

Mark Your Calendars . . .

Sunday Funday
Oct. 1 at 4:30 p.m.

**Prayers & Squares
Sewing Workshop**
Saturday, Oct. 7
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Food Movers
Thursday, Oct. 26
3:30 p.m.
Drive-thru distribution

Trunk or Treat
Sunday, Oct. 29
3 to 4 p.m.

Pub Theology
Tuesday, Oct. 31



Inside . . .

Pastor's Pen ~ Alpha Sunday Recap2
 Campus Ministry ~ Friendship House.....3
 Family Faith Formation4
 Music Notes5
 Forum ~ Library ~ Book Club6
 ULC Small Groups7
 Earthkeeping ~ Accessibility8
 Prayers & Squares ~ Kids Hope9
 Racial Justice10
 Council Notes ~ Exit Interview11
 President ~ Lead Management ~ Outreach ..12
 ULC People13
 Celebrations ~ Archives14
 October Events15
 Ministry Fairs16

Meet Our Interim Pastor

Beginning Oct. 16, Pastor Bryan Schneider-Thomas will begin serving as ULC's interim pastor. Here is a brief introduction to Pastor Bryan and his family.

Pastor Bryan Schneider-Thomas has been in ordained ministry since 1995; first in the United Methodist Church and then in the ELCA since 2009. Most recently he has served Peace Lutheran Church in Sparta, Michigan. In addition to parish ministry, he has worked with congregations who are building or renovating worship space as a liturgical design consultant. He is looking forward to this change in ministry as he begins interim ministry work. As the Church faces changing times, interim ministry becomes increasingly important.



Julie and Bryan Schneider-Thomas

He and Pastor Julie Schneider-Thomas have been married for 30 years. Pastor Julie serves Zion (Comstock Park) and Hope (Rockford) Lutheran churches near Grand Rapids. Together they have one daughter, Katie, who is a senior at Aquinas college in Grand Rapids. In addition, they round out their family with two dogs (Ruby and Poppy) and six sheep (No, the sheep don't live in the house). When not working, Pastor Bryan enjoys spinning wool, weaving, and making wine.

Amy Wagenknecht

Volunteers needed!

Food Packing 10,000 Meals with the Islamic Center

Place: ULC Fellowship Hall
 Date: Sunday, October 8
 Time: Approx. 11 am (after worship)

Sign up in the Narthex or [CLICK HERE](#)

Questions? Contact Vicki Anderson at vickianderson831@gmail.com



Thank You for the Privilege!

I said that last month would be my final article for the Lux, but I needed to write one more to thank everyone on behalf of Miriam and me for the luncheon and send off on my last Sunday. The meal was wonderful, and everything was set up so beautifully in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for the generous gift, the gift cards (I already used some of the REI card for a pair of hiking pants for our trip to the National Parks in Utah), the cards and the gifts. When we looked closely at the quilt, we saw how beautiful it is and we'll love having it out especially during the winter and Christmas seasons. And the small bronze cross that matches the ULC processional cross will be a wonderful reminder of my years here.

As I gave Communion one last time on Sunday and looked into the eyes of each person, I had this deep sense of joy in the years we've had together in ministry, the relationships that we've formed, and for the time I've



Pastor Gary and Miriam with the cake at the retirement luncheon on Sept. 24.

served as your pastor. As I said at the meal, serving at ULC was a wonderful way to end my ministry career and I am so grateful for the partnership we shared.

As we sang the last hymn on Sunday, *Neither Death nor Life*, I said that this is one of my favorite hymns. It's one of my favorites because it expresses the deep core of my faith, that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. As we continue our journey

of life and faith, I hope that you will hold onto that promise, that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

You all have been a blessing to Miriam and me and we will both treasure the memories we have. Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Pastor,

Pastor Gary



Alpha Sunday

Outdoor Worship Expressions, a group drone photo, and a potluck.





One Community was represented at Sparticipation, a large activity fair at MSU in August.



Thank you to Debbie Heidrich for providing a meal for Fridays@Five! If you would like to provide a meal, sign up [here](#).

Enjoy Some Fresh Air and Fellowship!

Oct. 6-7, One Community will be visiting **Muskegon State Park** and camping there overnight. There is no football game on that Saturday, so we hope to have extra time to hike, spend time in each other's company, and explore the park!



In this time of transition . . .

Our wonderful Student Associates ask that when you need to email them, please use campusministry@ulcel.org and identify yourself and why you're contacting them. As they are still navigating what campus ministry looks like without a campus pastor, a reminder that it is kinder to ask them, rather than tell them to do a task. Thanks!



International Ministry Opportunity for the Friendship House MSU Conversation Partners Needed!

Old News: With the start of the new semester, we have a number of new international students here at the Friendship House and are waiting for an American English-speaking partner.

New News: Many of our international community members are married with children and are seeking family friends so we are seeking our English-speaking families to connect and learn from.

What you need to know: Typically, the individual partners meet once a week for about 60 - 90 minutes and can start out (and continue) at the Friendship House MSU and then shift to meeting at a coffeehouse, or over lunch, or at the American partner's home or church.

Family partnerships can be more challenging to schedule, but our hope is the families can meet at least once per



month but will leave that up to the families to decide the frequency of the meetings.

What do you need to know to be a Conversation Partner? You already know it: English. You also have the motivation to want to help someone from another country who often feels homesick, isolated, and culturally shocked.

What is it that International partners are looking for? No matter what is discussed whether English is approached from a formal or informal teaching style, the Internationals are looking for friendship.

What do I do if I am interested? You can complete an application found on our website friendshiphousemsu.global under "Get Involved" or you can contact me at 517-657-7778 or friendshiphousemsu@gmail.com.

Dan Winter, Executive Director

Family Faith Formation

WORSHIP WEDNESDAY
[Virtual Faith Formation for Kids]
CRAFTS FRIENDS
BIBLE STORIES
MUSIC

SUNDAY FUNDAY
OCTOBER 1ST
AT ULC
4:30-6:30PM
Music, Crafts, Dinner,
and Story Time!
Families with children &
youth of all ages
and abilities are
welcome to join us.

Sunday, October 29th
3:00 - 4:00 pm
**TRUNK
OR
TREAT**
University Lutheran Church
1020 S. Harrison Road
East Lansing, MI 48823

OCTOBER 29 3:00-4:00 PM
**TRUNK
OR
TREAT**

CAN YOU HOST A TRUNK?
We need trunks for kids to visit during our Trunk or Treat event on October 29th from 3:00 pm-4:00 pm. Sign up on the clipboard or by calling the ULC office. See Lori Johnson for more info.

CANDY OR SNACK DONATIONS NEEDED!
Can't host a trunk? Please consider contributing candy or snacks (nut-free please) to help supplement each trunk! Please drop off donations in the ULC Office no later than Thursday, October 26th.



Rev. Miriam Bunge giving a children's sermon about the Runaway Bunny.

High School Youth Exciting Plans for October

Oct. 1 is a Sunday Funday. Please come, we WILL have youth group! Join us for dinner at 5 p.m., then, after dinner, we will head down to the youth room where we will have our first ever High School bible study. Come with an open mind that is ready to connect with old friends in a new way!

Oct. 15 We will begin with a check in on our new bible study journey before jumping into an evening of games outside! – (Stay tuned for more details).

On Oct. 21 and Nov. 4, we are signed up to help with football parking! Please sign up using the link below! Helping with football parking provides the Youth Group with money to plan and fund more events in the future!
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F49ABAC28ABFD0-44601047-ulcfootball#/>

Oct. 29 is a special Sunday this month - Trunk or Treat. This year, we will be joining the Campus Ministry students to decorate a SpongeBob themed trunk with the students from our campus ministry! Trunk or Treat will run from 3 to 4 p.m. Please plan to be there at least 15 minutes early to help finalize setup!

Simon Peterson

In this time of transition . . .

Our wonderful youth group leader Simon, who is helping to lead the high school youth program asks that when you need to email him, please use highschoolministry@ulcel.org and identify yourself and why you're contacting him. Please ask, rather than tell when it comes to things you would like him to do. Thanks!



Introducing the 2023-24 Scholarship Singers

Katrina Brown, Alto

My name is Katrina Brown and I'm a freshman at Michigan State University. My major is currently Business, and this is my first year as a scholarship student at ULC!

I am a 2023 graduate of Haslett High School. Productions I have participated in include "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," "Snow White," "The Addams Family," "Working", and most recently I played the role of Miss Hannigan in "Annie."

I enjoy writing, art, and of course, singing. I look forward to this coming year and getting to know the church community better!

Divira Pahwa, Soprano

I am Divira Pahwa, the soprano scholarship student, and I'm very excited to be back at ULC! I am a senior at Michigan State University, studying Vocal Performance under Richard Fracker. Last summer, I studied abroad in Todi, Italy where I had the opportunity to perform in the music festival there. I also have an



Nick, Divira, Katrina, and Ryan

interest in Jazz studies and have been performing around Michigan as part of "The Divira Pahwa Trio". Past performances include Ravel's "L'enfant et les sortilèges," Benjamin Britten's "Albert Herring" as Harry, and Mozart's "La Finta Giardiniera." I am excited to be playing Desiree in MSU's upcoming fall production of "A Little Night Music." I look forward to singing once again at ULC.

Nick Perkins, Bass

Hi! My name is Nick Perkins. I'm so happy to join ULC, and their choir as a scholarship student! I graduated from Nashville School of the Arts in 2022 and am now a vocal

performance major at MSU in my Sophomore year. I hope to either pursue opera in my future, or pursue being a country artist in Nashville, Tennessee.

I originally lived in Georgia, where I used to work on sets in films around Atlanta. I began singing when I moved to Nashville and attended an arts school. I'm very excited to sing with the University Church, and to get to know the community!

Ryan Jordan, Tenor

Hi! I'm Ryan Jordan, ULC's tenor scholarship singer. I'm a sophomore at MSU in the music education degree program studying with Professor Richard Fracker and as I enter my second year at college, I'm excited to also enter my second year at ULC! Along with singing I also have played trombone in marching band for many years. This year, however, I had to take a break to be in the fall opera. I appreciate you all having me back and I look forward to singing for you once again.

Introducing Travis Williams, ULC Choral Assistant

Travis will be teaching private voice lessons this fall at ULC. In exchange he will be assisting our choral program in various ways, from singing to acting as a substitute choir director. Travis received



his undergraduate degree in vocal performance from Western Michigan University, and his graduate degree from University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Welcome, Travis!



Outdoor Concert #3 – Ritmo Concertgoers enjoyed listening and dancing to salsa music as well as eating popcorn and ice cream donated by Quality Dairy. Over \$2000 was raised for the Food Movers program by the offerings collected at the four outdoor concerts.

Ministry Fairs Continue Through October!

How would you like to tour our building and grounds? Whether you are a long-time member or still a newcomer, we hope to surprise and delight you with a peek into all our wonderful ULC ministries/groups.



Following worship, we invite you to visit these groups in the very location where they do most of their work – in the sanctuary, on our lower level, out in the narthex, or in one of the offices or classrooms.

Pick up a revised Mini-Ministry Guide from the table by the Name Tag stand to review the full list of ministries and their current team leaders.

Oct. 1 No fair or forum on this date.

Oct. 8 God's Work, Our Hands Food Packing Event

Oct. 15 Lower-level Ministries Fair

Oct. 22 Sanctuary, Sacristy, and Small Groups

Oct. 29 Narthex and Office

Each Ministry Fair will last about an hour. On each of the Ministry Fair Sundays, there will be a handout explaining which ministries are on display that day and where they are located. Some ministries operate in more than one location, so you may see them on more than one Sunday. Ministry Team representatives will be wearing a large hanging badge bearing the name of the ministry. Chat with them! Consider joining a new team!

Linda Trevarthen



ULC Memorial Library

Welcome to the Library!

The ULC Library Team invites you to visit the library during the Ministry Fair on Oct. 15. We think of the library as a "hidden gem" at ULC.

At least one person from the Library Team will be there to greet you and show you around the room. There are also many signs directing you to specific sections – children's, adult fiction, Racial Justice collection, DVD's, etc. We plan to have the library computer turned on with directions for



The library is in the basement and open whenever the facilities are open.

searching for books from home, and there will be someone to assist.

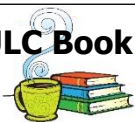
You will find materials for all ages – board books for the youngest

children to both fiction and non-fiction adult books. The library is a comfortable, quiet place to read, study or spend time while waiting for someone.

You will find some surprises, and visitors will be able to choose a free book to take home. We hope you will visit the library and see what all the excitement is about.

The Library Team,
Judy Kindel, Connie Lenkowski,
Linda Trevarthen

ULC Book Club



Join us to Discuss *Demon Copperhead*

The ULC Book Club will meet on Thursday, Oct. 19 at 10 a.m. We will discuss *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. The author brings the story of Charles Dickens's *David Copperfield* to the mountains of southern Appalachia in the 1990s. The book follows Damon Fields aka Demon Copperhead as he navigates foster care, child labor, rundown schools, addiction and other perils.

ULC Book Club meets the third Thursday of the month. We offer three ways to participate. You can join us in



person at ULC in the Fireside room, via Zoom or we can send you a recording of the discussion.

We would love for you to join us. Please reach out to Beth Rahe at bwojan1@gmail.com or Mary Kotnik at mkotnik@comcast.net so we can add you to our email list and keep you up to date on the books we choose and any changes in meeting time or location.

Looking ahead: November book - *Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah; We do not meet in December; January book - *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett

Beth Rahe and Mary Kotnik

ULC Small Groups

Check Out Our Small Groups!

Brunch Bunch



Brunch Bunch is a fellowship group and all women and friends of ULC are invited. We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at the IHOP in E. Lansing. If you would like an email reminder, please contact Jan Mace Sollenberger olieandjanicemace@gmail.com to be added to the list.

Faith, Writing & Reflection



This *small* group meets on Zoom and using journaling to reflect upon their faith. They meet on Tuesdays from 2:45 to 4:15 pm. Contact: Carole Ford cfordllp@yahoo.com.

Pub Theology



Join us in person every last Tuesday from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. on Zoom. We will discuss four or five questions involving spiritual topics, philosophy, life, and theology. Contact the ULC office ulcsec@ulcel.org.

Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina meets virtually Wednesdays at noon on Zoom. God in Scripture (*Lectio Divina*) is a way of listening to the texts of Scripture as if we were in conversation with Christ and He was suggesting the topics. Contact Bill Trevarthen bill.trevarthen@gmail.com.

Tuesday AM Bible Study



This group meets every Tuesday from 7:30-8:30 a.m. on Zoom. The Bible study reviews the biblical texts for the upcoming Sunday. Copies of the texts are sent a couple of days before the study. Contact Larry Wagenknecht larry.wagenknecht@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Mushers

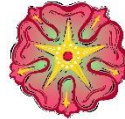


Mushers is a fellowship group and all men and friends of ULC are invited. We meet every Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. at the IHOP in E. Lansing. Contact Emmett Braselton braselto@msu.edu.

Bible Study Circles



Annos meets at 9:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of the month. This year we are studying Women of the Bible. We meet in the Fireside Room. Annos Circle is the only circle that has male participants. Please join us! Contact: Carol Mackin carol.mackin.2000@gmail.com.



Rhodon Circle meets the third Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Fireside Room. They use the Bible study from the *Gather* magazine, a publication of the Women of the ELCA. Contact Connie Lenkowski connielenkowski@gmail.com.



Lychnion Circle meets the third Tuesday of the month at 12:30 p.m. They use the Bible study from the *Gather* Magazine each month. Contact: Carolyn Lohr aclohr@comcast.net.

Tight Knit



We meet every Monday at from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. to knit/crochet items for charity and to share fellowship. Don't knit or crochet, we'll teach you! We meet in the Fireside Room. Contact: Anne Smith, asmith1959@hotmail.com.

ULC Book Club



We meet on the third Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. to share fellowship and discuss the selected book. Contact: Beth Rahe bwojan1@gmail.com or Mary Kotnik mkotnik@comcast.net.

Prayers & Squares



Sewers of all skill levels are invited to join this ministry that creates prayer quilts (and more) throughout the year. We meet in the Fellowship Hall every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Contact: Ann Booren, boorena@msu.edu or Bobbie Davis, bobbieannndavis80@gmail.com.



Capturing the Sun

ULC will soon be doubling our access to solar energy with the installation of the ground-mount solar array just north of the west parking area.

The new 20.25-kilowatt solar panels have been installed and Absolute Solar is waiting for a back-ordered inverter to arrive. When installed, the unit will be fully functional. This unit is predicted to provide 25.8 Megawatt Hours (MWH) per year or a little less than 50 percent



of the 48.2 MWH that ULC currently purchases from Consumers Energy for electricity.

Together with our existing 19.84-kilowatt rooftop unit, which produces 19.3 MWH per year, we expect to produce about two thirds of the electricity that ULC uses in a year.

These solar panels will provide ULC with considerable monetary savings well into the future. In addition, we will reduce our carbon footprint and put “practice stewardship of God’s creation,” into action.

Judy Kindel

Accessibility Team

Making ULC More Accessible

Recently a group of congregation members (Michael Anderson, Sue Kamens, Deanna Milligan, Beth Raye, Robert Smith, Amy Wagenknecht) met to discuss how ULC could be more meaningful to people with challenges, seen or unseen. Our building has good access for mobility-challenged individuals and now we are looking for ways to make the worship experience positive and inclusive for all worshippers.

In our Statement of Intentional Welcome, “*We commit to remove all barriers that exclude people from full and active participation in our church.*”

The worship experience is meant to be inspirational and joyful to all.

- We come together to find refuge from a stormy world and hear the comforting words of our Lord. For some people, it is not easy to relax and release their outside cares for worship.
- We sing praise and rise for prayers and gather at the altar for communion. Again, mobility challenged worshippers can have some concerns. Finding a place to park a walker or a wheelchair can be frustrating. Others are sensitive to loud sounds and bright lights. Some may not hear as well. Some may have limited visual acuity.
- The organ swelling so that you can almost feel it, but some with sensory audio sensitivity can be overwhelmed by the noise no matter how beautiful it is.
- Flowers perfume the air, but some with allergies can react with sneezes or asthma attacks.
- Candles and lights illuminate the space, but some can be overwhelmed by the intensity and glare.

- As a congregation we gather to worship as a tightly knit group, but some can be nervous and on edge in crowded situations.
- We have made many changes to our building to allow access and participation for mobility challenged individuals yet realize there are likely more physical barriers that need to be addressed.
- We realize that many disabilities are invisible to the observer but can make worship in our sanctuary a trigger for anxiety and discomfort.

“The newly formed Accessibility Team will be exploring options and resources to meet people where they are while also focusing to help our members identify their gifts so they can be used in ministry to the Lord and our neighbors. We will work with staff and other teams to identify areas of possibilities for meeting these challenges within our community.

We will also recognize the caregivers and the importance of their role in this process. We are exploring alternative worship spaces and style opportunities.

We will be asking for input via a survey and will appreciate all responses. We will also participate in the Ministry Fair on Oct. 29 to answer questions and have a chance to let the congregation know what we are doing.

Contact the Accessibility teams co-leads, Deanna Milligan at singingturtle34@gmail.com or Beth Rahe at bwojan1@gmail.com if you are interested in joining our efforts or have questions.

Robert Smith



Many Exciting Fall Activities!

Our second “Noisy Offering” will be held Sunday, Oct. 1. Money collected will be used to purchase supplies for the 100 Lutheran World Relief School Kits we will be packing following the service that morning. Our first “Noisy Offering” brought in about \$530! Any amount above the cost of the supplies will be sent to LWR to cover the cost of shipping the kits to various sites throughout the world. Thank you for your generous support of this churchwide mission. And a very special thank you to Ellie Korroch who made all the wonderful unique backpacks.

Our Christmas Quilt-Q-Thon is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 7th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For the amazing low price of \$10, everyone will receive a kit with fabric and instructions to

make a quilt top, a pizza and salad lunch, and great fellowship with members, friends and other quilters who are planning to join the fun day. The kits are made from donated fabric that we cannot use for prayer quilts. Check the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. It will be a fun day!



We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, Oct. 15 during the Lower-Level Ministries Fair. The Prayers & Squares sewing room is in the classroom wing. Come see where the prayer quilts are made. Learn how you can request a quilt for someone in need of our prayers.

Looking ahead to some special dates for your calendars:

- Nov. 12 we will honor those who have received a Quilt of Valor during the year.
- Dec. 3 will be the 20th anniversary of Prayers & Squares here at ULC. We are asking everyone who has received a prayer quilt to bring it that day to place on the pew. Special music and words will help us celebrate our participation in the prayer quilt ministry. A reception will follow the service.
- Dec. 3rd and 10th will be our annual fundraising craft sale. Ann has been very busy creating unique items for your gift-giving list. This popular event helps purchase fabric, thread, batting and other supplies required to make our quilts. More info on this to come!

Bobbie Davis

Kids Hope USA - Survey Results

At the end of each school year, the Kids Hope USA National Support team surveys the directors from each ministry, and, in turn, the directors survey their own mentors and prayer partners. Participating teachers and the principal may be included. These surveys are a good way to evaluate a ministry.



The surveys are helpful because they can indicate if things are going well or where change is needed. A typical response from our local mentor surveys was a list of games or books to obtain for use during the mentoring hour. A very thoughtful comment from one survey was “In the moment – the time we spend together at Forest View – I can tell the child is soaking up the one-on-one attention. It is harder to know what the long-term effects might be. I do believe having someone they can count on to show up is important.” Our local mentors are helpful with good suggestions and observations written on the evaluations.

The Fall 2023 Presidential Update from Kids Hope USA came in the mail recently with mentor and director survey results given for the 2022-23 school year nationally.

Thirty-five percent of mentors have been with their student for over two years. This percentage is interesting because last year two out of 12 of our mentors had students leave the school with one mentor having three students in a year. At risk families move a lot and those children often attend multiple schools in a year.

The goal of a Kids Hope USA mentor is to establish a relationship with an at-risk student, so they feel special and loved. In the national survey 90 percent of mentors were encouraged about their relationship with their student. 99 percent of mentors found their time valuable with their student. Kids Hope USA must be doing something right to end up with those numbers! The title for this section of information in the report was “Celebrating Relationships.”

Additional surveys from mentors and directors had the following information:

- The impact on students was the biggest in these key areas – social-emotional skills, confidence, and attitude.

Continued on page 10.

Lutherans and Native Nations

As part of the civil rights movement of the 1960s and '70s, the Doctrine of Discovery began to crack. The Doctrine allowed European, and later American, nations to claim lands occupied by Indigenous or other non-European, non-Christian people as federal property. White U.S. citizens started to examine the tragic histories of their non-white neighbors and question such ideas as manifest destiny, which argued that God favored white settlement of North America.

In 1970, the Lutheran Council in the United States of America (LCUSA) partnered with members of the American Indian Movement to create the National Indian Lutheran Board, which raised funds, provided grants, and lobbied on behalf of Native Americans and Native American entities. It was a unique and treasured time when Indians and Lutherans came together to understand one another, to appreciate each other's cultures, and to join in a fight for justice in Indian Country.

But the group was disbanded with the breakup of the LCUSA and the founding of the ELCA. At that time the ELCA hoped to take on the board's work, but this idea fell victim to the struggle of merging the ELCA's three predecessor bodies into one and navigating the new responsibilities of multicultural ministry. In the 1990s, the ELCA formally adopted a strategic plan and vision for Indigenous peoples, creating the American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association.

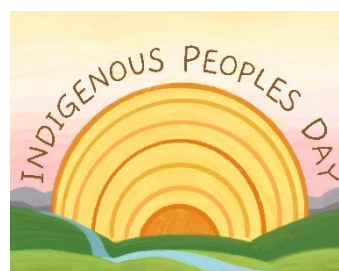
But more needed to be done. The ELCA Churchwide Assembly formally [repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery in 2016](#), citing the Augsburg Confession's prohibition against "the improper mixing of the power of the church and the power of the sword" and laying out seven

objectives for the ELCA. Some were straightforward, such as stating repentance and seeking reconciliation with the many Native American nations throughout the United States. Other objectives require more work and consideration, such as correcting the centuries-old colonial mindset that approved of seizing land from Indigenous peoples without any agreement or compensation.

Find out more, including upcoming events, at the ELCA Truth and Healing Movement webpage here:

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Ethnic-Specific-and-Multicultural-Ministries/Indigenous-Ministries-and-Tribal-Relations/Truth-and-Healing-Movement>

*Vicki Anderson
Racial Justice Team*



We invite you to observe Indigenous Peoples Day, Monday Oct. 9 by watching **"Native Nations Standing Together for Civil Rights."**

This one-hour documentary explores the role of the National Indian Lutheran Board and actions taken during the American Indian civil rights movement of the 1960s and 1980s in Indian Country.

You can watch it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDHSNx018I>

Kids Hope continued from page 9.

- Top activities during the mentoring hour were games, conversation, creative activities and reading.
- K-2nd graders more often engage in creative activities and reading.

- 3rd-5th graders more often engage in conversation and character building.

The survey results also include which states have Kids Hope USA ministries. Since Kids Hope USA started in Michigan, it is no surprise

that it has the most. Other top states are Texas, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Colorado. Even Alaska and Hawaii are represented!

*Barbara Kissling
ULC Kids Hope USA Director*



August ULC Council met via Zoom on Aug. 16 and here are some highlights from the discussion:

- Pastor Gary is still seeking someone to lead Confirmation class.
- During the pastoral transition, Sue Kamens will help assist Campus Ministry Student Associates.
- Giving is still on track and the budget is currently net positive.
- The council will review proposed 2024 budget in September, despite unknowns surrounding personnel costs.
- The Finance Committee has recommended an external audit process, no decisions have yet been made.



- Appointments: Steve Viele and Jeff Andresen, Personnel Committee; Kathy Sweat, Jay DuBois-Jones, Erin Frisch, Lori Johnson, and Will Mahoney, Call Committee.
- A designated fund has been established for Food Movers to allow for more flexibility in paying costs in future years.
- Approved bid for pothole/patching repair from general budget due to urgently needed repairs in the parking lot.

September

ULC Council met in person (with virtual participation option) on Sept.

19 and here are some highlights from the discussion:

- Racial justice presentation: Motion for racial justice team to lead the congregation through a process of learning about our history and exploring racial repair and reparations.
- Approved an increase in stipend for the for the extra workload taken on by High School Youth Leader, Student Associates, and Worship Wednesday Leader during transition period (paid out of Youth/Campus Ministry designated funds)
- Approved one-time stipends to compensate for increased workload during the transition period for Janine Novenske Smith and Mandy O'Neill

Emily Uebel

Exit Interview for Pastor Gary, Conducted by Bishop Satterlee

- Things most significant/meaningful during your time at ULC
 - Helping the congregation get through the pandemic took a lot of time and effort.
 - Changes that have occurred in worship over the last six years. Headed in some new directions and still a lot of room for continuing.
 - Kids Hope ministry – seeing people at ULC excited about the ministry.
- Things that are left on the table/still need to be done.
 - Continuing the path with worship and push it further. Only just begun being creative with worship.
 - Continuing to grow racial justice team and doing more in the community.
 - Looking at how ULC is structured staff-wise given size, budget, etc. Do we still need all the staff? Is having two pastors the best model for us at this point? Are there other ways we can do what we're doing? We need discussion on that.
 - How do we grow our high school youth ministry?
 - We have a marvelous space downstairs that is really underutilized.
- Going back in time to early in the morning on the first day at ULC, what would you tell yourself in the first day on the job?
 - Forget about all the policies and procedures (an exaggeration, but this congregation has way too many).
 - Do you want a pastor or an administrator? With the number of policies, it's very administrative.
 - Take more time for pastoral stuff.
- A Bible story or verse that will help synod find the next pastor for ULC: Road to Emmaus – Jesus walks with his followers. Will be important for a pastor to walk alongside and to lead the congregation in a caring way, accepting the congregation where they are, but pushing them forward. Accompanying, but also pushing.
- ULC is a gifted place in terms of facility, talent, and financial situation.
- Covenant for departing pastors.
 - Agree to pray for the new pastor.
 - Not be involved in advisory role (public or private) at ULC.
 - Not to engage in any action that could undermine new pastor.
 - Will not do pastoral care duties for ULC members.

From the President

Interim Approved, Call Process Under Way

Thank you to Pastor Gary for his years of service to ULC. I know I speak for the Council when I say he has been a joy to work with and will be greatly missed. I wish Pastor Gary and Miriam the best as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

I am pleased to announce Pastor Bryan Schneider-Thomas will become our interim pastor beginning Oct. 16. He comes to us from Peace Lutheran in Sparta, Michigan, where he has served the last dozen years. He is excited to be coming to our church. I look forward to working with him. For our October services Pastor John Schleicher will preach on the first and the eighth and Pastor Eric Johnson will preach on the 15th.

Our search for a lead pastor has begun. The Call Committee led by Will Mahoney has submitted the Ministry Site Profile to the Synod and will be interviewing candidates starting in late September. I would like to thank Linda Trevarthen and Sue Kamens for the time they spent doing the preliminary work for the Ministry Site Profile. Their work made it much easier for Will and the Call Committee to finish and submit it.

I look forward to a smooth transition as ULC begins a new chapter in the life of our congregation.

Rick Milligan

Lead Management Team Notes

Campus Ministry (Sue Kamens) - Pastor Gary met with two of the student Associates. They were able to get a list of names at Sparticipation which will be added to the list of students notified each week of Friday@Five. They had a table at Faith Fest, a gathering specifically for faith organizations. We are forming a campus ministry team of at least three ULC members to serve as a support and resource in the absence of a campus pastor.

Environmental Empathy/Justice is the theme chosen for this year.

Care Team (Linda Trevarthen) - Card Ministry continues to send out 20-30 cards every month (including Prayer List, milestone birthdays/anniversaries, each month's Prayer Partner Churches within the synod, and others as needed.) The Meal Ministry has a number of meals stored in the freezer that will need to be distributed in the next month.

Social Action (Bryan Rahe) - The food distribution in August served 267 families. The next distribution is scheduled for Sept. 28. Cost sharing with the Food Bank will begin Jan. 1, 2024. We still need volunteers to help with registration and traffic control or to pack food into vehicles.

Grounds (Norm Jolin, Sr.) - A contract has been signed to have the parking lot repaired this year.

Amy Wagenknecht

October Outreach of the Month Haven House, East Lansing

Haven House is a place where homeless people can go and find shelter. This is a ministry to the people who need to receive hospitality. This writer is reminded of a passage in the letter to the Hebrews, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers as some have entertained angels unawares." Haven House can shelter up to seven families at a time.



ULC has supported Haven House in the past, including when our Earthkeeping Team raised funds to help make their facility more energy efficient. We need to financially support this important work for many reasons.

One reason is that God is present in all people. We are all made in His image, no exceptions. As followers of Jesus Christ, we need to care for our neighbor. To learn more about Haven House please visit their website havenhouseel.org

You are encouraged to give in the usual ways – offering plate, direct deposit, or using the Donate button on our website. Please designate "Haven House" in the comments. Thank you and please be generous.

Michael Anderson

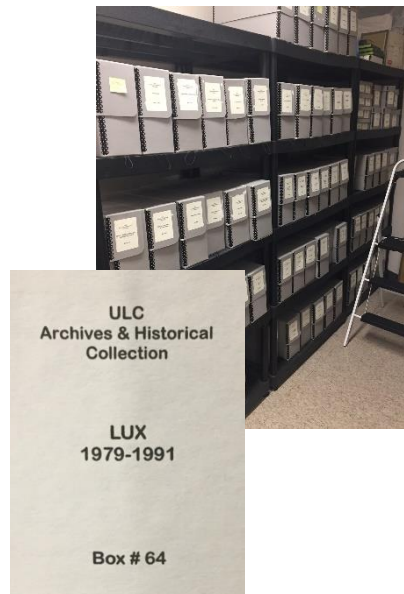
ULC Archives

Welcome to the ULC Archive Collection

Do you know where the ULC archives can be found? You will be able to see the archives collection during the Ministry Fair on Oct. 15 and view some of the treasures it contains.

The archives are located in the first room on the left when you walk into the education wing. It is the room with the window into the atrium; the room used to be the office for the custodian. There is an enclosed room behind the office which contains most of the collection.

The original archives collection was in the tower – up steep stairs and hot in the summer, cold in the winter, and humid almost any time. This new location on the lower level is



easily accessible and is a much more stable environment to store items.

One item we plan to share is an “Old Time Movie” of the construction of the Ann St. Church in 1947. The 35 mm film was found in the 1975 time capsule. Since then, it was copied onto a DVD, and then onto a thumb drive for the 2023 time capsule.

You will be able to see a brass cross that was used when church was held in the State theater and then later in the Ann St. Church and a church treasurer’s book from 1941. You are welcome to search for an item yourself and see what we have. We hope you will stop in and view some ULC treasures.

Archives Team

*Connie Lenkowski, Mike Lenkowski,
Carol Mackin, and Tom Kissling*

KRISTIN KOBES
DU MEZ



'Jesus & John Wayne
and the Evangelical
Reckoning'

SUNDAY, NOV. 12, 2023
1 P.M.

THE PEOPLES CHURCH ANNUAL
HENRY & ANNABEL LARZELERE
MEMORIAL LECTURE

Jesus and John Wayne is a sweeping account that reveals how American evangelicals have worked for decades to replace the Jesus of the gospels with an idol of rugged masculinity and Christian nationalism — or, in the words of one modern chaplain, with a “spiritual badass.” As Kristin Kobes Du Mez explains, the key to understanding this transformation is to recognize the role of culture in modern American evangelicalism. Evangelical books, films, music, clothing, and merchandise influence the beliefs of millions, and evangelical popular culture is teeming with muscular heroes — mythical warriors and rugged soldiers, men like John Wayne, Mel Gibson,

Donald Trump, and the Duck Dynasty clan, who assert white masculine power in defense of “Christian America.” The values at the heart of white evangelicalism today — patriarchy, authoritarian rule, aggressive foreign policy, fear of Islam, ambivalence toward #MeToo, and opposition to Black Lives Matter and the LGBTQ community — have transformed the faith, with enduring consequences for all Americans.

Excerpt from 'Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation

Kristin Kobes Du Mez is a Professor of History and Gender Studies at Calvin University

The Henry and Annabel Larzelere Memorial Lecture Series

The Henry and Annabel Larzelere Memorial Lecture Series was established in 2017 to honor Henry and Annabel Larzelere’s interest in continuing education on topics of international interest and theological thought. Henry and Annabel moved to East Lansing in 1938 where Henry was a new faculty member in the College of Agriculture at Michigan State University. They promptly joined The Peoples Church and became involved in the church community as well as in greater Lansing where they were active in a variety of civic activities. Henry and Annabel were world travelers who were always building bridges of hope and understanding. Our desire is that these lectures will inspire and strengthen us to serve with compassionate love as we strive to build a more just and peaceful world.

Birthdays

- 1 LaVon Miller
Rick Milligan
- 2 Mary Ludtke
Jennifer Tracy
- 3 Chris Anderson
- 6 Gary Bunge
Anne Smith
- 7 Carolyn Lohr
Annaliese Marks
Juliana Marks



- 9 Connie Lenkowski
- 11 Michael Hill
- 14 Nathaniel Dalton
James Sype
- 15 David Ramsey
Kristie Wiggert

- 17 Jon Althouse
- 18 Pat Lee
- 21 Evan Dawson Baglien
- 22 Michael Masnyj
- 25 Susan Fisher
Steven Haase
- 26 Laura Appel
- 29 Beeper Baswell
Jesse Clyma
Todd Helser
Piper Hylan

Anniversaries

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

ULC People



of Michigan and is enjoying his first year playing trombone in the marching band.

An update from **Aaron Williams**, a ULC member, who as a high school student was a very important member of the audio/video team at ULC. He also occasionally played trombone during worship. Aaron is now a Sophomore at the University



Jeff Andresen, state climatologist, professor of geography, environment and spatial sciences at MSU, and ULC member was in the news. Following the severe weather in late August, the City Pulse reached out to Jeff for his take on what happened. He explained that “the timing, location and underlying weather conditions that bolstered the tornado combined to create a particularly dangerous situation for anyone driving along I-96 that night.” Visit the [City Pulse](#) website to read the entire article.

“Those who come close to people in pain naturally draw near to God, because God is always by the side of His children who are in pain.”

-Elder Paisios

Anne and I would like to thank the people of ULC for their prayer and support over the months as we endured health challenges. We have been blessed with cards, e-mails, meals and support from so many, we cannot try to mention them all. Only know that we feel blessed by the people of ULC and are glad to be moving past some of our challenges.

God bless you all with a special shout out to the Care Team.

Bob Smith

THANKS
FROM THE
HEART

Newsletter
SUBMISSIONS

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

E-mail articles to Amy Wagenknecht at amylarryw@comcast.net and Mandy O’Neil at ulcsec@ulcel.org or place them in the Lux mailbox in the ULC office. Articles may be edited for size or readability, but you will be contacted if significant changes are made. Keep those wonderful photos and articles coming! Thanks!



1	10:00a	Sunday Worship (Rev. Schleicher)-Sanctuary/FB	10:00a	Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall	
	4:30p	Sunday Funday	12:30p	Lychnion Circle-Fireside	
	5:00p	High School Youth Group-Youth Room	1:30p	Staff Meeting	
2	4:00p	Tight Knit-Fireside	2:45p	Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom*	
	6:00p	Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary	6:30p	ULC Council-Zoom*	
3	7:30a	Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*	18	8:00a	Mushers-IHOP, EL
	10:00a	Prayers & Squares-Fellowship		9:30a	Amnos-Fireside
	1:30p	Staff Meeting		Noon	Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom
	2:45p	Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom*		1:00p	Rhodon-Fireside
4	8:00a	Mushers-IHOP, EL		4:15p	Worship Wednesday-Zoom*
	9:30a	Communications Team-Zoom	19	10:00a	ULC Book Club-Fireside
	Noon	Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom		7:00p	Choir Rehearsal
	4:30p	Lead Management Team-Zoom	20	5:00p	Fridays@Five
5	7:00p	Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary	21	TBA	MSU Football Parking (UM kick-off TBA)
7	9:00a	Fall Christmas Quilt Workshop-Fellowship	22	10:00a	Sunday Worship (Pastor Bryan)-Sanct/FB
8	10:00a	Sunday Worship (Rev. Schleicher)-Sanctuary/Facebook	23	4:00p	Tight Knit-Fireside
	11:30a	Food Packing-Fellowship		6:00p	Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary
9	Indigenous Peoples' Day		24	7:30a	Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*
	4:00p	Tight Knit-Fireside		10:00a	Prayers & Squares-Fellowship
	6:00p	Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary		1:30p	Staff Meeting
10	7:30a	Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*		2:45p	Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom*
	10:00a	Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall		7:00p	Families Against Narcotics (FAN)-Fellowship
	1:30p	Staff Meeting	25	8:00a	Mushers-IHOP, EL
	2:45p	Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom*		Noon	Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom
	6:30p	Racial Justice Team-Zoom		4:15p	Worship Wednesday-Zoom*
11	8:00a	Mushers-IHOP, EL	26	3:30p	Food Movers Distribution-Drive thru
	Noon	Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom*		7:00p	Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary
	4:15p	Worship Wednesday-Zoom*	27	5:00p	Fridays@Five
12	9:30a	Brunch Bunch-IHOP, EL	29	10:00a	Reformation Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/FB
	7:00p	Choir Rehearsal		3:00p	Trunk or Treat-ULC Parking lot
13	5:00p	Fridays@Five	30	4:00p	Tight Knit-Fireside
15	10:00a	Sunday Worship (Rev. Eric Johnson)-Sanctuary/FB		6:00p	Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary
	5:00p	High School Youth Group-Youth Room	31	7:30a	Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*
16	4:00	Tight Knit-Fireside		10:00a	Prayers & Squares-Fellowship
	6:00p	Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary		1:30p	Staff Meeting
17	7:30a	Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*		2:45p	Faith, Writing & Reflection-Zoom*
				7:00p	Pub Theology-In-person

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: Worship Wednesday – Rachel Drobnak; Lectio Divina – Bill Trevarthen; Faith, Writing & Reflection - Carole Ford cfordllp@yahoo.com; Tuesday morning study – Larry Wagenknecht

It's That Time Again!

Staff, Council & Team Leaders -- Annual Reports are due to Mandy O'Neil by Wednesday, Nov. 1.



University Lutheran Church
 One Community Lutheran Campus Ministry at MSU
 1020 S. Harrison Road
 East Lansing, MI 48823
 517-332-2559 ulcsec@ulcel.org www.ulcel.org

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Lansing, MI
 Permit No. 45

Change service requested

Bryan Schneider-Thomas
 Interim Pastor (beginning 10/16)

Janine Novenske Smith
 Director of Worship & the Arts

Mandy O'Neil
 Office Administrator

Gary Carl
 Financial Administrator

Mary Letvenow
 Event Coordinator

Kristie Wiggert
 Organist

John Dale Smith
 Pianist

Louise Paquette
 Director of Handbells

ULC MINISTRY FAIRS

Learn about our ministries.
 Tour the facilities
 Volunteer!

15 OCT LOWER-LEVEL	22 OCT SANCTUARY & SMALL GROUPS	29 OCT NARTHEX & OFFICE
------------------------------	---	-----------------------------------

Following worship