

Complex world. Thoughtful church.



Clockwise from top left: Intergenerational Lessons and Carols Service in December; Visitor collators Donna, Nancy, and Julaine (thank you!); The Hope Church Choir; Craig Nelson, John Pignatello, Tim Abrahamson, and Mateo Pignatello in front of the re-newed and re-hung church SW church doors (beautiful!); Uli and Wayne making meat balls for the Smorgasbord Fellowship Potluck meal; Hope Diamonds enjoying a Christmas carol sing; Julia, Mary, and Marty lead the carol singing at Hope Diamonds; Christmas Carolers visiting the Davenport; Sunday School kids and youth rehearsing a skit for worship; Advent candles help us prepare the way for Jesus.

An Epiphany in our Midst.

January 6th has taken on its own meaning in recent years, but for centuries it's been known as the Epiphany of Jesus. This year we'll celebrate Epiphany in worship on January 7th. In church-y parlance, Epiphany means the manifestation of Jesus to the world, first with the tradition of the magi being shown baby Jesus by following the star, but also when Jesus is shown as God's child at his baptism, and when his power is shown in the miracles. More basically, the word epiphany literally means to become visible, to show, to appear.



I write to show (yes, as in an epiphany) a web of mutual support that happens so quietly that you might not realize it exists, but it does! This story begins back around those intense weeks after the murder of George Floyd when a small encampment sprang up near the patio at church. With the return of PEASE Academy students, that encampment disbanded and these unsheltered neighbors found other spots, but this set in motion a group that came to be called Accompanying Food Insecure Neighbors in Greater Dinkytown. The group includes neighborhood churches, the local library, some key leaders from the University, local non-profits, a few businesses, and, at times, the neighborhood organizations.

At first we offered monthly drop in days to provide resources and services, but in more recent months we've narrowed our focus on coordination of food that is shared through a handful of Little Libraries, also serving as Little Food Pantries. University Baptist Church (UBC), First Congregational Church (FCC), and University Lutheran Church of Hope (ULCH) all have these libraries/food pantries and there is a desire and invitation for more to be built. Let me explain a bit about how this works at ULCH.

What do we share? Items like non-perishable food, hygiene products, winter caps/socks/gloves, a few books, and resource information for food shelves, overnight shelters, mental health support and transportation options.

Who uses the library/pantry? Anyone who needs food or support, in particular food insecure neighbors such as those who are unsheltered and university students.

Where does the food come from? A few places! Sometimes neighbors put in their extra items for others to take. Some of our food and hygiene products are donated directly by church members (just leave them by the Goat Room door at church)-thank you! Much of it is purchased using money from Trust grants and our ministry budgets. Also, we're just beginning to receive the food collected by university groups. For instance during a week in December many of the athletic teams invited attendees at athletic events to bring items for donation. Now First Congregational, UBC, and ULCH little libraries/food pantries will be able to share this bounty.

How often do we stock it? In an effort to stretch our resources and honor our capacity, currently we stock it at least twice a week, sometimes three times a week. I suspect that if we stocked it daily, it would be used up daily—the need is great.

Who stocks it and how does this work? Members of all ages, staff, sometimes student volunteers and neighborhood interns. We've slowly been showing others the routine and anyone and everyone is invited to take a turn. Recently the Confirmation Class organized a shipment of food in our Goat Room storage area (see the picture above), and then took a bin of food out to fill the little library. On Sunday mornings, we try to leave a cart with a bin full of supplies outside the Goat Room door. You are invited to take a turn wheeling out the cart, stocking the library/pantry (a little hand drawn sketch explains the basics), and returning the cart. Thanks to those who are jumping in!

Who made our little library/food pantry? Tim Abrahamson made this larger library/pantry and a group from the Facilities Team firmly planted it near the corner of 6th Street and 13th Avenue. Hope member Chris Zann has been a resource throughout this process.

As you can see, this isn't something done by one person, but by many from within the congregation and far beyond. Seeing the confirmation students stock the shelves, I was reminded of how an epiphany shows and makes manifest God's action. God is at work in us and through us. Epiphany Blessings, beloved ones.

Pastor Jen Nagel

Worship and Music

The choir season is underway, and January is a great time to start fresh with us! Join us for rehearsals 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!

January's Evening Prayer Around the Cross Service will be January 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel. Come, pause midweek, and reflect.

Sing with the Choir Spring Dates: Sing with the choir Sundays will return this spring, giving anyone who can't make a weekly evening commitment a chance to swing by for a Sunday morning choir rehearsal and learn something straightforward for the service. Dates for these Sundays are TBD - keep an eye on the Thursday Epistle.

Mark your calendars for Night Songs! Feb. 9, 2024, 7:30 p.m: Night Songs, a multimedia choral and instrumental concert, returns! Join The Hope Choir, the First Congregational Church of Minnesota Choir, The University Baptist Church Choir, the Grace University Lutheran Choir, and Vocal U A Capella Choir, as well as other MSP singers and instrumentalists for a program of music and poetry, paired with astounding images of space and our planet, curated by Dr. James Flaten, Associate Director of NASA's MN Space Grant Consortium.

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 anytime.

Robert S. Ragoonanan, Minister of Worship and Music



Children's Ministry Updates

Sunday School will gather again in the new year on Sunday, January 7 at 9:30 a.m. in room 103. We will continue learning about the liturgical year and important women from the stories of our scriptures. This month we will learn about Epiphany, Baptism, Lydia, and the Bent Over Woman.

Families with younger children (not yet in kindergarten) are invited to gather in the nursery before worship, beginning at 9:30 a.m., for a time of fellowship and play. A short story will be shared.

Children of all ages – birth thru 6th grade – are invited to come together for **Godly Play** on Sunday, January 14. We will meet in the youth room on this day.

January Family Outing: Mark your calendars for a fun **sledding event for families on Sunday, January 28.** We will share a brown-bag lunch together at church before heading out to the hill. Have a favorite sledding hill you'd like to suggest we try out together? Let Pr. Maria know your suggestions (mariaa@ulch.org.) You are encouraged to bring your own sled, but we can provide some if needed.

Contact Pr. Maria with any questions or if you'd like to be added to the email list (mariaa@ulch.org.)

Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert



Godly Play Training

Hope is partnering with Augustana Lutheran in West St. Paul and another congregation to offer training to learn how to teach using the Godly Play method for Sunday School. This training will happen Saturday-Monday of President's Day Weekend, Feb 17-19. We'd love to have other adults trained in this education method so that we can engage our youngest members in our faith tradition through wonder and story. Contact Pr. Maria if you're interested to learn more. (mariaa@ulch.org).

Save the Date for Building Beloved Community Day Camp

August 19 - 23, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Please save the date for a great week of fun and faith formation! This year, our ecumenical day camp will be both later in the summer and at a new location - Diamond Lake Lutheran Church (5760 Portland Ave). Our program arc will be Monday - Thursday (August 19 - 22), with a family celebration on Thursday night. Friday is a bonus fun day. We are excited to welcome children between the ages of entering kindergarten through middle school, and we hope to have a wonderful crew of high school leaders to support the elementary kiddos. More information to come.

Hope Diamonds



Our most senior members will gather on Wednesday, January 17th from 12:30-2 p.m. Members of the Capital Campaign team will be with us providing a lunch and conversation about the next capital campaign. This is one in a series of congregational events and all are encouraged to attend, whether you usually attend Hope Diamonds or not. The other events will happen in the evening. (See article on Page 5)



Come for a time of fellowship, food, and faith! Contact Pr. Maria with any questions (mariaa@ulch.org).

Welcome, New Members!

In December we welcomed New Members to the University Lutheran Church of Hope community. This new group includes: **Willians Santana * Jessica Kerntop * Ethan Prince and Jaclyn Hawkins * Tomi and Dan McLellan Joy Lintelman and Rick Chapman * Nadene Watson**

Please welcome them warmly as we get to know one another in Christ, and find their pictures and a little about each person in the hallway near the church office



Willians Santana



Jessica Kerntop



Ethan Prince & Jaclyn Hawkins



Tomi & Dan McLellan



Joy Lintelman & Rick Chapman



Nadene Watson

Opening Doors is Ending and Opening Doors 2 is Coming

The theme of Opening Doors emphasizes Hope's intention to offer an extravagant welcome and a generous sending out to advocate and serve.

Opening Doors pledges and contributions these past three years have supported the pay down of our mortgage; the installation of the new and significant solar panels and other energy efficiencies; provided important upgrades to our main kitchen; enhanced our ability to stream our worship services and adult forums; made possible the construction of new doors to the sanctuary to be installed in winter/spring of this coming year; as well as benevolence gifts to: Lutheran Campus Ministries, Global Health Ministries, Women's Advocates, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, First Nations Kitchen, Voices of Hope, and more!

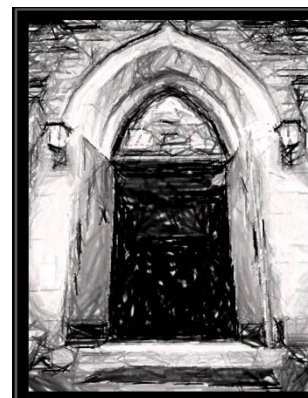
The next three year capital appeal (*Opening Doors 2*) begins in February of 2024. The Vision and Governance Board has designated appeal funding for these exciting projects: a rebuild of our 1920 Steinway Model O piano in the sanctuary; continuing the upgrades to the main kitchen; replacement of the accordion partition between Heritage Hall and Fellowship Hall; upgrades in the courtyard (including an expanded patio area with new plantings and an irrigation system), significant upgrades in the lounge kitchenette (in coordination with a possible new lounge design funded by the generous donation); and again, benevolence beyond the congregation.

In addition, not only will we use the appeal funds to support the pay down of the mortgage, but this appeal will enable us to **PAYOFF** our mortgage by the end of 2026! Completion of our mortgage will enable us to consider what new opportunities lay before us as we testify in word and deed to the gracious YES of God for the world.

We are asking that each household look for the Opening Doors 2 invitation letter and pledge card to be mailed out in early January and then prayerfully consider your response. Plan to watch the appeal video this month and consider the invitation to attend one of four different opportunities to hear more about the appeal. Most of these will be held in the church lounge.

- a luncheon with the Hope Diamonds at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday January 17 – any and all members are welcome.
- a dessert event 8:30 – 9:15 p.m. on Wednesday January 17 after choir practice – any and all members are welcome.
- a “heavy appetizer” event on Thursday evening January 18 at 6:30 p.m. – any and all members welcome.
- a Zoom option – this date and time is still in the works, watch for more information.

Please sign up at Hope's welcome center to attend, or click on the link in the January Thursday Epistles. For questions or concerns please contact appeal committee members Tim Abrahamson, Deb Bordsen, Sharlene Hensrud, Ben Hartmann, Gretchen Peik or Erik Strand.



FELLOWSHIP MEALS

Fellowship meals are a time of gathering with others to make connections and enjoy a meal together. It's good to hear the chatter and laughter and know that this time together builds community. This has been a big part of why Dan and I and others have worked to prepare the fellowship meals.

After 15 years of coordinating and cooking the fellowship meals, we are stepping down from our leadership role following the May fellowship meal. That being said, we still plan to cook a meal or two during the year.

In order to continue this fellowship time, we are looking for others who might be interested in taking on this role. We are happy to share what we've learned over the years in cooking for approximately 100. This could be a team of people, sharing in the tasks. Another thought is to have a group cook/sponsor 1-2 meals for the year. Potlucks are also a way to continue this Hope tradition. If you are interested in exploring this opportunity, please reach out to me, halvorson.becky@gmail.com 612-382-5740, Pastor Jen or Pastor Maria. Upcoming fellowship dates: February 11th, March 3rd, April 14th, May 5th.



Becky Halvorson and Dan O'Loughlin

Land Acknowledgement (and Beyond)

Many of you have noticed that we are using a land acknowledgement at the start of each worship service to admit that our church building stands on land that was unjustly acquired from the Dakota people through broken promises and treaties. You may be thinking, "Why are we doing this? That happened a long time ago. What can I do about it?"

The ACTION project sponsored by the University Lutheran Church of Hope (and other congregations) has undertaken a 3-year project to learn from BIPOC experts, like Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs and Rev. Kelly Sherman Conroy both the history and devastating impact of injustice on our Native American neighbors (and other disadvantaged populations). ULCH's Racial Justice Team has decided to elevate this work on land acknowledgement to the attention of the congregation and to promote joint action.

We started by reaching out to other congregations who have taken this path before us, including Grace University Lutheran Church, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and First Congregational. We wanted to learn what steps they have taken to adopt a congregational statement on land acknowledgement and prepare their members to take concrete action. We do not have to start from scratch, but can learn best practices from others.

We have organized a 3-part series of Sunday forums, (1) to educate us about the history here in Minnesota, (2) to hear from other congregations what they are doing with land acknowledgement, and (3) to discuss actions we might take going forward. The first forum took place on November 19. The second forum will take place on February 18 and will feature a panel of representatives from the 3 congregations listed above. The last forum will take place next April. Also, a multi-congregational workshop is planned with Minneapolis Area Synod (ELCA) leaders, Nick Tangen and Rev. Kelly Sherman Conroy, to organize for action. More news will follow as we firm up the details.

One more educational opportunity is a 3-session book study on *The Land Is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery* by Sarah Augustine in partnership with our friends from Grace University Lutheran Church. The author shows how the Christian Doctrine of Discovery is the primary framework that continues to define life for Indigenous Peoples around the world. This book study will meet on Wednesdays, January 17, 24, and 31 from 7:00-8:15 p.m. on Zoom. All are encouraged to acquire and read the book ahead of the study. Contact Pr. Maria (mariaa@ulch.org) or John Beane (pilgrim.beane@gmail.com) or Brian McCaffrey (brianmccafr@gmail.com) with questions.

January Sunday Forums

Sunday Forums take place in Heritage Hall on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:20 a.m. They also can usually be viewed live on Zoom. Look for the link in the Sunday morning email. You are welcome to catch up on missed forums via the links in the Thursday Epistle. Please join us for a time of learning and growing together!

January 7: Night Songs Selections - The ULCH choir, working with other choirs and musicians from around the community, have put on night-themed programs with music, poetry, and astronomical projections since 2011 under the name "Night Songs." In this forum, James Flaten (the choir member behind the projections for such events) will show a 31-minute "Night Songs Selections" video with audio from actual Night Songs concerts coupled with astronomical/Earth imagery and quotes. This forum, with "large" projections, will take place in the chapel.

January 14, 21, and 28: Finding Joy and Light in Philippians - Need a little light during the depths of winter? Together with Bible study leader and Hope member Rev. Cyndi Ganzkow-Wold, take a look at Paul's joy-filled letter to the congregation at Philippi. If you're seeking spiritual guidance, you'll find that Paul provides a tremendous gift of graceful direction. This will be a three-week study, but you are welcome to attend any and all sessions.

Fellowship Time Hosts Needed

Could you help prepare and serve the fellowship time on an upcoming Sunday? Sign up in the Lounge. This role is often shared by a couple people and includes making coffee (directions provided), providing treats, fruit, etc. (store bought, homemade, easy, anything you'd like), serving, and cleaning up. Thanks!

Gather in February



Gather is a ministry for young adults in the Twin Cities; a place for those who are hungry for community and connection with other young adults in the metro area. Setting the table for connection and rest through worship, meals, and monthly events. Follow our Facebook and Instagram pages for more information @gathertwincities

The February 4, 2024 7 p.m. Gather event will be at University Lutheran Church of Hope and will have a focus on art. Watch for details and plan to attend.

Hope Book Club

Sunday, January 14, 2024, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom - *Love in the Time of Cholera*, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

"[Florentino] allowed himself to be swayed by his conviction that human beings are not born once and for all on the day their mothers give birth to them, but that life obliges them over and over again to give birth to themselves."

February 11: *The Land is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery*, by Sarah Augustine *"What was done in the name of Christ must be undone in the name of Christ, the author claims. The good news of Jesus means there is still hope for the righting of wrongs. Right relationship with God, others, and the earth requires no less."* goodreads.com

"Books are a uniquely portable magic." –Stephen King

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

Hope Birthdays

This birthday list includes Hope's members and friends 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 – Millie Caspersen
January 04 – Sandy Robinson
January 19 – Susan Scherer
January 22 – Karen Johnson

February Birthdays

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

ULCH Women's Retreat January 19-21, 2024

Theme: "Rhapsody of Rest" - Reflections on Joy and Gratitude

Invitation: Women of all ages are welcome to join us for a restful weekend of reflection, sharing, learning, and building community. We will have a labyrinth available again, set up in the Dunrovin chapel!

Location: Dunrovin Christian Brothers Retreat Center, Marine on St Croix, MN

Registration: Use this link to the [Registration Form](#) or find it in the Thursday Epistle, or on the University Lutheran Church of Hope website under "Community: Recreation and Retreats." Register and sign-up in-person at the Welcome Center now. The deadline is January 7. Sorry, no refunds! Return your Registration to the Welcome Center, or email to Ann at spirit.beane@gmail.com

Note: *Our Registration Commitment to Dunrovin: We have made a commitment to the facility for a minimum of 20 participants for the entire weekend (this includes a 15% non-profit discount).* Given feedback from last year, we will be offering two payment options for the Friday-Sunday attendees only: 1) full price or 2) with a small discount using available ULCH Retreat funds. Scholarship money IS available at all levels. We don't want the cost to discourage anyone! Please contact Pastor Jen - jenn@ulch.org

Costs: Friday-Sunday, with five meals D/B/L/D/B: \$352 (full price) or \$302 (discounted price)
Saturday - Sunday with 3 meals L/D/B: \$175 or Saturday Only with lunch and/or dinner: \$75.

Retreat Schedule: Friday night is devoted to just being together in community, with no agenda. Check-in starts at 4 p.m. On Saturday morning, we come together from 9-12:30 to explore the theme, with time for reflection and discussion. The rest of Saturday is yours to spend as you wish. There are opportunities for massage, hiking, cross country skiing (weather permitting), crafting, and yoga later Saturday night. We conclude on Sunday morning with a short worship service and to say our "Goodbyes and God-Speed" by 12 noon.

Prayer Shawls: At the retreat and throughout the year, we create prayer shawls for the Compassion Care Ministry Team. Up until now, we have used fleece material, but a change is coming. Due to the environmental concern for the micro plastics found in fleece, we'll be switching to cotton flannel when we have used up the fleece we have on hand. Fabric and instructions can always be found in the bins in the coat room near the Welcome Center.

ULCH Updated Health & Safety Policy: <https://www.ulch.org/health-and-wellness>, we'll update if needed.

Questions? Ann Beane, spirit.beane@gmail.com or Beáta Rydeen, beatarydeen@comcast.net.

Church Directory

Soon we'll publish a new names-and-numbers church directory. Do we have your most up to date information? Preferred email? Cell phone? Did you drop your land line? Move? Contact Nathan in the church office to alert him to changes, or to check what information we currently list. 612-331-5988, ulch@ulch.org

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 4th Monday of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Watch the Thursday Epistle for meeting location.



President's Report

By the time you read this, Advent and Christmas will be in the past. Perhaps your tree is taken down. Maybe you have taken on a New Year's resolution. Or maybe you are glad to turn the page on this past year and embrace the new.

New beginnings. New opportunities. New, unfamiliar territory. At these times in my life, I feel excited but also have some trepidation. Will the "new" be like the "old"? In some cases change is desired, but other times it may be preferable to not change. Change can be scary and threatening. The old and familiar might not be what we want it to be, but at least it is predictable! It doesn't tend to demand much of us. The status quo certainly at times seems preferable to the unknown and the uncharted. But yet....

There are great opportunities in the unknown. We relinquish our grip on the fiction of control. This is good, but certainly scary at times. What if the "new" doesn't work out? What if it demands too much of us? What if it doesn't accomplish what we hope it might?

All of these thoughts are swirling through my head at times of new beginnings such as the New Year. Interestingly enough, the church year does not see things on the same calendar. In fact, we are now living in Christmas through Jan 6, and then Epiphany and time after Epiphany until we enter the reflective time of Lent in mid February. If my Wikipedia skills are correct, Epiphany is from the Greek epiphainein meaning 'reveal'. Interesting. Perhaps the Spirit might reveal how it moves in our lives this New Year? Perhaps we might better discern what energies are moving within our community, our congregation, and the world that actively bend the arc of the moral universe toward justice?

Hope is full of a history of listening to the Spirit in ways that push us forward: how we moved in the past to becoming a Reconciling in Christ Congregation, our work in the past with Families Moving Forward, our ongoing commitment to PEASE and its mission, as well as our ongoing Sanctuary work.

What might God be calling us to this next year? How might we listen to the Spirit? As president of the congregation, I am blessed on a regular basis to meet with other members who inspire me to listen and trust. The wisdom of this cloud of witnesses is continually astounding to me. To let go and believe that God is truly moving at ULCH is an act of faith. Faith that at times is scary. Faith that at times is inspiring. Faith that we might be Spirit led and be bold enough to let go of our purported control and allow God to be God. Can we let go and let the wind of the Spirit move us in ways we might not expect?

Paul Odenbach, Congregational President

Annual Meeting on February 11

On February 11, 2024, after worship around noon we will hold our annual congregational meeting in Fellowship Hall, with a Zoom option. For those in person, a light lunch will be provided. At these meetings we do the business of the church, looking back on the year past, offering thanks to our leaders, looking ahead, approving the 2024 budget, and electing new leaders. On the Sunday prior, February 4, our congregational treasurer, Betty Schreuder, will provide a budget update during the Sunday Forum at 9:30 a.m. Annual reports will be available in early February.



Treasurer's Report

November 2023 and Year-to-date Income and Expense

	Nov Actual	Nov Budget	Nov Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	49,634.00	43,951.00	5,683.00	453,165.90	419,788.00	33,377.90
Rental Income	14,511.50	12,575.50	1,936.00	140,724.39	137,442.50	3,281.89
Total Income	64,145.50	56,526.50	7,619.00	593,890.29	557,230.50	36,659.79
Salary & Benefits	34,099.11	33,982.00	117.11	387,894.48	391,940.00	(4,045.52)
Total Expenses	61,345.04	52,242.00	9,103.04	625,244.84	617,198.00	8,046.84
Net Oper Income	2,800.46	4,284.50	(1,484.04)	(31,354.55)	(59,967.50)	28,612.95

Monthly Financials - General giving was strong this month at \$49,634. YTD giving is at 107.95% of budgeted revenue. Rental income for November is \$14,511.50 giving us a total income of \$64,145.50.

Our net income for the month was \$2,800.46. The monthly expenses came in right where we were expecting them to with the only exception being an expense for exterior repairs at \$3,925.00.

As of November 30th, we have \$817,950 in current assets – primarily composed of our checking and savings account of which \$491,114 is in the dedicated accounts. This leaves the church with \$326,836 available as reserves.

Capital Campaign – Opening Doors - The Opening Doors Capital campaign giving in November was \$11,652. We have a total in reserves of \$220,074. 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.

Budget 2024 - The Vision and Governance board is working hard to prepare a budget for the new calendar year. Thank you to everyone who has turned in a pledge. If you have not done so yet, please prayerfully consider your pledge for the coming calendar year so we can continue the work we are called to do here at Hope.

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

Life Events

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 Linnea and Cesar Becerra (and the Becerra/Westwood/Pignatello families) who in December welcomed Lucella Catalina, and Jenny and Peter Kimball (and the Kimball/Dickhaus/Frolen families) who in December welcomed Ruby Frances


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 deaths and losses, those that are recent and those that were many years ago and whose memories fill us, including Alpha Lundquist and family at the death of Alpha's husband and Hope member Ken Lundquist. A Memorial Service is planned for Sunday, January 14 at 2 p.m. at Hope (visitation begins at 1 p.m., a reception follows).

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), Jeanette Haltli (in hospice care), Patrick Colombe, Arloene Stevens (in hospice care), Bernice Davenport, Tom Magnon, Miriam Hougen, Janet Carpenter (in hospice care), and Chuck Lewis. We also pray for caregivers.

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

January 2024 Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Church Office Closed	2 Office Hours 9-2 11:00am - 12:00pm Staff Meeting 5:00pm - 6:00pm PEASE After School 6:30pm - 7:15pm Personnel Committee 7:00pm - 8:30pm ACTION Project ULCH Cohort Meeting 7:15pm - 8:30pm Executive Committee	3 Office Hours 9-2 5:30pm - 7:00pm Compassion Care 7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4 Office Hours 9-2 4:30pm - 6:00am Compassion Care Meeting 6:00pm - 7:00pm Capital Campaign Team 6:00pm - 8:00pm Parents of PEASE 6:00pm - 7:00pm PEASE After School 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:00pm - 8:00pm Worship Planning Team	5 Office Hours 9-2	6
7 Chapel in use for Night Songs Sharing 9:30am - 10:30am Choir rehearsal 9:30am - 10:15am Families with Young Children Gathering 9:30am - 10:20am Sunday Forum CHAPEL 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 - 9:00pm Church Choir Epiphany Party 5:30pm - 7:30pm Gather Young Adult Worship and Meal at St. Anthony Park Luth Church	8 Office Hours 9-2 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 1:00pm - 2:00pm Sunday Forum Team 3:00pm - 5:30pm Hospitality Spaces Field Trip	9 Office Hours 9-2 11:00am - 12:00pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School	10 Office Hours 9-2 6:00pm - 8:00pm Facilities Team 6:30pm - 7:00pm Evening Service 7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal	11 Office Hours 9-2 9:30am - 11:30am Dorcas Circle 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:30pm - 8:30pm Children's Ministry Team	12 Office Hours 9-2 3:00pm - 9:00pm Bread Ministry Group 7:00pm - 10:00pm Craft Group	13 5:00am - 2:00pm Bread Ministry Group
14 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 1:00pm - 2:00pm Visitation for Ken Lundquist 2:00pm - 3:00pm Memorial Service-Ken Lundquist, followed by Reception 7:00pm - 8:00pm Book Club on Zoom	15 Office Hours 9-2 The Visitor Articles Due 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 7:00pm - 9:00pm ACTION Project 2nd Year Plenary	16 Office Hours 9-2 11:00am - 12:00pm Staff Meeting 4:00pm - 5:30pm Sanctuary Coalition Meeting 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School	17 Office Hours 9-2 12:30pm - 2:00pm Hope Diamonds, including a Capital Appeal Session 7:00pm - 9:00pm Amnicon Campfire Convo 7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm - 8:30pm Sanctuary and Immigration Team on Zoom 8:30pm - 9:00pm Capital Appeal Session	18 Office Hours 9-2 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 6:30pm - 8:30pm Capital Appeal Session (time tentative)	19 Office Hours 9-2 Women's Retreat	20 Women's Retreat
21 Women's Retreat 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 - 2:30pm Confirmation Mini Retreat 5:00pm - 7:00pm Sanctuary Immigration Meal at ULCH	22 Office Hours 9-2 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 6:30pm - 8:00pm Bible & Brews (location TBD) 7:00pm - 9:00pm ACTION Project 1st Year Plenary	23 Office Hours 9-2 11:00am - 12:00pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School 6:30pm - 8:00pm Vision & Governance Board 7:00pm - 8:30pm Racial Justice Team	24 Office Hours 9-2 7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal	25 Office Hours 9-2 9:30am - 4:00pm Bread Ministry Retreat 11:00am - 3:30pm PEASE Opportunity Fair 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group	26 Office Hours 9-2	27 10:00am - 12:00pm Oblates group - Chapel and Lounge 11:00am - 12:30pm Night Songs rehearsal
28 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 1:00pm - 3:00pm Sledding Family Outing	29 No PEASE Students Office Hours 9-2 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters	30 No PEASE Students Office Hours 9-2 11:00am - 12:00pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School	31 Office Hours 9-2 7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal		Southwest Door installation in progress	

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