



www.unitymilwaukee.org

1025 E. Oklahoma Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53207

(414) 744-6311

Spring 2021 Newsletter

All In

During Lent, our scripture messages and daily readings take us on a journey with Jesus to Jerusalem, where he says in Luke's gospel that he must face rejection, suffering, and death. Knowing this, Jesus still goes all in, continuing on the road and teaching his disciples along the way. We join in this journey with Jesus through Holy Week, and we celebrate his resurrection on Easter. We celebrate because God goes all in, not just raising Jesus from the dead, but conquering death. Because we know this good news already, we also know that in Christ, God frees us to go all in. We are freed to take up our cross daily and follow Jesus. As the pandemic wears on and we grow weary, it might be feeling harder and harder to go all in on anything. But as the Easter season leads us toward Pentecost, we celebrate the gift of new life, and we also celebrate that we do not go alone. The Holy Spirit goes with us. And the Spirit not only goes with us, but by the Spirit, God invites everyone in. God invites us all into a new reality, a new life together. Saved by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus; empowered by the Holy Spirit; and accompanied by Jesus and one another, we have everything we need to go all in!

This season we have some new ways to journey together during Lent. Each Wednesday night, we'll gather on Zoom to check in with one another, discuss the daily scripture reading, and pray together. Look for the link and dial-in numbers each Wednesday on Unity's website. If you're not online and would like a guide for having these conversations with family at home, with friends on the phone, or for personal devotions, please contact the church office.

Here are the topics and readings for each week to help you prepare:

- February 24: Luke 11:1-13 – Prayer
- March 3: Luke 14:1-6 – Healing
- March 10: Genesis 45:1-9 – Forgiveness
- March 17: Luke 17:11-19 – Thankfulness
- March 24: Luke 20:9-19 – Restart

We are also offering two opportunities for you to pick up palms for Palm Sunday worship:

- Wednesday, March 24, from 4:30-6 p.m., during our weekly food pantry.
- Saturday, March 27, from 11 a.m. to noon at Unity's entrance on Oklahoma Avenue.

However you choose to participate, we hope you will join us on this journey through Lent with Jesus and with one another. And look for more information to come soon about our plans for journeying together through Holy Week to Easter.

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Words from the Pastor...

Thank you for your continuing prayers and support for one another and for our ministries together. In God's faithfulness, we have now endured a year of this pandemic. I am grateful for all the love you have shared. And I am inspired by all the ways you have given witness to the good news of our savior Jesus, who lives and reigns amid these times.

Our emphasis throughout this year has been to witness God's love by caring for our neighbor, by not taking unnecessary risks, by adapting for safety's sake the ways we proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors. Now as vaccines are becoming available and will be distributed over the coming months, we will continue this emphasis until public health benchmarks are met for safe gatherings. The Wisconsin Council of Churches meets regularly with the Wisconsin State Department of Health Services to receive the latest updates, and our synod bishop keeps us informed. With their guidance, Unity's council is looking forward to the time when: (a) at least 75% of the state's population is vaccinated; (b) cases per 100,000 people are fewer than 1; and (c) the test positivity rate remains less than 5%. Again, our return to in person gatherings will not be set ahead of time on a calendar, but will be determined by meeting safety standards.

In the meantime, we are making plans both for next steps and with the long view in mind. For our outreach ministries, we have been able to keep our food pantry operating by distributing food outdoors. Now we are looking to add a small component of our soup kitchen ministry by doing monthly hot meals to-go given out at the food pantry, as well as a small selection of needed clothing items from our clothes ministry. Regarding worship, we continue to worship online; and like many churches, we believe this pandemic has accelerated the already present trend of live streaming worship services, such that this practice is here to stay for the church. We are investigating now what Unity needs to be able to provide live streaming of our worship services with a quality capacity from our sanctuary once we return to in person gatherings.

Unity's Kids Time ministry has also adapted with home deliveries of lesson packets for families to do together. Many choose to complete their lesson activities during the sermon as we worship together online. Our thanks go to Chad Lyden for leading this ministry with great passion and spiritual gifts. And thanks to each of the parents and other adult mentors who are discipling our youth.

As you can see, despite the challenges of the pandemic, Unity continues to be 'all in' on Jesus' mission. In the year ahead, we will need to be 'all in' once again. We will face new obstacles to overcome, but we can do it together. The Lord will provide all we need. God bless you in being a blessing.

Shalom!
Pr.Kevan

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We remember the following people as we pray...

Ebony Brown and family (friends of Unity); **Gail Senelon** (AAC member); **Mary Cicerelli** (member); **Dareyl Wahl** (member); **Jeff Tessmer** (son of Marge); **Keith Mueller** (brother of Kim Thomas); **Jean Weibner** (mother of Tricia Skinner); **Kayla Wheeler** (friend of Krista Emmons); **Don Plant** (friend of Jeff Kornreich); **Blake Oleson** (friends of Unity); **Dorothy C.** (outreach member); **Tony Seffeldt** (nephew of Chris Brown); Pastor **Kevan Penvose**; **Patsy Lenz** (member); **Patricia Orłowski** (friend of Unity); **Sandy LeBombard** (friend of Unity); **Vivian Lucci** (member); **Jerry & Nellie Javorski**; **Becky Lefebvre** (friend of Krista Emmons); **James Lopeman** (son of Jennifer Lopeman); **Cindy Larson** (friend of Frank Jendis); **Dan Blank** (family of Rachel); **Bonnie Ziowkoski**, **Lori Jameson** (member); **Yvonne Baczanski** (mother of Yvette Baczanski); **Dan Baczanski** (brother of Yvette Baczanski); **Kathy** (friend of Unity); **Joan** (friend of Unity); **Jack Badalik** (friend of Unity); **Andy Wegner** (member); **Mary Noe**, **Sandi Buchman**; **Nikkeya Berryhill**; **Robin Servantez** (friend of Lori Jameson); **Kim Deschler**, **Justin**, **Nathan**, and **Frank**, (friends of Unity); **William Darden** (friend of Unity); **Jamie Kornreich** (member); **Elaine Kornreich** (member); **Ruth Learman** (member); **Dale Davis** (associate of Unity); **Joe**, **Shelly**, and **Joey Tuzzo** (friends of Unity); **Lu Butler** (friend of Krista Emmons); **Jackie**, **Laura**, and **Stewart** (siblings of Patty Johnson); **Steve Rowley** (member); **Gloria Brandenburg**; **Jeannine Lau** (member); **Trudy Rossman**; **Neil Larsen**; **Rachel Kaiser** (granddaughter of Judy Kaiser); **Thom R. Bagley**, **Marty**; **Jacob Kaiser** (Grandson of Judy Kaiser); **Cindy Bereiter**; **Susan & Betty Johnson** (Ross); **Paul**, **Donna**, **Paula**, **Cathy**, **Izzy & Lee**; **Hernandez family**; **David Hellrung** (member); the **Toni Fare family**; **Nicholas Whitehead**; **Brian Karnes** (friend of Alisha Flechner); **Rita Smith** (member); **Josefa Puerta-Villacrez** (member); **Rachel Hahn-Hanson**; and the **family and friends of Joan Sala and Joanne Lange**.

**Please notify the office to add or remove someone from Unity's prayer list.*

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Stewarding our resources for Jesus' mission

Member giving to Unity's Ministries and Operations thru January 2021 is \$9,655. Thank you for sharing your blessings and supporting Unity's ministries during this critical time.

Income	\$13,130.55 YTD	Annual Budget	\$172,081.60
Expenses	\$18,418.97 YTD	Annual Budget	\$211,858.01

We find ourselves with a \$5,288.42 loss at the end of January 2021. We have an operating reserve in 2021 from the gain realized in 2020 of \$28,067.67 (mostly because the \$28,630.87 PPP loan that was forgiven, multiple COVID-19 relief grants, generosity of other congregations, support from the Endowment Board, and your continued support). In the Property Reserve Fund, we have \$6,229.88 in cash. Donations continue during the pandemic. Thank you!

Our Stewardship Drive for 2021 resulted in 45 responding, 44 committing to \$89,047 to Ministries and Operations. With lack of congregation vote, our tentative budgeted amount for Ministries and Operations for 2021 is \$107,000. Also received were 4 commitments of \$353.04 for Miscellaneous and 2 commitments \$420 for Property Reserve.

The tentative 2021 budget resulted in a \$39,776 loss. We lost some grants for 2021 because they expired or decreased, or we were no longer eligible. We do have the reserve of \$28,067.67 to offset some of the deficit, but we will still experience a loss of \$11,709. We pray for blessings of abundance. God does provide.

Stewardship: Let Us Be Faithful Servants

Let us be faithful servants! Because we see Jesus doing so much in our lives and in the world, our generosity equips us to do what he is doing and to invite others to participate with us even during the pandemic. God is calling us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Please prayerfully consider giving generously to God's mission at Unity, helping us reach more people to see the good news of Jesus in action. **To confirm your commitment to Unity in 2021** either complete the electronic stewardship form or sign up to give electronically by visiting [Donation Schedule - Unity Lutheran Church - Milwaukee, WI \(unitymilwaukee.org\)](#).

Five Ways to Give Generously and Securely to Unity:

1. Donate button of Facebook:

Look under the cover photo of our sign for Soup Kitchen, and there should be a blue 'Donate' button. Click it and continue to our Vanco page.

2. Shop with Amazon & Give to Unity!

Switch to AmazonSmile (<http://smile.amazon.com>).

Go down to the bottom to search, type 'Unity Evangelical Lutheran Church,' and press enter. There are a few to choose from, but make sure you find the one from Milwaukee, and that's us!

3. On our website!

Go to Unity's website at <http://www.unitymilwaukee.org/donate> and click on 'DONATE' button in the upper righthand corner. Our site is secure.

4. App or Text

(a) Download the Give+ Mobile app!

(b) Text 414-409-0287; Register; look for 'Unity Evan Lutheran Church' or enter zip code 53207.

5. Thrivent Choice

If you are a Thrivent benefit member you can recommend how Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds using a vehicle called Choice Dollars. For more information about Choice Dollars:

· Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice

· Call 800-847-4836 or contact your local Thrivent Financial Representative

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Special Appeal

We are asking for you to prayerfully consider a special donation. With your generosity and with help from outside revenue sources, Unity was able to finish last year with a surplus. However, with the loss of those same sources, 2021 looks to be a difficult year financially for our church.

In beginning the budget process for this year, council needed to close a \$58,000 deficit. This is due to several factors. Offerings are down as the pandemic has affected household finances of many Unity members. Our ELCA grant expired, and our synod's Outreach For Hope grant decreased significantly. We also lost our rent income when Street Angels stopped using our kitchen and moved into their new headquarters.

Council's working budget document has now decreased that deficit to just under \$12,000. The first way is by rolling over last year's surplus from the forgiven PPP loan. Secondly, cuts were made in staffing. The position of Director of Music was reduced by 50% since less work is required with modifications to worship during the pandemic. Also, Pastor Kevan offered to reduce his salary to three-quarters time. Council emphasizes that in normal times reducing the pastor's salary is not an option for a healthy church to reduce budget expenses. But these are not normal times. Because we are living through a global crisis affecting many people in the church, Pastor Kevan extended this offer -- and council accepted it -- in solidarity with those who are burdened. Finally, council further decreased the expected deficit by setting a realistic goal for a special appeal in response to several Unity members asking what they can do to help.

Presently, Congress is debating the possibility of passing another round of stimulus during the pandemic. We do not yet know what form this will take or how much it will be. But we do ask that you begin praying about possibilities. If a new stimulus check is issued to households, we realize that many of us will need to use that check for necessities. But if you are able when the time comes, please prayerfully consider donating a gift above and beyond your normal offering for the sake of helping your church thrive in our ministries. Thank you.

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Spring Scripture Messages & Daily Readings

"It's All God's" March 7th

Sunday Luke 15:1-32
Monday Psalm 119:169-176
Tuesday 1 Samuel 16:6-13
Weds. Genesis 45:1-9
Thurs. Genesis 45:21-28
Friday Exodus 2:1-10
Saturday John 4:46-54

"God Goes Beyond" March 14th

Sunday Luke 16:19-31
Monday Luke 16:1-13
Tuesday Luke 16:14-18
Weds. Luke 17:11-19
Thurs. Luke 18:1-14
Friday Luke 18:15-17
Saturday Luke 18:18-30

"All Within God's Grasp" March 21st

Sunday Luke 18:31-19:10
Monday Luke 19:11-27
Tuesday Luke 20:1-8
Weds. Luke 20:9-19
Thurs. Luke 20:20-26
Friday Luke 20:27-40
Saturday Luke 21:1-4

"Unacceptable and Unstoppable" March 28th

Palm Sunday Luke 19:29-44
Monday Luke 19:45-48
Tuesday Luke 21:5-18
Weds. Luke 21:25-38
Thurs. Luke 22:1-27
Friday Luke 23:32-47
Saturday Luke 23:44-56

"All In to Rise Again" April 4th

Easter Luke 24:1-12
Monday Romans 5:12-21
Tuesday Romans 6:1-11
Weds. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Thurs. 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Friday Hebrews 1:1-4
Sat. Hebrews 10:1-10

"While It's Still Dark" April 11th

Sunday John 20:1-18
Monday Isaiah 65:17-25
Tuesday Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Weds. 1 Corinthians 15:19-26
Thurs. Isaiah 25:6-9
Friday Psalm 114
Sat. 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

"Suddenly and Quickly" April 18th

Sunday Matthew 28:1-10
Monday Jeremiah 31:1-6
Tuesday Colossians 3:1-4
Weds. Colossians 3:5-11
Thursday Colossians 3:12-17
Friday Colossians 4:2-5
Sat. Psalm 16

"You'll See" April 25th

Sunday Mark 16:1-8
Monday Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Tuesday 1 Corinthians 15:50-58
Weds. 1 John 2:3-11
Thurs. 1 John 2:12-17
Friday 1 John 2:18-25
Sat. 1 John 2:26-28

"Worth the Risk" May 2nd

Sunday Luke 24:13-35
Monday Psalm 4
Tuesday 1 John 3:1-7
Weds. 1 John 3:11-24
Thurs. 1 John 4:13-21
Friday 2 John 1-6
Sat. Psalm 23

"A Whole New World" May 9th

Sunday Luke 24:36-49
Monday Galatians 1:1-12
Tuesday Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21
Weds. Galatians 1:18-24
Thurs. Romans 3:21-31
Friday 2 Peter 3:14-16
Sat. Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29

"Here & Now, Everywhere & Always" May 16th

Sunday Acts 1:6-11
Monday Genesis 15:1-6
Tuesday Galatians 3:15-18
Weds. Galatians 3:19-22
Thurs. Galatians 4:8-20
Friday Galatians 4:21-31
Sat. Galatians 5:1-15

"All Access" May 23rd

Pentecost Acts 2:1-21
Monday Galatians 4:1-7
Tuesday Galatians 5:16-26
Weds. Romans 15:14-21
Thurs. John 1:1-18
Friday John 1:29-34
Sat. John 20:19-23

"Immersed in God's Promise" May 30th

Sunday Acts 2:32-42
Monday Ephesians 1
Tuesday Ephesians 2
Weds. Ephesians 3
Thurs. Ephesians 4
Friday Ephesians 5
Sat. Ephesians 6

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Mission: Transformed by Jesus, our Lord,
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Vision: To lead the people of Unity in living worship,
empowered to make disciples of Jesus.

Values: Faith is a way of life.
Outreach is relationship building.
Diversity is sought and celebrated.
Worship is life-shaping.

Exploring our scripture theme Sundays at 10 a.m. (live stream at
<https://facebook.com/unitymilwaukee>):

"All In"

STAFF



Kevan Penvose, Pastor	kevan.penvose@unitymilwaukee.org	414-744-6311	x201
Peggy Latona, Dir. of Operations & Ministry	peggy.latona@unitymilwaukee.org		x203
Scott Koral, Dir. of Outreach & Faith Mentoring	scott.koral@unitymilwaukee.org		x206
Jaime Larson McLoone, Vicar	jaime.larson@unitymilwaukee.org		x202

COUNCIL (council@unitymilwaukee.org)

Erin Whitehead—President	Christina Garcia —Vice President
Steve Rowley—Treasurer	Jack Kosmoski—Secretary
Lynn Rinderle	Laura McVann
Patsy Lenz	Jim Liedtke

ENDOWMENT (endowment@unitymilwaukee.org)

Jim Phillips (Chair)	Jill Wisniewski	Wayne Pratis	Phil Vogel	Chad Lyden
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