



Easter Message from NEMN Synod Bishop Amy Odgren



Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ when she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her. John 20:11-18

Dear siblings in Christ,

When my son was about three years old, he had to compete for parental attention from his two older sisters and several of his cousins who lived nearby. The older children knew how to finesse the right times to state their needs or “report” on the other’s misguided antics. Feeling ignored, oftentimes my son would take my face in his small little hands, and turning it towards his, he would say, “Mommy, look at me!” Then he would make his needs known. “Look at me.” We all want to be seen and have others hear what we’re thinking about, what we have to say.

On that first Easter morning, as Mary made her way to the tomb, she expected death. She was on her way to put more spices and fragrant oils on the shroud of Jesus. As the Gospel of John relates, the world must have seemed a dark place for her. I imagine that her hopes were dashed as she scurried along. Maybe she lamented the promise of the just, merciful reign of God drawing near, the new political economy of the last first, the hungry are fed, tyrants are cast down from their thrones, the low being raised up are now over - all gone - as the ruling powers silenced such hopes with the death of the one who many called God’s Son, Jesus, the one who captured the dreams of so many with the liberation of new life in Christ.

Mary saw the tomb, empty. She observed the cloths that had wrapped the body of Jesus, and then she encountered the Risen Lord. In her profound grief, in her lament of all that could have been, Mary did not recognize Jesus. Perhaps Jesus wanted to take her face into his hands and say, “Look at me!” But it was only when Jesus called her by name that she was able to see the risen Lord. Jesus saw Mary. Jesus knew Mary. Jesus spoke, “Mary.” From the darkness of unknowing and confusion, God brought light. Into the emptiness, God gave life. Instead of sorrow, God made her joy overflow. It was being completely seen, utterly known, and lovingly called by name that opened Mary Magdalene to the hope of the resurrection and into a deeper relationship with Christ. Because Mary was seen, she could see.

We too have been seen, known, and called by God through the crucified and risen Savior. In fact, having received the Spirit in baptism, we can all now see. We can see Christ in our midst, we can see Christ in our neighbor. No one is invisible to God, and no one is invisible to us, if we but look. Perhaps we need to adjust our perspective – to look more closely, but the reality is that in Christ, we are a new creation. This new reality has been realized in the death and resurrection of Jesus and poured out upon all flesh through the Spirit! Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, God’s love has been poured into our hearts and through this Spirit the promise of resurrection lives in us. This same Holy Spirit draws us together as the one Body of Christ who is free to love God and serve our neighbor. Imagine the freedom to live lives of integrity - of wholeness – because we have been seen and known exactly as we are and called by name to this new life. Imagine a world where every individual is clothed in the dignity of being made in God’s image – each being knit into one vibrant tapestry!

Of course, we live in a world where this vision is not universally apparent – we get glimpses. Yet, we still “see in a mirror dimly.” But God has made us a people of hope with vision for what God’s mission is – vision for what God’s intention of living as ones made in God’s very own image means – a yield that might bear much fruit. So beloved ones, with newly opened eyes, let us be bold to say, “Christ is risen. Christ is risen, indeed! Hallelujah!”

Happy Easter and may the Risen Lord who is present to you fill your hearts with joy! In Christ, Bishop Amy Odgren

Pastor Liz drop in hours:

Thursday 9-11am

Appointments are always welcome!

You can reach her via Email:

pastorliz@proctorlutheran.org

or on her cell (Sun-Thurs 9-5 or

leave a voicemail or text anytime in an

emergency : 218-461-0933

Secretarial office hours are currently

suspended.

Please contact Pastor Liz with any needs.

ULCP Office 218-624-4255



Worship 9:00am Sunday Mornings

Sunday School: April 7 & 21 at 10 am

Communion & Confirmation Class: April 14 & 28th 12:30 pm

People of all ages are invited to come and learn about holy communion alongside our confirmands. This is a great opportunity for those who are not yet communing and those who want to continue to learn as they grow. We'll be storytelling, scripture-reading, baking bread, and doing some taste testing! Come for both sessions if you can, or come as you're able.

Bible Study: April 11 & 25 at 1:00pm

Quilting: Thursdays at 10am

Altar Guild: Come and Learn! April 28, 10am

After worship, those interested in learning about altar guild and those who have long served are all invited gather in the sanctuary. We'll connect about current practices and train new folks who might want to serve in this way. Altar Guild cares for the worship space and sacramental elements. They change the colorful paraments/ banners, set up and clean up communion each week.

Scout Breakfast April 21st following worship.

Meet some of the Scouts who are sponsored by our congregation as they prepare a Thank You Breakfast for our church!

April Birthdays

5 Doug Haala

6 Mandi Murray

8 Joshua Westendorf

14 Janel Peterson

21 Kristen Lesemann

24 Gracie Grabko

26 Peggy Jugasek

26 Jake Jorgenson



In Our Prayers

Ashley Carlson

Andy Anderson

Kathy Jazdzewski

Sue & Tracy Mahrer who are grieving the loss of their son David

Military serving our country



We keep all our friends at United & all in need in prayer. This prayer list includes those with emergent needs.

Call or email Paster Liz with any prayer requests.

Unless requested to Pr. Liz with an update, names will be removed from this immediate need list after 2 months



Christ in our Home Daily Devotional

Pick up the latest copy at church.



50 Years of World Hunger

For 50 years we have joined together as Lutherans to address the root causes of hunger and poverty through [ELCA World Hunger](#). Part of this church's long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God's promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. As we reflect on our last 50 years of ministry together, congregations are invited to celebrate the progress we've made against hunger and poverty, and to increase support for programs around the world. A new [case statement](#) documents 50 years of impact, and additional resources have been developed to support congregations in commemorating this milestone together. [Learn more.](#)

ELCA Disaster Response Humanitarian Aid

As we watch the disasters happening throughout the world, we wonder what can we do? Of course we can pray, but we can do something else too. The Evangelism/Outreach team will be selling Equal Exchange chocolate bars for \$5.00. They have been purchased with Thrivent Action Project money. **Chocolate bars will be sold at church services beginning April 7th through April 28th.** All proceeds will go to ELCA Disaster Relief to help those in need of humanitarian aid.

2024 Minnesota March Food Campaign

It is that time of year again when our community takes part in the Minnesota March Food Campaign to benefit our local Proctor Food Shelf. This endeavor helps to keep the shelves stocked with food available to those experiencing circumstances that make it difficult to feed a family. In 2023 the Proctor Food Shelf provided 66,913 pounds of food to 1,054 families in need. These families may have inadequate wages, disabilities or minimal fixed incomes.

The Proctor Food Shelf is staffed by all volunteers. The food shelf is open every Wednesday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. A very faithful group worked 2,120 hours in 2023. These volunteers come mostly from four area churches plus other community members. United Lutheran Church of Proctor works twice a month. St. Rose Catholic Church and Forbes United Methodist Church each work once a month. Because the staff is all volunteer, all donations go towards helping those with food insecurity. The food shelf is very grateful to the City of Proctor for providing the space in PACC to house us.

The campaign begins March 1st. **Donations will be accepted through April 7th.** The Proctor Food Shelf will also receive funding from the state campaign sponsors according to how many pounds of food and how many dollars are collected during this time.

You may donate food or money through your local church any Sunday service during these dates. You may also bring nonperishable food or monetary donations to the food shelf any Wednesday throughout the campaign or mail checks written to Proctor Food Shelf at 100 Pionk Drive, Proctor, MN 55810.

If you donate through your church, you will help your congregation win the "Campbell's Soup Can Trophy". Currently Forbes United Methodist is holding the trophy. Last year they donated \$2,238 and 168 pounds of food.

Summer Canoe Trip: August 25-30 with Camp Amnicon



Youth age 11 and older are invited on an amazing canoe trip for one last adventure before school! “Experience Growth Beyond Your Comfort Zone!” This is an experience of supported adventure with well trained canoe guides. Make your tent your home and enjoy meals along the river! Even if you’ve never canoed before, you will gain the skills needed to enjoy this trip. Pastor Liz will accompany the youth and other adults are invited to inquire (background checks required). Friends are welcome- they do not have to be members of our church. Thanks to the Irving Community Club, we have significant funds to offset the costs and make this affordable for everyone. Please contact Pr. Liz if you’re interested by early April.



Day Camp at United: Monday- Thursday, August 12-15, 9am-3pm

Students entering grade 1-5 are welcome to enjoy a week of celebrating God’s love while learning, playing, cooking, and have fun with new friends! Registration coming soon. Youth & adults interested in helping, please reach out to Pastor Liz. We will have options for folks with any range of time availability.

ELCA Conference of Bishops calls for cease-fire in Gaza

The Conference of Bishops met Feb. 27–March 5. Among other [key business](#) the conference issued a [statement](#) and sent a [letter](#) to President Joe Biden calling for a permanent bilateral cease-fire in Gaza and urging the president and legislators “to do everything in their power to bring an end to the current suffering and lay the foundation for lasting peace with justice.” Read more at [ELCA.org/News-and-Events/8219](https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8219).

Faithful Teaching: Lutherans and Catholics in Dialogue XII

For more than 50 years, Lutherans and Catholics in the United States have listened to the word of God in dialogue with one another. *Faithful Teaching* is the 12th dialogue of the U.S. Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue. It seeks greater mutual understanding of the two communions’ respective processes of faithful teaching. Learn more at fortresspress.com/store/product/9781506495590/Faithful-Teaching.

Church Cleaning

As most of you know, in 2023 United Lutheran Church changed our church cleaning to a volunteer program. The church is asking people to sign up to clean for a month and be paid or given credit for \$100. It’s a big job, but many people have stepped up and volunteered their services. There is a list of items that should be done weekly in a mailbox labeled “Church Cleaning” by the office. Remember not all jobs listed need to be done weekly, some do, but all need to be checked weekly to see if they need attention. The cleaner/cleaners can be paid \$100 for the month or donate that amount back to the church. Our volunteers are wonderful and our church has been kept nice and clean. The Council wants to thank everyone who has participated, we realize it is a BIG job. In fact, it is such a big job, feel free to find a friend/friends and split a month. We have a sign-up sheet for 2024 on the table in the narthex and thanks again for a job well done and for helping us save money at the same time. Talk to anyone on the Council if you have any questions. * Please only use the Neutral Floor Cleaner on our newly waxed floors. *

A big thank you to J.R. Kimball (Marcy Southerton Kimball's husband) for the wonderful job cleaning and polishing the basement floor! They are beautiful. The work is very much appreciated!



Treasurer's Report Narrative for 2/29/2024

Receipts for February were \$8,100 for the General Fund and \$0 for Special Funds.

Expenses paid in February were \$7,453 for the General Fund and \$252 for Special Funds, \$152.35 from Christmas Luncheon SF for Gifts/Decorations for the 2024 Luncheon and \$100 to VLM from Irving Youth Fund.

That puts us under YTD budget for revenues by \$1,777 and under YTD budget for expenses by \$1,688, for a net loss of \$89.

The balance in special funds is \$36,931 and our CD at EverBank matured on 2/17/24 and was reinvested with Mission Investment Funds for three years at 5%. The balance at transfer to MIF was \$195,716.26. We are awaiting receipt of the account documentation.

There are no new areas over budget at this time.

Audrey L. Berglund

General Fund	Feb 2024 Budget	Feb 2024 Actual	YTD 2024 Budget	YTD 2024 Actual
Income	\$8,233	\$8,100	\$16,466	\$14,689
Expenses	\$8,233	\$7,453	\$16,466	\$14,778
Net Income (Loss)		\$647		(\$89)

**United Lutheran Church of Proctor Northeastern Minnesota Synod – ELCA Congregation
Council Meeting Minutes Sunday, February 11, 2024**

Present: Pr. Liz Davis, Audrey Berglund, Janis Anderson, Dan Saarela, Mark Linne, Gordy Westendorf, Lisa Larson, Gwen Nelson, Marcy Kimball

Absent: Dennis Palm, Deb Vanneste

Came to Order: 7:33am

Devotions: Pr. Liz

Approval of Minutes: M. Audrey, S. Janis

Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee

- Pass resolution of signers for the safety deposit box at the First National Bank of Proctor. Claudia Gannucci, Dan Saarela and Mark Linne will be signers. M. Janis, S. Mark.
- Audrey seeking approval to be the one to pick the best interest rate (9 month CD or 1 year CD) once the CD needs to be renewed. M. Janis, S. Mark

Approval of Treasurers Report: M. Janis, S. Lisa

Pastor's Report

- Wednesday, February 14, 2024 is Ash Wednesday. Service at United.
- Pastor Liz seeking support and approval of submitting a grant for a sabbatical. Motion to apply for the grant. M. Janis, S. Audrey
- Orientation to Council – Pr. Liz handed out Constitution for United to all, Healthy Congregations Covenant of Conduct to all, Fellowship Committee job description to Gwen, and the Organization Chart to all. Discussed Council Person of the Month. Mark and Marcy need keys to the church.

President's Report

- Thank you for volunteering and filling all of the seats on Council.

Committee Report

- **Worship and Music:** No report. Dennis absent.
- **Christian Education:** Sunday School is back in full swing after Christmas. Kalie taught Sunday School in January. Lisa hopes to get the Sunday School class to serve coffee after church to get them intertwined with the congregation.
- **Fellowship:** Gwen and Deb will update the Fellowship Committee job description and bring it to next Council meeting. Planning a breakfast potluck for Palm Sunday, March 24. They plan to do something once a month. Get the Sunday School involved as well. Scout breakfast is April 21.
- **Evangelism and Service to Others:** The warm clothing drive for Harbor Mission in January was successful and they received many new items. The month of March will be the Food Campaign and they would like to get the Campbell's soup can trophy back. In April, they will be selling candy bars again with the money going towards food hunger around the world.
- **Property:** Main issue is the smell of gas reported in the church office. Reg has had multiple people come in to look at it and they have determined that it's the burner letting off a puff of something which leaves a smell in the office. Proposing a hole be cut in the door to insert a fan to blow fresh air in and suck the office air out. Another possibility is to put a vent next to the heater. Mark also discussed waxing the floor in the fellowship hall.

Staff Reports: Personnel committee meeting

Unfinished Business: N/A

New Business

- Name tag board – Get rid of the name tags? Or clean it up and reorganize? In favor of cleaning it up/reorganizing.
- Item check out policy in the newsletter
- Funeral policy and wedding policy moved to next meeting. Work with Fellowship Committee.

Ideas/Requests from Congregation

- Girl Scouts request to use fellowship hall and Sunday School room on April 20 for World Thinking Day. Allow them to use the space at no charge as long as they clean up after themselves and leave it the way it was when they got there. M. Audrey, S. Janis
- Boy Scouts request to use fellowship hall on March 16 for Eagle Scout Ceremony. Allow them to use the space. M. Janis, S. Gordy

Announcements and Correspondence

- Church cleaning letter – sign up to clean the church
- PHS All Night Grad Party request for contribution. Donating \$50 to PHS All Night Grad Party. M. Gordy, S. Janis
- Two letters from Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry – discuss at next meeting

Calendar

Next meeting: Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 7:30am

End Meeting: 8:37am **Adjournment:** M. Audrey, S. Mark Minutes submitted : Marcy Kimball

Note from the editor: Please send all submissions to Marty, no later than the 20th of the month
martjj@aol.com or Cell 218-213-1060

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesda	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Pastor's Drop in Hours 9:00- 11:00am 10am Quilting	5	6
	5:45pm Cub Scouts 7pm Boy Scouts	5:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Proctor AA				
7 9am Worship 10am Sunday School 10am Fellowship mtg	8	9	10	11 Pastor's Drop in Hours 9:00- 11:00am 10am Quilting 1pm Bible Study	12	13
	5:45 Cub Scouts 7pm Boy Scouts	5:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Proctor AA				
14 9am Worship 12:30 Communion & Confirmation Class	15	16	17	18 Pastor's Drop in Hours 9:00- 11:00am 10am Quilting	19	20
	5:45pm Cub Scouts 7pm Boy Scouts	5:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Proctor AA				
21 Scout Breakfast 9am Worship 10am Sunday School	22	23	24	25 Pastor's Drop in Hours 9:00- 11:00am 10am Quilting 1pm Bible Study	26	27 Synod Assembly
	5:45pm Cub Scouts 7pm Boy Scouts	5:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Proctor AA				
28 9am Worship 10am Altar Guild 12:30 Communion & Confirmation Class	29	30				
	5:45pm Cub Scouts 7pm Boy Scouts	5:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Proctor AA				

WE WELCOME EVERYONE!
United Lutheran Church of Proctor
701 Third Avenue
Proctor, MN 55810

Northeastern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's Work: Our Hands.

Welcome to United Lutheran

Sunday worship 9:00 am

Serving our community and the world
as we connect with one another and God.

COVID SAFETY:

Masks will be optional in all church spaces.

If you feel sick, Please Stay Home
or wear a mask.

Within this newsletter are various events hosted
by United during the month. You are invited to
all. We look forward to seeing you.

United Lutheran Church of Proctor

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