Lux

September 2026

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

Mark Your Calendars . . .

Coffee Connections
Saturday, Sept. 19 at 10 a.m.
Moka & Co., Okemos

Marcia Schultz
Memorial Service
Saturday, Sept. 19 at 11 a.m.

Food Movers
Thursday, Sept. 24
Drive-thru distribution starting at 3:30 p.m.

Pub Theology
Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 6:30 p.m.
Harrison Roadhouse, EL

P & S Baby Quilt Workshop
Saturday, Oct. 3 at 10 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

ULC Small Groups continue/ resume in September.
See list on page 11.

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Welcome Pastor Rob and Azul!

Pastor Rob Johnson will begin his work with ULC as interim pastor on Sunday, Sept. 6. He is a proud graduate of Michigan State University! Go Green!

Azul and Pastor Rob from a recent trip to eastern and Andalusian Spain.

Pastor Rob has served as a professional interim since 2010, serving in rural, urban, and suburban communities. He has specialized training in conflict resolution, user experience research, and executive fundraising.

Recently, he was married in the U.S. to Azul, and they will be celebrating a Mexican wedding ceremony and honeymoon later this year. Pastor Rob is looking forward to the opportunities for faith, growth, and mission at University Lutheran!

An intentionally inclusive community trusting in God's grace, strengthened by the Holy Spirit, living and loving like Jesus.

From the Pastor's Pen . . .

What Makes University Lutheran Stand Out?

As I begin transitional ministry with you, thank you for the opportunity to help you think about your next chapter at University Lutheran.

There have been many changes for the congregation this past year. Change is never easy, even in the best of times. One of the pleasures of being a transitional pastoral leader is that I have come to appreciate how resilient communities of faith can be. I hope you trust in your own resilience.

Over the next few weeks, you will get to know me a bit better. For now, I share a little bit of what I am looking for in you all.

Over the next four months, I will be listening for what makes University Lutheran stand out or distinctive from the other faith communities in your neighborhood. What makes you distinct from People's Church to the north and University United Methodist Church to the south? What's distinctive from Faith, Okemos?

When I've asked these questions in other congregations, many times members might say "the people," or "we're friendly," or "our community." All of these are true. But I will also be curious about the smaller, imperceptible, meaningful differences.

Another focus for me will be paying attention to what is absolutely necessary to the life and future of ULC:

- What are the traditions that must be nurtured?
- What are the programs that attract new members?
- What are the emerging opportunities where God can build new communities of faith?
- What are the gaps in faith where ULC is uniquely prepared to respond?

Some of you may have already thought about these questions. That's perfect! I'll be listening for your insights.

Thank you again for the opportunity to help write your next chapter!

In God's Peace,
Pastor Rob

Thank you, Pr. Emily, Pr. Zach, Sophie and Theo
God be with you!

Photos from Aug. 30 worship service and reception. Blankets provided by Prayers & Squares.

It Takes a Village

In August, Sue Kamens, Pastor Kate VanValkenburg — a former campus ministry pastor now on Synod staff — and Louise Montag sat down with Bonnie Elizabeth, Annasophia Markham- Adkison, and Love Rivera, to better understand what the student associates need, their hopes for this year, and what we can realistically take on.

We don't yet have a finished picture of what campus ministry will look like in this transition, but a theme that came up multiple times is: campus ministry needs to be better connected to the life of this congregation. That's where you come in. Would you pray for Bonnie, Annasophia, Love, and the other students as they head back to MSU and LCC for another semester? Would you say hello to a student you spot in worship or sit with them for a service? And if you've been wondering how to get more involved, consider joining the campus ministry team.

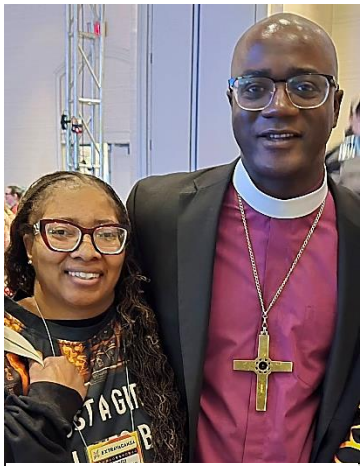
The campus ministry team will likely gather monthly to build connections between our students and this congregation. If that sounds like something you'd want to be part of, reach out to Sue Kamens or Louise Montag — we'd love to have you.

Louise Montag

News from Claretta

Greetings Saints! I have been looking for a way to transition into doing more direct ministry while in seminary. Our church did not have the space in the budget to hire another person. I saw Faith Lutheran was hiring for a youth and family position that they call Ministry and Community Engagement Coordinator.

Faith Lutheran has been collaborating with ULC for High School Youth group and our Confirmation kids had joint activities like CHARGE. It made sense to take a position so I could learn more about ministry in the ELCA and help both churches with Christian Education. I had already spoken with Pastor Scott Torko at the synod and



Claretta and ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry

Pastor Zach before he resigned. They were very supportive.

I am stepping down from Council in January because I will be spending a lot of time at Faith Lutheran. The 2027 Youth Gathering is next summer, and I will be doing all of the planning for Faith. I have spoken to the ULC Council about finishing out my term on Council through the end of the year.

We have also agreed to invite Confirmation students and the High School Youth Group to continue our collaboration with Faith Lutheran. I would love it if both churches were supportive of this new endeavor for me.

I would appreciate help from volunteers from ULC if anyone is interested. Pray for my journey! I am very excited to be working in ministry even if it is part-time work.

Claretta Freeman

FreeCycle 2026

A freecycle event was organized by Oprah and the Islamic Center as an opportunity for East Lansing students and residents to furnish their homes. It was held on the ULC lawn on Saturday, Aug. 29.

Family Faith Formation

Kids Faith Formation is Returning this Fall!

Approximately every other Sunday after worship and coffee hour (about 11:15 a.m.–Noon), kids and families are invited to gather for a mix of fellowship, music, Bible stories, praying and wondering, and activities.

Some Sundays will be part of larger Sunday Funday gatherings for all ages, with kid-focused activities included. Others will offer a smaller-group faith formation time just for kids.

What Will Faith Formation Look Like?
This fall, we'll draw from a new storybook Bible, *Welcome to the Peace Table,* in addition to the Spark Story Bible, and. Each offer something a little different. We're also hoping to offer two ways for kids to engage: a "wiggle rug" with

shorter stories and more movement and activities, and a "tabletop" group with longer stories and more time for conversation and reflection.

Want to Be Involved?
Come to a multigenerational day! Sunday Fundays are for the whole congregation.

Be a Wiggle Reader! To offer both our wiggle rug and tabletop groups, we'll need some volunteers to help lead. Stories, materials, and activities will be provided—you bring yourself and a willingness to spend some time with our kids. Sign-up information is coming soon!

Looking Ahead. Faith formation doesn't happen only on Sunday mornings. As we try some things this fall and look ahead, we also want to hear from parents and caregivers. What would help you nurture faith at home? What questions come up? What resources would you find value in? More opportunities to share your thoughts will be coming later this fall.

Look for more information on the bulletin board in the narthex outside the tech room!

Marge Mahoney, Emily Kirkpatrick, Rose Rodrigue, and team

Mark Your Calendars

Date	What to Expect
Sept. 13	Sunday Funday - Kickoff Sunday
Sept. 27	Music, stories & activity
Oct. 11	Music, stories & activity
Oct. 25	Sunday Funday - Trunk or Treat
Nov. 8	Music, stories & activity
Nov. 22	Music, stories & activity
Dec. 6 (Tent.)	Sunday Funday - Advent Workshop
Dec. 20 (Tent.)	Music, stories & activity

Vacation Bible School 2026

ULC pastors and youth joined Faith Lutheran, Okemos for VBS fun in June.

ULC Memorial Library

September/October – Community & Encouragement

In September we continue our display of materials from various sections of the ULC Library by featuring books on fellowship and building up the congregation.

Harvest / Fall – Community & Encouragement
Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:11 – *"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up…"*

Symbol: Hands clasped / group of people

Theme: Fellowship and building up the congregation

Display Topics:

- Books on Christian community and fellowship
- Marriage, family, and relationships
- Stories of encouragement and faith in action

You are welcome and encouraged to check books out from this display and are also invited to visit the library for more books on the topic. Please, remember to add your phone number when checking out a book.

We have a wonderful ULC library, and we hope you find it helpful when looking for information.

The Library Team: Judy Kindel, Connie Lenkowski, Linda Trevarthen, Judy Thompson, and Sue Kamens

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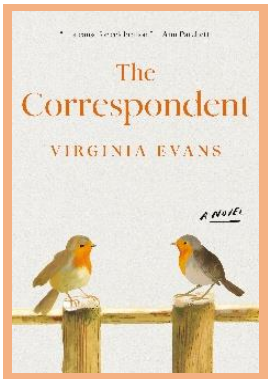
ULC Book Club

Join us to Discuss *The Correspondent*

The ULC Book Club will meet Thursday, Sept.17 at 1:30 p.m. We will discuss *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans. Using the letters and emails written by Sybil Van Antwerp during the years of 2012 to 2022, author Virginia Evans tells the story of this retired lawyer.



We meet on the third Thursday of the month, September through November. We do not meet during the month of December but start again in January and continue to meet each month through May. We offer three ways to participate. You can join us in person at ULC in the Fireside room, join us via ZOOM or we can send you a recording of the discussion.
We depend on email to keep those wishing to attend informed of any changes in meeting time or location as well as the books we choose for our discussions. If you would like 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.

Looking ahead:
In October we will discuss *The Berry Pickers A Novel* by Amanda Peters.

Beth Rahe & Mary Kotnik

Sunday Forum

During the transition, Sunday Forum is not formally scheduled in September, although a session may pop up so watch the weekly announcements. If you would like to help coordinate Forum programming, please contact Linda Trevarthen or Louise Montag to learn more.

ULC Choir is Back!!!!

Starting Sept.3, Chancel Choir (formerly Senior Choir) rehearses Thursdays 7-8:30 pm and meets at 9 a.m. Sundays to prepare to lead service. Membership is open to anyone age 16+. Ability to read music and experience singing are helpful but not required.

Schola Choir (formerly New Hope Singers) and Bell Choir will both begin rehearsals in October.

We are currently looking for a Tenor and Bass scholarship section leader. Students interested in this paid role are encouraged to reach out to Director of Music, Rose, at music@ulcel.org.

Rose Rodigue
Director of Music

Psalm-body Once Told Me...

Just three months into my time at ULC, and nothing has garnered more commentary than singing the psalms. I appreciate that many of y'all are grateful for the inclusion of this worship practice while some of you are wondering "what's the deal?"

The Psalms are lyrics; dozens of them outright tell us to sing or shout with joy. Jewish people in those times as well as now would've had those texts memorized in the form of songs, present at temple and, more intimately, in the home. In Mark and Matthew's account of the Last Supper, we are told that Jesus and the disciples sing a hymn before departing for the Mount of Olives. Since they were celebrating Passover, this "hymn" would've been one of the Hallel, Psalms 113-118. We as Christians get a chance to hear a chunk of Psalm 118 every year at Easter!

Like Jesus and the disciples, Martin Luther had the psalms committed to memory. In fact, Luther believed that the Psalms were a beautiful and efficient encapsulation of everything in the rest of the Bible, surpassed in elegance only by the Lord's Prayer.

He lectured on the Psalms, often preached on them, and they served as his moral basis throughout the Reformation. Heck, his (in)famous "A Mighty Fortress" paraphrases Psalm 46; I can't wait to sing it with y'all next month! Luther's German translations of the Psalms (and their summaries) made this text accessible to wider audiences and opened the door for the English translation we use today. Fun fact: the very first book printed in British North America, was *The Bay Psalm Book* (1640).

Which brings us to Sunday services and our Psalm singing today. The English translation in our hymnals is written and formatted for ease of singing. The *points*, vertical lines in the middle of the text, tell us when to move from the reciting tone to the black notes. When chanting the psalms, our singing should be at a comfortable, conversational pace, even if it differs from our neighbor. Individualism in congregational praise is beautiful!

Of course, there are tons of other ways to sing the psalms: Anglican chant, the Roman Catholic congregational refrain settings, concert settings, metrical. Some of my favorites are Bobby McFerrin's *23rd Psalm (dedicated to my mother)*, Caroline Shaw's *and the swallow*, and the resplendent middle movement of Brahms' *Requiem*.

I hope this shed psalm light on the situation.

Rose Rodigue
Director of Music

Prayers & Squares Chapter 163

Join us This Fall!

June 4 special sewing day. Making pillowcases for Henry Ford Jackson Hospital Special Care Infant Nursery.

Quilt of Valor presented to Charles Johnson, a 20-year Marine Corps veteran.

A faithful group continued to meet in the Fellowship Hall throughout the summer working on prayer quilts, Quilts of Valor and making quilts for next spring when we honor our graduating high school seniors. These are some of the things keeping us busy this summer: Carolyn, Lois and Jan have been putting the finishing touches on projects at home with their skillful hand stitching; Janet and Kathy brought finished items when they returned from vacation; Debbie, Carol, Debbie and Deanna are always busy finding new projects including putting in the tying threads.

Lots of conversation takes place about which color of pearl cotton should be used for each prayer quilt. Miriam has coordinated fabrics to make new kits for future quilts. Barb likes to take home "homework" and returns beautiful quilts ready for tying. Vera makes those little bows that are pinned to each quilt with the care instructions. We are a busy group!

Prayers & Squares donated seven quilts to Redeemer Lutheran in South Lansing for their Helping Hands Christian Learning Center fund raising event. This church is an active community fixture known for its deep neighborhood outreach. Their Pastor Jan Hite worshiped at ULC when she was an MSU student.

Please join us on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. when we will be making quilts for the Baby Pantry at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Era, Mich. Parents and caretakers of children ages 0-5 who are in need of assistance come the first Saturday of each month for diapers, wipes, formula and other limited baby items. We'll be making quilts, but we are encouraging folks to bring a package of disposable diapers for this wonderful ministry.

We are hoping to see some new and returning folks this fall during our regular sewing time: Tuesday morning 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. We have all the tools, patterns and fabric to make prayer quilts. What we really need is YOU!! Come enjoy the fellowship as we work to make quilts for people who need our prayers. No previous experience is needed!

Looking ahead: We will have news and photos next month of our next Quilt of Valor ceremony planned for Tuesday, Aug. 25.

Bobbie Davis

September Outreach of the Month - Kids Hope USA

Making a Difference!

Kids Hope is the September Outreach of the Month. The funds collected have allowed us to maintain this ministry without impacting the church general operating funds. A portion of the donations helps pay the annual fee ($450) to the national organization of Kids Hope USA, that, in turn, supports the extensive training and continuing education they provide for mentors and prayer partners. Your donations also help us purchase books, games, puzzles, art supplies, etc. for mentors to use with their students.

Contribute financially using the "donate" button on our website (www.ulcel.org), by sending a check to the church office, placing a check in the offering plate, or by direct deposit in our MSUFCU account. Please designate "Kids Hope USA" in the memo section.

We are gearing up to start the 2026-2027 school year at Forest View Elementary School. We're anxious to meet the new principal, learn what teachers our returning students will have this year, and begin working with the faculty to identify new students who would benefit from having an additional caring adult in their lives.

Will you consider becoming a mentor? After completing the online, self-paced training (approx. three hours), the commitment is to meet with your assigned student for one hour each week during the school year. Studies show that students supported by Kids Hope USA mentors show growth academically, socially, and emotionally – that's HUGE! Contact me for more information.

Debbie Heidrich
debbie.heidrich@gmail.com

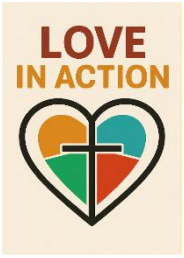
Stew Crew

Gifts, Interests and Abilities Abound at ULC

Thanks to all who completed the Interest Inventory this summer. Results from thirty-nine responses identified:

- 256 gifts, abilities and interests
- 154 engagements with current ULC ministries
- 86 new interests in joining current ULC ministries

Interest Inventory results were shared with the Members in Ministry Committee and Council. Connections were made between respondents and Ministry Team Leaders coinciding with respondents' interests. Looking forward, a great follow-up to the Interest Inventory is the Ministry Fair this fall, where all can connect in-person with Team Leaders to learn about and engage in ULC's ministries.



During this time of transition at ULC, the inventory of gifts, ministry engagement, and interest will help Pastor Rob get to know us. If you haven't had a chance to complete the Interest Inventory yet, you can do so **HERE** now.

What a joy to recognize the combined time and talent at ULC - all gifts from God. Stewardship is simply our response to God's abundant love. By sharing these gifts we become the hands and feet of Christ in a broken world. Thanks be to God!

Nancy Lindman
Stew (Stewardship) Crew

Shopping for Winter Warmth

Have you even been cold in the winter? Do you like to shop yard and sidewalk sales?

St. Luke Coat Bank 2026 is in need of new or gently used winter apparel. They are in their 20th year of distributing to those in need in Ingham, Eaton, Clinton, and Shiawassee counties.

Coats of all sizes, infants, children, teen, and adult are needed, especially adult plus sizes. Hats, gloves, mittens and boots are also needed.

Items can be dropped off at two locations:

St. Luke Lutheran / Christ Campus
122 South Pennsylvania Ave.
Lansing

Phone: 517-482-2252

St. Luke Lutheran / Meridian Campus
5589 Van Atta, Haslett
Phone:517-339-9119

The distribution days begin in October and continue through December 2026.

For questions:
Call Carol Dreps 517-482-2252 at the Christ Campus
Call or text Darra Haase 989-506-8723 (ULC coat bank ministry)

Note: Please do not leave items at ULC. Items can be delivered directly to the St. Luke campuses. Or call Carol Dreps for pick-up of items.

Thank you,
Darra Haase

St Luke Coat Bank 2026 Fundraiser

Plants & Such sale **on Sunday, Sept. 20th** after service to raise funds to purchase winter apparel for St. Luke Coat Bank. Something for all ages

Darra & Steve Haase

New Food Movers Coordinator

I'm Alex Liesman, and I'm excited to take over from Bryan as the new coordinator for Food Movers and continue the great work he and the other volunteers have been doing.
I've called East Lansing home for many years, and I've been volunteering at the ULC Food Movers with my family for over six years. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, feel free to reach out: (517) 402-8532, alex.liesman@gmail.com.

ULC Celebrates Food Movers and 15 Years Feeding the Hungry in Greater Lansing

Over fifteen years ago, Gail Hagbom, a long time ULC member and Nutrition Coordinator for the local Head Start program, volunteered one day at the Greater Lansing Food Bank "neighborhood food distribution" at Walnut Elementary in Lansing. It took place on the second floor of that old building, and she noticed how clients, many of whom were old and/or disabled, struggled to make it up the steep narrow stairway.

Picture taken at a potluck held for volunteers and our Kazakhstan clients.

After striking up a conversation with the food bank supervisor, Phyllis Handley, she learned that they were actively seeking a site to serve Haslett, East Lansing, and Okemos. Gail suggested that ULC would be perfect as it had a large parking lot, plenty of space (Fellowship Hall), and most importantly, an elevator! She arranged for representatives from the Greater Lansing Food Bank to attend a Lead Management meeting, where they asked ULC to become the distribution site for the underserved on the East side. Lead Management decided to explore this possibility. One of our concerns was having enough volunteers each month. Bryan Rahe contacted our neighbors, University United Methodist Church to see if they would partner with us and they agreed to supply volunteers. Our longtime volunteers from UUMC, such as Pearl Decker and Barry Darling became fixtures of Food Movers as well as our friends.

Bryan, working the food distribution during Covid.

I have been blessed to serve alongside Bryan for many of the 180 monthly distributions including through any kind of weather you could imagine, mosquito hatchings, cars that needed jumping or a gallon of gas while waiting in line, language barriers, and all the unexpected twists and turns that come with serving the public. Before each distribution Bryan would wonder what new challenges would present themselves, knowing that by the end of the day he would be called on to solve unforeseen problems and navigate whatever new crisis developed.

The distribution moved outside during COVID and remains a mobile drive through distribution to this day, but we began in the Fellowship Hall with each family shopping for their items of choice. The first month we served four families, eventually working up to 80 families served in our inside space. The need to move outside to follow COVID restrictions was fortuitous as our numbers have surged to the point where we could not fit all our clients inside. We now provide food for 300 to 488 families each month.

Leading the monthly Food Movers distributions is a lot of work, but it also provided Bryan and me with many blessings through the relationships formed with our client families. We celebrated each new baby as it arrived, became friends with clients from many different backgrounds (for example Bryan's friend Adnan), formed a partnership with retirees from MSU who helped us feed folks living in Spartan Village, and the list goes on. Clarke Anderson recognized the need for food to be delivered to those without transportation. He, Gail, and others have worked diligently to provide this added service. Food Movers depends on volunteers to function. We are grateful for all the volunteers that made this possible.

This summer Bryan is stepping down as the volunteer lead for Food Movers at ULC. He was never offered monetary compensation for this role and would not have accepted it if he had. The end result of the work, feeding people in need, was enough, along with the relationships he formed with volunteers and clients alike. He would also say the most challenging days led to the best stories, and for those he is grateful as well. And he has many tales to tell!

Lansing Fook Benk truck.

Beth Rahe

Orange Shirt Day

Sept. 30 is Orange Shirt Day. Each Fall, an orange banner is hung at the front of the sanctuary to honor the survivors of Indigenous Boarding Schools and to remember those who never returned. We also acknowledge the intergenerational impact of these schools on the Native American communities in the U. S. and Canada (1830-1996).

Phyllis Webstad founded Orange Shirt Day (OSD) in 2013. At the age of six, she was taken from her family and forced to attend the St. Joseph Indian Residential School in Canada. Her grandmother had bought her a bright orange shirt for the first day, but when she arrived the staff took away all her belongings, including the shirt, which was never returned. Phyllis was forced to wear a uniform, leaving her to feel that her identity and feelings didn't matter. This experience became a symbol of the forced assimilation and cultural suppression that Indigenous children endured in residential schools.

In Canada, OSD is now a national holiday. People wear orange shirts, many emblazoned with the words "Every Child Matters".

Settlers who came to the U.S. displaced Indigenous people and stole their land. Legislators developed strategies to make it possible. They thought something was wrong with Indigenous people and thought THEY could fix it.

The Indigenous Residential Schools were government funded and church-run institutions. These people and children did not willingly disappear into reservations and boarding schools. The military and police were used to force compliance. There's a famous painting by Cree artist Kent Monkman called "The Scream," which depicts the moment authorities came to a community to take children from parents and put them in residential schools. Mothers reached out desperately to children already in the arms of priests.

At the schools, there was a room where parents could have supervised visits with their children (one hour a month). Children prepared meals for the staff from the fruits and vegetables they labored to grow. Children ate the mush that gave the school its colloquial name, "the Mush Hole." Priests would instigate and bet on fights between the boys. There were stories of fights that went "too far" and children who didn't return to their beds.

The children's hair was cut on their arrival- the first step on "taking the Indian out of the child." Over the past few years, hundreds of unmarked graves of children have been found on former residential school sites. This solidifies what many Indigenous people have shared for years- the stories of the horrendous treatment of children forced to attend these schools.

The Nokomis Cultural Heritage Center (5153 Marsh Road Okemos, Mich.) hosts a free Orange Shirt Day exhibit each year. There's also a museum, gift shop and work room for basket weaving and beading. The Sweet Grass Women's Singers Drum Circle meets there. The Anishinaabe people who gather there reach out to educate school children in our area about their history. They are open Thursdays 10-3 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays 10-4 p.m.

Orange Shirt Day is both a memorial and a call to action reminding us of the importance of acknowledging past injustices and supporting Indigenous communities today. It encourages conversations about reconciliation, anti-racism and the protection of Indigenous cultures.

Kathy Protsman
RJT member

Credit: Patty Krawec author of Becoming Kin, Wikipedia

Save the Date
FIFTH ANNUAL FALL CELEBRATION & FUNDRAISER
Friday, Nov. 13, 6-8 p.m.
MSU Federal Credit Union Headquarters
3899 Coolidge Road, East Lansing
JUSTICE LEAGUE OF GREATER LANSING
REPAIRING THE BREACH
Click here to learn more JLGL

Check Out Our Small Groups!

Coffee Connections

This group provides a safe space for LGBTQ people to discuss their lives over a cup of coffee. All ULC members and guests, whether LGBTQ or not, are welcome to join for this casual coffee hour. We meet on the last Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. Contact: Jay DuBois-Jones at jaytopham@gmail.com.

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.

Southside Fourth Friday Friends

If you live in Holt/Mason, consider joining this group at 1.p.m. at the Delhi Café in Holt on the fourth Friday of each month. Contact Kris Stowe.

Prayers & Squares

Sewers of all skill levels are invited to join this ministry that creates prayer quilts (and more) throughout the year. They 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, bobbieanndavis80@gmail.com

Pub Theology

Join us in person every last Tuesday from 7-8:30 p.m. in various Lansing area bars. We discuss four or five questions involving spiritual topics, philosophy, life, and theology. Check the ULC calendar for the location each month or contact Jay DeBois-Jones at jaytopham@gmail.com.

Lectio Devina

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.

Mushers

This fellowship group is for all men and friends of ULC. They meet every Thursday (Day Change!) at 8 a.m. at the IHOP in E. Lansing. Contact Emmett Braselton braselto@msu.edu.

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.

Bible Study Circles

Amnos meets at 9:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of the month. We currently meet at Burcham Hills Retirement Center. Amnos 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.

Tight Knit

We meet every Monday from 4 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 1:30 p.m. from September through May (except Dec.) to share fellowship and discuss the selected book. Contact: Beth Rahe bwojan1@ gmail.com or Mary Kotnik mkotnik@comcast.net

Council Notes

In June, July, and August, Council met on the following dates: June 10 (virtual), June 16 (hybrid), July 21 (hybrid), Aug. 2 (virtual), Aug. 9 (in person), and Aug. 16 (in person).

Council devoted significant time to the pastoral transition and related congregational needs and has shared key updates through congregational emails and announcements as appropriate.

Additional business included:

- Receiving updates and providing feedback to the Finance Committee on this year's budget process, timeline, and current financial position.
- Overseeing the annual football parking fundraiser and assigning available dates. Many basketball parking dates remain available. Ministries interested in this fundraising opportunity are encouraged to submit an application.
- Reviewing and approving the Communications Team's digital sign proposal, following a recommendation from the Large Gift Committee.
- Assisting with filling a key position for Food Movers.
- Reviewing building-use requests, including an arrangement for Sistrum Chorus to use ULC's space in exchange for singing during worship.

Emily Kirkpatrick
ULC Secretary

ULC Leadership Opportunities

Please consider being nominated for a leadership position at ULC. We are currently working to find members for the following elected positions that start in January:

Endowment Committee Member – Three-year term, one open position. Manage endowment funds and evaluate grant requests to distribute available funds each year.

Endowment Committee Student Member – One-year term, two open positions. Manage endowment funds and evaluate grant requests to distribute available funds each year.

Finance Committee Member – Two-year term, three open positions. Develop ULC's annual budget and oversee the financial operations of the congregation.

ULC Council Member at-large – Two-year term, two open positions. Help guide, lead, and set bigger picture direction for the congregation.

ULC Council Student Member – One-year term, one open position. Help guide, lead, and set bigger picture direction for the congregation.

Members in Ministry Member – Two-year term, two open positions. Encourage and help members connect with ministries to serve

Council President – Three-year term, one position. Offer leadership on church council in three one-year roles: President Elect, President, and then Past-President.

The election for the above ULC positions is held at ULC's Annual Meeting, usually held in November or December after the Sunday service. You can complete a nomination form in the Narthex or on the ULC website.

If you would like help discerning your call to serve, please reach out to the Members in Ministry team by an email to Clarke Anderson at jca@ajboggs.com or to Oprah in the ULC Office at ulcsec@ulcel.org.

Members in Ministry Team
Clarke Anderson, Kris Callen, Jo Ann Mundy, Mike Sweat, Judy Thompson

Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works, and glorify God in heaven **(Matthew 5:16)**

Coming This Fall!

A series of ULC Mini Ministry Fairs following worship. Watch the Friday Announcements for dates and details.

Faculty Voice: Bringing Turfgrass Expertise Back Home

ULC member Jackie Lyn "Jack" A. Guevara is an assistant professor in the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences at MSU. Below are portions of an article that she wrote for the June 2nd issue of MSU Today. You can read the entire article here.

When I was a junior student in agriculture, I had no idea what "turf" or "turfgrass" even meant. Now, here I am, working as an assistant professor in turfgrass management at MSU.

MSU turf grass researchers, professors and students, including Jackie Guevara, center, prepare turf for the 2026 World Cup, hosted in the United States. Photo by Nick Schrader.

Last month, one of my dreams came true: I had the opportunity to share the knowledge I gained at MSU with fellow turfgrass managers in my home country, the Philippines. It was a truly surreal and meaningful experience to teach soil science in turfgrass management in front of a Filipino audience.

Reflecting on this full-circle moment reminds me of my journey from being a student who once did not even know what turf was to becoming an expert in the field of turfgrass management.

Turfgrass management was not something I initially set out to pursue. In fact, it was a serendipitous decision suggested by my college academic advisor when I was choosing courses for my study abroad program at MSU. I trusted her advice and decided to enroll in turfgrass management classes.

At MSU, I met inspiring mentors such as Trey Rogers, Kevin Frank, Jim Crum and instructor Marcus Duck. They made learning enjoyable and helped me understand how turfgrass provides essential ecosystem services, such as reducing soil erosion and runoff, as well as less obvious benefits like aesthetics, recreation, relaxation and safety – qualities we often take for granted. As I discovered how technical turfgrass management can be, blending both science and art, I fell in love with the field.

After my study abroad, I completed an internship in the Philippines. It was there that I truly recognized both the potential and the challenges of the industry. What not many people realize is that the Philippines has tremendous potential in this field. With the ability to play year-round, stunning coastlines, captivating tourist destinations and incredible hospitality, the country is well-positioned to have more amazing golf courses.

After finishing my undergraduate program, I was encouraged by an MSU professor to apply to graduate school, and I was fortunate to be accepted. Despite the challenges of the COVID era, I completed my master's degree with renewed confidence and a plan to return to the Philippines to share what I had learned.

However, another opportunity arose: the FIFA World Cup research project came to MSU. I could not pass up such a chance, so I volunteered to be part of the project and stayed to pursue my doctorate.

Now, with a Ph.D. and experience from the FIFA World Cup project, I am serving as an assistant professor at MSU. I teach and advise turfgrass students while continuing to contribute to the FIFA World Cup research.

One thing I realized is that over time, my goals have evolved. While I still aspire to share knowledge directly in the Philippines, I have realized that I can have an even broader impact with MSU's support. I have shared this vision with my supervisors at MSU, who have been incredibly supportive.

Jackie Lyn Guevara

Sign up to be a reader during worship!

We need readers to share the Word during worship services! All readings are printed in the blue folder for you to take and practice and the sign-up is on the outside of the folder. Sign-up in the sanctuary!

Birthdays

2 Brianna Green
6 Paul Kindel
7 Brandon Baswell
Michael Christensen
12 Karen Holden
14 Max Helser
Louise Montag
15 Cathy Clugston
Isabelle Letcher
16 Matthew Uebel
18 Paul Kotnik
Lindsay Sadler

Cindy Baswell
Sandy Davis
19 Lisa Swem
20 Marilyn Johnson
21 Robert Smith
24 James Cox
25 Kathy Bracken
Jean Christensen
Kris Callen
26 Jeffrey Guilfoyle
Mark Johnson
26 Adelyn Karcher
27 Mikaela Binegar
Donna Carl
Henry McPhall
29 Vera Shaw
30 Phyllis Kost 97

Wedding Anniversaries

4 Nathan & Claire Ward
7 David & Debbie Gift
12 Jay & Myra Kim
16 Andrew Hagman &
Erin Frisch
BJ & Brie McPhall
Craig & Wanda Ophaug
17 Mark & Marilyn Johnson
18 David & Cindy Ramsey
21 Jerry & Jan Becker
26 Michael & Melissa
Masnyj

ULC Archives

History of Amazing Volunteers

I hope you have a chance to look at the archive display case in the narthex. Featured are amazing ULC volunteers from the past. The very first volunteer, George Bubolz, is featured here.

Rev. George Bubolz

"Pastor George Bubolz wrote the following to Pastor H. W. Siefkes, the National Secretary for the Student Service Commission of the American Lutheran Church in 1936. It illustrates the thinking behind the beginning of University Lutheran Church. The article goes on to say that state colleges cannot be expected to teach Christianity and so the church must "supervise Christian Student work". The article was first published in the *Lutheran Standard*.

An Inescapable Mission: The Lutheran Church has always upheld the cause of higher education. In fact, the Lutheran Church was born as a university. If education gives power, then it is necessary that education be decidedly Christian in order to control this power. I heard William Jennings Bryan talk to an audience in Columbus, Ohio, some years ago: 'An educated man without Christian principles becomes as dangerous as a powerful locomotive operating at high speed without an engineer. The man who is educated and governed by Christianity is not dangerous but is a help to his fellow men.'"

The above article is included as an addendum in the ULC Timeline, *Faith for the Future*. The timeline begins:

1929 – The Lutheran Student Club is formed with Reverend George Bubolz serving as the volunteer pastor.

1930 – Reverend George Bubolz begins work with 160 Lutheran students in the union building on the Michigan State College campus. He continues this work for free for 10 years.

1940 (Mar. 5) – Under the leadership of Pastor Bubolz and others, steps are taken for the formation of an incorporated Lutheran Student Fellowship which will assume the responsibility for the work of the Lutheran Church at Michigan State College.

A long-time member requested that I include some of these volunteers in the display case. I appreciate the suggestion and welcome other ideas. What would you like to see displayed in the ULC archives?

Connie Lenkowski, Carol Mackin, and Steve Simonson

NEW EMAIL!

The deadline for the October Lux is **Friday, Sept. 18.**

E-mail articles to Amy Wagenknecht at Lux@ulcel.org and Oprah Jrenal 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	7:30a	Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*
	1:00p	Staff Meeting
2	9:30a	Lux/Communications Team-Conference
	Noon	Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom
	4:30p	Lead Management Team-Zoom
3	8:00a	Mushers-IHOP, EL
4	5:30p	MSU Football Parking (v. Toledo)
6	10:00a	Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/YouTube live
7	**Labor Day**	(ULC Office Closed)
8	7:30a	Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*
	10:00a	Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall
	1:00p	Staff Meeting
	6:30p	Racial Justice Caucus-Fellowship Hall
9	Noon	Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom*
	6:00p	Finance Committee-Zoom
10	8:00a	Mushers-IHOP, EL
	9:30a	Brunch Bunch-IHOP, EL
	7:00p	ULC Chancel Choir Rehearsal-Fellowship
12	1:00p	MSU Football Parking (v. Eastern Mich.)
13	**Fall Kick-off Sunday**	
	10:00a	Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/YouTube live
	11:30a	Potluck-Fellowship Hall
14	4:00	Tight Knit-Fireside
15	7:30a	Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*
	10:00a	Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall
	1:00p	Staff Meeting
16	9:30a	Amnos-Burcham Hills
	Noon	Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom
	1:00p	Rhodon-Conference Room
17	8:00a	Mushers-IHOP, EL
	1:30p	ULC Book Club-Fireside
	6:30p	ULC Council-Conference
	7:00p	ULC Chancel Choir Rehearsal-Fellowship
18	7:30p	Ten Pound Fiddle Concert-Sanctuary
19	10:00a	Coffee Connections-Moka & Co, Okemos
	11:00a	Marcia Shultz Memorial Service
20	10:00a	Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/YouTube live
21	4:00p	Tight Knit-Fireside
22	7:30a	Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*
	10:00a	Prayers & Squares-Fellowship
	1:00p	ULC Bridge Group-Fellowship
	1:00p	Staff Meeting
	7:00p	Face Addiction Now (FAN)-Fellowship
23	Noon	Lectio Divina Bible Study -Zoom
24	8:00a	Mushers-IHOP, EL
	3:30p	Food Movers Distribution-Drive thru
	7:00p	ULC Chancel Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary
25	1:00p	Fourth Friday Friends-Delhi Café-Holt
	7:30p	Ten Pound Fiddle Concert-Sanctuary
26	TBD	MSU Football Parking (v. Nebraska)
27	10:00a	Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/YouTube live
28	4:00p	Tight Knit-Fireside
29	7:30a	Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom*
	10:00a	Prayers & Squares-Fellowship
	1:00p	Staff Meeting
	7:00p	Pub Theology-Harrison Roadhouse, EL
30	Noon	Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom

ULC Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Beginning Sept. 8

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: Lectio Divina – Bill Trevarthen; Tuesday morning study, larry.wagenknecht@gmail.com; Pub Theology, ulcsec@ulcel.org

Suggestions for Local Benevolence Fund Grants Requested

Each year the Social Action Team makes recommendations to Council regarding the distribution of local benevolence funds included in our annual congregational budget to area nonprofit organizations. This year $4,000 is budgeted for distribution. $1,000 is the maximum amount that we grant to any single organization.

We are currently asking the congregation for suggestions for worthy recipients. We require an application which can be found on the ULC website, www.ulcel.org by clicking Resources and then Forms. Please let us know about worthy organizations from now through Sept. 30, as we anticipate making recommendations in early October.

Sept. 30 is the deadline for receiving applications. Contact me in church or at bryandrahe@gmail.com or 517-485-4864 with any questions.

Bryan Rahe
Social Action

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

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