Currents

Newsletter of University Lutheran Church, Dec '26/Jan '27





UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN
at the Ecumenical Religious Center

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



Volunteers are also needed December 18 to help sort donations and December 19-21 to help families "shop" for their kids. Sign up HERE.
You can also make a donation online, sign up HERE.
Or you can purchase from the Amazon wish list, click HERE.

If you have questions, please contact Suzie Slota, sbslota@yahoo.com (715.559.3800) or Carol Rudd, cjrudd1@charter.net (715.456.1936).

CONGREGATION

GIVING TUESDAY DECEMBER 1, 2026



ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

11:15 am Sunday, December 6, 2026

Fireside Lounge or by zoom

Zoom Link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2828532087







Final Exams Hospitality

Monday - Thursday, Dec. 14-17,
serving from 11 am - 1:30 pm

Click HERE to sign up to provide food, help serve, or for clean-up.





Carols & Barrels

December 17, 6 - 8 pm at the Brewing Projekt, hosted by Trinity Lutheran

Neighbor to Neighbor Worship

Dec 6 & Jan 3

Immanuel Lutheran Church

3214 Golf Road

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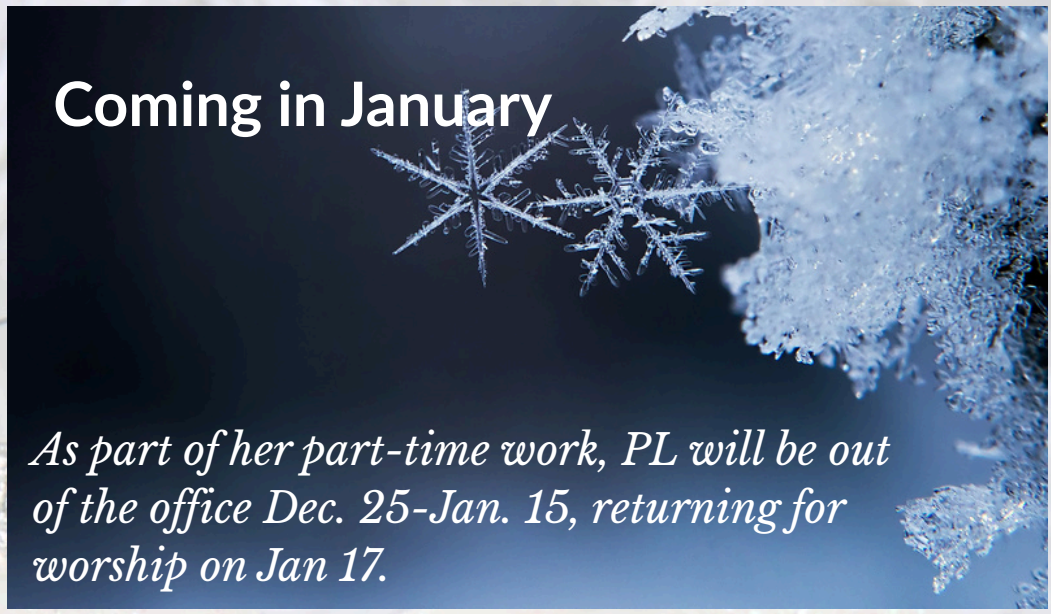
NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR MINISTRY



Sunday, Jan 3, 6 pm	N2N Worship Immanuel Lutheran
Wednesday, Jan 6, 6:30 pm	Interfaith Prayers for Peace, St. James Catholic
Jan 21-24	Q Christian Conference, Philadelphia
Monday, Jan 25	Spring semester begins
Wednesday, Jan 27	Worship & meal resume



Spiritual direction is time set apart (1 hour/month) to deepen your connection with God through listening and conversation, guided by a spiritual director. Chris Maslonkowski, a member at Newman and certified spiritual director, offers sessions for students and community members at the ERC for donation. There are no prerequisites–if you are longing for a deeper connection in your faith life, spiritual direction may be for you! Learn more at https://www.refinedingrace.com/

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



To the wonderfully gifted saints of the NWSWI,

How can it possibly be December already?! I guess that means we're having some fun!

Historically, December has offered me many great experiences and memories. Holiday school concerts filled with moving music that touch our heart strings. Contemplative midweek Advent services that filled the pews, mixing the Sunday and Wednesday worshiping communities together. Visiting nursing homes and senior independent living apartments while singing Christmas Carols with the confirmation class. And of course, capping it all off with a sanctuary filled with extended families holding candles while singing, "Silent Night". December just has a knack for offering so many stories that remind us of Immanuel, God with us.

Of course, this is all rooted in the story of Christ's birth, when God entered a messy world as a newborn child. It's a story with unconventional characters like Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Zechariah, and a group of shepherds in the fields encountering the heavenly host. Think about that for a moment – God chose every day, unsuspecting characters to star in this story. Yet they all got to experience the sensations and feels of emotion when engaged with the divine.

What I love about the story of Christmas is that it is still alive well over 2,000 years later. It's alive because the Spirit continues to invite us to experience and share the story year after year. How will that play out for you and your church community next year? What stories will be added that feature characters like those above? What messages of hope can we offer to a world filled with doubt? The answers to these questions will not only add to God's story found in scripture but will also shape our collective impact on the world.

I pray that your likely busy Decembers are filled with life and joy. I hope that your Decembers gift you with stories where you encounter God and you manage to take notice. After all, God's presence in our world is not for God's benefit, it's for ours. And of all the gifts that may be exchanged this Christmas season, may the gifts of God's love, grace, and mercy be evident in your life!

Bishop Martin Holom

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Worship at ERC, 10 am
Wednesday Worship or Event at ERC, 5:30 pm, followed by meal

December

Dec 1		Giving Tuesday
Dec 2	5:30 PM	Holden Evening Prayer worship, followed by meal
Dec 6	11:15 AM	Congregational Budget Meeting following worship, Fireplace lounge and by Zoom
Dec 6	6:00 PM	N2N worship at Immanuel Lutheran
Dec 9	5:30 PM	Holden Evening Prayer worship, POTLUCK, last Wed evening for the semester
Dec 11	5-8 PM	LSA Christmas Party @ ERC
Dec 13	10:00 AM	Graduation blessing
Dec 14-17	11am-1:30pm	Finals Hospitality
Dec 17	6-8 PM	Carols & Barrels at the Brewing Projekt
Dec 24	6:30 PM	Christmas Eve worship

January

Jan 3	6:00 PM	N2N worship, Immanuel Lutheran
Jan 6	6:30 PM	Interfaith Prayers for Peace, St. James Catholic
Jan 21-24		Q Christian Conference, Philadelphia
Jan 25		Spring semester begins
Jan 27	5:30 PM	Worship & meal resume

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

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Thankfully Worship, Pastor Lori Ruge-Jones

JONAH ULC Core Team, Elecia Oleson, Chair
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JONAH
Joining Our Neighbors Advancing Hope

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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