

CURRENTS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 2015

Dear Sisters and Brothers of ULC,

Thank you for the warm welcome to ULC. I'm happy to be here and to be part of your ministry! Today I'd like to tell you about Maggie.

Maggie was a now-departed dachshund that I had a few years ago. When I adopted her from the Dunn County Humane Society, she was really a mess. She was found in a wooded area during a cold December, apparently left for dead. The veterinarian that examined her said Maggie most likely was a puppy mill castaway, was neglected to the extent that most of her teeth had to be pulled, suffered from two quarter-sized spots of frostbite (one on each ear), and had delivered so many puppies that she needed surgery to remove numerous tumors from her mammary glands. Due to her lack of human contact, she was quite timid and nervous around people and as fun to have around as a houseplant.

But I adopted her anyway.

Maggie was a dull pet, but I came to appreciate her company. She imprinted onto me very quickly, in her own, quiet manner. She preferred to be on my lap at all times when I took her to work – that made computer work somewhat difficult! After about three months, she finally wagged her tail when she saw me. But the best part was when I'd take her off-leash in a large field down the block

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“Action springs not from thought, but from a readiness for responsibility”

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Church Events

- Wednesdays - Bibles and Bagels 8:30 a.m.
- July 11 Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
- July 12 - Community Table 3:00 p.m.
- July 19 - Church Council Meeting 11:00 a.m.
- July 23 - ERC Book Group 7:00 p.m.
- July 23-25 - Beacon House

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from my house. This brown ball of boring turned into a blur of floppy ears and sprinting little legs. I swear she was smiling when she ran. My friends told me how good it was that I gave Maggie a few years of quality life which allowed her to wallow in her doggy dignity.

My memories of Maggie nearly always lead me to think of my own adoption. God adopted me into his family at my Holy Baptism. Jesus helped remember me to (that is, once again made me a member of) God's kingdom. And the Holy Spirit gives me the awareness of my place and purpose in God's family.

At my Holy Baptism, I wasn't full of tumors or frostbite, but I needed Jesus to bring me "in from the cold." I needed to be introduced to a new, transforming life, one centered in the love and mercy of Jesus Christ. My parents and church family modeled this new life for me. Yet they didn't ask me to look to them for my new identity. They told me to follow Jesus.

I hope I blessed Maggie when I adopted her and showed her the life she was meant to live as a beloved pet. How much more can Jesus, the very Son of God, bless me when he teaches and challenges me to live as I was meant to live, as an adopted, reclaimed Child of God, called to serve in Jesus' name (Name = reputation!).

Prayer: Gracious God, we know that the destructive power of sin can tear us from God's family, and that the resurrection power of Jesus Christ reclaims us, adopts us back into that clan. Inspire us to be grateful for our new life in Christ and empower us to his model his love, grace, and mercy for every person, in every situation. In His Name we pray. Amen.

Pastor Bob Friese, Interim



Upcoming Events

ERC Book Group

The book group meets the last Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the library. All are welcome to attend. We will be reviewing "Me Before You" by JoJo Moyes on July 23.

ULC Women's Bible Study

The ULC Women's Bible Study will meet Saturday, July 11, at 10 a.m. at Grace Willowbrook (4868 Otteson Lane – not far from Target). We will be discussing "Be Like the Widow" and "God Loves a Cheerful Giver," the second and third sessions of the summer Bible study ("No Catchy Slogans") from the July/August issue of Gather. The text for the sessions can be found online at gathermagazine.org. All are welcome! There will be no August Bible study.

Volunteer Opportunities

University Lutheran will be serving at The Community Table on July 12 and hosting at Beacon House July 23-25. If you would like to contribute to the meal or be a host, please sign up on the sheet attached to the parish office door. Remember to fill out the background check form PRIOR to volunteering — a copy of this form is on Pastor Friese's door. If you have questions, contact Suzie Slota at sbslota@yahoo.com

H.O.P.E — Hang on, pain ends

Silent walk to raise awareness about sexual abuse - July 18. The walk will start at the Eau Claire Court house at 8-8:15 a.m. After 9 a.m. meet at Chapel Heights United Methodist Church on Hamilton Avenue. There will be speakers that will be able to explain what to do after a sexual assault or rape has occurred and what help is available to get through the process, both legal and emotional. A free lunch will be served. For more information call 715-271-7313.



University Lutheran Church
110 Garfield Ave.
Eau Claire, WI 54701
Phone: 715-834-8026

ULC Staff

Bob Friese, Pastor
Zenon Wojcik, ULC President
Trudy Kennedy, ULC Assistant

Weekly Schedule

- **Sundays**
Worship 10 a.m.
- **Wednesdays**
Bibles and Bagels 8 a.m.

Average weekly offering needed to meet annual budget: \$2,519
Average weekly offering needed to meet annual expenses: \$2,191

Contact:

Pastor Bob Friese
Phone: 715-834-8026
or 715-308-1681
E-mail: pastor@universitylutheran.org
Web: www.universitylutheran.org

To see the online calendar of events, go to our website link:
<http://universitylutheran.org/wordpress1/events/>.



Council Members

The following have been placed on council and their ministry positions are listed below:

President: Zenon Wojcik

Young Adult member: Nick Crooks

President-elect: Kim Stien

Worship: Laurie Gapko

Secretary: Rebecca Atter

Stewardship: Greg Granlund

Education: Elecia Oleson

Financials: Tara Johnson

Youth Member/Outreach: Grace Johnson Music Ministry: Kay Scharn

*All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee!*

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee, Verse 2, by Henry J. van Dyke



Call Committee Members

The congregation of University Lutheran Church has elected a "Call Committee" to work through the process of finding a new Pastor to serve our congregation and campus ministry. The Call Committee members are as follows:

Bill Eisenbarth 715-828-1748 eisenbarth@charter.net

Chuck Gavin 715-834-1050 cgavin1050@charter.net

Allen Keniston 715-834-8063 kenistah@uwec.edu

Elecia Oleson 715-323-1689 olesones98@gmail.com

Kay Scharn 715-877-1577 klscharn@aol.com

Suzie Slota 715-559-3800 sbslota@yahoo.com

Your comments, suggestions and feedback are welcomed as we travel this journey together.

Northern Wisconsin State Fair and Feed My People Food Bank

The Northern Wisconsin State Fair is just around the corner. On Sunday morning 7/12/15, Feed My People Food Bank will have a trailer by the Main Entrance for Family Day at the fair. Instead of purchasing admission (after 11:00 a.m. admission will be charged into the fair) they are asking all attendees to bring a canned food item or monetary donation on Sunday to benefit Feed My People.



Outdoor Summer Concert Series

The fireside Bistro at Dove Health Care-South invites you to attend a free Outdoor Summer Concert Series by local musicians. Rain or shine, the series will run every Wednesday from 6-7:30 p.m., July 8-29. Food and beverage will be available for purchase. Music will move inside if it rains. Call 715-552-1035 or visit south.dovehealthcare.com for more information.

Save the Date - Hike for the Homeless

Please join the Eau Claire Interfaith Hospitality Network, Inc. for the 11th Annual Hike for the Homeless benefitting their programs including the Beacon House, a shelter for families with children who are homeless.

Date: September 26, 2015

Time: Registration begins at 8 a.m. / 1.5 mile hike begins at 9 a.m.

Location: Phoenix Park

Registration forms are available on the Events page of our website www.beacon-house.org. Thank you for helping homeless families with children in the Eau Claire area.

July 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bibles and Bagels 8 a.m.	2	3	4 Happy Independence Day!
5 Worship 10 a.m.	6	7	8 Bibles and Bagels 8 a.m.	9	10	11 ULC Women's Bible Study 10 a.m.
12 Worship 10 a.m. Community Table 3 p.m.	13	14	15 Bibles and Bagels 8 a.m.	16	17	18
19 Worship 10 a.m. Council Meeting 11 a.m.	20	21	22 Bibles and Bagels 8 a.m.	23 Host at Beacon House ERC Book Group	24 Host at Beacon House	25 Host at Beacon House
26 Worship 10 a.m.	27	28	29 Bibles and Bagels 8 a.m.	30	31	