

You're invited
to a special Zoom event!

FORECAST 2021 LM ministry highlights & stewardship goals

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020
7–8:30 pm

A prayer

Loving God,
We come to you full of
anxiety about what may
happen in the coming days
and weeks.

Show us with the peace
Jesus promised to his
disciples, and make us into
steady pillars for those
around us.

Even as we are asked to
keep our distance from
others, help us to find
ways to reach out to those
who need our support.

For those already isolated,
lonely and scared, God,
give them your peace.

For the caregivers,
bless them as they offer
compassionate care.

And remind us, each time
we wash our hands, that in
our baptism you call us to
let go of our fears and live
in joy, peace, and hope.

Amen.

Dear LM family,

This morning, David Zentner offered a prayer (see left) at the close of Sunday morning coffee hour on Zoom. Fitting for our turbulent times, this prayer abides in our collective hearts as we at Luther Memorial live in hope and turn our faces toward 2021.

Please join us for a special video conference event, Forecast 2021. We're eager to share ministry updates with you, photos, and stories. And discuss next year's operating and building stewardship goals. We'd love to see your faces, get your input, and come together as a community.

We certainly understand that Zoom events are not possible for everyone. With that in mind, we have enclosed a summary of 2021 stewardship goals and ministry highlights, a pledge form, and instructions for online giving. Please prayerfully consider your support for LM ministry next year.

We look forward to seeing you, Luther Memorial's steady pillars, and hearing from you!



LM Council President Yvonne Eide
ydeide@uwalumni.com



LM Treasurer Bill Braham
billbraham@outlook.com



Pastor Brad Pohlman
pohlman@luthermem.org



Pastor John Worzala Dumke
woraladumke@luthermem.org

P.S. For those unable to attend, Forecast 2021 will be recorded and available by request.

2021 MINISTRY

General Operating Fund



Your gifts to the general operating fund will support all of Luther Memorial's core ministries in 2021, online and in-person. These include worship and music, expanded pastoral care and assistance, learning for all ages, youth & family ministry, community outreach, and fellowship activities.

Additionally, your giving will cover ongoing building maintenance, and our support of partnership ministries such as The Keep at Luther Memorial, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Parroquia Santa Maria, and synod benevolence.

HIGHLIGHTS

The expanding role of communication technology

The pandemic, starting last March, has pushed our congregation into new areas of technology. Your participation and feedback regarding recorded services, concerts, and virtual gatherings has been essential—thank you! As a result, LM is reaching a broader audience geographically through online worship and video conferencing. Your financial support will allow LM to continue exploring how technology can extend church ministry programs in 2021 and beyond.

The Keep Food Pantry

Your 2021 giving will also support the operations of LM's volunteer-run food pantry, serving those in the university community experiencing food insecurity. Two years in, pantry leaders have begun to discuss a possible expansion to meet growing demand. Our volunteers provide compassionate service for all guests, feeding up to 80 each week. As The Keep Food Pantry gets known, students outside of LM are coming forward to help by offering food donations or voluntary service. Learn more at www.luthermem.org/food-pantry.

New partnership ministry with Parroquia Santa Maria

We reached a milestone in September when the congregation councils of Parroquia Santa Maria and Luther Memorial approved a covenant for partnership ministry. Santa Maria is a Spanish-speaking ELCA mission congregation formerly located in Fitchburg. Since February we had been in conversation with them about relocating to Luther Memorial, partnering with our congregation, and offering a regular 12:30 pm Sunday communion service in Spanish. In October they moved their office to LM and called a part-time mission pastor, the Rev. Kirsten Worzala Dumke. Your giving in 2021 will help support their mission work. We look forward to sharing space and ministry possibilities with them and all the new ways such a partnership may deepen outreach to our neighbors and enrich our faith community experience.

Seminary internship

We are fortunate to have Vicar Leif Kratzke Nelson serving with us. He began his seminary internship year at LM on July 1. Working 3/4 time at Luther Memorial and 1/4 time at Lutheran Campus Ministry, he shares in the life and leadership of our community, while preparing for a call to ordained ministry in 2021. Together with campus ministry, we are committed to raising up leaders for service in the wider church. Your support makes this possible.

2021 BUILDING

Capital Appeal Fund

Building for Belonging Capital Campaign

As so many of you know, our congregation concluded a 3-year (2017-2020) “phase 1” capital appeal on June 30. Over the course of this appeal, LM received more than \$2.5 million dollars in pledges, gifts, grants and bequests. Thanks to your tenacity and generosity, we exceeded our fundraising goal and completed a major renovation project in 2017. The results were substantial: improved hospitality and accessibility throughout the entire church building, enhanced learning and nurturing spaces for youth, additional gathering spaces for mid-sized groups, as well as some needed renovations in the nave.

2021

From the start, you may recall that our congregation envisioned two three-year campaigns to cover the full cost of the Building for Belonging renovation project. Accordingly, LM still holds a primary mortgage from the 2017 major renovation. Instead of launching a second three-year campaign now in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, LM council leaders have endorsed a 12-month mini capital appeal—a bridge appeal, if you will—so that we may make steady progress whittling down our mortgage debt next year and make a few capital improvements. The proposed mini appeal will run concurrent with our annual general operating appeal, January 1–December 31, 2021.

Your donations to the 2021 capital appeal will go toward debt reduction and AV enhancements in the nave for digital ministry outreach. A benevolence tithe will be included. We are recommending financial support for Parroquia Santa Maria.

2021 FUNDRAISING GOALS

2021 General Operating Goal: increase overall giving by 2%

If you are able, please consider increasing your pledge by 2% for 2021. This goal takes into consideration anticipated increases and decreases next year due the pandemic. For example, we expect the church to experience a loss of budgeted income from fewer concerts and weddings. At the same time, we will be spending less in certain areas because of less physical use of the building. By our estimate, an overall 2% increase to general operating in 2021 will keep LM in a good position, but will not put the congregation ahead of where we are in 2020.

2021 Capital Appeal Goal: \$230,000

This goal takes into consideration our need to continue making principal and interest payments on LM’s primary mortgage, address any crucial building projects that may come up, add some needed AV enhancements to the nave, and include a benevolence gift to the ministry of Parroquia Santa Maria.

2021 for capital needs

- \$200,000 Debt reduction
- \$ 10,000 Audio-Visual enhancements for digital ministry outreach
- \$ 20,000 10% benevolence to Santa Maria ministry

\$230,000





Please make your pledge by Sunday, Dec. 13

By pledging your support now, you greatly assist Luther Memorial in planning for 2021. You are invited to fill out the enclosed paper pledge form or pledge online. Please indicate your pledges to general operating and capital appeal on separate lines as provided.

Online giving

If you haven't switched to online giving, now may be a good time. Over 60% of our regular LM contributors give through digital means—a remarkable statistic! By automating your recurring donations, you can simplify your giving process while also providing stability for the church. Instructions for online and text giving are enclosed.

Thank you!

However you choose to participate in the life and ministry of Luther Memorial, we are grateful to you and for you.



**Luther
Memorial
Church**