

Mark Your Calendars . . .

Indigenous Peoples' Day
Monday, Oct. 10

New Member Sunday
Oct. 23

Food Packing Event
Sunday, Oct. 23
2:30 p.m.
Islamic Center

Food Movers
Thursday, Oct. 27
Drive-thru distribution
beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Pub Theology
Tuesday, Oct. 25
7:00 p.m. on Zoom



Inside . . .

Pastor: New Worship Setting	2
Campus Ministry	3
Family Faith Formation	4
Music Notes	5
Sunday Forum ~ Library News.....	6
ULC Small Groups	7
Memorial Garden ~ Earthkeeping.....	8
Prayers & Squares ~ Kids Hope	9
Racial Justice.....	10
Sept. Council ~ Food Packing Event.....	11
Greater Church ~ Outreach: Global Mission	12
ULC Archives ~ ULC Book Club	13
Celebrations ~ Book Nook Turns 3.....	14
Oct. Calendar.....	15
Football Parking.....	16

Alpha Sunday, Bluegrass Style

The 2022 academic year started off with the sweet sounds of Bluegrass. On Sunday, Sept. 18, worshippers met under a large white tent on the ULC lawn for a Worship Expressions, Bluegrass service. Students and faculty were blessed and Kids Hope mentors/prayer partners and student associates were commissioned.



The Bluegrass quartet, Pastor Haley Vay, Janine, Pastor Gary, and Will Mahoney during the Worship Expression outdoor worship service.

At the conclusion of the service, Pastor Gary and ULC president Joy Oslund celebrated the final mortgage payment “Humor marked the mortgage burning, as aided by a strong wind, the mortgage copy refused to burn immediately.” A group photo was taken using a drone, then members enjoyed a delicious BBQ potluck, the first since 2019. The weather was beautiful and the fellowship wonderful. See more photos on pages 5 and 7.

Amy Wagenknecht



TRUNK-OR-TREAT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30TH
3:00PM - 5:00PM

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
PARKING LOT

All children are welcome to join in
on the fun. No sign-up necessary.

VOLUNTEER TO
DECORATE A
TRUNK OR
DONATE CANDY!

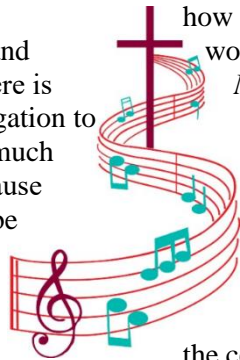
CONTACT
PASTOR
HALEY VAY

Introducing a New Worship Setting this Fall

One of the things I really appreciate about worship as a Lutheran is that our worship is designed to be flexible. Worship in any congregation in our synod and you'll find that although there is much that is similar congregation to congregation, there is also much that is different. That's because our worship is designed to be flexible.

If you open our hymnal – *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, you'll find ten different "settings" of the liturgy, and the tenth setting isn't really a setting like the others with composed music. It's a setting that simply suggests other hymns/songs that can be substituted for the usual music of the liturgy. You'll also find rubrics (the small print directions in red) that so often say things like, "A Kyrie **may** be sung . . .," or "One of the following or another canticle of praise **may** be sung . . .," or ". . . **or another** appropriate song." The key words here are "may" and "another appropriate." Yet somehow, we've come to the understanding/practice that rather than "may" or "another appropriate," the word is "must." And if we don't do everything just so, our worship isn't Lutheran.

When the hymnal supplement *With One Voice* was published, the team



that compiled the supplement included a wonderful introduction to Lutheran worship. It talked about how there are four main parts to worship: *Gathering*, *Word*, *Meal*, and *Sending*, with the Central focus being *Word* and *Meal*, or *Word* and *Sacrament*. *Word*, the reading of Scripture and preaching, and *Sacrament*, which is Communion and sometimes Baptism, are the central acts of worship to which we add a gathering rite and a sending rite. And within each of these four parts, there is a great deal of flexibility.

I would hope that by now you've noticed how we're modeling and following that kind of flexibility within the structure of *Gathering*, *Word*, *Meal*, and *Sending*. Sometimes we use all the various parts: Kyrie, Canticle of Praise, Gospel Acclamation etc. as printed in the hymnal. Sometimes we don't. Sometimes we use other hymns/songs for various parts of the liturgy. Sometimes we make changes that last for a particular season of the church. But always, we follow the structure of *Gathering*, *Word*, *Meal*, and *Sending*. It's that structure that makes our worship Lutheran and connects us to the wider Church.

And our worship is also flexible in the type and style of music that is used and sung. Over the centuries, the type and style has changed and evolved to include organ, piano, guitars, drums and all kinds of other instruments. I love how the Psalms talk about cymbals, drums, horns, pipes and clapping as part of worship. And if you look at Lutheran churches around the world, each part of the world has their own repertoire and style. Again, flexibility.

So, with all of that background, this fall we'll be learning a new setting of the liturgy from the hymnal, Setting 2, when the worship is led by the organ. And then when worship is led by the piano, we're changing up the *Gathering* rite to include a couple of different songs to gather us and prepare us for worship, followed by a Psalm and prayer before we head into the *Word* portion of worship.

We hope that these changes will become worshipful and enrich our praise and worship of God. And as a wise worship leader told me years ago, we need to allow others to sing the song that God has given them to sing.

Blessings as we worship our faithful God,

Pastor Gary

Join us to welcome

New Members

Sunday, Oct. 23

Reception following worship

Mark your calendars!

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Dec. 11

September Highlights

Outdoor Space Endowment Grant

At ULC, our mission has always been tied to the MSU community. ULC began as a student ministry in 1942 that met in the Masonic Temple, the pastor's living room, and the State Theater before building a home on Ann Street. Campus ministry has taken many different forms over the past 70 years. We have a beautiful property on S. Harrison Rd. that can be utilized for ministry outdoors in a variety of ways.



Students enjoy the Alpha Sunday tent for their Sept. 16 meeting.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, during the fall of 2021 our campus ministry Student Associates urged our congregation to discern the importance of a space for outdoor gatherings. As a community of faith rooted in Christ and campus ministry, the impetus to provide space where students can feel confident in gathering without fear of compromising their health is crucial to our mission.

We listened to their request. Over the summer I wrote a grant proposal, with generous input from our staff and friends of campus ministry, requesting funds from ULC's Campus Ministry Endowment. I am thankful and happy to report that in September the Endowment Committee approved the grant for \$10,000!

This endowment funding will not cover the entire project but will provide a springboard for further fundraising along with help from our congregation. Although our financial goal is not yet determined, we are expecting a cost of approximately \$25,000, and invite the help of our congregation to provide prayerful and financial support as next steps are discerned.

Given that an outdoor covered space will be utilized by a variety of ministries to further ULC's mission, we are staying connected with ministry teams including Council, Earthkeeping, Property, Worship & Music, and Communications. In addition to regular campus ministry gatherings, the goal of the space would be to benefit a variety of ministries, including outreach and fellowship on Alpha Sunday, Worship Expressions, outdoor summer

concerts, youth group, VBS, music camp, memorial services, and weddings. It would have the potential to save our congregation \$1,500 or more per year on Alpha Sunday alone (renting a tent) and could have the potential to provide rental income.

Placement of the structure will take great consideration as electricity and building proximity are key factors. We are also keeping in mind our neighbors at the Islamic Center, whose school children use our north lawn for recess.

Thank you for your support! I look forward to reporting on this process throughout the year.

Opportunities to provide meals



← The One Community group in the ULC front yard.

Alexis Baughman, Rachel Drobnak (Student Associate SA), Jared Koenigsberg (SA), Sofie Piotrowski (SA), Simon Petersen, and Andrea Vera (SA) at Sparticulation, the MSU student organization fair. →



Students gather weekly on Fridays at 5 p.m. for food, fellowship, and a program. Our programs rotate through Bible study, community engagement and service activities, as well as speakers. This year our Speaker Series is themed "Reconciliation and Reparations" and so far, we are inviting speakers from the Justice League Greater Lansing and the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways in Mount Pleasant to share their experience and help expand our understanding.

One way to engage with students and support this ministry is through our Meal Sign Up. Spots are filling up fast! Visit this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4daaa92da1fbc52-fridays>

If we miss you this semester, there will be opportunities in the new year to sign up. Following the meal, you are always welcome to stay for the program and we hope you will join us! Thank you!

Pastor Haley Vay

Family Faith Formation



WORSHIP WEDNESDAY
FAITH FORMATION FOR KIDS
4:15 pm et via Zoom link

bible stories

friends & crafts

music & more



SUNDAY FUN DAY!

World Communion Sunday
Sunday, October 2 -- 5:00-7:00 pm ET

World Communion Sunday includes
bread from around the world, Children's Choir
and Holy Communion Instruction

Families with children & youth of all ages
and abilities are welcome to join the fun!



TRUNK-OR-TREAT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30TH
3:00PM - 5:00PM
(TRUNK SETUP AT 2:30PM)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST A TRUNK?
If you are interested in hosting a trunk,
please contact Pastor Haley Vay at haley.vay@gmail.com

CANDY OR SNACK DONATIONS NEEDED!
Can you contribute candy or snacks for this event? If you're
not able to join us for the event, please consider participating
with a contribution of candy or snacks (nut-free please) to
help supplement each trunk! Please drop off donations in the
trunk or treat donation box located in the narthex no later
than Friday, October 28



Confirmation

Pictured left to right: Mailee Greiter, Pastor Haley Vay, and Alex Brooks taking a breather outside in ULC's newly landscaped Memorial Garden during a September learning event. Confirmation learning events happen on Wednesday evenings.

Each month our youth engage in servant and fellowship events that encourage their faith formation and community building. In October, our youth are looking forward to helping lead Communion instruction during Sunday Fun Day (Oct. 2) and Trunk or Treat (Oct. 30).

Meet Our 2022-23 Scholarship Singers!

Hello ULC! It's **Chey Lacasse** and I am thrilled to be singing in person again! I was fortunate to be able to sing over the summer and see many of you. I'm so delighted to be back this fall as the alto scholarship student again this year! I graduated from Okemos High School in 2019 and am now a senior at MSU studying Political Science with two minors. One minor is in Environmental and Sustainability Studies and the other is Law, Justice, and Public Policy. I am still not sure where my path will lead after I graduate but I have enjoyed my time at MSU.

While in high school for all four years I took voice lessons under ULC's choir director, Janine Novenske Smith. I also sang in the choir and played French horn in the band. I participated in many productions at OHS which started with *Big Fish* my freshman year to one of the leads, Tanya, in *Mamma Mia* my senior year. Other productions along the way that I had fun roles in were *Les Miserables*, *Our Town*, and *Peter and The Starcatcher*. I love rehearsing and being on stage!

I have missed rehearsing with the choir in person and am looking



Ryan Jordan, Chey Lacasse and Eleanor Barbour, ULC scholarship singers.

forward to our first rehearsal! The community at ULC has always been so warm and welcoming. I look forward to seeing everyone again!

Hi! I'm **Eleanor Barbour**. It's wonderful to be singing with everyone here at ULC! I am a sophomore vocal performance major here at MSU, and I am considering adding a business minor or a theatre minor. I graduated from Sault Area Public Schools, and I took private voice lessons for four years at my local theatre. I started with music in 7th grade when I started playing the violin and played throughout high school. This summer I got to play the part of Sister Margaretta in the *Sound of Music* at my theatre and sang in the chorus for *La Boheme*. I am

looking forward to what this semester brings!

Hi! My name is **Ryan Jordan**. This is my first year singing at ULC and I'm so excited to join you all. I graduated from Haslett in 2022 and started here at MSU this fall. I am a music education major, and my focus is on singing. I plan to be a music teacher when I get out of college, most likely at the high school level.

I spend most of my time singing in choir or by myself or playing trombone in the spartan marching band. While I was in high school I did all of the music they had to offer: Marching band, concert band, jazz band, choir, extracurricular choirs, small group performances in band and choir, many musicals and plays, and private lessons in band and choir. In fact, ULC's pianist, John Dale, was the collaborative pianist for several of the musicals that I did during high school, and he accompanied several of my Solo & Ensemble performances.

While I haven't had an opportunity like this before I'm very excited to sing with you all and have fellowship on Sundays!

Alpha Sunday – Worship Expressions, Bluegrass



Pastor Haley Vay with the children's message.



Pastor Gary preaches.



Bluegrass musicians, (l-r) Chuck Page (bass), John Dale Smith (keyboard), Steve Sneed (guitar), Don Sovey (banjo). Not pictured, Rick Cote (drum kit)

Interesting and Opposing Interpretations of Jesus' Message!

Throughout history, Jesus' words have often been mis-read, mis-understood, or mis-interpreted. The Racial Justice Team will start the month exploring the ramifications of White Christian Nationalism's interpretation of biblical teachings. Then we continue the six-part DVD series, *The Difficult Words of Jesus*, starring renowned scholar and university professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, Amy-Jill Levine. We will dig into the meaning behind some of Jesus' more provocative statements. Levine says, "...since 'Israel' means 'to wrestle with God', we do well to wrestle with passages that have and can continue to cause harm... The Bible is less a book of answers than a book that helps us ask the right questions."

Oct. 2 Racial Justice Team: The resurgence of the White Christian Nationalism (WCN) movement and how it



affects both racial justice and today's political climate. Part 1 of 2

Oct. 9 The Difficult Words of Jesus Part 2 of 6 "Hate Father and Mother" Luke 14:26-27

Oct. 16 Racial Justice Team: The resurgence of the White Christian Nationalism (WCN) movement and how it affects both racial justice and today's political climate. Part 2 of 2

Oct. 23 No Forum (New Member Reception)

Oct. 30 The Difficult Words of Jesus Part 3 of 6 "Slave of All" Mark 10:44

Forum will meet in-person in the Fireside Room beginning at 11:30 a.m., following worship. It will also be available on Zoom. See the link on the weekly email announcement; call the office to be included on the email list.

Linda Trevarthen



ULC Memorial Library

Check Your Shelves

The Library Team recently did an inventory of the library collection. We learned some interesting information: there are over 2000 books in the ULC Library; of all the books missing during the last inventory in 2015 only 11 were still missing and were deleted from the collection; 306 items have been added to the collection since 2015; many of the missing books are either Christmas or Easter books.

Please check your shelves especially if you have ever borrowed a book from the library. It is very easy for library books to get mixed in with personal books. Books can be returned to the library or the office. Following is a list of the children's books that are missing.

Board Books:

- *Tiny Star* by Arthur Ginolfi



The Children's Section, ULC Library

- *My First Christmas Board Book*
- *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Children's Books:

- *God Gave Us You* by Lisa Bergren
- *Before You were Born* by Nancy Carlstrom
- *Coat of Many Colors* by Jenny Koralek

- *Be Kind* by Pat Miller
- *I'm Like You, You're Like Me* by Cindy Gainer
- *Usborne Lift-the-Flap Nativity* by Felicity Brooks
- *Christmas Story* by Tracy Harrast
- *Easter Story* by Brian Wildsmith
- *Water Come Down: The Day You Were Baptized* by Walter Wangerin, Jr.

Young Adult:

- *Horse and His Boy* by C.S. Lewis
- *Last Battle* by C.S. Lewis

We hope you will visit the library when you are in the church. It is open when the church is open.

The Library Team
Judy Kindel, Connie Lenkowski,
Jennifer Johnson and Linda
Trevarthen

ULC Small Groups

Check Out Our Small Groups!

Brunch Bunch



Brunch Bunch is a fellowship group and all women and friends of ULC are invited. We

meet on the second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at the IHOP in E. Lansing. If you would like an email reminder, please contact Jan Mace Sollenberger olieandjanicemace@gmail.com to be added to the list

Faith, Writing & Reflection



This *small* group meets on Zoom, and will be using *40-Day Journey with Howard Thurman*

<https://a.co/i9Qtnlg>, starting Nov. 1. They meet on Tuesdays from 2:45 to 4:15 pm. Contact: Carole Ford cfordllp@yahoo.com

Pub Theology



Join us virtually every last Tuesday from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. on Zoom. We will discuss four or five questions involving spiritual topics, philosophy, life, and theology.

Contact: Pastor Gary garybunge@sbcglobal.net.

Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina meets virtually Wednesdays at noon on Zoom. God in Scripture (*Lectio Divina*)

is a way of listening to the texts of

Scripture as if we were in conversation with Christ and He was suggesting the topics. Bring your lunch and join us! Contact Pastor Gary, garybunge@sbcglobal.net.

Tuesday AM Bible Study



This group meets every Tuesday from 7:30-8:30 a.m. on Zoom. The Bible study reviews the biblical

texts for the upcoming Sunday. Copies of the texts are sent a couple of days before the study. The co-leaders of the group are Jim Keifer jkiefer@Dykema.com Nancy Lindman nlindman@uw-mich.org and Larry Wagenknecht larry.wagenknecht@gmail.com.

Bible Study Circles



Amnos meets at 9:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of the month. This year we are studying

Women of the Bible. We meet in the Fireside Room. Amnos Circle is the only circle that has male participants. Please join us! Contact: Carol Mackin carol.mackin.2000@gmail.com.

Rhodon Circle meets the third Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Fireside Room. They use the Bible study from the *Gather* magazine, the publication of the Women of the ELCA. Contact:

Connie Lenkowski connielenkowsky@gmail.com.

Lychnion Circle meets the third Tuesday of the month at 12:30 p.m. They use the Bible study from the *Gather* Magazine each month. Contact: Carolyn Lohr aclohr@comcast.net.

Tight Knit



We meet every Monday at from 3:30 to 6 p.m. to knit/crochet items for charity and to share fellowship. Don't knit or crochet, we'll teach you! We meet in the Fireside Room. Contact: Anne Smith, asmith1959@hotmail.com

ULC Book Club



We meet on the third Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. to share fellowship and discuss the selected book. Contact: Beth Rahe bwojan1@gmail.com or Mary Kotnik mkotnik@comcast.net.

Prayers & Squares



Sewers of all skill levels are invited to join this ministry that creates prayer quilts (and more) throughout the year. We meet in the Fellowship Hall every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Contact: Ann Booren, boorena@msu.edu.

Alpha Sunday



Bluegrass worshippers



Soloist, Chey Lacasse



Burning the ULC mortgage.



Student Associates commissioning.

The Memorial Garden Update

After over two years of work, the dreams for the Memorial Garden are becoming a reality!

Norm Jolin worked with landscape designers and garden centers to determine an appropriate design for a garden that requires as little maintenance as possible. Because of the high cost of preparing the ground for planting, Norm and Dale Romsos took on the task and did the work themselves. Others who helped with planning the garden and the heavy work of preparing the soil were Emmett Braselton, Sandy Davis, Gary and Pat Lee, Jim Lorenz, Thom and Lynn McCurdy, Rick Milligan, Miriam Bunge, Tony Bauer, Connie Lenkowski, and Dave Unkefer.

They dug out old roots and removed overgrown plants. Many hours were spent choosing the design and



The finished garden.

preparing the soil for planting, but by September the garden was ready for new plants.

The garden now features smaller trees and bushes and lots of ground cover (1,000 plants actually). As Van Attas was doing the planting in mid-September, the area went from a field of dirt to a gorgeous garden where one could walk along the path and enjoy peace and beauty. Following are pictures of the garden as it was taking shape. Be sure to stop by and

walk the garden path.

If you would like to support the Memorial Garden project, monetary donations are needed.

Connie Lenkowski



Memorial Garden work coordinators Dale Romsos and Norm Jolin, Sr.



Van Atta's provided the plants and workers to complete the new Memorial Garden plans.



Norm Jolin, Sr. supervises the installation of plants and ground cover.

Earthkeeping News

ULC Recycles

Since 2017, ULC has been using eco-friendly paper cups for hot beverages to transition away from Styrofoam. The hot cups have a corn gluten lining to prevent heat transfer and are bio-degradable and compostable. Used cups can be placed in the regular trash bins. There are separate bins available in both kitchens and the Fellowship Hall for plastic, metal, glass, and

returnable cans. The funds collected from the can deposits are donated to the Student Ministry account. Paper rather than plastic cups are suggested for cold beverages.

Paper and cardboard from the office area have been recycled for many years. In future Earthkeeping columns, ULC members will share some tips they use in personal recycling.

A local opportunity to recycle:

Regional Electronics Recycling Day
Saturday, Oct. 8
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.,
Chippewa Middle School, 4000
Okemos Rd, Okemos.

Visit www.meridian.mi.us for more details.

Judy Kindel



Beautiful School Kits

The last Sunday in September, Prayers & Squares, with the help of everyone who attended the service in person, packed 100 school kits made by Ellie Korrach for Lutheran World Relief. She has been busy this summer sewing wonderfully creative backpacks that were filled with school supplies. The East Lansing Staples store gathered all the required supplies and gave us a terrific discount. We requested monetary gifts to allow us to purchase the items LWR stipulates be included in each backpack. If you would still like to contribute to this worthy cause, please indicate "Prayers & Squares School Kits" on your check or donation through the ULC website. Thank you for helping us continue the ULC tradition of strong support for this project.

We will have a report on our first quilt-a-thon held on Saturday, Oct. 1. Look for photos in the November Lux.

On Sept. 24th, Prayers & Squares donated a van full of stuff for the Lansing Afghan



A van full of sewing supplies to Lansing Afghan refugees.

refugees; six sewing machines with fabric and thread, 17 quilts, assorted bedding, shower curtains, tablecloths, three clocks, and a large amount of wool fabric. Thanks to everyone who sewed and donated items for this pick up!

After taking several weeks off, we resumed our weekly sewing days on Tuesday mornings from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. If you are unable to join us, we have kits ready to be taken home for completion, and often, fabric that needs to be washed and ironed. Many quilts are in progress thanks to those who worked from home this summer. We have quilts ready to be given to folks who need our prayers and comfort. Please contact either Ann Booren (boorena@msu.edu) or Bobbie Davis (bobbieanddavis80@gmail.com) if you know of someone who should be included, and come choose a special quilt for them. Ann and I are ready to answer any questions about this wonderful ministry.

Bobbie Davis

What is it like to be a Kid's Hope Mentor?

Our Kid's Hope ministry is in need of mentors this Fall as the number of students at Forest View who could use the one-on-one care continues to grow. If you are considering this ministry, you may have questions about what it is like to be a Kid's Hope mentor. I can only speak from my own experience, but I know through conversations with other mentors that there are many common themes. Mentoring a student at Forest View is:



learning that permeated the halls. Literally, the walls are covered with images of classic children's stories, rules for being a good citizen, animals, and of course the children's artwork. I felt at home in this space immediately.

Then there was the day I met my student for the first time. I wasn't sure how long it would take to form a bond with my energetic kindergarten, but thinking back it seems like we found shared interests (nature, animals and board games) that set us off on the right track from the start. Each visit I have with my now third grade boy is still exciting. He surprises me with things he now

wants to teach me to do and is still a bundle of energy.

Challenging! The children who are assigned mentors have been singled out by the teachers, principal Brown, and the resource specialist at Forest View as having the need for one-on-one attention. Once you decide to become a mentor you undergo excellent training designed by the Kid's Hope staff. Their website also gives you access to ongoing educational and training materials that are very helpful.

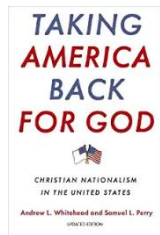
What has challenged me the most has been knowing what boundaries to set during our time together. Should I

Continued on page 10

Exciting! When I first walked into Forest View, I noted the atmosphere of excitement and enthusiasm for

Expand Your Racial Justice Knowledge

The Racial Justice Team will lead a discussion of Christian Nationalism (CN) at the Sunday Forums on Oct. 2nd and 16th. Christian Nationalism is an ideology that has become more prevalent in the past few years and has had significant



influence in shaping the discussions of social issues.

In the first session, we will define Christian Nationalism, note its prevalence, and explain its ideology. On Oct. 16, we will look deeper into the basic tenets of CN and how these beliefs shape the discussions of the

social issues at the forefront of political debate.

If you would like to prepare for these forums, we are using *Taking America Back for God* by Andrew L. Whitehead and Samuel L. Perry as a reference text.

Thom McCurdy

Listening to Racial Justice



White Christian Nationalism (WCN)

Podcast Title: *Christian Nationalism's Influence on American Politics* – July 11, 2022, approximately 33 minutes

Podcast Link: [Christian Nationalism's Influence On American Politics : 1A : NPR](#)

Summary: “Sociologist Andrew Whitehead defines Christian nationalism as ‘cultural framework that is all about trying to advocate for a fusion between Christianity – as they define it – and American civic life.’ “The podcast host interviews Whitehead and 2 others (Jemar

Tisby – bestselling author, national speaker and public historian of race and religion, and racial justice advocate; Katherine Stewart - an investigative journalist who writes about issues related to the separation of church and state). Discussion centers around the recent re-emergence of White Christian Nationalism as a movement and how it influences basic American life, racial justice, politics, and religion. **Note:** The Racial Justice Team will be presenting a series of Adult Forums this month on WCN. We encourage your attendance!

Cindy Ramsey

Kids Hope continued from page 9

come across as a disciplinarian or give him the space to melt down if that is what he needs that day? Having a prayer partner praying for your particular needs is such a comfort. You go into each session knowing that prayers surround you and your child.

Rewarding! It is hard to put into words the impact that having an adult come and spend one on one time with an at risk child can have on their life. Once my student realized that I was coming every week to spend an hour just with him I saw an immediate uptick in his confidence. I

was unable to mentor him during the 2020-2021 school year, so when we met again on a January day in 2022, I was surprised at how much he remembered about all our earlier sessions together. I was greeted with a big hug (a first from him), a big smile from his mom as she dropped him off, as well as a warm welcome from his second-grade teacher.

In the six months that followed our bond continued to grow and I shared many amazing moments with him. You do not need to be good with technology to be a good mentor, the kids can teach you if needed. You do

not need to have a background in education or in child psychology. All you need is an open heart and the conviction that spending an hour a week with an at-risk child will make a difference in their life, because it does.

If you want to hear more about the experiences of the individual ULC Kid’s Hope mentors, please reach out to Barb Kissling or myself for more information.

We would love to have you join our ranks.

Beth Rahe



ULC Council met via Zoom on Sept. 21. Here are some highlights from the discussion:

- Moved to accept the Personnel Committee's recommendation to hire the candidate for Technical Director at a salary of \$18,000/year.
- ULC is partnering with the Islamic Center to replace the swing set with a commercial-grade unit. Based on the quotes,



Council Notes

- ULC's share could be up to \$3,500, and this cost was approved.
- Discussed the proposed 2023 budget, sent back to Finance Committee for further work.

- Worship Planning team will continue to talk about plans for Christmas.

Emily Uebel

ULC Council Secretary

Attendance

August 7: 637
August 14: 606
August 21: 531
August 28: 673

God's Work. Our Hands. Food Packing with the Islamic Center

Sunday, October 23 from 2:30-4:00 pm

Are you ready to put your faith into action by helping to pack over 10,000 meals to fight hunger locally and around the world? The Islamic Center (across the north driveway from ULC) is hosting our fifth joint food packing event on Sunday, Oct. 23. The event starts at 2:30 p.m. and lasts about 90 minutes, but you can certainly leave earlier if needed.

Ages from kindergarten on up are welcome, so it's a great service event in which the entire family can participate! It is also a great opportunity to introduce friends and extended family to the ULC community.



The four-person team works especially well for groups/families that include younger children. Our two communities (ULC & the Islamic Center) co-mingle in the assembly line, so it is a great opportunity to get to know our neighbors better.

ULC and the Islamic Center split the cost for the food materials that we pack. Thanks to the congregation's generosity, we successfully raised our portion of

the cost. Now **we need 40-50 volunteers from ULC.**

This is a very well-organized assembly line type project. Everybody has one of the following assignments:

- Working in a team of four to scoop rice, protein powder, dehydrated vegetables, and vitamins/minerals into a plastic bag
- Filling the bag with rice to meet a designated weight
- Heat sealing the bag
- Folding boxes
- Packing sealed bags into cardboard boxes
- Sealing the boxes
- Moving filled boxes to a central location
- Keeping the scoopers in the first step supplied

Interested in volunteering? Use this link to access a signup sheet. Just enter your name and email address (which only the administrator can see in case we need to get in touch with you) <https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/bdztz>. If you change your mind, it is easy to cancel your signup on the sheet or using a code/button that will be emailed to you.

Following the event, the Imam has offered to provide a tour of the Islamic Center for those who are interested. Contact me if you have any questions. Please join us!

Vicki Anderson

It's That Time Again!

Staff, Council and Team Leaders -- Annual Reports are due to Britny Pollard by Sunday, Oct. 23.

ELCA Elects Siddiqui as Vice President

Imran Siddiqui, a senior investigator for the U.S. Department of Labor, was elected vice president of the ELCA on Thursday, Aug. 11, becoming the first Asian American elected to the national post. His six-year term will begin Nov. 1. The vice president is the highest-ranking lay leader of the denomination, overseeing the ELCA Church Council and serving as one of four leaders of the church. The first-generation American currently serves as vice president of the Southeastern Synod, representing Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi. Siddiqui, a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Atlanta, was elected on the fifth ballot during the Churchwide Assembly in Columbus, Ohio.



Imran Siddiqui, newly elected ELCA Vice President.
Photo: Janine Truppay/ELCA

During his interaction with the assembly, Siddiqui talked about balancing work and family, acknowledging that he will hold true to that concept if elected. After his election, he spoke more about how the acceptability and increased frequency of virtual meetings because of the pandemic enables him to do more than he would've been able to do in the past and still maintain his family's dedication to equal parenting.

“It’s something that, I think, is important in terms of what are we asking folks in this church to do. I have a family, bishops have families. A lot of bishops we are electing are younger, and they have small kids. To ask those folks to travel all the time actually limits the pool of the folks we can call as bishop. They pull their name and say, ‘I can’t do this.’”

“There is something to be said for actually trying to go out and reach other people. I think it’s important that we speak about God’s grace. That’s what drew me, that’s what has drawn other people, about how amazingly overwhelming God’s grace is ... but we do have to try our best to live into what that means. We should try to be a church of overwhelming grace, so that our words match what we’re doing. That’s probably a process, as well, but if we’re able to, over the next five years, do a reconstitution convention, we can look at how our church body represents God’s grace in a way that we feel [Martin] Luther believed in God’s grace.”

From *Living Lutheran* Aug. 12, 2022

October Outreach of the Month ELCA Global Mission

There is an old hymn that is not included in our current hymnal, “We have a story to tell to the Nations.” The global mission of the church has been around for a long time. In fact, the global mission of the church began in the book of Acts, chapter 8, with the story of Philip meeting up with an Ethiopian Eunuch.

Today, the Global Mission of the ELCA continues in 80 locations, partnerships, and companion churches. The work is never done. We share our gifts and talents to address the root causes of poverty and hunger and meeting human needs, fight HIV and AIDS, build communities that coexist in peace, and prepare women and men to preach the good news of Jesus Christ throughout the world. We



continue to have a story of Jesus and His Love to share world-wide. We need to keep reminding ourselves that Jesus’ mission does not begin and end at the four walls of our church building. There is a big world out there that needs Jesus.

My grandparents on my dad’s side, plus two of his brothers or brothers-in-law were missionaries. When I was 12 years old, Grandpa Anderson died, and Grandma Anderson laid her

hand on me and made me promise to become a Missionary. I came close but did not live up to her invitation.

Part of my ministry has been dedicated to World Hunger and the ELCA World Hunger Appeal is part of our ELCA Program. This is also true of Lutheran Disaster Response. Hunger and responding to disasters are a part of the mission work of the ELCA. The Stewardship team brings forth the ELCA Global Mission program as another way of sharing further the work of our church in these times.

Please designate your financial giving to ELCA Global Mission and give through the regular ways we support our church.

Michael Anderson



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God’s work. Our hands.

What Would You Include in the Time Capsule?

Throughout 2016 we celebrated 75 years of ULC ministry. As part of that celebration, we removed the time-capsule from the altar. Inside were items from 1947 when the cornerstone was laid in the then new Ann St. College Lutheran Church and information from 1975 when the time-capsule was first put into the altar of the new Harrison Road church.

We had also expected to find documents from 1959 when the cornerstone was laid for the education wing at the Ann St. church. We had evidence in the ULC archives that such a time-capsule existed. It took time to get permission from the current owners of the Ann St. building, but finally in October 2019 the time-capsule was removed from the cornerstone. Unfortunately, the saw used in removing the cornerstone reached the

time-capsule box and sawed it open damaging much of the contents. All the items had some degree of mildew too.

Now it is time to place the time-capsule back in the altar. The first cornerstone was laid in the Ann Street Church on Nov. 23, 1947, 75 years ago. We have chosen articles from all three boxes, 1947, 1959, and 1975, to be returned to the time-capsule.

Pictured are some of the items we plan to add representing the present, but we would like your help in deciding on others to include. A couple things we are looking for is a Michigan quarter and a *Time* magazine with a timely cover story

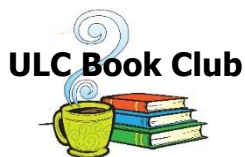
(all three boxes had a *Time* magazine). All items are small allowing us to include about half of the items from each box. We have left out full editions of newspapers and Bibles and Hymnals. The items included from the 1959 box are copies because of the damage from mildew to the original items. Items not placed in the time-capsule are in the ULC archives.



Some of the items to be included in the time capsule.

What would you like to see in the 2022 time-capsule? Contact Amy Wagenknecht or Connie Lenkowski with your ideas.

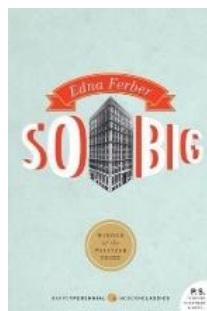
Connie Lenkowski



Join us to Discuss *So Big*

ULC Book Club will meet Thursday, Oct. 20 at 10 a.m. to discuss *So Big* by Edna Ferber. This book follows the life of Selina (Peake) DeJong. Selina's father dies when she is 19 years old, and she must find a way to support herself. She leaves the Chicago city life and travels to rural High Prairie, IL to become a teacher. She marries, has a son and is widowed when her son is nine years old. She is thrust into the traditionally male world of truck farming in order to support herself and her son.

We welcome new members to our book club and would love to have you join us in person at ULC in the Fireside room. If you are not comfortable with meeting in person or have health concerns, we also provide a ZOOM link. If you would like to read the books along with us, but cannot make one or more meetings, we record the discussion and can provide you with an audio file of the meeting.



Beth will once again arrange for our book selection to be included on the book club table at Schuler's Book Store. Purchase a copy of *So Big* from this table and receive a 20 percent discount on the book.

Once again, 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 so we can add you to our email list and keep you up to date on the books we choose and any changes in meeting time or location.

Looking ahead: In November we will discuss *August Snow* by Stephen Mack Jones and in January we will discuss *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. We do not meet in December.

Beth Rahe and Mary Kotnik

October Birthdays

- 1 LaVon Miller
Rick Milligan
- 2 Mary Ludtke
Jennifer Tracy
- 3 Chris Anderson
Patti Cuellar
- 5 Carolyn Haase
- 6 Gary Bunge
Anne Smith
- 7 Carolyn Lohr



- 7 Annaliese Marks
Juliana Marks
- 9 Connie Lenkowski
- 11 Michael Hill
- 14 Nathaniel Dalton
James Sype

- 15 Kristie Wiggert
- 17 Jon Althouse
Eric Podolsky
- 18 Pat Lee
- 21 Evan Dawson Baglien
- 25 Susan Fisher
Steven Haase
- 26 Laura Appel
- 29 Beeper Baswell
Jesse Clyma
Todd Helser
Piper Hysten

October Anniversaries

- 1 Brandon & Cindy
Baswell
- 7 Darrin & Elizabeth
Karcher
- 23 Stan & Sandi Kotajarvi
- 29 Michael & Heather Hill
- 31 Jim & Nicole Greiter

The Book Nook Turns Three

It is hard to believe that this September marks the third anniversary for the ULC Book Nook ministry. The Book Nook is located along Harrison Road in front of our sanctuary, alongside the bus stop bench. Sandy Davis and Jim Lorenz put their combined talents together three years ago to create this beautiful mini replica of our church building. The books inside have stayed dry during 12 seasons, a testament to their craftsmanship.

The Book Nook ministry began as an outreach of the Evangelism Team and has been supported by donations from the Library Team in memory of Walt Appel, a great lover of books. There have also been donations of books and money from the ULC congregation and friends. Unlike a typical lending library, the books in the nook are meant to be a gift to the person who chooses them. Each book has a sticker on its cover asking the recipient to accept the book as a gift from ULC, listing our address and website, and stating in rainbow ink "There's a place for you here!" The goal of this ministry is to provide our

neighbors, be they young or old, with books that will feed their souls; and teach them about the Christian faith as lived out via the ULC faith statement, about the joy of living a life turned towards justice within God's creation, and about the comfort of reading God's word in times of trouble.

I have had the privilege of selecting and stocking the Book Nook with bibles and books since it first opened on Sept. 17, 2019. This has been a unique ministry at ULC as its doors remained open throughout the pandemic. Over the last three years more than 80 bibles have been taken from the Nook, including Spanish and Mandarin translations. Inside you will see a top shelf that holds the different language bibles, a short shelf under this that holds books for adults and young adults, and a long side shelf that holds books for children. Selecting books for

children brings me the most joy. They range from books about God's love and Christ's ministry to books that teach about racial justice, kindness, and sharing. I have found that the children's bibles disappear very quickly. If you are finished raising your children and have a children's bible gathering dust at home, donating it to



Sandy Davis and Jim Lorenz with the new Book Nook.

the Book Nook would be a lovely gift. The books I select for adults are written by a wide range of authors including Martin Luther, CS Lewis, Ann Lamont, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Thomas Merton, Madeleine L'Engle, the Dalai Lama, as well as many others. If you have a children's bible or adult book that you would like to donate, please contact me at bwojan1@gmail.com or 517-974-0682. Please also reach out to me if you love books and are interested in donating your time and talents to keeping the Book Nook filled.

Beth Rahe



The deadline for the November Lux is **Monday, Oct. 17.**

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!



OCTOBER 2022

1	9a-6p	Understanding Racism Workshop Day 2-Zoom	17	3:30p	Tight Knit-Fireside
	9:00a	Prayers & Squares Workshop	18	7:30a	Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*
2	10:00a	Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/Facebook		9-4p	ULC Office Open
	11:20a	Sunday Forum-Fireside/Zoom*		10:00a	Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall
		(RJT: White Christian Nationalism, Part 1)		12:30p	Lychnion Circle-Fireside
	4:00p	Sunday Funday-Fellowship, etc.		1:30p	Staff Meeting-Zoom
3	3:30p	Tight Knit-Fireside	19	8:00a	Mushers-IHOP, EL
4	7:30a	Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*		9a-4p	ULC Office Open
	9a-4p	ULC Office Open		9:30a	Amnos Circle-Fireside (Women of Bible)
	10:00a	Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall		Noon	Lectio Divina Bible Study -Zoom
	1:30p	Staff Meeting-Zoom		1:00p	Rhodon Circle-Fireside
	6:30p	Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary		4:15p	Worship Wednesday-Zoom*
5	8:00a	Mushers-IHOP, EL		6:30p	Confirmation-Fireside
	9a-4p	ULC Office Open		6:30p	ULC Council-Zoom*
	9:00a	Commun. Team (Calendar/Lux)-Zoom	20	9a-4p	ULC Office Open
	Noon	Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom		10:00a	ULC Book Club-Fireside/Zoom
	4:15p	Worship Wednesday-Zoom*		7:30p	Senior Choir-Zoom/Sanctuary
	4:30p	Lead Management-Zoom*	21	5:00p	Fridays at Five
	6:30p	Confirmation-Fireside	23	10:00a	Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/Facebook
6	9a-4p	ULC Office Open		11:20a	No Forum (New Member Reception)
	7:30p	Senior Choir-Zoom/Sanctuary		2:30p	Food Packing-Islamic Center of EL
7	5:00p	Fridays at Five	24	3:30p	Tight Knit-Fireside
8	TBA	Football Parking (MSU v. OSU)		7:30p	Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary
9	10:00a	Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/Facebook	25	7:30a	Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*
	11:20a	Sunday Forum-Fireside/Zoom*		9-4p	ULC Office Open
		(Difficult Words of Jesus, "Hate Father and Mother")		10:00a	Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall
10	3:30p	Tight Knit-Fireside		1:30p	Staff Meeting-Zoom
11	7:30a	Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*		7:00p	Pub Theology-Zoom*
	9-4p	ULC Office Open		7:00p	Families Against Narcotics (FAN)-Fellowship
	10:00a	Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall	26	8:00a	Mushers-IHOP, EL
	6:30p	Racial Justice Team-Zoom		9-4p	ULC Office Open
12	8:00a	Mushers-IHOP, EL		Noon	Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom*
	9a-4p	ULC Office Open		4:15p	Worship Wednesday-Zoom*
	Noon	Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom*	27	9-4p	ULC Office Open
	4:15p	Worship Wednesday-Zoom*		3:30p	Food Movers Distribution-Drive thru
13	9a-4p	ULC Office Open		7:30p	Senior Choir-Zoom/Sanctuary
	9:30a	Brunch Bunch-EL IHOP	28	5:00p	Fridays at Five
	7:30p	Senior Choir-Zoom/Sanctuary	29	11:00a	LeRoy Olson Memorial-Sanctuary
14	5:00p	Fridays at Five	30	10:00a	Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/Facebook
15	TBA	Football Parking (MSU v. Wisc.)		11:20a	Sunday Forum-Fireside/Zoom*
16	10:00a	Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/Facebook			(Difficult Words of Jesus, "Slave of All")
	11:20a	Sunday Forum-Fireside/Zoom*		3:00p	Trunk or Treat-Parking Lot
		(RJT: White Christian Nationalism, Part 2)			

* Zoom link contacts: Choir - Janine Smith; Tuesday Study - Jim Kiefer; Pub Theology – Pastor Gary; Lectio Divina - Britny; Worship Wednesday for Kids – Pastor Haley Vay; Council Meeting – Joy Oslund; Sunday Forum – Weekly email/Facebook live comments



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Haley Vay Beaman
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Director of Worship & the Arts

Britny Pollard
Office Administrator

Gary Carl
Financial Administrator

Mary Letvenow
Event Coordinator

Kristie Wiggert
Organist

John Dale Smith
Pianist

Louise Paquette
Director of Handbells

FOOTBALL PARKING

Football Parking is available on a first come first serve basis 2.5 hours before an MSU Home Football Game!

Your donation will support Youth Ministry and Music Scholarship Programs at ULC!

October/November Games
Saturday, Oct. 8 time TBD (\$30)
Saturday, Oct. 15 time TBD (\$30)
Saturday, Nov. 12 time TBD (\$30)
Saturday, Nov. 19 time TBD (\$30)