



# The Visitor



March 2018

Issue #14-3

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.*

## Mystic Mercy: Lent and Holy Week at Hope

### Mystic Mercy

Join the journey this season of Lent as we walk our path of "Mystic Mercy." In worship, we explore the writings of the Christian mystics, unique and colorful and full of meaning. We adopt contemplative practices for prayer and hearing God's word, using *Lectio Divina* and Centering Prayer to listen for God within. We use labyrinth walking to connect our bodies with our reflection. We watch the growth of seedlings planted on the first Sunday of Lent by the children, and consider how we, too, are planted in mystery and emerge in the light. We use the reflections of members of our community in our Lenten Devotional book for daily contemplation. We listen to settings of the *Kyrie eleison* (Lord, have mercy) sung by the choir throughout the season. We take up the word MERCY as an alternative to "Alleluia" for this season, leaning into the mystery of our God, and the generous love that lies at the heart of the Holy One.



### Lenten and Holy Week Schedule

#### Wednesday Worship Mar. 7, 14, and 21

Noon - brief service with soup following; 7 p.m. - contemplative service in the sanctuary.

#### Sunday Worship Mar. 4, 11, and 18, at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

#### Palm/Passion Sunday Mar. 25

8:30 worship begins in the Lounge; 10:30 worship begins outside the SE corner of the building.

#### Holy Week - The Three Days

**Maundy Thursday Mar. 29:** Worship at Noon and 7 p.m. (individual absolution, Holy Communion, foot washing, stripping of the altar)

**Good Friday Mar. 30:** Worship at Noon and 7 p.m. (Passion reading). Shared Way of the Cross: Walking Service begins at 4:30 p.m. at Grace University Lutheran Church. Kids, strollers, pets, friends, and everyone welcome.

**Easter Vigil Mar. 31:** 7 p.m. Light the new fire, hear salvation stories, celebrate Easter at last.

**Easter Sunday Apr. 1:** Festival services at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. (Easter Breakfast between)

### Special Events:

*Drop-In Choir Mar. 18.* Show up at 9:30 to learn a simple anthem. No robes, no fuss, just fun.

*Pop-up Discussion* after worship in the Lounge on the Mystic Readings, available at the welcome desk.



Zach Busch  
Minister of Worship and Music

## Friendly Visitor Flower Project Starts Mid-February

Now that we are in the midst of the Lenten Season, collections from those who would like to contribute a flower memorial for Easter Sunday are being accepted. This annual Friendly Visitor Easter Flower Project provides an opportunity to donate money in memory of or in honor of a family member or friend. The honorees' names will be included in the bulletin, and the money is used to buy an Easter plant that will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning.



Following the 10:30 a.m. worship service, the flowers will be delivered by caring congregational members to our homebound members and those who are ill or who have lost a family member.

Forms for donation are included in the bulletin each Sunday. Completed forms, accompanied by a check made out to University Lutheran Church of Hope with *Easter Flower Fund* on the memo line, can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church, to the attention of Rosalie Eldevik or Karen Jorstad, Friendly Visitor Project. March 25, Palm/Passion Sunday, is the deadline for contributing to this project.

If you can assist in delivering plants after the 10:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday, April 1, please indicate that on the donation form.

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## Stepping On (Falls Prevention Workshop) Coming to Hope

Cheryl Lanigan, RN, Faith Community Nurse at Grace University Lutheran Church, and Becky Afzali, Administrative Manager and Volunteer Coordinator for the Faith Community Nurse Network of the Greater Twin Cities, are offering a falls prevention workshop called Stepping On, at University Lutheran Church of Hope, for seven sessions on Tuesday mornings starting March 6, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

We are recruiting participants from both Grace and Hope congregations. For more information, email [nurse@graceattheu.org](mailto:nurse@graceattheu.org)

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## Middle School Sunday School Class Lenten Service Project

The middle school Sunday School class is collecting donations and making crafts for the Animal Humane Society of Minnesota during Lent. You will find boxes in the hall to collect donated items from the Humane Society's wish list below. We hope you'll find something you can give. During our Service Sunday on March 11 we are also decorating ping pong balls for cat toys, and making snuffle mats for dogs and warm packs for animals recovering from surgery. Please help us love our neighbors who are pets looking for their forever homes. Here is our wish list for in-kind donations:

<b>Pet food, unopened, unexpired</b>	<b>Items on Humane Society's <u><a href="#">Amazon.com wish list</a></u></b>	<b>Clean plastic shopping bags</b>	<b>Sunny seat window-mounted beds</b>
<b>Gentle leaders (medium and large sizes)</b>	<b>Baby food with meat</b>	<b>Paper towel and toilet paper rolls</b>	<b>5-lb bags of rice</b>
<b>Cage scratchers from <u><a href="#">StretchandScratch.com</a></u></b>	<b>Collapsible tunnels</b>	<b>Canned tuna in water</b>	<b>Ziplock bags</b>
<b>Kuranda dog beds from <u><a href="#">Kuranda.com</a></u></b>	<b>Greenie's Pill Pockets</b>	<b>Bleach, dish soap, and sponges</b>	<b>Old blankets and towels</b>
<b>Kongs, all sizes but especially large</b>	<b>Newspaper and shredded office paper</b>	<b>Paper towels and Kleenex</b>	<b>48" high exercise pens</b>

Kirsten Mebust  
Education

## Ode to Kitchens

*Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts. Acts 2:46*

In my first years or so at Hope, I remember musing, as pastors are wont to do: “There isn’t a lot of tension around our kitchens; that’s interesting, sort of unusual for a church. Hmmm.”



Now I say all this, recalling some church kitchen tensions that I’ve experienced before in previous calls: nothing massive, fairly healthy tension, and yet tension nonetheless. Cultures were crossing; communication wasn’t as direct as helpful; sharing can be hard; styles of everything from serving a meal to recycling to the strength of good coffee differ.

Our kitchens at Hope (the lounge kitchen and the lower level kitchen by Fellowship Hall) get a workout daily. By a small miracle and some relatively good dancing we have gotten by well. This winter there’s been more conversation about the lower level kitchen and its surrounding storage areas. With so many established users of the kitchen and storage areas, the bread oven ministry began thinking about space needs and this initiated a larger conversation that ultimately will help us use our space (the kitchen and the storage areas by Fellowship Hall) more efficiently for a whole variety of ministries. Honestly, it’s about time we had this conversation.

A few times people have mentioned big words like *kitchen renovation*. Let me be clear, we’re not doing a renovation this year. This feels more like a re-organization to me. We’re asking questions like:

- Who are the primary stake holders who use this kitchen and the surrounding storage areas? These groups come to mind: PEASE Academy (daily), fellowship meals, the funeral lunch crew, the bread oven ministry, Hope Diamonds Senior Group, Easter breakfast preparers, Families Moving Forward, sanctuary ministry, mini market, the Hope and Trinity quilters (whose storage is in this vicinity), a variety of outside groups, and staff (especially our custodian Geremew, who sets up tables and chairs).
- What types of work space and storage space are needed?
- What is stored in these areas that we don’t use any longer?
- What makes for ease of use and low impact on bodies?
- Who needs to be in on these conversations and how do we communicate about them?
- What about hospitality and aesthetics?
- What is our time line and how do we get this moving?

Elizabeth Lincoln has graciously accepted the invitation to be the kitchen point person. She’ll help us communicate with the facilities team and also to the Vision & Governance Board via John Beane, liaison for Relational Ministries. In the coming weeks, Elizabeth and John will invite these stakeholders into the conversation. At a time when we could get going too quickly and leave out some voices, or when we could do too much business one-to-one and fail to communicate clearly or get enough buy-in, we’re aiming to keep our tension relatively low and productive. Feel free to be in touch with Elizabeth, John, or me about these matters. I pray that this kitchen-talk and kitchen re-organization is good practice in how we live together and break bread as a beloved community.

Pastor Jen

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## Sunday Morning Opener and Closer

As Ben Hartmann, our current Sunday Morning Opener and Closer, anticipates a move this summer, we seek someone who may be interested in this very part-time paid role. It includes opening the building at 7:30 a.m. each Sunday, and light cleanup and set-up. Then around 12:30 p.m., the closer secures the building and turns out lights. This role involves security, hospitality, and light cleaning. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more, talk with Pastor Jen.

# FAITH FORMATION NEWS



## Faith Formation for All Ages

### Children's Ministry

All children from ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate in Children's Faith Formation on Sunday Mornings. We gather initially for First 15, a time of singing, prayer, and sometimes yoga, and then gather in classrooms for Bible stories, art, and treats! On March 11 students will gather to participate in our **Service Sunday**. If you have any questions, or would like to help with Children's Faith Formation, please contact Nick Tangen at [nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org)



### Youth Group

The Youth Group meets every Sunday morning at 9:15 in the Youth Room for a time of games, scripture, and prayer. On the second Sunday of every month we will explore some of the themes and focus texts of the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at [nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org)



### Camp Amnicon

In June, a group of youth and adult leaders will head north to spend a week paddling a Voyageur Canoe on Lake Superior and exploring the Apostle Islands. We need at least ten people to make this trip possible, and are **looking for youth and adults to fill the team**. If you are interested, contact Nick Tangen at [nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org) **But wait...there's more!** We are also planning a trip to Camp Amnicon for children in grades 3-5. This group will spend most of their time at Camp, learning to canoe, swim, the endless joy of camp games, and getting to know each other better. If your child is interested in joining the group, please contact Uli Koester.

### Fellowship Meal March 11 to Prepare for 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering

After worship on March 11 the Youth Group will host and serve the Fellowship Meal to raise funds for the upcoming 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston. This is a great opportunity for the youth of this congregation to deepen their faith, to get to know other Lutherans, and to serve the community. We need your help to make it possible. Come on down to Fellowship Hall on March 11 and talk with the youth about this trip, and what you can do to make it happen! Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at [nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org)

### Centering Prayer Fridays at 1 p.m.

Centering Prayer is a silent method of prayer that prepares our faculties for the gift of contemplation. As a surrender method of meditation, Centering Prayer helps us to practice letting go of our attachment to thoughts, and to narratives that dull our awareness of God's presence and activity in our lives. Join us on Fridays at 1:00 p.m. for a short reading and 20 minutes of holy rest. Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at [nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org)



### From the Library: More than Books

In addition to shelves and shelves of books for both children and adults, the Library at Hope offers a selection of video discs. There are three Great Courses items: Science and Religion (12 lessons), The Old Testament (24 lessons), and The New Testament (24 lessons). There is also, a 6-lesson course - *Discover Islam*. Biographical presentations include Rick Steves' *The Life of Apostle Peter*; *Amazing Grace: The Life of William Wilberforce*; a biography of the reformer Count Zinzendorf; *God's Outlaw: The Story of William Tyndale*; and the 2003 film *Luther*. Additional available topics are the ELCA's Introducing Lutheran Worship; How Lutherans Interpret the Bible with Professor Mark Allen Powell; and The Illuminator telling the story of the hand-written St. John's Bible. Happy viewing!



# Sunday Forums

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

**March 4: Perception, Expectations, and Prejudice.** Joseph Erickson, an Augsburg professor in the Education Department, a Luther Seminary graduate, a licensed psychologist in private practice, and a member at Hope along with his wife, Beth Ubbelohde, will engage us in conversation about how normal perceptions and expectations influence the development of prejudice, sexism, and racism, and what approaches, social psychologists have learned, can have an impact on changing peoples' attitudes about race, gender, and other "-isms." Joseph Erickson served on the Minneapolis School Board from 2002 to 2006 and was its chair for two of those years. He will give us much to ponder.



**March 11: Intergenerational Service:** Gather in Fellowship Hall for a Service Sunday focused on the theme, "Home." We will prepare to welcome our Families Moving Forward guests by setting up rooms, making tie blankets, and writing notes of welcome. We will also assemble care packages for college students, gather resources for the Animal Humane Society, and write cards for our home-bound members. If you have any questions or would like to help with this effort, please contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

**March 18: Baptized We Live.** In baptism, there are promises and professions. As parents, sponsors, and congregation members, we commit to nurturing the one being baptized. As a community of faith, we profess our beliefs and we renounce the powers that wrestle us away from God and God's reign. What does this say about how we shall live (and die)? Work for justice? Dwell in grace? Join Pastor Jen for a conversation about baptism, with a focus on issues of race, white privilege, and institutional racism.



**March 25: Stories of Hope.** Continuing with tradition, we have asked Johanna Nashandi and Abby Lucas to share their faith journeys. Johanna is a recent member who came from Namibia with her children to work toward her PhD in social work on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. Abby is active in social justice concerns at Hope and is currently working as program manager at Hammer Residence in Wayzata. She joined our congregation in Spring 2016. Come and get to know these two dynamic Hope members.

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## HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE CONCERT: THE GARDEN OF THE RIGHTEOUS

Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 6:00 p.m. at University Lutheran Church of Hope, *Naye Strunes (New Strings)*, Yiddish music string ensemble, presents a program to commemorate Yom Ha'Shoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), honoring individuals from Norway, Latvia, Germany, Yugoslavia, China, Bulgaria, and The Netherlands, who risked their lives to save others, motivated only by their compassion.



### **NAYE STRUNES:**

Judith Eisner, fiddle  
Beth Albertson, cello  
Gretta Hunstiger, fiddle  
Diane Benjamin, tsimbl

Leviticus 19:16 says: "You shall not stand indifferently beside the blood of your neighbor." More than 21,000 non-Jews risked their lives during the Holocaust to save innocent people. Designated as Righteous Among the Nations, these courageous individuals have been memorialized by trees planted in their honor in the Garden of the Righteous at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. Weaving together original Yiddish music and the stories of fearless individuals, the program gives audience members an opportunity to reflect on the extent of courage and compassion during dark times.

Though most of us probably couldn't have done the same, today we can offer our support to medical teams who help people regardless of politics, religion, or race. A free-will offering will all be donated to Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) – suggested donation \$10, more if you can. Please take a moment to learn more about Doctors Without Borders at <https://vimeo.com/184731970>

## Faith in Community Activities

### Mini-Market at University Lutheran Church of Hope

You may have heard that the Neighborhood & Campus Team have been exploring the possibility of hosting a Mini-Market in our parking lot. In January the board approved this measure, and the team is hard at work finding vendors. We hope to launch the market in June of this year.

A Mini-Market is a farmer's market with five or fewer vendors, intended to serve low-income communities. Dinkytown has lots of great restaurants, but access to fresh produce is limited. A market at Hope will ensure that our neighbors can get fresh, affordable food. Mini-Markets are also great community builders, drawing the neighborhood together and creating a destination for fellowship. If you have questions or would like to help with this effort, please contact Nick Tangen at [nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org)

### University Area Sanctuary Coalition Prayer Vigil March 18 7:00 p.m. at University Baptist Church

Each month the University Area Sanctuary Coalition hosts a Prayer Vigil to bring together our congregations, to pray for the end of unjust immigration laws, for the safety and dignity of our immigrant neighbors, and to support the work of ISAIAH's Sanctuary Coalition, and other immigrant-led organizations. Please join us at University Baptist Church for this important worship opportunity.

Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at [nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org)

### Racial Justice & Community Engagement Retreat March 4, 12-3 p.m.

After worship on March 4 join us at First Congregational UCC for a Racial Justice & Community Engagement Retreat. We will ground the work of racial justice in our faith tradition, explore the ways in which our congregation is already engaged in this work, and ways that we might envision a future without racism. As a group, we will learn some community organizing principles to help us put into action our shared values, and to build our power as people of God. If you are interested in joining us, please RSVP to Nick Tangen or Karen Westwood. See you there!

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## Hope Book Club

On March 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hope Library, the Hope Book Club will discuss *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie.



Bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one American Indian boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live.

April 8: *The Paris Architect*, by Charles Belfoure. A novel set in France during the Nazi occupation.

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

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

*It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it.* Oscar Wilde

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## Save the Date for the 2019 Hope Women's Retreat

The 2018 Hope Women's Retreat was a wonderful weekend of rest, fellowship, and stories. Next year's retreat at Dunrovin Retreat Center has already been reserved for January 18-20, 2019.

If you have any questions about this year's or next year's retreat, contact Beata Rydeen at [beatarydeen@comcast.net](mailto:beatarydeen@comcast.net) or Ann Beane at [spirit.beane@gmail.com](mailto:spirit.beane@gmail.com)

# Congregational Life

## Dates to Keep in Mind:

March 3 and 4: National Lutheran Choir *Call to Prayer*

March 7, 14, & 21: Midweek Lenten Worship

March 6: Stepping On Falls Prevention Workshop (a series of seven weekly sessions) begins

March 11: Fellowship Meal. Service Sunday.

March 11-18: Host Families Moving Forward

March 18: Drop-In choir

March 25: Palm/Passion Sunday. Gardens of Hope meeting.

March 29: Maundy Thursday

March 30: Good Friday. Way of the Cross Walking Service

March 31: Easter Vigil

April 1: Easter Festival Sunday. Easter Breakfast.

## Life Events at Hope

We're a community of faith, called to hold one another in prayer. Here are a few of the life events affecting our community. We need your help to know for what we can pray. Please alert a pastor or contact the church office. We include in prayer...

**Welcoming children:** We pray for those in our congregation who are awaiting children and holding hope in joyful and painful times.

**Deaths:** We hold in our prayers all who grieve, especially the family of longtime Hope member Millie Holmgren. At 101 years old, Millie died in her sleep on January 28. A memorial service is planned for April 28 at church (11 a.m. service, with reception following). We also include in our prayers, Tami and Bob Felling, Nick, Josh, and Kelsey at the death of their mother-in-law/grandmother, Yvonne.

**Significant illness:** Those living with illness, cancer, recovery, uncertain diagnosis, chemical dependency and other addictions, and mental health struggles, especially Micah Anderson, Janet Carpenter, Hannah Kiresuk, George Wagner, Madeline Teske, Alexander Otey-Wold, Cyndi Ganzkow-Wold, and Chuck Lewis.

**Separation, Divorce, Retirement, Moves, Graduations, and New Beginnings:** We hold one another in prayer. God is with us through it all.

## March Fellowship Meal and April Easter Breakfast

On March 11 we'll gather for a Fellowship Meal after the 10:30 a.m. service. This meal is a fundraiser for our group preparing for this summer's ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston. The youth will help prepare and serve the meal. As always, undergrad and grad students eat free. Set up and clean up help are appreciated. In April, our Fellowship Meal is the Easter Breakfast on Sunday April 1, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.. Bring your family and friends and plan to participate.

## Book Release April 7

"Here I am, Lord, Is it I Lord?" It all began when I was sitting in the sanctuary praying and seemed to feel a soft tap on my shoulder, a calling to write a book about our daughter and our journey together. It has taken eight years, but you are invited to a book coming-out party for *Maja and Me: My Journey with My Lesbian Daughter* on Saturday April 7 at 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Mary Knutson (Hope member 1966-1989).

## Gardens of Hope

The Gardens of Hope group will have our spring meeting after the 10:30 service on Sunday March 25. Grab your coffee and join us if you are interested in gardening at church this year. We will determine gardening days and times, and talk about garden maintenance plus new plans for this coming growing season. We will do our best to keep it short. Kathy Knudson, for Gardens of Hope.

## Children's Play Area Update

Plans for the children's play area in the courtyard will soon be in place. We are looking at construction in May. Watch for updates in the April *Visitor* and the Sunday bulletins. Ann Beane

# Hope in the World News

## The Sheridan Story:

Total dollars contributed by Hope to this ministry in 2017 were **\$2,200.82!** This remarkable sum represents budgeted support from Hope in the World, a grant from the Hope Trust, freewill donations from the Sunday School kids monthly “Noisy Offerings,” proceeds from the book sale at the Welcome Back event, and other individual contributions. It is a good feeling to know that Hope is helping address childhood hunger right here in our neighborhood, both monetarily and through donations of time at food packaging events and food distribution Fridays by Hope members. The Sheridan Story distributed over 600,000 meals last year to all the schools it serves.

## News about Nigeria from the Minneapolis Area Synod Office:

There has been a recent increase in violence in Nigeria, not only due to Boko Haram activity, but also caused by disputes between farmers (land owners) and herdsmen (nomads). Because most herdsmen are Muslim and most farmers are Christian, the disputes often take on inter-faith animosity as well.

The situation is particularly affecting congregations of the LCCN (Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria) because many of them are located in the region where the conflicts are taking place. Pastor Amson reported that his home village was attacked shortly after Christmas. Please remember the churches of the LCCN in your prayers, for their safety and for restraint, forgiveness, and wisdom for solutions to be found. There undoubtedly will be more first-hand news from the LCCN in May when newly elected presiding bishop, Musa Filibus, will be present at the Synod Assembly.

Bruce Eldevik  
Hope in the World

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## Annual Meeting Highlights

Our congregation met for our annual meeting on February 11, 2018. Annual meeting booklets are available at church or can be sent to you; please contact the church office or a pastor if you'd like one. Here are the highlights from this meeting:

- Congregational Treasurer Ruth Hedman reviewed the 2017 financial statements, commenting that 2017 budget projections for income (giving and rental) were very close to actuals, and expenses were lower than budgeted. We finished 2017 behind by \$10,711. Ruth provided a listing of where our 10% benevolence giving in 2017 was shared.
- The 2018 budget of \$644,282 was presented, discussed, and approved. Ruth noted that the amount pledged was up considerably from last year, allowing us to increase hours for Zach Busch, Minister of Worship and Music, to full time.
- With much affirmation and energy, we heard a report from the Racial Justice Task Force and approved the following statement:

*We profess that all people are beloved of God and are called to be a blessing to one another. We reject as contrary to God's will the racism that erodes our shared humanity - including unjust laws, unfair practices, hostile acts, implicit bias, white supremacy, and fear of people of other ethnicities, cultures, or religions. We actively seek to stand together with people of all ethnicities, cultures and religions to promote the joy of fellowship and the dignity of equal opportunity.*

- We thanked all those members who are completing terms on the Vision & Governance Board: Kirsten Mebust, Leena Rapacz, Ruth Hedman, and John Rydeen.
- The slate of candidates to serve on committees and the Vision & Governance Board was elected. New to the Vision & Governance Board are: Carol Flaten (Vice President), Emma Carpenter (Treasurer), Melissa Odenbach (Liaison for Education/Faith Formation), and Abby Lucas (Liaison for Youth and Young Adults). Lisa Morse (Liaison for Music and Worship) begins a new term. Eric Ringham becomes Past President. John Lauber becomes President. John Beane (Liaison for Relational Ministries) and Bruce Eldevik (Liaison for Hope in the World) continue in their terms.

## President's Report

For nearly thirty years, it has been my job to help preserve historic buildings. During that time, I have worked on an odd but interesting assortment of places: houses and barns, schools and city halls, lighthouses and ballistic missile sites, a meat packing plant, several state mental hospitals, an ordnance works, a synagogue on the Iron Range, and a Wisconsin Synod Lutheran Church, among others. I have been in buildings that have been flawlessly maintained, and in others, long vacant, where I could look up from the basement and count the stars with nothing to obstruct the view. From those experiences it has become clear to me that the worst thing that can possibly happen to a building is for it to be unused.

Since joining the Vision and Governance Board a year ago, I have spent a great deal of time in our building, and I have been amazed at how busy it is at any time of day or night. Of course, there is a full slate of University Lutheran Church of Hope related activities that take place here: weekly worship, board and commission meetings, choir practice, bible studies, Families Moving Forward, Hope Diamonds, and on and on. We celebrate weddings and grieve together at funerals here. PEASE Academy students and faculty fill the classrooms in the education wing during the week. There are recitals and concerts in our sanctuary. Participants in 12-step programs meet here. The China Outreach Fellowship regularly uses our kitchen and Fellowship Hall. The building serves as an official polling place, and regularly hosts committees from the Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association. In short, our building is used, and used hard by both the congregation and the larger community around us.

As we launched the Revealing Hope Capital Campaign in January, a group of Hope members participated in a “Chalking the Door” celebration. This traditional Epiphany ritual commemorates the arrival of the Magi at the cradle of the Christ child. Participants invite God to bless their home – in our case our house of worship – and to be with all who pass through the door during the coming year.

As I reflect on all the activity that has taken place at Hope during the past year, I realize that God has indeed blessed us and our building. And we are blessed to have this beautiful, vital place, not only as a home for our own community, but also as a base for our ministry to the world beyond our walls.

John Lauber  
Congregational President

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## Vision & Governance Notes

The University Lutheran Church of Hope Vision & Governance Board met on February 13, 2018. At that meeting, the board:

- Welcomed newly elected members to the group.
- Discussed steps that need to be taken to close out the Hope for the Future capital campaign that ended on January 31, and developed a structure to administer funds and manage projects that will be undertaken as part of the new Revealing Hope capital campaign.
- Discussed a proposed board and staff retreat to examine findings from the Listening Report and Missional Assessment Profile prepared by Kairos in preparation for the Revealing Hope campaign. The retreat, which will take place during the spring, is intended to help church leadership define ways to transform the findings into action.
- Learned about a much-needed initiative to reorganize the kitchen in order to maximize its usefulness for the wide range of groups that utilize the space and equipment (PEASE, Families Moving Forward, Fellowship Meals, Bread Oven, Hope Diamonds, Weddings, Funerals, etc.). Elizabeth Lincoln has agreed to convene and lead a group of stakeholders who will collaborate in that process.

John Lauber  
Congregational President

# Care and Nurture Ministry

## Let's Get Acquainted with Robert Agrimson

Bob Agrimson was born a “good Norwegian” in Sebeka MN. He was just 1½ years old when his mother died, so he was sent to live with his aunt and uncle on a farm in Peterson, MN. He remembers milking the cows by hand before milking was mechanized. He attended a one-room elementary school and went on to graduate from Peterson High School in 1940.



As a young farmer in rural Minnesota he learned to be self-sufficient, persistent and innovative when something needed fixing or building. When his brother left to serve in the military during WW II, Bob's job was to manage the farm and keep everything in good running order. Later he attended LBI and Dunwoody Institute, where he completed certification to become an electrician. Bob worked for more than 25 years for the Ford Motor Co. in St. Paul, where he maintained the generators at the Ford Hydro plant.

Bob first met Joy at a bowling alley when he mistakenly tried to use her bowling ball—and she let him know about it. Joy also was raised in a Norwegian household. Their first official date was when Joy invited Bob home for a lutefisk dinner. Clearly she knew the way to win a good Norwegian's heart. A couple of years and several lutefisk dinners later, they were married in 1961. Joy and Bob worked together to build their home in Lauderdale, where they were neighbors to Chet and Verle Rhoades, Jack and Donna Parry, and Bob and Jeanne Berkeland, all members of University Lutheran Church of Hope. Bob and Joy's daughter Ann tells of her gratitude for her father's eager assistance anytime there was a construction project or something that needed to be fixed. Always active, Bob and Joy enjoyed ballroom dancing; Ann recalls that her father was known as one of the smoothest dancers at local senior centers. They took several road trips to the western US and Canada, and also traveled to Norway, Egypt, and Israel. Joy passed away four years ago.

Still a “good Norwegian” at 95, Bob enjoys showing visitors his artistic handiwork, including needlepoint, cross-stitch, and woodworking with a Scandinavian flair for design. His artistic masterpiece is a set of two Norwegian *kubbestols* (traditional Scandinavian chairs) that he hand-cut, adding intricate carvings embedded in sturdy basswood logs approximately 3 feet in diameter. The front and back of a chair carved in 1979 are pictured here. Look closely and you may see the Ford Motor Co. building and the Ford dam and bridge pictured on the front. The Peterson farm house and barns are depicted on the back. Other carvings on the chair are the Peterson Lutheran church, Peterson High School, and the one-room school house Bob attended. The second chair has a Norwegian Viking ship and a stave church. Bob has other hand-carved items including small animals and birds, a beautiful chest, and six feet of chain links carved out of one piece of wood.



## Hope Diamonds Senior Gathering Wednesday March 21

Senior members and friends of University Lutheran Church of Hope are invited to attend Lenten worship in the sanctuary at 12 noon on Wednesday March 21, and then join us in Fellowship Hall for a simple Lenten lunch of chicken vegetable soup, bread, and carrot cake. It's always a good time for conversation, a little humor, and catching up with old friends or making new ones! Call the church office or sign up at the welcome desk to let us know you'll be at the table.



## Healing Prayers

On the third Sunday of each month, we offer an opportunity to share personal prayers for healing with one of our members during communion at the 10:30 a.m. service. These are simple, confidential prayers for any specific concern a person may request. We have noticed that these individual prayer opportunities are popular, and we'd like to provide them more than once a month. If you are interested in serving in this way on a Sunday morning, please contact Pastor Barbara Johnson to be included on the schedule. She can offer instruction if you need it, or provide some suggestions for how you might pray when words are scarce.

Pastor Barbara  
Minister of Care and Nurture

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Rev. Barbara Johnson

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Zach Busch

### **Minister of Faith in Community:**

Nicholas Tangen

### **Business Manager:** Gayle Bidne

### **Custodian:**

Geremew Beshah – weekdays

Ben Hartmann – Sunday

opening/closing

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

Copies of the current issue of *The Visitor*, as well as back issues, are at [www.ulch.org/VisitorArchive.asp](http://www.ulch.org/VisitorArchive.asp) or by contacting the church office.

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