

The Uniting Word April 2024

Prayer List

Life is fragile, handle with prayer

Helen Beck, Brian Dalpra, Ray Farrell,
Helen Forslund, Pearl Ross, Pat Bjork,
Dennis, Amy, & Chris Wagner,
Mike Turner, Joe Bandola, Dave Rucinski,
Faye Heimerl, Barbara Snyder,
Scott & Leif Williamson,
Lorna Anderson, and River Walker

MEDICAL CARE FACILITY

Dorothy Carlson, Sandy Clark, Bob Dalpra,
Gail Dalpra, Faye Fabbri, Carol Galbraith,
Dick & Janet Hendrickson, Vi Lehtinen,
Helen Perry, and Helen Ross

VICTORIAN HEIGHTS

Dixie Gervenak, Clinton Ross, and Marv Tollefson

Release Time

Our last days are April 29th and 30th.

Many thanks to all who have
contributed to a wonderful year
for our 34 first through fifth grade
students!

This program has been a part of our
church for many years, and we hope to
be able to offer this fun-filled oppor-
tunity to area students for many more
to come!

This newsletter can be emailed to you so you
can see the pretty colors, or mailed to you in
plain black and white! Your choice!

United Lutheran Church

906-875-6591 website: www.unitedluth.com

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

WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday 9 AM (*in person or drive-up*)
Saturday 4 PM (*basement chapel*)

Office manager: Christine Perry
(unitedluth@gmail.com)
Custodian: Scott McGregor
Choir director: Marsha Wainio

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

Please remember to let the office
know if any of your information
has changed. This includes losing
your landline and going strictly
cellular, moving to a new home, or
someone in your family leaving
the area and attending a new
church!

Also, I have a few birthdays and
anniversaries missing, so I may be
emailing you in the next few
months to get that information.
Filling out the attendance sheet at
the end of each pew helps us in a
few ways. Please be complete!

Thanks!

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

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



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1 Taco casserole with tortilla chips	2 Chicken a la King with egg noodles	3 Brats with oven brown potatoes and baked beans
8 Spaghetti casserole with garlic bread	9 Pasties	10 Beef tips over egg noodles
15 Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and gravy	16 Baked chicken and rice pilaf	17 Pork chops with mashed potatoes and gravy
22 Sloppy joes and tater tots	23 Chicken tetrazzini	24 Pizza and garlic bread
29 Ground beef goulash and dinner roll	30 Beef stew over brown rice	



	Acolytes	Altar	Caller	Church School Snacks	Counters	Lector	Usher
1-2				No Release Time Christine Perry			
7	Clay Williams Owen Hendricks	Diana & Jim Waligursky	Jean K. Aho	Jonica Rucinski Vicki West	Harry Kallies Walt Hagglund	Christine Perry	Jim Waligursky
14	Sophia Anderson Cece Ketola	Diana & Jim Waligursky	Jean K. Aho	Allyson VanOss Faye Heimerl	Stephanie Nocerini Sally Hedtke	Vicki West	Chris, Emily & Owen
21	Reuben Rasner Jason Hand	Diana & Jim Waligursky	Jean K. Aho	Diana Waligursky Cheryle Dropps	Donna Gustafson Gail Koski	Brian Perry	Brian & Nolan Perry
28	Eden Starr Marisa Coonrod	Diana & Jim Waligursky	Jean K. Aho	Pizza Party!!	Scott McGregor Jeff Heimerl	Evelyn Gathu	Mike Brzoznowski



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|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1st Owen Brozak | 19th Kevin Kenney |
| 4th Kelle Clements | 20th Eileen Hakala |
| 5th Ella Anderson | 21st Gary Willman |
| 7th Roy Wainio | Jen Ketola |
| 9th Amanda Rasner | 23rd Doug Wagner |
| 10th Vic Giuliani | Ginger Wilson |
| 11th Raymond Niemi, Sr. | 24th Nancy Clark |
| Charlene Bendick | Janet Schaal |
| Valerie Peterson | Brian Schiavo |
| 13th Diana Bertola | 26th Jessie Loehr |
| Cece Ketola | 27th Rick Haile |
| 16th Corine Holm | Mike Brzoznowski |
| Julie Aho | 29th April Anderson |
| 18th Charlie Bandaccari | 30th Vi Aho |

18th Janie & Charlie Bandaccari
30th Eileen & Jim Hakala



Our new council was installed on
March 3, 2024

Thank you to these congregation
members who have chosen this
way to serve our church!

- Donna Gustafson
- Holly Rucinski
- Christine Perry
- Emily Hendricks
- Janie Bandaccari
- Marsha Wainio
- Not pictured:
- Zach Hautala
- Geoff Lawrence



Our Congregation Council President

Hello Congregation!

Well, we have made it to April! The bouncing back and forth from summer, to spring, to winter weather is less than desirable but here we are!

A few things from the council meeting of March, we are getting a new copier as ours has been slowly dying and it's time. Thank you, Christine, for getting prices and dealing with our dinosaur for as long as you have. Another thing we talked about was our policies for various things in the church. We are going through them all and will have them updated at our April meeting. If you need any of these or are just wondering what we have for policies, just ask Christine for them and she will be happy to show them to you.

Thank you to everyone who came to Bob Surface's funeral and luncheon. I will miss seeing his smiling face around the church. The outpouring of help I got was incredible. So, thank you all.

The kids are singing for the last time of this school year on the 28th of April. Please join us and enjoy some great songs.

First Communion will be happening this month as well, if you have a child 2nd grade and up that has not had their First Communion, you will be contacted by Pr.DJ.

Here's to spring!
Emily Hendricks

Words from our Pastor

The End Justifies the Means

I hear it all the time in the business world: good leaders set the vision for the organization, and the successful organization organizes everything they do to drive toward that vision. The vision functions like the "true north" that a compass points to. Every now and then, waves of this kind of talk comes into the church world as well. Congregations need to have a vision, or a purpose, and drive toward that vision with all of its programs and such. There is a tremendous amount of value in that kind of strategic thinking, and it can really focus a congregation's energy in a particular way; be excellent at one thing rather than being mediocre at many things. I lift this up not to start a vision/mission discussion, valuable as that would be for our church. Instead, I lift this idea up as a way to show what it is like to have the end in mind, and how keeping the end in mind shapes everything we do leading up to that end. Now, we could go down lots of rabbit holes chasing this idea, so I'm going to focus us theologically: what we believe God is

up to and what God's end game is dramatically influences what we do leading up to that end.

Death And Destruction

What if the end result is death and destruction? What if everything we see and know is going to be completely and utterly destroyed? How would that impact what we do today? Truthfully, the most vocal portion of Christianity believes this to be the case. In the end, God is going to wipe out everyone that is evil, save only a few who are faithful, and then destroy the entire created world that has been so tainted by the evil that humans have wrought upon it. Whereas once before God unleashed a flood upon the earth to destroy nearly everything, so once again God will pour down fire upon the earth and annihilate everything that exists. Only the faithful will be saved from this devastation (good news for them!).

Now if that is indeed the scenario being played out, what responsi-

bility do you and I have in a world that will be destroyed in the end? For one thing, none of us have to care one bit about being careful with how we interact with the environment. If it's all going to be destroyed anyway, then what concern do we need for clean water or clean air? Why should we care about recycling? Why not just throw everything out on the side of the roads, or in the swamps? Why not just make and use more plastics and Styrofoam? Who cares if it never decomposes? It is all going to get destroyed anyway! Keep throwing everything away, from straws to clothes to appliances to vehicles. Keep making more and more. Keep digging deeper and deeper. Keep burning more fuel, and keep waging war over the control of those fuels. Keep fighting with each other so that you can exist longer than the next person. After all, everything is destined for death and destruction, including most of the people who exist. You only live once, after all. Do you see how the end influences everything that leads up to that end?

What about for God? If the end result is death and destruction, what concern does God have for anything that happens in this world? It is as if the Lord would say, "Let them do whatever they want, I don't care. I'm going to destroy it all anyway!" With this end in mind, we end up with a God who gets the whole thing going, and then walks away without having any further involvement whatsoever. This God has no sympathy, no empathy, but only exists with apathy.

Renewal And Restoration

What if the end result is renewal and restoration? What if everything we see and know is going to be completely restored to its right state? How would that impact what we do today? If the end is renewal and restoration, then we would be a bit more careful with what we have now. If I believe that the earth is going to be renewed and restored, then I'm going to naturally limit the impact I have on the earth, and I'm going to treat the earth as something worthy of restoration and not as something to be disposed of. I am in the long term process of restoring a classic car, and I have completed the most visible parts of that restoration. I know more of what needs to be done, so I am using it in a more intentional and conscientious way than I would be of a vehicle that I am planning to dispose of. If the end is renewal and restoration, then I am naturally going to be more conscientious and careful with everything I interact with in this world, and everyone I interact with as well. If I believe that God will restore everything to its goodness in the end, then I will treat everything (and everyone) as the valued treasure it is.

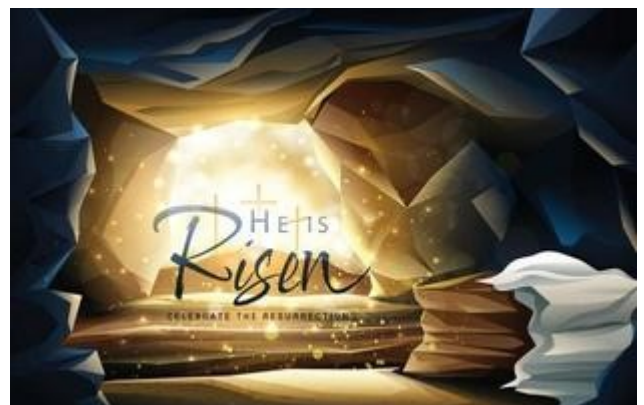
What about for God? How does God approach this world, or the entire creation, if the end is renewal? Perhaps the inner monologue sounds something more like this: "I am making everything and everyone, and I am going to love it. This is my creation and I will not let it go to the trash. I will be actively involved in this world, more than any of them will know, so that my end desire is

complete." With this end in mind, we end up with a God who is constantly involved in creation and recreation. We end up with a God who never gives up. We end up with a God who is not satisfied with death and destruction. We end up with a God who will do everything possible so that death does not have the final word. We end up with a God who rises victorious over everything that would kill and destroy. We end up with a God of life!

Easter Glimpse of Life

News flash! One man has been raised from the dead, and end has been revealed! One man has been raised from the dead, and death has been defeated! One man has been raised from the dead, and life remains triumphant! The true end has been revealed, and contrary to the most vocal portion of Christianity, the end is not death and destruction, but life and renewal and restoration! Ever since the first disciples found the tomb of Jesus completely empty, the intentions of the Lord God Almighty have been revealed and the disciples' interactions with this world changed dramatically; everything and everyone is valued and worth being made well and whole. The world is being renewed, the entire creation is being restored, and that work will be completed in the end!

—Rev. D. J. Rasner



A WORD FROM OUR SYNOD BISHOP

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

At the risk of getting too personal, I share with you that my mother joined the Saints Triumphant on February 11. As the deadline for this article is February 12, I cannot help but approach this task with thoughts of my mother at the forefront.

In this year, as together we as a synod consider what it means to be a Seed Sower and what it means to plant, and as I make plans with my siblings to celebrate the life of my mother, I can think of no better example of one who planted seeds and one who witnessed the yield of seeds planted by others long ago.

My mother was born in India in July 1932, the daughter of missionaries. She, along with her four siblings, was brought up in the faith. She was taught the love of Jesus, the value of compassion, and the expectation of sharing the love of God in a way that makes a difference.

The seeds of faith planted in her bore fruit as she became a nurse, the wife of a seminary professor, the mother of five children, and a generous giver of time, talents, and treasure. She sang in choirs, kissed scraped knees, worked church funerals and became a matriarch of her community of faith. She was a parish nurse at Luther Seminary and her church library was named after her in honor of the hours invested in cataloging, arranging, and gathering literature.

I could go on. But of course, it is the rare mother that doesn't inspire the accolades of her children. My mother was no exception. But in this season of Seed Sowers, I am grateful for the seeds of faith, and the example of generosity, that my mother gave me and all who knew her.

She not only planted seeds but enjoyed the fruit of seeds planted by others. She witnessed the seeds planted by missionaries when years later, she returned to India to visit the church and seminary founded by my grandfather and others. She saw how many pastors, native to India, had graduated from that seminary and students that are attending. We give thanks for the churches that were planted and the people who came to know Jesus through their efforts.

And now? I invite you to consider what seeds of faith you are planting. Whether you are working to pass on the faith to the next generation, or enjoying the fruit of seeds planted long ago, I invite you to intentionally plant seeds for future faith, future ministry. This can happen in many ways:

- Volunteer.
- Share your story of faith with a stranger, doubts and all.
- Support a ministry effort with your financial gift.
- Share your story of faith with a loved one.
- Remember THE Church or Your church in your will.
- Work on your own discipleship. Take a class, go to church, invite a friend.

In this time of great change, I am grateful for the seeds of faith planted long ago, and the seeds of faith planted now which will bear fruit in the future. We are part of a great cycle of life, this shape of the Christian life that involves dying and rising, Good Friday and Easter, death and resurrection, planting and harvesting.

The spirit of my mother lives on in those who remember her, and the Spirit of the Living Christ lives as only the son of God can - to call, enlighten and sanctify those who gather and are sent in his name, to plant seeds that someone else will water, and someone else will harvest. I give thanks for the blessing of my mother, and for all who have planted seeds of faith.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 No Release Time 7pm AA	2 2pm Release Time 1-3rd	3 10am Bible Study 3:30pm 6th grade Confirmation 4:30pm 7-8th grade Confirmation 6pm Choir Rehearsal	4	5 9am Quilters	6 4pm Worship
7 9am Worship 10am Coffee hour 6pm AA	8 2pm Release Time 4-5th 6pm Council Meeting 7pm AA	9 2pm Release Time 1-3rd	10 10am Bible Study 4:30pm 6th, 7th, and 8th grade confirmation 6pm Choir Rehearsal	11	12 9am Quilters	13 4pm Worship
14 9am Worship w/Handbell choir 10am Coffee hour 6pm AA	15 2pm Release Time 4-5th 7pm AA	16 2pm Release Time 1-3rd	17 10am Bible Study 4:30pm Grace Circle Bible Study	18	19 9am Quilters	20 4pm Worship
21 9am Worship w/choir 10am Coffee hour 6pm AA	22 2pm Release Time 4-5th 7pm AA	23 2pm Release Time 1-3rd	24 10am Bible Study	25 12:30pm Blood Drive	26 9am Quilters	27 4pm Worship
28 9am Worship w/Release Time Choir 10am Coffee hour 6pm AA	29 2pm Release Time 4-5th 7pm AA	30 2pm Release Time 1-3rd				



Here I Am: Jr/Sr High Retreat - April 19-20, 2024 - Open to current 7th-12th graders

Fortune Lake invites you to camp for a one-night retreat filled with camp favorites like songs, games, Bible Studies, campfire, hot saunas, and more! The weekend will also include a SoulShop™ training that is free for adult leaders. More details about the retreat and the training can be found online at fortunelake.org under the “Year-Round Retreats” tab.

More information: <https://fortunelake.org/event/jr-sr-high-retreat/>



Growing in Grace: Nurturing Our LGBTQIA+ Youth - April 26-27, 2024 - Open to adults

Are you interested in learning and sharing about how to best support the LGBTQIA+ youth in our life? Fortune Lake's Growing in Grace Retreat aims to explore that question at this year's retreat. The weekend will include Bible Studies, time for sharing, a fireside chat with Jamie Bruesehoff, award-winning writer, speaker, and advocate, and more. More information and the registration page can be found at fortunelake.org under the “Year-Round Retreats” tab.

More information: <https://fortunelake.org/event/growing-in-grace-retreat/>

Save the Date for Fortune Lake's Annual Association Meeting:

Our Annual Association Meeting will take place on Sunday, April 28 at 2 pm CENTRAL in the Chapel. Per our bylaws, “Each Association Member Congregation may have up to 3 voting members, including no more than 2 lay people. The third vote may come from the congregation's pastor. Each Association member congregation shall select its members for this Association by an appropriate method of their choosing.”

Annual meeting packets will be posted on our website and mailed to Association Congregations before the meeting.

We look forward to seeing all the delegates at camp!