

The newsletter of University Lutheran Church and One Community Lutheran Campus Ministry at Michigan State University

**Mark Your Calendars . . .**

**Prayers & Squares 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Sunday, Dec. 3

**Advent Dinner**

Sunday, Dec. 3 at 5 p.m.  
(Bring a dessert to share)

**P & S Craft Sale**

Sundays, Dec. 3 and 10

**Annual Congregational Meeting**

Sunday, Dec. 10 at 11 a.m.

**Food Movers Food Distribution**

Thursday, Dec. 21  
Drive-thru 3:30 – 5 p.m.



**Inside . . .**

Pastor: Observing Advent .....2  
 Tree Blessing ~ Advent & Christmas Worship ..3  
 Campus Ministry ~ Families .....4  
 Forum ~ Library ~ "Blessing".....5  
 Earthkeeping ~ Good Gifts ~ Coat Drive.....6  
 Prayers & Squares ~ Kids Hope .....7  
 Advent & Racial Justice ~ Accessibility.....8  
 President ~ Nov. Council ~ Local Benevolences...9  
 Celebrations ~ Archives.....10  
 December Calendar .....11  
 Advent Dinner.....12

**Food Movers, The Need is Great**

ULC distributes food for the Greater Lansing Food Bank each month. The way we distribute food each month has changed radically because of the Covid pandemic. We now operate drive-through distribution, where the shoppers remain in their vehicles. We had a few hiccups with traffic flow at first, but now have a systematic plan for lining up cars in the main lot before directing them past food stations near the entrance to the church.



Many of the 362 families served during the November food distribution.

The community need has grown in response to inflation, the restriction of SNAP (food stamp) benefits, and economic disruptions in society. In November, we served 362 families in comparison to 80 families max, when we operated indoors in the Fellowship Hall. We are thankful for the ULC layout and infrastructure that allows us to meet the community's needs. Contact me if you would like to volunteer.

*Bryan Rahe*

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE

*Worship Expressions Jazz*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17  
10:00AM ET

*An integrated family journeying faithfully together, inspired by God's grace, guided by Christ, and empowered and sustained by the Holy Spirit*

## Observing Advent

My family and I are all ready for Advent. We swung by Aldi last week and got everything we need:

- ✓ 5 Advent chocolate calendars
- ✓ 4 Advent Cheese calendars
- ✓ 3 Advent wine calendars
- ✓ 2 Advent dog treat calendars
- ✓ 1 Advent chocolate truffle calendar (they only had one or we would have bought more)
- ✓ And a partridge in a pear tree.

Actually, I couldn't find a partridge in a pear tree – maybe after Christmas. As you might have guessed, my family loves a good Advent calendar. After all what's not to love, open a door each day and get chocolate, a bite of cheese, or best of all, a sip of wine. Can there be any better Pavlovian conditioning for teaching someone to love Advent? I think not. But I feel like there are ample other reasons to love Advent.

For those of you who may not be familiar with it, the season of Advent is the four Sundays before Christmas. Advent means “coming” and it focuses on looking forward to Christ coming (both celebrating Jesus' birth and promised return). We decorate the church in blue as a way of symbolizing that this time is filled with hope and expectation. We set out an Advent wreath with candles that help us count off the weeks. We sing Advent songs that remind us to prepare and watch and wait. It's an



exercise in faithful patience during a time when the world is sprinting through holiday celebrations.

I invite you to observe a holy Advent by carving out some time for reflection and prayer this year. Here are some ideas to help you observe Advent (searching the web will give additional suggestions):

- Get an Advent calendar (*Really, I can't believe you haven't already done this!*). There are countless options, and they help us remember that practicing our faith can be fun and enjoyable. Try pairing it with a brief time of devotion. There are even on-line Advent calendars you can find.
- Decorate your home with blue things – blue bows, blue lights, blue table clothes, blue pillowcases, etc.
- Create an Advent wreath (any four candles will work) and light one more candle each week of

Advent as you do devotions (and *eat your chocolate from the Advent calendar*).

- Don't forget about St. Nicholas' Day on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>. Look on the internet for ways to celebrate. In some cultures, this is the day that St. Nick visits to leave a treat in children's stockings.
- Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> is the winter solstice – the longest night of the year for us. It is an opportunity to give thanks for the sun and moon that God provides us and to remember that Jesus Christ is the light of the world. Read the first half of the first chapter of the Gospel of John this night.
- Be sure to bless your Christmas Tree, see below.
- A familiar Lutheran table prayer has an Advent theme to it. If you don't use it regularly, consider using it for Advent. If it is a familiar part of your mealtime prayers, take note of its Advent theme of coming: *Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blest.*
- As a household pick the ways you will come to church to observe Advent. (There are several special events during the season).

*Blessed Advent,  
Pastor Bryan*

**ADVENT**  
*unplugged*

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.  
Dec. 6, 13, and 20  
ULC Fireside Room

In a season that is often busy and hectic, this is an opportunity to take some time to prepare by pausing and pondering the meaning of Christ's coming. A low-key, relaxed and informal worship experience that is family-friendly and accessible. Come wind down with a cappella music and open reflection that invites us to slow down during for 45 minutes of prayer, discussion, and singing. Participants will be able to participate on their own terms with simple activities for those who are more active.

# Christmas Tree Blessing

For many households, the Christmas tree holds a special place. This blessing provides an opportunity to explore this tradition more deeply. You may choose to do the following as part of your family devotions or at another time. Ideally it is done right after the tree is decorated and before it is lit for the first time.

**Scripture reading:** Jeremiah 33:14

**Reflection:** Ask everyone to choose one ornament on the tree. Why did you choose this ornament? Why is it special to you? What is one memory you have about putting up the Christmas tree from previous year? What do you look forward to most about decorating the Christmas tree?

**Prayer:** God our creator, we praise you for this Christmas tree, gift of the earth and sign of your every green presence. As we illumine this tree, let your blessing come upon us. Send us your Son, the tender branch of Jesse, who brings us light and life. May we who stand in



its light eagerly welcome the true Light that never fades. All glory be yours now and forever. Amen

**Turn on the tree lights** and join together in reading the following blessing: This tree is a blessing to our home. It reminds us of all that is beautiful and of God's promise. It stands in our home as a tree of light, a sign of Jesus' presence with us as the Light of the World.

**Sing a Carol**

**End by sharing some hot chocolate** or another treat.

For families with small children, you may wish to read one of the following story books together:

*The Tale of Three Trees*

*The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree*

*The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey.*

*Pastor Bryan*

## Advent and Christmas Schedule



**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent - Dec. 3 at 5 p.m.**  
Advent Dinner, Musical Program and Crafts

**Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m.**  
Advent Unplugged

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent - Dec. 10 at 10 a.m.**  
Special Musical offerings  
by the Senior Choir and Handbell Ensemble

**Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m.**  
Advent Unplugged

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent - Dec. 17 at 10 a.m.**  
Worship Expressions, Jazz

**Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 6:30 p.m.**  
Advent Unplugged

**Christmas Eve (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent) - Dec. 24**  
10 a.m. Worship - Lessons & Carols

5:30 p.m. Special Music

6:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

**Christmas Day - Monday, Dec. 25**  
10 a.m. Worship Service





### Bringing Christmas to the Zoo

One Community travelled to Potter Park Zoo to help them prepare for Christmas by decorating trees.

### MSU Basketball Parking

One Community began its annual parking for MSU men's basketball games with the James Madison game on Monday, Nov. 6. The ULC lot opens 1½ hours prior to tip-off and the donation is \$10.

Proceeds fund campus ministry activities, including our Spring Break trip. Please encourage friends and family to park at ULC!



## Family Faith Formation

### Youth Gathering in New Orleans

We are excited to share that we are planning to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA this year! **Would you like to join us?**

To help you decide, here is some quick info:



· **Questions?** Jenny and Simon are both happy to answer any questions you have! Simon will also talk more about the ELCA Youth Gathering on Sunday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at Youth Group, so please feel free to ask questions then!

#### Yes, I Want to Go!

If you are interested in going, please send Jenny and Simon ([highschoolministry@ulcel.org](mailto:highschoolministry@ulcel.org)) an email to let us know! Right now, we only need to know who is interested in going. For those who decide to attend (and can commit to attending), we will ask each family to submit a \$100 deposit for registration by Dec. 15, 2023. Scholarships are available for any families who need assistance.

We are excited about this opportunity and look forward to hearing from you!

*Jenny & Simon*

· **What:** The ELCA Youth Gathering is a HUGE gathering of 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders and their adult leaders from across the ELCA. The gathering is held every three years and includes “interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service, and fellowship. It is an incredibly fun way for young people to connect with others, grow in faith, and be “challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.”

<https://www.elca.church/gathering>

· **Who:** You!! Any high school youth who was in 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade during Fall 2023 can attend.

· **When:** July 14<sup>th</sup>-July 22<sup>nd</sup> (the ELCA Youth Gathering is July

16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, so we've budgeted time for driving there and back)

· **Where:** New Orleans, LA – home of jazz, Creole cuisine, beignets, and so much more!

· **Why:** Why not?! This is a great way for us to connect with one another and other high schoolers across the ELCA!

· **How:** Fundraising!! Estimated expenses are approximately \$1,500/person, but we will participate in fundraising events together to help cover most (if not all) of these expenses.

## Two Forums in December

Join us in the Fireside Room or on Zoom for two adult forum presentations this month following worship.



### Dec. 3 – Annual Meeting Overview:

Council will offer a preview/overview of the Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Dec. 10 - Annual Meeting: No Sunday Forum

Dec. 17 - Dr. Jeff Andresen: Follow-up to last spring's forum on climate. Invited back by popular demand, Dr. Jeff Andresen, MSU Professor of Meteorology/Climatology, State Climatologist, and ULC member, will speak further on our changing climate.

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve: No Sunday Forum

Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve: No Sunday Forum

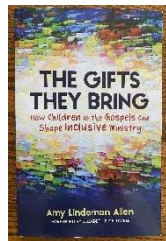
Linda Trevarthen



### ULC Memorial Library

## The Gifts They Bring

The library has a new book which we hope will be shared by many in the congregation. *The Gifts They Bring: How Children in the Gospels can Shape Inclusive Ministry* was written by Amy Lindeman Allen. It is available in the library to check out.



The description on Amazon says, "Children are often touted as the "future" of the church, but their role in the church today is less frequently considered. In *The Gifts They Bring*, New Testament scholar, pastor, and mother, Amy Lindeman Allen challenges readers to reconsider the way they view children in the church, focusing on our present life

together as a diverse, inclusive community of faith. To do this, Lindeman Allen looks to the past, rereading familiar Gospel accounts with an eye to the experience of childhood in Jesus' world, highlighting both the gifts that children brought to Jesus' ministry as well as those they received from him."

"Lindeman Allen reconsiders ministry with children today, moving away from a transactional model of imparting wisdom to children to a dialogical model of learning and serving together with children... Each chapter reads a different Gospel story in conversation with

experiences of real children in the church today, bringing into focus the varied gifts that children bring in a practice of inclusive ministry."

Kurt Kusserow, Bishop, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America states in a review of the book, "This book is a gift! Dr. Allen convenes academic scholarship, the witness of Holy Scripture, and the life experiences of human communities to show us what is hidden in plain sight – the realm of God is made known to the world through children. Read, remember, and rejoice!"

Library Team

## Our Location is a Blessing

We are blessed by our location adjacent to MSU. This fall we took advantage of our location and parked vehicles in our parking lot for six MSU home football games. With over 200 parking spaces, revenue of slightly over \$35,000 was generated.

The money is split 50-50 between the ULC general fund and the different ministries that supply volunteers to manage the parking. Food Movers, the Choir, and the Youth Ministry supplied volunteers for different games and will benefit



from the revenue. Food Movers will use the money for cost sharing with the Food Bank. The money helps fund stipends for the Choir Scholarship students and the Youth Ministry will use their share to fund their adventures and activities.

A special thank you to our Event Coordinator, Mary Letvenow, who makes this happen for both football and basketball games, regardless of the weather.

Bryan Rahe

## How do I Make Christmas Giving More Eco-friendly Without Being a Scrooge??

One of the ways to have a more Christ centered Christmas season and to minimize our carbon footprint is to invest in reusable essentials, which are sustainable and reduce waste.

A few ideas:

- Invest in an experience—tickets to an event that the person is interested in, sports, concerts, restaurants, theatre, exhibits, or the cinema.
- Give a subscription to a favorite digital service.
- Choose fairtrade and ethically made gifts that give back to communities and the local economy (Prayers and Squares has lots of upcycled items for sale).



- Look at the ELCA Good Gifts catalog which supports ministries in 80 countries (See below.)
- Avoid glitter and metallic wrapping paper which contain micro-plastics.
- Have kids decorate their own wrapping paper using clean paper grocery bags.
- Use newspaper cartoon and puzzle sections or any interesting maps, sheet music or magazine paper as wrapping.
- Save and reuse gift bags each year.
- (The jury is still out on whether a live or a manufactured tree is better.)

Enjoy your holiday season!

*Judy Kindel*

### December Outreach of the Month ELCA Good Gifts

Ever thought about buying a goat? Or maybe a hive of bees? It might be hard to move them into your house, but you could give them as a gift!



receive the item get the help they need. It's a win-win.

You can give chicks for \$10 which provides a family with protein-rich eggs, or the possibility

The December Outreach of the Month is the ELCA Good Gifts. It's an easy way to buy a gift that will make a huge impact on individuals and communities. Choose a gift in honor of someone and the ELCA will send the selected item to an area in the world that needs help. Your friend or family member will know you care, and the folks that

of a steady source of income. You can give a pig for \$30 which provides fertilizer to grow crops. Or you can give a goat for \$50 which provides a family with milk and income to send children to school. If an animal isn't your thing, how about a computer for a community center

(\$800) or an environmentally friendly cookstove (\$105)?

For more information and to buy a gift, go to the ELCA's Good Gifts website at: <https://goodgifts.elca.org/> We will have a small Christmas tree set up in the church where you can pick up ornaments and cards to accompany your gift. If you would rather simply donate for Good Gifts, please send your check to the church office or donate online and designate your contribution as "Good Gifts."

*Pastor Bryan*

### St. Luke Lutheran Coat Bank

St. Luke Lutheran Coat Bank is in its 15<sup>th</sup> year of providing winter apparel to Ingham County. They annually distribute 1,000 coats to adults and children. They currently are in dire need of extra-large and plus size winter coats for both male and female. New and gently used items, adult and children coats, hats, gloves, mittens, and children's snow pants are welcome. If you prefer, you can provide funds so they can purchase items. Please



drop off at either St. Luke Lutheran Campus or call to arrange for pick-up of items.

**Christ Campus**  
122 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Lansing  
517-482-2252

**Meridian Campus**  
5589 Van Atta  
Haslett  
517-339-9119

Office hours: 9 - 3:30 Mon. – Thurs; 9 – 2:30 Friday  
Questions? Call or text me at 989-506-8723.

*Knowing the Peace and the Power of the Cross  
Darra Haase*





## Prayers & Squares Chapter 163

# We Celebrate 20 Years and Over 2,800 Quilts!

We were pleased to award Tom Dobson, ULC Technical Director, with a Quilt of Valor on Nov. 12. Tom is a veteran of the United States Marine Corp. As a special surprise to him, his children and grandchildren were present. This was the 13<sup>th</sup> QOV award Prayers & Squares has made to veterans this year. If you have a family member or friend who has served in the Armed Forces, please call the office so we can honor them with a Quilt of Valor.



Tom received his Quilt of Valor on Nov. 12.

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of wrapping Madeline Springer with our first prayer quilt. In mid-November 2023, quilt number 2858 was tied. We will celebrate these milestones during worship and with a special coffee hour afterward. **If you or a family member has ever received a prayer quilt, high school or MSU graduation quilt, or a Quilt of Valor, PLEASE**

**bring it with you to worship on that day.**

The first two Sundays in December will be our craft sales. Hand-made items available for sale include table toppers, stuffed toys, cloth books, coasters, winter bean soup mix, a

quilt raffle and much more! This year we have a special item: honey from the East Lansing backyard bees of Pastor Fred Fritz. All proceeds from the sales go directly to purchase the supplies necessary to make quilts. Shop early and often!

Please mark Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, on your calendars. That is National Quilts of Valor Sewing Day when folks all over the country devote their time and talents to making QOV for veterans and active service persons. We will begin at 9 a.m., lunch at noon, and close at 3 p.m. We have jobs that do not require sewing. Come be a part of this exciting day! More information will be forthcoming.

*Bobbie Davis*



Participants at the Nov. 11 Christmas Quilt-a-Thon show off the blocks they created using donated fabric.

## What's New at Forest View

Kids Hope USA mentors have worked with at-risk students at Forest View Elementary in Lansing since 2019. The mentors encountered many ups and downs in spending one hour a week at the school during the pandemic years. For example, one mentor did a session with a student by the school's front doors because the power went out and sunlight was available there. Last year the school was so crowded that students sometimes met with their mentors in the hallway rather than a quiet classroom or the library.

This year seems to be different. Forest View has been selected to be an adopted school of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources with an emphasis on environmental education. The focus is to bring learning back outside to nature and bring nature inside the classroom. There will be two outdoor classrooms with



gardens in the spacious area behind the school. Outdoor education field trips are planned at all grade levels.

Another difference this school year is in the staffing and classrooms. There are several new teachers, and the school now goes to fourth grade. Last year third grade was the highest grade. The new staff are usually unfamiliar with Kids Hope USA, and it is necessary to share with them the mission to establish a relationship with students. Mentors have worked hard over the years to aid the Forest View staff because we realize what a tough job they have post pandemic.

With these changes, we hope the 2023-2024 school year will be a great one for students and staff at Forest View.

*Barbara Kissling, ULC Kids Hope USA Director*

## Advent and Racial Justice

The traditional themes of Advent – hope, peace, joy and love – are foundational to how we live our faith in Jesus Christ. As we journey through Advent this year, what if we view these themes through the lens of racial justice? In his sermons and writings, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) talked about these themes.

**Hope** – MLK had great hope for what could be. He addressed the crowd in Washington, D.C. in August 1963, declaring in spite of all the evidence to the contrary that he had a dream (hope) that racial justice and reconciliation is possible.



**Peace** – To a group of students at UC Berkeley in 1957, MLK advocated the path of peace when he said “the nonviolent resister does not seek to humiliate or defeat the opponent but to win his friendship and understanding...our aim is...to win the friendship of all of the persons who had perpetrated this system in the past. The end of violence or the aftermath of violence is bitterness. The aftermath of nonviolence is reconciliation and the creation of a beloved community.”

**Joy** – MLK found great joy in service to others. He made it clear

that happiness only comes through service to others, commitment to something bigger than yourself. And he believed that “everybody can serve” no matter who we are or what our gifts or limitations might be!

**Love** – This was a constant theme in MLK’s teachings and preaching – recognizing the other as a beloved child of God. One of his most famous sayings about love is: “I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.”

As followers of Jesus, may we make hope, peace, joy and love real in our very lives.

*Racial Justice Team*

---

## Accessibility Team Introduced During Sunday Forum

On Sunday Nov. 12, the newest team at ULC led Forum with a presentation introducing the topic of accessibility in the life of the church. We shared a slide show identifying possible barriers to full participation in worship, fellowship and the ministries of ULC. Both physical and sensory conditions were addressed.

For example, the team identified the need for a ramp from the narthex to the north lawn so folks using wheelchairs and walkers would have access to events happening in this space, such as the Alpha Sunday picnic and the summer outdoor concert series. The team also recognized the need to provide tools to help worshippers with sensory sensitivities be more comfortable participating in worship. The Endowment team recently approved a grant to be used to purchase noise cancelling headphones, fidget toys, and light visors for the sanctuary which will aid in this ministry. We also discussed using the Fireside room as an alternative worship space for sensory sensitive individuals where volume and lighting could be controlled, and movement would not be restricted or disruptive for other worshippers.

Our team is still at the information-gathering stage so the opportunity to present at Sunday Forum also provided us with the opportunity to gather more information from our



members. It also provided us with a format to reach out to other teams so they can begin thinking about how accessible their ministries and events may be.

If you are wondering what you can do to support our team, what we still need the most is feedback. Please reach out to share what the barriers to full participation in our church life may be for you and your family members. We also ask that you be willing to help us spread the word to those visiting our church for the first time. As we acquire tools to make worship more comfortable for all participants, we hope to have greeters in place who can share this information.

Together, we can ensure that all our members and visitors feel welcome when they gather at ULC.

*Beth Rahe, [bwojan@gmail.com](mailto:bwojan@gmail.com)*

### Did you know . . .

Some people are light sensitive and uncomfortable from bright lights? Wearing hats or visors can help these people significantly.

Some people are affected by loud music and sudden sounds?



## From the President

# As My Term Comes to an End

My year as president is coming to an end. It has been a challenging and eventful year. Some of the highlights of the year include a new ground based solar array that was installed in September. The second year of our outdoor concert series was a big success helping to raise money for the Food Movers. We continued our partnership with the Greater Lansing Food Bank. At times we served over 300 families during the monthly food distributions. A new sound system should be installed by the end of the year.



We faced the challenge of having both pastors leave this year. Fortunately, we were able to find an excellent interim pastor. Pastor Bryan Schneider-Thomas has done a great job helping us transition to new leadership. The Call Committee has recommended Emily and Zachariah Shipman to fill both pastoral positions. If they are approved by the Congregation, they should start sometime in January or February completing our transition to new leadership. A special thanks to chair Will Mahoney and the Call Committee for doing a fantastic job. I look forward to the coming year as we welcome new leadership. Finally, I wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Rick Milligan*

ULC Council met via Zoom on Nov. 28. Here are some highlights from the discussion:

- Council appreciates Pastor Bryan's thoughtful perspectives on the various areas of ministry he has observed in his short time with us thus far
- Council clarified that the money from the ELCA campus ministry grant from September 2023 through the start of new pastor(s)



### Council Notes

- be used to pay for student associate stipends, reimbursing related designated fund expenditures as necessary
- Council motioned to send the proposed 2024 budget to the congregation. This budget

assumes a three percent increase in giving.

- The company that has been doing the external review of ULC finances is nearing completion of their work. Council is expecting their report soon and a summary of findings will be shared with the congregation.

*Emily Uebel*  
*ULC Council Secretary*

## 2023 Local Benevolence Recipients

After input from the congregation, the Social Action Team made the following recommendations to Council, which subsequently approved them:

- \$500 to St. Michaels Episcopal Church for their Gun Buyback Program.
- \$500 to Spartan Street Medicine, which is an organization that brings basic healthcare to the street for unhoused individuals.
- \$500 to St. Vincent Catholic Charities for their Refugee Services Program.



- \$500 to St. Luke Lutheran Church Coat Bank. I witnessed a coat giveaway evening at St. Luke Lutheran Church Christ Campus and the need for warm winter wear is staggering.

We also have \$2,000 reserved for Food Movers cost sharing with the Greater Lansing Food Bank. We are waiting to receive a cost estimate from the Greater Lansing Food Bank before finalizing that recommendation to Council.

*Bryan Rahe*  
*Social Action Team*

## Birthdays

- 3 Marge Mahoney  
Deanna Milligan
- 4 Kimberly Melton  
Diane Wanagat
- 5 Gerry Erickson  
Jerry Lindman
- 6 Hannah Oslund
- 7 Rachel Morin
- 9 Susan Zimmerman  
Paul Bartlett
- 10 Ross Clyma  
Cynthia Ramsey



- 11 Libby Baswell  
Russell Fitzgerald  
Lois Mummaw
- 12 Bruce Reinoehl  
Heather Stanley  
Steven Viele

- 13 Paul Guilfoyle  
Ross Lazar
- 14 Andrea Vera
- 15 Michael Sweat
- 16 Larry Cross
- 17 Gregory Hagbom
- 19 Andrew Hagman
- 20 Lynn Kriser
- 21 Cheryl Kruger  
Brie McPhall
- 22 Kathy Sweat
- 24 Catherine Ernst
- 28 Johanna Karcher

## Anniversaries

- 6 Art & Carolyn Lohr
- 14 Al & Ann Booren
- 20 Dan & Lindsay Sadler
- 22 Anthony & Chad  
Waldron
- 29 Todd & Barb Helser
- 31 John & Bonnie  
V'Soske

## ULC Archives

### Former Advent Wreath Reappears in the Narthex



Have you noticed the metal artwork hanging in the Narthex (gathering area)? If you have been a member of ULC for some time, you probably have seen this “wreath” before. Adorned with greenery and candles, it was the Advent wreath in the front of the sanctuary for several years. Using a gift certificate for a welding class at LCC, George Madsen, ULC Lead Pastor from 1989-2001, made this wreath to resemble a much smaller Advent wreath that he owned.

The wreath was stored in the tower room along with all the other Christmas decorations. Recently, while cleaning



Metal sculpture by former ULC pastor George Madsen installed in the narthex skylight.

up the room, Gerry Erickson found the wreath and thought it should be used. Given the theme of the artwork – families gathering - she thought it would be appropriate to hang the piece in the Narthex.

Dale Romsos was consulted, and he agreed that the piece was unique and would be a good addition to the Narthex. A while later the Advent wreath appeared hanging from the rafter of the skylight.

It seems appropriate that the wreath was hung just before Advent since its original purpose was an Advent wreath. But now we can enjoy the piece year-round as a symbol of gathering together in faith and friendship.

*Connie Lenkowski*



**Newsletter**  
SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for the January Lux is **Friday, Dec. 15.**

E-mail articles to Amy Wagenknecht at [amylarryw@comcast.net](mailto:amylarryw@comcast.net) and Mandy O’Neil at [ulcsec@ulcel.org](mailto:ulcsec@ulcel.org) or place them in the Lux mailbox in the ULC office. Articles may be edited for size or readability, but you will be contacted if significant changes are made. Keep those wonderful photos and articles coming! Thanks!



# D · E · C · E · M · B · E · R

# 2023

1	5:00a	Fridays@5	Noon	Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom	
3	10:00a	Sunday Worship (Advent 1)-Sanctuary/FB	4:15p	Worship Wednesday-Zoom*	
	11:00a	Prayers & Squares Craft Sale-Narthex	6:30p	Advent Unplugged Worship-Fireside	
	11:15a	Sunday Forum-Fireside/Zoom*(Council Preview)	9:30a	Brunch Bunch-IHOP, EL	
	5:00p	Advent Dinner-Fellowship	17	10:00a	Sunday Worship (WE Jazz)-Sanctuary/FB
	5:00p	High School Youth-Youth Room		11:15a	Sunday Forum-Fireside (Jeff Andresen)
4	4:00p	Tight Knit-Fireside	18	5:00p	High School Youth Group-Youth Room
	6:00p	Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary		4:00p	Tight Knit-Fireside
5	7:30a	Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*	19	5:30p	MSU Basketball Parking (Oakland)
	10:00a	Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall		7:30a	Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*
	1:30p	Staff Meeting		10:00a	Prayers & Squares-Fellowship
	2:45p	Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom*		12:00p	Lychnion Circle-Coral Gables, EL
	5:30p	MSU Basketball Parking (Wisc.)		1:30p	Staff Meeting
6	8:00a	Mushers-IHOP, EL		2:45p	Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom*
	9:30a	Lux/Communications-Zoom		6:30p	ULC Council-Zoom
	Noon	Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom*	20	8:00a	Mushers-IHOP, EL
	4:15p	Worship Wednesday-Zoom*		Noon	Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom
	4:30p	Lead Management Team-Zoom		1:00p	Rhodon-Pizza House, EL
	6:30p	Advent Unplugged Worship-Fireside		6:30p	Advent Unplugged Worship-Fireside
7	7:00p	Senior Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary	21	3:30p	Food Movers Distribution-Drive thru
8	5:00p	Fridays@Five		TBD	MSU Basketball Parking (Stony Brook)
10	10:00a	Sunday Worship (Advent 2)-Sanctuary/FB	24	Christmas	Eve
	11:00a	Prayers & Squares Craft Sale-Narthex		10:00a	Sunday Worship (Lessons & Carols)-Sanctuary/FB
	11:00a	Annual Congregational Meeting-Sanctuary		5:30p	Special Music-Sanctuary
	5:00p	High School Youth Group-Youth Room		6:00p	Candlelight Worship-Sanctuary
11	4:00	Tight Knit-Fireside	25	Christmas	Day
	6:00p	Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary		10:00a	Christmas Worship-Sanctuary/FB
12	7:30a	Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*	26	2:45p	Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom*
	10:00a	Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall		7:00p	Families Against Narcotics (FAN)-Fellowship
	1:30p	Staff Meeting	27	8:00a	Mushers-IHOP, EL
	2:45p	Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom*		Noon	Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom*
	6:30p	Racial Justice Team-Zoom*	30	12:30p	MSU Basketball Parking (Indiana St.)
	7:30p	Greater Lansing Arts Chorale Concert-Sanctuary			
13	8:00a	Mushers-IHOP, EL			

## ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, Dec. 10, immediately following worship, all members are requested to participate in this two-part meeting. We will begin with a vote to call Emily Shipman for Lead Pastor and Zachariah Shipman for Associate Pastor.

The Annual meeting agenda – elections, approval of reports and 2024 budget, will follow this vote.

The meetings will be held in the Fellowship Hall and snacks will be provided.

### ULC Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Closed Monday & Friday

**Reminder:** Please let the office know when ULC meetings and events are scheduled, even if they're happening virtually. We would like to keep the calendar current. Thanks!

\*Zoom link contacts: Worship Wed. – Rachel Drobnak; Lectio Divina – Bill Trevarthen; Faith, Writing & Reflection, Carole Ford [cfordllp@yahoo.com](mailto:cfordllp@yahoo.com); Tuesday study, [larry.wagenknecht@gmail.com](mailto:larry.wagenknecht@gmail.com); Pub Theology, Jay Dubois-Jones [jaytopham@gmail.com](mailto:jaytopham@gmail.com)





**University Lutheran Church**  
One Community Lutheran Campus Ministry at MSU  
1020 S. Harrison Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
517-332-2559 [ulcsec@ulcel.org](mailto:ulcsec@ulcel.org) [www.ulcel.org](http://www.ulcel.org)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Lansing, MI  
Permit No. 45

*Change service requested*

**Bryan Schneider-Thomas**  
Interim Pastor

**Janine Novenske Smith**  
Director of Worship & the Arts

**Mandy O'Neil**  
Office Administrator

**Gary Carl**  
Financial Administrator

**Mary Letvenow**  
Event Coordinator

**Kristie Wiggert**  
Organist

**John Dale Smith**  
Pianist

**Louise Paquette**  
Director of Handbells

DECEMBER 3, 5:00 PM

*Advent Dinner*

FOLLOWED BY CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM,  
CAROLS AND CRAFTS

PLEASE BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE

SIGN UP IN NARTHEX OR ONLINE

