

Our Mission Statement

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

Pastor Ricardo

July 2026

As we celebrate 4th of July as a nation, I think about what it means to be an American. The land where we enjoy equality, freedom, and opportunity. In Galatians 5:1 read "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free." And Galatians 5:13 reads "You were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."

Freedom and equality are not something given to us from a man, a nation, or the constitution but something given by God. The founder father made note of this by writing of the declaration of Independence. Second paragraph reads, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights."

Since God gave us these unalienable rights, let us do as the bible advise us to use our freedom not to indulge but to serve one another humbly in love. That will make our lives and the world better. Amen.

Pg. 1

Meetings.

Trustee Meeting

- Men's Group Gatherings
- Women's Bible Study
- Quilting Schedule

Happenings

- Julie's Vacation
- July 2026 Calendar
- August Newsletter Deadline
- Hospitality Team Listing
- Messiah's Wednesday Evening Firepit Service

Education/S.S.

- ❖ VBS Information
- ❖ July 15th @ Messiah
- ❖ July 16th - Day Camp at Luther Crest

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
Trainee: Marita Johnson

Community Meal

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

Free Will Offering will be given to
To Be Announced

Menu: Menu will be coming soon, Burgers,
Hotdogs, 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



Julie will be on vacation
from July 3rd-12th Beth
Pikop will be in the office
during this time.



Women's Bible Study

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

All ULC women are welcome to
come and join us for coffee, treats,
friendly conversation and a Bible
Study!



Monthly Hospitality Teams

July 2026: Team 4 Leaders:
Kent & Gail Hedstrom and
Mindy Beyer

Aug. 2026: Team 5 Leaders:
Darrell & Susan Frykman and
Kurt & Lisa Pikop

Sept. 2026: Team 6 Leaders:
Jeff & Pam Holsen



United is in need of more
people to run the video
system on Sundays.

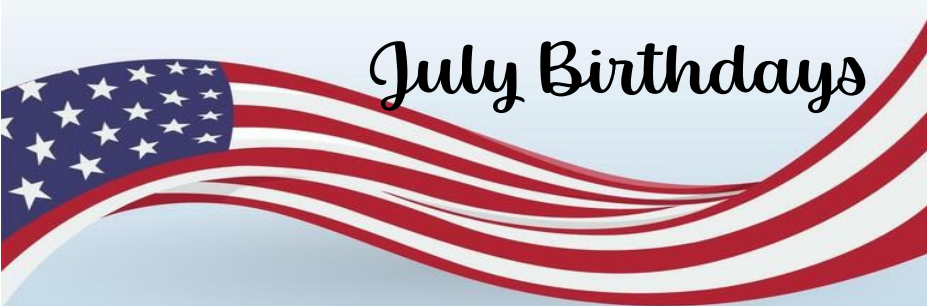
There is training available
for this job. If you are
interested, please call the
church office at
218-685-4179.



United Lutheran is
looking for someone to fill
the part time Secretarial
position. If interested, or
have questions, please
contact Joel Coleman at
218-770-2978



We have a piano, here at United that
needs a new home! **It is FREE** and
you must pick it up from the church.
First come-first served! Call the
church office at 218-685-4179 if you
are interested or know someone who
would like to have it.



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 24 Tyler Nelson	
12 Nola Sax	25 Amya Acklin	



August Newsletter Deadline

20th
July

The Men's Group will gather on July 2nd & July 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.



Board of Trustees Trustees will meet on Wednesday, July 15th @ 6p.m. in the Choir Room



Lord Bless You and Keep You Safe During the 4th of July Holiday!

Trustee Minutes from Wednesday, May 20, 2026

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

Members present: Joel Coleman, Andy Clausen, Stacy Deering, Eli Reeve, Pastor Ricardo Alcoser, Beth Pikop, Tammy Nelson, Karen McGee; **Absent:** Jonathan Pikop

President Joel called the meeting to order Pastor Ricardo gave a devotion

Secretary's Report: Eli moved to accept the Minutes from the April 15, 2026 meeting; Andy seconded the motion MCU

Treasurer's Report: Go Daddy changes were discussed. Joel will call Pastor Jean and cancel credit card through her for future payments.

Red Dot Pest Control has installed mouse boxes and they also have sprayed for insects.

As of now, we are in good shape for paying the bills.

Andy moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; Tammy seconded the motion MCU

Andy moved to pay the Payables for the month; Tammy seconded the motion MCU

Committee Reports given:

- **Worship:** Pastor Ricardo reported that there have been many funerals between United and Peace. He has done more visits since Wednesday activities are done. He will be gone June 3-5.
- **Endowment:** They have agreed to give to the One Youth for their Mission Trip. They are waiting to decide on the amount until after the last two fundraisers have been held.
- **Stewardship:** will have a meeting coming up
- **Spiritual Life & Growth:** business as usual

Old Business:

- **Leak:** The hallway by the Pastor's office leaky ceiling was discussed. Buttweilers will be contacted by Eli.
- **Call Committee:** The Site Plan compiled by the Call Committee has been posted online for any prospective candidates to review.
- **Cleanup:** Jay Johnson and Joel Coleman took down the sheetrock in the parsonage basement. They have replaced it and painted the bottom of it with KILZ to repel moisture. We need to have a Cleanup Day at the parsonage and the church as well. It will be Saturday, June 13, starting at 8:00 a.m. A list of jobs to be done will be compiled before then. Beth will contact Julie to put this in the Bulletins and the Newsletter.
- **Treasurer's position:** The first candidate interviewed turned down the job for now. Options going forward were discussed and how the job could be worked differently. This position is to be held by a member of the congregation - according to the Constitution.
- **Secretary's position:** This position also needs to be a member of the congregation. It was pointed out that a few of our past secretaries were not members, however. Beth will contact Julie to put this in the Bulletins and the Newsletter.

New Business:

- **Audit:** Tammy Nelson and Bonnie Harstad have started this process.
- **Personnel Committee:** will need to do job reviews once again.
- **Video:** The Jeppeson boys will not be available this summer to do the video. We need to train at least one more person to do this. Beth will have Julie announce it in Bulletins and the Newsletter for this job.
- **Funeral Committee** that was formed to conduct funerals without a funeral home has been eliminated for many reasons.
- **Piano:** The piano in the choir robe room will be offered for free to whoever wants it. They must pick it up for themselves. Beth will have Julie announce it in the Bulletins and the Newsletter.
- **2026 Nonprofit Security Grant Program** explained by Beth. It was decided to not apply for this.
- **Continuing Resolution** sent to us by the Synod was discussed.

Meeting ended with Pastor Ricardo leading us in the Lord's Prayer
Stacy moved to adjourn the meeting; Andy seconded the motion MCU

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Pikop

UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN – July 2026

As we say farewell to our dear friend and dedicated leader of our ULCW Pam Lyson, we wish her well as she moves forward reconnecting with friends and family back home. Pam will be dearly missed by man.

As the ULCW (United Lutheran Church Women) group moves forward we would like to encourage and welcome the women of United Lutheran to become active in this group. As a member of ULC all women are automatically part of the ULCW, but with busy schedules it is hard to add one more thing to our "to do" list.

We just elected new officers for the group and they are:

- President - Pat Soberg
 - Vice President - Nancy Hahn
 - Secretary - Pat Norby
 - Treasurer - Linda Rupp
-
- Bible Study is at 9:30a.m. the last Thursday of every month and we use the Gather Magazine as our study guide. There are a couple of copies available on the magazine rack next to the large bulletin board.
 - We have quarterly Business meetings.
 - Mitten Tree - collections of mittens and hats for kids who are in need of them.
 - Book Bags - receive donations of school supplies which are sent to foreign countries for children who don't have access to these items or can't afford them.
 - Soup & Sandwich Fundraiser is in the fall with proceeds dedicated to a specific cause.
 - Operation Merry Christmas-we organize distribution of cookies to home bound and elderly members of ULC.
 - ELCA Synod Sponsored spring and fall meetings. Attendance optional.
 - Distribute Coffee Fellowship proceeds to local non-profit groups that enrich our communities.
 - Other groups, provided by women of United, you may be interested in joining:
 - Note Card Project
 - Night Owl Quilters
 - Prayer Shawl

May God keep you a safe and fun Fourth of July!

Pat Soberg, President
 Home: 218-685-5117
 Cell: 320-808-1747



Pg. 6 **July 15- Messiah VBS- Completed K-5th- Draft Plan**

- 8:30am- Check-in
9:00am- Large group worship – Matthew 17: 20 (read children’s book Mustard Seed)
9:30- 9:45- Snack (no nuts)
9:45am- Rotating Sessions (30 mins)
 1- Building activity
 2- Music/Parachute
 3- Minno video
 4- Craft: mustard seed necklace/ make cards for seniors at assisted living
11:45am- Lunch and Free Time
12:30pm- Outdoor Games
1:30pm- Large group session
2pm- Small group bible dive (Spark bible) and Mustard Seed Slider Card
2:30pm- Snack
2:45pm- Large Group session- practice bells and skit
3:30pm- Senior Assisted Living- play bells and do skit/story of Mustard Seed
4:00pm- Walk to Veteran’s Memorial Park (Parents can pick there/ stay for performance and supper)
5pm- Farmer’s Market Meal
5:30pm- Messiah VBS Performance



Day of Camp! (Classic Summer)
July 16th
Cost \$40. per child

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 9:00 AM | Arrive at Luther Crest! |
| 9:30 AM | Morning Worship |
| 10:15 AM | All Camp Game |
| 11:00 AM | Bible Dive |
| 11:45 AM | Community Unity (change into swimwear) |
| 12:30 PM | Lunch |
| 1:15 PM | Swim Time! |
| 2:15 PM | Siesta Fiesta (change out of swimwear) |
| 3:15 PM | Rotations |
| | -Games |
| | -Arts & Crafts |
| | -Songfest |
| 4:15 PM | Closing Worship |
| 5:00 PM | Depart for home! |



JULY 2026



Monday

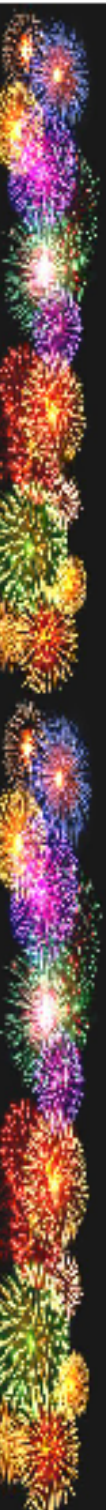
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



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

Fun in the Sun!



5 Pr. Ricardo/Jay J. 9a.m.-Worship 10a.m.-Fellowship	6 10a.m.-Bible Study 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook	7 9a.m.-Bible Study +10:30a.m.-Maplewood Manor Service 7p.m.—Spiritual Growth Group	8 9a.m.-Quilters Meet +2p.m. Barrett Care Center Service 7p.m.—Outdoor Firepit Service @ Messiah	9 +8a.m.-Men's Group Gathering 1:30p.m. Quilting Fellowship	10 Building Closed	11 7:30a.m.-Messiah Men's Bible Study
---	---	--	---	---	-----------------------	---

Julie will be on vacation from July 3rd - July 12th

12 Pr. Ricardo/Deb K. 9a.m.-Worship 10a.m.-Fellowship	13 10a.m.-Bible Study 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook	14 9a.m.-Bible Study 7p.m.—Spiritual Growth Group	15 9a.m.-Quilters 5-6:30p.m. Community Meal VBS @ Messiah. Check in at 8:30a.m.	16 +8a.m.-Men's Group Gathering VBS: Luther Crest Day Camp	17 Building Closed Pr. Ricardo at training in Alexandria	18 7:30a.m.- Messiah Men's Bible Study
+Pr. Ricardo @ Peace						
19 Pr. Ricardo/Theron 9a.m.-Worship 10a.m.-Fellowship	→20 August Newsletter Deadline 10a.m.-Bible Study 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook	21 9a.m.-Bible Study +10:30a.m.-Maplewood Manor Service 7p.m.—Spiritual Growth Group	22 9a.m.-Quilters Meet 7p.m.—Outdoor Firepit Service @ Messiah	23 9a.m. - Women's Morning Circle Meeting	24 Building Closed	25 7:30a.m.- Messiah Men's Bible Study
26 Pr. Ricardo/Jackson 9a.m.-Worship 10a.m.-Fellowship	27 10a.m.-Bible Study 6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook	28 9a.m.-Bible Study 7p.m.—Spiritual Growth Group	29 9a.m.-Quilters Meet 9a.m.-August Newsletter Assembly 7p.m.—Outdoor Firepit Service @ Messiah	30	31 Building Closed	
+Pr. Ricardo @ Peace						

TAB

TAB

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

**Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 47
Elbow Lake,
MN.**



*April Newsletter 2026 of
United Lutheran Church*

Faithnews