

Complex world. Thoughtful church.



2024 Annual Meeting is on February 9th, 2025
Sandwich bar starting after worship at 11:30 am
Annual Meeting starts at 12:00 pm
in fellowship hall

Please send in photo's of Hope events and members. We love to be able to include more photo's in the Visitor newsletter and website. Send pics to <mailto:photo@ulch.org>. Please include a description of the event and the date. Thank you!

Complex Call Process, Thoughts for the Interim

The Transition Team is nearing the end of its work, so this month we offer a combined update:

The Call Committee is being organized and is expected to be named and offered for a congregation vote at our Annual Meeting, following worship on Sunday, February 9. Please plan to come to this important meeting.

A Prayer Team for the Call Process is also being organized. We'd love to have a few more pray-ers for this group. If you'd like to include the call process, the interviews, and the next lead pastor in your regular check-ins with God, please let us know.

The entire congregation is invited to a call process conversation with **Pastor John Hulden, Assistant to the Bishop** of the Minneapolis Area Synod on **Sunday, February 23, following worship**. This is one of many important ways the Minneapolis Area Synod offers support and guidance to ULCH as you move through the call process. Come ready to share your thoughts about the relationship you'd like to have with your next lead pastor!

In the waning weeks of February, the Transition Team expects to wrap up its work and fully hand off the next phase of the interim process to the Call Committee. Please thank these wonderful, hard workers: Ann Agrimson, Britta Anderson-Peery, Interim Pastor Susan Debner, Uli Koester, and Dan McLellan.

In Hope and with hope, Interim Pastor Susan Debner and Ann Agrimson; Chair of transition team

Being Prayerful and Connected People



I have a practice of waking up earlier than anyone else in my house to read a novel while drinking my morning coffee. A couple of weeks ago when I walked into the kitchen to make my coffee, the moon was shining so brightly through the windows that I could see the shadows of the trees on my kitchen floor. I was filled with both awe and humility - simply by noticing the light of the full moon on a dark morning.

We are living through an immensely tense, anxious, and stressful time within our congregational life, nationally, and globally with the ongoing climate crisis. Some of us are also navigating health issues, caring for ailing loved ones, facing the realities of grief, and so much more. And while we all respond to stressors in a variety of ways, we live in a culture that often gives us unhelpful messages in these times: work harder, buy stuff, do more. Contrary to these messages, however, our scriptures and faith practices encourage us to pray, to connect, to be present to what is - to slow down.

What are you noticing these days? Are there practices or rhythms in your life that already sustain you through anxiety and stress? Are there relationships or places within creation that help you to feel grounded and present? As we move through this season of Epiphany and prepare for the season of Lent, you are invited to slow down, to pay attention. Let us not underestimate the power of being prayerful and connected people, grounded in the grace of God.

Rev. Maria Anderson-Lippert

Thank You From the Dant Family

My siblings and I wish to extend our deepest gratitude to all who attended the Esther Dant Memorial Service, and especially to Pat Frolen, Coordinator, and those who supported the service with their many efforts - the set up crew, bakers, servers, and clean up crew. It was a wonderful, meaningful celebration of our mom, and our friends and family were warmly welcomed by the congregation.

Peace and Love to All, Jack Dant

Worship and Music

February 2: Music led by the Hope Choir

February 8: Conference Assemblies of the Minneapolis Area Synod, are Saturday morning, February 8. These are the first steps in preparing agendas and raising questions, joys, and concerns for our shared work across the synod. If you would like to know more about these gatherings, or have motions for consideration at Synod Assembly in May, please talk with Pastor Susan about getting involved in this aspect of the greater Church.

February 9: Music led by the ULCHers band

February 16: Music led by the Hope Choir – Preacher Hannah Loeffler-Kemp from Gather.

February 23: Music led by the Hope Choir and ULCHers band – Preacher Hannah Campbell Gustafson from Mental Health Connect.

All Congregation Conversation: Sunday, February 23 following worship We welcome **Pastor John Hulden, Assistant to the Bishop** of the Minneapolis Area Synod who joins us for an open conversation about the call process and the hopes and dreams we share for the next lead pastor.

March 5: Lent begins with Ash Wednesday worship at 7 p.m.

From the Minister of Worship and Music Paul Stever

We have an especially long Epiphany season this year with Lent and Easter so late into the spring. While we enjoy Epiphany's themes and music especially about light and God's love for all, I'd also be glad to hear your favorite memories and experiences from past years' Lent and Holy Week. There are so many special practices and worship experiences in these upcoming seasons, including more evening worship opportunities beginning March 5, which can be so rich with images and metaphors from nighttime and rest, in addition to Lenten themes and remembrances.

Early last year, Elwyn Alexander Fraser Junior composed and produced a new song, "Stars Within", for the 2024 "Night Songs" concert held here at University Lutheran Church of Hope. Later in the year, he was then awarded a major grant for a "Love & Light" concert performance of multiple similar works to occur on Saturday February 15, 3-4 p.m. and Sunday February 16, 7-8 p.m. at First Baptist Church in St Paul MN.

This will be a truly family-friendly, musically uplifting, and inclusively inspiring social-emotional concert experience:

- spanning 3 types of ensembles (including 2 from University Baptist Church)
- journeying through 4 new dynamic songs (including "[Stars Within](#)" and "[Our Hearts Will Sing On](#)")
- and giving audiences the chance to interact with professional musicians and their instruments!

For tickets and more information, see the event link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/10th-wave-presents-love-light-tickets-1019354054417>

Paul Stever, Minister of Worship and Music

Wild Church Gathering

February 8, 2-3:30 p.m., Nicollet Island Inn. Join with your human and creation community to remember our relationship and connection with one another. This month we are partnering with First Congregation and University Baptist for a time of listening and connection. Contact Pr. Maria (mariaa@ulch.org) with any questions.



Hope Birthdays

This Birthday list of Hope's members and friends includes those who are 80 years and older, in addition to some who may be home-bound, residing in assisted living, or a care center. You can find their contact info the ULCH directory. Cards, notes and phone calls are always appreciated! (We have no March birthdays)



February Birthdays

February 3rd – Paul Quie – 100!

February 7th – CJ Robinson

February 7th – Steve Schreuder



Children's Ministry

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

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, beginning to think about how we connect our faith to the rest of our lives.

There will be no Sunday School on February 16th due to the President's Day Weekend.

If you are not already receiving emails (they don't come too often), contact Pr. Maria to get on the list. You can also contact Pr. Maria (mariaa@ulch.org) with any questions.



Rev. Maria Anderson-Lippert

Hope Diamonds

Hope Diamonds is our ministry geared towards the most senior members of our community, yet all are welcome to join in this time of fellowship. We will gather on February 19 for a light lunch at 12:30 p.m. before enjoying a simple program together. We will conclude around 2:00 p.m. Rides can be arranged for those who need them! Contact Pastor Maria (mariaa@ulch.org) with questions.

February Forums

February 2: Treasurer's report by Ruth Hedman.

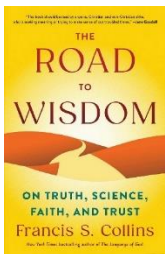
February 9: No forum due to annual meeting.

February 16: PACODES - Come here the remarkable story of PACODES, a non-profit engaged in community development and literacy work in South Sudan since 2007. Founded by Justin Machien Luoi in Fargo—Moorhead, PACODES is a heartening story of hope, peace, and community-building amidst unimaginable violence and tragedy. It is an exciting and uplifting philanthropic chapter in the wider saga of the Lost Boys and Girls of southern Sudan. Presenter Rick Chapman is a founding member of the organization.

February 23: To be announced in the Thursday Epistle

Hope Book Club

Sunday, February 9th, 7 p.m. Via Zoom



The Road to Wisdom: On Truth, Science, Faith, and Trust, by Francis S. Collins.

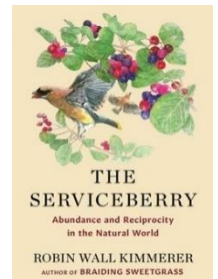
"From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Language of God* and former director of the National Institutes of Health, a deeply thoughtful guidebook to get us beyond politics and societal divisions and back to the sources of wisdom--"the sort that can save us before it is too late" (Jane Goodall). In *The Road to Wisdom*, Francis Collins reminds us of the four core sources of judgement and clear thinking: truth, science, faith, and trust." www.amazon.com

Mar. 9: *The Serviceberry*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer, the author of *Braiding Sweetgrass*.

"A bold and inspiring vision for how to orient our lives around gratitude, reciprocity, and community, based on the lessons of the natural world." McNally Robinson Bookseller.

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

"A book must be the ax for the frozen sea within us." Franz Kafka



Young Adult Ministry – February 16 Worship and Meal



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

ULCH Member Meetings to Discuss Our Land Acknowledgement and Beyond

ULCH Racial Justice Team will hold three meetings in February 2025 to gather input from the Hope congregation on our Land Acknowledgement (“LA”) which will lead to a revised LA. Those meetings will be held during different times and days of the week to make it available for a wide variety of Hope members: **Saturday afternoon on 2/1/25; after church on 2/2 or 2/16[watch Thursday Epistle]; and by Zoom in the evening on 2/6/25.** The planned agenda for each meeting will be: (1) Intro on what we plan to do at the meeting; (2) History of LA in the ELCA and ULCH; (3) Current LA language at Hope; (4) Break into small groups for discussion; (5) Have each group share the thoughts from the groups.

Thanks! Sonja Peterson

February President’s Report: You’ll Never Be Alone

“**You’ll Never Be Alone**” were the words of encouragement a trusted Hope leader gave me when my name was placed in nomination for leadership. As she explained, and I can thoroughly attest, Hope lay leadership is the teamwork of officers, the Vision & Governance Board, and committee members - all who keep a watchful eye and dream of what yet might be. “Therefore, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us ... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” (Hebrews 12:1) Soon leaving the presidency, I am grateful that, by the grace of God, together in our corner of the beloved community, we have fulfilled our pledge to faithfully love, serve, and pray for University Lutheran Church of Hope. During our installation, you were asked, “People of God, do you promise to support our leaders with your blessings and prayers?” On that day, and every day, grace upon grace, and yet more grace (John 1:16 adapted), your kind words and willingness to pitch in have been a gift. Thank you.

Hope Doing the Next Right Thing: walking out in faith, next steps in transition time will be the fellowship meal and Annual Meeting (in person and zoom) following worship on February 9th, when we will elect new officers, including the very capable John Pignatello, to whom I will pass the president’s gavel. We will receive reports of Hope’s many and varied ministries that bear witness to God’s love in the world, review the budget – the plan for our faithful stewardship of financial resources – and elect the committee to call a lead pastor. Consistent with Hope’s By-Laws, as Past President, I will serve as chair of the call committee. And now, hearts together, a prayer:

Equipping God, give us new eyes to see your vision and ears to hear your plan for this community of faith. Bless us with courage and kindness, patience and tenacity, good humor and great hope, so that *together we are able to do immeasurably more than we could have asked for or imagined on our own.* Amen

- Rev. Meta Herrick Carlson, [Say It Plain: Words for Worship and Life Together](#)

Linda Herman, Congregational President

Treasurer’s Report

The financial reports are being prepared and will be distributed at the Annual Congregation Meeting.

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. We especially pray for Jacob Lanthier and Kenzie Krause at the birth of Cecily.

Marriages—We pray for all those preparing for marriage, and for all relationships of commitment.

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 this month with the families of Sally French and Esther Dant whose funerals were held at Hope in January. We pray with Ruth Hedman at the loss of her father, Gordon; John and Sharlene Hensrud at the loss of John's brother Neil; Uli Koester and Beth Kautz at the death of Uli's mother, Gisela Koester; and the family of Brad Paulsen, close friend of Tim Speidel and Carol Clifford; and the family of Dick Luedtke.

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, 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.

The Women's Retreat is changing dates to March 28-29, 2025 Using the Newly Remodeled Kitchenette and Lounge

Women's Retreat, March 28-29, 2025: "Awe and Wonder"

Created for, Calling out, and Cultivating Practices of Awe and Wonder

Registration Begins March 2, 2025

Friday March 28 - Saturday March 29. Join us on site at University Lutheran Church of Hope.

Join Pastor Ashley Osborn and women of University Lutheran Church of Hope as we discern, discuss, and discover the ways Awe and Wonder shape our lives, our bodies, our relationships, and our connection to the Divine. We will spend time understanding the science of awe and wonder, the moments of awe and wonder, and developing practices to keep awe and wonder a part of our spiritual development.

Pastor Ashley serves as pastor at Valley of Peace Lutheran Church and is the spouse of Jon Osborn and the parent to two young children. Pastor Ashley values wholeheartedness and belonging and you can usually find her by following the sound of laughter.



The Schedule - Friday Night 5-9 p.m. - Dinner Provided at 6:30 - Pastor Ashley will also join us on Friday.

Community building with no set agenda. Time for dinner, fun, games, crafts, etc. Return home for a good night's sleep!

Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (coffee & munchies provided; or bring a snack to share)

- 9:00 - 12:30 Group introductions and the morning session.
- 12:30 - Lunch - Bring Your Own!
- 1:30 - 4:00 We'll have opportunities for additional theme-related discussions, quiet reflection, labyrinth walk, crafting (prayer shawls & prayer squares), and hand massages. We will not be offering body massages.

Fill out a registration/payment form here - <https://forms.gle/YgWSpJUK5hRu39Su8> Stay Tuned. We will continue to share updates in the Thursday Epistle and through direct emails to the Women of Hope.

Questions? Ann Beane spirit.beane@gmail.com or Beáta Rydeen beatarydeen@comcast.net

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 6:30pm to 8:00pm. Watch the Thursday Epistle or contact the church office for location.

February 2025 Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 5:30am - 2:30pm Baking Hope Bread Team 9:30am - 11:30am Pickup Basketball 2:30pm - 4:00pm Land Acknowledgement Meeting
2 9:30am - 10:20am Hope Choir 10:30am - 11:30am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 12:00pm – 2:00pm Confirmation mini retreat	3 Office Hours 9am-2pm 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 12:00pm - 2:00pm Spiritual Support Group 6:00pm - 8:00pm Parents of PEASE support group - 206P	4 Office Hours 9am-2pm 10:00am-12:00pm Lounge Refurb Team 11:00am - 12:00pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm - 9:15pm PEASE After School 6:00pm - 8:00pm Parents of PEASE 6:30pm - 7:15pm Personnel Comm 7:15pm - 8:30pm Executive Comm	5 Office Hours 9am-2pm 8:00am - 8:40am Centering Prayer on Zoom 7:00pm - 8:30pm Hope Choir	6 Office Hours 9am-2pm 10:30am - 2:00pm Central Conference Pastors 4:30pm - 6:00pm Compassion Care 4:30pm - 9:00pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Land Acknowledgement Meeting	7 Office Hours 9am-2pm	8 9:00am - 5:00pm Kitchen Reserved 9:30am - 11:30am Pickup Basketball 2:00pm – 3:30pm Wild Church
9 9:30am - 10:15am ULCHers rehearsal 10:30am - 11:30am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 12:00pm - 1:00pm Congregational Meeting	10 Office Hours 9am-2pm 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 12:00pm - 2:00pm Spiritual Support Group 6:30pm - 8:00pm 2PAC Meeting	11 Office Hours 9am-2pm 9:00am - 4:00pm Organ tuning 11:00am - 12:00pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Prog.	12 Office Hours 9am-2pm 8:00am - 8:40am Centering Prayer on Zoom 6:00pm - 8:00pm Facilities Team 7:00pm - 8:30pm Hope Choir	13 Office Hours 9am-2pm 9:30am - 11:30am Dorcas Circle 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group	14 Office Hours 9am-2pm 7:00pm - 10:00pm Craft Group	15 9:30am - 11:30am Pickup Basketball
16 9:30am - 10:20am Hope Choir 10:30am - 11:30am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 12:00pm - 1:30pm Land Acknowledgement Meeting w/pizza	17 Office Hours 9am-2pm 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 12:00pm - 2:00pm Spiritual Support Group	18 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	19 Office Hours 9am-2pm 8:00am - 8:40am Centering Prayer on Zoom 12:30pm - 2:00pm Hope Diamonds 7:00pm - 8:30pm Hope Choir	20 Office Hours 9am-2pm 1:00pm - UASC 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group	21 4:00pm-9:00pm LCM Board of Directors meeting Office Hours 9am-2pm	22 8:00am-5:00pm LCM Board of Directors meeting 9:30am - 11:30am Pickup Basketball
23 9:30am - 10:20am Hope Choir 10:30am - 11:30am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 11:30 – Call process conversation with John Hulden 12:30pm Call committee orientation w/John Hulden 1:00pm - 3:30pm Embodied Antiracism Cohort	24 Office Hours 9am-2pm 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 12:00pm - 2:00pm Spiritual Support Group 6:30pm - 8:00pm Bible & Brews (location TBD)	25 Office Hours 9am-2pm 11:00am - 12:00pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Prog. 7:00pm - 8:30pm Racial Justice Team	26 Office Hours 9am-2pm 8:00am - 8:40am Centering Prayer on Zoom 7:00pm - 8:30pm Hope Choir	27 Office Hours 9am-2pm 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Hopeful Hope Team	28 Baking Hope Bread Team Office Hours 9am-2pm	

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.
601 – 13th Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414 ✉ Tel. 612-331-5988 ✉ Fax 612-623-0693 ✉ www.ulch.org

Staff

Pastors:

Rev. Susan Debner
Rev. Maria Anderson-Lippert

Minister of Worship & Music:

Paul Stever

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

Vision and Governance Board

President:

Linda Herman

Vice President:

John Pignatello

Past President:

Ann Agrimson

Treasurer:

Ruth Hedman

Leadership Development &

Communications:

Linda Herman

Ann Agrimson

Operations:

Ruth Hedman

John Pignatello

Worship & Music:

Micki Kruse

Youth & Young Adults:

Zach Rau

Education:

Paige Whitney

Hope in the World:

Sheila Hougen

Relational Ministries:

Deb Bordsen

Board Secretary:

Karen Jorstad

Printed on 100% recycled paper.
30% post-consumer waste.



UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF HOPE
601 13th Avenue SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414-1437
Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Twin Cities,
Minnesota
Permit No. 944