



# The Visitor



March 2016

Issue #12-3

Complex world. Thoughtful church.

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www.ulch.org

*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.*

## Wayfaring

“We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.” –T.S. Eliot

**Wayfaring.** To walk by foot.



Our Lenten theme invites us into this Lenten journey to the cross. We invite you to journey with us this holy season.

Every journey has a destination, whether we set out knowing where we're going or not. And often, the greatest moments of a journey happen along the way. We as Christians are wayfarers from birth to death. We embrace, especially in this season, our mortality, our fragility, our brokenness, and our hope in resurrection. We believe that the fullest measure of love eternally awaits to break over the horizon, and that we also hold that love within us to share with each other.

Walk together in love. That is our call this Lent, as the days grow longer and spring springs up. Join us Wednesday evenings for Prayer Around the Cross at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel. Hear the words of African-American ancestors, in the words of the spirituals the choir will sing in worship this season – songs of journeying through trial and sorrow to a land of promise. Walk the emerging path of prayer footprints in the sanctuary and visit our five wayfaring “stations” to pray and meditate.

And, join us at the culmination of this season. The Three Days of Holy Week are our ultimate destination on this wayfaring journey, where we will experience the story at the heart of our faith again as if for the first time. Worship on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday is at noon and 7:00 p.m. and the Easter Vigil is at 7:00 p.m. Blessings to you as we journey together.

**Palm Sunday**, March 20: Services at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday**, March 24: Services in the sanctuary at noon and 7 p.m.

**Good Friday**, March 25: In the sanctuary at noon and at 7 p.m.; Off-site walking “Way of the Cross” at 4:30

**Holy Saturday**, March 26: Easter Vigil beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**Easter Sunday**, March 27: Festival Worship at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary

Zach Busch  
Minister of Worship and Music

# Treasurer's Report for January 2016

January giving was \$30,607.50 and our rental income was \$6,286.71, for total income of \$37,894.21. We are in the process of entering our budget numbers so there is no comparison to our budget until next month. Our expenses for January were \$37,647.93. Net income was \$246.28. Balance sheet: free cash flow: \$153,073.55 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 makes this congregation a vibrant and thoughtful presence in the community.

January 2016 and Year-to-Date Income and Expenses						
Summary	January. Actual	January Budget	January Over / (Under)	Year to date Actual to 1/31	Year to Date Budget to 1/31	Year to Date O/(U) to 1/31
General Giving	31,607.50			31,607.50		
Rental Income	6,286.71			6,286.71		
Total Income	37,894.21			37,894.21		
Total Expense	37,647.93			37,647.93		
Net Income	246.26			246.26		



Total income for Hope for the Future campaign in January was \$5,972.28. We paid out \$6,918.89 for the mortgage. Net income was \$946.61. Our building fund balance is \$266,744.93.

Thank you for your attendance at the annual meeting. If you have any questions or comments please contact the newly elected treasurer, Ruth Hedman at [treasurer@ulch.org](mailto:treasurer@ulch.org)

Tim Abrahamson,  
Past Treasurer

## Life Events at Hope

We're a wayfaring people in this season of Lent; we hold one another in prayer. We try our best to include everyone (members and others close to our community, births, death, marriages, and other pivotal events), but we need your help to stay up to date. We include in prayer...

**Births:** A new grandchild, Elise Kathleen, joined Kirsten and Bruce Mebust's family, daughter of Anna Mebust and Terence Wong.

**Deaths:** A number of families in our community have lost loved ones in recent weeks. We pray for: Dick Koernig and the whole Koernig family at the death of Zona in February; Molly and Derek Broin at the death of Molly's grandmother Persy; Tim Schroeder at the death of his grandmother Carol; Diane and Bob Shallue at the death of Diane's father Ken Havlik; and Karen Johnson and family at the death of Karen's uncle, Rev. Joel Njus.

**Significant Illness:** Those living with chronic illness, cancer, uncertain diagnosis, and mental health struggles. We pray especially for: Kathy Knudson (recovering from a Feb. 11 kidney transplant), David Edstrom, Chuck Lewis, and Hannah Kiresuk.

**Transitions:** The loss of jobs, new jobs, retirements, moves, changes—God is with us through it all.

Pastor Jen and Pastor Esther and the University Lutheran Church of Hope Staff

## Being a Community of Faith

Last week – 5 times in 5 days – I found myself in significant conversation about what it means to be part of the church. Membership, and the idea of having goals for increasing it, came up at the annual meeting. At staff meeting, Vision & Governance Board, and the Children and Youth Transition Team, issues of what it means to be a community of faith arose. In a coffee conversation with a younger adult we discussed this, too. What is the role of membership in these changing times? How do we make commitments that are healthy, honest, faithful, nurturing, deep, and yet pliable enough to weather the inevitable transitions?



Our congregation—and the whole church—are in a time of flux. That’s no secret as we watch society changing quickly. Membership (church membership, voluntary associations, bowling leagues and the like) is less popular nowadays; a vestige of the modern era when we’re so often functioning in a post-modern world. So what are churches to do? Different generations think about (and desire) membership differently, and it’s no wonder that in churches that span many generations, we are caught in that tension.

Congregations like ours have historically used membership as a way of delineating the community: these folks are members, and those folks aren’t; these folks vote at meetings, and those do not. It’s not unheard of to talk with elders in a congregation who use words like “dues” when talking about stewardship and offering envelopes, so strong is their sense of membership. This time of year, our “parochial reports” are due to the ELCA, with details about our numbers and other demographics. Our constitution and bylaws make clear provision for membership – they offer an order, a process, that congregations have always needed, and perhaps in changing times we grasp for this even more.

While I, too, am a member of the church – giving, participating, worshipping – honestly, I am more compelled to think about “communities of faith”... this particular group of people who is gathered by the Spirit to be the church together. Similarly, I find weekly attendance numbers more reliable than membership numbers, but even then, attendance is changing.

The tension you sense in my writing is a tension alive in the church. Until the ELCA and Hope have a different structure, membership is necessary. And yet, I seek ways to speak about and act as a community of faith with walls that are more permeable: Where students can find meaningful ways to participate regardless of membership. Where people gather, pray, give, and support, and when life calls them on to grad school or a move or a new stage, we send them out with Godspeed. Where our homebound members know well how the “communion of saints” that we confess binds us together whether we can physically be here on Sunday or not. Where we use membership more as a celebration of Christ’s community and a chance for making those needed human commitments, and less as a static list or a record-keeping task.

This Easter season (April through early May) we’ll be welcoming new members into this community of faith we call University Lutheran Church of Hope. Already seven of you have expressed interest in joining; if you know of others, please have them talk with me.

At our best, membership is about commitment: the commitment of a community to those who are part of it, and the commitment of those who participate in the faith community. These holy tensions and questions remind me of how the Spirit is calling us anew. I give thanks for you pillars of this faith community, who have been here for a lifetime, and I give thanks for those venturing in for the first time—each of us hungry, each yearning for God’s love. Wayfaring blessings this Lenten season,

Pastor Jen

# FAITH FORMATION NEWS



## Faith Formation for All Ages on Sunday Mornings

Education Hour on Sunday March 27 will be the Easter Breakfast. Classes resume Sunday April 3.

### Godly Play

Our youngest children (ages 3-6 years) gather for Faith Formation each Sunday using Godly Play. Godly Play creates sacred space to hear and learn Bible stories using objects and play. The students and teachers wonder together, and then children are encouraged to respond to the stories on their own terms using art materials. During March, we'll study these bible stories:

- The story of the lost son
- Jesus healing a girl
- Palm Sunday

Godly Play students have music once a month.



### Creation Stations



### Creation Stations

Creation Stations is our name for Faith Formation for students 6 years old through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The goal of Creation Stations is to learn about the Bible through hands-on activities such as drama, cooking, crafts, and Bible stories. In March, we'll focus on the Last Supper and also enjoy a session playing Orff and other rhythm instruments. New students and helpers are always welcome. Talk with Shelly Parry if you'd like to get involved.

### Confirmation

The Confirmation class will hold a mini-retreat on Sunday, March 13. We plan for a visit to a local synagogue for Friday, April 22. At each mini-retreat we take time for a meal, study, service, and worship.

In February we cooked lunch together, studied the Lord's Supper and Lutheran identity (using Dan Erlander's *Baptized We Live*), made three prayer shawls, and had a time of worship and prayer.

All our Confirmation students have mentors this year. We are working through three conversation sessions about how faith is integrated with our lives. The Confirmation students will also be doing a service project together with their mentors. Thanks to our mentors: Jack Dant, Karen Westwood, Ann Beane, Tim Gustafson, Judy Ranheim, Ann Kreider, and Jim Vitale.



### Youth Group

Sunday Morning Youth Group and Sabbath continue in the New Year. Youth Group takes place every Sunday from 9:15 to 10:20 a.m. in the Youth Room. Come and enjoy a space to relax, learn, and have fun. We hold Sabbath the first and third Sundays of each month from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. here at church. This is a chance to find some rest, get to know each other better, learn, play, and worship. All are invited to these events. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jim Vitale at [jvitale001@luthersem.edu](mailto:jvitale001@luthersem.edu)



# Adult Forums

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

## March 6: Conversation with Pastor Jen: Visions and Dialogue

Pastor Jen focuses our conversation on our congregation's three Vision Goals. She will share updates and her reflection on the goals, with plenty of time for questions and conversation. These goals were crafted by the Vision & Governance Board in Oct. 2015, and guide our work of connecting with our neighborhood and the campus, engaging worship, deepening spirituality, and renewing our ministry with children and youth.



## March 13: Enlivening the Creative Spirit through Painting

Jack Dant will discuss how painting has been a source of inspiration, peace, and community for him. The talk will include examples of his work, how painting intersects with his faith, and discussions of the art and craft of oil painting. This is the second in a series of Adult Forums in which Hope members share unique ways they nurture their spirit.

## March 20: Stories of Hope

Nancy Miller and Bill Sanden will share their faith and life journeys. This popular forum allows us to know one another more completely and to receive inspiration for our own lives. Nancy is a mostly-retired member of the nursing faculty at Minneapolis Community and Technical College, and Bill Sanden is re-imagining his future story after leaving his work in law and finance. Come to hear how these faith-filled long-time members have seen God at work in their lives.

**March 27: No Adult Forum. See you at the Easter Breakfast!**

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## Music of Consolation

One of the 19<sup>th</sup> century's musical masterpieces is *A German Requiem* by Johannes Brahms. This piece will be performed several times in the Twin Cities this spring, beginning with a free sing-along on Sunday, March 6, at St. Olaf Catholic Church in downtown Minneapolis. On April 17 the Four Rivers Chorale will sing the *Requiem* at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi. Admission is free.



Finally, the Minnesota Orchestra and Chorale, led by world-famous conductor Helmuth Rilling, will perform the piece at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis, on April 22, 23, and 24. This concert will include a lecture and demonstration by the conductor. For reservations, call the Orchestra Hall box office at (612)371-5642.

In preparation for the April performances, John Setterlund will introduce Brahms and the *Requiem* at the Adult Forum on Sunday, April 17.

For his text, Brahms chose a sampling of biblical verses from the Psalms, the prophet Isaiah, the inter-testamental books of Wisdom and Ecclesiastes, and the New Testament books of Matthew, 1 Corinthians, James, Peter, Hebrews, and Revelation. The text is in German, not Latin, and is sometimes performed in English translation. Although Brahms composed a monumental orchestral score, performances may also be accompanied by organ or a pair of pianos. The *Requiem* is in seven movements, totaling approximately 75-80 minutes, and includes a bass and soprano soloist in addition to the chorus.

Plan now to hear this great music.

John Setterlund

# Congregational Life

## Lenten Bible Study: Following In Jesus' Footsteps

All are welcome to participate in a five-part Lenten Bible Study on Wednesday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. in Heritage Hall. The dates remaining are March 2, 9, and 16. The theme for our study is "Following In Jesus' Footsteps on the Road to Jerusalem". Readings are taken from the Gospel of Luke, chapters 9-19. "When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem" (9:51).



In these chapters, Jesus is showing all disciples by his words and actions what it means to do the work of the Kingdom. As we walk our own Lenten journey, let us focus on Jesus to: (1) deepen our relationship with God, (2) strengthen our community, (3) invite others into community, (4) serve our neighbor, and (5) confront injustice – particularly when those in authority are trampling on the powerless. Please come for a rousing discussion. Contact John Beane with any questions.

## Prayer Partners

All our children and youth (birth-18 years) have been assigned a Prayer Partner for the Lenten Season. Thanks to all those who are regularly praying for our kids. Reminder: Please send a card at Easter and let them know you've been praying for them!

## Annual Meeting Follow-up

The University Lutheran Church of Hope congregation gathered for our annual meeting on Sunday, Feb. 7. We shared a good lunch, received reports from our leaders, focused on our vision for the future, celebrated the hours and leadership of many, reviewed our 2015 finances, approved the 2016 budget, and elected leadership for the years to come. Copies of the Annual Report are available at church and can also be mailed; if you'd like a copy, please contact Gayle Bidne, our Business Manager. Thank you for your faithfulness to this ministry.

## Fellowship Meal

Our March Fellowship Meal is on Sunday, March 13, immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service. Extra hands for setup and cleanup are always welcome. This is our time together as a community, and a perfect chance to get to know folks you see around, but don't know well—please make a point of visiting with someone less familiar. University students are our guests and eat free. See you March 13!

## Easter Breakfast

On Easter Sunday March 27, the Youth Group will continue their tradition of hosting an Easter breakfast between the services beginning at 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The youth will prepare breakfast for all to enjoy. Proceeds from the event will cover the cost of the meal and benefit future Youth Group events. We hope to see you there!

## Spring and Summer Events for Youth and Families

Families, here are some dates and events to keep in mind as you plan for spring and summer. Please share these with friends, neighbors, grandkids and others. Thanks!

### **Spring Youth Retreat April 1-3.**

Last year the Youth Group took a sabbatical retreat in Crosslake, and this year the Morse family has graciously agreed to lend us their cabin once again. We will travel to Crosslake on Friday evening April 1 and settle in. Then we will spend Saturday and Sunday playing games, exploring Lower Whitefish and Cross Lakes, preparing food, watching movies, and worshipping God. All youth grades 7-12 are invited to attend. Transportation will be provided. We hope you consider attending! Any questions, contact Jim Vitale at [jvitale001@luthersem.edu](mailto:jvitale001@luthersem.edu)

### **Summer Day Camp with the theme: Peace. Salaam. Shalom. June 27-July 1, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

We're teaming up with other local congregations to offer a shared, ecumenical summer day camp in south Minneapolis for children 4 years old through entering 8th grade. We can also include high school-age youth leaders, and adult volunteers. This day camp has been happening for many years and is a great opportunity. Watch for registration materials and volunteer information. Questions? Contact Pastor Jen.

### **Summer Camp at Luther Crest June 19-24 (or a portion of that week), or another week.**

Children are invited to join in some days of camp at Luther Crest Bible Camp near Alexandria. We're encouraging children to attend the week of June 19-24, in coordination with groups from Our Saviour's and Calvary (both similarly progressive Minneapolis Lutheran congregations), but any week that fits your family's schedule is great. Camp brochures are available now. Want to sign up? Talk with Pastor Jen.

### **Youth trip to Camp Amnicon July 17-22.**

This year we will backpack on the Superior Hiking Trail through the Sawtooth Mountains. Youth and parents, talk with Youth Director Jim Vitale if you'd like to participate or to learn more.

### **Local Mission Trip Aug. 7-13 (tentative dates).**

This year our youth are planning a local mission trip right here in Minneapolis, in conjunction with the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches. Talk with Youth Director Jim Vitale to learn more.

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## Meeting March 3 with our City Council Member Jacob Frey

The Minneapolis City Council is considering the adoption of an ordinance requiring that every worker in the city have the ability to earn paid sick leave. The pattern that has become standard around the country is that workers earn 1 hour of sick or safe time for every 30 hours worked (for a part-time worker that comes out to about 5 days earned in a year, and for a full-time worker about 9 days earned in a year). In addition to ensuring that workers do not need to go to work if they are ill, this time could be used to care for a loved one who is sick or to seek safety in situations of domestic violence. At least 80,000 workers in Minneapolis do not currently have access to this basic benefit, a majority of whom are workers of color. For this reason, passing this ordinance is one important step toward dismantling systemic racism in our city. The City Council has appointed a commission to develop recommendations about this policy; their work will be complete in late February.

This meeting on March 3 at 7:00 p.m. at First Congregational Church (500 SE 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., just across 35W), coordinated through ISIAAH, will offer people of faith and community members the opportunity to have a voice in this crucial issue. The meeting will begin with a few minutes of education and preparation. Then we will have the opportunity to hear from Council Member Jacob Frey and to share our stories, values, and concerns with him. The evening will conclude with a time of reflection and consideration of any needed next steps. Local churches hope to gather 50-75 people for this event, and we aim for 20 people from Hope. Please spread the word and plan to attend and learn more.

# The University Lutheran Church of Hope Trust: Grants

(Second in a series about the Hope Church Trust)

Each year Hope's Trust Board has the mostly delightful task of giving away money.

More precisely, it is their responsibility to invite requests for grants for various mission opportunities and then to distribute funds within the guidelines of the Hope Church Trust bylaws. How much they can distribute depends on the value of the Hope Church Trust at the end of each year and the formula that is used to determine the available amount (more about that later).

Perhaps surprisingly, it is possible that there can be no money at all available to distribute in a given year, although that has happened only once (in 2009). That is because distributions can never put the endowment fund principal itself at risk (principal being the amount that has been donated to the endowment fund directly). Distributions are made from the accumulated revenue generated by the Hope Trust's investments over the years. In just the last ten years, the Hope Church Trust has distributed over \$150,000! That money has gone to a host of good causes. Nearly \$30,000 each has gone to youth ministry and to projects to enhance our facilities. Grants for direct outreach beyond Hope totaled nearly \$12,000. Grants of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 have gone to such areas as Compassionate Care ministry, Young Adult ministry, Music, Worship, and Education. Another \$20,000 has provided support for seniors, women, retreats, and research. And, over a three-year period, more than \$37,000 was channeled alongside the general budget for many of the same ministries noted above.

Currently, the Hope Church Trust Board uses a formula approved by the congregation in 2001 for determining the amount available for grant distributions. Before that, distributions simply came from direct revenue in a given year (e.g. interest and dividends). Now, an amount equal to 5.5 % of the total value of the Hope Church Trust can be distributed each year, if available. Since 2008, however, we have all learned, often painfully, how fickle returns on investments can be. Many experts now say that a 5.5% withdrawal rate is not sustainable. Accordingly, the Hope Church Trust Board will review that standard this year and possibly recommend a lesser figure at a future congregational meeting. In the short run, this could reduce annual distributions a bit. But if the Hope Church Trust Board focuses on stabilizing and growing the fund itself, the amount for distributions can not only be secured, but can grow substantially in the years ahead.

Merrill Morse  
Chairperson, Hope Church Trust

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## Lutheran Campus Ministry Activities

### **Lutheran Campus Ministry goes on Spring Break! (March 13-18)**

Let us pray for LCM campus ministry students and staff who are doing an immersion service trip to the southern US and Mexico. Transformational Border Opportunities (TBO) crosses borders and barriers to build friendship and understanding toward a more just and peaceful world, by facilitating immersion experiences with opportunities to make friends from other cultures by listening to and learning from our neighbors; to better understand our global community's interdependence by experiencing firsthand the joys and challenges of sharing this planet; and to explore ways we can walk with God and our neighbors in deeper humility, friendship, and justice by reflecting on Jesus' vision of God's reign on earth. The neighboring communities of San Diego and Tijuana contain the world's busiest international border crossing. Visiting Tijuana and nearby Tecate, students will meet local residents, do community projects, have conversations with leaders, and be given the opportunity to build meaningful, life-changing relationships while lending a hand where needed.

### **Lutheran Campus Ministry Spring Gala April 2: Growing Into the Next 100 Years**

You are invited to join us at Grace University Lutheran for inspiring music and words of alumni and current students as they reflect on Lutheran Campus Ministry. Enjoy a great meal, win a prize, and support Lutheran Campus Ministry as we look forward to the next 100 years! On Saturday, April 2, the Social Hour begins at 5:30 p.m., with dinner and program at 6:30 p.m. RSVP by March 25 at [www.umnlutheran.org](http://www.umnlutheran.org) or see the invites at church).

[Here's a challenge to University Lutheran Church of Hope: Let's be present for this Gala and bring 2 tables (12-14 people). I'm going. I hope you will, too! Pastor Jen]

## Compassion Care Classes

In conversation at our Compassion Care meetings, comments again were made about the helpfulness of the Compassion Care training for everyday lives. Whether working with a specific assignment or not, our members are especially conscious that their caregiving is happening at a deeper level. Good listening and other skills make a difference in relationships with family, friends, and co-workers. Given that schedules are demanding and quite full, an alternative to our present structure will begin after Easter. A five-week training will be offered to anyone in the congregation for their own benefit, with no expectation for them to continue with monthly meetings. Our classes will meet in Heritage Hall on Wednesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. There is no cost for this training, but sign-up is needed to attend. Please contact Pastor Esther Dant at [estherd@ulch.org](mailto:estherd@ulch.org) or sign up at the Welcome Center by March 23. The five topics and schedule will be:

Listening – March 30

Confidentiality – April 6

Boundaries – April 20

Depression – April 27

Grief – May 4



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## Children, Youth, and Families Transition Team

On Feb. 11 we began the process of discernment of a way forward for our ministries with children and youth by assembling our team and meeting with Kris BJORKE and Sue Megrund from InterServe Ministries.

InterServe is an organization that helps congregations discover their needs and assets in youth and children's ministries by leading congregational studies and providing interim services in changing times.

Our first meeting was both fun and remarkable for the speed with which we began naming who we are as a congregation and what we see as both gifts and problems for these programs. We talked about how we felt about church when we were young, who is and isn't represented in the team, what events we see as most characteristic of our congregational life, and what our expectations are for leadership in youth and children's ministry. We began wondering if Sunday School is really the best model for children's Christian education or if there might be other ways to serve children, youth, and families in our faith community. We also set meeting dates for the next month. Everyone on the team made unique contributions to the discussion and had a lot to think about for the future.

We will soon invite input from the congregation through some means, including but not limited to a congregational meeting. We hope to have concrete plans and to know our staffing needs by the end of May. The discernment team includes: Ann Beane, Sarah Cooper Evans, Karen Jorstad, Emma Kneer, Pastor Jen Nagel, Melissa Odenbach, Stephanie Struthers, Sara Tufvesson Doure, Youth Director Jim Vitale, Paige Whitney, and Vision & Governance Board liaisons Kirsten Mebust and Leena Rapacz.

Kirsten Mebust  
Education Liaison

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## Hope Book Club

March Book: *The Senator Next Door: A Memoir from the Heartland*, by Amy Klobuchar.

March 13, 2016, 7:00 p.m. in the Hope Library

One of the U.S. Senate's most candid – and funniest – women tells the story of her life and her unshakeable faith in our democracy. Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar has tackled every obstacle she's encountered – her parents' divorce, her father's alcoholism and recovery, her political campaigns, and Washington's gridlock – with honesty, humor, and pluck.

[www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com)

Apr. 10: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Fyodor Dostoevsky (Parts 1 & 2). Our book from the Classics for 2016.

Please contact Sonja Peterson with book suggestions or questions at 612-789-0397 or

[speterson@dunnwald.com](mailto:speterson@dunnwald.com)



## President's Perspective

Greetings from the new President (of the congregation, not the country). I want to take this time to especially thank former President Beth Kautz for her fine leadership last year. There was a lot of change and transition during her time as President and she did an excellent job working with the Vision & Governance Board and guiding the congregation. I hope all congregation members can take some time to thank her for her leadership.

The Vision & Governance Board met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Feb. 9, 2016. This was the first meeting for the new board members. We welcomed Eric Ringham as incoming vice president and current secretary, Lisa Morse, as the new liaison to Worship and Music, and Ruth Hedman as our new treasurer. Ruth presented the financial report for January. In addition we heard brief reports from all liaisons, and discussed next steps in our ongoing relationship with InterServe. We also discussed how we can begin taking some measureable steps toward the Vision Goals for University Lutheran Church of Hope, worked on by the board and spoken about by Pastor Jen at its retreat last Oct. More about this in the near future.

As leaders of the congregation we are always looking for input and guidance from all members. Please feel free to share your ideas with me or anyone in a leadership role at any time. I can be reached at [president@ulch.org](mailto:president@ulch.org) or (612)817-4277. I look forward to hearing from you and working with you as we explore where the Holy Spirit is moving Hope in the years to come. Peace,

John Rydeen  
Congregation President

## Friendly Visitor Easter Flower Project

It is that time of year again if you wish to remember or honor loved ones. This annual Friendly Visitor project is an opportunity to donate money for a plant to be placed in the sanctuary on Easter morning in memory of, or in honor of, a special person. Their names will be included in the Easter bulletin, and then after the 10:30 service, the flowers will be delivered to our ill and homebound members and those who have lost a loved one.

To participate, you may either mail your request with a check to ULCH (writing Easter Flower Fund on the memo line) for the amount you desire; send to Rosalie Eldevik at 1473 Hamline Ave. N., St. Paul, MN 55108, or put the form below and your check into the offering plate. Sunday, March 20 is the deadline for contributing to this project. Contact Rosalie with questions at (651) 644-0287 or [reldevik@msn.com](mailto:reldevik@msn.com).

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Please detach and return with a check made out to ULCH (writing Easter Flower Fund on the memo line)

From \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

## Staff

### **Pastors:**

Rev. Jen Nagel  
Rev. Esther Dant

### **Minister of Worship and Music:**

Zach Busch

### **Youth Director:**

James Vitale, Jr.

### **Business Manager:**

Gayle Bidne

### **Custodian:**

Geremew Beshah – weekdays  
Ben Hartmann – Sunday  
opener/closer

### **Working in partnership with Lutheran Campus Ministry**

Tim Schroeder  
Rev. Kate Reuer Welton

## Vision & Governance Board

### **Officers:**

**President:** John Rydeen  
**Vice President:** Eric Ringham  
**Past President:** Beth Kautz  
**Treasurer:** Ruth Hedman

### **Ministry Areas:**

**Worship & Music:** Lisa Morse  
**Youth & Young Adults:**  
Leena Haugland Rapacz  
**Education:** Kirsten Mebust  
**Hope in the World:** Bruce Eldevik  
**Relational Ministries:**  
Nancy Swanson  
**Operations:**  
Ruth Hedman  
Beth Kautz  
**Leadership Development  
& Communications:**  
John Rydeen  
Eric Ringham

## The Visitor

*The Visitor* is published monthly by University Lutheran Church of Hope, 601 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414-1437.

Articles for *The Visitor* may be submitted via e-mail or directly to the church office. They must be signed. Electronic submissions in either Microsoft® Word or plain text format are strongly preferred. Articles may be edited for length. Contributors are responsible for clearly identifying any material that is from published sources and for obtaining appropriate permission(s) to republish. Send submissions and correspondence to [visitor@ulch.org](mailto:visitor@ulch.org).

The deadline for submitting articles is the 15th of every month, for the following month's issue.

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