

## Our Mission Statement

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

**Pg. 1**

*Pastor Ricardo*

*May 2026*

Christians are in the season of Easter. During this time, we read and remember the early disciples encounter with the risen Lord. Jesus's encounter was first with the women at the tomb, then two disciples on the road to Emmaus, next the disciples behind closed doors and finally Thomas who was doubting the resurrection of Jesus. There are times we, like Thomas, have our doubts or like the disciples live in fear. We find our lives filled with many problems and wonder about our faith.

I remind you that both doubt and faith require us to believe something. The question is what do you believe as you face life? As we live our lives, it is like a journey. Are we like the two disciples on the way to Emmaus after encountering the risen Lord? They were filled with joy and return immediately to tell the others about the resurrected Jesus.

The fourth Sunday of Easter, April 26 this year, is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. The church is reminded that Jesus is the good shepherd. The twenty-third Psalm verse four tells us, "Even though I walk through the valley of death, I fear no evil. Your rod and staff they comfort me." In this journey through life, God never promised us that we would not face problems. We will have to go through the valley of death. The good news for us is that God is with us.

David writes, "your rod and staff comfort me." When the shepherd used the rod and staff it was to correct the sheep. My mother used the "rod" on me, and I can tell you at the time if did not feel like comfort but pain. As we live our life, the journey is not easy, but we have the comfort of the risen Lord. We can face problems believing and knowing that God is with us on the journey

## Meetings

- Trustee Meeting
- Men's Group Gatherings
- Women's Bible Study
- ULCW Business Meeting
- Quilting Schedule

## Happenings

- Julie's Vacation
- Jackson Burns will be playing on Sun. May 10th
- Heads-Up
  - 1) Messiah Lutheran's Firepit Service
  - 2) Watch for VBS Details
- Community Meal
- May 2026 Calendar
- June Newsletter Deadline
- Hospitality Team Listing
- WCA Graduation May 29th

## 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

# Senior Recognition Sunday Sunday, May 3rd 9a.m. Service 10a.m.-Celebration Fellowship



*Please join Mashall Dewey & Carter Kjesbo, and their families, as we celebrate their upcoming graduation. We will lift them up in prayer and rejoice with them, as they begin the next chapter of the lives!*

# Community Meal

**Wednesday, May 20th  
From 5p.m. - 6:30p.m.**

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

**Menu:** Brats, Hot Dogs, Chips, 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!



Julie will be on vacation from May 4th - May 7th.  
Beth Pikop will be in the office during this time.

**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



We are sorry to announce the passing of Doris Samuelson on February 29th. She was a long time member of United Lutheran. Please keep her family & friends in your prayers and thoughts.



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

1 Bob Lohse April Richards	13 Danielle Baker 17 Michael Burgess	25 Sharon Johnson 26 Kim Olson
2 Zoey Jeppesen Myron Westrom	18 Brett Amundson Brina Beyer	28 Denise Baker Adley Johnson
3 Andria Gardner Halle Grosz	Kurt Pikop	29 Gene Karger
4 Norman Gronwold Kurt Myron Heidi Olson	19 Theron Jeppesen Piper Loeks Chad Mickelson Jim Ward	Please inform Julie of any corrections or changes. 218-685-4179
5 Owen Gruchow Teagan Nelson	20 Carla Benson	
6 Gary Fosberg	21 Hannah Anderson Mary Boyack	
7 Jason Lohse	22 Eric Hubbard	
9 Robin McNamar Robert Olson	23 Judy Hams	
12 Nola Sax	24 Tyler Nelson 25 Amya Acklin	

**Junes Newsletter Deadline**

18th  
May

**The Men's Group will gather on May 7th & 21st**

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.



**Board of Trustees**  
Trustees will meet on **Wednesday, May 20th** in the **Choir Room**

Just a reminder that United Lutheran will be closed on Monday, May 25th in observation of Memorial Day

**MEMORIAL DAY**  
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

**June's Newsletter Deadline will be on**

18  
May

# Trustee Minutes from Sunday, March 18, 2026

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Mission Statement:

Called by God to serve our neighbors and Glorify God

**Members present:** Joel Coleman, Tammy Nelson, Stacy Deering, Eli Reeve, Jonathon Pikop, Pastor Ricardo Alcoser, Karen McGee and Beth Pikop  
**Absent:** Andy Clauson

President Joel called the meeting to order

Eli moved to accept Jonathon Pikop as board member; seconded by Tammy - MCU

Eli moved to accept Joel as President, Andy as Vice President and Beth as Secretary; seconded by Jon - MCU

**Secretary's Repost:** Tammy moved to accept the minutes from February 15, 2026 meeting; Eli seconded the motion - MCU

**Treasurer's Report:** Eli moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the Payables; Jonathon seconded the motion - MCU

**No Committee Reports**

**Pastor Ricardo's Report:**

He will be attending the Synod Assembly this Saturday. He gave ideas for doing Power Point presentations. Easter and Holy Week are coming up.

Witney said we need to get John Ohman off as administrator for the church's Facebook account - maybe to Witney. Or we may want to consider moving to YouTube for our streaming services.

**Old Business:**

- Committee Liaisons assigned: Spiritual Life & Growth- Beth; Personnel - Joel, Witney, Andy and Bonnie Harstad; Worship - Pastor Ricardo; Altar Guild - Tammy; Building and Grounds - Eli; Education/Sunday School/One Youth - Jonathon; Endowment - Tammy; Stewardship - Stacy
- The ceiling is still leaking in the hallway. Eli and Andy will reseal it when the weather warms up.
- Natalie Hanson will be paid for her February work provided from her SAM position.
- Eli made a motion to pay her the remainder due for the extra she did from the SAM contract; seconded by Jonathon. MCU
- Lisa Pikop reported on the Call Committee's survey results. Seventeen surveys were collected. She gave a few of the responses. She mentioned this information should be transferred from Witney's computer.

**New Business:**

- Karen said going forward there will be a switch to a different software with the new treasurer. She mentioned many of the duties for the treasurer as well. A yearly salary is paid for this position. Discussion followed on getting the Personnel Committee to create a job description for treasurer and secretary. Julie will come to our next meeting to explain her secretarial duties. Discussion followed on whether there should be a combined position going forward.
- It was decided that we should get an audit of the books going into the new treasurer's position being filled.
- Parsonage: John Kreft and the Building and Grounds Committee will do an inspection to see what needs repairing.
- A letter was distributed from Katie Koplín requesting possibly using an office space for counseling. Discussion followed and more to come later.
- Pastor Ricardo told the Board that Peace is putting in a new security system and suggested we consider doing the same. This was tabled until later.
- The sign at the entrance of United needs to be changed to Pastor Ricardo.
- Eli will look into the blue street sign guiding others to United out by the highway and will report back to the Board.
- Joel stated that each Committee should have a chairperson to be the one to plan for all committees to meet more often.
- Jon Nelson explained the workings of the Endowment Fund and how they decide how much each year can be spent.
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**Next Meeting date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Pikop

Welcome to the month of May filled with warmth, sunshine and all of nature bursting forth in brilliant colors. It's the perfect time to enjoy God's creation with brisk walks, as you thank God for all his precious gifts to us, especially the gift of everlasting life.

The Bible study for May is entitled, "God who leads us: Resurrection and life," by Hannah Hawkinson. The following is a quote from her. "God, whose name is I AM, promises to lead all creation into abundant life—not by avoiding our struggles, but by entering them and transforming them into something new. Nothing—not even death—will separate us from the love of I AM, who promises to be with us forever."

We invite all the women of United to the Bible study on Thursday, May 21st at 9:30a.m. in the Fireside room. We are all hoping more of you will come and join us for coffee, treats and fellowship. We do enjoy visiting, which is so important as we get to know each other better. Then we begin the Bible study and discussion. Come and bring a friend!

The ULCW business meeting will be on Thursday, May 14th at 9:30a.m. in the Fireside room. All are welcome and encouraged to come, as that is the time we discuss upcoming events and new ideas.

The Sunday morning coffee donation will be given to the Grant County (mental Health) Collaborative. Thank you all for your generous gifts.

Most of you have heard that I am moving to Bismarck, ND, near my hometown. I have many relatives and friends who live there, and my youngest son and family lives just an hour away, so I'll be able to see them more and enjoy my grandsons and all their activities. However, I am sad to leave my church family, whom I have loved all these years. So many of you are very dear to me and have been a big part of the life at United. Thank you to all the women who have been a part of the Bible study and helped plan and carry out the luncheons and different activities during the year. Also, thank you to the Spiritual Life and Growth Committee that implemented the card program years ago, the senior quilts, mission quilts and many more outreach programs. I am also a Stephen Minister that has been so fulfilling. I hope I can continue with that ministry. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the men of our church and their commitment to serving the community with the monthly community meals. A big thank you, men! United Lutheran is filled with members who want to serve others. Last, but not least, it is hard to leave my daughter, Natalie, her husband, Darin and my four grands who are so precious to me. They were the reason that Royal and I moved here 14 years ago. I will miss them so much. I do plan to come back and visit, so I have hope to see many of you when I do.

God's blessings to you all!

Pam Lyson



## Women's Bible Study & ULCW Business Mtg.

- + **ULCW Business Meeting** will be on Thursday, May 14th at 9:30a.m. in the Fireside Room.
- + **Morning Bible Study** will meet on Thursday, May 28th at 9:30a.m. in the Fireside Room.



## Monthly Hospitality Teams

- May 2026:** Team 2 Leaders: John & Kari Kreft
- June 2026:** Team 3 Leaders: Mark & Pat Soberg
- July 2026:** Team 4 Leaders: Scot Byer & Mindy Byer



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



**Messiah Lutheran will have it's Annual Firepit Service again this year!**

**First Service will be on Wednesday,  
June 10th at 7p.m.**

**Please bring a camp chair or blanket to sit on.**

The Firepit Service will continue every Wednesday evening throughout the summer. Please come join us for great fellowship and uplifting passages and messages.



# MAY 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue




Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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

3 Pr. Ricardo Theron <b>Senior Recognition</b> 9a.m.-Worship Service 10a.m. - Senior Celebration Fellowship	4 10a.m.-Bible Study 6p.m.-MOPS Meeting 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook	5 9a.m.-Bible Study 7p.m.-Spiritual Growth Support Group	6 9a.m.-Quilters Meet + 2p.m.-Barrett Care Service	7 + 8a.m. - Men's Group Gathering	8 Building Closed	9 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study
<p><b>Table will be on vacation from June 4th—June 8th</b></p>						
10 Pr. Ricardo Jackson  Holy Mother's Day	11 10a.m.-Bible Study 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook	12 9a.m.-Bible Study + 10:30a.m. - Maplewood Manor Service 7p.m.—Spiritual Growth Support Group	13 9a.m.-Quilters Meet	14 9:30a.m.-ULCW Business Meeting	15 Building Closed	16 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study + 11a.m.-Graveside Service for Doris Samuelson-Ness Cemetery
17 Pr. Ricardo Theron 9a.m.-Worship Service 10a.m. - Fellowship	18 10a.m.-Bible Study 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook	19 9a.m.-Bible Study 7p.m.—Spiritual Growth Support Group	20 9a.m.-Quilters Meet 5-6:30p.m. - Community Meal	21 + 8a.m. - Men's Group Gathering	22 Building Closed	23 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study
24 Pr. Ricardo Theron 9a.m.-Worship Service 10a.m. - Fellowship	25 Building closed 	26 9a.m.-Bible Study + 10:30a.m. - Maplewood Manor Service 7p.m.—Spiritual Growth Support Group	27 9a.m.-Quilters Meet 9a.m.-June Newsletter Assembly	28 9:30a.m.- Women's Morning Circle Meets	29 Building Closed	30 + 11a.m.-Funeral for Harold Erickson @ Funeral Home  NW. MN. Synod Assembly Virtual Meeting
31 Pr. Ricardo Theron 9a.m.-Worship Service 10a.m. - Fellowship	 <p style="text-align: center;">Hello Sunshine</p>					

TAB

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

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United Lutheran Church*

**Faith***news*