

University Evangelical Lutheran Church and Campus Ministry

The Lampstand

December 2018

Our Mission

UELC's Mission:

To Embrace and Share the Love of God in Jesus Christ, as the Holy Spirit Empowers us.

UELC's Guiding Principles:

Jesus is our Lord and Saviour; therefore, we are to:

- > Worship God in inspiring, diverse, and creative ways
- > Be a community engaged in spiritual practices that attune us to the Holy Spirit's guidance for our living
- > Welcome all people in their diversity to worship, learn, and serve with us
- > Be a safe place to learn, explore, and debate
- > Be generous stewards of the gifts God has given each of us to bless others and care for the natural world
- > Continue outreach to, and further develop connections with, the academic communities of Alachua County
- > Affirm human rights and work for social justice



Pastor's Corner

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**Join Our
Mailing List**

**Forward To A
Friend**

January Newsletter Deadline

Please send any articles for the January newsletter by December 28th to Andy Noss andrew.noss@yahoo.com

December Worship Volunteers

Assisting Ministers

Dec 2

Dec 9

Dec 16

Dec 23

Dec 24

Dec 30

Altar Guild

Dec 2 Anna Grace

MontMarquette

Dec 9 Joan Anderson

Dec 16 Elaine Manion

Dec 23 Jackie Klein

Our Journey to the Manger

The manger represents lowliness. In simple terms "lowliness" means simple. When we say someone is simple, we mean that they are uneducated, clueless about the sophisticated and perhaps overly trusting.

The journey to the manger for us in the 21st century is to shed our own sense of ownership of knowledge and superior learnedness when compared to others. To accept a Savior of the world being born of a virgin, in a manger because there was no place for Him in the inn, is like accepting a fairy tale. It does not make sense to the learned.

For us to prepare for the advent of the Christ, we need to become lowly, accept the unsophisticated and perhaps ridiculous (to the modern mind) "theory" of the birth of Jesus as the Savior of the world.

Most of us simply accept the Christmas story because we heard it from the day we first reached the age of understand as children. We may have grown out of believing in Santa, but it has been drummed into our heads that Jesus was born on that day, and the whole story of the nativity. Many of us learned this in Sunday school, and even participated in the plays dramatizing the nativity scene. So we tend to accept the advent of Christ, almost without thinking. Even if we question the science and fairytale-likeness of the whole story, in so-called



"Christian" cultures, it's the "holy cow" of our existence. We feel we need to pass that down to our children – exactly as we learned it. Perhaps we should.

To be Christian, we need to look at our whole lives with the lens we use to accept Christmas.

simple faith

Faith does not make sense - even as the birth of Jesus does not make sense. The virgin birth baffles medical science. Astrologists are baffled by the "star" that the "wise men from the East" followed; how could these people even be called "wise"? Marriage counsellors and therapists wonder how an engaged couple could work through a pregnancy when they did not engage in sex. When we go from the story of the birth, to the death, then the resurrection, the ascension, eternal life, and the whole story of sin and redemption, it is even more "simple" to the modern mind. Yet, we are called to be "simple" – that is faith. *"Without faith it is impossible to please (believe in) God."* (Hebrews 11:6) This Advent journey to the manger, let's embrace the need to be simple and so embrace the mystery of our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Savior of the world!

Pastor Terrance

Lector

Dec 2
Dec 9
Dec 16
Dec 23
Dec 24
Dec 30

Ushers

Dec 2 Phil / Andy Noss
Dec 9 Ron Gordon / Ron Fourman
Dec 16 Roger Springfels / Sam Brill
Dec 23 Gene Brandner / John MontMarquette
Dec 24 Jeanne / Bill Chamberlin
Dec 30 Ron Fourman / Andy Noss

Greeters

Dec 2
Dec 9
Dec 16
Dec 23
Dec 24
Dec 30

Sound Assistant

Dec 2
Dec 9
Dec 16
Dec 23
Dec 24
Dec 30

Counters

Dec 2
Dec 9
Dec 16
Dec 23
Dec 24
Dec 30

Still Collecting Diapers!

We are still collecting infant/toddler diapers for Gainesville Community Ministry. You can put them in the lime green container in the Kaiser Center.

Gainesville Community Ministry says they often get plenty of new born and small infant diapers, but not a lot of the larger size (fitting 20 pounds and up).

So, if you could, donate some of the larger sizes.

If you have questions, you can contact Krissi Norford.



Council President's Report

This time of year often presents a paradox: the calendar year is winding down, but the church year is just beginning. This odd transition creates full calendars, reflections of the past year, and hopes (and resolutions) for the new year to come. UELC is no exception to this pattern. In the month of December, our calendars will be full with hosting Family Promise, soup suppers, mid-week services and social events, As we look back on a finished a football season and successful season of parking, we also look forward to new leadership on Council and the construction of a new roof.

Related to looking forward, a congregational meeting has been called for December 16th, 2018 following the service. The purpose of the meeting will be to vote-in new Council members for the term beginning in 2019 as well as to discuss the parameters of the continuing resolution of the Enduring Gift Fund. Copies for review will be made available the week prior to the congregational meeting on December 9th.

As for other news and events, Bill Chamberlin caught up the congregation in the November edition of the Lampstand, and there are additional articles of what else will be happening in this month's newsletter, so the congregational meeting is all I have to report from Council. Please do read through the newsletter to get more detailed information about all of the other December happenings.

During this busy time where both the secular and Christianity meet and we await the coming of Christ, it is important to not get lost in all the extra around us, but to take time to be still and rest even if just for a few minutes for it is often in the stillness we meet God.

Wishing you joy and peace in this season,

Krissi Norford
Acting President

UELC People



December Birthdays

12/ 2 Krister Ryerson
12/ 4 Austin MontMarquette
12/ 6 Matthew Fauerbach
12/ 8 Laurie Ezzell
12/16 Jesse Saarela
12/16 John MontMarquette
12/17 Adam MontMarquette
12/19 Walter Flanders
12/20 Britt Ryerson
12/24 Alice Simpson
12/24 Andy Noss
12/25 JESUS
12/29 Andy Finn
12/31 Carol Dienhart
12/31 Liz Finn

Lois Wilkowske relocates to Atlanta

UCLC and our longest standing member, Lois Wilkowske, are sad to announce that due to failing health, Lois has to relocate from Gainesville to Atlanta on December 2, 2018. Lois, a proud member of the UELC informal "Nineties Club", while not the oldest member, is the longest standing member of UELC that's presently attending. She has been one of the most faithful members who attend worship every Sunday, with only a few exceptions. In the last few months, Lois's health deteriorated following a knee surgery. She was cared for by family but it has become necessary for her to move closer to family in Atlanta, Georgia where she will live. All are invited to write to Lois at:

Lois Wilkowske
Sunrise at Five Forks
3997 Five Forks Trickum Rd. SW
Apt. 113
Lilburn, GA 30047



Special Prayer Concerns

- Prayers for healing: Al Schilling, Agnes Martinson, Lois Wilkowske, Alice Simpson.



CHRIST CHILD TREE

Look for the Christ Child Tree in the narthex to receive your gifts to show Christ's love. This year's donations will support Family Promise of Gainesville. Your gift carries God's love to others, making a difference in the lives of homeless children and their families. Place your offering in a red stocking and hang it on the tree – take an ornament from the tree for your tree at home.

Greening of the Sanctuary





Campus Ministry News

Students continue to meet on Thursday's at 5:30 p.m. (note change in day in the last 2 months). An initiative is underway to extend our ministry towards a Young Adult Ministry at UELC. This will provide the opportunity for students and younger adults up to age 40 to engage faith conversation and develop a ministry to suit the needs of young adults in a changing world.

Student Survival Dinner





And Thank You to the faithful Football Parkers for a successful 2018 season!!





Music Ministry

Advent Midweek Reflective Worship and Soup Supper

Wednesdays, Dec 5th, 12th & 19th

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., starting with a light soup and salad meal followed by a reflective prayer service led by our UELC Music Ministry.



Planning for Advent

Advent is a wonderful opportunity to receive more of God's Grace. God wants to bless us with more power, love and joy but we are too busy with our lists of chores and the clutter of our daily lives. The loud clamoring voice of living drowns out the voice of John the Baptist "prepare ye the way of the Lord". God does not need Advent WE DO!

If we want this treasure - this gift of Christ's Life in us - we need to stop and make room for Him. We need to build our Hope and our Faith to enable us to live in Peace, Love and Joy in a world with so much strife and heartache. Then we can be witnesses to the life of Christ in us.

During Advent we take time to remember how much we are loved by God. We look deep into our hearts to root out all the stuff that is keeping us from having a close, loving relationship with Jesus. We may want to empty out more of ourselves to make more room for Jesus to be

with Jesus. We may want to empty ourselves of ourselves to make more room for Jesus to be born in us so that we will be able to walk, talk and live like He did. These three worship evenings are a gift to us from our Father, come receive your Gift.

Crystal Jacob, Minister of Music



Advent Potluck and Soup Suppers

Advent Lunch Potluck



Advent Lunch Potluck

December 2nd following the worship service

The annual advent lunch potluck and Christmas Carole sing-a-long will be held Sunday December 2nd. Following the worship service in the Kaiser Student Center. This is a festive event for everyone - members, students and friends.

Please add your name to the sign up sheet so we will be sure to set a place for you. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share that serves 12 or more. A punch will be served. There is always a need for volunteers to help with set up, decorating and clean up. Call Caroline Yale 495-1742 if you can help.

This Advent Lunch will honor all UELC Nineties Club Members – those members 90 years old and above by the end of 2018.



Advent Soup Suppers

Wednesday's at 5:30 PM

Starting on Wednesday December 5th

Volunteers are needed to help with the soup suppers for the 3 Wednesdays in Advent. Two volunteers are needed to prepare a pot of soup to feed about 30 and provide the bread or crackers. One of the soups should be vegetarian. Additional volunteers are needed to help set up and clean-up. Someone from the hospitality action team will be around to assist volunteers in the kitchens.

Please consider adding your name to the signup sheet in the fellowship hall.



Ladies Holiday Tea

Ladies of University Luther Church and Campus Center

You Are Cordially Invited To

Our Ladies Holiday Tea at

*University Lutheran Church on
December 9, 2018 at 2-4 PM*

*Please Join The Women of ULC
For Fun & Fellowship
As We Celebrate Advent and Prepare
For The Birth Of Our Lord & Savior,
JESUS CHRIST*



Please bring a wrapped ornament (cost of ornament: \$10 or less) for the gift exchange

Cost of Tea: \$5.00

*Please RSVP to Caroline Yale (352-495-1742) By **December 4, 2018***

The Roof Leaks

As many of you are aware, the roof in the sanctuary leaks. Although interim repairs have been made, council has decided that the time has come to replace the entire roof, on both the sanctuary and the Kaiser Center. This is not a minor undertaking. Bids have been sought and presentations by professional roofers have been made before the council and property

committees.

To update the whole church community about the process, procedures, cost, and financing involved in replacing the roof, a

**Capital Campaign Launch Brunch will be held on
Wednesday, December 12th at 11 am in the Kaiser Center.**

It is hoped that all will be able to attend and learn about this important step that our church is taking.

Please RSVP by Dec. 5th to the church office at 352-373-6945 or info@ulcgainesville.com

The Bee

**JOIN US ON TUESDAYS
for
“THE BEE”**

WHERE: ULC KAISER CENTER

WHEN: 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

WHAT: A “BEE”

**Which is a meeting for communal work and/or amusement OR
a prayer, favor, the joining of neighbors to help a neighbor in
need.**

**We will have lunch together, short devotion, and a variety of
programs to select.**

**BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH
COME and SEE!!!**

For more information please contact Liz Finn

LIFT

Lutherans In Fellowship Together (LIFT), our monthly gathering to share a meal, have fellowship and hear presentations of interest to all. LIFT will resume in January 2019.





On November 8, 2018, Colt Little gave a presentation on Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, and shared his experiences of climbing Africa's highest mountain. Colt is a member of UELC and was happy to share his travelogue with us.

Family Promise



Christmas Giving Tree. When you give to this year's Giving Tree, you will be helping homeless children in our community; all donations will go to Family Promise of Gainesville! Pat Dasler has dedicated hours and hours to hand make the most precious tree ornaments. Please look for the tree this Advent season. Thank you for your continued support!

We're hosting this week, the 2nd - 9th! If you're not already volunteering, come by just to visit and see what it's like. We're helping 3 families stay safe and warm, and eat healthy meals, while they're saving money and gathering other resources from Family Promise of Gainesville in order to sustain themselves in affordable housing.

Our next hosting week will come up soon at the end of January. Please ask me how you can get involved.

Amy_Schirmer@yahoo.com

Village of Hope



Sponsorships can begin at any time during the year. Contact Janet Janke, UELC Lazarus Project Coordinator, for information.

Our Pastor and Staff

Pastor Terrance Jacob
Pastor, Congregation and Campus Ministry
pastor@ulcgainesville.com

Crystal Jacob
Minister of Music (Direct Choir and music-related ministries)

Moses Choi
Pianist

Evelyn Simmons
Administrative Assistant
info@ulcgainesville.com

December						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

30 1 st Sunday Christmas 10:25 Worship Service 11:30 Fellowship	31 7 pm AA					1 7 pm AA 10 pm AA
2 1 st Sunday Advent FAMILY PROMISE 10:25 Worship Service 11:30 Advent Lunch Potluck	3 FAMILY PROMISE 7 pm AA	4 FAMILY PROMISE 11:30-1 pm The Bee	5 FAMILY PROMISE 5:30 pm Advent Soup Supper 7 pm Choir	6 FAMILY PROMISE	7 FAMILY PROMISE	8 FAMILY PROMISE 7 pm AA 10 pm AA
9 2 nd Sunday Advent 10:25 Worship Service 11:30 Fellowship	10 7 pm AA	11 11:30-1 pm The Bee	12 11 am Capital Campaign Brunch 5:30 pm Advent Soup Supper 7 pm Choir	13 7 pm Council	14	15 7 pm AA 10 pm AA
16 3 rd Sunday Advent 10:25 Worship Service 11:30 Congregation Meeting 12:00 Fellowship	17 7 pm AA	18 11:30-1 pm The Bee	19 5:30 pm Advent Soup Supper 7 pm Choir	20	21	22 7 pm AA 10 pm AA
23 4 th Sunday Advent 10:25 Worship Service 11:30 Fellowship	24 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service 7 pm AA	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 7 pm Choir	27	28	29 7 pm AA 10 pm AA

2018

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