



# The Visitor



November 2018

Issue #14-10

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.*

## Worship at Hope: Celebrating Ministries, Observing Advent

### Small Group Ministry Worship Feature

This fall we began a year-long initiative to lift up all the varied ministry groups in the congregation. Growing out of our congregation's newly updated Vision Goals, the Worship Planning Team is leading this process to facilitate learning and thought about the ways in which many things we do outside of Sunday morning worship are in themselves acts of worship. Each week, a different ministry group will be lifted up in our services, prayed for by the congregation, and made visible in other ways. Join us in reflecting on these questions in your own life: What is worshipful about what you do? How does your work praise or serve God?

### Looking Ahead in our Worship Life

On Nov. 4 we celebrate All Saints Sunday. We remember those who have gone before us and celebrate the community of God's saints all around us. On Nov. 14 we gather at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel for our monthly Prayer Around the Cross service. On Tuesday, Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Grace University Lutheran Church we will celebrate Thanksgiving with our neighbors in a multifaith liturgy of gratefulness. A y'all-come choir rehearsal precedes the service at 6:30, and pie follows the service. Bring one if you'd like! Our liturgical year ends with Reign of Christ Sunday, Nov. 25. The first Sunday of the new church year, Advent 1, is Dec. 2. As part of our Advent observance, we will meet Wednesdays December 5, 12, and 19, for Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve is Monday, with two services at 4:00 and 10:00 p.m. No service Christmas Day, and one service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 30.

### The Rose Ensemble at University Lutheran Church of Hope

Uniting virtuosic vocal artistry with scholarly research, The Rose Ensemble creates musical performances and educational programs that connect audiences to compelling stories of human history, culture, and spirituality from around the world. This fabulous ensemble, joined by The Augsburg Choir, will perform at Hope on Friday, Nov. 16 at 8:00 p.m.



Tickets to this program, "Empire, Religion, War, Peace: Music from Europe's 30-Year Conflict, 1618-1648," are available at the door or at [www.roseensemble.org](http://www.roseensemble.org) Use the code 'ULCH' to receive a discount on tickets.

Zack Busch  
Minister of Worship and Music

## Reflections on *Considering Matthew Shepard*

On Oct. 12, several members of the Hope Choir journeyed to Fargo, ND to see Craig Hella Johnson and his choir, *Conspirare*, perform *Considering Matthew Shepard*, a visionary oratorio written by Johnson and premiered two years ago. The night of this performance was the twentieth year to the day following Matthew Shepard's death. It was an engrossing and powerful performance. Arthur Ramirez, one of Hope Choir's new tenors, wrote about his responses to the performance:

Craig Hella Johnson's *Considering Matthew Shepard* and *Conspirare*'s performance of it defy words. As the oratorio's prologue laments, it can't just be heard. It has to be felt. I went to the performance with hardly any expectations. I refused to listen to the oratorio beforehand, to retain a fresh, naive perspective. After this past weekend, however, I can't un-hear it. I can hear bits, snippets, and phrases that still form lumps in my throat. It was physically and emotionally exhausting, but I wouldn't trade my experience for anything.

Despite some of the key moments centering on Matthew's mother Judy Shepard's grief and loss, Johnson's oratorio awakened a grief I myself had buried. Johnson and *Conspirare* unearthed a sorrow I neglected but had to process. It made me want to hug the sunset, kiss the autumn wind, and hold my family and friends until their love consume me. I would relive that Friday night if I could, but I'm content with that marvelous performance. It was a delicious, bittersweet melancholia that indeed needs to be felt not just for empathy but out of necessity.

To read more about *Considering Matthew Shepard* or to hear a recording of the piece, visit *Conspirare*'s website at [conspirare.org/project/considering-matthew-shepard/](http://conspirare.org/project/considering-matthew-shepard/)

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## Update from the Riverside Innovation Team

As University Lutheran Church of Hope enters into this three-year-long innovation process, we want to share with you the vision and framework that will be utilized and experimented with throughout this journey. This project combines young adults, porous walls, and community organizing, and is a model that we hope will continue to be used in the future as Hope seeks to enliven the visions goals of cultivating deep roots, embracing all persons, and fueling authentic worship and spirituality. For this first year, Amanda Vetsch will lead us through The Public Church Framework that includes four "artforms" or movements: accompaniment, interpretation, discernment, and proclamation. The outcome of this listening process will lead to a *proclamation*. One part of that is a grant process that could then launch and fund the next two years of this proclamation. For the upcoming month of November, the Innovation Team will continue to explore the artwork of accompaniment, meeting with neighbors and congregants and practicing the kind of listening that honors our neighbors' self-interest. Stay tuned to see the ways that you will be invited into this process!



Amanda Vetsch  
Riverside Innovation Hub Coach



### **Blessing of Animals on October 7!**

In the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, lover of critters great and small, in early October we blessed animals...lots of dogs, one cat, two guinea pigs, one small snake, and the pictures and memories of many others beloved creatures.

## For All the Saints

All Saints Sunday (this year on Nov. 4) is one of those high holy days here at University Lutheran Church of Hope. We'll sing with gusto, light candles, and as the bell tolls, we'll name aloud the saints of this congregation, members who have died over the last year, those who have shaped and labored and graced this ministry, this community of faith:



+Lorraine Berger+ +Mildred Holmgren+ + Richard Koernig+  
+ Tim Hunstiger+ +Verle Rhoades+ +Margaret Vainovskis+

But that's only the beginning of the list: We'll keep tolling. We'll keep naming, adding in those beloved to the worshipping community who weren't members at Hope but whom we name as spouses, siblings, parents, children and grandchildren, friends, neighbors, mentors. Name after name, story after story, saint after saint. Not saintly in that perfect-life kind of way, but saint-ish in that loved-by-God, real-and-gritty, grace-filled-and-messy, held-and-cherished-and-missed-desperately kind of way. Simultaneously saint and sinner, that's how Martin Luther spoke of the faithful. Our list will be long; with each name we know there is a story, or three.

In mid-October on a chilly Sunday evening a group of more than 50 saints gathered together to hear David Lawrence Grant speak and then share conversation over a meal. David's essay "People Like Us" is one of 16 included in *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota*. If you haven't yet had a chance to read this book or even a few essays, make time. It's time well spent and won't leave you unchanged. With a big, generous spirit, David weaves stories, history, current affairs and the reality of Minnesota Nice culture to bring us into his experience of race in this time, this context.

In his essay, David writes, "If we are to sort ourselves out and make good lives for ourselves in this ever-more-multicultural landscape, we've got to start by talking less and listening more." It would have been powerful just to hear David speak. But his generous way invited *us* to listen well, and then to share. He commented, "Real conversation stretches your empathy muscles." That's where I witnessed power, in the stretching of our empathy muscles.

We're in this work of racial equity for the long haul. This event was but one step in this long journey. But it was an important step, a deeply moving step, a truth-telling step. In this season of saints, I am grateful to share this journey with you, beloved saints of God—messy, grace-filled, real. Join us in worship on All Saints Sunday...or any Sunday, and stretch your empathy muscles as we listen anew to God's story, the stories that surround us daily.

Pastor Jen

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## Gratitude and Generosity Pledge Sunday Coming Nov. 11

Some interesting insight when looking up the word "steward": the Old English word *steward* or *stigward* means house guardian or housekeeper. This emphasizes giving, in the sense of being a caretaker with deep purpose. The use of housekeeper can refer to someone who is very attentive to the workings of a home, wanting to keep things running smoothly and with care.

With this in mind, the Gratitude and Generosity Team invites you to explore ways in which you can be a housekeeper or house guardian here at Hope. It may include involvement in a small group, worship, education, or any number of other activities happening at Hope. We hope that you will especially consider how you may give financially. Any amount is crucial for the operations, planning, and support of all that takes place at Hope.

Invitation letters were sent out in October with pledge cards enclosed. On **Sunday Nov. 11 the pledge cards will be blessed during the service and accepted at any time thereafter.** May the steward within you give as generously as you are able! With thanks and gratitude,

The G&G Team

John Hensrud, Beth Ubbelohde, Linda Johnson, Kathy Kufus,  
Eric Ringham, Ann Wagner, Stewert Herman, and Ann Beane

# FAITH FORMATION NEWS



## Faith Formation for All Ages Children's Ministry

In November the children (PreK-5<sup>th</sup> Grade) will continue to engage our practice rotation, exploring storytelling, art, and music, and time in community. Our focus text for the month is Mark 12:28-34 "Love God, Love Neighbor." We'll talk about the ways we can **be** the neighbor, and what it means to love God in, through, and with others.

- ❖ Nov. 4 in Room 108: Story Time
- ❖ Nov. 11 in the Sanctuary: Let's Sing a Song
- ❖ Nov. 18 in Room 103: Art Expression
- ❖ Nov. 25: Thanksgiving Break – NO SCHOOL

Keep an eye on the Children's Ministry Bulletin board for updates and resources. We'll also update the webpage as schedules shift or events come up! Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at [nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org)



## Youth Group

In November the Youth Group will meet in the Youth Room on Sunday Nov. 4 (9:30 a.m.) and at the Purple Onion on Sunday Nov. 18 (9:15 a.m.). We'll do some check-ins, read the Gospel lesson, and discuss the ways we encounter God's activity in our lives. We'll also discuss the ways that we can be leaders in our community. On Nov. 18 at 6:00 p.m. we'll meet in the Youth Room for our monthly Evening Youth Gathering. This will be a time to break bread, play games, discuss leadership and scripture, and plan ahead for our service work together. Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at [nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org)



## Centering Prayer Fridays at 1 p.m. in Thorpe Chapel

"If your prayer goes deep, your whole view of the world will change from fear to connection because you don't live inside your fragile and encapsulated self anymore. In meditation, you are moving from ego consciousness to soul awareness, from being driven to being drawn." – Richard Rohr

In Centering Prayer we *rest in God*, loosening our attachment to our thoughts and embracing our fundamental Belovedness. It is this embrace of our core of goodness that allows us to engage the world outside of harmful binaries and with deep compassion. Join us on Friday afternoons for fellowship, a short reading, and 20 minutes of silent and holy rest. Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at [nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org)

## November Bible Study Opportunities

### Bible Study in English and Mandarin

We will meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Anyone who wants to learn and grow in God's Words is welcome to join us – English and Chinese speakers, Christians and non-Christians. We plan to study our coming Sunday scriptures. Our Bible study is very conversational, and you are welcome to share or ask any questions about the Bible texts, as well as about the faith. You are also invited to join Bible & Brews (see announcement below). Please bring your friends and join us!

### Bible & Brews at the Tangens

Exactly what it sounds like. Join us Nov 27 at 6:30 p.m. to learn together about scripture and beer! Bring your favorite brew to share and come prepared for a fun and engaging conversation. We will continue to study our upcoming Sunday scripture readings. RSVP to Nick Tangen at [nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org) or on the FB Event.

4 If you have any questions about either of these opportunities contact Intern Linqing ([intern@ulch.org](mailto:intern@ulch.org)) or Nick ([nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org))

# Sunday Forums

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

**Nov. 4: Stories of Hope.** This ever-popular program will provide you an opportunity to hear faith stories from Linda Herman and Eric Ringham. Linda is a retired faculty member from Concordia College in Moorhead and has an ongoing connection with Japan. Eric is a journalist currently employed by Minnesota Public Radio. Both provide leadership within the congregation. Each will share their faith journey with us.



**Nov. 11: Tent of Nations – People Building Bridges.** Located in the Palestinian West Bank, not far from Bethlehem, is the ancestral homestead of the Nassar family. Daoud Nassar, a member of the Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, has spent years and untold thousands of dollars to keep this farm alive and productive. Ever since the Israeli occupation of the West Bank in 1967, this has been a life-or-death struggle. Nassar's land is now surrounded by Israel-sponsored settlements, all wanting to confiscate his property. Despite the cutting off of electricity and water and the blocking of all the roads, in March eight Hope members visited the site, now a "retreat" center. Ann Beane and John Setterlund will present this compelling story.

**Nov. 18: Myanmar (Burma) –Fact and Fiction** Myanmar is in the news as stories of ethnic cleansings come to light. Diane Greve traveled in Myanmar in January 2018 and plans to return in January 2019 to teach lay counselors. She will share experiences and insights from her time in Myanmar regarding religion, ethnic groups, politics, and the land. This nation has been secluded since World War II and is slowly making some steps toward a more open society. There will be time for questions and conversation.



**Nov. 25: “Never Lose Sight of Freedom.”** Voting rights are not to be taken for granted. In a follow-up to our congregational book read of *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota*, we will hear the story of the 1965 Voting Rights March from Selma to Montgomery. Diane Greve will show a DVD created by the National Park Service and lead conversation on challenges to voting rights today. The program is sponsored by the Hope Racial Justice group.



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## Hope Book Club

On Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. in the library, we will discuss *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir*. Lacking a written language of their own, the Hmong experience has been primarily recorded by others. Driven to tell her family's story after her grandmother's death, this book is Kao Kalia Yang's tribute to the remarkable woman whose spirit held them all together.



Dec. 9: *Children of the Alley*, by Naguib Mahfouz. The tumultuous alley of this rich and intricate novel is inhabited by a delightful Egyptian family, but is also the setting for a second, hidden, and more daring narrative: the spiritual history of humankind. The story recreates the interlinked history of the three monotheistic Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam), allegorized against the setting of an imaginary 19<sup>th</sup> century alley in Cairene, Egypt.

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

Let's talk at our November meeting about what we could do for a Christmas potluck meal in December.

# Treasurer's Report

September 2018 and Year-to-Date Income and Expense						
	Sept. Actual	Sept. Budget	Sept. Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	33,163	41,976	(8,813)	323,490	377,780	(54,291)
Rental Income	4,562	11,723	(7,161)	94,880	105,506	(10,627)
(Net Services and Misc. )	-	-	-	(106)	-	(106)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>37,725</b>	<b>53,699</b>	<b>(15,974)</b>	<b>418,264</b>	<b>483,287</b>	<b>(65,023)</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>43,969</b>	<b>53,698</b>	<b>(9,729)</b>	<b>476,791</b>	<b>483,286</b>	<b>(6,495)</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>(6,245)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(6,245)</b>	<b>(58,527)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(58,528)</b>

September 2017 and Year-to-Date Income and Expense						
	Sept. Actual	Sept. Budget	Sept. Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	30,322	37,392	(7,070)	299,608	336,525	(36,917)
Rental Income	12,837	11,723	1,114	104,610	104,486	124
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>43,159</b>	<b>49,115</b>	<b>(5,956)</b>	<b>404,218</b>	<b>441,012</b>	<b>(36,793)</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>42,372</b>	<b>50,501</b>	<b>(8,129)</b>	<b>444,078</b>	<b>454,512</b>	<b>(10,433)</b>
Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>(1,387)</b>	<b>2,174</b>	<b>(39,860)</b>	<b>(13,500)</b>	<b>(26,360)</b>



Year to date, we have a net operating loss of \$59K, 9% of the total budget. This time last year we had a \$40K net operating loss, 7% of the 2017 budget. The net operating loss can be explained by taking a closer look at our budget and total income. While general giving is the largest component of our income, it is also the largest variable.

Total income year to date (Jan.- Sept.) is \$65K, 13% under budget. This time last year we were 9% under budget. While we currently have a \$59K net operating loss, we are experiencing positive trends year over year. General giving is up 8% compared to this time last year. Total income is up 3.5% largely due to our continued partnership with PEASE Academy and increased parking lot rental. The past two years we have budgeted over an even 12 month spread; this does not take into account natural church timing. Church giving tends to ebb and flow – historically summer months are slower while giving increases during the last quarter of the fiscal year.

This month, general giving was almost \$9K under budget. Since 9/30 fell on a Sunday, the offering will be reflected in the October financials. Rental income is also under budget for the month as we received the September rent in early October. Expenses were almost \$10K under budget, largely due to low operating costs and a mortgage transfer from savings for August and September.

Expenses are more predictable than income; year-to-date expenses are under budget. We are closely managing our expenses while making strategic decisions on how to use our resources for important things in the future. As a congregation we have been presented with opportunities to expand our ministry including a pastoral intern, providing benefits to our staff and conducting a church wide IT audit. The Board was fully aware of the risk in accepting additional expenses, and felt confident in our financial position discussed below. We are confident these incremental expenses are bettering our congregation and overall mission.

In the past 10 years we have worked diligently to establish healthy checking and savings accounts, allowing us to take on new ministry opportunities. While the balance sheet decreased from prior period, our position is up year over year. We continue to pay the mortgage with funds from the capital campaign, decreasing our mortgage liability each month. Contributions to the building fund totaled \$10K in September. This month, expenses were \$20K, slightly higher than previous periods as both the August and September mortgage was paid, building improvements were made, and obligations to Kairos Consulting were met.

As we enter pledge season, I'd like to remind everyone of the importance of pledge cards! Each year, the budget is largely created around expected general giving. Pledge cards allow me to allocate a balanced amount of expenses (compared to expected income) to each area of the church, including salaries and benefits, administration, operations, and ministry areas. Thank you for all the ways you contribute to University Lutheran Church of Hope. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns!

Emma Carpenter, Treasurer

# Congregational Life

## Dates to Keep in Mind:

**Nov. 4:** All Saints Sunday

**Nov. 11:** Gratitude and Generosity Sunday (receiving pledges)

**Nov. 14:** Prayer around the Cross

**Nov. 16:** Rose Ensemble concert at Hope – Empire, Religion, War, Peace.

**Nov. 18:** Fellowship Meal, Congregational Leadership Q&A

**Nov. 20:** Thanksgiving Eve (eve of eve) Shared Thanksgiving Service at Grace University Luth. Church

**Nov. 27:** Bible & Brews

**Nov. 28:** Hope Diamonds

**Dec. 2:** Advent begins

**Dec. 5, 12, & 19:** Advent Evening Services

**Dec. 16:** Intergenerational Lessons and Carols Service; Potluck Fellowship Meal

**Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

## Life Events at Hope

As the seasons change, we're a community of hope, called to hold one another in prayer in every season—in our deepest need and grief, and in our experiences of new life. 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 and baptism:** We pray for those in our congregation who are awaiting children and holding hope in joyful and painful times. This month we pray especially for Reagan Radziej, child of Lance and Megan, who will be baptized on Nov. 25.

**Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism:** We celebrate and pray for Kelsey Felling's Confirmation on Sunday, October 28, and we pray for a new group of confirmands beginning their two years of preparation on that very same day: Seneca Brooks, Poonam Morgan, M'taleni Nashandi

**Marriages:** We pray for all those preparing for marriage, and for all relationships of commitment.

**Deaths:** We pray for all who grieve the loss of loved ones, including Bernice and Garvin Davenport at the death of Bernice's brother Marvin Olson.

**Significant Illness:** We pray for those living with illness, cancer, recovery, uncertain diagnosis, chemical dependency and other addictions, and mental health struggles, including Bob Swanson, Janet Carpenter, Hannah Kiresuk, Trish Gorbunow, and Chuck Lewis.

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

## Nov. 18 Fellowship Meal

Join us for the November Fellowship Meal, our chance to share a meal, welcome visitors and students, and strengthen our community. This meal is held following the 10:30 a.m. service. Grad and undergrad students eat free. Help with set up and clean-up is always appreciated.

## Women's Retreat Save-the-Date Update

The 2019 Women's Retreat will be January 18-20, 2019, at Dunrovin Retreat Center, just north of Stillwater. The theme for our 2019 retreat is "Dancing with the Divine." All Hope women, mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends of any age are welcome to attend. Registration will open in mid-December. Scholarships are available (see Pastor Jen). Stay tuned for more details. Yes, there will be dancing!

## Book Sale

Thanks to all who donated and worked and had fun at the sale, we earned over \$133 for the Nutritious U Food Pantry. "At the U of M Twin Cities campus, 17.5% of students worry their food will run out before they can buy more; additionally, 10% of students actually experience food shortages. The Nutritious U Food Pantry provides fresh and healthy food to students who struggle to get enough to eat."

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<https://gopherlink.umn.edu/organization/nup>

# Hope in the World News

## Racial Justice Work in the Minneapolis Area Synod

There's a lot going on with respect to the awareness of racial disparities within the Minneapolis Area Synod. The UNITE Table is a group of synod leaders (Pastor Jen is a member) who sponsor efforts toward racial transformation in our churches and communities.



At the August Liaison meeting the group brainstormed (or crowd sourced) every kind of resource of which they were aware having to do with racial justice, reconciliation, and healing. The result is a 17-page list of everything from books to movies to field trip, to adult education series. Undoubtedly there are resources on this list that will be of interest to almost everyone. Copies of this list will be placed in Hope's library and we are working toward putting it on the Hope website as well. Watch for an announcement that the list is available by one or more means.



### Hope Reads: Author Talk and Dinner Conversation

On Oct. 14, David Lawrence Grant, author of "People Like Us," one of the essays in *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota*, joined us for a discussion in the sanctuary followed by delicious dinner catered by North Minneapolis restaurant Breaking Bread, and continued table conversation.

**Sanctuary & Immigration Strategy Meeting** Join us on Sunday Nov. 18 at 11:45 a.m. to discuss University Lutheran Church of Hope's work on issues around immigration and sanctuary. We'll talk about ESL classes, organizing practices, and current movement work happening in the Twin Cities. As a Sanctuary congregation we have committed to not only opening our building, but to the dismantling of oppressive systems. Let's get to work together! Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at [nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org)

### #HopeHappens Email

Do you want to stay up to date on actions and educational opportunities related to justice and equity in our community? Subscribe to the #HopeHappens email which goes out every Monday. You can sign up on the web site or at the welcome desk.

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## Nick Tangen on One-to-Ones

"A successful one-on-one interview, in the space of about a half-hour, initiates or deepens a relationship, uncovers the other person's self-interest, allows the other person to gain clarity about what motivates him or her, and acquires essential knowledge about the person. The one-on-one interview is a simple, relational tool. A healthy and vital congregation-based community organization cannot be built without it." – Dennis Jacobsen, *Doing Justice*



***I have extended a challenge to the congregation: I want everyone to schedule a one-to-one with another congregant whom you might not know very well.*** These conversations help us to build deep and lasting relationships, and also build powerful communities able to respond and work effectively for justice and equity in our neighborhood. One of our Vision Goals is to deepen our commitment to *porous walls* and to center the interests of our neighbors. The only way to learn the self-interest of one another is to meet together, so...schedule a one to one with someone you'd like to get to know better!

There are resources near the Minister of Faith in Community's office, and rumor has it, if you return feedback from your one-to-one to Nick, he'll give you some Snickers as a reward! If you are unsure about whom to meet with, contact me and I'll happily pair you up with someone! Let's get to know each other better, and build the kind of powerful community that is able to transform our neighborhood!

Nick Tangen  
Minister of Faith in Community

## President's Report

Elizabeth and I just returned from three weeks at Holden Village. For those of you who may not be familiar with this place, it is an isolated Lutheran retreat center located in the North Cascades of eastern Washington. From our standpoint, one of the best things about being there was that we were completely cut off from phone, email, and internet access, and the newspapers didn't arrive until a few days after being published. This temporarily freed us from daily exposure to the rancorous public discourse, political malfeasance, and government dysfunction that led up to this year's elections. For the first time in a long time, we were able to pull back and ponder the chaotic and unsettling forces that seem to be at work in the nation and the world during the present age, and to consider how we, as people of faith, should respond.

During our stay out west, I was exposed to a couple of things that informed my thinking. The first was a slim biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor and theologian. The book described his struggle to deal with the extraordinary evils of Nazism during World War II. He eventually understood that as a Christian he was called to place the Gospel before the government. Driven by this realization, he made the difficult decision to participate in a failed plot against Hitler and was martyred as a result.

The second came from retired Lutheran pastor and longtime friend Nancy Winder. During a teaching session at the Village, she read a letter prepared by an ecumenical group of church leaders at a Lenten retreat earlier this year. The letter, entitled *A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis*, lays out six affirmations for consideration by followers of Jesus today. The group described its motivation in a preamble:

When politics undermines our theology, we must examine that politics. The church's role is to change the world through the life and love of Jesus Christ. The government's role is to serve the common good by protecting justice and peace, rewarding good behavior while restraining bad behavior. When that role is undermined by political leadership, faith leaders must stand up and speak out. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state."

The entire letter is posted online at [www.reclaimingjesus.org](http://www.reclaimingjesus.org). I invite you to take a look. Blessings.

John Lauber  
Congregational President

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## Congregational Leadership Q&A on Nov. 18

In September we held a special congregational meeting to share a financial update. Expenses continue to exceed income, and the congregation's leadership seeks to be transparent and informative about the situation.

We'll hold another meeting on November 18 following the 10:30 a.m. service. We're framing this meeting as a Congregational Leadership Q and A. We'll share a financial update, but also offer a chance for members to ask questions and hear updates more broadly about the ministry. Finances are always linked to mission and ministry, and we seek to hold these together. There is a Fellowship Meal that day too. Join us after worship for the meal in Fellowship Hall, then at 12:15 p.m. those who are interested can come into Heritage Hall for this session. Please join us. If you can't make this meeting but have questions, don't hesitate to reach out to any of our congregational officers, Pastor Jen, or Vision & Governance Board members. These leaders are listed on the back page of *The Visitor*.

The Vision & Governance Board

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## Puerto Rico's Hurricane Maria: One Year Later

Pastor Barbara Johnson and Sara Tufvesson-Doure will volunteer in Puerto Rico for a week in November to help repair and rebuild houses in the southeast corner of the island that was hardest hit by Hurricane Maria. Many residents in that rural part of the island are still without electricity and other necessities. Barbara and Sara will join ELCA Pastor Joanne Sorenson from Wood Lake Lutheran Church and nine other people from two faith-based organizations, In Our Hands and Be the Tool. They will partner with the Fuller Center for Housing. Please keep the residents of Puerto Rico in your prayers, and check out other volunteer or donation opportunities at [www.fullercenter.org](http://www.fullercenter.org) or Lutheran Disaster Response – ELCA [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

## Care and Nurture Ministry

Hope Diamonds Senior Group meets at noon on Wednesday Nov. 28 – the week **after** Thanksgiving. We'll have a hot and hearty lunch catered by Kramarczuk's Ukrainian Deli, and homemade bread baked in our own University Lutheran Church of Hope bread oven! John Beane will be our guest presenter following lunch that day. RSVP at the welcome desk or email Pastor Barbara at [barbaraj@ulch.org/](mailto:barbaraj@ulch.org/)



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## Facilities Update: Water, Fire, Tar, and a Little Facilities Humor

### Water

The Facilities committee has some projects in the works we would like to share. First, in August we installed a new Elkay water fountain in the education wing. Not just any fountain. This new one has a bottle-filling feature for reusable water bottles. This reduces waste, is easy to use, and is very convenient. Try it out sometime. It's located on the upper level of the education wing near the PEASE classrooms.



### Fire

In November a gas fireplace insert will be installed in the lounge. We hope this will enhance the lounge experience for all throughout the colder months. Many thanks to Bob Paschke for diligently working to see this project to completion. See Bob's article below.

### Tar

Also in November we have arranged for repairs to potholes and sinkholes in our parking lot. Look for improvements at the south entrance and the filling in of the large sinkhole by the west doors. The area near the east entrance will get the most attention. These repairs will improve the surfaces near the new bread oven as we expand uses of the oven. And just in time for winter.

### Really?

And just this week we signed an agreement with a major real estate speculator to sell our entire property for more apartments, shops, restaurants, pubs, and retail. Because students need more places to party. We can retire all of Hope's financial obligations and meet in a warehouse in Roseville instead! Yay! (editor's note: John is joking!)

John Pignatello  
Facilities Co-chair

### Gas Insert for Lounge Fireplace

On Nov. 16, a much-anticipated gas fireplace insert will be installed in the existing fireplace opening in our lounge. While we all enjoy a crackling wood fire, the negatives of keeping dry wood, tending the fire, cleaning ashes, and the smoke from poor venting pointed us in the direction of a conversion. With this new arrangement we can look forward to more frequent use of the fireplace on Sunday mornings and other events in the lounge. There will be a remote on-off control device that will be kept nearby – watch for further information about that. A set of instructions and use rules will be posted in the lounge near the fireplace.

Bob Paschke  
Facilities

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## Faith in Community News

### Neighborhood & Campus Team Meeting

After worship on Sunday Nov. 4, the Neighborhood & Campus Team will meet to discuss grants and grant writing for the Dinkytown Farmers Market, one-to-one conversations, and our strategy for community engagement in 2018-2019. If you are interested in community engagement, food insecurity, and/or our call to build porous walls, please join us! The more the merrier! Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at [nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org)

## 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

## Vision & Governance Board

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**Vice President:** Carol Flaten

**Past President:** Eric Ringham

**Treasurer:** Emma Carpenter

### **Ministry Areas:**

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Abby Lucas

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**Hope in the World:** Bruce Eldevik

**Relational Ministries:** John Beane

**Operations:**

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**Leadership Development**

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**Board Secretary:** Ann Agrimson

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