

Mark Your Calendars . . .

Pub Theology

Tuesday, Jan. 5 at 7 p.m.
Zoom (call 332-2559 for link)

Food Movers

Thursday, Jan. 28 - 4:30 p.m.
Drive thru distribution



A Christmas to Remember!

It certainly was a Christmas to remember with children's choirs, Christmas plays, candlelight worship and much more done completely by live and recorded video. As a congregation we continue to discover new ways to build a sustainable church, including faith formation programs with children, families, and young adults together in this pivotal time. I give thanks to God for the flexibility and dedication of our entire worshipping community, many of whom endure long days and weeks of virtual learning, then graciously join our Zoom gatherings for Fridays@Five, virtual Sunday School, Confirmation learning events, Bible study, or to record video for upcoming events. I'm humbled and amazed each time we "get together" in ministry online, but I probably shouldn't be so surprised, since where there's a willing servant of the Lord (and an entire church full of them), then there's a way with God's help. May this Christmas and season of Epiphany bring hope to your household for a brighter new year!



Screen shot from Dec. 20, "Gather 'Round the Manger" by the ULC Children's Choir, directed by Janine Smith

Pastor Haley Vay

Inside . . .

Pastor's Pen: Baptism.....	2
Campus Ministry Notes	3
Family Faith Formation	4
ZoomForum ~ Library News	5
ULC Book Club ~ Kid's Hope.....	6
January Outreach ~ Outreach Thanks.....	7
Prayers & Squares	8
Racial Justice.....	9
Endowment ~ Election Results	10
A Zoom Christmas Photo Recap	11
Celebrations ~ ULC Archives.....	12
January Calendar	13
MLK Lutheran Connection.....	14

ULC Featured in *Living Lutheran*



ULC and their special relationship with our Muslim neighbors is featured in the December issue of *Living Lutheran* magazine. The article, "Gifts of Friendship – When a bond between Lutherans and Muslims transcends doctrine," by Sue Sprang shares the history between our congregations and highlights the recent Islamic Center gift to ULC that allowed for the installation of solar panels. Click [here](#) to read the full article or go to the ELCA website (www.elca.org) under "Living Lutheran," then "Current Issue (Dec.)."

Amy Wagenknecht

Baptism Changes Everything

Happy New Year! I hope and pray that 2021 will be a better year than 2020 and that we'll see the pandemic wind down and come to an end so that life can get back to normal.

On the second Sunday of January, the 10th, we will celebrate one of my favorite Sundays of the church year, the Baptism of Our Lord. It's a favorite Sunday for me because we invite the whole congregation to come forward to affirm their Baptism. It's so meaningful and powerful to look people in the eyes as I make the sign of the cross using water from the font, call them by name, and tell them, "Always remember that you are a beloved Child of God." That's our identity. Child of God. It's who we are, and no one can take that away from us.

You see, Baptism grounds our life and changes everything. Usually as Lutherans we think of Baptism as washing away sins, and while that's not wrong, it's far from the whole story. Over the years for me, the more significant understanding of Baptism has become that it is death and resurrection, dying and rising with Jesus. And once we've died, life is different! The opening prayer of our baptismal service says it well, "In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ..." We drown in the waters of Baptism. We die. But we are also raised up with Jesus to new life and given an identity.

One major reason we don't think of Baptism as dying and rising, is that often our baptismal fonts hold so little water that we can't image dying and rising. Fonts often look like bird baths and the only thing we can imagine is washing or

cleansing. The joke is that Lutheran Baptism has become "dry cleaning." But in the early church, after Baptism moved indoors from lakes and rivers, fonts were huge pools where one could be immersed, and the imagery of death by drowning and rising to new life was very vivid. Some fonts were even cruciform in shape where a person would walk into the font/water at the foot of the cross, symbolizing descending into death, be baptized by immersion where the two arms of the cross meet, and then walk up out of the water at the top of the cross rising to new life!

On the Baptism of our Lord, we will be dedicating our new baptismal font. The Jan Mace family (with Council approval) commissioned me to build the font as a memorial in memory of Olie Mace who died in October 2019. The font is made of quarter sawn red oak to match the architectural oak in the sanctuary and has walnut inlay on the edges. The walnut came from MSU's wood recovery program and is from the MSU campus. As many of you know, Jan and Olie have a deep love for MSU.

I designed the font with a large bowl so that it can hold a lot of water, and a clear bowl so that the water can be seen. It's large enough to immerse a baby if a family would ever want that. While it's not big enough for an adult immersion, it is easier to picture death by drowning and resurrection to new life. I should add that the amount of water

doesn't matter for the effectiveness of Baptism, but the amount of water does shape our theology and understanding of Baptism. The more water, the easier it is to imagine death and resurrection to new life.

I also like the font positioned in the center near the front of the sanctuary because Baptism is at the center of our lives and affects who we are and every aspect of our lives. Because the font is moveable though, it can also be placed near the entrance of the

sanctuary, symbolizing Baptism as entrance into the Church and life of faith. (The current baptismal bowl will be moved to the back of the sanctuary where it will have water in it on Sunday mornings, so that those who wish to, may touch the water and cross themselves as they enter for worship). When we are back worshipping in-person, you will notice that I like to lead the Confession from the font, symbolizing the connection between Baptism and forgiveness.

I look forward to using this gift from the Mace family when we can come together for worship again, and hope that it will help to shape and grow our understanding of the gift that God has given to us in Baptism. I also hope that it will be the vessel that extends the gifts and love of God to people for years to come.

Always remember that you are a beloved Child of God,

Pastor Gary



New baptismal font designed and built for ULC by Pastor Gary.

Joe Davis Recap

Each month we host a “First Friday Speaker Series” and this year our focus is Racial Justice. Our December speaker was national touring artist, educator, and speaker, Joe Davis. His work employs poetry, music, theater, and dance to shape culture, and he joined us in faithful conversation and prayer with students this month. Part of our conversation with Joe is posted to ULC’s YouTube channel. You may also remember Joe’s face from his feature role in ULC’s Worship Expressions: Poetic Voices of Justice as he did the rap part in “Glory” with Myles Jones.



We give thanks for the families and friends of ULC who continue making it possible for us to share soup, bread and brownies with campus ministry students and advisors, warming hearts and filling bellies with the love of Christ. Merry Christmas!

Fridays@Five Resumes Jan. 15

Merry Christmas and travel blessings to all of our students! Campus ministry gatherings will resume on Zoom in January. Please pray for our students as many return home from their off-campus apartments to spend the holidays with family. More of our students are planning to return to campus in January and will need our support as the pandemic continues.

Pronoun Awareness

As a primer for a campus ministry interview with students in the February issue of Lux, we encourage you to consider these questions regarding personal pronoun awareness:

Why are personal pronouns important to me?

What are some benefits to paying attention to personal pronouns?

What can I do if I’m unsure about someone’s preferred personal pronouns?

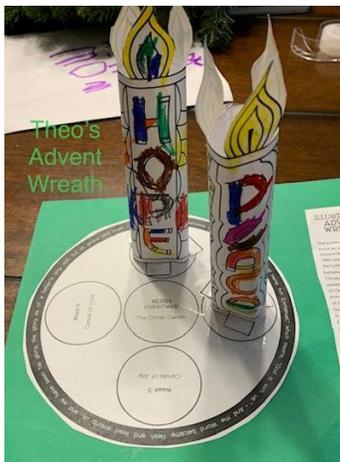
What are some helpful practices to become aware of preferred pronoun use?

Pastor Haley Vay

Soup Continues to Flow



Sunday School – Zoom Advent



Sunday school students and families celebrated Advent through Zoom and using materials provided in the Advent Boxes. These are some of the students and their completed projects.



Confirmation

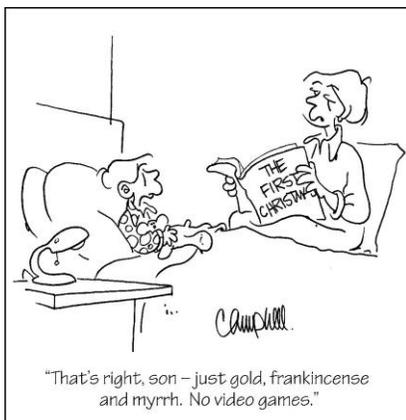
As shown on the right, we continue to meet virtually. Having received so much positive feedback from their Thanksgiving Cookie baking and delivery, students will be reprising this service event over the holidays. We have really enjoyed

connecting with and serving our ULC members in creative ways while staying at home to keep each other safe.

Pastor Haley Vay



Zoom Confirmation Class



Holy Humor



Zoom with Us After Worship

On Sundays, the hour following ULC's Facebook Live worship service is devoted to ZoomForum. Grab a cup of coffee and enter the Zoom link (provided in each weekly ULC Announcements Email) immediately after the service is over to enjoy a few minutes of informal conversation before the program begins! Forum starts at 11:10 a.m. and ends around noon.



organization with which several ULC members are involved. From their website: *The Davies Project [offers] community-based, non-medical support to local families facing serious, long-term health challenges with a child... [whereby] volunteer drivers provide rides to medical appointments [not only] for children with a serious health condition, [but also] to prenatal appointments for pregnant women and to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for parents with a hospitalized infant.*

Jan. 3: New Year's Coffee Hour – no speaker

Jan. 10: ULC Racial Justice Team: Part 3 of 4 – Responding to White Privilege – The ELCA, ULC and You

Jan. 17: (MLK Weekend) ULC Racial Justice Team: Part 4 of 4 – Guest speaker Judith Roberts, ELCA Program Director for Racial Justice. She will talk about the Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent. At the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2019, Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop and the ELCA Church Council formally delivered the introduction to, and a copy of, the Explanation of the Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent. This document was publicly accepted by Rev. Lamont Wells, President of the African Descent Lutheran Association in a short, powerful video of the event. Both the Declaration/Explanation and the acceptance video are well worth viewing in advance of this presentation.

Jan. 31: “Inside a Facebook Live ULC Worship Service” featuring a Q & A with the Worship and Production Teams, emceed by Bill and Linda Trevarthen.

A glimpse ahead: Throughout February and March we will travel the ancient world together through another highly reviewed DVD Study Series hosted by Pastor Gary Bunge entitled “Eclipsing Empire: Paul, Rome, and the Kingdom of God.” Part ancient travelogue, part Bible study, “preeminent New Testament scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan trace the Apostle Paul’s footsteps through the Roman Empire. This 12-episode study [of which we will view eight] explores fresh insights into Paul’s message of the Kingdom of God, its challenge to Roman imperial theology, and the apostle’s radical relevance for today. Filmed in High-Definition across Turkey, Greece, and Italy.”

Linda Trevarthen

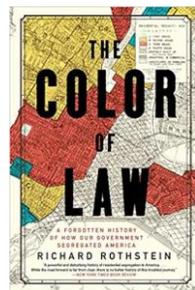
Jan. 24: Pamela Miklavcic – The Davies Project. We welcome Pamela back to talk about this amazing



ULC Memorial Library

One book in the Sharon Bandlow Racial Justice Collection that is particularly relevant now that we are focusing on education and the judicial system/policing is *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein. A New York Times Book Review says, “This powerful and disturbing history exposes how American governments deliberately imposed racial segregation on metropolitan areas nationwide.”

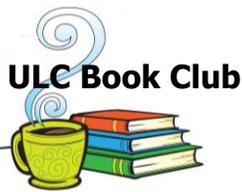
The description of the book on Amazon states, “In this groundbreaking history of the modern American metropolis, Richard Rothstein, a leading authority on housing policy, explodes the myth that America’s cities came to be racially divided through *de facto* segregation—that is, through individual prejudices, income differences, or the actions of private institutions like banks and real estate



agencies. Rather, *The Color of Law* incontrovertibly makes clear that it was *de jure* segregation—the laws and policy decisions passed by local, state, and federal governments—that actually promoted the discriminatory patterns that continue to this day.”

To check this book out contact me at 517-655-5939 or clenkowski@frontier.com.

Connie Lenkowski



ULC Book Club

We would like to say “thank you” to Judy Kindel for her many years as our ULC Book Club leader. You kept us on track and organized all while we laughed, visited and shared our love of books with each other.

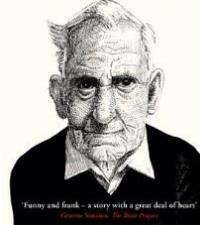
At our November Zoom meeting Judy handed over the reins to Beth Rahe bwojan1@gmail.com and Mary Kotnik mkotnik@comcast.net. In 2021 we will continue to meet the third Thursday of the month September through May. We do not meet during the month of December. We would love to see some new faces. Due to the uncertainty of

Thank You Judy!

meeting in person or via Zoom, please reach out to Beth or me so we can add you to our email list and keep you informed.

On Jan. 21 we will discuss **The Secret Diary of Hendrik Groen** by Hendrik Groen. According to the publisher, *Hendrik Groen may be old, but he is far from dead and isn't planning to be buried any time soon. Hendrik sets out to write an expose: a year in the life of his care home in Amsterdam, revealing all its ups and downs. The Secret*

THE INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER
The SECRET DIARY OF
HENDRIK GROEN,
83 1/4 Years Old



Diary of Hendrik Groen will not only delight older readers with its wit and relevance but will charm and inspire those who have years to go before their own expiry date.

In February we will discuss **The Giver of Stars** by Jojo Moyes and in March we will discuss **Miss Benson's Beetle** by Rachel Joyce. The books for April and May will be chosen at our March meeting. We hope you can join us!

Beth Rahe and Mary Kotnik

Superstar Mentors

January is National Mentoring Month and the ULC mentors at Forest View Elementary School deserve recognition. Prior to the pandemic, mentoring meant spending one hour a week with one student at the school. The goal of the Kids Hope USA ministry was to establish a relationship with the student, so they felt special and loved. This relationship resulted from conversation, games, puzzles, reading, assisting with academics, etc.



between mentor and a student at home does occur, then the mentor has the challenge of playing a game or doing a puzzle online. It's a much different experience than sitting next to a student at school.

Besides these challenges, mentors have expressed great concern for the welfare of the mentees and their families. The mentors have gone above and beyond mentoring to assist the families – even providing food or other help at times. These ULC superstars for Kids Hope USA are:

With the pandemic, mentoring has changed. Lansing school buildings are closed, and classes are online. As a result, there is online mentoring, pen pal mentoring or in some cases no mentoring. Parents of our students are very stressed with their children at home doing online classes, loss of employment, food insecurity, illness, etc.

Beth Rahe
Jerry Lindman
Cathy Lazar
Barbara Kissling
Cindy Ramsey
Dawn Newton

Sheila Nicholas
Gary Bunge
Thom McCurdy
Kay Meints
Mary Werkman
Bob Smith

Communication with some parents to set up mentoring has been very difficult. If a weekly 30-minute online time

*Barbara Kissling
ULC Kids Hope USA Director*



January Outreach of the Month

St. Luke Coat Collection

The January Outreach is the St. Luke Coat Collection. For 11 years, St. Luke Lutheran Church has distributed warm winter gear to infants through adults. To date 11,000 coats have been distributed.

Usually, the coat distribution ends in December, but due to Covid 19 restrictions, appointments are required to pick up items and only 250 coats have been distributed. As a result, St. Luke has extended distribution until after the first of the year, Jan 2021.

Winter gear donations are still being accepted at both St. Luke sites but please call ahead. Coats are distributed at the Christ Campus. Please call for an appointment.

St. Luke Lutheran Christ Campus
122 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing
517-482-2252



St. Luke Meridian Campus
5589 Van Atta Road, Haslett
Office Hours (both locations):
M-Th 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
F 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

If you have questions regarding this event, contact Kathryn Prost, Secretary, St. Luke Christ Campus 517-482-2252.

In addition to donating coats, you can donate money, which will be used to purchase coats. Please send your check to the church office or donate online and designate your contribution as “St. Luke - Coats.”

A special Thank-you to the Tight Knit group who helped keep our neighbors warm and safe by making and distributing hats at the Food Movers event!

Darra & Steve Haase



Thank You from June Outreach Recipient

Dear ULC,

Greetings! We are overwhelmed with your generosity! Thank you!

In June, ULC collected \$5,880 for our charity – huge for a small charity! Usually, we use donations to supply medical mission trips. However, due to Covid, they are all cancelled right now! But God has sent a lot of work our way.

On our last mission trip in February, we met a wonderful 26-year-old missionary who paddles around Peru in a canoe and ministers to the

Asháninka people. He speaks Spanish and several of the Asháninka dialects. He has Bible translations, in Asháninka, and prints them and distributes them. We are blessed to help him fund this work.

We have worked for more than 20 years, usually once a year, in Honduras. They have had hurricanes and Covid. We are sending \$500 to a well-known Honduran missionary and they are distributing food to the people. They also tell everyone the good news of Jesus!!!

We have also been finding a lot of people in the USA who need assistance. It is such a blessing to be able to bless them!

Our purpose is to tell people about Jesus. I learned about Jesus years ago in your Ann Street church. I love ULC and the people who attend there! May God bless you and your work!

Love,

Scott and Marcia (Johnson) Skelton
Medical Supplies for Christ, Inc.



Veterans Honored with Quilts Virtually

The Prayers and Squares quilters were busy sewing in-person at ULC for a couple of months this fall, before the last restrictions were set. During the last weeks we made 57 Christmas/Winter table mats, about 12"x12". These were sent to seniors and shut-ins in the congregation as a holiday surprise during these Covid times. We received many thank you notes, including the following:

“What a delightful surprise to find the Christmas mat in my mailbox today! During this strange pandemic time, when we are forced into

separation and the shape of our Christmas celebrations is unknown, this unexpected gift is especially appreciated.”

“Just received the gift from Prayers and Squares. How very nice of the ladies. It is lovely and I will enjoy using it. Thank you.”

With this crazy year, we were not able to have our usual Quilts of Valor wrapping at church. However, we were able to honor 11 veterans this year. They were introduced to the congregation virtually on Nov. 29. Most are pictured below.

We are thankful for members and friends who purchased crafts from our Christmas online sales, earning about \$700. This will pay for a year’s supply of batting.

There is no date set yet for return to sewing, but it will not be until after New Year’s. Regular attendees will be notified. If you would like to join us, please contact me at boorena@msu.edu.

Ann Booren



2020 Quilt of Valor Recipients

Not pictured:
Brian Healy



Thank you from Jan Hite



I want the Prayers and Squares ladies who have made the quilts to know that some have gone to warm needy mothers and babies within our community. I have dispersed them among shelters that house

mothers with new babies who are able to go out with them in a car seat.

You see the new law is that a baby cannot have outer garments on them in the car seat as it is too confining and could asphyxiate the child. Your beautiful quilts were greatly appreciated by the young mothers who received them and the prayers that came with them which came at just the right time.

Some went to Mary Ann Harkema at Sparrow's Nest and she was extremely touched and had mothers waiting for them.

*Rev. Jan Hite
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Lansing*

2021 Focus: Education System and Judicial System/ Policing

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Philippians 2:3

A small contingent of University Lutheran Church has been participating in the N/W Lower Michigan Synod book discussions this fall. Most recently, we read *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. In one of the final chapters, the author relates a conversation she had in the summer of 2018 with Taylor Branch, an esteemed historian of the Civil Rights movement.

The discussion turned to the prediction that by 2042, Whites will no longer be the majority race in the United States. "People said they would not stand for being a minority in their own country," stated Branch. After contemplating that, he added, "So the real question would be, if people were given the choice between democracy and whiteness, how many would choose whiteness?"

Today, we feel called to ask: Are we, as a congregation, willing to embrace the United States of 2042? If so, what is God calling us to say and do? What will stay the same? What will change? The Racial Justice Team (RJT) is seeking ways to reach out to people of all colors and to treat each person in our world as a truly precious child of God. Whether we are clothed in black, red, brown, yellow, or white bodies, Christ told us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Christ calls us to claim, proclaim, and exclaim the humanity of everyone!

To continue this journey, we invite you to the Zoom Forum on Jan. 17, the last in a four-part series by the ULC RJT. We will welcome Judith Roberts, the ELCA Program Director for Racial Justice Ministries, who will answer questions about the [Explanation of the Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent](#). This was presented to the African Descent Lutheran Association by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and the ELCA Church Council Members at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly June 2019. This document and [video](#) of the presentation are available at the RJT webpage (under *Action*). If you need a paper copy, please contact the ULC Office.

At the Annual Meeting on Dec. 6, Erin Frisch, Council President and RJT member announced the results of the survey of the congregation which were used to determine the RJT focus in 2021. We plan to educate ourselves about the Justice System/ Policing and its intersection

with the education system. This would include [The School-to-Prison Pipeline](#). In the coming months we will share plans for learning and action opportunities in these areas. Please join us as we work to make our community more just and fair for all of us.

As Isabel Wilkerson reminds us in her final chapter, "None of us chose the circumstances of our birth. We had nothing to do with having been born into privilege or under stigma. We have everything to do with what we do with our God-given talents and how we treat others in our species from this day forward."

*Miriam Bunge, Subteam Leader
Michael Anderson, Bill Frysinger, Jennifer Johnson,
Thom McCurdy, RJT Co-leader
Community Advocacy and Outreach Subteam*

Speaking of Racial Justice



Racism

"Racism is a system of advantage based on race." David Wellman, *Portraits of White Racism*

"Racism occurs when a racial collective prejudice is backed by the power of legal authority and institutional control." Robin DiAngelo, *White Fragility*

"Racism is a powerful collection of racist policies that lead to racial inequity and are substantiated by racist ideas." Ibram X. Kendi, *How to be an Anti-racist*

For example: Black youth are twice as likely to be arrested for crimes in school as white kids, over 2.5 times as likely to be arrested for curfew violations as white kids, twice as likely as white kids to be arrested for all crimes, and much more likely to be held in detention than white kids, according to the Sentencing Project.

For an extended discussion on racism listen to the [podcast](#) *Maya Wiley: Racial Justice* hosted by Chuck Rosenberg

Endowment Committee Grants Nearly \$26,000 in 2020

The members of the 2020 ULC Endowment Committee are Melissa Andresen (Treasurer), Beeper Baswell (Student), Al Booren (Secretary), Pastor Gary Bunge, Erin Frisch, Marv Schultz, Larry Wagenknecht (Chair), Mary Werkman, and David Wiggert. These individuals are responsible for monitoring, managing and conducting the operations of both the ULC Endowment Fund and the ULC Campus Ministry Endowment Fund. The committee has met virtually several times during 2020 to review the operations of the endowment funds and to review grant requests.

Despite the ups and downs of the market in 2020 - as of Oct. 31, 2020, the balance of the ULC Endowment Fund was \$542,048.17 and the ULC Campus Ministry Endowment Fund was \$323,164.23. In 2020 the Endowment Committee approved

and funded the following grant requests:

ULC Endowment

- “Projection and Streaming Equipment” submitted by the ULC Council for \$7,000
- “Solar Array Proposal to Reduce the ULC Carbon Footprint” submitted by the Earthkeeping Team for \$3,000
- “ULC Technology Resources” submitted by the ULC Council for \$2,600
- “Racial Justice Workshop Grant” submitted by Racial Justice Team for \$2,750
- “Midweek Lent 2021 Racial Justice worship and discussion submitted by the Racial Justice Team for \$2,500
- “Islamic Center Solar Panels” submitted by the Earthkeeping Team for \$2,000

- “The State of Solitary: Model Cell Build Project” submitted by Citizens for Prison Reform for \$2,000

ULC Campus Ministry Endowment

- “Projection and Streaming Equipment” submitted by the ULC Council for \$3,000
- “ULC Technology Resources” submitted by the ULC Council for \$1,000

The Committee appreciates the contributions that ULC members regularly provide to both the ULC Campus Ministry Endowment Fund and the ULC Endowment Fund. By design, both funds are used as a long-term strategy to support the broader mission of ULC.

Larry Wagenknecht



Council Notes

ULC Council did not meet in December.

November Attendance

November 1: Up to 95 devices watching during live, and 446 views
 November 8: Up to 89 devices watching during live, and 526 views
 November 15: Up to 107 devices watching during live, and 593 views
 November 22: Up to 118 devices watching during live, and 511 views
 November 29: Up to 100 devices watching during live, and 650 views

Congratulations to our recently selected officers & committee members . . .



Officers

Pres. Elect: Joy Oslund
 Secretary: Emily Uebel

Endowment Committee

Larry Cross
 Larry Wagenknecht

Council

Emmett Braselton
 Sue Kamens
 Rick Milligan – 1 yr.
 Student: Annaliese Marks

Members in Ministry

Brad Marks – 1 yr.
 Cathy Lazar
 Kathy Sweat

Finance Committee

Michael Anderson – 1 yr.
 Mary Letvenow
 Matthew Uebel

Thank you to all who served last year!



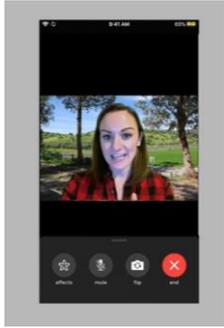
John introduces "The Admin"



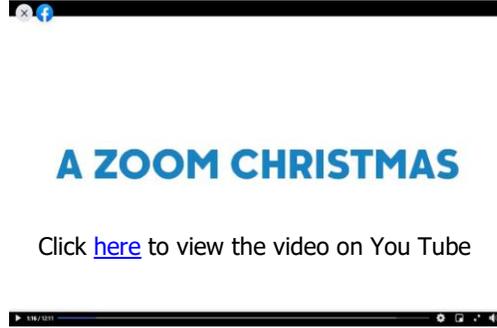
Gabriel



Zechariah



Luke



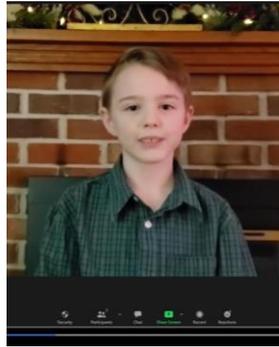
Elizabeth



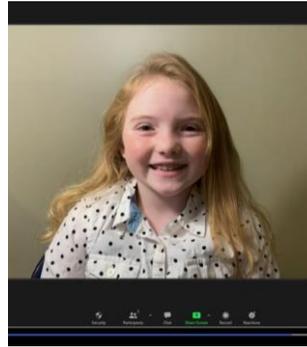
Mary & Jesus



Zechariah



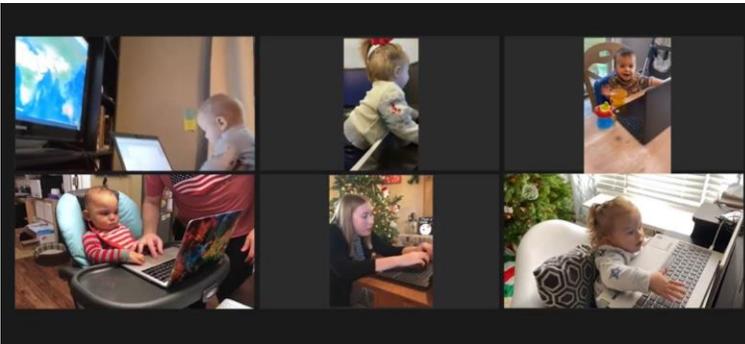
Luke



Luke



Mary



Infants "commenting" on Instagram



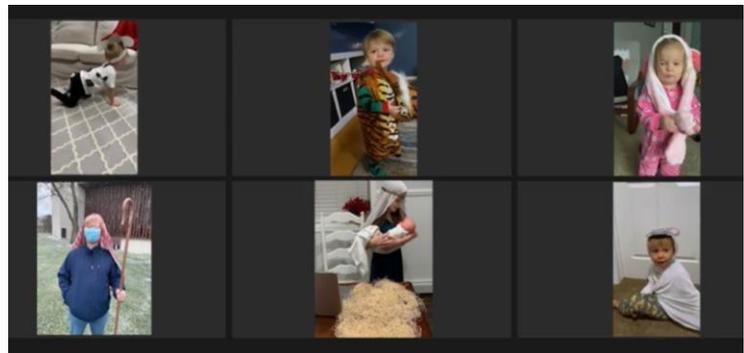
Heavenly Host



Joseph



Shepherd



Animals, Shepherd & Mary

Celebrations

Birthdays

1	Craig Lazar	10	Marilyn Nussdorfer
	Alfred Schikorra	11	Mary Kotnik
2	Keith Harder	13	Megan Kotnik
3	Darra Haase	15	Charles Hathaway
6	Craig Kohn	16	Emily Baswell
	Marilyn Wagenknecht	17	Larry Wagenknecht
8	Aaron Brooks	19	Mary Letvenow
	Jan Mace	20	Barbara Fensel
9	Elizabeth Sype	22	Erik Bubolz
			Judy Kindel



23	Bryan McPhall, Jr.	30	Wanda Ophaug
	Jeff Williams		
24	Lynne Clyma	Anniversaries	
25	Caleb Fisher	1	Sherrilyn & Steven Mileski
26	Taylor Zagata	28	Mike & Connie Lenkowski
27	Linda Trevarthen	30	David & Marilyn Nussdorfer
28	Darrin Karcher		
	Amy Wagenknecht		
29	Erin Frisch		
	James Shaw		

ULC Archives

1987 Begins Recording Technology at ULC

What was happening at ULC in January 1987?

According to a headline in the January Lux a purchase of a VCR and color TV. The article reads, “The Board of Christian Learning and Action has just purchased a VCR (videotape recorder) and color TV to be put into service January 1, 1987. This purchase was made under the budget line for Tape Ministry.

The purpose of the Tape Ministry is to develop and provide communication by means of videotapes and audiotapes. It has its basis in ULC’s Constitution and By-laws, as well as in the specific Goals and Objectives of the Board of Christian Learning and Action. This



basis directs us to communicate, to teach, to learn, and to make efforts toward outreach within the community, to spread God’s word.

There is a budget line in the 1987 budget to continue purchases for the Tape Ministry. We hope, in the future, to be able to

do both audio and video tapes of such things as sermons, choir concerts, Bible School, etc. The Boards of Christian Learning and Action, Ministry, and Campus Work combined efforts to write a policy concerning the use of the VCR and TV. This was approved by the Church Council in December.”

One of the use policies: 1. It doesn’t leave the cart it is on (unless to be

carried upstairs for FORUM, etc.) – certainly not easy to do.

According to the index of items in the ULC archives collection sermons were taped beginning in 1996 until 2006 when they began using CDs to record sermons. This continued into 2010 making sermons available to shut ins. There are a few VHS recordings from the 50th Anniversary celebration, some newscasts of “No Future without Forgiveness”, and one tape of Pastor Lars on the Early Show in New York City on August 13, 2002. These VHS recordings have been copied onto DVDs. Other VHS tapes have not been transferred to digital format.

We have come a long way since 1987 when we couldn’t begin to imagine all of the virtual technology that we use today.

Connie Lenkowski



The deadline for the February Lux is **Friday, Jan. 15.**

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!



January 2021

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | New Year's Day – Office Closed | 18 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Office Closed |
| 3 | 10:00a Worship-Facebook Live | 19 | 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom |
| | 11:00a Zoom* Coffee Hour | | 12:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom |
| 5 | 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom* | 20 | Noon Lectio Divina-Zoom* |
| | 12:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom | | 3:30p Worship Wednesday for Kids-Zoom* |
| | 7:00p Pub Theology via Zoom* | | 6:30p ULC Council-Zoom* |
| 6 | 9:00a Communications Team-Zoom | 21 | 10:00a Book Club-Zoom* |
| | Noon Lectio Divina-Zoom* | 22 | 5:00p Fridays@Five-Zoom* |
| | 1:00p RJ IT-Zoom | 24 | 10:00a Worship-Zoom* |
| | 4:30p Lead Management Team-Microsoft Teams | | 11:00a Zoom* Coffee Hour/Forum@11:10
(Davies Project) |
| 7 | 7:30p Sr. Choir-Zoom* | 26 | 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom |
| 10 | 10:00a Worship-Facebook Live | | 12:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom |
| | 11:00a Zoom* Coffee Hour/Forum@11:10
(RJT-Responding to White Privilege) | 27 | Noon Lectio Divina-Zoom* |
| 12 | 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom* | | 3:30p Worship Wednesday for Kids-Zoom* |
| | 12:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom | 28 | 10:30a RJ: Education-Zoom |
| | 6:30p Racial Justice Team-Zoom | | 4:30p Food Movers Food Distribution |
| 13 | Noon Lectio Divina-Zoom* | | 7:30p Senior Choir-Zoom |
| | 4:00p Worship Wednesday for Kids-Zoom* | 29 | 5:00p Fridays@Five-Zoom* |
| 14 | 7:30p Sr. Choir-Zoom* | 31 | 10:00a Worship-Zoom* |
| 15 | 5:00p Fridays@Five-Zoom* | | 11:00a Zoom* Coffee Hour/Forum@11:10
(Inside Live Worship) |
| 17 | 10:00a Worship-Facebook Live | | |
| | 11:00a Zoom* Coffee Hour/Forum@11:10
(RJT: Judith Roberts – ELCA Declaration) | | |

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

ULC Facilities Closed Until Further Notice

At our November Council meeting, the Council decided to close the church building once again until further notice. Groups will no longer be able to meet inside the building and staff will work mostly from home with the occasional stop at church. We feel that this is a necessary step to both keep our members safe and the community safe. When the situation warrants, we will open the building again. However, even with the building closed, the church is open, and ministry is happening. ~Pastor Gary

Please don't hesitate to call if there is a need. The church number (517-332-2559) is connected to my personal cell phone during the day. ~Britny Pollard



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Gary A. Bunge
Lead Pastor

Haley Vay Beaman
Associate Pastor

Janine Novenske Smith
Director of Music

Britny Pollard
Administrative Assistant

Gary Carl
Financial Administrator

Mary Letvenow
Event Coordinator

Kristie Wiggert
Julie Baglien
Organists

Louise Paquette
Director of Handbells

MLK's Lutheran Connection

Martin Luther King Jr. would be celebrating his 91st birthday on Jan. 15. Did you know that his name on his original birth certificate was Michael King? And that it wasn't until he was 28 that his birth certificate was revised to read Martin Luther King Jr.

According to the MLK Research and Education Institute at Stanford University, MLK's father visited Berlin in 1934 where he would attend a Baptist World Alliance meeting. He arrived the year after Adolf Hitler became chancellor. The Baptist alliance saw the rise of Nazi hatred firsthand and responded with a resolution deploring "all racial animosity and every form of oppression or unfair discrimination toward the Jews, toward coloured people, or toward subject races in any part of the world."

Rev. King also visited Wittenberg and learned about Martin Luther's challenges to the Catholic Church that eventually lead to the Protestant Reformation. When MLK's father returned home, he was a different man and changed his name and his son's too.

