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The Messenger

Monthly Newsletter of United Lutheran Church

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THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR ANTHONY . . .

The posted speed limit was 65 mph. It was Friday afternoon and I was running late. I was in a hurry. I was travelling on I-15 from Victorville to Barstow. Kim taught at Barstow High School. I was en route to pick her up.

My rate of travel was somewhere north of 85 mph. At least that's what a quick glance indicated. That is, after I had spotted the California Highway Patrolman sitting in the median of the interstate where I-15 bends northerly. Busted. My heart stopped. This would be a sizable fine.

We made eye contact. At least that's what it felt like. And then the California Highway Patrolman simply gave me a "two finger country road wave."

Apparently I was in the free. I couldn't believe it. It was a hard feeling to describe, something akin to having your girlfriend's father catch you in the act of kissing her, only to offer you a beer in the next moment.

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I brought this encounter up with an older gentleman in our Victorville congregation during Sunday coffee between worship services. I expressed the sentiment that I couldn't believe I wasn't pulled-over. No warning. No ticket. Nothing.

"You don't fit the profile." That was his answer. He also pointed out that I was driving a pick-up truck with Nebraska plates. These facts further reinforced the "profile."

This was the High Desert in Southern California. Yes, everyone speeds. (Southern Californians would tell you they don't speed, that they're simply keeping up with traffic.) But the CHP were looking for speeders of a different profile; ones who fit the profile of those engaged in other activities. Drug smuggling, human trafficking, and illegal immigration (unaware of the "PC" term right now) were at least three of those activities. Appearance didn't associate me with of any of these activities. It was then that I understood "white privilege."

Privilege means that you are granted opportunities and advantages that others don't have. "White privilege" means that these are extended to you on the basis of skin color. It is a privilege which may vary as to its expression depending upon the context.

"White privilege" means that, in Lincoln, Nebraska, I can go walking through the Northern Lights neighborhood, or Havelock, without being eye-balled as an intruder. "White privilege" means that, in Lincoln, Nebraska, I can enter a convenience store—any store for that matter—without being covered by suspicious eyes which assume I have a higher proclivity of stealing merchandise. "White privilege" means that, in Lincoln, Nebraska, I look a little less menacing walking through a downtown alley at night. "White privilege" means that, at United Lutheran, I can attend worship without folks wondering either "how I found my way here," or "what her parents think about the fact she's dating/married to a black man." "White privilege" is not simply about being the receiving end of advantages, but also comes to expression in how we react to the differences of those around us.

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No, I have not written this article to "beat you over the head" with accusations of "white privilege," or to declare that those who are recipients of "white privilege" need to self-flagellate and bear the yoke of contrived guilt. I have not written this article to tell you that "white people are evil" and "America is racist." (There are racists of all stripes [even all political ones!]. And the vast majority of Americans are incredible people who are able embrace diversity and love this country at the same time.)

But I have written this article to assert that "white privilege" is real. It can be subtle. It can be suppressed. But once one becomes aware of it, emotionally honest about it, self-awareness becomes transformational. And that self-awareness becomes the soil bed of self-growth. And self-awareness—which so many are lacking—is the first step to prayerful conversation and building the bonds of a diverse country.

– Pr. Anthony

Education

Sunday School:

For the safety of teachers and students, lessons will be mailed twice monthly to families. These short object lessons, relating to a theme will be easy for families to talk about over a meal, before bed, etc.

7th & 8th Grade Confirmation:

October 14, 5:45-6:30 p.m.

October 28, 5:45-6:30 p.m.

Time & Talent 2021

In 2020, 137 of our members completed a Time & Talent sheet, indicating their interest in volunteering for many of the opportunities offered.

We appreciate all who can and do complete Time & Talent sheets. However, in 2020, with the restrictions of COVID-19, our volunteers have not been able to be called in and utilized. Taking that into consideration, the Christian Commitment Ministry recommends that the information from the 2020 Time & Talent sheets be retained in 2021, rather than having everyone fill out and submit a new one. We are asking, therefore, that only those who want to make changes fill out a new Time & Talent sheet. Please contact Marie in the office if you would like to be sent a new sheet.

Third Graders to Receive Bibles

At 9:00 a.m. on October 11 and October 18 third graders will be instructed by Theresa Webster in the various parts of the Bible. Parents are encouraged to attend the classes with their child.



Homebound Status

If you or a family member has become homebound and desire to be on United Lutheran's home visitation list, please contact our Secretary for Pastoral Care, Marie Sandell. She will obtain the necessary contact information from you. Needless to say, unless you contact us we cannot know for certain the candidates for homebound visits.

Additionally, as most of you know, visitation—both with regard to homebound and institutional settings (hospital/nursing home-assisted living/rehabilitation, etc.)—is important to the ministry at United Lutheran Church. At the same time, concerns over the transmission of COVID-19 have deeply curtailed this aspect of the ministry for the time being, especially with regard to the latter, or the institutional aspect of pastoral visitation.

Thank you for your understanding.

Older.Wiser.Lutheran.Seniors.

Because of the ongoing restrictions of Covid-19, O.W.L.S. will not meet for the remainder of 2020.



Even though we can't meet, the group would like to continue the tradition of providing Christmas gifts for Havelock Manor residents who so appreciate our remembering them. This year, only "Santa" (aka Susan Fertig and helpers) will shop, wrap, and deliver the gifts for O.W.L.S. participants. They will not be able to do this without monetary donations to purchase gifts for the manor's 24 residents. If you would like to make a contribution, you may send it to the church office or put it in the basket located in the Narthex.

Please clearly label your contribution as:
"OWLS Christmas Gifts".

Donations need to be received by November 15.

Text Study New Day—NewTime

Text Study with Pastor Anthony will be held weekly beginning Monday, October 5 at 1:00 p.m.
All guidelines will be observed.

United Quilters



LWR Quilters are in need of material for liners. This would include old sheets, blankets, mattress pads, etc. If you have any of these items either bring them to church or call the church office and arrangements will be made to pick up your donated items.

Lutheran Food Pantry

Currently the Food Bank of Lincoln is unable to provide food to local sites who usually rely on their donations to provide food for their clients. In order to try to fill a need, the Lincoln Lutheran Food Pantry is collecting donations of food to be distributed to Matt Talbot Kitchen, Fresh Start Home, The Good Neighbor Center, and the City Mission. Items needed include:

1 pound bag of rice	Canned fruit	Canned chicken
Ramen noodles	Hamburger helper	Dry pasta noodles
Canned meals with meat (spaghettios, ravioli, stew)		Peanut Butter
Juice (large cans or plastic bottles)	Canned beans (pinto, kidney, chili etc.)	
Pork and beans	Saltine crackers	Canned tomatoes (any kind)
Pancake mix	Syrup	Instant potatoes
Canned Peas and other canned vegetables (not green beans or corn)		

United Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report Monday, September 14, 2020

Submitted herewith is the Balance Sheet and Summary Treasurer's Report for August 2020.

In review of the August financial reports for United Lutheran Church, note the following items:

On the balance sheet, our cash position remains good with Regular Checking \$190,474, Savings \$27,883, Memorial Fund \$44,804, and MIF Investment \$117,431 for a total of \$380,582.

The August Offering Income was \$22,642. Total August Operating Fund Income was \$25,487.

Total August Income was \$28,010.

The August Operating Expense was \$16,078. Total August Expenses were \$18,222.

The Total Operating Fund Expenses through August 2020 (\$160,686) is \$64,258 less than the Total Operating Fund Income through August 2020 (\$222,944). Offerings through August 2020 (\$189,277) is \$6,982 less than August 2019 (\$196,259). Total Operating Expenses through August 2020 (\$160,686) is \$49,617 less than August 2019 (\$210,303).

Donations designated for Capital Improvements and/or the 2018 Renovation Project are Transferred from the Regular Checking Account to the Saving Account on a monthly basis.

Renovation Fund Balance (8/31/2020)	\$ 27,883 (Savings Account)
August Designated Donations	<u>1,196</u> (Not Transferred)
Renovation Fund Balance (8/31/2020)	\$ 29,079

Renovation Long Term Loan

	Principal	Interest
Beginning Balance 7/31/2020	\$ 301,379.27	\$ 15,565.02
Payment 8/1/2020	<u>1,088.16</u>	<u>1,051.86</u>
Principal Balance as of 8/31/2020	\$ 300,291.13	\$ 16,620.88

Monthly Loan Payments are made via Electronic Fund Transfer from Regular Checking on the 1st of the month. The Monthly Loan Payment amount (\$2,144) is transferred from the Renovation Fund (Saving Account) to Regular Checking monthly. August Capital Improvement Donations are approximately half of monthly Loan Payment.

Respectfully submitted, Dean A. Jaeger, Treasurer

Thanks . . .

Pastor Neal & United Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the quilt, prayer, and gift card. The quilt is beautiful and I love the color. Thank you to Mrs. Webster as well for bringing the quilt to my house. I appreciate that, even though we're living in a difficult time, you're still showing the seniors how much you care about us. **-Thanks you! Hanna Brandt**

Dear United Lutheran,

I would like to than the United Quilters for the beautiful quilt for my 2020 graduation. Thanks to Pastor Anthony for the blessing service. Thank you United Church family for the gift card.

-Thank you, Madison Green

Dear United Lutheran,

Thank you so much for the amazing quilt and gift card! I also appreciate how much you have supported me over the years. **-Thank you, Delaney Exon**

Dear United Family,

Thank you for your cards, letters, and notes sent to my mother, Rebecca Rippe. She had a great birthday with lots of fun greetings from our United family. Take care of each other and thanks for making her birthday special. **-Karen Krull**

Pastor Neal and All of the Congregation,

Thank you so much for all your wonderful cards, telephone calls, and memorials in memory of our wonderful husband and father, Wes. You are all so kind and thoughtful.

-Fran and Terry Otto and family

United Family,

Thank you for the donations to the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center. The Job Corps collection on the Fifth Sunday of August was \$1,211!

What a tremendous gift to that fund. Hygiene Kits total eighty at this point with more to be purchased and assembled.

Your generosity is beyond expectation.

Thank you! **-Outreach Ministry**

In Our Prayers . . .

Glenn Sorensen

Charmain Satre

Lee Loschen

Cliff Becker

Jeff Peterson

Jim Hauptmeier

Kay Rung

JoAnn Noonan

Denise Schneider-Bargar

Michelle Tichota

Carolyn Keil

SCRIP Cards May Be Purchased

If you are interested in buying SCRIP cards contact George Hill at 402-430-9554. George will either deliver the SCRIP cards to be picked up at the church or to your home.

Thank you to all who have continued to support the SCRIP program at United during this time.

In Our Prayers

Please let the church office know if there has been a birth, baptism, marriage, illness, or death in your family that you would like to share. Let us know if someone is hospitalized or needs our prayers. If you give your permission, this request will be added to the list of prayers in the "Weekly Witness." If you would like immediate prayers for the individual, the office will initiate the Prayer Chain.

This is the schedule of events for October 2020.
Please check Facebook, e-mail, the website, and regular mail for further updates.

UNITED LUTHERAN CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 2020						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous	3
4 EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:15a Holy Communion 9:30a Holy Communion	5 1:00p Text Study	6 9:00a TOPS #508	7 10:00a Staff Meeting	8	9 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous	10
11 NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:15a Holy Communion 9:00a 3 rd Grade Bible Class 9:30a Holy Communion	12 1:00p Text Study 6:00p Congregation Council Meeting	13 9:00a TOPS #508	14 10:00a Staff Meeting 5:45p Confirmation	15	16 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous	17
18 TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:15a Holy Communion 9:00a 3 rd Grade Bible Class 9:30a Holy Communion	19 1:00p Text Study	20 9:00a TOPS #508	21 10:00a Staff Meeting	22	23 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous	24
25 REFORMATION SUNDAY 8:15a Holy Communion 9:30a Holy Communion	26 1:00p Text Study 7:00p All Ministry Meeting	27 9:00a TOPS #508	28 10:00a Staff Meeting 5:45p Confirmation	29 9:00a Assemble November "Messenger"	30 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous	31

Office Hours

Office hours Monday through Friday:
8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon

Watch the "Weekly Witness" for changes of upcoming events or check-out our website
at: www.unitedlutheranlincoln.com

Website contains the "Weekly Witness," Sunday worship bulletin, "Messenger," and the calendar.
Facebook will post the visual sermon as well as other information. The service can be found on YouTube.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

To United Lutheran Church Community:

As we have communicated to you throughout these past months, we have had but two priorities with regard to our ministry together: That we are able to (1) receive the Word of God in (2) a context of reduced risk; in an atmosphere of comfort. All else has been, and will continue to be, determined in light of these priorities. These priorities have been reflected through our implementation of Federal and Local guidelines in worship and other congregational gatherings.

With that said, there will come a time in which Lancaster County will begin to ease guidelines for public gatherings. But it is here we need to be careful and cautionary: **The government's timeline for easing guidelines will not be automatically mirrored by United Lutheran.** To do so would be irresponsible. We recognize that we are on the cusp of a flu season that will overlap with our concerns regarding COVID-19. We recognize that a large percentage of United Lutheran's worshipers fall within a high-risk demographic. We recognize that COVID-19 "flare ups" are still not out of the question.

Most importantly, we recognize that many of our members—especially those with underlying health conditions—will not be ready for such easing of the guidelines, will be left with an intensified sense of vulnerability and a feeling of betrayal by United's leadership.

So please know: **Our decision-making process with reference to guidelines—both their maintaining and their easing—moving forward will not only consist of our Pastor/Council, but our Pastor/Council in conversation with the congregation. At some point many of the guidelines will be lifted, but it has to be done through teamwork and listening, prayerful conversation together, and—most importantly—a commitment to prioritizing the vulnerable among us.**

In short, the "faith active in love" which has brought us this far, will continue to dictate our decisions moving forward. We thank you for your understanding, but, most importantly, your ability to place the health of others over your own opinions at this time.