

Complex world. Thoughtful church.

January 2021  
No. 17-01



**Clockwise from Top Left:** Though we couldn't be in the sanctuary for Christmas Eve worship, many stopped in for prayer and reflection during the days before Christmas-thanks to Lisa Morse for beautiful decorating. Sally French says, "Hello!" from her doorway. Pauline Hendrickson changing the seasonal colors in the sanctuary. Practicing physical distance while collating the Visitor-thank you! Supplies and resources for use by our unsheltered neighbors.

## Madonna and Child with Crown of Flowers

One of Hope's newer art pieces is *Madonna and Child with Crown of Flowers*, a giclée print of a painting by Patricia Brintle. Mary is sitting on a grassy hill holding her young son Jesus, who seems to be dancing to what we might imagine is his mother's song. He joyously waves a crown of flowers clutched in his tiny hand as the day begins to break over the hills. At first glance this picture seems to capture a simple, intimate moment in the bond of love between mother and child. But as we look further, complex symbolism begins to emerge.



Painted with the vibrant colors of the artist's birthplace, Haiti, we notice that Mary is dressed in colors of spiritual significance: red, representing humanity and Christ's blood shed for our atonement, and blue, signifying the presence of God, the living waters of baptism, heaven, and truth. Young boy Jesus is clothed in a flowing tunic of spring green, the color of perennial newness of life.

Beyond these bold colors, it may be the intense blackness of Mary and Jesus' skin that first grabs our attention. Across time and culture, artists have depicted Mary and Jesus to reflect their own ethnicities. But here the artist has deliberately chosen to not delineate Mary and Jesus' tonal facial features. We might imagine that their absolute blackness is here to call our attention to an essential truth: no matter time, culture, or skin tone, Jesus is universal. Jesus is for us all.

Looking closely at the composition, we notice the space is compact. Calm Mary sits so close to us that her body and cloak extend outside the picture, while Jesus, even closer, is in complete view and buoyant with vitality. We see the steep hills nestling the blue sky, almost like an earthen cup holding holy water. The sky illuminates mother and son's silhouettes, highlighting the bond of relationship.

And what about the crown Jesus holds? It may prompt our awareness that the sweet crown of flowers of the carefree child-Christ, dressed in a robe the color of new life, will one day become the crown of thorns of the crucified man-Christ, stripped of his robe and hung on a cross to die. And new mother Mary, here sitting on a hillside with her lively little boy, will witness, on another hill, Jesus' sacrificial death. And she will also know that her firstborn son's passion and resurrection has broken a profoundly new dawn of astonishing salvation.

A blessed Epiphany to you from Arts and Environment.

Muffi Abrahamson

## Thank You from Pastor Barbara

I want to express my deep gratitude for the prayers and notes of care, the flowers and support I have received from the members and friends of University Lutheran Church of Hope during my husband Swan's hospitalization, and since the time of his death. My thanks to Pastor Jen, all of my colleagues here on staff and to our ministry leaders who reached out to offer care and nurture while I was away for several weeks. It is a gift to be able to be back at work since December 20, and I look forward to reconnecting via phone, email and Zoom until it is safe to gather once again.

Pastor Barbara

# Seeing One Another

I recently read the editor's note in a random magazine that I savor when I have snippets of time. The editor framed her article with the title *Our Holiday Party on a Page*, and went on to describe an imagined holiday office gathering replete with toasts and thanks. It went something like this: "(Clinks glass.) Can I have your attention? (Stands on a chair in corner of bar in order to see everyone.) Time for some toasts. I want to take a minute to appreciate you all as we put this delightful December issue to bed..."

It was imagined. Completely imagined. And yet that article—and really that rhetorical style—has stuck with me: The little stage cues (clears throat to tamp down shaky voice). The way she so vividly imagined what she'd say. The intermixing of gratitude and grief and hope. Frankly, their magic worked, for I felt like I knew this editor as a leader and a woman, this community of staff as a multi-generational, diversely-gifted group stuck in some of the same tensions so many of us share in this particular season.

Our University Lutheran Church of Hope staff doesn't typically gather for a staff party until January, sometime in Epiphany when Christmas has quieted and we come up for air. And we don't meet at a bar, but rather we're small enough to relish being in one another's homes, sharing favorite foods potluck-style, sometimes playing a game. (Last year we were at Swan and Barbara's home, and that time with Swan has been on my mind these hard months.) And we don't typically do toasts, or at least not in this style, but the sentiment remains.

So, in this season of Epiphany, when we celebrate how God reveals God's very self to the world, I'm thinking about how we *see one another*, and how we see Christ in one another. What toasts would I make? How would I honor the labors, the love? And not only with the staff, but, really, this whole beautiful and broken and often-gangly community—those I "see" regularly in worship, those who pop in occasionally, those who support

our ministry with gifts and prayers and hands and tears?

I see you, Hope, and the ways you keep showing up, even when this virtual-life is getting tiring. I'm amazed, honestly, at the strength of this community and the really deep ways we've found to be faithful

and human together this year. There's a sweetness and a fondness that I so appreciate: asking the hard questions, leaning into real faith, stretching, resting, trying again. Some can join in on Zoom or YouTube, others don't have this technology or simply are not finding these platforms life-giving, that's real, and also seen and honored. The phone works, too and we're finding ways to connect. Yes, I'm tired, we all are, and yet I sense a vitality for which I thank God daily.

I see you, Hope staff. There is no other staff I'd rather weather a pandemic with than ours. Even when it feels like a lot, it's a gift to be a team: From Zach's well of creativity, to Nathan's willingness to learn new things and pitch in. From Barbara's wise compassion, to Kari's learning and juggling. From Nick's faith practices and passion, to Geremew's lilting Ethiopian Orthodox prayer chants as he mops bathrooms and sanitizes surfaces. Hope staff, I witness God working in you and through you literally every single day.

(Wiping away the tears, taking a big deep breath, looking around, seeing one another.) Here's to what God is doing in you and in me. Here's to the weariness, and the trust that God will give us what we need for today, and for tomorrow, too, no matter what we'll face. Here's to the Spirit's power at work, calling us to ventures of which we cannot see the end, giving us faith to go out with good courage, leading us and supporting us. You are in my prayers. Thank you for your prayers. Please don't hesitate to reach out as needed.



Pastor Jen

## Music and Worship

Happy New Year! God's mercies are new every morning, especially these bright, crystalline mornings of early January when possibility is on the horizon.

Heartfelt thanks to all who helped lead this community in worship, prayer, and praise during the Advent and Christmas season. Hope Choir's diligent weekly work to record their voices to lead the hymn singing is at the top of this list. So, too, are all our worship volunteers - tech facilitators, lectors, assisting ministers, greeters, decorators. Spirit makes a happy home here among us. And a grand thank you to Jason Lukis for leading us in evening prayer during Advent with his liturgy *Seeking Refuge*.

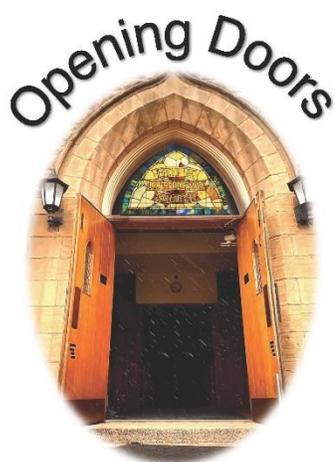
This month, though quieter, affords us the opportunity to let light shine on all that surrounds and is within us. We go with joy into the season of

Epiphany. Join us for Prayer Around the Cross on Wednesday evenings January 6 and 27 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. And as always, join the feast on Sunday mornings at 10:30 on Zoom or YouTube.



In 2021, let us remember how far we have come, let us remember who and what we have lost along the way, and let us look always toward the shining cross, that great Star, that shows us the way in this world. God is great. God is with us.

Zach Busch  
Minister of Worship and Music



## “Opening Doors” Capital Campaign Begins!

University Lutheran Church of Hope’s next Capital campaign, “Opening Doors” was introduced to the congregation by letter in early December. January will bring the big reveal of a fun, yet moving video, temple talks, special music during worship, and an opportunity to make a pledge for another 3 year commitment. The campaign runs from February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2024.

Funds raised from the capital campaign are instrumental in helping pay down the mortgage and capital improvements such as adding updated video and audio tools to enhance online services and eventually in-person worship, renovating the historic main sanctuary doors, making improvements to the downstairs kitchen, and replacing hallway lighting with energy-efficient fixtures. There is a lot of buzz being generated around this capital campaign and all that will be accomplished. The Opening Doors Capital campaign committee members would be happy to talk with you about how the church building welcomes us and the community in, and sends us out into the community and how maintaining and improving our building keeps the doors open to so many possibilities. Stay tuned in January for more information and check our website at <http://www.ulch.org/openingdoors> regularly for pledging materials and a link to the video.

Opening Doors Capital Campaign Committee

Deb Bordsen, John Bablitch, John and Ann Beane, Jack Dant, Garvin Davenport,  
Mark Nelson (co-chair) and Karen Westwood (co-chair)

# Sanctuary & Immigration - Donate Gift Cards to Support Immigrant Neighbors

In this time of transition from 2020 to 2021 and in our federal government, asylum seekers, immigrants, refugees, and people in sanctuary are experiencing an increased sense of the dangers of deportation and also losses of jobs and income related to ICE activity. We would like to stir up a blizzard of gift cards to help with food and household supplies. You can purchase a gift card from Aldi, Cub Foods, or Visa and get it to Nick Tangen who will see that it goes to a friend in need.

## Support for the Alvarez-Gutierrez Family

A dear friend of the congregation and his family are in the midst of some very complicated and frightening immigration proceedings. While they meet with lawyers and await results, the family could use some support. Here are a few ways you can help right now. **Both of these opportunities are still ongoing.**

**Meal Train** - One of the most pressing needs now is for prepared meals for the mother and two daughters. Please consider providing a meal to this incredible family. You can sign up here <https://mealtrain.com/z15k56>

**GoFundMe** - Consider supporting this family by donating to this GoFundMe, which is raising funds for a long court battle, legal fees, and living expenses. Every dollar helps this family to continue the fight to reunite with their beloved father, brother, and spouse. Thank you! **You can donate here** <https://gf.me/u/zaf964> **You can also help by sharing this GoFundMe with your circles, and on your social media. Thank you!** If you have questions, please contact Nick Tangen at [nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org)

## Accompanying Unsheltered Neighbors

Over the last few months, a group of Southeast Minneapolis neighbors and organizations have been meeting about developing a strategy for accompanying our neighbors without shelter. In November, we placed a porta-potty in the north parking lot to accommodate folks in the neighborhood who face an increasing lack of access to facilities. We have also been gathering and assembling materials and resources to distribute to neighbors in need, as well as imagining options for drop-in days where neighbors without shelter could receive food and hygiene items, have access to facilities, charging for electronics, and other options.

Do you have some interest in helping to make this great ministry an even stronger effort? Please contact Nick Tangen at [nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org).

## Friendly Visitors

Before this year ends, we extend our warmest appreciation to the Friendly Visitors who have continued throughout this year to keep in contact with our homebound members through phone calls and plant deliveries. We hope it brought some cheer to an isolating year for many of our treasured parishioners as well. A special thank you, to Kathy Kufus, Julaine Kobiske, Nancy Miller, Lynette Lamb

and Sara Tufvesson Doure, who helped select, organize, and deliver Christmas plants to the homebound. We have been blessed with a congregation that places importance in caring for one another through many thoughtful deeds. It brings to my mind the song and confirms the fact that "The church is not the building. The church is the people."

# Sunday Forums in January

We are pleased so many of you have participated in the Sunday Forums. Additionally, in case you missed some or would like to watch one again, check with Nick Tangen ([nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org)) or Nathan Obrestad ([nathano@ulch.org](mailto:nathano@ulch.org)) to get the ULCH private link to the recorded programs. **Most are being recorded.** Also we are aware that it is most courteous to our presenters whenever possible to **have our cameras active** so the presenters can talk directly to us more easily. Thanks.

**January 3 Singing the Story** - Hope member Tim Gustafson and member of the ULCHers will share his song-writing process as well as the stories behind some of the works he has composed for the church community. Come hear how music can give voice to our deepest questions and beliefs.

**January 10 Medical Care in COVID Days** - Hope member Paul Odenbach, MD, will share his experiences as a physician in the time of pandemic. What is it like for medical professionals these days? What have they learned? How can we help? Bring your questions!

**January 17 Story of Hope** - Hannah Sackett, Hope friend and Luther Seminary student, will speak of her life and faith journey and her experience as a seminary student at this time. You may know her as an assisting minister. During these times of COVID, we want to find ways to become and stay connected.

**January 24 Racial Justice** - 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.

**January 31 Lutheran Campus Ministry** - Kate Reuer Welton, Lutheran Campus Minister and partner in ministry with university students, will bring us up to date on how students are managing through this pandemic and bring us on board with the current state of campus ministry. There will be plenty of time for conversation, so please come with whatever questions you're carrying with you about student ministry at the U!

## Happy January and February Birthdays, 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 who are 80 or older. Some members whose names are on our birthday list may be living at home with assistance or reside in a care center or assisted living situation, and some are caregivers themselves. Let's celebrate with them!

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jan 2 Millie Casperson  
Jan 22 Karen Johnson

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Feb 3 Paul Quie  
Feb 24 Jack Parry

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

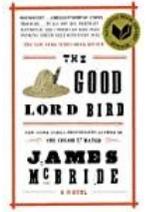
*But [Jesus] would withdraw to deserted places to pray. – Luke 5:16*

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 all welcome! Zoom link can be found in the Thursday Epistle each week. Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at [nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org)

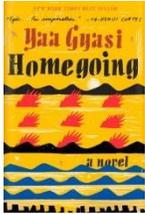
# Hope Book Club

On January 10th at 6:00 p.m., the Hope Book Club will have a Zoom meeting and discuss a book appropriate for our times:

***The Good Lord Bird***, by James McBride. *“Outrageously funny, sad, and consistently unflattering, McBride puts a human face on a nation at its most divided. 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.”* -www.goodreads.com



On Feb. 14 we will be discussing ***Homegoing***, by Yaa Gyasi



Please contact Sonja Peterson if you'd like to join us and she will send you the Zoom link. Also send Sonja your book suggestions at 612-242-8711 or [speterson@dunnwald.com](mailto:speterson@dunnwald.com)

## Children's Ministry on Sunday Mornings 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 of fun. Amid COVID-19 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.

As we enter the New Year, we know that families are continuing to reassess, reorganize, and reimagine what life at home looks like amid a pandemic. 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? If there are particular ways our team of leaders and educators can support you and your family's faith formation and practice, please let us know. Send any questions, suggestions, or concerns to Nick Tangen at [nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org).

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!

## Bible & Brews – January 28<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:nickt@ulch.org).

# The Heir of All Things: Epiphany Study of the Epistle to the Hebrews

Monday Evenings at 7:00pm and  
Wednesday Mornings at 9:00am

*Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. – Hebrews 1:1-3*

During the Season of Epiphany, we will offer a study on the Epistle to the Hebrews, a text considered by many to be one of the most beautiful writings of the New Testament. Hebrews focuses on questions of Christology, or the work of Christ, as well as the perseverance of the early Christian community. We will explore some additional readings and media, and will discuss topics related to Christ's role as redeemer and priest, the call to perseverance in our own time, and the implications of God's grace on the life of the Christian.

This study will be offered twice each week, once on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m., and again on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am. Join in for whichever study is most convenient. We will NOT meet the week of January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Readings and Zoom links will be sent to each study group and posted in the Thursday Epistle each week. If you have questions, please contact Nick Tangen at [nickt@ulch.org](mailto:nickt@ulch.org).

## Youth Group

This has been a challenging time to gather youth who spend their days in distance learning. "Melting into our screens." That's how one family described. We are hearing from families that connecting can be especially tough. Despite it all, we're aiming for these types of youth group connections for our 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders:

1. **Occasional Zoom Gatherings** . . . for those who want to join in. Check-ins, game times, maybe some cookie baking and more.
2. **Monthly (or so) Outdoor Activities** . . . when it's safer. Things like sledding or service projects or a campfire.
3. **Confirmation Class** . . . In a typical year we'd be beginning a new confirmation class. In talking with many of the families, we will delay starting a new confirmation class until fall of 2021. This provides a greater chance for in-person retreats and learning.

If you or a young person you love is curious about youth group (or Confirmation), send an email to Pastor Jen ([jenn@ulch.org](mailto:jenn@ulch.org)) or text 612-227-9673. And do hold these families and youth in your prayers.

Pastor Jen

# 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.

**Deaths**—We pray for all who grieve the loss of loved ones, including Bruce and Rosalie Eldevik, marking the death of Bruce’s cousin Karl; and Ann Agrimson and Tim Gustafson at the death of Ann’s cousin Russell.

**Significant Illness**—We pray for those living with illness, cancer, recovery, uncertain diagnosis, hospice, chemical dependency and other addictions, and mental health struggles, including Ruth Lundquist, 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.

## Rolling Waters Fund Update

The Rolling Waters Fund is Hope’s effort to support BIPOC-led organizations involved in social justice and community development work. Since it was set up last summer in the wake of the killing of George Floyd, through the on-going generosity of Hope members, 19 individual organizations have received Rolling Waters Fund grants. Over the last months we have been receiving “Thank-you” letters acknowledging the grants. Here are excerpts from just a few:

*These funds . . . are absolutely essential to maintaining and enhancing our programs – especially now, as we seek to respond to community and agency emergencies with maximum flexibility and creativity. We are honored that you chose to give to us. Pilamayaye, miigwetch, and thank you from the heart.*

-Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center

*With your support we will continue to create art and create jobs. Truly! Thank you for your donation and your support. Wait until you see what we do next!*

-Juxtaposition Arts

*. . . I wish to express our organization’s deep appreciation for the generous award of \$1,000 by University Lutheran Church of Hope. This support will be of great benefit in building wealth in the African immigrant communities through financial literacy, education, and small business development.*

-African Development Center of Minnesota

*Our work is driven by an ecological model of organizing where we all have a role to play in building power for impactful change with community and systems. Thank you for supporting this important work.*

-Voices for Racial Justice

*We’re currently serving approximately 500 families per day . . . providing each family with groceries, hygiene and paper products, laundry supplies and more. You are fueling our mission and vision and for that we are grateful.*

Sanctuary Covenant Church, Minneapolis

Contributions to the Rolling Waters Fund may be made online via the ULCH website or by check indicating “Rolling Waters Fund” in the memo line.

The Racial Justice Team

# Generosity 2020

As we all recognize, 2020 was an historic year, not all of it in good ways. But there is perhaps a missed slice of special good news. In the midst of economic collapse, job losses not seen since the Great Depression, evictions, food lines, and families and businesses struggling to survive, we saw one of the greatest outpourings of generosity in modern times. Donations for charitable organizations, food shelves, housing support, and, on top of that, social justice, soared. Individuals, organizations, corporations, and government agencies unleashed billions upon billions of dollars for those in need. Tens of thousands of people volunteered to fill food bags, deliver supplies, provide free meals, to be there to support their neighbors, and to imagine and engage in efforts to help end the plague of racism. On top of that, front-line health care workers, care-givers, and first responders literally risked their own lives to help save others. Into chaos, fear, loss, and pain came goodness, kindness, and generosity. Thanks be to God.

In its own small way, the Hope Church Trust is an expression of Hope's desire to be generous. We do it through grants, based on the intentional giving of generations of Hope members. At this time of year, applications for Trust grants are welcomed throughout the month of January. Grants are available for everything from youth work and music to building improvements, from supporting children overseas to mental health programs in the Twin Cities, and much, much more. Over the last 20 years or so, Hope has given away nearly a quarter of a million dollars in grants.

Some years there are more grant requests than there is money available. Some years there is more money available than there are grant requests. In 2020 the Hope Church Trust made a large loan and grant to the church for the solar project. But, with the strong stock market and the continued, faithful giving to the Trust by Hope members, there should still be funding available for 2021 grant-giving. To apply for a grant, go to the ULCH website for an application form, which can be sent to the church or directly to [mandlmorse@comcast.net](mailto:mandlmorse@comcast.net) (also the contact Merrill Morse for any grant-related questions).

May we all be generous – in heart, mind, caring, and giving.

Your Hope Church Trust Board

## Staff Update

Our Financial Administrator Kari is expecting a baby in early January. She will take some weeks of family leave. To cover this leave, we've divided the financial role: Fariba will take care of the weekly and monthly tasks, and Gayle Bidne will do the end of year tasks. Nathan remains the best point of contact about giving and contribution statements. Our congregational treasurer Emma Carpenter and Pastor Jen will remain very connected. Don't hesitate to reach out to Emma, Pastor Jen, or Nathan if questions arise, and please hold Kari and her family in your prayers as they welcome a new beloved one!

## Annual Meeting on February 21

The University Lutheran Church of Hope Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on February 21<sup>st</sup> after the 10:30 a.m. worship, beginning at 11:30 a.m. on Zoom. Clearly, in typical times this meeting happens in person in the Fellowship Hall following a shared meal. Additionally, this usually happens a bit earlier in February. At its November meeting, the Vision and Governance Board voted to adjust our practice in order to meet by Zoom and also to approve this later date of February 21, 2021. The

meeting will include review and thanksgiving for 2020 and then approval of the budget and affirmation of congregational leaders for the coming year. The annual report will be available a week prior to the Annual Meeting. Additionally, on February 14 during the Sunday Forum on Zoom, our congregational treasurer Emma Carpenter will offer a budget review. Please plan to participate. More details to come!

# January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> Church and Office Closed	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:30 AM Zoom: Sunday Forum 9:45 AM Zoom: Sunday School Check-In 10:30 AM Worship - Zoom and Livestream	<b>4</b> 9:00 AM Zoom - Quilters	<b>5</b> 11:00 AM Zoom - Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Zoom - MHNA Land Use Committee 6:30 PM Zoom - Personnel Committee 7:15 PM Zoom - Executive Committee	<b>6</b> 7:00 PM Zoom: Evening Worship-Prayer Around the Cross 7:30 PM Zoom: Choir	<b>7</b> 11:00 AM Zoom - Centering Prayer 6:30 PM Zoom - AA Group 7:00 PM Zoom: Worship Planning Team	<b>8</b> 7:00 PM ZOOM-Crafters' Group	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:30 AM Zoom: Sunday Forum 9:45 AM Zoom: Sunday School Check-In 10:30 AM Worship - Zoom and Livestream 6:00 PM Zoom - Book Club	<b>11</b> 9:00 AM Zoom - Quilters 5:30 PM Zoom-PEASE Community Foundation 6:30 PM Zoom: Gratitude and Generosity Team	<b>12</b> 11:00 AM Zoom - Staff Meeting 1:30 PM Zoom: Sunday Forum Team	<b>13</b> 5:30 PM Zoom - Compassion Care Team 6:00 PM Zoom - Facilities Team 7:00 PM Zoom: Choir	<b>14</b> 9:30 AM Zoom - Dorcas Circle 11:00 AM Zoom - Centering Prayer 1:30 PM Zoom - Gloria Circle 6:30 PM Zoom - AA Group 7:00 PM Zoom: IDI Meeting (Intercultural Development Inventory)	<b>15</b> **"The Visitor" Articles Due	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:30 AM Zoom: Sunday Forum 9:45 AM Zoom: Sunday School Check-In 10:30 AM Worship - Zoom and Livestream	<b>18</b> 9:00 AM Zoom - Quilters	<b>19</b> 11:00 AM Zoom - Staff Meeting 4:00 PM Zoom - Sanctuary Coalition Meeting 6:30 PM Zoom - Vision & Governance Board	<b>20</b> Annual Reports are Due 6:00 PM Children's Ministry Team Meeting 7:00 PM Zoom: Choir	<b>21</b> 11:00 AM Zoom - Centering Prayer 6:00 PM Zoom - SE Como Hope Connections Group 6:30 PM Zoom - AA Group	<b>22</b> 7:00 PM ZOOM-Crafters' Group	<b>23</b> 10:00 AM Oblates Centering Prayer
<b>24</b> 9:30 AM Zoom: Sunday Forum 9:45 AM Zoom: Sunday School Check-In 10:30 AM Worship - Zoom and Livestream	<b>25</b> 9:00 AM Zoom - Quilters 6:00 PM ZOOM-Bible & Brews	<b>26</b> 11:00 AM Zoom - Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Zoom - Racial Justice Team	<b>27</b> 6:00 PM Zoom - Sanctuary & Immigration Team Meeting 7:00 PM Zoom: Evening Service-Prayer Around the Cross	<b>28</b> 11:00 AM Zoom - Centering Prayer 6:30 PM Zoom - AA Group	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9:30 AM Zoom: Sunday Forum 9:45 AM Zoom: Sunday School Check-In 10:30 AM Worship - Zoom and Livestream						

## President's Report, January 2021

Dear friends in Christ, our congregation is blessed to be in a healthy financial position with enough resources to compensate our staff and sustain our ministry within Hope and in the wider community. Our General Fund giving has been extremely consistent this year considering the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are at 99% of what we collectively pledged. This is incredible, and I thank you for your faithfulness!

Many neighboring churches and social justice organizations are struggling in these troublesome and unbalanced times. Because of the present stability of Hope's resources, the Vision and Governance Board passed a unanimous motion on 12/15/20 to give some of our abundance to those in need. We have allocated \$3,600 to Hope's Rolling Waters Fund, which our Racial Justice Team will disperse. We have also given to three churches in North Minneapolis which are addressing critical needs in their communities: \$1,200 to Minneapolis Central Church of Christ, \$1,200 to Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, and \$1,200 to Proverbs Christian Fellowship Church. We continued to support the ministry of the ELCA with \$32,000 this year, so we have increased 2020's annual giving by \$7,200 to \$39,200.

Periodically, we review our financial procedures to help our congregational leaders and staff to follow the best practices in order to assure our members that we are good financial stewards of their resources. We are particularly grateful to the dedicated team on the Financial Controls Commission—Betty Schrueder, Micki Kruse, and Bill Sanden—who during these last few months took a deeper than expected dive to extensively review our church's financial procedures and transactions. They have recommended a number of helpful changes that will make our financial processes more secure and transparent. We are blessed to have such a talented group of people who have gone above and beyond their calling on our behalf.

Tim Abrahamson  
ULCH President



# Treasurer's Report

November 2020 and Year-to-Date Income and Expense						
	Nov. Actual	Nov. Budget	Nov. Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	40,030	40,583	(554)	444,073	448,917	(4,844)
Rental Income	9,569	12,516	(2,946)	114,050	137,671	(23,621)
Special Income	73,800	-	73,800	73,854	-	73,854
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>123,399</b>	<b>53,099</b>	<b>70,300</b>	<b>631,976</b>	<b>586,587</b>	<b>45,389</b>
Salaries & Benefits	26,237	29,947	(3,710)	326,825	336,412	(9,586)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>50,898</b>	<b>51,554</b>	<b>(656)</b>	<b>564,468</b>	<b>587,747</b>	<b>(23,279)</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>72,500</b>	<b>1,544</b>	<b>70,956</b>	<b>67,508</b>	<b>(1,160)</b>	<b>68,668</b>

## November Financials

General giving totaled \$40,030 for the month of November. Year-to-date general giving totaled \$444,073, 99% of the budgeted amount. Rental income totaled \$9,569 in November. Overall, rental income is lower due to fewer daily parking tenants and reduced income from use of facilities. Income for the month (excluding PPP funds) totaled \$49,599, contributing to a total year-to-date income of \$558,177, \$28,411 less than the budgeted amount.

In November, we also recognized the funds received as part of the Payroll Protection Program. Income for the month (including PPP funds) totaled \$123,399, contributing to a total year-to-date income of \$631,976. Refer to "Payroll Protection Program (PPP)" below for additional information.

Expenses totaled \$50,898 for the month of November. Year-to-date, expenses total \$564,468, \$23,279 underbudget. We had a net operating loss of \$1,300 for the month contributing to a net operating loss of \$6,292 year-to-date (excluding PPP funds). Including PPP funds, we had a net operating income of \$72,500, contributing to a net operating income of \$67,508 year-to-date. As of November 30<sup>th</sup>, we have \$496K in current assets – primarily composed of our checking and savings account (including the Payroll Protection Program and Solar Project funds).

### Capital Campaign – Revealing Hope

In November, we received \$12,954 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 \$124,597, of which \$99K was applied to the principal balance (*\$736K as of 11/30*). In the current year, the building fund subsidized the mortgage payments by \$76K. We look forward to distributing benevolences to several organizations in December. 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.

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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## 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

## Vision and Governance Board

### President:

Tim Abrahamson

### Vice President:

Uli Koester

### Past President:

Carol Flaten

### Treasurer:

Emma Carpenter

### Leadership Development &

### Communications:

Tim Abrahamson  
Uli Koester

### Operations:

Emma Carpenter  
Carol Flaten

### Worship & Music:

Matt Fry

### Youth & Young Adults:

Brady Wilmer

### Education:

Shelly Parry

### Hope in the World:

Sonja Peterson

### Relational Ministries:

John Beane

### Board Secretary:

Ann Agrimson

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