



# The Visitor



September 2016

Issue #12-8

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.*

## A Week in God's Creation: The Youth Group's Mid-July Sawtooth Mountain Hiking Trip

Sitting atop Oberg Mountain under a canopy of glimmering stars and satellites tracking steadily through the dark, we turned our heads northeast, anticipating the orange fog of sunrise to begin its early glow over the vast, placid, black waters of Lake Superior. We chose this as the place to be on our last day of backpacking with Camp Amnicon.



The week-long trip was challenging, but rewarding. Our trek from Caribou Lake past Lutsen to Oberg Mountain took us through 20 miles of sometimes grueling, often spectacular trails.

During the days, we covered mile after mile, clambering straight up mountains, resting on cliff sides overlooking sweeping vistas of tall pines and meandering rivers, and sharing stories, jokes, and riddles to pass the miles. In the evenings, we explored the woods looking for kindling, cooked meals over our fire, and reflected deeply on the wonders of God's creation and the doubts we share about faith, life, and society.

A couple of layover days afforded us the opportunity to stop and rest, exploring the nearby Onion River and playing game after game at the campsite. We took time to relax on Oberg Mountain in the broad daylight, talking and joking as we overlooked Lake Superior in all its expansive glory. We all came back with stories to tell and a hunger to share those experiences with others. Pause before or after a church service and ask our youth all about their adventures on the Superior Hiking Trail.

James Vitale, Youth Minister

# Treasurer's Report for July 2016

July 2016 and Year-to-Date Income and Expenses						
Summary	Actuals July 2016	Budget July 2016	July 2016 Variance	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	31,104	33,075	(1,971)	252,924	261,975	(9,051)
Rental Income	6,350	7,792	(1,442)	47,510	56,043	(8,533)
Total Income	37,453	40,867	(3,413)	300,433	318,018	(17,584)
Total Expenses	34,998	39,927	(4,929)	267,608	301,179	(33,571)
Net Income	2,455	939	1,516	32,826	16,839	15,987



July's total income is unfavorable to budget by \$3.4k. While our revenue continues to be off slightly each month, it adds up, as you can see in the YTD unfavorable variance of \$17.6k. Even with total income unfavorable to budget, our YTD net income is favorable to budget by \$16k. I continue to appreciate our leaders as they are mindful of our mission while using our resources wisely. It's a balance that needs to be in our minds when decisions are being made.

I like using Simply Giving for my monthly contributions to both our general fund and the building fund. If you're like me, you rarely use checks anymore. Simply Giving is a way to save paper, the cost of having to print checks, and time...no more writing checks. A link to Simply Giving is on our home page at [ulch.org](http://ulch.org) or let me know and I will send you a form to sign up. Look for this option during Stewardship. Please remember that the needs of our church are important year around. Your offerings keep our congregation together in fellowship and help our church continue with our mission to demonstrate God's love for the world.

Income for Hope For The Future capital campaign in July was \$7.6k. This fund continues to pay \$6.9k toward our mortgage each month. Net income for July was \$1.1k. This brings our building fund balance to \$215k. By the time you read this report, the roof should be completed. Then we will make our final payment to the roofing company which will bring our balance in this fund to around \$50k. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we had the resources to make a necessary repair to our building. Thank you.

We have received the final report from Leininger CPA, Ltd of their financial review of the Operating, Building, and Trust accounts. As expected, they had no major concerns. There are items that need to be addressed in all the accounts – these are typical, and will be completed in a short time. It's always nice to be able to check an item off your to-do list and move forward. If you would like to see a copy of the report please let me know. If you have any questions please contact me at [treasurer@ulch.org](mailto:treasurer@ulch.org)

Ruth Hedman, Treasurer

## Registration for Hope Connections Small Group Ministry

Come one and come all. Hope Connections Small Group Ministry will be in full swing for another year! A task force has been working over the summer to develop the curriculum. Pastor Jen suggested our focus theme of Race Relationships. Topics will include: We are all Sojourners, Hospitality: Welcoming the Stranger, Economic Inequality, Meeting Human Need, and “Not even in Israel have I found such faith.” Look for the Hope Connections registration table on Sunday mornings September 11, 18, and 25 to sign up. If you are new to Hope and want to meet some folks, sign up. If you have been around awhile and want to make a deeper connection, sign up. If you are itching to lead a bible study or host a group, sign up. If you have questions, call John Beane at 651.338.4492 or email [pilgrim.beane@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrim.beane@gmail.com).

## God's Work, Our Hands

This September, congregations around the ELCA will participate in an event called “God’s Work, Our Hands.” In many congregations, like here at University Lutheran Church of Hope in past years, this is a special day of service where members pack food at a food shelf or reach out with specific opportunities, embodying the theme that we are called to do God’s work using our very hands, minds, and bodies.



Here at Hope we too are celebrating and focusing on God’s Work, Our Hands. We’ll do this over a number of Sundays as that theme frames our ministry. September 4 is part of move-in weekend at the U of M. That day we’ll hold our Welcome Back Students event with good tunes from an assortment of musicians and good food from a food truck. Students and each one of us (yes, really, this is a community event – come and enjoy!) will have a chance to linger and learn a little more about our surrounding neighborhood and how church and community come together. That day we’ll also find ways to bless students, faculty, and staff for a new academic year. Indeed, all this is God’s Work and Our Hands.

On September 11 we’ll kick off the church program year as we return to two services (8:30a.m. and 10:30a.m.) and begin Sunday Forums (9:30a.m.) and Faith Formation for children and youth (9:15a.m.). We’ll also begin our week of hosting families who stay at the church as they seek more stable housing and employment. As we welcome Families Moving Forward, we do everything from making beds and cooking meals to hosting guests overnight and engaging kids in evening activities. Again, God’s Work and Our Hands.

In this spirit, we’re not adding activities for September, but will remind one another that the work we do both here at church and everywhere we go—teaching kids, tending the earth, caring for the ill, organizing people, soothing the broken-hearted, creating beauty, everything—it’s really our hands participating in God’s work. Last month I wrote about two part-time positions that we’re filling here at University Lutheran Church of Hope: Community Engagement Coordinator and Interim Faith Formation Minister. As I type (mid-August) there are two search teams meeting this week with two pools of candidates, all interested in one or the other of the positions. I’d love to be able to announce that these positions are filled, and by September they certainly may be! Please pray for this process and watch for announcements to come.

Also, in this newsletter, our Visitation Pastor Esther Dant writes thoughtfully about her retirement coming up in January. I give deep thanks for Esther’s ministry in our midst over these last 7½ years and we savor the time we have to share. Again and again, it’s God working through our hands. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Jen

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## Three Items for Worship and Music

Our third and final **Courtyard Concert** will be Sunday, September 18 at 7:00p.m. Emily Bruflat, Cantor at First Lutheran Church in St. Peter and grad school friend and classmate of Zach, will join him at the keyboard as the “Hymn & Her Piano Duo,” featuring dazzling works by Schubert and Debussy as well as selections from Brahms’ *Liebeslieder Waltzes*. It will be a very fun evening of music – invite friends! Free and open to the public.

**Monthly Prayer Around the Cross** services will continue this fall at 7:00p.m. on Wednesday, September 21 and Wednesday, October 19. This prayer service combines silence, readings, prayers, peaceful music, and an extended time of candle-lighting. All are welcome.

Consider joining the **Hope Choir!** We meet weekly on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9p.m. and sing most Sundays from September through May, rehearsing at 9a.m. Sunday mornings as well. The choir sings service music, liturgy, and anthems, with the primary purpose of helping lead the congregation’s singing. All are welcome to join, regardless of age or ability. We sing a broad range of music that varies in difficulty and style. Being able to read music is helpful but not required. If you have been thinking about joining us, now is the time! Talk to Zach with any questions – [zachb@ulch.org](mailto:zachb@ulch.org)

Zach Busch, Minister of Worship and Music

# FAITH FORMATION NEWS



## Faith Formation for All Ages

### Sunday School

We are excited to let parents, grandparents, and guardians know that we offer an experience for children ages 3 and up to participate and learn in an age-appropriate environment. September 11 at 9:15a.m., kids and their parents have the opportunity to come and look at their classrooms, talk with their volunteer teachers, register if they haven't already, and get excited about another year of growing in faith. Look for registration coming soon.

### Confirmation Class

We begin Confirmation Class in September. Families, talk with Pastor Jen if you are interested in participating in this program. There are three elements to our Confirmation Program and some changes from last year:

**Mini-retreats:** We'll do monthly mini-retreats again, most likely on Sunday afternoons. During each retreat we take time for some sort of service opportunity or activity. We eat together, worship together, and have learning time. Each month will be built around a different learning focus, and we'll invite someone from the congregation to join us. In September we'll do an introduction to the Bible and Catechism; in October our focus will be on Vocation and Baptism. Other focus areas during the year will include: Communion and Holy Communion, Suffering, Belief, Prayer, and Science and Religion.

**Mentors:** Each Confirmation Student picks a mentor from the congregation. We encourage students and mentors to share some specific conversations (with questions for a guide) and to do a service project together.

**Sunday Mornings:** Three Sundays a month, Confirmation students will participate in a new program we're creating called "Exploring the Community of Hope." Students will team up with key adults in the congregation to learn more about what it means to be a part of this community serving in roles such as usher, reading lessons, sharing music, and more.

Kirsten Mebust, Education Ministry Area

### Youth Group

#### Gearing up for Sunday Morning

The youth room is refreshed, refurbished, and ready for another year of Sunday Morning Youth Group! Bright lights, fresh paint, and new carpet make it the perfect place to relax with a mug of coffee, tea, or hot chocolate fresh from the Keurig. We kick off another year of Sunday mornings together on September 11 at 9:15a.m. All are invited to join us each Sunday morning in the youth room to relax and explore how God is living and active in our lives, the lives of our friends, and the life of our world. We hope to see you there! Questions?

Contact Youth Director Jim Vitale at [jvitale001@luthersem.edu](mailto:jvitale001@luthersem.edu)

#### Moonlight Madness

Youth in grades 6-9 are invited to join us for an all-night adventure across Minneapolis! Moonlight Madness is set for November 11 from 9p.m. to 7a.m. We will spend the night eating pizza and playing games at Augsburg College, winning prizes and playing laser tag and mini golf at Grand Slam funplex, going to the movies, and finally, bowling at the Mermaid. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jim Vitale at

[jvitale001@luthersem.edu](mailto:jvitale001@luthersem.edu)

James Vitale, Youth Minister

# Sunday Forums

(9:30-10:20 a.m. in Heritage Hall, below the Sanctuary)

**September 11: Guatemala Experience.** Come and hear about Ann Beane's experience volunteering for a month at a small coffee cooperative in Antigua, Guatemala. She'll talk about the steps from coffee cherry to cup, about the non-governmental organization that is helping the farmers (men and women), and other insights.



**September 18: Africa's Child.** Maria Nhamu is a friend of Ann Agrimson's. She is the author of *Africa's Child*, the first book of a three-part memoir. It is the story of a mixed-race child growing up in Tanzania. Raised in an orphanage with no knowledge of her origins or family, she faced abandonment; severe illnesses; physical, emotional, and sexual abuse; social stigma; and racial discrimination. Nhamu not only survived her childhood but triumphed. Her faith and resilience, along with a belief in learning and her tenacious pursuit of education, sustained her through many challenges. Dance, especially African tribal dance, became the way she healed and nourished her spirit.

**September 25: Adolescent Drug Use: Trends and Challenges.** Michael Durchslag, Director of P.E.A.S.E. Academy (Peers Enjoying a Sober Education), will discuss the drugs adolescents are being exposed to today and the challenges these drugs present to individuals, families, and communities, and will lift up ways to provide support in these situations. P.E.A.S.E. Academy is the oldest recovery high school in the nation, and makes its home here at Hope. Mr. Durchslag became the school's director in 2007 after teaching Social Studies at PEASE since 1995. He serves on the board of the national Association of Recovery Schools. He holds a BA from Beloit College and an MA from St. Thomas University.



**October 2: Life, Mental Health, and Depression.** Judy Pendroy is a staff psychologist and University Community Response Team Coordinator at the University of Minnesota's Boynton Health Service. In her work, Dr. Pendroy counsels students dealing with a variety of mental health issues including depression, which is the focus of her presentation. She will speak about her work, then welcome our participation on this topic, relevant to all ages.

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## Rethinking Sunday Morning

Four members of Hope attended a seminar, Rethinking Sunday Morning, at Luther Seminary July 27-29. At the beginning of the event, participants were asked to keep three questions in mind throughout: What is one thing not working in your setting? What is one strength of your setting? What is one experiment you'd like to try? In this issue of the *Visitor*, Kirsten Mebust reports on what she learned. In upcoming *Visitors*, Sara Tufvesson Doure, Brian McCaffrey, and John Setterlund will share their learnings.

**Kirsten Mebust:** I appreciated Teresa Cho, a Presbyterian pastor from San Francisco. She spoke about being called to "bring in young families" to an historic church with a mostly white population in a mostly Chinese-American neighborhood, in a city with "more dogs than children." The congregation's expectation that it would take three years or less for her to accomplish this goal was unrealistic. Cho spoke of "kimchi" as a metaphor from her Korean heritage for the Holy Spirit's work in her congregation. Kimchi is any of a number of vegetables rubbed with sugar and salt and fermented in jars. "Leave a little air and space at the top," she told us, "or the jar will explode." And, "Transformation happens not with one huge change but with many small changes over time, by fermentation." Cho's presentation encouraged experimentation with small changes and patience, even in the midst of anxiety and misunderstanding. "People have different tastes for kimchi," she told us. "Some like the fermentation to stop after a short while and others don't like it until it has been in the jar longer and is smellier."

# Congregational Life

## Dates to Keep in Mind

September 4: Welcome Back University Students Festival and Book Sale

September 11: Worship schedule changes to two services. FMF week begins. Hope Book Club.

September 18: Courtyard Concert

September 21: Hope Diamonds, Prayer Around the Cross

October 1: Open Streets Day near the University of Minnesota

October 2: Blessing of Animals

October 5: Hope Diamonds planning meeting

October 16: Advent Worship planning workshop

October 19: Prayer Around the Cross

October 30: Reformation Sunday and Confirmation

All October: During the month of October we'll host Nigerian Theologian in Residence Dr. Ibrahim Bitrus.

## Life Events at Hope

We're a community of faith called to hold one another in prayer. Below are a few of the life events affecting our community (members and others close to our community, births, baptisms, marriage, death, and other pivotal events). We need your help to know what we can pray for; please alert a pastor or contact the church office. We include in prayer...

**Marriages:** Fredric Kreider and Jillian Perkins, who were married August 12. Anna Bablitch and Sean Coppin, who will marry at University Lutheran Church of Hope September 10.

**Deaths:** Tim Schroeder and his family at the death of his mother, Cynthia. Tim was our Liaison for Lutheran Campus Ministry and is now an ELCA Intern in Berlin, Germany.

**Significant Illness:** Those living with illness, cancer, uncertain diagnosis, chemical dependency, and mental health struggles, especially Hannah Kiresuk, Kathy Knudson, Grace Wagner, and Chuck Lewis.

## Book Sale September 4 along with Welcome Students Festival September 4

Bring your books to the table in Heritage Hall, and then come to help us set up the tables on Saturday, September 3 from 1 to 4p.m. Proceeds go to Marcy School. Questions? Contact Ruth Fingerson at 651-633-5316 or [rfingerson@centurylink.net](mailto:rfingerson@centurylink.net) Thanks!

## Families Moving Forward

We will be hosting FMF September 11 through 18. Last May we successfully hosted FMF with help from Prospect Park Methodist Church and St. Frances Cabrini Church who provided volunteers Friday evening through the Saturday morning hot breakfast. Because they are unable to fill these slots in September, we are looking for volunteers to fill them. Please consider volunteering for this important mission of our congregation. This program has been very successful, with 94% placement of families in independent living quarters this past year. The sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center. Contact Christine Nielson or Julie Paschke with questions.

## September Fellowship Meal

Join us Sunday, September 18 for a Fellowship Meal following 10:30am worship. This is a chance for our community to come together around the table, get to know one another, and strengthen our ties. Graduate students and undergrads are our guests and eat free. Thanks to Becky Halvorson and Dan O'Laughlin for taking a lead on the meals. Each month we need a crew of folks to focus on setup for the meal and cleanup following. Talk with your team or committee or small group and let Pastor Jen know how your group will be involved. Please invite others to attend and then intentionally get to know some new folks.

## Igniting Worship, Deepening Spirituality

The Worship Planning Team announces an Advent Worship Workshop on Sunday October 16 following worship. We'd love to learn about your desires and ideas, and tap into your energy to help us continue to Ignite Worship as we anticipate the Advent Season. No prior experience necessary! Come for a little lunch, fellowship, and the opportunity to share your gifts.

## More Congregational Life

### Prayer Shawl Update

We have heard many heart-warming stories about the recipients of our prayer shawls! This is a reminder to all that prayer shawls are available; they can be found next to the Welcome Center. Please feel free to take one for yourself, or for someone else in need of healing prayers. Our goal is for every Hope household to have a prayer shawl. A note to crafters: Fleece and yarn are available if you'd like to make one. If you are interested, let one of us know and we'll give you more information and instructions. Thanks to all who participate in making this an ongoing ministry. Beata Rydeen - [beatarydeen@comcast.net](mailto:beatarydeen@comcast.net) and Ann Beane - [spirit.beane@gmail.com](mailto:spirit.beane@gmail.com)

### A Note of Thanks from the Family of Millie Holmgren

Dear University Lutheran Church of Hope Congregation, We cannot thank you enough for the beautiful bouquet of stunning red roses you gave Mom for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Also, thank you for the overwhelming love, cards, phone calls, gifts of candy, flowers, etc. and generous donations to Sheridan Story and Marcy Open School. Your donations to Sheridan Story will feed many children, which makes us extremely happy. Thank you all for making Mom's birthday really special and complete. It was such fun to see so many of you there, along with former pastors of University Lutheran Church of Hope. What a Blessed Day! May God bless all of you.

With Love and Deep Appreciation, Millie, Sharon, Gary, and Family

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## Generosity and Gratitude Committee

The Generosity and Gratitude Committee has been working on ideas to express the many ways in which our congregation is a good steward to God. Stewardship has many aspects, of which money invested in the church is just one. Our goal is to highlight all aspects of what makes a good steward. Therefore the Stewardship Committee has been renamed the Generosity and Gratitude Committee. We want to be a noticeable committee throughout the year, focusing on different ministries within the church.

As one of our first actions the committee wants to share 'Generosity Moments' with the congregation.

Generosity Moments are acts of kindness that helped you feel God's love. As these moments happen to you, think about sharing them with people around you, including the congregation. It doesn't matter what role you played in the Generosity Moment, as long as it reminded you of God's love in the world. Molly Broin will be collecting these stories to share with the congregation beginning this fall. Please forward your story to her at [molly.broin@gmail.com](mailto:molly.broin@gmail.com). You can also write the moment down and place it in the offering plate.

There are many ways our congregation expresses our gratitude for God and God's love. The Generosity and Gratitude Committee wants to highlight the joyful giving to God that happens every day within and beyond University Lutheran Church of Hope's walls. Feel free to share ideas and suggestions with us.

The Generosity and Gratitude Team: Ann Beane, Ann Wagner, Beth Ubbelohde, Kathy Kufus, and Molly Broin

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## Hope Book Club

Come enjoy an early fall evening with the Hope Book Club at Silverwood Park, 2500 County Road E in St. Anthony on September 11 at 7p.m. We will discuss the Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *All the Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doerr.



*This beautiful, stunningly ambitious New York Times bestseller tells the story of a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.* ([www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com))

Join us October 9 to discuss *A Man Called Ove*, by Fredrik Backman.

Please contact Sonja Peterson with suggestions or questions at 612-789-0397 or [speterson@dunnwald.com](mailto:speterson@dunnwald.com)

## President's Perspective and Vision & Governance Update

Summer seems to have slipped away again as we at Hope make plans for the fall and into next year. It has been a very busy summer at Hope in many ways. Please read all the articles here in *The Visitor* about all the plans and events upcoming and into the future. And please plan on attending as you are able.

The Vision & Governance Board met on August 9 and heard reports from treasurer Ruth Hedman, updates on the positions that are open, and updates from all liaisons. We have an exciting pool of candidates for both positions and are beginning the interview process. More on that in the near future.

I want to encourage all members who are around on Labor Day weekend to attend the annual Welcome Back Students event after worship on Sunday, September 4. Much planning and work has gone into this event and our hope is that all members will stop by for food, fun, and fellowship, and maybe get to know some new and returning students who will be living in our community.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please feel free to talk to me or e-mail me at [president@ulch.org](mailto:president@ulch.org).

Blessings,

John Rydeen, Congregational President

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## Hope in the World: The Sheridan Story



September marks the beginning of Hope's participation in The Sheridan Story, a network of churches and other faith-based and community organizations teaming up to help alleviate hunger among elementary school children. Together with St. Lawrence, University Baptist, and other Marcy neighborhood churches, we will be providing qualifying children attending Marcy Open School with bags of food for use on the weekends when they are not receiving meals at school.

Hope's financial contribution for this year has already been covered by a grant from the Trust Board, and those who chose to send contributions in honor of Millie Holmgren's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Soon we will know our schedule for helping to distribute food to children's backpacks on designated Friday afternoons. Volunteers will be needed for those afternoons. Please be thinking if this is something you would like to be involved in and, if so, watch for further announcements about our distribution Fridays as well as quarterly 'packing nights' which will be held at the Sheridan Story warehouse.

Bruce Eldevik, Hope in the World

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## Days of Service and Learning: Youth Group's Service Retreat

To be honest, none of us were really sure what to expect. We knew we would be learning about and serving our local community, but beyond that, we weren't sure what would happen at the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches Urban Immersion Service Retreat Center in south Minneapolis in mid-August. But not long after arriving, we learned that God had plans for us that week.



We spent the first night learning about the shocking state of poverty and hunger around the world, in our nation, and right here in Minnesota. Then we spent the next two days engaging with organizations that help to combat poverty, hunger, and injustice: ARC Thrift Stores, Bridging Bloomington, Gandhi Mahal Interfaith Garden, Feed My Starving Children, and Second Harvest Heartland. One evening we were privileged to hear the story of Cynthia, a woman who, with her four children, experienced hardship and homelessness on the streets of Chicago and Minneapolis. Her story helped to expose us to the injustices that still exist so close to our homes. Working with local organizations, hearing Cynthia's story, and late nights at the retreat center talking over the issues helped to kindle within us a passion for justice rather than charity—not just a desire to help the needy, but a drive to topple the systems that force people to become needy. As we continue to seek ways to speak and act against injustice in Minneapolis, have a conversation with our youth and ask about their experiences on the service retreat!

James Vitale, Youth Minister

## Facilities and Courtyard Updates

This summer has been very busy and productive for the Facilities Committee. As you may know, Hope committed to replacing all remaining flat roofs this summer (Thorpe Chapel roof was replaced last summer). I am pleased to say that the roofing work will be finished before P.E.A.S.E. Academy resumes classes the week of August 22. The new metal flashing around the entire Education/Office wing will be installed in September. Yes, the color will be the same sky blue, aka "Lutheran light blue," that we all love and expect. Some minor, not unexpected air conditioning problems arose during construction; they will be repaired within 3-4 weeks. Also this summer the Youth Room received a refresh courtesy of the P.E.A.S.E. Foundation. Improvements include new lighting, paint, and carpeting. Stop in sometime and see the more inviting space. I want to thank our excellent staff, especially Gayle Bidne, for their extra effort and patience during our summer of construction.

John Pignatello, Facilities Co-chair

This is being written mid-August, so the easiest way for you to check the progress of the courtyard redo is to look in the courtyard. We expect Phases 1 and 2 (hardscape and softscape) to be in progress. Fundraising continues until the second Sunday in September. As of August 15, we have raised \$7,570 of the \$20,000 needed to complete the project in 2017. We thank those who have contributed and encourage those who are still thinking about it to contribute soon. Bring any questions to the Courtyard Committee display at the information desk on Sundays. If the \$20K is not raised by Sept. 11, we will restart fundraising in early 2017 so we can plant in the spring.

Kathy Knudson, Courtyard Committee

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## The Trust and the Law, Part II

### (Sixth in a Series about the Hope Church Trust)

Have you ever heard of 'Donor Intent'? It basically means that if you give money to a charitable organization, for example, for a specific purpose (e.g., money to the Hope Church Trust for the Music Special Gifts fund), it has to be used for that purpose. Otherwise, the receiving organization can be in big trouble. Religious organizations in Minnesota have even been sued over such things. That's because this isn't just a matter of courtesy. It's the law. In fact, that particular law is called the "Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act" (UPMIFA – try that acronym as a party trivia question and see if anyone has ever heard of it!). This law is both a federal and a state statute, applicable in at least 43 states and approved in its revised form by the Minnesota legislature in 2008. (Minnesota had already approved the Minnesota Trustee's Powers Act, Minnesota Statutes Section 501B.79-82 and Chapter 188-H.F. No. 1499, in case you are curious).

So, unlike most church governing boards, endowment fund boards such as Hope's Trust Board need to be especially mindful of protecting the church in how they manage the Trust monies. It's nice to think that Hope's chances of getting sued are about zero, but since we do consider and insure against other potential liabilities as a church, it just makes sense for the Trust Board to be attentive to its responsibilities in this area.

But it's not only a matter of law. It's a matter of trust, of community, of integrity, and of how we honor one another. After all, how would you feel if you donated money specifically for student outreach, an orphanage, or even the beautification of Hope through artwork, and then found out that it went for building repairs or office supplies? Both of these are important, of course, but should be funded from other sources. In the end, The Hope Church Trust is exactly that, an instrument of trust, faith, and hope in each other for the good of our church and the world.

Merrill Morse, Chairperson of Hope Church Trust

## From the Visitation Pastor

The words of a song are going through my thoughts, especially since I just dropped a CD off in Zach's office and "Blowin' in the Wind" was playing. How many roads must we walk down before we grow up? It talks about seas and the safety of a white dove to sleep in the sand. How many years can mountains exist before they are washed to the sea? It talks of freedom for people. How many years will we turn our heads and not see? The answer, Bob Dylan says, is "blowin' in the wind," and then he says it again.

And so, in this coming of fall again, the answer for me too seems to be blowing in the wind. How many years will I be part of this amazing community? The answer is in the wind and my heart in my 76<sup>th</sup> year. It is time to retire from my position as Visitation Pastor here.

There is so much in Dylan's questions that seems a reflection of University Lutheran Church of Hope beyond these questions. There is a maturity here that lets us love God and each other and not live in judgment or discrimination. There is great love of creation and caring for our world in the actions we have taken around this building. We have never been a congregation to turn our heads and not see.

When it is time, it doesn't always make sense, but it is time. My leaving will come the 31<sup>st</sup> of January, 2017. So there is still time to work together in this wonderful place.

In love and gratefulness,  
Pastor Esther

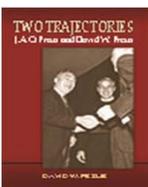


## Hope Diamonds Fall Schedule

Dear Hope Senior Friends,

It is time for communication to you all about our Hope Diamonds. At an organizational meeting in the spring, there was a lively discussion about the meeting schedule. By a unanimous vote, we decided to meet quarterly instead of monthly, from September through May. Another lively discussion resulted in a name change for our group, from Senior Group to Hope Diamonds. A unique name for a senior group, it was suggested by Verle Rhoades, and the vote also was unanimous. So now we look to fall and begin our new quarterly schedule. There will be a special planning meeting to talk about our Hope Diamonds organization and upcoming schedule on Wednesday, October 5 at 10a.m. All are welcome.

Our first luncheon and program are September 21. Lunch is at 12 noon. Program begins at 1p.m. Call 612-331-5988 or Pastor Esther at 651-636-7834 to make reservations for your meal. The program is a book discussion by Bishop David W. Preus, pastor at University Lutheran Church of Hope from 1957 to 1972. The book is *Two Trajectories*, by David W. Preus. From Lutheran University Press' web page:



*David W. Preus was president of The American Lutheran Church from 1973 to 1987, while J.A.O. Preus was president of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod from 1968 to 1981. Both were extremely influential in the life and development of their respective church bodies. In this book David W. Preus explores the similarities and differences between J.A.O. (Jack) Preus and himself, especially related to their understanding of the church.*

*They were two cousins who were presidents of two large U.S. Lutheran church bodies. Both of them subscribed unreservedly to the Bible, the ecumenical creeds, the Augsburg Confession, and Luther's Small Catechism, yet the theological perspectives of Jack and David Preus were different enough that they could not keep their church bodies in fellowship with each other. Fellowship had been declared by the two church bodies in 1969 and was ended by the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod in 1981.*

*Jack and David Preus were friends throughout their lives. They recognized that their theological trajectories were different, but they remained bound by family and personal affection and shared Christian faith. They enjoyed their times together when the theological problems were set aside, especially at family reunions when they were reminded of how much they held in common even as they acknowledged that there were differences.*

Peace,  
Pastor Esther

# September 2016 calendar

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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

### **Child Care:** Clair Gustafson

### **Working in partnership with**

### **Lutheran Campus Ministry**

Rev. Kate Reuer Welton

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