

# The Parish Visitor

December 2024



## **CHURCH VITALS:**

- Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30-noon
- Phone: 608-723-4384
- Pastor email: encadenada100@hotmail.com
- E-mail: [lumchurch@tds.net](mailto:lumchurch@tds.net)
- Worship and Live Streaming: Sunday 10 am
- Radio Broadcast: 10:30 am 1590AM
- Web Site: [www.lancasterumc.org](http://www.lancasterumc.org)
- Annual Conference Website:  
[www.wisconsinumc.org](http://www.wisconsinumc.org)

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/LancasterWIUMC/>

## **OUR LUMC STAFF:**

Pastor: Erika Jezael Martinez-Flores

Helen Millin, Secretary

Bob McKelvey, Treasurer, 608-988-6825

Helen Millin, Financial Secretary

Bev Mattingly, Music Director

Mary Rasmussen, Parish Nurse

\*Rev. Bob McKelvey, Pastor Emeritus

## **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

Dec 4- UMM McDonalds 7am

Dec 4- Prayer Shawl 10am

Dec 4, 11, 18- Soup and Scripture noon

Dec 11- Circle of Friends, 3:30-5:30

Dec 12- Pre-School Holiday program 6pm

Dec 16- Food Pantry 7pm

Dec 18- Prayer Shawl 10am

Dec 19- Food Pantry 10am and 7pm

Dec 22-29- Host Family Promise

Dec 24- Christmas Eve service 7pm

*The Advent Devotional Book is available  
in the Overflow Room.*

*Seek God~*

*Share Christ~*

*Serve Others~*

*Sing Praises*

## **Pastor Greetings,**

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

The celebration of the birth of the Lord is more than a memory, an anniversary or a birthday. It is a current event, because every year we relive the coming of the Incarnate Word, which touches and deeply compromises our existence: the Lord who came into the world on the first Christmas and who will return glorious at the end of time, wants to come to our hearts now and our lives.

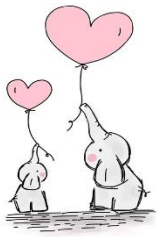
Just as the people of Israel prepared for the coming of the Messiah, which was expected as the fulfillment of God's promise to our first parents, renewed to the patriarchs and reiterated once and a thousand times by the word of the prophets, so also today the new people of God, the Christians, we prepare intensely to celebrate the updated memory of that great event, which meant the beginning of our salvation. Only if we have our hearts to welcome the Lord, as did Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the magicians, will Advent and Christmas be a milestone of grace and salvation for us.

Throughout the four weeks of Advent, we will be invited to prepare ourselves to receive Jesus, to pave and clear the paths of our soul, that is, to conversion and inner change, to welcome with a clean heart the Lord who is born, which must be born or reborn with greater intensity in our lives. Also, throughout these four weeks, we will receive the call to put our lives at the feet of Christ, to renew our commitment to love him with all that we are and with all that we have.

Advent means arrival or coming; it also means meeting God with man. Our encounter with the Lord who comes again to us in this Advent will not be possible if we are not willing to listen to the voice of God and do his will. Nor will it be possible if it is not preceded by a warm encounter with our brothers, with attitudes of forgiveness, help,

detachment, service and love, because we cannot say that we welcome the Lord who comes back to us, if we do not renew our fraternity, if we do not welcome him in the brothers, especially in the poorest and neediest.

Advent must be lived with intensity and hope, preparing our hearts to receive it and so that our encounter with Him transforms our lives and drives us to witness and announce it. May the light of God illuminate your life with His power this season. Pastor Erika Martinez-Flores



**SNACKPACKS FOR BACKPACKS**

Another HUGE thank you for the monetary support LUMC continues to give the Snackpacks for Backpacks program. This month we received \$330 from the fall pasty dinner and other individual contributions of \$465! As food prices continue to rise, our numbers and monthly expenses also continue to climb. As you know, every cent we receive goes to buying food for our 72 weekly bags of food we send home with Winskill and middle school students as well as stocking the Arrow Cafe food pantry at the high school. We are so grateful for the many volunteers who help this program run smoothly. Thanks again for your monetary and time gifts as well as your continued prayers and support.

**Holiday Flowers**

*'Tis the season to decorate and celebrate. Christmas plants are a beautiful addition to our sanctuary. If you would like your name to be included on the list of contributors, please write your name and "in memory of" or "celebration of" on tablet on the ministry table in foyer. Thank you for your kindness!*



**HOLD IN OUR HEARTS**



Cleone Ayres, Larry Busch, Dick Burns, Elam Buttles, Carol Caley, Bill and Lorna Heinzelman, Charlotte Hocking, Julie Letcher, Donna Martin, Myranda Martin, Marlene Miles, Janet Paulson, Charles Ramshaw, Deb Raymond, Ramona Reynolds, Janice Staskal, Bette Steinbrenner, Nancy Stephenson, Harold Sweeney (on hospice in Green Bay),

Sandy Taylor, Donnalene Turner, Marge Weimer and Greg Wilkinson with health concerns. And, too, for our confirmands as they learn more about our church and themselves.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Pamela (Martin) Critchlow, a member, who passed away on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

**CELEBRATIONS**

**BIRTHDAYS**

- Ted Schacht- Dec 1
- Dick Caley- Dec 2
- Cheryl Austin- Dec 11
- Bill Heinzelman- Dec 12
- Mike Kabele- Dec 14
- Bob McKelvey- Dec 14
- Ramona Reynolds- Dec 16
- Jerry Bausch- Dec 17
- Mike Landon- Dec 17

- Tony Bausch- Dec 19
- Diane Drew- Dec 21
- Robin Schacht- Dec 21
- Larry Busch- Dec 25
- Stacey Murdock- Dec 25
- Kristin Steffel- Dec 26
- Sandy Taylor- Dec 26
- Shirley Davies- Dec 27

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- Jerry and Mary Lou Bausch- Dec 6
- John and Cinda Schindler- Dec 26



*Be patient. Sometimes you have to go through the worst to get to the best.*



## AND GIVING THANKS

I wish to express my appreciation for all the cards, gifts, and visits from all of you who helped me celebrate my 100th birthday. Thank you so much. Nancy Stephenson

Thank you to Merlin and Diane Breihan for their dedication to the grooming of the LUMC yard and shrubbery. A few pieces of shrubbery were replaced this year and next year another few shrubs will be planted with thanks in part from the family of Rosemary Kuenster family.



We welcome Sonia Case as a "returning" member to LUMC. Sonia transferred her Platteville UMC membership back to the church she grew up attending.

### DESIGNATED GIVING

\$ 95.00 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. Mission  
\$870.00 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr. Mission  
\$330.00 Building Maint.  
\$ 70.69 Family Promise  
\$135.00 Food Pantry  
\$  
\$115.00 Radio Ministry  
\$ 20.00 Snackpacks for Backpacks  
\$400.00 UMCOR  
\$ 20.00 UMM  
\$2,055.69 TOTAL DESIGNATED GIVING



### OCTOBER TREASURER'S REPORT

October Giving \$27,104.82  
October Expenses \$18,034.81

|                       |             | <u>YTD</u>   |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|
| October Budget Giving | \$25,049.13 | \$131,783.10 |
| October Budget Exp.   | \$13,428.05 | \$143,977.22 |

**Thank you for your generous giving to the ministries of God through the LUMC!**

Please remember year-end giving for LUMC is Sunday, December 29. Monies received after that day, will be receipted in 2025. If you make an annual gift, and it is not received prior to the 29<sup>th</sup>, the amount will be indicated in 2025 giving.



### **spotlight on MISSIONS**

**Year in review with LUMC missions:** We have had wonderful missions in 2024. We began the year supporting UMCOR-Israel. We continue to pray and offer gifts to these people. Second quarter we supported UMCOR-USA, supporting devastation within our own borders from storms, floods and fires. We supported Grant County Cancer Coalition the third quarter with monetary gifts, auction items and presence at the fundraiser in September. Monies raised are awarded to patients who need assistance with personal expenses during cancer treatments and illness. October monies received will purchase goats, chickens and bees through the Heifer International Mission. November and December we are helping with the Grant County Holiday Project, assisting two underprivileged families with gifts and food cards.

Thank you LUMC friends for your support!

*Peace  
on  
Earth*

*This year I lost, won, failed, cried, laughed, loved, but above all, I learned.*

## **ALT MEETING** Thursday, November 14, 2024

LUMC Charge Conference was well attended; all reports and the budget were approved.

Radio Ministry Survey – 24 surveys were returned. After much discussion, the **ALT voted to discontinue** the current Radio Ministry program as of December 31, 2024. In its place, we will focus our outreach on other forms of media. Sponsorship opportunities will be available (as they were with radio ministry), and all sponsorship contributions will go into a designated “Media” account. A more complete report is included in this Parish Visitor.

Many thanks to those who supported the Heifer International mission project during October. We now will focus on the Holiday Project Nov 24 – Dec 15.

Advent Soup and Scripture will be at noon on Wednesday December 4, 11, and 18. Signup sheet is available to prepare soup, bring cheese/crackers or soup.

Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held at 7pm. Sign-up sheet available for advent wreath lightings. After a discussion, coffee fellowship will continue and be designated each Sunday. December hosts for fellowship time is available for signup in overflow room.

Stuart Harper will lead an Advent season adult study on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Epiphany Sunday, January 5, will be a special celebration worship service with extra music and a pinata after church.

Next meeting will be Thursday, January 9, 2025.

*Vicky Case, Sally Harper, Mike Kabele, Gretta McKelvey, Emily Pedley-Fecht (new), Robin Schacht, Cinda Schindler, Tracy Schrader, Peg Soden, Becky Yager, Margaret Yearous (retiring), Christopher Zabel*



### **Radio Ministry Summary**

Thank you to everyone who completed the radio ministry survey. This summary will include comments we received verbally as well as those written on the surveys. 24 surveys were returned, all of which were dropped off at church; none were submitted via mail or email. Almost all respondents “never” or “occasionally” listen to the radio broadcast. Generally, when people cannot attend church, they watch the worship service either on Facebook or YouTube.

The radio broadcast has been a special connection and worthwhile outreach for many people over the years. But issues with the radio station have had an impact. Consensus is that the radio ministry had a large listenership and was valuable years ago when the broadcast was on the FM station. Now that it is aired only on the AM station, which many people cannot receive, we have lost a lot of listeners. The required delayed broadcast is also a problem, defeating the importance of the announcements and prayer concerns.

Many voiced concerns that the radio ministry doesn’t seem to be effective anymore, that what worked 20-30 years ago isn’t relevant now. The request for sponsors has gone up significantly in the past year. There used to be a waiting list to sponsor a Sunday and now it seems there are one or two openings every month. With all the changes in technology, some members suggested that this ministry should evolve also, focusing more on other forms of media to reach younger families and people in community. Moving forward. After reviewing all the pros and cons, the written and verbal comments received, and after much discussion, the ALT voted in November to end the radio ministry program as of December 31, 2024. In its place, we will focus our outreach on other forms of media. Sponsorship opportunities will be available (as they were with radio ministry), and all sponsorship contributions will go into a designated “Media” account. Funds in this account will help pay for our music licensing, replacing the iPad or laptop when necessary, and other expenses relevant to our media outreach program.

If you have any questions, please contact Sally Harper, Pastor Erika, or any member of the ALT.

*It is the little things that usually have the greatest impact in life.. a smile, a hug, or a thank you.*



## FOOD PANTRY

In Christianity, Advent is a season of preparation for Christmas and the Second Coming of Christ and is a significant part of the Christian calendar. The word 'Advent' comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means 'coming' or 'arrival'. Advent begins on the Sunday closest to November 30, which is four Sundays before Christmas. Advent is a time to remember the birth of Jesus and to anticipate his return.

As we prepare for the Advent season, let us not forget the people in our community who will need our prayers and help as they also prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Helping at the Food Pantry in October were Peggy Soden, Becky Bohnenkamp, Vicki and Roger Case, and Mary Lou and Jerry Bausch. We staff the pantry three times in December, so it is not too late to volunteer, Monday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. and Thursday December 19 at 10:00 a.m. AND 7:00 p.m. Many hands will be needed that week.

Also, the pantry needs a volunteer every other Thursday, any time after 1 p.m. to pick up food at Kwik Trip and Dollar General. You would then take it to the pantry and weigh it. If you think you would be able to help with this, please call Linda Bendorf at 608-988-6216 or email [bendorf1982@gmail.com](mailto:bendorf1982@gmail.com). Items to donate in December are boxes of cereal, cans of chicken and/or tuna, chicken noodle soup and cans of mixed fruit.

May everyone have a blessed Advent season, a joyous Christmas and a wonderful 2025!

Diane Perkins, LUMC Food Pantry Coordinator



## RADIO MINISTRY

*December 1~ Given by Dick and Carol Caley in memory of Alfred and Shirley Caley, Goldie Hines and Bob Caley.*

*December 8~ Given by Jerry and Mary Lou Bausch in celebration of their 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 6<sup>th</sup>.*

*December 15~ Given by Stacey and Nancy Murdock in memory of loved ones.*

*December 22~ Given by Jerry and Mary Lou Bausch in memory of Ervin, Audery, Butch and Bill Benish.*

*This brings to the end of the Radio Ministry era. Many thanks to the many friends and families who have supported this ministry through its many years. New media outlets will provide sponsor opportunities to listen to your favorite church's worship services.*

## SERVING US IN DECEMBER

|             | <i>Liturgist</i> | <i>Ushers</i>            | <i>Coffee Hour</i>      |
|-------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| December 1  | Chris Zabel      | Zabel Family             | Stuart and Sally Harper |
| December 8  | Diane Breihan    | Gruber Family            | Tracy and Dana          |
| December 15 | Russell Shaben   | Mike and Sandra Kabele   | Sign-Up                 |
| December 22 | Lisa Zabel       | Larry McCabe/Kevin Olson | Sign-Up                 |
| December 24 | Sign-up          | Sign-up                  | None                    |
| December 29 | Margaret Bussan  | Bussan Family            | Sign-Up                 |

*If you are unable to serve on designated Sunday, please call for a replacement. Thank you.*

The ALT has decided to continue with Fellowship Hour. Sundays will be designated. Watch January PV for the first two months designation. The only expectation of hosting is preparing the coffee, setting out appropriate dishes and use the pre-packaged treats. Clean-up, too! A buffet of homemade treats is not expected! A sign-up sheet for December is available in Overflow Room.

*Faith is not knowing what the future holds, but knowing who holds the future*

## Christmas Mission Project: Grant County Holiday Project



This year we will adopt two families and, through your donations, provide gifts and a holiday meal. The tree will be in the overflow area covered in tags. Choose a tag, buy that present and return it to the tree. DO NOT WRAP IT. ATTACH THE TAG TO THE PRESENT. If shopping is difficult for you, please feel free to call Carol or Robin and we will shop for you. In addition, LUMC will purchase a grocery gift card from the Piggly Wiggly for our family to purchase items for their holiday meal. You may donate to this gift card if you would like.

Please note the following schedule: November 24th: Tags available

December 15th: PRESENTS ARE DUE

When you take a tag with gift item on it, please write your name on the appropriate sheet by the tag number. When returning your gift, please indicate the return of your gift on the same sheet.

If you prefer to donate to the grocery gift card, you can include it with your offering, but you must note for Holiday Project grocery or you can submit a separate gift still noted Holiday Project grocery. Thank you for your support!

### **AVOID THE SEASONAL CRUD**



Respiratory illness season is fast approaching. Vaccines can help protect from serious bouts of flu, RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus), COVID-19, and pneumococcal pneumonia. Vaccines are available at pharmacies, doctor's office and health depts. The cost is covered by Medicare and most commercial insurances. Cost assistance may be available through the county health department. Also be aware of shingles and pertussis (whooping cough).

Daily ways to help prevent contamination to others and stay well are wash hands often, avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth, get plenty of rest, do the elbow cough, and stay home if you don't feel well.

**Please respect others' personal space regarding handshakes and hugs.**

**Fist bumps and elbow touches are good alternatives.**

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of noncommunicable disease deaths. Some common noncommunicable cardiovascular conditions and diseases include: heart attack, stroke, peripheral artery disease (PAD), and pulmonary embolism. Listen to your body and seek medical help! **Stay well!**

*"Dear Lord, Help our holiday season to be focused on You and Your love. Please guide our interactions with family and friends to be filled with joy and service. Help us focus on You and the gift of your Son, Jesus, during the holidays. Amen."*



*"Peace, I leave with you. My peace I give to you" John 14:27*



# DECEMBER 2024



| SUNDAY   | MONDAY          | TUESDAY                                     | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY               | FRIDAY         | SATURDAY       |
|--|-----------------|---|--|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1  | 2               | 3   | 4  | 5                      | 6              | 7              |
| Live Stream Worship with Communion 10am<br>Radio Broadcast 10:30 am<br>Advent Study 9am    |                 |   | UMM 7am at McDonalds<br>Prayer Shawl 10am<br>Soup and Scripture-Noon<br>CTL – 5pm  |                        |                |                |
| 8  | 9               | 10  | 11   | 12                     | 13             | 14             |
| Live Stream Worship with Communion 10am<br>Radio Broadcast 10:30 am<br>Advent Study 9am    |                 |   | Soup and Scripture-Noon<br>Circle of Friends 3:30-5:30pm<br>CTL – 5pm  | No Dec. ALT meeting    |                |                |
| 15   | 16              | 17  | 18   | 19                     | 20             | 21             |
| Live Stream Worship 10am<br>Radio Broadcast 10:30 am<br>Advent Study 9am                   | Food Pantry 7pm |   | Prayer Shawl 10am<br>Soup and Scripture-Noon<br>CTL – 5pm  | Food Pantry 10 am, 7pm |                |                |
| 22   | 23              | 24  | 25   | 26                     | 27             | 28             |
| Live Stream Worship 10am<br>Radio Broadcast 10:30 am<br>Advent Study 9am<br>Family Promise | Family Promise  | Christmas Eve Service 7pm<br>Family Promise | <b>Merry Christmas!</b><br>Family Promise<br> | Family Promise         | Family Promise | Family Promise |
| 29   | 30              | 31  |  |                        |                |                |
| Live Stream Worship 10am<br>Radio Broadcast 10:30 am                                       |                 |   |  |                        |                |                |

**Sign-up sheets are available to bring soup, crackers, or bars or cookies for Soup and Scripture UWIF canned beef is available for sale. If interested, stop by office or ask Becky or Mary.**

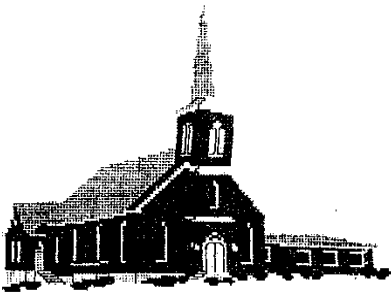


**Worship service will be cancelled if there is an active winter storm warning. The closing will be announced on Facebook and email through the church. Please call the church office if you care to be on a calling tree.**

*Love was born yesterday; Love lives today; Love reigns forever.*

# PARISH VISITOR ~ DECEMBER 2024

Lancaster United Methodist Church  
PO Box 186, 216 S. Monroe Street  
Lancaster, Wisconsin 53813-0186



Live Streaming on Facebook at 10 am  
RADIO BROADCAST Sunday 10:30 am on 1590 AM  
Video broadcast posted on LUMC YOUTUBE channel



*Merry  
Christmas*

Peace on earth and goodwill to all men. This is a beautiful message that reminds us of the importance of kindness, compassion, and love towards one another. It is a message that resonates with people of all cultures and religions. Let us all strive to make this world a better place by spreading love and kindness wherever we go.