

Our Mission Statement

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

Pastor's Message

FEBRUARY 2025

A note from the virtual pews...

A new year and a new perspective are taking shape as I write this in my son's home in Oak Harbor, Washington. I hear news of bad weather at home – the usual winter storms that come and go – but here on Whidbey Island, the grass is green, and the forest is lush and full of life. It was a dramatic change in scenery as our train went through a dark tunnel for fifteen minutes. On one side, snow covered mountains and landscapes, leafless trees, and winter. On the other side, something completely different - green lush forests. It was a little bit like the Wizard of Oz story going from black and white Kansas to colorful Munchkin land. And while we enjoy these new vistas, we hear news of the tragic fires consuming California and the Los Angeles community. On any given day there are as many perspectives as to how the world looks as there are people.

On January 12th at 7 am I tuned into United Lutheran's Facebook page and joined along with some others to worship with ya'll. As various people's names popped up on the screen as watching I felt a sense of community. There were people joining from Arizona, North Dakota, and down the road in Elbow Lake. It was especially heartwarming to have our SAM, Natalie Hanson, greet us directly as she led worship that morning. I so often forget to include those people who are joining us from outside of our worship space. It really does make a difference, when you are directly greeted by someone. You feel part of something bigger. And I really appreciated the folks who signed in with a 'Good Morning' or a comment because it let me know that I wasn't a solitary individual watching but a participant with others. I felt a kinship with those folks in the virtual pews.

As the service progressed, I would occasionally see a heart emoji or a 'thumbs up' float up the screen. When you are physically in the pews you can feel the kinship with others around you but when you are 'watching' from afar, those floating signs remind you of what others are feeling as they hear the music or listen to the sermon or witness a baptism along with the other children in the front pew. I am being gathered into worship with you. Apparently, the Holy Spirit can work from a distance in calling, gathering and enlightening. Why would I expect anything less?

Meetings

- Men's Group Gatherings
- Stephens Ministry Mtg.
- Women's Bible Studies
- Quilting Schedule
- Morning Circle Mtg.
- Trustee Meeting
- United MOPS Meetings

Happenings

- ◆ Annual Meeting
- ◆ Community Meal
- ◆ Julie's Vacation Time
- ◆ Feb. Calendar
- ◆ March Newsletter Deadline
- ◆ Head's Up for March
- ◆ Hospitality Team Schedule

Education

- † Sunday School Monthly Information

One Youth

- † Alaska Mission Trip Update and Information
- † Confirmation Schedule
- † One Youth Gatherings

ULC Staff

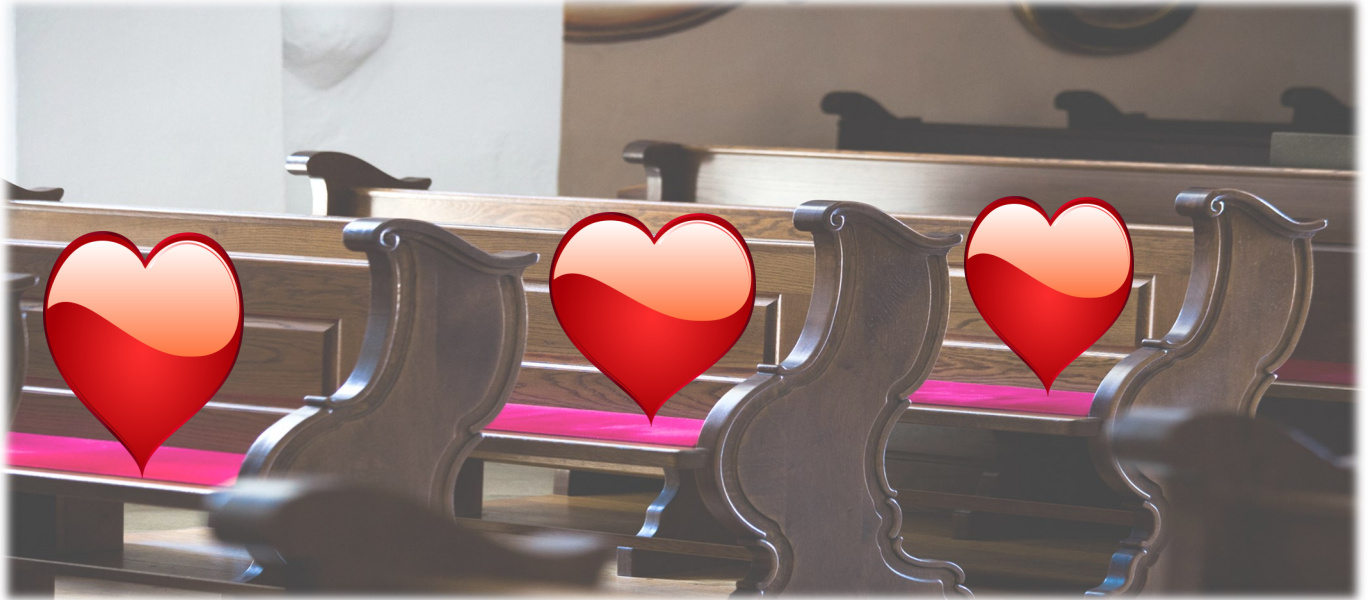
Pastor: Jean Ohman
 SAM: Natalie Hanson
 Music & Worship
 Coordinator:
 Theron Jeppesen
 Secretary: Julie Johnson
 Janitor: Ashley Kerzman

ULC Council

President: Eli Reeve
 V.P: Witney Willard
 Secretary: Pam Holsen
 Treasure: Karen McGee

This recent worship experience has given me food for thought. How might I/we better engage those people who are joining us virtually?

I know that during the pandemic we only had a virtual congregation to worship with and we did as much as we could to make people feel a part of worship. Now that we're physically able to be back in the pews every Sunday it was easy for me to forget the virtual pews. I will try and do better. And know this, wherever you are – God is with you, loves you and claims you. I heard that in the virtual pews, and it didn't make God's love any less real. Amazing. Double heart emoji.



Attention ULC Members

Sunday, February 16th

ANNUAL MEETING

After Worship in the Fellowship Hall



The Men's Group

will gather on February 6th and 20th at 8a.m. in the Fireside Room.

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

Community Meal

**Wednesday,
February 19th
From 5p.m. - 6:30p.m.**

Menu: Scalloped Potatoes & Ham

**Please sign-up to donate: Side Dishes & Desserts
Sign-up sheet is by the large bulletin board.**

**Free Will Offering will be given to:
Grant Count Food Shelf**

All Are Welcome!

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

Barret 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
802 S. Mill Street
Fergus Falls, MN. 56537

- Jean Walwick - Apt. 307

Maplewood Manor Service
1010 1st Street NE.
Elbow Lake, MN. 56531

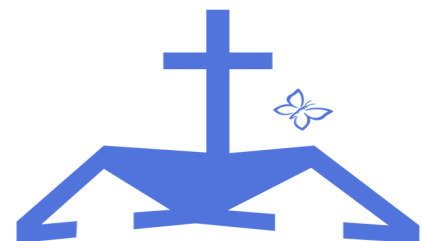
- Dwaine & Jean Haraldson - Room 8
- Helen Knutson - Room 131
- Vicki Bruns



FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

01 Bruce Grasamke Jody Melchert	Jay McNamar Hope Schmidt	22 Christopher Raths
03 Cally Haraldson	13 Jane Gardner	24 Cade Andersen
04 Darrell Frykman	Jean Walwick	25 Tyler Anderson
05 Jaxon Huseth	15 Dennis Helseth	Leah Dhuria
Pr. Jean Ohman	16 Jered Anderson	Jamie Gilbertson
Beckett Weigand	Cassie Soberg	Beth Pikop
06 Angela Pikop	17 Chad Clow	26 Deb Krusemark
Maverick	Sue Compton	27 Susan Frykman
Richards	Austin Kempter	Witney Willard
Jenna Soberg	Abby Krusemark	28 Ray Ascheman
08 Shawna Jenson	Karen McGee	Linda Toso
David Kurz	18 Dominique Hemmingson	
09 Lesli Johnson	19 Chelle Dewey	
Alissa Roberts	Travis Ehlers	
Charlene Nelson	Caitlin Peterson	
10 Alan Williams	Jackson Schei	
11 Fred Hahn	20 Wendy Burchill	
Connie Ward	22 Marshall Dewey	
12 Jodi Kossan		



We are saddened by the
passing of our
church family members

Ken Greiner,
Keith Mickelson,
Clayton Hauglie,
Dale Mickelson
Lyle Huseth

Please keep their families and friends
in your prayers as they grieve their loss.



Quilting Schedule

United Quilters meet on Wednesdays, at 9a.m.
Everyone is Welcome!
For more information, please contact Susan Fryman at 320-760-4887

Attention Board of Trustees

You will meet on Sunday, February 19th after worship in the Choir Room.
After worship in the Choir Room



MOPS

Meetings on February 5th & 19th at 6p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at

March Newsletter Deadline is



Stephen Ministers will meet on February 11th at 9a.m. in the Fireside Room.

Our Website:

www.unitedlutheranelbowlake.com

Facebook Page:

United Lutheran Church, Elbow Lake



Julie will be out of the office from February 1st - February 9th. Beth Pikop will be in the office while Julie's away.



Lenten Season begins with Ash Wednesday, March 5th
7p.m. service with Imposition of Ashes

Lenten Suppers and Wednesday Evening Service is being planned out at this time. Please watch the bulletins, calendars and March Newsletter for more details.

Trustee Minutes of December 18th, 2024

Mission Statement

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

Members present: Eli Reeve, Scot Beyer, Beth Pikop, Pam Holsen, Pastor Jean.

Secretary's report: Scot B. moved to accept the minutes from the December 1, 2024, meeting; Beth P. seconded the motion. MCU.

Treasurer's report: Karen was not present at the meeting but did present via email her report. Pam H. moved to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the payables for the month; Scot B. seconded the motion. MCU

ALL Committee Reports:

- Spiritual Life and Growth: They continue to be busy.
- Worship Committee: Pastor Jean reported that she will have the updated Constitution by the Annual Meeting. Riley Nelson will be giving the message on Sunday, January 12 as Pastor Jean will be on vacation.
- Alter Guild: The poinsettias were purchased and brought to church.
- Buildings and Grounds: Nothing new to report.
- Education/One Youth: Nothing new to report.
- Endowment Fund: Tom House's position will need to be filled at the annual meeting.
- Personnel: Nothing new to report.
- Stewardship: We need to get the word out that funds are desperately needed for the church.
- Pastor Jean's report: Nothing new to report.

Old Business:

Nothing new to report.

New Business:

1. Rose Danielson has resigned as Trustee. We will need to find someone to replace the two year term remaining.
2. Peace Church is increasing our sharing contract cost by \$1,000.00 to both Messiah and United Lutheran.
3. Eli will reach out to Messiah to see if they will continue to give \$10,000.00 towards the SAM position portion regarding the youth.
4. Snow Removal: We have not heard from Gro Green regarding the bids for snow removal. Scot B. moved to hire Jared Anderson, who does have insurance, to remove snow for \$200.00 a time. Beth P. seconded the motion. MCU
5. Budget: We will work on the budget at our January meeting.

Our next meeting is Sunday, January 19, 2025, after church services.

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

Pastor Jean led us in prayer.

Pam Holsen

Secretary

UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN - February 2025

The Gather Bible study for February continues with the theme, "Faithfulness," by Denise Rector. All women are invited to come to our Bible studies in February.

✝ The Circle of Hope will meet on Tuesday, February 18, at 7:00 PM at the parsonage.

✝ The Morning circle will meet on Thursday, February 27, at 9:30 AM in the fireside room.

Please come and join us for coffee, goodies and fun fellowship before we delve into the Bible study. Remember that there are Gather magazines in the narthex if you are interested in the Bible study, and other articles that pertain to faithfulness. Help yourself.

The ULCW business meeting was not held in January, as there was a funeral at church that day. It will be rescheduled or combined with a circle meeting.

The Sunday morning coffee donations for February will be given to the Salvation Army. Thank you for your generous giving.

May you feel the love of God and the peace He offers all of us.

Pam Lyson, president

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

Valentine's Day Prayer to the Lord

Thank you for the gift of love that you have bestowed upon us, both in our relationships with others and in our relationship with you. Help us to cherish and nurture the love we share with our partners, family, and friends, always seeking to reflect your love in our words and actions.



Women's
Bible Studies
All Are Welcome!

✝ Circle of Hope will meet on February 18th at 7p.m. at the parsonage.

✝ Morning Bible study will meet on Thursday, February 27th at 9:30a.m. in the Choir Room.



Monthly
Hospitality Teams

- **February 2025: Team 4**
Leaders: Scot & Mindy Beyer
- **March 2025 Team 5**
Leaders: Susan & Darrell Frykman and
Lisa & Kurt Pikop
- **April 2025 Team 6**
Leaders: Pam & Jeff Holsen

ULC Sunday School News



We kicked off the 2025 New Year with Epiphany Sunday and also heard the Sparks story "Wise Men". The Sunday School students created a banner to hang up at home as a reminder that Jesus was God's promise born for us, a gift to all people. **Let us adore him!**

In February we will continue making more Armor of God pieces. The current Education Committee asks that you prayerfully consider joining the committee. There will be 2-3 open positions moving forward. If interested, please join us at the upcoming Annual Meeting, February 16th following fellowship.

Schedule



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

Sparks Story - Philip & the Ethiopian

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

Sparks Story - Walking on Water

***April 6th - Helmet of Salvation**

Sparks Story - Zacchaeus



February 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.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

- † **CONFIRMATION ~ FAITH FORMATION**
February 12th, 19th & 26th
3:30 - 5:15p.m at Peace Lutheran Church
- **HS YOUTH GROUP GATHERINGS**
February 12th & 26th
5:45p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church
- ◆ **BREAKFAST CLUB**
5th - 12th graders
Friday, February 21st
Serving from 7-8a.m. at Peace Lutheran

**EARLY RELEASE SERVICE DAY**

5th - 12th graders

Friday, February 5TH

12:45 - 3P.M. at Peace Lutheran

MORNING PRAY TIME

9th - 12th graders

Friday, February 5th & 19th

7:20a.m. at Peace Lutheran

FAMILY FAITH WORSHIP

Members of all the Tri-Churches, Youth and their families

Wednesday, February 5th

6:30p.m. at United Lutheran

LENTEN SEASON The Lenten Season begins on Wednesday, March 5th with Ash Wednesday. The Lenten schedule continues every Wednesday from March 12th through April 9th. Like last year, our youth are expected to not only attend the weekly Lenten services with their families, but also participate in the worship services. Please stay tuned for times and locations for each of these service. The Lenten services are a wonderful way for families to get to worship with one another as well as focus on the Gospel message of salvation, forgiveness, and life. We look forward to gathering as a whole church during this season

Interested in Helping?

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

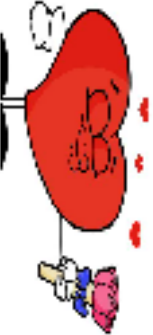
Snacks for Faith Formation: Every week at Faith Formation, the youth come hungry, so we feed them! We spend the first fifteen minutes having snack and chatting, which is a great way to connect and build relationship. We have received monetary donations specifically for snacks, which we greatly appreciate. 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.



FEBRUARY 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Color Codes for the Tri-Churches: United Lutheran, Messiah Lutheran, Peace Lutheran, Combined Church Programs						
2 9a.m.-Worship 10a.m.-Sunday School 10a.m.-Fellowship	3 10a.m. - Bible Study 6p.m.-MOPS Meeting 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook	4 9a.m.-Bible Study 7p.m.—Spiritual Growth Support Group	5 No Confirmation 7:10a.m.-Morning Prayer 9a.m.-Quilters Meet 6:30p.m-Family Faith Worship at United Lutheran	6 8a.m. - Men's Group Gathering 9a.m.-WCCA Tax Program 1:30p.m. Quilting Fellowship	7 Building Closed	8 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study
9 9a.m.-Worship 10a.m.-Gather Together Fellowship *after worship: Trustee mtg. in the Choir Room	10 Julie Returns 10a.m. - Bible Study 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook	11 9a.m.-Bible Study 9a.m. - Stephens Ministry Meeting 10:30a.m.-Maplewood Manor Service 7p.m.—Spiritual Growth Support Group	12 9a.m.-Quilters Meet 2p.m.-Barrett Service 3:30p.m.-Confirmation 5:45p.m. - HS One Youth Group Gathering	13 9a.m.-WCCA Tax Program 9:30a.m. - ULCW Business Meeting	14-Building Closed 	15 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study
16 9a.m.-Worship 10a.m.-Gather Together Fellowship → After Worship ULC Annual Meeting	17 10a.m.-Bible Study 5:30p.m.-Ruby's Pantry 6p.m.-MOPS Meeting 6p.m.-Bible Study on Facebook	18 9a.m.-Bible Study 7p.m. - Circle of Hope at the Parsonage 7p.m.—Spiritual Growth Support Group	19 7:10a.m.-Morning Prayer 9a.m.-Quilters Meet 2p.m.-Barrett Service 3:30p.m.-Confirmation 5-6:30p.m. - Community Meal	20 8a.m. - Men's Group Gathering 9a.m.-WCCA Tax Program	21 Building Closed 7-8a.m. - Breakfast Club	22 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study
23 9a.m.-Worship 10a.m.-Gather Together Fellowship	24 10a.m. - Bible Study 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook	25 9a.m.-Bible study 10:30a.m. - Maplewood Manor Service 7p.m.—Spiritual Growth Support Group	26 9a.m.-Quilters Meet 9a.m.-March Newsletter Assembly 3:30p.m.-Confirmation 5-45p.m.HS Youth Group Gathering	27 9a.m.-WCCA Tax Program 9:30a.m. - Women's Morning Circle Meets	28 Building Closed	

Dates and Times
are subject to
change

Happy Valentine's Day



TAB

TAB

UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
215 - 10th Avenue SE.
Elbow Lake, Minnesota 56531

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GOD IS LOVE

Faithnews
February Newsletter 2025
United Lutheran Church