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## UNILU NEWS & EVENTS

### December 16, 2020

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#### FROM PASTOR JON

As the Northeast is preparing for a winter storm, and as the cold rain is falling outside my window, the song “In the Bleak Midwinter” came to mind, particularly the first verse:

*“In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.”*

Growing up in Indianapolis, Toronto and Derby, Connecticut I was familiar with snowy winters. But where Jesus was born? In the Holy Land? Yes. Yes, Virginia it does snow in the Holy Land.

When traveling around Bethlehem at the end of 2014 or start of 2015, it snowed! Inches! This picture is of a creche at a Palestinian Christian church in Beit Jala, one of the towns in the Bethlehem Governate of the West Bank. What an unexpected joy to experience.

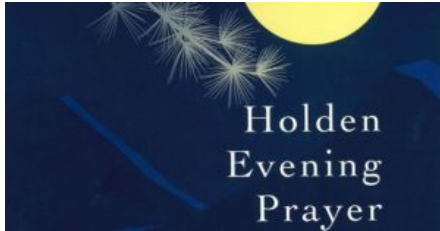
Here in Clemson in the pandemic year of our Lord 2020, we prepare. We anticipate with joy the celebration of the birth of the Christ child.

*“Heaven cannot hold him, nor.... earth sustain;  
Heav’n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign,  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord...God Almighty, Jesus Christ.”*

God’s peace, justice and hope,

Pastor Jon

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## **HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER WORSHIP SERVICE**

**This evening, Wednesday, December 16 at 7  
PM, we'll gather online via Facebook for our**

**Holden Evening Prayer** worship. Click the following link to **watch Live** at  
<https://www.facebook.com/uniluclemson/>.

You can also **watch Later** on YouTube by clicking on the following link at  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQVMnXOXzFkX65vue\\_fONog](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQVMnXOXzFkX65vue_fONog).

**This beautiful service will be accompanied by members of the choir, and some visuals including the picture above. Taken when I visited the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem it captures for me a sense of peace and a sense of hopefulness.**

**The sanctuary will be dimly lit and you may want to worship at home in a setting that allows for candlelight (perhaps your Advent wreath?) as part of the overall mood and tenor of the service. This service is one of our congregation’s and my favorites so I hope you’ll join us live or view it later on University Lutheran’s YouTube channel.**

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## **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

**The psalm in the common lectionary for the first half of this week is Psalm 125, one of the "Songs of Ascents" sung as the Israelites traveled up to Jerusalem. I love**



how this psalm starts.

Psalm 125:1-2

*"Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever.*

*As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people, both now and forevermore."*

What a comforting thought! The world around us does not offer much comfort right now. Covid-19 is wide-spread in the area. The vaccines are very promising, but they will take several months to reach most people. Wearing a mask correctly still seems to be a political statement rather than a health statement. But we who trust in the Lord are surrounded by God. The prayer at the end of Monday's devotion says it beautifully. It was written by Laurie Stumme-Diers, the chaplain at "Martha and Mary Health and Rehab" in Poulsbo, Washington.

*"Great Protector, instill in me the peace of knowing your immovable presence and protection. Amen."*

-Jean Mehlman

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## PARISH NEWS & UPDATES



### CHURCH OFFICE WILL CLOSE FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Please note that the (remote) Church Office will be closed Thursday, December 24, Friday, December 25, and Monday, December 28 in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

Abi will again be available on Tuesday, December 29th.

Merry Christmas, y'all!

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### STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

If you would like to consider making a gift to our staff this Christmas season, please indicate so on your

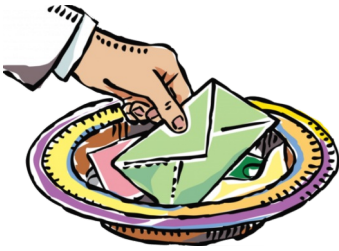


offering envelope or check (on the memo line)

"Staff Christmas Gift."

We will plan to issue gifts on the last Sunday of December.

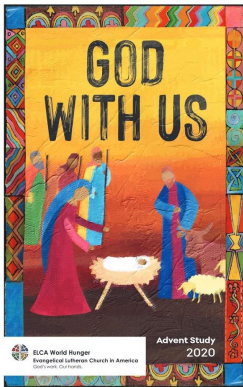
-Marion Fisher, UniLu Council President



## 2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

*Your offering envelopes are coming! Your offering envelopes are coming!* (Said in a Paul Revere voice). 2021 offering envelopes will be in the

narthex **beginning Monday, December 21** if you'd like to pick them up. If you want them mailed/dropped off to you, please let Abi know at [unilusecretary@gmail.com](mailto:unilusecretary@gmail.com). When you pick up your envelopes we invite you to spend a few minutes in the decorated sanctuary for a time of peaceful reflection, prayer and meditation."



## "GOD WITH US" ADVENT STUDY 2020

4 Weeks - via Zoom - Tuesdays – 10 am

Dec. 1 st - *Keep Awake*

Dec. 8 th - *Prepare*

Dec. 15 th - *Comfort*

Dec. 22 nd – *Presence*

"GOD WITH US" booklet is available in the Narthex or download at:

<https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/ELCA-AdventStudy2020.pdf>

ZOOM SIGN UP or questions: Karen Dreher 864 888 2828 - [jkdreher@att.net](mailto:jkdreher@att.net)

Jean Mehlmén 864 944 5205 - [jmehlman43@gmail.com](mailto:jmehlman43@gmail.com)

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!

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## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Come and join the adult Sunday school class that is meeting via Zoom! **We are starting a new quarterly study on the topic *Call in the New Testament*** where we will examine God's call in stories found in the New Testament. 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 we'll develop a broader and deeper understanding of God's call and an appreciation for the ways people respond positively to that call.

Join Zoom Meeting at 10 am Sunday.

[https://9zest.zoom.us/j/96273872837?](https://9zest.zoom.us/j/96273872837?pwd=RoVobW14aC9EN3FscENaeGxaRUo2Zz09)

[pwd=RoVobW14aC9EN3FscENaeGxaRUo2Zz09](https://9zest.zoom.us/j/96273872837?pwd=RoVobW14aC9EN3FscENaeGxaRUo2Zz09)

Meeting ID: 962 7387 2837

Passcode: 865931

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## 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

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## 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.

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## 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](http://www.uniluclemson.org) and YouTube [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQVMnXOXzFkX65vue\\_fONog](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](mailto: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

## 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](mailto:lindaGTholt@bellsouth.net)

"Call in the New Testament"

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

*Youth Sunday School, 10 am*

Mollie Barrow [mbarrowjr@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:jkdreher@att.net)

"God with Us" Advent Study on Dec. 15th & 22nd

**No Class on Dec. 29th**

### WEDNESDAY

*Bible Study, 10 am*

Marty High [marty@martyhigh.com](mailto: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](mailto:pastorjon12@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

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## UNILU CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

### UNILU PRAYER CONCERNS

**PRAYER CONCERNS for University Lutheran Members, Family and Friends:**  
Martin & Harriet Schneider; Mike Strand, Alton Fanning; Brenda Monn's mom, Betty Lighty; Kenneth Cothran, Sr.; Sarah Heyer's family; Gregg Dupree; 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:** John Fulmer; Kerry Smith; Elaine McGuire; Suzanne Keogh.

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## PARISH INFORMATION

Click [HERE](#) for UniLu Calendar

Click [HERE](#) for Prayer Fellowship List

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### LINKS

[SC LUTHERAN MAGAZINE](#)



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

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

[ELCA GOOD GIFTS](#)

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### **MISS A SERVICE?**

The recorded church sermons, audio and video, are posted weekly to the website: [www.uniluclemson.org](http://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](mailto:unilusectetary@gmail.com)

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### **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.*