

Currents

Newsletter of University Lutheran Church, October 2025



Generosity Sunday October 12

This will be a busy and important day for our ministry!
Please plan to be here from 10 - 1, and bring a dish to share if you can.

10:00 am worship – bring your intent card!
11:15 pot luck brunch
12:00 visioning event

We'll think together about the structure of our ministry, and how best to accomplish our mission: Thankfully Worship, Gracefully Welcome, Joyfully Serve

The council is beginning a review of ULC's ministry structure, and would value input from the congregation on these two questions:

Does our ministry structure meet our mission and our current needs?

Do we have enough active members to do this work?



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Worship Wednesdays at 5:30 PM, followed by free meal, and Sundays at 10:00 AM



A reminder of the significance of our presence here!
From LuMin director Rev. Emily Tveite:

All across the country, the empty summer sidewalks and quiet buildings of college campuses are once again bustling with students—returning upperclassmen reconnecting with friends, nervous first-years navigating new independence, and graduate students diving into another year of research and study.

Yet beneath this vibrant energy lies a sobering reality: 28.4% of students report feeling isolated from others, 23.1% report feelings of being left out, and 21% report lacking companionship (Active Minds, 2024). Even surrounded by thousands of peers, college students today are experiencing unprecedented levels of loneliness and isolation. This is where you shine—in the beautiful, transformative work of radical welcome that defines ELCA campus ministry. You already know how to see the student sitting alone at lunch, the overachiever burning out in pursuit of perfection, the first-year who hasn't found their place yet—and offer the kind of grace that says "you belong here." Your excellence in creating grace-filled communities where isolated hearts find belonging has never been more vital.

Continue doing what ELCA campus ministry does so well. Keep showing up with the same excellence you've always brought. Keep extending the radical hospitality that is your hallmark. Your campus knows they can count on the welcome that only you can offer.

Thank you for your ministry.

~ Emily



Thank you for your recent donation of hygiene items and pantry staples. One student was so excited to have a specific type of lotion that worked well with her eczema. Without your donation, that student would not have had the lotion to help with their eczema. Thank you again for your donation, and thank you for keeping the pantry in your thoughts.

Very Respectfully,

Sierra Roeske

Campus Harvest Intern

Fall Wednesday Meal Teams

Oct. 8 Pasta sampler - Elizabeth and Thomas

Oct. 15 Chili fest - Rick & Carol Olson, Cindy Rasmussen

Oct. 22 Baked potato bar - Elecia Oleson, Kathy LeBrun and Wendy

Oct. 29 Pizza buffet - Steve & Wendy Kinderman

Nov. 5 LSA meal

*To sign up your team in Nov/Dec, email Joanne at
office@universitylutheran.org*



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)

Upcoming in October

Sunday, Oct 5	3 -5 PM	JONAH 2025 Annual Event at The Brewing Projekt
Wednesday, Oct. 8	2 PM	Romans study begins on Zoom
Sunday, Oct. 12 Generosity Sunday	10:00 AM	Worship, potluck to follow
Tuesday, Oct 14	4:30 PM	Council meeting
Wednesday, Oct 15	5:30 PM	Campfire service, free meal to follow
Sunday, Oct 26 Reformation Sunday	10:00 AM	Worship and fellowship

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



Hike for the Homeless 2025: *Downpoured Upon!*

By Sara Bryan, ULC's Beacon House Team Leader

Before she left her house the evening of August 19th, Emily Smith Nguyen texted the other three Hikers from ULC: Carol Rudd, Sue Diel, and Sara Bryan.

[Emily] *My weather app shows the rain will stop in 15 minutes [shrugging 'Maybe?' emoji]*

[Sara] *Not raining here yet...*

[Emily] *I'm just north of river prairie and it's downpouring here!*

Emily waited till the rain let up a bit before leaving. We four gathered in the River Prairie Center with at least 250 other walkers, to listen to a few speeches before stepping out towards the path by the river. Carol decided to bring her umbrella. Good thing, because we had not gotten too far before... it began to rain in earnest! Carol and Sue decided to accept the offer of a ride in a car back to shelter; Sara and Emily borrowed the umbrella so they could walk a little further. They did end up cutting back via a shortcut, however. It poured!

This hike has been the primary annual fundraiser for Beacon House, our local shelter for homeless children and their families, for 22 years. The funds are raised through the registration fee that each hiker pays, and this year they also added a silent auction offering various locally-donated items and services.

There is a sense of fresh beginnings at Beacon House. The new Manager of Operations, Semone Thomas, began her term in June 2024. The new Director of Development, Colleen Weber, began in June 2025.

Just this past weekend (Sept 25-27), our ULC Beacon House team provided three evening meals and one breakfast. **For the first time since before the COVID pandemic, we had volunteers staying to serve and eat with resident families for all three evening meals. Hallelujah!**

Here's the group who participated: Blake Westerlund, Kathy LeBrun, Sue & Dave Diel, Wendy Kinderman, Dan Behnke & Kathy Stockton-Behnke, Dawn & Justin Kuehl and their daughter Emmeline, Carol & Tim Rudd, Sara & Tom Bryan.

Now, back to the August 19th Hike for the Homeless... Emily forwarded her excellent photos to the rest of us, and we closed out our experience exchanging a few final group texts.

[Sue] *It was fun...even with the rain [umbrella emoji]*

[Sara] *It was an experience of Being Alive. :)*

[Carol] *Great pics, Emily! Great walk in the rain!*

-contact Sara Bryan at 715.829.1885



**Our next JONAH ULC Core Team Meeting is
Thursday, Oct. 9 at 4pm at The Coffee Grounds.**

We will share updates from the JONAH Immigration Task Force, general updates from JONAH, and we will discuss our current action items at ULC. Anyone is encouraged to attend! If you have any questions, please reach out to Elecia Oleson, olesones98@gmail.com or 715-579-6712.



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

**The synod Creation Care team is requesting your assistance
with this brief 3 question survey.**

Survey Link: <https://us20.list-manage.com/survey?u=8223cda518f84a0743e6a7bde&id=f6671c1837&attribution=false>



**September Highlights from Colleen Weber,
Beacon House Director of Development:**

- Our 22nd annual HIKE for the Homeless was a great success—274 hikers helped raise \$36,360!
- This month, I'm focused on strategic planning, grant writing, and meeting with potential corporate sponsors. If you know business owners or executives who might be great partners, please feel free to pass along my contact info.
- Looking ahead, we're preparing for Festival of Toys, Day of Giving, and our annual Red Envelope Campaign. I'd love to explore ways your congregation could be involved—feel free to reach out or forward this to someone who might be interested.

First Amendment event Oct 20, 5:30 pm

https://blugoldconnect.uwec.edu/mccs/rsvp_boot?id=389125

Q Fest 2025

<https://qfestuwec.com/film-schedule2025>

Indigenous Peoples Day

Two events will take place in honor of Indigenous Peoples Day on Friday, Oct 10. and Monday, Oct. 13:

<https://calendar.uwec.edu/event/48868-indigenous-peoples-day-sacred-wisdom-sacred>

**Chippewa Valley American Guild of
Organists**

CHORAL MUSIC READING SESSION
Saturday, October 11, Lake Street United
Methodist, Eau Claire

9:30 AM Registration & Social

10-11 AM Reading Session

For more information contact Lynn
Emmons: lemmons715@gmail.com

ULC Ministry Contacts

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Learn & Grow, Dr. Kate Hale Wilson, Chair

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Thankfully Worship, Pastor Lori Ruge-Jones

JONAH ULC Core Team Chair - Elecia Oleson

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