

# UNITED MONTHLY

Volume 10, Issue 8

August 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.

## Standing on Holy Land

A few weeks ago while in the Black Hills, I reflected on "holy land" on my personal Facebook page. It was good to reflect about something not related to the many issues we're currently wrestling with today! As I share and expand on that below, I pray that it will be as helpful reading as it was for me to write...

Holy land.

Billions of people have called present day Israel and Palestine the Holy Land. It is the land which King David ruled, where Jesus walked and where Mohammed is said to have ascended into heaven. It is a land which has been fought over for religious and geographic reasons.

For millennia, the Black Hills have been sacred to the First Peoples of North America. It has been an oasis in the prairie, a pilgrimage for hunting and spiritual renewal.

Atlantic Mountain Ranch (AMR) is my "holy land" in the Black Hills. It is where I worked five summers in outdoor ministry, where I met my wife, rejuvenated my faith, found lasting friendships and more. A few years ago, Lutheran Outdoors in South Dakota made the difficult decision to end programming at AMR and to sell the land.

While in the Black Hills most recently, I drove to the entry of AMR and took a picture. It is still a holy place for me. The land was sacred long before I stepped foot on it. But what makes it holy for me? My experiences tied to it.

What are your holy places? Where have you been touched in an amazing, humbling and life-changing way? Perhaps our church building is a holy place for you, or land your family has farmed for generations or somewhere as simple as your back yard.

My guess is, there are thousands of these holy places. The whole earth is, after all, holy. I thank my Creator for this earth and for opportunities to experience the majesty of our Maker through this earth. I give thanks for friendships, for experiences and life itself.

Wherever you are, whatever places you hold as special, may we all give thanks. And in giving thanks, may we remember that our God is good!

*"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!"*

Psalm 118:1

- Pastor Karl

## Outdoor Concerts at Park River Bible Camp



Come to PRBC for these free-will outdoor concerts! Aug.2, Rachel Kurtz and Aug.9, The Wood Picks.

Please bring your own lawn chair. Concerts will also be streamed on Park River Bible Camp's Facebook page.



# August 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 4PM Messner/ Agnes wedding
2 10AM Worship with Holy Communion (4th Graders receive First Communion)	3	4	5	6	7 Wedding rehearsal	8 5PM Larson/ Schlittenhard wedding
9 10AM Worship	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 All-Synod online worship— <b>no in- person worship</b>	17 6PM Church Council meeting	18	19	20	21	22
23 10AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10AM Worship	31					

## Faith & Care #1 Carol Hart, chair

Gerald & Sue Anderson	Caitlin Kreklau
Steven & Michele Anderson	Robert & Lillian Lowery
Gene & Barb Arens	JoAnn Mueller
David & Teri Bodnar	Grant & Betty Nelson
Arvid & Sandy Boe	Eldon & Karen Pederson
Rick & Carolyn Crockett	Paul Peterson
Ben Crockett	Monica Porterfield
Daniel Crockett	Bill Reinhardt
Tara Domres	Stephen Ridley
Brittany Farris	Darrin & Becca Romfo
Dean & Connie Hakanson	Troy & Rachelle Romfo
Travis & Megan Hakanson	Bill & Kathy Roy
Seth & Beth Hansen	Randy & Kim Rude
Lawrence & Katie Henry	Angie Sanders
Kyle & Tiffany Hetletved	Brandon & April Smith
Tom & Lynda Hoyt	Kathy Snortland
Zane Jacobson	Gordon & Sharon Sondeland
John & Kathie Johnson	Carl & Becky Tollefson
Robert & Nadine Kempert	Melissa Vikan
Jim & Connie Kjos	

## 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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## Financial Update 06-30-20

June Offering	\$10,860.03	
	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
Offering Income	\$75,966.60	\$84,630.00
	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
*Total Income thru June	\$96,526.74	\$94,895.72
Total Expenses thru June	\$84,968.33	\$99,625.46

\*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. Please note that **without the PPP money received, we would be approximately \$5,841 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 29, our Endowment Fund balance was \$109,496.13. 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).

## Council Notes 07-22-20 Mtg

July income was up due to a few sizable yearly donations. The PPP loan has all been used.

Education committee is exploring Sunday school options and will know more when the school district plan is released.

Linda Dahl has requested to go off the Hospitality committee; the Nominating committee will be asked to find someone to fill her term.

The parsonage dishwasher has been replaced and paid from the parsonage repair budget line.

Stewardship committee has been visiting about God's Work, Our Hands with Covid-19 in mind.

Council authorized council president and pastor to decide on a weekly basis whether in-person worship should be suspended, based on active Covid-19 cases in our area.

Park River Bible Camp is asking for financial assistance. Council approved sending \$500 of our budgeted \$1,000 PRBC line item to the camp now, with the remainder possibly later in the year.

Discussion about technology upgrades for online worship. Steve Hart will help setup. Council approved up to \$1,500 from the music fund for initial equipment expenses.

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

# 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.

As part of our virtual Synod Assembly, all churches in our synod are invited to take part in all-synod online worship, Sunday July 16. **We will not have in-person worship at ULC that Sunday.**

# Mt. Carmel Dam Youth Event

Thanks to Kim & Steve Hart and Lisa & Jeremy Schuler for hosting our youth fun event at Mt. Carmel dam, Friday, July 24! Our hot afternoon and evening included fun on the lake, supper, lawn games, a campfire and s’mores!



## “Am I Called?”

A discernment conversation by Zoom for high school students, Wednesdays at 11am. Session one, “Vocation—Am I Called?” (July 29). Session two, “Public Ministry in the ELCA—Pastors, Deacons, and More” (Aug.5). Session three, “How do I get there? College, Seminary and Other Things You Need to Know” (Aug.12).

There is no charge and students can attend one or more of the events on Zoom. Register in advance at [swmsynod.formstack.com/forms/discernment](http://swmsynod.formstack.com/forms/discernment).

# First Communion

Covid-19 has affected many things, including Holy Communion class for 4th graders this past spring. Those students will soon be in their next grade of school and had Holy Communion instruction offered on two separate dates this summer:

- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Remmi Bodnar    | Ryland Peterson     |
| Karson Hansen   | Billy Reinhardt     |
| Meggy Hetletved | Christian Tollefson |
| Levi Lundgren   | Jacob Tollefson     |
| Caleb McDonald  |                     |

We look forward to recognizing them as they receive their first communion and big-kid Bibles at our Sunday morning worship service on August 2!

# Faith & Education

We are making fall plans for both Sunday school and confirmation to resume this fall, with in-person or online formats. Much more will be known by our September newsletter, so please stay tuned for that and other updates between now and then!

# July Memorials

**Esther Fischer - Linden & Helen Johnson (garden)**

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

## At-a-Glance and General Announcements

### Thank you to:

Rick Crockett & Lindy Johnson for excavating our parking lot to the curb and to Mikkelsen Construction for adding gravel.

The Anonymous Donor who gave funds towards the purchase of the new parsonage dishwasher.

The individual who left a large cash contribution in the offering plate located on the altar through the pandemic.

### Outdoor Worship

It was so good to gather outdoors for worship, Sunday, July 26—and especially good to safely SING in congregational worship!

Thanks to Steve Hart for use of his outdoor sound equipment.

We look forward to being able to picnic after our service next summer!

### Periodicals

The new “Living Lutheran” periodical is available in the narthex.

### 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)

As part of our virtual Synod Assembly, all churches in our synod are invited to take part in all-synod online worship, Sunday July 16. We will not have in-person worship that Sunday.

### Youth Ministry Coordinator

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

### 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”.

### Offering Envelopes

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

### Al-Anon

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

### School Supplies

Deborah Circle is collecting school supplies and anyone can contribute. Items can be placed in the orange basket in the narthex. These supplies will be donated to the local schools.

### Lost Items

A pocket-size notebook was found in a pew after a Sunday service with names, numbers, and other information. If it is yours, please contact the church office.

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

### 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.

## Prayers of...

### Healing

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

### Joy

Baptism of Declan Michael Domres on July 5. Declan’s parents are Heather and Ryan Domres. He is the little brother to Myla and Cabri.

*We invite you to pray for those people listed. Please call the church office if you have additions to our prayer list.*

### Covid-19 Updates

As we continue to monitor the number of active Covid-19 cases in our area, any **decisions to suspend in-person worship** will be made on Wednesdays by Pastor Karl and Josh Overby (church council president).

Per ULC bylaws, **church committees are expected to meet** at least four times each year. With our current situation, some committees may meet much more and some may feel hard-pressed to meet this many times. We ask committees to use their discretion and adjust as necessary.

Frustrated with the technical issues we’ve had in putting our in-person services online? We’re excited to share **we will be purchasing digital equipment and a camera** to improve access and quality for those worshipping from home. Initial funding will come from the church’s dedicated music fund; one additional gift has already been given toward this project, more **gifts are welcome** (please write “camera fund” in the memo).

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 - August Schedule

### August 2 Worship

Reader - JoAnn Mueller  
Ushers - Rick & Carolyn Crockett  
Communion Prep - Carol Hart  
Communion Assistant - Carol Hart  
Projectionist - Kaylee Lowery

### August 9 Worship

Reader - Becky Tollefson  
Ushers - Duane Olson & Edwin Olson  
Projectionist - Danny Hart

### August 16 Worship

**Online All-Synod Worship with Synod Assembly**

Will include a sermon from ELCA

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

**We will not have in-person worship at ULC.**

### August 23 Contemporary Worship

Reader - Monica Porterfield  
Usher - Sue Anderson  
Communion Prep - Sandy Boe  
Communion Assistant - John Johnson  
Projectionist - Brenna Schuler

### August 30 Worship

Reader - Rachelle Romfo  
Ushers - Troy & Rachelle Romfo family  
Projectionist - Xavier Breddin

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.