



The Epistle

Unity Lutheran Parish ~ MAY 2026

- May 3 – Affirmation of Baptism
- May 10 – H.S. Quilts & Mother's Day
- May 15 – 7PM WHS Graduation
- May 17 – 2PM MHS Graduation



From the Pastor

Just in case, can you swim?

The book of this month, well, to be honest, the first half of this month I read a book by John Ortberg, titled “If you want to walk on water, you’ve got to get out of the boat.”

Thank you to the couple from Malta Lutheran who gave it to me a few years ago. I finally got to start it.

The story the book uses as a challenge point is Matthew 14:22-33. Jesus walking on the water after feeding 5,000 people. He tells the disciples to go on ahead in the boat. As they are out on the water, a storm, a bad storm comes up and beats against the boat. The disciples are alone and scared, they were terrified. They look out and see a figure walking on the water, yes, you heard me right, walking on top of the water. They think it’s a ghost. But Jesus says to them, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” Peter doesn’t believe him and says, ²⁸“Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹He said, “Come.” So, Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!”

Jesus reaches into the water and saves Peter.

So that is the guiding scripture to the book.

Even the first half is challenging. It addresses those whom Ortberg calls “boat potatoes” folks that have no desire to walk on water or even take risks, safe risks, risks that help them grow. Grow in faith and to grow to be the person God wants you to be. Use the gifts God has given. God “can take what you have to

offer and make a difference that matters for eternity.”

Let’s remember, Peter actually did get out and walk on water, not long, but started walking on the water. Then there is the challenge to figure out what you’re being called to do. “We are not called just to work *for* God. We are called to work *with* God.” That is a challenge, how many times in our lives do we imply to God, you can take a break, I’ve got this by myself. Yes, we are human.

So, Peter walks on the water. There is excitement there is actual walking on water. As long as Peter stayed focused on Jesus, he was walking on water. I like this quote on page 82, “How much faith do I need? Not a feeling of certainty. Just enough faith to take the first step.” We don’t walk on water while staying in the boat. Peter had enough faith to get out of the boat and take the first step.

The Peter noticed the strong wind and starts to live up to his name, “the rock.” He starts to sink. But Jesus reaches down and saves him. When we are serving God, serving Jesus, we are challenged to be resilient. What are the “strong winds” that pull our focus, take our eyes off of Jesus? Now here is a challenge, “Resilient people find meaning and purpose in the storm.” “Storms have a way of teaching what nothing else can.”

To be continued...

Pastor Bob



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Confirmation Class News!!!

Malta and Whitewater

Enjoy the summer, we will be back in September.

“See you in September. See you when the summer’s through.” (Just imagine music notes following.) The group who sang it were “The Happenings”.

Scripture Discovery

We meet at **10 am on Monday mornings**. This month we will look at the upcoming Sunday morning readings. Bring a friend. Please join us; there is always room for one more, invite a friend.

May schedule:

May 4 – Scripture Discovery (*if Rick will lead*)

May 11 – Scripture Discovery

May 19 – Scripture Discovery

May 26 – **Memorial Day NO Scrip. Dis.**

If there is interest in an evening Bible Study, please let me know.

Pastor Bob

Affirmation of Baptism

(Being confirmed)

May 3 - at Malta and Whitewater.

(It has been fun to have Amus Blunt from Loring Lutheran come to Whitewater for class.)

Congratulations Confirmands!

Recognition of Malta Graduating Seniors

May 10 - at Malta Lutheran.

Congratulations Graduates!

Prayer Time throughout the month

Pray for Peace

Pray for Peace

Pray we listen to Jesus and love our neighbor

Pray for the world leaders.

Challenge for us all – to live out God’s love for the world.

WELCA Meeting

April 9, 2026

Opening: Jan Kirkwood opened the meeting with all reciting The Purpose. There were 4 ladies present, Elaine Enerson, Marlene Holman, Rosemary S. Veseth & Jan Kirkwood.

Secretary minutes: The March 12th minutes were reviewed as written. Elaine made a motion to accept the minutes, 2nd by Rosemary, passed. Epistle news letter March 12th minutes are available for copy.

Correspondence: The shipping cost of quilts & kits has gone up. Collected \$189. ***Thank you donors!***

Treasurer report: Elaine gave a detailed report of the checking & saving accounts. Marlene made a motion to accept treasurer report, 2nd by Rosemary and passed.

Committee & Stewardship Reports: Jan reported there are 22 all cotton quilts, and 3 children’s quilts.

Community Witness: Prayer Chain activated by request through Parish Office will be canceled on May 4th and will no longer be available.

Old Business:

Lenten Soup Suppers were well attended except when the kids were playing at the Basketball tournament games out of town.

March 21st was National Quilting Day. We celebrated Sunday March 22nd. Presenting the Honor Plaque with addition of Linda Soiseth & Marda Southwick. We will send a picture and letter to each family.

New Business: Easter flowers were delivered on April 2nd. Marlene, Rosemary, Jan & Elaine and all worked on this project.



May 3rd is Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) with cake & ice cream.

May 10th is High School Senior recognition with quilts, cake & ice cream.

Next Board Meeting: May 14th, 2026, 1:00pm meeting & 2:00pm Bible Study.

Closing: with all praying the *Lord's Prayer*.

Faithfully submitted by: Marlene Holman

WELCA Scholarship Applications are available at Parish Office and printable PDF online under News & Forms at unitylutheranparish.com Please turn in to any WELCA or to the Parish Office. (due June 1st)

It's time for Synod Assembly!

"Grounded in Hope" Hebrews 10:23

The Synod Assembly Planning Team has done significant work to reduce the cost of attendance this year, in hopes of increasing participation.

Since this year is a theological year, even if you aren't a voting member, we encourage you to register, attend, and engage in the discussions about what God is doing in and through the church in these days.

Please visit the [Synod Assembly webpage](#) to learn more about our keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Dwight Zscheile, and find other necessary reports, open positions for nominations, and schedules as they become available.

The 2026 Montana Synod Assembly is a Theological Conference. Held Friday & Saturday, May 29th & 30th at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center.

Thank you, LMA Rick Mikkelson and Carol Schumacher for attending.

Social Ministry Team

Remember, we are here to help!

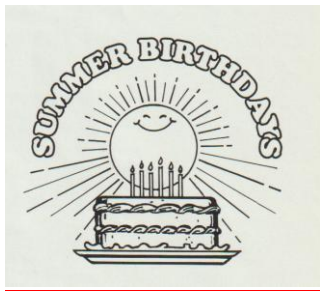
If you need a little financial help or know someone who could. Call the parish office (leave message) 654-1434, Terry Skones (home) 654-2761 or (work) 654-2340, or Carol Schumacher 654-1350.



Secretary Note: Parish Office will be closed Memorial Day May 25th. Thank you, SO

Do you have a June birthday to add?

HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS!



4 - Kathy Grabofsky
11 - Kayla VanWichen
11 - Kaycee Ost
18 - Joyce Simser
26 - Jennifer Petrie
29 - DeeAnn Howard

Newsletter Lifeline: Tuesday, May 26th for June 2026. Are you planning on attending VBS June 22nd to 25th?? Registration is in this issue....Thanks SO



March 29th Gideon Sunday

Guest Gideon speaker Wes Koss shared serious testimony and some humor on Sunday, March 29th. Fellow Gideon Greg Kirkwood accepted donations in an open Bible at the end of Worship. The cost of a small New Testament is \$2, and a Bible is \$5. All proceeds go to cover these books. Donations may also be given by sending a greeting card in honor of someone special. Cards are available in the MLC entry. Pictured l to r - Greg Kirkwood and Wes Koss.



Archer James and James Lucas plant two blue pinwheels for Child Abuse Prevention at MLC.

The Passion Palm Sunday March 29th readers were from left to right. Rosemary S. Veseth, Shelby Snellman, LMA Rick Mikkelson and Pastor Bob. Archer James took over projector duties from JF Hewitt.



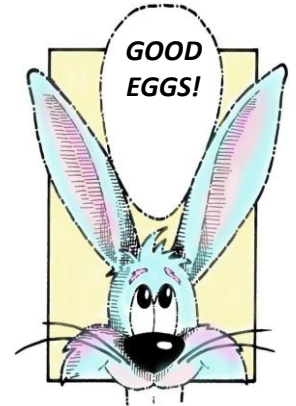
The Maundy Thursday, April 2nd worship was held at Whitewater Lutheran Church. A dozen Malta Lutherans took the Phillips Transit Authority. Thank you, Robert Reynolds for driving in the snow!



The codfish lays ten thousand eggs,
The homely hen, lays one.
The codfish never cackles
To tell you what she's done.
And so we scorn the codfish,
While the humble hen we prize,
Which only goes to show you,
That it pays to advertise. — Anonymous



**Resurrection Easter
Sunday April 5th.
We had many good
eggs in the basket
for a Family
Children's Time.
All gathered to
celebrate Christ.
He is Risen, He is
Risen Indeed!**



**Lord, make me a mother who has patience. ~ When I am hurried, give me peace.
When I am frustrated, give me perspective. ~ When I am angry, let me turn my heart to you.
Today, let me be a patient Christian, Dear Lord, and I trust in you
and in Your master plan for my life. Amen.**

For Mothers...

** Being a full-time Mom is the hardest job I've ever had, but it is also the best job I've ever had. The pay is lousy, but the rewards are eternal.*

— Lia Whelchel

**As a mother, my job is to take care of the possible, and trust God with the impossible.*

— Ruth Bell Graham

**Perfect parents don't exist, but a perfect God does.*

— Beth Moore

**"Suzanne will not be in school today," I wrote to her teacher. "She stayed at home to play with her mother." I don't remember many other days of her elementary years, but I remember that day.*

—Gloria Gaither

**A true mother is not merely a provider, housekeeper, comforter, or companion. A true mother is primarily and essentially a trainer.*

— Ruth Bell Graham.

**Giving birth is little more than a set of muscular contractions granting passage of a child. Then the mother is born.*

— Erma Bombeck

**Mothers with little boys work from sun-up to sun-down.*

— anonymous

**All that I am and all that I ever hope to be, I owe to my mother.*

— Abraham Lincoln

Random Mother Reflections:

School days are the happiest days of your life — once your children are old enough to go.

The smartest advice on raising children is to enjoy them while they are still on your side.

The best way to keep kids at home is to make the home a pleasant atmosphere, and to let the air out of their tires.

The right temperature in a home is maintained by warm hearts, not hot heads.

Mothers knew raising children would never be easy, from the beginning — it begins with labor!

Cleaning your house while your kids are at home is like shoveling the driveway in a snowstorm.

Oh, to be only half as wonderful as my child thought I was when he was small; and half as stupid as my teenager now thinks I am.

"Of course. I'd like to be the ideal mother, but I'm too busy raising children!"

Mother's Day is when everybody waits on mother and she pretends she doesn't mind the extra work.

"My kids keep insisting we have to clean up the environment, I wish they'd start with their bedrooms."



**Monday June 22nd to
Thursday June 25th
sign up by June 1st!**

Vacation Bible School

We are excited to announce that will have 3 FLBC Councilors and 30 spots available.

Unfortunately, St. Mary's Catholic Church will not be joining us this year.

Campers *must be* going into 1st grade thru 6th grade. It will be a fun week of learning Bible Stories, songs and fun crafts.

Sign up by June 1st! Forms available in this issue, at MLC or printable PDF online at unitylutheranparish.com under News & Forms. Please fill out front & back. Thank you and if you have any questions, please contact Mariah Marino at 760-625-6173 or Sarah 406-654-1434 to reserve a spot or volunteer. Leave a message!