

February 2015 **The Echo** UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 2122 University Avenue Grand Forks, North Dakota 58203

I have had the distinct honor of living with my mother-in-law, Alice Rude, since Thanksgiving. Health changes in her life have caused her to move away from her hometown, Sacred Heart, Minnesota, to be near one of her daughters, my wife. Within the next week, she will be moving into a two room suite at Tufte Manor, and she is actually kind of excited for this new stage in her life. I must say that when she leaves I'm going to miss her. She has been the brunt of my good-natured son-in-law teasing for over two months now, and has very admirably and capably given it back to me.

During this time, I have been asking her to tell me stories of her past, particularly her growing up years. When Alice was six years old, her grandparents retired and she and her family moved in with them. The household consisted of her grandparents, her parents, and her two sisters. Alice said that life as a three generation family living under one roof was really good. She remembers her grandpa playing solitaire at the kitchen table after dinner while she and her sisters would do the dishes. Alice said that every night at one point he would say, "Read the Bible every day, you will never regret it."

The best part about this story is that after losing at solitaire (she said that she can't remember him ever winning), that he would go and read his Bible for an hour before going to bed. Alice credits her grandpa, his words about reading the Bible and his example of actually reading the Bible, for influencing her to read the Bible in her life as well. In a similar way, I remember both my mom and my grandma being Bible readers when I was a young lad, and when it was time for me to really start reading the Bible myself in college, their example also influenced and encouraged me.

This Lenten season, I have challenged myself to read all four Gospels during the forty days of Lent, from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday. This is a total of 89 chapters of Scripture or roughly 2.2 chapters of Scripture per day in Lent. I am inviting you, the people of University Lutheran Church to do the same. I will be starting with Mark, the first Gospel written, and then move from there to Matthew, Luke and then finally, to the last Gospel written, John. If you would like to read with me, then I ask you to sign up on the appointed sheet which you will find on the Lenten table in the narthex on Ash Wednesday.



If you decide to accept this challenge, then I will also invite you to a potluck dinner on Thursday, April 9, at 6:00 p.m., in the fellowship hall. Please bring a hot dish, salad or some other dish to share, and the drinks and dessert will be provided. After eating, we will share experiences from our reading, ask and answer questions, and Pastor Tom will have some humorous thoughts to share with you as well. By 7:30 p.m., we will be on our way home and all the better for it. And remember what Alice's grandpa said to his three granddaughters, "Read the Bible every day, you will never regret it."

By the way, our Wednesday Lenten series will be focused on Scripture this year as well. We will be using a series called, "The Parables of Lent". What this means is that we will study six parables of Jesus from the Gospels, one each Wednesday night, beginning Ash Wednesday. It will be our mission to discover the meaning of each of these parables, and then figure out how each parable particularly enhances our journey through the season of Lent. As I have looked carefully at each of the six parables, I must say that I am excited to share this time and these parables with you.

And, if you are interested in hearing any more intriguing stories from my mother-in-law, well, then tune into the newsletter in March. I promise I will tell you an awesome story about peas.

You are in my prayers,

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Wednesdays in Lent

Wednesdays in Lent are an important time at ULC. Sunday and Wednesday families come together for 6 weeks of worship that is focused on the Lord Jesus and his cross.

Ash Wednesday Worship is February 18

Lent begins with one of the most meaningful worship services of the Christian year. The Ash Wednesday service begins with confession of sins and imposition of ashes. The ash reminds us that we are sinful and mortal people – *remember that you are dust, and to dust shall return.* The service concludes with Holy Communion. The body and the blood of the Lord Jesus provide us with all the grace we need to receive abundant and even everlasting life from God. Join us for this important time of worship!



Wednesday Lenten theme: The Parables of Lent

This series will explore 6 biblical parables of Jesus. Each week the parable's plot will be explored in order to discover its meaning, and to connect it to our weekly Lenten theme. Here are the themes, parables, and something for you to bring for the Food Pantry:

Ash Wednesday: February 18

Receive Justification The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14) Bring canned fruit for the Salvation Army Food Pantry

Week 1: February 25

Receive the Word The Sower and the Seed (Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23) Bring macaroni and cheese for the Salvation Army Food Pantry

Week 2: March 4

Receive the Treasure The Hidden Treasure and the Priceless Pearl (Matthew 13:44-46) Bring canned soups for the Salvation Army Food Pantry

Week 3: March 11

Receive Mercy The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) Bring spaghetti sauce and noodles for the Salvation Army Food Pantry

Week 4: March 18

Receive Grace The Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16) Bring pudding and gelatin for the Salvation Army Food Cupboard

Week 5: March 25

Receive Forgiveness The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) Bring boxed cereals for the Salvation Army Food Pantry

Puppet Plays and Holden Evening Prayer



<u>enten Journey.</u>

Puppet plays will be part of each Wednesday in Lent. Our theme this year will be, "A Look around Jerusalem". We will catch glimpses of Jesus in Jerusalem during the last week of his life. We will laugh and be serious at the same time. Here are the places we will see Jesus in Jerusalem: riding on a donkey, near a pile of stones, in an upper room, praying in the garden, hearing a rooster crow, and dying on the cross.

Also, our liturgy for Wednesday Lenten worship will be one of our most popular services, Holden Evening Prayer.

Wednesday Lenten Suppers

Each Wednesday in Lent will begin with a delicious supper that costs only \$1 per person. You are cordially invited to come and eat before worship! Here are the menus:

- February 18: Taco in a Bag (Served by Youth)
- February 25: Tater Tot Hot Dish (Served by ULC WELCA)
- March 4: Baked Potato Bar (ULC Church Council)
- March 11: Chicken Casserole (Served by Seanne and Friends)
- March 18: Scalloped Potatoes and Ham (Served by ULC Youth)
- March 25: Hamburgers and Ice Cream (Served by Calling All Men)



Sundays in Lent

Here are our weekly themes for Sundays in Lent and something for you to bring for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Baskets of Promise:

Week 1: February 22

Strength for the Journey Bring a bar of soap for the LWR Baskets of Promise

Week 2: March 1

Faith for the Future Bring a bath towel (max 52" x 27") for LWR Baskets of Promise

Week 3: March 8

God Is Number One Bring a toothbrush for LWR Baskets of Promise

Week 4: March 15 Saved by Amazing Grace Bring a comb for LWR Baskets of Promise

Week 5: March 22

Who's Tugging Your Heartstrings? Bring metal fingernail clippers for LWR Baskets of Promise



Resources for Lent 2013

Here are some resources for you to pick up and take home to help you through the Lenten season. These and more will be available in the church narthex:

Wooden Neck Crosses

This is one of our most favorite Lenten traditions. We will provide wooden neck crosses for people to wear during Lent and beyond. Some even like to hang them in their car.

Metal Pocket Crosses

You can also carry in your purse or pocket a bronze or silver cross that reminds you wherever you go that "God Loves You".

Lenten Coin Folders

We use coin folders to set aside a quarter a day during the 40 days of Lent for Susan Smith who is our new missionary in the Central African Republic.

ULC Lenten Devotions

You will be sent a copy of our own ULC Lenten devotion book! Read it every day in Lent. Thank you to those who wrote devotions and to Ken Dawes for his work as editor.

Feed My Starving Children



Here is the breaking news for Feed My Starving Children 2015:

- Once again the community of Grand Forks is coming together to pack food for starving children across the world. This year that weekend is April 10-12.
- As a community, we have currently raised \$41,003 of the needed \$88,000 in order for us to pack 400,000 meals this year.
- One way ULC is raising money for FMSC is through noisy offerings in January, February, and March.
- On Wednesday, February 11 and Sunday, February 15, we will have "Love Offering" envelopes available for you to make other gifts to FMSC.
- On Sunday, March 1, 6:00 p.m., half of the "A Place at the Table" free will offering will go toward FMSC, and half to ELCA Hunger Appeal.
- You will have opportunity to sign up to help pack at the event on April 10-12 in the very near future. We will have a couple of designated ULC times.

Remember that every 22 cents will provide one meal for a hungry child in our world!

Adult Classes for You

Here are several adult Bible studies for you to attend during the month of February:

Thursday Morning: The Parables of Lent

This 6 week Lenten Bible study follows the themes of our Wednesday Lenten services. Here will be your opportunity to ask questions about what was said at Wednesday at worship and in the sermon, as well as to explore even more deeply these 6 parables. These six Christian ideas will be explored: justification, the Word, treasure, mercy, grace and forgiveness. Please join us at 9:30 a.m. in the lounge beginning February 19.

EDUCATION

CLASSES

WELCA Bible Study: Making Conversion Last

In this sixth session of Transforming Life and Faith, we will look at the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. We will see the eunuch's faith, baptism and conversion up close, and wonder how we move from such powerful faith experiences without losing all the initial energy and excitement. We will meet Friday, February 13 at 10:00 a.m. in the lounge. All ULC women are welcome, and please bring a friend.

Calling All Men: Now I Believe, What Should I Do?

Calling All Men is set for Saturday, February 28, at 8:30 a.m., in the fellowship hall. We will get together for prayer, breakfast pizza, conversation, and a program entitled, "Now that I believe, what should I do?" This is a four month look at Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" from Matthew, chapters 5-7. Through these studies we will wonder how God wants us to live our lives. Please join us and bring a friend with you!

Sunday Adult Class: All in the Family

"All In The Family" is our Lenten Adult Bible Study, starting on February 15th at 8:45 a.m. in the lounge. We will take a look at the world of Abraham and Sarah (and the kids), and their story of faith in God. You will be inspired, maybe a little shocked, by their faith journey with God in a land of thousands of gods and how they were tested to the limit. Even today, their experience affects all of us in our daily lives and the unfolding events of history. Bruce Bohlman will lead the study. As usual, the never-empty coffee pot awaits! Come and join us.



February Education Update

Wednesday With Jesus classes will continue all through Lent. Classes will be 6:00-7:00pm, as usual! Also, don't forget to join us for supper each Wednesday from 5:00-6:00pm.

Sunday School students are invited (and encouraged) to attend WWJ classes during worship in Lent from 6:00-7:00pm. Students will begin the evening in worship and will be dismissed to class after Children's time. JOIN US on Sunday, February 15th after worship for a ham dinner served by our Gathering youth and adults. The menu will include ham, mashed potatoes and gravy,



corn, and a dinner roll. This will be a free will offering. All proceeds will go towards the 2015 Youth Gathering trip to Detroit.

Winter grime getting you down?

ULC youth have car wash tickets for \$10 each which can be used at the Valley Dairy full service car wash (36th Avenue S). Help support our youth and get a clean car as a bonus! See Heather for details!



The time has come for a new ULC Picture Directory. It has been almost 5 years since our last one. Time really flies - and think how much we have changed in that time! We will be working with Lifetouch to put together our directory.

We are scheduled to take our photographs March 3-7. Sign-ups will start next week for families and individuals. You will also be able to sign-up for slots online through our website.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with scheduling, hosting photo days, and helping with communications during this time. If you would be willing to help out please see Seanne or call the church office at 775-4745.



ULC Church Council Summary

Over the past two months, ULC has been busy with the Christmas season and Annual meeting. Now in the New Year, we are looking at possible ways to control expenses, and at the same time implement our new stewardship challenge, High Five. We will also be looking at ways we might increase involvement in all ULC programs, with a particular emphasis on Sunday morning.

Financial Report

- We are hovering around \$18, 836 short in the General Fund. Typically, we find ourselves better than this 1. at the end of the year. I would ask that if you can help with the shortfall to please do so. Your contribu tion is used to promote God's work in our community.
- 2. One of the ways you could help us on a monthly basis is to set up automatic payments to ULC. This can be done through the Simply Giving program we have in place. Please see Seanne in the church office to pick up an authorization form if you are interested.

Final thoughts today are from Hebrews 13:16.

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

Sacrifices are never easy. However, if you look at the sacrifice you have made and compare that to the impression you left on the person you helped or supported financially, you will realize your reward. Thank you to all of you that have supported us financially and by volunteering your time and talents. Please help us continue to share the Good News of the Lord. Thank you and God bless you and your family.

Kevin Meyer ULC President

ULC Church Council:

Kevin Meyer, Bonnie Solberg, Carol Grochowski, Dan Melberg, Gwen Skjold, Tom Peterson, Paul Slusar Julie Simon, Greg Vandeberg, Brian Strom, Amanda Denman, Dave Masterson, and Pastor Tom Colenso With great excitement, we are announcing a new stewardship program at ULC called:

"Give ULC a High Five"

What is more positive and supportive than giving someone a high five? Friends and family who love and care for each other often show their warm feelings by giving high fives to each other. Well, why not give a high five to ULC? If you love and support ULC and the ministry we share together, why not give ULC a high five to say that this is a welcome place, a faithful ministry, a household of the Lord and his family?



What we are asking is that everyone who loves ULC and who thinks of ULC as their church family, give \$5 more every week than they are currently giving. It doesn't matter what your level of giving is right now, \$5 more every week can really make a difference. This program is designed to positively demonstrate to all ULC members and friends the power of \$5. It is really the simplest of ideas.

For example, if 50 ULC families gave \$5 more a week for one year, that would become \$13,000! If 100 ULC families gave \$5 more a week for one year, that would become \$26,000. If 150 ULC families gave \$5 more a week for one year, that would become \$39,000. Since we have a total of 279 families who contributed to ULC last year, it is easy to begin to see the potential power of \$5.

There is one small favor we ask of you. If you can make a note that says "high five" on your extra \$5 a week, that would be amazing because it would allow us to track how many high fives ULC is receiving. Then we will be able to give you positive updates during the year, showing the impact of all these high fives on our ministry. Too often we talk of shortfalls. Why not talk about high fives instead!





Please join us every other Sunday at church at 4pm for a time of singing and fellowship. Youth choir will be lead by Lauri Shimpa and will last about an hour. This is for all youth in grades 3-12. We will have treats after practice. Hope to see you there!



Our next meeting times are as follows: Sunday, February 8th and 22nd at 4pm



K– 5th Grade VALENTINES PARTY

Saturday, February 14th, 1:30-4:00

Youth in grades kindergarten—5th grade are invited to a fun afternoon of snacks, games, and a craft. We will be making our own Valentine Boxes. If you are able, please bring 35 Valentine treats to share with friends. After we make our Valentine boxes we will have the chance to share valentines.

7th—12th Grade Youth and Family Ski Trip

FROSTFIRE Ski Area in Walhalla, ND Saturday, February 21st

The bus will leave ULC at 7:00am and return that evening around 8:00pm. Everyone under 18 must fill out a permission form and return it to Heather. Also a rental form must be filled out for every participant and turned in once you register at the ski lodge. You can find both forms on the FYI board in the narthex.



Youth 6th grade and younger MUST be accompanied by an adult. Bag lunches are permitted however no large coolers or crock pots are allowed. There is also a cafeteria at the lodge where you can purchase food and beverages. Please sign up no later than February 18th (on the FYI Board) if you are planning to go.

Prices are as follows:

\$5.00 Bus Fee (Please turn this in to Heather) \$29 lift ticket /\$24 ski rental/\$24 board rental/\$10 tube rental (2hrs)11am-4pm **(13 and older)** \$19 lift ticket /\$15 ski rental/\$15 board rental/\$10 tube rental (2hrs)11am-4pm **(Ages 6-12)** Helmets are also recommended and available to rent for **\$5**



OUR FAMILY LABELS

ULC Youth are collecting labels from Our Family products. The labels are redeemed for a donation to the youth program. Each label is worth 5 cents, and periodically they have a special promotion where their value doubles to 10 cents. The part of the label that is sent in is the barcode, so from larger items such as cereal boxes or egg cartons, you may just cut out the barcode (to cut down on bulk). The youth cut the barcodes from the items to get them ready for processing. If you have some to bring in, please put them in the box by Heather's office. Thanks for your participation.

Youth Gathering Updates

"The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" Mark 1:1

YOUTH GATHERING MEETING Sunday, February 8th at 6:30pm

This meeting is for all youth and parents. We will meet to discuss our fundraising progress and also plan upcoming fundraisers for the gathering. If you have questions, please talk to Heather.

> Just a reminder that we clean at the Ralph Engelstad Arena on Friday, February 13th and Saturday, February 28th at 10:30pm. Remember to arrive early to avoid traffic. Park in the south parking lot and come in through the student entrance doors.

Ham Dinner will be served by our gathering youth and adults on Sunday, February 15th after worship. The menu will include ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, and a dinner roll. This will be a free will offering. All proceeds will go towards the 2015 youth gathering trip to Detroit.

UPCOMING IN MARCH:

Youth gathering participants will be serving cinnamon and caramel rolls for fellowship twice a month beginning in March. A free will donation will be taken to raise funds for the gathering. The first two dates are Sunday, March 1st and March 15th.

Youth will be hosting a pancake breakfast at the Ground Round Restaurant on Saturday, March 21st from 8:00 - 10:00am. Tickets will be available for sale for \$5.00 each. Please buy your tickets now and help support our youth.

> Heather Kallestad: ULC Youth Minister ulcheather@midconetwork.com 701-775-4745 (church) 218-368-8073 (cell)

Confirmation in February

Regular Sunday classes will meet on February 1, 8, 15 and 22. Regular Wednesday classes will meet on February 4, 11 and 25. There will be no class on Ash Wednesday.

Beginning on February 18, Ash Wednesday, we are asking both Sunday and Wednesday confirmation students to attend all six services on Wednesdays in Lent. Instead of Worship Notes, you will be asked to complete a Lenten Worship Packet during those weeks. You are required to fill out the packet on five of the six weeks, but if you complete all six, you will receive a special prize. You will be receiving a mailing about this special Lenten project.







Contact me

with any questions :)





ULC Women of the ELCA February 2015 News and Events

"A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples if you love another." (John 13: 34-35) We demonstrate our discipleship all during the year by our WELCA activities and blessing people far and near with our love and generosity. I hope you feel the love this month!

WOMEN OF THE ELCA Purpose Statement



As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit,

We commit ourselves to

grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the Church, the society, and the world.

KITCHEN CLEANING

Many thanks to the big and ambitious cleaning crew who came on January 16 and pitched in to help with our monthly cleaning. We got a lot done in the kitchen and fellowship hall and then shared a time of coffee, treats and fellowship. Join us next time - Friday, February 20, 1:00pm - the rewards are great.

CONGREGATIONAL QUILTING

Saturday, February 21 from 10 am to 3 pm we will meet in the fellowship hall to work on quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Everyone is invited to come and help and don't worry about "not knowing how." We teach as we go and the instructions are really simple to follow. We layer quilts, tie them and hem them. There will be a shipment going out in the spring and we need lots of help to increase our quilt count to a respectable number. You will even get lunch-free! Join us for all day or just the hours you can spare.

MARCH MUFFIN MADNESS - March 13-14

Doesn't this sound yummy! March 13 will be our baking day at church or you may bake your muffins at home. I have heard ideas floating around and our variety of flavors is going to be tremendous. We will be selling muffins on Saturday from 10am until noon. All proceeds will be donated to CVIC. Join us for fun and YUM!

SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON

April 11 is our first fundraiser of the year. Start thinking now about the kind of salad you will make and bring to be served at the luncheon. We will have a sign-up sheet posted closer to the event. We also need items donated for the raffle. We have a quilt, dish towels and a cross wall hanging to name a few, but need more items to spark interest in purchasing raffle tickets. Let Judy Larson know about your donations and mark the date on your calendar. Many hands make light work!

GRAND FORKS CLUSTER GATHERING

ULC is hosting the Spring Cluster Gathering and you won't want to miss this inspiring and informative day. The theme is "Carrying Burdens". Pastor Tom will lead devotions, Kristen Schmidt-Larsen from Calvary will lead Bible Study and Penny Millspaugh from Altru Infant Bereavement will be our key note speaker. This event will be April 25 with registration is at 8:30 am. Cost is \$8. Lunch will be served and the gathering should be done by 3 pm. Please sign up to help-lets show the rest of the churches how we make things huge successes! More information later...

Happy Valentine's Day!

Evelyn Clark, President

WELCA Bible Study "Making Conversion Last" Friday, February 13 10:00 a.m. in the lounge.

Naomi Rachel Circle Friday, February 13 11:30 a.m. at the church Mary Martha Circle Wednesday, February 18 9:30 a.m. at Marlene Anderson's

> Ruth Circle Tuesday, February 17 6:30 p.m. at the church



WELCA 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 21 March 13-14	Congregational Quilting Day March Muffin Madness
March 17	Tufte Manor Birthday Party
April 11	Spring Salad Luncheon
April 18	Synod Assembly
April 25	Spring Cluster Gathering/ULC
June 13	Rhubarb Festival
June 18	Valley Eldercare Birthday
September 9	Bethesda at Valley 4000
November 14	Fall Festival
December 5	Christmas Brunch
December 15	General Aid Meeting

Financial Update

You are such a generous people! In 2014, you contributed \$429,000 for ministry at ULC. This is a record year for us as far as we can tell. The higher income was due mostly to two designated fund drives sanctuary lighting and the Ecuador mission trip. However, general fund gifts were just a few hundred dollars higher in 2014 than 2013. At the end of the year, due to increased expenses, we are \$18,800 short in the general fund. Indeed, thank you for generosity, and if you can help us catch up with an extra gift, or with a high five, that would be amazing!





Life (and Death) Planning Seminar

If you died today, do you know what would happen to your property and how your loved ones would be provided for? If you were ill or in an accident and could not make decisions for yourself and others, who would be able to make them for you? These, and other basic issues of planning for the future will be discussed, along with any questions you may have. The program will be held on Sunday, February 15, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the church lounge. The program is sponsored by the Mission Endowment Fund of University Lutheran Church. Bruce Bohlman will lead the discussion.

The 55+Over Fellowship will meet on Tuesday, February 10, 11:30 a.m. at the Pizza Ranch in Grand Forks for our yearly Valentine's Day celebration. Please share this day with a friend or neighbor by inviting them to join you for lunch.



UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 2122 University Avenue Grand Forks ND 58203 www.universitylutherangf.org

Phone: 701-775-4745 Email: ulcoffice@midconetwork.com

Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation Pastor: Thomas W. Colenso Education Coordinator: Jen Hanson Youth Minister: Heather Kallestad Administrative Assistant: Seanne Voracek



Choir Director: Katie Holleman Organists: Lauri Shimpa and Jane Traub Custodian: Cindy Stoller Stephen Ministry Leaders: Bonnie Peterson, Wayde Anderson Evelyn Clark, Jane Traub

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WORSHIP

Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

Church School

Sundays - 9:00 a.m. Wednesday With Jesus - 6:00 p.m.

B.L.A.S.T.

(After school program Grades 6-8) Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.

Youth Choir Sunday, February 8 and 22 4:00 p.m.

Youth Gathering Meeting Sunday, February 8 6:30 p.m.

K-5th Grade Valentine Party Saturday, February 14 1:30-4:00 p.m. **Youth Gathering Ham Dinner** Sunday, February 15 11:30 a.m.

Ash Wednesday - February 18 Supper 5:00pm

Worship 6:00pm

7th—12th Grade Youth/Family Ski Trip

Frostfire Ski Area in Walhalla, ND Saturday, February 21

Congregational Quilting Day

Saturday, February 21 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Check inside for much more!!

There is something for everyone!