



**UNILU NEWS & EVENTS**  
**December 3, 2025**



**FROM PASTOR JOSH**

Advent--finally! Tonight, we'll gather for our first of three Midweek Advent Worship Services. The liturgy we'll use includes one of my favorite musical pieces that we sing together: The Magnificat as arranged by Marty Haugen. It's a joy.

The lyrics will also be the subject of our first Advent Bible Study today at noon in the Fellowship Hall. The Magnificat is Mary's response to God's promise that she will give birth to a child who will change the world. But one of the most striking lines in the canticle is, "For he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant." Mary is overjoyed that God has looked her way. She cannot believe that the almighty God has taken the time to pay her any attention. In the beauty of this song that she sings, we, too, are enamored by the fact that God bothers to stoop down and gaze upon us.

Advent is a time to remind ourselves that God is never too big to care about the smallest details of our lives. And we have the chance to notice the ways that God shows up in the world and stands before us, face-to-face. What has God been up to around you recently?

I hope you'll join us for the many Advent opportunities in the next few weeks!

## ADVENT HAPPENINGS

**THIS WEEK IN ADVENT**

**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY**  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3**  
12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
bring a lunch & Bible

**MIDWEEK DINNER & WORSHIP**  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3**  
6:00 p.m. Dinner in Fellowship Hall  
7:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer in Sanctuary

**CHRISTMAS DINNER**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6**  
4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
bring a dish or dessert to share

**ADVENT 2025**

**WEEKLY HAPPENINGS**

**WEDNESDAYS - DECEMBER 3, 10, 17**  
12:00 p.m. Advent Bible Study in Fellowship Hall  
6:00 p.m. Dinner in Fellowship Hall  
7:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer in Sanctuary

**SUNDAYS - DECEMBER 7, 14, 21**  
9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. Sunday morning worship  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School between services

**ADVENT 2025**

**OTHER EVENTS**

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14**  
3:00 p.m. meet in Sanctuary before carpooling  
5:00 p.m. pizza dinner back in Fellowship Hall

**TABLE TALK**  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 15**  
6:30 p.m. at Kite Hill Brewing in Patrick Square

**BRUNCH WITH SANTA**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20**  
9:00-11:00 a.m. at Church  
pictures with Santa and community brunch

## MIDWEEK ADVENT MEAL & WORSHIP

Wednesdays, Dinner at 6:00 p.m. & Worship at 7:00 p.m.

**First dinner & worship TONIGHT!** A simple supper is provided 12/3 and 12/10. There is a potluck on 12/17, sign-up in the Gathering Area. Worship is *Holden Evening Prayer*. It's a 30-minute, musical, and meditative service. Reflections on the theme of "Blessings" will be offered by UniLu's retired pastors.

## ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at Noon in the Fellowship Hall, bring a lunch & a Bible

The Wednesday Bible Study will turn towards the Canticles surrounding Jesus' birth in the Gospel of Luke. **We'll start today at noon** with the Magnificat, Mary's song. Meet in the Fellowship Hall. The coffee pot will be on, and you can bring a lunch if you're hungry.

## CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

THIS SATURDAY, Dec. 6 at 4:00 p.m.

**THIS SATURDAY** - An early evening together, **gather around 4:00 p.m.** to celebrate as we get into the Christmas spirit! We're not skipping Advent, but let's gather for a potluck before the students head home for the holidays. Dress your best or wear a tacky Christmas sweater. **Bring a dish to share** - ham and beverages are provided. We'll have a craft, some music, etc.

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, December 14, 3:00 p.m., pizza afterwards

New this year - an afternoon caroling around the community for all ages! Some folks will sing at Clemson Downs, others will visit some of our beloved members at their homes. **We'll gather at church to carpool at 3:00 p.m.** Others can meet at Clemson Downs. More details as we create a list of folks to sing to. **Plan to meet back at church for pizza after we're done!**

## TABLE TALK

Monday, December 15, 6:30 p.m., Kite Hill Brewing

**Meet at Kite Hill Brewing at 6:30 p.m.** for our monthly conversation group. Advent-themed discussion, food/beverages available for purchase, and time with old/new friends.

### **BRUNCH WITH SANTA**

**Saturday, December 20, 9:00-11:00 a.m.**

Fun, new opportunity for anyone in the community! Tell your friends that Santa is stopping by UniLu for a pancake brunch. Take a photo and grab a stack of pancakes.

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - THIS SUNDAY, DEC. 7**

We will hold a Congregational meeting **THIS SUNDAY, Dec. 7 at 10:00 a.m. between services.** At this meeting we will vote on three new Council members and the 2026 proposed budget, so please plan on attending if you can. There will be a few other updates about the life of the congregation as well.

Click the tabs below to review two important documents to be approved: the **minutes from our meeting in April** and our **2026 Proposed Budget**. You can also find the bios for the Council Nominees in the section just below.

**In the proposed budget, all employees receive a 3% raise. The committees are also given a 3% guideline for increases with the caveat that they explain any requests beyond the 3%. Comparisons with 2025 for salaries and benefits is very futile since a good part of the year we had just one pastor.**

**The Stewardship Committee supplied the estimated amounts for pledge and plate income for 2026 based on the current Stewardship Campaign. These stewardship amounts and the proposed budget will leave us with a positive balance of \$24,283. This gives us some interesting options!**

# 2026 Proposed Budget

## Minutes from April 27, 2025 Meeting

### NOMINEES FOR NEW COUNCIL TERMS

There are three members of the Congregational Council who are coming to the end of their terms. Therefore, we will need to vote to **elect three new members at our Congregational Meeting on December 7**. Please take some time to read about each of the nominees below (you can click each to zoom in). We are grateful that **Marian Benton, Gary Caruso, Matthew Edge, and Tim Sellnow** have all expressed their willingness to serve. You can be in touch with each of the nominees on your own if you have further questions or concerns. Or you can contact the current Council President, Stephen Avery.

**Meet the Nominees**



**Marian Benton**

**About Me**

We moved to Clemson, Charlie, Marian, Edward and Margaret, in 1989 and quickly found a church home at University Lutheran. I'm a graduate of Michigan State University and had a career in HR from 1976 - 1980 (when Edward was born) and then in banking from 1989 to 2019 when I retired. I work closely with Pickens County Habitat for Humanity and am a member of the Clemson Rotary Club. Little known fun fact—I used to be a synchronized swimmer (really!)

I love our Uni Lu community and would be honored to serve on council if elected.

**Meet the Nominees**



**Gary Caruso**

**About Me**

Barbara and I moved here about 6 years ago from our former home in Atlanta (Johns Creek) Georgia. We are lucky enough to have our daughter, her family and our son living in Greenville. I am a graduate of Georgia Tech and I started my own consulting engineering firm specializing in buildings after working as a construction Director and project manager for others. I retired in 2020. In my spare time, I enjoy woodturning and am learning to play the banjo.

We tried several churches here in the Clemson area before deciding that UNILU was the place for us. Friendly people with similar values mixed with traditional customs attracted us to UNILU and we became members. Since moving to Clemson, I have been active in Habitat for Humanity and Rebuild Upstate. I attempt to help where I can at UNILU with grounds maintenance, immigrant resettlement, and student interaction. If chosen for the council, I think I could best assist with the planning for the capital building needs of the church.

**Meet the Nominees**



**Matthew Edge**

**About Me**

I'm the son of Ben and Anita Edge (if you get us confused, I also respond to Kyle). I graduated from Clemson in 2015, where LCM was a huge part of my life. I currently live in Anderson with my wife, Heather, and work at Michelin as a product design engineer.

University Lutheran has been my second family since moving to Clemson in 2003. Between the youth group, LCM, and in life after college, Uni-Lu has shown me nothing but love and support and I would be a privilege to repay the kindness by serving on the council.

**Meet the Nominees**



**Tim Sellnow**

**About Me**

I am honored to be considered for University Lutheran's church council. I have been a member of University Lutheran since my wife, Deanna, and I moved to Clemson to join the Communication Department faculty at Clemson University two years ago. I am inspired by the mission of our church and eager to get more involved. I was born in Minnesota where I was baptized and confirmed in the ELCA Lutheran Church. I served previously on the church councils at ELCA Lutheran churches while living in North Dakota and Kentucky. At University Lutheran, I have been active in the campus mentorship program and have been involved in a variety of service projects. My wife and I have two children and three grandchildren.



## LCM EXAM STOCKINGS

**It's already the end of the semester! After Thanksgiving, students only have one full week of classes left before exams. Show them your support by praying and sending your blessings - and help them make it through this last stretch by bringing in some snacks to fill their paper bag stockings! Talk to Pastor Megan if you want to know how many bags to plan for, and look for the bags under the big table in the Gathering Area **NOW! Exams start Monday, December 8!****

## QUILT TYING

**Monday, December 8, 9:30-noon** in the Fellowship Hall is our next quilt tying session.



## POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Beautiful poinsettias adorning the sanctuary is a welcomed worship experience for the Christmas season. **If you would like to honor someone or remember someone with a poinsettia in the sanctuary, please place an order by completing the information on one of the envelopes to be found on the table in the narthex and enclose \$25 in cash or check.** You can also email Jan Fritz ([janfritz52@charter.net](mailto:janfritz52@charter.net)) to place an order. **The deadline for your request is December 10th.** No orders can be honored after that date. After Christmas Eve services, you are welcome to pick up your plant(s) to enjoy in your home.

If you have any questions, please contact Jan Fritz by email or phone (864-630-4945).

## ANNUAL UNILU STAFF APPRECIATION GIFTS

Each year we take a moment in the Christmas season to appreciate the many efforts afforded by the University Lutheran Staff throughout the year. That includes the two pastors (Josh & Megan), the administration (Abi) and the

music team (Judi & Rebecca). Please consider inserting a token of your appreciation in the box located on the round table in the Narthex **before Monday the 20th of December**. Thank you for your generosity!

Stephen Avery, Council President

## ANGEL TREE FOR LSC



**All gifts have been signed up for! Thank you for your support!**

**Gifts due Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> – make sure the child's number is on the wrapped gift.**

**The gifts are going to the Lutheran Services Carolinas Youth Day program in Clinton SC, which serves middle and high school students in foster care.**

Thank You!

Questions: Karen Dreher [jadreher@att.net](mailto:jadreher@att.net)



# CHRISTMAS WITH THE CHORALE

Introducing Maestro Anthony Bernarducci



**December 9, 2025 7:30pm**  
**McAlister Auditorium, Furman**

*With Generous Support:*

**Jimmy Gaddy**



**SOUTH\*  
CAROLINA  
ARTSCOMMISSION**



**Tickets and Info: [greenvillechorale.org](https://greenvillechorale.org)**

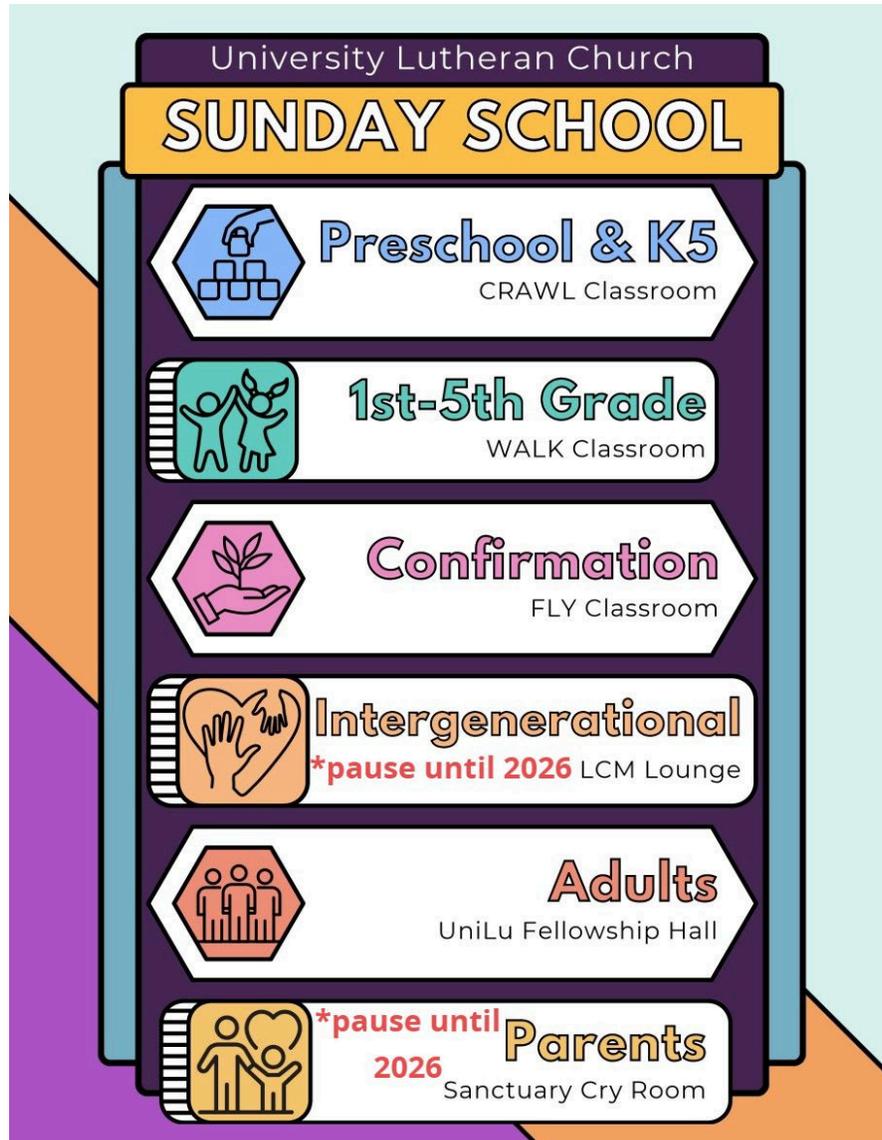
## SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Between our 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services on Sundays, we have learning opportunities for all ages! Remember that **Children's Choir** rehearses at **10:45 a.m. every Sunday** in the WALK Classroom in the Education Building.

Check out the available classes below!

And click for more information on the [Adult Class opportunities!](#)

(NOTE: the 10-week intergenerational and parents classes will take a break until the beginning of 2026)



## Descriptions of Adult Classes

**NEWS FROM LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY**

**LCM HELPERS**

Need a pet sitter? Babysitter? Yard work done? Anything else? Our LCM students would love to help! Please fill out the form [HERE](#) and they'll be in touch. This is volunteer work—but if you'd like to offer payment, any funds received will go directly towards their fees for LCM retreats and trips.

**NOTE: Students are out of town for Thanksgiving and then they're on break after December 12!**

## HELP STOCK THE LCM LOUNGE



### CHECK OUT & STOCK UP THE LCM LOUNGE

We've made some upgrades to the LCM lounge & added a study space at the end of the hall. We need your help filling it up with snacks!

- *Full sized bags of chips, popcorn, pretzels, or packages of cookies*
- *Drinks - gatorade, water, soda*
- *Individually packaged chips, cookies, etc.*

If you're at the grocery store and see these on sale - feel free to grab an extra one to donate to LCM. You can leave them in the kitchen downstairs. Our new study space is across from the downstairs kitchen!

We appreciate your generosity!

## UNILU ONGOING EVENTS

## SUNDAY

Worship Services at 9 am & 11 am

Livestream Worship Service at 9 am

[UniLu Youtube Channel](#)

(look for the LIVE tab to watch live, or find videos posted later, t00)

Sunday School for All Ages 10:00 am

Sam & Elena Plonk (Children & Youth) [samplonk@hotmail.com](mailto:samplonk@hotmail.com)

Linda Holt (Adult) [lindagtholt@bellsouth.net](mailto:lindagtholt@bellsouth.net)

Children's Choir will not meet in December, resumes in January,

10:45 am - 11:05 am; Deanna Sellnow [dsellno@clemson.edu](mailto:dsellno@clemson.edu)

## UNILU PRAYERS

### WE ARE PRAYING FOR...

#### UniLu Family

Karen Waltz, Penny Booher, John Broadwell, Ann Brown, Roger Brown, Rosalyn Flanigan, Martha Harris, Ned Johnson, Joyce Lillehammer, Gail Paul, Tony Quesada, Larry Reamer, John Wagner, Pat Wagner

#### Extended Family & Friends

Nancy Carlson, Rose Angela Bennett, Russell Brown, Duke Brunetti & family, Marge Butler, Scott Crane, James DeLoach, Gregg Dupree, Jean Erskine, Alton Fanning, Jackson Flanigan, Kathy Francis, Barbara Lemcke, Marilee Long, Billie Mentz, Albert Parish, Billy Smith, Linda Smith, Martha Smith, Nancy Thomas, Elise White, Chris, Mona

## PARISH INFORMATION

### MISS A SERVICE?

The recorded worship services are posted to the "Live" tab of the

UniLu YouTube Channel: [University Lutheran YouTube Channel](#)

## ON-SITE CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

To make an appointment to meet on-site, please call **864-654-4232** or email Abi at

[unilusecretary@gmail.com](mailto:unilusecretary@gmail.com)

## 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 **864-654-4232**

or [unilusecretary@gmail.com](mailto:unilusecretary@gmail.com)

## EMAIL ADDRESSES

Pastor Josh Kestner, Parish Pastor: [jkkestner@gmail.com](mailto:jkkestner@gmail.com)

Pastor Megan Boatwright, Campus Pastor: [boatwrightma@gmail.com](mailto:boatwrightma@gmail.com)

Abi Donhauser, Office Administrator: [unilusecretary@gmail.com](mailto:unilusecretary@gmail.com)

Click [HERE](#) for UniLu Calendar

## 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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