

Currents

Newsletter of University Lutheran Church, November 2025

Thanksgiving Worship Opportunities

Thursday, Nov. 20, 6:30 pm

Hope Lutheran with Saint Olaf at
Saint Olaf Catholic Church, 3220 Monroe Street

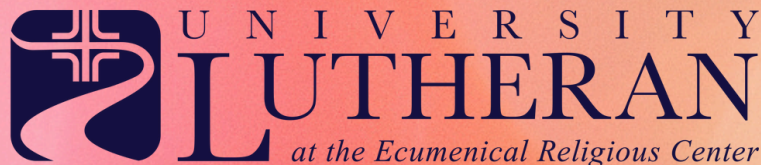
Wednesday, Nov. 26, 6:00 pm

Trinity Lutheran, 1314 E. Lexington

Wednesday, Nov. 26, 7:00 pm,

followed by pie/treat social

St. John's Lutheran
1804 Highland Avenue



110 Garfield Ave, Eau Claire, WI
(715) 834-8026
office@universitylutheran.org

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

PASTOR LETTER

THANK YOU for participating in the visioning event on October 12! It is encouraging to see so much energy gathering around our mission statement: thankfully worship, gracefully welcome, joyfully serve. We reviewed our core values, guiding principles, and assumptions, and began to dream together some intentions for our mission in the near future.

The full report is here, but briefly:

1. We grouped ideas into categories of campus, learn & grow, worship, justice, community, and relationship building (among ourselves).
2. After voting by the group, the top priorities are:
 - Justice, specifically around LGBTQIA+ and immigration
 - Continuing coffee hour/fellowship times
 - Learn & grow, education classes
 - Combating Christian Nationalism
 - Outreach projects like Ray of Life

So, what next?

- We are scheduling some forums on Sunday mornings (see below for Nov. 2 especially!) and will watch for information around the synod, campus, and community for ways to address injustice, providing our own classes and participating in other good work happening around the synod (like supporting Neighbor to Neighbor). Our Q&A group continues to meet, supporting queer and trans students
- We have a plan for looking at Christian Nationalism in spring semester, with a variety of opportunities for study and conversation (thanks, Kate Hale-Wilson for some great insight about how to do that!)
- We have collected household items for Beacon families, and the annual toy drive is coming up soon
- In November we'll collect grocery gift cards to try to lessen the SNAP gap in our community
- We do have coffee on Sundays after worship, and always need volunteers to coordinate that (make coffee, clean up, anyone can bring snacks)
- We'll continue to expand our actions as we learn more about what can be done and how best to do it. If you see an event that fits this part of our mission, please send info to the office so we can include it in the announcements and newsletter.

Thanks so much for this ministry together– it is a joy to serve alongside you all as pastor!

Pastor Lori

LEARN & GROW

**LGBTQ+ Justice: Nov. 2 Forum,
11:15 am, ERC library or zoom
[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/282853
2087](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2828532087)**



The Rev. Keats Miles-Wallace, they/them, is an LGBTQIA2S+ rights activist and curator at Technicolor Ministries
[https://www.technicolorministries.co
m/](https://www.technicolorministries.com/) They will join us by zoom to help us think about actions we can take as a congregation for LGBTQ+ justice.

**LSTC Symposium around
American Indian and Indigenous
justice available virtually:
Challenged and Transformed: A
Vision for the Church,
Nov. 10-12.
More info [here](#).**

Three presentations will happen at 7 pm each evening, plus a worship service Wednesday morning at 11:30.

The Vine Deloria, Jr. Theological Symposium celebrates the life and legacy of LSTC alumni Vine Deloria, Jr., author, historian, and activist for American Indian rights. Join us for this 3-day virtual celebration!

**Student presentation:
Nov. 9 forum, 11:15 am, ERC library**

Regan S, they/them, will do a student presentation on entomology for us, fulfilling a course requirement for their studies at UW-LaCrosse.

Learn & Grow Minutes

Thanks to Marie Murrell for her report about the "Gathering of the Waters" PowWow, held in September.

<https://calendar.powwows.com/events/gathering-of-the-waters-pow-wow/>

The announcer made his first, second, third, and finally last call for dancers to line up for Grand Entrance. When the hour had passed for the start of the powwow, he explained what he called "Indian Time," saying "We'd rather get it right than start on time."

The drum began and the excitement grew as veterans entered the arena, leading the dancers. Six men and one woman carried flags. The first man carried the sacred Eagle Staff followed by the American flag, both treated with the same respect. Next came tribal flags, and finally the black and white Prisoner of War flag. Then men and women, elders and children, all in their beautiful regalia representing their particular tribes, danced gracefully into the arena. Prayers were read in native languages. Guest speakers brought greetings from their tribes.

As guests, we felt perfectly welcome. I asked before taking video and was given permission along with a wide smile. Throughout the day, interspersed with the competitive dances and special performances, were intertribal dances; guests were invited to dance at these times. We especially enjoyed the couples dance, with the help of a native couple who showed us the moves.

In spite of the tough competition for the dancers, all accepted the judges' decisions without a single frown and full heartedly congratulated the winners. The variety and skill of the dancers was amazing, but the ones that we loved the most were the Tiny Tot dancers under 5 years in age. Watching these children engaging in the culture of their parents felt so hopeful, with all that has been done to erase the people with attempted genocide and forced assimilation.

The powwow felt deeply spiritual to us, as the earth, water, wind and sky were honored. The Great Spirit was undoubtedly present. The atmosphere was so positive, we left 5 hours later with a deep feeling of peace. It was hard to suppress smiles on the drive home after a day well spent.

Thanks to Sue Diel who reported on the screening of "Sacred Wisdom Sacred Earth," held at UWEC's Woodland Theater/Davies Center on October 13 .

More information about the film is available at <https://www.sacredwisdomsacredearth.org/>

I don't have words to describe how moving I found the whole event. The land acknowledgement read by an Indigenous student was very meaningful. The Indigenous drum singer set the tone for the film. The film itself was amazing. The cinematography of the various Indigenous lands in Wisconsin was beautiful. The stories told by various Indigenous people throughout the film was very humbling. Two Indigenous actors in the film were the panel after the film completed and it was interesting hearing their perspective on some of the prepared questions they were asked. I also enjoyed the drum singer and actors who completed the evening with a song.

WORSHIP

Weekly Ministry Schedule

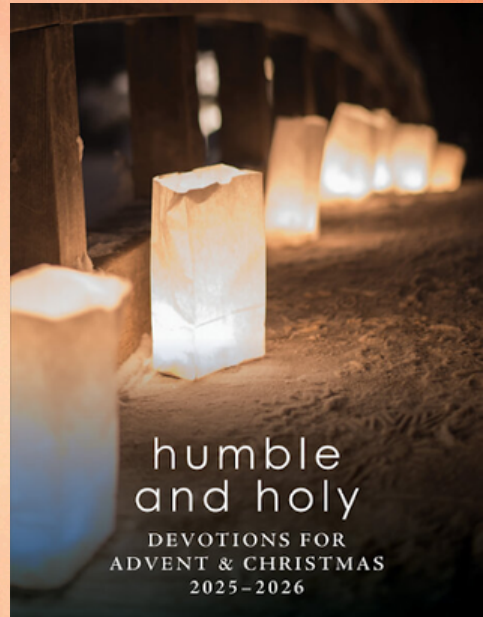
Sunday, 10 am worship
livestream on our YouTube page
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUXLzJMgz_W_9v_JU6OotHQ
coffee & educational forum
following

Tuesday, 3 pm, Q&A, in The
Bridge lounge, Davies

Wednesday, 2 pm Romans Bible
study (Oct 8 - Nov. 26), Zoom
5:30 pm worship
6:00 pm free meal

Advent prep

If you'd like a devotional booklet for Advent, sign up [here](#) by Nov. 15. The church will place, and pay for, one consolidated order.



Wednesday Worship in November will be dinner church!

Join us at 5:30 pm in the lower level. We'll also be hearing from 2 of our graduating seniors, Megan Eilers (5th) and Samara Gries (19th) as they share their faith stories.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

STUDENT TRAVEL FUNDRAISER

Several students from both LSA & Q&A are interested in attending the Q Christian Conference in Portland, January 22-25, 2026. Our fundraising goal is \$4,000, which would help 5-6 students and PL attend the conference.

You can help by making a donation to the cause and sharing about this fundraiser with your friends or others who would support campus ministry (see our socials for a post to share).

Providing a safe space to nurture queer spirituality is vitally important to our students, and a high priority for our ministry. Thanks for supporting events like this!

Join us for games **TWICE** in November!



Sunday, November 16
after worship, potluck brunch + board games

Wednesday, November 19
after worship, regular meal + board games

If you want to “host” a game (bring and teach it), please PL or Theodore know

Faithful Futures Webinar

NOV 5
2PM ET
11AM PT

LISTENING IS THE NEW EVANGELISM

FEATURING:

- JOSH PACKARD, AUTHOR
- MEGAN BISSELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FUTURE OF FAITH
- WES ELLIS, AUTHOR AND YOUTH PASTOR
- KEEDREN BOSTON, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRY
- DAVID EDWARDS, INTERN, FUTURE OF FAITH
- KRIS JORDAN, PASTOR
- GREG ARTHUR, PASTOR



WWW.FAITHFULFUTURESBOOK.COM

@FUTUREOFFAITH

PL is attending a Faithful futures webinar– register here (free), led by Dr. Josh Packard, sociologist, author, and founder of Springtide Research and (currently) Future of Faith. (Also a former student of the Ruge-Joneses, from TLU!)

MINISTRY

Thankfully Worship

We will include a station for individual healing prayers on the first Sunday of each month.

*Sunday, Nov. 2 All Saints Sunday
Sunday, Nov. 16 Truth & Healing service, in honor of Native American Heritage Month
Sunday, Nov. 30 Advent begins*

FALL WEDNESDAY MEAL TEAMS

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

Nov. 5 Stroganoff, vegetables, dessert
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)

Joyfully Serve

Our offering emphasis for November will have two specific goals.

1, Please bring donations of grocery store gift cards to be given to Feed My People or Family Promise during this SNAP benefits freeze.
2, The latter part of the month we'll be accepting gifts and gift cards for the Family Promise toy drive.
(thanks to Suzie Slota and Carol Rudd for working on this annual, long-standing collaboration with ULC, Newman, Family Promise, and other community sponsors!)



MONARCA
UPSTANDER TRAINING | EAU CLAIRE, WI
Saturday, November 8, 2025 10:00 AM

Months into the Trump administration, we are seeing a growing wave of executive orders and policies aimed at targeting and deporting millions, especially in states like ours. Agencies are showing up in neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools. We are coming together to build power, stand with our neighbors, and shine a light on these injustices.

- Learn how to support immigrant communities
- Become part of Unidos' rapid response network.
- Ensure no one faces this threat alone.

L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library
400 Eau Claire St, Eau Claire, WI 54701
Date: Saturday, November 8, 2025
Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

REGISTER HERE



UNIDOS MN
COMMUNITY • LEADERSHIP • POWER

bit.ly/RRT1108

EVENTS

November

Nov 2	10:00 AM	All Saint's Sunday, Daylight Saving Time ends
Nov 5	5:30 PM	Dinner Church
Nov 12	5:30 PM	Dinner Church
Nov 18	4:30 PM	Council meeting
Nov 19	5:30 PM	Dinner Church
Nov 20	5:00 PM	Transgender Service, Davies Center
Nov 26		No worship or meal
Nov 30	10:00 AM	Advent begins

December

Dec 7	11:15 AM	Congregational Budget Meeting
Dec 15-18	11:00 AM-1:30 PM	Finals hospitality week
Dec 16	4:30 PM	Council meeting
Dec 24	6:30 PM	Christmas Eve Worship

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

Here is a link to visit all campus-wide events:
<https://calendar.uwec.edu/all/groups/Campus-wide>

ULC Ministry Contacts

Gracefully Welcome

Joyfully Serve, Co-Chairs

Carol Rudd

715-456-1936

cjrudd52@gmail.com

Wendy Kinderman

715-456-9649

wendykinderman@hotmail.com

Learn & Grow, Dr. Kate Hale Wilson, Chair

715-829-8620

kate_hale@me.com

Thankfully Worship, Pastor Lori Ruge-Jones

JONAH ULC Core Team, Elecia Oleson, Chair

715-579-6712

olesones98@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

Council Contacts

Cindy Rasmussen, Council President

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

Brad Bishop

715-651-3072

bradandsarabishop@gmail.com

Dan Behnke

715-697-9543

danbehnke@gmail.com

Elizabeth Packer

218-349-3793

ecpack304@gmail.com

Dr. Kate Hale Wilson

715-829-8620

kate_hale@me.com

Pastor Lori Ruge-Jones

715-834-8026

pastor@universitylutheran.org



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in America

