



UNILU NEWS & EVENTS

November 18, 2020



FROM PASTOR JON

Thank you.

This is the time of year we particularly focus on giving thanks. So, let me share with you a few of the many things I am thankful for in our congregation.

Thanks to you for being so willing to embrace our online worship, devotions, bible studies, meetings, hangouts, you name it. Many of us have had to learn new things at a stressful time, but you did it! Thank you!

Thank you to our Council for the consistent loving leadership they have shown throughout the pandemic. Our conversations reflect different perspectives but have always centered on being faithful to our call as followers of Jesus. We said from the beginning we would take our faith seriously, and science seriously. We've lamented the fact that we have not been able to gather as a community, but hold firm to waiting till it is safer to do so.

Thank you for the care you have continued to share for one another, your neighbor, our ministries in the congregation and in the community. Cards, notes, texts, calls, safe outdoor visits, limited indoor visits etc. have all helped during this time.

Thanks for your ongoing financial generosity. Many people have estimated that they will give more for our ministries in 2021, while understandably others have had to scale back due to changes in circumstances. Thanks to everyone who continues to grow in their generosity, regardless of the amount involved.

Lastly, thank you from the bottom of my heart for making manageable a very difficult year for pastoring. I greatly miss our Sunday morning spontaneous interactions, and other serendipitous meetings. Things are looking more promising for 2021, so please stay as safe as possible through the holiday season so we can celebrate many more to come!

God's peace & hope,

Pastor Jon



COUNCIL NOTES

After much prayer and discussion by council and a task force that was convened to provide additional input, the decision has been made that **there will be no in-person worship through the end of January, 2021.**

Although we are saddened that we will not have in-person Advent and Christmas worship services, we also recognize that these services could not be anything like what we all have come to expect and desire due to safety limitations.

Given this, we are striving to make our home worship experience for Advent and Christmas special but in a different way than usual. We are also working to provide safe fellowship opportunities, such as the upcoming Advent wreath making on Saturday, Nov. 21 (see the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter).

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our ministries at University Lutheran during this pandemic.



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

One of Sarah Young's bible verses in her devotion for today is one of my favorites.

Philippians 4:6-7

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

I am a worrier. In normal times, my worrying allows me to look at a situation, make a decision based on the best knowledge I have, and go on with my life with the knowledge that I have done the best I can. THESE ARE NOT NORMAL TIMES. My anxiety level can rise at the slightest bad news. BUT WE ARE NOT ALONE! My song for the day, week, and year is the following:

**"What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear -
all because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!"**

God's peace be with you this week!

Jean Mehlman

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY



UPDATE FROM LCM

As students look forward to some time away from classes during their Thanksgiving break, I've been looking back on the past few weeks and all that we've been up to. We painted pumpkins, we had a bonfire for Sunday worship, we had a small trash pick-up in Abernathy Park. And of course, we're still meeting outdoors for dinner each Wednesday - although we've been having to gather earlier since the sun goes down before 6:00 p.m. This week

Cindy is making a turkey dinner with some holiday fixin's, and we've invited the students from the Episcopal group to join us.

After the break, classes will be held solely online until next semester. Most of our students will remain in town, but it will be a busy last couple of weeks as they try to finish up what's been an up and down semester. Say some prayers for them!

-Pastor Josh

PARISH NEWS & UPDATES



ADVENT WREATH MAKING EVENT

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 29th. A part of our tradition in Advent is the lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath in our sanctuary. We would like to extend that tradition into our homes with the opportunity for you and your family to make an Advent wreath. In your home, not only can you light the candles during our Sunday worship time but also anytime as a part of your devotional experience or family gathering time.

The wreath creating event is this **Saturday, November 21st at the Abundant Blessings Farm, home of Rick and Cindy Sanders**. We will be working outside or in the well-ventilated barn depending on the weather. Worktables for each household will be physically distanced and participants should wear a mask.

The wreath base, candles, and floral pins for securing the greens will be provided. General instructions will be given and help available. Pastor Jon will talk about the meaning of the Advent wreath. Cindy will have hot chocolate available or you can bring your own in a thermos.

You will need to bring pruning shears or heavy-duty scissors, a knife (to cut candle holes in the foam base), and cuttings from evergreen plants on your property. Here are some suggested plants for cuttings: Leyland Cypress,

Cedar, Pines, Juniper, Arborvitae, Boxwood, Spruce, Holly, Tea Olive, and Running Cedar. You can also include berries, small pine cones, and Sweet Gum balls for accent. If you cannot bring greens, there will be plenty available there.

There will be two sessions, one at 10:00 am and one at 1:00 pm. We will offer about 12 work stations per session so you will need to sign up for the time you prefer. Please contact Jan Fritz by phone or email (864-630-4945, janfritz52@charter.net) to sign up or if you have questions.

Come to create a lovely wreath to highlight the season of Advent!



NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL CANDIDATES

We will be electing three new council members at our December congregation meeting. If you would like to nominate someone for council or nominate yourself, please contact Abi Donhauser (unilusecretary@gmail.com) or Cheryl Smith (cheryli@clemson.edu). All members nominated will be contacted to confirm they would like to be placed on the ballot.

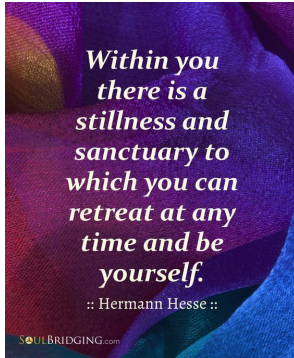


PLEDGE, TIME, AND TALENT

We are using an online Pledge, Time and Talent form electronically this year for your convenience and safety in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. But, don't worry, if you would like to have a paper copy, we can provide one. Please email Marty High (marty@martyhigh.com) or Abi (unilusecretary@gmail.com) for a paper form.

To access the online form click on this [link](#). You may use the link as many times as you like. For example, you can make a pledge for a family and a separate submission for Time and Talent pledge for an individual (child or adult). Every individual in the family can submit a time and talent form

without the pledge form. Everyone in the family can participate in our Church.



WHAT IS YOUR SANCTUARY?

During this pandemic, it has been more important than ever that we take time for self-care and find our "Sanctuary" each day.

Carol Miller, an active 8:30 am member and caregiver shared the following with me:

"My daughter Mary in Tallahassee sent me an article from Oprah Magazine, "Self-Care for Caregivers." It is THE BEST ARTICLE I have read and I want to share the paragraph headlines:

ACCEPT THE ROLE

REDEFINE SUCCESS

DON'T DWELL (TOO MUCH) ON THE NEGATIVE

LOOK FORWARD

CREATE A SANCTUARY

MEET YOUR GRIEF

ACKNOWLEDGE WHEN YOU'RE NOT OKAY

RECOGNIZE SIGNS OF DEPLETION

Carol goes on to say "I want to tell you that my SANCTUARY is my sewing room where I make those little scrub hats. Last Sunday I took 62 of them to our church coordinator. She gave me another spool of elastic which I had requested so I can continue my self-care."

And while we are on the topic of Scrub hats:

In 2019, UNILU sent 902 scrub hats to Children's Hospital. Thus far, we have sent 640 in 2020. I want to thank in particular Carol Miller who has made 283, Ellen Reneke who just donated 54 and an anonymous donor who left 20 in the narthex. Can we match our total from last year? Let's give it a try!

-Judy Aikens



WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

If you are in the mood for some wonderful Lutheran camaraderie and Bible Study on **Wednesdays at 10:00 AM**, please join us at this [link](#). If you have technical questions, contact [Marty High](#). If you have questions regarding the class, contact [John Wagner](#).

We would love for you to join us!



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The adult Sunday school class that is meeting via Zoom would like to encourage you to join in. We are all still getting used to the digital meeting space but we are connecting and learning together. The topic for this quarter is *Love for One Another* and this week's lesson is titled *Love Your Enemies*. There are some of the participant books available at the church, in the classroom (cry room) beside the sanctuary, if you'd like to pick one up. But, you do not have to prepare, **just join in at 10 am on Sunday morning** and let's share a bit of time exploring how our love is a response to God's love for us.

Join Zoom Meeting at 10 am Sunday.

<https://9zest.zoom.us/j/96273872837?>

[pwd=RoVobW14aC9EN3FscENaeGxaRU02Zz09](#)

Meeting ID: 962 7387 2837

JOIN US FOR
SUNDAY
SCHOOL



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Mollie Barrow is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Sunday School K-12

Time: 10:00 am Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Sunday at 10 am until Dec 27th.

Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81812001614?
pwd=bmk5cEdmN1FkdGtONUtMQmpjeDJSQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81812001614?pwd=bmk5cEdmN1FkdGtONUtMQmpjeDJSQT09)

Meeting ID: 818 1200 1614

Passcode: SSK-12



STRATEGIC GIVING FOR RETIREES

You may be wondering if you can still do a

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) for 2020 even though RMDs are waived. The answer is yes! QCDs from IRAs are still available in 2020 and still offer tax benefits. And, you can support University Lutheran!

QCDs allow IRA owners who are age 70 ½ or older to directly transfer up to \$100,000 annually from an IRA to a charity, tax-free. If you are married, you and your spouse may both transfer \$100,000 for a total of \$200,000. QCDs are also available to IRA beneficiaries over age 70 ½ but are not available from company plans or active SEP or SIMPLE IRAs. The QCD is paid directly from the IRA to University Lutheran.

After tax reform arrived in 2018, QCDs became more valuable than ever. Many taxpayers now take the standard deduction that eliminates the tax deduction for charitable gifts. QCDs add to the standard deduction by allowing the donations made from the IRA to be excluded from income. With

a QCD, you get a tax break for your charitable contribution even if you are using the standard deduction.

If you would like to make a QCD contribution to University Lutheran, feel free to contact the Stewardship Committee (marty@martyhigh.com) for more information.



FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

To give electronically, look for this icon on the lower right of the University Lutheran webpage at <http://uniluclemson.org/>. Click on “Give an Offering.”

Or [CLICK HERE](#) to go directly to the giving page.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND AS WE NAVIGATE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY TOGETHER (Subject to Change as Circumstances Change)

- **All worship services and church meetings will be conducted online until CDC/NIH give a declaration that people can gather in groups of more than 100.** Sunday service livestreamed at 9 AM on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/uniluclemson/> later posted to our website www.uniluclemson.org and YouTube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQVMnXOXzFkX65vue_fONog.
- Council has requested that the pastors not have in-person pastoral visits, except in the case of life-threatening emergency.
- Pastors will use telecare or other methods for the duration of this public health emergency.
- Pastors can be reached via cell phone 24/7. Please **DO NOT CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE.** Pastor Jon: 843-304-5664; Pastor Josh: 919-744-1590.
- Church administrative assistant, Abi Donhauser will work remotely from her home office. She can be reached during normal office hours Monday - Thursday, 7 am to 12 noon & 1 pm to 2:30 pm; Friday 8 am to 12 noon at 864-722-5504 or by email; unilusecretary@gmail.com.
- LCM meals will be provided as boxed/to-go meals rather than usual group meals. A small number of people will help with meal preparation.

- This public health emergency may leave people feeling isolated. To combat this, Council and others in the congregation, who desire to do so, (volunteers are welcome!) will be asked to contact others regularly to check in (lists will be provided).
- Church facilities remain available to congregation members, but we suggest that this be for **INDIVIDUALS ONLY AND NOT FOR GATHERINGS/MEETINGS. Please thoroughly sanitize after use.**
- Clemson Community Care will continue their regular schedule of operations. Donations can be made at the church (baskets in narthex) or can be brought directly to their facility. Online monetary donations are also greatly appreciated

WIDER COMMUNITY OUTREACH



SANTA SHOPPE - THE DREAM CENTER, EASLEY

Please bring unwrapped toys or books to the Narthex by **MONDAY, NOV. 30TH**. Home pick-up is available for gifts, just give us a call. You can also make **cash donations to University Lutheran, mark memo: Santa Shoppe. Please make monetary donations by NOVEMBER 24TH**.

The good news: Parents will be able to select gifts for their children at the Santa Shoppe. Parents can also earn credit money by taking classes or supporting the Dream Center.

Thank you for your support, the need may be even greater this year!

Questions or comments: Karen Dreher; jkdreher@att.net or 864-888-2828.

-UniLu Community Ministry Team

UNILU ONGOING EVENTS

SUNDAY

Worship at 9 am on Facebook Live

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

Adult Bible Study, 10 am

Linda Holt lindaGTholt@bellsouth.net

"Love for one another"

(Link to join at 10 am on Sunday in *Adult Sunday School* article above)

Youth Sunday School, 10 am

Mollie Barrow mbarrowjr@aol.com

(Link to join at 10 am on Sunday in *Children's Sunday School* article above)

First Sunday of Each Month 10:30 - 11 am Drive Up Communion

In church upper parking lot

MONDAY - SATURDAY

Morning Devotion "Jammies with Jesus" at 7:30 am on Facebook Live

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

TUESDAY

Bible Study, 10 - 11:15 am

Karen Dreher jkdreher@att.net

"The Son of David"

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study, 10 am

Marty High marty@martyhigh.com

"The Book of Isaiah"

FRIDAY

Zoom Drop in with Renee & Pastor Jon, 5 - 6 pm

Drop in for a few minutes or hangout for the full hour.

Contact Pastor Jon pastorjon12@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

UNILU CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

UNILU PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYER CONCERNS for University Lutheran Members, Family and Friends:
Mike Strand, Alton Fanning; Brenda Monn's mom, Betty Lighty; Kenneth Cothran, Sr.; Sarah Heyer's family; Gregg Dupree; Kenneth Cheek's family; Marty Copenhaver & family; Jimmie Pletta & family; Gail Paul; Pat Wagner; Rosalyn Flanigan; George Harris; Tony Quesada; Randy Gilchrist; Larry Bock; Joyce Lillehamer.

UNILU CELEBRATIONS

Celebrating Birthdays this Coming Week: Joyce Lillehamer; Ben Edge; Sue Rysinski.

Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries this Coming Week: Gerald & Eunice Lehmacher.

PARISH INFORMATION

Click [HERE](#) for UniLu Calendar

Click [HERE](#) for Prayer Fellowship List

LINKS

[SC LUTHERAN MAGAZINE](#)

[UNILU WEBSITE](#) • [LECTIONARY/READINGS](#)

[LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY](#) • [SC SYNOD](#)

[ELCA GOOD GIFTS](#)

MISS A SERVICE?

The recorded church sermons, audio and video, are posted weekly to the website: www.uniluclemson.org and to the University Lutheran Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/uniluclemson/>

REMOTE CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday–Thursday 7 am–12 pm; 1 pm–2:30 pm
Fridays 8 am - 12 Noon

Abi can be reached during the above hours at: [864-722-5504](tel:864-722-5504) or unilusectetary@gmail.com

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

***University Lutheran is a family of faith, called by the Holy Spirit to be
one ministry serving both our community and university.
The Spirit calls us to make known, by word and deed, the story of God's
love in Jesus. Our worship together empowers us to grow as disciples
as we receive, celebrate, and share God's gifts with all of
God's creation and created ones.***