



*United Lutheran Church, ELCA*  
21 Mesnard St.  
L'Anse, MI 49946

# THE CONNECTION

## March 2026



### United Lutheran Church, ELCA

21 Mesnard St., L'Anse, Michigan

Ph: (906) 524-6484; Email: [ulc\\_lanse40@yahoo.com](mailto:ulc_lanse40@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.unitedlutheranchurchlanse.org](http://www.unitedlutheranchurchlanse.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100010032163829](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100010032163829)

Interim Pastor Julie Belew: (906) 370-5301

### Come and Worship!

We celebrate with worship on

**Sunday** worship at 10 a.m.

Sunday School on Sundays at 10 a.m.

Ages 3 yrs through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

All are welcome!

### OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Wednesday: 1 – 4 p.m.

## *United Lutheran Church Council Members*

|                          |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Sue Coffey, Secretary    | 906-524-7255 |
| Ruth Anne Connor         | 906-524-7648 |
| Jennifer Davidson        |              |
| Leann Davis              | 906-524-6841 |
| Renee Eliason, President | 906-524-6013 |
| Kim Gaunt                |              |
| Kris Kokko               | 906-524-6555 |
| Karisa Mukka, Treasurer  |              |
| Calli Sweeney            |              |

### **Council President's News!**

To The United Lutheran Church Family –

Here we are, already in the season of Lent. We unfortunately cancelled our Ash Wednesday service due to the weather.

I invite you all on this Lenten journey. We have daily devotions for Lent here at the Church, please stop in and pick one up. Lent is the 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays). It is a time for prayer, repentance, reflection, and renewal. Lent prepares us to celebrate Easter more fully.

A few special dates to mark on your calendar:

- o March 29<sup>th</sup> is Palm Sunday
- o April 3<sup>rd</sup> is Good Friday (Worship at 5 pm)
- o April 5<sup>th</sup> is Easter (Worship at 8 am and 10 am)
- o April 15<sup>th</sup> is a Soup & Sandwich Luncheon, 11-1, sponsored by the Women of United Lutheran Church
- o April 19<sup>th</sup> is First Communion for our 5<sup>th</sup> graders. This Sunday will also be our quarterly potluck.
- o May 10<sup>th</sup> is Graduate Recognition
- o May 17<sup>th</sup> is the Rite of Confirmation

Please make time to attend these special events at our church.

The word “Lent” means “springtime”! Bring it on!

God's Blessings – Renee



## **March Birthdays**

|          |                   |
|----------|-------------------|
| March 1  | Alex Gabe         |
| March 4  | Dennis Heikkinen  |
| March 5  | Kimberly Lawson   |
| March 6  | Sue Wilson        |
| March 8  | Curt Wanhatalo    |
| March 11 | Zaine Wanhatalo   |
| March 13 | Adelyn Snyder     |
| March 15 | Victor Elmblad    |
|          | Jan LaFave        |
| March 16 | Ashley Giddings   |
| March 18 | Arthur Anderson   |
|          | Vicki Martinac    |
| March 25 | Jim Wilson        |
| March 28 | Kerri Koskinen    |
|          | Derek Wanhatalo   |
| March 30 | Patricia Stein    |
| March 31 | David Harden, Sr. |
|          | Joshua Brown      |



## SHUT-INS



Please remember our shut-ins. Keep them in your prayers. If you have a moment, stop and visit them. Send them a “thinking of you” card (call the church office for address).

**At Bayside Village:** George Cram.

**At Canal View,** Hancock, MI: Barbara DesLaurier (Room 308), Carol Roth (Room 306).



Erica Archambeau, John Autio, Lauryn Biekkola, Jean Brinkman, Nancy Byrge, Tina Connor, Heather Vizina Cote, Jan Cram, Ann Daugherty, Barbara DesLaurier, Ronda Dowd, Sigrid Doyle, Jim Ekdahl, Linda Elsner, Joe Gaffney, Mary Hartmann, Dennis Heikkinen, Carol Hendrix, Bridget Canter Holm, Joyce Hoskins, Gail Jestila, Buddy Keranen, Linda Kinnunen, Trudy Koski, Janel LaPlante, Kat Maki, Paul Maki Jr, and family, Baby Izzy, JoAnn Markham, Peter Martinac, Steve Martinac, Kay McCutcheon, Jacey Mukka, Esther Neuener, Gloria Niemisto, Patricia Racine, Diane Richard, Janet Roberts, Peggy Jestila Robillard, Carol Roth, Roy Stearns, Chad and Jessica Tollefson, Cody Vizina, Elizabeth, Hank, Marty, Kim, Bobbi, Pat, Dave, Jeff, Martha.  
The family and friends of Jake Pertile  
The family and friends of Sue Sullivan  
The family and friends of Trenton Massey

Dear God,

*I humbly ask that you heal us from any hurt, shame, sickness, and guilt. Heal our hearts, O Lord God. Give us beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and let us wear the garment of praise instead of the spirit of heaviness and burden.  
I pray in Jesus name. Amen.*

# Mark Your Calendar!



## Palm Sunday Worship

Palm Sunday Worship will be on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.  
Pastor Bonny Kinnunen will lead worship.

## Good Friday Worship

Good Friday Worship will be on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 5 p.m.  
Pastor Julie Belew will lead worship.



## Easter Worship

Easter Worship will be on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Pastor Julie Belew will lead worship.



## Lenten Devotionals

Lenten Devotionals are available to be picked up in the Barrier-free Entrance.

## TIME CHANGE!

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> before you go to sleep.



## SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCHEON

Wednesday, April 15

This is just a heads-up that we will be having a Soup and Sandwich Luncheon in April. There will be a planning meeting scheduled at a later date to finalize who will be doing what. There will also be a sign-up sheet so YOU can let us know if you would be willing to bring a crock-pot of soup, sandwiches, or bars / cookies.

## First Holy Communion for Fifth Grade Students



Our Fifth Graders will receive their **First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**. There will be a potluck following worship.

Our Fifth Graders this year are **Kamdyn Davidson, Dekkar Denomie, Easton Hoffman, Charlie Knisely, Darylann Marinich, Brielle Nordstrom**

**The Fifth graders will meet on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> for a class on Holy Communion and to paint their chalices.**

Mark your calendars and join us for this special event. We are looking forward to the wonderful time with our Fifth graders.



It's that time EVERYONE to get your registration in for Fortune Lake. There are opportunities for all ages – even a Family Camp. As usual the Women of the Church will pay for ½ of the early registration fee to any member of the congregation, and child of a member or anyone who may not be a member, but is actively involved.

Lisa has information in the office or you can go online to find out more about Fortune Lake and to register.

It's a great place to spend some time and make some new, possibly life-long friends.

## SPONSOR A BULLETIN

If you would like to sponsor a bulletin "in memory of" or "in honor of" a special person, for a donation of \$10, please contact Lisa in the church office (906-524-6484).



## New Members

If you are interested in becoming a member of United Lutheran Church, please see Lisa in the office. Thank you!

## Sunday School and Confirmation



**Sunday School** is every Sunday at 10 a.m. Sunday School is for preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> and March 29<sup>th</sup> due to Spring Break. Also NO Sunday School on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> (Easter). Sunday School will resume Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

**Confirmation** – Confirmation class will be on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation is for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

Our class sessions are winding down for this year. Please make sure your child gets to as many classes as possible. ALSO – Please make sure your child is filling out their Worship notes and Service hour sheets. This is the only way that we can keep track of what they have completed. Thank you!

*All children are welcome!*



### Worship Leaders for March

|          |                       |
|----------|-----------------------|
| March 1  | Renee Eliason         |
| March 8  | Pastor Julie Belew    |
| March 15 | Pastor Julie Belew    |
| March 22 | Renee Eliason         |
| March 29 | Pastor Bonny Kinnunen |

## COFFEE HOUR

|          |                             |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| March 1  | Kristina, Steve, and Brooke |
| March 8  | <i>Need someone</i>         |
| March 15 | <i>Need someone</i>         |
| March 22 | <i>Need someone</i>         |
| March 29 | <i>Need someone</i>         |

*If you would like to serve a coffee hour, please sign up on the sheet in the Barrier-free entrance. Thank you to all who serve coffee following worship! Such a wonderful time for fellowship!*

**Readers Needed:** Please sign up on the sheet in the Barrier-free Entrance, if you would like to read one Sunday in church.



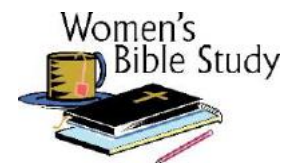
### Worship & Music Committee

The Worship and Music Committee will meet on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon.

### Women's Circle Meetings

**Sarah Circle** will meet on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 a.m. in the Social Hall.

**Martha Circle** – TBD.



## FOOD PANTRY

Our food pantry has quite a large selection of non-perishable items. If you need something, please don't hesitate to come and check out what we have.



DONATIONS are needed for the food pantry.

**Some foods and non-perishables that we could use are: Pancake mix, syrup, canned Ravioli, Spaghetti O's, peanut butter, cereal, Ramen noodles, Lipton Noodles, toilet paper, body wash, shampoo.**

**NEEDED: Donations of food cards and gas cards are needed.**



The Food Pantry will be open during office hours. The office is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9 am – 1 pm,

Wednesdays from 1-4 pm. Also, on Sunday when the church is open for worship service.

The Food Pantry is located upstairs in the education wing next to the secretary's office. There are no eligibility guidelines.

**If you need food, please feel free to come and get something.**



## News from the Women

A small but dedicated group of ladies met on February 11 to enjoy food and fellowship. A number of items were discussed – among them the new outreach project with the Matthew 25 Ministries (see separate article), Fortune Lake Camperships, and a Soup and Sandwich luncheon for April 15<sup>th</sup>.

The need to revamp our serving lists was also discussed. The Calling Coordinators will meet to work on this project. A specific date has not yet been set.

In March we will meet on the 11<sup>th</sup> for a return of Clinical Psychologist Tonya Truesdell who will be discussing more specific mental health issues. Renee and Robbie will be our hostesses and the meal will consist of make your own Reuben Sliders. Ladies are asked to bring something to go with – like salads, chips, desserts.

As always, ALL women are invited to join us for fellowship, food, and FUN at the Women of the Church meeting. And bring a friend!

**Wednesday, March 11 – 1:00 pm**

Hope to see you there -- stay warm!

God's peace,

Ruth Anne

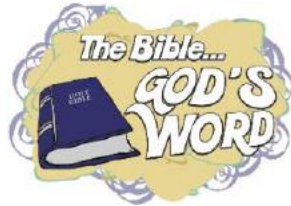


### Visitation Team

The Visitation Team has begun making home visits to offer Holy Communion. If you would like a visit to receive Holy Communion, please contact the church office and we will have someone visit you.

### INTENTIONAL PRAYER

The Faithful Innovation team will meet every third Tuesday at 10 a.m. for Intentional Prayers. **This is open to anyone who would like to join us.**



Prayer Requests: There is a basket and pieces of paper on the table in the Barrier-free entrance. The prayer group will meet on the third Tuesday of the month (**March 17<sup>th</sup>**) at **10 a.m.** to pray for all who request prayers. You can also request prayers on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/ULCLanse>), by email ([ulc\\_lanse40@yahoo.com](mailto:ulc_lanse40@yahoo.com)), on the website ([www.unitedlutheranchurchlanse.org](http://www.unitedlutheranchurchlanse.org)) or by calling the church office (524-6484).

**All are welcome to join us!**



|                                    | EXPENSES<br>& INCOME<br>FOR Jan. | YTD         | TOTAL BUDGET |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Expenses:                          | \$ 7,928.00                      | \$ 7,928.00 | \$125,999.00 |
| Income:                            | \$11,505.28                      | \$11,505.28 |              |
| CHECKBOOK                          | Balance 12/31/2025               |             | \$31,163.28  |
|                                    | Balance: 1/31/2026               |             | \$34,847.44  |
| Window Fund Savings Acct. Balance  |                                  |             | \$ 7,439.37  |
| General Fund Savings Acct. Balance |                                  |             | \$46,669.86  |

### ATTENDANCE FOR JANUARY

|                | 2026 | 2025 |
|----------------|------|------|
| January 4/5    | 83   | 73   |
| January 11/13  | 82   | 66   |
| January 18/19  | 82   | 37   |
| January 25/26  | 53   | 42   |
| Weekly Average | 75   | 54   |

**It's a WIN-WIN opportunity for everyone.**



### *Caring For A Needy World With The Things We Throw Away*

Matthew 25: Ministries, an Ohio based charitable organization, is widely considered a top charity, and recognized for its exceptional efficiency, with over 99% of donations going directly to programs. They excel at providing disaster relief and humanitarian aid, leveraging donated goods to help the world's poorest populations efficiently.

Our plan is to partner with other churches throughout Baraga County in just one small aspect of their ministry — **the empty Pill Bottle**.

Matthew 25: Ministries accepts donations of clean, empty, recapped, label and residue-free plastic pill bottles for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies. This program fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for our environment.



### **Why not just recycle your pill bottles?**

Though technically recyclable, the process is difficult and different types of plastic can't be recycled together, so only about 5% of plastic waste is actually recycled in the U.S.

At the same time, pill bottles are incredibly useful and easy to reuse. They're the ideal solution for keeping potentially dangerous medications away from children and protecting them from water and pests.

The usefulness of pill bottles combined with the difficulty of recycling them into anything else makes it worthwhile to ship used bottles to other countries. This also keeps them out of landfills, and saves recycling centers from trouble of sorting and discarding them.

Acceptable pill bottles include prescription and over-the-counter bottles, both large and small, with or without child-resistant caps.

There is a box in the narthex where you can donate your empty pill bottles. We ask that you wash the bottles (and caps) with hot, soapy water and **Please be sure to remove any labels**.

Thank you for your support of this project.



United Lutheran Church Prayerline

Joanne Kemppainen – Coordinator - 906-524-6584

Nancy Crocker

Leann Davis

Margo Jentoft

Renee Eliason

Ruth Anne Connor

Annette Lindstrom

Lois Anderson

Diane LaForest

Evelyn Welch

Kristina Waara

Robbie Schultz

Kris Kokko

Cindy Giddings

Roxanne Clement

Joanne Mitchell

Nancy Bernard

Kerri Dompier

Jane LeClaire

Calli Sweeney

## United Lutheran Church Youth



**Congratulations to Keegan Davidson and Sam Lee for their achievements this year.**



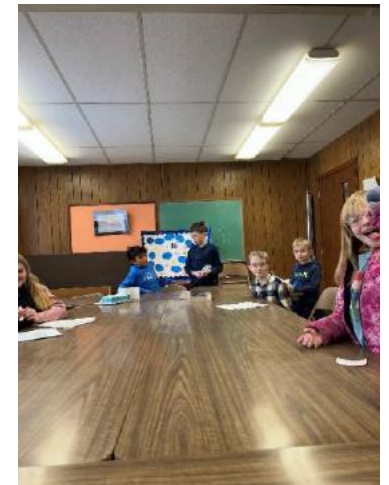
**2026 Confirmation Class serving coffee hour**

## Youth Page (cont.)



**Sunday  
School  
Fun**

**Grades 2-5**



# March 2026

| Sunday                                                                     | Monday | Tuesday                                 | Wednesday                                                                                              | Thursday                                | Friday | Saturday |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| 1<br>10 am Sunday School<br>10 am Worship Renee<br>Confirmation Class      | 2      | 3<br>10 am Sarah Circle                 | 4                                                                                                      | 5<br>12 noon Worship &<br>Music Meeting | 6      | 7        |
| 8<br>10 am Sunday School<br>10 am Worship Pr. Julie<br>Council             | 9      | 10                                      | 11<br>1 pm Women of the<br>Church Meeting                                                              | 12                                      | 13     | 4        |
| 15<br>10 am Sunday School<br>10 am Worship Pr. Julie<br>Confirmation Class | 16     | 17<br>10 am Intentional Prayer<br>Group | 18<br>3:30 pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion<br>Class                                                       | 19                                      | 20     | 21       |
| 22<br><b>NO Sunday School</b><br>10 am Worship Renee                       | 23     | 24                                      | 25                                                                                                     | 26                                      | 27     | 28       |
| 29<br><b>NO Sunday School</b><br>10 am Worship Pr Bonny<br>Kinnunen        | 30     | 31                                      | <b>Office Hours:</b><br>Monday: Closed<br>Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday: 9 am -1 pm<br>Wednesday: 1-4 pm |                                         |        |          |