

UNITED MONTHLY

Volume 10, Issue 7

July 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.

Social Ministry and Social Justice

The following is adapted from a June 7 article by Micayla Bitz at www.lssnd.org and is part of an important discussion today.

- Pastor Karl

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." ~Matthew 25:40

It's been the driving question for Christians for centuries: **What would Jesus do?** The question only continues to grow more complex as we navigate today's tense political climate alongside the increasing needs of our community. What would Jesus do to help "the least of these?" What is the role of social ministry and social justice in fulfilling the call to love our neighbor?

In order to fully understand these terms and how they are connected, it is helpful first to define them. **Social justice** is generally understood to mean working through societal or political systems to achieve equality, fairness and dignity for all human beings. **Social ministry**, on the other hand, describes providing direct service to people and communities in need. Essentially, the terms are different means to the same end – serving "the least of these" described in Matthew 25. While social ministry brings tangible assistance to those in crisis, social justice works to rewrite the societal structure that created the crisis in the first place. Social ministry addresses the symptoms, while social justice attempts to remedy the cause.

Giving meals to the homeless is social ministry – addressing an immediate need by feeding the hungry. Supporting affordable housing projects or behavioral health programs to keep people off the streets in the first place are examples of social justice.

For too long, people have looked at each term without the other. It is time that we stop looking at these two terms as an either or situation. We need *both* social ministry and social justice work, to truly serve as we are called.

This is the model Jesus followed during his time on Earth. Feeding the hungry and healing the sick are examples of social ministry, but Jesus also practiced social justice by fighting against the political structures that created inequality during his time. In Matthew 21, Jesus protested the religious establishment's abuse of the poor. By driving out the temple merchants and overturning their tables, Jesus combined his social ministry work for the poor with social justice work. When merchants exploited poor people coming to the temple worship, Jesus took direct action to challenge the corrupt practices in the church.

So, what would Jesus do? We already know the answer. He lived a life dedicated to both social ministry and social justice. Jesus addressed people's immediate needs while also remedying broken societal and political structures.

In the US, politics and religion have forever been a taboo mix, but life is never that black and white. This is not a partisan effort. In such politically polarized times, it is imperative to avoid getting caught up in the fight as we advocate for structural change. These issues are not isolated to one political party and meaningful change cannot happen without the cooperation of everyone.

We are called to care for the "least of these" (Matthew 25:40), to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31) and to set free the oppressed (Luke 4:18). We are called to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly (Micah 6:8). God be with us.

July 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 1:30 OCLC Communion service on Thursday →	2 12PM Al-Anon meeting by zoom (please see general announcements)	3	4
5 10AM Worship with Holy Communion	6	7	8	9 12PM Al-Anon meeting by zoom	10	11
Pastor Karl away on vacation July 6-13						
12 10AM Worship	13	14 5:30PM Esther Circle	15	16 12PM Al-Anon meeting by zoom	17	18
Pastor Karl away on vacation July 6-13						
19 10AM Worship with Holy Communion	20	21	22 7PM Church Council meeting (tentative)	23 12PM Al-Anon meeting by zoom	24	25
26 10AM Outdoor Contemporary Worship	27	28	29	30 12PM Al-Anon meeting by zoom	31 6PM Messner/ Agnes wedding rehearsal	
Pastor Karl continuing education July 26(pm)-30						

Faith & Care #1 Brian & Darby Hart, chair

Brandon & Sarah Badding	Lyle & Deidre Long
Carol Badding	Dale & Pam Luhmann
Todd & Abby Borchardt	Shelly Messner
Sandra Brooks	Patty Metzger
Daren & Sarah Christianson	Jeff & Brittanie Mostad
Todd & Shanda Christianson	Ken & Carol Myhre
Jamie & Amanda Coyle	Betty Nelson
Lawrence & Susan Fay Crockett	Frances Noland
Denis Domres	Ellen Nuelle
Lynn Domres & Tara Roberts	Jim & Shannon Nuelle
Juanita Domres	Duane Olson
Margaret Downs	Edwin Olson
Greg & Jolene Everson	Jeff Overby
Taylor Everson	Glenn Pederson
Joanne Field	Ed & Bernice Pengilly
Rory & Carey Freer	Shane & Janelle Peterson
Don & Elaine Haugen	Kyle & Kaila Rollness
David & Ardyce Hennager	Cindy Steinke
Joel Jacobson	Lawrence & Laura Thielbar
Terry & Janet Jacobson	Dustin Wagner & Michelle Chock
Dale Klein	Ron & Cathy White
Kathy Kram	
Josh & Pam Krivarchka	
Kevin & Teri Lill	

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 06-15-20 Mtg

Through May, \$14,380.27 of our \$17,400 federal PPP loan/grant has been used.

Radon mitigation has been completed at the parsonage and paid for.

Education committee is working on plans for the 2020-21 school year, subject to flexibility with Covid-19.

Covers have been put on the HVAC outdoor tubing at the church.

Per current ND Dept of Health guidelines, we have increased church capacity from 50 to 75 and we will resume communion distribution in July.

July 26 outdoor worship, no picnic but we should be able to sing!

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

Financial Update 05-31-20

May Offering	\$11,258.47	
	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
Offering Income	\$65,106.57	\$70,525.00
	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
*Total Income thru May	\$85,533.62	\$80,856.94
Total Expenses thru May	\$72,274.81	\$82,878.24

*Please note, our total yearly income includes \$17,400 from the federal government's Payroll Protection Program (PPP) and this is not considered offering income. If this PPP money is used properly, it will be considered a grant and not a loan. Please note that **without the PPP money received, we would be approximately \$4,200 in the red.** This money is short-term assistance and cannot replace the giving from ULC households.

Thank you for your continued financial gifts, whatever their size, during this time of economic uncertainty.

Endowment

As of July 1, our Endowment Fund balance was \$107,728.09. 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).

Synod Assembly

Due to Covid-19 concerns, the 2020 Eastern North Dakota Synod assembly will be held remotely, August 14-16. Pastor Karl, Lisa Schuler and Linda Timian will be our “virtual” reps. One of the primary business items will be the election of a new synod bishop. The slate of nominees for our Eastern North Dakota Synod’s next bishop, who will be included on the first ballot, are:

Rev. Jessica Daum - Eastern North Dakota Synod
 Rev. Michael Jacobson - Martin's Lutheran Church, Casselton
 Rev. Tessa Moon Leiseth - Horace Lutheran Church, Horace
 Rev. Lynn Ronsberg - Sharon Lutheran Church, Grand Forks
 Rev. Ivy Schulz - Calvary Lutheran Church, Grand Forks
 Rev. Kristina Weber - Trinity Lutheran Church, Jamestown
 Rev. Matt Valan - Messiah Lutheran Church, Fargo

Please pray for these nominees and those who are preparing for this year’s assembly.

Mt. Carmel Dam Youth Event

Monday evening, July 20.

Come enjoy the great outdoors with United Lutheran Youth at Mt. Carmel Dam! We will enjoy fun on the lake, lawn games, supper, campfire and more!

Special thanks to the Harts and Schulers for helping make this event possible.

Stay tuned for more details, including sign-up so we can plan for enough food!



First Communion

Covid-19 has affected many things, including Holy Communion class for 4th graders in the spring. We celebrated a little late, with these students who participated in Holy Communion instruction, Wednesday evening, June 24, and will be receiving their first communion and big-kid Bibles on August 2.



Anti-Racism

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has reaffirmed its commitment to combating racism and white supremacy. We condemn the prejudice which has led to the deaths of so many unarmed persons of color in our country. We grieve with, pray for and stand in solidarity with the families and friends of all whose loved ones have been and continue to be victims of injustices and violence.

The ELCA’s social policy resolution, “Condemnation of White Supremacy and Racist Rhetoric,” adopted by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, states: “As persons called to love one another as God has loved us, we therefore proclaim our commitment to speak with one voice against racism and white supremacy. We stand with those who are targets of racist ideologies and actions.” As church, together we work to condemn white supremacy in all forms and recommit ourselves to confront and exorcize the sins of injustice, racism and white supremacy in church and society and within ourselves as individuals and households.

At-a-Glance and General Announcements

Thank you to:

Janet Jacobson for leading us in worship on June 28.

Kathie Johnson for her work in cleaning out the church flower garden and planting new flowers.

Gerald Anderson for church downspout repair.

Lindy Johnson for using his edger to trim the sidewalks and driveway.

Joanne Field for her supply of individually-wrapped cloth face masks. They are available on Sundays from an usher or in the office during the week.

Youth Ministry Coordinator

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

Periodicals

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

Clothing Donations Needed

The Domestic Violence & Abuse Center is in need of boys clothing of all sizes, infant through youth. If you have clothing to offer, you may place them in the orange basket in the narthex. Thank you to those who have already donated!

Summer Bible Camp

With Covid safety concerns, both PRBC and Red Willow have suspended summer programs for 2020. Metigoshe is currently planning to begin summer programs in July.

Offering Envelopes

2020 offering envelopes are available and may be picked up in the fellowship hall.

Annual Outdoor Worship

We are still planning to have our annual outdoor worship service, July 26. We do not plan to have a picnic this year.

Al-Anon

Al-Anon has resumed meeting via zoom on Thursdays at noon. Please call 701-270-2254 with questions or inquiries.

Eastern North Dakota Synod News

The Eastern North Dakota Synod is currently seeking faithful candidates for the synod leadership positions below. See Pastor Karl for more information.

- Synod Secretary (4-year term)
- Youth Representative to the Synod Council (1-year term)
- A Layperson and Minister of Word and Sacrament to serve on the synod discipline committee (6 year term)

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.

Bridal Card Shower

Jenny Jacobson is getting married. With all that is going on, most of the events for her have been cancelled. If you'd like to give her a bridal card shower, her address is: 5892 56th Ave S Fargo ND 58104.

Binders Available

We have updated the black ULW binders for our contemporary worship services and are reducing the number of binders. If you could use any 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".

Resuming In-Person Worship

We thank Mike and Connie for continuing and increasing cleaning and sanitation at the church. For the time being:

- worship and activities will be limited to 75 people or less (increased from 50 when we resumed in June);
- pews will be taped off for physical distancing;
- we will refrain from handshakes and passing offering plates;
- we will not have congregational singing (**except when worshipping outdoors**), food or beverage at church;
- we are pleased to be resuming distribution of Holy Communion in July, with added health precautions;
- worship attendees will be encouraged but not required to wear face masks;
- the congregation will be ushered out following worship services;
- we will continue offering online worship opportunities on Facebook.

Prayers of...

Healing

Kynlee Pengilly, Kerlange Aristide in Haiti, her husband Armstrong and baby Zeke, Lois Jones (Val Olson's sister, cancer) & Marie Peterson.

Sympathy

The family of Dan Fischer on the death of his mother, Esther.

Joy

Congratulations to Helen & Linden Johnson (60 years) and Rick & Carolyn Crockett (50 years) on their special wedding anniversaries, June 5.

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

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 - July Schedule

July 5 Worship

Reader - Deidre Long
Ushers - Lyle & Deidre Long
Communion Assistant - Joanne Field

July 12 Worship

Reader -
Ushers - Edwin Olson
Projectionist - Addy Reidhammer

July 19 Worship

Reader - Terry Jacobson
Ushers - Jamie & Amanda Coyle
Communion Prep - Elaine Haugen
Communion Assistant - Janet Jacobson
Projectionist - Brock Freer

July 26 Outdoor Worship

Reader - Darby Hart
Ushers - Edwin Olson & Duane Olson
Feel free to bring a lawn chair. ***We will be singing!!!***

As we worship in person during this time of Covid-19, we continue to balance the physical, spiritual and emotional health of those who choose to gather in-person. These steps are based on recommendations from the CDC, ND Public Health and ELCA synod and church wide resources. As you can see in the schedule above, we are resuming Holy Communion distribution during July, but otherwise still do not have food or beverage at church.