### **Our Mission Statement**

### Called by God's love to serve our neighbors and glorify God

### Pastor's Message MARCH 2024

We have wounded your love: O God, heal us. We stumble in the darkness: Light of the world transfigure us. We forget that we are your home: Spirit of God, dwell in us.

Confession and prayer mark our days as we journey through Lent. The above prayer spoke to me this week as I reflected on the Gospel of John and Jesus' cleansing of the temple. The Jews ask for a sign to answer for the chaos Jesus has caused in the temple and he answers them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup> The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup> But he was speaking of the temple of his body."

Jesus surely did turn the world upside down. He was speaking of the temple of his body. How soon we forget that we are the body of Christ. When the woman at the well asks Jesus where they should worship, he answers her, "a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

Our gathering spaces, our beautiful buildings, do not worship. You do. God's work in this community requires your spirit filled bodies to bring in the kingdom of God. Only where two or three are gathered does the body of Christ show up. The buildings serve a purpose: it's where *the people* are called, gathered and sent out.

"We forget that we are your home: Spirit of God, dwell in us."
When we do gather for worship and to remember whose we are, the spirit is on the move. We need the presence of the body of Christ to strengthen us in our life of faith and to remind us that the spirit sends us out from our sanctuaries. Have we forgotten how powerful the gathering of God's people can be?

It was wonderful and encouraging to have such good attendance for our annual meeting in February. You showed up. We needed all your voices, your questions and your discernment. You volunteered to take on committee roles and your willingness to serve this congregation was appreciated by everyone. Also, issues were brought to light that need our attention. Our methods of communication have suffered since the pandemic. We need to return to our informal information sessions during fellowship. We need better avenues to engage our members as to where opportunities for service and building relationships among us. These are all positive signs.

I was reminded of the power of the body of Christ when our ninth-grade confirmation class led our first shared Lenten Service. You showed up. It was uplifting to everyone to be encouraged by three congregations coming together to worship our God who calls and claims us. Everyone could feel the movement

### **Meetings**

- •Men's Group Gatherings
- All Committee & Trustee Meetings
- •Stephens Ministry Mtg.
- Women's Bible Studies
- Quilting Schedule
- Circle Meetings
- Caregiver Support Group
- MOPS Meetings

### **Happenings**

- Daylight Savings Time
- Easter Flower Donations
- ♦ Holy Week Services
- ◆ Easter Sunday Service
- ◆ Community Meal
- ◆ March Calendar
- ◆ April's Newsletter Deadline
- ◆ Building Closed
- ♦ Hospitality Team Listing

### **Education/Family**

First - 6th Grade

♦ Sunday School Schedule

### **ONE-**Youth for Christ

(Tri-Churches Youth Program)

- ◆During the Lenten Season, all students (7th-12th) are asked to attend all Lenten service.
- ◆Summer 2024: HS Mission Trip information

### **ULC Staff**

Pastor: Jean Ohman
SAM/Youth: Natalie Hanson
Worship & Music Coordinator:
Theron Jeppesen
Office Manager/Secretary:
Julie Johnson

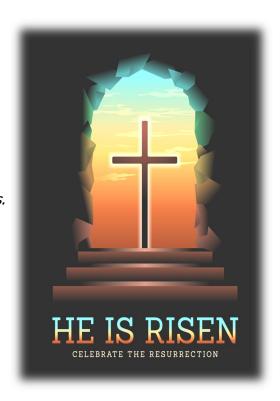
## Janitor: Beth Schneeberger ULC Council

President: Eli Reeve Vice President: Witney Willard Secretary: Pam Holsen Treasurer: Karen McGee of the Holy Spirit in the midst of those gathered.

During Lent we are asking the question, where do you see God's love in action? It shows up in the presence of the body of Christ. Continue to gather for worship so that you can be sent out renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit and encouraged by God's unconditional love.

We forget that we are your home: Spirit of God, dwell in us. Send us, we pray, as the light into a broken world, to love intentionally, to forgive frequently, and to walk gently and clear-eved upon this good earth.







### **INSTALLATION SUNDAY**

During service on Sunday March 17th, we will be installing our Committee and Board of Trustee members and the board of trustee members.

After worship, all committee members will have a meeting in the fellowship hall. Grab a beverage and snack, then the meeting will begin.

### **ULC CHURCH COUNCIL**

President: Eli Reeve

Vice President: Witney Willard

Secretary: Pam Holsen Treasurer: Karen McGee

### **TRUSTEE BOARD**

Scot Beyer Rose Danielson

Scott W. Johnson

Beth Pikop

### **ALTAR GUILD**

Judy Hams

Karla Larsen

Suzie Lohse

Robin McNamar

Heather Reeve

TBA **Board Liaison** 

### **BUILDING & GROUNDS**

Darin Grosz Kent Hedstrom Zach Jeppesen Bill LaValley Gary Nelson

Tom Schei

Scot Beyer: Board Liaison

### **EDUCATION & YOUTH**

Theron Jeppesen Carrie Schoenbauer

Witney Willard

Scot Beyer: Board Liaison

### **ENDOWMENT**

Mark Dewey

Darin Hansón

Tom House

Jon Nelson

Carrie Schoenbauer

Witney Willard: Board Liaison

### **PERSONNEL**

Kim Gulbrandson

Kim Juergens

Eli Reeve: current president

Brian Kjesbo: 2023 president

Pr. Jean Ohman

### **SPIRITUAL L. & G.**

Susan Frykman

Beth Pikop

Lisa Pikop

### **DEACONS**

Bonnie Harstad

Dennis Helseth

Pat Sobera

Michelle Swenson

Beth Pikop: Board Liaison

### **STEWARDSHIP**

Joel Coleman

Brian Kjesbo

John Ohman

Scott Swenson

Eli Reeve: Board Liaison

### **TECHNOLOGY**

Kent Hestrom

John Ohman

Tom Schei

Eli Reeve: President

Witney Willard: Vice President

### **UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH**

### **STAFF**

Pastor: Jean Ohman

SAM: Natalie Hanson

Music & Worship Coordinator:

Theron Jeppesen

Secretary: Julie Johnson

Custodian: Beth Schneeberger



At this time, the meal hasn't been planed. Please watch for updates on our Website, Facebook Page, and announcement sheets.



### **March Wednesday Lenten Schedule**

### March 6th at United

6p.m. - Lenten Supper

7p.m. - Lenten Evening Service

### \* March 13th at Messiah Lutheran

6p.m. - Lenten Supper

7p.m. - Lenten Evening Service

### March 20th at United

5-7p.m. - Community Lenten Supper 7p.m. - Lenten Evening Service

Holy Week Services





March 24th 9a.m. - Worship 10a.m. - Sunday School 10a.m. - Gather Together Fellowship

### ◆ Maundy Thursday, March 21st @ Peace 7p.m. - Maundy Thursday Service

### Good Friday, March 22nd at United

7p.m. - Good Friday Service



Easter Sunday, March 24th at United

9a.m. - Easter Sunday Service

ULC's Members in Care Centers, Assisted Living and Home Shut-ins

◆Barrett Care - Barrett

Norlin Westrom

### Veterans Home - Fergus:

Clayton Hauglie Dale Mickelson

### Maplewood Senior Living - Elbow

◆ Sam Coleman
◆ Dwaine & Jean Haraldson
◆ Orvin Amundson
◆ Helen Knutson
◆ Marion Mobraaten
◆ Bill Nelson

Apt. # 4

Room 8
Room 123
Room 131
Room 107
Room 138

### 

Ashby Living Center 112 Iverson Avenue Ashby, MN 56309

### 

Brookdale Lowry 150 Quebec Street #271 Denver, CO. 80230





Quilters will meet on Wednesdays at 9a.m.

Everyone is welcome -beginning quilters to experienced quilters.

For more information contact Susan Frykman at 320-760-4887.



### Family Caregiver Support Group

meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at United Lutheran Church.

The next meeting is March 26th at 10a.m.

### Trustee Board Minutes, January 17, 2024

<u>Members present:</u> Bian Kjesbo, Connie Warde, Darin Hanson, Scot Beyer, Scott Johnson, Witney Willard, Pam Holsen, Pastor Jean and Karen McGee.

<u>Agenda addition:</u> Foster closet to Old Business. Liz Schroeder memorial to New Business. Connie W. moved to approve the agenda with Darin H. seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously. (MCU)

Secretary's report: Darin H. moved to accept the minutes from the December meeting; Witney W. seconded the motion. MCU.

<u>Treasurer's report:</u> We set the proposed budget for 2024 as follows:

Missions (local with \$3,000.00 designated): Witney W. moved to donate \$1,500.00 to the Grant County Food Shelf and \$1,500.00 to Grant County Humane Society. Scot B. seconded the motion. MCU.

Salaries: Motion made by Darin H. to increase the secretary (Julie Johnson) and the treasurer/bookkeeper (Karen McGee) salaries by four percent retroactive to January 1, 2024. Seconded by Connie W. MCU.

Mileage: Motion made by Darin H. to pay Pastor Jean her full mileage for the year 2023 and to continue this in 2024 instead of her having to submit mileage which she rarely does. Seconded by Witney W. MCU.

Great deal of discussion regarding Pastor Jean's upcoming time off in 2024. We have Natalie Hanson who has been approved by the Bishop to be a SAM (Synodically Authorized Minister) who can fill in with pulpit, youth, confirmation, etc. She would be entering into a contract as a SAM. Scot B. moved to budget \$25,000.00 six weeks for the SAM position and youth hours. Seconded by Witney W. Motion carried. There still needs to be discussion with Natalie Hanson regarding this. A motion was made by Scot B. to allow Pastor Jean an additional six weeks for pastor reduction unpaid time off which is reflected in reduction of Pastor's salary (six weeks unpaid vacation). Seconded by Connie W. MCU. Motion to approve the proposed 2024 budget in the amount of \$269,837.00 made by Connie W., seconded by Darin. MCU.

### **Committee Reports:**

- •Worship: Lent services will be alternated between Messiah and United. Ash Wednesday will be at our respective churches. Confirmation small groups will be leading services. The two meals which we will host fall on our community meal nights. Service dates will be in the newsletter.
- •Alter Guild: Connie is working on committee members. Pastor Jean said she would ask Dennis Helseth if he would like to be a deacon.
- •Buildings and Grounds: Scot B. repaired the worst window sill. He said the others weren't as bad and could wait until spring. Bathroom remodeling: We received a quote from Kruize Plumbing for new urinals, moving toilets, plumbing, partitions, marble countertop, sinks, etc. which came to \$9,600.00. The flooring bid is under \$3,500.00. We also need new baby changing stations. Walls will be painted Witney and Pastor Jean will coordinate colors to partitions, etc. A motion to approve and go ahead with the bathroom room remodel for \$15,000.00 out of the carpet/church renovation funds was made by Witney W., seconded by Connie W. MCU.
- Education: There are many preschool kids in the congregation. The Education Committee is going to work with the moms to get their children involved in Sunday School.
- •Endowment: Nothing new to report.
- •Personnel: There was discussion regarding the responsibilities of the janitor, particularly during funerals. Brian is going to visit with her. He is also going to ask if the vacuum is working adequately.
- •During the special meeting prior to the annual meeting, we will change the wording in the bylaws to make the treasurer/bookkeeper a hired position, not elected.
- •Stewardship: They are going to get together with the Endowment Committee to come up with ideas on how to increase giving.
- •Spiritual Life and Growth: Two deacons have stepped down from their positions. We are looking for more deacons and committee members. Pastor Jean will talk to Dennis Helseth; Pam will contact potential committee members.
- \*OLD BUSINESS: Survey: Brian K. will email us the proposed survey prior to making it available to the congregation.

**Foster Closet**: Witney has ten people who are willing to commit to the Foster Closet among United, Peace, and Messiah. Things are progressing.

\*New Business: We need to have a quorum for our annual meeting so share the word!

New church directory: Pam H. will see if Beth Pikop is interested in leading this endeavor.

The daughters of Liz Schroeder would like to donate something in Liz' memory. Pastor Jean is going to suggest they donate to the kitchen renovation fund.

The next **regular** meeting will be Wednesday, February 21, 2024, after Lenten services.

Connie W., moved to adjourn the meeting; Witney W. second the motion, MCU.

Pastor Jean led us in prayer.

### The Men's Group will gather on

March 7th & 21st at 8a.m. in the Fireside Room.

If you would like to join this group, please call the church office at 218-685-4179 to have your name added to the email list.

Mens

GROUP

# March Birthdays

- 01 Greg Anderson
- 02 Dylan Hotovec Bill Paulson
- 03 Matthew Pikop Teagan Schmidt Jenna Weigand
- 05 Dallas Bordson Don Martinson
- 06 Tristan Haraldson
- 08 Derek Kassenborg
- 09 Vickie Montoney
- 10 Devon Benson Morgan Stark
- 11 Angie Peterson Larry Rapp
- 13 Darla Christensen Leah Johnson
- 16 Isaac Jeppesen Heather Pederson
- 21 Steve Olson
- 22 Axel Anderson

- 22 Kristen Hagen Samuel Hanson Jay Juergens Addison Koep Jordyn Larsen
- 23 Chad Benson
- 25 De-Lores Foss
- 26 Ruth Ann Hubbard Aiden Jeppesen Haily Loeks Ryley Nelson Arlo Pikop
- 29 Colt Richards Pamela Rupp

Please inform Julie of any changes. 218-685-4179



Happy St. Patricks Day!



Julie, the church secretary is looking for a few members to volunteer to help with the monthly newsletter. We meet on the last Wednesday at 9a.m. Assembling takes about an hour. If you can help, please give her a call at 218-685-4179.

Thank you for your consideration.

### **Peace Church Book Club**

Tri-Church Members Welcomed

Next meeting will be on March 27th at 1p.m. at the Knotty Pine or come at noon and join us for lunch.

**Book:** to be announced. Watch for updates.

### All Committee and P Board of Trustee Meeting

Sunday, March 17th After Worship

- > **ULC members** who are on a church committee shall attend this meeting.
- > Trustees: You will receive a reminder, the agenda and minutes the week prior to the meeting.



# STEPHEN

Stephen Ministry will meet on March 12th, at 9a.m. in the Fireside Room

Psalm 15:16 The Resurrection

"I saw the Lord always before me, for He is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced."

# DEADLINE

**April Newsletter Deadline** is March 18th by **9a.m.** 



### **Easter Flower Order Form**



Easter Flowers will be ordered to enhance the sanctuary for **Easter Sunday** 

If you would like to order one in memory or honor of someone, please fill out a form and turn it Julie by March 18th.

Order forms are on the table by the bulletin board.

Thank You!

### Pg. 6 UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN - January 2024

Greetings to one and all! Here we are looking forward to spring already. Enjoy every day as we thank God for his awesome gifts of love, grace and mercy.

The Gather Bible study for March continues with "Scripture and nature: creatures of faith." The lesson is called "Rivers: springs of life and hope." How true that is, as we all need water to nourish us and survive. But the living water that Jesus promised is what gives us new life in him.

We invite all women of ULC to come to the Circle meetings. You are welcome to bring a friend. We enjoy coffee, goodies and fun fellowship before we delve into the Bible study. The Circle of Hope will meet on Tuesday, March 26th, at 7:00 PM at the parsonage- (*this is a ate change so please mark this on your calendars!*) The Morning Circle will meet on Thursday, March 21, at 9:30 AM in the fireside room.

The ULCW business meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7, at 9:30 AM in the fireside room. All are welcome to come. New ideas are always welcome.

The Sunday morning coffee donations for March will be given to World Hunger.

Thank you for your generous giving.

Pam Lyson, ULCW President Home: 218-685-4004

Cell: 701-301-0095





# Hospitality Teams

March 2024: Team 4: Scot & Mindy Beyer

April 2024: Team 5: Susan & Darrell Frykman

and Lisa & Kurt Pikop

May 2024: Team 6: Pam & Jeff Holsen

→You will find a member listing for these teams on page 8 of this newsletter. There is also a full listing of all teams on the bulletin board at church.



### Women's Bible Studies

+ Morning Bible Study will meet on Thursday, March 28th at 9:30a.m. in the Fireside Room.

+ Circle of Hope will meet on Tuesday, March 26th at 7p.m. at the Parsonage.—

⇒ This is a date change, so please mark your calendars.

All women are invited to join these studies!



# Youth & Family ONE Youth for Christ



### **December Calendar**

March 3rd @ 10a.m. - Sunday School Class

March 10th @ 10a.m. - Sunday School Class

March 17th @ 10a.m. - Sunday School Class

March 24th - Palm Sunday - parents & children are encourage to attend service!

@ 10a.m. - Sunday School Class

March 31st—Easter Sunday No Sunday School Class



### March 2024 ~ ONE Youth Updates

### JH Mission Trip to the Twin Cities—Wonderful time and experience for all!

The first-ever 7-9th grade ONE youth mission trip to the Twin Cities on February 17-19, 2024, was a wonderful time and experience for all 41 youth and chaperones who participated. We sacrificed conveniences and wants, we laid aside ourselves, like Jesus calls us to do, so that we could serve and be God's hands and feet. We learned about Jesus' call to follow Him and to trust Him. As a result, hearts were softened, seeds were planted, perspectives were grown, relationships were deepened, and impact was made. Through this experience, these tender, impressionable hearts are beginning to understand and recognize, first-hand, the powerful, positive impact their selfless choices can have on God's Kingdom now. What a joy it is to see their servant hearts grow!

Thank you to all the youth who gave up their weekend and break from school to give their time to serve others. Thank you for your kindness, respect, fun energy, and hard work. Thank you to the amazing, compassionate chaperones who made this trip run so smoothly and who positively impacted the lives of these youth. And lastly, thank you to all who have so generously supported these youth to make this trip possible. We look forward to more opportunities for faith growth to come!

### HS Mission Trip—July 28-August 3, 2024, Cheyenne River Reservation, SD

ONE Youth is so excited to be taking 19 high school youth on a mission trip to the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota, July 28-August 3, 2023. We continue to be amazed at the involvement and interest of our youth in all the activities, events, and trips we are planning. Fundraising opportunities for this trip will begin soon.

### Confirmation

Confirmation for 7-9th grade youth is on hold throughout the Lenten season and will resume on Wednesday, April 10. In lieu of confirmation, we are expecting confirmation students to attend all Lenten services that will be held on a rotating schedule between Messiah Lutheran and United Lutheran beginning with supper at 6 p.m. and service at 7 p.m. The youth are divided into small groups, and each group will be responsible for leading one Lenten service. See the Calendar of Events for the Lenten schedule.

### **HS ONE Youth Group**

HS ONE Youth for 10-12th graders is on hold throughout the Lenten season and will resume on Wednesday, April 10. We encourage the youth to attend supper and worship during Lent at Messiah or United (they are hosting worship during Lent on a rotating weekly schedule as detailed in the Lenten schedule). Our hope is to connect with the HS Youth after worship on these Wednesdays for a brief time of check-in and connection.

### THANK YOU FOR THE SNACKS!

ONE Youth & students wants to thank you for your overwhelming support and generosity in donating snacks and food to our hungry confirmation students!

### Breakfast Club

Thank you to the Peace Lutheran Church Alter Guild for serving a delicious meal for Breakfast Club on Friday, February 16. On average, Breakfast Club serves around 60-90, 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. What a beautiful, thriving outreach ministry, which wouldn't be possible without your loving, gracious support.

### Community Service & Volunteerism

Our early-out service days, the first Wednesday of every month at Peace Lutheran Church at 1 p.m. continue to be well-attended and a great way for our kids to actively participate in giving back to our community. Our next service date is Wednesday, March 6. Last month, HS ONE Youth served Messiah Lutheran Church with several projects and in March, we will serve at United Lutheran Church. The younger youth will work on some service projects at Peace.

### Pg.

### **Calendar of Events for March & April**

- No Confirmation on the following dates—February 28-March 27
- Early-Out Service Days—March 6 & April 3
- Breakfast Club for 5-12th grade, 3rd Friday of the month, 7:10-8:00 a.m.—March 15 & April 19 Ruby's Pantry, youth and families, 3rd Monday of the month, 4:30-8 p.m.—March 18 & April 15

### **Lenten Schedule**—Dinner at 6 p.m. Service at 7 p.m.

March 6—Service at United Lutheran church, Chelsey's group leads service.

March 13—Service at Messiah Lutheran church, Marisa's group leads service.

March 20— Service at United Lutheran church, Megan's group leads service.

March 28—Maundy Thursday, service at Peace Lutheran. No meal served.

March 29—Good Friday, services at Peace, Messiah, and United.

### **Donation Opportunities**

We are overwhelmed by the generosity of our church community. We received an outpouring of monetary donations and memorials throughout the holidays, and we want to thank you, again, for your loving support. The following are our on-going expenses.

• Dinner for HS Youth—\$200 helps feed dinner to 30-40 high school students.

Confirmation Snacks—\$75-100 helps feed snacks to 45-50 middle school students.

If you ever feel moved to donate food or money, it's greatly appreciated. Donations can be made payable to ONE Youth and mailed to: United Lutheran Church, ATTN: ONE Youth, 215 10th Ave. SW, Elbow Lake, MN 56531.

### **BEST WAY to Stay Informed**

If you have a child in ONE Youth or are interested in staying up to date on all of the happenings with ONE Youth, we encourage you to join our REMIND app. Instructions are below:

Send a text this number: 81010 and Text this message: @oneyouthgr

If you haven't already, we highly encourage you to follow us on Instagram and Facebook as we post weekly updates. On occasion, when needing to communicate on specific program/trip details, we send emails from our ONE Youth Gmail account. If you have a child in ONE Youth, we encourage you to add our email address to your contacts to ensure you receive the emails. Our email address is: <a href="mailto:oneyouthforchrist@gmail.com">oneyouthforchrist@gmail.com</a>.

# **ULC Hospitality Teams**

### **TEAM 4:** Leaders – Scott & Mindy Beyer (320-808-1688)

Ray & Glenda Aschman

Mary Boyack

Louise Kuntz

Jay & Robin McNamar

Harold & Elaine Nelson

Chad & Gwen Rollofson

Zach & Theron Jeppessen

Beth Pikop & Alan Williams

Jordyn Larsen

Nicole, Brett & Aubrey Amundson

Fred & Nancy Hahn

Eric & Diedra Hubbard

Rick & Tammy Lock

Danny & Witney Willard

Kurt & Mary Myron

Kenny & Ruth Hubbard

Kent & Gail Hedstrom

### TEAM 5: Leaders – Susan & Darrell Frykman (320-760-4887) Kurt & Lisa Pikop (320-815-4182)

Chad & Carla Benson

Joel & Carla Coleman

Paul & Jane Raths

Scott & Michelle Swenson

Liz Coleman Jenks

Jon & Angie Pikop

Toby & Jenna Weigand

Stacy & Jessica Deering

Patti Nordby Wilts

Steve & Elaine Bordson
Earl & Jody Melchert
Dean & Gail Schneeberger
Eric & Jennifer Huseth

Jake & Kelsey (Lohse) Schumm

Tom & Kari House

Darin & Natalie Hansen

Chris & Lauren Johnson

### **TEAM 6:** Leaders – Pam & Jeff Holsen (218-770-6706)

Mark & Chelle Dewey

Darin & Hailey Grosz

Gene & Betty Karger

Rod Melin

Beth Palm

Jon & Tammy Nelson

Dustin & Morgan Anderson

Mike & Elaine Burgess

Scott Tyberg

Eric & Carrie Schoenbauer

Bruce & Sue Grasamke

Dennis & Sandy Helseth

Karla Larson

Roger & Betty Mickelson

Linda Rupp

Karen McGee & Jeff Guttormson

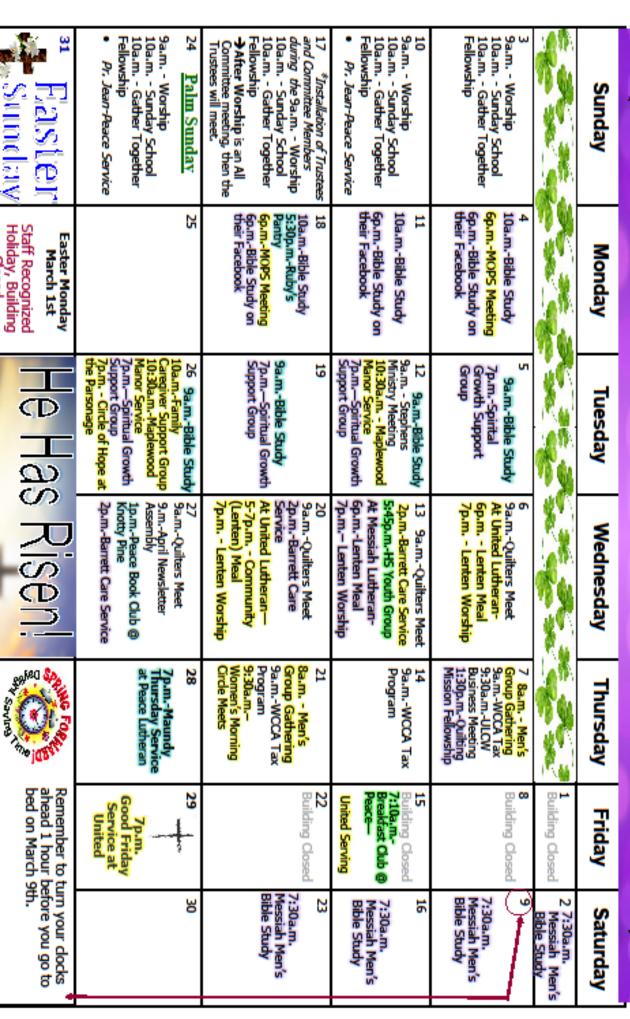
John & Michelle Toso Bill & Sarah Myron

Jeff & Barb Amundson

Stacey Biss



# **MARCH 2024**





Holiday, Building Staff Recognized

Closed.

with Communion 9a.m. - Worship

Remember to turn your docks ahead 1 hour before you go to bed on March 9th.

Color Codes for the Tri-Churches United Lutheran, Peace Lutheran, Messiah Lutheran, All Tri-Churches

TAB

TAB

UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH 215 - 10th Avenue SE. Elbow Lake, Minnesota 56531 Non Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 47 Elbow Lake, MN.



HE PUS RISEN, INDEED!

March Newsletter 2024 United Lutheran Church

Faithnews