

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

Mark Your Calendars . . .

P & S Quilts of Valor Sewing Day

Saturday, Feb. 3
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Worship

Feb. 14 - 7 p.m.
In-person and Facebook Live

Mid-week Lenten Worship

Wednesday, Feb. 21 & 28
Noon worship followed by soup and bread lunch

Food Movers Distribution

Thursday, Feb. 23
3:30 p.m.
Drive-thru

Pub Theology

Tuesday, Feb. 27
7 p.m. on Zoom

Welcome to Our New Pastors!

Pastors Emily and Zachariah Shipman have been called to lead the congregation at ULC. In a relatively speedy process, they met with the congregation in November, we called them at the annual meeting on Dec. 11, and will begin their ministry on Feb. 5. They were asked to introduce themselves and below is this information.



We are all excited to be ministering with University Lutheran Church! We have moved into a house we purchased, after *a lot* of searching. We chose the one we did because we want to host you and gather in community together. We are searching for some chairs and couches (after a car purchase) before we can host, but we hope to host soon! We'd love to have groups over as people are interested.

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SAVE THE DATE:

**PASTOR EMILY & PASTOR ZACHARIAH'S
INSTALLATION SERVICE AND
RECEPTION**

FEB. 11 AT 10:00 AM

Join us in worship on February 11 as we welcome Pastor Emily and Pastor Zachariah.

Rev. Chrysy Bright will be joining us from the Synod for their installation.

Council will be hosting a special coffee hour reception after worship.

Thank You and Farewell!

I would like to say thank you to you all. It has been a pleasure to share the last three months with you and briefly be a part of your congregation. You have been welcoming and gracious. It has been

such a pleasure to watch this congregation and learn how you function. Thank you for sharing this time with me.

I am sure that you will be the same with the Shipmans as they arrive and settle in. You will be blessed by their ministry and their leadership.

Pastor Bryan

Welcome to Our New Pastors continued from page 1.

Pastor Zachariah

Pastor Zachariah was born Aug 25, 1988, at Wurtsmith AFB near Oscoda. His father, John, was in the Air Force when he was born, but then got out and went to seminary at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, OH. John served his internship in Grayling and his first call in Au Gres, which endeared Michigan to Zach as a state with beautiful forests, lakes, and people. After this, John got back into the Air Force as a chaplain.

Before Zach's first call as a pastor in North Dakota, the longest he had lived anywhere was three and a half years, which means Zach moved every two to three years. Zach graduated college in 2010 from Northern Michigan University in Marquette and then attended seminary at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA, graduating in 2014.

Zach met Emily at Wartburg seminary and got married on Aug. 27, 2011. Both Zach and Emily served their seminary internships in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as part of the Horizon International Internship program offered through the ELCA. Their first call was to the NW United Lutheran Parish which included the Lutheran churches in Alamo, Ambrose, Crosby, Fortuna, and Wildrose, ND. They served there together for nine years.

Zach's hobbies include playing music (guitar, and a little piano and banjo), playing video games, playing with his kids, hiking, soccer, table tennis, pickleball, and working out. Zach also enjoys spending time with people, Bible studies, trying new foods, and laughing. Zach and Emily both enjoy traveling (domestically and internationally) and experiencing the beauty of God's creation as well as different cultures and peoples.

Pastor Emily

I see we're jumping in with our ages. I'm 18 months and a day older than Zachariah, so take that how you will! My birthday is Feb. 24, so starting a new call together is my

birthday present. I was born and grew up near Walker, Minn., where my family owns a resort on Leech Lake. It was always a lot of work, but I loved meeting new people every week, seeing returning guests year after year, and working with family.

I attended Bemidji State University for two years and Bethel University near St. Paul, MN. Before my final semester I joined a ministry called African Quest, based in Zambia. I lived there for nine months with teammates from the UK, Germany, and USA.

We partnered with local ministries including teaching Bible, building schools, preaching and sharing testimonies, and pastoral home visitations with people with AIDS and tuberculosis. My stay there included time in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and South Africa and ignited my passion for ministry!

After graduating with a degree in Socio-Cultural Studies (with an emphasis in cross-cultural mission) I moved to New Zealand for six months and worked at a Christian camp. Then came Wartburg Seminary, the bonus of meeting Zachariah and getting married, Malaysia, and first call in ND - as Zach described above.

These experiences of ministry and living abroad have formed me significantly. Other formative experiences in my life involve much loss and grief. Most recently, Zachariah and I lost our son Atticus when he was born early, Jan. 1, 2023. We experienced three miscarriages between Sophie and Theo, and we were all ecstatic for the gift of Atticus. We are grateful to God that we will meet him one day, and that he rests securely in God's arms.

I love - trees and lakes, hiking, rock climbing, games, quality time with people I love, meaningful conversation, puzzles, reading, talking about hard things, Scripture, campfires, tea, dark chocolate and strawberries (together or separate), languages, travel, people and cultures, adventure sports, waterfalls, watercolor via watching Let's Make Art videos, and Indian food.

Continued on page 3.



Alternative Spring Break!
Sunday, Feb. 25 through Friday, Mar. 1, we are excited to be traveling to Knoxville, Tennessee! More information will be shared

as we make our plans. We will be staying at Montvale Springs, a space that celebrates community and nature! We are still coordinating the activities, but they will touch on our themes of environmental/creation, LGBTQ+, and interfaith empathy.



Meal Sign-up! Are you someone who really loves to bake and/or cook or knows someone who does?! Please feel free to share or sign-up

yourself. All meals go to hungry college kids on Fridays @ 5! Sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DAAA92DA1FBC52-43933198-fridays/>



Family Faith Formation



Welcome to Our New Pastors (& family)
Continued from page 2.

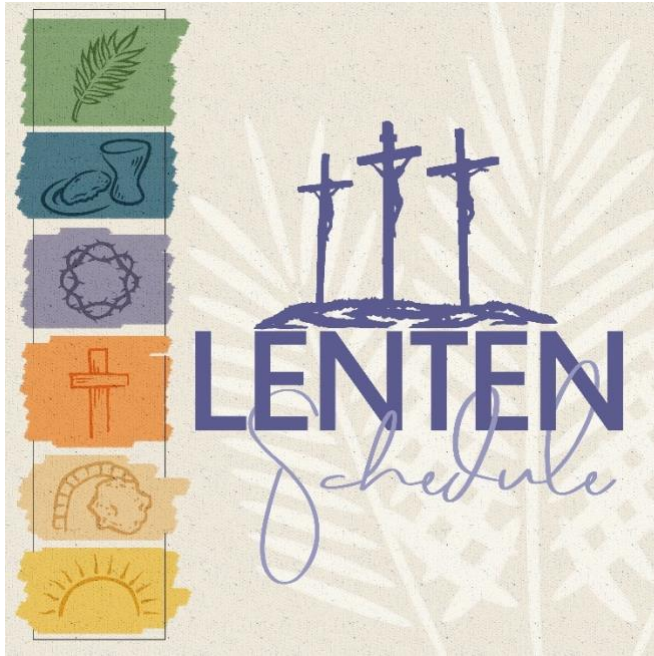
Sophie Sue

Sophie was born on May 17, 2016 (Norwegian Independence Day). She is in 2nd grade, and loves - reading, phone time, video games, playing with her brother (sometimes), candy, watermelon, hiking, playing outside, playing in the snow, and playing with friends. Her favorite book series right now is the Wings of Fire series. Sophie is sometimes shy around new people, but once she gets to know others, she is more comfortable around them.

Theo Nathaniel

Theo was born on Feb. 9, 2022. He loves balls, running, yelling, learning, eating, sleeping, stuffed animals, and playing outside. He likes kitties and puppies, but more on a theoretical basis, not actually getting close to them in person. He is a good listener (usually) and has lots of fun.





Ash Wednesday Worship

Feb. 14 - 7 p.m.

Imposition of Ashes

In-person and Facebook Live

Mid-week Lenten Worship

Wednesdays at Noon

Feb. 21 & 28

Mar. 6, 13 and 20

Worship in the sanctuary followed by soup and bread lunch in the Fireside Room.

This Year for Lent . . .

Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14) marks the beginning of the season of Lent, an intentional time of drawing nearer to God and the cross. A common ancient practice during this time is to give up practices that are unfulfilling for spiritual life and be diligent in adopting practices that nourish oneself spiritually.

To this end, Pr. Emily and Pr. Zachariah offer the following reading plan. It is rather ambitious and will see you through the entire New Testament during the season of Lent! Another option is a prayer PATH. This is an acronym for different types of prayer.

We invite you to consider adopting either or both practices to further nurture your relationship with God this Lenten season. The reading plan and prayer PATH are available on the facing page. Or pick up a bookmark on the table in the narthex.

Mid-Week Lenten Soup & Bread

(Worship at Noon, soup and bread follows)

All are welcome to join us after Wednesday worship for soup and bread, beginning Feb. 21.

Click [HERE](#) to sign up to bring soup or bread to share.



Read the New Testament

	Ash Wed	Matthew 1-7
	Thursday	Matthew 8-12
	Friday	Matthew 13-18
	Saturday	Matthew 19-23
	Sunday	Day of Rest
	Monday	Matthew 24-28
	Tuesday	Romans 1-8
	Wednesday	Romans 9-16
	Thursday	Mark 1-5
	Friday	Mark 6-10
	Saturday	Mark 11-16
	Sunday	Day of Rest
	Monday	1 Corinthians 1-9
	Tuesday	1 Corinthians 10-16
	Wednesday	2 Corinthians 1-7 / Philemon
	Thursday	2 Corinthians 8-13 / Titus
	Friday	Luke 1-4
	Saturday	Luke 5-9
	Sunday	Day of Rest
	Monday	Luke 10-14
	Tuesday	Luke 15-20
	Wednesday	Luke 21-24
	Thursday	Acts 1-6
	Friday	Acts 7-11
	Saturday	Acts 12-17
	Sunday	Sabbath
	Monday	Acts 18-22
	Tuesday	Acts 23-28
	Wednesday	Galatians
	Thursday	Ephesians
	Friday	Philippians / Colossians
	Saturday	1 and 2 Thessalonians
	Sunday	Day of Rest
	Monday	1 and 2 Timothy
	Tuesday	Hebrews 1-9
	Wednesday	Hebrews 10-13 / James 1-2
	Thursday	James 3-5, 1 and 2 Peter
	Friday	1 2 and 3 John, Jude
	Saturday	Revelation 1-7
	Sunday	Day of Rest
	Monday	Revelation 8-15
	Tuesday	Revelation 16-22
	Wednesday	John 1-5
	Thursday	John 6-10
	Friday	John 11-15
	Saturday	John 16-24
	Sunday	EASTER

Prayer PATH

The prayer path is flexible, and you don't have to walk the whole path every time.

Start: *Dear God,*

- Dear God, - Holy God,
- Gracious God, - Everlasting God
- Almighty God, - _____
- Father God,

Praise: *You are...*

- Lovely - Amazing
- Generous - Inspiring
- Gracious - _____

Apology: *I'm sorry for...*

- Things I've done that have caused harm
- Good things I didn't do
- Words, Actions, etc.
- _____

Thanksgiving: *Thank you for....*

- People, places, things - Health
- Today - Safety
- This place
- Challenges that have helped me grow
- _____

Help: *Please help... / I pray for...*

- Help me with _____
- Those who are hurting, hospitalized, sick
- List names of people
- _____

End: *...in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

- ...Amen = "let it be so" or "YES!"
- ...I pray in Jesus' name = I pray these things because I know you love me because the story of Jesus shows me this
- ...All these things we entrust to you, trusting in your mercy and grace.
- _____



ULC Memorial Library

Books on Racial Justice Available

The ULC Library has a wonderful collection of multicultural and racial justice materials. To recognize MLK Day and Black History Month we will bring the collection upstairs on the mobile library cart.

The collection is named for Sharon Bandlow who was a teacher with the Lansing School District and a longtime member of the ULC Library Team. Because of Sharon’s love of reading and her insistence that we include multicultural titles in

the library collection, the Library Team named the collection the **Sharon Bandlow Multicultural and Racial Justice Collection** in her honor. Her desire to help all people and see the best in all people lives on.



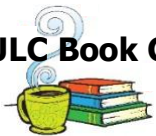
Special Racial Justice section in the ULC Library.

You will find books for adults, teens, and elementary students. There are even a few board books. Please look over the books and check out any that interests you. They can be checked out right from the cart.

The ULC Library is located on the lower level of the building. Visit anytime.

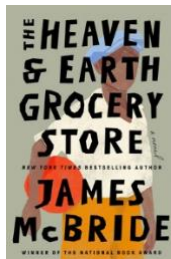
The Library Team

ULC Book Club



Feb. Book Takes Readers to Pennsylvania

The ULC Book Club will meet on Thursday, Feb. 15 at 10 a.m. We will discuss *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. In 1972 workers digging new foundations in Pottstown, Penn. discover a skeleton. Long held secrets begin to emerge. Secrets that meant survival for the Jewish immigrants and African Americans who lived on the fringe of white, Christian America. In his critically acclaimed eighth novel



McBride shows us that it is love and community - heaven and earth - that ultimately sustain us.

ULC Book Club meets the third Thursday of the month. We offer three ways to participate. You can join us in person at ULC in the Fireside room, join us via ZOOM or we can send you a recording of the discussion.

Winter weather can cause road conditions to change quickly. We depend on email to keep those wishing to attend informed of any changes in meeting time or location

as well as the books we choose for our discussions. If you would like to join us, please reach out to Beth at bwojan1@gmail.com or Mary at mkotnik@comcast.net so we can add you to our email list.

Beth Rahe and Mary Kotnik

Looking ahead:
March book - *An Olive Grove at the Edge of the World* by Jared Gulian
April book - *Lady Tan’s Circle of Women* by Lisa See
May book - *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge

Different Brews. Different Views.

Pub Theology (sometimes referred to as “Pub Therapy” by our group members) is a monthly event where people get together to discuss a variety of topics related to our faith, our lives, and the world. We provide a judgment-free zone where anyone can join in the discussion in a fun and relaxing way.

Pub Theology meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. and we visit different bars and restaurants in the Lansing/East Lansing area. From November through February, Pub Theology meets virtually on Zoom. Starting in March, we will begin meeting in-person again.



jaytopham@gmail.com.

The next Pub Theology will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. If you would like to be included on the monthly Pub Theology email list and receive the discussion topics before the event, contact Jay DuBois-Jones at

Bring your views, have some brews (or pop), and we hope to see you at Pub Theology!

Jay DuBois-Jones

Stewards of Creation

In Genesis 2:15, we are reminded of our role as stewards of God’s creation: “The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.” This charge to care for the Earth is as relevant today as it was in the beginning. Our modern society faces environmental challenges that call for our attention and action.

I want to take a moment to recognize someone who answered the call and acted -- Judy Kindel. This year, Judy has decided to step down as the Earth Keeping Team Leader, a position she has held for nearly 15 years. Back in 2009, an eight-member group created the Earth Keeping Team and put ULC on a journey to environmental stewardship. First, they tackled projects like changing the church’s mission statement to include caring for Creation, which laid the groundwork for the team’s longevity and future success.

Judy’s leadership has manifested in numerous initiatives, from



Dale and Judy (2nd and 3rd from left) at a Lansing chapter Michigan Interfaith Power and Light activity.

organizing Earth Day clean-up events to spearheading educational programs that promote environmental awareness. Judy has been instrumental in transforming the church grounds into a model of sustainability, implementing eco-friendly practices and inspiring others to follow suit. Under the leadership of Judy Kindel of Earth Keeping and Dale Romsos of Facilities, the church is now using 56 percent less fossil fuels than in 2017

and will continue to use less with the rooftop solar array and the new ground mount solar array, among many other energy efficient practices.

According to Judy, “The Earth Keeping Team was a catalyst for us to practice stewardship over God’s creation. We were a small group to start, and now we have made big changes at University Lutheran Church.” Big changes, indeed. As we express our gratitude for the tireless dedication and exemplary leadership by Judy Kindel, may we, as a congregation, continue to carry the torch of environmental stewardship ignited by my predecessor, ensuring that their passion for the Earth becomes an enduring flame that guides future generations at ULC in the path of responsible care for God’s creation.

Brandon DuBois-Jones

Outreach of the Month Lutheran Disaster Response

“Every disaster is local” is one of the statements that Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) often makes. They know that in every crisis people’s lives are disrupted and endangered—for them it is very local. From drought aid in the horn of Africa to the crisis in the Middle East, to working with migrants through the AMMPARO program in South and Central America, to flooding in Vermont and wildfires in Hawaii, LDR is our Church’s answer to the local needs of a hurting world. In an ever-changing list, LDR responds to needs on nearly every continent, often being one of the first to respond and the last to leave. You



Photo Credit: ACT Alliance

can read more about their work and see current projects at [ELCA.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/](https://elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/).

Through LDR, ELCA congregations can care for our neighbors wherever they may be and however they may be hurting. Because LDR is an extension of our denomination, every dollar you donate directly to LDR goes to help people. Whether you specify the project or leave it undesignated, you can know that you are helping people.

Pastor Bryan



QOV Sewing Day & Linen Collection

We are expecting a good turn-out for National Quilts of Valor Sewing Day, Saturday, Feb. 3rd. We will be busy making quilts for veterans and active service members. In the morning we will award a QOV to veteran Gary Copp, United States Army, 1966-1990. We start at 9 a.m., share a pizza and salad lunch at noon, and clean-up by 3 p.m. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Remember: we have all the supplies to make the quilts, there are jobs for non-sewers, and it's a great way to meet new people!

Once again, Prayers & Squares is tithing \$489 dollars to the church, 10 percent of our year end account balance. We have asked Paster Bryan for suggestions where our gift could be used. In the past our tithe has gone to a variety of things to benefit ULC, including handicap accessibility, lightweight tables, the sound system, and the pastor's discretionary fund. We are very thankful for the space we use and the support we receive!

St. Vincent's Catholic Charities is the Lansing area coordinating service for refugee resettlement. They have



This is David. He is a new intern for St. Vincent's with his car packed to the brim. We had three sewing machines, a serger, fabric, and sewing notions, blankets and quilts and more on cold snowy Jan.10th!

been advised that more than 500 refugees will be coming this year. As a result, they are seeking donations of house-hold items to prepare apartments for their living spaces. Prayers and Squares will be collecting sheets, pillows, blankets, bedspreads, and towels. Please bring your new items, or "gently" used and "freshly laundered" items to the church. They can be placed in the marked bins near the elevator. If you have large items, such as tables and chairs, please call them for a pick-up at your home. Thank you for your donations to help welcome the refugees.

Do you have a 2024 graduating high school senior at your home? We are looking forward to honoring members Caleb Fisher, Vickie Freeman, Connor Hagman, and Ava

Jolin with special quilts next June, and we sure don't want to miss any other grads. Please contact Bobbie Davis (bobbieanddavis80@gmail.com) or Ann Booren (boorena@msu.edu) as soon as possible.

Bobbie Davis

**Quilts of Valor
Sewing Day**
Saturday, Feb. 3
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
ULC Fellowship Hall

Pizza & Salad Lunch
No sewing experience needed!
Sign up in the Narthex.

**We will begin the day
with a quilt presentation.**

Accessibility Team

Did You Know . . .

- Did you know that some people are affected by loud music and sudden sounds? Using noise cancelling headphones can help as well as offering alternative worship spaces.
- Did you know that some people are uncomfortable in crowded situations? Having seating arrangements with space allowed can help.

Brought to you by the ULC Accessibility Team. If we can help you with these or any other barriers to attending or enjoying ULC events, please let us know. Contact Beth Rahe at bwojan@gmail.com.



Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer And Protest Concert

Courageous Leadership and an Unwavering Commitment to Civil Rights, Equity and Social Justice

Words described and music honored, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., by the College of Music MSU Jazz Orchestra conducted by Rodney Whitaker, director.

Talented students on saxophone, trumpet, trombone guitar, bass, drums, and piano took the audience through segments of music based on faith, hope, liberation, acceptance and redemption. Vocals and bongo drummers were added to the mix. Segments of the Program Notes gave MLK Jr’s take on jazz and I quote: “God has wrought many things out of oppression. He has endowed His creatures with the capacity to create and from this capacity has flowed the sweet songs of sorrow and joy that have allowed man to cope with his

environment and many different situations. Jazz speaks for life. The blues tell the story of life’s difficulties, and if you think for a moment, you will realize that they take the hardest realities of life and put them into music, only to come out with some new hope or sense of triumph. This is triumphant music” and I further quote “It is no wonder that so much of the search for identity among American Negroes was championed by Jazz musicians. Long before the modern essayists and scholars wrote of racial identity as a problem for a multiracial world, musicians were returning to their roots to affirm that which was stirring in their souls.”

An insight shared by Director Whitaker about MLK Jr. after the performance of *Take My Hand* was that *Precious Lord Take My Hand* was his favorite hymn and he asked Mahalia Jackson to sing it for him because “He wanted to hear the voice of the Lord.”

After two and a half hours of triumphant music at the Fairchild Theater on Sunday, Jan. 14th, Director Whitaker referring to MLK Jr. and his work and the work of others, said, “We’ve come a long way in 300 years, but we have a long way to go.”

*Kathy Protsman,
RJT member*

Zoom Meeting Opportunity: White Christian Nationalism

As the political influence of Christian nationalist ideology has grown in recent years, so has awareness of the threat it poses to democratic and religious freedoms. On Saturday, Feb. 3, join Interim President the Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas and the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, Executive Director of the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice for a day-long, online seminar on this



pressing topic. The seminar will examine the historical, theological, and biblical underpinnings of White Christian Nationalism and explore practical, pastoral and prophetic responses to it. Guest speakers include biblical scholar and theologian Walter Brueggemann and New York Times bestselling authors Kristin Du Mez and

Jemar Tisby. [Learn more and sign up here.](#)

2023 Dr. William G. Anderson Lecture Series, Slavery to Freedom: An American Odyssey

The College of Osteopathic Medicine, in partnership with the Graduate School, is sponsoring the 23rd annual Dr. William G. Anderson Lecture Series: Slavery to Freedom. This series gives members of the mid-Michigan community opportunities to interact with multicultural leaders from education, business, industry, entertainment, and government. For 23 years, this series has featured living icons of the American Civil Rights Movement. All Activities are free of charge.

This year's series features Marley Dias on Feb. 2; Dr. Angela Davis on Feb. 9; and Dr. Freeman Hrabowski on Feb. 23. Click on the box at right for more information.

From the President

ULC Volunteers Make the Congregation

I've been council president for two whole weeks, but I've already gained a new appreciation for the volunteers who make ULC run. On Jan. 14, we thanked Gerry Erickson for an amazing 50 years of altar guild service (wow!). I met with Luke and Wilbur this week and gained a new appreciation for the work they do behind the scenes to keep the printers, phones, and everything else tech working. I've seen the amazing work Amy does on communications and especially in making the *Lux* happen. Emily has been doing amazing work as council secretary and making sure someone is on board to bring food on Sunday after service. Bryan is helping to feed hundreds in our community through his leadership of Food Movers. Bill and Linda feel like they do too many things to list.



We are blessed with so many volunteers, I cannot even begin to list them. But I do want to thank them for everything they do to make worship more meaningful, to keep the lights on (sometimes literally), and to serve our community. And if you see one of our volunteers in action, I encourage you to thank them too.

And if you are not volunteering yet, I encourage you to seek opportunities. Serving is a great way to help ULC and our community, and it is also a great way to feel more connected to our Church community and to grow your faith. If you are looking to plug in, you can ask me, Rick Milligan, who leads Members in Ministry, one of our pastors, or any of our many volunteers. I really look forward to serving with you.

Jeff Guilfoyle

ULC Council transitioned the in-person meeting to Zoom on Jan. 23 due to icy road conditions. Here are some highlights from the discussion:

- The Shipmans will be installed on Feb. 11 - there will be a nice brunch spread in the Narthex following the service.
- The Annual Council retreat will be held on Feb. 17, focusing on introductions and an analysis of



Council Notes

our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats as a congregation.

- Council will be working with all teams to update a document outlining team roles and key

contacts for new Council members and staff. Council will also look at inviting team leads to share team activities at upcoming council meetings.

- A huge thank you to Pastor Bryan for supporting us through this transition!!

*Louise Montag
ULC Council Treasurer*

The Greater Church

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton on Leave of Absence

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Church Council Executive Committee approved Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's request for a 4-to-6-month leave of absence. Her leave started Nov. 17, 2023. The Church Council appointed former bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, the Rev. Michael Burk, as Presiding Bishop Pro Tem, to care for the responsibilities of the presiding bishop during her leave of absence. We give thanks for Bishop Eaton's tireless dedication and leadership and pray for her during this time of rest and rejuvenation. (From a Nov. 9, 2023 news release on www.elca.org.)

Living Lutheran: Contemplating the New Year

Are you looking for deeper experiences of faith? Contemplative practices are designed to provide them. This [study guide](#) from Living Lutheran has discussion questions to help you explore meditation, mindfulness and contemplative practices. Visit www.livinglutheran.org to learn more.



After Fifty-Three Years of Service Gerry Erickson Retires from Altar Guild

“How far that little candle throws its beams!” *William Shakespeare, The Merchant of Venice*

When you think of Gerry Erickson, what word comes to mind? Probably, “energy.” But also, perhaps, irrepresible, indefatigable, and effervescent. They all apply. Each of us has seen Gerry enthusiastically weeding the ULC garden under the summer sun or zipping around inside University Lutheran at a speed that would do the Roadrunner proud.

Over the last 53 years, much of Gerry’s bountiful energy has been devoted to our Altar Guild. As she retires from those duties, ULC celebrates her incredible contribution.

Gerry and Russ Erickson joined University Lutheran (then on Ann Street in East Lansing) in 1969 when they moved to East Lansing from Minnesota. Russ had taken a job on the faculty of MSU.

Both Russ and Gerry are Minnesota natives. While Gerry exhibits the vigor of a teenager, she actually isn’t one. She was born in northern Minnesota just six miles from the Canadian border in 19...well, a while ago. Her mother was Norwegian and her father German; her grandparents had been homesteaders.

Russ grew up in the same area of the state, and both he and Gerry studied at the University of Minnesota—he in animal science and she in home economics.

Russ and Gerry married in 1960. After working in the Minneapolis area and loving it, and even though they had just built a new home there, they decided to move to East Lansing in 1969 so Russ could complete his PhD at MSU and teach.



Needless to say, when the Ericksons joined University Lutheran, Gerry became involved immediately. At that time, there was no formal altar guild at the church. There was an overarching group, The Women of ULC, and beneath it four “circles.” Gerry joined the Phoenix Circle. The various circles shared an assortment of responsibilities, and these rotated from circle to circle, month by month. Hence, each circle would be responsible for the altar’s needs for a month at some point during the year. Caring for the altar became especially important to Gerry.

In 1981, Gerry was named ULC’s Church Woman of the Year. That was also the year that The Women of ULC group “began to come undone,” as Gerry put it. She continued to help with altar responsibilities in the aftermath of that difficult development.

In 1986, Gerry and Russ went to Zimbabwe, Africa, where they spent two years. Russ taught and was the project leader for a USAID endeavor at the University of Zimbabwe. During this time, Gerry began to put

together the guidelines for a formal altar guild at ULC.

I should add at this point that Gerry and Russ loved their time in Africa. “I left a part of me over there,” Gerry told me. She and Russ even seriously considered having a second home there when they retired.

Once back from Africa and again at ULC, Gerry and Betsy Prince finalized the guidelines and officially established an altar guild for the church. “The Altar Guild is responsible for much more than communion,” Gerry told me. “It is the responsibility of the Altar Guild to care for the Chancel area, its furnishings, linens, paraments, banners, as well as communion preparation.”

Altar Guild responsibilities alone were not enough for the energetic Gerry. “In addition to overseeing the responsibilities of the Altar Guild, I sang in the choir for several years, I taught Sunday School, served on the Board of Worship and Music as Chairperson. (twice).

I have served on several committees as well, one being the parament committee which was very dear to me. We took time to study colors and symbols that would be appropriate for the season in which they were to be used.”

She and Russ also found time to raise three children (all of whom attended Sunday School and were confirmed at ULC). They now have five grandchildren.

Continued on page 14.

Mentoring Moments

Kids Hope USA mentors meet with their students for one hour each week. After each session, the mentor fills out a progress report and the student's teacher and the program director get an email copy of the report.

The following sentences from a progress report are excerpts written by one mentor who had a humorous session with her mentee. The name has been changed for confidentiality.



Selena "was very happy to see me today when I picked her up early from Art (and I think it was more that she did not have to finish cleaning up). As we walked to room A-9, she started to talk about fingernails and her idea to cut out paper fingernails, and tape them to her fingers.

When we arrived, she unpacked my Kids Hope bag and was very excited to find a baggie of red & green M&Ms to go with the Bingo game and capsules containing sponge Christmas items. Selena immediately wanted to make fingernails, but I suggested we walk to the kitchen

to get some hot water to float the Christmas capsules in. When we got back to A-9, she drew long fingernails for her left hand, and I taped them to her fingers. She was distracted by the M&Ms, so we played Bingo. Then she wanted to check the sponges. Many of the capsules had expanded so she reached in to take one out and, of course, the paper fingernails got wet. We had to take some of them off, but she didn't give up. She made new fingernails plus ones for her right hand. As people walked past our room, Selena would show them her fingers, and everyone loved her fingernails. She was so proud of herself!

We completed a Christmas theme addition worksheet. We did this worksheet after she had her fingernails attached so she had a hard time picking up the pencil to write the answer, but she loved her fingernails!"

There are several more paragraphs that go with this progress report, but I think you get the idea that this little girl loves long fingernails!

Barbara Kissling, Kids Hope USA Director

ULC Archives

Kids Hope Coordinator Recognized

Usually, the archives Lux article is about something that happened in the past. However, recently something occurred that will go into the archives, and we wanted to share it with you first. Recognition is important, and when it occurs it is worth sharing. That is true of this

article about the Kid's Hope USA program written by the Lansing School District Superintendent, Benjamin Shuldiner.

In the Dec. 11, 2023 issue of his weekly newsletter (see below), Superintendent Shuldiner recognized

Barb Kissling and the Kid's Hope program of ULC in the "Volunteer Feature" showing that Kid's Hope is noticed and appreciated and does make a difference!

Connie Lenkowski

Volunteer Feature: Barb Kissling - Forest View

Forest View Elementary School follows through on the Lansing School District's commitment to offering a nurturing environment that supports all students

by partnering with Kid's Hope USA to provide mentors for select students. This national organization gives training and resources to Christian churches that wish to offer an established school-based mentoring program. Students who receive a mentor are referred by teachers or



parents. Once connected, the mentor will meet with students for an hour weekly and stay with that student throughout their time in a school (which could be up to five years at Forest View).

It was 2018 when Barb Kissling of University Lutheran Church first approached Forest View staff with the concept. A retired schoolteacher herself, she knows the transformative power of relationships and was clear that mentors could provide connection and academic

support and that they would not be religious in nature. It was an easy yes, and since then, Barb has become a rock for the Forest View Community. As the Kids Hope coordinator at the congregation and a mentor herself, she trained volunteers, worked with staff to thoughtfully make appropriate mentor matches, created schedules, and went above and beyond to serve the whole community by organizing meals and appreciation gifts for teachers. There are now nine mentors serving students at Forest View Elementary; the whole community is greater because of it.

Welcome Our New Members . . .

Kit & Jean Christensen

(shown here with Sonja, David, and grandchildren)



For the last 42 years we have been members of First Lutheran Church in Bemidji, MN where one of the kids was baptized and both of our children

were confirmed. I was fortunate to be able to be in several service positions there. We moved to the Lansing area in 2021 during COVID to be near our daughter and her family. Every summer we return to a lake home in Northern Minnesota near Bemidji where we will remain Associate members of First Lutheran. During our years in Bemidji my husband (Kit) taught philosophy until retirement. I worked as a therapist and psychologist for Lutheran Social Service, the Community Mental Health Center and finally in private practice.

While it was very hard to leave a congregation we knew so well in Bemidji after 42 years, University Lutheran has become a comfortable new fit. One surprising fact is that my father, Pastor Ralph Rusley (deceased) was the Campus pastor for many years at North Dakota State University in Fargo North Dakota at the NDSU Lutheran Center. When he left parish ministry, he came to ULC in East Lansing to learn about how the Campus Ministry functioned in what was known then as the “Over the Shoulder” program! He was impressed and so are we. We have come full circle, in a sense!

Our daughter and son-in-law, Sonja Christensen and David Ortega, are both on the faculty at MSU; in Wildlife Biology and Agricultural Economics respectively.

Son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Cathy live in Ottawa. He is on the Law and Policy Program faculty at Carlton University in Ottawa, and she is a sociologist in the Canadian government.

Welcome!

We're glad you're here!

Lisa Nuttall



I was born in Kodiak, Alaska and Baptized at St. Paul Lutheran church in 1977. Chosen for the Honor of leading the class in with the Valedictorian, I graduated with Honors and many wonderful friendships. I have worked at McDonalds, Perkins, and 20 years at Wendy's. I was also honored for

my service to Dance Express by being the Dancer Representative to the Board for 20 years. Now I am delighted to spend time as an aunt to my three-year old niece. I love baking, a skill that I developed living with my family on the Kodiak National Wildlife Bear Refuge. I also enjoy jigsaw puzzles, word searches, going out to lunch, and dancing. Though attached to King of Glory, our Loveland, Colorado church, I will find a lot to do in this busy congregation.

Jane Nuttall



I was Baptized at the First Baptist Church of Augusta, Kansas through my own insistence at age five. (Apparently, I was destined to be a Lutheran even then.) With the foundation and fortitude of Kansas Homesteaders, my parents moved at the right time to challenge the thinking of a developing mind, and

Boulder, Colorado was the right place. John Nuttall and I married in 1967 and graduated from the University of Colorado in 1970. With a love of the outdoors and a desire for adventure, we took our teaching degrees to Kodiak, Alaska and there joined a young Lutheran Congregation, soon to become ELCA. We retired from teaching in 1996, and later from Commercial Salmon Fishing. Since our daughter Amy became an MSU professor, we had been keeping one foot in Michigan and another in Colorado. But with John's recent illness, we are making a permanent move to MI and to University Lutheran. John and I have worked in nearly every capacity in every church. We have also served as advocates for the disabled: Back in Alaska, I started one of the first early intervention programs, and John worked on advocating for inclusion on the Governor's Council of Alaska. Other groups include PEO and Delta Kappa Gamma for me, and Kiwanis for John.

Continued on page 14.

Birthdays

- 2 Anthony Waldron
- 3 Jane Nuttall
Kimberly Ruiz
- 4 Steve Zimmerman
David Gift
Aaron Brooks
- 5 Eric Bubolz
- 7 Paula Davis
Steve Simonson
- 9 Sandy Kotajarvi
Theo Shipman



- 10 Michelle Protsman
- 11 Erica Dethloff
- 13 Elizabeth Karcher
- 14 Vern Seefeldt

- 14 Lanae Williams
- 18 Leigh small
- 19 Gail Riegler
Norman Jolin, Sr.
- 20 Joseph Green
- 21 Jim Greiter
- 22 Clara Fisher
- 24 Nicole Greiter
Pastor Emily Shipman
- 25 Kylie McPhall
- 27 Madeline Helsler
Vivian Leung

Anniversaries

- 1 Steve & Rhonda
Kreuer
- 13 Marvin & Marcia
Schultz
Steve & Linda
Zimmerman
- 14 Gary & Miriam
Bunge

New Members continued from page 12.

Steve Simonson



I am in my early sixties, married, and have a son who is a senior at Eastern HS. I'm currently employed at Lansing Community College as an Instructor of Audio & Music

Technology and also in classroom tech support. Teaching music, technology, and performance has had a profound effect on how I look at life. I spend my days connecting and communicating with students and the community, so I am forever learning and growing in compassion and empathy.

I started my career path in middle school, studying classical music and percussion performance, while performing in wedding bands, pop bands, and other gigs related to live

events. A former parishioner at the Church of the Resurrection, I "Felt Called" to ULC while recording the Arts Chorale of Greater Lansing here a few weeks ago.

When I'm NOT working some job or another, I'm puttering around the house, reading science fiction and "techie stuff," working to preserve the inherited family media archive, looking for excuses to get out on the water and fish, and practicing (but never enough...) one instrument or another!

Thank You!

Thank you to all my ULC family for the recognition given me Sunday Jan. 14. The service was beautiful and the special reception after service was very much appreciated.

It was a very emotional moment as the quilt was wrapped around me! What a wonderful gift! Thank you, Prayers and Squares.

I have been rewarded in so many ways. Thanks again to all of you for making this a Special Day.

In Christ,
Gerry Erickson

Gerry Retires continued from page 11.



Gerry with her family.

I asked Gerry at the end of our interview what activities she enjoyed in her spare time. She replied that she loves to garden, to sew, to cook and, now that she's got more time, to spend time on her loom.

"Do you also like to read," I asked her.

"Oh, of course, I do read sometimes, but not a great deal," she confessed. "I can't sit still!"

Bill Trevarthen

FEBRUARY

- | | | | | |
|----|--|--|----|---|
| 1 | Black History Month | 7:00p Senior Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary | 16 | 5:00p Campus Ministry: Fridays@Five |
| 2 | 5:00p Campus Ministry: Fridays@Five | | 18 | 10:00a Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/FB |
| 3 | 9:00a Quilts of Valor Sewing Day-Fellowship Hall | | | 5:00p High School Youth Group-Youth Room |
| | 4:00p MSU Basketball Parking (Maryland) | | 19 | Presidents' Day |
| 4 | 10:00a Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/FB | | | 4:00p Tight Knit-Fireside |
| | 5:00p High School Youth Group-Youth Room | | | 6:00p Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary |
| 5 | 4:00p Tight Knit-Fireside | | 20 | 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom* |
| | 6:00p Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary | | | 10:00a Prayers & Squares-Fellowship |
| 6 | 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom* | | | 12:30p Lychnion Circle-Fireside |
| | 10:00a Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall | | | 1:30p Staff Meeting |
| | 1:30p Staff Meeting | | | 2:45p Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom* |
| | 2:45p Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom* | | | 6:30p ULC Council |
| 7 | 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL | | 21 | 5:30p MSU Basketball Parking (Iowa) |
| | 9:30a Lux/Communications-Zoom | | | 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL |
| | Noon Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom* | | | Noon Mid-Week Lenten Worship-Sanctuary |
| | 4:30p Lead Management-Teams | | | 12:45p Soup & Bread Lunch-Fireside |
| | 5:00p Worship Wednesday-Zoom* | | | 1:00p Rhodon Bible Study Circle-Fireside |
| 8 | 9:30a Brunch Bunch-IHOP, EL | | | 5:00p Worship Wednesday |
| | 7:00p Senior Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary | | 22 | 3:30p Food Movers Distribution-Drive thru |
| 9 | 5:00p Campus Ministry: Fridays@Five | | | 7:00p Senior Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary |
| | 12:30p MSU Basketball Parking (Illinois) | | 23 | 5:00p Campus Ministry: Fridays@Five |
| 11 | 10:00a Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/FB | | 25 | 10:00a Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/FB |
| 12 | 4:00 Tight Knit-Fireside | | | 2:30p MSU Basketball Parking (Ohio State) |
| | 6:00p Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary | | 26 | 4:00p Tight Knit-Fireside |
| 13 | 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom* | | | 6:00p Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary |
| | 10:00a Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall | | 27 | 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom* |
| | 1:30p Staff Meeting | | | 10:00a Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall |
| | 2:45p Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom* | | | 1:30p Staff Meeting |
| | 6:30p Racial Justice Team-Zoom | | | 2:45p Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom* |
| 14 | Ash Wednesday | | | 7:00p Pub Theology-Zoom* |
| | 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL | | | 7:00p Families Against Narcotics (FAN)-Fellowship |
| | Noon Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom | | 28 | 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL |
| | 5:00p Worship Wednesday-Zoom* | | | 9:30a Amnos Bible Study Circle-Fireside |
| | 7:00p Ash Wednesday Worship | | | Noon Mid-Week Lenten Worship-Sanctuary |
| 15 | 10:00p ULC Book Club-Fireside | | | 12:45p Soup & Bread Lunch-Fireside |
| | 7:00p Senior Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary | | | 4:15p Worship Wednesday |
| | | | 29 | 7:00p Senior Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary |

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; Tuesday study, larry.wagenknecht@gmail.com; Pub Theology, Jay Dubois-Jones jaytopham@gmail.com

Newsletter SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for the March Lux is **Friday, Feb. 16.**

E-mail articles to Amy Wagenknecht at amylarryw@comcast.net and Mandy O'Neil 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 photos and articles coming! Thanks!



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