



The Voice

April 2026

Getting to Know ULC's S.A.M Team



My Journey by Betty Wehner—Synodically Authorized Minister

I was born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin and educated in that area.

After high school I moved to Minneapolis for 3 years and then to Superior, Wisconsin where my husband had taken a job and where we raised our 2 sons. Later that marriage ended. In 1996 I moved to Bella Vista with my husband Tom. Five days after moving here I visited United Lutheran Church and never looked further.

Now almost 30 years later here I am in this roll. It started when Tom Hodgson asked me one Sunday if I could read a sermon. My answer "well, if I can read the Sunday Scriptures I guess I can read a sermon". I had NO Clue what he was referring to. Ok, I reported to the first SAM Meeting. Pastor Hoffman asked why I was there. My answer, "I'm really not sure, but I have been asking God if there was something He wanted me to do". I was not thinking along the lines of SAM's when praying this prayer. Pastor Huffman said "Oh Betty, you must be careful what you pray for". Ok, so here I am.

I have attended church my whole life, Sunday School, summer Bible School, Luther League and then adult Bible study. As an adult I have served on council and taught Sunday school at both churches I have previously belonged to. Unlike the other SAM's, I have no theology education, that is why I am enrolled in 'Faith+Lead'. This is a non-degree theological learning platform from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. In order to continue as a SAM I need to continue in this study program.

Dear ULC Friends, I ask for your Prayers and support as I enter this new chapter in my life. Also, I Pray for Blessings on all who walk through the doors of ULC.

Betty Wehner— Synodically Authorized Minister

Our Leadership Council for 2025-2026

Tom Hodgson	President
Anne Costa	Vice President
Katy & Kelsey Sojka	Secretary
Karen Larson	Treasurer
OPEN	Evangelism
Brian Kichline	Mutual Ministry
Debra Muller	Parish Fellowship
Steve Del Rio	Property
Paula Crespín	Social Ministry
Robin Nelson	Stewardship
Nancy Sandeen	Worship and Music
Kathy Bassett	Youth and Education

Congregational Meeting has been scheduled for May 17th following worship.

Celebrations!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Vicki Dehnert, 04-03
Mary Klotz, 04-04
Lois Carlson, 04-04
Thomas Hodgson, 04-12
Linda Howard, 04-15
Tom Guarino, 04-22
Ezra Ortega, 04-23
Brian Kichline, 04-27

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

George and Glenda Heist, 04-02
Terry and Cindy Martin, 04-05



ULC Celebrates EPIC 99th Birthday
with
Rolly Buechler on March 15th

Synodically Authorized Ministry (S.A.M)

Key Aspects of Synodically Authorized Ministry (S.A.M.)

Lay Leadership: S.A.M.s are non-ordained, non-rostered individuals identified for their gifts and calling to ministry within their specific congregations.

Synodical Authorization: An individual must be authorized by the synod's bishop to serve as a S.A.M..

Specific Ministry Roles: S.A.M.s are equipped and authorized to: Preach, Provide congregational care and visitation, Teach, Preside at Holy Communion, Baptize, Perform weddings and funerals.

Training and Preparation: Candidates complete training through programs like the ELCA's Lay Ministry Institute or a synod-specific program, which typically includes coursework in theology, biblical studies, preaching, and worship.

Accountability and Supervision: S.A.M.s are accountable to the larger church through the synod bishop. They often serve under the supervision of an ordained pastor or within a mentoring relationship to ensure accountability and ongoing development.

Purpose: The program aims to identify, train, and empower lay leaders to serve in challenging ministry settings where rostered leaders may not be available, thus expanding the church's capacity to provide ministry.

Sunday November 2nd five of United Lutheran Church's members were consecrated during worship as Synodically Authorized Ministers. They have begun the transition and beginning in January United Lutheran will be a lay led ministry. Our first team consists of Wanda Brogren, Jim Johnson, Kathleen Kichline, Ruth McGuffin and Betty Wehner, each who shares their unique skills with our congregation.



Congregational Care - YOUR HEALTH

FALLS, FALLS, FALLS, FALLS

NOTE: Because of a number of recent spills of ULC Members, we thought republication of Nurse Charlotte's January 2024 article on falls might be a good refresher. It also gives Charlotte a month off to recover!

Every year 1 in 4 people over 65 fall at least once. Almost every week I hear about one or more members falling. We should be thinking about how we are going to get help, especially if we live alone. When we are at the doctors they always ask if we have had a fall in the last month to a year. Falls can happen to anyone, but older adults are more at risk. Fall prevention is important to all of us. Falls account for one of the most common and serious issues contributing to disability, especially among the elderly. Falls are the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries among persons aged 65 and older. There are certain conditions that make you more likely to fall. Lower body weakness, vitamin D deficiency in your system, difficulties with walking and balance, vision problems, medications, low blood pressure, foot pain or improper footwear, and home hazards or dangers. Most of the leading causes of falls can be found in the check list. Illness and physical conditions can affect any of us.

Do you do less than 30 minutes of physical activity per day?

Do you drink more than two standard drinks of alcohol?

Do you do less than two hours of balance and strength activities a week?

Do you spend little or no time in the sun?

Do you feel lightheaded, dizzy, or unsteady when walking or getting up from a chair or bed?

Has it been more than 12 months since you saw an eye doctor?

Do you use a walking aid?

Do you have things in your way that could cause a fall?

Are you taking multiple medicines each day?

Do you suffer from foot pain or any other foot problems?

Do you take sleeping pills or anti-depressants?

Does your home have slippery floors, throw rugs, or uneven surface?

When was the last time the Doctor reviewed your medication?

Check list: Ask yourself these questions?

United Lutheran Members Please take care of yourselves and those you love. If you need to be checked out by a non-emergency number they will come and check you out to see if you are ok or you need to go to ER.

Proverbs 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

- Charlotte Spencer Parish Nurse

Education Ministry

ADULT BIBLE STUDY— 4-Plex following worship REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL AHEAD

Our current Adult Bible study explores the upcoming Sunday's gospel lesson. Each session will be led by the S.A.M. team member who is leading worship that next Sunday. Come share your insights and discover a deeper understanding of the gospel that will be reflected on during next week's worship. Study starts at just after the Worship Service and is held in the 4-Plex. Grab your coffee and join us for the lesson!

PLEASE NOTE: We will be taking a break and resume on April 19 and our last meeting will be May 4th before the summer break.

Children & Youth Christian Education—April & May

April 4 - Youth will meet at 4PM to create special treats for Easter Brunch

April 5 - Easter Egg Hunt!

April 19th - Sunday School "Jesus Saves Us"

May 3rd - Sunday School "All Believers Share/Vine and the Branches"

May 17th - Sunday School "Spread the Good News/Saul's Bad Day"

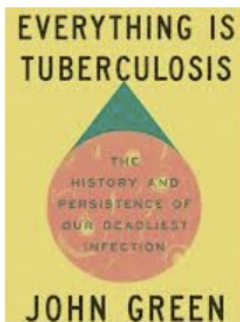
Book Club



ULC BOOK CLUB 4TH MONDAY 7:00 VIA ZOOM

April 27

Everything is Tuberculosis by John Green



John Green, award-winning author and passionate advocate for global healthcare reform, tells a deeply human story illuminating the fight against the world's deadliest infectious disease.

Tuberculosis has been entwined with humanity for millennia. Once romanticized as a malady of poets, today tuberculosis is seen as a disease of poverty that walks the trails of injustice and inequity we blazed for it.

In 2019, author John Green met Henry Reider, a young tuberculosis patient at Lakka Government Hospital in Sierra Leone. John became fast friends with Henry, a boy with spindly legs and a big, goofy smile. In the years since that first visit to Lakka, Green has become a vocal advocate for increased access to treatment and wider awareness of the healthcare inequities that allow this curable, preventable infectious disease to also be the deadliest, killing over a million people every year.

Fellowship

Movie Matinee 3rd Tuesday at 2:00 April 21



The Last Rifleman is a 2023 British drama film written by Kevin Fitzpatrick, loosely based on real events and directed by Terry Loane, which features Pierce Brosnan. It follows Artie Crawford (Brosnan), a Northern Irish World War II veteran who, on the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, decides to secretly escape his care home and embarks on an arduous but inspirational journey from Northern Ireland to France, to pay his final respects to his best friend and find the courage to face the ghosts of his past.

Movie Night has changed to Movie Matinee.
Please come on April 21 at 2:00—we changed the time

Join us in Fellowship Hall. Come early to get the soft seats!

**Movie
Matinee**



April Breakfast Club - Monday, April 13th at 10am



'A LEAP OF FAITH'

Come meet Linda Howard, soon to become a member of ULC along with her husband Darius. Linda will share her faith story.

Linda taught high school science in Truman MN for 30 years and 3 years in Renville MN before retiring.

Not quite ready to retire, she was “moved” to take a position teaching at the local county jail. Linda helped over 150 inmates pass their GED along with life lessons to help prepare for everyday living after release.

Linda says it was on of the best “leaps of faith” she has ever taken!
Come Listen to her story!

Fund Raising, Opportunities to Serve

2026 PUMPKIN PATCH MEETING—APRIL 8 @ 1 PM

Anyone interested in helping with Pumpkin Patch 2026 is invited to attend this meeting! We will be discussing what we need to improve on from last year and what worked well in 2025. Pumpkin Patch Ars & Crafts Festival will be held October 15-17 2026—so Mark Your Calendar Now!

Sun 3-29 Serve Coffee After Church—Hannah Circle
 Tues 4-7 1:30 pm Hannah Circle—Fellowship Hall—Audrey
 Tues 4-14 1:30 pm Deborah Circle
 Mon 4-20 9:30 am W-ELCA—Deborah Circle
 Sun 4-26 Serve Coffee After Church—Piecemakers

Piecemakers

Every **Tuesday** Morning 9-11:30
 Downstairs—Luther Hall
 Everyone is welcome. Come and go as you like. No sewing required.



Women of United Monday, April 20 9:30 am Rachel Whitaker

“Quilting in the Ozarks: If You Don’t Catch Your Toenail in the Stitches,



We are so excited to present Rachel Whitaker from the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History who will share stories about the rich history of quilting in this area.

Rachel grew up just down the road in Highfill. In addition to her position as Historian at the museum, she is a history instructor at Connors State College in Muskogee, OK.

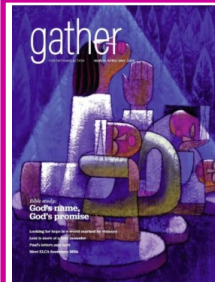
Please invite your friends and neighbors and join us for another wonderful program from the Shiloh Museum.



Everyone is welcome!
 Sign up at the Activities Counter
 Visit the Museum Shiloh
 Museum of Ozark History
 Monday – Saturday

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

118 W. Johnson Avenue, Springdale, AR



Bible Study for April will be from the March/April/May Gather Magazine: “I AM: God’s holy name and promise,” a three-part Bible study by the Rev. Hannah Hawkinson. We will be studying Session 1 on page 12.

We invite everyone to be part of our excellent studies. Circles meet at United on the 1st Tuesday afternoon and in home on the 2nd Tuesday.

Thanks for Caring!



Thank you to everyone for your donations to our Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. We still need medium weight towels no larger than 52” long. We will also welcome toothbrushes, nail clippers, sturdy combs and bar soap. Last year LWR shipped 231,811 Personal Care Kits to 15 countries.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA TRIENNIAL GATHERING

JULY 16-19 DES MOINES, IA

You are invited to join us at the W-ELCA Triennial in July. We are planning to take a carload of women to Iowa for Inspiration, Fellowship and Fun. The Women of United will pay for our registration. We are responsible for our hotel rooms and food. We need to make reservations soon, so please call Louise Wobig if you’d like to reserve a spot in the van! Details are available at <https://community.elca.org/women-of-the-elca-13th-triennial-gathering>



Lent & Holy Week Services at ULC

HOLY WEEK SERVICES AT UNITED LUTHERAN BELLA VISTA

Holy week is a special week in the Lutheran Faith. It is during this week that we remember and relive the events leading up to Christ's Death on a cross and his resurrection back to life on Easter Sunday.



Palm Sunday: March 29th

We remember that the crowds cheered Jesus as he entered Jerusalem and the palms were laid before the donkey that Jesus rode. We begin worship differently, waving palms.



Maundy Thursday: April 4th

We remember that on this evening, in the upper room, Jesus and his followers shared bread and wine as part of their meal, and Jesus said "Do this in remembrance of me". He also taught them to serve others by example by washing their feet. Our service ends with the Stripping of the altar as we anticipate the arrest of Jesus.



Good Friday: April 3rd

On this day Jesus was tried and the people called for him to be crucified. We recall Jesus' time under arrest, his death on the cross and his hasty burial in a stranger's tomb. Worship call us to remember Jesus self-giving sacrifice, suffering and death.



Easter Sunday—Celebration of the Resurrection: April 5th

Easter Sunday, the great Festival day in the church when Christians all over the world gather to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

EASTER WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday	March 29th 9:30 AM
Maundy Thursday	April 2nd 6:30 PM
Good Friday	April 3rd 6:30 PM
Easter Sunday	April 5th 9:30 AM
Easter Brunch	April 5th after Worship
Children Easter Egg Hunt	April 5th 11:00 AM

Scholarship Fund

Invest in Their Future United Lutheran Church Scholarship Fund

Help our young adults take the next step in their journey!

Every year, United Lutheran Church supports students pursuing college or vocational training through our **Scholarship Fund**. Your gifts make a **real difference**—easing the financial burden and showing our young people they are supported by their church family.

♦ **Why Give?**

- Encourages faith-filled learning
- Honors our commitment to education and service
- Shows young adults they are valued and loved

♦ **How to Donate:**

- Drop contributions in the Sunday offering plate (memo: *Scholarship Fund*)
- Mail checks to the church office

No gift is too small—every dollar plants a seed of hope.

Evangelism and Social Ministry

GREETERS

Volunteers for individual Sunday morning greeters are always appreciated. Sign up sheet in the Narthex.

LITTLE PANTRY

As always, the Little Pantry can use donated non perishable food items.

OAKS INDIAN MISSION

Trash Bags!

For the month of April we will be collecting . donations of **13 gallon and 30 gallon trash bags** for the Oaks Indian Mission.

Paula

2nd Friday's Heart of Fellowship Coffeehouse

Friday 04/13—6:00PM - 8:00PM

Featured Entertainment -

Southern Strings

Invite your family and friends.

Enjoy coffee/ lemonade and wonderful appetizers, sweets and the company of Bella Vista Neighbors.

Free for all to enjoy.

A picture is Worth a Thousand Words—ULC in action



*ArkanJazz
Thank you for a
“Jazzy” Evening!*

(Next time Maybe we dance too!)

The Dulcimer Guy (Gary McCarty) entertained and educated The Women of United Lutheran on the hammered dulcimer on March 16th. Thank you Gary for the education and the beautiful music of the dulcimer!

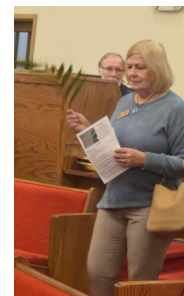


Lenten Soup Dinners were a BIG help during lent. All kinds of wonderful soups made by several ULC Members each week. Thank you to all those providing the wonder choices.

Dinners were followed by worship crowning the evening. A big thank you to Robbie Hubbard, Karen Larson and Lois Hodgson for leading worship music and the SAMs team for the messages.



Palm Sunday Triumphant Worship Procession





You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!

United Lutheran Church – Fellowship Hall
10 Cooper Rd
Bella Vista, AR

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk** Screenings.

Trusted by over 11 million customers.

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

Who should attend:

Anyone age of 40+

Special Pricing for \$129

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening

4 ways to book your appointment...

Call 800-324-9458 and use promo code **HABC001**

Visit  [LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC](https://llsa.social/habc)



Text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease. Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.

COMING THIS SUMMER—United Lutheran will host:

June 22-26 2026

9:30- 11:30 AM

United Lutheran Church

100 Cooper Rd, Bella Vista, AR

Summer Ukulele Camp



in Bella Vista

Cost: \$20 per person for 5 days, includes music materials. You must bring your own UKE (any size, C tuning – GCEA)

All levels welcome:

beginners, intermediate, or advanced.

Learn basic chords, strums, ukulele culture, reading music, and lots of fun songs.

Register early to reserve your seat as spots fill up quickly.

Contact **Steve Moore** (local music teacher)

209-768-9040 or email papasteve11@gmail.com



**Adults &
Kids age 7+**

Calendar of Events

April Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendar!

- April 2 - Maundy Thursday 6:30 PM
- April 3 - Good Friday 6:30 PM
- April 4 - Youth Group Creates Easter Brunch Treats at 4 PM
- April 5 - Easter Sunday 9:30 AM
- April 5 - Easter Brunch after Worship Service
- April 5 - Children Easter Egg Hunt 11 AM
- April 7 - Hannah Circle 1:30 pm —Fellowship Hall
- April 8 - Pumpkin Patch Meeting 1PM
- April 14 - 1:30 pm Deborah Circle
- April 20 - 9:30 am W-ELCA—Deborah Circle
- April 8 - 1 PM anyone interested in helping with the 2026 Pumpkin Patch!
- April 10 - Heart of Fellowship Coffee House featuring ‘Southern Strings’
- April 13 - 10 AM The Breakfast Club
- April 19 - Children/Youth Sunday School (after Worship)
- April 19 - Adult Sunday School
- April 20—Women of United Rachel Whitaker “Quilting in the Ozarks”
- April 21 - Movie Matinee “*The Last Rifleman*” 2 PM
- April 22 - Life Line Screening (See Poster)
- April 26 - NEW MEMBER SUNDAY
- April 26 - Adult Sunday School
- April 26 - Children/Youth Sunday School (after Worship)



A special thanks to everyone who donated Easter Lilies for Easter service.

Kathy Bassett, Rolly Buechler, Lori Curran, Vickie Dehnert, Steve & Becky DelRio, Jake & Loruss Grasmick, George & Carrol Hildre, Jim & Cindy Johnson, Gerald & Ruth McGuffin, and Audrey & Jim Nugent

Worship & Music

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday Worship is 9:30 AM every Sunday morning. Please join us for coffee and donuts before and after worship in the fellowship hall.

ONLINE WORSHIP

We use [FACEBOOK Live](#) and our [website](#). Please note, once worship has concluded it is uploaded to our website by 3pm (www.unitedlutheranbv.org).

CHOIR 2025 –2026

Choir Practice: Thursdays 6PM –7PM

COME ONE! COME ALL!

Looking for a variety of voices (Beginner to Experienced)

LOOKING FOR SPECIAL MUSIC for the summer worship services. If interested please contact church office.

ALL ARE WELCOME



United Lutheran Church

We are a Stephen Ministry Church

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479-855-1325 ulcbellavista@gmail.com

www.unitedlutheranbv.org



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