



The Visitor

July 2020
No:16-07

Complex world. Thoughtful church.



Clockwise from top left: Hope sign; PEASE Academy graduation; Choir check-in; Pastor Barbara Johnson visiting Leona Reyelts through the window; Dan Bielenberg (kayak) and Ann Agrimson and Tim Gustafson (canoe) on the St. Croix River for the ULCH paddling day.

Complex Times

Complex World. Thoughtful Church. Lord, have mercy, these are complex times. That tag line is more than appropriate: A global pandemic and the shifting of life as we know it. The murder of George Floyd and the civil rights movement that has arisen. A moral response for each of us and for our community as we get honest about the long history of race in America (and more specifically in Minnesota, and in Minneapolis) and race in our own lives.



As the pandemic grew, I recall being struck by how differently we were each experiencing the pandemic depending on family situation, work, and resources. Similarly, the killing of George Floyd and these weeks have felt different for each of us. Maybe you live in south Minneapolis or parts of St. Paul where the National Guard stood watch and helicopters whirled and your post office and grocery store burned, or perhaps you live in another part of the city or in the suburbs. Maybe you interact with the world as a person of color or a person with “white” skin. Maybe you showed up for every protest or a few, or you watched things unfold through your computer or TV.

With some of you, I was present for some of the marches and protests in the days after Mr. Floyd’s murder. On Thursday, May 28th, black clergy had asked white clergy to be in the area of south Minneapolis around Lake Street and Minnehaha. I spent a few hours that early evening standing in front of the 3rd Precinct Police Station, wearing my clergy shirt and a stole and my mask, watching the crowds, talking with folks who wanted to talk, and quietly praying all the time with my eyes open. It

In Lieu of the 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 cancelled. We keep the online church calendar up to date, particularly looking ahead to the next two weeks or so. This calendar can be found at www.ulch.org/calendar. Also...

- Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Worship on Zoom and Live Stream, usually followed by “coffee hour” and some breakout rooms for fellowship.
- Sundays at 11:30 a.m. Sunday School Check Ins
- Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. Staff meeting on Zoom
- Wednesdays at 9-10 a.m. Water Wednesdays (for families)
- Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. AA meets on the patio
- Fridays at Noon on Facebook. Centering Prayer
- July 8 and 22 Evening. Worship on Zoom at 7:00 p.m.
- July 12 and 26 Crafters meet on Zoom at 7:00 p.m.
- July 21 at 6:30 p.m. Vision and Governance Board, Zoom
- July 26-31 Youth at Camp Amnicon

was smoky and smelly from the fires. It was often loud. It was deeply spiritual and moving: Chants rang out. People spoke from their hearts. Anger and rage and desperation grew, hope and change and a new way rose. Just hours after I made my way home, news spread that the 3rd Precinct Police Station was burning.

In the complexity of that evening and so many nights since then (think more protests, think talk of white supremacists, think of a call for dramatic and needed shifts in policing and our community fabric), I’ve been reflecting on why I show up and how I show up. Maybe you’ve had similar thoughts. Here are a few of my reflections in this complex time.

“Complex” continued on p. 3

“Complex” from p. 2

1. **It’s time.** It’s now. It’s past time. Our BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color) siblings have known this for generations. The white community is quickly getting on board. This is a time for engaging, for attention, for learning.

2. **Show up.** Note that when I say Show Up, I partly mean physically show up at events, but just as much I mean show up by engaging the issues, inviting the conversations with your friends and co-workers and family members. I know that with COVID-19 still so active, great care must be taken when deciding when and how to physically show up. But there are plenty of ways to still show up.

3. **Listen.** With a spirit of humility, let down your defenses and listen (in person, through podcasts, by reading). Listen to the stories and pain and witness of our BIPOC friends, church members, and neighbors. Trust the experience of BIPOC bodies and minds and hearts and souls. Shame and guilt, yep, those are emotions we may experience. Own them and move on. Fear and uncertainty, that’s real, too. A desire to know more, to offer a quick fix, to heal all the hurts, all normal to desire and yet those of us with white skin have much “white work” and learning to do in this process. It’s a long process. Do it. Begin. Stick with it. Listen more, speak less.

4. **Engage and reflect and vote.** As you listen to the pain and needs of others, find venues to do that “white work” and make space and time for the hard conversations and deep learning. Volunteer, and reflect on what you are experien-

cing, what emotions and assumptions this brings up, how you show up. Call your city and state and national leaders. Ask for change. Vote.

5. **Learn.** Maybe you’ve been reading and learning about race for years. Maybe you’ve intended to and now you know it’s time. There is an abundance of resources, so this is a short list.

**White Fragility* (Robin DiAngelo). The Racial Justice Team invites you to read this together and join an August 9th conversation.

**The Cross and the Lynching Tree* (James Cone). Solid and essential theology.

**The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (Michelle Alexander).

**A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota* (ed. Sun Yung Shin). This was the congregational book-read a couple of years ago. Read again these essays.

*MPD150. If you are looking to learn more about policing, MPD150 has a helpful website and extensive resource list: www.mpd150.com/resources/

6. **Give.** To support organizations and communities, particularly those led by those with black and brown skin.

7. **Pray.** For many of us, our faith animates how we approach these complex issues of race and our response. Draw on your faith in these days. Pray for wisdom and openness, courage and stamina, grace. Pray for the Holy Spirit’s power in this time of change. And know that I and our congregation’s staff and leaders are praying with you and for you. This complex work takes time, years, a lifetime. And it begins now.

—Pastor Jen

August 9, 2020 ULCH reads *White Fragility*:

Why It’s so Hard for White People to Talk About Racism, by Robin DiAngelo.

Join the Hope Book Club and ULCH Racial Justice Team after the church service on Sunday, August 9, to discuss a very popular and timely book, *White Fragility: Why it’s so Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*, by Robin DiAngelo. “The New York Times best-selling book exploring the counterproductive reactions white people have when their assumptions about race are challenged, and how these reactions maintain racial inequality.” www.goodreads.com

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 Peng welcomed baby Bryce 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.

✠ Deaths—We pray for all who grieve the loss of loved ones, including Kjerstin (Sanden) and Shane Yager at the death of Shane's grandmother.

✠ 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, Oswald "Mutt" Doure, Jack Parry, Steve Schreuder, Jim Hougen, Miriam Hougen, Edward Nyhus, Peter Ostroushko, Janet Carpenter, Hannah Kiresuk, and Chuck Lewis.

✠ Separation, Divorce, Retirement, Moves, Graduations, New Beginnings, the Pandemic, and this ongoing civil rights movement—God is with us through it all.

Happy Birthday, Hope Friends!

Help us celebrate the birthdays of Hope members and friends, including those who are homebound and those who celebrate 80 years and older. If you need an updated directory with current addresses and phone numbers, contact Nathan (nathano@ulch.org) or Pastor Barbara (barbaraj@ulch.org).

Please reach out with a card, a note, an email or a phone call to these folks who have birthdays this summer:

JULY

1 Mike Fingerson
4 Ruth Lundquist
7 Marilyn Asp
24 Ken Lynes
30 Bob Hoisington
30 Garvin Davenport

AUGUST

1 Greg Peterson (80th)
3 Brian McCaffrey
7 Betty Quie
13 Phil Thompson
15 Roger Anderson
16 Wayne Westwood
20 Leroy Erickson
27 Ed Nyhus

I thank God for you, my congregation, who surrounded me with your love and compassion through your kind words, emails and cards at the death of my brother, David, a very special person in my life and the lives of my family.

—Donna Neste

Candidacy for Word and Service

In February I began the candidacy process to become a deacon in the ELCA. A deacon, or a Minister of Word and Service, is someone whose ministry is rooted in the world outside the walls of the church, committed to service and the lived expression of the Gospel. According to the ELCA, "...every deacon of the ELCA has a two-fold focus to serve the neighbor and to empower, equip and encourage the people of God for their daily baptismal vocation of service to the neighbor and care of creation".

My own vocational discernment has been a long and winding process, characterized by fits and starts. But the work I have done and which we have done together since I began at University Lutheran Church of Hope in 2016 has helped me to imagine ministry in ways that have surprised and energized me, and helped to clarify what role I was being called to serve in the Church. I am grateful to ULCH for supporting me and providing me a context to clarify my call. I am looking forward to the process, to learning yet to come, and to ministry we will do together in the future. Thank you.

—Nicholas Tangen, Minister of Faith in Community & Racial Justice

Worship and Music

Black lives matter! Black lives are beloved. That must be said up front.

How are you? What is bringing you hope today?

Summer is typically a quieter time around University Lutheran Church of Hope...but it has been and remains too quiet for all of us, to be sure. At least we can enjoy a cool breeze or air conditioning from our own homes as we worship on Sunday mornings instead of the stuffy summer air inside the sanctuary! Though I'm sure any of us would take that momentary discomfort at this point.

"Alleluia" for your continuing support and engagement with online worship. We will continue with our Sunday morning routine through the summer, meeting on Zoom at 10:00 a.m. and doing our best to praise God in that medium. We also intend to worship on Zoom on Wednesday evenings twice a month, using a quiet liturgy filled with singing. In July, these will be the 8th and 22nd at 7:00 p.m. The service lasts about half an hour.

If you haven't been able to join us for online worship in these days, we pray for you and with you. We yearn for the advent of gathering back together in full force to praise the wonders of God.

As we move toward fall and we begin considering safe in-person worship options, two things to keep in mind. First, we know that singing as a group will not look the same for a while. It is my hope to form a hand bell and a drumming ensemble to continue ensemble musical engagement and adorn our worship with participatory music. These two activities can be done safely with wearing protective gear, sanitizing touch points, and maintaining distance. If you are interested in getting involved with either of these ensembles, please reach out to me! Any ability level is welcome. Secondly, we may entertain the idea of gathering outdoors for worship at some point in August or September. We are still in the beginning stages of exploring this possibility. If we do decide to do this, it will be imperative that anyone in attendance is informed of and closely follows all guidelines and regulations to keep the community safe. Stay tuned for more information. If we do hold a service outdoors, we will still hold a livestream of the event so that those who are not able or are not comfortable attending can participate with the community.

God is with us; we are not alone. Blessings for your summer. Pray for justice.

—Zach
Minister of Worship and Music

Contemplative Prayer on Facebook

Each Friday at Noon we will post a resource related to contemplative prayer practices and spirituality. Take some time at the end of the week to engage a new practice or appreciate a favorite. In a historical moment defined by anxiety and reactivity, holding space for silence and spiritual practice is itself an act of creative resistance. If you have a practice you are familiar with, or would like to learn more about, please contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org and we'll find a way to highlight it on Friday afternoons.

Voter Engagement

It's abundantly clear that 2020 is a pivotal year for the future of Minnesota. ISALAH MN, a multi-racial, state-wide, nonpartisan coalition of faith communities fighting for racial and economic justice in Minnesota, is launching one of the largest voter turnout programs in MN this year. This path will involve reaching 10% of the voting population to join in confronting and dismantling politics of division, hate and fear revealed by the murder of George Floyd, all of which may be heightened in the 2020 election.

ISALAH and its sister organization 'Faith in Minnesota' will host Voter Engagement trainings via Zoom on July 7, 9, and 12 to get prepared for the 2020 election. Please register for one of the on-line trainings in July through the link above. You will learn about talking to your friends, family and other relations about this pivotal moment and the good that is possible in the future. We will learn ways to engage with our neighbors around a vision for a government grounded in abundance, love and dignity for all Minnesotans. No exceptions.



Dear friends in Christ,

Neighborhoods throughout the world are still reeling after the murder of George Floyd here in our home town. Once again, the fabric of our community unraveled to show us, unequivocally, the extreme racism ingrained in our society that perpetuates the injustice and inequality that our black sisters and brothers face constantly. It is abundantly clear that we must renew our faithful witness in the call for justice and equality and be willing to stand and give voice to those who face injustice daily. As a community of faith, it is heartening to know that we are working to confront our own roles in perpetuating discrimination and inequity and are learning ways to actively seek change in societal systems and patterns of behavior. I am grateful that our congregation’s pastors, staff, and Racial Justice Taskforce are challenging us to reflect on how, in this time of despair and darkness, we can be beacons of hope and light.

And speaking of light, as I write this our congregation has just affirmed the installation of a solar array on the building’s flat roof and on a new solar carport canopy adjacent to the North Entrance. This array will generate 91 kilowatts (kW) of power over the course of a year. As the solar panels incrementally decrease their efficiency, the additional 26% capacity of this array assures the supply of enough solar energy to power all the electrical needs that our church building will use for the next 25 years. With the urgency of addressing the climate crisis in order to sustain life on earth as we know it, we need to take significant steps toward the dramatic changes necessary for a sustainable planet. Our bold decision to embrace this solar array is an important step towards building a more just and sustainable future for ourselves and future generations. I am grateful to all those who have advocated for solar at Hope. Thank you for your commitment to sustainability!

—Tim Abrahamson,
president of the congregation

Congratulations, 2020 Graduates!

Hope Congregation

Jazmyne Anderson
Anna Bablitch Coppin
Molly Rose Gamble
Emma Hartmann
Gretta Hunstiger
Jacob Lanthier
Olivia Wolf Nelson
Maya O’Loughlin
Marie Peterson
Kyle Struthers
Rachel Tetlie
Ian Zibble
Nicke Zibble

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Matthew Bittmann
Arianna Bower
Mara Bowman
Amanda Charles
Greta Fust
Emily Hackerson
Emmalee Hinrichs
Elizabeth Kristian
Abby Lonne
Jacob Nelson
Jesse Nitzschke

Emily Pliscott
Sammy Pogue
Silas Ryan
Victoria Travis
Laura Wyatt

P.E.A.S.E Academy

Zoie Altenhoff
Nora Daniels
Katie Dow
Abbi Gartland
Avery Jenson
Fredo Larson
Ethan McCarthy
Liam Moynihan
Alex O’Brien
Sawyer Radermacher
Summer Solomon

Bread for the World

We will not hold a Bread for the World Offering of Letters this year. However, all Hope members are encouraged to remember the hungry families of the world who are suffering more than ever due to this pandemic. Write your letters from home. Send a letter to your two senators (U.S. Senate, Washington D.C 20510) and representative (U.S. House of Representatives, Washington D.C. 20515). If you prefer to email your legislators, go to their web site and click on the page that invites you to email them. Here are some suggested steps

Dear _____,

Congress has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic with swift, strong, and bipartisan actions. But more needs to be done. This outbreak is devastating vulnerable communities across the United States and worsening the effects of hunger and poverty around the globe.

COVID-19 is a hunger crisis. Congress must make nutrition a priority in the next stimulus bill to assist those hit the hardest by this crisis here and abroad. Specifically, Congress should:

- *Increase SNAP benefits by at least 15 percent*
- *Extend pandemic-EBT to ensure children have access to nutrition when school is not in session*
- *Invest \$12 billion for the global response to COVID-19*

I am a Christian and my faith calls me to stand with people facing hunger around the world.

Increasing SNAP benefits not only helps families put food on the table but supports local economies as well. Every \$1 increase in SNAP benefits generates more than \$1.50 in economic activity.

For children, even brief periods of hunger carry consequences that may last a lifetime. Food-insecure children are more likely to experience learning and academic difficulties, and poor general health. Globally strong US leadership is needed to address the increase in extreme hunger amid the pandemic.

I urge you to make nutrition investments a priority in the next stimulus package.

Sincerely, [your name & address], Hope in the World

①: Ask for these actions:

- Increase SNAP benefits by 15 %.
- Expand pandemic EBT to ensure children have access to nutrition when school is not in session.
- Invest \$12 billion for the global response to COVID-19.

②: Tell why you are motivated to write, e.g.,

- God calls us to care for the “least among us”. COVID-19 is a hunger crisis.
- My faith calls me to stand alongside people facing hunger in the U.S. and around the world.

③: Choose a reason or two for your request, e.g.,

- Reducing malnutrition has become even more urgent as we struggle against COVID-19. Malnutrition makes children and vulnerable populations more susceptible to disease, including viruses.
- It is clear that private individuals and organizations cannot mobilize the

resources that the US government can to support those at risk of hunger during this crisis. Public nutrition programs provide roughly 10 times as much food assistance as churches and charities.

- Only 17% of the low-income US children who eat free and reduced-price school lunches have access to meal programs in summer – often the hungriest time for children.
- Increasing SNAP benefits not only helps families impacted by the economic downturn but supports local economies as well. Every \$1 increase in SNAP benefits generates more than \$1.50 in economic activity.
- For children, even brief periods of hunger carry consequences that may last a lifetime. Food-insecure children are more likely to experience learning and academic difficulties, and poor general health.
- The number of people experiencing extreme hunger could nearly double to 265 million as a result of COVID-19, according to the UN World Food Program. We must collectively act now to address the effects of this global catastrophe.

④ When you have finished completing this task, please email: d_neste@yahoo.com and let her know to whom you wrote so she may report an accurate count. Attached is a sample letter. Feel free to make it your own.

—Donna Neste, Hope in the World

Rolling Waters Fund for Racial Justice

“But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” Amos 5:24

A proposal by Hope’s Racial Justice Team: Establish a dedicated fund at ULCH to respond quickly to needs of local BIPOC-led (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) religious and justice organizations supporting racial equity initiatives.

Parameters: Funds would be used to respond to local BIPOC-led, faith-based and justice organizations: (1) working on equity issues OR (2) responding to needs in BIPOC communities due to COVID-19 or civil unrest. Examples of potential beneficiaries include BIPOC led or focused churches/mosques/synagogues and/or collective funds or organizations of the same that support racial equity.

Reasoning: Faith animates action/voice/ giving for many of us. As people of faith, as individuals and as a community (ULCH), we need to respond with our whole selves to racial injustice, including through our wallets. When people aren’t sure how to show up, how to give dollars, the church can be a conduit for this expression of faith. While there are many reputable racial equity organizations people can support, some Hope members may value channeling their support directly through University Lutheran Church of Hope to faith-based and other justice organizations. In addition, it can be difficult to find information online and through other channels for important yet smaller, less-resourced, local faith and justice organizations. Members of the Racial Justice Team and church staff may have more information about this type of organization and community need in the moment. This fund will allow ULCH to respond to racial equity needs in a flexible way.

The creation of the ULCH Rolling Waters Fund for Racial Justice was approved by the ULCH Vision & Governance Board on June 16, 2020. You can contribute to this fund through the ULCH On-Line Donations or send a check to ULCH and note in the memo: “Rolling Waters Fund”.

Process: The “Rolling Waters Fund” will be established by the Vision and Governance Board and will be reviewed after one year to see if it is still needed. The Racial Justice Team, in conjunction with ULCH’s pastor(s) and other designated staff will review needs and disburse funds monthly, or more often if presented with an immediate need. Decisions regarding disbursement may be made via email or online (e.g. Zoom meeting) or in-person. Funds up to \$150 may be disbursed by designated church staff at their discretion and approved by the Racial Justice Team afterwards.

Communications: Upon board approval, the Racial Justice Team will communicate information about the Rolling Waters Fund to the congregation (including soliciting funds and reporting on disbursements) through appropriate means (Thursday Epistle, Hope *Visitor*, etc.).

Goal: Through this process we hope to be nimble in responding to need, to center the needs and leadership of faith and justice communities of color, and to elevate the voices of our faith and justice leaders of color in our local community

Children’s Ministry

Sunday School Check-ins will take place on Sundays at 11:30, after worship. Each week a Zoom link to these gatherings will be included in the Thursday Epistle. We will take some time to check-in with one another, read scripture, and pray.

We will also coordinate a simple letter/card writing exchange between our Sunday School kiddos and some of our senior members. Children’s Ministry leaders will be reaching out to you in next couple of weeks to invite your kids to write messages of encouragement and hospitality.

Sanctuary & Immigration

What is an AMMPARO Welcoming Congregation? University Lutheran Church of Hope is one of many Welcoming Congregations in the ELCA, committed to accompanying migrant minors in the US and beyond. But what does that mean?

From the ELCA: “In obedience to Matthew 25:35, Welcoming Congregations agree to welcome migrant children and families, listen to their stories with respect to receive the divine blessings that they bring, pray for and share the gospel, provide emotional and spiritual support, accompany migrants to access local and institutional services as needed and advocate for justice for and with migrant families and children.”

Welcoming Congregations are committed to accompaniment, advocacy, and awareness building. At ULCH, much of this work is parallel to our commitments as a Sanctuary Congregation. By being a part of this cohort, our congregation continues to build relationships with immigrants and immigrants’ rights organizations and churches throughout the ELCA. This is one of the ways we are building power in and among our church to work towards a world that welcomes the stranger and honors the dignity of all.

Bible & Brews

Exactly what it sounds like. We will gather around Scripture and beer for a laid-back conversation about church, current events, and the Bible. It is likely that we will be able to gather outside at the Tangen Residence (address will be communicated later). BYOB. Contact Nick.

Riverside Innovation Hub

In June the Riverside Innovation Hub team, in coordination with Augsburg University and Dinkytown stakeholders, amended our year one grant to address immediate needs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. One of most common needs emerging at this time is access to free and affordable food. Working with Dinkytown restaurants and the Nutritious U Food Pantry, our team purchased gift cards at Qdoba, Raising Cane’s, and other local restaurants for distribution at the campus’ food pantry. This is a powerful way to address the immediate needs of our neighbors and to support local businesses.

We are currently completing the proposal for our Phase II Grant, which will include the creation of a podcast focused on stories and storytelling connected to our neighborhood’s history and personality. If you are someone who is interested in new media, story-telling, and Dinkytown, please consider joining the Riverside Innovation Hub Team. We need your leadership!

Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org.

Book Club—July 12

Join Hope book club on July 12th to practice physical (not social) distancing and to discuss *Deacon King Kong*, by James McBride. “In September 1969, a fumbling, cranky old church deacon known as Sport coat shuffles into the courtyard of the Cause Houses housing project in south Brooklyn, pulls a .38 from his pocket, and in front of everybody shoots the project’s drug dealer at point-blank range. As the story deepens, it becomes clear that the lives of the characters—caught in the tumultuous swirl of 1960s New York—overlap in unexpected ways. When the truth does emerge, McBride shows us that not all secrets are meant to be hidden, that the best way to grow is to face change without fear, and that the seeds of love lie in hope and compassion.” (www.goodreads.com). Sunday, July 12, from 6:00-7:30 p.m., at Nancy Miller’s back yard, 2501 27th Ave. NE, Minneapolis (or via Zoom if Bad Weather). Please bring your own chair, food and drink.

Prayer Shawls

There is a good quantity of prayers shawls available. Please contact Ann Beane (spirit.beane@gmail.com) or Beata Rydeen (beatarydeen@comcast.net) if you would like to pick one up.

Compassionate Care—*Soothe*

Compassionate Care Ministry recommends this resource. Eager to learn ways to calm our nervous systems in the midst of difficult life circumstances, Compassion Care Ministry’s June topic was about the book *Soothe: Your mind-body-spirit guide for dealing with crappy emotions* by Heidi Kopacek, a local psychologist. The book explains what emotions really are, where they come from, and how to navigate the negative ones using this formula: “Soothe the body to soothe the mind. Soothe the mind to ignite the spirit.” She maps

out easy techniques to soothe the body and mind—both proactively and in the moment—and to expand our spirit to be creative, connected, value-driven, loving, and present in the world. We found the book to be a highly accessible resource full of ways to lessen stress, increase resilience, and stay aligned with our deeper human spirit. There will be a copy available in the church library in the future.

—Muffi Abrahamson & Karen Jorstad

Finance Report

May 2020 and Year-to-Date Income and Expense						
	May Actual	May Budget	May Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	32,702	40,583	(7,881)	213,480	205,417	8,064
Rental Income	9,498	12,516	(3,017)	55,636	62,578	(6,941)
Special Income	-	-	-	134	-	134
Total Income	42,201	53,099	(10,898)	269,250	267,994	1,256
Salaries & Benefits	26,491	33,447	(6,955)	157,440	154,983	2,457
Total Expense	42,178	56,268	(14,091)	266,504	274,748	(8,244)
Net Operating Income	23	(3,170)	3,192	2,746	(6,753)	9,500

General giving totaled \$32,702 for the month of May. General giving is lower than budgeted as the May 31st offering will be reflected in June. Year-to-date general giving totaled \$213,480, \$8,064 more than budgeted. Rental income totaled \$9,498, underbudget due to fewer daily parking tenants and decreased income from the use of the facilities. Income for the month totaled \$42,201 contributing to a total year-to-date income of \$269,250, \$1,256 overbudget.

Expenses totaled \$42,178 for the month of May. Salaries & Benefits were underbudget as the May 1st payroll was processed in the previous month. Year-to-date, expenses total \$266,504, \$8,244 underbudget. We had a net operating income of \$23 for the month and \$2,746 year-to-date. As of May 31, we have \$232K in current assets – primarily composed of our checking and savings account (including the Payroll Protection Program funds).

We received \$6,594 in Capital Campaign contributions in May. We made our monthly mortgage payment and funded the sewer repair. We look forward to distributing benevolences to several organizations later in the year.

The Executive Committee alongside the Vision and Governance Board continue to monitor and evaluate our financial position. We remain diligent and attuned to our situation during this unique time. We are grateful 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

Solar Installation

On June 14th, we held a congregational meeting following worship on Zoom. Our congregation decided to pursue a solar array on the flat roof of the education wing and on a new small carport canopy structure adjacent to the north entrance. In the preliminary information, this is option 4, and it includes 91 KW of solar production.

We had a phenomenal turnout of members at the meeting, with 94 individual votes. Of those, 96.6% of the voters affirmed a solar installation. The Vision and Governance Board had recommended three options for the congregation's discernment. The congregation voted: 30.9% for option 1, that included the flat roof and sanctuary roof (72.2 KW); 2.1% for option 2, that was the flat roof only (67 KW); and 67.0% for option 4, that included the flat roof and the small carport canopy (91 KW).



This is an aerial view of the church and lot with the blue indicating where panels will be placed: basically on the flat roof sections and also on a carport in the north parking lot.



This is an example of solar panels on a carport with parking stalls underneath.

We have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with Sundial Solar to begin the engineering and design phase of this project. We are pursuing a variety of financing options. We anticipate this project being completed by the end of 2020.

Thanks to those who have taken leadership in this process over many years. Thank you for giving us clear direction in this process of discernment and particularly through a series of forums, conversations, and the congregational meeting and vote. This is a bold and faithful witness. It exemplifies our commitment to a sustainable future for the creation God has entrusted to our care. We will continue to update the congregation through the process. If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact members of the Vision and Governance Board, as well as our project leads Tim Abrahamson and Stewart Herman.

—Vision and Governance Board

Information about the solar project and links at:

<http://www.ulch.org/2020-solar-options>

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.
601 – 13th Avenue SE, Minneapolis, Minnesota ✉ Tel. 612-331-5988 ✉ Fax 612-623-0693 ✉ www.ulch.org

Staff

Pastors:

Rev. Jen Nagel
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