

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

**Mark Your Calendars . . .**

**Sunday Funday**

June 4 ~ 5 to 7 p.m.

**Prayers & Squares Sewing**

Little Dresses for Africa  
Saturday, June 10 at 9 a.m.  
Fellowship Hall

**Food Movers**

Thursday, June 22 & July 27  
Drive-thru  
Distribution 3:30 p.m.

**Rhodon Summer Bible Study**

Wednesday, June 21 at 1 p.m.  
Fireside Room

**Outdoor Concert Series**

July 30, Aug. 6, 13 & 20  
6 p.m. on ULC Lawn

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

**Rebuilding Together 2023**

This past April 29th was the annual Rebuilding Together project day. ULC's team, Thom McCurdy, Greg Hagbom, Dale Romsos (not pictured), Larry Wagenknecht, Brandon Baswell (not pictured), Klaus Hertell and Jim Lorenz spend the day working on Verlinda Rogers home located west of Potter Park.



The Rebuilding Together repair crew.

Serving Ingham, Clinton, and Eaton Counties in Michigan. Rebuilding Together Tri-County strengthens the lives of our most vulnerable communities by providing low-income homeowners with critical home repairs, accessibility modifications and energy efficient upgrades.

Our team repaired and repainted the living room and kitchen ceilings, replaced two ceiling fans, repaired the front stoop stairs, replaced the disposal, replaced broken kitchen floor tiles, and power-washed the deck and garage. Despite a little rain it was good "working" weather and the homeowner was happy and grateful for our efforts. Contact me if you are interested in joining us next year.

*Jim Lorenz*

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

## Trusting in the Holy Spirit

When I was in sixth grade, we had to keep a journal and write something every week. I still have the journal. I keep it in a drawer in my dresser under some sweaters! My mother saved it for me, and I just couldn't part with it. A couple journal articles are even in my mom's handwriting because I started the school year with a cast on my right hand and couldn't write.

Sometimes our teacher, Mrs. Fox, would give us a topic to write about, but often we just wrote about whatever we wanted to write about. That was hard because I couldn't always come up with a topic. I even wrote one journal article about trying to come up with a topic for a journal article. I only got a B+ on that one.

Well, as I'm sitting here at my computer late on a Friday afternoon, the day Lux articles are due, trying to write my next-to-last Lux article and I'm facing the exact same dilemma that I faced in sixth grade – what to write about. So, I thought I'd just start writing about that and see where it goes. I considered writing about summer and taking time to rest and re-create. But that seemed somewhat lame. I had some other ideas but those seem more fitting for what will be my last article before I retire. In my sixth-grade journal article about trying to come up with a journal topic I wrote, *"It is miserable to hear the clock ticking away and to know*

*that with every tick it is getting later, 7:00, 7:30, 8:30, 9:00 and still no idea. 9:15, 9:30. Then all of a sudden it's there, the right subject...."* And in reality, just as I'm writing this, it hit me that that was the Holy Spirit at work, and that's what I need to write about!



Often over the years, I've sat at my computer staring at a blank screen, not knowing what to write for a sermon, or a funeral sermon, or a difficult letter/email to

someone. But somehow, somehow, the Holy Spirit works and speaks and pushes and prompts me forward.

When you read this, we will just have celebrated Pentecost Sunday and God's gift of the Holy Spirit, the invisible presence of Jesus with us. We'll have read the Pentecost story from Acts. But this year the creators of the Narrative Lectionary wisely and creatively link the Acts' Pentecost story with a reading from Romans chapter 8 where Paul says that *"nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

In my years here at ULC, I've seen clearly how the Holy Spirit has been at work for over 80 years in this congregation through its ministry. I've also seen how the Holy Spirit has been at work in the years that Haley Vay and I have served as your

pastors. And I know that the Holy Spirit will continue to be at work in and through you and whoever is your next pastor.

When I came here six years ago, having served on the west side of Lansing for over 20 years, I knew about ULC and its history and wonderful ministry, and I had the sense that now I was going to be the one to steward the congregation, just the way other pastors have stewarded the congregation. But now it's hitting me that the real steward of the congregation is the Holy Spirit. And that *"nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

The Holy Spirit, the invisible presence of Jesus, has been and will continue to be with you. The Holy Spirit will be present with whoever is your Interim Pastor. The Holy Spirit will be present with your new Lead Pastor whoever she or he is. And the Holy Spirit will continue to be present and active in this wonderful congregation for years to come. That's the promise of Pentecost. That's the promise of Romans 8. That's the promise we cling to every day of our lives. And that's the promise that helped me write this article!

May that same Spirit, the Spirit that was poured out on Pentecost and poured out on you at your Baptism, fill you and empower you.

*Trusting the Spirit,  
Pastor Gary*

## Meet Our New Student Associates



**Grace Kennedy** (she/her) Class of 2024 - I am a second-year graduate student pursuing my master's in social work with a concentration in Organizational and Community Leadership (OCL). This summer I have been focusing on spending time with my family and dogs and working

at a local ice cream shop in my hometown of Libertyville, Illinois. This is my first year as a Student Associate and I am so, so excited to work with the rest of the team to continue to make One Community a welcoming and safe space for everyone to thrive in. In my free time, I enjoy crafting (crocheting & knitting), doing yoga, baking, cooking, and spending time with the people I love.



**Lena Oslund** (she/her/hers) - I'm a junior in Lyman Briggs College majoring in Genomics and Molecular Genetics and minoring in Bioethics on the Pre-Physician Assistant (PA) track. This summer I'm taking classes and working on campus. I'm also planning

on starting patient care hours for PA school applications. This is my first year as a student associate, and I'm so excited for the upcoming year. In my spare time, I like lifting weights, crocheting, and reading.

## 2023 Scholarship Concert



Scholarship Quartet and accompanist John Dale Smith



Alto, Chey Lacasse



Tenor, Ryan Jordan



Accompanist, Kristie W. Wiggert



Senior Choir and director, Janine Novenske Smith



Bass, Nick Perkins



Soprano, Eleanor Barbour



## Juneteenth Resources for Kids

**Gracie's Corner** is a YouTube channel for kids that provides a combination of educational, fun, and encouraging songs for children from diverse backgrounds. Come sing and dance with Gracie as she takes a fun imaginary journey with family and friends! The Juneteenth Song is about the celebration of freedom. It highlights the moment when the last enslaved African Americans learned about their freedom and independence.

Check it out here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMR11wbKrmg>

**Sesame Street** celebrates Juneteenth! Each year on June 19th we gather to reflect on the past and share hope for today. Join Gordon and the Power of We club to celebrate the day when many enslaved African Americans learned of their freedom long ago.

Check it out here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoarn6UPEJQ>

## Affirmation of Baptism



Congratulations to Henry McPhall as he affirmed his baptism during worship on Sunday, May 21

## New Hope Singers



The Hope Singers, directed by Janine Novenske Smith and accompanied by John Dale Smith sang during worship on Sunday, April 30.

# Outdoor Summer Concert Series at University Lutheran Church

Free will offering to support Food Movers.  
Made possible by a ULC Endowment Fund grant.

**JULY 30**

**LANSING CONCERT BAND  
BIG BAND @ 6 PM**

**AUG 06**

**THREE MEN  
AND A TENOR @ 6 PM**

**AUG 13**

**RITMO  
(SALSA MUSIC) @ 6 PM**

**AUG 20**

**FRENZ  
(AM GOLD) @ 6 PM**

## Meet the Bands

### Lansing Concert Band

Jim Kasprzak, lead trumpet, directs the dynamic 18-piece group comprised of traditional jazz-era instrumentation: full sections of saxophones, trombones, and trumpets, plus a swingin' rhythm section. The ensemble also features two vocalists: Dan Templin and Kelly Sandula-Gruner.

### Three Men and a Tenor

Great pop vocal music, quick witted humor, and overall likeability make the Three Men and a Tenor show a unique musical experience for audiences that cannot be matched. The group has a national touring schedule and has opened shows for entertainment legends like Jay Leno and The Beach Boys. Join the fun and enjoy their signature blend of powerful harmonies and feel-good music for all ages.

### Ritmo (Salsa Music)

Orquesta Ritmo Director, Michael Eyia, was inspired to create this live salsa band because of his Cuban heritage. Eyia, born in Cuba, wanted to introduce and entertain the American public in the electrifying genre of Latin music. They have opened for a number of national and international acts, including such artists as salsa great Oscar D'Leon, recording artists Los Lobos, The Bangles, Pete Escovido, and Wycliff Gordon.

### Frenz (AM Gold)

A local band specializing in 50's Classic Rock, Motown Greats, 70's Soft Rock, and Big Band Swing. Led by Don Sovey, this band has a great reputation for outdoor concerts and special events. Fun and entertaining!

## Suggestions for Local Benevolence Funds Requested

Every year the Social Action Team makes recommendations to the ULC Council regarding distribution of Local Benevolence Funds to area nonprofit organizations. This year there is \$4,000 to distribute.

We are currently requesting suggestions from our congregation of worthy recipients. We can provide you with an application form or can send the form directly to an

organization. Please let us know about worthy organizations from now through June as we anticipate making recommendations in July.

Contact me in church or at [bryandrahe@gmail.com](mailto:bryandrahe@gmail.com) or 517-485-4864.

*Bryan Rahe, Social Action*



## New Books from Familiar Authors

The ULC Library Team has purchased a few new books for the library. Two are by very familiar authors.

***You are Witnesses of These Things: Sharing the Story of Jesus*** is written by Bishop Craig Satterlee and his daughter, Chelsey. The description on the book says, “With all that is happening in society, the world, and their lives, people are open, even eager, to receive the story of Jesus and the good news that God is working to bring unconditional love and abundant life to all creation...”

*You Are Witnesses of These Things* equips and empowers Christians to share the story of Jesus. This book brings the good news to people who do not yet know Jesus and helps people who know Jesus to be comfortable and confident sharing this good news with others.”

***Joyful Defiance: Death Does Not Win the Day*** is authored by Anna Madsen. The book jacket states, “*Joyful Defiance* invites readers to reflect on experiences of anxiety, anger, exhaustion, and grief, emotions not always welcomed in the Christian



tradition. Madsen draws on her personal experiences of grief and deep theological reflection to show how lament is an act of faith in God that acknowledges pain and protests death. Joy is a counter-story and a truer tale, less a feeling than a way of being for the self and for the world.”

***US: The Resurrection of American Terror*** is by the Reverend Kenneth W. Wheeler, a retired ordained black ELCA pastor. The description on the book says, “In this heart-wrenching yet stubbornly hopeful narrative, Evangelical Lutheran pastor Kenneth Wheeler exposes white supremacy as America's greatest threat and takes readers on his own seven-decade-long journey that lays bare the terror of being Black in America...”

‘This is a come-to-Jesus book in every sense of that phrase... Grounded in

scripture and engaging in scholarly conversation with voices such as Isabel Wilkerson and James Cone, Wheeler demonstrates how the wound of white supremacy fundamentally diminishes all of our humanity. He prophetically calls on all of us, white Christians in particular, to turn away from the false idol of white supremacy, return to the true Gospel of Jesus, and reclaim the fullness of what it means to be people created in the image of God.”

*US: The Resurrection of American Terror* will be added to the Racial Justice collection and is one of the best books that I have read about the racial situation in America. As a Lutheran pastor, Wheeler brings to light the role the church has played in the past in racial inequality and how the church can be hope for the future. It is a must read!

These books may be checked out from the ULC Library. Visit the library often. There is always something new to see.

*Connie Lenkowski, Library Team*

Contribute to the Outreach ministries below using the “donate” button on our website ([www.ulcel.org](http://www.ulcel.org)), by sending a check to the church office, placing a contribution (using the special envelopes in the pew backs) in the offering plate, or through direct deposit in our MSUFCU account. Please designate “Food Movers,” “Honduras,” or “CORE” in the memo section.

### June Outreach of the Month Food Movers (GLFB)

The need for food in our community continues to grow. We currently serve about 275 families at each food distribution. Income sources for the Food Bank continue to fall. Because of these trends, the Greater Lansing Food Bank (GLFB) is instituting cost sharing with us for the very first time as of Aug.1st.



The Food Bank is working on providing us an estimate of our costs based on our past distributions. We anticipate our costs will be several thousand dollars per year. We are hoping to split our costs with our neighbors

and partners at University United Methodist Church. We feel we must begin fundraising now and in that light the June Outreach of the Month will be the Greater Lansing Food Bank. The money raised will go toward our share of food distribution costs.

We are dependent on your generosity to keep this vital ministry going in service to our surrounding community. Please remember how many people are struggling to have enough food.

*Bryan Rahe, Social Action*

## July Outreach of the Month The Lutheran Church of Honduras

The N/W Lower Michigan Synod has had a companion relationship with the Lutheran Church of Honduras (ICLH) since 2000, and together we began the *Health for Life* project in 2005. This project promotes healthy living by educating health volunteers and by increasing access to life's basic needs.



Lunch prepared by parents.

The Honduran men and woman volunteers are the heart of this ministry.

Using information that we provide in a workshop, the volunteers go out into their communities to help their neighbors.

The topics for the workshops we offer are requested by the volunteers depending on the needs of their communities.

- Children needed food, so we taught parents about nutrition and preparing healthy meals. We furnish food, and now the children receive what may be their only meal of the day.
- The children had many cavities, so we taught them about oral hygiene, good foods to eat, and how to brush their teeth. We also provide fluoride treatments and checks by a dentist with follow-up care as needed.
- Families needed good water to drink, so we provided water filters and workshops to teach the parents about why they need clean water and how to use the filters.

- Women may have had PAP tests but often did not receive results. So, we had a workshop about women's health and why the tests were necessary. The tests are now sent to a lab where they receive timely results. Follow-up care is provided when needed.

Other topics for workshops include hypertension, diabetes, wound care, home visit techniques, HIV/Aids support, spiritual care, and most recently COVID information.

Amazingly, when a topic is requested a second time, it is for more information on the topic and not a repeat of the original workshop. The coordinator of the program and the volunteers teach the new volunteers about previous topics.

For the past 20 years we have made trips to Honduras almost every year. We held two workshops via Zoom during the pandemic. However, when we leave, the real work begins as the volunteers help in their communities. The volunteers are always available and do make a difference.

For more information: Facebook – [Honduras Health for Life](#) or [Mittensynod.org](#) – Mission /Global Mission/Honduras

*Connie Lenkowski*  
[connielenkowski@gmail.com](mailto:connielenkowski@gmail.com)

## August Outreach of the Month CORE – Communities Organizing for Racial Equity

Communities Organizing for Racial Equity (formerly CORR) has been providing Christ-centered anti-racism training for organizations and churches in the West Michigan community and beyond for over 20 years.



The ULC Racial Justice Ministry Team continues our affiliation with CORE and especially our coaches and mentors Victoria Gibbs and Hannah DeVries. We are asking you to consider supporting *their* work so that they can continue to guide us in *OUR* work.

You are likely familiar with CORE as the group who presents the Understanding Racism workshop in the Spring and Fall. However, their ministry is much more than that. CORE works with multiple churches and community organizations to assist them in developing community programs to achieve economic, social, and racial equity.

Most recently four members of ULC (Vicki Anderson, Erin Frisch, Jack Guevara, and Thom McCurdy) have been receiving training to assist ULC members in their journey to become

biblical anti-racist agents after they have completed the Understanding Racism workshop. Post-workshop growth is key to understanding racism's effects and developing strategies to prevent ongoing racial harm.

We are grateful for the spiritual and financial support of our congregation and pray that you consider CORE a worthy outreach ministry. Learn more at [www.core.now](http://www.core.now).

*Thom McCurdy*  
*ULC Racial Justice Team Co-Leader*

## Bringing Renewable Energy to Low-Income Housing

ULC is one of 14 Lansing area churches partnering with the Ingham County Land Bank and the Capital Area Chapter of Michigan



Interfaith Power and Light (MIPL), to bring renewable energy to low-income housing in the county. A new high efficiency, all- electric, affordable home in Lansing with a seven kilowatt rooftop solar array, is close to completion. The new homeowners will self- generate virtually all their annual energy needs.

This project is a prototype for future homes built by the Ingham County Land Bank, which will benefit our

local communities with clean, affordable energy.

Faith based communities such as those members of the Capital Area Chapter of MIPL, while working

together as a team and with local public and private units, can accomplish environmental and social justice goals to reduce carbon emissions and care for the earth.

A press conference/open house is planned for the middle of June. There will be several members from ULC attending. **All are welcome.**

*Judy Kindel*

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection

*Free for Ingham County Residents*



Click box to see full brochure or visit [hd.ingham.org](http://hd.ingham.org)

**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**

**2:00 - 6:00pm**

**MAY - SEPTEMBER**

**Ingham County Health Department Household Hazardous Waste Facility**

**5303 South Cedar Street, Lansing follow signs to facility (517) 887.4312**

## Kids Hope Super Stars

During the 2022-23 school year, ULC had 12 Kids Hope mentors meeting with at-risk students for one hour each week at Forest View Elementary School in Lansing. After each session, the mentors filled out a progress report on the Kids Hope website. It described the academic work accomplished, games played, books read, projects created, etc. and how the student responded to these activities.



When the report was submitted, it was immediately sent to the student's classroom teacher and me, director of the Kids Hope USA ministry at ULC. I read the reports and responded to the mentors with comments and questions on how the session went. The significance of these reports is reflected by how I am required to save them in a locked cabinet for seven years.

When I read the reports, I was so impressed with the creative activities and discussions that our mentors described. They cared so much about the student they

worked with and went out of their way to assist that child. Cindy helped a child who stutters to improve his speaking and reading skills. Mary worked on the alphabet, numbers, and reading with a student for whom English is a second language. Beth searched for grade-appropriate materials to interest her student and shared them with the other mentors. Jerry, Sheila and Kay did online Zoom activities during the pandemic when students were at home for schoolwork. All 12 of the Kids Hope mentors were Super Stars in so many ways!

As this school year winds down, it is time to think about the many students at Forest View that want a mentor for the next school year. The need for caring adults is great. The Kids Hope goal is to establish a relationship with one child for one hour a week so they feel special and loved. Can you help us?

*Barbara Kissling*  
Director, ULC Kids Hope USA  
[barbkissling@gmail.com](mailto:barbkissling@gmail.com)





## Special Sewing Session June 10<sup>th</sup>

Thank you to John Putnam for the beautiful quilting he did on the new cross wall hanging behind the lectern. John has machine quilted every Quilt of Valor for us as his gift to the veterans and service members who receive them. When he was asked to do this project for us, there was no hesitation on his part. The metallic gold thread he used to stitch the radiating lines emphasizes the cross. We are blessed to have John as a member of our ministry.

On Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup> we will honor our five graduating high school seniors. They are Ian Brown, Carl Ericksen, Lizzie Freeman, Brielle Williams, and Rachel Williams. This marks the 22<sup>nd</sup> year we have given special quilts in celebration of this milestone in the lives of our youth. Congratulations Class of 2023! Look for photos in the next edition of Lux.

Working with Little Dress for Africa (LittleDressesForAfrica.org), Prayers & Squares will sponsor a sewing day to make Sani-Pani pads. These are washable sanitary pads, made from flannel and cotton batting, and will be used by young girls and women in Mali, so they may attend school. We will make both pads and little bags for the girls to hold their supplies. There will be jobs for both cutters and sewers, people to put ribbons on the small bags, help with lunch and breaks, packing and counting, ironing...so projects for sewers and non-sewers alike. This free event is open to all ULC members and friends – BRING A GUEST! Mark your calendars for



**Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Pizza lunch will be provided.

Things we need:

- Donations of clean and WASHED flannel (scraps from previous projects are just fine.) P & S will provide the batting.
- Cash donations for supplies and shipping.
- Underpants: girls' size 14 or 16, or women's small or medium. Any color. Any size. COTTON please.

We will continue our regular sewing day through June, Tuesday morning from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. However, we will NOT be meeting during the month of July. We will resume our weekly sewing days on Tuesday, Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>. As a reminder, all supplies are provided. Come join this great ministry!

*Bobbie Davis*

### Earth Day 2023



Some of the ULC crew volunteering at Fenner Nature Center on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22.



Hi Bobbie,

Just wanted to let you know all sewing machines, fabrics and supplies found their takers. Everyone is happy, but I wanted to highlight two cases: a 30-year-old single gentleman from Syria who arrived last week and shared with us that his hobby is creating his own clothes. This is his hobby, de-stress activity and hopefully future career. Another one went to the mother of the family that arrived a month or so ago from Democratic Republic of Congo, where she worked as a tailor for 20 years!

Thank you for your generous donation!

Veronika Parsamova, St. Vincent Catholic Charities

# Juneteenth Apology for Slavery and Its Enduring Legacy

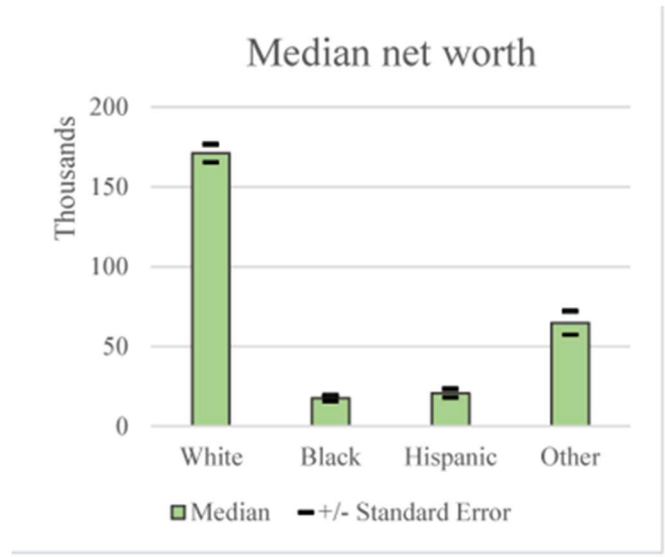
In June 2019, The ELCA adopted a declaration to people of African descent that reads in part “The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) apologizes to people of African descent for its historical complicity in slavery and its enduring legacy of racism in the United States and globally. We lament the white church’s failure to work for the abolition of slavery and the perpetuation of racism in this church. We confess, repent and repudiate the times when this church has been silent in the face of racial injustice.” Other denominations have adopted similar declarations/apologies.

On Jan. 28, 2023, dozens of people from predominately white congregations stood on the stage of the Lansing Reachout Christian Center and read the "Apology to the African Community for Slavery and its Aftermath" to the African Americans seated in the audience. Five members of ULC's Racial Justice Team took part. The Justice League of Greater Lansing Michigan sponsored the event. Fifteen churches from eight denominations participated. It was a powerful and enlightening event. After the apology, some African Americans shared the injustices in their lives. One of the statements that stayed with us was that Black kids couldn't go to school. They had to pick cotton. They only got to go to school on days that it rained. This life experience came from an African American currently living in the Lansing area.

Slavery was a sin, and its aftermath is still with us. One very real consequence can be seen in wealth accumulation. Consider the following data showing the difference in net worth by race.

Juneteenth commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. Historian Mitch Kachun considers that

celebrations of the end of slavery have three goals: “To celebrate, to educate, and to agitate.”



Thousands in 2016 dollars  
(Source: Federal Reserve Board, Survey of Consumer Finances.)

**You are invited to the Lansing Juneteenth celebration on Monday June 19th.** There will be a citywide reading of the Apology from noon to 1 p.m. on the Lansing Capitol steps. This is an act of restorative justice. Allies from the community are welcome to participate in the offering of the apology. A brave space will be created for the descendants of enslaved African Americans that receive the apology. Come and learn more.

*Kathy Protsman and Vicki Anderson  
ULC Racial Justice Team*

## What I Learned by Attending Juneteenth

The newest federal holiday, Juneteenth, was signed into law by President Joe Biden June 17, 2021. We were still in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic and the holiday was not freely celebrated that year. But last year, I attended the Juneteenth celebration at REO Town as a member of the NCAA-Lansing Membership Committee recruitment effort. As a first-time attendee, I was apprehensive as if I was intruding

upon a celebration reserved for Black people. Also, it was the first time I met with the Membership Committee members in person as we had only seen each other in digital meetings. I needn’t have been concerned.

My committee members quickly welcomed me into their midst, and I realized that I was more concerned about my skin color than they were. People of color have had to navigate

white spaces so often that my presence seemed unremarkable to them, and I joined in their friendly banter as we prepared registration packets for visitors. I marveled at their elation in being together and celebrating the holiday. The majority of fairgoers were Black people, but there were other people of color and not an insignificant number of whites.

Continued on page 11.

ULC Council met via Zoom on May 16. Here are some highlights from the discussion:

- Council delegated the authority to the Finance Committee to move short-term money between insured accounts.



- Bishop Satterlee introduced/reviewed the call process with the council

following Pastor Gary's retirement announcement last month.

- Received request and rough estimates for a new outdoor sign. Will consider the request as the new budget is put together.

*Emily Uebel*  
ULC Council Secretary

**What I Learned** continued from page 10.

What stood out to me about the Black people was their unspoken but quite apparent bond between them. They would greet each other happily regardless of familiarity. I recalled a passage in my readings for the ULC Racial Justice Team in which one author described an exercise where participants were asked to say what they most enjoyed or were most proud of their race. The people of color rapidly compiled a list about their respective races while the white people would find it difficult to write anything at all. They were forced to confront the fact that most of our predecessors had to give up much of their heritage to become part of white America. On that afternoon, I felt shortchanged.

But I also felt comfort in the welcoming spirit of everyone there and glad that I was building relationships with people I don't get to meet in my neighborhood and social circles.

Perhaps being able to build such relationships is a pathway to the promise of freedom that is Juneteenth.

So, if you enjoy holiday celebrations, I hope you will attend one of this year's Juneteenth events. If you like park fairs and music, go to St. Joseph park. If you enjoy street fairs, food, music, and shopping, go to REO Town. Enjoy becoming part of the *human* race.

*Thom McCurdy*  
Racial Justice Team Co-Leader



Friday, June 16, 5:15 pm-8 pm at the Breslin Center. RSVP encouraged to reserve a meal. The program will feature an array of vendors, entertainment, dancing, exhibits, music, food and prizes.

## A Unique Synod Assembly Experience

“It’s about Jesus!” said the bishop in his resounding voice as he opened the Assembly. “It’s not about you, not about me, not about...” And so, interspersed among three days of presentations, Eucharist services, and reports, “It’s about Jesus” was the topic of three surprising table discussions:

1. Share your favorite bible passage about Jesus and why.
2. Share a time when you experienced Jesus.
3. Share a short statement of good news about Jesus based on your stories.

I confess—I felt nervous about this beforehand, but it turned out to be the highlight of Assembly for me, because what I believe we all experienced was something so simple, and yet so profound, it was almost like Communion.

Mike Sweat and I are ULC’s 2023-24 appointed synod voting members (our duty lasts throughout the year), and Mike’s initial reaction to the discussion questions was very much like my own. [Mike] “...My first thought was ‘I’m not much of a bible scholar, how am I going to come up with a verse?’ However, as I listened to the other participants it became apparent that they might have struggled as I did, at least those that weren’t pastoral staff. These exercises were a good way to break the ice and get to know the other participants at our table as we weren’t all from the same church, and in many cases, not from similar church backgrounds, some of us having been brought up in denominations other than ELCA.” Mike and I soon discovered that each of our stories were, at their heart, simply an experience of faith and



ULC alum Chrissy Bright was installed as Assistant to the Bishop at the N/WLM Synod Assembly. (Facebook photo)

love, quickly showing us how similar we all were.

We both also had similar reactions to the business of the Assembly. [Mike] “It was interesting to get a detailed look at how the synod operates, and the contributions and struggles of the various congregations. There was a good interaction among participants with the ability to freely express differences of opinion, and in general, come to mutual acceptance of the various positions and opinions without acrimony.”

Since I’m married to someone who has sat on Synod Council for several years, I’ve gained a sense of the care and consideration of all perspectives that goes into all Council proposals and recommendations. Decisions and reasoning are often so much more complicated than many people realize. But I think what impressed me most about being present for the various reports and presentations this year was learning about the vast

amount of good works funded by our synod and the ELCA. Surely, this is the true value of the much-maligned term “organized religion!”

My take-away? “It’s about Jesus” isn’t about a slogan. It’s about remembering one simple commandment: Love — loving and caring for our neighbors and our world.

Linda Trevarthen

### Other ULC Attendees:

**Connie Lenkowski**, Presenter (non-voting)

*“I attended the Synod Assembly as a representative of the synod’s companion relationship with the Lutheran Church in Honduras and a workshop presenter of our joint project, Health for Life. These interactions were the highlight of the assembly for me. It was a blessing to share the many activities that are part of Health for Life.”*

*I also found the singing during the assembly worship services a spiritual experience. Being in a room surrounded by 200+ people praising God in robust fashion was exhilarating.”*

**ULC Pastors Gary and Haley Vay** (voting)

**Bill Trevarthen**, Synod Council (voting)

**Pastor Michael Anderson** (voting) *I attended this year to support the work of the Synod team on Honduras and Connie Lenkowski [see above]. I also always look forward to the conversations with long-time friends in the Synod.*

**Vicki Anderson** (non-voting)

## Our Racial Justice History

The Racial Justice Team has wondered what steps have been taken in the past to promote racial justice at ULC. The June 1968 Lux article gives us a look at one program. The minutes from a special meeting of the congregation in the same issue stated, "Pastor Wietzke explained that the American Lutheran Church has initiated *Project Summer Hope* to educate white members and alert them to the major social issues and to develop practical local action." No author was listed for the article.

### *Project Summer Hope*

"The ULC Church Council took steps at its June meeting to pledge the dollars and the hearts of University Lutheran Church to *Project Summer Hope*, an American Lutheran Church-wide program to involve congregations in community civil rights programs.

The Council voted to give:

- \$300 to the Student Educational Project (STEP), a summer program in which MSU students work with students at Rust College, a Negro school in Mississippi.
- \$100 to the Urban Education Tutorial Project, sponsored by MSU's James Madison College. MSU students taking part in the project tutor Lansing elementary school children who have been lagging in school.



Ann Street Church

- \$100 in support of Camp Baber at Cassopolis, a summer camp for disadvantaged children.

The Council also agreed that the church should formally sponsor STRIDE, a graduate student project designed to provide tutoring services to MSU students from disadvantaged high schools.

In addition, the Council forwarded to the church women a request for baby-sitting help at the Manpower Training Center, an OEO project on North Walnut Street in Lansing. The church women are being asked to provide day care for four days during the week of July 1 and during the following periods, 9-11 a.m., 1-3 p.m., 7-9 p.m. Two women are needed for each period. The service, in which other churches are assuming responsibility during other weeks, makes it possible for ADC mothers to take job-training courses at the center.

Fellowship chairman Erling Jorgensen brought up the possibility of father-son camping expeditions shared with fathers and sons from the Negro community."

If you remember participating in this project, please contact a member of the Racial Justice Team. A future Lux article will discuss other activities noted in the June 1968 Lux.

*Connie Lenkowski*

### ELCA INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES AND TRIBAL RELATIONS TRUTH & HEALING MOVEMENT

The ELCA's **Truth & Healing Movement** is an opportunity for this church to increase our understanding of our colonizing impacts on Indigenous people in the past and present. Over the next several months, there will be opportunities to learn, raise awareness and engage in other ways to impact hearts and lives across this church. We believe that the truth, and our knowing and embracing it, is the first step toward healing for all of us.

#### Upcoming Opportunities

- Class: Indian 101, June 1, 11 am - 1 pm ET
- Film Screening: Native Nations, June 7, 8-9 pm ET
- Panel: National Indian Lutheran Board, June 21, 8-9 pm ET
- Class: Introduction to the Truth and Healing Movement, June 23, 11 am - 12 pm ET

**No pre-registration is required.**  
**Click [HERE](#) to learn more and to join.**



### June Birthdays

- 4 Myra Kim  
Joseph Wilmes
- 6 Santiago Saucedo
- 8 Thom McCurdy  
Bethany Saindon
- 9 Laura Brown  
Elizabeth Kotnik
- 15 Amy Anderson  
Linda Zimmerman
- 16 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
- 27 Tim Schmidt
- 29 Jeffrey Bracken  
Connor Dalton
- 30 John Kruger

### June Anniversaries

- 3 Mike & Kathy Sweat
- 7 Joseph & Jennifer Green

- 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  
Roy & Jennifer Weber
- 21 Fred & Kay Fritz
- 25 Jesse & Lynne Clyma

### July Birthdays

- 1 Norman Jolin Jr.
- 2 Adam Fisher  
Fred Fritz  
Taylor Milnes
- 4 Arlene Zerkle
- 7 Phyllis Andersland  
Debbie Viele
- 10 Kayla Clyma  
Carol Jolin  
Luke Reese  
Judy Thompson
- 12 Emma Karcher  
Howard Pierce  
Noah Schott
- 13 William Schikorra

- 15 Carol Mackin
- 16 Kelly Schafka
- 17 Emmett Braselton  
Jennifer Green  
Sherrilyn Mileski  
Sheila Nicholas
- 19 Melody Kiefer  
Edward Vanous
- 22 Annette Stanley
- 23 Carole Ford
- 24 Gary Carl  
Matt Mutka  
Mandy O'Neil
- 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

- 1 Jay & Lori Johnson
- 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

### August Birthdays

- 1 Marcia Schultz
- 3 Eston Dawson-Baglien  
Roy Weber  
Joanne Boettcher
- 5 Dan Christian  
Corbin Davis
- 6 Kathy Protsman
- 8 Kendall Bubolz  
Ruth Gaudard
- 10 Cathy Lazar  
Nick Guilfoyle
- 12 Aaron Williams
- 13 Frederick Fensel
- 14 George Bubolz  
Samuel Fitzgerald
- 15 Coreen Williams

### August Anniversaries

- 1 Emmett & Karen Braselton  
Lois Mumma & Greg Hill
- 2 Adam & Susan Fisher
- 6 Donna & Gary Carl
- 8 Jeff & Wendy Guilfoyle
- 9 Dawn Newton & Tim Dalton  
Tom & Diane Wanagat
- 10 Chris & Sue Tague  
Emily & Matt Uebel  
Barry & Lanae Williams
- 15 Rick & Deanna Milligan

## All Invited to Special Study on Salvation

Rhodon Circle is meeting on Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 1 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We don't always meet in June; however, the *Gather Magazine* lesson for June was written by Anna Madsen, and we decided that we wanted to do the Bible study together. The title of the lesson is *Salvation Now – Promised*



*salvation now: Jesus brings wellness.* The members of Rhodon Circle invite you to come on June 21<sup>st</sup> and participate in Anna's lesson about salvation. If your circle is not meeting in June or if you are interested in this study, we hope you will join us. All are welcome.

Connie Lenkowski



The deadline for the August/September Lux is **Tuesday, Aug. 1.**

E-mail articles to Amy Wagenknecht at [amylarryw@comcast.net](mailto:amylarryw@comcast.net) and Mandy O'Neil at [ulcsec@ulcel.org](mailto: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!

# June

- 1 **Pride Month**
- 4 10:00a Sunday Worship -Sanctuary/FB  
5:00p **Sunday Funday**
- 5 4:00 Tight Knit-Fireside
- 6 10:00a Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall  
1:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom  
2:45p Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom\*
- 6:30p Lansing CORE Caucusing-Fellowship
- 7 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL  
Noon Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom  
4:30p Lead Management-Zoom
- 8 9:30a Brunch Bunch-EL IHOP
- 10 9:00a P & S Sewing Workshop-Fellowship
- 11 10:00a Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/Facebook
- 12 4:00p Tight Knit-Fireside
- 13 10:00a Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall  
1:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom  
2:45p Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom\*
- 6:30p Racial Justice Meeting-Zoom
- 14 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL  
9:30a Communications Team-Zoom  
Noon Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom
- 18 **Father's Day**  
10:00a Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/FB
- 19 **Juneteenth**  
4:00p Tight Knit-Fireside
- 20 10:00a Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall  
1:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom  
2:45p Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom\*
- 6:30p ULC Council-Zoom\*
- 21 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL  
Noon Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom  
1:00p Rhodon Bible Study-Fireside
- 22 3:30p Food Movers Distribution-Drive thru
- 25 10:00a Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/Facebook
- 26 4:00p Tight Knit-Fireside
- 27 10:00a Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall  
1:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom  
2:45p Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom\*
- 7:00p Families Against Narcotics (FAN)-Fellowship
- 28 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL  
Noon Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom\*
- 10 4:00 Tight Knit-Fireside
- 11 1:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom  
2:45p Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom\*  
6:30p Racial Justice Meeting-Zoom
- 12 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL  
Noon Lectio Divina Bible Study -Zoom  
9:30a Brunch Bunch-EL IHOP
- 13 10:00a Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/Facebook
- 16 10:00a Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/Facebook
- 17 4:00p Tight Knit-Fireside
- 18 1:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom  
2:45p Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom\*  
6:30p Council-Zoom\*
- 19 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL  
Noon Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom
- 23 10:00a Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/FB
- 24 4:00p Tight Knit-Fireside
- 25 1:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom  
2:45p Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom\*  
7:00p Families Against Narcotics (FAN)-Fellowship
- 26 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL  
Noon Lectio Divina Bible Study -Zoom  
3:30p Food Movers Distribution-Drive thru
- 27 3:30p Food Movers Distribution-Drive thru
- 30 10:00a Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/Facebook  
6:00p **Outdoor Concert**-ULC Lawn  
(Lansing Concert Band-Big Band)
- 31 3:30p Tight Knit-Fireside

# August

- 1 10:00a Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall  
2:45p Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom\*  
1:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom
- 2 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL  
9:30a Communications Team(Calendar)-Zoom  
Noon Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom\*
- 4:30p Lead Management Team-Zoom
- 6 10:00a Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/Facebook  
6:00p **Outdoor Concert**-ULC Lawn (3 Men & a Tenor)
- 7 4:00 Tight Knit-Fireside
- 8 10:00a Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall  
1:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom  
2:45p Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom\*  
6:30p ULC Racial Justice Caucus-Zoom
- 9 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL  
Noon Lectio Divina Bible Study -Zoom  
9:30a Brunch Bunch-EL IHOP
- 10 9:30a Brunch Bunch-EL IHOP
- 13 10:00a Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/Facebook  
6:00p **Outdoor Concert**-ULC Lawn (Ritmo)
- 14 4:00p Tight Knit-Fireside
- 15 10:00a Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall  
1:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom  
2:45p Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom\*  
6:30p Council Meeting-Zoom\*

# July

- 2 10:00a Sunday Worship-ULC/Facebook
- 3 4:00p Tight Knit-Fireside
- 4 **July 4<sup>th</sup>** Holiday – ULC Office Closed
- 5 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL  
9:30a Communications Team-Zoom  
Noon Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom\*  
4:30p Lead Management Team-Zoom
- 6 6:00p Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary
- 9 10:00a Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/Facebook

## ULC Office Hours

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

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

\*Zoom link contacts: Pub Theology – Pastor Gary; Lectio Divina - Mandy; Council Meeting – Pastor Gary; Faith, Writing & Reflection - Carole Ford [cfordllp@yahoo.com](mailto:cfordllp@yahoo.com)



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**Kristie Wiggert**  
Organist

**John Dale Smith**  
Pianist

**Louise Paquette**  
Director of Handbells

## There's Still Much Happening in the ULC Community This Summer!

- Sunday Funday (June 24)
- Prayers & Squares Sewing Days (June & Aug)
- Lectio Divina Bible Study
- Tight Knit
- Fellowship: Brunch Bunch, Mushers
- Rhodon Special Bible Study (June 21)
- Food Movers Food Distribution
- Lugnuts Game (July 21)
- Outdoor Summer Concerts

**Join us!**