

HAMLIN CHURCH NEWS

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2015



HAPPENING THIS FALL

RALLY SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 20, 10AM

On Rally Sunday we celebrate the start of Sunday School, launch our ministry program year and officially welcome new members to Hamline Church. Enjoy fresh pizza from our new community bread oven, a bouncy house, and find out about all the great things planned for this year. You're invited to bring a salad or dessert to share.

135 YEARS AS NEIGHBORS

SEPTEMBER 27, 10AM

Bishop Ough will visit us to help us celebrate the 135th anniversary and connection to Hamline University, and our naming to the United Methodist list of historic sites.

HAMLIN HOME COMING & INAUGURAL BLESSING OF PRESIDENT MILLER

OCTOBER 4, 10AM

On Hamline Homecoming Weekend we celebrate our relationship with the University and have the honor of offering the inaugural blessing for Hamline University's new president, Dr. Fayneese Miller.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

HU Back to School Bash: Sept. 16

Sunday School Starts: Sept. 27

Confirmation Starts: Sept. 27

Taize Service: Oct. 22

Holiday Market: Nov. 7

Hanging of the Greens: Dec. 5

Holiday Tea: Nov. 15

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Hamline Church,

Every week my three-year old daughter, Marisol, looks forward to coming to church on Sunday. We often talk about all the friends she will see during worship, in Sunday school and at the "Coffee Shop" (aka coffee hour). One of my favorite parts of Sunday morning is watching the sweet, weekly reunion of all our kids at church. Hugs and big smiles abound.

I expect we will see a lot of hugs like that this month, as we welcome back our Hamline University students, our choir, and the many members who've been traveling throughout the summer.

We also typically see a significant increase in first-time visitors in the fall, and I often wonder how it must feel for them to witness the love-fest that is our Passing of the Peace. People coming in the aisles and practically stumbling over each other in order to exchange a word of greeting, a handshake or even a hug. Does it affirm that this is a community that loves one another deeply? Or does it simply make them feel like wallflowers at someone else's party? Perhaps a little of both.

It is often said that our deepest desire as human beings is to be known. So how can we help every person who enters our doors feel seen and acknowledged – affirming that they have a place in our community, too?

I recently read about a group of eight pregnant women who regularly met together for two hours to snack, watch videos about labor pain, and share about their experiences. Their meeting looked like a social gathering or a support group, but in this case it was actually a shared doctor's appointment. Instead of making appointments with eight women in 15-minute intervals, the doctor could spend two hours with all of them. They would rotate through stations for basic prenatal checkups and to chat with the doctor, and they would also talk together about critical topics like gestational diabetes, exercise, and blood pressure.

Studies showed that participants in these group

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

meetings were 33 percent less likely to have a premature birth. In many cases, the women were more willing to follow healthy prenatal routines when the recommendations did not simply come from the doctor but were reinforced by their peers. These gatherings were times for mutual accountability as well as emotional support, laughter, and camaraderie.

What's the connection? I believe there is a measurable difference between sitting through worship as a stranger and worshipping in a church where you are known and know others. Maybe the people you know are simply the folks who sit near to you week after week. Maybe they are ones with whom you volunteer, or the people you see when you pick up your kids from Sunday school. These are precisely the people who might call if you miss church for several weeks, or who would offer to pray for you if you shared a personal concern or special need. These are the friends and acquaintances whose actions reinforce the messages you hear from the pulpit, the music, and the prayers.

As we kick off the new program year at church, I urge you to take the initiative to meet someone new. Seek out a stranger and leave that day as an acquaintance, or strike up a conversation with an acquaintance and make a friend. Try to learn something about them, and if they share about a transition or challenge in their life, offer to hold them in prayer. (After all, studies show that 70% of those who return to church after a long absence or go to church for the first time do so because they are experiencing a major life transition and are looking for a community to help them make meaning of it.)

Please be sure to wear a name tag, sign in on the hospitality pads and introduce yourself to folks you don't know. We are especially excited for all those who will worship with us on these special occasions:

- 9/20 Rally Sunday & New Member Celebration
(we will be welcoming over 20 new members and their kids!)
- 9/27 Visit from Bishop Ough & 135th Anniversary Celebration
- 10/4 Hamline Homecoming Worship & Inaugural Blessing of President Fayneese Miller

In today's individualistic world, we are urged to be self-focused and self-sufficient, but the Scriptures have always challenged this view. We are created in God's image, and just as everything in creation, down to the tiniest cells, exists in relationship, we too were made from the beginning to be in relationship with God and one another.

Of course you can pray alone, but it feels qualitatively different to know that someone else is praying for you. Yes, you can be moved by solitary worship experiences, but the services that are most memorable invariably involve praising God as part of a larger family of faith where you feel included, known, and welcomed.

Let us make sure that everyone who enters the doors of Hamline Church knows that feeling as well.

**Blessings,
Pastor Mariah**

YOUTH TRIPS UPDATE

This Summer, Hamline Church Youth embarked on two mission trips: one with Tree of Life Ministry in Mission, SD and another retreat to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

Mission Trip: July 12 - 18, Mission, SD

JILL, ERIK AND DOROTHY HENDRICKSON, SIMON DREISBACH, HANNAH STEWART, JOELLE DAHLKE, GABRIEL KELLMAN, CANDYCE OSTERKAMP, AND MAGGIE NANCARROW

On Monday, we started working in the warehouse and Warm Welcome Kitchen. The warehouse receives semi-trucks full of donations--donations that Tree of Life has no control over. Dorothy, Hannah, and Candyce spent much of the day giving away bottles of soda to those who came to Warm Welcome for a meal. Warm Welcome serves about 250 meals a day out of a kitchen designed for a single family home.

On Tuesday, the group split up into three work teams. Simon, Maggie, and Gabriel traveled out into the reservation to finish a paint job on a home. Hannah, Dorothy, Candyce and Joelle went to the Tree of Life Thrift Store to package and sort donated clothes. Erik and Jill ventured to Valentine, Nebraska to help Tree of Life dispose of all their cardboard. Donations come packed, usually, in cardboard banana boxes, but the closest recycling center for paper is thirty minutes away.

Wednesday is a day off for volunteers--mostly so that project leads can do important things like gather supplies, visit with folks, and get organized. We used our time to go to the Bad Lands.

On Thursday the crew went back to work in the warehouse and across the street by the Thrift Store. Tree of Life received a donation of impounded bikes from the Sioux Falls PD, and it was our job to get them in (mostly) working condition. Hannah, Dorothy, Simon, and Maggie worked on the bikes while Candyce, Jill, Erik, Joelle, and Gabriel continued to work at the Warm Welcome. Jill and Erik also made a run to deliver donated Depends to a nursing home in White River.

On Friday we finished up our work: we finally organized and controlled the boxes in the Warm Welcome warehouse. We sorted through more boxes of donated items than we probably knew even existed, and we learned so much about what is and is not useful for people in need. It made us think hard about what it really means to donate items. (Especially Mountain Dew.)

We were graced with a special opportunity to visit with Pearl, a Lakota elder who is one of the best star quilt makers in the world. She was very kind and gave us her meal time to speak with us about her artistic process and her life.

So much of the mission that we did at Tree of Life was the mission of listening: we heard the stories of a people, listened to the struggles of poverty, and listened to the daily grind of a small nonprofit working to make a big difference. But, most of all, our volunteer coordinator, Steve, helped us understand that our mission was not just about listening to the stories of a painful past and a present struggle, but also hearing the voices of the Lakota then, now, and in the hopeful future ahead. Our mission was also to listen to the stories of hope and joy that tell us about the future of the Lakota people.



YOUTH TRIPS UPDATE

Boundary Waters Retreat: August 9 - 13, Kowakan Adventures

SIMON DREISBACH, DAVID KEHR, CALEB SCHULTZ, ADAM ICKLER, JONERIK ICKLER, LEE MILLER, AND MAGGIE NANCARROW

The Boundary Waters retreat was designed to be a mission of sabbath: no phones, no task lists, no outside world. This time was a time to reflect on the beauty of God's creation, and to spend time resting as God asked us to do.

We had a great time. We stayed the first night at Camp Kowakan, our outfitter and a United Methodist Camp. On the second morning, we started in Moose Lake and took a long loop to return to Snowbank Lake for a three night trip. The young men really connected with our guide, Lee, and he served us very well. Three of us were first time Boundary Waters campers, and I'd say all three would do it again.



On the first morning in the wilderness, Lee taught us a Kowakan tradition.

A member of the group finds a sprig on a pine tree, this year's new growth, and places it on the site of the now cold fire. It symbolizes new growth in the ashes, and pine sprigs also resemble a cross. Before leaving each campsite in the morning, we prayed for safety, and hoped that the next campers would enjoy the site as much as we did. Most of all, we prayed for the wilderness--gave thanks for its beauty, and hoped that we would have the courage to be good stewards of the earth.

Thank you for your donations to the trips that our young people participated in this summer. We are very grateful for all that you gave to us. Without the support of dedicated Hamline Church members, loving family, and caring community members, we would not have been able to do the work we did.

The date of our Shareholders Dinner will be announced in the coming weeks. It will take place after the State Fair, when we are all able to sit back and enjoy another job well done. You'll likely see these young folks at the fair, so please don't hesitate to congratulate them on their growth in spirit, self, and faith.

MUSIC AT HAMLINE

Music and the Arts are alive and well at Hamline. The Chancel Choir and Bell Choir are about to start their practices for involvement in the program year services. Starting on September 9, the choir will rehearse every other Wednesday from 7-8:30 pm, and meets every Sunday morning before church starting at 8:45 am. The Bell Choir plays only a few Sundays a year, and rehearses as needed. If you are interested in singing or ringing with us, please contact Director of Music, Matthew Mehaffey.

Our music team has been hard at work creating a new series of Arts and Music events that will take place throughout the year. Our exciting lineup will be announced on Rally Sunday, and will feature about one event per month from October-April. The series will have a little something for everyone, including guest artists performing Gospel/Funk, classical, and folk music; we will even welcome a choir of men and boys from England! A full listing will be available at the website in mid-September. Most of these events will be free, with a freewill offering taken to support the series. The events produced by outside organizations may have a ticket charge. The series was made possible by a generous grant from the Church Trustees. It is the hope that the grant is seed money that will get the series "off the ground." We really want to make this series an annual offering, so support from the congregation through attendance and free will offerings will be critical to the series' success.

Associate Director of Music and Organist Kim Kasling continues to work with donors and Allen Moe Organ Builders to ensure our Casavant organ operates at its optimal capacity. During this year additional maintenance and enhancement work will occur on our organ. The maintenance includes replacing old, brittle fiber optic cabling with strong, reliable coaxial cabling, and replacing the worn-out analog parts of the organ console with state of the art digital components. We will be also adding

new digital and acoustic stops to the organ, which will dramatically improve the flexibility and strength of this wonderful instrument. A very special organ concert is already planned for the fall of 2016, once the work is completed.

Ross Hackenmiller will perform twice a month as part of the Sunday morning services. His fall lineup includes music by Joe Cocker, Pops Staples, Leonard Cohen, and John Legend. Ross will also host an evening of contemplative Taize music on Thursday, October 22 at 7pm.

The Internationally acclaimed early music group, The Rose Ensemble, has rented our sanctuary for their rehearsal space. The ensemble will be present in our church approximately once a week throughout the year, mostly rehearsing weekdays during the day. Their rehearsals will be closed to the public, but they will offer an open rehearsal in the spring of 2016. As a thank you to Hamline Church, the Rose Ensemble will perform a free Evensong service celebrating the Baptism of the Lord on the afternoon of Sunday, January 10 at 4:30 p.m. Mark your calendars for this special event.

Long range plans for this year include planning for a fundraiser to get a new sanctuary piano, and creating new revenue streams by marketing our beautiful sanctuary as a premiere concert venue to local arts groups.

HAMLIN ARTS SERIES FALL DATES

October 22 - 7pm
AN EVENING OF TAIZE MUSIC

November 6 - 7:30pm
CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS

November 8 - 3pm
PAINTED HARMONY
YOUTH CHOIR FROM JEHOVAH LUTHERAN

December 5 - 4 pm
HAMLIN UNIVERSITY A CAPELLA
CHOIR - CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 10 - 7:30 pm
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
CHOIR CONCERT

December 13 - 10 am
HAMLIN KIDS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

December 20 - 10 am
HAMLIN CHANCEL CHOIR
CHRISTMAS CANTATA

HAMLIN CHURCH CONSIDERS SINGLE BOARD

Healthy, vital churches are churches that engage in exciting ministry and mission, taking them outside the walls of the church into the community.

As Hamline Church prepares to enter into a time of renewal and revitalization it is necessary to determine a leadership structure that is appropriate to lead us through this season.

In the United Methodist Church many Annual Conferences are finding that healthy vital congregations have typically moved to a governance structure that is leaner, simpler, and more accountable than that typically in use, which includes multiple administrative and program committees.

At their July meeting the Church Council voted to support a congregational conversation about transitioning to a “single board leadership structure.”

The Discipline of The United Methodist Church (¶244.2 and ¶247.2) allows congregations great latitude in organizing themselves for mission and ministry. The Single Board Model is widely used by fruitful congregations and is becoming much more common throughout The United Methodist Church. The entire structure is designed to encourage the integration of responsibility, authority and accountability.

Below is a brief outline for Hamline Church to consider shifting from the traditional United Methodist Church’s structure that includes an Administrative Council, Finance Committee, Board of Trustees, and a Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), to a new “Single Board” alternative structure.

**Church Conference
Church Council
Committee on Nominations & Lay Leadership
Ministry Teams & Staff**

The Church Council:

The Council consists of twelve-fourteen elected officers including the following disciplinary offices: the Lay Leader / Council Chair, and the Lay Member of Annual Conference. The Lead Pastor also serves on this council as a voting member. Members serve 3-year terms and may serve two consecutive 3-year terms, but then must rotate off for at least one year.

3 Trustees (3-year terms, each in one class)

3 Finance (3-year terms, each in one class)

3 SPRC (3-year terms, each in one class)

1 Lay Leader / Church Council Chair

1 Lay Member of Annual Conference (¶252.5g “a lay member”)

1-3 Members at Large (past Lay Leader? Lay Leader elect?)

The Church Council is responsible (and has authority) to keep the entire ministry of the congregation focused on the mission. It sets the basic boundaries (policies) within which the congregation lives out its vision. Boundaries include allocation of resources (including budget), ethical standards and adequate processes (such as financial practices and audits). It establishes goals for the overall effectiveness of the congregation in fulfilling its mission. It holds the Pastor accountable to fruitfulness in meeting the missional goals set for the congregation.

The entire council functions **together** as Trustees, Finance and SPRC. The people specifically elected in those areas provide expertise, focus and information in their area of specialty, but do not make major decisions apart from the council as a whole.

The Church Council is accountable to the mission (it is God’s Church), to the standards of conduct for its members (such as participation in meetings, worship, giving and so on) and to the congregation (through their annual election of leaders to whom they entrust the mission of the congregation). The Church Council initiates 2-4 town hall meetings a year or issue a “State of the Church” report in conjunction with the annual Charge Conference.

A congregational meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, October 18th for questions, discussion and feedback. You can find more information here:

**[Single Board Model General Information](#)
[Single Board Structure Proposal July 2015](#)**

ARCHIVES UPDATE

Window Restoration Project

Let there be Light! (Genesis 1:3)

If it has seemed lighter in the sanctuary to you, it is! You can thank the Trustees and generous anonymous donors for two projects undertaken this summer.

First, the window restoration project for the rear balcony and east side of the sanctuary is now underway. This project includes tuck pointing around the windows to seal against leaks as well as cleaning and tightening the stained glass and replacing the yellowed exterior Plexiglas with louvered plate glass. The colors are brighter and the bars which once detracted from the images are no more!

Here's a before/after comparison of just one panel:



Second, we completed a transition to LED lighting in the sanctuary and high efficiency fluorescents ballasts and bulbs throughout rest of the building. Not only was it becoming increasingly difficult to find the lamps for the older fluorescent fixtures throughout our facility, but the sanctuary lighting was not working as intended.

The small lights on the pendulum chains focused down help congregants read more easily, and now again are functioning. With LED bulbs, maintenance will be easier, too.

LED lights have several advantages, including a much longer life, making maintenance in the future less frequent. The recommendation had another silver lining: the estimated time to recover those costs just from savings on our electric bill is less than two years! Talk about a win-win situation - better light and reduced costs in the future!

ARCHIVES UPDATE

Come and Celebrate – September 27th!

Hamline Church will celebrate its history and its historic ties to neighboring Hamline University with a special service at 10 a.m. Sunday, September 27.

Rev. Bruce Ough, bishop of the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, will preach. Bishop Ough will help Hamline Church dedicate plaques and celebrate its accomplishments.

In 2015 the church was named as a Minnesota Annual Conference Historic Site. The church also received an award for outstanding historic preservation work. This award was given to Hamline Church by the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission and the St. Paul Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, as part of Preservation Month activities in St. Paul in May.



During the service, longtime member and volunteer Marguerite Pramann will be honored. Marguerite has been on many church committees, served as church historian and has been active in United Methodist Women at the church and district levels.

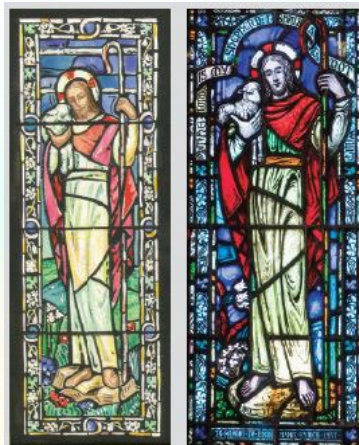
The September 27 event is also an opportunity to tour the church, meet both Bishop Ough and new Hamline University President Fayneese Miller, learn about church activities and see the new community bread oven. (Psst! Rumor has it that caramel rolls and sweetbreads will be served after the service!)



Copies of the original hand-drawn architectural plans will be on display as will drawings for some of the stained glass windows. The image on the left is the artist's sample, used to let donors see what was planned: the image on the right is the actual window itself. Our beautiful art, done especially for Hamline Church by local artists, is spectacular.



In recognition of the church's 135-year history as neighbor to Hamline University, a display is now open at Klas Center at Snelling and Englewood avenues. Here Priscilla Luitgens and Candy Hart (Hamline University archivist) are installing one of the three panels.



The display includes information about church activities old and new, including the church's Minnesota State Fair dining hall, the noted Minnesota artists whose work is featured at the church, artifacts from the archaeological digs in the front yard, the church gardens and much more. The exhibit is free and open during Klas Center hours.

Everyone is welcome! There's enough celebration for a huge crowd!

HAMLINe WOMEN UPDATE

Hamline Church Women/United Methodist Women are preparing for another busy year, starting with our fall potluck Monday, September 14. Women should watch for emails and signs at church for location and carpooling instructions. Monthly luncheons at Pippins resume in October and November. Our holiday party will be in December, along with the pre-Christmas Cookie Walk.

Our first big fall event is the Hamline Holiday Market Saturday, November 7. Our annual craft fair will expand to become a crafts and vintage fair, with craft demonstrations on the Fireside Community Room stage that day. We will be cross-promoting with our friends from St. Columba. The call for donations goes out soon and the registration form will be on the church website. Please sign up if you are a crafter or vintage vendor.

Women will also gladly accept donations for their own sale tables. We will also need and welcome volunteers. In other news, we will be starting the craft group again soon so watch for details. We have plenty of craft supplies to share for church sale crafts, church projects or mission-specific projects such as Linus Project quilts, gifts for Walker Nursing Home or other projects. Look for information on our bulletin board, which will have a new look for Rally Sunday.

The Saturday Tot and Kid Times will be starting on the third Saturday in September.

A special thanks to all who helped with the school uniforms project this summer. Girls in Africa will be able to go to school, thanks to uniforms our members made. And thanks to all who attended the summer fundraiser for the youth mission trip.

**Helen Vulu
Jane McClure
Co-chairs, Hamline Church Women/UMW**

Kendra Pankow receives the 2015 Hamline Church Women Scholarship

The HCW scholarship committee of Helen Vulu, Annette Merry and Jo Barte selected Kendra Pankow to receive the 2015 scholarship award. Kendra is a great example of the type of person that HCW desires to assist, as she has career goals of service to others.

Kendra is taking a term off from her studies at Lawrence University where she is majoring in International Development. She arrived, safe and sound, in Uganda on August 23rd, where she will spend a semester studying and volunteering at Uganda Christian University, near Entebbe.

Kendra's parents are Todd and Carole (Wolsey) Pankow, and her grandparents are Wayne and Mary Lou Wolsey of Hamline Church.

Congratulations, Kendra! We look forward to hearing about your experiences.

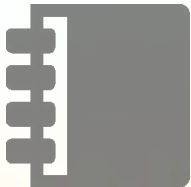
UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Job Opening

Hamline Church is seeking a dynamic and energetic individual to help plan, implement and oversee the ministry of Christian education and formation for children and families on Sundays and during the week. This position will include direct teaching of and playing with children, recruiting Sunday School teachers and Nursery Staff, assisting with selecting and coordinating appropriate curriculum, teaching classes as needed, managing schedules, communications and events, implementing and enforcing Safe Sanctuary for adults working with children, providing input for the church's annual budget, tracking and approving program expenditures, attending team meetings and monthly staff meetings, keeping regular office hours, and other duties as assigned.

Find out more information:

<http://www.hamlinechurch.org/jobs.html>



Thank You from School Tools

Many thanks to all who so generously contributed to our school tools drive for the Interfaith Coalition. We collected 2,380 items that were delivered August 18. Many appreciative children and their teachers will benefit from your compassion.

Lottie Sugden is celebrating her 100th birthday on Sept 9!

Lottie and three brothers grew up on a farm near Glyndon, MN, the children of German immigrants. She learned to speak English from the farm hands and at school. Lottie has a Home Economics degree from the University of North Dakota and taught school at Hallock, MN where she met husband, Malcolm (Mac). They eventually moved to Roseville and joined HUMC in 1950. Lottie and Mac built a house on Lindig street in Falcon Heights in 1968. He passed away in 2001. Lottie judged baking and canned foods at the state fair for many years and always had a big garden. Lottie has 6 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild with another on the way. Please send a greeting.

Lottie Sugden
5919 Centerville Rd.
Care Center #13
North Oaks, MN 55127



CONGRATULATIONS

Every year the Minnesota State Fair hands out awards to people who have volunteered for 50 years or more at the State Fair.

This year we have 6 recipients from Hamline Church who will be honored for their service at the Hamline Dining Hall and beyond:

DENNIS BOOM
PENNY SANDAHL
VIRGINIA ANDERSON
JUDY BJORK
PAM CHRISTOFERSON
JANE MCEVOY

The awards were given out on Monday, August 31 at the Schell's Stage at Schilling Amphitheater located at the West End Market at 5:30 pm. Please join us in thanking these individuals and celebrating this accomplishment with them! What an amazing accomplishment, and great act of generosity and dedication.



HAMLIN CHURCH

UNITED METHODIST

Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 9am to 4pm
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 651.645.0667
 ALL ARE WELCOME bumc@hamlinechurch.org

STAFF

Pastor.....Rev. Mariah Furness Tollgaard
 Director of Youth and Family Ministry
and Director of Communications.....Maggie Nancarrow
 Interim Director of Children & Family Ministry.....Stephanie Bowron
 Church Administrator.....Mary Kay Olson
 Director of Music.....Matthew Mehaffey
 Music & Outreach Coordinator.....Ross Hackenmiller
 Organist.....Kim Kasling

Thank you to Barbara Leary for the cover photo.

The next Hamline Church newsletter will be published on November 1. Deadline for submission is October 20.