

The Visitor

Complex world. Thoughtful church.

December 2022
No. 18-12



Clockwise from top left: The sanctuary on All Saints Sunday; remembering our saints; new and eager acolytes at the ready; children creating artwork that is being used during Advent; youth preparing a meal for Portland House; Cyndi Ganzkow-Wold, Nathan Obrestad, and Phoebe Worthington pause during meal preparation; Pastor Maria and Pastor Jen on All Saints Sunday; birds finding food and sanctuary near the north parking entrance; and (center) James Flaten changing the streamers in the sanctuary between Reformation Sunday and All Saints Sunday – it's all physics.

Advent at Hope - *All Earth Is Waiting*

This Thanksgiving week I was taken by the buds of a magnolia tree on the land in New Hampshire where my brother-in-law and family live. Here it was late November and the tree had two distinct types of buds ready and waiting: the big, soft, flower buds ("clad like baby seals in silvery fur" as a Chicago Tribune article described so well), and the smaller leaf buds.

It is only in recent years that I've learned that trees and bushes form buds not in the spring of the year, but in the fall. These compact and dense bundles of life are hearty and strong despite their fragile appearance. Through the long winter they'll wait, enduring the snow and ice, the cold and wind, preparing for spring when the flowers will come first, followed by the new leaves.

Our season of Advent waiting began this year on Sunday, November 27. Over the four Sundays of Advent we prepare for Jesus' coming. This year our Advent focus at University Lutheran Church of Hope is ***All Earth Is Waiting***. I'm thinking of those plump magnolia buds with all their resilient power and possibility, their rhythm of growth and waiting, their interdependence on the sun's energy and the busy pollinators, the flower and the leaf.



All Earth Is Waiting. For what are you waiting this season? For what is the earth waiting? I've been intrigued by these questions. The more I reflect, these questions are at once basic, prompting ever-so-practical responses (waiting for dinner, waiting for a phone call, waiting for that package, waiting for finals, waiting for winter break) and deeply philosophical (waiting for peace, waiting for change, waiting for healing), ripe with yearning and need. In the drumbeat of war and hearts broken and grieving, waiting for the Prince of Peace. With our kin at the border, with all who are lonely, waiting for the palpable presence of Immanuel, God with us. By faith, waiting for the salvation and forgiveness of our Savior. With wonder and joy, waiting for the Christ Child.

I wonder if we become so conditioned by our individual and collective waiting that we scarcely can fathom this holy season of waiting, trust it, lean into it, practice it, understand this waiting as sacred and essential. But then I think about those slumbering buds with their divine orchestration, with their risky hope, with their change-everything way of being both ordinary and extraordinary. The coming of the Christ Child is like that. Shepherds in the field and the songs of angels in the air. *All Earth Is Waiting.* With the buds and all the earth, I invite you, dear friends, into this holy waiting and the promise of the incarnation. This season, join us in the waiting:

- **Sunday morning worship**, including the lighting of Advent candles, the cry of mercy for Jesus' coming into a hurting world, and ways to engage this season of waiting.
- **Wednesday evening Advent services.** At 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary and on YouTube. Join us as we pause in the midst of a busy season. Our liturgy and scripture this Advent are grounded in the call of the prophet Isaiah.
- **Hope Calls: Advent Action for Climate Justice** - Passing the People's Climate & Equity Plan in Minneapolis. Together with other Minneapolis congregations (Our Saviour's and Mt. Olive on Chicago Ave, First Congregational UCC, San Pablo, and others) we're working locally for our climate. We will take on the spiritual discipline of making weekly phone calls to city council members to urge them to support the People's Climate & Equity Plan, a plan that sets bold goals for a just transition to a renewable energy future and that creates a robust fund to address our climate and racial equity crises simultaneously. A booklet that will guide us through this spiritual practice is available at church and electronically here ([click here](#)). Whether you live in Minneapolis or around the metro, there are ways to be involved.
- **Gospel Overtures Advent Bible Study.** See the note on page 6 about this after-worship Bible Study opportunity led by Brian McCaffrey, Ann Beane and John Beane.
- **Creation Care Initiative** with a goal of LED light bulbs for all in the Hope church community (see page 6).
- **Intergenerational Lessons and Carols** service on December 18 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Christmas Caroling** after worship on December 18 (more on page 6).

The Bird of Dawning

Beloved Hope member Lorraine E. Burger (1930-2018) was a lifelong teaching artist, inspiring thousands with her effervescent personality and passion for art. Her stunning diptych, *The Bird of Dawning* (2008), is displayed in Hope's hallway adjacent to the lounge. In person, you can more easily see the deep relief marks Lorraine carved into the flat wood substrate before applying paint, giving the whole composition a dynamic texture.

An experience inspired this image. On a frosty Christmas Eve, Lorraine and her brother were driving through the North Dakota countryside toward the family farm. She describes an unexpected moment in Bob Lind's December 23, 2012 Neighbors column in Fargo's paper, *The Forum*: "The road we traveled was dark, but when we reached the top of the hill the scene was illuminated by a bright winter's moon. I shared my thought with David that the ice crystals fluttering over that bright light gave the illusion that we were driving into a huge star."

Lorraine sets the scene: It's a mysterious, dreamlike winter night in an expansive frozen landscape. Fresh snow blankets the rolling earth's gritty terrain embedded below. A magnificent shimmering gold star with five points, an early Christian symbol of the five wounds of the crucified Christ, is suspended strikingly low in the sky, shining like a royal crown. The star radiates a warm lapis blue light from within a deep blue orb that is merging with the earth's surface, signifying wholeness, eternity and the healing power and presence of God.



Within this celestial phenomenon beams a second five-pointed star of golden brilliance. Centered in it is a deep blue inverted diamond, a symbol of ascension, clarity, strength, and everlasting love. The diamond holds an empty cross standing on a blood red heart, signifying Christ's passion for our redemption. We might wonder if Lorraine, when combining these elements, thought of the theological symbolism in Luther's seal. Giant streams of light, like glorious wings, beam from this cosmic energy force, illuminating the earth and sweeping across its horizon.

A grove of dazzling snow-topped deciduous trees stand tall, their upward branches surprisingly enveloped in the lustrous and abundant foliage of a future season, perhaps symbolizing God's promise of resurrected life given to us through the risen Christ. Perching on a high branch, a cardinal-red bird, which some believe to be a messenger from the spirit world, sings into the darkness from a place of extraordinary light.



In *The Bird of Dawning*, Lorraine paints a mystical vision of God's invincible light and redeeming love. As we travel through the dimmed light of winter and continue to wrestle with the shadows we cast on the earth and each other, let us, like Lorraine, hear the Holy Spirit's persistent song of hope and be drawn into God's shining truth that transforms our darkness into eternal dawn through the most astonishing gift of all—Jesus Christ.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.

Star of the east, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

Reginald Heber, hymn 303

A blessed Advent and Christmas from Arts and Environment!

Muffi Abrahamson

Worship and Music

Choir Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7 p.m. (7:30 p.m. during Advent). 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! Remaining highlights for the fall semester include works by 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 1 or more straightforward pieces at 9:30 on a Sunday morning, directly before the service. The remaining drop-in choir date for the fall is Nov. 27.



Advent Evening Services will be held each Wednesday of the Advent season, beginning on Nov. 30 from 7-7:30 p.m. We will be using the *Isaiah, Service of Light* liturgy by John Hermanson, which is a beautiful collection of music and readings. Please join us!

Music Series Event Dec. 2, 2022, 7:30 p.m.: Join baritone Mark Billy and pianist Robert Ragoonianan for a moving evening of Music for Voice and Piano, featuring works by Gustav Mahler, Moses Hogan, Florence Price, Henri Duparc, and more.

Christmas Eve Worship is at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. The service at 4 p.m. is a festival Christmas service featuring the Hope Choir and instrumentalists. The 8 p.m. service will be a meditative, reverent candlelight service. Both services will feature an extended prelude beginning 20 minutes before the service start time, featuring congregational carols and instrumental works.

Christmas Day and New Year's Day worship is at our normal Sunday service time, 10:30 a.m.

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.

Save the date for Night Songs! Night Songs will be held on Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the ULCH sanctuary.

Robert Ragoonianan, Minister of Worship and Music, robertsragoonanan.com

December 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. We'd love to see you in person, but forums can also be viewed live on Zoom. Look for the link in the Sunday morning e-mail. You can also catch up on missed opportunities via links in the Thursday Epistle. There are many ways to participate. Please join us!

Dec. 4 - Sojourn in New Zealand: In November 2019, Hope members Kristen and Jay Carlson and their two young daughters set off for Aotearoa, New Zealand, for 2 years. Kristen worked as a doctor at Te Hiku Hauora clinic, while Jay taught drums at a local school and worked part-time at St. Saviour's Anglican Church. Come hear Kristen share stories of their time immersed in another culture—while also navigating a pandemic.

Dec. 11 - Reflections on the Art of Madonna and Child: Hope member Esther Dant will help us look at this beloved subject in Christian life. We'll examine works by Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and others to discover the artistic and intellectual choices used to convey new and deeper meanings.

Dec. 18 - Where Did That Carol Come From? Part Two: Have you ever wondered about the origins of some of our beloved hymns of this season? Many of them have very interesting stories! On this day of the service of Lessons and Carols, come early to hear a group of Hope members once again share true tales of Advent and Christmas songs that are close to our hearts.

Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 - No Forum

Join us again in the New Year as we present topics that educate, challenge, and inspire!

The Hope Book Club

Zoom or Teams Meeting Sunday, December 10, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

A Way Out of No Way: A Memoir of Truth, Transformation, and the New American Story, by (hopefully still) U.S. Senator Reverend Ralph G. Warnock

"In January 2021, Senator Warnock won a runoff election that flipped control of the Senate at one of the most pivotal moments in recent American history. He is the first Black senator from Georgia, only the eleventh Black senator in American history, and just the second Black senator from the South since Reconstruction. As he said in his maiden speech from the well of the senate, Senator Warnock's improbable journey reflects the ongoing toggle between the pain and promise of the American story." - www.harvard.com/book/a_way_out_of_no_way/

Jan. 8, 2023: *The Seed Keeper*, by Diane Wilson. [One of Pastor Jen's sabbatical books]

"A haunting novel spanning several generations, *The Seed Keeper* follows a Dakota family's struggle to preserve their way of life, and their sacrifices to protect what matters most." Goodreads.com

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

Youth and Children's Ministry Youth Advent Party



YOUTH! December 4th from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. we are having a Christmas Cookie exchange and a Christmas Movie watch party. Please bring some of your favorite cookies with your favorite pajamas. We will have lunch and hang out in the fellowship hall!

Advent Party!

FAMILIES! We are having an Advent Party on December 11 after church in the Fellowship hall! Please join us for lunch, and make snow globes and ornaments. Please bring your favorite holiday treats to share and join us for a fun time!

Lessons and Carols

EVERYONE! Lessons and Carols will be December 18th! If you are interested in reading for this wonderful service, please contact Morgan.

FAMILIES! We will be playing instruments such as drums and hand bells! We will be practicing the morning of December 18th as part of Faith Formation time. Please join us for this celebration.

Christmas Caroling

EVERYONE! After Lessons and Carols on December 18, please join us to bring holiday cheer to our homebound members by caroling with us! Please bring a lunch and we will share a warm beverage before going out and singing to our community of Hope! Please let Morgan know if you are coming and any dietary restrictions you have.

Morgan Strudthoff, Minister of Faith Formation, morgans@ulch.org

A New Creation Care Initiative

Now that our church buildings is 99.9% LED—which promises to lower our electricity bill significantly—how about your home? Would you like LEDs as well LEDs (light-emitting diodes) look just like regular light bulbs but use only a small fraction of the electricity. And they don't get hot. And they have a pleasant quality of light. And they last for years and years. And they help save the planet from climate change.

The ULCH clean energy team is starting a program to provide LEDs to all our members and friends who don't already have them. If you haven't made the switch, you probably have either the old-style incandescent bulbs or compact fluorescent bulbs.

How will the program work? You can bring in your old bulbs and simply trade them for LEDs, take them home and plug them in. Or we will help you as needed to install them. How much will this cost you? Zero for replacing the ordinary style of bulbs, and half-price for more exotic or unusual bulbs.

Ready to experiment? If you are unfamiliar with LEDs, bring ONE of your bulbs (the kind that screws into a socket) in on Sunday morning and take one home from the energy table at the Visitor Center. Try it out and see whether you like it. Watch for updates as the program develops. Feel free to contact Stewart Herman (herman@cord.edu) or Tim Abrahamson (tac2180@msn.com) for more info.

Racial Justice Movie Night

Racial Justice Movie: The Racial Justice movie discussion will be **postponed** until January, amidst busy holiday schedules. Recommendations for movies are welcome and encouraged. Please send any to Elise at elisec@ulch.org.

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

Winter Donation Requests:

With the cold upon us, many requests have come in for winter protection and gear. If you are able, any of the following is needed:

- Winter Gloves (Adult Sizes – Men's Large+ Preferred)
- Sleeping Bags
- Tents
- Winter Jackets (Adult Sizes – Men's Large+ Preferred)
- Wool Socks

Please ensure that these items are in good or new condition, for the safety of our neighbors. If you have any questions about whether something is appropriate to give, please contact Elise at elisec@ulch.org.

The Gospel Overtures: Advent Bible Study

Leaders: John Beane, Ann Beane, & Brian McCaffrey

Location: Heritage Hall (and via Zoom)

Dates: Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, & 18, 12:00 p.m.

Content: An overture in music comes at the beginning of a larger piece; briefly introducing the themes that will shape the larger piece. We all know the Christmas story. We learned it as children, hearing the Christmas pageant narrative every holiday season. Over the years, the different stories have blended together into one. This Advent we will explore fresh Biblical insights which deepen our appreciation of the unique adult perspective of each Gospel's Christmas story.

Hope Trust Collecting 2023 Grant Proposals Soon

It is time to start thinking of proposals for 2023 Hope Trust grants. Details about how to apply will be announced in the Thursday Epistle and in Sunday bulletins. The deadline for this round of grant applications will be January 31, 2023. The Hope website will include links to the grant application and further information when available: <https://www.ulch.org/trust-board>

In accordance with the Hope Trust charter, proposals with an emphasis on enhancing and extending the life and mission of the congregation will be given priority and may include:

- 1) support for domestic and foreign missions
- 2) scholarships
- 3) professional staff for special services
- 4) community projects
- 5) building expansion or improvements (as opposed to routine building maintenance, which is not fundable).

A given project or program may be funded for up to 3 years. Regular church expenses are not eligible for Hope Trust grant funds. The grants made by the Hope Trust in the spring of 2022 were as follows:

- Joyce Uptown Food Shelf – \$500
- My Very Own Bed – \$1,000
- Caring Connections – \$350
- Advocates for Human Rights – \$1,500
- Plymouth Christian Youth Center – \$2,000
- Center for Leadership and Neighborhood Engagement (CLNE) – \$2,500
- Mabel's Free Clinic (Nuevo Progreso, Mexico) – \$500
- Mexican Assoc. for Rural and Urban Transformation (AMEXTRA) (Tultitlán, Mexico) – \$3735
- Homeless in Minneapolis (manuscript project) – \$1,200
- Little Free Library Food Project – \$5,000
- Sabbatical Funding for Supplemental Staff – \$5,000
- Choral Scholar (carried over from a 2021 award) – \$3,100
- ULCH Racial Justice Taskforce Congregational Book Study – \$1,375
- Tech Hardware for Sunday Forums – \$5,000

For 2022/2023, Hope Trust Board members are Norm Aaseng, James Flaten, Meri Hauge, Tim Hopkins, Scott Hvisdos, Leena Rapacz, and Robyn Swenson.

Hope Diamonds - Gratitude

Hope Diamonds Senior Group will meet on Wednesday, December 14th (yes, the second Wednesday of the month!) for a time to celebrate Christmas together. We'll tell the Christmas story, sing carols, and enjoy Christmas cookies and the company of friends. All are welcome to join us, whether you've come to Hope Diamonds in the past or not! RSVP to Pr. Maria and let her know if you'd need a ride. We look forward to being together!

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!

December Birthdays

December 01 – Shuzo Murakami - 80!
December 04 – Carol Steinberg
December 15 – Julie Johnson
December 16 – Judith Ranheim

January Birthdays

January 01 – John Setterlund
January 02 – Mille Caspersen
January 04 – Sandra Robinson
January 19 – Susan Sherer
January 22 – Karen Johnson

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

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 all who await and welcome children through joyful and challenging times.

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

Deaths—We pray for God's strong embrace for all who grieve recent losses and losses long ago, for memories and stories. This month we include in our prayers Rebecca and Alden Tetlie and the whole Tetlie Rice family, at the death of Rebecca's mother Naomi Rice on October 26; and Muffi and Tim Abrahamson and family at the death of Muffi's sister Shirley Larson on November 25.

Significant Illness—We pray for those living with illness, cancer, recovery, uncertain diagnosis, hospice, chemical dependency and other addictions, and mental health struggles, including Arloene Stevens, Marcheta Scribner (in comfort care), 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.



Then and Now

It took a while for us to gather the pictures shown here. Jackie and Gary Peterson celebrated 40 years of marriage on May 22nd this year.
Congratulations Jackie and Gary!



Inviting You to Join Us for a Wonderful Weekend of Exploring, Learning and Building Community!

Journey Inward, Journey Outward

ULCH Women's Retreat, January 27-29, 2023

Dunrovin Christian Brother's Retreat Center, North of Stillwater

DEADLINE - Sunday, January 8 NO REFUND

Women of all ages are welcome! We will explore how the decisions we make impact growth, both inwardly and outwardly, and how this then influences the direction of our lives and faith.

Friday night is devoted to just being together in community, no agenda!

Saturday morning we will come together to explore the theme, then the rest of the day is ours to spend as we wish.

Saturday afternoon and evening There will be opportunities for hiking, going into Stillwater, and then yoga later Saturday night.

Sunday morning we will conclude with a short worship service and say our "good-byes" by 12 noon.

Sign-up through the Thursday Epistle, on-line under "Community - Recreation and Retreats" or in person at the Welcome Center beginning December 4.

Costs

- Friday - Sunday : (includes five meals D/B/L/D/B) \$285
- Saturday - Sunday : (including lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch) - \$141
- Saturday Only: with 2 meals - \$55
- Saturday Only: \$42 for Saturday with 1 meal (lunch or supper)
- Care will be taken regarding COVID-19; watch for more information.

If you have any questions contact: Ann Beane - spirit.beane@gmail.com, or
Beata Rydeen - beatarydeen@comcast.net.



Beacon Interfaith Congregational Convening

The next Congregational Convening will happen on December 1 at 6:30 p.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Saint Paul. Congregational Convenings are a chance for those connected to Beacon member congregations - that includes University Lutheran Church of Hope - to meet together and learn about some very important actions we can take together to encourage our elected leaders to take on important issues related

to homelessness and affordable housing in the Twin Cities. At this particular gathering, Beacon leaders will share more about their 5 year plan and some of the affordable housing projects they are currently working on, many of which Hope has been supporting financially and through advocacy efforts. They will also be sharing more about their work on some comprehensive voucher programs, which, if implemented, could drastically change the face of affordable housing in the Twin Cities. If you have missed a chance to sign up in November and would like to go, please contact Donna Neste: d_nestea@yahoo.com

Blessing of Quilts, and a Chance to Win One

On Sunday December 11 during worship we will bless our newest batch of quilts before sending them out into the world to keep people warm, saving out a handful to give to people of all ages who are baptized at Hope.

We have three lovely quilts that have come to us through donations, that are more lightweight or delicate than the families we serve can use, but would be wonderful as bedspreads or throws in

your home. The Hope Quilters are raffling these quilts to raise money to buy more batting (a roll, enough for 4-5 quilts, costs around \$100). Tickets are \$10, and will be available at church on Sunday mornings Nov. 27 and Dec. 4 and 11, and also online – we'll hold the drawing on Monday Dec. 12. We're still working out the logistics of the online part – Please watch the Thursday Epistle for details.



Prayer Shawl Update

We regularly work on prayer shawls for the Compassion Care Ministry Team. We will once again create Prayer Shawls using fleece fabric.

Be on the lookout for fabric sales – two yards of fleece fabric, at least 54" wide, will yield two shawls. Ideal size is 27"x72". Bring your fabric, scissors and fringe-making options to the retreat. We will also have fabric available. Questions? Contact Beata at beatarydeen@comcast.net

Message from the President – Stone Soup

One of my favorite stories growing up is Stone Soup. I like how each time the soup maker tastes the soup, it's perfect ... except it would taste better with one additional item. Suddenly, a townsperson would remember that they have an onion or small bag of potatoes to add to the soup. Finally the most wonderful soup was provided to the whole town, just from pulling together the small gifts of many.

I have seen the story of Stone Soup played out over and over again at Hope. Back in the early 70's, people left Vietnam and were waiting to be accepted into new countries. Many churches in the USA sponsored a family and Hope was one of these churches. We sponsored the Tran family, which included Tra, her two daughters, her sister, a niece and two nephews. To prepare for hosting this family, there were many steps. For housing, one member owned a rental house and offered its use. Various members gave it a fresh coat of paint and gathered furniture and household items. Once the family arrived, members were called upon to provide initial meals, help with transportation, gather clothing, and enroll the kids in school. Eventually Tra and business partner/long time Hope member Rodney French, opened the first Vietnamese restaurant in the Warehouse District of Minneapolis. It was called Matin and it was a huge success. It was there I was introduced to Tra's fabulous egg rolls and amazing Vietnamese dishes that I still love today.

Hope continues to do big things that to an individual seems overwhelming. We've provided shelter to homeless families through FMF (Families Moving Forward) and we continue to help families with food insecurity through 'Every Meal'. We built a bread/pizza oven in our parking lot and made an amazing amount of pizza and bread that we freely offer. And look at our solar array! One person could not have done so much, but as a community, members take on small and large parts and we step forward.

As for the generous donation given to Hope, we've created a group of members who have diverse backgrounds: some are new members, some are long time members, some have grown up in the congregation and some have grown up outside of a faith tradition. All provide a different viewpoint toward the following questions: How do we listen to each other? How do we listen to the community? How do we listen to the Spirit? And how does our Mission Statement interact with these questions?

These people will meet two to three times from November to January, and then come back to Vision and Governance Board with their suggestions and thoughts. The idea is that they will provide the board with various ways to get suggestions that we may not have thought of before. I am thankful to these people who have agreed to be a part of this discernment team. They are Nat Anderson-Lippert, Linnea Becerra, Liz Brondos Fry, Doug Hartmann, Ruth Hedman, Sarah Cooper-Evans and Pauline Hendrickson, with Paul Odenbach, Pastor Jen Nagel and myself as ex-officio as needed.

As we discern how to use the generous gift, I wonder what various gifts from the members and the community will come forward and bless this endeavor? I am looking forward to finding out.

Ann Agrimson, Congregational President

Mark your calendar

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be February 12, 2023. More information to come

2022 Contribution Deadline is December 29th

Year-End Giving. The IRS provides clear guidelines for a contribution to be credited in the current tax year. If being dropped off, the contribution must be received on our premises by Friday, December 30th at 11am. If sent through the mail, it must be postmarked no later than midnight on Saturday, December 31, 2022. Contributions received on December 30th will be deposited in 2022. If you plan to make an eGiving contribution, please allow an extra four or five days for your transaction to clear in 2022. If Vanco, the processor, does not receive the donation request in time, the contribution may be dated in 2023. Please reach out to Nathan in the office (nathano@ulch.org) if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Treasurer's Report

Monthly Financials

Oct 2022 and Year-to-date Income and Expense

	Oct Actual	Oct Budget	Oct Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	41,195.73	38,891.46	2,304.27	401,662.07	410,891.68	(9,229.61)
Rental Income	14,431.61	11,712.58	2,719.03	140,207.78	131,525.80	8,681.98
Total Income	55,627.34	50,604.04	5,023.30	541,869.85	542,417.48	(547.63)
Salary & Benefits	32,960.57	35,469.25	(2,508.68)	338,578.38	358,293.50	(19,715.12)
Total Expenses	51,207.87	55,558.29	(4,350.42)	537,692.68	558,997.61	(21,304.93)
Net Oper Income	4,419.47	(4,954.25)	9,373.72	4,177.17	(16,580.13)	20,757.30

Monthly Financials - General giving totaled \$41,195.73 for the month of October which is 106% of our budget. Because of the strong giving, YTD is at 97.75% of budgeted revenue. Rental income for October is up with an amount of \$14,431.61 giving us a total income of \$55,627.34. Our total revenue is strong at 99.9% of anticipated income. Salary and Benefits was on track with expected expenses with a total of \$32,960.57. The total expenses for October were \$51,207.87. The only large budgeted expense this month was the yearly donation to Lutheran Campus Ministries at \$2,500. As of October 30th, we have \$759k in current assets – primarily composed of our checking and savings account of which \$480K is in the dedicated accounts. This leaves the church with \$279K available as reserves.

Capital Campaign – Opening Doors - The Opening Doors Capital campaign giving was up this month with a total of \$10,771. Our building fund continues to grow with a total in reserves of \$221k. 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.

Annual Ministry Pledges - I am writing this on Sunday, November 13th. We blessed the pledges received this morning at worship. I look forward to see all the faithful pledges we receive. If you were not able to get your pledge to the church today, please send it in ASAP. We are starting to plan our budget for 2023 and knowing your giving intentions will help us determine how much we can budget for the coming year.

Thank You - The Executive Committee alongside the Vision and Governance Board are grateful for all the ways you contribute to University Lutheran Church of Hope. We know financial contributions are just one way of doing that. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns!

Thank you! Betty Schreuder, Treasurer

An Updated Church Directory!!

Our community is ever changing -- and a good church directory should change and adjust, also. Two years ago, in the midst of the pandemic, we completed a church directory. It consisted of two parts: a cool picture section, and a names and numbers section which could be updated more often and easily.

The long awaited update is complete. There is an updated names and number section with an insert that includes the pictures of newer members and newer staff. We recommend keeping this new update and photo sheet with your picture directory.

- Pick up a hard copy of this updated names and numbers section at church.
- Need the 2020 picture directory? We've got a few extras available.
- Not able to make it to church? Contact the church office (ulch@ulch.org) to have one mailed or dropped off.
- Want an electronic version? Contact the church office and Church Administrator Nathan will send one by email.
- If you notice any corrections that are needed, contact Nathan and we'll update our records. Thanks.

Office Hours Dec 23rd and Dec 27th-30th will be 9am to 12pm

Office hours will be limited during this time period.

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00am - 10:30am Piano tuning 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:00pm - 8:00pm Parents of PEASE 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:00pm - 8:00pm Men's Group	2 7:30pm - 8:30pm Music Series: Mark Billy Voice Recital	3 2:00pm - 4:00pm St David's Society Christmas Tea
4 9:30am - 10:30pm Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - 10:15am Sunday Forum 9:30am - 10:15am Sunday School 10:30am - 11:30am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 11:30am - 12:30pm Fellowship Time 12:00pm - 1:00pm Gospel Overtures: Advent Bible Study 12:00pm - 2:00pm Youth Group Christmas Hangout	5 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 6:00pm - 8:00pm Parents of PEASE support group 7:00pm - 9:00pm Donation Discernment Task Force 7:30pm - 9:00pm Children's Ministry Team- Zoom	6 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:15pm Personnel Committee-Zoom 7:00pm - 7:30pm Advent Evening Service (Sanctuary/YouTube) 7:15pm - 8:30pm Executive Committee-Zoom	7 5:30pm - 7:00pm Compassion Care Meeting 7:00pm - 7:30pm Advent Evening Service (Sanctuary/YouTube) 7:30pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal	8 9:30am - 11:30am Dorcas Circle - Courtyard/Lounge 2:30pm - 4:00pm Pastor Jen's Peer Group 4:15pm - 5:45pm Staff Meeting In Person 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Sanctuary and Immigration Team on Zoom	9 3:00pm - 10:00pm PEASE Dance - Fellowship Hall 7:00pm - 10:00pm Craft Group	10 9:00am - 5:00pm Kitchen Reserved for Sanctuary Cooking and Meal
11 9:30am - 10:30pm Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - 10:15am Sunday Forum 9:30am - 10:15am Sunday School 10:30am - 11:30am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 11:30am - 1:00pm Family Advent Party 11:30am - 12:30pm Special Fellowship Time in Fellowship Hall 12:00pm - 2:00pm Confirmation Mini Retreat 12:00pm - 1:00pm Gospel Overtures: Advent Bible Study 7:00pm - 8:00pm Book Club	12 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 12:00pm - 1:00pm Staff Meeting on Zoom 5:30pm - 7:00pm PEASE Community Foundation Board Meeting	13 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program	14 12:30pm - 2:00pm Hope Diamonds 6:00pm - 8:00pm Facilities Team 7:00pm - 7:30pm Advent Evening Service (Sanctuary/YouTube) 7:30pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal	15 * "The Visitor" Articles Due 6:00pm - 8:00pm Zoom - SE Como Hope Connections Group 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:00pm - 8:00pm Men's Group	16 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program	17 8:00am - 2:00pm Kitchen Reserved
18 Intergenerational Lessons and Carols Service 9:30am - 10:15am Sunday Forum 9:30am - 10:15am Sunday School 10:30am - 11:30am Worship in Sanctuary w/ ULCHers, w/ Zoom/YouTube 11:30am - 12:30pm Fellowship Time 12:00pm - 1:00pm Gospel Overtures: Advent Bible Study 12:15pm - 2:00pm Christmas Caroling	19 PEASE Winter Break 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 12:00pm - 1:00pm Staff Meeting on Zoom 7:00pm - 9:00pm Action Project Planning Session	20 PEASE Winter Break 3:30pm - 4:30pm PEASE After School Program 4:00pm - 5:30pm Sanctuary Coalition Meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Vision & Governance Board-Zoom	21 PEASE Winter Break 7:00pm - 7:30pm Advent Evening Service (Sanctuary/YouTube) 7:30pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal	22 PEASE Winter Break 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group	23 PEASE Winter Break Office Hours 9-12	24 Choir (3pm call, 4pm service) PEASE Winter Break 4:00pm - 5:00pm Christmas Eve Worship 8:00pm - 9:00pm Christmas Eve Worship
25 Christmas Day PEASE Winter Break 9:30am - 10:00am Drop-In Choir (tentative) 10:30am - 11:30am Christmas Morning Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 11:30am - 12:30pm Fellowship Time	26 Christmas Holiday - Office Closed PEASE Winter Break 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 6:30pm - 8:00pm Bible & Brews (location TBD)	27 Office Hours 9-12 PEASE Winter Break 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 7:00pm - 8:30pm Racial Justice Team	28 Office Hours 9-12 No Choir Rehearsal PEASE Winter Break	29 Office Hours 9-12 PEASE Winter Break 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:00pm - 8:00pm Men's Group	30 Office Hours 9-12 PEASE Winter Break	31

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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Pastoral Intern:

Emily Brown

Minister of Community Engagement:

Elise Carlson

Minister of Faith Formation

Morgan Strudthoff

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Seth Strudthoff

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