

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 of Proctor

Sunday worship 9:00 am

Serving our community

and the world

as we connect with

one another and God.

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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Find us on Facebook:

[Facebook.com/proctorlutheran](https://www.facebook.com/proctorlutheran)

APRIL 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 7pm Proctor AA	2 4:30pm Confirmation 5:15pm Soup Supper 6pm Lenten Worship At United	3 9-11 Pastor Liz Drop In Hrs 10am Quilting 1pm Bible Study	4	5
6 7:30am Council Mtg Camp Sunday 9am Worship 10am Sunday School 12:10 Generous Together at OSLC	7	8 7pm Proctor AA	9 4:30pm Confirmation 5:15pm Soup Supper 6pm Lenten Worship At OSELCC	10 9-11 Pastor Liz Drop In Hrs 10am Quilting	11	12
13 Palm Sunday 9am Worship Potluck Breakfast after worship	14	15 7pm Proctor AA	16 4:30pm Confirmation	17 9-11 Pastor Liz Drop In Hrs 10am Quilting 6pm Maundy Thursday Worship at United	18	19 6pm Good Friday at Elim
20 Easter Worship 9am at United 11am at OSLC 10am Sunday School	21	22 7pm Proctor AA	23 4:30pm Confirmation Prayer & Craft All Ages Event	24	25	26
27 9am Worship	28	29 7pm Proctor AA	30 4:30pm Confirmation			3



United Lutheran Church of Proctor
Thoughts from Pastor Liz

Greetings to you, People of God!

I never put our family Christmas cards in the mail this winter. I had them printed. I got stamps. I just never managed to stuff, address, and send them. I'm considering sending them out for Easter (although my schedule isn't exactly calmer in this season).

We spend a lot of time and energy decorating for and celebrating Christmas, but really, Easter (and the whole of Lent- Holy Week) is just as much, if not more, a central holiday. This month opens the greatest drama in our church year, as we follow Jesus through his walk of ministry towards his death and resurrection.

Christmas holds the good news that God hears us and comes close. God has come to be fully among us, to know and love us. Holy Week and its response, Easter, show us the incredible truth of Jesus' commitment to us. Nothing, not abandonment, rejection, back-stabbing, lies, cruelty, or murder changes Jesus' mind when it comes to being faithful to humanity and even to the individuals who hurt him.

Jesus uses his life to reveal to us the deadly way we live in order to free us for life. When humanity's choice is to grasp onto power and wrestle it away from others, Jesus kneels as a servant to others. When humanity's response to fear is to turn on each other, Jesus shows us that there is no fear in love. When humanity distorts our sight so we see another as our enemy, Jesus hangs alongside them. When humanity avoids death, Jesus enters it. Jesus shows us a new way as he lives with a love that connects him to all people.

On Easter morning, we celebrate that God raised Jesus from the dead as a sign that God's new way is dawning. We can bravely set aside the old way of life and follow Jesus. Through Jesus, love and life have become more powerful than fear and death. This good news changes everything.

It's important enough to use a stamp and let everyone know. Jesus died and is risen, God is with us always, and will bring us into God's new way of life!

Peace, Pastor Liz

Pastor Liz's Drop In Hours

Pastor Liz has drop in office hours on Thursdays 9-11am and others by appointment. To ensure a meeting, please email her at pastorliz@proctorlutheran.org or leave a voicemail at 218-461-0933.



Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 am
Sunday School 1st & 3rd Sunday 10:00 am

Lent Wednesday Soup Supper at 5:15pm &

Simple Worship at 6pm

April 2 at United

April 9 at Our Savior's

Holy Week

April 13 Palm Sunday: 9am at United, 11am at Our Savior's

April 17 Maundy Thursday: 6pm at United

April 18 Good Friday: at Elim

April 20 Easter Sunday: 9am at United, 11am at Our Savior's

Confirmation Class: Confirmation meets Wednesdays at 4:30pm, with an all-ages event on April 23.

Revelation Bible Study April 3, 24, and May 1 at 1pm in the United Conference Room.

Quilting: Thursdays 10am

Graduates: We'd like to honor and celebrate those graduating at all levels this spring. Please email Pr. Liz with name and degree.

Rummage Sale to support Our Savior's Bell Choir: April 3: 5-8pm, 4: 9-3, 5:9-noon. Stop by for goodies from the bake sale to support the congregation! 4831 Grand Ave, Duluth.

In Our Prayers



Mary Schwarz
Sabrina, Kathy Benson's niece
Bob Saarela
Wendell & family, Mary, friends of Pr. Liz
Sletten Family, death of Kalie's mother
Joyce Rix.

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

Visitation List:

Would you like to receive regular visits in your home or care center? Or do you know someone else who might? Email or call Pastor Liz to be included on the list.



Christ in Our Home Daily Devotional
Pick up the latest copy at church

Note from the editor:

Please send all submissions to Marty,
No later than the 20th of the month.
martij36@gmail.com

Potluck Breakfast : April 13 after worship. Please see Sign Up sheet in narthex.

Prayer & Craft: Wed, April 23, 4:30-5:30

Everyone is welcome as we learn about praying with a centering object. We will be learning to make crocheted prayer cross squares and painted rocks. Marty has been making beautiful hand-sized prayer crosses and will be teaching the pattern. We will also have a station to attach cards to the crosses as we are donated crocheted crosses to be used at the NEMN Synod Assembly. Additional stations will include painting prayer rocks and meditative coloring, so there will be something for all folks of all abilities to engage. All ages are welcome. RSVPs to Pastor Liz are appreciated for supply ordering.

Candy Bar Sale:

During the month of April Equal Exchange chocolate bars will be sold at church each Sunday. The profit will be given to Lutheran Disaster Response. This organization shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. If you do not wish to buy a candy bar, any donation to this very important project would be appreciated. Candy bars have been purchased with Thrivent Action money. Because the price of chocolate has gone up, fewer chocolate bars have been purchased as in previous years. Bars will be sold for \$5.00. Any other donations can be taken in cash or a check written to United Lutheran Church with Lutheran Disaster Response in the memo line.

Lent Series: *The Hardest Part: Hurt We Carry; Hope We Find* by Kate Bowler

Life is this strange, tender mix, isn't it? Joy and sorrow. Love and loss. Big wins and even bigger failures. We cling tightly to the beautiful moments, but then the phone rings, a diagnosis drops, or some creeping ache reminds us that everything—everything—is so much more fragile than we'd like to admit. Life can be too much.

And Lent is the season where we sit in that heaviness. For 40 days, we stop pretending things will suddenly get better and face the truth: life is fragile, and so are we.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, when we hear the words no one really wants to say out loud: you are dust, and to dust you shall return. It's not exactly the kind of thing you'd embroider on a pillow, but it's a truth we need. Lent invites us to stop pretending we can hold it all together and instead sit with the weight of what we carry—the grief, the regrets, the messes we can't untangle, no matter how much we try.

Here's the hardest part: to be human is to carry the weight of our own mortality. We love the joy and triumph of Easter morning, but first, we have to sit with Good Friday, when God is on the losing team. Jesus, who we look to for hope and healing, suffers and dies. His pain is real, just like ours. We can't rush past it. We can't skip to the good part, because it's through the deepest hurt that we begin to understand what it means to be fully human, fully broken.

Find Lent devotionals from Kate Bowler at church or online here:
katebowler.com/the-hardest-part-individual-

Stepping On Up: Safe Bay

This is an overnight summer option for those sleeping in their cars, often families. Would you be willing to volunteer?

Volunteer training at Vineyard:
Monday, April 7th 5:30-8:30 PM, dinner provided. Saturday, April 12th @ 10-1 food provided. If you are interested, sign up for volunteer training at steppingonupduluth.org/safe-bay or by emailing afilkins@chumduluth.org.



Day Camp We are so excited to be welcoming the staff from Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry to lead our Day Camp this year! They bring such amazing energy, music, and ways to connect our youth with the God who loves them so very much! Day Camp is July 14-17, 9-3, for those currently in grades K-5. There will also be a Tuesday evening event for the community, details to come. We are looking for folks who might want to host a supper for the camp staff, bring them out to a local activity, or house them: talk to Pr. Liz for details.

Registration is required to ensure we have the correct staff ratio:

Register kids here:

<https://forms.gle/zNzSXiuLe2vNYutP9>

Older youth may volunteer here: <https://forms.gle/PuhWZhVjViLAEUU9A>

Adults may volunteer here: <https://forms.gle/QH6tzVVhZDaAw4m98> Please note you will be required to have a background check through VLM.

Camp Sunday is April 6!

We will have special guests, Program Director Pastor Andrea and Retreat Coordinator Taylor from Voyageurs Lutheran Ministries preaching and sharing about how you can have a life-changing experience at camp!

Summer Camp registration is open at vlmcamps.org and campership forms are available from Pr. Liz. Some United folks are registering for the week of July 6.



Generous Together April 6, 12:10pm:

Participate in this year-long focus on living generous lives with fun, interactive sessions! This spring, we are at Our Savior's in the basement fellowship hall. We had a blast in March as we lived into the story of Jesus feeding the 5000 and talked about what generosity looks like in our lives across our many generations.

**United Lutheran Church of Proctor
Northeastern Minnesota Synod - ELCA
Congregation Council Meeting
Minutes: Sunday, February 2, 2025**

Present: D. Saarela, G. Westendorf, C. Fleckenstein, A. Berglund, J. Anderson, M. Linne, D. Palm

Absent: Pastor Liz, M. Kimball

Came to Order: 7:33 am

Devotions: D. Saarela & C. Fleckenstein

Approval of Minutes: J. Anderson, A. Berglund, approved.

Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee:

Approval of Treasurer's Report: J. Anderson, M. Linne, approved. Janis moved to earmark \$5,000 from the Irving Community Club to the Irving Youth Fund subsidiary to be used for general operating expenses, second D. Palm. Approved.

Pastor's Report: none

President's Report: C. Pasak asked to rent hall April 27th for shower. A. Berglund, J. Anderson, approved.

Committee Reports

- **Worship and Music:** Changing liturgy for Lent, still recruiting choir members, good first meeting.
- **Christian Education:**
 - SS plugging along, will have a meeting with Pastor for more planning.
 - Also planning VLM camp this summer
- **Fellowship:** none
- **Evangelism and Service to Others:** will be selling chocolate candy bars again for ELCA Disaster Relief or Hunger programs, will be decided at meeting.
- **Property:**
 - Installed a vent assistant in the office heater to help with gas odor, and a new smoke/ carbon monoxide detector in office.
 - Installed water detectors in the basement to warn of flooding.
 - Waiting for quote, expected Monday from Vince Gannucci on cost of replacing circuit breakers per insurance company demand. \$2500 has been earmarked for that from special funds.
 - Met with Melinda Studer to discuss addition happening at Hillside Garden. They want agreement regarding use of church parking lot as access to their back parking lot being non-revokable and permanent. After discussion, M. Linne will include clause that either party can revoke at any time.
 - Began process of renewing church insurance. Has invited quotes from six agents. Policy due for renewal June 1, 2025.

Staff Reports: none

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: A. Berglund would like to adopt new section in our newsletter for "thank you" like OSLC has. A. Berglund will talk to Marty.

Ideas/Requests from Congregation: none

Announcements and Correspondence: none

Calendar: March 9, 1-3:30 Council retreat & short meeting at end

End Meeting: A. Berglund, J. Anderson, approved.

Adjournment: 8:20 am

Minutes Submitted: C. Fleckenstein

Treasurer's Report Narrative for 2/28/2025

Receipts for February were \$8,172.80 for the General Fund and \$0 for Special Funds.

Expenses paid in February were \$8,162.66 from the General Fund and \$100 from the Irving Youth Fund for VLM.

That puts us under YTD budget for revenues by \$2,174 and under YTD budget for expenses by \$ 993, for a net loss of (\$1,181).

The balance in special funds is \$35,163.49. Our CD at Mission Investment Fund is valued at \$205,502.28, with interest of \$2,484.70 added on February 28, 2025, our next accrued interest will be posted at the end of May. Please note that neither the principal nor interest in this CD is available for spending at this time. Audrey L. Berglund

General Fund	Feb 2025 Budget	Feb 2025 Actual	YTD 2025 Budget	YTD 2025 Actual
Income	\$8,728	\$ 8,173	\$17,456	\$ 15,282
Expenses	\$8,728	\$ 8,163	\$17,456	\$ 16,463
Net Income (Loss)		\$ 10		(\$ 1,181)

Check out Broken Lands podcast, a ministry of our NEMN Synod! Broken Lands brings together the voices of Native Americans and white settlers to reflect on the effects of treaty violation, the value of reparations, and to imagine a future of living well together. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/broken-lands-a-podcast-about-reparations-and/id1652160584>