

Dear Friends in Christ:

“The history of Unitarian Universalism is a history of a religious people challenging the authority of the church, its creeds and traditions.” That rather bold statement says a great deal about a movement called Unitarian Universalism, which began as a series of disconnected efforts to ‘complete’ the Reformation.

While the sources of authority were challenged the individual’s ability to understand what is interpreted as the word of God, truth, right and good was affirmed. Reason was also defended as the basic criterion for judging religious truth and the understanding of scripture. Some have simply put it that one can do whatever works or “feels good”.

While I may not be so quick to rush to this conclusion there is none-the-less a great deal of freedom and flexibility within this faith expression.

Two points of focus that set this faith expression apart from many mainline churches are the Trinity and Divinity of Christ. A Spanish radical in 1531 Michael Servetus challenged the traditional doctrine of the Trinity saying there is “no distinctions of the beings” in God only “ manifold aspects of deity”. Francis David declared in 1569 that the “equality of Christ with God is only of a kind which God gave Christ.” God remains sovereign above everyone else. The unity of God is preserved as they state it, thus the name “Unitarian”.

TABLE OF COMPARISON

UNITARIANS	LUTHERANS
TEACHINGS 1. The Bible is a book written by humans which must be understood in its historical context. 2. Creeds are rejected as a violation of reason, conscience, and experience. 3. The unity of God is affirmed. 4. Jesus is viewed as a great teacher and example, not a person of the Trinity. 5. Salvation by character: “You will know them by their fruits” (Matthew 7:16).	1. The Bible is the written witness to God’s revelation of saving action through Jesus Christ. 2. Creeds are accepted as summaries of Christian truth. 3. The unity of the triune God is confessed. 4. Jesus is confessed as both divine and human in nature, the second person of the Trinity, our Savior. 5. Salvation by grace through faith, a gift of God: “He who through faith is righteous shall live” (Romans 1:17b).
TYPE OF WORSHIP Worship is more of a celebration of the present than a memorial to the past. Historical and experimental forms are intermixed.	Worship is a celebration of God’s grace and a confession of faith. Liturgical forms used to glorify and thank God.
GOVERNMENT Freedom of individual conscience is secured in the independence of local congregations. Continental body is a democratic association of local churches and fellowships.	Congregational form used in U.S. with joint work undertaken by national church body. Boards and officials elected by conventions.
CHARACTERISTICS Regarding human nature as basically good, Unitarian Universalism appeals to their humane and progressive impulses. Strong in urban and university centers. Experience is regarded as the final test of truth.	Regarding human beings as sinful and in need of salvation, the Lutheran church proclaims the gospel in Word and sacrament. Although appeal made to all, its membership is largely middle class. The revelation of God in Christ is the primary truth to be received in faith.
STATISTICS Membership 135,487 Congregations 999 Ministers 1,034	

Throughout the history of Christianity many of the “Universalists’ “ were challenged by others and not accepted. Michael Servetus, mentioned earlier was burned at the stake as a heretic. American Unitarianism was influenced by European ideas rejecting predestination, election, total depravity, the Trinity, Jesus being both divine and human. Affirmed was a belief in the moral capacity of humans, the unity of God, the importance of reason, democracy in religion and universal salvation. This group summarizes their purpose as an association of persons who unite for worship, personal growth and social outreach.

Neighbors in Faith,

Pastor Hal

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Hal: 715-828-1112
Email: harkihear@gmail.com

If you are hospitalized, know someone who is, need pastoral assistance, a prayer request, home visit, private communion, or other pastoral service contact Pastor Hal at any of the above.

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BAPTISMS

Eleanor Lynn Johnson

FUNERALS

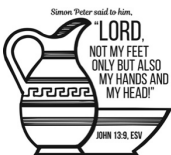
Jane M. (Panzer) Syverson

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Sunday of the Passion/ Palm Sunday

April 02, 2023
Matthew 21: 1-11
"From Cheers to Jeers"
Holy Communion Celebrated



Maundy Thursday
April 06, 2023- 7:00 p.m.
Barum Lutheran
John 13: 1-17; 31b-35
"Wash Your Feet Before You Eat"



Good Friday
April 07, 2023- 2:00 p.m.
Big Elk Creek Lutheran
John 18:1-19:42
"It Feels Like We Lost"



Resurrection of our Lord
April 09, 2023
Matthew 28: 1-10
"Nobody but Jesus"

Second Sunday of Easter
April 16, 2023
John 20: 19-31
Tony Christopherson, Supply Preacher

Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023
Luke 24: 13-35
"On the Road Again"

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2023
John 10: 1-10
"Latch Key Sheep"

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Classes resume on April 12, 2023
Barum Lutheran
6: 30-7:30 p.m.

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Program Note: April 15th concert canceled!
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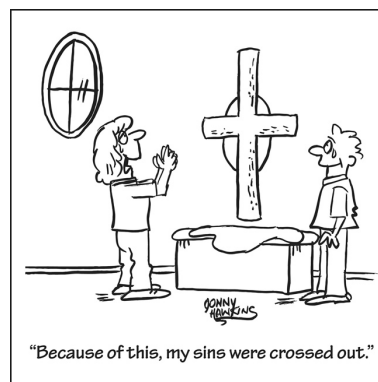


CONFIRMATION
SUNDAY MAY 07, 2023
9:00- BARUM

10:30- BIG ELK CREEK
Ten of our young people will participate in the

service of Affirmation of Baptism". Join us and remember them in prayer.

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REMEMBER:

Easter is less meaningful unless you worship on Holy Thursday and Good Friday!