



The Visitor



December 2018

Issue #14-11

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.*

Plymouth Christian Youth Center Holiday Ministry at Hope

For many years University Lutheran Church of Hope has been a supporting congregation of the Plymouth Christian Youth Center (PCYC). The Center is home to an Arts & Technology High School, serving more than 300 students in grades 9-12. The school is "trauma-informed" and "stress-responsive," an acknowledgement that many of the students there are disadvantaged and have experienced difficulties and discouragement far more than most kids their age.



PCYC also owns and operates the Capri Theater, a venue for plays, concerts, film series, and other cultural events in its north Minneapolis neighborhood. The Center offers enrichment opportunities beyond time in the classroom. At the Capri, PCYC students have opportunities to engage in many arts activities, from performance to backstage, that build skills and confidence.

One of the highlights of the year at PCYC is its annual gift sale, held this year on Dec. 7 and 8. During these two days, students and kids from the neighborhood have an opportunity to choose up to five holiday gifts for family members, all for just one dollar. The generosity of Hope members and other supporting individuals and congregations makes this Christmas market event possible.

The gift collection here at Hope began Nov. 18 and ends Dec. 3. This gift drive is unique, as we are providing items for children to share with their families. Gifts are needed for all ages, infants to grandparents, and all genders. A PCYC gift collection box is at the welcome center to receive your new, unwrapped gifts. Cash is also accepted. You can direct any questions about gifts to gretchen@peiks.net

This year, in addition to bringing gifts to Hope to be brought to PCYC, consider volunteering at the sale as well. Many hands are needed both on the Monday through Thursday before, to sort gifts and set up and stock the gift areas, and at the time of the sale to help kids choose gifts. You can sign up to volunteer online on the PCYC website or by calling Catrice O'Neal at 612-643-2026.

We encourage you to be a part of this happy event – It will bring a smile to your spirit: Maybe make it a holiday tradition! Share the gift of giving with a child – Chances are you'll leave feeling like you too were a recipient. Peace,



Gretchen Peik
Congregation Representative to PCYC
Bruce Eldevik
Liaison to Hope in the World

Tent of Nations: An Update

In response to a recent Sunday Forum presentation, “Tent of Nations: People Building Bridges,” there have been inquiries of “Can we help?” The short answer is an urgent and appreciative “Yes!” Members and friends of Hope can join the many supporters of this ‘pioneer’ effort in the middle of occupied West Bank Palestine, a few miles southwest of Bethlehem.

The Nassar family, fellow Lutherans and members of Christmas Church in Bethlehem, purchased their 100-acre farm 102 years ago while all Palestine was still part of the Ottoman Empire. After World War I, Great Britain took control, eventually partitioning this land between the resident Arabs and the emerging nation of Israel. This Nassar farm has been surrounded by Jewish settlements over the years, and there has been a concerted effort to confiscate the land by both legal and illegal means. However, the present owner, Daoud Nassar, has fought in the courts to maintain his rightful ownership. The farm—despite loss of electricity, water, and roads—remains the family’s home and has become a center for peace-making. Eight members of Hope joined a group who visited the Tent of Nations in March 2018, and are interested in supporting the ongoing ministry of the Nassar family in upholding justice for Palestine and peace and security for Israel.

There are American affiliates with whom we could join, a parish Trust Fund and/or a Capital Campaign we could tap, and ELCA programs we could explore. Anyone who is interested in donating to the Tent of Nations is invited to contact Ann Beane (651-245-8226) or John Setterlund (217-828-1038).

2019 Hope Women’s Retreat: Dancing with the Divine

The 2019 Hope Women’s Retreat will be held at Dunrovin Retreat Center north of Stillwater, Jan. 18-20, Friday night through Sunday morning. All Hope women and friends of any age are welcome. Saturday morning is the only structured time, so there are lots of opportunities for crafts, hiking/skiing at William O’Brien State Park, massage, a Stillwater trip, etc. The cost will be somewhere in the \$200 range for two nights and 4 meals. Scholarships are available (speak to Pastor Jen). You may attend for part of the weekend as well. Registration begins Dec. 9 at the welcome center, and ends Jan. 9. Questions? Contact Ann Beane at [spirit.beane@gmail.com/](mailto:spirit.beane@gmail.com) or Beata Rydeen at [beatarydeen@comcast.net/](mailto:beatarydeen@comcast.net)



Bible & Brews



Exactly what it sounds like. Join us for a relaxed conversation about scripture, current events, the church, and of course...beer! Bring your favorite libation to share with friends, and any snacks you might want available. Contact Nick Tangen (nickt@ulch.org) or check FB for the address. See you there!

Gifts of Meaning Exchange—December 16th

Lessons and Carols takes place during 10:30am worship on Dec 16th. This year we are asking that each worshiper bring an item to gift to another person in worship that holds some meaning for them. We’ll have a time of “meaning exchange” when we will give this item as a gift to our neighbor and share the meaning the item holds for us. Don’t rush out to buy something, simply think of which items you currently have whose meaning you’d like to share with another person. This exchange is one of the ways we will celebrate the gift of Christ as we approach Christmas.

Hope Incarnate

I write this in mid-November in a church season when our texts are about the end times. The exact words we hear change from year to year, but you can be sure gnashing of teeth is the clatter in the background, temple walls are toppling, and judgment is nigh. There are preachers out there, and congregations out there, who seem to savor these passages more than we do. One of my colleagues texted me this week to ask if I was preaching and if I had any ideas. It isn't my week to preach, so I hadn't dug in as deeply as usual, but I could state the obvious: "I've just been thinking about how much we need to hear a word of hope in days like these that sure seem a bit like end times."



People need to hear Hope. I need to hear Hope. In these days of hurricanes and tremendous wild fires, of mass shootings and then more mass shootings, of ecological peril, and of the caravan of migrants slowly plodding toward Bethlehem – er, I mean the southern border – when we seem to be forgetting about all that talk of loving our neighbors, the news takes on an end-times air...and we need to hear Hope.

Curiously, in early December, Advent doesn't begin that much better. And yet we know that soon, soon, the days begin to lengthen and God breaks into our broken existence with a child, a vulnerable baby come to redeem us, to save us. Talk about new beginnings! Hope is quite literally born in the midst of fraught politics in the form of this infant, Love incarnate, Hope in human stature.

Our November evening service this week went deep. It was moving, powerful, lovely, Spirited, and, it gave me hope. Sitting around a kitchen table recently, shoulder to shoulder with some of you, hearing the painful and beautiful stories of resistance, of persistence, gave me hope. Talking with some who are experiencing homelessness and stop by the church every few days, hearing what they seek and how we are part of their web of support, gives me hope. Watching the smoke curl from the bread oven's chimney, enjoying the friendly chatter of those trying their hand at kneading dough and shaping loaves, gives me hope.

In this season, but really, every season, Hope comes incarnate. Hope comes in flesh again and again. Born as a baby to migrant parents. Born to teach us how to love again. Born in you and through you and for you. The blessings of the Christ Child are yours, and may Hope incarnate dwell with you in this and every season.

Pastor Jen

Welcome New Members!

On Dec. 2 during worship we'll welcome eleven new members into our community of faith at University Lutheran Church of Hope. These new members bring a rich diversity of experiences and practices. In November we held a gathering at which the new members and some of our congregational leaders had a chance to share about themselves and about the congregation, the ELCA, and the Lutheran tradition. New members have sponsors who help them find meaningful ways to be involved in the congregation. In the coming weeks, watch the bulletin board near the staff offices for pictures of these new members and a little about each person.

Bernt Berkland. Sponsors Jillian and Jim Rowan, Niibin and Bimose

Elizabeth Campbell. Sponsor Beata Rydeen

Susan Carlson. Sponsors Jan Johnson and Sheila Hougen

Will Heller. Sponsors Ann Wagner and Eric Ringham

Micki Kruse. Sponsor Ann Lee

Jayne Lindesmith. Sponsors Robert and Karen Lindesmith, and Kathy Knudson

Dick Luedtke. Sponsors Garvin and Bernice Davenport

Lyle Lutz. Sponsors Pat Frolen and Bob Dickhaus

Tom Magnon. Sponsor Bryan Kufus

Kristin Tangen. Sponsors Molly James and Abigail Lucas

July Ye Zheng. Sponsors Paige Whitney, Viva, and Granger Whitney

FAITH FORMATION NEWS



Faith Formation for All Ages



Children's Ministry

This month Children's Faith Formation will be preparing for leadership in our Lessons and Carols service on Dec. 16. We'll review some of our focus texts and conversation from the first three months, practice musical contributions, and work on art projects that will play a role in the service. All children Pre-kindergarten through Grade 5 are invited to participate in Children's Faith Formation.

The kids are on break from Children's Faith Formation Dec. 23 and 30, and will get started again on Jan. 6. If you have any questions about Children's Ministry at University Lutheran Church of Hope, please contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org/



Youth Group

All middle and high school youth are invited to join us on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month for Youth Group; a time of study, conversation, and prayer. On Dec. 2 we'll meet in the Youth Room (108), and on Dec. 16 we'll head to the Purple Onion for some coffee talk!

We also meet once a month on a Sunday evening for dinner and a deep dive into our focus text and some conversation about vocation, leadership, and community engagement. On Dec. 2 we will meet at 6 p.m. for conversation and food, and then participate in the Sanctuary Vigil. Please let Nick Tangen know if you are planning to come. If you have questions about Youth Ministry at Hope, please contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org/

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



The Father of Centering Prayer, Thomas Keating, passed away last month, and left our communities a wealth of knowledge about the contemplative dimension of the Christian life. For Fr. Keating, Centering Prayer was like sitting at the table with your Beloved, reveling in their very presence. This "resting in God" is one of the ways we set aside the busyness and toxicity of a world that tells us to do more, be better, produce, produce, produce. Join us on Friday afternoons in the Thorpe Chapel to rest in God and to be together in an ancient and modern practice of Christian meditation. Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org/

Spiritual Gifts Discovery Workshops at Hope

"Let us talents and tongues employ!" On two Saturday mornings in early 2019, 9 a.m. to noon, John Hensrud and Beata Rydeen will present two workshops about Spiritual Gifts Discovery. You will be able to identify your own innate gifts and discover how to use them for growth and service in our church life here at Hope.

Jan. 12: The Clifton Strengths Workshop will focus on your top 5 (of 34) strengths. You will learn to appreciate your own strengths and celebrate the strengths of others. Requirements include registration and \$20 to cover the cost of accessing the online assessment. Visit gallupstrengthscenter.com for an overview.

Feb. 9: The Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) Workshop will focus on your personal personality type preferences and how to recognize and use your unique gifts. An assessment completed prior to the workshop will be required.

If you have taken either of these assessments previously, you are welcome to join in for a 'refresher.' By knowing, using, and celebrating the gifts God has given to us, we can enrich our congregational life together! Questions? Contact John at jhensrud@homesmsp.com/ or Beata at beatarydeen@comcast.net/

Sunday Forums

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

Dec. 2: Mental Health Connect. Mental Health Connect is a Minneapolis-based, church-supported, cost-free resource for those in need of help with mental health services. Through our forum presentation led by Gretchen Porter, we seek to raise awareness of the need for mental health services and how to access these services to fit individual situations. Bring questions and become informed as to what this consortium of churches has to present to the communities of Minneapolis.



Dec. 9: Poetry Matters. Poetry is personal, and finding the right one at the right time can provide comfort, clarity, or challenge. Hope member Nan Knutsen will share some favorites and provide resources for discovering your own. Come to expand your heart and appreciation for this literary form that can touch the soul. It can be a resource for your Advent reflection.

Dec. 16: Hope on the Journey. Jean Larson, author of *Hope on the Journey*, a book of faith and of care for her husband who had Parkinson's Disease, will speak on her experiences over his 24-year journey with the disease. She leads support groups in the Twin Cities for many who live with Parkinson's and other chronic illnesses. Her book gives caregivers a voice and allows others to feel the emotions of those who walk similar journeys.



Dec. 23: Riverside Innovation Hub Team. The Riverside Innovation Hub (RIH) is a project coordinated by Augsburg University exploring Young Adult engagement in congregations at the intersections of faith and the arts, faith and politics, and interfaith engagement. University Lutheran Church of Hope's Innovation Team, and Innovation Coach Amanda Vetsch, will discuss the RIH and the work that's been happening at University Lutheran Church of Hope within the frameworks of accompaniment, interpretation, discernment, and proclamation. See you there!

Dec. 30: No Forum. Blessings on your New Year.

Happy Holidays from the Hope Book Club

On Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m. at Sonja Peterson's home, 1501 26th Ave. Northeast in Minneapolis, join the Hope Book Club for an Egyptian pot luck. Sonja will supply the meat/protein; please bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share.



We will discuss *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 19th century alley in Cairene Egypt.

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

Care and Nurture Ministry

Hope Diamonds Senior Group: Wednesday, Dec. 12 (note this is the second Wednesday of the month). Holiday Noon Meal: Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, and cranberry Jell-O salad. We'll have a little fun with holiday crafts, and Zach Busch will lead us in singing our favorite Christmas carols. RSVP sign-up at the welcome center. Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend!



Hope Diamonds ~ Looking Ahead to 2019 (note date changes)

Wednesday, Jan. 9: Doug Ohman, Pioneer Photography. A popular Minnesota historian, Doug will be our guest presenter after a hearty winter noon luncheon of beef stew.

Tuesday, Feb. 19: James Ford Bell Museum & Planetarium. Our group guided tour begins at 1:30 p.m. Meet us there or car pool from Hope. Note: No luncheon in February. More info to follow.

Treasurer's Report

YEAR-TO-DATE (1/1-10/31)	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2018 Budget
General Giving	333,965	376,964	419,756
Rental Income	110,230	119,257	117,230
Total Income	444,215	496,115	536,985
Salaries and Benefits	263,029	298,093	279,856
Administration	24,751	27,577	30,224
Operations	115,114	115,194	125,480
Total Expenses	492,468	532,971	536,985
Net Operating Income	(48,253)	(36,856)	0



October was a great month at Hope. **General Giving** totaled \$53,474. Year-to-date General Giving is \$377K, an increase of 13% from this time last year and 11% below the 2018 budget. We have been experiencing positive trends with **Rental Income**. Parking lot rental continues to be a consistent source of income along with our continued partnership with PEASE Academy. We are grateful that PEASE Academy continues to use our space to carry out their mission. Year over year we have seen an 8% increase in Rental Income, and year-to-date we are 2% above budget, at \$119,257.

Total Income for the month of October is \$77,851. Year-to-date Total Income is \$496,115. This is down 8% from the budget; however, we are up 12% from this time last year.

During 2018, ULCB had a total budget of \$644K. **Salaries and Benefits** were expected to be 52% of the total budget. During the year, the Vision & Governance Board made two decisions impacting Salaries and Benefits. We welcomed a Pastoral Intern, and we provided benefits to all eligible staff. Although these decisions contributed to our \$18K year-to-date over budget amount (7%), we believe the benefits felt throughout the entire Church have been immense.

As I continue the 2019 budgeting process, the Vision & Governance Board is looking for ways to become more intentional in our spending and seeking various ways to lean-up areas of the Church budget. We are currently working from a \$644K budget, and seek to decrease the 2019 budget to around \$600K. After taking a diligent look at the 2018 budget compared to actuals, the Board believes we are able to tighten expenses by taking a closer look at Administration Costs and working with the Facilities Team to accurately budget Operating Costs. **Administration Costs** include office supplies, conferences and conventions, telecommunications, copier expenses, and computer expenses. Year-to-date we are 9% under budget. **Operations Costs** include utilities, janitorial costs, building repairs, building maintenance, and city fees. Operations was expected to be 23% of the total 2018 budget; year-to-date we are 9% under budget. We are thankful for the Facilities Team who works tirelessly to keep this building in wonderful condition.

Since 2012, our spending in ministry areas has risen dramatically. While this means we are doing more ministry work in all areas, we look to trim the ministry area budgets in 2019, while continuing our good work. The Financial Controls Committee and the Executive Committee asked all liaisons of ministry areas and staff to think about ways to reduce their proposed 2019 budget by 10% and by 20%. Allowing time to prioritize needs and wants gives me the opportunity to build an accurate budget for 2019. Year-to-date, all **Ministry Areas** are under budget.

Expenses for the month totaled \$56,180. This is 16% higher than this time last year and 5% over budget for the month. The increased expenses can primarily be explained by the Nov. 2 payroll being paid in October. **Expenses** year-to-date total \$533K. This is an 8% increase from this time last year and slightly below budget year-to-date.

Net Operating Income is **Total Income** less **Total Expense**. During the month of October, the increased General Giving contributed to a Net Operating Income of \$21,671. Year-to-date, we have a \$36,856 **Net Operating Loss** which is 6% of the total \$644K budget. This time last year, we had a \$48,253 Net Operating Loss which was 8% of the total budget.

(Treasurer's Report continued on p. 7)

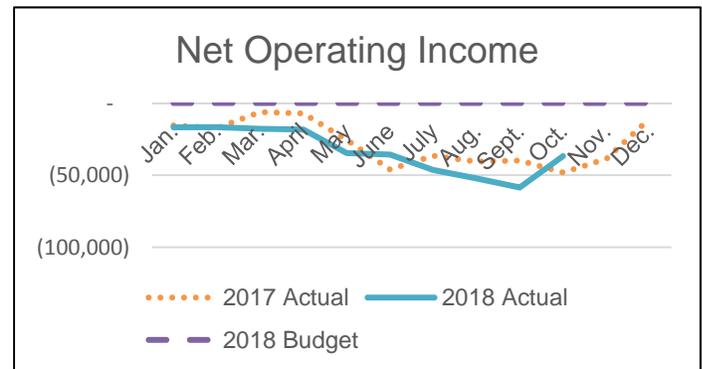
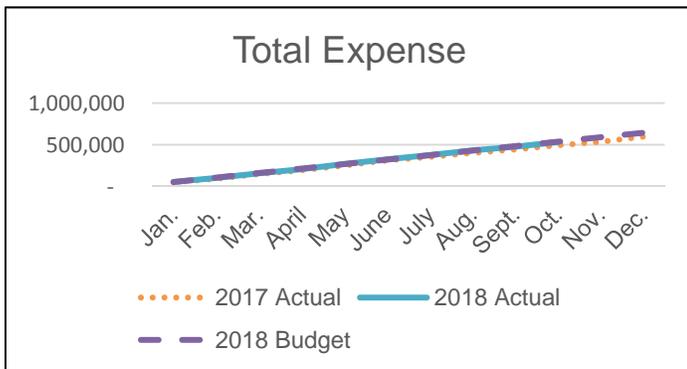
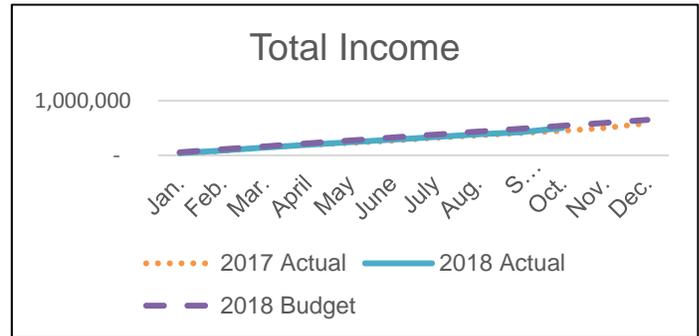
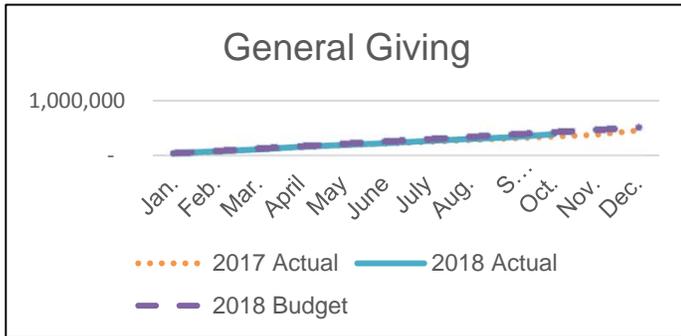
Treasurer's Report, continued from p. 6

Over the past 10 years, Hope has been diligently working to establish healthy checking and savings accounts. The **Balance Sheet** is a snapshot of our financial position at a specific point in time. As of October 31, 2018, we have \$243K in Current Assets, mainly comprising our checking and savings accounts. Fixed assets include the building, parking lot, and equipment. Our largest liability is our mortgage.

Capital Campaign contributions totaled \$8K for the month of October. After paying the mortgage, the Building Fund had a net income of \$1,344 (including a small amount of interest income). As of October 31, 2018, the Building Fund has \$125,345, 132% increase from October 2017. Thank you to everyone involved in the construction of the bread oven and the children's play area in 2018! We are looking forward to organ repairs and improvements to the stained glass windows during the Revealing Hope Capital Campaign.

Thank you to everyone who filled out a pledge card! Each year, the budget is largely created around expected General Giving. Pledge cards allow me to appropriately allocate a balanced amount of expenses (compared to expected income) to each area of the Church.

As we look to the end of the year, I would like to remind everyone to consider Hope during year-end giving. We are blessed to have an immense amount of talent within this congregation. Thank you to everyone who contributes time to help the life and health of this congregation. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns! You can contact me at treasurer@ulch.org/ Thank you! Emma Carpenter
Treasurer



Thank You! Thank You! You Fuel Hope!

In November we received and blessed pledge cards for 2019 giving. These pledge cards represent our commitments for giving to God's ministry through this congregation for the coming years. They help our leaders make wise and faithful ministry decisions. If you were able to turn in a pledge card, thank you. If you haven't yet, please prayerfully consider completing a card in the coming weeks. Extra cards (and also information on enrolling in electronic gifts through Simply Giving) are available at the entrances to the sanctuary. They can also be mailed to you – just call the church office. Thank you.

Congregational Life

Dates to Keep in Mind:

Dec. 2: Advent begins. New Member Sunday.

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

Dec. 7 & 8: Plymouth Christian Youth Center Gift Sale

Dec. 12: Hope Diamonds

Dec. 16: Intergenerational Lessons and Carols Service, Potluck/Smörgåsbord Fellowship Meal, Caroling

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

Dec. 30: One service at 10:30 a.m.

Jan. 9: Hope Diamonds

Jan. 12: Spiritual Gifts Discovery Workshop

Jan. 18-20: Hope Women's Retreat

Life Events at Hope

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. We pray for Reagan Radziej, child of Lance and Megan, who was baptized on Nov. 25.

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 Jan and Bill Sanden and Kjerstin and Shane Yager, at the death of Jan's father (Kjerstin's grandfather) Gordon Hanson; Elizabeth and Matt Fry at the death of Liz's grandfather Andrew Brondos; Todd Hesla and Karen Johnshoy Hesla at the death of Karen's mother Velma Johnshoy; the family (including adult children Jane, Brad, Nancy, and Chris) and friends of long-time Hope member Shirley Peterson at Shirley's death on November 5 (a memorial service was held at Hope on Nov. 17); and Arloene Stevens on the death of her nephew, Timothy Bernhow.

Significant Illness: Those living with illness, cancer, recovery, uncertain diagnosis, chemical dependency and other addictions, and mental health struggles, including Peter Ostroushko, 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.

Potluck/Smörgåsbord Fellowship Meal Dec. 16

Come join us for our annual potluck/smörgåsbord on Dec. 16 following the 10:30 service. Meatballs, potatoes, and gravy will be provided. Please bring an item to add to the table (main dish, vegetables, fruit, salad, dessert...). See you then!

Christmas Caroling for all generations! 12:30 p.m. Sunday, December 16 after the Fellowship Meal.

Join with others to go out in small groups to bring a little Christmas cheer to University Lutheran Church of Hope members and friends at home or in care centers. Everyone can sing Christmas carols! Song sheets provided. Sign up at the welcome center. For more information contact Rosalie Eldevik or Pastor Barbara.

ISAIAH Benefit Concert Thanks!

Thanks to all who attended, supported, and performed in the Oct. 27 benefit concert for the immigration and sanctuary work of ISAIAH. We raised \$1400. Wow! Thank you!

Social Media at University Lutheran Church of Hope

Are you a social media guru? Do you enjoy picking the perfect filter for that TBT post? We are looking for some friends who would be willing to contribute to University Lutheran Church of Hope's social media presence on FB, Instagram, and Twitter. If this sounds like something that interests you, please contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org (or just @ him on Twitter ☺)

Faith in Community News

The World is About to Turn: Community Organizing Training Jan. 14-17

Mary's words echo true today, in a world longing for the faith leaders we are called to be. This intensive training will help us build this kind of bold faith leadership and cultivate the skills we need to be strategic, community-centered, and effective. Regardless of the issue(s) core to your passion, you'll come away with tools to work more concretely and collectively for just and healthy neighborhoods. If you are interested in joining us for this training, please contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

Neighborhood & Campus Team Meeting

The Neighborhood & Campus Team will meet Dec. 2 after worship to discuss the Dinkytown Farmers Market, Study Space, and coordination with the Riverside Innovation Hub. If you are interested in community engagement or issues around food insecurity, please join us for this great conversation!

Sanctuary & Immigration Strategy

The Sanctuary & Immigration team is organizing congregants to schedule visits with their state representatives to ask their support for restoring driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants (9 out of 10 immigrant detentions begin with a traffic stop). Ensuring that all Minnesotans can receive a driver's license will make the roads safer for everyone. This is an important fight that we can win, and we are asking everyone to stand with our immigrant neighbors and push for legislation that honors the dignity of all people.

The Sanctuary & Immigration Team will meet on Dec. 9 after worship to discuss strategy, prayer vigils, sanctuary suppers, and a number of ongoing needs. If you are interested in supporting this work at University Lutheran Church of Hope, please plan on joining us! Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

Dinkytown Farmers Market

It may seem a bit early, but it is already time to start thinking about the upcoming Farmers Market season. Last summer we learned a lot from launching and running Dinkytown's first Farmers Market. We know that there is a need for both affordable fresh produce in our neighborhood, and a need for spaces of community building. This is what the Dinkytown Farmers Market is able to provide. In 2019 we will be focusing on securing weekly or monthly sponsorships from local businesses and organizations to help cover the cost of Market Manager, educating our neighborhood about EBT and SNAP benefits, and we'll be looking for your creative ideas about how best to encourage community building as a central element at the Market. If you are part of a business or organization who would like to sponsor the market, please contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org.

One-to-Ones: Keep it Up!

I have heard from many of you about the one-to-ones you have scheduled with neighbors and church members you want to know better, and it is very exciting! One-to-ones are perhaps the most powerful tool we have for building community.

Not only that, but it is through our relationship building that we begin to get a sense of just how powerful we are together. This is the kind of relational power that looks like Jesus and impacts social change. We have seen evidence of this relationally centered power at work in both Hennepin and Ramsey Counties in securing immigrant defense fund money and a livable wage for Minnesotans. This is how we make our walls porous. This is how we act on our commitments to racial, gender, and economic justice. Keep it up!

One-to-one handouts and feedback forms are available in the hallway next to the library. Remember, if you turn a feedback form in to Nick Tangen, he will reward you with chocolate (or a sweet of your choosing)!



Nick Tangen
Minister of Faith in Community

President's Report

"Fastest Growing Religion is 'None.'" That was the headline for the lead story in last Sunday's *StarTribune*. The article went on to explain that a high percentage of Americans, especially those in their 20s and 30s, are no longer involved with traditional churches. When asked to describe their religious affiliation, they answered with a single word: "none." Consequently, congregations across the country are dwindling and getting older. Seminary enrollment has plummeted. Retreat centers are closing. Churches are in trouble. This is not news. We've certainly seen some of these trends play out at Hope.

The article was based on interviews with Minnesotans who are both inside and outside the church, as well as surveys conducted by some of the nation's most prestigious research organizations. Surprisingly, very few of the "nones" described themselves as atheists. Most of them professed a belief in God. A large number of them felt a need for some kind of spiritual experience—a need they sought to fulfill by participating in yoga, meditation, or mindfulness exercises; committing themselves to social or environmental issues; or communing with nature.

Many, even those who had grown up in religious homes, indicated that their reasons for practicing alternative forms of spirituality grew out of disillusionment with the very human institution of the church. There was a sense that traditional churches are anti-intellectual, that rituals are little more than rote excitations of uninspiring words, that organized religion in general is too often at the root of global conflict, and that churches offer, as one person put it, "too many answers and not enough questions."

All of this presents a significant challenge as well as a significant opportunity for University Lutheran Church of Hope. And it's not simply a matter of trying to fill our pews. We are located in the heart of the University community, at the absolute epicenter of the "none" culture. We are surrounded by people in their 20s and 30s who are actively seeking ways to fulfill their spiritual needs. As members of the board and staff worked this summer to formulate a concise statement of Hope's vision goals for the next few years, we sought to quantify some of the ways that we can address those needs.

As a community of faith, grounded in the Gospel:

- We will continue our efforts to engage and contribute to the neighborhood around us.
- We will make it clear that everyone is welcome here, and offer Christ's radical hospitality to all.
- We will explicitly strive to minister to young adults through actions that meet their spiritual, intellectual, and physical needs.
- We will accept and provide support for people at every stage of their spiritual journeys.
- We will provide a safe space for doubt, questioning, and curiosity within a framework of grace.
- We will demonstrate God's love through active work on issues of social justice.
- We will create opportunities for thoughtful, meaningful worship, drawing on traditional sources but also exploring progressive ways to celebrate our faith through art and music.

As the number of "nones" increases, it's clear that the Hope community faces some significant challenges. But it's also clear that we have a lot to offer. Blessings,

John Lauber
Congregational President

Holden Village in Summer 2019

Zach Busch and a close friend have been invited to serve as musicians at Holden Village this summer, July 21-27. Holden Village is the Lutheran retreat center nestled in the Cascade Mountains of Washington state. We're encouraging a group of Hope folks and friends to head west during this span in July. This would be an organic group, so you could register for the time frame that fits your schedule, make your own travel arrangements, etc, but know that you'd have Hope friends in the Village at the same time. If you'd like to know more about this opportunity, please talk with John Lauber (jflauber@comcast.net/ or 612-991-8983). Registration begins Jan. 1, so decisions will need to be made quickly. Holden's website is: www.holdenvillage.org

December 2018

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

Officers:

President: John Lauber

Vice President: Carol Flaten

Past President: Eric Ringham

Treasurer: Emma Carpenter

Ministry Areas:

Worship & Music: Lisa Morse

Youth & Young Adults:

Abby Lucas

Education/Faith Formation:

Hope in the World: Bruce Eldevik

Relational Ministries: John Beane

Operations:

Emma Carpenter

Eric Ringham

Leadership Development

& Communications:

John Lauber

Carol Flaten

Board Secretary: Ann Agrimson

The Visitor

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