

Music and Worship!

Fall is a fabulous time to flourish in the many opportunities we have planned! Consider in what ways the Spirit calls you to engage with this lovely community at Hope. It is a pressing time to build and wield our power as children of God to keep love alive in the world and help Love find its way to those who need it most. If you are brand new, I hope the perfect opportunity jumps out at you. Remember that your whole self is welcome, and that your engagement and presence are celebrated here. Ask your neighbor in the pew what they're up to this fall at church. Get the conversation going!



Mark your calendars for our fall **Courtyard Concert** on Sunday Sept. 16 at 6:30 p.m. The Meadowlark String Quartet, who rehearse in our space every week, will present a program of chamber music. I will join them at the piano for some pieces as well. This event is free (freewill offering) and open to all. We provide seating, but bring a blanket for family-friendly seating in the grass if that sounds fun. A small reception will follow.

A profound **thank you to the instrumentalists and singers** who offered music for worship over the summer: Adam and Amanda Breitingner, Rosalie Eldevik, John Beane, Stewart Herman, Sonya Flaten, Uli Koester, Drop-in Choir participants, Claire Seitzinger, Becky Hanson, Sarah Lodge, Nicoletta Pignatello, Madeline Reid, and Oskar Grothe. Your music has blessed us.

I am also **grateful to the ULCHers** – Jay Carlson, Tim Gustafson, Ben Larson, Mark Nelson, and Paul Odenbach – for their delightful ensemble playing for our outdoor worship services this summer. We are grateful that they will continue playing monthly throughout the year.

We are always grateful for the **many volunteers** who serve in roles both visible and behind the scenes to make our weekly worship happen. More than 100 people are in the volunteer rotation. Thank you, thank you, thank you to each and every one of you – God is praised in your time and love and care. If you are not a volunteer but are interested in signing up for any of our many worship roles, let me know!

You are cordially invited to join a music ensemble this year. **Hope Choir** rehearses every Wednesday evening for 90 minutes and sings most Sundays. All are welcome to join us, as we have many exciting things planned this year. If a weekly commitment doesn't work for you but you love to sing, come to our monthly **Drop-in Choir** opportunity (Sept. 23, Oct. 21, or Nov. 8); learn an anthem at 9:30 to sing at 10:30 worship.

Keep your eyes peeled for info about an **Advent Handbell Choir** opportunity. This seasonal ensemble will begin rehearsing in November and play for worship in December. Talk to me if you're interested!

*I lift mine eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it;
And day by day this pathway smoothes, since first I learned to love it.
(from "How Can I Keep from Singing?" by Robert Lowry)*

Zach Busch

Minister of Worship and Music

Pastoral Intern Linqing Chu

My name is Linqing Chu and I'm a student at Luther Seminary. I'm very excited to be an intern at University Lutheran Church of Hope! I came to the US and started school at Luther Seminary in the fall of 2014. I was born in the city of Zhengzhou in China, and grew up in an atheistic family. There was no faith tradition in my family until my mom became a Christian. I'm a product of the "One Child Policy," but I have two cousins.



When I was 12 years old I started to go to church with my mom, but I actually found my faith during college in Zhuhai, China. I studied Public Relations and Advertising and after college, with the leading of the Holy Spirit, I decided to come to Luther Seminary. Now, God is leading me to the next step, an internship at Hope! I'm looking forward for wherever God will guide me. My mom is my biggest support in my spiritual journey, and now God sent Bing (my boyfriend) to support me while I'm away from home. I love to listen to people's stories and testimonies, and I'm excited to learn new things. Besides school, I like swimming, reading, watching Korean drama, and being with my friends. One more thing: I will have lots of questions about the language, American culture, and the Lutheran tradition.

Intern Linqing

Gearing Up

In the last weeks I've attended two meetings that included some big numbers. These weren't church meetings talking about budgets, but rather community meetings in the neighborhood (Nick or I try to attend these when possible). One was about housing and move-ins and was aimed at landlords, with the partnership of faith leaders and staff from the U of M that support off-campus living and student development.



Another, the Dinkytown Business Association (DBA), included many of the folks who own and run businesses in the Dinkytown business node, and other organizations, faith communities, and the University. At both meetings, numbers like 50,000 and 60,000 were tossed around. That's how many people swell the University area as students, staff, faculty, and other community members return. That's a lot of people!

We're gearing up. Throughout *The Visitor* you can read about these fall plans: a return to two services on September 9 and the expectation that there ALWAYS are visitors and new folks in worship; a new rhythm for Faith Formation; a chance to sign up for small groups with Hope Connections; new opportunities for Bible study, the Wednesday evening Dinkytown Farmers Market 4-8 p.m. right here; an invitation to accompany our immigrant neighbors more fully; and a big welcome for PEASE Academy students and staff (PEASE is our closest neighbor and shares our building; they're a sober high school for students in recovery). We'll host Welcome Back Students on Sunday, Sept. 2 with music, pizza (yes, from the bread oven!), and an opportunity to engage with students and those living nearby.

In August, we welcomed our new full-time pastoral intern, Linqing Chu. Intern Linqing is dipping into all areas of pastoral leadership and congregational life. She's gearing up and brings her compassion and faithfulness to her leadership. A gifted Internship Committee (Jeanne Berkeland, Nan Knutsen-chair, Erika Larson, Merrill Morse, Suzie Robinson, Karen Westwood, and Wayne Westwood) will walk with Linqing, and you all are part of her learning. We're also gearing up to welcome a part-time young adult coach, Amanda Vetsch, through a grant from the Riverside Innovation Hub. What a blessing to welcome both Intern Linqing and Amanda and learn with and from them.

As fall comes, we're gearing up to be a place of radical hospitality and Gospel new life for people of all ages. This is part of Hope's DNA as a faithful community. How will we offer a hand of friendship to someone who may be feeling lonely or untethered? How will we be a community in which people can set down roots and find growth? How will worship and learning at once settle us and call us to follow, even into new and needed, sometimes hard conversations? How will we be a thoughtful church in such a complex world? As we gear up, Christ is with us, promising hope and life, leading us into all that the fall will bring. See you in worship and thanks for your partnership and prayers as we gear up.

Pastor Jen

Sunday Morning Staffing – Hello and Goodbye

Thanks to Ben Hartmann for his service at University Lutheran Church of Hope over the last 2½ years in the role of Sunday Morning Opener/Closer. At the end of July, Ben moved to Indiana to begin a PhD in Sociology at Indiana University Bloomington. During the years Ben worked at Hope, not only did he offer great security and hospitality preparing for and cleaning up on Sunday mornings, but he also was involved in our sanctuary work, the choir, leading Sunday Forums, young adults group, and more. Thank you, and God go with you, Ben!

In late August we also say thank you and goodbye to our child care staff person, Julia Gerloff. Julia was a weekly volunteer in the nursery for a year and then took on the role herself. Julia heads to St. Olaf at the beginning of September. Thank you, Julia!

In mid-September we welcome Gus Gustafson to both the Sunday Morning Opener/Closer role AND the Child Care role (insert cheering!). Some in the congregation have known Gus (as Clair) for many years. Gus served in the Child Care role prior to a move to Chicago. They offer care and consistency with our children, as well as a sense of hospitality, security in the opener/closer role. Gus prefers the pronouns they/them. Welcome back, Gus!

FAITH FORMATION NEWS



Faith Formation for All Ages Children's Ministry

Children's Faith Formation launches on Sept. 16 when all children ages 3 years old - 5th grade gather to explore music as a spiritual practice, and to learn some fun and engaging songs. Registration forms are available at the welcome center. This year's model of Sunday School will follow a weekly rotation, with a focus text for each month. The order of the rotation is:

- 1. First Sunday: Story Time.** We'll introduce our focus text for the month. The younger kids will explore the story through Godly Play, and the older kids will read from the Spark Bible and challenge each other to think about what God's Word is saying to us today.
- 2. Second Sunday: Let's Play a Song.** We'll sing, we'll learn to play new instruments, and we'll move our bodies to the beat. We'll explore the ways in which music can connect us to God's Word and to one another, and how we can make music part of our regular spiritual practice.
- 3. Third Sunday: Art Expression.** We'll explore our focus text through artistic expression, creating and collaborating with paint, paper, clay, ribbon, and other mediums to encounter God's Word with fresh eyes. We'll think about the ways in which art can become part of our regular spiritual practice.
- 4. Fourth Sunday: Community Day.** We'll make breakfast together, give thanks for God's Word and activity in our lives, and spend some time just BE-ING together. This is an opportunity for parents, grandparents, guardians, and others to join us in building community. We'll hear a dramatic re-telling of our focus text, and think about the ways we can keep exploring God's Word together at home.
- 5. Fifth Sunday: Wild Card.** When there is a fifth Sunday of the month we'll explore fun ways to engage God's Word and think about our leadership as Christians. We may spend the morning exploring the outdoors and reveling in creation. We may learn about liturgical worship, or express ourselves through dance! Keep an eye on the schedule posted on the Children's Faith Formation Bulletin Board for updates.

We hope that youth and adults whose gifts and passions are represented in the rotation above will join us to explore faith and life with the children of University Lutheran Church of Hope. If you would like to be a part of this exciting exploration, even for a single Sunday morning, please contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org



Youth Group

Our Youth Group gets going again on Sept. 16. We'll meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month to talk about how God is showing up in our lives, read a little scripture, pray for one another, and grow as leaders. Once a month we will also meet for a midweek evening meal, Prayer Around the Cross, and community building. Dates for the midweek gathering are TBD, so be sure to check out the schedule on the Youth Bulletin Board. Everyone from grades 7-12 are invited to be a part of the Youth Group fun, and be sure to bring a friend! Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at 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. Put more simply, Centering Prayer is resting in God. A contemplative and reflective spirituality shatters the old stories that we tell about ourselves (I'm not good enough, I'm not wealthy enough, I'm not enough) and reaffirms our center as God's Beloved. Join us on Fridays at 1 p.m. for 20 minutes of silence and holy rest! Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

Sunday Forums

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

September 9: God's Work, Our Hands. Join Nick Tangen in the Fellowship Hall to learn about how we build power and effect change that looks like Jesus. We will explore the ways in which we show up as God's hands in the world. Stick around after worship as we gather together to practice our new skills and celebrate the power we've built together!



September 16: Getting to Know Our Pastoral Intern. Our new seminary intern, Linqing Chu, will speak about how she became a Christian in China and how God led her to Luther Seminary. She wants to engage and answer our questions, so we can get to know one another. She has also prepared an introduction for *The Visitor* (see p. 2). There is much we can learn from one another.



September 23: Building Bridges and Brave Space. Joe Davis, a nationally touring writer, speaker and spoken word artist, will share his ideas for building bridges and creating brave spaces of courageous conversation across lines of difference. He performs and serves as a teaching artist at universities, churches, and community spaces across the country. Most recently he has been artist in residence at Luther Seminary, where he is working toward a master's degree in Theology of the Arts. He will also preach on this Sunday.

September 30: Navigating Diverse Cultures. Maria Nhambu spoke at a Sunday Forum two years ago after her first book, *Africa's Child*, was released. She has now finished her trilogy with *America's Daughter* and *Drum Beats, Heart Beats*. Nhambu writes, "Always present to me as I was growing up in difficult circumstances was the fact that I had a choice. I could choose to believe the limitations I felt around me or I could choose to go within and listen to my own counsel that told me I was a good and precious person. And, I chose to love myself and in doing so, I freed myself to live authentically and be true to myself." Join her as she traverses diverse cultures and continents, and negotiates a complex and shifting web of mixed identities.



Updates from the Gratitude and Generosity Team

One completion done and one in sight! Contributions from the Revealing Hope campaign have made possible the completion of the Children's Play Area; by the time you read this, the Bread Oven will be close to completion and ready for baking. Watch for updates! We want to keep in front of the congregation the other projects that will also become a reality because of the campaign:

- Restoration of the south side stained glass windows, including a new clear protective covering so the beauty can be enjoyed from the outside, too.
- Organ maintenance work.
- Benevolence. These funds will go to ten different ministries. The Vision & Governance Board has already chosen three: Lutheran Campus Ministry, Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, and ISIAH's immigration work. The other seven will be decided by the congregation. We'll have significantly more benevolence money to share this time than last; sharing it will be a great witness to all the exciting ministries.
- Shrinking the mortgage

The G&G team's focus is now two-fold. The team will shepherd both the Revealing Hope campaign and annual stewardship giving. This decision was made with the encouragement and support of the board. Watch for these upcoming G&G opportunities:

Oct. 7 Sunday Forum: John Hensrud introduces Gifts Discovery, a class coming in Jan. 2019. Gifts Discovery helps us discover our own spiritual gifts, to better understand how God has uniquely wired us to serve.

Oct. 7 Guest Preacher: Adam Copeland, Luther Seminary's Director of the Center for Stewardship Leaders.

Nov. 11: Gratitude and Generosity Sunday

Jan. 2019: Gifts Discovery Class

With thanks and gratitude, The Gratitude & Generosity Team: Beth Ubbelohde, Linda Herman, Kathy Kufus, Stewart Herman, Ann Wagner, John Hensrud, Eric Ringham, Jay Carlson, and Ann Beane

Treasurer's Report

June 2018 and Year-to-Date Income and Expense						
	June Actual	June Budget	June Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	33,059	41,976	(8,917)	216,539	251,853.54	(35,314)
Rental Income	20,134	11,723	8,411	72,549	70,337.64	2,212
(Net Services and Misc.)	9	-	9	(106)	-	(106)
Total Income	53,202	53,699	(497)	288,982	322,191	(33,209)
Total Expense	54,206	53,698	508	324,301	322,190.94	2,110
Net Operating Income	(1,004)	0	(1,004)	(35,318)	0	(35,318)
Reduction of Liability	(7,494)	-	(7,494)	(44,789)	-	(44,789)
Net Income	6,489	0	6,489	9,470	0	9,470

July 2018 and Year-to-Date Income and Expense						
	July Actual	July Budget	July Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	39,400	41,976	(2,575)	255,938	293,829.13	(37,891)
Rental Income	1,864	11,723	(9,859)	74,413	82,060.58	(7,647)
(Net Services and Misc.)	-	-	-	(106)	-	(106)
Total Income	41,264	53,699	(12,434)	330,246	375,890	(45,644)
Total Expense	52,015	53,698	(1,683)	376,623	375,889.43	734
Net Operating Income	(10,751)	0	(10,751)	(46,377)	0	(46,378)
Reduction of Liability	(7,646)	-	(7,646)	(52,434)	-	(52,434)
Net Income	(3,105)	0	(3,105)	6,057	0	6,057



Giving for June and July totaled \$33,059 and \$39,400, respectively. Rental income for June and July totaled \$21,998, just slightly under budget. Expenses for June and July totaled \$54,206 and \$52,015, respectively. Net operating income (total income less total expenses) for June and July is -\$9,747.

As we continue to make monthly mortgage payments, our liability on the balance sheet is reduced. This has a positive impact on net income, as it is adjusted to reflect the principal payment contribution. After adjusting net income for the mortgage payment, the total net income for June and July is \$3,384. Although the reduction in liability reflects positively on net income, net operating income provides a more accurate financial picture year to date.

As we are well into the second half of the fiscal year, I would like to accurately disclose the financial position of our congregation. Year to date, general giving is \$37,891 under budget, and expenses are slightly over budget, contributing to a year to date net operating loss of \$46,378. Looking ahead to the remainder of fiscal year 2018, several large expenses have been brought to the attention of the Vision & Governance Board. Although these expenses were not included in the initial budget created, a pastoral intern, providing for our staff, and improving our building are all key to enhancing the life of Hope. Going forward, I will ensure these unforeseen expenses are considered as we begin the budgeting process for FY19.

Contributions for the Revealing Hope capital campaign totaled \$36,149 for June and July. The building fund net cash balance as of July 31 is \$139,507. Thank you members for your dedication to pay the mortgage and other building-related expenses. Additionally, the capital campaign has allowed us to build the children's play area and construct a beautiful bread oven for members and community to enjoy! We are looking forward to improving our worship space through organ repairs and stained glass improvements in 2019!

Thank you again for your financial gifts and for all the other ways you contribute to the life and health of this congregation as it serves our community and the world. I encourage all members to live green and lean by taking advantage of online giving. Visit ulch.org and click "give". If you are already enrolled in online giving and do not need to receive monthly offering envelopes, please email gayleb@ulch.org and request to be taken off the offering envelope list. We will save on both printing and postage fees. Please let me know if you have any questions! Thank you.

Emma Carpenter
Treasurer

Congregational Life

Dates to Keep in Mind:

Sept. 2: Welcome Back Students Festival. Book sale.

Sept. 9: God's Work, Our Hands. Back to two services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sept. 14-16: Young Adult Retreat.

Sept. 16: Congregational Meeting-Financial Update after 10:30 a.m. service. Courtyard Concert in evening.

Sept. 19: Hope Diamonds-sponsored tour of James J. Hill House

Sept. 23: September Fellowship Meal

Sept. 25: Bible and Brews

Life Events at Hope

We're a community of hope, called to hold one another in prayer in times of deepest need and grief, and in our experiences of new life. Here are some 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 and baptism: Giving thanks for the birth of Reagan Marcy Radziej on June 22, child of Lance and Megan Radziej, and big brother Reid. We pray for those in our congregation who are awaiting children and holding hope in joyful and painful times.

Marriages: All those preparing for marriage, and for all relationships of commitment.

Deaths: All who grieve the loss of loved ones, including Liz and Matt Fry on the death of Liz's grandmother Elizabeth Brondos; family and friends of long-time Hope member Verle Rhoades who died July 8, especially Donna and Jack Parry; Donna Neste and family on the death of her mother Sally Pususta; Stewart and Carolyn Rudi on the death Stewart's father Arnold; Roger and Nita Anderson and family on the death of their grandson Micah; family and friends of long-time Hope member Lorraine Berger who died Aug. 12.

Significant Illness: Those living with illness, cancer, recovery, uncertain diagnosis, chemical dependency and other addictions, and mental health struggles, including Janet Carpenter, Hannah Kiresuk, Trish Gorbunow, Alexander Otey-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.

Book Sale: Yes, we plan for a book sale at the Welcome Back Students Festival! Proceeds will go to a charity chosen by the workers. The sale will be Sunday Sept. 2, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. We need people to help set up the sale on Saturday. Ideas? Questions? Requests? Volunteer? Contact Ruth Fingerson at 952-995 -1141 or ruth.fingerson@yahoo.com

Hope Connections. Hope Connections is a small group ministry for building community. Five location-based groups meet to share stories, study the Bible, and deepen relationships. Our curriculum team selected the theme, "Sharing Our Faith Stories, Examples from the Book of Acts". This series focuses on the preaching of the Apostles Peter and Paul sharing the Gospel with Jews and Gentiles. We will draw lessons that inspire sharing our own faith stories. Readings include Peter speaking at Pentecost, Peter speaking to Cornelius' household, Paul speaking to the Greek philosophers in Athens, Paul speaking to the church elders of Ephesus, Paul speaking to the powerful in Caesarea, and Paul speaking in times of crisis. Look for the Hope Connections registration table on Sunday mornings Sept. 9, 16, and 23 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 deeper connections, sign up; if you are itching to lead a Bible study, sign up. If you have questions, contact John Beane at 651.338.4492 or pilgrim.beane@gmail.com

2018-2019 Fellowship Meals. Mark Your Calendars! This year's fellowship meals are Sept. 23, Oct. 28, Nov. 18, Dec. 16 (holiday pot luck), Jan. 27 (Chinese New Year), Feb, 10 (congregational meeting), March 10, and May 19. If you have any dietary needs or if you would like to help with cooking, set-up or cleanup, please contact Becky Halvorson at halvorson.becky@gmail.com or 612-382-5740. Any assistance is appreciated!

Curious about becoming a member at Hope? We will soon welcome new members into the community of faith here at University Lutheran Church of Hope. If you would like to learn more, talk with Pastor Jen soon.

Save the Date: Women's Retreat Jan. 18-20, 2019 at Dunrovin Retreat Center north of Stillwater. Contact Beata Rydeen, beatarydeen@comcast.net, or Ann Beane, spirit.beane@gmail.com with questions.

Hope in the World News

Welcome Back Students Festival Sept. 2, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Join us after worship as we welcome back students moving in to the neighborhood with food, music, games, and community. We'll be baking pizza in our brand-new Bread Oven, 9YumYum ice cream will be dishing out frozen treats, the Naysayers will be playing some awesome tunes, and we'll get to meet our incredible neighbors. We are still looking for a few folks willing to help with set-up and tear down, so if you are available, please talk with Nick Tangen. P.S. Be sure to share the FB event with all your friends!

Community Organizing Training with Midwest Academy

Are you interested in learning about how to build powerful communities, choose an issue to fight for, and effect change in our neighborhood? Consider joining a powerful training in January 2019 hosted by the Minneapolis Area Synod and offered by Midwest Academy. We'll explore some of these themes on God's Work Our Hands Sunday. If you would like more info, please contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

Bible and Brews—Sept. 25 6-8:30 p.m. at The Tangen's Home, 1939 Pierce St NE, Mpls.

"Whoever drinks beer, he is quick to sleep; whoever sleeps long, does not sin; whoever does not sin, enters Heaven! Thus, let us drink beer!" – Martin Luther

Grab your favorite brew (or other libation) and join us for a relaxed time of conversation about Scripture, current events, and of course...beer! Obviously, you must be at least 21 years old to hang. If the weather is still nice we'll sit out by the fire, so consider bringing a lawn chair as well as some beer and snacks to share. Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org.

Riverside Innovation Hub

University Lutheran Church of Hope has been selected as part of the Riverside Innovation Hub, a 5-year project designed to help congregations innovate new connections with young adults at the intersections of their faith and their public lives. We have been assigned an Innovation Coach who will help us listen to our community and explore what's possible. Amanda Vetsch will join us in September, so be sure to introduce yourself and help us imagine together! Want to know more? Contact Nick at nickt@ulch.org

Sanctuary and Immigration

The local and national environment for immigrants and refugees continues to erode, and as a Sanctuary Congregation we have committed to standing with our immigrant neighbors to provide safety and community, transform oppressive systems, and build powerful relationships. Over the next couple of months, we will focus our work on accompaniment, community building, and education. If you would like to know more about how you can stand with our neighbors, contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org.

Young Adult Retreat Sept. 14-16

The Young Adults are headed to Duluth for a retreat Sept. 14-16. We'll enjoy cabin living, explore Duluth, practice a little meditation, get to know each other better, and have a freaking blast! If you are 35 or younger and would like to hang out in Duluth with other young adults for the weekend, please contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org or Abby Lucas at abigail.jean.lucas@gmail.com

Dinkytown Farmers Market

The Dinkytown Farmers Market has been a great success, reaching many of our neighbors and providing fresh and affordable produce to the Dinkytown/U of M community. New markets are incredibly vulnerable, and getting the word out takes time. That means we need our congregational members to carry the load while we build a viable customer base for our vendors. Come by on Wednesdays between 4-8 p.m. and buy some flowers, veggies, egg rolls, and jam. Your support will ensure that the Dinkytown Farmers Market can serve the neighborhood for years to come!

#HopeHappens email

Would you like to learn about ways to get involved in movements for justice in MN? Or about opportunities to learn about sustainability, community organizing, and racial justice? Subscribe to the #HopeHappens email, which provides a calendar of upcoming actions, opportunities, and events around the Twin Cities. To sign up, contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org or sign up on the University Lutheran Church of Hope website.

President's Report

While driving back from a work trip to Door County Wisconsin last week, I was a bit startled to see the sun dipping below the horizon before 8:30 p.m. I shouldn't have been surprised. As we move past the middle of August it is no longer possible to deny that summer is coming to an end. It happens every year.

For many of us, summer is a time of relaxation, with time away from work, extra hours of daylight to use for recreational activities, and a welcome opportunity to replace layers of sensible, heavy, cold-weather gear with shorts and T-shirts. At Hope we take advantage of these months by shifting to a single Sunday service, worshipping outdoors, and minimizing the number of meetings that we put on the church calendar.

That does not mean that nothing happens here, however. This summer has been unusually busy and rewarding as two of our major Revealing Hope capital projects, the children's play area and the bread oven, were substantially completed; as new initiatives (the Mini-Market and the Riverside Innovation Hub program for young adult ministries) got under way; and as our staff was augmented by the much-anticipated arrival of Luther Seminary intern Linqing Chu. It has been a great summer at Hope.

That said, we still face a few challenges. As we approach the last few months of the calendar year, income from contributions and other sources continues to lag considerably behind budget projections. The Vision & Governance Board and the Financial Controls Committee are monitoring the situation closely, and will work to bring the balance sheet closer to balance. As that effort goes on, we want to make certain that all members of the Hope community are informed about the state of our finances, are aware of strategies being developed to improve the situation, and have opportunities to ask questions and share ideas. With that in mind, we will hold two congregational meetings this fall, immediately after the 10:30 service: one on Sept. 16 and one in October or November. Please plan to attend.

One final note: Yesterday morning I had an opportunity to sit in on one of the weekly Hope staff meetings—one of the great perks of serving as president of the board. As I watched the interactions between staff members, listened to their ideas and concerns about the congregation, and observed their tremendous passion for their work, I was overwhelmed with gratitude for these people, and reminded again how blessed we are to have them as part of the Hope community. I know that you all share those feelings. Please take a few moments to express your gratitude to our incredible staff.

John Lauber

Congregational President

A Good Time for the Truth: People Like Us

At University Lutheran Church of Hope, we are reading *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2016). This is the second of two reviews by members of the Racial Justice Task Force inviting your interest and participation in reading and discussion. David Lawrence Grant, author of the essay "People Like Us," will join us Oct. 14 at 4 p.m. for our kickoff discussion event.

In "People Like Us" Grant mixes history, personal experience, and statistical evidence to convey in a few pages an enormous amount of information about race in Minnesota. His essay peels back the layers of "Minnesota Nice" in a direct yet compassionate way, calling it "much more than a set of behaviors: it's an entire way of looking at and understanding the world..." (p. 197). It is challenging to recognize in oneself the description of the harm this world view has caused and continues to cause our neighbors, whether it's the perspective of local news anchors that "people like us" are white Americans of western European descent, or Grant having a loaded gun held to his head by a police officer looking for an African American suspect whose description didn't fit Grant (and if your reaction to that sentence is that our Minnesota culture doesn't contribute to these harms, I suggest that's another reason to read this essay carefully). But Grant doesn't stop with describing the world view of Minnesota Nice; he looks for signs of hope, and challenges us to create a new narrative that includes other voices and perspectives. This essay withstands repeated reading, and I look forward to hearing directly from the author.

Readers who resonate with varied styles of writing will likely find something for them in this collection of essays—poetry, memoir, spoken word (in written form), etc. are all represented. The Racial Justice Task Force warmly invites you to read this book and join us on Oct. 14 for what promises to be an important event in the life of our congregation.

Care and Nurture Ministry

James J. Hill House Guided Group Tour Wednesday, Sept. 19

With friends from Hope, you can get a fascinating glimpse into a transformational time in history and hear stories that bring this 1891 house on Summit Avenue in St. Paul to life. Learn about J.J. Hill's influence on the region and his network of family, servants, workers and guests. Marvel at the impressive chandeliers, stained glass, and hand-carved woodwork throughout the 36,000-square-foot home. Discover original mechanical systems that provided heat, light, water, ventilation, and security.

Hope members and friends are invited to this special guided group tour. Cost is \$8 per person. If you wish to carpool, meet at Hope parking lot, ready to leave by 12:45 p.m. The house tour begins at 1:30. We'll be back at Hope by 3:30 – just in time for ice cream and shopping at the Dinkytown Farmers Market in the Hope parking lot!

Hope Diamonds are organizing the tour, and ALL are welcome to participate even if you're not a "Hope Diamond regular." The tour is designed for all ages and abilities; an elevator allows everyone to see all four floors. There is room for only 25 people on the tour, so register at the welcome center by Sept. 12; checks can be made out to ULCH. Let us know if you need a ride or can offer a ride to and from the church parking lot, or if you plan to drive directly to the house at 240 Summit Avenue. (Note to Hope Diamonds regulars: No lunch on Sept. 19. This is our fellowship event for September.)

Hope Diamonds Senior Group: Looking Ahead

Wednesday, Oct. 17: Lunch at noon with special musical guests North Suburban Chorus.

Wednesday, Nov. 28: Lunch at noon followed by a presentation by John Beane.

Wednesday, Dec. 12: Lunch at noon with Christmas Crafts and Caroling singalong.

Wednesday, January 16: Lunch at noon with an historical presentation by Doug Ohman.



Caring Ministry Opportunities for 2018-19

Hope members and friends are invited to consider participating in these current opportunities to give or receive care. Contact one of the pastors if you wish to participate or learn more.

Friendly Visitors

- provide regular monthly friendly visits to a person who may be homebound or living in a care center or assisted living unit.
- establish a friendly relationship with their visit-ee as an extension of the fellowship and caring that happens within the church, and to help them continue to feel connected with the congregation.

Compassion Care ministers:

- provide one-to-one spiritual and emotional support in a variety of crisis needs, for a limited period of time or until the crisis has lessened.
- are trained volunteers from Hope who have good coping skills, healthy lifestyles, and a loving relationship with God.
- attend instructional sessions that focus on listening, confidentiality, boundaries, grief, and depression, before they are assigned to offer support and care to one in need.
- Meet monthly for mutual support and supervision with other compassion caregivers and the Pastor.

Tim Gustafson's Composition, *Watershed*, is Now Online

Hope member Tim Gustafson is featured in a music video about the use of salt for de-icing that is the cover art for the most recent issue of the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Partnership Studies*, a scholarly open-access journal. In the video, Tim's song, "Watershed," is played and sung on the Washington Ave. Bridge by The Hypoxic Punks, with dance performance by U. of M. students. Enjoy this entertaining and enlightening lesson about protecting our water, and read Tim's artist's statement about it, at <https://pubs.lib.umn.edu/index.php/ijps>

Staff

Pastors:

Rev. Jen Nagel

Rev. Barbara Johnson

Minister of Worship & Music:

Zach Busch

Minister of Faith in Community:

Nicholas Tangen

Pastoral Intern: Linqing Chu

Business Manager: Gayle Bidne

Custodian:

Geremew Beshah – weekdays

Gus Gustafson – Sunday

opening/closing

Child Care: Gus Gustafson

Working in partnership with

Lutheran Campus Ministry:

Rev. Kate Reuer Welton

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Relational Ministries: John Beane

Operations:

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Carol Flaten

Board Secretary: Ann Agrimson

The Visitor

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

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