

# Currents

Newsletter of University Lutheran Church, March 2026



THE PATH OF  
*Jesus*

**Sunday worship, ERC  
10:00 am**

**This Lent we follow the Path of Jesus, God's vision for how we live together well in this world. We begin Ash Wednesday and follow through to Palm Sunday, as we begin our Holy Week with the powerful message of God's redemptive and powerful love in Christ Jesus.**

**Other worship services:  
Wednesday, March 4, Dinner Church, 5:30 pm**

**Maundy Thursday, April 2, 6:00 pm**

**Good Friday, April 3, 1:00 & 6:00 pm at  
Immanuel Lutheran, 3214 Golf Road**

*Lent 2026*



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

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

# PALM SUNDAY PATH

## FOR LOVE OF NEIGHBOR

A PALM SUNDAY PATH TO UNITY,  
WELCOME, AND INCLUSION



**MARCH 29, 2026**

**3:00-4:00PM**

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PARKING LOT**

1314 E LEXINGTON BLVD,  
EAU CLAIRE WI

Communities gathering in solidarity for:

- Peaceful witness of faith
- Building community with our neighbors
- Uplifting the core Christian values to care for the hungry, the thirsty, the strangers, the sick, the naked, the prisoners (Matt 25:31-47)



## LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR CHALLENGE GRANT

As of this publication,  
“Love Your Neighbor, a Capital Campaign for  
the Neighbor to Neighbor Ministry”, has  
raised \$4,680, activating the matching grant  
of \$1,500 and surpassing the new goal  
of \$4,500!

*Thank you for your contributions!*

### Neighbor to Neighbor/Vecino a Vecino

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin supports an outreach ministry for our Latinx neighbors, providing health fairs, networking, ridesharing, a pop-up food pantry, and monthly worship services in Spanish. The ministry is coordinated by Deacon Lidixe Montoya. The March worship service will be Sunday, March 1, 6 pm at Immanuel Lutheran, followed by a meal.



# LEARN & GROW

**ULC Learn & Grow:** This semester we are looking at Christian Nationalism, primarily as it is manifesting in the present moment but also including some details from the related historical example of WWII Germany.

So with that in mind, a quick look-ahead to April: after Easter, on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, we will discuss “After Ten Years”: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Our Times. Copies are available in the church office at no cost, while they last. Following the practice of our book discussion group, we ask participants to read the text before we sit down to discuss it. Note that this whole text is just 30 pages, divided between two 15-page sections: a scholarly introduction and Bonhoeffer’s essay.

## **Our March schedule includes . . .**

Sunday 3/1 after worship we’ll discuss the ELCA Advocacy statement “We Are Christians Against Christian Nationalism” Note the five “discussion starters” at the end of this four-page document.

Sunday 3/8, in the late afternoon, a screening and discussion of the film Bad Faith: Christian Nationalism’s Unholy War on Democracy Potluck or other meal after the film. Exact details to be announced.

## **Selected Links from our February discussions . . .**

Heidi Torgerson, lead pastor at Grace Lutheran Church of LaGrange IL posted about the clergy presence at Broadview in Chicago

ELCA Ammparo shared this video posted by Ingrid Rasmussen and Lead Pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis

Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry and ELCA synod bishops from Minnesota share a joint pastoral message condemning recent immigration activity

The White Rose ~ this excellent German site (text in English) includes a good three-minute video and much more

## **For further consideration . . .**

“A Letter from Bishops of the ELCA to the Church” Statement October 2024  
Bishop Halom was among the signatories

Understanding Christian Nationalism with Shelley Bryan Wee (ELCA Bishop)  
Recommended by Pastor Lori (and Rick Steves)

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Resources on Christian Nationalism

An excellent resource from our sister synod—maybe bookmark it in your browser . . .

# JONAH

Our JONAH ULC Core Team meets once a month. Anyone can join us at any meeting!  
Our next meeting is Thursday, March 12 at 4 p.m. at the Coffee Grounds.

JONAH Training: Building Relationships Through One-on-Ones Training  
March 7 at 9:00-11:00 a.m. at First Congregational UCC, Eau Claire

JONAH Fundraiser Gala: "Enchanted Forest"  
March 14 at 29 Pines

Amanda Babb, Director of the Tenant and Landlord Resource Center, will join us on Wed, April 15, during our evening prayer and meal. She will share information about their mission and services and provide resources. We are hoping this will be beneficial for students and community members. We hope you can make it!

JONAH Book Club

March- no meeting

April 16, 2026 at 6:15 p.m. at Dotters Books

Stories Our Scars Tell: Hope, Healing, and Honesty about the Wounds We Carry by

Brittany Tinsley

Hosted by the Mental Health Task Force

To learn more about JONAH- Eau Claire, visit their website. [jonahjustice.org](http://jonahjustice.org)

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to any of the members.

## JONAH ULC Core team members

Elecia Oleson

Jill Granlund

Carol Rudd

Joyce Anderson

Dave Anderson

Cindy Rasmussen



# 2026 CAMPUS MINISTRY MADNESS



## What is campus ministry madness?

Ministry Madness is a month-long digital friendraising event for ELCA Campus Ministry organizations held in March. It's an opportunity for campus ministries to work together to raise awareness about campus ministry and to connect campus ministry alumni and supporters to ministries in the organizations they serve!

## What can I do to support campus ministry?

From Monday, March 2 to Wednesday, April 1, support your team's campus ministry and help them earn points! Check back every Monday to see the standings! 100% of your donation will go to the Lutheran Campus Ministry site you choose to support!

Support Your Favorite Ministry at:  
[www.campusministrymadness.org](http://www.campusministrymadness.org)



"My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD."  
Psalm 84:2a

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## GRIEF CIRCLE: SPONSORED BY NEWMAN PARISH, EAU CLAIRE Spring, 2026

SIX WEEK SERIES MEETING: March 24 and 31, April 7, 14, 21, and 28  
Tuesdays: 6:00PM – 8:00PM  
Ecumenical Religious Center 110 GARFIELD AVE. Eau Claire, WI 54701  
Everyone in the Chippewa Valley is welcome to participate.

THIS GROUP PROVIDES A SAFE PLACE FOR THOSE EXPERIENCING GRIEF AND THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE. IT IS A TIME OF LEARNING ABOUT GRIEF AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND CONCERNS WITH OTHERS WHO UNDERSTAND.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER CONTACT:  
LAURIE HITTMAN 715-379-4110 [jlhittman1@jlhittman.com](mailto:jlhittman1@jlhittman.com)  
SUE RIPP 715-829-3822 [suerippht@charter.net](mailto:suerippht@charter.net)

**REGISTRATION DUE BY March 10, 2026**

# ULC Wednesdays Spring 2026

Please sign up [HERE](#) for Wednesday meals  
“3 soups, bread, and fruit” during Lent

More info or questions contact [Wendy](#) (715-456-9649),  
[Carol](#) (715-456-1936), or [Kathy](#) (715-829-5516).



- March 4 — 3 soups, bread, fruit
- March 11 — 3 soups, bread, fruit
- March 18 — SPRING BREAK — no meal
- March 25 — 3 soups, bread, fruit
- April 2 — HOLY WEEK — meal on Thursday, 5 pm, worship at 6 pm -  
3 soups, bread, fruit
- April 8 — salad bar, dessert
- April 15 — pasta bar, dessert
- April 22 — breakfast for dinner (egg bake, French toast bake, etc.), dessert
- April 29 — rice bowls with assorted toppings, dessert
- May 6 — potluck (picnic?)

## Wednesday schedule this semester

LSA leaders, in conversation with the council, are going to try a different model for Wednesdays this semester. We will have worship on the first and third Wednesdays, and a different kind of interactive activity on the second and fourth. This will allow for faith formation to happen in various ways through learning, conversation, service, and fellowship, during the same timeframe that students have already committed to attending. We will always begin at 5:30, and supper will always follow.

The March schedule will be:

Mar 4 - Worship - Dinner church/spoken liturgy

Mar 11 - Fellowship - Game night

Mar 18 - Spring break

Mar 25 - Learning - Topic— how to be Xan out in the world  
(Bishop Halom will lead this)



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin



**WALKING TOGETHER**  
*Church Without Walls*

March 21, 2026  
8:00 - 4:00  
\$25 Per Participant  
Bethany Lutheran Church - Rice Lake, WI  
Keynote Speaker: Natalia Terfa



Register and Details Here:  
<https://nswi.org/walking-together-event>



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

ELCA WOMEN'S CHIPPEWA VALLEY CONFERENCE  
DAY OF RENEWAL | 2026

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CARING FOR GOD'S  
CREATION  
BEGINNING WITH YOU

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026  
8:00 AM - 1:30 PM  
SPIRIT LUTHERAN  
1310 MAIN ST. | EAU CLAIRE

\$25 REGISTRATION FEE  
(INCLUDES LUNCH)

COME BE PART OF THIS YEAR'S DAY OF  
RENEWAL, AS WE FOCUS ON BODY, MIND,  
AND SPIRIT— AND DISCOVER HOW  
CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION  
BEGINS WITH YOU.

REGISTRATION AND  
PAYMENT ARE DUE BY  
MARCH 22.



Women's ELCA



FROM  
**FEAR TO FIRE**  
IGNITING COMMUNITY FOR A PLANET IN PERIL

**ECOFAITH SUMMIT**  
OF THE UPPER MIDWEST  
APRIL 18, 2026 ~ DULUTH, MN

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Worship Services at ULC at 10:00 AM  
and Wednesdays at 5:30 PM, followed by meal

## March

Mar 1	11:15 AM	Learn & Grow Discussion, in library & on Zoom "WE ARE CHRISTIANS AGAINST CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM"
Mar 8	4:00-7:00 PM	Film screening, <i>Bad Faith: Christian Nationalism's Unholy War on Democracy</i> , Fireside Lounge
Mar 16-20		Spring Break
Mar 21	8:00-4:00 PM	<u>Walking Together</u> , Bethany Lutheran Church, Rice Lake
Mar 24	4:30 PM	ULC Council Meeting
Mar 29	10:00 AM	Palm Sunday worship
Mar 29	12:00-4:00 PM	<u>UWEC Culture Fest</u>
Mar 29	3:00-4:00 PM	For Love of Neighbor " <u>Palm Sunday Path</u> ", Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot

## April

Apr 2	5:00 meal 6:00 worship	Maundy Thursday @ ERC
Apr 3	1:00 PM & 6:00 PM	Good Friday worship at Immanuel
Apr 5	10:00 AM	Easter worship @ ERC
Apr 11	8:00 AM-4:00 PM	<u>Women's Day of Renewal</u> , Spirit Lutheran, Eau Claire
Apr 18	All day	<u>EcoFaith Summit</u> , Duluth, MN
Apr 26	11:15 AM	ULC Annual Meeting

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

## ULC Ministry Contacts

Gracefully Welcome

**Joyfully Serve, Wendy Kinderman**

715-456-9649

[wendykinderman@hotmail.com](mailto:wendykinderman@hotmail.com)

**Carol Rudd**

715-456-1936

[cjrudd52@gmail.com](mailto:cjrudd52@gmail.com)

**Learn & Grow, Dr. Kate Hale Wilson, Chair**

715-829-8620

[kate\\_hale@me.com](mailto:kate_hale@me.com)

**Thankfully Worship, Pastor Lori Ruge-Jones**

**JONAH ULC Core Team, Elecia Oleson, Chair**

715-579-6712

[olesones98@gmail.com](mailto:olesones98@gmail.com)

## ULC Staff Contacts

**Rev. Dr. Lori Ruge-Jones, Pastor**

715-834-8026

[pastor@universitylutheran.org](mailto:pastor@universitylutheran.org)

**Joanne Erickson, Parish Assistant**

715-834-8026

[office@universitylutheran.org](mailto:office@universitylutheran.org)

**Andrea Gapko, Parish Administrator**

608-886-3148

[gapkoam@uwec.edu](mailto:gapkoam@uwec.edu)

## Council Contacts

**Cindy Rasmussen, Council President**

715-271-0727

[cindyjhr@gmail.com](mailto:cindyjhr@gmail.com)

**Sara Bryan, Council Secretary**

715-829-1885

[sarakdb808@gmail.com](mailto:sarakdb808@gmail.com)

**Sue Diel, Financial Secretary**

715-210-8896

[sjdiel720@yahoo.com](mailto:sjdiel720@yahoo.com)

**Brad Bishop**

715-651-3072

[bradandsarabishop@gmail.com](mailto:bradandsarabishop@gmail.com)

**Dan Behnke**

715-697-9543

[danbehnke@gmail.com](mailto:danbehnke@gmail.com)

**Elizabeth Packer**

218-349-3793

[ecpack304@gmail.com](mailto:ecpack304@gmail.com)

**Dr. Kate Hale Wilson**

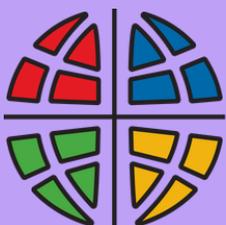
715-829-8620

[kate\\_hale@me.com](mailto:kate_hale@me.com)

**Pastor Lori Ruge-Jones**

715-834-8026

[pastor@universitylutheran.org](mailto:pastor@universitylutheran.org)



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Lutheran Church  
in America

