



September 2021
Volume 63 Issue 9

The Messenger
Monthly Newsletter
of United Lutheran Church
Telephone: 402-466-2277
Email: office@unitedlutheranlincoln.com

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR ANTHONY . . .

Gratitude springs from the awe of waking up to the Giftedness of life.

Albert Schweitzer expressed something similar: "Ehrfurcht vor dem Leben." (roughly: "Reverence for Life.") Reverence and Gratitude are siblings birthed by the wonder of Life's Giftedness. Such reality became clear to me the other day during a TedTalk featuring a well-known astrophysicist.

She was describing how the elements of the universe are created by the stars, the product of nuclear fusion reaction at the core of stars. Every atom in the universe comes from this process, with exception of the universe's original hydrogen and helium atoms. Eventually, over the course of billions of years, when a star's hydrogen core is depleted, the star dies. Its elements, along with its newly created elements, diffuse into space.

Stars that are larger than our Sun – say, 5-10 times larger than the Sun's mass—dissipate by way of violent explosions. Every element as large or larger than iron is created by one of these supernova ["star death"] explosions. These elements are, subsequently, distributed back into space. Some perspective here: The iron (Fe) in your blood was created by the death of a star.

As stars orbit around the galaxy (our Sun has orbited the Milky Way Galaxy some 20 times during the Sun's lifetime), the dust of these dissipated stars, their newly created elements, are collected up. These dust and element clouds—now invigorated by heat—become both the seedbed of new stars, and the debris which become new planets.

More than this: each human being conceived is the product of matter/energy that has come together from across the galaxy (and beyond). Each one of us is a provisional, peculiar, unrepeatable constellation of star-sourced matter soon dispersed. Each one of us is a constellation of atoms, the product of the star deaths whose elements has been forged into life; a life gently, intimately molded by our Triune Creator, breathed into existence by that same Triune Creator.

Precisely: the elements of our existence, the material of our bodies, is forged in the stars. We are a people of the stars. The universe we see at night is not alien to the universe which animates us within. We bear the universe created out of love in our bodies. We are intimately shaped in the image of this loving Creator.

Eventually we—our provisional, peculiar, unrepeatable constellation of atoms—disperse. With the Promise: we will again be gathered up, molded and shaped, God-breathed and placed within community. In the New Creation. On the youngest day.

To stand in reverent awe before the beauty of the universe is also the gratitude that a portion of it has been, gathered from across the galaxies, molded and breathed into life, as expressed by this constellation of matter.

If gratitude is difficult for us, then maybe we've confused ourselves with the universe. As opposed to being an infinitely small—God molded and God breathed (of course!) —expression of it.

—Pr. Anthony

Wisdom from the CHRISTIAN COMMITMENT TEAM:

"You pray in your distress and in your need; would that you might pray also in the fullness of your joy and in your days of abundance." – Kahlil Gibran

"When you are grateful, fear disappears and abundance appears." – Anthony Robbins

Where is Saturday Service?

That has been the question. First some context: in 1998 the membership at United Lutheran was 1338. Between 1998 and 2012 United Lutheran – and evidence strongly suggests this was due to the downsizing of the Havelock Shops, the drastic reduction of employment of what was then Goodyear (now Continental), and even the closing of Cushman (all major NE Lincoln employers), in addition the major shift in demographics and housing in NE Lincoln—lost somewhere north of 600 members. From 2012 to now we have lost somewhere north 300 members. (I can tell you that I’ve conducted 125 + funerals, most of those being members, during this time.)

Right now it appears that an honest evaluation of our rolls places us under the 400 member mark. Only a percentage of that number is actually worshipping attendance (as with congregations in general).

Because of this—and I have had this conversation with both the council and numerous individuals in this congregation—***the Saturday service is officially finished. The numbers don’t justify multiple services, and certainly multiple services that further divide the worshipping body into separate days.***

The goal: to build up our worship numbers to the point that we can justify a second service on Sunday mornings, one which is held in proximity to the 9:30 a.m. service, thus keeping the worshipping body together.

Our goal is robust unity at United, of commitment over convenience. I invite you to work toward this goal with our leadership.

—Pr. Anthony

Lincoln-Lancaster County Mask Mandate August 26-September 30

People ages 2 and up, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a mask:

- In all indoor settings, venues, gatherings, and public and private businesses, unless you are able to maintain at least 6 feet of distance from other individuals at all times.
- In all schools, childcare facilities, before and after-school programs, day camps.
- In healthcare settings, including long-term care facilities
- In all indoor sport venues, unless you as an individual are engaged in exercise
- On all forms of public transport.



United Achiever —Rev. Adam P. White

Pastor White at the Lutheran Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was awarded the Sue Roghmeyer Advocacy for Campus Ministry Award at the LuMin Banquet. The Roghmeyer award recognizes “individuals who faithfully advance the work of campus ministry by amplifying its importance and value to the broader church and society.”

Deborah Circle will resume meeting on **Wednesday, September 8 at 1:00 p.m.** Please note the change of day.

All women of United are encouraged to attend this monthly Bible study from the “Gather Magazine.” The Fall of 2021 study is titled “The Gift of the Spirit.” The September session discusses the Spirit of God as the revealer and resource.



Nebraska Synodical Women’s Organization will hold their 15th Biennial Convention and Gathering at Carol Joy Holling Conference and Retreat Center on October 1-3. “Listening for God’s Call” is the theme for the Gathering based upon the words of the Prophet Isaiah 6:8.

Registration forms are available in the office.

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

September 12 has been selected by ELCA as a day of service. United's service project is to have students from second through fifth grades assemble Hygiene Kits for Pine Ridge at 10:30 a.m.

Wonder Women

Wonder Women will meet on September 9 at Jo Hill's home at 6:00 p.m. to plan for the 2021-22 year. Please let Jo know if you plan to attend. Her cell is 402-430-9588.



2021 Pine Ridge Hygiene Kit

Collections will be through September 26.

Items needed:

Bath towels, Combs, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Wash Cloths, Bar Soap and Shampoo (no trial sizes).

Bath towels are the most needed items.

We will also accept monetary donations to purchase most-needed items.

Indicate the donation is for Hygiene Kits.

The donation bin will be in the hallway.

If you have questions, please contact the office.

United Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report Monday, August 9, 2021

Submitted herewith is the Balance Sheet and Summary Treasurer's Report for July 2021.

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

On the balance sheet, our cash position remains good with Regular Checking \$171,803, Savings \$20,252, Memorial Fund \$14,241, and MIF Investment \$121,072 for a total of \$327,368.

The July Offering Income was \$17,882. Total July Operating Fund Income was \$19,840.

Total July Income was \$22,114.

The July Operating Expense was \$24,626. Total July Expenses were \$26,966.

The Total Operating Fund Expenses through July 2021 (\$155,683) are \$16,674 less than the Total Operating Fund Income through July 2020 (\$172,356). Offerings through July 2021 (\$160,654) are \$5,981 less than July 2020 (\$166,635). Total Income through July 2021 (\$197,726) is \$34,589 less than Total Income through July 2020 (\$232,315). Total Expenses through July 2021 (\$216,880) are \$41,990 greater than July 2020 (\$174,890).

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 (6/30/2021)	\$ 20,252 (Savings)
June Designated Donations	<u>1,415 (Not Transferred)</u>
Renovation Fund Balance (6/30/2021)	\$ 21,667

Renovation Long Term Loan

	Principal	Interest to Date
Beginning Balance 6/31/2021	\$ 274,210.87	\$ 26,496.55
Payment 7/1/2021	<u>1,214.31</u>	<u>929.69</u>
Principal Balance as of 7/31/2021	\$ 272,214.56	\$ 27,426.24

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. June Capital Improvement Donations are approximately half of monthly Loan Payment.

Respectfully submitted, Dean A. Jaeger, Treasurer

Comparison of Envelope Offerings - 2021 vs 2019 & 2020						
Month	2019 Donations	2019 Total	2020 Donations	2020 Total	2021 Donations	2021 Total
31-Jan	\$22,174.40	\$22,174.40	\$25,634.32	\$25,634.32	\$25,756.80	\$25,756.80
28-Feb	\$26,805.05	\$48,979.45	\$23,608.00	\$49,242.32	\$22,847.00	\$48,603.80
31-Mar	\$36,593.63	\$85,573.08	\$26,323.00	\$75,565.32	\$35,104.75	\$83,708.55
30-Apr	\$24,035.93	\$109,609.01	\$19,996.92	\$95,562.24	\$18,199.50	\$101,908.05
31-May	\$23,263.50	\$132,872.51	\$38,941.73	\$134,503.97	\$22,523.00	\$124,431.05
30-Jun	\$22,535.89	\$155,408.40	\$16,089.11	\$150,593.08	\$17,831.00	\$142,262.05
31-Jul	\$19,499.62	\$174,908.02	\$15,214.00	\$165,807.08	\$17,729.00	\$159,991.05

Thanks . . .

Thank you for all your expressions of sympathy and support during our time of bereavement of losing our husband and father.

Mary Cronk and Kimberly Drapal

In Our Prayers . . .

Glenn Sorensen
Cliff Becker John Nason

Our Sympathies to . . .

Family of Mary Cronk as they mourn the death of her husband, Roger, on August 2.

Older. Wiser. Lutheran. Seniors. **(For those over 60)**

September 9—11:00 a.m.



The next meeting for O.W.L.S. is on Thursday, September 9 at 11:00 am. Everyone 60+ is invited to attend. The cost of the meal is \$5 per person (as it was in the past). Menu is sloppy joes, chips, relishes, and dessert. There is a sign-up sheet located in the fellowship hall. Please sign up by Sunday, September 5. Come join us!

Noisy Offering

The Noisy Offering for July, August, and September is designated for Pine Ridge Hygiene Kits.

Peace and Justice

The Outreach Ministry Mission Statement seeks to “Make Christ Known” by sharing his love and compassion through service to others in need especially the most vulnerable, by challenging people to live lives of Christian service, and by advocating for peace and justice. In light of their mission, the Outreach Ministry will recommend a book and/or movie each month for you to gain an understanding of other’s experiences.

For September the recommendation is the book/movie “Just Mercy.” This is based on a lawyer’s experiences with disadvantaged clients. Bryan Stevenson’s book is available at the Lincoln Public Library in the biography section as well as an e-book. The movie is also at the library in DVD form. The movie is at Amazon Prime, Apple TV, and Google Play.

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.

Sixth & Seventh Grade
Acolyte Training



On Sunday, September 12, the 6th and 7th graders will begin two weeks of training to serve as acolytes. This is part of their confirmation preparation.

Carol Joy Holling
The Camp Classic

A four-person golf scramble will be held September 17 at Ashland Golf Club. Register by September 10. Forms are on the table in the Narthex.

Diapers for Pine Ridge

As part of the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center’s “basket ministries,” diapers for young children and baby wipes are provided to families on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Sizes 5 and 6 are the most needed.

Diapers and wipes can be ordered through Amazon and shipped directly to:

Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center
51 East Highway 18
Pine Ridge, SD 57770.

To order diapers go to: www.smile.amazon.com
(Be sure to select Evangelical
United Lutheran Church)



UNITED LUTHERAN CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:10a Staff Meeting	2 6:30p Boy Scouts 7:00p TOPS #485	3 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Northeast Alanon <i>Pastor's personal time off: Friday 12:00 noon until Sunday at 7:30 a.m.</i>	4
5 15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:45a Sermon Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion Fellowship Follows Service	6 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	7 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	8 9:00a LWR Quilters 9:10a Staff Meeting 1:00p Deborah Circle	9 11:00a O.W.L.S. 6:00p Wonder Women Planning Meeting 6:30p Boy Scouts 7:00p TOPS #485	10 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Northeast Alanon <i>Pastor's personal time off: Friday 12:00 noon until Sunday at 7:30 a.m.</i>	11
12 16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. 8:45a Sermon Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion Fellowship Follows Service 10:30a Service Project 10:40a Acolyte Training 1:30p "Charm Strong" Memorial United Golf Scramble	13 1:00p Text Study 6:00p Congregation Council Meeting	14 10:00a Worship at Legacy Terrace 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	15 9:10a Staff Meeting	16 6:30p Boy Scouts 7:00p TOPS #485	17 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Northeast Alanon <i>Pastor's personal time off: Friday 12:00 noon until Sunday at 7:30 a.m.</i>	18
19 17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:45a Sermon Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion Fellowship Follows Service 10:40a Acolyte Training	20 9:00a LWR Quilters 1:00p Text Study	21 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	22 9:10a Staff Meeting	23 6:30p Boy Scouts 7:00p TOPS #485	24 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Northeast Alanon <i>Pastor's personal time off: Friday 12:00 noon until Sunday at 7:30 a.m.</i>	25
26 18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:45a Sermon Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion Fellowship Follows Service	27 1:00p Text Study 7:00p All Ministry Meeting Night	28 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	29 9:10a Staff Meeting	30 9:00a Assemble October Newsletter 6:30p Boy Scouts 7:00p TOPS #485		

Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 6 in honor of the Labor Day holiday.

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," calendar, and the recorded service. The service is live streamed on YouTube and is located there after the service has ended.



United Lutheran Church
5945 Fremont Street
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**“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 Satee. You can donate at the following site:



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

For those who would like to sponsor a hole, you may do so by registering through the same golf status site above.

“Charm Strong” t-shirts will be available to purchase at church for \$20.

Donated items will go up for bidding at 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 1. Bidding will close at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 12. To view auction items and to place a bid go to:

<https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/2021-charm-strong-memorial-united-lutheran-golf-scramble-auction-22498>