# University Evangelical Lutheran Church and Campus Ministry

The Lampstand

December 2018

#### Our Mission

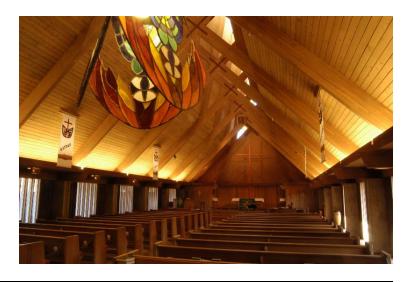
**UELC's Mission:** 

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 new sletter 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

Dog 22 Jackie Klein

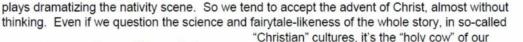
#### Our Journey to the Manger

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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



simple faith

"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.

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



Dec 24 Mary Lou Schirmer
Dec 30 Anna Grace
MontMarquette

Lector

Dec 2

Dec 9

Dec 16 Dec 23

Dec 23

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

Jec 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 16<sup>th</sup>, 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 9<sup>th</sup>.

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

, _	Titlotol Tty oldoll
12/ 4	Austin MontMarquette
12/6	Matthew Fauerbach
12/8	Laurie Ezzell
12/16	Jesse Saarela
12/16	John MontMarquette
12/17	Adam MontMarquette

Krieter Ryerson

12/17 Adam 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

UELC 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 he 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 clo ser 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

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

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



# December 2<sup>nd</sup> following the worship service

The annual advent lunch potluck and Christmas Carole sing-along 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 you 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.

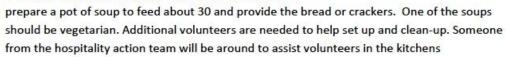


# **Advent Soup Suppers**

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



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 12<sup>th</sup> 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. 5<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>!** 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 1st Sunday Christmas 10:25 Worship Service 11:30 Fellowship	31 7 pm AA					7 pm AA 10 pm AA
2 1 <sup>rt</sup> Sunday Advent FAMILY PROMISE 10:25 Worship Service 11:30 Advent Lunch Potluck	FAMILY PROMISE 7 pm AA	FAMILY PROMISE 11:30-1 pm The Bee	FAMILY PROMISE 5:30 pm Advent Soup Supper 7 pm Choir	6 FAMILY PROMISE	7 FAMILY PROMISE	FAMILY PROMISE 7 pm AA 10 pm AA
9 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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	7 pm AA 10 pm AA
16 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Advent 10:25 Worship Service 11:30 Congregation Meeting 12:00 Fellowship	17 7 pm AA	18 11:30-1 pm The Bee	5:30 pm Advent Soup Supper 7 pm Choir	20	21	7 pm AA 10 pm AA
23 4th 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	7 pm AA 10 pm AA

2018

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