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

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, February 5
12:15 in Fellowship Hall—
light snacks will be served

Will We Have a Rummage Sale?

Yes! It appears that the construction will have advanced far enough for us to have the sale in our Education Wing. Hurray!

There will undoubtedly be unanticipated problems. We will most certainly have lots of surprises. We will definitely need more help than usual in these new spaces.

Will you join us in this adventure? Please set aside some time to help during the week of **September 10–16**. And please continue collecting those donations!

Last year's sale set aside \$5000 for classroom furnishings. If you are (or will be) a rummage sale worker, please join us on **Friday, July 7**, at 9:30 to help decide what this year's earnings will go for. The deadline for money requests is July 1. ❖

—Ruth Fingerson

Invite-a-Friend Sunday: Outreach Norwegian Style

Have you heard the one about the Norwegian who loved his wife so much he almost told her once? Does this remind you of anyone you know? Are you someone who loves worshiping at Hope but gets weak in the knees at the thought of inviting someone else to worship with you?

Like the Blues Brothers, the Outreach Commission is on a mission from God. Ours is to publicize all the wonderful activities going on in and around Hope to which you can invite your friends who are looking for a church home. Don't know any people who are looking for a church home? Then you **really** need to get out more, because the Cities are full of people who are seeking connection and meaning, who can find what they are seeking at Hope if they get to know us. But they need an invitation.

The second Sunday of each month has been Invite-a-Friend Sunday at Hope for several years, with Fellowship Meals served most months during the school year. One of our goals for 2006 is to breathe new life into Invite-a-Friend Sunday, making it a welcoming, comfortable occasion to share with others. Stay tuned for more information, and please contact any member of the Outreach Commission with suggestions for ways to make Invite-a-Friend Sunday maximally...inviting!❖

—Marty Lewis-Hunstiger



Shoreview Bible Study

The Shoreview Bible Study will be meeting on February 11 from 6–9 p.m. at the home of Merrill and Lisa Morse.

The evening begins with a potluck for those who want to come early, followed by a discussion. Pastor Shirley is the guest this month. Please call for more information at (651) 486-8793. ❖

Angels: The Good, the Bad, and the...???

Come to the Hope Lounge on Tuesday mornings to review Scripture and tradition around the topic of angels. This study will be led by Dr. Diane Shallue Tuesdays from 10–11 a.m.

February 7	Introduction and Biblical Information
February 14	Angels in Tradition and Art
February 21	Bad Angels and Satan
February 28	Angels and Humans

Shirley's Share

My friend, Pastor Jane Buckley-Farley, often uses a certain word to describe the work of Trinity Lutheran Church on the West Bank. For the past two years they have been trying to put together a new kind of congregation, one that integrates an existing congregation of highly educated, progressive, white Lutherans with first-generation immigrants from Somalia and other African nations, many of whom do not care to associate with one another. She says it is “messy”!

Messy is a good word to describe most work in the church, but particularly during times of change and insecurity. We wish we could see the end, or at least see the right way to go—but just about the time everything seems clear, something gets “messed up.”

Building projects are messy—in more ways than just plaster and paint and dust. I have been so thankful for and impressed by the people who have been serving on the Room for Fresh Creations building project. From fund raising to finance, from envisioning to picking architects and a contractor, there have been a lot of decisions. To the person looking from the edge of things, it all seems to have come together quite smoothly, but it has been messy. There are lots of opinions to be shared, viewpoints to be considered, and things to be decided in a short period of time. At times tempers flare, people get discouraged, and plans must change. It's messy.

Being faithful to our call of discipleship as a congregation and people of faith *is* messy. And *it has always been that way*. We look at history from this end, and we see how the hand of God has guided lives and nations throughout history to bring God's Word to life and help it grow. But with 20/20 hindsight, we can also read between the lines and know that the stories of faith were not written at the time they were happening, but after the fact, when all was done and people could look back and take stock.

I am convinced that, whatever path we take when it comes to plans for this year (at the Annual Meeting on February 5), on benevolences for the building project (at the special meeting on January 22), on the direction of the building project, and in meeting deadlines and continuing the day-to-day work of the congregation, we will find that it is messy. “Messy” means there will be some chaos, some pain, and some insecurity, but hopefully something new as well. Out of the mess comes new life and growth. Most days I'm ready for messy. For the next few months we will *all* need to be ready for messy. But that's life—and birth. Pax ❖

—Pastor Craig Shirley

Credit Union Annual Members Meeting

The annual meeting of the Credit Union will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will take place in the Hope Lounge. All share account members are invited to attend and vote for the board and committee members, who will be charged with the operation of the credit union according to State of Minnesota and National NCUA guidelines.

This will be the start of the 46th year of operation. Thinking back to the years in the early 1980s, it was a time when loan rates were at 12% to 16% APR and the Credit Union had so much of its money loaned out that it was necessary to make loans from members (an early type of CD), so that the needs of the members' requests could be met. It should be noted that we were a much smaller size at that time. It would be a great achievement if we could approach that point once again.

April 15th is approaching, and there are several things you can do to support your plan to provide for your future financial security. With the uncertainty of future pension plans and the greater dependence on a personal retirement plan, it is prudent to maximize these plans as allowed by law. If you do not have the cash at this time, you can use a small loan with a short-term payback period to accomplish this. This applies to educational savings accounts. Now is the time to take advantage of low interest rates on borrowed money.

The Credit Union office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Or call (612) 331-5989, ext. 18. ❖

Hope Senior Club

All seniors and friends are cordially invited to the Senior Club luncheon and program on **Wednesday, February 15**, at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall.

Reservations for the \$5.00 meal should be made by **Thursday, February 9**, with your caller or by contacting Diane Shallue at (612) 331-5988, ext. 19.

The program, "Textiles and Traditions in Indonesia," will follow the luncheon at 1:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall. Winnie and Edward Nyhus, University Lutheran Church of Hope members and retired ELCA missionaries who lived on Sumatra and Java for 25 years, will display ceremonial woven cloths of the Bataks of North Sumatra, as well as batiks from Java. They will talk about the ways these and similar textiles are used in society. (Of interest, three million Bataks are members of Lutheran churches.) Come for a visual, informative, and stimulating presentation!

Please know that everyone is welcome to attend the program. If you need transportation, please phone Leona Reyelts at (612) 378-2444 and a ride will be provided. ❖

—Leona Reyelts

Wonderful Warmth

Thanks for decorating our Mitten Tree with "all sorts" of new warmth:



- 69 pairs of mittens and gloves
- 63 caps and hats
- 6 scarves
- 8 sets of mittens with matching caps or gloves
- 23 pairs of men's stockings
- 13 pairs of children's stockings

These gifts were given to:

- Central Lutheran Clothes Closet
- Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
- Metro Hope Ministries

Hope Church Quilters also regularly send quilts to add more warmth. This year they made nearly 100 quilts. ❖

Book Collection

The South East Minneapolis Council on Learning (SEMCOL) is collecting new and gently used children's books (ages 2-10) for the "book take-away" at weekly story hours at Luxton Park Community Center and at neighborhood family events at Luxton and Van Cleve parks. The book collection box is located in the main church office on the back counter. They prefer good children's books but not religious books. If you have questions about this project, please call Ardes Johnson at (612) 378-1166. ❖



Faith Formation Opportunities

All Ages Growing and Learning Together

Sunday mornings from 9:45–10:50 a.m.

Adult Forums in Heritage Hall

Feb. 5 – Marie Braun of Women Against Military Madness will give a presentation on how to become a conscientious objector.

Feb. 12 – A presentation titled “Plain, Important talk about Depression,” will be led by Ruth Fingerson and Dianne Star.

Feb. 19 & 26 – Special presentations on worship will be led by the Worship Commission.

Parenting Classes

In the Library from 10:00–10:50 a.m.

Feb. 5, 12, 19, & 26 – Discussion of the brain development of children from birth to age 18. This discussion will be led by Diane Shallue and Ann Beane. It is for all those who work with children or are raising children.

High School Youth (grades 9–14)

Meet in the Youth Room for discussions with Jack Dant and Ann Agrimson. Audrey Keller, our new youth intern, is also hanging out with the high school youth this month.

Confirmation Classes (grades 7 & 8)

7th grade – The Ten Commandments, taught by Sam Kanenwisher and Diane Greve.

8th grade – The Apostle’s Creed, taught by Pastor Kwanza Yu.

Children in grades 2–5

(Life Together Curriculum)

Feb. 5 – Jesus Heals (Mark 1:29-39). How do we receive God’s strength when we are weak?

Feb. 12 – Naaman is cured (2 Kings 5: 1-14). Where do we need wholeness?

Feb. 19 – Jesus Heals (Mark 2:1-12). Who carried you to Christ?

Feb. 26 – The Transfiguration (Mark 9:2-9). How does the light of Christ help us see who is in our community?

Children from age 3 – grade 1

(Godly Play Curriculum)

Feb. 5 – The Parable of the Leaven

Feb. 12 – The Miracle of the healing of Jarius’ daughter

Feb. 19 – The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Feb. 26 – The Story of the Transfiguration

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 and provides stories and activities for the children. ❖

From the Director of Christian Education

February is the month of **love**. Hearts and valentines and candy are everywhere. In the faith community we talk about love of God and love of our neighbors. Both of these loves are mentioned in “The Great Commandment” given by Jesus. “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and your neighbor like yourself.” See Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27.

In the 1990 publication *Effective Christian Education*, Dr. Merton Strommen wrote, “A person of mature faith experiences both a life-transforming relationship to a loving God—the vertical theme—and a consistent devotion to others—the horizontal theme.” High scores in both dimensions indicate an integrated or mature faith. Low scores in both dimensions indicate an undeveloped faith. In this month, let all of us find ways to more fully love God and to more deeply love our family, friends, neighbors, and ourselves.

Lovingly,

—Diane E. Shallue

Thank You

We wish to thank everyone at Hope Church for their generous and kind support during John’s illness and passing. Your love and care were so great—

God bless you. ❖

—Carmen Macoskey



Prayer Partners Still Needed

The Education Commission is still looking for a few more adults who are willing to be secret prayer partners during Lent for a child or youth. A prayer partner prays at least once a week for a child and sends them a card at Easter revealing who they are.

The goal of this program is to lift up our children and youth in prayer and to connect them to caring adults in our congregation. If you were a prayer partner last year, you will be assigned someone new this year. To volunteer, please leave your name and phone number on Diane Shallue voicemail at (612) 331-5988, ext 19. ❖

Women’s Retreat, March 4-5

It’s not too early to plan on attending the annual women’s retreat on Saturday, March 4 and Sunday, March 5, 2006. The retreat will take place at the lovely Dunrovin Christian Retreat Center. Scholarships are available. Mark you calendar for March 4-5.

Please join us! Invite friends and colleagues! ❖



Nordic Choir to Perform

The Luther College Nordic Choir, Craig Arnold, conductor, will present a concert of sacred music at Benson Great Hall (Bethel University) on Sunday, February 5, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. This performance will feature works by Hassler, Frank Martin, Z. Randall Stroope, Vaughan Williams, and Gretchaninoff. For tickets call (651) 638-6333. ❖

Youth and Family News

Jump!



JUMP! is a *hip-hop worship* and it is the second Sunday of every month at Redeemer Lutheran in Minneapolis. A group from Hope *will be going every month*.

The next JUMP! is on *Sunday, February 12th*.

We will *meet at Hope at 6:15 p.m.* and return to Hope at *8:30–8:45 p.m.*

Sunday Socials!



When? The third Sunday of every month. The next one will be on Sunday, February 19.

Who? 6th–12th grade youth and families.

What? Sometimes we will go out to lunch. At other times we will arrange to have lunch here at Hope.

Why? Another opportunity for this youth group to spend time together outside of worship and Sunday school/confirmation.

Hope to see you there!

National Gathering 2006!



We have a great group of 11 youth and 3 adults heading to San Antonio this summer! Please watch for opportunities to support this group. More information on the Gathering is at

<http://www.elca.org/gathering/home.html>

Sunday Morning



High School youth meet from 9:45–10:45 a.m. in the Youth Room. Please join us for discussion and fellowship! In February we will be asking some burning questions about Jesus' life and the New Testament.

From the Youth Director

Hello!

I pray that your 2006 has been one of joy and peace so far! I thank God for each of you and the blessing you continue to be in my life.

I have spent the first two weeks of January in a class on Genesis to Revelation—the whole bible in **two weeks!** I was sure I was going to be overwhelmed and confused. It was somewhat overwhelming, but more than that it has been inspiring. When we study and learn about God's Word, we learn more about the God who created us, the Christ who loves us, and the Holy Spirit who renews us daily!

Sometimes I get so wrapped up in schedules, worries, and myself that I don't take any time to just know God and acknowledge the presence of Christ in my life.

My challenge to you this month is to take just a little more time to get into God's Word, read a part of the Bible you never have before, and pray about it. I pray that you will feel Christ's presence in times of stress and worry; that the Word may strengthen you and inspire you as I have been inspired today!

God's Peace,

—Audrey Keller

National Youth Gathering Fund Raiser

There are more than 100 million used cell phones throughout the United States. The EcoPhones Cell Phone and Ink Jet Recycling Fundraiser now pays from \$3 to \$200 per used cell phone returned to them. All we need to do is collect them here at church and send them off to Ecophones. We presently have seven high school youth and three advisors planning to go to San Antonio next summer, and we expect more youth will sign up before the January deadline, so fundraising will be a big issue. If you can help, bring your used cell phone to the church office, and the youth will do the rest. Look for the box in the office for donations. And thank you! ❖

—Pastor Craig Shirley

The Treasurer's Report

We finished 2005 with a great catch-up in contributions. December came in strong. But it came up a little short for the year: the net was down (\$19,366). This past year we had a lot happening, with the initial year of Room for Fresh Creations. So it is somewhat typical that giving would be down from our original budget. Thank you for all your generous gifts.

2006 is a new start, providing new opportunities to support. We have been deluged with new expenses. The shortfall is projected to be (\$49,000.) The Board of Commissioners approved a 2006 budget to move forward with faith and a plan. The specific line items needing our additional gifts are: a youth director, the boiler surprise, deficit reduction, environmental/lot runoff, and a utility increase. But with our intentional gifts, a purpose, a plan, and a commitment, we—our church community—can make it happen together.

Come to the annual meeting Sunday, February 5 to learn more and be a part of our plan.

2005 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)
February		44,885	48,525	(3,640)
March		53,478	45,383	+8,095
April		37,740	43,690	(5,950)
May	5	39,219	42,949	(3,729)
June		32,591	37,153	(4,562)
July	5	39,057	42,061	(3,004)
August		39,331	39,814	(482)
September		41,000	42,094	(1,094)
October	5	46,825	47,561	(736)
November		37,149	39,998	(2,849)
December		57,016	56,519	498
Total year		504,569	521,826	(17,257)

STAFF

Pastors: **Craig Shirley, Kwanza Yu**
Minister of Music and Worship: **Tim Strand**
Director of Education: **Diane Shallue**
Administrator: **Craig Wiester**
Working in partnership with
Lutheran Campus Ministry Staff: **Lamont Koerner,**
Lisa Simonsen, Jerie Smith

LEADERSHIP

President: **Joan Campbell**
President-Elect: **Garvin Davenport**
Past-President: **Marty Dorow**
Secretary/Treasurer: **Norris Waalen**

COMMISSIONS

Care & Nurture: **Sharla Aaseng**
Congregational Life: **James Hlavka**
Education: **Rebecca Tetlie**
Evangelism/Outreach: **Marty Lewis-Hunstiger and**
Karmi Mattson
Facilities: **Kathy Knudson**
Stewardship: **Jill Fedje**
Social Justice: **Dan O'Loughlin**
Worship: **Diane Greve**

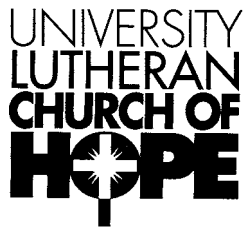
HOPE VISITOR

The Hope VISITOR is published monthly by University Lutheran Church of Hope, located at 601 13th Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414-1437.

Articles for the VISITOR can be submitted in the church office or via email. They must be signed. Please address emails to: visitor@ulch.org. Because of space, lengthy articles may be edited.

Deadline for submitting articles is the 12th of every month (for the upcoming month's issue).

The current VISITOR is always available at <http://www.ulch.org/images/TheVisitor.pdf>. Back issues are available by contacting the church office.



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