



# THE UNITER

United Lutheran Church Newsletter | Vol. 45 Issue No. 10 | October 2020

RE-UNITED: HOPE FOR  
A WEARY WORLD.



R E U N I T E D

## IN-PERSON WORSHIP RESUMES!

### SUNDAYS:

**BEGINNING OCTOBER 4, 2020, 10:15AM IN UNITED'S SANCTUARY**

*Sunday morning worship will continue to be shared on Facebook live and our Radio broadcast.*

### WEDNESDAYS:

**BEGINNING OCTOBER 7, 2020, 6:15PM IN UNITED'S SANCTUARY**

*Wednesday evening worship will be shared on Facebook live.*

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP:



**IN-PERSON:** Sunday mornings at 10:15 AM in United's Sanctuary.

Wednesday evenings at 6:15 PM in United's Sanctuary.



**FACEBOOK LIVE:** Sunday mornings at 10:15 AM

Wednesday evenings at 6:15 PM



**RADIO BROADCAST:** Sunday mornings aired live at 10:15 AM on 1310 KNOX Radio



**LATER:** Visit our website at [www.unitedgf.org](http://www.unitedgf.org) or our Facebook page to view previous services

**INFORMATION ON GUIDELINES FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP ON PAGE 3.**

# Pastors Page

## RE-UNITED

The day has finally arrived: Sunday, October 4th, 2020! After months of staying apart during a worldwide pandemic, on this date, United will again gather in our sanctuary for worship.

This time apart has been difficult for all of us. Yet, during it all, we have continued to be the church. Faith, love, creativity, courage, and service have continued to shine through United's community. Here's just some of what has been taking place in our time apart:

1. Worship every Sunday and Wednesday. Musicians, technicians, pastors, a youth director, ushers and the altar guild have all done things in new and creative ways so that we would continue to be a worshipping community. We didn't miss a week! We have shared worship through Facebook live, the radio broadcast, parking lot services, and communion in the courtyard.

I love when people join the service online, posting greetings to one another helping us to remember that although apart we are still a united community in faith, service, and worship.

2. United continued to reach out in service to our community. We served hundreds of grab and go lunches in August and collected hundreds of pounds of food in September for the food pantry. Through the generosity of United members, we continued to support campus ministry, ELCA world hunger, disaster relief and many other vital ministries we share with other Lutherans through our Eastern North Dakota synod and our national church body, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

3. Education. Spiritual Formation Ministry and our Youth and Family Ministry Director, Molly Haagenson, continued Sunday school, Faith friends, Vacation Bible School, and Confirmation through online platforms and take home resources. Adult classes continued to meet through Zoom.

4. Pastors made many calls, visited when invited

and allowed at hospitals and care facilities, conducted funerals, baptized, counseled, and prayed.

5. Members continued to faithfully support our congregation financially during this time apart. What a testimony to commitment of our members to live, learn, and share the love of Jesus Christ! The work of God through this congregation continued and thrived because of your faithfulness!

6. Church council. It isn't easy to be an elected leader of a congregation in a pandemic. Members of the church council met regularly, respectfully discussed difficult decisions, listened to experts, and made decisions striving to care for one another's wellbeing and serve God.

I am amazed and thankful for all the ways the Spirit of God has been at work through and among us. But none of it has been easy. You may not have agreed with every decision. It has been stressful and none of us have ever navigated a congregation through a global pandemic.

So, as we come back together, let's give thanks, encourage one another, and do all that we can to build each other up so that we are equipped to be the body of Christ for one another and for the world as we have been called to be. Things will still look very different for a while. But what joy there will be in being together.

As always, your church council members and pastors are open to listening to your ideas and concerns.

It has been an honor and joy to be your pastor through this unique and challenging time. I continue to give thanks for you and for all that we are doing together to live, learn + share the good news of God's love in Jesus with one another and the world.

*Pastor Karla Coen-Tuff*

# Caring for Each Other as We Return to In-Person Worship

On Tuesday September 15, United's Church decided to return to in person worship on Sunday, October 4 at 10:15am in the sanctuary. After some good and thoughtful discussion and after consulting with local health leaders, the council decided on the following plan for return to in person worship. We intend to do our very best to keep everyone safe and well by following the best safety practices that we are aware of at this time. As we said back in July, our return to worship will not be "everything is back to normal".

- 1) We will practice social distancing in our seating arrangements.
- 2) Everyone five years and older will be required to wear masks in the building.
- 3) We will not be shaking hands or hugging.
- 4) We will not be having coffee hour after worship.
- 5) We will be celebrating Holy communion.
- 6) We will not be having an 8:30 am worship for the present as the turnaround time for cleaning before the next service is not sufficient.
- 7) We will have music and song leaders shielded behind a plexiglass screen. However, the congregation will not be singing.
- 8) You will be ushered into your seats as you enter and ushered out as you leave to prevent bunching up at the doorways and in the aisles.
- 9) The balcony will not be in use for the present.
- 10) Please do not attend worship if any of the following are true to you or your family:
  - Obvious illness.
  - Suspicion of getting sick.
  - Contact with someone who has COVID-19.
  - Tested for COVID-19, but have not received results.
  - Consider staying home if you've traveled or attended group gatherings outside your normal contacts.

## Financial Summary

### Income/Expense Statement

	Aug 2020 Actuals	Aug 2020 Budget	Aug 2019 Actuals	2020 YTD Actuals	% OF BUDGET YTD	2019 Annual Budget
<b>Income:</b>						
Regular Offering	21,094.00	29,166.67	20,724.00	210,985.45	60%	350,000.00
Other Offering	581.00	2,783.33	294.76	6,526.54	20%	33,400.00
Other Receipts	4,345.06	9,549.08	7,772.30	44,522.54	39%	114,589.00
Restricted Contributions	10,928.00	18,606.33	22,997.07	118,212.01	53%	223,276.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,948.06</b>	<b>60,105.42</b>	<b>51,788.13</b>	<b>380,246.54</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>721,265.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>						
Fellowship Ministry	0.00	816.67	2,017.15	1,139.47	12%	9,800.00
Administrative Ministry	4,118.41	3,229.17	3,421.28	31,319.09	81%	38,750.00
Invitation Ministry	1,067.64	2,000.00	2,669.95	11,106.40	46%	24,000.00
Outreach Ministry	2,992.63	3,959.25	2,705.83	29,316.36	62%	47,511.00
Physical Property Ministry	7,207.31	12,266.67	13,007.92	104,856.57	71%	147,200.00
Spiritual Formation Ministry	502.13	1,187.50	2,919.68	4,067.36	29%	14,250.00
Staff Support Ministry	31,000.68	35,721.17	32,204.85	267,227.59	62%	428,654.00
Youth & Family Ministry	0.00	925.00	1,662.27	1,965.12	18%	11,100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46,888.80</b>	<b>60,105.42</b>	<b>60,608.93</b>	<b>450,997.96</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>721,265.00</b>
<b>Surplus / Short fall</b>	<b>-9,940.74</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-8,820.80</b>	<b>-70,751.42</b>		<b>0.00</b>

# Outreach and Wellness Ministry

## TRUNK-OR-TREAT

October 31, 2020

4:30pm - 6:30pm in the ULC Parking Lot



This year Halloween falls on a Saturday and we are asking for your participation in helping to make United Lutheran Church annual Truck or Treat event fun filled. Please consider participating in decorating your trunks and handing treats out to our neighborhood goblins. **Mark your calendars for Saturday October 31st. And contact church office to let us know that you will be joining us. Decorating of Trunks will begin at 4:30 with treats being handed out up to 6:30.**

*If it rains event will be cancelled.*



### GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

When we put a call out for food donations for our local food pantry our church responds overwhelmingly! All food donated went to St. Joseph's food pantry. Mickey Munson director of St. Joseph's sent an email with the following message. *"It is with great joy that I report the food total for the Food Drive. Your efforts yielded just short of 550 pounds of food for us to utilize in our food pantry. We are beyond thankful for this blessing. Food scarcity is an ongoing problem in our great community, and with drives such as this one, we are able to continue to provide much needed services for those in need. Thank you for all the support!"*

Also, Cards of encouragement for First Responders in our Community, where collected on God's Work Our Hands Sunday and at Wednesday's parking lot Worship. Pastor Peter delivered cards that where collected and donuts to Grand Forks Police department. Thank you United Lutheran Church!



Peace be with you,

*Janiel Bollman*

Chair of Outreach and Wellness Ministry



**God's work.  
Our hands.**

Sunday, September 13, 2020

*Sunday* at United

# Prayers for the People

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During this time of separation, your pastors have missed seeing all your beautiful faces! Throughout the pandemic, one powerful way for us to be connected to one another and to God is through the gift of prayer. Beginning this month, your pastors will commit to praying for our whole congregation, not only collectively or during times of special concern, but also because we want to offer each member the gift of prayer during this challenging time. Here is how we plan to go about this prayer journey:

- 1. Throughout the upcoming year, your pastors will set aside a day to pray for each family unit of United Lutheran Church – whether you are a household of one or many.**
- 2. Leading up to the day we will pray for your household, you will receive a communication from either Pastor Peter or Pastor Karla – a phone call, an email, or a facebook message. We will let you know the upcoming day we have set aside to pray for you and we will ask if you have any special concerns you would like us to hold in prayer.**
- 3. On the day we have set aside for you, please know your pastors are intentionally in prayer for you and your household.**
- 4. With your permission, we will also name your household in prayer on the upcoming Sunday and list your name(s) in the email and bulletins so that our whole congregation can join us in praying for your family.**
- 5. Please remember it will take us most of one year to accomplish this effort.**
- 6. Please remember that we will continue to pray for you during times of difficulty, challenge, grief, and illness. You may contact your pastors at any time with prayer requests.**

As the body of Christ, a community of believers, we are called to encourage one another. May our prayers offer encouragement during this challenging time and keep us connected, even when we are separated, to God and to one another.

We are grateful for all of you who pray regularly for your pastors and for our congregation!

## Backpack Program

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United Lutheran is stepping up!

Northland Rescue mission runs a city-wide backpack program, delivering weekend take home bags of food for children whose households struggle with food insecurity. They are currently serving several of the Grand Forks elementary schools but their goal is to provide bags for every elementary school in our city so that every child in need of food for the weekend would receive a bag.

United Lutheran Church has been encouraged by the Mission to help with this project. United has been all about helping to feed our neighbors and we think the people of United will want to help.

United's goal is to provide bags of food for one weekend a month to Phoenix Elementary school from December 2020-May 2021 (six months). Phoenix provides 100 bags each weekend and the cost to fill a bag is approximately \$2.50. So, each month, the cost to provide the weekend bag is \$250 or a total of \$1,500 for December 2020—May 2021 school year. Rather than collecting food items, we will be ordering items so that we get the food choices that are in line with school requirements.

We are learning that as this pandemic continues and initial supports are evaporating, the needs are increasing. **Our goal is to raise \$1,500 by thanksgiving. Small groups of adults and youth will be invited to pack the weekend bags each month.**

**Will you help feed hungry and food insecure kids in our neighborhood? Please make your contribution online, by mail, or in the offering plate. Simply mark your donation: backpack program.**

Thanks! God's Work, Our Hands!

Outreach and Wellness Ministry

# Confirmation Resumes - October 7th!

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We have been waiting for the day when we get to be back with your teenagers! Seriously. We're not kidding.

As you know, this year is going to look a little different. Because of the pandemic, we've decided to postpone Confirmation day for our 10th graders until the spring of 2021.

**Confirmation classes for our 6th through 8th graders will be held in the fellowship hall at our usual time on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm beginning October 7th. The 9th graders will meet in the choir room on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm,** while beginning their mentor program in January. We will provide a physically distant setup, with masks required.

We've decided to switch up our curriculum this year to Sparkhouse Re:form, which will allow for both in-person and online learning. We plan to use Zoom and Google Classroom to stay connected with those at home. We hope to be creative in providing safe service opportunities for our Confirmation youth through worship assisting and community involvement.



We will also offer Youth Group for all high school youth at 8:00pm on Wednesday evenings in the Lounge, also beginning October 7th. We're excited to welcome you back! See you soon.



## 6th - 8th Grade Confirmation Schedule

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**6th thru 8th Grade Confirmation at United in October**

**7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall - beginning Wednesday, October 7**

Even though we are starting a few weeks later than usual we believe we have a great confirmation program in store for the fall. We will be using "Re:form" confirmation program which is something new this year. Each week we have a video of the week's topic, some discussion questions, a hands-on project, and a faith practice associated with the lesson. There is an online option for those students that cannot be there in person.



### **OCTOBER CALENDAR**

- ♦ **7th: Digging Deeper into Worship**
- ♦ **14th: Worship-Creating your own**
- ♦ **21st: No Confirmation (NDEA Break)**
- ♦ **28th: Introduction to the Old Testament**

# Youth Education Updates

Hello United Families,

We are beyond excited for you and your children to fill the church again, it has been too long! Throughout September, we have been hosting small group events, such as First Communion, Faith Formation, and a Bible Event to reconnect and provide tools to practice faith at home.



- We plan to begin in-person Sunday School on October 4th at our regular time of 9:00am **(YAY!)**. Students will meet upstairs in the Sunday School classrooms, be sure to look at the whiteboard on the staircase landing for instructions.
- Faith Friends will begin on Wednesday, October 7th at 7:00pm **(Yayho!)**. All students will meet in the Lounge to begin and will separate into small groups later.
- United will also offer online options. This includes short weekly videos from the Whirl Curriculum, faith conversation questions, biweekly Zoom options with our leaders, and activities to guide faith practices in your homes.
- A couple of things:
  1. Everyone is asked to wear masks in the church, even when social distancing.
  2. There will be hand sanitizer provided in each room.
  3. There will be no snacks or drinks served during church school.
  4. There will be no singing during music time, yet there'll be music!
  5. Each classroom and surface will be cleaned thoroughly between uses.
- First Communion for our 5th and 6th graders will be held on Wednesday, September 23rd and Sunday, October 4th. Come and celebrate with our young people!
- Sing and Ring Choir is currently not meeting through September. We will keep you updated when the choir will resume.

Thank you for sticking with us through navigating church and youth programming through a pandemic! We are excited to be back together, using masks and other protocols to protect each other during this time. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at [unitedgfyouth@gmail.com](mailto:unitedgfyouth@gmail.com) or call me at the office at 701-775-4279.

See you soon,

**Molly Hagenson**





## Memorials and Gifts

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### CHOIR FUND

*In Memory of ...*

*Herb Helgeson* by Edna Mae Keller

### RADIO FUND

*In Memory of ...*

*Don & Donna Simenson* by their family

*Morall Harper* by Alona Harper

### SUMMER LUNCHES

*In Memory of ...*

*JoAnn Cory* by Darrel Cory

*Rachel Coen-Tuff* by Darrel Cory

### UNDESIGNATED

*In Memory of ...*

*Herb Helgeson* by Tootsie & Gino Gasparini,  
Shirley Billberg, Jan Jelliff

*Dona Peterson* by Wayne Stark, Wallace Knoll,  
Jeanne Zimmerman

*Eleanora Arntz* by Else Rike

*Karl Gaardsmoe* by Joyce Barrett

### SPONSORED SUNDAY RADIO BROADCASTS

*Sunday, September 6, 2020* given in memory of  
Jacob Clemetson in honor of his birthday (9/7) by  
Paul & Sue Clemetson and Grandma Phyllis.

*Sunday, September 27, 2020* given in memory of  
Sandy Morris (Sally Masilko's sister) by Sally and  
Gary Masilko.

## Pastoral Acts

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*With  
Sympathy*

J. Louise Rustebakke - 3/02/20

Herb Helgeson - 9/04/2020



9/27/2020

Inga Sue Clausen

Daughter of Jon & Kayla Clausen

## Sharing our Joys and Sorrows

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From Alan Hearonemus -

Thank you for the prayers for my sister, Gale Link. She underwent a couple surgeries and chemo over the past several months and I just wanted to give an update that things have gone well for her.

*Towards the end of her chemo she sent a text to friends asking on the last day if they would go outside at 1:30pm and let up a big "ya-hoo". On her last day of treatment, she rang the bell and when she walked out, she was shocked to see 50—60 of her friends were waiting for her to come out to celebrate her last treatment. She would like to thank everyone for their prayers.*

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We regret to announce the sudden and unexpected passing of Karl John Gaardsmoe, son of Lylamae Gaardsmoe and the late Rev. John Gaardsmor (former pastor of ULC), at his home in Fountain Hills on Aug. 20, 2020. He is remembered by all for his big hugs, his broad smile and his warm welcoming personality. The full obituary can be found at this link: [https://www.fhtimes.com/obituaries/karl-j-gaardsmoe/article\\_97d8d7ca-e647-11ea-9580-9f0f8511ef6c.html](https://www.fhtimes.com/obituaries/karl-j-gaardsmoe/article_97d8d7ca-e647-11ea-9580-9f0f8511ef6c.html)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>October 2020</i>						
4 9:00 AM-Sunday School 10:15 AM-Worship with Holy Communion/First Communion - in-person, online over Facebook or 1310AM KNOX Radio	5 11:00 PM-Staff Meeting (Rm 106)	6 6:15pm-Worship (SA) 7:00pm-6th-8th Grade Confirmation (FH) 7:00PM-9th Grade Confirmation (CR) 7:00PM-Faith Friends (LG) 8:00PM-Youth Group (LG)	7 6:15pm-Worship (SA) 7:00pm-6th-8th Grade Confirmation (FH) 7:00PM-9th Grade Confirmation (CR) 7:00PM-Faith Friends (LG) 8:00PM-Youth Group (LG)	8 +	2 3	10
11 9:00 AM-Sunday School 10:15 AM-Worship with Holy Communion - in-person, online over Facebook or 1310AM KNOX Radio	12 11:00 PM-Staff Meeting (Rm 106)	13 6:15pm-Worship (SA) 7:00pm-6th-8th Grade Confirmation (FH) 7:00PM-9th Grade Confirmation (CR) 7:00PM-Faith Friends (LG) 8:00PM-Youth Group (LG)	14 6:15pm-Worship (SA) 7:00pm-6th-8th Grade Confirmation (FH) 7:00PM-9th Grade Confirmation (CR) 7:00PM-Faith Friends (LG) 8:00PM-Youth Group (LG)	15 16 17		
18 9:00 AM- Sunday School 10:15 AM-Worship with Holy Communion - in-person, online over Facebook or 1310AM KNOX Radio	19 11:00 PM-Staff Meeting (Rm 106) 8:00 PM-ULC Council Meeting (Zoom)	20 6:15pm-Worship (SA) 7:00pm-6th-8th Grade Confirmation (FH) 7:00PM-9th Grade Confirmation (CR) 7:00PM-Faith Friends (LG) 8:00PM-Youth Group (LG)	21 No Wednesday Activities - NDEA	22 23 24		
25 9:00AM-Sunday School 10:15 AM-Worship with Holy Communion - in-person, online over Facebook or 1310AM KNOX Radio	26 11:00 PM-Staff Meeting (Rm 106)	27 6:15pm-Worship (SA) 7:00pm-6th-8th Grade Confirmation (FH) 7:00PM-9th Grade Confirmation (CR) 7:00PM-Faith Friends (LG) 8:00PM-Youth Group (LG)	28 6:15pm-Worship (SA) 7:00pm-6th-8th Grade Confirmation (FH) 7:00PM-9th Grade Confirmation (CR) 7:00PM-Faith Friends (LG) 8:00PM-Youth Group (LG)	29 30 31	30 4:30PM-TRUNK-OR-TREAT (PL)	

SA: Sanctuary; LG: Lounge located on the lower level; FH: Fellowship Hall located on the lower level; RM 106: Room 106 located down the hall from the office; LB: Library located at the end of the hall opposite the office; CR: Choir Room located on the upper level; YR: Youth Room located on the upper level; PL: Parking lot All events subject to change.

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

Non-Profit Organization  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Grand Forks, N Dak.  
PERMIT No. 163

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: Gretchen Kindseth  
Youth Education Director: Karen Syrstad  
Custodian: Darren Lee  
Cathedral Choir Director: Michael Marcotte  
Sing & Ring Director: Ruth Ann Tuseth  
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/ulcgfyouth/>

# TRUNK -OR- TREAT



Saturday, October 31st will be our  
annual **TRUNK-OR-TREAT** event  
from 4:30pm – 6:30pm.

All ages are welcome!

Please contact the church office to sign-up to host a trunk and help hand out treats to our neighborhood trick-or-treaters. Decorating of Trunks will begin at 4:30 with treats being handed out up to 6:30. If it rains event will be cancelled.