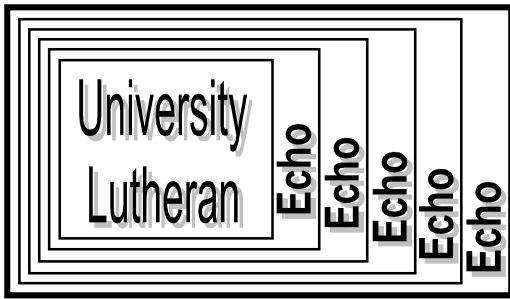


MAY 2017

The Echo

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2122 University Avenue
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58203



Recently, president of our congregation, Dave Larsen, gave me a gift. Knowing how much I enjoy coffee and how I seek to center my life around the Lord, he gave me a picture with the following words on it, "ALL I NEED TODAY is a little bit of COFFEE & a whole lot of JESUS". I thanked Dave for the gift and for the wonderful words on it. However, I admitted to him these words were not completely honest, at least in how they pertain to me. In truth, perhaps the words should be, "ALL I NEED TODAY is whole lot of COFFEE & a whole lot of JESUS". I am not proud of this, but it is closer to my reality.

Yes, I love coffee, and darker and richer is better! Coffee is a guilty pleasure for me. A few years ago, when I was struggling with blood pressure issues, I went off caffeinated coffee for 3 months to see if that lowered my pressure. Naturally, I was delighted to learn that such coffee was having no effect on my blood pressure. So, as soon as my doctor gave me the thumbs up, I immediately went out to purchase the blends I enjoy most. I am telling you this because Dave's gift has caused me to wonder if I love coffee a little too much. Is coffee more important to me than Jesus?




Of course, I want to answer, "NO WAY!", but you should not let me off the hook so easy. This very day, before I said good morning to the Lord, I turned on my Keurig machine to brew my first cup. However, since I was thinking about writing this article, I became embarrassed, and sat down at the kitchen table to pray – to give the Lord a proper greeting, to thank him for the day, as well as to remember a few of you who are facing challenges at this time. By the time I said, "Amen", the Keurig was ready to brew my first cup, a delicious French roast, which I must admit I enjoyed very much.

By now you may be wondering in this season of Easter, what a cup of coffee, a delicious French roast blend, has to do with Jesus who we proclaim risen from the dead? Well, it has everything to do with keeping perspective. Why is it that I who believe in Jesus, who believe with all my being that he is risen, alive, and active in the world, would reach for a cup of coffee this morning even before I recognize his presence, his risen presence, in my life? Certainly, coffee provides me with a number of very tangible blessings, the amazing aroma and taste being first and foremost.

Yet the risen Lord Jesus, fully present and participating in my life, provides me with blessings beyond what coffee or any other earthly thing can muster. For example, can coffee offer forgiveness to me when I am broken because of something I have done wrong? Can coffee enter into my being to heal me and make me whole when I am suffering illness? Can coffee draw near to me and say, "I love you and will never leave you", when I face great challenges in my life? Can coffee stand alongside of me when I am grieving the death of a loved one, and speak to me of eternal life?

I fully realize these are ridiculous questions. Of course, coffee or anything else on earth cannot provide for me, forgive me, heal me, help me, or love me, the way the risen Lord Jesus Christ does. That's what makes it all the more ridiculous that I reach for my coffee in the morning before I reach out for the Lord. Still, the Lord Jesus does not hold my love of coffee against me. He made coffee after all. I might even casually remind him that he's the one who made it so good! So, instead of judging me for my love of coffee, he carefully nudges me every morning to remind how much he loves me.

In this way, our relationship with the Lord Jesus begins anew each day. We may have many things on our minds, like that first cup of coffee, or something much more serious, but the risen Lord loves us so much that he comes alongside us to tap us on the shoulder to remind us he is there. Such is the gift and miracle of Easter. It is the good news that we are not alone, and that as we face life in this world with all its challenges, the risen Lord Jesus takes us by the hand and to lead and guide us. So thank you Dave for reminding me that all I need to today is a little bit of coffee, and a whole lot of Jesus!

You are in my prayers, 



Worship Matters

Megan Coe from FHC at ULC - Sunday, May 7

When our mission team was in Ecuador last summer, we met the new volunteer leader at the For His Children (FHC) orphanage in Latacunga. It was truly a joy to work alongside Megan during our week there. God is blessing us on Sunday, May 7, with a visit from her. Megan will be soon visiting churches in the western US, greeting friends like us, and finding new supporters. She will bring us greetings from FHC, and encourage our continued support of this ministry in Ecuador. You may want to make a special gift on this morning.



Mother's Day, Holy Baptism, and Church School Music - Sunday, May 14

We hope you will join us for worship on Mother's Day! The day will include a variety of very special things and events that you will not want to miss:



- A Mother's Day Litany of Thanks
- A special gift for moms and all adult women of ULC
- Special music by our Sunday School classes
- Baptism for newborn twins – Logan Matthew and Christian Ryan Burdick
- Brunch in loving memory of Myrtle Helgesen

The brunch will cost only a free will offering, and all the money raised will go to one of Myrtle's favorite charities – the VMH Chaplaincy program.

WWJ Music - Wednesday, May 17

Can you believe it ... the Church School year is almost done! We will celebrate another great year of sharing the Gospel with our ULC children as our WWJ classes share special music and lead worship on Wednesday, May 17. This will be a great way for us to finish out the Church School year, as we celebrate our children and youth.



The Day of Pentecost - Sunday, June 4

The Day of Pentecost is the third great holy day of the Christian year. It is, however, often surpassed in recognition by the more popular celebrations of Christmas and Easter. Pentecost is the day we celebrate the coming of the promised Holy Spirit with power to the church and to each one of us who follow the Lord Jesus Christ. This day is really the birthday of the Christian church. As part of the celebration, we encourage you to dress in red, the color of the day. We will also have red balloons, red flowers, and other Pentecost fun.

Picnic and Praise Wednesday, June 7

After a 2 week Wednesday break, summer Wednesday Worship will begin on June 7. We will worship at 6:00 pm, with a picnic style supper served beforehand at 5:00 pm. The cost is \$1. During the month of June, we will worship with Holden Evening Prayer and the sermon series called "Four Reformation Principles". In this 500th year since the Reformation, we will learn about "Justification by Faith", "Law and Gospel", "Theology of the Cross", and "Word Alone, Faith Alone, Christ Alone". These Wednesdays will involve a little thinking! We hope you will worship with us and invite coworkers, neighbors, and friends.



High School Graduate Recognition

Yes, it is high school graduation time once again! We will be honoring Community, Central, Red River and EGF graduates who are ULC members on Sunday, June 4, at our 10:00 a.m. worship service. On that day, we will celebrate the accomplishments of these students at worship, give them their graduation gift, and host a cake reception in their honor.



ULC Serving, Washing Feet



Feed My Starving Children

Our FMSC event in April was a huge success for the seventh year in a row! Greater Grand Forks raised \$92,758, which was well over the \$88,000 we needed for the event. This money paid for 435,456 meals we packed for hungry children in our world. The extra will be kept separate and go toward our packing event for 2018.

On our part, ULC members and friends contributed \$2,544 toward this event, as well as provided many packing volunteers as well. Thank you to everyone who helped with our fundraising efforts and with packing food, as well as to Ann Shallman who serves for us on the local FMSC committee. Well done good and faithful servants!

Ministry of the Month A New Van for "For His Children" in Latacunga

On May 7, at worship, you will have opportunity to see a video on the need for a new handicap assessable van at the FHC orphanage in Latacunga. We already have some money raised toward this van, and we hope to add more on that weekend, as well as through our noisy offerings in May. Pastor Tom will also be trying in the next couple of weeks to connect FHC with some other Grand Forks churches, to see if we can find even more local support for this important ministry to Ecuadorian children.

Food Pantry Ideas for May

At ULC, we are supporters of local efforts to feed hungry people, families, and children. During May, here are some suggestions for food items to share:

- May 3 and 7: Canned fruits and vegetables
- May 10 and 14: Boxed meals, canned meals, and macaroni
- May 17 and 21: Cereals, muffins, and other breakfast foods
- May 28: Soups and stews

Men Serving West School 5th Graders

ULC men will be helping to serve the West School 5th grade breakfast on Tuesday, May 23. This event marks the end of elementary school for these children, and the beginning of Middle School. Our ULC men have served this event for about 16 years. If you would like to help with the breakfast this year, please contact Pastor Tom.

Change Makers Bike Ride - For ELCA World Hunger

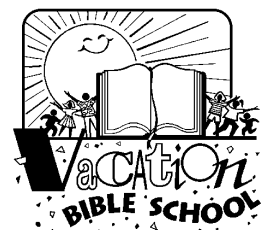


Our synod's annual Change Makers Bike Ride to raise awareness and receive offerings for ELCA World Hunger will be happening June 23-24. Eight rides will take place, one in each one of the eight Eastern North Dakota Conferences. This means in celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, we will ride 500 miles as a synod, and raise a bunch of money for ELCA World Hunger. Every conference has been challenged to raise \$5,000.

Our conference bike ride will begin at 8 am, June 23rd, at Larimore (Our Savior's Lutheran), and end at 12:30 pm, June 24th, in Emerado (Ascension Lutheran). The riders will spend the night at Calvary Lutheran in Grand Forks. Meals will be served to the riders along the way. On our part, University Lutheran will be providing dinner on Friday night. Call the church office if you might like to help. If you want to sign up for the ride, you can do so at www.eandsynod.org.

ULC to Help Augustana with VBS

Augustana Lutheran will be hosting a VBS program for Adults with disabilities on June 5-6. Red Willow Bible Camp counselors will lead the program, and Augustana and University will provide support. One of the days, ULC will be asked to provide meals. Please call the church office if you might be interested in helping with this special and important event.



Education Opportunities



Women of the ELCA Bible Study - 10 Prayerful Reflections for our Faith Journey

Please join us on Friday, May 19, 10 am, for our Bible study. This month the study is more of a devotional time, as we read the faith struggles of 10 women, and see how their faith and trust in God has helped them through the more challenging days of their lives. Please note we will meet the third Friday instead of the second. The goal of this time together is to learn faith strategies to get through the challenges of life with the Christian hope that we are not alone.

Calling All Men - The Augsburg Confession

Hey you ULC guys ... On May 20th, we will enjoy even more of Martin Luther and the Reformation, as we take a brief look at the Augsburg Confession. Our morning begins with pizza and prayer at 8:30 am, as well as our conversations about life and faith. Then when we get rolling, Pastor Tom will introduce the Augsburg Confession, that very important Reformation document, and we will even have a chance to read certain portions of it.



Thursday Morning Bible Study - The Augsburg Confession

In the month of May, the Thursday Morning Bible Study, considering the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, will study the Augsburg Confession. This important evangelical document, was an effort by Luther and other reformers to show common ground with the larger church, as well as to raise questions about what the reformers were concerned about in the church. This is such an important study, if you want to understand what was at the heart of the Reformation. We will meet at 9:30 am on May 4, 11, 18, and 25.

Adult Class - May 7, 14, and 21

The Adult Class will complete its Sunday School year on May 21. Bruce Bohlman will be leading the class these last three weeks. The final adult education segment for the school year will start on Sunday, May 7th, at 8:45 a.m. in the lounge. The study will center on chapter 10 of the book of John and the role of shepherd that Jesus took upon himself. We will look at various aspects of shepherding and the importance that such a role played in the history of Israel. This is a key understanding Jesus had of his ministry then, and for us today. Don't miss this discussion! Please join us for conversation, study, coffee, and more!

55+Over Fellowship - May 16, "Being Mortal"

Please join us on Tuesday, May 16, at 1:30pm in the ULC fellowship hall. Our program this month will be presented by Treasure Omdahl, an OLLI member. Treasure will give a presentation on the book by Dr. Atul Gawande, "Being Mortal." Dr. Gawande's book takes an honest look at growing older. A well known surgeon and author, Dr. Gawande admits that medicine can only do so much but he discovered in his practice how we can all do better - all the way to the very end. Just when we thought we have done all we need to prepare for this time of life, we will get clues on how to make our lives even more satisfying. Treasure will provide us some insight into being mortal. Refreshments will be provided by Pauline Bondy and Gwen Skjold. Invite a friend or neighbor to join you.



May Education Update



Sunday school students will be singing and participating in worship on Sunday, May 14th.
Wednesday with Jesus students will be singing and participating in worship on May 17th.

Please invite guests as we close out our church school year.

PLEASE NOTE:

The last day of WWJ is May 17th.
The last day of Sunday School is May 21st.





Psalm 25: 4

Teach me your ways, O Lord;
make them known to me.



High School Graduates: We will honor the graduating seniors on Sunday, June 4 during worship. Please turn in a senior picture and information on your plans for next year to Heather or the church office by Wednesday, May 31st. We would like to display your picture on this day. We will also be having a cake reception after worship.



Confirmation Pizza Party: Wednesday, May 17th at Happy Joes Pizza at 7:30pm. This will take place of our last confirmation class for the year. Please bring \$3 to help with the cost. If you want to play at the arcade be sure to bring extra money. Let Heather know if you will need a ride. Hope to see everyone there. :)

Youth Gathering:

Our May meeting is Sunday, May 28 at 6:30pm.
We will not meet in June or July!
Have a good summer and see you at the end of August!



Bible Camp registration is already starting. If you are planning on attending camp this summer please fill out a bible camp form and let us know where you are going. We would like to send you a fun treat while you are at camp.

If you have not signed up for camp but still want to go, there are forms posted on the youth board in the narthex. Questions? Talk to Heather or Jen.

Rhubarb Festival is almost here and we need your help.

If you are in 6-12 grade and are willing to help on Saturday, June 10th from 9:45am-1:00pm please let Heather know. Thanks :)



Confirmation



Grades 7-9 confirmation is almost complete for 2016-17. Our Wednesday classes will meet May 3 and 10, and our Sunday classes on May 7 and 14. Plus, if you have not completed 15 worship notes during the school year and 5 Lenten worship notes, you must catch up over the summer. Please do so before next September.

Students, please join us for our year end party on Wednesday, May 17. We will meet, eat, and play at Happy Joes! Please bring \$3 to help with the cost for this night.

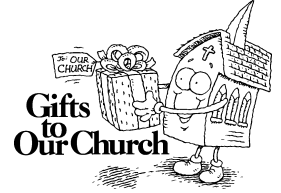
One final note, ULC confirmation students have just purchased a family farm from the ELCA to be given to a poor family somewhere in the world. We collected offerings over \$715 for this. This is what the ELCA says about the gift we have given:

A cow, 2 goats, 2 pigs, a dozen chicks, farming tools, seeds, and agricultural training will give a family a fresh start. New tools, as well as eggs, milk, and meat, will provide a lifetime of food to eat and sell at the market, helping a family to escape the cycle of hunger and poverty.



Blanche Evenson Funds

We recently received our yearly gift from the Blanche Evenson Fund. The total gift was \$7,220. What a wonderful gift! This year the Church Council decided to use those funds to increase our reserve fund, which means we have a reserve fund of \$30,000. Now during shortfalls, we are not depending on other designated funds to cover salaries and bills, unless the shortfall is over \$30,000. Of course, the reserve fund must always be paid back. Thank you, Blanche!



Financial Update

Our general fund shortfall is \$18,109 at the end of March. Soon the beautiful summer months will be here, so we are preparing ourselves for this time where lakes and vacations call us away from Grand Forks, and our income often dips. So, later in May, everyone will receive a Summer Stewardship envelope in the mail. Thank you for being such a generous people!

ULC Women of the ELCA MAY 2017 - News and Events

RHUBARB FESTIVAL - June 8th



Spring has arrived (we think) and that means our 25th Annual Rhubarb Festival is just around the corner – Saturday, June 8th. This event attracts avid rhubarb aficionados from throughout the region. Over the next few weeks, you'll hear and see announcements requesting assistance with preparations prior to and on the day of the event.

Other news:

- ☞ Our Spring Luau Salad Luncheon on Saturday, April 8th was a great success. We served 187 individuals and made \$3494.90. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the event by baking, preparing salads, and assisting the day before and day of the event. It was great to see women of all ages dropping off salads and baked goods for the salad luncheon.
- ☞ There are several events that will be held in eastern North Dakota for Lutheran women this summer. We will keep you informed as we learn more information.

Please note: Our board meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 6 pm in the lounge. All women of the church are welcome to attend. We do take a break in July and August.

In God's love,
Patty Olsen
WELCA President

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.

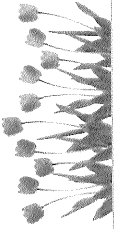
**WELCA Board Meeting
Monday, May 1, 2017
6:00pm in the lounge**



WELCA Bible Study
Friday, May 19
10:00 a.m. in the lounge.

Naomi/Rachel Circle
Friday, May 19
11:00am at the church

Mary/Martha Circle
Friday, May 19 at 9:30am
at the church



May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>7</p> <p>8:45 Sunday School, Adult Class Grade 7-9 Confirmation</p> <p>10:00 WORSHIP</p> <p>11:00 Fellowship</p> <p>12:30-5:00 Mommy & Me Tea for Miss Grand Forks Pageant</p> <p>4:00 Boy Scouts</p> <p>8:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:00 WELCA Board Meeting</p> <p>7:00 ULC Plays Cards</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00 Conference Meeting</p> <p>1:30 Text Study</p> <p>5:15 Mission Endowment</p> <p>6:30 Tues. Night Quilters</p>	<p>3</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>4</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>1:00 Quilting</p> <p>7:00 BEZ</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>RUMMAGE SALE</p> <p>Early Bird Admission 7:00am-8:00am - \$2.00</p> <p>General Admission 8:00am-4:00pm - Free</p>
<p>7</p> <p>8:45 Sunday School, Adult Class Grade 7-9 Confirmation</p> <p>10:00 WORSHIP</p> <p>11:00 Fellowship</p> <p>12:30-5:00 Mommy & Me Tea for Miss Grand Forks Pageant</p> <p>4:00 Boy Scouts</p> <p>8:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00 ULC Plays Cards</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00 Staff Meeting</p> <p>1:30 Text Study</p> <p>6:30 Tues. Night Quilters</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00-4:00 Christus Rex Staff Retreat</p> <p>11:00 ND TOPS #163</p> <p>5:00 Supper – Pizza</p> <p>6:00 WORSHIP/WWJ</p> <p>7:00 Grades 7-9 Confirmation</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>1:00 Quilting</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 Mother's Day</p> <p>8:45 Sunday School, Adult Class Grade 7-9 Confirmation</p> <p>10:00 WORSHIP</p> <p>11:00 Fellowship/Branch</p> <p>8:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00 ULC Plays Cards</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00 Staff Meeting</p> <p>1:30 Text Study</p> <p>1:30 55+Over</p> <p>5:30 Worship Ministry</p> <p>6:30 Tues. Night Quilters</p> <p>7:00 Church Council</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11:00 ND TOPS #163</p> <p>5:00 Supper – Chicken patty</p> <p>6:00 WORSHIP/WWJ</p> <p>3 yrs.-6th Grade Sing</p> <p>7:30 Confirmation Pizza Party at Happy Joe's</p> <p>LAST DAY OF WWJ</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>1:00 Quilting</p> <p>1:30 Parkwood Worship</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 Mary Martha Circle</p> <p>10:00 WELCA Bible Study</p> <p>11:30 Naomi Rachel Circle</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:30am Calling All Men</p> <p>10:00am Chicago Folk Rehearsal</p>
<p>21</p> <p>8:45 Sunday School, Adult Class</p> <p>10:00 WORSHIP</p> <p>11:00 Fellowship/Youth Serve Rolls</p> <p>4:00 Boy Scouts</p> <p>8:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p> <p>LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:00 ULC Plays Cards</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:00am West School 5th Grade Recognition Breakfast</p> <p>10:00 Staff Meeting</p> <p>1:30 Text Study</p> <p>6:30 Tues. Night Quilters</p>	<p>24</p> <p>11:00 ND TOPS #163</p> <p>NO WWJ or Worship</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>1:00 Quilting</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>10:00 WORSHIP</p> <p>11:00 Fellowship</p> <p>6:30 Youth Gathering Meeting</p> <p>8:00 Narcotic Anonymous</p>	<p>29 Memorial Day</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00 Staff Meeting</p> <p>1:30 Text Study</p> <p>6:30 Tues. Night Quilters</p>	<p>31</p> <p>11:00 ND TOPS #163</p> <p>NO WWJ or Worship</p>	<p>In the days ahead →</p>	<p>Senior Recognition Sunday June 4</p>	<p>PICNIC & PRAISE</p> <p>Begins June 7</p>

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

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

We are currently accepting rummage sale donations through Friday, May 5th.
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.

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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