



May 2021  
Volume 63 Issue 5

**The Messenger**  
Monthly Newsletter  
of United Lutheran Church  
Telephone: 402-466-2277  
Email: [office@unitedlutheranlincoln.com](mailto:office@unitedlutheranlincoln.com)

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## THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR ANTHONY . . .

It's that darn "definite article" again. I'm comfortable with confessing Jesus Christ as Lord. That is, until I have to use the "definite article." For those in the dark on what a "definite article" is, quoting Merriam-Webster: "the word **the** used in English to refer to a person or thing that is identified or specified." A "definite article" indicates the specificity of reference. For example, if I say that "Jesus Christ is *the* Way," *the* indicates that "Way" is specific to "Jesus Christ." There is none other who can be considered "the Way." He is not *a* Way, but *the* Way. Again, if I say that "Jesus Christ is *the* Truth," *the* indicates that "Truth" is specific to "Jesus Christ." There is none other who can be considered "the Truth." He is not *a* Truth, but *the* Truth.

Oh, dear God, Pastor, how can you say such a thing? Aren't you reinforcing exclusivism and exceptionalism with regard to Christianity and its relation to other forms of religion? No. And no.

First off: not every expression of Christianity is a reflection of Christ's ministry. Let that sink in.

Second: be careful what you say about other religions. To equate the **peculiar** message of the Gospel with other religions (a highly rationalistic and decontextualizing endeavor) both reflects ignorance of the Gospels and disgraces other religions which are not equivalences. Just ask *their* adherents.

Third: let's get our understanding of who Jesus Christ—*the* Way, *the* Truth—is, especially, in this case, as I have used imagery from John's Gospel.

What we learn from John's Gospel is that Jesus Christ, Word of God, is the revealer of the Creator's heart. More than this, we learn that the Creator is not some distant, indifferent, legalistic, law-giver, but an intimate, loving, personality, namely, a Father who is so committed to demonstrating the love through whom the universe is created that he sends his only begotten Son. Not to condemn unbelievers to hell and strong-arm infidels to convert, or exhort introverts to transcend their physical bodies for the sake of unity on a higher plane, but to demonstrate that his self-giving Love was always the source and ground of his relationship to us. *Jesus Christ, God the Son, becomes the incarnate Truth of, the Way to, the Father's eternal heart.* We may even say, on the basis of John's Gospel, that Jesus Christ, Word of God, revealer of the Father's self-giving, unconditional, wholly-committed Self, is the space and shape of creation. Jesus Christ is the revelation of a self-giving Love so fleshy, so inclusive it is still an offense to most Christians; we are still learning the extent, the inclusive nature, of this Love.

Jesus Christ is *the* exclusive Way to all-embracing, all-inclusive, wholly-committed-to-the-point-of-incarnation-onto-crucifixion *Truth* of the Loving Father who is our Creator. Do you know of another Creator who has "flesh in the game"?

So, yes, Jesus Christ is *the* Way. Jesus Christ is *the* Truth. Jesus Christ is *the* Life. As the Revealer of this Father. He is Creator-Father no other religion reveals, incarnates the Way to. Jesus Christ is not *a* Way (among other ways) to *this* Father, but *the* Way to *this* Father.

Employ the "definite article." It'll demonstrate that you understand your own God revealed in Jesus Christ. And it won't be a condescending, colonizing message to the adherents of other religions that, in the end, "all expressions of religion are just saying the same thing." Perhaps, most importantly, you'll begin to appreciate the **peculiarity** of other religions in this light. If you can't use the definite article—**THE**—it could be the case that it is rationalism that you worship. Who needs Jesus Christ then?

Perhaps it's time to learn about the Triune God revealed in Jesus Christ into whom you are baptized. Yes, Jesus Christ is *the* Lord.

— Pr. Anthony

May 16 at 9:30 a.m.  
2021 High School Graduates

Shelby Chesnut, Lincoln Northeast High School  
Callum Daberkow, Lincoln Lutheran Middle/High School  
Cecilia Nason, Lincoln East High School  
Joshua Senstock, Lincoln East High School  
Trenton Sullivan, Lincoln North Star High School  
*D'Kota Thomas, Lincoln Northeast High School*

Blessings and gifts will be presented during the worship service.  
(See their pictures and read about their future plans on the poster in the Narthex.)

### **Pastor's Personal Day**

From this time forward: Pastor Anthony will keep Friday office hours of 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. His personal time will consist of noon Friday through Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m.

### Camp Carol Joy Holling Summer Project 2021

Campers this summer will make greeting cards for shut-ins, clients in nursing homes, and assisted living institutions. Items needed are washable markers, card stock, and 9x5 envelopes. Cash donations will help cover the cost of needed items. Material may be brought to the office. Donations need to be labeled as CJH Summer Project. Nebraska Outdoor Ministries also have a wish-list of items needed for camp. If interested, go to [caroljoyholling.com](http://caroljoyholling.com) and select "Wishlist."

### Fifth Sunday Offering

United encourages students to attend camp during the summer at Camp Carol Joy Holling. This is a meaningful opportunity for students to grow in faith and community, as well as experiencing many fun events. The church helps the families of these students by paying half the cost.

Sunday, May 30, is your opportunity to help with this ministry. The Fifth Sunday Offering for May will go toward the camperships. Carol Joy Holling caps will be available in which to place your donation. You may mail or bring your donation to church.

## "CHARM STRONG" MEMORIAL UNITED LUTHERAN GOLF SCRAMBLE

The 11th annual golf scramble will take place Sunday, September 12, at Woodland Hills Golf Course at Eagle. A portion of the proceeds will directly benefit the "Charm Strong Scholarship" in memory of Charmain Satree. In addition to the \$75 golf fees you may donate a prize for the auction/raffle and/or sponsor a hole. You can also register at the following site:

<https://events.golfstatus.com/event/c1f5407a-e1e1-4e9b-a0a8-4dfe0c267a4f/details/registration-details>

It is suggested that everyone who is interested in playing in the scramble to register early. The maximum number of teams is 36. For those who would like to sponsor a hole, you may do so by registering through the same golf status site above. If you wish to donate items or know someone who does, email Lisa Von Busch at lisavb01@yahoo.com.



### Noisy Offering Coins and 2021 Special Lenten Offering for ELCA Good Gifts



A total of \$3,098.00 was collected for ELCA Good Gifts which were designated to purchase wells for communities in need around the world.

Adult Education  
Mondays, 1:00-1:45 p.m., Text Study

### May 4 Election

United will be a polling place for the upcoming election. The area of access will be limited and routinely disinfected and then disinfected again when the polls close.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Michael and Tia Wetzel on the arrival of their second daughter, Hazel Rae, born April 17. Hazel is the granddaughter of Debra Wetzel.



### Noisy Offering

The Noisy Offering for April, May, and June will go to the People's City Mission.



### Knaub Library

If you enjoy the comedian Trevor Noah, you may be interested in his book *Born a Crime—Stories from a South African Childhood*. Having a black mother and a white father, Trevor's birth was actually illegal in South Africa during apartheid. His mother was a remarkable woman of faith who had great influence on the successful man that he has become. Check it out!

### SCRIP Cards May Be Purchased

If you are interested in buying SCRIP Cards contact George Hill before service or after or call 402-430-9554. SCRIP cards help cover the cost of students attending summer camp.

### Lutheran Food Pantry

The Lutheran Food Pantry is in need of the following non-perishable food items. Please consider donating any of the following:

Jelly                      Peanut Butter  
Canned meals (Ravioli, stew, etc.)  
Dry pasta noodles      Cereal (Breakfast items)  
Canned vegetables      Canned fruit

Items may be brought to the church office. Monetary gifts are also needed and may be sent to the church.

Thanks . . .

Thank you for the many prayers, well wishes and cards during Bud’s hospitalization and passing. They were all greatly appreciated.

-Janice Nelsen

In Our Prayers . . .

Glenn Sorensen	Connie Bulling
Jenelle Plachy	Cliff Becker
Jim Hauptmeier	John Nason
Terry Otto	

In Sympathy . . .

Family and friends of Betty Ottens who died on April 2.

Missed a Worship Service?

If you miss coming to church for worship, you can listen to the most recent service by going to [www.unitedlutheranlincoln.com](http://www.unitedlutheranlincoln.com) and scrolling down to “Listen Here.”

A video of the service can be found on YouTube. You will also find the bulletin, “Weekly Witness,” “Messenger,” and calendar on the website.

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.”

### United Lutheran Church Treasurer’s Report Saturday, April 12, 2021

Submitted herewith is the Balance Sheet and Summary Treasurer’s Report for March 2021.

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

On the balance sheet, our cash position remains good with Regular Checking \$172,565, Savings \$23,182, Memorial Fund \$12,588, and MIF Investment \$120,173 for a total of \$328,508.

The March Offering Income was \$35,184. Total March Operating Fund Income was \$37,287. Total March Income was \$45,991.

The March Operating Expense was \$24,976. Total March Expenses was \$71,080. (Includes \$38,850 Sound System Improvements paid from Memorial Fund and \$4,000 Special Renovation Fund Donation.)

The Total Operating Fund Expenses through March 2021 (\$70,342) is \$18,998 less than the Total Operating Fund Income through March 2020 (\$89,340). Offerings through March 2021 (\$84,018) are \$7,791 greater than March 2020 (\$76,227). Total Operating Expenses through March 2021 (\$70,342) are \$2,871 less than March 2020 (\$67,471).

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 (2/28/2021)	\$ 22,182 (Savings)
March Designated Donations	<u>1,176 (Not Transferred)</u>
Renovation Fund Balance (3/31/2021)	\$ 23,358

#### Renovation Long Term Loan

	Principal	Interest to Date
Beginning Balance —2/28/2021	\$ 283,008.51	\$ 22,718.18
Payment —3/1/2021	1,248.45	895.55
Special Donation—3/9/2021	<u>4,000.00</u>	<u>000.00</u>
Principal Balance as of 3/31/2021	\$ 277,760.06	\$ 23,613.74

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Dean A. Jaeger

## UNITED LUTHERAN CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MAY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 <i>Pastor's personal time off: Friday noon until Sunday at 8:00 a.m.</i>
<b>2 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 8:15a Holy Communion 9:30a Rite of Confirmation	<b>3</b> 9:00a LWR Quilters 1:00p Text Study	<b>4 GENERAL ELECTION Polling Place</b> 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>5</b> 9:10a Staff Meeting	<b>6</b> 6:30p Boy Scouts	<b>7</b> 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Northeast Alanon	<b>8</b> <i>Pastor's personal time off: Friday noon until Sunday at 8:00 a.m.</i>
<b>9 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 8:15a Holy Communion 9:30a Holy Communion	<b>10</b> 1:00p Text Study 6:00p Congregation Council Meeting	<b>11</b> 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>12</b> 9:10a Staff Meeting	<b>13</b> 6:30p Boy Scouts	<b>14</b> 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Northeast Alanon	<b>15</b> <i>Pastor's personal time off: Friday noon until Sunday at 8:00 a.m.</i>
<b>16 SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 8:15a Holy Communion 9:30a Holy Communion/ Recognition of Graduates	<b>17</b> 1:00p Text Study	<b>18</b> 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>19</b> 9:10a Staff Meeting	<b>20</b> 6:30p Boy Scouts	<b>21</b> 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Northeast Alanon	<b>22</b> <i>Pastor's personal time off: Friday noon until Sunday at 8:00 a.m.</i>
<b>23 DAY OF PENTECOST</b> 8:15a Holy Communion 9:30a Holy Communion	<b>24</b> 1:00p Text Study 7:00p All Ministry Meeting Night	<b>25</b> 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>26</b> 9:10a Staff Meeting	<b>27</b> 9:00 Assemble June Newsletter 6:30p Boy Scouts	<b>28</b> 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Northeast Alanon	<b>29</b> <i>Pastor's personal time off: Friday noon until Sunday at 8:00 a.m.</i>
<b>30 THE HOLY TRINITY</b> 8:15a Holy Communion 9:30a Holy Communion	<b>31 MEMORIAL DAY</b>  OFFICE CLOSED					

### Office Hours

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

**Church office will be closed on Monday, May 31,  
in observance of Memorial Day.**

Watch the "Weekly Witness" for changes of upcoming events or check-out our website  
at: [www.unitedlutheranlincoln.com](http://www.unitedlutheranlincoln.com)

Website contains the "Messenger," "Weekly Witness," calendar, and the recorded sermon.  
Go to YouTube for video of the most recent worship service.



United Lutheran Church  
5945 Fremont Street  
Lincoln Nebraska 68507-1623

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## Rite of Confirmation—Sunday, May 2

The Rite of Confirmation will be held on **Sunday, May 2, at the 9:30 a.m. worship service.** This service, conducted within guidelines that have been in place during the pandemic, will consist of a modified liturgy, homily, hymn of the day, prayers, and the Rite of Confirmation ('Affirmation of Baptism'). Communion will not be offered at this service.

*For those members who are accustomed to attending the 9:30 a.m. worship service during this time, but desire to receive the Lord's Supper, we ask that you arrange to come to our 8:15 a.m. worship service on this Sunday. However, even if you have no one being confirmed, you are permitted to worship at the 9:30 service. There will be room in the sanctuary for non-confirmation families due to confirmation family units being seated together.*

Confirmands are:

*Mason Robert Chesnut*

*Mercedes Rose Green*

*Rachel Jean Harre*

*Brynn Marie Nickolaus*