



EPWORTH UMC

...to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

CONNECTIONS

July 2016

Greetings!

Well, here we are! Together, we've reached the one year mark in ministry. It has been interesting to reflect on this past year. The first year (and even going into a second year) is a time of major transition for both the congregation and for the pastor. On my first Sunday here, I could see the questions in your expectant eyes on your unfamiliar faces. "Who is this person? What is she like? Will she like us? How much will she change things?" As I looked out at all of you, I wondered pretty much the same thing. I know it is difficult to say good-bye to a pastor one week and hello to a new pastor the next week. It is difficult for a pastor to say good-bye to a congregation one week and say hello to a new congregation the next week.

I want you to know, from my perspective, it has been an amazing year! Frequently, I catch my breath in awe at how *right* we are for each other. Certainly, there have been challenges. And there are still some kinks to work through. (Isn't there always?) But I believe that God has placed us together and God has seen us through this first year of transition and will continue moving us forward on this path God has carved out for us together.

Throughout this past year, we've overcome some building issues. In addition to the water damage repair of the lower level and new roof over the sanctuary and office wing, we have a new kitchen!

In our relationship with our sister congregation, La Luz De Cristo, we've had conversations about our differences. In attempting to find our way forward together, we have learned recently that they have decided to seek worship space elsewhere by the end of the year. I honestly believe that God has blessed their ministry in profound ways as they've reached out to the community in the passion and love of Jesus Christ and we are confident God will continue to bless them.

Sadly, due to low enrollment, we have also closed our preschool for the 2016/17 school year with the hope to restructure and reopen next year.

As we turn the page into a new year together, it is exciting to me to watch and listen to God as God reveals the way forward for us as we continue strengthening our relationship in community with one another, growing in our love for God and reaching out in love to others who need the love of Jesus Christ in their lives.

One of the greatest take-away from my class this week (so far) is the constant reminder that God is always present with us, but God doesn't leave us where we are. We believe in a faithful God who continues to reach out to us and gives us hope that tomorrow will be better. I can't wait!!!

I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me. Jeremiah 29:11-13

Thank you for a really great first year together!!!! Here's to the next!!!!

Blessings,

Deb

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UMW Corner



“Life Is Short – Eat Dessert First!” – Join your fellow United Methodist Women for a social gathering and ice cream social in the Epworth Community Room on Saturday, July 16th from 9:30 – 11:00am. UMW will provide the ice cream; we ask that if you have a favorite topping please bring it to share. A free will offering will be taken to benefit the Crisis Center of Elgin. Any questions can be directed to Robin Luzin at rluzin@sbcglobal.net. Hope to see you for a bit of backwards day – eating dessert first!

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We are still collecting both *Box Tops* and *Campbell's Labels for Education*. Please cut out the labels and either give them to Robin Luzin or place them in the area in the hallway outside the sanctuary.



The Summer's 2nd Sunday Morning Round Table conversations continue on Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:15. Leadership is listening to you, the congregation (God's servants) of Epworth, to hear how, where, and when you see Epworth's mission. Our focus this month will be "Grow". Please come sit a bit and share!



Are you concerned about our environment? Do you want to learn new ways to protect God's Creation and ways to connect your faith with sustainable living? Join EUMC's Green Team! Our next meeting will be on Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm in U1.

Ultimately, with the change in climate, food and water will be endangered and eco-justice requires us to do what we can to be better stewards (caretakers!) of God's earth as well as the people who are here! And it is easier than you might think!

Did you know that going "green" is on the Social Principles and Social Creed of the United Methodist Church? Help us plan priorities, fight climate change, save money and **GO GREEN!** Questions? Contact Sandy Kaptain at [sakaptain@gmail.com](mailto:sakaptain@gmail.com).



## *Current & Upcoming Events*

- ✓ **Food Pantry Sunday** is next Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please bring your donations of condiments, peanut butter, jelly and sauces or bring any non-perishable food items of your choice! Donations can be placed in the Food Pantry basket outside the sanctuary.
- ✓ **Christmas Shoe Boxes for Spirit Lake** - In order to help send enough boxes to Spirit Lake in October, we are collecting items throughout the year. **In July we will be collecting items for boys (ie: Matchbox cars and trucks, action figures, yo-yos, ball, etc..).** Donations can be placed on the collection shelves in the Community Room. Don't want to shop? Purchase a gift card and let us do the shopping for you! And if you purchase the gift cards through MANNA, Epworth will get a little something too!
- ✓ **Men's Friday Breakfast** - Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast, fellowship and discussion on topics of the day. We meet in M5 every Friday @ 7:00am. All are welcome to attend; this is a casual group and regular attendance is not required.
- ✓ **Sprouts** – We had five families that came regularly throughout this past school year and a few others that would stop in from time to time. The mothers became a wonderful support group for each other and it was a blessing to see this happen. Nobody wanted it to come to an end so we are meeting once a month over the summer. We will be putting our play yard to use on July 14<sup>th</sup> and August 11<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am to noon. If it is raining we will meet in the nursery. If you know of anyone that may like to become a part of this awesome group, please have them contact the church office.
- ✓ **Friendship Luncheon** - Over 55? Join us for our next Friendship Club Luncheon at 12:30pm on Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> @ IHOP on Randall Road in Elgin. A sign-up sheet is on the Epworth bulletin board in the Community Room. You don't have to be a member of the church to come. Questions, call the church office at 847-931-5400.

### **JULY MISSION OF THE MONTH – SAGER BROWN**

In 1986, a 48,000 square foot processing/warehousing facility was constructed on this historic property at the Sager Brown in Baldwin, Louisiana. Over 2,700 volunteers stay and work at UMCOR Sager Brown each year processing supplies for worldwide disaster relief and working in local outreach programs.

To support the Mission of the Month, purchase your container of M&M's in the Community Room this morning between services! Once you enjoy your treat, fill up the container with quarters and return it when it's full or mark your contribution for the mission of the month and place it in the offering basket during service.

*Congratulations!*



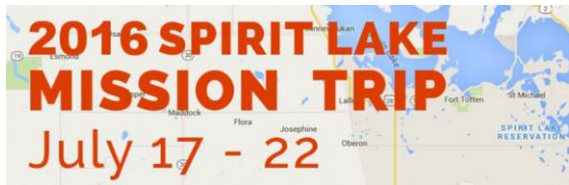
BRYAN & JANIS  
DENMAN  
WELCOMED THEIR 7<sup>TH</sup>  
GRANDCHILD INTO THE  
WORLD ON  
MONDAY, JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>!  
DREW ALLEN DENMAN IS  
THE SON OF JOE & LIZ.

thank you

Thank you to EVERYONE who contributed to the very successful Rummage Sale held last weekend!! We appreciate ALL who donated items, helped unpack, set-up and organize, who worked the sale and those of you who bought treasures! Over \$4400 was raised so far to help continue the wonderful ministries of Epworth!



A huge "THANK YOU" to Alyson Beucler and Mary VanSlyck for "book shopping" at the recent Scholastic Book Warehouse sale on Epworth's behalf! They took all the Spanish books to Hillcrest School and some were shared with the teachers at Hillcrest. Two boxes of books were given to Andy to be used to bill shoes boxes for Spirit Lake. The remaining 7 boxes were given to the School District U46 to be shared with children across the district who visit the Book Bus.



Thank you to those who supported the recent Spirit Lake Pie and Sub Sandwich fundraisers! The team of servants going on our behalf are Andy, Jenny, and JJ Lindstrom, Steve Mink, Cassandra Meyer, and Emma Wall. They will be leaving **Sunday, July 17th at 4:00 AM** to travel up to the reservation in North Dakota and returning **Friday, July 22nd around**

**9:00PM.** We thank this wonderful group will to go out and serve as God has called us to do! Please join us in worship on July 10th as we commission these servants. Interested it being a prayer partner for a member of the team? Please contact the office or Carole Burris by July 10th.

### MANNA ORDERS!

Manna orders will be taken on July 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. Order forms can be found in the attendance folder as well as on the west wall in the Community Room. Purchase a gift card to give as a gift or purchase them to use for your everyday shopping at the grocery store and/or gas station! Epworth receives 2–20% of the price you pay.  
Give it a try!

For questions, see Carole Burris or contact the church office @ 847-931-5400.


Our Flower Chart is on display in the Community Room. If you would like to purchase flowers for one of our Sundays, all you need to do is sign-up and pay. Someone will pick them up and deliver them to church for you. You are welcome to take your flowers home with you after service. If you would prefer to make a donation to Missions, in lieu of flowers, list it as Bread and Water when you sign-up. A pitcher and loaf of bread will be placed on the altar to symbolize your gift.



To cut down on administration time we ask that you pay when you sign-up. Please place the \$10 payment labeled for flowers or bread and water in the envelopes provided and place this into the large white envelope next to the flower chart or in the offering basket. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office at 847-931-5400.



# JULY

| SUNDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | MONDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | TUESDAY                                                                                                                                    | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                                                              | THURSDAY                                                                                        | FRIDAY                                                                                                                        | SATURDAY                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>3</b></p> <p>-MANNA Orders Taken Today!<br/>-Worship w/ Holy Communion @ 9:00-10:00am<br/>-Sunday School, M5 @ 10:15am<br/>-La Luz Worship &amp; Bible Classes @ 1:00-3:00pm<br/>-PADS @ 6:30-9:00pm</p>                      | <p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b><br/><b>Happy 4th of July</b></p>                                                                 | <p><b>5</b></p> <p>Trustee Mtg, U1 @ 7:00pm</p>                                                                                            | <p><b>6</b></p> <p>-Bible Study, Panera Bread in S. Elgin @ 6:00am<br/>-ServeCity Volleyball @ 1:00-2:30pm<br/>-Wood Carving Group, M5 @ 1:30-3:30pm</p>               | <p><b>7</b></p> <p>-La Luz Band Rehearsal, S @ 6:30-8:30pm<br/>-Green Team Mtg, U1 @ 7:00pm</p> | <p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b><br/>-Men's Breakfast, M5 @ 7:00am<br/>-La Luz Bible Study, S @ 6:30-9:00pm</p> | <p><b>2</b></p> <p>-La Luz Prayer Group, S @ 6:00-7:00am<br/>-UJMM of NIC Exec Cmt Mtg, CR @ 9:00am-12:00pm<br/>-La Luz Dance Rehearsal, S @ 1:00-3:00pm</p>                                         |
| <p><b>10</b></p> <p>-Worship @ 9:00-10:00am<br/>-Sunday School, M5 @ 10:15am<br/>-Round Table Discussion, CR @ 10:15am<br/>-La Luz Worship &amp; Bible Classes @ 1:00-3:00pm</p>                                                    | <p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b><br/>-Walking Bible Study, Parsonage @ 6:30am<br/>-ServeCity Volleyball @ 1:00-2:30pm<br/>-Boy Scout Troop #128, CR &amp; M5 @ 7:00pm</p>                                           | <p><b>12</b></p> <p>-Morning Prayer Time, S @ 6:30-8:00am</p>                                                                              | <p><b>13</b></p> <p>-Bible Study, Panera Bread in S. Elgin @ 6:00am<br/>-ServeCity Volleyball @ 1:00-2:30pm<br/>-Friendship Club @ 12:30pm<br/>-PADS @ 6:30-9:00pm</p> | <p><b>14</b></p> <p>-Sprouts, Nursery @ 11:00am<br/>-La Luz Band Rehearsal, S @ 6:30-8:30pm</p> | <p><b>15</b></p> <p>-Men's Breakfast, M5 @ 7:00am<br/>-La Luz Bible Study, S @ 6:30-9:00pm</p>                                | <p><b>16</b></p> <p>-La Luz Prayer Group, S @ 6:00-7:00am<br/>-Food for Greater Elgin @ 8:30-11:30am<br/>-UJMW Ice Cream Social, CR @ 9:30-11:00am<br/>-LaLuz Dance Rehearsal, S @ 1:00-3:00pm</p>   |
| <p><b>17</b></p> <p>-MANNA Orders Taken Today!<br/>-Mission Team Mtg, U1 @ 8:00am<br/>-Worship @ 9:00-10:00am<br/>-Blood Pressure Checks<br/>-Sunday School, M5 @ 10:15am<br/>-La Luz Worship &amp; Bible Classes @ 1:00-3:00pm</p> | <p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b><br/>-Walking Bible Study, Parsonage @ 6:30am<br/>-ServeCity Volleyball @ 1:00-2:30pm<br/>-Food for Greater Elgin @ 5:30-8:30pm<br/>-Boy Scout Troop #128, CR &amp; M5 @ 7:00pm</p> | <p><b>19</b></p> <p>-Morning Prayer Time, S @ 6:30-8:00am<br/>-Soup Kettle, Zion Lutheran @ 4:30-6:45pm</p>                                | <p><b>20</b></p> <p>-Bible Study, Panera Bread in S. Elgin @ 6:00am<br/>-ServeCity Volleyball @ 1:00-2:30pm<br/>-Wood Carving Group, M5 @ 1:30-3:30pm</p>              | <p><b>21</b></p> <p>-La Luz Band Rehearsal, S @ 6:30-8:30pm</p>                                 | <p><b>22</b></p> <p>-Men's Breakfast, M5 @ 7:00am<br/>-La Luz Bible Study, S @ 6:30-9:00pm</p>                                | <p><b>23</b></p> <p>-La Luz Prayer Group, S @ 6:00-7:00am<br/>-LaLuz Women's Retreat, S @ 9:00am-1:00pm<br/>-LaLuz Dance Rehearsal, S @ 1:00-3:00pm<br/>-LaLuz Women's Retreat, CR @ 1:00-5:00pm</p> |
| <p><b>24</b></p> <p>-Worship @ 9:00-10:00am<br/>-Sunday School, M5 @ 10:15am<br/>-La Luz Worship &amp; Bible Classes @ 1:00-3:00pm<br/>-Monthly Meal for Crisis Center @ 5:00pm</p>                                                 | <p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b><br/>-Walking Bible Study, Parsonage @ 6:30am<br/>-ServeCity Volleyball @ 1:00-2:30pm<br/>-Boy Scout Troop #128, CR &amp; M5 @ 7:00pm</p>                                           | <p><b>26</b></p> <p>-Morning Prayer Time, S @ 6:30-8:00am<br/>-Care Team Meeting, U1 @ 1:00pm<br/>-Church Council Meeting, U1 @ 7:00pm</p> | <p><b>27</b></p> <p>-Bible Study, Panera Bread in S. Elgin @ 6:00am<br/>-ServeCity Volleyball @ 1:00-2:30pm</p>                                                        | <p><b>28</b></p> <p>-La Luz Band Rehearsal, S @ 6:30-8:30pm</p>                                 | <p><b>29</b></p> <p>-Men's Breakfast, M5 @ 7:00am<br/>-La Luz Bible Study, S @ 6:30-9:00pm</p>                                | <p><b>30</b></p> <p>-La Luz Prayer Group, S @ 6:00-7:00am<br/>-La Luz Dance Rehearsal, S @ 1:00-3:00pm</p>                                                                                           |
| <p><b>31</b></p> <p>UNITED VOICES FOR CHILDREN SPECIAL OFFERING<br/>-Worship @ 9:00-10:00am<br/>-Sunday School, M5 @ 10:15am<br/>-La Luz Worship &amp; Bible Classes @ 1:00-3:00pm</p>                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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Please contact the Church Office for a list of July birthdays & Anniversaries and/or a copy of the prayer list.



## JULY GIVING / SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

**PADS** - Servants are needed to cook meals at home to be taken to PADS for about 30 people. Volunteers can also come to PADS to check in guests, serve food or sit down and provide companionship to PADS guests.

**When: Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> & Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30-9:00pm.** Contact J Fazel at 847-888-0270 to serve.

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FOOD FOR GREATER ELGIN - Provides food assistance to 1200 low income families (approx. 5500 individuals, 1/2 of which are children) in the Elgin and South Elgin areas each month. The following times are available to serve at Food for Greater Elgin:

When: Saturday, July 16th @ 8:30-11:30am and Monday, July 18th @ 5:30-8:30pm. Please click on "Food for Greater Elgin" under the "Serve" tab on our website for more information on how to serve.

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**SOUP KETTLE** - Provides hot meals and warm smiles to 60-100 people in need every day. Epworth Church staffs the Soup Kettle at Zion Lutheran Church the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

**When: July 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 - 6:45pm.** Those wishing to serve, please see Janina Hoffman for more information.

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CRISIS CENTER MEALS - The Mission Team is inviting you to join in our ministry of service at the Community Crisis Center. The Center, located on the east side of Elgin near Center and Chicago Streets, provides short-term safe shelter and counsel for women who are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. Many of them are accompanied by their children. The facility houses up to 35 residents. On the 4th Sunday of each month, we share God's love by preparing and delivering their evening meal.

We are reaching out to our Epworth family as we are in need of someone to act as coordinator for our monthly meal. Also, anyone willing to be on a call list to help with cooking a part of the dinner would be appreciated. The meals are simple fare. Many of our supplies are donated by the local food bank. If you need to purchase additional items, Epworth Missions can reimburse your expenses. The dinner needs to be delivered to the Crisis Center by 5:00 Sunday. If necessary due to your schedule, food can be dropped off earlier in the weekend. Current team members can give you help with recipes and food prep tips.

Now that our long-awaited kitchen is up and running, this would be a great opportunity to use it in a missional effort! The cooks could gather to prepare the meal here at Epworth. We have plenty of room and utensils for your use.

Please prayerfully consider spending a few hours a month to coordinate and/or cook for the women and kids at CCC.

When: Sunday, July 24th @ 5:00pm. Please contact Janina Hoffman for more information.



Bible Study

Bible Studies provide an excellent opportunity to continue to learn more about His Word throughout the week and are available to everyone!

MONDAYS -

Walk the Talk Bible Study - Join us at 6:30am as we hit the walking trail beginning at the parsonage. Continue your day & week connecting and growing through scriptures, empowering you to share God's love and Word & we learn about being Christ's hands & feet. We will walk for about an hour.

OR

WEDNESDAYS -

At Panera Bread in South Elgin at 6am. Share in the word, break bread, sip a beverage as we connect over the scriptures, grow in our understanding and prepare ourselves and others to go out and serve.

We hope to see you!