

# UNITED MONTHLY

Volume 11, Issue 1

January 2021

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.

## Blessings for a New Year

2020 was a challenging year for many of us, largely because of political tensions, social unrest and especially Covid. Our lives may have been impacted in varying degrees, but we have all been affected.

It can be easy to dwell on the challenges we've faced, to think about the bad and forget the good. A podcast I listen to had a recent episode which highlighted listeners' joys from 2020. There were stories of falling in love, of getting married and having children. There were stories of re-connecting with family and of healthier diet and exercise habits.

While we don't know all that 2021 will bring, we know it will have its joys and challenges—some of which will continue from 2020 as we still struggle with many of the same issues.

This time has meant much more time at home for many of us. In the home, Christ is met in family and (though not so much the latter during a pandemic) friends, visitors and strangers. In the home, faith is shared, nurtured and put into action. In the home, Christ is welcome.

Christ was greeted in his home by the Magi who followed the star to Bethlehem, and "on entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother" (Matthew 2:10-11).

There is an eastern European tradition of blessing homes at Epiphany, the season in

the Church which follows Christmas. This traditionally takes place on the twelfth night of Christmas or January 5 this year, but could take place at any time. In it, a visual blessing is inscribed with white chalk above the main door; for example, 20 + C + M + B + 21. The numbers change with each new year. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedicat*, which means "Christ, bless this house" or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar).

Will this blessing bring good fortune for the year 2021? Probably not—that is not how God works. But perhaps it is a way to symbolically remember that—no matter what comes in the year—Christ dwells with us.

If you choose to do this custom from our eastern European Christian siblings, you may wish to use this prayer blessing, provided by the ELCA's Sundays and Seasons resource:

*O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. We pray that you bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence. May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord.*  
*Amen.*

United in Christ,  
Pastor Karl

20 + C + M + B + 21

# January 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Happy New Year!	2
3 No Sunday School 10AM Worship with Holy Communion	4	5	6 6PM Parent/Student Confirmation meeting	7	8	9
10 9:15AM Sunday school 10AM Worship	11 4PM P.E.O.	12	13 6PM 7&8 Grade Confirmation	14	15	16
17 9:15AM Sunday school 10AM Worship with Holy Communion	18 6PM Church Council meeting	19	20 7PM Community Youth Game Night at LAHS	21	22	23
24 9:15AM Sunday school 10AM Contemporary Worship 11AM Annual Meeting	25	26	27 6PM 7&8 Grade Confirmation	28	29	30
31 9:15AM Sunday school 10AM Worship						

## Faith & Care #2 Carol Hart, chair

Gerald & Sue Anderson	Jim & Connie Kjos
Steven & Michele Anderson	Caitlin Kreklau
Gene & Barb Arens	Robert & Lillian Lowery
David & Teri Bodnar	JoAnn Mueller
Arvid & Sandy Boe	Grant & Betty Nelson
Rick & Carolyn Crockett	Eldon & Karen Pederson
Ben Crockett	Paul Peterson
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	

## 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 11-30-20

November Offering	\$8,241.80	
	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
Offering Income	\$140,114.70	\$155,155.00
	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
*Total Income thru November	\$163,206.90	\$157,544.16
Total Expenses thru November	\$151,594.21	\$161,614.78

\*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.

Approved a larger and early payment of \$6,577 from dedicated HVAC funds toward our loan amount.

Camp Metigoshe will not be offering day camps in 2021. Other options will be considered.

\$8,580 in endowment earnings for 2020 have been approved and allocated, dividing between our HVAC fund, Cavalier County Food Pantry and Bread Pan's giving tree.

Our vote to amend the bylaws, removing United Women's elected council representative, was approved with 52 for, 0 against.

Harvest Sunday special offering raised \$3,880 which has been allocated.

## Harvest Sunday

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

<b>ULC HVAC loan 40% - \$1,552</b>	<b>Lutheran Campus Ministry 15% - \$582</b>
<b>Great Plains Food Bank 10% - \$388</b>	<b>Synod Endowment 10% - \$388</b>
<b>Lutheran Disaster Response 15% - \$582</b>	<b>Haiti Mission 10% - \$388</b>

Your generosity provided \$3,880 in Harvest Sunday gifts. Thank you!

Nominating committee is still seeking a congregational vice president and 6th person for the nominating committee. Budget for 2021 was approved for recommendation at January's annual meeting. If Covid numbers increase and we are unable to meet in person, we will have our annual meeting in the church parking lot.

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

## Confirmation

Confirmation continues to meet 6pm Wednesdays, and back in-person for the time being. 2020-21 is our Bible year; we were in the Old Testament in the fall, and will be in the New Testament in the new year. Our January session topics will be:

December 30: Christmas break—no confirmation

January 6: Parent/Student Meeting

January 13: Matthew

January 20: Community Youth Game Night (7pm, LAHS gym) - this is a different date from what was tentatively scheduled this fall and is dependent upon active Covid cases in our county remaining low.

January 27: Mark

A big THANK YOU  
from Pastor Karl and  
Rebecca for the many  
Christmas greetings we  
received this year.  
We are so thankful  
for the congregations  
we are a part of!

## Sunday School Newsletter

Happy New Year!

December was a busy month for our Sunday School! We continued with our virtual Sunday School for the first weekend but were able to start meeting in-person again on the 13th. We had our lesson, "Jesus is Born" with the kids and it was so nice to be able to be with them and visit about this important story face to face.

Because we only had one Sunday with the kids at the church, we opted to do a pre-recorded Christmas Program with a simple "lessons and carols" theme. We had several kids tell the Christmas story and others shared musical pieces throughout. This program was played during worship on December 20th and we hope you all enjoyed it. We do need to send a special thank-you out to Lisa Schuler who helped coordinate all of the music recordings for both the program and the prelude, and a very special thank you to Pastor Karl for all the extra time spent to put everything together for us. We appreciate it so much and could not have done it without you!

Also on December 20th, we had the kids do a Christmas ornament art project. We hope you all enjoyed seeing those come home!

This month our lessons are "The Beatitudes," "The Parable of the Vineyard," "Jesus Turns Water to Wine" and "Mary and Martha." We are hopeful that we will continue to be holding Sunday School in-person, but as always, please continue to check our Sunday School Facebook page for announcements and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions!



## Senior Care Needed

Spread some 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 some 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.

## Giving Hearts Day

Giving Hearts Day, February 11, is a day of extravagant giving throughout our state.

The day continues to grow as a vital avenue to support the ministry of our Eastern North Dakota Synod. It has allowed the synod to maintain financial support to its ministry partners during complex financial times.

Our synod work not only provides resources which support United Lutheran and the other congregations in our synod, but helps pool our resources to provide greater ministry for our ministry partners in the Central African Republic, Dacotah O'yate and more.

Keep watch for more information on how you might support our synod and other non-profits in our state on Giving Hearts Day, February 11, 2021.



## Hospice of the Red River Valley

Hospice of the Red River Valley, which now serves our area, provides a free community grief resource program, available to anyone who has experienced a loss through death, whether or not they experienced hospice services. More information can be found by calling 800-237-4629 or emailing [grief@hrrv.org](mailto:grief@hrrv.org).

They also provide ongoing online support groups at [www.hrrv.org/events/category/grief-support](http://www.hrrv.org/events/category/grief-support).

### Grief Journeys for Adults

An ongoing support group for adults 18 years and older who have experienced a loss through death.

- Second Tuesday of each month, 6:30-8pm; OR
- Fourth Tuesday of each month, 1-2:30pm; OR
- Second Thursday of each month, 1:30-3pm

### Grief Journeys for Widows

An ongoing support group for women who have experienced the death of a partner.

- First Tuesday of each month, 6:30-8pm; OR
- Third Tuesday of each month, 1-2:30pm

### Life and Pregnancy after Loss

An ongoing support group for anyone who is pregnant or has given birth to a living baby after previously experiencing pregnancy or infant loss.

- Third Tuesday of each month, 6:30-8pm

### Pregnancy and Infant Loss

An ongoing support group for anyone who has experienced the death of a baby through pregnancy loss, stillbirth or in the first year of life.

- Fourth Tuesday of each month, 6:30-8pm

## Annual Meeting

United Lutheran Church will hold its annual meeting of the congregation after worship on Sunday, January 24.

Our meeting will include looking back at the 2020 calendar year, looking ahead to 2021, approving the church budget, nominations for committee and council members, voting on updates to our constitution as recommended by the ELCA. If Covid numbers increase and we are unable to meet in person, we will have our annual meeting in the church parking lot.

## Journey

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

Jan.3: Boy Jesus in the Temple

Jan.10: The Beatitudes

Jan.17: Parable of the Vineyard

Jan.24: Jesus Turns Water into Wine

Jan.31: Mary and Martha



## Prayers of...

### Healing

Lois Jones (Val Olson's cousin, cancer), Jodi Hipp, Diane Reinhardt (cancer), the people of Haiti.

### Joy

Congratulations to Megan & Lance Schill on the birth of their son, Wittyn, on November 18 and on his baptism December 26.

### Sympathy

The Almlie family on the death of Sandy. She passed away on December 10.

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

## Endowment and Planned Giving

A "planned gift" is different from yearly giving (even though you likely plan on doing that as well). A planned gift typically goes beyond the gifts we make through the year and often people think about them when making their will or estate plan—although this kind of "planned giving" can be done as part of a financial plan at any time.

What's key about a planned gift is that your dreams make each gift unique and important. They're ideal when you have a strong commitment to a place, cause or a mission you love, like the church. Planned giving is not just for the wealthy; it's a tool everyone can use for the causes they care about most. There can be interesting benefits to planned gifts as they can be tailored to suit your needs and goals. Planned givers may receive tax benefits or even lifetime incomes.

We use planned gifts at ULC with our Endowment Fund because the Endowment Fund ensures our mission continues. The Endowment Fund is designed to grow over time and gives us flexibility to reach our mission and church-body goals more effectively. It's an especially good resource for long-term plans and projects that may not find sufficient resources in annual budgets.

As of December 2, our Endowment Fund balance was \$122,758.46. In December, we gave our earnings for the year away—\$8,580, with \$5,000 to our HVAC loan, \$2,530 to the food pantry and \$1,050 to the Bread Pan Giving Tree. Each year we give away our earnings, so the more we have invested, the greater the potential interest earned and distribution we can give away!

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). For more details on planned giving and how to make it work for you, contact InFaith, where United Lutheran's endowment is held at 800-365-4172.

## December Memorials

**Quinn Florence Larson** - Dennis & Linda Balsdon (general), Carla Symons (general), David & Ardyce Hennager (general), Jim & Faye Wilhelmi & family (Sunday School)

**Kenneth Johnson** - Dennis & Linda Balsdon (general), Carla Symons (general), Pat Jensen (general), David & Ardyce Hennager (general), Rick & Carolyn Crockett (general), Jim & Faye Wilhelmi (general), Dan & Peggy Fischer (HVAC)

**Curtis Burnham** - Pat Jensen (general)

**James Hart** - Pat Jensen (general)

**Marion Johnson Iverson** - Pat Jensen (general)

**Sandra Almlie** - Charles & Marie Jordan (music), Letha Lewis (general), Dale & Pam Luhmann (music), Carla Symons (general)

*Memorials may be given at any time to the Church Office at United Lutheran Church.*

# At-a-Glance and General Announcements

## Thank you to:

The music students who provided special extended prelude music for the Sunday school Christmas program on December 20. Also, the many talented vocalists and musicians that provided special music during the month of December and during the Christmas Eve services.

DeLynn Carlson for decorating the Christmas tree and adding the finishing touches in the sanctuary.

Dan & Peggy Fischer for storing our outdoor Nativity Scene this past year.

## 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@dvacnd.org.

## 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 and one more person for the nominating committee** when our leadership transitions after our January annual meeting.

## Weather Cancellation Notice

If inclement weather should arise, Pastor and Council President will make any decisions to cancel worship by 7AM Sunday morning. A post will be made on our Facebook page. TV (WDAZ) and radio (KNDK) will also be notified.

## 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!

## Periodicals

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

## 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.

## 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.

## Lost Items

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

## Annual Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting is scheduled for after Sunday worship, January 24. All members of United Lutheran Church are encouraged to attend. We are hoping covid numbers remain low; if we are able to worship in person, the meeting will follow worship as normal (except no meal). In the event that we are unable to gather in person, we will have the meeting in the church parking lot.

Annual Reports will be available at least one week prior to our annual congregational meeting.

## 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".

## Poinsettias

Thank you to all who have placed poinsettias on the altar in memory of their loved ones. Poinsettias will be displayed on the altar through the Christmas season, pending their condition.

**Sharon Olson**  
by Edwin Olson & family

**Walter Rude**  
by Randy, Kim and Kennedy Rude

**Jean, Dean & Curtis Burnham**  
by their family

**Kevin Boe**  
by John & Karen Boe

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 - January Schedule

### January 3 - Worship & Communion

Reader - Rachele Romfo  
Ushers - Troy Romfo family  
Communion Prep - Carol Hart  
Communion Assts - John Johnson & Carol Hart  
Acolyte - Jaymee Reidhammer  
Projectionist - Xavier Breddin

### January 10 - Worship

Reader - Adam Hart  
Ushers - Angie Sanders family  
Projectionist - Victor Long

### January 17 - Worship & Communion

Reader - JoAnn Mueller  
Ushers - Gerald & Sue Anderson  
Communion Prep -  
Communion Assts - Paul Peterson & JoAnn Mueller  
Projectionist - Nathan Kitchin

### January 24 - Contemporary Worship

Reader - Becky Tollefson  
Usher - Randy Rude  
Projectionist - Addy Reidhammer

### January 31 - Worship

Reader - Carol Hart  
Ushers - Bob & Nadine Kempert  
Projectionist - Brock Freer