



# LIGHT YEARS

A PUBLICATION OF LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Winter/Spring 2020*

## MINISTRY IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

*Pastor Elizabeth Friedman*

This newsletter is coming to you a lot later than I would have liked, and I apologize for its lateness. But I do hope this finds you well in the midst of all that is happening across our country, and across our world. Because of the timing, you will see a glimpse of what our life together was like before the pandemic hit – a momentum we hope is only paused in this time of waiting, or perhaps simply progressing differently.

By the time our students left for spring break at the beginning of March, there was chatter on our national LuMin Network staff page about whether our students would still be going on their planned spring breaks. Within days, even before our own students returned from their trips, other campus ministry colleagues across the country had cancelled their respective spring break trips. Our students returned to U of M on March 9; one week later, public schools in Michigan were shut down, and my husband, who is a paleontology professor, was frantically working to move his class online and figure out how to keep his graduate students working when they could no longer be in the lab. Within one week at LoL/LCM, we went from having conversations about how to modify Communion to make it safer, to realizing we simply wouldn't be able to come together at all. Our last in-person service was on March 8.

But as much pain, confusion, and difficulty as this situation has presented, I am grateful for our Lord of Light/LCM community, which continues to meet weekly for worship at 5pm on Sundays. Our YouTube channel is up and running, and I have been posting sermons each week. For several weeks, we had not been able to gather in the building, but we are hoping to begin to record liturgies with music soon, too.

Meanwhile, despite all of its inherent challenges, this pandemic has offered us the opportunity to begin to use video conferencing software to maintain and strengthen ties even as our community members disperse to their homes. We piloted a Bible study on the book of Revelation for Augsburg Fortress via Zoom; we will start small groups over the summer; and there is a group interested in doing faith formation in preparation for baptism and confirmation.

My hope is that, when this pandemic is over and we all step out into community again, we will sing ever more joyfully together, remembering that the One who created us and loves us does not abandon us, but has bound us together with the Holy Spirit in love for one another. We remember that our community is not contained within the walls of a church. Just as Jesus entered the locked room where the disciples were hidden, the ties that bind us together in Christ are also able to pass between our own locked doors.

I pray that you are safe and well in this difficult time, and thank you for your partnership in this important ministry.



## ADVENT FAIR TRADE FUNDRAISER

Two generous gifts made it possible for our students to host a fair trade sale and fundraiser during Advent. Zion Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor gifted LCM with its inventory from the fair trade sales it used to hold regularly, and an anonymous donor agreed to match funds raised up to \$1,000. All proceeds went into a fund to help students attend faith formation events. Between the sale and the matching donations, we raised well over \$2,000 – more than enough to send a student to the Lutheran Student Movement Gathering in Washington, DC (see page 3) and two students to the Great Lakes Gathering in Kalamazoo in February (see page 5). When we are able to gather together again, we hope to keep this tradition up and help more students attend these important events!



## STUDY BREAK



Before winter term ended, LCM hosted a study break for students that included cookie baking and lefse making with Pastor Elizabeth's mom, Anne Bakalyar, with Elf playing in the background. We also put out a huge coloring poster with the word 'hope' from Illustrated Ministry, and students began to put their own stamp on it. Vida was open for students to access snacks and wifi, and we passed out over 100 'finals survival' bags with snacks, fruit, pens, and inspiring notes to students who were heading to exams or to the library. These bags were graciously donated by Zion Lutheran Church in Chelsea (thank you for organizing, Beth Heuser!) and St. Paul Lutheran in Dearborn.



## LUTHERAN STUDENT MOVEMENT GATHERING

*Shelby Shaughnessy*

Over winter break, I was given the opportunity to attend the National Lutheran Student Movement Gathering in Washington, DC. I was hesitant to go at first, seeing as I did not know anyone else going, but ultimately decided to commit to it as an attempt to push myself out of my comfort zone and be given the opportunity to learn about Christ. This trip ended up being a wonderful opportunity for me. The trip itself lasted about five days and ran through New Year's. During my few days in D.C., I was given the opportunity to see multiple keynote speakers, including Rev. Jason Chesnut from Texas, and attend a variety of workshops, ranging from workshops focused on LGBTQ+ inclusivity in campus ministry to the intersectionality of health at every size. I attended as many of these as I was able, wanting to take in as much information as possible during my few days in DC.

We began and ended the days with service, which I found myself liking a lot. Outside of the services I tried to meet as many people as possible, and since there were about 90 students there and I was the only one from Michigan, it was not hard to find myself in a group of people I did not know! I became especially close with a group of seminary students from Ohio and another group of undergraduate students from Colorado. The students from Colorado and I spent our final full day in DC wandering around the city, exploring the museums, and eating food. Our final stop was a restaurant in Chinatown. It was really nice to be given the whole day to do whatever we wanted and explore as little or as much of DC as we wanted. It was during this day that I really began to feel comfortable around people I had only met a few days prior.



I think that as special as it was for me to attend such a faith-based gathering, I am also so glad I was given the opportunity to meet students that I was able to relate so deeply with. Being raised Catholic, it always blows my mind when I find myself surrounded by people who are so passionate both about Christ as well as about how to keep the churches loving and inclusive of people who have been discriminated against in the past. It was nice to talk to students who have come from backgrounds similar to mine, where they never really felt like they had a place in the church until finding their way to their campus ministry freshman year. I am still in touch with a few of the students I met, and I

definitely plan on going back next year if the opportunity presents itself. I am grateful I pushed myself so far out of my comfort zone and that it really paid off in the end through all the new people I met and all the knowledge I gained through both the keynote speakers and the workshops. I definitely had a great time!!

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW ORGANIST

*Brian Manzo*

I'm a first year PhD student at the University of Michigan studying statistics and I joined Lord of Light as organist/keyboardist in January 2020. Every Sunday growing up, my family went to St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Farmingdale, NY, where my grandfather sang in the choir and I listened to my future organ teacher, Dr. Eugene McCoy, play the organ. I started piano lessons when I was 9, and five years later I decided I wanted to learn to play the organ.

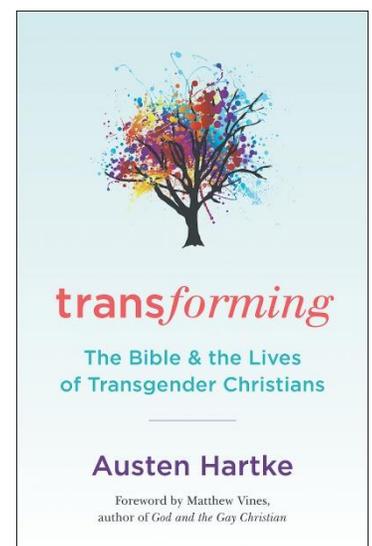
Over the next few years, I fell in love with the organ and hymn playing. I spent one year studying organ at the University of Notre Dame before transferring to Columbia University to study math and statistics, while also continuing organ studies. After completing my BA at Columbia, I spent two years working in the public finance investment banking division at RBC Capital Markets in New York City. After leaving RBC, I moved to Ann Arbor to begin my PhD in statistics at the University of Michigan. In addition to studying statistics, I take organ lessons with Dr. James Kibbie at the School of Music, Theater and Dance. In my free time I enjoy running, doing crossword puzzles, and watching sports.



Brian performing at his sister's wedding last summer.

## TRANSFORMING

For several weeks in autumn, we met with friends from the Wesley Foundation and Canterbury House to discuss Austen Hartke's book *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*. This book is not only an introduction to the experience of transgender people in the Christian faith, but it is also a treatise on the grace God extends to each of us, perhaps most especially when we are feeling lost, alone, and cast out.



## VISIONING

In January, the LCM board and Lord of Light council (including students) came together to develop a shared language for our vision, values, mission, and goals to help people know who we are, and to help us discern what kind of future we are looking toward as we continue in ministry together. This is our vision – we are:

**Gathered as we are, into inclusive Christian community**  
**Fed in body, mind, and spirit**  
**Sent to love and serve the whole world**

You can see more of our work on our website!



## GREAT LAKES GATHERING



The Great Lakes Gathering, which draws Lutheran and Episcopal high school students and young adults from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, met in February this year rather than its usual date in late December. Pastor Elizabeth and Ph.D. student Ben Hollenbach led the young adult Faith Track, and we discussed definitions of beauty while connecting with nature (even in February!) by planting our own succulent pots. Two of our students, Jen and Juliana, were able to come along as well.

Aisea Taimani led us in worship each night, and we communed together before heading out. Pastor Jay Gamelin, our speaker, left us with this insight into Psalm 23: God never promised to bring us around the valley of shadow, but God has always promised to walk with us through it. That insight seems particularly relevant in these days – we can remember that God has always walked with us in difficult times.



# PHOTO GALLERY

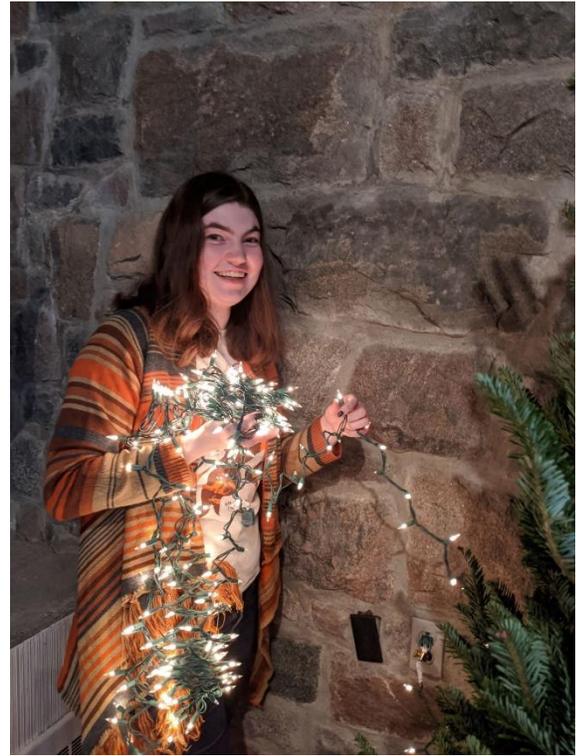


Friendsgiving



Midnight Madness in  
Downtown Ann Arbor

# Decking the Halls



# Advent Lessons & Carols, and potluck



Installation of  
2020 council members



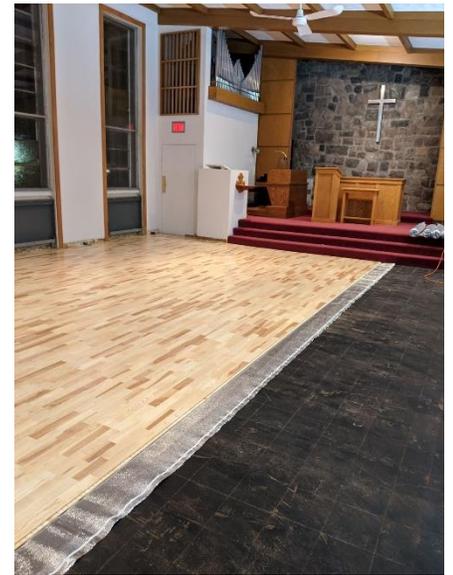
Bishop's visit  
on January 26

Ashes On The Go



## NEW SANCTUARY FLOOR

After finishing the kitchen, boiler, fellowship hall, and several other necessary upgrades, we had enough money left from our National Lutheran Campus Ministry matching grant to abate the asbestos tile in the sanctuary and replace the 25-year-old carpet with engineered hardwood. This new flooring has enhanced the acoustics and made the space airy and bright. Many thanks to all who donated to upgrade and repair our building, and to everyone who helped remove and replace the furniture!



Above: During installation.

Left: Curtiss, Beatrix, Pastor Elizabeth, Shelby, Juliana, and Dan made up the crew setting the sanctuary back up for worship after installation.

Below: The sanctuary all ready to go!



# *Thank you to our 2019 Donors!*

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*Please let us know if there are any corrections we need to make to our list!*

# Thank You

to the Southeast Michigan Synod of the ELCA, and to our Partner Congregations:

*Beautiful Savior, Bloomfield Hills  
Holy Trinity, Livonia  
St. John, Dundee  
St. Paul, Dearborn  
Lord of Light, Ann Arbor  
Holy Faith Church, Saline*

*Zion, Ann Arbor  
Trinity, Ann Arbor  
Zion, Chelsea  
King of Kings, Lake Orion  
St. John's, Fowlerville  
Salem, Flint*

to all who provided Sunday dinner in 2019:

*Kathy Bonds & Mark Mau  
Paul Durance  
Anne Bakalyar  
Ruth Kallio  
Mert Spencer  
Carolyn & John Haury  
The LCM Board  
Be3*

*Zion Lutheran, Chelsea  
Holy Trinity, Livonia  
Zion Lutheran, Ann Arbor  
King of Kings, Ann Arbor  
St. Peter Lutheran, St. Clair  
Holy Faith Church, Saline  
Emmanuel, Ypsilanti  
Lord of Light, Ann Arbor*

to all those who donated fruit and baked goods for Vida, as well as their time:

*Chris Haydon  
Lucia Yu  
Beth Heuser  
Laura Carry  
Linda Thornton*

*Anne Bakalyar  
Judy Moldenbauer  
Paul Durance  
Stan Eckermann  
Roland Schaedig & Barb Harvorth  
Ruth Kallio*

**We always need more help - if you or your congregation would like to get involved, please go to [www.lcm-um.org/support](http://www.lcm-um.org/support) to sign up!**

# WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR PRAYERS AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS!

Enclosed you will find a Spring 2019 Appeal Card. Thrivent Choice lets members recommend where some of the charitable outreach funds from Thrivent Financial go by directing Choice Dollars. In order to participate in Choice Dollars, donors must be benefit members age 16 or older and hold a Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership position or have \$800 or more in annual premiums toward qualifying insurance products or have \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying products. If you previously directed Thrivent Choice Dollars to Lutheran Campus Ministry, thank you! Would you please do so again? Simply go to:



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## LIGHT YEARS

Lord of Light Lutheran Church

Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Michigan

*Winter/Spring 2020*

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