

President's Report

We continue God's work here at University Lutheran, recognizing our blessings, and coming together to face our challenges. In our Council's most recent budget discussions, someone referred to our church community as more of a village than a congregation. This struck me, realizing it is likely this village atmosphere that draws so many into this place, but it's also what makes this place so special. As your President, I really had a behind the scenes look into all the time, commitment, passion, and energy that goes into this place. It shapes the way we approach projects, plan events, and balance our budgets. So many are quick to offer their time and energy, and yet there are projects that even willing volunteers cannot do themselves. Our tiny village is both our strength and our weakness.

This Council has done its best to maintain the projects the congregation feels passionate about, such as maintaining our relationship with Heart and Home, continuing to engage the neighborhood, and create a learning space for an intern. We benefit greatly from our Children's Ministry programs, our congregation's gifted musical community, and the Adult Education Forums continue to engage us in meaningful learning and discussion.

While these things, and so many others, are important to raise up and praise, it's while we're looking up that we might notice the church steeple in need of attention. *When* we get rain again, we might realize that our roof will need replacing. If you glance down, you'll see the floors need to be re-sealed as well. These are a few of the numerous projects that will keep this place a safe and beautiful place to worship. I bring these points up because saving for capital improvements has been a part of the conversation for a while now, but as a village, we haven't been prioritizing our home and the associated costs as well as we should.

I believe we're headed in the right direction. The Stewardship committee has revived its campaigns for the needs of the church, and has done a great job of communicating what our needs are and where the money goes. We're looking forward to the 50th Anniversary celebrations that we are planning. It brings together our history and where we'd like to go next.

I extend my greatest thanks to our Council, both past and present, for making my experience as your president a positive one. Thank you, Pastor Greg, for your continued guidance and leadership. I thank you, our village, our congregation, for trusting me to lead the Council for the last two years. I have done my best and I look forward to serving our congregation in new ways.

In closing, I want everyone at University Lutheran to feel good about the leadership in this Church. We are in good hands with our Pastor, our committees, and our faith guiding us to care for one another and this place.

Thank you, and it is my pleasure to have served as your president.

In Peace,

Maija Cruz - President 2013-2015