

Our Mission Statement

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

Pastor Ricardo

August 2026

I know it is August and we are all in the middle of summer vacation, enjoying playing golf, or fishing or swimming on the lake, but we must start planning for the new school year especially since this church is in a season of substantial change.

The church has hired a new church treasurer, Marita Johnson. I personally want to thank Karen McGee for her years of service to our church and good luck on your retirement. We will be losing our secretary of many years, Julie Johnson. Thank you, Julie, for your service and being helpful to me personally during my time here. We currently hope to hire someone ASAP to fill this position. We also will be hiring a new One Youth Coordinator to help with confirmation and Youth programs starting in September.

Changes are here and the question is: How are we going to make the church stronger? Change can be good or bad. It can lead to progress or decline. Unfortunately, the church has been in decline for some time. There is no magic bullet that will fix the problems immediately, but without proper planning we are sure to fail.

It is time now for all of us to plan for this coming year of Church. One, how do we get people back to church? Two, how do we get the kids to attend church? Three, how do we make the community feel welcome and drawn to the church?

We have the best message in the world, the gospel of Jesus, that God loves you, that He forgives you, and He accepts and adopts you as a child of God. This is the message that our community needs to hear. This is the message that we need to share with our neighbors and friends. As Lutherans, this is the message we need to teach to our kids. Luther's small catechism is an excellent place to start. I hope you join me in making plans now, for your future, but most importantly I hope you commit to help implement the plan to change.



The little **YELLOW CART** has returned

If you have extra garden vegetables to share, please place them on the cart.

If you would like to have some fresh vegetables for your table, please help yourself!

Meetings

- Trustee Meeting
- All Committee Meeting
- Men's Group Gatherings
- Women's Bible Study
- Quilting Schedule

Information

- Call Committee Update
- Red Cross Blood Drive
- CPR Class
- August 2026 Calendar
- September Newsletter Deadline
- Hospitality Team Listing
- August Birthday Listing
- Spiritual Life & Growth-Summer Fellowship Fun
- ULCW Back Pack Mission Project
- It's Back! The little Yellow Cart

Education/S.S.

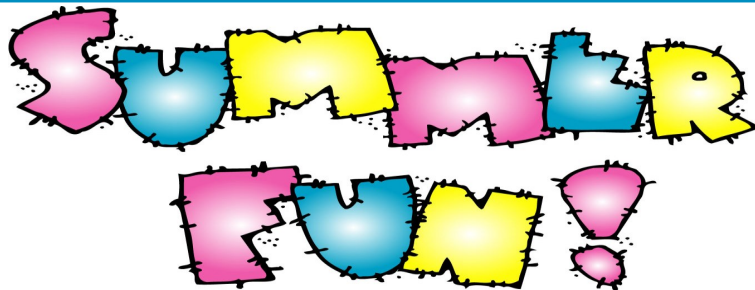
- ❖ Rally Sunday will be on September 13th
- ➔ See details on page 6

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



Spiritual Life & Growth

Summer Coffee Fellowship Fun

Are you in a summer slump? Come enjoy a little mid-summer fun and fellowship with us during our themed August coffee fellowships! Each Sunday will feature a lighthearted theme, a simple way to participate, and a chance to connect with old and new friends.

- **August 2:** National Ice Cream Sandwich Day, Coloring Book Day (free coloring book for the littles) and Friendship Day — bring a friend and enjoy a sweet treat together!
- **August 9:** Rice Pudding Day and Book Lovers Day — bring a book to exchange.
- **August 16:** Hawaiian Shirt Day and Tell a Joke Day — wear your Hawaiian shirt and come ready to share a joke.
- **August 23:** Sponge Cake Day and Hug Your Sweetheart or Friend Day — join us for fellowship, friendship, and a little sweetness.
- **August 30:** Toasted Marshmallow Day and National Grief Awareness Day — as we close a month of celebrating many fun things in life, we also pause to remember that some around us may be grieving. Let's be mindful, caring, and supportive of one another.

We hope you'll join us each Sunday for coffee, conversation, laughter, and community.
Everyone is 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

❖ Glacial Trails Memory Care

109 E. 7th Street
Starbuck, MN. 56381

•Judy Hams



Women's Bible Study

+ Morning Bible Study

**We will meet on Thursday,
August 27th 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!

→ Sept. Newsletter Deadline

August 17th



**PASTORAL
SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Call Committee Update: The Call Committee has submitted our Ministry Site Profile. Prayer is powerful, and as we take time each week—or even each day—to pray that our future pastor feels called to our congregation, we can look forward with hope to what is ahead. We appreciate your continued prayers as we work to call a new pastor for our church.

Call Committee members: Lisa Pikop, chairman, Darrell Frykman, Michelle Swenson, Zach Jeppesen, Tom Lee, Haily Loeks, and Eli Reeve, (board rep)



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

1 Patti Nordby	12 Tate Christenson	24 Scott Tyberg
JoAnn Swenson	Angela Huseth	26 Jonathan Pikop
4 Jeff Amundson	Charles Ladwig	27 Brynn
6 Tammy Dally	Krista Pfigsten	Fleischfresser
7 Aubrey Amundson	13 Marvin Gunderson	28 Julie Johnson
Ben Bye	14 Mary Myron	29 Michael Bah
Hailey & Kim	Devin Nelson	Susan Grasamke
Fleischfresser	15 Dean	
McKenna Ollerman	Schneeberger	Please inform the office
John Toso	17 Elaine Nelson	any corrections or
Maya Westrom	18 Tammy Giffey	changes. 218-685-4179
9 Beth Ann	19 Logan Kemper	
Christianson	20 Ken Hubbard	
Cooper Sumstad	21 Vessa Bumgardner	
9 Darin Hanson	Ella Gulbrandson	
Zayn Brandley	22 Jaime Magnuson	
Westrom	Willa Rollofson	
12 Griffin Anderson	Will Rustan	



Please sign up to read the
scriptures and/or assist with
communion on Sundays.

The sign up sheet is on the table
by the large bulletin board in the
narthex.

The Men's Group will gather on August 6th & 20th

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.



Monthly Hospitality Teams

Aug. 2026: Team 5 Leaders:
Darrell & Susan Frykman and
Kurt & Lisa Pikop
Sept. 2026: Team 6 Leaders:
Jeff & Pam Holsen
Oct. 2026: Team 1 Leaders:
Sam & April Richards and
Scot & Julie Soberg



The Red Cross will be accepting
blood donations at United
Lutheran church on
August 11th
from 11a.m. to 5p.m.

To set an appointment Call
(1-800-733-2767) or visit
RedCrossBlood.org and enter:
Elbow Lake to schedule an
appointment.

→ Board of Trustees

will meet on

Thursday, August 20th @ 6p.m.
in the Choir Room

→ Attention All Committee Members

You will have an All Committee Meeting
on Sunday, August 30th
after worship in the Fellowship Hall.



There will be a CPR Class at United Lutheran on
Wednesday, August 5th at 6p.m. This is open to anyone from
United Lutheran and also the community. This is a free class.
This service is provided by Lake Region Health Care.
Class taught by Carrie Clauson

Trustee Minutes from Wednesday, June 17, 2026

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

Members present: Joel Coleman, Tammy Nelson, Andy Clausen, Eli Reeve,
Pastor Ricardo Alcosar, Beth Pikop. Absent: Jonathan Pikop, Stacy Deering
President Joel opened the meeting with a devotion.

Secretary's Report: Eli moved to accept the minutes from the May 20, 2026 meeting; Andy seconded the motion
MCU

Treasurer's Report: Credit card has been cancelled by Pastor Jean. GoDaddy with four emails and live streaming service is paid every three years. It will be up for renewal in December. Drop Box will now be paid with a debit card.

Those with access to the church's website now are Witney Willard and our new tech person. We need someone to keep updating it. We also need a new way to share files between the secretary and Pastor Ricardo.

Andy moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and to pay the Payables for the month; Tammy seconded the motion
MCU

Committee Reports given:

- Worship: Pastor Ricardo attended the Synod Conference. Some Synod personnel changes have been made. July 17th and 24th, he will be attending "Boundaries" and "Racial Justice" training for pastors.
- New Member Sunday coming up in July
- Building & Grounds: The roof is fixed. Discussion for skylight maintenance was had and it was decided the estimate was too high to do.
- Endowment: They will be donating to the One Youth Mission Trip after their last fundraiser.
- Stewardship: The membership rolls are being updated to get a more accurate count.
- Spiritual Life & Growth: Busy with their ongoing projects.

Old Business:

- Call Committee update is there are no candidates yet. We are looking at editing the Site Plan that has been submitted.
- Parsonage cleanup work was done last Saturday. Beth will begin painting rooms as there is soot that could not be washed away. Others are needed to do the rolling part of the paint job. Joel will get the paint for this.
- Treasurer position applicant is Marita Johnson. Tammy made a motion to hire her; Eli seconded the motion
MCU
- Eli made a motion to authorize Marita Johnson to sign checks, and have access to all accounts as a signer at the bank; Andy seconded the motion
MCU
- She will have access to Realm, Portico and the Treasurer's email account. Karen McGee will help with the transition.
- Secretarial position will need to be advertised on Facebook and in the Grant County Herald. The Personnel Committee will formulate this ad and begin the process.

New Business:

- Audit - Tammy said more receipts need to be turned in to verify payouts made. The Audit is ongoing.
- Video - we need two more congregational members to learn to do this and become part of the rotation for this job.
- Handicapped women's bathroom stall is in need of a coat hook at a lower level. Joel will look into this.
- Dorcas room closet has a metal door on the floor that has been open for some time and is making the closet humid. Damp Rid has been put in there and Joel has closed the metal door.
- One Youth- The ad for a Lutheran Youth Group Leader was reviewed. Messiah's Board of Trustees edited a bit of it and have okayed it for publishing. This ad needs to be okayed by Peace Lutheran as well. Which church will pay the person in this position? Eli made a motion to approve the job description for the Lutheran Youth Group Leader; Andy seconded the motion
MCU
- Tri Council will be meeting on Sunday, June 28th, to work on the Continuing Resolution given to us by the Synod.

Pastor Ricardo led us with the Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Pikop

UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

AUGUST 2026

Pg. 5

The women of United Lutheran continue their three part summer Bible study from the Gather Magazine and the topic has been based on the "I am Worthy" theme. Articles in this issue remind us that "our value comes from the simple fact that we are God's beloved children. Other articles discussed what being worthy really means and related to Mary Magdalene's identity and worth as the "Apostle to Apostles." The beginning article of the Summer Session Issue titled "No Matter What Anyone Says" finished with a statement that "We need not wonder if we are worthy. The only questions is how, together with God, we will use that worthiness in this world."

There are 4 copies of the Gather Magazine in the Narthex for anyone to take. The articles in this issue were inspiring to read, I hope you take the opportunity to read them.

As we start to think of summer winding down and the stores are already filled with back to school supplies, the ULCW annual "**Backpack Mission Project**" is beginning. We are asking congregation members to donate school supplies that will fill backpacks we have purchased, to be sent to areas where families have difficulty purchasing supplies, for their children. The following list is what we will be filling the backpacks with. We have placed a box near the front doors of the church for your generous donations and thank you for spreading our Bible study theme of "I am Worthy" to a child somewhere.

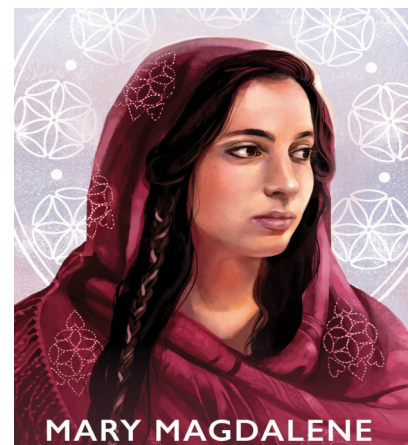
Supply List:

- **Scissors**-*blunt end only*
- **Rulers**
- **Erasers**
- **Pencil Sharpeners**-*please no battery operated*
- **Blue or Black Pens**-*please no gel or colored ink*
- **#2 lead pencils**
- **Spiral Notebooks**-*college ruled*

- ❖ Fellowship Coffee Donations for the month of August are dedicated to helping the homeless through a program administered by West Central Community Action.
- ❖ Watch for our Annual ULCW Soup & Sandwich Fundraiser this fall.
- ❖ August Bible Study -Thursday, August 27th at 9:30a.m. in the Fireside Room.

All Women are Invited!

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



ULC Sunday School News

You are invited to United Lutheran Church's



Rally

Sunday

Growing in Faith, Rooted in Love

**September
13th**



10 AM

Please join us as we kick off the Sunday School year with games, crafts, bounce houses, lunch and more!

Growing our Faith

Parents of kids Pre-K through 4th Grade please plan on joining your kids at the first Sunday School of the year. While the kids have a short lesson please plan on picking up some informational sheets and ask any questions you have. Lunch and events will follow! We can't wait to see you!





AUGUST 2026



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



Flickkefest! Aug. 7th - 9th, 2026



																	
1	7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study	8	7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study	7	Building Closed	6	+ 8a.m.-United Men's Group Gathering 1:30p.m.-Messiah's Quilting Fellowship	13	14	Building Closed	15	7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study					
2	Ricardo/Theron 9a.m.-Worship 10a.m.-Fellowship	3	10a.m.-Messiah's Bible Study 6p.m.-Bible Study on Messiah's Facebook page	4	9a.m.-Peace Bible Study 7p.m.-Messiah's Spiritual Growth Support Group	5	9a.m.-Quilters Meet ♦ 6p.m.-CPR Class @ United, provided by Carnie Clauson 6p.m.-Messiah's Outdoor Firepit Worship Service	12	9a.m.-Quilters Meet + 2p.m.-Barrett Care Center Service-Pr. Ricardo 6p.m.-Messiah's Outdoor Firepit Worship Service	19	9a.m.-Quilters Meet 6p.m.-Messiah's Outdoor Firepit Worship Service	20	+ 8a.m.-United Men's Group Gathering 6p.m.-Trustee Meeting	21	Building Closed	22	7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study
9	Ricardo/Jay J. 9a.m.-Worship 10a.m.-Fellowship + Pr. Ricardo @ Peace Lutheran	10	10a.m.-Messiah's Bible Study 6p.m.-Bible Study on Messiah's Facebook page	11	9a.m.-Peace Bible Study + 10:30a.m.-Maplewood Manor Service-Pr. Ricardo ♥ Red Cross Blood Drive 11a.m.-5p.m.	12	9a.m.-Quilters Meet + 2p.m.-Barrett Care Center Service-Pr. Ricardo 6p.m.-Messiah's Outdoor Firepit Worship Service	19	9a.m.-Quilters Meet 6p.m.-Messiah's Outdoor Firepit Worship Service	20	+ 8a.m.-United Men's Group Gathering 6p.m.-Trustee Meeting	21	Building Closed	22	7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study		
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23	Ricardo/Theron 9a.m.-Worship 10a.m.-Fellowship + Pr. Ricardo @ Peace Lutheran	24	10a.m.-Messiah's Bible Study 6p.m.-Bible Study on Messiah's Facebook page	25	9a.m.-Peace Bible Study + 10:30a.m.-Maplewood Manor Service-Pr. Ricardo 7p.m.-Messiah's Spiritual Growth Support Group	26	9a.m.-Quilters Meet 9a.m.-Newsletter Assembly 6p.m.-Messiah's Outdoor Firepit Worship Service— last one	27	9:30a.m.- ULCW's Morning Bible Study *Julie's last day in the office.	28	Building Closed	29	7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study				
30	Ricardo/Deb K. 9a.m.-Worship 10a.m.-Fellowship ♦ After worship All Committee Meeting	31	10a.m.-Messiah's Bible Study 6p.m.-Bible Study on Messiah's Facebook page	Color Codes for the Tri-Churches United Lutheran, Messiah Lutheran, Peace Lutheran, Tri-Church Events													
																	



TAB

TAB

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

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MN.**

August Newsletter 2026 of United Lutheran Church

Faithnews

Psalms 34:14

Seek Peace and Pursue it.

