

18th Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026
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 worshiping together in-person and virtually on YouTube. Welcome!

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 at the front of the sanctuary. 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

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

arr. Thomas Gieschen (1972)

Welcome

+ Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**
Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

+ Gathering Hymn

Lead Me, Guide Me

ELW 768

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, For if you
lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each
day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Verses

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r To
2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness. Be my
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am

help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the
aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am put - ting
blind with - out thy Light to see. Lord, just al - ways

D.C.

dark-ness thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
all my trust in thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
let me thy ser - vant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Text: Doris M. Akers, 1922-1995

Tune: LEAD ME, GUIDE ME, Irregular with refrain; Doris M. Akers, 1922-1995; harm. by Richard Smallwood, b.1948

© 1953, (renewed), arr. © 2011, Doris M. Akers, admin. by Chappell & Co., Inc.

+ Greeting

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

+ Prayer of the Day

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

Children's Message

Reading - Philippians 2:1-13

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Por tanto, si sienten algún estímulo en su unión con Cristo, algún consuelo en su amor, algún compañerismo en el Espíritu, algún afecto entrañable, llénenme de alegría teniendo un mismo parecer, un mismo amor, unidos en alma y pensamiento. No hagan nada por egoísmo o vanidad; más bien, con humildad consideren a los demás como superiores a ustedes mismos. Cada uno debe velar no solo por sus propios intereses, sino también por los intereses de los demás. La actitud de ustedes debe ser como la de Cristo Jesús,

quien, siendo por naturaleza Dios, no consideró el ser igual a Dios como algo a qué aferrarse.

Por el contrario, se rebajó voluntariamente,
tomando la naturaleza de siervo
y haciéndose semejante a los seres humanos.

Y al manifestarse como hombre,
se humilló a sí mismo
y se hizo obediente hasta la muerte,
¡y muerte de cruz!

Por eso Dios lo exaltó hasta lo sumo
y le otorgó el nombre
que está sobre todo nombre,
para que ante el nombre de Jesús
se doble toda rodilla
en el cielo y en la tierra
y debajo de la tierra,
y toda lengua confiese que Jesucristo es el Señor,
para gloria de Dios Padre.

Así que, mis queridos hermanos, como han obedecido siempre —no solo en mi presencia, sino mucho más ahora en mi ausencia—, lleven a cabo su salvación con temor y temblor, pues Dios es quien produce en ustedes tanto el querer como el hacer para que se cumpla su buena voluntad.

Word of God, word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Palabra de Dios, palabra de vida.
Demos gracias a Dios

+ **Gospel Acclamation**

ELW Setting 8 (by Robin Cain)

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

+ **Gospel Reading - Matthew 21:23-32**

The gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?”²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.”²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed

Jesús entró en el Templo y, mientras enseñaba, se acercaron los jefes de los sacerdotes y los líderes religiosos del pueblo.—¿Con qué autoridad haces esto? —lo interrogaron—. ¿Quién te dio esa autoridad?²⁴ Él respondió:—Yo también voy a hacerles una pregunta. Si me la contestan, les diré con qué autoridad hago esto.²⁵ El bautismo de Juan, ¿de dónde procedía? ¿Del cielo o de los hombres? Ellos comenzaron a discutir entre sí: «Si respondemos “del cielo”, nos dirá “entonces, ¿por qué no le creyeron?”²⁶ Pero si decimos “de los hombres”, tememos al pueblo, porque todos consideran que Juan era un profeta». ²⁷ Así que respondieron a Jesús:—No lo sabemos.—Pues yo tampoco les voy a decir con qué autoridad hago esto —dijo Jesús.²⁸ »¿Qué les parece? —continuó Jesús—. Había un hombre que tenía dos hijos. Se dirigió al primero y dijo: “Hijo, ve a trabajar hoy en el viñedo”.²⁹ “No quiero”, contestó, pero después se

his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

arrepintió y fue. ³⁰ Luego, el padre se dirigió al otro hijo y le pidió lo mismo. Este contestó: “Sí, señor”; pero no fue. ³¹ ¿Cuál de los dos hizo lo que su padre quería?».—El primero —contestaron ellos. Jesús dijo:—Les aseguro que los recaudadores de impuestos y las prostitutas van delante de ustedes en el reino de Dios. ³² Porque Juan vino a señalarles el camino de la justicia y no le creyeron, pero los recaudadores de impuestos y las prostitutas sí creyeron en él. Incluso después de ver esto, ustedes no se arrepintieron para creerle.

El Evangelio del Señor.
Alabanza a ti, oh Cristo!

Sermon - William Sanden

+ Hymn of the Day

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

ELW 325

+ Prayers of the People

Following each petition: God of Grace, hear our prayer.

+ Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

La paz de Cristo sea siempre con ustedes.

And also with you.

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.”

MEAL

Offertory

Thanks We Sing to Thee

Nancy Grundahl (2021)

Hope Choir

using the American tune “Simple Gifts”

For each new morning with its light, for rest and shelter of the night, for health and food, for love and friends, for everything thy goodness sends: Thanks now we sing to thee, O God of Life, that we may be a blessing to all the world and full of grace, as your gifts to us we now embrace.

For flowers that bloom about our feet, for tender grass so fresh and sweet, for song of bird, and hum of bee, for all things fair we hear and see: Thanks now we sing to thee, O God of Life, that we may be a blessing to all the world and full of grace, as your gifts to us we now embrace.

For frosts that chill, for winds that blow, for rains that fall, for ice and snow, for seasons of beauty that come and go, our gratitude does over flow. Thanks now we sing to thee, O God of Life, that we may be a blessing to all the world and full of grace, as your gifts to us we now embrace.

Text by Ralph Waldo Emerson

As an act of gratitude and participation in God’s work among us, we offer our gifts. Thank you for supporting the ministry we share together through your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Financial offerings may be made online, via the QR code at the rear of the bulletin, by mail, or in the offering plate during Communion.

+ Offertory Prayer

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **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 right.... we join their unending hymn:

+ Sanctus

ELW Setting 8 (by Jay Beech)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, 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), receive either the red wine or white grape juice in your cup, place your used cup in the basket. Children of all ages are welcome to partake 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.

If you are so inclined during this time... You may dip into the baptismal waters and remember the promises, light candles for situations around the world and close to home or add a prayer to the prayer wall. All prayer slips remain anonymous. Periodically throughout the year, prayers are removed from the wall, blessed during worship, and burned in our courtyard fireplace as a sign of releasing our burdens and entrusting our concerns to God's care.

Music During Communion O Master, Let Me Walk with You

ELW 818

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

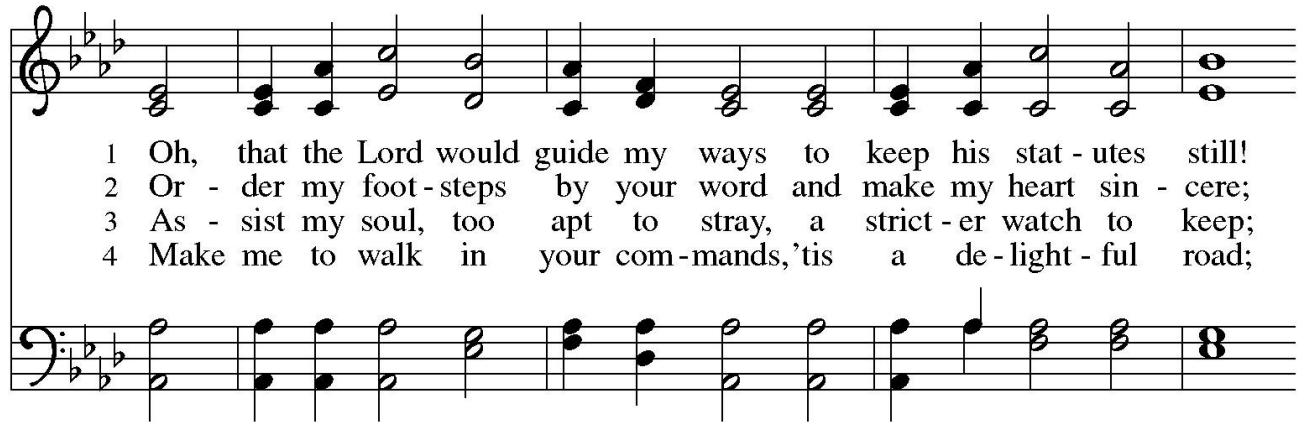
paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
 win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
 you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836–1918, alt.
 Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825–1898

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

ELW 772



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
 2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
 4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
 let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
 and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
 nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
 Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

ELW 767

1 Lord, take my hand and lead me up - on life's way;
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear;
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en and night has come,

di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me from day to day.
for you, the Rock of A - ges, are al - ways near.
I know that you will strength - en my steps toward home,

With - out your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
Close by your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend!

so take my hand, O Sav - ior, and lead the way.
for when your hand is guid - ing, in peace I go.
So, take my hand and lead me un - to the end.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: SO NIMM DENN MEINE HÄNDE, Friedrich Silcher, 1789–1860
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+ Table Blessing

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

+ Prayer after Communion

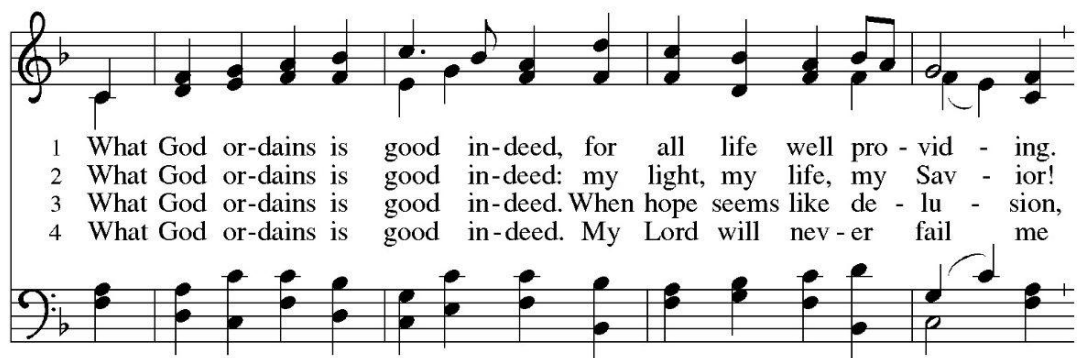
Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

+Announcements

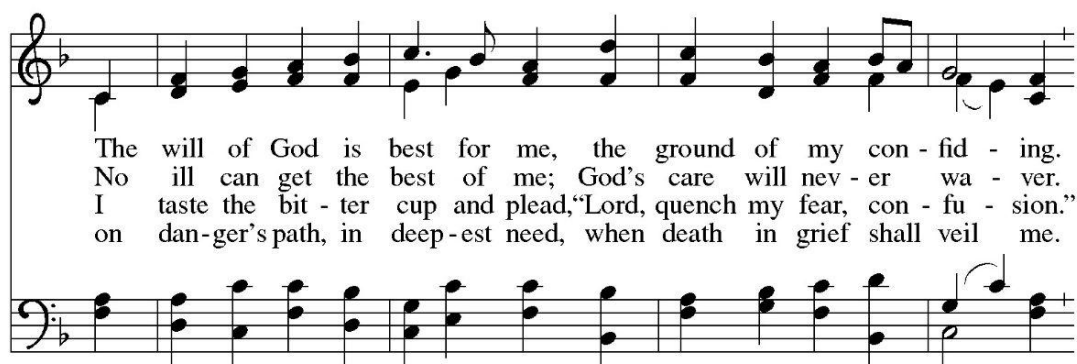
SENDING

+Sending Hymn**What God Ordains Is Good Indeed**

ELW 776



1 What God or-dains is good in-deed, for all life well pro - vid - ing.
2 What God or-dains is good in-deed: my light, my life, my Sav - ior!
3 What God or-dains is good in-deed. When hope seems like de - lu - sion,
4 What God or-dains is good in-deed. My Lord will nev - er fail me



The will of God is best for me, the ground of my con - fid - ing.
No ill can get the best of me; God's care will nev - er wa - ver.
I taste the bit - ter cup and plead, "Lord, quench my fear, con - fu - sion."
on dan-ger's path, in deep-est need, when death in grief shall veil me.



My faith - ful God, on ev - 'ry road you know the way un -
Through joy and pain I shall at - tain the dawn dis - clos - ing
God ends the night, re - stores de - light; by faith I face to -
My God so dear will draw me near, in lov - ing arms will



fold - ing and my hand you are hold - ing.
clear - ly that God has loved me dear - ly.
mor - row and yield to God all sor - row.
hold me, at last in light en - fold me.

Text: Samuel Rodigast, 1649–1708; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951

Music: WAS GOTT TUT, Severus Gastorius, 1646–1682

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+Blessing

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

+Dismissal

Go forth with joy, loving God and serving neighbors. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

arr. Walter Pelz (2018)

Staff at University Lutheran Church of Hope

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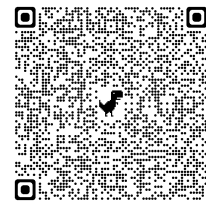
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University Lutheran Church of Hope

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Office hours: 9am to 2pm weekdays

Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor Amanda Simons, Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert (presiding minister); James Flaten (assisting minister); Hope Choir, Paul Stever (musicians); Kelleen Brooks, Beth Kautz, Marty Lewis-Hunstiger, Julia Reimann-Perez (communion servers); Uli Koester (lector); Addison Gillette (worship tech facilitator); Muffi Abrahamson (greeter); Tim Abrahamson, Karen Jorstad, John Robinson, Williams Santana (ushers); Layla Rapacz, Lydia Rapacz (acolytes); Carol Flaten (worship prep); Kathy Kufus, Leena Rapacz (communion clean-up); Sara Tufvesson Doure, Diane Greve (healing prayer)

Sunday, October 4 10:30am Blessing of the Animals service

With guest preacher and 9:30am forum presenter Bill Beckstrand

North Star Sustainable Living Festival

Saturday, October 10 9:00 am - 6:30 pm at Hope

You're invited to a fun, education-filled community day centered on sustainable living, renewable energy solutions, and environmental stewardship. Presented by Sunny Day Earth Solutions and co-sponsored by the East Bank Neighborhood Partnerships and University Lutheran Church of Hope.