

UNITED MONTHLY

Volume 12, Issue 3

March 2022

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.

The Wonder of the Cross

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May I never lose the wonder, the wonder of the Cross. May I see it like the first time standing as a sinner lost, Undone by mercy and left speechless, watching wide eyed at the cost. May I never lose the wonder, the wonder of the Cross.

These words from *The Wonder of the Cross* by Vicky Beeching are a great reminder of one of the reasons for the season of Lent. Over a period of 40 days, starting on Ash Wednesday, we undertake a spiritual journey with our eyes focused on the Cross. Hopefully, we will rediscover or perhaps even discover for the first time...the glory and the victory which are ours because of what Jesus did for us on the cross.

On Transfiguration Sunday, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, we will hear in scripture that after the disciples saw Jesus transfigured before their eyes and clothed in dazzling white, "they kept silent and told no one of the things they had seen." May this season of Lent open our eyes and ears to the many things that keep us quiet and prevent us from sharing the story of our faith...the story of Jesus' love. May we find time to reflect on the many things that prevent us from fully following Jesus with our whole lives.

On the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday (March 2), we are marked on our forehead with ashes in the sign of the cross, a symbol of sorrow and mourning over the things we have done and the things we have left undone. The 40 days that follow commemorate the beginning of Jesus' 40-day trial of fasting and temptation in the desert following his baptism. Some of us, following tradition, will choose to give up a habit or behavior during Lent as an exercise in prayerful self-denial. This might range from something as simple as not drinking our favorite cold or hot beverage during Lent to an all-out program of fasting. We can also commit to a special devotional activity during Lent...for example, daily Scripture reading, regular prayer for a specific person or topic or volunteer to help someone or some organization. The choice to observe Lent is a personal one. The whole point being...to focus our heart and mind on Jesus during the journey to Easter. So that we too, on Easter morning, can rejoice and proclaim with the women who came to the tomb..."He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!" The Wonder of the Cross, mentioned above, begins with the following verse:

O precious sight, my Savior stands, dying for me with outstretched hands. O precious sight, I love to gaze, remembering salvation's day. Though my eyes linger on this scene, may passing time and years not steal The power with which it impacts me, the freshness of its mystery. I pray that our Lenten season of 2022 will be one of spiritual wonder, spiritual meditation and spiritual gathering as we remember and worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

In Christ,
Pastor Jodi

March 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 9AM-3PM Quilting 10AM ULC hosts Pastor's text study	2 9AM-3PM Quilting 7PM Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion	3 9AM Mom's Group 12PM AI-Anon	4	5
6 No Sunday school 10AM Worship with Holy Communion	7	8 10:30AM Deborah Circle @ the Senior Center 5:30PM Esther Circle	9 2PM Pastor Jodi at Wheatland for Bible Study 6PM Lenten supper 7PM Worship	10 9AM Mom's Group 10AM Grafton Pastor's Conference 12PM AI-Anon	11	12
13 9AM Sunday school 10AM Blended Worship	14 5PM P.E.O.	15	16 6PM Lenten supper 7PM Worship	17 9AM Mom's Group 12PM AI-Anon	18	19
20 9AM Sunday school 10AM Worship with Holy Communion 2:30PM Pastor Jodi at Osnabrock Community Living Center	21 6PM Church Council meeting	22	23 6PM Lenten supper 7PM Worship	24 9AM Mom's Group 12PM AI-Anon	25	26 12-2PM Youth @ "Feed My Starving Children" in Grand Forks
27 9AM Sunday school 10AM Contemporary Worship 2PM Pastor Jodi at Maple Manor Care Center	28 5PM P.E.O.	29	30 6PM Lenten supper 7PM Worship	31 9AM Mom's Group 12PM AI-Anon		

Faith & Care #3

Chairman - Will & Skyler Moline

Mitchell & Melissa Almen
 Dennis & Linda Balsdon
 Leland & Carolyn Balsdon
 Tyler Balsdon
 Alvin Carlson
 Aaron Dahl
 Darryl & Bev Dahl
 Keith Dahl
 Ted & Linda Dahl
 Mark & Laura Dease
 Jerry & Bev Domres
 Kendall & Carla Gemmill
 Don Gerth
 Steve & Kim Hart
 David & Jan Haslekaas
 Shane & Kari Henderson
 Scott & Tina LaPorte
 Steven & Kristin McDonald
 Tara McFadden
 Leota Mikkelsen

Randy & Phyllis Mikkelsen
 Larry & Linda Olson
 Steve & Jamie Olson
 Tom Olson
 Justin Overby
 Norma Pengilly
 Lynn Peterson
 Ronald & Marie Peterson
 Jason & Melanie Reidhammer
 Hans & Diane Reinhardt
 Shirley Robinson
 Elroy & Marilyn Rude
 Lance & Megan Schill
 Mike & Connie Schrader
 Bob & Patricia Scott
 Arlaine Short
 Burnell & Renae Skjervheim
 Kevin & Jan Stein
 Daryl & Linda Timian
 Brian Vikan
 Jeff & Betty Vikan
 Jim & Faye Wilhelmi

ULC Leadership 2022

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

Committee Council Representatives

Education Kim Hart, Kristi McDonald
 Endowment Tyler Balsdon
 Hospitality Terry Jacobson
 Property Steve Hart
 Stewardship Abby Borchardt

Non-voting Representative

Pastor Jodi Myrvik

Council Notes 02-21-22 Mtg

Pastor Jodi reported that Youth Group has been very well attended. The Youth will be participating in the "Feed My Starving Children" event in March and hosting the Wednesday evening Lenten suppers at 6PM prior to worship services. Pastor has met with the Ministerial Association and they are working on scheduling Sunday night Ecumenical services through Lent. She would like to bless the athletes during worship before they head off to their state tournaments.

Abby from Stewardship reported that their committee has met and will begin quarterly missions, for needs in the church and community. They are promoting Domestic Violence and Abuse until the end of the first quarter, March 31.

Terry shared that Hospitality met and divided tasks among their members. He questioned whether the Visitation Ministry team should be overseen by the Hospitality Committee.

There will be a webinar on February 23 for houses of worship regarding safety in the church.

A motion was made and approved that all requests for donations from United must be in writing and presented to Council for approval.

No Covid protocol changes at this time.

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

Financial Update 1-31-22

January Offering \$19,880.77

	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
Offering Income	\$19,880.77	\$15,800.00
	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Total Income thru January	\$20,043.43	\$23,877.08
*Total Expenses thru January	\$15,765.53	\$25,459.55

*Please note, last year's 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 March 2, our Endowment Fund balance was \$107,300.44. If you would like to make a contribution to the 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.



Thrivent Choice Dollars

Are you a member of Thrivent Financial who's eligible to direct Choice Dollars? If so, these dollars are yours to allocate!

In 2021, \$1,332 in Choice Dollars were directed by Thrivent Financial members to United Lutheran. These dollars have been used in our congregation for non-budgeted needs and outreach.

Choice Dollars charitable outreach funds can make a world of difference to our congregation. By directing Choice Dollars, eligible Thrivent members recommend where they feel Thrivent should distribute a portion of its charitable funds. Directing Choice Dollars is easy. Simply go to thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more and find program terms and conditions or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice®" after the prompt. Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have available Choice Dollars have until March 31 to direct them.

Show Your Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee recently met and will be promoting quarterly mission offerings for areas in our church/community that are of need. To finish off this first quarter of 2022, they would like to emphasize in helping the need for the Domestic Violence and Abuse Center. DVAC is in need of paper towel, toilet paper, kitchen kettles and kitchen utensils. If you are able to assist, place your items in the orange tub located in the narthex, labeled "DVAC". Thank you for your help and stay tuned for the mission emphasis for the next quarter!

Community Lenten Services

Sunday night Community Ecumenical Lenten services have been scheduled for Sundays, 7PM followed by coffee and refreshments. The schedule is listed:

First Baptist - March 6
 United Lutheran - March 13
 United Methodist - March 20
 St. Alphonsus - March 27
 New Hope - April 3
 Emmanuel Evangelical - Palm Sunday concert - April 10

Offerings collected during these services will go to the Cavalier County Ministerial Association.

FMSC Pack Event

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you." – Deuteronomy 31:6

World hunger is the cause of half the deaths of children under the age of five years. Every day, MannaPack® meals from "Feed My Starving Children" (FMSC) are shipped around the world to the kids and families who need them most. In January 2022, donors like us equipped FMSC to send an incredible 26.5 MILLION meals to 22 countries. More importantly, that's enough to feed 72,867 kids for a full year. Here's a look at where many of those meals went: Haiti, El Salvador and the Philippines.

The North Dakota-Minnesota regional FMSC program is an interdenominational Christian effort in which people come together to bring the compassion of Jesus to feed hungry children.

The Grand Forks event has no paid staff. All the contributions go directly to the purchase of supplies needed to pack 282,000 meals at the Minnkota power facility in Grand Forks, March 25-26. A majority of the hundreds of packing volunteers will be children learning the virtue of Christian sharing. The event will require \$65,000 for ingredients and around 600 volunteers to do the packing.

Along with 30 volunteers from United Lutheran, our goal is to bring \$1500 to the event which will pay for the ingredients our group will pack. Wouldn't it be amazing if through your generous support, we could increase that amount to \$1866, the amount needed to fill a pallet with FMSC Manna-packs, providing 7776 meals to those in need." Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor." - Proverbs 22:9

February Memorials

Larry Johnson - Dan & Peggy Fischer (building), Elmer Muth (endowment), Gladys Hillman (garden), Linden & Helen Johnson (endowment), Jim & Faye Wilhelmi (building), Rick & Carolyn Crockett (garden)

Wesley Timmerman - Corey & Julie Johnson (building)

Wally Stevens - Jim & Faye Wilhelmi (building)

Memorials may be mailed or dropped by the Church Office at ULC at any time.

Sunday School/Confirmation/Youth Group

Greetings to everyone!

It is hard to believe we're already into March! Sunday school students will meet on March 13, 20 and 27. They will not meet on March 6 due to a long weekend away from school. Our lessons are "The Prodigal Son" on March 13, "The Parable of the Sower" on Mar 20 and "Jesus the Good Shepard" on Mar 27. Sunday School will be singing in church on Palm Sunday (April 10) and Mother's Day (May 8).

Fourth Graders and parents mark your calendars! First Communion instruction will be Wednesday April 6 at 3:45PM. First Communion for students will be held April 14th during Maundy Thursday service at 7pm. Those families that will be away for Easter, a follow-up First Communion service will be offered during Contemporary worship on April 24th.

We have great news; Vacation Bible School will be back to normal this year (May 31-June 3)! We will once again be working with Metigoshe Ministries and will offer camp to youth entering grades 1-6. More information will be coming soon but please reach out to myself or any of the Education Committee members with more details! As always, please continue to check our Sunday School Facebook page for announcements and updates.

Confirmation students will not meet formally through Lent but are asking a congregational member to be their mentor. They will meet with a mentor briefly after Wednesday night Lenten services.

Youth Group will be involved in the Lenten worship services along with serving meals prior the services, starting March 9th at 6PM. The meals will be free will donation and funds will be used for their mission event, "Feed My Starving Children" on March 26 in Grand Forks. We have 30 slots available from 12-2pm and be meeting in Grand Forks at 11AM for lunch together prior to the event. For every four youth, we will need one adult chaperone. We are asking the youth and adult chaperones to sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex or to text/call Kristy by March 9 at 701-370-8222.

Grace & Peace,

Kristin McDonald
Education Committee Co-Chair

Pictures below our from the Youth worship service held on February 13 (Super Bowl Sunday). Girls against the boys in a game of Bible Trivia, along with our trusty score keepers. During the hymn of praise, we had United's youngest Youth volunteer to help by playing musical instruments provided by Lisa Schuler.



Lenten Worship at United

The Lenten season has begun with Ash Wednesday this week.

This year, the Youth will be serving a light supper at 6PM prior to 7PM worship on Wednesdays starting March 9. The Youth will also be in charge of your worship experience during Lent with a little help from a few adults who will be participating in the Lent Skits. This year, our theme is "Whose Cross Is It Anyway?" All through Lent, the JPS (Jerusalem Parcel Service) person tries to unload a cross. Following the company's motto of "Prompt delivery service anywhere in Israel," the JPS person takes it to disciples John and Andrew, a church secretary and a woman concerned that it may not match the decor of her home. All refuse delivery, though the cross comes free and undeserved. During each week of Lent, the cross makes the rounds to many customers with surprising, funny and moving results. Mary Magdalene already has a cross. Martha would rather make her own. Peter denies having anything to do with it. Judas says he doesn't deserve it. The drama reveals how people make excuses for not wanting Jesus in their lives.

Come support our United Youth Group as they fundraise during lent (from the suppers) for a mission event, "Feed My Starving Children", in which they will be participating in on March 26 (more information on this event found on page 4). A free will offering will be taken at the meals served on March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6.



Pastor Jodi and Confirmation Student,
Jayden Lee

Prayers of...

Healing

Lois Jones (Val Olson's cousin, cancer), Diane Reinhardt, Renae Skjervheim, Bob Kempert, Joanne Field, Caven Dahl (Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma), Gage Goodman, Cora Badding and our brothers and sisters in Haiti

Grief

The family of Helen Johnson on the death of Helen's sister-in-law, Vicki Muth.

Joy

Congratulations to Chris and Tina Mikkelsen on the baptism of their son, Mac Randell, on January 30. Mac has two big sisters, Josie and Madden.

Congratulations to Jayden Lee who affirmed his baptismal vows on February 27. Jayden was unable to be present to take part with his Confirmation class in September.

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



Josie, Pastor Jodi, Chris, baby Mac, Tina
and Madden Mikkelsen.

Blessings and Best Wishes

During worship on February 27, Pastor Jodi and the congregation blessed our United Lutheran athletes and sent them off to their upcoming state tournaments. Best wishes and good luck to all, play smart and help others experience Jesus through your sportsmanship!

At-a-Glance and General Announcements

Thank You to:

The Hospitality Committee for setting up and serving the potluck for the Annual Meeting and those who extended a hand to clean up!

Maxum Mostad and Lisa Schuler for their special music provided during the offering on February 6.

Our Youth for taking the lead in the various ways throughout the worship service on February 13! Also, for offering coffee and hot cocoa prior to worship and to our members for participating!

Abby Borchardt, Sara Goodman and Kristin McDonald for deep cleaning and organizing the nursery for our young families.

Those that helped support the Baby Bottle Campaign that was held during the month of February.

Those who have contributed household items for the Domestic Violence and Abuse Center in Grafton. We are still accepting donations.

Assistance

While attending worship, large print bulletins are available and in-ear hearing devices from our ushers. We also have a wheelchair available for anyone needing transfer assistance, located in the narthex.

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.

Daylight Savings

Daylight savings time begins Sunday, March 13. Don't forget to move your clocks forward an hour!

Annual Congregational Reports

2021 annual reports of our congregation are available on the magazine carousel outside the sanctuary.

United Quilters

Quilters meet the first Tuesday and Wednesday of each month (September-April, 9AM-3PM). All are welcome to be part of this group to fulfill their quilt mission. Materials, tools and machines provided; little experience required.

Giving Hearts Day

A note from the Synod: END Synod would like to thank everyone who gave a gift, shared their story, encouraged others to participate and/or followed us on Facebook. We are incredibly grateful for you! We raised **\$73,252** and had **217 donors** this year. The funds raised help us to accompany congregations and leaders through the call process, candidacy, pastoral care, celebrating anniversaries and so much more! From all of us at the Eastern North Dakota Synod, thank you so much and we look forward to continuing to serve others through these gifts!

A note from PRBC: Thank you from Park River Bible Camp, \$46,000 was raised and will be used to not only help improve/update their site, but also allow them to continue building what our ministry looks like at PRBC.

Al-Anon

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

Items Needed for DVAC

The Domestic Violence and Abuse Center is looking for items of need: paper towel, toilet paper, kitchen kettles and kitchen utensils. If you are able to assist, place your items in the orange tub located in the narthex, labeled "DVAC". Thank you for your help!

Foster Care Needed

Foster homes are in high need! For older youth and teens, sibling groups, children with higher behavioral needs and homes that have Native American heritage, part or full time care. Please call the ND Foster Care Inquiry Line 1-833-378-4663/1-833-FST-HOME or email or contact your local social services agency.

PRBC Events

Summer 2022 camp registration is opened. To see all the camps offered this summer, go online to their website www.parkriverbiblecamp.org and click on the SUMMER CAMP tab on the top of the page.

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 - March Schedule

March 6 - Worship with Holy Communion

Reader - Laura Dease

Ushers - Ted & Linda Dahl

Communion Prep -

Communion Assts -

Acolytes - Tyson Gemmill & Sophie Nuelle

Projectionist - Victor Long

Coffee -

March 13 - Blended Worship

Reader - Faye Wilhelmi

Ushers -

Acolyte -

Projectionist - Tyson Gemmill

Coffee - David & Jan Haslekaas

March 20 - Worship with Holy Communion

Reader - Linda Timian

Ushers -

Acolytes - Kade Hansen & Tyson Gemmill

Communion Prep - Skyler Moline

Communion Assts -

Projectionist - Jaymee Reidhammer

Coffee -

March 27 - Contemporary Worship

Reader - Linda Balsdon

Usher - Dennis Balsdon

Acolytes - Devin Hakanson & Tucker Gellner

Projectionist - Nathan Kitchin

Coffee - Dennis & Linda Balsdon