

# The Visitor

October 2023 No. 19-09

Complex world. Thoughtful church.



Clockwise from top left: Pizza at Welcome Back Students in mid-September; so many books at this year's Book Sale—proceeds go to Nutritious U, the food shelf on campus; Welcome Back Students; kids joyfully dancing to the music; our University Lutheran Church of Hope table at the Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Gala at the Depot in downtown Minneapolis—at this inspiring event more than a \$1,000,000 was raised; a tour of the solar panels captured the imagination of all ages; the ULCHers making music; and (center) table discussions during the first of 3 donation discernment Sunday Forums.

#### **Visions and Dreams: Donation Discernment**

"I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh . . . your young shall see visions, and your old shall dream dreams." -Pentecost, Acts 2

A year and a half ago, University Lutheran Church of Hope received a generous IRA donation of \$416,000. The donors wrote:

"We would not want the donation to be given away to a charity chosen by Hope leadership. We agreed strongly that we want the money to strengthen the Hope congregation and/or infrastructure. We wanted to strengthen Hope inwardly so that our community is better able to reach out in love to the wider community later. We wanted Hope to be a 'draw' in the University and southeast communities."

With these words in mind, over these months, a lot has happened! A short-term task force helped us envision a faithful discernment journey, emphasizing the importance of listening and making a way that is equitable and inclusive. In the spring the Vision and Governance Board created the Donation Listening Team. I'm thankful for the way this team (Britta Anderson, Liz Brondos Fry, Doug Hartmann, Linda Herman. Sheila Hougen, Alden Tetlie) has focused on listening (creating a variety of spaces for Hope, our partners, and our neighbors to



offer input and ideas) and harnessing energy (capturing the ideas, going deeper, seeking synergy, inviting us into conversation). It's important to note that we tasked this group with listening, with the Board being responsible for the timeline and also the next steps.

During these months of listening, dozens of ideas have been gathered through a survey, a Facebook group, conversations, emails, interactions with neighbors, three Sunday Forums (the last of which is October 1 at 9:30 a.m. in Heritage Hall and on Zoom), and special sessions with our eldest in Hope Diamonds and with The Hope Choir (both these groups have a harder time attending the Sunday Forums). The team also visited with former Hope community engagement staff member Nick Tangen and Kate Reuer Welton, the campus pastor at Lutheran Campus Ministry at the U. Nick and Pastor Kate know Hope and they know younger adults, the campus, and the neighborhood. The ideas are bountiful and as varied as our congregation. There's another listening session coming up on Monday, October 9 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Find the details and link in the Thursday Epistle.

What happens now? The Vision and Governance Board has a retreat scheduled for Saturday, October 14. At the retreat we will begin to seek consensus from all that the listening team has received and all that the board has heard. Though many expect a big unveiling, most likely we won't have all the plans at once. Rather, we'll have some clarity around the direction and some of the areas, and perhaps we'll also have some areas for further exploration such as a pilot project. From what we've heard so far, it seems likely that the money will fund a number of projects both inside Hope and outside, neighborhood facing and community serving. The Board has been clear throughout that we want many ways for the congregation to participate in the process (and many are doing that—thank you!), but we don't believe that an up down congregational vote is helpful, for it often makes winners and losers. Part of the blessing of this gift is the journey of discernment together, and not simply how this money will be spent.

Through all of this, I've been listening for the 'Why?' behind the proposals people offer. What stories ground and enliven our ideas? A life transforming experience in community? A desire for conversation across potential divisions? A yearning to be more fully involved and closer to God? A fear for our planet's future? A trust that we are able to walk with our neighbors and create a sense of wholeness and well-being?

I pray for the Holy Spirit's dreams and visions in this process. Will you join me? I pray that we'll find ways to slow down to hear the stories, the values, the Why? behind these good ideas. I pray for imagination, honesty and wisdom. I pray that our congregation will be open to Jesus' way and God's leading.

With deep gratitude for you, and a trust in the Spirit's call.

Pastor Jen Nagel, Lead Pastor

# **Worship and Music**

**Evening Worship in October** will be on Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. Join us for a short meditative evening service to center yourself midweek.

**Reformation Sunday** is October 26th. Join us for our 10:30 service with choral and trumpet music.

**All Saints Sunday** is November 5th. Join us for our 10:30 service as we commemorate together those who have passed.

The choir season is underway! Join us for rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. 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! We have a diverse array of music planned - it should be a very exciting fall semester!



Sing with the Choir Fall Dates: Sing with the choir Sundays have returned this fall, giving anyone who can't make a weekly evening commitment a chance to swing by on a Sunday morning for choir rehearsal to learn something straightforward for the service. Dates for these Sundays are: Oct. 22, Nov. 12, and Dec. 10.

Music Series Concert Oct. 20th at 7:30 pm: Robert Ragoonanan presents an eclectic and varied recital of short solo and collaborative pieces for organ and piano, featuring compositions by Samuel Adler, Carlos Guastavino, André Waignein, Alan Hovhaness, Sharon Willis, and Naji Hakim. Robert will be joined by Sean Miller, Alto Saxophone, and Marshall Yoes, Trumpet, for this recital. Swing by and enjoy this kaleidoscope of 20th and 21st century music!

**Volunteers:** It's a new program year, and that means we are looking for new volunteers to help us conduct meaningful and beautiful worship! We have a particular need of people to help with worship tech and streaming, but service opportunities can range from helping with tech to helping set up for communion, offering healing prayers, ushering, greeting, and more. Serve as often or as little as your schedule allows. Please contact <a href="mailto:robertr@ulch.org">robertr@ulch.org</a> 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. All are welcome, anytime.

Robert S. Ragoonanan, Minister of Worship and Music

# 2024 University Lutheran Church of Hope Congregation Read

The ULCH Racial Justice Team and Hope Book Club have decided to read and discuss, *Solito: A Memoir*, by Javier Zamora, as our 2024 Congregational Read and use it as an Adult Forum topic in April 2024.

The Hennepin County Library and Star Tribune read *Solito* in 2023 "as a catalyst for conversation as we attempt to better understand past and current injustices – including systemic racism, other forms of discrimination, and bias that affects marginalized communities."

It is available by audio and hard copy library check out. Discussions, including with the author, are available online at Replay the conversation with Myron Medcalf and Susana De León, Fernanda Acosta and Teresa Ortiz. Replay the conversation with Myron Medcalf and Javier Zamora.

Sonja Peterson, Racial Justice Team and Hope Book Club

# **Children's Education Ministry**

Our Children's Education is in full swing! We have two weekly opportunities for our young people 6th grade and younger.

**Sunday School** - geared towards elementary aged children, grades K-6 - meets from 9:30-10:15 a.m. in room 103. We are learning about the liturgical year through the stories of women in our scriptures this year.

**Families with You Children** - geared towards families with children ages birth-5 - meet from 9:30-10:15 a.m. in the Nursery. This is a time for kids to play, parents to connect, to share a snack together and hear a bible story.



Once a month, Godly Play (a montessori based storytelling education model) will be offered for children ages 3-11 during the 9:30-10:15 timeframe. Children participating in Godly Play will gather where they usually do on Sunday mornings (either 103 or the nursery, depending on their age) and a teacher will come bring them to our time of Godly Play in the youth room. The nursery will still be a place for families with children younger than 3 and their adults to play and connect. Our first time experiencing Godly Play will be on October 1st.

If you have any questions, please be in touch Pastor Maria (mariaa@ulch.org.)

Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert

# **Pumpkin Party**

October 15th - after worship and the fellowship meal - Children and their families are invited to carve or decorate pumpkins together at church! The Children's Ministry Team has decided to switch gears from going to a pumpkin patch given the distance of pumpkin patches for a Sunday afternoon

activity. Instead, all are invited to bring a pumpkin that we will either decorate with paint and stickers or carve together. We are asking families to bring any pumpkin carving supplies they have in addition to their pumpkin. Questions? Contact Pastor Maria (mariaa@ulch.org). We hope to see you there!

Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert

# **TV in Nursery**

Great news! We have just installed a TV in the nursery in order to livestream worship on Sunday mornings. Instructions for turning on the TV and getting the livestream going are posted on the wall. If you are in the nursery during worship and it's not on, please turn it on so you can still be present for worship! (And don't forget to come back to the sanctuary to share in Holy Communion.) We are excited to be able to help families navigate the many dynamics of sharing faith with children and hope this will help. Questions? Contact Pastor Maria (mariaa@ulch.org)

Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert

## **Youth Group**

Youth Group at ULCH spans 6<sup>th</sup> grade through high school. With this wide age range, some activities may be geared toward different ages and yet there is a gift in being together across the years. Youth group offers a space for fun and support as youth grow in Christ. We'll aim to gather approximately monthly. Friends are always welcome. Please talk with Pastor Jen (jenn@ulch.org) to learn more.

#### **Confirmation Class**

A group of Hope kids will be confirmed on October 29th and we're in the midst of beginning a new confirmation group. Our pattern has been monthly mini retreats over two program years, and then confirmation the fall of the following year. During the mini retreats we'll learn together, eat, serve, and pray. The structured learning includes focus on

the Bible, our Lutheran Christian tradition, and exploration of faith practices as young people claim their own sense of faithful identity. We invite those in 7th grade and 8th grade and up to consider confirmation. Please talk with Pastor Jen (jenn@ulch.org) if you are interested in learning more.

# **Gratitude and Generosity: A Link to the Past**

In the summer of 2016 the Stewardship committee assumed the title, "Gratitude and Generosity." The pledge letter for that year was signed by Ann Beane, Ann Wagner, Beth Ubbelohde, John Hensrud, Kathy Kufus, Molly Broin, Pastor Jen Nagel, and John Rydeen, President of the Congregation. I talked to Ann Wagner and Beth Ubbelohde about how this name change came about.

Ann said the traditional term, stewardship, with its associations of dutiful obligation, did little to convey the joy that should be at the heart of our giving. Nor did it encompass the many ways our members participate in the life of the church through sharing their time and talents. Ann and Beth both talked about the role of grace in our lives, and the freedom that comes from knowing we are saved through grace. Such a gift, they thought, inspires gratitude, and gratitude leads naturally to generosity. How much better, they said, to give joyfully, in gratitude, than from a sense of obligation.

During the 2023 stewardship season we will build on our grace through faith understanding that gratitude leads to generosity. During the offering time of the service we will have testimonials from members who, through life in our church, have been changed and are working for change in others and the world. We ask you to take the same approach to this stewardship season: How has Hope impacted you? What are you grateful for? And how might that gratitude be expressed generously?

The Gratitude and Generosity Team

# **Donation Listening Sessions**

We have completed the last of the three Sunday Forum sessions devoted to discussing the generous donation Hope has received, but please know that the Donation Listening team is still listening! We are inspired by the questions the donors have put before us:

- How can we "strengthen Hope inwardly so that the community is better able to reach out in love to the wider community?"
- How can Hope 'be a draw' in the University and southeast communities?"

We are still listening for new ideas, expressions of support for ideas you have heard being discussed, and questions - questions about what the donation can fund, what principles should guide the discernment process, the timeline for discernment and the funding of projects.... We want to continue talking with you.

What if you haven't heard much about what is being proposed, but you would like to participate in the conversation? Call one of us (we are in the church directory) or send us an email. Any one of us would be happy to send you an overview of the ideas we have been hearing and the Listening Team would like to hear what you think about them.

Thank you!

Britta Anderson: anderson.britta.l@gmail.com Liz Brondos Fry: elizabeth.brondos@gmail.com

Doug Hartmann: <a href="mailto:hartm021@umn.edu">hartm021@umn.edu</a> Linda Herman: <a href="mailto:lindalouiseherman@gmail.com">lindalouiseherman@gmail.com</a>

Sheila Hougen: <a href="mailto:shougen03@gmail.com">shougen03@gmail.com</a> Alden Tetlie: <a href="mailto:alden.tetlie@gmail.com">alden.tetlie@gmail.com</a>

# **Hope Diamonds**

Hope Diamonds is our ministry geared toward the most senior members of our community, yet all are welcome to join in this time of fellowship. We will gather on October 18th for a light lunch at 12:30 p.m. before enjoying a time to dwell in scripture together. We will conclude around 2 p.m. Rides can be arranged for those who need them! Contact Pastor Maria (mariaa@ulch.org) with questions.

# **Sunday Forums**

Sunday Forums are held in Heritage Hall from **9:30 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.** Please join us! Presentations are also available via Zoom and can be accessed using the same link as Sunday worship.

**October 1: The Pleasant Dilemma of Group Inheritance**— Join us for the final session with the Donation Listening Group as we describe our discernment journey. We will be discussing developing trends and the feedback from you as we decide how to move forward. We will look at possible ideas and projects, principles of community engagement, process, and timeline. Don't miss this opportunity to talk together about our mutual ministry.

**October 8: No forum today.** Instead, please join us after the service (11:45 to 1:30 with a light lunch included) for an engaging discussion that will inform our worship planning for the upcoming seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany (see below for more information).

October 15: Worship—Why Do We Do That? With Pastor Jen, we'll explore the parts of our Lutheran liturgy and Hope's particular worship service. Why is it put together this way? What is the significance of each component? Understanding our background can make worship more meaningful!

October 22: Worship—Why Is Our Church Space Put Together This Way? Hope member Nan Knutsen will lead us through a look at church architecture and furnishings (especially Lutheran and especially Hope's) and how it impacts our worship.

**October 28: Lutherans 101**— On this Reformation Sunday we'll be looking at various aspects of the Lutheran church around the world and in the U.S. Where are Lutherans located? How did they get to this country? How did so many different expressions eventually come together to form the ELCA? And why do we call ourselves "evangelical" anyway? Come and learn a bit about our complex heritage!

The Sunday Forum Team

#### Seasonal Worship Planning Workshop on Oct. 8

Join us after the service on October 8 for an engaging discussion that will inform our worship planning for the upcoming seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. We will meet in Heritage Hall starting at 11:45 and wrap up by 1:30 p.m. A light lunch will be provided while we chew on thought provoking questions that will spark our collective thinking. Please contact Lisa Morse at <a href="mailto:morse.lisa@comcast.net">morse.lisa@comcast.net</a> with questions about this event or talk with Pastor Jen or Bobby. We look forward to your participation!

# **ELCA Youth Gathering!**

The ELCA Youth Gathering will be held NEXT summer July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans! A group from University Lutheran Church of Hope will join others from the Twin Cities, traveling to Louisiana for this amazing event. We're registering for the youth gathering THIS fall and

those in 8th grade to 12th grade THIS fall are eligible to attend. Want to learn more? Here's the link: <a href="https://www.elca.church/gathering">https://www.elca.church/gathering</a>
Curious? Talk with Pastor Jen now! (<a href="mailto:jenn@ulch.org">jenn@ulch.org</a> or text 612-227-9673)

## **Potluck Fellowship Meal on October 15**

For years our congregation has had monthly Fellowship Meals during the program year (September thru May). Sharing meals together offers a time of fellowship, a chance to get to know one another around the table, and nourishment when the cost of food can sometimes be challenging. The cost of meals is covered by a suggested donation with the direction that grad and undergrad students eat free, and others contribute as able.

After a COVID pause, we're getting back into the monthly routine, with some Health and Wellness precautions, and adjustments to our month by month offering. In September we gathered for pizza at the Welcome Back Students Event. In October we'll host our Fellowship Meal as a Potluck on October 15. On November 12 and into the new year, Becky Halvorson and Dan O'Loughlin will continue to invite a team to prepare the meal—they welcome extra hands! Thank you!

On October 15 we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a potluck fellowship meal after worship at 11:45 a.m. Sloppy joes, a vegetarian option, buns, and beverages will be provided. Please BRING a side dish, salad or dessert for the potluck. 4-5 volunteers are needed beforehand to help with set up, and others will be needed afterward to help with clean up. Please plan to attend, and if you can help, talk with Ann Agrimson, Sheila Hougen, or Ann Rolle.

# Young Adult Gather Worship and Meal

We're excited for our upcoming Gather event on Sunday, October 8th at 5:30 p.m.! These young adult Gather events move around between a few churches and on October 8<sup>th</sup> we're hosting it at University Lutheran Church of Hope. There'll be worship at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Local musician Andy Pokel will be offering original music for this service, so come for a deep breath and time for rest, renewal, and community. Dinner will be a simple meal of vegetarian soup, salad, homemade bread, and cookies. If you have any dietary concerns or requests, please let Deacon Stephanie know by sending Gather's FB page a DM: <a href="https://fb.me/e/1a5YyY95f">https://fb.me/e/1a5YyY95f</a>. With other questions, contact Pastor Jen. Invite your friends, roommates, neighbors! Gather is a ministry for young adults, which we roughly define as 19-35, though that age range is meant to clarify, never exclude.



# **Lutheran Campus Ministry**

Pause student worship Wednesdays @ 8 p.m. at Grace University Lutheran Church in Stadium Village LCM-Twin Cities meets for worship Wednesdays at 8 p.m. — we call it pause because it's like taking a big deep breath in the middle of the week. Our worship together is at the center of our community and the point from which our action on campus and in the world springs. You can expect mostly students to be in attendance, acoustic music, beautiful art, robust conversation, and opportunities for engagement. Learn more about worship at lcmtc.org/worship. There is also parking available -- contact dana@umnlutheran.org for parking info!

Be Fed: A Free Weekly Meal For Students Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Grace University Lutheran Church A weekly student-hosted space for you to be fed -- with food, conversation, and community! Join us for a free meal of bagels, meat, cheese, soup when it gets colder, and more! Some folks are on their way to or from somewhere, and only stay for a bite, and some stay the whole time. It's a casual gathering, where the conversation and company are different each time.

#### **HOPE BOOK CLUB**

**Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. 7 p.m. via Zoom** *Guns, Germs & Steel: The Fates of Human Societies,* by Jared Diamond "Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and a national bestseller: the global account of the rise of civilization that is also a stunning refutation of ideas of human development based on race." -Goodreads.com

October 8: Guns, Germs & Steel, Discussion of Prologue and Parts 1 – 2 November 12: Guns, Germs & Steel, Discussion of Parts 3 – 4 and Epilogue

Please contact Sonja Peterson at <a href="mailto:speterson@dunnwald.com">speterson@dunnwald.com</a> or 612-242-8711 with book suggestions or for a link to the meeting.

"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends. They are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers." -Charles Elliot

## **Hope Birthdays**

This Birthday list of Hope's members and friends include 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 information in the University Lutheran Church of Hope directory. Cards, notes and phone calls are always appreciated!

#### **October Birthdays**

October 11—Karen Lindesmith

October 25-Arloene Stevens - 90!

October 27—Janet Booe

October 31—Jerry Johnson

#### November Birthdays

Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert

November 16—Ron Sorenson

November 25—Carmen McCoskey

November 27—Jan Hrncir

November 28—Granger Whitney

# 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, including Mario and Elizabeth and their family as they welcome their little one.

Marriages—We pray for all those preparing for marriage, and for all relationships of commitment, including Anna Ostroushko and David Purnick who will celebrate their marriage on October 1, and former Hope staff member Elise Carlson and Lucas Byl who will marry on October 21.

**Deaths**—We pray for God's strong embrace for all who grieve deaths and losses, those who died recently and those who died many years ago and whose memories fill us.

**Significant Illness**—We pray for those living with illness, cancer, recovery, uncertain diagnosis, hospice, chemical dependency and other addictions, and mental health struggles, including Marge Perko (in hospice care), Patrick Colombe, Arloene Stevens, Ken Lundquist, Miriam Hougen, Janet Carpenter, and Chuck Lewis. We also pray for caregivers.

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

# Message from the President: Capital Campaign Update

This month, I am including the Capital Campaign Update that was sent out as a separate email from Pastor Jen and myself on Sept 12th and also appeared in the Thursday Epistle that week.

We write to offer a brief update on our current capital campaign, *Opening Doors*, and share the initial plans for the next campaign which begins in February 2024.

As some recall, *Opening Doors* began in the midst of COVID in February 2021 and we're now nearing the end. A video set the tone for the campaign. The campaign has supported continued pay-down of our 20 year mortgage, virtual worship enhancements, upgrades in the main kitchen (currently in progress), restoring sanctuary entrances including the historic main doors (also in progress with the most visible changes in spring 2024), solar initiatives, and funding annual benevolences beyond the congregation. We do all this thanks to God's faithfulness and your generosity!

Here at University Lutheran Church of Hope, our pattern is that as one campaign concludes, we begin another. Our new campaign will run February 1, 2024 - December 31, 2026 (35 months). We're grateful for the new campaign team led by co-chairs Erik Strand and Ben Hartmann, and including Tim Abrahamson, Deb Bordsen, Sharlene Hensrud, and Gretchen Peik. In the coming months, watch for communication and an invitation from this team to be part of the next campaign.

The Vision and Governance Board at our August meeting approved the following projects for this new campaign:

- Rebuild of our 1920 Steinway Model O piano in the sanctuary. Information about the rationale can be found in past links sent in the Thursday Epistle and the separate email sent Sept 12th to the congregation.
- Continue the upgrades to the main kitchen (picking up on the work of the current campaign) including cabinetry, countertops, and sink on the north wall.
- Replacement of the accordion partition between Heritage Hall and Fellowship Hall.
- Upgrades in the courtyard, including an expanded patio area, new plantings, and irrigation system.
- Upgrades in the lounge kitchenette, including appliances, cabinets, countertops, flooring and fixtures.
- Continued paydown of our mortgage.
- Benevolence beyond the congregation.

We give thanks for your generosity and are excited to share more about this coming campaign! With gratitude,

Paul Odenbach, Congregational President

#### **Membership at Hope**

This fall we will welcome new members into the community of faith that is University Lutheran Church of Hope. If you or someone you know is curious about membership, contact Pastor Jen (<a href="mailto:jenn@ulch.org">jenn@ulch.org</a>) or Pastor Maria (mariaa@ulch.org).

## **Blessing of Animals – October 1**

In the spirit of what we know of St. Francis of Assisi, lover of creatures great and small, on Sunday, October 1, 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 you.

#### **Treasurer Report**

August 2023 and Year-to-date Income and Expense

	Aug Actual	Aug Budget	Aug Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	36,300.60	32,680.00	3,620.60	323,105.54	303,937.00	19,168.54
Rental Income	15,226.50	12,339.50	2,887.00	93,127.89	99,516.00	(6,388.11)
Total Income	51,527.10	45,019.50	6,507.60	416,233.43	403,453.00	12,780.43
Salary & Benefits	49,763.99	33,781.00	15,982.99	287,654.44	276,278.00	11,376.44
Total Expenses	62,572.51	51,349.00	11,223.51	455,805.52	445,225.00	10,580.52
Net Oper Income	(11,045.41)	(6,329.50)	(4,715.91)	(39,572.09)	(41,772.00)	2,199.91

**Monthly Financials** - General giving was strong this month at \$36,300. YTD giving is at 103.2% of budgeted revenue. Rental income for July is \$15,226.50 giving us a total income of \$51,527.10. Parking lot income was strong this month thanks to the contract with a construction company.

Our net income for the month was \$ -11,045.41. The month expenses were high in the Salaries & Benefits due to it being a month with 3 payrolls. The Operations area was also high due to some computer repairs and software. As of August 31st, we have \$799,139.13 in current assets – primarily composed of our checking and savings account of which \$476,938.84 is in the dedicated accounts. This leaves the church with \$322,200 available as reserves.

**Capital Campaign – Opening Doors** - The Opening Doors Capital campaign giving in August was \$10,327. We have a total in reserves of \$214,499.21. Please reach out to Nathan Obrestad (<a href="mailto:nathano@ulch.org">nathano@ulch.org</a>) or me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for continuing to support the Capital Campaign.

**Thank You** - The Executive Committee and 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

# Men's Group; The Men of Hope

The Hope men's group continues to offer a midweek fellowship opportunity for anybody who cares to attend, meeting for an hour online on the first and third Thursday of each month. As our opening prayer attests, we seek to be "respectful of each other, interested in each other, generous in sharing and compassionate in spirit." We are always ready to welcome new faces. Want to join in? Curious? Contact Eric Ringham at eric.ringham@gmail.com.

#### **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 meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. Watch the Thursday Epistle for meeting location.



# Save the Date: 2024 Women's Retreat - January 19-21

The planning has begun for the 2024 retreat. If you would like to be involved in any way, please let either of us know. Beáta Rydeen - <a href="mailto:beatarydeen@comcast.net">beatarydeen@comcast.net</a> or Ann Beane - <a href="mailto:spirit.beane@gmail.com">spirit.beane@gmail.com</a>

# October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am - 10:30am Choir rehearsal 9:30am - 10:15am Families with Young Children Gathering 9:30am - 10:20am Sunday Forum (Heritage Hall and Zoom) 9:30am - 10:15am Sunday School 10:30am - 11:30am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 11:30am - 12:00pm Fellowship after Worship 11:45am - 12:15pm Blessing of Animals	2 Office Hours 9am- 2pm 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 6:00pm - 8:00pm Parents of PEASE support group	3 Office Hours 9am-2pm 11:00am - 12:00pm Staff Meeting 3:00pm - 7:00pm Facilities Work Projects 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:15pm Personnel Committee 7:15pm - 8:30pm Executive Committee	8:00am - 8:30am Centering Prayer 5:30pm - 7:00pm Compassion Care 7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5 Office Hours 9am-2pm 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:00pm - 8:00pm Parents of PEASE 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Men of Hope	<b>6</b> Office Hours 9am- 2pm	<b>7</b> Gopher Football Game TBA
8 9:30am - 10:30am Choir rehearsal 9:30am - 10:15am Families with Young Children Gathering 9:30am - 10:20am Sunday Forum (Heritage Hall and Zoom) 9:30am - 10:15am Sunday School 10:30am - 11:30am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 11:30am - 12:00pm Fellowship after Worship 12:00pm - 1:30pm Seasonal Worship Planning Workshop 5:30pm - 7:30pm Gather Worship and Meal 7:00pm - 8:00pm Book Club on Zoom	9 Office Hours 9am- 2pm 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 7:00pm - 9:00pm Donation Listening Session on Zoom	10 Office Hours 9am-2pm 11:00am - 12:00pm Staff Meeting 3:00pm - 7:00pm Facilities Work Projects 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 8:00pm Capital Campaign Team Meeting 7:00pm - 9:30pm Cross Community Players rehearsal	11 Office Hours 9am-2pm 8:00am - 8:30am Centering Prayer 6:00pm - 8:00pm Facilities Team 7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal	12 Office Hours 9am-2pm 9:30am - 11:30am Dorcas Circle 2:00pm - 3:30pm Basil Reeve trio rehearsal 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:30pm - 8:30pm Children's Ministry Team	13 Office Hours 9am- 2pm 3:00pm - 9:00pm Bread Ministry Group 7:00pm - 10:00pm Craft Group	14 5:00am - 2:00pm Bread Ministry Group 9:00am - 1:00pm Board Leadership Retreat at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church
*"The Visitor" Articles Due 9:30am - 10:30am Choir rehearsal 9:30am - 10:15am Families with Young Children Gathering 9:30am - 10:20am Sunday Forum (Heritage Hall and Zoom) 9:30am - 10:15am Sunday School 10:30am - 11:30am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 11:30am - 12:00pm Fellowship after Worship 11:45am - 1:15pm Potluck Fellowship Meal 12:30pm - 2:00pm Family Pumpkin Carving Event	16 Office Hours 9am- 2pm 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 7:00pm - 9:00pm ACTION Project 2nd Year Plenary	Work Projects 4:00pm - 5:30pm Sanctuary	8:00am - 8:30am Centering Prayer 12:30pm - 2:00pm Hope Diamonds	After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group	20 Office Hours 9am- 2pm PEASE off MEA 7:30pm - 8:30pm Music Series: Robert Ragoonanan Organ and Piano Recital	21
Concordia Habitat for Humanity Group 9:30am - 10:15am Families with Young Children Gathering 9:30am - 10:30am Sing with the Choir rehearsal 9:30am - 10:20am Sunday Forum (Heritage Hall and Zoom) 9:30am - 10:15am Sunday School 10:30am - 11:30am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 11:30am - 12:00pm Fellowship after Worship 12:00pm - 2:00pm Confirmation Mini Retreat	Concordia HFH Office Hours 9am- 2pm 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 6:00pm - 7:00pm Worship 6:30pm - 8:00pm Bible & Brews 7:00pm - 9:00pm ACTION Project 1st Year Plenary 7:00pm - 9:30pm Cross Community Players rehearsal	4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 7:00pm - 9:30pm Cross Community Players	25 Concordia HFH Office Hours 9am-2pm 8:00am - 8:30am Centering Prayer 7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program	<b>27</b> Office Hours 9am- 2pm	28 Gopher Football Game TBA
Reformation Sunday and Confirmation Day 9:30am - 10:30am Choir rehearsal 9:30am - 10:15am Families with Young Children Gathering 9:30am - 10:20am Sunday Forum (Heritage Hall and Zoom) 9:30am - 10:15am Sunday School 10:30am - 11:30am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 11:30am - 12:00pm Fellowship after Worship 5:00pm - 7:00pm Immigration Meal at St. Anthony Park UCC	30 Office Hours 9am- 2pm 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters	31 Office Hours 9am-2pm 11:00am - 12:00pm Staff Meeting 3:00pm - 7:00pm Facilities Team Work Projects 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program				

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Robert Ragoonanan

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