



# THE UNITER

United Lutheran Church Newsletter | Vol. 45 Issue No. 7 | July 2020



## **GATHERED AGAIN: WORSHIPPING TOGETHER IN UNITED'S SANCTUARY - SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2020!**

The current plan of United Lutheran Church is to return to in person worship on Sunday July 19th at 10:15 am in the sanctuary. The church council met and after some good and thoughtful discussion has decided on this plan for gathering again in United's Sanctuary. This is of course conditional and would need to be adjusted if rates of new COVID 19 cases in our city or state increased. We intend to do our best to keep everyone safe and well.

Our staff and leadership have been consulting with other Lutheran church pastors and leaders as well as following guidelines for reopening as set forth by our Eastern North Dakota Synod Bishop's office, the State of North Dakota, and the CDC (Center for Disease Control). We have all wanted to gather to worship in God's house as a faith community, but our desire to care for everyone's health and welfare has been paramount during this pandemic.

Our return to in person worship will not be "everything is back to normal". Best practices will be put into place for everyone's health and wellbeing. We don't have all the details worked out just yet, but we can share what we know so far:

- We will practice social distancing in our seating arrangements.
- Everyone will be required to wear masks in the building.
- We won't be shaking hands or hugging.
- We won't be having coffee hour yet - sorry folks.
- We will celebrate Holy Communion, however we are working on the details.
- We won't be having an 8:30 a.m. service for the present.
- We will have music and song leaders present!
- We encourage those with any health concerns or anyone feeling ill to remain at home for now.
- We will continue both the livestream and radio broadcast.

Our time apart as a community has been difficult and we look forward to seeing one another again (even if it is with masks). We are thankful for everyone's patience during these unusual days. Watch for further details about our future gathering.

# Pastors Page

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Dear beloved people of God at United Lutheran Church,

What a strange and difficult year this has been. We have so missed seeing all of you and look forward to re-entering face to face worship with you. Your continuing support and encouragement have been a source of inspiration and hope. My heart is also so very grateful for the musicians and technicians who have made it possible for us to create beautiful worship together even in this time of separation.



Many thanks to *Harmon and Julie Abrahamson, Michael Marcotte, Rich McGurran and Rebecca Heigaard McGurran, Ruth Ann Tuseth, Yen Lee Loh, Gretchen Kindseth, Molly Haagenson, Darren Lee, Ross Hammer, Debbie Dubuque, and Jayson Helseth.*

As our nation and world grapple with this pandemic, our world has also been deeply grieved by the death of George Floyd and the resulting protests and riots. People of Color are asking us all to look carefully at attitudes, practices, and unjust systems that create inequity and suffering based on racism.

How do we think about these things as people of faith? When Jesus was asked what was the first and greatest commandment, he responded:

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all  
your heart. and with all your soul.  
and with all your mind. and with all  
your strength. The second is this.  
you shall love your neighbor as yourself".*

*(Mark 12:30-31)*



Loving God and loving neighbor are at the very heart of our faith. So how do we best love God and neighbor in this time? The bible is also very clear about God's special concern for the least and the last of this world. Again and again Jesus embraces those who are on the margins and have not been valued by the world around them. If we are going to proclaim Jesus in this world, we need to be concerned about the suffering of the world and, with Jesus, stand with those on the margins. As people of faith, I think this means we listen carefully to people of color, pay attention to their suffering, and humbly ask what we can do to alleviate this suffering. Are there things we need to learn or ways we need to change so that we can more effectively stand against racism wherever it exists?

Pastor Peter and I will be leading a book study on racism to help us all grow in understanding so that we can stand against all forms of hate and stand with Jesus in love for God and for our neighbors. We hope you'll consider joining this study as together we strive to live in Jesus with open hearts and minds. As the church, we are called to proclaim to each person that they are a beloved child of God.

Giving thanks for you,

*Pastor Karla Coen-Tuff*

## Book Study

**Book Study:** *So You Want to Talk about Race*, written by Ijeoma Oluo

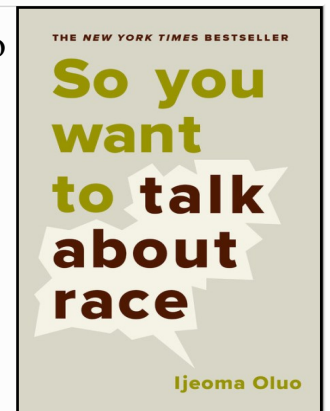
**When:** Sunday mornings at 9am AND Wednesday evening at 7pm  
from July 12 – August 5, 2020

**Where:** We will begin on Zoom. Please register for the class by sending your email address to [pastorpeter@unitedgf.org](mailto:pastorpeter@unitedgf.org) and an email link to join the Zoom study will be sent to you.

**Where to order the book:** Currently you can purchase the book at [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [www.walmart.com](http://www.walmart.com).

**About the book:** There's a media spotlight on racism in our nation and world. Still, it is a difficult subject to talk about. How do you tell your roommate her jokes are racist? Why did your sister-in-law take umbrage when you asked to touch her hair--and how do you make it right? What exactly is meant by 'white privilege'?

In *So You Want to Talk About Race*, Ijeoma Oluo guides readers in an attempt to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race and racism, and how they infect almost every aspect of American life.



## United Youth Trip Updates

Due to COVID-19, both United youth trips have unfortunately been cancelled. As you know, a handful of our middle school youth were set to attend Confirmation Camp at Metigoshe Ministries (Bottineau, ND) in June and our high school crew of 17 youth planned to travel to Camp Lutherhaven (Coeur D'Alene, Idaho) in late July. We undoubtedly grieve these lost opportunities and faith experiences, yet we know that God is always at work among us in our home communities as well. As we move forward, we are thinking of a possible local experience for these youth later in the summer, depending on COVID cases and safety restrictions.

For now, we pray for the health and safety of our youth and their families, and we continue to seek our Holy God in the ordinary moments around us. I want to say a special thank you to those who have provided continuous support for these trips through your financial gifts and your many prayers. United Lutheran Church is so lucky to have youth who are excited and engaged, and a congregation who accompanies and encourages their faith journeys.

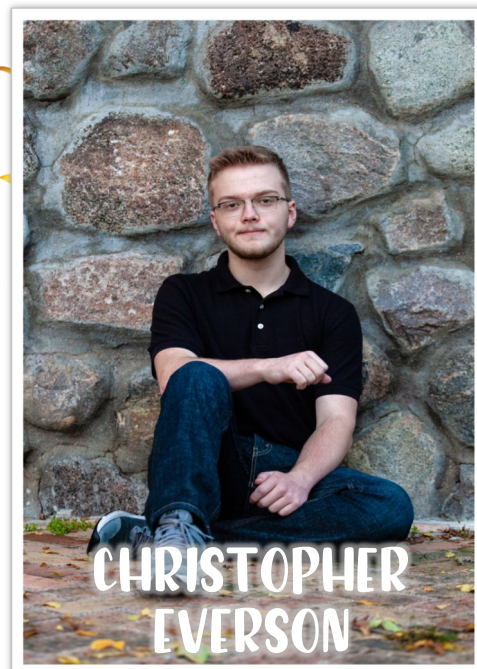
-Molly Haagenon

# Class of 2020

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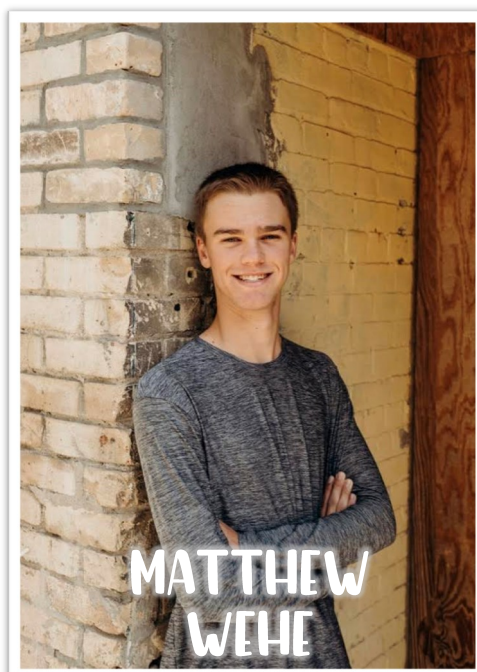
## CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!

United Lutheran Church recognizes and celebrates with our high school class of 2020!



### NOT PICTURED:

*Jadin Hams  
Alex McArthur  
Madison Nelson  
Jacob Sunberg  
Hope Wilson*



# From Your Church Council

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## United's Online Presence

On Sunday March 22, 2020 United Lutheran worship was livestreamed for the very first time. Faced suddenly with the unexpected circumstance of not being about to gather face to face for worship, we were forced to try new things with little to no preparation time. On that first Sunday, your pastors, staff, and a small group of devoted musicians met to broadcast live before an empty sanctuary. Our only equipment was Molly Haagenson's iPhone!

## New Sanctuary Camera Needed

You all have been remarkable in reaching out with both support and helpful feedback. But right now we're quite literally stuck in place. For our live broadcasts, United is currently using a camera that has been loaned to us and does not have the capacity to move beyond a fixed location. United's camera, that was installed in 2003, is broken and cannot be repaired.



## Reaching More People in a New Time

At a meeting of the church council last week, we discussed how important it is in 2020 to continue as a congregation with a vibrant online presence. We have learned as we moved online that we are reaching new people. It has been surprising to witness a number of people who are newly connecting or reconnecting to United through our online worship services. Here's a few examples:

- An adult child who lives at a distance is able to join their parent for church on Sunday, worshipping together with United.
- A twenty something member reaching out to say how much she is appreciating being at church online and hopes we will keep them going.
- At the grocery store, meeting a member we have not seen "in church" for over a year but who clearly is watching and participating in online worship.

## Here's How You Can Help:

**The cost to replace our sanctuary camera at a level that will improve the quality of our broadcasts and be compatible with new technology is \$7,800.**

This item was not in our budget for 2020 because we had not anticipated our current circumstances. The church council voted to go ahead and purchase and install the new camera, believing this is a vital tool not only for the present moment but also for the future of our congregation. One council member immediately stepped forward and offered \$1000 toward this new project.

***This means we now need \$6,800 to pay for the camera. United's church council invites you to join this effort. If you have been enjoying online worship and would like to support the improvement and continuation of online worship, please make a gift to United for the sanctuary camera. You can give either online or by sending a check – simply indicate it is for the camera.***

We are thankful for your participation as we take up new ways to share the good news of Jesus and his love which has sustained us in the past and is our anchor for the future.

*United Lutheran Church Council*

# Memorials and Gifts

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## CHOIR FUND

*In Memory of ...*

*Ken Roche* by Rodney & Marlys Kjellberg,  
G. Paul & Barb Larson

## RADIO FUND

*In Memory of ...*

*Don & Donna Simenson* by their family  
*Anna Erickson* by Carmen Erickson, and Janice  
Erickson

## UNDESIGNATED

*In Memory of ...*

*Isabel Lebacken* by Ken & Loretta Svedjan  
*Ken Roche* by the ULC Cathedral Choir

## SPONSORED SUNDAY RADIO BROADCASTS

*Sunday, June 21, 2020 given in Honor of  
Josie Walz's* graduation from Grand Forks Central  
High School given by her Grandpa Don Walz.

*Sunday, June 28, 2020 given in Memory of  
Rachel Coen-Tuff* by her family.

*Sunday, July 5, 2020 given in Memory of  
Jim Bollman* on what would have been his 85th  
Birthday (7/6) by his family.



## RADIO BROADCAST

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

- Phone: 701-775-4279
- Email: [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!

# Pastoral Acts

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*With  
Sympathy*

Ken Roche - May 20, 2020

Alice Fontaine - June 20, 2020

# Sharing in Our Joys

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## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO RICK AND LINDA WESTBY!

Blessings to Rick and Linda Westby who will celebrate  
their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, June 28th!

# Church Office Information

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**Beginning Monday, July 20th: Monday - Thursday from 9am - 3pm and closed on Fridays.**

During this time our doors will remain locked, however you can call us (701-775-4279) and we will meet you at Door #2 and let you in. You are also welcome to schedule an appointment and can contact us anytime via email at...

- ⇒ Pastor Peter Coen-Tuff: [pastorpeter@unitedgf.org](mailto:pastorpeter@unitedgf.org)
- ⇒ Pastor Karla Coen-Tuff: [pastorkarla@unitedgf.org](mailto:pastorkarla@unitedgf.org)
- ⇒ Molly Haagenon: [unitedgfyouth@gmail.com](mailto:unitedgfyouth@gmail.com)
- ⇒ Christine Barta: [reception@unitedgf.org](mailto:reception@unitedgf.org)



## WORSHIP INFORMATION

We will continue with no face-to-face gatherings for worship until our tentative *Gathered Again: Worshipping Together in United's Sanctuary* date of July 19th. We will continue to hold radio broadcast and online worship services on Sunday mornings and here is how you can join us:

- Our Radio Broadcast is aired every Sunday morning at 10:15am on 1310AM KNOX Radio or online at [www.knoxradio.com](http://www.knoxradio.com).
- United's Sunday service is live streamed at 10:15am on United's Facebook page. Sunday bulletins will be available on our website's homepage as well as on our Sunday morning Facebook reminder.

## 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 one of the following ways:

- 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.

## Financial Summary

### Income/Expense Statement

	May 2020 Actuals	May 2020 Budget	May 2019 Actuals	2020 YTD Actuals	% OF BUDGET YTD	2019 Annual Budget
<b>Income:</b>						
Regular Offering	24,527.00	29,166.67	23,372.00	142,135.55	41%	350,000.00
Other Offering	132.00	2,783.33	549.92	5,945.54	18%	33,400.00
Other Receipts	4,338.31	9,549.08	4,849.74	30,992.43	27%	114,589.00
Restricted Contributions	16,328.13	18,606.33	16,361.46	82,463.98	37%	223,276.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45,325.44</b>	<b>60,105.42</b>	<b>45,133.12</b>	<b>261,537.50</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>721,265.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>						
Fellowship Ministry	0.00	816.67	534.81	1,139.47	12%	9,800.00
Administrative Ministry	3,635.40	3,229.17	3,572.85	21,237.79	55%	38,750.00
Invitation Ministry	1,412.13	2,000.00	1,180.77	8,268.18	34%	24,000.00
Outreach Ministry	5,492.63	3,959.25	3,905.83	19,132.91	40%	47,511.00
Physical Property Ministry	9,227.67	12,266.67	10,033.94	76,265.44	52%	147,200.00
Spiritual Formation Ministry	320.89	1,187.50	1,747.05	1,967.46	14%	14,250.00
Staff Support Ministry	42,896.01	35,721.17	46,586.47	173,438.00	40%	428,654.00
Youth & Family Ministry	35.51	925.00	298.81	1,965.12	18%	11,100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63,020.24</b>	<b>60,105.42</b>	<b>67,860.53</b>	<b>303,414.37</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>721,265.00</b>
<b>Surplus / Short fall</b>	<b>-17,694.80</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-22,727.41</b>	<b>-41,876.87</b>		<b>0.00</b>

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  
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Grand Forks, N Dak.  
PERMIT No. 163

Pastor: Rev. Karla Coen-Tuff  
Pastor: Rev. Peter Coen-Tuff  
Dir. of Youth & Family Ministry: Molly Haagenen  
Church Secretary: Christine Barta  
Bookkeeper: Becky Knutson  
Receptionist: Rebecca Heigaard - McGurran  
Council President: Gretchen Kindseth  
Youth Education Director: Karen Syrtstad  
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/>



## Vacation Bible School Update:



As you know, United Lutheran Church didn't hold our regular run-around-the-church VBS this summer due to COVID-19. Yet, that didn't stop us from providing fun and useful resources for our United youth!

This June, we offered a Vacation Bible School through Spark ReNew Curriculum called Ready, Set, Grow, which included bible stories around God's love growing in us, activities to learn about growing plants, and tangible ways to care for the creation around us.

Spiritual Formation Ministry came together to assemble 50 VBS "kits" for each child who signed up, which included soil, seeds, a shovel, watering can, snacks, and art supplies. With the help of MANY congregants, we put together 5 videos to go along with each day's theme.

All of the curriculum and VBS videos can be accessed online through a secure platform called SeeSaw. *If you have a child in your life that would love to participate in the United Lutheran's online VBS this summer, contact me at [unitedgfyouth@gmail.com](mailto:unitedgfyouth@gmail.com) and we'll make sure to give you access to these fun, educational activities!*

Thank you to ALL who helped make VBS happen, even with the twists and turns of current life. I'm grateful for this collective effort to bring God's word into so many homes, and I'm excited to watch our youth grow, in all different ways, this summer!

- Molly Haagenen