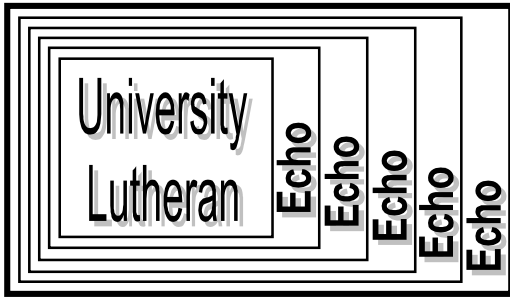


AUGUST 2014

The Echo

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2122 University Avenue
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58203



I could see Veronica following me around the room with her eyes. I had just finished feeding her breakfast, fruit and scrambled eggs, which she gobbled down. Now I was walking around to watch other members of our mission team feed other children – Daneska, Jofre, Zacarias and Javier. Her gaze was not without purpose, she was calling me back to sit alongside her. When I finally responded and came back, she rewarded me with a smile that would bring any compassionate person to tears. Some of the members of our team even teased me saying, "Pastor Tom has a girlfriend!"

Well, for several days at the orphanage in Latacunga, Ecuador, I did have a "girl" friend. Her name was Veronica, and she was 20 years old. She had been with For His Children for 18 years, since she was 2 years old. Her reason for being there, she was a victim of Cerebral Palsy. Cerebral Palsy had over the years taken away Veronica's ability to move. Her muscle tone was virtually gone, which means physically she cannot even sit up by herself. She has been confined to a wheel chair and a bed for most of her life. To make matters even more difficult, she is not able to talk.

However, Veronica could communicate. When she did not like the meat in a stew I was feeding her, she spit it back out at me. When she loved the fruit, rice and scrambled eggs I fed her, she had her mouth open well before I could get the next spoonful to her. When I sang to her the Spanish sacred song, "Alabare", she flashed me a wide grin in approval, showing me all her teeth. And when I told her she was a "bella chica" (beautiful girl in Spanish), she would blurt out a gleeful squeal, which let me know she was happy that I noticed. So as you can see, Veronica actually had a lot to say.



I know I could meet someone like Veronica right here in the United States. Certainly, there are 20 year olds with Cerebral Palsy here that need attention as well. Yet this whole mission trip to Ecuador was our church's response to Jesus' call to serve, love, and bring the Gospel to people throughout the world. As we fed and played with children in Quito and Latacunga, as we shared a program and fed families at Pan de Vida, and as we prepared and served a meal to workers at Zambiza, the Quito City dump, we were to the best of our abilities, being the Lord's witnesses to the ends of the earth.

One of my favorite things to do with Veronica was to sing, "Jesus Loves Me" to her in Spanish. My words were perhaps not exactly correct, or if they were correct my pronunciation may not have been the best. Still, I know that at some level, the message was getting through to her. I really believe that she and the rest of the children and adults we served in Ecuador, could see through our actions, our smiles and our care, that we loved them, and that the Lord Jesus loved them very much too. Veronica's smile seemed to sing back to me, "I hear you and understand that Jesus loves me!"

Yet Veronica's smile became something even more to me. I saw through her smile that even though I was bringing the Lord Jesus to her through my care and love, that she was also bringing the Lord right back to me. You may wonder how Veronica could do this. Well, the answer is in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 25, when the people of God ask Jesus, "When was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?" Then Jesus answered, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

So in Quito and Latacunga, people brought the Lord Jesus to each other. We brought Jesus to children and adults as we cared for and served them. Yet they brought Jesus to us too. Through their gracious smiles, thankful words, and willingness to receive our care, we too met Jesus through them. It was a beautiful thing! And amazingly, this is something that we can all do in Grand Forks as well. As we serve people here and as people serve us, the Lord has promised to show up. The Lord has promised to show up, so that through each other we encounter him. It's no less beautiful here!

You are in my prayers,



Worship

Here are a few details about worship in August.
We will worship together on both Sundays and Wednesdays all month long.

Vacation Bible School Program

Our VBS program will be our order of worship on Wednesday, August 6, at the 6:00 p.m. service. Our theme for this year is, "Camp Glory" and the service gives opportunity for you to see our youth in worship leadership positions as they share what they are learning this year at VBS.

Please note that there will be no supper before worship this evening (August 6) due to our VBS schedule. We will, however, have ice cream after the service!



Service of the Word for Healing

The Service of the Word for Healing will be our order of worship on Sunday, August 24 at the 10:00 a.m. worship service and Wednesday, August 27 at the 6:00 p.m. service. This service includes liturgy and prayers centered on healing and wholeness. There is also opportunity for people to come forward for the laying on of hands and anointing with oil. As you come forward that morning, believe it is the Lord Jesus Christ who is the source of all physical, emotional, relational and spiritual healing.

Wednesday Sermon Series with Sunday School Songs

The last three weeks of summer Wednesday worship will be August 13, 20 and 27. Sermons these two weeks will be inspired by three favorite Sunday School songs. Here are the songs. Can you guess what the sermon topic will be?

August 13: "The B-I-B-L-E"

August 20: "'Do Lord"

August 27: "Jesus Loves the Little Children"



And by the way, the liturgy for these two services will be old time Sunday School songs!



WELCA Bible Study - The third and final leg of our summer Bible study journey is entitled, "Lydia". In this study we meet both Lydia and the group of women with whom she gathers down by the river, as well as the Apostle Paul and his companion who encounter them there. Join us for this study on Friday, August 9, 10:00 a.m. in the lounge. Bring a friend, and oh yes, coffee and cookies will be provided.

Calling All Men - HEY YOU GUYS, the breakfast pizza is great and the conversation is even better. Join us on Saturday, August 16, 8:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall for pizza, prayer, and study. Our topic this month is Paul. We will read Paul's own account of his conversion to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ from Galatians chapters 1 and 2. As we read about Paul's faith experience, we will also talk about our own relationship with the Lord.

Food for the Week

Want to help out with local families who are needy and struggling hard to make ends meet?
Here are items we are collecting for the Salvation Army Food Pantry in August:

August 6 and 10:	School Supplies of all sorts
August 13 and 17:	Facial tissues
August 20 and 24:	Macaroni and Cheese
August 27 and 31:	Canned fruits



Vacation Bible School - August 4th-7th



Preschool - Kindergarten: 9:00-11:30 a.m.
 Grades 1-6: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Program: Wednesday, August 6th, 6:00 p.m.
 Invite family and friends to join you!

Picnic: Thursday, August 7th, 6:00 p.m.
 Potluck, with hot dogs provided.



Fill The Tent

Bring a school supply each day to VBS as a donation to families in need. Suggested donations include: crayons, pencils, notebooks, markers or rulers.



**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER
 WELCA Dates to Remember**

Bible Study

"Of Many Generations"
 Friday, August 8
 10:00 a.m. in the lounge.

Board Meeting

Monday, August 25
 6:00pm in the lounge

**General Meeting and
 Secret Sister Event**

September 15
 7:00pm in the fellowship hall

Please join us for
 University Lutheran Church

**B L I Z Z A R D
 B I N G O**



Sunday				
August 10, 2014				
5:30 P.M.				
Lots of Games & Hot Dogs/Chips/Ice Cream for supper.				
The prize for each BINGO is a gift card for a treat at the North End Dairy Queen.				
A free will offering will go to the ULC General Fund.				

EVERYONE WELCOME!!

BE A RAY OF SUNSHINE

VOLUNTEER IN



Volunteers are needed to assist with worship and fellowship at ULC. We currently need ushers, fellowship hosts and supper assistants for Sundays and Wednesdays in August so please consider signing up your family, or ask your friends or neighbors to volunteer with you. Sign-up sheets are posted in the narthex or call the office to volunteer. Thanks for your help!

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ULC STAFF

Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation
Our Cameroon Missionaries: Philip and June Nelson
Pastor: Thomas W. Colenso
Education Coordinator: Jen Hanson
Youth Minister: Heather Kallestad
Administrative Assistant: Seanne Voracek

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

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

*United by faith,
we lift high the cross of Christ
through worship and service.*

