



May 2022
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The Messenger
Monthly Newsletter
of United Lutheran Church
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THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR ANTHONY . . .

There is a misconception about such religious communities as the Amish. They're not "anti" technology. They simply understand what technology, when utilized beyond a certain level, does to a community. For all of its blessings, technology can divide, isolate, and dehumanize us. Rapidly.

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Over the course of my 22+ years of ordained ministry technology, its application, has made it easier to connect with folks across the community, across the synod, across the nation, across the globe.

But it is also a daily dance with fire.

Perhaps the most profound example of this reality is social media (Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.).

Yes, social media is a blessing in that it can provide a sense of connection and being "in the loop."

But social media, those in the healing professions have observed, has incredible negative effects. At a fundamental level, for many, it is a source of depression. That is, it becomes the means by which one makes comparisons between oneself and others. Those comparisons often revolve around a perceived sense of deficiency. Closely related to this is the reality that social media (especially with regard to Facebook) can trigger envy . . . then depression.

Ironically: it must be remembered—as professionals tell us—that folks tend to misrepresent themselves in a positive fashion on Facebook. Folks who tend to always appear "happy" and "having everything" . . . aren't/don't. People construct a "Facebook façade" that is often much different than their actual circumstances.

Social media, as well, is often the platform—for many—of bullying and other destructive communications. It's easier to be an imbecile on social media than it is in person. Professionals have also observed that social media—originally observed through Facebook usage—can increase symptoms of ADHD (Scroll down, scroll down, scroll down . . .). Social media usage has also been tied to the intensification of addiction. Professionals have also pointed at that such matters as body image and eating disorders can be exacerbated by social media usage. In the case of Facebook "friends" and "likes": how superficial can relationships and interpersonal engagement get before they point to "nothing."

And how many times have we been out to eat with one another only have our "friends" scroll through Facebook right in front of us? "Rude" has become acceptable in this social media age.

And some will say: "But I only use Facebook to sell products and to connect with family."

Fire doesn't care why you use it. Exposure is exposure.

And with such forms of media as Snapchat and Instagram (et al.), we now have the incredible capacity to combine two realities that never belong together: sexuality and social media.

I remember becoming aware of students at my son's middle school "fishing" for photos of female genitalia of classmates through social media. I have learned of young people being "catfished" through social media. Bullying through social media has become a norm. Suicide has resulted. We are playing with fire.

It was hard enough as a teenager learning boundaries, expectations and social norms, in addition to navigating puberty (that weird transition between childhood and adulthood) and changing expectations and boundaries. The only record of mistakes we made growing up before social media remains in our memories.

The ante has been upped. Social media now magnifies youthful lapses in judgment. Bad decisions now have a way remaining "digitally immortalized." Parents: for God's sake talk to your kids about social media and what's at stake when it's used with bad judgment. Wasn't parenting difficult enough before the age of social media?

- Pastor Anthony

2022 Confirmation Class

The Rite of Confirmation was held on Sunday, April 24 during worship.

Affirming their baptisms were:

Lauren Ruby Dean, Noah Benjamin Webster, Jonah Allen Maas, Tillie Constance Ash, and Harrison Taylor Schmeekle pictured with Pastor Anthony.



UNITED'S MILITARY ROLL CALL

In gratitude to the Triune God and to honor the individuals and family members of United Lutheran who have served in the United States Military Forces, the Christian Commitment Ministry is creating a booklet listing United's active Armed Service members and United's Veterans of the U.S. Armed Services.

To obtain the necessary information, input is sought from the congregation. Each family unit is invited to fill out information about its immediate family. (Immediate family members are defined as parents, spouse, and children.) **Please return this form in the offering plate or to the office by May 15.** Those listed will be prayed for with gratitude during worship on May 29.

List family members on another sheet of paper if more room is needed. Thank you for your assistance!

(Family Unit Name)

Name	Rank	Service Branch	Dates of Service
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____

Wonder Women Present

*Protect the Good Life: The Nebraska Scams and
Anti-Fraud Education (SAFE) Program*

Thursday, May 26, at 7:00 p.m. (Meal is served at 6:00 p.m.)



The purpose of this presentation is to prevent the victimization of Nebraskans by arming them with tools to guard against consumer fraud and financial abuse. Education is a key weapon in the fight. Ryan Sothan, Outreach Coordinator with the Nebraska Attorney General's Office, will give a presentation designed to help Nebraskans of all ages recognize the common warning signs associated with scams, what they should do if they or someone they know is a target of fraud, and the measures they can take to substantially reduce, if not eliminate, the likelihood of victimization. The bottom line remains: trust your instincts. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Everyone is invited to join Wonder Women at 6:00 p.m. for the meal; 7:00 p.m. for the program

There is a sign-up sheet in the upstairs fellowship area. Indicate if you are coming for the meal and the program or just the program. Or call the church office at 402-466-2277 to make your reservation. The meal costs \$7.00 each and is payable to Marian Anderson.

Thanks to . . .

Youth Ministry, Wonder Women, Outreach Ministry, Altar Guild, Christian Commitment, and Music Ministry for preparing and serving the meals this Lenten season.

Thanks also to the Education Ministry for the Easter Breakfast.

We have appreciated these delicious meals and all the work put into them, as well as the time for fellowship together. Thanks to all who participated and supported them.

Older.Wiser.Lutheran.Seniors.

O.W.L.S. will meet Thursday, May 12 at 11:00 in the fellowship hall. Please sign up by Sunday, May 8 on the sheet provided.

Sandwiches, relishes and dessert are on the menu served by Sheryel Marquardt, Barb Westlake and Sharon Lanham. Cost is \$5.



2022 Pine Ridge Hygiene Kits

Collections will be from April 24 through June 26

Items Needed:

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

Monetary donations to purchase most-needed items are also needed.

Indicate the donation is for Hygiene Kits.

The donation bin will be in the fellowship area. Questions—contact Charles Yost at 402-770-8964.



Peace and Justice

In light of the Outreach Ministry's mission to advocate for peace and justice, they are recommending a book and/or movie each month for you to gain an understanding of other's experiences.

Rez Life by David Treuer is the May recommendation. A member of the Ojibwe of northern Minnesota, Treuer grew up on the Leech Lake Reservation, but was educated in "mainstream" America. Treuer traverses the boundaries of American and Indian identity as he explores crime and poverty, casinos and wealth, and the preservation of his native language and culture. *Rez Life* is a strikingly original work of history and reportage, a must read for anyone.

The Lincoln Public Library has audio, e-book, and copies of the book, *Rez Life*. The Call Number is 970.3 CHIYT.

Fifth Sunday Offering

On May 29 there will be a special Fifth Sunday Offering designated for Pine Ridge. Donations will be used where they are most needed: Job Corps, Heating Fund, Meals, etc.

Education

Text Study with Pastor Anthony:

Sundays at 8:45 a.m.

Mondays at 1:00 p.m.

Deborah Circle

Women of United will meet for Bible study and fellowship Wednesday, May 18 at 1:00 p.m.

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.

ELCA Good Gifts

Over \$5,000 was donated by the United Congregation to the Lenten Project to buy farms through the ELCA Good Gifts program. This will allow for the purchase of at least seven farms. Thank you for a job well done!

SCRIP Cards May Be Purchased

SCRIP cards are sold before and after worship. Or you may contact George Hill at 402-430-9554.

Thanks . . .

The family of Carol Hansen expresses our thanks to all those who contributed to and helped with the great luncheon after her funeral service, as well as Pastor Neal, Denice Hoops, and the choir, who all helped make her service meaningful. Also thank you to all who remembered her by attending her visitation and/or funeral. She loved her United family.

Additionally, we would like to thank Pastor Neal for both visiting Carol and talking and praying with the family in the time leading up to her passing.

Owen Hansen, Dave & Martha Hansen, Lauri & Bob Cayou, Janelle Hansen, Karen Foudray, Deb Hansen, Marci & Scott Kudrna

In Our Prayers . . .

John Nason	Sue Ray	Harold Ladehoff
Norma Watson	Kirk Nelson	Lana Johnson

Thanks (Con't.)

To all who volunteered for Jenny Lee Loschen's luncheon: On behalf of my family, I thank you all so very much for your time and care put into the meal we were able to share together. Everything was so good and we were grateful for that time to gather. Thank you and God Bless You!

Theresa Bartels & family

Our Sympathies to . . .

Chance Helter as he mourns the death of his father, George.

Wanda Scott as she mourns the death of her son, Robert.

Mick & Lisa Von Busch as they mourn the death of Mick's grandmother, Virginia Keifer.

United Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report April 11, 2022

Submitted herewith is the Balance Sheet and Summary Treasurer's Report March 2022.

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

Cash Accounts:

	<u>3/31/2022</u>	<u>3/31/2021</u>		
Regular Checking:	\$185,566	\$177,795	March Offering Income:	\$25,232
Memorial Fund Checking:	\$ 13,436	\$ 13,529	March Operating Fund Income:	\$28,718
Saving Account:	\$ 15,951	\$ 22,214	Total March Income:	\$39,262
MIF Investment:	<u>\$123,899</u>	<u>\$120,174</u>	March Operating Expense:	\$30,295
Total Cash Balance:	\$338,492	\$333,712	Total March Expenses:	\$36,181

The total Operating Fund Expenses through March 2022 (\$30,295) is \$2,120 more than the Total Operating Fund Income through March 2021 (\$28,718).

Total Expenses through March 2022 (\$101,277) is \$18,100 less than March 2021 (\$119,377).

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 (3/31/2022)	\$ 15,951
March Designated Donations	<u>\$ 1,085</u> (Not Transferred)
Renovation Fund Balance (3/31/202)	\$ 16,676

Renovation Long Term Loan	Principal	Interest
Beginning Balance 2/28/2022	\$ 235,843.52	\$ 33,781.20
Payment 3/1/2022	1,381.88	762.12
Payment 4/1/2022	1,326.46	<u>817.54</u>
Special Donation 4/6/2022	4,000.00	
Quarterly Regular Checking Payment 4/6/2022	<u>36,000.00</u>	
Principal Balance as of 4/6/2022	\$ 193,135.18	\$ 35,360.86

NOTE: The April Payments shown above are not reflected in the March Balance Sheet and Summary Treasurer's Report.

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. Respectfully submitted, Dean A. Jaeger, Treasurer

UNITED LUTHERAN CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MAY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:45a Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion Fellowship follows service	2 9:00a LWR Quilters 1:00p Text Study	3 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	4 9:10a Staff Meeting	5 6:30p Boy Scouts	6 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Al-Anon <i>Pastor's personal time off: Friday 12:00 noon until Sunday at 7:30 a.m.</i>	7
8 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MOTHER'S DAY 8:45a Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion Fellowship follows service	9 1:00p Text Study 6:00p Congregation Council Meeting	10 ELECTION DAY 10:00a Worship at Legacy Terrace 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	11 9:10a Staff Meeting	12 11:00 O.W.L.S. 6:30p Boy Scouts	13 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Al-Anon <i>Pastor's personal time off: Friday 12:00 noon until Sunday at 7:30 a.m.</i>	14
15 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:45a Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion Fellowship follows service	16 9:00a LWR Quilters 1:00p Text Study	17 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	18 9:10a Staff Meeting 1:00p Deborah Circle	19 6:30p Boy Scouts	20 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Al-Anon <i>Pastor's personal time off: Friday 12:00 noon until Sunday at 7:30 a.m.</i>	21
22 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:45a Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion/ Recognition of Graduates Reception for Graduates following worship	23 1:00p Text Study 7:00p All Ministry Meeting Night	24 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous	25 9:10a Staff Meeting	26 9:00a Assemble June Newsletter 6:00p Wonder Women Meal 6:30p Boy Scouts 7:00p Wonder Women Program	27 6:00p Narcotics Anonymous 7:30p Al-Anon <i>Pastor's personal time off: Friday 12:00 noon until Sunday at 7:30 a.m.</i>	28
29 SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:45a Text Study 9:30a Holy Communion Fellowship follows service	30 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	31 7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous				

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," the calendar, and audio of the service. The service can also be found on YouTube.



United Lutheran Church
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May 22

2022 High School Graduates

Owen Anthony, Lincoln Southeast High School

Wesley Erickson, Lincoln North Star High School

Parker Mertens, Lincoln North Star High School

Blessings and gifts will be presented during the worship service.

A reception will follow worship in the fellowship area.

(See their pictures and read about their future plans on the poster in the Narthex.)