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

Room for Fresh Creations Update

On January 22, 2006, the congregation voted by a substantial margin to move ahead with a \$1.5 million renovation project in the 1950s wing. This also includes a benevolence of 7% of money raised in the Capital Appeal. As reported by the Building Committee, the \$1.5 million project will include asbestos abatement and ceiling replacement, a sprinkler system and updated fire alarms, new energy-efficient windows, air conditioning in the office areas, renovated bathrooms in the west wing, some storage furniture, and other soft costs such as permits, architectural firm and contractor fees, and financing costs. The Board of Commissioners will be arranging for a committee to make a recommendation for benevolence recipients.

The Finance Committee will be working on mortgage refinancing and construction loan applications. Since the congregational meeting they have been evaluating the various financing options from lenders (Thrivent or the ELCA Mission Investment Fund) in order to recommend the best fiscal course of action for the congregation. According to University Lutheran Church of Hope bylaws, the congregation will have to meet again to approve the new mortgage and its terms. Mark Nelson has stepped down as chair of the Finance Committee. Joan Campbell will replace him as chair, and Leslie Frost has also joined the Finance Committee. A huge **thank you** to Mark for the hard work and dedication he committed to this project.

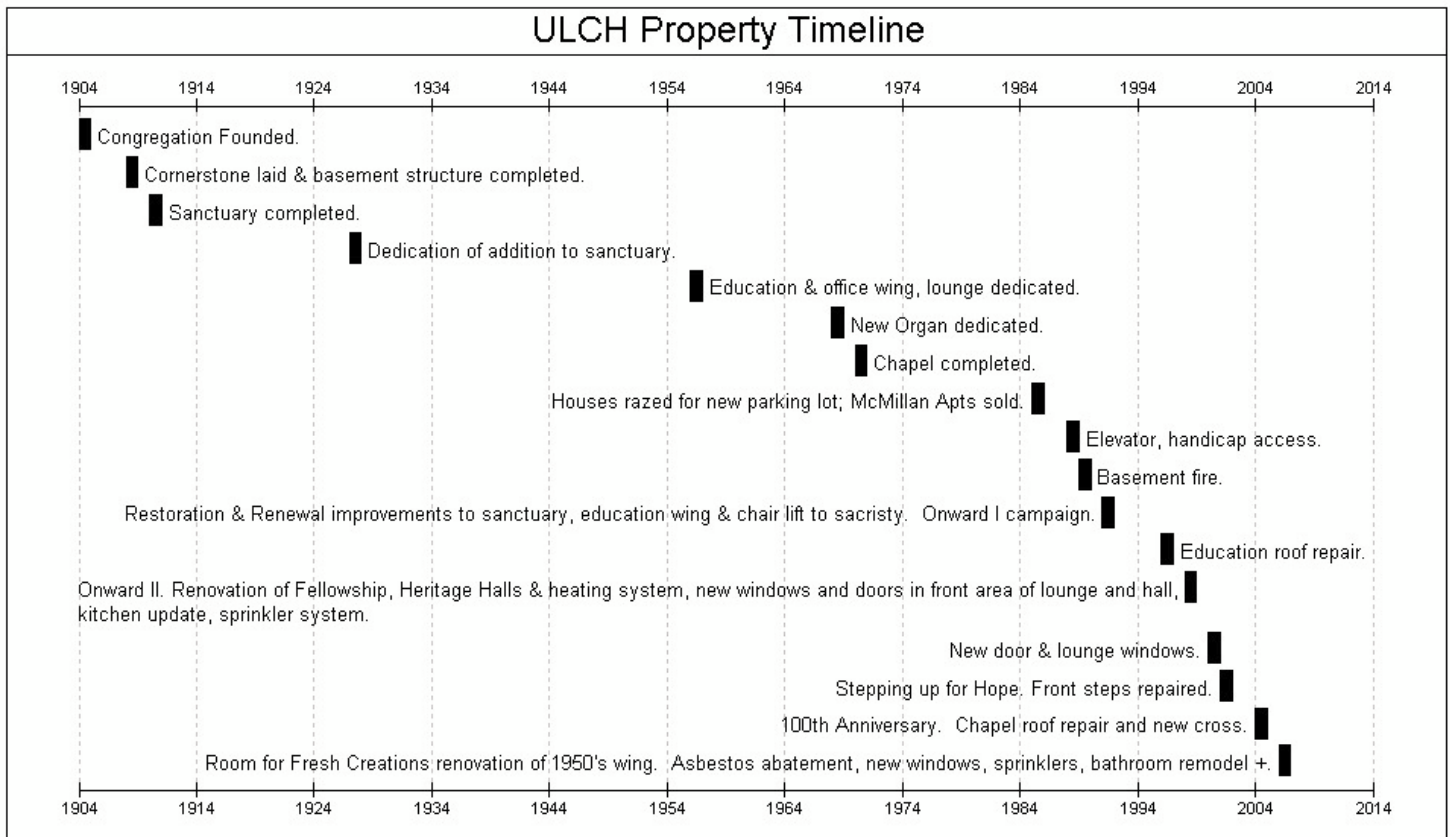
In voting in favor of this \$1.5 million project and its related financing, the congregation also recognized the necessity for and agreed to implement ongoing three-year capital appeals that would finance our facility needs and debt service. The Room for Fresh Creations Appeal was a tremendous success, raising almost \$610,000 to date. In



subsequent appeals the congregation will have to raise 50%-60% of this amount to continue servicing the debt obligations we will incur as a result of mortgage refinancing this year. You may note on the Facility Timeline published in this newsletter that, over the past twenty years, the congregation has had to do some major repairs or remodeling to the building almost every three years. We've largely paid for this by doing smaller or emergency appeals, or by taking money away from some ministry in our yearly operating budget. Continuing a three-year cycle of capital appeals will give the congregation a more steady stream of income dedicated to the upkeep of our property. In the long run it will help us pay for substantial emergency repairs and thus free up our operating budget to fund our ministries and mission activities.

In these weeks before demolition and construction begin, the Building Committee continues to meet regularly to further refine the actual work to be done. The windows have now been ordered and the company that will be doing the abatement has been secured. If all goes as planned, the workers will begin around May 1 and the work should be completed by the end of August.

For us to remain within our budget and get these base
(RFC Update, *continued on p. 2*)



Created with Progeny's Timeline Maker Demo on 28 Jan 2006

(RFC Update, *continued from page 1*)

projects completed, significant sweat equity from the congregation will be required in this project. Some of this includes: (1) Help in the moving process—both out and back in. The Facilities Commission is arranging to move everything out of the building into temporary storage, except for the bare necessities that our staff will need to continue their work. The staff is planning to relocate their offices to Heritage Hall during the summer. (2) Clean-up help after the construction work is completed. This includes sweeping, washing, sanitizing, etc. (3) Painting (and associated preparation) will be required in the classrooms. So stay tuned to newsletters and bulletins for further instructions.

We will be the ones who accomplish a huge chunk of the necessary tasks in this project. The work that will be completed will give the building a fresh look and enable us to renew our energy in the ministries of Hope. It is unfortunate that we cannot do everything we would like to do at this time—such as adding some casework to the new library space; a sink and counter to a classroom for art/science use;

the \$60,000 small kitchen/restroom remodeling; or the \$27,000 patio. All these were high on the wish list. But the projects that we cannot do now may always be done at a later time—they can be done as smaller projects and each, on its own, is not egregiously expensive. We will, however, get the “big” stuff done, which sets us up nicely to easily do additional projects in the future. (And any additional windfall gifts for this project may enable us to do more even now.)

We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of the project via the Hope website, the Visitor, and Sunday bulletins. If you have any questions or suggestions, or would like to volunteer for any tasks at hand, please don't hesitate to contact the project chairs: Fred Kreider, Facilities Commissioner; John Lauber or Martin Thompson, Building Committee; Joan Campbell, Finance Committee; and Marty Dorow, Project Coordinator. ❖

—Marty Dorow,
Room for Fresh Creations Project Coordinator

Facilities Commission

Head ‘em up, move ‘em out...” (from the theme of the TV show “Rawhide”).

I’ve only been on the job a few days, but already I’m looking for volunteers!

With the onset of the Room for Fresh Creations remodeling project just around the corner, the Facilities Commission will be coordinating the movement of the computers, crayons, and cartons of books from all the rooms (staff and Sunday school rooms) to storage somewhere else. The Fresh Creations folks will decide exactly *where* that will be and *when* it will be at a later date.

“Don’t try to understand ‘em, Just rope and throw and grab ‘em....”

That may be the greatest part about this move. We just have to move the stuff! It’s a no-brainer! The organization will be done by those closest to the information: staff, commissions, Sunday School teachers, etc.

If you are able and willing to help with this move, please let me know right now!

Send me an email: facilities@ulch.org

Give me a call: (612) 722-5666 (evenings)

Stop me in the hall!

If you don’t have the desire to be all that physical, but want to help, still email or call, and let me know that, too. Thanks!

“Keep movin’, movin’, movin’...Rawhide!” ❖

—Fred Kreider

“The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail”

Henry! What are you doing in jail?”

“Waldo! What are you doing *out* of jail?”

That exchange between Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau lies at the heart of “The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail,” opening next month at Theatre in the Round in Minneapolis. The play by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, first presented in 1970 at the height of the Vietnam War, cast Thoreau’s ideas about civil disobedience and nonconformity in a modern light.

The Social Justice commission invites you to attend a special performance of “The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail” at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, March 24, with a post-play discussion among audience members, the cast, director and an expert guest, U of M History professor Hy Berman. Join us as we ponder Thoreau’s message to us and our role as people of faith and conscience during a time of war. (Social Justice Commissioner Eric Ringham is a member of the “Thoreau” cast.)

A group discount will be available, depending on the number of tickets we buy. The maximum price will be \$18. Reserve your spot by contacting the church administrator, Craig Wiester (craigw@ulch.org or (612) 331-5988). ❖

Monthly Confirmation

The 7th and 8th graders will meet at church on Friday, March 10–Saturday, March 11 for an overnight retreat. Details to come! ❖

Choir Concerts

The University Lutheran Church of Hope **Senior Choir** will join the Choir of First Lutheran of Columbia Heights in a joint choral concert of classic favorites on Sunday, March 19, at 4:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 1555 40th Ave. NE in Columbia Heights. The major choral works presented will be Bach’s Cantata No. 80, “Ein feste Burg” (“A Mighty Fortress”), accompanied by orchestra, and Benjamin Britten’s “Rejoice in the Lamb.” First Lutheran has a wonderful sanctuary in which to perform, and we look forward to this collaboration with their choir and Director of Music, Peter Carlson. Please come to support your favorite church choir in this special musical event! The concert is free and open to the public. ❖

Simpson College Concert **Choir**, under the direction of Timothy McMillin, will sing at the 11:00 a.m. service here at University Lutheran Church of Hope on Sunday, March 5. Simpson College is located in Indianola, Iowa, and is the home of the Des Moines Opera. As part of their Twin Cities tour, this wonderful choral ensemble will provide inspiring music from their varied repertoire at our worship service. Plan to be in church this day and invite your friends to join us in worship for this special musical offering. ❖



Book Collection Continues until Easter

The South East Minneapolis Council on Learning (SEMCOL) is continuing to collect new and gently used children's books (ages 2-10). 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. ❖

Easter Memorial Plant Project

If you desire to contribute to a flower fund to have a plant placed in the chancel area for Easter Sunday in memory or in honor of a loved one, call (or write):

Winnie Frolen
3434 Silver Lane
St. Anthony, MN 55421
Phone: (612) 782-9519

Donor: _____

In Memory of: _____
(or)

In Honor of: _____

Checks should be made payable to "Hope Church Friendly Visitors." You are welcome to contribute whatever amount you desire. The names for memorials will be included in the Easter bulletin. These plants are delivered to our shut-ins after Easter services. ❖

Hope Book Club

The Hope Book Club will attend the premier performance of the rock opera "My Green Eyes" (a modern Prodigal Son story) on Sunday, Feb. 26, 2006, at 2:00 p.m., at Judson Memorial Baptist Church, 4101 Harriet Ave. S., Minneapolis. You can get more info about the opera at www.mygreeneyes.org. For tickets, contact Sonja Peterson at (612) 789-0387.

On March 12, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., the book club will meet in the Hope Lounge and discuss *The Mermaid Chair* by Sue Monk Kidd (the author of *The Secret Life of Bees*). ❖

Hope Senior Club

Hope Senior Club will meet on **Wednesday, March 15**. All seniors and friends are cordially invited to attend the noon Lenten Worship in the Chapel, followed by a soup and bread lunch in the Fellowship Hall. No reservations are needed.

The program "Play Me an Old-Fashioned Song," featuring University Lutheran Church of Hope member Jack Parry (trumpet) and his son-in-law, Gary Peterson (piano) will follow **at 1:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall**. Come, enjoy warm fellowship and great music of days gone by!

Bring a friend! ❖



Thanks!

Many thanks to these members of University Lutheran Church of Hope, who gave to the Endowment Fund between July and December of 2005:

Berkeland, Jeanne & Bob
Campbell, Joan
Cellotti, Adeline
Christenson, Audrey & LeRoy
Edstrom, Eleanor & Ludwig
Engle, Floyd
Fingerson, Ruth & Mike
Frolen, Winnie
Good, Helen
Gunderson, Wilma
Halvorsen, Leroy & Marge
Hanson, Bertha
Hlavka, James
Jacobs, Marion
Johnson, Julie & Jerry

Kamprud, Dagmar
Langguth, Ila Mae & Deane
Lien, Lillian
Lindesmith, Karen & Robert
Lynes, Kenneth
Manke, Shirley & Herman
Medin, Marilyn & Gary
Parry, Donna & Jack
Perko, Marge
Peterson, Sharon & Greg
Peterson, Shirley & Bill
Preus, Marilyn
Reyelts, Leona
Rhoades, Verle
Saari, Inga
Schroeder, Jo
Shivers, Esther
Sielaff, Brenda & Jack
Solseth, Doug
Templin, Mildred
Westwood, Wayne

—The Trust Board

The Journey of Lent

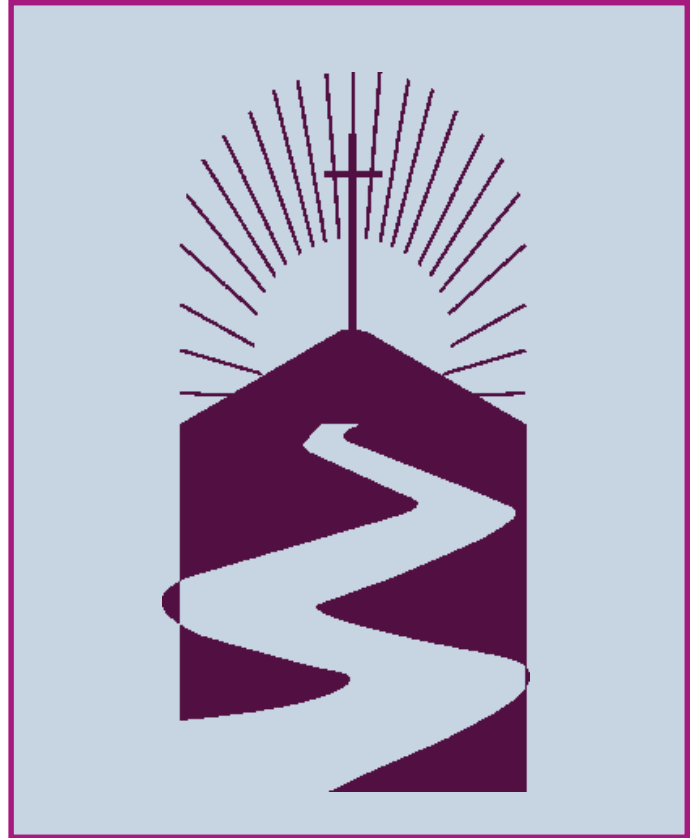
Imagine Lent as a pilgrimage. It is a powerful biblical image. Abraham was a pilgrim, directed by God to leave his homeland and relatives and go on a journey in search of spiritual truth. Without hesitation he set out, not yet knowing the destination and not yet understanding the purpose of the long and difficult journey. His condition becomes the condition of all his descendants, who are described by the writer to the Hebrews as “strangers and pilgrims” on earth (Heb. 11:13).

Our life here is a pilgrimage through this passing world to our heavenly home. This world is not our home; the promised land of heaven is “our true native land,” as the hymn “O Saving Victim” calls it. The Prayer of the Day for the First Sunday in Lent in *Lutheran Book of Worship* derives from this image. “O Lord God, you led your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your Church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come.”

A pilgrimage is a journey to a holy place made with a devotional intention. The journey begins, as it did for Abraham and his family, with turning in a new direction, with what the New Testament calls *metanoia*, conversion. It requires a separation from one place and one set of conditions and replaces them with a journey toward a goal. It requires not just looking around, but looking ahead with focus and determination.

The Lenten pilgrimage is a journey to a specific holy place, Jesus’ cross and tomb. Most of us, however, make the journey without leaving our cities or towns, and we accomplish it as a spiritual pilgrimage made in our hearts and minds. We are called to leave those places in our lives where we are not living our Christian identity, where we are not truly at home or at peace. One of the great purposes of Lent is to bring us to ourselves, so that, like the prodigal son, we may realize that the condition in which we find ourselves is not our true home and that, as comfortable as we usually feel, we are aliens in a foreign land and need to come home. So the Lenten pilgrimage is made with a clear purpose in mind. It is a journey home, although, as it was for Abraham, the home to which we go is a place we have never yet been.

This Lenten pilgrimage is accomplished not merely within our minds, without leaving our present locations. It requires a physical journey if we are able to make it, of course. We must decide to leave home and walk, or more



often drive, to a specific holy place, our church. There we are at the cross and the tomb of Jesus. The journey is repeated week after week, year after year, but, one hopes, it is an ever-new experience with still more discoveries to be made, still more insights to be gained, still greater depths to be explored each time we make the journey.

On the pilgrimage, we learn as we walk. When we are on a pilgrimage, everything can be understood to be part of the way. Every step is as important as the last. Everyone and everything we encounter along the way is part of the pilgrim experience. A good bit of the route may seem ordinary and prosaic, but that does not mean that it is insignificant.

The season of Lent begins with a call to conversion, a summons to travel a different road, the way that leads to God. It is a road that leads out of the confinement of our mundane existence and into the uplands, to open wide vistas for those who travel this way. Lent opens our eyes to see others who travel with us, to see larger possibilities for our lives, to walk to our true home.

So let us walk our Lenten journey with members, friends, and neighbors to the cross, and then to the empty tomb. There we will find Jesus. And Abraham. And life. ❖

—Pastor Kwanza Yu

Passion for Christ

Do you have a **Passion For Christ?**

Join the Lenten Journey.

Wednesday evenings, March 8, 15, 22, 29, & April 5.

Build a community of hope and explore a vision of racial and economic justice.

The Five Faces of Christ (Godly Play Series) with Madhu Bhat for ages 3–grade 2. **The Five Faces of**

Christ is an interactive series of gospel stories designed to help children discover another side of Lent. Using sacred storytelling techniques we will celebrate the life of Christ by exploring five important components of his persona. Parents are welcome to attend with their children.

Lenten activities with Audrey Keller for grades 2–6.

Discussion for youth, students, and adults led by Pastor Shirley and Diane Shallue. ❖

Lenten Soup & Bread

We need your help during the Lenten season to serve soup and bread for our midweek Lenten observance. **You do not have to cook – just heat the soup.** The work involves setting up for the meal and clean-up afterward. All meals will be held in Fellowship Hall. Sign up to help one time or several times. Put your completed form in the offering plate or return it to Pastor Shirley or Pastor Yu.

I can help:

WEDNESDAY NOON

(Set up by 12:30–clean by 1:15)

March 1 – no soup

March 8

I can help _____

March 15 (Senior Club)

I can help _____

March 22

I can help _____

March 29

I can help _____

April 5

I can help _____

WEDNESDAY EVENING

(Set up by 5:30 – clean after 6:30)

March 1 – no soup

March 8

I can help _____

March 15

I can help _____

March 22

I can help _____

March 29

I can help _____

April 5

I can help _____

Name(s) _____

Phone _____

Email _____



Lenten Midweek Opportunities

Wednesday Noon Service

- 12 Noon — Thorpe Chapel — Preaching service and Daily prayer
- Soup lunch served after in the Fellowship Hall
(if we have enough volunteers)

Wednesday Evening Multi-Generational Events

- 5:30 – 6:30 soup is served
(If we have enough volunteers)
- 6:00 – 6:50
 - Adult & Youth Bible Study – “Passion For Justice”
 - Ages 4–Grade 1 Godly Play – “The Five Faces of Christ” – Madhu Bhat
 - Grades 2–7 – Study and Activities – Audrey Keller
- 5:15 – 6:00 — Bell Choir Practice
- 6:00 – 6:45 — Chapel Choir Practice
- 7:00 – 7:30 — Meditative Worship in a Celtic Style



Faith Formation Opportunities

All Ages Growing and Learning Together

Sunday mornings from 9:45–10:50 a.m.

Adult Forums in Heritage Hall

The “Passion for Justice” Bible study and small group discussion was written by ISALAH members and examines the Sunday gospel texts. We will look at how the gospel calls us into action based on our faith values and deepens relationships in our congregation and in our community. (This discussion will be repeated on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 – 6:45pm)

High School Youth (grades 9–14)

Meet in the Youth Room for discussions with Jack Dant, Ann Agrimson, and Audrey Keller.

Confirmation Classes (grades 7 & 8)

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

8th grade – On March 5, the Apostle’s Creed, taught by Pastor Kwanza Yu. The instructor and topic for the rest of March will be a surprise.

Communion Instruction will be held on March 26 & April 2. Parents and children Age 4 – Grade 3 who wish to have Communion Instruction should register with Diane Shallue. If possible, please register before March 12 so that she can order enough materials for a family project.

Children in grades 2–5

(Life Together Curriculum)

In **March**, teachers will be creating their own lessons, so there may be differences between the grades. These activities will be happening during the Education Hour.

March 5 – 4th-graders will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m. for Acolyte Training with Marty Dorow. This training will continue on March 12 & 19. Newly trained acolytes will be commissioned on March 19 at the 11:00 worship service.

March 12 – At the 11:00 worship service, the fifth graders will lead the congregation in reciting the Apostle’s Creed.

March 19 – Acolyte training continues.

March 26 – Fourth graders and their parents will meet in their classroom for a review of the meaning of Holy Communion. Second-grade students will recite John 3:16 and lead the congregation in saying the Lord’s Prayer at the 11:00 worship service.

Children from age 3 – grade 1

(Godly Play Curriculum)

March 5 – Miracle: Calming the Storm

March 12 – The Great Pearl

March 19 – The Good Shepherd and the Wolf

March 26 – The Great Banquet

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. ❖

Youth and Family News

Jump!



JUMP! is a *hip-hop worship* and it is the 2nd Sunday of every month at Redeemer Lutheran in Minneapolis.

A group from Hope *will be going every month.*

The next one is **Sunday March 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 3rd Sunday of every month. The next one will be on Sunday, March 19th

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

What? Going out to lunch for fellowship and quality time together!

Hope to see you there!

National Gathering 2006!



We have a great group heading to San Antonio this summer! Our next team meeting is March 26th from 6:00–7:30 p.m. More information on The Gathering is at <http://www.elca.org/gathering/home.html>

April Fools Bowlin'



Who? 7th and 8th Grade Youth
What? A night of Bowling and of course...**FUN!**
When? Saturday, April 1st 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Check our website for more info SOON!

From the Youth Director

A note from the Youth Director

Hello!

Singin' the winter blues? It's about that time of year when I find myself anxiously awaiting the days of longer sunshine and warmer weather. I wait for the day I can wear flip flops, the day I can study outside, the day I can head to the beach!

We could spend all day just waiting. We get anxious, frustrated, and sometimes really sad, just *hoping* whatever we are waiting for will happen. Maybe we're waiting for a phone call, for a friendship to grow, for a job to open up, or for a relationship with a family member to get better.

"I wait, for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope." Psalm 130:5

Our hope is *not* in these things we want, but in the Word of God! We know that we are taken care of and that God's love is all we need each day. Why do we spend so much time waiting for our plans to work out; waiting for what we want; waiting for anything other than the Lord? Christ fills us with his love, and *nothing* we spend our time waiting for is greater than that!

My challenge to you this month is to put your hope in God's promise to love you unconditionally. When you find yourself getting anxious or hoping for something, pray about it. Give your anxiety to God and put hope in His awesome plans for you. His love has overcome all the pain we find ourselves in. When you are fearful of the future, find hope in His promise to love you, no matter what.

I am praying with you and for you today and always.

God's Peace be with you!

—Audrey



“A Baker’s Dozen”

The financial challenge for this year is going to be “A Baker’s Dozen.” That is a simple way to express what happened in 2005 and so reflects on the congregation’s financial commitment for 2006. It seemed as though we needed just one extra month in 2005 to finish the year “in the black.” So, for 2006, we are asking our members to give a baker’s dozen—to contribute **13 months of offering to the work of the church in 2006 rather than 12.** The Board of Commissioners has established three key dates to determine our progress: April 23, June 11, and October 15. The Board will take stock of increased giving by each of those dates and report back to the congregation on progress. Our hope is that by June 11 the congregation will have responded generously enough so that we can go ahead with our plans for mission and service in 2006 reflected in our current budget. You can even contribute to this through “Simply Giving” by filling out an online form and checking “one-time gift,” indicating dates. (See www.ulch.org under “Stewardship”).

We hope for great success, but if there is not significant increase, then a special meeting will need to be held to determine cuts in program and/or staff.

As an added incentive, people can contribute this “extra month” to several different areas of mission, if you wish. We have Audrey Keller on board as our new Youth Minister. So contributing to the Youth Minister as a special offering is one possibility. Other possible areas of interest and concern include the increased cost of heating this winter, boiler updates and repairs, and contributing toward a special city assessment for water run-off. (Maybe you received the same thing from the city for your home). Or you can simply contribute to the general fund and mark your contribution as “Baker’s Dozen.”

2006 appears to be a pivotal year in the life of this congregation. We are attempting to bring the largest and most used part of our building up to modern safety codes. We will save some dollars next year on our heating bill with new and attractive windows. We are investing in our youth and our neighborhood with a more usable building and additional staff. We will soon launch our Mission Renewal initiative, which will look at our life today from the inside out: structure, staff, mission, and outreach. This initiative is meant to set a course for the next ten years, to seek to grow our congregation and redefine who we are. But it all starts with the means, reflected in the budget which you support generously through your regular offerings. So remember, 2006 is an unusual year, with 13 months to support the work of this congregation. ❖

—Pastor Craig Shirley

Diane Shallue Receives Award

Diane Shallue has been selected by the Lutheran Association of Christian Educators (LACE) as the LACE Christian Educator for 2005.

The criteria for nomination for this award include serving ten or more years in Christian Education, holding a current membership in LACE, being a visionary leader, having a formative influence on educational ministry, and being an advocate for church educators.

Her accomplishments were recognized on February 2 at the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators National Conference in St. Louis. LACE participated in this national conference. Diane was selected out of a number of outstanding individuals who were nominated from throughout the ELCA. ❖

Youth Gathering Fund Raiser

The March 12 Fellowship Meal will be sponsored by those participating in this summer’s trip to San Antonio for the ELCA National Youth Gathering! Please come and support these young people as they work to gather funds to pay for their trip. ❖

The Treasurer's Report

The 2006 general operation budget was passed at the Annual Meeting. The current year, 2006, has many unusual additional expenditures. We approved creating separate line items in the giving budget for these special needs. They are:

1. Making up 1/3 of the deficit \$ 6,500
2. 42% utility increase \$ 6,000
3. Boiler maintenance surprise \$10,000
4. Lot water assessment/insurance \$ 7,000
5. Youth Director & Supervision \$18,000
6. General (maintenance) \$ 2,000

An opportunity for giving to these needs has been designated "The Baker's Dozen," an amount equal to an extra Sunday's contribution in the year. Actually it is 10.6% *in addition to* your 2006 pledge to the general fund. The general fund pays for the staff, programs, lights, and heat. You can designate these contributions, and they can be made any time, but we created three Sundays to have measurable results. The benchmark dates are:

- 1/3 by Sunday, April 23
- 1/3 by Sunday, June 11
- 1/3 by Sunday, October 15

2006 Revenue Comparison of Actual to Budget: Each Month & Year to Date thru Friday, February 10, 2006

Month	# Sundays	Actual		Budget		Year to Date	over (under) Budget
		Month	Dozen	Month	Dozen		
January	5	\$ 41,699		36,528		41,171	+5171
February	<i>partial</i>	16,456	+6320	45,562			+6320
March				40,789			
April	5			51,683	+16,500		
May				39,814			
June				33,040	+16,500		
July	5			39,558			
August				39,183			
September				41,822			
October	5			41,508	+16,500		
November				38,005			
December	5			65,358			
Totals		\$ 58,155		\$ 512,351	\$ +49,500		

We have a great start thorough Friday, Feb 10 (one and one half weeks), for both the general fund and the "Baker's Dozen."

Action Steps: (1) Update your electronic Simply Giving to match your 2006 pledge to the general fund. (2) Commit to add an extra 10.6% or more to the general fund (or an extra Sunday), for the Baker's Dozen. Indicate this amount on an envelope, a note with your check, or on the electronic Simply Giving web site. By making our gifts intentional, we, together as our church community, can make it happen. ❖

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Of special note and interest to University Lutheran Church of Hope members is this notice of Lutheran Campus Ministry of Minnesota. Pastor Lamont Koerner has submitted a letter of intention to resign as Lutheran Campus Pastor, University of Minnesota–Twin Cities. While the Twin Cities ministry was identified by LCMM for assessment as to staffing level, this resignation letter was received before any of that conversation took place.

At the January 10 Executive Committee meeting the Committee accepted the resignation. The Executive Committee also resolved that the position not be re-filled, leaving the Twin Cities professional staff at two.

We are thankful for Lamont’s ministry. He will continue as a full-time campus pastor through May. We wish him Godspeed as he seeks other ministry opportunities. ❖

—Marcus Pera, Regional Director

This month you will find a message from Kathy Newell, Chairperson of the Lutheran Campus Ministry Council, to update you about changes happening in the ministry. I will add my words of thanks as a staff person for the diligent work of our Council in challenging times, and solicit your continued support as Covenant Congregations. ❖

—Jerie Smith for Lutheran Campus Ministry

Dear Friends of Lutheran Campus Ministry:

Greetings from Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM)—University of Minnesota–Twin Cities. First, let me introduce myself. I am the current chairperson of the LCM Board and, along with all the members of the board, I want to thank you for your ongoing support of this very vital ministry. I have recently retired from a full-time position in the School of Dentistry and am teaching the courses I love on a part-time basis.

Let me also introduce you to the LCM Board members:

Tom Achartz: a long-time member of LCM, first as a student and now as a member of the board. Tom has also served as our representative to the Lutheran Campus Ministry of Minnesota Board. Tom leaves us at the end of this academic year and we thank him for his devoted service.

Pastor Jon Buuck: Pastor at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, graduate of the U of M, and a new member of our board. Jon chairs our Facilities Task Force—a word about that later. And we certainly thank him for jumping right into things with all his talents.

Sherri Holmen: a Coordinator at the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs and Administration, she is now our representative to the LCMM board. Sherri helped create the Strategic Plan and will be working on the 100th-year Anniversary Celebration of Campus Ministry!

Erich Martin: an energetic former LSM student member in Grand Forks and a Coordinator and Program Director through Student Activities. He is responsible for Gophers After Dark at Coffman Union. Erich has served on the Development and Nominating committees.

Pastor Randy Nelson: a faculty member at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, where he serves as Director of Contextual Education. Randy served as chairperson of the LCM Strategic Planning Committee, the recommendations of which will guide us as we move forward with this ministry—more about that shortly.

Susan Niemi: someone with a longtime career in publishing who chairs the LCM Development Committee. This important committee, under Susan’s guidance, has been busy generating very important financial support for our ministry.

Student Members:

Kyle Flanagan: a student member of the board who studies through the Carlson Center. He is seen most Sundays singing with our musicians at worship.

Elizabeth Slagle: a senior majoring in neuroscience and applying to work with Global Mission of the ELCA after graduation.

Sarah Nelson: Another student member of the board, who is majoring in English. Sarah is just back from a semester in Norway.

Professional Staff: Pastor Lamont Koerner; Pastor Lisa Simonsen; Lay Campus Minister Jerie Smith

Updates on LCM:

- **Strategic Planning:** I mentioned above the Strategic Planning Task Force. This very important Task Force worked for well over a year helping to determine the future direction of the LCM ministry.

- **Quadrennial Review:** You may be aware that this ministry is reviewed every four years. Our last review took place last February, with rave results. The professional staff were commended for their work. We have begun diligently working on the recommendations, which will result in an even more viable ministry.

- **Facilities Task Force:** Many of you may enjoy memories of your time at the LCM building on the St. Paul Campus. One of the recommendations from the review affirmed the need to sell this aging edifice built in the 50s, and it will be on the market soon, with hopes we can relocate the ministry to the Minneapolis Campus. There we will be more “in the thick of things” and can minister to greater numbers of undergrad students. Please keep us in your prayers as we proceed with this process.

- **Pastor Lamont Koerner:** One last item of great importance to the LCM ministry, and I’m certain of interest to all of you, is the upcoming departure of Pastor Lamont Koerner. Lamont has been a leading force in this ministry for over 14 years and will be sorely missed. We do, however, wish him well in this time of change. As he stated in his resignation letter, “That change is the only constant seems an immutable truth....However, the time has come for change once again.” Lamont is closing this phase of his ministry and seeking new directions. Thus he has submitted his letter of resignation to the LCM board effective May 31, 2006. If you wish to recognize Lamont’s long-term work with LCM, please feel free to contact Jerie Smith, Lisa Simonsen, or me. I am certain Lamont would love to hear from you as he makes this change in his life’s work and as we plan for the future.

- **Professional staff:** Due to increasing costs, the position that Lamont vacates will not be filled. Beginning June 1, 2006, LCM–Twin Cities will continue to serve the needs of Lutheran students at the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities with Pastor Lisa Simonsen and Campus Minister Jerie Smith—two very dedicated and enthusiastic individuals. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they continue this very important work.

- **Celebrations:** 2007 will see the 100th birthday of Lutheran Campus Ministry. Sherri Holmen is coordinating the LCMM celebration planning and Pastor Lisa Simonsen has graciously agreed to chair and gather a committee that will plan LCM festivities. Please watch for more information and join us in what will be planned.

- **Opportunities:** We continue to look for dedicated individuals to serve on our board and to help with other responsibilities. Please consider us in the future or join us on a special committee or task force as the need arises. Don’t hesitate to contact Lisa or Jerie at (651) 645-4561 or (612) 605-8010 or me at (651) 489-2797. We will be happy to use your talents as we continue to serve LCM–Twin Cities.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the dedicated members of the LCM board and to update you on the work of this ministry and its board. ❖

—Kathleen J. Newell,
Chairperson, LCM Board

STAFF

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

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President-Elect: **Karmi Mattson**
Past-President: **Joan Campbell**
Secretary-Treasurer: **Norris Waalen**

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Congregational Life: **Val Sayre**
Education: **Lisa Morse**
Outreach & Evangelism: **Marty Lewis-Hunstiger
and James Hlavka**
Facilities: **Fred Kreider**
Stewardship:
Social Justice: **Eric Ringham**
Worship: **Diane Greve**

HOPE VISITOR

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