

Sunday Worship 9:00 AM AND 6:00 PM

The Sunbeam

December 2010

Lansing United Methodist Church

lansingunited.org

Pastor: Jane Sautter • Program Associate: Marilyn Paradise • Youth Coordinator: Kevin Dunn



K.A.N. Kids cut trees to send to deployed soldiers, courtesy of Richard and Kay Moore



From the Pastor

God's Kingdom...Not the "Thingdom"

The season of expectation...once again. Each year we come to this season and get caught up in the frantic frenzy that surrounds us, and we totally forget what it is that we are expecting. Sometimes we plan to "get everything done" early so that we will be able to relax into the real meaning of the season before it is too late.



The flaw in this thinking is that we are chronic "doers" and will never reach the point of being done...there will always be one more batch of cookies, one more card, one more visit, one more gift... when does the relax part start?

If we believe that we are expecting the Kingdom of God to come, the time of Emmanuel, God with us, let us be wary of being hijacked by the Kingdom of Thingdom. It is so easy to fall prey to this consumerism...especially when we are bombarded with advertising and sales and deals

24 hours a day. It is increasingly difficult to find that quiet space if we are not intentional about it. It is so important in our current culture to remember that all those wonderful gifts of technology that we use to make our lives easier also come with off buttons.

There was a radio station I used to enjoy that played nothing but Christmas carols the week before Christmas. I found this refreshing and enjoyable. BUT I was on my way to Remsen last week and switched to this station only to find they have decided to play "seasonal music" for the *entire month* before Christmas. There is something fundamentally wrong with "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" followed immediately by "O Holy Night." (Honest, that's what I heard!) I was extremely glad to have an off button!

So, my friends, do not be conformed to this world...do not be lured by the Kingdom of Thingdom... expect the coming of the Prince of Peace, another opportunity for us to get it right. Let us expect Emmanuel, God with us.

Blessings, *Pastor Jane*

Pajama Sunday—December 26

Come to church in your jammies on December 26! The Sunday after Christmas is Pajama Sunday at LUMC, and we'll stay snuggly and warm as we worship!

Wear your coziest PJs and your snazziest slippers and come prepared to sing your favorite carols!

Junior & Senior High Youth Party

How creative can you be with \$5? Let's find out! Come to LUMC on December 17 from 6:00–9:00 PM. for food, games, a Christmas movie, and a fun \$5 gift swap at our annual LUMC Youth Christmas party! Bring a wrapped, non-gender-specific \$5 gift and we'll swap them around for fun. All junior & senior highs are invited, so come along and bring a friend and we'll celebrate the season together! Please RSVP to Kevin by Wednesday, December 15, so we know how much food to provide. See you then!

The Season of Advent

The Season of Advent marks the beginning of our church year. Advent starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which this year is November 28, and ends on Christmas Eve. The entire season centers on the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. "Advent is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God." It also symbolizes our spiritual journey as individuals and as a congregation. We affirm in our faith that Christ has come, that He is present in the world, and He will come again. As a congregation we have traditional events during Advent that help us prepare for the celebration of Christmas.

The adult Sunday School class begins a two-part **Advent study** on Sunday, December 5, with Pastor Jane. Why is



Christmas important? Do the circumstances surrounding the birth of Christ really matter?

Why has there been so much controversy and disbelief about a virgin birth? Come to this class on December 5 and 12 to wrestle with some of these questions.

On Saturday, December 11, we meet in the narthex at 2:00 PM ready for an afternoon of **caroling**. Carolers deliver holiday cheer to people in the community who may be unable to attend church at this time of

Christmas Pageant



year. Join the "pick-up" caroling group as we spread the joy of the season and bring blessings to those in need.

Once again the annual presentation of the **Children's Christmas Pageant** will be held on Sunday, December

19, following the morning worship service. The congregation is also invited to attend a dish-to-pass luncheon and Happy Birthday, Jesus, Party in the Fellowship Hall following the pageant. Please join us.

If the holidays are getting you down and you are not feeling particularly jolly, we invite you to attend the **Blue Christmas Service** on Tuesday, December 21, at 7:00 PM. This service is mindful of those who have had challenges or experienced loss and find sadness instead of joy filling their days.

Last but not least, on Friday, December 24, the **Christmas Eve Family Service** will be held at 5:00 PM with a family message as the theme. The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion will be held at 8:00 PM. Please note that there are no Sunday School classes scheduled for December 19 (Christmas Pageant), December 26, or January 2. Have a blessed holiday season. Merry Christmas!—

Marilyn Paradise

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



**Lansing
United
Methodist
Church**

Note: This calendar is current as of November 30. For updates to all LUMC events, visit lansingunited.org, and check the bulletin when you're in church on Sunday.

1 Prayer Service 9:00
Women's Bible Study 9:30

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

2

Senior High 7:00

3

4 Men's Breakfast at Linda's in North Lansing Every Saturday 7:00

Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:00

5  SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Worship 9:00
Pageant Rehearsal 10:30
Sunday School 10:30
Children's Ministries 11:45
K.A.N. 4:00
Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00
Fireplace Praise Service 6:00

6 Disciple Bible Study 12:30

Staff Parish 7:00

7 Quilt Bee 9:30

8 Prayer Service 9:00
Women's Bible Study 9:30

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

9

Senior High 7:00

10

11 Mens' Breakfast 7:00

Christmas Caroling 2:00

12  THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Worship 9:00
Pageant Rehearsal 10:30
Sunday School 10:30
Church Council 10:30
Caregivers 11:30

Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00
Fireplace Praise Service 6:00

13 Disciple Bible Study 12:30

Food Pantry 3:00

Trustees 7:30

14 Quilt Bee 9:30

15 Prayer Service 9:00
Women's Bible Study 9:30

SUNBEAM DEADLINE
12:00 Midnight

Choir 7:00

16

Senior High 7:00

17 Youth Ministries
Christmas Party

18 Mens' Breakfast 7:00

Pageant Dress Rehearsal 10:00

19  FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Worship 9:00
Christmas Pageant 10:30
Dish-to-Pass and Birthday Party for Jesus

Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive
Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00
Fireplace Praise Service 6:00

20 Haiti Committee 7:00

21 Quilt Bee 9:30


Blue Christmas Service 7:00

22 Women's Bible Study 9:30

Choir 7:00

23

24 Family Focus 5:00

Candlelight and Communion 8:00


25 
Christmas Day

26 CHRISTMASTIDE
Worship 9:00

Pajama Sunday

27

28

29

30

31

Church Office Closed

*December
2010*

Lessons from Haiti: Faith vs. Fear

When my wife and I travel to Haiti, it seems God's still, small voice becomes easier to hear. Perhaps it is the absence of television and radio, or maybe it's going to bed at 8:00 and waking with the dogs and roosters sometime between 2:00 and

4:00 AM. Whatever! God seems more able to get my attention in Haiti. This trip



was no different. For two weeks we were teaching in an English School in St. Marc and staying with missionaries Gary and Carolyn Walker. Our first Sunday there, Carolyn was preaching at the church they attend which is "under construction." Actually we sat on plastic chairs under blue tarps on a level terrace carved out of a hillside.

Her sermon was on "fear not." As Psalm 27:1, 2 states, *The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life. Of whom (or what) shall I be afraid?* Are we under God's care? Are we letting Him direct our steps? As I looked out over the mountains across the road, everything seemed so peaceful and right. But, oh, how quickly things can change! Two days later the yard in front of St Marc Hospital was full of bodies on blankets with IVs hanging from tree branches. Death was once again visiting Haiti, this time in the form of cholera.

It would have been easy to give in to the fear that could be seen on nearly every face. People were fine one day and dead the next. Yet God was calling us to be faithful, not fearful. Faithful action was called for, not paralyzing fear. So in school the next day, we gathered together, sang praises, and prayed to our Lord and savior. Our voices, 100+ students and teachers, could be heard all over our hillside neighborhood. What a witness! to praise God in the midst of fear and suffering. The preschoolers sitting near me watched as tears rolled down my face as I sang and prayed with these strong, faith-filled people. Later we taught about hygiene, safe food, and clean water. Teachers went and cleaned and washed preschool toys with bleach water. There was peace and power in going to God and seeking His direction. Cholera is dangerous and deadly, but we have a good shepherd. If we seek Him, He will lead us, and use us for the benefit of His people. Fear is from the devil. Faith is the answer.

We may struggle with different fears than those in Haiti, but fear still tries to creep into our lives and steal our joy and peace. Financial fears, health fears, relationship fears can paralyze us. Or we can face these challenges with faith knowing God is with us. Thank you Haiti, I needed to hear that loud and clear.—*Pete Loveland*

Thanks to all the bakers and bidders who made the Haiti Dessert Auction a huge success! We are grateful for your generosity.—The Haiti Committee

Thank You For Making Operation Christmas Child A Success!

Because of YOUR great outpouring of love and compassion, LUMC is sending 57 shoeboxes full of Christmas presents to children around the world. As they listened to Christmas music and had some hot cocoa, LUMC youth wrapped the shoeboxes to be sent both domestically and internationally to children who've suffered more than we can imagine. Thank you so much for the part you've played in showing them the love of Christ, and making their Christmas memorable and life-changing. We look forward to doing this again next year!—*Youth Group*

Outreach Christmas Fundraiser!

Help us get our Church World Service School Kits delivered to kids in need!

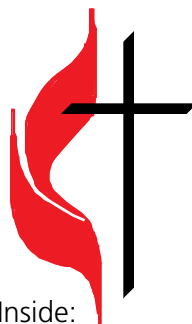
For the next few Sundays following worship, the Outreach Committee will be offering a variety of Christmas items: wrapping paper, gift boxes, stuffed animals, decorations, and more! Proceeds will go towards postage for mailing CWS kits. Thanks to everyone who has supported this project by providing supplies for the kits, and to the K.A.N. kids who will be packing the kits for shipping!



Note from the Treasurer

Please submit all reimbursements for the Calendar Year 2010 a.s.a.p. if you have them. Any reimbursements or invoices for 2010 must be submitted to the treasurer no later than January 14, 3:00 PM. Anything received after January 14th, 2010, will not be included in calendar year 2010 books, but will be included in 2011, even though these types of expenses were not budgeted for. Also, if you are keeping records of a liability account (e.g., Food Pantry, Haiti, Youth Mission), now is the time to reconcile your records to mine. Please e-mail Vicky Swanson at ges28@cornell.edu to request an up to date Quickbooks report on the account you wish to reconcile. Thank you—*Vicky Swanson, Treasurer*

A couple of issues ago, we talked about the fireplace at Casowasco dedicated to Marty Cockram, a big supporter of camping ministries. Here is the fireplace and plaque in Marty's memory.



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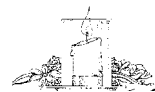
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Christmas Eve Worship
Family Focus 5:00
Communion and Candlelight 8:00



Worship 9:00 AM
Sunday School 10:30 AM
Fireplace Praise Service 6:00 PM

Lansing United Methodist Church

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Please send your news to Glenn Withiam, editor,
at grw4@cornell.edu, or use the Sunbeam folder
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Deadline for the next issue is December 15,
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