



LUX

April 2024

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

Mark Your Calendars . . .

Altar Guild Open House

Sunday, April 7
following worship

Sunday Funday

April 14
4:30 p.m.

Food Movers

Thursday, April 18
3:30 p.m.
Drive-thru Distribution

Worship Expression

All Good Gifts
Sunday, April 28

Pub Theology

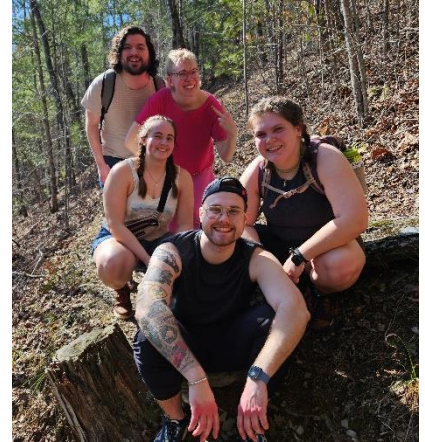
Tuesday, April 30 - 7 p.m.
Harrison Roadhouse
720 E Michigan Ave, East Lansing

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Spring Break in Knoxville

Greetings friends of ULC! This year my fellow Student Associates (SAs), Sofie Piotrowski and Lena Osborne, and I were excited to choose Knoxville, Tennessee as our destination for ULC's Campus Ministry group, One Community Alternative spring break. Our themes this year have been focused on the pursuit and cultivation of empathy for ourselves with a primary focus on LGBTQ+ identity and allyship, others/interfaith and spiritual identities, and the environment/creation (the scriptural passages of Romans 8:38-39 and Isaiah 25:4 greatly led us in the development of our themes).



(Front to back) Simon, Sofie, Lena, Grace and Noah take a photo break during a spring break

As a future social worker, it has always been important to me to enter into and assist in the creation of spaces where everyone, regardless of identity or religious background (or other intersectional identities), feels welcome, loved, and appreciated. This view is shared and celebrated by our leadership team. Continued on page 3.



All are welcome to join us for the

SENIOR CHOIR SCHOLARSHIP FUND BENEFIT CONCERT

APRIL 21 AT 4:00 P.M.

Featuring the Scholarship Quartet, Senior Choir, Handbell Ensemble, and New Hope Singers

Reception to follow Free will offering

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
1020 S. HARRISON ROAD EAST LANSING, MI 48823

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

ELCA Lutheranism 101: How did we get here? History and Salvation

University Lutheran Church is part of the larger church body called the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are Christians (Christians = those who believe in God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and that Jesus is the Son of God who offers salvation to the world). However, there are many different types of Christians. These types are often referred to as “denominations.” Some of these may be familiar to you: Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Episcopalian, Pentecostal, etc. There are over 45,000 different Christian denominations in the world, which is a staggering amount.

These denominations have come into being for various reasons: languages spoken, different interpretations of the Bible, different styles of worship, different focuses for what is most important, etc. Since there is such a wide variety of denominations that fit under this umbrella “Christian,” we felt it might be good to do a series of articles about what it means to be part of the ELCA. We will be putting together some classes about this very topic as well, both for new members as well as any who would like to attend. To let us know you are interested, please email Pr. Emily or Pr. Zachariah (pastoremilyshipman@gmail.com or pastor.zshipman@gmail.com).

It would be helpful to begin with a bit of history. When Jesus was alive, he had 12 disciples who followed him around most everywhere. These he taught more intensely than others, preparing them to continue Jesus’s ministry after his death and resurrection. They were given the



title “apostles,” which comes from the ancient Greek word “apostol” meaning messenger. The book of Acts in the Bible (full title: “The Acts of the Apostles”) tells about the early church, how it began, their struggles, and how the good news of Jesus spread to various places. Jesus was killed, and the

lives of his followers were threatened as well. The early Christians (followers of Christ) were persecuted by many different groups. They usually met in homes and often in secret. This persecution continued until around 313 when Constantine, the emperor of the Roman Empire, became a Christian and made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire. This was the beginning of the denomination we now know as the Roman Catholic Church (Roman = began in the Roman Empire; Catholic = universal).

Christians at this point had more freedom within the Roman Empire to practice their faith. It was during this time that “creeds” became more known. The Apostle’s Creed was used as a means to state what Christians believed about God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As Christianity became the religion of the Roman Empire, it became more known as a statement of belief. In 325, Emperor Constantine called for a gathering of church leadership to discuss different views about Jesus and to come to consensus as to what was truly “Christian.” That council is now known as the Council of Nicea from which we have the Nicene Creed which addresses some of these controversies.

In 1054 came the first major break in Christianity called the Great Schism. This was when the Eastern Orthodox church split from the Roman Catholic church due to religious disagreements and political conflicts. In 1517, due to much corruption in the Roman Catholic church, misuse of Biblical texts (or outright ignoring them), there was an event called the Protestant Reformation. There were many religious leaders who “protested” (hence “protestant denominations”) against the Roman Catholic church’s interpretation of Scripture and practices. It is from this point in history that we have many different denominations splintering into existence.

Martin Luther was a large figure in this event (where we get the name Lutheran). Martin Luther was a Roman Catholic monk and eventually a priest and teacher. Luther struggled with his own sinfulness and pestered his colleagues endlessly with his confessions. He was taught that his salvation was in his own hands at the confessional: *if* he confessed specific sins *then* he would be forgiven those sins. If he left some out, then he was condemned to hell. Luther found freedom from this teaching in his own personal reading of the Bible, especially Ephesians 2:8-9. This reads, “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 scripture radically changed Luther’s thinking about salvation and the Roman Catholic church’s teaching at the time, and it still bears impact in Lutheran churches today. We are not saved by our own works, this is impossible.

Continued on page 3.

Spring Break continued from page 1.

With our trip to Knoxville, we needed to choose to work with and interact with an organization that exists to serve others in an equitable way that shares power and acknowledges the trauma of the infliction of past actions towards marginalized communities (such as the importance of land acknowledgments). Working with and at Harmony Family Center of Montvale Springs ensured and validated our perspectives toward service as a Christian group in 21st-century America.

For context, Harmony Family Center, is a non-profit in the Knoxville area that mainly works to provide services to foster parents, coordinates adoptions of foster children, and runs multiple therapeutic camps and retreats (one of my favorites being their “Rainbow Camps” that are noted as being “designed to meet the social, emotional, and psychoeducational needs of LGBTQ+ identified children, youth, and their families” (Therapeutic Campus, Harmony website).

Reflecting on our trip, I can truly say that it was a time that I will remember with great fondness. We spent the majority of our time together connecting and listening to the lived experiences of each other through nightly



A group selfie, including Pastor Zach in the back.

devotions led by Pastor Zach, amusing card games, volunteering, and adventuring in God’s great and expansive creation. We met and fostered relationships with several kind people along our week-long journey like Keith Bailey, who helped us navigate fun low-rope team-energizing challenges. Dakota Theobald taught us how to use power tools to build fun obstacle course structures for the kids

in the various programs to utilize during equine therapy with horses and make meals of soup galore for foster care families and families with newly adopted kids. Some of our favorite memories as a group consisted of hiking in the Smoky Mountains, being on the lookout for black bears (only seeing mostly deer and one coyote), visiting The Lost Sea deep underground (clear water and a moment of peace with absolute darkness), and getting to explore the biggest used-bookstore I have ever seen.

All in all, I am grateful, ever so much, to y’all, the congregation, for supporting us and to God for bringing us all together for such a fun and restorative trip.

*With love and gratitude,
Grace Kennedy*



Lutheranism 101 continued from page 2.

We are saved only through God’s grace (God’s unmerited/unearned kindness). God chooses to love us and chooses to be kind to us. God chooses to save us: *God* saves us, not our own works. We receive this grace simply by trusting in God’s grace (faith = trust). This is where we find a foundational understanding of the

ELCA: we are saved by God’s grace through faith (trust).

God has already accomplished your salvation. Jesus has done everything that needs doing to save your life for eternity. We are simply invited to trust in God’s love for us, to trust that God’s teachings for our lives are

good, and to do our best to live as God has taught us. Your salvation isn’t your responsibility. It is already done. Your responsibility is to love God, to love other people, and to tell others this good news: we are saved by God’s grace through faith (trust).

Pastor Emily & Pastor Zachariah

Family Faith Formation



The Children's Choir singing during worship on Sunday, March 3.

WORSHIP WEDNESDAY
[Virtual Faith Formation for Kids]

No Worship Wednesday Apr. 3.

CRAFTS FRIENDS
BIBLE STORIES
MUSIC

Continues through May 1.
Wednesdays from 5:00 to 5:45 pm ET

Sunday Funday

April 14 at ULC
4:30-6:00 pm

Families with children/youth of all ages and abilities are welcome to join us!

MUSIC - CRAFTS - DINNER - STORYTIME

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP
APRIL 7 & 21, FROM 5-7 PM
DINNER, GAMES, BIBLE STUDY
WORSHIP, & FELLOWSHIP

Music Notes

Worship Expressions
All Good Gifts

A time to celebrate our many blessings from God, nature, one another, music, and dance

Sunday, April 28 - 10 a.m. ET

Featuring the ULC Children's and Senior Choirs, vocalists: Kelly Mahoney Schafka, Divira Pahwa, and Travis Williams, and liturgical dance.

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	CHALLENGERS	CHALLENGERS	CHALLENGERS	CHALLENGERS	CHALLENGERS	CHALLENGERS	CHALLENGERS	CHALLENGERS
Week 1 - June 16-21, 2024 Sunday to Friday	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Week 2 - June 23-28, 2024 Saturday to Thursday	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Week 3 - July 1-5, 2024 Friday to Monday	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Week 4 - July 7-12, 2024 Tuesday to Friday	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Week 5 - July 13-20, 2024 Saturday to Thursday	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Week 6 - July 22-27, 2024 Friday to Saturday	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Week 7 - July 29 - Aug. 3, 2024 Monday to Saturday	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Week 8 - August 5-9, 2024 Wednesday to Friday	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Pastor Zach

Gaza and Native Plants Complete Full April Schedule

On Friday, May 17, the ULC Racial Justice and Social Action Teams are coordinating a listening and discussion session with our neighbors at the Islamic Center about the crisis in Gaza (See more information on page 8). Several forum presentations this Spring (two this month) will provide information to help us with these discussions.

The Earthkeeping Team will also provide several spring presentations - one this month. See article on page 6.

Each forum presentation will begin shortly after worship ends. Grab a cup of coffee and a snack and head over to



the Fireplace Room or join in via Zoom (provided in the Friday Announcements.)

April 7 – The Voice of Palestinian Christian Partners.

April 14 – This is a Catastrophe – the Nakba in 1948, now and in between.

April 21 – “Using Native Plants to Provide Resilience and Balance in Local Ecosystems and in Our Own Backyards.” Emma Campbell, Land Stewardship Coordinator for Meridian Township.

Linda & Bill Trevarthen



ULC Memorial Library

Changes to *Living Lutheran* Magazine

Living Lutheran magazine printed its final issue in December 2023.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton said, “The Churchwide Organization will not stop telling stories of this church when the printing of the magazine ends.” She explained that throughout 2023, *Living Lutheran* transitioned to a full online storytelling engine featuring new ways of reaching people, providing a more economical and far-reaching approach for us to engage with a broader audience. You will find videos, audio stories, podcasts, live

events, and more. There is also a robust social media presence and more opportunities for user-generated content with the potential for greater engagement with Lutherans and non-Lutherans alike.



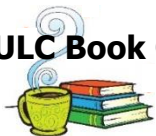
Bishop Eaton said, “By focusing on creating more online content and new channels for distribution, we will have more flexibility and options for how we tell the stories of this church. Storytelling will still be

at the core of this work.” This new *Living Lutheran* is a free magazine and is always available at www.livinglutheran.org.

You can sign-up for *Living Lutheran*'s e-digest, an email that highlights the top five most read stories. This is a free service, and you can select to receive it weekly, biweekly, or monthly. You also choose the topics that are of most interest to you. To subscribe go to www.livinglutheran.org/subscribe/.

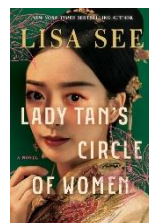
Connie Lenkowski

ULC Book Club



Lady Tan's Circle of Women

The ULC Book Club will meet on Thursday, Apr. 18, at 10 a.m. We will discuss *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See. Set in 15th century Ming Dynasty and based on a true story, this book follows the life of Tan Yunxian. Despite learning the four pillars of Chinese medicine (looking, listening, touching and asking) from her grandmother, Yunxian is expected to fulfill the traditional role of wife and mother. However, with the support of other women, she is able to resist convention and go on to remarkable success in the treatment of the illnesses of women and girls. ULC Book Club meets the third Thursday of the month. We offer three ways to participate. You can join us in



person at ULC in the Fireside room, join us via ZOOM or we can send you a recording of the discussion.

We depend on email to keep those wishing to attend informed of any changes in meeting time or location as well as the books we choose for our discussions. If you would like to join us, please reach out to Beth Rahe at bwojan1@gmail.com or Mary Kotnik at mkotnik@comcast.net so we can add you to our email list.

Beth Rahe and Mary Kotnik

Looking ahead: Our May book is *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge

Be Green, Please Recycle!

I'm old enough to remember the classic phrase, "Be kind, please rewind," but just as rewinding a tape was a considerate act for the next person, recycling is a thoughtful action for the Earth and future generations. As you gear up for spring cleaning, add a green twist this year. Instead of just tossing out stuff, recycle what you can to show love for one another and care for God's Creation.

Greater Lansing's largest one-day Recycling Event is happening on April 20, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ingham County Health Department at 5303 S. Cedar Street in Lansing. They are accepting items such as Styrofoam, lightbulbs, medications, books, fabrics, appliances, and more. If you have any questions on what items they accept, check out



Click [here](#) to see the complete flyer.

<http://www.RecycleRama.org>. Let's rewind our habits and make recycling a part of our routine to make our homes—and our world—a cleaner, greener place!

Also, this month, please join the Earth-keeping Team after service on Apr. 21 in the Fireside Room for a forum titled "Using Native Plants to Provide Resilience and Balance in Local Ecosystems and in Our Own Backyards." Our presenter will be Emma Campbell, the Land Stewardship Coordinator for Meridian Township. She graduated from MSU with a B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife with a concentration in Wildlife Biology and Management. She has worked as an environmental educator and in native plant restoration.

Brandon DuBois-Jones

April Outreach of the Month Michigan Refugee Hope

A crisis was brewing in 2017 regarding unaccompanied minor refugee children who had arrived in the United States. A number of the children were being cared for by the nonprofit Samaritas here in Michigan, but their processing and documentation needed in order to remain in the U.S. had significantly slowed. Many children were reaching their 18th birthday before attaining status to remain in the US. The Samaritas contracts with the US government limited their ability to help these children once they turned 18. At that point, Samaritas reached out to their contacts in the Lansing and Jackson areas. A number of church groups came together to form Michigan Refugee Hope in order to help these post-18 refugee youth.

Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos converted their former parsonage to a post-18 home for refugee boys. The post-18 home provides housing, food, medical care, high school and

post-high school educational support, mentoring, and tutoring for the residents. Michigan Refugee Hope supports Faith Lutheran by funding costs associated with these activities as well as utilities and maintenance of the post-18 house.

There are currently six young men at the house. The young men come from countries around the world including Afghanistan, Sudan, Mauritania, and several Central American countries. They are enrolled at Okemos High School to obtain high school degrees. These young men face major challenges here. Put yourself in their shoes and imagine being in a country where English is not your native language, where the system is unlike any you have experienced, where the food is foreign, where social systems are strange, where you are on your own,

and all this after you experienced trauma fleeing your home country. Michigan Refugee Hope strives to help these young men and give them some hope for the future.



You can help by volunteering to mentor and tutor these young men or by making a donation. You may write a check to University Lutheran Church or donate electronically at the

ULC website (www.ulcel.org) via PayPal or a credit card. Please include "Michigan Refugee Hope" in the memo/notes.

It brings great joy to see these young men succeed and make progress in their lives. If this work inspires you, please consider serving as a board member of Michigan Refugee Hope.

Bryan Rahe, Social Action Team



Linen Collection Continues

Thank you for your continued support and donations! St. Vincent's Catholic Charities is the Lansing area coordinating service for refugee resettlement. They have been advised that more than 500 refugees will be coming this year. As a result, they are seeking donations of household items to prepare apartments for their living spaces. Prayers and Squares is collecting sheets, pillows, blankets, bedspreads, and towels. Your new items, or "gently" used and "freshly laundered" items can be placed in the marked bins near the elevator. If you have large items, such as tables and chairs, please call them for a pick-up at your home. Thank you for your



Representatives from St. Vincent's Catholic Charities picked up several boxes and bags of household donations collected at ULC.

donations to help welcome the refugees.

A dedicated group continues to meet on Tuesday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10 a.m. until 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.

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

The Intrapersonal Benefits of Mentoring

In a mentoring relationship, mentors have the unique opportunity to demonstrate skills on a personal level and teach students how they should view themselves. Intrapersonal skills involve your inward communication with yourself and the way you face obstacles in life.

Self-confidence is an important intrapersonal skill to possess as it helps your work and your behavior toward that work improve. Trusting yourself and your abilities is not always an easy skill to have, but having a mentor can support you in this area.

Resilience is another skill that students can work on in a mentoring relationship. Mentoring creates a space for mentors to help their students solve problems and continue to grow. This is what resilience is all about, getting back up and overcoming obstacles. Through playing games or working on academics with their mentor's encouragement to keep at it, students gain follow-through skills to help them successfully finish assignments, read books and much more!

Mentoring also benefits students by encouraging them to better control their emotions. **Controlling emotions** can be difficult for many students, and they may need extra time to develop this skill. Mentoring allows them to

spend that extra time working on their overall behavior and control of emotions.

Self-confidence, resilience, and emotional control are important intrapersonal skills that students are shown during a Kids Hope USA mentoring relationship, and they are reinforced each week throughout the year.



*Barbara Kissling
ULC Kids Hope USA Director*

Accessibility Team

Did You Know . . .

- That flowers and scented candles can cause allergic reactions and headaches? Using flowers with less aroma and pollen can help.
- That some people are antsy and have problems sitting for periods of time or concentrating? Using "fidget" tools 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.

Opportunity to Better Understand the Crisis in Gaza

There's a crisis in Gaza! What is happening? How did we get here? What is to be done about it?

These questions weighed on the Racial Justice Team. We wanted to learn more and wondered how we could continue to build relationships and support our neighbors next door at the Islamic Center, so we invited Imam Sohail Chaudry to share his perspectives and thoughts on how we might thoughtfully move forward.

Imam Sohail suggested that we engage in listening and discussion. He recalled how our two communities have taken a dinner and discussion approach several times over the years.

We are working on plans to meet with members of the Islamic Center on Friday, May 17. We hope to provide a dinner followed by an opportunity to hear from members of the Islamic Center with strong connections to Palestine and then participate in round table discussions. We will provide more information once the details have been decided.

In the meantime, the ULC Racial Justice and Social Action Teams invite you to a series of Forums that will



explore the current situation in Gaza, a historical perspective, and the church's response. Please join us on the following dates in the Fireside Room soon after the Sunday morning worship has ended:

April 7 – The Voice of Palestinian Christian Partners

April 14 – This is a Catastrophe – the Nakba in 1948, now and in-between

Two follow-up forums will be held after the May 17 gathering with the Islamic Center.

Our neighbors sharing their stories with us is a real gift, as we will have the opportunity to hear first-hand the impacts of this crisis. To be good neighbors in return we must be prepared to receive these gifts with open hearts. If you don't know much about the context of the current crisis, please consider attending the Forum on these dates. We will learn together and be ready to enter a dialogue with our Muslim neighbors on May 17.

*Vicki Anderson and Bryan Rahe
Racial Justice & Social Action Teams*

A Trip to Montgomery

Vicki and I went on a road trip to Montgomery Alabama last month.

The reason for this trip was to visit the Legacy Museum. The Legacy Museum is a well-organized presentation of the History of African Americans who came to the "New" world as slaves from Africa.



The Museum is laid out to tell the story of this History. One of the early presentations is the work of an artist named Kwame Akoto Bamfo, who created hundreds of African people's heads which make a profound impression on the people walking through the displays. Another

meaningful experience I had was hearing and seeing a woman in a locked cell, singing, "I wish I had never been born." The most provoking memory of the experience was seeing the 800 jars of soil, collected by loved ones where people had been lynched. This soil came not only from all over the South, but also from Minnesota and here in Michigan.

The other part of the story is told by the historical significance of Montgomery itself. Montgomery was the first capital of the Confederacy in the Civil War. It is also one of the places where the Civil Rights

Movement of the 1950's and 1960's began. We visited two other sites - one where Rosa Parks began the bus boycott and the other a museum telling the account of the Freedom Riders.

The Legacy Museum opened in 2018 and is part of the Equal Justice Initiative, founded by Bryan Stevenson, author of *Just Mercy*. Bryan Stevenson has said that every person in the U.S. should visit the Legacy Museum. Personally, I totally agree with that statement. Let us all go again.

Michael Anderson

Note: *Just Mercy* (353.4) is available in the ULC Library.

ULC Council met in person (with Zoom option) on Tuesday, March 19. Here are some highlights from the discussion:

- Overall, the ULC budget is running a net positive and there has been (and will be more) movement on the action items recommended in the financial procedures review.



Council Notes

- Framed pastor photos that used to be located in the conference room will be placed in the ULC archives.

- Council is reviewing vacancies on various teams/committees and will be looking at policies and procedures of the church to see what updates may need to be made.

Emily Uebel
Council Secretary

Financial Review by Maner Costerisan

University Lutheran Church contracted with Maner Costerisan in November 2023 to conduct an extensive external review of our

financials for Jan. 1, 2022 through Sept. 30, 2023. As part of this audit, Maner

Costerisan reviewed our financial policies and procedures, our budget, and other pertinent financial documentation. They also evaluated the finance department's organizational chart and job descriptions to ensure there was appropriate oversight and separation of duties to limit the risk of fraud.

Lastly, they tested a sample of our financial documents and procedures to ensure complete and accurate reporting and record keeping. This allowed Maner Costerisan to develop



a report with a list of recommendations to further strengthen our financial processes and reduce our risk. These

recommendations will be considered in order of risk level and feasibility, along with a schedule for Council and Finance Committee to review and implement.

We are pleased to share that, while they did not test everything, Maner Costerisan did not find or suspect any fraud at ULC. While there are good processes already in place, Maner Costerisan did share a handful of additional best practices that could be implemented to further strengthen our financial accounting, none of which are uncommon for churches. These recommendations will take time to implement, but Council and Finance Committee are

looking forward to ongoing conversations about making these changes over the next year.

A few of the recommendations include updating our accounting software and moving to electronic funds transfer (EFT) (or other more secure payments than checks), further segregating duties to strengthen internal controls and spread the burden of work, formalizing processes within the finance committee, and better documenting all transactions coming and going from the church.

A copy of the full report is available for viewing in the church office. For additional questions or concerns, please reach out to me at louiseharder81@gmail.com.

Louise Montag, ULC Treasurer

How to Update Your Contact Info in the Online Directory

Please assist the pastors in getting to know our congregation by making sure you have both a family photo and individual family member photos posted in our secure online directory. If you have not yet downloaded the online directory to your phone or computer, contact Mandy O'Neill in the ULC office to get set up.

If you already know how to access the directory, please go to your "family" page where you will be able to click on "edit family info." (The directory default is the "Family Profile.")

Add or change: your photo, address, phone, email. Also add children's names, if needed.



When you're through updating the Family Profile page, scroll down to the bottom and click on each of the individual family members' names, including yourself.

Review/edit or add to those pages (or that page) just like you did for the Family page.

Remember: when you want to contact a particular individual, you usually need to click on that INDIVIDUAL'S page (rather than the Family Profile Page) to find their cell/email info.

If you have questions about how to use the Online Directory, feel free to check with Mandy O'Neil in the ULC office or me.

Linda Trevarthen

From the President

Core Values

The ULC Council and the Lead Management Team have been working on setting priorities for the year. We met for half a day in February and will be meeting for half a day in March. At the February meeting we discussed our values as a congregation as well as our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

I thought this month I would share some of the values we discussed, because it is a good reminder of some of the things I love about ULC.

Welcoming - A sense of welcome, belonging, and openness was probably the top value identified. ULC is seen as a safe space. We love our neighbors, both literally with the Islamic Center and more metaphorically.

Life-long Learners - ULC is full of life-long-learners and this life-long learning helps fuel our mission.

Campus Ministry - Campus Ministry has been and continues to be an inherent part of ULC's identity.

Family-Oriented - ULC is family-oriented, and congregation led.

Outreach and Social Action - ULC has an outreach and social action focus whether through Food Movers, Campus Ministry, use of the building, or any of the many other efforts of the Church.

Midwestern Feel - ULC was described as having "a Midwestern feel with moderate updating to evolve and reflect our culture—we are willing to try new things." This was a value that we felt but had a hard time articulating. I think you will know what we mean.

Of course, many other important ULC values were discussed too, including music, the desire to do things well, transparency, sustainability, and being good stewards.

This is a great set of values. It is a solid core that we can build upon for our worship, fellowship, and ministry. Reflecting on these values made me appreciate ULC and all of you.

Jeff Guilfoyle
ULC President



Helping to Shape ULC's Future

Church Council and Lead Management met at ULC on March 16 to follow up on the retreat discussion in February. During this gathering, we delved into discussions regarding our goals for the upcoming year, aligning them closely with the following values: welcoming & nurturing, lifelong learning, campus ministry, family-oriented & children's ministry, and outreach & social action. Each of these pillars forms the foundation of our vision for the year: to foster intentional connection.

However, we need your help in determining what we want to focus

on and/or expand upon this year. Your perspectives and ideas are vital as we strive to make meaningful



progress together. To facilitate this, we will be setting up a convenient way for you to share your thoughts through Google Forms.

Additionally, we'll be welcoming feedback during our Sunday services between Apr. 21 and May 19 (at times this may occur in place of the sermon). For those wanting to complete the survey now, the link is <https://forms.gle/aYspH6qcF9vudyD78>.

For each of the value areas -- welcoming & nurturing, lifelong

learning, campus ministry, family-oriented & children's ministry, and outreach & social action -- the questions are:

1. Going forward, what would our value of ____ look like if ULC did it really well?
2. For ____, what would you like to see more of?
3. For ____, what would you like to see less of?
4. Other comments?

Your input will shape the direction of our collective efforts, ensuring that our mission and vision remain vibrant and impactful. Let's continue to journey together in faith and service.

Louise Montag
ULC Treasurer

Pastor Chrysy's Thoughts - Women's History Month

In the March 2024 Bishop's Letter to North/West Lower Michigan congregations, Rev. Chrysy Bright shares her thoughts on the importance of Women's History Month. Most of this article is shared below. Chrysy was a participant in Campus Ministry at ULC and served as Campus Minister in 2001. Interesting note, in 1971, Dena Cederquist was elected president of ULC, the first woman president of an American Lutheran Church.

Along with St. Patrick's Day, and the technical start of spring, March also brings us Women's History Month. I was lucky to have a very strong role model in my mother growing up. There was never a question that I could do whatever I wanted for a career; however, at least when I was younger, I don't think anyone would have guessed being a pastor was my vocational path. As luck would have it, Pastor Rich knew I had a call to ministry long before I did, and his response to my wondering out loud about ministry was a smile and a "It's about time you figured that out."

As I look back, it's funny that while I never had any female pastor role models, I never even considered that there were faith traditions where that

was not allowed. These days, I find it a bit shocking that even though women were the ones who first experienced the resurrection and were the first to preach the good news that Jesus is Risen, there are still so many faith traditions who seek to silence women in the church and various other parts of society.

Of course, as I grew older, I became more aware of the struggle of women in various vocations and how many of us still do not earn the same income as our male counterparts, not to mention the differing societal expectations and sometimes outright harassment that women face in their vocations (even and sometimes especially in the church). We've come a long way, but we still have a very long way to go!

As we celebrate Women's History Month, we look back at some pivotal moments both in our country and our church:

- Women were given the right to vote in a constitutional amendment passed by Congress on June 4, 1919. This amendment was ratified by 36 states on Aug. 18, 1920, and certified Aug. 26, 1920.
- In the Lutheran Church in America (predecessor of the ELCA), Elizabeth

Platz was the first ordained Lutheran woman in America. After graduating from Gettysburg Seminary, she worked as a lay minister at the University of Maryland-College Park for the five years prior to her ordination on Nov. 22, 1970.

- In the American Lutheran Church (another predecessor church of the ELCA) Barbara L. Andrews was ordained on Dec. 22, 1970.
- In our synod, we are getting closer to a 50-50 split in the number of active pastors and deacons. Of our pastors within the first three years of their first call, it's an even split.

Throughout the year, but especially this month, I encourage you to reflect on the ways you can support the women in your life. If you happen to know a woman in ministry, please let them know you appreciate them. Pray for them and their ministry. Support their ideas, seek their input, and echo what they say by name: "as Pastor/Deacon Jane Doe said..." As women in our world continue to fight for justice, equity, and inclusion, we give thanks for the women who have gone before us and pray for continued growth in our world.

The Rev. Chrysy Bright, Assistant to the Bishop & Director of Candidacy

Rt Rev Paulina Hławoczla-Trotman Consecrated as Bishop of the LCiGB

The Lutheran Church in Great Britain (LCiGB) announces the consecration of Rt Rev Paulina Hławiczka-Trotman as its new Bishop. The ceremony took place on Jan. 20, 2024, at 2 pm at St. Mary's in the Lace Market, Nottingham. She is 40 years old, originally from Southern Poland, and was elected by LCiGB Synod as the next Bishop in September 2023.

Bishop Paulina Hławiczka-Trotman shared her reflections on the upcoming ministry, expressing, "I believe we meet God in our biggest troubles and tribulations, that is why we



New Bishop of Lutheran Church in Great Britain.

are able to work on love and peace with all and everywhere, and this is what the world needs most now."

The LCiGB is a member of the Lutheran World Federation and a signatory of the Porvoo Agreement, which grants full communion between 15 Anglican and Lutheran churches in Europe. Through the Council of Lutheran Churches, the LCiGB is part of Churches Together in England and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

From March/April *Global Links* ELCA newsletter. Photos by Dariusz Bruncz.



Birthdays

- 3 Bill Frysinger
Gary Geisen
Betsy Prince
- 4 Loran Bieber
Erik Dawson-Baglien
- 8 Brenda Stoneburner
Bryan Rahe
- 9 Pam Bartlett

- 9 Annette Petersen
- 10 Kyle Saindon
- 12 Beth Hoger
- 13 Lianna Greiter
Marcy Wilmes
- 14 David Wiggert

- Karl Fritz
- 15 Maya Bubolz
- 18 Maddie Tracy
- 21 Betsy Booren
- 22 David Nussdorfer
- 23 Kellie Lasley
- 24 Joseph Anderson
- 25 Chad Waldron
- 27 Chris Frysinger
Elizabeth Reynolds

- 28 Paul Milligan
Bob Schikorra
- 30 Al Booren

Anniversaries

- 13 Lori & Jon Althouse
- 16 Pam & Paul Bartlett
- 29 Dale & Darlene Romsos
- 30 Jim & Jean Kocher

ULC Archives

The Birth of Faith Lutheran, Okemos

The April 1957 issue of *The University Lutheran* included an article titled *Faith Lutheran Church, Okemos*. Faith is a mission church begun by ULC. The ULC Timeline says, “1956 – Under supervision from College Lutheran Church and sponsorship of the ALC District Mission Committee, a mission church, Faith Lutheran Church, is incorporated for the Okemos Community.” The article follows. No author was listed.



Faith Lutheran Church is located on Dobie Road in Okemos.

the front of the parsonage. The roof of the church is beginning to take shape.

Pastor Hahn was confirmed in Salem Lutheran Church, Detroit, is married, has served in the US Marine Corps, and is graduating from Capital University Theological Seminary in June.

Faith Lutheran Church, Okemos

Word has come to us that the Reverend William Hahn has accepted the call to become pastor of the Okemos mission, currently supervised from University Lutheran

Church. Construction is proceeding on the expected schedule, and it is hoped to have all facilities complete for church services when he arrives on or before July 1.

All masonry on the church itself is now complete and bricklayers have addressed themselves to completing

An added note: The parsonage at Faith is now home to youth who have come to Michigan through Samaritas and Michigan Refugee Hope, ULC’s Outreach of the Month for April.

Connie Lenkowski

Many thanks for the prayer quilt and many blessings for my surgery. All went well and I’m home. Now the hard work starts with recovery. It’s comforting to have such a supportive community at ULC.

Mike Sweat



The deadline for the May Lux is **Friday, April 19.**

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!

April

1	4:00p Tight Knit-Fireside		2:45p Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom*
	6:00p Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary		6:30p ULC Council-Conference/Zoom
2	7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*	17	8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL
	10:00a Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall		9:30a Amnos Bible Study Circle-Fireside
	1:30p Staff Meeting		Noon Lectio-Zoom*
	2:45p Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom*		1:00p Rhodon Bible Study Circle-Conference
3	8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL		5:00p Worship Wednesday
	9:30a Lux/Communications-Zoom	18	10:00p ULC Book Club-Fireside
	Noon Lectio-Zoom*		3:30p Food Movers Distribution-Drive thru
	4:30p Lead Management-Zoom		7:00p Senior Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary
	5:00p Children's Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary	19	5:00p Campus Ministry: Fridays@Five
5	5:00p Campus Ministry: Fridays@Five	21	10:00a Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/FB
7	10:00a Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/FB		11:30a Sunday Forum-Fireside (Using Native Plants)
	11:30a Sunday Forum-Fireside (The Voice of Palestinian Christian Partners)		4:00p Senior Choir Scholarship Concert-Sanctuary
	5:00p High School Youth Group-Youth Room	22	5:00p High School Youth Group-Youth Room
8	4:00 Tight Knit-Fireside		4:00p Tight Knit-Fireside
	6:00p Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary		6:00p Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary
9	7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*	23	7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*
	10:00a Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall		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*
10	8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL		7:00p Greater Lansing Arts Chorale Concert-Sanctuary
	Noon Lectio-Zoom*		7:00p Families Against Narcotics (FAN)-Fellowship
	5:00p Worship Wednesday-Zoom*	24	8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL
11	9:30a Brunch Bunch-IHOP, EL		Noon Lectio-Zoom*
	7:00p Senior Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary		5:00p Children's Choir Rehearsal
12	5:00p Campus Ministry: Fridays@Five	25	7:00p Senior Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary
14	10:00a Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/FB	26	1:00p Fourth Friday Friends-Delhi Café, Holt
	11:30a Sunday Forum-Fireside (This is a Catastrophe-the Nakba in 1948, Now, and In-between)		5:00p Campus Ministry: Fridays@Five
	4:30p Sunday Funday	28	10:00a Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/FB
15	4:00p Tight Knit-Fireside	29	4:00p Tight Knit-Fireside
	6:00p Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary		6:00p Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary
16	7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*	30	7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*
	10:00a Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall		10:00a Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall
	12:30p Lychnion Circle-Fireside		1:30p Staff Meeting
	1:30p Staff Meeting		2:45p Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom*
			7:00p Pub Theology-Harrison Roadhouse, EL



Altar Guild Open House

We need more volunteers to assist with set-up and clean-up of Holy Communion. Join us in the Sacristy (Room behind the large pulpit at the front of the sanctuary) after worship on Sunday, Apr. 7 to learn how you can help.

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



University Lutheran Church
One Community Lutheran Campus Ministry at MSU
1020 S. Harrison Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
517-332-2559 ulcsec@ulcel.org www.ulcel.org

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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



Connie and Vicki stand by some of the 49 beautifully hand-crafted items displayed in the sanctuary and blessed during the March 17 worship service. 19 prayer shawls are going to Heartland Hospice, Meridian Township, and Honduras Health for Life. The 30 lapghans will be going to the Regency Nursing Home in West Lansing.