

GOD'S WORD IS NEAR US.

-SEASON OF PENTECOST AT UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH-



11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | AUGUST 9, 2026 | WORSHIP AT 10:15AM

~ WE GATHER ~

Welcome to worship at United Lutheran Church. We are glad you are here!

PRELUDE

Kathleen Thompson

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 compassion endures forever.

All: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

All: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Oh, Sing to the Lord

ELW Hymn #822

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: O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

MINISTRY THROUGH MUSIC *When the Storms of Life Are Raging
(Stand By Me)*

Rebecca Heigaard McGurran with Kathleen Thompson, piano

First Lesson:

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God’s presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in “sheer silence.” God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.

FIRST LESSON

1 Kings 19:9-18

⁹ At Horeb, the mount of God, Elijah came to a cave and spent the night there.
 Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰ He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”
¹¹ He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a

voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴ He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

P : Word of God, word of life.
 C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 85:8-13

⁸ I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.
⁹ **Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**
¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace

have kissed each other.
¹¹ **Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**
¹² The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.
¹³ **Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

Second Lesson:

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God’s saving actions.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 10:5-15

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say?
 “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess

with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in



whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?

¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him

unless they are sent? As it is written,
“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

P: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*

from ELW Hymn #512

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

GOSPEL

Matthew 14:22-33

P: The holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 14th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²² [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear.²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸ Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.”²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!”³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Interim Pastor Rich Kramer

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

ELW Hymn #763

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION*

P: ...Merciful God,

C: hear our prayer.

**Please stand as you are able.*

Gospel:

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of “little faith,” who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

Hymn of the Day

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

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 believe.

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”.

GREETING OF PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

~ MEAL ~

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.

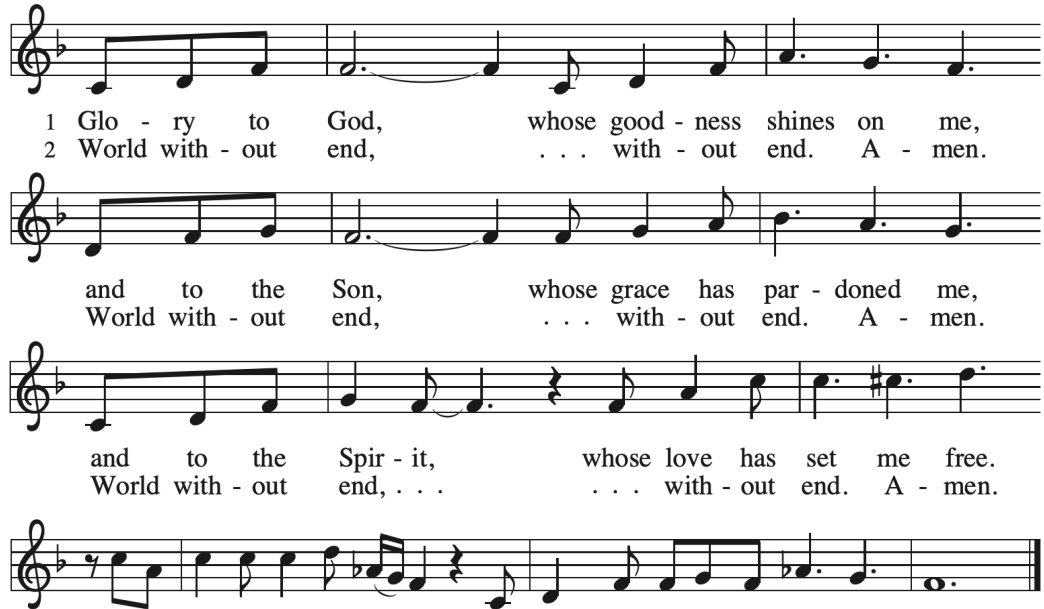
**Please stand as you are able.*

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG*

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Paul M. Vasile



1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
2 World with - out end, . . . with - out end. A - men.

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, . . . with - out end. A - men.

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, . . . with - out end. A - men.

As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be. A - men.

OFFERING PRAYER*

P: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

All: Amen.

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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW page #129

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Distribution

Communion will be served at two stations, center and pulpit side. 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.



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.

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)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION*

P: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **All: Amen.**

**Please stand as you are able.*

~ SENDING ~

BLESSING

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, + one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C: Amen.

Blessing/Benediction

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

CLOSING HYMN

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Devine

ELW Hymn #774

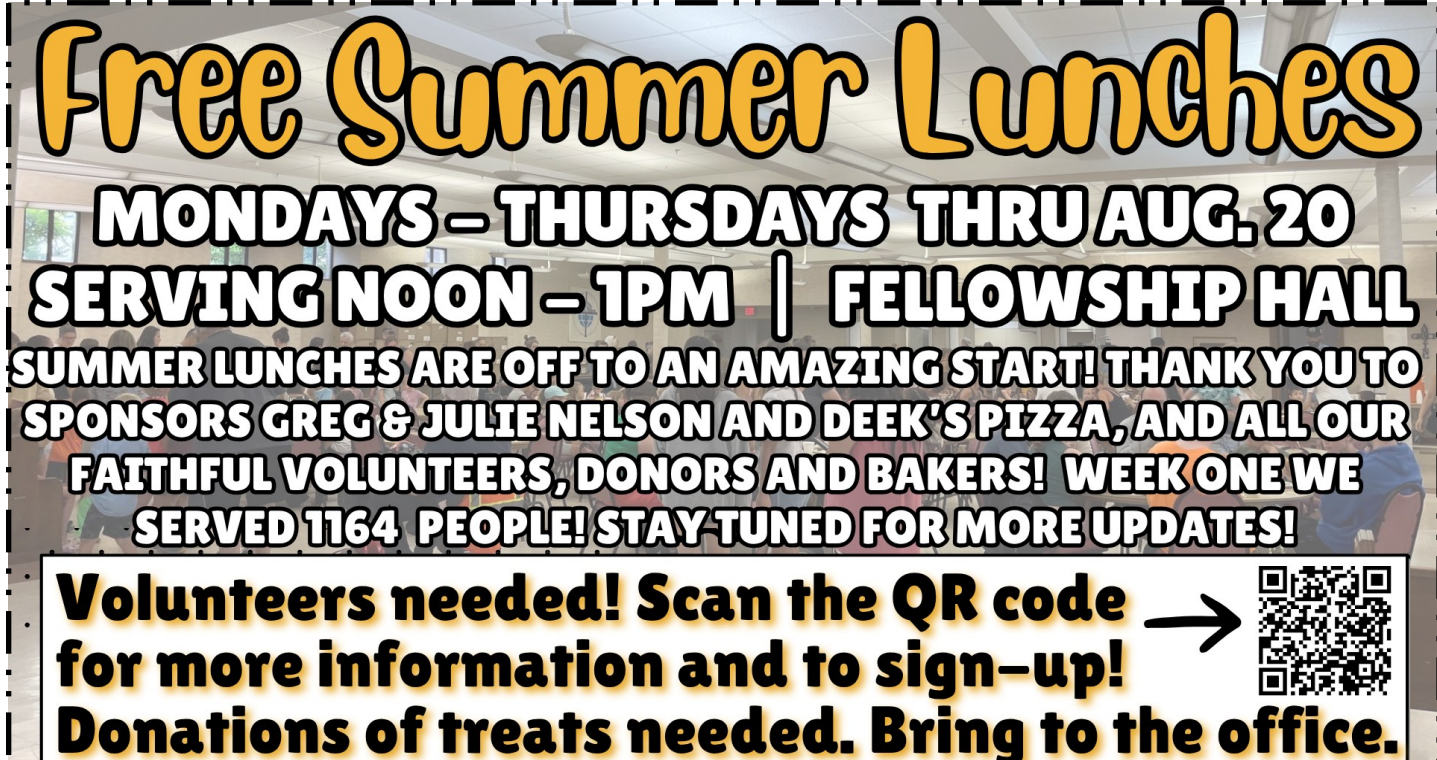
DISMISSAL

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Kathleen Thompson

ELW #822, Oh Sing to the Lord; ELW #763 My Life Flows On in Endless Song; ELW #744 What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine. Gospel Acclamation, Lord, Let Your Heart Be Good Soil. Offering Song, Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me, ELW pg. 208, Lamb of God, Paul Vasile. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #22289. A-800051.



Free Summer Lunches

MONDAYS – THURSDAYS THRU AUG. 20

SERVING NOON – 1PM | FELLOWSHIP HALL

SUMMER LUNCHES ARE OFF TO AN AMAZING START! THANK YOU TO SPONSORS GREG & JULIE NELSON AND DEEK'S PIZZA, AND ALL OUR FAITHFUL VOLUNTEERS, DONORS AND BAKERS! WEEK ONE WE SERVED 1164 PEOPLE! STAY TUNED FOR MORE UPDATES!

Volunteers needed! Scan the QR code for more information and to sign-up!

Donations of treats needed. Bring to the office.



~ Congregational News ~

Thank you to Rebecca Heigaard McGurran and Kathleen Thompson for providing special music with us this morning!

Our sympathy to the family of Bob Quamme whose memorial service will be at Amundson Funeral Home on Wednesday, August 12 at 11am with visitation 1 hour prior.

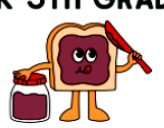
The Shriners will be presenting a Concert for Children's Hospital at 2pm on Friday, August 14 in the ULC sanctuary. Free-will offering is designated to Children's Hospital, Twin Cities.

Not Your
Average
Sunday
School!

BREAKFAST

Club

FAMILY-STYLE BREAKFAST *for everyone!*
PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR PREK-5TH GRADE
YOUTH-LED WORSHIP TIME
LESSON-THEMED ACTIVITY



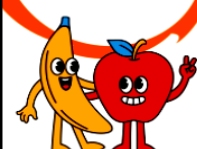
EVERY OTHER SUNDAY FROM 9AM - 10AM
United Lutheran Church Lounge

Mark your
calendar
so you
don't miss
out!

SEPT 13
SEPT 27
OCT 11
OCT 25
NOV 8
NOV 22
DEC 6

REGISTER HERE





FAITH FRIENDS

+ PIZZA

Join United every **Wednesday** from **6:00–7:00 PM** for an evening of faith, fun, and friendship! Students will begin with a pizza supper, followed by music, a Bible lesson, and activities to grow together in God's love and community. Faith Friends is designed for students PreK through 5th grade. **Confirmation students are invited to eat with us!** Bring your homework or a game to play until Confirmation class at 7pm! **Sing and Ring** will meet at 5:15pm - 6pm.

REGISTER NOW





Wednesdays | 6 - 7 PM

Fellowship Hall

Free Pizza Included

sponsored by Deek's Pizza,
beginning Sept. 16



Confirmation KICKOFF



REGISTER HERE



September 16

6pm - 7pm: pizza, fellowship, & homework
7pm - 8pm: Confirmation class

Confirmation is for 6th - 9th graders

Confirmation is held every Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall from 7pm to 8pm. Confirmation is an opportunity for students to affirm for themselves the promises that their parents, sponsors and congregation made for them at their baptism. At baptism, parents make this promise:

- to live with them among God's faithful people,
- bring them to the word of God and the holy supper
- teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy Scriptures
- proclaim Christ through word and deed
- care for others and the world God made, working for justice and peace.

Through education classes taken from 6th to 10th grade, our youth have the opportunity to learn what it means to be Lutheran, dive deeper into scripture, give opportunities to serve our neighbors and the church, and engage in intentional faith conversation. Our goal is to nurture and equip the faith of our young people to go into the world and boldly live in God's grace.



JOIN SING & RING!

Sing & Ring is a children's music group at United Lutheran Church for students who are in 1st through 5th grade, led by Ruth Ann Tuseth.

Sing and Ring is a FUN way to meet new friends, learn musical skills, and share in worship! We sing and play hand chimes, percussion instruments and more, rehearsing on Wednesday evenings and playing in worship one Sunday and one Wednesday each month. We would love to have you join us!

Sing & Ring rehearses on Wednesdays from
5:15pm - 6pm starting Wednesday, Sept. 16th!

The Radio Broadcast of this
Sundays worship is given in
loving memory of Dorothy
Thompson by Roy and Paul
Thompson.



Loved by God. United in Christ. Living love out loud.

United Lutheran Church Missional Narrative

OUR CALLING

Because Jesus calls us into love that restores, shows up, and is lived out loud.

We are grounded in the truth that we are already loved by God. From that love flows hope - hope for restoration, healing, and new life in a world longing for wholeness. We believe the Gospel is not meant to be quiet or contained, but embodied through lives shaped by grace, courage, and compassion.

Because God's love shapes and moves us, we have something to offer: hope where there is despair, love where there is division, and presence where voices have gone unheard. Following Jesus calls us into God's ongoing work of restoration by loving our neighbors, standing with the vulnerable, and choosing unity over separation.

OUR POSTURE

We embody this calling through love that restores, draws us together, and is lived out loud.

Shaped by Christ, we seek to be a genuinely welcoming community where each person is received as they are and where belonging is practiced. We remain attentive to the realities of our world and to the lived experiences of our neighbors—creating space where those who have felt overlooked are recognized and drawn into community, and where all are invited into authentic connection and shared growth.

Rooted in God's love, we intentionally cultivate relationships within our walls and beyond them, trusting that faith, healing, and restoration grow when people are present for one another. We do not seek to erase difference, but to honor it, engaging one another with grace and honesty and believing unity deepens when people are seen, valued, and loved in their fullness.

Living love out loud requires courage. We are willing to take faithful risks, remain flexible, and adapt as needs emerge—trusting that the Spirit continues to guide us toward wholeness, reconciliation, and hope.

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.

Volunteers Needed for Sundays!



We are looking for volunteers to help on Sunday mornings with ushering, serving communion, lectoring, and most especially with serving coffee hour.

If you are able to help, please sign up in the binder at the United in Serving stand located down the office hallway, or scan the QR code provided! →

Thank you for considering helping out. Contact the church office with any questions.



Welcome visitors to UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

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

Interim Pastor

Rev. Rich Kramer

Worship Accompanist

Kathleen Thompson

Special Music and Song Leader

Rebecca Heigaard McGurran

United in Serving

Ross & Lexy Hammer

Lector

Chasity Martin

Ushers

Ross Hammer

Lexy Hammer

Communion Servers

Jan Marto

Suzy Belyea

Technical Team

Mackenzie Brown

Jayson Helseth

Jonah Helseth

Darren Lee

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

- 10:15am - Worship with Communion (SA)
- 11:15am - Coffee Fellowship (FH)

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

- 12:00am - 1:00pm - Summer Lunches (FH)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

- 11:00am - Memorial Service for Bob Quamme (Amundson Funeral Home)
- 12:00am - 1:00pm - Summer Lunches (FH)
- 2:00pm - Staff Meeting (Rm 106)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

- 12:00am - 1:00pm - Summer Lunches (FH)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

- 12:00am - 1:00pm - Summer Lunches (FH)
- 5:30pm - Executive Board Meeting (Rm 106)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14 - OFFICE CLOSED

- 2:00pm - Shriners Concert for Children's Hospital (SA)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

- 10:15am - Worship with Communion (SA)
- 11:15am - Coffee Fellowship (FH)



We are a

Reconciling in Christ
Congregation

PARTY on the Blacktop!

FREE

Neighborhood Party!

September 9, 2026
5pm - 7pm
ULC Parking Lot

With Special Musical Guests:
MUDBUCKET AND FRIENDS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR:
LIVE MUSIC - PICNIC BOX MEAL - INFLATABLE GAMES
YOUTH RAFFLES TO INCLUDE BIKES - SO MUCH MORE!

United Lutheran Church

324 Chestnut Street

Grand Forks, ND

PH: 701-775-4279

www.unitedgf.org

reception@unitedgf.org

Office hours:

M-TH: 9am - 4pm



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.