

# UNITED MONTHLY

Volume 10, Issue 12

December 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.

## Christmas in the Time of Covid

Every year I look forward to our Christmas Eve services, as so many come to celebrate Jesus' birth. This year, we have a Grinch—Covid. This Grinch will make Christmas look different, but—as with the beloved Dr. Seuss story—we will still have Christmas.

We will make a decision December 10 as to whether we will plan for in-person Christmas services. That decision will be based both on current active Covid cases and their trend-lines in Cavalier County. **If we do have in-person services:**

- Christmas Eve services will be at 3pm (contemporary) and 5pm (traditional), with a 10am Christmas Day service;
- we will have music, but no congregational singing;
- seating will be every-other pew and we will require advance signups to attend our limited capacity seating;
- face coverings will be required;
- we will put up more decorations.

We ask that poinsettias **not be given** for our church space **unless** we are able to worship in person.

**If we are unable to worship in person,** we will have services posted on Facebook.

Because music is such a special part of Christmas, we will have **outdoor Christmas Caroling** in our church parking lot, 7pm Tuesday, December 22. We will have song books and will spread out safely distanced to join in song. Plan to bring a flashlight, weather-appropriate clothing and your pent-up need to sing! Invite a friend and bring your family!

Christ was born into a time of uncertainty. Today, though different, faces its difficulties and uncertainties as well. But Christ still comes. Christmas still comes. For unto us a child is born, Emmanuel, Prince of Peace, God-with-us.

This is something no Grinch—Covid or otherwise—can change.

~ Pastor Karl

## Senior Care Needed

Spread some holiday cheer!

Did you know we have seniors in our community who need a little help with basic needs around their home, such as housekeeping, laundry, helping sort their mail or snow removal? A little help enables them to stay in their home. How to help? Contact social services, 256-2175, and ask about home and community services.

Spread holiday cheer now or any time of the year by delivering "meals on wheels" in our community. Call senior meals and services to learn more, 256-2828.

### Congregation VP

We're still in need of an incoming congregation vice-president for the upcoming year. Do you have passion for ULC? Can you work with a team (our church board)? Prayerfully consider who might best serve this important position.

# December 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 6PM 7&8 Grade Confirmation	3 5PM Endowment Committee meeting	4	5
6 10AM Worship <b>Special Congregational Meeting</b>	7	8	9 6PM 7&8 Grade Confirmation 7PM Church Budget meeting	10	11	12
13 10AM Worship	14	15	16 6PM 7&8 Grade Confirmation	17	18	19
20 10AM Worship	21 6PM Church Council meeting	22 7PM Outdoor Christmas caroling at church	23 <b>No Confirmation</b>	24 <b>Christmas Eve Services</b> 3PM Contemporary 5PM Traditional	25 10AM Christmas Day Worship	26
27 10AM Worship	28	29	30 <b>No Confirmation</b>	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>The Christmas services listed are if we will be able to worship in-person. Please see the cover page for more info.</p> </div>	

## Faith & Care

A big thank you to our Faith & Care Leaders who keep the church year running smoothly by finding individuals/families each month for reading, greeting, ushering, coffee, communion prep and assistants. This is not always an easy task, even as the number of people needed each week has changed this year with Covid. We so appreciate your time that it takes to volunteer to do this position!

- Darby & Brian Hart - Faith & Care #1
- Carol Hart - Faith & Care #2
- Skyler & Will Moline - Faith & Care #3
- Lisa Schuler - Faith & Care #4

## Financial Update 10-31-20

October Offering	\$13,326.00	
	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
Offering Income	\$131,872.90	\$141,050.00
	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
*Total Income thru October	\$153,560.20	\$143,853.58
Total Expenses thru October	\$141,291.98	\$150,575.90

\*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.

**Your financial support this year has been inspiring!**  
**Thank you for supporting our congregation's ministry!**

## Endowment

As of December 2, our Endowment Fund balance was \$118,571.85. 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).

There are so many ways to sustain our church, but one of the best kept secrets is to put the Endowment Fund in your will or estate plan. There are so many ways to give from your estate plan, but the net benefit is the same: you sustain our church long into the future.

For more information about how our Endowment Fund works, contact one of our Endowment Committee members (Ken Carlson, Lawrence Crockett, Ted Dahl, Dan Fischer or John Johnson) or call the InFaith Community Foundation at 800-365-4172 (where our endowment fund is held).

## 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 11-15-20 Mtg

The church van has been sold to Gary Bimler.

We received a \$5,000 Ottertail rebate for our HVAC units for installing off-peak; this was applied toward our HVAC loan principal.

There is new weather stripping on the front doors to the church (Devils Lake Glass). Some of the window sills have been refinished in the fellowship hall (Gerald Anderson).

An external sump pump was installed at the parsonage to help remedy basement moisture issues.

Stewardship committee recommendations for Harvest Sunday disbursement were approved.

Voting options were discussed (outlined elsewhere in this newsletter) for congregational meetings if we are not in-person.

Discussion on Christmas plans. These are outlined on this newsletter's cover page.

Executive committee will meet 7pm December 9 for 2021 budget planning.

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

## Park River Bible Camp

### Upcoming events:

High School Ski Trip, December 27-January 1

High School Lock-in, February 6-7

Register for PRBC events online at [ParkRiverBibleCamp.org](http://ParkRiverBibleCamp.org) or call 701-284-6795.

Plans are underway for summer 2021 programs, with or without Covid. Staff applications for the summer are also now available on the camp website.

Thank you to the ULC quilters and anyone else that donated towards the Park River Bible Camp quilt auction. There were 164 different items donated and \$36,000 was raised to surpass the camp's goal of \$35,000; how wonderful!

## Confirmation

Confirmation continues to meet 6pm Wednesdays by Zoom while our in-person worship services are suspended. Our December session topics will be:

December 2: Job

December 9: The Rise of Rome/Jesus

December 16: Was going to be caroling at Maple Manor. Please stay tuned as other plans develop.

December 23: Christmas break—no confirmation

December 30: Christmas break—no confirmation

January 6: Parent/Student Meeting

On October 28, our confirmation students, along with other youth in our community did a phone-a-thon in support of the Cavalier County Emergency Food Pantry. This was done instead of the "usual" door-to-door food collection.

Thanks to our youth's work, over \$2,120 was raised in cash donations, as well as donated food items!

Wow—thank you!



## Sunday School Newsletter

Greetings everyone, and let me be the first to say Merry Christmas!

We had a late start to our Sunday School year this fall and made some big changes, but our kids and teachers did so well! We may have only gotten a few Sundays together, but it was so good to have the kids back in the church and we are looking forward to more time together very soon!

Since our in-person worship and Sunday School has been suspended, we have been posting lesson information on our SS Facebook page each Sunday morning. I hope you have all found that helpful and that your kids have been able to stay connected to SS each week. We will continue to do this as long as we're not meeting in person. In December, our lessons are "An Angel Visits Joseph," and "Jesus is Born." These will be fun lessons this Christmas season and will help remind us of the reason for the season! The lesson leaflets and bulletin leaflets are also set out at the church each week if your kids are wanting to do more activities than are posted online. Please, feel free to come to the church and take one! We will not have a lesson on December 27th or January 3rd for Christmas break and will pick back up on January 10th.

Usually, this time of year is busy with the preparations for our Christmas program - learning new songs, memorizing lines and getting props ready to help us tell the story of Jesus' birth. The church is full of the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season! This year obviously looks different for our Sunday School kids. While it may not be in a way that we're used to, we will do our best to bring you all the good news of Jesus' birth this Christmas season through the eyes of our children! We are hoping to have this for you on December 20th. Stay tuned!

I want to extend a big thank you to Pastor Karl and Julie, as they are doing so much to make sure things continue to run smoothly as we juggle all the changes. Please continue to check our Sunday School Facebook page for lessons and announcements and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions!

Grace & Peace,  
Carla Gemmill  
Education Committee Chair

# PARENTS LEAD

News about the coronavirus (COVID-19) is everywhere and concern over this virus can result in families feeling anxious. Parents, family members, and other trusted adults play an important role in helping children make sense of what they hear in a way that is honest, accurate and minimizes anxiety or fear. A plethora (always a fun word) of resources are available for parents and caregivers at <http://www.parentslead.org/COVID-19>.

Parents Lead was developed in collaboration between the ND Department of Human Services, ND Department of Transportation and ND University System. It has a plethora of other non-Covid resources, too!

## Christmas Caroling? Yes!

We don't know if we'll be able to gather for in-person worship this Christmas, but – if we do – it is unlikely we will be able to sing, as singing increases the risk of spreading Covid, particularly when done indoors.

But singing is so important this time of year! So, for any interested, we will gather in the church parking lot, 7pm December 22, for some outdoor and socially-distanced Christmas caroling! Bundle up, bring a thermos of cocoa, a flashlight to see the music and your pent-up need to sing.

Church will provide song-sheets or hymnals. We will be spread out, but we will sing!

## Advent

The church season of Advent began November 29, as we enter a time of preparation for Christmas.

Daily Advent devotional resources for the home, developed by Pastor Rebecca, are available in the narthex. They include a "Light One Candle" devotional calendar, candle votive and a tea light. The resource is suitable for households of all ages to participate.

If you'd like this resource but aren't able to pick one up, please call Pastor Karl to have it brought to you!



## Covid Resources—You're Not Alone

Project Renew is partnered with Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota to provide free virtual group counseling sessions to anyone in the state of North Dakota who has been impacted in any way by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Go to <https://bit.ly/2FqmpW4> for more on information on each of the following sessions and to sign up.

**Grief and Loss During Covid-19:** Losing a loved one is always difficult but Covid-19 has made grieving much more complicated. Mondays at 6:30pm.

**Baby, Let's Talk:** Parenting is hard in general. But becoming a parent in the middle of a pandemic is unprecedentedly hard. Tuesdays at 1pm.

**High Risk, High Anxiety:** A weekly support group for high-risk individuals as they navigate life during Covid-19. Thursdays at 6:30pm.

**Educator Support Groups:** It's not the school year you thought it would be. Let's talk about it. Mondays at 4pm.

Visit [www.projectrenew.nd.gov](http://www.projectrenew.nd.gov) for additional Covid-19 resources.

## Journey

Our Journey through the Bible theme continues in December with the following passages:

Dec.6: An Angel Visits Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)

Dec.13: John Prepares the Way (Mark 1:1-8)

Dec.20: Jesus is Born (Luke 2:1-20)...this is a lead-up up Christmas, and the day we hope to have our Sunday school program

Dec.27: Boy Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)



## Prayers of...

### Healing

Lois Jones (Val Olson's cousin, cancer), Sandy Almlie, Jodi Hipp, & the people of Haiti.

### Sympathy

Jim & Faye Wilhelmi on the death of their great-granddaughter, Quinn Florence Larson.

The family of Marion Johnson Iverson, death November 19 and her funeral November 24.

The family of Melissa Vikan on her death.

The family of Lindy Johnson on the death of his brother, Kenny.

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

## Haiti Mission Update

Even though our travel to Haiti has been suspended, our work with the congregation of Redemption Lutheran Church in Pasquette continues. Here are a few things that have been accomplished by our friends in our absence:

**Reconstruction of the Water Tower:** The new water tower was completed over the summer and is providing water both to individual homes and people filling buckets or washing their hands. A water meter was installed as part of the project and shows that 74,000 gallons have been pumped as of late September!

**Bench Building Class:** Our friend Jorel will be teaching a carpentry class through the Ideas Technology School starting soon. Along with learning basic and more advanced skills, the students will be finishing new benches for the church. As a graduation gift, Seeds of Support is presenting all students with their own tools; including a tape measure, saw, hammer and small carpenter square. Stay tuned for pictures and messages from participants in future newsletters!

**Community Garden:** Redemption Lutheran Church has offered to use some of its property near the water tower for a community garden. A community garden will help provide fresh produce to the community where food insecurity is a way of life. The church is working with a Haitian agricultural technician to determine the best crops to grow, as well as to learn about irrigation and composting techniques. Some of the potential crops they are considering growing include plantains, corn, peppers, tomatoes, watermelon, eggplants and carrots. Seeds of Support will provide some of the tools, seeds and compost needed to make the gardens grow.

Thank you for United Lutheran's continued support of our friends in Haiti, even when we cannot be there in person.

## Harvest Sunday

November 22 we celebrated our annual Harvest Sunday, as we give thanks for the year's blessings with a special dedicated offering given to these areas outside of our general church budget:

ULC HVAC loan 40%

Synod Endowment 10%

Lutheran Campus Ministry 15%

Lutheran Disaster Response 15%

Great Plains Food Bank 10%

Haiti Mission 10%

Donations will be collected through December 6 and thank you to those that have already given; \$1,305 has been received so far.

## November Memorials

**Curtis Burnham** - Linden & Helen Johnson (building), Friends & Family of Curtis Burnham (general)

**Marion Johnson Iverson** - Linden & Helen Johnson (garden)

**Quinn Florence Larson** - Linden & Helen Johnson (Sunday school), Corey & Julie Johnson (general)

**Kenny Johnson** - Gladys Hillman (general), Linden & Helen Johnson (general), Corey & Julie Johnson (general)

*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:

The many talented individuals that provided special music this past month: Aubrey Badding, Carolyn Balsdon, Tobin & Lydia Breddin, Catelyn & Ella Goodman, Steve Hart, Harper Jacobson, Kathie Johnson, Liam Johnson, Chloe Koons, Brenna & Lisa Schuler and Becky Tollefson. Also, to our amazing Praise Band!

The Gemmill family for setting up the Christmas tree in the sanctuary.

## Needed

Domestic Violence & Abuse continues to need the basics such as Lysol spray, toilet paper, paper towels, etc. Also, at this time, they are in need of household items such as silverware, cookware, table & chairs, end tables, etc. Please text or call Julie at 701-331-0261 to arrange pickup or by contacting her at julie@dvacond.org.

## Youth Ministry Coordinator

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

## Address Information

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

## Nominating Committee

The nominating committee has been busy filling nominations for committee and council positions. We are **still in need of a Vice President** when our leadership transitions this January.

## Visitation

Last winter United Lutheran formed a loosely-organized visitation group. The purpose was to remember shut-ins with visits, phone calls or notes. Thank you for continuing this important ministry!

## Gifts of Grain

Did you know that farmers may find significant tax savings through donating grain directly to United Lutheran or another favorite charity? By doing this, the church or other charity gets the proceeds of selling the donated grain and the donating farmer gets tax deductions at a better rate than just cash donations. To learn more about this “bountiful” way of giving, visit with your tax advisor and be sure any donations are processed properly through the elevator.

## Periodicals

The new “Living Lutheran” periodicals are available in the narthex.

## Offering Envelopes

2021 offering envelopes are available to be picked up from the table in the fellowship hall. Please remember to not use your 2020 envelopes in the new year as each year the envelopes are renumbered.

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.

## 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”.

## Lost Items

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

## Special Congregational Meeting

There will be a **Special Meeting of the United Lutheran Church Congregation after worship Sunday, December 6**, to approve striking the following paragraph from our bylaws:

*United Women shall elect one representative from their organization to regularly attend all Council meetings to act as a liaison between their organization and Council. This member shall have all the duties and responsibilities of a Council member including voting rights.*

This amendment was brought to the Church Council at the request of our United Women circle leaders. If approved December 6, it will then require ratification at our January 24 Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

If we are unable to meet in-person for either meeting, our bylaws allow us to vote electronically.

For our December 6 meeting, this will mean voting in the Facebook comments at the conclusion of our December 6 online service; votes can also be called, mailed or emailed into the church office, until midnight December 13.

We are working on what our best options for participation might be if we are still unable to meet in-person for our January 24 annual meeting. As always, it will be important to have our congregation present.

## Blood Donors Needed During Pandemic

Held at United Communications, December 15, 12-6PM. Please call Mikan to schedule an appointment at 256-5156.

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 - December Schedule

### December 6 - Worship

Reader - Laura Dease

### December 13 - Worship

Reader - Lisa Schuler

### December 20 - Worship

Readers - Brian & Darby Hart

### December 24 (3PM Contemporary Christmas Eve Worship)

*Council/Committees to fulfill responsibilities*

### December 24 (5PM Traditional Christmas Eve Worship)

*Council/Committees to fulfill responsibilities*

### December 25 - (10AM Christmas Day Worship)

*Council/Committees to fulfill responsibilities*

### December 27 - Worship

Reader - Carol Hart

What will Christmas services look like at United Lutheran this year? Please read our cover article.

A big thank you to those who have been serving on committees and council and to those who have accepted nominations to serve from our nominating committee. As of this writing, we are still in need of a **vice president** for the congregation. Perhaps God is calling you, or someone you would recommend, for this role in our congregation.