

# UNITED MONTHLY

Volume 13, Issue 8

August 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.**

## Time Sure Flies

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

All I can say is WOW...Time sure flies! It seems like just days ago, school was let out for the summer. Yet, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July has come and gone and we're starting to plan for a new school year. Planting has been completed, growth has been happening and harvest emerges on the horizon. Yes...Time sure flies! It brings to mind some song lyrics...

*"Time keeps on slippin, slippin, slippin, into the future...."  
"If I could save time in a bottle, the first thing that I'd like to do,  
is to save every day till eternity passes away just to spend  
time with you." "Wasted days and wasted nights".*

Perhaps you can think of others...For a child looking ahead, a year is difficult to imagine and something to rush. For the parent of that child, it is almost something to avoid and slow down...Time flies.

It seems like yesterday when Sophie started pre-school; hand in hand, we took her to the steps of the bus. So eager, yet so hesitant. In a few short weeks, she will enter 6<sup>th</sup> grade. She will walk independently and confidently without mom and dad at her side. (But close enough to watch every step!) Now she is the big kid in her last year of elementary school. It seems like only yesterday, Sophie was content to play with sand on the beach and teaming up with her older cousins for a tube ride. This year at the lake, she wanted to drive the boat and be the one to send her cousins flying as we heard the words...faster, faster!

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "there is more to life than increasing its speed." It's a simple statement but in an age when the current thinking is "faster is better," we need to hear it again and again. One poll I read said that 60% of the population is always in a rush. Another author said that when hurry becomes a chronic condition, when we run even when there is no reason to, when we rush while performing even the most mundane tasks, it may be said that we have become addicted to hurry.

Leonardo da Vinci once said, "An average human being looks without seeing, listens without hearing, touches without feeling, eats without tasting, moves without physical awareness, inhales without awareness of odor or fragrance and talks without thinking." In other words, instead of truly living our lives with awareness and intentionality, we let our lives pass us by without ever experiencing its fullness.

I'm sure you've heard the phrase "you need to stop and smell the roses." It's a reminder to stop and slow down. Life can sometimes be overwhelming and steal our joy, but when we slow down...stop even...everything can get back into perspective. Things like family, friends, hobbies, exercise, reading a good book and taking time to relax and appreciate life takes on new meaning.

In John 10:10 Jesus says, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

So, let's be more than average. If your life feels complicated, if it feels stressed or out of control then "stop and smell the roses." Actually, make it an everyday way of living. There's plenty of time left in the summer. Count your blessings, give thanks to God, slow down, worship God and enjoy the life God has given you. Because...Time sure does fly!

In Christ, *Pastor Jodi*

# August 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 10:30AM Ministerial meeting	3 12PM Al-Anon 2PM Stewardship Committee ice cream social with Wheatland residents	4	5 2PM Reuben Steinwand funeral at Brooks Funeral Home
6 10AM Worship with Holy Communion	7	8 5:30PM Esther Circle	9 2PM Pastor Jodi @ Wheatland Bible Study	10 12PM Al-Anon	11	12
13 10AM Worship	14 5PM P.E.O.	15 12PM Writer's Group	16	17 12PM Al-Anon	18	19
20 10AM Worship with Holy Communion	21 5:30PM Church Council meeting	22	23	24 12PM Al-Anon	25	26
27 10AM Contemporary Worship <b>Backpack Sunday</b>	28	29	30	31 12PM Al-Anon		

# Faith & Care #3

Chairmen - 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  
 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 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

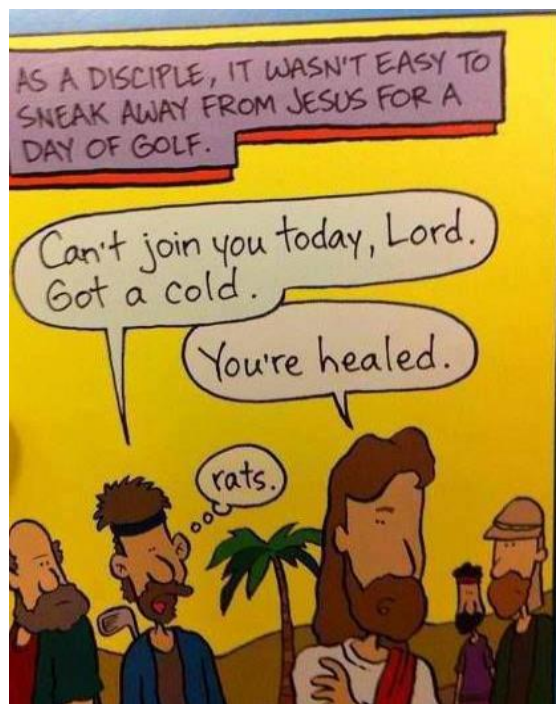
# Financial Update 06-30-23

June Offering	\$8,741.00	
Offering Income	<u>Year-to-Date</u> \$102,096.92	<u>Budget YTD</u> \$94,267.50
Total Income thru June	<u>Current Year</u> \$105,206.35	<u>Last Year</u> \$92,598.31
*Total Expenses thru June	\$145,026.03	\$95,676.43

\*Please note, expenses include a \$30,000 transfer from the general fund in January and a \$20,000 transfer from the general fund in July. Both transfers were moved in to the dedicated building fund.

As of August 1, our Endowment Fund balance was \$104,848.26. 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 Tithely app. Your support is much appreciated!



### Pastor Jodi's Contact Information

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

# Council Notes 07-17-23 Mtg

Church Council met in July but only with discussion as a quorum was not present.

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

## Endowment

Did you know that United Lutheran Church has an endowment fund? An endowment fund is a type of investment fund that's set up to receive gifts and donations from donors. What makes an endowment fund unique is that the organization overseeing the fund typically uses the interest earned from donations to finance activities...the donations themselves never get spent. Endowment funds are usually permanent because the principal balance or "corpus," stays invested forever.

United's endowment fund is governed through bylaws that are part of the congregation's constitution. The endowment board consists of five members of the congregation. The board reports to the council and recommends the distribution of annual interest funds to the council. In years that no interest is accrued, no funds are distributed. United's bylaws state that the interest distribution may be used for major capital improvements, debt reduction, scholarships, camperships, leadership conferences, community outreach and missions of the ELCA. Disposition of the principal donation may only be utilized in a case of emergency nature.

Let's continue to build an impact that lasts. You have the opportunity to help the endowment fund grow. Donations can be made to "In Faith" at any time throughout the year by sending to United Lutheran or you may choose to include United's "In Faith" endowment fund in your will or estate plan. For more information about how our endowment fund works, call In Faith Community Foundation at 800-365-4172 or contact one of our endowment committee members: Dan Fischer, Ken Carlson, Tyler Balsdon, Josh Overby, and Kyle Rollness.

## Mental Health Awareness

July marked the first anniversary of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline which launched in July 2022. The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) offers 24/7 call, text and chat access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing suicidal behavior, substance use, mental health crisis or any other kind of emotional distress. Individuals can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support. According to National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the following are signs of a mental health crisis:

*Feeling unable to go about daily tasks such as caring for your personal hygiene or changing your clothes*  
*Isolating yourself from loved ones, coworkers, classmates and others*  
*Sudden mood swings, such as suddenly happy or calm after bouts of depression*  
*Restlessness or pacing*  
*Paranoia or feeling out of touch with reality*  
*Violent or abusive behavior toward oneself or others*  
*Suicidal thoughts or behaviors*

With rising levels of anxiety, depression, emotional distress and overdose deaths, it is crucial that people have somewhere to turn when they're in crisis. Suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States. The number of people with a substance use disorder continues to increase. The 988 Lifeline is a direct connection to immediate and free support and resources for anyone in crisis. And it works. About 98 percent of people who call, chat or text the 988 Lifeline get the crisis support they need and do not require additional services in that moment.

The 988 Lifeline is a key part of a broader vision for reimagined crisis care in the United States. Federal, state, local and community partnerships are working towards a vision where everyone has: • Someone to talk to • Someone to respond • A safe place for help



It was a beautiful day for outdoor worship on July 23! Thank you to all the committees for their help in organizing the picnic and those that helped in extra areas! A special thank you to Steve Hart for the use of his speaker system and to our Praise Band.





## Haiti Sponsorship Update

The sponsorship paperwork has been completed for Kerlange, Armstrong and their children, Jake (4y) and Hannah (1y). We are currently in the waiting process...waiting to be notified of approval which could take 1-2 months. After we are approved, Kerlange and her family will apply with Haiti for approval.

As we wait and hope, we are also preparing. The housing committee has secured housing for the family. It is a small house owned by St Alphonsus. The St Alphonsus Parish is providing the house rent free for this family and the funds donated by individuals will help cover the cost of the utilities. We thank our friends at St Alphonsus for their generosity. All major appliances have been secured. A checking account has been opened at Choice Financial Bank specifically for the sponsorship income and expenses. To date, donations totally \$6,500 have been received. Sarah Hinnenkamp interviewed members of our steering committee and a news article has been published in the Borderland Press to inform our local community of the possibility of sponsoring Kerlange and her family. Sponsorship is all about building a relationship. This new relationship is blossoming in so many ways.

If you would like to assist in any way or would like more information, please contact co-chairs of the Haiti Sponsorship steering committee, Janet or Terry Jacobson. If you would like to donate monetarily, checks can be written to United Lutheran Haiti Sponsorship and sent or delivered to the church office. Your continued prayerful support is greatly appreciated.

## Bible Camp Update

With a vision toward a bright future and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Red Willow Ministries and Park River Bible Camp are pleased to announce an opportunity to serve these organizations in shared capacity as Interim Executive Director. These outdoor ministries have faithfully served the congregations, families and communities of the Eastern North Dakota Synod of the ELCA and beyond for nearly 100 years.

Ideally, beginning in September of 2023, this leader will serve both organizations in an equally shared, contracted capacity for 18 months or more as the Boards of Directors and appointed Partnership Discernment Team explore near and long-term partnership opportunities between these important ministries in our area.

Confident in God's call toward these next steps, the outdoor ministries seek a dynamic leader to guide these organizations in the months ahead as they both continue to offer summer camp and year-round retreat opportunities for all ages; while also engaging in an intentional discernment process about a future that wisely, responsibly and creatively serves the communities and families of our area.

Please continue to lift up both Park River Bible Camp and Red Willow Bible Camp during this transition and start of a new venture.

## Student Faith Formation

Wednesday school will begin in September after Labor Day. Please watch the ULC facebook page, upcoming bulletins and the September newsletter for details. Students that will be entering kindergarten or new students to the area, please contact Kristy McDonald at 701-370-8222 or the church office to be registered. If you are willing to help by being a teacher or substitute teach, please let Kristy know this too. (Older students that help can use these hours towards volunteer middle/high school hours.)

Confirmation sessions are just around the corner! We are planning to have a parent-student informational meeting on Wednesday, September 6, at 6pm for the 7-9 graders and parents. Confirmation classes will meet most Wednesdays, starting September 20 at 6PM during the school year after that. Stay tuned for more information!

## Backpack Sunday

Attention all students, teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors, administrative staff, lunch ladies and bus drivers...

On August 27, we will have a "Blessing of the Backpacks" during our worship service. Bring your backpacks or binders. We want to acknowledge you and ask for God's blessing on your school year. There might even be a little surprise for you to bring home. See you on Backpack Sunday!



# Church Flowers



Thank you to our gardeners for planting and keeping our church flowers looking beautiful this summer. These ladies are not paid for this position and have dedicated their time in making our church property look beautiful and inviting to all. Thank you Kathie Johnson and Carol Hart. You are appreciated!



# 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.



# July Memorials

**In Memory of Bob Vik on the first anniversary of his death** - Carolyn Vik (general)

**Denise Lysne** - David & Ardyce Hennager (general)

**Ole Pederson** - David & Ardyce Hennager (general)

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

# Prayers of...

## Healing

Caven Dahl (Hodgkin's Lymphoma), David Roy, Julie Nelson, Betty Nelson, Joanne Field, Arlaine Short and our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

## Grief

The family of Ryan and Shannon Wagner on the death of Shannon's father, George Schoenbeck.

The family of Margaret Ann Downs on the death of Margaret Ann's daughter, Denise Lysne. Her funeral was held on July 24 at Brooks Funeral Home.

The family of Ole & Karen Pederson on Ole's death. His graveside service was held July 29 at Our Savior's/Moscow Cemetery, rural Langdon.

The family of Jeannie & Reuben Steinwand on Reuben's death. His funeral service will be held at the Brooks Funeral Home this Saturday, August 5 at 2PM.

The family of Elaine Haugen on the death of Elaine's mother, Ella Campbell.

## Joy

We welcome the newly baptized members of United Lutheran! Pictured below are the children of Bobbi Hayes & Dallas Witzel: Wesli J, Carsen Allen and Jersi Gene (held by Pastor Jodi).



# At-a-Glance and General Announcements

## Thank You to:

Janet Jacobson for leading worship on July 9.

Those that attended worship on July 2 at Mt. Carmel Dam. We hope you enjoyed the great outdoors and engaged with God in His amazing creation!

## 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.

## 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.

## "God's Work, Our Hand's" Sunday

Our congregation will soon engage in service work and be one of over 8,700 congregations participating in "God's work. Our hands." Sunday on **September 10**. Join us as we do God's work with our hands! More information will soon become available. There will be a sign up sheet for those that can stay after worship to help with the service projects. "Many hands, make light work" and thank you for your consideration to lend a hand.

## Visitation

If you know of individuals that 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.

## Community Garden Boxes

CC Health District, LAHS and NDSU Extension received a grant for a Community Garden Box Project. A list with locations of the garden boxes is located on the bulletin board in the narthex. Vegetables and fruits are available for late summer and fall harvest at no cost for community members. Help yourself!

## Muhs Fest

Muhs Fest at the Mount Carmel Dam Recreational Area, this Saturday, August 5. Sign up for the corn hole tournament and rib fest! \$20 per team/entry, all money raised goes to the Cavalier County Cancer Crusaders. Contact Danny Muhs by texting or calling 701-370-6344 or by facebook messenger.

## Entertainment/Mark Lowry

Lakewood Park Bible Camp, Devils Lake, August 26, 7:30PM, \$25/ticket. Singer, songwriter, author and humorist Mark is best known for penning the lyric to the Christmas classic "Mary Did You Know?" and singing baritone for the Grammy award-winning Gaither Vocal Band for many years. Lowry, who's entertained audiences since he was 11 years old, has a unique gift of communicating profound Biblical truths through music and storytelling. His life's work features a large catalog of diverse projects including many videos, books and CDs. More info located on the bulletin board in the narthex.

## Off the Charts Music Festival

The Summer's best FREE Contemporary Christian music festival, August 18-20, featuring Big Daddy Weave, Cade Thompson, Apollo LTD and more! Held in the Cavalier City Park. Games, food, fun and music! Check out their website for more information at [www.offthechartsnd.com](http://www.offthechartsnd.com)

## Lost Items

Please check the lost & found shelf in the narthex. A few jackets and shirts have been left here at the church, also; please 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.

## 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](mailto: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

## Hospital Annual Picnic

Langdon Prairie Health Foundation annual picnic & family fun night, open to all, free will offering. Thursday, August 10, serving 5PM until gone, St. Alphonsus cafeteria/park & hospital courtyard. Live music, kids' adventure & face painting, bikes for give away.

## Covid Vaccine Information

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective and continue to be highly effective against hospitalization and severe outcomes of COVID-19. If you have questions or are eligible to schedule your bivalent booster call 256-2402. Keep yourself and your family healthy by getting vaccinated against #COVID19. Learn more: [www.fda.gov/covid19vaccines](http://www.fda.gov/covid19vaccines) #VaccineReady

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

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## Worship and Ministry - August Schedule

### **August 6 - Worship with Holy Communion**

Reader - Linda Balsdon  
Ushers - David Haslekaas & Dennis Balsdon  
Communion Prep - Jan Haslekaas  
Communion Assts - Patricia Scott,  
Jan Haslekaas, Linda Olson  
Projectionist - Nathan Kitchin  
Coffee - Dennis & Linda Balsdon

### **August 13 - Worship**

Reader - Renae Skjervheim  
Ushers - The Mitchell Almen family  
Projectionist - Brock Freer  
Coffee - Renae Skjervheim

### **August 20 - Worship with Holy Communion**

Reader - Faye Wilhelmi  
Ushers - Bev & Jerry Domres  
Communion Prep - Faye Wilhelmi  
Communion Assts - Faye Wilhelmi,  
Patricia Scott & Sandy Ritterman  
Projectionist - Adam Hart  
Coffee - Sandy Ritterman & Patricia Scott

### **August 27 - Contemporary Worship**

Reader - Tara McFadden  
Ushers - The Kendall Gemmill family  
Projectionist - Victor Long  
Coffee - The Mike Schrader family