

UNITED MONTHLY

Volume 11, Issue 6

June 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.

A Word From Pastor Chuck

Echoing St. Paul's words in his letter to the Ephesians, I want to thank God for you, constantly praying for you, (and Cara and I have raised you up to God regularly in our devotions each morning), because of who you are as God's Church. I have truly enjoyed serving as your interim pastor because of who you are, a church reaching out with the good news of Jesus into your community and beyond. As we look to June let me share with you these reflections:

Church attendance is on the rise as the pandemic realities of last fall loosens their grip on our life together. As we move into summer, let me encourage you to make worship a priority. I know summer is short in North Dakota and certainly I, with you want to enjoy the outdoors as much as possible, but our life with God depends on worship and our souls long for that regular connection with God. In terms of covid protocol, the church council in line with North Dakota CDC recommendations has made mask wearing optional at worship following vaccination guidelines. Following Jesus command to "love one another", we still want to be aware of people who need or choose to wear a mask for health concerns and make our neighbors health a top priority as we worship together. If you are helping as a server at communion, we will still ask you to wear a mask, as we want to remain as welcoming and as safe as possible for all people who come to worship. Thank you for your care and concern for others as we move towards "normalizing" worship.

Beginning June 6th, we will focus on the theme of transformation in worship. The worship team has been planning a sermon series on this theme that is central to who

we are as God's people. Romans 12 says it this way, "Present your bodies as a living sacrifice to God; Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so you might discern what is the will of God for you". With that in mind, we look forward to seeing you in worship!

With things moving back towards normal, a team of United's members have met and been commissioned in worship on May 23rd as a visitation ministry team. The visitation ministry is comprised of the pastor along with lay members who have a heart for outreach through visitation. In visiting shut ins, the grieving, the aging and others who are otherwise limited in church attendance, we plan to offer communion, fellowship, prayer and a connection to God's church through our visitation ministry. Please pray for this team of dedicated owners of your church and let us know of people you are connected to, that should be on our visitation list.

I want to cheerlead and otherwise encourage parents of children to consider signing up for VBS that starts June 1-3. As Jesus said, Let the children come to me and do not hinder them for to such as these belongs the kingdom of God".

And finally, I want to say thank you to all of you have been an owner in the mission and ministry of God's church here at United.

Thank you to all who participated in the clean-up day at church and the parsonage. Taking care of your church home is a blessing to your church.

(continued on page 5)

June 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 9AM-3PM Vacation Bible School	2 9AM-3PM Vacation Bible School	3 9AM-3PM Vacation Bible School 12PM Al-Anon by zoom (more info on Page 7)	4	5
6 10AM Worship with Holy Communion	7 5PM P.E.O.	8 5:30PM Esther Circle	9	10 12PM Al-Anon by zoom	11	12
13 10AM Blended Worship	14 7PM Lisa Schuler senior piano student recital	15	16	17 12PM Al-Anon by zoom	18	19
20 10AM Worship with Holy Communion Happy Father's Day!	21 6PM Church Council meeting	22	23	24 12PM Al-Anon by zoom	25	26
27 10AM Contemporary Worship	28	29	30			

Faith & Care #3 Will & Skyler Moline, chairs

Mitchell & Melissa Almen	Steve & Jamie Olson
Dennis & Linda Balsdon	Tom Olson
Leland & Carolyn Balsdon	Justin Overby
Tyler Balsdon	Dennis & Norma Pengilly
Alvin Carlson	Lynn Peterson
Aaron Dahl	Ronald & Marie Peterson
Darryl & Bev Dahl	Jason & Melanie Reidhammer
Keith Dahl	Hans & Diane Reinhardt
Ted & Linda Dahl	Elroy & Marilyn Rude
Mark & Laura Dease	Lance & Megan Schill
Jerry & Bev Domres	Mike & Connie Schrader
Kendall & Carla Gemmill	Bob & Patricia Scott
Steve & Kim Hart	Arlaine Short
David & Jan Haslekaas	Burnell & Renae Skjervheim
Shane & Kari Henderson	Kevin & Jan Stein
Scott & Tina LaPorte	Daryl & Linda Timian
Steven & Kristin McDonald	Brian Vikan
Tara McFadden	Jeff & Betty Vikan
Leota Mikkelsen	Jim & Faye Wilhelmi
Randy & Phyllis Mikkelsen	
Larry & Linda Olson	

ULC Leadership 2021

President	Deidre Long
Vice President	LeeAnn Knudson
Secretary	Diane Simmons
Financial Secretary	Julie Johnson

Committee Council Representatives

Education	Carla Gemmill
Endowment	Tyler Balsdon
Hospitality	Terry Jacobson
Property	Steve Hart
Stewardship	Troy Romfo

Non-voting Representative

Pastor	Chuck Olmstead
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Interim Pastor

Contact information for Pastor Chuck is by phone 701-235-7847 or email at chrslcrlmstd@gmail.com

Financial Update 04-30-21

April Offering	\$17,087.77	
	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
Offering Income	\$61,939.26	\$54,681.66
	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Total Income thru April	\$63,028.24	\$73,209.61
*Total Expenses thru April	\$68,235.08	\$60,990.65

*Please note, 2021 expense includes a transfer from the general check book to the dedicated fund to pay off the HVAC note of \$11,332.45.

As of May 25, our Endowment Fund balance was \$120,621.24. 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). Interest accrued yearly from this Endowment fund has been used at the end of each year to give back to needs within our community or special projects within the church.

Council Notes 05-17-21 Mtg

Kristi reported for the Education Committee that currently there are 35-40 students signed up for Vacation Bible School.

Terry reported that hospitality is working on the Faith & Care lists with the help of Joanne Field. The committee provided a welcome basket to a new member family.

Ashton reported for the call committee that the ministry site profile is finalized and the committee is waiting for potential pastor profiles to be forwarded from the Synod office.

Sara reported on the work that had been done at the parsonage and church on clean-up day.

Food may be served with coffee. Council voted to change the mask policy to optional at worship in line with North Dakota CDC recommendations following vaccination guidelines. Offering plates will not be passed and still ushering from the back of the church. (Further updates can be found on page 5).

The outdoor worship and picnic will be held July 25. Each council representative will be responsible for contacting their committee to organize their duty for the picnic. The picnic will done in a slightly different manner with precautions.

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

Haiti Update

United Lutheran Church has been involved with Seeds of Support: Mission Haiti since February of 2013 when six members of United Lutheran and Pastor Bob Bekkerus traveled to Pasquette, Haiti with Seeds of Support. As a result of that experience, United Lutheran has continued an ongoing relationship with SOS: Haiti and with our sister congregation, Redemption Lutheran, in Pasquette.

In collaboration with the members of Redemption Lutheran, those who travelled to Haiti in the past have worked with children's activities, built a multipurpose shelter and installed solar panels on the roof of the church/community center built with Lutheran Disaster Relief funds. United Lutheran trip participants and the mission funding of our congregation has helped the community build a bakery and dig a well. Since there was no electricity in the village, the installation of three solar panels on the community center roof has opened many doors. The electricity enabled young members of Redemption Lutheran to start a business training center and vocational school because they can charge their computers. After the sun goes down, the village's high school students are able to do homework under the lights installed in the community center.

In spite of not being able to travel to Haiti and Pasquette for more than two years, the work of the mission with Redemption Lutheran has continued. In the two years since our last trip, the community has built a cement block water tower which supplies clean water from the well to the community. Church leaders have asked for assistance in providing on-line workshops on church and community leadership. A community garden is currently being planned for the land surrounding the church/community center and an expansion of solar power to the entire community is envisioned. Recently, friends and supporters of SOS have raised more than \$10,000 to help our translator, Kerlange, and her family to begin building their own house.

Kerlange's response to receiving this gift was this:

Life in Haiti today is very difficult. Why? There's lots of corruption, vulnerability to natural disasters, resurgent gang violence, and disproportionate use of force by police against protesters. There are very few job opportunities. It's a sad story for us. We must not lose our faith. God's always in control! I want to say a great big thank you for all that you do to help our community. I want to express how deeply my experience with the mission has touched my heart. It would take me all day to explain all the blessings God has poured on me through the work of the Seeds of Support Missions. You have provided me with a job opportunity in a country that is jobless. Financially you've all supported me when I was ill. That too is a blessing. My prayer is that the mission will be blessed with an overflow of support that will enable it to continue God's work and to have the resources to enable Seeds of Support Missions to open the eyes of everyone whose heart you touch, bringing glory to God. You are changing lives every day! Continue in God's work. Thank you for all that you have done for me and all the lives you touch in Jacmel (Pasquette) and Haiti.

The participation in this mission has given our congregation a first hand connection to the people of Redemption Lutheran. Through the eyes of our fellow congregants, we have gotten to know personally our brothers and sisters in Christ, to understand their struggles and to commit to our promise to not forget them in prayers nor in our continued support for God's work in Pasquette.

Bondye bèni nou! (God bless you.)

If you ever want to talk about God's work in Haiti, I am always ready to share how our work there makes a difference in the lives of our friends.

Janet



Roof Project

Council has approved repair of the leaky roof; covering the fellowship hall, narthex, offices, kitchen, restrooms and front entry. The bid includes building a pitch on the low areas of the roof allowing appropriate drainage and additional insulation. Cost of the project is \$28,420. A special offering will be collected to help raise funds to repair this ongoing issue. To give an offering, simply indicate on the memo line of your check or envelope. Thank you to those that have given so far; \$12,300 has been raised!

A Word from Pastor Chuck

(continued from page 1)

Thank you to all the teachers who plowed through a challenging year teaching the word of God to children. You are fulfilling your call to go and make disciples.

Thank you to the visitation team for stepping up into that ministry. When we bear one another's burdens we fulfill the law of Christ.

Thank you to the quilters who bless people within our congregation and to the far places that the quilts get sent through Lutheran World Relief...you bless many with your gifts.

Thank you to the property team who does much "behind the scenes" keeping church grounds, building and parsonage up to par. And on that note, if you have not already done so, please consider a gift to support the roof project that is underway.

Thank you to the leadership of the church council for the sake of United's vision, mission and ministry.

Thank you to the worship team leaders, musicians, vocalists, projectionists and online worship volunteers who provide leadership and support as we worship God together every week. I know your ministry makes God smile!

Thank you to the faith and care groups that provide scripture readers, ushers, and other hospitality for the good of the body of Christ at our church.

Thank you for being the church God calls you to be and taking the reigns of ownership when you are called upon to do so. It's what makes United Lutheran a great church.

Covid Updates

Council met on May 17 and has updated a few of the Covid-19 policies. Coffee has resumed and food may be offered/served. Masks are optional, (we ask that everyone respect others decisions with face coverings), still refraining from handshakes and passing offering plates. We will have continuous communion, although servers will continue to wear face coverings and gloves during distribution (we will be receiving the wafer in our hands instead of placement on the railing). We will continue to be ushered out following worship services.

Senior Graduates



We honored our ULC high school graduates on May 16. They were gifted a quilt, hand-made by United Lutheran's quilting group and a cross. Congratulations and blessings to these seniors: Sydney Crockett, Payton Henderson, Kaylee Lowery, Grant Romfo, Simon Romfo, Daniel Hart, Isak Dease and Lexis Olson. (Blessings also to Dayton Porterfield, our ninth senior - not pictured, who recently moved to Minot.)

Memorials

Marjorie Jacobson - Lois Schwartz (garden)

Dorothy Adam - Lawrence & Susan Fay Crockett (music)

Lawrence Thielbar - Ruth Groninger (building)

Peggy Maeyaert - Carol Hart (garden)

Richard Sturlaugson - Carol Hart (garden)

Memorials may be mailed or given to the Church Office at ULC at any time.

Prayers of...

Healing

Lois Jones (Val Olson's cousin, cancer), Diane Reinhardt (cancer), the people of Haiti, Connie Hakanson

Joy

Bernie & Carol Goodman in becoming members of United Lutheran on May 9. We are excited to have you both be part of our church family & home!

Grief

Bernice Pengilly family on the death of Bernice's brother, Ordean Momerak,

Shanda Christianson family on the death of Shanda's mother, Peggy Maeyaert.

Willie & Jackie Thom family on the death of Jackie's mother, Mary Bisenius.

Richard Sturlaugson family, prior long term ULC member that passed away in Arizona on May 4.

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

Quilts

Thank you to the ULC quilting group for the beautiful quilts displayed in church on Sunday, May 9. The quilts have been shipped to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to Betty Vikan for boxing them up and transferring them to Grand Forks to be shipped.



Summer Series

Summer worship at United Lutheran will focus on the biblical theme of Transformation. As scripture reminds us, "Therefore, brother and sisters, in view of God's mercy present your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. This is your true and proper worship. DO not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to know God's will for your life". (Romans 12:1-2) God is at work in the lives of His people to mold and shape them into who He wants us to be and become...a work of transformation. With that in mind, here are the preaching themes for June.

- June 6 - Transformed: From the Old Self to the New You
- June 13 - Transformed: From Chasing It to living Life with God
- June 20 - Transformed: From Apathy to Zeal
- June 27 - Transformed: From self-reliance to faith

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held June 1-3, Tuesday through Thursday, 9AM-3PM. Please fill out a registration form for your child; located on our facebook page, on the shelf going in to the sanctuary or the United Lutheran Church website.

Call Committee Update

The ULC Ministry Site Profile has been finalized. If the synod feels an interested pastor may be a good fit for United Lutheran, that pastor will receive our profile and we will receive a profile of the pastor. If the Call Committee is interested in the pastor, an interview will be set up. Now we wait for this next step to happen.

Visitation Ministry

The visitation ministry group has reformed since covid and was commissioned on May 23 during the worship service. Please pray for this team of dedicated owners of your church and let us know of people you are connected to, that should be on our visitation list. If you want to be part of this group, please let Pastor Chuck know.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Carolyn Crockett | Faye Wilhelm |
| Helen Johnson | Jeannie Steinwand |
| Rory Freer | Carey Freer |
| Ted Dahl | JoAnn Mueller |
| Terry Jacobson | Carol Hart |
| Abby Borchardt | Sandy Boe |

At-a-Glance and General Announcements

Thank You to:

Marcie & Sydney Crockett and Rebecca Tollefson for their special music during the month of May.

The family of Dorothy Adam for their wheelchair gift to ULC; located in the narthex.

Jeremy Schuler for washing off the webbing/dirt from the outside of the sanctuary.

Those that were able to help with the mobile food pantry of May 6.

Gerald Anderson & Sara Goodman for painting at the parsonage and their extra work with other projects within the parsonage.

Randy & Chris Mikkelsen families for the black dirt donation at the parsonage.

Dale Luhmann, John Johnson & Linden Johnson for removing the old fuel tank from the parsonage basement.

Dan Fischer for cleaning the rug in the front entry of the church.

Those that helped with Clean-Up Day following worship on May 16 and to Sara Goodman, Julie Johnson, Kathie Johnson and Carla Gemmill in their leadership with organizing this day. **We will be sharing photos in the next newsletter to show the much needed improvements!**

Al-Anon

Al-Anon meets Thursdays through zoom, providing support for relatives and friends of alcoholics. Please call 701-270-2254 with questions.

Periodicals

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

Welcome

Please welcome Bernie & Carol Goodman in becoming members of United Lutheran. We are excited to have them both be part of our church family & home!

Vaccinations - Updated 5/18

Cavalier County Health District is offering vaccinations for all individuals, aged 12 and older. Appointments only. Please call 256-2402 to schedule an appointment.

New Church Home

Are you are looking for a new church home and would like more information about becoming a member at United? Please fill out the tear-off card in the church bulletin and place it in the offering plate. You can also let Pastor Chuck or Julie know in the church office.

Outdoor Worship and Picnic

United Lutheran's annual outdoor worship and picnic will be next month, July 25. We will bring chairs outside, but feel free to bring a lawn chair!

Our picnic will be done in a slightly different manner with precautions. If you are serving on a church committee, please check with your council rep for your committee's responsibilities.

Camp Opportunities

Summer 2021 online registration is available! Sign up for a great camp experience. ULC helps pay up to 1/2 the base cost for youth to attend an ELCA summer Bible camp in North Dakota! Talk to the church office for more info or you may sign up on their websites or calling the camps. PRBC 701-284-6795, Metigoshe Ministries 701-263-4788.

Offering Envelopes

2021 offering envelopes are available to be picked up from the table in the fellowship hall. If you 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.

PRBC Summer Concert Series

June 20: Matt Hodek's
Dakota Dutchmen

June 27: Kingman Road
(Amanda and Joe Johnson)

July 4: No Concert

July 11: To be Determined

July 18: Aaron Weil

July 25: Becca and Bernice
(A Girl and her Uke)

Senior Care Needed

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

Volunteer to deliver "meals on wheels" in our community. Call senior meals and services to learn more, 256-2828.

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 - June Schedule

June 6 - Worship with Holy Communion

Reader - Linda Balsdon
Greeters - Ted & Linda Dahl
Usher - Dennis Balsdon
Communion Prep - Skyler Moline
Communion Assts - Ted & Linda Dahl
Projectionist - Kaylee Lowery
Coffee - Dennis & Linda Balsdon

June 13 - Blended Worship

Reader -
Greeters - Scott LaPorte family
Ushers -
Projectionist - Danny Hart
Coffee -

June 20 - Worship with Holy Communion

Reader - Tara McFadden
Ushers -
Communion Prep - Skyler Moline
Communion Assts -
Projectionist - Brock Freer

June 27 - Contemporary Worship

Reader - Linda Olson
Greeters - Mike & Connie Schrader
Ushers - Skyler Moline & Shelly Agnes
Projectionist - Adam Hart
Coffee - Linda Olson