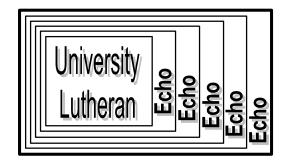
May 2025



The Echo

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 2122 University Avenue

Grand Forks, North Dakota 58203

The rhythm of the Church year seems strange to me for this reason, we proclaim "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!", and then we scoot off for summer vacation. It's not that I don't enjoy a break and appreciate a change in schedule. We all need a little downtime, right? However, if you are following my logic, it's almost like we welcome the risen Lord back from the grave, and then leave him behind holding the bag. I suppose he's used to it. The original disciples abandoned Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, and we sometimes abandon him for summer. See you in the fall, Lord Jesus!

Of course, I am kidding. Church sanctuaries are not the only place we can worship the Lord and proclaim, "Christ is risen!" This can happen wherever we go this summer, because Jesus promises he is always with us. Actually, it is my hope you feel free enough to tell family and friends and that Jesus is risen, and that he is a living Lord who is part of your everyday life. For example, when you offer to pray for someone who is in the midst of hardship, I dare you to say, "I'll bring your concern up to the Lord the minute I get home." Or even better say, "Hey, can we pray to the Lord about this right now?"

John 21 is one of my favorite resurrection stories. Here Peter doesn't recognize Jesus standing on the shore until his friend John points this out to him. You probably know the story. The disciples have seen the risen Lord a couple of times but still seem to be wondering what in the world is going on. So, one night, Peter, originally a fisherman by trade, says, "I am going fishing." Six other disciples join him, and they fish all night long without catching a single fish. Then a mysterious person on the shore tells them to try fishing the right side of the boat. Maybe they hadn't thought of that yet!

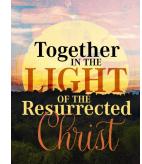
It just so happens there are 153 fish on the right side of the boat and the disciples begin to drag the fish into the shore. It is at that moment, and after that miracle that John says to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Peter then jumps into the sea and swims about 100 yards to shore to see him. What I think is most interesting is that Peter could not recognize the risen Lord Jesus until John told him it was Jesus. John points out to Peter that the Lord Jesus really is alive and ready to have breakfast with them on the banks of the Sea of Galilee. As I said earlier, Jesus is a living Lord who is part of our everyday lives.

Certainly, this is good news for us. Whatever challenges we face, Jesus is risen, living alongside us, and ready to take on our day with us. For example, at this very moment, my niece Emily is 31 weeks pregnant and in the hospital on bed rest due to certain complications. She and the baby are doing well physically, although Emily is wishing she could be resting at home with her family. Recently, I was texting with my sister, Terri, Emily's mom, and we talked about how Emily is living through this challenge one day at a time and doing OK with it, because she trusts the risen Lord right there with her.

However, there will be times when people around us are going through struggles and cannot see the Lord is risen and with them. I believe Peter was struggling like this. Before Jesus was crucified, he had been accused three different times of being a friend and follower of Jesus, and because he felt threatened and scared, he strongly denied that he even knew him. So, Peter was living with a lot of guilt, which may have been preventing him from fully recognizing that Jesus was risen, alive, and definitely not mad at him. John graciously points out to Peter, "Hey, Pete, really, it's the Lord on the shore."

As followers of Jesus, this is our role too, whether we are at ULC attending worship all summer, relaxing at the lake, or just quietly enjoying the change in our daily routines. We are to help anyone who for whatever reason is struggling to see that Jesus is alive and willing to be part of their everyday lives. It's as simple as saying, "I am sorry you

are going through this, and today I am going to pray to the Lord that he will come and help you." I would call this evangelism, but I don't want to scare you away from it! All Jesus wants you to do to tell people that he is a living Lord and willing to help them.



He is risen indeed. Alleluia! You are in my prayers,





Worship Highlights

Mother's Day Worship

Sunday, May 11
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).





Memorial Day Sunday May 25

Memorial Day weekend is May 24-26. As Christian people, we believe God calls us to add our voices to the public square to share the love of Christ and proclaim the Gospel. However, at the same time, we are welcome to be patriotic and love our country. So, in our worship service on May 25 we will honor our US Veterans and include some of our favorite patriotic songs like: "America the Beautiful", "This Is My Song", and "Battle Hymn of the Republic".

Graduation Recognition Sunday June 1

This is our day to recognize our graduating High School Seniors. Senior class, you are invited to 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, please give us a copy of your senior picture, and tell us what you plan to do in the fall of 2025, for our slide presentation.





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 14. On this Wednesday, some of our ULC youth will provide music, and others will help lead worship. After this service, we will have a short 2-week break from Wednesday worship before summer Wednesday worship begins. In other words, there is no Wednesday worship on May 21 and 28. This will give our musicians and other worship leaders a helpful pause and rest from their weekly service.



Summer Wednesday Worship – Picnic and Praise June 4

Summer Wednesday Worship will begin in June. We will picnic (indoors) with simple yet delicious meals at 5:00pm, and praise God through worship with Holy Communion at 6:00pm. During the first four weeks of summer, the month of June, we will worship with a sermon series on the Old Testament book, "Jonah", called "Amazing Grace". Come to learn about this amazing story and the two biblical worldviews in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Lent and Easter Sunday Numbers

We had a very nice Lent and Easter in 2025. Our Wednesday theme, "Be Still and Know That I Am God", and Sunday theme, "In God We Trust", were well received. Our worship attendance was similar to last year. The first number is 2024 and the second is 2025:

Ash Wednesday	215/223	Sunday Lent 1	94/87
Wednesday 2	159/148	Sunday Lent 2	104/108
Wednesday 3	166/184	Sunday Lent 3	104/59 (bad weather)
Wednesday 4	174/186	Sunday Lent 4	92/98 `
Wednesday 5	164/177	Sunday Lent 5	98/99
Wednesday 6	179/169	Palm Śunday	147/166
Maundy Thursday	119/115	Sunday 8am	142/144
Good Friday ´	96/110	Easter Sunday 10am	231/246



Mission Endowment Meeting May 6

The next meeting of the ULC Mission Endowment is Tuesday, May 6. 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 May 9

Please join us Friday, May 9, 1:00pm, 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.





Wheels to Worship

If you are interested in getting rides to worship in our van, please call the church office so we can arrange a ride for you. We are using the van for other reasons, but we hope to use it on Sundays and Wednesdays to bring people to worship as well. Please call by Friday noon for Sunday worship, and by Tuesday 5:00pm, for Wednesday worship.

Financial Update

After the month of March, our general fund shortfall is \$15,973. We are looking for ULC members and friends to help us catch up. One effort toward this will be our annual Summer Stewardship mailing. This offering comes out in late May, and it often gives us an extra boost as we head into summer. Thank you for your generosity toward our shared ministry.





New Member Events

We have tentatively scheduled two New Member events, Wednesday, May 14, 6pm, and Sunday, May 18, 10:00am. If you would like to become a member of our ULC family, or you know someone who would, please call the church office, or speak with Pastor Tom. There will also be a New Member Orientation on Tuesday, May 13, at 6:30pm.

ULC Adult Education in May

Sunday Adult Class "Conversations with the Pastor"

Join us for a series of Bible conversations in May. Pastor Tom will prepare a particular biblical question to discuss together. Where exactly the conversation goes will depend on you! Join us for coffee, a treat, and the conversation. Here are the topics:



May 4 Is Faith Without Works Dead?

May 11 What Gender Is God?

May 18 Does My Baptism Really Matter?

May 25 Are Church and State Really Separate?



Thursday Morning Bible Study "Judas and Peter"

Please join us as we complete our study on two of Jesus' most well-known disciples. Judas and Peter play prominent roles in the final days and hours of the life of Jesus. In some ways they are very similar, but their futures could not be more different. Please join us Thursdays at 9:30am in the fellowship hall May 8, 15, and 22, as we complete this fascinating Bible study.

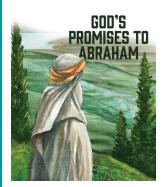
Women of the ELCA Bible Study "Receiving the Spirit's Flame: Spiritual gifts in the life of the church"

You are invited this May to join us for a Bible study written by Cara Strickland called, "Receiving the Spirit's Flame". As we begin to dig into Scripture and talk about our spiritual gifts, it's important to remind ourselves these gifts are given to us by God. A spiritual gift is nothing we can ever earn, nor is it something we'd think to ask for, yet a gift that is exactly right for us. Join us Friday, May 9, at 10:00am as we assess our own spiritual gifts.



Calling All Men

We are Calling All ULC Men and friends to our monthly breakfast and Bible study. This month we are starting a series on Abraham. Maybe as children you remember singing:



Father Abraham had many sons. Many sons had Father Abraham. I am one of them, and so are you. So, let's all praise the Lord.

We meet Abraham in Genesis 12, and his life with Sarah are the focus of the biblical narrative for 12 chapters. We will pick 3 stories to discuss and apply to our everyday lives. Please join us for breakfast pizza and the first of these studies on May 17 at 8:30am in the fellowship hall. Our first session is entitled, "Trusting God Most of the Time".



Last days of Church School: Sunday, May 11th and Wednesday, May 14th

Sunday students will have their year-end party and help lead worship, and WWJ students will be singing in worship and having their year-end party.

VBS at ULC

will be August 4th-7th. Please mark your calendars! We would love to have you participate. VACRTION ETELE SCHO



Wednesday Meals:

May 7 - Chicken nuggets May 14 - Meatball subs May 21 and 28 - Off



"The Lord is the Strength of My Life"

This quote from Psalm 27:1 has been our theme for the 2024-25 Church School year. As we move into the summer, remember to wear your wristbands which bear this theme, and remember the Lord makes us strong in the face of every hardship in our lives. If you have lost your wristband or need a new one, stop by church, because we have more.

Coloring Sheet for Kids (of all ages ©)



Youth News and Notes



First Communion Class

We had a 5-week class on Holy Communion for fifth and sixth graders.

These have completed the class and have either had their First Communion or will in the near future:

Hudson Benjamin, Will Denman, Addy Farmer, Falyn Farmer, TJ Friezen, Griffin Pokornowski, Axel Sailer, Kody Schmaltz, Silas Shipman, and Charlotte Useldinger

Confirmation

Our confirmation classes for 2024-25 are nearly complete! Here are a few important things for you to remember:

- 1. Our end of the year pizza party is Sunday, May 18, 4:00pm at Pizza Ranch. Youth only need to bring money for the arcade. Your meal is paid for by the church!
- 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 on it!
- 3. If you have worship notes to complete, why not catch up over the summer? If you are not sure how many they have left to do, please ask Pastor Tom.



9th graders, check with Pastor Tom to see if you have completed all your requirements!



Sundaes on Wednesday

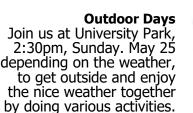
Sundaes on Wednesday will meet May 7 and 14 from 8:00pm-9:30pm in May. We will take 2 weeks off (May 21 and 28) while there is no Wednesday worship.

Then in June, we will meet every week after Picnic and Praise worship (June 4, 11, 18, 25) from 7:30-9:30. This will be our usual schedule:

7:30pm Ice cream sundaes

8:30pm A special event or service project

9:00pm Flashlight devotions







Upcoming Crafting with Christ

Join us for our Crafting with Christ events this summer. We meet Sundays at 5:30pm and youth stay until they finish, or until whenever they need to leave:

May 18	God says, "I Am" Mirrors
Juńe 8	Bible Verse Painting
June 29	Seashell Crosses
July 27	Faith based Keychains
August 3	Tota Bans

August 3 Tote Bags

Feed My Starving Children

University Lutheran Church joined the Greater Grand Forks Area in our 13th year of packing meals for Feed My Starving Children on April 10-12. We packed two sessions:



8:30am 316 boxes packed/68,256 meals 187 children fed for one year 3:00pm 326 boxes packed/70,416 meals 192 children fed for one year

Our total financial gifts were \$5,311.61 (\$2,000 Mission Endowment).

During the 8:30am session, we had the joy of hearing that Greater Grand Forks had reached its 5,000,000 meal in our history of doing Mobile Packs.

The entire event packed:

1,980 boxes/427,680 meals 1,171 children fed for one year

What a great event! Thank you to all who contributed dollars, who helped pack food, and a special thanks to Patty Olsen for being our congregation coordinator on the local board. She put in a long weekend on our behalf.



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 country.

Week one is already complete, Mario Batista and Marques Catarin spoke about Brazil. Here are the weeks to come:

May 3	AUSTRALIA: Speaker is Tamara Bertram
May 17	GEORGIA (Eastern Europe): Speakers are Ana Papashvili and Davit Sharikadze
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).

ULC Pollinator Garden

Protecting MN/ND Pollinators

Our pollinator garden near the alley is doing well. Plant stalks and leaf litter are not removed in the fall. We leave about 1-2 inches of leaf litter to provide habitat for insects and to retain moisture for pollinator plants. Many native insects spend the winter in the leaf litter on the ground and inside the stalks of plants. To help pollinators, leaf litter and the plant stalks are left until there are spring flowers in bloom. Our principal pollinators are insects — native bees, butterflies, and some moths. To get more involved or simply to learn more, search NDSU pollinators or MN DNR pollinators.









Tuesday, May 27 at 5pm

University Lutheran Church 2122 University Ave Grand Forks, ND

Refreshments to Follow

Senior Recital -Aidan Fiala

ULC's own Aidan Fiala
will have his Senior Recital
at ULC in our sanctuary
at 5:00pm
on Tuesday, May 27.
Please join Aidan
as he shares his piano
and clarinet talents with us.
A social time
with refreshments
will follow the recital
as well.

Great Plains Harmony Concert

Great Plains Harmony
(along with Fallcreek and Night Cap)
will perform a concert,
"There's a Meet'n Here Tonight",
7:30pm, Thursday, May 22,
at Calvary Lutheran Church (1405 S 9th Street).
General Admission is \$20 for adults
and \$10 for students.
Tickets are currently available at
www.GreatPlainsHarmony.org.

HEY ULC PEOPLE: TYLER SRUR, SON OF BRAD AND CAROL SRUR, GRANDSON OF PHIL AND JEANNE SRUR, IS A MEMBER OF THIS CHOIR!





MAY WELCA NEWS

The salad luncheon was a huge success thanks to all of you. We served 184 people for lunch. People were so impressed with the number of salads and with the variety. The weather also cooperated.

The raffle winners were:
Quilt - Diane Kryci
White Blanket - Alyssa Denman
Spa Basket - Marge Dawes
All Season's Basket and \$75 gift card - Yvonne Lopez
Tupperware Gift Basket. - Jane Holm
Cookie Jar - Pastor Tom
Embroidered Dish Towels. - Debbie Anderson
Fleece Blanket - LeAnn McKeever
Leaf Blower - Jane Holm
Beauty and Tanning Salon Basket - Sharon Wolf
Olive Garden Basket and gift card - Dee Crawford
Spring Table Runner - Joanna Pearson

A big thank you to those who donated raffle items and to those who bought tickets. The Salad Luncheon raised almost \$4,600. THANK YOU!!

Our next event will be the Rhubarb Festival on June 14th. Next WELCA meeting will be May 5th at 6:00 pm.

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.



31st Annual Rhubarb Festival

Saturday, June 14, 2025 10:00am to 1:00pm

University Lutheran Church 2122 University Avenue

Luncheon \$10.00
(Turkey salad, rhubarb salad, roll & dessert)
or Dessert & Coffee \$5.00

All Rhubarb Bake Sale

Quilt Raffle

Craft & Quilt Sale





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PUDDLE

RAINBOW





Sat	3 11:00-1:00 Neighborhoods Group Luncheon	01	17 8:30am Calling All Men	24	31
Fri	2	9 10:00 WELCA Bible Study 1:00 Visitation Team	16 11:00 Memorial Service for Darlene Rice	23	30
Thu	1 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Quilting 6:00 MOMCO	9.30 Bible Study 1:00 Quilting 1:30 Edgewood Worship	15 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Quilting 7:00 Franklin Club	22 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Quilting	<i>29</i> 1:00 Quilting
Wed		7 11:00 TOPS 5:00 Supper - Chicken nuggets 6:00 WORSHIP/WWJ 8:00 Sundaes on Wednesday 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	14.1:00 TOPS 5:00 Supper -Meatball subs 6:00 WORSHIP &WWJ 8:00 Sundaes on Wednesday 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	21 11:00 TOPS 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous No Supper or Worship	28 11:00 TOPS 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous No Supper or Worship
Tue		6 10:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Mission Endow. 5:30 Quilters	13.00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Quilters 6:30 New Member Orientation	20 10:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Quilters 5:30 Worship Ministry 7:00 Church Council	27 10:00 Staff Meeting 5:00 Aidan Fiala Senior Recital 5:30 Quilters
Mon		5 6:00 WELCA Board Meeting 6:30 Game Fellowship 7:00 Girl Scouts 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	12 6:30 Game Fellowship 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	19 6:30 Game Fellowship 7:00 Girl Scouts 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	26 Memorial Day 6:30 Game Fellowship 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous
Sun		8:45 Adult Class 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation 10:00 WORSHIP Holy Communion 11:00 Fellowship 4:00 Confirmation Party at Pizza Ranch 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	11 Mother's Day 8:45 Adult Class 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 WORSHIP Holy Communion 11:00 Fellowship 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	8:45 Adult Class 10:00 WORSHIP Holy Communion 11:00 Fellowship 4:00 Confirmation Pizza Party at Pizza Ranch 5:30 Crafting with Christ 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	8:45 Adult Class 10:00 WORSHIP Holy Communion 11:00 Fellowship 2:30 Youth Outdoor Days at University Park 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

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WORSHIP & EVENT SCHEDULE

SUNDAY WORSHIP & EDUCATION

8:45am Adult Class 9:00am Church School 10:00am WORSHIP 11:00am Fellowship

WEDNESDAY WITH JESUS

5:00pm Supper
6:00pm WORSHIP & WWJ
7:00pm Chapel Choir
7:15pm Confirmation
8:15pm Sundaes on Wednesdays

Wednesday with JesusMay 7 and 14 6:00pm

Mother's Day Worship Sunday, May 11 10:00am Brunch to follow

Memorial Day Sunday May 25, 10:00am Worship



YOUTH Sundaes on Wednesday

May 7 and 14 8:00pm

WELCA Bible Study Friday, May 9 10:00am

Calling All Men Saturday, May 17 8:30am

Confirmation Year-End Pizza Party

Sunday, May 18 4:00pm Pizza Ranch

Crafting With Christ

6th Grade through College Sunday, May 18 5:30pm

Youth Outdoor Days

May 25, 2:30pm University Park

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 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

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 2122 University Avenue Grand Forks ND 58203

www.university luther ang f. org

Phone: 701-775-4745
Email: ulcoffice@midconetwork.com