

# Currents

Newsletter of University Lutheran Church, February 2025



## RIC Sunday, February 9

Each year we celebrate that we are Reconciling in Christ, which is our intentional commitment to welcome, advocate for, and provide safe space and relationships for LGBTQ+ and BIPOC beloveds of God. The title is “reconciling” rather than “reconciled”, because we recognize that faithful and godlike relationships with our neighbor is ongoing work; we’re never perfect at it or done with it. Because we are “out” about this commitment– celebrating at a public worship service, being present at events on campus and in the community– our welcome is a real thing that people can see and therefore trust, and it has had a great impact on our campus ministry.

Our welcome statement describes our commitment and intention for our ministry. We also make a yearly monetary contribution to Reconciling Works, the parent organization of RIC.

# Pastor Letter

Wednesday Meals– why are they so important?

A big part of our mission here at ULC is supporting emerging adults while they are at college. So much is changing, within and around them, and this is a crucial time for making choices that will shape their futures, including their relationship with Jesus and their faith life. ULC provides support in a variety of ways: relationships with families in the community, safe space for exploring who they are and how they are called to be in this world; a church home-away-from-home to practice their faith; practical things like rides and directions and school supplies and financial aid; and food, always food, for Wednesdays and finals and special events and when they have the munchies.

According to an article in the National Library of Medicine, May 2023, over 20% of students on most US campuses report food insecurity– difficulty getting, finding, or affording food that is adequate in nutrition or quantity. That's more than 4 times higher than the national average in the general population! There are a variety of reasons for this, and a variety of effects that take a toll on their success– physical, mental, and academic.

Each semester ULC provides a hot, home-cooked meal 15 times. This means one less meal students have to plan, pay for, and prepare at home. They often comment what a difference even that one meal a week makes in their planning, and reduces their stress level, knowing they can just walk in and eat. Our meals also provide friendship, as we gather with others we may not otherwise meet or interact with, to share food and stories. Students and members take turns with the set up and clean up of the space, giving a sense of ownership of both the ministry and the building. Wednesday meals are so important!

This year we've been serving about 25 people each week. A meal costs \$75-\$100, depending on what you prepare. We have food allergies to accommodate, which we do well ("bars" work well for this– taco bar, potato bar, etc). We need 15 people to provide one meal each this semester, to cover all the weeks. It's a great way to serve campus and to get to know some students (stay to eat with us, if you can!). Please sign up [HERE](#) if you can cook for us this semester. Thanks!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Lori". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large initial 'P' and a stylized 'L'.



CONGRATULATIONS!

## ORDINATION

**Pastor Riley Reed-Windau  
and Pastor Anthony Windau**  
were both ordained to the  
ministry of word and  
sacrament on January 4, 2025.



The Ordination service was  
held at Kingo Lutheran  
Church in Shorewood, WI.  
Riley is called to serve the  
people of Immanuel Lutheran  
Church in Dixon, IL, and  
Anthony is called to serve the  
people of St. Paul Lutheran  
Church in Dixon, IL.





# SPRING SCHEDULE

UWEC Classes resume Monday, January 27. Our regular weekly schedule will be:

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

Click [HERE](#) to sign up to cook Wednesday meals this semester.

Thank you!





# MINISTRY NEWS

## Thankfully Worship

Worship went well for Advent and Christmas seasons, including blessing of 1 graduate, Allyson Lahnala, and 1 student studying abroad spring semester, Theodore Schwantes; and receiving 4 new members, Dan & Kathy Behnke, Michelle Cebula, and Dick Westerlund.

As we use several songs from the newest ELCA hymnal supplement, All Creation Sings, Pastor Lori will purchase the Leader's Guide and one copy of the pew edition for \$47.50. She would like us to consider how we might purchase copies of the pew edition sometime this calendar year, but continues to use inserts with songs from that resource, which are covered for copyright by our One License.

RIC Sunday will be February 9. Materials are already available from Reconciling Works to begin to plan this service. A guest preacher will be invited.

Lent is late this year! Ash Wednesday is March 5, with Holy Week April 13-20. Our previous worship times of 5:30 for Ash Wednesday and 6:00 for Holy Week are still good times as we share space with Newman. Do we want to continue those times? (There may be some value in having a consistent 5:30 time for all.) Do we want to consider joining another congregation for any of those services, particularly Good Friday, maybe? (Just a thought.)

PL and Joanne will be trying to learn how to have subtitles and captions in the livestream, rather than producing a digital bulletin, so everything is on the same screen at the same time. Several congregations near us use this format. We'll be looking into seeing what that requires.

## Gracefully Welcome

Providing UWEC students with meals was the main event for December. Kay Magadance, a primary organizer from Newman, reported,

"We served a total of 574 meals during the four days. We served 160 on Monday, 161 on Tuesday, 154 on Wednesday and another 99 on Thursday. We were very pleased that so many of the students opted to stay at the ERC to have their meal, enjoy each other's company and maybe do a little studying."

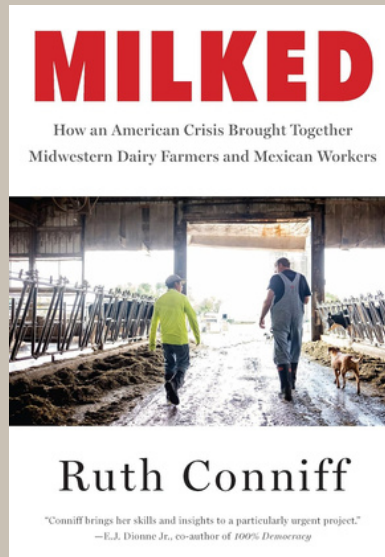
Food that remained was shared with the shelters Haven House and Sojourner.

Thank you to all those who supported this project with meals, cookies, serving and/or clean up. It's a good thing!

Coffee continues following worship. At least one person has commented that they appreciate this regular time and space to have conversation and coffee. It is a place where they feel safe, particularly at a time when our nation is experiencing sharp political differences.



## Learn & Grow



### Wednesday, February 5, BOOK DISCUSSION: *Milked*

8:00 AM

Via Zoom

About the book

<https://thenewpress.com/books/milked>

Interested ULC members are invited to join the Newman Peace and Justice Group for a discussion of Ruth Conniff's book *Milked: How an American Crisis Brought Together Midwestern Dairy Farmers and Mexican Workers*

If you'd like to participate, please send a note to Kate [kate\\_hale@me.com](mailto:kate_hale@me.com) who will collect and pass on names/emails to the organizers. Closer to the date, they will send out the Zoom link.

### RELATED-RESOURCES FROM THE LOPPW: "Undocumented in Wisconsin"

<https://www.lopepw.org/resources/immigration-and-refugees/>

## Joyfully Serve

### Beacon House

We serve the evening meals at Beacon House – Eau Claire's homeless shelter for children and their families – on Jan 30 – Feb 1st. [Sign up online here](#). Main dish, side dish(es), and dessert/milk can be dropped off in the kitchen – go through the "back door" accessible through the gate (you'll walk through the kid's playground area after going through the gate). Please record ALL your hours (related to shopping, cooking, transportation) in the volunteer binder that's in the kitchen.

Meal-providers are also encouraged to stay and serve plus sit down to eat with guests if you are willing to do so (no background checks required for this). Call or text ULC's Beacon House Volunteer Coordinator, Sara Bryan, with questions: 715.829.1885.

Also, Beacon House is seeking donations of like-new cooking saucepans and skillets. You can drop them off at Beacon House (309 E Lake St, downtown Eau Claire) or contact Sara Bryan 715.829.1885 who can arrange to deliver them for you. Thanks!





# JONAH NEWS

## Are you feeling motivated to stand up for justice in our community?

JONAH INVITES YOU TO JOIN OUR

January 28  
@ 6:00pm  
Eau Claire  
Library

### NEW MEMBER TRAINING

#### WORK WITH OTHERS TO:

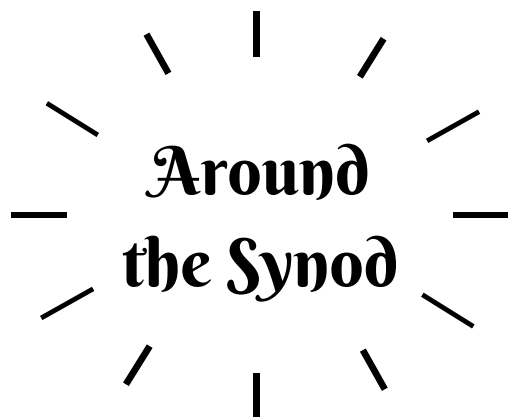
- Commit to living out values of Radical Inclusivity, Love, Reconciliation, Living for the Future, and Environmentalism
- Be trained in community organizing strategies
- Build relationships with local community leaders advocating for multiple social justice areas
- Take action to make change on local, state, and national levels

REGISTER HERE:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIPQLSDC2KLP9K-VIAORJUI7UBRTNWN4F4EPY8UREZKOMBMFOPAFWV/VIEWFORM>



JONAHJUSTICE.ORG

<p><b>Feb 18</b></p> <p><b>Becoming Kin</b> An Indigenous Call to Unforgetting the Past and Reimagining Our Future - By Patty Krewac</p>	<p><b>Apr 15</b></p> <p><b>A More Perfect Union</b> A New Vision for Building the Beloved Community - By Adam Russell Taylor</p>	<p><b>Jun 17</b></p> <p><b>Becoming Abolitionists</b> Police, Protests, and the Pursuit of Freedom - By Derecka Purnell</p>	<p><b>Aug 12</b></p> <p><b>How We Show Up</b> Reclaiming Family, Friendship, and Community - By Mia Birdsong</p>
<p><b>Oct 14</b></p> <p><b>We Who Believe in Freedom</b> Activism and the Struggle for Social Justice - By Alice P. Green</p>	<p><b>Dec 9</b></p> <p><b>Hope for Cynics</b> The Surprising Science of Human Goodness - By Jamil Zaki</p>	<p>JONAH is proud to introduce our 2025 Book Club list, with all titles focusing on <i>hope.</i></p> <p>Come ready to discuss and get to know other JONAH members on the specified date at 6:15pm at Dotter's Books, 307 South Barstow in Eau Claire. Register <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	



**Save the Date:**  
**Walking Together 2025**  
**March 22**  
**8:30 - 4:00**

**Bethany Lutheran - Rice Lake**

Walking Together is an annual event intended to assist with resource sharing, best practices in ministry, new initiatives, and collaboration. This year we will explore the theme "Go! Make Disciples!"

\$25 per participant



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH - 10:00 AM**

JOIN US FOR A THOUGHT-PROVOKING PRESENTATION AND CONVERSATION ON THE PRESSING ISSUE OF CLIMATE CHANGE. LET'S COME TOGETHER TO ASK QUESTIONS OF AN EXPERT AND TO SHARE IDEAS AND EXPLORE SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE. DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART OF THE CONVERSATION AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY. REFRESHMENTS AND SNACKS WILL BE SERVED.

**PRESENTED BY: DR. JAMES BOULTER**

Dr. James Boulter is a professor of chemistry and chair of the department of Public Health and Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. There, he teaches and collaborates with students and colleagues in research that emphasizes issues of air pollution, climate change, and sustainability.



To register for FREE:

**ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BATEMAN**  
20588 COUNTY HIGHWAY X, CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI 715.723.4231

**Grand Piano Dedication**

**Date: 2/12/2025**

**5:00 pm (Dinner)**

**6:00 pm (Dedication service)**

**Christ Lutheran Church**

**1306 Wilcox St.**

**Menomonie, WI**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## January

Jan 27		Spring classes begin
Jan 28	6:00 pm	JONAH new member orientation, LE Phillips Memorial Public Library
Jan 29	6:30 pm	Interfaith Prayer, First Congregational United Church of Christ, 310 Broadway St., Eau Claire
Jan 29	5:30 pm	Worship and meal resumes
Jan 30-Feb 1		Serving at Beacon House <u><a href="#">Sign up online here.</a></u>

## February

Feb 5	8:00 am	Book Discussion: <i>Milked</i> , Via Zoom
Feb 9	10:00 am	RIC Sunday
Feb 27	6:30 pm	Church Council meeting

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

## ULC Ministry Contacts

**Gracefully Welcome, Joyce Anderson, Chair**  
715-577-1397  
joyce4334@gmail.com

**Joyfully Serve, Carol Rudd, Chair**  
715-456-1936  
cjrudd1@charter.net

**Learn & Grow, Dr. Kate Hale Wilson, Chair**  
715-829-8620  
kate\_hale@me.com

**Thankfully Worship, Dave Anderson, Chair**  
715-577-1798  
prdavea@gmail.com

## ULC Staff Contacts

**Rev. Dr. Lori Ruge-Jones, Pastor**  
715-834-8026  
pastor@universitylutheran.org

**Joanne Erickson, Parish Assistant**  
715-834-8026  
office@universitylutheran.org

**Andrea Gapko, Parish Administrator**  
608-886-3148  
gapkoam@uwec.edu



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

## Council Contacts

**Jacob Gapko, Council President**  
608-949-4000  
jacob.gapko@outlook.com

**Cindy Rasmussen, President-Elect**  
715-271-0727  
cindyjhr@gmail.com

**Sara Bryan, Council Secretary**  
715-829-1885  
sarakdb808@gmail.com

**Sue Diel, Financial Secretary**  
715-210-8896  
sjdiel720@yahoo.com

**Dave Anderson**  
715-577-1798  
prdavea@gmail.com

**Carol Rudd**  
715-456-1936  
cjrudd1@charter.net

**Brian Wiechmann**  
715-864-7184

**Dr. Kate Hale Wilson**  
715-829-8620  
kate\_hale@me.com

**Pastor Lori Ruge-Jones**  
715-834-8026  
pastor@universitylutheran.org

