

## Our Mission Statement

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

*Pastor Ricardo*

*April 2026*





Christians are in the middle of Passion Week. We have been on the journey of Lent, preparing for Easter. During Lent many Christians have been abstaining from certain food or giving up some kind behavior. Others have observed Lent by practicing some type of spiritual discipline such as fasting, praying or alms giving. Others have not practiced any such religious behavior.

It does not matter if you participated in specific form of religious practice during Lent, the important thing is, we are now remembering the Passion of our Lord Jesus. He was beaten, whipped, spat on, and finally crucified. He died and took our place upon the cross.

The Bible teaches the wages of sin is death and Jesus died in our place. Jesus died on the cross, He was buried and even the early disciples thought that was the end. It is always sad when we lose someone to death. We felt hopeless, lost and that was what the disciples felt.

On this journey of Lent let us remember that after three days in the grave, God resurrected our Lord and Savior. Without the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus our faith would be worthless.

I hope as you participate in Passion week, including Maudy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, you remember what Jesus did for you. He died in your place and that is something you should not take lightly. The remembering of our Lord Passion helps us as we identify with Jesus.

HOLY WEEK			
			
Palm Sunday	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	Easter Sunday
Sunday, March 29th 9a.m. Service with Palms & Communion	Thursday April 2nd 6:30p.m. with Communion Peace Lutheran, in Barrett	Friday April 3rd 6:30p.m. at United Enter and Leave in Silence	Sunday April 5th 9a.m. Communion <b>REJOYCE!</b> <b>Jesus Has Risen!</b>

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## Meetings

- Trustee Meeting
- Men's Group Gatherings
- MOPS Meetings
- Women's Bible Study
- Quilting Schedule

## Happenings

- Message from the ULC President, Joel Coleman
- Message from the Call Committee
- Julie's Vacation
- Holy Week Services
- Easter Sunday Service
- Community Meal
- April 2026 Calendar
- May Deadline Newsletter Deadline
- Hospitality Team Listing
- FYI information on the
- Update on Judy Fosberg

## Education/S.S.

- Sunday School Information
- Last day of Sunday school

## One Youth

- Updates, Dates and Information for April page 8

## ULC Staff

Pastor: Ricardo Alcoser  
Worship & Music Coordinator:  
Theron Jeppesen  
Secretary: Julie Johnson  
Janitor: Ashley Kerzman

## ULC Council

President: Joel Coleman  
Vice President: Andy Clauson  
Secretary: Beth Pikop  
Treasurer: Karen McGee

Dear Congregation.

Thank you for allowing me to be your president for the next year. As you are aware we are going through many changes right now.

With Pastor Jean retiring at the end of December I'd like to thank her for the many years of leadership & ministry. Pastor Ricardo has been gracious enough to be leading us in an intern basis. His leadership has been very helpful to the Trustee board and he has taken on some new roles in ministry.

I would like to thank Natalie Hanson for her years of service for her roles as a SAM and Youth ministry. She did decide to not accept the contract that was offered. I wish her success in her ministry journey going forward. United Lutheran, Messiah and Peace are still very much working together to see what faith formation & One Youth will look like going forward. We are all committed to continuing this ministry.

Julie Johnson has decided to retire at the end of August as secretary. Please thank her for many years of service. She wears many hats within these walls and will be missed. We will be advertising for this position in the future, so if you know of any one or are interested in this position, please contact a member of the Trustee board.

Karen McGee has also decided to retire after more than 30 years of being treasurer. Please thank her as she has done a remarkable job of keeping the Trustee Board up to date on financials. We will also be advertising for this position in the near future, so if you know of anyone or are interested in this position, please contact a member of the Trustee board.

The call committee has met and is going through the process of working towards a full time minister. There are many steps in this process and it takes time. They are working on a Ministry Site Plan and are asking for some input. They sent out a questionnaire asking for your thoughts regarding United Lutherans journey going forward. Please fill it out and return ASAP if you have not yet done so.

Finally I'd like to thank those members that have agreed to be on the Trustee Board and one of many committees within the church, as it takes all of us to continue in ministry at United. Please remember they are all volunteering their time and talents and give them some grace.

In Gods Grace,

Joel Coleman

# Community Meal

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

**Free Will Offering will be given to**  
**One Youth Mission Trip to Portland Maine**

**Menu:** Loaded Baked Potato with all the fixings,  
Side Dishes, Desserts, Beverages

**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**



- ❖ **Brandon Assisted Living**  
304 Central Ave. So.  
Brandon, MN. 56315  
·Bill Paulson Room 111  
·Karen Paulson Room 113
- ❖ **Mill Street Residence**  
802 S. Mill Street  
Fergus Falls, MN. 56537  
·Jean Walwick Apt. 307
- ❖ **Maplewood Manor Senior Living**  
1010 1st Street NE.  
Elbow Lake, MN. 56531  
·Carrol & Jean Anderson Apt. 1  
·Dwayne & Jean Haraldson Apt. 8

### Call Committee Update

The Call Committee has been meeting monthly and is currently writing our Ministry Site Profile, using feed back from congregational surveys. If you haven't submitted a survey yet, please consider doing so. Thank you to everyone who has participated in our survey. Pr. Ricardo is our "interim" pastor as we work through the call process. We appreciate your continued prayers as we work to call a new pastor for our church.

#### Call Committee Members:

Chairman: Lisa Pikop, Darrell Frykman, Michelle Swenson, Zack Jeppesen, Tom Lee, Haily Loeks, Joel Coleman, Trustee President



### Birthdays in



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

- 1 Andy Clauson
- Deidre Hubbard
- Tim Olson
- Danielle Swenson
- 2 Hunter Burchill
- Rose Danielson
- 5 Noah Rapp
- Kelsey Schumm
- 6 Tayler Christenson
- Bradley Larson
- 8 Courtney Lock
- 10 Kari Krusemark
- 11 Roger Toso
- 12 Allen Frykman
- 13 Peyton Hanson
- Dwayne Haraldson
- 13 Arlene Huseuth
- 14 Chad Walwick
- 15 Caitlyn Hayward

- 18 Judy Johnson
- 19 Rhett Christenson
- 20 Sierra Fosness
- Nancy Hahn
- March Huseuth
- 22 Hunter Gruchow
- Pam Holsen
- 23 Kim Hotovec
- Brian Kjesbo
- 25 Gail Hedstrom
- Addisyn Pikop
- 26 Ginny Billing
- 27 Michelle Dewey
- 28 Rylee Peterson
- Brady Schneeberger
- 29 Tanner Davison
- Katie Poyzer
- Michelle Toso
- 30 Joshua Baker

30 John Ohman  
Please inform Julie of any corrections or changes. 218-685-4179





THE MOMCO

Will meet on April 6th & 6th You can find them on Facebook @ United MOPS .  
**ALL Moms are welcome to join United MOMCO**


### The Men's Group will gather on April 2nd & 16th 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.

April's Newsletter Deadline

**April 20th**



**Attention Board of Trustees**  
Trustees will meet on Sunday, **Wednesday, April 15th** after worship in the Choir Room

The Red Cross will be accepting blood donations at United Lutheran church on Tuesday, April 28th from 11a.m. to until 5p.m. To set an appointment Call (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Elbow Lake to schedule an appointment

## Trustee Minutes from Sunday, January 18, 2026

**Members Present:** Joel Coleman, Andy Clauson, Witney Willard, Beth Pikop, Karen McGee and Pastor Ricardo Alcoser

**President Witney Willard** called the meeting to order

**Secretary's Report:** Andy moved to accept the minutes from the December meeting; Joel seconded the motion- MCU

- **Treasurer's Report:** Before Karen gave her report, she submitted her resignation from the Treasurer's position and has agreed to stay on for 90 days. A motion to accept her resignation was made by Joel and seconded by Andy MCU.
- Witney will be asking the Endowment Committee for help paying off the remaining balance owed to Kruize Plumbing and Heating for the Air conditioning. The remainder of that balance will come out of Savings until the rebate applied for is received.
- Karen will pay out 2025 Missions accounts at this time.
- Synod Benevolence - we need to clean up our membership so then we will pay less yearly. This entails making sure deceased members, those who have moved away, etc. are not included in our total membership. Joel made a motion to remove deceased members from the roll; seconded by Andy - MCU.
- Joel made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the Payables; seconded by Andy - MCU.

### Committee Reports:

**Spiritual Life & Growth:** They are busy with all their regular projects. Lisa Pikop has agreed to remain on the Committee

**Altar Guild:** no report

### **Building & Grounds:**

- Roof in the hallway by the copy room is leaking. Joel will replace ceiling tiles from the rooms in that hall when the weather warms.
- A lock box is needed in the fellowship hall for the thermostat.
- Andy will ask those that are presently on the committee if they will remain.

**Endowment:** no new requests. One member is needed for this committee.

### **Personnel:**

- Beth will ask Bonnie Harstad to join this committee.
- Witney will ask Michelle Swenson, Deb Krusemark and maybe Gail Hedstrom to fill the Deacon positions.

### **Stewardship:**

- Witney volunteered to be on this committee.
- Carrie Clauson will join this committee.
- Andy will ask Scott Swenson to remain.

### **Technology:**

- Lance Goodnough will be contacted to replace Lavern Anderson. He has looked at our system and will be asked to update it.
- Witney will keep United's website updated and will reach out to Lavern.
- Discussion about when the Worship Service is cancelled due to weather - what can be done. What can we do to put something on United's Facebook page. Witney will get Pastor Ricardo access to our account.
- Witney will be removing our Facebook page from John Ohman's account.
- 

**Pastor Ricardo's Report:** He is glad to be here. A new lock on the front door of the parsonage is needed as the key doesn't work. He would like to bring back the use of acolytes. Also to have all ages in the congregation participate in the worship services.

**Old Business:** Pastor Jean has been totally paid and all paperwork concerning her has been submitted.

**New Business:** A discussion was had about the SAM position, as well as the Youth Leader position.

Joel moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Andy- MCU.bhh

**Next meeting:** Sunday, February 1, 2026 after Worship. Annual Meeting - Sunday, February 15, 2026 after Worship

Respectfully submitted by  
Beth Pikop, Secretary

Welcome Spring! I think we're all happy to have warmer weather on the horizon, and soon we'll see the trees budding, the grass turning green, and hear the birds singing.

The Gather magazine Bible study for April is entitled "God the Protector, Gate and Shepherd." God promises to protect us all from all the forces of this world that separate us from God and one another—just as a shepherd protects their sheep.

Come and join us on Thursday, April 23rd at 9a.m. in the Fireside room. We'd love to have you come and visit over coffee and treats. Then we begin the Bible Study. All Are Welcome to come and join us!

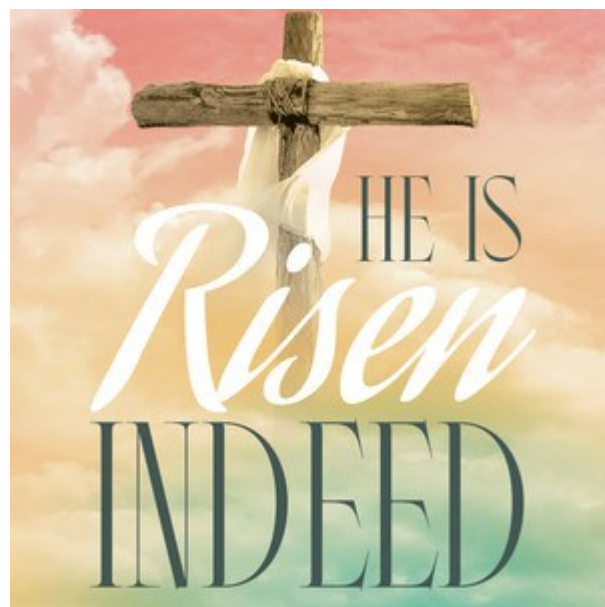
The ULCW Business meeting scheduled for March 12th, was moved to March 19th, so there is no news to report from that meeting. We'd like to invite all women of the ULC to come to the business meetings too.

The Sunday morning coffee donations will be given to Someplace Safe for the month of April. We want to thank you for your donations and helping organizations in our area.

Thank you for all the support and the dedication the women of United Lutheran continue to do throughout the year!

Wishing you all Safe and Joyous Easter.  
He is Risen, INDEED!

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



## Women's Bible Study

+ **Morning Bible Study** will meet on  
Thursday, April 23rd at 9:30a.m.  
in the Fireside Room.

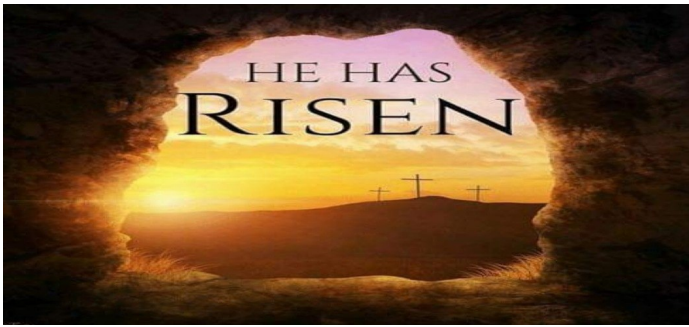


## Monthly Hospitality Teams

**April 2026:** Team 1 Leader:  
Melissa Anderson

**May 2026:** Team 2 Leaders:  
John & Kari Kreft

**June 2026:** Team 3 Leaders:  
Mark & Pat Soberg



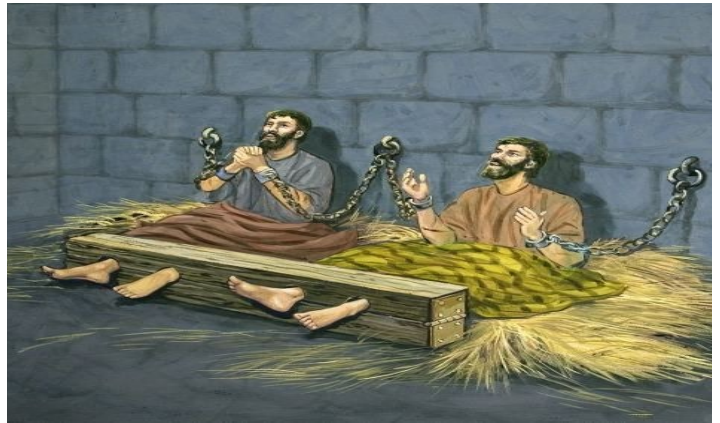
**April 5**  
**EASTER SUNDAY!!!**  
**No Sunday School**  
**Classes**



**April 19**  
 Sunday School Spark Story:  
**Saul to Paul**  
 Page 514-519



**April 12**  
 Sunday School after the service.  
**Doubting Thomas**  
 page 492-495



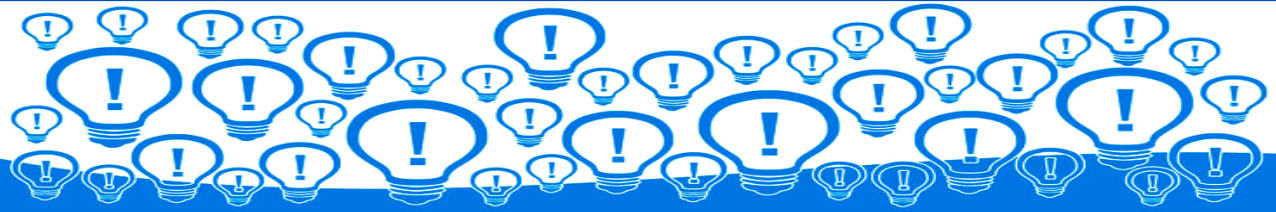
**April 26**  
 Sunday School after the service.  
**Paul and Silas**  
 pages 536-539  
 Teachers: Taylor Lee & Haily Loeks

Dear Parents and Sunday school students,  
 Our Sunday school last class is Sunday, April 26th. We have had a wonderful year and we thank you for bringing your child/children to church this past year. Please join us on March 26th as we celebrate this last class day with the Sunday school class! We look forward to see all of you next September 14th as we have our Rally Sunday and Sunday school Kick Off!

Messiah Lutheran will be having the VBS this coming summer, so please what your monthly newsletter for details to come.

Youth/Education Committee:

Taylor Lee, Haily Loeks, Danielle Magnuson, April Richards



## For Your Information

- Monday, April 6th - Offices & church building will be closed for the staff recognized holiday.
- Julie will be on vacation from April 13th - April 16th. Beth Pikop will be in the office during this time.
- Attention Parents & Graduating Seniors: Senior Recognition Sunday will be on May 3rd. You will be receiving a letter by the end of March. Please open and read immediately, for there are deadline dates in there for you to send items to the church office.



### Update on Judy Fosberg

Judy is at Abbot Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis. Chemo has enlarged her heart, so she had heart surgery that lasted 10 hours, and all went very well. She is doing better, but has been put on the Heart Transplant waiting list. She will be at Abbott for 3 months while she waits. We are asking members of United to continue to pray for her and her family as they endure this new path they are traveling on.

You may call and talk with her at 218-731-8654 or her husband Gary at 218-391-1288.

You may also send her encouraging letters or cards to:  
Abbott Northwestern, Attention: Judy Fosberg  
800 East 28th Street, Minneapolis, MN. 55407



April 2026

### **7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grade Faith Formation—Outreach Ministry Open to all 7-9<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth**

Regularly scheduled Faith Formation that takes place at Peace Lutheran in Barrett on Wednesdays after school from 3:30-5:15 p.m. Schedule: April 8th, April 15th, April 22nd with the last class on April 29th

### **HS Youth Group—10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Regularly scheduled HS ONE Youth will only meet one time in April. On Wednesday, April 22nd at 5:45p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church.

### **BREAKFAST CLUB**

Youth, grades 5-12, are welcome to come and enjoy a warm breakfast one Friday a month prepared by awesome members of our churches and communities. Thank you to all the groups who have already committed to giving of their time and food to support this awesome outreach ministry.

**April Breakfast Club will be on Friday, April 17th, from 7-8 a.m. at Peace Lutheran Church.**

### **HS MISSION TRIP TO PORTLAND, MAINE—SUMMER 2026**

ONE Youth continue to provide mission trip opportunities to our youth because we have, time and time again, witnessed the incredible life-changing, spiritual-growing, empathy-deepening, worldview-broadening impact they have on our youth. This summer's High School Mission Trip to Portland, Maine, July 12-18, 2026, has reached capacity with 30 youth and 5 adult chaperones. The interest in these trip experiences continues to grow.

### **BEST WAY to Stay Informed**

If you have a child in ONE Youth or are interested in staying up to date on all the happenings with ONE Youth, we encourage you to join our REMIND app. Instructions are below:

Send a text this number: 81010

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).

### **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

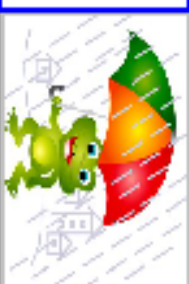


# April 2026



Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

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



1 9a.m. Quilters Meet

2 + 8a.m.-Men's Group Gathering  
 Maundy Thurs- day 6:30p.m. Service at Peace Lutheran

3 Good Friday 6:30p.m. Service @ United

4 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study

**5 Easter Sunday**

Dr. Ricardo/Therona  
 9a.m. Service with Communion

6 **Easter Monday—**  
**Offices & Building Closed for the Staff Holiday**

7 9a.m.-Bible Study  
 7p.m.—Spiritual Growth Support Group

8 9a.m.-Quilters Meet  
 + 2p.m.-Barrett Care Service  
 + 3:30p.m.-Faith Formation

9 9a.m.-WCCA Tax Program

10 Building closed

11 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study

12 Dr. Ricardo/Therona

9a.m. - Worship  
 10a.m. - Sunday School  
 10a.m. - Fellowship  
 +10:30a.m.-Peace Lutheran Service

13 10a.m. -Bible Study  
 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook

14 9a.m.-Bible Study  
 + 10:30a.m. - Maplewood Manor Service  
 7p.m.—Spiritual Growth Support Group

15 9a.m.-Quilters Meet  
 + 3:30p.m.-Faith Formation  
 5-6:30p.m. - Community Meal  
 + 6p.m.-Trustee Meeting

16 8a.m. - Men's Group Gathering

17 Building Closed  
 7-8a.m.-Breakfast Club

18 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study

**Jake on Vacation from April 13th through April 16th**

19

Dr. Ricardo/Therona

9a.m. - Worship  
 10a.m. - Sunday School  
 10a.m. - Fellowship

20 **May Newsletter Deadline**  
 10a.m.-Bible Study  
 6p.m.-MOPS Meeting on their Facebook

21 9a.m.-Bible Study  
 7p.m.—Spiritual Growth Support Group

22 9a.m.-Quilters Meet  
 + 3:30p.m.-Faith Formation  
 5-4:5p.m.-HS One Youth - Last gathering

23 9:30a.m. - Women's Morning Circle Meets

24 Building closed

25 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study

26 Dr. Ricardo/Therona

9a.m. - Worship  
 10a.m. - Sunday School  
 10a.m. - Fellowship  
 +10:30a.m.-Peace Lutheran Service

27 10a.m.-Bible Study  
 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook

28 9a.m.-Bible Study  
 + 10:30a.m. - Maplewood Manor Service  
 7p.m.—Spiritual Growth Support Group

29 9a.m.-Quilters Meet  
 9a.m. - May Newsletter Assembly  
 + 3:30p.m.-Faith Formation - Last Class

30



TAB

TAB

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

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*April Newsletter 2026 of  
United Lutheran Church*

*Faithnews*