



Clockwise from top left: Zachary, Gus, and Mark making music during the Welcome Back Students Event on September 18; Linda Herman spreading the light as she gives away LED light bulbs to students; Julie and Kathy take a break from watering and weeding; thanks to all who made and served pizzas during our September event; Stewart Herman and Alden Tetlie share a conversation; in late August a group from ULCH and First Congregational Church ventured to Camp Amnicon for a weekend by Lake Superior; Wayne Lee, Nathan Obrestad, Becky Halvorson, and Ann Lee prepare meals for LSS's Portland House (there are more opportunities for cooking these meals-can you help?); Andy Rapacz and his sand castle extraordinaire on the Lake Superior beach at Camp Amnicon; and (center) Sunday School is back and here a few kids are working on a God's Work Our Hands project.

Homecoming

Marion C. Honors, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in rural NY, is the internationally known artist who created this folk-style relief print, *Homecoming* (1991), displayed at the base of the steps leading to Hope's Heritage Hall. Honors distills Jesus' parable of the prodigal son down to the reuniting embrace between the broken, contrite son and his abiding, merciful father.

Recalling the story a son asks his living father to give him his inheritance in full, squanders the whole of it on reckless living, and becomes destitute. He realizes that, while he is starving, his father's hired servants have more than enough to eat. He decides to return home, confess his waywardness to his father, and plead that he be taken in as a hired hand.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate" (Luke 15: 20-24) .

The story continues with the older, diligent son becoming irate at his father's lavishing over the wasteful brother's return, jealous that his father had never offered him even a goat to enjoy with his friends. The father says to this older son: "My son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found" (Luke 15:31- 32).

But here, the artist centers our attention on this iconic embrace: the penitent son wrapped in the unconditional, merciful love of his father. The image is so charmingly simple that we could easily overlook Honor's contextual visual choices. For instance, instead of placing the figures in a particular setting, they are defined by an earthy brown ink on cream colored paper—ordinary people in a both intimate and universal space that even we, the viewers, metaphorically inhabit. This unadorned space also amplifies the figures' orientations to each other: they are stepping toward, meeting, and embracing one another. Here, "homecoming" is both a physical and a spiritual matter.

We are drawn to the remorseful son's relieved and grateful face settling on the father's shoulder, his body held fast in receiving arms. The father's greying head leans in, but his face is unseen—egoless. All we can register of the father's countenance is his love and compassion for his once lost son who has returned to him. This artistic choice invites us to see our own metaphorical reflection in the repentant son's face and to remember that we, too, are held fast in God's loving compassion and merciful forgiveness.

The son is clothed in a plaid framework that brings to mind a cage, a subtle suggestion of the ways we can entrap ourselves with self-indulgent thoughts and actions. The compassionate father is dressed in an oversized floral pattern emblematic of the beauty and magnitude of God's abundant and sustaining gifts, to which none of us has a birthright but which the Creator freely gives us.

Perhaps those enormous, outstretched hands are the most interesting compositional feature. The son reaches for acceptance while the father lays a hand over the son's heart and grants healing reconciliation. So symbolically disproportionate are these hands that they become a recognition that we human beings are made to reach out to one another, to be in relationship, to love and be loved, to belong—to ask for forgiveness and to forgive.

In her telling, Sister Marion's figures are less gender defined, which may help us see ourselves in them even more easily. It is we who are wrapped, redeemed, and renewed in this divine embrace. Regardless of how we may lose ourselves—whether through our careless and destructive behaviors, our jealousies, or a million other ways—Jesus' parable boils down to the blessed promise that the Source of Love waits longingly for us to keep returning home to dwell in God's redeeming love.



Muffi Abrahamson for Arts and Environment

God, Renew!

“God, renew... For the healing of creation, we pray to you, O God... God, renew.”

-From For the Healing of Creation, with text by Susan Briehl

On a Friday in mid September, the furnace technician arrived at our home for the annual furnace tune up. We were warm last winter and expected it would just be a quick visit. Much to our surprise the technician “red tagged” our furnace. Before it could be turned on, it would need a new heat exchanger and motor. This isn’t as big a deal as needing a new furnace, but it is a significant repair. For so many reasons this wasn’t what we wanted to hear on a September morning when the heating season was drawing near.

The truth is, when this furnace needed replacing, we had hopes for a high efficiency furnace or ideally a heat pump. Like many, we wish our house to be more environmentally sustainable and efficient. That said, there are questions to ask, research to do, and money to set aside. Folks we know had installed a heat pump a year or two back. With some web research and emails, we learned a lot quickly. In the end, fixing our current furnace became the best option – the furnace could serve us well for now; it is running again and ready to make heat and

warm our family when needed. At the same time, we’re also continuing to explore options like heat pumps; perhaps in the future our current not-so-efficient furnace will provide the back-up, and a much-more-efficient heat pump can do the bulk of the heating. Much to learn. This is an opportunity for greater sustainability.

Why am I writing about this? Put simply, it’s about stewardship. How we are stewards of creation, stewards of the spaces in which we dwell, stewards of appliances like furnaces, stewards of knowledge and relationships and money, stewards of God’s good earth and our kin as we face crisis because of human action and inaction. During my sabbatical this summer, sustainability was a theme. Often when I write or speak about the sabbatical and my focus, I comment how I wasn’t specifically thinking about environmental sustainability, but rather how to create patterns and practices for a sustainable life in ministry and a sustainable flow for our family. Yes, that’s true, AND we are called to environmental sustainability. I write today as a way of stirring conversation... and not just any conversation, but conversation as people of faith. These issues are core to our faith; core to healing our relationship with the earth, with our kin, in our own souls, and with God; and core to our children’s future.

Resources. Do you know about the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE)? <https://www.mncee.org/> For a low cost or no cost, these folks come and perform an energy audit and help you make a plan for smaller and bigger fixes. They walk with you, step by step, connecting you with contractors, doing the work to get rebates, making it easy. What did we do during sabbatical? An energy audit, a bunch of new LED light bulbs (just like at church!), a new energy efficient thermostat that they installed, and insulation. CEE is amazing! Also, if you don’t know about Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light <https://www.mnipl.org/>, acquaint yourself with all the ways to advocate for the environment with other people of faith.

Conversations. Our congregation is blessed by a number of folks who are passionate and knowledgeable about everything from solar panels to raingardens, from electric vehicles to lightbulbs... and, yes, some who know all about heating systems and things like high efficiency furnaces and heat pumps. Wade into environmental sustainability and tap one another to learn more, to ask questions, to seek counsel. Share what you are learning. Muse together and recognize that this is part of what it means to be people of faith living in community. We will have different paths and that’s good. The tremendous work happening around Hope’s building and grounds is meant not only to reduce our church’s carbon footprint, but also to be a model and inspiration for our daily living and for other congregations and communities. This fall the science teacher at PEASE Academy tapped our solar stewards Tim Abrahamson and Stewart Herman to integrate solar and other experiences into the classwork—wow, this is the kind of synergy we pray for! (See page 10 to learn more.)

Intersectional Prayer. There is a Native American principle that today’s decisions should result in a sustainable world seven generations from now. In dire times like these, it’s hard to think one generation out, let alone seven, and yet sustainability demands that we look far beyond ourselves, and far beyond our narrow confines of race and class and geography. May our prayers be intersectional, recognizing the climate distress of this time and acting on many fronts to be part of the change. *“God, renew. For the healing of creation, we pray to you, O God... God, renew.”*

Pastor Jen Nagel, Lead Pastor



Pastor Jen and new member Steve Holm, holding Uli Koester and Beth Kautz’s chickens after a recent New Member Gathering

Worship and Music

Choir Rehearsals Have Resumed Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Come and join the choir! We sing a wide variety of music from around the world and across the centuries and rehearse in a way that allows everyone to feel comfortable and ready to sing on choir Sundays. Come as you are! Can't come every week? No problem, come rehearse with us when you can! Bring a friend! Highlights for the fall semester include works by Joan Szymko, Johann Gottfried Walther, Elaine Hagenberg, Camille Saint-Saëns, Herbert Howells, and André J. Thomas.



Drop-in Choir Fall Dates: Want to sing with a choir, but don't have time for a weekly evening commitment? Please join us for drop-in choir, where we will rehearse one or more straightforward pieces at 9:30 on a Sunday morning, directly before the service. Drop-in choir dates for the fall are: Oct. 23, Nov. 13, and Nov. 27.

Wednesday Evening Worship is being held once a month this fall. Join us on Oct. 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary for a short, contemplative midweekservice.

Music Series Event Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. Minister of Worship and Music Robert Ragoonanan presents a varied and virtuosic program of *Music for Organ and Piano*, performing solo pieces by Herbert Howells, Sarah Kirkland Snider, and Nadia Boulanger. Later in the evening, Robert will be joined by hornist Dr. Garrett Krohn and violinist Abbey Roemer for Johannes Brahms' Trio for Horn, Violin and Piano, Op. 40. Please join us, and bring a friend!

Volunteers: It's a new program year, and that means we are looking for new volunteers to help us conduct meaningful and beautiful worship! Service opportunities can range from ushering to helping with tech and streaming to helping set up for communion. Serve as often or as little as your schedule allows. Please contact robertr@ulch.org for information on any of these opportunities.

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

Blessing of the Animals – October 2

In the spirit of what we know of St. Francis of Assisi, lover of creatures great and small, on Sunday, October 2, we will have a Blessing of Animals. You are welcome to bring the creatures in your life of all sizes and types, or a picture, for a blessing. We'll gather on the patio after the 10:30 a.m. worship service, around 11:45 a.m. If your creature would be comfortable being in worship that day, they are welcome to join us. Also note the special focus on St. Francis at the Sunday Forum that morning.

Welcome Back Students Event

Thank you to everyone who helped put together our Welcome Back Students event! It was a joy to welcome students of all ages for pizza, music, and good conversation. It was particularly good to connect with different groups in our congregation and in our neighborhood. We were able to give away two bikes, bouquets of flowers, and bundles of vegetables. We connected folks to resources for mental health and helped them learn about ways people in our neighborhood are approaching environmentally friendly building. Best of luck to all students, teachers, and faculty as you go into the new school year, and thank you for celebrating with us!

ULCH's Continuing Pilgrimage to Racial Justice and *DIALOGUES ON RACE*, by Sparkhouse Publishing (2019)

In 2018, University Lutheran Church of Hope approved a Racial Justice Statement at its Annual Meeting:

We profess that all people are beloved of God and are called to be a blessing to one another. We reject as contrary to God's will the racism that erodes our shared humanity – including unjust laws, unfair practices, hostile acts, implicit bias, white supremacy, and fear of people of other ethnicities, cultures, or religions.

We actively seek to stand together with people of all ethnicities, cultures, and religions to promote the joy of fellowship and the dignity of equal opportunity.

In 2019, the ELCA took the significant step of publicly condemning white supremacy and calling ELCA congregations to engage in a “study of the structures and rhetoric that empower and fuel racism and white supremacy and to take to heart the teaching of Scriptures, so we may all be better equipped to speak boldly about the equal dignity of all persons in the eyes of God.” <https://www.ntnl.org/2019-churchwide-assembly-full-report/>

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic revealed and exacerbated the racial disparities throughout the country. Then in May 2020, the world witnessed horrific racial abuse by Minneapolis police in the murder of George Floyd - and the necessity and empowerment of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Over the past few years, the Spirit has been actively calling us to understand our role in creating the sins of racism, white supremacy and institutionalized discrimination. The Spirit is motivating us to join advocacy efforts to proactively address this sin. And the Spirit is encouraging us to build new and sustaining relationships all together with All God's Children: “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.” Rev. 7:9.

Through a book of essays published by Sparkhouse, called “*Dialogues On Race*,” the ULCH Racial Justice Team offers Hope members engaging opportunities to “study the structures and rhetoric that empower and fuel racism and white supremacy” so we may “be better equipped to speak boldly about the equal dignity of all persons in the eyes of God.” The book offers different perspectives from seven Christian leaders on the front lines of conversation and action for anti-racism, with articles on Black, Indigenous, Asian American, and Intersectional experiences:

Ch. 1: Pastor Daniel Hill: “What does it Mean to be White? History and the Social Construct of Race”

Ch. 2: Scholar Kristofer Coffman: “Christmas Cookies from Cambodia: The Bible and Race in America”

Ch. 3: Theologian Rozella Haydee White: “Say It Loud: I’m Black and I’m Proud: Anti-Blackness, Oppression, and the Dehumanization of Black Bodies”

Ch. 4: Pastor Jim Bear Jacobs: “American Amnesia: Christianity and the Erasing of Native American Stories”

Ch. 5: Historian Cami Jones: “Whither the Women? Race, Gender, and the Intersecting Nature of Oppression”

Ch. 6: Pastor Broderick: “Two Christianities: American Religion in Black and White”

Ch. 7: Pastor Lenny Duncan: “New Heaven and a New Earth: The Problem with Racial Reconciliation”

We have 50 copies of *Dialogues on Race* to offer free to ULCH members or visitors. You can pick one up at the Welcome Center at church any Sunday in October, or contact Sonja Peterson at 612-242-8711 or speterson@dunnwald.com and ask her to mail you a copy. We will offer small group discussion opportunities on different chapters of the book throughout the year.

**JOIN US AT THE ADULT FORUM AT ULCH ON OCTOBER 23, 2022, 9:30 a.m. TO DISCUSS CHAPTER 1:
“What does it Mean to be White?: History and the Social Construct of Race.”**

The Hope Book Club

October 23 during the Sunday Forum: *Dialogues on Race*, by Sparkhouse Publishing (2019)

Discussion of Chapter 1: Pastor Daniel Hill: "What does it Mean to be White?: History and the Social Construct of Race" at the University Lutheran Church of Hope Sunday Forum, Sunday, October 23, 2022, 9:30 a.m.

"[P]erspectives from thought leaders challenging the legacy of racism within the American church."

<https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/store/category/286991/Dialogues-On-Race>

November 13, 7pm: *An Indigenous People's History of the U.S. for Young People*, Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

Winter meetings of The Hope Book Club will be via Zoom or Team Meetings. Please contact Sonja Peterson at speterson@dunnwald.com or 612-242-8711 with book suggestions or for a link to the meeting.

"Books can be dangerous. The best ones should be labeled 'This could change your life.'" –Helen Exley

Welcome, New Members

In September we welcomed New Members. Please welcome them warmly and support them in finding a place of meaningful connection in this community of faith. If you are interested in membership, or just curious, speak with Pastor Jen.

Welcome...

Steve Holm, sponsors Kerry Pearson and Patrick Colombe

Nat and Maria Anderson-Lippert, Solomon, Raymond, sponsors Alden and Rebecca Tetlie

WELCA Gathering

I will be preaching at the Women of the ELCA, (WELCA) Minneapolis Area Synod's Fall Gathering on Saturday, October 8th, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The theme is "For Such a Time as this...You were created" based on the book of Esther. This event will

be held at Peace Lutheran Church in Coon Rapids, 20 Northdale Blvd NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448. Please reach out to me at ebrown001@luthersem.edu or in-person for registration information.

Emily Brown, Pastoral Intern

COVID-19 Update

After a time of feedback and input, on September 6, 2022, our congregation updated our COVID-19 Procedures. The new guidelines can be found on our website at: <https://www.ulch.org/ulch-response-to-covid-19>.

A few highlights:

- Indoors, masks are now recommended (not required). (Exception: during Sunday School, masks are required).
- If you aren't feeling well, stay home and worship online.
- Outdoors, masks are not required.
- Honor distance and ask permission to be in close proximity to one another.
- When possible, we will have windows and doors open to increase ventilation.
- We expect that all are vaccinated.
- Our online worship options continue.
- The guidelines are in alignment with the CDC and their county by county community COVID levels-green for low, yellow for moderate, red for high. While currently Hennepin County and Ramsey County are at the green level, if these counties rise to the red level, we would return to masks required indoors.

ACTION Project

October marks the first month of the ACTION (A Commitment to Inclusion in Our Neighborhoods) Project. Over the past few months, you have been hearing a lot from members of the Racial Justice team about what this project is about, and why we think it is the next right step for University Lutheran Church of Hope and its members. Now, as we dive into the curriculum of the Project, we will share updates with all of you as we go.

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



Racial Justice Movie Night

Join the Racial Justice Team for another night of movie discussions! We will meet on October 16 at 7 p.m. via zoom to discuss *One Night in Miami*, available online through Amazon Prime. If you have any questions about how or where to watch, contact elisec@ulch.org, and watch the Thursday Epistle for a zoom link.



Pumpkin Patch – October 9

Hello Pumpkin Patch! Who is glad Fall is Here?! Let's Celebrate Together! Meet us after church on October 9th at 11:45 a.m. in the parking lot. This event is for families, children, youth, and anyone else who'd like to attend! We will be going to Fresh Acre Farm to pick pumpkins! If you have any questions, please contact Morgan at 301.606.0400 or morgans@ulch.org

Morgan Strudthoff, Minister of Faith Formation

Bible Study

I will be leading a Christian-Muslim relations Bible study over 4 weeks: October 23rd, October 30th, November 6th, and November 13th. It will be on Sundays after service at 12 noon in the library. All are welcome to come as they are able. We will look

into the Islamic faith, some fun Bible stories, and our own interfaith relationships. This is an area of study that I have taken a focus on, and look forward to discussion, questions, and learning together with you.

Emily Brown, Pastoral Intern

Lutheran Campus Ministry

People of Hope,

Whether you know it or not, you have been an instrumental part of the flourishing of our ministry among students on the campus of the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. You have served on boards, cooked soup for students, befriended them in worship, and modeled what it means to be faithful people in the 21st Century. You have also given so generously in support of this ministry, as a congregation AND as individuals. You have offered these young adults so many kinds of shelter through so many storms in our lives. I am so grateful for the ways you have showed up. You have made it possible for us to thrive!

We continue to welcome, gather, equip and send these young adults in 2022! In celebration of all that has been, and in celebration of all that is to come, we're gathering together on October 13th for our Fall Gathering and Fundraiser. More information and tickets are available [here](https://lcmtc.org/support-us/fall-fundraiser/), <https://lcmtc.org/support-us/fall-fundraiser/>

I would be honored to celebrate with you! Consider yourself warmly invited to attend!

-Pastor Kate Reuer Welton, Lutheran Campus Ministry

Sunday Forums

Join us in Heritage Hall on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. for a time of learning and growing together. Forums can also be viewed live on Zoom. Look for the link in the Sunday morning e-mail.

October 2: Ode to St. Francis - On this Blessing of the Animals Sunday come learn about the saint who inspired it. We'll also hear from Hope members who do volunteer work with creatures great and small. Your pets are welcome at this forum if you want to bring them along before worship.

October 9: Green Team - Caring for Creation - The Hope Green Team does many things to help care for creation - some are very visible while others are not. Come and learn about our connections to Gardens of Hope, the Facilities Team, Community Engagement Ministry, our solar array, Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, University Baptist Church, PEASE Academy, and many others. Find a connection that turns on your light!

October 18: Lutheran Campus Ministry Update - Come hear Rev. Kate Reuer Welton from Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Minnesota. Learn what is happening with college students, what gets them involved, and how they view "church".

October 23: What Does it Mean to be White? History and the Social Construct of Race - The University Lutheran Church of Hope Racial Justice Team will offer free copies of **Dialogues on Race**, by Sparkhouse Publishing, in September and October. This month we will discuss chapter one together. This is an opportunity for Sunday Forum members to "study the structures and rhetoric that empower and fuel racism and white supremacy" so we may "be better equipped to speak boldly about the equal dignity of all persons in the eyes of God," as was resolved at the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. <https://www.ntnl.org/2019-churchwide-assembly-full-report/>

October 30: Lutheranism Tune-up - What makes a Lutheran a Lutheran? What do we think is "most certainly true"? On this Reformation Sunday, join a panel of Hope members to brush up your knowledge of Martin Luther and key tenets of Lutheranism.

Hope Diamonds

Hope Diamonds will gather on Tuesday, October 18th in the lounge from 1-2:30 p.m. This month we are looking forward to welcoming Bobby Ragoonanan, our Minister of Worship & Music here at Hope. He will share with us some of the pieces he

performed for his recital the weekend prior. What a gift for us to have this special time to appreciate his ministry and talents! We hope you'll join us. Rides are available for anyone who needs one – contact the office if you need a ride.

Rev. Maria Anderson-Lippert, Pastor for Care and Nurture

Hope 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 home-bound, 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!

October Birthdays

October 11 – Karen Lindesmith
October 25 – Arloene Stevens
October 27 – Janet Booe
October 31 – Jerry Johnson (Celebrating 90!)

November Birthdays

November 16 – Ron Sorensen
November 23 – Carol Winther – 80!
November 25 – Carmen Macoskey
November 26 – William Knoll – 80!
November 27 - Jan Hrnrcir – 80!
November 28 – Granger Whitney

Thank You!

Fellow Members of Hope,

We wish to express our sincere thanks for the beautiful handmade pots which we received in recognition of our service as sabbatical pastors. They are lovely additions to our homes. Thanks also to Uli Koester for his gracious words of appreciation during worship. Moreover, we want to express our thanks to the congregation for your warm reception of our ministry during Pastor Jen's sabbatical time. We were privileged to minister among you as pastors. We are excited to join you again as members of Hope, working together in the ministry we all share.

Pastor Erik Strand and Pastor Tom Carlson

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 give thanks for the birth of little ones, especially new grandchildren in the Ringham-Wagner family, and in the Beane family. And we give thanks for the baptism in September of Hudson Eberle, child of Amanda Parsons and Ryan Eberle. We pray for all who await children through joyful and challenging times.

Marriages—We pray for all those preparing for marriage, and for all relationships of commitment, including Jacob Lantheir and Mackenzie who will marry on October 22 at Our of Lady of Lourdes.

Deaths—We pray for God's strong embrace for all who grieve recent losses, including Cyndi Ganzkow-Wold and family at the death of Cyndi's spouse Stephen Ganzkow-Wold; Carol and James Flaten and family at the death of Carol's step mother Connie Lovaas; and Robert Ragoonanan and family at the death of Robert's mom, Kathleen Proctor.

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 comfort care), Anne Bidne (in hospice), Donna Parry, Patrick Colombe, Mario, Ken Lundquist, Steve Schreuder, Betty Quie, Brian McCaffrey, Miriam Hougen, Janet Carpenter, and Chuck Lewis. We also pray for caregivers.

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



Intern Emily, Donna Neste and Sonja Peterson take part in a Beacon Housing event.

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, October 24, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Watch for location information in the Thursday Epistle and save the date.

Care for Creation

Our effort to care for creation is moving in three phases. First, as of September 18, the solar system has produced 91% of the electricity we are likely to use in 2022—and has saved 46 tons of carbon from being spilled into the air. Our electricity bill has dropped from \$900-1000 per month before the pandemic to approximately \$300 per month this summer. Of course, as winter comes and we see less of the sun, our electricity bill will go up. (Pictured to the right: Hope members Jason Lukis, Junia and Anja)

But there is another way to care for creation and reducing our electricity bill. In our second phase, during the past ten weeks or so, more than 500 fluorescent bulbs have been replaced by LEDs throughout the church buildings. This work was done by volunteers Tim Abrahamson, Paul Demeules, Stewart Herman, Jayne Lindesmith, Craig Nelson, John Pignatello, and Tim Speidel. Do you like treasure hunts? If so, the next time you are in church, see if you can find all the photos posted on the walls to show who was up on a ladder rewiring the light fixtures, and where they may have been!

Why did we put in LEDs? LEDs (that is, light-emitting diodes) use half the electricity that fluorescent bulbs do. They also project a warmer light, which you can see if you walk through the buildings. They operate at 4000 degrees Kelvin. Don't worry; you won't get burned! The lights are cool to the touch and make no noise—and are guaranteed to last for years and years. We will close out this second phase of creation-care by installing LEDs in the chapel, for a warmer glow.

The third phase involves smoking out whatever uses a lot of electricity in the church and seeing if we can reduce unnecessary consumption. Wayne Lee has gotten us started. He has brought our big coffee urns up to date in an era of climate change. The urns (in the lounge kitchenette and in the kitchen) used to run round the clock because they had no on-off switches, and so wasted huge amounts of energy. Wayne has installed switches, and now it takes less than thirty minutes for the urns to get hot enough to make coffee. Not to worry: there WILL continue to be coffee! There is a shiny new electric kettle in the lounge kitchen for immediate coffee-making.

Finally, there is some *really* good news. Thanks to the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act, churches now can apply for grants to cover one-third of the cost of solar and other sustainable energy investments. The future is suddenly brighter for congregations like ours who want to take meaningful steps to reduce energy consumption. We hope that other congregations will take advantage of this new program and cut their carbon emissions—and keep their utility costs under control. To start the ball rolling, we distributed LED bulbs to students on Welcome-Back Sunday (September 18).

If you would like to help our new effort to educate our neighbors and other congregations about the benefits of the work we are doing, please contact Stewart Herman, herman@cord.edu or Tim Abrahamson, tac2180@msn.com.



President's Message: Gifts

Back in the 70's, church cookbooks were very popular. So, my mom, Joy Agrimson, decided Hope needed our own cookbook. She pulled together recipes, mostly serious, some silly (check out Elephant Stew on page 184) and the book sold well, but the congregation had to order A LOT of cookbooks. For years we had boxes and boxes of cookbooks at church in the storage room under the steps by the offices. And since my mom was in charge of mailing them to people who ordered them, mom and I spent many hours writing addresses on mailing envelopes and shipping them out. As with any book there were a few mistakes, so my mom hand-corrected the dozen or so typos before we sent the books off in the mail.

Whenever I went anywhere, my mom would ask "Do they have a church cookbook from Hope?" I was so embarrassed; having to give this gift that I was sure no one wanted. But after I moved away from home, I would want to make a meal that I grew up with. I called my mom and asked, "Can I get the recipe for _____?" More often than not, she replied "It's in the cookbook." I didn't need to ask which cookbook. 'The cookbook' was always the Hope Church Cookbook. So now I have used that cookbook a lot. The pages are stained and dog-eared. The cover is coming off and it's held together with rubber bands.

Last year, a friend of mine was cleaning out the house of his deceased brother. Looking through his brother's cookbooks, he found a copy of the Hope Church Cookbook. This one was pristine, probably never used. Its cover was intact and the only writings in it were the handmade changes by my mom. My friend said I could have the book. Who would have thought I would be so delighted to receive the Hope Church Cookbook?!

Gifts can be big or small. They can be something you hold, like a cookbook, or something not tangible, like doing the dishes when it's someone else's turn to do them. But very likely, a gift brings joy to both the receiver and the giver.

Recently, University Lutheran Church of Hope has received a large monetary gift from an anonymous donor. And because ULCH is in good financial standing from the contributions of our members, we can think about the possibilities. I am so grateful to all who support our church with their time, talents and dollars!

Now, what will we do with that donation? In the next couple of months, the Vision and Governance board will be working on what kind of process we should use in making this decision. I do know that we plan on being transparent on what decisions are made. I also know that the congregation will be a vital part of coming up with ideas. There will be updates communicated through the Thursday Epistle and the monthly Visitor. And you are welcome to ask me for updates as well.

As for that Hope Church Cookbook that's still in pristine condition; I have offered to donate it, if there isn't a cookbook already, to the Hope archive. Then anyone who wants to make those classic recipes can find them. I especially suggest Jeanne Berkland's krumkake recipe (page 37), and the melt in your mouth Overnight Buns (the recipe is from my Uncle Archie, page 159).

Ann Argrimson, Congregational President

Save The Date - 2023 Women's Retreat

To take place **January 27-29, 2023**, in person at Dunrovin Retreat Center located near Marine-on-St. Croix, north of Stillwater. More information to follow.
Beáta Rydeen - beatarydeen@comcast.net : Ann Beane - spirit.beane@gmail.com

Basketball

If you remember the dusty old trophy cases that used to be in the hallway, and ever noticed the basketball trophies that they held, you know that ULCH members have been playing basketball next door at Saint Lawrence Catholic Church for decades. The days of thriving inter-church leagues are gone, but some of us have kept up the tradition through pick-up games at Saint Lawrence for many years.

After a pause for COVID, that era may have come to an end permanently, as our neighbor has limited outside use of the gym so that it can be available for their own campus-focused activities (their access to the U of MN facilities has been restricted since COVID struck).

On Tuesday August 23 we gathered one more time to celebrate thousands of games played at Saint Lawrence with ULCH friends, former ULCH members, friends of ULCH friends, and sometimes even our own adult children. Missed layups, bad passes, blown defensive assignments - all were overlooked as we celebrated the activity and fellowship we have enjoyed. The attached picture represents, collectively, more than 120 years of ball at this location.

We're looking to secure a new regular location, and maybe one day we'll return to Saint Lawrence. But for now we mark the end of an era.



Treasurer's Report

Aug 2022 and Year-to-date Income and Expense

	Aug Actual	Aug Budget	Aug Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	34,541.36	48,630.00	(14,088.64)	321,112.90	333,108.76	(11,995.86)
Rental Income	11,964.66	13,312.58	(1,347.92)	113,652.44	106,500.64	7,151.80
Total Income	46,506.02	61,942.58	(15,436.56)	434,765.34	439,609.40	(4,844.06)
Salary & Benefits	32,070.86	35,469.25	(3,398.39)	259,074.55	287,355.00	(28,280.45)
Total Expenses	50,007.74	50,873.54	(865.80)	419,625.18	449,946.20	(30,321.02)
Net Oper Income	(3,501.72)	11,069.04	(14,570.76)	15,140.16	(10,336.80)	25,476.96

Monthly Financials - General giving totaled \$34,541.36 for the month of August which is only 71% of our budget. Because of the strong giving, YTD (year to date) is still at 96.4% of budgeted revenue. Rental income for August is also down with an amount of \$11,964.66 giving us a total income of \$46,506.02. Our total revenue is still strong at 98.9% of anticipated income.

Salary and Benefits remain consistent with a total of \$32,070.86 for the month of August. The total expenses for August were \$50,007.74. Our two main expenses outside of the salaries area were our portion of the final payment on the Solar project and the expenses for Pastor Jen's sabbatical posted in continuing education. As of August 31, we have \$782k in current assets – primarily composed of our checking and savings account of which \$489K is in the dedicated accounts. This leaves the church with \$293K available as reserves.

Capital Campaign – Opening Doors - The Opening Doors Capital campaign giving was strong this month with a total of \$11,907 allowing us to add \$5,106 to overall balance which stands at \$217k. We have had no recent distributions but I expect to see the invoice for the blinds in the PEASE classrooms to come in for the building fund next month. 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.

Thank you! Betty Schreuder, Treasurer

October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:00am - 12:00pm Oblates group
2 9:30am - 10:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - 10:15am Sunday School 9:30am - 10:15am Sunday Forum 10:30am - 11:30am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 11:45am - 12:15am Blessing of Animals 12:00pm - 2:00pm Confirmation Mini Retreat	3 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 12:00pm - 1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm - 8:00pm Internship Committee 7:15pm - 8:30pm Executive Committee-Zoom	4 1:00pm - 2:00pm G&G Team-Zoom 3:30pm - 8:30pm Electric Team Work 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program	5 3:00pm - 6:00pm Portland House Meal Prep 6:30pm - 7:00pm Evening Service 7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School 6:00pm - 8:00pm Parents of PEASE 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:00pm - 8:00pm Men's Group	7 2:00pm - 9:30pm Bread Bake Prep	8 5:00am - 3:00pm Bread Bake
9 9:30am - 10:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - 10:15am Sunday School 9:30am - 10:15am Sunday Forum 10:30am - 11:30am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 11:45am - 2:00pm Pumpkin Patch Event-Youth, Children, Families, All	10 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 12:00pm - 1:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm - 7:00pm PEASE Community Foundation Board Meeting	11 3:30pm - 8:30pm Energy/Electrical Team Work 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program	12 3:00pm - 6:00pm Portland House Meal Prep 5:30pm - 7:00pm Zoom - Compassion Care Team 6:00pm - 8:00pm Facilities Team 7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal	13 9:30am - 11:30am Dorcas Circle 1:30pm - 2:30pm Sunday Forum Team 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 5:00pm - 7:00pm LCM Fundraiser at the Campus Club 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group	14 7:00pm - 10:00pm Craft Group "The Visitor" Articles Due	15 8:00am - 4:00pm Parking lot Repair 10:00am - 11:00am G&G Team Dialogue Run Thru 12:00pm - 4:30pm Private Party 7:30pm - 8:30pm Music Series: Robert Ragoonanan Piano and Organ Recital
16 9:30am - 10:15am Sunday School 9:30am - 10:15am Sunday Forum 10:30am - 11:30am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 7:00pm - 8:00pm Trust Board- Zoom 7:00pm - 9:00pm Zoom: Movie Discussion Group with Racial Equity Focus	17 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 12:00pm - 1:00pm Staff Meeting	18 1:00pm - 2:30pm Hope Diamonds 4:00pm - 5:30pm Sanctuary Coalition Meet 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 5:00pm - 8:00pm Parent Teacher Conferences 6:30pm - 8:30pm Marcy Holmes Neighborhood Association Meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm V&G Board-Zoom	19 3:00pm - 6:00pm Portland House Meal Prep 7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal	20 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:00pm - 8:00pm Zoom - SE Como Hope Connections Group 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:00pm - 8:00pm Men's Group	21	22
23 9:30am - 10:00am Drop-In Choir 9:30am - 10:15am Sunday School 9:30am - 10:15am Sunday Forum 10:30am - 11:30am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 12:00pm - 1:00pm Christian Muslim Relations Bible Study	24 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 12:00pm - 1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Bible & Brews (location TBD)	25 10:00am - 1:00pm G&G Mailing Preparation 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 7:00pm - 8:30pm Zoom - Racial Justice Team	26 2:00pm - 3:00pm Interfaith Campus Coalition-ICC 3:00pm - 6:00pm Portland House Meal Prep 7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal	27 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Sanctuary and Immigration Team on Zoom	28	29 Gopher Football Game
30 9:30am - 10:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - 10:15am Sunday School 9:30am - 10:15am Sunday Forum 10:30am - 11:30am Reformation Sunday Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 12:00pm - 1:00pm Christian Muslim Relations Bible Study	31 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 12:00pm - 1:00pm Staff Meeting on Zoom					

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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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

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Nathan Obrestad

Financial Administrator:

Kari Olson

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Geremew Beshah

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