



The Visitor



September 2015

Issue #9-15

Complex world. Thoughtful church.

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*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 the world.*

Help Hope Celebrate Students' Return

3rd Annual Welcome Back University Students!

Hope's 3rd Annual Welcome Back University Students festival kicks off right after the worship service on September 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. In recognition of Hope's relationship with Lutheran Campus Ministry, LCM's Chaplain Kate Reuer Welton will preach that Sunday. Back by popular demand will be the Kabomelette Food Truck (featuring sandwiches that are "egg-centric", paired with kabobs), neighborhood organizations, transportation and environmental information booths, the Minneapolis Police Department 2nd District Crime/Safety Officer, our own student welcome table, and more. And of course we'll make full use of our 13th Avenue Dinkytown front porch – our patio –with live music!

To find out more about how you can share your time and talent with Hope's student and neighborhood open house, stop by the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings between now and September 13. Help is needed in these areas: event set up/take down; registration; student outreach; publicity/social media; entertainment; environmental education, and more.

For more information, contact John Bablitch at mplsafb@gmail.com or (612)798-1865.

Book Sale!

Yes, we will be having a used book sale on Sunday September 13, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. It is a fun event for all ages. Please corral any extra books you have and bring them over. You can bring books on Sunday September 6 before or after worship, or Saturday September 12 after 1 p.m. to room 102. Proceeds will go to Lutheran Campus Ministries.

Please call or email Ruth Fingerson at (651)633-5316 or Rfingerson@comcast.net to volunteer for any of those times or ask questions. We may need help on Friday September 11, too. Thank you!

Open Streets Day on University Avenue

What? No cars? That's it: no cars, no buses...instead biking, blading, walking, running, chatting with friends, yoga on the street, neighbors, info, music. On Saturday September 12, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., a section of University Avenue and surrounding streets will hit pause and the people will hit the streets. John Bablitch and others plan to be at Open Streets representing University Lutheran Church of Hope and welcoming students and others to our Welcome Back Students event on September 13. Enjoy the open streets. Talk with John if you want to help out. More information is at www.openstreetsmpls.org/university

Treasurer's Report for July 2015

July giving was \$32,936.93 and our rental income was \$4,589.27 for total income of \$37,526.20. Our rental income was \$3,026.87 under budget and our giving was \$3,779.40 under budget. Total Income was \$6,806.27 under budget. We are \$4,698.74 under budget for the year. Our expenses in July were \$30,604.44. The budget for July expenses was \$40,054.86 which put us under budget by \$9,450.42. Our net income for July was \$6,921.76. Net income for the year to date is \$2,888.75.

PEASE Academy renewed their lease with us and is using additional space in the building. Rooms 201/202 are currently being prepared for a new classroom. Room 101 is being painted and new carpet and rubber base will be installed. The work in 201/202 is at PEASE's expense. University Lutheran Church of Hope is paying for the work in room 101, as it will be leased by PEASE but used by our Families Moving Forward guests. We are grateful to partner with PEASE as it provides us with rental income and utilizes the building resources during the week.

Thank you again, for your gifts financially, and in all the other ways you contribute to the life and health of this congregation, as it serves the community here in Southeast Minneapolis, and around the world. It is wonderful to see our members contribute not just their financial resources, but all of the volunteer hours that make this congregation a vibrant and thoughtful presence in the community.

July 2015 and Year-to-Date Income and Expenses						
Summary	July Actual	July Budget	July Over / (Under)	Year to date Actual to 7.31	Year to Date Budget to 7.31	Year to Date O/(U) to 7.31
General Giving	32,936.93	36,716.33	(3,779.40)	250,757.55	254,064.31	(3,306.76)
Rental Income	4,589.27	7,616.14	(3,026.87)	57,846.00	59,237.98	(1,391.98)
Total Income	37,526.20	44,332.47	(6,806.27)	308,603.55	313,302.29	(4,698.74)
Total Expense	30,604.44	40,054.86	(9,450.42)	313,263.01	320,850.50	(7,587.49)
Net Income	6,921.76	4,277.61	2,644.15	(4,659.46)	(7,548.21)	2,888.75

Total income for Hope for the Future campaign in July was \$11,262.36. Thank you once again to all of you who pledged to the Hope for the Future campaign. In July we paid out \$6,918.89 for the mortgage and received \$209.16 for building improvements from PEASE Academy. Net income was \$4,552.63. Our building fund balance is \$282,873.00. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at treasurer@ulch.org.

Tim Abrahamson
Treasurer

Young Adults at the U

Are you a young adult (student or not) in the vicinity of the U? Seeking community? Good conversation? We're teaming up with Grace University Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry for some regular Thursday evening events. The focus will vary (pub theology with big questions and hot topics, beer and hymns, storytelling). Watch the bulletin and Thursday Epistle for details. Thursdays 9/17, 10/8, 11/13, and 12/10, all at 7:30 p.m., location TBA. Questions? Talk with Pastor Jen (jenn@ulch.org).

Getting to Know One Another

Thank you for your warm welcome. I am so glad to be here at University Lutheran Church of Hope and serving as your Lead Pastor. As I write, it is my 10th day at Hope. Someone joked that in some fields those first days would be filled with orientation and details with the HR department. Beginning a call in a new congregation is a little less structured. That's the beauty and grace of beginnings, and also the craziness.

I'm at once learning names and faces, and hearing what is important to you. I'm at once finding my way around the building, absorbing significant history, and finding the Kleenex. I'm at once hearing from you where we've been, where we're at, and dreaming with you and our congregational leaders about God's mission for what is to come.

So, the transitions right now are significant: Pastor Shirley's retirement and my arrival, Luke Tegtmeier's move and our search for a new Director of Music and Worship, Diane Shallue's coming retirement celebration on October 11, and some important discernment about our mission and how to staff for it. There is so much for which to be grateful, and I admit it, that's a lot of transition. Thank you for your faithfulness and support through all this transition. Please, keep our congregation in your prayers as we seek the Spirit's wisdom and move forward. In times like this, we need to be ever more vigilant with one another: watching out for people we haven't seen lately, making that extra phone call or sending a note, seeking care when needed. Don't hesitate to be in touch.

My spouse, Jane McBride, is the pastor at First Congregational Church (UCC), just across 35W at 5th Street and 8th Avenue SE. She has served there for 5½ years. Obviously, Jane can't make it to worship at Hope most Sundays; however, she will be here on September 20 for my installation, and will come for as many special activities as possible. She cares deeply for our congregation. Some of you have met our girls. Eliza is 6 years old and beginning 1st grade in north Minneapolis where we live; Alice is 23 months old. We are grateful for the blessing of grandparents, friends, and a great day care center. On Sunday mornings you'll see the girls with Bernadette; she's our "Sunday Nanny" and brings them to one church or the other each Sunday (she's also a fabulous kindergarten teacher). I hope you'll get to know the kids and Bernadette, too.

In these first months, I'd love to get to know you. I'd value a chance to join any Hope group or committee for a gathering. Please let me know if there's a time I could come. I'm also arranging for some other get-to-know-you gatherings and if you'd like to host one (at your home or a local coffee shop, etc.), let me know.

One of my favorite prayers is found in the ELW (pages 304 and 317 – yes, twice, in both morning *and* evening prayer, consider that!). I pray it here and now, ten days in at Hope, and it fits:

Gracious God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

This is the season for new beginnings around church, but also in our lives, and across the university campus. You and your family are in my prayers, and I ask for your prayers. Thank you again for your hospitality and welcome, and your commitment to God and to this congregation. I look forward to getting to know each of you!



Pastor Jen

FAITH FORMATION NEWS



Faith Formation for All Ages on Sunday Mornings

Note new time! Education programs will begin at 9: 15 a.m. starting September 27.

New Music Focus: A survey of parents, two focus groups, and much discussion led the Children's Ministry Team to add more music to the children's program on Sunday mornings. Singing connects to our spiritual selves in new ways. Godly Play students will have music time once a month. Creation Stations students will have music every Sunday beginning at 9:15 a.m. Once a month the Creation Stations music time will be extended to the full period with time to play Orff and other rhythm instruments, led by Rosalie Eldevik.

Nursery: Clair Gustafson supervises the youngest members in the nursery on the second floor of the education wing.

Godly Play

Classes for children ages three through six are held on Sunday mornings in room 103. Godly Play creates sacred space to hear and learn Bible stories using objects and play. Students and teachers wonder together and then children are encouraged to respond to the stories on their own terms using art materials. The structure of the Godly Play lesson models worship, with: Gathering Time, Hearing the Story/Word, Response Time/Offering, and Feast/Communion. The teachers are Madhu Bhat and Sara Tufvesson Doure, with helper Stephanie Struthers. We are looking for three more helpers for this team.



September 27 lesson: Creation

Creation Stations

Creation Stations

The goal of Creation Stations is to learn about the Bible through hands-on activities such as drama, cooking, crafts, music, and games. Fun and learning about the Bible can go together! These classes are for students in grades 1-6.

Teachers for grades 1-2 are Kristine Robinson and Tori Simenec. We are looking for one more person for this teaching team.

Teachers for grades 3-6 are Arthur French and Sonja Peterson. We are looking for one more person for this teaching team.

September 27 lesson: Creation



Confirmation

Sunday classes meet at 9:15 a.m. in Room 203-204 with Kirsten Mebust beginning on September 27. The Wednesday night class time has not yet been set.



Youth Group

Youth Group meets on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:25 a.m. in the Youth Room beginning on September 27. The discussion will focus on topics of interest to the group. All students in grades 9-12 are welcome.



Adult Forums

(9:15-10:25 a.m. in Heritage Hall, below the Sanctuary)

September 27: Poverty in the Suburbs. More Americans now live in poverty in suburbs than in cities, in the Twin Cities and across the US. When did this happen, and why? How does suburban poverty compare to urban poverty, for those who live it and those who try to reduce it? Scott Hvizdos will present information based on research from the Brookings Institution and the Metropolitan Council, with perspective from his role as program director of Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People, a Bloomington-based agency that runs the largest food shelf in Minnesota.



Teacher Orientation and Safeguarding God's Children Training

Sunday morning teacher and helper orientation will be held on Tuesday, September 15 from 6 to 7 p.m. with supper provided. The orientation will be followed by Safeguarding God's Children training from 7 to 8 p.m. All who work with children or youth at University Lutheran Church of Hope are required by the congregation's Child Protection Policy to attend this training every three years. The same training will be offered Wednesday, September 16 from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. – come to either session. Please contact Shelly Parry, Children's Ministry Team chair, with questions. Copies of the Child Protection Policy are in the church library on the checkout table.

Discover Your Strengths

What do you do best? When do you function in that "sweet spot"? Here is a great opportunity to discover the personal strengths with which God has gifted you, using information from the StrengthsFinder 2.0 survey. In this workshop you will gain insights into how to enhance the gifts you use in all aspects of your life – at work, at home, and at church. If you have already attended one of these workshops, you are welcome to attend again. Copies of *Living Your Strengths* are available in the church library.



Date: Tuesday, September 22

Time: 6-9:00 p.m. Supper provided.

Facilitator: Beata Rydeen, MA, Life Coach, and Hope member

Note: Reservations are needed but there is no fee; this workshop is sponsored by a grant from the Hope Church Trust. Attendees need to take the on-line StrengthsFinder 2.0 survey and bring the results to the workshop. If interested in attending the workshop or in taking the Strengths Finder 2.0 survey, please contact Diane Shallue at dianes@ulch.org

Birth to Five Lunch and Social

Bring your children and yourself to a chili lunch after church on September 27 at 11:40 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. There will also be chicken nuggets, corn chips, fruit, and vegetables for the little ones. Paul Odenbach will entertain the children with his guitar while parents talk. A great way to make connections and take care of lunch before nap time. We hope to see you there. Questions? RSVP to Melissa Odenbach at mschult1@umn.edu

Farewell from Diane Shallue

"Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, Rejoice." Philippians 4:4

Like Paul, I am rejoicing for many reasons. I am rejoicing at the wonderful 11 years of working with you to spread the good news about the love and forgiveness of God. We have laughed and cried, sung and danced, pondered and questioned together. We are the body of Christ – the hands, feet, ears, and voice reaching out to one another, to the community, and to God. I am rejoicing about a change of focus for my ministry. By now you may have heard about my pending retirement. My last Sunday at University Lutheran Church of Hope will be October 11. My retirement plans are to spend more time with my Dad, travel with my husband, play with grandchildren, and hopefully do more teaching on topics related to faith formation. We can rejoice together that God continues to use me and you and this congregation in many different ways!

Diane E. Shallue
Associate in Ministry

Join a Hope Connections Small Group!



Small Groups will begin in October. Each group meets in homes for 4-6 meetings over 3-6 months. The purpose of these groups is to connect with others and grow in our relationship with God. You will get to know other people in a more meaningful way than a brief “Hello, how are you?” on Sunday morning. You will be able to explore faith questions in a safe, confidential environment. Join a group! Fill out a form on Sunday morning in September at the Welcome Center or contact a member of the Hope Connections Task Force: John Beane (chair), Randy Brooks, Bernice Davenport, Sarah Gomez, Alden Tetlie, and Paige Whitney. There are two options for Bible study: “Seeking Home, Seeking God,” written by John Beane, follows people of the Bible who are “seeking home and seeking God” – Abraham, Ruth, David, Jacob, Esther, and Jesus’ disciples. We will examine how these pilgrims sought God in the places where they journeyed. Their concept of home, family, and community are closely bound to their close, intimate relationship to God, and God blesses them to be a blessing to others. The other Bible study option is “Isaiah Speaks,” based on the book by that name, written by Merrill Morse.

Senior Group Gatherings Resume September 16

University Lutheran Church of Hope Seniors are beginning another great year of monthly gatherings with enriching and entertaining programs and good fellowship, food and fun. Our first gathering on September 16 will begin with noon lunch in Fellowship Hall. Make reservations for the meal with your caller or Pastor Dant at (612)331-5988 x818 by Thursday, September 10.



The 1 p.m. program, “Journey down the River,” will be presented by our good friend Doug Ohman. If this sounds familiar, it is! We started our journey last September when Doug took us on an armchair cruise down 400 river miles of the Mississippi from northern Minnesota to River Falls. Now we will continue our journey from River Falls to the Minnesota-Iowa border, as he shares beauty and history through his striking photos and stories. He will highlight many points of interest such as the river cities of Red Wing and Winona.

All seniors, retirees, and persons of any age are cordially invited. Come, and invite friends. Everyone is welcome. If you can’t attend the lunch, you are always welcome to come to the program. If you have questions or need transportation, please call Leona Reyelts at (612)378-2444. Our gatherings are usually held the third Wednesday of the month. Watch the *Visitor* for future dates, programs, and activities, and plan to participate.

Homecoming Sunday September 27



It’s been a busy summer, and Hope members and friends have been on the move – traveling, at the cabin, working hard, re-creating. On Sunday, September 27, we welcome our homebound members and our whole community for Homecoming Sunday. We’ll kick off the program year, welcome visitors, and catch up with beloved community. Welcome Home!

We will resume our schedule of two worship services (8:30 a.m. in the Chapel and 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary), with Education Hour for all ages 9:15-10:15 a.m. The Friendly Visitors will host the third annual Homecoming for our Homebound at 9:30 a.m., in the lounge. All homebound members are invited to attend. This event has been well received in the past and has meant a lot to those who were able to participate. Please join us to visit and welcome back these faithful members whose presence is missed at our worship services. If you or anyone you know would like attend but need transportation, please contact Pastor Dant at (612)331-5988 or Rosalie Eldevik at (651)644-0287.

A Memento from the 2015 ELCA National Youth Gathering

July 12-15 the youth group and I were privileged to present to the congregation an account of our time in Detroit with the ELCA National Youth Gathering. Several youth group members shared particular memories or experiences that meant so much to them. Since this big event comes only every three years, I wanted to take a little more time to talk about it, and I want to do that by sharing a memory of my own.



The moment that sticks most clearly in my mind was the night we heard from Pastor Steve Jerbi at Ford Field. This pastor came to the stage to talk to us about a particular young black man who once attended his church. Pastor Jerbi described this young man, Darius, as one of the best and brightest in his youth group. But there was gravity in Pastor Jerbi's voice, the kind that indicates something horrible happened. He told us that Darius' 75-year-old white neighbor murdered Darius in the street, convinced he was stealing from him. Pastor Jerbi went on to talk about his reaction, Darius' mother's grace-filled, forgiving response, and the pain of having to preach at Darius' funeral. The weight of this story was palpable at Ford Field.

But very quickly the mood shifted. The gravity still remained in Pastor Jerbi's voice, but it turned from a tone of somber desperation to serious hopefulness. He began to explain that nothing but the name of Jesus sustained his church community, nothing but the name of Jesus allowed Darius' mother to forgive, nothing but the name of Jesus turned him and his church toward anti-racist activism. As his sermon reached its climax, something electrifying happened in the crowd of 30,000 youth and adults. We simultaneously realized that applauding with our hands was not enough. Suddenly thunder erupted inside Ford Field as 30,000 people began to pound the backs of stadium chairs in support of Pastor Jerbi's awesome faith. That thunder accompanied shouts, "We. Claim. Jesus." You could almost hold the hopefulness in your hands. In spite of the horrors we all know exist in our world, we were able to feel the hope that comes with the name of Jesus through Steve Jerbi's preaching.

This moment sticks with me because I felt connected to 30,000 other people. I was excited, to be sure, but also deeply reflective. This moment embodied what the Youth Gathering is all about: an experience of Jesus, deep-seated faith, exposure to new ideas, and a call to action all happening at the same time. In that moment we were not just *talking* about encountering Jesus, we were *actually* encountering him.

I want to thank this congregation one more time for all the support you have offered in the past years. We could not have gone to the Gathering without your help; indeed, the Gathering would be pointless if we did not have such a wonderful congregation with which to share our stories. If you are interested in hearing Pastor Steve Jerbi and others from the Gathering, check out the ELCA's YouTube channel for footage of all the Gathering events.

Jim Vitale
Youth Director

Welcome Pastor Jen, Farewell Diane Shallue

On Sunday September 20 during the 10 a.m. worship service, Rev. Jen Nagel will be installed as our Lead Pastor. Minneapolis Area Synod Bishop Ann Svennungsen will be our preacher that Sunday; a festive reception follows worship. The Spirit is on the move and the color for the day is red; please wear your best reds and fire tones (yes, think Pentecost and the Spirit's flames). Thanks to Scott Rohr and the choir for leading our worship in music.

After a long career in ministry including 11 years of faithful service here at University Lutheran Church of Hope, Dr. Diane Shallue will retire at the end of October 2015. We will celebrate her ministry on Sunday, October 11, 2015 during the worship service, followed by a special fellowship meal. Mark your calendars.

Facilities News

Photo: The Facilities Team and friends are busy getting our building in shape for the start of the education year. A number of the spaces in our education wing are used by PEASE Academy, Sunday School, Youth Group, Families Moving Forward, and other groups within and beyond the congregation. Thanks to Tim, John, Fred, and Kathy and others for adding the labor and love!



Thanks to Bryan Kufus for the repair to the sink just inside the kitchen door. Hope had been cited by the city to secure and re-caulk. The Facilities Committee is especially appreciative of contributions like this from Hope members. We have many, many tasks. Thanks for taking one off our list, Bryan.

Thanks also to Garvin Davenport for assisting Gayle with Facilities concerns in our transition times. Garvin oversaw another important item that needed addressing at Hope.

Many of you are aware of ongoing roof discussions at Hope: roofs, roofs, and more roofs. We have many. They age and need replacement. Facilities has begun a comprehensive roof assessment and replacement effort. We want the roofs to last; they are expensive. Our flat roofs are probably our most significant ongoing facility concern and expense. The Chapel will be re-roofed first, beginning in late September or October. We have negotiated for a high quality, 25-year roof at a competitive price. I believe it will last much longer.

Our tenant, PEASE Academy, is proceeding with a planned \$10,000 upgrade to our facility, largely at their expense. PEASE is a valuable asset, with a mission consistent with Hope's. The upgrade includes paint, air conditioning, carpet, and perhaps lighting and furniture in rooms 101, 201-202, and the youth room.

Hope has a large physical plant with many maintenance concerns. Members of our facilities group have given many, many hours of their time. It is a very big job. We are on top of it. We welcome your participation. Come to our committee meetings (2nd Wednesday of each month). Participate; help with our projects. You will feel good about it. Please ask, and we will find a niche, a project, for you.

Craig Nelson

Facilities Co-chair

Life Events at Hope

We hold one another in prayer during the times of deep grief, joy, gratitude, and all the experiences in between. Here at Hope, we intend to include these life events in the *Visitor* monthly, and we invite you to add them to your regular prayers. Here is a compilation from the summer months, June to August. We will try our best to include everyone (members and others close to our community), but we need your help and communication. Thank you! Pastor Jen and the ULCH Staff

Births and Baptisms

We welcome with gratitude...

Cooper Leo Jaede, child of Chris and Katya Jaede, born April 18, 2015, baptized July 19, 2015.

Klara Marie Garduno, child of Karin and Alfonso, grandchild of Jan and Bill Sanden, born August 13, 2015.

Deaths

We extend our sympathy and continued prayers for all who love...

JoAnn Berg Bablitch

Lillian Lien

Charlotte Hawkinson

Sam Clough (grandson of Dick and Zona Koernig)

Winnie Frolen

Charles and Shirley Lewis (parents of Marty Lewis-Hunstiger, grandparents of Gretta Hunstiger)

Donald Elias (brother of Ruth Lundquist)

Marriages

We celebrate these relationships and the God in whose name we make our covenants...

Maddy Kufus and Mike Sachs

Geoffrey Gallop and Patricia Flannery

Gretta Hunstiger and Matt McDonough

Vision & Governance Board

The Vision & Governance Board held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2015. After welcoming Pastor Jen to her first official V&G meeting, we reviewed our schedule and plans for worship, meetings, and events for September and October. Key upcoming events and dates include:

September 13: Welcome Back University Students

September 20: Pastor Jen Nagel's installation

October 3: Board retreat

October 11: Celebration of Diane Shallue's ministry

October 18: Quarterly congregational meeting

We heard and approved the Treasurer's report, and heard reports from the Personnel Committee on the search for a minister of worship and music, and from the Facilities Committee on the chapel roof replacement and the renewal of our contract with PEASE Academy and associated renovations (funded primarily by the Academy and its foundation). We affirmed the standard housing allowance that is part of the pastoral compensation package, and approved creation of a mutual ministry team in support of our lead pastor (suggested by the Synod), to be chaired by Karen Westwood. Our Hope in the World liaison reported on Pastor Amson Hamman's summer visit, plans for the Welcome Back event, and postponement of the fall Hope Forum event.

Doug Hartmann
Congregation Past President

Financial Update Congregational Meeting October 18

There will be a congregational meeting of University Lutheran Church of Hope at 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, October 18, 2015, to provide members with an update on the financial status of the congregation. Please plan to stay after the 10:30 a.m. service that day for this short meeting.

Hope Book Club

MORE GREAT BOOKS FOR 2015 WITH THE HOPE BOOK CLUB:

Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World Through Islamic Eyes

by Tamim Ansary

On September 13 at 7 p.m. in the Hope library, the University Lutheran Church of Hope Book Club will meet to discuss *Destiny Disrupted*, by Tamim Ansary.

"We in the west share a common narrative of world history. But our story largely omits a whole civilization whose citizens shared an entirely different narrative for a thousand years. In *Destiny Disrupted*, Tamim Ansary tells the rich story of world history as the Islamic world saw it, from the time of Mohammed to the fall of the Ottoman Empire and beyond. He clarifies why our civilizations grew up oblivious to each other, what happened when they intersected, and how the Islamic world was affected by its slow recognition that Europe—a place it long perceived as primitive and disorganized—had somehow hijacked destiny."

www.goodreads.com



October 11: *Windigo Island*, by William Kent Kruger, author of *Ordinary Grace*.

Please contact Sonja Peterson with book suggestions or questions at 612-789-0397 or speterson@dunwald.com

"Some books leave us free and some books make us free." Ralph Waldo Emerson

President's Perspective: Welcome Students

The new academic year will soon start and students will be moving into the neighborhood September 1. We've been anticipating this for over a year as we've watched multiple apartment buildings go up around us. I've watched the progress made on The Radius at 7th St. and 15th Ave. SE as I drove and biked throughout the seasons on the way to my work on campus. As I saw them laying the sod and planting the trees in late June, I looked forward to the bike lane on 15th opening up again, but also lamented the inevitable end to the parking income from the many construction workers in the neighborhood who used our lot. Student housing in Dinkytown no longer means run-down rooming houses with absentee landlords. Now there are a variety of fully furnished units to choose from with a washer/dryer, TV, and full kitchen included. Some students will move in together with friends, but individual leases with roommate matching will also be an option. That's certainly not what I experienced when I moved to Dinkytown in September 1989 to begin graduate school! I did, however, experience a warm welcome from University Lutheran Church of Hope in December of that year. Little did I know how my own student housing experiences would become so intertwined with Hope in the years to come!

My first living situation was a room in a house on the corner of 13th Ave. and 7th St. SE, directly across the street from the University Lutheran Church of Hope parking lot. It was close to campus and quiet – the landlord only rented to graduate students. After attending a Sunday Service in December, the woman in front of me, Lynn Quello, told me I had a nice voice and I should join the choir. One Sunday that month, I also went downstairs for a meal (or was it fruit soup?) and sat at a table with Marty Lewis-Hunstiger. I told her where I lived and that I was moving across the interstate to an apartment in January. She offered to help me move, and on January 1 transported me and my stuff in her orange pickup truck to my new home. When I joined the choir in January, I met other graduate students and enjoyed the thriving young adult scene at Hope.

The following fall, I moved with Cheryl Lochner and a friend to a duplex in the Mac-Groveland neighborhood in St. Paul and depended on her to drive me to Wednesday choir rehearsals and Sunday worship. Two years later, Cheryl married Doug Wright at Hope and moved out. Wondering if it was time to change my own housing situation, I received an offer I couldn't refuse! Pauline Hendrickson, another choir member, was planning to move with her husband to Belgium for three years and was looking for a small group of responsible young adults to rent their home in Prospect Park during that time. It's a beautiful home, and for a graduate student, it was like paradise. I moved with my remaining roommate and added Diane Wood (Sponheim), another choir member, to the group. I lived there until I married a choir member, Uli Koester, and we bought our first home on 22nd Ave. SE in the Como neighborhood, not far from Leona Reyelts. A few years later, I finished my dissertation and we moved to Valparaiso, Indiana. My student days were over.

Now we live in New Brighton. Thankfully, we live close to friends (also choir members!) from Hope, John and Beata Rydeen. During my recovery from surgery in March and my concussion this summer, John has been my dependable driver to call committee and Vision & Governance Board meetings.

So now it's time to welcome a new group of students to the neighborhood and to University Lutheran Church of Hope. One of them may become the president of the congregation some day!

Beth Kautz
Congregation President

Staff

Pastors:

Rev. Jen Nagel
Rev. Esther Dant

Minister of Worship and Music:

Vacant

Director of Education and

Small-Group Ministries:

Diane Shallue

Youth Director:

James Vitale, Jr.

Administrator:

Gayle Bidne

Custodian:

Geremew Beshah – weekdays

Weekend Custodian:

Isabel Vitale

Working in partnership with Lutheran Campus Ministry

Tim Schroeder
Rev. Kate Reuer Welton

Vision & Governance Board

Officers:

President: Beth Kautz
Vice President: John Rydeen
Past President: Doug Hartmann
Treasurer: Tim Abrahamson

Ministry Areas:

Worship & Music: Paul Odenbach
Youth & Young Adults:

Leena Haugland Rapacz

Education: Kirsten Mebust

Hope in the World: Bruce Eldevik

Relational Ministries:

Nancy Swanson

Operations:

Tim Abrahamson

Doug Hartmann

Leadership Development

& Communications:

Beth Kautz

John Rydeen

The Visitor

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