

We know that the range of giving capacity within our community goes from students earning “negative dollars,” as one grad student recently put it, to people who are able and willing to give well beyond the ten percent many of us were raised to consider. We also know that many of us are on a journey of generosity with room to grow. What is certain is that when each of us makes a plan along with a commitment to grow, we will have what we need and more for our mission of embodying the love of God in the midst of the city.

Please **fill out the enclosed response card and return to church office by November 15th.**

In gratitude, the UniLu Church Council.

Erika Oleson, Brian Tracey, Rachel Peters, Edward Bucher, Bruce Brolsma, David Hoglund, Anita Bowles, Martin Hegen, Laura Gilson, Kiefer Hicks, Karen Turley, Amanda Wiederoder, Kari Jo Verhulst, Kathleen Reed.



The Love that Calls Us

The Harvard College students who work in our basement have a name for this love. As they work through the night to make a home for our neighbors who would otherwise sleep on the street, they call it *UniLuv*.

UniLuv permeates everything that happens at UniLu. It spread through our block party this September, where our children wrote colorful greetings in chalk for our neighbors; Padre Angel Marrero, our guest preacher, agreed to be dunked in support of the new youth homeless shelter; and a pick-up brass band played joyously.

It washed over the 70-day peace vigil this summer, which drew visitors from Japan and across the square to share hopes and prayers for a more peaceful world. It entered into the opportunity for our youth to participate in the ELCA’s youth gathering in Detroit in July, where they lived out the verse printed on their t-shirts, “God is in the midst of the city.” And, it poured forth when we gathered in grief this fall, lamenting the death of a too-young person.

In his sermon last May on Psalm 23, Pastor Helmut Koester spoke of this same love and its power to shine through our darkest hours:



Photos, L to R: Block Party fun on Winthrop Street (taken by Chris Pollari); HDS intern Caston Boyd and the UniLu youth waiting to get on the bus to their service project at the ELCA youth gathering in Detroit this July; 70 Days of Peace Vigil in front of UniLu this summer.

“Is there a light at the end of the tunnel? Yes, and all of you have seen it, all of you have experienced it. All of you have received new courage, new encouragement to carry on.”



UniLu embodies this love. As Pastor Koester preached, “This community should be and has been for us a community in which the love of God has sustained all of us, has bound all of us together.”

This same community-sustaining love reaches out from our Eucharistic table in the volunteers who take communion to our homebound members. It also reverberates through our halls when our Sunday School children jump to the Hippo Song or sing boldly of letting their little lights shine; and when our musicians accompany a resounding hymn or play a delicate Bach partita.



Photos: top left: Anne Howarth leads the pick up brass band (taken by Chris Pollari); top right: Campus and Community Coordinator Jayms Battaglia with Harvard Square Homeless Shelter and Y2Y Harvard Square staff at a local networking fundraiser; left: Pastor Kari Jo blessing the animals.

Pastor Koester concluded his sermon by challenging us to grow in our practice of love, saying, “May we more and more learn what we are doing here. Learn that this community is a community of love. And, in being a community of love . . . we experience eternity!”

Let us take up the challenge now. Bring to mind your own experience of *UniLuv*. Name in prayer the ways you see God’s love active in your life and in our UniLu community. Then, respond by putting your money to work where God’s love is actively at work. Make a generous plan to support UniLu’s mission year-round so that this love may continue to abound.

As the charts below show, your collective support underwrites 75 percent of our mission annually. Your faithful generosity is what makes it possible for UniLu to keep reaching out in love. Our goal this year is \$375,000.

