



Lux

February 2017

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

Mark Your Calendars . . .

ULC Office Closed

Feb. 20 ~ President's Day

Tight Knit

Mondays, Feb. 6, 13, 27
4:30 p.m. - Fireside Room

Food Movers

Thursday, Feb. 23
Fellowship Hall
Set-up 3:30 p.m.
Distribution 4:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday

March 1
7 p.m. Worship with
Imposition of Ashes



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Ending and Starting the Year with Service . . .

Serving New Year's Eve Lunch

Saturday, Dec. 31, New Year's Eve, several ULC members and friends ended the year by preparing and serving lunch at Christ Lutheran Soup Kitchen. Although the number served was a bit down, we know the need in our community is still great. We accomplish good things by serving in this way! Our next soup kitchen service day is Apr. 29. Please plan to join us. Look for the sign-up early in April.



ULC volunteers take a break after salad prep. ULC staffs the Christ Lutheran Soup Kitchen in Lansing whenever there is a fifth Saturday.

Cindy Carver (carver2@oakland.edu), Steve and Dara Haase (Zkz895@comcast.net), and Jennifer Tracy (jlynn.tracy@oakland.edu); ULC Soup Kitchen Co-Chairs

MLK Day of Service at Fenner



Volunteers warm up after clearing brush at Fenner.

One Community students gathered at Fenner Nature Center in Lansing on MLK Day to work for our community and have some fun together. Invasive brush was cleared and we learned about our local environment. Lunch at Woody's was a great opportunity to talk about a host of topics related to Christian faith and the environment. Go Green!

Pastor Sarah Midzalkowski

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

Hope in the One Who Created Us

As I look outside I see another day full of gray. The sky is full of clouds and although it is almost the height of the day, you wouldn't know it. It's dark and gloomy and wet. It's not the weather I prefer. It's a bit warm for a January day but still cold enough to deter all the ice from melting.

It's been several days since I've gotten myself outside to run, instead choosing the safer route of running indoors either around the track or on a treadmill. It's not as easy for me to find motivation to get a good run in when the weather is like this. I'd rather there be sunshine. I'd rather it be warm.

I'm finding this is often true of my reality. I often want it to be more, or better, or to last longer – whatever it is. And it varies from time to time. Sometimes it's the weather. Sometimes it's politics. Sometimes it's family or church or even rest and relaxation.



On this dreary day, we are days away from the inauguration of the next President of the United States. The weather seems to match my mood as we quickly move to Jan. 20th. By the time you read this, the 20th will have come and gone and Donald Trump is now our president. For some there is anxiety and fear. For some there is eagerness and excitement.

My hope as a faith community is that no matter where we stand, we can place our hope in the One who created us and gathers us together week after week. We don't place our hope in the hands of one elected official or one institution. Our ultimate hope is in Christ. We may

seek other things, though we know our hope is in something bigger, someone bigger. The God who created our universe, who put the planets in their places, and who made the sun to rise each and every day.

As we live out this year together, may our faith community be the light that showers one another and our community with the love of God found in Christ Jesus. Our faith is what unites us. God's grace and forgiveness is gifted to each of us and all of us. God calls us together, feeds us, and then sends us out to be a beacon of hope and light.

There are days when it will be dark and dreary. There will be days when the sun is bright and warm. In the midst of it all, Jesus reigns. That's where I place my hope today and where I place my hope for this community of faith striving to be disciples in the darkness and in the light.

Pastor Sara Cogsil

Midweek Lenten Services

On Ash Wednesday, Mar. 1, we begin our Lenten journey. The service that day is at 7 p.m. On each of the following Wednesdays up until Holy Week, we will gather for prayer, song, and fellowship. This year there will be worship opportunities both at noon and in the evening.

At the noon gathering (in the choir loft), we'll sing and pray and reflect especially on portions of the Decalogue, the Ten Commandments. Following this brief Service of the Word, we'll move to the Fireside Room for a soup lunch. You're invited to



sign up in the narthex for a day to bring your soup specialty.

On these Wednesday evenings we'll gather at 7 p.m. for worship and conversation, revisiting some of the basic teachings of the Christian community. In this 500th year of the Reformation, we'll draw on Martin Luther's Small and Large Catechisms plus some of his hymns and prayers.

These evening gatherings are for both members and for those desiring or considering membership in our congregation. By either baptism or affirmation of faith new members would then be received and welcomed on Easter morning.

Pastor John Schleicher

Wedding, Germany Pilgrimage and a Celebration

We invite your prayers as we prepare for our March Spring Break trip to Germany and for Pastor Sarah as she travels home to Florida where she will be married on Saturday, Feb 18 to her fiancée Dee Hurlbert.



Pastor Sarah M. and Dee Hurlbert to be married in Florida in February.

A Michigan wedding reception will be held on May 13 at All Saints Church in East Lansing. More information to come!

Pastor Sarah Midzalkowski

Feasibility Study Visits Underway

Pastor John invites you to meet with him this month either at his office or in your home to discuss with him the possibility of making a gift toward the complete renovation of our organ and toward accelerating the retirement of our mortgage debt. Posted on our website is the case statement for this project. Alternatively, you can request a hard copy from Amanda, our administrative assistant. Please contact Pastor John either at the office

number or his cell number: (517) 214-6483 to arrange an appointment.

The outcome of these visits will determine whether or not we as a congregation decide to engage in a formal capital campaign this spring.

Pastor John Schleicher

A New Men's Bible Study Begins Feb. 8

New members, Dale and Marilyn Wagenknecht, have offered to host a six-session Bible Study for men in their home at Burcham Hills.

These one-hour studies/discussions begin on Wednesday, Feb. 8 at 10:30 a.m. and then meet every other Wednesday over the next six weeks.



The focus each week will be on the Gospel text for the coming Sunday. The first study highlights the always compelling words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount.

All men of ULC and friends are invited. (This could be a great next stop for the Musers following

Wednesday morning breakfast.) No advanced preparation is required. The Wagenknechts live at 1985 Searl Court - these are The Clusters condos at the bottom of the hill, just off of Burcham Drive.

Pastor John Schleicher

Mid-Week *Lectio Divina* Resumes

A number of members have requested a continuation of *Lectio Divina*, which was our mid-week noon day Advent offering. So beginning Wednesday, Feb. 1 and each subsequent Wednesday in February, you are invited to come to the Fireside Room to engage in this ancient practice of being still, listening with Jesus to a brief

passage from Scripture and then reflecting together on the words that most spoke to each of our hearts. We will begin at noon and end around 12:45.

Pastor John Schleicher

Community Café Hours

Tuesday, Feb. 7 &
Tuesday, Mar. 7 at
Schuler's at the Meridian Mall. All
members and friends of ULC are
welcome to stop by for coffee and



conversation. Mark your
calendars now and join me!

AOB - Affirmation of Baptism

We meet during the education hour
(9:40-10:30) in the downstairs youth
room. We will meet on Feb. 12, 19,

& 26. We will not meet on Feb. 5
because of the Challenge Mountain
trip.

AOB Bowling

Friday, Feb. 10

Pastor Sara Cogsil

First Communion Instruction

I will be leading First Communion classes for all
children who are interested. We will meet for
three sessions total, two for instruction and one
for baking bread. First Communion will take
place on Maundy Thursday, Apr. 13 at 7 p.m. If
you are a family with children wanting to go



through this instruction, please contact me
as soon as possible. I can be reached at
332-2559 or by email at
<mailto:srcogsil@gmail.com>.

Pastor Sara Cogsil



Call Update, Prison Reform, & Security

Feb. 5--Call Committee Update on
ULC's Ministry Site Profile for the
lead pastor search.

Feb. 12--To be announced

**Feb. 19--Sandra Girard, Attorney
at Law and President of Citizens
for Prison Reform.** As a follow-up
to Lois Pullano's riveting January
forum on the Family Participation

Program within Citizens for Prison
Reform, CPR President and Attorney
Sandra Girard will talk about the
statewide collaborative that has been
formed to bring change to the
criminal justice system and to
systems that incarcerate.

**Feb. 26-- Security Issues for
Churches.** Barb Kissling, ULC
Security Team Leader, will share

with us the variety of security issues
face by churches and how ULC plans
to address them.

Please watch the Forum poster,
bulletin, and weekly email for further
updates.

*Mike Anderson,
Bill and Linda Trevarthen*



ULC Book Club

Readers Travel to 1960s North Carolina

The ULC Book Club will meet on
Thursday, Feb.23. We meet at 10 a.m. in the ULC
Library in the basement. All are welcome!

The book for the month is *Necessary Lies* by Diane
Chamberlain. It is 1960 in North Carolina and the lives of
Ivy Hart and Jane Forrester, who represent opposite poles
of Southern society, are thrown together. Fifteen-year-old
Ivy lives with her family as tenants on a small tobacco
farm.

Jane, idealistic and young, has just taken a position as
Grace County's newest social worker. She doesn't yet
realize that she will have to defy her employer in order to
save impoverished children from overzealous social
engineering. This well researched novel examines the
impact of such interventions on a tiny enclave of tobacco
farmers.

Judy Kindel

Mark your calendars!

ULC Summer Youth Music Camp
Choir, Recorder, Bells, Sign Language,
Basic Musicianship and more!
June 26 thru June 30
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.






ULC Memorial Library


Your Suggestions Welcomed

Is there a book or DVD that you would like to use with a small group? Please talk to one of the Library Team members if you have a suggestion for materials to purchase for the ULC Library. This is your library, and we want to offer materials that support topics that are of interest to you.




Following are new books in the library collection.

Adult Non-Fiction




-  *Book of Faith Lenten Journey: Water Marks* by Diane Jacobson
-  *Gifts of Imperfection: Let Go Of Who You Think You're Supposed to Be and Embrace Who You Are* by Brene Brown
-  *Rising Strong* by Brene Brown

-  *Short Stories by Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine

Adult Fiction

-  *Woebegon Boy* by Garrison Keillor
-  *Miriam (Treasures of the Nile)* by Mesu Andrews
-  *Where Courage Calls* by Janette Oke

Children

-  *Plans I Have for You* by Amy Parker
-  *William Hoy Story* by Nancy Churnin
-  *Sitwe Joseph Goes to Worship* by Twesigye Jackson Kaguri

Visit the library often. There is always something new.

*Connie Lenkowski
Library Team*

Check Out Living Lutheran

In our Narthex by the door to the Administrative Offices, are two racks. These two racks contain information about the ministry of our congregation. I would like to draw your attention to the magazine *Living Lutheran*. *Living Lutheran* is a publication of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Please notice that I said the word "our" to label our national church.

We do not just belong to University Lutheran Church, we are connected

with our Conference, our Synod and the national Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



Living Lutheran is a very good way to stay connected with what is going on throughout the ELCA. For example, on Oct. 31, we will observe the 500th anniversary of what history calls the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

On the cover of the January issue of the *Living Lutheran*, is a picture of a very familiar person, Dr. Martin

Luther. Inside this issue are articles written to help us understand our tradition of observing the Reformation.

Please take one of the magazines home with you and use it. One practical idea is to have it by your door to hand it to the people who come to witness to you about their faith.

*"Here I Stand."
Michael Anderson*

Energy Diet for Lent?

How often do we think about the beautiful creation of which we are a part or pray for the grace to become more caring toward God's creation?

With a new season of Lent beginning a period of self-reflection, this can be a time for evaluating our personal commitment to treading lightly on our earth. One way to renew our commitment is in the area of energy efficiency. Perhaps individuals might choose an energy diet as a Lenten project to focus on.



Steps like reducing heating when the house is empty or overnight, taking shorter showers, wrapping the water heater and turning off lights in empty rooms, are a few examples of fast acting and easy to implement steps. It would be interesting to compare gas, electric and water bills before and after Lent to gauge the effects of the changes made.

As another dimension to our creation care journey through Lent, there will be a weekly prayer in the Sunday bulletin to use for individual reflection.

There are many low or no cost steps that could be taken to reduce heating, lighting and water use in our homes.

Judy Kindel

February Outreach of the Month Food Packing

Likely, either you or someone you know at ULC has volunteered for one of the "God's Work, Our Hands" food packing events. In 2015, we packaged over 10,000 dehydrated meals and in 2016, we packaged over 14,000 meals! We have teamed with the Islamic Center both years and plans are underway to hold another food packing event in the fall of 2017.

Where do you fit in? We need lots of volunteers to pack the food – and that's the fun part. We also need to buy the dehydrated food to package. The food only costs 28 cents per meal. Each packing event consists of a minimum of 10,000 meals, so the minimum total cost is \$2,800. In 2015, the Youth Ministry fund

primarily paid for the food supplies. In 2016, ULC's Endowment fund paid for half of the cost and the Islamic Center funded the other half. The Islamic Center is interested in partnering again with us in 2017, so ULC's share will be at least \$1,400.

We need your help to reach the goal of \$1,400. February's Outreach of the Month is the 2017 Food Packing event. You can help feed hungry people in East Lansing (one-third of the meals were given to the MSU Student Food Bank in 2016) and around the world by



donating. Make checks out to "ULC" with *Food Packing* on the memo line or use envelopes in the backs of the pews to donate cash – just write "Food Packing" on the outside of the envelope and place it in the offering plate.

Oh, and one more opportunity! If you are interested in helping plan the event, please talk with me. This is a great opportunity to spend time getting to know members of the Islamic Center and the Imam.

Vicki Anderson

Greater Church continued from page 10.

We call upon all Lutheran and Catholic parishes and communities to be bold and creative, joyful and hopeful in their commitment to continue the great journey ahead of us. Rather than conflicts of the past, God's gift of unity among us shall guide cooperation and deepen our solidarity. By drawing close in faith to Christ, by praying together, by listening to one another, by living Christ's

love in our relationships, we, Catholics and Lutherans, open ourselves to the power of the Triune God. Rooted in Christ and witnessing to him, we renew our determination to be faithful heralds of God's boundless love for all humanity.

*Tom Kissling
(Excerpted from elca.org)*

Three Opportunities to Sew in February

In January, two of our most recently completed QOV were sent to the Homestead Hospice in Roswell, Ga. This is what the Director of Volunteer Services says: "For several years we have been working closely with QOV volunteers in awarding quilts. We read the letter provided by QOV and wrap our veteran patient in the quilt. Your Quilt of Valor will be a cherished acknowledgement to each of our

veterans and will become a tangible reminder for his/her family of all that they have given for our country. All quilts are hand delivered; they can open the communication barriers and provide an opportunity to the people in our care."

Because of inclement weather our first January sewing day was cancelled. If you would like to pick up a kit to make a prayer quilt at

home, please see Ann Booren or Bobbie Davis. Thanks to Miriam Minshall we have kits ready to go!! Hopefully, the weather will cooperate for our February sewing days: Saturday, the 4th for QOV, Tuesday the 14th and Saturday the 25th for prayer quilts.

Thank you for your participation in this wonderful ministry.

Bobbie Davis

February is Personal Needs Collection Month!

The following items are the ones most urgently needed...

Full-size versions of:

- ✓ Dish Soap, Laundry Soap, Bleach
- ✓ Shampoo, Bar Soap, Deodorant
- ✓ Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Facial Tissues
- ✓ Sanitary Pads, Tampons
- ✓ Toothpaste, Toothbrushes (both Adult and Child sizes)
- ✓ Shaving Cream, Razors
- ✓ Lotion



one item is a blessing. More is always welcome, but one is ONEderful!

Personal needs products are not covered by "Food Stamps." But try to imagine getting along without these everyday necessities. Christian Services allows families to apply for emergency supply sets of these products when their budgets are stretched to the limit. As a member church of Christian Services, we have made a commitment to collect personal needs items twice a year.

Place your items in the blue plastic tub located between the Cry Room and elevator. Note: Although we deliver personal needs products to the Macedonian drop-off only twice a year, our collection bin is available for your donations year round.

I know we all support an exceptional number of charities, services, and programs, but this is one that requires little more than a few dollars, or nothing if you find a Buy One, Get One Free sale! Please note that many of these items are available at the Dollar Store. Bringing in just

*Thank you so much!
Linda and Bill Trevarthen*

Samaritas Household Goods Collection



The United States offers safety and protection to refugee and immigrant children, usually teens, who are separated from their parents. Many of these children are placed in foster homes and Samaritas offers support as they transition into independent housing at age 18.

Many household items are needed to set up a new "home" and on Jan. 21, ULC members Darra and Steve Haase, Pastor Sarah M. and Samaritas support staffer Kaylia Parks held a drop off/donation site at ULC. Thank you to ULC members and our neighbors from University United Methodist Church who donated items that day.

The need is ongoing. Samaritas will accept donations year-round. Items can be dropped off at the Samaritas offices located at 1545 Keystone, Lansing. The contact there is Kaylia Parks, (517) 827-5179, kparks@samaritas.org

Darra and Steve Haase

Moving Forward

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:23

I retired from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in 2011 after over 33 years of service. I always referred to my work with NRCS as “service” – I was a public servant working toward an ideal of sustainable private lands. My work was for the good of God’s creation. For many years, I championed the “conservation planning process.”

A simplified explanation of the process is that it is made up of three phases: 1) understanding where you are and where you want to be, 2) putting together and evaluating alternative ways to get there and choosing one and 3) implementing your decision and evaluating whether or not it got you to where you wanted to be. This planning process has applicability to much in our lives, including ULC.

For instance, through the process of strategic planning, we have identified ministry strengths and barriers to success, and key strategic areas with promise for mission growth. The Call Committee is using this information to help complete the ELCA Ministry Site Profile (MSP) which will not only describe the demographics of ULC and the surrounding community, but also talks about what our congregation is excited about right now along with our goals, our purpose, our gifts and assets, and our mission priorities.

In January, twenty-four leaders of ULC met together on a Saturday morning to discuss who we are as a congregation and where we want to be. This information



has been passed on to the Call Committee for inclusion in the MSP. In the afternoon, Council members identified mission priorities that are of particular interest to them.

We have made good progress on Phase 1 of the planning process. Next comes Phase 2 – putting together and evaluating alternatives and choosing one. Council will continue to work toward moving the strategic planning process into an action plan. Calling a new Lead Pastor is also a part of this phase. We

won’t stop moving forward without a full-time Lead Pastor, but knowing where we are going is important to the call process.

God is preparing someone to come here. The MSP will be one of the instruments that God can use to call that person to us. The Call Committee plans to have the MSP ready for Council approval in February. Once approved, the MSP is provided to the ELCA and we wait for the Bishop to send a candidate, or candidates, to the Call Committee for consideration.

One thing about the planning process – it never ends, just like God’s love for us. While we wait for a candidate, we still will go about the work of being the Church. God has promised us, and he is faithful. Let us faithfully continue to support one another.

*Vicki Anderson
ULC President*

ULC Responds!

The ULC Council would like to thank all of the members of ULC that fulfilled their pledges for 2016 and those members that responded to the request to contribute a little bit more in 2016 to help assure that ULC ended the year in as strong of a financial position as possible.



Council is very pleased to report that with the generous contributions in December, we closed out 2016 with a deficit of just \$4,127.93, which is less than one percent of total budget. While it is still a deficit, the amount is much less than originally predicted. Council is

committed to making 2017 a positive year both from a ministry and financial point of view!

Thank you again to all who responded to the call for additional giving.

ULC Council

The following are actions from the Council meeting held on Dec. 20, 2016:

- Appointed Elizabeth Althouse as Council Student Representative, Leah Auchter as Student Endowment Representative, Wilbur Mahoney for Members in Ministry and Michael Anderson for Members in Ministry. These were positions that were not filled during the Annual Meeting.
- Authorized Pastor John to move forward with discussions and development of materials to determine the feasibility of conducting a capital campaign to renovate the ULC organ. There will be more information at the January Council meeting.
- Established Trinity Seminary as the Outreach of the Month for January and the food packing project with the Islamic Center as the outreach for February. The Stewardship Committee will be reaching out to team leaders to assist with identifying the schedule of the Outreach of the Month for the remainder of 2017.
- Approved Vennie Gore and Erin Frisch to serve on the Pastor Review team.
- Approved Marilyn and Dale Wagenknecht as associate members. Their other ELCA membership is with Zion Lutheran Church of Summerfield, Petersburg, Michigan.
- Authorized Pastor John and Keith Harder to send letter to congregation urging members to fulfill their 2016 pledges and to provide additional gifts in order to end 2016 with a strong financial position.
- Received information that Bishop Satterlee has approved that Pastor Fred Fritz and Kay



Council Notes

Fritz will retain their membership with ULC, but they will be attending All Saints Episcopal Church.

- Received an update from the Call Committee that they plan to have the ULC Ministry Site Profile completed by the end of February.

The following are actions from the Council meeting held on Jan. 14:

- Appointed Norm Jolin (Sr.) and Erin Frisch to the vacancies on Council with their terms ending Dec. 31, 2017 and the intention that both will be placed on the ballot in the fall of 2017 to be elected for the second year of the two year term of office.
- Council discussed the need to appoint an individual as Secretary of Council. Council and the Members in Ministry Committee will be working on presenting an individual to Council at the February meeting.
- Received Lupe Saucedo and Theo Stanley into ULC membership.
- Discussed and reviewed proposed feasibility capital campaign materials for a feasibility study that Pastor John will be conducting with members of the congregation over the next couple of months. He will be working to determine the level of interest of members of the congregation to contribute towards renovating the organ and paying down the mortgage. The plan is to use a portion of the Marilyn Pierce gift (up to \$36,000 of the approximately \$90,000 gift) as seed money

towards restoring the organ. He will be making his recommendation to Council as to whether he believes that this is the time to consider implementing a capital campaign.

- Received a report that the ULC copy machine failed during the pre-Christmas preparations. The IT team will be making a recommendation to Council regarding the lease that expires in May, 2017. Council also urged Lead Management to direct teams to judiciously make decisions around printing of documents since ULC is exceeding the monthly number of copies that were originally expected when the lease was purchased.
- Authorized Vicki Anderson, Wil Mahoney, Emmett Braselton and Randy Asmus to sign checks on behalf of ULC.
- Authorized the IT Committee to seek bids and possibly other solutions to assist those with hearing impairments (such as a T-loop) and to bring back recommendations to the Council. It was clarified that this is different from the "sound system."
- Agreed to discuss the next steps in the strategic planning process at the next Council meeting.
- Received a report from the Security Team that they continue to study options around a system that detects when a person comes through the door, active camera system and electronic door locking system. The costs are estimated at \$6-7,000. The Team is continuing to review possible options.

*Larry Wagenknecht
ULC Past-President*

Call Committee Update

Receipt of Candidate Paperwork Near

Below is a checklist that identifies the accomplishments to date of the Call Committee and the steps in the process yet to be completed:

Checklist for Transition and Call Process

- ✓ Council President contacts the bishop's office when pastor retires
- ✓ Exit Interview is scheduled with bishop's office within 30 days of pastor's departure
- ✓ All end of service forms are completed and submitted
- ✓ Farewell and Godspeed service on pastor's last Sunday
- ✓ Bishop or bishop's designee will preach and presides at ULC
- ✓ Pastoral ministry is secured for the transition period
- ✓ Call Committee is formed
- ✓ Call Committee attends Call Committee Training
- ❖ **Ministry Site Profile is completed and submitted (planned for first week February)**
 - Candidate paperwork is received
 - Candidate is interviewed
 - Final Candidate is selected and then approved by Council
 - Definition of Compensation is completed
 - Final Candidate visits site
 - Congregational vote
 - Letter of Call is signed and attested by bishop
 - Installation service is planned

calling a new lead pastor!

The Call Committee has completed the Ministry Site Profile and is anticipating Council approval the first week of February. The Ministry Site Profile describes our ministry to ELCA pastors across the country who are interested in considering a move to East Lansing. To complete this profile, we have used input received during listening sessions and conversations with members of the congregation and ULC leaders, from a congregational survey, and from the strategic planning session, all the while asking for God's guidance. Once the profile is submitted, we will begin to receive paperwork from interested candidates and begin to schedule interviews.

If the members of the congregation have names that they would like to submit for consideration, those names need to be forwarded to Call Committee Chair Jeff Andresen. The congregation or a member of the congregation is NOT to contact the person directly.

As we continue to move the process forward, the Call Committee continues to ask for your prayers – both for the pastor considering a call to ULC and the Call Committee and our congregation. As Bishop Satterlee has reminded the Call Committee, prayer is a VERY important part of the entire process!

As you can see, we are midway through the process of

Larry Wagenknecht

The Greater Church

A Joint Statement

**On the occasion of the Joint Catholic-Lutheran Commemoration of the Reformation
Lund, Sweden, Oct. 31, 2016**

With this Joint Statement, we express joyful gratitude to God for this moment of common prayer in the Cathedral of Lund, as we begin the year commemorating the five hundredth anniversary of the Reformation. Fifty years of sustained and fruitful ecumenical dialogue between Catholics and Lutherans have helped us to overcome many differences, and have deepened our mutual understanding and trust. At the same time, we have drawn closer to one another through joint service to our



neighbors – often in circumstances of suffering and persecution. Through dialogue and shared witness we are no longer strangers. Rather, we have learned that what unites us is greater than what divides us....

Many members of our communities yearn to receive the Eucharist at one table, as the concrete expression of full unity. We experience the pain of those who share their whole lives, but cannot share God's redeeming presence at the Eucharistic table. We acknowledge our joint pastoral

responsibility to respond to the spiritual thirst and hunger of our people to be one in Christ. We long for this wound in the Body of Christ to be healed. This is the goal of our ecumenical endeavors, which we wish to advance, also by renewing our commitment to theological dialogue. We pray to God that Catholics and Lutherans will be able to witness together to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, inviting humanity to hear and receive the good news of God's redeeming action....

Continued on page 6.

Welcome to ULC . . .



Carol Mackin moved from Noblesville, Indiana, with her husband Mike, who joined St. Thomas, to be near their first grandchild. She delights in babysitting 9 month old Samuel Patrick for their daughter Mary, living in Holt. Their son John and wife are in Denver.

public schools providing technical support. She loves to travel, and was briefly a stewardess for Delta Airlines, but family came first.

The eldest of eight in a staunch German Lutheran family, she has always been active in church, feels at home at ULC, and is eager to know more members.

Earning a library science minor at Bowling Green State University, Carol worked as a media specialist in the

Phyllis Andersland

Turning Personal Tragedies into Hope for Others

In Sept. 1964, Sue Flook, new Campus Associate, arrived at our Ann Street church. Walt Wietzke and George Gaiser were pastors. Since many students and families with children filled the small church, four services were needed. A native of Akron, Ohio, she was graduated from Wittenberg University.



In 1970 their first child, Lauren, was born, and Alison followed in 1973. Alison had a rare form of muscular dystrophy. She was a bright, vibrant person confined by her body. At four she drove her motorized wheel chair.

In 1976 Rev. Kamens was called to Grace Lutheran Church in Lansing, serving 27 years until his retirement.

were anxious to meet Alison and saw her as a person, not profoundly handicapped.

With increased respiratory problems since her muscles weren't strong enough to enable her to breathe, reverse compression was needed, and Alison required 24 hour care. She was to be maid of honor at her sister's wedding, but passed away a few months before at age 23, far outliving doctors' predictions. Lauren and her husband have three healthy children.

Sue worked a year in California for the LCA Board of Missions. Since the ALC and LCA were providing scholarships for women interested in campus ministry, she became one of two women at the Lutheran School of Theology. Nervous that women might want to be ordained, their courses were restricted. So she interned at the University of Illinois in campus ministry.

Access in those days was difficult for the handicapped. Doors of houses and bathroom doors weren't wide enough for a wheelchair. At Grace Lutheran they installed an elevator and a ramp in the chancel. Difficulty of access was changed with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Alison continued her schooling as she was able, and was graduated from Sexton High School.

Barrier free housing for young people with handicaps was basically nonexistent. Sue approached Lutheran Social Services of Michigan about building such a facility, and Sue and Al organized people to make the case about the need. HUD was contacted to join the project.

During her three years at ULC she met a young pastor, Alan Kamens, serving an inner city parish in Detroit. They were married September 1967 in our Ann Street church. In 1968 Rev. Kamens was appointed assistant to the bishop of the Michigan Synod where he helped establish the Interfaith Centers for Justice following the Detroit riots.

With attention centered on her younger sister, Lauren could have been jealous. Instead, she was a caring person who became a special education teacher. She attended Kalamazoo College. There she arranged a weekend visit for her sister where she and others had a suite of rooms and one bathroom. All

After eight years effort, including finding land with access to a pharmacy and groceries, Alison House was approved. It is located in Delta Township behind Kohl's and Kroger, and provides subsidized rent. LSSM wanted to call it Alison House, the name noted in a plaque. Many of her peers moved in. It is a tribute to the spirit of Alison, and the

Continued on page 12

Everyone Had a Great Time!

Our second Dinner for 8 (D48) was another successful evening with 32 people signed up. Thanks to our hosts – the Lenkowskis, Lindmans, Harder/Carvers, and Kisslings. Each of the 32 ULC members and friends were assigned to a host home, where everyone brought one part of the meal. What a fun evening and a great way for us all to get to know our



Jan. 8th Dinner for Eight group hosted by Mike and Connie Lenkowski.

fellow ULC members and friends better!

Our next D48 is scheduled for Sunday evening, April 23. Please mark your calendar now and plan to sign up. And of course we will need hosts, too! See me if you are willing to host in April.

Ann Booren

Kamins continued from page 11.

efforts of her parents and others, that good has resulted from tragedy.

When Alison had full-time nursing care, Sue worked part time fitting cancer patients who had mastectomies or lumpectomies, with

prosthetics and bras. Having survived chemotherapy and surgery herself, she could identify with what women were going through.

The Kamens joined ULC in Nov. 2015. This past Dec. 9, Alan Kamens passed away following a three-year

illness. Sue continues to be active in our church. We are blessed by them and the knowledge of what they have done for others.

Phyllis Andersland



Freewheelers Christmas Lunch

On Friday, Dec. 16, 45 ULC Freewheelers and friends attended the annual Christmas Luncheon. Hats, mittens and scarves were collected for the Tight Knit group. After expenses, the remaining meal money was sent to ELCA Good Gifts. Thanks to Ann Booren and her committee for a wonderful meal and to Pastor Sarah and Kristy Wiggert for prayers and entertainment.

Jan Mace



Did You Find All 30?

Last month this puzzle with 30 books of the Bible hidden in the text was included in the Archive article. The copy in the narthex has 20 of the books of the Bible highlighted, so we wanted to show you where all 30 names can be found. They are much easier to see when highlighted and underlined.

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends...One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo, Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit

it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

Connie Lenkowski

Lead Management Notes

Social Action—Bryan Rahe: The December Food Movers served 64 households, down from 80 in November, no doubt because the MSU students were on break. Excess food was delivered to St. Paul Lutheran Church Food Pantry the following day. They greatly appreciate our help.

The 2017 dates of our food distribution were posted in the January Lux, on the ULC website, as well as on a flyer on the welcome table. We will continue to require people to be physically present to receive a number and shoppers will not be allowed to obtain numbers for others. Also, at the December food distribution, the Tight Knit group provided over 150 hats for each participant and family members.

Some of the participants are members of Tight Knit and two more people expressed an interest in joining. Tight Knit averages 12-20 participants each week, and have donated over 1,500 items to Homeless Angels, local schools, doctor's offices, and others.

This year we cut back on the number of tags on the Giving Tree from 175 to a total of 115 with Samaritas furnishing 90 names and the Tri-County Office on Aging furnishing 25 names. Even with that cut back, the tree wasn't cleared until the last minute so we will consider cutting back even further next year. Many thanks to Sherry Corwin for spearheading this effort and to the entire congregation for responding so generously.

Facility—Dale Romsos: Multiple cracks in the concrete window sills on the south side of the Education Wing were repaired by Sandy Davis.

Security Team--Barb Kissling: Council has asked the Security Team to make recommendations regarding security at ULC. The Security Team met with three security companies in December and we hope to meet with an additional company. For starters, we need at least one security camera and ways to protect the individuals when alone in the office. The team will meet Sunday, Jan. 8 to review the quotes received so far. Security equipment is expensive and we need to prioritize what should be done first after we do more research.

Amy Wagenknecht

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Jean Kocher | Melanie Weaver | Elizabeth Karcher | 22 Clara Fisher |
| 2 Emilie Harpstead | Stephen Zimmerman | 14 Mary Harpstead | 24 Yvonne Engel |
| Alison Kuchnicki | 5 Eric Bubolz, | Vern Seefeldt | 27 Elizabeth |
| 3 Kimberly Ruiz | 6 Myles Davis | Lanae Williams | Althouse |
| 4 Aaron Brooks II | 9 Nick | 15 Erica Butts | Madeline Helser |
| David Gift | Andresen | 16 Jack Goebel | Vivian Leung |
| Thomas Lindman | Alexis Velasquez | 19 Norman Jolin Sr | 28 Julie Lawatsch |
| | 13 Randy Asmus | Gail Riegle | |
| | | 20 Bohdan Heller | |

13 Marvin & Marcia
Schultz



Happy Birthday Virginia!



Virginia Ellefson celebrated her 98th birthday at a surprise party during Amnos Circle's January meeting. She was born in Manistique where she could walk to Lake Michigan. Virginia and her husband lived for 41 years in Chicago and Arlington Heights where they helped build the Church of the Cross. Their large home was near the church and was the place for numerous church meetings. They had two sons. A ULC member since 2007, Virginia is still finding ways to help others.

Phyllis Andersland



From the Editors...

The deadline for the March *Lux* is **Friday, Feb. 10.**

E-mail articles to Amy Wagenknecht at amylarryw@comcast.net and Amanda Jones at 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 articles coming! Thanks!

The Lux Team: Phyllis Andersland, Michael Anderson, Loran Bieber, Mark Johnson, Amanda Jones, Tom Kissling, Connie Lenkowski, Pastor Sarah Midzalkowski, and Amy Wagenknecht

The Lux Mailing Group: Charlotte Anderson, Ann Booren, Kathy Bracken, Marianne Bubolz, Johannah House, Ellie Korroch, Phyllis Kost, Anita Krumins, Carolyn Lohr, Jan and Olie Mace, Miriam Minshall, Beth Reynolds, Marilyn Schafer, Marian Stoll, Linda Triemer



FEBRUARY 2017

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL
12:00p Lectio Devina Scripture Reflection-Fireside</p> <p>2 7:30a Liturgical Deacons-Conference
6:30p Handbells-Sanctuary
7:30p Senior Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room</p> <p>4 9:00p National Quilt Day-P&S-Fellowship</p> <p>5 8:30a Worship (C)-Sanctuary
9:30a Affirmation of Baptism-Youth Room
9:40a Education Hour-Fireside, Education Wing
10:45a Worship (C)-Sanctuary</p> <p>6 4:30p Tight Knit Group-Fireside</p> <p>7 10:30a Lux Team-Conference Room
2:00p Staff Meeting-Conference
4:00p Pr. Sara's Cafe Hours-Meridian Mall</p> <p>8 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL
10:30a Men's Bible Study-D. Wagenknechts
12:00p Lectio Devina Scripture Reflection-Fireside
5:30p Finance Committee-Conference</p> <p>9 6:30p Handbells-Sanctuary
7:30p Senior Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room</p> <p>12 8:30a Worship (C)-Sanctuary
9:30a Affirmation of Baptism-Youth Room
9:40a Education Hour-Fireside, Education Wing
10:45a Worship (C)-Sanctuary
1:30p Sons of Norway-Lansing Chapter-Fireside
3:00p Latvian Worship-Sanctuary</p> <p>13 4:30p Tight Knit Group-Fireside</p> <p>14 9:00a Prayers & Squares-Atrium
2:00p Staff Meeting-Conference</p> | <p>15 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL
9:30a Amnos Circle-Conference
12:00p Lectio Devina Scripture Reflection-Fireside
1:00p Rhodon Circle-Fireside</p> <p>16 6:30p Handbells-Sanctuary
7:30p Senior Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room</p> <p>17 7:00p Aces & Spaces Bridge Club-Fireside</p> <p>19 8:30a Worship (C)-Sanctuary
9:30a Affirmation of Baptism-Youth Room
9:40a Education Hour- Fireside, Education Wing
10:45a Worship (C)-Sanctuary</p> <p>20 4:30p Tight Knit Group-Fireside</p> <p>21 12:30p Lychnion Circle-Fireside
2:00p Staff Meeting-Conference
7:00p ULC Council-Conference</p> <p>22 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL
10:30a Men's Bible Study-D. Wagenknechts
12:00p Lectio Devina Scripture Reflection-Fireside</p> <p>23 10:00a ULC Book Club-Library
4:30p Food Movers-Fellowship Hall
6:30p Handbells-Sanctuary
7:30p Senior Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room</p> <p>26 8:30a Worship (C)-Sanctuary
9:30a Affirmation of Baptism-Youth Room
9:40a Education Hour-Fireside, Education Wing
10:45a Worship (C)-Sanctuary</p> <p>27 4:30p Tight Knit Group-Fireside</p> <p>28 2:00p Staff Meeting-Conference</p> |
|--|---|

Education Hour (9:40 -10:30 a.m.) Opportunities:

Sunday School Sunday Forum (Fireside)
Affirm. of Baptism (Youth)

Groups meet in basement unless otherwise noted.

Friendship House Classes at ULC:

Wednesdays 10:30a - Watercolor Painting-Fellowship

Enhance Fitness classes meet M-W-F at 10:45a in Atrium

Reminder - Please contact the ULC office **BEFORE** scheduling your events. This will help you get the space you need and your group's event on the ULC calendar. Thanks!



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Interim Lead Pastor

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Associate Pastor

Amanda Jones
Administrative Assistant

Kristine Stuart
Financial Administrator

Mary Letvenow
Event Coordinator

Kristie Wiggert
Julie Baglien
Organists

Janine Novenske Smith
Director of Choirs

Louise Paquette
Director of Handbells

Attention Sewers and Non-Sewers Alike!

Annual Quilts of Valor Sewing Day

Saturday, Feb. 4

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Bring a dish to share for lunch.



We have jobs for everyone. This is a great way to share fellowship with ULC members and friends. Sign-up in the narthex.

We are participating with groups nationwide on that date to make quilts to cover our American heroes. We have all the materials and tools ready and waiting!