



The Epistle

Unity Lutheran Parish ~ June 2026

VBS w/FLBC – Mon. June 22nd to Thur. 25th

MRGJ @MHS – Fri. June 26th to 28th

MRGJ @ULP – Sun. June 28th



From the Pastor

Walking on water? (continued)

The book of this month and last month, was 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.

A slight recap. After feeding the 5,000 people, Jesus walks on water meets the disciples while they are in the boat (oh, there is a terrible storm raging). Jesus said, “Courage! I Am! Fear not!” (Dale Brunner translation) reminding the disciples of the name of God given to Moses.

Peter wants to walk to Jesus and Jesus 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, Matthew 14:22-33 is the guiding scripture to the book.

The first half challenges us to get out of comfort zones and take risks in order to grow in our faith, scripture study, and life. The risk is to grow in faith and *to grow to be the person God wants you to be*. Use the gifts God has given. “We are not called just to work *for* God. We are called to work *with* God.” Peter had enough faith to get out of the boat and take the first step. When Peter takes his focus off Jesus, he begins to sink. Jesus reaches down and saves him.

Now, when Peter cries out in fear, Jesus still says fear not, that is because when we are working *with* God, God is there!

And then even if we feel like we are failing, God will continue to guide us and be with us.

The next challenging part is how to keep our focus on Jesus in the storms of life? Sometimes we need to wait patiently, (oh right pastor Bob) to focus on Jesus and to trust God’s timing in the steps we take to serve God and care for our neighbor. God’s timing is always best.

And finally, if we take that step to walk on water, trust God’s presence and timing, we can experience how big God is.

We experience how big God is by looking at creation, but also as we worship. We worship to claim that God deserves our worship. We worship to also be reminded that God is so much bigger than many of us can imagine.

“In worship...I can magnify God in my life. In worship I declare that God is real.” (page 201)

It was a good book by John Ortberg that challenged me in so many areas, if you’re willing to try, read it and “*If you want to walk on water, you’ve got to get out of the boat.*”

Pastor Bob

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. 12 The group who sang it were “The Happenings”. (Yes, I’m using it again 12)

Happy Father's Day!

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.

June schedule:

June 1 – Scripture Discovery

June 8 – Scripture Discovery

June 15 – Scripture Discovery

June 22 – **NO** Scripture Discovery,
VBS at Malta Lutheran

June 29 – Scripture Discovery

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

Pastor Bob

“June is busting out all over...”

(A Rogers and Hammerstein song in the musical “Carousel”)

June 22-25 – Vacation Bible School at Malta Lutheran. 6pm 25th program.

June 26-28 – is the Milk River Gospel Jamboree!

June 28 - “Last Mountain Boys” will sing at Malta and Whitewater Lutheran.

Prayer Time throughout the month

Pray for Peace

Pray for rain

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

May 14, 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 April 9th minutes were reviewed as written. A motion to accept the minutes was made and passed.

Correspondence: MT Syndical Women’s Org. newsletter, April 2026, is in Wicks Hall on table. Please read the messages from: Pres. Ella Tweten on *page 1* and *page 7*, SAM Jannie Hartman *page 4*, MT “LWR Quilts make a Difference” *page 5*, Sec. Aubra Lewis *and Successful Fundraisers” page 6*, Treas. Jennifer Wintersteen and “Pool of Living Water” *page 8*. Thank you, Jan Kirkwood.

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 Reports: Jan reported there are 8 all cotton quilts, and 3 children’s quilts.

Action/Stewardship & Community Witness: If you want someone on the Bulletin Prayer list please contact the Parish Office 406-654-1434.

Old Business: May 3rd is Affirmation of Baptism Confirmands: Silo Marino, Nolan Moore, Kallie LaBrie, Trace Stolem and Keavin Simser.

May 10th MHS Seniors: Dawson Hammond, Straud Sims, Kendall Clauson, Emree Stuart, Brooklyn Knowles, Kenzie LaBrie, Karlie LaBrie, Kylie Bishop, Miquela Red Eagle, not present were Lashyah Stiles and Trooper Stiles. A quilt was given to Neva Jacobson by Michelle Smith. Marda Southwick and Linda Soiseth were added to the Honor Plaque a photo and an appreciation note were sent.

New Business: VBS June 22 – 25, 1st – 6th grades. Mariah Marino is in charge 760-625-6173 volunteers needed.

Two students applied for the WELCA Scholarship. Three kids are attending FLBC.

Fall Bazaar has changed to Nov. 14. It’s a no bake sale bazaar. We will serve coffee, pie & desserts. We would like some more ideas on this PLEASE! Barb Galt has decided to opt out of the Serving group but will help with funerals when asked.

ELCA Women’s Triennial gathering is July 16-19, Des Moines, Iowa. 5 MT ladies attending.

Next Board Meeting: Sept. 10th, enjoy summer!

June, July, and August NO meetings

Closing: with all praying the Lord’s Prayer.

Faithfully submitted by: Marlene Holman

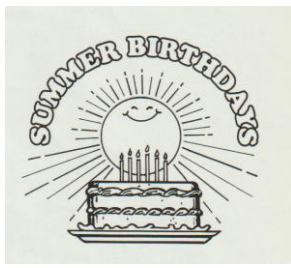
SUMMER BEGINS JUNE 21ST!



Secretary Note: Parish Office hours will be 9am to 1pm on June 22nd to 25th and 8am to noon on June 26th due to VBS. Thank you, SO

Do you have a July birthday to add?

HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAYS!



2 - Ryan Meneely
13 - Julie Nagy
14 - Linda Petrie
22 - Natasha Drabbs
28 - Teaguean Knudsen

Newsletter Lifeline: Monday, June 22nd for July 2026. Are you planning to attend VBS/FLBC June 22nd to 25th? Registration available online & MLC.

VBS with FLBC is Mon. June 22nd to Thur. June 25th. 6:00pm Thur. is program. Everyone is Welcome! Please register 1st to 6th grade. **Volunteers needed!** Contact Mariah 760-625-6173



Youth Group BBQ Wednesday, April 29th Cathy Salsbery played guitar and led the St. Mary's and MLC kindergarten thru 6th grades entertainment at the River's Bend.



BBQ weather is now!

Jasen Snellman, Art Lundstrom and Ross Simser cooked and served up the burgers & hot dogs. Many side dishes were brought for all to enjoy.

Facebook correspondence: Thank you ALL for coming to the end of year BBQ, helping that evening and all year long. What a great turnout!

A quick shout-out to Hi Line Market who offered a non-profit discount.

The burgers were delicious! Julie Snellman

Affirmation of Baptism

Sunday, May 3rd

Confirmands became members of ULP and one a member of Loring Lutheran Church. First membership service was to present communion to the MLC congregation. Pastor Bob and LMA Rick were the confirmation instructors on

Wednesday nights to prepare our confirmands for this special day. WELCA provided a cake for Fellowship after at MLC. Congratulations to all!



Pictured l to r: Silo Marino, Nolan Moore, Pastor Bob Nagy, LMA Rick Mikkelson, Kallie LaBrie, Trace Stolem and Keavin Simser.



Men in Mission Ministry

Remember, we meet on the first and third Thursdays at 7:00am at the GN!

If you would like to join in we're open to all and contact Greg Kirkwood 654-7057 to be added to the call/text reminder list. There were 14 on the National Day of Prayer Thur. May 7th and we always have room for more! *Pictured right* →

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.



Pictured l to r: Loring Lutheran Church mom Whitney Blunt and confirmand Amus Blunt, Whitewater Lutheran Church confirmand Trax Simanton and mom Carli Simanton. A cake reception for Fellowship was enjoyed at WLC.





MHS Recognition & Quilts

Sunday, May 10th

Pictured l to r: The MLC Quilting ladies Michelle Smith, Jodee Lee, and Paula Morrison. MHS graduating on May 17th are Dawson Hammond, Straud Sims, Kendall Clauson, Emree Stuart, Brooklyn Knowles, Kenzie LaBrie, Karlie LaBrie and Kylie Bishop. Pictured left: Miquela Red Eagle and Pastor Bob. Miquela will present a quilt to her sister Lashyiah Stiles and cousin Trooper Stiles. **Congratulations class of 2026!**



Mother's Day was full of giggles at Children's Time. Pictured l to r: Wreklan VanWichen, Cane Ost, Nora Hammond, Renlee Smith, Roeyn Smith and Pastor Bob (tag you're it!).

For Fathers...

I would rather be a nobody in the world but be a somebody to my kids. — *Patrick Morley*

God loves your children through you. If you are not available, how can He love them?
— *Josh McDowell*

Father and Mother lived on the edge of poverty, and yet their contentment was not dependent on their surroundings. Their relationship to each other and to the Lord gave them strength and happiness. — *Corrie Ten Boom*

One of the great joys of the great father's heart is to make his children glad. — *C.H. Spurgeon*

Parents can tell, but never teach, until they practice what they preach. — *Anonymous*

What a father says to his children is not heard by the world, but it will be heard by the posterity. — *Jean Paul Richter*

The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother. — *James Simpson*

One father is worth a hundred schoolmasters.
— *George Herbert*

The father used to sing his little children to sleep until he overheard the four-year-old tell the three-year-old, "If you pretend you're asleep, he stops." — *unknown*

"He didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it."
— *Clarence Budington-Kelland*

"My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, 'You're tearing up the grass.' 'We're not raising grass,' Dad would reply. 'We're raising boys.'" — *Harmon Killebrew*

Dads are most ordinary men turned by love into heroes, adventurers, story-tellers, singers.
— *Pam Brown*

A father is something that can't be defined by numbers or dollar signs. A kid cares about one thing: Is Father there, or not? — *Terry Pluto*

Indispensable Man

Saxon White Kissinger
1921-2010

Sometime when you're feeling important,
Sometime when your ego's in bloom,
Sometime when you take it for granted,
You're the best qualified in the room.

Sometime when you feel that your going
Would leave an unfillable hole,
Just follow these simple instructions,
And see how they humble your soul.

Take a bucket and fill it with water,
Put your hand in it up to the wrist,
Pull it out and the hole that's remaining
Is a measure of how you'll be missed.

You can splash all you wish when you enter,
You may stir up the water galore,
But stop and you'll find that in no time
It looks quite the same as before.

The moral of this quaint example
Is do just the best that you can.
Be proud of yourself but remember,
There's no indispensable man.

