

# The Spirit



A Monthly Publication of University Lutheran Church



Beloved of ULu,  
Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Recently Erika Cook and Kevin Bishop led a forum about membership here at ULC, which I heard was well attended. I also learned that it was very informative, for the participants and facilitators alike. So much to think about as we move forward!



One of the things that came out of the discussion was a desire for new member classes. As someone who is relatively new to the congregation myself, I have been mulling over what sort of new approaches could be embraced in this undertaking. After all, sitting in a room and listening to the pastor drone on and on about Lutheranism sounds pretty boring. And I am the pastor!

So, here is what I am proposing.

If you are interested in becoming a member (anyone who has been coming to ULC for any length of time and interested in another level of engagement), let's be in touch! Similarly, if you are interested in renewing your membership (like a returning former member or an existing member who wants to join in on the fun), let's be in touch! Once I know who is all interested, I will schedule our gatherings. I am picturing a getting to know you/each other dinner, a brief dive into Lutheranism/who is ULC, and formally (re)welcoming and installing participants on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th, during worship.



Come one, come all! I promise you, it won't be your grandma's new member class.



Christ is risen!  
Andy †



**WE CHOOSE LOVE. ALL ARE WELCOME.**

# APRIL AT A GLANCE

## FORUM SCHEDULE

**Sunday, April 7, 2024 Intergenerational Environmental & Social Justice Forum Event:** A special 11:30 AM showing of the 60 minute documentary film, "Covenant of the Salmon People", a portrait of the Nez Perce Tribe as they continue to carry out their ancient promise to protect the endangered Chinook salmon, cornerstone species and the food their people subsisted on for tens of thousands of years. What can be done to save wild salmon from extinction? In addition, following the film, a Nez Perce tribal member will Zoom with ULC to answer any questions and encourage actions.

**Sunday, April 14th Forum:** Take Action to Support Tribes & Salmon, etc. What can ULC members do to help protect salmon? Let's start by thanking the Nez Perce Tribe and writing letters to legislators. Fact sheet handouts will be available.

**Sunday, April 21st Earth Day** Intergenerational Nature Walk at Magnuson Park. Carpool from ULC at 11:30AM. Wear comfortable clothes and walking shoes to church. Bring a sack lunch/snack and beverage in a daypack. We'll have a Scavenger Hunt to identify plants and animals of the PNW.

**Sunday, April 28th Forum:** Peace & Justice Committee brainstorm session with Eunice Howe.

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 4/10 Lowell Knutson (95!)
- 4/11 Dwight Beckmeyer
- 4/12 Katie Saltanovitz & Tan Wu
- 4/13 Jonathan S.
- 4/14 Bradford Ozuk
- 4/15 Tamsin Erickson
- 4/16 Darleen & Maynard Atik
- 4/17 Christopher S.
- 4/21 James G.
- 4/23 Justin Flatt-Kuntze
- 4/24 Anna R
- 4/25 Linda Marshall
- 4/29 Trenton Ozuk  
Dan & Stacy Crowner  
Dick & Linda Powell
- 4/30 Shirely Knutson (95!)  
Alan Oakley  
Stacy Schulze & Kevin Steffa



**Pastor Andy will be at the Bishop's Convocation April 22-24 (Mon-Wed). However, he still will be available for pastoral emergencies.**



## **WARM RELATIONSHIPS: BIRTHDAY CARDS TO EVERY MEMBER AND REGULAR GUESTS**

Why do we send birthday cards? In the fall of 2022, Janice Gockel, Allene Steinberg, and myself attended the ELCA sponsored course on the research done by Fuller Youth Institute called Grow Young. Fuller studied thriving Christian churches and dying churches and wrote a book on what they believe allows a church to grow. They found that for churches to grow they need to be Jesus centered and put their energy in these 6 domains: prioritize everywhere to youth, best neighbors, keychain leadership, empathy today, Jesus message, and warm relationships. Fuller challenges us to put our energies in these domains whether you are the Pastor of the congregation, a council member, or just anyone in the congregation. At the time, we felt we were pretty good about service to others, but felt we needed to take care of members better.

So, to support WARM RELATIONSHIPS, in January 2023 we began sending birthday cards to members, each staff person, and frequent guests that were willing to give me their birthday information. The cards are signed by fellow members and I address, stamp, and mail them out weekly with the hopes that they will get to the birthday person slightly before their birthday. In 2023, we sent out 144 birthday cards. We also sent out about a dozen valentine cards and Christmas cards to our members who were attending services mostly on-line at that Holiday time. So, we spent about \$ 100.00 on stamps for this ministry of support/celebration because all of the birthday cards were donated!

Thank you so much to all of you who take the time to sign a birthday card - a card that was only signed by me on our behalf would be boring! Thank you also for all the donated birthday cards that have kept our cost low! Thank you to all of you that help me set up and clean up the table and chairs for signing cards!

I use the online church directory for birthday and address information; so, if you move or change your birthday, be sure and let Mari know so she can update the file! If you are not in the directory and would like a birthday card, catch me at coffee hour and I will get your information in my little black book. If you didn't get a birthday card last year and should have, let me know so I can solve the problem.

With much birthday love, Your Current Birthday Card Coordinator, Linda Maschhoff

## **APRIL SPECIAL OFFERING: EARTH MINISTRY**

On October 2, 2004, ULC became a Greening Congregation with Earth Ministry. Since that time, we have worked on being environmentally conscious in all our decisions and actions. Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power and Light transforms faith into action for the well-being of communities and the environment. They organize people of faith and conscience to advocate for strong environmental policies and provide strategic guidance to religious communities working toward environmental justice. Please donate to this important cause with either a check (mark "Earth Ministry" in the memo line), or online through Tithe.ly (find it in the dropdown menu of funds.)

Thank you for your support.

# AILANGA SCHOOL PROJECT

## Target Summer 2025 Delegation Trip

The Ailanga School Project board has decided to target a delegation trip to Ailanga in the summer (late July-early August) of 2025. We have identified some youth and some chaperones who are interested and available for a 2025 trip. We think that the 2025 trip will be a youth delegation trip, but are open to other possibilities depending on those interested. Youth delegation trips are normally 6-10 youth and 2-4 chaperones. Youth should have completed their 10th grade year in school before going on the trip.

We are planning to have a Zoom meeting in April and will invite all who have shown interest during earlier discussions. Any others who are interested are welcome to attend. Topics to be covered include:

- Example itinerary
- Expected costs
- Ailanga Lutheran Junior Seminary information and photos
- Trip preparation (including passports, visas, vaccinations, delegate meetings, life at Ailanga expectations, fundraising opportunities)

If you have interest in attending the Zoom meeting, please let us know.

To make a special donation for Ailanga School Project, mail a check to the church (write "Ailanga" in the memo line of your check), or donate through our Tithe.ly account (click on the Tithe.ly drop down "Funds" menu to specify this fund). Thank you for your continued support!

Ailanga Lutheran Junior Seminary website has been upgraded and has more information about the school. Check it out! At <https://www.ailanga.ac.tz/>

## NEW CHOIR FACES!

You may have noticed some new faces in the choir over the last few weeks. Through a generous gift to the church by a current family and the legacy left earlier by John Wott, we have created a choral intern program to invite musicians, particularly from the University of Washington, to join our choir and provide musical support and leadership. It was John's wish for ULC to have a strong, diverse music program and to present concerts and special events for both the church and the greater community. We have invited seven singers to join us so far. In upcoming newsletters we will introduce a few new singers along with one of our long-time members so you can get to know us better. In the meantime, taking the time to welcome them on a Sunday morning is a great start.

Did you know that we always have a few extra folders of music and an extra chair available in the "choir loft?" Singing with our choir is easy - show up at 9am and you will be singing at 10! We generally sing three Sundays a month. Have a grandchild who is a musician visiting? Have them join us for the morning! We do not have a weekday rehearsal so the time commitment is low, but the impact is large. Consider joining us occasionally or every Sunday. You would be welcome. Contact Darren at [music@universitylutheranseattle.org](mailto:music@universitylutheranseattle.org) for more information or come up and talk to him at the piano after worship.

# ULC COUNCIL UPDATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9th, at 6:30pm. This will be a hybrid meeting with people meeting in person in the ULC chapel and a zoom option will be available for those not able to attend in person. Meetings are open to members.

Contact ULC Secretary Maggie Pehrson ([maggiiep@shiningheart.com](mailto:maggiiep@shiningheart.com)) for more information.

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**Save the Date: ULC Annual Congregational Meeting on May 19 following worship.**

## COMMUNITY APPRECIATION

**“Please extend my thanks to the members at University Lutheran who hosted the reception for my mother’s service. It was so nice to have a variety of refreshments and a welcoming space in which to visit.”**

**With appreciation & kind regards, Eric Sorensen**

## BUILDING UPDATES

**Elevator Modernization.** Now that the elevator has been restored to full service, circulation through the building has returned to normal. We’re still waiting for the elevator contractor to update us on their schedule for upgrading the lighting and finishes within the elevator cab, but that work should be completed shortly.

**Work Party for New Sunday School Classroom.** We had a very productive work party on Saturday March 2nd, and all of the Sunday School furnishings and equipment have now been relocated to Room 205 at the south end of the upper floor. Several other pending tasks were completed by the 11 ULC members that pitched in for the work party, and they have our gratitude.

**Renovation of Tenant Spaces.** We’re continuing to complete the renovation of tenant spaces on the upper floor, including rooms 200, 201, 202, 203, and our new multi-use Sunday School space in Classroom 205. Windows and carpets have been professionally cleaned, and painters will be repainting the walls throughout these rooms in the last half of March. Additionally, light fixtures in the tenant spaces are being renovated with new LED lighting and new lenses to replace the old, yellowed lenses. Carpet and windows were also cleaned in the upper floor hallway.

**Thanks Colin!** ULC custodian Colin Ernst has turned out to be a very handy guy to have around. Colin has been handling several repair and maintenance chores around the building, including repairing wallboard damage in preparation for the upper floor painting project.

**Important Security Reminder.** Many of you know that we’ve had several instances when folks have exited through locked exit doors without confirming that the doors have latched behind them. We continue to wrestle with this problem, and may need to upgrade some door closers or take other measures to ensure that our building remains secure. Please make certain, when you exit the building, that the door has fully closed and latched before you walk away. This is particularly true at the north entrance at the parking lot, and at the south entrance from the Narthex to NE 50th Street. Let’s keep our building secure and safe for all members, guests, staff, tenants and their clients.

## FROM OUR BISHOP

In fifth grade, I started playing trumpet. This wasn't the instrument that I chose – it was chosen for me because my aunt had an old trumpet and my mom said, "If you want to be in band, you can use this trumpet." But even though I wanted to play the flute, the trumpet was definitely the instrument for me. I loved playing trumpet. I loved the sound, the way to make different notes with just three valves, using different mutes that produced complexity of tone. I loved to polish and clean my trumpet – especially when I received a new silver trumpet in high school. The only thing I didn't like was carrying it to and from school because of the big hill that we lived on.

In high school I was in both band and jazz band. In jazz band we traveled to many competitions – winning the Reno Jazz Festival one year. When I look back on my experience in band, I realize that there are so many things that I continue to apply in my life, and as part of the body of Christ, that go back to being in band.

First, you can't be a band on your own. If you play a solo instrument, that is lovely. But that isn't a band. There needs to be a group to form a band – it can be small or large – but an agreement that you are engaging with one another and playing music with one another leads to forming a band. If you are using music, the same music is important – also the same key and the same beats per measure helps. An agreement on how fast or slow the tempo is important. In short, community is needed for a band.

Second, you can't all play the same instrument. I mean, I love the trumpet – but a band of trumpets is one-dimensional (and can be very loud). I admit that as much as I love brass, you need more than brass to form a band. We have all heard brass quartets – but for a band, you need the saxophone, the piccolo, the clarinet, the drum, and so much more. Diversity is needed in a band.

Third, you can't drown out others. I speak as one who plays trumpet. Trumpets know how to be loud. And if trumpeters are not careful, they

will hide the beauty of the other instruments. There is nothing more gorgeous than notes from an oboe coming from seemingly nowhere to fill the air with that wistful, haunting sound. In other words, listen for the woodwinds. A variety of sounds and voices are needed in a band – especially those that are more hidden.

Fourth, harmony doesn't mean the same note. It would be boring if every single instrument played the very same note for every song in a band's repertoire. Our ears are tuned to hear melody, harmony, dissonance, and resolution. In a band, it is imperative that different notes are played – different rhythm patterns are introduced, and a play amongst the instruments happens. Harmony and dissonance are needed in a band.

Dear people of God, these four things are also needed in the church and in the world: Community, diversity, variety of sound and voice, harmony and dissonance. I invite you to think about your worshiping community. How are we all like a band? How can we be more intentional in these four areas?

Our composer and maestro is God – God is directing and leading us – in the music we co-create. May this spring awaken you in the beauty and grace of God. May the community in which you gather bring music in all its fullness.

**Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee**  
**Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA**



Sponsored by UW Lutherans & University Lutheran Church



# UW FOOD PANTRY FOOD DRIVE

During the month of April, we will be collecting food items for the UW Food Pantry. This food resource is available to all UW students, staff & faculty.

## WHAT IS MOST NEEDED?



- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Can openers
- Stocks, broths, bases, and sauces of all kinds
- Food appropriate for diverse diets, including halal, kosher, gluten-free, vegan, vegetarian, etc.
- Canned tomatoes
- Pasta sauce
- Cooking oils
- Canned soup
- Oatmeal and granola
- Boxed milk, evaporated milk, and unsweetened alternative milks
- Fruit preserves and spreads
- Chili
- Boxed mac + cheese, other ready-to-eat meals
- Feminine hygiene products
- Jars of baby food
- Diapers (Sizes 4-5 & Pull-Ups)
- Household Items (e.g. bar soap, toilet paper, paper towels)

## BRING ITEMS TO UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN BY APRIL 30

**April dinner volunteers for UW Lutherans are needed!**

Please sign up here:

**<https://uwlutherans.flocknote.com/signup/125076>**

**DEADLINE FOR MAY SPIRIT ARTICLES IS APRIL 15TH**

## **University Lutheran Church: Who We Are**

We are a progressive congregation with a history of taking action on peace & justice concerns.  
We are a member of the NW Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.  
We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, supporting people of all sexual orientations & gender identities.

We are passionate about our worship, we cherish our music, & we love a good potluck.

Our communion table is open.

Everyone, no matter where you are on your faith journey, is invited to the Lord's Table.

We are poised on a threshold, ready & eager to creatively try new & innovative ways for mission & ministry in the University District. We do not know where this will lead us, but we trust with all our being that God is already there & is drawing us to join in the parade.

We do so with excitement & joy because . .

We Choose Love.



*Financial gifts support the ministry and mission of University Lutheran, including service and advocacy in this community and beyond. You may donate by leaving cash or a check in the offering plate at the door near the front of the sanctuary, giving online (through [Tithe.ly](https://Tithe.ly)) by clicking on the donate button on our homepage, texting to give at 833-751-1202, or mailing a check to the church office.*

*Contributions of whatever size are deeply appreciated.*

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