

UNITED MONTHLY

Volume 13, Issue 7

July 2023

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.

Lower Our Bucket

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

As the rays of summer sun heat up the world around us, it's time to take a closer look at the temperature of our Christian lives. In Revelation 3:15-16, the Lord says and I paraphrase, "I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were hot or cold, but you're lukewarm." Does that fit anyone? Are you feeling "not so hot" or maybe just "lukewarm" about your Christian faith?

I read a story the other day about ancient sailors in the South Atlantic getting caught in the windless waters right near the mouth of the Amazon. I learned a bit about the geography of the Amazon River. Amazingly, its length is 200 miles and its current can be measured 200 miles further into the Atlantic Ocean. It is said that ancient sailors would get stuck in that area and they would be dying of thirst. Then along would come another ship that was familiar with the region and the people from one ship would yell to the other, "Please give us some water, we are dying of thirst." And then from the native ship would come the words, "Just lower your buckets, you're in the mouth of the mighty Amazon."

In many ways, I wonder if that isn't what happens to us. We start to drift away for one reason or another. And God through his ever present everlasting Holy Spirit is all around us. He is accessible to quench our thirst simply by filling our lowered bucket, but we are virtually unaware of the reality and the power that exists right around us. We recite every Sunday... "I believe in the Holy Spirit." In this Season after Pentecost, what does the Holy Spirit mean for us?

On Pentecost Sunday, we read from Acts 2 of the account of the rushing wind and the tongues of fire and how the people of God were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to preach and teach the word of God with boldness. My friends...The Holy Spirit has come to fill us and heat up our lives so that we can be empowered to become partners with Christ in completing the work of God's kingdom. How? You ask...by coming to church...by being "the church"...by getting involved...by being the hands and feet of Christ...by living out your discipleship in the activities that spark your passion! By living out the mission statement of United Lutheran Church... "We are United to **Experience** Jesus, **Serve** others, and **Live** the Word."

In church, we are nourished by the Word of God. We eat the bread. We drink from the cup. Our souls are fed through God's Word and our prayers. Our spirits are renewed by our fellowship with each other. The church nourishes its people and in turn we are sent to nourish others while growing into the full body of Christ.

Our faith is a mysterious gift of grace from God that God brings to fullness within us. It is not something we manufacture within ourselves. It is simply something God gives to us. And as we pray, work and worship (in essence, lower our bucket) the Holy Spirit continues to bring our faith into further maturity, heating us up to the point that we are on fire to do the work of God's kingdom.

Come and be filled!

Pastor Jodi

July 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 10AM Worship at Mt. Carmel Dam	3	4 Happy 4th of July!	5	6 12PM Al-Anon	7	8
9 10AM Worship	10	11 5:30PM Esther Circle	12	13 12PM Al-Anon	14	15 10AM-3PM Church reserved
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Pastor Jodi is away on vacation July 7-14. Pastor Beth Peterson is available for pastoral emergencies, 701-520-1380 </div>						
16 10AM Worship with Holy Communion	17 5:30PM Church Council meeting	18 12PM Writer's Group	19 2PM Pastor Jodi @ Wheatland Bible Study	20 12PM Al-Anon	21	22
23 10AM Contemporary Outdoor Worship & Picnic	24	25	26	27 12PM Al-Anon	28	29 9:30AM - 1:30PM Church reserved 2PM Ole Pederson graveside service at Moscow Cemetery
30 10AM Worship	31					

Faith & Care #2

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chairman - Carol Hart | Jim & Connie Kjos |
| Kari Agotness | Charlie Klein |
| Gerald & Sue Anderson | Caitlin Kreklau |
| Steven & Michele Anderson | Robert & Lillian Lowery |
| Gene & Barb Arens | JoAnn Mueller |
| David & Teri Bodnar | Paul Myrvik |
| Arvid & Sandy Boe | Grant & Betty Nelson |
| Rick & Carolyn Crockett | Karen Pederson |
| Ben Crockett | Paul Peterson |
| Daniel Crockett | Bill Reinhardt |
| Tara Domres | Stephen Ridley |
| Brittany Farris | PJ Rime |
| Bernie & Carol Goodman | Mackenzie Rindy |
| Dean & Connie Hakanson | Darrin & Becca Romfo |
| Travis & Megan Hakanson | Troy & Rachelle Romfo |
| Seth & Beth Hansen | Bill Roy |
| Lawrence & Katie Henry | Randy & Kim Rude |
| Kyle & Tiffany Hetletved | Angie Sanders |
| Tom & Lynda Hoyt | Arlaine Short |
| Zane Jacobson | Brandon & April Smith |
| John & Kathie Johnson | Gordon & Sharon Sondeland |
| Bob & Nadine Kempert | Carl & Rebecca Tollefson |
| | Carolyn Vik |

ULC Leadership 2023

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

Committee Council Representatives

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| Education | Angie Sanders, Kristy McDonald |
| Endowment | On Rotation |
| Hospitality | Terry Jacobson |
| Property | Sara Goodman |
| Stewardship | Katie Henry |

Non-voting Representative

- | | |
|--------|-------------|
| Pastor | Jodi Myrvik |
|--------|-------------|

Financial Update 05-31-23

May Offering	\$23,173.00	
	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
Offering Income	\$93,355.92	\$78,556.25
	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Total Income thru May	\$95,858.16	\$81,875.87
*Total Expenses thru May	\$108,964.85	\$77,483.36

*Please note, expenses includes a \$30,000 transfer from the general fund in to the dedicated building fund in January.

As of June 26, our Endowment Fund balance was \$102,070.81. 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.

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!

Council Notes 06-19-23 Mtg

Julie reported Church Mutual, the church property insurance will move the billing cycle from March to December annually, to allow for better budget planning. A motion was made and passed to move \$20,000 in to the dedicated building fund from the general check book. Picnic duties were handed out to those present to share with their committees to coordinate together, to ensure duties are taken care of.

Ken thought sharing the history of the endowment fund and why it was established would be good to communicate with the members of ULC. Information will be shared in the newsletter once this information becomes available.

With the vote passing to sponsor Kerlange and her family from Haiti, the steering committee has met and would like to first get the sponsorship information out into the community through a newspaper article. Matching funds have been pledged and other funds are coming in to help with the sponsorship. A new bank account will be opened to offer transparency with the income and expenses.

Cub/Boy Scouts have inquired if they can host meetings once a week in the church building. Discussion was tabled until next month.

Church Mutual has evaluated our claim for the water damage experienced on May 25. A check will be arriving to cover the charges for Hoffarth Steam Clean for his work and use of equipment. After meeting our deductible, all expenses were covered with an additional \$930.

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

Humanitarian Sponsorship

On Sunday, June 11 at 7PM, 46 ULC members plus one visitor met to further discuss the humanitarian sponsorship of a Haitian family and vote on the motion that has been moved, seconded and brought forward with a positive recommendation from the United Lutheran Church Council... "United Lutheran Church of Langdon will co-sponsor Kerlange and her family bringing them from Haiti to Langdon." Terry Jacobson gave a presentation regarding the situation in Haiti and spoke of Kerlange, Armstrong and their family. This is a family that United Lutheran has worked with the past ten years doing mission work through "Seeds of Support Missions" - a ministry of St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, MN and ULC.

Questions were raised concerning financing the sponsorship. The general budget and regular offering will not be used. A separate account will be created and used for transparency of all fundraising activity as well as expenses. There is already a donor who has pledged a \$2,000 match. Other fundraising avenues are being investigated. ULC will be the co-sponsor for the sponsorship and Janet Jacobson will be the primary sponsor. Welcome US recommends raising \$3,000 per person, which would mean \$12,000 for this family of four. LIRS (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services) will come along side and assist as case manager for the family once they arrive in the United States. The case manager will help coordinate resources and requirements. "Seeds of Support Missions" has pledged their support but the amount is unknown at this time. The money already allocated for Haiti mission located in the dedicated memorial account could be used at the discretion of the council.

Pastor Jodi indicated that this venture has been discussed at the Langdon Area Ministerial Association gathering and pastors felt there would be a positive response from the faith communities in Langdon to help with financial support. A guest at the meeting from St Alphonsus indicated the same.

Questions were raised regarding the timeline for sponsorship. It is estimated that from the time the paperwork is completed on our end, the family could be here within 1-3 months, The humanitarian sponsorship is a two year program and at the end of two years, the family could be required to return to Haiti if other options are not available. Resources have indicated that most families are fully functioning and self-supporting by 6-9 months.

Question regarding the logistics of initiating this process prior to fundraising was raised. The urgency of the conditions in Haiti prompts immediate action for the well being of this family.

Comments: A letter was read from a church member who was in opposition of the sponsorship and another member shared a story of the turmoil and crime in Haiti.

Vote taken: 34-Yes, 12-No. Motion passed by simple majority per constitutional guidelines.

The new Haiti Sponsorship Steering Committee consists of Janet & Terry Jacobson, Pastor Jodi, Lisa Schuler, Karen Pederson, Kim Rude, Deidre Long and Diane Schill (community representative).

Thank You from Kerlange

Dear United Lutheran Church,

I don't know where to start to express my gratitude to every one of you. I will use my little vocabulary to do my best. Thank you for granting me this opportunity to participate in the humanitarian parole program. I couldn't be happier for my family to have the chance to go to the U.S. From that point on it will be a new step. We'll be able to work on our dreams and be better socially, spiritually, and financially. Of course, we believe that God will shower us with all His blessings. In God, we are one family. I have never gotten a chance to worship with you. Lord willing this opportunity may open doors for us to worship Him together under one roof. We are very blessed to have auntie Janet in our lives. She is a caring and a humble person. Thank you to Uncle Terry too for helping to make this happen. Thank you again for your generous support and we look forward to meeting you all. May God pour His ever-abounding blessings on you. Yours sincerely, Kerlange Aristilde

Endowment

Let's Build an Impact that Lasts. When you give to the United Lutheran Church Endowment Fund in your will or estate plan, you help build an organization that lasts. Since only a portion of the fund is used each year, what you give, grows. And what grows, sustains our mission as a permanent source of support. Interest accrued yearly from the Endowment has been used at the end of each year to give back to special projects within the church and needs within our community. For more information about how our Endowment Fund works, call In Faith Community Foundation at 800-365-4172 (where our endowment is held) or contact one of our Endowment Committee members.

Vacation Bible School

Many thanks to all who participated in our vacation Bible school, May 30-June 2. Six counselors from Metigoshe Ministries led our 45 campers who had a great time! Thank you to our Education Committee for preparing snacks and their presence during the week and to parents and grandparents for entrusting your kids to us for Vacation Bible School!

Our annual cake/bake auction helps raise funds for VBS (so all attending can attend free of charge) and sponsorship monies for summer Bible camp. Over \$3,100 was raised from the auction. Thank you to all who supported the auction!

A Thank You from Camp Metigoshe:

“United Lutheran,

Thank you for having us and letting us use your church! It was wonderful and we had a lot of fun. Thank you for maintaining the building and helping out with management during this Day Camp week. We appreciate you and hope you have a wonderful summer. God Bless!

Sincerest thanks,

Jon, Lee, Gabe, Kristin, Brynann, Kirby
Camp Metigoshe Staff



Outdoor Worship & Picnic

Our annual outdoor worship and picnic will be held Sunday, July 23. Feel free to bring a lawn chair (folding chairs will also be available). Bring a friend, too!

Council committees have responsibilities for the picnic which are listed on the bulletin board located by the east sanctuary doors. If you serve on one of these committees please coordinate together to ensure your duties are taken care of. Thank you!

Mt. Carmel Worship

This Sunday, July 2, there will **not** be worship service in the church sanctuary. Instead, join us for a fun outdoor worship experience at Mt. Carmel Dam at 10AM. When entering the gate at Mt. Carmel Dam, travel south all the way to the end of the road and then turn east. You will find a covered shelter and BYOLC! (Bring your own lawn chair)

Camp Scholarships

If your child is a member of United Lutheran, it's not too late to sign up for summer Bible camp! ULC will pay up to ½ the cost of attending an ELCA camp in North Dakota; sign up for a great experience today!

Go to the camp websites to learn more about their programs, costs and to register your child or youth for summer camp!

June Memorials

Don Haugen - Leland & Carolyn Balsdon (music), Kim & Randy Rude (music), Zach & Andrea Jacobson (music)

Ole Pederson - Lenora Olson (building)

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

New Members



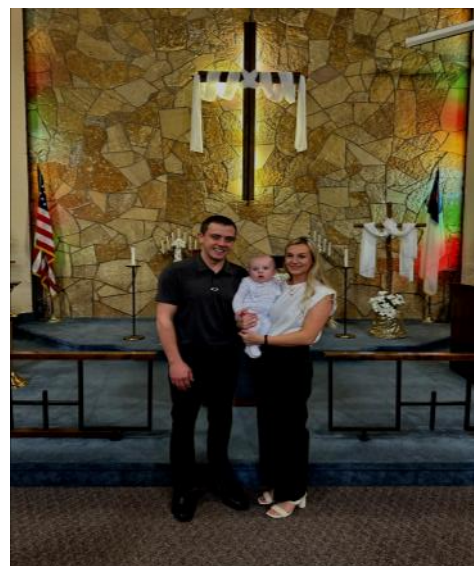
In the worship service on June 18, we formally welcomed new members as part of our congregational family. We are excited that they chose United Lutheran to be their new church home! Please welcome our new members:

Dallas Witzel & Bobbi Hayes and their children Graci, Maci, Sophi, Tayten, Tensli, Wesli, Carsen & Jersti (pictured above)

Stephanie, Reily & Russell Bata (pictured right)

Lindsey Hegg (pictured far right with Jace & Brooks Roy)

Jacqueline (Morris) Wald (not pictured)



Prayers of...

Healing

Diane Reinhardt, Caven Dahl (Hodgkin's lymphoma), David Roy, Reuben Steinwand, Julie Nelson, Lorraine Rude, Betty Nelson, Larry Schrader, Joanne Field and our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

Grief for the Families of:

Zach and Andrea Jacobson on the death of Andrea's grandmother, Muriel Folson.

Val Olson on the death of her great grandson, Kholsten Gregory Harlow. Kholsten was born on March 27 and died on June 11.

Ole and Karen Pederson on the death of Ole. Ole's graveside service will be held on Saturday, July 29 at Moscow Cemetery at 2PM. All are welcome.

Robb and Nancy Becker on the death of Robb's mother, Louise.

Margaret Ann Downs on the loss of her brother Pat Howatt.

David & Teri Bodnar on the loss of David's brother, Doug Bodnar.

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



At-a-Glance and General Announcements

Thank You to:

Terry Jacobson for leading us in worship on June 4 while Pastor Jodi was away at Synod Assembly.

Jan Stein from our Hospitality Committee for providing welcome gift bags to our new members!

Lane Lindseth for being our guest organist on June 11. You are appreciated!

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Council committees have responsibilities for the picnic which are listed on the bulletin board located by the east sanctuary doors. If you serve on one of these committees please coordinate together to ensure your duties are taken care of. Thank you!

A gentle reminder, United Lutheran Church is a peanut free building. This means **no peanuts, tree nuts such as almonds, cashews, walnuts, or pistachios, or legumes, such as peas, chickpeas, lentils or soybeans; green beans and kidney beans are okay.** Please keep this in mind if bringing food for fellowship after worship, potlucks, picnic, funerals or other events at church.

Bakeless Bake Sale

The United Women's Bakeless Bake Sale is going on. If you have contributed, thank you so much for your generosity. Funds from the bake sale are used to support mission work. If you have questions, please contact your circle chairman.

Summer Offering

With attendance down during summer, we appreciate your contributions. Whether you are away on vacation or watching online, your weekly offerings continue to keep a steady flow of funds to pay the church's yearly budgeted expenses. We thank you for that!

Helping 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 (any age) 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.

Community Garden Boxes

Cavalier County Health District in collaboration with LAHS and NDSU Extension received a grant for a Community Garden Box Project. A list of community partners and locations of the community garden boxes are located on the bulletin board in the narthex. Vegetables and fruits will be available for late summer and fall harvest at no cost for community members so take advantage of the produce on maturity.

National Crisis Hotline

Dial 988 for a direct connection to compassionate, accessible care and support for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress.

Al-Anon/Alateen/AA Information

Al-Anon - Thursdays, 12PM at United Lutheran, Langdon, providing support for relatives and friends of alcoholics. Please call 701-270-2254 with questions.

Alateen - Ages 12-19, Thursdays, 4-5PM, Sail Center, Grand Forks. Contact info: ALATEEN.ND@gmail.com

Alcoholics Anonymous - available at several locations.

Langdon - Wednesdays, 7PM, in the south wing of Langdon Prairie Health

Cavalier - Tuesdays, 8PM, Pembina County Memorial Hospital

Lakota - Thursdays, 7PM, Lakota Lutheran Church

Covid Vaccine Information

It's normal to have questions about the COVID-19 vaccines. The fact is, COVID-19 vaccines are effective at helping prevent COVID-19 infection, especially severe illness, hospitalization, death and they're safe. You can find answers to common questions from reputable sources, including CDC.gov, your local health department website, or other trusted sources such as your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

Pastor Jodi is away on vacation July 7-14. Pastor Beth Peterson is available for pastoral emergencies, please call 701-520-1380.

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



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Permit #46

Return Service Requested

Worship and Ministry - July Schedule

July 2 - Worship at Mt. Carmel Dam

Faith & Care roles filled by volunteers

July 9 - Worship

Reader - Becky Tollefson
Ushers - Christian and Jacob Tollefson
Projectionist - Victor Long
Coffee - Carolyn Vik

July 16 - Worship with Holy Communion

Reader - Tollefson family
Ushers - Bernie & Carol Goodman
Communion Prep - Carol Hart
Communion Assts - Carolyn Crockett,
Sandy Boe & JoAnn Mueller

July 16 - Worship with Holy Communion (continued)

Projectionist - Jaymee Reidhammer
Coffee - Rick & Carolyn Crockett

June 23 - Contemporary Outdoor Worship & Picnic

Reader - Steve Hart
Usher - John Johnson

July 30 - Worship

Reader - Kari Agotness
Ushers - Kari Agotness & Logan Landsem
Projectionist - Tyson Gemmill
Coffee - Carol Hart