Annual Meeting	28	29 6PM Confirmation	30 9AM Mom's Group 12PM Al-Anon 7PM FPU	31	

## Faith & Care #3 Will & Skyler Moline, chair

Mitchell & Melissa Almen	Cheryl Muhs
Dorothy Adam	Larry & Linda Olson
Dennis & Linda Balsdon	Steve & Jamie Olson
Leland & Carolyn Balsdon	Tom Olson
Tyler Balsdon	Justin Overby
Alvin Carlson	Dennis & Norma Pengilly
Aaron Dahl	Lynn Peterson
Darryl & Bev Dahl	Ronald & Marie Peterson
Keith Dahl	Jason & Melanie Reidhammer
Ted & Linda Dahl	Hans & Diane Reinhardt
Mark & Laura Dease	Shirley Robinson
Jerry & Bev Domres	Elroy & Marilyn Rude
Kendall & Carla Gemmill	Lance & Megan Schill
Don Gerth	Mike & Connie Schrader
Steve & Kim Hart	Bob & Patricia Scott
David & Jan Haslekaas	Arlaine Short
Shane & Kari Henderson	Burnell & Renae Skjervheim
Jill Kratcha	Kevin & Jan Stein
Scott & Tina LaPorte	Daryl & Linda Timian
Steven & Kristin McDonald	Brian Vikan
Tara McFadden	Jeff & Betty Vikan
Leota Mikkelsen	Jim & Faye Wilhelm
Randy & Phyllis Mikkelsen	

## 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 Representative

Pastor	Karl Breddin
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## Council Notes 12-16-19 Mtg

Carols & Cocoa event with Walhalla-Big Pembina Lutheran Parish on December 15 went over well at Frost Fire, with about 40 in attendance.

Endowment will take \$5,500 from this year's interest. \$5,000 will go towards redoing the parsonage driveway and \$500 towards the Cavalier County Cancer Crusaders.

With the HVAC, there are still some loose ends to complete due to work delays, so we will not see full cost-saving benefits this year.

Harvest Sunday dedicated offering was \$7,875.

After further checking, all of the ELCA recommended updates to our constitution can be made at our annual meeting.

2020 budget was approved to recommend at the annual meeting. It is \$20,000 less than 2019's budget (which will not be met, although we will end the year in the black).

Nominating committee is still seeking to fill several positions in advance of the annual meeting in January: property (1), stewardship (2), nominating (3), education (1).

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

## Financial Update 11-30-19

November Offering \$13,400.00

	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
Offering Income	\$148,914.93	\$172,860.41

	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Total Income thru November	\$157,544.16	\$168,578.23
Total Expenses thru November	\$161,614.78	\$176,808.02

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 December 30, our Endowment Fund balance was \$109,873.00. (\$5,500 of the interest from 2019 was delegated by the endowment committee for the upcoming replacement of the parsonage driveway and the Cavalier County Cancer Crusaders). 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).

# Sunday School News

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas season!

In January, our lessons are “*Chosen as God’s Children*,” “*A Light to the Nations*,” and “*United in Christ*.” Because of a long school weekend, we also have our first Intergenerational Sunday School on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Karl will lead us in a lesson on The Lord’s Prayer, and we welcome students, parents, grandparents, and congregation members to join us at 9am for this lesson in the fellowship hall. We will also continue with our focus on The Apostles Creed during the month of January.

I want to extend another big thank you to Kim Hart for her leadership with the kids. The Christmas Program was wonderful, and would not have been possible without her dedication to the kids. We are very lucky to have her as part of our Sunday School leader team! Another thank you to all of our leaders and shepherds - we appreciate each and every one of you!

I wish you many blessings in the New Year!

Grace & Peace,  
Carla Gemmill  
Education Committee Chair

*Our students’ Christmas program, “The Littlest Angel Choir,” was held December 15 (pictured below).*



## Confirmation

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

January 8  
Parent-Student meeting

January 15  
Game night at St. Alphonsus, 7pm  
(note different time)

January 22  
The Lord’s Prayer

January 29  
Holy Baptism

## Cross-Generational Learning

January 19 at 9am, Sunday school will be for EVERYONE!

Join in hands-on learning activities for all ages as we explore the Lord’s Prayer (one of the things promised at baptism by parents, sponsors and the congregation to help teach). This is for:

- children who are a regular part of Sunday school;
- parents;
- Grandparents;
- adults without kids or who are empty-nesters;

Whether you know Luther’s explanation of the Lord’s Prayer by heart or are just beginning to learn, come, play and learn together!

Everyone is invited!



# “Discover Islam” Documentary

Imagine that you and your family are moving to a remote Asian village, where you will set up a health clinic under the sponsorship of your denomination. You quickly recognize that the local people with whom you will live and work not only are ignorant about Christianity but hold some negative stereotypes toward it. You begin to create learning resources to explain the Christian religion to them. You recognize that you should feature the diversity of Christian practice around the world. You want even to acknowledge the occasional misuse of the tradition by extremist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan and cults such as the Branch Davidians. But mainly you want to help your new community understand your own Christian faith and how it shapes your life and motivates your work.

The producers of the documentary series Discover Islam had very similar goals, as expressed in these words: "There are over a billion and a half people across the globe that claim to be followers of Islam. Yet few people outside the faith truly understand Muslim beliefs, practices and values. There is great misinformation about issues ranging from jihad to women's rights. These documentaries aim to remedy this situation."

This January and February, our Sunday morning adult Bible studies will explore this six-part award-winning documentary. Only in better understanding others, can we understand ourselves. Join us for video and conversation in the church library, these Sundays at 9am:

- January 5: Islam—Faith & History
- January 12: Islam—an American faith
- January 26: Women in Islam
- February 2: African Americans & Islam
- February 9 Islam—a Faith Hijacked
- February 23: Christians & Islam

# Youth Ministry Coordinator

United Lutheran Church is still seeking a Christian adult who loves God and loves youth, who wants to have fun with and mentor youth, primarily grades 7-12. This person will engage, support and equip parents in raising youth in the Christian faith.

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.

If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact the church. This is a great part-time position.

### Compensation:

Starting salary, \$5,000 per year (\$416/month)  
Continuing education.

# PRBC Events

Winter Quiltstock Retreat, Jan.17-19. Includes lodging, meals, and classes. Registration at PRBC’s website.

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The Annual Corporate Assembly of the Park River Bible Camp Corporation will be held at 7pm, Monday, January 27, 2020 at PRBC. United Lutheran is in need of at least one lay delegate to attend this meeting.

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Frost Fire Tubing Retreat, K-8th grade, February 1. Registration begins at PRBC at 9am. Camp will transport campers to Frost Fire, where the majority of the day will be enjoying the snow! Pick up from camp at 6:30pm. Cost is \$50/child; price includes tubing. Lunch and dinner will be provided to all campers, along with a hot chocolate and choice of a cookie/popcorn.

Please bring weather-appropriate outdoor gear for snow tubing (winter coat, hat, mittens, snow pants, boots, etc) and warm clothes! Register in advance and online at [www.parkriverbiblecamp.org](http://www.parkriverbiblecamp.org); please be sure to have both release forms signed.

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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](mailto:info@parkriverbiblecamp.org).

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Summer 2020 camp registration is open online! Use promo code EarlyBird2020 for winter sale savings through January 31:

- \$100 off week-long camps
- \$65 off half-week camps
- \$20 off day camps.



## Harvest Sunday

Thank you to those who brought food for our November 24 Harvest Sunday potluck, helped clean up afterward and who gave financially towards our Harvest Sunday dedicated offerings. Thanks especially to our Stewardship Committee for organizing the annual event.

The \$7,875 raised was distributed as follows:

- \$2,362.50 to ULC Building Fund
- \$787.50 to ULC Youth/Sunday School
- \$787.50 to Lutheran Campus Ministry
- \$787.50 to Lutheran Disaster Response
- \$787.50 to Park River Bible Camp
- \$787.50 to Synod Endowment
- \$787.50 to Week-END Hunger Project
- \$787.50 to Winter Clothing Drive; the clothing drive portion is for children at our area schools.

Thank you for your generous harvest!

## Annual Meeting

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

Our meeting will include looking back at the 2019 calendar year, looking ahead to 2020, approving the church budget, nominations for committee and council members, voting on updates to our constitution as 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; please bring a dish to share! Hospitality committee will setup for the potluck.

### Christmas Decorations Away

We will be taking down Christmas decorations after worship on Sunday, January 19. All hands available to help are welcome!

## December Memorials

**Willard Stenerson** - Linden & Helen Johnson (building), Jim & Faye Wilhelm (general), David & Ardyce Hennager (general)

**Albert Christensen** - David & Ardyce Hennager (general)

**Sharon Olson** - Tara & Jason McFadden, Sam & Emma Field (music)

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

## Prayers of...

### Healing

Gary Ridley, John & Sandy Almlie, Kynlee Pengilly, Wilma Gemmill (Bernice Pengilly's sister) & Mark Schneider.

### Sympathy

The family of Willard Stenerson on his death, November 30.

### Joy

Congratulations to Todd & Shanda Christianson on the birth of their new daughter, Layeton Mae born on December 10.

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

## Financial Peace University

It's that time of the year when the holiday credit card statements are arriving. This can be a stressful time for many of us. Did you know that 89% of the people in a typical American congregation don't have a financial safety net? What can we do with this fact?

Financial Peace University (FPU) is a nine-lesson course; through life-changing videos, online tools and resources and group accountability; participants will learn how to create and stick to a budget, save for emergencies, pay off debt and plan for the future.

Each lesson is based on biblical wisdom and common sense. 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.

Just imagine the impact we could have on the community if we were all debt-free! Marriages and families would be strengthened. People would be freed up to be outrageously generous. Positive change could be ignited for our community.

# At-a-Glance and General Announcements

## Thank you to:

The Langdon Hardware for their very generous donation of socks, hats and mittens and also our ULC congregation. Esther Circle for organizing the project. The items were delivered to Social Services on December 17 for distribution to families for Christmas.

The individuals that stayed to help with Christmas decorating and to DeLynn Carlson for decorating the tree in the sanctuary and all her finishing touches around the church and narthex.

The music students who provided special extended prelude music for the Sunday school Christmas program on December 15. Also, the many talented vocalists and musicians that provided special music during the month of December and during the Christmas Eve services.

Dan & Peggy Fischer for storing our outdoor Nativity Scene this past year and Paul Peterson for replacing burned-out lights.

John Johnson, Lindy Johnson and Dale Luhmann for installing boxes in the sanctuary for HVAC wiring.

Janet Jacobson for leading worship on December 29.

All who have placed poinsettias on the altar this Advent and Christmas season.

## Weather Cancellation Notice

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

## Periodicals

The new "Living Lutheran" and "Christ in Our Home" periodicals are available in the narthex.

## Address Information

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

## 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.

## Offering Envelopes

2020 offering envelopes are available to be picked up from the table in the fellowship hall. 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.

## Mobile Food Pantry

The Great Plains Mobile Food Pantry will be at ULC's parking lot for distribution, Thursday, January 9, from 10:15-11:15AM. Come if you are in need! Volunteers are appreciated.

## 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!

## 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](http://www.welcatg.org).

## Poinsettias

**Hjalmer & Florence Gustafson**  
By Jim & Faye Wilhelmi & family

**Lyle Overby, Roger, Regina,  
& Robert McDougall**  
By Rena Overby & families

**Howie Nelson & Chris Nelson**  
By Betty Nelson & family

**Sharon Olson**  
By Edwin Olson & family  
By Jason & Tara McFadden  
Sam & Emma Field

**David Field**  
By Jason & Tara McFadden  
Sam & Emma Field

**Joyce Ridley**  
By her family

**Walter Rude**  
By Randy, Kim & Kennedy Rude

**Kevin Boe**  
By John & Karen Boe

**Jean & Dean Burnham**  
By their family

**Marjorie Olson, Ole E.M. & Helga  
Olson, Ralph & Ruby Welsh**  
By Ole L.E. Olson family

**Iris Lothspeich**  
By Corey & Julie Johnson & family

**Janice Pederson,  
Morris & Alice Magnus  
Leonard & Gladys Pederson**  
By Glenn Pederson, Teri & Kevin Lill  
Tammy & Tom Verke  
Jason Pederson

**Allen & Judy Ullyott**  
By Greg & Jolene Everson & family  
David & BethAnn Ullyott & family

Visit United online at [www.unitedlangdon.org](http://www.unitedlangdon.org) or call us at 701-256-2594.



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## Worship and Ministry - January Schedule

### January 5 - Worship & Communion

Reader -

Greeters - Scott & Tina LaPorte family

Ushers - Shelly Messner & Skyler Moline

Communion Prep - Skyler Moline

Communion Assts - Skyler Moline & Emily Messner

Acolytes - Jayden Lee & Brock Freer

Coffee - Skyler Moline

Projectionist - Victor Long

### January 12 - Blended Worship

Reader - Kristin McDonald

Greeters - Will & Skyler Moline family

Ushers - Steve & Kristin McDonald family

Coffee - Jan Haslekaas

Projectionist - Nathan Kitchin

### January 19 - Worship & Communion

Reader -

Usher - Dennis Balsdon

Communion Prep - Skyler Moline

Communion Assts - Skyler Moline

Coffee - Dennis & Linda Balsdon

Projectionist - Payton Henderson

### January 26 - Contemporary Worship (Annual Meeting)

Reader - Laura Dease

Greeter - Leota Mikkelsen

Usher - Kevin Stein & Laura Dease

Coffee -

Projectionist - Addy Reidhammer

**Annual Meeting Potluck**