



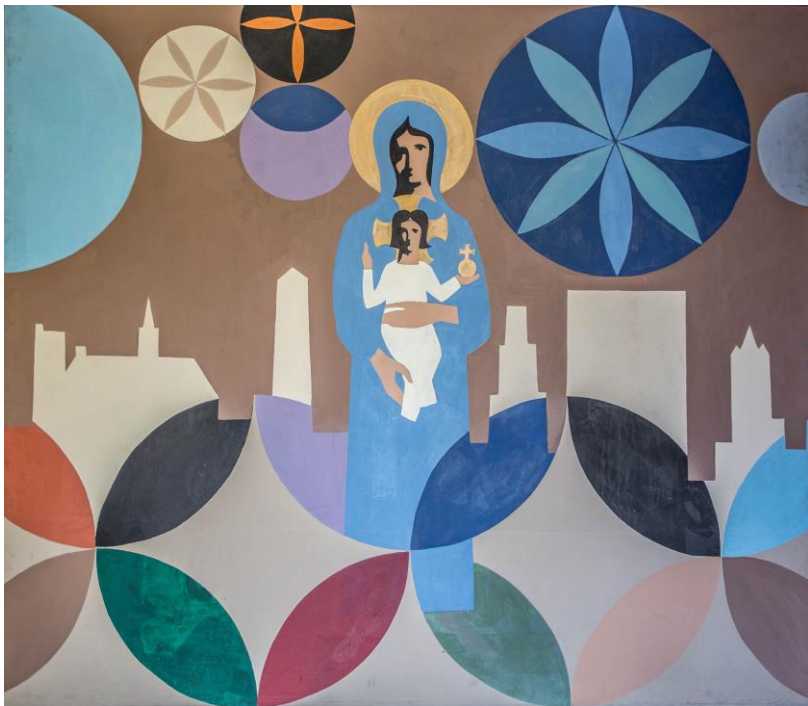
**Clockwise from Top Left:** The December baptism of Malakai Wright, pictured here with parents Maria (French) and Zac Wright and sponsors Lily and Eliot Bieletto, and their child Jameson; morning light; Christmas Eve worship; Minister of Faith Formation Morgan and a Zoom Sunday School gathering; Stewart Herman (on the left) and his daughters making the pillars of the solar canopy festive with red bows in the days before Christmas; solar work in progress; and Christmas at Hope - thanks to Lisa Morse for visually leading us through Advent and Christmas!

## Madonna and Christ Child in the City

Beloved Hope member Philip J. Thompson (1933-2021) painted this powerful and unexpected piece called *Madonna and Christ Child in the City*. We can imagine Phil immersed in his artistic process, his intellectual curiosity along with his unconscious inklings nudging him, inviting mystery to unfold. The more we look, the more we realize that Phil has given us much to ponder in this densely meaningful and incredibly well constructed composition.

Encountering the picture in person, we first take in its size. It is enormous. At 8'6" high and 10' wide, this single canvas virtually covers the back wall of the sanctuary's south transept. The design, patterned with perfectly balanced geometric shapes and soothing colors, creates a dreamy setting: a cosmic heaven and contemporary earth.

Mary stands serenely in the center. She is magnificent, monolithic in size. She wears a heavenly blue robe, the color symbolizing that she carried divinity within her humanity. Mary holds her young son Jesus, the holy Christ Child, who shares his mother's earthy complexion. Jesus is dressed in a garment of luminous white, the color containing all the light in the entire spectrum combined. His halo is a golden cross, the top of which becomes Mary's collar. Together they are a vertical spire bridging heaven and earth.



A spiritual ceremony seems to be taking place. Jesus holds in his left hand an orb with a cross on-top—a symbol of the world he has come to save. With his right hand Jesus bestows a benediction on the viewer—on you and on me. But this blessing goes far beyond us. Mary holds Jesus like a universal gift, his young body almost anticipating the Passion when Christ, as the sacrificial lamb, will be hung on a cross for our redeeming.

Mary and Jesus are anchored amidst a familiar modern cityscape. We can actually identify buildings from present day Minneapolis: from the left, University Lutheran Church of Hope, then the Foshay Tower, the old Northwestern Bell Telephone Building and 1st National Bank, and Minneapolis City Hall. Phil chooses this architecture to represent both our own local social fabric and the world population—and he places Jesus smack dab in the middle of it.

This horizon of humanity is surrounded by an elaborate pattern of interacting circular shapes. The lower field is lined with an overlapping progression of colossal quatrefoils—a four-leaf clover design that we see in the woodwork of Hope's Gothic style sanctuary—here, a reinterpretation with stylized, contemporary lobes that Phil referred to as "wings." This ancient form is a symbol of good fortune, harmony, and the four Gospel writers. Phil infuses a dynamic dimension into this flat space by allowing the city's horizon line and Mary's robe to overlay these wings of advancing and receding color. Joined and interlocking, these circles and diagonal crosses create a dynamic, expansive ground that seems to be moving, living, and spirit-filled.

Above all this, a buoyant constellation of connected orbs creates a mystical heavenly firmament. On the left we might imagine a bold, blue sun—shown as a half circle—a hint that this story cannot be contained by a canvas. Touching this is a 6-pointed star, or Creator's Star, representing the six days of creation and the six attributes of God: Power, Wisdom, Majesty, Love, Mercy and Justice. A 4-pointed star, or Morning Star, symbolizes the empty cross of Christ who is the Light that ends the darkness and the compass by which to navigate the new day. And a Wet Moon—here a lavender crescent—appears like a bowl of holy water. Mary's golden halo touches a dazzling 8-pointed star, or Redemption Star, which symbolizes regeneration and represents baptism in Christ (our baptismal font has eight sides as well). Looking closely we notice that Mary and Jesus' facial features are illuminated not by the sun but by this radiant star of redemption.

Both intimate and universal, this bold visual story transcends time and place. All of these lines, shapes, and colors—the orbs and crosses, the linear cityscape, and the organic humanity of Mary and Jesus—they move, and they meet. And Jesus is at the living center of all the intersections—blessing us.

Muffi Abrahamson, Arts & Environment



## Christmas Turning to Epiphany

*"And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way, with painful steps and slow:  
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;  
oh, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!"*

*-It Came upon the Midnight Clear, ELW #131, Vs. 3*

I'm writing this in that tail end of December, after Christmas Eve, before New Year's Eve, smack in the midst of the Christmas Season (12 days, you know), for Epiphany isn't technically until January 6. I'm savoring a few of these in-between-days at my in-law's place near the Mississippi River by Trempealeau, Wisconsin. Snowy play for the cousins. Some downtime. Good cooking and eating and conversations for all.

As I washed up dishes this evening, my niece and brother-in-law tuned their violins and played duets of carols from the living room. It was transporting: the smells and sights and sounds of Christmas washing over me again. This line in *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* always moves me, this year more than ever. A number of you have pointed it out, for it seems to capture the season many of us are experiencing with the continued pandemic, heightened concerns over omicron, and challenges. Life's crushing load. The forms stooped and bending low. The slow, plodding steps. And then that lovely invitation to rest beside the weary road and to hear the angels sing.

After Christmas comes Epiphany and the weeks that follow. It's a time of revelation, seeing more clearly God's ways, the miracles large and small, surprising or gently mundane, and seeing the path before us as we follow Jesus. As Christmas turns to Epiphany, there is much being revealed.

**Robert Ragoonanan** joins us as Minister of Worship and Music at the start of January. [Insert cheers!] Please take time to get to know Bobby, share a bit about yourself and your experience, and learn more of his journey. It'll take time for us to get to know one another and begin to dream together. If you are curious about singing in the choir or making music around Hope, talk with Bobby!

**A Call Committee** has been created to seek a new Pastor for Care and Nurture. This is a part time call and the congregational leaders and I are finalizing details in the coming weeks. The core of Care and Nurture will likely remain very similar to the current role, with the addition of more regular worship leadership and preaching. Barbara would like to conclude by the end of March, or earlier if someone is able to join us sooner. Minneapolis Area Synod helps us fill this type of role. Ideally a new pastor will be able to join us in the next months and we'll have a smooth transition as Pastor Barbara retires. As our plans become more clear we'll schedule some opportunities to mark Pastor Barbara's retirement with celebration and thanks for her ministry.

**The solar canopy** in the parking lot is rising! Check out the pictures on the front of the newsletter, or better yet, come by church! By the time this newsletter reaches you, even more will have happened and soon it will be producing energy.

**Our Annual Congregational Meeting** is coming up on February 13, 2022. We'll gather hybrid so plan to join in person or on Zoom.

**Sabbatical Leave.** Over the last year our congregational leaders and I have been in conversation about a 3 month time of sabbatical. You've experienced this with previous pastors and it's part of healthy leadership for me and for the congregation. We're planning for this sabbatical April 26-July 24, 2022 and I'm looking forward to a needed time to step back with a different pace for my family, rest and renew, do some reading and exploration, travel a bit and reconnect with family and friends. Our congregational leaders and I are beginning to arrange for pastoral coverage during this period. I am confident it can be a time of renewal not only me, but for our community.

Beloved ones, as this season turns from Christmas to Epiphany, I'm praying for opportunities to "rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing." And I'm praying for moments of revelation that will guide each of us and our community into this new year and Jesus' ministry ahead.

-Pastor Jen



## Welcome, Minister of Worship and Music Robert Ragoonanan! Choir Rehearsal on January 5<sup>th</sup>

Robert (Bobby) Ragoonanan begins as our Minister of Worship and Music on January 2, 2022. In the coming months we'll have more opportunities for the choir and congregation to get to know Bobby, and for Bobby to get to know us as a congregation and as individuals.

In the meantime, a big invitation to all who'd like to sing: Choir rehearsals resume weekly on Wednesday, January 5, 7-8 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The choir will rehearse and sing most Sundays. Watch for more from Bobby. All are welcome to join in! Rehearsals follow the procedures in our COVID policy.



## Annual Meeting on February 13, 2022

The University Lutheran Church of Hope Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on February 13th after the 10:30 a.m. worship. The meeting will be held in person in the Sanctuary and on Zoom. The meeting will include review and thanksgiving for 2021 and then approval of the budget and affirmation of congregational leaders for the coming

year. The annual report will be available a week prior to the Annual Meeting in electronic and paper copies. Additionally, on February 6 during the Sunday Forum Emma Carpenter will offer a budget review. Please plan to participate. More to details to come!

### Call Committee

At the December 19, 2021 Special Congregational Meeting we affirmed the following people to be part of a call committee as we seek a new part time pastor. Thank you! Please watch for updates from the call committee in the coming weeks.

From the Personnel Committee: Tim Abrahamson, Chair \* Becky Halvorson \* Uli Koester

From the Congregation: Karen Jorstad \* Jacob Lanthier \* Alpha Lundquist \* Tom VanHeuvelen

Pastor Barbara Johnson will retire in the first quarter of 2022 and this new pastor will join us in meaningful ministry.

### A Note of Gratitude

The Gratitude and Generosity Team would like to take this opportunity to thank University Lutheran Church of Hope members for pledging financial support to this year's Annual Fund. This is a crucial, yearly campaign, as funds raised are dedicated to finance staff salaries and benefits, pay utilities and office expenses; as well as contribute to ministries and benevolences.

The history of generosity in this congregation has been amazing. Despite the last 2 years of living through the uncertainty of a global pandemic, that

generosity continues, as many of you have renewed previous pledge amounts or even increased for this year. We appreciate pledges in any amount and understand if circumstances are such that you are unable to contribute this year.

There is still time to turn in pledges if you have not yet done so. You can contact the church office for information regarding electronic giving as well.

Once again, we extend our gratitude. Your generous support ensures that God's work continues at ULCH now and into the future.

## New from Children, Youth and Families!

**Snowman Sculpture Send-In!** With the snow finally here, please send in pictures of any snow-people, snow-creatures, or snow-creations you and your families create!

**Snow Day January 15<sup>th</sup>!** Please join us for a Snow Day on Saturday January 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. We will be meeting at the University of Minnesota Golf Course where there are large and small hills for sledding, snowshoeing, ice skating, etc. We would love to see ALL families; children, Confirmation, and youth! Please bring your warm gear and warm smiles as we join in fellowship in this way!

**Sunday School Theme for January-March** From January - March the theme for Sunday School will be: Faith in Different Forms!

January: What it means to be a Lutheran

February: Global Faith

March: Faith at Hope

The Children's Ministry Team is very excited to dive deep, along with our families, into the subject of faith and what it means to live out our thoughtful and complex faith in a complex world.

**Youth Craft Day Sunday January 16<sup>th</sup>!** The Youth have it! We will be meeting after church on January 16<sup>th</sup> to make tie blankets! We will eat lunch in the lounge then head to Fellowship Hall to hang out and do some crafting. Please let Morgan know if you will be joining, or have any ideas, comments, concerns, story times, etc. please do not hesitate to contact Morgan at [morgans@ulch.org](mailto:morgans@ulch.org) or text 301-606-0400

Grace and Peace to you All!

Morgan Strudthoff , Minister of Faith Formation



## Community Engagement

**Donations:** Winter is here! There is need for adult size warm, thick, hats, gloves, and mittens. ULCH is looking for these items to be of good quality to keep people safe and warm throughout these cold months. If you have any questions about what might be good to donate, contact Elise at [elisec@ulch.org](mailto:elisec@ulch.org).

**Racial Justice Movie Nights:** The Racial Justice team will continue meeting for movie nights in January! Please check the Thursday Epistle for a date and zoom link in coming weeks. If you have movie suggestions, feel free to send them to [elisec@ulch.org](mailto:elisec@ulch.org).

Elise Carlson (she/her), Minister of Community Engagement



## Hope Diamonds will meet Bobby Ragoonanan in January



Watch your Thursday Epistles in January for a date and time. Bobby is so new to the staff, that we don't have him on our calendar yet. We will send out an email and a card as soon as we have more information.



## Sunday Forums

Please join us each Sunday from 9:30 to 10:15 in Fellowship Hall for a time of learning and dialogue. Forums can also be viewed on Zoom each Sunday morning through the worship link for the day. After the fact, you can view the forums using the links in the Thursday Epistle.

### January 2: No forum

**January 9: Meet Elise Carlson, Minister of Community Engagement** - If you don't know Elise well (or even if you think you do), here's your chance to change that! Elise will be sharing about her life, what brought her to Hope, and how she envisions her work with us.

**January 16: Documenting a Reckoning: The Murder of George Floyd** - The University of Minnesota's Elmer Anderson Library is currently exhibiting photographs highlighting the people and events that changed the region, the country, and the world. Regina McCombs, Hubbard School of Journalism Senior Fellow and organizer of this exhibit, will showcase some of these powerful images and stories of the journalists who captured these moments.

**January 23: Expanding our Language of Worship** - University Lutheran Church of Hope is part of a small team of local congregations creating a new expansive language for Lutheran liturgy. With the help of poets, pastors, musicians and our diverse experiences of the Biblical story and God, the images and language in this new liturgy are rich! It's time to test-run the liturgy in Sunday worship. This forum with Pastor Jen will offer a chance to learn more of the creation process and to check out the liturgy in more detail.

**January 30: Meet Morgan Strudthoff, Minister of Faith Formation** - Get to know Morgan a little better! (Just like we did with Elise Carlson earlier this month.) You'll hear more about Morgan's life, her vocation, and how she is working with our community at Hope.

## A Finished Quilt - 80 Years Later

Ruth Fingerson was only 2 when her grandmother Magdalena, who came to America from Germany as a 16-year-old, passed away from a stroke in 1941. Many years later Ruth's cousin sent a box of fabric pieces, saying, "This is part of Grandma Lena's sewing projects. For as long as I can remember, Mable (Lena's daughter) would tell me they were made from fabric scraps and flour sacks – so-and-so had a dress or shirt made from that. Grandma Lena made everything from scratch. I would date the fabric from the 1930-40s, maybe even earlier." After Lena died the fabric was salvaged from the Wisconsin farmhouse after a tornado, brought to Colorado, then Wyoming, then sent to Ruth.

When Ruth and Mike moved to an apartment, Ruth gave the fabric pieces to the Hope Quilters. There was a complete quilt top (30 circles in a classic pattern called Dresden Plate, hand-stitched to peach-colored squares), as well as 11 other partially finished plates. With advice from the other quilters about assembly, Marty Lewis-Hunstiger made the sandwich using homespun backing fabric from Karen Caplow, sewed the three layers together ("stitching in the ditch"), and finished the edges. Ruth and Mike received the finished product in time for Christmas.

In an extra blessing, a friend of Marty's who is an accomplished crafter is using the remaining Dresden Plates for another piece of fabric art.



*(Note from Ruth Fingerson: "This is a most amazing gift. I cannot thank Marty enough for her generosity with her time and talents.")*



# A Big Thank You!

Thanks to all who made this season special:

- The Hope Choir, and the ULCHers
- Interim musicians Scott Rohr, Ben Larson, and Tim Gustafson
- All who added musical gifts for Advent Services, Lessons and Carols, and Christmas Eve: Juna Evans, Judy Ranheim, Elise Carlson, Marty Lewis-Hunstiger, Rebecca, Alden and Rachel Tetlie, our kids and youth, James Flaten, Rosalie Eldevik, and others.
- Lisa Morse who created and implemented our Advent and Christmas visuals, Pauline Hendrickson, and the Altar Guild and communion clean up folks who work behind the scenes.
- Carol Flaten who helps us thinking carefully about reducing risk in this season of COVID-19 and other illnesses.
- Becky Halvorson, Dan O'Loughlin and all who were part of the special Christmas Eve meal-making and delivering!
- The Hope Diamonds who gathered for carols and fellowship.
- Rosalie Eldevik, the Friendly Visitors and all who brought greetings, love, and poinsettias.
- Matt Fry, Nathan Obrestad, and our tech staff for working diligently to learn and implement our tech and sound capacity.

## 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 (for 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 the website. Please do this **by Jan 21<sup>st</sup>**

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)

### Food Shelf Donations

We continue to collect food and staples for distribution at our local food shelf. Non-perishable food (and also paper bags) can be left in the "shopping cart" near the chapel. Thanks to Dean Bronson who faithfully brings these donations to the Groveland Food Shelf in south Minneapolis.

## Good Books for the New Year with Hope Book Club

Via Zoom on Sunday, January 9, 7:00 p.m.

***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. *“Ten-year-old Annemarie Johansen and her best friend Ellen Rosen often think of life before the war. It's now 1943 and their life in Copenhagen is filled with school, food shortages, and the Nazi soldiers marching through town. When the Jews of Denmark are ‘relocated,’ Ellen moves in with the Johansens and pretends to be one of the family. Soon Annemarie is asked to go on a dangerous mission to save Ellen's life.”* - [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com)

Via Zoom on Sunday, February 13, 7:00 p.m.

***The Unseen, by Roy Jacobsen*** - *“In his novel The Unseen, Norwegian writer Roy Jacobsen plumbs the literal and metaphorical implications of the remote Norwegian island of Barrøy, a place finding itself due, in the early 20th century, for a reckoning with modernity.”* - [www.startribune.com](http://www.startribune.com)

The Book Club will continue to hold its meetings via Zoom until at least 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 should serve as the ax for the frozen sea within us.” -Franz Kafka

## January and February Birthdays

Winter birthday parties can include skiing, snowboarding, sledding or making snow angels with your friends - if you're an 8 year old. When you are 80 years old or better, you're less likely to be seen shredding the gnar.\*\* All the more reason to contact Hope members and friends whose birthdays might be more quietly celebrated. Look for the birthday cards at Hope on Sundays, at the welcome desk near the 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. entrance. The cards are prepared and await your signature and best

wishes. Or send your own card, email or text message to the people on the list below. This Birthday list includes those who are 80 years and older, and some who are homebound or in assisted living or a care center. You can find their contact info in our latest ULCH directory.

\*\* To “shred the gnar” is slang: To ski or snowboard with exceptional speed, ability, or enthusiasm, especially in challenging terrain and conditions.

### January Birthdays

Jan 1 Millie Casperson \* Jan 1 John Setterlund will be 80! \* Jan 4 Sandra Robinson  
Jan 22 Karen Johnson \* Jan 29 Nita Anderson

### February Birthdays

Feb 2 Paul Quie \* Feb 7 CJ Robinson

Pastor Barbara, Care and Nurture

## Requests for Hope Church Trust Grants Due January 31<sup>st</sup>

The Hope Church Trust is 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 40 years,

providing grants for youth work and children's ministry, art, kitchen supplies, the ULCHers, Hope choir, racial justice support, building improvements and much more. Gifts to Hope Church Trust from memorials, donations, and legacy gifts over the years have built the Trust into a key resource for Hope's ministries.

Thank you, Norm Aaseng, Trust Board



## Racial Justice Team: Rolling Waters Fund Updates

*“But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” Amos 5:24*

Thanks to the ongoing generosity of many Hope members, the Racial Justice Team has distributed grants totaling \$31,400 to nearly 35 organizations since we started the Rolling Waters Fund in 2020. The fund was established to provide donations to local Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC)-led, faith-based and justice organizations that (1) work on equity issues, or (2) respond to needs in BIPOC communities due to COVID-19 or civil unrest. Most recently, in December 2021, the Racial Justice Team donated from the Rolling Waters Fund to the following organizations:

**Arts-Us Center for the African Diaspora** - Arts-Us is a community-based non-profit founded in St. Paul by a group of African American artists and multicultural educators to develop young leaders through the arts, culture, and sciences of the African Diaspora. Arts-Us also provides cultural performances, art, and art resources for educators, leadership opportunities for students, and consulting for community business and civic organizations through the lens of the African Diaspora.

**Irreducible Grace Foundation** - Irreducible Grace Foundation (“IGF”) is a non-profit, focused on creating safe spaces for youth of color in the Twin Cities. IGF provides mentoring, life skills, employment, self-care practices, and safe space for teens and young adults. Through the use of visual and performing arts and movement techniques IGF helps young people learn new skills for dealing with stress, trauma and fostering their voice.

**Literacy for Freedom** - Literacy for Freedom (“LF”) is a non-profit organization for African American males in grades 7-12, seeking to dramatically improve academic and life outcomes for African American male students in the Twin Cities metro area. It is the mission of LF to empower, inspire, and motivate African American males using critical literacy and critical media literacy strategies.

Please help us continue to contribute to local, BIPOC-led organizations that address racial justice by donating through the University Lutheran Church of Hope on-Line giving (designating your donation to “Rolling Waters Fund”) or by check to the church (noting “Rolling Waters Fund” in the memo line). Thank You!

Sonja Peterson - Hope in the World Liaison

## 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.

**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 Elizabeth Lincoln and John Lauber, and Mary Lincoln and Mark Schneider and their family at the death of dad Jim Lincoln; and the Erdahl family, especially Carol and kids, at the death of former Hope Pastor Lowell Erdahl.

**Significant Illness**—We pray for those living with illness, cancer, recovery, uncertain diagnosis, hospice, chemical dependency and other addictions, and mental health struggles, including Marcheta Scribner (in hospice care), Anne Bidne (in hospice), Roger and Nita Anderson (Nita is in hospice care), Mike Fingerson (in hospice care), Gisela Koester (in hospice care), Stewart Herman, Steve Ganzkow-Wold, Steve Schreuder, Brian McCaffrey, Jeanne Berkeland, Miriam Hougen, Janet Carpenter, Hannah Kiresuk, and Chuck Lewis.

**Separation, divorce, retirement, moves, graduations, new beginnings, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the civil rights movement of this time.**

## President's Notes

Before the rain washed it all away yesterday, 6 inches of snow fell in New Brighton last week. But Molly, Maggie, and Copper were not happy. They peeked out of their hatch and decided the coop was just fine. Later in the day, they ventured down part of the ladder and looked about, but then went back up.

Somedays it's just too much. Jen called it the 'O' word in a recent sermon, for overwhelmed. You try and try to deal with the crazy world out there: cats sneaking around your run, hot sun, noisy neighbors, unpredictable people who you think should be caring for you. Then you try to go out, and your feet have to walk on cold white stuff. You know what I'm talking about!

This fall I was part of a team of ULCH folks who made calls to members with whom the church has had less contact recently. We dubbed it Gathering the Flock. The calls were of a caring nature—how are you doing, are you getting out, what can the church do to help. Some folks we did not reach, many we did. I had wonderful conversations with two members, and learned not only about their lives these days, but also how deeply connected they are to our church.

One of our most respected caregivers in the church, Pastor Barbara, will be leaving us early in 2022. We will miss her, and a send-off is in the making. But by the time you read this, a committee will be busy finding a new second pastor. Care and nurture will be central to their calling, and you can look forward to building a new loving relationship.

The days are messy and many are downright hard, but University Lutheran Church of Hope is here to care for you. Pastors and others reach out to help. You can also pick up the phone, or get on email, and ask for help.

Thankfully, Beth and I have a good view of the chicken run and coop from several windows, and we keep an eye out. If we installed a phone down there, next to the new lamp, we would get way too many calls. Especially about the weather.

Uli Koester, Congregational President

## Treasurer's Report

November 2021 and Year-to-Date Income and Expense						
	Nov. Actual	Nov. Budget	Nov. Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
<b>General Giving</b>	42,578	38,037	4,541	447,787	450,937	(3,150)
<b>Rental Income</b>	21,240	10,166	11,074	120,371	111,826	8,545
<b>Total Income</b>	63,817	48,203	15,614	568,158	562,763	5,395
<b>Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	19,951	25,995	(6,044)	273,896	312,793	(38,897)
<b>Total Expense</b>	44,154	48,048	(3,893)	523,725	575,002	(51,277)
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	19,663	156	19,508	44,433	(12,239)	56,672

**November Financials** - General giving totaled \$42,578 for the month of November, \$4,541 more than the budgeted amount. In November, we deposited the October 31<sup>st</sup> offering, which was originally budgeted in the month of October contributing to the monthly overage. Year-to-date general giving totaled \$447,787, \$3,150 less than the budgeted amount. In November, rental income totaled \$21,240, which includes two months of PEASE Academy rent and monthly contract parking. Income for the month totaled \$63,817 contributing to a total year-to-date income of \$568,158, \$5,395 more than budgeted.

Expenses totaled \$44,154 for the month of November. Year-to-date, expenses totaled \$523,725, \$51,277 under the budgeted amount. We had a net operating income of \$19,663 for the month contributing to a net operating income of \$44,433 year-to-date. The Executive Committee alongside the Vision and Governance Board continue to monitor our current financial position.

As of November 30<sup>th</sup>, we have \$446K in current assets – primarily composed of our checking and savings account. Additionally, we have a remaining mortgage liability of \$633K and note payable to the trust for the Solar Project.

**Capital Campaign – Opening Doors** - As of November 30<sup>th</sup>, we have \$206K in current assets. We funded virtual worship enhancements – in addition to paying a portion of the mortgage each month. Early in 2022 we will distribute the first year of benevolences to several organizations chosen by the congregation. Please reach out to me or Nathan Obrestad ([nathano@ulch.org](mailto: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!

Emma Carpenter, Treasurer

# January 2022 Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:30 AM Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube	3 9:00 AM Quilters 1:30 PM Sunday Forum Team	4 12:00 PM Staff Meeting on Zoom 4:30 PM PEASE After School Program 6:15 PM Zoom - Personnel Committee 7:15 PM Zoom - Executive Committee	5 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 4:30 PM PEASE After School Program 6:00 PM Parents of PEASE 6:30 PM AA Group 7:00 PM Men's Group	7 2:00 PM Bread Oven Bake Preparation	8 5:00 AM Bread Oven Bake Day 9:00 AM Chapel Reserved
9 9:30 AM Sunday Forum 9:30 AM Sunday School - Zoom 10:30 AM Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 7:00 PM Book Club	10 9:00 AM Quilters 7:30 PM Children's Ministry Team	11 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM PEASE After School Program	12 5:30 PM Zoom - Compassion Care Team 6:00 PM Zoom - Facilities Team 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	13 9:30 AM Dorcas Circle - Courtyard/Lounge 4:30 PM PEASE After School Program 6:30 PM AA Group	14 *"The Visitor" Articles Due 2:00 PM Kitchen Reserved	15 9:00 AM Chapel Reserved 1:00 PM Snow Day!! (children, youth, families, all!) 2:00 PM Kitchen Reserved for Pick Up
16 9:30 AM Sunday Forum 9:30 AM Sunday School - Zoom 10:30 AM Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 5:00 PM Zoom: Movie Discussion Group with Racial Equity Focus	17 9:00 AM Quilters	18 12:00 PM Staff Meeting on Zoom 4:00 PM Sanctuary Coalition Meeting 4:30 PM PEASE After School Program 6:30 PM Vision & Governance Board-Courtyard	19 1:00 PM Hope Diamonds - Tentative 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	20 4:30 PM PEASE After School Program 6:00 PM Zoom - SE Como Hope Connections Group 6:30 PM AA Group 7:00 PM Men's Group 7:30 PM Worship Planning Team-Zoom	21	22 9:00 AM Chapel Reserved
23 9:30 AM Sunday Forum 9:30 AM Sunday School - Zoom 10:30 AM Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube	24 9:00 AM Quilters 6:00 PM ZOOM-Bible & Brews	25 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM PEASE After School Program 7:00 PM Zoom - Racial Justice Team	26 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	27 4:30 PM PEASE After School Program 6:30 PM AA Group 7:00 PM Sanctuary and Immigration Team on Zoom	28 7:30 PM Voice Recital: Mark Billy, Baritone, and Robert S. Ragoonanan, piano	29 9:00 AM Chapel Reserved 9:00 AM Women's Retreat on Zoom 4:00 PM Women's Retreat, Courtyard
30 9:30 AM Sunday Forum 9:30 AM Sunday School - Zoom 10:30 AM Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube	31 9:00 AM Quilters					

## Artisan Bread Bake Dates Announced!

Mark your calendars to grab our tasty artisan breads - baked in our very own wood fired outdoor oven in the parking lot - knowing that your donations support worthy food related causes.

Breads can be picked up in person on the following Sundays in the lounge from 9 a.m. to noon. A limited amount of breads are also set aside to be reserved. Free will contributions are used to cover expenses and to support community food related organizations. Here are the 2022 Spring Dates:

**January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 15.**

Back by popular demand are Pizza bakes (free slices!), held monthly during the summer months, with dates TBD.

Summer 2022, the Bread Ministry is committed to supporting the ELCA Youth Gathering, which is held every 3 years. Minneapolis is the hosting site this year from July 24-28.

Food is love. The Bread Ministry is a fun group of bread baking enthusiasts, committed to sharing Christ's good food and good will with our congregation, neighbors and students, and the greater community. We are always looking for like-minded folks to join us in our mission. Baking experience is not required. Contact John Bablitch ([mplsifb@gmail.com](mailto:mplsifb@gmail.com)) or Bryan Kufus ([bkufus462@icloud.com](mailto:bkufus462@icloud.com)) for more information.



University Lutheran Church of Hope is a welcoming Christian community of faith centered in God's grace and called to demonstrate God's love for all the world.  
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## Staff

### Pastors:

Rev. Jen Nagel  
Rev. Barbara Johnson

### Minister of Worship and Music:

Robert Ragoonanan

### Pastoral Intern:

Emily Brown

### Minister of Community Engagement:

Elise Carlson

### Minister of Faith Formation

Morgan Strudthoff

### Church Administrator:

Nathan Obrestad

### Financial Administrator:

Kari Olson

### Custodian:

Geremew Beshah

### Worship Tech:

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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