

Complex world. Thoughtful church.

October 2020
No. 16-10



Clockwise from Top Left: Steeple shrouded in fall colors. Our now retired Business Manager, Gayle Bidne, enjoying the quilt crafted by the Hope quilters. Tim Gustafson poses with Deb Bordsen and Norm Bailey during the Cannon Valley Trail bike outing. The Red Cross Bloodmobile welcoming donors. Lutheran Campus Ministry student leaders considering the chess moves in the ULCH courtyard (LCM students are making good use of our outdoor space these season). Claire S. drops off food donations during God's Work, Our Hands.

Bracing Ourselves with the Body of Christ

My folks recently did a little upkeep on our fences. Partly it was for the love of the new-ish dog in our household. Partly, I suspect, it was their desire to do whatever they could—anything, really—to help us in this intensely hard time. Some of the fences needed height, and one in an especially odd location between two garages needed braces. I arrived home to find this industrious pair pouring new cement footings and bolting in diagonal braces to achieve this stability.

Like that wooden fence along our back alley, I'm bracing myself. As we move more deeply into the fall with the potential confluence of COVID-19 and seasonal flus, I'm bracing myself. As the harm done to Black and Brown bodies at the hands of those sworn to protect continues, and as we're all learning more about racialized trauma, I'm bracing myself. As the financial upheaval sinks in and the gap between those who have and those who have-not widens, I'm bracing myself. As storms pummel the southeast and fire rages in the west, I'm bracing myself. As we move steadily toward the election and all this moment means, I'm bracing myself.

Bracing can take a lot of different forms: There's the bracing that happens when we grab hold tightly and refuse to be moved. That may appear to be the bracing that's needed. It, however, has a rigidity that may not serve us well in this time of deep change and honest soul searching. Rather, I'm leaning into a bracing that is both grounded and flexible, that can sway with the winds and yet doesn't topple, doesn't lose its footing. We are learning so much right now: strength, limits, support systems, grace, forgiveness, racial competency, resilience, epidemiology, mental health, the power and vulnerability of Christ's body. It's this knowledge that I pray grounds us in these times. It's clear that fear and hatred could be our brace. But why not lean into Jesus? Why not make Jesus' example of brave hospitality and authentic community the brace we choose?

In recent weeks I've savored the backyard services we've shared. Small groups have come together, wearing our masks, keeping our distance in a wide circle, often bundled against the cool evening. We've prayed, heard again God's Word, and lingered for a time to see one another in the flesh. I've found these gatherings to be stabilizing, renewing.

Through the late summer, nearly every household in our congregational faith community has been contacted. How are you doing? Are you feeling connected? What would strengthen these connections? Ann Agrimson and Muffi Abrahamson organized a cadre of callers (thank you!) and we are now following up with all that we learned from you. This learning ranged from updated contact information, to family grief, to need for critical resources or support.

At the same time, the new community photo directory is coming together! Watch for news in the coming weeks of how to pick up a directory or request that your directory be sent to your home or computer. The directory will include a photo component and also an updated listing of names and contact information that can be refreshed easily in the future. With everything happening, we wondered if we should go ahead with the directory. We opted to continue because we believed that in these times we need one another more than ever—connecting names and faces, faith and support, is essential and a brace. A huge thanks goes to Kristin Tangen, Susan Carlson, Karen Jorstad, Granger Whitney, Paige Whitney, John Hensrud and Nathan Obrestad for making this directory a reality.

Dear ones, in these incredibly hard times, more than ever, we need one another. I love when you stop by church, honoring the COVID procedures and our limited availability, and yet giving a distanced air hug, catching up briefly, venturing to the sanctuary or chapel. We are the body of Christ. I pray that you are coping. And I know sometimes that doesn't seem possible. Please stay in touch—call each other, send a note, schedule a time to safely connect, pray. In Christ's body, brace yourselves.

-Pastor Jen (cell 612-227-9673, jenn@ulch.org)

Worship & Music

We'll hold a short midweek service on Zoom twice this month - Wednesdays October 7 and 21st at 7:00 p.m. These services use images to guide us through prayer, singing, and silence. It's a short service and good spiritual nourishment for your week. The zoom link appears in the Thursday Epistle.



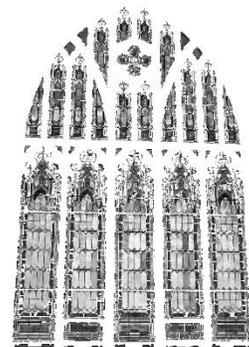
Early next month we celebrate the festival of All Saints. On November 1, we give thanks for all the saints of God, living and at rest. Though the service will be on Zoom, we will offer space in the sanctuary for prayer and candle-lighting the weekend of All Saints. Stay tuned in the Thursday Epistle for details about this. And, as is our yearly ritual, we will name the saints who have died in the past year in our community. If you would like to add names to this list that will be read aloud, please email Pastor Jen (jenn@ulch.org).

-Zach Busch, Minister of Worship and Music

Accompanying our Unsheltered Neighbors

The housing crisis in Minnesota has reached epidemic proportions and the number of encampments across Minneapolis and St. Paul continues to grow. Every night nearly 1,600 Minnesotans are sleeping outside, a consequence of gross inequities and a lack of access to mental health and addiction resources. This is a moral failure on the part of our community and one that has been exacerbated by the COVID19 pandemic. A moral response is needed, one that includes direct service, spiritual care, and political engagement.

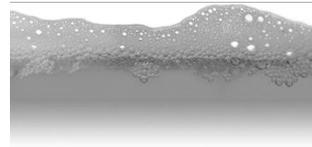
In September, we helped our neighbors without shelter, who had been living on the church's patio, to move along from the church grounds in preparation of the start of PEASE's school year and made some good connections with local organizations and individuals supporting those without access to housing. At University Lutheran Church of Hope, we are continuing to discuss the ways we can best accompany our unsheltered neighbors in Dinkytown. On God's Work Our Hands Sunday, we gathered donations for distribution to our neighbors, and in September we met twice to begin to build a strategy for meaningful engagement and service. These conversations are just beginning, but we need your input. We will continue to host conversations about this work and will post Zoom info in the Thursday Epistle. Keep an eye out for these meetings, and please plan on joining us to discern our role in supporting our neighbors. If you have any questions, please contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org



Mental Health Connect

University Lutheran Church of Hope is part of Mental Health Connect. Did you know that Mental Health Connect offers a free and confidential mental health navigation line, open from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday? They have trained volunteers and staff answering the phone. Each navigator has lived experience with mental health challenges and will provide individual resources for the caller. You can call for resources to serve you or your family/friends. 612-312-3377.

Bible & Brews October 26th at 6 p.m.



Exactly what it sounds like...Bring your Bible and favorite brew to share for a laid-back conversation about scripture, the church, current events, and of course...beer! Weather permitting, we will gather around the fire pit at Nick Tangen's house (1939 Pierce St NE, Mpls 55418). Watch the Thursday Epistle for any updates about location. BYOB and BYOFM (Bring your own facemask). See you there!

Children's Ministry at University Lutheran Church of Hope Sunday Mornings at 9:30 a.m.

On Sunday mornings, children PreK-5th Grade are invited to join us for a short Zoom check-in and discussion. We'll do some highs and lows, read the Gospel reading for that Sunday, and play a game. We are always looking for strong readers to help share the Gospel story, and for creative adults who have engaging ideas for virtual gathering, so if you or your kiddo is interested, please contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

We have also distributed a family devotional for use at home. This devotional corresponds to the readings we will read together on Sunday mornings and offers some creative ideas for engaging scripture, prayer, and life at home. You can also access this devotional on the ULCH website on the Children & Families Page.

The Children's Ministry Team would love to hear from you about how best to serve you and your family during the pandemic. If you have any thoughts, comments, or suggestions about how we can support you during this time, please contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

Centering Prayer Thursdays at 11 a.m.



Paul's Letter to the Galatians – Bible Study

Even though we are unable to gather in person, we will continue to gather for a time of silence and prayer every Thursday at 11 a.m. on Zoom. Check the Thursday Epistle for links and any scheduling conflicts.

A consistent meditation practice has been shown to reduce daily stress, increase overall health and wellbeing, and reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety. Centering Prayer accomplishes these benefits, though is primarily a practice of resting in relationship with God. The impact of the practice is felt most profoundly in our daily lives, often in the ways mentioned above. Join us for a time of silence and loving presence. Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring,^[k] heirs according to the promise. – Galatians 3:28-29

Join us on Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m. through October 28th for an exploration of Paul's Letter to the Galatians. We will learn about Galatia, Paul's theological thinking, and what this work has to say to us today. It was in his commentary to this letter that Martin Luther most clearly articulated his thinking on justification by faith, and we will also focus on this Lutheran witness to the Gospel as we read and discuss. Links to the Teams Meeting will be posted in the Thursday Epistle. If you have questions, contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

Confirmation Sunday-October 25

Our Confirmation Students (Poonam Morgan, M'taleni Nashandi, and Seneca Brooks) will affirm their baptisms on October 25 during our 10:30 a.m. Zoom and live streamed worship. Yes, this includes sharing faith statements! In recent years we have begun a tradition of "marking up" bibles with favorite verses and adding our prayers as a gift from the congregation. COVID-19 makes this a little complicated. This year we will give them each a video gram (i.e. a video message comprised of lots of short messages from all of you) and a Bible (with verses and notes, compiled from you). You are invited to participate in one of these ways:

1. On a phone or computer make a 10-20 second video, a) naming your favorite bible verse or bible story, b) saying why you like it, and c) offering a greeting to the confirmands. Send this little video to Zach Busch at zachb@ulch.org by Oct. 18. Talk with staff if you need help with the video. We'd love MANY contributions.
2. Tell Pastor Jen (612-227-9673 or jenn@ulch.org) your favorite Bible verse or Bible story and she'll underline or notate in the gift Bibles.



Food Packing at The Sheridan Story

Help Pack Food with The Sheridan Story. The local congregations with which we partner for The Sheridan Story will take a turn packing food on Thursday, October, 22, 1:00-4:00 p.m., at the Roseville warehouse.

Could you help? Please sign up individually but know that other church folks will be there, too. Here is a link that explains their COVID-19 practices. At the end of the information there is a link to sign up to volunteer: <https://www.thesheridanstory.org/volunteer-health-safety/> Volunteer Opportunities > October Daytime Food Packing > October 22, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Talk with Pastor Jen if questions.

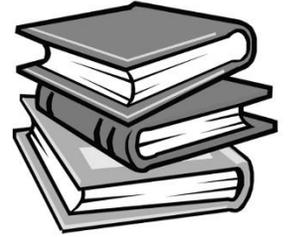
Hope Song Garden

University Lutheran Church of Hope now has a Song Garden! The garden at the corner of 6th St. and 13th Ave. SE now includes the song "What We Do," written by Tim Gustafson with his bandmate Mark Pedelty of the Ecosong project. How, you may well ask?

Working with community partners and Minneapolis neighborhoods, the Ecosong team has been creating "Song Gardens." Ecosong matches a community artist, band, or ensemble with a local garden. The artist(s) compose a piece for the garden. After that, the song is recorded, the title of the garden song engraved on an aluminum plaque, along with a QR code linked to the song. The plaques are "planted" in their respective gardens so that visitors to each Song Garden can listen in.

Song Gardens are symbolic of the way that artists, activists, gardeners, landscape designers, scientists, small business owners, residents, policy makers, and public servants can work together to create environmental justice and steward biodiversity. These artists, neighborhood groups, the Engagement Hub of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota, Metro Blooms, and Ecosong have worked together to make the Song Gardens possible. Our garden, representing the Marcy Holmes neighborhood, is one of four so far, along with gardens in Northeast Minneapolis, Riverside Plaza, and the U of M.

Hope Book Club



On October 11th, 7-8:30 p.m., the Hope Book Club will discuss *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, by Carson McCullers. “What do a 14-year-old-girl, a deaf mute, a carnie, an aging black doctor and a restaurant owner have in common? See how their lonely hearts intersect in a small Georgia mill town in the 1930s.”

https://www.oprah.com/oprahsbookclub/the-heart-is-a-lonely-hunter-by-carson-mccullers_1/all

The Book Club will meet in the ULCH Lounge and follow social distancing guidelines. Please wear your mask. Nov. 8th: *Native: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God*, by Kaitlin Curtice. Recommended by Gayle Bidne. Contact Sonja Peterson with book suggestions or questions at 612-242-8711 or speterson@dunnwald.com
“Books are a uniquely portable magic.” –Stephen King

Sunday Forums Return

Reorganizing the Sunday Forums as virtual programs is a bit challenging. How many will join? Do we have the entire tech needed to pull this off? What format might work the best?

We began on September 20 and 27 and we now look into October with programs on funeral planning with Pastors Jen and Barbara. The Racial Justice group will take the lead on the 4th Sunday of each month. So you can plan to join a presentation or discussion on racial equity on those weeks.

Watch the Thursday Epistle each week for more details on the programs for the upcoming Sunday. We will begin on the same Zoom link that is being used for Sunday worship on that Sunday, so you will be able to join the Forum from 9:30-10:15 and stay on for worship. Hope you will join us.

Life Events

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

Marriages—We pray for all those preparing for marriage, and for all relationships of commitment. 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 the Mebust and Wong families at the death Walter Terence Wong, husband of Anna Mebust, son-in-law of Kirsten and Bruce Mebust, dad of Elise and Zoe; and Steve and Shelley Jutila at the death of Steve’s mother Alice “Virginia” Jutila.

Significant Illness—We pray for those living with illness, cancer, recovery, uncertain diagnosis, hospice, chemical dependency and other addictions, and mental health struggles, including Oswald “Mutt” Doure and infant granddaughter Danai, Steve Ganzkow-Wold, 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. The folks on our birthday card list include members and friends who are 80 yrs and older. We may also include people who may be homebound, caregivers, or living in care centers or assisted living situations. If you'd like to have a current address directory mailed to you, please contact Nathan 612-331-5988 or email nathano@ulch.org

OCTOBER:

Oct 11 Karen Lindesmith

Oct 20 Terry Hanson

Oct 25 Arloene Stevens

Oct 27 Janet Booe

Oct 31 Gerald "Jerry" Johnson (he)



Welcoming New Members

In the coming month or so we'll welcome new members into the community of faith we call University Lutheran Church of Hope. If you are curious about membership and what this means, please talk with Pastor Jen at jenn@ulch.org or 612-227-9673

Riverside innovation Hub

University Lutheran Church of Hope is in its second year of a two-year learning and grant program with the Riverside Innovation Hub through Augsburg University. The work of this learning cohort focuses on what it means to be public church, particularly in relationship with young adults.

The RIH Team at University Lutheran Church of Hope focused on listening and community engagement with our neighbors in Dinkytown for year one, hosting listening posts and coordinating engagement events with neighborhood leaders and stakeholders. In year two the team will create a podcast meant to gather and share stories from our community and will explore ways to respond to immediate needs amid the COVID19 pandemic. We are also learning together with a number of other congregations doing similar work with the Riverside Innovation Hub, including New City Church and Redeemer Lutheran Church.

If you are someone who is interested in building relationships, in sharing the gifts of ULCH with the surrounding community, and challenging the church to step beyond its own walls, please consider lending a hand to this important work. Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org for more information.

Marcy Holmes Neighborhood Association COVID-19 Task Force

Through the summer a group of neighborhood stakeholders have been preparing and launching the Marcy Holmes Cares Campaign, an effort to gather and distribute information about resources, services, and connections related to COVID-19 relief and assistance. In October the Task Force will take part in a neighborhood art event at Elwell Park, distributing information, homemade and disposable masks, and yard signs.

You can learn more about this effort on the Marcy Holmes Cares FB Group Page and at https://www.marcy-holmes.org/covid_19. If you are interested in helping to coordinate a neighborhood-wide response to the pandemic, or would like to volunteer to make masks, distribute materials, or hand out yard signs, please contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

A Visitor Update and Thank You to John Setterlund

for his dedicated service to the *Hope Visitor* as a co-editor. Nathan Obrestad will be stepping in to do the layout beginning with this edition. For those who contribute, there will be a new deadline each month for submitting articles. You will be reminded of the deadline 1 week prior to the deadline each month.

Donna Neste, Co-editor of the Visitor

Racial Justice: Rolling Waters Fund Updates

Thanks to the on-going generosity of Hope members and friends, during the past month the Racial Justice Team was able to select the following organizations to receive grants from the recently established Rolling Waters Fund. These organizations are dedicated to justice or healing work and administered by people of color.



Round Two

- **Juxtaposition Arts**
A business in North Minneapolis - focused on providing job skills and mentoring to young people.
- **Better Futures Minnesota**
A non-profit that works with men just out of prison by providing jobs and support.
- **Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center**
A social and educational services organization committed to the holistic growth and development of American Indian women and their families.
- **Street Voices of Change**
An advocacy organization headed by current or recently homeless men under the umbrella of Downtown Churches to End Homelessness.
- **The Congregational Organizer for Racial Justice position at the Minneapolis Area Synod**
This entirely grant funded position is currently held by Brenda Blackhawk

Round Three

- **African Development Center**
The Center, located in South Minneapolis, helps African immigrant communities grow businesses, build wealth, and increase reinvestment
- **Masjid al-Nur**
This mosque serves its neighborhood by providing a home meal delivery service and medication delivery for households in North Minneapolis.
- **Redeemer Center for Life**
A nonprofit outgrowth of Redeemer Lutheran Church, the Center focuses on youth training, attainable housing, and workforce development in the Harrison neighborhood of North Minneapolis.
- **Wyman AME Church**
The mission of Wyman AME in North Minneapolis. is to “minister to the social, spiritual, and physical development of the community.” Its social justice activities include homeless/housing resources and a prison ministry.

To enable these grants to continue, 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.

October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 11:00 AM Zoom - Centering Prayer 6:30 PM AA Group - Courtyard	2 6:00 PM LCM Retreat in Courtyard - Setup/Takedown 1/2 hour before/after	3 5:00 PM LCM Retreat in Courtyard - Setup/Takedown 1/2 hour before/after
4 9:00 AM Lutheran Campus Ministry - Courtyard/Lounge 9:30 AM Zoom: Sunday Forum 9:45 AM Zoom: Sunday School Check-In 10:30 AM Worship - Zoom and Livestream, with Blessing of Animals	5 9:00 AM Zoom - Quilters	6 11:00 AM Zoom - Staff Meeting 1:30 PM Zoom: Sunday Forum Team 6:30 PM Zoom - MHNA Land Use Committee 6:30 PM Zoom - Personnel Committee 7:15 PM Zoom - Executive Committee	7 9:00 AM Zoom - Galatians Bible Study 3:00 PM Skype - Laura P. Music Lessons 6:00 PM Lutheran Campus Ministry - Courtyard - Setup/Takedown 1/2 hour before/after 7:00 PM Zoom: Evening Service-Prayer Around the Cross 7:30 PM Zoom: Choir	8 9:30 AM Zoom - Dorcas Circle 11:00 AM Zoom - Centering Prayer 6:30 PM AA Group - Courtyard 7:00 PM Zoom: Worship Planning Team	9 7:00 PM ZOOM-Crafters' Group	10
11 9:00 AM Lutheran Campus Ministry - Courtyard/Lounge 9:30 AM Zoom: Sunday Forum 9:45 AM Zoom: Sunday School Check-In 10:30 AM Worship - Zoom and Livestream 7:00 PM Zoom - Book Club	12 9:00 AM Zoom - Quilters 1:00 PM Gratitude and Generosity Collating 5:30 PM PEASE Community Foundation	13 11:00 AM Zoom - Staff Meeting	14 9:00 AM Zoom - Galatians Bible Study 3:00 PM Skype - Laura P. Music Lessons 5:30 PM Zoom - Compassion Care Team 6:00 PM Lutheran Campus Ministry - Courtyard - Setup/Takedown 1/2 hour before/after 6:00 PM Zoom - Facilities Team 7:00 PM Zoom: Choir	15 11:00 AM Zoom - Centering Prayer 6:30 PM AA Group - Courtyard	16	17 10:30 AM ULCH Biking on the Gateway State Trail
18 9:00 AM Lutheran Campus Ministry - Courtyard/Lounge 9:30 AM Zoom: Sunday Forum 9:45 AM Zoom: Sunday School Check-In 10:30 AM Worship - Zoom and Livestream 12:00 PM Confirmation Class Time	19 9:00 AM Zoom - Quilters	20 11:00 AM Zoom - Staff Meeting 4:00 PM Zoom - Sanctuary Coalition Meeting 6:30 PM Zoom - Vision & Governance Board Visitor Articles Due	21 9:00 AM Zoom - Galatians Bible Study 3:00 PM Skype - Laura P. Music Lessons 6:00 PM Lutheran Campus Ministry - Courtyard - Setup/Takedown 1/2 hour before/after 6:00 PM Zoom - Children's Ministry Team Meeting 7:00 PM Zoom: Evening Service-Prayer Around the Cross 7:30 PM Zoom: Choir	22 11:00 AM Zoom - Centering Prayer 1:00 PM Food Packing at The Sheridan Story 6:30 PM AA Group - Courtyard 6:45 PM Zoom: South Minneapolis Hope Connections Small Group	23 7:00 PM ZOOM-Crafters' Group	24 7:00 AM PEASE Pancake Breakfast Pick-up in Parking lot 10:00 AM Zoom - Oblates Centering Prayer
25 Reformation Sunday 9:00 AM Lutheran Campus Ministry - Courtyard/Lounge 9:30 AM Zoom: Sunday Forum 9:45 AM Zoom: Sunday School Check-In 10:30 AM Worship - Zoom and Livestream, with Confirmation	26 9:00 AM Zoom - Quilters 6:00 PM ZOOM-Bible & Brews	27 11:00 AM Zoom - Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Zoom - Racial Justice Team	28 9:00 AM Zoom - Galatians Bible Study 3:00 PM Skype - Laura P. Music Lessons 6:00 PM Lutheran Campus Ministry - Courtyard - Setup/Takedown 1/2 hour before/after 6:00 PM Zoom - Sanctuary & Immigration Team Meeting 7:00 PM Zoom: Choir	29 11:00 AM Zoom - Centering Prayer 6:30 PM AA Group - Courtyard	30	31

President's Report

Many of us are feeling heightened anxiety in this particularly unsettling time. We are stepping into our third season of physical distancing, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to take lives and is a determining factor in our everyday life. We are in angry disbelief that God-created diversity such as race and gender is still being used to divert basic human rights and to perpetuate inequality and injustice. We are frightened by the mind-bending trajectory of climate change threatening the delicate life of our planet. We are grasping to make sense of a disintegrating political climate that is struggling to find a way back to its moral compass.

In these unsettling times, we are challenged to embrace the teachings of our faith. I would like to share with you a compelling Franciscan benediction that Sonja Peterson read at the September Vision and Governance meeting. This prayer affirms our faith that in all times and places God is walking with us and challenging us to live our days in the tension of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Tim Abrahamson

A Franciscan Benediction

May God bless you with a restless discomfort

about easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,
so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.

May God bless you with holy anger
at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.

May God bless you with the gift of tears
to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, hunger, and war,
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness
to believe that you really can make a difference in this world,
so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.

Amen.

Benevolence Giving:

Our current capital campaign, *Revealing Hope*, concludes at the end of January 2021. For this current campaign, the congregation committed to distributing 7% of the funds raised to ten benevolent causes outside of ULCH. The Vision and Governance Board would like to allocate funds to six organizations in addition to the four already chosen (Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities, University Area Sanctuary Coalition, The One Fund, and the Lutheran Church of Nigeria). We invite you to submit organizations for consideration so that these funds reflect the cares of our congregation.

Please use the link in the Thursday Epistle to fill out the form online, or send a message to Brady Wilmer (brady.m.wilmer@gmail.com) with the following information:

- (1) Your name
- (2) The organization you would like to receive funds
- (3) Where to find information on this organization (ideally a website)
- (4) Why you want to support this organization (2-3 sentences)

Brady Wilmer, Vision and Governance Board





Financial Report

August 2020 and Year-to-Date Income and Expense						
	Aug. Actual	Aug. Budget	Aug. Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	33,188	40,583	(7,395)	334,391	327,167	7,224
Rental Income	551	12,516	(11,965)	75,674	100,124	(24,450)
Special Income	-	-	-	134	-	134
Total Income	33,739	53,099	(19,360)	410,199	427,291	(17,092)
Salaries & Benefits	27,489	29,947	(2,458)	237,784	246,572	(8,789)
Total Expense	53,707	51,861	1,846	417,646	431,938	(14,292)
Net Operating Income	(19,968)	1,238	(21,205)	(7,447)	(4,648)	(2,799)

General giving totaled \$33,118 for the month of August. General giving is \$7,395 less than budgeted. As month-end was on Monday, a portion of the August 30th general giving was deposited in September. Year-to-date general giving totaled \$334,391, \$7,224 more than budgeted. Rental income totaled \$551, under-budget as the August PEASE Academy rent was deposited in September. Overall, rental income is lower due to fewer daily parking tenants and decreased income from use of facilities. Income for the month totaled \$33,739 contributing to a total year-to-date income of \$410,199, \$17,092 under-budget.

Expenses totaled \$53,707 for the month of August. Salaries & Benefits totaled \$27,489, slightly under-budget. Year-to-date, expenses total \$417,646, \$14,292 under-budget. We had a net operating loss of \$19,968 for the month and \$7,447 year-to-date due to timing of deposits. In September, I expect our variance to be corrected. As of August 30, we have \$347K in current assets – primarily composed of our checking and savings account (including the Payroll Protection Program funds).

In August, we received \$7,482 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 me 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 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

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
Rev. Barbara Johnson

Minister of Worship &

Music:

Zach Busch

Minister of Faith in

Community:

Nicholas Tangen

Church Administrator:

Nathan Obrestad

Financial Administrator:

Kari Olson

Custodians:

Geremew Beshah
Gus Gustafson

Childcare:

Gus Gustafson

Working in partnership with Lutheran Campus Ministry

Rev. Kate Reuer Welton

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