

# May 2024 The Echo

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

Recently, there has been a cardinal singing in our yard. He has been singing near the top of the neighbor's tree which hangs directly over our backyard, as well as near the top of the tree on the berm in our front yard. In fact, he is out there this morning singing between rains at the top of his lungs, or so it seems. In other words, his singing is very loud and distinct. There's no doubt who he is: He is a cardinal, and he is beautiful too. He is bright cardinal red, has that unmistakable pointy red crest, and that mysterious black facial mask. Surely God had a ton of fun when he created this amazing bird.

I find myself asking, what in the world is he singing about day after day after day? I talked to him the other morning and advised him that if he is looking for a mate, he might want to try another tree. The two trees over our yard didn't seem to be working. (Yes, I talk to birds.) Then I wondered, well, maybe he has a mate, and she has laid eggs, and he is excited about the prospect of a new family. Or maybe he is like me, and he just likes to sing. I sing all the time, and whistle too. You can ask Margo about this. She has had to put up with my singing and whistling for nearly 39 years.

Finally, I thought that maybe this cardinal was simply singing to the Lord. Even though there is conflict and war in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, even though there are scary protests and political infighting in our country, even though we and the people we love may be going through great challenges in our lives, there is still much to sing about to the Lord. Maybe the cardinal in all his glory is unaware of all the sadness and struggle in our world, or maybe in his own way he is familiar with all the sadness and struggle in our world, and he is at the same time familiar with the sentiment in Psalm 96.

Psalm 96 says, "O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples." I choose to believe my little cardinal friend is doing this. In this way, he and I are kindred spirits. While we can see the sadness and struggle in our world, we can also see the Lord present too. With eyes of faith, we can see the risen Lord present as the Savior of this truly wonderful world he helped the Father create, and this makes us want to sing.



For example, Jen and Todd's wedding makes me want to sing to the Lord. The happiness and joy in our sanctuary on April 27 is our way of telling cancer that while it can hurt us, it can't take away the true joy we find in our God and in the people we love. As Todd expressed to me, "I have never been so happy and at ease in my life. God stepped in." To see Jen so faithfully care for Todd, to hear Todd so gratefully express his thanks for Jen and others who have supported him, and with eyes of faith to see the risen Lord present in the midst of all this, healing, saving, and loving, makes me want to sing.

Later that day, a second group of people from ULC joined the whole Christian community in packing food for Feed My Starving Children. I had the pleasure of scooping rice with John Neal. We worked pretty hard and fast for two old guys! As we finished packing, we learned that in just two days our community had packed 326,592 meals which would feed 894 children for one year. This makes me want to head out to the front yard right now to join my cardinal friend. That might look crazy to my neighbors and my wife, but to see Christians working together toward such a noble end, makes me want to sing.

I am not unaware of brain cancer, deaths at Altru Hospital, protests on US college campuses, bombs being dropped in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, and so on. There is indeed much struggle in this world and in all our lives. Yet, I'll say it again, in the midst of all this I see Jesus. I see Jesus not dead in a tomb, but quite alive and fully present to help you, love you, heal you, and save you. Jesus is a risen Lord who died and rose because he loves this crazy and broken world. Sometimes I don't know why he does, but at the same time I am so glad. So, I invite you to join the cardinal and me, and sing.

You are in my prayers, Astrony

# **Worship in May**

# Mother's Day Worship - Sunday, May 12

Please join us for worship on Mother's Day! The day will include some extras to make it a special day for our moms – including youth assisting with worship, a gift for moms as well as all adult women in attendance, and finally brunch after the worship service. The menu for brunch is chicken salad croissant, fruit, and dessert. The cost is simply a free will

offering with all proceeds going toward Community Violence Intervention Center (CVIC).



# The Day of Pentecost - May 19

The Day of Pentecost is the day we celebrate God's Holy Spirit. Please join us at worship for this celebration of the birthday of the Christian Church through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is a red Sunday in the church year, so Pastor Tom will wear his red stole. In addition to this, we will have red flowers, and we invite you to wear red as well.

# **Memorial Day Sunday - May 26**

Holy Trinity Sunday and Memorial Day fall on the same weekend this year. We will likely sing "Holy, Holy" as well as "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory". There will also be a time to light candles to remember those who have served our country through the armed forces.





#### **Mission of the Month**

Our Noisy offerings for May will go toward the Community Violence Intervention Center (CVIC). CVIC has a long history in Grand Forks of responding to sexual assault, abuse and violence in the home, and the many other shapes violence takes in our community. All money collected through our noisy offering cans (coins, dollars and checks) will go toward CVIC.

# **Wednesday Worship Hiatus**

Our last WWJ class for this year will be May 15. After that we will have a 2 week break from Wednesday worship. In other words, there is no Wednesday worship on May 22 and 29.

# **Graduation Recognition Sunday - June 2**

This is our day to recognize our graduating High School Seniors. Senior class, please join us for worship before your graduation service. There will be a special gift for you, as well as a cake reception in your honor. It is also our intention to announce the recipients of our Paul and Bonnie Cox scholarships that day. Also, will you please give us a copy of your senior picture, and tell us what you plan to do in the fall of 2024, for our slide presentation?





# **Summer Wednesday Worship – Picnic and Praise -June 5**

Summer Wednesday Worship will begin in June. We will picnic (indoors) at 5:00pm, and praise God through worship at 6:00pm. During the 4 weeks of June, we will worship with Holden Evening Prayer as our liturgy, and a sermon series on the Holy Spirit. Come to learn about the presence of the Holy Spirit, the gifts and fruits of the Spirit, and the call of the Holy Spirit.

# **Mission Endowment Meeting**

The next meeting of the ULC Mission Endowment is Tuesday, May 7, 5:30pm, in the fellowship hall. Our time for accepting grant requests has passed for this spring meeting, but please feel free to submit a request anyway for future grant consideration.





# **Visitation Team**

Please join us Tuesday, May 7, 6:30pm, in the narthex to write and send cards for homebound, nursing home and other people. This has been a great way for us to reach out to people in our congregation. We welcome anyone who would like to write cards.

# **Chapel Choir**

Chapel Choir is wrapping up for this season until next fall. We have one more rehearsal on May 1, and then we will sing Wednesday, May 8 and Sunday, May 12. We thank our director, Mary Splichal, for both the fun and meaningful music we have sung this year.



#### **Main Floor Remodel**

The final order has been placed and we are waiting for our fellowship hall acoustic panels to arrive and be installed. We expect this to be wrapped up in June. We hope you like what you see with the carpet, paint, tile, and wallpaper. It has been quite the project.

# **Picture Directory**

We are looking for pictures of congregational events. We hope to upload activity pictures into our ULC picture directory so that we can complete this project too. If you have such pictures in a digital format, would you please call the church office. Thank you!

If you are not in the church directory yet and you would like to be, please contact Pastor Tom, Seanne, or Jen as soon as possible, and we will try to set up a picture taking event soon. We'd like to do one more session before the directory is considered complete.

# **Wheels to Worship**



The church council has just agreed on a design for our ULC Van. The custom lettering will be done sometime in the next couple of weeks. "Wheels to Worship" will be on it, "University Lutheran Church" will be on it, and so will our logo and mission statement.

If you are thinking you might be interested in getting rides to worship in our van, please call the church office so we can begin to imagine a schedule. We are using the van for other reasons, but we hope to use it on Sundays and Wednesdays for worship as well.

# **Financial Update**

In the month of March, our general fund balance dropped to -8,615 in the general fund. We are looking for our offerings in April/May to help improve our position. Please look for our annual summer stewardship mailing as well. This offering often gives us a needed boost.



# **ULC Adult Education in May**



# **Sunday Adult Class**

Sunday Adult class is winding up for the 2023-24 Church School year. Pastor Gary Graff will be completing his class, "Mark and its Historical Context" on May 12.

# **Thursday Morning Bible Study**

We are completing our class on First John, "So That You May Have Eternal Life" on Thursday, May 9. There will be no class for the rest of May.



# Women of the ELCA Bible Study

# "Compassionate Companions: Congregations can play a role in mental health ministry"

As long as humans have existed, there has been mental illness. By some estimates, as many as 20% of all adults live with a mental health issue. In biblical times, mental illness was often misunderstood and thought to be caused by demonic possession. In modern times, we have learned much more about brain chemistry. Although the stigma around mental illnesses has decreased, we still have a long way to go, and our faith communities can help. Looking particularly at biblical people and passages that relate to living with mental illness, this study reminds us of Jesus' compassionate care for those who struggle. Together, we'll learn how congregations can become "stigma-free" zones, welcome and support those with mental health issues and their loved ones and provide opportunities for all ages to learn more about a topic that affects us all. Please join us on Friday, May 10, 10:00am in the lounge.

# **Calling All Men**

# "King David and Bathsheba"

In perhaps one of the most well-known sins in the Bible, King David watches Bathsheba bathe one morning from the rooftop of his castle. He summons her to the castle and ignores what we number as the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment – "You shall not commit adultery." Join us as we see how human sin is destructive and hurtful even beyond the original sin, and at the same time how merciful Almighty God is when we confess our sin, admit our broken condition, and acknowledge our ultimate need for God in this life. We will read from 2 Samuel 11-12 and Psalm 51. We will likely take two months on this important lesson. Please join us on Saturday, May 18, for breakfast pizza, conversation, and this fascinating Bible study.



# **Lent and Easter Sunday Numbers**

We had a very nice Lent and Easter again this year. Our Wednesday theme "Colors of Our Faith" and Sunday theme "Lift High the Cross" were well received. Our attendance at worship was even a little better than last year. The first number is 2023 and the second is 2024:

Ash Wednesday	173/215	Sunday Lent 1	86/94
Wednesday 2	133/159	Sunday Lent 2	117/104
Wednesday 3	118/166	Sunday Lent 3	Cancelled/104
Wednesday 4	115/174	Sunday Lent 4	91/92
Wednesday 5	142/164	Sunday Lent 5	91/98
Wednesday 6	156/179	Palm Sunday	144/147
Maundy Thursday	121/119	Easter Sunday 8am	164/142
Good Friday	88/96	Easter Sunday 10am	194/231



The last day of Sunday School is May 12th.

The last day of WWJ is May 15th.

# **Wednesday Meals**

May 1: Chicken Patty

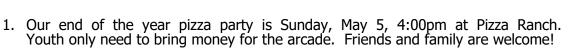
May 8: Hot Dogs

May 15: Cheeseburger Sliders

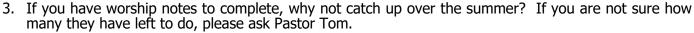


# **Confirmation**

Our confirmation classes for 2023-24 are nearly complete! We are making a few schedule adjustments, shortening the year a bit. Our last Wednesday class will be May 1, and our last Sunday class will be May 5. Here are a few other important notes:



2. Please turn in your mentor folders when you and your mentor have completed this year's assignment. It is OK if you are still working at it!



Confirmation Sunday 2024 for our current 9<sup>th</sup> grade class is Sunday, October 27. Please check with Pastor Tom if you are unsure if you have completed all your requirements.



# **New Members**

We had New Member event on April 28, and the following people became the newest members of our ULC family. We welcome:

Beverly Clemens
JoAnn Connell
Todd Cummings
Dave and Shirley Kiefel

Sofi Morales

Annociata Niyonsaba, Melize, Ariana, Emilie

Treasure Omdahl
Gary and Carol Vigen

# **First Communion Class**

We had a 5-week class on Holy Communion for our fifth graders. Each one of them completed the class and participated in First Communion on Maundy Thursday:

Hope Benjamin, Carter Jacobson, Ella Jones, Judge Lassonde Aria Pedersen, Myah Massie, Gavin Wangen





# Sponsor-a-Youth or Sponsor-an-Adult Chaperone to New Orleans

We have 17 youth and 4 adults heading to New Orleans this summer for the ELCA National Youth Gathering. We are looking for people to serve as their sponsors. What does this involve?

- ★ You will be prayer partners. Please pray for them between now and the youth gathering in July, and they will be instructed to pray for you.
- ★ Your name, along with your youth will be publicized on our youth board and in the Echo so the congregation will be able to pray for you and whoever you are sponsoring.
- ★ We will bring pieces of our youth gathering back for you. This is a fun and mysterious part of this relationship we will bring back some of what we experience for you.
- ★ We will have a post youth gathering event, and you will have a special place at that event as people who made extra effort to help us to get there.

The cost to be a youth sponsor is \$100. You can split this up and two people can sponsor one person, or you can choose to sponsor one person yourself. All these funds will be used simply to help us raise money to make this adventure possible. Thank you for considering helping us. If you sponsor someone you do not know, we will make sure and introduce you to them!

# **Youth Gathering Rummage Sale**

We are having our first rummage sale at ULC since 2019. On Saturday, May 4, from 8:00am to 3:00pm, we will be open for business with all kinds of items for the community to purchase. We will also have an early bird special from 7:00 to 8:00am. People can get into the rummage sale early for \$3. All proceeds raised will go toward the youth gathering.

# **Youth Gathering Meeting**

Our next youth gathering meeting is Sunday, May 19, at 6:30pm. At this meeting, we will assess our financial situation. There is also have a ton of information to communicate with you about the gathering itself. It would be best if every family could be represented at this meeting. If not, I will try to have as much in writing as possible, so you can stop by later.



# **Feed My Starving Children**

Thank you to Patty Olsen for leading us in our efforts for Feed My Starving Children this year. Thank you to everyone at ULC who contributed money, and to the two groups of ULC members and friends who packed food on Saturday, April 27. The results are amazing:

During the course of the weekend, we packed 326,592 meals. That is 1,512 boxes of food to be sent likely to Haiti to feed hungry, malnourished, and starving children there. In fact, we packed enough food for 894 children to eat for one year. Praise the Lord!

This is an amazing Christian movement to feed children across the globe. We are just one small part of it, but all together we make a huge difference in our world. It is refreshing for the people of God to come together for such a positive effort and ministry.

ULC sent \$3,000 from our Mission Endowment, and our Mission of the Month efforts (Noisy offering and other gifts) totaled \$1,947.54. We also purchased Hugo's coupon books and received a free will offering for Patty and Doug's chocolate chip cookies.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Thanks for your generosity.



#### May WELCA News

What a wonderful day we had for the salad luncheon! Good food, great help and a great turnout! Thank you to all who donated to the raffle, brought salads and desserts for the luncheon, and gave their time for this event. We raised \$3,909.75.

Luncheon - \$1390, Cards/Napkins - 429.75, Bake Sale - \$750, Raffle - \$865, Quilts - \$370, Donations - \$105

Our next event is a celebration of moms on Saturday, May 11, 2-4pm in the fellowship hall. The invitation is below and an RSVP is requested. The event is free to all, and includes a program and light lunch.

We will be starting our push for the Rhubarb Festival as well!

**Please note the date change to June 15th.** Please join us in preparing for this fun and tasty festival. Watch the bulletins for dates for baking pies and other prep days. What a great way to start our summer.

Our next WELCA board meeting is Monday, May 6 at 6:00pm. All women are welcome to attend.

Debbie Watts, WELCA Co-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.

#### Sundays

May 5

Greeter/Ushers Dean & Janine Groseth

Debbie Watts Lector

Communion Preparers Justine & Lucas Yutrzenka

Communion Servers Evelyn Clark

Kevin & Samantha Carlson Inez Tingelstad, Inez Drake

Fellowship

May 12 Greeter/Ushers Davian Zeidlik & George Scott

Lara Dando Lector

Communion Preparers Ragna Hanson, Carrie Hanson

Communion Servers Carrie Hanson

Lara Dando & Greg Vandeberg

Fellowship Mother's Day Brunch

May 19

Ushers Cliff & Dee Crawford

Lector Patty Olsen

Tracy & Lauri Shimpa Martha Haug Communion Preparers

Communion Servers

Doug & Patty Olsen

Fellowship Sharon Pederson, Sandy Norby

May 26

Ushers Judy & Lee Larson

Kevin Meyer Lector

Communion Preparers Martha Haug, Davian Zejdlik

Communion Server Kevin Meyer

Gary & Genny Olson Fellowship

June 2

Greeter/Ushers Kevin & Jeanette Wixo

Mandy Wixo

Anna Irion Lector

Communion Preparers Darrel Iverson, Wayne Larson

Communion Server Anna Irion

Fellowship Graduation Reception

June 9

Greeter/Ushers Dave & Bonnie Solberg

Greg Vandeberg Lector Communion Preparers Jamie & Becky Boe Communion Server Greg Vandeberg

Fellowship Randy & Brenda Hanson

Elainé Bye

June 16

Doug & Patty Olsen Ushers Pauline Lileng Lector Communion Preparers Dave & Judy Senne Communion Server Pauline Lileng **Fellowship** Father's Day Brunch

June 23

Dave & Judy Senne Ushers Lector Sandy Norby Judy & Lee Larson Communion Preparers Communion Server Sandy Norby

Wayne & Peggy Burlog Fellowship

June 30

Judy & Dave Westerman Ushers

Lector Curt Hanson

Communion Preparers Dean & Janine Groseth

Communion Server Curt Hanson

Fellowship Patti & Ernie Patry

#### Wednesdays

May 1

Greeter/Ushers Cindy Strom, LeAnn Barendt

Lector Paula Cox

Communion Preparers Gary & Linda Graff Gary & Linda Graff Communion Servers

May 8

Greeter/Ushers Jessi Saylor

Jennifer Frederikson

Christy Inglis

Kevin & Shelly Meyer Communion Preparers Evelyn Clark, Christy Inglis Communion Servers

May 15

Greeter/Ushers Mike & Katie Hess Lector

Alyssa Denman

Communion Preparers Dán Melberg, John Neal

Communion Servers Christine Rydland, Cindy Strom

#### May 22 & 29 No Worship

#### Summer Worship

June 5

Greeter/Ushers Cindy Strom, Isaac Strom Carol Grochowski Lector Communion Preparers Tracy & Lauri Shimpa

June 12

Greeter/Ushers Jim & Julie Van Eps Carl Iseminger Lector

Communion Preparers Dan Melberg, Kevin Meyer

June 19

Greeter/Ushers Angie Thomasson

Brad Gunderson

Lector Garth Rydland

Communion Preparers Gary & Linda Graff

June 26

Greeter/Ushers Don Roberts

Delanie Hirschmann

Lector LeAnn Barendt

Communion Preparers LeAnn Barendt, Cindy Strom



# University Lutheran Church Council Meeting - April 16, 2024

Present: LeAnn Barendt, Peggy Burlog, Pastor Tom Colenso, Jay Farmer, Jennifer Frederikson, Brad Gunderson, Curt Hanson, Katie Hess, Dan Melberg, Kevin Meyer, Jessi Saylor, Matt Solberg



Devotions were read from the new devotional series from the Synod; Genesis 4 (Cain and Abel)

Minutes from 12 March 2024. Approved.

Treasurer's Report for March 2024. Approved.

#### Pastor's Report

- Strong attendance numbers in Lent on both Wednesdays and Sundays.
- Purchased a new, commercial vacuum. New carpet has been tough on the old vacuums.
- Summer lawn care will be done by Casey Farmer while Todd is unavailable
- Youth meatball supper and basket raffle raised \$3,100.
- July 13-22 are the dates when the youth will be gone at the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans
- Letter from the Eastern North Dakota Synod requesting an increase in mission support to the Synod. Suggested amount was 5%. This would be an increase of \$1,000 over the year. Motion to take funding from Miscellaneous Memorial fund. Approved.

#### **Old Business**

- 1. Main Floor Remodel
  - o Acoustic panels are on order and likely to be installed in June.
  - o Question of what pictures and paintings that should go back on walls.
  - o Flood lights will be installed yet in the narthex
- 2. ULC Van
  - o Consensus of council was a combination of examples 1 and 4: the ULC logo along with "University Lutheran Church Grand Forks, ND" in the back.
  - o New mock-ups will be discussed via e-mail and possibly at the next meeting.
- 3. Grand Forks Classical Conversations
  - o Was mentioned in the ULC newsletter.
  - o Quilters should not be affected, as larger activity by Grand Forks Classical Conversations would be in the morning.
  - o August 2024 through April 2025 (likely schedule).
  - o Motion to accept to enter into year long association with GFCC on Tuesdays. Approved.

#### **New Business**

Summer Bible Camp Scholarships. 5-8 graders. Will be revisited in May when additional details and possible campers will be known.

#### **Ministry Reports**

Education: No report.

Property: Should we remove/change the water fountain in the fellowship hall?

Who can do parking lot striping?

Downstairs window covered with plywood. Matt will get a masonry quote for it.

Need for rugs for the doors? Motion to purchase and/or rent rugs for all entry doors (4). Approved.

Worship: The committee met this evening.

Mission Endowment: Will meet on Tuesday, May 7.

WELCA: Spring Salad Luncheon is this Saturday (April 20).

A mother/daughter event will occur near Mother's Day. Rhubarb Festival will be June 15.

Men's Group: Meeting coming up before the Salad Luncheon.

Next meeting will be at 7pm on Tuesday, May 21, 2024.





6:00 WELCA Board Meeting 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Game Fellowship 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous 6:30 Visitation Team
6:30 Game Fellowship 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous
6:30 Game Fellowship 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Al-Anon 5:30 Quilters 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous 5:30 Worship Ministry 7:00 Church Council
27 Memorial Day 28 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

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

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#### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

# SUNDAY WORSHIP & EDUCATION

8:45am Adult Class (May 5, 12) 9:00am Church School (May 5, 12) 9:00am Confirmation (May 5)

10:00am WORSHIP 11:00am Fellowship

#### **WEDNESDAY WORSHIP & WWJ**

5:00pm Supper

6:00pm WORSHIP (May 1, 8, 15)

WWJ (May 1, 8, 15)

7:00pm Confirmation (May 1) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (May 1)

#### **Wednesday Worship Break**

No Supper or Worship on May 22 and 29 Summer Worship begins June 5



## **YOUTH Rummage Sale**

Saturday, May 4 8:00am-3:00pm

# **End-of Year Confirmation Pizza Party@ Pizza Ranch**

Sunday, May 5 4:00pm

#### **WELCA Bible Study**

Friday, May 10 10:00am

### **Mother-Daughter-Friend Social**

Saturday, May 11 2:00pm

#### Calling All Men

Saturday, May 18 8:30am

# **Youth Gathering Meeting**

Sunday, May 19 6:30pm

See inside for much more!

ULC STAFF

Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation Missionaries: Willie and Anne Langdji

Pastor: Thomas W. Colenso

Education Coordinator: Jen Wolf Cummings Administrative Assistant: Seanne Voracek

Custodian: Harold Stoller

Choir Director: Mary Splichal

Organists: Lauri Shimpa and Jane Traub

Stephen Ministry Leaders:

Evelyn Clark, Wayde Anderson,

Jane Traub

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