

UNITED MONTHLY

Volume 14, Issue 9

September 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.**

God's Word

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It's hard to believe! In fact, it's already happened for some. Others are hanging on to the last days of summer as long as possible. Soon, we all will have moved from our casual (or not), relaxed (or not), fun (always) summer schedules and into our even busier school schedules and routines. It is no different here at church than it is at school. And certainly no less important in our lives of learning. The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the church of Colossae wrote...

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

The idea of God's word dwelling in us is crucially important, because in all the storms and chaos and confusions of life, we can turn to God's word every single day. We can find our rest and relaxation in God and recuperate with God as he speaks gently to us through the Bible. We can also be challenged and healed as we struggle with God's word to us. There is a richness in God's word that we won't find anywhere else and there is fullness and completeness to God's word. We can turn to the Bible in any season of our life, no matter what we're going through, no matter how we are feeling...and we will receive the richness of God's presence in our lives.

One more interesting point to note from the phrase: "Let the word of God dwell in you richly..." In the original Greek, the word 'you' is in the plural, not the singular. So what Paul is saying is this...it's not just us as individuals that we need to dwell in the word, soak ourselves in the scriptures. This is an activity for us to focus on as a church family together. As the body of Christ here at United Lutheran...we, together are to 'dwell richly in the word of God...' Together, we are to study the Bible, be shaped by the Bible, and allow the Bible to transform how we are as a church and how we develop our mission, ministry and worship together.

The church, this church family, is a learning community. All of us learning together. Just because I wear a white collar on Sunday mornings does not mean that I know God any better than you do. We are all on a journey into a deeper relationship with God. We need each other. We need the encouragement of one another to worship God here in church. We need the encouragement of one another to live for God throughout the week. That's why Paul puts this teaching into the context of encouraging one another. We simply cannot live out the Christian life on our own. We need one another. We need the encouragement of one another so that we can deepen our walk with God.

So, welcome back to the season of learning! I can't wait to hear about your (lazy?) summer adventures! I can't wait to see us all together again! And I can't even begin to imagine the challenges we will face...perhaps the roof project I can...but I also know the amazing opportunities and possibilities God creates even in the midst of the biggest challenges. And I have the utmost confidence that we can do this TOGETHER as Christ dwells within us!

Blessings in Christ, *Pastor Jodi*

September 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10AM Worship	2 Labor Day	3	4 10:30AM Langdon Area Ministerial meeting	5 12PM Al-Anon	6	7
8 10AM Worship	9 5PM P.E.O.	10 9AM-3PM Quilting 5PM Esther Circle	11 9AM-3PM Quilting 10:30 Deborah Circle @ Senior Center 12PM Pastor Jodi @ Behavioral Mental Health Task Force Mtg. 2PM Wheatland Bible Study	12 12PM Al-Anon	13	14
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Pastor Jodi at Fall Theological Conference </div>						
15 10AM Worship Backpack Sunday	16 6PM Church Council meeting	17	18 Parent/Student Confirmation meetings 6PM 7-9 Grade 6:30PM - 10 Grade	19 12PM Al-Anon	20 Crafting Weekend	21 Crafting Weekend
22 9AM Sunday school 10AM Contemporary Worship 11AM Acolyte Training	23	24	25 3:30PM Acolyte Training 5:15 Wednesday school 6PM Confirmation	26 12PM Al-Anon	27	28
29 10AM Worship 3-year old Bibles	30					

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 Wilhelmi

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 08-19-24 Mtg

Pastor Jodi lead devotions by reading from the book of Ephesians. Council was asked to share thoughts on verses/words that caught their attention from the reading. Confirmation will begin in September and five students will be confirmed on October 27. There will be a Grafton Conference meeting to be held on October 13 in Cavalier to discuss concerns with pulpit supply, communion when Pastor is unavailable and other concerning issues in our conference. Pastor Jodi will be away for a fall theological event in early September.

There are 25 students signed up for Sunday school and 42 students signed up for Wednesday school. They have a good group of volunteers willing to teach but will always accept more.

Kyle from Endowment said the committee is still exploring other investment opportunities.

Sara from Property reported that there was a unanimous vote approving the roof project. She will be speaking with Bill Brandt Construction on a potential start date, whether being yet this Fall of early Spring.

Brynn spoke for the Stewardship committee and shared some of their options for "God's Work. Our Hand's Sunday.

There was a request for the remaining Haiti Mission dedicated funds to be sent directly to Seeds of Support to be given to those that our church has been supporting.

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

Financial Update 7-31-24

July Offering \$11,675.00

	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
Offering Income	\$102,382.93	\$111,654.66
	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Total Income thru July	\$106,999.00	\$117,312.07
*Total Expenses thru July	\$112,641.92	\$109,813.63

As of August 27, our Endowment Fund balance was \$114,409.31. 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!

August Memorials

No memorials were received in the month of August.

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

Prayers of...

Healing

Steve Bulat, Ken Carlson, Bev Domres, Janice Nuelle and our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

Grief

The family of Mike Bisenius on his death, August 5.

The family of Steve and Jamie Olson on the death of Jamie's step father, Tim.

Joy



*(Pictured above - celebrating a 97th birthday at Wheatland of a very special lady, **Arlaine Short Delebo**; left to right, Joyce Dahl, Arlaine, Lenora Olson, Pastor Jodi, Helen Johnson & Carolyn Crockett)*

Roof Project

On August 18, United Lutheran held a special congregational meeting to vote on moving forward with a pitched roof for over the entire area of the entry, narthex, kitchen and fellowship hall. At the meeting, the project was presented, questions answered and funding opportunities discussed. There was a unanimous decision to proceed with this project to maintain a solid structure and preserve our church building. This will be a large financial undertaking for the church. It is important that we are faithful stewards of our finances and often that means deep prayer over budgets and special gifts. We hope you will take time to pray about what kind of gift God will lead you in support of this project.



Be assured, gifts of all sizes will be important to our success, together. We also want to assure you that if you don't have the means to give a gift now, but would like to designate how much you intend to give in the future, we appreciate knowing your family's intended support (it helps us plan more effectively). A few individuals have recently asked questions about the fundraising. Pledge/Donation cards will be enclosed in the church bulletin and in the newsletter describing the steps you may want to take in this process.

We are very excited to be able to move forward with this much needed project and thank you for the commitment!

(Pictured above - the kitchen roof damage)

Help With Worship

We have a great core group of youth helping run our projection system each week and we thank them for their contribution to the worship experiences at United Lutheran. Assistance with the projection responsibilities on Sunday morning is an important part of our congregational worship and is most appreciated. We are looking for a few more individuals (7th grade - adult) to be part of this rotation. As a student, this service can be used as volunteer hours through the middle & high school!

As an adult, this may satisfy your desire in helping with worship and being kind of behind the scenes! (Each individual on the rotation has a turn about every 8-10 weeks) If you may interested or have any questions, please reach out to the church office.



3-Year Old Bibles

During worship on Sunday, September 29, we will be welcoming three year olds to come forward, along with their parent(s) or guardians to receive a Spark Story Bible. Receiving this Bible is part of the promises made at baptism "to place in their hands the Holy Scriptures."



Confirmation

Confirmation sessions are just around the corner! A parent-student informational meeting is planned for Wednesday, September 18 at 6PM for the 7-9 Grade students and 6:30PM for the 10th Grade students.

Confirmation classes for 7-9 Graders will meet most Wednesdays, starting September 25 at 6PM during the school year after that.

September 18 - Parent/Student meeting
September 25 - Overview/Introduction to the Small Catechism
September 27 - Overview of the New Testament

As always, we will post announcements and other news on our United Lutheran Church Youth Ministry page. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions! We look forward to seeing you!

Acolyte Training

What is an acolyte? An acolyte is one who assists with worship by lighting and extinguishing the candles used in worship, assisting with both offering and communion.

1 Corinthians 12:27 says, "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." Yes, you...no matter your age, you are a member of the body of Christ!

At every baptism, the church vows to help each baptized member grow in his/her faith. Our mission statement, "We are called to **Experience** Jesus, **Serve** others and **Live** the Word," encourages active membership and growth in the church. There is no better way for this to occur than to learn at an early age what it means to be the church...the body of Christ.

The acolyte role for **4-6th Graders** provides an opportunity to learn about worship as well as the symbols, elements and colors used in worship. It is a role that nurtures the understanding of the blessings of worship and the blessing of serving God and others. The acolyte role is an important one for all involved in worship and it comes with responsibility.

There will be two training sessions (30 minutes). **One** must be attended by anyone who is new to acolyting and is optional for those who might like a refresher.

Sunday, September 22 at 11AM (following worship)
Wednesday, September 25 at 3:30PM

May you be blessed by your service before God as you are a blessing to others!

Church School

Church school will begin on **Sunday, September 22 at 9AM** and **Wednesday, September 25 at 5:15PM**. Students entering kindergarten or new students to the area, please contact Pam Krivarchka at 799-3154 or Katie Johnson at 305-0331. You can also contact the church office with this information. If you are willing to teach, substitute teach or would like to help in any way, please contact Pam or Katie. Also, parents please fill out the social media waiver form. We will need this form for all kids this year. Once it is filled out the first time, it will cover your child's participation throughout their years at United Lutheran Church. Please go to the United Lutheran, Langdon K-6th facebook page for this form or you can find them hanging on the church bulletin board by the sanctuary doors.

Church School lessons for September and early October are:

September 22/25 - Adam & Eve
September 29/October 2 - Jacob & Rachel

As always, we will post announcements and other news on our United Lutheran K-6th Grade Youth Facebook page. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions! We look forward to seeing you at United Lutheran!

Backpack Sunday

On Sunday, September 15, during the worship service, we will have a "Backpack Blessing" for all students, paraprofessionals, teachers, counselors, administrative staff, lunch ladies and bus drivers. We will pray over the students and teachers and ask for God's blessing on their school year!



September.....National Suicide Prevention Month

While suicide prevention must be addressed year-round, the month of September reminds us all that we can make an impact and help those in crisis and their loved ones. If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988 or chat at www.988lifeline.org

The 988 Lifeline network and its partners are working to change the conversation from suicide to suicide prevention, to actions that can promote healing, help and give hope.

***Ask...**Research shows people who are having thoughts of suicide feel relief when someone asks how they are doing in a caring way. Findings suggest acknowledging and talking about suicide may reduce rather than increase suicidal ideation.

***Be There...**Individuals are more likely to feel less depressed, less suicidal, less overwhelmed and more hopeful by after speaking to someone who listens without judgment.

*** Keep Them Safe...**A number of studies have indicated that when lethal means are made less available or less deadly, suicide rates by that method decline and frequently suicide rates overall decline.

***Help Them Stay Connected...**Studies indicate that helping someone at risk create a network of resources and individuals for support and safety can help them take positive action and reduce feelings of hopelessness.

***Follow Up...**Studies have also shown that brief, low cost intervention and supportive ongoing contact may be an important part of suicide prevention; especially for individuals after they have been discharged from hospitals or care services.

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988 or chat at www.988lifeline.org

We Can All Help Prevent Suicide! Together we can make an impact!

“God’s Work. Our Hands”

Our congregation will soon engage in service work and be one of over 8,700 congregations participating in “God’s work. Our hands” Sunday. United Lutheran has chosen **October 6**. Join us as we do God’s work with our hands! The areas of service we will be concentrating on are:

- Preparing personal hygiene care kits for Lutheran World Relief
- Cleaning up the flower beds in the city park and discarding trash



Feel free to wear your comfy clothes. Fellowship with pizza, immediately following worship will be served for those staying to help. Soon a sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board next to the sanctuary doors so we know how much pizza to order. Join us as we do God’s work with our hands and thank you for your consideration to lend a hand in these service projects!

A special thank you to Kendall and Carla Gemmill and family for using their Thrivent Action card in helping us purchase the supplies for the Lutheran World Relief kits. If there is anyone else that would like to help support purchasing LWR items and have a Thrivent Action Card, please let Julie know in the office.

United Quilters

Quilters will resume meeting and sewing next month on September 10 & 11, 9AM-3PM. They do meet regularly the second Tuesday and Wednesday of each month, through April. If you can cut, sew, or tie, come and help fulfill their mission! Quilts are made for baptisms, graduates, care center residents and are sent to people in need throughout our nation and the world through Lutheran World Relief. All materials, tools and machines are provided; little experience is required! Contact Pam Luhmann or Elaine Haugen with any questions.



At-a-Glance and General Announcements

Thank You to:

All who contributed towards the United Women Bake-less Bake Sale. Funds from the sale are used to support mission work.

Patty Metzger for coding and organizing the books in the library. Your time is appreciated!

Deborah and Rachel Circles for their very generous donations to our upcoming roof project.

JoAnn Mueller for donating the sofa to be placed in the family room.

Assistance

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

Visitation

If you know of individuals that might be homebound or should be added to our visitation list, please share with the church office or write on the "tear-off" section of the bulletin and place in the offering plate. Also, if you'd like to be part of this committee, please reach out to Pastor Jodi.

Blended/Contemporary Sundays

A reminder that the black binders in the pews have the words to the contemporary music used on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. The song numbers are listed accordingly in your bulletin.

Lost Items

Please check the lost & found shelf in the narthex; jackets/sweatshirts have been left at the church. Check to see that any of these items may belong to you or your child. If no one claims them, we will donate the items to the fall Cavalier County Cancer Crusaders Rummage Sale.

Church Library

The church library now has a specific area with material in providing support for relatives and friends of alcoholics. All are welcome to take any brochures, etc.

Also, if anyone is wanting any of the movie VHS tapes located on the west shelf, please help yourself!

Mental Health Awareness

ULC Council is continuing to still take an active step in promoting mental health awareness. You will notice that posters are still hung on bulletin boards throughout the church providing information about mental health. Please continue reading the "Mental Health Awareness" articles in the newsletters each month. **September is National Suicide Prevention Month.**

Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner

50th Celebration of the Park River Bible Camp Annual Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner, Sunday, September 29 at the camp. There will be a bizarre; serving from 11AM until 2PM. Tickets are \$22 pre-sale, \$25 at the door, \$10 for 12 years and under. Lutefisk will be for sale starting at 1:30PM.

Community Garden Boxes

Vegetables and fruits are available for late summer and fall harvest at no cost for community members with the community garden boxes. Help yourself!

Crafting Weekend

Open to all in the community who enjoys crafting while being with others! Bring your scrapbook, paints/canvases, sewing, crocheting, knitting, etc. to United Lutheran. The group meets once a month (Friday-Saturday). Bring in lunch or order in. Free, just bring what you need to do your project and a table will be set up for you. For more information, contact Lisa Schuler. They will be meeting September 20-21.

Fall Cancer Rummage Sale

Tuesday, September 24 through Saturday, September 28 at the Langdon American Legion Downtown building. Volunteers are welcome. More information posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Cavalier County Cancer Crusaders are a non-profit group. All funds earned are kept locally to support cancer patients.

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.

Pastor Jodi's Contact Information

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

Visit United online at www.unitedlangdon.org or call us at 701-256-2594.



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Return Service Requested

Worship and Ministry - September Schedule

September 1- Worship

Reader - Hans Reinhardt
Ushers - David & Hayes Haslekaas
Communion Asst - Jan Haslekaas
Projectionist - Meredith Romfo
Coffee - Haslekaas family

September 8 - Worship

Reader - Linda Olson
Ushers - Mike & Connie Schrader family
Projectionist - Brock Freer
Coffee - Mike & Connie Schrader family

September 15 - Worship

Reader - Tara McFadden
Ushers - Elroy & Marilyn Rude

September 15 - Worship (continued)

Communion Assts - Tara McFadden, Patricia Scott
& Sandra Ritterman
Projectionist - Logan Landsem
Coffee - Patricia Scott & Sandra Ritterman

September 22 - Contemporary Worship

Reader - Kendall & Carla Gemmill family
Ushers - Kendall & Carla Gemmill family
Projectionist - Jaymee Reidhammer
Coffee - Elroy & Marilyn Rude

September 29 - Worship

Reader - Linda Balsdon
Ushers - Mitchell & Melissa Almen family
Projectionist - Victor Long
Coffee - Dennis & Linda Balsdon

*Thank you to Karen Boe for being
our communion prep individual for the month of September!*