

## Mark Your Calendars

### Outdoor Communion

Oct. 3 & 17

11:45 a.m. – ULC Parking lot

### Indigenous Peoples' Day

Monday, Oct. 11

(Highlighted during  
10/10 Worship)

### Food Packing Event

Sunday, Oct. 24 at 2 p.m.

Islamic Center

### Pub Theology

Oct. 26 – 7 p.m. on Zoom

### Food Movers

Thursday, Oct. 28

Drive-thru distribution  
beginning 4:30 p.m.

### Trunk or Treat

Oct. 31 – 3 to 5 p.m.

ULC Parking Lot

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## The Gifts of Julie Baglien



Julie Baglien worked in tandem with ULC staff and members for more than 20 years, sharing talent and wisdom that may have been easy to overlook, especially for non-musicians. Music, teaching, and learning have been lifelong passions which she also brought into her home, classroom and area churches. She was a music director/organist at St. Stephen in Lansing for almost ten years before she and her family came to ULC.

Like many musicians, Julie's initial love of music was a gift of her Mom, so it's not surprising Julie began accompanying choirs at the age of 14! With a B. M. degree in church music from Wittenberg, Julie studied with Jan Bender and Don Busarow, two giants in the field. Her training made her an invaluable guide as ULC recently enlarged and rebuilt the pipe organ. She provided multiple articles for the *Lux*, explaining the history and mechanics of pipe organs and the improvements being made to ULC's instrument. Julie also organized the hymn festival with which the new organ was celebrated. Many who were there were astonished by the organ's expanded capabilities to accompany music for all generations.

Skilled organists are not easily found, and ULC has been fortunate to have Julie as a reliable complement to Kristie Wiggert's remarkable decades of service. Julie approached each service with faithful preparation, often featuring substantive works of Christian great composers—of every era. She sought

Continued on page 3.

## Worship Update

We will begin streaming Sunday worship from the sanctuary Oct. 10 when we celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day and three baptisms. Because of COVID numbers, however, we won't be worshipping in-person. The Council will continue to monitor the numbers and begin in-person worship when it is safe to do so.

*Pastor Gary*



## Change is in the Air

October. Autumn. School. Football. Change is in the air, and not simply in the weather and routine.

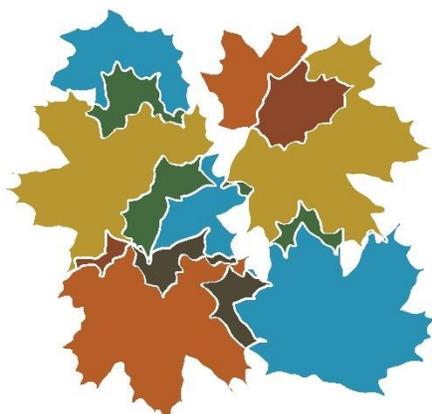
With the resignation of one of our organists, Julie Baglien, whose wonderful playing will be missed, the Worship Planning team (Director of Music Janine Novenske Smith, both pastors, Kristie Wiggert, Michael Anderson, Brad Marks and Ashley Reese) met to talk about: What is the direction of our worship? and what kind of musician do we need to support this direction? As we met, we considered:

- Round table discussions in spring 2017 where a large group of people expressed the desire to expand the music we use in worship
- Worship survey from spring 2020 reflecting on our online worship, where there was a stronger sense of expanding the music used in worship and appreciation for that expansion during online worship
- The Discernment discussions this past spring
- Enthusiasm for what has transpired with Worship Expressions during the past few years

In terms of the direction for ULC's worship, the group felt that we want to continue on the path that our worship has been on for the last couple years and especially during the pandemic which means:

- Continuing to expand the music and musical styles used in worship, and at the same time
- Continuing to use the new organ and traditional hymnody, and
- Doing both within our liturgical Lutheran tradition

With this in mind, the Worship Planning Team recommended to Council that we hire a musician with these qualities:



- A pianist rather than an organist, who has the ability to play different musical styles including/beyond traditional hymnody
- An excellent musician as we want to maintain a high standard of quality in our music for worship
- A musician who has the skills to build and lead in the direction we've been heading with worship, embracing more than simply traditional Lutheran hymnody
- Recognize that we are a Reconciling in Christ congregation

With an organist and a pianist as our two musicians, the Worship Planning Team envisions worship services that are blended in style, with services leaning more toward traditional hymnody on the Sundays when the organ is leading, and services that lean more toward music beyond traditional hymnody on the Sundays when the piano is leading. All services will be liturgical and Lutheran, and the music should appeal to a wide range of tastes.

At the September Council meeting, the Council embraced and affirmed the vision and recommendation from the Worship Planning Team. While this is a change in staffing, it is simply a continuation of the direction

our worship has been heading the last few years.

Many years ago, when I was the chair of the Synod Worship Committee, I had the wonderful opportunity of planning synod worship workshops with a wonderful Lutheran church musician, Dori Erwin Collins. In working with her, she made a statement that has stayed with me and has helped shape my outlook on worship and worship planning. She said, "We have to allow people to sing the song that God has given them to sing." What that means, is that even though "I" may not like a particular hymn/song, "I" sing it because it's meaningful and worshipful for "you." And even though "you" may not like a particular hymn/song, "you" sing it because it is meaningful and worshipful for "me." That's a part of what it means to be Church, a part of what it means to be in community. It's not all about my likes and desires. We have to consider the likes and desires of others. And truth be told, we should be glad that there are things we don't like about our church because then it's not all about me! "We have to allow people to sing the song that God has given them to sing."

My hope and prayer is that this change in staffing and continuing in the direction of expanding our worship will be a blessing to our congregation – both the people who are here, and also the people who aren't here yet. I also hope and pray that this will allow more people to sing the song that God has given them to sing.

Blessings in this season of change,

*Pastor Gary*

# We're Back In-person!

**Sept. 10** – We welcomed new and returning students, enjoyed pizza and yard games outside on the north lawn at ULC

**Sept. 17** – Pastor Haley Vay led a Bible Study to introduce our theme selected by our Student Associate leaders for this academic year. The topic is “Queer Theology,” and we will host speakers both in person and on Zoom who have stories, knowledge and experience to share.



First Fridays@Five of the 2021-22 academic year.

## Upcoming events in campus ministry...

- Fridays@Five
- Oct. 1 – Campus Ministry Campout – Fall Retreat at Ionia State Park
- Oct. 8 - Holden evening prayer, speaker #1
- Oct. 15 - Movie night with new projector in sanctuary
- Oct. 22 - Fall break for MSU
- Oct .29 - “A New Year Party”
- Saturday, Oct. 30 - decorate the van for 10/31 Trunk or Treat @ ULC!

*Pastor Haley Vay*



Jamie and Rebeka Breusehoff

We look forward to welcoming our first speakers in October: Rebeka Breusehoff and her mom, Jamie, who served as keynote speakers at the last ELCA National Youth Gathering. Read more about Rebeka and Jamie’s ministry here: <https://www.rebekahbruesehoff.com/>.



Here are some of the many resources for learning and growing in faith on the topic of queer theolog

**Sept 24** - outdoor grilling, team building, prepare for fall retreat camping trip

## Gifts of Julie continued from page 1.

music that was integrated into the liturgy, the church year, and the lectionary. Julie also found ways to integrate the many gifts of her four sons into worship, not limiting them to turning pages and pulling stops on the organ! Her family boasts a

clarinetist, a percussionist, and two euphonium players.

Although Julie’s music will no longer be heard at ULC, she will be playing the organ at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Jackson, where

Pastor Sarah Hurlbert presides. Pastor Hurlbert (as Midzalkowski) served at ULC several years ago. ULC thanks Julie for her long and gifted time among us.

*Beth Hoger*



  
Thank  
you!  
Julie



## Worship Wednesdays

**WORSHIP WEDNESDAY**

Virtual SUNDAY School

4:15PM via ZOOM

Bible stories

friends & crafts

music & more

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Lutheran Campus Ministry  
at Michigan State University

We continue to gather on Wednesdays, now at a new time! In an effort to allow children to get home from in-person school days, we now gather at 4:15pm on Zoom. Join us live on Zoom or watch later on ULC's YouTube channel under the "Worship Wednesday" playlist.



**TRUNK-OR-TREAT**

BOO!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31ST  
3:00PM - 5:00PM

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

All children are welcome to join in on the fun. No sign-up necessary.

**TRUNK-OR-TREAT**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31ST  
3:00PM - 5:00PM  
(TRUNK SETUP AT 2:30PM)

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST A TRUNK?**  
If you are interested in hosting a trunk, please contact Pastor Haley Vay at [haley.vay@gmail.com](mailto:haley.vay@gmail.com)

**CANDY OR SNACK DONATIONS NEEDED!**  
Can you contribute candy or snacks for this event? If you're not able to join us for the event, please consider participating with a contribution of candy or snacks (nut-free please) to help supplement each trunk! Please drop off donations in the trunk or treat donation box located in the narthex no later than Friday, October 29

2022 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

**boundless**

GOD BEYOND MEASURE

JULY 24-28, 2022 | MINNEAPOLIS,

The 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering has been rescheduled to 2022!

Youth in grades 8th-12th grade at the time of registration (2021-2022 school year) are eligible to attend as participants.

Learn more at [elca.org/gathering](http://elca.org/gathering)

# Racial Justice and Saving Jesus

We have an exciting fall and winter ahead, but a somewhat erratic schedule (courtesy of continuing Covid uncertainties!) Forum will continue to be held via Zoom and, like last year, begin at 11:10 am, following the 10 a.m. Worship Service. Links will be provided in weekly email.



exploration of a credible Jesus for the third millennium. Contributors include Brian McLaren, Marcus Borg, Walter Brueggemann, John Dominic Crossan, Amy-Jill Levine, and a host of others.”

And from Rev. David Wilkinson, in Tucson, AZ, “*Saving Jesus has been the most inspiring and thought-provoking adult education series I have ever experienced in my 38 years of ministry. It raises important questions about our faith...It also encourages us to embrace a greater understanding of faith that is inclusive and reconciling rather than unique and exclusive.*”

**Oct 3 No forum** — Outdoor Communion

**Oct 10 ULC Racial Justice Team** will present and moderate the film, *Doctrine of Discovery: In the Name of Christ*. This film features interviews with indigenous scholars, Christian theologians and pastors explaining how religious doctrine was used to justify and encourage the occupation and appropriation of the homelands of indigenous peoples in the Americas and elsewhere. A discussion will follow. For more information, see the column: *Speaking of Racial Justice* on page 8.

**Oct 17 No forum** —Outdoor Communion

**Oct. 24: Saving Jesus Redux #1** – Intro: Jesus Through the Ages. Pastor Gary will begin another thought-provoking DVD series that will run through the fall and early winter. Here’s a brief description from the “Living the Questions” website, followed by a quote from one of the rave reviews.

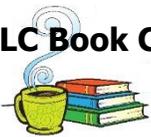
*“Ever feel like Jesus has been kidnapped by the Christian Right and discarded by the Secular Left? Saving Jesus Redux is a 12-session, DVD-based small group*

1. Intro: Jesus Through the Ages
2. Who Was Jesus?
3. What Can We Know About Jesus (and How)? - Nov. 7
4. The World Into Which Jesus Was Born - Nov. 14
5. Jesus’ Birth: Incarnation – Dec. 12
6. Teachings of Jesus: Wisdom Tradition – Dec. 19
7. Jesus’ Program: The Kingdom of God – Jan. 9
8. Jesus’ Ministry of Compassion – Jan. 16
9. Who Killed Jesus? – Jan. 23
10. The Atonement – Jan. 30
11. The Resurrection of Christ – Feb. 6
12. Why Jesus Is Worth Saving – Feb. 13

**Oct. 31: Saving Jesus Redux #2** – Who was Jesus?  
Pastor Gary

Linda Trevarthen

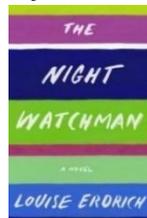
## ULC Book Club



### *The Night Watchman*

In September the ULC Book Club enjoyed discussing *The Remnants of Summer* with author and ULC member Dawn Newton. We were blessed with beautiful weather and want to thank Dawn for being flexible about meeting in the ULC parking lot for Covid safety.

In October we will discuss *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich. The book follows several Native Americans from an impoverished reservation community in North Dakota as they grapple with the United States Congress, family struggles and mistreatment by those

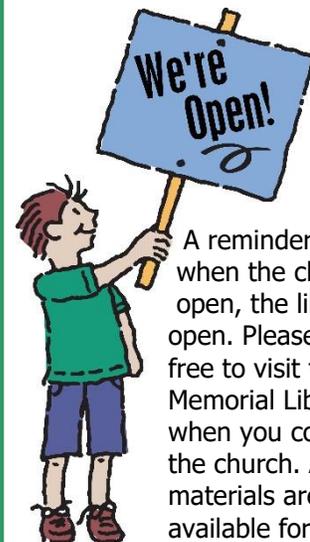


outside the reservation. We will meet on Thursday, Oct. 21st at 10 a.m., location to be determined. In November we will discuss *The Beauty in Breaking* by Michele Harper.

We meet the third Thursday of the month September through May with a break in December to accommodate busy schedules. Please contact Beth Rahe at [bwojan1@gmail.com](mailto:bwojan1@gmail.com) or Mary Kotnik at [mkotnik@comcast.net](mailto:mkotnik@comcast.net) if you would like to join us so we can add you to our email list.

Beth Rahe and Mary Kotnik

## ULC Memorial Library



A reminder – when the church is open, the library is open. Please feel free to visit the ULC Memorial Library when you come to the church. All materials are available for check-out! We hope to see you soon!

The Library Team

# The Book Nook Turns Two & Expands to Your Neighborhood

Thirty-two books for adults, 15 books for young adults, 145 picture books for children, and 56 Bibles. Thanks to your support of the ULC Book Nook ministry our friends and neighbors now have a total of 248 books in their homes that fortify their faith and teach their little ones about God's unconditional love.

The ULC Book Nook turned two on Sept. 17. Over these last two years I saw interest in different book categories wax and wane. During the winter season of 2020/2021 there was very little interest in children's titles, yet half of the total adult books, books for young adults, and 12 Bibles were selected from the Nook during this time. At the end of this summer there has been a renewed interest in children's titles with 25 books taken over the last six weeks. This is likely a sign of parents preparing their children to return to school as well as an influx of MSU international students with families who pass the Nook.

One thing that has remained consistent is the interest in Bibles. I attempt to keep six copies of the Contemporary English Version(CEV) Bible, one Spanish Bible and one Chinese Bible in the Nook at all times. Last week I found myself down to the bottom of my supplies and purchased 55 new Bibles.

The Book Nook was the outreach of the month in March and received \$437 in donations. Thank you to all who contributed to that total. Half of this donation went to purchase the new Bibles. The other half was used to purchase books to support our ministry to educate and work towards racial justice and inclusive love in our community. I am grateful to Connie Lenkowski for sharing the list of books in the Sharon Bandlow

collection in the ULC Library. These books cover topics of racial justice and immigration for both adults and children.

The consistent interest in Bibles by Nook visitors has been a surprise to me. Even during the months when snow blocks access to the Nook, I will note a Bible or two has been selected by a passerby. It is certainly evidence that this is a ministry vital for "such a time as this."

With this in mind, the Evangelism Team has chosen to purchase an additional 20 CEV Bibles to make available to our members to take and place in the Little Lending

Libraries within their own neighborhoods. Each Bible will carry the Book Nook sticker which signifies the Bible is a gift from ULC and lists our contact information. Once we begin worshipping in person these Bibles will be made available on the welcome table in the Narthex. If you are interested in obtaining one before that time, please contact me at [bwojan1@gmail.com](mailto:bwojan1@gmail.com).

I would also appreciate hearing about any book suggestions you may have and am taking donations of books that fit the goal of this ministry. Above all, your prayers in support of this outreach are appreciated. The Book Nook door was never locked during the pandemic and continues to inform our community of what ministries we support and most importantly of God's love for them.

Thanks again for supporting this ministry of love through Bibles and books.

*Beth Rahe*



Some of the books placed in the Book Nook

## Brunch Bunch Meets at IHOP!

A new small group at ULC met for the first time at the East Lansing International House of Pancakes and a great time was had by all!

This group of ladies meets for fellowship at the IHOP on the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

New members welcomed!



## 50 Quilts Blessed



50 quilts were displayed and blessed before they went to Lutheran (Samaritas) and Catholic Social Services, where they will be distributed to some 350 Afghan refugees passing through Lansing. Thank you to our quilting ladies who have spent the pandemic sewing every week at church and in between at home. They are truly doing God's work, with their hands. We often think "what can I do as one person," but look at the power of a bunch of dedicated ladies and what they were able to accomplish. Blessings to the quilters and those who will be warmed by their quilt as they are wrapped in love.



## First Day of School

Monday, August 30, began the 2021-2022 school year in Lansing. The Kids Hope USA mentors from ULC were asked to serve as greeters that first morning at Forest View Elementary. It was a joy to help the students find the line for their new teacher and class outside in front of the school. Some mentors even took photos of students with their parents. There was such excitement at the start of this new school year.

Mentors were also asked to help create a large bulletin board in the school hallway. The focus of the bulletin board was to welcome students and staff back after a difficult year of online classes and to encourage everyone



to think positively about the new school year. The theme was "You are not alone/You are part of an awesome community" and it was surrounded by cards with phrases like "Forest View students are terrific" and "You make a difference."

Eleven Kids Hope USA volunteers look forward to mentoring by the end of September or early October. If you would like to join this

ministry and make a difference for one child by mentoring one hour once week, contact me at [barbkissling@gmail.com](mailto:barbkissling@gmail.com). Training and continued support will be provided throughout the school year.

*Barbara Kissling*

## Remember the Children

If you were to walk into the ULC sanctuary on Sunday, Oct. 10, you might ask, “Why is there an orange banner hanging at the front of the church?” We hang this orange banner in solidarity with Indigenous people throughout North America and in remembrance and lament of Native children that never made it out of residential schools.

In a letter to ELCA from The American Indian Alaska Native Lutheran Association (ELCA), we learn that the color orange is symbolic and was inspired by a survivor of that era, Phyllis Webstad. Ms. Webstad explained that when she was a six-year-old girl arriving at a residential boarding school, she was stripped of her clothes, including a new orange t-shirt her grandmother

had gifted her which was never returned. The orange shirt/color now symbolizes how the church, and the schools they administered, took away the Indigenous identity of the children in their care. View the entire letter [here](#) or on the ULC website [www.ulcel.org](http://www.ulcel.org).

Continued on page 9

### Speaking of Racial Justice



### Doctrine of Discovery

The Doctrine of Discovery is a principle of international law dating from the late 15th century. It has its roots in a papal decree issued by Pope Nicholas V in 1452 that specifically sanctioned and promoted the conquest, colonization, and exploitation of non-Christian territories and peoples. Hundreds of years of decisions and laws continuing right up to our own time can ultimately be traced back to the Doctrine of Discovery—laws that invalidate or ignore the rights, sovereignty, and humanity of indigenous peoples in the U.S. and around the world.

In 1823, the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Johnson v. M'Intosh* that the discovery rights of European sovereigns had been transferred to the new United States. Now all land was owned by the government in the United States, and discovery gave an exclusive right to extinguish the Indian title of occupancy, either by purchase or conquest.

The doctrine has been primarily used to support decisions invalidating or ignoring indigenous possession of land in favor of modern governments. In a 2005 case, *Sherrill v. Oneida Nation*, the Supreme Court held that repurchase of traditional tribal lands 200 years later did not restore tribal sovereignty to that land.

Source: [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)

Learn more at: [Doctrine of Discovery - Bing video](#)

Native Americans lost their land and their livelihood because of principles like the Doctrine of Discovery.

**NEW!** "Listening to Racial Justice" is a new column in Lux and on the RJT webpage provided to the ULC community by the Education Sub-Team for those interested in listening to podcasts. Monthly recommendations will cover racial justice topics in current events. Our goal is to keep ULC members and the wider community up to date on racial justice as it relates to our everyday lives.

Listening to  
Racial Justice

### Critical Race Theory

**Podcast title:** *Know Your History* – July 1, 2021, 29.1 minutes

**Podcast link:** Into America with Trymaine Lee  
[https:// Into America: Know Your History on Apple Podcasts](https://www.apple.com/podcasts/play/into-america-with-trymaine-lee)

**Summary:** Trymaine interviews Kimberle Crenshaw, a UCLA and Columbia law professor and co-founder of **Critical Race Theory**. Critical Race Theory is a way to study and scrutinize the intersection of race and law and is primarily taught in law school. It is a way of understanding how laws have embedded race and racism into our country. The term has been falsely used by many on the political right to frighten parents into believing it is being used in social studies and anti-racist trainings to teach their children to hate themselves and their country. Many Republican-led states across the country are introducing legislation to ban it from being taught in public schools. Professor Crenshaw warns of a much more alarming aspect of this culture war. “When we start dictating what can be taught, what can be said and what it is, we are well, well, down the road towards an authoritarian regime,” she tells host Trymaine Lee. Crenshaw explains the origins of Critical Race Theory, and how this backlash mirrors the ugliest parts of America’s racial past.

## October Outreach of the Month October Food Packing Event

We can get food to hungry people with your help. On Sunday, Oct. 24, ULC will join with our neighbors at the Islamic Center and students from the Food and Nutrition Association at MSU to pack over 10,000 dehydrated meals. One-third of the meals stay locally, one-third are sent internationally, and one-third go to a warehouse in Detroit where they are available for domestic emergencies. We need your help in two ways.



2018 Food Packing event.

You may donate by sending a check to the church or on-line (PayPal or credit card) using the “donate” button on the ULC website [www.ulcel.org](http://www.ulcel.org). Please indicate “Food Packing” in the memo.

We also need 40-50 volunteers. We will start packing at 2 p.m. on Oct. 24 at the Islamic Center. The event will last about 1½ hours. We will follow the Islamic Center’s

COVID protocols which include a temperature check and masking for everyone. Watch for sign-up information in the weekly email.

The Food Packing event is an opportunity to do God’s work with our hands.

*Vicki Anderson*

**Remembering the Children** continued from page 8.

U.S. Catholic and Protestant denominations operated more than 150 boarding schools between the 19th and 20th centuries. Native American and Alaskan Native children were regularly severed from their tribal families, customs, language and religion and brought to the schools in a push to assimilate and Christianize them.

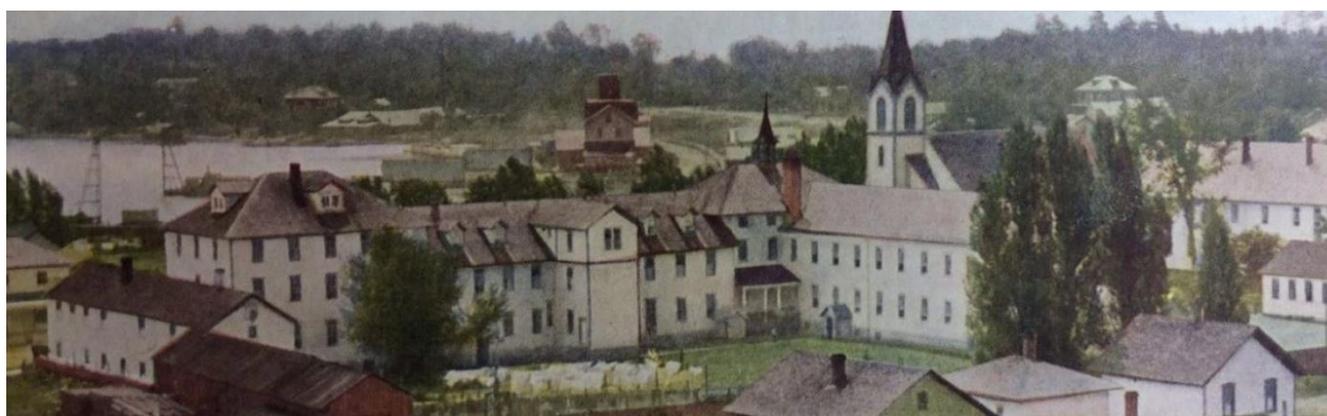
Three of those schools were in Michigan. The only boarding school

still standing in Michigan is the Indian Industrial Boarding School in Mt. Pleasant. Roughly 300 students attended every year. Two others — the Holy Name of Jesus Indian Mission in the Upper Peninsula and Holy Childhood in Harbor Springs — have been torn down. The boarding school in Harbor Springs didn’t close until 1986.

There is much to learn about the Indian Boarding School era, its

continuing impacts and the church’s role. I invite you to visit the [ULC Racial Justice page](#) under the “Action” tab of the ULC website for more background and resources. Thank you to Ann Booren for working with me to find the material and then sewing the banner.

*Vicki Anderson  
Racial Justice Team*



Holy Childhood of Jesus Indian School, Harbor Springs, Michigan, closed in 1986. [Archives of Michigan]

## From the President

# A Thank You from ULC's Council

Council members want to express their gratitude to Julie Baglien for sharing her expertise in Lutheran liturgy and hymnody with ULC. We feel so blessed to have had her serve as one of our organists for over twenty years. In addition to leading worship through music, Julie helped lead the congregation in the acquisition of our enlarged and renovated organ. Julie now serves as organist for St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Jackson.

You can look forward to a quilt-wrapping ceremony showing ULC's love and appreciation for Julie during an upcoming service. And if you would like to contribute to

ULC's thank you gift, please send your check to ULC with Julie Baglien gift in the memo line.

Going forward, Council supports the recommendation presented by an expanded Worship Planning Team for our worship music. That is: continuing to expand the music and musical styles used in worship, and at the same time continuing to use the new organ and traditional hymnody and doing both within our liturgical Lutheran tradition.

*Nancy Lindman*  
ULC President

ULC Council met via Zoom on Sept. 15. The following are some highlights:

- Council expressed deep appreciation for Julie Baglien's years of service as our organist.
- Council learned that the retaining wall on the north side of the church needs repair and motioned to ask finance committee to identify a budget regarding rebuilding.
- Council reviewed a possible 2022 budget and requested revisions from finance committee



### Council Notes

- Support for Social Action Team's recommendation that \$1000 be disbursed from the Local Benevolence Fund to the Southside Community Coalition
- Due to COVID numbers, determined that live-streaming from the sanctuary would not happen until at least October and

will discuss return to in-person worship again during the next meeting.

*Emily Uebel*  
ULC Council Secretary

### Sunday Attendance

(Via Facebook Live and YouTube)

August 1: 834; Communion 50  
August 8: 956  
August 15: 952; Communion 45  
August 22: 906  
August 29: 726

## Lead Management Team

**Grounds-Norm Jolin:** The ULC Grounds Team is still working on the final landscape plan for the complete Memorial Garden redesign. With R&D Landscape doing all of the work, some maintenance, and an irrigation system, the cost could be near fifty thousand dollars. We are examining ways to cut the costs and raise funds. We are looking at the spring of 2022 for implementation. The other eleven gardens on site are being maintained within the 2021 budget. As always, more volunteers are needed for grounds maintenance.

**Freewheelers-Jan Mace Sollenberger:** We haven't met since the pandemic shut down. Ann Booren and I have talked how to reactivate the group, possibly a gathering close to Christmas to see if we can build a bigger membership.

**Pandemic Pals-Linda Trevarthen:** We have begun discussion about transitioning this temporary pandemic project into a permanent and more targeted outreach (i.e. focusing on just a few categories of our membership.)

*Amy Wagenknecht*

## It's That Time Again!

Staff, Council and Team Leaders -- Annual Reports are due to Britny Pollack by Sunday, Oct. 17.

## Megan Rohrer Elected Bishop of ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod

The Rev. Dr. Megan Rohrer (they/their/them), is currently serving as the Bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod. They were elected May 8 to serve a six-year term as bishop. The first openly transgender pastor ordained in the Lutheran church, Pastor Megan is the first openly transgender bishop in a major Christian denomination. Ordained Extraordinarily in 2006, Pastor Megan is one of 18 pastors ordained during the time when the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) did not allow LGBT pastors to serve openly.

In 2010 Pastor Megan was one of the first seven pastors received into the ELCA after their policies changed. They have served as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in San Francisco since 2014 and as community chaplain coordinator for the San Francisco Police Department since 2018. They received an honorable



Rev. Dr. Megan Rohrer, Bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod.

mention as an Unsung Hero of Compassion at a ceremony with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, were presented a Medal of Tolerance by the King of Tallo in Indonesia, received an honorary doctorate from Palo Alto University and had their theology featured in the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in Wittenberg, Germany.

One of the many pastors arrested protesting Prop 8, Pastor Megan has officiated at countless weddings for LGBT individuals before and after

the marriages were legally recognized. Pastor Megan lives near Golden Gate Park with their wife Laurel, two children, two cats and two hamsters.

Rohrer received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Augustana University in Sioux Fall, S.D., in 2001, a Master of Divinity degree from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley in 2005, and a Doctor of Ministry degree in 2017. Rohrer is currently a doctoral candidate in transformative studies at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco. Augustana is one of 26 ELCA colleges and universities.

Rohrer's installation was held Sept. 11 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Walnut Creek, Calif.

Excerpted from <https://elca.org/News-and-Events/8102> and <https://www.revrohrer.com/>.

## ULC People

### Jim Lorenz Honored in *City Pulse*

Lifetime ULC member Jim Lorenz was recognized in the article, "Singing Praises of Unsung Backstage Theater People," by David Winkelstern in the Sept. 25 edition of the Lansing City Pulse. Winkelstern writes, "Lansing is filled with recognizable actors. The crucial people behind the scenes aren't always so familiar." Jim is one of five unsung heroes in local theater highlighted:

In sixth grade, Jim Lorenz's mom acted in a Lansing Civic Players (LCP) show. They needed a spotlight person. Lorenz volunteered.

"My job description was simple, 'When you hear the orchestra start playing and the lights dim, spot whoever sings,'" he said. "I got to stay up late, and it was great."



Jim Lorenz records his part for a "radio drama" presented during a 2021 virtual worship service at ULC.

The 67-year-old never stopped volunteering. "For me, it's always been tech. Primarily lighting and sound, and more recently, set building," Lorenz, an electrical engineer, said.

He stayed at LCP for 30 years. For the past 11 years, Lorenz has worked for Starlight Dinner Theatre. The most fun – and hardest – Starlight set Lorenz helped build was for the "Man of La Mancha." "I'm a die-hard community theater volunteer, Jim said.

ULC is grateful that Jim also shares his talents here. He is a major contributor to the success of our live-streamed worship and has coordinated the installation of the new screen, cameras and sound system that will allow for live-streaming of Sunday worship in the sanctuary.

Amy Wagenknecht

## The Immigration Saga Continues: Gertraud Fleischer and Vera Shaw's Story

"Everywhere immigrants have enriched and strengthened the fabric of American life." President John F. Kennedy

In last month's *Lux*, Connie Lenkowski did a piece for the newsletter's "Archives" section on the immigration in 1951 of Jakob and Magdalena Wilczeski (pronounced Will-sheff-ski) and their young daughter (also named Magdalena) to East Lansing. The article reported that the family had a Polish background, and that is partly true.

Jakob had emigrated to Germany from Warsaw, Poland after WWII. Conditions in post-war Poland made it hard for him to find work there. Conditions in Germany were difficult, too, but perhaps better than in Poland. And there were sad memories for Jakob in Poland: his first wife and their child were killed during the war.

In Germany, Jakob met and married Magdalena. They had a daughter and, as Connie reported, moved to East Lansing, where members of University Lutheran Church helped them settle. Connie ended her article with "there is much more to the story." And indeed there is.

I spoke by phone with both Vera Shaw and her mother, Gertraud Fleischer, to learn more about their chapter in this fascinating story of immigration and new lives begun. It was a jolly conversation, although we got off to a shaky albeit somewhat hilarious start.

"So you were Jacob and Magdalena's daughter, then," I said to Gertraud.

Gertraud and Vera in unison, "Nooooo!"



Gertraud is an active participant in the Prayers & Squares quilt ministry.

"Oh, right," I continued. "You married Jacob and Magdalena's son."

Gertraud and Vera in unison, "Nooooo!"

This went on for several minutes before I fought my way free of the fog and saw the light.

"Oh," I said, relieved, "Magdalena was

married before! Jakob was her second husband."

Now I got a resounding, yes!

Magdalena's first husband was a man named Fritz Fleischer, and they had one son, Erich. Tragically, Fritz was killed in World War II.

Gertraud (who, by the way, pronounces her name as if written Gertrude) met this son, the young Erich Fleischer, while she was living and working on her family's farm about 60 miles from Frankfort in what was then West Germany. They married in 1954 and had two children while living in Germany: Alvira (Vera) and Meta.

Later in 1954, Jacob and Magdalena, now happy U.S. citizens, traveled back to Germany to visit Magdalena's son Erich, his wife Gertraud, and their two daughters. While there, they worked to convince that young family to come to the U.S. to live, too.

And they succeeded, although it took several years for the young

Fleischers to make the decision. In 1958 Erich and Gertraud Fleischer and daughters Vera and Meta moved to East Lansing, Michigan. Mrs. Magdalena Wilczewski, Gertraud's mother-in-law, sponsored them, that is, she signed the appropriate papers for their admission to the U.S. and specified that she would be responsible for the Fleischer family and that they would expect nothing from the federal U.S. government.

The Fleischers moved into the Wilczewski's East Lansing home and stayed there for six weeks before they rented a house of their own in Lansing.

I asked Vera and Gertraud for their first impressions of the United States. Gertraud responded very enthusiastically. "I really liked it here right from the start," she said. Vera said she really didn't remember her first reactions very well. She was only four years old when she came here. But she made friends quickly in her new neighborhood and within a year, when she entered kindergarten at the Foster Street School at age five, she was fluent in English.

Learning English was harder for Erich and Gertraud. Erich attended English language classes at LCC to help him learn. It was important for him to speak the language well so he could find employment. Gertraud learned English at home from family, friends and neighbors. The rule in the Fleischer household: only English spoken here. It took Gertraud more than a year to speak the language fluently, but, greatly to her credit, learn it she did. She speaks English

Continued on page 13.

## The Old Oak Font

Next to the Welcome Table in the church stands an oak baptismal font. This font was used in College Lutheran Church and then University Lutheran Church on Ann Street. When University Lutheran Church moved to the Harrison Rd. location the font stayed behind. The story about how the baptismal font made its way back to ULC was told in the October 1978 Lux under the heading of "Old Oak Font is Back at ULC." Following is that story.



*had been suggested in Chancel and Sanctuary Task Force some time ago that it might be a good thing to see if the font could be purchased and kept in the congregation along with the altar that graces the north wall of the narthex.*

*Pastor Gus, in consultation with President Appel, decided that the source of funds could be decided later, perhaps by a generous member who might want to make a designated gift for that purpose.*

*"They're selling our baptismal font!" That's the word administrative secretary Betty Downs heard early Monday afternoon (September 25). Shiloh, the student religious group that is purchasing ULC's old home at Division and Ann streets, was holding a sale and one of the items they were offering was the blond oak baptismal font from which may ULC heads have been anointed. The price, \$100.*

*Betty called Shiloh and said, "We'll take it. Put it aside and I'll have a check for you." They did and she did and the font can now be seen in front of the old altar.*

The baptismal font is now in the back of the church greeting members as they enter and leave the sanctuary. For many this is a wonderful memory of years past.

*Betty quickly contacted Pastor Gus (Kopka), who at about the same time had heard the same message from another member of ULC. They discussed the matter recalling that it*

*Connie Lenkowski*

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**Gertrude and Vera** continued from page 12. with family and friends exclusively now, although she will speak German when she phones her sister Hannelora who still lives in Germany.

Vera started grade school at the Foster Street School, as I mentioned. She went on to Pattengill Junior High and Eastern High School.

The Fleischer family grew over the years. Three more children were born to Erich and Gertraud after their move to the U.S.: Annette, Carol, and Erich, who is sixteen years younger than Vera. All three of these siblings were born at Sparrow Hospital.

Very shortly after the Fleischers arrived in America, tragedy struck the Wilczewski family. Magdalena's husband Jakob died of a heart attack. Feeling unwell, he tried to get to

Sparrow Hospital by bus, but didn't make it there and died on the way. He was only 38 years old.

In 1972, Vera married Arthur Shaw, a welder by trade. They had one son, Christopher, who now lives in Battle Creek. Arthur died nearly five years ago of cancer.

When my wife Linda and I joined ULC, Linda was delighted to find that Vera was a member. She and Vera had worked together for a time at MSU. Linda was the manager of the Testing Office, and Vera worked there as a temp for a year and a half. Vera went on to become a permanent employee at MSU, working in the College of Human Medicine's Surgery Department, and then in the Admissions Office of the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Through the ups and downs of their lives, many of the Wilczewskis and

Fleischers were members of ULC who looked to the church and its congregation for support and love. Vera and Gertraud are still active members today, and we are so blessed to have them.

I asked them what they liked about the church and congregation.

"Oh, ULC is wonderful," they both agreed. "And people there are so friendly."

Those words describe them, too: wonderful and friendly. And, I would add, they, Wilczewskis and Fleischers alike, are also courageous people—immigrants to the U.S. who, as President Kennedy said, have "enriched the fabric of American life," and of our community and of our church.

*Bill Trevarthen*

## Celebrations



- 1 LaVon Miller  
Rick Milligan
- 2 Mary Ludtke  
Jennifer Tracy
- 3 Chris Anderson  
Patti Cuellar
- 5 Carolyn Haase
- 6 Gary Bunge

- Anne Smith
- 7 Carolyn Lohr  
Annaliese Marks  
Juliana Marks
- 9 Connie Lenkowski
- 11 Michael Hill
- 14 Nathaniel Dalton  
James Sype
- 15 Kristie Wiggert
- 17 Jon Althouse  
Eric Podolsky
- 18 Pat Lee

- 21 Evan Dawson Baglien
- 25 Susan Fisher  
Steven Haase
- 26 Laura Appel
- 29 Beeper Baswell  
Jesse Clyma  
Todd Helser  
Piper Hysten



- 1 Brandon & Cindy  
Baswell
- 7 Darrin & Elizabeth  
Karcher
- 29 Michael & Heather  
Hill
- 31 Jim & Nicole Greiter

## Congratulations Louise and David!



Louise, David, Pastor Haley Vay, and Bryn at the Henry Ford Museum.

Louise Harder and David Montag were joined in marriage on Saturday, Sept. 25 at the Henry Ford Museum. Pastor Haley Vay Beaman and Rabbi Miriam Jerris presided. Congratulations and blessings on your marriage, Louise and David!



ULC members who attended the wedding.



## Brunch Bunch Meets at IHOP!

A new small group at ULC met for the first time at the East Lansing International House of Pancakes and a great time was had by all!

This group of ladies meets for fellowship at the IHOP on the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

New members welcomed!





1	5:00p	Fridays@Five		10:00a	Prayers & Squares-Fellowship
2	5:00p	Football Parking (W. Ky)		12:30p	Staff Meeting-Zoom
3	10:00a	Sunday Worship-Facebook		12:30p	Lychnion Circle-Fireside
	11:45a	Outdoor Communion-ULC south lot	20	8:00a	Mushers-IHOP, EL
4	4:30p	Tight Knit-Fireside		9-4p	Office Open
5	9-4p	Office Open		9:30a	Amnos Circle-Fellowship
	7:30a	Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*		Noon	Lectio Divina-Zoom*
	10:00a	Prayers & Squares-Fellowship		1:00p	Rhodon Circle Bible Study-Fellowship
	12:30p	Staff Meeting-Zoom		4:15p	Worship Wednesday for Kids-Zoom*
6	8:00a	Mushers-IHOP, EL		6:30p	ULC Council-Zoom*
	9a-4p	Office Open	21	9-4p	Office open
	Noon	Lectio Divina-Zoom*		10:00a	ULC Book Club-location TBD
	4:15p	Worship Wednesday for Kids-Zoom*		7:30p	Virtual Sr. Choir Practice-Zoom*
7	9-4p	Office Open	22	5:00p	Friday@Five-ULC
8	5:00p	Fridays@Five	24	10:00a	Sunday Worship-Facebook
9	11:00a	Pr. Rich Moe Memorial (virtually only)		2:00p	Food Packing Event-Islamic Center
10	10:00a	Sunday Worship-Facebook	25	4:30p	Tight Knit-Fireside
	1:30p	Sons of Norway-Fireside	26	7:30a	Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*
	3:00p	Alex Williams Court of Honor-Fellowship		9-4p	Office Open
11	Indigenous Peoples'/Columbus Day			10:00a	Prayers & Squares-Fellowship
	4:30p	Tight Knit-Fireside		12:30p	Staff Meeting-Zoom
12	9-4p	Office Open		3:30p	Personnel Committee-Zoom
	7:30a	Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*		5:00p	FAN Board-Fireside
	10:00a	Prayers & Squares-Fellowship		7:00p	FAN-Fellowship
	12:30p	Staff Meeting-Zoom		7:00p	Pub Theology-Zoom*
13	8:00a	Mushers-IHOP, EL	27	8:00a	Mushers-IHOP, EL
	9-4p	Office Open		9-4p	Office Open
	Noon	Lectio Divina-Zoom*		Noon	Lectio Divina-Zoom*
	4:15p	Worship Wednesday for Kids-Zoom*		4:15p	Worship Wednesday for Kids-Zoom*
14	9-4p	Office Open	28	9-4p	Office Open
	9:30a	Brunch Bunch-EL IHOP		10:30a	RJ: Education-Zoom
	10:00a	Book Club-ULC (location TDA)		1:00p	RJ: Communication-Zoom
	7:30p	Virtual Sr. Choir Practice-Zoom*		4:30p	Food Movers Distribution-Drive thru
15	5:00p	Friday@Five-ULC north lawn		7:30p	Virtual Sr. Choir Practice-Zoom*
17	10:00a	Sunday Worship-Facebook	29	5:00p	Fridays@Five
	11:45a	Outdoor Communion-ULC south lot	30	TBD	Football Parking (UofMich)(2½ hours prior)
18	4:30p	Tight Knit-Fireside	31	10:00a	Sunday Worship-Facebook
19	7:30a	Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*		3:00p	Trunk or Treat-ULC Parking lot
	9-4p	Office Open			

\* Zoom link contacts: Choir - Janine Smith; Tuesday Study - Jim Kiefer; Pub Theology - Britny; Lectio Divina - Britny; Worship Wednesday for Kids – Pastor Haley Vay; Council Meeting – Nancy Lindman; Sunday Forum – Weekly email/Facebook live comments



The deadline for the November Lux is **Friday, Oct. 16.**

E-mail articles to Amy Wagenknecht at [amylarryw@comcast.net](mailto:amylarryw@comcast.net) and Britny Pollard 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!



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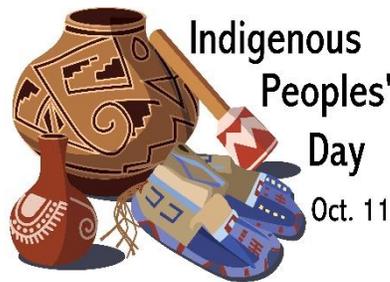
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**Indigenous Peoples' Day**  
 Oct. 11

**Indigenous Peoples' Day** is a holiday that celebrates and honors Native American peoples and commemorates their histories and cultures.

**When:** It is celebrated across the U. S. on the second Monday in October and is an official city and state holiday in various localities.

**Why:** It began as a counter-celebration held on the same day as the U.S. federal holiday of Columbus

Day, which honors Italian explorer Christopher Columbus. Many people reject celebrating Columbus, saying that he represents "the violent history of the colonization in the Western Hemisphere," and that Columbus Day is a sanitization or covering-up of Christopher Columbus' actions such as enslaving Native Americans.

**The beginning:** Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations. It was instituted in Berkeley, California, on Oct. 12, 1992, to coincide with the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Columbus in the Americas on Oct. 12, 1492. Two years later, Santa Cruz, California, instituted the holiday. Starting in 2014, many other cities and states adopted the holiday.

Source: Wikipedia and Michigan.gov

**In Michigan:** On Oct. 14, 2019, Governor Gretchen Witmer created the first Indigenous Peoples' Day in Michigan on the second Monday of October "to honor the historic, cultural and contemporary significance of Indigenous peoples and their ancestral lands ... and celebrate their contributions to communities throughout Michigan ..."

*Racial Justice Team*