

The Parish Visitor

CHURCH VITALS:

- Office Hours: Monday through Thurs. 9a-noon
- Phone: 608.723.4384
- Pastor email: erikaflorsumc@gmail.com
- E-mail: lumchurch@tds.net
- Worship and Live Streaming: Sunday 10 am
- Web Site: www.lancasterumc.org
- Conf Website: www.wisconsinumc.org

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/LancasterWIUMC/>

OUR LUMC STAFF:

Pastor: Erika Jezael Martinez-Flores

Secretary: Gretta McKelvey

Bob McKelvey, Treasurer, 608-988-6825

Peg Soden, Financial Secretary

Bev Mattingly, Music Director

Mary Rasmussen, Parish Nurse

Rev. Bob McKelvey, Pastor Emeritus

**Prayer Group: Wednesday 8:30am at LUMC or
via Zoom**

Meeting ID: 394 038 9324 Passcode: 4EkSsE



OUR MISSION:

*Seek God~
Share Christ~
Serve Others~
Sing Praises*

PASTOR GREETINGS

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

Ephesians 4.14-15

Children are notoriously fickle. Their attention spans are short. They are unstable, tossed to and fro and swept along by every changing circumstance. Paul compares these childlike characteristics to those of an immature Christian. Such believers are characterized by a lack of discernment and critical thinking; to this, we can add a confident, arrogant certainty that can drag the believer into fundamentalism and fanaticism, where questioning their actions or way of thinking is not permitted. A Christian who has not reached spiritual maturity allows themselves to be swayed by ideologies and doctrines that tickle the ears but lack depth and merely cater to personal desires.

This type of behavior affects not only the individual believer but also lies at the root of movements that foster societal polarization and the exclusion of those who do not think or act like them. The narrative of "good versus bad," the doctrine of the superiority of a select few, and the belief in a "divine right" are elements that have eroded the foundations of human rights, the principles of liberty and justice, and, of course, the values of Christian ethics.

Christian ethics have been a fundamental pillar in the building and strengthening of communities throughout history. These ethics, rooted in the principles and teachings of Jesus Christ, not only guide individual conduct but also establish a framework for social coexistence. It is therefore essential and timely for us, as believers, to recall these principles and teachings to avoid falling into the errors of those who choose Christian immaturity.

Christian ethics are grounded in values that promote respect, justice, solidarity, and love for

one's neighbor. These values are not abstract; they translate into concrete actions that strengthen community bonds. For instance, the commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself" compels community members to act with empathy and generosity.

Among the essential values, the following stand out:

- Justice: seeking the common good and defending the rights of the most vulnerable.
- Solidarity: supporting those facing difficulties by creating networks of mutual aid.
- Honesty: fostering trust through transparency and truthfulness.
- Forgiveness: overcoming conflicts and promoting reconciliation.

These values form an ethical framework that sustains peaceful coexistence and the community's integral development.

The practical application of Christian ethics within the community transforms social relationships. Adopting these principles creates an atmosphere of respect and cooperation. Furthermore, Christian

ethics promotes inclusion and equality. Instead of fostering division, it encourages recognizing the dignity of every person, regardless of their background or social status.

A key aspect is social responsibility. Christian ethics calls upon us to be active agents in building a more just society by participating in initiatives that benefit everyone.

By integrating Christian ethics into community life, we not only improve our interpersonal relationships but also contribute to social transformation. The community becomes a space where love, justice, and solidarity are lived out in tangible ways.

This path requires commitment and perseverance. Living according to these values is not always easy, yet by strengthening the community through these principles, we create a legacy that transcends generations and reflects the central message of Christianity: love as the foundation of all human coexistence.

Pastor Erika Martinez-Flores



SNACKPACK FOR BACKPACKS

A special THANK YOU to the regular donors to the Snackpacks for Backpacks program. As always, your \$\$ will be used to buy food for the individual food bags and the Arrow Café food pantry at the high school. We are on summer break now, but will be returning at the beginning of September. Food, money or bag donations are always welcome along with your continued support, prayers and encouragement! Thanks, Bev Mattingly



Grant County Cancer Coalition – Thank you from the Board of Directors

“Thank you to LUMC for donations to the Grant County Cancer Coalition. It is greatly appreciated by those that we serve. This past year was a record breaking one for the number of families that were helped with the support of people such as yourself. It truly does “take a village” to make things like this happen. Thank you for your support!”

.....The Grant County Cancer Coalition Board of Directors

REMEMBER – GRANT COUNTY CANCER COALITION IS OUR 3RD QUARTER MISSION PROJECT



New Address & Thank You

Our dear friend, Marilyn Keller has moved recently, to be closer to her family, and she wants you to know that her new address is

500 W. Washington Street #117

New London, WI 54961

You can also reach her at her new e-mail address

mkkelle117@gmail.com

Marilyn is so grateful for all the support and prayers during this transition and will look forward to cards and messages in the future. We continue to keep Marilyn and her family in in our thoughts and prayers.

FOOD PANTRY

LAUGHTER: A physical reaction and auditory expression of positive emotional states - such as joy, mirth, or relief – consisting of rhythmical contractions of the diaphragm and respiratory system. It is a universal human behavior that releases endorphins, reduces stress hormones, and strengthens social bonds.

In the Bible, we find verses that also talk about joy and laughter. Proverbs 15:13, and 17:22, Ecclesiastes 8:15 and Job 8:21. So God does want us to enjoy life by laughing and enjoying our time together, so I have a story to tell that should bring a smile to your face.

There was a preacher baptizing some people in a river when he hears someone approach him. He turns to find a man, completely drunk and smelling like a brewery. The preacher is repulsed by the smell, but he manages to ask the man, "Are you ready to find Jesus?" The drunk answers "Yes, I am." So, the preacher grabs him and dunks him in the water. He pulls him up and asks the drunk "Brother, have you found Jesus?" The drunk replies, "No, I haven't found Jesus." The preacher, shocked at the answer, dunks him into the water again, but for a little longer this time. He again pulls him out of the water and asks again, "Have you found Jesus, my brother?" The drunk answers "Nope, I haven't found Jesus." By this time the preacher is at his wits end so he dunks the drunk in the water again-but this time he holds him down for about 30 seconds. When the drunk begins kicking his arms and legs, the preacher pulls him up. The preacher asked the drunk again, "For the love of God, have you found Jesus?" The drunk wipes his eyes and catches his breath and says to the preacher, "Are you sure this is where he fell in?" Reddit, r/Christianity

Volunteers to thank for helping at the Food Pantry in July are Steve and Lisa Zabel, Lois Hartnett, Braelyn Bradshaw, Lisa Kruser, Linda Reed and Vicky Case.

Items to donate in August are items of your choice. Volunteer dates for August are August 20 at 10:00 a.m. and August 24 and 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Keep smiling and passing on the laughter Diane Perkins, LUMC Food Pantry Coordinator



BLESSING OF THE PETS
WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 10:00 A.M.
LANCASTER - MEMORIAL PARK
SPRING SHELTER
POTLUCK – BRING A DISH TO SHARE
(ALL PETS WELCOME – ON LEASH PLEASE)



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES
AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES
Cecil and Janice Landon- Aug 24
Richard and Nola Burns- Aug 26

BIRTHDAYS
Carol Bender- Aug 2
Richard Burns- Aug 14
Barbara Buttles- Aug 14
Greg Gelbach- Aug 15
Ann Davies Dakin- Aug 20
John Drew- Aug 28
Gene McLinn- Aug 29
Stuart Harper- Aug 30
Janice Staskal- Aug 30

SERVING US IN August 2026

	Liturgist	Ushers	Coffee Hour
Aug 2	Vicky Case	Roger & Vicky Case	Cindy & Larry Busch
Aug 9	None	Worship at the Park	Not needed
Aug 16	Chris Zabel	Dana & Tracy Shaben and Brooklyn	SIGN UP AVAILABLE
Aug 23	Margaret Bussan	Roger & Margaret Bussan	Diane Perkins
Aug 30	Stuart Harper	Gene & Jackie McLinn	SIGN UP AVAILABLE

MULTI-MEDIA MINISTRY August 2026

Sponsorship \$25 per Sunday

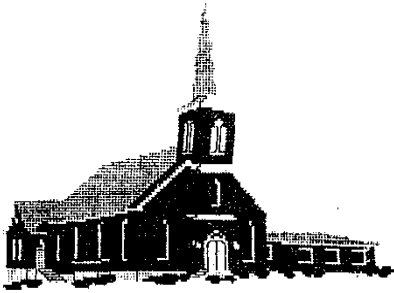
<i>DATE</i>	<i>SPONSOR</i>
<i>Aug 2</i>	
<i>Aug 9</i>	
<i>Aug 16</i>	
<i>Aug 23</i>	Dick & Nola Burns in honor of their wedding anniversary on August 26
<i>Aug 30-</i>	

AUGUST 2026

UNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 10:00a Worship Communion	3	4	5 7:00 am UMM Breakfast McDonalds 8:30 am Prayer Group 10:00a Prayer Shawl	6	7 Office closed	8
9  10:00 a Worship in the Park – Spring Shelter	10	11	12 8:30a Prayer Group	13	14 Office Closed	15
16 10:00a Worship	17	18	19 8:30a Prayer Group 10:00 Prayer Shawl	20 5:30p ADULT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	21 Office Closed	22
23 10:00a Worship	24	25	26 8:30a Prayer Group	27	28 Office Closed	29
30 10:00a Worship	31					

PARISH VISITOR August 2026

Lancaster United Methodist Church
PO Box 186, 216 S. Monroe Street
Lancaster, Wisconsin 53813-0186



Live Streaming service on Facebook at 10 am
Video broadcast posted on LUMC YOUTUBE channel

