
Hope's Mission is: "To know Christ and make Christ known"
by proclaiming the Saving Word of God through worship, community and service.

Lutheran Youth Organization Report

Starting on the third of November, I had the chance to spend four days in San Antonio with the Council of Synod LYO Presidents (CSLYOPs). LYO stands for the Lutheran Youth Organization. The LYO is instrumental in telling the ELCA what the youth of the church have to say, but CSLYOPs carries out much of the work of the LYO, simply because it is much more efficient to do most of the work with a smaller group.

During the four days I spent in San Antonio, I attended five business meetings, in which all of us synod LYO presidents discussed issues in the church and in the world, and what we wanted to do about them. This year's CSLYOPs theme was "At Your Service," and most of our resolutions revolved around that theme. We emphasized that the only way to show anyone the love and the power of Jesus is to serve them like he did. We also emphasized that the most effective way to serve is to do the little things that help others out and make them feel like they matter. You don't have to go to another country or anything like that to serve—in fact, it is most important that we start in the places where we can make a small difference, in our own homes and lives.

We were disturbed by the racial profile of the church, and this was one of the main reasons why we felt it was so important to serve. The statistic of a 98% white ELCA is an ugly one, but we concluded that it does us no good to focus on the statistic, because it gives us the wrong motivations. Instead, we need to focus even harder on serving others, because then they will

(LYO Report *continued on page 2*)

Hope Senior Club Gathering, December 14



Reach Out with music, love, and joy. This is the theme of our gala Christmas gathering on **Wednesday, December 14.**

**ALL SENIORS AND FRIENDS
ARE CORDIALLY INVITED!**

The festivities will begin with a holiday luncheon at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall. Reservations for the \$5.00 meal must be made by Thursday, December 8, either with your caller or by phoning Diane Shallue at (612) 331-5988, ext. 19.

The program at 1:00 p.m. will feature "Reach Out," a women's vocal ensemble from All Saints Lutheran Church

in Minnetonka. This group of highly charged and talented women has sung in various college, high school, and church choirs and has toured in



Germany and Austria. And they love to sing! Their inspiring and upbeat Christmas performance of old favorites and popular Yuletide tunes will bring joy to our hearts. Come, celebrate the joy of Christmas! Reach out—invite others to celebrate, too! ❖

—Leona Reyelts

(LYO Report, *cont'd from p. 1*)

feel welcome, accepted, and supported, no matter what race they are.

Aside from all the business stuff, we spent time discussing and contemplating our own faith in workshops. My favorite was a prayer workshop that emphasized a type of prayer in which you try to clear your mind of everything and just listen.

One of the most important parts of the trip was that I had a lot of fun. It's no fun to just sit in meetings and workshops, so we did a service project: we worked at a food bank by preparing boxes of food for hurricane victims. We went on long walks on the Riverwalk, an artificial river one story below ground level, which snakes through the downtown area and is filled with restaurants and shops. At night we hung out in the hotel lobby and got to meet the people we were working with. I made good friends from the Carolinas, Illinois, Michigan, North Dakota, Alaska, and many more states. I roomed with a guy from Anchorage, Alaska and another from Deer Falls, Michigan. I am keeping in touch with some of those friends, and a group of us from the Dakotas, Wisconsin, and Minnesota are going to try to get together again sometime.

I'm really glad I was able to represent the Minneapolis Synod at this event in which I learned about the church, helped make the youth's voice heard, and grew in faith. I had a great time. ❖

—Ben Tetlie

Ten Thousand Villages Sale

Save some of your holiday shopping for Fruit Soup Sunday, December 18th! There again will be an opportunity to purchase items from the non-profit Ten Thousand Villages Store. Proceeds go directly to third-world craftspeople. ❖

—Ann Beane

Shirley's Share

Over the years I have heard of and used many reasons to prompt people to worship more regularly. Feelings of well being, community building, and a time away in the midst of a hectic life are all legitimate reasons to worship regularly. But what about getting a better building loan? I had never heard of that one before, but then I have never been a part of a large capital project like Room for Fresh Creations before. But it's true. As we have approached lenders that are sympathetic to church projects, they want to look at our attendance at worship! So this is an invitation to all of you who are a part of University Lutheran Church of Hope! Worship regularly during the upcoming holiday season! It will help you, and it will help our building program.

Opportunities for worship are wonderful and varied. I am going to begin with Thanksgiving, because there may be a few efficient postal people out there who will get this to your house before Wednesday, November 23rd, when we will worship together with St. Lawrence Catholic and Grace University Lutheran at Grace's sanctuary. The service is at 7:00 p.m. Parking is always a perceived issue at Grace, but be reminded that Grace does have a parking lot across the street labeled AA. We will also be carpooling from the Hope parking lot for those who care to. Meet at Hope by 6:40 p.m.

Advent begins on November 27th, and during the Advent season we have the traditional Sunday School Christmas program on Dec. 11th. Also, on December 18th the traditional Fruit Soup celebration will take place between services, and the choirs of Hope will present Lessons and Carols at both services.

Christmas Day falls on Sunday this year, so the Christmas morning service at 10:00 a.m. will be doubly festive. (New Year's Day, January 1, will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. the following Sunday.) On Christmas Eve there will be two opportunities for worship; at 4:00 p.m. there will be a "family" service oriented toward children, with the sermon being more in the style of a children's sermon. At 11:00 p.m. the service will be candlelight, and communion will be in the style of a midnight mass. Each of these three services is distinctly different, and attendance at two or at all three is welcomed.

For more information, or if you are able to help as a reader, usher, or with decorating or serving, please let the church office know. We will be glad to put you to work.

In this season of preparation, as we celebrate Christ's birth and look for his return in glory, I pray that each of you will be blessed by these worship experiences. Pax. ❖

—Pastor Craig Shirley

Thank You

I have been deeply moved by your kindness to me during this difficult time. I am equally thankful for the generous gifts you have given to the church and various other organizations in memory of my dear brother David. Thank you very much. ❖

—Lorraine Berger

Many, many thanks to Beth Gauper, who coordinated the confirmation dinner on October 30. Beth has done a stellar job of recruiting people to help with the dinner.

A special thank you to 7th- and 8th-grade students and parents who served the dinner. This was one of the biggest confirmation dinners we have had in many years. Good job, everyone! ❖

The *Hope Visitor* editorial board and the congregation would like to say **a hearty thank you** to Cathy Roinas for the incredible job she has done in editing the church newsletter for these many years. You have done a marvelous job, and we hope you will find all sorts of interesting things to do with the extra time you now have! And thanks to Bob Moluf for picking up the job. This is the second issue under his care. ❖

Another **special thank you** to David Engebretson for the generous gift of \$3000 for the Malawi Fund. The Global Mission Group is in the midst of putting together a project that will take several solar ovens to Malawi this spring. This has the potential of making hundreds of ovens available to local families. His gift has greatly increased the likelihood of making all this happen.

Thanks again, David, for your generous gift. ❖

—The Global Mission Group



FRUIT SOUP & JULEKAGE



Sunday, December 18,

Fruit soup and julekage will be served in

Fellowship Hall

9:00–11:00 a.m.

Tickets: \$1.50 Fruit Soup,
Julekage,
Coffee or Cider



0.75 Julekage,
Coffee or Cider

Many thanks to Ragna Burns, who has faithfully planted seeds and nurtured and harvested beautiful gourds for the rummage sale. ❖



A Gift of Warmth

Scarves, hats, and mittens for the mitten tree in the Lounge can be brought throughout the month of December. ❖

—Ila Mae Langguth





Advent **FUNDamentals**: Are you ready for Advent? On November 27, from 9:45–10:45 a.m., all ages will gather to create some simple objects that can be used at home to get ready for Advent and Christmas. Make an Advent calendar, an Advent wreath, and decorate some Christmas sugar cookies. Registration is recommended so that there are enough materials. Contact Diane Shallue at (612) 331-5988, ext. 19.

“**Carols for the Christ Child**,” the Sunday School Christmas program, will be held on December 11 at 9:55 a.m. Each Sunday School class has picked their favorite Christmas hymn or carol to sing and will also tell about its background. Kick off the holiday season by singing traditional Christmas carols with the children! Refreshments will be served after the program in Fellowship Hall.

Faith Formation Opportunities

All Ages Growing and Learning Together

Sunday mornings 9:45–10:50 a.m.

Adult Forums in Heritage Hall

Dec. 4 & 11 – Sarah Henrich, a New Testament professor at Luther Seminary, will give a presentation titled, “What Were They Waiting For?” Why was the baby in Bethlehem such a big deal? Israel’s scriptures record God’s cherished promises to bring the world ‘round right. After Jesus’ resurrection, Christians came to believe that Jesus embodied God’s faithfulness to those promises. What did God promise? What does “God’s world brought ‘round right’” look like? We’ll look at scripture together to see what we can learn.

Dec. 18 & 25 – No Adult Forum

High School Youth (grades 9–14)

Meet in the Youth Room for discussions with Jack Dant and Ann Agrimson. There will be no discussion on December 25 or January 1.

Confirmation Classes (grades 7 & 8)

No class on December 25 or January 1.

7th grade – Study of the Lord’s Prayer, taught by Sam Kanenwisher and Diane Greve.

8th grade – Study of the Lutheran Confessions, taught by Audrey Keller and Karen Gutzman.

Children in grades 2–5

(Life Together Curriculum)

Dec. 4 – Practice for Christmas program. Lesson about John the Baptist from the gospel of Mark. How are we preparing for the gift of Jesus?

Nov. 11 – Christmas Program in the Sanctuary.

Nov. 18 – Luke 1:26–2:20. Faith helps us trust God’s promises. How do we show our joy at Jesus’ birth?

Nov. 25 – No Education Hour

Children from age 3 – grade 1

(Godly Play Curriculum)

Nov. 4 – Review Advent stories.

Nov. 11 – Christmas program in the Sanctuary

Nov. 18 – Advent 4—The Magi story

Nov. 25 – No Education Hour

Birth to Pre-K

Children are welcome in the nursery during worship services and the Education Hour. Amber Janssen supervises the nursery each Sunday from 8:20 a.m. until about 12:15 p.m. She has been trained in CPR.

From the Director of Christian Education

Early in November, I attended a national conference on intergenerational service learning sponsored by Search Institute. As a result, I am wondering in what ways I can use the 40 developmental assets I learned about to help create a healthy community around and within University Lutheran Church of Hope.

Search Institute has identified 40 building blocks of healthy development that all of us have the power to bring into the lives of others. These 40 developmental assets have grown out of extensive research on positive relationships, experiences, opportunities, and personal qualities that help young people grow up to be healthy, caring, and responsible adults. To view a complete list, visit <http://www.search-institute.org/assets>. The developmental assets are organized into eight categories: Support, Empowerment, Boundaries and Expectations, Constructive Use of Time, Commitment to Learning, Positive Values, Social Competencies, and Positive Identity. At the conference I talked to people from all over the United States who are using these developmental assets to support and encourage children, youth, and families, especially through YMCA programs.

As Lutherans, we emphasize our vocation to live out the gospel. The asset-building philosophy provides a unified means for living out our faith by befriending, guiding, and advocating for children and youth. It is not a new program. Lutheran Brotherhood and now Thrivent Financial have already provided many free resources that use the 40 assets to assist Lutheran congregations. We are already encouraging many of these assets here at Hope. They provide a language to talk about 40 ways that we as a Christian community can be light and salt for the world.

—Diane E. Shallue,
Director of Christian Education

Attention Birth-to-Pre-Kindergarten Families!

University Lutheran Church of Hope has a gift just for you on Saturday, December 3, from 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at Hope.

In appreciation of all you do, and all that you give as parents, we are offering 3 hours of “child-free time” to you, with child care provided by Amber, our nursery attendant. All you need to do is:

- Call Diane Shallue at church by Nov. 30 to reserve spaces (voice mail # 612-331-5988, ext. 19)
- Send a sack lunch with your child or children. (Siblings in your family older than “pre-K” who need child care are also welcome. Activities for various ages will be available.)
- Enjoy your gift of “time-away” in any way you wish!

Questions? Call Karen Jorstad (612) 728-3819 or Diane Shallue ❖

—Bob Peterson

Monthly Confirmation Class

We'll meet on Saturday, December 10, from 9:00 a.m.–Noon. Please bring your Bible and the *Lutheran Handbook*. See you all there! ❖



Growing the Hope Forum

The Fall 2005 Hope Forum was held on Monday evening, October 24, at the Weisman Art Museum on the Minneapolis campus of the University of Minnesota. Seventy people attended a conversation about conscientious objection to military service. Our speakers were the Rev. Lowell Erdahl, former pastor at Hope and a long-time peace activist, and Maj. Gen. Larry Shellito, Commissioner of Military Affairs for the state of Minnesota. Gen. Shellito is a Vietnam veteran who has been an educator in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, most recently as president of Alexandria Technical College. He was recently appointed Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard. Moderator of the discussion was Eric Ringham, Hope member and commentary editor at the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Excerpts from the discussion were published on the editorial page of the October 27 Star Tribune, available online.

Thanks to the integrity of our speakers and Eric's insightful moderating, our goal of modeling ethical discourse on a challenging issue was achieved beyond our highest expectations. Afterward, Gen. Shellito said, "This was tamer than I expected." Anyone who attended can attest that the discussion was not tame—many challenging, heartfelt statements and questions were offered, but in an atmosphere of respect.

The next Hope Forum will be in April, on the topic of science and religion. The Weisman works well as a venue. With valuable help from Outreach Commission members, we provide welcoming refreshments. As long as we continue to invite speakers from the area, the cost of each event is very affordable (approximately \$1000). A Hope Forum Advisory Board is being formed; if you are interested in participating, please contact Marty Lewis-Hunstiger at mlewishunstiger@hotmail.com

Now all we need in order to grow the Hope Forum into a major witness to the community is to increase our attendance. We are building a mailing list of Forum attendees, and Lutheran Student Movement and the Interfaith Campus Coalition have provided valuable help with publicity on campus. We are already learning that purchasing expensive print advertising is not the best way to publicize the Forum. Instead, we need to spread the word as widely as possible through printed flyers and e-mail listservs. There is no doubt in my mind that, if a Hope Forum flyer had been posted in every coffee shop, bookstore, and laundromat in the metro area, and if each Hope member had called or e-mailed five interested people, we would have had a significantly larger audience.

At the "Stories of Hope" adult forum on All Saints Sunday, Hope member Garvin Davenport told us that he regularly hears the comment from colleagues in academia, "You go to church?" The Hope Forum is an excellent way for us to demonstrate to the community that there are churches that support the exploration of ideas, that welcome thinkers and doubters, and yet are not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. ❖

—Marty Lewis-Hunstiger



Benevolence: Room for Fresh Creations

At the congregational meeting on November 13, 2005, the previous vote to give 12% of money raised in the Room for Fresh Creations capital campaign to benevolence (approved at the congregational meeting February 6, 2005) was rescinded. This means that a new discussion regarding benevolence in this capital campaign can begin.

The congregation voted to postpone further formal discussion of the amount going to benevolence until the next congregational meeting. In the meantime, if you have ideas regarding the beneficiary (or beneficiaries) of benevolence in this campaign, please write down your ideas and put them in the office mailbox of Joan Campbell, President. ❖

—Martha Dorow

2005 Rummage Sale Donations to Charities Outside of Our Congregation

This year the rummage sale earned \$12,178. We gave 10% of that amount to charities outside of Hope.

Here are the charitable contributions for 2005:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1. New Hope Center \$100 | 5. Marie Sandvik Center \$100 |
| 2. Plymouth Christian Youth Center \$100 | 6. Global Health Ministries \$50 |
| 3. Lutheran Vespers \$100 | 7. Meals on Wheels \$100 |
| 4. David Neste—Honduras water system \$100 | 8. Operation Bootstrap Africa \$50 |
| | 9. Center for Victims of Torture \$100 |
| | 10. LSS Children/Youth Ministry \$100 |
| | 11. Mabel's Free Clinic \$50 |
| | 12. Loaves and Fishes \$100 |
| | 13. Lutheran Volunteer Corps \$70 |
| | 14. Southeast Seniors \$100 |

—Ruth Fingerson

Treasurer's Report

Giving is *under* our anticipated budget by \$15,197, through October 31, 2005. Rental income is lower than budget by \$744, and holiday giving is greater by \$2,287. Our budget assumes that a catch occurs in the next two months: November and December. A little help from everyone will make it happen.

Revenue Comparison of Actual to Budget: Each Month & Year-to-Date

Over (Under) Budget

month	# Sundays	actual	budget	month	year-to-date
January	5	\$ 35,985	\$ 36,079	(94)	(94)
February		44,885	48,525	(3,640)	(3,734)
March		53,478	45,383	+8,095	+4,361
April		37,740	43,690	(5,950)	(1,589)
May	5	39,219	42,949	(3,729)	(5,318)
June		32,591	37,153	(4,562)	(9,880)
July	5	39,057	42,061	(3,004)	(12,884)
August		39,331	39,814	(482)	(13,366)
September		41,000	42,094	(1,094)	(14,461)
October	5	46,825	47,561	(736)	(14,198)
November			39,998		
December			56,519		
Total year			521,826		

Facts: 1. The budget is based on our three-year history reflecting seasonal trends, 5-Sunday months, holidays, and summer vacation. 2. Electronic giving has evened out fluctuations. Larger-than-average giving has historically occurred in the last three months of the year. It is budgeted to occur again in November–December. 3. “# Sundays” above means the number of Sundays in the month.

—The Stewardship Commission

Roseville Community Band

The Roseville Community Band will be performing their annual Christmas concert on Monday evening, December 5th, at 7:30 p.m. Come and enjoy an evening of music to put you in the holiday mood!

There is no charge, and following the performance everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall to meet members of the band and partake of cookies, coffee, and juice prepared by QRS. ❖

—Jack Parry



Lutheran Campus Ministry

Sometimes I hear people reminisce about their college years with fond stories of friends and fun. Or I hear about travel or an internship or even a job someone had while in school. Rarely do I hear testimony as to how much a student enjoyed classes or studying. Maybe they just take that for granted.

Sometimes, when I am away from campus doing a forum or talking with friends my age, I hear people refer to college students as “kids”—suggesting that academic time is carefree, something for children, and that real life happens after graduation.

You may have read in a previous column that Lutheran Student Movement uses the model of Befrienders to train its student leaders. This training emphasizes good communication skills and the ability to be in the present moment with others. It is about relationships. It is not a leadership model that trains people to prepare agendas and run meetings—rather, it’s a model that teaches people to be present and attentive. The training also suggests that participants be part of a small group, and so our leaders have been doing that for the last semester. Every Tuesday, at 8:30 a.m., 8 of us gather at the LSM House.

Though 1 or 2 of us might be a few minutes late, no one has missed a single session all semester. We spend about half the time “checking in”—or, to use a Befriender term, answering the question, *What’s on top?* That question encourages us to go deeper in our response than an “everything is okay” kind of answer. Instead, we try to be honest about what is occupying our time, our energy, or fears, and our stress levels. Sometimes it is about friends and family members for whom we worry and care. Often it’s anxiety about classes or grades or choices about the future. And sometimes it’s about celebrating an impressive grade or accomplishment.

Then, for 20 minutes or so, someone takes a turn leading a discussion of his/her choice. We have talked about everything from prayer to feminism. Each conversation has been rich. Our final moments are spent in prayer for ourselves, for others, and for the world.

One week I learned that, either through work or as a volunteer, three different group members had been confronted by the death of a child. Each story was touching and real and needed some degree of processing.

College and university life is much more than fun and frolic, and Befriender Groups offer places where students can process life’s real issues. Next semester, these 8 students will divide and offer 2–4 groups at different times during the week to which new students will be invited. If you are a student and reading this article, you can find out more information by e-mailing me at smith145@umn.edu. ❖

—Jerie Smith,
Lutheran Campus Ministry/Lutheran Student Movement

The Season of Waiting: Three Advents

The cycle of seasons called the church year is shaped by the life of Jesus Christ. It has grown over thousands of years out of a convergence of the Christ story with the natural seasons of the northern hemisphere, the festivals of pre-Christian religions, and the holy days of the Jewish calendar. Its festivals force us to confront life's deepest questions and truths. If we let them, the seasons of the church will give shape and rhythm to even the most scattered and chaotic of lives. The festivals and seasons of the church year offer us limitless possibility to face and reexamine the truths and realities of our existence.

Let us start with Advent. Advent means “coming,” and in this time of year we wait for what is to come. Our experience of waiting is at the center of Advent's days. For a child, it may be waiting for the coming birth of Jesus and all that comes with Christmas, especially the presents. For a child that may be enough. As the child grows, other questions emerge, and the longing deepens and broadens. As we age, we discover that possessions do not satisfy our hunger; we wait for something more.

Blue, as the color for Advent, gives us direction for our waiting, for blue is the color both of the depths of the sea and the heights of the sky. It is a longing for what we were intended to be, for what we could become, and for what is making its way into the present. Blue is the color of innocence and of devotion, and thus Mary, the Mother of our Lord, wears blue. Our yearning encompasses the desire to be like her, so that holiness might enter the world through our service to God.

Over the centuries, Christians have celebrated three Advents: the past coming of the Christ, born in Bethlehem; the present coming of Christ in the sacramental meal; and the future coming of Christ, at the completion of all things. As children, we long for the baby Jesus and for our own delight. When we grow to adults, we long for the present and for the good of self and community. When we become wise, we will long for the light that illumines all creation, a good and gracious gift that our eyes may not now see. And this is the name by which it shall be called: The Lord is our righteousness.

There are three parts to this season—

- the waiting,
- and the waiting,
- and the waiting.

—Pastor Kwanza Yu



Youth Music Update

The Second Annual Christmas Concert and Chili Supper is tentatively scheduled for January 8, 2006—Epiphany Sunday. Please plan to join us as we bring a festive close to the Christmas season. Proceeds will be used to support the youth music program.

Plans are underway for a Christmas party, with possible caroling, on December 11. Please watch the Sunday bulletin for details.

The Aria Choir and Youth Handbell Choir continue to seek new members. We have a specific need for 3-4 ringers to fill out the Handbell Choir. We are also looking for singers, with a particular need for tenors. All youth in grades 7-12 are welcome to join us. A background in music is not required for participation.

I want to thank the many people who have supported our goal of purchasing a piano for the Choir Room. And I want to extend special thanks to the Chris Parry Fund for its generous donation. That gift, when added to the funds raised last year by the choir and the Garden Club, will allow us to purchase a piano that will benefit the Children and Youth Choir program for many years. ❖

—Kay Else

STAFF

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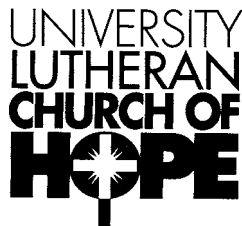
HOPE VISITOR

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