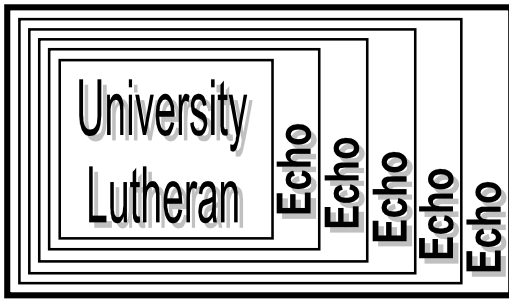


APRIL 2017



The Echo

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

2122 University Avenue

Grand Forks, North Dakota 58203

My dad has had three surgeries in the month of March. The first was major back surgery, and the second two were necessary to resolve clotting issues my dad has had in his leg and back. He and mom have been to one doctor appointment after another between each of the surgeries, and I think it is fair to say that they are tired of medical facilities in general. As I reflect on all that my parents have been through, I am left with the following conclusion. There are few things like health scares that cause us to reexamine what is really important in life.

Whether the diagnosis is cancer, like my mom had nearly four decades ago, or clotting issues, like my dad is going through now, these moments where our health is questionable and our mortality is conspicuous, are opportunities to connect with loved ones. At the very least, they give us time to express the love we have for those people who have meant most to us in life. We aren't always so fortunate to have such opportunities, because sometimes health scares turn into death and funerals, and we wish we had said something more.

These moments are also opportunities for us to connect with God. I know I have been spending more time in prayer since my dad has been struggling with his health. In my opinion, there is nothing like prayer to bring us closer to the Lord. I think prayer connects us so closely to the Lord, our lips to His ear, that trusting the Lord with our lives and entrusting to the Lord the lives of our loved ones, becomes a lot simpler. However, it also strikes me that we ought not to wait until someone we love gets sick to connect with God.

As a matter of fact, Lent and Easter are perfect times to advance our relationship with the Lord. Lent in particular is a time where Christians are called to spend more time in worship, in personal prayer and devotion, and in reflection on what the death of Jesus on the cross means for us. What does it mean to have the creator of all things, including me, to love me so much that He is willing to sacrifice his very life, so that I am no longer a vassal of sin, death, and evil? Just like a favorite Lenten hymn says, "He took the fall, and thought of me, above all!"

To me the cross is the very moment where God most clearly says, "I love you!" and "I am here to help you!" With this in mind - that we are children of a God who loves us so much He is willing to die for us, we may confidently say our prayers. Whether they are prayers for ourselves, or prayers for loved ones who are struggling or sick, we know God is close at hand, listening to us and willing to help us. God is close at hand, ready to offer forgiveness and grace, strength and peace, healing and wholeness, love and life, even while we are still praying.



As I write this article, I heard from Dan Melberg that his daughter Lisa is being readmitted to the hospital. Lisa is a very special young woman, who has been through so many things in life, and yet still spends so much of her life with a great big smile on her face. While I was praying for her, it struck me how my prayers for Lisa, my prayers for my mom and dad, my prayers for my family – Margo, Erin and Michael, and my prayers for all of you, put me in such a wonderful place, in the holy and awesome presence of God, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

As Easter draws near, I pray you will use the opportunity of the Lord's victory over sin, death, and evil, to connect with God. Pray for yourself and loved ones. Pray for our nation and world. Pray for starving children and homeless refugees. Pray for strangers and enemies. Pray for unbelievers and those who need to hear the Gospel. "Pray constantly," as the Apostle Paul says in First Thessalonians 5:17. It is through such prayer that you enter into the very presence of the Lord who made you, who saves you, and yes, who raises you to new and eternal life.

You are in my prayers!

Pastor Dan

Wednesdays in Lent



We have been enjoying fun and faith-filled Wednesday Lenten services!
Our average attendance has been 198 through 4 weeks.
It's been wonderful to see you!

Wednesday Lenten theme: *Christ on Trial*

We have been the jury at a trial for Jesus Christ each Wednesday in the Lenten season.
The verdict is still yet to be reached – Who is Jesus for you?

Week 5: April 5 - John

John is asked whether charges of cannibalism are true

Bring boxed cereals for the Salvation Army Food Pantry

Wednesday Lenten Suppers

Wednesday Lenten suppers are served from 5-6 pm, and cost only \$1.

Here is the menu for April 5: Hamburgers and Ice Cream (Served by Calling All Men).

Sundays in Lent

This year our Sunday sermons are focused on stories from John. We have only one week left before Palm Sunday. Here is the theme and what we are requesting for LWR:

Week 5: April 2 – Jesus and Lazarus

The Compassion of the Christ – John 11

Bring metal fingernail clippers for LWR Baskets of Promise

Resources for Lent 2017

Our Lenten resource table in the narthex is full of great resources for you – wooden neck crosses, wooden pocket cross coins, Lenten coin folders for an ELCA missionary, and of course, our very own ULC Lenten devotional book. Stop by and pick up something for yourself and something for a friend.

HOLY WEEK



Holy Week Worship

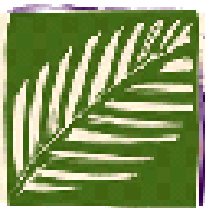
Here is a brief overview of Holy Week worship:

Palm Sunday is April 9 at 10 am – Jesus on Parade

Maundy Thursday is April 13 at 7 pm – One Last Night

Good Friday is April 14 at 7 pm – Day of the Cross

Easter Sunday is April 16 at 7 am and 10 am – The Resurrection of Our Lord



Palm Sunday

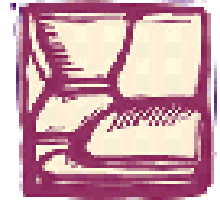
Jesus on Parade

This worship service is a journey through Holy Week with words and music. We will retell the Passion story of Jesus from Palm Sunday through the Lord's burial with the help of lots of special music. Music will include vocal solos and groups, as well as an instrument or two. This is something new and you will not want to miss it!

Maundy Thursday

One Last Night

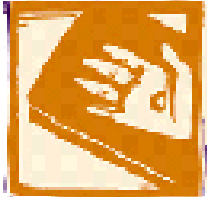
For ULC this has become a very traditional night. We very carefully work our way through the last night of Jesus' life. We will prepare a meal, wash some feet, learn a new commandment, share the Lord's Supper, and abandon Jesus as he is arrested. The service will be punctuated with drama, demonstration, hymns, special music, the Word, and First Communion for some of our fifth grade youth. Please join us as we walk with the Lord Jesus on his last night on earth before his crucifixion and death.



Good Friday

Day of the Cross

This is the most solemn day of the Christian year. It is the anniversary of the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus. He died on the cross to save us from sin, evil, and death, to save us in every possible way. On this night, we will tell the story of his death with the help of children, youth, and puppets. Light will diminish until darkness announces the death of Jesus, and we leave remembering *Jesus loves me this I know*.



Easter Sunday

The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus

Please join us for worship on Easter Sunday at 7 am for Sunrise Worship or 10 am for Festival Worship. Through Easter hymns, the Easter Gospel, special music, sermon, and Holy Communion, we will proclaim to the world that Jesus is risen! Alleluia! The 7 am worship service will include some drama, and the 10 am worship service will include a puppet play and treat for children. This is the highest and holiest day of the Christian year, the day the Lord demonstrates love is stronger than death.



Easter Breakfast

Please join us between the two Easter worship services (8-9:30 am) for breakfast. This year we are serving cheese omelets, sausage patties, fruit, juice and coffee. This meal will be served by our ULC men's group, Calling All Men. The only cost for the meal is a free will offering. Go ahead and leave the cooking to us!



Easter Garden

If you would like to contribute to our Easter garden this year, please fill out a flower form provided in the worship bulletins in April. If you are unable to be at worship and would like to order a flower, then call the church office (775-4745) by April 10.



Confirmation in April



Grade 5 students are preparing for First Communion. Remaining classes are Thursday, April 6, at 3:45 pm (students only), and Sunday, April 9, at 6:30 pm (parents and students). And most importantly, First Communion will be on Maundy Thursday, April 13, at 7 pm.

Grades 7-9 students will meet for Sunday classes on April 2, 9, 23 and 30, or for Wednesday classes on April 5, 19 and 26. There is no class on Wednesday, April 12, during Holy Week, or Sunday, April 16, on Easter Sunday.

Both Sunday and Wednesday students are attending services on Wednesdays in Lent, and completing their Lenten Worship Packet. If you have had some sort of conflict with Wednesdays this year and have been unable to attend, please contact Pastor Tom, to make alternative arrangements.

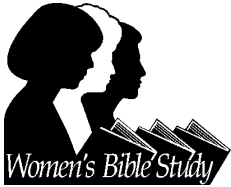
Adult Classes for You

Here are several adult Bible studies for you to attend during the month of April:

Thursday Morning Bible Study

The Penitential Psalms

We will continue and conclude our study of the 7 penitential Psalms in April. Please join us as we taste of these delicious Psalms of confession. The fun starts at 9:30 am.



WELCA Bible Study

Galatians: Christian Faith and Freedom

This month our topic is, "For freedom Christ has set us free", from Galatians, chapters 5 and 6. We will see how free we are through our faith in the Lord Jesus. Such spiritual freedom is radical – we are free from sin, death and evil! All ULC women and friends are invited to this study. We meet on Friday, April 21, at 10 am in the lounge.

Calling All Men

Martin Luther

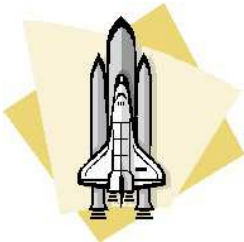
Our next meeting is Saturday, April 22, at 8:30 am, for breakfast pizza, prayer, and of course, conversation about Martin Luther. This year, 2017, is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, which was led by Luther in Germany. Please join us as we continue to learn about this amazing man who had great gifts, and well, a few faults as well.



Sunday Adult Class

The Passion of the Christ

Pastor Tom is leading us through a journey through the Passion story of our Lord Jesus. Please join us Sundays at 8:45 am, in the lounge. The coffee is always on!



55+Over Fellowship

This month we welcome Dennis Almer as our guest presenter. His presentation is entitled *The History of the Space Shuttle... That Didn't Happen!* Dennis will give us some insight to the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster on January 28, 1986 and tell us "the rest of the story" about the issues that led to the accident as well as what might have been in store for the NASA program had they not launched that day. We will meet on Tuesday, April 11, at 1:30pm in the fellowship hall. Invite a friend or neighbor to join you. Roger and JoClaire Paulson are our hosts.

Feed My Starving Children

This is the best 22 cents you have ever spent! Indeed, 22 cents provides one meal for a hungry child in our world. This is why we are raising funds for Feed My Starving Children through noisy offerings in January, February, and March. So far in 2017, we have raised a total of \$2,544.97. Thank you for all your coins and your generosity!



On April 1-2, we will be packing meals for the 7th year in a row.

Together with other people and congregations of our community, we will pack another 400,000 meals.

Also, at worship on March 26, we were presented a wooden commemorative plate for being one of nine congregations who have participated all 7 years that Feed My Starving Children has come to Grand Forks. Way to go ULC! And thank you to Ann Shallman for this wonderful presentation, and for her leadership as our ULC representative.

**ULC Women of the ELCA
April 2017 - News and Events**



Thank you to everyone who completed the survey of interests. You all shared some great ideas that I hope to incorporate into our activities for women.

Other news:

* We had another successful Muffin Madness event on March 18th, making \$553. These funds will be used to support our donations to community organizations. Thank you to all the wonderful bakers and workers. Who knew there were so many kinds of muffins – rhubarb, egg bake, morning glory – yum!

* Our next big event is the Spring Luau Salad Luncheon on Saturday, April 8th. This is an annual event hosted by WELCA. In addition to offering a huge variety of salads, we will also be raffling off a quilt, stuffed bear, fishing pole and several other items. You can purchase raffle tickets in the narthex before and after services prior to the event. If you can assist with this event by either providing a salad or bars, please sign up in the narthex. We are also asking for volunteers for serving the day of the event. Volunteers can sign up in the narthex or contact Patty Olsen at ndposlen@gmail.com if you can assist.

In God's love,

Patty Olsen

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA
Purpose Statement**



As a community of women
created in the image of God,
called to discipleship in Jesus Christ,
and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
We commit ourselves to
grow in faith, affirm our gifts,
support one another in our callings,
engage in ministry and action,
and promote healing and wholeness
in the Church, the society, and the world.

**WELCA Board Meeting
Monday, April 3, 2017
6:00pm in the lounge**



WELCA Bible Study
Friday, April 21
10:00 a.m. in the lounge.

Naomi/Rachel Circle
Friday, April 21
11:00am at the church

Mary/Martha Circle
Wednesday, April 19 9:30am
at Pauline Bondy's home



**ULC Rummage Sale
Saturday, May 6th**

**Early Bird - 7:00am-8:00am- \$2.00
8:00am-4:00pm**

We will be accepting rummage sale donations beginning on Monday, April 17th.
Donations can be placed in the youth room.

If you need help with larger items
or help getting your items to church please let Heather or Pastor Tom know.

We are not accepting mattresses, large tv's, or old computers.

All proceeds will benefit the National Youth Gathering Trip to Houston, Texas next summer.

Thank you for your support of the youth program.

Financial Update

Who likes to report disappointing financial news? No one! Well, now that's out of the way, we are reporting to you that at the end of February, we are short \$18,582 in the general fund. This is in line with most of our recent Februarys, but that does not make it good news. The good news is that you are a generous people, and that Lent and Easter months are usually better financial months for us. Thanks for your generosity, and we will update you at worship how things look at the end of March.



Don't Forget to High Five ULC

Give ULC a High Five! We ask ULC members and friends to give \$5 more a week than we usually give. If 100 families do this over the course of a year, we raise an extra \$26,000! And please, if you will be so kind, make a special note on your High Five contribution, so we can track how many high fives we receive in 2017.

Ministry of the Month

Our noisy offerings for April will go toward our new Ministry of the Month – Dacotah Oyate Lutheran Church near Tokio, North Dakota. Dacotah Oyate has a membership of 101 people and is pastored by Pastor Larry Thiele. It is an important Native American Ministry in our Eastern North Dakota Synod. We are receiving these noisy offerings and any other generous gifts in support of this important church in our synod.



ULC Picture Directory



The Church Council approved a new method for putting together a picture directory at our March meeting. This is a directory taken completely by smart phones, and can be accessed online or be printed out as a directory. We expect to get most of our ULC people to submit pictures for this, or to have their picture taken before or after worship on given Sundays or Wednesdays. Also, whenever new people come to ULC, we take their picture, and they automatically become part of our directory. This is going to be a great resource! Stay tuned for details in the month of April. We hope to get started by spring and have a full directory sometime next fall!

ULC STAFF

Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation
Pastor: Thomas W. Colenso
Education Coordinator: Jen Hanson
Youth Minister: Heather Kallestad
Administrative Assistant: Seanne Voracek

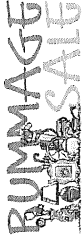
Organists: Lauri Shimpa and Jane Traub
Custodians: Harold and Cindy Stoller
Stephen Ministry Leaders:
Bonnie Peterson, Wayde Anderson
Evelyn Clark, Jane Traub

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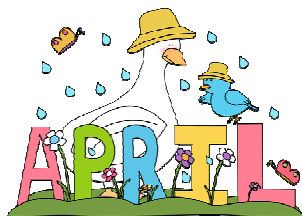
April 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2</p> <p>8:45 Sunday School/Adult Class Grade 7-9 Confirmation</p> <p>10:00 WORSHIP</p> <p>11:00 Fellowship</p> <p>4:00 Boy Scouts</p> <p>4:30 FMSC MobilePack Event (ULC Shift: 4:30-6:30pm)</p> <p>8:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00 WELCA Board</p> <p>7:00 ULC plays cards</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 GF Conference Meeting</p> <p>1:30 Pastors' Text Study</p> <p>6:30 Tues. Night Quilters</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:30am-3:00pm VMH Conference</p> <p>11:00 ND TOPS #163</p> <p>5:00 Supper: Hamburgers</p> <p>6:00 WORSHIP/WWJ</p> <p>7:00 Grades 7-9 Confirmation</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:30am-3:00pm VMH Conference</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>1:00 Quilting</p> <p>3:45 1st Communion Class (Students only)</p> <p>7:00 BEZ</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1:00 Salad Luncheon Set-up</p>	<p>1</p> <p>8:00-10:00am Youth Pancake Breakfast @ Ground Round</p> <p>1:00 Bridal Shower/ Samantha Schnoor</p> <p>2:30 FMSC MobilePack Event (ULC Shift: 2:30-4:30pm)</p>
<p>9 Palm Sunday</p> <p>8:45 Sunday School/Adult Class Grade 7-9 Confirmation</p> <p>10:00 WORSHIP</p> <p>11:00 Fellowship</p> <p>6:30 1st Communion Class (Students and Parents)</p> <p>8:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00 ULC plays cards</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 Staff Meeting</p> <p>1:30 55+Over Fellowship</p> <p>1:30 Pastors' Text Study</p> <p>6:30 Tues. Night Quilters</p>	<p>12</p> <p>11:00 ND TOPS #163</p> <p>No Wednesday Activities due to Holy Week</p>	<p>13 Maundy Thursday</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>1:00 Quilting</p> <p>7:00 WORSHIP/1st Communion</p>	<p>14 Good Friday</p> <p>7:00 WORSHIP</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 Easter Sunday</p> <p>7:00 SUNRISE WORSHIP</p> <p>8:00 Easter Breakfast</p> <p>10:00 FESTIVAL WORSHIP</p> <p>8:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 ULC plays cards</p> <p>Collection of rummage sale items begins - please put them in the youth room</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 Staff Meeting</p> <p>1:30 Pastors' Text Study</p> <p>5:30 Worship Ministry</p> <p>6:30 Tues. Night Quilters</p> <p>7:00 Church Council</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 Mary Martha Circle at Pauline Bondy's</p> <p>11:00 ND TOPS #163</p> <p>5:00 Supper: Hot dogs</p> <p>6:00 WORSHIP/WWJ</p> <p>7:00 Grades 7-9 Confirmation</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>1:00 Quilting</p> <p>6:30-9:30 GFC 50th Reunion Planning Group</p> <p>7:00 BEZ</p> <p>7:00 Book Study - Love Languages of Teens</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00 WELCA Bible Study</p> <p>11:00 Naomi Rachel Circle</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:30 Calling All Men</p>
<p>23</p> <p>8:45 Sunday School/Adult Class Grade 7-9 Confirmation</p> <p>10:00 WORSHIP</p> <p>11:00 Fellowship/Youth Serve Rolls</p> <p>8:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00 ULC plays cards</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00 Staff Meeting</p> <p>1:30 Pastors' Text Study</p> <p>6:30 Tues. Night Quilters</p> <p>6:30 New Member Orientation</p>	<p>26</p> <p>11:00 ND TOPS #163</p> <p>5:00 Supper: Chicken patty</p> <p>6:00 WORSHIP/WWJ</p> <p>New Member Wed. Confirmation</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>1:00 Quilting</p> <p>7:00 BEZ</p> <p>7:00 Book Study - Love Languages of Teens</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>2:00 - 5:00 Melberg Tupperware Party</p>
<p>30</p> <p>8:45 Sunday School/Adult Class Grade 7-9 Confirmation</p> <p>10:00 WORSHIP/New Member Fellowship</p> <p>11:00 Boy Scouts</p> <p>4:00 Boy Scouts</p> <p>6:30 Youth Gathering Meeting</p> <p>8:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>						 <p>SATURDAY, MAY 6 8:00am-4:00pm Benefits Youth Gathering</p>

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University Lutheran Church
Women of the ELCA

LUTHERAN LUAU SALAD LUNCHEON

Saturday, April 8th
10:30am - 1:00pm

University Lutheran Church
2122 University Avenue

Tickets: Adults - \$8.00 Children - \$3.00

- ❁ Bake Sale ❁ Quilt Sale ❁
- ❁ Craft Items ❁ Raffle ❁

RAFFLE PRIZES:

- Large Blue & Yellow Quilt - Baby Quilt - Blue Afghan
- Easter Table Runner - Chenille Teddy Bear
- Barbie Dolls (2) - Toy Tractors (2)
- Fishing Rod & Reel
- Watkins Products Basket