



UniChu News – Advent 2008

University Church: *The Church Home of Episcopal Lutheran Campus Ministry at Stanford*
A ministry to all people, based in the Lutheran and Episcopal traditions.

Advent: This Advent, we once again enter into the Waiting, the Longing – indeed the Anticipation – of the presence of God. For there to be anticipation, we must be expecting something and, in this season, we ‘expect’ the presence of God in the world in a four-week series. You know the experience of having guests: Inviting them for a visit, Getting the house ready, Saying, “They’re here!”, and spending good time together. In worship this season, we’ll take our lead from that pattern as we live in anticipation of God’s renewed* presence in world by Pleading, Preparing, Proclaiming, and Participating. (Of course the Presence for which we plead, for which we prepare, which we proclaim, and in which we participate is the presence of the God in whom we live, and move, and have our being. This isn’t begging God to finally show up; This is a season of entering with joy into the Presence that is all around us.)

News

UniChu becomes a Teaching Parish:

Beginning in February, UniChu will become a Teaching Parish. The council has accepted the invitation of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary to have a student spend 8-10 hours per week here, experientially learning the various of aspects of ministry. This is a very formative part of a seminarian’s education and one that will be a mutually beneficial experience: the student will have the opportunity to learn and practice ministry in a welcoming, supportive, “town and gown” ministry, and we will have the benefit of this person’s ministry among us. Stay tuned!

Sunday Morning Adult Forum:

Beginning after the new year, we’ll take up the ELCA’s *Book of Faith* Initiative, which invites the whole church to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered, and sent by the Word. If you are interested in participating in this (or even leading a session), [let me know!](#)

Prayer Concerns

Let’s continue to remember:

- Those who are seeking employment.
- Those who lack healthcare.
- Peace in India, in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in Sudan, in Thailand
- The sick, the dying, the homeless, the hungry, and all those who care for them.
- Samuel, Julian, Jason, and Anastasia, baptized last Sunday.
- Those among us who are in need of prayer.

If you would like to include someone in prayer, CHECK WITH THEM FIRST, then [drop a note to PG.](#)

Opportunities for Worship & Community:

- Sunday: Eucharist:** 10:00 am at UniChu
- Sunday: Compline:** 9:00 pm at MemChu
- Tuesday: Bread and Belonging:** 6 – 8, CIRCLE
- Tuesday: Taizé Prayer:** 1st & 3rd T, 9:30, CIRCLE
- Thursday: Eucharist:** 12:10, MemChu, side chapel
- Lunch/Coffee/Jamba with Pr. Greg:** See below!

Writers and Assisting Ministers: The role of assisting minister is an important one in Christian theology. Maybe you have the gift of writing: Would you consider writing and leading the Prayers on Sunday morning? Would you like to lead part of the liturgy? How about being a communion minister? If so, please [contact Pr. Greg](#).

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**One down ☺ :** This week marks one year that you and I have been in ministry together! It's an anniversary of two leaps of faith: the leap of faith that you took in calling me as your pastor, and the leap of faith that Gwen and I took in moving here. In all of our leaps, we trust that God is there to receive us! I celebrate all we've done together this year and look forward to much more!



**Lunch or Coffee with PG:** Thank you for the time you are making to spend with me, show me around, and tell me some of your story. I count this as precious time. If we've not yet had the chance to get together, please go to <http://www.gracefultools.com/appointments/view.z?ID=1642> and let's set a time.

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Star Gazing with Dr. Backman: The Moon, Venus, and Jupiter will be "in conjunction" this evening (Monday 12/1) and Dana Backman has graciously offered to set up a portable telescope on the church green for our viewing pleasure! Despite a gloomy morning, the weather forecast predicts clear skies this evening, so come on out anytime between 6 p.m. and about 7:15 p.m.

If tonight is not convenient for you, Dana will set up the telescope again for "Bread and Belonging" on Tuesday evening, on the lawn outside the Old Union between Tressider and the bookstore), again between 6 to 7:15 p.m.



Contact Info: Sometimes you just need a good listening to...

To chat with PG, drop a note to prgreg@stanford.edu.

In an emergency, call his cell phone: 510.847.1475.

To chat with Pr. Corrie, email her at coryl@stanford.edu.

Quick Links

[ELCM/University Church](#)

[Episcopal Church USA](#)

[Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

[Our ELCM Facebook Group](#)

[Stanford Associated Religions](#)

2008 Church Council (with email addresses)

President [Julie Steinbrenner](#)

Vice President [Eve Zoebisch](#)

Secretary [Brian Sakai](#)

Treasurer [Steve Schaefer](#)

[Dana Backman](#)

[Mary Bay](#)

[Eric Donhowe](#)

[Christina Hall](#)

[Silas Johnson](#)

[Pete Lovely](#)

[Sara Michie](#)

[Sondra Murphy](#)

[Sonja Swanson](#)

[Pr. Greg Schaefer](#)

Dreamcatchers: Tutoring Underserved Youth for a Brighter Future:

DreamCatchers, Inc. is a volunteer-run nonprofit, providing tutoring and mentoring to underserved youth in Palo Alto who are struggling in school and whose families cannot afford private tutoring. DreamCatchers is run largely by Stanford students, and they are looking for leaders who will take an active role in the organization in the areas of: Marketing, Fundraising, Recruitment, Publicity, Program Development, Tutor Training, Student-Tutor Matching, and Web Design. To learn how you can get involved, please email recruitment.dreamcatchers@gmail.com.

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**Bless My Crib:** The invitation still stands. Whether it's a dorm room, house, or apartment, it's good to bless it with prayer. Yours truly, PG, will come to your place for an Order of Blessing, which takes about five minutes. [Send me an email!](#)

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New Directory: Don't forget to [be in touch with Mary Wisnewski](#) about your entry in the New Directory! We don't want to miss anyone!

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**If you've been thinking** of coming to Sunday morning worship, to Bread & Belonging, to Taizé prayer, or to Thursday Eucharist but just don't know how to cross the door without a friend, you're not the first. Shy people are among our favorite people. Grab a random friend to come with you, or just call me at 510.847.1475 and I'll arrange for someone to meet you. Don't let shyness get in the way of one of the best places you'll find friends and a reminder of God's love.

**Other Announcements**

Remember to check the bulletin boards in the Education Building for important announcements and information . . . there is a lot to read!

**Want to contribute poetry, essays, updates, articles, announcements, questions, or stories to this newsletter?**

[Drop a note.](#)

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Let there be heat! Under the leadership of Dr. Duane Bay, Jost Heating and Sheet Metal, a locally owned firm, has completed their work of installing our new furnace! This will make Winter Worship even sweeter! A number of people volunteered to do jobs on this project, including Greg Rieker, Julie Steinbrenner, Craig Uhrich, David Houck, and Ryan Waters. Collectively they contributed several hundred hours and saved us over \$1000. Thank you all!!!

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**Election Reflection:** At long last, the longest presidential campaign in history has come to an end! But, our work has not. Our faith reminds us that God's will for the world is peace, equality, and justice. May we continue, in all kinds of ways, to work toward that goal.

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Speaking of presidents: I had the chance to meet Martin Sheen (a.k.a. Pres. Bartlett) at a meeting last month. And I thought you might get a kick out of the picture!



EPISCOPAL LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

Conference: Transformative Lutheran Theologies: Feminist, Womanist & Mujerista Perspectives:

Hosted by the Justice for Women Program, ELCA Church in Society Unit, at the Renaissance O'Hare Hotel, 8500 Bryn Mawr, Chicago, Illinois, Friday & Saturday, Jan 23-24.

Visit www.elca.org/justiceforwomen/conference to: **Apply** for a full or partial scholarship, provided by the Justice for Women program to selected seminary and college students and ELCA rostered leaders and **Register** for the conference. (Registration will close December 15, 2008.)

The purposes of the conference is for current and future church leaders to **engage** with euro-feminist, womanist, mujerista, Asian, and other feminist theologies, to **examine** this church's work regarding justice for women, to intentionally **provide** the opportunity for seminary and college students and rostered leaders to engage with academic theologians across the ELCA, and to **inspire** Lutheran theological developments in the area of feminist theologies.

Lutherans Around the World (Admittedly, this is mainly filler. But, it's kind of interesting, right?)

<u>Continent</u>	<u>All Lutherans</u>
Africa	17,185,299
Asia	8,415,776
Europe	37,177,468
Latin America & Caribbean	1,104,194
North America	7,940,686
Total	71,823,423

Countries with more than half a million Lutherans

Germany	12,627,746
USA	7,682,436
Sweden	6,893,901
Indonesia	5,190,627
Ethiopia	4,869,157
Tanzania	4,632,480
Finland	4,533,629
Denmark	4,493,263
Norway	3,893,333
Madagascar	3,000,000
Netherlands	2,300,000
Nigeria	1,880,050
India	1,850,588
Papua New Guinea	1,040,000
Namibia	1,007,395
Brazil	934,265
South Africa	696,873

Who are we? "UniChu: Home of Episcopal Lutheran Campus Ministry" is a community for ALL (all students, staff, faculty, alumni, neighbors, and friends), largely grounded in the Lutheran and Episcopal traditions.

We are "evangelical catholics." We are evangelical (people with good news) without being fundamentalists. We take the Bible seriously, but we also see it is a living document that demands to be interpreted for each new generation.

We are catholic (literally, "universal"), meaning that we are grateful for the great gifts of the Christian tradition and appreciative of the great diversity of the family of God.

As a Reconciling in Christ Ministry, we rejoice in the full participation of people regardless of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, or sexual orientation in every aspect of our ministry.

We are fun, prayerful, active, reflective, and deliberate in our worship and hospitality. We are tenderhearted but strong.

Our expression of the faith emphasizes God's surpassing presences and infinite love, as well as the grace and dream of God revealed in Christ.

We'll never ask you to check your brain at the door. We welcome the questions, struggles, & baggage that faith-life brings.

Dress is casual. Participation is open to all students, staff, faculty, alumni, and neighbors, regardless of their religious background.

Those who come to UniChu will be welcomed without precondition or expectations. We will do our best to help you feel comfortable and at ease, and to journey with you on life's way.

Where are we? ELCM is housed in two places:

University Church: 1611 Stanford Ave, on the corner of Stanford and Bowdoin just across from campus. Enter either the Education Building (for the Pastor's study) on the corner, or the Sanctuary adjacent to the Green (for worship).

The CIRCLE: The 3rd floor of the Old Union, right in the heart of campus (White Plaza, facing the bookstore). Bread and Belonging is normally held there, Taizé is always there, and PG also has an office there.

We Don't Have All the Answers.

We Love to Ask the Questions.

You Are Welcome Here.

ELCM @ UniChu is a welcoming spiritual community, Growing together in faith, we seek the unity for which God longs through learning, worship, service, and fellowship.