

Complex world. Thoughtful church.

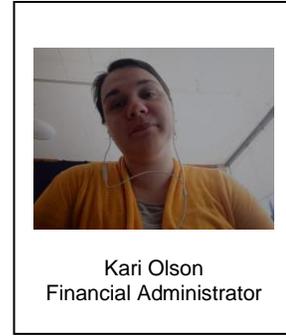


*With so much time gathering online for worship, meetings, and fellowship, early spring garden and landscape work captures our pictures this month. Clockwise from top left to center left: Planting grass seed in the trench left after sewer work was complete. Go, Julie Paschke! Sonja Peterson preparing a garden bed. Marty Lewis-Hunstiger working near the patio. Kathy Knudson keeps us organized and growing strong-thanks! (center) The Rapacz family enjoying the spring day.*



## Who Does What??

This spring Nathan Obrestad has joined our staff as Church Administrator and Kari Olson as Financial Administrator. With the retirement of Gayle Bidne, these two are dividing the elements of the Business Manager position with some tweaks. We know it can be challenging to figure out who is doing what. Here are some clues about the division of their work.



### Contact Nathan

(at [ulch@ulch.org](mailto:ulch@ulch.org) or [nathano@ulch.org](mailto:nathano@ulch.org))  
for things related church operations, like:

- Hospitality, welcome, and volunteering
- Facility and building use, like scheduling, parking lot use, rentals and coordination with the Facilities Committee
- Safety and security, insurance
- Office and building operations, like supplies and the copy machine
- Church records and the database, like updating your email or phone
- Congregational giving and quarterly contribution statements
- Setting up auto withdrawals and questions about giving
- Arranging the schedule for those who count the offering
- Communication like the website, Thursday Epistle, announcements, arranging for the bulletin and newsletter printing
- Technology, computers, and Wi-Fi
- and general questions.

### Contact Kari (at

[kario@ulch.org](mailto:kario@ulch.org)) for things related to finance, like:

- Payables, writing checks and reimbursements
- Assisting with preparation of the annual budget and monitoring cash flow.
- Managing employee payroll and benefits
- Making bank deposits and reconciling bank statements
- Completing tax forms
- Producing financial reports
- Ensuring receivables are tracked, recorded, and posted.

Nathan will focus on the congregational pledges, and Kari will do other receivable. Eventually Nathan will be working in the office weekdays 8:30-2:30 p.m. Kari will focus her work on Thursdays and portions of two other days. Currently, they are less regular in the office and can easily be found via email or phone.

## Dogs and Sheep and Living with Uncertainty

AS I WRITE, our dog is missing. Truth is, said dog was just barely in our family before he slipped his collar and has now been on the run for a full week. He's a rescue dog with more than his share of experience living on his own. And he's a lover, quiet, calming, a sweet addition to our family.

Why now? Why a dog in the midst of the COVID quarantine? Like many, we'd consider a dog for a long time. I grew up with dogs. With so much time at home, these months seemed like a good transition opportunity. And then he joined our family, made a place in our hearts, and now he's missing and the lives of our 6 year old and 11 year old and, yes, their parents, have been yet again turned upside down. Will he be back by the time you read this? I don't know. I hope and pray, but I don't know.

A local group of volunteer dog trackers called The Retrievers is helping us find Ace. Frankly, they are brilliant: sensitive to dog-ways, intuitive to human needs. With their guidance we're strategically creating stink-trails drizzling luscious chicken broth and strong-smelling liquid smoke and bits of smelly hot dogs around our neighborhood, luring him to safer confines. In the early morning and later evening hours of searching I've been thinking about the Good Shepherd and those lost sheep, about the lost coin, about our God who stops at nothing to find us.

As I listen to you and reflect on this season, grief and uncertainty mark our days: the graduation celebration that isn't as we'd imagined; the retirement that is coming earlier than we'd hoped; the economic fallout that is

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*Lost, cont. from p. 2*

pressing in; the new technology and patterns that demand our attention and sometimes overwhelm; the positive diagnosis that prompts real grappling with mortality; the loneliness and anxiety and depression that are real; the stress that colors our thinking; the injustice that multiplies. In all of this grief and uncertainty, morning and evening, day by day, our God is unrelenting: seeking, finding, comforting, enticing. Our God will not let us go, simply won't.

John O'Donohue, in his book *To Bless the Space Between Us*, has a blessing "For the Interim Time." Clearly, we're living in some interim times: between home and the outside life, between health and potential sickness, even death, between searching for our dog and finding him. O'Donohue writes of the in-between-times and then says:

As far as you can, hold your confidence.  
Do not allow your confusion to squander  
This call which is loosening  
Your roots in false ground,  
That you might come free  
From all you have outgrown.

In all this I am reminded yet again of grace, the pure, unconditional grace of the shepherd who does her best work in the interim, who perseveres and loves us still.

Will our dog make it home? What will our church life "look like" over these coming months? How will we go on? I don't have the answers, plenty is uncertain. But I am convinced of the shepherd's capacity to creatively love us into community.

We may not be worshipping in the sanctuary at Hope and yet we so clearly ARE church, we ARE worshipping God. As our leaders and I consider our building use and our worship and gathering plans, we're deeply committed to one another. Our community includes many who are at risk and plenty for whom longer periods of distancing are essential. Like many faith communities, we'll be worshipping virtually well into the summer and taking our guidance from the CDC and the Minnesota Department of Health. We're creating policies to help guide us, like only coming together in smaller groups, encouraging meeting outdoors, still making ample use of Zoom and live streaming, wearing face masks, monitoring health, and cleaning well.

In this uncertainty, when I loosen my grip, grace abounds, hope carries, prayer transforms, community shapes. God will not let us go. Let us hold one another in grace and in prayer. Please don't hesitate to reach out as needed.  
-Pastor Jen

Editor's note: After a 12 night adventure and a lot of enticing, smelly luring, Ace made his way home and is now settling in. Grace abounds.

## Tell Us Your Stories!

As we make our way through these uncommon days, I wonder if our lives will ever again resemble what passed for "normal" before we began sheltering at home. In the year 2030 or 2070, what sorts of stories will we recall from the "COVID-19 era"? We've already heard many stories which are heart-rending and tragic. And others are breathtakingly heroic and uplifting. We have been puzzled, frightened, stymied and overwhelmed by the challenges we've had to face. We've also been touched deeply by the unexpected kindness, helpfulness, consideration and compassion of friends and strangers alike.

We invite you to tell us YOUR story. What might be the story you could tell 5 or 10 years from now, about these stay-at-home months? Tell us what you have had to think about differently. Have you been surprised by your own creativity? What gives you hope? Are you teaching your own kids, or grand-kids how to read or understand geometry? What has been life-giving for you? What has sapped your energy? It can be funny or scary or happy or sad. Write it out and send it on an email me. Many thanks.

Pastor Barbara Johnson  
(barbaraj@ulch.org)

### Bible & Brews June 22

Exactly what it sounds like...We'll gather again on Zoom for a laid-back conversation about Scripture, the church, current events, and of course...beer! Bring your favorite libation, a Bible, and your best questions. Zoom info will be included in the Thursday Epistle and emailed to regular attendees. If you would like to receive this invite, or are unable to locate the Thursday Epistle, please contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

## Happy Hope-Filled Birthdays

Friendly Visitor Ministry recognizes the birthdays of our elders in their 90s as well as those who are homebound, caregivers, and others who may be on our pastoral visitation list. Now, when nearly all of us are home-centered, we encourage the congregation to help celebrate the birthdays of those who are celebrating 80 years or more.

Consider reaching out to these dear ones by phone, card or email:

Late May - Esther Dant celebrates her 80th year milestone!

Early June - Jeanne Berkeland

Mid June - Mary Sorenson

Late May - Marcheta Scribner

Mid June - Vadim Hillebrand

Mid June - Lyle Lutz

Mid June - Joan Campbell

Mid June - Allen Erickson

Late June - Marge Halvorsen

ULCH members who need an updated church directory with current phone numbers and addresses may contact Nathan Obrestad ([nathano@ulch.org](mailto:nathano@ulch.org)) or Pastor Barbara Johnson ([barbaraj@ulch.org](mailto:barbaraj@ulch.org)), 970-901-7189.

### *Children's Ministry at Hope*

Kids and Sunday School teachers will continue to connect on Zoom every Sunday at 2:00 p.m. through the summer. We will spend some time checking in, reading scripture, playing games, and praying together. Zoom links and passwords will go out to families prior to the Sunday gathering.

If you would like to be included in this gathering, please contact Nick Tangen at [nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org)

We have also set up a Children's Ministry Facebook group where families, teachers, and kids can post useful info, fun games, or ask questions about life amid COVID-19. Let us know what would be helpful for you and your young ones at this time. How can we best support you and your family?

### Sanctuary & Immigration

We continue to keep immigrants, refugees, and those in detention in our prayers and action. COVID-19 is disproportionately impacting people of color in the United States, with Latinx immigrants one of the most impacted groups. Furthermore, regular operations are contributing to the spread of COVID-19 and transforming detention centers into hotbeds of infection.

As the Federal Government begins to discern the parameters of the next relief bill, be sure to reach out to your Senator and Representative and demand that immigrants, many of whom are frontline essential workers, not be left out. Also, the Minnesota Immigrant Families Fund is still raising money for immigrant families in Minnesota, so if you are able, please consider passing along some of your stimulus money.

## Marcy Holmes COVID-19 Response

The Marcy Holmes Neighborhood Association has assembled a task force to imagine a COVID-19 response in our neighborhood. Food insecurity, housing, and small business viability continue to be just a few of the issues that have increase in concern in the last months. If you are interested in being a part of this Task Force, or would otherwise like to learn how to best help our neighbors in this time, please contact Nick Tangen at [nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org).

And don't forget... many of our local restaurants are still open and ordering takeout or curbside from them goes a long way in supporting our neighborhood and its small business community.

## Riverside Innovation Hub

Though Phase 1 of University Lutheran Church of Hope's Riverside Innovation Hub grant was cut short by COVID-19, we were able to swiftly transition and ensure that grant dollars would be able to support neighbors and partners in need near Dinkytown. We have spent year one testing out some Listening Post activities and deepening our relationships with neighborhood stakeholders, and we are hopeful that the relationships we have built will continue to grow.

Now we prepare for Phase 2 of the grant, which will center on storytelling and the curating of our neighbor's stories and experiences. We will be reaching out to congregants and seeking feedback and input from you! Do you have a story about Dinkytown or the University of Minnesota that you would be willing to share? Let us know!

## From the Congregation's President

Dear friends in Christ,

As the economy is in turmoil, and we as a faith community continue to adjust to life during a global pandemic, I am grateful that Hope is in a strong financial position. Periodically we do a financial checkup that provides an opportunity to update our policies and procedures. The talented members on the Financial Controls Committee will conduct one such review during this summer and early fall, which will help confirm the accuracy of our monthly and yearly fiscal reporting. Our thanks and appreciation go out to Betty Schreuder, Micki Kruse, and Bill Sanden for taking on this important responsibility.

University Lutheran Church of Hope's Green Team has been investigating the possibility of purchasing and installing a solar array at Hope, potentially this summer, working with MN Interfaith Power and Light. Hope members James Flaten, Stewart Herman, and I presented several forums last fall concerning the global climate crisis and our response to this impending existential threat. Currently, solar power is one of the most cost-effective technologies in transitioning from a high carbon, fossil fuel economy to a clean, renewable energy economy. Our May Solar Q&A Zoom meeting renewed support and brought up helpful questions for review. We'll see what the future holds.

As we move forward through all the uncertainties of life, it is a great comfort to be a part of the caring faith community of Hope. Thank you for your continued support. Tim Abrahamson, President

### Day Camp Goes Virtual

South Minneapolis Online camp is coming June 15. Please spread the word. Our church leaders met recently to figure out a plan for our beloved collaborative ecumenical day camp, which has been scheduled for the week of June 15. It was clear to us that we will not be able to offer an in-person full day camp this year as we had hoped – which makes us sad! We will miss being together with your kids.

However, we still feel committed to offering an online option that is scaled back and simpler. We hope to include a live streamed/zoom music and story time every day during the week of June 15-19, as well as offering art and water stewardship activities. We hope this offering will be enriching and nurturing for your kids - as well as low-maintenance/simple for parents. The online information and registration page can be found:

<https://sites.google.com/view/southminneapolisdaycamp2020/home>  
Talk with Pastor Jen (jenn@ulch.org) if you have questions.

### Contemplative Prayer on Facebook

Every Friday at Noon we will post a video about contemplative prayer and practice. Take some time in the middle of the day to reflect, rest, and breathe. We have covered practices like Centering Prayer, lectio divina, the Examen, and more. If you have a practice that has been especially powerful in your own life, that you'd like to share, please contact Nick Tangen at [nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org).

### Honoring our Grads

Are you or someone you love graduating this season from high school, college, grad school, a trade program, other certifications? We'd love to honor you! Typically we do this by posting pictures and a little write-up at church, and then having a special time during worship. With our online life, we're considering how this is best done. For now, please send a note to Pastor Jen [jenn@ulch.org](mailto:jenn@ulch.org) or Nick Tangen [nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org) including—

1. The grad's name,
2. The program being completed,
3. A picture (if possible), candid is great, and
4. a few lines about what is next or reflections (we know it's a weird time). Thanks

### Calendar?!

You may notice that a calendar is NOT included in this issue of *The Visitor*. With so much in flux, the staff at University Lutheran Church of Hope finds it hard to anticipate too far ahead what will go on as planned, what needs to be shifted to virtual, and what should simply be postponed or canceled. We keep the online church calendar up to date, particularly looking ahead to the next two weeks. This calendar can be found at <http://www.ulch.org/calendar>

## Financial Report

### Prayer Shawls

Prayer shawl fleece and finished shawls are available from Beáta Rydeen (beatarydeen@comcast.net) and Ann Beane (spirit.beane@gmail.com). Ann has just a few unfinished pieces left. Instructions are also available. We have a very good supply of finished shawls, so don't hesitate to contact one of us if you need one. We can pick-up with or without contact. Blessings!

Beáta & Ann

General giving totaled \$55,940 for the month of April. Increased giving during the Easter season has contributed to a year-to-date total of \$180,778, \$15,945 more than budgeted. Rental income totaled \$9,737, slightly under budget, due to fewer daily parking tenants and decreased income from use of facilities. Income for the month totaled \$65,677 contributing to a total year-to-date income of \$227,049—\$12,154 over budget.

Expenses totaled \$65,563 for the month of April. Salaries and Benefits were over budget as the May 1st payroll was processed in April – we can expect Salaries & Benefits to be under budget in May. Year-to-date, expenses totaled \$224,439, \$5,959 over budget. We had a net operating income of \$114 for the month and \$2,611 year-to-date. As of April 30, we have \$263K in current assets – primarily composed of our checking and savings account.

We received \$8,464 in Capital Campaign contributions in April. We made our monthly mortgage payment and plan to fund a portion of the sewer repair and distribute benevolences later in the year.

#### April 2020 and Year-to-Date Income and Expense

	April Actual	April Budget	April Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
<b>General Giving</b>	55,940	43,083	12,857	180,778	164,833	15,945
<b>Rental Income</b>	9,737	12,516	(2,778)	46,218	50,062	(3,844)
<b>Special Income</b>	-	-	-	54	-	54
<b>Total Income</b>	65,677	55,599	10,078	227,049	214,895	12,154
<b>Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	47,525	31,697	15,828	130,949	121,536	9,413
<b>Total Expense</b>	65,563	56,664	8,899	224,439	218,479	5,959
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	114	(1,065)	1,179	2,611	(3,584)	6,195

In late March 2020, the President signed into law the CARES Act. The legislation is aimed at providing relief for individuals and small businesses negatively impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. The CARES Act created the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), a loan program designed to help small businesses and non-profit organizations pay employee wages and other critical expenses over the next couple months. The loan is forgiven upon two conditions: (1) monies

secured are used to cover payroll expenses, mortgage interest and utilities and (2) employee levels are maintained. University Lutheran Church of Hope applied and officially secured a Small Business Association (SBA) loan under the PPP to cover qualified expenses (salaries and benefits, mortgage interest and utilities) over the next couple months. I am grateful for the stability and consistency this loan provides during uncertain times. God is good!

Thank you for all the ways you contribute to University Lutheran Church of Hope. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns! Thank you, stay well

- Emma Carpenter, Treasurer

## 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. July and her spouse Peng are expecting a baby in early June.
- ✘ Marriages—We pray for all those preparing for marriage, and for all relationships of commitment. We especially pray for those who are postponing marriage festivities or making hard decisions.
- ✘ Significant Illness—We pray for those living with illness, cancer, recovery, uncertain diagnosis, hospice, chemical dependency and other addictions, and mental health struggles, including Ken Lynes, Jack Parry, Steve Schreuder, Jim Hougen, Miriam Hougen, Edward Nyhus, Peter Ostroushko, Janet Carpenter, Hannah Kiresuk, and Chuck Lewis.

- ✘ Deaths—We pray for all who grieve the loss of loved ones, including Marge Perko and family at the death of Marge's brother Edward Hanson; Jeanne Berkeland and her sister at the death of her sister's husband; Marge and Peter Ostroushko at the death of Marge's mom Jean; Donna Neste and family at the death of Donna's brother David Pususta; and Mark and Ione Hanson and family at the death of Ione's mother, Cordelia Agrimson,
- ✘ Separation, Divorce, Retirement, Moves, Graduations, New Beginnings, and, yes, Pandemics

—God is with us through it all. Amen

## Trust Grants

The Hope Church Trust Board received seven grant applications in January and was glad to be able to fund all of them:

1. Recording project for ULCHers	\$1,500	5. Portland House Room Upgrade	\$2,000
2. Fellowship Hall plate replacements	\$1,500	6. Choral Scholar	\$3,400
3. Racial Justice Task Force	\$2,350	7. Retreat Scholarships	\$ 500
4. Orff Xylophone purchases	\$1,100	Total:	\$12,350

Three years ago the congregation voted to amend the Trust's governing document, to switch from a set distribution rate to a variable rate, to be re-set every three years. This year the Trust Board raised the distribution rate from 3.0% of available funds to 3.5% after a thorough review of Trust growth history. This new 3.5% rate will remain in place for 2020, 2021, and 2022, and then be re-evaluated for the next 3-year period.



As always, the Trust Board thanks the congregation for its continuing support. Your gifts through memorials and contributions keep the fund growing (even when the stock market often doesn't so much!). Many thanks for your generosity and the support for so many ministries that might not otherwise be possible. —Merrill Morse, Trust Board Chair

### Quarantine Journal: May 8

Yesterday was my 81st birthday. Each year there is a little excitement over whether or not I will have lilacs blooming for my birthday. Karin's lilacs are blooming, so she and Rick cut some, put them in a plastic bag, and attached it to a rope with a Nerf football at the other end. It was a good idea. While it lasted.

I was on our third-floor balcony. Rick could not get the football anywhere near the balcony. The rope was too heavy. Did I have a rope? No. But I had four extension cords that I attached one to the other. Yes! It was long enough! Karin attached one end of the rope to the extension cords and I began pulling. When I got to the rope, they attached the bag of lilacs, and we had success! The fragrance and beauty are a big plus for me. I was wondering what the people in apartments below us were thinking as the extension cords went up and down!

—Ruth Fingerson

## Hope Book Club

Join Hope Book Club on Sunday, June 14th to practice physical (not social) distancing and to discuss: *My Antonia*, by Willa Cather. June 14, 6:00-7:30 p.m., at Nancy Miller's back yard, 2501 27th Ave. NE, Minneapolis, or via zoom if weather is bad. Bring your own chair, food, and drink.

"*My Antonia* tells the story of several immigrant families who move to rural Nebraska. Antonia is the eldest daughter of the Shimerdas and is a bold and carefree young woman who becomes the center of narrator Jim Burden's attention. The novel offers many elements, but clearly documents the struggles of the hard-working immigrants that homesteaded the prairies, particularly the hardships suffered by women. *My Antonia* provides Willa Cather with a platform for commentary about women's rights, while weaving a story where romantic interests are ultimately bandied about by the uncontrolled changes that occur in people's lives. This final book of Cather's 'Prairie Trilogy' is considered her greatest accomplishment." (americanliterature.com)

Read the book on-line for free at: Project Gutenberg: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/242/242-h/242-h.htm> or American Literature: [americanliterature.com/author/willa-cather/book/my-antonias/summary](http://americanliterature.com/author/willa-cather/book/my-antonias/summary). Contact Sonja Peterson with book suggestions or questions at 612-242-8711 or [speterson@dunnwald.com](mailto:speterson@dunnwald.com)

### Coming Up

(tentative as things are these days...)

May 31—Day of Pentecost

June 15-19—Shared Day Camp-online

June 18-20—Camping and Paddling?!

July 26-31—Youth to Camp Amnicon

## Worship Online

Worship with University Lutheran Church of Hope Online. Though we can't currently meet in person for worship, we continue to worship each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. online. Here are two ways to participate:

(1) Join us on Zoom and have the ability to interact with one another and the worship leaders. The service begins at 10 a.m. (note the summer schedule) and we'll open the Zoom line 15

minutes before the service, so you can enter, get settled, greet folks, and light a candle. Also, we'll continue to share Holy Communion most Sundays. Have bread and wine/grape juice available. Remember that Zoom allows for up to 100 folks to access at a time, so if you aren't able to join, you'll need to opt for the live stream. Watch the weekly Thursday Epistle and other notices for the Zoom login codes and link. If you would like to be added to the Thursday Epistle (weekly e-newsletter) list, please contact [ulch@ulch.org](mailto:ulch@ulch.org).

(2) Join us on the live stream. We are finding it best to live stream to either our University Lutheran Church of Hope Facebook page at Facebook Live (<https://www.facebook.com/ulchope/live/>) OR our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdafm2u6o-IbK4tLBZNEtGg>). We regularly run into trouble with both of these, so if one doesn't work, try the other! Thanks for flexing. Also, Sunday bulletins can be downloaded from the ULCH website. These are helpful as you follow along with the service.

### Camping and Paddling

We had scheduled our congregation's camping and paddling for June 18-20 with camping at William O'Brien State Park and paddling on the St. Croix River. Is it still on? We don't know. Will groups be able to use parks for camping? Is it safe to gather in this way? How could we adjust our schedule and plans to make this more possible? Some may still be interested in this opportunity. For others it's just not the year. Our leader Bryan Kufus says, "We're hoping it happens and are still taking a wait-and-see approach." Bryan will be in touch as we get into June with options or a clear plan to postpone. For now, keep the dates in mind.

Don't hesitate to reach out to Bryan: [<bkufus462@icloud.com>](mailto:bkufus462@icloud.com).

## Celebration

Over the past 50 years, there have been many Friendly Visitor celebrations, usually in the form of a banquet or luncheon, for anyone who volunteered in even the smallest way to help make the Friendly Visitor program a success. The FV committee carefully planned a menu, a program, a guest speaker, and musical renderings well ahead of time. Under the guidance of the Friendly Visitor director, they would carefully scrutinize the list to make sure no one was forgotten and to send out formal invitations.

The format was similar. The Friendly Visitor would start the meeting after dinner with gratitudes, announcements, and a devotion. A musical selection was performed by talented members in our congregation. A guest speaker would follow. Hymns would be

*Celebration, cont. on p. 9*

*Celebration, cont. from p. 8*

be sung, and the Benediction. Much time and preparation were put into these well appreciated events. But as life became more complicated, and calendars became full, they became smaller and more informal. And of course, in this year of the COVID-19, there will be no banquet celebration. The absence of celebrations like graduations, weddings, birthday parties, etc. make these times hard for all of us.

Celebration or no celebration does not make our work less important, because every day becomes a celebration in itself. That special kindness we do naturally, no matter how big or how small can make a big difference in someone's day. There is no special list to scrutinize in order to find those rare and special people who give of themselves daily in our congregation. The list is huge and we would surely

miss someone. But we are grateful to the wonderful members who continue to creatively reach out to people in our congregation daily, thereby strengthening our community during this time. Thank you. Remember: *Today is a day to celebrate!*

Rosalie Eldevik

*PS:* Note a correction to last month's newsletter: It was Bertha Hanson and Verle Rhodes who taught Pat Lindquist and Kathy Knudson the ropes on flower delivery.

## Lutheran Campus Ministry Update - Pastor Kate Reuer Welton

During the pre-pandemic spring semester at the U of M, LCM-TC students were meeting in small groups, and working our way through various clauses in the Lord's Prayer. We spent our first weeks talking about the Kin-dom of God, and what it means to plead with God to make that kin-dom known on earth as in heaven, and work with the Spirit to make it so. Our next time, when everyone returned from Spring Break, was to be spent exploring what "give us this day our daily bread," meant in our lives, and in the life of the world.

Little did we know we'd be entering a "daily bread" boot camp, of sorts. What are the things we need, really need, to get us through this day? What do we need to get through the week? What are those things we thought we needed that turn out to be quite optional? What are those things we don't necessarily \*need,\* but that make life so much sweeter?

Lutheran Campus Ministry, as you all know, is a transitional ministry. We can never plan too far ahead, because each year, even each semester, presents us with new challenges, new opportunities, and a whole new group of both leaders and community members. We've learned over the years to ride the surf, rather than getting bowled over by the waves of change (it's way more fun that way). We've learned to nurture community culture through worship, small groups, and leadership training; and trust that what arises from that community to be the

"daily bread" that we will need for the time set in front of us.

In some ways, LCM was made for this pandemic moment. We're used to being nimble, our students are "digital natives," and our community culture is established enough that the warmth, connectivity, authenticity and curiosity that marks our in person interactions transcended well online.

In other ways, this pandemic moment is also significant challenge for us. We wonder how we'll continue to nurture and sustain the culture that has mattered so much, to so many, over the years. We wonder if we'll even meet new students in the Fall of 2020. We wonder if there will be any institutional memory of this community left at the end of it.

*Lutheran Campus Ministry, cont. on p. 10*



*Lutheran Campus Ministry, cont. from p. 9*

And then we remember that clause of the Lord's Prayer, tucked right in between pleading for God's Kin-dom to come, and asking for our sins to be forgiven. Give us this day our daily bread. We don't have to know how everything is going to unfold, but are called simply to receive the good gifts of today, and discern what we will do with the time given to us.

Our summer will look different this year. While we ordinarily take a big break, and everyone goes off to internships, and experiences abroad, and works at camp, we will instead be staying connected. We will be meeting regularly with our student leaders, learning the spiritual practice of discernment, considering what it means to be a public church, and discovering our spiritual gifts – individually and collectively. If young adults sign up (which is never a given, of course!), our leaders will be hosting online “camp” for rising first year students, giving them space to be hopeful, to have important conversations about college, and to get connected with a mentor just a year or two ahead of them in the process. We may even meet online occasionally for festival worship!

The greatest gift of this all, however, is getting to be one of the people called to walk alongside our servant leaders, considering what it means to live faithfully right now. This experience is changing all of us, and it will certainly be seared in their hearts and minds forever. In his commencement speech to the Class of 2020, former president, Barack Obama, said:

“With all the challenges this country faces right now, nobody can tell you ‘no, you’re too young to understand’ or ‘this is how it’s always been done.’ Because with so much uncertainty, with everything suddenly up for grabs, this is your generation’s world to shape.”

The same is true for the church. These young adults will be world shapers, and it’s my great joy to walk alongside them, and the Holy Spirit as we build something new.

We are, and I am, so grateful for all of the ways University Lutheran Church of Hope (which includes each of you!) support, encourage, and make this ministry possible. Thank you so much.

-U of M Lutheran Campus Pastor,  
Kate Reuer Welto

## Worship and Music Summer Updates and Adapting to a New Kind of Music Making

Updates for the summer! We currently plan to hold quiet evening worship services on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom twice a month throughout the summer months. These are similar to Prayer Around the Cross. Prepare a candle and a quiet space in your house for these services. This month, they will be June 10 and 24. Watch for links in the Thursday Epistle.

As data and patterns about the virus continue to emerge, guidance about group singing has emerged from leading organizations. On May 5, leaders from various national singing organizations held a webinar to share findings and guidance. If you are interested in reading a summary of this webinar, see this website at <https://www.barbershop.org/covid-webinar-summary>. In essence, singing (and humming) is a "superspreading" activity because of how far contaminants can be projected in the process of singing. Put several people together in an enclosed space singing, and you can imagine the dangers (and have perhaps read the horror stories in the news). Physical spacing and masks (with the possible exception of N95 masks, which are not readily available in large numbers) do not significantly reduce the risk of spreading the virus when singing is involved.

This emerging information has big implications for our worship life. Congregational singing is a major part of how we worship God. Yes, we will continue to think creatively and adapt. I am keenly aware that we have many

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*Worship and Music, cont. from p. 10*

great minds in this congregation, and so I am curious to know from you, (in a reality where we cannot sing together in worship), how can the *spirit* of singing together continue to live? How does our song continue in our congregation and outside our walls in the community? How can we lean across disciplines in this time to share and learn?

These realities are difficult and hard to accept. But, we trust in a resurrected God! Alleluia! It's my hope that when we move back to gathering together, we can quickly implement (with all the intentional safety precautions) a bell choir and drum group to restore ensemble music making and adorn our worship of God with group music. We can also experiment with using rhythm instruments in worship, clapping our hands, etc. If you are interested in bells or drumming, please shoot me an e-mail ([zachb@ulch.org](mailto:zachb@ulch.org)) in the coming weeks.

Whatever we do, it will be different for a while. By this point, we're used to different. I'm thankful for your support, continued engagement, and your creative spirits! As the hymn goes...Jesus shall be our song as we journey.

-Zach Busch, Worship & Music

## Marcy Holmes Community Organics Recycling

Many of us recycle on a regular basis. We help reduce landfill use and we help reduce our carbon footprint. Organics recycling is a newer option allowing our communities to do even more. It takes recycling one step further by separating out organic material. This is a really great way to step up our recycling to the next level. University Lutheran Church of Hope (ULCH) and the Marcy Holmes Neighborhood Association (MHNA) are proud to announce that we are "live" with our pilot neighborhood shared organics recycling drop-off site at ULCH! A study showed that 40% of landfill volume is filled with organics. The organics recycling program takes this waste and creates a wonderful compost that is used by gardeners and farmers. Our organics recycling partnership with MHNA is just one of the many ways that help us reach out and connect with our local community. Many of our neighbors living in apartments don't have access to organics recycling. MHNA organized this program so they can access our organics container to recycle their waste. More information is available on the MHNA website at [Please check to see what organics recycling opportunities are available in your area.](#)



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 all the world.  
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Zach Busch

Minister of Faith in Community:  
Nicholas Tangen

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