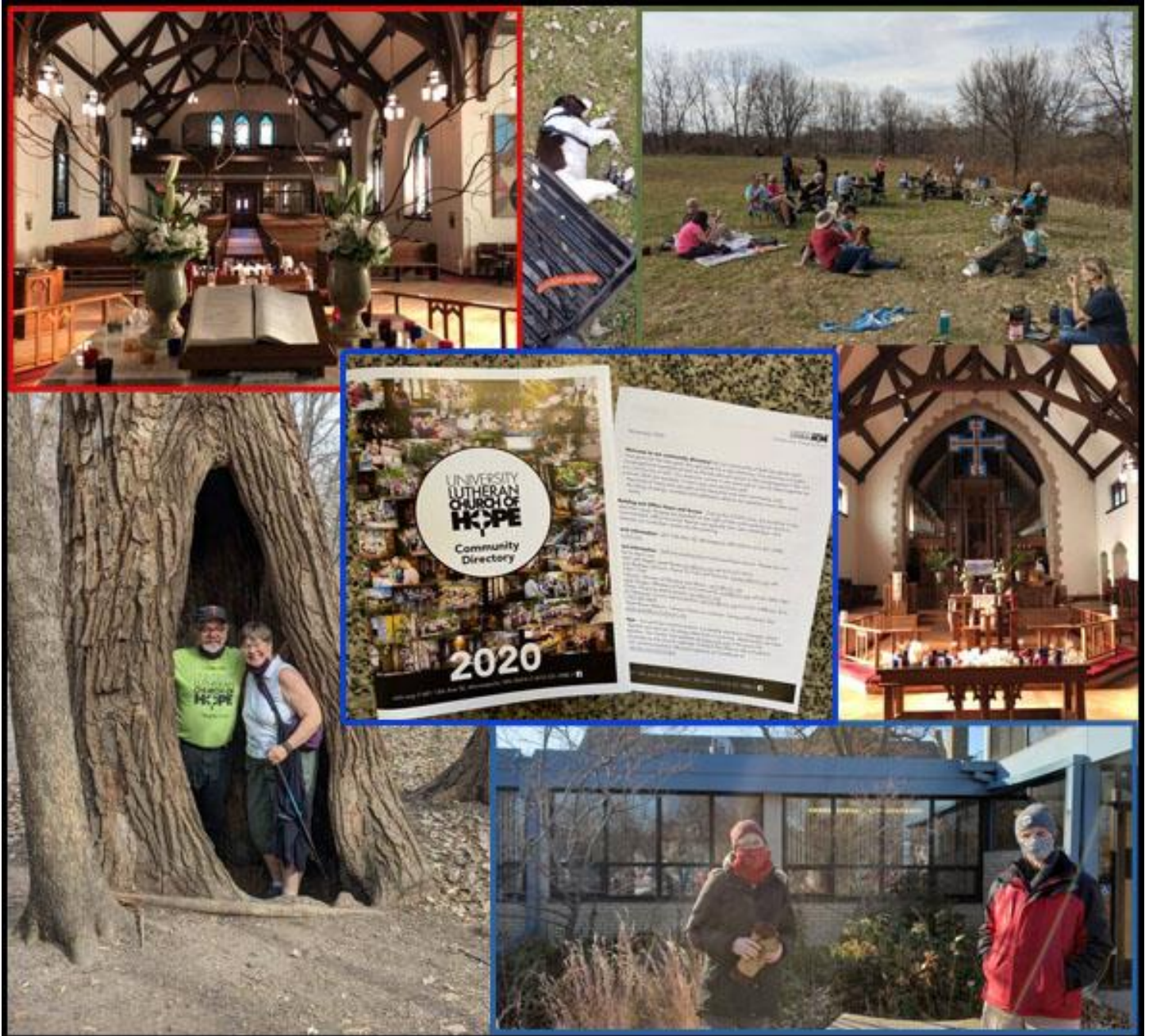


Complex world. Thoughtful church.

December 2020
No. 16-12



Clockwise from Top Left: All Saints weekend. Hiking (and resting and fellowshiping) at Fort Snelling State Park. All Saints candle lighting. Pastor Jen and Uli Koester at the start of a distanced walk. Tim and Ann Gustafson during the Fort Snelling hike. (Center) Community Photo Directory! On the left is the picture directory, on the right is the directory of names and number/emails/addresses.

A Savior Is Born to You

The best of art expresses the deep mystery of life. One of our newer pieces at Hope is this luminous collage by Michael Torevell called *A Savior Is Born to You*. In this striking piece, the artist invites us to look closely at his use of color and space to deepen the message within.

In this intimate portrait, meek and mild Mary, dressed in scarlet red, cradles her sleeping infant son Jesus, wrapped in a gleaming white cloth. They are surrounded by a colorful patchwork of place, under a layered blue heaven, all lit by a phenomenally bright star. The colors in this portrait—particularly the almost electric blue, the scarlet red, and the pure white—are so intense that we're led to wonder what they might mean.



A Savior Is Born to You
Michael Torevell, 2018
*O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice now draw near*

Spiritually, blue—here in the brilliant night sky and reflected in a body of water at the foot of earthy hills—signifies the healing power and presence of God, the Holy Spirit, the living waters of baptism, the heavens, and truth.

Often, Mary is pictured in a blue cloak; but, here she is robed in scarlet red. The Hebrew word for red is *oudem*, which means both *red clay* and *flesh* and is the root word of *mankind*. Here, the artist clothes Mary in the garment of humanity. Red also represents the blood of Jesus, shed for our atonement and salvation, and signifying the love of God.*

The baby Jesus is swaddled in dazzling white, the same white as the illuminating star-phenomenon in the sky. White signifies purity, blessedness, and light. We are learning to be careful when considering the meaning in the color white, as *white* has been culturally co-opted as synonymous with *caucasian*, even though caucasians' skin pigment is far from the color white. It's incredible to ponder the fact that white light actually contains every color of the rainbow combined, favoring no color over another—a most powerful symbol of purity, blessedness and illumination.

Another thing we notice here is that Mary stands smack dab in the center, and as close as she can be to us, her eyes peer directly into ours. This is about as intimate a moment as we can have with a woman who is standing in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago, holding in her human embrace, Jesus, the greatest of God's gifts: a Savior born to you—a Savior born to us all.

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ~ Luke 2:11 ~*

On behalf of Arts and Environment, have a blessed Christmas!
Muffi Abrahamson

**Biblical Meaning of Colors*, by Jacob Olesen

Heavy



Heavy. That's the word that's been coming to me lately. I might prefer something a bit lighter, less weighty and intense. I reconsidered this word a number of times. Admitting this heaviness, felt heavy in itself. Does naming it add a burden?!

And then I hear the news, you do, too. The numbers are rising, and dramatically. And behind every number is a person and a whole orbit of folks who love and support them, folks who depend on them. Behind every number is a cadre of health care workers laboring in love and fear and wisdom.

After worship yesterday, as people chatted on Zoom, the voice of a mom rose above the others: "Our daughter tested positive." A number of you have had this experience with a loved one, or with yourself. As I write, some have loved ones who are hospitalized and others have beloveds recently released from the hospital and now home recovering. Concerns that felt to many far off some months ago, have become real and tangible this late fall.

This heaviness I sense is certainly related to COVID and the numbers, the isolation and newest mandates by the governor. It's also the anxieties of our nation as the presidential transition unfolds, as the racial reckoning continues, and as the financial stress of those who have and those who do-not-have is exacerbated. On top of this, many of us face personal challenges—loss and grief, mental health, addiction, and plenty more. These are complex times.

To me, right now, life feels heavy. Despite my own resistance, my own desires for something lighter, heavy is my word. It's the best I can muster in this intense time. At a recent Vision and Governance Board meeting, Matt Fry led our devotions. Matt began the devotions by inviting us to respond to a prompt using an electronic poll that forms our responses into an instantaneous word cloud. Matt asked us how we

were feeling that evening and you can see here the responses from most in our group.



My little heavy is alongside plenty of tiredness, a sweet sense of being loved, and a mix of other end-of-the-day honesty. Community is a beautiful thing, for we can so powerfully buoy one another, not denying our own experience, but sharing it. In a time like this, with anxieties blowing like the wind, it can be hard to name and claim how we are. Some days will be easier, some will be harder. The space to honestly name this is vital to coping, and it's also essential to being Christ's community.

These days I'm leaning into Jesus' words in Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." This baby Jesus whose birth we await, comes not in some neat and tidy ease, but rather in a time of oppressive politics and deep need. Our God takes on human flesh as an act of love, of solidarity, of redeeming grace. The angels sing, "Do not be afraid," and remind us of God's power especially in these heavy times.

Later in the devotion, Matt asked us what we are hoping for this season. Here's what we said:



I'm grateful for these hopes, this trust that we share. You and those you love are in my prayers this Advent and Christmas season. What a privilege to walk together. May peace reign. May hope live. May Christ be born in us anew. -Pastor Jen

Music and Worship

Advent expectation be yours—this pregnant season is once again upon us. And the forced circumstances of the continuously burgeoning pandemic position us for a unique Advent season.

Let us first remember: We are not alone. We may be isolated, but each of us carries the Christ light.

Let's also remember: Black lives are beloved. And in a season of traditional imagery about light being good and darkness being bad, it's extra helpful to remember this.

I invite you ardently into this season. Remembering back to Lent and Holy Week (in many ways a sibling season to Advent and Christmas Eve) we circulated a "toolkit" for how to make space for the season in your home. Seeing your engagement with this toolkit, and the excitement and meaning you found in creating a holy space in your home, was very moving to me. We have put out a similar toolkit for Advent, and I hope you find it useful. It serves especially to hold hands with our Advent theme, *Finding Home*. You'll see there pictures of the Advent wreath I've assembled in my home, right next to the piano in my newly arranged "studio" which is, in general, a spiritual place for me. I would love to see pictures of your wreaths and the sacred spaces you've prepared and are using.

We gather this season each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. to pray Jason Lukis's *Seeking Refuge* liturgy (from which the phrase "Finding Home" comes).



This is a great time to be in our in-home sacred space. And we worship as normal on Sunday mornings on Zoom or YouTube live stream at 10:30 a.m. Christmas Eve we worship on Zoom or live stream at 4:00 p.m. No worship Christmas Day – but be sure to light the middle candle on your wreath and sing that fabulous verse of "O Come All Ye Faithful"...

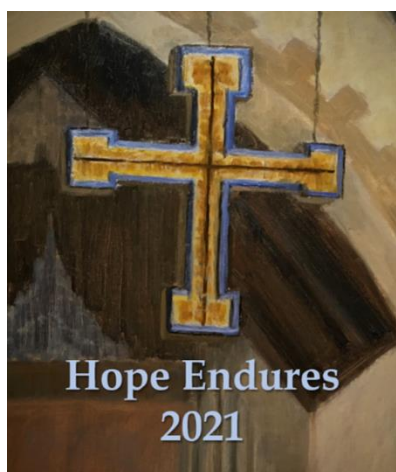
*Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!*

As 2020 draws to a close, I pray that, across the tumult of this year, you have found some hope to hold on to. You are loved and cherished by God. God hopes in you.

A closing thought from poet Jeannette Lindholm (quoting Julian of Norwich, too):

*All shall be well, and all shall be well.
Within this grace the promise and the
blessing dwell: Emmanuel.*

Zach Busch
Minister of Worship and Music



Hope Endures!

Hope Endures! Thanks for your pledges to the 2021 annual ministry fund. In November we blessed these pledges, and we know a few more are still to come. Thank you. It's not too late to pledge. Contact the church office with any questions you may have. Pledging helps our leaders make wise and faithful decisions for our ministry in the upcoming year. We are deeply grateful for your commitment. Hope Endures.

Memorial Service for Swan Johnson



Swan Johnson died in November from complications after a severe brain injury after a fall at home in late October. Swan is Pastor Barbara's husband.

A Memorial Service will be held for Swan on Saturday, December 5 at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom and live streamed to YouTube. The Zoom links are available to the congregation in our usual communication. YouTube can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdafm2u6o-lbK4tLBZNEtGg>

Cards or notes of condolence can be sent to Pastor Barbara at home at 1396 County Road C East, St. Paul, MN 55109-1035. Barbara is taking some weeks of family leave. Memorials may be directed to the Solar Fund. Checks can

be written to ULCH, memo: Solar Fund.

We give thanks to God for Swan's life and faith, and we pray for the Spirit's comfort and peace for Barbara.

“Your People Will Be My People”

An Advent Study on the Book of Ruth
Monday Evenings 7:00 p.m. &
Wednesday Mornings 9:00 a.m.

*Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God. – Ruth 1:16*

The 2020 PCYC Reimagined Children's Gift Sale!

It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes, or bags. -Dr Seuss

This December, Plymouth Christian Youth Center will distribute gift cards to current PCYC families. These can be used for food or gifts. All donated funds will be divided among eligible families. Please donate to the Children's Gift Sale by 12/8, either on line at pcyc-Mpls.org or by check, note Gift Sale in the memo line, mailed to 2210 Oliver Ave N, Minneapolis MN, 55411. Financial contributions in any amount are welcome and needed!

In Advent, our theme is Finding Home. In that spirit, we will journey through the Book of Ruth focusing on questions of ethnicity, immigration, and what it means to call a place home. Each week we will read through the biblical text and reflect on other writers, articles, and reflections on the theme Finding Home. Join us if you are able! We will make the readings available even if you are unable to discuss on Monday evenings or Wednesday mornings. Zoom links for the study will be posted in the Thursday Epistle and sent to the assembled group each week, along with a shared Google Folder for additional resources. Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

Welcome, New Members!

On November 22nd we welcomed new members into the community of Christ at University Lutheran Church of Hope. They are included in the new directories. Please welcome them well, even in this virtual life. The new members are:

- Kalee Dawson, sponsor Marty Lewis-Hunstiger
- Kerry Pearson and Patrick Colombe, sponsors Kelly and Randy Brooks, and Seneca
- Jason and Danae Lukis, Anja, Junia, Ezra and Cedar, sponsors Yesenia Morales Bahena and Jose Sanchez Campos

Sunday Forums on Zoom - 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Our Sunday Forums continue into December through the Zoom link that is also the link for the Sunday worship. We have been pleased to see a steady number of attendees. Join us!

Our programs for December are:

December 6 University Lutheran Church of Hope member, Rev. Doug Mork, is speaking about a newer initiative in our city for which he is the executive director: *Building Dignity and Respect Standards*. They seek to assure fair wages and safe working conditions in building quality residential construction. For all his adult life, Doug has been involved with advocacy and organizing for justice. This promises to be an enlightening and inspiring conversation.

December 13 Nick Tangen, our Minister of Faith in Community, will bring us up to date with the work of AMMPARO, a holistic, whole church commitment by the ELCA, as a church in the world, to accompany children today and in the future. We will also learn about the Minneapolis Area Synod Sanctuary in the Twin Cities.

December 20 The Racial Justice team will continue with a monthly program toward the goal of enlarging the conversation around racial equity. Watch the Thursday Epistle for more specifics.

December 27 No Sunday Forum

Bring It Home Minnesota - Beacon Rally

On Sunday November 15th eight Hope members, Pastor Jen, Ann Agrimson, Rosalie Eldevik, Karen Jorstad, Ann Lee, Ann Beane, Sonja Peterson and Donna Neste (forgive me if I missed anyone) joined over two hundred participants in a Beacon rally to kick off their 2021 campaign for housing, "Bring It Home Minnesota." One important factor is that we were joined by eleven Minnesota lawmakers committed to the issue of housing for all. This coming legislative season, Beacon members and congregations will be working to pass legislation for immediate and long-term solutions to end homelessness. Please be a part of this campaign, by signing up to take actions during this legislative session. You may email Donna Neste at d_nestea@yahoo.com in order to get on her Beacon Actions list in which you will be asked to call, write or email your state lawmakers about up-coming legislation. Or go directly to the Beacon web site: beaconinterfaith.org/get-involved/ to sign up.

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 years 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

Our sincere apologies and belated greetings to our November birthday folks:

Nov 16 Ron Sorenson
Nov 25 Carmen Macoskey
Nov 28 Granger Whitney

Dec 7 Jerry Hanson - She will be 95 years young!
Dec 15 Julie Johnson
Dec 17 Jeanette Haltli
Dec 31 Doug Solseth

Hope Community Directory

It is complete and it looks great with all your beautiful and vibrant smiles! The new directories have two parts: a picture element, and a listing of names and numbers/emails/addresses that can be more easily and often updated as our community grows and changes.

We encourage you to keep them together, for they function as a whole. How can you get a directory?

- Pick it up during these weeks early in December by stopping by the church during office hours, weekdays 9-2 p.m. Could you pick up the directory for a nearby friend or neighbor and drop it off? That would help a lot!
- Listen for announcements about specific Sundays and other times when directories can be picked up.
- Call or email Nathan at 612-331-5988 or ulch@ulch.org and ask to have yours sent by mail.
- After a pick up period, remaining directories will be sent by mail.
- Electronic pdfs of the directories will also be available by email from the office.

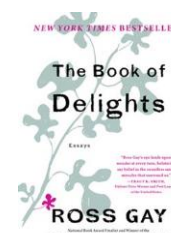
The directories come to you at no cost, but donations are welcome. Direct donations to the church (check or online giving), memo: community directory. In the coming weeks we will find a fitting way to thank the directory organizers especially Kristin Tangen, Susan Carlson and a number of volunteers. Watch for more! They've done amazing work!!

Hope Book Club

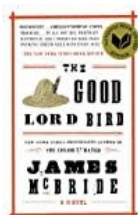
On December 13th at 6:00 p.m., the Hope Book Club will have a Zoom Book Club meeting to discuss a delightful book for the Holidays:

December 13: *The Book of Delights*, by Ross Gay

“A genre-defying book of essays . . . that record the small joys that occurred in one year, from birthday to birthday, and that we often overlook in our busy lives. His is a meditation on delight that takes a clear-eyed view of the complexities, even the terrors, in his life, including living in America as a black man; the ecological and psychic violence of our consumer culture; the loss of those he loves.”
- www.goodreads.com



January 10: *The Good Lord Bird*, by James McBride.



“McBride offers a fresh perspective on abolitionist firebrand John Brown in this novel disguised as the memoir of a slave boy who pretends to be a girl in order to escape pre–Civil War turmoil, only to find himself riding with John Brown’s retinue of rabble-rousers from Bloody Kansas to Harpers Ferry. . . . Outrageously funny, sad, and consistently unflattering, McBride puts a human face on a nation at its most divided.”

Please contact Sonja Peterson if you’d like to join us and she will send you the Zoom link. Please also send Sonja your book suggestions at 612-242-8711 or speterson@dunnwald.com

Centering Prayer – Thursdays at 11:00 a.m.

But [Jesus] would withdraw to deserted places to pray. – Luke 5:16

Following the lead of Jesus, we gather on Zoom on Thursday mornings at 11:00 a.m. for a time of silence and holy rest. Centering Prayer is a silent method of meditation that prepares our faculties for the gifts of contemplation. We will read a short reflection together and spend 20 minutes in silent meditation. You are most welcome! Zoom link can be found in the Thursday Epistle each week. Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org.

Bible & Brews – December 28th 6:00 p.m. on Zoom

Exactly what it sounds like...Bring your favorite brewed beverage and a thirst for good discussion to Bible & Brews on December 28th at 7:00 p.m.. A Zoom link will be posted in the Thursday Epistle, and you can also request the link by emailing Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org.

Children's Ministry on Sunday Mornings Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

Each Sunday morning, we have set aside a short time for kids in PreK-Grade 5 to meet for conversation, study, and a lot a bit of fun. Amid COVID19 and the challenges of juggling online school and isolation, we know what a challenging time this is for families with young kids. Our goal is to ensure that each young person at University Lutheran Church of Hope has the opportunity to connect with other kids and adults from the congregation. Zoom links can be found in the Thursday Epistle and the Sunday Morning worship email.

Our Sunday School teachers have such a dedication to the kids of this congregation, and are grateful for the opportunity to hang out with these amazing kids and learn about the love of God in Jesus. So...Thank You!

What support can our team of leaders and educators provide for you and your family at this time? Are there questions, practices, or resources that could be useful? Let us know by emailing Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org.

Rolling Waters Fund Update

At their October meeting, the Racial Justice Team selected two additional social justice/community development organizations to receive grants from Hope's Rolling Waters Fund:

- [Makoce Ikkicupi](#) A Project of Reparative Justice The mission of this organization in greater Minnesota is to reconnect Dakota people to their homeland through land recovery in Minnesota Makoce and the establishment of culturally-oriented and self-sufficient Dakota communities.
- [NEON Business](#) Northside Economic Opportunity Network NEON's vision is to transform North Minneapolis and the surrounding area into a prosperous, visible, sustainable, and highly-diverse multi-cultural community of entrepreneurs.

Our New Capital Campaign - "Opening Doors"

Our New Capital Campaign kicks off February 1, 2021. "Opening Doors" celebrates our physical building whose doors welcome us in and send us out. Look for a letter to come by U.S. mail in December as well as an email with a short video explaining more about the theme and how the capital campaign supports the mission of the church. Mark Nelson and Karen Westwood co-chair the effort and welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

Help us build hospitality packets for unhoused neighbors

ULCH is working together with various Southeast and Dinkytown groups (Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association, Arvonne Fraser Library, and area churches) to provide some concrete help for our unhoused neighbors.

Collecting hygiene supplies, clothing, and food items for giveaway packets is one of those initiatives. If you can do so, please bring any/all of the following items to Nick Tangen's office:

- toothbrushes
- small toothpastes

- small combs or brushes
- small shampoos
- nail clippers
- small deodorants
- small talcum powders
- small liquid soaps
- socks (ankle- or crew-length)
- gloves (Target has inexpensive knit ones)
- hats
- scarves
- granola bars
- protein bars
- small raisin boxes
- small nut packets
- cheese/cracker or peanut butter/cracker combos
- quart- or gallon-sized ziplock bags

Thanks so much. Questions? Contact Lynette Lamb at lynettelamb2@gmail.com or 612-618-5782.

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. We give thanks for the birth of a daughter Tehillah Tansiye Randaviba to Sylvia and Pastor Naphtali Randaviba from St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Jos, Nigeria.

Marriages—We pray for all those preparing for marriage, and for all relationships of commitment.

Deaths—We pray for all who grieve the loss of loved ones, including Zach Busch and his family at the death of Zach's grandfather Vern Hillesland; Pastor Barbara Johnson and her family at the death of Barbara's husband Swan (see the notice for Swan's Memorial Service on December 5); Dick and Gretchen Peik at the death of Dick's cousin Steven; and Judy and David Ranheim at the death of Judy's aunt Eleanor Michaelson.

Significant Illness—We pray for those living with illness, cancer, recovery, uncertain diagnosis, hospice, chemical dependency and other addictions, and mental health struggles, including Stewart Herman, Oswald "Mutt" Doure and infant granddaughter Danai, Steve Ganzkow-Wold, Jack Parry, Steve Schreuder, 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.

From Gayle Bidne: “Thank You for the Zoom Farewell!”

Thank you to all who participated in any way in the Zoom farewell. It was fantastic to see all of your faces again. I miss you! To the speakers, I am grateful for your kind and affirming words. It was my honor to represent the congregation at the north entrance as guests and many of you arrived.

I have saved all the cards you sent back in May. Thank you for those and the gifts at that time. With this “second” farewell, I thank you again for the cards and gifts. I especially want to thank you for the monetary gift, the pottery bowl, and the uniquely and beautifully woven dish towels given to me. Andrew and I found places to use both daily.

It has been a blessing to me to be an employee of such a wonderful congregation. Your values match mine perfectly: being part of the sanctuary movement, working on racial justice and immigration issues including DACA and rights for undocumented persons, and economic and environmental justice. What a gift to me to have these values in common!

I will treasure all the memories and keep you in my heart. I wish the people of Hope and the congregation the very best. I watch the livestream each week after our services.

Blessings and salaam/shalom,
Gayle Bidne

P.S. Jimmy John’s has removed their employment non-compete policy. There is no need to feel guilty about orders of their sandwiches.

P.P.S. The closing of my correspondence converts to “Blessings and peace.” Salaam and Shalom, as many of you know, are the Arabic and Hebrew words for peace. It indicates my prayer and hope for peace for Jewish and Islamic countries, especially as it relates to the Palestinian and Israeli people.

Hope Church Trust Solar Loan and Grants

Yes, it’s true. The Hope Church Trust just loaned \$145,000 to the church for funding the new solar array, and added a cash grant of \$10,900 to boot. Together the loan and grant will cover around 75% of the church’s cost for installing the solar array.

This was a ground-breaking event for the Trust. But after careful consideration, due diligence, and with an attorney’s assistance, the Hope Church Trust Board saw this as an opportunity to assist the church in a special way, providing a loan at a lower-than-market rate of 3.5%, along with up-front cash. Not only that, but the church will be able to repay the whole loan within fifteen years from the savings and credits created by the solar array itself, essentially freeing up more cash for the church’s general budget. The Trust, in turn, will be diversifying its investment portfolio. There may be some short-term financial sacrifice for the Trust, but the gain for the church overall was deemed worth it. It may sound confusing to speak of the Trust and church separately; legally, they are in fact separate entities. But the church owns the Trust, so in the end, we’re all one with a common mission.

The Trust has been a special University Lutheran Church of Hope asset for nearly forty years, providing grants for everything from youth work and children’s ministry to art, kitchen supplies, the ULCHers, Hope choir, racial justice support, building improvements, and much, much more. Gifts to the Trust from memorials, donations, and legacy gifts over the years have built the Trust into a key resource for Hope’s ministries.

Soon the next round of applications for grants will begin and will continue through January. For those interested in applying for a grant in 2021, go to the Hope website for an application form. Applicants can send questions or submit the application by email to mandlmorse@comcast.net.

Happy Advent from the Hope Church Trust Board!

Norm Aaseng, Meri Hauge, Leena Haugland, Scott Hvizdos, Lynette Lamb, Merrill Morse, Robyn Swenson

Annual Meeting

Please add to your calendar our congregation's annual meeting. It will be held via Zoom on February 21, 2021 after worship. More information will be provided closer to the meeting date.

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 1st Sunday of Advent 9:30 AM Zoom: Sunday Forum 9:45 AM Zoom: Sunday School Check-In 10:30 AM Worship - Zoom and Livestream	30 9:00 AM Zoom - Quilters 7:00 PM Bible Study (Ruth) - Your People Will Be My People	1 11:00 AM Zoom - Staff Meeting 6:30 PM MHNA Land Use Committee 6:30 PM Zoom - Personnel Committee 7:15 PM Zoom - Executive Committee	2 9:00 AM Bible Study (Ruth) - Your People Will Be My People 7:00 PM Zoom: Advent Evening Service 7:30 PM Zoom - Choir	3 11:00 AM Zoom - Centering Prayer	4	5 9:00 AM Zoom: UASC Retreat 2:00 PM Memorial Service for Swan Johnson (Zoom & Live Stream)
6 9:30 AM Zoom: Sunday Forum 9:45 AM Zoom: Sunday School Check-In 10:30 AM Worship - Zoom and Livestream	7 9:00 AM Zoom - Quilters 7:00 PM Bible Study (Ruth) - Your People Will Be My People	8 11:00 AM Zoom - Staff Meeting 1:30 PM Zoom: Sunday Forum Team	9 9:00 AM Bible Study (Ruth) - Your People Will Be My People 5:30 PM Zoom - Compassion Care Team 6:00 PM Zoom - Facilities Team 7:00 PM Zoom: Advent Evening Service 7:30 PM Zoom- Choir	10 9:30 AM Zoom - Dorcas Circle 11:00 AM Zoom - Centering Prayer 6:30 PM AA Group	11 7:00 PM ZOOM-Crafters' Group	12
13 9:30 AM Zoom: Sunday Forum 9:45 AM Zoom: Sunday School Check-In 10:30 AM Worship - Zoom and Livestream 6:00 PM Book Club	14 9:00 AM Zoom - Quilters 5:30 PM PEASE Community Foundation 7:00 PM Bible Study (Ruth) - Your People Will Be My People	15 11:00 AM Zoom - Staff Meeting 4:00 PM Sanctuary Coalition Meeting 6:30 PM Zoom - Vision & Governance Board	16 9:00 AM Bible Study (Ruth) - Your People Will Be My People 6:00 PM Children's Ministry Team Meeting 7:00 PM Zoom: Advent Evening Service 7:30 PM Zoom- Choir	17 11:00 AM Zoom - Centering Prayer 6:00 PM Zoom - SE Como Hope Connections Group 6:30 PM AA Group	18 **"The Visitor" Articles Due	19
20 Intergenerational Lessons and Carols Service 9:30 AM Zoom: Sunday Forum 9:45 AM Zoom: Sunday School Check-In 10:30 AM Worship - Zoom and Livestream	21 9:00 AM Zoom - Quilters	22 11:00 AM Zoom - Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Zoom - Racial Justice Team	23 7:00 PM Zoom: Advent Evening Service	24 11:00 AM Zoom - Centering Prayer 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship on Zoom and Live Stream	25 Church and Office Closed 7:00 PM ZOOM-Crafters' Group	26 10:00 AM Oblates Centering Prayer
27 9:45 AM Zoom: Sunday School Check-In 10:30 AM Worship - Zoom and Livestream	28 Office Closed 9:00 AM Zoom - Quilters 6:00 PM ZOOM-Bible & Brews	29 Nathan in 9 AM-2 PM 11:00 AM Zoom - Staff Meeting	30 Nathan in 9 AM-2 PM 6:00 PM Zoom - Sanctuary & Immigration Team Meeting	31 Nathan in 9 AM-1 PM 11:00 AM Zoom - Centering Prayer	1 Church and Office Closed	2

President's Report

Dear friends in Christ, The final approvals from Xcel Energy for the engineering and power grid interconnection agreements are now completed for our 52 kilowatt rooftop and 38 kilowatt canopy arrays. As we have been waiting for months for Xcel to finish this work, we can now celebrate this milestone and look forward to seeing the more tangible parts of construction. We are close to breaking ground for our ULCH solar project. In early December, our contractor will install the footings for the carport canopy, which will be adjacent to the north side of the building and the main parking lot. These footings will provide the structural base to support that part of our solar array. Solar panels, inverters, and other components can now be ordered, scheduled for delivery, and installed. The next couple months will see a flurry of activity, as we hope to complete this project by the end of January.

Our planet is facing an existential crisis manifested by increasing temperatures around the globe. In 2020, the hottest recorded temperature was 130°F in Death Valley, California. Hurricanes, flooding, droughts and wildfires have become common daily news. Climate scientists have sounded the alarm: in order to preserve life as we know it, it is imperative we humans reduce the amount of carbon that we produce and unleash into the atmosphere. Our solar array, according to the EPA, will in its first year save 80.4 metric tons of carbon from being sent into the atmosphere. Another way to look at this is our solar production will be equal to the yearly consumption of either 88,618 pounds of coal burned, 9,050 gallons of gasoline consumed, 13.6 households electricity use, or 186 barrels of oil burned. We are entrusted to be good stewards of God's glorious creation. Our congregational decision to produce clean energy by building a solar array is a critically important step toward reducing our building's carbon footprint and creating a more sustainable future. Thank you for your commitment and support for Hope's solar project!

Tim Abrahamson
Congregational President

Sanctuary & Immigration Team Meeting Dec 30th at 6:00 p.m.

University Lutheran Church of Hope's Sanctuary & Immigration Team will continue to plan and strategize a path forward in 2021, amid COVID19 and following a very consequential election for immigrant and immigration policy. We will discuss our congregation's role in direct service, church wide sanctuary conversations, and the public square. If you would like more information, or would like to be a part of this important work, please contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org. A Zoom link for the December meeting will be sent to each team member and those requesting.

Advent in the Time of COVID

Thanks to Nan Knutsen for leading a late-November session looking toward the season of Advent. Nan offered helpful Advent reflections for any year, but particularly encouraged us to use the opportunities Advent presents this season when many are sheltering at home and the pace of life has shifted. Did you miss the session? Here's a link to view the recording: <https://youtu.be/9AiswOwxz1M>

Treasurer's Report

October 2020 and Year-to-Date Income and Expense

	Oct. Actual	Oct. Budget	Oct. Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	36,131	40,583	(4,452)	404,043	408,333	(4,290)
Rental Income	9,898	12,516	(2,618)	104,289	125,155	(20,866)
Special Income	120	-	120	254	-	254
Total Income	46,149	53,099	(6,950)	508,586	533,488	(24,902)
Salaries & Benefits	25,209	29,947	(4,738)	300,589	306,465	(5,877)
Total Expense	47,481	52,217	(4,736)	513,454	536,193	(22,739)
Net Operating Income	(1,332)	882	(2,214)	(4,868)	(2,705)	(2,163)

October Financials

General giving totaled \$36,131 for the month of October, \$4,452 less than budgeted. Year-to-date general giving totaled \$404,043, \$4,290 under the budgeted amount. Rental income totaled \$9,898 in October. Overall, rental income is lower due to fewer daily parking tenants and decreased income from use of facilities. Income for the month totaled \$46,149 contributing to a total year-to-date income of \$508,586, \$24,902 underbudget.

Expenses totaled \$47,481 for the month of October. Year-to-date, expenses total \$513,454, \$22,739 underbudget. We had a net operating loss of \$1,332 for the month contributing to a net operating loss of \$4,868 year-to-date. As of October 31st, we have \$338K in current assets – primarily composed of our checking and savings account (including the Payroll Protection Program funds).

Capital Campaign – Revealing Hope

In October, we received \$11,059 in Capital Campaign contributions. The current Capital Campaign is winding down – ending in January 2021. In February 2018, we began this campaign aimed at dedicating funds to pay the life of the mortgage (*expires in April 2027*) and fund special projects around the church. Mortgage payments year-to-date total \$113,270, of which \$82,734 was applied to the principal balance (*\$744,467 as of 10/31/20*). In the current year, the building fund subsidized the mortgage payments by \$69K. We look forward to distributing benevolences to several organizations in the next couple months. 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.

Payroll Protection Program (PPP)

In April, University Lutheran Church of Hope applied and officially secured a Small Business Association (SBA) loan under the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) to cover qualified expenses (salaries and benefits, mortgage interest and utilities). In November, we were officially approved for forgiveness as the: 1. monies were used to cover payroll expenses, mortgage interest and utilities and 2. employee levels were maintained. I am grateful for the stability and consistency the loan provided during these uncertain times.

Year-End Giving

The IRS provides clear guidelines for a contribution to be credited in the current tax year. The contribution must be received on our premises, or postmarked, no later than midnight on Thursday, December 31, 2020. Contributions received by 1 p.m. on December 31st will be brought to the bank that afternoon. If you plan to make an eGiving contribution, please allow an extra four or five days for your transaction to clear in 2020. If Vanco, the processor, does not receive the donation request in time, the contribution may be dated in 2021. Please reach out to myself or Nathan Obrestad (nathano@ulch.org) if you have any questions.

Office hours after Christmas:

Monday, December 28th – Closed

Wednesday, December 30th – 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Tuesday, December 29th – 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Thursday, December 31st – 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Executive Committee alongside the Vision and Governance Board 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.
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