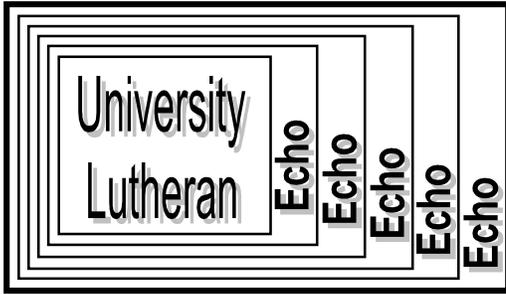


JULY 2017

The Echo

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



As June turns into July, we are at the midpoint of another year, 2017. I know it's cliché to say that time flies, but time really does fly! For example, there are already only 180 shopping days until Christmas. Erin and Parker, my daughter and son-in-law, will soon celebrate their first anniversary. Michael, our son who was born the year we came to Grand Forks, will student teach in Barnesville, Minnesota this fall. My mom and dad will celebrate their 55th anniversary in September. Margo's mom will celebrate her 95th birthday in November. And, I have served the Lord as pastor at ULC for 23 years now.

All these are reminders for me that both time and my life are flying by very fast. As I have heard others say, the mirror doesn't lie. So, as I shave on most mornings, and see the older gentleman looking back at me, I sometimes wonder who he is. I recognize him. Certain things have not changed. The nose has always been somewhat prominent, and the eyes are still dark brown. But how did those lines across the forehead and around the eyes get there? Some might say the children put them there, but there is no way I will blame my two amazing children. I think they sort of function like tree rings.

I'm not saying you can count my wrinkles to determine how old I am. However, I read once that it was Leonardo de Vinci, who first mentioned that tree rings form annually, and that by looking at the rings of a tree, one could tell what kind of a year it had been. Fatter rings represent better years with lots of water, food, and healthy growth. Skinnier rings show leaner years where perhaps disease, as well as scarcity of water and food, somehow slowed or stunted growth. In the same way, I think the wrinkles on our faces have stories to tell about our years. What stories do your wrinkles tell?

Psalm 90 says, "The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away." I don't think these words are meant to depress us, but rather to serve as a reminder, sort of like our wrinkles, that life moves fast and each year brings with it a certain amount of struggle. Some years are better and healthier to be sure, and other years are challenging enough to form a few extra lines around our eyes. As I reflect on such things, I find it helpful to remember that our Lord Jesus Christ *became flesh and dwelled among us*.

What? Christmas in July? Actually, yes. If you come to worship on Wednesday, July 26, or Sunday, July 30, we will enjoy Christmas in July through Christmas carols and other means. Why should the message of Christmas be confined to the last week of December and the first week of January? I think we need to be reminded each day of the year, how God so loved the world that he sent the Lord Jesus Christ to be among us, walk alongside of us, and even dwell within us. Jesus is present for us through the best and worst of times, and gives us an extra hand through those leaner years.

★
For
God so
loved the
world He gave
His one and only
Son that whoever
believes in Him shall not
perish but have eternal life
John
3:16

One human hardship is growing older. Watching my dad struggle with severe back issues, arthritis, and multiple surgeries this year, awakened me to this. Looking at my reflection in the mirror each morning, also awakens me to this. Still, through Jesus, God is Emmanuel, meaning God is with us. Through the surgeries, through the arthritis, through the back problems, through the illnesses, through the children living far away, through the wrinkles, and so on, we have a Lord Jesus who is with us, and who promises to stay with us, to give us peace, and as I like to say, to save us in every way.

Since time flies and life moves so fast, it is good to have someone eternal on our side. Well, God is not only on our side, but is also at our side, and even within our lives. So, this July, if even only for a moment, think about Christmas. Think of how every moment of our lives are pregnant with the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is no time, no matter how good or bad those times are, where Jesus is not close. He is so close that in every circumstance we face, he is born for us, and fully present for us. And, when the time is right, and it is our time to fly away, he will graciously lead us all the way to heaven.

Merry Christmas in July! You are in my prayers,

Wednesday "Picnic and Praise" Worship

Picnic and Praise is our summertime Wednesday evening worship. It begins with a light supper at 5pm (cost \$1), and then worship is at 6pm.

This July, we have several things to report to you:

1. We will NOT have a worship July 5th, due to the Fourth of July holiday.
2. Our worship on July 12 is the Service of the Word for Healing.
3. Our worship on July 19 is our ever-popular Chicago Folk Service.
4. Our worship on July 26 will include Christmas carols for Christmas in July.

Preaching on Wednesdays will be all over the place:

- July 12: "Where is God in My Suffering?"
- July 19: "You Got God: The Real Presence in the Lord's Supper"
- July 26: "The Celebration of Christmas Is Forever"

See you at worship each Wednesday in July!



Sunday "The Lord's Day" Worship

Sunday worship is at 10am each Sunday morning, and afterward we have a fellowship time for everyone to gather with God's people for conversation and refreshments.

Please note these important notes about worship:

- ★ July 2 will include national (patriotic) hymns for Independence Day.
- ★ July 9 will include Holy Communion instead of our regular week, July 2.
- ★ July 16 is also Holy Communion and our ever-popular Chicago Folk Service.
- ★ July 23 is Service of the Word, and sermon topic is, "Get on Board Little Children!"
- ★ July 30 will include Christmas carols for Christmas in July.

See you at worship each Sunday in July!

ULC to Begin Strategic Planning

Members of our Church Council will be meeting with Pastor Keith Zeh, on Tuesday, July 18, 6:30pm, in the lounge. Keith is a member of the Eastern North Dakota Synod Staff, the Director of Evangelical Mission. He will be here to get to know us, as well as to introduce us to something called, "Discovering Your Congregation's Future". This is a strategic planning process that Keith uses to help congregations figure out the direction of their ministry, and how that ministry will serve God's mission in the world. It is also a great tool for congregations to reconnect to inactive members, and to reignite the passion of active members to participate in the life of the congregation, in this case ULC.

YOU ARE INVITED to come and meet Pastor Keith, and to ask questions and learn about such strategic planning. Maybe only 10 will attend, and that would be great. Yet how awesome if 20 of us were there to start this potentially important and exciting process! Will you help us discover ULC's future?



ULC Serving, Washing Feet



We are busily serving the Lord by washing people's feet through our mutual ministry:

In Jesus' name, we have contributed \$6,027.71 to **For His Children orphanage in Ecuador** for their new wheelchair accessible van (\$2,000 from Mission Endowment, \$2,000 from the Mission Team who went there, \$2,027.71 from the congregation through envelope and noisy offerings. Yay ULC!

Now Anna Shallman and Emily Dencker are heading back to the Latacunga FHC orphanage on July 14 to serve there for one month on a special internship. Yay for Anna and Emily.

In Jesus name, we have contributed \$1,000 to **ELCA World Hunger** during the month of June. This includes \$250 from Mission Endowment, \$212 from the Father's Day brunch, \$508 from June noisy offerings. Patty Olsen also raised \$245 in sponsorships for the Changemaker's Bike Ride. Yay!

Patty rode her bike about 55 miles for this Changemaker's event, Steve Jacobson drove his truck behind the riders both days to keep them safe, and Seanne Voracek cooked Friday night dinner and served it at Calvary Lutheran for the tired bikers. Another "yay" for Patty, Steve, and Seanne.

We held a joint VBS with Augustana Lutheran in June for **Adults with special needs**. It was an amazing two days. Red Willow Ministries provided us with counselors to lead us, Augustana took care of meals and snacks on Monday, ULC took care of meals thanks to Jen Hanson on Monday, and Margo Colenso was RN for the camp on both days. In all, about 10 adults were served between the two days, and we are hoping this will be more in 2018!

Our Ministry of the Month in July is **Red Willow Bible Camp**. Our noisy offerings will go to support the important ministry of this camp which serves our children and youth.

Here Comes "City Serve" New Information, so please read 😊



ULC, along with Faith Evangelical Free Church, and Freedom Church, will be serving our city this summer (July 22) by doing some work at Viking Elementary School. We will be cleaning tables, desks, shelves, lights, and chairs, as well as sealing their asphalt parking lot. Each church will be sharing 20 volunteers. We will serve the city together, have lunch together, and at the end, have a brief worship time together, all in Jesus' name.

This is a pilot project by our three churches and the Grand Forks Public Schools, which we hope will explode into something much larger in 2018. We hope to do something significant for our schools, as well as show how the Christian community works well together. Signup sheets are now available in the narthex, but signup is slow. We need 20 people to volunteer to be onsite at Viking School, so please be willing to share some of your time and talent!

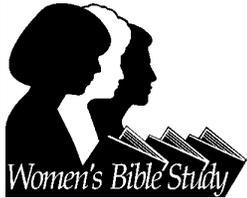
We also could use a few contributions to help with some expenses – the lunches and the cost of t-shirts for those who are serving that day.

Our Senior Class

We had a special graduation weekend in June, because our senior class was a little larger than the typical year. Some of this class have moved on to other places, and some were unable to join us that day. But as for those who were present, we told them how glad we were they started off graduation day with us! Here are the seniors we honored this year:



Haley Ackerland, Noah Bartolomei, Brittany Benson, Tyler Boushey, Claire Cory, Emily Cox, Emily Dencker, Jacob Grochowski, Kayla Horner, Madi Meyer, Dylan Morphis, Kayla Neal, Bryce Nelson, Sophie Oen, Cameron Olstad, Caitlyn Seng, Anna Shallman, Emily Shimpa, Natalie Simon, Krista Slusar-Mrazek, and Kyle Vreeland.



WELCA Summer Bible Study

Friday, July 21, 10am

Our summer Women of the ELCA Bible study is written by Kelly Fryer. We will explore "All anew: Ready or Not", a three-session Bible study that is also the theme of the 2017 Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis.

Session two: Stand with the least of these: On Friday, July 21, we will explore how God requires us who live in privilege and comfort to recognize that God is on a mission to love, bless, and save the world. How can we be a part of that mission, among the poor, and those who are on the outside of society? This will be after the women return from the gathering, so I bet the discussion will be lively!

Calling All Men

Saturday, July 15, 8:30am

This summer as usual, we are meeting on Saturdays, 8:30am, in the fellowship hall. We start with breakfast pizza and conversation. Our topics will continue to center around the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. In July, we will see how the Reformation spread across Europe. Then in August, we will discuss the coming of Lutheranism to America.



Happy 80th Birthday

Avis Madson

Happy 80th Birthday to Avis Madson! Please join her as she gathers with friends and family to celebrate this milestone birthday with an open house and cake reception on Sunday, July 16, 1:00 to 3:00pm, in the fellowship hall. We thank God for Avis, and look forward to celebrating this important date in her honor. May the Lord continue to bless and keep her!

Summer Wedding Season

Wedding bells are in the air! Here are our weddings for this wedding season (ULC member or friend is in bold print):

- Joey Traub** and Savanna Sagvold (June 10) at Trinity Lutheran, Lisbon.
- Matthew Thompson** and **Samantha Schnoor** (June 17) at ULC.
- Jordan Purpur** and Mike Bollinger (July 7) at Calvary Lutheran, Grand Forks.
- Kyle Bondy** and Stacey Frovarp (July 15) at University Park.
- Sean Mattern** and Lynne Graves (August 19) at ULC.
- Cameron Littlejohn** and **Allie Kennedy** (October 21) at ULC.



Please keep these couples who are married at ULC this year in your prayers!

Summer Stewardship Mailing



We recently sent out a letter from Pastor Tom and an envelope requesting some extra help for the general fund at the beginning of summer. THANK YOU for the generous responses to date. It is always so amazing how you respond so quickly and so generously!

At the end of May, we were \$19,275 short in the general fund. While at the beginning of summer, this is not without precedence, it is obviously not desirable. We are likely to see a boost in income during the month of June, if past-history is a good indicator.

Please also note that as of June 1, our spending is under budget projections for the year, not to mention, expenses are extremely flat and predictable. Furthermore, we are very blessed with a \$30,000 reserve fund, so while this needs to be paid back, we are having no issues paying bills.

We truly thank you for your willingness to give us any extra help you can!

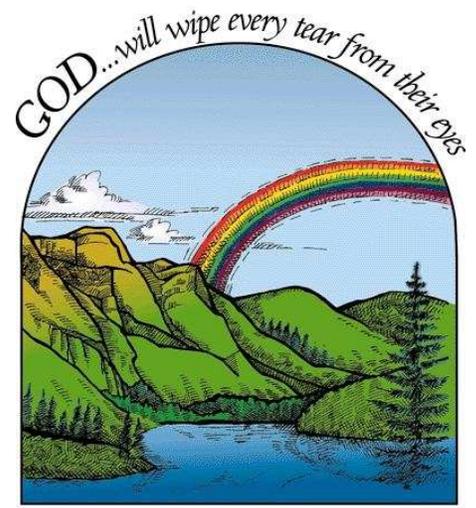
There Are Many Rooms

Death and funerals, memorial services and burials, are always a part of life in the church. This year has been particularly busy for us. Recently in May, we buried Orlin Jore, and so far in June, we have buried Linda Haldeman. This coming week (June 30), we will drive to Lakota to bury Gordon Johnson. These people and more are on our minds because we loved them and they were special to us.

We also had a memorial service for Virginia Johnson, and funerals for Cheryl Kahlbaugh and Olger Langheid in the months of May and June.

Now in July, we will have a memorial service for JoAnn Lawrence, daughter of Wayne and Ilene Stamness, on July 6, and a graveside service for Kris Steinke, Suellen Palya's son, on July 11. JoAnn died this past January, and Chris died recently in the month of June.

It is at such times that we reach out for grace from the loving arms of our Lord Jesus Christ. We look for comfort and consolation from the Lord, who holds us and even carries us through our grief. And we look for the ultimate hope of a future life for our loved ones who have died. This hope comes to us from a risen Lord, who has conquered death, and promised to one day lead us to our Father's home, heaven, where there are many rooms. There by the great love and amazing grace of God, we will live what the Lord Jesus called, everlasting life. Amen!



There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.

Revelation 21:4

ULC Women of the ELCA JULY 2017 - News and Events



Rhubarb pie, rhubarb shakes, rhubarb crisp, rhubarb muffins... what a great Rhubarb Festival. The 25th annual celebration of all things rhubarb was a tasty and successful event. Despite losing over 40 pies to a freezer mishap 48 hours pre-festival, everything fell into place on Saturday, June 10th thanks to the many, many talented women and men of ULC. We raised nearly \$5,500!

We could not have had such a wonderful event without the many hours of baking, cooking and set up contributed by so many. Special thanks to our dishwashers, shake makers and youth volunteers.

WELCA will take a break from meeting until mid-August. In the meantime, 9 women are headed to Minneapolis on July 12-16th for the Triennial WELCA conference for fellowship, praise and worship. Attendees are Lara Dando, Judy Larson, Judy Senne, Janet Kuhl, Seanne Voracek, Patty Olsen, Roxanne Melberg, Shelly Meyer, and Heather Kallestad. Lara and Roxanne will be walking in a 5K Run, Walk 'n' Roll to raise awareness for the wellbeing of women and girls around the world. They are asking for your support through financial pledges and prayers. Please consider helping them out in their efforts.

Also as part of the Gathering, congregations and attendees are encouraged to bring an in-kind offering. We have chosen to collect personal hygiene items to be distributed to women's shelters and agencies in the Twin Cities area and around the world. We are asking you to help us in gathering these items. We are collecting full size bottles of shampoo, conditioner, body wash, skin lotion, and bars of soap for women, children, teens and men. Other items needed are razors, hand soap, toothbrushes, and baby wipes and diapers of all sizes. Look for the tub in the narthex to donate your items. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Please keep your eyes open for fall events and have a wonderful summer.

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



**UNIVERSITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH
VBS 2017**

Please let Jen or Heather know if you are able to be a counselor this year. You need to be completed with 7th grade.

Please provide:

Name: _____

Hours you are available: _____

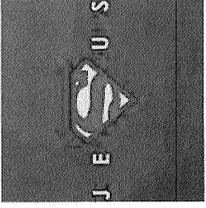
Older kids or preschool preference? Preschool Older

Are you interested in puppeteering? Yes No

T-Shirt size: _____

S M L XL XXL XXXL

 Youth helper orientation is scheduled
 for **Sunday, August 6th from 6:30-
 8:00 p.m.** If you are a youth 7th-12th
 grade and are volunteering to help
 with VBS, it is very important that
 you attend this meeting. We will pass
 out your t-shirts, go over your
 responsibilities for the week, and we
 will be doing some decorating that
 night.



**University
Lutheran Church
VBS 2017**

Parent(s): _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Emergency Contact : _____ Phone: _____ Relationship to student: _____

Food Allergies or Medical/Behavioral issues: _____

Student(s) Enrolling: _____ Grade: _____ Birth date: _____

Name: _____

3 years-Kindergarten: Please submit \$15.00 fees (per child) with registration
 1st-6th grade: Please submit \$20.00 fees (per child) with registration.
 \$35.00 maximum fee per family.

You may also register online: www.universitylutherangf.org

Scholarships are available; speak to Jen when you turn in your form.
 University Lutheran Church
 2122 University Ave.
 Grand Forks, ND 58203
 (701) 775-4745

My child's children's photos/image may be used to promote the activities of University Lutheran Church and may appear in any of their promotional material in printed or electronic form including web sites, or multimedia productions (videos). I understand my child will not be identified in the pictures.
 Signature: _____

Please note your child(ren)'s size for their T-shirt.

Name: _____	Size: _____

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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GRAND FORKS ND 58203-3399

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UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
VBS 2017
AUGUST 7TH - 10TH

Be a HERO to others
by bringing
a small cash offering
each day to benefit children
in need. You will learn how
the first day of VBS!

Join us for music, games and Bible stories that will be age appropriate and entertaining
for your children. VBS is a faith building experience for everyone involved.

3 year olds-Kindergarten: Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

1st-6th grade: Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Pack a lunch!) (Refrigeration and milk provided)

Please note that the grade your child **just completed** is the grade used for VBS.

Please call Jen at the church office at 775-4745 if you have any questions.

Scholarships are available. All children receive a free t-shirt.

Please register online at www.universitylutherangf.org or fill out a form and return it to the church.

It is VERY important that we get your information by July 25th for t-shirt ordering.

Get updates and contact information by liking us at: www.facebook.com/universitylutheranchurch

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

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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