

UNITED MONTHLY

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 4

April 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.*

Romans 8:38-39...God is with us!

*For I am convinced
that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us
from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

This passage from Romans 8:38-39 is one of my favorite Bible passages. It is a passage we sometimes hear at funerals, although it is a good reminder in any challenging situation of God's love for us.

We are facing one of those challenging situations now with the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a period in our history which will be long remembered, like the Spanish Fever of 1918 or the Great Recession of 2008. We still don't know the extent of this challenge, of how it will affect the health and economy of our nation or our world.

Following recommendations of the Center for Disease Control, North Dakota Department of Health and our Eastern North Dakota Synod, our church has suspended in-person worship and activities indefinitely. As I write this, the White House is speaking hopefully of being able to return from physical distancing, May 1—and we hope for this—the recommendations we are following suggest “social distancing” until May 11. Only time will tell.

What I do know is God is with us. This pandemic cannot separate us from God's love for us in Jesus Christ.

While we don't gather together physically right now for worship at church, or for coffee, or for school, or many other things, God is with us. We are united in Christ.

God was with us during the Great Recession and the 1930's Great Depression. God was with us during the Spanish Flu and the 14th century Black Plague.

Things may be different now and may be different when this is over, but we will get through this. God is with us.

As God is with us, we are with together in different ways. Many of you have discovered our worship services, streamed online on our church Facebook page (www.facebook.com/unitedlangdon), as well as Fargo's Messiah Lutheran Church's Sunday morning services broadcast at 11am on WDAZ television and Langdon Presbyterian Church's Sunday morning services broadcast on 1080 AM radio at 11am.

Many of you have re-discovered the power of a phone call, a card or a written letter. Many of you have been walking more, getting out of the house and into the fresh spring air.

In a way, we're all grieving our loss of normal and it's okay if you're struggling. Give me a call. Give a friend a call. We will get through this. God is with us!

United in Christ,
Pastor Karl

Faith & Care

With suspended in-person worship for now, Faith and Care is taking on a new role. We are still having scripture readers for our online worship services, who pre-record their readings.

Perhaps more importantly, each Faith and Care household is being asked to check in on other households in their Faith and Care group. Give them a call. Ask how they're doing. If you can't help them, let the church office know. More info on this congregation-wide support network was mailed to members on March 17. For more information, please contact Julie at church.



Prayers of...

Healing

John & Sandy Almlie, Kynlee Pengilly, Mark Schneider, Lyla Johnson & Rob Field.

Sympathy

The family of Daryl Timian on the death of his father, George.

The family of Becca Romfo on the death of her father, Franklin Ingulsrud.

The family of Lisa Gellner on the death of her sister, Carla Amundson.

The family of Cal Lundgren on the death of his father, Frederick Lundgren.

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

ULC Leadership 2020

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

Committee Council Representatives

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| Education | Carla Gemmill |
| Endowment | Dan Fischer |
| Hospitality | Terry Jacobson |
| Property | Dean Hakanson |
| Stewardship | Brynn Fischer |

Non-voting Representative

| | |
|--------|--------------|
| Pastor | Karl Breddin |
|--------|--------------|

Council Notes 03-16-19 Mtg

Funds will be transferred from our Thrivent Choice and General Memorial funds for our April quarterly HVAC payment.

A deposit was sent for summer VBS.

A thermostat has been ordered, which will switch automatically, when temperatures drop below zero, between natural gas/the old electric heating system in the sanctuary.

United Women has deactivated its executive administrative structure (president, VP, etc.) Circles will continue to meet and do ministry, working together for any joint activities. Mail and communication will be rotated annually between the circles (Esther this year).

Ten ULC members (8 households) are being moved to inactive member status.

A bid was given and accepted at \$1,600 for radon mitigation in the parsonage. This does not include electric cost of installing a fan.

Orris Gjesdal will continue summer lawn care.

COVID-19 discussion. Church will follow CDC recommendations. Council will convene again by phone March 29 to re-evaluate.

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

Financial Update 02-29-20

February Offering \$10,466.00

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | <u>Year-to-Date</u> | <u>Budget YTD</u> |
| Offering Income | \$27,055.08 | \$28,210.00 |

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | <u>Current Year</u> | <u>Last Year</u> |
| Total Income thru February | \$28,254.62 | \$20,909.16 |
| Total Expenses thru February | \$35,372.76 | \$31,651.48 |

Our February expenses included \$9,000 from general funds toward our HVAC loan, per our Annual Meeting. Please remember to send in your offerings so we can maintain our ministry expenses.

Endowment

As of April 1, our Endowment Fund balance was \$99,407.82. 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).

What Does This Mean?

One of the phrases Martin Luther asks in his Small Catechism, in explaining the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed and the Ten Commandments, is "What does this mean?" We use that question here, to give answers about church activities that you may have been wondering.

Holy Week and Easter

It is sad that we will not be gathering together physically to worship for Easter. And yet, what was the first Easter like? The disciples were afraid of what would happen. News of the resurrection was met with unbelief. Perhaps, this year, we will see Easter in a new and different way. We will stream services online to our Facebook site; more details are on the back page of this newsletter.

Coming into the Church Building

The church building continues to be open and staffed with limited hours by Pastor Karl and Julie. Feel free to stop by if you need something or call.

Confirmation

Confirmation students are still expected to be completing their Lenten assigned faith conversations with parents and grandparents (7th grade) or mentors (8th graders). These can be done by phone or video chat!

We were scheduled to resume confirmation Wednesday evening, April 22. For now, with just three lessons (Daily Prayers, Ditch Cleaning and Trivia/Party). We may do Daily Prayers by Zoom video conferencing or wait. Stay tuned!

First Communion

Instruction for 4th graders was to be held Wednesday, April 29, from 3:30-5:15pm, with first communion celebration Sunday, May 3. We will meet when we are able to do so physically and will celebrate first communion when our congregation is able to come together. Stay tuned!

VBS and Cake Auction/Donations

We are still hoping we will be able to have VBS (currently scheduled May 26-29). Whether we are or are not, our Cake Auction fundraiser, scheduled for April 5, will now be similar to the United Women "bakeless bake sale." We will not have treats to auction off, but donations for VBS expenses—this year or in the future—may be sent to church. Watch for a letter coming soon!

Sunday School

We are hoping to gather again for Sunday school before the school year is over. Stay tuned.

Funerals

In the event of the death of a congregation member during this time of physical distancing, we will encourage the family to postpone the funeral until a later date. If that is not feasible, we will have a small, private service limited to immediate family (less than 10) in our community.

Drive-in Worship and Virtual Communion

You may have heard that some churches are gathering in their parking lots for "drive in" worship or offering "virtual communion." United Lutheran will not be promoting drive-in worship as this could easily lead to physical contact. We want everyone to stay healthy!

If you have questions about virtual communion, feel free to ask Pastor Karl. It is not something our congregation leadership is currently considering.

When will we Gather again Physically for Worship

We don't know for sure. Our current hope would be as soon as May 3 or as late as May 17. When we are able to safely gather again physically, our first Sunday will likely be a service of healing. We will plan for a big, Easter-like reunion celebration as well, but will need a bit of time, once the "all clear" is announced, to prepare!

Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly

This has been re-scheduled from its date in early June to August 15-16.

Scam Alert

Along with the Federal Government stimulus checks, comes the potential for scam. Be alert! The government already has your social security, date of birth, address, income, and other information. They will not call or solicit you for this!

Ways to Give

In-person worship and activities may be suspended at United Lutheran, but we still have financial expenses and ministry commitments. **If you are able, even at a lower level than normal, please consider maintaining regular giving ULC.**

If you have church envelopes, you can mail offerings in the **mail**. You can also set up **bill pay** through your bank to have the bank mail your offering to church.

We now have **online giving available through tithe.ly**. You can set up an account online at: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1392459> or through the “tithe.ly” app available on your app store, to schedule regular giving or for one-time gifts.

If you are able, our Lenten collections for **ELCA World Hunger** and the Cavalier County **Ministerial Association** were interrupted by COVID-19 but their work continues. Also, as does the work of the Cavalier County Emergency Food Pantry, Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran Disaster Response and many other organizations which help others in times of need. Gifts may be sent through United Lutheran.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity in these ways and others!

Ways to Engage

How can we engage with one another while maintaining “physical distancing?” Here are some ideas to do at home and to share with those who may be more isolated, particularly those without family or close friends in the area!

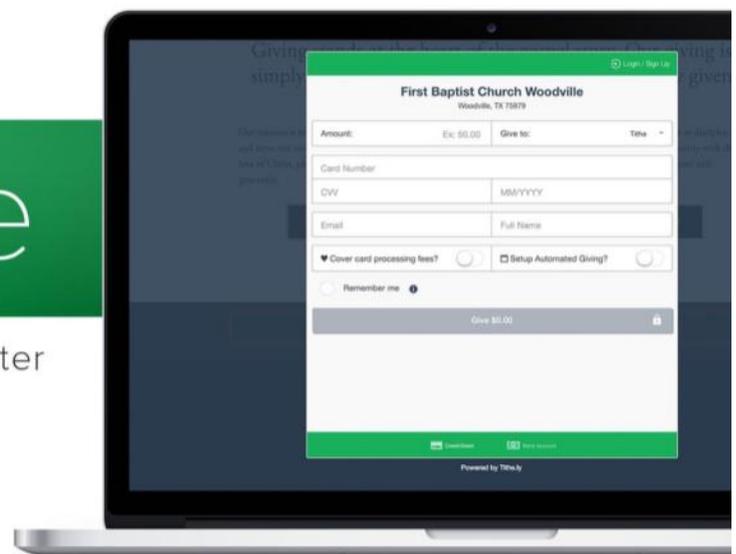
- Make a collage from magazines. Maybe it could be themed as a food collage, or signs or spring or animals.
- Join with many others in our community in putting hearts on your windows to display your love shown for others by choosing to physically self-isolate.
- Put a teddy bear in your window and yard for children to look for who are out on “bear hunts” - it’s a thing!
- Take a walk every day. Just stay 6 feet away from other people and wave at them and smile, instead of getting closer or hugging!
- Ask other family members to send video messages or emails in large font that you can show to seniors or loved ones.
- Try an In-Home Scavenger Hunt.
- Record or journal your loved ones’ stories.
- Ask leading questions when on the phone if someone seems reluctant to open up about themselves—it’s a North Dakota pride thing! Some examples of leading questions are:
 - ◇ What were your parents like?
 - ◇ How did you and (their spouse) meet?
 - ◇ Where did you go to school, what was it like and how did you get there?
 - ◇ What was a favorite thing to do when you were (insert age)?
- What other ways can you engage? The only limit is your creativity!

Give Online

Now Give from Your Phone or Computer



POWERED BY:
TITHE.LY
Innovative church giving



At-a-Glance, General Announcements

Thank you to:

Chloe Koons and Lisa Schuler for their special music provided on March 8.

Catelyn Goodman and Brenna Schuler for their special music provided on March 15.

Sara Goodman for leading us in worship on March 15 while Pastor Karl was away.

Annual Congregational Reports

2019 annual reports of our congregation are available on the magazine carousel outside the sanctuary.

Offering Envelopes

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

Funeral Committee

Would you be open to be called upon by our funeral committee to serve food when we have a funeral? For more information or to help, contact Joanne Field.

Binders Available

We have updated the black ULW binders for our contemporary worship services. Fewer bulletin inserts, yay—and are reducing the number of binders. If you could use these binders, feel free to pick them up from the church library. They still have the old song sheets in them and measure 8.5"x7".

Needed

The Domestic Violence & Abuse Center is in need of boys blue jeans (all sizes). If you have any to offer, you may place them in the orange basket in the narthex.

Periodicals

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

Youth Ministry Coordinator

ULC is seeking an adult who loves Christ and youth to engage with youth, primarily grades 7-12.

Missing/Lost Items

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

College Scholarships

There are great college scholarship opportunities through the InFaith Foundation, which manages ULC's endowment fund. The money from these scholarships comes from InFaith, not from our endowment.

More information can be found at <https://www.infaithfound.org/newsgrants/scholarships>. Application deadlines are April 30.

United also has our own scholarship fund for students attending a Lutheran college or considering future ministry. Please let the church council know if you would like consideration for assistance.

March Memorials

Creola Lundquist - Leland & Carolyn Balsdon (music)

George Timian - Linden & Helen Johnson (general)

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

Summer Camp

Bible Camps are continuing to plan for the summer! 2020 registrations are available online, with many options for different weeks and age groups. For more information on the many fantastic programs available or to register for summer Bible camp, visit any of our nearest ELCA Bible camps online or on Facebook.

ParkRiverBibleCamp.org

MetigosheMinistries.com

RedWillowBibleCamp.org

Remember, **United Lutheran helps pay up to 1/2 the base cost for ULC youth** to attend an ELCA summer Bible camp in North Dakota! Talk to pastor for more information and get signed up. To utilize this financial support, ULC needs to know at least two weeks before your time at camp in order to pay the camp.



Think you're a little too old for camp? Bible camps are currently looking for young men and women who love Jesus to join their summer staff in ministry fellowship while having fun serving in paid positions, with room and board, as counselors, cooks, medics and maintenance staff.

And please pray for our camps as they prepare for the summer season!

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—April Schedule

April 5 - Palm Sunday Worship

Live-streaming on Facebook, 10am
Reader - LeeAnn Knudson

April 9 - Maundy Thursday

Live-streaming on Facebook, 7pm
Reader - Lisa Schuler

April 10 - Good Friday

Live-streaming on Facebook, 7pm
Reader - Carol Hart or Steve Hart

April 12 - Easter Worship

Live-streaming on Facebook, 10am
Reader - Carol Hart or Steve Hart

April 19 - Worship

Live-streaming on Facebook, 10am
Reader - Rachelle Romfo

April 26 - Worship

Live-streaming on Facebook, 10am
Reader - Becky Tollefson

SELF-QUARANTINE

For out-of-state travelers returning to ND



**STAY
HOME**



**TWO
WEEKS**

NORTH
Dakota
Be Legendary.™

Joint Information Center
HEALTH