



# THE UNITER

United Lutheran Church Newsletter - Special Mid-May 2020 Edition



## UNITED'S DAY OF PRAYER - Wednesday, May 20, 6:15pm

On Wednesday, May 20th, 2020, at 6:15pm, United Lutheran Church will join as a congregation to pray for our world, community, and one another. In this difficult time, it can be hard to know just what we can do. Prayer is a gift we can all offer one another. Prayer isn't a magic answer. But prayer acknowledges we need a power greater than ourselves; we need God's help and providing. This time of prayer will begin by us all praying the Lord's prayer together as one church in Christ. It will be followed by a brief time of intercessory prayer led by Pastors Karla and Peter. If you have special prayer requests, please text or email them to the pastors.

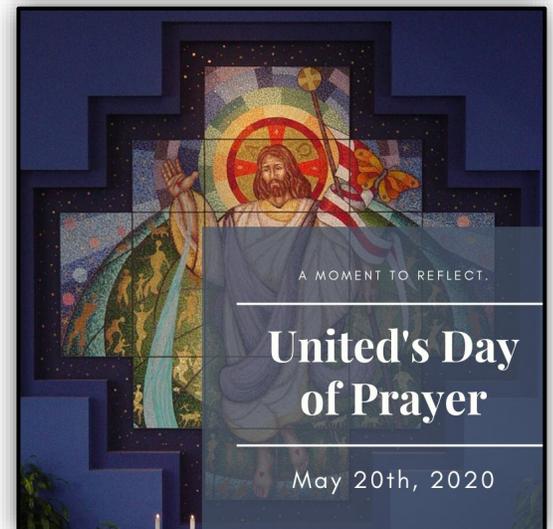
As we unite together as a congregation in this time of prayer, we are given the gift of connection to one another and to God. We are working on creating a video compilation for this special day! Below are instructions on how you can help.

***Here is how you can help!*** We are inviting you to film you or your family saying the Lord's prayer and send it in to [unitedgfyouth@gmail.com](mailto:unitedgfyouth@gmail.com)

### ***Some tips!***

1. speak *slowly* and **clearly**
  2. make sure your phone is horizontal
  3. record in a quiet space
- record close enough that only your head/shoulders are in the video

Thank you for your participation in this! We invite **all** of you, young and old - we'd love to see your faces!



# Pastors Page

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Greetings to all God's people of United Lutheran in exile,

*"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you..."* (Philippians 1:2-3)

Ok, maybe we are not literally in exile, but I think we all know the feeling. It has been eight weeks since we last gathered for worship here at United Lutheran and Pastor Karla and I and the rest of the staff are missing you. We of course are still having worship services virtually and over the radio, but its hard preaching and singing to an empty sanctuary week after week. This has been a trying time for so many people across our nation and community because of this unseen enemy. We are all longing to be together again to worship, to study, to play, and most importantly to drink coffee with other members of our family of faith. I am sure we are all hoping this blessed reunion will take place sooner rather than later, but we all desire that everyone stay safe when this happens.

On April 16th the White House and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released a document entitled "Guidelines for Opening Up America Again." This document outlines three phases, based on the course of identified COVID-19 cases, for communities as they consider how to engage in public activity and re-open currently-closed operations. The document states clearly that this process will be contextual to each state, county, and municipality. Governor Doug Burgum released the ND Smart Restart Protocol on April 28th which provided new standard operating procedures for businesses to open in a manner consistent with these federal guidelines.

The measures taken to reduce the spread of the virus have been challenging and caused significant loss and grief; however, they have been effective in preventing our medical systems from being overwhelmed. As United Lutheran's leadership begins to plan for the possibility of reopening, we will be putting first the needs of the most vulnerable as we look at our local timeline and procedures for continued social distancing even in our worship space.

The bishop's offices of the Eastern and Western North Dakota Synods have released a series of guidelines entitled, *Returning to Gathering In-Person in Our Congregations*. United Lutheran's church council will take a look at this document as we make our plans for the future.

One important guideline we have been given for reopening for in-person worship is that there are 14 days of declining new cases of the virus in Grand Forks County. Unfortunately, so far, we are still increasing in cases and we don't know how the opening back up of businesses will affect this.

Please continue to pray for all those health care workers and others who keep us safe and feed us and protect our community.

Pastor Karla and I want to thank all of you for your continued generous financial support for the mission and ministry of United Lutheran Church. It has also been very gratifying to hear all the kind words and support for our radio broadcasts and Facebook live worship services.

In times like these I look to the prophet Isaiah's words for comfort and hope.

*"But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, he who formed you: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you,"*

Peace and be well,

*Pastor Peter*

# Worship Information

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We will continue with no face-to-face gatherings for worship until it is deemed safe for us to gather again. You can join us for worship in the following ways:

- Radio Broadcast every Sunday at 10:15am on KNOX 1310 AM or online at <https://knoxradio.com> .
- United's Sunday service will be live streamed at 10:15am on United's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/unitedgf/>
- Bulletins will be available on our website at [www.unitedgf.org](http://www.unitedgf.org) so you can participate in worship.
- United's Wednesday service will be live streamed at 6:15pm on United's Facebook page through May 13th. Then we will keep connected on Wednesdays beginning with United's Day of Prayer on May 20th.

## WAYS TO GIVE TO UNITED

During this time God continues to give to us. We hope you will continue to give to our congregation as you are able to do so to support financially the mission and ministry of United Lutheran Church during this difficult time. We ask you to consider sending your contribution to United by one of the following ways:

give

- Mail in your donation to United at 324 Chestnut Street in Grand Forks
- Secure Online Donations. You can give to United securely online by going to our website at [www.unitedgf.org](http://www.unitedgf.org) and click on the DONATE link at the top of the homepage.

## CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

You are all being held in prayer daily by your pastors. If you have any specific prayer requests please let your pastors know. You can email, text, or call: [pastorkarla@unitedgf.org](mailto:pastorkarla@unitedgf.org), (218)-230-8098 or [pastorpeter@unitedgf.org](mailto:pastorpeter@unitedgf.org), (218)-230-8059.



## Farewell to the Abrahamsons

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### *Farewell and Godspeed to the Abrahamsons!*

Harmon and Julie Abrahamson will be moving from Grand Forks to the Twin Cities area to be closer to their family. Their move is planned for early June.

Harmon is currently serving as United's congregational president and Julie as the chairperson of Outreach and Wellness Ministry. They both sing in the Cathedral Choir and have helped immensely with United's Music Ministry since last fall.

We will most certainly miss the Abrahamsons at United Lutheran. Their work and witness have enriched this community of faith. We ask for God's blessing and providing for them at this time of transition and we wish them all the best in their new home.



# Summer Trip Updates

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\* As of now, Confirmation Camp at Camp Metigoshe (Bottineau, ND) is planned to happen the week of June 21-26 with new health and safety guidelines. Molly will be in contact with parents on future decisions of taking United youth to this camp. Follow camp updates at <https://metigosheministries.com/>



\* Our high school trip to Idaho is pending. Camp Lutherhaven has suspended all programming at their sites through **June 30th, 2020**. In mid-May, their board and leadership staff will gather to look at program options for July and August. They are waiting to hear what the CDC recommends regarding guidelines for camps. We are staying hopeful that the Idaho Trip could still happen for us, but may look different. Follow camp updates at <https://www.lutherhaven.com/>



If you have questions for Molly, please email her at [unitedgfyouth@gmail.com](mailto:unitedgfyouth@gmail.com)

## Vacation Bible School Update

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United Lutheran staff and our Spiritual Formation Ministry are working towards what Vacation Bible School looks like for United this summer. With COVID-19 in our midst, it is unlikely that VBS will look the same as years past, although we are working creatively on ways to bring summer bible activities to the youth. Stay tuned through our Facebook page and Wednesday emails to receive updates on Vacation Bible School. Thanks!



## THANK YOU! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

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We'd like express thanks and gratitude for our Sunday School and Faith Friends teachers, our Confirmation guides and mentors, and our music teachers! Thank you for your time, energy, and creativity over the past school year. We couldn't do youth ministry without you!



Thank you to: **Denae and Kevin Wiley, Dawnn Morken, Lori Marshall, Shannon Helseth, Kelsey Wehe, Katie Bratvold, Amber White, Lanae Brown, Susan Stern, Amber Hagadorn, Melanie Cairns, Gretchen Kindseth, Ruth Ann Tuset, Tom Gabrielson, Nick Brown, Julie Abrahamson, Gary Masilko, Richard McGurran, Kari Torkelson, Shelly Amundson, and Jim and Janiel Bollman.**

We *thank you* for your faith and your willingness to walk alongside our young people in their journeys. United Lutheran Church is blessed by you!

# Class of 2020

United Lutheran Church recognizes and celebrates with our high school class of 2020! Without a doubt, this is not how we imagined this momentous time of our youth's lives to look.

Even though we are unable to gather at this time, we will recognize our United's senior class on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> via our online Facebook live service at 10:15am. You will also be able to find the video posted on our website ([www.unitedgf.org](http://www.unitedgf.org)) afterward. Each youth will also receive a quilt made by our United Quilters. Please join us in celebrating on May 31<sup>st</sup>!

## *Congratulations!*

*Greta Amundson*

*Christopher Everson*

*Jadin Hams*

*Alex McArthur*

*Madison Nelson*

*Jacob Sunberg*

*Michael Syrstad*

*Josie Walz*

*Matthew Wehe*

*Hope Wilson*

## Class of 2020

## Bless this Meal

### We invite you to practice giving thanks for your meals at home!

Here are a few examples of camp graces to have some fun while thanking God for your food!

#### Jaws Prayer

*To the Tune of Jaws (put your hands on top of your head like a shark fin.)*

God is Great and God is Good and (speed up now)  
So we Thank Him For Our Food and Amen amen  
amen amen!

(when saying amen make your hand and arms close like a shark mouth)

#### Johnny and the Appleseed Grace

OHHH! Lord is good to me (clap clap) and so I  
thank the Lord (clap clap) For giving me the things  
I need like this food and the sun and the apple seed  
the Lord is good to me (clap clap) amen, (clap  
clap) amen, (clap clap) amen amen amen! AMEN!

#### The Adam's Family Grace

Na na na nah (*snap fingers twice*)

Na na na nah (*snap fingers twice*)

Na na na nah (*sing three times then snap fingers 2X*)

Be present at our table Lord  
Be here and everywhere adored  
These mercies bless and grant that we  
May strengthened for Thy service be  
Amen (snap fingers twice)  
Sweet!

Amen (snap fingers twice)

Neat!

Amen, Amen, Amen (snap fingers twice)

Let's eat!



# Memorials and Gifts

## RADIO FUND

*In Memory of ...*

*Don & Donna Simenson* by their family  
*Greg Sande (Radio Broadcast on April 26th)* by  
 Deloris Sande and family  
*Anna Erickson* by Sharon Steffen  
*Joann Davis* by Alice Davis

*In Honor of...*

*Pastor Karla, Pastor Peter and the Worship Team*  
 by Alice Davis

## UNDESIGNATED

*In Memory of ...*

*Alice Strand* by Sandra Morken  
*Abner Lee* by Sandra Morken  
*Anna Erickson* by Joyce and Sandy Barrett  
*Boyd Knudson* by Lee & Judy Larson  
*Anna Erickson* by Else Rike  
*John Fredrick Helm* by Sandra Morken

# Pastoral Acts

*With  
 Sympathy*

Anna Erickson - 04/23/2020

## RADIO BROADCAST

Each Sunday morning on KNOX 1310 United Lutheran's worship service is broadcast to thousands of listeners throughout the upper Red River Valley. This radio ministry is the longest continuous radio ministry West of the Mississippi. Now more than ever, people are "tuning in" for our services.



**If you would like to be a sponsor of our 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). Call or email the church office at [reception@unitedgf.org](mailto:reception@unitedgf.org) to secure the date(s) you would like to sponsor and continue to support this wonderful ministry outreach to our community!

# Financial Summary

## Income/Expense Statement

	April 2020 Actuals	April 2020 Budget	April 2019 Actuals	2020 YTD Actuals	% OF BUDGET YTD	2019 Annual Budget
<b>Income:</b>						
Regular Offering	27,261.62	29,166.67	35,748.25	117,608.55	34%	350,000.00
Other Offering	1,729.00	2,783.33	9,580.70	5,813.54	17%	33,400.00
Other Receipts	4,195.70	9,549.08	4,301.73	26,654.12	23%	114,589.00
Restricted Contributions	18,352.74	18,606.33	20,903.25	66,135.85	30%	223,276.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51,539.06</b>	<b>60,105.42</b>	<b>70,533.93</b>	<b>216,212.06</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>721,265.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>						
Fellowship Ministry	0.00	816.67	176.24	1,139.47	12%	9,800.00
Administrative Ministry	7,403.31	3,229.17	4,485.10	17,602.39	45%	38,750.00
Invitation Ministry	1,670.00	2,000.00	2,815.94	6,856.05	29%	24,000.00
Outreach Ministry	3,602.63	3,959.25	2,864.99	13,640.28	29%	47,511.00
Physical Property Ministry	8,219.61	12,266.67	9,333.98	67,037.77	46%	147,200.00
Spiritual Formation Ministry	31.00	1,187.50	233.21	1,646.57	12%	14,250.00
Staff Support Ministry	31,165.38	35,721.17	33,961.83	130,541.99	30%	428,654.00
Youth & Family Ministry	270.27	925.00	1,679.87	1,929.61	17%	11,100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52,362.20</b>	<b>60,105.42</b>	<b>55,551.16</b>	<b>240,394.13</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>721,265.00</b>
<b>Surplus / Short fall</b>	<b>-823.14</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>14,982.77</b>	<b>-24,182.07</b>		<b>0.00</b>

# Thank you Worship Leaders!



*thank you*

## Worship Music Leaders

Wow! What a gift our musicians have been in this time of online and radio broadcast worship! Their gifts have enriched our time of worship and brought comfort and inspiration to our spirits.



## Special thanks to:

Gretchen Kindseth, Ruth Ann Tuseth, Yen Lee Loh, Michael Marcotte, Julie Abrahamson, Harmon Abrahamson, Rebecca Heigaard McGurran, and Richard McGurran

Thank you also to those who have been in the booth for our radio broadcast: Ross Hammer, Debbie Dubuque, Jayson Helseth



## From our livestream listeners...

“Thank you all!!”

“Good morning, sound is wonderful!!”

“Thank you for the beautiful service!”

“Thank you! A wonderful way to start the week!”

🎵 “Thanks for continuing to bring worship to us at home.”

“Thank you to all who make this such an inspirational time.”

“Thank you for bringing us together in this time of separation. It is very much appreciated by all who watch from home!”

“Great service; wonderful music!”

“Yay United Lutheran!”

“Thank you! It’s good to be home worshipping with you.”

“Thank you, another great service. Peace to all.”

“Miss you all so much!”

🎵 “Beautiful music.”

“A beautiful way to start the week and stay in touch with our church family. Thank you everyone!”

“Beautiful service in a beautiful church.”

“Loving the music!”

“Thank you to everyone for your part in making this service come about!”

“Thank you for doing this! So glad to see and hear all of you!”

“Great service! We needed this! Thank you!!”

“Wonderful choir! A joy to hear!”

🎵 “Thanks for that song - girls broke out in 3 part harmony!”

“Thank you. Faith gives us the vision to see beyond our fears... be well everyone.”

“We are so blessed to have this.”

United Lutheran Church  
324 Chestnut Street  
Grand Forks, ND 58201  
Phone: 775-4279 - Fax: 772-8001  
Website: [www.unitedgf.org](http://www.unitedgf.org)  
Email: [reception@unitedgf.org](mailto:reception@unitedgf.org)  
Sunday Morning Broadcast:  
KNOX 1310AM - 10:15am

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Pastor: Rev. Karla Coen-Tuff  
Pastor: Rev. Peter Coen-Tuff  
Dir. of Youth & Family Ministry: Molly Haagenon  
Church Secretary: Christine Barta  
Bookkeeper: Becky Knutson  
Receptionist: Rebecca Heigaard - McGurran  
Council President: Cathy Williams  
Youth Education Director: Karen Syrstad  
Custodian: Darren Lee, Bryce Irvine  
Cathedral Choir Director: Michael Marcotte  
Sing & Ring Director: Ruth Ann Tuset  
Jubilee Bells Director: Caitlin Becks



Like us on facebook at United Lutheran Church in Grand Forks, ND - ELCA



Follow ULC Youth on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ulcgyouth/>



We have had such a positive response to our Music Ministry on Mondays! We'd like to say a special **thank you** to all of our musicians who have contributed to this online ministry...

Michael Marcotte; Ronnie & Michelle Ingle; Gretchen, Silje, Aria and Wren Kindseth; Caitlin Becks; Richard McGurran & Rebecca Heigaard McGurran; Gracia Larsen-Schmidt; Yen Lee Loh.

Secondly, we want to keep this project going!! ***We're extending the invitation to you!*** If you're a musician within our congregation and would like to offer your gifts to be featured on our United Lutheran's Facebook page, please send a video recording to [unitedgfyouth@gmail.com](mailto:unitedgfyouth@gmail.com). Reach out if you have any questions or experience trouble sending it!! Thank you!

## Good News FOR BAD TIMES.

### ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

A "zoom Bible Study" for the Easter Season continues on Sundays. It's titled "Good News for Bad Times: A Study of the book of I Peter". It meets Sunday Mornings at 9am. We will be reading the book of I Peter as we follow the Sunday morning lectionary readings. If you are interested in joining this virtual online group, email [pastorpeter@unitedgf.org](mailto:pastorpeter@unitedgf.org) and he will send an invitation to join the group. The only materials you will need is your favorite Bible for the readings. An email will go out with a list of those readings we will be discussing in depth each week.

## Masks

Marcia Wehe has generously provided United with more facemasks. We still have six available including two child sized masks. Please contact Pr. Karla if you need one. Thanks!