

## Our Mission Statement

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

PASTOR JEAN'S MESSAGE

MAY 2025

The readings for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter in the Revised Common Lectionary (in English, that's the breakdown of all the scriptures read during the worship service throughout the church year over a three year cycle) the *same* story from John's gospel is chosen. Christians have often referred to it as the "Doubting Thomas" story. You probably know the one I'm talking about. All the disciples have hidden themselves behind a locked door and Jesus shows up. But Thomas isn't around. Maybe he had an errand to run. Maybe he needed some alone time. For whatever reason, he was not there to see Jesus in the flesh and refuses to believe that Jesus has risen. Maybe he just can't stand the thought of having his heart broken again. Maybe it's a safety mechanism to keep his expectations low so as not to be disappointed. We all have our reasons for doubting. Thomas tells the other disciples, *"Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."*

Well, the very next week Thomas gets that opportunity. Jesus shows up again offering peace to all of his former betrayers. He invites Thomas to poke a finger in his side. We're not sure if Thomas actually takes the Lord up on the offer but we do know he proclaims his faith in his reaction to that invitation. Believing Thomas exclaims, *"My Lord and my God!"*

Jesus responds to Thomas' affirmation of faith by saying, *"Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

Theologian (God thinker), Frederick Buechner, wrote in his book, *Wishful Thinking*, *"Whether your faith is that there is a God or that there is not a God, if you don't have any doubts, you are either kidding yourself or asleep. Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith. They keep it awake and moving."*

I think Frederick is on to something. I've had more than a few ants in my pants of faith over the years and that discomfort has ultimately led to greater faith. I do not enjoy the struggle, but it is beneficial. God

### Meetings

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

### Happenings

- ◆ Senior Recognition Sunday
- ◆ Community Meal
- ◆ New ULC Directory Information-pg. 9
- ◆ May Calendar
- ◆ June Newsletter Deadline
- ◆ Hospitality Team - Monthly Schedule

### Education

- + May 4th-Last S. S. Class
- + Kids Summer Coloring Page
- + Your Help is Needed

### One Youth

- ✚ Alaska Mission Trip Information
- ✚ May One Youth Information
- ✚ Valleyfair Day Trip Information

### ULC Staff

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

### ULC Council

President: Witney Willard  
 V.P: Joel Coleman  
 Secretary: Beth Pikop  
 Treasure: Karen McGee

continues to reveal the reality of Jesus, the risen LORD, in the body of Christ, in creation, in the activity of the Holy Spirit. How else can I explain it? How do you wring faith out of periods of doubt? Sometimes the gospel just sounds too good to be really true. But God makes a way out of no way. The opposite of faith isn't doubt. It's certainty.

And I do believe our *certainty* about getting our religion right and nailed down can get us into a lot of trouble. Faith is about trusting Jesus' promises even when we don't get to poke a finger in his side. I continue to discover that God remains faithful even in my lapses of faith. God can even put doubt, the *ants in the pants of faith*, to good use. Because of the activity of the Holy Spirit in those periods of doubt I can confess, Jesus is risen. He has risen indeed.

*Pastor Jean*



*He is Risen*

Pastor Jean will be out of the office from April 28th through May 23rd.



**Senior Recognition Sunday  
May 4th at 9a.m.**

during the Worship Service

Please join us as we celebrate these students during our fellowship hour.

**Congratulations to our Graduating Seniors!**

Ben Bye, parents are Tom & Kari House

Gavin Flint, parents are Mike & Dana

Macy Grosz, parents are Darin & Haley

Hunter Gruchow, parents are Brandon & Brandi

Samuel Hanson, parents are Darin & Natalie

Emma Kaiser, daughter of Don & Sandra

Stephanie Reeve, parents are Eli & Heather

Evan Rollofson, parents are Chad & Gwen

Joelle Toso, parents are John & Michelle



**The Men's Group**

will gather on May 1st & 15th 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.



Memorial Service for Dale Mickelson

Friday, May 2nd at 11a.m. Visitation 1 hour prior to the service.

Memorial Service for Barbara Berg

Tuesday, June 17th at 1p.m. Visitation 1 hour prior to the service.

# Community Meal

Wednesday, May 21st

From 5p.m. - 6:30p.m.

Menu: Hotdogs, Brats, Hamburgers, Sides, Desserts, Beverages

Free Will Offering will be given to: **Knute Nelson Hospice**

**Please sign-up to donate:** Side Dishes and/or Desserts

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

## All Are Welcome!



# MAY Birthdays

01 Bob Lohse April Richards	13 Danielle Baker 17 Michael Burgess	28 Denise Baker Adley Johnson
02 Zoey Jeppesen Myron Westrom	18 Brett Amundson Brina Beyer	29 Gene Karger
03 Andria Gardner Halle Grosz	Kurt Pikop	31 Dana Bevins
04 Norman Gronwold	19 Theron Jeppesen Piper Loeks	If there are any corrections to this listing, or anyone I missed, please call the church office at 218-685-4179
Kurt Myron Heidi Olson	Chad Mickelson Jim Warde	
05 Owen Gruchow Teagan Nelson	20 Carla Benson 21 Hannah Anderson	
06 Gary Fosberg	Mary Boyack	
07 Mark LaValley Jason Lohse	22 Eric Hubbard 23 Judy Hams	
09 Robin McNamar Bob Olson	24 Tyler Nelson 25 Amya Acklin	
12 Nola Sax	Sharon Johnson	
	26 Kim Olson	

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



**Barrett Care Center**  
800 Spruce Street  
Barrett, MN. 56311

- Norlin Westrom
- Lyle Krusemark

**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

### Food Shelf Representative

The Grant County Food Shelf has asked our church to join other churches in the area to have a representative on their board. If you would be interested in doing this, please contact the church office at 218-685-4179. They meet one time per quarter.

**Thank you for your consideration.**

*He is Risen*





### 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 Wednesday, May 14th at 6p.m.

You'll meet in the choir room.

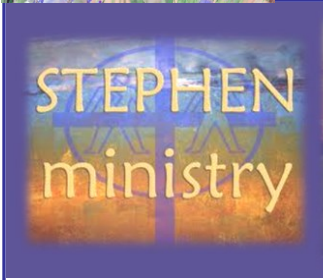


### June Newsletter Deadline is

# 19 MAY



Meetings on May 5th at 6p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at United Lutheran



Stephen Ministers will meet on May 13th at 9a.m. in the Fireside Room.

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

# Thank You!



### Mathews Family Benefit

Please join us on Sunday, May 18th for a Mathews Family Benefit at the Hoffman Community Center. Lunch will be served from 10am - 1pm. The Hoffman & Grant County Lions will be sponsoring this benefit for Pastor Mark, Reba, and their family to help offset incurred medical costs.

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**Pastor Jean** will be on away from the office from April 28th through May 23rd.

For emergencies, please contact Natalie Hanson at 701-730-6760.

For other questions, please call and talk with Julie, the church secretary at 218-685-4179.

**Julie** will be out of the office on May 15th at noon. The building will remain open until later that day.

# Trustee Minutes of March 16th, 2025

## Mission Statement

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

**Members present:** Witney Willard, Joel Coleman, Tammy Nelson, Pastor Jean, Beth Pikop, Karen McGee, outgoing Board Member Scot Beyer. Vice President Willard called the meeting to order.

**Secretary's Report:** Scot B. moved to accept the minutes from the February meeting with typo (year to date) corrected; Tammy N. seconded the motion. MCU

**Treasurer's Report:** Karen gave the report. Bills are paid. Sunday offering has improved since we started passing the collection plates again. She added the latest electric bill as she had not received it until after her report was printed. The monthly bills were normal. Karen will give more detailed report at the next meeting when all the Board members are present. The Synod dues are set and may change when our membership is updated – probably paying less. Witney reached out to the Synod with questions concerning the due, with reply yet. Scot B. moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the payables for the month. Joel C. seconded the motion. MCU

**All-Committee Meeting Report:**

- Endowment: Mark Dewey listed donations given in the past year.
- Personnel New janitor is doing a good job.
- Stewardship: John Ohman summarized ideas for easier giving through the website and other ideas. He also had a suggestion to create an "Operating Endowment Fund." Harold Nelson later commented that the Vision Committee would "pair up" nicely with the Stewardship Committee.
- Technology: John Ohman said we need to make our website more user friendly. He also said the Sunday Worship services can be streamed on Youtube as well as Facebook.
- Spiritual Life & Growth: Lisa Pikop reported the committee continues card making on a monthly basis.
- Worship: Pastor Jean urged everyone if they have ideas on Worship Services-please call her.
- Altar Guild: Robin McNamar reported on communion. Pastor Jean said anyone can come and help serve communion during worship – just let her know if you want to.
- Property & Grounds: Scot Beyer gave the year's update: windows, bathroom remodel and flooring. The next project being considered is the kitchen redo. Bill LaValley reported the church grounds, and the parsonage landscaping are in need of cleaning up.
- Education/One Youth: Witney gave a report that Sunday school is held the first Sunday of the month and seems to be working well. Vacation Bible School will be at Peace Lutheran this summer. The curriculum has been chosen for next year's Sunday school. Natalie Hanson gave a summary of One Youth activity: the upcoming Alaska Mission trip and upcoming raffle to help with expenses.
- Vision: They are trying to re-establish the Committee.

**Old Business:** No old business to report.

**New Business:**

- Witney Willard was nominated for President. MCU
- Joel Coleman was nominated for Vice President. MCU
- Beth Pikop was nominated for Secretary. MCU
- Tri-Churches meet quarterly on the second Tuesday at Peace Lutheran to discuss One Youth, Eli R., Joel C. and Witney Willard are the representatives who should attend.
- Carrie Clauson will be asked to join the Worship Committee.
- It was commented that having the All-Committee Meetings after Worship in the Fellowship Hall was a good idea.
- SAM Contract with Natalie Hanson: Witney W. summarized this contract for the new Board Members. Discussion followed on contract as it is written. More transparency on duties completed needed.
- Solar panels costs estimates will be given by Zach Jeppesen later. We need a sub-committee to iron out the details to investigate this project further. Joel C. and Scot B. agreed to be on this sub-committee.
- Grant County Food Shelf has asked if United could have a Board member on their board to aid in their vision for the future. Churches in the area are presented on their board. It was decided that we will offer this opportunity to a member of the congregation for this position. Beth P. will write an article for the next newsletter about this. It will also be put in the bulletins.
- Witney W. has scheduled the rest of the trustee meeting for the balance of the year, with the option to change any of them along the way.
- Scot B. moved to accept \$33,000.00 Contract with Peace Lutheran: seconded by Joel C. MCU

Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Pikop, Trustee Secretary

## UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN - May 2025

"Receiving the Spirit's flame" is the title of the devotional that we will study in May. We'll discuss spiritual gifts in the life of the church. Spiritual gifts are to be used for the glory of God and for the work those gifts can do in our community.

We welcome all women to come to our Bible studies. There will be no Circle of Hope in the month of May, due to Pastor Jean being away. The Morning Circle will meet on May 22, at 9:30 AM in the fireside room. We invite you to share in our fellowship, as we enjoy coffee and treats before we begin the Bible study.

A short business meeting was held on Thursday, April 27, before the circle meeting. Pat Soberg shared that Central Lakes Restaurant Supply replaced the gasket around the door of the frig in the kitchen. They also went through the sanitizer and delimed. They checked the chemicals and said it all worked fine. The total cost for labor, parts and mileage was \$586.15. Pat was going to apply for funds from the endowment committee to pay for this. The ULCW checking account has \$3,101.73, the library fund has \$220.37 and the savings account has \$10,432.65. The next business meeting will be Thursday, May 8, at 9:30 AM. All are welcome to come. Bring your ideas!

The NWMN Synodical Women's Convention will be September 19-20, 2025, at First Lutheran Church in Alexandria. Dr. Jennifer Hackenbery, Churchwide Executive Director of Women of the ELCA and Editor of Lutheran Ethics will be the guest speaker. It would be wonderful to have several ladies attend the convention, as it is so close to us. More information will be coming.

Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering will be in Des Moines, Iowa, on July 16-19, 2026. The theme is "I Am Worthy."

The Sunday morning coffee donations will be given to the Grant Co. Mental Health. Thank you so much!

Thank you!

Pam Lyson, President

Cell: 701-301-0095



Women's  
Bible Studies  
All Are Welcome!

- † There will be no Circle of Hope due to Pr. Jean being away.
- † Morning Bible study will meet on Thursday, May 22nd at 9:30a.m. in the Fireside Room.

### Monthly Hospitality Teams

- **May 2025**            **Team 6**  
Leader: Melissa Anderson
- **June 2025**        **Team 2**  
Leaders: John & Kari Kreft
- **July 2025**        **Team 3**  
Leaders: Mark & Pat Soberg



# ULC Sunday School News



We will be celebrating our last day of Sunday School on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for a snack and activity to wrap up the school year. We will also be celebrating our graduating seniors from United that day.



## Schedule

- \*May 4th - **Sword of the Spirit - Last Day of SS**  
Sparks Story- Paul's Letters
- \*VBS - TBD this summer



† **We are asking members of United Lutheran to help with Sunday school 2025-2026. There will be a sign-up date sheet in the narthex on Sunday mornings. The Sunday school craft/game time will be about 20 minutes long per Sunday session. You can choose your date and if you are unable to be here that day, you can trade that date with another person signed up. Pr. Jean would like to fill all the spots for the next year. Please prayerfully consider helping with the project and engaging with our youngest members of the church.**



## ONE Youth News & Updates

The 2024-2025 school year is coming quickly to an end, which also means faith formation and HS Youth group for the year are almost done with their regular scheduling. We invite you to continue to stay informed through our social media platforms on summer opportunities to gather and serve.

### CALENDAR of EVENTS

#### May 4

Senior Recognition Sunday @ United Lutheran Church at 9 AM

#### May 7

Early Out Service Day @ Peace, 12:30-3 PM—ditch clean up

#### May 11

Senior Recognition Sunday @ Peace Lutheran Church @ 10:30 AM

#### May 14

LAST DAY of Faith Formation @ Peace Lutheran Church, 3:30-5:15 PM

#### May 25

Senior Recognition Sunday @ Messiah Lutheran Church @ 9 AM



# Information Continued

## **Shirt/Sweatshirt ONE Youth Fundraiser**

A special thank you to all who purchased a “*God is Greater than the Highs and Lows*” merchandise to help support our ONE Youth ministry. These funds raised will help offset the ministry and event costs for youth and families.

## **HUGE Thanks for Showing Up and for Your Continued Support of the Youth & Faith-Building Opportunities**

On behalf of the 28 youth and adult chaperones preparing for their mission trip to Alaska in July, we want to thank you for your overwhelming and generous support through prayer, attendance, and financial contribution.

It was so wonderful filling the church on Wednesday, April 9, the evening of the Alaskan Mission Trip fundraiser including the raffle drawing, meal, silent auction, and passion play. Amid the hustle and bustle of people, we heard someone say, “There are too many people in here.” What a fabulous statement to hear acknowledging and proving that many people chose to attend church that evening and support our youth.

Our youth and the opportunities we provide for them are proving to not only ignite and energize their hearts, but also inspire parents, families, friends, and others to take part in the ministry work, to attend worship services, to gather as ONE. If we wonder how to bring people back to church, the youth ministry is key, and we are witnessing that beautiful reality among the three churches and beyond.

With the meal, raffle, and silent auction, the Alaskan Mission was able to raise more than \$17,000 toward trip expenses. How incredible is that! Thank you, again, to everyone who chose to support this awesome opportunity.

Lastly, we want to thank the youth for giving back, for taking their time, and for sharing their talents to present a moving rendition of “Thy Kingdom Come” passion play.

## **SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Valleyfair Day Trip—Wednesday, June 18**

Mark your calendars! ONE Youth is going to Valleyfair on Wednesday, June 18, and we’d love for you to join us. Youth and families of all ages are invited to join us on a charter bus road trip to Valleyfair for the day. All 7-12 graders are allowed to attend this day trip without an adult chaperone as we will have a few adult chaperones on the trip. All 6<sup>th</sup> graders and under will need an adult chaperone at least 18 years or older to accompany them. To make this happen, we will need at least 30 people to register. The cost per person is \$75 and includes transportation, entrance into the park, and a daily drink package to stay hydrated all day. You can either bring your lunch or buy lunch on your own at the park. More details about departure and arrival time will be coming soon. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend to join you! Stay tuned for registration details!

**More Summer Events and Faith-Building Opportunities to Come**—keep an eye out on ONE Youth social media platforms for information.



## United Lutheran Church ~ Directory Information

The Spiritual Life and Growth Committee is working on a new budget friendly church directory. Please fill out this form, giving us the contact information that you are willing to include in the directory. You may choose to contribute a family photo or have it taken by one of the Spiritual Life and Growth Committee members. We will schedule photo dates after church and a few evenings in the coming months.

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Adult Information

Name:	Birthdate:
Cell phone:	E-mail:
Name:	Birthdate:
Cell phone	E-mail:
Wedding Anniversary	

### Dependent Children

\*Adult children who are members should fill out their own form.

Name:	Birthdate:
Name:	Birthdate:
Name:	Birthdate:
Name:	Birthdate:
Name:	Birthdate:
Name:	Birthdate:

Please return this informational sheet to Susan Frykman either in her church mailbox, basket on the narthex table or by emailing it to her at [dsfrykman@runestone.net](mailto:dsfrykman@runestone.net) **by May 11th.**

\_\_\_\_ We will provide a family photo. Place it in Susan's box (hard copies will be returned) or email them. Please make sure if you provide a professional photo, you have permission to use it in this situation.

\_\_\_\_ We would like our photo to be taken at church. Watch for upcoming dates in the bulletin and newsletter.

➔ **Sign up after church, to have your picture take, Sunday, May 4th**





# MAY 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

**Color Codes for the Tri-Church's**  
 United Lutheran, Peace Lutheran,  
 Messiah Lutheran, **Tri-Churches**

## SCHOOL'S OUT

4	<b>Senior Recognition Sunday</b> 9a.m. - Worship Service 10a.m. - Sunday School 10a.m. - Senior Celebration Fellowship	5	10a.m.-Bible Study 6p.m.-MOPS Meeting 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook	6	9a.m.-Bible Study 7p.m.-Spiritual Growth Support Group	7	7:20a.m.-Morning Prayer 9a.m.-Quilters Meet 2p.m.-Barrett Care Service Early Release 6:30p.m.-Family Worship	8	9a.m. - ULCW Business Meeting	9	Building closed	10	7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study
11	 9a.m. - Worship Service 10a.m. - Fellowship	12	10a.m.-Bible Study 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook	13	9a.m. - Stephens Ministry Meeting 10:30a.m. - Maplewood Manor Service 7p.m.—Spiritual Growth Support Group	14	9a.m.-Quilters Meet 2p.m.-Barrett Care Service 3:30p.m.-Confirmation 5:45p.m. - HS One Youth 6p.m. - Trustee Meeting	15	8a.m. - Men's Group Gathering	16	Building closed 7:10a.m. - Breakfast Club at Peace	17	7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study
18	9a.m. - Worship Service 10a.m.-Fellowship	19 - June's Newsletter	20	9a.m.-Bible Study No Circle of Hope while Pr. Jean's away 7p.m.—Spiritual Growth Support Group	21	9a.m.-Quilters Meet 2p.m.-Barrett Care Service 5-6:30p.m. - Community Meal	22	9:30a.m.-- Women's Morning Circle Meets	23	Building closed	24	7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study	
25	9a.m. -Worship Service 10a.m.-Fellowship 10a.m.-1p.m. - Pr. Mark Mathews Family Benefit @ Hoffman Community Center	26	 Building Closed	27	9a.m.-Bible Study 10:30a.m.-Maplewood Manor Service 7p.m.—Spiritual Growth Support Group	28	9a.m.-Quilters Meet 9a.m.-June Newsletter Assembly	29		30	Building closed West Central Area School Graduation Day	31	7:30a.m.-Men's Bible Study
NW MN Synod Assembly March 30th - June 1st													



**Congratulations to our Graduation Seniors!**  
 Ben Bye, Gavin Flint, Macy Grosz,  
 Hunter Gruchow, Samuel Hanson, Emma Kaiser  
 Stephanie Reeve, Evan Roloffson, Joelle Toso



**Hello Sunshine**

i'm ready for



SUMMER

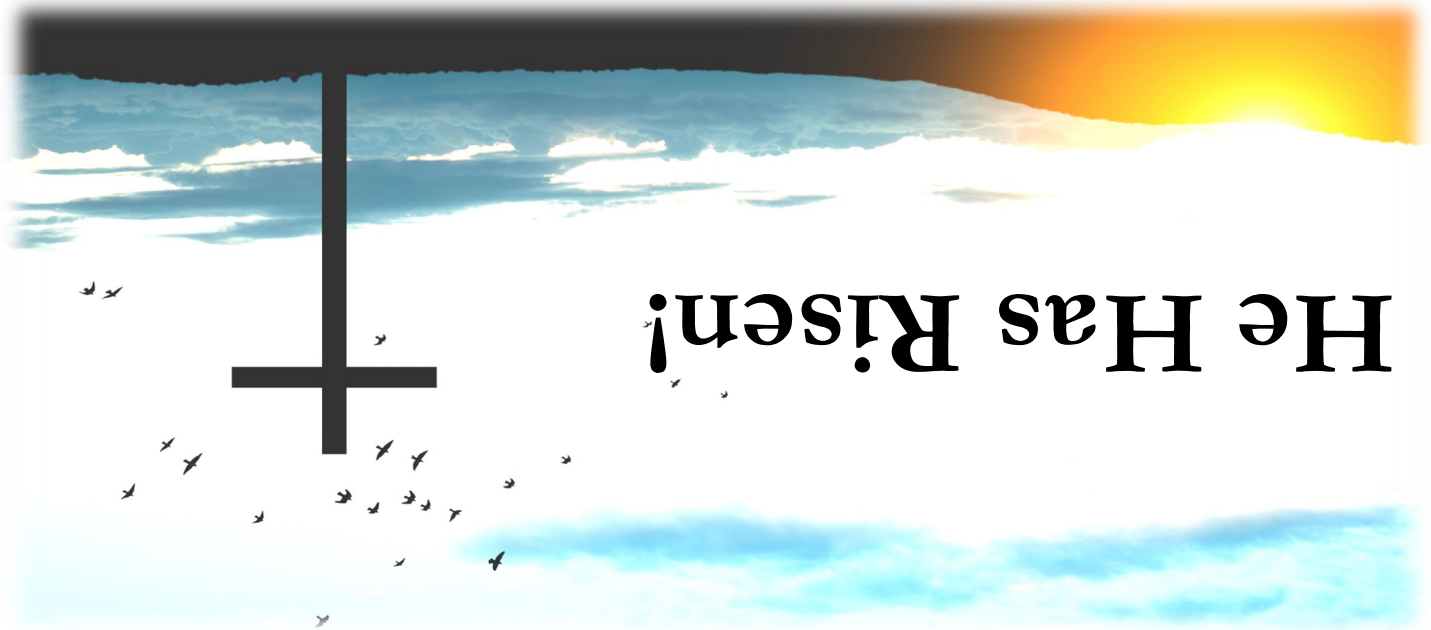
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UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH  
215 - 10th Avenue SE.  
Elbow Lake, Minnesota 56531

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**He Has Risen!**

**Faithnews**  
*May Newsletter 2025*  
*United Lutheran Church*