



# THE UNITER

United Lutheran Church Newsletter | Vol. 50 Issue No. 4 | April 2025

## Sundays

**Lenten Group Study**  
through April 13  
9am | Library

## Worship

10:15am | Sanctuary  
Facebook Live  
1310AM KNOX

## Mondays

**Lenten Group Study**  
through April 7  
7:30pm | John & Kathy  
Fick's (6205 Lake Dr)

## Wednesdays

through April 9

**Lenten Group Study**  
10:30am | Library

**Lenten Suppers**  
5:15pm | Fellowship Hall

**Midweek Worship**  
6:15pm | Sanctuary

## Wednesdays

Beginning April 30

**Midweek Worship**  
6:15pm | Lounge

## Office Hours

Monday - Thursday:  
8am - 4pm  
Fridays by appointment

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## HOLY WEEK 2025

### AT UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Join us in these moving services remembering the last days of Jesus' life and his gift of new life for us all.*



## PALM SUNDAY

**PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13**  
10:15AM | SANCTUARY

Worship with procession of palms, Holy Communion, music by Breakfast Club/Faith Friends students and Cathedral Choir.

**Bread Auction - 11:15am**  
Benefits Global Friends Coalition

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 17**  
7PM | SANCTUARY

Worship includes hand washing and Holy Communion. First Communion will be received by our First Communion students.



## MAUNDY THURSDAY



## GOOD FRIDAY

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18**  
7PM | SANCTUARY

Tenebrae worship includes scripture reading and reflection on the Passion story in a solemn service of increasing darkness. The choir and various musicians will share musical offerings.

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20**  
9AM AND 11AM | SANCTUARY

Worship with Holy Communion and United's full music ministry with special guest musicians: **Northern Plains Brass.**

**Pancake Breakfast Youth Fundraiser**  
8am - 9am and 10am - 11am



## EASTER SUNDAY

## LENT EVENT

SUNDAY, APRIL 6TH | 9AM - 10AM AND

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9TH | FROM 7PM - 8PM

Come and deepen your understanding of this sacred season in a meaningful, interactive way! We will begin together in the Sanctuary. Youth and families encouraged to attend!



# Pastors Page

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This year our Lenten theme at United Lutheran is: The Hurt we Carry, The Hope we Find.

As I look over all that has unfolded beginning with Ash Wednesday, I am so deeply grateful to be on this Lenten journey with all of you.

I'm thankful for:

- G** • Beautiful worship enriched by gifted, generous and faithful *musicians*. What a feast for us each Sunday and Wednesday!
- R** • *Shera Nesheim*, for the lovely piece of original art that graces our bulletin covers and publications.
- A** • The hardworking and talented *United staff* who all work SO hard to create studies, experiences, worship, publications, and a hospitable space for experiencing our connection to God and to one another.
- T** • *Speakers on Wednesday night* who with great beauty and truth have told their stories in ways that enrich each one of us in our faith journey. Lucas Kindseth and Cathy Williams have given us a great beginning to Lent.
- I** • **Wednesday night meals.** A big shout out to all those who give time, resources, and energy to provide a meal so that we can gather around the table together on Wednesday nights including: the ULCW, Church Council, Confirmation families, Outreach Ministry and the Choir.
- T** • *Opportunities to practice hope through acts of love and service.* We packed up three months of backpacks for Phoenix Elementary school and we're raising money for Global Friends Coalition through the Bread Auction on Palm Sunday. Additionally a free will offering for Wednesday night meals benefits both Katie Bratvold and Linda Schmidt.
- U** • **English classes** taught by Brian Larson-Schmidt and Molly Haagenon on Monday nights at United. Evenings that extend the welcome Jesus calls us to share with all, especially those who are strangers or who are vulnerable.
- D** • **Lenten studies** take place on Sunday mornings, Monday evenings, and Wednesday mornings. What a gift to gather, open our scriptures, and share our lives with one another.
- E** • *Parents and adult leaders* who show up for our kids and share love, faith, and welcome on Wednesday evenings, Sunday mornings, and special events like First Communion classes and the upcoming Lent Event.

Most especially I am grateful for the goodness of God poured out on our lives in Jesus who meets us at the table in bread and wine, in the Words of scripture, in those in need, and in the good gift of one another.

Friends, life is so beautiful and so terrible. Kate Bowler in her blessing for Day 17 of Lent, said it like this:

Yes, you have so much to be thankful for, and this is not what you imagined. Yes, there are moments of joy, and you've lost more than you thought possible. Yes, you want to make the most of today, and your body keeps breaking. Yes, you are hopeful and this is daunting. Yes, you are trying to be brave, and you are also quietly terrified.

We can hold it all, the hurt and the hope, because Christ holds us all in his crucified and risen hands. We are not alone for God has given us the good gift of one another.

May we accompany one another in these days of Lent, stepping humbly and gratefully into the hope and new life given to us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

*Pastor Karla Coen-Tuff*

## Season of Lent at United Lutheran Church

# ***The Hurt We Carry, The Hope We Find.***

### **GROUP LENTEN STUDY MEETS THROUGH PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13**

**Sunday Mornings at 9am | ULC Library**

**Monday Evenings at 7:30pm | John & Kathy Fick's**  
*6205 Lake Dr. in Grand Forks*

**Wednesday Mornings at 10:30am | ULC Library**

### **MIDWEEK LENTEN SUPPERS THROUGH WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9**

**5:15pm | Fellowship Hall with Free-will Offering\***

**April 2: Sloppy Joes, coleslaw, chips, and a treat**  
hosted by the Community Outreach Ministry

**April 9: Tator Tot Hotdish, rolls, and a treat**  
hosted by the Cathedral Choir

### **MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP THROUGH WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9**

**6:15pm | Sanctuary**

**April 2: Prayer & Candle-lighting and Speaker: Shannon Helseth**

**April 9: Holy Communion**

### **\*Lenten Suppers at 5:15pm are provided by members of United Lutheran.**

Each week there will be a free will offering for the Lenten Suppers. The proceeds from these meals will be given to **Linda Schmidt** and **Katie Bratvold** to help alleviate medical debt. Here is an opportunity to make a difference for two faithful women.



**Katie Bratvold** grew up at United Lutheran Church. You'll see her regularly on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings in worship and as a volunteer leader with Faith Friends. Katie is mom to Cobi, a kind and smart fourth grader with a big heart for faith. Cobi is a child with autism and his early interventions and therapies helped Cobi thrive. However, Katie is still paying down the cost of Cobi's therapies. This is an opportunity to help Katie, a hard-working mom with two jobs, feel less financially burdened.

If you've ever been to VBS at United Lutheran, you may have met **Linda Schmidt**, working with the children at the crafts center. Or you may know Linda's son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Kristen Larson-Schmidt.

The fall of 2023, Linda was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Because of her treatment regime, Linda eventually left her position with Fisher, Mn schools as a librarian. She is currently working part time as a paraprofessional at Schroeder Middle school. As Linda's medical expenses mount, this is an opportunity to help her meet those costs as she continues her treatment.



## Bread Auction: Palm Sunday, April 13



# BREAD *Auction*

UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025

Following the 10:15am Worship | Fellowship Hall  
Benefitting Global Friends Coalition of Grand Forks

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:**

1. Donate baked goods. Bring them to United Lutheran Church on Palm Sunday, April 13 and place them in the narthex before the 10:15am worship service. They will be processed to the altar during the offering, and these gifts are offered for God's work in our world.
2. Come down to the Fellowship Hall following worship and bid generously on baked goods.





### Coffee and Devos



Wednesdays, April 23 & 30, 2025  
10:30am | Church Library

### ULCW Bible Study



— ULCW Bible Study —

Thursday, April 24, 2025  
1:30pm | Church Library

## Mark Your Calendars! The WoodPicks are Coming May 4th!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW** for Sunday, May 4th and make plans to join us for our Bluegrass and BBQ Open House featuring:



Stay tuned for more information on ways you can volunteer!

## Community Outreach



### **THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!**

A very special THANK YOU to this great group of volunteers who came out to help a member of our community who was in need of assistance moving her items from a flooded apartment into storage. It was hard work, but even more so, a great experience in helping our neighbors! She was so appreciative and will be paying it forward! **Thank you all!**

## Lent Event for Youth and Families

# Lent Event for youth & families

**Sunday, April 6th 9:00am - 10:00am**

**Wednesday, April 9th 7:00pm - 8:00pm**

Join us as we embark on a unique journey through Lent, filled with engaging hands-on experiences that bring Jesus' story to life. This event is designed for students, families, and individuals of all ages, offering opportunities to explore Lent through play, reflection, exhibits, and creative art-making at various experiential stations.

Come and deepen your understanding of this sacred season in a meaningful, interactive way! We'll begin together in the Sanctuary.

## Youth Education in April

### BREAKFAST CLUB

- April 6<sup>th</sup> – Lent Event
- April 13<sup>th</sup> – Holy Week Review & Palm Sunday singing
- April 20<sup>th</sup> – EASTER! No Breakfast Club, join the Youth's Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
- April 27<sup>th</sup> - One Part Kindness



### FAITH FRIENDS

- April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Grow in Love
- April 9<sup>th</sup> – Lent Event
- April 16<sup>th</sup> – No Faith Friends, Join our Holy Week Services
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Spring into Spring at Northern Air with pizza 5pm – 7pm
- April 30<sup>th</sup> - One Part Kindness



### CONFIRMATION



- April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jesus Before the Crowds
- April 9<sup>th</sup> – Lent Event
- April 16<sup>th</sup> - No Confirmation Class, Join our Holy Week Services
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Spring into Spring at Northern Air with pizza 5pm – 7pm
- April 30<sup>th</sup> – Death & Resurrection & 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Mentor Night

## First Communion

# First Communion

First Communion for our students will happen on **Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 7:00pm**. Students and their parents will be invited to come forward for a special blessing.



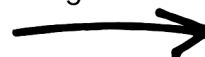
## Spring Into Spring Event!

# SPRING INTO SPRING

WITH UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Wednesday, April 23rd 5pm - 7pm**

**Northern Air Family Fun Center**  
\$10 per person w/ pizza provided  
All ages invited – bring a friend!  
Please RSVP !!!



## Under the Stars Youth Event!

# You're Invited!

# Under the STARS

## 2025 Youth Event

**Why:** Every night, thousands of young people everywhere, including our community, go to sleep experiencing homelessness & hunger.

This event aims to break Stereotypes, Teach advocacy, & raise Awareness with Simulations of a "night" of homelessness.

**Who:** 6th - 12th Graders

**When:** Fri., April 25th  
5:30 - 10:30 p.m.

**Where:** United Lutheran Church  
324 Chestnut St., Grand Forks, ND

**What to Expect:** Community Service Project

Interactive Activities/Games

Guest Speakers with lived experience

Homeless Documentary

Social Media Challenge



April 14th Deadline

Supper!

Door prizes!



For more info: 701-777-3287

We're having a "Hygiene Drive"

If you can, please bring a new personal hygiene item.

## Easter Pancake Breakfast Youth Fundraiser

# EASTER

# Pancake Breakfast

YOUTH FUNDRAISER TOWARDS SERVICE TRIP  
TO MILWAUKEE, WI

Pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee & juice

APRIL 20

serving from

8am - 9am

10am - 11am



# Memorials and Gifts

## RADIO FUND

*In Memory of Richard Larson by Alice Davis*

### **RADIO BROADCAST**

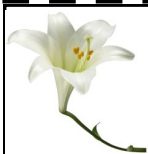
If you would like to sponsor a weekly broadcast the cost is \$178 per Sunday. It can be sponsored in honor or in memory of a loved one or in celebration and thanksgiving of an important event in your life (Anniversaries, Birthdays, Graduations). To secure your preferred date(s) contact the church office.

## Financial Summary

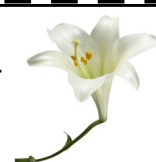
### Income/Expense Statement

	Feb 2025 Actuals	Feb 2025 Budget	Feb 2024 Actuals	2025 YTD Actuals	% OF BUDGET YTD	2025 Annual Budget
<b>Income:</b>						
Regular Offering	25,222.66	29,583.33	35,873.50	58,954.20	17%	355,000.00
Other Receipts	5,183.85	12,083.33	7,959.03	10,274.58	7%	145,000.00
Restricted Contributions	15,714.98	15,461.17	24,180.59	38,587.19	21%	185,534.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46,121.49</b>	<b>57,127.83</b>	<b>68,013.12</b>	<b>107,815.97</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>685,534.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>						
Administrative Ministry	2,019.44	2,720.83	4,417.57	6,461.39	20%	32,650.00
Generosity Ministry	0.00	116.67	0.00	0.00	0%	1,400.00
Evangelism & Congregational Care	1,409.99	2,133.33	1,988.42	2,494.20	10%	25,600.00
Community Outreach Ministry	3,919.09	1,718.75	1,575.54	4,919.09	24%	20,625.00
Physical Property Ministry	10,033.84	15,000.00	12,398.82	33,084.89	18%	180,000.00
Staff Support Ministry	35,493.97	33,709.08	36,588.62	86,190.72	21%	404,509.00
Youth, Family & Education Ministry	2,700.00	1,729.17	1,028.80	3,815.38	18%	20,750.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55,576.33</b>	<b>57,127.83</b>	<b>57,997.77</b>	<b>136,965.67</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>685,534.00</b>
<b>Surplus / Short fall</b>	<b>-9,454.84</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>10,015.35</b>	<b>-29,149.70</b>		<b>0.00</b>

## Easter Lily Order Form



Easter lilies, other plants and palms will be purchased to decorate the sanctuary for Palm Sunday and Easter celebration services. If you wish to donate, please make your check payable to UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH. **Lilies are \$13.00 each.**



PLEASE PRINT:

In Loving Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Please note: Deadline for ordering your Lily is Palm Sunday, April 13.\***

You may take only the lilies after the 11am Easter Worship Service.

All other flowers and plants will be left to beautify the sanctuary through the Easter season.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00am-Quilting (FH) 11:00am - Staff Meeting (106)	2 10:30am-Lenten Group Study (LB) 5:15pm - Lenten Supper (FH) 5:30pm-Sing & Ring Choir (CR) 6:15pm - Midweek Lenten Worship: Prayer & Candle-lighting and Speaker: Shannon Helseth (SA) 7:00pm - Confirmation (FH) 7:00pm-Faith Friends 7:00pm-Cathedral Choir (CR)	3	4 Office closed	5
6 Fifth Sunday in Lent 9:00am - Lent Event (SA) 9:00am- Lenten Group Study (LB) 10:15am-Worship with Holy Communion -Facebook LIVE/1310AM KNOX Radio 11:15am - Coffee Fellowship (FH)	7 6:30pm - Meal and English Teaching with Global Friends 7:30pm- Lenten Group Study (John & Kathy Fick's - 6205 Lake Dr.)	8 9:00am-Quilting (FH) 11:00am - Staff Meeting (106) 5:15pm - Evangelism Mtg (106)	9 10:30am - Lenten Group Study (LB) 5:15pm - Lenten Supper (FH) 5:30pm-Sing & Ring Choir (CR) 6:15pm - Midweek Lenten Worship: Communion (SA) 7:00pm - Lent Event (SA) 7:00pm-Cathedral Choir (CR)	10 Office Closed	11 Office Closed	12
13 Palm Sunday   Lily Orders Due 9:00am-Breakfast Club (LG) 9:00am- Lenten Group Study (LB) 10:15am-Worship with Holy Communion -Facebook LIVE/1310AM KNOX Radio 11:15am - Coffee Fellowship and Bread Auction Benefitting Global Friends (FH)	14 1:00pm-PEO (LG) 6:30pm - Meal and English Teaching with Global Friends	15 9:00am-Quilting (FH) 11:00am - Staff Meeting (106)	16 Holy Week: No Wednesday Activities	17 7:00pm - Maundy Thursday Worship with First Com- munion (SA)	18 Office Closed 7:00pm - Good Friday Service of Tenebrae (SA)	19
20 Easter Sunday 8am-9am- Pancake Breakfast (FH) 9:00am - Easter Celebration Worship with Communion (SA) 10am - 11am - Pancake Breakfast (FH) 11:00am-Easter Celebration Worship with Communion (SA)	21 Office Closed	22 9:00am-Quilting (FH) 11:00am - Staff Meeting (106) 7:00pm - Community Outreach Ministry (RM 106) 8:00pm-Council Meeting (LG)	23 10:30am-Coffee & Devos (LB) 5:00pm-7:00pm - Spring Into Spring Event at Northern Air Family Fun Center	24 1:30pm-ULCW Bible Study (LB)	25 Office Closed 5:30pm - Under the Stars Youth Event (FH)	26
27 9:00am - Breakfast Club (LG) 10:15am-Worship with Holy Communion -Facebook LIVE/1310AM KNOX Radio 11:15am - Coffee Fellowship (FH)	28 6:30pm - Meal and English Teaching with Global Friends	29 9:00am-Quilting (FH) 11:00am - Staff Meeting (106) 7:00pm - RIC Committee Mtg (LG)	30 10:30am - Coffee & Devos (LB) 5:30pm-Sing & Ring Choir (CR) 6:15pm - Midweek Worship (LG) 7:00pm - Confirmation (FH) 7:00pm - 9th Grade Mentor Night (LG) 7:00pm - Faith Friends 7:00pm-Cathedral Choir (CR)	APRIL 2025		

SA: Sanctuary; LG: Lounge located on the lower level; FH: Fellowship Hall located on the lower level; RM 106: Room 106 located down the hall from the office; LB: Library located at the end of the hall opposite the office; CR: Choir Room located on the upper level; YR: Youth Room located on the upper level; PL: Parking lot All events subject to change.

**A Reminder to Thrivent Members:** You can add a gift to United. It is as easy as designating your quarterly Thrivent Choice Dollars to United. You can direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars by calling Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 or by visiting their website.

United Lutheran Church  
324 Chestnut Street  
Grand Forks, ND 58201  
Phone: 775-4279 - Fax: 772-8001  
Website: [www.unitedgf.org](http://www.unitedgf.org)  
Email: [reception@unitedgf.org](mailto:reception@unitedgf.org)  
Sunday Morning Broadcast:  
KNOX 1310AM - 10:15am

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Grand Forks, N Dak.  
PERMIT No. 163

Pastor: Rev. Karla Coen-Tuff  
Pastor: Rev. Peter Coen-Tuff  
Dir. of Youth & Family Ministry: Molly Haagensohn  
Church Secretary: Christine Barta  
Bookkeeper: Becky Knutson  
Council President: Ross Hammer  
Youth Education Director: Karen Syrstad  
Custodian: Darren Lee  
Cathedral Choir Director: Michael Marcotte  
Sing & Ring Director: Ruth Ann Tuset

## DONATE ONLINE



To make an online donation to  
United Lutheran Church now,  
please scan the QR code above.



Like us on facebook at United Lutheran Church in Grand Forks, ND



**OUR VISION:** The vision of United Lutheran is to be an embracing community of joy and hope, nurturing life transforming relationships with Jesus Christ, one another, and the world.

**OUR MISSION:** The mission of United Lutheran Church: We are United, proclaiming God's salvation by welcoming all to LIVE, LEARN, and SHARE the LOVE of Jesus Christ.

**OUR WELCOME:** United Lutheran Church embraces the gift of God's love for all creation. We rejoice in the way diversity informs, nurtures, and enriches the life and ministry we share. In a world that is often unloving, we are called by the Gospel to be workers for justice, peace, and healing. Wherever you are on your faith journey, we welcome all ages, races, nationalities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, physical and mental abilities, educational levels, family configurations, and economic realities. We commit to the ongoing work of Jesus' welcome for all.

