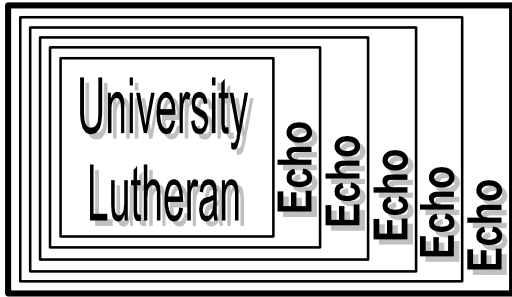


June 2025



The Echo

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

2122 University Avenue

Grand Forks, North Dakota 58203

A bird died in our backyard last week. It was a chipping sparrow, which I easily identified by its characteristic bright chestnut crown, white eyebrow, narrow black eyeline, black beak, and light gray underparts. It was a small, but full-grown bird, about 5 inches tall. Whether or not it was a female or male was not apparent to me. I think they are one of the prettiest sparrows because of their sharp color contrasts. I have not seen too many chipping sparrows in our backyard until this year. They seemed to have moved into the area in large numbers, which has made it fun for me to watch a new bird.

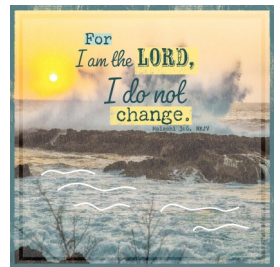
I was sitting in our kitchen when I heard a loud thud. It was not an unfamiliar noise, since this was not the first bird to crash into one of the tall windows on our porch. Usually, they stumble around for a while and fly away. I watched this one out the window and it was not moving at all. After fifteen minutes or so had passed, I went to check on the bird myself. It was most certainly dead. I then wondered if his or her mate had seen what had happened, and if there were baby birds who just lost a parent. Maybe you think its silly for me to wonder about such things, but it's just how my pastor brain works.

Within minutes I was back to whatever I was doing, but my thoughts were on the bird and the brevity and sometimes tragedy of life. How strange to think of how this bird probably had just finished a tasty meal at our bird feeder, took off, did not see that our window was a solid surface, and it perished. Life is like that in the human world too. A dad is driving home from work, and he is in a car accident. A child goes to a doctor's appointment because he hasn't been feeling well and is diagnosed with a terrible disease. An older woman has surgery to repair her heart and never awakens to see her family.

In other words, as a friend of mine used to say, "Life can change on a dime." That was his way of saying that one moment can be happy and good, only to be quickly followed by some kind of hardship that changes everything. For example, I was counseling someone the other day. There had been no death in the family, but there were unexpected relationship struggles that had suddenly surfaced and ended all meaningful communication. It happened so fast, this person was still reeling from it. There was no explanation as to what was wrong, so all that was left for the short run is what we call a broken heart.

Some people would say this is why we need to enjoy the moment. When our health is good, when our families are intact, when our days are happy, we need to appreciate what we have at that time. I think this is true. For instance, when we are with our children and grandchildren, we certainly experience some amazing God-given joyful moments. From where I sit, what is more joyful than giving piggyback and horsey rides to excited grandchildren who are 2, 3, and 5 years old. What is more joyful than holding a recently born beautiful granddaughter who has just entered God's world and our lives.

These are indeed moments we ought to enjoy, even treasure. However, in the midst of a life that can so rapidly change, we still need something more. We need something or someone who does not change and is always there for us. This is the place of God, our Lord Jesus Christ. While it is possible for everything else to change in our lives, God's presence in our lives and God's love for us as children of God never changes. So, when those terrible moments come our way, and we are shaken by whatever happened, we can count on the Lord to be there as promised, to help us, hold us, and keep us safe.



How do we get here from a bird dying in our backyard? I am certain none of us will be flying into a porch window anytime soon! However, the sudden change in this bird's life is a good reason for us to pause and appreciate what is good in our lives at this moment. At the same time, we know life can change so fast, that today is always a good day to say a prayer and thank God for always being there for us. It's a good day to consider how much God loves us, and to be aware how close God is to us even in those hardest moments where we might feel alone. The truth is, thanks be to God, we never are alone.

You are in my prayers,

Pastor Dan



ULC Worship in June

Sunday at 10:00am & Wednesday at 6:00pm

Graduate Recognition and Blessing Sunday – June 1

High school graduation weekend is here. We sure hope you will join us for worship, as well as our graduation celebration. On this day, we will celebrate ULC high school graduates with a slide presentation, special gifts, and a cupcake and punch reception. We will also enjoy awarding our Paul and Bonnie Cox Education Scholarships for 2025.



Here are our graduating seniors:

Addyson Arens – East Grand Forks
Regan Carnevale – East Grand Forks
Aspen Coss – Red River
Aidan Fiala – Grand Forks Central
Kambelle Freije – Crookston
Preslie Gierszewski – Red River
Maddy Hess – Red River
Carter Inglis – Thompson

Ethan Johnson – Grand Forks Central
Caden Kuhl – Grand Forks Central
Adam Lindblad – Community
Emmett Lunsetter – Warren-Alvarado-Oslo
Karter Peterson – Thompson
Keely Riendeau – East Grand Forks
Evan Saylor – Red River
Ellery White – Red River

Picnic and Praise Worship – Begins June 4



Summer Wednesday worship begins June 4. Please join us for supper (Picnic) at 5:00pm and worship (Praise) at 6:00pm. Worship in June includes a four-part sermon series on the prophet Jonah called, "Amazing Grace". Here are the tentative subjects of each sermon:

Week 1: Understanding God As A Globalist
Week 2: Saved By a Huge Fish Named Grace
Week 3: Just Maybe I Can Change God's Mind
Week 4: God's Confounding, Amazing Grace

The Day of Pentecost – June 8

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. Together we will discover that we have the Holy Spirit in us too. This is a red Sunday in the church year, so we will have red flowers, and we invite you to wear red as well.



Father's Day Worship – June 15

Please join us for worship on Father's Day! The day will include a "Father's Day Litany of Thanks", special music, and a gift for all our dads. We will also serve brunch (sausage, biscuit and gravy, and fruit). There is no cost, except we will receive a free will offering for Love in Action. So, wake up your dad early, and treat him to worship and breakfast.

Mission of the Month – Love in Action

Our Mission of the Month in June is Love in Action. All contributions to our Noisy Offering will be given directly to them. Love in Action is a non-profit faith-based organization just down the street from us – 818 University Avenue. Its vision is to reach the unreached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ by bringing relief to people who need direct support with physical and spiritual needs, while at the same time fulfilling the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations.



Wheels to Worship

We are waiting for your call! If you are interested in a ride to worship in our church van, call the church office and we will have someone pick you up. Please call by Wednesday noon for Wednesday worship, or by Friday 5:00pm for Sunday worship. Please note that we cannot transport children without proper car seats or booster chairs.



Drive-Thru Prayer Summer 2025

For a fourth year, it is our goal to reach out to our community through prayer. We are inviting people to drive through our parking lot, and without ever leaving the comfort of their vehicle, to receive prayer for whatever they request. We will also give every person a gift, cold water and a treat, prayers and Bible verses, and basic info about ULC.

PRAYER EVENT

We need volunteers to help pass out gifts and assist the pastors with prayers. This summer, we will offer prayers on the fourth Thursday of the month – June 26, July 24, August 28. There will be two different times of prayer during those days: 7:30am-9:00am and 11:30pm-1:00pm. Please look for sign-up sheets to help in the narthex.

Please pray for the Lord to use this ministry of our congregation to connect the people of our community to their Lord and Savior through prayer. We will be doing publicity for this event but can use your help too. Tell your friends within our church and from other churches and traditions about Drive-Thru Prayer, and feel free to come in your own car.

New Digital Sign

We have ordered our new digital sign for the southeast corner of our parking lot. We expect it to arrive and be installed sometime in June. We have talked with or sent letters to our neighbors, and no one has objected to the sign and several seemed very supportive. All in all, we are really excited to see how this new technology can enhance our ministry.



Blizzard Bingo

Back by popular demand ... BLIZZARD BINGO. Please join us on Sunday, June 22 for 15 games of ULC Bingo. Each game will win a \$10 gift card, until the final game of Blackout, where the winner will take home a \$30 gift card. Join us at 5:00pm for hot dogs, chips, and ice cream, and then Bingo will begin at 5:30. We also hope to do this in the month of August.

Summer Food Pantry

Due to economic hardships, food pantries all over the country are distributing record numbers of food until their shelves are bare. Things are no different here in our area. So, we are challenging ULC members to donate to the Salvation Army Food Pantry in June.



Here are some items to consider:

June 1-7: Canned fruits and vegetables, bottled juice and juice boxes
June 8-14: Canned soups, spaghetti sauce and noodles, macaroni and cheese
June 15-21: Boxed cereal, granola and breakfast bars, peanut butter and jelly,
June 22-28: Boxed cakes, brownies, pudding, gelatin, and other desserts



ULC Visitation Team

The ULC Visitation Team will meet Friday, June 13, at 1:00 pm in the narthex to write cards to our homebound and nursing home members. Please join us!

ULC Pollinator Gardens Protecting MN/ND Pollinators

Our principal pollinators are insects such as native bees, butterflies, and some moths. Keep your eyes open for them in the pollinator garden near the alley. There are plants flowering throughout the summer for these pollinators. If you would like to know more or get more involved in helping pollinators, search NDSU pollinators or MN DNR pollinators.



Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly

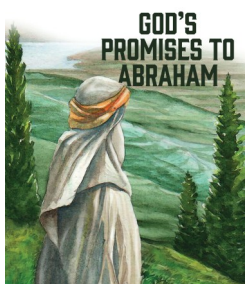
The Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly is June 7-8 at the Holiday Inn in Fargo. The theme is "Grace Upon Grace". Keynote speaker and churchwide representative is Rev. Tim Brown, ELCA Director of Congregational Stewardship. ULC voting members are Curt Hanson, Janet Kuhl, Doug Olsen, and Pastor Tom. Please keep us and the assembly in your prayers.

ULC Adult Education in June

Women of the ELCA Summer Bible Study *"Where two or more are gathered: Flourishing in relationships"*

This year's summer Bible study, written by the Rev. Dr. Brooke Peterson, is about relationships. Session one for June 13 is, "Relationships that form us: All in the family". Some of our most beloved Bible stories involve the trials and tribulations of relationships within families. We'll examine the stories of Jacob and Esau, as well as Mary and Martha, while considering what we learned in our own families about relationships. These biblical characters will help us to explore how our early family relationships shape how we think about our everyday relationships.

Session 2 for July: "Relationships that sustain us: Where you go, I will go"
Session 3 for August: "Relationships that push us to grow: For such a time as this"



Calling All Men *"Abraham and Two Sons"*

We are Calling All ULC Men and friends to our monthly breakfast and Bible study. This month we will continue our series on Abraham. We will study Genesis, chapters 16 and 18. In these chapters, Abraham and Sarah find their own way to give Abraham an heir. He has a son (Ishmael) through Sarah's servant (Hagar). Then, even after Abraham and Sarah display their impatience with God, God visits them and once again reminds them they will have their own biological child (Isaac). Please join us for breakfast pizza and Bible study on June 21, 8:30am in the fellowship hall. This second session is entitled, "God Is Faithful Even When We Are Impatient".

Thursday Morning Bible Study *"Some Interesting Biblical Questions"*

For the month of June, we will study some questions that maybe you have thought of before, or maybe you haven't. These are four single session Bible studies:

June 5: Are There Two Creation Stories?
June 12: What Did Jesus Say About Hell?
June 19: Are Cute Little Babies Sinners?
June 26: Has Anyone Ever Seen God?

Please join us at 9:30am in the fellowship hall. Go ahead and invite your friends! Coffee and treats are always part of the fun.



Conversation Across Cultures

Please join us for this series of cross-cultural conversations. Maybe you are aware that the world has come to Grand Forks. So many wonderful people from so many wonderful places in the world live now as our neighbors. Here is your chance to meet a few of them and to learn about their native countries. The weeks to come are as follows:

June 7 NIGERIA: Speakers are Victo Chukwu and Victor Chukwuezi
June 14 MEXICO: **SPEAKER IS SOFI MORALES (ULC VIOLINIST AND MEMBER!)**
June 21 BOLOVIA: Speakers are Carolina Caballero and Alexandro Carvajal
June 28 GHANA: Speaker is Isaac Karikari

All this fun learning takes place at 4:00pm (Saturdays) at the Empire Arts Center (415 Demers).

Youth News



Sundaes on Wednesday

Middle school and high school youth, please join us each Wednesday in June for Sundaes on Wednesday. We will meet from 7:30-9:30 for fun and growth. Each week will include ice cream sundaes with delicious toppings, a fun or learning "main event", and flashlight devotions. The devotions relate to the activity we will do. Here is what's up for June:

June 4: Scavenger Hunt #1
 June 11: God Loves Puppies and Kitties
 June 18: Scavenger Hunt #2
 June 26: June 2024 ULC Cornwall Open

The main events for each week are connected to the Bible verse. There will be ice cream sundaes. There will be fun and growth. Their will be singing and prayer.

Crafting with Christ

The "God Says, 'I am' Mirrors" were very well received! Here is a look at Crafting with Christ for the rest of the summer. We will meet in the youth at 5:30pm on the following dates:

June 8: Bible Verse Painting
 June 29: Seashell Crosses
 July 27: Faith based Keychains
 August 3: Tote Bags



VBS 2025 August 4th-7th

3 year olds-Kindergarten from 9-11:30 am and 1st-6th graders from 12-3 pm, Monday-Thursday.



Scan me!

Please use the grade they just completed in the 2024/2025 school year. Scan the QR code to go to the online registration.

Wednesday Meals:

June 4: chili dog or hot dog
 June 11: meatball sub
 June 18: turkey & cheese on croissant
 June 25: chicken patty



SUNNY	SNOWCONE	BARBECUE	TOWEL
PARADISE	WATERMELON	OCEAN	ICE CREAM
POPSICLE	SUNGLASSES	PALM TREE	STRAWBERRY
FLAMINGO	BEACH	SAND CASTLE	LIFEGUARD
FLIP FLOPS	SNORKEL	SUNBLOCK	FIREFLIES
VACATION	PICNIC	POOL	SWIMMING

E U C E B R A B F U T S I A P F
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 F I R E F L I E Y N N U S R U T

JUNE WELCA NEWS

On May 22nd Lutheran World Relief items were sent out, including: 58 Quilts, 21 Personal Care Kits, 15 School Kits, and 11 Baby Care Kits. A big thank you for all who quilted, purchased items and packed items that were sent!

The Rhubarb Festival will be held June 14th from 10 am to 1 pm. Thirty pies have been made, with more to be made on Wednesday and Thursday, June 4th and 5th. We will just cut rhubarb on Tuesday, June 3rd. All three events will start at 9 am. A sign up sheet is in the narthex for baked desserts for the luncheon, help setting up on Friday, June 13th, and for helping with the festival itself on the 14th. Our menu will be the same as last year - turkey salad, rhubarb salad, roll and dessert for \$10.00. Dessert and coffee only will be \$5.00 There will be an all rhubarb bake sale, quilt sale and craft sale also. This year, the raffle will be a basket raffle. A ticket can be bought for \$1.00 and placed in the container of the basket they would like to win. We have just over 20 variety of baskets to choose from. You will be surprised at how creative members of University Lutheran are!

Pauline Lileng, 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.

University Lutheran Church Church Council Meeting - May 20, 2025

Present: Kevin Meyer, Dan Melberg, Katie Hess, Jay Farmer, Brad Gunderson, Matt Solberg, Evonne Lopez, John Neal, Pastor Tom, LeAnn Barendt, Jennifer Frederikson, Jessi Saylor



Devotions: Stories of the Ascension from Acts and Matthew

Previous minutes: Evonne Lopez was spelled incorrectly. Plus, Evonne was not assigned to call a Kitchen Committee meeting. Motion. Second. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: WSI (Worker's Compensation) is done. Sofi Morales has been added to the payroll. Summer stewardship letter likely in early June. Motion. Second. Approved.

Pastor's Report: Written

Old Business:

1. Digital Sign: We postponed the appeal to the City Council but may try again when the sign is installed. The appeal dealt with how quickly the sign can change. Right now, it can only change every hour. The sign is likely to be installed in June.
2. 75th Anniversary: Nothing new to report. Bishop Tessa is out of town but will get back to us soon regarding the timing of her visit.

New Business:

1. Red Willow Ministries: They are asking congregations to sponsor camp counselors for the summer. Official e-mail with a formal proposal is expected tomorrow. Motion for up to \$8,000 out of Charlie Christenson funds to be sent. Motion. Second. Approved.
2. Worship Team stipends: Nine people leading worship since Christmas time. \$250 per person out of Thrivent fund. Motion. Second. Approved.

Ministry Reports:

Education: Written

Property: Restroom signs are up. Thanks to Dan Melberg.

Worship: (See Pastor Tom's reports) Working on editing the volunteer handbook.

Youth: (See Pastor Tom's report)

Mission Endowment: Did not meet. Coming up.

WELCA: Rhubarb Festival is close – June 14. Pie baking days and rhubarb cutting scheduled. Lutheran World Relief donation of quilts, baby kits, health kits, and school kits were sent.

Men's Group: Served Easter breakfast. Met this past Saturday about Abraham.

Submitted by Curt Hanson, Secretary. Next meeting is June 17.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Graduation Sunday</i> 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Fellowship/ Graduation Reception 4:00 Pentecostal Worship 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	2 6:00 WELCA Board Meeting 6:30 Game Fellowship 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	3 9:00 Rhubarb Cutting 10:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Quilters	4 9:00 Pie Baking 11:00 TOPS PICNIC & PRAISE BEGINS 5:00 Supper - Hot dogs 6:00 WORSHIP 7:30 Sundaes on Wednesdays 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	5 9:00 Pie Baking 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Quilting 1:30 Edgewood Worship	6 10:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Pentecostal Worship	7 10:00 Burdick Birthday Party EaND Synod Assembly in Fargo
8 <i>Pentecost</i> EaND Synod Assembly in Fargo 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Fellowship 4:00 Pentecostal Worship 5:30 Crafting With Christ 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	9 6:30 Game Fellowship 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	10 10:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Quilters 6:30 Visitation Team	11 11:00 TOPS 5:00 Supper - Meatball sub 6:00 WORSHIP 7:30 Sundaes on Wednesdays 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	12 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Quilting	13 9:00 Prayer Group 10:00 WELCA Bible Study 1:00 Visitation Team 1:00 Set-up for Rhubarb Festival 6:30 Pentecostal Worship	14 10:00-1:00 Rhubarb Festival
15 <i>Father's Day</i> 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Fellowship/Brunch 4:00 Pentecostal Worship 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	16 6:30 Game Fellowship 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	17 10:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Quilters 5:30 Worship Ministry 7:00 Church Council	18 11:00 TOPS 5:00 Supper - Turkey & cheese on croissant 6:00 WORSHIP 7:30 Sundaes on Wednesdays 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	19 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Quilting	20 10:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Pentecostal Worship	21 8:30 Calling All Men
22 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Fellowship 4:00 Pentecostal Worship 5:00 Blizzard Bingo 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	23 6:30 Game Fellowship 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	24 10:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Quilters	25 11:00 TOPS 5:00 Supper - Chicken patty 6:00 WORSHIP 7:30 Sundaes on Wednesdays 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	26 Drive-Thru Prayer 7:30-9:00am 11:30am-1:00pm 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Quilting 1:30 Edgewood Worship	27 10:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Pentecostal Worship	28
29 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Fellowship 4:00 Pentecostal Worship 5:30 Crafting With Christ 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	30 6:30 Game Fellowship 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous					

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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«City State (current as of today)» «Zip code (current as



31st Annual Rhubarb Festival

Saturday, June 14, 2025

10:00am to 1:00pm

Luncheon \$10.00

(Turkey salad, rhubarb salad, roll & dessert)

or Dessert & Coffee \$5.00

All Rhubarb Bake Sale
Quilt and Basket Raffle, Craft & Quilt Sale

Rhubarb Contest:
Largest Stalk of Rhubarb (including leaf)
Rhubarb will be measured from the root to top of leaf
+ the width of leaf to determine winner.
Top 3 winners receive cash prizes!



ULC STAFF

Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation
Missionaries: Willie and Anne Langdji
Pastor: Thomas W. Colenso
Education Coordinator: Jen Cummings
Administrative Assistant: Seanne Voracek
Custodian: Harold Stoller

Choir Director: Mary Splchal
Organists: Lauri Shimpa and Jane Traub
Stephen Ministry Leaders:
Evelyn Clark, Wayde Anderson,
Jane Traub

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