

The Seed

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Introducing Wes Tillet – LUM Executive Director



On behalf of the Board and the Search Committee I'm thankful for the opportunity to welcome a new Executive Director at LUM. We have been blessed to find someone with a passion for service and the ability and experience needed for the job.

During the search I posed questions which would help me get a sense of each candidate's most fundamental beliefs.

What would make that person care

enough to put heart, mind, and might into serving people? Wes was clear in both word and attitude about what moves

him, stating, *"Love is the most important thing to me. A love that's full of action, full of grace and truth, full of justice, peace, and joy."* He believes, as I do, that service to all our sisters and brothers is a God given privilege as well as an essential commandment.

Wes also has the needed background in fundraising, cooperation within the community, working with a diverse Board, careful husbanding of financial resources, and ability to work with staff in adjusting to changing needs necessary to this job. We have found in him the competent, caring individual needed to continue LUM's mission.

Joan Foord Low, President, LUM Board of Directors

Hello! It is a joyful honor to re-enter the Lafayette Urban Ministry orbit. My wife and I have fondness in our hearts for LUM (15 years ago, when I had hair) and are excited to jump back in, rekindle old connections, nurture new connections, and introduce our children to this amazing ministry.

If you are reading this, it tells me that you are an active part of the LUM family. Thank you! Every person matters. Every act of generosity of time, talent, and treasure counts. I am grateful for how you have helped make LUM such a helpful and healthy agency that serves others.

As I enter into the Executive Director position, I am humbled by and appreciative of the fabulous and faithful leadership of Joe Micon. His record of 495 consecutive board meetings is in no danger of being broken by me (I'd have to serve until I was 83). I know Joe built on the foundation of Executive Directors, Rev. Jud Dolphin and Rev. Ron Elly. I am asking God for the grace to continue a legacy of courageous servant-leadership with LUM.

No doubt there is some anxiety as a new person takes a place of leadership.

Can we trust Wes? Is he capable? Will he change everything? Will we like him? Will he like us? Can he faithfully maximize the good that is already present in LUM and effectively navigate future realities? All those questions are honest and good — and normal.

In response to those types of questions, I reassure you that I come into this role with both a sense of humility and confidence — and a "dependence on God" to give me the wisdom to respond to the ever-evolving needs of the Lafayette / West Lafayette community and to show up strong in the midst of my weakness ("My grace is enough for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness," 2 Corinthians 12:9). As a recovering perfectionist, I am keenly aware of my weaknesses, more than my strengths; and it is a comfort to know that God fills in my gaps.

As for my confidence, it is built upon the reality that *"God cares more about this than I do and will work it out better than I can."* This faith has guided me over the past 10 years — moving to the Middle East (Lebanon) and moving



back to the Midwest (Michigan) to start a new congregation (Voyage Church).

I have seen the faithfulness of God at every turn—honing my strengths and granting me success. All of this goodness gives me confidence to experience that goodness in the present and the future.

I am excited to move back to Tippecanoe County, learn the ropes of LUM, appreciate what is, and dream about what could be. What would it look like to more and more effectively meet the needs of children and families, of immigrants, of individuals without homes, and the most vulnerable among us? What would it look like to do what together we do at LUM so well that other communities seek to follow our model? With God all things are possible.

Let's continue to lean in and serve those around us. I am eager to learn and grow, to lead and serve.

Wes Tillet, LUM Executive Director

Three Ways to Support LUM Today

During times like these it is important to give wisely. LUM is a great investment in your local community.

A collaboration of **47 local churches**, LUM serves as a *social safety net* for children and families who are experiencing difficult times. Last year, Lafayette Urban Ministry served more than **3,792 families** through one or another of our **22 programs**.

Here are three ways you, your organization and your business can support and invest in Lafayette Urban Ministry.

1. **CASH DONATIONS** are preferred because they allow LUM to purchase what is needed, when it's needed. To give online, go to lumserve.org/donate/.
2. **NEEDED ITEMS**—Donations of “needed items” are also welcome and appreciated. To view the LUM *Wishlist of Needed Items*, go to lumserve.org/wishlist/. You may either ship or drop off items to the LUM Office (420 N 4th Street, Lafayette, IN 47901). Here is a list of “**COVID-19 Supplies**” that are urgently needed now:
 - **Disinfectant** (for surfaces) – bleach, wipes (Lysol, Clorox), spray (Lysol), cleaner (Fantasik, 409, Clorox)
 - **Hand Cleaning** – antibacterial wipes, gloves (nitrile disposable), hand sanitizer, liquid hand soap
 - **Paper Products** – paper towels, facial tissues, toilet paper
3. **MEALS** — Prepare a meal for the guests at the LUM Emergency Shelter. You may prepare & serve meals – OR– just drop off your prepared meal –OR– donate food that the LUM staff can prepare, like bread, deli meats, and large cans of soup, stew & chili. For more information and to sign up, go to lumserve.org/shelter-meal/.



LUM Staff Update – New Roles & New Staff



Pablo Malavenda is the new **Executive Program Director**. In addition to directing [Jubilee Christmas](#), communications & IT, he is now also supervising the directors of the following programs: [Thanksgiving](#), [Shelter](#), [Good Samaritan Program](#), [ID Clinic](#), [Youth Programs](#), [Food Pantry](#) & [Tax Assistance Program](#).



Monica Casanova is the new **Assistant Director** of the LUM [Immigration Clinic](#), reporting to the Immigration Clinic director.

As a longtime volunteer with the LUM [Immigration Clinic](#), Monica is excited about her new role with Lafayette Urban Ministry.



Josh J. Prokopy is expanding his role with LUM to include **outreach, fundraising and tax assistance**. Josh will now be the director of two major fundraising events ([Hunger Hike](#) & [Turkey Trot 5K Run](#)), the [Tax Assistance Program](#) and the [Dream Team](#) project.

LUM Prepared to Respond Quickly to COVID-19

In many ways, LUM has been preparing for this for years by creating a system in which staff members may access remotely almost everything they need to continue serving the families of our community. Although the LUM Office is closed for in-person visits, the LUM office phones are staffed from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and staff members are answering emails as promptly as possible. All business meetings have been canceled or moved online, and all fulltime LUM staff members are currently working from home. For several weeks, the leadership at LUM has been continually monitoring the recommendations from the CDC, the county health department, local and state officials and other agencies. LUM is open for business, but “how” LUM serves the families in our community has been modified to keep everyone as safe as possible. Below is a summary of how [LUM programs](#) are continuing to serve the families in our community today.

{Please note: Changes are expected; so, please go to lumserve.org for the most up-to-date LUM program information.}

Emergency Shelter for the Homeless

The LUM [Emergency Shelter](#) is open with a strict protocol for intake, check in, food service and sleeping arrangements, as follows:

Intake: Sign up for returning guests is being done outside and quickly. New guests are being signed up by staff practicing social distancing.

Check in: Guests line up outside six feet apart. Staff take each guest’s temperature and monitor hand cleaning. Guests with mild symptoms will be separated and must wear a mask for duration of stay. EMTs & health department are called if guests check in with severe symptoms.

Cleaning & food services: Staff are disinfecting surfaces frequently & wearing gloves. Information is available on coughing/sneezing & hand



washing protocols. Social distancing is being practiced in dining room.

Sleeping arrangements: Beds are arranged for social distancing and “head to foot” sleeping.

Meals are needed every evening. Please consider preparing a meal for our shelter guests. To learn more and sign up online, go to lumserve.org/shelter-meal/.

Food Pantry

The LUM [Protein Food Pantry](#) is open each Thursday morning with to-go, curbside service. Items are packed up and available for quick check in and distribution outside of the LUM Ray Ewry Center (525 N 4th Street, Lafayette). Clients are lined up using six foot markers for social distancing.

Donations of protein food items, paper products, infant supplies & feminine hygiene products are needed and welcome. To learn more and see a list of needed items, go to lumserve.org/food-pantry.



Modified

The LUM [Good Samaritan Program](#) is open each weekday morning starting at 9 a.m. and taking requests for emergency financial assistance. Ongoing cases will continue to be worked on by phone and email, and new clients may request emergency financial assistance by email.

The LUM [Immigration Clinic](#) is working with clients by phone, video conferencing & email. Current cases will continue to be worked on, and new clients may request assistance by email.

Suspended | Pending | Postponed

With a few LUM programs, it was best to suspend services in compliance with recommendations and for the safety of all.

- LUM [Tax Assistance Program](#) is completing pending cases by email, and new clients are being directed to “free online tax preparation software”
- LUM [ID Clinic](#) requires an initial in-person meeting; therefore, no new clients will be accepted; but current clients are being served by email & phone
- LUM [Winter Warming Station](#) is closed until November 15, 2020, allowing the staff to focus on the Emergency Shelter
- LUM [After School Program](#) is closed, until schools reopen
- LUM [5th Quarter Summer Learning Program](#) (May 26 – August 3) applications for summer childcare are being accepted online
- [LUM Camp](#) (July 28 – 31) planning is moving forward, with cautious optimism; and Camp Counselor applications are being accepted online
- [Citizenship Classes](#) and [Spanish Conversation Tables](#) have been postponed



The SEED — April 2020

Return Service Requested

Prayer, Fasting, Giving — Remember LUM this Lent

Prayer



Fasting



Almsgiving



There are still a couple of weeks until the end of the Lenten Season. Many of us have been “preparing” through **prayer** (justice towards God), **fasting** (justice toward self), and **almsgiving** (justice toward your neighbors). As you reflect on giving — perhaps you would **consider a legacy gift to LUM** — an organization pledged to fighting for justice for you and your neighbors.

Whether you use **cash, appreciated securities/stock, real estate, artwork, partnership interests, personal property, life insurance** or a **retirement plan**, the bene-

fits of Estate Planned Gifts can make this type of donation attractive to you as well as LUM.

Meet with your professional advisor to learn how informed estate planning can increase the overall value of your estate with a gift of tax-burdened assets (like IRAs, 401(k), or savings bonds) to Lafayette Urban Ministry. We hope you will remember Lafayette Urban Ministry in your will.

Once you’re ready, let us know. Wes Tillett, LUM executive director, is eager to meet with you to help you leave a legacy and fulfill your giving goals of supporting LUM. All you have to do is **email** or **call Wes Tillett** to begin the process (wtillett@lumserve.org | 765-423-2691). More information on **Giving to LUM** may be found at lumserve.org/donate. Whatever you decide — we sincerely hope you have a fruitful Lenten journey and a blessed Easter.

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