



Complex world. Thoughtful church.

601 13th Avenue SE
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414-1437
Tel. (612) 331-5988 Fax (612) 623-0693
www.ulch.org

*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.*

SUMMERTIME AT HOPE



Hope Diamonds
summer picnic



Camping and paddling
on the St. Croix



Day campers check out Hope's
bread and pizza oven



Bread for the World
Offering of Letters



The whole St. Croix gang



Day campers visit
Urban Ventures Farm

Faith in Community News

Dinkytown Farmers Market Wednesdays 4-7 p.m.

Join us Wednesday evenings for the Dinkytown Farmers Market. Buy some fresh veggies, connect with our neighbors, and help to support a ministry that is contributing to the health of our neighborhood! We are always looking for volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up, so if you would like to help, please contact Sarah Holle at sarah@dinkytownfarmersmarket.org



What is the ELCA's position on issues of immigration?

With the criminalization and dehumanization of immigrants at the center of our political discourse and the 2020 elections, it is vital for faith communities who have vowed to stand with our immigrant neighbors to be able to articulate a narrative about immigrants that is grounded in our values as Christians. Join us to discuss and analyze the ELCA's Social Statement on Immigration, and to further define what we believe as University Lutheran Church of Hope. Dates and times will be announced in the Sunday bulletin and *Thursday Epistle* at the end of July. You can pick up a copy of the Social Statement at the Welcome Center and next to Nick Tangen's office. If you have questions, contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

ISAIAH In-Reach Strategy and Training Aug. 18, 11:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Minnesotans across faith, place, race, and income all want to belong. We want to be in deeper relationship with others in community. We want to know and share one another's struggles, our hopes and dreams. All of us want to feel a sense of purpose for ourselves and our community, especially when we are told that we are too divided – that the gaps are too wide to bridge.

Join us at ISIAH In-Reach Training in Fellowship Hall on Aug. 18 at 11:15 a.m. We will learn how to have deep and intentional conversations with members of our community and be part of a cohort in the church who will have these conversations over the summer and into the fall. Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

Riverside Innovation Hub

After a year-long process of listening and reflecting with our Innovation Coach Amanda Vetsch, University Lutheran Church of Hope received a two-year grant (\$15k for Year 1, at least \$12k for Year 2) to put some of our learnings into action in the Dinkytown neighborhood. The RIH Team decided to spend the first year of the grant engaging in a large-scale neighborhood listening campaign, which will include "Pop-Up Listening Posts", door-to-door-campaigns, and other creative ways to connect with our neighbors..



This is an exciting opportunity for our church to expand its neighborhood presence and to learn from our neighbors, and we need your help. So, are you someone who loves talking to others? Do you like hearing stories and making connections? Do you like gathering and organizing data? Are you passionate about issues around mental health, housing, and food insecurity? Then, you might find working on this campaign quite meaningful! If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

Summertime Prayers

“Therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...”

Hebrews 12

One of the joys of this summer has been my morning walks. Truth is, I love to walk, and sometimes to run, always have, but I’d fallen away from a regular schedule. Keeping a routine is tough in the darker winter months. The chaos of daily family life and getting ourselves out the door conspired.

But then, call it the Holy Spirit (I would), in late May I started again. Every morning. Despite the protests of young children. In spite of the laundry that still awaits folding. With the blessing and encouragement of my beloved spouse, I lace up my shoes and I go out. And...it feels great. Some of you have similar, well-worn routines. Why is this becoming so important to me? A few reasons...

Morning in North Minneapolis can be gorgeous, and most days it is. The early sun, the light, the cloud patterns, I savor them. I like the quiet of the streets and the few neighbors with whom I exchange greetings. It’s good exercise and, frankly, it feels good.

Walking, especially walking by myself, makes me mindful. It’s a window of time and space, precious and empty, and I can notice the texture and details of our neighborhood: the heron’s daily commute, the rabbits who frolic in the empty lot, the ripe mulberries, the call of the birds, the yards that are well loved and the ones that are threadbare and sad, the folks heading off into the day.

I often joke (in seriousness) that some of my best praying happens when I’m running laps on the super-boring windowless track at the Y. I can go deep. For simple safety, I pay attention out in the neighborhood, but this walking is still one of my best prayer times. Thanksgiving and need, God’s steady presence, you and our congregation, the world and my family, these prayers wash over me in powerful waves. Moral catastrophe. We’re teetering on the edge of a moral catastrophe at our border and in our cities, as we mistreat our human-kin and as we struggle to care for this earth. I pray at this edge, for these prayers inspire my action, and that gives me the hope to go on.

“Therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run the race that is set before us...” In the solitude of the morning, this great cloud of witnesses walks with me, at my side, in my stride, before and behind. In these summer months our community is spread around the world and, thank God, our prayers tether us. As I walk, know that I pray for you and with you, and I covet your prayers.

Summer-time blessings.
Pastor Jen



A Note from Intern Linqing

For whom we prayed thanksgiving and Godspeed on July 7

Dear friends, It was such a memorable Sunday for me. When you spoke out the words of thanksgiving, when you were singing the Chinese song (it must be hard to practice), when you gave the robe and quilt to me, when I read every single thank you card from you, I’m so touched by everything although I was trying so hard to not cry! You guys just keep me crying! I will treasure every moment and gift from you! Thank you so much for the past year of love and support from all of you! I wish you all the best and hope to see you at Hope or any place in the Twin Cities again!

Love in Christ,
Linqing Chu



FAITH FORMATION NEWS



Faith Formation for All Ages



Children's Ministry

University Lutheran Church of Hope's Children Ministry is on break until September. but be sure to check out some of the library's new kid's books. In particular, the Racial Justice team bought a number of children's books that explore race and tell the stories of heroes in the fight for equity, like John Lewis, Malcolm X, and Cesar Chavez. If you have questions about family faith formation resources at home, please talk to Nick Tangen.

Children's Ministry Team will meet on Aug. 28 to prepare for the beginning of the new Sunday School year.



Youth Group

Middle school and high school youth will gather again beginning in September. We are hoping to identify some additional Youth Group leaders in August, so if you have an interest in connecting with the congregation's youth, please contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org



Centering Prayer

Every Friday at 1:00 p.m., we gather in Thorpe Chapel for check-ins, a short reading and reflection, and 20 minutes of Centering Prayer. Centering Prayer is a silent method of meditation that teaches us to release our attachment to our thoughts and to rest in the gentle presence of God. Join us on Friday afternoons!

Holy Ground Community Organizing Camp Aug. 12-16, 5:30-7:30p.m.

In August a group of about 30 children grades K-5 will gather in Fellowship Hall to construct their own city, discuss what makes neighborhoods healthy, and address a problem that arises in their community. This camp teaches kids about the power their voice has in the public square, introduces faith-based community organizing, and prepares the next generation of citizens and people of faith to show up powerfully in their communities. Keep an eye on social media for updates and photos. The camp is full, but a spot or two could be negotiated if your child would like to participate. Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

Thank You, Marty, Donna, and John

Thanks to Marty Lewis-Hunstiger who, with this issue of *The Visitor*, concludes her layout editor service to University Lutheran Church of Hope! Marty has an eye for keeping our community connected, and offering a thoughtful, informative, and hospitable newsletter. Marty has teamed with Donna Neste in the newsletter duties. Donna will continue to receive, organize, and acknowledge all our content for each issue. Thank you, Donna!

John Setterlund has volunteered to take over the layout of *The Visitor*, beginning with the September issue. Thank you, John! As always, sending an email to Visitor@ulch.org is the best method of communication. These emails will reach both Donna and John.

Marty has initiated conversation with congregational leaders about the purpose, content, and process of our newsletter—these conversations will continue. Thanks, Marty, for being a model of good ministry and now a model of willingness to pass the torch. We are grateful for all your care and energy!

Pastor Jen

Spreading Hope in the World

I am the new 2019-2020 Vision & Governance Board liaison to the Hope in the World ministry area. Hope in the World provides ways that we as Hope members can actively spread God's love through the world – locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally. That's why Hope in the World and many Hope members share God's love by supporting:

Local social and environmental justice efforts, such as:

- Families Moving Forward, providing homes in our church for homeless families
- Sheridan Story, fighting child hunger in local schools
- Sanctuary Network, providing refuge and a safe haven to families fighting deportation
- The Green Team, beautifying our community and shrinking our carbon footprint through its Solar Subcommittee and ongoing total recycling program

Statewide-wide policy programs, like:

- ISALIAH's Minnesota Drivers' Licenses for Undocumented Immigrants
- Beacon's Housing First plans for the homeless and underprivileged in our state

National efforts to fight for:

- Compassionate immigration reform and immigrant justice in the United States through Isaiah's advocacy
- Racial Justice Meet-ups to help address our own complicity in racism

Internationally, with:

- Bread for the World letter writing campaigns
- Global mission work, like our partnerships in Nigeria and Palestine
- Our new Conflict-Free Policy addressing genocide in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Our Conflict-Free Policy was passed by our Vision & Governance Board in May. Here is some background about this initiative. In the past 25 years nearly six million civilians have been killed by armed militia groups in the DRC, making it the deadliest conflict since World War II. The genocide stems from conflict that started in Rwanda in the 1990s between Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups, and continued in the DRC.

The DRC has 1/3 of the world's tungsten, tin, tantalum, and gold; those minerals are mined or stolen by the militias and sold to other companies. The militias in the DRC use these "conflict minerals" to fund their murderous campaigns. The minerals are smelted by companies further down the supply chain to produce the majority of our consumer electronics (e.g. cell phones, computers, and laptops). Thus, when we purchase products produced with conflict minerals, we are paying for the genocide in the DRC.

In 2010 a law was passed requiring U.S. electronics manufacturers that use these minerals to conduct a due diligence supply chain review, provide details to the S.E.C. about the mines of origin for their minerals, and publish their report on their websites. Organizations like the Enough Project produce rankings of companies that have audited their supply chains to help the DRC develop a clean trade of responsibly-sourced minerals.

Our congregation, along with other faith communities, can stop funding this genocide. The Hope Conflict-Free Initiative provides that our church will support the efforts of companies to purchase conflict-free minerals and support transparent supply chains in the DRC. Before purchasing products with electronic components, Hope will first consider purchasing from companies listed on the Enough Project Conflict Minerals Company Rankings as having taken steps to trace and audit their supply chains, pushed for conflict-free minerals legislation, and exercised leadership in industry-wide efforts to help the DRC develop a clean trade.

To help raise public awareness, University Lutheran Church of Hope will spread the word to our members, our synod, other organizations, associates, friends, and family about the human rights violations occurring in the DRC and the means for us to reduce our contribution to that genocide by responsible sourcing. Here is a link to the Enough Project's site, where you can learn which companies to support:

https://enoughproject.org/demandthesupply?utm_source=PR&utm_campaign=Rankings2017

Please share this info with your friends, families and other communities. Thanks!

Do Justice, Love Kindness, and Walk Humbly with God,

Sonja Peterson
Hope in the World Liaison

Treasurer's Report

The Executive Committee of the Vision & Governance Board met with the congregation to discuss our current financial situation on June 23. Below is an overview of that meeting which also includes the now available June financial report.

Background Information

The Treasurer's Report in the May issue of *The Visitor* noted that there was a budgeting error in salaries and benefits. The Executive Committee (Carol Flaten, congregational president; Tim Abrahamson, president-elect; Emma Carpenter, treasurer; John Lauber, past president; and Abigail Lucas) investigated this concern and determined that an error had been made in calculating the cost of health benefits for our staff. The health benefits that we had intended for our staff remain in effect. However, the actual cost is higher than the amount used to create the 2019 operating budget. The Executive Committee has been consulting with the Financial Controls Committee (Mark Nelson, Betty Schreuder, and Bill Sanden) to determine options to address the gap in the 2019 operating budget. Below you will see the current congregational financial status, which overall is very good, and your generosity and support are felt. Yet, we do need to address the operating budget gap. We believe we have a reasonable approach to closing this gap. The information below explains the financial details.

Current financial status:

June 2019 and Year-to-Date Income and Expense						
	June Actual	June Budget	June Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	45,911	38,155	7,756	243,795	241,000	2,795
Rental Income	12,064	12,182	(118)	77,127	73,093	4,034
Special Income	8,204	-	8,204	8,204	-	8,204
Total Income	66,179	50,337	15,842	329,126	314,093	15,033
Total Expense	50,432	49,693	739	343,204	322,227	20,977
Net Operating Income	15,747	644	15,103	(14,078)	(8,134)	(5,944)



General giving totaled \$45,911 for the month of June. Year-to-date we've received \$243,795, which is \$2,795 over budget. Rental income totaled \$12,064 in June contributing to a year-to-date total of \$77,127. Total income for the month is \$66,179, including the one-time \$8,204 transferred from dedicated accounts to close the shortfall (an additional \$2,000 was given by Friendly Visitors to pay for elevator repairs).

Expenses totaled \$50,432 in June. Year-to-date, expenses are \$21K over budget, primarily due to the salaries and benefits calculation error. For the month, we have a net operating income of \$15,747, and year-to-date we have a net operating loss of \$14,078.

	YTD	YTD Budget	Diff. (\$)	Diff. (%)
General Giving	243,795	241,000	2,794	1.16%
Total Income	329,127	314,094	15,033	4.79%
Salaries & Benefits	196,195	176,889	19,305	10.91%
Total Expenses	343,204	322,227	20,977	6.51%

Year-to-date general giving is \$243,795, which is \$2,794 (1.16%) over budget. Increased rental income is contributing to a total income of \$329,127, which is \$15,033 over budget. Year-to-date salaries and benefits are \$196,195, which is \$19,305 over budget due to the error mentioned above. Total expenses are \$20,977 over budget. The projected salaries and benefits error for 2019 is \$35,305; thus the remaining projected error is \$16,000 (July-Dec.) The year-to-date net operating loss is \$5,944.

Treasurer's Report continued on p. 7

Treasurer's Report continued from p. 6

Action Plan as discussed at the June 23rd Congregational Meeting:

Funding for the 2019 Operating Budget gap will be met from the following sources:

\$10,000 from the capital campaign. We received \$400K in pledges for the Capital Campaign. YTD we have received just over \$59,500 in contributions and contributed \$41,513 to paying the mortgage. We will transfer \$10,000.00 to supplement the operations/facilities portion of the budget to reflect the increase in costs for natural gas, snow plowing, and repairs.

\$10,000 from Dedicated Funds. Dedicated Fund line items were assessed to determine which funds were inactive and/or which funds (or portions of funds) could be moved to the operating fund by permission of the principal donors or groups. The Vision & Governance Board was notified of this activity and approved by vote the movement of these specific dedicated funds to the general operating budget at the June 18 Vision & Governance meeting.

Specific Dedicated Funds:	Move to Operating Budget
Interest Income	2,251.00
Special Gifts	361.00
Unity Candle	200.00
Misc. Fund	429.00
Heritage Fund	2,219.00
Lounge Fireplace	919.00
Children's Play Area	1,400.00
Friendly Visitor	2,000.00 (for elevator repair)
Total	10,149.00

\$10,000 from a **2% increase in giving**, and/or from our savings account. This year we budgeted \$474,020 in general giving contributions. To help offset the projected salaries and benefits shortfall, we challenge the congregation to increase their giving by 2%-3%. If this increase in giving falls short, we will dip into our savings account to cover the shortfall. Our savings account currently has a \$163,000 balance (of this total, \$89,000 is in dedicated accounts).

Since the meeting on June 23rd there has been significant progress toward meeting the goal of an increase in the 2-3% giving dollar amount. Giving is currently being received in a variety of different forms. We will be able to report more accurately on this part of the action plan in the fall.

On behalf of our congregational leaders, thank you for your faithful giving to support the ministry of our congregation. If you have questions, please contact a congregational officer or Pastor Jen.

With gratitude,
Emma Carpenter
Treasurer

Congregational Life

Dates to Keep in Mind:

Aug. 4-9: Camp Amnicon trip on the Namekogan River

Aug. 10: Biking on the Cannon Valley Trail

Aug. 11: Solar Forum. Potluck, Picnic, and Playtime in the Courtyard. Hope Book Club.

Aug.12-16: Holy Ground Community Organizing Vacation Bible School (evenings)

Aug. 25: Outdoor Worship. Courtyard Concert.

Aug. 28: Prayer Around the Cross

Sept. 1: Welcome Back Students Event

Sept. 8: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday Services. God's Work, Our Hands.

Sept. 29-Oct. 6: Families Moving Forward

Nov. 24: Ministry Fair

Jan.17-20, 2020: Annual Women's Retreat

Feb.15-17, 2020: Presidents' Day Winter Retreat

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

Marriage: We pray for all those preparing for marriage, and for all relationships of commitment. We give thanks with Gus Gustafson and Bessie Browne who married in June.

Deaths: We pray for all who grieve the loss of loved ones, including Phil Thompson and family at the death of Joy Thompson (a memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, September 28 at 3 pm at Hope); Shelley and Steve Jutila at the death of Shelley's sister Claudia; the family and friends of Rev. Richard Andersen at Richard's death in June (a memorial service is planned for Aug. 3 at Central Lutheran Church); and the family and friends of former Hope member June Cavert, who died in June.

Significant Illness: Those living with illness, cancer, recovery, uncertain diagnosis, hospice, chemical dependency and other addictions, and mental health struggles, including Edward Nyhus, Peter Ostroushko, Bob Swanson, Janet Carpenter, Hannah Kiresuk, and Chuck Lewis.

Separation, Divorce, Retirement, Moves, Graduations, and New Beginnings: We hold one another in prayer. Please see information on the windows near the lounge hallway about the many in our community who are graduating this season. In July we prayed Godspeed for Linqing Chu as she finished her internship year at University Lutheran Church of Hope. At the end of August we'll pray Godspeed for Abby Lucas as she moves to Portland; Abby has served on the Vision & Governance Board and Executive Committee in recent years. God is with us through it all.

Noisy Offering for July

Thanks to all who contributed to the Noisy Offering in July. The total was a generous one at \$120! Monies go toward the Sheridan Project that provides food for school age children to take home. At the end of June a check was sent to The Sheridan Story for \$241.29 for second quarter donations. Ann Beane

Bread for the World Offering of Letters

Thank you to all who wrote letters, sent emails, or made calls to your senators and representatives concerning legislation to increase funding for nutrition, especially for pregnant women and young children world-wide. A total of 68 correspondences were made. Donna Neste, Hope in the World

Hold on to Those Great Summer Reads

Just a reminder, to enjoy your heavy reads and your summer beach reads to donate to our great Hope Book Sale in September during the Welcome Back Students event. We take them all!

Worship and Music at Hope

Join us for Prayer Around the Cross at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 28, following the Dinkytown Farmer's Market! In these long days of summer when daylight lingers peacefully into the late evening, these contemplative worship opportunities are a fabulous way to gather, center, and pray.

The Meadowlark String Quartet will perform a Courtyard Concert at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 25th, free of charge (freewill offering) and open to the public. Invite friends! I will join them for a piece with strings and piano, and a reception will follow the concert. Stay tuned for another date in September for a Courtyard Concert featuring musicians from Hope.



As we gear up for the program year to begin in September, stay tuned for information about special opportunities like Drop-In Choir, which will occur monthly this fall. Other special events—a celebration of music concert marking the completion of the organ work done this summer, the return of Night Songs, and opportunities for drumming and bell playing—are all on the horizon.

Zach Busch
Minister of Worship and Music

More Great Summer Books with the Hope Book Club

On Sunday, Aug. 11, 7:00-8:30 p.m., in the University Lutheran Church of Hope library, the Hope Book Club will discuss *Song of Solomon*, by Toni Morrison. The novel with which the Nobel prize-winning author established her name is a kaleidoscopic evocation of the African-American experience in the 20th century.



www.theguardian.com

On Sept. 8, at 5:30 p.m. we will have a potluck at Silverwood Park in New Brighton and discuss Volumes 2 and 3 of *Kristin Lavransdatter: The Mistress of Husaby* (The Wife) and *The Cross*, by Sigrid Undset.

Please contact Sonja Peterson with book suggestions or questions at 612-242-8711 or speterson@dunnwald.com

Families Moving Forward

In 11 weeks our Families Moving Forward guests will be coming to Hope, arriving Sept. 29 and departing Oct. 6. Please take time now to note the date on your calendar and make plans to volunteer. In addition to volunteers for the week, we are looking for a co-coordinator for this important mission. Please prayerfully consider how you might best share your time and talents with FMF.



Beginning in August we will be collecting socks, for all ages/genders, to be available at the Families Moving Forward day center. Look for a box labeled Socks for FMF in the lounge. New or gently used clean socks are needed. Please no socks without partners :>)

Peace,
Gretchen Peik

Care and Nurture

Joy Thompson's memorial service is Saturday, Sept. 28 at 3:00 p.m. at University Lutheran Church of Hope. Cake and coffee reception will follow. Contact Pauline Hendrickson if you can help with the reception.



Hope Diamonds are Alive and Kickin'

On Wednesday, Sept. 18 at noon, Sasha Chernova from Alive & Kickin is the featured guest after lunch. Alive and Kickin is a non-profit senior arts organization featuring an ensemble of rockin' performers ages 60-99+, on a mission to give seniors voice through storytelling and song. It's free and accessible to all seniors regardless of age or ability. They redefine aging by honoring each other and inspiring community. See online at www.aliveandkickinmn.org

Not sure what Hope Diamonds is? Hope Diamonds is the sparkling title of a ministry full of members and friends at Hope church who are fully grown and still growing and who consider themselves to be active (and not so active) wiser, seasoned, experienced seniors. We eat. We laugh. We talk and sometimes we sing! We welcome YOU and your friends!

Learn more about Hope Diamonds when we're highlighted at worship on Sunday, Aug. 18.

Pastor Barbara Johnson
Care and Nurture

President's Report

The halls where I work are exceptionally quiet in the summer months. Students are mostly gone and my colleagues are finding "remote" offices somewhere away from the urban center. In contrast, I feel as though activities and work at Hope are busier than ever! There is amazing energy in this place, from cleaning out old dark rooms to considering solar.

These summer months the Vision & Governance Board and the Executive Committee have been carefully and thoughtfully attending to the Ministry Budget shortfall. Communication with all of you is crucial. We also are mindful to present information when we have a clear understanding of the situation and if possible, potential paths that will continue to move us forward. Your gracious response, questions, and feedback have all been positive and so helpful. Thank you! Please continue to watch the *Thursday Epistle* and *The Visitor* Treasurer's Report, and talk to any of us on the Executive Committee or to Pastor Jen.

Last spring a task force was formed to review the University Lutheran Church of Hope bylaws and the Hope Trust Document. The task force, made up of two members from the Hope Trust Board (Meri Hauge and Joan Campbell) and two members from the Vision & Governance Board (Abby Lucas and Carol Flaten), was charged with addressing discrepancies in the documents and noting updates from the Synod that will need to be included in the bylaws. The task force will be making recommendations to each Board to consider in the next few weeks. Any updates to either of these documents will go through the formal process described in each document and will be brought to the congregation.

As we closed our last Board meeting, almost everyone had plans to go to some remote place (near or far). I hope we all can find that place of calm and quiet to re-energize.

Carol Flaten
Congregational President

Library Expands

Thanks to donations from several members and friends of Hope Church, books—new and used—are filling the library shelves. A sample of our recent acquisitions includes these:



I Promise You a Crown, a 40-day journey in the company of Julian of Norwich. This 14th-century nun wrote of her visions and direct experiences of God’s goodness, and writer David Hazard has collected and paraphrased some of them.

The Pilgrim’s Progress, John Bunyan’s (1628-88) famous allegory, maintains its status as a classic in an edition by Oxford University Press, beginning, “As I walked through the wilderness of this world, I lighted on a certain place, where was a Denn. And I laid me down in that place to sleep, and as I slept I dreamed a Dream.”

Evil and the Justice of God (2006). Popular British theologian and bishop, N. T. Wright writes, “Evil is more serious than either our culture or our theology has supposed.” Since the crucifixion of Christ, we have been asking the question of God’s sense of justice, and we find it intertwined with the miracle of forgiveness.

How to Improve your Marriage without Talking about It (2007). Patricia Love and Steven Stosny show couples how to get closer in ways that don’t require “trying to turn a man into a woman.” Full of practical advice, this essential guide will help them find love beyond words.

The Orthodox Heretic and Other Impossible Tales (2009). A series of contemporary “parables” by philosopher and storyteller Peter Rollins seeks to change our hearts, if not our minds. He is seen as a major voice and an astute, generative force within emergence Christianity.

Stop by the church library and see more of its treasures—books, DVDs, and periodicals. Remember to sign out the items you borrow.

Green Team Update: Should Hope Go Solar?

On July 14, before outdoor worship, a group of University Lutheran Church of Hope members heard James Flaten explain the scope and urgency of climate change, with his usual dazzling space pictures and graphs. Then Tim Abrahamson and Stewart Herman from the Solar Sub-committee of the Green Team outlined what a rooftop solar system might look like. A lively discussion ensued.

Here are the basics. An array of solar collectors on the roof of the education wing would produce about one-third of the electric power University Lutheran Church of Hope uses. The collectors would ‘pay back’ the energy used to make them in three years, and continue to provide power for another 15 years at least. The solar system could be installed at no cost to the Hope budget, and with no impact on buildings or plantings. Does this sound like a good pathway for congregational stewardship of earth’s resources? Come and participate in the next solar forum, on Sunday Aug. 11 after worship, in Heritage Hall. James, Tim, and Stewart will present once again. Bring your thoughts, questions, and concerns. For further information, email Stewart Herman at herman@cord.edu



Roof of west side of education wing – potential space for solar panels



Solar panels on roof of Pax Christi Catholic Community in Eden Prairie

Beacon Interfaith Housing

Most Hope members know that we are a Families Moving Forward congregation, sheltering families for more than 20 years, and every time our turn rolls around there are volunteers for this vital program. Hundreds of you have been a part of this program throughout the years.



But did you know that FMF is part of an interfaith housing organization known as Beacon? Beacon also builds supportive housing for the poorest among us, and advocates for housing for all.

This past year University Lutheran Church of Hope has added to the justice work we do by joining with Beacon in their advocacy for affordable housing. And the work we have done with Beacon has truly paid off. On the coldest day of the year, some Hope members traveled to Bet Shalom Congregation in Minnetonka along with hundreds of other Beacon activists to meet with Gov. Waltz and Lt. Gov. Flanagan to hear their commitment to increasing the state budget for affordable housing. Some Hope members also joined with other Beacon congregations to visit our lawmakers on Homeless Day on the Hill earlier this year. This has paid off in a big way. The Minnesota Legislature has increased the affordable housing budget by \$78 million, including an additional \$60 million in Housing Infrastructure Bonds, state funds for which Beacon can apply as they move forward in rehabbing and building their latest supportive multi-unit residences, one in the North Loop for single adults and one in Hopkins for low-income families.

Hope members are helping to build relationships with Minneapolis City Council members by joining with other Beacon congregation members to visit councilpersons. The city is committed to affordable housing and has increased their budget substantially, to \$48 million.

Beacon is in the middle of visits to Hennepin County Commissioners. Half of the commissioners have received a visit, but there are still three more left (August 8, 15, and 21). Visit Beacon's web site at <http://www.beaconinterfaith.org/blog/2019-legislative-wrapup> to see if there is a commissioner near you whom you may want to visit. Questions? Contact Donna Neste at 612-244-6285 or d_nestea@yahoo.com

Gardens of Hope August Schedule

The Gardens of Hope are doing well, with lots of flowers and lots of weeds. Our weeding/pruning/mulching schedule for August is:

- Wednesday Aug. 7, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Aug. 14, 10:00 a.m. to noon
- Wednesday Aug. 21, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Aug. 28, 10:00 a.m. to noon



Feel free to pitch in and do some weeding or deadheading any other time that works for you. There are always gloves, bags, and some tools in the garden shed. Contact me for advice on where to garden if you are uncertain.

Kathy Knudson for the Gardens of Hope

Staff

Pastors:

Rev. Jen Nagel
Rev. Barbara Johnson

Minister of Worship & Music:

Zach Busch

Minister of Faith in Community:

Nicholas Tangen

Business Manager: Gayle Bidne

Custodian:

Geremew Beshah – weekdays
Gus Gustafson – Sunday
opening/closing

Child Care: Gus Gustafson

Working in partnership with

Lutheran Campus Ministry:

Rev. Kate Reuer Welton

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The Visitor

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Electronic submissions in either Microsoft® Word or plain text format are strongly preferred. Articles may be edited for length. Contributors are responsible for clearly identifying any material that is from published sources and for obtaining appropriate permission(s) to republish. Send submissions and correspondence to visitor@ulch.org.

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