

Currents

Newsletter of University Lutheran Church, September 2025



WELCOME

FALL!



Upcoming Events

- **Sept 3:** Classes begin at UVEC; 5:30 pm worship, pot luck meal to welcome back students!
- **Sept 4:** 11:30 am Tacos & Tunes, to donate food or volunteer, sign up [HERE](#), 4 pm CookOUT
- **Sept 7:** 10 am worship at ERC, bring plants to ERC, 6 pm Neighbor to Neighbor Spanish worship & meal
- **Sept 9:** 3 pm, Q&A begins at the Bridge, Davies Center
- **Sept 10:** 11 am – 2 pm, BOB, campus mall (set up at 10), 5:30 pm worship & meal
- **Sept 14:** Worship at 10 am, followed by welcome back brunch. Click [here](#) to sign up.
- **Sept 21:** Worship at 10 am, followed by forum and Denmark photos and stories about PL's sabbatical!

Pastor Letter

I'm back– did you miss me? As you know, I had a 3 month sabbatical this summer, after 9 years of ministry at ULC. It was a wonderful time to relax and be rejuvenated, after several challenging years for me both in ministry and personally. September 21 I'll tell you more about it and share photos, but here are some important things I am bringing back with me.

1, it was so helpful to be away for an extended period, and the only thing I felt responsible for was whatever was right in front of me that day. Sabbaticals are unusual, both in that they don't happen very often and many people never experience one, but I would highly recommend a longer vacation than a shorter one, if you can manage that.

2, there's more to me than being a pastor (and more to any of you than what you do every day). I hope to be able to maintain balance between ministry and the rest of my life, mostly in enjoying my time off more. I have much flexibility in this kind of work, but I haven't always appreciated the days I have off, and I want to use that time for self-care and finding delight.

3, I learned a distinction that is helpful: there's a difference between having a history and living in the past. I don't want to live in Denmark, but I sure appreciated connecting with a part of my own history that has often been talked about in my family, but I had not experienced (nor very many of my relatives). The highlight for me was worshiping in the same building, same pews, at the same altar, where several generations of my ancestors did the same, including my grandfather. The baptismal font there is the same one used at his baptism in 1907, and goes back to the 1500s (the church was constructed by Vikings in the 1100s). It meant a lot to experience these anchors in my life, now that all the generations before me have died.

Please come to worship and the forum afterward on September 21, and I'll share some photos and stories about sabbatical!

Pastor Lori



PL stands beside the baptismal font where her grandfather (and several previous generations) were baptized in 1907– yes, it's the same bowl and ewer! Notice the ship hanging from the ceiling– this church was built by Vikings in the 12th century. Jordløse, Fyn, Denmark

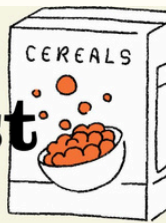


PL meets Little Tilde, one of the Six Forgotten Giants by sculptor Thomas Dambo, Vallensbaek, Denmark



View toward Mount Teide as we ascended to it, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain

2025 Campus Harvest Food Drive



What we are looking for.

- Unopened and unexpired
 - Food items
 - Hygiene Items
 - Monetary donations (every 1\$ donated can purchase about 10\$ of food from Feed My People Food Bank)

What is the Campus Harvest food Pantry?

- Campus Harvest Food Pantry aids students at UWEC that self-identify as in need of supplemental food assistance. in a spring 2024 survey, 47% of UWEC students indicated some level of food insecurity.
- We offer non-perishable and perishable food items (including frozen meats and fresh produce), period products, hygiene items, and miscellaneous cooking supplies.
- Students are able to utilize the pantry once per week!

If you'd like to make a donation by check to Campus Harvest, make the check out to **UW-Eau Claire Foundation** (memo line: Campus Harvest Food Pantry) and mail to:

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Foundation Inc.
Attention: Maureen McCraith
127 Roosevelt Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Campus Ministry Collaboration and Harvest Food Drive

There is a donation box on the edge of the entryway sitting area. We've invited Christ Church Cathedral to participate since they've expressed interest in campus ministry.

Wish List

• General

- Crackers
- Easy mac
- Pasta cups
- Rice-a-Roni cups
- Compleats
- Chef Boyardee
- Hearty soups
- popular cereals
- Oatmeal cups
- poptarts
- alfredo sauce
- pesto sauce
- rice (regular and microwaveable)
- Birthday kit (cake mix, frosting, cake pan)

• Spices

- Salt
- Pepper
- Garlic powder/salt
- Cumin
- Paprika
- Onion
- Crushed Red Pepper
- Italian
- Basil
- Vanilla

• Condiments

- Ketchup
- Mustard (regular, honey, Dijon)
- Honey
- Mayonnaise
- Sriracha
- Olive Oil
- Barbeque
- Ranch Dressing
- Salsa
- Hot sauce
- Worcestershire

• Hygiene

- Deodorant
- Body wash
- Lotion
- Toothpaste
- Floss
- Mouthwash
- Razors
- Shaving cream
- Kleenex
- Nail Clippers
- Combs/Hairbrushes
- Hair picks

Fall Wednesday Meal Teams

Each week this semester has a theme to make meal planning easier for Wednesdays (but if you want to do something different, just let Joanne know when you sign up). The Wednesday meal planning team (Wendy Kinderman, Kathy LeBrun, Carol Rudd, and an LSA representative) is here to help with ideas and in the kitchen!

Here is the tentative theme schedule; teams have been scheduled through September. Be thinking about signing up for October!

Sept. 3 Potluck (everyone)

Sept. 10 Picnic theme (team: Carol Rudd, Wendy Kinderman, Rose-Marie Avin) sloppy joes, potato salad, GF buns, pasta salad, veggies/dip, potato chips, watermelon

Sept. 17 Salad bar (team: Sue Diel, Marie Murrell) assorted salad greens and toppings

Sept. 24 Taco bar (team: Kathy LeBrun)

Oct. 1 Breakfast for dinner

Oct. 8 Pasta sampler

Oct. 15 Chili fest

Oct. 22 Baked potato bar

Oct. 29 Pizza buffet



Nov. 5 LSA meal?

Nov. 12 Pasta sampler

Nov. 19 Salad bar

Nov. 26 No meal - Fall break



Dec. 3 Soup and sandwich

Dec. 10 End-of-semester Potluck (everyone)



Look forward to the report on the Hike for the Homeless in the upcoming announcements and next month's newsletter! Mark your calendars! The scheduled serving dates for Beacon House in 2026 are:

Jan 29-31

May 7-9

Sept 24-26

Nov 19-21

Grief Circle: Sponsored by Newman Parish, Eau Claire Fall 2025

Six Week Series Meeting: September 30, Oct 7, 14,
21, 28, and Nov 4, 2025, 6-8pm, ERC

*Everyone in the Chippewa Valley is welcome to
participate*

For more information or to register contact:

Laurie Hittman 715-379-4110

jlhittman1@jhittman.com

Sue Ripp 715-829-3822 suerippht@charter.net

Registration due by September 16

JONAH



DISCOVER YOUR SELF-INTEREST

AND BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE

In times when you feel called to action, it's important to have clarity about your values and direction.

These trainings on *Self-Interest* will help you reflect on what truly matters to you - your "why." You'll explore how your sense of purpose can evolve over time and gain clarity about the issues or communities that are calling for your involvement.

It's not your job to take on everything. Come discover what is uniquely yours to do.



TRAINING DATES

- ✓ **Tuesday, September 9 from 6:30-8:00pm - virtual meeting via Zoom**
- ✓ **Wednesday, September 17 from 1:00-2:30pm - at the JONAH Office**
- ✓ **Saturday, September 20 from 9:45-11:15am - HYBRID at the Riverview Room in the Eau Claire Public Library and via Zoom**

Register today!

Greetings Rostered Ministers of the Northwest Synod of WI!

Our synod has a great treasure in our Lay School of Ministry (LSM). Any time I am somewhere in our synod where lay leaders gather, I am struck by how many have participated in this program. After a few years of experimenting with hybrid classes, the Lay School is now encouraging all first- and second-year students to attend in person. If that is not possible, they can still participate in class at a healthy level through Zoom. LSM has consistently offered the highest quality education for members of our congregations since 1993 and is a leading resource in the entire ELCA. This is a good time to encourage new participants and nudge them to take advantage of this opportunity! A brochure that provides basic information is attached.

I would like to invite you to strongly encourage any members who have gone through the first two years of the Lay School to sign up for this year's continuing education program. This program is available both in person and on-line. We have updated our technology to make for a great viewing experience. (A recorded sample can be watched at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrK72nS4mJk&list=PLyGqSCYR2c6ophTUO78JEl4yVEPS9u3EQ&index=44&t=75s>)

2025-2026 Lay School of Ministry Continuing Education Scriptural Schemes and Themes

Gifted teaching scholars from around the country will lead learners through biblical themes at the heart of their own research.

To see the list of the faculty, dates, and the topics they will be discussing with the class, click on this link: <http://www.layschoolofministry.org/press/continuing-education-classes/>

I want to thank you in advance for taking the time to encourage your Lay School graduates to attend the continuing education class this year, and for asking others to consider registering for the first-year class. They may sign up on the synod site: <https://nswi.org/lay-school-of-ministry> Let them know if your congregation can help with the cost, and that the LSM also provides scholarships, as do some conferences and our Synod's Women's Organization!

Privileged to serve,
Bishop Martin Halom

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

Here is some info about the 2025 Churchwide Assembly:
<https://www.elca.org/about/leadership/churchwide-assembly>



UPCOMING EVENTS

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Sept 7	10:00 am	Worship at ERC, bring plants to ERC, 6 pm Neighbor to Neighbor Spanish worship & meal
Sept 9	3:00 pm	Q&A begins at the Bridge, Davies Center
Sept 9	6:30 - 8:00 pm	JONAH "Discover Your Self-Interest" training, virtual meeting via Zoom
Sept 10	11:00 am - 2 pm	BOB (Blugold Organizations Bash), campus mall (set up at 10), 5:30 pm worship & meal
Sept 14	10:00 am	Worship, followed by welcome back brunch
Sept 17	6:30 pm	Inter Faith Prayer at Plymouth United Church of Christ, 2010 Moholt Dr, Eau Claire (west side)
Sept 17	1:00 - 2:30 pm	JONAH "Discover Your Self-Interest" training, at the JONAH office
Sept 20	9:45 - 11:15 am	JONAH "Discover Your Self-Interest" training, HYBRID at Riverview Room, EC Public Library and via Zoom
Sept 21	10:00 am	Worship, followed by forum and Denmark photos and stories about PL's sabbatical!

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

ULC Ministry Contacts

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Joyfully Serve, Carol Rudd

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Wendy Kinderman

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Learn & Grow, Dr. Kate Hale Wilson, Chair

715-829-8620

kate_hale@me.com

Thankfully Worship, Pastor Lori Ruge-Jones

ULC Staff Contacts

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Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

