

Complex world. Thoughtful church.

September 2021
No. 17-09



Clockwise from Top Left: Zach leads the choir one last time; paddling on White Bear Lake; The Hope Choir with Zach Busch following Godspeed and a program on August 8, Zach's final day as our Minister of Worship and Music; Nick Peterson (one of our new Worship Tech Support staff) and Rebecca Tetlie posing after a service; the hiking group in later August; Hope's community stretches far – here two Hope families (both living and working in New Zealand) meet up: Steve and Nancy Struthers, and Kristen and Jay Carlson.

Living Waters

Artist Kerri Blackman is an intuitive expressionist painter inspired by the bridge between the natural and contemplative worlds. She consciously begins her compositions without the end in mind. She may have a hunch the subject will become a spirit figure, but she doesn't know for sure. Instead, she lets go of preconceived ideas and keeps her critical mind's chatter in check—all in order to allow mystery to unfold.

Blackman begins by smoothing her hands across the blank canvas—a present invitation to the visual journey ahead. Then she freely explores layering of color, light, gestures and marks. She works continuously, noticing visual developments but resisting the urge to define the picture too quickly. Rather than directing the process, she stays open and curious about how the picture is evolving and where it is leading. Even as the composition begins to emerge, everything is subject to change until the final piece falls into place and the image is revealed.

Arriving at the finished picture requires the artist to keep her frame of mind wide open, to pay close attention to what's happening on the canvas, and to trust the promptings of the subconscious. Patience and a certain amount of courage are needed to let go of trying to visualize the outcome before it has materialized and to trust the evolving process. There are no promises that this approach will lead the artist to a striking, meaningful image. But the key dimension that brings so much vitality and energy to Blackman's work is her creative capacity to hold space for surprise and wonder to take form.

We might liken this open-ended, unfolding process to our own prayerful meditation. As all the unknowns stretch out before us, we try to clear our mind's chatter in order to better listen and open ourselves to the Great Creator's loving presence. We ask for guidance and courage to navigate through the complex layers of all that is happening in the world, in our relationships, and within ourselves. We ask that our eyes be open to see beyond our self-limiting patterns of thinking and behaving. We ask the Great Spirit's help to hold space in our hearts and minds to trust, hope and love.

Within a permeating, layered landscape of warm magenta, blue and purple, Blackman's *Living Waters* portrays a magnificent, robed spirit figure facing us, its head haloed by watery blue light. Bold, arching wings with soft, giant feathers reach toward us, barely held within the canvas. The majestic figure holds in its right hand and close to its heart the globe of the world, while its extended left hand sprinkles a shower of water. This stunning image invites us to ponder the transforming power of the living waters Jesus speaks of in the temple:

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." — John 7:37-38



Muffi Abrahamson, Art & Environment

Pandemics, Plans, Personnel, Pastoral Care, and Past Perfect Verbs: Oh My!

One of my favorite Bible stories is one we call the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24). And one of my favorite lines in that story has a fantastic past perfect verb construction, “We had hoped...” In this case these two disciples walking along the road, debriefing Jesus’ death and the empty tomb, had hoped that Jesus really was the one to redeem their people... and now everything for them seems soaked in uncertainty. That deep, cutting sense of dashed hopes has rung true at points in my life as I suspect it has in yours. We had hoped.

This late summer, I’m struck by the “we had hoped” reality of life these months. We had hoped there wouldn’t be another surge. We had hoped the deaths and exhaustion might be prevented. We had hoped we could put away our masks and untether our children and hug our community. But that’s not how things are looking from this spot on the road. We’re left in the muddle of uncertainty.

In all of this, let me share a bit:

Our COVID 19 Procedures. We’re revising our COVID policy. Key things to note: Outdoors masks continue to be optional when distance can be kept. Indoors masks are required for worship, meetings, and life around the building regardless of vaccination status. For a while this summer we had a little more flexibility with masks for small groups, but that is no longer the case. In the spirit of care for the community, we strongly encourage vaccinations for all who are able to receive them, and, beginning in September, we require vaccinations for staff. Following the guidance of MDH and CDC, we’re limiting the sharing of food (think treats) and drinks (think coffee) because these can invite congregating and the potential spread of the virus.

Fall Plans for Worship. This fall every Sunday there will be a worship opportunity in person at Hope at 10:30 a.m. We will alternate between worship in the sanctuary (wearing masks, singing, Holy Communion) and worship outdoors (similar to this summer). Every Sunday we will offer Zoom and YouTube worship options. The fall schedule begins on September 12. If the weather is rainy on a Sunday on which we’re scheduled for outdoors, we will pivot to the sanctuary (still with Zoom and YouTube options). At this point we will not have an 8:30 a.m. service. Sunday School will meet in a hybrid fashion (patio and Zoom) at 9:30 a.m. Sunday Forum will meet in the courtyard (fellowship hall if bad weather) at 9:30 a.m. I write all this recognizing that plans may need to change if the virus worsens in our area. For now we look forward to worship together in the sanctuary!

Personnel. This is a season to welcome new staff! You can read Tim Abrahamson’s article on the next page for all the

details. Having been part of the interviews for all these new staff, I’m excited for the gifts they bring and thankful for the teams who have offered time and wisdom in the hiring process. We weren’t sure we’d be able to fill all the positions this fall simply because we’d heard from other congregations that they were facing a lack of qualified candidates.



What a joy to have these creative and faithful folks joining our ministry and community. Please continue to pray for the search for Minister of Worship and Music. The position is posted, the search team is well underway, and we’re on track with hopes of welcoming a new Minister of Worship and Music by Advent at the latest.

Personal Care and Pastoral Care. My spouse Jane serves as pastor at First Congregational and we parent two kids in the throes of back to school and the mental health challenges of life. There is a lot going on and we are juggling much. Many of you have asked me how I’m doing. Thanks for asking. I’m weary, and I’m hopeful. With the support of our congregation’s leaders, I’m doing my best to work and rest, to lean into trusted friendships, to renew my soul walking and being outside, and to step back when I can. One way that we’ve shifted my time this fall is by adding more voices to our preaching rotation. This gives me a little extra space for covering other bases, and it gives us all the opportunity to hear the Gospel in new ways. Thanks to our preachers! Yes, I’m busy, but not too busy to respond to pastoral care needs, to listen, to talk, to pray. Please do not hesitate to reach out as needed. Between me, Pastor Barbara, Pastoral Intern Emily, and the caregivers of this congregation, we want to walk with you. Please, please don’t hesitate to call or text (612-227-9673) or email (jenn@ulch.org) as needed.

That road to Emmaus story is actually a resurrection story. Though they don’t recognize him at first, it’s Jesus who walks with those friends on the road, and it’s Jesus (the resurrected Jesus) who breaks bread and feeds them, making life in the places of death, making a way when we aren’t sure of the way. We had hoped this fall might be different, and yet Jesus walks with us. I’m grateful for this truth, and grateful for you and this community of Christ.

Pastor Jen

Staffing Update

August began a whirlwind of staff transition at University Lutheran Church of Hope.

We said goodbye to Zach Busch, our Minister of Worship and Music for the last six years. We sent him off with our love and Godspeed as he makes his new home in Madison, WI to be closer to family and begin a new job at Bethel Lutheran Church. A search committee is in place to fill the Minister of Worship and Music position. The committee has written a job description and posted this opportunity in a number of publications, and we will hopefully begin interviewing candidates in the last weeks of September. Ideally we would have a candidate hired and in place by the beginning of Advent, which is the last week of November.

Elise Carlson is our new Minister of Community Engagement, beginning in September. She is a recent graduate of Luther College with a focus on political science, religion and management. Elise is passionate about working with and for people and looks forward to using her resourcefulness to make meaningful connections between our congregation and our neighborhood.

Morgan Strudthoff is our new Minister of Faith Formation, also beginning in September. She has a bachelor's degree in youth and family ministry from Midland University and is enrolled in the Master of Divinity program at Luther Seminary. She brings enthusiasm, creativity and dedication to this important role of education within our congregation.

Nicholas Peterson and Seth Strudthoff have stepped into Hope's newly defined Worship Tech Support staff role to facilitate Hope's online worship presence. Nick will work three Sundays a month, and Seth will work the remaining Sunday. We thank Matt Fry and the other tech volunteers for training Nick and Seth.

We warmly welcome Elise, Morgan, Nick and Seth into their new roles and the work of our congregation. If you have questions about this process, please call me at 612-414-3532.

Tim Abrahamson, Chairperson of the Personnel Committee

Search process for Minister of Worship and Music

The search committee for the Minister of Worship and Music has been finalized. The members of the committee are:

CO-CHAIRS: *Becky Halvorson and Rebecca Rice Tetlie*

EX OFFICIO: *Jen Nagel*

CHOIR: *Will Heller and Judy Ranheim*

ULCHers: *Tim Gustafson*

WORSHIP: *Lisa Morse*

CONGREGATION: *Bryan Kufus*

The job description has been updated and the position has been posted on several sites. You can find it on our website: <http://www.ulch.org/employment> We are accepting applications through September 13th. Our tentative timeline is to have our first set of initial interviews at the end of September followed by an in person interview with the finalists the first weeks of October. If you have any comments you would like to share about this process, feel free to reach out to the search committee co-chairs at rebecca.tetlie@gmail.com or halvorson.becky@gmail.com. Thanks to all who have helped expedite this process!

Music and Worship at Hope

Though we're in the midst of a search process for a new Minister of Worship and Music, our music and worship life continues. Here are a few ways to join in.

- **Join the choir.** Yes, seriously. If you've been dreaming of making music, this is your season. The choir will sing roughly every other Sunday through the fall and will rehearse on Wednesdays 7-8 p.m. prior to those Sundays. Scott Rohr is leading the choir during this interim period. Scott is committed to upholding our COVID 19 procedures including mask wearing, distance, and shorter rehearsals. If you'd like to sing, contact Scott at scott.rohr@gmail.com.
- **Add some music.** Instrumentalists, small ensembles and solo voices are invited to offer music in worship such as supporting a hymn, adding special music, or leading the psalm. Contact Pastor Jen if you'd like to be included on this schedule.
- **Sing Holden Evening Prayer.** On September 15 and September 29 we'll sing Holden Evening Prayer at 7 p.m. Depending on weather and COVID, we'll hold this service in the sanctuary (wearing masks) or in the Courtyard or elsewhere outdoors at church. Thanks to Tim "Gus" Gustafson for leading us.
- **Prayer for the Process.** Please include in your prayers the search process for our new Minister of Worship and Music, and for our congregation's journey into more in person worship opportunities.

Sunday Forums

We'll soon be heading into a new season of Sunday Forum opportunities! We'll begin with having the forums in the courtyard with Fellowship Hall as a back-up if the weather doesn't cooperate. All forums meet from 9:30 to 10:15.

Our September forums will focus on getting re-acquainted and hearing about our time apart from one another and how it has changed us. Make plans to attend!

September 12: How's It Been?

When it comes to the pandemic, we've all been in the same storm, but not in the same boat. We'll take this time together to share stories of where life has taken us in the past 17 months. What did we experience? What did we learn? Nan Knutsen will lead the discussion.

September 19: How's It Going Now?

The pandemic isn't over, but we're already thinking about where we go from here. Join us for more conversation about how our experiences will shape us as we live into a new future. Diane Greve will lead the discussion.

September 26: Body, Mind, and Spirit Post-Covid

How do we cope, survive, and maybe even thrive in the aftermath of the COVID pandemic? Join a panel of Hope members who have been involved in the health of body, mind, and spirit in their professional and personal lives. Explore practical, historical, and spiritual perspectives in light of the Judeo-Christian tradition. Our moderator will be Alden Tetlie, a retired family practice physician.

The Sunday Forum Team

Sustaining Hope

A Bible Study Opportunity: "Sustaining Hope" - The Gratitude and Generosity Stewardship theme for this Fall.

Please join Gratitude and Generosity Team members as we explore the theme of "sustain" in the Bible. We will gather on Tuesday

Sept 14th at 7:00 p.m. via zoom. The goal will be to explore the theme of sustaining, as identified in the Bible. Ann Beane will lead the group. Some resources and questions will be provided the week before in the Thursday Epistle. Questions? Contact at Ann at spirit.beane@gmail.com

Thank You for Your Letters to Congress

The Bread for the World Committee would like to thank all members for writing letters to Congress to urge our law-makers to expand and make permanent the Child Tax Credit and increase nutritional funding for mothers and children globally. Thanks also to Bruce Eldevik, who lead our Offering of Letters event after the Sunday service on August 1st. A total of 37 letters were sent to Senators and Representatives, and several sample letters were taken in order to write letters at home.

Hope in the World

Bible and Brews

Exactly what it sounds like...bring your Bible, your favorite brewed beverage, and a penchant for laid-back but totally engaging conversations about faith, scripture, and current events. We will meet on Monday, September 27, 6-8 p.m. The group will determine if they will meet outside in person or on Zoom. Stay tuned to the Thursday Epistle for the plans.

Bruce Eldevik with the Bread For the World Letters to Congress.



It's About Time... for Hope Diamonds ! 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 15 in the Courtyard

Hope Diamonds is a ministry of senior members and friends at ULCH

All are welcome! No age restrictions 😊

Agenda. We'll talk, and laugh, and get reacquainted with one another in person.

Eat your lunch at home. We'll provide coffee and individually packaged treats.

RSVP by Friday Sept. 10 to Nathan (office) 612-331-5988 or barbaraj@gmail.com

Need a ride? or Can you provide a ride? Let us know when you RSVP.

We will wear our masks and do our best to stay safely distanced.

The outdoor Courtyard at Hope has several new tables with umbrellas for shade.

We have a microphone and loud speakers to assist hearing.

If it rains we will reschedule for another date.

Join the Hope Book Club For A Delicious Pot Luck and Insightful Book Discussion

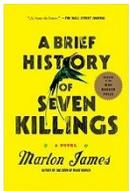
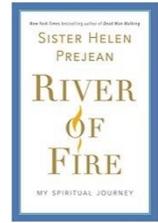
On Sunday, Sept. 12th, 6 p.m. at the Silverwood Park, 2500 County Road E, St. Anthony, MN

Please bring an appetizer, salad or dessert to share. Sonja will bring bratwurst sausages to grill, along with buns, kraut & mustard to share, along with paper plates, cups, napkins and utensils.

We will discuss: **River of Fire**, by Helen Prejean

"River of Fire is Sister Helen's story leading up to her acclaimed book Dead Man Walking - it is thought-provoking, informative, and inspiring. Read it and it will set your heart ablaze!"

www.goodreads.com



On Sunday, Oct. 10th: **A Brief History of 7 Killings**, by Marlon James (book club kit).

"James's impressive third novel sets the attempted assassination of Bob Marley against the cacophony and violence of Jamaica as the CIA moved in."

www.theguardian.com. 2015 Man Booker Prize winner.

Please contact Sonja Peterson at 612-242-8711 or speterson@dunnwald.com with book suggestions or if you'd like to join us.

The Hope Solar Project is Moving Ahead

The solar work is moving ahead! Eight Sundial workers just installed almost 100 solar panels on the roof of the educational wing. The work took two days, which is typical for a solar installation: 2 years to plan, get contractor, permits, materials; 2 days to install, and 2 minutes to install each solar collector on its rack! But the work is not yet done. The rooftop will provide somewhat less than half the total electricity. The canopy over the parking lot will provide the remainder, using about 132 panels.

Unfortunately, the delivery date for the canopy has been pushed back to as far as October by our supplier in Canada. But in the meantime, Sundial will work on the third piece of the installation: the cabling that will connect the solar panels to the church and to the grid, as well as the installation of the 4 structural piers to support the canopy. Our system will not have battery storage. Instead, it will

be connected to the electric grid, which will enable us to sell surplus solar electricity to Xcel, while buying electricity when the sun doesn't shine.

So, what does the system look like? The photo below was shot by a drone operated by our Church Administrator Nathan Obrestad. That is likely the only view you will have of the solar panels. They are so low to the roof they cannot be seen from ground level. But you can get a good look from the door which exits onto the roof, by the stairwell to the balcony.

Stewart Herman and Tim Abrahamson,
Clean Energy Team



Produce Give Away at Van Cleve Park

Please join in, pick up what you need, and share this opportunity with others.

Produce Giveaways by SE Como Improvement Association (SECIA), East Side Neighborhood Services and Van Cleve Park, 901-15th Ave SE, on Wednesday, Sept. 22, 4-6 p.m.

Clothing and Toiletries Drive for Neighbors who are Unhoused

University Lutheran Church of Hope, along with a half dozen other churches and neighborhood groups, has now held three successful drop-in events for our Southeast Minneapolis unhoused neighbors. The first was held at Hope, the next two at University Baptist, and the fourth event will take place on Wednesday, September 22 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Van Cleve Park.

At these drop-ins we offer hot food from Raising Cane's, free haircuts, HIV tests from The Aliveness Project, and toiletries, socks, and clothing, along with information on temporary and permanent housing.

Because of the success of these events, our supply of warm clothing and toiletries has been considerably reduced. This means holding another drive, this one particularly focused on collecting warm clothing for the approaching fall and winter. Thanks for your generosity.

Lynette Lamb

Please drop off any/all of the following at Nathan's office whenever you can:

- Socks (men's and women's crew socks, white or black)
- Toothpaste (any size)
- Toothbrushes (individually packaged)
- Soap (any size)
- Sweatshirts (gently used okay)
- Sweatpants (gently used okay)
- Sleeping bags (gently used okay)

"Welcome Back Students"

September 19th after 10:30 Worship.

Community connections and [depending on the situation with COVID] pizza
Hot out of the pizza oven!

Hope Connections

It is time again to announce that Hope Connections is meeting for another year. Hope Connections is a small-group bible study ministry that brings people together to share what is going on in their lives and to discuss what the bible has to say to those situations. The theme for 2021-22 is "Stories of Healing". The curriculum team of Stewart Herman, Dan Bielenberg, Sara Tufvesson Doure, Alden Tetlie, Brian McCaffrey, and myself have assembled a curriculum booklet of six lessons based on the theme. If you are interested in joining a group, in leading a group, or joining the curriculum team,

please call John Beane at 651.338.4492 or email pilgrim.beane@gmail.com. The South Minneapolis group meets on the third Thursday of every month and we welcome new members. Other groups meet at other times. If you want to know others in the congregation on a deeper level and you want others to know you, join a group!

John Beane, Hope Connections

Youth Group and the ELCA Youth Gathering

Youth Group will meet on September 19 after worship in the courtyard. This offers a time for those 6th grade and up to connect with one another and their faith. We share lunch, conversations, and hangout together.

And, youth, we'll register this fall for the July 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering! Here's the link to learn more.

<https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering/>

Racial Justice Movie Discussion Group

The Racial Justice Film Discussion Group resumes this fall. We invite you to watch "The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till (<https://youtu.be/bvijYSJtkQk>)" and then join us for discussion on Sunday, September 19th at 5 p.m. on Zoom. The lynching of Emmett Till became a turning point in the Civil Rights movement. We would appreciate receiving your recommendations of movies that you would like to discuss this year
Brian McCaffrey, Racial Justice Team

September – October Birthdays

We're all looking forward to cooler, colorful autumn days. So, what's cooler than helping us to put some color in the faces of some of our most beloved older members? Consider sending a card or a note, or pick up your phone and call them. Many of them also appreciate email or a text message. The Birthday list includes those who are 80 and older, in addition to some who may be homebound, residing in assisted living or a care center. You can find their contact info in our latest ULCH directory.

September Birthdays

- Sept 4 Donna Parry
- Sept 6 Anita Smith (our eldest member will be 99 this year!)
- Sept 10 Miriam Hougen
- Sept 11 Winnie Nyhus
- Sept 22 Jim Hougen
- Sept 28 Bob Lindesmith

October Birthdays

- Oct 11 Karen Lindesmith
- Oct 20 Terry Hanson
- Oct 25 Arloene Stevens
- Oct 27 Janet Booe
- Oct 31 Jerry Johnson

September Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 PM Choir	2 Gopher Football Game 7pm 6:30 PM AA Group Courtyard and Lounge	3	4
5 10:00 AM Outdoor Worship, with Zoom/YouTube	6 Labor Day - Office Closed 9:00 AM Quilters	7 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Zoom - Personnel Committee 7:15 PM Executive Committee in Courtyard	8 5:30 PM Zoom - Compassion Care Team 6:00 PM Zoom - Facilities Team 7:00 PM Choir	9 9:30 AM Dorcas Circle - Courtyard/Lounge 6:30 PM AA Group Courtyard and Lounge 7:00 PM Men's Group in courtyard	10 7:00 PM Crafter Group - Courtyard/Lounge	11 Gopher Football game 11 am 9:00 AM St. Anthony Lutheran Church Retreat Meeting
12 God's Work. Our Hands. 9:30 AM Sunday Forum 9:30 AM Sunday School (hybrid) - Patio & Zoom 10:30 AM Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 6:00 PM Book Club - Silverwood Park	13 9:00 AM Quilters 7:30 PM Children's Ministry Team on Zoom	14 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Bible Study- Sustaining Hope	15 1:00 PM Hope Diamonds 7:00 PM Holden Evening Prayer 8:30 PM Children's Ministry Team Meeting	16 6:00 PM Zoom - SE Como Hope Connections Group 6:30 PM AA Group Courtyard and Lounge	17	18 9:00 AM Tentative - First Congregational Event 4:00 PM Nan Knutsen and Mark Nelson Wedding
19 9:30 AM Sunday Forum 9:30 AM Sunday School (hybrid) - Patio & Zoom 10:30 AM Outdoor Worship, w/ Zoom/YouTube 11:30 AM Welcome Back Students and Pizza Bake 11:30 AM Youth Group 1:00 PM Baptism-Logan and Griffin Nygaard 5:00 PM Zoom: Movie Discussion Group with Racial Equity Focus	20 9:00 AM Quilters 2:00 PM Gratitude and Generosity Team	21 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM Sanctuary Coalition Meeting - Courtyard 6:30 PM Vision & Governance Board- Courtyard	22 7:00 PM Choir	23 6:30 PM AA Group Courtyard and Lounge 7:00 PM Men's Group in courtyard 7:00 PM Sanctuary and Immigration Team on Zoom	24 7:00 AM Tentative Bread Bake - Parking lot	25 Gopher Football Game 11am 7:00 AM Tentative Bread Bake - Parking lot 10:00 AM Oblates group - Sanctuary and Lounge
26 9:30 AM Sunday Forum 9:30 AM Sunday School (hybrid) - Patio & Zoom 10:30 AM Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube	27 9:00 AM Quilters 6:00 PM ZOOM-Bible & Brews	28 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Zoom - Racial Justice Team	29 7:00 PM Holden Evening Prayer	30 6:30 PM AA Group Courtyard and Lounge	1 🔒 EVisitor email sent- add to website	2 7:30 AM Tentative - PEASE Pancake Breakfast

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 what we can pray. Please alert a pastor or contact the church office. We include in prayer...

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

Baptisms—We pray for those preparing for baptism including Dorothea Biesel (and her parents Clara and Owen) whose baptism date we're arranging; Ryan Matthew Sachs (and his parents Madeline and Mike Sachs) who will be baptized on September 26; Logan and Griffin Nygaard who will be baptized in a small service on September 19; and Taha Namazi and Tooran Nosrat who were baptized (and welcomed into Hope) on Aug 22.

Marriages—We pray for all those preparing for marriage, and for all relationships of commitment, including Nan Knutsen and Mark Nelson who will marry on Saturday, September 18; and Hannah Beane (daughter of Ann and John Beane) and Robbie Hamlin, who will marry September 10 in Ketchum, Idaho, where they met and are living.

Deaths—We pray for all who grieve the loss of loved ones, including the Abrahamsons at the death of Neil Larson, Muffi Abrahamson's brother; and the family of Pastor and church leader David W. Preus. Pastor Preus died on July 23. He served University Lutheran Church of Hope from 1957-1973.

Significant Illness—We pray for those living with illness, cancer, recovery, uncertain diagnosis, hospice, chemical dependency and other addictions, and mental health struggles, including Anne Bidne (in hospice), Jerry Hanson, Roger and Nita Anderson, Stewart Herman, Steve Ganzkow-Wold, Steve Schreuder, Miriam Hougen, 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.

Note from the President

Most days Maggie, Copper, and Molly greet the day with a thump off their sleeping roost and a skootch down the chicken ladder. They come out to their run with the expectation that the day will be just fine — food and water in the feeders, and ever-present dirt to scratch and peck. There will be special times too. Something enticing from our kitchen will arrive — watermelon rinds or sour milk — and they will get to lay an egg and crow about it.

Sounds fun, doesn't it? However, if you are like me, you have few chicken mornings. I wake up knowing the day will be filled with challenges, much to do, and plenty to worry about it. The morning paper, which I retrieve after letting the chickens out, confirms this prognosis.

But yesterday morning was a relief! About 80 of us gathered for a congregational meeting where, amazingly enough, we learned that things might be just fine at Hope:

- We are on our way to hiring good people to replace Nick Tangen and Zach Busch.
- The solar panels are on the roof (drone video proved it!), and the canopy with more panels is coming soon.
- The plan for fall is to worship in-person every Sunday.
- For those who choose, a Zoom/YouTube option remains — we have already hired professionals to run this streaming option.
- Our budget is in excellent shape 7 months into the year.

Challenges remain, of course. No one is doubting that, and key decisions lie ahead. As opposed to my chickens, we have some gift of foresight, and plan as much as we can.

Still, the unexpected will also occur. When a hawk dove into the netting of our chicken run recently, it came literally out of the blue, and there was much squawking and concern. Thankfully, the netting did its job, and the hawk left in confusion.

But when the next morning dawned, the birds thumped out of their coop as usual, and helped me say the Lord's Prayer: "Give us our daily bread." May it be so for you all and for ULCH.

Uli Koester, Congregational President

Treasurer's Report

July 2021 and Year-to-Date Income and Expense						
	July Actual	July Budget	July Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	48,606	38,037	10,569	308,407	289,279	19,128
Rental Income	10,382	10,166	216	73,751	71,162	2,589
Total Income	58,988	48,203	10,785	382,158	360,441	21,717
Salaries & Benefits	23,188	25,995	(2,807)	178,980	195,385	(16,405)
Total Expense	42,923	51,791	(8,867)	330,769	368,060	(37,291)
Net Operating Income	16,065	(3,588)	19,652	51,389	(7,619)	59,008

July Financials

General giving totaled \$48,606 for the month of July, \$10,569 more than budgeted as the June 27th offering was deposited in July. Year-to-date general giving totaled \$308,407, \$19,128 or approximately 6.6% more than the budgeted amount. In May, rental income totaled \$10,382 which includes PEASE Academy rent, parking lot income and use of facilities. Income for the month totaled \$58,988 contributing to a total year-to-date income of \$382,158, or 6% more than budgeted.

Expenses totaled \$42,923 for the month of July. During the month, expenses were underbudget due to the staffing change this past spring and several expenses being paid in August. Year-to-date, expenses totaled \$330,769, \$37,291 underbudget. We had a net operating income of \$16,065 for the month contributing to a net operating income of \$51,389 year-to-date. The Executive Committee alongside the Vision and Governance Board continue to monitor our current financial position.

As of July 31st, we have \$461K in current assets – primarily composed of our checking and savings account (including \$66K of Solar Project funds and \$107K other dedicated funds). Additionally, we have a remaining mortgage liability of \$667,706 and \$140K note payable to the trust for the Solar Project.

E-Trade Account

Over the past few months, we have been working to establish an E-Trade account. We are now able to receive financial gifts in the form of stocks and mutual funds. If you'd like more information on how to give via E-Trade, please reach out to me or Nathan Obrestad (nathano@ulch.org) and we'd be happy to provide additional details.

Capital Campaign – Opening Doors

Year-to-date we have received \$161K in Capital Campaign Contributions. As of July 31st we have \$200K in current assets. We are in the process of funding special projects including virtual worship enhancements – in addition to paying a portion of the mortgage. 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.

We are grateful for all the ways you contribute to University Lutheran Church of Hope. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns! Thank you

Emma Carpenter, Treasurer

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.

University Lutheran Church of Hope is a welcoming Christian community of faith centered in God's grace and called to demonstrate God's love for all the world.
601 – 13th Avenue SE, Minneapolis, Minnesota ☒ Tel. 612-331-5988 ☒ Fax 612-623-0693 ☒ www.ulch.org

Staff

Pastors:

Rev. Jen Nagel
Rev. Barbara Johnson

Interim Music & Worship Support:

Scott Rohr

Pastoral Intern:

Emily Brown

Minister of Community Engagement:

Elise Carlson (begins 9/7)

Minister of Faith Formation

Morgan Strudthoff (begins 9/12)

Church Administrator:

Nathan Obrestad

Financial Administrator:

Kari Olson

Custodians:

Geremew Beshah

Worship Tech Support:

Nick Peterson
Seth Strudthoff (begins 9/12)

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

30% post-consumer waste.

Printed on 100% recycled paper.



Return Service Requested

Minneapolis, MN 55414-1437

601 13th Avenue SE

CHURCH OF HOPE

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN

Permit No. 944

Twin Cities,
Minnesota

PAID

U.S. POSTAGE

ORG.

NON-PROFIT