

NOVEMBER 2013 **The Echo** UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 2122 University Avenue Grand Forks, North Dakota 58203

He will come to judge the living and the dead.

These words are a confession of the church. We speak them most Sundays and Wednesdays at worship when we say the Apostles' Creed. They are connected to a promise that Jesus made to his followers after the resurrection. Jesus said in the Gospel of John, chapter 14, verse 3, "I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." Soon after Jesus spoke these words, he ascended to heaven to take his place alongside God. Ever since that time, the Christian Church has looked for his return at the end of all ages.

Many people have had much to say about this second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Since so many years have passed since Jesus promised to come, some Christians wonder if Jesus was just referring to our time of death when he will come for us. Other Christians are certain Jesus will come in the clouds with power in the immanent future, and they use in depth biblical analysis to show all the signs which point to this day. It is this second group of Christians who emphasize language like rapture, tribulation, millennium, and anti-Christ.

We had a spirited conversation about such things at our October "Calling All Men" meeting. It is amazing how theological men can be after eating breakfast pizza! We discussed some of the language preachers and authors use when talking about the immanent return of the Lord Jesus. We discussed some of the disagreements people have about how this immanent return of the Lord Jesus will unfold. Yet we also talked about how we really do not know when these things will take place. It was really a very interesting and inspiring conversation.

From my perspective, there is much we can not know about the return of Christ. I do believe that at the present time Jesus returns for believers at the time of our death. Yet I also believe that Jesus is also returning at some future time to put an end to sin, evil and death, and to usher in the Kingdom of God. In my way of thinking, we as Christian people are meant to be ready for the return of the Lord in either case. Furthermore, I believe the only way we are ready for Jesus returning for us at death or Jesus returning at the end of all ages is faith.



Jesus said it better than I can. In John, chapter 14, verse 1, Jesus comforted the disciples about this future with these gracious words. He said, "Let not your hearts be troubled,

believe in God, believe also in me." In other words, instead of worrying about the future, we place our faith in Jesus. Instead of being anxious about our death or his second coming, we trust Jesus. The Lord said the same thing in the beginning of Revelation. Just before he revealed a rather scary future to John in this book Jesus said, "Fear not, I am the first and the last".

In some ways, this is no different than what I see Christian people do when they are diagnosed with cancer. They face their future, scary as it might seem, with faith. They cling to Jesus and trust that with him their future is secure, whether they are cured of cancer, or whether cancer is the end of their lives. I see that having faith, trusting Jesus, and clinging to the Lord makes all the difference at such moments. It works similarly when we speaking about the return of Jesus at the end of our lives or at the end of time. We face this future with hope.

So let us trust in the Lord with our hearts, and then we are prepared for both our death and for Jesus' second coming. We don't know either of those dates, but in both cases when you trust in the Lord, you can be confident that you are heaven bound. Jesus says in John, chapter 14, verse 2, "In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go and prepare a place for you?" This is a promise Jesus has made for us that we can hold on to, and it is a promise that brings us great hope in the face of any future.

You are in my prayers,

Pasto (im

November Worship Highlights

All Saints' Sunday Worship Service is November 3

All Saint's Sunday is a festival of the church year where we give recognition to the saints of the church. Properly speaking, saints are people who have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and his saving work on the cross. At University Lutheran, this is our time to remember those ULC saints from the past year that died with this faith, as well as those who we baptized into this faith.



As in previous years, this recognition will include lighting white and red candles on the altar, as well as presenting white and red carnations to the respective families. There will also be opportunity for each one of us to remember those saints who have impacted our lives by the writing of their names on a cross in the back of the sanctuary.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship is November 27

"Thank the Lord"

We made a couple changes to our Thanksgiving Eve schedule last year and this year it is our plan to continue with this same schedule:

- ✤ A meal before the Thanksgiving Eve service at 5:00 p.m.
- Thanksgiving Eve worship at our regular Wednesday time 6:00 p.m.

Bring your family out for soup, bread and pumpkin bars for supper and a lively Thanksgiving Eve worship service. Please note: There are no WWJ or confirmation classes this night.



Our theme for worship this year is "Thank the Lord". In this worship service you will give thanks for all of the Lord's gifts, especially the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ. There will be a children's sermon, special music, hymns and sermon all intended to help us recall the many reasons we have to say, "Thank the Lord".

We will also be collecting food for the Salvation Army Food Pantry. We are focusing on soup, canned fruit, cold cereal, peanut butter, and any kind of boxed meals.

Special Meeting for University Lutheran Church

After worship on Sunday, November 3, 11:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall, we have called a special meeting of our congregation. We are discussing a resolution for sanctuary updates which include new lighting, projector and screen, and a new and improved AV area in the back of the church. We are also seeking approval to secure a \$50,000 loan for the project. Please make plans to be there!



Bonus: We will have a loaded baked potato bar for fellowship this Sunday!

found faithful

A ULC Stewardship Series

Our annual stewardship program is entitled, "Found Faithful". Together we will have a three week conversation about what it means to be faithful stewards:

found faithful

-1 Corinthians 4:1-2 (NRSV)

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Week 1: November 6 and 10

Found faithful with little Sermon title: "I Played My Drums for Him" Puppet Play: "What Can I Give?" Special Music, Temple Talk

Week 2: November 13 and 17

Found faithful with much Sermon title: "What More Can I Do?" Puppet Play: "What Can I Give?" Special Music, Temple Talk

Week 3: November 20 and 24

Found faithful with all Sermon: "God Wants All of Me" Puppet Play: "What Can I Give?" Special Music, Temple Talk

Special notes about the stewardship series:

- ✓ November 10 and 13 will be youth led worship services
- $\checkmark\,$ A special mailing will be sent out with our response cards for 2014
- ✓ On November 20 and 24 we return our response cards for 2014
- \checkmark On November 24 we will have a potluck after the worship service



Weekly Classes

Weekly confirmation classes for grades 7-9 are scheduled for November 3, 10, 17 and 24 for our Sunday classes, and November 6, 13 and 20 for our Wednesday classes.

2013 Confirmation Class

October 27 was a great day at University Lutheran Church! Twelve young people affirmed their baptisms, confirmed their faith, and gave their lives to Christ. We ask the Lord to bless them throughout their lives. They are:

Kendra Briske, Morgan Coleman, Joshua Denman, Bret Fleur, Jasmine Lindblad, Blake Masterson Greg Olsen, Casey Olstad, Sammi Schmidt, Alex Spivey, Jensen Thompson and Anna Vandeberg



We Are Blessed to be a Blessing

Operation Christmas Child Our Monthly Service Emphasis

Our emphasis for the month of November is Operation Christmas Child. This is a program of Franklin Graham's relief organization called Samaritan's Purse. The purpose of Operation Christmas Child is simple. We are bringing a little Christmas joy to needy children across the world. We load shoe boxes full of items these children need, as well as items they will simply enjoy. The gifts will range from soap and toothpaste to candy and toys.

Look for the familiar red and green shoe boxes in the narthex. All you have to do is pick up one or more of those boxes, take it home with you, and go shopping. Inside the box will be instructions of what sorts of things you should or might purchase and put in the box. Once you have filled your box, simply bring it back to church. If you do not wish to fill a box, here are some items we often need help with – tooth-paste, washcloths, bar soap, and money to ship the boxes. Each box costs \$7 to ship overseas.

Thank you so much for your willingness to bless the children of our world!

A Note of Thanks

We recently received a thank you note from CVIC (the Community Violence Intervention Center) for the way we blessed them in September. Here is an excerpt:

Because people like you truly care, we are able to be there for families 24 hours a day, seven days a week, ensuring that those in danger will never hear, "Sorry, we're closed." Thank you for hosting "Bless CVIC Month" fundraiser. The generous gift of money and laundry supplies is greatly needed at this time.

How wonderful to be blessed by God so we can be a blessing to CVIC!

ULC Serves Love Feast

Tuesday, November 26

This is the 12th year of Love Feast! ULC has been active serving one monthly meal for all 12 years. This meal is a great opportunity for churches to provide hot and delicious meals in a community setting for a wide variety of people. We will do this once again at Zion United Methodist on 24th Avenue South in Grand Forks. The meal is served from 5:30-7:00 p.m., although there are different times we can use help throughout the day.

Since we serve in November, it is our tradition to serve turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, corn, rolls and pumpkin pies and bars. We hope adults, youth and families will sign up to help! Please look in the church narthex for sign up sheets. We will need people volunteering to prepare food, set tables, serve the meal, clean up afterwards, as well as to bake pumpkin pies and desserts in advance.

Adult Education Highlights

Here are a number of great opportunities for you to study the Bible and engage in faith learning in the month of November:

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: "Christmas: The Real Story"

Maybe it seems a little early to be talking about Christmas, but the truth is that we talk about Christmas all year long. After all what is Christmas? It is not really evergreen trees and wreaths, cards and gifts, cookies and carols. Even though these things are fun and we enjoy them, the real story of Christmas is how God came into the world to save us through the birth of Jesus. Come spend 6 weeks studying "the real story" of Christmas. You will never look at this holiday the same! Join us at Thursdays at 9:30 in the lounge on November 7, 14 and 21, and December 5. 12 and 19

WOMEN OF THE ELCA BIBLE STUDY: "In Good Company"

This year the Women of the ELCA Bible study that will appear in "Gather" magazine is called, "In Good Company". This is a study of biblical women and how their expression of faith and life can encourage and inspire us. The third woman we will look at is from the Old Testament. She is the widow of Zarephath who we meet through the prophet Elijah. The title of the session is, "The Widow of Zarephath, a trusting follower". Please join us and bring a friend at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, November 8, in the lounge.

CALLING ALL MEN: "How Can We Be a Blessing?"

Calling All Men will meet on Saturday, November 16, 8:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The morning will begin with breakfast pizza and conversation, and then we will turn to our program. This month we will ask ourselves the question, "How can we be a blessing?" We will look at how one man in the Bible was a blessing, and ask ourselves as men of ULC, if we might find ways that we together as a group can bless people right here in Grand Forks.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS: "The Greatest Story: Jesus"



We continue our Bible study of the four Gospels. "The Greatest Story: Jesus" explores the life, ministry and saving work of Jesus through the eyes of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Each week we will read from the Gospels and make use of a specially made DVD. There are still copies of the participant book for those who want it, and it costs \$15. This is a class for everyone from experienced Bible readers to those who are looking for their first Bible study. All you have to do is show up at the lounge at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday morning. It is not too late to start!

55+OVER FELLOWSHIP

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. for a time of fellowship, education and service. On November 12th, Lisa Sonterre from Edward Jones will present "Outlook & Opportunities in the Current Market Conditions". Hostess: Lisa will be providing treats to go with our coffee.

In December, we will meet on the 10th at 11:30 a.m. for our annual Christmas Potluck. Our service project will be filling the Christmas bags for the Sunday School and Wednesday With Jesus students.













November Youth News

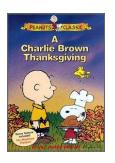
Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. 1 Chronicles 16:8

 Youth will have an opportunity to serve in worship in the month of November. If you are a youth in 7th-12th grade and would like to help in worship by reading, ushering, greeting, or providing special music please talk to Heather or Pastor Tom. We would love for you to be a part of worship on both Sunday's and Wednesday's. Sunday, November 10th and Wednesday, November 13th.



• The WELCA Fall Festival is right around the corner! We are looking for youth to help serve lunch. Saturday, November 23rd from 10am-1pm. If you are interested in helping with this event please talk to Heather. Also please wear your youth group t-shirt if you have one.

Sunday, November 3rd from 1pm-3:30pm youth in grades K-3rd will meet at church to watch the movie, "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" and will join in a bible study, and craft. Snacks and beverages will be provided. You don't want to miss this fun movie event. Invite Friends!





YOUTH TEAM MEETING Youth team will meet on Sunday, November 10th at 12:30pm in the upstairs lounge.



Middle School Game Night at ULC Sunday, November 10th from 5pm-7:30pm in the youth room. This event is for all youth in grades 6-8. We will have pizza and pop for supper. Please come and bring friends. We will be playing laser tag, wii, group games, and more.

What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving

and how has God blessed your life?

• AM's (Awesome Mornings) with the LORD:

Awesome mornings with the Lord will be held the last Wednesday morning of every month from 6:45am to 7:30am. This bible study is for all ULC high school youth in grades 9-12 and friends. We will be using a video series for our study. Breakfast will be provided on these mornings and we will share in faith conversation. Please start your mornings with God and be a part of this study. If you need a ride to school after please talk to Heather. The next time we will meet is Wednesday, November 27th at 6:45am in the youth room. See you there.



No BLAST or confirmation classes on Wednesday, November 27th due to the Thanksgiving holiday. There will still be supper at 5:00 and Thanksgiving Eve worship at 6:00 p.m. No Sunday School or Confirmation classes on Sunday, December 1st. There will be worship at 10:00 a.m.

YOUTH FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES, GROUP EVENTS, and THANKS

- Youth in grades 7-10 grade are selling **Christmas wreaths** until November 5th. Wreaths will be delivered on November 24th. If you are interested in purchasing a wreath or have not received fundraising materials please contact Heather. :)
- The last Ralph Cleaning went great. A big thank you to all the adults and youth who helped out. You are greatly appreciated. Our two cleanings in November are the 1st and 30th at 10:30pm. Please park in the south lot and come in through the student entrance doors. Also please arrive at 10:00pm to avoid traffic. If you have any questions please contact Heather. :)
- **Our Family Labels** have been turned in twice and totaled **\$240.00**. This money will benefit the youth program greatly. Thank you to everyone who has donated labels, your help is appreciated. We will continue to do this project. There is a donation box outside of Heather's office if you would like to continue to help with this project. Thanks again for your support of the youth program.
- Together we raised \$1,000 for the **100 Wells Campaign.** A big thank you to everyone that helped us raise this money. It will be used to bless people in places like Sudan with clean drinking water. You are all amazing thank you.





Education Update - November 2013

Sunday school children, preschool-6th grade, will be singing during worship on Sunday, November 10th. WWJ students, preschool-6th grade, will be singing during worship on Wednesday, November 13th.



Our November Service Emphasis is Operation Christmas Child. Boxes are available in the church narthex. Boxes are due back to ULC by Sunday, November 17th. Thanks for participating!!

Church School Schedule: No WWJ on November 27th, and No Sunday school on December 1st. There is worship on both days.

STEPHEN MINISTRV



Please make note:

The Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. Practice will be at 10 a.m. the morning of Saturday, December 14. Preschool-Kindergarten will practice from 10-11am. 1st-6th grade will practice from 10-12.

Hi all-

Just a reminder that this month our Stephen Ministry guest speaker will be our very own Pastor Tom. We meet at 11:30 on Sunday, November 10th in the lounge. All are welcome. Pastor Tom will be teaching us the "How to's" of prayer. He will make it very basic and easy. This topic tends to result in some very meaningful discussion. I look forward to it.

Bonnie Peterson, Program Coordinator

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Homemade Devotions for Lent

I am the Light of the World

Is it too early too talk about Lent? It probably is, because Ash Wednesday is not until March 6, 2014. However, this year we are embarking on a special project. We are writing our own Lenten Devotion Book. This means we need your help! Here comes the question: Would you consider writing a short devotion for one of the days of the Lenten season?

There are 47 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, so in a perfect world we would have 47 people of all ages to write one of the devotions. There also is the possibility that couples might write devotions together. Whatever the case, we are using as our theme the first of our four stained-glass windows, "I am the Light of the World". This is a theme that is rich with meaning and possibilities for reflection. It is also a theme that will go very nicely with our Holden Evening Prayer Service.

Pastor Tom will have a listing of Lenten themes and Bible passages very shortly, but you do not have to stick to these. If you choose a different Bible verse or you don't use a particular verse at all, that is fine. If you choose a different theme than the weekly Lenten themes, that is fine. We are simply asking you to reflect on how Jesus is the Light of the World in your life. Maybe you have had some experience with darkness or light that will make for a good story. Maybe there is some "light" passage in the Bible that you really like and are willing to reflect on for the rest of us to enjoy.

This is a no fail, "win win", opportunity that we have here. We will share our faith with one another, get to know each other, and grow deeper in our relationship with the Lord together. Of course, some of our experiences, favorite verses, and even the words we write will be similar, that is great. No worries! These sorts of things are not surprising. You just might find yourself saying to someone else, "Wow, you too!"

Here are some things for you to do or think about, if you dare!

- \checkmark Contact Pastor Tom and ask him any questions you might have
- \checkmark Call the church office and volunteer to write one such devotion
- ✓ Maybe pick a Bible verse to reflect on or write about
- \checkmark Start to think about what words you might say, or a story you might tell
- \checkmark If there are poets out there, poems would be a wonderful devotion
- ✓ Approximately 500 words would be our maximum, but shorter is fine
- \checkmark Maybe write a prayer at the close of your devotion for people to pray
- ✓ Complete your devotion and turn it into the office by January 31, 2014

Here are a few light passages in the Bible for your consideration:

Genesis 1:3-4, Psalm 119:105, Isaiah 9:2, Matthew 5:14-16, John 8:12, John 1:5, John 12:35-36, and Revelation 22:5.

Accept the challenge! Pastor Tom is hoping to hear from you!



ULC Women of the ELCA November 2013 News and Events

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name; for the Lord is good and his mercy endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalm 100:4-5

I pray each of you have a wonderful Thanksgiving Day and that you can enter into the presence of the Lord with thanks and praise and that you may know his love and faithfulness forever.

Lutheran World Relief for 2013

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.

Thanks to all of you faithful people who helped in so many ways to make sure we made our goal of 200 quilts for LWR. This year we have sent 205 quilts, 76 health kits, 46 layettes, and 55 school bags to people who are much less fortunate than ourselves. Thanks also to those who helped carry our boxes upstairs and transporting them to Midwest Motors - Christina, Casey and Cameron Olstad, David Larson and Lee Larson. Wear your "Blessed to be a Blessing" wristbands proudly!



Why "shop-till-you-drop" when you can "quilt-till-you-wilt"? Friday, November 29th (Black Friday) from 10:00am - 4:00pm we will again come together to see how we can be a blessing to others with our hands and hearts. Our last two congregational quilting days have been so fun and rewarding that we think it will beat shopping! Come out and help us bless those in need. You need not have quilting skills - there are so many things to do that people of all ages can help out and enjoy the day. Lunch will be provided. Come for part of the day or for the whole day. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Mind, Body and Soul

The ULC Women's Walking Group has completed its 4 1/2 month long walking challenge and we did it! The following 8 women contributed steps to get us to Charlotte, NC and beyond: Betty Bloomquist, Evelyn Clark, Lara Dando, Shirley Griffin, Carol Hanson, Judy Larson, Bev Lunde, and Bonnie Peterson. We took over 5,796,363 steps or walked approximately 2,898 miles. We needed about 1,500 steps to get to Charlotte, so after reaching our goal we walked north all the way to Bethlehem, NY and PA. I encourage you gals to continue recording your steps and work towards your own personal goals.

To wrap up our walking challenge, the Women's Group had a special Mind, Body and Soul event on October 20th. It was an interesting afternoon of healthy eating discussions, relaxation exercises, great conversations, and dancing with the Wii system. Bonnie and I would like to thank John Vandeberg for helping demonstrate the "Just Dance" Wii program -- it is a new and fun way to exercise. And thanks to the attendees who brought supplies for the "Blessing Bags", our service project in collaboration with Heather and the Youth Group.

As a follow-up to our event here are the two reminders that we promised you.

- 1). Stretch, stretch, stretch, twice a day. Once in the morning and once in the evening.
- 2). The shake recipe is:
- 1 heaping tablespoon of protein powder (rice powder is the best). 1 heaping tablespoon of fiber (ground chia seed or ground flax seed). 1/2 cup of frozen fruit.

1 cup of coconut milk. Blend well!



Fall Festival

Saturday, November 23rd from 11:00am -1:00pm is our annual Fall Festival and there is no doubt about it being fall by the chill in the air. Warm yourselves up by making crafts, canning, baking, or sewing quilts to donate to help with the fund-raising side of our event. We will need people to set up on Friday and volunteers to work various jobs on Saturday. We will offer a baked potato lunch with beverage and dessert. The ULC Youth will have a new pumpkin cookbook and fleece scarves for sale. William Dando's newest book on the geography of the Holy Land will also be available. The book will sell for \$25 and WELCA will retain \$15. This will be a great time to begin or, for some, finish your Christmas shopping. Thanks in advance for all the help you so freely offer for this important event.

Christmas Brunch

SAVE THE DATE - Saturday, December 7 at 9:30 a.m. The Christmas Brunch includes egg bake and fresh fruit, entertainment by the Men's Quartet, and a few Christmas carols. Plan to join us for a relaxing time of fellowship and celebration of a great year at ULC.



Enjoy the fall days! Evelyn Clark, WELCA President

ULC Church Council Summary – October 17, 2013



- 1. Special congregational meeting to consider the proposed Lighting & Projection project will be held Sunday Nov. 3rd at 11:30am in the fellowship hall.
- 2. Pig Roast and Neighborhood Carnival on Sept. 29th was a huge success –great food, lots of visitors, wonderful fellowship and we raised \$4,854 for the General Fund. Thanks!
- 3. Starting Stewardship Emphasis 2013 "Found Faithful" in November.
- 4. Trunk and Treat planned for October 31st in church parking lot.
- 5. Youth are selling Christmas Wreaths.
- 6. WELCA Fall Festival is November 23rd.
- 7. ULC will serve the Love Feast on November 26^{th} come and be part of this special night.
- 8. Jenna Shallman and Renae Schmidt have started their 9 month Mission Adventure to South America. You can follow them on their blog or facebook.

Financial Report:

- 1. September income was good, it has helped that the fall programs have started and everyone is back at church.
- 2. Expenses were up with the start of the Church School year.
- 3. We did gain almost \$3,300 in September.
- 4. We are still using about \$21,204 of reserve funds.

We appreciate your support of the wonderful ministries we have here at ULC. Our goal is to replenish our reserve by the end of the year and with our entire Church Family pulling together I know we can accomplish it. Thank you again for your support. We are truly blessed!

ULC Church Council: Les Howard, Debbie Watts, Paula Cox, Dan Melberg, Lauri Shimpa, Gary Urness, Brian Strom, Amanda Denman ,Dave Masterson, Kevin Meyer, Bonnie Solberg, Kay Torgerson, and Pastor Tom Colenso

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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 2122 UNIVERSITY AVENUE GRAND FORKS ND 58203-3399



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UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

