

# The Uniting Word May 2026

## Prayer List

*Life is fragile, handle with prayer*

Helen Beck, Brian Dalpra, Ray Farrell,  
Helen Forslund, Dennis, Chris & Kevin Wagner,  
Mike Turner, Joe Bandola, Dave Rucinski,  
Faye Heimerl, Tim & Timmy Bendick,  
Scott & Leif Williamson, Roberta Lehto,  
Solomon Rasner, Joseph Nyholm, Cale Campbell,  
Chloe Conery, and Lorna Anderson

### MEDICAL CARE FACILITY

Sandy Clark, Gail Dalpra, Dick Hendrickson,  
BettyAnn Niemi, and Pearl Ross

### VICTORIAN HEIGHTS

Dixie Gervenak, Clinton Ross, and Marv Tollefson

### EVERGREEN HEIGHTS

Diana Bertola

Things we could always use  
here at the church:

Coffee-regular & decaf

Small paper plates for  
coffee hour

Napkins

Toilet paper

Paper towel

Stamps



Thank you for your generous gifts total-  
ing \$12,625.25!

These gifts went toward our expenses for  
the month totaling \$13,865.91.

Without your generous offering and  
contributions to the Memorial Fund and  
others, we could not continue our  
important mission here at United!

## United Lutheran Church

906-875-6591 website: [www.unitedluth.com](http://www.unitedluth.com)

**Pastor:** Rev. D.J. Rasner (906)231-4905  
[pastor.unitedluth@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.unitedluth@gmail.com)

### WORSHIP TIMES

**Sunday 9 AM**

**Saturday 4 PM 1st & 3rd only** (*basement chapel*)

**Office manager:** Christine Perry  
([unitedluth@gmail.com](mailto:unitedluth@gmail.com))

**Custodian:** Scott McGregor

**Choir director:** Marsha Wainio

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:30am-3:30pm

*Help us keep our records up to date by letting us know  
of any changes to your address, phone number, or  
email.*

### Senior Day at FLLC (Final one until September)

Monday, May 11 (10am-2pm)

Topic: The Golden Blueprint: Reclaiming your vitality at  
any age.

Contact Ruth Warmanen to reserve your lunch. \$15  
donation requested



All dinners include warm vegetables, salad bar, homemade soup, homemade desserts, coffee, tea, or milk

Reservations are required by 1:00pm the day of.



TODAY'S  
Menu  
EAT IT  
OR  
GO HUNGRY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
4 Chicken bacon ranch wrap	5 Meatloaf & mashed potatoes	6 Pepper steak & rice
11 Sloppy joes with mac & cheese	12 Chicken fajitas with rice & beans	13 Sub sandwiches & chips
18 Grilled ham & cheese with home fries	19 Creamy chicken pasta & garlic bread	20 Pork chops & mashed potatoes
25 CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY	26 Hot pulled pork sandwiches & cheesy potatoes	27 Chicken cobbler with rolls



WE LOVE  
OUR VOLUNTEERS



	Acolytes	Altar	Caller	Counters	Lector	Usher
3	Jon Giuliani Owen Hendricks	Nancy Kenney Lois Groop	Lorna, Jean, & Laura	Christine Perry Scott Kenney	Ann Wagner	Al Anderson
10	Brolan VanOss Avryl VanOss	Nancy Kenney Lois Groop	Lorna, Jean, & Laura	Stephanie Nocerini Sally Hedtke	Marsha Wainio	Paul Dalpra
17	Gage Clements	Nancy Kenney Lois Groop	Lorna, Jean, & Laura	Donna Gustafson Gail Koski	Anna Bandola	Charlie & Janie Bandaccari
24	Evie Rasner Lilli Johnson	Nancy Kenney Lois Groop	Lorna, Jean, & Laura	Scott McGregor Jeff Heimerl	Maria Peterson	Jim Waligursky
31	Joah Gathu Lydia Brzoznowski	Nancy Kenney Lois Groop	Lorna, Jean, & Laura	Janie Bandaccari Christine Perry	Donna Anderson	Don Smith



- 3rd Christine Johnson & Elio Sabotta
- 7th Debi Bendick
- 9th Joah Gathu
- 10th Virginia Nelson
- 13th Marisa Coonrod
- 14th Cary Gustafson
- 15th Pat Peterson & Clinton Ross
- 16th Beth Nocerini
- 17th Barb Peterson
- 20th Josephine Sabotta
- 23rd Jen Williams
- 24th Bev Smith
- 26th Jessie Perry
- 27th Evie Rasner
- 29th Dorothea Olson
- 30th Patty Hilberg, Lydia Brzoznowski, & Brody Starr
- 31st Scott McGregor



- 4th Evelyn & Jimmy Gathu
- 5th Lois & Bob Groop
- 12th Karen & Jerry Groop
- Holly & Dave Rucinski
- 19th Lynne & Ken Anderson
- 21st Cynthia & Glenn Lehto
- 31st Vicki & Ken West

Last day of Release Time for the 4th & 5th grade

Pew Battleship and a pizza party always go well!

This is a great bunch of kiddos!



Left: 7-12th grade retreat at FLLC

Right: the last day of Release Time with Pr. DJ for the 1-3rd grade. He missed out on pew Battleship and the pizza party!

Great kids to work with!



May 5th is National Awareness Day of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Relatives. Native people, especially women, go missing and/or are murdered at an alarming rate--on some reservations, ten times the national average. These disappearances and murders are often linked to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and the longstanding effects of colonization on Native people. Nor is this problem limited to the United States; it is a global phenomenon affecting indigenous communities everywhere. In 2021 organizing efforts led to the National Week of Action.

So on **Sunday, May 3rd**, you are invited to **wear read** in recognition of MMIWR as we pray for Native communities, especially families directly impacted by the disappearance or loss of loved ones and acknowledge the role of the church in the boarding school movement and other aspects of colonization that have led to generational trauma for our Indigenous neighbors. We recognize that all are equally beloved children of God and devote ourselves anew to the work of healing through love, compassion, and advocacy. For more way you can support this essential work of awareness and action alongside our indigenous neighbors. + Rev. Amanda Kossow, WWOIN team-member



Our 5th grade Release Time kiddos made Resurrection rolls for the 4th grade and all the teachers & pastors! Ms. Amanda does them every year with her 5th grade class and they really are delicious (who doesn't love a good crescent roll?!)

Tomb: crescent roll

Spices: cinnamon & sugar

Jesus: marshmallow

Open it up and Jesus is not in the tomb!

Great Easter season lesson and we were lucky enough to be there to have a great snack!





# May



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9am Quilters	2  4pm Worship
3 9am Worship 10am Coffee hour 2pm Confirmation Highway cleanup 6pm AA	4  7pm AA	5	6 10am Bible Study	7	8 9am Quilters	9
10 9am Worship 10am Coffee hour 6pm AA	11  6pm Council Meeting 7pm AA	12	13 10am Bible Study	14 12:30pm Blood Drive	15 9am Quilters	16 4pm Worship
17 Baccalaureate 9am Worship 10am Coffee hour 6pm AA	18  7pm AA	19	20 10am Bible Study	21	22 9am Quilters	23
24 9am Worship 10am Coffee hour 6pm AA	25 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED 7pm AA	26	27	28	29 9am Quilters	30
31 9am Worship 10am Coffee hour 6pm AA						

They were called to the center of the room where we all stood there waiting, wondering, watching. After receiving their instructions, they stepped into each other's arms, gazing into each other's eyes, emanating joy and contentment. The music began and they began to sway. Left. Right. Left. Right. Turn. Left. Right. Turn. The dance ended as awkwardly as began, but it didn't matter. All that mattered is that they were there with each other surrounded by their people.

I stood there watching as this newly married couple danced in the middle of the room with everyone's eyes on them and I couldn't help but remember how strange the whole thing felt when I was in their shoes. What is it about that moment? It happens at every wedding! Why do we make them do it? Why do we make them dance in front of us? What is it about that moment that we need to see?

Those were among the many thoughts that raced through my head as the music played, and the couple tried to remain oblivious to all of the eyes that were fixed on them. The truth is that they were not very good dancers. If there was going to be a contest that day, they would not win. So why did we need to watch that? A number of songs later, the aunt and uncle of the groom took the dance floor along with many others and they danced the most beautiful Two Step I have ever seen. It was clear to me that they were very well practiced and knew what they were doing. But, nobody stopped what they were doing to watch the aunt and uncle; they danced on while everyone else remained engrossed in their own drinks or conversations, or both.

While the bride and groom were making their awkward movements before everyone, and while I was pondering all kinds of questions about why we were doing this and feeling like we were all a bit voyeuristic, I began to think that there was something deeper going on in that moment. Probably, everybody else just wanted to watch the beautiful couple do their thing, and it was for them a sentimental moment. But I wondered if subconsciously we were all watching them because in that moment, the newly married couple embodied love, joy, faithfulness, commitment, and hope. And I wondered if deep within all of us, something was being stirred beyond sentimentality—I know that for me, it was hope.

I stood there watching them and I thought to myself, "This is such a strange wedding tradition that we have! Why do we make them do this? But, look at them—they have the whole world in front of them and they don't have a clue what they're doing, kind of like their dancing. All they know is that they are going into that future with confidence. So much hope right there on the floor," and my spirit was stirred.

Earlier that day I pronounced to everyone gathered that at the wedding in Cana (John 2) Jesus made the wedding feast a sign of God's love-filled reign breaking in. They awkwardly danced and my spirit was stirred with hope. Earlier that day I read from the Bible about how everything in this life will come to an end, except for faith, hope, and love (1 Cor. 13). They nervously glanced around at all of those eyes fixed on them while they swayed left and right, left and right, and my spirit was stirred with hope. Earlier that day I invited everyone gathered there to tell the bride and groom with their own words the gifts that each of them brings to their new marriage, and by doing so everyone had a chance to tell them what kind of impact the bride and groom have had on them personally with the gifts that God has given them. I wrote down the things that were said, and that list is enough to bring tears to your eyes. The music played and they exchanged nervous words as they held each other while everyone watched, and my spirit was stirred with hope.

What a strange wedding tradition. And yet, what a gift God gave us all that day!

Remember, when everything comes to an end and God finishes God's restorative work begun with Jesus' resurrection, remember this, that "faith, hope and love remain, these three; and the greatest of these is love" (1 Cor. 13:13). My spirit stirs with hope.

*Rev. D. J. Rasner*





## Dear Partner in Ministry,

As parents, grandparents and leaders who care for the most vulnerable, we treasure the comfort of watching our children grow in safety and hope. But imagine if that security vanished — if your family were forced from home or if your backyard became a battlefield. How would you tell your children it was going to be okay if you didn't know it would be?

For millions of children, this nightmare is their reality. As a congregational leader, you understand the sacred responsibility to protect and nurture the most vulnerable. And the heartbreaking truth is that in crisis, **the heaviest burdens fall on the smallest shoulders.**

## Your congregation's love can help carry that weight.

These children's burdens are not theirs to bear alone. Your compassion and action can be the turning point in their story. **Today, I ask you to lead your congregation in making a special gift of \$2,500 to Lutheran World Relief by July 1 to help children in crisis.**

In **Lebanon**, over one million people have been displaced by escalating violence. Families are crammed into overcrowded shelters, struggling to access food, health care and safety. **Children are left deeply traumatized, their dreams of a brighter future slipping further away each day.**

In **Ecuador**, asylum-seekers turned away from the U.S. are being relocated here without resources or support networks, facing prolonged uncertainty. **Children are especially vulnerable, at high risk of homelessness, hunger and exploitation.** Without urgent intervention, they remain trapped in devastating limbo.

These crises weren't part of the plan when our budget was created last fall. **The scale of these emergencies has grown beyond what we can respond to alone.** But with your congregation's help, we can reach children and families in crisis with:

- **Safe places to live** through immediate shelter support.
- **Nutritious meals and clean water** to ensure children's health and dignity.
- **Health and psychosocial care** to address both the physical and emotional needs of children living through unimaginable trauma.
- **Access to educational resources** so that children have the chance to reclaim their childhood and future.

Children shouldn't have to carry this crushing weight another day more. With your congregation's love, they won't have to.

In gratitude,

**REV. LISA KIPP**

Director of Congregational Engagement  
lkipp@lwr.org

**P.S.** LWR has national and local partners and staff on standby in Lebanon and Ecuador, ready to scale up our response as soon as resources are available. Please give by July 1 using the enclosed envelope or online at [lwr.org/children](http://lwr.org/children).





## Northern Great Lakes Synod Youth Ministry Spotlight

### Connecting Through Faith – a story about Dietrich

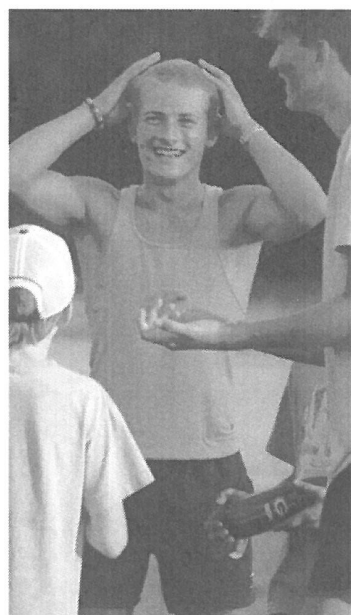
Dietrich Rasner is an active high school junior at Forest Park School in Crystal Falls, and he has the busy schedule to prove it. In addition to his extracurriculars, he's also a member at United Lutheran Church. The collaborative nature of youth ministry between congregations in the Northern Great Lakes Synod has opened up opportunities beyond what's available in his own backyard. In the past couple of years, Dietrich has attended the ELCA Youth Gathering, gone on summer service trips, attended Quake, served as a Leader-in-Training at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, and more. For Dietrich, the most impactful part of all of these experiences has been the people he's met.

When he was younger, Dietrich lived in Houghton, and he's maintained relationships with friends in that area since moving to Crystal Falls. When he started attending events with other youth groups, it allowed him to not only spend time with those friends again, but form new friendships with other young people from across the synod that have become special to him. Now faith-centered experiences, like service trips or a week at camp, have an added layer of excitement because they involve connecting with this network of friends. He not only knows he'll have fun because there will be familiar faces there, but that he'll have the opportunity to meet new people and continue making new friendships.

In addition to the relationships formed with his peers, Dietrich has also been greatly impacted by the people he's met on service trips. He knows that by serving others, he's both helping those individuals and gaining valuable insight himself. Hearing the stories of people living through great struggles who are able to center joy and gratitude for what they have has offered him a new

perspective. Informed by his experiences, Dietrich feels that as someone who has more than enough, he is called to help others. He's learned that even a small amount of effort can bring about great change in the lives of those in need.

For Dietrich, there's something special about large Christ-centered gatherings. When he was at Quake, a weekend-long faith retreat for 6th-12th graders, he could feel the power of the youth. Christian youth experiences like these are different from school because you can feel that everyone in the room is gathered for the same purpose. His experience at the 2024 Youth Gathering in New Orleans had the same effect on an even larger scale. Worshipping with over 16,000 other attendees, singing with that number of voices, and the sheer excitement and energy in the room gave him the chills. The privilege of being able to travel to a new place is not lost on him, and he's grateful for the opportunity to be gathered with so many people for a unified reason.



As Dietrich looks forward to his senior year, figuring out which youth ministry opportunities fit into his schedule is part of the planning. He's set to be a Leader-in-Training at Fortune Lake for the second time, and he's looking forward to seeing friends and getting to know the younger campers

he'll work with in this role. Young people like Dietrich are at the heart of this work, and we give thanks to God for them and their willingness to participate and the youth leaders, pastors, families, and congregation members who make it possible for them to have faith-shaping experiences like these.

