



United Lutheran Church, ELCA
21 Mesnard St.
L'Anse, MI 49946

THE CONNECTION

September-October 2021



United Lutheran Church, ELCA

21 Mesnard St., L'Anse, Michigan
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Pastor: John Ansell; (906) 201-2864

Come and Worship!

We celebrate with worship on
Sunday worship at 10 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Wednesday: 1 – 4 p.m.

Greetings Everyone,

Fall is nearly upon us and I hope that everyone has enjoyed the warm, dry summer we have had. Recently I had the pleasure of being able to spend some time down at Fortune Lake Bible camp for a Synod retreat. I must admit, this was the first time I have really been able to spend any time at Fortune Lake. Overall, I found my time there very enjoyable. I can see why many of our youth and even some adults are extremely excited to be able to visit and partake in all the program opportunities in which the Camp has to offer. The Camp is able to offer a wide variety of programs and opportunities for individuals to enjoy which is something to be thankful for especially when it is not that far away from us.

The reason I was at Fortune Lake Camp was for a conference, which the synod was hosting. The conference was called Seeking Shalom (Peace)-Post Pandemic Wholeness and Health. The speakers and overall leaders of the teaching sessions were spiritual directors from Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center out of Wisconsin. Our synod within the past couple of years has been making a connection with this center especially with one of the directors of operations being a pastor from our synod. I must admit when it comes to spiritual direction such a topic is something I am not too familiar with. However, from what I had learned, at least from the conference, was some very good information. Now granted most of the focus was reflecting spiritually of what are ways in which we can be drawn closer to God and find peace especially after all that we have experienced in the past year. We also looked at ways of seeing into the future and hoping to find ways to which we hope God can impact our lives in positive ways. I would say that the main part of the conferences, at least that I saw, was seeking ways of how we can discern, seek, and pray for ways in which we might be drawn closer to God so as to find peace within our daily lives.

I would imagine many of us might have an idea of ways that we can be drawn closer to God and find peace. For some, just being out in nature can bring such a feeling of being drawn to God and being at peace. For others, reading scripture and meditating can also bring such a feeling of being drawn to God and being at peace. There does not seem to be one right answer for each of us have our own way of being able to connect with God and find peace. Yet what I would find to be in

year, God will have another 100 years to correct before the next major pandemic strikes. However, I do believe there is room for us, as people of faith who love our church, to pause and reflect on what we believe are the essential components of our worshipping life. Whether this reflection happens in your own devotions, with a group in your congregations, or as part of our Synod wide conversation, I believe there will be blessing.

Jesus commands us to eat and drink. Add to that the promise of his presence, and we have more than enough reason to desire a spot at the Lord's Table. In good Lutheran tradition, that invites the engagement of both head and heart, we are blessed to wrestle with the question...and ask it again...what does this mean?

Yours in Christ, Bishop Katherine Finegan



In October, as part of Lifelong Faith Formation, I invite you to join me in reflecting on how our sacramental theology has been challenged or affirmed by pandemic practices and wrestle together over questions that the pandemic has brought to the fore. For example:

- Can I record the service and press replay at the consecration part so I can have communion at home at a time when it's more convenient?
- Do we still need a pastor if our dad has been blessing the elements at home?
- If a TV preacher had tried to offer communion during their program pre-pandemic, there would have been a holy uproar. Why has that changed?
- What have people found to be most meaningful? What has fallen short of that?
- If I don't have communion every week, or if I missed it for many weeks, will God hold that against me?
- What are the pros and cons of having weekly Holy Communion?
- What effects has the pandemic had on people's understanding of the presence of Christ in and out of the community of faith?
- What is non-negotiable for communion to be holy?

As a kid, I was glad when there wasn't Holy Communion because then there would be a children's sermon – a concession, I'm guessing, to those who were concerned with the length of the worship time. As a young adult, I found that I missed communion if it wasn't offered, but also found the liturgy of the weekly communion service to not leave a whole lot of room for any other creative worship ideas. During the pandemic, I found that I preferred to wait until I could eat and drink with the Body of Christ, that is, my siblings in Christ as the gathered assembly. For me, anything less than that felt, well...less than. And I found it was important to me to give and receive the words "for you" on a one-to-one basis and not collectively.

During the pandemic, our congregations and pastors have done their best to navigate all the questions and decisions that the pandemic demanded. It has not been easy. I have taken comfort in remembering that this is Christ's church and whatever mistakes we made in the last

important part of what I took away from the conference is taking time to really look deeply at oneself and listen to ways in which can bring us a sense of peace when it comes to our lives and our relationship with God. So, what might be a good thing as we enter into this fall season is maybe take some time to just sit, listen, pray and think of ways in which we might be able to move closer to God and be able to find peace in what seems to be still a crazy world. May God's blessing be with us all throughout the fall season.

Sincerely,

Pastor John Ansell



GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

United Lutheran Church has numerous ways to help out congregation members and community members. The Good Samaritan Fund is one of them. The Good Samaritan Fund is used to help out people in our congregation and community who are in need. Sometimes it is a food card, sometimes it is for gas in their car to get to an appointment, etc. The Good Samaritan Fund is continually being used. If you would like to donate to the Good Samaritan Fund, please put your donation into an envelope and mark it "Good Samaritan Fund" with your name on the envelope.

Food card and gas card donations are also welcome!

Thank you to all who have helped support this much needed outreach ministry.

*Thank
You!*

WORSHIP!

Please join us on Sundays at 10 a.m. for worship.



Sunday School!

Sunday School will **tentatively** begin on Sunday, October 3rd. Please mark your calendars.



Sunday School is open to children ages 3 years through 5th grade. If you are interested in teaching Sunday School, please contact Renee (906-524-6013).

Confirmation!

Confirmation classes are open to all youth in 6th through 8th grade.

Confirmation classes will **tentatively** begin on Sunday, October 3rd following worship. The Parent/Student meeting is **tentatively** set for September 26th following worship. Parents and students are encouraged to attend this meeting to get the schedule and find out more about our Confirmation program. Letters will be sent to the parents about Confirmation.

difficult to believe. We need to be reminded regularly. In the words of Luther, “This is most certainly true.”

But then the pandemic made worshipping together in person unwise. And what is Holy Communion without the gathered assembly?

Faithful people tried to answer this question in consideration of our theological traditions and in new practices meant to meet the challenges.

- Some fasted until we could gather again, relying on the presence of Christ in the Word proclaimed, personal devotions, and Bible study through online or written communications.
- Some provided a combination of online worship followed by communion offered in the parking lot, referred to by some as “drive through communion.”
- Some encouraged online viewers to provide their own elements at home, bread and juice/wine, which was consumed during an online communion service where people were gathered virtually.
- Some encouraged bringing your own elements to parking lot worship, broadcasted through a short-range FM transmitter, so people were able to worship together, separately in their cars.
- Many gathered for worship outside and came up with creative ways to safely distribute the elements, including the newly invented “communion pods” with wafer and juice prepackaged.

How much of these new practices will continue post-pandemic remains to be seen. As we enter August, our gospel readings will highlight the words of Jesus regarding his identity as the Bread of Life and the importance of eating and drinking in memory of him. Week after week we will hear about Jesus and bread and body and blood. I do believe it is not uncommon for weekly preachers to feel like they have nothing left to say about Jesus and bread by the third week.

With our gospel readings so focused on Jesus as the Bread of Life in the coming weeks, and as the Church emerges from pandemic challenges and begins to reestablish former practices, now is a good time to consider again what is Holy Communion and how do we best honor its practice so that what we do and think and is “good, right, and salutary.”

*“I am the living bread
that came down from heaven.
Whoever eats of this bread
will live forever;
and the bread that I will give
for the life of the world
is my flesh.”*
~John 6:51



Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

I remember my First Communion on Easter Sunday of my 5th grade year of school. On the Maundy Thursday previous, our community of faith gathered for a Seder Meal and even though it was Lent, I had an Epiphany. That meal, coupled with the worship experiences of The Three Days (also called The Triduum: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy

Saturday with Easter Vigil), connected the dots in my 11-year-old mind to the chronology of the passion story. Calling Holy Communion the “last supper” actually made sense for the first time. One would think that this would have been obvious, but I confess it was not. Until that Maundy Thursday Seder, I didn’t quite understand the flow and connectedness of Jesus’ last hours. When Easter Sunday came, there were two worship services with a brunch in between. I had to stay for both services, so I went to communion twice that morning. My parents thought that was funny and I remember not really understanding why.

I would guess most of us have a First Communion story. And those who are older will remember when Holy Communion was celebrated far less frequently – annually even, then maybe monthly, then every other week, and for many of our congregations, our pre-pandemic rhythm was weekly.

For the last thirty years or so, our church body has encouraged weekly communion so that people will be reminded with a clear and tangible sign, a sign they can taste and touch, that Christ is with them, and they are forgiven and loved. After all, this news is so good it is just that



WELCA Fall Meeting

The women of United will kick-off the new year with a picnic lunch featuring grilled hot dogs and potato salad on Thursday, September 9th at 12 noon at the church.

All women are invited to join us for this time of food, fellowship, and a bit of very important business. Among the items under discussion will be the Cookie Walk and serving funeral lunches. Please join us — we need YOUR input.



You can support

United Lutheran Church when you shop on Amazon. Use this link to get started. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1041889>

You can use Amazon Smile if you have Prime also. If you have any questions, please call the church office.



You're Invited!

Join the family for food and drink
at the L'Anse Golf Club
to Celebrate Merc Magaraggia's

90th Birthday!

Saturday, September 18th
3-7 p.m.

(Bring your clubs if you would like to golf)

Call Lisa with questions at 920-609-3519

October Birthdays

October 2	Zachary Lanczy
October 4	Janet Gerzetich
October 6	Brenda Summers Delia Jo Langson
October 7	Christian Morseau
October 8	Sandra Lytikainen
October 9	Shannon Fish Judy Testen
October 10	Alana Jorgenson
October 11	Toni Rae Vizina
October 13	Krystal Eliason
October 17	Skylar Stein
October 19	Landon Marczak
October 20	Patricia Anderson
October 22	Brian Jentoft
October 24	Logan Fish Marilyn Harden Cheryl Marinich
October 26	Roxane Wanhatalo
October 27	Megan Anderson
October 29	Jennifer LaPlante
October 30	Cheryl Archambeau Leann Davis Eila Koski Paige Koskinen



Birthdays for September

September 3	Scott Swanson
September 5	Edward Jorgenson
September 9	Gerald Niemi Alissa Robillard Autumn Swanson
September 11	Charlene Kangas
September 12	Elizabeth Cram-DeLeon Ryan DesLaurier
September 14	Thomas Lytikainen
September 15	Robert Ranta James Roth
September 18	Blake Harden
September 19	Stephanie DesLaurier Lauren Gabe William Johnson
September 22	Water Roth Madissen Swanson
September 24	Lauryn Biekkola Gerald Johnson Kay McIntyre
September 28	Merc Magaraggia
September 30	Lori Johnson Roland Sweeney

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

God's Work. Our Hands.

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday is Sunday, September 12, 2021. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.



This year our project will be collecting school supplies for the teachers at L’Anse Area Schools. There is a tote in the Barrier-Free entrance to drop off donations. Listed below is what the teachers can use.

Elementary School teachers: Expo markers, pencil top erasers, Sharpie markers, Post-It notes, pocket folders, ‘good’ masking tape, clear packing tape, sheet protectors, wide ruled paper, pencils, pens, binder clips, stickers for papers, Lysol/Clorox wipes, Kleenex, hand sanitizer.

Jr./Sr. High School teachers: Pencils, hand sanitizer, Kleenex, Lysol/Clorox wipes. One teacher is looking for 5 calculators (TI-30x11). They are about \$12-\$18 each.



FOOD PANTRY

United Lutheran Church has a Food Pantry. **Please** bring in donations of non-perishable items. Please make sure that these items are not outdated. You can place the items in the box in the Barrier-free entrance.

The Food Pantry will be open during office hours. The office is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9 am – 1 pm, Wednesdays from 1-4 pm and any time that Pastor John is in the office. Also, on Sunday when the church is open for worship service.

The Food Pantry is located upstairs in the education wing next to the secretary's office. There are no eligibility guidelines.

If you need food, please feel free to come and get something.



FOOD DRIVE: We are asking our congregation members to bring non-perishable food items to church when you come each week. We want to fill up our food pantry and then have a day to give out bags of food to people who need it. Please bring your non-perishables and leave them in the box in the Barrier-free entrance or bring them up to the food pantry (in the classroom next to the church secretary's office). Thank you!



Walking Together Events this Fall!

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

I write to announce to you that our Walking Together events planned for this Fall have been cancelled.

While I was looking forward to gathering in person for fellowship, learning, and worship, I support the decision of the Executive Committee of our Synod. With the spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19, the lag in vaccinations, and the possibility of breakthrough cases increasing, this is the best course of action.

I encourage you to wear masks at indoor gatherings, including worship, not only for yourself, but also for those you may unwittingly expose to the virus and for those who cannot be vaccinated.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Katherine Finegan
Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod

Direct Deposit for Contributions

Did you know that even if you do not attend worship YOU CAN still give to your church? Go to your financial institution and tell them you want to set up a deposit to United Lutheran Church General Fund Account #900104257; SNB Routing #091101879 It is as easy as that!
Thank you for supporting your church!



WINDOW FUND ENVELOPES

We are still taking donations to replace the windows in the education wing of the church. If you are interested in donating to the Window Fund, there are envelopes in the Barrier-free entrance.

Articles for Newsletter

Looking for ideas and articles for the newsletter. What would you like to see? Do you have information to be put in the newsletter? Remember that we are publishing the newsletter every other month... **the newsletter deadline for the November-December Newsletter is the 10th of October.** Please submit any information to the church office by that date to be included in the next newsletter.

SHUT-INS



Please remember our shut-ins. Keep them in your prayers. If you have a moment, stop and visit them.

At home: Ellen Biekkola, Loretta Golden, Merc Magaraggia, Arlene Patterson, Judy Testen.

At Canal View, Hancock, MI: Barbara DesLaurier (*Woodland Haven*)



Charlie Ahlsen, Jr., Marshall Anderson, Kyle Bianco, Ellen Biekkola, Cassie Collins, Tim Elmlad, Ashley Franstad, Janel LaPlante, George Martinac, Greg Ollila, Phil Ott, Arnie Putula, Richard Schjoth Sr., Patti Seavoy, Scott Soli, Dave Stahman, Ken Summers, Buddy Sweeney, Dan Uren, Russell Vizina.

*The Family and Friends of Betty Ann Pyhtila
The Family and Friends of Steve Solberg
The Family and Friends of Bernice Haapala
The Family and Friends of Dick Gustafson*

Dear God,

I humbly ask that you heal us from any hurt, shame, sickness, and guilt. Heal our hearts, O Lord God. Give us beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and let us wear the garment of praise instead of the spirit of heaviness and burden.

I pray in Jesus name. Amen.



September & October 2021



Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9 am - 1 pm Wednesday 1-4 pm			1	2	3	4
5 10 am Worship	6	7	8	9 12 pm WELCA Fall Meeting at ULC	10	11
12 10 am Worship 11 am Council	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 10 am Worship	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10 am Worship 11 am Parent/Student meeting	27	28	29	30	Oct 1	2
3 10 am Sunday School 10 am Worship 11 am Confirmation	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 10 am Worship	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 10 am Worship 11 am Confirmation	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 10 am Worship 11 am Confirmation	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 10 am Worship						