



THE UNITER

United Lutheran Church Newsletter | Vol. 51 Issue No. 4 | April 2026

WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday Mornings

Worship with Communion
10:15am | Sanctuary
Facebook Live
1310AM KNOX

April Dinner Church

Wednesday, April 22
6pm | Lounge

Office Hours

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

In this issue:

Pastors Page.....	pg. 2
Coffee and Conversations with Pr. Rich.....	pg. 2
Update from the Listening Committee.....	pg. 3
Thank You's!.....	pg. 4
Pancake Breakfast.....	pg. 5
April Dinner Church.....	pg. 5
Youth Education.....	pg. 6
First Communion Class.....	pg. 6
Spring Into Spring.....	pg. 7
Youth Trip Raffle Fundraiser.....	pg. 7
Financial Summary.....	pg. 8
Calendar.....	pg. 9

HOLY WEEK 2026 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, MARCH 29
10:15AM | SANCTUARY

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

Bread Auction - 11:15am
Proceeds benefit ELCA World Hunger

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 2
7PM | SANCTUARY

Worship includes hand washing and Holy Communion. First Communion will be received by our First Communion students. Cake to follow!



MAUNDY THURSDAY



GOOD FRIDAY

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3
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 5
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
Serving: 8am - 9am and 10am - 11am



EASTER SUNDAY

Alleluia Offering for the Season of Easter: April 5 - May 17

This Easter season, as a way of giving thanks to God, you are invited to give a special Alleluia Offering. An Alleluia Offering is an offering given in addition to our usual Sunday offering as a way of reflecting our joy in the new life given to us in Jesus' resurrection. Your gift will be an Alleluia of thanks!

Special Alleluia Offering envelopes are available on the ushers tables and you can place them in the offering plate or bring to the church office!

Pastors Page

The apostle Paul began some of his communication with churches he was connected to with a greeting of “I thank God when I think of you.” That’s a good model for gratitude.

A few years ago, I purchased the book, Then Sings My Soul, by Robert Morgan. Morgan provides stories of how some of the longest-lasting Christian songs and hymns originated. One can learn about people who composed their music and words. Simply put, Morgan writes short histories of how great Christian music came to be. After reading one story in the book, I thank God for two people:

Firstly, I thank God for Anna B. Warner. Anna, along with her sister, Susan, became a prolific writer in the mid 1800’s to help financially support their family. They wrote over 100 publications. One of their more successful projects was the book Say and Seal. From this story, came the words, written by Anna and spoken by a character living in a most difficult time: “Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.” I thank God for Anna, for using her God-given gift of writing powerful stories that draw-in readers and lead us into Jesus’ message in the Bible.

Secondly, I thank God for William B. Bradbury, a hymn writer from the New England region of the U.S., himself a contemporary of the Warner sisters. When William read the story and words noted above written by Anna, he composed music to accompany them. The new-

ly composed song, “Jesus loves me,” soon became the most well-known and beloved children’s songs in the Church, and beyond. I thank God for William, for using his God-given gift of placing the right notes in the right place at the right time. The notes he composed and arranged have become part of my “audible muscle memory of faith,” just as muscle memory kicks in when I ride a bike each spring.

Perhaps we don’t compose music. Perhaps we don’t write stories and poems that impact millions. Still, we all can impact the world, for good, in God’s name. The impact God makes through us may not become apparent for generations, and it still matters.

For whom have you given thanks to God recently? Family members? Friends? A stranger who helped your day or week improve? As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and new life this Easter season, how would you like someone to be thankful to God for you?

I thank God for Anna and William. They used their God-given abilities to make a positive difference in the world and to help others know Jesus. Friends at United, I thank God for you as you do the same. See you again in church!

See you in church,

Peace – *Pr. Rich*

Coffee and Conversations with Pastor Rich



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 three gatherings this spring: Wednesday, April 15 at 10 a.m.; 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 contact Pr. Rich for planning and refreshment preparation purposes. Thank you!

From the Listening Committee

An Update from the Listening Committee

We are grateful for the many ways you care about the future of our church and want to share a brief update on our work.

We continue work to prepare for a capital campaign, which would likely launch in the fall of 2026. We are finalizing a new missional statement to help clarify our shared purpose and guide decisions, especially during this time of pastoral transition.

As part of this process, we are inviting community members to tour our building and offer ideas for how our space can better support our ministry and potentially generate revenue. In the coming weeks, congregation members will also be invited to share your own ideas and hopes as we discern next steps together.

~ Important Dates to add to your calendar! ~

Following our Holy Week and Easter services members of the Listening Team and a couple of our youth will share portions of the missional narrative through their own faith stories.

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

- **April 12:** *Our Calling*, Lana Beaton
- **April 19:** *Our Welcoming Community*, Jim Bollman, Jr., and *Creating Space for All*, Darren Lee
- **April 26:** *Cultivating Relationships*, Jonah Helseth, and *Honoring Difference*, Stella Beaton
- **May 3:** *Taking Faithful Risks*, Cathy Williams, and *Our Posture*, Shannon Helseth

Also on 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 look forward to continuing this work as a congregation.

With appreciation,

The Listening Committee

Coffee and Devos



Join us for Coffee and Devos!

Wednesday, April 8th and 22nd

10:30am | ULC Lounge

Led by Interim Pr. Rich Kramer. All are welcome!

Thank You's!

THANK YOU TO OUR AWESOME VOLUNTEERS!

BLUEGRASS AND BBQ OPEN HOUSE!

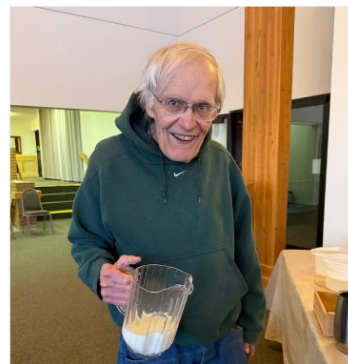


Thank you to all who brought treats, helped set-up, serve, and clean-up at our BBQ meal! Special THANK YOU to our chef, Rich McGurran!

thank you

Thank you to all who joined us on March 1st and helped pack 200 food packs for students at Phoenix elementary!

PHOENIX BACKPACK PACKING EVENT!



SERVING THE LOVE FEAST!

Thank you to all who helped prepare, serve and clean-up the Love Feast held at Zion United Methodist on February 26!

Thank you to our Lenten Meals Volunteers!

Thank you to the Cathedral Choir, Confirmation Families, Community Outreach Ministry, & ULCW for serving up warm and delicious meals during the season of Lent!

Easter Pancake Breakfast Youth Fundraiser

EASTER PANCAKE BREAKFAST

YOUTH FUNDRAISER TOWARDS
SERVICE TRIP TO NORTH CAROLINA

APRIL 5

serving from
8am - 9am &
10am - 11am



April Dinner Church - Please RSVP!

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!



Youth Education in April

BREAKFAST CLUB

- 5 – no BC, join us for Easter Pancake Fundraiser and worship!
- 12 – The Empty Tomb
- 19 – The Emmaus Encounter
- 26 – Breakfast on the Beach



FAITH FRIENDS

- 1 – no class, Join Holy Week services
- 8 – Spring into Spring event at Northern Air, 5pm – 7pm
- 15 – The Empty Tomb
- 22 – The Emmaus Encounter
- 29 – Breakfast on the Beach



CONFIRMATION

- 1 - no class, Join Holy Week services
- 8 – Spring into Spring event at Northern Air 5pm – 7pm
- 15 – Revelation
- 22 – Community Building
- 29 – Art Project

First Communion Will Be Received at Maundy Thursday Worship

First Communion

First Communion for our students will happen on **Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 7:00pm.**

Students and their parents will be invited to come forward for a special blessing and share in celebratory cake following the service.



Spring Into Spring Event Set for April 8th!



The poster features a yellow background with green and orange confetti. The text 'Spring INTO SPRING' is written in a large, stylized font. A QR code is on the left. A photo of people running is on the right. Text at the bottom provides event details: 'Wednesday, April 8th 5pm - 7pm + RSVP today! Northern Air Action Park \$10/person + supper included!'. A small church icon is in the bottom right corner.

Spring INTO SPRING

Wednesday, April 8th
5pm - 7pm + RSVP today!
Northern Air Action Park
\$10/person + supper included!

with United Lutheran Church

Youth Trip Raffle Fundraiser!

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 - 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

Financial Summary as of February 2026

Income/Expense Statement

	Feb 2026 Actuals	Feb 2026 Budget	Feb 2025 Actuals	2026 YTD Actuals	% OF BUDGET YTD	2026 Annual Budget
Income:						
Regular Offering	21,667.00	30,416.67	25,222.66	43,785.46	12%	365,000.00
Other Receipts	8,050.10	10,375.00	5,183.85	13,242.91	11%	124,500.00
Restricted Contributions***	16,906.60	17,060.25	15,714.98	36,124.77	18%	204,723.00
TOTAL	46,623.70	57,851.92	46,121.49	93,153.14	13%	694,223.00
Expenses:						
Administrative Ministry	2,476.71	2,916.67	2,019.44	7,119.80	20%	35,000.00
Generosity Ministry	0.00	116.67	0.00	0.00	0%	1,400.00
Evangelism & Congregational Care	2,578.82	2,547.92	1,409.99	4,517.08	15%	30,575.00
Community Outreach Ministry	1,598.30	1,718.75	3,919.09	3,184.58	15%	20,625.00
Physical Property Ministry	20,924.57	16,091.67	10,033.84	54,079.31	28%	193,100.00
Staff Support Ministry	30,920.52	32,739.42	35,493.97	72,288.96	18%	392,873.00
Youth, Family & Education Ministry	5,512.61	1,720.83	2,700.00	5,684.67	28%	20,650.00
TOTAL	64,011.53	57,851.92	55,576.33	146,874.40	21%	694,223.00
Surplus / Short fall	-17,387.83	0.00	-9,454.84	-53,721.26		0.00

*** Shalom transfers **16,653.60** **13,178.98** **33,313.77**

Balance Sheet - General Fund Cash Assets

Assets:	
Checking Account	26,074.22
Thrivent Investment Acct - Restricted	29,276.00
TOTAL	55,350.22
Liabilities:	
Payroll Taxes	3,592.14
Accounts Payable	12,774.30
Dedicated/Restricted Funds	151,117.61
TOTAL	167,484.05
Fund Balance Operating	-112,133.83

SBA Loan

Beginning Loan Amount	480,000.00
Principal balance as of Feb 2026	37,225.57
Total Principal and Interest paid since origination	777,796.00
Monthly Principal and Interest payment	2,308.00

Property budget is higher due to a one time payment for wind/hail insurance and snow removal.
Youth, family and education budget is higher due to the deposit being paid for the summer trip.

Becky Vakoc,
ULC Treasurer

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>5</p> <p>Easter Sunday 8-9am - Pancake Breakfast 9:00am - Celebration Worship (SA) 10-11am - Pancake Breakfast (FH) 11:00am - Celebration Worship (SA)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Church Closed</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00am-Quilting (FH) 11:00am - Staff Meeting (RM 106)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>No Regular Activities Holy Week</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00pm - Maundy Thursday Worship (SA) 8:00pm-Cake for First Communion families (LG)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Office closed 7:00pm-Good Friday Worship (SA)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00am - Easter Lily Set-up (SA) Anyone is welcome to attend to help!</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:00am - Breakfast Club (LG) 10:15am-Worship with Holy Communion -Facebook LIVE or 1310AM KNOX Radio 11:15am - Coffee Fellowship (FH)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:00pm-PEO (LG) 7:00pm- Book Study (LG)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00am-Quilting (FH) 11:00am - Staff Meeting (106) 1:00pm - Round Table (LG)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:30am - Coffee & Devos (LG) 5:00pm - Spring into Spring Event at Northern Air</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:00am - Breakfast Club (LG) 10:15am-Worship with Holy Communion -Facebook LIVE or 1310AM KNOX Radio 11:15am - Coffee Fellowship (FH)</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00am-Quilting (FH) 11:00am - Staff Meeting (106) 12:00pm - Community Outreach Ministry (LG) 5:30pm - ULCC Council Meeting (LG)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00am-Coffee and Conversation with Pr. Rich (LG) 6:15pm - Sing & Ring (SA) 7:00pm-Confirmation (FH) 7:00pm-Faith Friends 7:00pm-Cathedral Choir (CR)</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:00am - Breakfast Club (LG) 10:15am-Worship with Holy Communion -Facebook LIVE or 1310AM KNOX Radio 11:15am - Legacy Celebration Meal (FH)</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00am-Quilting (FH) 11:00am - Staff Meeting (106)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:30am - Coffee & Devos (LG) 6:00pm - Dinner Church with music by Sing & Ring (LG) 7:00pm-Confirmation (FH) 7:00pm-Faith Friends 7:00pm-Cathedral Choir (CR)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30pm-Gretchen Kindseth Student Recital (SA/FH) 6:30pm-Coffee and Conversation with Pr. Rich (LG)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:00am - Breakfast Club (LG) 10:15am-Worship with Holy Communion -Facebook LIVE or 1310AM KNOX Radio 11:15am - Legacy Celebration Meal (FH)</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00am-Quilting (FH) 11:00am - Staff Meeting (106)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:15pm-Sing & Ring Choir(CR) 7:00pm-Confirmation (FH) 7:00pm-Faith Friends 7:00pm-Cathedral Choir (CR)</p>	<p>30</p>		

SA: Sanctuary; LG: Lounge located on the lower level; FH: Fellowship Hall located on the upper level; CR: Choir Room located on the upper level; YR: Youth Room located on the upper level; PL: Parking lot All events subject to change.

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 or someone you know (Anniversaries, Birthdays, Graduations). To secure the date(s) you would like to sponsor contact the church office.

United Lutheran Church

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

324 Chestnut Street

Grand Forks, ND 58201

Phone: 775-4279 - Fax: 772-8001

Website: www.unitedgf.org

Email: reception@unitedgf.org

Interim Pastor: Pr. Rich Kramer

Dir. of Youth & Family Ministry: Molly Haagenson

Church Secretary: Christine Barta

Bookkeeper: Becky Knutson

Council President: Ross Hammer

Custodian: Darren Lee

Music Ministries Coordinator: Gretchen Kindseth

Cathedral Choir Director: Michael Marcotte

Sing & Ring Director: Ruth Ann Tuseth

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.



We are a
Reconciling in Christ
Congregation