



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

THE CONNECTION

January-February 2019



United Lutheran Church, ELCA

21 Mesnard St., L'Anse, Michigan
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Pastor: John Ansell; (906) 201-2864

Come and Worship!

We celebrate with worship on
Sunday worship at 10 a.m.
Sunday School at 10 a.m.
and **Mondays** at 6 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: 9 am – 12 noon
Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 9 am–1 pm
Wednesday: 1 pm – 4 pm

Greetings and Happy New Year to Everyone,

This is the January/February edition of my pastoral letter.

In comes January opening a brand new year with great possibilities for all of us. Typically, we encounter the coldest days and nights of the winter in January and February. As a kid I never liked the month of January because it seemed the temperature never would get above twenty degrees and frequently hovered below zero. The month seemed long, dark and just plain cold.

As exciting it is to start a new year I am not sure how happy we really are to be facing the difficult weather we must endure before we can enjoy some of the nicer days to come. Life in general can seem this way. We are excited to start something new but then have the attendant changes to deal with especially when things don't go the way we thought they would. Eventually we are usually able to find some better days in the future.

Last year I incorporated the Saint of the month in my newsletters. However this year I thought I would incorporate a hymn of the month. As informative as it is to learn about the saints who have impacted our Christian faith, I felt we should learn more about hymns and how they can impact our faith. Hymnody has always been an important aspect of our faith. In fact, a good hymn can be just as powerful as any sermon. So for the year 2019 I will highlight a hymn of the month.

In reflecting on which hymn to pick for a cold and snowy months of January and February I decided upon *In the Bleak Midwinter*. It is traditionally thought of as a Christmas song but I feel it fits well with these two months of the New Year. The lyrics were written by an English poet named Cristina Georgina Rossetti. She lived and wrote in the 19th century. As for the music, it was written by Gustav Holst an English composer from the early 20th century.

The words of the song reflect on the time of year when we celebrate the birth of Christ. For people in England and the UP it is cold, snowy and bleak. However, despite the bleakness there is hope which is found in Christ to whom we give our hearts. Such a hymn might not be as notable or one of the "top ten favorites" of the season but I feel it points to some of the realities which we face. Our world on many levels has a tendency to be bleak and cold. Yet despite such dreariness we still have Christ the embodiment of God's love. A love which overcomes the bleakness of our cold depressing world and encourages us to have hope, faith, and love. So whether we are experiencing sorrow because of the cold and snow that will greet us in the next two months or if something else within our life is causing us pain; just remember we have our faith to help us make it through. May God continue to bless us all in this New Year.

Sincerely,
Pastor John Ansell



TELLERS for January

Tellers are needed

USHERS For January

January 6	Joan Bugni & Kayla Kujansuu
January 13	Leann Davis & Evelyn Welch
January 20	<i>Need someone</i>
January 27	<i>Need someone</i>

READERS For January

January 6	Joanne Kemppainen
January 13	<i>Need someone</i>
January 20	<i>Need someone</i>
January 27	<i>Need someone</i>



TELLERS for February

Tellers are needed.

USHERS for February

Ushers are needed.

READERS for February

February 3, 10, 17	Volunteers are needed
February 24	Gail Jestila

Please check the Volunteer Wall to sign up to Usher, or Read the lessons.



FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

We are a family UNITED ... and what a great way to get to know each other better ... over coffee!

But we need YOU to put on the coffee and be willing to clean up afterwards (and perhaps provide something to go with the coffee).

Check the sign-up sheet in the barrier-free entrance. Remember, the focus is the fellowship ... so keep the food simple.

All the monetary donations received during the Fellowship Hour go toward World Hunger.

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS For January-February

- January 6 Margo & Brian Jentoft
- January 13 Crockers
- January 20 Joan Bugni & Cassie Kujansuu
- January 27 Potluck for Annual Meeting
- February 3 Kris Kokko, Janel & Jenni LaPlante
- February 10 Leann Davis & Evelyn Welch
- February 17 *Need someone*
- February 24 Daryl & Syl Jestila, Gail, Sam, and Grace

Please check the Volunteer Wall to sign up to Serve Coffee.

ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE: The Annual Report deadline will be January 10, 2019. Please mark your calendar and have your report turned in to the office by that date! Thank you!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The Annual Meeting will be on January 27th with a potluck brunch and the meeting all following worship

WOMEN'S EVENTS!

WOMEN'S WINTER PICNIC

February 14th at 1 p.m. in the Social Hall

Come and enjoy fellowship and a picnic lunch with grilled hot dogs. We welcome your participation in our business meeting, one of only three per year. All women are welcome.



The **COOKIE WALK** brought in just over \$1800 this year. A **BIG THANK YOU** to all who participated!



Sarah Circle will meet on **Tuesday, January 8th at 9:30 a.m. at Dee Dee Soli's**

house. Sarah Circle in February will be held on Tuesday, February 5th at 9:30 a.m. All ladies are welcome to attend.



Martha Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 8th at 1 p.m. and February 5th at 1 p.m.

SHUT-INS



Please remember our shut-ins. Keep them in your prayers.
If you have a moment, stop and visit them.

At Bayside: Beatrice Harju, and Joyce Taipalus.

At home: Ellen Biekkola, Ruth Ranta.

At Mill Creek Assisted Living, Marquette, MI: Betty Ann Pyhtila.



... Tom DesRochers, Bob Eliason, Martha Harju, Glenda Hiltunen, Janel LaPlante, PJ LeClaire, Nancy McIntyre, Karl Presslein, Jean Richardson, Kathy Teddy.

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.

January Birthdays

January 1	Kelsey Ross
January 6	Neil Whitman
January 8	Andrea McMahon
January 9	Steve Koski, Terra Sweeney
January 10	Raeanne Waara
January 14	Karisa Mukka
January 16	Jonathon DesLaurier
January 18	Lois Anderson, James C. Brown, Jean Johnson
January 19	Gerald Marinich
January 20	Betty Ann Pyhtila
January 21	William A. Ruona, Jr.
January 23	Brian Peterson
January 25	Rik Moilanen
January 28	Steve Giddings, Alayna Tollefson
January 29	Zak Kissel
January 30	Sarah Mills, Vicky Solberg
January 31	Susan Coffey, Jan Cram



February Birthdays

February 1	Joan Bugni, Ruth Anne Connor
February 2	Herbert Tollefson
February 4	Julie Kissel
February 5	Edward Tollefson
February 6	Ashlyn Ahola
February 8	Madison Peterson
February 10	Barbara DesLaurier
February 11	Irma Haanpaa
February 12	Jared Johnson
February 13	Lucille Conley
February 15	Gail Hakola
February 20	Annette Lindstrom
February 25	Dawn Marinich
February 26	Heather Brown
February 27	Darrell Giddings
February 28	Bernice Haapala



Sunday School!!

Sunday School is on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
All children ages 3 years through 5th grade are
welcome to attend!

SUNDAY SCHOOL will resume on January 6th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL teachers are needed... Please prayerfully
consider teaching Sunday School. If you are interested, please
contact Renee Eliason, or call the church office.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Adult Bible Study is every Sunday at 9 a.m.
The Bible Study is based on the Readings of the week.
Please join us for this Bible Study!!

CONFIRMATION CLASS

There will be NO Confirmation class on January 6th.

The next Confirmation class will be held on January 20th,
following worship (about 11:15 am).

Groundhog Day

Esther Kem Thomas



It's doubtful if a time will come
When folks can truly say
They'd trade one day of sunshine
For one of winter gray!

To be a sunshine pessimist
Or squint-eyed gloomy Gus
When February skies are clear
Seems too ridiculous.

I'll take my day of sunshine now
And chance the weeks to come;
I'll plan, indoors, the lettuce bed
And fall chrysanthemum.

Oh, I'm anticipating spring
But, if worse comes to worse,
For six weeks I'll be glad I had
A taste of sunshine first!



NATURE'S VALENTINE

Eleanor Hammond

Frost-flowers on the window glass;
Hopping chickadees that pass;
Bare old elms that bend and sway;
Pussy willows, soft and gray;
Silver clouds across the sky;
Lazy snowflakes flitting by;
Icicles like fringe in line--
That is nature's valentine.

Thank you to Jeanne Anderson for submitting these.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING

The next Regular Council Meeting will be on Sunday, January 13th, following worship (11:15 a.m.) and Sunday, January 27th following the Annual Meeting. The February meeting is tentatively set for February 10th following worship.

Please remember that all council meetings are open to the congregation.

December Council Highlights

- The Council agreed to participate in the Congregational Vitality Survey in January.
- Finance Committee will be meeting with the Insurance Representative to discuss updates to the policy.
- The Cookie Walk was a success again this year. There were a lot of cookies, candies, and baked goods that people donated. Thanks to all.
- Women will have their Annual Christmas Party.
- Worship & Music Committee have met and the schedule for Christmas is set.
- The budget was discussed again. Next month the council will look over the budget before the Annual Meeting.
- Annual Meeting will be January 27th with a potluck and the meeting following worship.
- Also, discussed some fundraising ideas.

Deposit for Contributions

Did you know that even if you do not attend worship YOU CAN still give to your church? Go to your financial institution and tell them you want to set up a deposit to United Lutheran Church General Fund Account #900104257; SNB Routing #091101879 It is as easy as that!
Thank you for supporting your church!



WINDOW FUND ENVELOPES

If you are interested in donating to the Window Fund to replace the windows in the education window, there are envelopes in the Barrier-free entrance.

ALTAR GUILD



The Altar Guild is looking for a few new members to help on the Altar Guild one month during the year. Responsibilities are to change the altar cloths (when necessary), put out and clean up communion, check the candles, etc. We need two people per month to serve on the Altar Guild. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Joan Bugni 524-4866 or Kris Kokko 524-6555.

Worship Attendance

	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Sun School</u>
Dec. 2-3	51	23	9
Dec. 9-10	54	---	13
Dec. 16-17	54	16	11
Dec. 23-24	39	166	--
Dec. 25	19	--	--
Dec. 30-31	29	--	--



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	December 2018	Year-to-date
Income	\$17,973.00	\$115,837.66
Expenses	<u>8,601.00</u>	<u>117,927.00</u>
Deficit	\$ 9,372.00	(\$ 2,089.34)

Articles for Newsletter



Looking for ideas and articles for the newsletter. What would you like to see?

Do you have information to be put in the newsletter? ***Remember that the newsletter deadline is the 10th of every other month.***

Please submit any articles or information to the church office by that date to be included in the next month's newsletter. The March-April Newsletter deadline will be February 10th.

Thank you to Jeanne Anderson for submitting these.
From a 1967 Ideals Magazine