



~ Gathering ~

Welcome to worship at United Lutheran Church on this
First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2025! We are glad you are here!

PRELUDE

Gretchen Kindseth

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please stand
as you are able.*

In preparation for worship we make confession of our sins to God asking for God's forgiveness for all our failures to live as God intends. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, [God] who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:8-9)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Long-expected Jesus,

C: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.
+ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

All: Amen.

SONG *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (vs. 1)* ELW Hymn #240

**1. Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

L: We light one candle for one God, the one who comes to us as a baby, swaddled and wailing. We light one candle for one hope, one light, one salvation.

All: We light one candle to say yes to the invitation to participate in the story of God's people.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day
The main thoughts of the day are collected, or summarized in this short prayer. The prayers for the season of the church year have come to us from the rich treasury of the church's heritage.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.
All: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. We have grown so jaded, that we hardly even look for the miracles anymore. Open our eyes, that we might see your good work in new ways, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

MINISTRY THROUGH MUSIC

G. Paul Larson

Gretchen Kindseth, piano

~ WORD ~

First Lesson
The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"⁸

FIRST LESSON		Isaiah 2:1-5
¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³ Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."		For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! P: Word of God, word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson:
Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

PSALM		Psalms 122
¹ I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." ² Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. ³ Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself; ⁴ to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD. ⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment,		the thrones of the house of David. ⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you." ⁷ Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers. ⁸ For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity. ⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."

SECOND LESSON		Romans 13:11-14
¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and		drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. P: Word of God, word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*

Away in a Manger vs. 1

from ELW Hymn #277

**Please stand
as you are able.*

**1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus
laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

“Scripture is the manger
in which the Christ lies.”
Martin Luther

GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

P: The holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 24th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal

together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Gospel:
Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

SERMON

Interim Pastor Rich Kramer

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

ELW Hymn #241

APOSTLES' CREED*

ELW Page #127

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Hymn of the Day
This hymn follows the theme of the readings and reflects the message of the sermon.

**Please stand
as you are able.*

Creed

We respond to God's word together when we say the Creed. Creed comes from the Latin word "credo" which means "I believe". In our worship we use either the Apostles' or Nicene Creed. These Creeds were written over 1700 years ago so the world would know what Christians

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: God of grace.

C: Receive our prayer.

GREETING OF PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.**Prayers of Intercession**

These prayers in the service follows the directive of the Apostle Paul to young Timothy, a pastor: "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for Kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness".

~ MEAL ~

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

He Came Down [vs. 1 & 2]

from ELW Hymn #253

*The children are invited to come forward to play rhythm instruments.***1. He came down that he may have love, [repeat 2X] hallelujah, forever more.****2. He came down that he may have light, [repeat 2X] hallelujah, forever more.**

The Peace
This is a greeting used by Christians for almost two thousand years as a way to show that we are in God's family and love and care for one another.

The Offering

Another way of responding to God's Word is by giving ourselves and our money for the work of Christ's Church throughout the world.

The Great Thanksgiving

The opening dialogue between pastor and people that begins the Holy Communion part of the service. These words, dating from the second century, are likely the most ancient part of the Great Thanksgiving.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray: God of every good gift, we offer what we have back to you, knowing that your son is the greatest gift we will ever receive. Grant us glad and generous hearts, ever and always. Amen.

All: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

ELW page 134

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Communion Distribution

The ushers will direct you forward. All bread is gluten free. Grape juice is available. If you would like grape juice, please indicate that to the server.

The Lamb of God

This is our way of saying to God and to each other that it was Jesus who died for our sins as that perfect sacrifice, that perfect lamb that was slain for our life. It also focuses our attention on what we are about to receive in Holy Communion, which is Christ's true body and blood 'given and shed for the forgiveness of sins'. "The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)

COMMUNION

Communion will be served continuously at 3 stations. The ushers will direct you forward.

LAMB OF GOD

from ELW Setting 10



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray: Christ Jesus, you have fed us with love incarnate, and we are transformed. Send us forth from the meal to be forces for change in this world, as we find the yes within each of us.

All: Amen.

~ SENDING ~

BLESSING

P: May you be blessed with courage, as you seek God's yes within you;
may Christ be born again in every risk you take for the sake of the world;
and may the Holy Spirit remind you, again and again, that you are never alone,
and that you are loved beyond measure.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW Hymn #244

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor. C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Gretchen Kindseth

Blessing/Benediction

This prayer asking for
God's blessing upon the
assembly as we go out into
the world doing God's will.

Hymns for 11/30/2025: ELW #260, The King Shall Come; ELW #241, O Lord, How Shall I Meet You; ELW #244, rejoice, Rejoice, Believers.
Gospel Acclamation: ELW Hymn #277, Away in a Manger Offertory: ELW Hymn #253, He Came Down, Lamb of God ELW Setting 10, pg. 208.
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*The Radio Broadcast of this Sunday's worship is given in memory of
Milnor Sandry and dedicated to Donna Sandry by Greg & Julie Nelson.*



SEASON OF GENEROSITY AT UNITED

*"You show us that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us,
written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not
on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts."*

2 Corinthians 3:3



Reminder to please make your pledge for 2026! Your pledge is essential in helping us plan for programs, outreach, upkeep and more for the coming year. To make your pledge please scan the QR code or turn in your pledge card by Sunday, Nov. 30, or as soon as you can. Pledge cards are available on the ushers tables and can be placed in the offering plate. Thank you!

COMMUNITY PANEL

THIS Sunday, Nov. 30 | Following Worship | Fellowship Hall

Join us this Sunday, November 30 in the fellowship hall immediately following worship for coffee and treats, and a Community Panel!

We're excited to welcome representatives from Phoenix Elementary, the Grand Forks Police Department, St. Joseph's Social Care, and the City Council.

Together, we'll explore the needs of our neighborhood and gather insights that will help us shape the future of United. **We hope you'll stay and be part of this important conversation.**

Help needed: Christus Rex Lutheran Center offers worship and dinner together on Sunday evenings for their community! **They are looking for a donated meal for 30 people on Sunday, Dec. 7th.** Molly plans to make a crock pot of chicken tortilla soup! She is looking for two more crocks of soup (one that's vegetarian), as well as bread, and goodies. **Would you help support Pastor Aaron Bye & Christus Rex? If so, please reach out to Molly at unitedgfyouth@gmail.com or the office. Thanks ULC!**

THE SEASON OF ADVENT AT UNITED: THE POWER OF YES!

We invite you to join us this Advent season as we explore the power of saying yes, through the story of the brave, faithful, everyday people of God.

Sundays in Advent: Worship at 10:15am with Communion and lighting of the Advent candles.

Wednesdays in Advent beginning Dec. 3: Midweek Advent worship at 6:15pm in the sanctuary using the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer liturgy.

Advent resources: *The Power of Yes* Advent Devotional (one per family, please), Christ in Our Homes, and youth advent activities are available on the ushers tables!



United Lutheran Church Women
Christmas Luncheon
"The Lights of Christmas"
Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025
Serving: 11:30am - 1pm
Tickets: \$12
Purchase in advance or at the door
If you would like to reserve a table for 8, call Barb Larson (218-791-2611), Jan Marto (775-7188), Claudette Zimney (330-0692), or the church office (775-4279)



THE GREAT GINGERBREAD NATIVITY SHOWDOWN
DECEMBER 17 • 7:00-8:00 PM

- GINGERBREAD NATIVITY SCENE CHALLENGE
- HOLIDAY GOODIES
- HOT COCOA BAR
- NAME THAT CHRISTMAS TUNE CONTEST

GOOD GIFTS CHRISTMAS FAIR

Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025 | 11:30am - 1pm
United Lutheran Fellowship Hall



Gifts that Help
Our Neighbors

Across the Street
Around the World

You are invited to United's Annual Good Gifts Christmas Fair on Sunday, December 14 from 11:30am - 1pm. Come down to the fellowship hall following worship to shop for a good cause! (And...enjoy good food, too. The ULC youth will be hosting a brunch fundraiser in conjunction with the Good Gifts Fair to benefit their Summer 2026 youth trip to North Carolina!)

Gifts for your friends and loved ones will be available that support: medical and educational needs in Tanzania, the ELCA Good Gift program which provides clean water and/or farm animals to people overseas, local gifts to our neighborhood school, Phoenix Elementary, and more!

With every gift you chose, a handmade card with information will be available to be given to the recipient of your gift. Thank you to the ULC Foundation matching funds of \$10,000 for overseas gifts!

\$10,000 in matching funds from ULC Foundation for all overseas gifts! African crafts will be available for sale.

PHOENIX

ANGEL TREE

The Phoenix Angel Tree will be set-up in the fellowship hall Wed., Dec. 3rd. **Please bring your gifts and place them under the tree by Sunday, Dec. 14th** so we can get them delivered to Phoenix Elementary prior to their Christmas break. (*List available on ushers table and in the office.*)

- Board Games: Guess Who, Happy Salmon, Shoots and Ladders, Sorry, UNO, Spot It, Candy Land
- Fidgets: Pop It's, Playdough, stress balls, fidget spinners
- Sports balls: basketball, soccer ball, football
- Arts and crafts: paint, beads, string, art pads, paint brushes, popsicle sticks, feathers, googly eyes
- Gift cards: groceries/gas
- Gift certificates (River Cinema, Northern Air, Splashers)
- Kids clothing and underwear (all sizes) boys and girls
- Winter gear: gloves, hats, face masks, boots, snow pants
- Winter coats (all sizes) boys and girls
- Socks/Shoes (all sizes)
- Air mattresses and bedding
- Books and puzzles
- Colored pencils/markers
- Coloring books
- Toothbrushes/toothpaste
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Body wash
- Women's/men's deodorant

God, our refuge & strength

PRAYING FOR A WEARY WORLD

Thursday, December 4th

7:00pm - 8:00pm + fellowship time

United Lutheran Church sanctuary

324 Chestnut Street

UNITED YOUTH PRESENT

Sunday, December 14th

10:15am Worship

11:15am Brunch &

Good Gifts Christmas Fair



Attention all United children!! Please note we'll have a Saturday Rehearsal for our Christmas Program with all Faith Friends and Breakfast Club students on Saturday, December 13th in the Sanctuary. Students with lines should come at 9:30am, all students will come at 10:30am. We'll be done by 12pm. Doors #1 & #2 will be open. All students should come at 9am on the day of the program - Sunday, December 14th.

Share Your Blessings

Non-perishable food donations now being taken!

Our neighbors are facing real and growing challenges. Families, seniors, and individuals throughout our area are struggling to keep food on the table and essential personal care items in their homes. As the need continues to rise, food shelves are becoming harder to keep filled. Our generosity will make the difference! Please place your donations in the bins provided!

Bins will be in church entryways through December 21.

Most-needed items include: canned vegetables, fruits, beans, and soups, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, rice, boxed meals, cereal, oatmeal, shelf-stable milk, canned meats, tuna, chicken

Hygiene items: shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, razors, feminine hygiene products, household basics: toilet paper, paper towels, wipes

Welcome visitors to UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH



Welcome to worship at United Lutheran Church, we are glad you are here.

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 statement 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.

Please take a moment to fill out a visitor card in the pew and place it in the offering plate. Restrooms are located in the Fellowship Hall directly below the Sanctuary at the bottom of the stairs from the narthex.

Check out the calendar below for what's happening at United in the week ahead.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Presider

Interim Pastor Rich Kramer

Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Molly Haagenon

Worship Accompanist

Gretchen Kindseth

Special Music

Song Leader

G. Paul Larson

Gretchen Kindseth, piano

United in Serving

Joel & Hayley Svedjan Walz

Lector

Loretta Svedjan

Ushers

Ken Svedjan

Larry Heggart

Joel Walz

Lori Marshall

Rick Westby

Linda Westby

Communion Server

Hayley Svedjan Walz

Lanae Brown

Technical Team

Mackenzie Brown

Darren Lee

Jayson and Jonah Helseth

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH/FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NO BREAKFAST CLUB

- 10:15am - Worship/Communion (SA)
- 11:15am - Coffee Fellowship/Community Panel (FH)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

- 4:00pm - Prayer Vigil Committee Meeting (RM 106/SA)
- 7:00pm - Committee meeting with Kairos (LG)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

- 9:00am - Quilting (FH)
- 11:00am - Staff Meeting (RM 106)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

- 10:30am - Coffee and Devos (LG)
- 5:30pm - Sing and Ring Choir (CR)
- 6:15pm - Midweek Advent Worship (SA)
- 7:00pm - Cathedral Choir Rehearsal (CR)
- 7:00pm - Faith Friends
- 7:00pm - Confirmation - Hanging of the Greens (FH)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

- 7:00pm - Prayer Vigil and Fellowship (SA/FH)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH/OFFICE CLOSED

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH/SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 9:00am - Breakfast Club
- 10:15am - Worship/Communion (SA)
- 11:15am - Coffee Fellowship (FH)

**The Power of Yes liturgical elements - Advent To Go Vol. 3 (2025) By Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf.
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We are a
Reconciling in Christ
Congregation

United Lutheran Church

324 Chestnut Street

Grand Forks, ND

PH: 701-775-4279

www.unitedgf.org

Office hours:

M-TH: 8am - 4pm

ULC is Home to

United Day Nursery:

701-772-3773



DONATE ONLINE TO UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH!



If you would like to make a
secure, online donation to United
Lutheran Church now, please
scan the QR code provided.