

GOD'S WORD IS NEAR US.

-SEASON OF PENTECOST AT UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH-



TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | AUGUST 2, 2026 | WORSHIP AT 10:15AM

~ WE GATHER ~

PRELUDE

I Am the Bread of Life (Schmoltze)

Allen Quie, organ

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

The Night You Gave Us, God, Has Ended

ACS Hymn #994

**1. The night you gave us, God, has ended, the darkness hails the sun's bright rays;
as shadows flee and earth awakens, we rise again to sing your praise.**

**2. We thank you for each glorious sunrise that paints the earth a golden hue;
each day your grace grants new beginnings, the chance to start again anew.**

**3. Bless those who work in hours of darkness, who serve and toil while others sleep;
their lives of caring and protecting reflect your love so strong and deep.**

**4. We pray for energy and passion to live our lives each day for you;
may all around us sense your presence in all we say and all we do.**

**5. We praise you, God, for nature's rhythms, for dark and daylight, stars and sun;
your whole creation sings your glory, O Trinity, most Holy One.**

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: Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

MINISTRY THROUGH MUSIC *I Can Only Imagine* Becky Vakoc
Allen Quie, *piano*

~ WORD ~

First Lesson:
God invites Israel to a great feast at which both food and drink are free. God also promises to make an everlasting covenant with all peoples, with promises that previously had been limited to Israel. As David was a witness to the nations, these nations shall now acknowledge the ways in which God has glorified Israel.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 55:1-5

¹ Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make	with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. P : Word of God, word of life. C: Thanks be to God.
--	--

PSALM Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

⁸ The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹ LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works. ¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down. ¹⁵ The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season. ¹⁶ You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.	¹⁷ You are righteous in all your ways and loving in all your works. ¹⁸ You are near to all who call upon you, to all who call upon you faithfully. ¹⁹ You fulfill the desire of those who fear you; you hear their cry and save them. ²⁰ You watch over all those who love you, but all the wicked you shall destroy. ²¹ My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD; let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.
---	--

Second Lesson:
This begins a new section in Paul's letter in which he will deal with the place of Israel in God's saving plan. He opens by highlighting how Israel's heritage and legacy include being God's children, having God's covenants, being given God's law, participating in worship of God, and receiving divine promises.

**Please stand as you are able.*

SECOND LESSON Romans 9:1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them	belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵ to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen. 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 14:13-21

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

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist,] he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We

have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.****Gospel:**

After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles.

SERMON

Interim Pastor Rich Kramer

HYMN OF THE DAY

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken ACS Hymn #966**1. Loaves were broken, words were spoken by the Galilean shore.****Jesus, Bread of life from heaven, was their food forevermore.**

Refrain: **By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

2. Loaves were broken, words were spoken in a quiet room one night.**In the bread and wine you gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.***Refrain***3. Loaves are broken, words are spoken, as in faith we gather here.****Jesus speaks across the ages: "I am with you; do not fear!"** *Refrain***4. By the loaves you break and give us, send us in your name to share****bread for which the millions hunger, words that tell your love and care.** *Refrain*

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 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".

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION*

P: ...God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

GREETING OF PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

~ MEAL ~

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

I Am the Bread of Life (Maynard)

Allen Quie, organ

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

LAMB OF GOD

from ELW pg. 208



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: 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.

~ SENDING ~

BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

ELW Hymn #674

DISMISSAL

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Festive Postlude (Fey)

Allen Quie, organ

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.

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)

**Please stand as you are able.*

Blessing/Benediction

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

ACS #994, The Night You Gave Us, God, Has Ended, ACS #966, Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken, ELW #674, Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ, 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 Vasilie. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #22289. A-800051.

Summer Lunches

AT UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

MONDAYS – THURSDAYS | AUG. 3–20, 2026

SERVING NOON – 1PM | FELLOWSHIP HALL

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

Donations of treats needed. Contact the office.

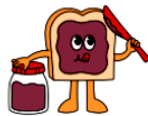
~ Congregational News ~

Thank you to Becky Vakoc and Allen Quie for providing special music with us this morning!

Not Your Average Sunday School!

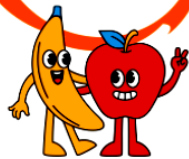
BREAKFAST Club

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 Delores & Orien Bratvold and Gary Bratvold by their family.



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, lecturing, and 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.

For more information on what volunteering on Sundays looks like, please check out the United in Serving binder for instructions. 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

Allen Quie

Special Music and Song Leader

Becky Vakoc

United in Serving

Donna Pearson

Lector

Donna Pearson

Ushers

Larry Heggart

Lois Moore

Communion Servers

Donna Pearson

Suzy Belyea

Technical Team

Mackenzie Brown

Jayson Helseth

Jonah Helseth

Darren Lee

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

RADIO BROADCAST IN MEMORY OF DELORES & ORIEN BRATVOLD AND GARY BRATVOLD

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

- 12:00am - 1:00pm - Summer Lunches (FH)
- 2:00pm - Staff Meeting (Rm 106)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7 - OFFICE CLOSED

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

- 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.