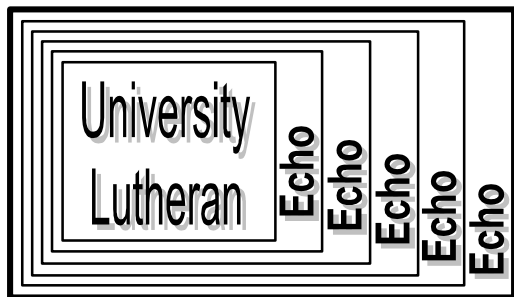


July/August 2026



The Echo

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

2122 University Avenue
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58203

1976 was a great year from my perspective. The movie Rocky was released and later would be named Best Picture. Its story and music were important to my young life. The Minnesota Vikings were 11-2-1 and on their way to their fourth Super Bowl. Sadly, they were trounced by the Oakland Raiders. It was the Bicentennial year for our nation and patriotism was a big deal for people my age. My mom and dad remodeled my bedroom that year and they allowed me to choose a red, white, and blue color scheme. The best feature of my room was a beautiful red shag carpet which I loved to rake.

I was excited about the bicentennial. Our country was 200 years old and to a 13-year-old boy, soon to be 14, it felt like I lived in the best country in the world and at the best time of history. I wish every 13-year-old on the planet in all times and places could feel this way. I will admit that it was a happy time for me. We were by no means financially rich. My mom was a stay-at-home mom and my dad worked very hard at two jobs, and together they provided my sisters and me a really wonderful childhood. I would say that we were rich in every important way, including the faith we shared in Jesus Christ.

Looking back, however, it was a hard time for our country. President Nixon had resigned in disgrace due to his covering up the Watergate scandal. Even though the Vietnam War was finally over as of April 1975, there were still a lot of hard feelings about it for a lot of Americans. The CIA was under investigation by Congress for its secrecy overseas. President Ford was seeking election as the first president ever to have served without being elected as vice president or president. Of course, he would be soundly defeated in November of that year by a former governor of Georgia, President Jimmy Carter.

So, as wonderful as life seemed to me, and as patriotic as I felt in my bones, it was not necessarily the easiest time to be celebrating our nation's bicentennial. Like today, there was a ton of divisiveness in the United States. Sometimes I think we forget that. As we prepare to celebrate 250 years as a nation this year, we are once again living through a divisive time. However, I pray we can enjoy a brief pause and celebrate together as a nation. While we are not a perfect people, nor will we ever be, we have a shared history of culture and freedom that is unique to the world and OK to celebrate.

However, I will say as your pastor that true freedom never did come from a declaration of independence, a revolutionary war, or even a constitution. True freedom as I see it can only come from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are using the phrase, "Let Freedom Ring" as our theme for this 250th birthday. It is from the song, "My Country 'Tis of Thee." This is a patriotic phrase to be sure, and certainly our freedom in the United States is an important contribution to the history of the world. Still, the freedom I am talking about, freedom from sin, evil and death, comes only from God who loves us.

Jesus said this in John 8:36: *"So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."* To me Jesus is the way to true freedom. I believe His words mean that through Jesus we receive the following gifts – our sins are forgiven, we are saved from the trouble we live through in this world, and that even now we are living eternal lives. What is freer than this? For sinners like us, who live in a world full of hardships and challenges, who are mortal and must face death, John 8:36 leads us to the real source of our freedom, Jesus. The gifts Jesus gives us we definitely cannot receive from a constitution.

This is what I mean when I say, "Let Freedom Ring." Let the freedom of God that we have been given in Jesus Christ ring. Let it ring so loud that people across our country and world receive it as we have. Not by force or war but by the gentle and loving proclamation of the Gospel of God's love. May the whole world that God loves find its forgiveness, salvation, eternal life, and really, it's true freedom, in His name. Still, at same time, I pray all the 13-year-olds across our country might somehow enjoy the celebration of the 250th birthday of our nation, even as "us" supposed adults are divided.

You are in my prayers,



ULC Worship in



250th Birthday Hymn Sing and Worship

Please join us on **Sunday, July 5th** for worship with a special hymn sing. We will sing some of our favorite patriotic songs of faith, as well as tell the story behind the song. There will also be a message of freedom on that day, but not just freedom in our nation, but the freedom we have in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. After worship, we will enjoy an ice cream social.



"Picnic and Praise" Worship Continues in July and August

"Picnic and Praise" Worship continues Wednesdays in July with suppers (Picnic) at 5:00pm, and worship (Praise) at 6:00pm. Here are the tentative themes for the upcoming weeks:

July 8:	Jesus before Pilate: Aren't People More Important Than Politics?
July 15:	Crucifixion and Death: How Deep is God's Love for Us?
July 22:	Church School Music Worship
July 29:	Christmas in July Worship
August 5:	Vacation Bible School Program
August 12:	Service of the Word for Healing

Please note that there will be no Wednesday worship after August 12 for our summer break. Wednesday worship and WWJ will begin again on September 16.

Picnic and Praise Meals

July 1 st :	Picnic at University Park: Burgers, salads and more...
July 8 th :	Cook's Choice
July 15 th :	Turkey and cheese croissant
July 22 nd :	Corn dogs and nachos
July 29 th :	Sloppy Joes and tater tots
August 5 th :	VBS Celebration meal before program/worship - Hot Dogs and chips
August 12 th :	Ham and cheese sandwich and potato salad

Service of the Word for Healing Sunday, July 26 and Wednesday, August 12

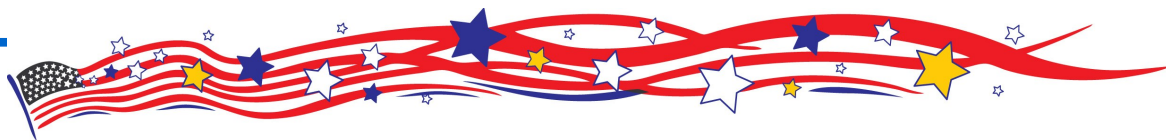
On Sunday, July 26 and Wednesday, August 12, we invite you to join us for the Service of the Word for Healing. This service includes laying on of hands and anointing with oil. At this service, we invite the members of the congregation to come forward and lay their illnesses and grief, struggles and sin, before the Lord Jesus Christ who heals us and makes us whole.

In God's Care



VBS Program and Worship on Wednesday, August 5

Our regular Wednesday worship on August 5 will include our VBS Program. This year our theme is "Jesus Calms Our Storms". Wednesday worship that evening will explore our daily VBS themes and will include music from our students in preschool through grade 6.



Let Freedom Ring – 250 Years of Grace

July 4, 2026, is the 250th birthday of our nation, the United States of America. In celebration of this birthday, we will continue to work on the following two congregational projects:

250 Pounds of Food

Help us to donate 250 pounds of food to the Salvation Army Food Cupboard. Please purchase your food and bring it to ULC and place it near the wood cross in the narthex. If you prefer to donate cash, every \$2 will be considered one pound of food.

250 Acts of Kindness

Help us to name 250 acts of kindness. It could be something you have done for someone or something someone has done for you. Record act on the paper provided for you, and then place it in the red, white, and blue box. All acts will then be posted in the narthex.

Mission of the Month and Noisy Offering

Your noisy offerings will go to support the efforts of these two missions of the month:

During the month of July our Mission of the Month is the **Honor Flight**. Our own Don and Betty Roberts and family have given countless hours to this organization. Honor Flight is dedicated to honoring American Veterans by sending them to Washington DC to see our nation's monuments, such as the National WWII Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and so forth.



During the month of August our Mission of the Month is the **Lutheran Disaster Response**. As we think about Jesus, calming storms and walking on water, we hope to serve people who have recently experienced natural disaster. We hope they will see through us how the Lord Jesus Christ continues to calm people's storms through us, the church.

Drive-Thru Prayer July and August



Come as you are ... Stay in your car

This is our fifth year of Drive-Thru Prayer. Once again on July 9 and 30, and August 20 and 27, we will be praying for anyone who walks, bikes, or drives up for prayer.

Drive-Thru Prayer times are 7:30-9:00am, 11:30-1:00pm

Anyone who wishes to help, simply come and join us. All are welcome! Remember to tell your family and friends about this, and yes, we would be thrilled to pray for you too.

ULC Adult Education in July/August

Women of the ELCA Summer Bible Study ***"I Am Worthy"***



This summer, Women of the ELCA will gather in Des Moines, under the theme "I am worthy." This summer's Bible study helps us to define who we are, what we can be, and what we do in the world, in light of our God-given giftedness, identities and relationships.

"I am more than one thing: Honoring our many identities." **Friday, July 24, 10:00am**

In this session, we'll explore how the multiple identities of several women in Scripture shape their faithful living. Esther is not just a queen, but a niece, as well as part of an oppressed community of faith. Ruth is so much more than just a widow. Mary Magdalene has more identities than can fit within the allowed word count of this paragraph. So do you!

"I am because you are: We need one another." **Friday, August 21, 10:00am**

Our individual identities are always bound up in community. Jesus describes this vision using a vine and branches. Paul talks about a body with many parts. Archbishop Desmond Tutu describes our mutual interconnectedness as "Ubuntu," where "I can only be fully me if you are fully you." In this session, we see how our lives are bound up with one another and the planet.

Calling All Men ***"Men of Faith in John"***



We are Calling All Men to our Bible study entitled, "Men of Faith in John". In July, we will focus on Lazarus, and then in August, we will focus on Peter. Gentlemen, join us on **Saturdays, July 18 and August 15 at 8:30am** in the Fellowship Hall. We will pray, eat pizza, and see how these men of faith might help us as we journey in faith in this present day.



Blizzard Bingo - Sunday, August 9

Once again, members and friends of ULC enjoyed playing Bingo for Dairy Queen Blizzards in June! We will do it again in August! Please join us on Sunday, August 9, at 5:00pm for supper and Blizzard Bingo. We will eat at 5:00 – hot dogs, chips, lemonade and ice cream. Then at 5:30, we will play 17 games of Bingo, the first 16 are games for \$10 gift cards to buy Dairy Queen Blizzards, and the last game, "Blackout", for a \$40 gift certificate to Dairy Queen to buy blizzards for the whole family. Please join us for the fun!

Youth News



Sundaes on Wednesdays for July and August

This weekly Wednesday youth meeting will meet on the following dates: July 8, 15, 22, 29, August 12, 19, 26. During the summer months, we meet at 7:30pm to eat ice cream sundaes, enjoy a project or game at 8:00pm, and conclude with flashlight devotions at 9:00pm. Please note: We are not scheduling Sundaes on Wednesday, August 5.

Youth Bible Study on July 12

Hey Middle School and High School youth, please join us for Bible Study, Sunday, July 12, from 5:00-8:00pm. We will meet in the youth room.

Mystery Trip to Fargo

Many ULC youth have expressed an interest in doing a mystery bus trip to Fargo on a Friday or Saturday or some other day. The real mystery is this: Can we find a day where most of our youth can go? Over the next two weeks, we will look for such a date. Please look for a text which will ask you about such a potential day for such fun in Fargo.

CastAway Retreat: September 25-27

This year's Eastern North Dakota Synod Fall Youth Retreat will take place September 25-27. We hope to send a group of ULC youth, so if you are in grades 6-10 this next fall, please talk to Phoebe or Pastor Tom about your desire to go. Financial help will be available.

ELCA National Youth Gathering Minneapolis, Minnesota June 28-July 2, 2027

Hey ULC Youth, we are just beginning to think about the National Youth Gathering for 2027. Youth who are in grades 8-12 this next fall are eligible to attend. We will require a \$175 deposit for each youth attending, and we will fundraise the rest of the money. If the \$175 is still too much, please speak to Phoebe or Pastor Tom. There are some other possibilities available. We want every eligible ULC youth to attend! Our registration deadline is October 21.



Registration is open for VBS 2026! Monday-Thursday, August 3-6, 2026

All 3 year olds through 6th grade may attend.
3 year olds-Kindergarten from 9-11:30 am
and 1st-6th graders from 12-3 pm, Monday-Thursday.
Please use the grade they just completed
in the 2025/2026 school year.

Our program will be Wednesday, August 5th at 6 pm.
Hot Dogs and chips for dinner at 5 pm.

There is no charge for VBS this year! Register TODAY!
QR code for registration is provided. →





Summer Stewardship

You should by now have received our annual "Summer Stewardship" mailing with an envelope. Our income was surprisingly low in May, so our shortfall in the general fund was \$35,458. Perhaps you can help us "catch up" with a generous gift beyond your regular giving. Truthfully, no gift is too small. In fact, most ministries are built and sustained by many such smaller gifts. Thank you as always for your generosity year-round.

Dakotah O'yate Christmas Kids Christmas

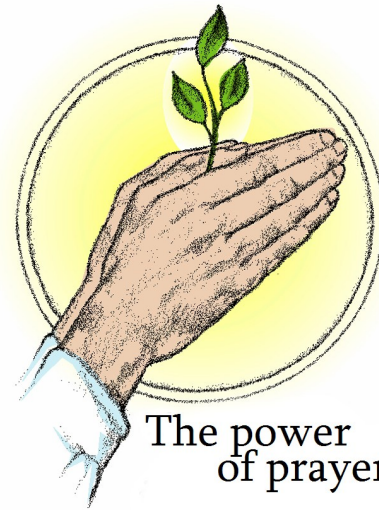
Again, this year we are participating in a synod wide project to provide a Merry Christmas to children at Dakotah O'yate Lutheran Church. We have 10 children ranging from 1 year old to 17 years old. We are looking to purchase 7 items for each child, including warm winter clothing (hat, boot socks, gloves), some personal health items (body soap, toothpaste, toothbrush) and a fun gift too. These are available:

Girls ages are – 6, 10, 11, 13, 15
Boys ages are 3, 8, 14, 15, 17

Individuals, families, or friends, could easily take on one child. Purchase new, good quality items, and leave them in their original packaging. Please return your gifts by September 1.



Y B C O P I H S R O W B C
 U E P I Y N I D S E U L H
 T C S B Y C L O V E A E H
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The power
of prayer.

WORD BANK :

FAITH	HOPE	PEACE
BLESSING	GRACE	LOVE
AMEN	BELIEVE	PRAYER
WORSHIP	SPIRIT	TRUST
PRaise	HOLY	CHURCH

WELCA JULY/AUGUST REPORT



RHUBARB FESTIVAL WRAP-UP

Bake Sale	\$2928.00
Cookbooks	1785.00
Quilts	375.00
Luncheon	2275.00
Cards/Napkins	593.00
Raffle	1269.00
<u>Donations</u>	<u>725.00</u>
Total Income -	\$9950.00

Milk Shakes (Men's Group) - \$149.00

Raffle Winners -

- # 1 Summer Quilt
- # 2 Simmer Is "Time for Ice Cream"
- # 3 Chillin' and Grillin'
- # 4 Summer Self Care
- # 5 Chicken Soup for the Soul 1
- # 6 Patriotic Celebration
- # 7 Sundae Fun Day
- # 8 Ultra Light Rod and Reel
- # 9 Summer Snacks and Games
- #10 Spa Day
- #11 Ice Cream Toppers
- #12 Chicken Soup for the Soul 2
- #13 Kitchen Supplies
- #14 Snacks Galore
- #15 Honor Flight
- #16 S'Mores
- #17 "Life is Gourd"
- #18 Fishing Rod and Tackle Box
- #19 Sunflower Siesta
- #20 Refresh
- #21 "Santa Claus is Coming to Town"
- #22 Sew Fun
- #23 The Chocolate Factory
- #24 Hiker's Basket

Dixie Evans
Bella Garcia
Lori McKeever
Abby Grotte
Joy Grainger
Joy Grainger
Shelly Meyer
Audrey Turner
Betty Bloomquist
Mary Nygord
Diana Watland
Bev Lunde
Veronica Kane
Joy Grainger
Debbie Watts
Pat Nybo
Linda Baird
Kathy Hauger
Clarice Urness
Ragna Hanson
Joy Grainger
Sandra Hann
Ranae Aaker
Wayne Burlog



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.

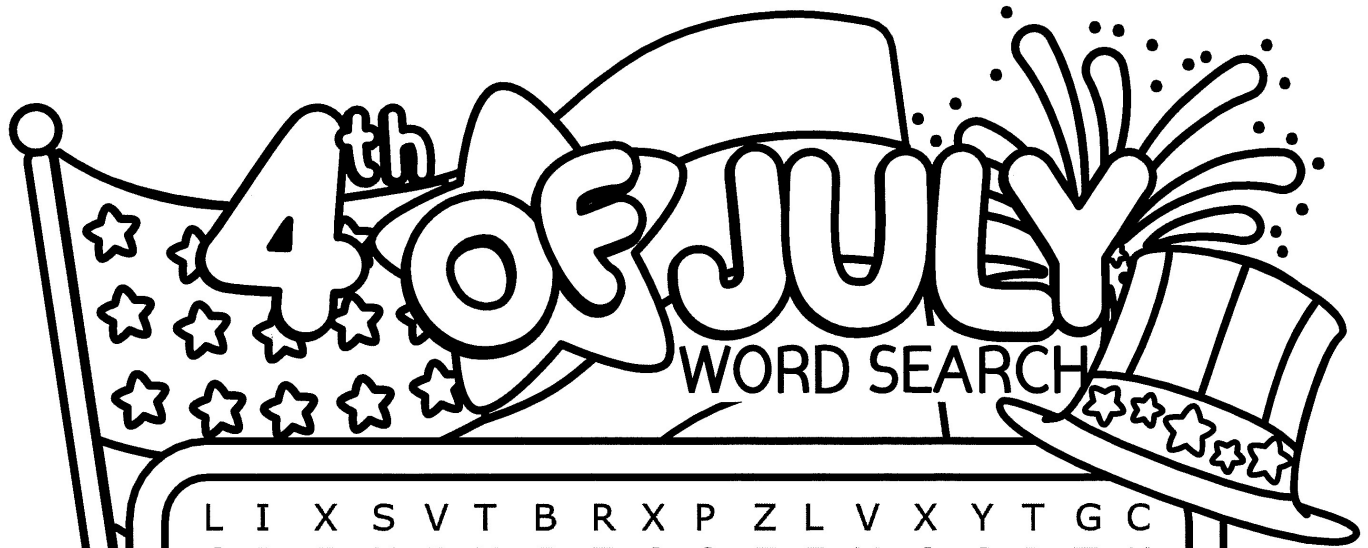
A huge THANK YOU to all of you for giving your time, energy, ideas and money to make this festival a success. We could not have done it without you! Money raised during our fund raising events this year will be distributed at the end of the year to local and regional organizations.



Dear ULC,

When I started the Rhubarb Festival in 1992, I never dreamed it would continue this long and grow as much as it has. I thank all the women, men, and youth for their active involvement. Some women have spent many, many hours planning and preparing and have made positive improvements with new ideas. I am very grateful for all of you.

--Pauline Bondy



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AMERICA
BANNER
BLUE
COOKOUT
COUNTRY

FIREWORKS
FLAG
FREEDOM
HOT DOGS
INDEPENDENCE

LIBERTY
PARADE
PATRIOTIC
POPSICLES
RED

SPARKLER
STARS
STRIPES
SUMMER
WHITE

**University Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
June 16, 2026**



Members present: Jamie Boe, Tom Colenso, Jennifer Frederikson, Katie Hess, Evonne Lopez, Dan Melberg, Kevin Meyer, John Neal, Joanna Pearson

Devotions read from Romans chapter 6, verses 1-11

Minutes from the May 19th meeting were approved.

The **Treasurer's Report** for May was approved. The increased cost of our church insurance was discussed briefly and will be looked at closer in the near future.

Pastor's Report: Funding was approved by council for a family fellowship event. Pastor Tom is hopeful for a future children's book reading. Pastor Tom, Paula Cox and Joanna Pearson attended the synod assembly where Bishop Tessa Moon-Leiseth was re-elected.

Old Business:

- Kitchen Remodel committee met and decided on a tentative layout. Next meeting will be June 30.
- 250th birthday: picnic/worship at University Park on July 1.
- Frostfire Theatre: Transportation was secured by the council for the 2:00 show on July 11.
- Summer stewardship letter will be sent out soon.

New Business:

- Internship: Discussion about sharing with Honeyford later this season. Executive Board will meet to discuss further.

Ministry Reports:

Education: Bible school theme is "Jesus Calms Our Storms".

Picnic and Praise has begun on Wednesdays.

Property: landscaping, spraying and trimming were all underway in June, A roof leak was fixed and the council approved funding to fix our drainage issue in the alley.

Worship: July 1st and 5th worships were discussed

Youth: 18 youth met at Culver's

Mission Endowment: nothing to report

WELCA: New coffee pots are in. 227 tickets for Rhubarb Festival lunch were sold, 107 pies made and \$9451 was raised

Men's Group: 149 rhubarb shakes were made.

Next council meeting will be Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 6:30 pm.

JULY 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 10:00 TOPS Picnic & Praise/University Park 5:00 Supper - Hamburgers and Hot dogs, Salads and Chips 6:00 WORSHIP 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	2 10:00-6:00 Bell Ringing - Christmas in July for Salvation Army at Scheel's 1:00 Quilting	3 10:00 Prayer Team	4 Independence Day
5 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Fellowship 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	6 6:30 Game Fellowship 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	7 10:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Quilters	8 10:00 TOPS Summer Picnic 5:00 Supper - Cook's Choice 6:00 WORSHIP 7:30 Sundaes on Wednesdays 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	9 Drive Thru Prayer 7:30-9:00am 11:30am-1:00pm 1:00 Quilting	10 10:00 Prayer Team	11 Frost Fire Musical	
12 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Fellowship Dave & Judy Senne 60th Anniversary 12:30 Baptism- Claire Gudding 5:00 Youth Bible Study 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	13 6:30 Game Fellowship 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	14 10:00 Staff Meeting 3:00 Funeral for David Faulkner 5:30 Quilters	15 10:00 TOPS 5:00 Supper - Turkey & Cheese Croissant 6:00 WORSHIP 7:30 Sundaes on Wednesdays 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	16 1:00 Quilting	17 10:00 Prayer Team	18 8:30 Calling All Men	
19 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Fellowship 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	20 6:30 Game Fellowship 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	21 10:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Quilters	22 10:00 TOPS 5:00 Supper - Corn dogs & Nachos 6:00 WORSHIP 7:30 Sundaes on Wednesdays 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	23 1:00 Quilting 1:30 Edgewood Worship	24 9:00 Prayer Team 10:00 WELCA Bible Study 5:30 Wedding Rehearsal	25 Wedding - 4:00pm Clara Hanson & Court Christanson	
26 10:00 WORSHIP Healing Service 11:00 Fellowship 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	27 6:30 Game Fellowship 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	28 10:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Quilters	29 10:00 TOPS 5:00 Supper - Sloppy joes & tater tots 6:00 WORSHIP 7:30 Sundaes on Wednesdays 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	30 Drive Thru Prayer 7:30-9:00am 11:30am-1:00pm 1:00 Quilting	31		



August 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Fellowship 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	3 9:00-3:00 Vacation Bible School 6:30 Game Fellowship 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	4 9:00-3:00 Vacation Bible School 5:30 Quilters	5 9:00-3:00 Vacation Bible School 11:00 TOPS 5:00 Supper - Hot dog & chips 6:00 WORSHIP/VBS Program 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	6 9:00-3:00 Vacation Bible School 1:00 Quilting	7 10:00 Prayer Team	8
9 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Fellowship 5:00 Blizzard Bingo! 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	10 6:30 Game Fellowship 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	11 10:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Quilters	12 11:00 TOPS 5:00 Supper - Ham & Cheese Sandwich & Potato Salad 6:00 WORSHIP/Healing Service 7:30 Sundaes on Wednesdays 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	13 1:00 Quilting	14 10:00 Prayer Team 4:00 Wedding (offsite) Matt Neal & Paige Breidenbach	15 8:30 Calling All Men
16 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Fellowship 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	17 6:30 Game Fellowship 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	18 10:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Quilters 6:30 Church Council	19 11:00 TOPS No Supper or Worship 7:30 Sundaes on Wednesdays 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	20 Drive Thru Prayer 7:30-9:00am 11:30am-1:00pm 1:00 Quilting	21 10:00 Prayer Team 10:00 WELCA Bible Study	22
23 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Fellowship 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	24 6:30 Game Fellowship 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	25 10:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Quilters	26 11:00 TOPS No Supper or Worship 7:30 Sundaes on Wednesdays 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	27 Drive Thru Prayer 7:30-9:00am 11:30am-1:00pm 1:00 Quilting 1:30 Edgewood Worship	28 10:00 Prayer Team	29
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58201
PERMIT #330**



WORSHIP & EVENT SCHEDULE

SUMMER SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00am WORSHIP
11:00am Fellowship

SUMMER WEDNESDAY PICNIC & PRAISE

5:00pm Supper
6:00pm WORSHIP
7:30pm Sundaes on Wednesday (Youth Group)

Sundaes on Wednesdays

July 8, 15, 22, 29 7:30pm
August 12, 19, 26 7:30pm

WELCA Bible Study

Friday, July 24 10:00am
Friday, August 21 10:00am

Calling All Men

Saturday, July 18 8:30am
Saturday, August 15 8:30am

Drive Thru Prayer

Thursdays, July 9 and 30
August 20 and 27
7:30-9:00am
11:30am-1:00pm

Vacation Bible School

Monday, August 3 - Thursday, August 6
VBS Supper, Worship and Program - August 5

Blizzard Bingo

Sunday, August 9 5:00pm

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
Youth Minister: Phoebe Burke

Administrative Assistant: Seanne Voracek
Choir Director: Mary Splchal
Organists: Lauri Shimpa
Jane Traub

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