



The Visitor



Complex world. Thoughtful church.

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Issue #12-9

*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.*

Our Renewed Courtyard Space

By the time the October *Visitor* is published, the Phase 1 and 2 (hardscape and softscape) efforts in the courtyard will be done. We have also temporarily suspended our fundraising efforts, but they will resume later, as we still have \$6,780 left to raise. That money is needed to finish paying for Phases 1 and 2, build the pergola, complete plantings, and meet other miscellaneous costs. Thank you all for your support for this project.



Our first Courtyard Concert in our new environment, featuring the Hymn and Her Piano Duet playing Debussy, Schubert, Helvey, and Bizet, with a quartet singing six Brahms *Liebeslieder*, was enjoyed by a standing-room-only audience on Sunday evening, September 18.

Picnic Tables – Free to Good Home(s)

The two picnic tables that have been in the courtyard for many years were a memorial from Dr. Russell Lembke, a former choir director at Hope and supporter of Hope athletic teams, in memory of his wife Ethel. I'm sure most of you have sat at those tables many times and enjoyed conversation and food with friends and fellow members.

The new plan for the courtyard includes smaller tables with movable chairs, to allow for more flexible use of the area. Therefore the Facilities Team is offering members of the congregation the opportunity to take home one or both of the existing picnic tables this fall.

If you are interested in either or both of the picnic tables, please contact either Gayle Bidne or me by October 10. If there are more than two requests, we will put the names in a hat and draw. We do request that the tables be removed by October 15.

Kathy Knudson
Courtyard Committee

Treasurer's Report for August 2016

August 2016 and Year-to-Date Income and Expenses						
Summary	Actuals Aug. 2016	Budget Aug. 2016	Aug. 2016 Variance	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	30,366	33,075	(2709)	283,290	295,050	(11,760)
Rental Income	7991	7,792	199	55,500	63,834	(8,334)
Total Income	37,357	40,867	(2510)	338,790	358,884	(20,094)
Total Expenses	45,973	37,251	8721	313,580	338,430	(24,850)
Net Income	(7616)	3615	(11,231)	25,210	20,454	4756



August's total income is unfavorable to budget by \$2.5K. While our revenue continues to be just slightly less each month, it adds up, as you can see in the YTD unfavorable variance of \$20k. The Gratitude and Generosity Committee (formerly Stewardship Committee) will soon be sending out pledge letters.

Simply Giving is a great way to evenly distribute your annual giving throughout the year and not have to worry about sending your check or even finding your checkbook. A link to Simply Giving is found on our home page at ulch.org. And don't forget, you can now give via text. If you'd like information on either Simply Giving or texting your donation, please let me know.

Total expenses in August were over budget by \$8.7k due to the Youth Service Retreat, a September expense recorded in August, and a previous year correction. However, offsetting some of those expenditures were gifts people had given for specific purposes. We thank you for those gifts that help continue our ministry.

Overall, 2016 is still favorable to our budget. I thank our members for their gifts and 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. If you have any questions please contact me at treasurer@ulch.org

Ruth Hedman
Treasurer

Book Sale a Big Success!

Thanks to so many people! Hope members donated many wonderful books. Our staff allowed us to take over the 13th Avenue hall for almost 2 weeks. John Bablitch made us welcome at the Welcome Students event. PEASE students hauled books from Heritage Hall to the sale area. Geremew transported tables back and forth and dealt with all of the bags, boxes, and other recycling after the sale. Nancy Miller, Marilyn Asp, Dean Bronson, Carol Worthington, and Karen Westwood arranged and sold.



Many people saw the need after the second service on the 11th, and made sure that we were able to get all of the leftover books out. Many people took boxes of books to sell to Half Price Books. Jo Schroeder collected children's books for our FMF guests, to keep if they wish. John Setterlund took books for children in Palestine.

Money is still coming in as I write this, but we earned over \$350. That means that Marcy School will get their wish for classroom flags. We are buying the flags from the American Legion. We hope that the Legion will be able to send someone to the school to teach the students the Pledge of Allegiance and tell them about how the flag represents our democracy. With the election this year, the timing is excellent. There should also be money for some other needs at this nearby school which has many students living in poverty.

Ruth Fingerson

Entertaining Angels

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” -Hebrews 13:1-2



For quite a while I was part of a community, really a movement, that was always growing, always changing. Some folks had been around for years and knew the history, established the routines, rooted identity in it, and could just about predict the tensions. Over the seasons, others joined in and the community stretched and welcomed, often with grace, sometimes with pain.

We retreated together annually, and almost like clockwork we'd have a discussion, often awkwardly, that was really about insiders and outsiders. Was there a line between insiders and outsiders? How was it defined?

Why? Who determined that line? How did we communicate it? When was it a helpful boundary? When was it an off-putting block? How were we called to live as Christ's community?

Around church (this congregation, and others), I spend a lot of time thinking about this dynamic between insiders and outsiders. Perhaps more specifically, I spend a lot of time thinking about how to create community that is at once intimate and public. At our best, there is an intimacy, a connectedness around the Gospel of Christ Jesus. We come to community seeking to belong, to find a place, like Cheers, where we can be known by both a holy and mysterious Savior and by other human beings also walking this path of faith.

At the very same time, we are a community that is growing, changing, stretching. One of our goals involves engaging with our neighborhood and the campus. We know that visitors arrive every Sunday, sometimes from across the street, sometimes from across the city. We seek porous walls. Said another way, walls that welcome people in to be fed and nourished, and that invite us out into the world to serve. We don't want to be a fortress, with door barricaded in fear or comfort or apathy. Rather, we seek to be a hub of the Spirit's activity, mindful always that God is already doing a new thing within us, but also beyond us. I'm excited about the ways our new Community Engagement Coordinator, Nick Tangen, will lead us over the coming years.

As people come in and out of the congregation, and as we live more fully with these porous walls, I am mindful of our language in worship, and in communications. It's easy to assume everyone knows about *that* group or *this* activity, or even that stalwart of the congregation. As I become more comfortable here at Hope (we're on month 15), I catch myself having to ask: would a visitor know what this announcement means? Would someone who's been around but perhaps isn't too regular feel welcome at that activity? Churches are often steeped in insider language and I invite us to have keen radar that is attentive to what this might sound like or feel like to someone who is newer or less involved. I give thanks for those of you who have called Hope your community for decades, and I also give thanks for those who are just dipping in and exploring this community and this crazy and gracious trust in God that we call faith. What a chance to entertain angels without knowing it!

Pastor Jen

Worship and Music Events

National Lutheran Choir at Hope

Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m., the National Lutheran Choir will hold an open rehearsal in our sanctuary. The public is invited to attend. Come see this renowned ensemble at work behind-the-scenes. Well-known Latvian composer Eriks Esenvalds will also be present and will work with the choir on one of his pieces.

Prayer Around the Cross

We will hold our monthly Prayer Around the Cross service on Wednesday evening, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. Come for a brief service of singing, prayer, silence, and candle lighting.

Faure Requiem for All Saints

The Hope Choir and instrumentalists from Hope and the University of Minnesota will present movements from Gabriel Faure's *Requiem* during 10:30 a.m. worship on All Saints Sunday, Nov. 6. The music will be woven into the liturgy for the day, and will give this special Sunday extra meaning. Our other traditional All Saints activities – lighting candles, reading names – will also be included.

Zach Busch
Minister of Worship and Music

FAITH FORMATION NEWS



Faith Formation for All Ages

Sunday School is off to a Great Start!

Sunday school and Confirmation had a great start on September 11 with a wonderful gathering of children and families, music, food, new staff, and a new Sunday School theme for the year: FAITH5. The theme comes from respected author Rich Melheim. It is worth your while to look at the links on the FAITH5 web site, <http://faith5.org/> There are banners hanging in the hallway by the lounge that will remind us of the journey for the year. Stay tuned for highlights and ways to enrich your at-home practice.

Ann Beane, Children's Ministry Team

FAITH5 (Faith Acts In The Home) is a simple, easy-to-implement faith practice, perfect for incorporating into a bedtime routine for five to fifteen minutes a night. When done over time, FAITH5 carries the power to enrich communication; deepen understanding; aid sleep; and promote mental, physical, and spiritual health. The five steps are

Share your highs and lows.

Read a Bible verse or story.

Talk about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows.

Pray for one another's highs and lows.

Bless one another.

So, how to begin? The biggest challenge is committing the time on a regular basis. Whether you're a married couple, a family with kids, or flying solo, part of the power of FAITH5 is in solidifying the ritual in your setting. This could be 10 minutes before bed, around the dinner table, in the car on the way to practice, first thing in the morning, or via video chat from hundreds of miles away. Whatever works in your setting will be the *correct* setting for you to begin the FAITH5 ritual.

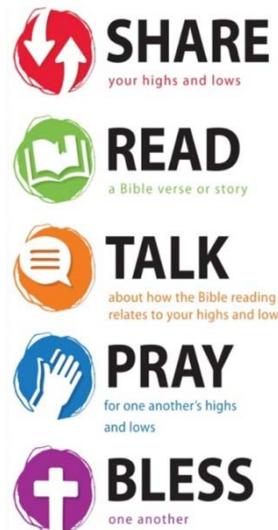
As you begin, keep in mind that you don't have to swallow this elephant whole. Sometimes, people look at the entire list of the FAITH5 and realize that they can't do all of them all of the time. If that's the case in your family, don't worry. Start with Highs and Lows and go from there. Simply taking time to share each week is a great first step. Remember that we at Hope stand ready to equip you and walk with you as you dip your toe in the water with the FAITH5. We have easy-to-use resources that fit numerous settings for you to use as a guide.

From a practical standpoint, I like to begin with the end in mind: What do we hope FAITH5 will help us accomplish? It's not going to make each day sunny, prevent bad hair days, or make the Twins a winning baseball team. What FAITH5 *will* help you with is a step-by-step guide for faith talk in the home that will make your relationships deeper and more connected, both with each other and in your faith journey. You may be surprised how much impact a few minutes each day can have!

Monty Lysne, Congregational Faith Formation Coach

Masters of Sunday School

We're teaming up with Grace University Lutheran Church to offer a monthly young adult Sunday morning option. It's called Masters of Sunday School (MoSS). MoSS will gather on Sunday, October 9 at 9:20 am at the Starbucks on Washington. Rev. Anita Hill will facilitate the conversation around the theme Journeying toward Justice: Privilege and Race in our Church. Questions? Talk with Pastor Jen.



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

October 2: Life, Mental Health, and Depression. Jodi 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.



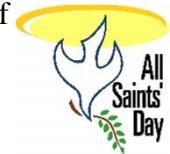
October 9: Gratitude and Generosity – The New Stewardship, with Ann Beane and Ann Wagner. See more about this topic on page 7 of this issue of the *Visitor*.



October 16 and 23: Dr. Ibrahim Bitrus, Visiting Theologian from Nigeria, will share perspectives on how the Lutheran church in Nigeria bears witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ amid many challenges. See a more thorough introduction to Dr. Bitrus on page 8 of this issue of the *Visitor*.



October 30: On Reformation Sunday, Rosalie and Bruce Eldevik will take us on a tour of important historical sites of the Reformation.



November 6: On All Saints Sunday, join us as members share their faith journeys in the beloved Stories of Hope.

Rethinking Sunday Morning - continued

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 the September issue of the *Visitor*, Kirsten Mebust reported on what she learned. In this issue, we hear from Sara Tufvesson Doure. In upcoming *Visitors*, Brian McCaffrey and John Setterlund will share their learnings.

Sara Tufvesson Doure:

Presenters had their own variation on the theme of "Times have changed and we must change with the times," to quote Rich Melheim, founder of FAITH5.org. The following are a few standouts which may have potential at University Lutheran Church of Hope, and also some points that surprised me.

Rolf Jacobson said that for years, the church has measured attendance and financial support when, instead, we should measure meaningful conversations on spirituality and also our faith. He referred to Melheim's "FAITH5" (share, read, talk, pray, bless). University Lutheran Church of Hope consulted with InterServe this spring about possibilities for our faith formation program, and they gave us a message consistent with Jacobson's focus on faith. John Vest was successful in bringing the church to the people BBQ style as a tailgate party, and believes, "What happens Sunday morning does not have to happen in the church building." Kathryn Schifferdecker emphasized the value of a genuine welcome, and related experiences at unwelcoming churches. I was surprised that Rev. Mary Pechauer's church substituted bible stories for Scripture reading. Some churches have moved to online giving almost entirely. For the first time, Protestants are not in the majority in the US. People who are not interested in our type of worship are on the rise. Rethinking Sunday Morning lectures will be available on the Luthersem.edu website.

Igniting worship, Deepening Spirituality

The Worship Planning Team announces an Advent Worship Planning Workshop, to be held on Sunday, October 23 following worship. We'd love to learn about your desires and ideas, and tap into your energy to help us continue to Ignite Worship at University Lutheran Church of Hope as we anticipate the Advent Season. No prior experience necessary. Come for a little lunch, fellowship, and the opportunity to share your insights.

Beata Rydeen
Worship Planning Team

Congregational Life

Dates to Keep in Mind

- October 30: Reformation Sunday and Confirmation
- November 6: All Saints Sunday
- November 11: Moonlight Madness Youth Group Event
- November 13: Stewardship Sunday with guest preacher Rev. Barbara Lundblad; Fellowship meal
- November 22: Thanksgiving Eve (Tuesday) Worship

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. We need your help to know what we can pray for; please alert a pastor or contact the church office.

We include in prayer...

Confirmation: Brinnen Morgan and Stella Robinson as they prepare to affirm their baptisms this month. On October 23 they will share their faith statements, and Sunday, October 30, they will be confirmed.

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

Deaths: Rick and Wendy Jaede at the death of Rick's father Eric Jaede, and others grieving the loss of loved ones.

Births, Baptisms, Marriages, Moves, Retirements, Transitions—God is with us through it all.

Blessing of Animals October 2. In the spirit of St. Francis, after the 10:30 a.m. worship service we will have a blessing of animals on the patio. You are invited to bring your beloved animal (large or small) or simply a picture. Animals are welcome in worship on the 2nd. Please spread the word and invite friends to join us.

Paddling Opportunity. On Saturday October 8 we'll gather at 10 a.m. at Fort Snelling State Park boat launch (under Hwy 55 bridge) for our final paddling opportunity of the year. We'll paddle for a couple hours on the Minnesota River where it joins the Mississippi near Fort Snelling, then enjoy a meal out together. Want to participate? Have questions? Contact Bryan Kufus at bkufus462@icloud.com or text/call (612) 685-0402.

Race Retreat. October 7 and 8, 10 Hope members will join 450 others from congregations around the St. Paul and Minneapolis Area Synods for a retreat, "Journeying toward Justice: Privilege and Race in our Church," at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in south Minneapolis. The group includes leaders from the Race Task Force, the Campus and Neighborhood Task Force, Vision & Governance Board, Hope Connections Small Groups, Sunday Forum planning, and staff. Please pray for this time together and watch for more about the experience.

Beer & Hymns at Blarney's Pub Basement in Dinkytown, Thursdays, October 27 and December 1 at 7:30 p.m. Join us on Oct 27 and December 1 in the basement of Blarney's Pub to enjoy some tasty brews and sing some of your favorite hymns. Musicians from University Lutheran Church of Hope and Grace University Lutheran Church will lead the group in a rousing hymn sing. Everyone's invited, so be sure to bring a friend! If you have any questions, please contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org.

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 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. We will spend the night eating pizza and playing games at Augsburg College, winning prizes and playing lazer tag and minigolf 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

Save The Date For The 2017 Women's Retreat January 27-29, 2017 at Dunrovin Retreat Center (north of Stillwater). All ages, young adult through 100 plus, are welcome! Contacts: Beata Rydeen at beatarydeen@comcast.net or Ann Beane at spirit.beane@gmail.com

Fellowship Meals. Each month we gather for a meal after 10:30 a.m. worship to get to know one another more deeply. Undergraduate and grad students are our guests. We'll share a meal on October 16 and November 13. Please note that this year, for a variety of reasons, the meals are sometimes on 2nd Sundays but not always—watch for these publicized ahead of time. Help with setup and cleanup are always needed; consider inviting your small group, committee, Sunday School class, or group of friends to team up for one of these tasks. Thanks!

Gratitude and Generosity Committee: Anticipating Pledge Sunday

Stewardship Sunday is November 13. Events leading up to it:

Sunday, October 9: Sunday Forum; Interactive children's sermon during the service

Sunday, October 16: Sermon presented by Pastor Jen and the Committee

Monday, October 24: Gratitude and Generosity letters in the mail

Sunday, November 6: Ann Wagner shares her Generosity Moment during the service.

Sunday, November 13: Stewardship Sunday. Offering of Pledges; interactive children's sermon

2016-2017 On-Going: Generosity Stories, collected and compiled by Molly Broin and Ann Beane.

Please submit your stories at any time to molly.broin@gmail.com or spirit.beane@gmail.com

With new staff and energy swirling around here at Hope, the potential is great for many new and renewed ideas that are being considered by the whole congregation. The Gratitude and Generosity Committee encourages you to think prayerfully about your pledges of time and talent in the coming months. Both are crucial to the life of University Lutheran Church of Hope and its ministry. May you ponder the gratitude and generosity that you have experienced in your own life. Blessings!

Ann Beane
Gratitude and Generosity Committee

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Welcome All Students! Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) is a student ministry of the ELCA in partnership with University Lutheran Church of Hope and Grace University Lutheran Church. You are welcome to participate in activities at both Hope and Grace through LCM. Pastor Kate Reuer Welton is available for coffee or connecting (612.605.8010 or pastorkate@umnlutheran.org). Check out the website (www.umnlutheran.org) to learn more about the 9 p.m. Wednesday evening service called "pause", and Tuesday Soup from 11:30-1:30 p.m. (both at Grace). Pastor Kate's office hours are 1-4 p.m. Wednesdays, at Starbucks on Washington. Come chat about something little or big. Coffee is on her!

To The Communities of Hope and Grace

Thank you for organizing block parties, blessing backpacks, baking cookies, showing up to staff tables, and welcoming students into your worshipping communities. As new and returning students come back to the U in the fall, it's one of the most exciting times at Lutheran Campus Ministry! Outreach is a significant focus at the beginning of the school year—and we're so glad for the partnership of Grace and Hope in this work.

One of our priorities, as LCM, in addition to coming alongside your work, is doing "mission specific outreach" on campus. It is important for busy students, who have little time, to be invited into activities on campus where they can really get a sense of who we are—*a group of people that strives to be curious. be real. be community.* Everything we do comes back to this mission. To dive deeper into this idea, our student leaders ask questions like:

- How do we spread the word about who we are and what we believe?
- Who is God calling LCM to be partners with on this campus?
- How can we spread God's love through all that we do, and create a more just world?

This fall, our outreach events include the [Faith & Leadership Institutes](#) in which leaders share how their faith undergirds and inspires their work to build a better world; an [Interfaith River Cleanup](#) at East River Flats, co-sponsored by the Muslim Student Association, and other [community service opportunities](#), as well as bringing doors to the Mall for a Reformation outreach activity. To get involved with these activities, visit the LCM website at www.umnlutheran.org

I wonder what else we, as "lutheran campus ministry" (the joint ministries of Grace, Hope and LCM), might do together on campus?

God's peace to you,
Pastor Kate

President's Perspective and Vision & Governance Update

As many of you are aware, Hope has engaged an audit firm, Leininger CPA, Ltd., to conduct a ‘soft audit’ of our finances, beginning last spring and continuing in phases for three years. Treasurer Ruth Hedman, Business Manager Gayle Bidne, and Merrill Morse, Chairperson of the Hope Church Trust Board, have been working closely with Dave Leininger on this process.

Tuesday, September 13 at Hope’s regular Vision & Governance meeting, Dave presented his initial findings and recommendations. His report dealt with a ‘financial controls check-up.’ In the future he will look at the capital campaign fund and test activity in the dedicated funds accounts. More will be written about this process in the future. Rest assured that Hope’s finances are in great shape!

Molly Broin updated us on the Gratitude and Generosity Committee and their plans for this fall leading up to Stewardship Sunday. Treasurer Ruth Hedman updated us on current finances and presented each liaison with budgeting information, as we move into planning for next year’s budget.

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

As I head out to Montana for my annual fly fishing trip, I’ll leave you with this thought:

“To him, all good things - trout as well as eternal salvation - come by grace, and grace comes by art, and art does not come easy.” ~ Norman Maclean, from “A River Runs Through It”

John Rydeen
Congregational President

Hope in the World: Welcome to Ibrahim Bitrus



University Lutheran Church of Hope welcomes Dr. Ibrahim Bitrus to our worshipping community for the month of October. While he is “in residence” Ibrahim will participate in many ministry activities, including preaching, leading Sunday Forums, pastoral visits, faith formation times, and more. Ibrahim is a seminary professor in the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN). He and his wife, Julecy, and their four children live in Sandgren apartments near Luther Seminary where Ibrahim completed his Ph.D. in 2015.

Julecy is a biology major at Metro State and anticipates becoming a science teacher. When they return to Nigeria Ibrahim will join the faculty at Bronnum Lutheran Seminary. Coincidentally, one of Ibrahim’s best friends and former colleague in the LCCN is Pastor Amson Hamman of our partner congregation in Jos. During his previous residencies at Minneapolis Area Synod congregations Ibrahim has been imparting a perspective on how the Lutheran church in Nigeria bears witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in the midst of many challenges as well as taking opportunities for service. We are looking forward to learning from him during his weeks with us. Please help him feel at home by welcoming him and engaging in conversation as occasions present themselves.

Bruce Eldevik
Hope in the World

Hope Book Club

Sunday Oct. 9, 7p.m. in the church library, we will discuss *New York Times* bestseller *A Man Called Ove*, by Fredrik Backman. Meet Ove. He’s a curmudgeon. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him “the bitter neighbor from hell.”



Behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. When a young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove’s mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. All of which will change one cranky old man and a local residents’ association to their very foundations.

Join us Nov. 13 to discuss *The Social Animal*, by David Brooks.

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

“In a good book the best is between the lines.” Swedish Proverb

From the Visitation Pastor

The headlines scream at us about a little boy who has become beloved around the world. “Jacob Wetterling’s remains are found.” It is wrenching for so many who never gave up hope for a very different ending. A total helplessness comes when the horror of the details is brought to us.

In a morning devotion from Frederick Buechner, he quotes the whiskey priest in Graham Greene’s *The Power and the Glory*, who is saying good-bye for the last time to his own daughter: “*One must love every soul as if it were one’s own child.*” This seems to echo Patty Wetterling’s words to us. She encouraged people wanting to comfort her grieving family to say a prayer, play with their children, and generally “create joy.”

It also echoes the foundation and purpose for our (and any church) community. “One must love every homebound member as if they were our own parent or grandparent.” “One must love every visitor as if they were our own family.” “One must love every student as if they were our student.” There were signs of that in the Welcome Back Students event. Members and students hung around longer, smiled more, and were more thankful for the event.

Why else are we given these lives to live if not for God and each other?

Hope Diamonds: **Wednesday, October 5 at 10 a.m.** will be a special planning meeting to talk about our organization, its changes, and our upcoming schedule. All are welcome. We need your thoughts as we plan for our future. We will meet in the Library. Call Pastor Esther with questions – 612-331-5988, x18.

Peace,



Visitation Pastor Esther Dant

Memorials

(Seventh in a Series about the Hope Church Trust)

Since the Hope Church Trust began in 1983, memorials donated to University Lutheran Church of Hope have gone to the Hope Church Trust. Hope has a gifts policy which states, “If the gift is given in memory of a person or in honor of a person, the gift is credited to the Hope Church Trust . . .” and, “If the gift is received as the result of a bequest . . . the gift is credited to the Trust . . .”

But recently the Trust Board was asked to consider the re-direction of all memorials to the church’s Operating Budget. Perhaps not surprisingly, this proposal triggered some interesting discussion. Arguments in favor of directing memorials elsewhere included: many people don’t realize that the memorials are going to the Trust and might prefer they go to the church budget instead; many people don’t care where the money goes or how it gets spent; donors should have a choice on where their memorials go; it would make bookkeeping easier; it would produce more money for the annual budget.

Arguments for continuing the existing policy included: memorial gifts are different from ordinary donations – they are associated with memory, family, legacy interests; spending memorial money on things like utilities, supplies, etc. might be unsatisfying for some and even lead to less giving; memorials have special meaning for many donors and are often related to a desire to enable longer-term ministries to develop, e.g. endowment growth and grant distributions; endowment funds in general usually emphasize and receive memorials as part of their growth process.

The Trust Board agreed there could be more education around memorial giving and that donors could be given more information and choices. But in the end, the Trust Board unanimously agreed to continue the existing policy and practice. Unless otherwise designated, memorials will continue to be directed to the Hope Church Trust.

Merrill Morse
Chairperson of Hope Church Trust

Welcome to our New Staff

Over the summer two search teams were hard at work creating position descriptions and interviewing candidates. This September we welcomed three new part-time staff members. Nicholas Tangen (nickt@ulch.org), in center of selfie wearing the hat, serves as our Community Engagement Coordinator; Nick works 20 hours a week, with a focus on helping us link to ministry in the neighborhood and on campus (including Lutheran Campus Ministry). Ashlei Buhrow (ashleib@ulch.org), behind Nick's right shoulder in selfie, is a student at Luther Seminary, working 15 hours a week as our Interim Faith Formation Minister. Monty Lysne (monty@ismteam.org), behind Nick's left shoulder in selfie, serves 10 hours a week through InterServe Ministries as our Congregational Faith Formation Coach, teaming with Ashlei to help us reinvigorate our ministry with children and youth. On Sunday, September 25, we installed Nicholas, Ashlei, and Monty for this ministry. Welcome!



Nicholas Tangen

Greetings University Lutheran Church of Hope! My name is Nicholas Tangen, and my wife and I live in NE Minneapolis. I was an English major at the U of M, and I am currently pursuing my Master of Divinity degree at United Theological Seminary. I became an Oblate candidate at St. John's Abbey in January, and am passionate about Benedictine spirituality and community spiritual practice.

In my free time I enjoy writing, reading, good beer, and bird-watching. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to participate in the incredible ministry here at University Lutheran Church of Hope, and I look forward to getting to know this congregation and the surrounding neighborhood. Hope's vision for a church with porous walls is inspiring and important work and I am excited to explore what that might look like for this worshipping community and its neighbors.

Ashlei Buhrow

Originally from Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, Ashlei is a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire with a major in religious studies and a minor in family development studies, and is beginning her first year at Luther Seminary, pursuing a Master of Divinity degree. She hopes that after her time at Seminary, she will be able to pastor her own congregation. Because children and religion are her passions, she has nothing but excitement to see what this position has in store for her. She is grateful to be starting her path in ministry here at University Lutheran Church of Hope.

Ashlei loves spending time with her three roommates, cooking, reading, doing yoga, and being out in God's creation. Don't hesitate to stop by her office or contact her regarding questions of Faith Formation ministries, or just to chat about life.

Monty Lysne

Monty Lysne is an associate with InterServe Ministries. He recently returned to Minnesota after spending three years working as a trainer for the Lutheran Church of Australia and as Director of Discipleship at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Loxton, South Australia. He spent 14 years as National Director of Youth and Family Ministries at Faith Inkubators in Stillwater, where he designed materials and trained pastors and lay workers in more effective, parent-involved forms of youth and family ministry.

Monty was born and raised in Owatonna, MN, attended Concordia College in Moorhead, and has been married for 23 years to his wonderful wife Tracy. Monty and Tracy live in Stillwater with their four daughters, Mya, 15, Morgan, 12, and twins Molly and Mirra, 10. His house is very loud.

Staff

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Rev. Jen Nagel
Rev. Esther Dant

Minister of Worship & Music:

Zach Busch

Minister of Youth &

Communications: James Vitale

Interim Faith Formation

Minister: Ashlei Buhrow

Community Engagement

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Congregational Faith Formation

Coach: Monty Lysne

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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The Visitor

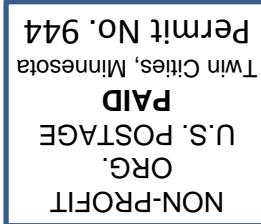
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