

United Voice

United Lutheran Church

December 2020

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

2230 Washington Street, Eugene, OR 97405

(541) 342-5808

www.unitedlutheran.org

unluthch@efn.org

Zoom worship service at 9:30 am on Sundays



Advent 2020 Engaging the Senses

Dear Saints of United,
On November 29th we will begin the church new year with the season of Advent. Advent means "to come" and we prepare for the coming of Jesus in the manger, in our daily lives, and in his promised 2nd coming. This Advent will be different as we will not have as many in person opportunities to come together. But we will have some. Your worship planning committee has put together some Advent Preparedness Kits to help you engage your senses as you journey toward Christmas. Here are some of the ways you might use your kit during the season.

Nov. 29th **Worship via zoom at 9:30 a.m.** Light your candle as we begin worship singing "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah." Have your ELW in front of you so you can sing along. Plan to light this candle each week. If you have an Advent wreath, add your own candles to the celebration.

Dec. 2 Bundle up and come to our Christmas Tree Lighting Service at **United as we sing Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00p.m.** It will be dark and likely rainy so come prepared with your own hot beverage and flashlight.

Dec. 6 **Worship via zoom at 9:30 a.m.** Pull out your ELW and finger Labyrinth as you

prepare for worship. Plan as an individual or as a family to come walk the labyrinth set up in our Fellowship Hall

Dec. 9 Join Pastor Eric **via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.** with your ELW as we sing through Compline. Light your candle and pull out your devotional as Pastor Eric will refer to it.

Dec. 13 **Worship via zoom at 9:30 a.m.** Find some blue in your house and add it to your worship space as you come to worship. Light your candle and two others if you have them. Listen to the message of hope as proclaimed in Isaiah 61.

Dec. 16 **Join us via zoom at 7:00p.m.** as Philip and Pastor Eric prepare a Christmas Carol sing-a-long in the privacy of your own home. Your ELW will be very helpful here.

Dec. 20 On this 4th Sunday of Advent, worship again begins at **9:30 a.m. via zoom.** Pull out your Myrrh scented oil as we engage the sense of smell during worship.

Dec. 21 **Mark your calendars for the Winter Solstice. This is a Monday.** We will celebrate a **Blue Christmas via zoom at 7p.m.** as we acknowledge that this can be a difficult season for those who have lost loved ones. Again, have your scented oil available as we use this as a healing oil for

the day. Come and relax into a meditative Christmas service that acknowledges that darkness is difficult.

Dec. 24th



**CHRISTMAS
EVE**

Come as we do a **20-minute outdoor service in our parking lot at 4:00p.m.** We will light candles, sing Silent Night, and celebrate the coming of the Christ child. **Zoom worship will be at 7p.m.** with a Christmas Homily and familiar carols. Join us

Dec. 27th Join us for a simple service at **9:30 a.m. via zoom.** There will be more information to come. Maybe we will have some of our new equipment up and running. Time will tell.

Walk the Labyrinth

United Lutheran Church will be open for you to walk the Labyrinth Thursdays from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. and Fridays from 9:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. beginning December 3 and ending December 18 . Call the church office to make an appointment so we can keep our area safe. [541-342-5808](tel:541-342-5808)

May you have a blessed journey of the senses as you go through Advent. See how our decorations change as we progress toward Advent. Listen to the sounds of the season and notice where Christ is breaking in. Smell the oil and the greens and remember Christmases past and present. Feel the winter air, the touch of a loved one who helps you remember you are never alone. Taste a treat remembering that we will again share food and fellowship soon.

Come Lord Jesus,

Pastor Eric

Sunday Schedule for December

9:30 - 10:30 Worship

10:30 -11:00 Coffee with Pastor Eric

11:00 – 11:45 Adult forum time

Forum topics:

Dec. 6 Conclusion of: " How do Lutherans Interpret the Bible"

Dec. 13 "What do Lutherans say about Mother Mary?"

Dec. 20 and 27 Coffee from 10:30-11:00, No Forum

Contact information for Pastor Eric:

eric@unitedlutheran.org

509-570-8386

United Zoom access:

Meeting ID 259 764 8022 Password 8022

Council Highlights

The Annual Meeting will be held on February 7, at 10:30 (following the worship service).



A new copier will be needed likely in the next calendar year. A discussion will continue on whether to lease or buy our next machine. Our current machine has over 1 million copies and parts are becoming obsolete.

Pastor Eric reported there will be brief outdoor worship services on **Dec. 2 at 7:00p.m.** (using an abbreviated Holden Evening Prayer Service), and on **Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m.** using a brief readings and carols service. A live zoom service will happen at **7:00p.m. on Christmas Eve.**

Council hopes to have a new constitution to present for approval of the congregation at the annual meeting.

COVID Response Team continues to monitor the situation. As cases are on the rise, masks will continue to be required as people enter the building.

An Opportunity

To Give:

The congregation approved moving forward on a new Video Streaming System. If you would like to make a donation please send it to the church office and write (Technology) in the memo line. So



far we have received \$1000.00 toward the project. The project is not to exceed \$15,000.00. Thank you in advance for your support!



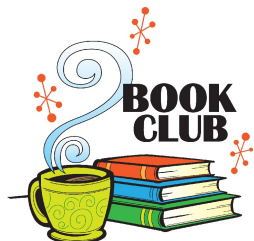
John and Diane Masson want to thank everyone for their love and

support.

UNITED LUTHERAN BOOK GROUP, 2020

Dear United Lutheran friends and neighbors. Please join us on Zoom as we finish out 2020

(whew!) And begin 2021 with these book choices. By popular demand, we have decided to read two favorite books in December instead of cancelling our book group discussion for that month completely, I Heard the Owl Call My Name and A Christmas Memory. Enjoy reading and the fellowship and pleasure these discussions bring.



December, (date to be announced), I Heard the Owl Call My Name, by Margaret Craven, and A Christmas Memory, by Truman Capote
January 24, 12:30 pm, Scarlet Feather, by Maeve Binchy



We will be sponsoring two households this Christmas through St Vincent De Paul's Holiday Joy program.

The first household is a grandmother and her adult son who together are raising 6 boys between the ages of 4 and 15 from 4 different families. This blended family has been homeless for the last year and just got into affordable housing in October. Let's help make their new house a home. The second household is an elder in our community who was recently widowed. While raising their family her husband served in our armed forces and she served the base community as their mayor. We can now help support her as she has supported so many others in the past. **This year we will**

be collecting gifts through an online giving tree. You can access the sign-up via this link: <https://signup.com/go/DxyQMDX>

We will not be collecting food this year due to COVID but we will be collecting extra grocery gift cards. If you would normally have donated to the food boxes please consider giving in this way. If it is more convenient for your household to make a donation please feel free to do so, just specify on your donation envelope or check that it is for the **Holiday Joy families**. We have volunteers willing to do the extra shopping.

Please have all gifts to the church by Sunday, December 13th. If you have any questions or ideas, please contact Crystal.

Our Christmas Prayer and Meditation Labyrinth will be available for individuals to walk on Thursdays 5:30-8pm and Fridays 9-2 during Advent (Dec. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 and 18) We are asking that only one household use the labyrinth at a time. Please call the office to sign-up for a day and time.

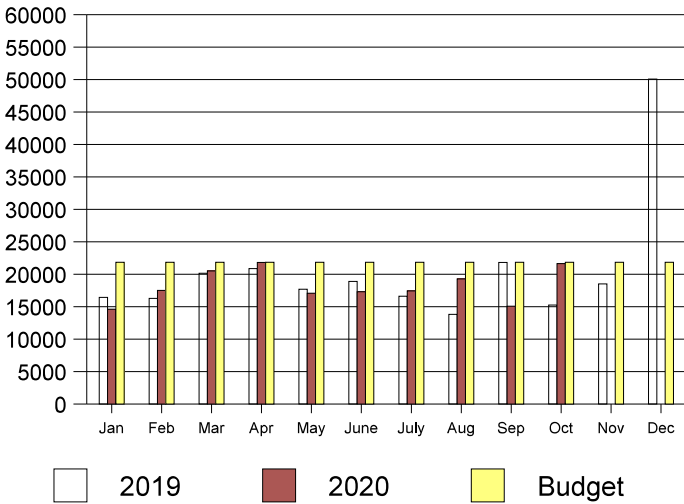
The children of United will be doing a Christmas Play this year....just a little different then in the past The play will be entirely virtual with no in-person meetings. We will be sharing our play with the congregation during service on **Sunday, December 20th**. Crystal will be asking families to record sections of the play and then we will splice them all together to make our masterpiece. If you have a youth of any age that would like to participate please contact Crystal.





Given in October \$21,648.46

2 Year Giving Comparison
2019 and 2020



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Jim Barta
- 3 - Denise Wendt
- 9 - Lee Langdon
- 17 - Rebekah Whittaker
- 19 - Doris Helikson
- 21 - Harry Jahnke
- 24 - Karen Drouet
- 27 - Camille Haakanson
- 30 - Dan Diffendaffer
- Laina Ward
- 31 - Wendy Joan Stoner



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 - Charissa Callison
Damon Vold
- 2 - Jim Barta
- 4 - Julia Bryce
- 8 - Andrea Scofield
- 9 - Philip Bayles
- 21 - Elizabeth Gustafson
Brent Whittaker
Hope Whittaker
Jackson Whittaker
- 23 - Cara Haakanson
- 24 - Candy Snook
- 25 - Jerome Hirsch



ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 - Jennifer & Gary Haliski
- 28 - Kim Weiherman & Lloyd Helikson

Special dates

- **Second Sunday of Advent, December 6, 2020**
- **Third Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2020**
- **Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, 2020**
- **First day of winter, December 21, 2020**
- **Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020**
- **Christmas Day, December 25, 2020**
- **New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31, 2020**





Men's Group meets on Friday mornings at 9:00 am
Mary Magdalene Circle meets on the second
 Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm
Prayer Group meets on Thursdays at 4:00 pm
Theological Book Group, meets one Saturday a month at
 9:00 am
Book Group meets on the last Sunday of the month at
 12:30 pm
Knitting Group meets on Wednesdays at 4:30 pm
Mid-week Book Group meets on Wednesdays at
 7:00 pm



Lutheran World Relief

Thank you for taking action to love your neighbor through your recent gift of \$50.00 to Lutheran World Relief given through the Oregon Synod of the ELCA.

I'd like to share a story with you about how your support makes a real difference.

When Ebola broke out in the Democratic Republic of Congo, few organizations could reach the most at-risk communities. Deep poverty and ongoing violence have isolated these neighbors and made them fearful of outsiders. This distrust only fueled the spread of their fear of outsiders. This distrust only fueled the spread of the deadly virus.

But, because of your generosity, neighbors like Katembo Mastaki Barnabas got the treatment they needed to overcome Ebola. Thanks to you, our long history of service in these communities has created a legacy of trust, enabling us to go door-to-door in vulnerable communities to educate families on symptoms and prevention. We were able to quickly recognize when Barnabas had symptoms, and to ensure he received quick and skillful treatment.

- Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard, President and CEO



McKenzie River Trust - thank you for your donation to Mckenzie River Trust of

\$250.00. We are so touched by your gift, and all the support we've received since onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the wildfires in western Oregon this summer.

Our conservation work continues in this ever-changing reality. Our teams are working diligently to protect and care for the land and water that define our home ground. Thanks to you, we can ensure that people will have access to clean air, water, and the connections to nature that are so important for maintaining good health and strong communities.



Office: 541-998-6444
lutherwoodoregon.org

BottleDrop Give

Holiday 2020

This holiday season, BottleDrop Give is contributing up to \$15,000 to all fundraisers through a combination of matching donations and prizes. This is a great opportunity to give back to camp as we work toward purchasing a coffee bar for the dining hall! To participate, simply drop off your BottleDrop blue bags from Camp Lutherwood Oregon to any BottleDrop location between November 15-December 1. Learn more about the Oregon BottleDrop Give program and how to get blue bags sent to you on our website or by contacting the camp office at 541-998-6444.

Mark the Calendar!

The Annual Meeting of the Camp Lutherwood

Association will be held on Saturday, February 6th at 9:30am on Zoom. More information will be sent in December.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

When the earth is sick and dying.
 There will come a tribe of people
 From all races
 Who will put their faith in deeds,
 Not words, and make the planet
 Green again.

- Cree Prophecy -



Food for Lane County is handing out lunches to go. They are currently using hired staff and a limited number of volunteers. They are handing out an average of 60-80 lunches a day, 4 days a week.

While we can't help in the kitchen, what we can do is bake cookies/bars/sweet breads, etc. that can be packaged as dessert. We currently have 4-5 people baking about once a month to meet our goal of delivering one batch of home baked goods a week. If you are interested in baking please contact Cara - 541-324-2780.



The earth is awash in plastic of all sorts, and plastics take hundreds of years to decompose, if ever. They just become smaller and smaller pieces which get into the digestive

systems of animals we eat and the air we breathe.

EarthKeepers has been researching ways to use less plastic, and here are two ways you can make a small change which might have big effect:

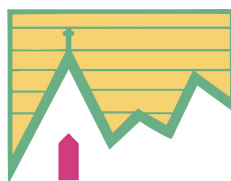
1. Buy your shampoo in bar form.

Soapboxsoaps.com sells a bar of shampoo which lathers quickly and cleans hair well. It comes in a cardboard box. Made with naturally derived ingredients, it is safe on colored hair, is cruelty free, vegan, and made in the USA. Your purchase donates soap to someone in need. Soap=Hope.

2. Buy your household cleaners from a local company which provides refills. **Werefilit.com** carries dish detergent, laundry detergent, liquid hand soap, and other household cleaning products. They deliver to your doorstep. If you leave a quart canning jar out for them they will exchange it for a full quart canning jar. Consider ordering from them to try out the cleaning products (from **azureclean.com**, also an Oregon company).

The whole issue of recycling has been confusing across Oregon. To read an update from OPB, "Oregon Wants Companies to Help Pay for New Recycling System" go to **Interfaithearthkeepers.org**.

Meanwhile, try to purchase products in glass or biodegradable containers. Talk to store managers, requesting products in other-than-plastic packaging. **EarthKeepers** is building a list of locally available plastic-free products; please let us know if you have additions to our list. Share your successes with others. We are looking for new ideas!
-Eunice Kjaer



FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: YEAR END GIVING

December is a time for giving, including thinking about gifts to United. Whether you might be catching up on your pledge, putting something in your designated "Christmas" offering envelope, or making a special year-end contribution, be assured that your generosity helps further the work of our church, both locally and through ELCA programs around the world. All contributions received in the office by **Thursday, December 31** will be credited by Karen Drouet as 2020 giving. If you have any questions about this please talk with Karen.



ANNUAL MEETING

COMING IN FEBRUARY

United's Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 7. Save the date! Reports for the meeting are due in the office by Monday, January 18



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EUGENE OR 97405

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Especially for:



December 6 **2nd Sunday in Advent** Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8

December 13 **3rd Sunday in Advent** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20 **4th Sunday in Advent** 2 Samuel 7:1-44, 16, Luke 1:46b-55, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

December 27 **1st Sunday of Christmas** Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 148, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40



United Voice

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