

Complex world. Thoughtful church.

March 2021  
No. 17-03



**Clockwise from Top Left:** Uli Koester adds cello music to our Ash Wednesday prayer time in the sanctuary. Pastor Jen’s Sunday morning set up for online worship. A Rapacz family outing on a frigid day: picking up ashes, aloe, craft supplies, the annual report, and library books in preparation for Lent. Niibin is always up for a little snow ball fight! Zach’s prayer for Nick during staff closure. Youth Group keeping it safe and enjoying the courtyard. Rosalie, Bruce, and Sara sharing an elbow bump. Kit Bielenberg slowed but not stopped, savoring time with the youth. (Center) Nick Tangen wrapping up the details in late February.

## Love One Another

Displayed beside Hope’s Fellowship Hall kitchen window is a print on metal by Mexican artist Ivan Guaderrama called *Love One Another*. It is a passionate and hauntingly beautiful interpretation of the Last Supper—the most important of all meals. The artist’s luminous color and his raw, concentrated marks invite us to see anew the paradigm shift taking place within this familiar scene.

We easily recognize Jesus sitting at the center of a long table, flanked by his twelve disciples, all gathered for the Passover feast. In contrast to traditional depictions of this almost 2,000 year ago encounter, the artist immerses the entire scene in a vigorous wash of vibrant color, layered texture, and animated light. The image is stripped down to the bare essentials necessary to portray what is going on here—this is a sacred juncture of vital and timeless importance.



The whole space feels mystical and otherworldly. Floorboards in the foreground indicate that the setting is an interior room. But even the floor is backlit with an unnatural, pervasive light. What we’d imagine to be the room’s back wall seems blown wide open, unbound by physical parameters—dimensionless.

Grounding this ethereal space, earthy brown dabs speckle the floor like messy footprints, reminding us of the fully engaged humanity Jesus and the disciples have shared during their extensive ministry journey together. The footsteps continue as we, too, come to Christ’s table, eat, and step again into our messy lives, Christ’s love always with us.

Set with plates and goblets, the table extends across the room, nearly floating in the luminous

space. Its physical form is barely suggested, inviting us to ponder the remarkable significance of Pastor Jen’s reminder to each of us in our physically distanced homes as we take Holy Communion together: “Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the edgeless table of Christ...All are welcome at this table. *You* are welcome at this table.”

The visual weight anchoring this buoyant table to the messy journey-ground is provided by Jesus and the twelve disciples. Silhouetted against warm rainbow-colored light, they are a unit, a shared humanity expressed through a bold pattern of course black brush strokes. The relationship between them, though, is unmistakable: Jesus is the fulcrum, the heart, the Holy One.

In this sacred encounter, Jesus transforms the Passover feast into the sacrament of Holy Communion. Although the disciples cannot comprehend Christ’s nearing crucifixion and triumph over death, Jesus tells his followers to remember him by receiving his radical gift of this soul sustaining meal: Christ’s living presence in blessed body and blood given and shed for their redeeming—and for ours. With his right hand raised in ceremonial blessing, Jesus charges all his followers with one last profound instruction:

*“A new command I give to you: Love one another.  
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.  
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,  
if you love one another.” — John 13:34-35*

Muffi Abrahamson, Arts and Environment

# Meeting Together, One Way or Another

*“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” -Hebrews 10:24-25*

I write the day after our Annual Congregational Meeting with hopes of sharing with you some of the highlights. I’ve been musing about this little snip of text from Hebrews. In particular I’ve been thinking about that line that bids us not neglect to “meet together”. The Greek word *episunagógé* is translated a gathering together, an assembly. I love how this very intentional meeting together is surrounded by verbs like provoke and encourage.

On Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, our congregation met together. There was a goodly share of encouraging and some healthy provoking to love and good deeds. Of course, we usually do this meeting together following worship over a meal in the fellowship hall. But like we say, extraordinary times, call for extraordinary measures...and this time we met together on Zoom. We reported, we thanked, we voted, we prayed, we cheered, we inspired, we provoked, we encouraged. Here are some highlights and details.

- Let’s be honest, this meeting on Zoom was a first for our congregation. While we’d done something similar this summer regarding solar, in February we had a wide breadth of business to cover. Our meeting began with some good humored and essential practice voting. Thanks to Matt Fry who facilitated our voting and technology, and to a small group of tellers.
- We heard two capital campaign updates. Some of the details are included in this newsletter. We celebrated the conclusion of the Revealing Hope campaign (Feb. 2018 to Jan. 2021) with total contributions of \$446,275, more than \$33,000 over what we’d pledged; benevolence was shared with ten ministries and organizations. We also heard the update on our current campaign (Feb. 2021-Jan. 2024), Opening Doors, led by co-chair Mark Nelson and Karen Westwood and a dynamic team. We celebrated pledges thus far: \$434,433, far exceeding our campaign goals! Thank you!

- We heard an update on solar and anticipate a meeting to hear more in the coming weeks. Our project is delayed because of a contractor issue.
- Congregational Treasurer Emma Carpenter reported on 2020 finances, noting that we finished the year well, thankfully received nearly \$74,000 in PPP funds, experienced far reduced rental income (because of the parking lot and building use), and kept other expenses lower while still maintaining our staffing. We also gave away a total of \$82,557 to the synod and ELCA, Lutheran Campus Ministry, many other programs, and many groups led by the BIPOC community.
- We heard energy about our ministry from the Vision and Governance Board as they shared what moves and excites them.
- We approved the 2021 budget of \$624,473 with some good discussion about benevolence and other clarifications.
- We thanked leaders concluding terms. In particular Carol Flaten concluded three years as vice president/president/past president, John Beane finished up as relational ministries liaison, and Merrill Morse concluded his tenure as chair of the Hope Church Trust. Additionally, thanks were offered to Tim Abrahamson for his leadership as congregational president and to Emma Carpenter as treasurer.
- We elected new leaders with Ann Agrimson coming in as vice president and Uli Koester stepping into the role of president. Some of our leaders are included on the slate of nominees, but many others are part of committees, teams, and ministries which are not included in our bylaws, so aren’t elected at this meeting, and yet give significant time, energy, expertise, and care to God’s ongoing ministry through Hope. Thanks to each of you.
- We recognized staff and passed the torch.



Thanks be to God for ways to safely meet together, pandemic or not, and to be encouraged in the Spirit and provoked to good deeds. I am deeply moved by the way you as a congregation “show up” – steady, generous, faithful, courageous, brave, honest, patient, and led always by greater love. It’s a joy to partner with you in ministry.

-Pastor Jen

# Music and Worship

## Remember

I have a Burt's Bees salve that I use on my hands in the winter time. Its base is almond and olive oils with beeswax, and it contains lavender, rosemary, and eucalyptus oils. The act of applying this to my hands feels ritualistic because the fragrance is so transporting and healing to me. It makes me feel a sense of wellbeing and relief I can't really explain.

This month marks a year that we have been absent from each other's physical presence as an assembly. COVID-19 has ravaged the heart of humankind across the world. It has killed half a million people in this country alone. Each of them entire worlds.

Ann Lee reminded us in her testimony on the first Sunday of Lent of President Joe Biden's words the eve of the inauguration in mourning the pandemic deaths - "To heal, we must **remember**."

*"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return."*

*"Remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord."*

Lots of remembering. I am remembering that my name, derived from the Hebrew name Zechariah, means "The Lord has remembered." I am remembering the sound of silence in the sanctuary after the sermon before the hymn of the day when we would gather. I am remembering my grandparents who are both gone now. I am remembering the magnitude of lost life in the pandemic.

And I am remembering the nails hammered into Jesus' limbs as he was crucified. I am noticing how it is a similar penetrative act - an injection of a needle - that is

protecting and will protect us from more death from COVID-19.

Our theme this season, in this momentous time, is Healing and Renewal. We use the sung prayer "Heal us, Lord" each



week, and we hear testimony on this theme from folks in the community during Sunday worship. We are using Aloe Vera plants in our at-home worship spaces to center our minds on this theme (and to brighten our spirits through the divine energy of living green things). We are using tapping (keeping the beat during music, etc) to involve our bodies in "metabolizing" our worship. I invite you into this theme. Put on your hand salve. Smell the fragrance and enter that healing space. Pursue activities that bring you healing, wellbeing, or renewal. Share with others how these activities impact you.

**Remember** that the last few days of this month are the first few days of Holy Week. This most sacred time of the church year invites your presence and engagement as we encounter and remember the events at the center of our faith - a beautiful meal among friends on Maundy Thursday, the death of Jesus on Good Friday, the spark of new life on Easter Vigil (and more remembering as we hear the Old Testament stories of God's salvation!), and of course, the bloom of joy on Easter Sunday. Join us online. Christ's peace, God's mercy, and the Spirit's companionship is with us this season.

Zach Busch  
Minister of Worship and Music

## Lenten Bible Study - Stories of Healing - Starts March 1<sup>st</sup>

### Monday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday Mornings at 9:00 a.m.

In Lent, University Lutheran Church of Hope will focus on themes of healing and renewal. We will host a Bible Study on Monday evenings and Wednesday mornings focused on stories of healing from across scripture. Each week will focus on a different story led by a different leader. If you would like to lead one of these studies, please contact Pastor Jen at [jenn@ulch.org](mailto:jenn@ulch.org). Readings and links will be posted in the Thursday Epistle each week and will also be emailed to the assembled groups.

## Care and Nurture Ministries

**What is Hope's Compassion Care Ministry?** Compassion Care ministers are lay members of our University Lutheran Church of Hope congregation who complete a series of training sessions designed to help them hone their skills for deeper listening and confidential care. After completing the training, Compassion Care ministers may be available to care for those who may be dealing with a life crisis such as a serious illness, the death of a loved one, the pain of a broken relationship, or other life situations where care is needed. Confidentiality is key to this ministry of trust and deeper listening. Compassion Care ministers meet together monthly for supervision and updates.

***ULCH members and friends who wish to be connected to speak with one of our Compassion Care ministers may contact Pastor Barbara or Pastor Jen to help facilitate that connection.***

**Welcome Karen Jorstad** to the Leadership Team of Compassion Care Ministry!

Karen joins Ann Agrimson, Muffi Abrahamson and Pastor Barbara in coordinating the topics for the monthly supervision meetings and preparation for the next series of training sessions.

### **Register now for COMPASSION CARE MINISTRY Training Sessions in April – May (ZOOM)**

Compassion Care Ministry leaders will offer a series of 7 training sessions for Hope members and friends on Thursday evenings beginning April 8 thru May 20. Topics include Confidentiality, Grief, Depression, Loss of Relationships, Empathetic Listening, Boundaries and Prayer.

**Who can attend?** Adults of all ages and genders, individuals or couples, are encouraged to participate in the training sessions (at no \$ cost). Those who complete all of the training sessions might go on to serve as a Compassion Care minister, but there is no obligation to serve in that way. Most participants have found the topics to be pertinent and practical in application for self-discovery and daily living with family and friends.

**To Register:** Contact Pastor Barbara Johnson – [barbaraj@ulch.org](mailto:barbaraj@ulch.org) or cell 970-901-7189 or one of the Compassion Care Ministry Leadership Team: Muffi Abrahamson, Ann Agrimson and Karen Jorstad.

## Bereavement Ministry Is New At University Lutheran Church of Hope

When there is a death in a family, our natural response is to reach out, make a call, write a note or send a card to provide comfort, prayers, and support for those who experience a significant loss. In our faith community at Hope, we are recognizing the need for a more intentional structure in our commitment to extend our sympathy and care on behalf of the congregation, and to offer comfort to members and friends throughout the first year of grieving a loved one's death. In recent months, a plan for the Bereavement Ministry at Hope has been developed and will reside under the umbrella of *Care and Nurture Ministries*.

We are very pleased to welcome **Lisa Morse** as the **Bereavement Ministry Coordinator!** There will be opportunities for Hope members to participate in writing cards and making connections with those who experience the death of a loved one. Those who are interested may contact Lisa Morse at [ULCH.BMT@gmail.com](mailto:ULCH.BMT@gmail.com)

**Blood Drive at University Lutheran Church of Hope**

**Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**11:30 to 5:30**

**Go to [Redcrossblood.org](http://Redcrossblood.org) (use the refine search to sort by date and zip code 55414)**



**Blood Drive**  
**University Lutheran Church of Hope**  
American Red Cross Bus  
601 13th Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN, 55414  
**Friday, March 26, 2021**  
**11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**



## Staffing Transition—Thanks and Blessings to Nick Tangen

Nick Tangen has served at University Lutheran Church of Hope for the last 4 ½ years as our Minister of Faith in Community. In this role, Nick’s work has included community engagement stretching us into the neighborhood in some deep and lasting ways, as well as Faith Formation nurturing kids and adults in faith practices of all sorts. In February Nick was offered and accepted the position of Director of Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices with the Minneapolis Area Synod. After a program and prayers of Godspeed on February 28<sup>th</sup>, Nick’s last day at Hope is March 1. We are terribly sad to see Nick go, and, at once, it’s clear that Nick’s gifts fit well the synod’s needs and position. We give great thanks to God for this time we’ve shared together. Nick has truly been a gift to the congregation and the neighborhood and will be greatly missed. In his letter of resignation, Nick wrote:

*“This was a difficult decision to make. I have so loved my time at ULCH and the ministry we have been able to do together. I will always remember fondly the many hours we spent together engaging with neighbors in Dinkytown, seeking change at the State Capitol, studying scripture in person and on Zoom, teaching and learning alongside the young people of this congregation, sharing and receiving the sacraments, and deepening our sense of call and mission. We have built a strong and lasting ministry of faithful engagement in our community that I know will carry on well into the future.”*

*“This congregation has supported and encouraged my own professional and spiritual growth and has empowered me to be the leader I am today, and for that I am eternally grateful. The skills and learnings that convinced me to pursue this new and exciting role with the Minneapolis Area Synod were learned largely on the streets of Dinkytown and in the pews of University Lutheran Church of Hope. Your leadership, your courage, and your willingness to engage in a ministry of neighbor love and social transformation give me hope for the future of the Church and for the future of University Lutheran Church of Hope.”*



*Nick and Kristin Tangen*

*“I look forward to carrying on the wisdom and the learnings from ULCH and sharing them with congregations across the Twin Cities. In my new role, I will work closely with congregational learning cohorts to teach and coach lay and clergy leaders in spiritual and neighboring practices. This is a role that I feel I have been dreaming of for many years, and I was elated to see our Synod invest in this ministry. I am excited to share the gifts and skills that ULCH has helped to develop in me and to learn more and more about the ways that the church can live into Christ’s call to love our neighbor, to pray without ceasing, and to share the Gospel.”*

Nick’s shoes are big ones to fill. Our congregational leaders and I will take time to discern the congregation’s vision and staffing needs moving forward. With COVID and so much of life in flux, I don’t believe we should rush to fill this position. It is a position that is really the combination of two separate roles: Nick was hired to do community engagement and then over time we expanded the position to cover our faith formation areas. We’ll keep you updated as plans become more clear on this element of our staffing. In the meantime, we’ve looked at the many areas of Nick’s position and asked different lay leaders and staff to take on elements, with some areas intentionally left fallow. Please join me in giving thanks to Nick for his good and faithful service.

-Pastor Jen

## Friendly Visitor Remembrance Project

The Friendly Visitor Remembrance Project (formally the Easter Flower Project) gives everyone a chance this year to submit names of loved ones that you would like to remember or honor. The Easter Sunday bulletin, Thursday Epistle and May newsletter will include these listings. **In fact, we encourage you to submit names!** These listings are a long standing tradition at Easter, with a few temporary changes due to the second year of COVID-19. First, Easter Flowers will not be bought or delivered, and second, contributions to the Friendly Visitor Ministry are completely optional and not expected. All those on the prayer list will be receiving Easter cards with a painting by Jack Dant.

You can submit your names in two ways, go to the Easter Remembrance link here <https://forms.gle/hwc47BUAfZrC9KUF6> and fill in your information to be listed in the bulletin, OR send the information to ULCH, 601 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414 to the attention of Rosalie Eldevik. Be sure to include: your name, who you want to remember or honor, and a phone number or email address in case we need to contact you with questions.

If you choose to contribute to the Friendly Visitor Ministry, gifts can be submitted electronically via the link included on the form, or send a check, to ULCH, with "Easter Remembrance" on the memo line along with your information. Questions? Contact Rosalie Eldevik, 651-295- 8789 or [raldevik@gmail.com](mailto:raldevik@gmail.com)

*Curious about the Friendly Visitors Ministry?* Friendly Visitors is a vital ministry to our extended congregation who seldom make it to church because of health conditions, or mobility and transportation challenges as we age. These members are still very much a part of our congregation and special to our church family. Pastor Barbara and many volunteers reach out to them with phone calls, visits when allowed, and service recordings, devotion booklets, cards, flowers, and other church information throughout the year. In typical years, Easter flowers beautify our sanctuary on Easter morning and are hand delivered with cards on Easter afternoon. The Easter Flower Project raises money to support the ministry of Friendly Visitors and other special projects for the congregation.

## Sunday Forums in March

We are pleased so many of you have participated in the Sunday Forums. In case you missed some forums or would like to watch a program again, check with Nathan Obrestad ([nathano@ulch.org](mailto:nathano@ulch.org)) or look in the *Thursday Epistle* to get the University Lutheran Church of Hope private YouTube link to the recorded programs. Most are being recorded. Also, it is courteous to our presenters whenever possible to have your camera/video active so the presenters can see your face. Thanks.

**March 7 - Life Gets Better** - Brian McCaffrey along with Sally Brown, who is active with the Gray Panthers and is now a facilitator with the *Aging with Gusto* program, will present. A lifetime of lessons learned can yield one of the most fruitful periods of anyone's life. "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" A program for all ages!

**March 14 - Women at Seminary and in Ordained Ministry—A Look Back** - The ELCA and its predecessor bodies have now ordained well over 5,000 women. Did you know that Hope member Cyndi Ganzkow-Wold was number 20? Join Cyndi in conversation with Nan Knutsen as she shares her experience of the earlier days of women at seminary and serving in congregations.

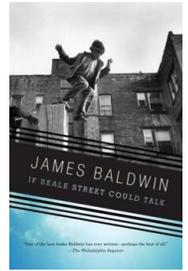
**March 21 - Racial Justice** - The Racial Justice team will continue with a monthly program toward the goal of enlarging the conversation around racial equity. Watch the Thursday Epistle for more specifics.

**March 28 - Stories of Hope** - Continuing our tradition of Stories of Hope on Palm Sunday, we will again have two University Lutheran Church of Hope members share their stories with us: Doug Hartmann and Elizabeth Campbell. They will allow time for comments and questions. What a great way to become better acquainted with ULCH members.

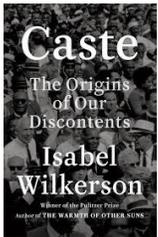
## HOPE BOOK CLUB

**On March 14th at 7:00 p.m.** the Hope Book Club will meet by Zoom to discuss “If Beale Street Could Talk”, by James Baldwin.

*“In this honest and stunning novel that inspired the award-winning major motion picture of the same name, James Baldwin has given America a moving story of love in the face of injustice. A major work of Black American fiction.” -The New Republic*



**On April 11 at 7:00 p.m.** “Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents”, by Isabel Wilkerson.



*“Pulitzer Prize-winning author [of “The Warmth of Other Suns”] Isabel Wilkerson says racism is an insufficient term for the systemic oppression of Black people in America. Instead, she prefers to refer to America as having a ‘caste’ system.” <https://www.npr.org>*

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](mailto:speterson@dunnwald.com)

*“A good book is the purest essence of a human soul.” –Thomas Carlyle*

## Birthdays March and April 2021

Let’s help these beloved members and friends celebrate their birthdays! Most of the members whose names are on our birthday list are 80 years or older. Some live at home independently, others reside in a care center or assisted living situation, and some are caregivers themselves. They all appreciate hearing from you, their siblings in Christ, and their community of faith. Check our latest ULCH directory for their addresses and phone numbers.

**March Birthdays**    March 1 - Leona Reyelts    March 14 - Marge Ostroushko

**April Birthdays**    April 7 - Leonard Hrcncir    April 8 - James Solem    April 16 - Sally French  
April 19 - Marge Perko    April 29 - Jean Albrecht    April 29 - Janette Munson (her 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday!)

## Easter Meal

Dan O’Loughlin and Becky Halvorson will be cooking an Easter meal for anyone who is interested to be picked up or delivered on Easter Sunday between 12:30 - 1:00. The meal will be baked ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans and lemon dessert. If you are interested in receiving an Easter meal please contact Becky at [halvorson.becky@gmail.com](mailto:halvorson.becky@gmail.com) or 612-382-5740. If you are able to deliver a meal or interested in making a lemon dessert, please contact Becky.

## Sunday School Winter Celebration - March 6th, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

(Change of Location)

The Children's Ministry Team is inviting all Sunday School families to a celebration of winter. The location for this event has been changed to **Hidden Falls Regional Park in St. Paul.**

Park information is available here: <https://www.stpaul.gov/facilities/hidden-falls-regional-park>

Covid-19 protocol will be followed. Activities and lunch will be based on what temperatures look like that week. Please let Ann Beane know if you have a portable fire pit we could use. For planning (and questions) RSVP to Ann at email [spirit.beane@gmail.com](mailto:spirit.beane@gmail.com)

Sponsored by the Children's Ministry Team: Shelly Parry, Paige Whitney, Rosalie Eldevik and Ann Beane

## Children's Ministry at University Lutheran Church of Hope

Each Sunday morning, children in grades PreK-5<sup>th</sup> are invited to join us on Zoom for a time of check-in, study, and prayer. We will talk about some of our favorite Bible stories and think about engaging faith practices we can do at home, not to mention play some fun games! Zoom links and information will be posted every week in the Thursday Epistle as well as the Sunday Morning Worship email. Questions? Contact Shelly Parry at [mmparry@comcast.net](mailto:mmparry@comcast.net) or Ann Beane at [spirit.beane@gmail.com](mailto:spirit.beane@gmail.com)

### Youth Group (6<sup>th</sup> Grade-12<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Here are a few Youth updates.

- We're gathering monthly for Youth Group. In January and February these gatherings have been in the courtyard at church and have included a campfire and time together. Watch for a date for the March gathering!
- Camp Amnicon is on the south shore of Lake Superior in northern Wisconsin. Hope youth have been making memories and deepening faith through Amnicon programs for many years. We're making plans for a summer trip or two in 2021! Families, watch for information and sign up in March.
- Contact Pastor Jen if you are curious about Youth Group gatherings or Camp Amnicon. You can email her at [jenn@ulch.org](mailto:jenn@ulch.org) or text/call 612-227-9673.

### Save the Date for South Minneapolis Day Camp!

South Minneapolis Day Camp is a progressive, ecumenical day camp experience offering faith formation in a fun, safe, Christ-centered and relational setting. It is shared by University Lutheran Church of Hope and more than a dozen other congregations. This summer our dates will be **June 21 - 25, 2021**. We will follow public health guidance as we decide on how to do camp this year. Right now we anticipate having online camp as we did in 2020,

potentially supplementing that with in-person outdoor activities, observing safety protocols. Camp is for children entering kindergarten through high school, with a separate middle and high school track and opportunities for high school leadership with the younger kids. We will be in touch with families in the coming months with more details about camp and how to register.

### 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, including thanksgiving with Johanna and Josh Brown and the Frolen and Dickhaus family at the birth of Grace Kennedy; and Anya and Simon Helgeson and the Abrahamson family at the birth of Livia Wren.

**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 Bob and Julie Paschke at the death of Bob's sister Marge Paschke Severson; Zach Busch and family at the death of Zach's grandmother Jean Hillesland; and Brian McCaffrey and family at the death of Brian's brother-in-law Tom.

**Significant Illness**—We pray for those living with chronic disease, cancer, recovery, uncertain diagnosis, hospice, chemical dependency and other addictions, and mental health struggles, including Wendell Martinsen (Leona Reyelt's brother), 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.

## Drop-In Day for Unsheltered Neighbors - March 6<sup>th</sup> - 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Leaders from University Lutheran Church of Hope have been meeting with other neighborhood leaders to discern how best to accompany our unsheltered neighbors. We've rented a porta-potty to ensure that there is access to facilities in the neighborhood. We have assembled and distributed food and hygiene kits to neighbors in need. And, on March 6<sup>th</sup> we will host a time at University Lutheran Church of Hope for neighbors without shelter to have a warm meal provided by Raising Cane's and gather some resources including clothing, hygiene, hair cuts, and food items.

If you would like to help volunteer for this event, please reach out to Pastor Jen at [jenn@ulch.org](mailto:jenn@ulch.org) or Lynette Lamb.

## University Lutheran Church of Hope "Revealing Hope" Capital Campaign Benevolences Reaped Bountifully, Making Us Cheerful Givers

*"He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work." -2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

When University Lutheran Church of Hope approved our previous Capital Campaign, *Revealing Hope*, back in 2017, we agreed to contribute 7% of the funds raised to benevolent causes outside of the congregation. The ULCH Vision and Governance Board decided to divide the total benevolences from the capital campaign into ten equal shares and to name four organizations to receive a share and let the Hope congregation determine the remaining six organizations.

In October 2020, we asked ULCH members to nominate charitable organizations for our *Revealing Hope* benevolences. Sixteen organizations were nominated by Hope members, and a poll was then posted allowing us to vote for the six organizations to receive a share of our benevolence amount.

We are happy to report that upon its completion in January 2021, the *Revealing Hope* Capital Campaign had raised \$430,000. Seven percent of that amount gave us \$30,000 to contribute to other charitable organizations. From that abundance, we contributed \$3000 each to the following organizations:

### Organizations chosen by the Board:

**Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities** - Christian communities on MN campuses by students, for students

**University Area Sanctuary Coalition** - Faith communities near UMN who support and advocate for immigrant and refugee community members

**The One Fund** - Support for African American churches in the Twin Cities, hosted by MN Council of Churches

**Lutheran Church of Nigeria** - Support for our ministry partners in Nigeria

### Organizations selected by the Congregation:

**First Nations Kitchen** - Provides high-quality food, hospitality and cultural empowerment to indigenous people

**Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative** - Provides stable housing throughout the Twin Cities

**Women's Advocates** - Grants emergency shelter and advocacy for women who are victims of domestic abuse

**Shobi's Table** - Serving delicious, pay-as-you-can meals using rescued food from TC Food Justice

**Global Health Ministries** - Donates medical supplies to impoverished countries

**The Voices of Hope** - Women's prison choir at the MN Correctional Facility in Shakopee

**Thank You For Sharing Your Abundance With The *Revealing Hope* Capital Campaign!**

## MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP

The **Racial Justice Task Force** is offering a movie discussion opportunity. We will suggest a movie in which issues of racism are addressed. The movie can be watched at home during the week, and then discussed at a ZOOM meeting. Our first movie discussion will be Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m. “**I Am Not Your Negro**” free on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PaAbmRJ9bQ> We will also discuss frequency and time of discussion.

## Opening Doors Active Period Concludes

We give hearty thanks to all who contributed to the Opening Doors Capital Campaign in January and February. While gifts and additional pledges are always welcome, the full capital campaign committee will now cease its active work.

As we updated the congregation at the annual meeting our current total pledged is now \$435,000. This tremendous support will allow us to do some much needed updates, pay down our mortgage, and make meaningful benevolence contributions.

Funds over the life of this campaign will be used for audio and video improvements to enhance online (and hybrid) worship services, restoration of the historic sanctuary doors, investing in more energy efficient hallway lighting, and kitchen upgrades in Fellowship Hall.

What a pleasure it has been to work together to lift up the needs of the building along with celebrating our community through the video, a special arrangement by The ULCHers of a favorite tune by local composer Ray Makeever, and announcements during church services in January. The video (and pledging documents) continue to be available at [www.ULCH.org/openingdoors](http://www.ULCH.org/openingdoors) - be sure to go there to enjoy the video again!

The committee plans to give annual reports - including annual disbursements of benevolence dollars, rather than wait until the end of the 3-year cycle. So you will continue to hear from us even though the active phase is drawing to a close. Thank-you all again for joining us to open doors here at ULCH.

Opening Doors Capital Campaign Committee: Mark Nelson and Karen Westwood (Co-Chairs), John Bablitch, Ann Beane (liaison to Gratitude and Generosity Committee), John Beane (Liaison to the Board), Deb Bordsen, Jack Dant, Garvin Davenport

## Hope Church Trust Grants for 2021

At its February 16, 2021 meeting the Hope Church Trust Board approved grants for the following projects:

Shobi’s Table, a local community food ministry	-	\$1,000
Mental Health Connect	-	\$1,000
Plymouth Christian Youth Center Children’s Gift Sale	-	\$1,000
AMEXTRA – a food and hygiene help project in Mexico	-	\$2,800
New Youth Room furniture cushions		\$2,200
ULCH Facilities team Garden of Hope project	-	\$6,689
Hope Choir Choral Scholar support		\$3,100
Fellowship Hall replacement dishes		<u>\$1,500</u>
Total:		<b>\$19,289</b>

Approximately 35% of the grant distributions went for ministries beyond Hope; 25%, for projects within Hope, and 40% for projects that had both internal and external aspects. Due to the 2020 pandemic, some of last year’s grants went unspent. Adjustments for that were made via an extended spending period, re-submission of grants, and delayed payments.

As always, the Hope Church Trust Board sends its thanks to all those Hope members and others who through their generous giving, memorials, and other financial gifts make it possible for Hope to support so many worthy ministries and projects.

The Hope Church Board: Meri Hauge, Norm Aaseng, Robyn Swenson, Scott Hvizdos, Lynette Lamb, Leena Haugland, Merrill Morse

# Note from the President

I do hope and pray that I am the only ULCH President to start their term at a time like this. Almost a year has passed since our congregation gathered in person.

Like for many of you, Sunday mornings at church is who I am, how I live. Many of us do see each other Sunday mornings, and that is indeed a blessing. Zach and Jen have flexed wonderfully, and with their artistry provide meaningful worship in a live virtual format week after week. But I miss you all nevertheless. In particular, I miss being active on Sunday mornings—singing, talking, hugging, sitting, kneeling, walking. Worshipping our God has always been, for me, an exercise of the body as well as the soul and the mind.

Yet here we are, a bit like the Israelites in exile--together, but not at all where we want to be.

It has also been a difficult time to lead the congregation. Tim Abrahamson rose to the occasion this past year. With love and constancy he cared for our church, shepherded the solar energy along, and had an eagle eye on our budget. Throughout, he kept the suffering in and around our community front of mind. As I take over the role of Congregational President, I am relieved to have him along my side while he serves his year as Past-President.

As some of you know, at my home we acquired not a dog or cat, but four pandemic chickens. These cold days they spend a good part of their afternoon at the gate of their run. Every once and a while, we let them out to explore the patio and peck in the dirt of our stored flower pots. It's a strange site to see them there waiting quietly at the gate—patient, aware of their powerlessness, yet prepared and hopeful. I wonder how many of us feel the same way. We are here, we are ready, we are eager. We trust God will lead us on.

Uli Koester, Congregational President

## Treasurer's Report

January 2021 Income and Expense	
	<b>Jan. Actual</b>
General Giving	34,906
Rental Income	9,766
Special Income	6
Total Income	44,678
Salaries & Benefits	27,050
Total Expense	56,013
Net Operating Income	(11,335)

### January Financials

General giving totaled \$34,906 for the month of January. Rental income includes PEASE Academy rent and parking lot income. Income for the month totaled \$44,678.

Expenses totaled \$56,013 for the month of January. This amount includes a few large expenses paid out in early 2021. Additionally, the January mortgage subsidy (from the Capital Campaign) was transferred in early February. As of

January 31<sup>st</sup>, we have \$498K in current assets – primarily composed of our checking and savings account (including the Solar Project funds).

### Capital Campaign – Revealing Hope

In the final month of the Revealing Hope Capital Campaign, we received \$19,614 in contributions. In February 2018, we began this campaign aimed at dedicating funds to pay the mortgage (*expires in April 2027*) and fund special projects around the church. We look forward to distributing benevolences to several organizations in early 2021.

### 2020 Year-End

For additional information on 2020 Year-End Results, please refer to the [2020 Annual Report](http://www.ulch.org/leadership_and_resources) at [http://www.ulch.org/leadership\\_and\\_resources](http://www.ulch.org/leadership_and_resources)

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

# March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Zoom - Quilters <b>7:00 PM</b> Lenten Bible Study - Stories Healing and Wholeness <b>7:00 PM</b> Zoom: Worship Enhancement Task Force <b>8:00 PM</b> Zoom: Worship Planning Team	<b>2</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Zoom - Staff Meeting <b>1:30 PM</b> Sunday Forum Team <b>6:30 PM</b> Zoom - MHNA Land Use Committee <b>6:30 PM</b> Zoom - Personnel Committee <b>7:15 PM</b> Zoom - Executive Committee	<b>3</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Lenten Bible Study - Stories Healing and Wholeness <b>12:00 PM</b> Healing Prayer on Zoom or Phone <b>1:00 PM</b> Sanctuary Open for Prayer <b>7:00 PM</b> Lenten Service and Livestream <b>7:30 PM</b> Zoom: Choir	<b>4</b> Staff Office Moves <b>11:00 AM</b> Zoom - Centering Prayer <b>6:30 PM</b> Zoom - AA Group	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Drop-In Day for Unsheltered Neighbors <b>11:00 AM</b> Sunday School Winter Celebration at Hidden Falls Park
<b>7</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Zoom - Sunday Forum <b>9:45 AM</b> Zoom - Sunday School Check-In <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship - Zoom and Livestream	<b>8</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Zoom - Quilters <b>5:30 PM</b> PEASE Community Foundation <b>7:00 PM</b> Lenten Bible Study - Stories Healing and Wholeness	<b>9</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Zoom - Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Zoom: Prayer Around the Cross Writing Session	<b>10</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Lenten Bible Study - Stories Healing and Wholeness <b>12:00 PM</b> Healing Prayer on Zoom or Phone <b>1:00 PM</b> Sanctuary Open for Prayer <b>6:00 PM</b> Zoom - Facilities Team <b>7:00 PM</b> Lenten Service and Livestream <b>7:30 PM</b> Zoom: Choir	<b>11</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Zoom - Dorcas Circle <b>11:00 AM</b> Zoom - Centering Prayer <b>6:30 PM</b> Zoom - AA Group <b>7:00 PM</b> Zoom - Men's Group	<b>12</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> ZOOM-Crafters' Group	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Zoom - Sunday Forum <b>9:45 AM</b> Zoom - Sunday School Check-In <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship - Zoom and Livestream <b>6:00 PM</b> Book Club	<b>15</b> **"The Visitor" Articles Due <b>9:00 AM</b> Zoom - Quilters <b>6:00 PM</b> Riverside Innovation Hub Team Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Lenten Bible Study - Stories Healing and Wholeness	<b>16</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Zoom - Staff Meeting <b>4:00 PM</b> Sanctuary Coalition Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Zoom - Vision & Governance Board	<b>17</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Lenten Bible Study - Stories Healing and Wholeness <b>12:00 PM</b> Healing Prayer on Zoom or Phone <b>1:00 PM</b> Sanctuary Open for Prayer <b>5:30 PM</b> Zoom - Compassion Care Team <b>6:00 PM</b> Children's Ministry Team Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Lenten Service and Livestream <b>7:30 PM</b> Zoom: Choir	<b>18</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Zoom - Centering Prayer <b>6:00 PM</b> Zoom - SE Como Hope Connections Group <b>6:30 PM</b> Zoom - AA Group	<b>19</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> LCM - Courtyard, Lounge	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Zoom - Sunday Forum <b>9:45 AM</b> Zoom - Sunday School Check-In <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship - Zoom and Livestream <b>5:00 PM</b> Zoom: Movie Discussion Group with Racial Equity Focus	<b>22</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Zoom - Quilters <b>6:00 PM</b> ZOOM-Bible & Brews <b>7:00 PM</b> Lenten Bible Study - Stories Healing and Wholeness	<b>23</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Zoom - Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Zoom - Racial Justice Team	<b>24</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Lenten Bible Study - Stories Healing and Wholeness <b>12:00 PM</b> Healing Prayer on Zoom or Phone <b>1:00 PM</b> Sanctuary Open for Prayer <b>6:00 PM</b> Zoom - Sanctuary & Immigration Team Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Lenten Service and Livestream <b>7:30 PM</b> Zoom: Choir	<b>25</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Zoom - Centering Prayer <b>6:30 PM</b> Zoom - AA Group <b>7:00 PM</b> Zoom - Men's Group	<b>26</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> Blood Drive (sign up in advance) <b>7:00 PM</b> LCM - Courtyard, Lounge <b>7:00 PM</b> ZOOM-Crafters' Group	<b>27</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Oblates Centering Prayer <b>7:00 PM</b> LCM - Courtyard, Lounge
<b>28</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Zoom - Sunday Forum <b>9:45 AM</b> Zoom - Sunday School Check-In <b>10:30 AM</b> Palm Sunday Worship - Zoom and Livestream <b>7:00 PM</b> LCM - Courtyard, Lounge	<b>29</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Zoom - Quilters	<b>30</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Zoom - Staff Meeting	<b>31</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Healing Prayer on Zoom or Phone			

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

### Church Administrator:

Nathan Obrestad

### Financial Administrator:

Kari Olson

### Custodians:

Geremew Beshah

### Childcare:

Gus Gustafson

### Working in partnership with Lutheran Campus Ministry

Rev. Kate Reuer Welton

## Vision and Governance Board

### President:

Uli Koester

### Vice President:

Ann Agrimson

### Past President:

Tim Abrahamson

### Treasurer:

Emma Carpenter

### Leadership Development & Communications:

Uli Koester

Ann Agrimson

### Operations:

Emma Carpenter

Tim Abrahamson

### Worship & Music:

Matt Fry

### Youth & Young Adults:

Brady Wilmer

### Education:

Shelly Parry

### Hope in the World:

Sonja Peterson

### Relational Ministries:

Dan Bielenberg

### Board Secretary:

Bruce Eldevik

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