

Currents

Newsletter of University Lutheran Church, June 2026

THINGS TO KNOW FOR SUMMER



SUMMER READING

We are looking at the matriarchs in Genesis this summer: Sarah, Rebekah, Leah, Rachel, and other women who are part of their stories. These will be the basis for discussion at the Wednesday worship services. Click [HERE](#) for the reading schedule.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Sundays, 10 am, Praise in the Park at Phoenix Park (rain location, The Brewing Projekt). ULC leads worship in the park on May 31 and August 23.
- Wednesdays, 5:30 pm, Holden Evening Prayer with Bible discussion, followed by snacks and fellowship.

We need leaders for Wednesday services (discussion leader, altar set up, cantors, snack providers, presiding pastors). Please sign up [here](#) or in person if you can take a turn!



PASTOR LORI'S SCHEDULE

As part of her part-time contract, Pastor Lori takes much of the summer off, June 1 - Aug. 9. She will be available for emergencies if she is in Eau Claire. For information or a non-emergency situation, please contact a council member by calling the church office phone, 715-834-8026 or the office by email office@universitylutheran.org

ERC SCHEDULE

The ERC is open during the summer Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9-3. Joanne will be in the office most Tuesdays and will work from home most Wednesdays. She will not be working June 3 and 10. A council member will have the office cell phone over the summer.



110 Garfield Ave, Eau Claire, WI
(715) 834-8026
office@universitylutheran.org
Rev. Dr. Lori Ruge-Jones

CONGREGATION



PRIDE Month

ULC joins Trinity and Immanuel in hosting an RIC table at Pride in the Park, Saturday, June 13. To volunteer or make a donation, sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E044BACAE2CA3FE3-64176703-pride>

We are also hosting a Pride worship service on Wednesday, June 17, at 5:30 pm, followed by an ice cream social. It's one more way to provide time and space for LGBTQIA+ people to explore spirituality and learn about Christian churches that are fully welcoming and affirming. Please plan to worship with us!



PLEASE NOTE: There will be no newsletter in July. The next one will be published early to mid August.

Announcements will be emailed weekly. Email the office if you have something to contribute.



Get ready for houseplants!

We will need a total of 150 small houseplants for the BOB on September 9.

- If you are a shopper, please look for pots as you are going to garage sales/thrift stores this summer.
- If you are a grower, please think about how many plants you can donate and when you'll start them.

We only need 150- we've had more than that in recent years and it's too many to manage.

Our dear friend Judy Blackstone used to provide over half our plants. We can honor her memory and her commitment to campus ministry as we share the responsibility and continue this tradition, so loved by students! Thanks!

CAMPUS MINISTRY

BEST WISHES GRADUATES!



Dale Anderson
he/him/his
Eau Claire, WI
BS, Professional Studies Major,
Music Minor

next: a different phase of
retirement

Elizabeth Packer

she/her
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Duluth, MN
MS Exercise Physiology

applying for jobs in the field



Hannah Schindler

she/her
St. Cloud, MN
BA Political Science
psychology minor

Continuing my work with the
Community and Economic
Development Associates in
Eau Claire



Olivia Bishop

they/them
Eau Claire, WI

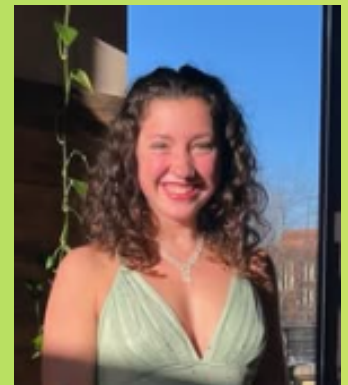
BFA Integrative Art
Latin American Studies minor



Bella Wulterkens

she/her
Kenosha, WI
BS Political Science

gap year before law school



Sophie DeByl

she/her
Phillips, WI
BA Vocal Performance

attending graduate school at
Bowling Green State University,
Ohio



Samara Gries

she/her
Grafton, WI
BS Geology (hydrogeology &
water chemistry), chemistry
minor, geospatial certificate

Master program in Geoscience,
University of Iowa



Seth Roberts

Memorial High School

Pursuing a music performance
major in piano at UW-Eau
Claire in the fall



CAMPUS MINISTRY

Newman staff changes

Sean Coyle, Director of Campus Mission, will begin on June 1.

Fr. Michael Klos of Sacred Heart/St. Patrick's Parish in Eau Claire will assume responsibility for Newman Parish on July 1, along with Deacon Kyle Lang who will be graduating from seminary and ordained this summer and will serve as Chaplain to University Ministry for Newman.

Fr. Dan Oudenhoven will move to serve as priest in Stevens Point beginning July 1, 2026.



Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin: A Source for Civic Engagement Materials



The Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin (LOPPW) is a ministry of the ELCA that engages Lutherans in nonpartisan advocacy for policies that promote peace, justice, and care for all of God's creation. Working in collaboration with ELCA World Hunger and the six ELCA synods with congregations in Wisconsin, LOPPW represents the coordinated public policy witness of the ELCA in Wisconsin and serves as a bridge of communication between congregations and lawmakers in Madison.

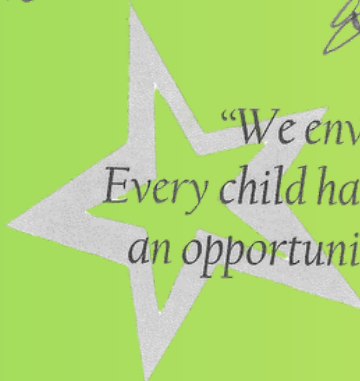
In 2026, we have two upcoming elections – the primary election (Aug. 11 in Wisconsin) and the general election (Nov. 3). Election years are an opportunity for congregations and individuals to coordinate nonpartisan civic engagement activities. The ELCA teaches that civic engagement is both our calling as Christians and a responsibility for residents of the United States.

LOPPW has an Elections 2026 webpage to share information and resources. We are planning two online events this year, will offer an opportunity for youth education leaders to attend a training, and will share resources that can be used by congregations, ministry teams, and individuals. Please visit our elections webpage to learn more: loppw.org/election/

You can also sign up for our mailing list to receive updates at: loppw.org/action/mailling-list/. Contact Kacy Kostiuk, Director, at kacy.kostiuk@elca.org or 608-940-1808 with any questions or if you would like to learn more.



Thank you for your generosity
it means a lot to be able to
meet the needs of the families
Simone Thomas.



“We envision a day when –
Every child has a place to call home and
an opportunity for a brighter future”

**Diaper Drive
Thank You!**

Bruce Cyr
Manager of Shelter
Operations

Your kindness is the
bridge between
challenges & solutions.
We're so thankful for
you.

Cassie Klotz
Outreach Specialist

Jaiden Erickson
Case Management



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Click [HERE](#) for the
Synod website:



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 Lidix Montoya. The upcoming worship services will be June 7, July 5, and Aug. 2, at 6 pm at Immanuel Lutheran, followed by a meal.



**Daylily Dig for Malawi
July 23-25, 2026**

Kaufmann Farm, Chippewa Falls

Indian Boarding Schools: ELCA Truth-Seeking and Truth-Telling Initiative - Join the work

The Truth-Seeking and Truth-Telling Initiative is leading a coordinated effort to research Lutheran involvement in Indian boarding and day schools dating back to the 1820s. We are seeking both clergy and lay volunteers who want to be part of this initiative. All are welcome, including those with skills in research, data collection, organizing, education, and leadership. The goals are to find and gather information in order to share it with impacted Indigenous individuals, families, and communities; for our church members to know our history of church-sponsored Indian boarding schools and their devastating impacts on Native communities; all as part of an ongoing truth and healing process.

We started in 2022 with 15 synods across four states. In May 2023, we expanded to 27 synods across ten states. We are now expanding to all synods across all states. We welcome you!

To learn more and to get involved, click [HERE](#).



Let's LEARN Spanish!

A two-day Interactive Language **101** Learning Class

July 15 & 16 + 9:30-2:30

Trinity Lutheran Church + Eau Claire, WI

Class Schedule:

Day 1: Basic Grammar through poetry, readings, and more.

Day 2: Be ready to go grocery shopping, cook a Mexican meal, share food, and learn Lutheran liturgies - Todo en ESPAÑOL!



Registration:

Registration Limited to 12
\$100 per participant
<https://nswi.org/neighbor-to-neighbor>



UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Sunday Worship Services at Phoenix Park, 10:00 AM, May 31 - Aug 30
(rain location The Brewing Projekt)

Summer Wednesdays at ERC, 5:30 PM, June 3 - Aug 26

June

June 1		Sean Coyle begins, Director of Campus Mission for Newman
June 3	5:30 PM	Wednesday worship begins, Holden Evening Prayer, followed by snacks
June 7	6:00 PM	N to N worship at Immanuel, meal to follow
June 13		Pride in the Park
June 17	5:30 PM	Pride service, ERC
June 23	4:30 PM	ULC Council meeting

July

July 1		Fr Michael Klos begins at Newman Parish
July 5	6:00 PM	Neighbor to Neighbor worship @ Immanuel

August

Aug 2	6:00 PM	Neighbor to Neighbor worship @ Immanuel
Aug 11	4:30 PM	ULC Council meeting
Aug 23	10:00 AM	ULC hosts Praise in the Park at Phoenix Park
Aug 30	10:00 AM	Sunday worship at ERC resumes

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

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

ULC Ministry Contacts

Gracefully Welcome

Joyfully Serve, Wendy Kinderman

715-456-9649

wendykinderman@hotmail.com

Carol Rudd

715-456-1936

cjrudd52@gmail.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

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Council Contacts

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Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

