

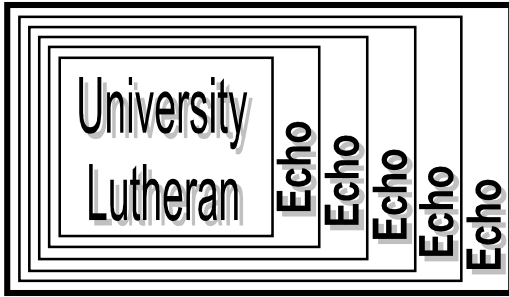
JANUARY 2018

The Echo

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

2122 University Avenue

Grand Forks, North Dakota 58203



ULC Annual Meeting - February 4, 2018



Please join us for the Annual Meeting of University Lutheran Congregation on Sunday, February 4, 2018, 11:30 am, in the fellowship hall. We will hear ministry reports, consider old and new business, have Church Council and other elections, and more. We also will be considering two bylaw changes which are explained below:

Mission Endowment Bylaw Changes

The ULC Mission Endowment Committee determined they would like to have certain minor bylaw changes to be able to receive designated gifts. Right now, all gifts given to the Endowment go into one fund, which is to be spent only on local, state, national, and global mission projects. We have been doing this well for many years, and these bylaw changes would not affect this original purpose for the fund.

However, the committee would like to be able to receive designated funds for specific projects within the congregation, if the giver designates such funds. For example, let's say John Doe would like to make a gift to establish the ULC Youth Ministry Fund, or the ULC Property Ministry Fund. These changes to our bylaws concerning the Endowment would make sure we are able to receive and manage such a gift, if the Church Council and the Endowment Committee thought such a fund would be appropriate.

Here are the bylaw changes:

(If you would like to see the whole constitution, please contact the church office)

First, Page 5 of 22 of the Bylaws currently reads (a. 4.)

For any other purpose, if approved by the members of the Committee, except that the funds are not to be used for ordinary operating expenses of the Congregation.

If passed, it would be changed to:

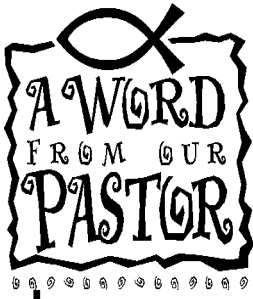
For any other purpose, if approved by the members of the Committee, except such funds are not to be used for ordinary operating expenses of the Congregation, unless a separate written designated endowment contract is executed by the Committee and the endowment grantor, specifically setting forth the purpose, intended use and distribution of the specified and designated endowment funds to be accepted by the committee.

Second, Page 6 of 22 of the Bylaws currently reads (h.)

To accept undesignated gifts received by the Congregation, such as, but not limited to, bequests, life insurance proceeds and remainders from life income agreements.

If passed, it would be changed to:

To accept undesignated and designated gifts received by the Congregation, such as, but not limited to, bequests, life insurance proceeds and remainders from life income agreements.



I have had several conversations lately about the word "nice". It is interesting how one little word can be the source of controversy. Does this word describe a truly kind person, or is a "nice" person in some way faking kindness, even using their "niceness" to hide other feelings or shortcomings? The word "nice" is an adjective, of course, used to describe something or someone. I will admit to you from the beginning, I am on the positive side of this controversy, so I understand that a "nice" person is pleasant, agreeable, but more than that, he or she is polite and kind. So, there is my humble opinion!

One thing is for sure, I know "nice" when I see it. I was shopping at the mall one Monday afternoon in December. It was close to Christmas, so the place was busy with last minute shopping, and people were rushing in and out of stores. It was then I saw what must have been a very busy man moving fast and winding his way through the pedestrian traffic. I don't think he realized it, but he bumped into a woman and spilled her coffee. Somehow, she managed to not drop the cup, but in the process of juggling it, the coffee spilled on her shirt and inside one of her shopping bags, which were now on the floor.

I was going to help her, but another man who was closer stopped immediately, helped her pick up her bags, and asked if he could hold her coffee while she brushed herself off. The whole exchange between this woman, upset by what had happened, and this man, who kindly offered his help, lasted not more than a minute. But when I finally passed by and went back to my own busyness, I remember what I said to myself, "What a nice man!" So, was he faking his "niceness"? She was a very pretty woman, so that is possible. Still, it looked to me like his motive was simply to help someone.

Contrast this to a story I heard on the news in December. A so-called Christian pastor was accosting families who were visiting Santa in a mall with his version of Christianity. He was telling the children that Santa was not real, that it was their parents who bought them their Santa gifts, and that the only reason for Christmas was to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Not only was this guy not "nice", but he was a jerk, and his insensitive and uncompassionate actions make me wonder how he can be a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, who blessed children and became angry at those who sought to harm them.

Maybe this man is "nicer" in other aspects of his life, but clearly in this instant, even if he was right about the true meaning of Christmas, his inept proclamation of the Gospel was at the very least not "nice". And from my perspective this man, while he very poorly represented Jesus, he very accurately represented a major problem in our American culture right now. We are not very "nice" to each other. We have grown accustomed to beating each other up with our opinions. It has become fair game to hurt those who think, act, and look differently than us. What on earth is happening?

No one group of people is to blame. I see every political party, every social group, every race and every religion, willing to do whatever it takes to win. If someone is hurt in the process, it no longer matters, as long as the desired result is achieved. So again, in my humble opinion, I think we need a good dose of "nice" in our nation. Now, you may disagree with me, and please do! However, if you do disagree with me, I hope you will still be "nice" to me. And I also hope even if you dislike the word, "nice", that you will still endeavor to be pleasant, agreeable, polite, and kind. I think these words are still ok.



As followers of Jesus, our posture in the world should always be that of servant. When I see Jesus in my mind, I see him bent over washing his disciples' feet, and that includes ours. When I see Jesus in my mind, I see him dying on a cross to save people from sin, evil, and death, and that includes us. It is safe to say that Jesus was much more than "nice" to us, because he was serving us in extraordinary ways that in the end save us, body and spirit, in every way. Perhaps it is not possible for us to serve one another with such amazing results, but we are still called by Jesus to serve.

Some may wish to point out that Jesus was not always "nice". He did argue with people, he did push tables over in the temple, telling people they were misusing God's house of prayer. However, even if he was a little tough on some people in his life and ministry, he also served them, he died for them, and I bet he even desired to be "nice" to them. At any rate, it is my goal in 2018 to serve people as Jesus did. Will you join me? I wonder how we can wash other people's feet. I wonder if we can be pleasant, agreeable, polite, and kind to them. Maybe we can even be "nice"!

You are in my prayers,

ULC Lenten Devotion Book



Lent? Didn't we just celebrate Christmas? Well, of course, we did! However, Lent does begin early this year. Ash Wednesday is February 14. Yes, it is also true that February 14 is Valentine's Day. Uffda, all these holidays must be on some sort of collision course. At any rate, we need to talk about our ULC Lenten Devotion Book.

We need writers! If you have a faith experience, a reflection on a hymn or a Bible verse, a prayer that has been answered, a God sighting in your life, we would love it if you would share it with us. We ask for about 200-250 words (including a Bible verse and a short prayer), and email it to church, or drop it off at the church office. We need about 48 of these writings to cover Lent.

This has been highly popular, so we hope to continue our tradition again this year. If you need someone to help with the writing, please call the church office, and we will connect you with someone who is willing to help you share your experience. We will need all these turned in by Wednesday, January 31.

ULC Discovery Team

ULC is beginning a year of strategic planning! For this reason, we have assembled a strategic planning committee, we are calling it a discovery team, to lead us in this process. The team members are: Kevin Meyer (chair), Bruce Bohlman, Paula Cox, Lara Dando, Bonnie Solberg, Brian Strom, Seanne Voracek, and Pastor Tom.

Please keep these people and this process in your prayers, as we seek to discover our path as a congregation for the next number of years. We met for the first time in December, and have agreed to get started with this process on Thursday, January 11, 2018. Keith Zeh from the Eastern North Dakota Synod Office will also guide us along the way. Finally, this process will also include several opportunities for the congregation to be involved, so there will be events on both Sundays and Wednesdays. We hope and pray that will enjoy being part of the important time of reflection as a congregation.



A Walk with Jesus - Stewardship for 2018



Our stewardship emphasis this year is, "A Walk with Jesus". How is your life, how is your life of stewardship (giving your time, talent, and financial resources), a walk with Jesus? Over the course of three weeks, we will begin to explore this theme.

Here are the weeks and the themes for both Sunday and Wednesday:

- January 21 and 24: Walk
- January 28 and 31: Listen
- February 4 and 7: Give

These dates may also end up being connected to our strategic planning process. Also, an opportunity will be given for making pledges to our shared ministry at ULC on February 4 and 7. We truly thank you for your generous support of ULC year after year!

Feed My Starving Children - The 8th Straight Year!

This is the 8th year in a row that ULC members and friends will be part of the effort in Grand Forks to feed hungry children across the world. Together with other churches, we hope to assemble 400,000 meals for such children. We will be doing this on April 6-8, with the help of "Feed My Starving Children". Here's how we can help:



First, on January 3rd we will begin three months of noisy offerings for FMSC at Sunday and Wednesday worship services. Please bring your loose change or dollar bills with you to worship, as we help to raise the \$88,957 that is necessary to purchase the food that we will pack. \$19,816 of this has been raised already.

Second, we will need many volunteers (2,000!) on April 6-8, to get the food ready. "Feed My Starving Children" ships all the food to us in bulk, and we as a community will get it ready to send overseas. ULC members and friends will be invited to participate in this very exciting effort. All ages will be welcome to volunteer!

Adult Class - Two Short Courses

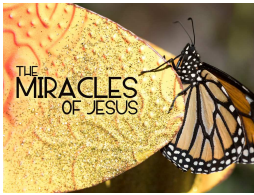
During the month of January, the Sunday Morning Adult Class will enjoy the following two shorter courses:



1. Ken Dawes will teach about "Judaism" on January 7 and 14. This will include a trip to the local synagogue (B'nai Israel) for those who are interested.
2. Greg Vandenberg will teach about "Geography of the Reformation" on January 21 and 28. This is very timely, since we just celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

Please join us for class on Sunday mornings at 8:45 am for coffee, conversation, and of course, for the interesting classes.

Thursday Morning Study - The Miracles of Jesus



After Christmas, we enter the season of Epiphany, which reminds us that in the life and ministry of Jesus, we see the attitudes and actions of God. One of the ways we see the attitudes and actions of God are through the miracles that Jesus showed us. There are several types of miracles, of course, and will look at examples of each one. One thing for sure, Jesus' miracles attracted people's attention, making the crowds that he taught very large, and making it very difficult for Jesus to have any time alone.

Please join us for class on Thursday mornings at 9:30 am for this very exciting look at Jesus' power over nature, illness, demons, and so on.

Calling All Men - God Sightings

This month, we will meet at 8:30 am in the fellowship hall on Saturday, January 20, for breakfast pizza, prayer, conversation, and the topic of Epiphany. Epiphany is the season of the church year that begins January 6 with the coming of the wise men. It is a time where we talk about seeing God in the world. People saw God in the world through the Lord Jesus, and we will talk about the times and places we continue to see God in the world this very day. Where have you seen God at work lately?



Women of the ELCA Bible Study - Multiple Meanings



The Women of the ELCA Bible study in January and February will focus on the multiple meanings of Scripture. We will look at biblical texts and see how these same texts address several different questions, depending on when and where they are read. This is true because the Word of God is a living Word that continues to speak to us in every time in place, oftentimes 2000-3000 years after it was written down. It should be a fascinating opportunity for conversation, as we might all look at one biblical text and learn something different and even new from it. The January class will meet at 10:00 am, January 12, in the lounge.

Education Update - January 2018

WWJ resumes on January 3rd and Sunday Church School on January 7th.

Wednesday meals resume on January 3 at 5:00pm.

Menu for January:

3rd - Hot dogs
10th - Tacos
17th - Chicken patties
24th - Turkey Tidbits
31st - Hot dogs



Confirmation Classes - Grades 7-9



January will be a very busy month for our confirmation classes. Hopefully what follows will be a helpful guide to what is happening:

- ★ January 3 (Wednesday) is a free night – no class.
- ★ January 7 (Sunday) and January 10 (Wednesday) are planning meetings for our January retreat at Red Willow Bible Camp. We will meet at our regularly scheduled times, but we need parents to attend class with the students. So important to this meeting is our contract of behavior while we are away from ULC.
- ★ January 12-14 is our retreat at Red Willow. Letters have already been sent out about this, and you will receive all the rest of the information in class on January 7 and 10. We will leave Friday about 4:30 pm and return Sunday at about 1:00 pm. There is a small fee for each student (\$20). Scholarships are available.
- ★ January 17 is our Citywide Confirmation event at the Chester Fritz. We ask students to be in their seats at the Chester Fritz by 7:00 (sit in the ULC section), and the event will not be done until 8:30 pm. The program that evening is very unique and exciting. We are hosting Jonathan Swenson from Alexandria, MN, with his Paraphrase Theater. This is a ministry which seeks to share the Gospel in new, creative, and dramatic ways. The cost is \$10 per person, though, we cover the cost for students.
- ★ January 21 and 28 (Sundays) and January 24 and 31 (Wednesdays) are simply regular class dates for both our Sunday and Wednesday students.

And ... don't forget to be keeping up on your worship notes!

JANUARY YOUTH NEWS

For surely I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11

Youth are selling God's Creation Calendars and we still have a few available. The cost is \$8 each. If you are interested in purchasing one please talk to Heather or the church office.



DON'T FORGET ! UPCOMING RALPH CLEANINGS:



- ★ Saturday, December 30th 10pm
- ★ Friday, January 5th 10pm (We need A LOT of EXTRA help this night)
- ★ Saturday, January 6th 10pm

* **Please be sure to attend all cleanings.** You should enter through the south student entrance doors and meet right inside. Be sure to check in with Heather. We would WELCOME and ENCOURAGE you to bring family and friends to help with cleaning especially on Friday, January 5th as we are cleaning the upper and lower bowls. If you know someone who needs volunteer hours this would be a great opportunity for them. Please talk to Heather or Pastor Tom with questions. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. Please sign up friends.

Youth will be serving caramel rolls on Sunday, January 21st after worship.
All proceeds will benefit the 2018 National Youth Gathering trip to Houston Texas.



Take Note

- ◆ Church school starts back on Wednesday, January 3rd. No Confirmation this night.
- ◆ Confirmation retreat meetings: Sunday, January 7th and Wednesday, January 10th.
- ◆ Confirmation Retreat: January 12-14
- ◆ City Wide Confirmation: Wednesday, January 17th
- ◆ Youth Serve Rolls: Sunday, January 21st
- ◆ Heather is in Texas for youth gathering training. Monday, January 22-Monday, January 29.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

ULC Friends. As you may already know we have 14 youth and 4 adults attending the National Youth Gathering this summer in Houston, Texas. There they will experience service in the community of Houston, learning, fun, time with our Eastern North Dakota Synod, and worship with 30,000 other Lutheran youth and adults from all over the country.

To attend the gathering we have to raise around \$27,000. We have been given the opportunity to raise these funds by cleaning the Ralph Engelstad Arena after hockey games. We have 3 cleanings, one in December and 2 in January. We will raise \$3,600 for just 3 cleanings. That is great money. Our biggest cleaning is Friday, January 5th at 10pm. We are cleaning the entire upper and lower bowl of the arena on this day.



This is where we are asking for your help. If you are able bodied and willing to help with this cleaning we would be very appreciative. We can use as much help as possible. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex. Please sign up if your are available this day. Thank you for your continued support of the youth at ULC.



WELCA December "Wrap Up"

We had wonderful gathering to ring in the Christmas season on Saturday, December 2nd. Women and their guests enjoyed a tasty brunch, great music from the Central Madrigals and wonderful stories of Christmas pasts from Ken and Marge Dawes, Ken Kuhl, Greg Vandeberg and Paul Nordmark. Inez Tingelstad also played the piano and led us in carols. Heather Kallestad had started us off before breakfast with a beautiful devotion.

On December 17th, we met to vote on officers for 2018 and the annual distribution of WELCA funds to local and regional groups.

The officers for 2018 are:

President: Patty Olsen Vice President: Peggy Klockmann
Secretary: Shelly Meyer Treasurer: Janet Kuhl

A number of women will also continue to serve on our numerous committees. We are always looking for fresh faces if you are looking to volunteer.

The list of agencies and groups receiving donations from WELCA are as follows:

Lutheran Social Services	\$600
Christus Rex	\$500
Northlands Rescue Mission	\$300
Red Willow Bible Camp	\$300
Home Delivered Meals	\$300
Salvation Army Food Shelf	\$300
Feed My Starving Children	\$300
Women of the ELCA	\$300
Salvation Army	\$200
CVIC	\$200
NRM Backpack Program	\$200
Bethesda Society	\$200
Oak Grove High School	\$100
Park River Bible Camp	\$100
VMH Chaplaincy	\$100

Our next WELCA Board meeting is Monday, January 8th at 6 pm.

Happy New Year,
Patty Olsen, WELCA President



Please join the Joy Circle on Sunday, January 21 from 3-4pm in the lounge for fellowship and treats. We cannot wait to gather again with you wonderful ladies. If you need daycare please let us know and we can make arrangements. Hope to see you all there.

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, January 12
10:00 a.m. in the lounge.
Led by Pastor Tom.

All women and friends of ULC are encouraged to attend.

Naomi/Rachel Circle

11:00am Friday, January 12
at the church

Mary/Martha Circle

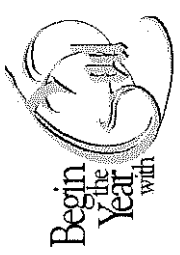

9:30am Wednesday, January 17

Joy Circle

3:00pm Sunday, January 21
at the church



January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed</p>	<p>2 Church Office Closed 6:30 Quilting</p>	<p>3 11:00 ND TOPS #163 5:00 Supper – Hot dogs 6:00 WORSHIP/WWJ 7:30 Chapel Choir 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>4 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Quilting</p>	<p>5 10:00pm Clean REA</p>	<p>6 10:00pm Clean REA</p>	
<p>7 8:45 Sunday School/Adult Class Grade 7-9 Confirmation 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Fellowship 4:00 Boy Scouts 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>8 6:00 WELCA Board 7:00 Game Fellowship 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>9 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:30 Pastors' Text Study 6:00 Tupperware Event 6:30 Quilting</p>	<p>10 11:00 ND TOPS #163 5:00 Supper – Tacos 6:00 WORSHIP/WWJ 7:00 Grades 7-9 Confirmation 7:30 Chapel Choir 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>11 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Quilting 7:00 Discovery Team</p>	<p>12 10:00 WELCA Bible Study 11:00 Naomi Rachel Circle 4:30 Confirmation Retreat at Red Willow (Bus leaves ULC)</p>	<p>13 Confirmation Retreat at Red Willow</p>
<p>14 8:45 Sunday School/Adult Class Grade 7-9 Confirmation 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Fellowship 1:00 Confirmation Retreat at Red Willow (Bus returns to ULC) 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>15 7:00 Game Fellowship 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>16 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:30 Pastors' Text Study 6:30 Quilting</p>	<p>17 9:30 Mary Martha Circle 11:00 ND TOPS #163 5:00 Supper – Chicken paty 6:00 WORSHIP/WWJ 7:00 Citywide Confirmation 7:30 Chapel Choir 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>18 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Quilting</p>	<p>19 Annual Report Items Due</p>	<p>20 8:30 Calling All Men 10:00 Now the Feast: Rehearsal</p>
<p>21 8:45 Sunday School/Adult Class Grade 7-9 Confirmation 10:00 WORSHIP – Now the Feast 11:00 Fellowship – Youth Serve Rolls 3:00 Joy Circle 4:00 Boy Scouts 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>22 7:00 Game Fellowship 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>23 Newsletter Items Due 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:30 Pastors' Text Study 5:30 Worship Ministry 6:30 Quilting 7:00 Church Council</p>	<p>24 11:00 ND TOPS #163 5:00 Supper – Turkey tidbits 6:00 WORSHIP/WWJ 7:00 Grades 7-9 Confirmation 7:30 Chapel Choir 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>25 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Quilting</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 8:45 Sunday School/Adult Class Grade 7-9 Confirmation 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Fellowship 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>29 7:00 Game Fellowship 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>30 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:30 Pastors' Text Study 6:30 Quilting</p>	<p>31 11:00 ND TOPS #163 5:00 Supper – Hot dogs 6:00 WORSHIP/WWJ 7:00 Grades 7-9 Confirmation 7:30 Chapel Choir 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>Sunday, February 4 ULC Annual Meeting 11:30 a.m.</p> 		

**UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2122 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
GRAND FORKS ND 58203-3399**

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Please join us for worship.

WORSHIP & CLASS SCHEDULE

Sunday Mornings

Sunday School & Adult Class 8:45am
Grades 7-9 Confirmation 8:45am
Worship 10:00am
Fellowship 11:00am

Wednesday With Jesus

Supper 5:00 p.m.
Worship & WWJ 6:00 p.m.
Grades 7-9 Confirmation 7:00pm
Chapel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm

WWJ and Church School Resumes

Wednesday, January 3 6:00pm
Sunday, January 7 8:45am

REA CLEANINGS

Friday, January 5th 10pm
(We need A LOT of EXTRA help this night)
Saturday, January 6th 10pm

**CONFIRMATION RETREAT
GRADES 7-9**

January 12-14
at Red Willow Bible Camp

CITY WIDE CONFIRMATION

Wednesday, January 17th at 7:00pm
at the Chester Fritz

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
Choir Director: KariJo O'Keefe
Custodians: Harold Stoller
Stephen Ministry Leaders:
Bonnie Peterson, Wayde Anderson
Evelyn Clark, Jane Traub

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