

# THE CONNECTION

## December 2024



### United Lutheran Church, ELCA

21 Mesnard St., L'Anse, Michigan

Ph: (906) 524-6484; Email: [ulc\\_lanse40@yahoo.com](mailto:ulc_lanse40@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.unitedlutheranchurchlanse.org](http://www.unitedlutheranchurchlanse.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100010032163829](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100010032163829)

Interim Pastor Julie Belew: (906) 370-5301

### Come and Worship!

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

Sunday School on Sundays at 10 a.m.  
Ages 3 yrs through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.  
All are welcome!

#### OFFICE HOURS:

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

### United Lutheran Church Council Members

Nancy Bernard	520-237-0999
Joan Bugni, Vice President	906-524-4866
Sue Coffey, Secretary	906-524-7255
Ruth Anne Connor	906-524-7648
Leann Davis	906-524-6841
Jerry DesLaurier	
Renee Eliason, President	906-524-6013
Karisa Mukka, Treasurer	
Calli Sweeney	

### Note from the Council President

Merry Christmas and Happy Blessed 2025!

We have much to be thankful for here at United Lutheran Church. Our church family continues to gather and to grow. We have some new families who are coming to worship. We have young people coming to church and getting involved in the life of our church. We are blessed to have the solid faithful who are here to worship and volunteer help whenever it is needed.

A few dates to keep in mind for the busy month of December: December 1 – No Sunday School or Confirmation; December 7 – Annual Cookie Walk. Please bake cookies, breads, and candies and please come and purchase the goodies. Other dates to watch for are Christmas Eve worship at 4 p.m. and Christmas Day worship at 10 a.m.

Looking way ahead – the Annual Meeting will be held on January 26, 2025. All reports must be in the office by January 10<sup>th</sup>.

We are still searching for a pastor to serve here at United Lutheran. There are no candidates as of this time, but please continue to pray that we will have a Pastor in 2025.

Until then, continue to worship, continue to support our church with your time, your talents, your financial gifts! You all are appreciated and loved.

One immediate thing that we need is our Nativity Scene to be put up! CAN YOU HELP? Let me know.

Christmas Blessings!  
Cheers to 2025

Renee



## December Birthdays

December 2	Alyssa Robillard
December 4	Charles Ahlsen, Jr.
December 5	Bohdi Denomie
December 6	Allison Koskinen Kim Swanson
December 8	Jadyn Chaudier
December 9	Emma Harden Sarah Maki Maysen Thompson
December 10	Eleanor Mares Evelyn Newman
December 15	Mary McCord
December 16	Tim Elmlblad Jeannie Gourneau
December 17	Kristina Flesher
December 18	Jeff Johnston
December 21	Alex Kissel
December 22	Kim Erva
December 23	Lee DeLeon Cody Vizina
December 24	Gayle Voskuhl
December 25	Kim Parrish
December 27	Jessica Hoffman
December 29	Gail Jestila Chayse Thompson
December 30	Nicholas Lindstrom
December 31	George Cram

## SHUT-INS



Please remember our shut-ins. Keep them in your prayers. If you have a moment, stop and visit them. Send them a “thinking of you” card (call the church office for address).

**At Bayside Village:** Ellen Biekkola, Judy Testen.

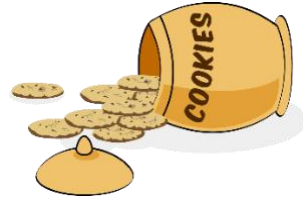
**At Canal View, Hancock, MI:** Barbara DesLaurier (*Room 303*), Eila Koski (*Woodland Haven*).



*Linnea Barron, Sherri Brey, Tom Brown, Deann Buckhold, Robin Byrge, Kathy Danielson, Ann Daugherty, Louella Ellis, John “Paavo” Falk, Vicky Fortier, Ray Gazlay, Dennis Heikkinen, Bridget Canter Holm, Joyce Hoskins, Linda Kinnunen, Trudy Koski, Pr. Mike Laakko, Peyton LaFave, Janel LaPlante, Hiney Marinich, Sissy Marinich, Steve Martinac, Joanne Mitchell, Jacey Mukka, Fred Pfeiffer, Patricia Racine, Peggy Jestila Robillard, Mike Rogge, Carol Roth, Chad Roy, Whitney Sirard, Mark Soli, Roy Stearns, Chad Tollefson, Chad & Jessica Tollefson, Patty Tyo, Nicole Weber, Elizabeth.*

*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.*

**COOKIE WALK**  
**Saturday, December 7**  
**Doors open at 10:00 am**



Can you believe it's that time already? Get out your favorite Christmas Cookie recipes and bake up a donation for this fund-raising activity of the Women of the Church. If cookies aren't your thing, we also accept breads and candies. Caller will be contacting everyone on their serving lists as a reminder.

Please have your cookies already on trays when you bring them to the church. This helps eliminate the cookies being handled multiple times and also saves on set-up. There are trays available in the entryway to the church for your convenience.

The church will be open all day Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:00 am for you to drop off your donations. Workers will gather on Friday night at 5:00 to set up. We need workers of all levels (men, too) to set up tables, assemble boxes, and put out the cookies. A light supper will be provided. This is a great time of fellowship as well, so come and join in the fun.

Saturday workers should arrive by 9:30 or for final set-up. The doors will open at 10:00 for our shoppers. If you are going to be among the shoppers, plan to come as close to 10:00 as possible. We don't advertise an ending time as the cookies are usually gone within an hour.



Join us for our Christmas Worship Services!

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP** will be at 4 p.m. on December 24<sup>th</sup> with Pastor Bucky Beach leading worship.

**CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP** will be at 10 a.m. on December 25<sup>th</sup> with Gail Jestila leading worship.



**NEEDED:** We are looking for someone to shovel the sidewalks and steps at the church during the week and on Sunday (or whenever we get any snow). We will pay \$20 each time you shovel. If you are interested, please contact Renee or call the church office. Thanks!



**TOYS FOR TOTS:** There is a collection box for donations for Toys for Tots in the Barrier-free entrance. Please bring in new, unwrapped toys. Thank you!

## Love Project – School Supplies

This is the time of year when school supplies are in great demand ... and part of great sales, as well. Come February, however, the schools will need to be replenishing these supplies, so the Women of the Church have chosen this as their February Love Project. Since this is the time of year when these items are on sale, we thought that we'd post the wish list now so you can take advantage of the sales. If you want, you can bring your items to church and we will store them there until February when we will be distributing them to our area schools. Suggested items include: crayons, pencils, colored pencils, pens, dry-erase markers, notebooks, and scissors. A bit different item is a small plastic water bottle. Also suggested are zip-lock bags of all sizes. AND, of course, Clorox wipes and tissues are ALWAYS in demand.

If you would prefer not to shop, just give your monetary donation to Ruth Anne and she will gladly do your shopping for you. *(Sometimes you can get even better deals purchasing in bulk.)*

**Merry**  
**Christmas**

## Sunday School and Confirmation



**Sunday School** is every Sunday at 10 a.m. Sunday School is for preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Sunday School will only meet on December 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*Sunday School children will be singing during worship on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. All children will meet in the classroom.

**\*\*There will be NO Sunday School on December 1, 22, and 29<sup>th</sup>.**

**Confirmation** – Confirmation class will be on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> following worship. Confirmation is for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

**\*\*There will be NO Sunday School or Confirmation Class on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.** Confirmation parents, please note the change in the schedule.

All children are welcome!



## LIGHT UP BARAGA COUNTY PARADE

We are looking for someone interested in driving their truck in the parade for “Light Up Baraga County” on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

We are also looking for youth to ride in the back of the truck and maybe sing Christmas Carols or just wish people “Merry Christmas”. Please let Renee or Lisa know if you are interested in helping out.



## NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Due to the continued rising cost of postage, we are making a few changes in the way we distribute the newsletter. Some of you have already made the switch to email or have

decided to view it online on the church's website or pick up your newsletter at the church.

The newsletter will be published monthly through December of 2024.

**Beginning in January of 2025**, the newsletter will be published monthly, but with a few changes.

You will have a choice to pick up your newsletter here at the church, receive your newsletter by email, or view the newsletter on the website.

**If you would like to have your newsletter mailed to you, it will be by subscription. A subscription will be \$10 per year to mail the newsletter. Please pay your subscription by December 15, 2024 if you wish to subscribe.**

## SPONSOR A BULLETIN

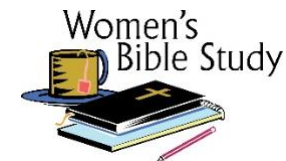
If you would like to sponsor a bulletin "in memory of" or "in honor of" a special person, for a donation of \$10, please contact Lisa in the church office (906-524-6484).



## Women's Circle Meetings

**Sarah Circle** will meet on Tuesday, December 3rd, at 10 a.m. in the Social Hall.

**Martha Circle** will not meet in December



## FOOD PANTRY

Our food pantry has quite a large selection of non-perishable items. If you need something, please don't hesitate to come and check out what we have.



DONATIONS are needed for the food pantry.

**Some foods and non-perishables that we could use are: Pancake mix, syrup, canned Ravioli, Spaghetti O's, peanut butter, cereal, Ramen noodles, Lipton Noodles, toilet paper, body wash, shampoo.**

**NEEDED: Donations of food cards and gas cards are needed.**



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. 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.**



### Worship Leaders for November

December 1	Renee Eliason
December 8	Pastor Julie Belew
December 15	Renee Eliason
December 22	Pastor Julie Belew
December 29	Renee Eliason

### COFFEE HOUR

December 1	Jane, Jean, Nancy, Robbie
December 8	Sue and Joan
December 15	<i>Need someone</i>
December 22	<i>Need someone</i>
December 29	<i>Need someone</i>

*If you would like to serve a coffee hour, please sign up on the sheet in the Barrier-free entrance. Thank you to all who serve coffee following worship! Such a wonderful time for fellowship!*

## Prayer for Christmas Joy

Release the joy in us that's been crushed by pride, wrong priorities, or world events. Tear down the strongholds that have held us captive far too long. Extinguish the flames of apprehension that rob us of a calm, quiet spirit. Show us again the beauty of that holy night so many centuries ago.

Your name is still called "Wonderful," "Counselor," "The Mighty God," "The Everlasting Father," and "The Prince of Peace." As Your children, we cry out for a fresh filling, and a new awareness of Who You are. We choose by faith to make the "good news of great joy" a reality in our own lives, so others can see us as lighted trees of life, pointing to You this Christmas. We know one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that You are Lord. And we also know that peace on earth can only come when hearts find peace with You.

You are still our Joy. You are still our Peace. You are no longer a babe in the manger. You are Lord of lords and King of kings. And we still celebrate You as Lord—this Christmas and always.  
Amen.

~ Rebecca Barlow Jordan





## Visitation Team

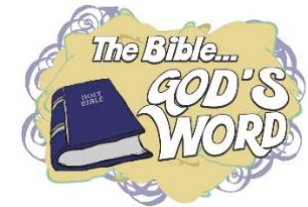
The Visitation Team has begun making home visits to offer Holy Communion. If you would like a visit to receive Holy Communion, please contact the church office and we will have someone visit you.

## For Those Feeling Loss at Christmas

Dear Heavenly Father, though Christmas is sometimes hard because we miss the ones we love, help me remember the gift You gave - Your Son, Jesus, a baby born to die. Thank You for this gift of love, and help me receive it. In times of grief and sadness, remind me of the reason and fill me with Your Peace. Mighty God, I ask You for the power to press on, and Everlasting Father, I thank You for carrying me when it's hard to walk. Wonderful Counselor, I pray You'd fill my mind with wisdom, and may the Prince of Peace rule my heart. Help me this Christmas to remember it's not about the people I celebrate with, but the One we celebrate! In Jesus' Name, Amen. - [Jill Beran](#)

## INTENTIONAL PRAYER

The Faithful Innovation team will meet every third Tuesday at 10 a.m. for Intentional Prayers. **This is open to anyone who would like to join us.**



Prayer Requests: There is a basket and pieces of paper on the table in the Barrier-free entrance. The prayer group will meet on the third Tuesday of the month (**December 17<sup>th</sup>**) at **10 a.m.** to pray for all who request prayers. You can also request prayers on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/ULCLanse>), by email ([ulc\\_lanse40@yahoo.com](mailto:ulc_lanse40@yahoo.com)), on the website ([www.unitedlutheranchurchlanse.org](http://www.unitedlutheranchurchlanse.org)) or by calling the church office (524-6484).

**All are welcome to join us!**

## News from the Women

What a great event! The Friendsgiving Dinner, held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of this month was a complete success. So much so, that there is talk about making it a regular event. An ‘official’ invitation was sent to the Ladies of Holy Cross and Mission United. In addition, the ladies of United were encouraged to invite friends of their own. In total over 50 ladies gathered for a traditional turkey dinner with all the fixins’ while enjoying the fellowship of friends, old and new. Thanks to all the ladies who helped make this event possible ... whether you brought food to share or helped in the kitchen before and/or afterward. Special thanks to Donna Eliason, Leann Davis, Roselyn Ruona and Annette Lindstrom for spending so much of their time on Wednesday roasting the turkeys and setting up (decorating) the social hall.

On December 11<sup>th</sup> we will be having our Christmas gathering. All women of United (and friends) are invited to join us in the celebration of the Lord’s birthday. We ask that you bring a favorite hors d’oeuvre, finger food, snack to share.

And, of course, the December newsletter article would be totally remiss if no mention was made of the upcoming **COOKIE WALK on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**. (*See separate article.*)

Monthly meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 1:00 and are open to ALL women of the church and their friends. Mark your calendars and plan on joining this growing group for a time of fellowship, food, fun, and doing the work of the Lord.

### **December meeting – Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 pm.**

Invite a friend and come out for some great food and fellowship. Hope to see you there!

--Ruth Anne, President



## Supporting our Veterans

The Women of United have expressed an interest in reaching out beyond the walls of our church, and even our community, and sharing God’s love. We have set up two separate activities which focus on the Veterans living at the Jacobetti Home in Marquette: (1) sending “Thank you” cards, and (2) Christmas gifting of needed items.

### **CARD MAKING: Christmas Cards – Wednesday, December 18 – 11:00 am**

Previous newsletters have contained an invitation for anyone to join in making cards for the veterans of the Jacobetti Home for their service to our country. No date was set and so no card making took place. This project is being put on hold until January.

We WILL, however, meet on Wednesday, December 18 at 11:00 am to make Christmas cards for our shut-ins. Anyone who would like to join in this time of fellowship is welcome. There will be something for you to do no matter your level of “craftiness”. Most of what is needed are “assembly workers”. Everything that is needed to make a Christmas card will be provided. We also need people to address the envelopes. Or just come and enjoy the fellowship.



**THANK YOU** to Virginia Paulson and her congregation for the donation of the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW cranberry) hymnals. We received about 30-35 hymnals for our congregation to use.



Our **CHRISTMAS GIFTING** project this year is the Jacobetti Home for Veterans. Below are items that are listed on their November 2024 Wish List. *(A copy of the November Wish List will be available on the table in the Barrier Free Entrance at church.)*

#### Personal Care Items

- High Quality Disposable Razors (ex. Gillette Fusion, Proglide or Mach3)
- 3-in-1 shampoo/conditioner/body wash
- Electric Razors – cordless & rechargeable
- Men’s deodorant (NOT aerosol spray)
- Dandruff Shampoo (ex. Head & Shoulders)
- High Quality Lotion (ex. Eucerin, Cera Ve)
- Dry Shampoo Spray

#### Clothing

- Men’s Open Cuff Sweatpants (Size M, L)
- Men’s Lounge/PJ Pants (Size L)
- Men’s Crewneck Sweatshirts (Size L)
- Men’s Short Sleeve T-Shirts (Size XL-2XL)
- Wide Velcro Shoes (Size 101.5, 11, & 12.5)
- *See their Amazon Wish List for version that works well.*
- Diabetic Socks (no other type of sock is needed)

Entertainment & Miscellaneous Items *(I’ll be purchasing stamps and batteries in bulk if anyone would prefer to go along with me – Ruth Anne)*

- Forever Stamps
- AA & AAA Batteries
- Lens wipes

At this time they are not in need of a number of items that may have been included on a previous “Wish List”, so choose carefully.

