

Our Mission Statement

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

Advent Series

December 2024

Angels Among Us



A FULLY-SCRIPTED ADVENT SERIES
WORSHIPDESIGNSTUDIO.COM/ANGELS



Angels Among Us

"Do not be afraid." — The Angels

The angels that appear in the story of Jesus' birth would have been very comfortable in our world of tweets and hashtags. Their messages were often short and to the point — their favorite line being #DoNotBeAfraid. As we look at the stories of these winged messengers to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds and their reactions to them, we will contemplate what messages we can offer that will counteract a culture of fear and bring...

**#morehope,
#morepeace,
#morejoy,
and #morelove
to the world.**

Please join us on Sundays in December at 9a.m., as we watch the angels appear during the 4 weeks of Advent.

Meetings

- Trustee Meeting
- Men's Group Gatherings
- Stephens Ministry Mtg.
- Women's Bible Studies
- Quilting Schedule

Happenings

- Angels Among Us, Do Not Be Afraid
- Christmas Eve Service
- Operation Merry Christmas
- Building Closed Dates
- Community Meal
- December Calendar
- Jan. Newsletter Deadline
→ **earlier this month!**
- Hospitality Team Listing
- Poinsettia Orders
- Mitten Tree

Education/S.S.

- ❖ Sunday School Information

One Youth

- ✝ Anchorage Mission Trip
- ✝ Youth Christmas Drama
- ✝ Dates & Information

ULC Staff

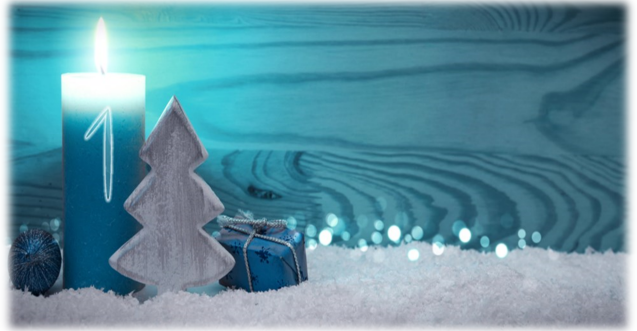
Pastor: Jean Ohman
SAM: Natalie Hanson
Worship & Music Coordinator:
Theron Jeppesen
Secretary: Julie Johnson
Janitor: Ashley Kurzman

ULC Council

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

During this Season of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, we also remember those who are struggling with illness and loss of loved ones.

As you pray this Advent season, please keep these members, families and friends in your prayers...



+ **Those who struggle with cancer** and the families and friends who walk alongside of them: Keith Mickelson, Judy Fosberg, Ron Brown, Ron and Mike Volz (*brothers of Julie Johnson*) and others known to you...

+ **For continued healing and strength** for those dealing with long term medical issues: Fred Hahn, Dale Mickelson, Lyle Huseth, Garlyn Giffy, Charlene Nelson, Jean Haraldson, Nick Deering, Elaine Bordson, Connie Warde, Lyle Krusemark and others known to you...

+ **We pray for those who grieve** especially for the families of Orvin Amundson, Mark Paulson- (*son of Bill and Karen Paulson*), Bill Nelson, Joyce & Lew Nokleby (*sister & brother-in-law of Ray and Glenda Ascherman*), Craig Haraldson, Marion Mobraaten, Sam Coleman, Linda Folken, Barb Berg, Julie Nelson, Larry Stephens and others known to you...

Community Meal

Wednesday, December 18th
From 5p.m. - 6:30p.m.

Free Will Offering will be given to
West Central Community Action

Menu: Meatballs & Mashed Potatoes

with side dishes, desserts, coffee, lemonade and water

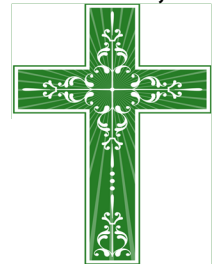
Please sign-up to donate side dishes and desserts

→ Sign-up sheet is by the large bulletin board.

All Are Welcome!



**ULC Members in Care Centers,
Assisted Living,
Home Shut-Ins**



Barrett Care Center

800 Spruce Street
Barrett, MN. 56311
• Norlin Westrom
• Lyle Krusemark

Veterans Home-Fergus

1821 N. Park Street
Fergus Falls, MN. 56537
• Clayton Hauglie
• Dale Mickelson

Mill Street Residence

• Jean Walwick
802 S. Mill Street Apt. 307
Fergus Falls, MN. 56537

Maplewood Manor Senior Living

1010 1st Street NE.
Elbow Lake, MN. 56531
• Dwaine & Jean Haraldson
• Helen Knutson

Room 8
Room 131

Ashby Living Center

• Lyle Huseth
112 Iverson Avenue
Ashby, MN. 56309



Advent 1 - December 1st: -
 Make Ready a People
 Advent 2 - December 8th -
 Nothing Is Impossible
 Advent 3 - December 15th -
 Do Not Be Afraid
 Advent 4 - December 22nd -
 This Will Be a Sign



ULCW Annual Hat & Mitten Tree Drive

Items will be donated to the WCA schools for children who are in need. Please donate new or gently used items. Thank you!

Collecting till mid December



Christmas Poinsettias Orders

We are accepting poinsettia donations to beautify the sanctuary for Christmas. Order forms are on the table by the bulletin board.

Deadline to order is December 16th.



Birthdays



Quilting Schedule

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

Kaleigh Anderson	Kaleigh Johnson	Hudson Schneeberger
Stacy Biss	John Kapphahn	Pat Soberg
Reid Bonrud	Carter Kjesbo	Christian Swenson
Vickie Brekke	Samantha Koep	Joelle Toso
Halleigh Brendmoen	Jamie Kruize	Juleen Walwick
Jerry Coleman	Louise Kuntz	Danny Willard
Ron Ehlers	Karla Larsen	Megan Willard
Gavin Flint	Suzie Lohse	Please inform Julie of any corrections or changes. 218-685-4179
Thomas Foss	Rita Meyer	
Mia Gulbrandson	Ben Myron	
Judy Gunderson	Lisa Pikop	
Natalie Hanson	Elizabeth Pollard	
Parker Hanson	Gwen Rollofson	
Jim Island	Elizabeth Rustan	
Liz Jenks	Tucker Schmidt	

The Men's Group will gather on December 5th & 19th 8a.m. in the Fireside Room.

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



Will meet on Dec. 2nd & 16th You can find them on Facebook @ United MOPS. **ALL Moms are welcome to join United MOPS!**



Attention Board of Trustees
You will meet on Dec. 16th at 6p.m. in the choir room.

Pg. 4 **Trustee Minutes October 20, 2024**

Members present: Scot Beyer, Scott Johnson, Beth Pikop, Witney Willard, Rose Danielson, Pam Holsen, Karen McGee.

Vice President Witney Willard opened the meeting:

Secretary's report: Scot B. moved to accept the minutes from the September meeting; Beth P. seconded the motion. MCU.

Treasurer's report: Karen asked which group should the online streaming cost on the credit card be attributed to. Karen will check with Natalie to see if it should be under One Youth. We will contract fuel for the parsonage with Farmers Coop Oil. The premium for insurance has increased \$2,300 more for the year. We are currently with Brotherhood Mutual. Karen will see if we can get a better rate with Church Mutual. Work comp finally got back to Karen. They didn't realize we wanted to be compensated for Pastor Jean's work comp claim. We will set the budget in January, 2025. So far Karen has had to take approximately \$8,000 out of savings to meet the current budget. There needs to be a temple talk. Scott Swenson is on the Stewardship Committee and he was asked to speak to the congregation. Scot B. moved to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the payables for the month, Pam H. seconded the motion. MCU

ALL Committee Reports:

- **Personnel:** Eli was not present. We need to complete the contract with our organist/music coordinator, Theron Jeppesen.
- **Stewardship:** It was suggested to send out reminder texts to all of the congregation on a regular, but not too often, basis reminding people to give. Scott Swenson will give a Temple Talk.
- **Spiritual Life and Growth:** They continue to be busy with cards, All Saints Day, sending quilts to North Carolina after the hurricane.
- **Worship Committee:** Pastor Jean was unable to be with us.
- **Altar Guild:** All the committee members terms expire in February with the exception of Pam Holsen. We should announce in the bulletin the positions open for all committees.
- **Buildings and Grounds:** Scot B. reported that the holes in the roof have been fixed. There need to be new ceiling tiles put in the hallway where the leaks were. If we can't find extra tiles, we can take from a rarely used room and replace the damaged ones in the hall. The drain on the top of the roof was cleaned out and this should be done yearly. Scot checked with Johnson Masonry in Ashby about the bricks needing grout. They will check and let us know if any need grouting and who to get to fix them. Pam contacted Pam Lyson and Pat Soberg about getting a plan together on the kitchen layout, etc. John Kreft may be able to give advice on the cupboards. Scot B. is in the process of getting bids for snow removal. Scot B. asked Karen to get all of the receipts for the window project so he could look them over. Daryl had indicated he would finish the sills.
- **One Youth:** The Belize trip has been cancelled. One Youth may be doing a mission trip within the US for the hurricane victims.
- **Education/Sunday School:** One Sunday a month Sunday School has been very well received. Moms and dads stayed during Sunday School and had coffee. The new TV needs to be set up in the Sunday School room and the old screen needs to be set up upstairs so Pastor Jean can use it as a monitor.
- **Endowment Fund:** They are in a very healthy situation and should there be anything needed, please apply/ask for funds.
- **Pastor Jean's report:** Pastor Jean was not available. However, an update from the last meeting regarding none of the United representatives of the Tri-Church board not attending the last meeting was addressed. None of them had received an email so they weren't aware of the meeting. The appropriate people now have all of the emails to send to all involved.

❖ **Funeral Policies:** There have been several funerals in our church and many without the use of the funeral home for the services in church. We discussed ways to reduce the stressors in our church having these funerals. We recognize that more and more people are being cremated and that is delaying the services to a later time, mainly on Saturdays. This is causing the church to be stressed by having only one pastor to do these services and the aging and declining population of those serving for the funeral. It was decided that United Lutheran will NOT have any Saturday or Sunday funerals during the full calendar year. We will be adjusting the fees to include a facility usage fee for all funerals and increasing all of the normal fees. The new guidelines go into effect November 1, 2024, as there is already a funeral service planned October 26.

Old Business:

1. Inspect and fix pews: Again, we need to talk to John Kreft. Scot B. is going to visit with him about pews and also kitchen cupboards.
2. Pr. Jean's Work Comp: Finally heard from them. Waiting for payment.
3. Ceiling in Hallway: See under buildings and grounds report.
4. One Youth updated: See under Education/One Youth.
5. Vision Committee update: They can set how many times a year they should meet.

New Business:

Music and Worship Coordinator/Organist Contract Renewal: Karen is going to send Witney W. a copy of Theron's contract. Scot B. moved to increase the contract by ten percent (10%), Witney W. seconded the motion. MCU. Witney will talk to Theron as Eli R. is busy with harvest.

Our next meeting is Sunday, November 17 after church.

Scot B. moved to adjourn the meeting and Pam H. seconded the motion. MCU

Pam Holsen
Secretary

Christmas Eve

— SERVICE —

4p.m. - *Candlelight Worship
with Communion*

Dec. 25th - 27th: Building is closed.

*Wishing you a safe
and joyous
Christmas!*



United Lutheran's Bountiful Blessings



Our Bountiful Blessing Food Shelf is still in existence, and your help is needed.

Please continue to bring in food products that we can make available for those in need.

There is a blue tub, by the front doors, where you can place your food items.

Thank you all for your generosity and help with this important endeavor!

**ONE Youth
Christmas Drama
Wednesday, December 4
at 7 PM at Messiah
Lutheran Church.
All are invited to attend
this worship as we
celebrate the wonder and
beauty of the
Advent season.**

Operation Merry Christmas will be on Saturday December 7th at 9:30a.m.

This ULCW event has been happening for many years, and our members are so pleased that we remember them during the Christmas Season.

We are asking United Lutheran members to donate Christmas Cookies, volunteer to pack cookies and/or deliver cookies to our members that are in care centers and are homebound.

There is a "cookie" sign-up sheet on the table by the bulletin board, so please prayerfully consider helping with this very important project.



Coat Exchange

Our Coat Exchange is located by the Bountiful Blessings Pantry area.

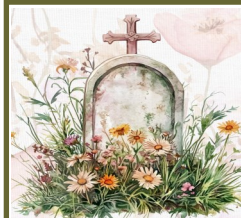
We are in need of good jackets and coats for older children, teens and adults, especially in men's sizes.

STEPHEN
ministry

Stephen Ministers will meet
on December 10th at 9a.m.
in the Fireside Room.

Newsletter Deadline for January is December 9th.

I know that this is earlier than usual, but Christmas day is on the last Wednesday of the month when the Newsletter is mailed out. Please make sure your articles are in by this date! Thank you!



Ness Cemetery Annual Meeting

Thursday, December
12th at 10a.m.

The meeting will be located
in the basement of the
Community Building.
All Are Welcome.

Welcome, ladies, of United Lutheran. I invite you to join us in December for the Bible study that is a devotion called, "In God's Garden: What fig trees teach us about advent." Author, Hannah Hawkinson, says we'll learn from some surprising teachers: fig trees. Astonishingly vibrant, fig trees have a zest for life. Their roots have even been known to bust through plumbing and climb walls like ivy. Yet fig trees also have a dormant period. Sounds interesting, doesn't it?

We invite you to join us for the Circle of Hope on Tuesday, December 17, at 7:00 PM at the parsonage. We also welcome you to the Morning Circle on Thursday, December 19, at 9:30 AM in the fireside room. Please come and share a cup of coffee and goodies as we enjoy fellowship with one another and then delve into the Bible study.

The Mitten Tree is set up in the narthex. We are asking you to donate warm hats, mittens and scarves to be given to those in need in our schools. The tree will be up until the middle of December. Thank you for your generous donations.

Operation Merry Christmas will be Saturday, December 7, at 9:30 in the fellowship hall. This is a fun day when we bring our Christmas cookies and pack them in pretty packages to deliver them to our members who are 80 years old and older. There is a sheet in the narthex for you to sign-up to bring cookies. After the cookies are packaged, we all enjoy coffee and a cookie or two. We also need people to deliver the cookies, so it would be great if you could help. We not only deliver pretty Christmas cookies, but we share a smile and bring a little joy to their day and to ours.

The Sunday morning coffee donations for December will be given to the Backpack Food program. Thank you again for your generous giving.

May you have a blessed Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Pam Lyson, president

Home: 218-685-4004, Cell: 701-301-0095



Women's
Bible Studies
All Are Welcome!

+ Morning Bible Study will meet on
Thursday, December 12th at 9:30a.m.
in the Fireside Room. All Are Welcome!

+ Circle of Hope will meet on
Tuesday, December 17th at 7p.m. at the
Parsonage



Monthly
Hospitality Teams

December 2024: Team 1 Leader:
Melissa Anderson

January 2025: Team 3 Leaders:
Mark & Pat Soberg

February 2025: Team 4 Leaders:
Scot & Mindy Beyer

ULC Sunday School News



In November, the children learned more about the armor of God by creating their own breastplate of righteousness and hearing about how David fought Goliath with only a sling shot and rocks. Even though the armor of God is not visible for us to see, we know that God is always there to help guide and protect us. In December, we move into a new season in the church called Advent. We will be reading about how Mary received a special visit from an angel telling her that God is with her and to not be afraid.



Schedule

***Dec. 1st - Advent Celebration**

Sparks Story - Angel's Visit

***Jan. 5th - Epiphany Celebration**

Sparks Story - Wise Men

***Feb. 2nd- Feet fitted for the Gospel of Peace**

Sparks Story- Philip & the Ethiopian



December 2024 Information

ONE Youth News & Updates

HS ONE Youth Mission Trip—Anchorage, Alaska, July 12-18, 2025

ONE Youth is excited to announce we have scheduled a High School Mission Trip to Anchorage, Alaska, July 12-18, 2025, for those youth currently in grades 9-12. The registration deadline is Sunday, December 1, 2025. This trip will not only include service work, fun, friendship, faith, games, worship, prayer, serving others, and so much more, but also give us the opportunity to see a different part of our country, grow in our awareness and understanding of how God is working in others parts of our world, and learn how we can play our part in advancing the mission and message of Jesus Christ.

Before you consider registering for this trip, please keep in mind that a trip of this nature requires an awareness of the accommodation and the physical and mental expectations including:

- Lots of walking
- Airport travel & flying (5.5-6 hour flight)
- Potential for construction or hard labor
- Sleeping on the floor (small pad or air mattress must fit in suitcase along with a small blanket)

Sleeping in large groups (no individual sleeping spaces)

A mission trip like this requires the ability to adapt to different conditions, ones we aren't used to on a regular basis. We want you to be fully prepared with what to expect before registering. If you have any questions before registering, please reach out to Natalie at (701) 730-6760.

Other expectations include:

- Attending mandatory pre-trip gathering meetings. These are extremely important.

Active participation in fundraising efforts.

Depending on flight costs, **we estimate the cost per person to be around \$1,500-\$1,800.** We will do as much fundraising as possible and invite your ideas and help. However, participants will be responsible for covering the remaining cost of their trip. We won't know the remaining cost until our fundraising is complete. If you are in a financial situation where you are unable to cover the cost, please reach out and we will do whatever we can to make it work.

If you're interested in experiencing this once-in-a-lifetime Alaskan mission trip, we invite you to register. Link is in the QR code. The non-refundable registration fee is \$100/person.

ONE YOUTH FOR CHRIST Continued Information

ONE Youth Christmas Drama

ONE youth is leading a Christmas Drama, and all are invited to attend on Wednesday, December 4 at 7 PM at Messiah Lutheran Church. The 7-12 grade youth will be leading us in worship through a narrative Christmas drama filled with wonderful Christmas music, and we hope you'll come and enjoy feeling the warmth and wonder of the Advent season.

Parents of youth in 7-12 grade, the expectation is that your child attend and be a part of this drama. We need their presence to make this drama a success. Please have your child at Messiah Lutheran Church in Hoffman at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, December 4.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

December 4

HS Morning Prayer—Anytime between 7:20-8 a.m. at Peace Lutheran for 9-12 grade.

Early-Out Service Day. We will be making Christmas cookies, just like last year, to distribute to the nursing homes and those in our community who help protect and care for us. We will also be decorating a Christmas tree in the Hoffman Square.

Christmas Drama at Messiah Lutheran at 7 p.m., led by the youth in grades 7-12.

December 11

Faith Formation, 3:30-5 p.m. at Peace Lutheran

HS Youth Group at 5:45 p.m. at Peace Lutheran

December 18

Faith Formation, 3:30-5 p.m. at Peace Lutheran

HS Youth Group at 5:45 p.m. at Peace Lutheran

December 20

Breakfast Club, 7-8 a.m. at Peace Lutheran

Confirmation is off for the holidays. We will resume on Wednesday, January 8.

HS Suppers

If you and other members are looking for ways to help support ONE Youth, we invite you to find some friends and consider serving a meal to our HS Youth on the Wednesdays they meet, which is usually twice a month (2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month) We have on average 20-25 kids.

This would be a wonderful way for you to not only get to know more of our amazing youth but also to see what we do during youth group. If you're interested, please contact Natalie at 701-730-6760.

➔ Donation Opportunities

We are continuously overwhelmed by the generosity of our church community. We consistently receive an outpouring of monetary donations and memorials, and we want to thank you for your loving support. These donations support our on-going expenses, but also are used for supplies, activities, and trips. 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.





December 2024



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



Season of Advent
Theme: "Angels Among Us, #Don'tBeAguard"



1 1st Sun. Advent 9a.m. - Worship Service 10a.m. - Sunday School 10a.m. - Fellowship 10a.m. - Rescheduled November Trustee Mtg.	2 6p.m.-Bible Study 6p.m.-MOPS Meeting 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook	3 9a.m.-Bible Study 7p.m.—Anxiety Support Group	4 No Confirmation 7:20a.m.-Morning Prayer @ Peace 9a.m. - Quilters Meet 7p.m. - One Youth's Christmas Drama Service @ Messiah Lutheran	5 8a.m. - Men's Group Gathering 1:30p.m. Quilting *Julie Vacation	6 Building Closed	7 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study * 9:30a.m. Operation Merry Xmas
8 2nd Sun. Advent 9a.m. - Worship Service + Baptism of Bentley House 10a.m. - Gather Together	9 * January Newsletter Deadline 6p.m.-Bible Study 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook *Julie Vacation	10 9a.m.-Bible Study 9a.m. - Stephens Ministry Meeting 10:30a.m.-Maplewood Manor Service 7p.m.—Anxiety Support Group	11 9a.m. - Quilters Meet 2p.m - Pr. Jean @ Barrett Care Service 3:30p.m.-Confirmation 5:45p.m.—HS One Youth Gathering	12 9:30a.m.—Morning Circle Meets *Julie Vacation	13 Building Closed	14 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study
15 3rd Sun. Advent 9a.m. - Worship Service 10a.m. - Gather Together Fellowship	16 6p.m.-Bible Study 5:30p.m.-Ruby's Party → 6p.m.-Trustee Dec. Meeting. 6p.m.-United MOPS Meeting 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook	17 9a.m.-Bible Study 7p.m. - Circle of Hope at 814 1st Street SE. 7p.m.—Anxiety Support Group	18 7:20a.m.-Morning Prayer @ Peace 9a.m.-Newsletter Assembly 2p.m.-Pr. Mark @ Barrett Care Service 3:30p.m.-Confirmation 5-6:30p.m.-Community Meal 5:45p.m.—HS One Youth	19 8a.m. - Men's Group Gathering	20 Building Closed 7:10a.m.-Breakfast Club at Peace	21 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study
22 4th Sun. Advent 9a.m. - Worship Service 10a.m. - Gather Together Fellowship	23 6p.m.-Bible Study 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook	<p>4p.m. Candlelight Service with Communion</p>		26 Building Closed *Julie Vacation	27 Building Closed	28 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study
29 1st Sun. of Christmas 9a.m. - Worship Service 10a.m. - Gather Together Fellowship	30 6p.m.-Bible Study 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook	31	<p>Color codes for the Tri-Churches: United Lutheran, Messiah Lutheran, Peace Lutheran, Combined Church see calendar on the bulletin board</p>			

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.**

*For unto us a child is born,
to us a son is given and the
government will be on his
shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.*



Faithnews
*December Newsletter 2024 of
United Lutheran Church*