

Our Mission Statement

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

Pastor's Page

January 2025

Yesterday, listening to some beautiful music in the car, I realized that I was smiling. This recent worship series, "There are Angels Among Us: Do Not Be Afraid" has changed the lens I see the world through. By actively looking for messages of more peace, more hope and more joy, I find that they are around me all the time. I came across this writing from Jan Richardson (artist, poet, and theologian) regarding the angel's visit to Joseph. Her husband, Gary, had recently died when she wrote the following.

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid."—Matthew 1:20

How do we say yes to a life we did not choose? It's a question that has pressed on me since Gary's death. Every morning I wake into a world I did not count on. Every day I have to figure out how to enter this life that has presented itself to me, so altered from what Gary and I had imagined and dreamed.

How do we say yes to a life we did not choose? It's a question that the dreaming Joseph, too, had to answer for himself. This yes is not something we can always summon on our own. It is not a response we can manufacture by the strength of our will. This yes depends on a constellation of graces. Some of those graces are ones we need to learn to ask for. Some of those graces will find us without our even knowing we needed them.

I love how in Joseph's dreaming, the angel comes not only with a compelling invitation, an annunciation designed especially for him, but also with a needed gift. Do not be afraid, the angel tells him. These are the same words the angel Gabriel told Mary in her own annunciation. Do not be afraid. In asking Joseph to agree to what might have seemed an impossible life, the angel does not leave him to his own devices. Do not be afraid, the angel tells the dreaming man. The angel comes bearing the gift of courage to Joseph. Courage to say yes to a life he had not envisioned. Courage to keep saying yes to this woman, this child, this path that will take him far beyond anything he has ever imagined for himself. Courage that will keep coming as grace, as dream, as blessing for his way.

How are you being invited to say yes to a life you did not choose? Is there a fear you need to let go of in order to offer this yes? What "no" might you need to say in order to make way for what God is inviting? How would it be to ask for the courage you need, and to open yourself to how this courage wants to meet you in your waking, your dreaming?

She asks important questions but the one that intrigues me most is, "What 'no' might you need to say in order to make way for what God is inviting?" As we enter into the new year it is good to be reminded once again that in the midst of whatever circumstances befall us, we are given a message by a gracious God, *do not be afraid*. We are not left to our own devices. God is with us. For the year 2025, this *Blessing of Courage* is worth taping to your fridge or folding into your wallet. And continue looking for messages of more hope, more peace, more joy and more love in your day-to-day life. You may even find that you become the messenger.

Meetings

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

Happenings

- Vacation Dates
 - Annual Meeting Date and Information
 - Annual Report Deadlines
 - Community Meal
 - January Calendar
 - Feb. Newsletter Deadline
- **earlier again this month!**

▪ Hospitality Team Listing

Education/S.S.

- ❖ Sunday School Information

One Youth

- † Anchorage Mission Trip
- † Dates & Information

ULC Staff

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

ULC Council

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

Blessing of Courage by Jan Richardson

I cannot say where it lives,
only that it comes to the heart that is open,
to the heart that asks,
to the heart that does not turn away.

It can take practice,
days of tugging at what keeps us bound,
seasons of pushing against what keeps our dreaming small.

When it arrives, it might surprise you by how quiet it is,
how it moves with such grace for possessing such power.

But you will know it by the strength that rises from within you to meet it,
by the release of the knot in the center of your chest that suddenly lets go.

You will recognize it by how still your fear becomes as it loosens its grip,
perhaps never quite leaving you, but calmly turning into joy as you enter the life that is finally your own.

Pasta Jan



Community Meal

Wednesday, January 15th
From 5p.m. - 6:30p.m.

Free Will Offering will be given to
WCCA Fuel Assistance & One Youth

Menu: Chili Feed with all the fixings

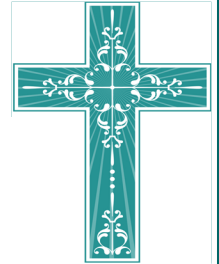
with side dishes, desserts, coffee, lemonade and water

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
• 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 Room 8
• Helen Knutson Room 131

Ashby Living Center
• Lyle Huseth
112 Iverson Avenue
Ashby, MN. 56309



Please Pray for...

- **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*) 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, Kathie Macintosh (*sister of Julie*), 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, Ken Greiner, Clayton Hauglie and others known to you...

JANUARY Birthdays

01 Terry Anderson	15 Chad Rollofson	24 Bradley Westrom
02 Melissa Anderson Nicole Sumstad	16 Stephanie Anderson	26 Trisha Giddings
04 Kelcy Jensen	Emily Frykman	28 Lyle Huseth LeRoy Mude
05 Sarah Martinson	17 Carroll Anderson	29 Drew Peterson
07 Elaine Bordson	Kelly Zacharda	30 Linda Mickelson
08 Noah Hubbard	18 Barb Amundson	31 Jean Anderson Koltan Biss Trenton Biss
10 Casey Swenson	Linda O'Meara	
11 Dee Haugen Scott Johnson	19 Mace Grosz Rae Anna Gruchow	Please inform Julie of any corrections or changes. 218-685-4179
12 Demara Bumgardner Todd Lohse Jan Nelson	20 Elaine Burgess	
13 Keith Christensen Cooper Hanson Eric Huseth Laura Lee	21 Dana Flint	
14 Connie Westrom	22 Mila Christenson Kim Gulbrandson Lila Willard	
	23 Patty Benson Ryleigh Brendmoen	



Quilting Schedule

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



will meet on **January 6th & 20th**
You can find them on Facebook @ United MOPS .



ALL Moms are welcome to join United MOPS!

The Men's Group will gather January 2 and 16th at 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.



Attention Board of Trustees

You will meet on TBA after worship in the choir room.

Pg. 4 **Trustee Minutes 12/1/2024-Nov. Meeting**

Trustee Minutes for Sunday, December 1, 2024

(November 2024-Rescheduled Meeting)

Mission Statement

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

Members present: Eli Reeve, Scot Beyer, Scott Johnson, Beth Pikop, Witney Willard, Pam Holsen, Pastor Jean and Karen McGee. (This meeting is in place of our schedule November 17, 2024 meeting due to lack of quorum.)

Secretary's report: Scott J. moved to accept the minutes from the October meeting; Beth P. seconded the motion. MCU.

Treasurer's report: Karen reported we are getting a rebate on the mini-split. There was a request from the board for funds to help with our SAM salary to the Endowment Fund. They are willing to help us but want the wording on the request to be more open-ended. They want to help with debt reduction and bring us current to the end of the year.

Pam H. moved to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the payables for the month; Witney W. seconded the motion. MCU

ALL Committee Reports:

- Stewardship: There needs to be a financial temple talk. Approximately \$17,500 has been borrowed from savings this year.
- Spiritual Life and Growth: They continue to be busy. Beth P. will ask Susan Frykman if she is interested in continuing on the committee as her term expires this upcoming February.
- Worship Committee: Angels Among Us is the theme for Advent which received positive reviews from the trustees after hearing the first installment.
- Alter Guild: The Hanging of the Greens was done on Sunday, November 24.
- Buildings and Grounds: Scot B. reported he talked with John Kreft regarding the kitchen cabinets and pews. Discussion regarding snow removal – Eli is going to visit with Shawn McGee of Gro Green regarding costs. We will have more information at our next meeting.
- Education: Sunday School is working out very well.
- One Youth: They are getting a few new committee members from Peace and Messiah.
- Endowment Fund: They are in a very healthy situation.
- Personnel: Everyone has been visited regarding their jobs/roles in the church with the personnel committee.
- Pastor Jean's report: Pastor Jean thanked those who stepped up while she has been gone on vacation. She also emphasized the importance of the SAM role in our church.

Old Business:

All issues were discussed during each committee report.

New Business:

1. The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 16, 2025, after church services. Witney went through all of the positions that need to be filled at the annual meeting. She also asked about the bylaws being updated after changes at our last annual meeting. Pam will send Pastor Jean and Julie the minutes of the bylaw changes so they can be added to the bylaws document.
2. Peace wants to know if we want a raise for sharing Pastor Jean with them. Eli is going to visit with Messiah regarding this issue.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, December 18, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Pastor Jean led us in prayer.

Pam Holsen
Secretary

Attention ULC Members

Sunday, February 16th

ANNUAL MEETING

After Worship in the Fellowship Hall

ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINES

- ❖ Committee Reports and ULCW Report *due by January 16th.*
- ❖ ULC Financial Reports and ULCW Financial Report *due by January 30th.*
- ❖ Please email all information to Julie on/or before the deadline dates.
Email: ulc@unitedlutheranelowlake.com

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!

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 Ministers will meet on January 14th at 9a.m. in the Fireside Room.

Newsletter Deadline for February is January 13th.

I know that this is earlier again this month, but I will be on vacation from Jan. 27th thru Feb. 9th. Sorry for this inconvenience and thank you for your cooperation!

Our Website:

www.unitedlutheranelowlake.com

Facebook Page:

United Lutheran Church, Elbow Lake

New Years Day the building is closed.

Wishing you a Blessed New Year!



LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

Dear ULC Member;

Please provide the church office with updates to your cell phone number, your email address and your home address.

Please call the church office or send Julie an email. 218-658-4179 or ulc@unitedlutheranelowlake.com



Thank You!

We Are On Vacation

Pr. Jean will be out of the office from Jan. 6th through January 14th.



Julie will be on vacation from Jan. 27th through Feb. 9th.

Beth Pikop will be in the office while Julie is away.

Happy New Year everyone! May 2025 be a wonderful year filled with God's love, blessings and peace for you and your family.

The Gather Bible study for this winter and spring is called "Faithfulness in these days" by Denise Rector. The January study is the story of Ruth and Naomi. Ruth chooses to be a part of Naomi's family even after Naomi has lost everything including her husband and sons. This intergenerational story of faithfulness during emptiness and grief helps us learn how to rely on God in bleak times.

We invite all women to come to our Bible studies in January. The Circle of Hope will meet on Tuesday, January 21, at 7:00 PM at the parsonage. The Morning Circle will meet on Thursday, January 23, at 9:30 AM in the fireside room. We welcome you to come and join us in fellowship, as we enjoy a cup of coffee and some treats. Then we delve into our Bible study.

There will be a ULCW business meeting on Thursday, January 9, at 9:30 AM in the fireside room. All are welcome.

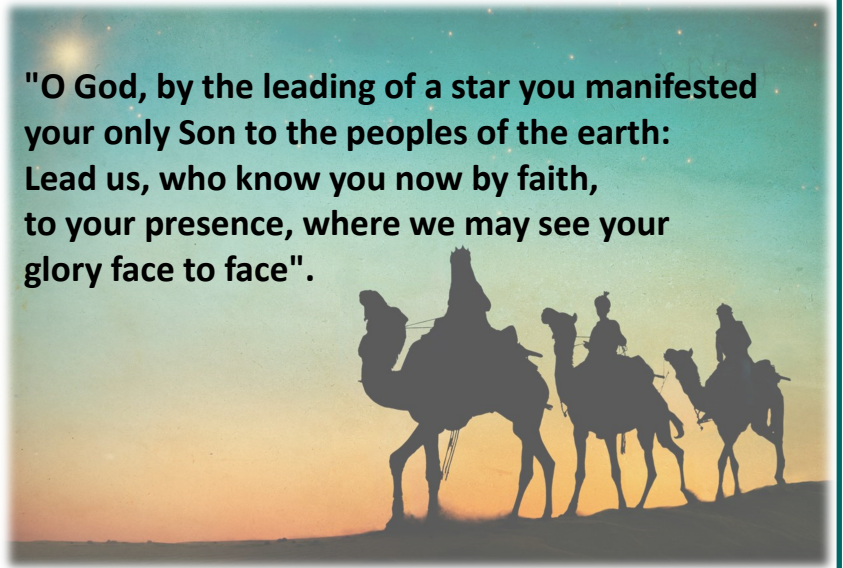
Thank you so much for the warm hats, gloves and scarves you gave to help those children in need of warm clothing this winter. Your donations were given to the school to distribute as needed. Operation Merry Christmas was a success with all the pretty plates of Christmas cookies given to our members who are 80 and older. They really appreciated the cookies, and of course the visit from all of you was the icing on the cake. Thank you so much for bringing a little Christmas cheer to our senior members.

The Sunday morning coffee donations for January will be used to purchase four Gather magazine subscriptions. They are in the narthex for anyone to take, so please help yourself.

Thank you for your generous giving.

Pam Lyson, president
Home: 218-685-4004,
Cell: 701-301-0095

"O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face".



Women's
Bible Studies
All Are Welcome!

+ **Circle of Hope** will meet on
Tuesday, January 21st at 7p.m. at the
Parsonage.

+ **Morning Bible Study** will meet on
Thursday, January 23rd at 9:30a.m.
in the Fireside Room. All Are Welcome!



Monthly
Hospitality Teams

January 2025: Team 3 Leaders:
Mark & Pat Soberg

February 2025: Team 4 Leaders:
Scot & Mindy Beyer

March 2025: Team 5 Leaders:
Susan & Darrell Frykman, Lisa & Kurt Pikop

ULC Sunday School News



The Sunday school students learned about the Advent season in December and created their own Advent wreaths to hang up at home. They all added candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Christ. They also read about the visit Mary received from the messenger Gabriel. We look forward to the visit from the Wise Men in January and sharing our Christmas stories.



Schedule

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

Sparks Story - Wise Men

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

Sparks Story - Philip & the Ethiopian

***Mar. 2nd- Shield of Faith**

Sparks Story - Walking on Water



January 2025 Information

ONE Youth News & Updates

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

ONE Youth is excited to announce we have nineteen youth registered to attend the High School Mission Trip to Anchorage, Alaska, July 12-18, 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. Please stay tuned for pre-trip meeting dates and upcoming fundraisers.

ONE Youth Operation Christmas Child

Thanks to all the generous donations, ONE Youth High School kids were able to fill 21 boxes for Operation Christmas Child, an organization whose mission is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world in an intentional effort "to make disciples of all nations," as Jesus taught.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

January 8

Early Out Service Day, 12:30-3 p.m. at Peace Lutheran

January 15

Faith Formation, 3:30-5:15 p.m. at Peace Lutheran

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

January 17

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

January 22

Early Morning Prayer Time, anytime after 7:20 through 8 a.m. at Peace Lutheran

Faith Formation, 3:30-5:15 p.m. at Peace Lutheran

January 29

Faith Formation, 3:30-5:15 p.m. at Peace Lutheran

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

February 5

Early Out Service Day, 12:30-3 p.m. at Peace Lutheran

ONE YOUTH FOR CHRIST Continued Information

February 12

Faith Formation, 3:30-5:15 p.m. at Peace Lutheran
 HS Youth Group at 5:45 p.m. at Peace Lutheran

February 19

Early Morning Prayer Time, anytime after 7:20 through 8 a.m. at Peace Lutheran
 Faith Formation, 3:30-5:15 p.m. at Peace Lutheran

February 26

Faith Formation, 3:30-5:15 p.m. at Peace Lutheran
 HS Youth Group at 5:45 p.m. at Peace Lutheran

March 5—Ash Wednesday

Interested in Helping?

If you're interested in being involved in and supporting ONE Youth ministry, here are some ways you can help:

Snacks for Faith Formation: Every week at Faith Formation, the youth come hungry, so we feed them! We spend the first fifteen minutes having snack and chatting, which is a great way to connect and build relationship. We have received monetary donations specifically for snacks, which we greatly appreciate. However, we are always looking for volunteers to bring snacks or come and serve. It's a great way to get to know the kids and see what we are doing at ONE Youth on Wednesdays!

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. 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.

Substitute—We have an awesome group of small group leaders, but we are always looking to add substitutes to our sub list, so please let us know if you are interested. Small groups meet for the last 30-45 minutes of Faith Formation.

Share Your Testimony—One of the most powerful ways to help build and encourage faith is through personal testimonies. If anyone feels moved or inspired to attend Faith Formation or HS Youth Group to share his/her faith testimony, please reach out to Natalie. We'd love to hear your story.

Prayer—As we continue to navigate what our youth ministry looks like among our three churches, please continue to pray for all those involved and in leadership at the three churches as we seek to do God's will in this place.

➔ **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.

Epiphany

The Gospel of Matthew (2:1–12) speaks of Magi, or wise men, who followed a star from the East to Bethlehem in search of a newborn king. There they found Mary and the baby Jesus and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. As gentiles who acknowledged Christ's divinity, the Magi claim an essential role in the Epiphany, the manifestation of God to the world.

And today, we still seek Jesus, the King of Kings, the Lamb of God, the Prince of Peace, Emanuel (*God with Us*.)