

Discerning

WHO WE ARE FOR THE SAKE
OF OUR Neighbor



Third Sunday of Easter at United Lutheran Church | April 19, 2026 | Worship at 10:15am

~ WE GATHER ~

PRELUDE

Yen Lee Loh

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK

Phoenix Book Café

Molly Haagenon

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM*

All may make the sign of the cross, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

All: Amen.

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

You are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

All: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

All Are Welcome

ELW Hymn #641

**Please stand
as you are able.*

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, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

MINISTRY THROUGH MUSIC

We Would Serve the Lord

Cathedral Choir

Michael Marcotte, *director*, Yen Lee Loh, *piano*

~ WORD ~

FIRST READING

Luke 22:19

¹⁹ Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is

given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

SECOND READING

John 13:34

³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

P: Word of God, word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Molly Haagenon

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*

from ELW Hymn #174

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-40

P: The holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick

and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

P: The gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

*Our Welcoming Community
Creating Space for All*

Jim Bollman
Darren Lee

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come to the Table

Daniel Pederson

Come to the ta - ble, come as you are!

Come as you're ab - le: see whose child you are. There is

room at the ta - ble of the Lord. Bring your
In the

bur - dens and your cares, take them to the Lord in prayer. In our
mer - cy that a - bounds and ac - cept - ing love we've found; with the

weak - ness, God is there, can't you see? When you
bless - ed tie we're bound as fa - mi - ly. Won't you

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

APOSTLES' CREED*

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.

**Please stand if 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 believe.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: ...God of mercy.

C: **Receive our prayer.**

GREETING OF PEACE

~ MEAL ~

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERING SONG*

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia! vs. 5 refrain

ELW Hymn #364

**Christ has arisen to set us free. Alleluia, to him praises be.
Jesus is living! Let us all sing; he reigns triumphant, heavenly king.**

Refrain: Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.

Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.

Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!

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.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus. **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.

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

LAMB OF GOD

from ELW pg. 134

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)

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

All: Amen.

~ SENDING ~

Blessing/Benediction

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

BLESSING

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, + bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Build a Longer Table

from ACS Hymn #1062



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Yen Lee Loh

ELW #641. All Are Welcome. Come to the Table, Daniel Pederson, ACS #1062 Build a Longer Table, #364 Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia! Gospel Acclamation from ELW #174. Lamb of God, from ELW pg. 134. Copyright 2007 All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #22289. A-800051.

YOUTH TRIP RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

United Lutheran Church is bringing a group of 13 teenagers to Boone, North Carolina this July! The crew is joining other youth from four ND churches to experience Luther Rock Bible Camp in the mountains and help support Disaster Relief after Hurricane Helene. We'll spend time helping with projects within rural areas, hear stories from locals, and experience God within community and nature. Support our youth by purchasing a ticket or two for a chance to win!

\$10/TICKET

Tickets available to purchase from youth or in the church office. We will draw for prizes on May 17th 2026 at 12pm - tune into Facebook Live on ULC's page! You will receive a call from Youth Director, Molly if you win!

PRIZE 1: GIFT CARD BUNDLE, \$300 VALUE

HARRY'S STEAKHOUSE, URBAN STAMPEDE, SILO BOUTIQUE, BONZER'S, SPEEDWAY, EMPIRE ARTS, RED PEPPER, COLDSTONE, RHOMBUS PIZZA, WIDMAN'S, AND MORE!

PRIZE 2: SUMMER BUNDLE, \$250 VALUE

GF PARKS POOL PASS, BOGG BAG, BEACH TOWEL, SUMMER TOYS, & MORE!

PRIZE 3: UND BUNDLE, \$200 VALUE

2 UND FOOTBALL TICKETS, UND SWEATSHIRT, FAN GEAR, WATER BOTTLE

Dinner Church

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026

6:00PM | UNITED'S LOUNGE

There is a place for you at the table.

Join us for a unique worship experience that includes sharing a meal, faith conversation, and the meal of Holy Communion - all around a table with others. Special music will be provided by our Sing & Ring Choir. To help us plan for food, please RSVP at the QR Code, or contact the church office at 701-775-4279.

SCAN ME!



COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS

As part of Pr. Rich's interim work at United, you are invited to join him and one another for "Coffee and Conversations."

Join us for one of these gatherings:

Thursday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m., and a date in May

At each of these 60- to 90-minute gatherings, we will reflect on our shared ministry, learn about how change and transition can work in a church, and consider some thoughts about next steps in the transition process. We're all sure to learn something! **Please RSVP to Pr. Rich for planning and refreshment preparation purposes.**



VBS REGISTRATION OPEN!

June 8 - 10 @ United Lutheran 6pm - 8pm | Free Suppers at 5:30pm

June 11 - Family Pool Party @ Riverside Pool 6pm - 7:30pm

PreK - 5th Grade welcome! Register online or at the QR code!



Altar Guild Members Needed!

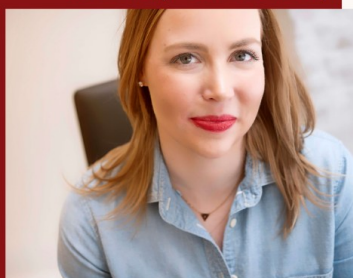
United needs more people to serve on the Altar Guild. Be part of making it possible for people receive Holy Communion in worship, by setting up and taking down for the sacrament, attending to altar cloths and parament changes as needed, etc. Training is provided!

Contact Pr. Rich as you are interested!



Meet the Author

Via Zoom! Come with questions. Stay for snacks, listening, & fellowship



Rev. Angela Denker is an award-winning author, ELCA Lutheran pastor, and veteran journalist.

Congregational News

Notice of text/email scam going around. We have been notified that texts are being received claiming to be from Pastor Rich asking for gift cards. **Please note that these are not coming from Pastor Rich.** If you happen to get a text or email like this, or one that seems suspicious, **please do not respond and delete immediately.** If in doubt, please reach out to the church office to verify.

Coffee and Devos meets this Wednesday, April 22 at 10am in the lounge. All are welcome!

Lilies are available if you are interested in taking a one home with you, please feel free to do so!

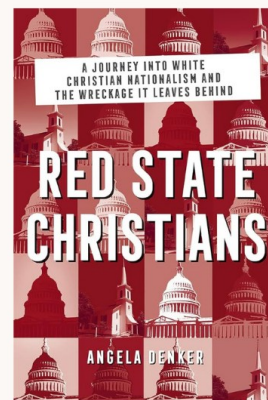
A Community Potluck will be held in United's fellowship hall Thursday, March 26 from 5:30pm - 7:30pm. This meal is open to all! Please bring a dish to share, or just join us! Item swap: please bring items to donate, such as nonperishable food items, new unopened hygiene products, and clothing.

Monday, April 20th

7:00pm - 8:30pm

United Lutheran Church Lounge

324 Chestnut St. Grand Forks, ND



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.

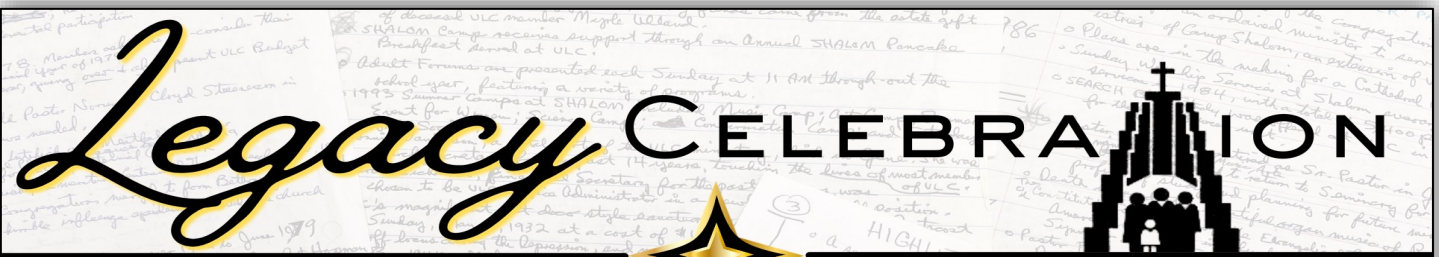
Living love out loud requires courage. We are willing to take faithful risks, remain flexible, and adapt as needs emerge—trusting that the Spirit continues to guide us toward wholeness, reconciliation, and hope.

~ Discerning Who We are for the Sake of Our Neighbor ~

Members of the Listening Team and a couple of our youth will share portions of the missional narrative through their own faith stories. This Sunday we welcome Jim Bollman who will be sharing about *Our Welcoming Community* and Darren Lee sharing on *Creating Space for All*.

Please join us for worship the following Sundays as others share the work we've been doing

- **Apr 26:** *Cultivating Relationships*, Jonah Helseth, and *Honoring Difference*, Stella Beaton
- **May 3:** *Taking Faithful Risks*, Cathy Williams, and *Our Posture*, Shannon Helseth



Legacy CELEBRATION

SUNDAY - 4/26/2026 **FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 26, PASTOR RICH WILL BE HOSTING A LEGACY CELEBRATION MEAL FOLLOWING WORSHIP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL, WHERE WE ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO CELEBRATE OUR HISTORY AND SHARE THEIR IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE.

WE HOPE YOU WILL MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!

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

Interim Pastor
Pr. Rich Kramer

Director of Youth and Family Ministries
Molly Haagenon

Worship Accompanist
Yen Lee Loh

Special Music Song Leader
Cathedral Choir
Michael Marcotte, director
Yen Lee Loh, piano

United in Serving
Steve & Kim Keller

Lector
Kimberly Strom

Ushers
Lorna Aamold
Teresa Aamold
Chasity Martin
Judy Neste
Steve Keller
Brian Strom

Communion Servers
Kim Keller
Claudette Zimney
Kimberly Strom
Margaret Johnson

Technical Team
Mackenzie Brown
Darren Lee

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

- 9:00am - Breakfast Club (LG)
- 10:15am - Worship/Communion with Jim Bollman and Darren Lee, speakers (SA)
- 11:15am - Coffee Fellowship (FH)

MONDAY, APRIL 20

- 7:00pm - Red State Christians/Zoom Meet the Author, Angela Dencker (LG)

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

- 9:00am - Quilting (FH)
- 11:00am - Staff Meeting (RM 106)
- 12:00pm - Community Outreach Ministry Meeting (LG)
- 5:30pm - ULC Council Meeting (LG)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

- 10:00am - Coffee and Devos (LG)
- 6:00pm - Dinner Church/Sing & Ring Special Music (LG)
- 7:00pm - Confirmation (FH)
- 7:00pm - Faith Friends
- 7:00pm - Cathedral Choir (CR)

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

- 5:00pm - ULC Foundation Meeting (RM 106)
- 6:30pm - Coffee and Conversations with Pr. Rich (LG)
- 6:30pm - Kindseth Student Recital (SA/FH)

FRIDAY, APRIL 24 - OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

- 8am - 1pm - UDN Daycare Clean-out Sale (Door #2 & 3)

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

- 9:00am - Breakfast Club (LG)
- 10:15am - Worship/Communion with Jonah Helseth and Stella Beaton, speakers (SA)
- 11:15am - Legacy Celebration Meal (FH)



We are a
Reconciling in Christ
Congregation

United Lutheran Church

324 Chestnut Street
Grand Forks, ND
PH: 701-775-4279
www.unitedgf.org
Church Office hours:
M-TH: 8am - 4pm



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