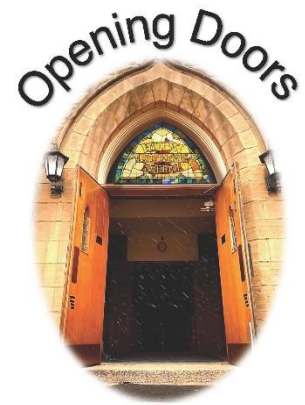


Garvin Davenport's introductory comments to the "world premier" showing of the Opening Doors video.

University Lutheran Church of Hope has a long history of opening doors. Even now, in the midst of necessary pandemic caution, we give thanks for the opportunity to keep the doors of our faith open, indeed to open those doors wider than ever, welcoming all into our sanctuary, our classrooms, our gathering spaces. At the same time, we continue to take that same faith out through our doors, and across the street, down the block and into the world.



Thus we have chosen as the theme for this next phase of Hope's capital campaign those same, simple words—**Opening Doors**—and in these words lie our mission, our hopes, our future.

As many of you will remember, back in 2006 we committed to a 20 year mortgage to make necessary improvements to our building that would allow, among other things, our continued support of PEASE Academy. Because of that support, doors of learning and opportunity continue to open for the young men and women enrolled at PEASE.

Through these same doors of faith, we have continued to maintain and modernize our building that is so central to our mission of welcome. We have also taken our ministry to the frightened and harassed refugee seeking safety, to University students seeking answers to their questions of meaning, to hungry children seeking basic nourishment, to homeless families seeking shelter.

In normal times, all of us at Hope would talk among ourselves—in church, over coffee, in our neighborhood gatherings—we would talk about all of this and and what it means to us and why we need to—why we want to support a capital campaign....in normal times....But, of course, these are not normal times and so our committee—with a lot of help from others—decided to produce a short video to help in the conversation, a video whose "World Premier" many of you saw on our January 10 zoom church service and which is now available for your viewing on this website.

Our faith is a faith of giving. As we have received, so do we give—and I will end my remarks gratefully borrowing the words of one of our members in Christ who speaks in the video. Her words: "I want to be there to help give." Well, folks, in a nutshell—that's what it's all about. May this brief video help you as you reflect on opening both ongoing and new doors of hope and how you can help keep those doors open.