



Lux



June/July 2020

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

Mark Your Calendars . . .

Sunday Worship via Facebook Live
10 a.m.

Virtual Pub Theology
Tuesday, June 2 and July 7
7 p.m.

Email garybunge@sbcglobal.net
to get Zoom link

Food Movers
Thursday, June 25 and July 23
4:30 p.m.
Drive-thru pick up of
prepacked boxes

**Next Lux (Aug/Sept) will
be mailed Aug. 15**



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We Are the Church Together



In celebration of Pentecost Sunday, May 31, ULC members shared selfies and proclaimed, "We are the church together!" Sunday worship will continue virtually on Facebook Live at 10 a.m. A virtual coffee hour is available through Zoom following worship. Contact the office at ulcsec@ulcel.org to receive the link. Council has begun making plans for return to in-person worship. Read the President's article on page 3 for more information.

Virtual Bible Camp

Wednesdays, June 17 – July 15
11:00 a.m. – noon



- Each week will be a new theme
- Hear a Bible story and learn a memory verse
- Crafts, indoor/outdoor activity
- Snack ideas
- Singing and dancing with Mr. Ben English of Munchkin Music Makers

Since we can't meet together for traditional VBS, we're going virtual! Camp will be provided via a password-protected Zoom link. All participants must be registered. All registered households will be sent an email from Pastor Haley Vay with session info and the Zoom link. Invite your friends to join the FUN! Register [here](#) to be added to the email list.

Pastor Haley Vay

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

The Future Includes Digital Worship

As I write this in the middle of May, it is now two months into the COVID-19 pandemic and we're all getting a better picture of what this means. This isn't simply an interruption into our normal way of life. It is a major disruption and life as we've known it will not be the same again. Whenever we emerge from this pandemic, things will be different.

Early in May, I attended an online conference for Lead Pastors of larger ELCA churches. It dealt with leadership in a time of crisis and the Church post COVID-19. It was an extremely helpful conference. A Lux article doesn't give me enough time or space to share everything from the conference, but I want to share two highlights.

First, because the future is so uncertain and we're realizing that this pandemic is a long-term disruption rather than a brief interruption, the future belongs to the pivotors – those who can pivot, change, adapt, and adjust quickly. Obviously, we've had to do that these past two months, and I'm certain we will have to do more of it in the future. The way we've always done it won't work in this new situation. Pivot. Pivot. Pivot.

Second, the presenter stressed that the future is digital. There is so much I could say here. But I think that we're discovering that digital/virtual worship is real, and that it is relational. It's also here to stay. Digital worship will not replace in-person worship, but it needs to be



there alongside in-person worship. Digital worship has reached people that in-person worship doesn't reach. Digital worship offers an opportunity to worship for those who can't be present on Sunday morning. Digital worship will also need to be available as we begin in-person worship because there will be many people who can't, shouldn't and won't come back to in-person worship right away. And we can't leave these folks out. All this means that we have to be thinking digitally, planning digital ministry, and pivoting in this direction. And doing this would be thoroughly Lutheran as Luther used the new technology of his day (the printing press) to propel the Reformation forward. It's an exciting opportunity.

I also want you to know that your Council has been at work putting together a plan and guidelines for how we will reengage in in-person worship and reopen our building. The plan we are working on is based on information we've received from our synod, the CDC, the State of Michigan, the Episcopal Church in

Michigan, and the Wisconsin Council of Churches. It will also be coordinated with the Michigan Safe Start Plan. In coordinating with Michigan's plan, we will have clear guidance as to appropriate actions so that we have clear benchmarks rather than being subject to emotion and pressure. By the time you read this the plan will probably be in place.

Finally, even though the building is closed, and worship is happening online, there is still plenty of ministry that is happening. Bible studies, Pub Theology, and Rhodon Circle are meeting online via Zoom. Sunday School and confirmation have been continuing online. New campus ministry student associates are named.

The Book Club is meeting online. The choir meets virtually every couple of weeks. Prayers and Squares, and Tight Knit are hard at work. Food Movers is giving food to hungry families at more than double the rate. A care ministry has begun as well as a new spiritual journaling group. Kids Hope mentors are connecting with the kids. We're learning new things and finding new ways. And plans are being talked about for new possibilities for our new situation.

Indeed, the Holy Spirit is at work. And I'm excited by the possibilities.

*Blessings as you journey
into new territory,
Pastor Gary*



From the President

ULC Thrives in This Unusual Time

Dear members and friends of ULC,

Your Council has been busy reflecting on our ministry during this time and planning for the future. We thank you for your prayers as we do our work. As you read in the last few paragraphs of Pastor Gary's article on the previous page, our ministries continue while we are apart but together. And, that ULC is thriving as we adjust to being church while not being at church. There are a few things to update you on: 1) our plans for returning to our building, 2) purchase of a screen, projector and streaming equipment, 3) our financial standing, and 4) our ministry survey.

Council has put together criteria for opening the building, including returning to worship, small groups, church business and external users in our building. We recognize returning to our building will have to happen in phases. Our way forward will not be based on the calendar, but by faithfully discerning the signs of the times and responding accordingly. For at least the next year, we anticipate our lives to be shaped by the timeline set by COVID-19. The plan we created is a framework to guide us in making healthy decisions, not a fixed set of guidelines that account for every circumstance. There will still be details to work out and we will be relying on our ministry teams and the expertise of our members to help us put the necessary measures in place. Things are changing very quickly, and we will continue to respond to those changes with love. Once the final plan has been approved by Council it will be shared with you.

As we look towards the future, it is clearer that an online worship experience and removing worship materials from the sanctuary will be part of our way forward. To that end, Council has approved an endowment grant

application for the purchase of an adjustable screen, projector and streaming equipment. Not only are these purchases essential to our COVID-19 response, but we also believe the screen/projector and accompanying equipment can extend our church's mission by allowing our space to be more flexible. We have experienced holy and creative work from our worship leaders and producers, and we want to enable that to continue.

I am delighted to share that our financial situation remains strong and express my deep gratitude to those of you who continue to support our mission in these uncertain times. Our building related expenses are of course down, and we have even seen a small increase in our income in April and May. Overall, this has us in a positive budget position. I encourage you to continue to prayerfully consider your financial support over the coming months

of continued uncertainty.

Finally, Council is putting the finishing touches on a brief survey soliciting feedback on our worship experience. It will be sent electronically to members, with paper copies available to be mailed for those that need them. One topic of the survey is the narrative lectionary. Council must decide on continuing with this lectionary by early July so there is enough time to purchase needed materials. Please share your thoughts with us!

I close with sincere gratitude for your participation in our community of faith. I have found my own faith tested by current events and strengthened through my engagement with us being church. I pray you have had similar experiences and for your well-being in the coming months.

*Yours in Christ,
Erin Frisch*



Calling All Gardeners!

While we may not be worshipping in our building this summer, the beautiful gardens still need tending. Please consider adopting one of the ULC garden beds to maintain this summer. Contact Norm Jolin, Sr. at cnjolin@wowway.com to volunteer.



Meet Our 2020-21 Student Associates



Hello! I'm **Rachel Drobnak**, and I'm so excited to be one of the student associates of One Community! I'm from Cleveland, Ohio, and becoming part of ULC makes me feel that I have a second home here in Michigan. I love how inclusive, supportive, and humble everyone is here; I am able to be the person I truly am because I know One Community provides a safe space for me on campus.

Besides loving to sing songs from Frozen (and Frozen 2), I love to play piano, eat bread, have great conversations, garden, and otherwise make the world a more loving place. At MSU, I am a second-year Crop & Soil Science student, and this past summer I worked on a small cherry orchard north of Traverse City!

Hello everyone! My name is **Maggie Haite** and I am going to be one of the student associates this coming year. I am a rising sophomore in Lyman Briggs majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife, minoring in Geographic Information Systems and LGBTQ Studies. I am from Chicago, my home church



being Luther Memorial in Lincoln Square. At that congregation, I served as a Sunday school teacher, played guitar, and was the first high school student to be on the

church council. I'm super excited to spend more time with ULC this coming year, and to be a working part of this faith community.



Hello ULC family! My name is **Annaliese Marks**, and I am from Haslett, MI. I just finished my second year studying Biosystems Engineering at MSU. I am also earning a minor in women's and gender studies and hopefully a minor in environmental and sustainability studies too. This summer I was hoping to find an

internship, but unfortunately the places I applied to have cancelled their programs due to COVID-19. So instead, I will be working virtually for the research lab I work for during the school year doing data analysis and modelling. I look forward to when we will be able to see each other in person again!

My name is **Andrea Vera**, and I am from outside of Chicago. I will be a second-year environmental engineering student at Michigan State in the fall and will be participating in remote research this summer involving data analysis for the biodegradation of water contaminants. I very much enjoyed my time as a part of ULC and



One Community this past year and look forward to continuing to be a part of such a welcoming community.

Do you love fresh baked bread and want to help our community during these difficult times by eating it?

My name is Inga Van Wieren and I have been a ULC member since moving to Okemos in 2010. You may have seen me singing in the youth choir, delivering holiday baskets, or participating in worship as an acolyte. Returning home from college for the summer, I had planned to work for the University of Michigan Medical Center as a research assistant. However, due to the pandemic, my position was eliminated.

Instead I have decided to spend my summer giving back to our church



family and those in need by developing a bread delivery project called **Giving Grains**.

I will be baking and delivering homemade bread to any and all church members and friends for free! Donations made to **Giving Grains** will be given to your choice of the following charities below:

- Midland Flood Relief
- Samaritas
- Outreach of the Month

If you are interested in a free loaf (or two!), please call, text, or email me to hear the weekly bread options and make an order. The bread will be delivered to your front door.

Checks for donations can be made out to ULC. and specify where you would like your gift to be donated.

Thank you and best wishes,

Inga Van Wieren
517-599-9918
ivanwieren9@gmail.com

Congratulations High School Grads!

Sal Bubolz graduated from Okemos High School. She will attend the University of Maine this fall. She will major in Environmental Science in the Honors Program. She is also planning to join a skiing or sailing club.



Ian, Clara and Sal were wrapped virtually in their prayer quilts by Pastor Haley Vay, Pastor Gary, Bobbie, and their parents.

Clara Van Wieren graduated from Shattuck-St. Mary's School in Faribault, MN. She will be playing hockey for the University of

Minnesota-Duluth in the fall and plans to major in Journalism.

Ian Williams is graduating from East Lansing High School. He has been active in cross-country, track, marching band and drumline. He also participated in a competitive winter guard percussion circuit near Detroit that he plans to continue with. This fall he will attend MSU, majoring in Finance.

Pastor Haley Vay

Confirmation

Confirmation Sunday Postponed Until Fall

Toward the end of the year, Confirmation looked a bit different. As COVID-19 spread throughout the world, all events came to a halt. Schools closed; sports practices and games ended; spring break vacations cancelled. Our Confirmation youth typically have their annual weekend retreat (Jr. High Charge) at Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City in March. About a week before we were to drive up, the event was cancelled.



Virtual confirmation with Pastor Haley Vay and Louise.

Knowing the challenges of being stuck at home and unable to see friends or attend school, Pastor Gary, Pastor Haley Vay, and I began a weekly check-in with the Confirmation youth, using video chat. We played games, shared highs and lows, and prayed together. We even hosted a movie night as a way to “gather” together. Luckily, the Confirmation lessons were easily adaptable to virtual learning, so we were able to finish out the year.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we have postponed Confirmation Sunday to the Fall. Caleb Fisher and Ava Jolin will confirm their faith in front of the congregation

then, but I wanted to share how incredible it has been getting to know each of them better and growing in Faith together. Caleb and Ava are the last two middle schoolers to participate in Confirmation for three years, as we have since changed to only 7th and 8th grade.

These two students are the first to have worked with me for their entire Confirmation experience. They were patient as I was learning how to lead Confirmation during my first year back in town. They were flexible through the changes in curriculum, time, and structure of class their 7th grade year. We have shared the highs and lows life has thrown at us: sports injuries, homework and tests, snow days, and vacations to name a few. We have laughed together and prayed together. This is not the usual end to Confirmation, but it is still special. And I look forward to celebrating with them soon!



Ava and Caleb with Giving Tree gifts purchased as part of a Confirmation service project. Their Confirmation has been postponed until Fall.

Louise Harder

June Outreach of the Month Medical Supplies for Christ

Dear Friends at ULC,

Medical Supplies for Christ, Inc. was started in 1996 by Marcia (Johnson) Skelton, former ULC member. It is a 501 C3 ministry, located in Ohio and run by Marcia and her husband, Scott, who are both RN's. They take three to six trips per year to work in developing countries. They use donations to supply medicine, medical supplies, and equipment and to bring Bibles/Christian films and literature to groups in these countries. They also train nationals to become village healthcare workers when they have the opportunity. The purpose of these trips is to alleviate suffering and to have a chance to work together with national believers and tell people about Jesus!



In February, we went to Peru to work in a jungle setting and in a city. We donated a large quantity of medicine, audio, and written Spanish Bibles and literature. We

became friends with a brave young missionary and are talking to him about returning.

When we got back from Peru, COVID 19 had descended and thoughts of trips in the near future were forgotten. We started helping people locally. We helped a family of five whose single dad was laid off – I made Easter baskets for four little kids! We donated to a charity that had lost funding and they are still going strong now! We donated \$500 worth of Bibles/literature to a homeless shelter! God always has assignments for each of us!

Thank you for your ongoing support of MSFC. You were with us from the very beginning! Without you, our home church, Pilgrim Lutheran Brethren, Thrivent Choice dollars, and individual donations, we would not still exist!

May God bless each of you, your church and ministry in East Lansing.

*Blessings,
Marcia and Scott Skelton*

July Outreach of the Month Kid's Hope USA

The ULC Kids Hope USA ministry has finished its first full year at Forest View Elementary School in Lansing. During the school year, 12 volunteers mentored one student each for one hour a week.

Their goal was to establish a relationship with an at-risk child who would feel special and loved. That goal was accomplished by using conversation, games, books, puzzles and academic lessons. One way to measure the success of this ministry is to note the many positive comments from mentees, parents, teachers, the principal and other students who asked to have a mentor.



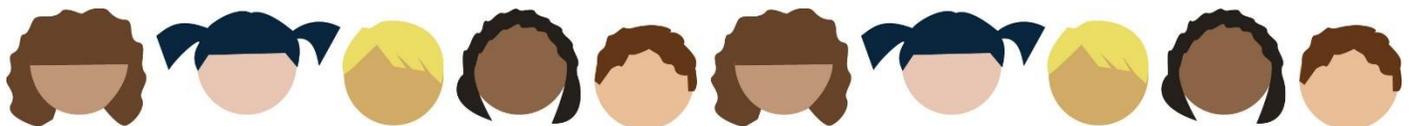
Your financial support for Kids Hope USA is needed now more than ever as the demand for mentors will only increase in the coming year; many children are experiencing increasing levels of emotional stress and trauma which can negatively impact their ability to learn. Kids Hope USA is no longer requiring a scholarship for each child. Instead, in addition to a small annual fee, churches are

invited to give what they can with a sense of abundance and gratitude.

Thank you for your prayers and joyful support.

*Barbara Kissling
ULC Director for Kids Hope USA*

Note: Even though we are not meeting together for worship, both of these ministries still need your support. Please use electronic giving (PayPal on website at www.ulcel.org or direct deposit through the MSU Federal Credit Union) or mail a check to the ULC office (mail is checked regularly).



The Doors of the Book Nook Remain Open

I first heard about the Evangelism team's plans for a little library out front of church last spring. The idea excited me, and I immediately began to envision what books would best suit this ministry. What I could never have envisioned is that one year later the Nook, built so beautifully by Jim Lorenz and Sandy Davis to be a small replica of ULC, would host the only doors still open for those visiting 1020 South Harrison Road. I believe that this is a ministry brought to fruition by the efforts of many and directed by the Holy Spirit "for such a time as this."



An almost empty Book Nook on May 9.

During the early weeks of the pandemic I kept a close eye on the nook and saw much less activity than in previous months. Only two children's items were picked up from Mar. 14 to Easter Sunday, Apr. 12. My inventory of children's stories, centered on Easter, were at my home waiting to be deployed along with some new books for young adult and adult readers. I added this inventory on Easter Monday and my expectations were low when I went to check on the Nook May 9. The picture above tells the best story of what greeted me, but I have one more story to share.

On my way home from that visit I stopped to hand out two of the \$5 bills I keep in my glove box for that purpose to a panhandler with a sign standing on the corner of Harrison and Trowbridge Road. I decided to turn into the gas station to prevent the recipient from walking into traffic. Because of this I now know I was helping a man named Ricky who also wanted to know my name and where I was headed on that cold spring day.

I told him about the Book Nook located in front of the church down the street, and then received my second glad surprise of the day.

Ricky not only knew about the Nook but had one of the books selected from it in his keeping. He told me he was headed to Subway with the cash he had acquired where he would find a place to eat and share his book with others. He told me this with such an attitude of joy! In the midst of a pandemic, a homeless person found joy because our church supports ministries like the Book Nook. It is my prayer that you all find hope in this simple story and in the knowledge that we still have a ministry open at our physical location on Harrison Road.

I want to end with some statistics and a request. To date 15 adult Bibles, eight children Bibles, 70 picture books for young Children, 12 books for young adults and 21 books for adult readers have left the Book Nook. That is over 120 books! I will be ordering more books soon and am looking for the donation of ideas. If you have ideas of books in any of the above categories, please email them to me at bwojan1@gmail.com. If a conversation would feel like a better way to connect with me, call me at 517-974-0682.

*Thank You and God Bless
Beth Rahe*

Local Benevolence Fund

It's time to make recommendations to Council regarding the disbursement of Local Benevolence Funds. We are fortunate to have \$4,000 to disburse. This year, we would like to recommend disbursements to organizations bearing the brunt of the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic.



area. I am asking the congregation to give me feedback during the month of June regarding deserving organizations and why we should fund them. Please let me know at b.rahe@comcast.net or by calling 517-485-4864.

For example, the Greater Lansing Food Bank is seeing an exponential increase in food insecurity in our

*Bryan Rahe
Social Action Team*



Prayer Quilts are Still Available!

It is important to remember if you have a request for someone who needs our prayers, please contact Bobbie Davis (bobbieanddavis80@gmail.com or 517-351-6541) or Ann Booren (boorena@msu.edu or 517-862-3324) to arrange for one to be prepared. Even though the quilt cannot be tied by members of ULC, the person who requests the quilt can tie the knots with prayer and send it on its way to someone who is in need of those prayers.

The three graduating high school seniors received their quilts by “special delivery.” Pastor Haley Vay conducted a Zoom conference call where they were “wrapped up” in their quilts. We congratulate Sal Bubolz, Clara Van Wieren and Ian Williams on this momentous occasion and wish them good luck as they begin this new phase of life.

Regularly scheduled sewing days are cancelled until further notice as we follow the guidelines suggested by the Council. Prayer quilt kits are available and can be delivered to your home if you are interested in making a quilt top. Please contact Bobbie. Many folks are making face masks and scrub caps for our front-line workers in this fight against the Covid-19 virus. Ann has volunteered her front porch to be a collection site for completed PPE. Please contact her to arrange for a “drop off.”

Thank you for staying home and staying safe. We look forward to the time we can sew together!

Bobbie Davis

Members Meet Healthcare Needs with Handmade Items

Vicki Anderson: I made 50 of these “ear savers.” Our neighbors are nurses at Sparrow and will share them with their co-workers. Hooking face mask elastic onto the buttons takes pressure off their ears. For people like nurses who wear masks day after day for multiple hours a day, these ear savers make a difference. I used supplies from the knit/crochet ministry of University Lutheran Church. God’s work. Our hands.

Ann Booren: I’m so blessed to be sheltered in place in a nice home and yard, with little to do but sew. I’m sure during the last seven weeks I have sewed five to six hours each

day, completing close to 400 facemasks and 75 surgical caps.

When I am down to scraps that are too small, they become two and a half-inch squares. When I have 24 of these squares, I then make a coronavirus table mat. So far, I’ve made 12 of them. They are signed, dated and their story told on the back. Some are for me, my kids, family and friends. They are to serve as a longtime reminder of “times such as this.” Each square helps me remember the fabrics used and the reason why and thoughts of good health to the recipient.

Jan Mace: As residents at Great Lakes Christian Home, we are

grateful that we are virus-free (so far). Because of social distancing all activities have been cancelled; however, some of us with sewing machines have been sewing face masks in our respective apartments. First, we made sure all the residents and staff had masks. Next, we accepted a request for 300 masks for the staff at Eaton County Rehab in Charlotte. Now we are making masks for future residents. Once we find that new “norm,” we are going to have a celebration!

Rachel Drobnak: I have been making face masks for family and friends.



Rachel’s facemasks



Jan’s facemask collection for residents and staff



Vicki’s ear saver



Ann’s table mats

ULC Council met via Zoom on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. The following are some highlights:

- Council is continuing to monitor giving levels to make sure we can meet our fixed monthly costs. We will still encourage online giving.
- ULC received a Paycheck Protection Program loan and will be attending to the application process for forgiveness of the loan.
- Praise for the numerous volunteers that have been assisting in virtual worship, in communication with the congregation, and in efforts such as mask-making.



- Council spent a large portion of the meeting reviewing and editing the ministry plan, which will outline when the ULC building can reopen. This will be shared once final edits are made and reviewed by council.

Council reviewed proposals for equipment (camera and streaming equipment, projector and screen), which will help with online worship as we move forward.

Emily Uebel
ULC Council Secretary

Worship Attendance

April 19: Up to 90 devices watching during live, and so far 429 views

April 26: Up to 110 devices watching during live, and so far 545 views

May 3: Up to 108 devices watching during live, and so far 404 views

May 10: Up to 108 devices watching during live, and so far 499 views

May 17: Up to 104 devices watching during live, and so far 527 views.

May 24: Up to 96 devices watching during live, and so far 574 views

May 31: Up to 96 devices watching during live, and so far 494 views

Lead Management Team

The Lead Management Team met May 13 via Zoom.

Lead Pastor's Report – Pastor Gary:

- Thank you again to those who are helping to make our online worship possible, especially Mitchell Eithun for his wonderful video creations and Jim Lorenz who spends between 15 and 20 hours per week getting together the “scenes” for our online worship. Without Jim, our worship would look vastly different.
- All staff, except Gary Carl, continue to work from home, only stopping into church on occasion to print things or pick something up. This has been working well. We are in regular contact by texts, emails, phone calls and Zoom meetings. I'm grateful for the technology that makes this possible.
- Tuesday morning Bible study, Lectio, Pub Theology and Book Club are all meeting by Zoom. Pub Theology and the Tuesday morning Bible study will continue to meet through the summer this year; they usually take the summers off.
- I officiated at the graveside service for Augusta Archer.
- Pastor Haley Vay and I have been following up with all online visitors to our Sunday services. Each Sunday, while one of us conducts the service, the other one makes note of any visitor who adds a comment and then we send a simple note of welcome to the visitor.

Racial Justice - Vicki Anderson and Thom McCurdy
The purpose of the Racial Justice Team is based on the summary clause of the ULC Statement of Intentional Welcome: “We will continually strive to eliminate

prejudice from our thoughts and actions and will discourage prejudice in others at every opportunity.” Our team seeks to educate the ULC congregation to recognize racism and racial issues and to equip, lead, and support the congregation to be anti-racist agents with the people and institutions in our lives. Short term goals: 1) To announce the Racial Justice Team development, 2) To recruit members, and 3) To develop an education program for the congregation.

Social Action – Bryan Rahe: In April, we distributed food using a drive-through procedure. We served 128 households and had a total of 23 volunteers. We will resume our “Change for a Change” fundraiser when the church starts meeting in our building again. Don't forget that right now you can send checks to ULC for “Change for a Change” or go to the ULC website and do electronic donations designating them for “Change for a Change.”

Facility – Dale Romsos: All HVAC units and parking lot lighting have been turned off to conserve energy and reduce the utility bill while the building is closed.

Grounds- Norm Jolin, Sr.: The Grounds Team has been at work since early March. We are working in small (2-3) groups in order to comply with covid-19 protocol. The grounds team has cleaned up several trees, cut and disposed of the ornamental grasses, pruned all of the trees and shrubs on site, planted several new flowering plants, and mulched most of the gardens. We chip up some of our own mulch on site. We still need to get seven of our gardens adopted when warm weather finally gets here.



From ELCA.org: “With gratitude for those who have gone before and hope for the future, the ELCA gives thanks to God for the ministry of women. In 2019 and 2020 we celebrate 50 years of Lutheran women being ordained in the United States, 40 years of women of color being ordained, and 10 years of LGBTQIA+ individuals being able to serve freely.

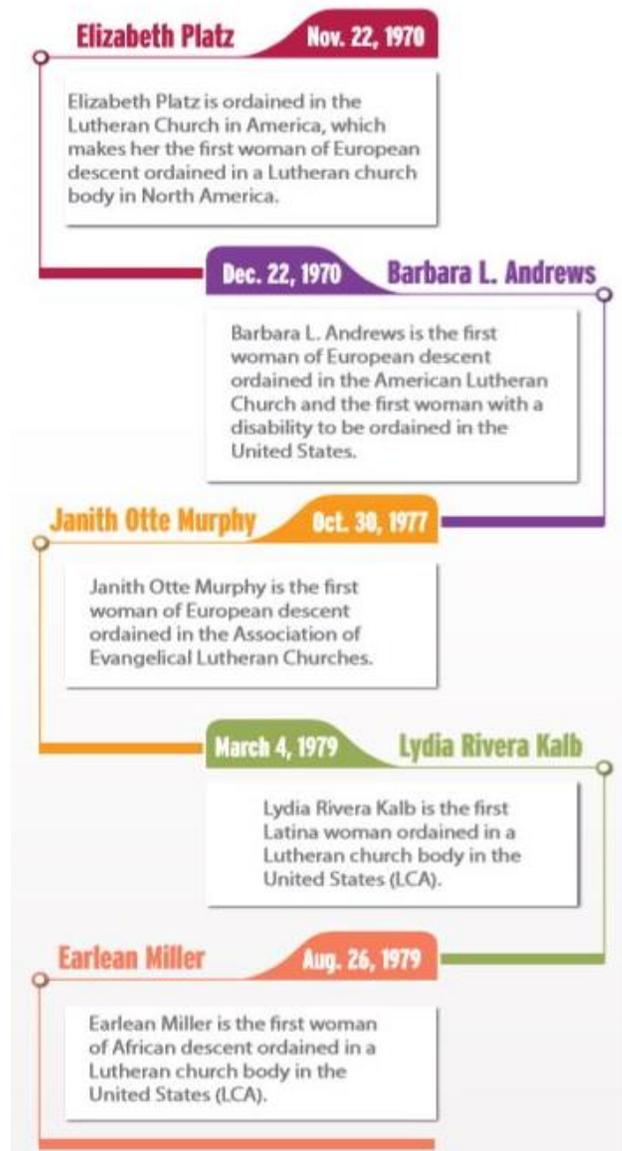
As part of this anniversary year, we lament that women have been barred from serving and have been bullied, dismissed and excluded. We also celebrate the gifts and service that women have brought to our church and our world as pastors.

Congregations are encouraged to hold commemorative events throughout the year! There are resources to help congregations observe these anniversaries, including a five-session adult forum, a four-session Bible study, and a liturgy with Scripture and hymn suggestions.”

Since we don't know when in-church worship will resume, we will be sharing portions of the Ministry of Lutheran Women timeline in this and upcoming issues of Lux.



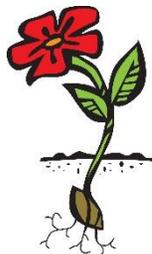
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Earthkeeping News

Consider Native Plants for your Landscape

Spring has finally arrived in Michigan and many residents have a renewed enthusiasm for getting out in the yard again. Considering native plants in our landscape plans is a wise choice when considering our commitment to creation care. Native plants, including flowers, grasses, shrubs and trees, are hardy because they have adapted to local conditions.



Once established, native plants do not need pesticides, fertilizers or watering. They also are able to pull and store excess carbon, improve air quality, prevent water runoff and attract wildlife. Birds and bees are welcome while restoring biodiversity. Not only is this good for the environment, it saves time, money and water and helps return the area to a healthy ecosystem.

For more information visit www.nativeplants.msu.edu and greengroundswell.com. National Wildlife Federation, nwf.org, offers a Native Plant Finder where you can enter your zip code to discover the best native plants for the area. Native plants can often be bought from catalogs such as wildtypeplants.com in Mason or elsewhere.

Judy Kindel

June and July 1934 – 2013

Following is a look at the University Lutheran Church timeline and events that happened in June and July of past years. It gives an interesting snapshot of life at ULC.

1934 (June) – The Lutheran Student Club meets for the last time this term in the Union for a banquet.

1936 (June) – Lutheran Student Club: Graydon Blank, Reed City – president

1941 (June) – Services are held in the parsonage at 510 Linden Street from June 1941 – April 1942.

1957 (July) – Pastor William Hahn is called from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, to minister to our daughter congregation in Okemos.

1963 (June) – 1972 (Sept.) – Rev. George W. Gaiser, an MSU graduate, is installed as Associate Pastor.

1966 (June) – The Study Committee recommends to the congregation at a special meeting that the Harrison Road property be developed.

1967 (June) – Council is authorized to negotiate a land transfer with the Episcopalian Church and thereby provide the optimum site for a building program. At this meeting, the architect presents a model showing a worship facility (Unit I), in essentially the same form as the

present facility. To the west is an educational unit (Unit II) and to the north is a chapel (Unit III) which would be shared with the Episcopal Church when they build. The model is approved and additional planning is authorized. (*Review of the History and Rationale for the Building Program of ULC, 1965-1969*)

“At this point in time, the sentiment of the staff and the church leaders seemed to be in the direction of a two-site program – to build a worship facility on Harrison Road but to retain the Ann Street property and to hold worship services and other activities at both. Debate began within the congregation...”

1970 (summer) – “Report from the Pastor” becomes a regular feature in Lux.

1975 (June) – The first Sunday of the month is designated as “Food Bank Sunday.” Collected goods go to Bethlehem Lutheran for distribution. Betty Downs becomes the church secretary.

1975 (July) – The Nguyen (n’WIN) family of 11 from Vietnam is welcomed to ULC.

1979 (July) – 1984 (Jan.) – Rev. Reed D. Schroer becomes the Associate Pastor.

1979 (July) – The Lam family of 7 arrives at ULC from Viet Nam.

1986 (June) – The Forward Planning Committee is formed to examine our existing facilities and needs for long range programming that express the mission of the congregation.

1986 (June) – A joint Bible School is held with University United Methodist Church.

1987 (June/July) – Volunteers sew 40 new choir robes.

1990 (June) – An ad hoc committee is formed to devise a plan for the renovation of the church facilities.

1990 (July) -1994 (Aug.) – Rev. Jeffrey Sackett becomes the Youth and Family Pastor.

1995 (June) – ULC has been paired with East Lansing Trinity Church for the Rotating Sanctuary project.

2000 (June) – ULC establishes the Endowment Fund.

2003 (July) – 2016 (June) – Rev. Fred Fritz becomes the Lead Pastor.

2007 (June) – The cranberry hymnal replaces the green hymnal.

2013 (June) – 2015 (summer) – The LSSM Transitional Foster Care program meets at ULC.

2013 (July) – 2014 (Aug.) – Asher O’Callaghan joins the ULC staff as an intern.

Connie Lenkowski

Drive-through Mobile Food Distribution

For residents of East Lansing, Haslett, Okemos (including MSU students and employees), who need food because of financial hardships, fixed incomes, or lost jobs. For more info, call the Greater Lansing Food Bank 517-908-3680.

Dates: June 25 and July 28 (4th Thursday of the month)

Location: ULC, 1020 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing (Use North Driveway as entrance.)

Registration: 3:30 p.m. for vehicles to line up

Distribution: 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. (or until food is distributed)

Free foods: produce, dairy, meat, frozen food, and shelf stable items

Procedures: 1) Stay in your vehicle for registration and food distribution. 2) Provide proof of residency (either a government-issued ID or mail with your address. 3) Make room in your trunk for food to be placed there. 4) Restrooms will NOT be available.

Important: Persons with any COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home and arrange for someone to bring your ID and a note verifying who will pick up food.

Bryan Rahe

Remembering Charlie

Charles R. Downs, August 1, 1927 - May 3, 2020

Another pillar of our church has gone to eternal rest. Charlie was “the finest gentleman you'd ever want to meet.” He was universally liked, and highly respected as a first-rate journalist.

At ULC he and his wife Betty were welcoming to all. Betty said she thought they had served on every board and committee at ULC during their over 50 years of membership! The achievement at ULC for which he was most proud was founding *Lux*, the newsletter of the people and not of the office. He was its long-time editor/writer.

Charlie also initiated Sunday Forum and several Science and Religion speaker's series. During Sunday Forum, the co-leaders secured speakers on diverse topics of interest, not necessarily religious, for the education hour. Like *Lux*, this is lay-led, and not the responsibility of the pastors. In recognition of his many contributions to ULC, Charlie was awarded a bronze cross similar in design to the processional cross.

Charlie was born and grew up in Frederick, MD in a family that was not especially religious. He joined the U.S. army in 1945 on the day Japan surrendered, so served in the rebuilding of Germany and Belgium after World War II. Once discharged, he attended the University of Missouri which had the best school for journalism in the country.

There he met another student, Betty Strickel. They married a year later. Raised in Marcelline, Missouri, she stopped her studies in social work while Charlie finished his degree in journalism in 1952. Jobs in York, PA and Frederick, MD followed. Betty's boss at Ft. Detrick invited them to his Lutheran church, which they joined.

In 1958 Charlie was hired by the MSU News Bureau, Department of Information Services. He was known for his ability to communicate complex scientific concepts



Charlie & Betty in 2009.

in terms lay persons could understand. His coverage of biomedical research contributed to the founding of the Colleges of Human Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine at MSU. According to Roger Hoopingarner, he knew more about what was going on than the deans did. He was an avid Spartan. Even after moving to Puyallup, he would call Roger to get the latest news about the teams and university.

In East Lansing, they were also busy raising their two daughters: Jenny (Pat) Moore, now of Puyallup, WA, and Amy (Mark) Storm in Northville, MI. Beginning in 1965, Betty

worked as an elementary school librarian until 1975 when Pastor Gus Kopka convinced her to work as ULC's church secretary. Betty's proudest contribution to ULC was the membership directory. In 1981 she began working for the Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and resumed study toward her college degree, one course per term. She graduated in Psychology in 1988 and was promptly promoted! Finishing her degree was the achievement of which she was most proud. Both retired in 1993.

When Charlie was asked what achievement made him most proud, he answered “Marrying the right woman!” One cannot think of Charlie without Betty, his wife of 66 years until her death. One member said, “Betty had spunk with a capital S!” Their personalities complemented each other, and one can only be amazed at how much they achieved. In addition to their two daughters, they left five grandchildren and three great grandchildren plus many friends who mourn them even as they rejoice that they knew them. Their dedication to family, church, and MSU was evident.

“Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.” Psalm 31.5

Phyllis Andersland

Remembering Sharonlee

Sharonlee Burmeister (1930-2020)

The Burmeister family has been part of ULC for decades, with Sharonlee an indefatigable source of spirituality, leadership, wisdom, and

loving care. Those gifts also guided her life beyond ULC, as her beloved friends and family can attest.

Deep Christian faith formed Sharonlee's core and directed her days. That faith showed itself at

Continued page 13.

Sharonlee continued from page 12.

ULC in limitless work and roles, so here are just a few:

- Inviting young moms to a retreat “at her home to take in the lovely natural setting, walk contemplatively, find solo sanctuary for meditation, read Scripture, pray, and eat together.”
- Serving as ULC’s president and taking this fledgling new ULC president to lunch for some frank talk, encouragement, and wisdom.
- Co-leading a group to set vision and mission: “Sharonlee led a process that truly transformed the future path for ULC and has guided the direction of our congregation for nearly 20 years! Present tense!”
- Serving on call committees for Pastors Fred, Martin, and Melinda: “She often led devotions, and with Sharonlee, devotions included a candle, a time for silence and reflection, and a laser focus on being Christ-centered.”
- Sewing with Prayers and Squares, “a great asset, a gifted, creative sewer, still sending quilt tops from Illinois until recently.”

“Sharonlee missed her calling as a pastor,” although the church might

not have been ready for her— someone who knew poetry as well as she knew the Bible, someone who fully understood human foibles, someone who could reflect deeply on a Biblical commentary and get down with country music, someone who cherished a single daisy and big performances at Wharton Center. She brought those gifts and many more to work as a pastoral care chaplain at Ingham Regional Hospital and volunteered (with her husband, Wayne) at McCree House, caring for families of patients at McClaren.

“In her own way, Sharonlee was a minister and mentor for many,” one with great capacities as a cook and host. For her 50th wedding anniversary, she compiled a cookbook, prefacing it with this wisdom: “Ordinary meals can be occasions of great joy and celebration, and they can be a humble sharing of God’s gift and love.” She didn’t need titles, official roles, or ceremony to frame her loving care. It was simple, pure, and

boundless: Sharonlee’s humility made her a good listener, which made her a remarkable “mentor, confidante, advisor, and friend.”

Another person’s remembrance would be echoed by many: “Her courage, honesty, love of life in all forms, and deep faith served as a role model to me and many. She will be deeply missed.”

A thoughtful reader, Sharonlee loved words and used them with deliberate care. From all those words, one stands out: *Shalom*, with which she closed every message. *Shalom* lay deep within her and was the lasting gift she shared

with all who knew her. Even now she would remind us to find *shalom* in our days, focusing especially on her resurrection as we mourn her death.

*Beth Hoger
(With help from Carol Ingells,
Jim Kiefer, Judy Kindel,
Nancy Lindman, Brad Marks,
LaVon Miller, and Sharon Opsal)*



Sharonlee at a 2007 Prayers & Squares event.

A Success Story

On, May 13th, I received this letter from Khuong Nguyen. He was sixteen years old when ULC sponsored his family from Vietnam. When he arrived, he told me he was hoping to be a doctor. Following is his letter and the excerpt from the newsletter. Notice how he is giving credit to ULC for his accomplishments. ULC found them a home, a car and jobs such as dishwasher, store clerk and custodian. I was happy to respond, being so fond and in awe of that family.



Dr. Khuong Nauven

Good morning, Mrs. Miller,

I would like to share this newsletter with you. I hope it is something that you would be proud of what you (meaning ULC) did for our family.

Sincerely,
Khuong

University of Tennessee, Health Science Center, College of Medicine, Dept. of Otolaryngology

Continued page 14

Success Story continued from page 13.

Excerpts from “Otolaryngology Headlights” Fall 2019 newsletter:

Dr. Khuong Nguyen has dual masters degrees in mechanical and chemical engineering from MSU and U of M. He was an engineer at DuPont and M.W. Kellogg. He entered the medical school at University of Tennessee Health Science Center, College of Medicine, Dept. of Otolaryngology, and graduated in 1992. After his training, he opened his own practice in the Atlanta Metro area. He is currently the owner and head surgeon at Kelina Medical Center for Asian Cosmetic, Facial Plastic and Reconstructive surgery.

Dr. Nguyen feels a loyalty and devotion to UTHSC for allowing him the unusual opportunity to enter this field of medicine as a second career. Also, following a serious automobile accident, the school allowed him to continue surgery in a wheelchair as he recovered. Dr. Nguyen and his wife, Linh, created the Mr. Vy and Mrs. Chau Nguyen (his parents) Award to the best resident basic science and clinical research projects. Recently, Dr. and Mrs. Nguyen pledged a \$100,000 gift to UTHSC Dept. of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Surgical Training Lad to be renamed Dr. Khuong and Linh Nguyen Center for Learning and Innovation in Ear, Nose and Throat (C.L.I.E.N.T.).

Lavon Miller

Celebrations



- 23 Karen Braselton
Dale Hinkley
Kelli Vanous
24 Kevin Stowe
26 Mitchell Eithun
27 Tim Schmidt
29 Jeffrey Bracken
Connor Dalton
30 John Kruger
- 2 Sarah Ortwine
4 Myra Kim
5 Britny Pollard
6 Santiago Saucedo
8 Bethany Saindon
9 Laura Brown
Elizabeth Kotnik
10 Marian Macbeth
15 Amy Anderson
Linda Zimmerman
16 Harry Kost
Tim Rainey
Marvin Schultz
17 Arthur Lohr
18 Dan Sadler
Myla Joy McPhall
19 Barbara Helser
Beth Rahe
Joy Whitten
20 Julie Baglien
Emily Uebel
Brenda Sternquist
21 Jay Kim
22 Terri Christian
Ava Jolin



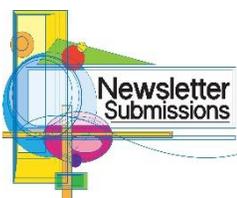
- 3 Mike & Kathy Sweat
10 Jim & Angie Dye
13 Tom & Barb Kissling
16 Will & Marge Mahoney
18 Beth & Bryan Rahe
19 James & Barbara Cox
Norm & Carol Jolin, Sr.
Steve & Linda Zimmerman
20 Bill & Sheila Nicholas
20 Roy & Jennifer Weber
21 Fred & Kay Fritz
23 Le Roy & Gloria Olson
25 Jesse & Lynne Clyma



- 24 Gary Carl
25 Wilbur Mahoney
26 Johannah House
James Kiefer
Hannah Milnes
Sharon Vanous
27 Ann Booren
28 Doug Erickson
Vy Dao
Marilyn Schafer
29 Joseph Kravetz
30 Rachel Williams
- 2 Adam Fisher
Rev. Fred Fritz
Taylor Milnes
4 Arlene Zerkle
7 Phyllis Andersland
10 Kayla Clyma
Carol Jolin
Luke Reese
11 Jason Osoff
12 Emma Karcher
Howard Pierce
Noah Schott
13 William Schikorra
15 Carol Mackin
16 Kelly Schafka
17 Emmett Braselton
Sherrilyn Mileski
Sheila Nicholas
18 James Dye
19 Melody Kiefer
Edward Vanous
21 Emily Kaltenberg
22 Annette Stanley
23 Carole Ford
24 Matt Mutka



- 3 Phil & Sandy Brooks
10 Bob & Sarah Gallagher
12 Eric Bubolz & Karen Sanders
17 Arlene & Charles Zerkle
18 Kelly & Steven Schafka
20 Larry & Amy Wagenknecht
22 Sherry & Tom Corwin
24 Beth Hoyer & Lisa Swem
28 Paul & Judy Kindel
David & Coreen Williams



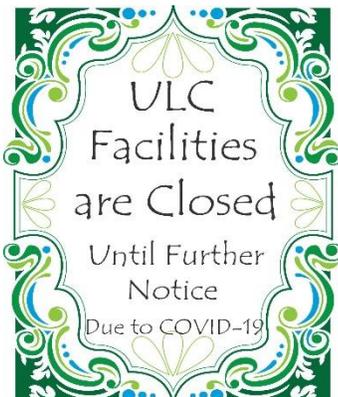
The deadline for the Aug./Sept. Lux is **Friday, July 31.**

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 articles coming! Thanks!



- 2 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study via Zoom
- 9:30a Communication Team via Zoom
- 12:30p Staff Meeting via Zoom
- 7:00p Pub Theology via Zoom
- 3 Noon Lectio Divina via Zoom
- 7 10:00a Worship via Facebook Live
- 11:00a Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom
(Contact office for link)
- 9 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study via Zoom
- 12:30p Staff Meeting via Zoom
- 10 Noon Lectio Divina via Zoom
- 14 10:00a Worship via Facebook Live
- 11:00a Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom
(Contact office for link)
- 16 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study via Zoom
- 12:30p Staff Meeting via Zoom
- 17 11:00a Virtual Bible Camp
- Noon Lectio Divina via Zoom
- 21 10:00a Worship via Facebook Live
- 11:00a Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom
(Contact office for link)
- 23 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study via Zoom
- 12:30p Staff Meeting via Zoom
- 24 11:00a Virtual Bible Camp
- Noon Lectio Divina via Zoom
- 25 3:00p Food Movers Set up
- 4:30p Food Distribution-contact free
- 28 10:00a Worship via Facebook Live
- 11:00a Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom
(Contact office for link)

- 1 11:00a Virtual Bible Camp
- Noon Lectio Divina via Zoom
- 4:30p Lead Management via Zoom
- 4 Independence Day
- 5 10:00a Worship via Facebook Live
- 11:00a Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom
(Contact office for link)
- 7 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study via Zoom
- 10:15a Communication Team via Zoom
- 12:30p Staff Meeting via Zoom
- 7:00p Pub Theology via Zoom
- 8 11:00a Virtual Bible Camp
- Noon Lectio Divina via Zoom
- 12 10:00a Worship via Facebook Live
- 11:00a Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom
(Contact office for link)
- 14 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study via Zoom
- 12:30p Staff Meeting via Zoom
- 15 11:00a Virtual Bible Camp
- Noon Lectio Divina via Zoom
- 19 10:00a Worship via Facebook Live
- 11:00a Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom
(Contact office for link)
- 21 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study via Zoom
- 12:30p Staff Meeting via Zoom
- 22 Noon Lectio Divina via Zoom
- 23 3:00p Food Movers Set up
- 4:30p Food Distribution-contact free
- 26 10:00a Worship via Facebook Live
- 11:00a Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom
(Contact office for link)
- 28 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study via Zoom
- 12:30p Staff Meeting via Zoom
- 29 Noon Lectio Divina via Zoom



Due to the COVID19 emergency the ULC building will remain closed until further notice. Check the ULC website www.ulcel.org for further updates.

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

Britny Pollard
ULC Administrative Assistant



University Lutheran Church
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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

Mark Your Calendars

Worship Expressions

Worship Expressions, Bluegrass

Outdoor Worship Service
Friday, Aug. 21 - time TBD

Worship Expressions, Gospel Revival

Alpha Sunday, Sept. 20 - 10:45 a.m.

Worship Expressions, Jazz

Friday, Dec. 4 - time TBD
Followed by the Advent Dinner

Looking Ahead to 2021

Worship Expressions, Racial Justice
Worship Expressions, And the Arts