

## Our Mission Statement

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

### Pastor's Message

April 2024

I recently saw this post on Facebook, and it really got my dander up. Can I say that? Here is what it said:

- **Religion:** worships God.
- **Spirituality:** encourages oneness with God.
- **Religion:** God is outside of you.
- **Spirituality:** God is within you.
- **Religion:** teaches people to be afraid of hell.
- **Spirituality:** teaches people to create heaven on Earth.
- **Religion:** based on fear and restriction.
- **Spirituality:** based on love and freedom.
- **Religion:** feels like being a single drop in the ocean.
- **Spirituality:** feels like being the entire ocean in a single drop.
- **Religion:** based on others' experience.
- **Spirituality:** based on your personal experience.

The first few comments responding to these bullet points was: **I live spirituality!** (and that got an **AMEN!**)

All I can say is that whoever made this list had a pretty bleak religious upbringing. We live in a very dualistic world and often think it's only one way or another. What about the third way? The paradox? I don't believe you can claim these sharp distinctions of religion and spirituality. Christianity is a religion birthed and nurtured by the power of the Holy Spirit. In reading scripture it's clear that we are created to be in community. Religion can help to gather and send us but our being joined to the Body of Christ is always about the spirit at work in us. So, am I not spiritual? As Lutherans, we often talk about the "already" but "not yet" as in, when God makes a promise you can trust it. We can trust that 'all will be well' even when we don't live in that circumstance immediately. God keeps his promises. That's based on other people's experiences *and* my own. Scripture has much to tell us about who we are as God's people and who God is.

Yes, I realize that organized religion has done a great deal of damage to folks over the years. I have heard about the hellfire and brimstone sermons that threatened the congregation and manipulated them through fear. As for me, I heard that God desired to claim me as child and wanted me to experience eternal life by following in the way of Jesus. I was taught that Holy Communion was a foretaste of the feast to come – an experience of heavenly welcome and oneness here on earth. I was taught that God was outside of me but also within me through the power of the Holy Spirit and furthermore was within my neighbors and I was to look for Christ in all people. *Jesus loves me, this I know.*



### Meetings

- Trustee Meeting
- Men's Group Gatherings
- Stephen's Ministry
- ULCW Business Mtg.
- MOPS Meetings
- Quilters Meet
- Circle of Hope
- Morning Circle Meeting

### Happenings

- ♦ April's Community Meal
- ♦ April's Calendar
- ♦ May Newsletter Deadline
- ♦ Hospitality Listing for April, May, June
- ♦ Heads-Up for Senior Recognition Sunday
- ♦ Peace Book Club

### Education/One Youth

- **Sunday School Schedule For April**
- **One Youth Information**
- **Confirmation**

### ULC Staff

Pastor: Jean Ohman  
Worship & Music Coordinator  
Theron Jeppesen  
Office Manager/Secretary:  
Julie Johnson  
Janitor: Beth Schneeberger

### Church Council

President: Eli Reeve  
Vice President: Witney Willard  
Secretary: Pam Holsen  
Treasurer: Karen McGee

A beautiful Lenten hymn, *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*, by Marty Haugen, has a totally different view than the bullet points above. It's in our religious "Lutheran Hymnal" but it sounds more like the spirituality section.

*Tree of life and awesome mystery, in your death we are reborn:  
though you die in all of hist'ry, still you rise with every morn.*

*We remember truth once spoken, love passed on through act and word:  
ev'ry person lost and broken wears the body of our Lord, wears the body of our Lord.*

*Christ you lead and we shall follow, stumbling though our steps may be;  
one with you in joy and sorrow, we the river, you the sea, we the river, you the sea.*

Religion and spirituality are not on opposite ends of the spectrum. They are intertwined.

*Light of life beyond conceiving, mighty Spirit of our Lord; give us strength to our believing  
give us faith to live your word. Give us faith to live your word.*

*Pastor Jean*

Email: [ulcpastor@unitedlutheranelbowlake.com](mailto:ulcpastor@unitedlutheranelbowlake.com)  
Cell: 651-402-7674

### ☒ Mark Your Calendars

Please join us on Sunday,  
May 12th, as we lift up  
these Seniors during worship.

Brina Beyer  
Mitchell Dewey  
Macy Grosz  
Bryce Kjesbo  
David Larson  
Carter Lohse  
William Rustan

After worship, come  
celebrate our seniors  
during the Gather  
Together fellowship.



**Your donations of Easter  
Flowers was wonderful! They  
truly enhanced the sanctuary  
for Easter Sunday!**

**Thank  
You!**



**STEPHEN  
ministry**

**Will meet on Tuesday,  
April 9th at 9a.m. in  
the Fireside Room**

Psalm 119:114

"You are my refuge and my  
shield; I have put my hope  
in your word"

**The Men's Group will gather on**  
 April 4th & 18th **at 8a.m.** in the Fireside Room.  
 If you would like to join this group,  
 please call the church office at  
 685-4179 to have your  
 name added to the  
 list.



3

**Board of Trustees**  
 will meet on **Sunday, April 21st**  
 after worship. You will meet in the  
 Choir Room.



# April Birthdays

01 Deidre Hubbard  
 Danielle Swenson  
 Tim Olson  
 02 Hunter Burchill  
 Rose Danielson  
 04 Austin Anderson  
 David Jacobson  
 05 Katie Lohse  
 Noah Rapp  
 Kelsey Schumm  
 06 Taylor Christenson  
 Jason Anderson  
 Cody Hagen  
 Bradley Larson  
 09 Susan Clow  
 Courtney Lock  
 10 Kari Krusemark  
 Roger Mickelson  
 11 Roger Toso  
 12 Allen Frykman  
 13 Peyton Hanson  
 13 Dwaine Haraldson  
 Arlene Huseth  
 14 Chad Walwick  
 15 Jeff Skoglund  
 18 Judy Johnson  
 19 Rhett Christenson  
 20 Nancy Hahn  
 Mark Huseth  
 20 Sierra Fossness

22 Jolene Olson  
 Hunter Gruchow  
 Pam Holsen  
 23 Kim Hotovec  
 Brian Kjesbo  
 25 Gail Hedstrom  
 Addisyn Pikop  
 26 Ginny Billing  
 27 Mitchell Dewey  
 28 Rylee Peterson  
 Micheal Rath  
 Brady Schneeberger  
 29 Lisa Christensen  
 Tanner Davison  
 Katie Poyzer  
 Michelle Toso  
 30 Joshua Baker  
 John Ohman

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



## Quilting Schedule

United Quilters will meet on Wednesdays,  
 at 9a.m. Everyone is welcome -beginning  
 quilters to experienced quilters. For more  
 information contact Susan at  
 320-760-4887.

## May's Newsletter Deadline is:



## Peace Church Book Club

*Tri-Church Members Welcomed*

Next meeting will be on April 24th at 1p.m. at the  
 Knotty Pine or come at noon and join us for lunch.

**Book:** to be announced.

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.



# Community Meal

**Wed., April 17th**  
**From 5p.m. - 6:30p.m.**

## Menu: To Be Announced

The Men's Group is asking for ULC members to donate food for this meal.

→ Please watch for the sign-up sheet to be placed by the large bulletin board.

Please come join us for wonderful food and conversation. All Are Welcome!



## Women's Bible Studies

+ **Circle of Hope** will meet on Tuesday, April 16th at 7p.m. at the Parsonage.

+ **Morning Bible Study** will meet on Thursday, April 25th at 9:30a.m. in the Fireside Room.

All women are invited to join these studies!



## Hospitality Teams

**April 2024:** Team 5: Lisa & Kurt Pikop & Susan & Darrell Frykman

**May 2024:** Team 6: Pam & Jeff Holsen

**June 2024:** Team 1: Melissa Anderson

## 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	Apt. #	4
♦ Dwaine & Jean Haraldson	Room	8
♦ Orvin Amundson	Room	123
♦ Helen Knutson	Room	131
♦ Marion Mobraaten	Room	107

### ⊕ Lyle Huseh - Ashby

Ashby Living Center

112 Iverson Avenue

Ashby, MN 56309

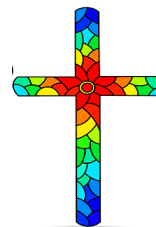
### ⊕ Barb Berg - Colorado

Brookdale Lowry

150 Quebec Street #271

Denver, CO. 80230

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Meet on April 1st & 15th at 6p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at United Lutheran.



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 April 23rd at 10a.m.

## UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN – APRIL 2022

The April Bible study from the Gather magazine is the 4<sup>th</sup> session of "Scripture and nature: teachers of faith." This month is entitled, "Food: daily bread for the health of the world." We can learn a lot from reading scripture regarding food, beginning with the manna God provided the Israelites in the desert and how Jesus invited everyone to join him at the table, along with feeding the 5,000. Food is one way we can love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. Remember we are nourished and sustained by the word of God.

We'd like to invite all women of ULC to join us for Bible study. The Circle of Hope will meet on Tuesday, April 16, at 7:00 PM at the parsonage. The Morning Circle will meet on Thursday, April 25, at 9:30 AM in the fireside room. Come and enjoy coffee, goodies and fellowship as we delve into our Bible study.

Many things were discussed at the ULCW business meeting on Thursday, March 7. The library is a work in progress. We are recycling old books. We also welcome used books in good shape that are appropriate for a church library.

United Lutheran has an abundance of Bibles that are not being used. It was suggested that some of the Bibles could be given away; possibly to Eagle's Nest, a veterans' home in Osakis, or the Women's Reformatory in Shakopee. More discussion will be held on this. Any ideas are welcome.

We discussed the need for purchasing new stress mats for the kitchen, as the ones we have are worn out.

Discussion was held on the possibility of hosting a Spring Tea. We would need many volunteers to plan, decorate tables and bake desserts. If it is decided to have a tea, we'd like to invite the women from Peace in Barrett and Messiah in Hoffman. If you are interested, you can contact Pat Soberg, Pam Lyson or call Julie at church.

Also, if you are interested in being a part of a weekly Bible study, please contact Pam Lyson.

The Sunday morning coffee donations for April will go to Someplace Safe. Thank you for your generosity.

### Isaiah 44:3-4

*For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. 4 They will spring up like grass in a meadow, like poplar trees by flowing streams.*

Pam Lyson, President  
Home: 218-685-4004  
Cell: 701-3001-0095





# Christ-Centered Youth & Family

**ONE** Youth for Christ



## Sunday School

### April Calendar

April 7th: **NO Sunday School**

April 14th: Sunday School at 10a.m.

April 21st: Sunday School at 10a.m.

April 28th: Sunday School at 10a.m. - last Sunday school class until fall.



**Vacation Bible School will be at United Lutheran Church this summer.**

Parent: Please keep an eye on when VBS will be this summer. United Lutheran will be hosting and will need plenty hands to make this work. Details to follow next month.



## April 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.



### The Cheyenne River Indian Reservation

The Reservation was created by the United States in 1889 by breaking up the Great Sioux Reservation. The reservation covers almost all of Dewey and Ziebach counties in South Dakota.

### Reservation Facts:

**Tribe:** Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

**Area:** 4,267 miles

**Population:** 7,715 (2020)





# April Continued

## Confirmation

Confirmation for 7-9th grade youth held on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-5:15 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church.

Early Release is April 3rd-No Confirmation Class.

Just a reminder that Palmer bus will be transporting kids right after school from the WCA secondary school to Peace Lutheran Church. Kids can hop on bus numbers 49, 52, or 54 and simply inform the bus driver they need to be dropped off at Peace Lutheran Church. These three buses will also pick up kids and drop them off at Peace on early out Wednesdays.

## HS ONE Youth Group

HS ONE Youth for 10-12th graders is going strong and continuing to meet twice a month. We are consistently amazed and blessed by these kids and how eagerly they participate in games, worship, interaction, and discussion. We are so grateful to be holding space for them to hear God's transforming Truths amid their busy schedules.

## 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!

## 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.

## Calendar of Events for March & April

- Confirmation will meet on April 10th, 17th, and 24th
- *Early-Out Service Days*—April 3
- HS One Youth Group will meet on April 10th and 24th at 5:45p.m., at Peace Lutheran
- *Breakfast Club for 5-12th grade, 3rd Friday of the month, 7:10-8:00 a.m.* on April 19th.  
*Ruby's Pantry, youth and families, 3rd Monday of the month, 4:30-8 p.m.* on April 15.

## 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: [oneyouthforchrist@gmail.com](mailto:oneyouthforchrist@gmail.com).

# Trustee Minutes Feb. 19, 2023 7

Members present: Brian Kjesbo, Eli Reeve, Beth Pikop, Scot Beyer, Scott Johnson, Witney Willard, Pam Holsen, Pastor Jean and Karen McGee. Kim Gulbrandson, from the Personnel committee, also joined the meeting.

**Agenda addition:** Heat audit, cleaning of floors and general cleaning, church directory, bathroom remodel update. Scot B. moved to approve the agenda with Witney W. seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously. (MCU)

**Secretary's report:** Eli R. moved to accept the minutes from the January meeting; Scott J.. seconded the motion. MCU.

**Treasurer's report:** Karen M. will go over all of the reports at our next meeting. We didn't need to borrow any money for the January payables and February is looking good at this time. Pam H. moved to approve the payables; Beth P. seconded the motion. MCU.

## **Election of officers:**

Brian K. asked Pam H. if she would continue to be Secretary to which she agreed. Witney W. nominated Eli R. as President; Beth P. seconded the nomination; Pam H. nominated Witney W. as Vice President; Eli R. seconded the nomination. Scot B. moved that nominations cease; Witney seconded the motion. MCU.

Liaisons to committees:

Alter Guild	Pam H.
Building and Grounds	Scot B, Eli R.
Education/One Youth	Scot B., Witney W.
Personnel	Eli R., Witney W.
Stewardship	Eli R., Rose D.
Spiritual Life & Growth	Beth Pikop

Witney W. moved to cease nominations for the liaisons; Scot B. seconded the motion. MCU.

We went over the survey result. As trustees, we need to communicate with the congregation more. Do question/answer during coffee, get out information on what we are doing via website, newsletter, bulletin. Have quarterly all committee meetings.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **New United Lutheran directory.** Beth P. is going to discuss with Spiritual Life and Growth to see if they want to take on this task.
2. **Cleaning:** A list needs to be made of jobs which need to be done on a consistent basis. Julie J. and Laverne are working on it. We should also make a list of items which need to be done in the kitchen for workers to follow when using the kitchen.
3. Some of the One Youth will come to United in April on their early day out to do some heavy lifting. Witney W. will coordinate with Chelsey Anderson of Peace. Pastor Jean and Scot B. will be at the church the day the group comes (first Wednesday of April) in the afternoon.
4. **Bathroom remodel:** There is an approximate 15% increase in the proposed budget (upcharge to not have all white fixtures, etc.) from Kruize Plumbing and Heating. We will proceed with the more colorful, eye pleasing options.
5. **Heat Audit:** We can apply for approximately \$1,000.00 rebate. Karen M. will take care of filling out application. Scot B. reprogrammed the heating units. We discussed putting lock boxes on the thermostats so they stay at the same temperature.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Liz Schroeder IRA.** Liz Schroeder directed a \$13,500.00 IRA to United Lutheran Church. Scot B. moved to accept the IRA and cash it out with its own line item like previous gifts given. Witney W. seconded the motion. MCU.
2. **Delegates to Synod Assembly.** We will announce to the congregation there are two spots for the Synod Assembly. The dates need to be reconfirmed.
3. We discussed the job description for the United Lutheran Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM). A copy of the job description may be obtained from the church office. We also went over details of the Covenant of Licensure Approving Synod Authorized Minister, a copy which may be obtained from the church office. Scot B. moved to pay the SAM rate of \$28.00 per hour for all pastoral duties above and beyond the 25 hours a week. Eli R. seconded the motion. MCU.
  - A. Eli R. moved to approved the revised job description and the compensation guidelines of the Covenant of Licensure for the SAM; Scot B. seconded the motion. MCU.
  - B. Brian K. will present the job description and Covenant to the Synod for any final input. Eli R. moved to offer Natalie Hanson the position of SAM; Scot B. seconded the motion. MCU.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 17, 2024. There will be an all committee meeting prior to the Trustee meeting.

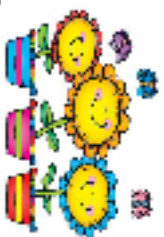
We will also have installation of trustees and committee members during the church service.

Scot B. moved to adjourn the meeting. Witney W. seconded the motion. MCU

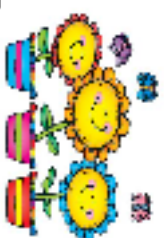
Pastor Jean led us in prayer.

Pam Holsen, Secretary





# APRIL 2024



Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

## Color Codes for the Tri-Churches

United Lutheran, Peace Lutheran, Messiah Lutheran, **Tri-Churches**



1 10a.m.-Bible Study 6p.m.-MOPS Meeting 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook	2 9a.m.-Bible Study 7p.m.-Spiritual Growth Support Group	3 9a.m. - Quilters Meet <b>Early Release, No Confirmation</b>	4 8a.m. - Men's Group Gathering 9a.m.-WCCA Tax 1:30p.m.-Quilting Mission Fellowship	5 Building Closed	6 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study
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7 9a.m. - Worship 10a.m. - Sunday School 10a.m. - Gather Together Fellowship	8 10a.m.-Bible Study 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook	9 9a.m.-Bible Study 9a.m. - Stephens Ministry Meeting 10:30a.m. - Maplewood Manor Service 7p.m.-Spiritual Growth Support Group	10 9a.m. - Quilters Meet 2p.m.-Barnett Care Service 3:30p.m.-Confirmation 5:45p.m.-HS (10th-12 Grade) Youth Group Dinner @ Peace	11 9a.m.-WCCA Tax	12 Building Closed	13 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study
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14 <b>Wriggle Worship</b> 9a.m. - Worship 10a.m. - Sunday School 10a.m. - Gather Together Fellowship with Crafts, Treats and Friendly Conversation	15 May Newsletter Deadline 10a.m.-Bible Study 5:30p.m.-Ruby's Party 6p.m.-MOPS Meeting 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook	16 9a.m.-Bible Study 7p.m. - Circle of Hope at 814 1st Street SE. 7p.m.-Spiritual Growth Support Group	17 9a.m. - Quilters Meet 2p.m.-Barnett Care Service 3:30p.m.-Confirmation 5-6:30p.m. - Community Meal	18 8a.m. - Men's Group Gathering	19 Building Closed 7:10a.m. - <b>Breakfast Club at Peace</b>	20 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study
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21 9a.m. - Worship 10a.m. - Sunday School 10a.m. - Gather Together Fellowship After worship - Trustee Board Meeting	22 10a.m.-Bible Study 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook	23 9a.m.-Bible Study 10a.m.-Family Caregiver Support Group 10:30a.m.-Maplewood Manor Service 7p.m.-Spiritual Growth Support Group	24 9a.m. - Quilters Meet 9a.m.-May Newsletter Assembly 1p.m.-Peace Book Club @ Knotty Pine 2p.m.-Barnett Care Service 3:30p.m.-Confirmation HS (10th-12 Grade) Youth Group Dinner @ Peace	25 9:30a.m.-Women's Morning Circle Meets	26 Building Closed	27 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study
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28 9a.m. - Worship 10a.m. - Sunday School 10a.m. - Gather Together Fellowship	29 10a.m.-Bible Study 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook	30	<b>April Showers Brings May Flowers</b>			
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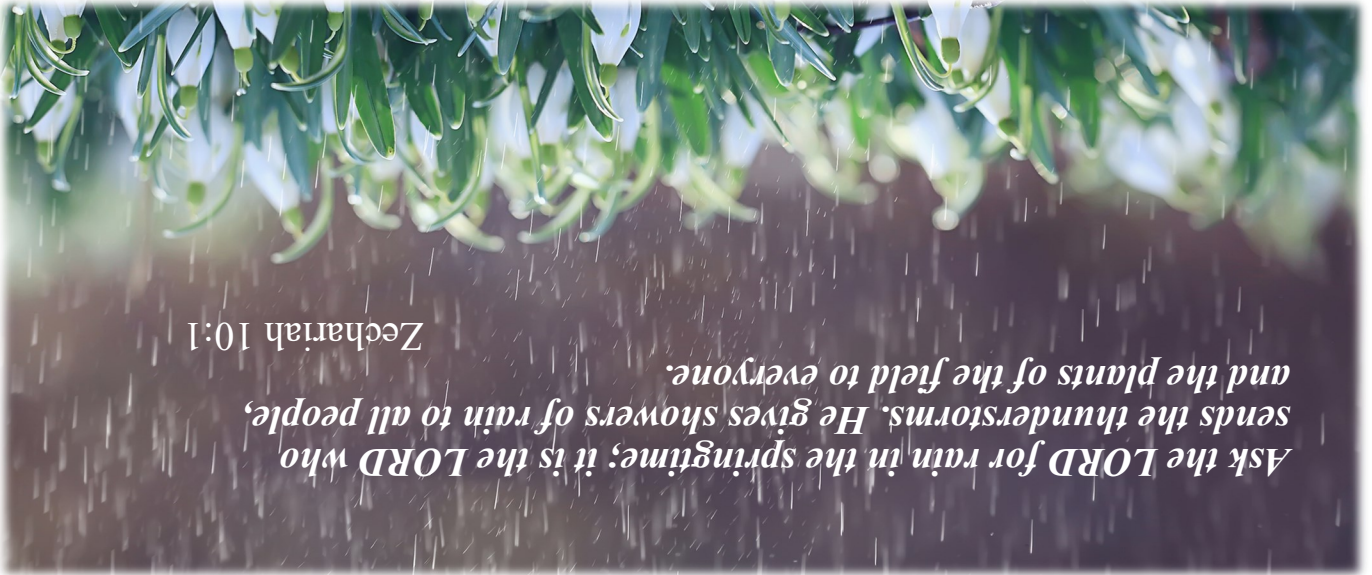


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**Faithnews**  
**April Newsletter 2024**  
**United Lutheran Church**