



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.*

LENT AT HOPE: *"Make us bold to pray"*

We journey together again into the season of Lent. The whole cycle of the church year and the pattern of liturgy we manifest as a body in worship is both intimately familiar *and* ever new. Advent crescendos to Christmas, Epiphany sparkles, and then we stretch into the long months of cold hush in ordinary time after Epiphany. Lent may seem like more of the same, but it in essence embodies a turning. What has long been dormant begins to stir. The days lengthen. On the surface, we may not see change. But our hidden places and innermost parts feel this stir and call us to wonder.

"Lord, remember us in your kingdom and *make us bold to pray...*" This Lenten season, we will embrace this sense of familiarity and newness in our worship life together. We will draw our focus to perhaps the most familiar element of our liturgy: the Lord's Prayer. Each Sunday, we will isolate a line of the prayer, using it to center and guide our worship. We will move the fabulous wooden sculpture, *Praying Mother* by John Rood long housed in the lounge into the sanctuary to help us contemplate boldness in prayer. We will learn and sing a brand new setting of the Lord's Prayer, written recently by former choir member Jacob Nordman specifically for us and dedicated to us. His setting begins, "Our Creator, Our Mother, Our Father..." At the end of the season, the choir and instrumentalists from the community will present a setting of the Lord's Prayer by J.S. Bach, compiled and arranged by John Setterlund.

Using these hallowed and familiar words, we will dare to stretch ourselves and find deeper meaning in preparation for the profound feast and celebration of Easter at the very heart of our faith.

Wednesdays in Lent

March 6 – Ash Wednesday – services at Noon, 7pm in the sanctuary. No meals.

March 13, 20, 27, April 3 – service at noon with soup lunch after. 6:15pm

"BYOS" (Bring Your Own Supper) in the lounge. Evening Prayer service at 7 in the sanctuary.

April 10 - Bach Cantata Evening Prayer at 7pm in the sanctuary with Hope Choir and instrumentalists.



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Lent at Hope, continued from page 1

Hand drumming will punctuate our worship this Lent/Easter, as a group of a dozen or so has begun meeting weekly on Sundays after worship. Also, consider if you'd like to participate in our writing/creating project for the Easter Devotional Book and contact me (zachb@ulch.org) if you'd like to sign up, providing a written piece about 250-500 words, a visual art or other creative piece based on assigned scripture – the possibilities are rich.

Zach Busch, Minister of Worship and Music

Faith in Community News

Sanctuary Neighborhood & Campus Team Meeting March 3

The Neighborhood & Campus Team is hard at work planning and launching the Dinkytown Farmers Market Season 2! We will gather after worship on Sunday March 3 to discuss details about hiring a manager, launching a website, and finalizing vendors. If you are passionate about food issues or community engagement, or just love planning events, please consider joining the team and help us ensure that the market is able to offer fresh produce and community to our neighbors for years to come!

Dinkytown Farmers Market Coming Soon

Our second season is right around the corner. We plan to open in June with food, friends, and lots of fun...oh, and tons of fresh, local, and affordable produce. This is one of Hope's best community engagement tools, and serves real needs in our neighborhood. You can help support this ministry in a number of ways:

You can become a sponsor. Help to cover the financial costs of operating the market, paying a market manager, and printing lots of marketing materials.

You can sponsor a musician. Would you be willing to donate funds to pay our local musicians to add a fun element to our market days?

Tell your friends. Let your friends know that a great new market has opened near the University and will be providing produce and community every Wednesday evening between June and October.

Buy some produce. Of course, one of the best ways you can support the market is by purchasing fresh and local produce from our vendors.

Thank you for all the leadership and support, and for making the dream of porous walls a reality!

P.S. Keep an eye out for a brand new Dinkytown Farmers Market website launching soon!

Sanctuary and Immigration Strategy

Hope's Sanctuary and Immigration Team will meet March 10 after worship to discuss plans for an in-district meeting with local legislators, drivers' license bill advocacy, conversation classes at Hope, and a number of other important topics. We'll focus especially on empowering congregants to visit their representatives about drivers' license legislation.

Hope in the World News

Two Opportunities to Raise Your Christian Voices for the Hungry and the Homeless

Hope in the World would like to invite you to participate in two opportunities to be advocates, to commemorate, and to invigorate our work for the poor.

Be a part of the Beacon Interfaith organization for affordable housing, at Homeless Day on the Hill Wednesday, March 13, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. We meet at Central Presbyterian Church, 500 Cedar St., St. Paul, for registration, program, and advocacy training. At 10:00 a.m. we will head to the capitol to meet our legislators to advocate for affordable housing.

Save the date for a Bread for the World commemorative breakfast, hosted by the Metro Area Bread Team, Saturday, April 6, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at Calvary Lutheran Church, 6817 Antrim Rd., Edina. This is not a fund-raiser; however, BFW will gladly accept donations toward their work. At this breakfast, we will celebrate forty years of successes, network with other congregations, share best practices, receive a legislative update, enjoy a bountiful breakfast, and leave rejuvenated!

For further information about both/either events contact Donna Neste at 612-244-6285 or

² d_nestea@yahoo.com/ There will also be sign-up sheets at the Welcome Center.

Donna Neste

So, How Was the Annual Meeting?

I get that question often. I hear it in advance of the Feb. 10 meeting... “Is it going to be a big one, Jen, do I need to be there?” I hear it after, in the spirit of “What did I miss?” This year I heard it plenty before and after; it seemed that many were traveling or stuck in a snowdrift or taking care on the ice or nursing themselves or a loved one back to health. It’s that time of year.



So, here’s the scoop, filtered, of course, through my lens, my brain, my heart. This year’s annual meeting didn’t have any *hot* decisions but it did come on the heels of tightened budgets and continued work on our vision and our finances.

- We reviewed the 2018 financials. Thanks to those who were specially generous in the end-of-2018 appeal. With your help and a tight hand on spending, we concluded 2018 with a loss of \$28,098, far better than we feared. Some of this relates to intentional mission decisions, some doesn’t. Presently we have money to cover this kind of loss. Going into 2019, our congregational leaders know we can’t do this regularly.
- We approved a 2019 budget of \$628,206, which includes 6.5% mission support for Minneapolis Area Synod (and the ELCA) and a 2% increase for staff salaries. After leaders expressed concerns about balancing our 2019 budget, many generously increased pledges or made a new pledge. We also went through two rounds of trimming to reducing our expenses. We had hoped to increase staff salaries by 3% and share 7% with the synod. As you read above, we reduced in both of these areas, but not by as much as we at first considered. Thanks to members and friends who heard the call and responded.
- Related to 2019, we had significant discussion about the formula we use to project our unpledged giving. We know how much to anticipate in pledges, but it’s the rest of the giving that is harder to anticipate. We’re watching the trends closely and trying to make wise and faithful decisions.
- We gave thanks for our leaders and staff – in particular, John Lauber, finishing his year as congregational president; Eric Ringham, concluding his president-elect, president, past-president cycle; Bruce Eldevik, leader of our Hope in the World work, and Melissa Odenbach, liaison for Education/Faith Formation.
- We elected new leaders: Carol Flaten, president; Tim Abrahamson, president-elect; Shelly Parry, Education liaison, and Sonja Peterson, Hope in the World liaison. Additional leaders are listed in the annual report, and far more people serve on teams and committees that don’t need to be elected at annual meetings. Many of you participate in God’s mission in all sorts of creative and exciting ways. Thank you!
- We celebrated the new-ish vision goals, Fueling Our Life Together, that inspire our congregational life.
- We had fun (humor related to the elections thanks to the Leadership Development Team), passed the gavel, and sang “Send forth your Spirit, O God; and renew our life; send forth your Spirit, O God.” Amen to that!

The vision goals, reports, new leaders, and financials are all included in the annual report booklet. Thank you, Ann Agrimson, for carefully compiling the report. Copies are available near the sanctuary entrances or you may contact the church office to have one sent. They are also available on our website.

I’m so grateful to share this ministry with you. Send forth your Spirit, O God!

Pastor Jen

Hope Diamonds

The Senior Group and friends are invited to gather for a simple Lenten meal of soup and bread following the noon Lenten worship on Wednesday, March 20. Note that *everyone* is invited to a soup and bread lunch each Wednesday following the noon worship beginning March 13 through April 10. There will NOT be a lunch provided after the Ash Wednesday noon service.

Looking Ahead, Hope Diamonds will not meet in April during Holy Week. Watch for more information about a special Hope Diamonds event in May, and then we will celebrate the onset of summer on Wednesday, June 19 with a potluck picnic in the church lounge and courtyard.



FAITH FORMATION NEWS



Faith Formation for All Ages



Children's Ministry

In March, University Lutheran Church of Hope's children will explore the season of Lent through spiritual practice and storytelling. We'll learn about Centering Prayer, doodle prayers, alms giving, and more!

March Children's Ministry Schedule:

March 3: Story Time (Room 108)

March 10: Let's Sing a Song! (Sanctuary)

March 17: Art Expression (Room 103)

March 24: Community Day (Lounge)

The Children's Ministry Team will meet on March 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the library to prepare for March and April rotations. Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org



Youth Group

In March the Youth Group will gather on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month for check-ins, conversation, study, and prayer. We will also be scheduling an evening gathering in March to play some games, continue our examination of vocation and discernment, and to pray with and for one another. Keep your eyes open in the *Thursday Epistle* and announcements for this upcoming date. Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

Lenten Bible Study

The prophet Jeremiah ministered to ancient Judah at the time of catastrophe, during the collapse of the Jewish monarchy and the deportation to Babylon. His message of warning, submission, and hope strongly influenced the word and message of Jesus, and it rings true in every generation. Pastor John Setterlund will lead a study of the Book of Jeremiah on six Sundays (Feb. 24, Mar. 3, 17, 24, and 31, and Apr. 7) following the 10:30 worship service. A study guide will be provided.

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

"Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46



As we move into the Lenten season, we lean into those spiritual practices that ground us in the presence of God and prepare us for the Resurrection of Christ in Easter. Consider joining us on Friday afternoons for Centering Prayer as one of your Lenten practices. Centering Prayer is a silent method of prayer that prepares our faculties for the gift of contemplation and encourages us to simply rest in God. Our world is often so focused on busyness, achievement, and work. In Centering Prayer we remember that our first name is Beloved, and practice letting go of those things that cause us to forget. Everyone is welcome to this time! Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

Holy Ground Community Organizing Camp August 12-16 at Hope

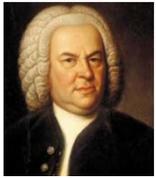
In August, University Lutheran Church Hope will host the Holy Ground Community Organizing Camp for children grades K-5. Join us as we plan and build our own city, talk about Jesus' ministry with and in his own community, and solve an issue in our neighborhood. This is a great opportunity to build leadership skills and to imagine ways we can be powerful actors in our own neighborhoods.

The camp runs August 12-16 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The cost is on a sliding scale from \$0-\$30. Each night we'll enjoy a meal together, get creative, and build power to make change in our community. Adults will also have the opportunity to learn from Synod staff about community organizing practices and principles, and to hear more about the great work our congregations are doing, while the children are busy at their own work!

Sunday Forums

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

March 3: Nobel Peace Portraits. Nobel Peace prize recipients are known worldwide for their contributions to international peace. Our guest is Doug Knutson, a Minneapolis photographer whose portraits have been displayed throughout the area. The 22 Nobel Peace Portraits Doug has photographed are among the largest such collections in the world. We hope you can join us for a fascinating journey into the lives of these amazing people.



March 10: Bach's *St. John Passion*. One of the great musical portrayals of Jesus' trial and death is Bach's *St. John Passion*. It was composed 295 years ago to be sung at a Lutheran church in Leipzig, Germany on Good Friday. The text follows Luther's translation of chapters 18-19 of the Gospel of John, plus popular hymns and other poetry, all set to music by the greatest Lutheran composer, J. S. Bach. John Setterlund will share insights into this musical masterpiece, reflecting on his recent seminar and two upcoming performances of the *Passion*.

March 17: Hunger Solutions Minnesota. Nearly 1 in 10 Minnesotans are food insecure. That's over 500,000 Minnesotans who struggle with hunger. Hunger Solutions Minnesota works to end hunger in our state. They take action to assure food security for all Minnesotans by supporting programs and agencies that provide food to those in need, advancing sound public policy and guiding grassroots advocacy. Executive Director Colleen Moriarty will be with us to speak on this critical concern.

March 24: On Being a Climate Justice Congregation. Erin Pratt is Program Director of Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light, which has begun a congregational certificate program, *Be the Spark: Climate Justice Congregations*. Ms. Pratt joins the Hope Green Team in explaining the process that will help us gain focus, support, and recognition to move our Hope faith community into committed climate action.

March 31: Lutheran Campus Ministry

We welcome back student ambassadors from Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) to speak with us about their experience of LCM and the concerns students face on campus. University Lutheran Church of Hope supports LCM with our benevolence gifts, and Tim Gustafson serves on their board. We welcome University students every Sunday. We also support students' well-being through the Nutritious U food program and the Farmers Market. Come with your questions.



Save the Date for 2019 South Minneapolis Day Camp

South Minneapolis Day Camp is a progressive ecumenical summer day camp experience offering faith formation in a fun, safe, Christ-centered, relational setting. Our theme this year is "Come to the Table." We will explore food justice, creation care, radical welcome, communion, and being part of a global community as we play, pray, make art, sing, and learn together!

Dates: June 17-21, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. **Ages:** Entering K - entering 8th grade (separate tracks for elementary and middle schoolers). **Where:** Bethel Lutheran Church, 4120 17th Ave S, Minneapolis

More information about registering for camp will be coming soon. Talk with Pastor Jen, Intern Linqing, or Nick Tangen if you're interested in attending or volunteering.

My Prayer Partner / Dao Gao Huo Ban 祷告伙伴

"My Prayer Partner," is Intern Linqing's seminary internship project. Prayer partners help us share, learn, and simply walk with one another. In a healthy prayer partner relationship, we share with each other the joys, struggles, and up-and-down moments in our lives, and ask one another to pray for these things.

Everyone is welcome to find a prayer partner, including our kids. Plan to meet or do a phone call, text, or email with one another. You can choose what you want to share (your prayer requests, a brief message from your devotions, a Bible verse, or an idea from the news or a book you are reading) and how frequently you want to meet (once a week, once a month, or even every day).

If you are having a difficult time finding a prayer partner, come talk with Intern Linqing. There will be forms at the Welcome Center and on Linqing's door that will give you more information about this project. Contact Linqing at intern@ulch.org if you have any questions.

Gratitude and Generosity Moment

From time to time, members of the Gratitude and Generosity Team wish to share something in our life of faith for which we are grateful. I would like to express my gratitude in knowing God answers my prayers.

In my prayers I tend to do a lot of asking of God, mainly for protection and good health for loved ones and myself, as I'm sure we all do. I have experienced answers to these prayers throughout my life. This has come in the form of healing for an ill relative, car accidents that were narrowly avoided, guidance through difficult times, and in general for all the wonderful blessings I enjoy.

Of course, there are times my prayers are answered, but perhaps not as I would like. I prayed most every night for seven and a half years that my sister-in-law's ovarian cancer would be cured. It wasn't, but for much of that time her life was good. When it became apparent she was dying, I changed my prayer to one of compassion, that she would not suffer pain or fear and that death would come quickly. That prayer was answered. These are just a few examples of God answering my prayers from the time I was young. I'm attempting to be more intentional in my prayers of not only asking of God, but praising and thanking God, as I have so much for which to be thankful.

The G & G Team members would like to extend an invitation to anyone who may have story or "moment" of either gratitude or generosity that they would like to share. Sharing these faith stories helps us name and lift up to God our many blessings, and in turn be generous with our God-given gifts and talents. If you have questions regarding this or would like to share your own story, you can contact me, Beth Ubbelohde, at eubbelohde@yahoo.com/

Riverside Innovation Hub

Early in February, Hope's Innovation Team gathered with the other partner congregations at the Riverside Innovation Hub's Workshop. It was helpful to hear from experts and other churches as we worked through the Public Church framework in hope of being better neighbors and continuing to cultivate porous walls. The team is still working with the art form of Interpretation. This phase of the framework invites us to hear and weave together the neighbor's story, our faith community's story, and God's story.



We need your help! One way that we will be hearing our faith community's story is through short survey questions we need you to answer in the upcoming weeks. The questions will be available in the *Thursday Epistle*, on Facebook, and on half sheets of paper in worship on Sundays. Please take some time to answer the questions so we can hear your voice! Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org/

On Being a Climate Justice Congregation



The Green Team is joining a new program under the leadership of Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light (MNIPL). This organization, originally called Congregations Caring for Creation, works to build the interfaith climate movement in Minnesota by empowering faith communities across the state to take action that is authentic, effective, and energizing in their context, through leadership development programs and action opportunities.

The certification program we are joining is called Be the Spark: Climate Justice Congregations. More information will be available at the March 24 Sunday Forum presented by Erin Pratt, Program Director of MNIPL. Come sit in on the Green Team meeting with Erin after the 10:30 service that day (there will be food). Come talk about where we are now as a congregation. Come talk about an action plan for the church to move forward toward a more sustainable future. Come find a way to be involved. After all, how can one have social justice or economic justice if we don't treat this world that we all share with climate justice?

Kathy Knudson for the Green Team

Camp Amnicon

“The mission of Camp Amnicon is to equip people to experience grace beyond their comfort zone through adventure-centered programming, life in Christian community, and access to wild places in God’s creation.”

– Camp Amnicon’s Mission Statement

University Lutheran Church of Hope is in the beginning stages of planning our annual summer trips to Camp Amnicon. We plan to send an elementary school-aged group (4th and 5th grade) and a high school group. If you have a child or young person interested in heading out for a wilderness adventure this summer, please let Nick Tangen know ASAP at nickt@ulch.org/ Nick will also be reaching out to parents and youth in March to finalize plans and dates. Let’s keep this incredible tradition going!

Lutheranism Study: What Does It Mean to Be a Lutheran?

Claire Seitzinger and Intern Linqing Chu are organizing a discussion series on what it means to be a Lutheran. Claire is a graduate student in chemistry at the University of Minnesota. She attended Luther College, where her liberal arts education included courses on Luther and Lutheranism, as well as on Dietrich Bonhoeffer. While not a Luther scholar, she enjoys discussing theology and having great conversations about questions that may not have clear or easy answers. Linqing is our Pastoral Intern, who grew up in an atheist family and became Christian when she was about 12 years old, but truly found her faith during college. She is very excited to help with the class and wishes to learn more about Lutheranism. She wants to invite all who have a lot, or a little, knowledge about the ELCA (such as herself!) to come join the discussion.

Claire explains the genesis of the class: One day last summer while reading on the quad at the U, I was approached by, not one, but three pairs of Latter Day Saints missionaries inviting me to an event they were having. I got to thinking – pretty much every Latter Day Saint can tell you what it means to be part of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, what they believe, and their history. How many ELCA Lutherans can talk about what it means to be Lutheran? How many of us have heard the story of Luther nailing his 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church, but have no idea what those theses even said? What happened in 1987 to prompt the formation of the ELCA from the LCA, ALC, and AELC? What does it mean that we are “in full communion with” the Episcopal Church, the Moravian Church, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Reformed Church in America, the United Church of Christ, and the United Methodist Church?

In this series of discussions we will explore the history of Lutheranism, what Luther taught, what the ELCA stands for, and how the ELCA compares to and differs from other Christian denominations and other Lutheran synods. We will start on March 27 by watching the PBS movie, "Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World", and continue meeting through April and May on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. We invite anyone curious about learning more about Lutheranism to join us!

President’s Report and Vision & Governance Update

I met up with a former Hope member last fall. Of course, there was the usual catching up on people, events, and our life at Hope. I did divulge that I was the president-elect, which was met with a knowing chuckle and the question, “Who talked you into that?” I had to be honest; I got the call from Uli Koester. I am not sure if you have received or are yet to receive a call from the Leadership Development Team, but know they are convincing in their invitation to serve! I look forward to the year ahead to serve on the Vision & Governance Board and connect with the many groups and individuals who keep this place fueled with energy, relationships, and love for one another and our neighbors.

Vision and Governance Board Highlights for February: We welcomed new members Tim Abrahamson (president-elect), Shelly Parry (Education liaison), and Sonja Peterson (Hope in the World liaison). We will move forward with the Information Technology plan initiated in 2018: Improving wi-fi access in various parts of the building, developing an IT use policy, and replacing outdated staff computers on a scheduled timeline.

Carol Flaten
Congregational President

Congregational Life

Dates to Keep in Mind:

March 6: Ash Wednesday, noon and 7:00 p.m. services
March and early April—Wednesday Lenten Services, noon and 7:00 p.m.
March 10: Baptism, Fellowship Meal
March 24: Baptism, Drop-In Choir, Climate Justice Sunday Forum, Green Team meeting
March 31: Lutheran Campus Ministry Sunday
April 10: Bach Cantata in Lenten Service with choir and orchestra, 7:00 p.m.
April 14: Palm Sunday
April 18: Maundy Thursday Services, noon and 7:00 p.m.
April 19: Good Friday Services, noon and 7:00 p.m.
April 20: Easter Vigil at 7:00 p.m.
April 21: Easter Morning Festival Services, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m., Easter Breakfast, 9:30 a.m.
June 14-16: Church camping and paddling (on Saturday)
June 17-21: Ecumenical Summer Day Camp (9am-4pm)
August 12-16: Holy Ground Community Organizing Camp (evenings)

Life Events at Hope

We're a community 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 give thanks with Amanda Parsons and Ryan Eberle at the birth of Harper Jo in December. Harper will be baptized on March 10. Vanessa Pramann, child of Stephanie and Joseph, will be baptized on March 24. We pray for those in our congregation who are awaiting children and holding hope in joyful and painful times.

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

Deaths: We pray for all grieving the loss of loved ones, including Tami Felling, Nick, Josh, and Kelsey, and the Fellings and Haltlis at the death of Bob Felling; and for those in hospice care and nearing death.

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.

Communion Class

Around Hope, even our youngest children are welcome to participate in Holy Communion. As kids get older (around kindergarten-3rd grade), a Holy Communion Class is offered for children and an accompanying parent/guardian. We'll bake and learn about the Lord's Supper. A class will be scheduled in the coming months. If you and your child would like to participate, please talk with Pastor Jen or Intern Linqing.

New Members

Over the next months we'll welcome new members at Hope. Talk with Pastor Jen (jenn@ulch.org) if you would like to learn more.

Fellowship Meal

The March Fellowship Meal will be Sunday March 10 after the 10:30 a.m. service. This is a chance to get to know one another better and share a nourishing meal with our neighbors. Setup and cleanup help are always appreciated. Grad and undergrad students are our guests and eat free.

2020 Women's Retreat - Save the Date

We thought we would be able to provide some choices for next year's retreat, but not so. The only date that is available is MLK weekend, January 17-19, 2020 at Dunrovin Retreat Center. Mark calendars now and we'll hope for as wonderful a turn out as this year!

Puerto Rico Reflections

In November 2018, Pastor Barbara Johnson and Sara Tuffveson Doure joined a week-long work group trip to Puerto Rico to help repair and rebuild after Hurricanes Irma and Maria made landfall at the southeast portion of the island in September 2017. The storms caused 2975 deaths and more than \$100 billion dollars in damage, and traumatized everyone in its path. The organizers of the group were Rod Scofield of “Be The Tool” www.bethetool.org and Rev. Joanne Sorenson of “In Our Hands” www.inourhandsadventures.com/ Both organizations are Twin Cities non-profits who teamed up with the Fuller Center for Housing, a Christian-based organization founded by Millard Fuller, who began Habitat for Humanity.



Barrio Calzada, in the city of Maunabo, is where we worked. Every house in Barrio Calzada was damaged by the storms. The Fuller Center could not send supplies or workers to Calzada until electricity was restored in June 2018 - fourteen months after the hurricane. The people of Maunabo took the brunt of the storm, but they were the last to have their electricity restored. Calzada has a small-town hominess about it. Neighbors know each other, and young people hang out at the corner grocery store. The clerk knew immediately who our hosts were, Amalia and Saul, pillars of the community, honored by the Pentecostal minister and barrio leaders.



Our group of eleven included women and men, ages 30 to 80 years. A typical day began with roosters crowing and our daily application of sunscreen and insect repellent. After breakfast and morning devotions, the group worked at several homes, repairing or replacing roofs, windows, ceilings, walls and tile floors; scraping paint and repainting; and collecting water-damaged material for hauling away. After dinner we gathered for devotions, games and conversation.



Sara and Barbara worked at the home of Benjamin, a 75-year-old man who was trapped in his home for several days after the storm hit, huddled on his bed as the rain came down. All of his belongings were ruined by the rain, and he was hospitalized for many weeks. Coming home after his roof was fixed, he found neighbors and volunteers still making repairs. Formerly a professional baseball player in Cuba, Benjamin was thrilled to receive a new baseball signed by members of our group.

Ann Beane recently returned home from Maunabo after working with another Fuller volunteer group in February. The Fuller site supervisor, Jose’ Santos from Nicaragua, said there are 16 groups scheduled back-to-back through April to work in Maunabo. In addition to groups from the United States, several groups came from Australia, Scotland and England. Their generosity and open spirit warmed our hearts – that the world was responding to the pain and devastation suffered by the Puerto Rican people, when our own government’s assistance was disappointing.

The Fuller Center employed local residents to provide home-cooked meals and beds in their homes. Bottled water was always available, and we were encouraged to refill and reuse our bottles. Our leaders, Rod and Joanne, inspired us with their upbeat energy and support for Fuller’s philosophy to respect the direction and wishes of homeowners and local staff. We recommend their organizations and the Fuller Center to all who embrace the fellowship of volunteerism, physical activity, adventure, and seeing Christ’s love in action in both the giving and receiving.

Lutheran Campus Ministry, Young Adulthood, and the Future of the Church

Study after study reveals that fewer young people are attending church; of those who do attend, they attend less regularly. What these studies fail to account for is the deep faithfulness of the students who are actively engaged with a faith community, the ways they are reaching out across borders and boundaries, the counter-cultural nature of their practice, the ways they're integrating their experiences in labs and classrooms with their faith, and the ways they are and will continue to shape the church and the world into the future.

Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) at the University of Minnesota is privileged to walk alongside these young adults while they're in college. We are looking forward to being present with you at University Lutheran Church of Hope on March 31 for LCM Sunday. A student will preach on that day, proclaiming the Gospel and sharing stories about life in college. Tim Gustafson from Hope serves on the LCM Board. Board leaders and supporters will present the Sunday Forum. Finally, we are grateful that University Lutheran Church of Hope will be taking a special offering in support of this vital young adult ministry. For more information, visit www.umnlutheran.org/lcmsunday

Pastor Kate
Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities

Come Discuss Two Great Toni Morrison Books with the Hope Book Club

On Sunday March 10, 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Hope Church Library, the Hope Book Club will discuss *Beloved*, by Toni Morrison. "Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later, she is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. Her new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved. Filled with bitter poetry and suspense as taut as a rope, *Beloved* is a towering achievement by Nobel Prize laureate Toni Morrison." -Goodreads.com



On Sunday Apr. 14 we will discuss *A Mercy*, by Toni Morrison. *A Mercy* joins Toni Morrison's celebrated body of work exploring the African American experiences of slavery and freedom. But in *A Mercy*, Morrison's handling of those issues is more multifaceted than in her previous novels. Morrison goes back to the beginning of slavery in America, in the late 17th century, a period during which America was far more diverse and complex than is generally imagined today.

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

"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends. They are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers." -Charles Elliot

Facilities Engagement Event

On Jan. 12 the Facilities Team and many Hope volunteers embarked on our annual Work Day, otherwise known as the Facilities Engagement Event. This year we painted the walls and ceiling of the east narthex and the walls in the west narthex. In the chapel we painted some water-damaged ceiling tiles and cleaned the skylight, a project that required erecting some borrowed scaffolding. Many thanks to Tim Abrahamson for his diligent work scraping and patching narthex walls and to Don Hauge for donating ceiling paint.



Fifteen volunteers worked well into the afternoon to finish and allow drying in time for worship services the next morning. In the lounge kitchen Craig Nelson unclogged the sink drain and saved us a significant expense. Thank you to all the volunteers who turned out to help with this demanding project. Look for more opportunities in the coming months!

John Pignatello
Co-chair, Facilities Team

Staff

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Rev. Barbara Johnson

Minister of Worship & Music:

Zach Busch

Minister of Faith in Community:

Nicholas Tangen

Pastoral Intern: Linqing Chu

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Custodian:

Geremew Beshah – weekdays

Gus Gustafson – Sunday

opening/closing

Child Care: Gus Gustafson

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The Visitor

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