



Clockwise from top left: Minister for Faith Formation Morgan Strudthoff and children making a craft during the Advent Party; the Quilters and a few friends take a break for coffee and conversation; John Pignatello and Tim Speidel during a work day; Ann Rolle and Liz Brondos Fry enjoying a laugh; Sarah Wille, Ann Agrimson and Ann Rolle up to their elbows in tamales (thank you!); worship life; Christmas Caroling for Jean Berkeland and Donna Parry; and more carolers singing with Lyle Lutz; and (center) Minister for Community Engagement Elise Carlson preparing colorful peppers for tamales – on January 8 we will say thank you to Elise as she concludes her position (see the notice on page 2).

Notes and Prayers for the New Year

"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven."

-Ecclesiastes 3

At the cusp of the new year, in the quiet days between our celebration of Jesus' birth and Epiphany, I'm grateful for a time of rest, some good play in the snow, and a chance to consider this season of beginnings and endings.

A few notes, some questions, and my prayers for the New Year.

Watch. On January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President Lincoln. On December 31, 1862, the eve of that signing, abolitionists awaited news of the proclamation. They gathered for the first Watch Night services awaiting this freedom. Today many African American congregations still gather for Watch Night services on December 31st. On the cusp of the new year: singing, praying, preaching, remembering the history, mindful of the present, seeking liberation that is yet to come. There is much that needs our attention in this season and I'm compelled by this practice. How in worship can we ground our cries at the injustice in our world? Our prayers to God for the journey? Our courage to be part of actions for liberation? How can we sustain one another's spirits in this season?



Compassion. That's the word that's been on my heart these last days. Often as I conclude emails and notes, I sign off with the word *Peace*. Lately I've noticed how a colleague and friend signs their emails: *With compassion*. Compassion literally "means to suffer with." It's unconditional. It's a way of showing mercy to one another and to ourselves. And it's active. How much we need compassion in this world! And how much we need compassion with ourselves. I'm musing about how to live more compassionately this year.

Vulnerability. Praying with one of you recently in a hospital room, I was moved as you gave thanks for how much you learn from those who are vulnerable. While some would have us avoid vulnerability at all costs, with vulnerability comes so much that we value: grace, sweet wisdom, the strengthening of friendships, the power of faith, the depth of understanding. How can we practice the spiritual gift of vulnerability this season?

Tether. In a podcast from The Daily (On the Road With Ukraine's Refugees: An Update), journalist Sabrina Tavernise and her colleague narrated the early days of Russia's war in Ukraine. Ukrainians were on the move to safety and the New York Times relocated their reporters from Kyiv to a city in the west of the country. What was usually a seven hour trip took two days and two nights. Along the way, Sabrina interviewed children, elders, mothers, fathers, aid workers. It's a stunning piece and deeply moving. It tethered me again to what is going on in Ukraine, and, more honestly, all around the world. We can get so wrapped up in our lives. Listening to a podcast, pausing to look someone in the eye, showing up, having a conversation - these tether me in holy and vital ways. My prayer this season is to be tethered to these stories and experiences, and to my own.

In this new year, may God keep you in love and fill you with compassion. I give thanks for each of you and I look forward to our time together and the ways the Spirit will lead us.

Pastor Jen Nagel, Lead Pastor

Thank You, Elise!

Elise Carlson has served as our Minister for Community Engagement for a year and a half. Over the last month or more, Elise has been thinking about her own capacity (she also now has a full time job at a law office) and energy. As Elise put it, I love this work at the church, but I'm in my early 20s and working 60 hours a week.

Elise has shared with leadership her letter of resignation. January 8 will be Elise's last day on staff at Hope. We're sad to see Elise go, for she's done a GREAT job as our Minister for Community Engagement and stepped into big shoes left by Nick. We're also grateful for what she's done, the connections she's made, the way Elise has led us in community engagement, particularly with the ACTION Project, racial justice, sanctuary immigration, social media, and ministry with our neighbors who are students and those who are hungry or without stable housing. We honor Elise's own clarity about her needs and capacity at this time in her life. Plan to join us on January 8 in worship and during a fellowship time following worship as we give thanks for Elise's ministry and pray her well. You can contact Elise by email at: elisc@ulch.org

Hope's Visual Art

"The main thing is to be moved, to love, to hope, to tremble, to live." Auguste Rodin, considered the founder of modern sculpture, spoke here of art, which his peer Paul Cézanne the painter defined as "the reproduction of what the senses perceive in nature, seen through the veil of the soul." At its best, art expresses the deep mystery of life. Paying attention to the visual elements of an artistic expression can prompt us to see anew our relationships with God, creation, and each other. Hope has been blessed with a strong foundation of spirit filled artwork, most of which was created by members in earlier days. Yet, not long ago the walls of so many areas remained bare.

Some years ago the Arts and Environment Task Force, a subgroup of the Facilities Team, looked carefully at how our congregation and other people move through and use our building's spaces. We imagined how artwork might make these spaces more welcoming, more inclusive, more thought provoking, and more engaging—essentially, how Hope's interior might reflect more of who we are as a congregation to all those who enter our church home. We initiated a three-year focus between 2017 and 2019 called the Visual Revitalization Project.

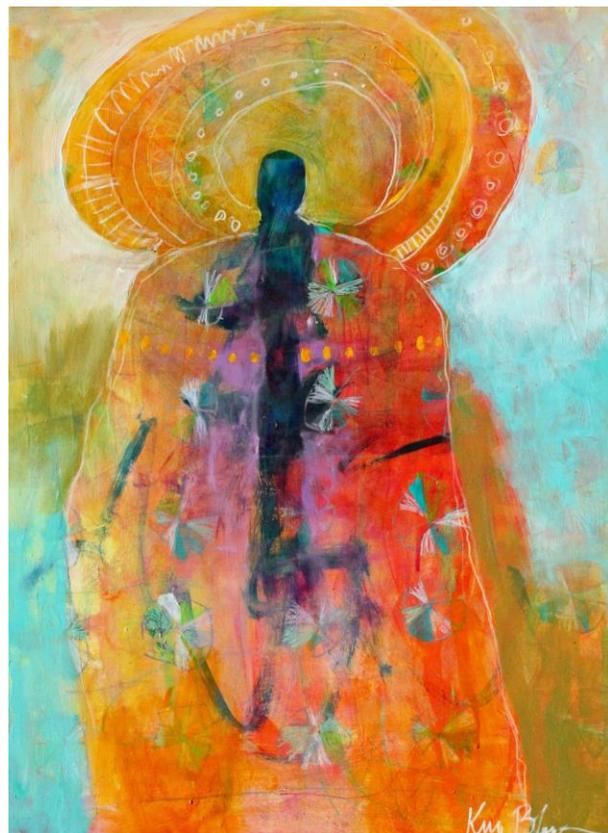
We began with a framework for gathering art. We would seek meaningful imagery inspired by the stories and symbols of our Christian faith. It was important to find pieces that speak authentically and by artists of varied cultures and ethnicities. We hoped to find some pieces with similar physical dimensions that could be easily rotated within the building. And, of course, we needed to do all this in a financially responsible way. Thanks to generous funding from the Hope Trust Board, we were able to collect a strong body of artwork that has transformed key spaces. We focused on priority areas: the east and west narthexes, the welcome center, the main hallway and lounge, the chapel, the north parking lot entrance, the youth room, and Fellowship Hall.

We are grateful for all the inspired artists whose stunning work, old and new, enlivens Hope's interior spaces, nudging us to stretch our minds and stir our hearts. When you have a moment, we invite you to pause in front of a piece that kindles your curiosity. Take time to wonder at the artist's unique expression. What feeling, what message, what truth is being conveyed "through the veil of the soul." And remember: "The main thing is to be moved, to love, to hope, to tremble, to live."

Cloak of Truth

Kerri Blackman's stunning original acrylic painting, *Cloak of Truth*, is displayed at the top of the stairway which leads from the welcome center up to the east narthex. Bursting forth through what feels like primeval layers of ethereal color and light, this majestic Christ figure stands like an African king upon a both watery and earthy background. An expressionist representation of Christ's face and chest are rendered in a deep indigo blue, a Biblical color symbol for the heavens, truth, the Word, and the power of God's healing grace. Crowned with a massive sun disk halo, Christ is wrapped in a magnificent fiery orange robe patterned with animated whirling circles. As we near the sanctuary's entrance and prepare for worship, this image can help draw us into the mysterious realm of the unseen yet all enveloping presence of God's truth.

A blessed Epiphany from Arts and Environment,
Sharla Aaseng and Muffi Abrahamson



Worship and Music

Choir Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7 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. We'll all be starting fresh for January, so it's a great time to join!

Sing with the Choir Sundays: Want to sing with a choir, but don't have time for a weekly evening commitment? Please join Sing with the Choir Sundays, held approximately once a month. We will rehearse a straightforward anthem at 9:30 preceding the Sunday service, and everyone is welcome! Join us on Jan. 15, Feb 12, March 26, April 23, and May 14.

Night Songs Mass Choir Rehearsals: If you would like to participate in the Night Songs Mass Choir, join us from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on January 21 and/or Feb. 4th. We will sing two beautiful, but not difficult pieces as a mass choir - *Earth Song* by Frank Ticheli, and *It Takes a Whole Village* by Joan Szymko. If you are considering coming, please email me at robertr@ulch.org as I want to make sure we have enough copies!

Evening worship in January will be held on Jan 25 at 6:30 p.m.. Take a breath, pause, and join us.

Save the date for Night Songs! Night Songs will be held on Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the ULCH sanctuary. If you are interested in reading any of the poetry readings that evening, please reach out to me at robertr@ulch.org.

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



January 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!

January 8 - Racial Justice The Racial Justice team will continue their discussion of *Dialogues on Race* with Chapter 2, "Christmas Cookies from Cambodia" by Kristofer Coffman. Congregation members are encouraged to read the chapter beforehand, but not required. Come to learn, ask questions, and listen, as we continue to learn more about the importance of dismantling racism and white supremacy, and working for justice.

January 15 - Going Green: What About Our Cars? ULCH is committed to working towards care for our planet in as many ways possible. Brian Anderson of *Let's Go Carbon Zero* will talk with us about how we choose to use transportation and the type of cars we drive. Come hear more about electric vehicles and how we might move towards more responsible car ownership.

January 22 - A Doctor Looks at Reproductive Rights Dr. Jeffrey D. Nelson is a family physician and author of *What Should I Do? A Family Physician Discusses Abortion, Religious Freedom, and Difficult Decisions*. He will be discussing the medical facts regarding contraception, pregnancy, and abortion, the views of various religions toward the abortion issue, the legal cases affecting women's rights including the case of *Roe v. Wade*, and the concept of freedom of religion and its impact on how our country should handle abortion. Come to learn and discuss!

January 29 - Advocating for Affordable Housing Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative is involved in an advocacy campaign for more project-based vouchers that increase opportunities to build affordable units at 30% of the area medium income (AMI). Come to learn more about the importance of this project and what people of faith can do to make it happen. Rev. Nancy Nord Bence, Public Policy Manager at Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, and rostered in the St. Paul Area Synod, will be our presenter.

The Hope Book Club

Sunday, January 8, 2023, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom - *The Seed Keeper*, by Diane Wilson

One of Pastor Jen's sabbatical book recommendations.

"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

Sunday February 12, 2023: To commemorate Black History Month - *On Juneteenth*, by Annette Gordon-Reed

"On Juneteenth provides a historian's view of the country's long road to Juneteenth, recounting both its origins in Texas and the enormous hardships that African-Americans have endured in the century since, from Reconstruction through Jim Crow and beyond." -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 Group

On Sunday, January 22 the Youth Group will gather for time together from noon to 2pm. We'll make a meal to share with Portland House and enjoy lunch together. Youth Group is open to all youth 6th grade and up. Please join us and talk with Morgan if you've got question: morgans@ulch.org or text 301-606-0400



Sunday School

Sunday School meets from 9:30-10:15. This is our faith formation for children. Usually Sunday School meets in the Youth Room (or watch for signs if we adjust to meet in the chapel or library). Sunday School is geared toward those 3 years old to 6th grade. Talk with Morgan if you've got question: morgans@ulch.org or text 301-606-0400

Family Activity on January 8!

Our January family activity is sledding and skating. Bring a bag lunch to eat at church and then we'll head out. Bring skates (or slippery boots) and sleds and dress for the weather. We're going to a skating area in/by the Lauderdale Community Park and sledding on the hills at the U of M golf course (access near the intersection of Fulham and Roselawn). If you have questions, talk with Morgan: morgans@ulch.org or text 301-606-0400.

SAVE THE DATE!

- **Summer Day Camp** is June 20-23, 2023. Families, as you plan your summer schedules, keep this week in mind. More details to you. Talk with Pastor Jen if you've got questions or need clarification: jenn@ulch.org
- **The Confirmation Class will venture to Guatemala** July 17-25, 2023. We'll share more about the plans in the coming weeks and months!

Welcoming New Members at Hope

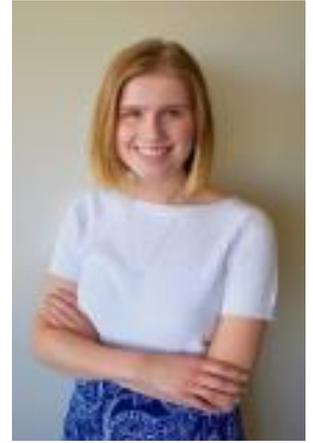
In the next month or so we will welcome new members at University Lutheran Church of Hope. If you are interested in membership or just curious about what this means, speak with Pastor Jen (jenn@ulch.org).

Tanzania

Intern Emily will travel in January 9-25 to the Iringa area of Tanzania with a group from Luther Seminary. Our prayer go with Emily and we look forward to hearing about her travels and growth when she returns.

ACTION Project

In December the ACTION Project participants were introduced to Pastor Jin S. Kim, founder of the Church of All Nations and the Underground Seminary. Pastor Kim walked the participants through a history of racism in America, emphasizing the ways that racism and trauma have intersected. Pastor Kim shared the importance of working within our congregations to teach this history, take collective responsibility, and find ways to move forward. The ACTION Project has continued to be a space of learning and reflection. Hope is finding ways to learn, to take responsibility, and to move forward.



Racial Justice Movie Discussion

The Racial Justice Team invites you to gather for a movie discussion night on Sunday, January 15 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. This month, we will be discussing *Traces of the Trade*. The movie can be found through Kanopy, using your local library. [<https://www.kanopy.com/en/product/116270>] (<https://www.kanopy.com/en/product/116270>). Hennepin County residents are able to connect their library cards to a Ramsey County library in order to use the service. Watch the Thursday Epistle for a zoom link. All are welcome to join!
Elise Carlson (she/her), Minister of Community Engagement

Hope Diamonds

Hope Diamonds is a gathering geared towards the seniors in our congregation. We will meet on Wednesday, January 18, from 12:30-2 p.m. for a light , soup lunch and time for bible study together. We meet in the lounge. Let Pastor Maria know if you have any questions or would like to attend – all are welcome!

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

Every Meal

Please sign up - Every Meal Food Packing: Join in packing food bags together at Every Meal; **Thursday, January 12, from 6-8 p.m.** and/or **Friday, January 20, from 1-3 p.m.**

We will be volunteering together both days with University Baptist Church and First Congregational Church. **Sign up using this link:** https://volunteer.everymeal.org/need/detail/?need_id=756604. If you have questions, or need help signing up, email Pastoral Intern Emily Brown at ebrown001@luthersem.edu. You can visit the Every Meal website to learn more about this organization and its mission, as well as using this link <https://volunteer.everymeal.org/what-to-expect/> for information about what to expect when volunteering, including what-to-wear, and where to park. Volunteers must be at least 8 years old, and all youth must have their parent/guardian sign a release form, that should be printed and brought to the event or signed in-person on the day of the event. There is also a 'youth volunteer requirements' page on their website for more info.

Early Mardi Gras Party!

Mark your calendar, and plan to come to Fellowship Hall on Friday, February 3rd, 7-9 p.m. to celebrate Mardi gras early. Tim Gustafson and the [Fieroast Mountain Boys](#) will provide New Orleans jazz and original songs for your dancing and listening pleasure. Bring your Mardi gras beads, dancing shoes, and *l'aisez les bon temps roulez!*

Funeral Hospitality

At the time of a death and planning for funerals or memorial services, a faithful and hard-working crew springs to action around Hope. This group offers funeral hospitality, typically after the service. Some volunteers provide a cake. Other volunteers give a couple of hours at church and help with set up, serving, or clean up. A couple of key leaders call volunteers, liaise with the

family about details, and keep things rolling on the day-of. Recognizing that volunteers are busy and sometimes can't help, **we seek to grow our funeral hospitality volunteer list.** If you are able to help with any of this, please sign up at the Welcome Center at church or contact Pauline Hendrickson or Pat Frolen. Thank you!

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!

January Birthdays

January 01 – John Setterlund
January 02 – Mille Caspersen
January 04 – Sandra Robinson
January 19 – Susan Sherer – 80!
January 22 – Karen Johnson

February Birthdays

February 03 – Paul Quie
February 07 – CJ Robinson
February 07 – Steve Schreuder

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. Blessing at the birth of Griffin Sage Taylor, child of Ingrid and Russ, grandchild of Ann and Wayne Lee; and Axel Joseph Vecchio, child of Eva and John, grandchild of Ross and Susan Williford.

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 prayer Deb and Erik Strand at the death of Deb's father, Calvin Schuman, at the end of December.

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

Families with Young Children

Calling all families with little ones up to 3(ish) years old. We've heard from parents that it would be helpful to have a time and space to gather for play and conversation on Sundays. Let's try it.

Who/What: Families of children birth to 3 years old to build community

Where: Nursery at Hope

When: Sundays, 9:30--10:15 a.m., beginning January 8.

Why: To build connection between families with young children **and** to provide a safe play space for these youngest ones.

How: We'll trickle in; drink coffee, kids play, adult conversation with some light structure and plenty of understanding.

Questions: Talk with Linnea Becerra linnea.annette.pignatello@gmail.com or [Pastor Jen](#)

Hope in the World

Bread for the World's Sponsored Bills Passed This Session

On December 15th, the Senate passed the [Global Food Security Reauthorization Act](#). It had already passed the House in July, so it is now headed to the president's desk for a signature. The members of University Lutheran Church of Hope who wrote letters last June in support of this vital legislation that will save millions of lives were part of the success of its passage.

And because of you, along with thousands of other Bread members throughout the United States who wrote letters this year, the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act passed in October. This will provide improved nutrition for families globally, with a focus on pregnant mothers and children to age 2, a critical stage in a child's development.

A Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative Campaign

In January, you will be reading and hearing about a new Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative Campaign, called "Unlock the Metro." **We will begin by collecting old keys.** So, if you have some old keys lying around the



house that have no lock to go into, you are invited to bring them to church from January to March. In March, you will be invited to write a note on a special tag and attach one of the keys we have collected. The notes will be simple one-line bullet points. Our notes

and keys along with the notes and keys of 100 plus other

Beacon member churches will be delivered to the Met Council in April. This is part of a campaign to reach the Met Council, who hold the most housing vouchers of any governing body or organization, which covers seven counties. But, very few go for Project Based Vouchers, (PBV). PBVs are the answer to the construction of deeply affordable supportive housing, which is housing units at 30% of the Area Medium Income (AMI). Developers like Beacon Interfaith cannot afford to build this kind of housing without PBVs. Rev. Nancy Nord Bence the Public Policy Manager at Beacon Interfaith will be our guest speaker on January 29th, at the Adult Forum. We hope you can be there to learn more about this important action for housing justice.

Who needs \$3,400?

Our current capital campaign, Opening Doors, runs from 2021-2024. When we began the campaign, the congregation committed to giving 7% of all donations to worthy causes near and far. This time - in contrast to previous capital campaigns - we are selecting these causes every year, rather than waiting until the end of the campaign. We give three donations every year.

We of course don't know yet what 7% will be exactly. But we believe that \$3,400 per donation is a good estimate. Next year, as we compile final numbers, we will have the last of three donations and balance things out, up or down.

So, what group or organization would you like to nominate? Nominations close on the 7th of January, and all ideas will go up for a congregation-wide vote later in the month. You have several options for putting your idea forward:

- Use the form given by the link in the Thursday Epistle
- Call the church office
- Write or call Ann Agrimson or Uli Koester

All we need is the name of the organization and a few sentences to describe the work it does. Give it a whirl!

Ann Agrimson, Congregational President, and Uli Koester, Past President

Reminder: COVID and other illnesses are making their rounds this winter. If you aren't feeling well, please, please stay home and worship online. Even if you are scheduled to help with worship, just let us know and we can flex. If you need help (groceries, support, etc.), contact the church. Masks are recommended. Wash hands regularly.

Message from the President

Tears of Joy, Tears of Sorrow, Tears of Hope

As long as I can remember, I have gone to the Christmas Eve service at Hope. I've fluctuated back and forth between the 4 p.m. and the 11 p.m. service, depending on my age and then the age of my children. My favorite part is when the candles are lit throughout the entire congregation as we sing Silent Night. And as we sing the last verse, those candles are raised up. Every time that happens, tears roll down my face. It comes from seeing the simple beauty of the moment, being surrounded by such a loving community, hearing voices break out in sweet harmonies, and remembering loved ones who once shared Christmas with us, but are now gone.

Another favorite time at church is when I see a young child darting away from a parent during the service. The child is focusing on what they want and how to get to it quickly. The parent is reaching out to stop them and has a frantic look on their face. While it doesn't necessarily bring tears of joy, it will bring a smile and an occasional giggle. I remember being in that position myself, trying to get my own darting child before he gets to the altar during the middle of the sermon. When I was a kid, I had to sit quietly during the service and it was a good day if the bulletin had a blank page so I could draw on it. I love that we have incorporated a children's area in the front where kids can do art and play AND be involved in service!

Back in mid-November, some of our members met in Heritage Hall to discuss reproductive rights. We had the question of do we want to put up signs around our church saying "People of Faith for Reproductive Rights." The Vision & Governance Board wanted feedback from the congregation before deciding on whether or not to order the signs. During the listening session, not everyone had the exact same opinion, but I heard honest, open stories and thoughts about supporting and trusting women and the medical community. And I heard "Putting up signs can't be the end result, it needs to be a first step." It was a powerful meeting for me and once again, tears of hope rolled down my face.

During the last couple months, I have learned about a number of loved ones, of friends who have died, families and relationships that have fallen apart, and a number of dear people who have started Hospice. It is a heavy time. We say prayers, we send texts saying "thinking of you", we make a meal and bring it over, we stop and talk to them after church and ask how they're doing. It doesn't seem like enough. And yet, I know when someone brings up my mother's name and some funny thing she did, (even though she's been gone for 8 years), it warms my heart.

I know when you read this, Christmas will be past and we'll be in January. At this time of year, the Vision & Governance Board kicks into high gear. We are working on the budget for next year, writing up various pieces for the Annual report, planning the Annual Meeting along with the budget meeting the week before, saying thank you to board members who are finishing up and preparing for the transition of new board members coming on. And yet, it's a good time for us to pause and pay attention to the joys, the sorrows and the hopes that are all around us and within us.

Ann Agrimson, Congregational President

Annual Meeting on February 12

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 12, 2023, following 10:30 a.m. worship. We will have a short fellowship time in the Lounge and then return to the Sanctuary for our meeting. The meeting will be held in a hybrid manner: many will attend in person, some will join by Zoom. The annual report will be available by February 5 in hard and electronic versions. On February 5, our congregational treasurer Betty Schreuder, will offer a budget update during the Sunday Forum at 9:30 a.m.. Please come to the meeting (and also the budget update), give thanks for the year past, celebrate this ministry, look ahead, approve the budget, elect leadership, and be the church together!

Treasurer's Report - Monthly Financials

Nov 2022 and Year-to-date Income and Expense

	Nov Actual	Nov Budget	Nov Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	47,117.01	48,630.00	(1,512.99)	448,779.08	459,521.68	(10,742.60)
Rental Income	11,029.21	11,712.58	(683.37)	151,236.99	143,238.38	7,998.61
Total Income	58,146.22	60,342.58	(2,196.36)	600,016.07	602,760.06	(2,743.99)
Salary & Benefits	29,468.50	35,469.25	(6,000.75)	368,046.88	393,762.75	(25,715.87)
Total Expenses	48,543.38	51,391.89	(2,848.51)	586,236.06	610,389.50	(24,153.44)
Net Oper Income	9,602.84	8,950.69	652.15	13,780.01	(7,629.44)	21,409.45

Monthly Financials - General giving totaled \$47,117.01 for the month of November. YTD giving is at 97.66% of budgeted revenue. Rental income for November is \$11,029.21 giving us a total income of \$58,146.22. Our total revenue is strong at 99.4% of anticipated income.

Salary and Benefits were on track with expected expenses with a total of \$29,468.50. The total expenses for November were \$48,543.38. Our net income for the month was \$9,602.84. As of November 30, we have \$789,000 in current assets – primarily composed of our checking and savings account of which \$501,000 is in the dedicated accounts. This leaves the church with \$288,000 available as reserves.

Capital Campaign – Opening Doors - The Opening Doors Capital Campaign giving this month is \$6,757. Our current capital campaign reserves are \$202,000. Please reach out to Nathan Obrestad (nathano@ulch.org) or me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for continuing to support the Capital Campaign.

2023 Pledges/Budget - Budget planning is well underway for 2023. Thanks to all those who have made a pledge. This helps greatly. There are still a few pledges that we haven't received. If yours is one of them, please call Nathan Obrestad at the church office with your pledge so we can get it included as soon as possible into our budget giving totals. I know this year has been hard on everyone with high inflation. I do not know if this is the reason, or if there are other reasons, but so far this year it looks like our pledges for 2023 will be down from 2022. While the giving may be down, our expenses are not going down. We will be reviewing our income and our expenses carefully to do our best to come up with an accurate budget. We may need to consider using some of our cash reserves this 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

Journey Inward, Journey Outward - Inviting You to Join Us for a Wonderful Weekend Exploring, Learning and Building Community!

ULCH Women's Retreat, January 27-29, 2023, Dunrovin Christian Brother's Retreat Center
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.

Costs

- Friday - Sunday : (includes five meals (D/B/L/D/B) \$285 • Saturday - Sunday : (includes three meals (L/D/B) - \$141
- Saturday Only: with 2 meals - \$55 • Saturday Only 1 meal (L/orD) \$42
- Care will be taken regarding COVID-19; watch for more information.

Any questions contact: Ann Beane - spirit.beane@gmail.com, or Beata Rydeen - beatarydeen@comcast.net

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30am - 11:30am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 11:30am - 12:30pm Fellowship Time	2 New Years Holiday - Offices Closed 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 6:00pm - 8:00pm Parents of PEASE support group 7:30pm - 9:00pm Children's Ministry Team-Zoom	3 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:15pm Personnel Committee-Zoom 7:00pm - 9:00pm Action Project Cohort Meeting 7:15pm - 8:30pm Executive Committee-Zoom	4	5 4:15pm - 5:15pm Staff Meeting - In person 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:00pm - 8:00pm Parents of PEASE 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group	6	7
8 9:30am - 10:15am Families with Young Children 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 - 3:00pm Family Event: Sledding and Skating by the U of M 7:00pm - 8:00pm Book Club	9 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 12:00pm - 1:00pm Staff Meeting on Zoom 5:30pm - 7:00pm PEASE Community Foundation Board Meeting	10 1:30pm - 2:30pm Sunday Forum Team 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program	11 5:30pm - 7:00pm Zoom - Compassion Care Team 6:00pm - 8:00pm Facilities Team 7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal	12 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:00pm - 8:00pm Every Meal-food packing 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:30pm - 8:30pm Worship Planning Team	13 2:00pm - 9:30pm Bread Bake Prep 7:00pm - 10:00pm Craft Group	14 5:00am - 3:00pm Bread Bake
15 *"The Visitor" Articles Due 9:30am - 10:15am Families with Young Children 9:30am - 10:30am Rehearsal: Sing with the Choir! 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 - 2:00pm Confirmation Mini Retreat 7:00pm - 9:00pm Zoom: Movie Discussion Group with Racial Equity Focus	16 MKL Holiday - Office Closed 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 7:00pm - 9:00pm Action Project Plenary Session	17 Nathan off - CJAC Blood Drive 12:00pm - 1:00pm Staff Meeting on Zoom 4:00pm - 5:30pm Sanctuary Coalition Meeting 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 8:30pm Marcy Holmes Membership Meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Vision & Governance Board	18 12:30pm - 2:00pm Hope Diamonds 7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal	19 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:00pm - 8:00pm Zoom - SE Como Hope Connections Group 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group	20 1:00pm - 3:00pm Every Meal-food packing	21 11:00am - 1:00pm Night Songs Rehearsal
22 9:30am - 10:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - 10:15am Families with Young Children 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 - 2:00pm Youth Group 1:00pm - 3:00pm MNIPL Minneapolis Gathering	23 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 12:00pm - 1:00pm Staff Meeting on Zoom 6:30pm - 8:00pm Bible & Brews (location TBD)	24 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 7:00pm - 8:30pm Racial Justice Team	25 6:30pm - 7:00pm Evening Prayer Service 7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal	26 12:00pm - 3:30pm PEASE Opportunity Fair 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Sanctuary and Immigration Team on Zoom	27 Women's Retreat Dunrovin Retreat Center	28 Women's Retreat Dunrovin Retreat Center 10:00am - 12:00pm Oblates group - Sanctuary and Lounge
29 Women's Retreat Dunrovin Retreat Center 9:30am - 10:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - 10:15am Faith Formation 9:30am - 10:15am Families with Young Children 9:30am - 10:15am Sunday Forum 10:30am - 11:30am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 11:30am - 12:30pm Fellowship Time	30 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 12:00pm - 1:00pm Staff Meeting on Zoom	31 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program				

REMINDER: Congregational Meeting on February 12, 2023 at noon

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Rev. Maria Anderson-Lippert

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Pastoral Intern:

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Minister of Community Engagement:

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Minister of Faith Formation

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