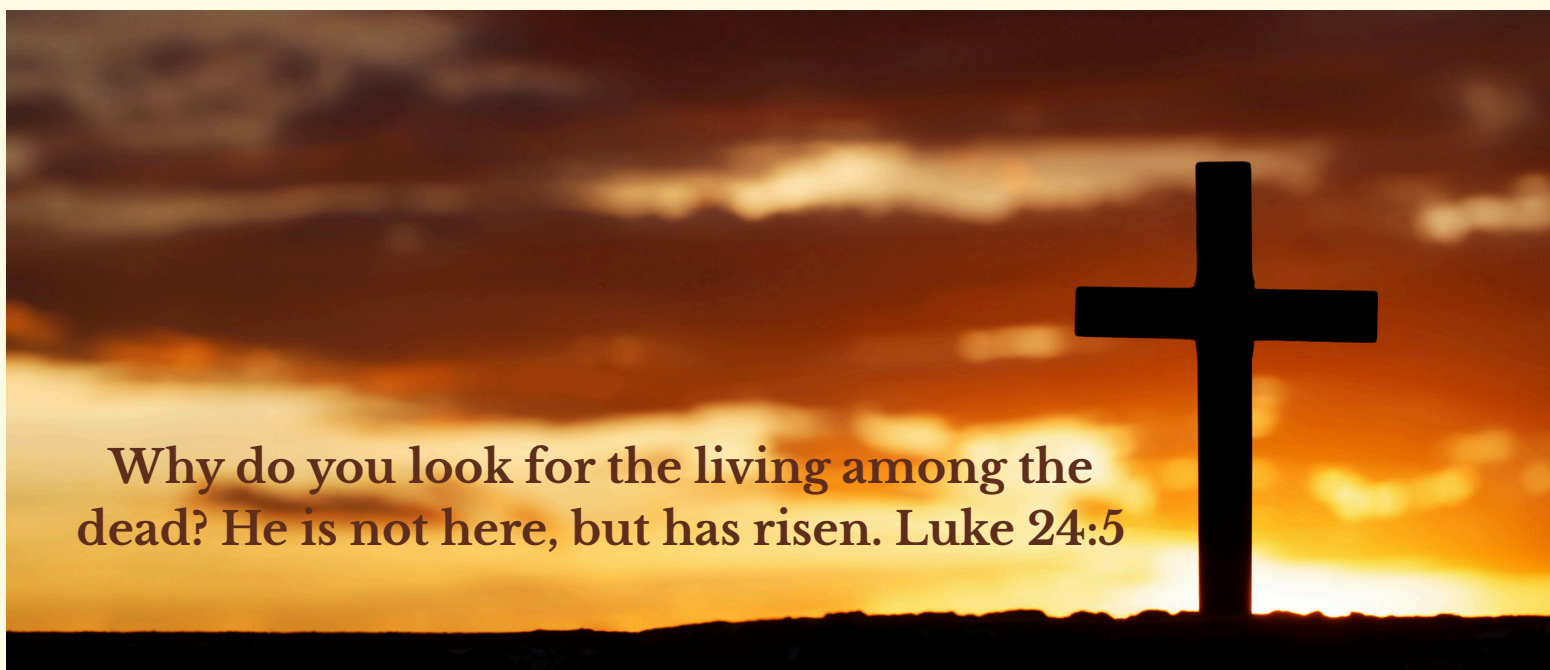


Currents

Newsletter of University Lutheran Church, April 2025



Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Luke 24:5

 UNIVERSITY
LUTHERAN
at the Ecumenical Religious Center

110 Garfield Ave, Eau Claire, WI
(715) 834-8026
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May 15-August 17, 2025



This will be a sabbatical summer for ULC. A sabbatical is a common practice for ministry and for academics. It's an intentional break from "the usual" responsibilities, and a time to reflect on who we are and our place/role in this work. Biblically, sabbaticals are offered to people, animals, debt, those who are enslaved, and even the land, in cycles of sevens– seven days (Sabbath, the day of rest) or seven years or seven sevens of years, the 50th year being a "jubilee" (Ex. 21, 25, Deut. 15).

Pastors Lori & Phil will be on sabbatical May 15-August 17. For PL, the focus will be on identity, and she will travel to Denmark to visit the places her ancestors lived. Because the students with whom we live and work are in a life stage of identity development, this is a good parallel exercise. The congregation will join in through a journaling exercise as we explore our own identities as individuals and as a ministry, looking back and looking ahead. We'll share these reflections in the fall (details forthcoming).

There is a sabbatical planning team that is making sure all the details will be covered, mostly by lay leadership, and also with the participation of local clergy for pastor-specific things. We will worship on Sundays in the park and Wednesdays at the ERC, and we will be reading together the book of Acts for Wednesday discussion.

Communication is essential for ministry, and we have some things in place to make that as efficient as possible.

- Council members will have the office phone each week. If you need to communicate with someone, call the church phone, 715-834-8026, and the council will direct it accordingly.
- A pastor has been identified to be on call each week for emergencies; the council will have that schedule, so call the church phone and it will be conveyed.
- Non-emergency pastoral care will be covered by members, including checking in with members by phone or email. If there's something you'd usually tell PL, please entrust that to a council person if you want attention or prayer for that (surgery, celebrations, a death in the family, etc).
- Joanne, our office person, will continue to work through the summer. Announcements and newsletter will be less frequent, but she is available by email, office@universitylutheran.org.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 11, when we will have a blessing service at worship for graduates and to send PL off to sabbatical! More information about sabbatical will be coming by email and in the May newsletter.

Pastor Lori

EASTER MESSAGE FROM BISHOP MARTIN



I can still remember the pound of my heart to this day. It was Good Friday in the year 1995. I was working at Lutherdale Bible Camp as a year round staff and my task that day was to dismantle the several hundred foot zipline. It was a warm spring day, but I still experienced the wind that caused the tree that I was attached to to sway far more than I wanted it to. The tree itself was dying and thus it could no longer serve as the anchor of the zipline where the platform was. It was on that platform where youth and staff alike would find themselves transferring the rabbit ears attached to their harness to the zipline that would lead to the ensuing rush of emotions. As I stood on that platform, connected to a couple of tree staples with my own rabbit ears, I loosened the hardware that

secured the zipline cable to the tree, bolt by bolt. It was quite a surreal experience.

As I loosened the final bolt, that cable released about a foot away from my face, causing my heart to beat in a way it has never beaten before or since. The sound haunted me for those few seconds as the cable fell to the ground about 40 feet below. Once I collected myself, all I could think about was how appropriate it was to watch the death of the zipline on Good Friday. That element was always the climax on the high ropes course. It was the final adventure for countless youth as they experienced the challenges of that course. Just step off the platform, trust, and fly!

I was saddened to see that zipline fall. But then I was overjoyed to see it rebuilt in a new and more secure location! It reminds me of that great Easter spiritual that states, "It's Friday, but Sunday's coming." It's the reminder that we call it Good Friday only because as Christian believers, we know that Easter is coming. Without Easter Sunday, Friday would have been even more devastating as it already was. Jesus' followers were lost, confused, and in deep sorrow. Those emotions resulted from the trauma that they were experiencing. But Easter reversed the pain of that trauma and turned it into a joyous chorus of "Alleluias" where we can now see God's almighty power being revealed! We can see how God has power over death itself and not just for Jesus. God's power to give life to all believers in all times and in all places through the death and resurrection of Jesus is what brings us joy, hope, comfort, and faith itself! God's power to renew our lives each and every day through the gift of forgiveness cannot be understated. God's desire to heal our broken relationship because of our sinfulness indicates the depth of that love, knowing that God so desperately desires to be with us forever.

That old zipline was a source of joy for so many people. But when contrasted with the joy we can experience daily, it simply pales in comparison. Friends, live into that joy of the resurrection. Remember the gift that Jesus embodies that is truly the greatest gift we've ever had - the gift of God's unconditional love. Despite the various losses that we grieve each year, some that appear to be quite unbearable at the time, remember the gift of Jesus. We are a resurrection church. We are a forgiven and forgiving people. And we bask in the glory of God's amazing grace.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Bishop Martin

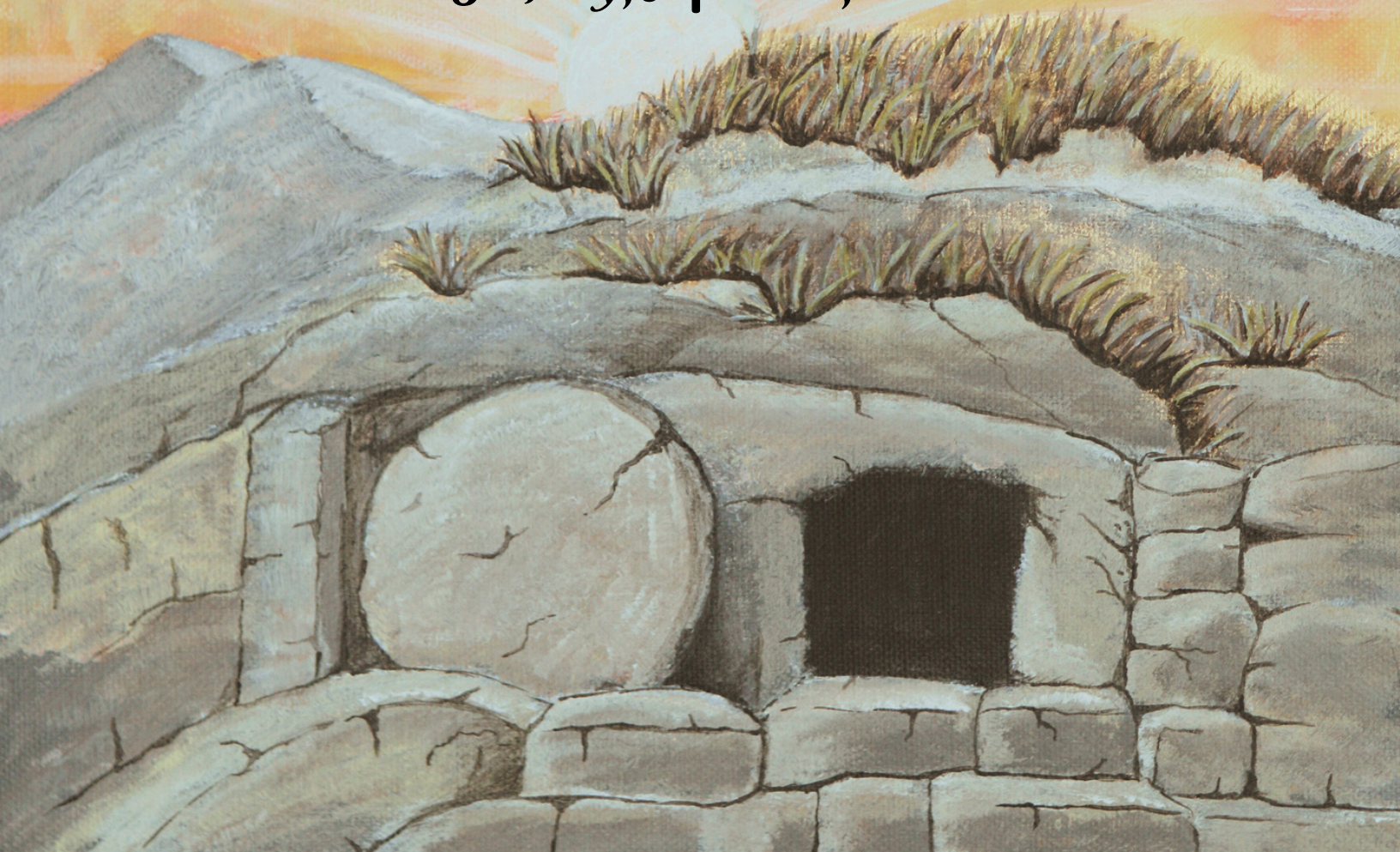
Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday, April 13, 10:00 am

**Maundy Thursday: April 17, 7:00 pm,
Joint worship at Immanuel Lutheran Church,
3214 Golf Rd.**

**Good Friday: April 18, 7:00 pm,
Joint worship with Immanuel Lutheran
at University Lutheran Church**

Easter Sunday, April 20, 10:00 am





OPEN TABLE

We are hosting the next Open Table with the synod on **May 1** in our yard. The Eat O'Clock pop-up "Hmong Comfort Food on Wheels" will offer free meals for the first 50 students. Community members and non-student campus people are welcome to self-pay for food. Rev. Sara Bishop and Rev. Diane House are also providing communion as desired, and space for conversations about LGBTQ+ justice. We'll be in the building in case of rain. Tell the students you know!

From Sara Bishop: We have a little 'approximate' in front of 50 students because that is who we are hoping to reach, but \$20 will get everyone else an excellent meal! Conversation on the picnic blankets will be centered on LGBTQ questions posed or shared by the students - there is no speaker or teacher or preacher. I will make Communion available.



Our regular weekly schedule is:
Mondays: 4 pm, Q&A at The Bridge (Davies, 2nd floor)

5:30 pm PRACTICE Spirituality,
Insta Live

Wednesdays, 5:30 pm evening prayer
6:00 pm free meal

Sundays, 10 am worship, followed by coffee and educational forum

Thank you for your support and participation with our speaker, Fr. Shannon Kearns! His performance of "The Body's Rapture", classroom visits, and as our worship guest were very interesting and all that we had hoped for. It was great to collaborate with several departments on campus as well as ULC, LSA, and the Chippewa Valley conference to make this event possible.



Hello from Marburg, Germany

Pastor Lori received a note from Theodore Schwantes, our LSA president who is studying abroad this semester:

I miss y'all, especially the great conversations we have a Q&A. I've found the protestant Christian group for young adults here holds a "queer café" that feels a little like home, and I'm really excited to have that opportunity here.

I haven't taken many pictures, but I've made a point to see Marburg and a little bit of the area beyond. My language class is actually going to take a trip to do some sightseeing tomorrow. I've attached a couple photos just for fun.

I'm really excited to make the most of this opportunity. I'm sure I'll come back with lots of great stories.

*With love,
Theo*



The NW Synod of WI Racial Justice team invites you to join them for an

INDIGENOUS SACRED SITES TOUR

LEARN FROM AND WITH OUR INDIGENOUS NEIGHBORS IN MN

SATURDAY, MAY 17

Learn about Minnesota history from a Native perspective through story-telling and experiencing the sites in silence / meditation / reflection.

We visit sites located around confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, what the Dakota refer to as Bdote, or "meeting place of rivers," including:

- Fort Snelling State Park
- Dakota Internment Camp following the Dakota-U.S. War
- Pilot Knob Hill, a traditional burial ground

Your \$75 registration includes the cost of the tour, transportation (coach bus), bus snacks and post-tour meal from Shobi's Table in St. Paul. You may also purchase snacks at a rest stop. 50 person maximum. Pick up locations on registration form.

Questions: 715.859.6810
racialjustice.nswi@gmail.com

Register at
nswi.org/home/calendar



UPCOMING EVENTS

April

April 10	5:00 pm	Senior recital, John Dorschner with Abby Patchet, Gantner Concert Hall, Haas Fine Arts Center
April 17	5:30 pm	Meal at ULC
April 17	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Joint Worship at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 3214 Golf Rd.
April 18	7:00 pm	Good Friday Joint Worship with Immanuel Lutheran at ULC
April 20	10:00 am	Easter Worship
April 24	6:30 pm	Church council meeting
April 27	9:00 am	Worship at St. John's Lutheran Church (Pastor Lori is preaching) NO SUNDAY WORSHIP at ULC (EC Marathon)

May

May 4	11:00 am	ULC Annual Meeting
May 11	10:00 am	Graduate recognition and PL sabbatical send-off
May 12-16		FINALS WEEK - meals served 11am-1:30pm M-Th
May 15-17		ULC serves Beacon House
May 25	10:00 am	Praise-in-the-Park worship, sponsored by ULC, <i>Breaking Chains</i>
May 26		Memorial Day
May 28	5:30 pm	Wednesday worship resumes

See our [calendar](#) for more ministry and event information

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