

UNITED MONTHLY

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 5

May 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.*

Weathering the Storm

"Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, until the destroying storms pass by," (Psalm 57:1).

We are familiar with winter weather in North Dakota. Even now, as the signs of spring are around us, we know that we have had blizzards in May.

Blizzards don't affect us as much as they used to. Weather forecasting usually gives us advance warnings. Snow removal equipment open up roads quite quickly. Telephone and internet keep us connected even when we can't go anywhere.

There have been some comparisons of the COVID-19 pandemic to a blizzard and the isolating effects it has on communities. We don't know how long this "blizzard" will last, and while we have not personally been as affected here as in other parts of the state or nation yet, it does and will still affect us.

We don't know when we will be able to gather again as a congregation for worship. As I write this, things are changing rapidly. I give thanks for our Eastern North Dakota Synod for their guidance during this time; we are fortunate to be part of a larger denominational structure with its support and resources. 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!

I thank you for the ways you have continued to be community, in our congregation, our community and beyond. As I have said before, this is really being church!

United Lutheran Church is being proactive so that we can continue ministry today and in the future. We have applied for and been approved for assistance through the federal government's Payroll Protection Plan, which will allow us to continue paying staff, even with reduced giving.

Our church will be all right. Even so, many people are feeling isolated and with that comes increases in stress to mental health, as well as the financial stress for those whose work or retirement savings have been affected.

Many of us find peace and assurance through the sacrament of Holy Communion. While this is a time of fasting from Holy Communion, as a gathered community of worship in our congregation, if you are in need of Holy Communion, please let me know. I will gladly visit and pray with you from the phone and then from outside your home. I will consecrate individual wafers and wine in individual disposable cups (while wearing my plaid mask and disposable gloves) and will leave the wine and wafers for you to partake in safely.

We are familiar with blizzards and long winters in North Dakota. We will get through this! God's peace be with you.

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...

Thanksgiving

Healing

Steve Symons (son of Carla) & Lorretta Gjesdal.

Sympathy

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
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Council Notes 04-20-20 Mtg

Church council met remotely by Zoom on April 20.

Church will continue to follow CDC recommendations regarding in-person gatherings.

United Lutheran applied for funds with the federal Payroll Protection Program and was approved for \$17,400. If this is used properly, it will be considered a grant (forgivable) and not a loan.

Education committee will send a letter to families regarding VBS cake auction, which is being replaced this year with the option of mailing in money. If we are unable to have VBS this year, any funds will roll over to use next year.

There has been ceiling water damage in the church kitchen. Property committee is investigating repair options.

Council gave pastor blessing to use his discretion for offering homebound communion.

Council began discussion of a drafted "active shooter policy" to have in place as a proactive measure.

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

Financial Update 03-31-20

March Offering \$10,521.27

	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
Offering Income	\$37,576.35	\$42,315.00

	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Total Income thru March	\$38,912.42	\$40,832.56
Total Expenses thru March	\$48,213.26	\$49,466.02

Our yearly expenses includes \$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 Fund

As of April 28, our Endowment Fund balance was \$98,291.92. 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).

Virtual Cultural Immersion Experience

Join us for this four-part online adult learning series to learn more about Native American culture and what we can do as a synod to “walk together.” Sessions will be Thursday mornings at 10:00am on the dates listed below.

Each session will feature a presentation and opportunity for Q&A, led by Pastor Larry Thiele (Dacotah Oyate Lutheran Church) and the Synod’s Hunger and Justice Committee.

April 30 - Treaties: Misconceptions and Myths

May 7 - Historical Context

May 14 - Traditional Roles and Responsibilities

May 21 - Christ in Culture

The content will build each week, but if you cannot attend one session of the series, don’t let that stop you from taking part in the other segments. Recordings will be available at the registration page. There is limited space for this free event so registration is required, at www.eandsynod.org/events/virtual-immersion-series.



Children, Youth and Family

Sunday School

We may be unable to resume Sunday school, but there are still options! Enjoy FREE family Sunday school weekly through June 7; lessons www.WeAreSparkhouse.org/promos/family-sunday-school. And don’t forget to watch church online together as a family!

First Communion

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!

Vacation Bible School

VBS will be rescheduled from May 26-29 to a date yet to be determined. As we were unable to hold our April 5 Cake Auction fundraiser, donations for VBS expenses may be mailed directly to ULC. In the event that we are unable to have VBS this summer, any donations will go toward next year’s VBS expenses.

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 had a check-in and prayer by Zoom video conferencing April 22. We will meet again by Zoom April 29 with the topic “Daily Prayers” and are exploring options for physically-distanced ditch cleaning in May. Stay tuned!

Graduation/Baccalaureate

As of this writing, we don’t know what high school graduation will look like, but we do want to recognize and celebrate our graduates! The CC Ministerial Association will stream a baccalaureate service 7pm Wednesday evening, May 13 with messages of hope for our graduates and their families. In the event that we are unable to physically gather together for worship on May 24, Pastor Karl will coordinate with each graduate to gift them their quilt made by our United quilters.

Ways to Worship

While in-person worship is suspended, you can still participate in Sunday worship:

If you have internet, on our Facebook page, at www.Facebook.com/UnitedLangdon. (You don't need to have a Facebook account.) Worship streams at 10am Sundays and is available to watch anytime after. Please "like" and "follow" our page for online updates.

Watch Messiah Lutheran Church (Fargo) on WDAZ TV, Sundays at 11am or listen to Langdon Presbyterian Church on AM 1080 radio, Sundays at 11am. God feeds us spiritually through worship and prayer. Please continue to be fed!

Mobile Food Pantry

The Great Plains Food Bank will be at ULC's parking lot on Wednesday, May 20, from 10:15-11:15am.

Anyone in need of food assistance is welcome to attend this drive-through distribution. Due to the current pandemic we are facing, clients will be asked to remain in their vehicles at all times. We will ask a few questions on site and then you will drive through the distribution line. We welcome those who cannot attend to designate someone to pick up for them. **Call Anna at the Great Plains Food Bank if you're able to volunteer, at 701-361-1004.** Volunteers will be asked to sanitize, wear gloves and masks and follow social distancing guidelines.

Hunger is an issue that we can do something about. You can help by: talking about the Mobile Food Pantry with your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers; volunteering at the distribution (please contact church or if you can help); or by picking up for someone who cannot attend the distribution.

Ways to Continue Giving Financially

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 to 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, 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. **The Ministerial Association in particular will likely see increased need for assistance this year.** Gifts may be sent through United Lutheran.

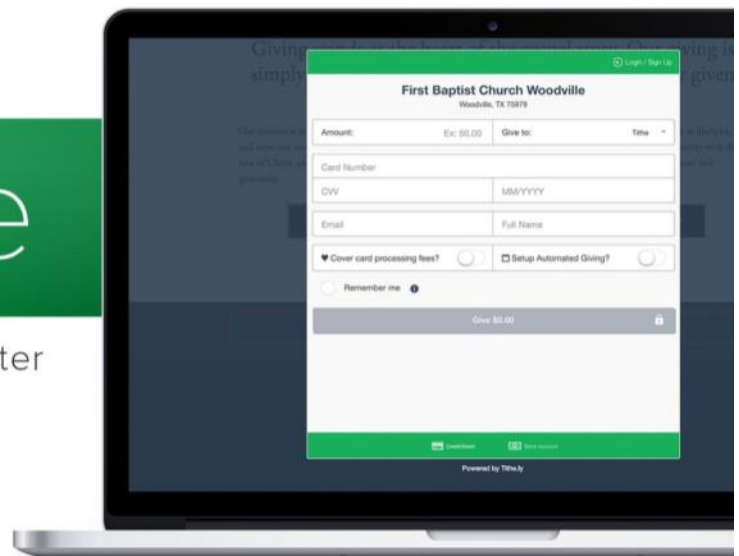
Thank you for your ongoing generosity in these ways and others!

Give Online

Now Give from Your Phone or Computer



POWERED BY:
TITHE.LY
Innovative church giving



At-a-Glance, General Announcements

Thank you to:

Curtis Olson for dragging the ULC parking lot to dry down the wet spots.

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".

Periodicals

The new "Living Lutheran" 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.

Easter Lilies

John & Karen Boe
in Memory of Kevin Boe

Sidewalk Edging

Do you have an edger? We are in need of someone to edge the sidewalks at church this spring and again in the fall. Contact the church if interested.

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.

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.

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.

Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly

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

Missing/Lost Items

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

Scam Alert

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

Summer Camp

As of this writing, many Bible Camps are still hoping to have programming this 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—May Schedule

May 3 - Worship

Live-streaming on Facebook, 10am
Reader - Cheryl Muhs

May 10 - Worship

Live-streaming on Facebook, 10am
Reader - Carla Gemmill

May 17 - Worship

Live-streaming on Facebook, 10am
Reader - Laura Dease

May 24 - Worship

Live-streaming on Facebook, 10am
Reader - Kari Henderson

May 31 - Worship

Live-streaming on Facebook, 10am
Reader - Kim Hart

If/when we are able to worship in-person, we will adjust worship needs and responsibilities accordingly.

SELF-QUARANTINE

For out-of-state travelers returning to ND



**STAY
HOME**



**TWO
WEEKS**

NORTH
Dakota
Be Legendary.™

Joint Information Center
HEALTH