

# UNITED MONTHLY

Volume 14, Issue 5

May 2024

We are United to  
**EXPERIENCE** Jesus,  
**SERVE** others and  
**LIVE** the Word!

We live out this mis-  
sion 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.  
Our hands.

## Spiritual Growth

As farmers and gardeners turn their attention to seeds, I marvel at the hardiness of the tulips and irises that are peaking out from what appears like dead foliage. Their bright green sprouts remind me that spring is a time for new life and growth. Spring and planting time is also a good opportunity to cultivate our own spiritual garden. In fact the planting season of our gardens, fields and spiritual lives have a lot of common ground. They can be incredibly rewarding, yet, ferociously frustrating. There are times when God gives you clear signs that faith is sprouting. There are also times when nothing seems to grow; like a garden that doesn't produce anything.

During the winter months, the earth seems silent because there is an absence of vegetation. We mistakenly believe that nothing is growing or moving. We get excited when we see the first shoots of green popping up from the earth. But the tulips and irises in my garden started the process of pushing through the darkness of the earth during the depths of winter. Even though I couldn't see it, they were getting ready to spring forth. Growth...especially growth in spiritual life...often happens in the unseen, silence of the heart. We may not always see progress in another person's spiritual life, (or even our own), but that does not mean that the shoots of new life are not working their way toward the surface, ready to burst forth. We need to be patient. The key to a person's spiritual growth is that he or she keeps walking toward Christ, no matter how small the steps may be.

In the parable of the sower, (Matthew 13:1-9), Jesus reminds us that the farmer scattered seed indiscriminately. Some of the seeds ended up taking root in fertile soil, others were eaten by birds and some fell on rocky ground. The sower was relentless in his work. He kept on sowing and scattering seeds everywhere he could. Jesus tells us that the seeds that fell on good soil produced a bumper crop: "a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold" of what was sown. We need to remember that when we scatter seed, we need to be generous. Unlike planting tulip bulbs, spreading Gospel seeds cannot be done in a planned or perfect way. Tending a spiritual garden is messy and requires a lot of work. Some of the seeds sprout but are unable to establish a good root system. Other seeds fall to the ground unnoticed. And still others yield a crop that far surpasses what we could ever imagine.

By planting seeds, we are reminded of our own capacity for spiritual growth and the importance of taking small steps towards our goals. By engaging in activities such as meditation, prayer and self-reflection, we create space for spiritual growth to take root and flourish. So, let us embrace the power of planting and watch those shoots of new life appear, always remembering that the true gardener is the Holy Spirit and we merely an instrument of God.

*"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our  
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
To him be the glory both now and to the day  
of eternity. Amen," (1 Peter 3:18).*

In Christ,  
*Pastor Jodi*



# May 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 5:15PM Wednesday school 6PM Confirmation	2 12PM AI-Anon	3	4
5 10AM Worship <b>Quilting Blessing</b>	6	7	8 10:30AM Deborah Circle @ the Senior Center 2PM Wheatland Bible Study 5:15PM Wednesday school 6PM Confirmation	9 10AM Grafton Conference Pastor gathering at PRBC 12PM AI-Anon	10	11 2PM Lisa Schuler Senior Recital
12 10AM Worship <b>Happy Mother's Day!</b>  (Wednesday school students sing)	13 6PM P.E.O.	14 9AM-3PM Quilting 5PM Esther Circle	15 2PM Rachel Circle 7PM Baccalaureate service at United Methodist Church for 2024 Senior Graduates (open to the public)	16 12PM AI-Anon	17	18
19 10AM Contemporary Worship <b>ULC 2024 Senior Class Recognition</b>	20 6PM Church Council meeting	21 10:30AM Pastors' Text Study at Walhalla Lutheran	22	23 12PM AI-Anon	24	25
26 10AM Worship	27 <b>Memorial Day</b>	28 9AM-3PM First day of Vacation Bible School	29 9AM-3PM Vacation Bible School	30 9AM-3PM Vacation Bible School  12PM AI-Anon	31 9-11:30AM Vacation Bible School	

# Faith & Care #3

Chairs - David & Jan  
Haslekaas

Mitchell & Melissa Almen  
Dennis & Linda Balsdon  
Leland & Carolyn Balsdon  
Tyler Balsdon  
Aaron Dahl  
Darryl & Bev Dahl  
Keith Dahl  
Ted & Linda Dahl  
Mark & Laura Dease  
Jerry & Bev Domres  
Kendall & Carla Gemmill  
Steve & Kim Hart  
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  
Marie Peterson  
Jason & Melanie Reidhammer  
Hans & Diane Reinhardt  
Sandra Ritterman  
Shirley Robinson  
Elroy & Marilyn Rude  
Suzanne Sanders  
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 Wilhelm

# ULC Leadership 2024

President LeeAnn Knudson  
Vice President Steve Hart  
Secretary Kari Agotness  
Financial Secretary Julie Johnson

### Committee Council Representatives

Education Kim Hart  
Endowment On Rotation  
Hospitality Andrea Jacobson  
Property Sara Goodman  
Stewardship Katie Henry

### Non-voting Representative

Pastor Jodi Myrvik

# Council Notes 03-18-24 Mtg

Pastor Jodi reported that Confirmation will end on May 8, "Blessing of the Quilts" will be Sunday, May 5 and New Member Sunday will be June 9. The Baccalaureate for the Senior Graduates will be Wednesday, May 15 at the United Methodist Church. Graduation Sunday honoring our ULC graduates will be May 19. She thanked those that were able to help through Holy Week and the Easter Egg Hunt while her voice healed.

Kim shared that over \$4,300 was raised from the Cake/Bake Auction. The committee is working to find volunteers to assist with VBS with Metigoshe Ministries; the dates May 28-May 31.

Sara from property said she has been in contact with the roofing company and they advised our church is still top of the list for work projects.

Synod Assembly is June 1-2 and we are still looking for a few individuals to represent ULC. Registration deadline for participants is May 15.

The Haiti committee has met and with uncertainty for Kerlange and her family to be approved for resettlement, the residence owned by the Catholic Church will be let go. The committee has agreed to pay the two months' utilities they were holding the house, when no one was residing there. This expense will be paid from the separate, new Haiti account.

It has been 35 years since the organ has been cleaned and the organ is in need of repairs. Council approved the cost to repair/clean it with funds from the dedicated music fund.

*Council minutes and treasurer's report are posted monthly on the bulletin board in the hall across from the church kitchen.*

# Financial Update 3-31-24

March Offering	\$13,922.00	
	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
Offering Income	\$45,003.94	\$47,852.00
	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Total Income thru March	\$46,578.80	\$53,705.76
*Total Expenses thru March	\$49,340.07	\$47,532.06

As of April 29, our Endowment Fund balance was \$106,670.89. 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.

### General Giving

Your offerings help to meet our regular yearly budgeted needs and also support our online worship services. If you are watching from home and would like to contribute in an easy manner, offerings can be mailed, dropped by the church, by setting up bill pay through your bank to have the bank mail your recurring scheduled offering or going online from your computer or phone and using the Tithe.ly app. Your support is much appreciated!

## END Synod Assembly

The Annual Synod Assembly of our END Synod, ELCA will be in Fargo, June 1-2. United is looking for up to three individuals that would like to experience and volunteer to be our congregational representatives at the assembly. The deadline to register participants is soon approaching on May 14. Please reach out to Pastor Jodi or Julie if you're interested or have questions.

## New Members

Are you looking for a new church home or just have questions 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 Jodi or Julie know in the church office. We will be welcoming new members on June 9.

## April Memorials

No memorials were received in the month of April.

*Memorials may be mailed or dropped by the Church Office at United Lutheran at any time.*

## Thrivent Members

Did you know that all Thrivent members can apply for two Thrivent Action Team grants per year? These grants (\$250 each) can be used for seed money in start up funds for serving in mission projects for the church or our community. If you need help with applying for an Action Team grant or want more information, please contact Julie or Pastor Jodi.

## Quilt Blessing

During worship on Sunday, May 5, we will bless the quilts made by our quilters as the quilts go abroad with Lutheran World Relief to be given to needy people throughout the world. A big thank you to this special group of women who have contributed much of their time making beautiful quilts for baptisms, graduates, comfort quilts and Lutheran World Relief!

Quilters will meet on Tuesday, May 14 (9AM-3PM) and then will not meet again until September.



## Prayers of...

### Healing

Caven Dahl (Hodgkin's lymphoma), David Roy, Julie Nelson, Steve Bulat, Joyce Johnson, Ken Carlson, Bev Domres, Arden Norum, Bonnie Hoffer and our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

### Grief

A funeral service was held for Sharon Chaput (Darby Hart's mother) at the Brooks Funeral Home on Tuesday, April 30. Sharon died January 18, 2024.

### Joy

Congratulations to Brynn and Landin Johnson on the baptism of their son, Levi Linden on April 7. His baptismal sponsors are Mat & Ashton Hedger. Welcome Child of God! (*pictured right*)

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





## Cake/Bake Auction

Thank you to those that brought an item(s) to be auctioned and those that stayed to support the Cake/Bake Auction on Sunday, April 14 and to Greg Goodman for volunteering to be the auctioneer! Over \$4,700 was raised to help with Vacation Bible School expenses (held here at United with Metigoshe Ministries) and also to help with scholarship fees for our members wishing to attend a Lutheran bible camp. This is the largest amount raised from the cake/bake auction we believe on record!



## Vacation Bible School

VBS will be held Tuesday, May 28 through Friday, May 31 for those who will have completed kindergarten through 5th grade. Pre-registration is required and forms can be found on the shelf in the narthex and on our facebook page.

We are asking that families please fill out the VBS and Social Media Policy which gives consent to United Lutheran Church to use photo or video images taken of your children to be used in church brochures, advertisements for the church, on the website, in social media and in other church publications as they see fit.

**Thank you to Mostad Properties for offering their furnished Airbnb apartment for the VBS counselors to stay for very little cost!**

## Confirmation

May 1 - The Apostle Paul and the Early Church  
 May 8 - Revelation (last class - thanks for a great year!)

## Wednesday School

Wednesday school continues to meet in the month of May at 5:15PM.

### Classes Discussions

May 1 - I Am Statements of Christ  
 May 8 - Armor of God (last class - thanks for a great year!)

**The Wednesday school students will be singing during worship on Mother's Day, May 12.**

## Camp Scholarships

If your child is interested in attending a Lutheran Bible Camp, ULC and the three women's circles will pay 1/2 of the cost for your child to attend. Please let the church office know if your child will be attending a camp and we can take care of helping with this expense.

# Mental Health....Farm Stress

Farm stress is the stress experienced by farmers and their families because of the unique agricultural work environment. The fear of losing a farm is attached to more than just the closing of their business. Farming is a generational legacy, a way of life, an identity. The burden of losing the farm and not passing it down to the next generation is something that weighs heavily on the farmer or rancher. The endless hours, fatigue, physical and emotional stress can take its toll on the entire family unit. Stress and depression increase the probability of injury, accidents, heart disease, stroke, chronic pain and other diseases.

Many of the stress factors that affect agricultural production are largely beyond the control of the producer. For example, producers in one region might be facing severe drought while other regions are experiencing extreme flooding. Farmers also have little or no control over commodity prices which leads to further uncertainty of balancing input costs and harvest profit or in some cases loss. According to the CDC, suicide among farmers was 3.5 times the national average in 2019 and has been increasing over the past decade. Stigma remains a big obstacle in the agriculture community to seeking help or treatment for mental health, even though it has decreased.

If you see one of your farmer friends during this busy spring planting season or any time throughout the year, take time to find out how they are "really" doing. Be a good friend and help them seek professional help if you or they have concerns.

## Senior Recognition

The Langdon Area Ministerial will be holding a Baccalaureate Service for all the area graduating seniors, Wednesday, May 15, 7PM at the United Methodist Church. This service is open to the public—come celebrate with our graduates!

We will be honoring our ULC graduates at our 10AM worship service on Sunday, May 19.

Congratulations to our youth who will be completing their high school education: Isabella Olson, Jaya Henderson, Taryn Romfo, Cora Badding, Edward Freer and Adam Hart.

Remember Graduates that with God, all things are possible. May He continue to bless your path with opportunities and challenges that strengthen your character and faith. Celebrate this milestone with gratitude and joy!



## College Scholarships

United Lutheran has a scholarship fund for students attending a Lutheran college or considering future ministry. Please let the church council know if you would like consideration for assistance.



A few individuals were discovered doing projects involving generosity of their time (these moments are sometimes hard to capture due to individuals wanting to avoid recognition)!

*Pictured left top* - Connie and Mike, our custodians, able to lend a hand with decorating the altar for Easter.



*Pictured below left* - John and Kathie Johnson working in the library cabinet to install hangers for the paraments to hang on.

You are all appreciated!

If you're in the church and happen to find individuals doing projects of generosity with their time, please share with the church office!

# At-a-Glance and General Announcements

## Thank You to:

Shirley Robinson and Helen Johnson for their work in decorating the altar through Holy Week and Easter and making sure the candles are always filled with oil.

Our students in grades Kindergarten - 3rd for their special music during worship on April 14.

Jaymee Reidhammer and Lisa Schuler for their special music during the offering on April 14.

Those that brought an item(s) to be auctioned and those that stayed to support the Cake/Bake Auction on Sunday, April 14 and to Greg Goodman for volunteering to be the auctioneer! Over \$4,700 was raised to help with Vacation Bible School expenses (held here at United with Metigoshe Ministries) and also to help with scholarship fees for our members wishing to attend a Lutheran bible camp.

## Quilting

Quilters will meet on Tuesday, May 14 (9AM-3PM) and then will not meet again until September. A big thank you to this special group of women who have contributed much of their time making beautiful quilts for baptisms, graduates, comfort quilts and Lutheran World Relief.

## Grant Funds

Since April of 2022, our church among other churches, in our community have been part of a grant offered through Cavalier County Health District to announce vaccine messages in our church bulletins and newsletters. This grant will soon expire at the end of May. By having this announcement included in our publications, we have received over \$7,000 to date from the CC Health District grant.

## Worship Note

Contemporary worship for the month of May will be Sunday, May 19 along with recognizing our ULC 2024 Seniors rather than our normal fourth Sunday of the month, May 26.

## Wednesday School Students Sing

The Wednesday school students will be singing during worship on Mother's Day, May 12.

## Outdoor Worship & Picnic

The outdoor worship and church picnic will be held in July. Church council will be responsible for the duties that go along with the picnic. There will be a few changes to the picnic going forward in which the picnic will be held inside the fellowship hall. (Contemporary worship will still be held on the front lawn of the church). The food menu will have some changes too. More information will be available in the June newsletter.

## New Members

June 9, we will be welcoming new members at United Lutheran. If you are looking for a new church home or 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 Jodi or Julie know in the church offices.

## Summer Camps/Jobs

Attending Bible camp can be foundational for faith formation of young people and there are many summer Bible Camp opportunities for grade-school kids and up! From one-day, partial-week and full-week sessions, there are lots of ways to have outdoor ministry be part of your summer schedule! Park River Bible Camp, Metigoshe Ministries and Red Willow Bible Camp are all great opportunities nearby. Check out their websites!

Bible camps are also currently looking for responsible young men and women who love Jesus to join their summer staff in ministry, fellowship and fun. There are positions in counseling, in the kitchen, nurse's station and maintenance.

## Senior Piano Recital

Join Lisa Schuler and her senior piano students here at ULC for their recital on Saturday, May 11; concert time 2PM.

## Lost Items

Please check the lost & found shelf in the narthex; a male jacket has been left at the church and also a child's jacket. Check to see that any of these items may belong to you or your child.

## Helpful Information

**AI-Anon** - Thursdays, 12PM, ULC, providing support for relatives and friends of alcoholics. Call 701-270-2254 with questions.

**Alcoholics Anonymous - Langdon** - Wednesdays, 7PM, south wing of Langdon Prairie Health, **Cavalier** - Tuesdays, 8PM, Pembina County Memorial Hospital, **Lakota** - Thursdays, 7PM, Lakota

**Mental health distress** - Dial 988 for support for anyone experiencing mental health distress – whether that is thoughts of suicide, mental health, substance use crisis, emotional distress and even just worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

## Protect Yourself

This year we are seeing cases of pertussis, whooping cough, across North Dakota. Protect yourself and your family and slow the spread of whooping cough by making sure you and your family members are up to date with a tetanus vaccine that contains whooping cough. Doses of this vaccine are routinely due at ages 2, 4, 6, and 18 months, 4 years, 11 years and every 10 years thereafter. If you are not sure if you or your family are up to date call or stop in to Cavalier County Health District 256-2402.

## Pastor Jodi's Contact Information

pjmyrvik@polarcomm.com  
Cell phone number 701-265-2409

Visit United online at [www.unitedlangdon.org](http://www.unitedlangdon.org) or call us at 701-256-2594.



Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Langdon, ND 58249  
Permit #46

Return Service Requested

## Worship and Ministry - May Schedule

### **May 5 - Worship with Holy Communion**

Reader - Hans Reinhardt  
Ushers - Kendall & Carla Gemmill family  
Communion Assts - Patricia Scott,  
Sandy Ritterman & Carla Gemmill  
Acolytes - Landree Lowery & Alex Bott  
Projectionist - Brock Freer  
Coffee - David & Jan Haslekaas

### **May 12 - Worship with Holy Communion**

Reader - Tara McFadden  
Ushers - Ted & Linda Dahl  
Communion Asst - Zenna Ritterman  
Acolytes - Chloe Koons & Oakley Koons  
Projectionist - Brock Freer  
Coffee - Dennis & Linda Balsdon

### **May 19 - Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion**

*Faith & Care roles filled by the  
ULC Graduating Seniors*  
Acolytes - Gavin Gemmill & Finley Crockett  
Projectionist - Christian Tollefson  
Coffee - Elroy & Marilyn Rude  
**Graduation Sunday**

### **May 26- Worship with Holy Communion**

Reader - Linda Balsdon  
Ushers - Elroy & Marilyn Rude  
Communion Asst - Dylan Bott  
Acolytes - Harper Jacobson & Sophi Witzel  
Projectionist - Adam Hart  
Coffee - Steve & Jamie Olson

*Thank you to Helen Johnson & Shirley Robinson for being  
our communion prep individuals for the month of May!*