

APRIL NEWSLETTER

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A Christ-focused Word-centered Family

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The Flock

By Rev. Tom Tuura
Pastor of United Lutheran Church

So, you are asked if you want to join a church...

What does that mean?

For many over the last 200-300 years, it has meant the same thing. Joining a church was either transferring existing membership from one church to another because both churches were Lutheran, or Presbyterian, or Methodist, or Catholic.

If you were transferring across denominational lines, say a Presbyterian to a Lutheran, for example, there would be some required instruction to become a Lutheran.

That was then, this is now.

Many are asking why do we even have Presbyterians and Lutherans, and all the others?

Or an even bolder question, if I'm a Christian already, why do I have to become a member of a local church at all? Why can't we just attend? My religion is private anyway.

What does the Bible say?

Though there is no distinct command like "Thou shalt go to church on Sunday", there are many passages that leave no doubt that the unattached Christian floating in space is not the best. Jesus speaks of sheep, plural and a flock. He speaks of a gathering, and the Apostolic authors in the Bible speak of a body with many members, functioning as one. They also speak of geographic localities called churches. And Christ gave individual shepherds or pastors to these bodies or groups for their guidance.

Don't stop reading yet!!! I have a hopeful word for some of you. Everyone needs a break. With the buildings, budgets and board meetings, church can be exhausting. It can be painful. Some of the worst hurts we experience can be from the behind the doors of the church. Jesus said, "Come apart and rest a while." (Mark 6:31) See also Matthew 11:28. Take time to heal. But don't disappear entirely.

Another objection is all the conflict and denominations, and church splits? This truly is sad. But even in families, conflict and divorce happens, you don't avoid the family afterward because of these sad things. God can and does use people in His mercy after divorce and conflict, He does the church also. It doesn't make it right, or desirable but God is a God of second chances.

So, original question: Do you want to join a church?

Why? My life is busy enough.

In return for all your time, you'll get a casserole at your funeral if you do.

I think most people have an understanding of what the universal church is. It's in the Apostle's creed after all—you know, the part that says "...holy Catholic church" or in our church, holy "Christian" church to avoid confusion. It's the church of Matthew 16:18, where Jesus says, "...I will build My Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

When the disciples were told to "Go and make disciples...of all nations" in what's called the great commission, it meant what it says, literally going near and far and not just preaching, but "making the sale" so to speak. What happens with all these new disciples? Do they just vanish into thin air?

Is God's kingdom of the Church on earth, just a disorganized jumble of random people all over the globe who have a personal relationship to Christ and worship at their convenience?

Lets talk about the casserole. Yes you do get a casserole, several in fact...Think with me; this is really something...

The church buries its own with Christian burial tradition and practice. After, there is a time of fellowship with others of the same faith. Its a community.

You get a Christian pastor called by God, to lead the whole affair, who hopefully has had the chance to perform the solemn Christian worship service. Along with the pastor, other Christian's gifted in this and everything in between from the birth and baptism of your children, ongoing ministry of the Word in Sunday worship, and the moral and godly transcendent education of the entire family.

Where else in this world does that exist? Some want their privacy, I understand that. You have that right. But more and more people today in our communities are avoiding the church, because of the hassles, of making casseroles and serving them for others—as well as listening to long sermons, getting up early on Sundays, thinking "I can love my neighbor on my own terms".

We need to read Romans 14:1-13. Verses 7,8 say, "For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself...for whether we live or die, we are the Lords."

The church is indeed decreed by Christ to be a local entity, with local leadership and organization, each one connected to the universal church governed by the Word and Spirit of God. Jesus returns the lost sheep to the larger flock, the ninety-nine, where they are fed and pastured as a group as well as personally.

What does the local church provide that the Universal Church cannot?

Ongoing visible scheduled corporate worship,

Service, fellowship and friendships and mission.

Office of the Word and Sacrament

Christ's gifts of the office Prophet/Evangelist/Pastor-Teacher

Setting for Christian Marriage/Holy Matrimony and the family

Education, and the preservation of the Faith and right doctrine

Administration of these offices, discipline and doctrine

Multiple churches on each corner, is not the ideal. No one is defending the unpleasant experiences and yes, conflict that has occurred. But that is the "real" or reality of all of life. Should it exist in the church? No. Even in marriage, we don't strive to just survive the "real", but rather for the ideals of love and nurture.

In spite of the problems all around, join me in striving for the ideal, and enjoy a casserole. In all seriousness, God's people and fellowship doesn't really add to your plate, but it does help you manage what is already there. Do you want to join our church?

That's my two cents

Pastor Tom ###

**United Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
March 13, 2025**

Members Present: Doug Olson, Mike Williams, McKenzie Roeber, Matt Maxon, Drew Detlefsen, Lisa Karnes, Pastor Tom and Tiffany Ebberson.

Doug called the meeting to order with a reading from John 5.

Tiffany read the February meeting minutes. McKenzie made a motion to approve the minutes with one change. Confirmation will be held May 18 th . Tiffany seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa shared P&L and balance sheets for review. She has been working with the AFLC to get Pastor Tom's pension and HAS accounts set up. Also, Maureen Schuster and Mitzi Urwiler have audited the 2024 books. The CD has been cashed and the interest gained on this account will be sent to a mission of the Deacon's choice. Mike made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. McKenzie seconded. Motion passed.

Trustee's Report: The trustees have replaced a leaking toilet in the women's restroom. Jon is waiting on quotes to replace the current pews. It will be too expensive to repair them. Pastor Tom mentioned that the kitchen faucet in the parsonage needs to be replaced. Also, various lights need to be replaced or repaired in the parsonage basement and kitchen. Other lights in the fellowship hall at church have gone out. Discussion was held and Lisa made a motion that the trustees can make the decision about either replacing the light units with LED fixtures or repairing the current ones. McKenzie seconded. Motion passed.

Parish Ed Report: McKenzie shared there has been no change in the checking accounts. The honorary dinner for our elder church members went over well. Thank you to everyone who helped with this event. Parish Ed is seeking new curriculum for Sunday school for next year. Planning for VBS has begun. No date has been set at this time. Youth group is meeting on Sundays during Lent from 3:00-5:00. Any parents who are willing to help please contact someone on Parish Ed or Pastor Tom. Parish Ed is looking into holding a family fun day on Palm Sunday instead of holding Sunday school. More information to come. Sara Pehrson had a youth approach her about the possibility to apply for a scholarship to attend youth camp this summer. They are not a member of ULC but have been attending services and youth group. Council unanimously agreed to allow her to apply.

Deacon's Report: Steve has had a difficult time trying to reach STEMM about the next Mission Sunday. The Deacons decided to invite Norfolk Rescue Mission to hold the next Mission Sunday. They are looking to see if they can come April 27th while Pastor Tom is gone.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Tom has been busy with worship and Lenten services planning. He has updated the web page information and has been updating the ULC Facebook page. You can now follow the ministries that ULC supports on their Facebook page!

* Annual Conference – June 11th – 14th

President's Report: Doug shared that he received a call that there will be a bible college graduate who is looking to fill a youth leader position after graduation. Doug spent time visiting with the student. The youth leader call committee met and worked on updating the youth leader job description. There are vacancies on the call committee and we need to look for those who may be interested in filling them. We, as a church, need to put the idea of hiring a youth leader at the forefront of our prayers. Do we want to continue to pursue a youth leader? Is this a need of the church?

Upcoming Events:

- March 26th – Lenten Dinner, Women of the Church
- April 2nd – Lenten Dinner, All Church Members
- April 9th – Lenten Dinner, Men of the Church
- May 4th – Graduate Recognition – 7 Member Graduates
- May 18th – Confirmation – 3 Confirmands

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted by Tiffany Ebberson.

Happy Birthday and Anniversary to...



- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. LEE DAHL | 16. SAMANTHA PEHRSON |
| 2. HALEY CARSON | 17. MINA YOUNG |
| 3. RACQUEL HOLLOWAY | 18. DAVID PATEFIELD |
| JOY HERRMANN | 20. JESSE SWANSON |
| LUCILLE WILLIAMS | JENNIFER LUNDAHL |
| KONNER HOESING | 22. JACE GRANQUIST |
| 5. KYLA SPAHR | LEE & KAYLEEN DAHL |
| 6. NOLAN STANLEY | 24. JILL PETERSON |
| 9. MATT CHRISTENSEN | JACK & ROZANNE HINTZ |
| STEVE SCHMITT | DOUG & KEILA OLSON |
| 12. KEVIN THORELL | 26. DREW DETLEFSEN |
| MIKE WILLAMS | TYLER RECOB |
| CARLEE STANLEY | HANNAH KORT |
| 13. JAMES RECOB | 27. EVAN URWILER |
| 15. JERRY & SHELLEY GROENE | 28. JACE GRANQUIST |
| | 30. CHAYCE HIRSCHMAN |
| | BRENDAN GROENE |

April

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5:30 pm-Young Adult Bible Study	2 7:00 am-Youth Breakfast 9:30 am- Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm- Confirmation 6:00 pm-Supper 7:00 pm-Service	3 9:00 am-Sarah Circle 5:00pm-Ruth Circle	4	5
6 9:00 am-Worship with Communion 10:15 am- Sunday School	7	8 5:30 pm-Young Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm-Parish Education Meeting 8:00 pm-Youth Director Call Comm. Meeting	9 7:00 am-Youth Breakfast 9:30 am- Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm- Confirmation 6:00 pm-Supper 7:00 pm-Service	10 10:30 am- Ministerial Assoc. Meeting @ ULC 7:00 pm-Church Council Meeting	11	12
13 Palm Sunday 9:00 am-Worship 10:15 am- Family Fun Day	14 2:30 pm-Bingo at Hillcrest Care Center Easter Lily Deadline	15 5:30 pm-Young Adult Bible Study	16 7:00 am-Youth Breakfast 9:30 am- Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm- Confirmation 6:00 pm-Supper 7:00 pm-Service	17 7:00 pm-Maundy Thursday Service with Communion	18 7:00 pm-Good Friday Service	19
20 Easter 6:00 am-Sunrise Service with Communion 9:00 am-Worship with Communion No Sunday School	21 Newsletter Deadline	22 5:30 pm-Young Adult Bible Study	23 9:30 am- Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm- Confirmation 6:30 pm-Supper 7:00 pm-Youth	24	25	26

27	28	29	30			
9:00 am-Worship Mission Sunday 10:15 am-Sunday School Blood Pressure Checks		5:30 pm-Young Adult Bible Study	9:30 am-Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm- Confirmation 6:30 pm-Supper 7:00 pm-Youth			



ANYONE wishing to share an Easter Lily with the congregation may order one by contacting Sharyl Luedtke or bringing in one on your own. Please have any notes regarding "in honor" or "in memory" of someone to Lisa's office by Monday, April 14.

ALL UNITED LUTHERAN MEMBERS - If you would like your name added or removed from any of the Worship Assistant duties please notify the Church office. We strive to include everyone in all aspects of service throughout the Church. Please don't hesitate to have your name added any place if you so desire and we will gladly refrain from asking you to serve if you don't care to serve. Also, there is a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall. Thank you for all that you do.

BLOODDONOR

BE A SUPERHERO - YOUR BLOOD, YOUR POWER!

LAUREL COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Laurel Fire & Rescue Hall
Tuesday, April 29
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM



My husband received your donor platelets after his open heart surgery. We can't thank you enough during this stressful time.



Schedule an appointment by calling LifeServe Blood Center at 800-287-4903 or scan the QR Code.



APPOINTMENTS ARE ENCOURAGED



LifeServe
BLOOD CENTER

YOUR BLOOD. YOUR HOSPITAL. YOUR NEIGHBORS.

Belden Volunteer Fire Department Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, April 13, 2025
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

We will be serving pancakes, french toast, eggs and sausage

Proceeds from this free will donation event will go towards training expenses and equipment



Easter Egg Hunt 12:00
Children will be divided by age and can hunt for eggs while you enjoy the pancake breakfast

If you are unable to attend, donations can be sent to:
Belden Volunteer Fire Dept.
PO Box 84
Belden NE 68717

The Belden Community Club will be hosting a bake sale.

Baked goods may be donated Saturday or Sunday before 9AM



ALTAR GUILD for APRIL

Barb Pigg, Elizabeth Erwin, Keila Olson, Lisa Karnes & Kylie Maxon

April 6 (Purple) Fifth Sunday in Lent

LECTOR - Sherie Lundahl
 GREETERS - Katie & Henry Bose
 COMMUNION STEWARD - Heath Roeber
 USHERS - Mike & Cathie Jacobsen, Kody & Bradyn
 Urwiler, Don & Erica Diediker
 ACOLYTE - Aliya Detlefsen
 NURSERY - Laura Showen
 COFFEE - Jerry & Shelley Groene, Sharyl Luedtke,
 Scott & Diane Urwiler

April 9 (Purple) Mid-week Lenten

LECTOR - Stephanie Urwiler
 GREETER - Diane Peterson
 USHERS - Lathan Detlefsen, Robert Patefield, Scott &
 Evan Urwiler, Tom Biernbaum
 ACOLYTE -

April 13 (Purple) Palm Sunday

LECTOR - Cathie Jacobsen
 GREETERS - Jon and Megan Mullen & Family
 USHERS - Verneal Gade, Craig Karnes, Gabe Abts,
 Jon Mullen, Marlin Bose
 ACOLYTE- Treyten Lawyer
 NURSERY - Katie Bose
 COFFEE - Mike & Cathie Jacobsen, Nick & Amy Kort,
 Heath & McKenzie Roeber

April 16 (Purple) Mid-week Lenten

LECTOR - Mindy Christensen
 GREETERS - Tom & Pam Biernbaum
 USHERS - Steve & Jacob Luedtke, Nick Kort, Drew &
 Koby Detlefsen, Ron Lundahl, Jon Pehrson
 ACOLYTE -

April 17 (White) Maundy Thursday

LECTOR - Steve Luedtke
 GREETERS - Robert & Doroty Patefield
 COMMUNION STEWARD - Doug Olson
 USHERS - Mike & Cathie Jacobsen, Kody & Bradyn
 Urwiler, Don & Erica Diediker
 ACOLYTE - Jacob Kolar

April 18 (Black/Bare) Good Friday

LECTOR - Jon Mullen
 GREETERS - Jon and Sara Pehrson & Family
 USHERS - Lathan Detlefsen, Robert Patefield, Scott &
 Evan Urwiler, Tom Biernbaum
 ACOLYTE- Mason Kort

April 20 (White) Easter Sunday Sunrise Service

LECTOR - Diane Peterson
 GREETERS - Nick and Amy Kort & Family
 COMMUNION STEWARD - Steve Luedtke
 USHERS - Verneal Gade, Craig Karnes, Gabe Abts,
 Jon Mullen, Marlin Bose
 ACOLYTE - Bryson Urwiler

April 20 (White) Easter Sunday

LECTOR - Doug Olson
 GREETERS - Greg & Deb Urwiler
 COMMUNION STEWARD - Steve Luedtke
 USHERS - Steve & Jacob Luedtke, Nick Kort, Drew &
 Koby Detlefsen, Ron Lundahl, Jon Pehrson
 ACOLYTE - Aliya Detlefsen

April 27 (White) Second Sunday of Easter

LECTOR - Erica Diediker
 GREETERS - Lee & Kayleen Dahl
 USHERS - Mike & Cathie Jacobsen, Kody & Bradyn
 Urwiler, Don & Erica Diediker
 ACOLYTE - Treyten Lawyer
 NURSERY - Amy Kort
 COFFEE - Dustin & Laura Showen, Drew & Kayla
 Detlefsen, Steve & Mitzi Luedtke



Laurel Concord Ministerial



*Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. Isaiah 60:1*

You are Invited to the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

On the following WEDNESDAYS from 7:00 -7:45 AM

March 5 – St. Mary's

March 12 – Immanuel Lutheran, LCMS

March 19 – United Lutheran

March 26 – Evangelical Free Concord

April 2 – Concordia Lutheran

April 9 – Presbyterian

April 16 – Faith Community

New Greeting Cards Available

The WMF of
United Lutheran has
available some new
greeting cards for you to purchase.



Cards include:
**Easter, Graduation,
Mother's Day, Anniversary,
Birthday, Confirmation and Weddings.**

Cost is \$8 per box of 12 -
or \$1 per card.

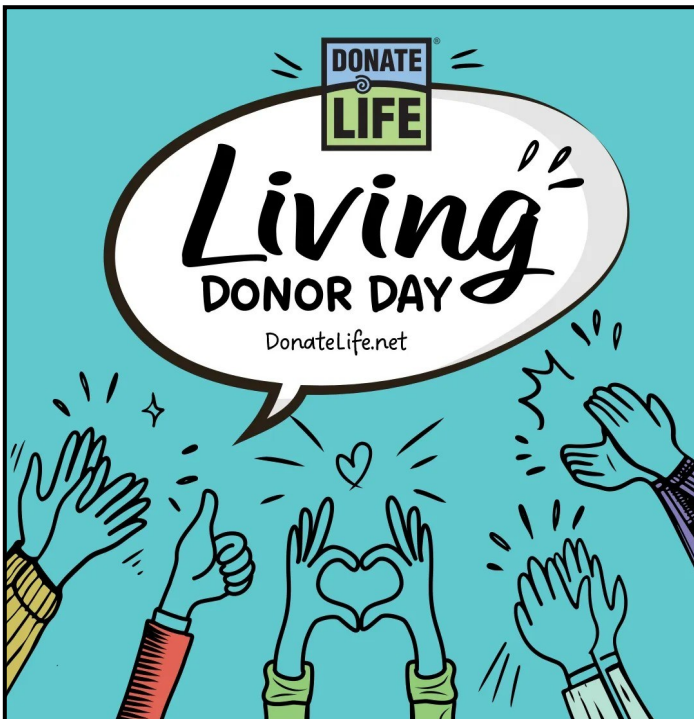
Proceeds from the sale of
these cards help to fund the yearly Mission Projects
for the WMF. Check them out in the cupboard
in the Fellowship Hall.

United Lutheran Youth Camp Scholarships



Scholarships are available for anyone
wishing to attend camp. Please submit a
letter as to why you wish to attend camp to
the Parish Education Committee

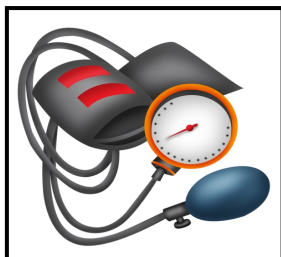
Parish Ed Committee
Mckenzie Roeber & Megan Mullen



Donate Life Living Donor Day

is a celebration during National Donate Life
Month that honors living organ and tissue
donors for saving and healing lives! National
Donate Life Living Donor Day is celebrated
annually on the first Wednesday of April.

In 2024, more than 7,000 people made the
decision to give one of their kidneys or a part
of their liver to someone waiting for a second
chance at life. Others gave the healing gift
of birth tissue. Birth tissue includes tissues
such as placenta and amniotic membrane.
Grafts derived from birth tissue promote
natural wound healing.



**Blood Pressure Checks
Sunday, April 27, 2025
During Fellowship Time**



Testicular Cancer Fact Sheet

for Patients and Caregivers



Testicular cancer starts in the testicles. Testicular cancer can develop at any age, but the average age at diagnosis is 33. In most cases, testicular cancer can be treated successfully.

Risk Factors and Prevention

Many men with testicular cancer have no known risk factors. And many of the risk factors can't be changed, such as having testicles that did not descend, a family history of the disease, infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and being White. At this time, there are no known ways to prevent testicular cancer.

Early Detection

The American Cancer Society does not have guidelines for testicular self-exam, but some doctors advise men and boys who have gone through puberty to check their testicles each month. Talk to your doctor right away if you find any changes in your testicles or scrotum. Most doctors agree that examining a man's testicles should be part of a routine checkup.

Signs and Symptoms

The most common sign of testicular cancer is a lump or swelling in one of the testicles. One testicle may feel harder or larger than the other. Sometimes there isn't any pain or discomfort. Other signs and symptoms might include aching in the lower belly, back, or groin, or a heavy feeling in the scrotum.

Treatment

Treatment for testicular cancer depends on the type and extent of the cancer and results of any testing done on the tumor. A man's age, other health problems, and personal choices are also considered. If you have testicular cancer, talk to your doctor about the best treatment for you.

Living With Testicular Cancer

Having testicular cancer affects a person's quality of life. Physical, social, mental health, spiritual, and money issues can come up at any time during and after treatment. For instance, after treatment, men with testicular cancer might have problems with sexual function and might not be able to father children.

People with testicular cancer may be helped by palliative care at any time. Palliative care focuses on helping patients manage symptoms, address issues, and improve their quality of life.

Good communication between a man with testicular cancer and his health care team is important. This should include:

- Asking and answering questions
- Working together to set care goals
- Shared decision making
- Managing side effects and other issues
- Scheduling follow-up tests and care

Visit the American Cancer Society website at cancer.org/cancer/testicular-cancer or call us at **1-800-227-2345** to learn more. We're here when you need us.



cancer.org | 1.800.227.2345

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