

Complex world. Thoughtful church.



Clockwise from top left: Installation of Bishop Jen Nagel, Installation service at Central Lutheran, Hope table at the LSS Gala fundraiser, Students rummaging through circulation day, Panoramic view of the Hope Neighborhood Party with Pizza, Bishop Jen Nagel, Celebration and bell ringing after Bishop Jen's installation! The new sanctuary doors getting prepped, a last look at the old sanctuary doors that have served us so well.

Complex Call Process, Thoughts for the Interim

One of the first things that caught my attention at Hope was the caption, “Complex World. Thoughtful Church.” That brief introduction told me I would both enjoy getting to know you, and be challenged with new ideas and questions in your midst. I’ve adopted and adapted your catchphrase to a working title for regular updates about the interim season.

So far, we have been getting to know each other, and I have a working grasp of University Lutheran Church of Hope’s way of doing things. The Vision and Governance Board, Pastor Maria, and the Hope staff are invaluable blessings across this time of orientation. Thank you! I’ve read a mountain of different things, giving me glimpses to the history of Hope, and deepening my understanding of the present. In August, we had a sermon series about the different kinds of time that go with interim ministry, which sparked several great hallway chats! At the forum on September 8, I shared some of my core values impacting interim ministry and started what I hope will be a fruitful conversation about ULCH’s core values and how they intersect with community and congregation members.



In the coming weeks, the Executive Team and I will put together a Transition Team and hone the “Honey-Do” list for any conversations, chores, or goals to be accomplished before a new lead pastor arrives. The Transition Team will also review the paperwork needed for the call process and design interactive ways for the congregation to update it.

I’ve heard some people asking when a call committee will be formed. Because Hope is splitting the work between a Transition Team and a Call Committee, the Call Committee won’t take shape until the Transition Team completes most of its work. The exact timing for this will become clearer in the next few months. Stay tuned!

And in all things, prayer: for the congregation leadership and staff, for the Minister of Worship and Music search process, and for the next lead pastor to join this thoughtful church in a complex world.

In Hope and with hope,
Interim Pastor Susan

Music News

September is always the start of the new choir season, but singers are welcome at any time during the year. No audition is necessary and perfect attendance is not required. Your voice and spirit for worship and community is always welcome. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm and warm-ups begin at 9:30 Sunday mornings. A music packet, reserved seating and friendly smiles are waiting for you. Questions? Please email me or introduce yourself to me on Sunday mornings. I am always near the organ bench!

Making a joyful noise,



Maureen Armstrong - mearmstrong88@gmail.com

Celebrate with Pastor Maria!

Pastor Maria was ordained on October 24, 2014. Ordinations are wonderful curries of the Spirit's nudging, the church's awakening and support, and an individual's courage to say "yes." Join us for a blessing prayer in worship and a special coffee hour on Sunday, October 27, celebrating Pastor Maria's 10th anniversary of ordination. The color for the day is RED.



Blessing of the Animals – October 6

In honor of St. Francis, whose feast day is celebrated on October 4, we will gather on the patio after Sunday morning worship (around 11:45 a.m.) to bless the animals. Bring your animal companions or photos of them for this special event! All creatures are also welcome in worship at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Maria Anderson-Lippert

Children's Ministry 2024-2025 Overview

This year in Children's Ministry there will be opportunities for three different age groups to build relationships and deepen their faith on Sunday mornings at 9:30:

- **Birth-3:** Join with other families with young children in the nursery for a time to play and connect. This is a casual gathering. A story and snack will be shared and there will be lots of free-play time.
- **Pre-K - Grade 1:** This group will meet to learn Bible stories, explore nature, and build relationships in a small group environment. A snack will also be shared.
- **Grades 2-6:** This group will meet to connect Bible stories and faith practices together, and begin to think about how we connect our faith with the way we live.

There is no Sunday School on October 20th due to the MEA Break. If you are not already receiving emails, contact Pr. Maria to get on the list. You can also contact Pr. Maria (mariaa@ulch.org) with any questions.

Wild Church Gathering



Our next Wild Church is to take place on October 5, 3:30-5 p.m. at Father Hennepin Bluff Park (420 SE Main St, Minneapolis). Join with your human and creation community to remember our relationship and connection with one another. This month we are partnering with First Congregational and University Baptist for a time of listening and connection. Contact Pr. Maria (mariaa@ulch.org) with any questions.

Bread Bakes Return in October!

Get ready for delicious artisan breads and scones on October 6th! We'll be firing up the outdoor oven for another trio of artisan breads and scones. This month's selections include Maroon & Gold (apricots and raisins), Dinkytown White with Rosemary and a brand new offering called Golden Durum Sesame. Breads may be reserved ahead of time by contacting Kathy Kufus at kmkufus@icloud.com. We would love to have you join us for this Bread Bake, whether a novice or experienced baker! If you're interested in joining the kitchen team for mixing, kneading and shaping, please contact John Beane at pilgrim.beane@email.com. If you are interested in baking bread in our wood-fired oven, please contact Bryan.kufus@icloud.com



Hope Diamonds

Our most senior members will gather for a simple lunch and fellowship on October 16th from 12:30-2 p.m. We will gather in Fellowship Hall due to the construction in the lounge and kitchenette. All are welcome! We'd love to see you!

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!

October Birthdays

October 11th – Karen Lindesmith
October 27th – Janet Booe
October 31st – Jerry Johnson



November Birthdays

November 16th – Ron Sorenson
November 25th – Carmen Macoskey
November 27th – Jan Hrnecir
November 28th – Granger Whitney

Interact and Learn at Upcoming Sunday Forums

The October Sunday Forum series concludes our series on Christian Nationalism. Sunday Forums are held in Heritage Hall from **9:30 to 10:20 am**. If you can't make it to church, presentations are also available via Zoom and can be accessed using the same link as Sunday worship. They are also recorded and a link to the recording can be accessed in the Thursday Epistles.

October 6 -- Crossing Borders: Presenter, Michael Reszler, New Director of the Citizenship and American Identity Program (Aspen Institute, Washington DC).

Mr. Reszler will speak on the topic of Christian Nationalism. Since 1949, the Aspen Institute has earned a reputation for gathering diverse, non-partisan thought leaders, creatives, scholars, and members of the public to address some of the world's most complex problems. Prior to this, Mr. Reszler has overseen the Public Insight Network as vice president of Minnesota Public Radio since 2012.

October 13 -- Skills for Political Discussion Across the Divide: Presenter, Rev. Maria Anderson-Lipert

Pastor Maria will lead us in a session developed with Isaiah tools. It will be practical in how to engage with people of other political views.

October 20 -- LSS Portland House: Presenter, Laurie Woodward, Program Manager

LSS provides an alternative to incarceration and prison prevention for those ages 18 and older who identify as male in Portland House. University Lutheran Church of Hope has supported this program with two trust board grants and other Hope in the World donations. Portland House is our neighbor, located just three blocks away from our church. Recently we have supported Portland House through cooking during the Covid pandemic (Becky Halvorson) and with freshly baked loaves from our monthly bread bake events. Come find out about their important mission and how our contributions are being used.

October 27 -- Lutherans 101: Presenter, Nan Knutsen, Hope Member

On this Reformation Sunday, Nan Knutsen will help us look at various aspects of the Lutheran church around the world and in the United States. Where are Lutherans located? How did they get to this country? How did so many different expressions eventually come together to form the ELCA? And why do we call ourselves "evangelical" anyway? Come and learn a bit about our complex heritage

The Sunday Forum Committee

Election Survival

With the upcoming presidential election, this fall is already an intense time in our nation. During times like these, our faith is an incredible resource for us. Here are some ways you can experience support from your Hope community.

- *Walk the Labyrinth and pray.* The labyrinth will be in the chapel from early September thru mid-November. Stop by anytime the church is open or arrange another time to walk the labyrinth and pray.
- *Learn together.* There will be a series of forums relevant to this election season ranging from communicating with those who think differently, to making a plan to be involved in encouraging people to get out and vote! Check the adult forum schedule for details.
- *Engage in your local neighborhood.* Taking action can be a helpful way to faithfully use our anxious or angsty energy. Need help figuring out how to do that? Check in with your community members at Hope to find out what's happening!
- *Talk to a pastor.* As always, Pastor Susan and Pastor Maria are available for presence, listening, and prayer. Just send an email or give one of us a call to arrange a time.

President's Report: A Space to Gather

Surely the Spirit was at work at the Neighborhood Hope Party we celebrated on September 15. Members rolled up their sleeves to stoke the flames of the community oven, baked gourmet pizzas (I was initially skeptical, but I loved the new dill pickle topping) and organized a vast array of household items for the Circulation Event to give away rather than throw away, while civic organizers registered voters and promoted safety in our neighborhood. Thank you, everyone! What a pleasure to chat both with visitors and fellow members, all of us drawn together for the good food, conversation, and information.

The Neighborhood Hope Party exemplified the vision of “innovative ministry as place-based vocational discernment” described in the Riverside Innovation Hub report <https://web.augsburg.edu/acfl/RIH/RIH-Learning%20Report.pdf> in which a Hope team participated. As the Reverend Mark S. Hanson wrote in that report, we act on “the conviction that God calls us, Christ frees us, and the Holy Spirit inspires and gifts us to be responsive with our neighbors as together we serve the common good. We seek to discern God’s call in a spirit of humility, curiosity, courage, and hopeful anticipation.” For our part in the Innovation Hub project, the University Lutheran Church of Hope team envisioned exploring ways to expand access to our buildings and grounds, providing **a space to gather** with our neighbors. More recently, Hope’s capital campaigns have promoted Porous Walls, and the Donation Discernment Wellness Group envisioned Hope as a “space where people who live, work and worship in our neighborhood can experience community, safety, healing and support for their whole being.”

In this transition time, we are not pausing our commitment to the mission of this congregation. Rather, we walk out in faith, re-dedicating ourselves to our Affirmation of Welcome (1990’s, adapted in 2015-16).

“University Lutheran Church of Hope, believing that the gospel is God’s gift to all people, seeks to continue to be a welcoming community. As a community of faith, we know that the world is often an unloving place and that the experience of alienation is all too common.

We rejoice in the manner in which diversity has enriched, nurtured and challenged the life and ministry we share in Christ and regret actions and attitudes which may have inhibited or prevented access to Word and Sacrament because of age, race, socioeconomic or marital status, physical or mental capabilities, sexual orientation, or gender identity. To those who have felt excluded, we extend a particular invitation to share in God’s reconciling activity among us. To the stranger we offer hospitality. To all, we extend a most heartfelt welcome and wish them continued joy and peace in the Lord.”

Congregational President, Linda Herman

You Ought a Be In Pictures!

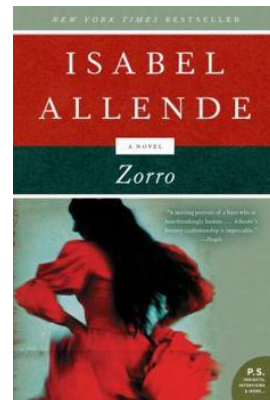
We love sharing photos of Hope in Action—but we need your help. We’d like to get more images of our congregation doing what we do and being who we are. If you have a smartphone and like snapping pictures, please do so often and share them with the church office for use in the TE and Visitor and our archives. Send pictures to photo@ulch.org and include the photo date, event and people involved. Thanks!



Hope Book Club

Sunday, October 13, 2024, 7 p.m. Via Zoom

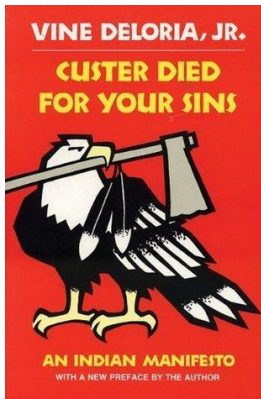
Oct. 13: *Zorro*, by Isabel Allende. “After many adventures -- duels at dawn, fierce battles with pirates at sea, and impossible rescues -- Diego de la Vega, a.k.a. Zorro, returns to America to reclaim the hacienda on which he was raised and to seek justice for all who cannot fight for it themselves.” www.goodreads.com.



Nov. 10: *Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto*, Vine Deloria Jr. (Standing Rock Sioux). This book is the ELCA’s Truth and Healing Movement Reading Circle this year. The Reading Circle offers an opportunity for members to read and discuss a book written by an Indigenous author, scholar, leader, theologian, etc. We will use this discussion guide to lead your circle through *Custer Died for Your Sins*.

“Books open your mind, broaden your mind, and strengthen you as nothing else can.”
-William Feather

Please contact Sonja Peterson for the Zoom link and/or with book suggestions at, dunn.pete.law@gmail.com or 612-242-8711.



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 Suzie Robinson and Donald Greiveldinger, who will be married on October 21st and Micki Kruse and Neil Odum who will be married on October 19th. We also pray for those whose marriages are enduring struggle or ending, trusting in God’s love and mercy at all times.

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 Leona Reyelts whose memorial service will be on October 4th.

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, Chuck Lewis, Nyla Willie, and Paul Quie. We also pray for caregivers.

We pray for all who are impacted by **new beginnings, separation, divorce, retirement, moves, graduations, and the civil rights movements of this time** trusting in God’s love, grace, and guidance at all times.



Treasurer's Report

| | August Actual | August Budget | August Variance | YTD Actual | YTD Budget | YTD Variance |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| General Giving | 30,147 | 39,803 | (9,656) | 372,244 | 341,180 | 31,064 |
| Rental Income | 12,376 | 14,796 | (2,420) | 113,798 | 93,944 | 19,854 |
| Interest | 1,552 | 1,416 | 136 | 10,871 | 11,323 | (452) |
| Total Income | 44,075 | 56,015 | (11,939) | 496,913 | 446,447 | 50,466 |
| Salary & Benefit | 52,529 | 34,436 | 18,093 | 322,407 | 291,980 | 30,427 |
| Total Expenses | 62,466 | 51,613 | 10,853 | 493,795 | 465,007 | 28,788 |
| Net Oper Income | (18,391) | 4,402 | (22,793) | 3,117 | (18,560) | 21,677 |

Both General Giving and Rental Income are under budget this month. General Giving is a timing issue with the budget. Giving for Sunday, September 1 was budgeted in August. Giving should be better than budget in September because of this timing issue. This is the first month Rental Income has been less than budget. I was surprised but not concerned. YTD our total income is better than budget by \$50K.

Do not be concerned that Salary & Benefits are \$18K over budget in August. August was a 3 pay period month (staff getting paid every 2 weeks) but the budget was entered as a 2 pay period month. October is budgeted as a 3 pay period month when staff will be paid twice during the month. At the end of October actuals will be more in line with budget. Salaries and Benefits will be under budget until a permanent Director of Music and Worship is hired.

Overall each department is managing their expenses well. I would expect to see a little more spending – while still watching our expenses – now that the Fall program season has started. While in total our Expenses are over budget by \$29K it is because of the budgeting in Salaries & Benefits as mentioned above.

Our Building Fund has a value of \$182K as of 8.31.2024. I'm writing this report on 9.17 and our new front doors were delivered today. Hopefully by the time you're reading this they will be installed and enhancing the beauty of our church. The Building Fund reimbursed the Operating Fund \$28.7K. This was for the following:

- Parking Lot Repair - \$796
- Updated AC Unit - \$7,850
- Piano Move - \$499
- Sanctuary Painting - \$19,592.97

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

Ruth Hedman, Treasurer



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. Watch the Thursday Epistle for the location on October 28th.

Save the Date!!

Saturday, November 16: Minneapolis Area Synod's 2024 EcoFaith Summit will be held at University Lutheran Church of Hope. Watch for details to come.

October Calendar of Events

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| | | 1 11:00am - 12:00pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Prog. 6:00pm - 8:00pm Parents of PEASE 6:30pm - 7:15pm Personnel Committee 7:15pm - 8:30pm Executive Committee | 2 Office Hours 9-2 8:00am - 8:40am Centering Prayer on Zoom 7:00pm – Choir Rehearsal | 3 Office Hours 9-2 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:00pm - 8:00pm Men of Hope | 4 Office Hours 9-2 11:00am - 1:00pm Leona Reyelts Memorial Service (Visitation starting at 10am - Luncheon following 3:00pm - 9:00pm Baking Hope Bread Bake Event 4:30pm - 10:15pm P.E.A.S.E. after school Program | 5 Baking Hope Bread Bake Event Gophers vrs. USC TBA 3:30pm - 5:00pm Wild Church - Father Hennepin Park |
| 6 9:30am - 10:20am Sunday Forum 10:30am - 11:30am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube | 7 Office Hours 9-2 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 6:00pm - 8:00pm Parents of PEASE support group | 8 Office Hours 9-2 11:00am - 12:00pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Prog. | 9 Office Hours 9-2 8:00am - 8:40am Centering Prayer on Zoom 6:00pm - 8:00pm Facilities Team 7:00pm – Choir Rehearsal | 10 Office Hours 9-2 9:30am - 11:30am Dorcas Circle 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group | 11 Office Hours 9-2 5:30pm - 6:30pm Robinson-Greiveldinger Rehearsal (time TBD) 7:00pm - 10:00pm Craft Group | 12 3:00pm - 4:00pm Robinson-Greiveldinger Wedding 5:00pm - 9:00pm Wedding Reception |
| 13 9:30am - 10:20am Sunday Forum 10:30am - 11:30am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube | 14 Office Hours 9-2 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters | 15 Office Hours 9-2 The Visitor Articles Due 11:00am - 12:00pm Staff Meeting 4:00pm - 5:30pm Sanctuary Coalition Meeting 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Prog. 5:00pm - 8:30pm PEASE Conferences 6:30pm - 8:00pm Vision & Governance Board | 16 Office Hours 9-2 8:00am - 8:40am Centering Prayer on Zoom 12:30pm - 2:00pm Hope Diamonds 7:00pm – Choir Rehearsal | 17 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:00pm - 8:00pm Men of Hope | 18 | 19 |
| 20 9:30am - 10:20am Sunday Forum 10:30am - 11:30am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube | 21 Office Hours 9-2 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters | 22 Office Hours 9-2 11:00am - 12:00pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm - 9:30pm PEASE After School Prog. 7:00pm - 8:30pm Racial Justice Team | 23 Office Hours 9-2 8:00am - 8:40am Centering Prayer on Zoom 7:00pm – Choir Rehearsal | 24 Office Hours 9-2 4:30pm - 9:15pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Sanctuary and Immigration Team on Zoom | 25 Office Hours 9-2 | 26 Gophers vrs. Maryland TBA 10:00am - 12:00pm Oblates group - Chapel and Lounge |
| 27 9:30am - 10:20am Sunday Forum 10:30am - 11:30am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 12:00pm - 2:00pm Compassion Care Luncheon | 28 Office Hours 9-2 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 6:30pm - 8:00pm Bible & Brews (location TBD) | 29 Office Hours 9-2 11:00am - 12:00pm Staff Meeting 2:00pm - 5:00pm Nathan - LCM Soup prep 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Prog. | 30 Office Hours 9-2 8:00am - 8:40am Centering Prayer on Zoom 7:00pm – Choir Rehearsal | 31 Office Hours 9-2 4:30pm - 10:00pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group | | |

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

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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Rev. Maria Anderson-Lippert

Music:

Maureen Armstrong

Church Administrator:

Nathan Obrestad

Financial Administrator:

Kari Olson

Custodian:

Geremew Beshah

Sunday Opener/Closer, Worship Tech:

Seth Strudthoff

Working in partnership with Lutheran Campus Ministry:

Rev. Kate Reuer Welton

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