

Dear Beloved in Christ,

Typically, December is a slow month for major church news. We've got other things to do. The tree needs to be assembled, the pageant performed, the greens hung, the Posada planned. This is a season to dwell deeply in the gifts of our God, the one who came to live among us. Advent is supposed to be a time to savor that gift, to make room for it. It is a time to linger in the warmth of this season as we prepare for the God who enters our lives over and over again.

But this Advent, it seems that God has shown up in a rather more dramatic way.

I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth,  
do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.

*Isaiah 43:19-20*

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, we received a check for \$48,845.76 from Grace Lutheran Church in Elmwood Park. Grace disbanded in February this year. The funds come from the sale of their building. Their singular instruction was that these funds would be spent toward new mission.

I'm not sure I've exhaled yet. A gift this large has the potential to ignite a lot of possibilities. And it's been so hard not to erupt with the news, as we've tried to give council the time to listen for God's calling as we determine our best path forward.

As the executive team and then council met, one particular path became clear. No, the Angel Gabriel didn't attend the meeting—but we did share a sense that God is certainly up to something.

We would like the congregational consider a proposal that we hire Vicar María Rojas as a pastoral minister (this is not an ordained position) to continue the ministry we started with Community United, making this an integrated part of our mission at Unity Lutheran. This is not a commitment to fill a long-term position. However, we will work with the Synod and others to secure further funding.

*(continued next page)*

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE

### Long-Term Funding?

Is it really possible that we can find long-term funds for this project?

- Vicar María and I have created a small working group of synod colleagues that are working on inviting other churches and leaders to invest in Latino ministry in this area. This would follow a similar model to a successful process in the North Conference of the synod.
- If we are able to show real growth in the ministry, we can petition the Synod to establish this ministry as an AMC, using the same funding stream that supported our initial work with Awake.

### What is a TEEM Candidate:

Vicar María is seeking ordination through the TEEM program. Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) is a leadership formation process that places lay leaders in emerging ministry sites while learning through an action/reflection/action model. Each candidate is required to meet certain competencies, and may do so through coursework, personal study, or experience. Once these competencies and other candidacy requirements are met, the candidate may be ordained. No degree is conferred.

After TEEM candidates complete the academic and practical ministry requirements and are granted approval by a Candidacy Committee, they normally serve their first call in the ministry site originally identified by a synodical bishop. Following first call, the opportunities for mobility are the same as for all ELCA rostered ministers.

### What about the rest of the money?

We're not done dreaming yet! We really long to hear how the Spirit may be stirring in you. How might we invest in new ministry in a way that tends to the broken hearts and joys of our community? We will initiate conversations in the coming year.

----

Your questions, urgings of the Spirit, discomfort, etc. are all important. Your wisdom and discernment are vital to our work together. Please do not hesitate to ask these questions.

(From page 1)

There are several reasons this possibility inspired us:

- The work we began with Community United has begun to stir in the Latino communities here, and we are regularly asked when we will have a worship service to offer. Further, we have been asked to officiate at a number of weddings for same-sex couples that would like their services in Spanish. It is increasingly clear to us that the Latino community of Berwyn is longing for a worshipping community that reflects the values of Unity. We do not want to lose that momentum.
- Vicar María has shown great passion and skill for this work, and the council feels she is clearly called to it.
- As part of the TEEM Program, every candidate must serve in an emerging ministry site. This ministry would then allow Vicar María to meet this requirement well, while serving a clear need.

There are still more questions to consider in this process. We have some research to do about the timing. The answers to these questions will inform the exact amount council would recommend setting aside for this project. We also seek your wisdom, as we know that the Spirit is stirring in you as well.

Once we feel a sense of clarity, we will hold a special congregational meeting to make a decision together. That meeting may happen as soon as the end of January.

Please feel encouraged to speak with council members, Vicar María, or myself as we seek God's presence in this season.

I ask that you keep this process in your prayers, as we faithfully work together to discern what God is up to. And may you know God's presence among you, as we dwell in this season of hope.



Pastor Julie Boleyn

#### UNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Grounded together in  
faith and love...

Bringing God's  
Word to life...

Embracing the community  
and the world...

**PROJECT 88 UPDATE**

Wow! Project 88's first season is complete, and it was a beautiful beginning. I consider the past few months a great success! We engaged around 150 students through our Into the Musical World youth concerts, averaged 88 guests per concert for our True Unity series, and averaged 54 guests per weeknight Festival performances. We raised almost 20% of the total piano cost in just three short months. All of this was made possible through your hard work.

A huge thank you goes out to each one of you for the work you did to get this project off the ground. I knew from the beginning that I would need a strong group of people to help bring this idea to fruition. The work hasn't always been easy, and I think we learned a lot this year. We will use this knowledge to make Project 88 even better next season. Thank you for your time, your energy, your passion, your dedication, and your belief that this project is worth it.

Cheers,

Élider DiPaula  
Executive and Artistic Director  
Project 88

**Here are just a few of the things the Project 88 Team Celebrated at our debrief:**

- We brought great music to our community
- We surprised even ourselves
- Created new and life-giving connections in our community
- Reached out to a diverse group of people, near and far
- This came together very quickly
- There is already a buzz about our work in other arenas
- The extraordinary talent of those who volunteered their gifts
- The gracious hospitality offered

**And here are a few things we'll be working on:**

- Finding ways to increase the success of "Into the Musical World"
- Considering our seating limits. Will we end up needing to turn people away? How do we do that gracefully?
- Clean-up some of our administrative processes
- Get started on advertising earlier
- More master classes
- When is the best time for a concert?

**PROJECT 88  
BY THE NUMBERS**

**Expenses:**

Gifts for performers	\$ 179.95
Moving	\$ 735.00
Tuning	\$ 365.00
Promotional Materials	\$ 250.00
Piano Cover	\$ 286.95
Loan	\$ 2,220.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,036.90</b>

**Income:**

Concert offering	\$ 12,440.00
Advertising	\$ 760.00
Other Offering	\$ 1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 14,200.00</b>

**Net income: \$ 10,163.10**

**Attendance**

22-Sep	48
13-Oct	72
27-Oct	106
10-Nov	126
12-Nov	43
13-Nov	41
14-Nov	39
15-Nov	76
16-Nov	46
17-Nov	84
<b>Total</b>	<b>681</b>

**TENTATIVE DATES FOR  
NEXT SEASON**

**True Unity Concert Series**

- March 30, 2019
- April 27, 2019
- May 18, 2019
- June 15, 2019
- September 7, 2019
- September 28, 2019
- October 19, 2019
- November 9, 2019

**Lucile Evans Music Festival**

- November 18-23, 2019  
with concerts on:
- November 21, 2019
- November 22, 2019
- November 23, 2019

## COUNCIL GRATITUDE

At the beginning of each council meeting, members share something for which they are especially grateful. This helps us center our work together in the knowledge that everything is a gift from God.

Here are some of the things named in the last few months:

- Youth led service
- Project 88 and music
- Decisive people
- PADS and the ability to welcome those in need
- Cars
- New member service
- Unity Lutheran Church building, welcoming people and the people who work to make it happen

## BIRTHDAYS

### January

3	Bob McDaniel†
6	Paula Swasko
10	Magnolia Durica
11	Wesley Lane
15	Madelyn Reardon
17	Dylan Miller
21	Jonathan Adamczewski Pamela McDaniel
23	Eric Yoder
24	Sue Calvert
28	Ken Holmes

### February

11	Jane Fuhrman
15	Lisa Polderman
25	Krista Lane
27	Ryan Coenen

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

### February

11	Pam & Bob† McDaniel
----	---------------------

## COUNCIL DECISIONS

### NOVEMBER:

1. New Members. Unity Lutheran Church received the following new member on November 11, 2018: Kim May.
2. Discussed options for purchasing parts for our copier to keep it working. Eric Hornung has graciously offered to help provide service for the machine.

### DECEMBER:

1. Voted to name Vicar Maria Rojas as Pastoral Minister. This volunteer position will confer the pastoral authority needed to continue her ministry in our community.
2. Discussed options for using the gift from Grace Lutheran in Elmwood Park. See Pastor Julie's letter for a more complete discussion.

---

## OTHER UPDATES

### JOIN THE CHOIR!

Rehearsals resume January 2nd at 7pm. All skill levels are welcome to join.

### LENT BEGINS MARCH 6TH

Ash Wednesday is March 6th. Worship will be at 7pm. We will once again join in Holden Evening Prayer on the following Wednesdays through Lent.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CHANGES

We are so grateful for the many years of leadership provided by Kristina Adamczewski and Julie Freeney. They have both chosen to step down as Sunday School teachers in 2019. The Inreach team is working to re-imagine our Sunday School offerings. More information should be available soon.

### TRUE UNITY CAMPAIGN

We continue to reach out to our community in a spirit of True Unity. Please check out our updated website at [www.unityberwyn.org](http://www.unityberwyn.org). Very soon we will have window clings and magnets to help share the word about Unity. These items will feature the artwork of Julie Freeney. Many thanks to Peter Craig, Julie Freeney, and Ryan Coenen for their tremendous work on this project.

### IN MEMORIAM

In December we entrusted both Richard Brozek and Bob McDaniel into God's keeping. Please continue to keep Linda and Pam in your prayers.

## Unity Worship Assistants - January, February 2019

please notify us at [ulberwryn@gmail.com](mailto:ulberwryn@gmail.com)

if you make a trade for a different date or if you need help finding a replacement.

	<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Acolyte (Crucifer)</b>	<b>Altar Care</b>	<b>Counters</b>
1/6/18	Kristina Adamczewski	Ruth McNeilly	Sue Calvert	Bill Calvert and Mike Garon	Violet McNeilly	Pam McDaniel, Suzanne Craig	Sarah Craig, Jennifer McNeilly
1/13/18	Peter Craig	Lisa Polderman	Julie Freeney	Tim Stepanek	Conor Freeney	Pam McDaniel, Suzanne Craig	Richard Ziegler, Lisa Polderman
1/20/19	Rich Ziegler	Ruth McNeilly	Jeanine Reardon	Jessica Vlack and Bill Calvert	Cora Polderman	Pam McDaniel, Suzanne Craig	Ken Holmes, Jessica Vlack
1/27/19	Erika Lane	Suzanne Craig	Irene Ziegler	Mike Garon and Rich Ziegler	Sam McNeilly	Pam McDaniel, Suzanne Craig	Suzanne Craig, Erika Lane
2/3/19	Irene Ziegler	Jennifer McNeilly	Sue Calvert	Rich and Karl Ziegler	Madelyn Reardon	Sue Calvert, Gardis Dahle	Bill Calvert, Irene Ziegler
2/10/19	Jennifer McNeilly	Lisa Polderman	Erika Lane	Jessica Vlack and Bill Calvert	Maisey Polderman	Sue Calvert, Gardis Dahle	Sarah Craig, Jennifer McNeilly
2/17/19	Kristina Adamczewski	Irene Ziegler	Jennifer McNeilly	Bill Calvert and Mike Garon	Ruth McNeilly	Sue Calvert, Gardis Dahle	Richard Ziegler, Lisa Polderman
2/24/19	Peter Craig	Kristina Adamczewski	Lisa Polderman	Tim Stepanek	Violet McNeilly	Sue Calvert, Gardis Dahle	Ken Holmes, Jessica Vlack

# Unity Calendar

# January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 8:00 pm AA - FH	<b>2</b> 10:00 am Matins - Sanct. 10:00 am Prayer Team - FH 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH 7:00 pm Buen Samaritano Youth Bible Study - Conference Room 7:00 pm Unity Choir - Sanct.	<b>3</b> 7:00 pm Buen Samaritano - Conference Room 8:00 pm AA Group - FH	<b>4</b> 6:00 pm PADS 8:00 pm AA Group - FH	<b>5</b> 12:00 pm PADS Buen Samaritano - Sanct.
<b>6</b> 9:15 am Epiphany Parents and Tot's - Upstairs 10-15 am Worship Service - Sanct. 12:00 pm Buen Samaritano - Sanct. 12:00 pm Worship Committee - Conference Room	<b>7</b> 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH	<b>8</b> 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH 8:00 pm AA - FH	<b>9</b> 10:00 am Matins - Sanct. 10:00 am Prayer Team - FH 3:45 pm OAV donations 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH 7:00 pm Buen Samaritano Youth Bible Study - Conference Room	<b>10</b> 6:30 pm Council Meeting - Upstairs 7:00 pm Buen Samaritano - Conference Room 8:00 pm AA Group - FH	<b>11</b> 6:00 pm PADS 8:00 pm AA Group - FH	<b>12</b> 9:00 am PADS Awake Board Retreat - Berwyn Historical Society 10:00 am Buen Samaritano - FH
<b>13</b> 9:15 am Baptism of Our Lord Parents and Tot's - Upstairs 10-15 am Worship Service - Sanct. 12:00 pm Buen Samaritano - Sanct.	<b>14</b> 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH 6:00 pm Girl Scouts - Conference Room	<b>15</b> 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH 8:00 pm AA - FH 8:00 pm Awake Executive Team	<b>16</b> 10:00 am Matins - Sanct. 10:00 am Prayer Team - FH 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH 7:00 pm Buen Samaritano Youth Bible Study - Conference Room 7:00 pm Unity Choir - Sanct.	<b>17</b> 7:00 pm Buen Samaritano - Conference Room 8:00 pm AA Group - FH	<b>18</b> 8:00 pm AA Group - FH	<b>19</b> 10:00 am Buen Samaritano - FH 4:00 pm Baby Shower - Irving Franco - FH
<b>20</b> 9:15 am Second Sunday after Epiphany Parents and Tot's - Upstairs 10-15 am Worship Service - Sanct. 12:00 pm Buen Samaritano - Sanct.	<b>21</b> 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH	<b>22</b> 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH 8:00 pm AA - FH	<b>23</b> 10:00 am Matins - Sanct. 10:00 am Prayer Team - FH 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH 7:00 pm Buen Samaritano Youth Bible Study - Conference Room 7:00 pm Unity Choir - Sanct.	<b>24</b> 7:00 pm Buen Samaritano - Conference Room 8:00 pm AA Group - FH	<b>25</b> 9:00 am Local peer group 8:00 pm AA Group - FH	<b>26</b> 10:00 am Buen Samaritano - FH 1:00 pm Recital - Sanct. (Jennifer Trueman)
<b>27</b> 9:15 am Third Sunday after Epiphany Parents and Tot's - Upstairs 10-15 am Worship Service - Sanct. 12:00 pm Buen Samaritano - Sanct.	<b>28</b> 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH 6:00 pm Girl Scouts - Conference Room	<b>29</b> 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH 8:00 pm AA - FH	<b>30</b> 10:00 am Matins - Sanct. 10:00 am Prayer Team - FH 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH 7:00 pm Buen Samaritano Youth Bible Study - Conference Room 7:00 pm Unity Choir - Sanct.	<b>31</b> 7:00 pm Buen Samaritano - Conference Room 8:00 pm AA Group - FH		

# Unity Calendar

## February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 6:00 pm PADS 8:00 pm AA Group - FH	<b>2</b> 10:00 am PADS FH Buen Samaritano -
<b>3</b> <b>Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</b> Parents and Tots - Upstairs Worship Service - Sanct. Buen Samaritano - Sanct.	<b>4</b> 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH	<b>5</b> 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH AA - FH	<b>6</b> 10:00 am Mains - Sanct. 10:00 am Prayer Team - FH 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH 7:00 pm Buen Samaritano Youth Bible Study - Conference Room Unity Choir - Sanct.	<b>7</b> 7:00 pm Buen Samaritano - Conference Room AA Group - FH	<b>8</b> 6:00 pm PADS 8:00 pm AA Group - FH	<b>9</b> 9:00 am PADS PEO - Conference Room 10:00 am Buen Samaritano - FH
<b>10</b> <b>Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</b> Parents and Tots - Upstairs Worship Service - Sanct. Buen Samaritano - Sanct.	<b>11</b> 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH 6:00 pm Girl Scouts - Conference Room	<b>12</b> 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH AA - FH	<b>13</b> 10:00 am Mains - Sanct. 10:00 am Prayer Team - FH 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH 7:00 pm Buen Samaritano Youth Bible Study - Conference Room Unity Choir - Sanct.	<b>14</b> 6:30 pm Council Meeting - Upstairs 7:00 pm Buen Samaritano - Conference Room 8:00 pm AA Group - FH	<b>15</b> 8:00 pm AA Group - FH	<b>16</b> 10:00 am Buen Samaritano - FH
<b>17</b> <b>Sixth Sunday after Epiphany</b> Parents and Tots - Upstairs Worship Service - Sanct. Buen Samaritano - Sanct.	<b>18</b> 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH	<b>19</b> 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH AA - FH 8:00 pm Awake Executive Team	<b>20</b> 10:00 am Mains - Sanct. 10:00 am Prayer Team - FH 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH 7:00 pm Buen Samaritano Youth Bible Study - Conference Room Unity Choir - Sanct.	<b>21</b> 7:00 pm Buen Samaritano - Conference Room 8:00 pm AA Group - FH	<b>22</b> 8:00 pm AA Group - FH	<b>23</b> 10:00 am Buen Samaritano - FH
<b>24</b> <b>Seventh Sunday after Epiphany</b> Parents and Tots - Upstairs Worship Service - Sanct. Buen Samaritano - Sanct.	<b>25</b> 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH 6:00 pm Girl Scouts - Conference Room	<b>26</b> 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH AA - FH	<b>27</b> 10:00 am Mains - Sanct. 10:00 am Prayer Team - FH 4:30 pm Youth Crossroads - FH 7:00 pm Buen Samaritano Youth Bible Study - Conference Room Unity Choir - Sanct.	<b>28</b> 7:00 pm Buen Samaritano - Conference Room 8:00 pm AA Group - FH		

Unity Lutheran Church of Berwyn  
6720 31st Street  
Berwyn, IL 50402



Pastor: The Rev. Julie Boleyn  
Office Phone: 708-788-4132  
Email: [ulcberwyn@gmail.com](mailto:ulcberwyn@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.unityberwyn.org](http://www.unityberwyn.org)

**Sunday Schedule**  
10:15 am Worship

*Grounded* together in faith and love  
Bringing God's word to *life*  
*Embracing* the community and the world

*Unity Lutheran is proud to be a reconciling in Christ congregation, welcoming persons of all ages, genders, sexual orientations, races, creeds, ethnic backgrounds and languages to participate fully in our ministry.*