



Lux

June/July 2021

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

Mark Your Calendars . . .

Sunday Worship

10 a.m. on Facebook

Outdoor Communion

1st & 3rd Sundays

Starting June 6 at 11:45 a.m.

Compassion Camp

July 6 - 29

Tuesdays & Thursdays

9:15 – 10:30 a.m. on Zoom

Summer Music Camp

July 6 - 29

Tuesdays & Thursdays

10:45 a.m. – Noon on Zoom

Food Movers

Thursday, June 24 & July 22

Drive-thru Distribution

4:30 p.m.

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

How Sweet the Sound

Kristie Wiggert Celebrates 50 Years as ULC's Organist



Kristie Wiggert

I was midway through the Zoom interview I was doing with Kristie Wiggert for this article when her image suddenly froze and then vanished altogether. She tried to rejoin the meeting but couldn't make that work. Technology. Sometimes we can't live with it; but these days, we absolutely can't live without it. We finished the interview on the phone.

Afterward, I thought about the irony of that. Kristie Wiggert is *not* a person who freezes and vanishes. Quite the opposite. She is an incredibly loyal and faithful person. In fact, her faithful dedication to University Lutheran Church as its organist is the reason for this celebratory article. 2021 marks the 50th year of Kristie's superb, unfailing service to the church in that role.

All through the pandemic she has gone into ULC nearly every day to practice the organ. It's not entirely that she needs the practice, being the accomplished musician that she is. She practices nearly every day, because, as she told me, "In order to get through this difficult time you have to stay active and busy!"

Kristie and husband David had joined ULC, which was still at its Ann Street location, in 1970 when they moved to East Lansing. David, a Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, had joined the faculty of MSU.

Continued on page 4.

Inside . . .

Pastor's Pen ~ Outdoor Communion.....	2
Covid Return to Building/Worship Plan	3
Congrats Kristie Wiggert.....	4
Family Faith Formation	6
Library New ~ Kids Hope.....	7
Racial Justice: Juneteenth~ June Outreach ...	8
July Outreach: AMMPARO ~ Aug: Davies Project .	9
May Council ~ President ~ Lead Manag.....	10
Synod Webcast ~ ULC Archives.	11
Celebrations ~ Floyd Square.....	12
June/July/Aug Calendar.....	13
Mortgage Fund Update.....	14



**Tuesdays & Thursdays
July 6 – 29**

Compassion Camp 9:15 to 10:30
Music Camp 10:45 to Noon

See more information and links to registration on page 6
or register at our website www.ulcel.org.



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

As We Plan to Return to the Building

As we begin the month of June, it seems as if the COVID-19 pandemic is beginning to ease. Case numbers are going down. Vaccinations are going up. Restrictions are easing and we're beginning to make plans for how we will return to in person worship and the building.

At its May meeting, the ULC Council finalized a plan for returning to the building and worship which is based on case numbers of COVID-19 in Ingham County and guidance from the CDC and the local Public Health Department. Hopefully, this will help guide us as we move forward, but we also understand that things can change quickly, and we may have to adjust. A lot of thinking went into this plan as we tried to care for the people of our congregation and the greater community.

But these guidelines are the easy part. Getting back into the building is just the first step. The biggest challenge we face now is how do we move forward and not just return to the way we've always done things? We talk about "returning to normal." But there is no way that we can go through what we've been through and not be changed. In the past year and a quarter, we've had to do things differently and we've learned new ways of being and doing. Some we'll be glad to let go, but others we'll want to keep.

To be honest, I don't have answers. But I do have a lot of questions: How will the way we've worshiped online change and affect the way we worship back in the sanctuary? What new elements of worship will we want to keep e.g., prayer requests, video elements, various types of music, inclusive language creed, artwork? What elements of online worship will we be glad to let go? How will we maintain the digital presence and the wider outreach we've had during the pandemic? What role will Zoom play when we can hold meetings again in person?



What effect will Worship Wednesdays have on traditional Sunday School, and how do we incorporate this concept, which has worked so well, into our faith formation going forward? What kind of worship schedule will we have when we return to the building: one service, two services, and if two, will they both be the same or different? How do we incorporate and maintain relationships with the people who have connected with ULC and don't live in the area? Are there any staffing changes or additions that will be needed because of what we've learned and experienced?

If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is that there is no one right way to "do" church and as we move forward, we will need to continue to adapt, pivot, and grow as we seek to carry out God's call in our setting.

As a way of easing into being together again, the Council has decided to continue online worship through the summer but have outdoor gatherings for Communion after worship at 11:45 a.m. on the first and third Sundays of the month. We'll gather in the parking lot in the shade opposite the entrance to the church. Please bring your own chair if you'd like to sit. The service will be short (just the Communion liturgy and distribution), but it will give us a chance to receive the sacrament again and to connect with people. Following CDC guidelines, masks will be necessary for those who are not vaccinated or if you're not comfortable without a mask. Our hope is that we can begin in-person worship in the building in September.

As we move into new territory, I am grateful for the promise that God is always with us, just as God has been with us throughout the pandemic. *"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* Matthew 28:20

*Blessings,
Pastor Gary*



Beginning June 6, outdoor Communion will be offered at 11:45 a.m. in the ULC parking lot on the first and third Sundays. A short Communion liturgy will be offered.

Please bring a chair if you wish to sit. Please park in the main parking lot as the service will be offered in the shade in the lot opposite the main entrance.

ULC Covid Return Plan/Guidelines (Adopted by Council on 5/20/2021)

This plan/guidelines have been adopted by the ULC Council to guide our return to the building as we begin to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize that as the pandemic evolves, we may have to adapt and change this plan/guidelines as appropriate.

We recognize that the pandemic is fluid, and the situation is changing regularly. With this in mind, this plan/guidelines will serve to guide our transition back into the building and into a post pandemic world. The Church Council will discern our move between phases of this plan and develop/approve specific policies as necessary.

Basic Plan

When COVID numbers look like...	We will...
Vaccinations < 55% of population (Red Harvard COVID risk map)	Encourage Vaccination • Encourage the staff to safely work from home • All meetings are virtual • Worship online only • Very limited activity in the church building
About 25 cases/100K in Ingham Co. (Orange – Harvard COVID Risk Map)	Continue worshipping online only • Limited activity in the church building up to 15 people following guidelines below • Virtual meetings are still encouraged • Re-evaluate phasing plan • Update the congregation
About 10 cases/100K in Ingham Co. (Yellow – Harvard COVID Risk Map)	Re-open the office (masks & distancing required for unvaccinated) and staff begin working in the building as needed • Gradual increase in activity in the building • Some meetings may be in-person • Continue on-line worship • Provide opportunities for limited worship/Communion gatherings outdoors • Update the congregation
About 5 cases/100K in Ingham Co. (Yellow – Harvard COVID Risk Map)	Hold limited-attendance events (based on guidance from CDC and local Public Health Department) • Staff working in the building on a regular schedule • Meetings in-person or online (based on guidance from CDC and local Public Health Department) • Return to worship in the sanctuary when we are ready i.e. CDC and local Public Health guidance, protecting those not eligible for vaccines (children), and ability to stream is in place
< 1 cases/100K in Ingham Co. (Green – Harvard COVID risk map)	Resume worship in the sanctuary • Resume fellowship/coffee hour in gathering area

General Guidelines

- We will continue to implement all risk factor mitigations, such as mandatory masks, social distancing, and no congregational singing until the CDC and the local Public Health Department removes these requirements for unvaccinated people.
- We will follow the local Public Health Department guidelines and CDC guidelines, including masking and social distancing, regardless of the number of vaccinated parishioners.
- Small groups meeting in the building will keep a record of attendees and limit numbers in accordance with local Public Health Department guidelines. The group leader will keep this list. If someone who has been in the building develops COVID, the church office should be informed.
- When we are ready to return to in-person worship indoors, plans will be developed which will meet the guidelines of the local Public Health Department and may include:
 - Ensure building capacity restrictions are being respected based on local Public Health guidelines – in all rooms and spaces.
 - Marking spots on pews or chairs where people can sit that are automatically socially distanced.
 - Develop signage for the building – guidelines, navigation
 - Consider temporarily converting bathrooms to single-user to limit congestion.
 - Work with custodial staff to review system for cleaning high touch surfaces (doors, light switches, etc.).
 - Limit access to parts of the church building that are not in use to limit the need for cleaning and sanitizing.
 - Make plans to welcome people to the building in physically distanced ways. (Sidewalk dots or chalk marks)
 - Refrain from hugs and handshakes. Non-physical expressions of greeting and Christian love are best.
 - Arrange for stationary offering plates/baskets to limit movement in the worship space.
 - Communion: Individual pre-packaged elements, pre-placed where possible. Or allow for social distancing in line. Presider is vaccinated (if possible) and sanitizes.
 - Plan for alternative, non-physical ways of passing the peace, or eliminate passing the peace
 - Consider worship schedule: one service or two?
 - Singing, except for one lead singer, will not be allowed until approved by local Public Health guidelines.
 - Make arrangements to assist people in entering and departing the worship space without forming clusters for greetings. Train ushers to do this with grace.

Continued on page 13.

How Sweet the Sound continued from page 1.

Kristie began practicing on the church's organ as soon as she joined the church, and in March of 1971, was asked to become ULC's organist. She said yes. And that, was the beginning of a beautiful relationship.

At that time, the new University Lutheran church building on Harrison Road was nearing completion. In 1971, the congregation, staff, and Kristie, along with the church's organ, moved to their beautiful new home. It was a much larger home than the church on Ann Street.

"The problem with that organ in the new building," Kristie told me, "was that the sound barely made it halfway up the aisle." But she and the congregation made do with the organ and its shortcomings for years. Better half a loaf with love.

Between the years 1984 to 1986 the magnificent S.S. Hamill organ from Medford, Massachusetts, purchased for \$3,500, was installed. Kristie explained that it took so long to install because it had not been used in quite a while and had suffered some water damage. Members of the congregation rebuilt the organ under the direction of Dana Hull of Ann Arbor. When the repairs and installation were completed, the organ's music not only reached all the way up the aisle, it reached to the rafters!

ULC's Director of Music, Janine Novenske Smith, says of Kristie:

One of the things I most admire about Kristie is how she so generously shares her time and many talents with those around her. She is not only a fine and knowledgeable musician but is also a natural born educator. Whether it be the Senior Choir, the Scholarship Students, or children in the Summer Youth Music Camp, Kristie always finds the time to meet with them - to teach and polish music, to share her wisdom, to offer guidance, to motivate, and most especially, to offer encouragement. All of this is done out of a love of music and a love for ULC.

Kristie Elise Wilson Wiggert was born in 1943, in Montana, the daughter of the Reverend William Wilson and Elizabeth Wilson. The Wilson family moved in 1945 to Rio (rhymes with Ohio), Wisconsin, (Kristie calls it "the Lake Wobegon of Wisconsin") where her father served as pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church. In Rio, her musical life began. In the biography she sent me, she wrote:

1948 – Began piano lessons, which did not last. Too young!

1950 – Began lessons again and this time continued. Began oboe and then flute when I entered high school.

It was in high school that her love affair with the organ began. Her family had moved again in 1957, this time to St. Petersburg, Florida (a difficult move, Kristie said, "because I was no longer a big frog in a little pond"). At age 16, she began to play the organ in her father's church. She also continued her piano lessons, played oboe in the school's concert band and tenor drum in the marching band.



Kristie teaching recorder basics at Summer Music Camp.

After graduating from St. Petersburg's Northeast High School, Kristie enrolled at St. Petersburg Community College and began formal organ lessons with Robert Setzer, who, she says, "became my friend and mentor. He was a fantastic teacher."

During those years at the community college, Kristie became the Assistant Organist and Junior Choir Director at the Episcopal Cathedral, where Setzer was Organist and Choir Director.

In the fall of 1961, she transferred to the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where she majored in music with organ as her principal instrument. During her undergraduate years, she attended Lord of Light, known at that time as the Lutheran Student Center. It was there that she met David C. Wiggert. It was a marriage made in Lutheran heaven; David was also the child of a Lutheran pastor. They married in St. Petersburg in 1967.

ULC's Associate Pastor, Haley Vay Beaman, writes of Kristie:

As a lifelong Lutheran and church musician, Kristie has a wealth of knowledge when it comes to piano and organ music. One thing I especially appreciate is her flexibility and willingness to accompany and adapt. Accompaniment is a term often used in the church to talk about being the presence of Christ with and for one another in situations of advocacy and justice. Accompaniment is also the term used for a musician who plays with a vocalist. Kristie has a passion for both kinds of accompaniment, and it shows in her ministry to this day. She has experienced so much over decades of change in the church, and she continues to accompany the church and adapt as the times change. I have witnessed her unique ability to show appreciation for traditional styles of worship and music, while staying current and non-complacent in her understanding of the church's role in the community and world.

After their wedding, Kristie and Dave moved to Laurel, Maryland. Kristie taught music education at Ardmore Elementary School in Prince George's County, Maryland, just outside Washington, D.C.

Continued on page 5.

How Sweet the Sound from page 4

In 1969, the Wiggerts moved again, this time to Thalwil, Switzerland, where Dave taught at the Hoch-Schula in Zurich. During this period Kristie says, "I was a Hausfrau and took lessons from the local organist at the church about a block from our apartment. My teacher was Monica Henking."

On their way to Switzerland, the Wiggerts bought a car in Germany. This allowed them to travel nearly every weekend during their stay.

"I think we saw every bit of Switzerland," Kristie told me. "In fact, I think we saw more of the country than most Swiss citizens do!"

After 15 months in Thalwil, David and Kristie returned in 1970 to the States, East Lansing, and University Lutheran Church. In addition to serving as ULC's organist beginning in 1971, Kristie also began working on a Master's Degree in Music Education at MSU. She was a Teaching Fellow, taught piano, and studied the organ with Corliss Arnold.

After completing her Masters, Kristie became involved in a special teaching project at the Allen Street School in Lansing (from 1976 to 1984).

In 1977 to be exact, the Wiggert's daughter Kara was born. Kristie exclaims, "It was a great day!" Kara is now living in Seattle with her husband Nicolas Gerardo Gonzalez. They have one daughter, Ezmeralda Linka Gonzalez. Her names honor both her Hispanic and Scandinavian heritage. Kristie told me the hardest part of the pandemic for her has been not seeing her daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter in person for over a year.

From 1984 until 2005, Kristie worked as a music teacher in the Lansing School District, sometimes working at several schools at a once. "I also gave private piano lessons during those years," Kristie says "and many of my students were the children of ULC members. I did that from 1972 until about 2000."

ULC's Lead Pastor, Gary Bunge, writes this of Kristie:



Kristie and Santi take a break during Summer Music Camp.

I'm so grateful to Kristie for her 50 years of ministry at ULC. It is an amazing achievement. In those years, she has worked with so many different pastors and staffs and as a result has learned to be flexible. That flexibility has been a real gift to the congregation as it enables us to grow and change as needed so we can continue to be faithful to our calling of sharing the love of Jesus. Thank you, Kristie, for your dedication, commitment to excellence, and sharing your musical gifts with us.

In the biography Kristie shared with me, she included a list of what she calls "other mountains I've had to climb." These included seizures in 1996, fused ankle treated at the Cleveland Clinic in 2002, knee replacement in 2011, and a stroke in 2014.

But perhaps the most dramatic challenge she had to face involved a mountain. Literally. Towards the end of their year-long sojourn in Switzerland, Dave and Kristie went skiing at a rather out-of-the-way place. There had been a certain kind of wet snow which made skiing difficult. Kristie had a fall, and her binding didn't release. The result was a serious "spiral" leg fracture.

Dave had to ski down the mountain by himself. He returned with the EMTs who took Kristie down on a stretcher. She saw several different doctors of differing abilities and talents. She had surgery and was in the hospital for two weeks. With the help of crutches, she managed in their little apartment despite the steep stairway up and the multiple architectural obstacles inside the

apartment itself (the building was built in 1732). What was supposed to be a 12 month stay in Switzerland became a 15 month stay instead.

When the Wiggerts finally returned to the U.S. and their new home in East Lansing, Kristie was free of both the crutches and the cast. She went to a celebrated local orthopedic surgeon here in the Lansing area who managed to (literally) add insult to injury. "He just exploded," Kristie told me. "He told me I had done everything wrong."

"He said YOU had done everything wrong?" I asked her in disbelief.

Apparently, the good doctor assumed that a degree in music and the organ included a concomitant education in orthopedic protocols. Nonetheless, he did what he felt was needed, and Kristie was still on her own two feet when he was done. Hallelujah.

At the end of our interview, I asked her if she was happy that ULC had restored the organ. "Oh, yes, very," she said. "It is an easy organ to get around." The "new" organ was assembled from newly made parts and used parts from the old organ by the Fowler/Hubert Organ Company now located in Eaton Rapids. The work isn't quite finished, though; eventually there will be three additional stops.

And finally, I asked her what music she liked to listen to when she was off duty. Well, Bach, of course. She's a Lutheran organist, after all. But she has a passion for contemporary choral works as well. In fact, she is very fond of the music composed by Zeb Highben, the husband of our beloved former intern, Amanda.

So, fifty wonderful years as organist at University Lutheran Church, and we hope there are many, many more. Kristie is a woman who continues to learn and listen and grow. She is full of life, good humor, and music, and, God bless her, when she plays that all pours out over us.

Bill Trevarthen

Thank you and congratulations, Kristie!

Compassion Camp Changing the World with Lovingkindness



We gather for “Compassion Camp: Changing the World with Lovingkindness” this July on Tuesday and Thursday morning, July 6-29, 9:15-10:30am. Plans are still taking shape. So far, the schedule consists of each Tuesday morning introducing our theme, and sharing the Bible story, a song and an activity. On Thursday morning we will engage the theme through a variety of adaptive movement (yoga, stretching, Compassion Games – based off the summer Olympic games, and more) as well as learn from a variety of local and wider church speakers who teach us about how they do *compassion in action*. Look for more detailed reflection on Compassion Camp in the August/September’s Lux newsletter.

This summer our Compassion Camp service project is all about leading kids to learn and grow in local benevolence and empathy – asking, what are your favorite books in which the characters show *compassion in action*? We will be accepting donations to equip our ULC Book Nook with these children’s books. Children will be given the opportunity to share a new or gently used book; financial and physical book donations from our congregation are always welcome. Please let me know if you have ideas about children’s books for the Nook, so that we can keep track of donations and content.

Themes for Compassion Camp include:
All Around Me – Exodus 2:1–10
For Myself – 1 Kings 19:4–8
To the Neighbor – Luke 10:25–37

With the World – Acts 2:1–13, 42–47
Along the Way – Romans 16:1–16

Register for Compassion Camp Today!
<https://www.ulcel.org/virtual-summer-camps.html>

Children age 3 through 5th grade are eligible. If you have an older youth who is interested, I would appreciate their help! Please let me know. I welcome and encourage youth 6th grade and up to engage in Compassion Camp as a youth leader! Help us prepare leaders of every age in compassion and loving kindness.

Pastor Haley Vay



Tuesday and Thursday mornings, July 6 - 29
10:45 a.m. - Noon

For campers entering 3rd grade through 6th grade

Music Camp Classes and Instructors:
Choir, Janine Novenske Smith
Recorder, Kristie W. Wiggert
Handbells, Louise Paquette
Ukulele, Nicole Greiter
Sign language, Sherry Corwin
Music Camp Directors: Janine Novenske Smith and
Kristie W. Wiggert

\$65/camper, \$20 for each additional camper/family

Registration deadline: June 14 - www.ulcel.org

Janine Novenske Smith



Welcome to our Newest Confirmed Members!

Libby Baswell
Connor Hagman
Hannah Hagman
Bryan McPhall
Santiago Saucedo

Group Leader: Louise Harder





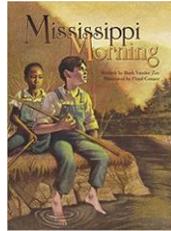
More Children’s Books to Read and Watch

Library Storytime continues with three more YouTube videos of racial justice books. We look forward to the time when we can visit the ULC Library, but for now you can enjoy the books in your home. Enjoy!



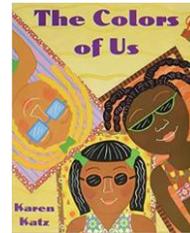
[Nelson Mandela by Kadir Nelson](#) is the story of a young boy's determination to change South Africa, and of the struggles of a man who eventually became the president of his country. Mandela believed in equality for all people, no matter the color of their skin. Readers will be inspired by Mandela's triumph and his lifelong quest to create a more

just world. [Nelson Mandela by Kadir Nelson - Bing video](#)



Mississippi Morning by Ruth Vander Zee takes place in the middle of the Great Depression, but James William still enjoys his life in rural Mississippi. But his happiness starts to unravel when he discovers the fire that burned down the local preacher's house wasn't an accident, but a hate crime. When his friend LeRoy tells him about the Klan and their hanging tree, James William has a hard time grasping this harsh reality, until an unexpected encounter brings the issue close to

home. (Read by the author; includes background information; for older readers.) [Mississippi Morning | Read By : Ruth Vander Zee - YouTube](#)



The Color of Us by Karen Katz. (Not in the ULC Collection) - Seven-year-old Lena is going to paint a picture of herself. She wants to use brown paint for her skin. But when she and her mother take a walk through the neighborhood, Lena learns that brown comes in many different shades. [The Colors Of Us - Bing video](#)

The Library Team

Closure Ideas from Kids Hope USA

June 11 marks the end of the 2020-2021 school year in the Lansing Public Schools and the ministry of Kids Hope USA at Forest View Elementary School. At a time like this, closure is an activity designed to process thoughts, feelings and behaviors related to the loss and change of school ending and a mentor/student relationship stopping for the summer months or for good.



Closure is important because many of the students being mentored have experienced unfinished endings in past relationships which can cause emotional distress. The opportunity to finish well, is a template for future experiences.

A mentor can address closure by counting down sessions at least one month prior to the last time together. During this time, both the mentor and student can reflect on past wins, challenges, and positive changes. For example, Jerry Lindman can remind his student about their extensive online study of the solar system and how much his student has learned. Sheila Nicholas and her student can laugh at all the times they have read *Dragons Eat Tacos* and talked about food.

A second factor in closure is to focus on the present and to share how both mentor and student feel at the moment. Positive changes that the mentor has noticed can be recognized. When the mentor shares his or her feelings, especially if the student will be going to another school or if the mentor is retiring, it models closure for the student.

A final important factor in closure is to focus on the future and leave a positive expectation such as “I believe in you” or “know you will read a certain book next year” or “have the opportunity to do a special activity.” Mentors need to be careful about making promises that can’t be kept or are uncertain. Instead, they can say goodbye and they hope to see the student in the fall. An award for an accomplishment, a small handmade gift or a photo of the mentor and student supports a positive finish.

*Barbara Kissling
ULC Kids Hope USA Director*



Speaking of Racial Justice Juneteenth

Juneteenth – a blending of the words June and nineteenth – is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. It is also called **Emancipation Day** or **Freedom Day**.

History: In 1863, during the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared more than three million slaves living in the Confederate states to be free. The Emancipation Proclamation only prohibited slavery in the states of secession, not in the border states so at the end of the Civil War, slavery still existed in Kentucky, New Jersey, and Delaware. The Thirteenth Amendment to the US Constitution was passed by Congress 31 January 1865 and ratified 6 December 1865 declaring, "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

Freedom for Slaves in Texas: White slaveowners in Texas knew about the proclamation for freedom for the slaves in 1863, but it took more than two years, before the news reached African Americans living in Texas. It was not until Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, that the state's residents finally learned that slavery had been abolished. Union General Gordon Granger read the federal order effectively telling the story of liberation for African Americans in our country and the former slaves immediately began to celebrate with prayer, feasting, song, and dance.



First Official Celebration: The following year, on June 19, the first official Juneteenth celebrations took place in Texas. The original observances involved church-centered community gatherings in Texas including prayer meetings and the singing of spirituals. Celebrants wore new clothes as a way of representing their newfound freedom. Within a few years, African Americans in other states were celebrating the day as well, making it an annual tradition.

Juneteenth Became a Holiday in Texas in 1980, and a number of other states subsequently followed suit. In June 2005, Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm signed legislation officially designating the third Saturday in June as Juneteenth National Freedom Day in Michigan. Organizations such as the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation are seeking a Congressional designation of Juneteenth as a national day of observance. Forty-eight of the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia have recognized Juneteenth as either a state holiday or ceremonial holiday (Hawaii and South Dakota do not). The day is also celebrated outside the U.S., with organizations in a number of countries using the day to recognize the end of slavery and to celebrate the culture and achievements of African Americans.

[Lansing Juneteenth Celebration](#) – June 17-19 Lansing June 19: African American Caravan Parade (11:00) and Juneteenth Celebration On-Site at the Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center, Lansing.

June Outreach of the Month Michigan Bail Bond Project

Any given day in the United States, it is estimated that 500 thousand people are in prison waiting for their day in court. These people have not been convicted of a crime, their "situation is that they are poor and cannot pay the bail that would allow them to not be in jail before their trial. In Michigan we have an organization that pays bail for people, the Michigan Bail Bond Project.

The principle of bail works when a person is placed under arrest, they

post bail so they do not have to stay in jail awaiting their trial. The Bail Bond Project is a revolving fund that pays the bail which is returned to the program when the person appears for trial. This program now has a social worker established in Lansing.

Our purpose in June is to raise awareness of the Michigan Bail Bond Project and to raise funds to



help their cause. You can donate by sending a check to the church or using the "Donate" button on our [website](#). Indicate *Bail Bond Project* in the memo.

On Sunday June 6, our worship will include a speaker from the Bail Bond Project. Learn

more at [Detroit | The Bail Project](#).

Michael Anderson

July Outreach of the Month AMMPARO Migrant Children

“Dios es nuestro amparo y fortaleza,” (“God is our refuge and strength,”) – Psalm 46:1

AMMPARO is a holistic, whole church commitment by the ELCA, as a church in the world, to accompany children today and in the future.

The word “amparo” in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. The ELCA’s strategy to **Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO)** was envisioned after witnessing the plight of children who are forced to flee their communities because of complex and interrelated reasons, including chronic violence, poverty, environmental displacement and lack of opportunities in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. Due to our connection to companion churches in the region, including companion synod relationships, and existing ministries in the U.S., the ELCA is well-positioned to help ensure that these vulnerable children are protected.

In a holistic, whole church response that connects international and US outcomes, the ELCA has developed this strategy based on the following commitments:

- Uphold and guarantee basic human rights and safety of migrant children and their families
- Address the root causes of migration in countries from Central America’s Northern Triangle and Mexico and the treatment of migrants in transit
- Work toward just and humane policies affecting migrants in and outside the U.S.
- Engage as a church body with all of its companions, affiliates and partners to respond to the migration situation and its causes and to advocate for migrant children and their families.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, the ELCA is called to bear witness to the conditions affecting so many communities and to work to find solutions that will acknowledge the humanity in all of God’s children. Join us in making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children and families.



Get involved

Pray for the safety of migrant children and families on the journey and for justice as they reach their destinations.

Become a Welcoming Congregation to accompany these children and families through their transition to life in the U.S. Link to

resource: www.elca.org/Resources/AMMPARO

Advocate for justice for migrant children and families. www.elca.org/Advocacy

Accompany migrant children and families through the Guardian Angel Program as the physical presence of the church in the courtroom. <https://Vimeo.com/157458987>

Give to AMMPARO to provide opportunities for children and families in Central America and in the U.S. <https://community.elca.org/ammparo-donation-form>

Taken from the ELCA.org website: [AMMPARO Migrant Children - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \(elca.org\)](http://www.elca.org/AMMPARO-Migrant-Children-Evangelical-Lutheran-Church-in-America)

Connie Lenkowski

August Outreach of the Month The Davies Project - More Than Just A Ride

Lack of transportation significantly affects access to health care and disproportionately affects those on the low end of the socioeconomic spectrum. About 70 percent of the

children who use the Lansing area specialty clinics are on Medicaid, and miss roughly 60 percent of their medical appointments. By bus, travel from South Lansing to Sparrow’s



pediatric clinics involves at least one transfer, walking some distance, and can take one to two hours. However, on average it takes about 10-15 minutes by car from South Lansing, where 75 percent of

Lansing’s population lives.

Volunteer drivers from The Davies Project enable families who need transportation to access health care.

So far, we have reached about 6% of the thousands of children in our community who could be healthier if they had regular, reliable rides to critical appointments.

Joy Whitten

Note: Learn more about this outreach in the August/September Lux, arriving in mailboxes Aug. 15.

ULC Council met via Zoom on May 19. The following are some highlights:

- Giving remains strong and mortgage paydown matching has resulted in the payoff date moving to 2022!
- Council voted to approve the screen placement, per screen team's recommendation.



Council Notes

- Council voted to approve the piano repairs
- Council voted to adopt COVID-19 Building Use Procedures and Reentry Worship guidelines.

Emily Uebel
ULC Council Secretary

April Attendance

Maundy Thursday, April 1: 694
Good Friday, April 2: 694
Easter Sunday, April 4: 1342
Sunday Worship, April 11: 884
Sunday Worship, April 18: 1444
Choir Concert, April 23: 1816
Sunday Worship, April 25: 1174

From the President

Thanksgiving and Celebration

This month I am especially thankful for our Council members and pastors so faithfully leading ULC's ministry throughout the pandemic. During the May Council meeting, we approved updated [Return Plan and Guidelines](#) based on metrics, to provide direction for safe building use and transitioning worship into the sanctuary. Using these guidelines, we hope to return to the sanctuary in the fall but certainly recognize the potential need for adjustment depending upon the metrics.

We continue to give thanks for the digital ministry capacity developed through the pandemic and commit to not leaving our online community behind when returning



to in-person worship. Our goal is to transition worship into the sanctuary when it is safe and when worship can be streamed online for virtual ULC community members.

During the summer months we will celebrate communion, gathering outside the church at 11:45 a.m. every first and third Sunday following online worship. We know how ULC community members hunger for the Lord's Supper together and look forward to communing with you during our first short outdoor communion service on June 6th.

Nancy Lindman
ULC President

Lead Management Team Notes

Social Action (Bryan Rahe): We had 110 shoppers for the food distribution in April and 30 volunteers. Excess food was given to St. Paul's Lutheran Food Pantry and the Pine Street and Mt. Vernon Headstart. We continue to need volunteers.

We are finishing up our collection for "Change for a Change." We collected \$240 last year which will be combined with \$475 from this year. The money will be donated to Samaritas. We thank all those who supported this effort.

Grounds (Norm Jolin, Sr.): The Grounds Team at ULC has been very busy this spring. We have fertilized the lawn, pruned several trees and shrubs, and administered weed control in several gardens. A professional landscape plan for the Memorial Garden is being designed using the R&D Landscape Company. We plan to review and modify the plan as needed until it meets our satisfaction. We are still seeking more volunteers to help with garden maintenance.

Stewardship (Mike Anderson): The schedule for 2021 Outreach of

the Month recipients has been finalized as follows:

Jan: St. Luke's Coat Bank
Feb: Greater Lansing Food Bank
March: Little Library
Apr: Choir Scholarship
May: Living Water Ministries
June: Bail Bond Project
July: AMMPARO
Aug: Davies Project
Sept: CORR – Congregations Organizing for Racial Reconciliation
Oct: Black Lives Matter Lansing
Nov: Citizens for Prison Reform
Dec: ELCA Good Gifts

Amy Wagenknecht

Webinar

Hunger & Climate Change: Making the Connections

June 24 - 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Led by Dr. Ryan Cumming, Program Director, Hunger Education, ELCA World Hunger

As our climate continues to change, more frequent and more severe droughts, flooding, and changing growing seasons reminds us of this relationship – and the threat that a changing climate poses for communities around the world. This threat is expected to drive nearly 100 million more people into poverty this decade alone. Join the N/W Lower Michigan Synod and ELCA World Hunger for a conversation about climate change, poverty, hunger – and the many ways God is at work around the world and here in the United States as we work with our



neighbors to adapt to a changing climate and live out our vocation to care for God’s bountiful creation. Together, we will learn more about the climate’s impact on hunger and poverty; hear stories of ministries accompanying farmers, migrants and others impacted by climate events; and share ways the church can work together for a just world – and climate – where all are fed.

To register for this event, please go to this link: <https://bit.ly/3a8Ktss>. After you register, you will receive a reminder and a Zoom Invitation to this event a few days before the webinar is scheduled to take place.

Michael Anderson

ULC Archives

Vacation From or Vacation With God?



Two issues of *College Lutheran News*, June 1949 and 1953, had articles about taking a summer vacation. The 1953 article was titled: *Vacation from/with God?* The 1949 article follows.

“The dictionary gives two root meanings from which the word vacation comes. The first is “a being free from duty, services, etc.” As such, a vacation is something very essential to our lives, for a rest from our labors and a change of scenery are periodically necessary to help us do better work. Unfortunately, however, the second root meaning often applies – “to make null and void, to be empty.”

Many times, when we’re “vacating” at the cabin on the lake, or with the folks, we act as though we can vacate God – make Him null and void through our neglect of Him. And the result is that many vacations are quite empty of any spiritual benefits. For we often act as though we must

take a vacation from God at the same time that we take a vacation from work. Fortunately, however, our Lord never vacates us.

So, how about making this year’s vacation like the first root meaning, and not the second. You can be free from certain duties, but just as you can’t be free from eating, so you can’t be free from receiving the spiritual bread of life, and still remain healthy. What can you do about it?

1. Attend services in God’s house regularly, wherever you are. Summertime gives you a fine opportunity to attend other churches and see how they do things . . .
2. If you cannot find a single church in the vicinity, hold your own service on Sunday morning, or any other day. Try working out your own service sometime or use a hymnal to help you. (We won’t mind some of our hymnals disappearing for the summer for such good reasons.) You

can’t find a more beautiful church than the out-of-doors.

3. Take time each day for your devotions – either privately or with the family. Remember to include your home congregation and friends in your prayers.
4. Try reading some good literature – spiritually good – for a change. The Pastor has many books he’d be glad to loan, and the library has many others.
5. Remember – your home congregation must continue to function even though you are out of town. Send your contribution regularly from a portion set aside each week.

Pastor Herbert Wolf.”

We could easily add a sixth idea to the above list – Tune in to ULC’s service on Facebook Live from anywhere!

Connie Lenkowski

Celebrations

June Birthdays

4 Myra Kim
Joseph Wilmes
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
23 Karen Braselton
Dale Hinkley



Kelli Vanous
26 Mitchell Eithun
27 Tim Schmidt
29 Jeffrey Bracken
30 John Kruger

June Anniversaries

3 Mike & Kathy Sweat
10 Jim & Angie Dye
13 Tom & Barb Kissling
16 Will & Marge Mahoney
Debbie & Steve Viele
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

July Birthdays

1 Norman Jolin Jr.
2 Adam Fisher
Rev. Fred Fritz
Taylor Milnes
4 Arlene Zerkle
7 Phyllis Andersland
Debbie Viele
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
22 Annette Stanley
23 Carole Ford

24 Matt Mutka
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

July Anniversaries

2 Russ & Gerry Erickson
3 Phil & Sandy Brooks
10 Bob & Sarah Gallagher
12 Eric Bubolz & Karen Sanders
18 Kelly & Steven Schafka
20 Larry & Amy Wagenknecht
Marcy & Joseph Wilmes
22 Sherry & Tom Corwin
24 Beth Hoger & Lisa Swem
28 Paul & Judy Kindel
David & Coreen Williams

"Beloved Community" (Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

On Tuesday, May 4, Miriam Bunge, with husband Gary and sister Ruth visited George Floyd Square in Minneapolis. The following are a couple of excerpts from her reflections on this experience. "... In Minneapolis at George Floyd Square, God in community found me and I found God in community. I was not "expecting" this visit to be a spiritual experience, but then, when do we

really "expect" an event to be a spiritual experience?"

"George Floyd Square also included a Speedway gas station not being used to fuel cars, but to fuel people...All are welcome to visit or sit



George Floyd Square.

in silence, honoring George Floyd and supporting this community."

Visit the [Racial Justice page](#) on the ULC website to read the article in its entirety and to view additional photos from that day.



The deadline for the August/September Lux is **Monday, Aug. 2.**

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!



- 1 12:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom
- 2 9:00a Communications-Zoom
Noon Lectio Divina-Zoom*
- 4:30p Lead Management Team-MS Teams
- 6 10:00a Sunday Worship-Facebook
11:45a Outdoor Communion-ULC Parking lot
- 8 12:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom
- 9 Noon Lectio Divina-Zoom*
4:00p Worship Wednesday for Kids-Zoom*
- 13 10:00a Sunday Worship-Facebook
- 15 12:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom
- 16 Noon Lectio Divina-Zoom*
- 17 6:30p ULC Council-Zoom*
- 19 Juneteenth
- 20 10:00a Worship-Facebook
11:45a Outdoor Communion-ULC Parking lot
- 22 12:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom
7:00p Pub Theology-Zoom*
- 23 Noon Lectio Divina-Zoom*
- 24 10:30a RJ: Education-Zoom
1:00p RJ: Communication-Zoom
4:30p Food Movers Distribution-Drive thru
- 27 10:00a Sunday Worship-Facebook
- 29 12:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom
- 30 Noon Lectio Divina-Zoom*

- 10:30a Summer Music Camp-Zoom*
- 13 6:30p Racial Justice Team-Zoom
- 14 10:00p Staff Meeting-Zoom
Noon Lectio Divina-Zoom*
- 15 9:00a Compassion Camp-Zoom*
10:30a Summer Music Camp-Zoom*
6:30p ULC Council-Zoom*
- 18 10:00a Sunday Worship-Facebook
11:45a Outdoor Communion-ULC Parking lot
- 20 9:00a Compassion Camp-Zoom*
10:30a Summer Music Camp-Zoom*
- 21 10:00p Staff Meeting-Zoom
Noon Lectio Divina-Zoom*
- 22 9:00a Compassion Camp-Zoom*
10:30a Summer Music Camp-Zoom*
10:30a RJ: Education-Zoom
1:00p RJ: Communication-Zoom
4:30p Food Movers Distribution-Drive thru
- 25 10:00a Sunday Worship-Facebook
- 27 9:00a Compassion Camp-Zoom*
10:30a Summer Music Camp-Zoom*
7:00p Pub Theology-Zoom*
- 28 10:00p Staff Meeting-Zoom
Noon Lectio Divina-Zoom*
- 29 9:00a Compassion Camp-Zoom*
10:30a Summer Music Camp-Zoom*



- 4 10:00a Sunday Worship-Facebook
11:45a Outdoor Communion-ULC Parking lot
- 5 Boettcher Memorial
- 6 9:00a Compassion Camp-Zoom*
10:30a Summer Music Camp-Zoom*
- 7 9:30a Communications-Zoom
Noon Lectio Divina-Zoom*
12:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom
4:30p Lead Management Team-MS Teams
- 8 9:00a Compassion Camp-Zoom*
10:30a Summer Music Camp-Zoom*
- 11 10:00a Sunday Worship-Facebook
- 13 9:00a Compassion Camp-Zoom*



- 1 10:00a Sunday Worship-Facebook
11:45a Outdoor Communion-ULC Parking lot
- 3 12:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom
- 4 9:30a Communications-Zoom
Noon Lectio Divina-Zoom*
- 8 10:00a Sunday Worship-Facebook
- 10 12:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom
- 11 Noon Lectio Divina-Zoom*
- 15 10:00a Sunday Worship-Facebook
11:45a Outdoor Communion-ULC Parking lot

Mark your calendars: Wednesday, Sept. 8
Michigan Refugee Hope Golf Outing, Wheatfield
Valley Golf, Williamston

* Zoom link contacts: Choir - Janine Smith; Pub Theology - [Britny](#); Lectio Divina - Britny; Compassion Camp – Pastor Haley Vay; Summer Music Camp – Britny; Rhodon Circle – Connie Lenkowski (connielenkowski@gmail.com); Council Meeting – Nancy Lindman

Note: As we transition back into using the building, some meetings may switch to in-person. Please check the ULC website calendar for most current meeting locations.

Covid Return Plan continued from page 3.

- Contact Tracing and COVID Outbreaks
 - Maintain a list of who is in attendance at indoor church events – RSVP's, sign-ins by usher, photos. Keep these attendance lists for one month in the church office.
 - If someone at an event/worship tests positive for COVID, everyone at that event needs to be contacted. This will be done by: Worship – Britny and volunteers
Small Groups/Events – the event coordinator
 - If COVID cases in the community rise, we will revert to the Basic Plan at the beginning of this document. This decision will be made by the ULC Council.



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Change service requested

Gary A. Bunge
 Lead Pastor

Haley Vay Beaman
 Associate Pastor

Janine Novenske Smith
 Director of Music

Britny Pollard
 Administrative Assistant

Gary Carl
 Financial Administrator

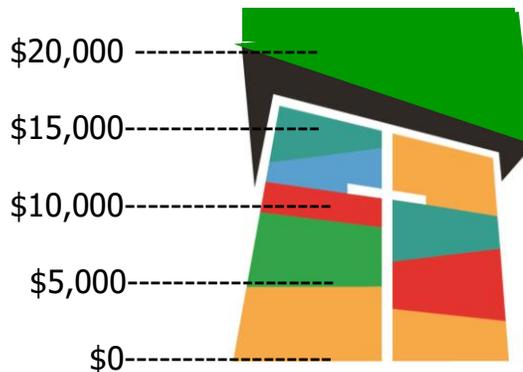
Mary Letvenow
 Event Coordinator

Kristie Wiggert
Julie Baglien
 Organists

Louise Paquette
 Director of Handbells

Mortgage Challenge Update

Current amount given - \$24,928!



The ULC Council has committed \$20,000 to pay down the mortgage on our building. The congregation met and exceeded the challenge! As of May 27, \$24,928 were committed to pay down the mortgage. This will allow the mortgage to be paid off next year. Thank you!