



LUX

May 2021

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

Mark Your Calendars . . .

Sunday Worship

10 a.m. on Facebook
Followed by **ZoomForum**

Food Movers

Thursday, May 27 - 4:30 p.m.
Drive thru distribution

Confirmation Sunday (Pentecost)

May 23

Pub Theology

(Changed to last Tuesday of month)

May 25 – 7 p.m.
Zoom



Choir Scholarship Concert

Through the years we have had many benefit concerts for the ULC Senior Choir Scholarship Fund, but Friday, Apr. 23 was the first Virtual Benefit Concert. Featured in this very special concert were solos and self-introductions by our four outstanding college scholarship students, Divira Pahwa, Chey Nevins, Zack Sneed, and Adam Krause.



This year's scholarship singers with their accompanists. Clockwise, starting upper left, they are Zack, Kristie, Chey, Adam, Julianna, and Divira.

There were fourteen music videos in the concert - four new recordings by our choir scholars, and ten videos chosen from the impressive library of videos that have been recorded for our online worship services. These include videos by the Senior Choir, Handbell Quartet, our Sunday School children, and more. If you missed the concert, you can [watch it](#) on our You Tube channel.

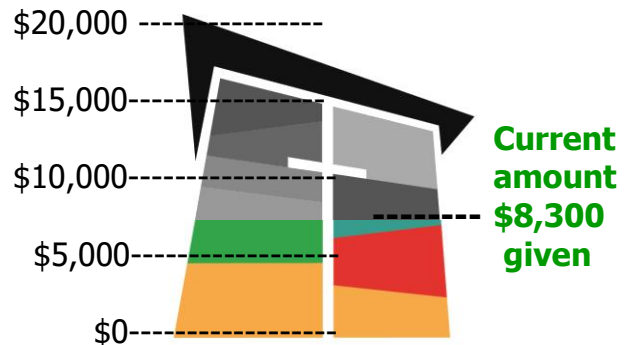
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You Have Been Challenged!

The ULC Council has committed \$20,000 to pay down the \$117,758 (as of 4/15) mortgage on our building. And they are challenging the congregation to match that contribution! Please give as you are able.



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

Thank You for Your Generosity

At the March Council meeting, I had a new experience, an experience I have never had in 37 years of ministry! ULC ended 2020 with about \$40,000 excess in income and at our March meeting we acted on a recommendation from the Finance Team as to what to do with the excess income. In some congregations this could be a divisive discussion. But for our Council it was a joyful and delightful discussion. I will say more about this later.

There were several reasons for the excess funds: members of the congregation continued to give faithfully and generously despite not being able to worship together during the pandemic; expenses were down in some areas due to the pandemic; and the main reason was that we received a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan from the Federal Government as part of the Cares Act. This PPP loan did not need to be repaid and enabled us to keep paying the salaries of all our staff. As a result, at the end of the year we had about a \$40,000 balance.

The recommendation from the Finance Team was to use \$20,000 of the balance to help pay down the mortgage principle on our building. The other \$20,000 they recommended giving away to support other ministries! As we talked about this recommendation at the March Council meeting it

became a joyful experience.

First, we decided to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation and put \$20,000 toward mortgage principle and challenge the congregation to match that \$20,000 in order to reduce the principal by another \$20,000. If we meet that challenge, our mortgage will be paid off around September 2022 and that would free up \$75,000 each year for ministry! Please see the article by Erin Frisch on page 11. One of the Council's goals this year is to lead the congregation in discussions about priorities and ministries with these freed up funds. It is exciting to think about the possibilities!

Then the Council's discussion turned to what to do with the additional \$20,000, and it was a fun and joyful discussion. The Council's attitude was that we have been blessed and we want to extend that blessing to others instead of keeping it all for ourselves. Long story short, we unanimously and joyfully voted to give the \$20,000 to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund of the Synod to be used to support ministry in congregations where there is need. And after we voted there was such a sense of joy! It was the most joyful and fun Council meeting I have experienced in my ministry!

The money will be divided between three congregations, and the plans that these three congregations have

proposed align so well with ULC's priorities. Trinity, Battle Creek is in the heart of a city and does some amazing work in their community. This money would go to further expand and strengthen their ministry in the community. Bread of Life, Hudsonville is working at beginning a new campus ministry in their setting at Grand Valley State University and the money would go toward getting that ministry started. South Sudanese Christ Lutheran Congregation in Wyoming is an ethnic specific congregation made up of immigrants from South Sudan and the money would be used to help with needs in their Sudanese community in Grand Rapids/Wyoming.

I am excited by these ministries and what our generosity can help make happen! Because of your faithful and generous giving throughout the pandemic we did not need the PPP loan we received and could share it to support ministry throughout the Synod. I am grateful for your generosity and your willingness to share God's abundance.

"For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich." 2 Corinthians 8:9

Thank you for your generosity and following in Jesus' generous footsteps,

Pastor Gary

To Learn More About the Discernment Process

- Read the article on page 11
- Attend the ZoomForum on May 16
- Plan to join in one of the four small group discussions on Zoom

Family Faith Formation

Virtual Sunday School Continues on Worship Wednesdays at 4 pm!

It's also posted to our YouTube channel if you can't join us Wednesdays. Sunday School is also featured in worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. on Facebook Live. We currently have children from four local and two out of state (PA and NY) ELCA congregations participating in ULC's Worship Wednesday on Zoom. In addition to sharing Bible stories, snacks, crafts, and activities throughout the year in Virtual Sunday School, we have enjoyed learning and growing in music.

Music Class

Thanks to the leadership of Director of Music, Janine Novenske Smith, our children have been able to participate in Music Class and Children's Choir throughout our time in Virtual Sunday School. Generous donations have made it possible for us to equip each child with their own set of instruments (ie. handbells, shaker eggs, jingle bells) and movement scarves to help with teaching and engagement. For choir pieces, Janine teaches the rhythm, words, and piano melody on Zoom, then at home the children use a "back track" to record their individual videos before sending them to Mitchell. He then takes their recordings, mixes the audio, and layers the video to create a beautiful children's choir piece. The children have learned many songs, including "Jesus Loves Me," "Gather 'Round the Manger," "Thank You," "Alleluia, Christ is Risen," "We Are the Church" and their latest piece, "This Little Light of Mine," which will be featured in worship on Mother's Day, May 9th.

Handbells

In our fall Sunday School supply distribution, children received handbells to learn and play at home. Thanks to the leadership of our Handbell Choir Director, Louise

Paquette, throughout the school year our children have been able to learn simple handbell songs while together on Zoom. It's been a unique challenge, but they've really enjoyed the exposure! Some of them were featured in an Easter Sunday music project, "Christ is Alive!" with the ULC Senior Choir and Holt Presbyterian Church, produced by Mitchell Eithun.

Confirmation



Confirmation students Libby, Morgan, and Bryan sorting soup donations.

During the Resurrection Bag distribution on Palm Sunday, youth gathered to sort food donations that were given by our congregation during this year's Souper Bowl of Caring. These donations, soup and monetary, will go

to help fight hunger at Advent House in Lansing. Thank you all for your generous contributions!

Pastor Haley Vay

ULC Summer Camps

Mark your calendars!

July 6-29

Summer Youth Music and Virtual Bible Camps will gather on Zoom, Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

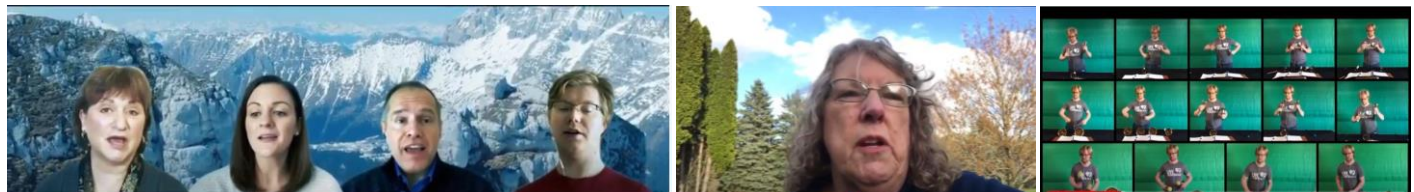


Online registration is coming soon!

Photos from the Senior Choir Scholarship Concert



Janine Smith, Music Director ~ Pr. Haley Vay, Janine, Steve Sneed, John Dale Smith ~ Kristie Wiggert, Pianist ~ ULC Senior Choir



Janine, Pr. Haley Vay, Pr. Gary, Mitchell Eithun

Louise Paquette, Bell Choir Director ~ Mitchell, playing multiple bells.

Fridays @ Five



Dr. Kirsi Stjerna

Each month we host a “First Friday Speaker Series,” and this year our focus is Racial Justice. Our April speaker was Rev. Dr. Kirsi Stjerna, a native of Finland, who studied at Helsinki University and Boston University. She is a professor of Lutheran History and Theology at PLTS of California Lutheran

University. Dr. Stjerna has published several books: *Lutheran Theology: A Grammar of Faith*; *The Annotated Luther*; *Martin Luther, the Bible and the Jewish People*, with Brooks Schramm; and *Women and the Reformation*.

Dr. Stjerna shared, “Over the years, I’ve taught courses on Luther and the Jews at a seminary setting, as a lecturer on university campuses, and in churches. There is great interest in the topic, that is actually quite “positive,” because it allows a critical approach to Luther and Lutheran – and Christian theology – and because it invites us to rethink the foundations of Christian faith.

The topic allows a perspective on understanding racism and xenophobia historically speaking and it sheds light on the ingredients and factors in racism that has continued to have persistent manifestations in Christian communities. Addressing the topic honestly gives us chances to purge Christian faith languages, and behaviors and relating to others, from tarnished elements. Conversing on Luther’s difficult relationship with the Jewish practitioners of the faith reveal to us the dangers of ignorance of the “other” and of theology that is put on a pedestal and as if superior to other languages of faith. Studying Luther with the question of Jews feeds honest faith conversations and in its own way underscores the importance of respectful and humble theology in the vital work needed today towards a just society where racism is eradicated.”

Would you like to learn more? For privacy, this recording is unlisted on ULC’s YouTube Channel. To request direct access to the link, please contact me. This topic was extremely interesting, and the speaker is a favorite among our students.

Pastor Haley Vay

2021 Student Associates Reflections and Summer Plans

Rachel Drobnak (she/her/hers), Class of 2023:



This year in campus ministry has truly been joyful and life-giving for me. I have enjoyed working with all

the student associates and Pastor Haley Vay because we are all collaborative, kind, and responsible people, so it makes the job really fun and stress-free. In my experience, the main challenge has been to create community in the online space. I really hoped that we would see more new students, and we would grow our community, but with the difficulty of the current year, I was challenged to realize that this expectation isn’t realistic.

Some triumphs have been moments where I feel that our community is strong and vibrant: trivia night, centering prayer, really interesting bible studies, and our service projects. These have also been joyful moments

for me! I really love the moments that I am able to laugh and be silly, like the PowerPoint night we held or helping with Worship Wednesdays.

This summer I will be a Sustainable Agriculture intern at Kellogg Biological Station in Hickory Corners, MI (where Maggie currently lives). I will be living there from mid-May to the beginning of August. The rest of the summer, I’ll be at home in Cleveland. I plan to move into my apartment around August 20 for the next school year and am excited to return as a Student Associate in campus ministry!

Maggie Haite (they/them), Class of 2023:



I’ve had a really good time this year! It’s been different in the online setting, but every Friday I found it easy to be excited and

engaged with whatever we were doing and it’s always nice to see people I care

about even if it isn’t in person! The few times I was able to stop by and see people were really nice breaks from the monotony and I think we did a good job of balancing more social weeks with speaker/bible study weeks of more intense conversation.

This summer I’m planning to take more time for myself; taking a break from school for the most part and getting excited about my interests again. I’ll be staying at my grandma’s house for probably the majority of the time and go back to Chicago every once in a while. I’m absolutely excited to be returning as a Student Associate in the fall!

Annaliese Marks, (she/her/hers), Class of 2022:



This year in campus ministry has been overall quite wonderful considering the circumstances. It certainly was a

Continued on page 5

Student Associates continued from page 4. challenge to do everything online and to come up with new ways to engage our fellow students. The stress of current events was also difficult to balance with our ministry goals at times. But through it all, we still had so many joys!

The virtual setting allowed us to engage with awesome leaders that we may not have otherwise had the chance to meet. Zoom trivia night with other Lutheran campus ministries across the Big10 was another highlight as well! Our lower attendance than last year was disappointing, but also allowed us to connect with each other on a deeper level. Even though we would much rather have met in person, we were still able to connect, laugh, and grow over this past year!

This summer I am hoping to intern as an Engineering Technician with the Department of the Army to work with MSU and the Department of Defense on wastewater treatment research and development. I am also looking forward to taking a few weeks off once the semester is over to read, paint, bake, and hang out in my hammock just enjoying nature!

Andrea Vera (she/her/hers), Class of 2023



I appreciated every minute of campus ministry this year! The virtual nature of all our meetings really put our name One Community to the test, but the fact that we were able to stay connected for so long despite the circumstances I think strengthened our community of faith in the long run. In my mind, this year was special because it allowed us to take Fridays@Five in a direction we would not have headed under our traditional setting. The numerous speakers we had likely would not have been available to travel from where they are based to come to speak to us, and hearing all of those unique perspectives throughout the year have enriched my faith in a way I SO appreciate.

In combination with our monthly bible study, I feel that I have been nudged in the right direction down a path that is slowly showing me how my faith can be used as a tool for justice. I also particularly enjoyed our Wednesday morning centering prayer sessions and feel that they popped up at just the right time in my life. Our letter-writing

service projects brought me a lot of joy too, especially when Rachel and I were able to personally deliver cookies and cards to some of our isolated congregation members. I am a bit concerned with our ability to recruit new members in the fall, especially since we have a whole year where I feel we sort of dropped off the MSU radar due to the remote nature of our meetings. I do have faith that once we are back in person, though, our “regulars” will be more encouraged to return and we can once more capitalize on word of mouth to grow our group!

I will be in East Lansing this summer continuing my involvement in research concerning microbial identification for contaminant biodegradation in water and soil, which will involve a combination of data analysis and lab work. I will also work as an undergraduate learning assistant for a course in risk analysis. Outside of work, I am looking forward to going on camping trips, tending to my vegetables, and spending any free time I have reading in my hammock!

Congratulations Graduates!

Liz Christensen (she/her/hers), Class of 2021:



I am graduating this year with my bachelor's degree in Plant Biology with minors in Anthropology and Horticulture. This summer I will continue working on my research on campus where I will be studying how transcription factors regulate defense mechanisms against insects in tomato

plants. I hope to find a job working to improve agricultural methods that produce higher yielding plants using methods that are environmentally friendly. I would not have made it all four years without the supportive community that ULC has provided. Being in Tight Knit and One Community has given me a space to express myself freely with like-minded individuals and worship our savior and the blessings he has given us. Lastly, I would like to give a big thank you to everyone at ULC for your support these past four years!

Narindra Randriamiarintsoa (she/her/hers), Class of 2021:



I'm Narindra, from Madagascar. I came to MSU four years ago to pursue a bachelor's degree in Biosystems Engineering. It has been a wonderful journey thanks to the great support I've received along the way. I'm not sure if I have the right words to describe how awesome the community at ULC and One Community is: A home and a family that I am deeply grateful for. By God's Grace, I got the opportunity to attend graduate school in Biosystems Engineering at MSU, so hopefully I will still be around for some time.

Zack Sneed, Class of 2021:

Zack has been a ULC Music Scholarship recipient for two years. He graduates from MSU this spring with a degree in Linguistics. (Read more about Zack under “Scholarship Concert” on page 8.)

Racial Justice & Visioning

May 2 – Racial Justice Team: A Discussion of *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. How does this book inform the efforts of ULC as we undertake our 2021 racial justice focus issues? The Racial Justice Team Education Group will lead the discussion. (You will find this forum informative even if you haven't had an opportunity to read the book.)



opportunity to read the book or you didn't attend the May 2 discussion.)

May 16 - Erin Frisch and Nancy Lindman: Last month, Council approved moving forward with a visioning plan to guide ULC in discerning what God is calling us to be as we come to the end of our mortgage obligation. Join us for an interactive group discussion as we begin to gain input from the congregation. This is the last forum of the school year.

May 9 – Racial Justice Team: Continuing a Discussion of *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. (You may join even if you haven't had an

Linda Trevarthen

ULC Memorial Library

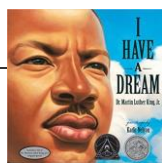


Children's Story Time, Part Three

Following are three more YouTube videos of racial justice books in the ULC Library. Until you are able to check these books out from the library, we invite you to listen to them being read. The books are enjoyable and offer a great opportunity for discussion. Welcome to storytime! Enjoy.

[Kendrick Sampson Reads "Antiracist Baby" | Bookmarks | Netflix Jr - YouTube](#)

[I HAVE A DREAM Read Aloud - Bing video](#)



323 I Have a Dream

by Martin Luther King Jr. – This

beautiful and powerful illustrated edition of King's world-changing "I Have a Dream" speech brings his inspiring message of freedom, equality, and peace to the youngest among us—those who will one day carry his dream forward for everyone."

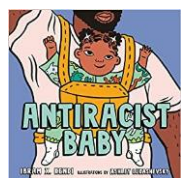


E 612.7 All the Colors We Are: Story of How We Get Our Skin

by Katie Kissinger -

This twentieth anniversary edition offers young children a simple, scientifically accurate explanation for how we get our skin color.

[All the Colors We Are: The Story of How We Get Our Skin Color, by Katie Kissinger - Bing video](#)



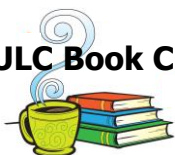
BB Ken

Antiracist Baby by Ibram X Kendi – A picture book that empowers parents and children to

uproot racism in our society and in ourselves.

Library Team

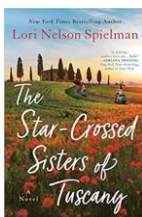
ULC Book Club



"Travel" to Tuscany

The ULC Book Club will meet via Zoom on Thursday, May 20 at 10 a.m. We will discuss *The Star-Crossed Sisters of Tuscany* by Lori Nelson Spielman.

This book follows three cousins who are all second-born daughters. The cousins travel through Italy, discover family secrets and attempt to break a 200-year-old family curse that says no second-born daughter will find true love.



The May meeting will be our last meeting until September. Over the summer the book club will read *The Remnants of Summer* written by ULC member Dawn Newton. Dawn will join us when we meet to discuss this book the third Thursday of September.

We would love for you to join us. Please reach out to Beth Rahe at bwojan1@gmail.com or Mary Kotnik at mkotnik@comcast.net to be added our email list.

Beth Rahe and Mary Kotnik

Scholarship Concert continued from page 1.

All the amazing videos in the concert were produced and edited by two members of our Digital Ministry Team, Mitchell Eithun and Steve Sneed.

This has been quite a year for the Senior Choir, as we worked to find ways to rehearse, record, and be a choir in our new normal - and our scholarship students have been with us every step of the way. Thank you to our scholarship students, Divira, Chey, Adam, and Zack - you are truly a blessing. And thank you to our ULC congregation and friends for your continued support of the Senior Choir Scholarship Program.

Following are the introductions presented by the scholarship students at the concert. They share how much this program means to each of them.

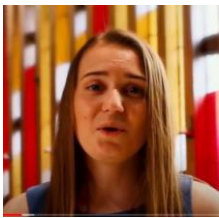
Janine Novenske Smith, Director of Music



Hi, I'm **Adam Krause**, and this is my third year as the bass scholarship student at ULC. I'm a junior at MSU, where I'm pursuing a political science major and a minor in music. This community has been there for me from the very beginning. Through a

change in major, changes in housing, and even through the covid pandemic, one of the few constants in my life has been ULC. The love and support that first welcomed me as a freshman is just as strong three years later, and while it meant a great deal to me then, it means even more to me now. Thank you all for that support, and for the privilege of making music with you.

When Janine suggested Louis Armstrong's *What a Wonderful World* to me, as a song I could sing for the Scholarship Concert, I knew immediately that it was the right choice. It's a classic, with a gorgeous melody that's perfect for the springtime. Steve Sneed, a man of many talents, is both the guitar accompanist for the song and the editor of the video. With all that being said, I hope you enjoy, *What a Wonderful World*.



Hi, my name is **Chey Nevins**, and I am the alto scholar, and this is my second year here at ULC. I am a sophomore at MSU, majoring in political science and hope to become a lobbyist once I graduate.

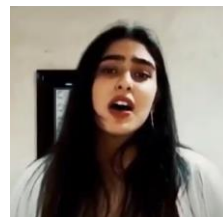
When I auditioned to be the alto scholar at ULC I had no idea how much my life would change. I had previously been to many churches, and I never felt like the sermons spoke to me or the people accepted me. That all changed when I started going to ULC. The minute I walked into

the choir room it felt like I had been adopted into a new family. The pastors welcomed me in and even made sure to remember my parents and grandparent's names when they came to hear me sing! This was my first experience walking into a church and having it feel like a home.

The other scholarship students are amazing as well! I am always nervous to meet new people but once I met the other three, they felt like old friends. I am grateful to have made these friendships that will last me a lifetime. Especially during the pandemic, having not only the scholarship students but everyone in the choir to talk to has really helped me get through this tough time. I am so grateful for them and that Janine Smith, my voice teacher turned choir director/ friend, gave me the opportunity to get to know them all.

The final thing that I am grateful for is that I am able to perform with my grandmother again. When I was little, she would pull out the music for *Midnight Blue* and she would play, and I would sing for hours. It's amazing because now I look back at all of my performances through the years and she has never missed a single one! But all of my favorite ones have been with her beside me at the piano bench.

So, in summary I would like to give a huge thank you to everyone in my ULC family, specifically Pastor Hayley Vay, Pastor Gary Bunge, and Janine Smith for showing me my way to faith through their passion, kindness, and openness. And I would also like to give a big thank you to my Grammy because there is no doubt in my mind that I would not even be here at ULC if it wasn't for her fostering my love of music. Our shared love of music will be displayed tonight for you with *Imagine* by John Lennon accompanied by my grandmother, Judy Root.



Hi everyone! My name is **Divira Pahwa**. I am 19 years old, and I am currently a freshman in the MSU College of Music studying under Professor Richard Fracker. This is my second year as the soprano scholarship student at University

Lutheran Church. The ULC community has been so warm and welcoming, and I am so thankful to have been a part of the Senior Choir. I look forward to in-person services in the future.

I am singing "*Rise Up*" by Andrea Day! This is a special song because it is very soulful and reminds us that we will always "rise up" despite the toughest times. I would like to thank Mitchell for producing the video and my wonderful director Janine!

Continued on page 8.

Celebrating Earth Day with Solar Dedication

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." Jane Goodall

On Saturday, April 24 leaders from ULC and the Islamic Center of East Lansing were joined by U.S. Representative Elissa Slotkin and Michigan Interfaith Power & Light to dedicate our two solar arrays. Below is a letter

from Pastor John Schleicher, former interim pastor at ULC responding to this significant event. Pastor John was instrumental in getting the Islamic Center and ULC together for the solar panel project. ~Judy Kindel

Dear Members and Friends of ULC,

It just seemed so clearly the hand of God, when I heard about the challenge gift from your brothers and sisters at the Islamic Center and then of your decision to move forward with the installation of the solar panels. What you celebrate and dedicate and bless today is surely a visible expression of God's grace. It is also one more expression of your faithful and grateful response to that ever-flowing grace, including significant energy savings reaped in recent years from the installation of new boilers and hundreds of LED lights.

I am currently reading the book Climate Church, Climate World - How People of Faith Must Work for Change. The author, Jim Antal, lifts up the importance of the witness you are giving to the world far beyond these prudent financial investments: You are incarnating the changes we long for; you are committed to longed-for transition to a safe and sustainable future for our children; you are reintroducing hope to a world gripped by fear and despair. We face a daunting new reality. We can no longer depend on the continuity of God's creation. He writes, "I believe that communities of faith can be the 'delivery vehicle' for a redeemed Earth...The beginning of our transformation requires us to increase our energy conservation and efficiency. We have a role as keepers of continuity.' As society edges toward breakdown, we need, more than ever, to uphold the moral values of justice, mercy, nonviolence and welcoming the stranger, values that protect God's people and the whole of God's creation."

So today is more than about an important accomplishment. The installation of these solar panels is for ULC and for its neighbors, near and far, one more sign of your leaning into the "redeemed" future God wills for "the whole of God's creation."

Pastor John Schleicher



Imam Sohail and Pastor Gary



U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin cut the ribbon during the ceremony.

Scholarship Concert continued from page 7.

Hi, my name is **Zack Sneed** and I am in my third and final year at ULC as the tenor scholar. I am graduating this semester, after three years, with a degree in Linguistics and minors in Economics and Arabic. Janine was my vocal tutor in high school, and I was so glad that she invited me to audition for this position. The ULC community has been so warm and gracious during my time here and I have received such great support. This program has helped me stay grounded, especially during this past year.

As for my plans after school, I'm not sure yet. The world is my oyster, and I am going to figure out what to do



with it. Currently, I am applying for the Fulbright program, which would allow me to a master's degree in Israel. Further, I am applying to work in the government of the United Arab Emirates. Graduate or law school is likely in my future, but I will spend some time figuring that out. Ideally, I would like to work with the Foreign Service as a diplomat.

Today I will be singing an arrangement of Will the Circle Be Unbroken, in which I accompany myself on guitar, bass, banjo, and harmonica. I chose this particular song because it deals with the cycle of life and the embracing of change, which has been on my mind these past few months. I also enjoyed the country styling of it since I am a country music DJ. You can listen to my show on 88.9FM on Tuesdays, 8pm to midnight.

Thank you to the ULC for supporting me in my college career and thank you to my father for putting this video together.



We're Back!

After a five-month break, the Prayers and Squares quilters are happy to be sewing once again in the Fellowship Hall. We are meeting Tuesday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with masks, social distancing and a limit of 10 people. Talk to Ann Booren if you want to be one of the 10!

We are busy making prayer quilts, Lutheran World Relief quilts, high school graduate quilts, MSU graduate quilts, and quilts for three other activities.

We recently donated assorted items made by our sewers to Redeemer Lutheran Church in south Lansing. The items went to the Helping Hands Christian



Learning Center staff, children at the Love Closet, new enrollees at HHCLC, and Sparrows Nest.

Pastor Jan Hite wrote "Dear Ladies: As always, you each amaze me!!! It is always an honor to help you share your gifts with those in our community who have a need for both warmth and love. Thank you for trusting me to find a home for your beloved gifts."

Ann Booren

Thank You from the Trinity Lutheran Baby Pantry!

Best Wishes and thank you to all the supporters of the Trinity Lutheran Baby Pantry and Reading Room,

Oceana County is a favorite destination spot for many tourists who come for the beaches, the fun activities, and the small town, undiscovered atmosphere, and is a great place to raise a family. However, in 2017, Kids Count Book ranked Oceana County 78th out of 83 Michigan counties for child well-being.

As a church who prides itself on our outreach programs, we could not let the cry for help go unheard. We took a leap of faith and opened a baby pantry and reading room to help young families get what they need to take care of their children and lower the high illiteracy rate present in Oceana County by providing books both in English and Spanish. We

have a motto at the baby pantry in that it's not about trying to change the world, or even the county, but changing one child's world.



Marilyn holds items for delivery to the Baby Pantry,

With Easter just past, I am reminded of a few years ago when a 10-year-old boy came to our community Easter program without any shoes on his feet. By the end of the event, he had a nice pair of boots that was graciously gifted to him from one of our members. It is the little

things like that that we can do to make a difference in our community, no matter how small and it is the little handmade things that ULC has graciously gifted to TLC to provide a little tender loving care to the children who carry our hopes for a new tomorrow.

Thanks to your efforts, we have great news! In 2019 Kids Count Book ranked Oceana County 71 out of 83 for child well-being. This was

accomplished by partnering with many organizations and volunteers including ULC's Tight Knit and Prayers & Squares programs. We also thank you for your campus ministry program that welcomes college students with open arms as a home away from home.

The items provided by Tight Knit and Prayers and Squares have touched the life of a homeless family, living out of a car, the Mom who can't believe someone from East Lansing would care about her kids, and the joy that lights up a child's face when they see puppy dogs on their new blanket. These are just a couple of the many stories from families and their children you have made a direct impact on in Oceana County. TLC answered God's call and he provided us with ULC's hands.

Sincerely,
Liz & Susan Christensen
The Baby Pantry & Reading Room
volunteers & members of Trinity
Lutheran Church (TLC), New Era

Racial Justice Team

May Outreach of the Month Living Water Ministries Bridge Builders

The May Outreach of the Month will go to support the ministry of Living Water Ministries (LWM) LWM is the outdoor ministry of our Synod (N/WLM) and the Southeast Michigan Synod located at Stony Lake Bible Camp in New Era, Michigan. Due to the pandemic, Stony Lake did not have campers in the summer of 2020 and will not have campers again this summer. But that does not mean ministry is not happening. Plans are in place to break ground for a new three season cabin in May which will be completed by the end of the 2021.



C.J. Clark,
Executive Director
of LWM.

Bridge Builders is a special ministry of LWM with the focus of raising young leaders in the faith formative community of camp by exploring systemic racism by blending peer ministry curriculum and anti-racism curriculum. This program has won several national awards and reaches youth from cross the country. Plans to expand Bridge Builders from a partial

week program of 30 to 35 campers to a full week reaching 60 youth are being considered.

Plans are also being made for a hopefully typical 2022 summer, in addition to the Great Lakes Gathering in January 2022 for high school students and young adults, and the junior high Charge event in March 2022. Because of the pandemic and not being able to have summer camp for two summers, your donation is vital to keeping this important ministry to the children and youth of our Synod strong and growing.

Pastor Gary

Speaking of Racial Justice



Microaggression

A **microaggression** is a subtle behavior – verbal or non-verbal, conscious or unconscious – directed at a member of a marginalized group that has a derogatory, harmful effect.

While microaggressions are sometimes conscious and intentional, on many occasions microaggressions may reflect the perpetrator's implicit biases about marginalized group members. They are often given in what is intended to be a compliment but is heard as an insult given the presence of systemic racism.

For example:

- Saying to a Black person, "I don't see you as Black."
- Clutching your purse when a person of color walks by.
- Saying to a Black person, "Wow, you are so articulate."
- Blacks asked where they are going when pulled over by police in an affluent neighborhood where break-ins have recently occurred.



Microaggressions can contribute to a campus climate where individuals who are members of marginalized groups may feel unwelcome or doubt their place at the institution.



Kids Hope USA Turns 25 Years Old!

25 ways Kids Hope USA is making a difference:

Students are...

Feeling supported and encouraged, growing in character, believing they matter, having fun, gaining confidence in school

Mentors are...

Modeling friendship, representing their church community, connecting with their local school, feeling

inspired by their student, joining something bigger than themselves

Prayer partners are...

Engaging behind the scenes, lifting up students in prayer, demonstrating consistency, championing positive relationships, praying for the local community

Schools are...

Witnessing the positive impact of churches, welcoming their neighbors,

feeling inspired by mentors' dedication, feeling encouraged by their local community, experiencing greater connectedness

Churches are...

Loving their neighbors, investing in their communities, practicing generosity, opening their hearts to others, demonstrating inclusivity

*Barbara Kissling,
ULC Kids Hope USA Director*

From the President

ULC Discernment in the Time of Covid

“I am grateful for our online community,” declared Emmett Braselton as a productive March Council meeting drew to a close. Emmett reminded us how the ULC community has been a lifeline through Covid, how God has been with us and we have been with each other in worship, Bible study, Forum learning, Council leadership, and countless other ways.

Join
the
DISCUSSION

Now we have another opportunity to use our Covid time in community for God’s work. As we look forward to paying down the mortgage, we will center on how God is calling ULC into the future. Please use individual prayer time to consider our future with an open heart and participate with

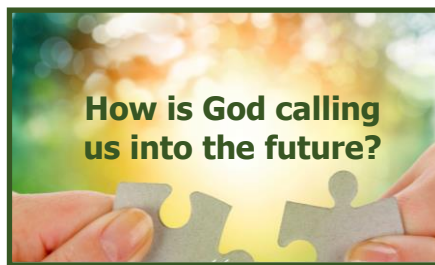
others in small groups to listen, share and be filled with the spirit.

Small group discussions are scheduled from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on May 20th, May 26th, June 2nd, and June 10th. What better way to spend Covid time? Thank you for your participation in ULC’s discernment process.

*With gratitude,
Nancy Lindman*

ULC Discernment Process

You have probably heard the exciting news- the end is in sight for our mortgage! As we come upon this milestone, there is no better time to think about what God’s vision for our church and our community is for the future. Beginning in May, Council will be hosting small group discussions to engage the congregation in prayerful consideration of what is next for us. We encourage you to consider the following:



- **Who are we...**our identity, historical strengths and patterns, our assets, our strengths and challenges?
- **Who is our neighbor...**who are the people who live in our neighborhoods? What are their longings, fears, hopes, dreams and spiritual needs? What are the needs of those in our community and around the globe?
- **What is God Calling us to be and do....** Based on the insights from the previous questions and grounded in prayer, what directions should our ministry take over the next three to five years?

We also ask that you keep our ULC discernment process in your prayers. Discerning God’s vision for the future is some of the most important work we can do. We hope to ground the process in openness to God’s presence and guidance while we work towards letting go of what we need the church to be in order to allow God’s Spirit to reveal

what we can be in our next chapter(s) of ministry.

On May 16, Council will be introducing this process during the Sunday Forum. Then you will have the opportunity to participate in one of four small group discussions to be held via Zoom. from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

To pre-register on Zoom for a small group discussion, please choose from one of the following dates:

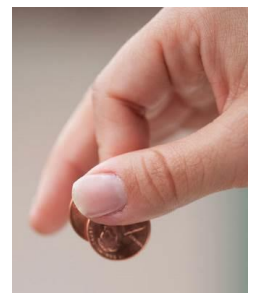
- [May 20th \(Thursday\)](#)
- [May 26th \(Wednesday\)](#)
- [June 2nd \(Wednesday\)](#)
- [June 10th \(Thursday\)](#)

Erin Frisch, ULC Past-President

Thank you, thank you!

Thank you to everyone who, during Lent, “collected your change” and supported our Change for a Change collection this year! We collected \$475 which will be sent to Samaritas. This will support their many programs such as refugee resettlement, family preservation and substance use disorder services. Learn more at Samaritas.org.

Social Action Team



Endowment Grant Proposals Requested

One of the wonderful gifts that current and former ULC members established is the ULC Endowment Program. The ULC Endowment Program includes two separate endowment funds - one is dedicated totally to campus ministry efforts and the other is a general endowment fund. Each year, funds are awarded to organizations and projects that reflect the mission and vision of ULC.

Grant proposals for 2021 may be submitted through Sept. 30, 2021.

The ULC Endowment Program was established to provide a vehicle for members to glorify God and serve the world through gifts of long-range financial support. According to the ULC Endowment Charter, funds are distributed: 1) To individuals and organizations who apply principles consistent with the values, vision and mission of the goals of ULC; 2) To members of ULC or those endorsed by members; 3) According to the established application procedure; 4) To applications that will impact the purpose of the program and reflect a collaborative plan; and 5) Primarily for one-time support of planning, demonstration or implementation of special projects. (Applications for multi-year grants are not preferred.)

The Endowment Fund provides grants for projects within the three following categories:

A. Mission in Christ's World The Endowment Fund gives priority to support of missions of the ELCA including development of new congregations in North America, equipping leaders for the mission of the Church; support professional educational growth; global mission; ecumenism/ interfaith; evangelism; and social ministries.

B. Christ's Mission Among Us Funds are provided to efforts that enrich ULC programming as identified by ULC Church Council and teams; special programs designed for those persons in our parish who are in spiritual or economic need; contributions to improvement of ELCA facilities and building programs; and debt reduction.

C. Christ's Mission on Campuses Funds are used to build the capacity of young adults to serve Christ as leaders and program enrichment for campuses as identified by ULC's Campus Ministry team.

Applications may be obtained on the ULC website www.ulcel.org under "Resources." To submit completed applications and/or for assistance or questions, contact the Endowment Committee at ULCEndowment@ulcel.org

Larry Wagenknecht, Endowment Committee Chair

ULC Archives

Kristie's Crystals

We are celebrating Kristie Wiggert's 50th anniversary as ULC's organist. Following is an article she wrote for the May 1987 issue of Lux.

"Kristie's Crystals – Mind you, the caption for this little article was not my idea but one said in jest at our staff meeting. Actually, I thought it was a good idea, so perhaps it might stick.



Kristie Wiggert at ULC.

I have been asked by several people to comment on what process takes place when the music staff and clergy meet to choose hymns and plan worship. It is a process which takes place about once a month or more frequently when needed. We read the texts for the day we are working on and then proceed with choosing hymns. We have several guides to follow in choosing hymns to fit the

text. One is in the back of the hymnal, another is a large reference book *A Hymnal Companion to the Lutheran*

Book of Worship by Steelken. This book is an invaluable tool in this task. Another source is our own knowledge and experience. We all are aware that every hymn is not familiar to all of us in the congregation, so we try to take that element into consideration. Of course, we would not want to sing only hymns we know, so now and again there are hymns which will become familiar after we sing them a few times. Both the music and text are important in choosing hymns. Sometimes the music seems a bit awkward. I would always welcome any suggestions you might

have for teaching new hymns to the congregation.

The settings of services for the church year are set by the Board of Ministry, and the student service once a term is planned by the students."

I asked Kristie if the process has changed much since 1987 and her reply follows:

"My how things have changed!! Because of the pandemic, our operational system has changed dramatically. The team no longer meets to choose hymns because we don't sing too many hymns. Therefore, the hymns which are sung, are chosen by the pastors and the music director. Perhaps when things come to a new normal, some old ways will be reinstated. I do like "Kristie's Crystals" however and anytime I can impart those, I will be happy to do so."

Connie Lenkowski

Birthdays

- 1 Janine Novenske Smith
Asher Greiter
- 2 Christine Harder
Barry Williams
David Williams
- 3 Robert Lasley
- 4 Ian Brown
Bobbie Davis
Kathie Niemeyer
- 5 Alex Williams
- 6 Eric Goebel
- 7 Emma Tracy
- 11 Maggie Foley
- 13 Barbara Riegle



- 16 Jack Guevara
Janice Mutka
Steve Sneed
- 17 Darlene Romsos
Rich Tracy
- 18 Laura Saucedo
- 19 Amanda Brown
- 20 Sal Bubolz
- 21 Hannah Hagman
Louise Paquette

- 22 Carl Bennett
Alexander Dethloff
Karen Sanders
- 24 Nancy Lindman
- 25 Leslie Booren
- 27 Roger Hoopingarner
Bryan McPhall
Demani Ruiz
- 28 Ashton McPhall
Gavin Witter
- 30 Megan Mahoney
Terrie Reinoehl
- 31 Robert Baldus
Eva Beaman
Caroline Hoffman

Anniversaries

- 1 Jeff & Kathy Bracken
- 4 Sandy & Bobbie Davis
- 8 Bruce & Terrie
Reinoehl
- 9 Ed & Sharon Vanous
- 19 Jim & Melody Kiefer
- 20 Corbin & Paula Davis
- 22 Mike & Vicki
Anderson
Bo & Joanne Boettcher
- 27 Hal & Betsye Prince
- 28 Ed & Laura Brown
- 30 Jeff & Melissa
Andresen

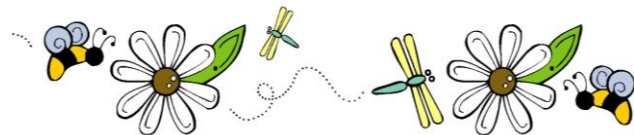
ULC People

In the News . .

Pollinating the Next Generation



ULC member Roger Hoopingarner was featured in the Spring 2021 MSU Giving newsletter. Roger, a retired Entomology professor at MSU, was recognized for making a \$1.5 million gift that will fund the Roger Hoopingarner Endowed Professorship in Apiculture and Entomology. Click [here](#) to read the article.



Congratulations Kristy Stuart!



Congratulations to former ULC member and financial secretary Kristy Stuart on her ordination to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry on Sunday, April 25. The video of her ordination is available [here](#).

Heartfelt thanks to the many ULC members who have emailed, called, and sent cards with healing wishes after my recent fall. The care and concern of this community of faith is deeply appreciated.



Sue Kamens

Newsletter SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for the June/July Lux is **Friday, May 14.**

E-mail articles to Amy Wagenknecht at amylarryw@comcast.net and Britny Pollard 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!



- | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|--|--------|---|
| 2 | 10:00a | Sunday Worship-Facebook | 11:00a | Zoom* Coffee Hour/Forum@11:10
(Council: Discerning our future) |
| | 11:00a | Zoom* Coffee Hour/Forum@11:10
(RJ Team: Caste Discussion) | 18 | 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom |
| 4 | 7:30a | Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom* | 12:30p | Staff Meeting-Zoom |
| | 12:30p | Staff Meeting-Zoom | 19 | Noon Lectio Divina-Zoom* |
| 5 | Noon | Lectio Divina-Zoom* | 4:00p | Worship Wednesday for Kids-Zoom* |
| | 4:00p | Worship Wednesday for Kids-Zoom* | 6:30p | ULC Council-Zoom* |
| 9 | 10:00a | Sunday Worship-Facebook | 20 | 10:00a Book Club-Zoom* |
| | 11:00a | Zoom* Coffee Hour/Forum@11:10
(RJ Team: Caste Discussion) | 23 | 10:00a Worship-Pentecost/Confirmation-Facebook |
| 11 | 7:30a | Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom | 25 | 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom |
| | 12:30p | Staff Meeting-Zoom | 12:30p | Staff Meeting-Zoom |
| | 6:30p | Racial Justice Team-Zoom | 7:00p | Pub Theology-Zoom* |
| 12 | Noon | Lectio Divina-Zoom* | 26 | Noon Lectio Divina-Zoom* |
| | 4:00p | Worship Wednesday for Kids-Zoom* | 4:00p | Worship Wednesday for Kids-Zoom* |
| 14 | Synod Assembly via Zoom | | 27 | 10:30a RJ: Education-Zoom |
| 15 | Synod Assembly via Zoom | | 1:00p | RJ: Communication-Zoom |
| 16 | 10:00a | Sunday Worship-Facebook | 4:30p | Food Movers Distribution-Drive thru |
| | | | 30 | 10:00a Sunday Worship-Facebook |

* Zoom link contacts: Forum- found in Friday email announcements (contact [Britny](#) to be added to list); Choir - Janine Smith; Friday@Five - Pastor Haley Vay; Tuesday Study - Jim Kiefer; Pub Theology - Britny; Lectio Divina - Britny; Worship Wednesday for Kids – Pastor Haley Vay; Book Club – Beth Rahe; Rhodon Circle – Connie Lenkowski (connielenkowski@gmail.com); Council Meeting – Nancy Lindman



Special Days in May

- May 6 — National Day of Prayer
- May 9 — Mother's Day
- May 13 — Ascension of the Lord
- May 23 — Day of Pentecost
- May 30 — Trinity Sunday
- May 31— Memorial Day

Due to Covid safety protocols, the ULC building remains closed. However, our ministry continues. The ULC number (517-332-2559) is connected to staff cell numbers, please call if there is a need!

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



University Lutheran Church
One Community Lutheran Campus Ministry at MSU
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East Lansing, MI 48823
517-332-2559 ulcsec@ulcel.org www.ulcel.org

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Gary A. Bunge
Lead Pastor

Haley Vay Beaman
Associate Pastor

Janine Novenske Smith
Director of Music

Britny Pollard
Administrative Assistant

Gary Carl
Financial Administrator

Mary Letvenow
Event Coordinator

Kristie Wiggert
Julie Baglien
Organists

Louise Paquette
Director of Handbells

ULC in the News!

If you missed it, ULC was featured in the news in several locations. The dedication of the solar arrays by ULC and the Islamic Center, East Lansing was featured on WILX TV 10 and can be seen [here](#).

ULC was also mentioned in eastlansinginfo.news on April 26 in an article by Brooklyn Peppo, "[Two Congregations Partner to Go Green](#)."

Congratulations to the Earthkeeping Team for their hard work on this project. Thank you to The Islamic Center and to the donors who made the return gift to the Islamic Center for making these projects possible. What a wonderful way to celebrate Earth Day!

Amy Wagenknecht