

The Visitor

July 2024 No. 20-07

Complex world. Thoughtful church.



Clockwise from top left: Confirmation class, Creative time during taco night, Paul Klitzke explaining the piano rebuild process, camping and paddling crew, Great fellowship while camping at Interstate State Park, Lots of behind-the-scenes prep work for the pizza bakes at Hope, Blessing of the new paraments, Taco night with Linnea, Cesar, Mira and Lucella, Center: Outdoor worship on the patio.

Pastor Maria Nurturing "Wild Church"

It's been 5 times now that we've gathered for Wild Church and each gathering has been its own unique experience. Even though the pattern for our time together has remained the same (gathering, prayers, readings, wandering time, reflection, song, sending), the combination of people and elements of creation that come together each time are different. The heart of a Wild Church gathering isn't the pattern of the gathering anyway. It is about the relationships that are nurtured - relationships with God, the people who gather, and with the plants, animals, and land.

At our last gathering I was feeling led to the falls, even though I was seeking wisdom of peace and rest. I should have known, especially with all the rain we've had, that it would be rushing and *loud*. It's not like I haven't seen a waterfall before. But I sat anyway, watching the water moving quickly downhill, messily gliding over rocks, tumbling over the ledges. The bubbles on the top of the water looked like people on a busy New York City sidewalk: pushing through crowds to move as fast as they could, not noticing their effect on the people around them as they hurried to their destination.



As I sat by the falls, tempted to encourage the water to slow down and remember it is beloved just as it is, I also noticed how the water was certain of its purpose. It was so sure about the direction in which it needed to go and it didn't let anything get in its way. After years of drought, the falls were finally alive, doing what they were meant to do. Water was moving from higher ground to the river in a way it hadn't for some time. I was reminded that we all need the opportunity to live our purpose in the world, too, no matter how loud and busy it might appear. I should have known that the wisdom we seek isn't always the wisdom we need, nor the wisdom we find.

The heart of our community at Hope is the relationships we have with God, each other, and our surrounding community. And when one significant relationship shifts, like saying goodbye to a beloved pastor, there is both challenge and opportunity. My prayer for us in this time of interim is that after we give ourselves time to honor these changes, we remain open to what we will learn and discover about ourselves as a community. I pray that we will be able to discern God's love and grace and how that promise moves us into the next season of our life together - even if it seems unrecognizable to us at first.

Just like the water, we are certain of our purpose - to share and nurture the unrelenting love of God with one another and the world. Thanks be to God for the ability and grace to do so!



Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert

A Note From Interim Pastor Susan Debner

People of Hope,

Thank you for the warm welcome, it is such a beautiful season to start walking together. I can already tell that I will learn many things from you, and I can't wait!

I've been asked to describe the interim process, and I've decided the best metaphor to do that is managing adolescence. **Beloveds, your body is changing.** I know that sounds scary, but really, it's completely natural and expected. This is not the first time you've gone through big changes, either. Nor are you the only church going through this, but you'll see things happening in different ways and on different schedules than with your friends. I've walked alongside others who are experiencing these kinds of changes, and I'm here to tell you everything will be OK. You will get through this. The awkwardness and anxiety will not last forever.



The **first** thing we will do is build some trust with each other, because that will make it easier to navigate what's next. An important place to start is with getting to know this complex and beautiful body (of Christ) as it already is--to be able to name all the parts and systems, and to pay attention to what nourishes this body, what keeps it healthy and strong. You're already good at listening to your own body, so at the start of this interim, we'll try to keep up a balanced routine of work, play, rest, think, and worship.

The **second phase** is perhaps the hardest work, and we'll need a team of people to support us through it. Often called a "Transition Team," they will set the scope for this time: What parts of this interim can we control and what parts can't we? What experiences, goals, and core values have anchored life so far, and are they nimble and appropriate for this next phase? What tools do we already have, and what new ones will we need? How do we prioritize what gets our best attention and resources?

The **third phase** is when we go through all the closets and figure out what still fits and what needs freshened up. In this phase, the Transition Team pulls together a Ministry Site Profile that describes who you are now, a little of where you've come from, and where you see God calling you next. This lays the groundwork for a call committee to be formed.

In the **fourth phase,** The Call Committee manages the interviews and selects a candidate who is brought to the congregation for approval. Before you know it, there will be welcome parties and all the butterflies and excitement of a new relationship.

Like the experience of adolescence, this process has an unpredictable timeline—but when handled with thoughtful care, good humor, and patient persistence, we will get through it together.

In Hope and with hope.

Interim Pastor Susan

Worship and Music

Music Series Courtyard Concert July 24, 7 p.m. - Pentatonix Brass Quintet: Come enjoy a casual outdoor concert with the PentaSonix brass quintet for a fun evening of everything from hymn arrangements and classical music to secular music, pop tunes, and everything in between!

Outdoor worship setup volunteers needed. We are hoping to have outdoor worship approximately once a month this summer, but to do this we really need more volunteers to help us setup beforehand. Please email Robert Ragoonanan if you're available to help out. Our volunteer list for this task is very small and we could really use more people to share the load.

Soloists and ensembles for worship are welcome! If you play an instrument or sing and would like to offer a piece of music in worship, please let me know! Our

congregation has many musicians of all ages, and all are welcome to share their gifts. All are welcome, anytime. **Sanctuary Piano Update:** On June 5th, the Steinway in our sanctuary was moved out to be rebuilt, and we are thankful to Unity Minneapolis for letting us borrow their Baldwin grand piano as they renovate their space. Our Steinway is being rebuilt and will be out for a year, to be returned better than ever! This project is being paid by your generous donations to our current capital campaign, Opening Doors 2.

Robert S. Ragoonanan, Minister of Worship and Music





Wayne Lee pottery – a gift for Bobby.

Our Minister of Worship and Music, Bobby Ragoonanan, has accepted a position at Westminster Presbyterian in Grand Rapids, Michigan. We give thanks for Bobby's musical gifts, energy, creativity, leadership, and care over these last 2 ½ years. Bobby will be greatly missed.

Bobby's last Sunday will be July 21, 2024. Please join us on that Sunday to celebrate Bobby and give our blessing of God speed. And join us after worship in the lounge for a reception to thank Bobby for all he has done at Hope.





Choir members at the choir party.

Wild Church Gathering



Join others for a time of connection and relationship building with creation and with one another on Saturday, July 20th from 3:30-5 p.m. at Hidden Falls Regional Park (North Entrance.) People of all ages are welcome. We will gather around story, song, and the practice of connecting with our kin in the natural world - the plants, critters, stone, and water. Come with an open heart and an open mind, ready to be moved. Contact Pr. Maria (mariaa@ulch.org), check the Thursday Epistle as the date approaches, or the Facebook Event for more information.

Hope Diamonds

Hope Diamonds will not meet in July. Join with our most senior members for a simple lunch and Fellowship on Wednesday, August 26th from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. All are welcome! We'd love to see you!

Bereavement Ministry

Hope's Bereavement Ministry falls under the realm of our congregation's Care & Nurture Ministry. It provides outreach to those in our faith community grieving the loss of a loved one. One of the pastors submits a request for card writing when a death occurs. Through a team of nine dedicated card writers, thoughtful, hand-written notes extend a word of comfort on behalf of the congregation. These cards are a reminder to the bereaved that others care about their pain, and they are not alone in their grief.

Writers receive a collection of bereavement cards designed for this purpose. Since the onset of this ministry in March 2021, Bereavement Ministry volunteers have sent over 250 cards to congregational members and their families. If you would like to be a part of this meaningful ministry or have questions, please email Lisa Morse at <a href="https://doi.org/licenter.or

Hope Birthdays

Let's celebrate! The birthday list below is of Hope's members who are 80 years and older, in addition to some who may be homebound, living in assisted living or a care center. Their contact information is in the ULCH directory. A phone call, card, or note from folks in our community is always appreciated!

July Birthdays

July 10th – Marilyn Asp

July 20th – Pauline Hendrickson

July 20th - Nancy Miller - 80!

July 23rd – Dick Hedrickson

July 26th – Sharon Peterson

July 30th – Garvin Davenport

August Birthdays

August 1st - Greg Peterson

August 9th - Nancy Swanson

August 15th - Roger Anderson

August 20th - LeRoy Erickson

August 29th - Dave Ranheim

August 7th - Betty Quie

August 13th - Diane Kepner

August 15th - Pam McGowen

August 24th - Bob Paschke - 80!

Save these Summer Dates

- Amnicon week for 9-13 year olds, August 5-9.
- Amnicon Retreat for all ages, August 16-18.
- Building the Beloved Community ecumenical day camp, August 19-23, 2024

Building Beloved Community Day Camp August 19-23rd from 9-4 p.m. at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church

Children entering Kindergarten through Middle School are invited to participate in singing, playing, and learning together. There is programming for elementary and middle school aged kids.

In order to make sure our Building Beloved Community Day Camp goes off without a hitch, we need adult volunteers and high school leaders! If you're an adult who can volunteer some or part of some days during the week of day camp, we will find a role for you. We also need high schoolers who can be present all week to help shepherd students.

You can find more information to volunteer and registration pages for all ages online: https://www.smplsdaycamp.org/ or contact Pastor Maria (mariaa@ulch.org).

Amnicon Congregational Camp

University Lutheran Church of Hope and First Congregational Church UCC are again planning for a weekend at Camp Amnicon. The dates are August 16-18, 2024. Amnicon (https://amnicon.org/) is on the south shore of Lake Superior (about 20 minutes outside of Duluth). The Amnicon River also runs through the camp. They have great hiking, canoes to borrow, and a fabulous beach for hanging out, swimming, and campfires. Meals will be provided by the camp under their outdoor pavilion. The lodging will be a choice between platform tents (permanent tents with beds - you bring your own sleeping bag), camping there with your own camping gear, or renting one of their small cabins (please arrange this directly with Amnicon). Register here, or grab a registration form at church. Curious? Talk with Pastor Maria!

Gather Young Adult Ministry

Gather is a ministry for young adults in the Twin Cities; a place for those who are hungry for community and connection with other young adults in the metro area. Setting the table for connection and rest through worship, meals, and monthly events. A place for you to deepen in faith as you discover your identity, uncover your vocation and develop as leaders who do justice in the world. Gather is LGBTQI+ affirming and eagerly invites siblings of any sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression into full leadership and participation. Follow our Facebook and Instagram pages for more information @gathertwincities



Sunday Forum Updates

In this year of transitions, we welcome the new members of Rick Chapman, Dan McLellan, and Marty Lewis – Hunstiger to our current Sunday Forum Team of Ann Rolle, Erik Strand, and Rebecca and Alden Tetlie. We give thanks for the dedicated service of outgoing members Karen Jorstad and Lynette Lamb. We will miss the wisdom and contributions of Brian McCaffrey who died recently.

We are so grateful that Nan Knutsen will continue to be a resource for us. (kind of like professor emeritus.) She has been an instrumental part of the committee off and on for decades and most recently provided outstanding direction and revitalization for the group in her lead position role. Her contributions to Hope's adult education run deep, coming up with creative programs such as the Stories of Hope series.

We will be meeting with our interim pastor, Susan Debner, at the end of June to plan for the coming year. Keep attuned to the Thursday Epistle and other announcements as fall approaches. As always, we welcome your input for suggestions.

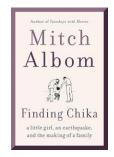
Hope Book Club

Sunday, July 14, 2024, 7 p.m. in the ULCH Courtyard -

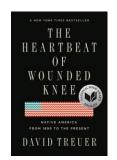
Heartbeat of Wounded Knee, by David Treuer

"'Heartbeat Of Wounded Knee' Demystifies The Modern Native Experience" (NPR)

(Yup – we didn't get a chance to finish it last month!)



August 11: Finding Chika: A Little Girl, an Earthquake, and the Making of a Family, by Mitch Albom. "Mitch Albom's most personal story to an intimate and heartwarming memoir about what it means to be a family and the young Haitian orphan whose short life would forever change his heart." Goodreads.com



"A book must be the ax for the frozen sea within us." Franz Kafka
Please contact Sonja Peterson at speterson@dunnwald.com or 612-242-8711 with book suggestions.
Thanks! Sonja

Racial Justice: Rolling Waters Fund Update

At its meeting last month, the Racial Justice Team selected the following six Black, Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC)-led organizations to receive grants from Hope's Rolling Waters Fund. Each of these organizations is committed to justice and healing work or in response to needs in BIPOC communities. The total amount given was \$11,000, again made possible by the continued support of Hope members and friends.

Hmong Museum: An organization for maintaining and educating about Hmong history and culture.

Healing Minnesota Stories: A program led by Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs through the Minnesota Council of Churches that is an effort to create understanding and healing between Native American and non-Native people

Indigenous Women's Life Net (IWLN) Program: IWLN helps Native women who are survivors of sexual assault, providing direct services such as resources, referrals for other programs, transportation assistance, one-on-one, case management, court accompaniment, etc.

Sacred Reckonings: Sacred Reckonings is rooted in relationship, spiritual practice, and faithful responsiveness to a national movement for reparations to Black and Indigenous communities. Its call is to the sacred task of reckoning with the histories of colonization and White supremacy that have traumatized and broken lives, bodies, relationships, and the earth. It is also a call to the promise of liberation that is woven into the work of reckoning.

Save Our Sons: A program led by Melvin Carter Jr to work with Black teenage boys to help them get out of gangs and criminal activity and to build pride in their African heritage and culture.

St. James AME Church: A congregation rooted in the Rondo neighborhood of St. Paul that showed extraordinary hospitality to Hope members participating in the ACTION project during their visit, while presenting a program about the historical trauma and disruption in the neighborhood due to the construction of I-94.

The Racial Justice Team



Bible and Brews

Exactly what it sounds like: bring your Bible, your favorite brewed beverage, and a penchant for laid-back but totally engaging conversations about faith, scripture, and current events. We meet the 4th Monday of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We will meet at Lake Monster Brewing in Saint Paul July 22nd and August 26th.

A Note from Pastor Jen

Dear People of Hope,

I'll be reflecting on these days of closure for some time. So many conversations, so many tears, a fullness and richness beyond my expectations. Thank you for showing up even when it was hard. In particular, thank you for June 9th's worship, meal and program. Thanks to the many musicians who contributed voice and instrumentation--beautiful, for the prayers, notes, and for the special Godspeed and blessing in worship. Thanks to Linnea Beccera and all who arranged for a great meal and accommodated a big crowd. Thanks to Doug Hartmann and each of the speakers. I was grateful for the laughter and the tears, and so many memories. Also, thank you for the many notes and cards, special gifts from Hope Diamonds, the brightly colored quilt crafted by the quilters and friends, and the generous financial gift and the amazing Wayne Lee pottery communion set from the congregation. I am buoyed through these days of sorting files and schlepping books to reflect on these years and Sunday's gathering. Each of you, and this community, will always have my heart and my prayers.

With deep gratitude, Pastor Jen





Photos left to right: Pr. Jen and Jane with the quit, the quilters holding up the quilt they made as a gift for Pr. Jen, Pr. Jen laughing with Doug,









Ann Beane cutting cake, the congregational gift for Pr. Jen -a communion set made by Wayne Lee.

Multiple Thank You(s)

Through our generous donation, Opening Doors #1 Capital Campaign, and other dedicated accounts, University Lutheran Church of Hope has given benevolences to a number of organizations these past few months. Below is a sample of the responses we have received from them:

"Thank you for partnering with Beacon as we create, sustain, and advocate for homes that serve people facing the most barriers to stability. Your contribution makes home possible for many Minnesotans today, and for more in the future." - Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

"Thank you for your generous donation. Your contribution came at a very opportune time as we are completing our first week of service in our new home at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. It is because of donations such as the one from your church that we are able to continue to do what we love to do ... feed the people!" - The Board Members of Soup for You!

"We thank you for your personal investment in our mission to help the hands that heal throughout the world. Each day, our medical partners are able to provide lifesaving medical procedures and vital health & wellness initiatives because of your generous giving. Thank you for being a part of this miraculous work." - Global Health Ministries

"Please accept our gratitude for your financial commitment to our mission: Nurturing children, building on family strengths and finding alternatives to violence." - Southside Family Nurturing Center

"On behalf of the board of directors, we are so grateful for your recent contribution to the LCM Endowment Fund. Your gift, at this particular time, is so meaningful to us – it makes it possible for us to continue to reach out to young people on the campus on the University of Minnesota. YOU make it possible for us to step forward in hope." - Lutheran Campus Ministry

President's Report: In the Season of Deep Listening

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1), a time to bid Godspeed to Pastor Jen and a time to extend a warm welcome to Pastor Susan. This is the season of *interim*, led by an interim pastor; we are an interim congregation, blessed with the opportunity to discern who we are and who we might yet become.

The Minneapolis Synod of the ELCA sets out the interim journey <u>3A-The-Transition-Process.pdf (mpls-synod.org)</u>, which I call the **Season of Deep Listening**, during which the whole congregation is encouraged to listen to God, our neighbors, and one another, in intentionally-designed encounters. Not what *I* want, not even what *we* want, but listening for the guidance of the Spirit, "how can we join in what God is doing at this time, in this place?" We are invited to prayerfully reflect on,

- What do we say about ourselves? What are the gifts of this congregation?
- What is God up to in our community? What are the assets and needs of our community?
- Where is God leading us in the future?

The Synod materials call us to listen, interpret, discern, try, and evaluate. It's not as though we don't have practice doing this – it was the work of the Riverside Innovation Hub and the ongoing donation discernment journey. "It should be our way of being God's people in the world all of the time, it's how we join in the divine flow of our triune God – Creator, Savior, and Spirit – moving in love for the sake of the world."

This is not the season for headlong jumping into the process of calling a pastor. Rather, it is first the time for understanding God's purpose for ULCH, and *then* acting on that understanding to call a pastor who will walk with us, to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, confident of "blessings without number and mercies without end." ("O God Beyond All Praising").

Congregational President, Linda Herman



Pr. Jen's farewell celebration after the Godspeed service for Jen and family.

Life Events

We're a community called to hold one another in prayer in every season—in our deepest need and grief, and in our experiences of new life. Here are a few of the life events affecting our community. We need your help to know for what we can pray. Please alert a pastor or contact the church office. We include in prayer...

Welcoming children and Baptisms—We pray for all who await and welcome children through joyful and challenging times.

Marriages—We pray for all those preparing for marriage, and for all relationships of commitment, including Hugh Nelson and Katharyn Buckeye who were married on June 21, 2024.

Deaths—We pray for God's strong embrace for all who grieve deaths and losses, those that are recent and those that were many years ago and whose memories fill us. We pray with the family of Tom Magnon who died on June 10th and with Bob Paschke at the death of his sister, Myris Dierlich.

Significant Illness—We pray for those living with illness, cancer, recovery, uncertain diagnosis, hospice, chemical dependency and other addictions, and mental health struggles, including Zoe Odenbach, Patrick Colombe, Miriam Hougen, and Chuck Lewis. We also pray for caregivers.

Separation, divorce, retirement, moves, graduations, new beginnings, and the civil rights movements of this time.

Treasurer's Report

	May Actual	May Budget	MayVariance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
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General Giving	31,194	45,802	(14,608)	215,763	207,503	8,260
Rental Income	12,281	11,746	535	70,181	55,558	14,623
Interest	1,470	1,415	56	6,290	7,075	(785)
Total Income	44,945	58,963	(14,017)	292,234	270,136	22,099
Salary & Benefits	34,785	34,837	(52)	188,803	187,720	1,083
Total Expenses	54,705	55,886	(1,181)	307,168	305,524	1,645
Net Oper Income	(9,760)	3,077	(12,836)	(14,934)	(35,388)	20,454

This month I need to report that our General Giving is below budget by \$14.6K. As of this writing I'm working with ULCH Staff to determine if it's a timing issue or if pledged donations have been changed or cancelled. I hope next month's report will state that it was just a timing issue. Even with General Giving being lower than budget this month our YTD Total Income is still better than budget because of the 2023 donation received in 2024 and Rental income – specifically Parking Income – being better than budget.

Due to timing, our Total Expenses are over budget YTD by \$1.6K. We have already paid for items that are budgeted for later in this year. This is a normal occurrence. I'm expecting June's expenses to be over budget due to an over lap between Jen and Pastor Susan and additional expenses for Jen's Going Away Party. However due to the generousity of everyone we will be able to absorb these additional expenses.

Our Building Fund has a value as of \$215K as of 5.31.2024. Our new front doors will be installed soon. We have paid 50% of the expess for these doors. When the other invoice is paid it will be from this fund. This fund is also used to help pay our mortgage. Each month \$6.9K is transferred to our general fund to help pay for the mortgage.

Thank you for your continued support of ULCH. If you have any questions please reach out.

Thank you,

Ruth Hedman, Treasurer

July Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Hours 9am-2pm 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 2:00pm - 3:30pm Spiritual Direction Group - Daytime 4:30pm - 6:00pm Spiritual Direction Group - Evening 6:00pm - 8:00pm Parents of PEASE support group	Office Hours 9am- 2pm 11:00am - 12:00pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Prog. 6:30pm - 7:15pm Personnel Committee 7:15pm - 8:30pm Executive Committee	3 Office Hours 9am- 2pm 8:00am - 8:40am Centering Prayer on Zoom	4 July 4th Holiday - Offices and Church closed	5 Office Hours 9am- 2pm	6
7 10:00am - 11:00am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube	8 Office Hours 9am-2pm 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 2:00pm - 3:30pm Spiritual Direction Group - Daytime 4:30pm - 6:00pm Spiritual Direction Group - Evening	2pm 11:00am - 12:00pm Staff Meeting	10 Office Hours 9am- 2pm 8:00am - 8:40am Centering Prayer on Zoom 6:00pm - 8:00pm Facilities Team	11 Office Hours 9am-2pm 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 6:30pm - 7:30pm Pickup Basketball - Contact Scott Hvizdos	0ffice Hours 9am- 2pm 7:00pm - 10:00pm Craft Group	13
14 10:00am - 11:00am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube	15 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 7:00pm - 8:30pm Worship Planning Team on Zoom	16 Office Hours 9am- 2pm 11:00am - 12:00pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Prog. 6:30pm - 8:00pm Vision & Governance Board	17 Office Hours 9am- 2pm 8:00am - 8:40am Centering Prayer on Zoom	18 Office Hours 9am-2pm 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 6:30pm - 7:30pm Pickup Basketball - Contact Scott Hvizdos 7:00pm - 8:00pm Men of Hope	2pm	3:30pm - 5:00pm Wild Church Gathering
21 10:00am - 11:00am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube	Office Hours 9am-2pm 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 2:00pm - 3:30pm Spiritual Direction Group - Daytime 4:30pm - 6:00pm Spiritual Direction Group - Evening 6:30pm - 8:00pm Bible & Brews at Lake Monster Brewing	23 Office Hours 9am- 2pm 11:00am - 12:00pm Staff Meeting	24 Office Hours 9am- 2pm 8:00am - 8:40am Centering Prayer on Zoom 7:00pm - 8:00pm Music Series Courtyard Concert: PentaSonix Brass Quintet	· ·	26 Office Hours 9am- 2pm	27 10:00am - 12:00pm Oblates group - Chapel and Lounge
28 10:00am - 11:00am Outdoor Worship w/ Zoom/YouTube	29 Office Hours 9am-2pm 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 2:00pm - 3:30pm Spiritual Direction Group - Daytime 4:30pm - 6:00pm Spiritual Direction Group - Evening	30 Office Hours 9am- 2pm 11:00am - 12:00pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Prog.	31 Office Hours 9am- 2pm 8:00am - 8:40am Centering Prayer on Zoom			

University Lutheran Church of Hope is a welcoming Christian community of faith centered in God's grace and called to demonstrate God's love for all the world.

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