

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

Mark Your Calendars . . .

Dinner & Stories From our Palestinian Neighbors

Friday, May 17
6:15 – 8:15 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Food Movers

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

Pub Theology

Tuesday, May 28
7 p.m. Harry's Pub
404 N. Verlinden Ave, Lansing

New Members Class

Saturday, June 1
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Fireside Room



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Senior Choir Scholarship Concert

A full array of talent was on display at the Senior Choir Scholarship Fund Benefit Concert on Apr. 21. The Senior Choir, Scholarship Quartet, New Hope Singers, and Handbell Quartet gave stunning performances for all in attendance. The Senior Choir started the concert strongly with “Somebody’s Knocking at Your Door.” Toward the middle of the concert, it was difficult for the audience not to sing along to “I Can Only Imagine” as performed by New Hope Singers. It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that there was hardly a dry eye in the sanctuary. Our special instrumentalists, Pastor Zach and Brianna Green, added flare to an enjoyable evening.



The Scholarship Quartet, Nick, Divira, Katrina, and Ryan during the Apr. 21 benefit concert.

Passion flowed from the voices of each of the scholarship soloists and reverberated off the walls of the sanctuary.

Continued on page 9.



Strawberry Breakfast

Saturday, May 18th
10:00 a.m.
ULC Fellowship Hall

A 'long past' ULC favorite has returned - the Strawberry 🍓 Breakfast!

Not only will fresh homemade bagels be on the menu, but we will also learn how to make them.

Sign up in the narthex.

Free-will donation

Questions?
Contact
Ann Booren

ELCA Lutheranism 101

What does it mean to be an ELCA Lutheran?

Core ELCA Lutheran Beliefs

- **Justification by grace through faith in Jesus**

- Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast.”
- This means that we are saved (we are given salvation) by simply having faith (by trusting) in God's promise given to us in Jesus. This promise is summed up wonderfully in John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”



- **Law and Gospel**

- This is a way to view the Bible and preaching.
 - Law = Written as a command as to how we should live, also used as a mirror to reveal our sinfulness to us; the law always accuses us because we are sinners
 - Gospel = Our salvation does not hinge upon following the law. The law says: “do this” and it is never done. Grace says, “trust in Jesus and his love,” because Jesus has already saved you (yes, you).

- **Means of Grace**

- Grace, here, refers to experiencing God's love and forgiveness (unmerited/unearned kindness). As ELCA Lutherans we experience God's grace in three ways during worship: when the gospel (see above) is preached, during baptism, and when we receive Holy Communion. These are tangible ways that we hear, see, experience, and even taste God's love and forgiveness (God's grace).

- **Theology of the Cross**

- Theology = How we understand God, the study of the nature of God
- Martin Luther's theology of the cross is, as you guessed, centered on the cross. The Theology of the cross was created in opposition to the Theology of glory, which is centered on an understanding that God's desire is to be glorified by humanity doing good works. Think of it this way, the theology of glory is focused on climbing a ladder to God, a ladder that is climbed by glorifying God, and in turn, glorifying ourselves. However, the theology of the cross claims that God can only be found in

the suffering of the cross. A quote from Luther's Heidelberg Disputation states “It is impossible for a person not to be puffed up by [one's] 'good works' unless [one] has first been deflated and destroyed by suffering and evil until [one] knows that [they] are worthless and that [one's] works are not [one's own] but God's.” The key to the theology of the cross is that God doesn't require you to climb your way up the ladder of works (for this is impossible) but rather God came down to be with you, to suffer with you, and to love you, which has been demonstrated on the cross. God comes to us first (and always), we do not work our way up to be with God.

- **Saint and Sinner**

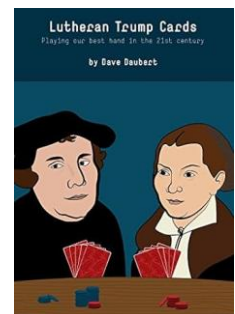
- ELCA Lutherans believe that we are simultaneously saint and sinner. A saint is someone who obeys God's will and builds loving relationships. A sinner is someone who disobeys God will and destroys relationship (sin). As ELCA Lutherans, we recognize these two things existing at the same time. We are sinners because sin remains a powerful influence in our lives and in

Continued on page 3.

Lutheranism 101 and New Members Class

Pastor Emily and Pastor Zachariah are hosting a Lutheranism 101 and New Members Class, open to anyone interested, on Saturday, June 1, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Participants are invited to read *Lutheran Trump Cards: Playing our best hand in the 21st Century* by Dave Daubert. This short book lists core theological convictions of Lutheranism. The church has purchased several copies, which you may buy (\$10) or borrow.



Celebrating Grads!



On Sunday, April 21 the Prayers & Squares quilt ministry wrapped Grace Kennedy, student associate and Divira Pahwa, scholarship singer in quilts to celebrate their MSU graduations.

Looking Back



In February, as part of their theme Empathy for Creation, students visited a Hindu Temple. "We were in awe of the similarities between our own faith and the faiths of people who practice the Hindu faith."

Lutheranism 101 continued from page 2.

the world, causing us to turn from God and harm others. But we are saints because our righteousness depends on God's grace and forgiveness, not on our own religious behavior. (Jesus makes us saints.)

- **Vocation**

- Vocation = Calling; the talents and gifts that you have been given are to be used for the sake of loving God and serving others – whether that takes the form of farming/ranching, working in an office, playing sports, being together as family, social justice work, being a student, etc. Your vocation may change throughout your life, but your call to love God and others will always remain.
- Luther taught that all human work is a calling from God if done in faith and for the service of our neighbors. ***God doesn't need our good works, but people do.*** Christian faith,

then, should express itself in how we live in our professions, in our family relationships, and as citizens, since these are all areas where we can serve our neighbors.

- **Other fun facts:**

- ELCA Lutherans believe in the triune nature of God (the Trinity) – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – one God, in three persons.
- ELCA Lutherans confess the Apostles Creed, Nicene Creed, and Athanasian Creed. (These creeds define a Christian understanding of God.)
- ELCA Lutherans understand the Bible to be the written witness to God's revelation of saving action through Jesus Christ. This is often referred to as the "inspired Word of God" (not the inerrant Word of God).
- ELCA Lutherans celebrate and recognize two Sacraments

– Baptism and Holy Communion. A sacrament is something Jesus teaches us to do, is a method for us to experience God's forgiveness and love, and has a tangible, physical element involved (water, wine, bread).

- ELCA Lutherans believe in the real presence of Jesus in Holy Communion. Each communicant not only receives the bread and wine but also the body and blood of Jesus. (We do not believe that the bread becomes Jesus body or the wine becomes Jesus' blood, but that Jesus promises to be present.)
- ELCA Lutherans believe that people, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, may become pastors, and that pastors may marry.
- There are other types of Lutherans who interpret Scripture differently.

Pastor Emily and Pastor Zach

From the President

We Would Like Your Input!

University Lutheran Church: Congregational Visioning

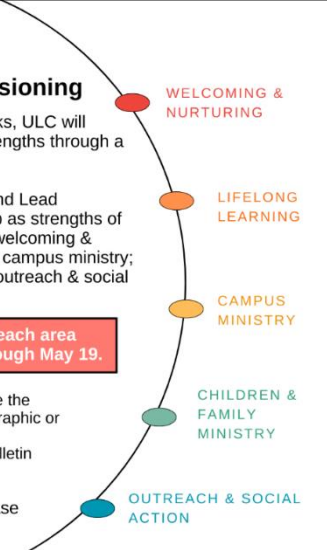
Over the next several weeks, ULC will explore our values and strengths through a visioning process.

The values ULC Council and Lead Management have lifted up as strengths of our congregation include: welcoming & nurturing; lifelong learning; campus ministry; children & family ministry; outreach & social action.

We will explore each area during worship through May 19.

We want your input! To take the survey on-line, click on this graphic or visit <https://forms.gle/aYspH6qcF9vudyD78> or fill out bulletin inserts during worship.

If you have questions, please see Pastor Emily, Pastor Zach, or Jeff Guilfoyle.



- WELCOMING & NURTURING
- LIFELONG LEARNING
- CAMPUS MINISTRY
- CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY
- OUTREACH & SOCIAL ACTION

The ULC Council and Lead Management Team are looking for your input. At our retreats we discussed some of ULC's core values. These include being welcoming and nurturing, life-long learning, campus ministry, children and family ministry, and social action.

Over the next several weeks we are seeking your input on how we can better live these values as a church. Please share your thoughts on what it would look like if we did an excellent job living up to these values. What should we be doing more of? What should we do less of? You will have several ways to submit your thoughts.

You can answer on a bulletin insert or respond to an electronic survey. Help us figure out how we'd like to change, what should stay the same, and how we can all work together to make ULC more vibrant. Thank you for sharing your thoughts!

Jeff Guilfoyle, ULC President

Racial Justice Team

Stories From Our Palestinian Neighbors

As Christians, it is important for us to see and respond to the injustices that surround us. In his February 2019 blog, "Learning to Look, Listen and Lament," Peter Ong wrote:

Throughout the gospels, Christ is constantly being interrupted by those who are seeking healing. His response to these seekers is

to stop. He hears them, and He sees them. He is full of compassion for them—and in that, He moves toward them.

That is what lament does. It is an entering in as we see and hear and move toward someone who is hurting. The practice of lament is not simply a theological issue but is an issue of love. We don't lament because we don't love. However, God laments because He loves and sees us in the midst of the injustice, oppression, and evil we commit against one another.

Please join us on **Friday May 17, 6:15 - 8:15 p.m.** in the ULC Fellowship Hall (downstairs) as we are gifted with first-hand accounts regarding the crisis in Palestine.

The invited speakers and suggested topics include:

Waseem El-Raves - is an Associate Professor of Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy at James Madison College, MSU. Professor Waseem has lost members of his family and extended family in Gaza and he will share his personal impact story.



Saba Saed - is a student and activist at MSU and is originally from the West Bank. She will talk about the impact of Israel's attacks with a focus on women and children.

Sadi Rayvan - is a Project Director at the State of Michigan and is from the West Bank and will talk about how his wife was

not granted residency nor his sons earn birthright citizenship despite being born in the West Bank!

Jennifer Goett is an Associate Professor of Comparative Cultures and Politics at James Madison College, MSU. Jennifer has been actively advocating with MSU administration about the cause, and she will talk about tangible actions we can take to seek justice for the suffering Palestinians.

A light dinner, catered by Sparty's, will begin at 6:15 p.m. Please make reservations for dinner by Monday, May 13. You can find the sign up sheet in the Gathering Area at ULC or online at www.wejoinin.com/sheets/dqeah. Please reach out to one of us for more information or to volunteer to help with the event. Let us love our neighbors by seeing and hearing them and moving toward them in their hurt.

Vicki Anderson & Pastor Emily

Continuing the Palestine Conversation

May 5 – Opportunity Palestine is a Zoom presentation by Georgette Hazboun, former Principal of the Evangelical Lutheran School in Beit Sahour, West Bank, Palestine and LDA Deaconess Adrainne Gray, who served as Communications Director for four years at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). She will present a brief history of the conflict that began before October 7, 2023, and how it impacted her life and her people over the decades.



May 19 - Yael Aronoff, Ph.D is a Professor of Political Science/ International Relations at James Madison College at MSU. She is also the Director of the Michael and Elaine Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel and is the Serling Chair of Israel Studies at MSU. She is interested in research and teaching regarding Israeli politics, cultures, and society, as well as foreign policy. Dr. Aronoff will continue our learning about the history of the conflict in Israel/Palestine.

May 26 – Memorial Day Weekend – No Forum

May 12 – Mother’s Day – No Forum



ULC Memorial Library

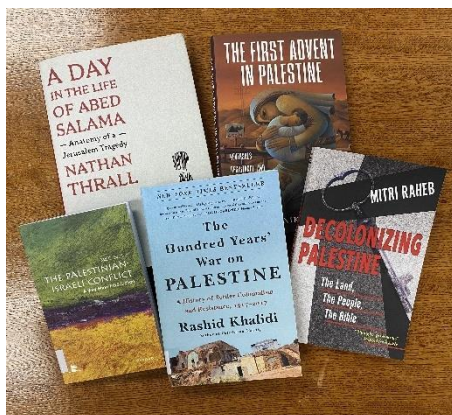
Learning More About the Palestine-Israel Conflict

The ULC Library Team has purchased a few books to supplement the Racial Justice and Social Action Teams study of the Palestinian – Israeli War. These books are available on the table in the library to checkout. A short description of each book follows.

Blood Brothers: The Dramatic Story of a Palestinian Christian Working for Peace in Israel by Elias Chacour (956.9). The author blends his riveting life story with historical research to reveal a little-known side of the Arab-Israeli conflict, exploring whether bitter enemies can ever be reconciled.

Day in the Life of Abed Salama: Anatomy of a Jerusalem Tragedy by Nathan Thrall. (956.05). Immersive and gripping, an intimate story of a deadly accident outside Jerusalem that unravels a tangle of lives, loves, enmities, and histories over the course of one revealing, heartbreaking day.

Decolonizing Palestine: The Land, The People, The Bible by Mitri Raheb (261.7). *Decolonizing*



New books in the ULC Memorial Library.

Palestine challenges the weaponization of biblical texts to support the current settler-colonial state of Israel.

First Advent in Palestine: Reversals, Resistance, and the Ongoing Complexity of Hope by Kelley Nikondeha (242.332). Throughout her explorations, Nikondeha features the stories of modern-day Palestinians, centering their voices to help us meet an Advent recognizable for today.

Hundred Years' War on Palestine: A History of Settler Colonialism and Resistance, 1917-2017 by Rashid

Khalidi (956.9). A landmark history of one hundred years of war waged against the Palestinians from the foremost US historian of the Middle East, told through pivotal events and family history.

Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: A Very Short Introduction by Martin Bunton (956.9). Adopting a fresh and original approach, Bunton explores the Palestinian-Israeli dispute in twenty-year segments, to highlight the historical complexity of the conflict throughout successive decades.

Shortest History of Israel and Palestine: From Zionism to Intifadas and the Struggle for Peace by Michael Scott-Baumann (956.04). This book is an indispensable history, including a timeline, glossary, and analysis of why efforts to restore peace have continually failed and what it will take to succeed.

Visit the ULC Library anytime. It is open when the church is open.

The Library Team

We're Going to New Orleans!



The ELCA National Youth Gathering is held every three years in which all 8th-12 grade youth in the ELCA are invited to gather together for worship, service, learning, and fellowship. The theme this year is “Created to Be,” exploring how God has

created us to be brave, authentic, free, disruptive, and disciples. There are mass gathering worship services each evening, where 20,000 plus youth gather together to worship and learn. Each day has a particular focus: Interactive Learning day, Accompaniment day, and Synod day. Interactive learning day involves spending time in a conference center with many different learning and activity opportunities. Accompaniment day focuses on the local community by engaging in service or learning opportunities with locals. Synod day focuses on making connections with other Lutherans in and around your own local area.

We will be taking eight students and four chaperones to the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer in New Orleans, LA. We will be doing some fundraising events at ULC, both to raise money as well as to make connections between our youth and our congregation. Please keep your eyes out for this opportunity!

Pastor Zach

VBS on Pause This Summer

We will be taking the summer to re-imagine youth and family ministry at ULC. This means that we will not have a VBS program this year, as we do not have enough time to implement, advertise, and gather volunteers for this summer. Please let me know if you are interested in helping with, or have a child to attend VBS in 2025!

Pastor Zach

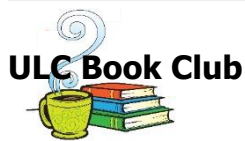
Let's Go Camping!

Faith based summer camps are a blessing and have a huge impact for children and their life with God. I attended a few camps as a child and worked as a camp counselor for a few summers. I would like to make this opportunity known, as well as to highlight that we have funds available for opportunities like this. It would be great if it worked for some of our children to attend. It would be even better if there was a week that worked for our congregation to go together!

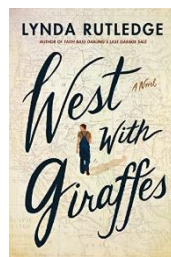
Visit their website (www.elcalivingwater.com/campprograms) to see a full-size schedule and to learn more. The camp offers full price, half price, and no price options (so money isn't a barrier).

2024 SUMMER SCHEDULE	DISCOVERERS	DISCOVERERS	CHALLENGERS	CHALLENGERS	CLC	BUSINESS	ADULTS	ADULTS	ADULTS	ADULTS	ADULTS
Week 1 - June 16-21, 2024 Sunday in Prayer	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Week 2 - June 23-28, 2024 Sunday in Prayer	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Week 3 - July 1-5, 2024 Sunday in Prayer	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Week 4 - July 7-12, 2024 Sunday in Prayer	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Week 5 - July 13-20, 2024 Sunday in Prayer	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Week 6 - July 22-27, 2024 Sunday in Prayer	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Week 7 - July 29 - Aug. 3, 2024 Sunday in Prayer	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Week 8 - August 5-9, 2024 Sunday in Prayer	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Pastor Zach



The ULC Book Club will meet for the final time this academic year, on Thursday, May 16 at 10 a.m. We will discuss *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. This book is based on true events that occurred in 1938. It follows the twelve-day journey of two giraffes as they are driven across the United States in a custom-made truck to the San Diego Zoo.



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

We depend on email to keep those wishing to attend informed of any changes in meeting time or location as well as the books

we choose for our discussions. If you would like to join us, please contact Beth Rahe bwojan1@gmail.com or Mary Kotnik mkotnik@comcast.net so we can add you to our email list.

Beth Rahe and Mary Kotnik

Looking ahead: ULC Book Club will resume meeting Thursday, Sept. 19, when we will discuss *James* by Percival Everett.

Donate Your Eclipse Glasses

In the tapestry of celestial events, few moments capture the imagination quite like a solar eclipse. It serves as a reminder to us of the grandeur and beauty of the universe crafted by the hands of our Creator. The solar eclipse presented a unique opportunity for community and fellowship. As the Moon momentarily obscured the Sun, the eruption of cheers, whoops, and hollers made me think that we can still connect with one another on a deeper level as we marvel at the wonders of Creation side by side. In a world often marked by division, coming together under the vast expanse of the sky reminds us of our

common humanity and interconnectedness.

I hope you had a chance to safely view last month's solar eclipse. Now, you may be asking, "what do I do with my leftover eclipse glasses? Do I hold on to them for Michigan's total solar eclipse in 2099?" You could save them until then or you can donate them.

Astronomers Without Borders, whose goal is to bring the world together to share their passion of

astronomy, are accepting glasses to distribute for the next solar eclipse.

Since 2008, they have been sending glasses for annular and total solar eclipses in Africa, Asia, North and South America to assist those who need them for outreach and educational programs.



Photo credited to Bruce Callen

If you would like to donate your glasses to Astronomers Without Borders, please send them to their Michigan collection partner at Physics Department, Albion College, 611 E Porter St, Albion, MI 49224.

Brandon DuBois-Jones

May Outreach of the Month Food Packing with the Islamic Center

Give a Little to Make a Big Impact

"You'd be surprised at how far we can stretch a dollar." This statement appears on the [Kids Coalition Against Hunger](#) (KCAH) website. For 35 cents, and with our labor, KCAH can provide a highly nutritious meal that is acceptable to the broad diversity of ethnic tastes and religious differences around the world.

Beginning in 2015, ULC has partnered with our friends at the Islamic Center to host Food Packing events. Volunteers from our communities raise funds to purchase dehydrated food materials that are measured and sealed in shelf stable packets. Each event packs a minimum of 10,000 meals which are then distributed – one-third stay local (typically, we donate them to the MSU Student Food Bank), one-third are used internationally, and one-third are stored for use in response to domestic crises.

We are invited to participate in the Food Packing event this fall. It is planned for Sunday, Oct. 13 and will be hosted this year by the Islamic Center (located next door



Food Packing at the Islamic Center
Oct. 2022.

to ULC). So, please mark your calendars and plan to join us (this is a bye week for MSU football). More details will be available in the fall.

We also need your help now. It costs \$3,500 to sponsor the event (10,000 meals x \$0.35/meal). Our ULC share is one-half, or \$1,750. Below are some amounts that you might consider donating toward this event:
\$3.50 buys a food packet (10 meals per packet)
\$35 buys 100 meals
\$50 sponsors one volunteer

\$200 sponsors a family of volunteers (kids as young as kindergarten age can volunteer!)

To donate, you can write a check to University Lutheran Church or you can donate electronically at the ULC website www.ulcel.org via PayPal or a credit card. Please include "Food Packing" in the memo/notes. We are grateful for this congregation's continued support of this event that brings our two communities together to feed hungry people.

Vicki Anderson



You're Invited to Join us on Tuesday Mornings!

Prayers & Squares has been collecting used sewing machines, having them repaired, and then given to Lansing Area refugees. We would appreciate your help by contributing to the \$45 reconditioning service fee for each machine. This month three sergers and one sewing machine were sent to St. Vincent's Catholic Charities, the organization tasked with refugee resettlement in our area. These machines are being requested regularly. If you would like to donate a portable sewing machine, please contact us. These tools allow people to make clothing and household items for their new home here in America.



A service fee of \$45 is needed to make machines usable for refugee families.

student of Janine Novenske Smith, has been singing this year with our choir. Congratulations to all these graduates!

Join us Saturday, June 8th in the Fellowship Hall as we make baby quilts for the Baby Closet at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Era, Mich. We have a fun new pattern and kits waiting. If you would like to bring your own sewing machine, that would free up our machines for folks who need to use ours.

Lunch will be provided. Look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex soon.

Several members of the Michigan Chapter of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association will be awarded Quilts of Valor at their meeting on May 21st. All members flew helicopters or were associates who supported helicopter operations or other Vietnam veterans.

A dedicated group continues to meet on Tuesday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. to make prayer quilts and bed size quilts for the refugees. Please consider joining us in person or come to the sewing room in the classroom wing downstairs to pick up a kit to make a quilt top at home.

On Sunday, Apr. 21st, MSU graduating quilts were awarded to Student Associate Grace Kennedy and Choir Scholarship Student Divira Pahwa in thanksgiving for their service to our congregation. In addition, five graduating high school seniors will receive their quilts this Spring: Caleb Fisher, Vicki Freeman, Connor Hagman, Ava Jolin, and Haley Phillips. Haley, a vocal

Do you know of someone who needs our prayers with a Prayer Quilt or a Quilt of Valor? Please contact the pastors, Mandy in the church office, Bobbie Davis (bobbieanddavis80@gmail.com) or Ann Booren (boorena@msu.edu).

Bobbie Davis

Creating Healthy Closure

Friday, June 7 is the last day of the 2023-2024 school year in the Lansing School District. Mentors from ULC will meet with their students for the last time the week before. Kids Hope USA encourages mentors to use closure activities and discussion to prepare students for this transition from school to summer. For some, change is an exciting time with something new. For others, it is dreaded with a lack of routine and safety of the familiar.

Elise Zuber, Director of Outreach at Winning at Home, Inc. has shared with Kids Hope USA six ways to create healthy closure for students.

These ways could apply to any child going through any kind of transition.

1. **Model a healthy transition** by creating a safe place to express feelings about what will happen at the end of the school year.
2. **Ask open-ended questions** and listen to their fears and concerns.
3. **Engage with empathy** by showing the number of days before the transition. Use a countdown calendar.
4. **Look back** at how the year started and any changes that can be seen in the student.



5. **Encourage continued growth** with highlights from the year of accomplishments and opportunities to continue to develop them.
6. **Stay true to intentions** and do not promise anything that cannot be delivered.

It is a gift to navigate closure and transition with a student. It can be a source of support and joy as a student looks forward to the end of school and the beginning of summer.

*Barbara Kissling,
ULC Kids Hope USA Director*

Outdoor Summer Concert Series

Join us again this summer for ice cream, popcorn, and outstanding musical entertainment!



The concert series will begin in July and will conclude with Three Men & a Tenor on August 18th.

Stay tuned for more information!

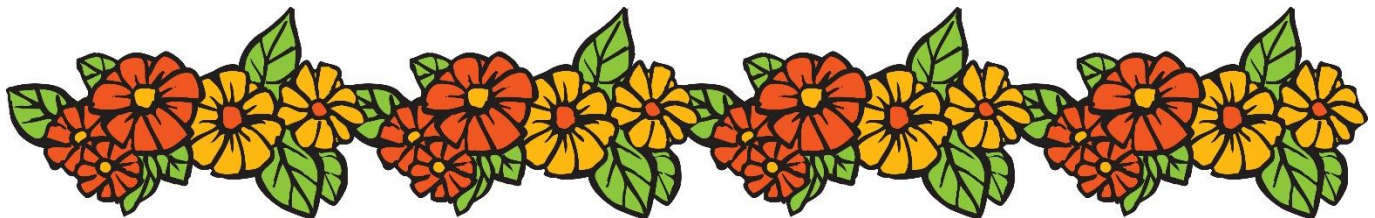


The concert series is made possible thru funding by the ULC Endowment Committee

Palm Sunday



Palm Sunday Procession, March 24.



Scholarship Concert continued from page 1.

Whether it was Katrina Brown singing the sorrowful “Se Florindo e Fedele,” or Nick Perkins belting out a soulful “My Last Abode (Aufenthalt),” or Ryan Jordan opening our hearts with a tender version of “Thy Word,” or Divira Pahwa gracing us with a beautiful “Le Colibri,” each singer allowed emotion to pour from every word and body movement, leaving the audience clinging onto each crescendo and decrescendo, hoping the performance wouldn’t end.

As the concert reached its own crescendo, we were given the bittersweet news that Divira, our scholarship Soprano, will be leaving ULC to work on her master’s degree through Johns Hopkins. Although ULC will be saddened



ULC Senior Choir

by losing such a masterful singer, we know that she will bring joy to others through her talent and dedication.

The concert could end no other way than with a standing ovation for the talented voices who brightened our evening. A special thanks to the hard work of Janine Novenske Smith, John Dale Smith, Louise Paquette, and Kristie Wiggert, without whom such a concert would not be

possible. Their own hard work, dedication, and talent were the glue that helped make the Senior Choir Scholarship Fund Benefit Concert a success.

Jay Dubois-Jones

ULC Council met in person (with Zoom option) on Tuesday, Apr. 16. Here are highlights from the discussion:

- ULC is looking into a liability waiver for people who drive for Food Movers



- Discussion of financial document retention length. Council agreed with Finance Committee's recommendation to shred supporting financial documents after seven years.

Emily Uebel
Council Secretary

The Greater Church

A First of its Kind Education for Indigenous Leaders

Centuries after colonial models of education were first forced on Indigenous people in North America, their effects are still keenly felt. Western theological education has remained the default methodology within the church, including the ELCA. This fall, Native leaders from across the ELCA, in partnership with leaders from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS) of California Lutheran University in Berkeley, are seeking to change that with the launch of the Theological Education for Indigenous Leaders (TEIL) program.

“The TEIL program is a historic and first-of-its-kind opportunity for Indigenous leaders and for our church,” said Vance Blackfox,



The inaugural cohort of PLT Seminary's Theological Education for Indigenous Leaders. Photo courtesy of PLTS.

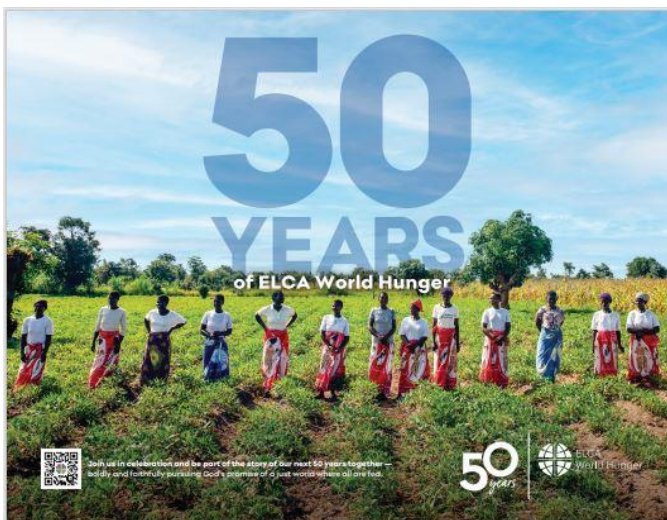
ELCA director of Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations. “It gives students an opportunity to access education and leadership development—and possibly become ordained—so that they might be even more effective leaders in their communities and congregations.”

In many seminary courses, the gospel is read through a Western lens, said

Penumaka. The TEIL program offers students “an education that can empower and enlighten them, that’s not enforced upon them,” he said.

Blackfox has a personal understanding of the model’s importance. “There has never been a time in my own studies where the class was made up of 100 percent Native students, from early childhood until graduate-level seminary classes,” he said. “So, for the students in TEIL to have that opportunity is unique and will be, I believe, invaluable to the ways they learn and what they learn.”

By John Potter, from the Jan. 9, 2024 edition of *Living Lutheran*. Click [here](#) to read the full article.



More than 820 million people - that’s about 11 percent of people in our world today - are hungry. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond, and we have done so for 50 years! We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

ULC Endowment Committee

Request for 2024 Endowment Grant Proposals

ULC is blessed with an Endowment Program. There are two funds. The General Endowment Fund is intended to support efforts at ULC, in our community, and the world. The Campus Ministry Fund is dedicated to campus ministry efforts.

Each year, four percent of the value of the fund balance from the previous calendar year as of Dec. 31 is available for distribution, with the stipulation that the principle can't be invaded, unless approved by a congregational vote.

We have approved a \$5,000 grant for the Outdoor Summer Concert Series, and \$4,000 for the Campus Ministry Spring Break trip to the Smokey mountains.

Any member of the ULC congregation can submit a grant proposal. All proposals must be submitted by Sept. 30, 2024.



The Spring Break 2024 trip was made possible by an endowment grant.

Over the years, some of the grants for use at ULC have supported our music programs, technology, solar panels, and the memorial garden.

Community programs such as racial justice development, solar panels for other organizations, prison reform, and a ramp for a child have received grants.

International outreach has included Health for Life programs in Honduras, a library in Namibia, computers for Venezuelan refugee students in Colombia, and a wood stove for winter worship in a Latvian church.

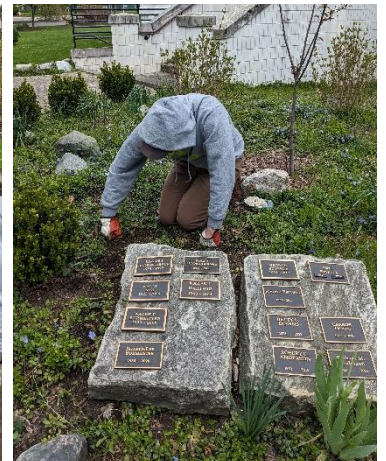
If you have an idea for a service project or need in the local or worldwide community, you can apply for a grant through this wonderful resource made possible by the generous gifts of others.

You can find applications for the grants under "Resources" at www.ulcel.org, or contact members of the Endowment committee at ulcendowment@ulc.org.

Mary Werkman



Spring Work Day



Saturday, April 20, in spite of the cold, snowy spring weather, several hardy souls spread 20 yards of mulch, trimmed bushes and pulled weeds. Thank you to all involved; the grounds look beautiful!

Birthdays

- 1 Janine Novenske Smith
- Lily Green
- Asher Greiter
- 2 Christine Harder
- Barry Williams
- David Williams
- 3 Robert Lasley
- Jan Becker
- 4 Ian Brown
- Bobbie Davis
- 5 Alex Williams
- 7 Emma Tracy
- 11 Maggie Foley
- 16 Jack Guevara



- 16 Janice Mutka
- Steve Sneed
- 17 Darlene Romsos
- Sophie Shipman
- Rich Tracy
- 18 Laura Saucedo
- 19 Amanda Brown
- 20 Sal Bubolz
- 21 Hannah Hagman

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

Anniversaries

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

ULC Archives

Vintage ULC Directories Available

Do you enjoy looking at old pictures? Is it fun for you to see pictures of your family from years past? Now is your chance since we recently found a box of old photo directories in the archives.

We already have several copies of each directory saved and do not need anymore. Rather than discarding the



directories, we thought we would share with the congregation. They are displayed on the shelf in the narthex. You are welcome to look at these and take any directories home that you would like to. Enjoy.

Connie Lenkowski

The Greater Church

Synod Assembly 2024

Jesus names us “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world,” and compares the kingdom of heaven or reign of God to “leaven” (Matthew 5:13–16; 13:33).

At the 2024 Synod Assembly, the North/West Lower Michigan Synod will celebrate ways our congregations are “salt of the earth,”

“light of the world,” and “leaven” of the kingdom in ways large and small as we prayerfully participate in Jesus’s own work of reconciling the world to God’s very self.

The 2024 Synod Assembly will be held virtually via Zoom on May 11, 2024. Due to its virtual



nature, this year’s Synod Assembly will be primarily business focused. Therefore, only voting members will be able to register for and participate in the Zoom meeting. All non-voting members and visitors are invited to watch the Synod Assembly via livestream on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).

Newsletter SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for the Summer (June-Aug.) Lux is **Friday, May 17.**

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



- | | | | | | |
|----|--------|---|----|--------|--|
| 1 | 8:00a | Mushers-IHOP, EL | 16 | 10:00p | ULC Book Club-Fireside |
| | 9:30a | Lux/Communications-Zoom | | 7:00p | Senior Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary |
| | Noon | Lectio-Zoom* | 17 | 6:15p | Dinner with/Stories From Our Palestinian Neighbors |
| | 4:30p | Lead Management-Zoom | 18 | 10:00p | Strawberry Breakfast-Fellowship |
| | 5:00p | Worship Wednesday-Zoom | 19 | 10:00a | Sunday Worship (Pentecost)-Sanctuary/FB |
| 2 | 7:00p | Senior Choir-Sweat home | | 11:30a | Sunday Forum-Fireside (Yael Aronoff) |
| 5 | 10:00a | Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/FB | | 5:00p | High School Youth Group-Youth Room |
| | 11:30a | Sunday Forum-Fireside (Opportunity Palestine) | 20 | 4:00p | Tight Knit-Booren home |
| | 5:00p | High School Youth Group-Youth Room | 21 | 7:30a | Tues. AM Bible Study-Zoom* |
| 6 | 4:00 | Tight Knit-Fireside | | 10:00a | Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall |
| 7 | 7:30a | Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom* | | 12:30p | Lychnion Circle-Fireside |
| | 10:00a | Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall | | 1:30p | Staff Meeting |
| | 1:30p | Staff Meeting | | 2:45p | Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom* |
| | 2:45p | Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom* | | 6:30p | ULC Council-Conference/Zoom |
| 8 | 8:00a | Mushers-IHOP, EL | 22 | 8:00a | Mushers-IHOP, EL |
| | Noon | Lectio-Zoom* | | 9:45a | Amnos Bible Study Circle-#508 Burcham Hills |
| 9 | 9:30a | Brunch Bunch-IHOP, EL | | Noon | Lectio-Zoom* |
| | 7:00p | Senior Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary | 23 | 3:30p | Food Movers Distribution-Drive thru |
| 11 | | Synod Assembly | 24 | 1:00p | Fourth Friday Friends-Delhi Café, Holt |
| 12 | 10:00a | Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/FB | 26 | 10:00a | Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/FB |
| 13 | 4:00p | Tight Knit-Fireside | 27 | | Memorial Day |
| 14 | 7:30a | Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom* | 28 | 10:00a | Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall |
| | 10:00a | Prayers & Squares-Fellowship | | 1:30p | Staff Meeting |
| | 1:30p | Staff Meeting | | 2:45p | Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom* |
| | 2:45p | Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom* | | 7:00p | Families Against Narcotics (FAN)-Fellowship |
| | 6:30p | Racial Justice Team Caucus-Zoom | | 7:00p | Pub Theology-Harry's Pub, Lansing |
| 15 | 8:00a | Mushers-IHOP, EL | 29 | 8:00a | Mushers-IHOP, EL |
| | Noon | Lectio-Zoom* | | Noon | Lectio-Zoom* |
| | 1:00p | Rhodon Bible Study Circle-Conference | | | |



ULC Office Hours

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

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

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



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Zachariah Shipman

Associate Pastor

Janine Novenske Smith

Director of Worship & the Arts

Mandy O'Neil

Office Administrator

Gary Carl

Financial Administrator

Mary Letvenow

Event Coordinator

Kristie Wiggert

Organist

John Dale Smith

Pianist

Louise Paquette

Director of Handbells

Accessibility Team

Did You Know . . .



- Did you know that people can be affected by things not necessarily visible? Depression, anxiety, guilty feelings, feeling judged, insecurity can all impact how people participate in group activities.
- Did you know that some people do not react well to sudden changes in volume or light and may have an overactive startle reflex? Planning activities which have moderate changes when possible can help.

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