

Complex world. Thoughtful church.



Clockwise from Top Left: Pauline Hendrickson shows a recently completed quilt; Zach's hosta cross-an image used during Prayer Around the Cross; Madhu Bhat cares for a garden with a quick hello from Shuzo Murakami; Arloene, Julaine, and Carmen catch up at a social distance; stocking the Little Library (6th and 13th) which has become a Little Free Food Shelf for hungry neighbors; paddling on White Bear Lake in July.

Finding Sabbath Rest

In July our family spent ten days camping in Michigan. We explored the Porcupine Mountains and Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula, and then camped near Lake Huron in the “thumb” region on the eastern side of the state.

For kids and adults, it is a strange summer in a challenging time. The realities of the pandemic and the economic crisis surround us. The call of justice for George Floyd and deep reckoning in our hearts and neighborhoods and nation drive us. The loneliness, isolation, low “bandwidth”, stress and mental health struggles are always near. There were plenty of reasons to press on and keep doing our usual home-centered routines, rarely pausing, pushing forward. And yet the call to find sabbath is real.

Whether it’s pausing to sit and rest on the porch at the end of the day, making time for worship, a day off in a busy stretch, or vacation in the midst of pandemic and injustice, the need for sabbath rest is vital. “Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.” The third commandment beckons us, no, commands us, to remember sabbath. It’s up to us to make space for sabbath rest, to find it, claim it, and support others in this endeavor. At once, sabbath rest is God’s gift of grace. It’s God calling us back: “Come home, beloved one, you’re tired, you’ll do my work better once you’ve rested and played and dreamed and breathed.” Taking sabbath time means accepting that God and God’s people will pick up where I leave off. As much as we try to wrap things up, it’s never fully done, and yet Sabbath means stepping away and trusting that it’s okay, that it’s enough, that God’s got this, not me.

In a curious twist, I recognize that when we’ve been home much, it’s easy to tease ourselves into thinking our home-ness is rest, that our staying-put means we’ve had a our sabbath. I know, I know, some of you are laughing out loud at this point. Yes, it’s true, let’s face it, for most of us, the great many of us, that’s not the case. Sabbath still has its place, for it’s about our relationship with God, our trust in our Savior’s keeping. That sabbath

trust, that joy in creation, that pause to pray can be practiced from anywhere. It doesn’t necessarily mean a far-away adventure. It does, however, mean making space... to head for the backyard treehouse, or the porch, or the local park, or wherever you can savor rest, where the Holy Spirit can fill you, where there is space for God.

On the night before our family’s sabbath camping, during our Wednesday evening service, we sang (really, prayed) a simple song with these words: “Listen, listen, be open, oh my heart.” That refrain returned to me time and again camping, and returns still now here in the city. Listen, listen, be open, oh my heart. It’s August, dear ones, and it’s time for sabbath. I pray you are finding sabbath, that your hearts are open, and that grace is holding you in this season. -Pastor Jen

Community Photo Directory

After a pause, we're back in business wrapping up the community photo directory begun in the winter months. COVID-19 slowed us, but it didn't stop us. We're gathering the remaining pictures during August, updating contact information, and aiming to have the directory done and ready to distribute by the end of September!

If you haven't had a picture taken, here are your options. By the end of August:

1. Arrange to have a photo taken by Kristin Tangen outside by church on a Friday afternoon or a Sunday afternoon (safety and distance observed), OR

2. Submit a photo.

To arrange a date or submit a photo, contact Kristin (ksnobeck@gmail.com or 651-558-6112 text/call).

Fall Biking on the Cannon Valley Trail

If we can jump ahead to fall for planning purposes, please consider joining us when we bike the Cannon Valley Trail on September 19. Details will be worked out, but the event will likely start around 10:30 Saturday morning and ride to a picnic spot on the trail where we will have a lunch that we've each brought. Then we will ride back to our starting point. This will all probably be done before 3:00. The details like the starting point, lunch

options and location, and other info to come.

We ask that for the safety of all masks be worn when gathering outside, distance be observed, and that the picnic does not include shared food.

If you are interested, please rsvp and your name will be added to those receiving event updated information. RSVP by text to Bryan at 612-685-0402 or email to bkufus462@icloud.com.

Summer updates for Worship & Music

Black Lives Matter. God loves blackness. Justice for Breonna Taylor. For George Floyd.

I'm writing from the front stoop of my newly purchased home (Deo Gracias for low mortgage rates). In a fit of exuberance, joy, and gratitude, I've been tearing out sod to make room for perennials and flowers. I planted a tree - a Minnesota strain Redbud - on Sunday night. Monday (yesterday), a robust South wind blew at 20 mph through most of the afternoon, and I watched in trepidation as this baby tree curved and stretched its little trunk but stood its resilient ground. I was amazed. Today it stands straight up, perky as ever. I have found hope and restoration in all of this, helped in no small way I'm sure by the sun's grace...a heavy dose of vitamin D and some tan on this pale quarantine skin.

I am keenly aware, though, that I am privileged by distraction. Moving and settling in has filled my mind and my time for weeks now. The allure of this distraction is strong, and part of me doesn't want to go back to thinking, learning, challenging myself, and working for change and justice and equity in this world around us that has grown so fractured and poisonous. It's soon my time to get back to work. And I pray for us as a community as we continue, most of us in our privilege, to balance out our work and our distraction.

Join us on Wednesdays this month - August 5 & 19 - for evening worship on Zoom. Images, singing and lots of prayer. Good time spent in community with our Creator.

A reminder that as we traverse the slow arc toward meeting in person again, opportunities for hand bell playing and hand drumming are on that horizon. Please reach out to me directly (zachb@ulch.org) if you are interested in either of these ensembles. All skill levels welcome. And, as always, Hope Choir has a standing invitation and an open embrace to new members at any time.

As the pandemic draws on, I grow more grateful for the ULCH community with each day. I am glad to serve you. Thank you for your continued support of our worship life, and for finding creative ways to keep the Song alive. Be well, be heartbroken, and embrace the resurrection. It always comes.

-Zach Busch, Minister of Worship and Music

Centering Prayer on Fridays

Beginning in August we will host live Centering Prayer sessions on Zoom on Fridays at 1:00 p.m. Links to this Zoom gathering will be posted in the Thursday Epistle and sent to other interested parties.

Centering Prayer prepares our faculties for the gift of contemplation, teaching us to release our attachments. In this practice we rest in God, reveling in the healing and merciful presence of the Divine. Join us on Fridays for a time of reflection and 20 minutes of silent practice. Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

Children's Ministry at University Lutheran Church of Hope

In August we will take a Summer Break from meeting on Sunday mornings. We'll gather again in September, though with an amended schedule that considers school schedules and COVID guidelines. ***We will also gather for a socially distant hike and play at Hidden Falls Park in St. Paul on August 15th at 10:00 a.m.*** Bring a Frisbee or something to toss with a friend, and lunch if you want to stick around for a picnic at the park.

We have also been sending cards and letters to our young folks and asking them to pass it along

to some of our older members. A number of you have received a kind piece of mail from a child in the congregation and have written back to them. What a joyful way to stay connected.

How are you centering faith at home? What are the spiritual practices you have as a family? We want to know how faith has been present at home amid COVID19 and social unrest. If you would like to share, please email Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org or post something on the Children's Ministry FB Group Page.

Sanctuary & Immigration

The Sanctuary & Immigration team at University Lutheran Church of Hope continues to build connections with organizations and leaders in the community, and to listen for clear and powerful next steps in creating a world that honors the dignity of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. We are deepening our engagement with the ELCA's Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities (AMMPARO) program, and pressing the Synod to adopt our Sanctuary Synod resolution.

The summer has been a rollercoaster of emotion with the Supreme Court's decision to uphold DACA, the Administration's commitment to banning asylum seekers, and a Presidential election certain to be mired in anti-immigrant rhetoric. As a Sanctuary Congregation, University Lutheran Church of Hope is committed to centering the voices of immigrants and supporting policies that protect and uplift some of our most vulnerable neighbors. Want to get involved? Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

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 who/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 John Bablitch at the death of his brother Doug; Norm and Sharla Aaseng at the death of their sister in law Gale; and the Felling, Haltli and Sieg families at the death of Sharon (Haltli) Sieg.

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 "Muttie" Doure, Hayden Parker, 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!

Reach out with a card, a note, an email or a phone call and help celebrate the birthdays of these Hope members and friends.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 1 Greg Peterson celebrates his **80th Birthday!**
August 9 Nancy Swanson
August 11 Tom Magnon
August 13 Phil Thompson
August 15 Roger Anderson
August 16 Wayne Westwood
August 20 Leroy Erickson
August 27 Ed Nyhus

Children's Ministry/ Friendly Visitor Letter Writing Project

"It takes a whole village to raise a child", and it takes a congregation to make and maintain connections within our congregation during this pandemic. Some of our lucky seniors have received pictures or letters from children in our congregation. Perhaps some are even thinking about writing back to them. After all everybody loves mail. There is nothing like a written note or letter to make your day.

Our congregation has been diligently working on maintaining connections with our members especially during this time when we are not able to deepen those relationships face to face every Sunday. We noticed that there are not many children on Zoom for Sunday Worship, and some meet us for Sunday School Zoom. At baptism we promised to be a village in helping our children to grow in faith. It is especially important to reach out to the children now, so when we do resume weekly in church worship, some relationships with other adults will have been already nurtured.

The Children's Ministry Team and Friendly Visitors have teamed up on this letter connection project. First, we gave each Sunday School Child an address to send a picture or note to either a homebound or Hope Diamond earlier this summer. Now, we would like to open it up to other congregational members to write a note to one of the Youth. Would you be willing to be a pen pal with a younger member? If so please email, Rosalie Eldevik, at reldevik@msn.com or call at 651-644- 0297 and leave a message. I will get back to you ASAP with a name/address.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bible & Brews – August 24th 6:00 p.m. at the Tangen Residence

Exactly what it sounds like! Join us for a relaxed conversation about scripture, current events, the church, and of course...beer! BYOB. We'll gather in the front yard of the Tangen residence (weather permitting) and will maintain good social distancing protocol, but we will still have a ton of fun. Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

Have You Examined and Challenged Your Own Racist Ideas?

2020 ULCH Congregation Reads: *“White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard For White People To Talk About Racism”*, by Robin DiAngelo. Join the Hope Racial Justice Team & Hope Book Club via Zoom after church on August 9th to discuss this very popular and timely tome. www.goodreads.com says, “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.”

The Hennepin County Library is offering FREE online access to *White Fragility!* Here is a link to that service:

https://hclib.bibliocommons.com/list/share/619268670_hcl_featured/1657764469_unlimited_access_ebooks_and_audiobooks_to_learn_about_racism?_ga=2.70575824.1588804085.1594858208-13551323.1594858208

In September, the Hope Book Club will discuss *“This Tender Land”*, by William Kent Krueger: “A stand-alone coming of age novel set in the Great Depression”. September 13th, 6:00-7:30 p.m., at Nancy Miller’s backyard, 2501 27th Ave. NE, Minneapolis (or via Zoom if bad weather). Please bring your own chair, food and drink.

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

Rolling Waters Fund Grants Made

As reported in the July *Visitor*, the Rolling Waters Fund for Racial Justice, a dedicated fund, was established by the Vision and Governance Board at their June meeting. The purpose of the Fund is to enable the congregation to respond in a timely manner to needs of local communities of color who themselves are supporting racial equity initiatives, addressing fallout from civil unrest, or are responding to deep needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The response of Hope members to the creation of this fund has been that of characteristic generosity. In less than a month the amount of money given to the fund has surpassed \$10,000! Since moving quickly is also a goal, the Racial Justice Team has researched and settled on eight organizations to be the first recipients of grants from the Fund. They are:

- **All Nations Indian Church and The American Indian Community Development Corporation**
A United Church of Christ (UCC) congregation and corporation working on housing issues in the Native community
- **Voices for Racial Justice**
A Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC)-led community organizing agency focused on racial justice
- **Color of Hope**
An emerging BIPOC group at ULCH
- **Defend Glendale & Public Housing Coalition**
Working to prevent privatization of public housing in the Glendale neighborhood
- **MIGIZI**
An agency nurturing the development of Native American youth
- **MN Healing Justice Network**
Supports BIPOC individuals involved in wellness and healing justice work
- **Sanctuary Covenant Church**
The church’s fund for crisis response in their north Minneapolis neighborhood
- **Tapestry**
A Latinx, synodically authorized worshipping community of the Minneapolis Area Synod

All together \$7,000 is being given to these organizations in this first round. Contributions to the fund can be made through the University Lutheran Church of Hope On-Line giving or by a check to the church noting “Rolling Waters Fund” in the memo line.

Capital Campaign Donates Money

Quick! What's the name of our current capital campaign?

If the answer (cf. below) did not come spilling out of you, don't feel bad. It is, after all, coming to an end in about 6 months.

What you surely do know is that, when we started the 3-year campaign in 2017, we committed a certain amount of our giving as benevolences. 7%, actually! At the time, the Vision and Governance board decided that this money would be divided among 10 different organizations.

In our current crises of pandemic and rising up for justice, University Lutheran Church of Hope leadership decided to move into action, and not wait until the capital campaign is complete. We have recently donated \$2,500 each to each of these four organizations:

- University Area Sanctuary Coalition
- The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria
- Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities
- The One Fund, an interdenominational initiative to support black-led churches in the Twin Cities

Thank you to all you have given faithfully to the capital campaign, allowing sufficient funds to be available for the early disbursement. The fun part is still to come—in the fall we will decide together on the remaining six organizations, ask for your suggestions, and conduct a survey-style vote.

Three final notes:

These donations are separate from our newly established Rolling Waters Fund.

- The Board in 2017 designated three specific causes that should receive benevolences. These are included in our early donations.
- Should the actual 7% figure at the end of the campaign allow for more than a \$2,500 donation per group, we will write additional checks.

ANSWER: EPOH GNILAEVER

-Uli Koester, Vice President

Hope Capital Campaign

The next 3-year Capital Campaign is now in the planning process. This recurring campaign is our means for maintaining the physical building, including the majority of the monthly mortgage costs, as well as the numerous expenses our church incurs for the upkeep of the building.

The history of this goes back to 2005. At that time, we were in the early stages of our relationship with PEASE Academy. A building inspector came and concluded we needed to make numerous updates in order to keep a school on-site. Our church sprang into action and looked at the possibilities – not just for keeping PEASE, but for many important updates to our facility that were long overdue.

At a congregational vote on January 22, 2006, we decided to take on this huge project and renovate our building. And we committed to a recurring 3-year campaign to finance our building costs.

Since then we've not only paid our mortgage payments, paid down the principal of our mortgage and continued a meaningful relationship with PEASE, but have also been able to utilize these funds for many important updates and repairs to our building; a new boiler, a new roof, updates to our organ and our stained glass, and on and on. And every campaign also commits a significant amount to benevolence.

(Continued on page 8)

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So now it is time for the next campaign. Given the current challenges of COVID and the impact that this has had on people's lives and our economy, this may be one of the most challenging campaigns yet.

But with that said, when we needed to put together a team to tackle this, many University Lutheran Church of Hope members stepped up immediately and volunteered to drive this effort.

Our team:

- Co-Chairs: Karen Westwood & Mark Nelson
- Committee Member and liaison to the ULCH Board: John Beane
- Committee Members: John Bablitch, Deb Bordsen, Jack Dant, Garvin Davenport, Molly James
- Liaison to the Gratitude & Generosity team: Ann Beane

This group is actively meeting and planning for a campaign launch this fall. Please consider giving as generously as you are able!

-Mark Nelson (612.963.3634), Capital Campaign Co-Chair

Send Notes and Encouragement to Jack and Donna Parry

2020 has been a rough year for Jack. He has been in and out of the hospital and transitional care since February. He had a stroke in April, from which he is still recovering. He is now in transitional care at Langton Shores. The current protocol for COVID 19 at his facility dictates that all incoming patients be quarantined in their room for 14 days. After that Jack may have outdoor visits only. It would be nice for Jack and Donna if members of the congregation would be willing to send him cards and letters of encouragement!

Please send to:

Langton Shores
Attn: Jack Parry - Room 225
1900 County Road D West
Roseville, MN 55112

Little Free Food Shelf

University Lutheran Church of Hope has converted our Little Free Library into a Little Free Food Shelf. As the impact of COVID19 on businesses and social services continues to grow, many of our most vulnerable neighbors have found it difficult to secure enough food. As a small, but accessible, offering we are filling our Little Free Food Shelf with non-perishable food items that can be consumed easily on the street. Please consider donating some items to this effort. You can add them directly to the Little Free Food Shelf, which is located on the corner of 6th and 13th, the SE corner of the building.



Riverside Innovation Hub

University Lutheran Church of Hope enters its second year of a two year grant through the Riverside Innovation Hub, focusing on public church and young adults in our community. We spent the first year hosting Listening Posts and partnering with local organizations around community engagement. When COVID19 struck, we reallocated some of our grant dollars to address food insecurity needs by purchasing meal cards from local businesses and donating them to the Nutritious U Food Pantry.

Our second year will continue to address immediate needs stemming from COVID-19, as well as developing a creative and engaging podcast to highlight the stories and individuals who make our neighborhood and community unique.

We are always looking for additional leaders to move this project along. If you are someone who has a passion for community engagement, young adult ministry, storytelling, or media, please consider joining the team. Want to learn more? Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

Marcy Holmes Cares – COVID-19 Response

Minister of Faith in Community, Nicholas Tangen, has been chairing a taskforce of the Marcy Holmes Neighborhood Association to respond to pressing needs amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The task force is currently creating a shareable resource that will connect Marcy Holmes residents to services and resources, as well as deepening community engagement and neighbor connections. More information about this work will be made available as the resource is finalized. If you would like to be part of the team crafting this response, please contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

Updated Health and Safety Policy with COVID-19 Procedures

In late May, University Lutheran Church of Hope created a health and safety policy with a focus on COVID-19 procedures. We wanted to offer guidance about how our congregation is responding to the pandemic. This guides us and it also helps others who use our building to do so in ways that minimize risk. In late June we reviewed this policy and made some minimal revisions. The revised policy is available on our website: <http://www.ulch.org/ulch-response-to-covid-19> . As the disease evolves we'll continue to update this policy, often at the end of each month.

Here are the highlights of the June 30 revisions:

- Our changes are minimal. We still strongly encourage meeting online.
- COVID-19 affects some communities (communities of color) and some demographics (our eldest, those with some underlying health issues) disproportionately. Our slower and careful approach honors these experiences as real and seeks to avoid pushing people into potentially unhealthy spaces.
- If there is a compelling reason to meet at church, opt for outdoors whenever possible.
- Wear masks always in indoor public spaces. Wear masks usually in outdoor spaces (unless gardening alone).
- Honor the 6-foot social distancing guidelines and wash hands regularly.
- Always sign in so if contact tracing becomes necessary we have a record.
- Schedule meetings and groups ahead so we can be stewards of the space, clean thoroughly, and are hospitable.
- Clarifications were made to the section about renters and other groups who use our space.

Treasurer's Report

June 2020 and Year-to-Date Income and Expense						
	June Actual	June Budget	June Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	34,322	40,583	(6,261)	247,803	246,000	1,803
Rental Income	9,703	12,516	(2,812)	65,339	75,093	(9,754)
Special Income	-	-	-	134	-	134
Total Income	44,026	53,099	(9,073)	313,276	321,093	(7,817)
Salaries & Benefits	27,620	31,697	(4,077)	185,060	186,679	(1,619)
Total Expense	48,305	54,355	(6,050)	314,809	329,103	(14,293)
Net Operating Income	(4,279)	(1,256)	(3,023)	(1,533)	(8,010)	6,476

General giving totaled \$34,322 for the month of June. General giving is \$6,261 less than budgeted. Year-to-date general giving totaled \$247,803, \$1,803 more than budgeted. Rental income totaled \$9,703, under budget due to fewer daily parking tenants and decreased income from use of facilities. Income for the month totaled \$44,026 contributing to a total year-to-date income of \$313,276, \$7,817 under budget.

Expenses totaled \$48,305 for the month of June. Salaries & Benefits totaled \$27,620, slightly under budget. Year-to-date, expenses total \$314,809, \$14,293 under budget. We had a net operating loss of \$4,279 for the month and \$1,533 year-to-date. As of May 31, we have \$334K in current assets – primarily composed of our checking and savings account (including the Payroll Protection Program funds).

In June, we received \$10,427 in Capital Campaign contributions. The current Capital Campaign is winding down – ending in January 2021. In February 2018, we began this campaign with several projects in mind: restoring the stain glass windows, building a community bread oven, creating a children's play area, performing organ repairs and giving a portion to good ministries we choose together. As we enter the final months of the Capital Campaign, we ask you kindly to fulfill your pledge. We look forward to distributing benevolences to several organizations later in the year. Please reach out to myself or Nathan Obrestad (nathano@ulch.org) if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for continuing to support the Capital Campaign.

The Executive Committee and 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

Esther Shivers



University Lutheran Church of Hope members have been blessed to have Esther Shivers among us as a member of Hope for 65 years. Esther, and her family were actively involved in Sunday School, Confirmation, rummage sales and Loaves and Fishes.

Esther died peacefully April 5, 2020. Following the family funeral service July 13, 2020, her ashes were placed next to George's in a niche inside the Hillside Chapel of Washburn McReavy. The service was live-streamed and recorded for those who were unable to attend.

A webcast of the funeral service can be seen at: www.washburn-mcreavy.com/obituaries/Esther-Shivers/

Esther (Hovda) Shivers was born in 1927. A tough, sweet, Norwegian, Iowa/Minnesota farm girl, she grew up on several farms in the Thompson, Iowa area, and was the daughter of Theodor and Hannah Hovda with 6 siblings. At age 17, she started nursing school in Chicago in the 'Cadet Nursing Corps' program in 1943, graduating in 1946. While in Chicago, she met George Shivers. They married and raised three kids while both continued their careers. As a family they did a lot of camping and made several fun trips. Esther and George especially enjoyed trips to Norway, where they stayed with her many relatives. George passed away in 1987.

Esther worked as a psychiatric nurse at Fairview Hospital for many years. She was the head nurse at St. Anthony Care Center for a time. Later she was the head nurse at the main Minneapolis Post Office, where she worked until her retirement in 1989.

Esther married Patrick Games, and together they enjoyed senior tennis and travelling. They made 12 overseas trips in 10 years. Patrick passed away in 2006 after a long illness, for which Esther was his primary caregiver.

Esther had a good sense of humor and a ready laugh – often followed by what her family called the "Hovda snort." Even as Esther's memory declined, her humor remained intact. She moved to the Arbor of Eagle Crest in 2015. Soon after she moved in, she said, "I like it fine. The food is good and the people are friendly. In fact, I want to buy the place! Do I have enough money?"

Esther was a kind and patient mother and grandmother. Her family treasures her courage and inner strength in the face of adversity. A wonderful role model for her kids and grandkids, she was also the best mother-in-law ever. Dearly loved by her family and friends, hers was a life well-lived. She is survived by children Mark (Jan) Shivers, John (Paula) Shivers, and Deborah (Kevin) Von Riedel; step-children Bill (Karen) Games, Peter (Sally) Games, Ian Games, and Katy (Rob) Class; and 17 grandkids and three great grandkids.

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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