



UNILU NEWS & EVENTS

May 28, 2025

FROM PASTOR JOSH

Time Away

One of the terms we use often in the Lutheran Church is "a priesthood of all believers". While there are certain rituals and traditions that are reserved for formally ordained ministers, a priesthood of all believers insists that all Christians have a personal relationship with God and a personal responsibility to care for their neighbors. That's something that we take seriously in our congregation!

Abi and I will both be away for some time at the beginning of June. And there are countless folks who have stepped up to ask, "How can we help?" Thank you! It's a relief to know that this congregation is consistent about taking care of one another.

Below I'll list some phone numbers for folks you can be in touch with while we are away. **I will be on vacation Sunday June 1 (after worship) until Thursday, June 12.**

Abi will be on vacation Wednesday, June 3 until Thursday, June 19th.

For **pastoral emergencies**, you can be in touch with **Rev. Rachel Connelly** from St. John's in Walhalla (910-515-0897; stjohnspastorrachel@gmail.com).

For **congregational concerns**, you can be in touch with **Stephen Avery**, council president (864-449-2600; sjsavery@aol.com).

For **congregational care and visitation**, you can be in touch with **Laura Black**, Stephen Ministry leader (864-320-7336; lblack33@gmail.com).

I'm grateful for all that y'all do to make this congregation one of welcome and support. Thank you!

WORSHIP BY THE LAKE - THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 1

9:00 a.m. worship at church

11:00 a.m. worship at Biggerstaff Retreat Center in Seneca

Worship **THIS SUNDAY** at 11:00 a.m. at **Biggerstaff Retreat Center** at **398 Biggerstaff Road, Seneca, SC 29672**. Once you're on Biggerstaff Road, you drive all the way to the end, and the road dead ends at the retreat center.

Bring a lawn chair or sit on the benches in the worship area. And we'll have a **potluck lunch after worship** in the gazebo. Bring a yard game or something fun if you'd like to share!



WORSHIP LIFE VOLUNTEERS

At University Lutheran Church, we are delighted to have so many people, children and adults, serving in various roles to enrich our worship together. That includes acolytes, crucifers, assisting ministers, lectors, cantors, altar guild, A/V people, choirs, and soon to be added, greeters. Perhaps you would like to know more about these roles, with the thought of volunteering yourself. During the month of June, the Worship and Music Committee is sponsoring information and training sessions at the beginning of the Sunday School hour in the sanctuary.

On **June 8th and June 29th**, we would like to meet with all children interested in and currently serving as acolytes and crucifers. We will review procedures and do some guided practice.

On **June 15**, we'll meet with adults and older youth interested in serving as greeters, lectors, cantors, assisting ministers, A/V technicians, and altar guild members.

There are sign-up sheets in the narthex to let us know who to expect those days. Come when you can even if you have not signed up. If those dates don't work for you but you'd like to get involved, please speak to or contact Jan Fritz at janfritz52@charter.net or (864) 630-4945.

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN'S CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT

During the Embracing Inclusivity (EI) campaign, a financial question was posed at one of our congregational meetings. Why not just use the Capital Reserve designated gift account, which had approximately \$105,000 at that time?

Both the Council & Property Committee thought we ought to hold those funds in reserve, should we lose another one of the five archaic 4-ton HVAC compressors in the Education/Administrative wing, which eventually happened.

The EI fund-raising campaign ultimately raised \$127,000 which combined with the Capital Reserve account allowed the Church Council to initiate a proactive campaign to:

- Fully restore the lighting in the Sanctuary.**
- Provide 24/7 electronic access to both the Narthex & LCM areas.**
- Renovate four bathrooms, add an LCM Shower, widen the entrances into our educational classrooms, and replace the flooring.**
- Replace the ancient Heating & Cooling systems in the Fellowship Hall and the Education/Administrative wing.**
- Address the lifted sidewalks in the lower parking lot as well as the sinking patio on the south side of the Fellowship Hall.**

All this long overdue spending means the condition of our buildings and grounds are much improved and much more accessible to all those who wish to be a part of our church family.

Another important consequence, however, is that our Capital Reserve account is now down to approximately \$8,000. With your support we hope to replenish this vital contingency fund over time with designated pledges and gifts to the Capital Reserve fund.

If you need further clarification or have a question, please contact a Church Council member.

Stephen Avery, Council President

HELP WITH TRANSPORTATION FOR REFUGEE HOPE UPSTATE

While Lutheran Services Carolinas has decreased staff and vacated our building because of financial changes, many of the folks involved are still supporting refugee services in the community. Refugee Hope Upstate has offices at First Baptist Church, and they are enlisting helpers for some summer transportation.

Over the summer, there is an ESL program for refugee women. There are 44 women with 18 children who are eligible for the education program. They utilize congregations with vans and buses to help transport the women and children to classes and childcare. **There is a need for a driver in the morning for drop-off (7:30/8:00 am) and pick-up (11:30 am). The need is for the following dates: June 2-5 and June 9-12.** The driver can use the UniLu church van, provided they have insurance and sign an agreement/waiver.

Please reach out to Pastor Josh (jkkestner@gmail.com) and Andrea Kesler (andreakesler@refugeehopeupstate.org) if you are interested and available - **please copy both on the email.**

CLEMSON COMMUNITY CARE

Clemson Community Care needs several food items: Juice, pork and beans, 2 lb. bags of flour, 2 lb. bags of sugar, shelf stable milk, dried beans, canned vegetables.

Nonfood items in short supply: toilet tissue, paper towels, laundry detergent,

diapers Sizes 4, 5, & 6, and pull-ups.

Children will be home for the summer so many families will need additional food. Please keep that in mind when you purchase your food donations.

Thank you so much for all your support!

UNILU ONGOING EVENTS

SUNDAY

Indoor Worship Services at 9 am & 11 am

Facebook Live Worship Service at 9 am

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

Preschool, Youth & Adult Sunday School 10:00 am

Sam & Elena Plonk (Youth, Middle & High School) samplonk@hotmail.com

Linda Holt (Adult) lindagtholt@bellsouth.net

Children's Choir 10:45 am - 11:15 am

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY

Morning Devotion *Jammies with Jesus* about 7:30 am on Facebook Live

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

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 10 am

Choir Practice 5:30 pm

Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm

UNILU CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

UNILU PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYER CONCERNS for University Lutheran Members, Family and Friends:

Russell Brown, John Broadwell, Jackson Flanigan, Larry Reamer, Alton Fanning,
Scott Crane, Gregg Dupree, Gail Paul, Pat Wagner, Rosalyn Flanigan & Family, Tony

Quesada, Joyce Lillehamer, Mona, Jean Erskine, Chris, Elise (Smith) White.

UNILU CELEBRATIONS

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS this coming week: Anne Beyerlein, Ellen Reneke, Molly Parkhill, Rick Sanders, Marion Fisher.

CELEBRATING WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES this coming week: Dan & Deanie Shonka.

PARISH INFORMATION

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 & Wednesday 7 am–3:30 pm

Friday 7 am - 12 noon

Abi can be reached during the above hours at 864-280-5605

or unilusecretary@gmail.com

ONSITE CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday & Thursday 9 am to 1 pm. Other days by appointment.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Pastor Josh Kestner, Parish Pastor: jkestner@gmail.com

Abi Donhauser, Office Administrator: unilusecretary@gmail.com

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](#)

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.

University Lutheran Church | [111 Sloan Street](#) | [Clemson, SC 29631 US](#)

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