

# HAMLIN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

MARCH-APRIL 2017

40 DAYS  
IN THE WILDERNESS

A LENTEN JOURNEY AT HAMLIN CHURCH

## LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Hamline Church Family,

As March begins we enter the liturgical season of Lent. For many of us we think of Lent as a season of self-denial and fasting. We think of the ashes of Ash Wednesday, fish fries for those who give up meat, and the long journey to Easter.

Lent is also, and perhaps most importantly, a time to be intentional about growing closer to God.

This Lent at Hamline Church we are offering an all-church opportunity to participate in Lenten Small Groups. There are 13 groups meeting at a variety of locations and times throughout the week. A leader, who will help to guide the discussion, facilitates each group. The groups will meet for 6 weeks, culminating on our Easter Sunday Worship Celebration on April 16th. In addition, the Sunday worship and preaching themes will correspond with the focus of the small groups each week.

At Hamline Church, we seek to be Sanctuary for the City. This means that we seek to be a place where all feel welcome and invited to grow in a supportive community.

Too often we think growing in our faith is about what you need to know – information download. But in reality, I think that who you need to be with is just as significant or even more significant to spiritual growth. Community and relationship-based discipleship are key.

When I look back on my own faith journey, the significant faith moments are connected to the people who shaped my spiritual life, more than any sermon I heard or book I read.

Ed Stetzer says, “When we preach the gospel to one another in close-knit community, there is spiritual growth that changes us individually and as a whole. That change causes us to position for an outward focus and encourage gospel transformation in the communities outside the church walls.”

This Lenten Small Group emphasis is the first in what we hope will become an ongoing opportunity for spiritual formation at Hamline Church.

It is my hope that you will sign up to participate and open yourself to growing in connection with God and with others here at Hamline Church.

It isn't too late to sign up for a group. Groups are still accepting members, and you can sign up here:

[hamlinechurch.org/small-groups](http://hamlinechurch.org/small-groups)

**Blessings,  
Pastor Mariah**

### A Letter from Pastor

Mariah.....2

### 2017 Growth Grant

Awards .....4

Music Update .....6

Green Team Update .....7

Children and Families .....8

# WORSHIP COMING UP



## PASTOR MARIAH'S MATERNITY LEAVE

Pastor Mariah will be on maternity leave starting sometime around March 5th – as she, Ryan, Marisol and Willa welcome the birth of their third daughter. Her leave has been pre-arranged and approved by the Bishop, the Board of Ordained Ministry and SPRC/Church Council. She will be on leave for 15 weeks (13 weeks maternity leave + two weeks of vacation time). During this time, the Rev Suzanne Mades will provide pastoral leadership at Hamline Church (about 15-20 hours per week). Maternity leave coverage is paid for by the Board of Pensions.

## MEET THE REV. SUZANNE MADES

Suzanne Mades is an ordained elder in the MN Conference of the United Methodist Church. The congregations she has served are: Ely UMC, First UMC in Austin, Wesley UMC, and Portland Ave. UMC in Bloomington. In 1991 she left her appointment in Austin to found a nonprofit agency, Disability Awareness Ministries, Inc., when she served as Executive Director for eleven years. Wanting to have opportunity to address the broader issues of social justice, she returned to parish ministry and was appointed to Wesley UMC in downtown Minneapolis, the first Reconciling Congregation in MN. From there she gained a deep passion for people living in poverty and homelessness, and all who have been disenfranchised by our church and by our society. She carried all of these passions into her appointment as pastor of Portland Ave. UMC where she helped the congregation to be more actively engaged in their community. She has taken a leave of absence from parish ministry these past few years to refresh, renew and explore other avenues of community leadership, and has now decided to return to parish ministry this next appointment season. Welcome Suzanne!

### ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP TONIGHT

March 1 at 7 pm

Lent is a season of introspection and preparation. We begin with this contemplative, solemn service in which we remember our mortality and pray for guidance during the season before Easter.

### LENTEN JOURNEY

40 Days in the Wilderness

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness after being baptized. What does the wilderness look like for us today? How does this story of grand and legendary proportion speak to us in the 21st Century?

March 5 | Self-Denial  
March 12 | Hunger  
March 19 | Temptation  
March 26 | Isolation  
April 2 | Sacrifice  
April 9 | Grace

Palm Sunday  
April 9 at 10 am

Maundy Thursday  
April 13 at 6 pm

Easter Sunday  
April 16 at 10 am

Small groups accompany our sermon series, and you can join one by going to [hamlinechurch.org/sign-up-central](http://hamlinechurch.org/sign-up-central)

# 2017

## GROWTH GRANTS AWARDS

**\$17,000 is available to fund new initiatives** and ideas at Hamline Church in 2017. Just over \$11,000 of those funds were awarded by the Church Council to 9 ministry projects during the winter funding cycle. Congratulations to all award recipients! See the list of projects below.

### **What are growth grants?**

The Church Council has a special pool of money available for growth at Hamline Church called the Growth Initiative Fund. Each year the earnings from the fund are used for membership, spiritual, or revenue growth. The Growth Initiative Fund is an ongoing source of money, generated with earnings from an investment. It will be available for program funding on an annual on-going basis.

### **Who can apply?**

As part of Hamline Church, YOU are invited to use this process to propose a use of the funds to enhance the church.

### **How are they awarded?**

A call is put out for growth grant proposals in the late fall and late spring. After reviewing the written applications, the review committee will make recommendations to the Church Council. Final determination of the programs to be funded will be voted on by Church Council.

Projects that demonstrate an ability to grow church membership, revenue, or enhance the spirituality of church members or other groups will be considered. Building improvements, maintenance and funding for staffing will not be considered through this funding source.

Applications for the same program may be made in subsequent years. However, each application should be used to enhance or grow the project. The Growth Initiative Fund is not intended to be used as a source of funding for programs year after year, but rather for initiation and growth. Eligibility for funding for subsequent year will demand in part, by whether money was used as part of original application. Unused funding will be returned at the end of 2017.

### **Spring Application Process**

The Review Committee intends to hold an additional application period for release of up to \$5900 in Spring/Summer 2017. This application cycle is open to new applications, deferred applicants or applicants already awarded 2017 funds who have demonstrated successful implementation of their projects so far and make a case for additional funding. Stay tuned for dates!

### **Review Committee:**

Kathy Sundberg  
Ray Faust  
Jim Schleppe  
Mariah Tollgaard

2017 Growth Grants Awards

#	Growth Grant Topic	Submitter(s)	Amount Awarded
1	Create adult spiritual formation program of 6-10 small groups.	Gill Young	\$2,000.00
2	Do advertisements work to invite new visitors that will eventually become members	Maggie Nancarrow	\$2,000.00
3	Updated Church Directory	Carrie Faust	\$1,000.00
4	Church/University/ Neighborhood Community Dinner	Mary Kay Bailey	\$1,000.00
5	Dining Hall Financial Eval	Kathy Sundberg	\$1,500.00
6	New Hospitality Tables	Jane McClure	\$1,000.00
7	Leadership Retreat	Barb Deming and Mariah Tollgaard	\$500.00
8	Catalogue music library	Richard Carrick	\$600.00
9	Offer VBS to greater community	Amy Ireland	\$1,500.00

**TOTAL \$11,100**





# MUSIC UPDATE

There are lots of musical activities coming up in the next few months! We are very excited to have our young artist lenten series begin again in the coming weeks, thanks to the hard work and monitorship of Dr. Kasling. The bell choir is ringing again, and will make their triumphant return to worship on March 26. We still have room for more ringers! If you can read music and want to try out this fun ensemble, we rehearse from 6-6:45 every other Wednesday night. Please email me if you have any questions!

The Chancel Choir is always seeking new members, and there is no better time to join than right now. We are gearing up for our Palm/Passion music Sunday, and have some fabulous music that we are preparing for easter, which will showcase a brass quintet! If you are interested in joining the choir, just show up on any Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m.

***Richard Carrick***

## **Hamline Church presents our Young Artists Series for Lent this year, featuring talented young musicians from the congregation for worship each Sunday.**

The series, lasting the first four Sundays of Lent, begins Sunday, March 5, with Dorothy Hendrickson, classic dance and ballet artist, interpreting What Wondrous Love as a special Introit

The following three Sundays will feature the following young artists:

March 12--JonErik Ickler

March 19--Amelia Fotsch

March 26--Isaac Schultz

We are grateful and appreciative as our young talent aids worship during Lent this year!

***Kim Kasling***

# GREEN TEAM UPDATE



## What do compostable diapers, solar panels, and tuckpointing have in common?

Each was a topic of discussion at a recent workshop provided to Hamline Church by the Minnesota Chapter of the US Green Building Council (“USGBC”). Through its ADVANCE project, the USGBC partners with community-based organizations to help them identify, prioritize, and implement green building strategies to meet their goals. In late January, we gathered a group of church volunteer leaders, staff and some long term building tenants to learn about greening concepts from a variety of USGBC industry experts. The incredible wealth of knowledge and experience offered by the USGBC experts guided our thinking and opened our eyes to challenges and opportunities for sustainability we had not previously considered.

While Hamline has begun to tackle the “low hanging fruit” to find greater efficiencies within the electric and heating systems, and to reduce waste with recycling and composting, we still have a lot to learn about our care of God’s creation. For one thing, sustainability isn’t just about the building, but about the entire church site. Looking at the ways we might “green” our site is exciting for its potential to reach beyond the walls of the building and impact the surrounding community. Both the SPROUT garden and rain garden reflect this vision and perhaps we can do more to highlight their presence. With a stated goal of being a sanctuary for the city, it would be wonderful to

be a highly visible “green” presence in the neighborhood, a symbol of being a “sanctuary” for the earth.

The timing of this workshop coincides well with our investigation into the feasibility of a capital campaign. Many of the projects under consideration have related sustainability issues and all can benefit from understanding green strategies that promote health, efficiency and environmental performance. The group was excited to learn that the industry experts remain available to us for consultation as we consider the scope of any capital projects. A full report of the workshop, including information on the attendees, is available [here](#).

The green team will be reconvening soon to take the energy from this workshop to move forward with establishing work teams, defining our goals and action strategies and creating an overarching vision. Some plans are already in the works – the official start of our composting & recycling program on Earth Sunday (April 23); a “Spandex Sunday” when members will be encouraged to walk/bike/bus/rideshare to church; a youth project to construct a new compost bin for the Sprout garden this June, and we hope a summer “solar camp” for kids.

# CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Games, snow-forts, and playing on frozen Fishhook Lake were just a few of the highlights at the fourth annual Family Winter Retreat at Northern Pines camp this year. The snow on the pines was beautiful, although the warmer-than-usual weather left everyone's gloves, snow-pants and socks soaking wet after playing outside.

This year we had the special treat of games led by Camp staff - Ryan Matthews was the winner of the Snow Go! scavenger hunt, and Frankie Leary was 'dressed' like a snow-man by all the kids. Ryan also generously donated a five pound Hershey bar that we tried used to make s'mores by the outdoor bonfire. A special vespers led by camp director Leslie Hobson reminded us that to keep our Light shining for Jesus, we need to make sure our batteries are charged. I think everyone agreed that a winter weekend at Northern Pines was a great way to charge our batteries!

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**If you loved Northern Pines, there are plenty of opportunities to go back to camp this summer. A special 'Discovery Camp' for kids ages 9 - 13 offers archery, fishing, canoeing, and crafts - among other activities and outdoor worship opportunities - the last week of June, every week in July and the first week of August. Check out other camp opportunities at the trio of United Methodist camps - Northern Pines Camp, Camp Koronis, and Kowakan Adventures - at [www.campminnesota.com](http://www.campminnesota.com)**





# AGAPE LOVE

In English, we have one woefully inadequate word for 'love.' Interestingly, the portions of the Bible written in the original Greek give us three: storge (natural affection, as toward family), phileo (companion love), and agape (God's love). Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. even expanded the concept of 'love' to six categories in his "Levels of Love" sermon: utilitarian love, romantic love, mother's love, friendship love, humanitarian love - and agape.

King describes agape as unmotivated, spontaneous, overflowing - a love that seeks nothing in return. Agape is the term Jesus uses when giving that most difficult of commands: Love your enemy. For King, "the greatness of [Agape] is that you love every [person], not for your sake, but for his sake. And you love every [person] because God loves him. . . . [Y]ou come to the point of loving every person and it becomes an all-inclusive love. It is the love of God operating in the human heart. And it comes to the point that you even love the enemy."

During February, with its celebration of romantic love - complete with cherubs, cupids, roses, and chocolates, we made a point of letting our church kids know that they are loved with the highest, eternal, life-giving love, and nothing they do can ever separate them from that love. Agape. As Pastor Mariah told them, "God love you. And there's nothin' you can do about it!"



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **New Directory Photos**

### **March 19 & 26**

Hamline Church has a new online directory called "Realm." In March, we invite everyone to come to have new family photos taken. These photos will be uploaded to our online directory. This database can also create paper directories. On March 19 & 26, get a photo taken, update your information in Realm, and request your family's copy of the Hamline Church 2017 Directory. More information forthcoming.

Contact: Carrie Faust at [cfaust820@gmail.com](mailto:cfaust820@gmail.com)

## **March is Minnesota FoodShare Month**

March is Minnesota FoodShare month and Hamline Church is again collecting gifts of food and dollars for local food shelves. Contributions will be collected throughout the month. Tan envelopes for cash donations are in the pews. Our goal for 2017 is 2500 in pounds of food. One dollar = one pound of food. Every contribution is greatly appreciated!

## **Announcing the 2017 Youth Mission Trip**

*Registration Deadlines are March 5 and April 25*

Hamline Youth return to Mission, South Dakota from Sunday, July 30 to August 5 for another week of service to our neighbors of the Lakota Nation. All youth who are 12 before July 1, 2017 are invited to register and participate. Trip participants will do work projects, engage in workshops to learn about Lakota culture, and have a day-off fun activity. Registration forms are available in the commons. The family contribution is \$150 until March 5 and \$200 between March 5 and April 25. See the registration form or contact Maggie for more information ([mnancarrow@hamlinechurch.org](mailto:mnancarrow@hamlinechurch.org)).

## **Buy books, help campers**

Hamline Church Women/United Methodist Women have a book cart in the Fireside Community Room, with books for sale on a "pay-what-one-can" basis. The women wish to start a fund to help families defray children's camp costs and that is where book proceeds will go. Ask before donating books, please, to [hamlinewomen@gmail.com](mailto:hamlinewomen@gmail.com)

## **Emma Norton Services drive**

The Emma Norton Services personal care and paper products drive wraps up at the end of February. We are behind last year's donation total. Lists of items to donate are available at coffee hour or on the Emma Norton website. Items will be delivered the last Sunday of February by Hamline Church Women/United Methodist Women. The women are also seeking cloth or plastic shopping bags to be donated, to bring items to the shelter in. Thank you!

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **Capital Campaign Feasibility Study Town Hall Meeting**

*Sunday, March 5 at 11:30 am*

Hamline Church is considering a capital campaign in 2017 to raise funds for renovations of our building. The Church Council is working with John Laster of Horizons Stewardship to lead us through a feasibility study to explore the potential for a campaign. The Council will host a Town Hall Meeting on Sunday 3/5 at 11:30am to share more about the results of the study and the possible projects to be funded by a campaign. Your input is important to this process. Please plan to attend.

### **2017 Hamline University Mahle Symposium**

*Monday, March 6 and  
Tuesday, March 7*

This year, the Wesley Center at Hamline University is collaborating with Professor Deanna Thompson's sabbatical research grant to hosting several circles of conversation on the theme "Healing, Wholeness, Holiness: Religious Responses to Trauma and Illness." Dr. Monica Coleman will be a guest presenter on Monday March 6th, 4:30 to 6pm in Anderson Center 304-5 on her new memoir, "Bipolar Faith: A Black Woman's Journey with Depression and Faith". They Keynote Lecture on Tuesday at 7 pm hosts Dr. Shelly Rambo, Boston University School of Theology, on "Resurrection in the Afterlife of Trauma."

See [hamline.edu/mahle](http://hamline.edu/mahle) for the full schedule.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## The 2017 Easter Offering

The Easter Offering will go to One Great Hour of Sharing, which supplies the administrative costs for UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR is an internationally known and respected relief organization that provides aid to victims of violence and natural disasters. Because OGHS covers administrative costs, every dollar given to a specific cause, such as refugee relief or flood victims, is used to relieve suffering and support recovery.

## Help the Dining Hall Celebrate 120 Years

Teresa Reneke is looking for assistance in building a marketing team to celebrate our 120th Year at the Minnesota State Fair. Do you have a background in marketing or promotions? Then we need your help! Get in touch with Teresa to learn more.

Also, did you know that the fair hands out awards for people who have volunteered there for 50 years or more? We want to tie this celebration into our 120th by gathering as many people as possible. If you know of someone, or if you have volunteered at the fair for 50 years (or more!) you can contact Teresa. We're interested in hanging up all the 50 year plaques in an enormous wall-of-plaques!

**Teresa Reneke**  
[treneke@gmail.com](mailto:treneke@gmail.com)  
651-285-3768



## Refugee Co-Sponsorship

In 2016, Hamline Church co-sponsored the resettlement of a Karen family here in Saint Paul with the Minnesota Council of Churches. Last Sunday, the refugee ministry met, and decided to continue this partnership. We will help resettle another family in May 2017.

## NICE TO KNOW

John Bailey is captaining a project called the "Saint Paul Tool Library!" Do you need a 12' ladder for a project? Or a saw that you need once and would never use again? Now you don't have to buy these things: you can check them out at the Tool Library. Help John celebrate the grand opening this Saturday, March 4.

[Online viewers can click here for all the info.](#)

Tool donations welcome! Contact John for more information at [johnbaileyinmn@gmail.com](mailto:johnbaileyinmn@gmail.com)

**GRAND Opening**

**St Paul Tool Library**

**FREE FOOD**  
**FREE BEER**  
**FREE MUSIC**

**SATURDAY MARCH 4**  
**4:30-7:30**

**COME for the FUN**  
**STAY for the TOOLS**

**755 Prior Ave**  
**Saint Paul**  
[MnToolLibrary.org](http://MnToolLibrary.org)

**Office Hours**

**9 am - 4 pm | Monday - Friday**

**651 . 645 . 0667**

**humc@hamlinechurch.org**

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