

Complex world. Thoughtful church.

December 2021  
No. 17-12



**Clockwise from Top Left:** Minister of Faith Formation Morgan Strudthoff and Dan Bielenberg making fresh pasta dough during the Vision and Governance Board and Staff Retreat in early November (Friday evening included cooking together and fellowship); Christmas cards and greetings sent via Lutheran Refugee and Immigration Services (LIRS) to those in detention; Pastor Linqing Chu (former intern at ULCH) and Pastor Jen at Linqing's ordination service; setting the pillars that will hold up the solar canopy in the parking lot; Advent bags ready to be delivered to families; Matt Fry cooking up good things during the Board and Staff Retreat; (center) Advent blues (our focus is Waiting in Hope) on the first Sunday of Advent.



# The Annunciation

Displayed in Hope's lounge, Jen Norton's exquisite piece, *The Annunciation*, is inspired by Luke's first chapter account of God's heavenly messenger bringing the mind-blowing announcement to Mary that transforms her life—and ours.

At first look we absorb the gist of what's happening. Angel Gabriel is delivering to very human Mary an astounding proclamation from God: that she, a virgin engaged to be married, will miraculously bear a Holy child, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of the Most High. Curiously, here Gabriel appears as female. The angel places a hand gently on Mary's shoulder and cups the other hand for Mary alone to hear: *"Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God..."* While Mary marvels at what seems unfathomable, she listens and responds in trust to God's divinely charted course. *"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled."* (Luke 1:30 & 38)



Delving into the details, we notice the composition includes segments of symbolic imagery that we can read, much like a written page, from left to right. Within Gabriel's ethereal, pastel robe we discover a layered celebration of God's magnificent creation. Camouflaged in the top left we find a rabbit hopping. Below it we spot birds and bees flying and fish swimming, all amidst dreamy patterns of lush flora and flowing water. A ruffling red line delineates the bottom edge of the angel's billowing robe.

We might view the next segment as the long train of Mary's translucent bridal veil. An airy orchard filled with pink blossoms surrounds one green fruit tree, referencing the Creator's gift to humankind of blissful abundance in the Garden of Eden with its single off-limits tree—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Underlying this paradise in a dark, murky corner hides the Great Deceiver—a serpent, wrapped around the blood-red apple of temptation, ever ready to sow the seeds of distrust in God's truth and love for us. We begin realizing the artist is giving us a pictorial

context of humanity's profound need for God's loving intervention by mercifully sending the world a savior.

And here is Mary standing close in a warm blue dress, the color used to signify that Mary will carry Divinity within her being. Her left hand holds a delicate white lily, a symbol of virginity and purity. The golden shape behind this flower acts like a spotlight signifying that the child Mary will carry in her womb, whom she is to name Jesus, will be the Light of the World. Mary listens and soaks in God's message, her right hand held to her heart. Encircling Mary's and Gabriel's heads, a halo-like orb of perennial spring-green symbolizes wholeness and new life and highlights the sacredness of this encounter. The orb is bordered with holly, its prickly leaves and red berries symbolizing the crown of thorns and Christ's blood that will be shed upon the cross for our redeeming. Within this living circle of light we see the Star of Bethlehem, the dazzling celestial phenomena that will shine directly over the earthly place where baby Jesus will be born.

On the picture's right edge we see Mary's village, Nazareth, a strip of land that also symbolizes the earthly setting of all humanity, rendered with shadowy shades in juxtaposition to the luminous garden. Our Creator, the Source of Love, sends Jesus, Divinity in the form of a human baby, to redeem each of us where we are, as we are. This thought-provoking retelling of the Annunciation visually knits together God's intention and desire for our wholeness, our earthly battle to trust in God's loving word and turn away from deception, and God's earthshaking act in mercifully providing the gift of saving grace—Jesus Christ.

A blessed Advent and Christmas from Arts & Environment, Muffi Abrahamson

# Seasons of Risk

*"The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."*

-from O Little Town of Bethlehem

Two years ago around this time, we were just beginning to hear about the 2019 novel coronavirus in the international news. As I recall, most of us in this country weren't paying much attention. Fast forward a month or two. At the end of January in 2020, I flew to San Francisco for a continuing education course. Boarding the plane to return home, standing in the aisle to get to my seat, the uneasiness was palpable. A travel ban had been announced that very morning, and it was clear that things were beginning to change. Just six weeks later schools in Minnesota turned to online platforms and much of life shifted overnight.

Over these many, many months we've learned a lot. Some of the initial warnings have fallen by the wayside as new science emerged. Other basics like vaccinations (and boosters), masking, distance, hand washing, and fresh air have become the standards for many of us.

As a congregation we've traversed this long, long season with a grace for which I am deeply grateful. Though exhausted on many levels, we've honed a patience with one another and the situation. We've celebrated and welcomed. We've grieved and marked passages. We've practiced compassion, reaching out, checking in, and staying connected. We've acted and prayed for justice as the world has turned, clarifying the distress of the climate, crying out for racial and economic equity, doing our own racial learning. Week after week we've gathered—one way or another—to worship God and gird one another in this journey of faith.

In recent days reports of the most newly discovered "variant of concern" have made headlines. This season of COVID is with us for the long term. From the very start, as individuals and as a community of faith, we've considered risk. We can't remove the risks, but we can reduce the risks, we can be thoughtful and intentional as we weigh the risks of COVID 19, but also isolation, mental health, fatigue, the fractures of society, the spikes in violence, and inequities that are rampant.

In terms of COVID, our congregational leadership has been cautious throughout. Even as we've come back together in person, even as we sing with masks, even as we carefully share Holy Communion, we know there are risks associated. Some have opted for online worship on Zoom and YouTube and others have chosen in person. Your generous capital campaign contributions and the talents of members and staff have made this online worship and community interaction possible. Even within a congregation like ours, what is perceived as risky to one person may be perceived as less risky to another. It's important to recognize and respect these differences. As a congregation we make decisions assuming real risk, and yet we hear from many of you that the risk is worthwhile.

As months go by, it's natural for us to become more lax. In recent weeks we've renewed ourselves to honoring the policies we currently have. These procedures reduce risk and they make it a space of hospitality, where those who choose to come in person can know what to expect and make good choices for themselves. There is always an option that we'll return to all online worship, but for now this hybrid way seems to meet the needs and risk tolerance of the community.

On Christmas Eve we'll have our festive 4pm service. We'll seek to honor distance in that service but it's always fuller so we know that will be challenging. We're exploring the option of an overflow space (or spaces) around the church. That service will also be on Zoom and YouTube. Please don't hesitate to make use of these good options.

ALSO, this year, we have added a new second service at 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve. This one will be an alternative and will include the elements we've come to expect (carols, preaching, Holy Communion, candles) but will be quieter and less full, with harp, organ, and piano. If you seek a beautiful smaller option, please plan to participate this 7 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Note that this one will not be online. With changes in attendance patterns and staffing, this year we're not able to offer the 10 p.m. service.

The Christmas story in its nature is filled with risk: a young peasant couple making their way across international borders, a baby born on the move, a community of shepherds and angels and beasts witnessing it all. This year and always, we lift our hopes and fears to our God who meets us in the Christ Child. May the blessings of the Savior grant you wisdom and courage to meet the joys and the risks and this day, and the days to come.



Pastor Jen

## Advent and Christmas at Hope

Advent is the season of preparation for the birth of Christ, truly the birth of Hope. During the 2021 Advent season our theme is Waiting in Hope. We'll explore hope in different voices and in the experience of scripture and liturgy. Here are a few elements to plan for.

**Wednesday Evening Advent Services**—Join us at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday of Advent (December 1, 8, 15, and 22) in the Sanctuary. Using Holden Evening Prayer and the carols and scripture of the season we'll take this extra time to pause together in prayer, reflection, and song. These services are offered in person AND on YouTube (not Zoom).

**Wednesday Evening Advent Bible Study**—Following service, at 7:45 p.m., join an Advent Bible Study led by Intern Emily in the Lounge. See Intern Emily's article and notice for more information.

**Advent Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 19**—During our 10:30 a.m. service on Dec. 19, savor the Advent season and lean toward Christmas interspersing readings and carols with the leadership of the Hope Choir, the ULCHers, our children and youth, and others. This is a special day at Hope. Join us in the Sanctuary or on Zoom or YouTube.

**Christmas Eve Services on Friday, December 24**—This year we'll have two worship opportunities. As the Visitor is being compiled we're still working out the details (such is this time of COVID) so watch for more in the Thursday Epistle and in Sunday announcements.

**4:00 p.m. Festive Christmas Eve Service.** As evening comes on Christmas Eve we'll gather to hear again the nativity gospel. The Hope Choir will lead us. This service includes candle lighting, carols and a rich time together. In the past years, this has become our largest Christmas Eve service. This year we'll wear masks, adjust how much we sing, and take other precautions for COVID. We'll seek to keep distance and if needed will have available alternate spaces from which to view the service. While we know many want to be at this service, we encourage you to consider the later service, and also to opt for Zoom and YouTube if you are at risk or if you aren't feeling well.

**7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.** This is will be a beautiful Christmas Eve option that is designed to offer a quieter service with less people and greater ability to distance. Harp, organ and piano will be our base. This service includes candle lighting, carols, and the Christmas gospel. This service is in person only. It will not be on Zoom or YouTube.

## Meet and Greet with our New Minister of Worship

Please join us in welcoming our new Minister of Worship and Music on Saturday, December 4th at 1 p.m.! Bobby, as he prefers to be called, will spend some time with us on this first Saturday in December to get acquainted before he officially starts on January 1st. On December 4th, we'll take time to sing some seasonal hymns, hear a couple of pieces from his recent organ recital, and have a little Q & A with Pastor Jen. Finally we'll retreat to the courtyard for some hot cocoa and cider. Come with a few friendly questions for Bobby. Wondering about the pronunciation of Bobby's last name? It's Ra-goo-NAH-nen!



## Advent Bible Study

I will be leading a 3-session Advent Bible study on December 1<sup>st</sup>, December 8<sup>th</sup>, and December 15<sup>th</sup>. We will meet after the Advent Evening Service in the lounge area from about 7:45-8:30 p.m. We will be walking through a few Advent themes and I welcome all who would like to join. –

Pastoral Intern Emily Brown





## *Oh Come All Ye Faithful*

**Sing Carols with Hope Diamonds**

Wed., December 15, 1:00-2:30pm

**All are welcome! Bring a Friend!**

We'll sing behind our masks 'til we get thirsty.

**Coffee, Tea, Cider and Christmas goodies for all.**

**RSVP** Call ULCH 612-331-5988 Nathan or email

[barbaraj@ulch.org](mailto:barbaraj@ulch.org)



## **Pastor Barbara Announces Retirement**

Pastor Barbara Johnson, our Pastor for Care and Nurture, in November announced her plans to retire in the new year prior to Easter. Pastor Barbara has served ELCA congregation in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Colorado for 29 years, the last 4 1/2 here at Hope. We give thanks for the ways that Pastor Barbara embodies Christ's love in our midst—visiting with our eldest, encouraging our care and compassion, preaching the Good News, sharing Christ's meal, accompanying us in some of the most profound life passages, creating nurturing spaces for fellowship, and building up the community.

Pastor Barbara is graciously giving us ample time to fill this position prior to her retirement. Hope's leadership is beginning preparations to call another part time pastor. As this process unfolds, the timing of Barbara's retirement date will be determined and a celebration of her ministry will be planned! Don't hesitate to reach out to leadership if you have questions.

## **Congregational Meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup> and Nominations**

As many have heard, Pastor Barbara is retiring early in 2022. Our congregational leadership is beginning the process to help us call a new part time pastor with a focus in Care and Nurture, but also involvement in worship leadership and other facets of church life. The details of this position are still being determined. To begin this process we will need a Call Committee. If you are interested in being considered to participate in this Call Committee, contact Ann Agrimson ([ann.agrimson@yahoo.com](mailto:ann.agrimson@yahoo.com)) by December 12.

**On December 19 after worship (in person and on Zoom) we will have a Special Congregational Meeting to officially elect this Call Committee.** As you know, meetings during COVID take some preparation—more details about the meeting on December 19th will be forthcoming. We value your prayers and support in this process.

ULCH Executive Committee (Uli Koester, Ann Agrimson, Tim Abrahamson, Emma Carpenter, Brady Wilmer, and Pastor Jen)

## **December & January Birthday Cards Await Your Greetings**

Thanks to those who have December and January Birthdays! All those candles burning could help us all feel a little warmer. Since we worship in person now, you might notice that the birthday cards are on the desk near the 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. entrance with the blue doors. Those cards are prepared by Ann Rolle each month and now they wait for your signatures and well wishes. So let's fill up all the spaces on them! Please know that if you wish, you may still send your own card, email or text to those on the list below, and let them know they are cared about by their church family. This Birthday list includes those who are 80 years 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.

### **December Birthdays**

Dec 01 - Shuzo Murakami  
Dec 15 - Julie-An Johnson  
Dec 16 - Judy Ranheim  
Dec 17 - Jeanette Haltli

### **January Birthdays**

Jan 01 - Millie Casperson  
Jan 01 - John Setterlund will be 80!  
Jan 04 - Sandra Robinson  
Jan 22 - Karen Johnson  
Jan 29 - Nita Anderson

**Carmen Macoskey expresses many thanks for all the wonderful 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Cards!!**

## Expansive Language Liturgy

Responding to a consistent request for more expansive images in Sunday morning worship, University Lutheran Church of Hope accepted an invitation from Holy Trinity Lutheran to join a team of local Lutheran congregations to commission a new expansive language liturgy. The group was inspired by the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women, the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women of color, and the 10th anniversary of the ordination of LGBTQIA+ leaders in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), as well as the ELCA's newly published social statement entitled Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action.

After having spent time with the voices of feminist, womanist, and mujerista theologians and musicians, and having been awarded a Ministry Imagination Grant from the Minneapolis Area Synod, the team then contracted with two writers—namely, Tamika Jancewicz, a Black Lutheran pastor from Maryland, and Emilie Casey, a Queer pastor who serves as the Director of Chapel Ministries at Yale. The contracting of these writers took place just weeks after Minneapolis, along with the rest of the world, witnessed the brutal murder of George Floyd. Given these circumstances, the commissioners felt called to create an expansive language liturgy not only relating to gender and sexuality, but also to race and culture. They were pleased that these two writers, with very different social locations, graciously agreed to work

together to create something that would bring a richness and depth that could not be achieved by one individual working in isolation.

After receiving the first draft of their work, the team then searched for a musician and found Anne Krentz Organ, who serves as the Director of Music Ministries at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Park Ridge, IL. Her approach to worship is grounded in the understanding that "a number of individuals come together on a particular occasion from a variety of places, with wide ranging gifts, at various disparate points on their faith journeys. As the group inhales together and begins singing, the Holy Spirit breathes life through the community. The collective act of singing allows for and encourages participation by all: children, youth, and adults; people firm in faith and people full of questions. Each voice matters. Each voice is valued, not for its vocal quality but for the person it represents."

The partner congregations in this project are: Holy Trinity Lutheran in Minneapolis (lead), Grace University Lutheran, St. Michael's Lutheran in Roseville, Edina Community Lutheran Church, University Lutheran Church of Hope, Augsburg University, Luther Seminary, and Bishop Ann Svennungsen from the Minneapolis Area Synod. Pastor Jen and Zach Busch have represented Hope in this project. We expect to pilot the liturgy and prayers in worship in 2022.

## ULCH is an Organics Recycling Drop Off Site!

University Lutheran Church of Hope works with the Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association and the UMN Office of Off Campus Living to provide this drop off site for those living on the east side of Marcy-Holmes and don't have access to organics recycling. The drop off site is free to those who sign up. Thirty percent of the waste we throw away is organic. Recycling this waste is a great way to lower that percentage, and for the city to create compost. You can learn more about the program and sign up at:

[https://www.marcy-holmes.org/organics\\_recycling](https://www.marcy-holmes.org/organics_recycling).

If you don't live in Marcy-Holmes, but would like to get connected to organics recycling, go to your city website for more information or contact [elise@ulch.org](mailto:elise@ulch.org)

Elise Carlson, Minister of Community Engagement



### Organics Recycling - Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association

Give back to nature with organics recycling. About 30 percent of what we throw away is organic waste, which includes food scraps and food-soiled paper products. [www.marcy-holmes.org](http://www.marcy-holmes.org)

## Advent Bags!

Parents, we are already dropping off Advent bags of the activities that we will be doing for the three Sundays in Advent. Be on the lookout. We are also planning outdoor activities for winter so please let me know if you have any favorite activities. From the Children Ministry Team, we wish you the Happiest of Thanksgivings! Please Travel and Celebrate Safely!

Peace! Morgan Strudthoff, Minister of Faith Formation

## Youth!

Hello All You Cool Cats and Kittens! I will be calling youth families about the Youth Gathering in the beginning of December. Be on the lookout and please have questions, comments, concerns you might have about the Youth Gathering that is happening July 24-28, 2022. We are planning some outdoor activities in winter so let me know your favorites and we will coordinate that stuff! Thank you so much!

Peace! Morgan Strudthoff, Minister of Faith Formation



## December Sunday Adult Forums

This month we'll be having Advent and Christmas themed forums to illuminate and inspire. Please join us at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. See you there!

**Dec. 5 - Art of Advent and Christmas:** How have artists throughout the ages expressed the story of this season through their work? How can these events inspire so many different images? Esther Dant and Nan Knutsen will share artwork of the Annunciation, Madonna and Child, and the Nativity from western and non-western artists that will capture and stretch your imagination.

**Dec. 12 - Sing a New Song for This Season:** We will gather to sing and learn about new Advent and Christmas hymns from **All Creation Sings**, a supplement to **Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)**. Many of these hymns have expanded the language and imagery that we use for God. Diane Greve will offer commentary and Ben Larson will lead us in singing!

**Dec. 19 - Where Did that Carol Come From?** Have you ever wondered about the origins of some of our beloved hymns of this season? Many of them have very interesting stories! On this day of the service of Lessons and Carols, come early to hear a group of Hope members share true tales of Advent and Christmas songs that are close to our hearts.

**Dec. 26 - No forum**

The Sunday Forum Team

### Request for Hope Trust Grants

The Trust Board is now accepting applications for grants for 2022. For those interested in applying for a grant go to the Hope website for an application form. Applicants can send questions or submit the application by email to [trustboard@ulch.org](mailto:trustboard@ulch.org). The deadline is January 31.

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

## 2022 Women's Retreat - Saturday, January 29, 2022

### A Star in my Heart: "Deepening our Relationship with Holy Wisdom"

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on Zoom

4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in-person at Church

Registration Deadline is January 21, 2022

Join us Saturday morning *and* afternoon for a time of conversation, sharing and fellowship. We'll be using Joyce Rupp's book *The Star in my Heart* as the focus for our time together. Copies of the book will be provided for all participants. We will meet from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on Zoom with large and small group discussions. From 4-8 p.m. we'll gather by the fire in the lounge/courtyard with time for making prayer shawls and a special craft project. A simple meal and snacks will be available.

**Register and Pay:** 1) Email Ann Beane ([spiritbeane@gmail.com](mailto:spiritbeane@gmail.com)) stating you will attend. 2) Pay \$25 (food & supplies) with a check to ULCH via mail or ULCH website [www.ulch.org](http://www.ulch.org) using the *Giving* link and choose the 'Donations Other' option. Note '2022 Women's Retreat' on your check or website. Please do this **by January 21, 2022**

University Lutheran Church of Hope will be making a \$400 Donation to Dunrovin, to show our support in lieu of booking the 2021 and 2022 retreats. We're looking forward to gathering together and hope that you will consider joining us! Continue to check the Thursday Epistle for updates. Contact one of us with questions.

Church Address: 601 - 13th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55414

Beáta Rydeen - [beatarydeen@comcast.net](mailto:beatarydeen@comcast.net) and Ann Beane

### 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, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 p.m. The group will determine if they will meet in person or on Zoom. Stay tuned to the Thursday Epistle for the plans.

### Join The Hope Book Club - Zoom on Sunday December 12, 7pm

We will discuss an insightful book for our current times: *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, by James Cone.

*"To give voice to black victims, to let them and their families and communities speak to us... I wrestle with questions about black dignity in a world of white supremacy because I believe that the cultural and religious resources in the black experience could help all Americans cope with the legacy of white supremacy and also deal more effectively with what is called the war on terror."* (xviii-xix).

"In James Cone's latest book *The Cross and The Lynching Tree*, the revered theologian and social critic explores the paradoxical relationship between Jesus' death on the cross and the atrocious history of the lynchings of blacks by Southern whites, starting in the post-bellum South and leading up to the first decades of the twentieth century." <https://www.elca.org/JLE/Articles/137>

January 9, 2021: *Number the Stars*, by Lois Lowry. A historical fiction about the friendship between two young girls – one Christian and one Jewish – during the Nazi occupation of Denmark.

February 13, 2021: *The Unseen*, by Roy Jacobsen. "A profound interrogation of freedom and fate." [www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com)

The Book Club will continue to hold its meetings via Zoom until the spring of 2022.

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

"A book is a device to ignite the imagination." – Alan Bennett



## Support for Lutheran University Nigeria

The Minneapolis Area Synod is partnering with Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN) in fundraising to build a Lutheran university in Demsa, Nigeria. The Lutheran University, Nigeria will fill a big gap in the availability of university education to most young people. The university will also be built near the LCCN hospital Demsa that is offering important ministry. This hospital was also supported by some congregations of the Minneapolis Area Synod and the Synod itself. It is highly patronized compared to public health facilities around due to the high quality of services offered. It will be an integral part of the university as a teaching hospital. To learn more about this project visit [mpls-synod.org](http://mpls-synod.org) or follow #LUNigeria on social media.

The Vision and Governance Board here at University Lutheran Church of Hope invites you to join in raising money to make the Lutheran University Nigeria a reality. The congregation will match \$4,917 in donations to the Lutheran University Nigeria with the help of the Johnson

World Mission Fund. **Donations can be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plate now, please write “LCCN or Lutheran University Nigeria” in the memo.** We hope to wrap up our fundraising for this effort by December 12. Please give generously as we help to make Lutheran University a reality!



### Film Discussion Sponsored by Racial Justice Team

The film discussion group continues: On Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm we will be discussing “The Black Nativity” FREE on YouTube. There will be a movie watching group, like last month, the Friday night before this (so 12/17) via zoom hosted by Elise. Watch the Thursday Epistle for updated zoom links.

## 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 and Baptisms**—We pray for those in our congregation who are awaiting children and holding hope in joyful and painful times. Malakai Wright was born on October 21. He is the child of Maria and Zac Wright, grandchild of Arthur and Kyoko French, and great grandchild of Sally French. Malakai will be baptized at Hope on December 12. On November 24, Lindsay and James Schlemmer welcomed Aila Marie!

**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 the family of long time Hope member Phil Thompson who died November 1<sup>st</sup> (a memorial will be held later); Tom and Sue Hanson at the death of Tom’s mother, Jerry Hanson, who died on November 17; Lindsay and James Schlemmer at the death of James’ dad William; Susan and Ross Williford at the sudden death of Ross’ brother Bruce; Scott and Bernadine Langguth at the death of their adult daughter Kelly Langguth after a long illness.

**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, Roger and Nita Anderson, Stewart Herman, Steve Ganzkow-Wold, Steve Schreuder, Miriam Hougen, Janet Carpenter, Hannah Kiresuk, Brian McCaffrey, Jeanne Berkeland, Mike Fingerson, Marceta Scribner 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

With the seasons changing, Beth and I are trying to decide if we need to hang a light in the chicken coop. Our Rhode Island Red Copper is still laying a couple of eggs a week, but Molly and Maggie have stopped. Apparently, it's the daylight hours—not the cold—that has the hens thinking days are too short for laying eggs.

Last winter, they did slow down, but still made eggs regularly. But they were in their first year, full of verve and vigor. This year they may need a light. Our chicken book says to put it on from about 5 to 9 in the morning, extending the day.

I suppose you know where I am going with this. Anybody else thinking a little extra light this winter would be good? As the grays of November settle in around us, I'll be feeling the lack of sunlight before long. Beth has breakfast with a little light shining on her, a gadget to give the illusion of sun.

Advent and Christmas are coming. That's good. What else will light your winter, spiritually, physically, mentally?

One light that I will carry into the next months is the energetic and uplifting retreat the board and staff enjoyed the first weekend in November. On Friday evening, we cooked a meal together in the bright and beautiful kitchen at Cooks of Crocus Hill. Fun conversation around the delicious and convivial dinner followed.

Saturday, we gathered again, this time in the spacious rooms of the Danish American Institute. There were 15 of us, young and old. The challenge of the day was to consider if we as Lutherans still had anything important to say in our current world, with two books as prompts—*Homo Deus* by Yuval Noah Harari and *Dear Church* by Lenny Duncan. Most of our time was spent in small group conversations. We had frank, honest exchanges, listened carefully to one another, laughed, and brainstormed initiatives for our church. We discovered that, though we may assume that we all think somewhat alike, we do not.

What a gift to sit and be part of these conversations. As our ideas take shape in the next months, we will be excited to share them. In the meantime, I do hope a bright yellow egg yolk will again grace my daily meals, even if we do need to hang a light!

In Peace, Uli Koester, Congregational President

## COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

As the weather gets colder and we are indoors more, and as COVID numbers rise, vigilance is key. This is a good time for all of us to review the COVID 19 Preparedness Plan and its guidance. [LINK](#)

### Remember:

- If you aren't feeling well, please stay home and seek care as needed. Even if you are taking leadership in worship, participating in a forum, or singing in the choir, if you aren't well, stay home, take care. Our community is particularly good and pitching in, helping out, and flexing as needed.
- We value and respect the decisions of those who prefer to worship and participate online (Zoom or YouTube).
- Continue to wash hands often and use sanitizer.
- We strongly encourage all who are able to be vaccinated.
- Indoors masks are required. Outdoors masks continue to be optional when distance can be kept.
- Please honor distance and avoid congregating.

Thanks to our parking hospitality crews (shown above and many others) who have helped out on Gopher game days.



## December 2021 Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 7:00 PM Advent Evening Service (sanctuary, YouTube) 7:30 PM Choir 7:45 PM Advent Bible Study	<b>2</b> 4:30 PM PEASE After School Program 6:00 PM Parents of PEASE 6:30 PM AA Group 7:00 PM Men's Group	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00 AM Chapel Reserved 11:30 AM Sanctuary reserved 1:00 PM Meet and Greet with Robert Ragoonanan
<b>5</b> 9:30 AM Sunday Forum 9:30 AM Sunday School - Zoom (and Video option) 10:30 AM Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube	<b>6</b> 9:00 AM Quilters 7:30 PM Worship Planning Team- Zoom	<b>7</b> 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM PEASE After School Program 6:15 PM Zoom - Personnel Committee 7:15 PM Zoom - Executive Committee	<b>8</b> 6:00 PM Zoom - Facilities Team 7:00 PM Advent Evening Service (sanctuary, YouTube) 7:45 PM Advent Bible Study	<b>9</b> 9:30 AM Dorcas Circle - Courtyard/Lounge 4:30 PM PEASE After School Program 5:30 PM Zoom - Compassion Care Team 6:30 PM AA Group	<b>10</b> 7:00 PM Crafter Group - Courtyard/Lounge	<b>11</b> 9:00 AM Chapel Reserved
<b>12</b> 9:30 AM Sunday Forum 9:30 AM Sunday School - Zoom (and Video option) 10:30 AM Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 7:00 PM Book Club	<b>13</b> 9:00 AM Quilters	<b>14</b> 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM PEASE After School Program	<b>15</b> *"The Visitor" Articles Due 1:00 PM Hope Diamonds 7:00 PM Advent Evening Service (sanctuary, YouTube) 7:30 PM Choir 7:45 PM Advent Bible Study	<b>16</b> 4:30 PM PEASE After School Program 6:00 PM Sanctuary and Immigration Team 6:00 PM Zoom - SE Como Hope Connections Group 6:30 PM AA Group 7:00 PM Men's Group	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00 AM Chapel Reserved 9:00 AM Kitchen Reserved 10:00 AM Practice for Lessons and Carols
<b>19</b> 9:30 AM Sunday Forum 9:30 AM Sunday School – (Zoom and Video option) 10:30 AM Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 11:30 AM Special Congregational Meeting (sanctuary, Zoom) 5:00 PM Zoom: Racial Justice Movie Discussion Group	<b>20</b> 7:00 AM Power disconnect for entire building. Offices closed	<b>21</b> 11:00 AM PEASE After School Program 12:00 PM Staff Meeting on Zoom 4:00 PM Sanctuary Coalition Meeting 6:30 PM Vision & Governance Board-Zoom	<b>22</b> 7:00 PM Advent Evening Service (sanctuary, YouTube)	<b>23</b> 4:30 PM PEASE After School Program 6:30 PM AA Group 7:00 PM Sanctuary and Immigration Team on Zoom	<b>24</b> 4:00 PM Festive Christmas Eve Worship in Sanctuary and on YouTube 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship in the Sanctuary	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>
<b>26</b> 10:30 AM Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube	<b>27</b> 9:00 AM Quilters 6:00 PM ZOOM- Bible & Brews	<b>28</b> 11:00 AM PEASE After School Program 7:00 PM Zoom - Racial Justice Team	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 11:00 AM PEASE After School Program 6:30 PM AA Group	<b>31</b>	



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

### Interim Music & Worship Support:

Scott Rohr

### Pastoral Intern:

Emily Brown

### Minister of Community Engagement:

Elise Carlson

### Minister of Faith Formation

Morgan Strudthoff

### Church Administrator:

Nathan Obrestad

### Financial Administrator:

Kari Olson

### Custodians:

Geremew Beshah

### Worship Tech Support:

Nick Peterson

### Sunday Opener/Closer, Worship Tech:

Seth Strudthoff

### 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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