

November 2020



# The LUMinary Lite

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## A Message from the Pastor

November 2020

The month of November is one of my favorite times in the Christian year. (Let's be honest though, I am a pastor, so I could probably be caught saying that about nearly any time in the Christian year...) We will begin the month worshipping together in our sanctuary for the first time in nearly nine months—and I will have the opportunity to preach with a live audience in front of me for only the second time in those nine months. This gathering will come in the shadow of All Saints Day—a time in the Christian year when we celebrate the lives of those who have gone before us in the faith and finished their race. In this time and season in the life of the Christian community and the world, I can't help but recognize that as we gather together in worship and fellowship with one another, there are over 1 million people, according to the BBC, from all around the globe who will forever be absent from gatherings like ours because the Covid-19 virus ended their lives too soon.

Even as we approach what will be one of the most important and historic elections in our nation's history, I hope that we will remember those lives that have been lost. In the midst of the deep divisions we find in our nation and communities, I pray that the members of our church can be beacons of light in the darkness—no matter the outcome of this election.

As we approach the end of November, we will celebrate one of the most important, but often overlooked, holy days of the Christian year—Christ the King Sunday. It covers one of the most difficult concepts—apart from maybe the Holy Trinity—in all of Christian history—the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It is a difficult concept for many Christians today in large part because not only do the vast majority of us no longer have Lords or Kings, many of us around the world, especially in America, rebelled against this ruling structure many, many years ago. In this way, the Lordship of Jesus Christ can come across as an entirely foreign concept to many of us and yet it lies at the very heart of what it means for us to be Christians.

Some of you might have noticed the bumper sticker on my car that reads “My boss is a Jewish Carpenter.” This simple bumper sticker is a modern take on the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It communicates two things. First that Jesus, like a boss/lord/king has an obligation to care for and guide those who follow him. Second, that the followers of Jesus have a strong obligation to carry out Christ's vision for the world by following Christ's direction and emulating his work in the world.

Beyond this, the metaphor that “our boss is a Jewish Carpenter,” or that Christ is our Lord and King, demands a kind of company loyalty that has almost entirely been lost in the current landscape of our nation. As subjects, or employees working under, Christ our King, the Apostle Paul told the Christians of Philippi (Philippians 3) that our citizenship is in heaven. This citizenship in heaven comes with an obligation to build the kingdom of heaven here on earth. When the people of Israel and Judah were in exile in Babylon, God spoke to them through the prophet Jeremiah saying, “seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare (Jeremiah 29).”

As we approach our upcoming election, I encourage you to hold the saints who have gone before us in faith in one hand and your citizenship in Christ’s Kingdom in the other. Vote in a way that shows God that you are working for the welfare of all God’s children, in our nation and around the world. Vote in a way that will shine the light of Christ’s kingdom of love, of justice, and of peace into our hurting and divided world. No matter the outcome, no matter how you voted, when the results come in, strive to act with love toward all of your neighbors.

May God bless you all,

*Pastor Tiffany*

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## Getting to Know the New Pastor

Hello  
my name is

*Pastor Tiffany*

### Getting to Know the New Pastor’s Family—Featuring Thomasina (aka Thom)



Thomasina is a 13-15 year old Taiwanese mutt. She was named by one of her first parents who grew up in Ecuador as the child of medical missionaries. Her name is the feminine form of Thomas and is a common Spanish name. Although I am her fifth family, Emma has been a constant for her through each of her transitions. I imagine she is grateful to be in her fur-ever home. Five families across several nationalities means she speaks several languages. She has been blessed to learn Spanish, Chinese, and English. Unfortunately, her hearing is quickly declining, so she does not respond very well to any of them anymore.

A bit about her personality: she was rescued from the streets of Kaohsiung City, Taiwan at an early, but undetermined age meaning she never passes up a chance to eat anything, even if it is contained within a trash bag. Fortunately, she does not have the skills to break into covered trash cans. Despite her humble beginnings, she has turned into quite the princess. She loves her baths and politely demands to be blow dried afterwards by sitting and staring at me until I acquiesce. She absolutely loves her spring and summer fur trims; all I have to do is get the clippers out, and she will be right there ready to get started. Of course, I am sure the treat she receives after helps just a little bit... Like Emma, even in her old age, Thom shares an eagerness for experiencing the world around her. She is always happy to go for a car ride and excited for whatever adventure awaits when we arrive. She is also happy to simply lounge around, and especially loves doing that with me in the hammock. If I didn’t know better, I would think the hammock was hers and not mine. She was diagnosed with canine cognitive dysfunction (otherwise known as “doggie dementia”) about two years ago. Even with the minor quirks that have come with that, namely her inability to stop barking once she has started, she has a happy-go-lucky attitude which is infectious.



## Announcements from the Pastor's Desk



1. This year's **Charge Conference** will be held via Zoom on **Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 5:00 pm**. The SPRC will meet via Zoom prior to that at 4:00 pm. Given current Covid-19 restrictions, this meeting will be limited to the church leadership team and will only cover that business which is required by the Book of Discipline.
2. The Leadership Team voted on October 12, 2020 to **return to in-person worship** beginning November 1, 2020. Please see the letter from the Leadership Team that is included in this newsletter.
3. **Prayer group** continues to meet in-person on Mondays at 10 am and virtually via zoom on Thursdays at 10 am. Anyone is welcome to join either prayer meeting virtually. There will be no prayer meeting on Thursday, November 26, 2020.
4. **Bible Study** is now meeting in the Narthex on Wednesdays at 10 am. There will be no Bible Study meeting on Wednesday, November 25, 2020.
5. If you would like a **visit** from me, the pastor, please contact the church office. Arrangements will then be made for a visit at the church or in your home. I do request that masks be worn at all times for those visits. I make this request for your safety as well as my own and the safety of so many others I may come in contact with.
6. I will **not be at Twilliger's** on November 3, 2020 (Election Day)—I will be working the Laingsburg City Polls.
7. I will **not be at Twilliger's** on November 10, 2020—I will be interviewing for ordination with the Michigan Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. Your prayers are appreciated as I prepare for that interview!
8. I have been scheduled for an exploratory **surgery**, with the hope of getting to the bottom of some health issues I have had over the past couple of years, scheduled for Monday, November 23, 2020. For this reason, I will not be present at any in-person gatherings or events from **November 23, 2020—December 2, 2020**. I will be **working from home** as I recover. Your prayers that this procedure might bring answers and a clear path forward are deeply appreciated.

**\*\*Daylight Savings Time ends November 1. Remember to turn your clocks back 1 hour!\*\***

The Core Youth Group is collecting **returnable bottles and cans**. You can drop them off at the church or bring them on Sunday morning.

### Online Worship

**We will continue to offer online worship each Sunday morning at 10:00, on either Facebook or YouTube if you prefer to remain at home.**

### Update Regarding Holy Communion:

Beginning on **Sunday, November 1**, we will begin celebrating **Holy Communion via Zoom at 6 pm** on the first Sunday of each month. We will continue this practice until it is safe for us to celebrate Communion in-person. If you would like to participate in this celebration, you can pick up your elements at the in-person worship, or you can stop by the office during regular office hours during the final two weeks of the month to pick up your elements and an instruction card. If you are one who would need to join us by phone and are feeling at all anxious about it, please do not hesitate to speak with Pastor Tiffany or Karolyn. Either of us would be happy to walk you through this! Joining by phone harkens us back to the good old days of party line calls!

Even if you don't feel comfortable returning to in-person worship yet, your giving is still vital to making sure we, as a church, make it through this time in a financially healthy way. We want you to know that your giving is very much appreciated.



## What to expect as we return to in-person worship:

- The doors of the church will be **open** beginning at **9:40 am**. The service will begin once everyone has been seated.
- We ask that everyone **enter and exit through the accessible ramp entrance** at the back of the church.
- Upon entry you will be **greeted by an usher or two at the Hygiene Checkpoint** just inside the door.
- At the check point four things will happen:
  - If you do not have a **mask**, one will be provided for you.
  - Your **temperature** will be taken.
  - Your **name will be documented** for contact tracing purposes.
  - You will be invited to use the **hand sanitizer** provided.
- **An usher will** then assist you in finding your name tag and **direct you to your seat**. The ushers will work to **fill the sanctuary from front to back**. We ask that you **maintain social distancing** at all times while inside the building. **If you live together, you may sit together**. Once we have reached capacity in the sanctuary, the ushers will begin seating people in the narthex. In the event that we exceed capacity in the narthex as well, the service will be live streamed into the fellowship hall.
- Following the service, **you will be dismissed by row** beginning at the back of the narthex. We strongly encourage you not to linger or congregate once you have been dismissed. We will not be offering refreshments at this time.
- You are invited to **return your name tags to one of the wicker baskets** near the back of the sanctuary or at the name tag station outside of the library. They will be cleaned and returned to the name tag station after everyone has departed.
- Unfortunately, we are **unable to offer childcare** in our nursery at this time. That said, we are delighted to have you and your children in the sanctuary or the narthex as you are comfortable. A small, single use **activity bag will be available** as well.
- The **bathrooms will be open**, however, we ask that you knock before entering, so as to limit the occupancy of each restroom to **one family unit at a time**. If you live together, you may enter together. Otherwise we ask that you wait.

Finally, we also encourage you to be mindful that there will be some significant changes to our worship services. These changes have been made in an effort to keep the experience as safe as possible for everyone involved.

The option to watch the service on-line from the comfort and safety of your home will continue to be available.

--The LUMC Leadership Team

## UMCOR Hygiene Kit Collection Project:

The Core Youth Group has been eager to engage in some meaningful mission work throughout these unprecedented times. With that in mind, we are inviting our church members to collect items so that our youth can put together some hygiene kits. These kits are given to so many people all around the world in the immediate aftermath of numerous disasters and human conflicts that force people from their homes.

We are putting forward a goal of completing 50 of these kits! To do that we need your support!

To meet this goal, we need to collect:

Needed:	Pledged:	Received:
50 Hand Towels (15 x 25 – 17 x 27) No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels		
50 Washcloths No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels	24 Washcloths	24 Washcloths
50 Combs Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth No pocket combs or picks Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth	25 Combs	
50 Toenail or Fingernail Clippers No emery boards or metal nail files	25 Nail Clippers	
50 Bars of Bath Soap (3 oz. or larger) No Ivory or Jergen's soap Do not remove from packaging	25 Bars of Soap	
50 Adult Toothbrushes Must be individually packaged		
500 Bandages (3/4 x 3 inches)	500 Bandages	500 Bandages
50 Gallon Size Re-sealable Bags	75 Gallon-size Bags	75 Gallon-size Bags

If you would like to pledge to donate any of the needed items, please complete the google form included in this post. This will help us to track our progress toward our goal! <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSdJpi7FToe.../viewform...>

For more detailed information regarding the items needed please visit this link: <https://www.umcmmission.org/.../relief-supply.../hygiene-kit>

You can drop your donations off at the church office during our regular office hours Monday-Thursday from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm. Please have your contributions in by December 1, as the youth will be assembling the kits in December.