

# The Parish Visitor

March 2025



## 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
- 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:

March 5- Ash Wednesday; Worship 7pm.

March 5- UMM McDonalds 7am

March 5- Prayer Shawl 10am

March 6- Circle of Friends 3:30-5:30

March 12, 19, 26- Soup and Scripture noon

March 13- ALT 6:30

March 16- Davies Memorial UCC Soup and  
Sandwich Supper 4-6:30pm \$11

March 19- Prayer Shawl 10am

March 20- Food Pantry 10am

March 20- Circle of Friends 3:30-5:30pm

March 30- UMCOR Sunday

March 31- Food Pantry 7pm

April 6- Family Promise Host week

Seek God~

Share Christ~

Serve Others~

Sing Praises

## Pastor Greetings,

"Our Lent Journey"

Render your heart and not your garments.

Joel 2:13a

With these penetrating words, the prophet Joel invites us to the conversion of heart that is what characterizes this season of Lent. The prophetic call constitutes a challenge for all of us, and he reminds us that conversion is not reduced to external forms or vague purposes, but involves and transforms the entire existence starting from the center of the person, of the conscience.

We are invited to embark on a path in which, defying routine, we strive to open our eyes and ears, but above all, to open our hearts, to go beyond our "small environment".

We live in an increasingly artificial world, in a culture of "doing", of the "useful", where without realizing it we exclude God from our horizon. Lent calls us to "wake up", to remind ourselves that we are creatures, that we are not God. Well, when I look at some power struggles in the small daily environment, I think, "these people play at being God the Creator." I think we have not yet realized that we are not God.

And we also run the risk of closing ourselves off towards others, of forgetting them. But only when the difficulties and sufferings of our brothers challenge us. Only then can we begin our journey of conversion towards Easter. It is an itinerary that includes the cross and renunciation.

Today's Gospel indicates the elements of this spiritual path: prayer, fasting and almsgiving (Cf. Mt 6,1-6.16-18). All three involve the need not to be dominated by the things that appear. What counts is not appearance. The value of life does not depend on the approval of others or success, but on what we have inside.

With its invitations to conversion, Lent providentially comes to wake us up. Wake us up from numbness, from the risk of moving forward through inertia. The exhortation that the Lord addresses to us through the prophet Joel is loud and clear, "Return to me with all your heart" (Joel 2:12). Why should we return to God? Because something is not right in us, in society, in the

Church. We need to change, and to make a change, this is called having to convert!

Once again Lent comes to address its prophetic call. To remind us that it is possible to do something new in ourselves and around us, simply because God is faithful. He is always faithful,

because He cannot deny Himself. Because He is faithful and remains rich in goodness and mercy, He is always ready to forgive and start over again. With this filial trust, let us set out!

Pastor Erika Martinez-Flores

## **MULTI-MEDIA TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY**

March 2~ Given by Richard and Sandra Taylor in loving memory of their son, Aaron. Aaron's birthday was on March 4<sup>th</sup>.



March 9~ Given by Cinda Schindler in memory of her sister, Marcy Thronson.

March 16~ Given by Maury and Martha McLean in celebration of their 66<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and Martha's 88<sup>th</sup> birthday, on March 14.

March 23~ AVAILABLE

March 30~ Given by Marilyn Keller in loving memory of her husband, Donald, who died March 28, 2023.

## **SERVING US IN MARCH AND APRIL**

	<i>Liturgist</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Coffee Hour</i>
March 2	Carol Soden	Lois Bowen/Diane Perkins	UWIF
March 9	Jada Pedley	Dick and Carol Caley	Trustees
March 16	Robin Schacht	Mike and Sandy Kabele	Care Committee
March 23	Becky Yager	Mike and Becky Yager	Missions
March 30	Lisa Zabel	Zabel Family	Sign-Up
April 6	Chris Zabel	Gruber Family	UMM
April 13	Mary Rasmussen	Confirmation Class	ALT
April 20	Russell Shaben	Cecil and Janice Landon	Easter-No Coffee
April 27	Kayla Buttles	Buttles Family	UWIF

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



## **PRAYER GROUP**

*“pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” James 5:16*



Prayer is the most powerful means we have as Christians to achieve God's grace. For this reason, we invite you to join LUMC prayer sessions each Wednesday at 8:30 am.

Our purpose will be to pray in community, celebrate Our God and share our faith. Do not miss the opportunity to be edified by the Spirit by joining our prayer group. You can participate as you are available, but you will always be welcome to join us.

You will also be able to join us through ZOOM, if it is more convenient for you. You will receive the link by email.

*Life is short. Spend it with people who make you laugh and feel loved.*

## DESIGNATED GIVING

\$ 230.00 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr. Mission  
\$ 270.00 Building Maintenance  
\$ 25.69 Family Promise  
\$ 15.00 Food Pantry  
\$ 200.00 UMCOR  
\$ 415.00 Media Ministry  
\$ 30.00 Mission  
\$ 40.00 Snackpacks for Backpacks  
\$1,230.69 TOTAL DESIGNATED GIVING

## January TREASURER'S REPORT

January Giving \$ 7,269.04  
January Expenses \$16,794.26  
  
January Budget Giving \$ 6,038.35  
January Budget Exp. \$15,191.42

YTD  
\$ 6,038.35  
\$15,191.42



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

### Giving Envelopes to assist in designated giving

With the ending of the Radio Ministry and its rebirth as Multi-Media Ministry, we want to help clarify for our financial contributors what each line on our new giving envelopes tell us about how you wish to have your gift used by the church. New envelopes will have the following choices of giving:

**General Fund;** supports our church budget that you, as church members, approved at last year's annual church conference. This pays salaries as well as building, liability and workers' compensation insurance, conference apportionments and monthly bills for the utilities and cleaning crews.

**Building Maintenance Fund;** goes to major building repair and permanent appliance replacement. Yearly inspections and minor repair costs are covered under the budget and paid from the *General Fund*.

**Family Promise Fund;** remains at the church to cover expenses we have above and beyond what our volunteers provide for housing and feeding families during our host weeks.

**Local Mission Fund;** remains at the church and is available if a specific local need might arise. This is totally separate from the *Designated Mission Funds* listed in the *In/Out Accounts* below.

**Multi-Media Ministry Fund;** remains at the church and supports our web page, YouTube and FaceBook live broadcast costs. This money will provide replacement equipment as needed and licenses to broadcast our worship service on the Internet.

**"In/Out" Accounts;** does just what the title says. You put the money "*in*" for a specified use and the total amount given goes "*out*" to that specific ministry. These accounts are as follows:

Food Pantry    Snackpacks for Backpacks  
UMCOR    Designated Missions

The **Designated Mission Fund** gifts are for the ministry of LUMC as identified by the Mission Committee and announced in church and in the newsletter. It runs for a specified time period determined and announced by the Mission Committee. The Mission committee has decided to shorten the quarterly period and increase the number of ministries receiving assistance.

If you prefer a gift for an allocation not listed, mark as such on the envelope. The treasurer will forward your gift.

If you desire your gift to be credited to your annual giving statement, please make sure your name is on the envelope or on your check. Cash gifts without a name are counted as loose offering and go into the General Fund. Fellowship Hour monies received are credited to the current mission.

Nothing has changed. We want your gifts to land where you are expecting.

Bob McKelvey, Treasurer    Helen Millin, Financial Secretary

*Two things you are in total control of in your life are your attitude and your effort.*

## FOOD PANTRY

**“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” 2 Peter 3:18**

We made it through January and February, HALLELUJAH!! Now on to March. I’ve always thought of March as a long, cold, dreary and boring month. But there are interesting facts about March. March is the first month of Spring – which begins between March 19 and 21. March is a transitional month symbolizing growth and preparation for what’s to come. Think of March as a bridge between winter and spring. The birth flower is the daffodil, which is associated with rebirth and new beginning. Besides St. Patrick’s Day, did you know that March is also Women’s History month, National Reading month and Disability Awareness month? This year, Mardi Gras is in March. Mardi Gras is French for ‘Fat Tuesday’ and is the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday which begins Lent. This day is also known as Shrove Tuesday. Shrove is derived from the word ‘shrive’ which means ‘absolve’. You may think Mardi Gras started in New Orleans because of the big celebrations that go on there, but it got its start in Mobile, Alabama. Some form of Mardi Gras has existed for thousands of years and was originally a pagan celebration. Christianity then adopted these celebrations as a prelude to Lent. The first recorded US Mardi Gras celebration was in 1703 in the newly founded capital city of the French Louisiana Territory, Mobile. It wasn’t until over 100 years later in 1837 that the first street party was recorded in New Orleans.

One thing that is NOT unique to March is all the Mondays and Thursdays it shares with the other eleven months when the Food Pantry is open. In February, Becky Bohnenkamp, Helen Millin and Linda Reed volunteered their time. THANK YOU! Our next service dates are the morning of Thursday March 20 at 10:00 am. and March 31 (Monday) and April 3, (Thursday) at 7:00 pm. Items to donate for March are boxes of cereal, jars of peanut butter and jelly and cans of pineapple.

**LAC is still looking for a volunteer** to pick up items from Dollar General and Kwik Trip. The person volunteering now would like to share this job. For more information, please contact Linda Bendorf at [bendorf1982@gmail.com](mailto:bendorf1982@gmail.com) or call 608-988-6216.

Stay warm and safe and enjoy the month of March! Diane Perkins, LUMC  
Food Pantry Coordinator



### ***NOTE RECEIVED FROM LINDA BENDORF, LAC FOOD PANTRY CHR.***

- ❖ I am still looking for a volunteer to pick up from Dollar General on Thursdays after 1pm and Kwik Trip in Lancaster every other week. The person currently doing it would like to share this job.
- ❖ I also would like someone to pick up from Dollar General on Monday’s after 1pm.
- ❖ The job involves picking up the food, taking to the pantry and weighing it and then putting in cooler or freezer.

## **HOLD IN OUR HEARTS**

Cleone Ayres, Larry Busch, Dick Burns, Elam Buttles, Carol Caley, Bill and Lorna Heinzelman, Charlotte Hocking, Jen Ingebritsen, Angela Kirschbaum, Susan Koeller, 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.

We extend our sympathy to Cecil and Janice Landon with the passing of Cecil’s sister, Irene Seippel.



*In the blink of an eye, everything can change.  
Forgive often and love with our whole heart.*

## **FREE MEMORY SCREENS Tuesday April 29 10am – 3pm at LUMC**

A **memory screen** is a free wellness tool that helps identify possible changes in memory and cognition. These screens are not diagnostic, but may serve as a baseline for your memory and cognition at that point in time. After the screen is complete, the Dementia Care Specialist from ADRC will review your results with you and discuss options for your next steps.

### **FAQs**

**What is dementia?** Dementia is a general term used to describe thinking and memory issues severe enough to interfere with daily life. Alzheimer’s disease is the most common cause of dementia. Other conditions can cause dementia as well, such as Lewy body disease, head injuries, Parkinson’s disease, frontotemporal disorders, and stroke. Some people experience dementia-like symptoms that can be treated, resulting in the symptoms going away. These types of reversible dementia-like symptoms in older adults can be caused by such conditions as poor nutrition, sleep apnea, clinical depression, and infection. The ability to treat and/or reverse dementia-like symptoms is a primary reason the person should have a medical evaluation if they experience memory and thinking changes. **What are memory screens?** Memory screens are a simple, safe, confidential, and validated evaluation tool that checks memory and thinking skills. It can indicate whether an additional checkup by a qualified healthcare professional is needed. A memory screen is not used to diagnosis any type of dementia or other illness, but rather to see if something else might be going on. It also does not replace consultation with a qualified physician or other healthcare professional. **Who administers the screen?** Staff at the Aging and Disability Resource Center can administer the screen or refer you to one of the Dementia Care Specialists. The Dementia Care Specialists are trained to facilitate an additional type of memory screen called the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA), which evaluates additional cognitive skills. **What happens with the results?** After the screening is complete, ADRC staff can explain the results and discuss options for your next steps. You get to decide what happens with your results. Your results will not be shared with anyone without your consent. **How do I schedule an appointment?** You can contact your local Aging and Disability Resource Center or contact one of the Dementia Care Specialist to schedule an appointment for a memory screen. Appointments generally take less than 30 minutes and can be conducted in your home or at one of the ADRC offices. **Memory Screenings will be held at LUMC on April 29, 10am-3pm**

## **CELEBRATIONS**

### **BIRTHDAYS**

Elliott Howen- March 3  
Lyn Buttles- March 4  
Sandy Kabele- March 9  
Marilyn Stich- March 13  
Martha McLean- March 14  
Lucy Ramshaw- March 14  
Brooklyn Carlson- March 22

Chris Zabel- March 23  
Roger Case- March 24  
Mary Udelhoven- March 26  
Connie Landon- March 29  
Gloria Landon- March 30  
Crysti Prange- March 30  
Joyce Cohen- March 31

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Maury and Martha McLean- March 14

*happiness  
looks  
gorgeous  
on you*

*Some days it takes a lot of work just to be ok*

## LOVE OUR PASTY DINNER

Many, many thanks to LUMC members and friends who supported our Pasty Supper in every way! We had great workers... makers and bakers, servers and clean-up friends and not to forget our community of attendees. Larry Busch also provided toe-tapping music to provide a festive dining experience complete with good food and friends and, always, laughter. A portion of the proceeds will be forwarded to Snackpacks for Backpacks, helping students with food insecurities.



And speaking of good, homemade meals, Potosi UCC is having a Saint Patrick's Day Soup and Sandwich Supper on Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup>, serving 4 -6:30pm. Meal of various soups, chicken salad and ham sandwiches as well as desserts and drinks for \$11. The Church address is 134 N Main Street, Potosi.

## ALT MEETING SUMMARY


The monthly meeting of the ALT was held on February 13, 2025. The following are highlights from the meeting:

- Weekly Sunday Media Ministry sponsorship of \$25 in memory or honor of family or friends is going well. Please continue to support this ministry.
- Pastor Erika attending Institute of Congregational Development courses with the conference and she will bring that info to LUMC with a small group from ALT in the near future.
- Strategic Planning and Goals discussed with our goals for 2024 being met by pastor/leadership change, continued focus on missions and creation of Circle of Friends. ALT working on establishing goals for 2025 and will finalize them in March.
- Weekly Adult Sunday School at 9:00 am on Sunday February 16 prior to worship.
- Website update will be implemented due to changes in technology.
- LUMC FaceBook page will be updated regularly with events and important updates.
- Soup & Scripture Lenten Study will be held on the Wednesdays during Lent - study will be based on the movie "Chocolat". A date will be set for viewing the movie.
- Holy Week services to be announced soon.



*Your mind is a garden. Your thoughts are the seeds.  
You can grow flowers or you can grow weeds*

# MARCH 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Transfiguration Sunday Live Stream Worship 10am Communion Sunday			ASH WEDNESDAY UMM 7am at McDonalds Prayer Shawl 10am Soup and Scripture noon CTL – 3pm	Circle of Friends 3:30-5:30pm		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Live Stream Worship 10am			CTL – 3pm Soup and Scripture noon	ALT 6:30pm		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Live Stream Worship 10am Potosi UCC Soup and Sandwich Supper 4-6:30			Prayer Shawl 10am Soup and Scripture noon CTL – 3pm	First day of Spring Food Pantry 10am Circle of Friends 3:30-5:30pm 		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Live Stream Worship 10am			Soup and Scripture noon CTL – 3pm			
30	31					
Live Stream Worship 10am UMCOR Sunday	Food Pantry 7pm					

*Canned beef is available for sale. \$12 per pint. Call office if interested.*

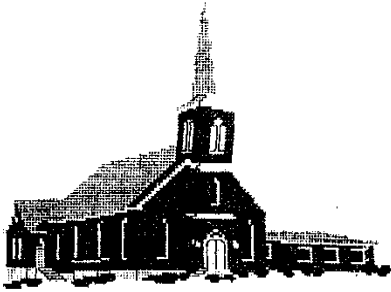
## **ON-LINE WORSHIP**

If you are not able to attend church on Sunday, our worship service is posted on our YouTube Channel for those who do not have or do not want to use Facebook. Go to our church website, click on the YouTube icon in the right sidebar to get to our channel. Then just click on the video title to watch service. Margaret Yearous is our contact person for questions!

*Kindness is a gift everyone can afford to give.*

# PARISH VISITOR ~ MARCH 2025

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



Live Streaming service on Facebook at 10 am  
Video broadcast posted on LUMC YOUTUBE channel

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*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23*