

Complex world. Thoughtful church.

April 2022
No. 18-04



Clockwise from Top Left: Our financial team – Financial Administrator Kari Olson, Congregational Treasurer Betty Schreuder, and former Congregational Treasurer Emma Carpenter working closely in the transition; spring coming on the patio; bread bakers; and more bread bakers; intergenerational fun at Como Zoo on a cold March Saturday; good-bye winter; Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert and John Bablitch with the bread bounty; (center) retirement blessings and much love, Pastor Barbara!

Messiah

James He Qi's majestic *Messiah* welcomes worshippers into Hope's west narthex at the front of the sanctuary. He Qi is an internationally known artist born in China and presently artist-in-residence at Fuller Theological Seminary in California. He was the first among those in Mainland China to receive a doctorate degree in religious art after the Cultural Revolution's banning of religious art. This compelling piece was created for a performance of George Frideric Handel's *The Messiah*, visually expressing the oratorio's Biblical texts including these:

- ✦ *Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.* —Isaiah 60:1
- ✦ *For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.* —Isaiah 9:6
- ✦ *Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.* —John 1:29
- ✦ *For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.* —I Corinthians 15:20

In *Messiah*, He Qi sets Christian iconography in the context of Chinese culture to create this both intimate and universal image. Anchored at the bottom we see a sweet newborn Jesus. A luminous halo of light surrounds his soft, round head with its traditional Chinese haircut to bring the child vitality and strength in the Lunar New Year. In a humble bamboo basket filled with straw, the lone baby Jesus is placed in the middle of a long road leading to the horizon. The passageway is lined with low blue and plum buildings representing the people of the world. Light emanates from God's only begotten, born to heal and save, shining hope on humanity.



In the upper right corner, a gleaming, circular medallion depicts Jesus as the sacrificial lamb, bathed in golden sunlight, standing on blood-stained, earthy soil, and holding high an empty cross—a medieval symbol representing Christ's victory over sin and death.

In the upper left we see an entrance into what must be the magnificent courtyard of the heavenly home God has prepared for us. There's no need to use the gold ring knocker, as the large red door is already opened wide. In Chinese culture red signifies luck, joy, and vitality, while in Christianity red symbolizes both humankind and God's love through Jesus' blood shed for our atonement. ULCH member July Zheng (now living in Beijing) explains the meaning of the written symbol on the door, printed on a diagonal red square. To welcome good fortune into the Lunar New Year, people in China put this written symbol on their doors during Spring Festival: the upside down (as if pouring out) Chinese character *fú* meaning "blessing."

Front and center is the picture's unmistakable pivotal figure—the glorious risen Christ. Robed in royal blue, Jesus floats above the foothold of his newborn image and the humanity he came to redeem. The artist

represents Christ in his own likeness, but uses all the hues of the color wheel (yellow, orange, red, violet, blue and green) to create Jesus' skin tones—a metaphorical choice that invites everyone to see themselves in Jesus' image. The risen Christ is flanked by winged angels playing harp and lute, glorifying Jesus with music of adoration and celebrating the Messiah's triumph over sin and death. With his hands still bearing the nail wounds from the cross, Jesus faces each of us with his arms uplifted, praising God and blessing us with immeasurable, everlasting, wondrous love.

- ✦ *Hallelujah! for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The Kingdom of this world is become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ: and he shall reign for ever and ever.* —Revelation 19:6; 11:15
- ✦ *Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by his blood...Blessing and honor, glory and power to be unto him that sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever. Amen.* —Rev. 5:12-13

A Blessed Easter from Arts & Environment, Muffi Abrahamson

All In . . . and Stepping Out

In March as we prepared for the memorial service for our beloved Nita Anderson, it was one of her kids who described Nita as *All In*. Nita engaged life fully, and her family, her students, her choir mates, and her friends knew it. This month we prepare for the April 9th memorial service for beloved Mike Fingerson. Whether in the lab or at the decision table, at church or with family, Mike, too, was *All In*, with a mix of curiosity and skill, wise servant leadership and faithful dedication.

Where did they develop these *All In* ways? I can't say for certain, but I notice the example of our savior Jesus. This Holy Week we'll hear again the ancient story of Jesus' last days at the hands of the oppressors and God's radical way of once again, even now, even here, making life in our spaces of death. In life, in death, in life beyond death, Jesus is *All In*. This Holy Week I'm watching for Jesus' *All In* way of loving unto death, and beyond death.

I was at a meeting recently when one of my colleagues, excited for my coming sabbatical, wondered if I was coasting this month. I suppose that's a good question, but it made me laugh and sigh and shake my head. Coasting is one thing I'm not doing this April. I'm not coasting, I'm *All In*. And many of you are *All In*, too. Thank God for such strong and faithful congregational leaders. Did you notice, we've got a few things going on around Hope these days?!

April brings Holy Week (page 4) with moving and powerful services, and Easter Sunday on the 17th. This month we'll pray Godspeed for Pastor Barbara (page 5) and welcome well Pastor Maria (page 4). The Sunday after Easter, April 24, is often a quieter one for congregations but don't miss it! On April 24th we'll have two baptisms, the installation of Pastor Maria as our Pastor for Care and Nurture, and a Solar Celebration (page 5) including a dedication after worship and perhaps even pizza!

My sabbatical runs April 26-July 24. So April 24th is also my last Sunday in worship. During this sabbatical period I'll step back for a time of renewal and won't be available for pastoral duties. Two Hope members, Pastor Tom Carlson and Pastor Erik Strand, will provide pastoral coverage during these months. Let's call them Sabbatical Pastors. They'll team up with Pastor Maria, the rest of the Hope staff, and our capable leaders to preach and lead worship, offer pastoral care, teach, supervise the staff, attend key meeting, and keep our ministry rolling.

As joys or needs arise, do not hesitate to reach out to them. Additionally, if you know of concerns in the congregation (i.e. someone is in the hospital, someone is struggling), please alert the pastors. They can be reached via the church office (612-331-5988) and will have a church email assigned. Their cell numbers are listed for pastoral needs beginning April 26. Here's a little about them.

Pastor Tom Carlson (cell 651-983-7605) retired from First Lutheran Church in Columbia Heights a few years back. Since then he's enjoyed retirement and has also stepped into some part time positions. Tom and his wife Candy live in Plymouth and have three grown sons and two grandkids. Their son Jay and his wife Kristen and their kids, Beatrice and Malena, are also members of ULCH. Tom and Candy are eager for the family to return in June after 2.5 years in New Zealand!



Pastor Erik Strand (cell 952-270-8904) retired a few years back from many years as co-pastor of Edina Community Lutheran Church. Earlier in the pandemic Erik served as an interim pastor at Resurrection Lutheran in Roseville. Erik and his wife Deb live in Edina. They have two sons and four grandchildren spread between Rochester and the Twin Cities. Deb and Erik are both from the Pacific Northwest and return often to care for aging parents.

Dear ones, I'm *All In* these weeks and then will step out trusting the grace of God and the Spirit's loving ways for me and for this amazing congregation. Am I looking forward to this time of sabbatical? Yes, very much! I need this time of renewal to rest and adventure, to have a little more space and breath, and to find some new patterns of sustainability for myself and my family. Through these months I'll be praying for you and I welcome your prayers. With deep gratitude and much love, Holy Week and Easter blessings.

-Pastor Jen Nagel, Lead Pastor

Welcome, Pastor Maria!

On March 13, 2022, at a special congregational meeting, we voted unanimously to call Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert as our Pastor for Care and Nurture. Pastor Maria steps into a role that is similar to what Pastor Barbara has done, though we have increased the hours a bit (15-20 hours/per week), and added monthly preaching and regular worship leadership. We have framed care and nurture with lifespan ministry—caring for our eldest and those of many ages. Pastor Maria has accepted this call. She begins on March 29, 2022 allowing for some days of cross-over between Maria and Barbara. Pastor Maria's first Sunday in worship will be April 10 (because on April 3 we will celebrate Pastor Barbara's retirement). We welcome Pastor Maria and her family including her husband Nat, and young children Solomon and Raymond. Pastor Maria's email is mariaa@ulch.org. An installation is planned for Sunday, April 24.



Thank you to the Call Committee for all their work and careful attention. They are Tim Abrahamson (chair), Becky Halvorson, Karen Jorstad, Uli Koester, Jacob Lanthier, Alpha Lundquist, Pastor Jen Nagel, and Tom VanHeuvelen.

Worship and Music

Choir is up and running, rehearsing Wednesday evenings from 7 - 8:30 p.m., singing a wide variety of music from the Renaissance to the 21st century from around the world. All are welcome, please join us if you are able and are comfortable doing so! If you would like to be included on the choir email list, please contact me at robertr@ulch.org.



Drop-in Choir is back! Want to come hang out with the choir on a Sunday morning, sing something easy, and enjoy a choral experience without the commitment of Wednesday evening rehearsals? Or are you thinking about singing in the choir, but want to see what it's like without having to commit? Then drop-in choir is for you! Please join us on the following Sundays at 9:30 a.m. for a rehearsal: April 10, May 8.

Lenten Theme and Evening Worship: We are continuing to hold Lenten Prayer Around the Cross services on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. Come and take a break from the hectic workweek, the crazy news, and any other stressors in life, and take time to reflect, contemplate, and experience beautiful worship and music. Our last Lenten evening service will be April 6. This year our Lenten theme is, "Sighs Too Deep for Words," because don't we all feel that way right now? Think about images, experiences, music, art, that produce a deep sigh from you - good or bad. Why is that? What can be expressed in a sigh that transcends language?

Join us for Holy Week Worship: We will have powerful, moving worship and music during Holy Week as we reflect on Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Join us for Palm Sunday on April 10th, 10:30 a.m., Maundy Thursday, 12 p.m. and 7 p.m., Good Friday, 12 p.m. and 7 p.m. and the Easter Vigil, 7 p.m. on Saturday April 16th. The choir will sing on Palm Sunday, and the evening Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services.

Easter is April 17! Join us at 8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. (or both!) for exciting joyous Easter worship, with brass and choir. You won't want to miss it! Music by Bach, Elgar, Willcocks, Undine Smith Moore, Pergolesi, Wegner, Ragoonanan, and Handel will be presented.

Soloists and ensembles for worship are welcome! If you play an instrument or sing and would like to offer a piece of music in worship, please let me know! Our congregation has many musicians of all ages, and all are welcome to share their gifts.

Robert S. Ragoonanan, Minister of Worship and Music

Pastor Barbara is retiring in early April. Please join us:

- A Retirement Celebration will be held on Friday, April 1 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Using Zoom allows many to join us: our congregation, friends, family, and those from other congregations where Pastor Barbara has served. Watch the Thursday Epistle for the Zoom link, or contact the church office. We will record this event and can share it later, also.
- On Sunday, April 3 we'll pray Godspeed during 10:30 a.m. worship. A reception in the lounge, courtyard, and patio will follow worship.

*We give thanks to God for Pastor Barbara's ministry in our community
and pray blessings on her transition to retirement.*

Solar Celebration on Sunday, April 24

At the beginning of February, our rooftop and canopy solar panels began generating energy! We celebrate this milestone and the years of dreaming, planning, voting, raising funds, organizing, patiently (or not so patiently!) monitoring work and supply chain delays, and welcoming the panels with

whoops of joy. These panels are one way this faithful community is responding to the climate crisis. Let's come together for a Solar Celebration after worship on April 24. Watch for more details as the event draws closer.

COVID-19 Preparedness Plan Updated!

On March 17 we updated our COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. As a community that includes those who are unable to be vaccinated, as well as people who are immunocompromised or at greater risk, we will continue to mask at University Lutheran Church of Hope. We now have greater flexibility for receptions and gatherings (such as some simple

funeral receptions, Pastor Barbara's retirement, Easter Sunday fellowship, etc.) After Easter we'll also begin more regular fellowship times in the lounge, courtyard, and patio. You will find other adjustments in the policy as well, and guidance for decisions we face. Please check it out on our website at <http://www.ulch.org/ulch-response-to-covid-19>

Graduating this Spring or Summer?

We look forward to celebrating all those graduating in the coming months. Whether you are completing high school, a certificate program, undergrad studies, or a graduate program, whether you are 18 or 65, let us know your name, what program you are completing, and, if you like, a little about your hopes and plans for what comes next. We'd welcome a

picture, too, but are happy to take a quick one at church if that's easier. Parents, we know this gets to be a busy season for grads, feel free to pass the basics to us on their behalf. Please send this information to Nathan in the church office ulch@ulch.org by May 15. A graduate recognition Sunday will be held in June - watch for details.

Hope Diamonds Seniors and Friends:

Let's Get Acquainted with Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert

Wednesday, April 20th 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Coffee and treats will be available.

Please RSVP - Call Nathan at ULCH 612-331-5988, or email nathano@ulch.org

If you need a ride, or if you can offer a ride, let us know.

We will wear masks and honor safe distancing.



Community Engagement



The Marcy - Holmes Neighborhood Events

April 19: Membership Meeting. Join to learn more about what's happening in the neighborhood currently, and ways to be involved. RSVP at marcy-holmes.org.

April 23: Dinkytown Clean Up! Marcy Holmes is organizing to remove graffiti, tags, and stickers from around Dinkytown. Volunteers can meet and pick up supplies at the corner of University Avenue S.E. and 13th Avenue S.E. (near University Baptist Church) starting at 9 a.m. Reach out to Chris Lautenschlager, the MHNA Executive Director, at chris@marcy-holmes.org with any questions.

ULCH will open up to UMN students as a study space the week prior to and during finals this spring. We are looking for volunteers who would be able to bring snacks, beverages, or hang out in the building for a while in the evenings during May 2 - May 11. Contact elisec@ulch.org if you would like to learn more or if you wish to help in any way.

The Racial Justice Movie Night will pause until May, to allow people time to celebrate Easter. Movie and topic suggestions are welcome! Send many to elisec@ulch.org.

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

Faith Formation!

We are going to Amnicon! We will be taking the Namekagon trip July 31st-August 5th! If you have any questions about registration, please contact Morgan at [\(301\) 606-0400](tel:3016060400).

We will be having an Easter Fellowship Breakfast! Between 9:15 and 10:15 a.m., Easter Sunday morning we will be sharing a small meal with fresh fruit, hard boiled eggs, a carb that is still being decided, juice, water, and Coffee! Please join us for food and fellowship as we rejoice in the Resurrection together!

We are dying eggs as families! We will be dying them outside in the courtyard and we will be serving the dyed hard boiled eggs for Easter Fellowship. Please join us at 5-6:45 p.m. in the courtyard on Saturday, April 16th, before the Easter Vigil Service.

South Minneapolis Day Camp - Save the Dates! June 27 - 30 - South Minneapolis Day Camp will be back in person this summer! We are so excited to welcome children and youth back to Bethel. We look forward to joining together with our ecumenical bunch of partner churches for a fun and engaging experience of faith formation that will include art, music, play, service, learning, biblical storytelling, worship, and more!

What: South Minneapolis Day Camp, a shared ecumenical day camp experience. Our theme this year is Building the Beloved Community.

When: June 27 - 30, Monday - Thursday, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., plus an evening family celebration on June 30

Who: For entering kindergarteners through middle schoolers. And, we invite high schoolers to serve as leaders during the week (we do offer a stipend!)

Where: Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, - 4120-17th Ave S, Minneapolis

How: Registration coming soon. We will have COVID safety protocols in place throughout camp, and we will share more about those protocols at a later time. Questions? Or interest in participating or volunteering? Contact Minister of Faith Formation, Morgan Strudthoff at morgans@ulch.org



To families of all shapes and sizes, let's take a pause together. That may seem like an impossible task in the chaos of the world. A strike, daycare, Ukraine crisis. What we can do right now is breathe. I recommend you gather your household and do some breathing together. It is a spiritual and holy task to take care of your body and brain. You are loved. You are valued. We are here for you.

Thank you so much for your help! Peace onto you this Lenten season.

Morgan Strudthoff, Minister of Faith Formation

April and May Birthdays

This Birthday list of Hope's members and friends 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 the ULCH directory. Cards, notes and phone calls are always appreciated!

April Birthdays

April 7th – Leanard Hrcir

April 8th – James Solem

April 16th – Sally French will be 90!

April 19th – Marge Perko

April 24th – Dick Luedtke will be 80!

April 29th – Jean Albrecht

April 29th – Janette Munson

May Birthdays

May 7th – Ruth Fingerson * May 23rd – Esther Dant * May 30 - Marcheta Scribner will be 90!

Sunday Forums – Breakfast with a Side of Hope

Join us via Zoom (link sent out with worship information on Sunday mornings) for a look at various topics of interest to our community. Forums run from **9 to 9:45 a.m.** which will give you time to head over to church for the 10:30 service or remain online for worship. Hope to see you there!

Here is our line-up for April:

April 3rd - Art of Holy Week - How have visual artists imagined the events of the Passion? What theological messages have their works tried to convey? Join Hope members Esther Dant and Nan Knutsen for a look at some artworks that will inspire and challenge you.

April 10th - Here Comes the Sun: Update on Our Solar Project - Are you curious about our new solar panel system, which has been running since late February? Would you like to find out how it works, what it means for us as a church, and how you might become involved? Come hear Hope members Stewart Herman and Tim Abrahamson share the latest updates and answer your questions.

April 17th - Easter, no forum

April 24th - Homes with Heart - How do we create spaces for love and justice, first in our family lives and then in the world? Join Rev. Ruth Frost, a retired pastor and chaplain, as she shares excerpts and insights from her new book, **Homes With Heart: Turning Living Spaces into Loving Places**, a memoir that offers inspiring roadmaps to find our own true homes, no matter what the circumstances.

Easter Hope Photo Project

Whether you've been worshipping online or in person or both, it's been too long since we've seen many of one another's faces. To change that, we need your help for a message of Easter hope. **By April 10th, snap a photo of yourself along with the word HOPE.** It can be on an index card, a legal pad, spelled out in stones or blocks or sidewalk chalk, anything you want! Be plain or fancy, creative or ordinary-- it doesn't matter. *Just make sure the word is big enough for us to read and that we can see your*



lovely face. No masks! We will be putting these into a slideshow for online Easter worship and will also share it via a link in the Thursday Epistle. We're hoping to get everyone involved - from kids (babies included) to our eldest members. If you have family members or friends with Hope connections who don't live nearby, invite them to join the project as well. Send photos to mediaulch@gmail.com.

Thanks for your help with this!



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. On April 24 we will celebrate the baptisms of Aila, child of Lindsay and James Schlemmer, and Raymond, child of Pastor Maria and Nat Anderson-Lippert.

Marriages—We pray for all those preparing for marriage, and for all relationships of commitment.

Deaths and Memorial Services—We pray for all who grieve the loss of loved ones, those who have died recently, and those who died in past years and who are still tenderly missed. A Memorial Service for Mike Fingerson will be held at University Lutheran Church of Hope (and on Zoom) on Saturday, April 9 at 2 p.m., with visitation beginning at 1 p.m. and reception following the service.

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), Mario, Roger Anderson, Jason Lukis, Stewart Herman, Steve Ganzkow-Wold, Steve Schreuder, Brian McCaffrey, Miriam Hougen, Janet Carpenter, Hannah Kiresuk, and Chuck Lewis. We pray for caregivers.

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

Hope Church Trust Grants for 2022

On March 11, 2022, the Hope Church Trust Board met to discuss 15 applications which requested more than \$62,000 - three times the amount requested last year, and about twice as much as was available to distribute. After careful consideration, the Trust Board approved grants for the following amounts:

- Joyce Uptown Food Shelf – \$500
- My Very Own Bed – \$1000
- Caring Connections – \$350
- Advocates for Human Rights – \$1500
- Plymouth Christian Youth Center – \$2000
- Center for Leadership and Neighborhood Engagement (CLNE) – \$2500
- Mabel's Free Clinic (Nuevo Progreso, Mexico) – \$500
- Mexican Assoc. for Rural and Urban Transformation (AMEXTRA) (Tultitlán, Mexico) – \$3735
- Homeless in Minneapolis (manuscript project) – \$1200
- Little Free Library Food Project – \$5000
- Sabbatical Funding for Supplemental Staff – \$5000
- Choral Scholar (carried over from 2021 award) – \$3100
- ULCH Racial Justice Taskforce Congregational Book Study – \$1375
- Tech Hardware for Sunday Forums – \$5000

Total: \$32,760

Approximately 37% of the funding went to ministries beyond Hope, 44% to projects within Hope, and 19% to projects that have both internal and external aspects. The Choral Scholar award from 2021 that couldn't be spent due to the pandemic was granted carryover into 2022.

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

The Hope Church Trust Board members are: Norm Aaseng, James Flaten, Meri Hauge, Tim Hopkins, Scott Hvizdos, Leena Rapacz, and Robyn Swenson

Enjoy Good Books and Discussion with the Hope Book Club via Zoom, Sunday April 10th at 7:00 p.m.

The Overstory, by Richard Powers. 2019 Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction.

"The Overstory . . . is as close as it gets to a founding text for Powers' environmentalism. The novel follows nine characters . . . whose close relationships with trees, lasting sometimes for generations, lead them to a deep appreciation of the world's threatened forests." -www.theatlantic.com

May 8: **Homes with Heart: Turning Living Spaces into Loving Places**, Ruth Frost, M. Div.

"Our journey to make home in the world." <https://www.ruthfrost.com/books>

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

Contact Sonja Peterson at speterson@dunnwald.com or 612-242-8711 for a link to the meeting. Please also contact Sonja with book suggestions.

Friendly Visitor Remembrance Easter Flower Project

The Easter Remembrance/Flower Project resumes this year. Once again, the Friendly Visitors invite you to remember or honor loved ones, by submitting their names by Sunday, April 10, 2022 for the Easter Bulletin, and donating for a plant to adorn the sanctuary. After the 10:30 a.m. service, the plants will be delivered by caring members of the congregation to all the homebound and to those families who have been on the prayer list this past year. We also invite any Individuals or families to help us with deliveries if you are able.

You can submit your names or volunteer in two ways.

1. **You can submit names electronically** - go to the Easter Remembrance link here <https://forms.gle/hwc47BUAfZrC9KUF6> and fill in your information to be listed in the bulletin.
2. **Send the information to ULCH**, 601 13th Ave. SE, Mpls., MN 55414 to the attention of Rosalie Eldevik, using the form attached below.

Gifts to the Friendly Visitor Ministry can be submitted electronically via the link included on the form, or sent with the form below with a check made out to ULCH, with "Easter Remembrance" written on the memo line. All funds go to support the Friendly Visitor Ministry. Questions? Contact Rosalie Eldevik, 651-295- 8789 or raldevik@gmail.com

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

Please detach and return with a check made to ULCH with "Easter Remembrance" written on the memo line.

Person(s) contributing _____ Phone #: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

I can assist with deliveries: Yes / No *** Thank you for your contribution and being part of this wonderful Ministry.

President's Message: Hallways of Hope

I remember when I was a young teenager; the hallway from the church stairway to the chapel seemed to go on forever. I would stand at the end of the hall, waiting for my mom to get to me so we could go home after church. She would come down the steps, stopping to talk to people along the way. She didn't think I was waiting all that long, so one day, I timed her. It took her 60 minutes to get down that hall! For me, it was torture. But now, as an adult, I understand that slow walk after church: greeting friends, picking up a loaf of fresh bread, making plans to work on a project. I love taking my time after church, especially after being away during so much of the pandemic.

That hallway has seen a lot of people and other critters as well. Dogs and a couple of brave cats have made their way to the patio to be blessed. There has been the occasional bat zipping down the hall at night, kittens trying to make a dash away from the crafters who put them down for just a minute, and I know one hot summer day, a goat was the surprise guest during Vacation Bible School in that hall (my mom volunteered to bring it back to the U of M St. Paul campus in the back of our station wagon). And recently a squirrel was in that hallway trying to figure out how to get back outside.

That hallway, like many hallways, is a transition from one thing to another. We have had a lot of transitions this year. Some of us are coming back to church after another couple months of online services. New staff arrived this year, with more new faces to come with the hiring of Pastor Maria and the family that will join her. I think about the transition of Pastor Barbara leaving, wishing her happiness in her new adventures, but sad that she will no longer be our pastor. There are the upcoming changes with Pastor Jen going on sabbatical and Pastors Erik Strand and Tom Carlson stepping in to fill her role. So many transitions!

Usually, I don't care for change. I resonate with the joke "How many Lutherans does it take to change a lightbulb? The answer: Why does it need to change?" And yet, we had to change and be flexible so much these past two years.

But when I look at the leadership of Hope, I am calmed and reassured. Leadership includes much more than the Vision & Governance Board. It includes people who make bread, fix toilets, care for the solar array, collate the bulletin, watch the budget, sing in the choir, teach Sunday school, make quilts, give communion, and on and on. It's you who step up and help out and there's so many of you who are flexible and say YES! Thank you!!! It is the team, all of us working together, that make the transitions easier, and I am grateful.

Ann Agrimson, Congregational President

Treasurer's Report

	February 2022 and Year-to-date Income and Expense					
	Feb. Actual	Feb. Budget	Feb. Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	34,287.33	38,891.46	(4,604.13)	74,860.66	77,782.92	(2,922.26)
Rental Income	30,079.21	13,312.58	16,766.63	31,111.53	26,625.16	4,486.37
Total Income	64,366.54	52,204.04	12,162.50	105,972.19	104,408.08	1,564.11
Salary & Benefits	25,849.25	33,062.17	(7,212.92)	51,170.13	66,124.34	(14,954.21)
Total Expenses	48,625.72	54,469.20	(5843.48)	98,889.98	117,456.33	(18566.35)
Net Operating Income	15,740.82	(2,265.16)	18,005.98	7,082.21	(13,048.25)	20,130.46

Monthly Financials General giving totaled \$34,287.33 for the month of February. We received 3 months of PEASE Academy rent in February of \$27,637.64 giving us a total income of \$64,366.54. Our general giving is a little behind our budget for the year but we are at 96% of what was expected. With the extra rental included we are at 101% of our total income budget. Expenses totaled \$48,625.72 for the month of February. This amount included several large expenses including an increased natural gas expense, elevator maintenance and licensing and several small repairs. In February, we had a net operating income of \$15,740.82. As of February 28th, we have \$400K in current assets – primarily composed of our checking and savings account of which \$117K is dedicated accounts.

Capital Campaign – Opening Doors In February 2022, we received \$10,275 in contributions to the capital campaign. In February 2021, we kicked off Opening Doors, a 3-year Capital Campaign aimed at dedicating funds to pay the life of the mortgage (expires in 2027) and fund special projects around the church. We look forward to distributing the first round of benevolences to several organizations in early 2022. Please reach out to Nathan Obrestad (nathano@ulch.org) or myself 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 - Betty Schreuder, Treasurer

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, April 25, 6-8 p.m. The group will determine if they will meet in person or on Zoom. Watch for information in the Thursday Epistle and save the date.



April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:00 PM Pastor Barbara's Retirement Program on Zoom	2 9:00 AM Chapel Reserved
3 9:00 AM Sunday Forum on Zoom 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Sunday School - Zoom 10:30 AM Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube (Godspeed and Thanks for Pastor Barbara) 11:30 AM Bible Study: Passions of Christ 11:30 AM Outdoor Reception 3:00 PM AA Group	4 9:00 AM Quilters 12:00 PM Staff Meeting on Zoom 6:30 PM Zoom - Personnel Committee 7:15 PM Zoom - Executive Committee 7:30 PM Children's Ministry Team-Zoom	5 4:30 PM PEASE After School Program	6 12:00 PM Sanctuary Open for Holy Communion, Prayer 7:00 PM Lenten Service (Sanctuary/YouTube) 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	7 4:30 PM PEASE After School Program 6:00 PM Parents of PEASE 6:30 PM AA Group 7:00 PM Men's Group	8 2:00 PM Bread Oven Bake Preparation 5:00 PM LCM Retreat 7:00 PM Craft Group	9 5:00 AM Bread Oven Bake Day 9:00 AM Chapel Reserved 11:00 AM Family Time pre service 1:00 PM Visitation-Mike Fingerson 2:00 PM Memorial Service-Mike Fingerson 3:00 PM Reception
10 9:00 AM Sunday Forum on Zoom 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Drop In Choir 9:30 AM Sunday School - Zoom 10:30 AM Palm Sunday Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 11:30 AM Bible Study: Passions of Christ 12:00 PM Racial Justice Team 7:00 PM Book Club	11 9:00 AM Quilters 12:00 PM Staff Meeting on Zoom	12 4:30 PM PEASE After School Program	13 5:30 PM Zoom - Compassion Care Team 6:00 PM Zoom - Facilities Team 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	14 9:30 AM Dorcas Circle - Courtyard/Lounge 12:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service-Sanctuary 4:30 PM PEASE After School Program 6:30 PM AA Group 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service-Sanctuary (w/ YouTube)	15 *"The Visitor" Articles Due 12:00 PM Good Friday Service-Sanctuary 7:00 PM Good Friday Service-Sanctuary (w/ YouTube)	16 9:00 AM Chapel Reserved 10:00 AM PEASE Program Rm 206 4:30 PM RESERVED-Prep 7:00 PM Easter Vigil Service-In-Person (possibly YouTube, TBD)
17 7:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 8:30 AM Easter Worship in Sanctuary 9:15 AM Easter Fellowship 10:30 AM Easter Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube	18 Easter Holiday - Office Closed 9:00 AM Quilters	19 4:00 PM Sanctuary Coalition Meeting 4:30 PM PEASE After School Program 6:30 PM Vision & Governance Board-Zoom	20 7:30 PM Worship Planning Team	21 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	22	23 9:00 AM Chapel Reserved 10:00 AM Oblates group - Sanctuary and Lounge 1:00 PM ULCHers Rehearsal 2:00 PM Easter Egg Hunt and Play Ground Time
24 Solar Celebration! 9:00 AM Sunday Forum on Zoom 9:30 AM Sunday School - Zoom 10:30 AM Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 12:00 PM Confirmation Mini Retreat	25 9:00 AM Quilters 12:00 PM Staff Meeting on Zoom 6:00 PM ZOOM-Bible & Brews	26 4:30 PM PEASE After School Program 7:00 PM Zoom - Racial Justice Team	27 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	28 4:30 PM PEASE After School Program 6:30 PM AA Group 7:00 PM Sanctuary and Immigration Team	29	30 9:00 AM Chapel Reserved

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, MN 55414 ✦ Tel. 612-331-5988 ✦ Fax 612-623-0693 ✦ www.ulch.org

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Rev. Maria Anderson-Lippert

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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

Sunday Opener/Closer, Worship Tech:

Seth Strudthoff

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