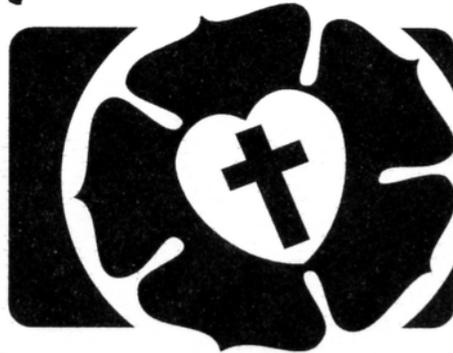


university lutheran church



lutheran campus ministry

December 2013



Dates for your Calendar

Wed. Dec. 4	6:30 pm	Service of Lessons and Carols
Thurs. Dec. 5	12:00 pm	Page Turners Bookclub
Sat. Dec. 7	8:00 am	Work Day for Christmas
Sun. Dec. 8	6:00 pm	Men's Bake-off
Tues. Dec. 10	7:15 pm	Council Meeting
Thurs. Dec. 12	7:00 pm	Women's Bible Study
Tues. Dec. 24	8:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
Wed. Dec. 25	10:30 am	Christmas Day Service

Advent Services 6:30 pm

Wednesday Nights Dec 4, 11 and 18

Christmas Worship

Christmas Eve, December 24: 8:00 pm

Christmas Day, December 25: 10:30 am



Pastor's Notes

Gary N. McCluskey, Pastor

Can it be December already? Where did the time go? Don't we ask this question every year? Yet each year we have the same twelve month calendar with the ability to know ahead of time when a holiday, a month, or the year's end will arrive. So why does it seem to so frequently catch us off guard?

Many would say our busyness prevents us from looking beyond what we are doing to recognize or appreciate how time is marching onward. Yet you and I know many very busy people who seem to be easily aware of time and rarely surprised by its haste. What is their secret?

Please know that I share your surprise at time's speed. I too feel more controlled by events and time than able to control them. I too need to raise my head above those often very important tasks at hand to appreciate where I might be and where I might be headed. Sometimes I succeed and sometimes I do not. The difference seems to be my commitment to taking time to think, reflect, look around, and appreciate.

Advent is at hand. Advent is above all a time that says, "Something is coming. Someone is coming". Advent is a time that calls us to look for that someone. It calls us to put aside much that makes us busy to think, pray, look around, appreciate and anticipate. Christmas and the birth of Jesus comes. Advent tells us to take the time to appreciate this, to anticipate it, and to make our hearts as well as our homes ready. Advent is a gift that can serve as both reminder and discipline to strive to look up, look ahead, and not let the busyness of life overtake us. Advent is God's time. Those other things? Most of them can wait. Really, they can wait. They are not crucial to making Christmas happen nor to make Christmas "perfect". The birth of Jesus will make Christmas happen. It will make Christmas perfect. At home, in worship, in our life, strive for a little commitment to take time to think, reflect, look around, appreciate and anticipate.

Advent blessings to us all!

Scripture Blog

Lynn Kauppi will now offer introductions to Sunday scripture texts helping us to better understand what each text is about. He will do this via his blog: gracefullectionary.wordpress.com Lynn has his Ph.D in New Testament from Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary. Lynn taught New Testament at Valparaiso Lutheran University in Indiana and served as an editor for Abingdon Press and Augsburg Fortress Press. Thanks, Lynn!!

Church Council December 10

Dr. Jim Rund, Senior Vice President of Arizona State University, and currently Interim Athletic Director, will be with our church council at their December 10 meeting. Dr. Rund, a Lutheran from King of Glory Lutheran Church, Tempe, will talk about ASU future plans that will impact our ministry. Council met in September with a representative from the Office of Mayor for the City of Tempe regarding Tempe's future plans that will impact our ministry.



Advent Worship Services

We will celebrate advent during our normal worship schedule:
Sundays at 10:30 am and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

Wednesday, December 4 will be our annual Service of Lessons and Carols (see below!)

Wednesday, December 11 and Wednesday, December 18th will be Holden Evening Prayer.

Service of Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, December 4, 6:30pm

The choir has been working hard on a very special service this year. Bring your family, friends, co-workers for a wonderful way to begin the Advent Season. It has been a tradition here at ULC/LCM. Thank you, Aiko and choir for your hard work all year and for this particular worship service!



Christmas Decorations



We have received donations for all four of our Christmas trees! We are continuing to receive offerings for flowers and decorations. If you wish to contribute, please use the envelopes marked "flowers" in the racks in the chairs and mark your check "flowers." You may designate your donation in honor or in memory a loved one. We will list those designations in our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins.

Thank you!

New Chairs

The ten new chairs for the Campus Center have arrived, been assembled, and put in place. Thanks to Ruth Wootten and Carmen Bieber for ordering and selecting them. We have already received gifts totaling \$900 toward the purchase of these chairs. Total cost with tax and shipping is about \$2,100. Additional gifts are appreciated.

Thank you!

About Peace!

Even Old Timers have difficulty remembering when the northwest corner of our property was anything other than shady, grassy Peace Park. In the early 70's Pastor John N. Peterson, who served 1971- 1977, worked to reinvent the dusty corner of the parking lot.

Pastor Peterson's increasing concern over the Vietnam conflict impelled his ongoing involvement with efforts towards Peace. One of the testimonies to his commitment is the Fig Tree that stands in the center of the Park. Planted by him and two survivors of the atomic blast on Nagasaki during World War II, the fig tree represented the "living quest for World Peace". The women who helped to plant the tree were part of an 18 member Japanese Peace delegation on its way to New York for the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament.

The focal point of the Park remains the memorial sculpture, dedicated in 1996 to Pastor Peterson who died July 7, 1995. Commissioned by family and friends, the sculpture was executed by Ernie Nickels, architect and member, and incorporates some of Pastor Peterson's favorite wood-working tools.

Six years after the fig tree had been planted (May 27, 1998), the six foot Peace Pole was dedicated at the Northeast corner of the sanctuary. Like hundreds of other poles erected in more than 100 countries, it includes "May Peace Prevail on Earth" on one side; ours has the same message in Russian, Japanese, and Swedish. The Peace Pole Project had begun in Japan by the Society of Prayer for World Peace, which advocated for prayer as a means of reaching global peace.

At our church's 50th anniversary celebration, February 23, 2003, the Peace Pole was rededicated at its new location near the Northwest entry to the sanctuary. At this time, we added four more languages, including Arabic, to the pole, created a time capsule and buried it alongside the pole. By this time we were no longer Good Shepherd but had become University Lutheran and with the closing off of McAllister Avenue, our address changed from 515 S. McAllister to 340 E. 15th Street.



May Peace Prevail!

Ruth Wootten



Changed by Prayer

In an article by Mary Lynn Hendrickson titled "Changed by Prayer", she recalls being at a retreat and reading the following, purposely taped to the inside of a women's restroom stall. It read, in part:

"Good Morning, this is God. I will be handling all your problems today. Please remember I will not need your help!!! If life happens to deliver a situation you can not handle, do not attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFGTD (Something for God to Do) box. It will be addressed in My time, not yours. Once the matter is placed in the box, do not hold onto it or attempt to remove it. Holding on or removal will delay the resolution of your problem. If it is a situation you think you are capable of handling, please consult me in prayer to be sure it is the proper resolution. Because I do not sleep nor do I slumber there is no need for you to lose sleep. So rest my child. I love you!"



I find a kind of peacefulness in an SFGTD box. It is the 'My time' that is a struggle. Exactly how long is that? There are many things and people we pray for and it is not the words that are important but the act of praying, of lifting up our worries and concerns to someone greater. The prayer group meets Wednesday at 5:30 in the sanctuary. Please join us and let prayer change you.

- Beth Wooten

Men's Bake-off Fundraiser

will be held Sunday, December 8, starting at 6PM. The evening will begin with a potluck supper, followed by a Christmas Carol Sing-Along and an Auction for the baked goods. If you are a man who is interested in making and donating baked goods, contact

info@ulctempe.org, or 480-967-3543.





Dinner and Dancing

Come and join us for our very first “Dinner and Dancing with LCM!” A group of students have put together a small jazz combo and they are ready and excited to perform! This, combined with LCM’s love for food and dancing, has led us to the creation of a night of dinner and dancing! The evening will begin with dinner, cooked and served by LCM students, followed by dancing to music performed by our jazz combo! No official dates have been set, but keep your February calendars free and stay tuned for more information!

Campus Ministry Meals

THANKS to all who cooked and provided food for students this past semester! The list filled up quickly. Thank you! The sign-up sheet for next semester will be posted December 1 on the moving bulletin board for next semester. Thanks in advance for your usual wonderful support!!

LCM Mission Trip

Many of you have heard about LCM’s trip to Germany this May. Bad News: Due to many transitions this past Fall, we have been unable to properly prepare and fundraise for a trip this May and have rescheduled our trip to Germany for May of 2015. However, we are planning a smaller, more localized service trip for LCM students this May. So, don’t be disheartened! This mission trip will allow us to continue our tradition of service, a very important focus for LCM. Stay tuned for more information.

Caroling

Students will be caroling Saturday, December 7 with a party at the home of Mary Beth and Pastor Gary following. Details regarding time, etc. are forthcoming.



Winter Retreat

Our annual Winter Retreat will be in Sedona, January 24-26. The campus ministries from the University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University will be with us.



Student of the Month – Alex Willoughby

Interviewed and written by Walter Johnson

Year in School? Freshman

Area of Study/Interest? Electrical Engineering, though a switch to Computer Systems Engineering may be in store. Intrigued by computers, Alex hopes to learn about the physics, electronics, and materials involved in computer hardware.

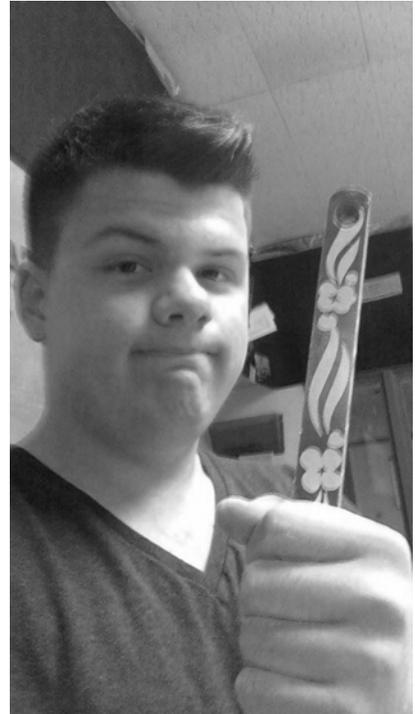
Hometown? Duluth, Minnesota, where he played in the worship band at his church.

Hobbies? Reading (including the series *A Song of Ice and Fire*), PC gaming (built his own computer), plays in the band at LCM on Wednesday nights (first electric guitar and now bass guitar)

Hearing about LCM: Alex discovered LCM during the annual ASU event, Passport to ASU. The room for campus religious groups was actually the first room he entered, with the intent of finding a Lutheran ministry. Pastor Gary pulled him in and convinced him to play in the band at LCM.

What does he like about LCM? The comfortable atmosphere which gives it a 'home away from home' sort of feeling.

Plans for the future? Possibly working in power engineering with energy grids.



Congratulations!

To Stephen Morgan, who graduated as valedictorian from Collins College

To Katie Gorin and Mitchell Tay on their marriage, November 9 in Mesa. Katie is an LCM alum and a member of ULC.

Coming up...

Wednesday themes for Bible Study will revolve around "End Times" scriptures. Our last student meal and Bible Study is December 11. There will be a worship service at 6:30pm December 18, but no meal/Bible Study. Our last Sunday dinner is December 8.

An Easier Way to Give.

The majority of our congregational gifts come through checks. For several years we have been accepting giving and designated donations on line through the Thrivent Simply Giving Program. You do not have to be a Thrivent member. The number of families and contributions continues to grow and we are thrilled with the response and commitment of our members, visitors and alumni. Giving electronically makes our financial planning more consistent as we can depend on monthly giving even through the summer months!

You can set up weekly or monthly gifts, designate giving to LCM or other funds and do special one-time gifts.

There are two ways to give through Simply Giving: Directly out of your checking or savings account or with your credit card. **When you use your checking account or any bank account there is NO fee to us so the full amount of your gift comes into our account. When you use your credit card we pay a fee, so the full amount does not go into our account.** As an example, if you give \$100.00 we receive \$95.74. The fee varies depending on the credit card.

If you are a Thrivent member you may also give another way. Each year you may designate additional funds for ULC or LCM. When you do this we get a monthly check from Thrivent through their Thrivent Choice Program. You have to designate where you want your money to go each year – the money does not automatically get renewed.

Thank you all for your gifts. You are truly a generous community. For those of you who would still like to contribute online go to our website and click on the icon at the top right for *Simply Giving*. It will take you directly to the form to fill out and is completely secure.

Thank you!



Health Care Changes

With the new changes in health care, ULC/LCM financial committee has researched the options recommended by ELCA Churchwide and our current provider, Portico. Based on this research and the suggestions from churchwide for a congregation our size, University Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry have taken the recommendation of the ELCA Churchwide to keep Pastor McCluskey in the plan most similar to what he has now. The financial committee recommended, and the church council approved, maintaining this levels of benefits and offering Pastor McCluskey the Gold Plan.

This is the closest to his existing plan and is still operated by Portico and offered through the Synod. This is the plan recommended by the ELCA Churchwide for a church our size to offer.

As we all know, health insurance has been a major expense for our congregation. Unfortunately, keeping this plan will create an increase of \$243 per month beginning in January of 2014.

While the State and Federal Government are working hard to finalize the various options on the Healthcare Exchanges, we will be vigorously exploring these options in the coming year with the hopes of saving insurance premium expenses.

Open Forum

The Open Forum meets Sundays, 9:15am-10:15am in the Campus Center Library

Open Forum - Look What's Happening!

Who? For those interested in discussing and learning, connecting faith and life.

When? Sundays **9:15am**-10:15am

Where? Campus Center Library

December Offerings

- Sunday, December 1 Religion in American History
- Sunday, December 8 Religion in American History
- Sunday, December 15 **Immigration Reform:** Ruth Lindsay will lead an open forum on the current context of immigration, the status of current reform efforts, and ways to get involved.
- Sunday, December 22 TBA
- Sunday, December 29 No forum—Christmas Break

Women's Bible Study will enjoy their annual cookie exchange and gathering December 12 at the home of Ellie Strang.

All women are welcome!

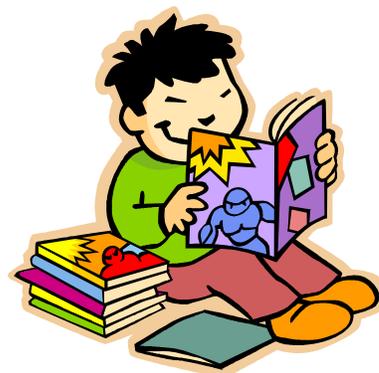
ULC's Page Turner's Book Club meets on the first Thursday of every month at Noon. We meet in the library and discuss the monthly book. We each bring our own lunch and discuss the current book.

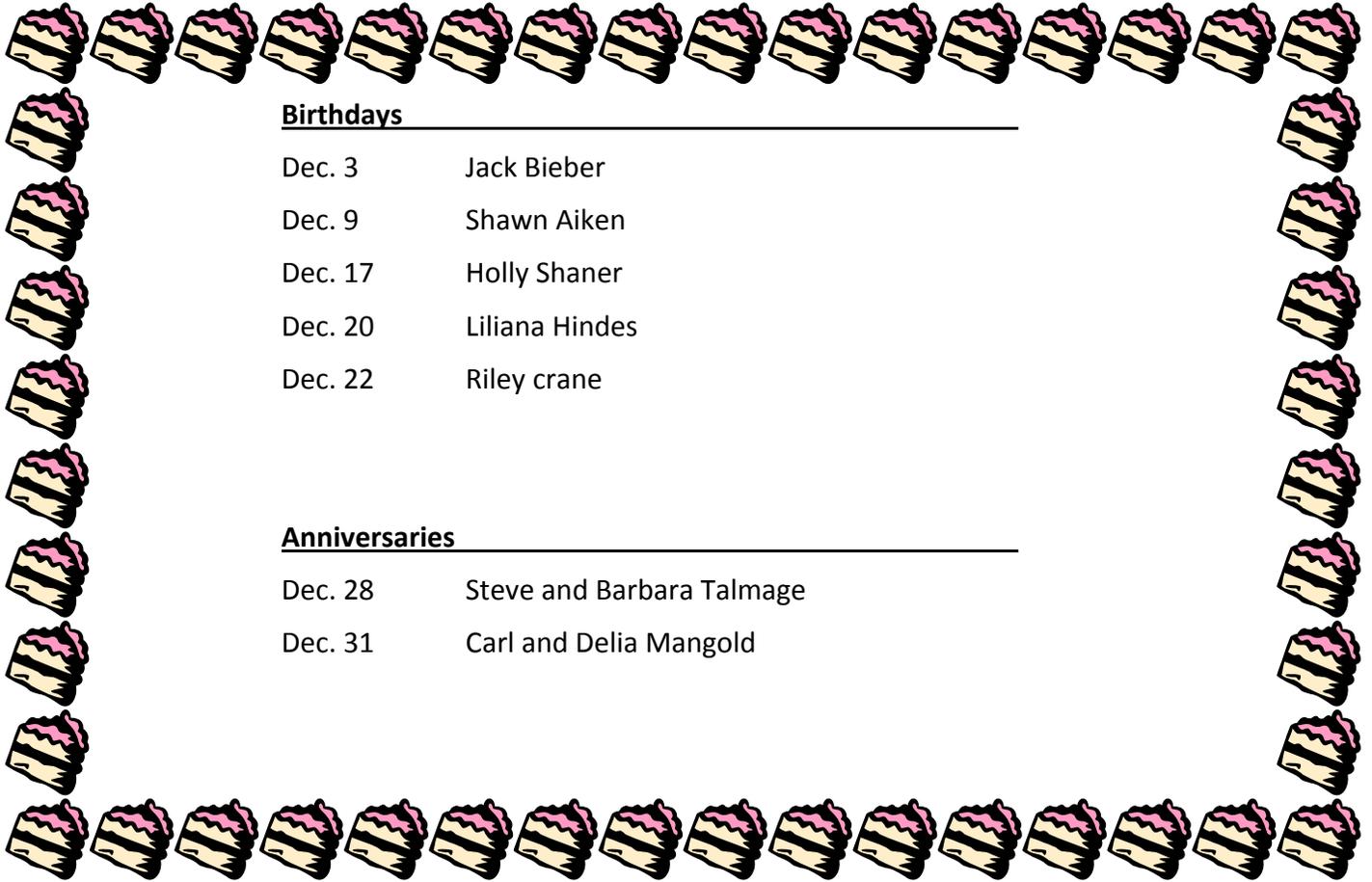
Anyone who likes to read is invited to join this interesting and varied group.

December 5th we will discuss "Caleb's Crossing" by Geraldine Brooks

In 1665, a young man from Martha's Vineyard became the first Native American to graduate from Harvard College. Upon this slender factual scaffold, Brooks has created a luminous tale of love and faith, magic and adventure.

The narrator of "Caleb's Crossing" is Bethia Mayfield, growing up in the tiny settlement of Great Harbor amid a small band of pioneers and Puritans. Bethia proves an emotionally irresistible guide to the wilds of Martha's Vineyard and the intimate spaces of the human heart. Evocative and utterly absorbing.





Birthdays

Dec. 3 Jack Bieber
Dec. 9 Shawn Aiken
Dec. 17 Holly Shaner
Dec. 20 Liliana Hindes
Dec. 22 Riley crane

Anniversaries

Dec. 28 Steve and Barbara Talmage
Dec. 31 Carl and Delia Mangold

Thanks!

to **Kevin Hull** for doing the dry wall repair in the Campus Center bathroom

to **Robin Morgan** for preaching and presiding during Pastor Gary's absence on Sunday, November 17. Pastor Gary was preaching at King of Glory, Tempe, to spread part of God's Good Word about campus ministry.

to **all** who supported the Arizona Cardinal fundraiser November 10. Lutheran Campus Ministry proudly had their name exhibited on the Jumbo Tron! In all we raised \$480 from this event.

to **Holly Shaner, Jennifer and Avery Johnson and Ken Overturf** for assembling the new chairs for the Campus Center

December 2013

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1</p> <p>9:15 Open Forum</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p>	2	3	<p>4</p> <p>5:00 pm Bible Study</p> <p>5:30 pm Meal</p> <p>6:30 pm Advent Service of lessons and carols</p> <p>7:30 Decorating Sanctuary</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12 pm Page Turner's Book Club</p>	6	<p>7</p> <p>8 am Work Day</p> <p>6 pm Caroling</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:15 Open Forum</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>6 pm Men's Bake-off</p>	9	<p>10</p> <p>7:15 pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:00 pm Bible Study</p> <p>5:30 pm Last Student Meal</p> <p>6:30 pm Advent Service</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7 pm Women's Bible study @ the home of Ellie Strang</p>	13	14
<p>15</p> <p>9:15 Open Forum</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p>	16	17	<p>18</p> <p>6:30 pm Advent Service</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	19	20	21
<p>22</p> <p>9:15 Open Forum</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p>	23	<p>24</p> <p>8 pm Christmas Eve service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:30 am Christmas Day Service</p>	26	27	28
<p>29</p> <p>No Forum</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p>	30	31				



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WELCOME TO UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

Academic Year Schedule

Sunday School:	9:15 am
Sunday Open Forum:	9:15 am
Sunday Worship Service:	10:30 am
Wednesday Worship:	6:30 pm