



The Visitor



April 2016

Issue #12-4

Complex world. Thoughtful church.

601 13th Avenue SE
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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.*

Summer Day Camp: Peace. Salaam. Shalom

What: A progressive, ecumenical summer day camp experience offering faith formation in a fun, safe, Christ-centered and relational setting. The camp includes worship, crafts, games, lunch, and field trips.

When: Monday, June 27-Friday, July 1, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Where: Hosted this year at Bethel Lutheran Church, 4120 17th Ave S, Minneapolis MN 55407

Who: 4-year-olds to 8th graders

Cost: \$25 per camper, \$60 maximum for families. Scholarships available. Make checks payable to Our Saviour's Lutheran.

Opportunity to give more: Our registration fee doesn't cover costs. If you can afford it, please consider giving more. We'll use your donation for stipends for youth volunteers and for supplies.

Sponsoring congregations: Augustana Lutheran, Bethel Lutheran, Calvary Lutheran, First Christian (Disciples of Christ), First Congregational UCC, Judson Memorial Baptist, Lake of the Isles Lutheran, Lake Nokomis Presbyterian, Living Table UCC, Living Spirit UMC, Lyndale UCC, Our Saviour's Lutheran, St. John's Lutheran, Salem Lutheran, University Lutheran Church of Hope, and Zion Lutheran.

Registration: Registration forms are available at church or at <http://www.ulch.org/connect/children-and-families/> Please register your child(ren) by June 1. Mail or otherwise bring this form along with your payment to: Pastor Martha Bardwell, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 2315 Chicago Ave, Minneapolis MN 55404.

Questions: Talk with Pastor Jen.

Volunteering and Supporting: Adult and youth volunteers are needed to help with day camp. Hours and tasks may vary. Please talk with Pastor Jen. Also, watch for a list of needed supplies and other ways to support the camp.



Treasurer's Report for February 2016

As I write my first Treasurer's report I'm excited. I'm excited to be working with a group of dedicated leaders, excited to be a part of the Hope community, and excited to be able to fill this position for our congregation.

As a whole, February was a good month. General giving was basically on budget, with rental income under budget by \$2K. The shortfall in rental income was offset by the PEASE Academy payment for their portion of remodeling expenses. This payment is reflected as a reduction of expenses in February. YTD total income is under budget, which is expected the first part of the year; however, income being under budget is offset by the payment from PEASE this month and by the fact that Diane Shallue's position has not yet been filled. YTD we are favorable to our budget by \$5.5K.

February 2016 and Year-to-Date Income and Expenses						
Summary	February Actual	February Budget	February Over / (Under)	Year to date Actual to 2/29	Year to Date Budget to 2/29	Year to Date O/(U) to 2/29
General Giving	34,050	34,210	(160)	65,657	68,320	(2,663)
Rental Income	5,989	7,792	(1,803)	12,276	15,584	(3,308)
Total Income	40,039	42,002	(1,963)	77,933	83,904	(5,971)
Total Expense	32,113	40,122	(8,008)	69,425	80,948	(11,523)
Net Income	7,925	1,880	6,045	8,507	2,955	5,552



Income for the Hope for the Future capital campaign in January was \$6K and in February \$6.8K. In both months we paid \$6.9K toward our mortgage. Our Building Fund balance as of February 29, 2016 is \$267K. If you have any questions, please contact me at treasurer@ulch.org

Ruth Hedman
Treasurer

Life Events at Hope

We are a community called to hold one another in prayer. In these Life Events, 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...

Deaths: All those who grieve the loss of loved ones...a month ago, 6 months, a year, many years. These losses remain and we remember the gifts and stories of those who have died, and support one another in our living days.

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

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

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

Practicing What We Eat

We are soon to gather another class for “communion instruction” and this seems like a good opportunity to share how I’m thinking about Holy Communion practice, particularly as it relates to children. I base this on a sweet mix of Lutheran Christian theology, a lens on the scriptures, University Lutheran Church of Hope’s particular history and tradition, and where we are called – here, now, and into God’s future.



It’s God’s table. Jesus is the host, and we are all guests at this precious and life-giving meal. We invite “all who hunger” for the presence of Christ in their lives to be part of this meal. Some traditions (and probably Hope, years ago) save participation in the bread and wine/grape juice of Holy Communion to those who are confirmed, or have had some sort of first communion instruction, or really “understand” what this meal means. Honestly, I’m wary when someone tells me they fully “understand” a holy mystery like Communion. I’ve studied it, and regularly preside at the table, but the more I partake, the less I understand and the more I love, savor, and need it—Jesus’ life blood as our life blood.

Practicing. How old “should” kids be? I lean younger and welcome families to make their own decisions about when a young child (even an infant or young toddler) is ready to participate by eating the bread and drinking the grape juice. Why so young? Because kids—even very young kids—have a deep desire to fully participate in the life of worship and Holy Communion. It is one of the very best, hands-on ways we can share the faith, (this, and daily, weekly, dipping in the baptismal waters and reminding them of their identity). Do they understand it all? Do you, as a parent, have to have perfect explanations? No, and no. Most of us learn best by doing – sharing in the meal and kneeling shoulder to shoulder with others; feeling the love and forgiveness; hearing that it’s given “for you” and going away with that abundant scrap of “Jesus Bread.” These are all ways that kids learn.

Learning. And then, we offer communion instruction when they are ready to put more words and stories around that practice. Again, families know best when their children are ready for more instruction, but this is most often between 4 and 9 years old, a little older, a little younger. For this learning, we invite a parent, grandparent or another adult to accompany them. We’ll bake bread together, learn about this meal, read what the Bible tells us, and practice sharing it.

And, Learning More. But it doesn’t stop there. In Sunday School and Confirmation we talk more about Holy Communion. The learning continues through childhood and, ideally, through all our years. I love watching for the connections and the ways our Holy Communion, shared at church, stretches to our dinner tables, an evening of soul-lifting time with close friends, the Loaves and Fishes Meal that we prepare and serve, or conversation at our Fellowship Meals. Holy Communion is a means by which we experience and, indeed, receive God’s grace. There is something ultimately freeing when we experience it as a meal of grace, a gift from our God who feeds our deepest hungers and meets us again, in every age, every stage.

Pastor Jen

Tell It to the Bees!



This spring, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities is offering a hands-on community education course in backyard beekeeping. Domestic beekeeping is on the rise as the honeybee population falls, and beekeeping gives individuals the power to have a positive impact on the environment. Here is a unique learning opportunity for Twin Cities residents of all faith backgrounds and education levels who would like to learn how to keep their own beehives or simply learn more about bee biology and ecosystems.

The class is taught by United’s physical plant director, third-generation beekeeper Brandon Krosch. Classes are April 28 and May 5, 6-8:30 p.m., and May 7, 1-4 p.m. at United Theological Seminary, 3000 Fifth Street NW, New Brighton, MN. For more information, contact Brian Braskich, Community Programming Director, at 651.255.6170 or bbraskich@unitedseminary.edu

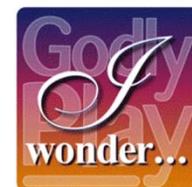
FAITH FORMATION NEWS



Faith Formation for Children & Youth Sunday Mornings, 9:15-10:20 a.m.

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 April in Godly Play, they'll be exploring some of the stories of Jesus after the Resurrection, and also the Good Shepherd and the Sower. Godly Play students have music once a month.



Creation Stations



Creation Stations

Creation Stations is our name for Faith Formation for 6-year-olds through 6th 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 April, they'll study the story of the Widow's Offering, and 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 is planning a visit to a local synagogue in the coming weeks.

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. 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



Faith Formation – Adult Forums

(9:30-10:25 a.m. in Heritage Hall, below the Sanctuary)

April 3: Let Africa Live. Kubisa Sosthene Muzenende, a pastor from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and the founder of the non-profit organization Let Africa Live, will talk about the conflict his country has suffered for the last 20 years. His organization has worked to help the most vulnerable through education initiatives and professional training for children and young adults who have been victims of violence. Kubisa will be joined by his friend and translator Peder Garnaas-Halvorson, who will also be speaking about the work they have been doing to raise awareness about the DRC in Minnesota through the organization Mwendo Congo.



April 10: The Soul of Wood Work. Each of us may find our own ways to give expression to the deepest longings and creative energy of our soul. William J. Everett writes, “Turning trees into useful and artistic pieces shapes as well as expresses our deepest values and approaches to life as well as its transcendent source.” Bryan Kufus and Tim Abrahamson will share their passion and vocation for working with wood. This is the third in our series in which Hope members share their spiritual practices lived in everyday life.

April 17: A German Requiem. Following a successful three-part series on *The Messiah* in December, John Setterlund will explore the texts and music of Brahms’ *Requiem*. Johannes Brahms (1833-97) composed his choral masterpiece *Ein Deutsches Requiem* in 1865-66, while mourning the deaths of his mother and his friend and mentor Robert Schumann. This composition is not the traditional Requiem Mass of the Catholic liturgy with its scenes of apocalyptic judgment and pleas for mercy. Rather, it consists of a selection of verses from the Old and New Testaments and the Apocrypha, carefully chosen by Brahms to be a consolation and blessing for the living, especially the bereaved and suffering.



April 24: "Idle Hands...". This is the 4th presentation by Hope members as they address the gift of living their spiritual practices in everyday life, drawing from their skills and interests. Bring your needles and hear Ann Agrimson, Ann Kreider, and Karen Westwood reflect on how handwork (knitting and sewing) enhances their faith.

Film: The Mask You Live In

We are teaming with Lutheran Campus Ministry to host the 2015 Sundance award-winning film *The Mask You Live In*. This film follows boys and young men as they struggle to stay true to themselves while negotiating America’s narrow definition of masculinity. Pressured by the media, their peer group, and even the adults in their lives, the protagonists confront messages encouraging them to disconnect from their emotions, devalue authentic friendships, objectify and degrade women, and resolve conflicts through violence. These gender stereotypes interconnect with race, class, and circumstance, creating a maze of identity issues boys and young men must navigate to become ‘real’ men. Experts in neuroscience, psychology, sociology, sports, education, and media also weigh in, offering empirical evidence of the ‘boy crisis’ and tactics to combat it. *The Mask You Live In* ultimately illustrates how we as a society can raise a healthier generation of boys and young men. The film is available from April 17 through April 21. We plan two showings, but opportunities are available to schedule other times for viewing and discussion. Please consider joining one of these showings, or arranging another.

Sunday, April 17, 5 p.m. the Youth Group will watch this film as part of their Sabbath event. Others are invited to participate as well. Contact Youth Director Jim Vitale, for information.

Thursday, April 21, 7 p.m. we will host a wider showing at Hope in coordination with Lutheran Campus Ministry’s Faith and Leadership Institute and a number of U of M groups. A reception will precede the showing at 6:30 p.m., with discussion to follow. Please plan to participate and invite others.

Congregational Life

Thank You

- Thanks to John Beane for leading a Bible Study through the weeks of Lent.
- Thanks to Gus Gustafson for sharing his worship setting through Lent, and for providing key musical leadership, along with Mark Nelson, Paul Odenbach, Uli Koester, and others.
- Thanks to the Hope Choir and many other musicians who put in tremendous hours and care through Lent, Holy Week, and Easter to lead and inspire our worship.
- Thanks to Lisa Morse for initiating our “footprint” prayers, creating our Wayfaring banner, taping down our labyrinth of prayers, and preparing our congregational prayer concerns each week.
- Thanks to the altar guild, worship planning team, ushers, lectors, communion servers, acolytes, assisting ministers, communion clean-up crews, bulletin collators and printers, Easter flower organizers, Easter Breakfast cooks and hosts, staff, and all who labored in love over this holy season.



Sunday Morning Opener/Closer

Thanks to Hope member Ben Hartmann for taking on the duties of Sunday morning opening and closing of the church building. Ben is key to our hospitality and security, unlocking/locking, setting up, and, yes, making the first pots of coffee. Please note that this position has morphed from weekend custodian. Ben works diligently just a few hours on Sundays, at the start of the morning and when church services are completed. Thanks Ben, and welcome to this new role in the community!

Fellowship Meal April 10

We gather for a Fellowship Meal on Sunday, April 10, following 10:30 a.m. worship. Join in the conversations and community life. Undergrad and grad students are our guests and eat free. A round-table listening conversation about our ministry with children, youth, and families will coincide with the meal. Plan to attend the meal and participate in this intentional conversation (all voices and perspectives will be a benefit) or simply come for the good food and fellowship. Some tables will be designated for the conversation. Help is needed with set up, and particularly with clean up afterward.

Guatemala Experience – Monday, April 25, 7 p.m. in Heritage Hall

Come and hear about Ann Beane's experience volunteering for a month at a small coffee cooperative in Guatemala. She'll share about the steps from coffee cherry to cup, about the non-governmental organization that is helping the farmers (men and women), and other insights about Guatemala. Dessert and coffee as well! Please RSVP to Ann at spirit.beane@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed for Families Moving Forward in May

Our week for Families Moving Forward is May 1-8. Think about how you can help during that week. From an article about the Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative:



“Do you help families find homes? Yes, we know that shelter is a temporary solution. Families need homes where they can create stability and success so parents work with our staff advocates with the goal of securing stable housing within 60 days of arriving. In the evenings, congregations take turns weekly to open their doors to welcome families, providing a safe place to sleep, hot meals, activities and friendship. We arrange for bus transportation from the Program Centers to hosting congregations each night, and the return trip in the morning. The night shelter program relies on the commitment and compassion of congregational volunteers.”

Julie Paschke

Spring and Summer Events for Youth and Families

Spring Youth Retreat April 1-3.

Last year the Youth Group took a sabbatical retreat in Crosslake, and this year the Morse family have 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

Support Camp Amnicon through Packs and Paddles

Each year, Camp Amnicon holds a fundraising event at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis called Packs and Paddles. This year the event will be held on Saturday, April 30th from 6-8:30 p.m. For just \$50 per person, you will enjoy food, live music, and a silent auction. The proceeds will go to scholarships for campers in need: kids in foster care, those living in the inner city, boys and girls who have been impacted by abuse or violence, and those who can't afford to attend a transformative summer week at Camp Amnicon. So come, celebrate Camp Amnicon's 50th year, and support a good cause. You may RSVP directly to Camp Amnicon via phone, 715-364-2602 or email, development@amnicon.org

Summer Camp at Luther Crest Bible Camp

We invite our children to attend a week of camp at Luther Crest Bible Camp near Alexandria. Bible camp registration booklets are available at church; these include a listing of programs and ages. Talk with Pastor Jen to learn more or sign up. The week of June 19-24 is one in which other congregations in our area will have children and youth attending, and Pastor Jen will be at camp for part of the week if University Lutheran Church of Hope kids attend.

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.

Service Retreat with Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches

This summer, middle and high school youth are invited to attend a service retreat with the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches. This overnight retreat will be held August 10-13 at GMCC in south Minneapolis. The cost is \$200 per person with some scholarships available. Join us as together we learn more about the needs of Minneapolis and help create a more just and compassionate local community. If you have questions or are interested in attending, contact Jim Vitale at jvitale001@luthersem.edu

InVocation to Perform at Hope

Local choir InVocation will perform a concert at University Lutheran Church of Hope on April 8 at 7:30 p.m. InVocation is a Minneapolis-based a cappella ensemble that draws upon the rich and varied histories of its members to present concerts that draw listeners into the beauty of song. InVocation is a joy-based endeavor with a charitable purpose: to offer the gift of song to raise funds for local charities. Their spring season is entitled "Home," and the concert will support Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, sponsor of Families Moving Forward. Beacon is committed to ending homelessness through housing, shelter, and public advocacy. The concert is free and open to the public with a free-will offering collected. A light reception follows.

Zach Busch
Minister of Worship and Music

The University Lutheran Church of Hope Trust: Grants

(Third in a series about the Hope Church Trust)

The Hope Trust Board is pleased to announce the recipients of grants from the Hope Church Trust this year. The Board was particularly pleased to have three requests for missions beyond our congregation's walls this year, including one in our own Marcy-Holmes neighborhood, where "The Sheridan Story" project provides food for school children who otherwise might not have enough to get through the weekend

(www.thesheridanstory.com). Funding also went to support girls' education in India, which can help whole families rise out of poverty (www.orphansponsorship.org/india), and to health care for poorer families in Mexico (www.mabelsclinic.net). Individual Hope members are actively engaged in each of these projects.

An exciting outreach proposal for a series of concerts in the soon-to-be-renovated church courtyard was approved, as was a substantial grant towards the courtyard improvements themselves. A grant was also given to support lay members of Hope's newly reconstituted worship team. Together with staff they will attend a workshop on worship, theology and the arts which will contribute directly to our congregation's goal of igniting worship. Finally, funds were approved to support the long-recognized desire for expanding wi-fi availability at Hope, especially in the lounge, library, and conference room.

In addition to approving grants, the Hope Church Trust Board is currently engaged in a substantive review of the financial condition of The Hope Church Trust and will continue taking steps to ensure the long-term viability of this valuable resource for the congregation, so that grants may continue to be available to support the many worthy mission opportunities both at University Lutheran Church of Hope and beyond.

Merrill Morse
Chairperson, Hope Church Trust

From the Visitation Pastor

Senior Group becomes Hope Diamonds

Recently we gathered to discuss the future of our Senior Ministry here at University Lutheran Church of Hope, and how we could re-imagine our special group. What an event! Ideas and thoughts flowed freely. People volunteered to take responsibility for certain areas. Ruth Lundquist will organize a devotion schedule. All suggestions were welcomed and changes happened! Each was voted in with overwhelming support.

#1: We are now called **Hope Diamonds!** Verle Rhoades has always wanted this to be our name and so it is.

#2: We will continue until summer on our current schedule. In the Fall we will begin a quarterly meeting schedule. There will be four meetings a year. Where and when is still to be determined by the group.

#3: Discussion of meals and budget makes us realize that with our caterer's cost rising, we may need to increase our \$5 per meal cost. Staff are welcome to join us for the meal at no cost.

Program for April 20

12 noon: Lunch together in Fellowship hall. For reservations, call Pastor Esther at 612-331-5988.

1 p.m.: Program in Heritage Hall. Doug Ohman, popular speaker, storyteller, and photographer with strong roots in Minnesota, will be back with us. "Best of Minnesota" is a new program he will present for us. Enjoy a fun-filled hour as he takes us on a photo trip throughout the great state of Minnesota. Doug will share stories and images from his back-road travels over the past 20 years, as well as the story of how he became a photographer and where he sees the future for his artistic passion.

Program for May 18

We will enjoy a piano/clarinet duo consisting of Dick Peik on clarinet and Mark Larson on piano. Both men have significant musical backgrounds and enjoy playing for different groups.

See you there.

(From the Visitation Pastor continued on p. 9)

(From the Visitation Pastor continued from p. 8)

Homebound Visitation

Our seniors continue to feel the changes of grief and loss in their lives. Even during our discussion for upcoming Hope Diamond programs, a suggested topic was information about next places to move. Dick Koernig's move to memory care in Pearl Garden after Zona's death brought more security for his family – It is instant community. Millie Holmgren is a few months away from becoming our second centenarian; Eleanor Edstrom will be 102 in June. Both are so interested in life, people, and this church. Marge Perko and Margaret Vainovskis are still in their homes with children living with them. Marge has very strong feelings about the political candidates. Good for her! I often have such a thankful feeling when I take my leave from a visit. Thank you for making this a priority in this place.

Compassion Care Classes

Compassion Care Training begins March 30 in Heritage Hall, 5:30-6:45 p.m. This is another opportunity to be part of a community at Hope. For five weeks we will meet and discuss Listening, Confidentiality, Boundaries, Depression and Grief. Our Compassion Care brochure reminds us that, "God has given us all the gifts to care for one another. The hope of this ministry is that we continue to grow as a warm and loving community where people are cherished and cared for." We hope to include caring in our families and with our friends. Materials are provided at no cost. The sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center. Compassion Care Ministers will be hosts for these trainings; Pastor Esther will be the presenter.

Children, Youth, and Families Transition Team

The Children, Youth, and Families Transition Team has been busy thinking, dreaming, and envisioning what the Children and Youth Ministry can look like here at Hope. We have now met with Kris and Sue from InterServe three times, and the Holy Spirit has been present in our conversations, leading us in this process. In March we completed a Faith Assets Inventory, listing the areas in which we are most efficient and discussing what we perceive as the priorities of Hope in this ministry. We have been encouraged to build on our strengths – and we have a lot of them! Soon it will be your turn to let us know what *your* hopes, dreams, and priorities are for the Children and Youth Ministry within our Hope community.

SAVE THE DATE: During the April 10 fellowship meal, Transition Team members will facilitate round table discussions. We will ask questions to create dialogue about what is important to you regarding this ministry. Please mark this on your calendar. Come talk about ways we as a congregation can fulfill our baptismal promises to the children of Hope, to whom we have committed our support in the growth of their faith. You will have the opportunity to meet our InterServe partners and learn about trends among youth within the church today. Please keep this ministry in your prayers as the team continues in this next phase of listening.

Stephanie Struthers

Children, Youth and Families Transition Team

Hope Book Club

April Classic: *The Brothers Karamazov*, by Fyodor Dostoevsky (Parts 1 & 2). Recommended translation: Pevear and Volokhonsky. April 10, 2016, 7 p.m. in the Hope Library



Dostoevsky's last and greatest novel chronicles the bitter love-hate struggle between the outsized Fyodor Karamazov and his three very different sons. It is above all the story of a murder, told with hair-raising intellectual clarity and a feeling for the human condition unsurpassed in world literature. This award-winning translation by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky, the definitive version in English, magnificently captures the rich and subtle energies of Dostoevsky's masterpiece.

May 8 (We may change the date because it is Mother's Day): *The Brothers Karamazov* (Parts 3 & 4)
Please contact Sonja Peterson with book suggestions or questions at 612-789-0397 or

9 peterston@dunnwald.com

President's Perspective and Vision & Governance Update

In the words of Henri Nouwen:

“The resurrection does not solve our problems about dying and death. It is not the happy ending to our life's struggle, nor is it the big surprise that God has kept in store for us. No, the resurrection is the expression of God's faithfulness.... The resurrection is God's way of revealing to us that nothing that belongs to God will ever go to waste. What belongs to God will never get lost.”

I pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy, will live in all of us each day; and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others. Easter Blessings,

John Rydeen
Congregation President

The Vision & Governance Board met March 8th. We welcomed the news that Ann Agrimson will be our new secretary beginning in April. Treasurer Ruth Hedman updated us on our current financial status. We worked on implementing the Vision Goals that the board and Pastor Jen put together last October for University Lutheran Church of Hope, focusing specifically on Connecting with the Neighborhood and Community: Porous Walls. We discussed putting up banners, using social media, and working with Lutheran Campus Ministry. Watch for more information about this in the coming months.

- Other ministry updates included an update on our work with InterServe on our ministry with children and families. Pastor Jen shared the calendar, indicating that Lent and Holy Week were extremely busy times for staff. Lenten services are being well received.
- The Executive Committee approved a recommendation that the Financial Controls Committee conduct a 'soft' audit of Hope's finances, to protect our employees and verify that our processes are correct. We are negotiating the details. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Vision Goal #1: Connecting with Our Neighborhood and Community

Our congregation has incredible opportunities as we discern where God is leading us next. Over the next several months, we are engaging in discovering how our church community can extend further into the neighborhood to show God's love, grace and goodness.

InterServe Ministries will be leading and coaching us, as a unique faith community, through a process of discerning the many possibilities we have to serve and walk alongside the university community and the neighborhood. At the end of our first phase in this process together, we will have concrete goals and action steps to launch us into new opportunities for ministry.

We are forming a team to learn, observe, and listen to how God is calling us into our community. We are looking for 8-10 people to serve on this task force. The commitment will be at least two meetings a month and regularly working together via email and other online communications. We will also bring together small groups at some point, to help us brainstorm and further our discoveries. This will be a shorter commitment, but very important and helpful to the entire process. On Palm Sunday we held an informational meeting. If you missed the meeting and are still interested in joining the team or in using your time and interests in some other way, talk with Pastor Jen.

Beer and Hymns on April 14

Mark your calendars for Beer and Hymns on Thursday, April 14, 7:30pm. We'll gather in the lower level of Blarney's Pub in Dinkytown and enjoy good company and plenty of rousing hymns. Feel free to park at Hope and walk over. Haven't come before? Check this out. Sponsored by younger adults, this opportunity is for ALL ages. Feel free to bring friends. It's a relaxed group and an uplifting evening.

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
opening/closing

Childcare:

Clair Gustafson

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

Board Secretary: Ann Agrimson

The Visitor

The Visitor is published monthly by University Lutheran Church of Hope, 601 13th 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.

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

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