

Complex world. Thoughtful church.

May 2021
No. 17-05



Clockwise from Top Left: Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) worships on the patio; Alleluia, Christ is Risen (a picture taken in the courtyard during Easter Vigil); Holy Week in the sanctuary; Mary Sorensen and Pastor Barbara [finally] visiting in person 😊; John Pignatello and Karen Westwood visiting with Marilyn Asp in Duluth (note Lake Superior in the background); greetings from Vadim Hillebrand; (center) Matt Fry preparing our Easter morning trumpet fanfare-thank you, Matt and all our amazing musicians.

Shelter

We all need shelter. We need physical protection from the natural elements and security from those who would do us harm. We need mental refuge from all that distresses us and emotional safe harbor as we navigate life's unremitting storms. And we need spiritual sanctuary to heal our bruised and wounded souls.

As a community of faith we walk together through this both blessed and broken world, recognizing in one another our shared humanity, and reminding each other that we are held in God's loving, redeeming, sheltering embrace. It is this unconditional love that is the foundation on which we build welcoming and safe places for each other and our neighbor. Displayed in Hope's north entry, Jen Norton's metaphorical image, Shelter, is a fitting welcome to all who come into our building: our church members and staff; the students and teachers at PEASE Academy, a recovery public high school; and our friends and neighbors, whoever they may be.

The artist invites us into a mystical scene where three vibrant trees are centered among textured layers of animated ground. In a wash of soothing blues and greens, these ethereal trees are rooted in an undulating stream of flowing water, which seems to be either filling their cores or emanating from them—maybe both. Their upward reaching branches intertwine and provide a peaceful, protective haven for a flourishing flock of birds.

We look closer and see warm light intermingling with cooling shade. Waves of red, orange and purple earth almost dance under the trees. We spot birds resting, flying, feeding and bathing—we can almost hear their melodic singing. The whole encompassing environment feels like a living, breathing place, dynamic and buoyant with vital energy. When we look at this scene with our spiritual senses, we might imagine this triune of trees as a figurative symbol of the Holy Trinity: God the Creator, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The flock of birds might represent the community of believers.

Grounded in faith and living in the waters of baptism, we take shelter in our God, the Source of Love, the Wellspring of Life who redeems, heals and renews us. From within God's merciful and all encompassing shelter, we keep learning how to inhabit it—how to live in God's loving grace, how to be the Body of Christ, how to walk together and become a welcoming place of refuge for one another: a space to breath, to be seen, to be heard, to belong, to be loved.



Muffi Abrahamson, Arts & Environment

As Rivers Flow from a Distant Spring

Text by David Bjorlin, music by William Beckstrand (listen on YouTube)

As rivers flow from a distance spring to quench our thirst and feed the earth,
so let our lives flow from you, our Source, to counter death and nurture birth.

As trees rise up from the forest floor by roots that feed each limb above,
so let our lives rise in praise to you from hearts we root in your deep love.

As woods make shelter within its shade for beasts to feed and birds to nest,
so let our lives be a sheltered space, a refuge for the worn to rest.

So let us praise you, Creator God, for worlds that witness to your care,
that show your presence in every place, your glory shining everywhere.

On the Horizon

Dog walking and praying are vital parts of my morning routine. One of my favorite walking spots is through a city park near our home in north Minneapolis. I love the flat expanse broken up by an assortment of trees, the morning light in the changing seasons, the chance to see more than we usually see when houses obstruct. One recent day I paused in the middle of that park to look north. In what seems like a relatively flat area, I was pleased to notice how far my eyes could see before meeting the sky ... across Crystal Lake Cemetery and swathes of the Camden area, and over the subtle valley created by Shingle Creek as it flows toward the Mississippi River.

Over this last year, there has been plenty to obstruct our view of the horizon: family joys and burdens and griefs, long-fought and yet fresh struggles for racial equity, systems in need of renewal, vaccinations to arrange and then celebrate, the uncertainties about these later months of the pandemic and what will unfold, hunger of many sorts, isolation, and spring time. On the one hand, we just keep going: "Gotta put one foot in front of the other, and lead with love," as we sang at Easter Vigil. On the other hand, it's helpful to look toward the horizon for a sense of what is coming. Here are a few things on the horizon that I'm viewing.

A Pastoral Intern. In mid June we will welcome an Intern Pastor, Emily Brown. Emily is part of a newer, innovative program at Luther Seminary called M.Div.X. Many of you are familiar with the more traditional M.Div. (Master of Divinity) degree which includes three years of course work and a year-long internship in preparation for ministry and the candidacy process. As the context for ministry preparation changes, M.Div.X is an experimental program that condenses the M.Div. into 24 months and includes a half time concurrent internship experience. Emily will be doing her internship with us for 24 months and she'll be present 15-20 hours per week. In that time she will practice ministry and gain experience in all facets of church life: worship, teaching, pastoral care, administration, justice, congregational life, outreach, and plenty more. I'll serve as Emily's supervisor. All of you are part of the learning. We'll gather a small Internship Committee to walk with Emily during this period. Emily's mom is a pastor and growing up and now as a younger adult, she has been part of the ELCA congregations where her mom has served. She brings a lot of experience in the church and neighborhood, specifically wants to be in an urban setting, and seeks a place where she can hone her own identity as a pastoral leader. Watch in for opportunities to meet Emily and for her get to know you and our congregation.

COVID Procedures and our Time Together. We're in the midst of revising our COVID Procedures and will share more about plans in congregational communication and when we gather for a Congregational Meeting on May 2 after worship (11:30am on Zoom). While many are vaccinated or in the process of getting vaccinated, we still are mindful of the care needed in this time: wearing masks, keeping physical distance, and attention to hand washing. We're using a hybrid approach these summer months with worship sometimes on Zoom/YouTube as it has been, sometimes outdoors (with a Zoom/YouTube option), and on some Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary for an evening vespers service with Holy Communion. Zach writes about all of this in his article on page 11. After more than a year and with much still unknown, this hybrid approach is a way of honoring our need to be together and at once taking the process slowly. For other meetings and gatherings, outside and Zoom are still a good options, but meeting inside is possible for smaller group with much care. All of this will be in the new procedures. It offers us guidance for our time together and can help us keep one another and ourselves safer.



Breathing Space. This year has been tremendously challenging for many in our congregation, our neighbors and students. There is a collective breath we're taking with the end of the trial and the arrival of vaccinations and spring, and yet we know there is more justice needed, and more healing to come. I've been thinking of this as breathing space: We all need a little more breathing space to replenish our souls and find our way. In this season, I pray we can offer this breathing space to one another. Patience is so very needed, as are simple human contacts like picking up the phone and being present with and to one another. Pentecost is May 23 and the Holy Spirit's wind and breath blows through us anew with courage and power.

I pray you're able to put one foot in front of another, and at once (ideally without tripping!), look to the horizon with a bit of a long view. God bless you and the Spirit uplift you in this season and every season. You are in my prayers as the horizon beckons.

-Pastor Jen

We Remember...

The Easter remembrance list is below. Thank you to all those who submitted names of your beloveds, past and present. We remember and honor those who helped to shape our lives. With prayer and praise we thank God for our church community who continuously build on what our ancestors built. To God be the Glory! Our hope remains to bring back the flowers in 2022! In the meantime, we are grateful to all of you who continue to support this ministry.

The Friendly Visitors.

In Remembrance of...

Tim and Muffi Abrahamson

Ann Agrimson & Tim Gustafson

Jeanne Berkeland

Kristen and Jay Carlson

The Dant Family

Paul Demeules and Shelly Parry

Rosalie and Bruce Eldevik

Dlane Greve

Marge, Lucia, Mark and Vicki Halvorsen

Ruth Hedman

Linda and Stewart Herman

Pastor Barbara Johnson

Karen Jorstad & Bob Peterson

Nan Knutsen and Mark Nelson

Julaine Kobiske

Martha Lewis-Hunstiger

Becky Halvorson and Dan O'Loughlin

Marge Ostroushko

John Pignatello and Karen Westwood

Ann Wagner and Eric Ringham

Ann Rolle

Ken and Elaine Sarkela

Jo Schroeder

Jerry Smith, Judy Kubiszewski, Gregg Eckert, Grandkids and Great Grandkids

Mary Ann Teske

The Thursday Night Basketball Group

Beth Ubbelohde

Paige Whitney

Rosalie and Bruce Eldevik

Joe and Synneva Larson, Hirrel and Carl Abrahamson,
Lindsay and Casey Dykhouse

Robert & Joy Agrimson, Bill & Jo Gustafson

Husband, Bob and Son, Mark

Bob Helvig

Marilyn Pruess, Esther's sister

Chris Parry, David and Lorraine Demeules

Karl Eldevik, beloved cousin. Parents

Merle Tank-Kleinhans

Husband and Father, Leroy Halvorsen

My mom

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard A. Johnson and Rev. and Mrs.
Stewart and Lyn Herman

Swan Johnson

Our parents: Lloyd & Marilyn Peterson, Paul & Monita
Jorstad

John Hustad and Andi Wolfe Nelson

My parents, Ellen and Irvin Kobiske and my grandparents, Alma
and Oscar Boelter, Nora and John Kobiske.

Tim Hunstiger, Charles and Shirley Lewis, Eugene and Betty
Kogl

Parents, Margaret O'Loughlin and Loren Halvorson and
nephew, Peter Morey

Jean Friedrich and Peter Ostroushko

Anna Westwood, Jean and Leonard Pignatello

Our parents and sisters

Audrey and Dennis Rolle, Dorothy and Glenn Rolle

Loved ones

My parents and my brother, John

My parents, Marie and Gordon Smith. Marie's brother,
Marvin Hertwig, who recently passed away in January.

Reuben and Terry Teske

Chris Parry

Michael and Julie Ubbelohde

Michelle Schwalbe

Children and Grandchildren

In honor of...

Ruth Hedman
Sheila Hougen
Jen Nagel and Jane McBride, Eliza, Alice

Lydia & Layla Rapacz

Bill and Jan Sanden
Jo Schroeder
ULCH Congregation

My dad and sisters
Miriam & Jim Hougen
Grandma and Grandpa McBride, Grammy and Grampy Nagel,
Danielle Corey, Grandma Donna and Papa Eric
Grandparents (Grammy & Papa Haugland, Grandma & Papa Joe Rapacz)
With gratitude for and in honor of family, past, present and comin
Bill Beckstrand on his Ordination
Our Church Staff

Celebrating Birthdays in May & June

A card or a phone call goes a long way to help celebrate the birthdays of these dear members and friends. Our Birthday list covers people who are 80 and older. It also includes a few others who may be caregivers, or homebound, or in assisted living or in a care center. They all appreciate hearing from their faith community friends. Check our latest ULCH directory for their addresses and phone numbers.

May Birthdays

May 7 - Ruth Fingerson

May 23 - Esther Dant

May 30 - Marcheta Scribner

June Birthdays

June 01 - Bernice Davenport

June 07 - Jeanne Berkeland

June 12 - Vadim Hillebrand

June 15 - Mary Sorenson

June 18 - Lyle Lutz

June 19 - Joan Campbell

June 19 - William Cole

June 22 - Allen Erickson

June 30 - Marge Halvorsen

Camp Amnicon

This summer we're sending two groups to Camp Amnicon on the south shore of Lake Superior. One group will canoe the Flambeau River (June 20-25) in northern Wisconsin. The other group will stay in-base near the big lake (June 20-23) and take time for working on canoeing and camping skills, playing games, and growing together in Christ as a group. Currently both trips are full. That's great news! If your child is interested in attending, let Pastor Jen know so if space opens up we can include them. Hope members, can you contribute to offset the cost of camp for these families? Gifts are appreciated. Please note: Camp Amnicon. Thank you!

Youth Group

Youth Group meets monthly. In May we'll meet on Sunday, May 23 at noon. This offers a time for those 6th grade and up to connect with one another and their faith. We share lunch, conversations, and often hangout together. Talk with Pastor Jen to learn more: jenn@ulch.org

Donate Gift Cards to Support Immigrant Neighbors

Asylum seekers, immigrants, refugees, and people in sanctuary continue to experience concerns about deportation and also losses of jobs and income related to ICE activity. Gift cards can help provide food and household supplies. Currently, we are seeking donations of VISA gift cards, which will allow the shopper to purchase items at any store. Aldi and Cub cards are also very useful. You can get gift card donations to Pastor Jen who will see that they go to a friend in need.

Seeking Social Media Connectors

Seeking: A few additional people to post, curate, and attend to our social media presence online... Facebook, Twitter, Instagram. Is this your thing? Could you occasionally help us communicate and connect on one or two of these platforms? Talk with [Pastor Jen](#) or [Nathan Obrestad](#) if you are interested, or even just a little curious. Thanks.

Calling All 2021 Graduates

It's that season... This late spring/early summer we'll celebrate 2021 graduates. Are you or someone you love graduating this season from high school, college, a grad or professional program, a certificate program? Please, let us know! We'd love to join you in celebrating this milestone, honoring God's gifts, and praying for the next [often uncertain] steps in the journey. Contact Pastor Jen (jenn@ulch.org) and share things like:

1. Name.
2. A little about what you are celebrating.
3. A picture of you, if possible (candid is just fine)
4. Any other reflections looking back or ahead.

Responding to the Deadly Shooting of Daunte Wright

Our communities and nation have been rocked by another deadly incident with police with the loss of Daunte Wright. Watch the Thursday Epistle for ways to be involved and engaged in this moment. If you seek to give financially in this time, please consider giving to Hope's Rolling Waters Racial Justice Fund. This supports organizations that are BIPOC led and

working for change and direct service. You can give by check to ULCH (memo: Rolling Waters), or via our webpage [link](#) (noting Rolling Waters Fund). The funds are distributed by the Racial Equity Team here at ULCH. Thanks to all who have already given beginning in the summer of 2020. The impact has been significant.

Living Well with Chronic Pain

Mondays | May 3-June 14 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. | Via Zoom

Living Well with Chronic Pain is a group class designed to help participants live a healthy life with chronic pain by managing their symptoms. Sponsored by East Side Neighborhood Services, this program teaches new strategies that will give participants the confidence, motivation, and skills needed to manage living with chronic pain. Classes are highly participative, where mutual support and success build the participants' confidence in their ability to manage their health and maintain active and fulfilling lives.

This "virtual" six-week class will held via Zoom. If you're not familiar with Zoom, don't worry we will help you! There will be an orientation where you will meet one another, practice using Zoom, and receive support for any technical challenges on Monday, April 26 at 10 a.m. [To register, click here.](#) Or contact Carmel San Juan at 612-787-4086 or csanjuan@esns.org. Donations accepted based on a cost share.

Hope Book Club

On May 9th at 7 pm, the Hope Book Club will meet by Zoom to discuss:

***Wild & Rare, Tracking Endangered Species in the Upper Midwest*, by Adam Arvidson**

"The elusive Canada lynx bears kittens in Minnesota's northeastern woods. In the far southeastern part of the state, the succulent Leedy's roseroot clings to cold cliffs. On the northwestern grasslands, the western prairie fringed orchid grows only on ancient glacial beach ridges. In the rivers of the Twin Cities metro area, the snuffbox mussel snaps on a fish's nose to give its larvae a temporary home. These species and fifteen others living in Minnesota are on the federal Endangered Species List. Adam Regn Arvidson, a talented science reporter and genial guide, uncovers the stories of these plants and animals" --Amazon.com

June 13: *There, There*, by Tommy Orange

"Tommy Orange's wondrous and shattering novel follows twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to one another in ways they may not yet realize." --Goodreads.com

Please contact Sonja Peterson if you'd like to join us and she will send you the Zoom link.

Send Sonja your book suggestions at 612-242-8711 or speterson@dunnwald.com

Special Meeting of the Congregation: Sunday, May 2, 2021, 11:30-12:30 on Zoom

The Executive Committee of ULCH has called this Special Meeting to update the congregation on the following:

- New Covid-19 procedures
- Expansion of digital ministry
- Solar Project (Assuming that we receive an updated estimate from our contractor in time, the Vision & Governance will recommend an updated plan for financing and construction of ULCH's solar array.)

The Zoom link for the meeting will be the same that we use for our church service, and it will be sent out via e-mail. There are phone-in options as well. Call the church office if you need assistance.

May Adult Forums

May 2 - Due to the congregational meeting following worship, we will not have a forum. We encourage you to attend the meeting following the worship service.

May 9 - Hope's Visual Revitalization Project: A Virtual Art Tour - The Hope Trust Board has funded an art procurement project to make the church building more visually and spiritually welcoming, inclusive and engaging. Join Sharla Aaseng and Muffi Abrahamson as they guide us through recent acquisitions and help us better appreciate the significance of art throughout our building.

May 16 - The Spirituality of Gardening - In response to Esther Dant's recent lovely Sunday forum about the place of art in their lives, people are interested in hearing others share the spiritual side of their avocations. Marty Lewis-Hunstiger will talk about gardening: caring for creation, growing beauty, relating to health care, and pursuing social justice.

May 23 - 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.

We are pleased so many of you are participating in the Sunday Forums! Links to past forums are available in the Thursday Epistle each week. If there are others you seek, contact Nathan Obrestad (nathano@ulch.org) for a link. Most are being recorded.

Movie Discussion Group-May 16

The Racial Justice Task Force offers a movie discussion opportunity. Each month we 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 conversation. The next Racism Movie Discussion will be Sunday, May 16 at 5:00 p.m. The film will be Ma Rainey's Black Bottom.

This film is available on Netflix and possibly other platforms.

"Soil and Spirit" Day Camp - June 21-25, 2021

What: Join us for South Minneapolis Day Camp. The theme this year is "Soil and Spirit." As we sing, pray, and listen to stories from Scripture together, our kids will be grounded in the Spirit's work in creation - renewing and sustaining life. As we make art and learn about gardening, our kids will get their hands in the dirt and learn about soil, seeds, plants and pollinators through a number of activities.

When: June 21-25

Who: 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.

How: Due to the unknowns related to the continuing pandemic and vaccine roll-out, we are planning to offer camp fully online, with at least one outdoor, in-person evening gathering opportunity for every kid/family on specific evenings. Our online camp will include live Zoom gatherings from 9-10 a.m. M-F. We will have further content on our website with daily art, storytelling, and gardening videos. Registration is open and more information on the website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/southminneapolisdaycamp2021/home>

Life Events at Hope

We're a community called to hold one another in prayer in every season—in our deepest need and grief, and in our experiences of new life. Here are a few of the life events affecting our community. We need your help to know for who or what we can pray. Please alert a pastor or contact the church office. We include in prayer...

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

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 Karilyn and Gary Alexander and their daughters at the death of Karilyn's father, Robert Earl; Madhu Bhat and family at the death in December of Madhu's father, Oscar Eksten; and Bill and Jan Sanden, Karin, Kjerstin, and families at the death of Bill's father Conrad. Also, many in our congregation are living with deep grief from recent losses and also losses some months and years back. On June 5 Ruth Lundquist's family will gather for a small service; please include Ken and Alpha in your prayers as they prepare for this special time.

Significant Illness—We pray for those living with illness, cancer, recovery, uncertain diagnosis, hospice, chemical dependency and other addictions, and mental health struggles, including Jerry Hanson, Stewart Herman, Oswald "Mutt" Doure and infant granddaughter Danai, Steve Ganzkow-Wold, Jack Parry, Steve Schreuder, Miriam Hougen, Edward Nyhus, Janet Carpenter, Hannah Kiresuk, and Chuck Lewis.

Separation, divorce, retirement, moves, graduations, new beginnings, the COVID pandemic, and the civil rights movement of this time.

Who Does What??

Nearly a year ago we included an article in this esteemed The Visitor with this same title. We had recently (March 2020) welcomed Nathan Obrestad as our Church Administrator and Kari Olson as our Financial Administrator. With Gayle Bidne retiring we divided her position between these two capable folks. So, it's been a little more than a year and they are doing well despite the challenges. We know it can be tricky to figure out who is doing what, so we're re-running this list again to offer some clues about the division of their work.

Contact Nathan (at ulch@ulch.org or nathano@ulch.org) for things related church operations, like:

- Hospitality, welcome, and volunteering
- Facility and building use, like scheduling, parking lot use, rentals and coordination with the Facilities Committee
- Safety and security, insurance
- Office and building operations like supplies and the copy machine
- Church records and the database, like updating your email or phone
- Congregational giving and pledges, and quarterly contribution statements
- Setting up auto withdrawals and questions about giving
- Arranging the schedule for those who count the offering
- Communications like the website, Thursday Epistle, The Visitor, announcements, and bulletin production
- Technology, computers, and Wi-Fi
- And general questions.

Contact Kari (at kario@ulch.org) for things related to finance, like:

- Payables, writing checks and reimbursements
- Assisting with preparation of the annual budget and monitoring cash flow.
- Managing employee payroll and benefits
- Making bank deposits and reconciling bank statements
- Producing financial reports and completing tax forms
- Ensuring receivables are tracked, recorded, and posted. Note: Nathan will focus on the congregational pledges, and Kari will do other receivables.

Nathan works 9-2 p.m. weekdays. Kari's hours are more minimal and include a couple evenings each week and often Saturday or Sunday midday. Email is a great way to reach both of them. Please do keep introducing yourself. And thanks for welcoming them warmly.

Note from the President

Yesterday the chickens had had enough. They loved the warm days last week, and every day they began to happily lay one egg each. When the weather turned a bit cooler and rainy, they were okay with that as well, and the laying bonanza continued. But, snow yesterday, they weren't having it. We only got one egg between the four of them.

This Saturday marks two weeks since I got my Johnson & Johnson shot. That'll feel great--freedom from care, maybe go out for a beer, a movie even? But Sunday morning would be Zoom church, again. That won't feel right—like a step back.

I'm sure many of you are feeling like my chickens. There are serious matters around us, too, from policing practices to politics at the state capitol that are not following the positive progression we would like. In the midst of these happenings beyond our control, the Vision & Governance Board at University Lutheran Church of Hope is taking a serious look at our church's vision. We are setting our mind to figuring out a way forward.

In late April, the board will meet with church staff to examine our Vision Goals, which were formulated 3 years ago. We will consider how these goals still fit, what we should change, on what we can double down. Then in May we will reconvene, take our newly invigorated vision, and decide what it means for the church's staffing needs. With Nick gone, we will be making new hires this summer. What could their talents, experiences, and skills be? What should their jobs look like?

What I particularly value in this process is our board make-up. Five members, acting as liaisons to ULCH's ministries, represent what you value most at our church: Education, Youth & Young Adults, Relational Ministries, Worship, and Hope in the World. Together, they and the other board members will envision what our future holds. Please pray for us, wish us luck—and, if you like, give us a call!

Thank you for the trust you have put in us as leaders. Better Weather Awaits!

Uli Koester, Congregational President

Treasurer's Report

March 2021 and Year-to-Date Income and Expense						
	Mar. Actual	Mar. Budget	Mar. Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	39,945	38,037	1,908	110,873	123,621	(12,748)
Rental Income	10,339	10,166	173	29,797	30,498	(701)
Total Income	50,284	48,203	2,081	140,670	154,119	(13,449)
Salaries & Benefits	35,149	25,995	9,154	89,869	77,985	11,884
Total Expense	56,275	47,776	8,499	161,120	148,871	12,249
Net Operating Income	(5,991)	427	(6,419)	(20,451)	5,248	(25,697)

March Financials

General giving totaled \$39,945 for the month of March, \$1,908 more than budgeted. Year-to-date general giving totaled \$110,873, \$12,748 under the budgeted amount. In March, rental income totaled \$10,339 which includes PEASE Academy rent and parking lot income. Income for the month totaled \$50,284 contributing to a total year-to-date income of \$140,670, \$13,449 underbudget.

Expenses totaled \$56,275 for the month of March. Year-to-date, expenses total \$161,120, \$12,249 overbudget primarily due to increased utility expenses in the first three months of the year. Additionally, the April 2nd payroll was expensed in March contributing to the \$9,154 variance in salaries & benefits. We had a net operating loss of \$5,991 for the month contributing to a net operating loss of \$25,697 year-to-date. As of March 31st, we have \$524K in current assets – primarily composed of our checking and savings account (including the Solar Project funds and other dedicated funds).

Capital Campaign – Opening Doors

In March we received \$22,682 in contributions for the Opening Doors Capital Campaign. During the month, we distributed the remaining benevolences to several organizations as part of the Revealing Hope Capital Campaign. We also paid several expenses related to the new campaign. The new campaign is aimed at paying the mortgage (*expires in April 2027*) and funding special projects around the church including virtual worship enhancements. Please reach out to me or Nathan Obrestad (nathano@ulch.org) if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for continuing to support the Capital Campaign.

The Executive Committee alongside the Vision and Governance Board 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

Healing Our City

In our Hope Connections group, Dan Bielenberg informed us of a website www.healingourcity.org from which you can click into a zoom gathering every morning for a half hour of prayer and a time of silence/meditation of 9 minutes and 29 seconds (the time Chauvin knelt on the neck of George Floyd). This site was started by Don Samuels, a former city council member, last summer. It begins at 8:00 a.m. and has grown to hundreds of participants of every faith. It will continue through May 25. To pray and meditate for the healing of our city is a great way to start your day.

Donna Neste

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 AM No Sunday Forum Today 9:45 AM Zoom - Sunday School Check-In 10:30 AM Worship - Zoom and Livestream 11:30 AM Zoom: Congregational Meeting 4:30 PM Tentative-LCM	3 9:00 AM Zoom - Quilters 6:00 PM Compassion Care class - Zoom	4 3:00 PM Zoom: Gratitude and Generosity Team 6:30 PM Zoom - MHNA Land Use Committee 6:30 PM Zoom - Personnel Committee 7:15 PM Zoom - Executive Committee	5 11:00 AM Zoom - Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Zoom - Choir	6 11:00 AM Zoom - Centering Prayer 6:30 PM AA Group Courtyard and Lounge	7	8 8:00 AM Ash Tree Removal Project 10:00 AM ULCH Rec Ministry - Hike/Walk at Murphy Hanrehan Park Reserve 3:00 PM Drop In Day at University Baptist Church
9 9:30 AM Zoom - Sunday Forum 9:45 AM Zoom - Sunday School Check-In 10:30 AM Worship - Zoom and Livestream 2:30 PM Baptism Service 7:00 PM Zoom - Book Club	10 9:00 AM Zoom - Quilters 5:30 PM Zoom - PEASE Community Foundation 6:00 PM Compassion Care class - Zoom	11 11:00 AM Zoom - Staff Meeting	12 5:30 PM Zoom - Compassion Care Team 6:00 PM Zoom - Facilities Team 7:00 PM Zoom - Choir	13 9:30 AM Zoom - Dorcas Circle 11:00 AM Zoom - Centering Prayer 6:30 PM AA Group Patio 7:00 PM Zoom and Courtyard - Men's Group	14 7:00 PM ZOOM-Crafters' Group	15 **"The Visitor" Articles Due
16 9:30 AM Zoom - Sunday Forum 9:45 AM Zoom - Sunday School Check-In 10:30 AM Worship - Zoom and Livestream 5:00 PM Zoom: Movie Discussion Group with Racial Equity Focus	17 9:00 AM Zoom - Quilters 6:00 PM Compassion Care class - Zoom 7:00 PM Riverside Innovation Hub Team Meeting	18 11:00 AM Zoom - Staff Meeting 4:00 PM Sanctuary Coalition Meeting 6:30 PM Zoom - Vision & Governance Board	19 7:00 PM Zoom - Choir 8:30 PM Children's Ministry Team Meeting	20 11:00 AM Zoom - Centering Prayer 6:00 PM Zoom - SE Como Hope Connections Group 6:30 PM AA Group Courtyard and Lounge	21	22
23 9:30 AM Zoom - Sunday Forum 9:45 AM Zoom - Sunday School Check-In 10:30 AM Pentecost Worship - Outdoors, with Zoom and Livestream (tentative) 12:00 PM Youth Group	24 9:00 AM Zoom - Quilters 6:00 PM Compassion Care class - Zoom 6:00 PM ZOOM-Bible & Brews	25 11:00 AM Zoom - Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Zoom - Racial Justice Team	26 6:00 PM Zoom - Sanctuary & Immigration Team Meeting 7:00 PM Zoom: Prayer Around the Cross	27 11:00 AM Zoom - Centering Prayer 6:30 PM AA Group Courtyard and Lounge 7:00 PM Zoom - Men's Group	28 7:00 PM ZOOM-Crafters' Group	29
30 10:00 AM Worship - Zoom and Livestream	31 9:00 AM Zoom - Quilters					

From our Minister of Worship and Music: Happy Easter! How are you keeping the feast?

We have so much for which to say Alleluia—for big moments and small steps that all play a part in progress, transformation, and change. The goodness of God is at work. Even in periods of great solemnity and continued grief, the awed silence in the empty tomb gives us this word, this song, to clutch, to cradle, to bellow: ALLELUIA! Praise God, for God has done marvelous things. God will always do marvelous things.

Riding the wave of Easter freshness, it's time to work out how we gather in person again. We have been hard at work imagining and planning for how this will play out in our worship life. We will continue to take it slow and use an abundance of caution. We won't move from 100% online to 100% in-person cold turkey. We will lean on our established capacity with Zoom to facilitate a smooth transition.

Our worship life for the foreseeable future will continue to be a heavily adapted version of what it was before the pandemic. This next phase will take more of the flexibility, openness, grace, and hope we have been practicing for over a year now. We'll begin this phase on Pentecost, May 23 at the 10:30am service that will be outdoors and also on Zoom/YouTube.

Beyond Pentecost, here is what we have planned for the summer. Please note the summer schedule on this page that you can clip out of the Visitor and keep on your fridge or wherever it is helpful. We will also strive to keep our website and social media updated to reflect this schedule.

Outdoor worship. - Contingent on weather. The rain location is Zoom/YouTube, as worshipping in the sanctuary is a complex endeavor and it's not possible to flex to the sanctuary at the last minute. Weather cancellations will be made by 8am Sunday mornings.

- Bring your own chairs. Chairs will be available for those who need.
- Distancing by household and face coverings are a requirement.
- Congregational singing will be allowed.

- Worship will take place on the west side of the building in that parking lot corridor. Using this flat, paved surface will improve accessibility and generally be an easier and more hospitable area to use.

Evening Prayer. Because we are still working on protocols for the sanctuary, we will not use this space at all on Sunday mornings. Lack of AC/air exchange paired with the heat of the summer months make it a difficult space to figure out. Instead, we will offer a Vespers/Evening Prayer service twice a month on Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary. These will be sign-up based (keep posted for more details), will require distancing and masks, and will probably have no congregational singing. Instrumental music and small vocal groups will lead the music. Vespers is an ancient liturgical tradition that embraces the evening hour in its beauty and restfulness. It makes sense for us to lean on this tradition in this transition as we want to use the sanctuary but are working out the difficulties. Worshipping in the evening hopefully relieves some of the heat of the day, and offers us an alternative to Sunday mornings that is more suited to restfulness, quiet, and space.

Zoom/YouTube. Worshipping remotely via Zoom/YouTube will remain a weekly option **every** Sunday morning. On Sundays when we have in-person worship outdoors, a facilitator or two will be the "bridge" between our in-person worship and the online community. In-person worship will be captured by one or two cameras. On Sundays when we do not have in-person worship, we will worship as we normally have been exclusively on Zoom/YouTube. As the summer progresses, we may flex and add more in-person options. As we start out, though, we are committing to a "2 and 2" pattern with 2 Sundays hybrid and 2 Sundays online only. The Vespers offerings offset the weeks with online-only options with these in-person options. I'm looking forward to a fabulous summer of promise, praise, and justice-making.

Sunday 5/30	Online only, 10am
Wednesday 6/2	Vespers - sanctuary, 7pm
Sunday 6/6	Outdoors, 10am
Sunday 6/13	Online only, 10am
Wednesday 6/16	Vespers - sanctuary, 7pm
Sunday 6/20	Outdoors, 10am
Wednesday 6/23	Evening Prayer Online, 7pm
Sunday 6/27	Online only, 10am
Sunday 7/4	Online only, 10am
Wednesday 7/7	Vespers - sanctuary, 7pm
Sunday 7/11	Outdoors, 10am
Sunday 7/18	Outdoors, 10am
Wednesday 7/21	Vespers - sanctuary, 7pm
Sunday 7/25	Online only, 10am
Wednesday 7/28	Evening Prayer Online, 7pm
Sunday 8/1	Outdoors, 10am
Wednesday 8/4	Vespers - sanctuary, 7pm
Sunday 8/8	Outdoors, 10am
Sunday 8/15	Online only, 10am
Wednesday 8/18	Vespers - sanctuary, 7pm
Sunday 8/22	Outdoors, 10am
Wednesday 8/25	Evening Prayer Online, 7pm
Sunday 8/29	Outdoors, 10am
Sunday 9/5	Outdoors

*All in-person services will have simultaneous Zoom and YouTube options.
 *Remember to reserve a seat at the in-person Vespers services in the sanctuary.
 *Rain location for outdoors is online.
 *Rain cancellations will be called by 8am the morning of.

Zach Busch, Minister of Worship and Music

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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