

24th Sunday after Pentecost
November 23, 2025
Gratitude and Generosity Sunday
10:30 AM



University Lutheran Church of Hope is a welcoming, Christian community of faith centered on God's grace and called to demonstrate God's love for the world. University Lutheran Church of Hope is a Reconciling in Christ congregation with a commitment to racial equity.

Welcome. Peace be with you.

We continue our holy experiment. We're worshipping together in-person, and also offering a virtual option on Zoom and YouTube. Welcome to all!

For those worshipping in-person, please remember:

- ❖ **To support the health and wellness of all those among us**, feel welcome to use masks and hand sanitizer, stay current with your vaccinations, and stay home as needed if you are unwell.
- ❖ **We honor one another's boundaries** by asking permission to be in close proximity, and finding alternate ways to greet one another and share the peace (a deep bow, the peace sign, an air hug, etc.). Our risk levels and comfort differ.
- ❖ **In our service today, we will share Holy Communion.** Ushers will direct you.
- ❖ **If you are new to the community** and wish to speak with a Pastor or be included in our communication and activities, fill out the blue slip in the pew rack and give it to an usher. We'll follow up. It's also just fine to be anonymous. To get more involved, check out our website: <http://www.ulch.org/> To receive the weekly enews, the Thursday Epistle, contact our church administrator at ulch@ulch.org.
- ❖ **Children are welcome in worship.** Kids, grab your SPARK Story Bibles. Craft tables are available for families. Note: The nursery is not staffed, but is available for your use. The nursery is on the upper level of the education wing, most easily reached from the doors nearest the baptismal font.
- ❖ **After worship, enjoy the time to linger for conversation** in the lounge, courtyard and patio.

Land Acknowledgment

This Land Acknowledgment, and our response, are both a work in progress. We're actively engaged in a process to move beyond a simple acknowledgment, and toward a more active commitment. Watch for more opportunities for our community.

We gather for worship on the land of our Creator. Many of us and our church building dwell in the traditional home of the Dakota people, and a land over which the Anishinaabeg people and others also moved. They gathered and ate food, rested, died and gave birth, and prayed here, and many still do.

GATHERING

+ Indicates the assembly stand as able. Assembly parts are marked in **bold**.

ELW refers to the red hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. **ACS** refers to *All Creation Sings*, an *ELW* supplement.

Prelude The Numberless Gifts of God's Mercies arr. Edwin T. Childs (2018)

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of God the creator, God with us, God the spirit who moves beyond us.

Amen.

God created this sacred land and called it good.

Before this sanctuary was a sacred place to our community

It was a sacred place to the Dakota people and other indigenous communities who lived here.

We confess how easy it is to forget.

We are allured by ease and comfort,

We are distracted by consumption.

**We struggle to see how our story
connects to other stories throughout time
and in this moment, now.**

**We forget the power of your Love,
and it hinders our ability to share it with all our kin.**

God calls all that God created good. Even you. Even Us.

Through Christ's love, know you are forgiven. You are loved. You are whole.

Amen.

+ **Processional Hymn** We Praise You, O God ELW 870

+ **Greeting**

The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

+ **Prayer of the Day** *from Vanderbilt Divinity Library*

God of every land and nation, **you have created all people and you dwell among us in Jesus Christ. Listen to the cries of those who pray to you, and grant that, as we proclaim the greatness of your name, all people will know the power of love at work in the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

WORD

Children's Message

Reading Excerpt from *Life of the Beloved* by Henri Nouwen; p. 112-115

"Our life itself is the greatest gift to give - something we constantly forget. When we think about our being given to each other, what comes immediately to mind are our unique talents: those abilities to do special things especially well. You and I have spoken about this quite often. 'What is our unique talent?' we asked. However, when focusing on our talents, we tend to forget that our real gift is not so much what we can do, but who we are. The real question is not 'What can we offer each other?' but 'Who can we be for each other'"

No doubt, it is wonderful when we can repair something for a neighbor, give helpful advice to a friend, offer wise counsel to a colleague, bring healing to a patient, or announce good news to a parishioner, but there is a greater gift than all of this. It is the gift of our own life that shines through all we do . . .

It is worthwhile making a distinction between talents and gifts. More important than our talents are our gifts. We may have only a few talents, but we have many gifts. Our gifts are the many ways in which we express our humanity. They are a part of who we are: friendship, kindness, patience, joy, peace, forgiveness, gentleness, love, hope, trust, and many others. These are the true gifts we have to offer each other . . . We are called to give our very lives to one another and that, in so doing, we become a true community of love."

+**Sung Acclamation**

Thank You, God
Follow the lead of the cantor

Traditional

+ **Reading** - 1 Corinthians Chapter 13 - First Nations Version

I may have the gift of speaking in both the languages of human beings and of spirit-messengers, but if I fail to love, my words become like the screech of a cat or the yelping of a wild dog.

I may have prophetic powers and the ability to see into sacred mysteries and understand all things. I might even have faith strong enough to make mountains move. But if I fail to love, I am nothing.

I may give all my possessions to the poor and give my body to be burned as a sacrifice, but if I fail to love, I have gained no honor.

Love is patient and kind. Love is never jealous. It does not brag or boast. Love does not act in shameful ways, nor does it care only about itself. It is not hotheaded, nor does it keep track of wrongs done to it. Love is not happy with lies and injustice, but truth makes its heart glad. Love keeps walking even when carrying a heavy load. Love keeps trusting, never loses hope, and stands firm in hard times. The road of love has no end.

The time will come when prophets are no longer needed, when people will stop speaking in unknown languages, and when the need for knowledge will fade away. For we only know some of the story and can only prophesy small parts of it, but the time is coming when we will know the whole story from beginning to end.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, and I saw through the eyes of a child. But when I become fully grown, I put my childish ways behind me. For now, it is as if we are looking at a poor reflection in muddy water, but then we will see face to face. For now, my knowledge is full of holes, but when the time comes, I will know that Great Spirit as well as I am known by him.

But until then, these three remain - faith, hope, and love - and love is the greatest!

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Palabra de Dios, palabra de vida.

Demos gracias a Dios.

Sermon - Pastor Amanda Simons

+ **Hymn of the Day**

Lead with Love

Melanie DeMore (2016)

Prayers of the People

Following each petition:

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

+ **Sharing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

La paz de Cristo sea siempre con ustedes.

Y también contigo.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ using these or similar words "Peace be with you" or "La paz del Señor."

Gratitude and Generosity Sharing - Andy Rapacz

MEAL

Offertory

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
Hope Choir

arr. Jantz A. Black
Text: Henry Alford (ELW 693)

Thank you for your continued generosity! Donations may be sent electronically or by mail, or placed in the offering plate in the center of our space as you come forward for Holy Communion. A QR code is available on the last page of the bulletin.

+Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. Creator God,

in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all. Amen.

+The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks to our gracious God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed...join their unending hymn:

+ Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW Setting 1

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

+Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

+The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, Our Mother, Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Creador nuestro, Madre nuestra, Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre. Venga tu reino. Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona nuestras ofensas como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación y libranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder y tuya es la gloria, ahora y siempre. Amén.

Holy Communion

We believe that Jesus Christ is present in Holy Communion with gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. All who hunger for the presence of Christ in their life are invited to partake. By our participation in this meal and blessing, we are strengthened in faith and in life. All are welcome to commune.

If you are at home and sitting with others...

When sharing the bread with someone, say to them: "This is the body of Christ, given for you." When sharing the wine or grape juice, say, "This is the blood of Christ, shed for you."

If you are at home on your own...

Hear the voice of the pastor naming these promises of grace and life for you. If you'd prefer a blessing, hear these promises: "You are a beloved child of God. May God strengthen you with grace through Christ for all we face today."

If you are worshipping in-person today...

We invite you to come forward to receive the elements and hear the words of promise, or to receive a blessing. Following the direction of the ushers, come forward: pick up a cup, gather around the table, receive the bread (gluten free is available), the servers will pour into your cup either the red wine or white grape juice, place used cups in the basket. If you'd prefer, coming forward to the front for a blessing is always an option. Children of all ages are welcome to partake in the bread and juice at Holy Communion.

If you seek healing prayers today...

A healing minister is available during Holy Communion this morning. If you'd like prayers for healing for yourself, for those you love, or for other situations, you are invited to come to one of the healing ministers. You can ask for specific prayers, or simply ask them to pray with you...and they will. During this time, you may also dip into the baptismal waters and remember the promises, and light candles for situations around the world and close to home.

Music During Communion

Praise and Thanksgiving	ELW 689
For the Fruit of All Creation	ELW 679
Take My Life, That I May Be	ELW 685

+Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

+Prayer after Communion

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Announcements

SENDING

+Sending Hymn

As Saints of Old

ELW 695

+Blessing

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace.
Amen.

+Dismissal

Go in peace.

Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God!

¡Vaya en Paz!

Vive por el Espíritu.

Gracias a Dios!

Postlude

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come arr. Emma Lou Diemer (2012)

Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor Amanda Simons, Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert (presiding ministers); Eric Ringham (assisting minister); Hope Choir; Paul Stever (musicians); Tim Abrahamson, Lynette Lamb, Shelly Parry, (communion servers); Deb Bordsen (lector); Alex Carlson (worship tech facilitator); Kelleen Brooks (greeter); John Hensrud, Ron Sorensen (ushers); Malena Carlson, Jacob Lanthier (acolytes); Kathy Kufus (worship prep); Kelleen Brooks, Randall Brooks (communion clean-up); Sara Tufvesson Doure, Mary Reimann-Perez (healing prayer)

"The Serviceberry" Study

Join members of our congregation us for a three-week journey through Robin Wall Kimmerer's "The Serviceberry," with reflections written by Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy on gratitude, reciprocity, and the gifts of creation. This study blends Indigenous and Christian teachings, exploring what it means to live in right relationship with the land and with one another. It was written with the hopes of strengthening relationships between All Nations Indian Church and their supportive partner congregations. We will **gather after worship TODAY in the library** with a light lunch provided. All Are Welcome.

Gratitude and Generosity in 2026

“You gotta put one foot in front of the other and lead with love.”

Paul Douglas in a daily forecast recently asked the question, “So is it time to dig out the parkas and boots? Test the snowblower? His conclusion was a weather forecaster’s definite “not yet-maybe”. It may not quite be the time for our Norwegian sweaters, Uggs, and Sorels (we hope), but this is an appropriate season for prayerfully reflecting on how we will live our faith in the coming year.

Commitments don’t come easily in the midst of uncertainty (and there is more than plenty of that), but in the spirit of Melanie DeMore’s song, sometimes you just gotta put one foot in front of the other [maybe just in timid small steps or maybe in big strides that foster your courage] and lead with love.

To encourage your deliberations, brief gratitude and generosity stories will be shared in our November 9, 16 and 23 worships and will be the focus of the November 16 Adult Forum. We hope that once again you will continue to generously support Hope as part of your faith response, both in your time and in your resources. As in previous years, you will be provided with pledge cards to declare your financial intentions. Your pledges will be blessed in the November 23rd worship and will determine our church’s mission and budget in 2026. We thank you for your faithfulness. Know that you are in our prayers as you consider your response to God’s goodness.

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Please share our open position

Custodian

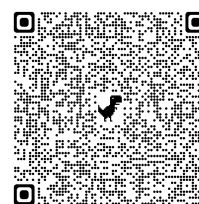
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Giving electronically Use this QR code to reach the University Lutheran Church of Hope donation page:

Or go to www.ulch.org and click on the “Give” tab.
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