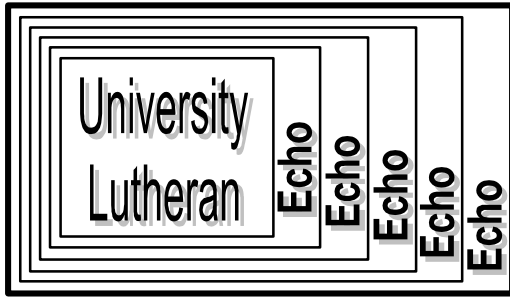


September 2026



The Echo

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

2122 University Avenue

Grand Forks, North Dakota 58203

People of God, we were created by God to soar.
This is why we have chosen our theme for 2026-27 to be "Soaring Like Eagles".
Isaiah 40:31 is our key verse:

**Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles.
They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.**

Eagles are very interesting creatures. Did you know that when their eaglets are young, eagles line their nest with fur, making it comfortable and safe. However, as the eaglets grow, their parents remove the softer linings and bring less food. This gradual discomfort pushes the eaglets to try flight. Of course, they stumble and fall at first, but the truth is they are never alone. They are never forgotten. The father eagle watches closely and swoops in to catch them before they hit the ground. He does this again and again until it finally happens, and the eaglets learn to fly.

This scenario reveals something beautiful for eaglets and people too – our Father flies faster than we can fall. What I mean to say is that God flies faster than we can fall. In fact, even if our lives feel like they are out of control, that we are falling and the ground is too close for comfort, we discover the Lord is watching over us, and that He will catch us. This is to say the hardship we experience in life does not mean we are alone or forgotten. God is closer to us than our mortal eyes can see, and when we are struggling with hope and strength, God swoops in to catch us so that we may soar.

At first, we soar only because the Lord has caught us and is helping us. However, eventually like eagles, God teaches us to fly. It is certainly true that eagles were not created to remain in their nests or to fly forever on the backs of their fathers. Eagles were created to fly – to soar over the earth below. People of God, the same is true for us. We too were created by God not simply to survive, not simply to ride on the Lord's back our entire lives. We were created to soar over the hardships and challenges of life. We were created to move through the world on our own, serving both the Lord and people too.

As we reflect on the idea of "Soaring Like Eagles" I hope you see this as a two-part reality. First, God does indeed watch over us, so if we lose hope or our strength fails and we start to fall perilously in the midst of our lives, God is there to catch us. Then for a time, we may hold onto the Lord and with His help safely soar like eagles. But secondly, God eventually encourages us to venture out into the world, to soar on our own with the intention of sharing the Gospel of God's love with anyone who is needy or needing help, while at the same time remembering God is always close at hand to catch us.

Last November, we celebrated 75 years of ministry together as a congregation. Are you wondering what new thing God might be doing among us? I know I am and I pray you are too. I pray that God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, that God, who lives alongside us and even within us, will inspire us to soar like eagles through this ministry we affectionately call ULC. I pray that the people of God who call ULC their home will return to worship and serve the Lord through our congregation. I pray that we who are active now will reach out and encourage others to live and serve among us.

Then together we can discover from the Lord new ways to soar. Together we can make plans to be a people and congregation on the move, who will witness to the goodness of God we have discovered through Jesus Christ. And together we can make plans to be a people and a congregation on the move, who will reach out to people in our community who need welcome, who need the Gospel, and who need a community of faithful friends. People of God, we were created to soar, so with God's help, let us make plans to do so in 2026-27 and beyond, and of course, God is always there to catch us.

You are in my prayers,





Fall 2026

Soaring Like Eagles

University Lutheran Church theme for 2026-27 is SOARING LIKE EAGLES. We are on the move with ministry this fall! The theme comes from this Bible verse in Isaiah 40:31. This verse speaks of the hope we all have in God and in the Lord Jesus Christ. As we begin this new school year, Sunday School, Wednesday with Jesus, as well as everything else at ULC, we plan to renew our hope and strength, and then to walk, run, and even soar in faith and ministry.



Back to Church Rally Days

Our "Back to Church Rally Days", are Sunday, September 13 and Wednesday, September 16. We sure hope to see you at Sunday School, Wednesday with Jesus, and of course, worship:

Sunday Mornings

8:45 Adult Class
9:00 Sunday School/Confirmation
10:00 Worship
11:00 Fellowship

Wednesdays with Jesus

5:00 Supper
6:00 Worship/WWJ Classes
7:00 Confirmation
7:00 Chapel Choir
8:00 Sundaes on Wednesday

Sunday, September 13 Fellowship Time after worship: **BIG DONUTS!**
Wednesday, September 16, WWJ Meal at 5:00pm: **TACOS!**

Rally Sunday "Soaring Like Eagles" September 13 at 9:00am

ULC Sunday and Wednesday families and friends are invited to rally and "Soar Like Eagles" as we begin the ULC 2026-27 Church School year. We will gather in the sanctuary for puppets and music and then move to the fellowship hall for a special project and morning snack. People of all ages are invited to join in with the fun.



Backpack Blessings Sunday, September 13 and Wednesday, September 16

The new school year is here, and we will once again offer a blessing over your school backpacks. Join us Sunday, September 13 at 10am and Wednesday, September 16 at 6pm, for this blessing. We encourage children and youth in preschool through college to bring your backpack to worship. ***As usual, we will have a gift for each one of you to attach to your backpack.***

ULC Wristbands

This year our wristbands are blue with white print. They will say, "Soaring Like Eagles". Why not wear yours wherever you go this year. *Remember, if people ask you why you are wearing yours, be prepared to tell them how you and your church are soaring like eagles.*

Apostles' Creed

Look for fun facts to be part of worship this fall about the Apostles' Creed. We will use Martin Luther's explanations about the Apostles' Creed for our actual Sunday and Wednesday creeds this fall. September (first article), October (second article), and November (third article).

The
Apostles'
+Creed+



God's Work Our Hands

**Third Annual Grand Forks Event
Free Community Meal and Much More
September 23, 2026**

The Greater Grand Forks ELCA Churches are once again hosting: God's Work Our Hands. This year it will be Wednesday, September 23, from 5:30-7:00pm, downtown Grand Forks at Town Square. We will gather for a free meal, service projects, music, and community. Supper is grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, fruit, beverage, and a cookie.

Our emphasis this year is combatting hunger in our community. All our service projects are aimed at this emphasis:

- We will have an ingathering of food for St. Joe's Food Shelf
- We will pack food for the North Country Food Bank
- We will pack essential items for Community Violence Intervention Center
- We will write letters which support food security

We will also enjoy two speakers

- Jen Engquist, Disaster Capacity Builder with EaND and WND Synods
- Pastor Brad Skogen, Associate with the Bishop of the Eastern North Dakota Synod

What does this mean for ULC?

1. ULC events (supper, worship, confirmation, choir, Sundaes on Wednesday) for this night are cancelled in hope that many ULC people will attend.
2. At some point we will announce the need for people to bake cookies
3. Pastor Tom is in charge of logistics, so he needs a team of people to pick up, set up, take down, and bring back tables and chairs from JK Rents in East Grand Forks.

We hope YOU will come that night for this very special event!



ULC Chapel Choir

We are announcing the beginning of the 2026-27 Chapel Choir season. Our **first rehearsal is Wednesday, September 16, at 7pm**, in the sanctuary. If you would like to sing in the choir, please, come join us as we make joyful noises before the Lord! We are excited to continue to sing under the direction of our choir director, Mary Splichal.

Ministry of Worship

The ULC Ministry of Worship will meet on **Tuesday, September 22, at 5:30pm** to work on the fall worship schedule, holiday worship, volunteer recruitment, and volunteer handbook.

New Camera for Worship Broadcast

We recently purchased and installed a new camera to broadcast our worship services on Sundays and Wednesdays. You will still find us on Facebook, but now you can also watch us on YouTube. This is a work in progress as we seek to improve especially the sound.

Thank you to Greta Snyder for purchasing this camera in loving memory of her husband, Don, who passed away last December. Thank you also to Dan Melberg and Matt Melberg for installing it. You can see the camera for yourself on the back wall of the sanctuary.

ULC Adult Education in September



Sunday Morning Adult Class

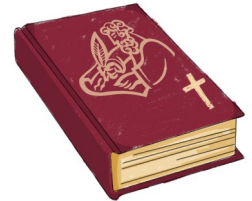
Please join us for the Rally event on September 13.
By then we will have more information about the fall classes.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

"The Gospel of Mark"

Thursday, September 10, 9:30am

Over the first 12 weeks of our Thursday morning Bible study, we will study the Gospel of Mark, which will be our Sunday Gospel reading from Advent 2026 through the season of Pentecost in 2027 (November 29, 2026, through November 21, 2027). Mark is the shortest Gospel, it has no birth story of Jesus, and it has a rather strange and confusing ending. Both Matthew and Luke use Mark as a main source when they write their Gospels. Mark uses the word "immediately" a lot and has something mysterious about it that we call the Messianic secret.



Session 1: Mark 1	(September 10) A Jackrabbit Beginning
Session 2: Mark 2	(September 17) Catching Everyone's Attention
Session 3: Mark 3	(September 24) "Trouble with a Capital T"
Session 4: Mark 4-5	(October 1) Parables, Boat Rides, Miracles



Women of the ELCA (WELCA) Fall Bible Study

"Bold Faith on an Unexpected Journey"

By the Rev. Tiffany Chaney

Faith often leads us down paths we didn't expect – into wilderness places, across unfamiliar lands, and through seasons of grief and hope. This three-session study takes us on a journey with Hagar, Ruth and Mary Magdalene, women whose bold faith transformed their unexpected stories. Their encounters with God remind us that we, too, are seen, sustained and sent to carry good news into the world.

Session 1: Encountering God in the wilderness

Scripture: Genesis 16:1–16; 21:8–21

Hagar, an enslaved woman pushed to the margins, encounters God in the wilderness. When she believes all hope is lost, God sees her, hears her and reshapes her story. Her witness reminds us that God meets us in deserted places with vision and promise. This session invites participants to consider who is marginalized in our world today and to reflect on how God sees both them and us in our own wilderness experiences.

Please join us, ULC women and friends, on **Friday, September 11 from 10:00-11:30.**

Calling All Men

"Hope Against All Odds"

We are Calling All Men, ULC men and friends, to reflect on 3 biblical stories which seem to have little hope yet hope still wins the day. We will study three stories where Abraham, Daniel, and Apostle Paul are facing impossible odds yet act with faith and hope.



Session 1: What If God Asks the Impossible

Scripture: Genesis 15 and 22

What must have Abraham been thinking and feeling when God told him to sacrifice his Son, Isaac? Did he think God was crazy? Was not Isaac the child of the promise? Or did he have such hope in the Lord that he trusted God even in the midst of this terrible test?

Please join us on **September 26 at 8:30am** for prayer, breakfast pizza, and this fascinating story.

Intern Pastor Morgan Olson

In partnership with Luther Seminary, the Eastern North Dakota Synod, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Honeyford, we are pleased to announce we are hosting an intern this year. Intern Pastor Morgan Olson will be serving 20 hours here at University Lutheran Church and 20 hours at St. Paul's as well. Pastor Tom will serve as Morgan's supervisor. How fun for us to be a teaching congregation!



Hello! I'm Morgan Olson, and I'm excited to be joining the University Lutheran Church community as an intern pastor for the next year!

My internship is a little unique because I'll be sharing my time between two ministry settings: University Lutheran here in Grand Forks and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Honeyford. I'll spend part of each week learning and serving alongside the University Lutheran community and part of the week at St. Paul's, giving me the opportunity to experience ministry in two very different contexts during my internship year.

I'm currently pursuing my Master of Divinity at Luther Seminary as I prepare for ordained ministry in the ELCA. Before seminary, I worked as a speech-language pathologist and later spent several years in youth ministry. Most recently, I've also served in communications and events ministry with the Northwestern Minnesota Synod.

My husband, Todd, and I live in Grand Forks with our two kids, Landry and Dalton, and our dog, Phineas. I'm a lover of coffee, popcorn, and good conversation, and I'm looking forward to plenty of all three this year!

I'm looking forward to getting to know the people of University Lutheran—worshiping together, sharing conversations, asking questions, trying new things, and learning what it means to do ministry together. I'm grateful to have University Lutheran as part of my internship year and excited for the year ahead!



EDUCATION UPDATE

RALLY DAYS 2026 - Sunday, September 13 and Wednesday, September 16

Please register for K-6th grade church school and Wednesday with Jesus using the QR code that is printed to the right.

Backpack Blessings

Please bring your backpack to worship with you!
Sunday, September 13 and Wednesday, September 16



September 16: Tacos
September 30: Meatball subs

Supper is served at 5:00pm.
Meals are still only \$1 per person.



Blizzard Bingo in September

This year we are going to add one more opportunity to play Blizzard Bingo. We are hoping many ULC members and friends will come together on **Sunday, September 27, at 5:00pm** for supper and 16 games of Bingo for Dairy Gift Cards. The first 15 games will be for \$10 gift cards and at the end blackout Bingo will be \$40. This is simply a fun way to get together as a church family and have some fun. The meal at 5:00pm will be delicious - pulled pork sandwich, baked beans, potato salad, chips and dessert. Blizzard Bingo will begin at 5:30.

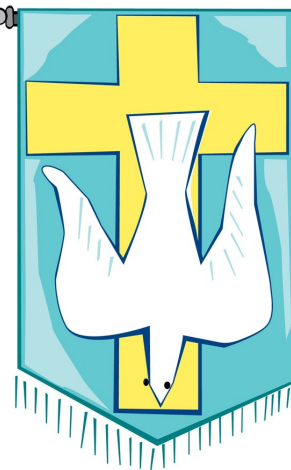
Bring the whole family!!

Confirmation 2026-27

As school begins in Grand Forks, confirmation classes are back as well. We hope to provide our young people with faith tools for their lives. Here are some fall details:

Grade 10 – the Final Paper

We will meet **Wednesday, September 9, 7:00pm**, to get you started on your final paper. This paper, "What Does It Mean for Me to Be a Christian?", is due Wednesday, September 30, 5pm. It will be the basis of an interview with Pastor Tom sometime in October. Confirmation Sunday is October 25, with the Confirmation Banquet at 6pm the night before. We have eleven 10th graders preparing for confirmation. God bless them as they prepare.



Grades 7-9 Confirmation Orientation

Parents and students are to attend this class together on **Wednesday, September 16**. We will meet at 7:15pm in the fellowship hall after worship. At this event, we will go through the upcoming year and outline all the requirements and expectations for this new year. This is an important meeting to make sure parents and students understand our program.

Bible Basics for Grade 3

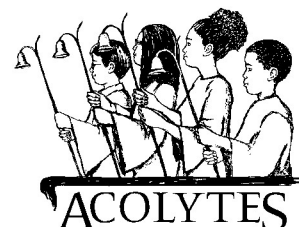
Grade 3 parents and students are invited to attend a Bible Basics class on Sunday, **October 4, 6:30pm**. We will introduce the Bible to the third-grade class preparing them to receive their new Bibles on Bible Sunday and Wednesday. For your information, we give the students a SPARK Bible, a child friendly version of the New Revised Standard Bible.

Bible Sunday and Wednesday

The B-I-B-L-E, yes, that's the book for me! This fall **Bible Wednesday is October 7 and Bible Sunday is October 11**. On these dates, we give SPARK Story Bibles to preschool students, Bible story books to grade 2 students, and SPARK NRSV Bibles to grade 3 students.

Acolyte Class

It's time to train acolytes! We are asking youth (grades 5-8) to train for this ministry at ULC. The word acolyte means helper, and we need youth to help lead worship! If this is something you want to do, join us at church on **Saturday, October 3, from 10-12:00pm**.



Youth News



Sundaes on Wednesday

Our Wednesday evening youth ministry night "Sundaes on Wednesday" will continue. Each week we gather at 8:00pm for ice cream sundaes and conversation, transition to some sort of program or service project, and conclude with our flashlight devotions. **In September, we will meet Wednesdays, September 9, 16 and 30.** We are off the 23rd because of the God's Work Our Hands event downtown Grand Forks.

Do Good Be Better Eastern North Dakota Fall Youth Retreat at Castaway Club September 25-27

We are excited for the Eastern North Dakota Fall Youth retreat September 25-27 at the Castaway Club. This retreat is geared toward students in grades 6-10.

This year's theme is **IMAGINE MORE**—inspired by the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering theme. At the heart of this theme is the invitation to trust that God is always at work beyond what we can see, understand, or expect. This theme calls us to imagine a faith that expands beyond Sunday, a love that reaches beyond our comfort zones, a justice that transforms communities, and a God whose possibilities are greater than our limitations. This weekend, we'll invite young people to wonder: What does it mean to imagine more for my own faith journey? Where is God calling me beyond what feels safe or familiar? How can the church imagine more for our neighbors, our communities, and the world?

The retreat is at Castaway Club, which is located in the heart of Minnesota's beautiful lake country, 13 miles south of Detroit Lakes. Fall in the lake country is gorgeous! There are game rooms, a climbing wall, waterfront frisbee golf course, soccer field, basketball courts, tennis & volleyball, and a gaga pit, as well as great food and coffee shop.

The event begins at 8:00pm, Friday, September 25, and we will be home Sunday afternoon. Cost is \$191, but if you want to attend, we will find \$100 scholarships for every youth who goes. So, your cost is \$91. Please let Pastor Tom or Phoebe know if that \$91 is also a hardship.

We are behind in registering youth, and it could fill up quickly, so please contact Pastor Tom or Phoebe as soon as possible to pick up the proper forms.

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

Hey ULC Youth currently in grades 8-12, you are invited to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering in the summer of 2027. The theme is **IMAGINE MORE – Courage, Grace, Joy, Love and Welcome.** We will have our organizational meeting about this on Wednesday, September 30, at 8:00pm during our Sundaes on Wednesday event. On this night, we will have parents join us for this initial informational and potentially sign-up event.



Conversations Across Cultures A ULC Series of Cross-Cultural Exchanges

This fall we begin again with our series of cross-cultural exchanges. Through this series, we have been discovering how the world has come to Grand Forks. Our journey continues in September as we venture to Argentina. You are invited to join us at **4:30pm Saturday, September 26 in the lounge**, as Ligia Carina Feo shares her South American home country of Argentina with us.

Prayer Ministry at ULC

Summer flew by and we had several great sessions of Drive-Thru Prayer. Of course, prayer ministry is a year-round matter! Here is what else is going on at ULC:

Prayer Group

Our Prayer Group is praying for you. They meet on **Friday mornings at 10:00am** in the lounge to pray for the ministry, members, and friends of ULC, as well as the happenings around our state, nation, and world. If you have a prayer request for them, call the church office and leave them a message or simply write the prayer request yourself and drop it off in the office. Any ULC member or friend is welcome to be part of the Prayer Group.

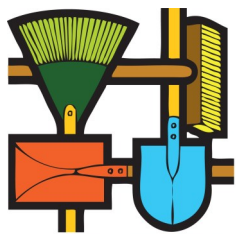


The power
of prayer.

Prayer Chain

We are announcing changes to our prayer chain. From now on, this group will receive prayer requests by texts only. Anyone may call in a prayer request, and we will immediately send out a text which will reach all prayer chain members. The advantage of the Prayer Chain is that these prayer requests can be acted upon any day of the week. Any ULC member or friend is welcome to be part of the Prayer Chain.

If you would like to join either of these groups, or if you want yourself or someone else to be on our Sunday or Wednesday prayer lists, please call the church office (775-4745).



Gardeners Needed 😊

Calling all gardeners to join us at **8am on Saturday, September 12** for some garden care. We will be working on our two front gardens, one in front of the parking lot and one in front of the office. The plan is to move some plants, weed, and trim those plants which have become overgrown. If you have any questions, please talk to either Joanna Pearson or Lara Dando.

90 and Over Club

The next meeting of the 90 and Over Club is set for **Wednesday, September 30 at 2:30** in the Fellowship Hall. Come prepared to speak about the hometown or hometowns in which you grew up. Also, bring a photo or two from your past in an envelope for the October meeting. We will prepare to project them on a screen for everyone to see while you explain the story behind the picture. All 90-year-olds (89 is ok too!) and over people are welcome to join us!





WOMEN OF THE ELCA Purpose Statement

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit,

We commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the Church, the society, and the world.

WELCA NEWS SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear lovely, strong, and faithful women of ULC,
We pray that you have had a wonderful summer and are refreshed and ready to strengthen your faith and serve our Risen Lord. You can start by coming to our September 8th Board Meeting at 5:30 pm in the Narthex. All are welcome to help us plan events, like our Fall Festival (November 21), our first fundraiser of the 2026-27 year. We will also talk about hosting crafting and faith-strengthening events.

Please contact Lara or Debbie for more information or if you have any questions. We can't wait to see you!

Peace and blessings be with you all,
Lara Dando and Debbie Watts, Co-Presidents

Lutheran World Relief Outreach

Fran Sailer is organizing the assembly of our LWR school, personal care, and baby care kits. We need your help in gathering the following new items:

- 70-80 sheet spiral notebooks
- Unsharpened #2 pencils
- Blunt scissors
- Black or blue ballpoint pens
- Boxes of 16 or 24 crayons
- Mild bath-sized bars of soap, individually wrapped and mild scented
- Sturdy comb, no picks or fine-tooth combs (doesn't need to be individually wrapped)
- Dark colored bath-sized cotton towels
- Metal nail-clippers
- Lightweight cotton t-shirts (size 6-24 months)
- Baby socks and cloth diapers
- Receiving blankets

There are more items needed to complete the kits, so if you are interested, please contact Fran Sailer.



Quilting Opportunities

Tuesday Night Quilters 5:30-8:30pm

This group focuses on quilts for fundraising, donations to benefits/local charities, and baptismal quilts.

Thursday Quilting Group 1:00-3:00pm

This group focuses on quilts, health kits, school kits, and layettes for Lutheran World Relief.

These items are shared with our sisters & brothers around the world.

All women are invited to attend. All skill levels are welcome.
We are happy to teach you!



WELCA Synodical Meeting September 26, 2026

We are hitting road! Mark your calendars and spread the word – September 26, 2026 is the date of this year's Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) convention.

This year we will meet in Kulm, ND. Registration begins at 8:30, and the meeting at 9:00 am. A meal will be provided for \$15.00 (to be covered by our WELCA group). The ladies there are excited to host us, so let us show up in big numbers!

Registration is a MUST by Sunday September 13th, so please contact Lara Dando (701/213-3086) if you are interested or if you have any questions or comments. Let's get a good group together and have a fun day!

Mission of the Month and Noisy Offering

During September, our Mission of the Month focus is on the United Way and their School Backpack program. For many kids, the only consistent source of food they have is the meals they receive Monday through Friday at their school. United Way's Backpack Program fights to end childhood hunger in our community by providing bags of food in students' backpacks to get them through the weekend. A donation of just \$7 provides one bag of food. One bag provides a child with six meals (2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners), 2 snacks, and 2 drinks.



All month long, our Noisy Offerings will go toward our local mission and its food cupboard. We also will be collecting items for the School Backpack program:

Breakfast: Cereal (single serving), oatmeal packets, Pop Tarts, Fruit/Cereal Bars

Entrees: Mac&Cheese (Easy Mac or Velveeta) Cups, Ramen Noodles, Ravioli (must have pull open top), Soup (must have pull open top)

Snacks: Single serving sizes of Applesauce, Cheese Crackers, Fruit Cups, Goldfish Crackers

Drinks: Juice Boxes, Individual Drink Packets



Visitation Team

Our Visitation Team meets at 2:00pm most Fridays to visit our nursing home and homebound members. We are exploring the possibility of expanding this ministry this year. It is our hope to pair all our nursing home and homebound people with other ULC members or families.

For example, if Jane Doe is an older ULC member living in an assisted living facility, might there be another ULC member who might check in on her and even visit her on a monthly basis. Some training would be provided by Pastor Tom and others to prepare you for those visits.

If this interests you at all, please join us for a Visitation Team meeting on **Tuesday, September 29, at 6:30pm in the lounge**. The Visitation Team also writes a lot of cards to nursing home and homebound people. Anyone may join us for those times as well.

Check Out the Alley

One of our summer rains brought too much water into the church basement. In response, we had some work done on it to create a better slope, so water drains away from the building. You will also notice new rock, new window wells, and new downspout extensions. For an alley, it looks pretty great. Why don't you drive through and check it out! Thank you to Jeff's Landscaping, Inc, for their excellent work.



Closing the Time Capsule

We will close the time capsule for our 75th Anniversary with a special litany on All Saints' Day, **November 1, 2026**. Please submit any last time capsule writings before then. This fall our youth will add their writings and pictures to the capsule as well. If you have any ideas about something you think we should add to it, please call the church office. We will place the time capsule inside the baptismal font to be opened on the occasion of ULC's 100th anniversary.



Financial Update

Thank you for your summer stewardship gifts in July. However, our general fund is still short by \$36,581. Heading into fall, we expect income to increase and remain a little more consistent. However, if you have the ability to make an extra gift, that would be most appreciated. We thank you for your generosity, your generous gifts, throughout the year!





Red Willow Bible Camp 100th Year Anniversary

Red Willow Bible Camp celebrated its 100th anniversary in August. Did you know that Red Willow is the longest running Bible camp in the United States? Many ULC youths have attended camps and retreats there over the years. Lauri Shimpa was a camp counselor there. Our own Pastor Bob Weber architecturally designed the retreat center there. Pastor Tom was on the board there during their 75th anniversary. At their August meeting, your Church Council voted to contribute \$1,000 to Red Willow Ministries in celebration of this important anniversary.

Dacotah O'yate Kids Christmas Return Gifts by September 6

Thank you to the people who put together the Christmas gifts for the 10 Dacotah O'yate children and youth. We are asking you to return them to ULC by Sunday, September 6, so Pastor Tom can hand them off to the proper people on September 13. The following people assisted with this project: Sue Kiesow, Betty Bloomquist and the Barber family, Tracy and Lauri Shimpa, Dale and Deb Christopherson, Shelly Petty, Yolanda Price, Pauline Lileng, Doug and Sandy Norby, Doug and Patty Olsen, Pastor Tom and Margo, as well as the following youth who painted the tote bags for the gifts – Regan Carnevale, Claire Fiala, Paige Fiala, Carmen Palm, and Stella Palm.



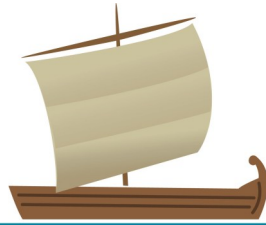
Dear Pastor Tom, Jen and University Lutheran Church,
Thank you for helping attend Bible Camp. It was really fun.
It was a marvelous experience; I really liked Cross Hill.
I would like to go again next year! Everyone there was so fun and kind.
--Thank you, Abby Grotte

Pastor Tom, Jen, VBS team, and ULC,
Thank you so much for welcoming us to join you for VBS this past week.
We were truly blessed by your hospitality and care, and grateful for the opportunity to share in such a wonderful time of learning about how Jesus calms the storms in our lives.
Please enjoy these sweet treats as a small thank you. A monetary donation will also be coming your way in the week ahead as another expression of our gratitude.
All the best and prayers as we head into fall.

--In Christ,
Pastor Jo, Allison and our VBS gang
Augustana Lutheran Church

Dear University Lutheran Church,
We cannot thank you all enough for doing such an amazing job at the funeral.
My mom, Clarice, loved the church and all of you so much.
Mom loved being at church more than just about anything (except Diet Coke).
Everything was beautiful and so delicious. Many, many thanks! Forever grateful. ♥

--Much love, Barb, Becky, and Gary Urness



APOSTLES' CREED

W P J M K O M J N N W C E T A L I P J L D B F E
R M A X B I J J S G G T I R I P S Y L O H O Q H
N G W K S Q U D Q J O K R X S F I M E J Z A Q Q
D E K I U P M D A E D K Q L I S P S I K V F Y Y
P N K L X W B I D Z P A S V M P B F M I Z P S L
X C O M M U N I O N K B D N A H T H G I R S L T
B K G K H Z W W C I R G K C T O D Z I B H T P L
W U M I I C U N F G P O U K C Y F Z B T L N U Y
Q C R V D L Q A W A R B C M E Z B A R T A I U I
J Z Y I Q A T E R T P N G W U K S A P W A A W G
I W X H E H T W Z R Y W V I I D E K L O C S J M
K H H E E D W X R Z P W I F X O P E S V S A Q M
N W Y R R E S U R E C T I O N G A E N Y S T N A
A L S G M W D V C N B D K X V Y C X L Q C V L A
Q D K M A L G L Z H J C H R I S T U A G D V S E
K H X J D N Y I E C M J J B F G N P A H N S N N
F W T J E N N M G V B O B E G N T U A Q P I M F
D E I F I C U R C J E S U S U F D O C V O N C J
Z X D K H E B O Y M Q Y S Y F M D P V R K S R B
L F M Z N B G L R V D P Y A C C A L J R A I E X
B R B R K I S T Y R G R P E V N N X L Q M O F C
Q R X C S C R E E D A P Y X W V H I Q O Z B N C
B D S S E N E V I G R O F N W Q T B U J P Z T W
F Z J S T O R F H K I J H E A V E N I G D G U Y

resurrection
communion
christ
father
sins

forgiveness
crucified
buried
earth
dead

holy spirit
apostle
pilate
jesus
god

right hand
saints
heaven
creed

**Dear ULC members and friends,
we are in dire need of volunteers to assist
with Sunday and Wednesday worship.
We have filled the spots for September and
October, but are looking for some new
people to add to the rotation. Please call the
church office to add your name to the list.
If you leave a message, please leave a good
phone number so we can get back to you.
Thanks.**

--Ministry of Worship

Sundays

September 6

Greeter/Ushers: Wayne and Peggy Burlog
Lector: Anna Buskness
Communion Preparers: Cliff and Dee Crawford (Cups)
Communion Servers: Dean and Janine Groseth
Fellowship: Jamie and Becky Boe

September 13

Rally Sunday

Greeter/Ushers: Lara Dando and Greg Vandeberg
Lector: Kevin Meyer
Communion Preparers: Ragna Hanson, Martha Haug
(Intinction)
Communion Servers: Dave Solberg, Rita Jehlicka
Fellowship: Patty and Doug Olsen
(Food provided)

September 20

Greeter/Ushers: Trevor Grainger, Curt Hanson
Lector: Lara Dando
Communion Preparers: Dean and Janine Groseth (Cups)
Communion Servers: Martha Haug, Pauline Lileng
Fellowship: Jen Cummings & Jerry Nowatski

September 27

Greeter/Ushers: Kevin and Shelly Meyer
Lector: John Neal
Communion Preparers: Judy Westerman, Peggy Witheril
(Intinction)
Communion Servers: Dave and Judy Senne
Fellowship: Jay and Theresa Farmer

October 4

Greeter/Ushers: Lee and Judy Larson
Lector: Patty Olsen
Communion Preparers: Kevin and Shelly Meyer (Cups)
Communion Servers: Doug and Patty Olsen
Fellowship: Loretta Prather, Rita Jehlicka

October 11

Greeter/Ushers: Jay and Theresa Farmer
Lector: Debbie Watts
Communion Preparers: Darrel Iverson, Wayne Larson
(Intinction)
Communion Servers: Lara Dando and Greg Vandeberg
Fellowship: Shelly Meyer, Gina Neal

October 18

Greeter/Ushers: Dave and Bonnie Solberg
Lector: Pauline Lileng
Communion Preparers: Dan Melberg, John Neal (Cups)
Communion Servers: Judy Larson, Martha Haug
Fellowship: Tracy and Lauri Shimpa

October 25

Greeter/Ushers: Kevin And Shelly Meyer
Lector: Curt Hanson
Fellowship: Dee Crawford, Peggy Witheril
(Food provided)

Confirmation Sunday

Wednesdays

September 16

Greeter/Ushers: LeAnn Barendt, Cindy Strom
Lector: John Neal
Communion Preparers: Jennifer Frederikson, Jessi Saylor
(Intinction)
Communion Servers: Jennifer Frederikson, Jessi Saylor

Rally Wednesday

September 23

**God's Work. Our Hands.
Downtown Square**

September 30

Greeter/Ushers: Linda Baird, Del Hirschmann
Lector: Sandy Norby
Communion Preparers: Cady Lassonde, John Neal
(Intinction)
Communion Servers: Mike and Katie Hess

October 7

Greeter/Ushers: Katie and Mike Hess
Lector: Gary Graff
Communion Preparers: LeAnn Barendt, Cindy Strom
(Cups)
Communion Servers: Gary and Linda Graff

October 14

Greeter/Ushers: Don Roberts, Angie Thomasson
Lector: LeAnn Barendt
Communion Preparers: Dan Melberg (Intinction)
Communion Servers: Garth and Christine Rydland

October 21

Greeter/Ushers: Patty Olsen, Sandy Norby
Lector: Patty Olsen
Communion Preparers: Tracy and Lauri Shimpa (Cups)
Communion Servers: Lauri Shimpa, Kevin Wixo

October 28

Greeter/Ushers: Dan Melberg, Angie Thomasson
Lector: Brian Strom
Communion Preparers: Jennifer Frederikson, Jessi Saylor
(Intinction)
Communion Servers: Jennifer Frederikson, Jessi Saylor

University Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
August 18, 2026



Members Present: Jessi Saylor, Katie Hess, Matt Solberg, John Neal, Kevin Meyer, Dan Melberg, Evonne Lopez, Jamie Boe, Joanna Pearson, Chris Rydland, Pastor Tom Colenso

Devotions: Read from Isaiah, Chapter 40

Minutes from June 16, 2026: Approved

Treasurer's Report: Both June and July reports were approved. May report was also re-approved, following a correction.

Pastor's Report:

- We are planning to close the time capsule the last Sunday in September.
- NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) support group now meeting here monthly, fourth Thursday of the month.
- Red Willow Bible Camp is celebrating their 100th anniversary. The Council approved a \$1,000 donation in honor of the anniversary.
- God's Work, Our Hands: this annual event will be held on September 23rd downtown at the Town Square (5:30-7pm).

Old Business:

- Kitchen Remodel – the group continues to discuss layout/design options. Meeting again on August 27.
- Internship – Morgan Olson will begin her internship here on September 8. Motion approved to dedicate stipend dollars from Christenson fund. Discussion had on an office space for her.

New Business

- Fall Program – Planning is underway.
Rally dates are Sunday, September 13th and Wednesday, September 16th.
- Tentatively planning to have a fish fry on October 11th
- Garden – discussed options for cleaning up that space before fall.
We may be looking for some volunteers to help with that.

Ministry Reports:

Education: VBS was successful! 34 1st-6th graders attended and 8 pre-K kids. 10 fabulous ULC youth served as leaders. Special thank you to the adults who supported during the week: Music – Jane, Seanne, Margo and Pastor Tom; Snack/Kitchen management – Evonne; Building care: Don and Heather

Property: Discussed parking lot line painting again before winter.

Worship: Worship now streams on both YouTube and Facebook. Continue to work on some audio issues.

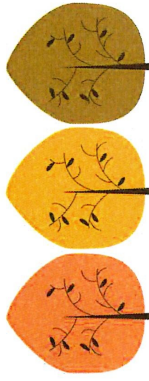
Youth: Had a great summer! The Castaway Retreat is the last weekend in September. Confirmation is October 25. Will start having discussions about the 2027 National Youth Gathering (June 18-July 2 in Minneapolis)

Mission Endowment: Nothing to report

WELCA: Nothing to report

ULC Men's Group: Nothing to report

Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 6:30pm.



SEPTEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Quilters	2 10:00 TOPS 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	3 1:00 Quilting 5:30 Girl Scouts 6:15 MOMCO	4 10:00 Prayer Team	5 10:00 Burial 2:00 Funeral for Kay Paschke
6 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Fellowship 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	7 Labor Day <i>Church Office Closed</i> 6:30 Game Fellowship 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	8 10:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Quilters 5:30 WELCA Board Mtg.	9 10:00 TOPS 7:00 Grade 10 - The Final Paper 8:00 Sundaes on Wednesdays 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	10 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Quilting	11 10:00 Prayer Team 10:00 WELCA Bible Study	12 8:00 Gardening Day
13 Back to Church Rally 9:00 Rally Event 10:00 WORSHIP Backpack Blessing 11:00 Fellowship 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	14 6:30 Game Fellowship 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	15 10:00 Staff Meeting 11:00 Retired Teachers Meeting/Lunch 5:30 Quilters	16 Back to Church Rally 10:00 TOPS 5:00 Supper - Tacos 6:00 WORSHIP & WWJ Backpack Blessing 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:15 Confirmation Orientation Grades 7-9 Students & Parents 8:00 Sundaes on Wednesdays 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	17 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Quilting 5:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 Franklin Club	18 10:00 Prayer Team	19
20 8:45 Adult Class 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Fellowship 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	21 6:30 Game Fellowship 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	22 10:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Quilters 5:30 Worship Ministry 7:00 Church Council	23 10:00 TOPS 5:30 God's Work. Our Hands. Town Square, GF 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	24 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Quilting 1:30 Edgewood Worship 6:30 NAMI	25 10:00 Prayer Team Castaway Retreat	26 8:30 Calling All Men WELCA Synodical Meeting in Kulm ND Castaway Retreat 4:30pm Conversations Across Cultures
27 8:45 Adult Class 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Fellowship 5:00 Blizzard Bingo/Supper 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous Return from Castaway Retreat	28 6:30 Game Fellowship 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous	29 10:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Quilters 6:30 Visitation Team	30 10:00 TOPS 2:30 90 and Over Club 5:00 Supper - Meatball Subs 6:00 WORSHIP & WWJ 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:15 Confirmation 8:00 Sundaes on Wednesdays Youth Gathering Meeting 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous			

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WORSHIP & EVENT SCHEDULE

SUNDAY CLASSES & WORSHIP

8:45am Adult Class
9:00am Church School (Pre-K - Grade 6)
10:00am WORSHIP
11:00am Fellowship

WEDNESDAY WITH JESUS

5:00pm Supper
6:00pm WORSHIP & WWJ (Pre-K - Grade 6)
7:00pm Chapel Choir Rehearsal
7:15pm Confirmation (Grades 7-9)
8:00pm Sundaes on Wednesday (Youth Group)

Sundaes on Wednesdays

September 9, 16 and 30 8:00pm

Chapel Choir Rehearsal

Begins Wednesday, September 16, 7:00pm

Confirmation Meeting (Grade 10)
Wednesday, September 9 7:00pm

Confirmation Orientation (Grades 7-9)
Wednesday, September 16 7:15pm

Thursday Morning Bible Study
Begins September 10, 9:30am

WELCA Bible Study
Friday, September 11 10:00am

Calling All Men
Saturday, September 26 8:30am

Blizzard Bingo & Supper
Sunday, September 27 5:00pm

See inside for much more!

ULC STAFF

Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation
Missionaries: Willie and Anne Langdji
Pastor: Thomas W. Colenso
Intern Pastor: Morgan Olson
Education Coordinator: Jen Cummings

Youth Minister: Phoebe Burke
Administrative Assistant: Seanne Voracek
Choir Director: Mary Splichal
Organists: Lauri Shimpa, Jane Traub
Custodians: Don and Heather Miller

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