



The Sunbeam December 2014

Lansing United Methodist Church

Worship 9:00AM CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 & 8:00 PM

KIDZ QUEST AND SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM

PLEASE JOIN US!

Pastor: Jane Sautter

Christian Education Coordinator: Kevin Klippel

Adult Ministries Coordinator: Karen Veaner



From the Pastor

It hardly seems possible that we are already coming into the season of Advent! Where does the time go? As we look forward once again to the time when we celebrate the birth of our Savior, it is also a time to reflect on our own lives over the past year. As a community, we have had some phenomenal celebrations of birthdays, baptisms, and new members...and we have suffered some significant losses of loved ones as well. By the grace of God, we are able to see that all these events are part of the whole of creation, that we are part of a big picture that God is still painting.

Instead of becoming wildly anxious in this upcoming season, I would invite you to take a deep breath and spend some time looking backward as well as forward. Think about what difference Jesus has made in your life and what difference he might still make. What do you want this babe to bring into your own private world? And what do you want to give him? We all have certain prayers and requests that we would love to have God attend to, but how many of us are asking what God wants from us? Hopefully, these questions might add some depth to our Advent flurry and frenzy. Promise yourself to take 5 minutes—just 5 minutes—every day of Advent to listen to where God might be nudging you or to ask God for guidance. Work on this relationship that doesn't require shopping or wrapping or searching for the perfect gift. God wants your heart...and nothing else.

The Promised One, The Expected One, The Messiah by Ann Weems

We've heard that the people of the time
had certain ideas about the Promised One,
thought the Expected One would be born in a palace
or come down from Heaven on a cloud,
never expected the Messiah
would be sent as a baby to people like Mary and Joseph....
Our question is this:
What is our expectation?
What promise do we hold to our hearts?
Who is this Messiah born to us?

*Wishing you an Advent filled with blessings,
Pastor Jane*

“...And Heaven and Nature Sing!”

A Festival of Lessons & Carols Sunday, December 14, 6:30 p.m.

Lansing United Methodist Church will present the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus told in nine short scripture readings from the Bible interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns, and music.

The lessons and carols format was based on an order drawn up by Edward Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury but at that time Bishop of Truro, in Cornwall, for use on Christmas Eve in 1880, with a goal of keeping men out of the pubs.

Numerous Christian denominations all over the world have adopted this service, or a variation on this service, as part of their Christmas celebrations. The best-known version is broadcast annually from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve. It features carols sung by the famous Choir of King's College and was first held on Christmas Eve in 1918.

This service of Lessons & Carols grew out of the Adult Ministries Sunday School Talkback last June. Many thanks to Sue Frahm and Sharon Powell for the time and talent they devoted to bringing you this special worship opportunity.—Karen Veaner, *Adult Ministries Coordinator*

Adult Sunday School

Precious Gifts with Suzana Jelovecki

December 7 & 21 in the Adult Classroom

In this series of Advent classes we will read and discuss scripture passages surrounding the struggles of the Holy Family and how their life circumstances open up possibilities for deeper appreciation of the birth of little Jesus as a collective gift for humanity.

The arrival of wise men and their precious presents will serve us as inspiration and guidance for creating gifts for ourselves or others in a practical part of the workshops. Hundreds of Scripture passages talk of using essential oils and perfumes to anoint bodies and fumigate living spaces. Scents are a direct conduit in evoking the Holy Spirit to enhance prayers, heal physical and emotional wounds and celebrate intimacy with God.

Each participant will have opportunity to create his or her own Biblical essential oil blend based on particular needs and will be instructed on how to use it for anointing the body to deepen prayer, meditation, and spiritual experiences of being closer to Jesus.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>December 2014</i>	1 Pancakes and Prayers 6:30 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Christian Believer 12:30 Staff Parish 7:00 Wingmen Men's Group 7:00	2 United Methodist Day of Giving	3 Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	4 Christian Believer 7:00 Senior High Youth 7:00	5 Needleworkers 10:00	6 Men's Breakfast 7:00 Greening the Church 9:00 Christmas Instruments Rehearsal 10:00 Christmas Child and Youth Chorus Rehearsal 11:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry/Caregivers 10:00
7 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Worship 9:00 Kidz Quest 10:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 K.A.N. 5:30	8 Pancakes and Prayers 6:30 Mobile Food Pantry 10:00 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Prayer Service at Woodsedge 11:00 Christian Believer 12:30 Trustees 7:00 Wingmen Men's Group 7:00	9 Church Council 7:00 Fellowship Committee 7:00	10 Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	11 Christian Believer 7:00 Senior High Youth 7:00	12 Needleworkers 10:00	13 Men's Breakfast at Linda's in North Lansing Every Saturday 7:00 Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal 10:00
14 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Worship 9:00 Christmas Pageant 10:30 Lessons and Carols Service 6:30 Youth Mission 6:30	15 Pancakes and Prayers 6:30 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Christian Believer 12:30 Food Pantry 1:00 (The RINK) Wingmen Men's Group 7:00	16 Worship Committee 7:00 SUNBEAM DEADLINE 12:00 Midnight	17 Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Choir 7:00	18 Christian Believer 7:00 Senior High Youth 7:00	19 Needleworkers 10:00	20 Men's Breakfast 7:00
21 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Worship 9:00 Kidz Quest 10:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive Blue Christmas Service 4:00 Junior and Senior High Christmas Party 6:00	22 Pancakes and Prayers 6:30 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Wingmen Men's Group 7:00	23 Church Office Closed	24 Church Office Closed Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 and 8:00	25 Christmas! Church Office Closed Senior High Youth 7:00	26 Church Office Closed	27 Men's Breakfast 7:00
28 CHRISTMAS TIDE Worship 9:00	29 Church Office Closed Wingmen Men's Group 7:00	30 Church Office Closed	31 Church Office Closed	1 Happy New Year	2	3 <i>Lansing United Methodist Church</i>



LUMC Forward and Charge Conference

At the Church Conference on Sunday, November 16, 2014, we approved the pastor's salary and elected three new trustees: Bill Thibault, Judy Hinderliter, and Dave Hatfield. We also approved a motion to proceed to the next step of LUMC Forward. We will contract with an architect to develop conceptual plans for possible building changes or additions. Another Charge Conference will be scheduled soon to name the Building Committee that will work with the architect.

Annual Church Greening

Saturday, December 6

The LUMC Greening of 2014 will be held on December 6 at 9:00 a.m. with a breakfast provided. Here's your chance to learn how to make a Christmas wreath as we take the sanctuary from "boards to boughs." If you can give a little time, or would like to provide a dish to pass please remember to sign up in the Narthex on the sheet provided. Thank you for your support! If you have any questions, please contact Laura Alexander at 533-4869.

Christmas Instruments

Rehearsal, Saturday, December 6
Performance, Sunday, December 21

The LUMC Christmas Instruments will play hymns and carols during the service on December 21, with a rehearsal during the Greening preparation, Saturday, December 6 at 10 a.m. Open to kids and adults who play instruments with enough skill to keep up. (The Christmas carol books are arrangements of hymns that you know.) Sign up on the choir room door or just show up for rehearsal. Once we are all together, we will schedule a second rehearsal. Questions? email Diane Withiam.

Christmas Children and Youth Choir

The Christmas Children and Youth Choir will sing Christmas Eve. First rehearsal is December 6, during the Greening of the Church. Then we'll set another rehearsal. The children and youth choir sounded great on Thanksgiving Sunday, so let's do it again! Questions? See the choir room door or ask Diane Withiam.

Children's Pageant

December 14, 10:30

Presented in the style of a 1940s radio drama, this year's pageant, "Broadcasting Christmas," tells the tale of Miss Etta Placed, who enlists the help of Detective Gil Gumshoe while desperately searching for the real, true Christmas amongst the messy distraction of commercialism and secular traditions. Join us in the sanctuary on December 14 during the Sunday School hour for a different take on our annual children's pageant! —Kevin Klippel

Giving Tree Supports Local Families

Please return gifts by December 7 in order to be given out by the December Food Pantry, December 15. The committee will have to shop for any tags that are not taken, so it would be great if you grab some tags and head out to help our families.—*Diane Skroback*



Poinsettia Orders Are Due

Deadline December 14

By special arrangement with Bakers' Acres we can beautify the sanctuary for Advent and our Christmas Eve Service. Poinsettias are \$10.00 each and are available in red, pink, or white. When you make your order, please include your name and the names of your loved ones exactly as you want them printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Please return your completed order form along with your payment to the church office by Sunday, December 14. You can leave them on the office door if you wish. Checks should be made payable to LUMC. Please write "Poinsettias" in the memo line. The poinsettias are yours to take home after the Christmas Eve service. Thank you!

United Methodist Giving Tuesday

December 2

On December 2, you can extend the spirit of giving thanks into the Advent season by participating in UMC #GivingTuesday. Every gift made online through The Advance at www.umcmmission.org/give on Dec. 2 will be matched up to \$1 million. Advance Specials is the name the United Methodist Church applies to donations to specific projects and missions.



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December 2014

Lansing United
Methodist Church

Inside:

ADVENT WORSHIP 9:00

DECEMBER 7, 14, 21

KIDZ QUEST AND
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

DECEMBER 14 10:30

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

DECEMBER 24, 5:00 AND 8:00

Lansing United Methodist Church

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one mile north of the stoplight on

Route 34B in South Lansing.

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Please send your news to Glenn Withiam, editor, at
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Deadline for the next issue is

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