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

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## Synod Assembly Report

On April 28 and 29, 2006, I was a delegate to the Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly, along with Pastor Craig Shirley, Wayne Westwood, and Garvin Davenport. University Lutheran Church of Hope member Leslie Frost was also present as the Assembly's Parliamentarian, and Diane Greve attended as a rostered leader. This year's Assembly was held at First Lutheran Church in Columbia Heights.

On Friday, the Assembly took a bus tour to four churches in the area that are involved in the Synod's strategic initiative "Growing This Church Together." We visited Mercy Seat in Northeast Minneapolis, which is a new congregation targeted at young adults; St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in south Minneapolis, which is reaching out to Hispanics in the Phillips neighborhood; Faith-Lilac Way in Robbinsdale, which is participating in mission renewal through Natural Church Development; and First Lutheran Church of Crystal in Brooklyn Park, which is involved in partnership with our companion synods in Leipzig, Germany, and Nigeria.

On Saturday we took up the business of the Assembly, voting on 13 resolutions and 3 bylaw changes, all of which passed. Pastor Craig Shirley presented a resolution celebrating 100 years of Lutheran Campus Ministry, which passed unanimously. Other resolutions which passed included resolutions to end poverty and hunger in Minnesota; to provide support for returning combat veterans; to encourage the state legislature to restore the right of churches to ban firearms from their properties; and to endorse restraint in the administration of ELCA policies applicable to gay and lesbian persons called to ministry. Voting results and the full text of all resolutions can be found at [www.mpls-synod.org/2006assembly/](http://www.mpls-synod.org/2006assembly/)

In addition, we enjoyed inspirational worship services featuring the National Lutheran Choir and music from the new *Renewing Worship* hymnal. We appreciate the opportunity to have represented the congregation as delegates to this event. ❖

—Karmi Anna Mattson

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## Families with Adopted/Multicultural Children:

Join us on Sunday, June 11th, after the 10:00 a.m. service, for our summer picnic! This year we will be near University Lutheran Church of Hope, at the park by the Stone Arch Bridge, near 6th Avenue and old Main St. in Southeast. Sub sandwich makings, lemonade, and water will be provided. Please bring your own tableware and also one of the following: a salad, dessert, or munchie to share. Please **RSVP to Karen by June 4** at (612) 728-3819 or [bopeterso@yahoo.com](mailto:bopeterso@yahoo.com)

Hope to see you there! ❖

—Karen Jorstad,  
Picnic Coordinator

## Congregation Approves Loan Documents

In accordance with the University Lutheran Church of Hope Constitution, Chapter 7.2, the congregation approved loan documents submitted to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for a long-term mortgage on May 17, 2006. Thrivent has approved a long-term, 20-year fixed mortgage of up to \$1,730,000. The interest rate will be approximately 7.25% at close, and is partially based on our debt per Confirmed, Contributing, & Communing member. Hope has requested a construction loan from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. (The ELCA MIF offers a better rate than Thrivent and charges no set-up fees for a construction loan.)

As mentioned above, Thrivent partially bases its interest rate on the number of Confirmed, Contributing, & Communing members. In 2005, Hope membership was approxi-

mately 620, but contributing members (to the general fund) are 355. (Contributions have to be trackable, either by envelope giving, electronic giving, or by check. Loose change in an offering plate cannot be tracked.) Thrivent allows \$3500/member in debt at the base interest rate (= \$1,242,500). Our likely mortgage is \$4873 x 355 (= \$1,730,000). Having 38 more contributors could lower our interest rate by .125%.

Another 102 contributors would lower our rate by another .125%.

Hope must continue capital fund-raising appeals in three-year cycles to keep up with the debt service for the mortgage. The next capital appeal will commence sometime in 2008. Funding our capital needs in this way means that we get sub-

stantial building improvements now and allows us to raise money for future building projects and major maintenance needs. ❖

—Marty Dorow,  
Room for Fresh Creations project coordinator



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## Thank You

Thank you to Pastor Shirley for your phone calls and hospital visit, to Pastor Yu for your messages of support, and to all Hope members for your prayers during my recovery. It is appreciated more than words can say. Thank you!

—Deb Bordsen

The Garden Club would like to thank everyone who contributed to, helped with, and made purchases at our Plant Sale on May 6 and 7. Hopefully our plants, including many divisions from the Courtyard, found good homes in the community. The sale brought in \$638.75. The majority of that will go toward an electric mower for the church (the Facilities Commission is looking at options), and the rest should help replenish and rejuvenate the Courtyard this fall. Thank you all very much. ❖

## Pride Weekend

It's that time of the year again. Pride Weekend will be taking place June 24–25. The Outreach Commission is again seeking support from the congregation for this year's activities. On two Sundays, June 11 and June 18, there will be sign-up sheets in the lower Narthex for those who would be able to help out at the RIC (Reconciled in Christ) booth in the parade. This year, on Sunday, June 25, there will be rainbow ribbons available in the Narthex for those who would like to wear one and show their support for the GLBT community. The Outreach Commission would also like to thank the members of the congregation for all their past support. Pax! ❖

—James Hlavka,  
Outreach Commission



## *Benevolence Suggestion Form*

At the special congregational meeting on January 22, 2006, University Lutheran Church of Hope voted to donate 7% of the Room for Fresh Creations (RFC) pledge amount to charitable organizations outside the congregation.

The RFC pledge amount totaled \$609,968, seven percent of which is \$42,698. The RFC Benevolence Subcommittee proposes to split the total among local, national, and international beneficiaries, as we did with the 100th Anniversary monies. We propose to allocate the funds in three installments, one at the end of each pledge year. We welcome suggestions regarding beneficiaries, and we request that you complete the Suggestion Form below.

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Telephone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Email Address (if available):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of the organization/project you suggest funding:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Website of organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

If the organization does not have a website, please attach a brochure or similar documentation about the organization.

**Suggested donation amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

**This request is (circle one):**    \_\_\_\_\_ Local    \_\_\_\_\_ National    \_\_\_\_\_ International

**What is the relationship of this organization/project to University Lutheran Church of Hope and its mission?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Suggestion Forms must be submitted by July 1**

Completed forms may be left in the church office in the box labeled "Room for Fresh Creations Benevolence Suggestions"; mailed to the church office; or emailed to [PresidentElect@ulch.org](mailto:PresidentElect@ulch.org).

**Questions?** Contact RFC Benevolence Subcommittee members Karmi Anna Mattson ([PresidentElect@ulch.org](mailto:PresidentElect@ulch.org) or 612-302-8732); Jerry Johnson ([johns018@umn.edu](mailto:johns018@umn.edu)), or Kirsten Mebust ([kmebust@twincitizen.net](mailto:kmebust@twincitizen.net)).



## From the Director of Christian Education

**D**uring the month of May, I was asked to share about my journey in ministry and provide some advice for a meeting of the Youth and Family Network. I would like to share some of my comments with you.

My journey as a person serving in ministry began many years ago in another century. While I was a junior in college, I attended a retreat with my Lutheran Youth Encounter Team. At this retreat I discovered God as a living presence in my life. I discovered that God loves me very much. I discovered a God who laughs with me and tells me, “Be still, listen and you will find me.”

Because of these discoveries, I became an active member of a congregation in every community in which I have lived as an adult—Manitowoc and Appleton, Wisconsin, and Blaine, Minnesota. After 14 years as a “stay-at-home” working mom helping to raise 3 children, I felt a call (with a capital “C”) to serve in the church. After a year of soul searching, I decided to become a rostered leader in the ELCA but not ordained. I entered Luther Seminary and began a part-time paid position doing Youth and Family Ministry at St. Timothy’s Lutheran in Columbia Heights. After three years, I moved to a full-time position at Faith Lutheran in Coon Rapids, with a focus on the Christian Education program. Then I served for three-and-a half years at Cross of Glory in Brooklyn Center, and I have been at University Lutheran Church of Hope since July 2004. I see myself as leading from the margins and equipping leaders to serve in ministry settings.

I shared some insights and advice with the Youth and Family Ministry Network:

- Hang in there—don’t give up.
- Find an experienced mentor to help you with ministry skills and to support you through the ministry storms that will come.
- Forgive easily—yourself and others.
- Learn from your failures—for there will be failures as well as success.
- Laugh a lot and love the God who laughs with you.

I hope this short summary of my ministry journey and my discovery of a God who laughs will provide some food for your spiritual reflection. We are all together in this walk of faith, and in doing ministry in different ways in the name of Jesus Christ. ❖

Your partner in ministry,

—Diane E. Shallue

# The Green Pentecost Season

Jesus put before his disciples another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches” (Matthew 13:31-32).

It is summertime and seeds are growing. Little sprouts and long vines appear, flowers are blooming, and yards and fields are alive with green. It is amazing how those seeds, which look like nothing, contain in them the mystery of the mature plant. Some seeds fail, but many seeds are flourishing, and we are glad to watch them.

The increasing warmth of the days is helping the seeds. June, July, and August go from pleasant to hot to stifling, from enlivening breezes to stultifying humidity. Whether this year brings a drought or a flood, the heat impresses itself on us until we wonder how the race survived before air conditioning. Some folk relish the heat and seek out the sunshine to soak it up. Others are enervated by it and walk on the shady side of the street. But all must somehow deal with the heat.

As seeds hurry along in their task of growth and the sun pours its rays, most people slow down. Our looser clothing marks an inner loosening, a relaxation from the rigor and tension of the normal year’s work load. Most of the people rushing around are those hurrying off to vacations. We hurry up to slow down, leaving our fields to cultivate other seeds.

The hope for the Pentecost season of the church year is steady growth. This green season is the time when the church is to move into its Easter mission, to realize the effects of the indwelling Spirit, to be nurtured by the new life of the resurrection. The Sunday readings call us each week to deeper consideration of Jesus’ ministry. Christ preaches and heals, he performs miracles. He does with his first followers all that he does among us today. Fitting well with the theme of growth, the readings tell of Christ as the bread of life. Like wheat growing from the sower’s seeds, like grapes maturing on centuries-old-vines, the Word of God grows within the community. We eat, and so we live.

During this green season the church practices in growth. Usually the indwelling of the Spirit does not evidence itself in people by outbursts of ecstasy or by a whole city being converted in one day. No, usually the growth is small, one leaf today, but one opening tomorrow. Growth takes time. It is slow, so slow.

Part of awaiting growth is trust. We need to trust, not only that the seeds will actually sprout, but that the seeds will grow into their intended plant. Sometimes the seeds surprise us all: a tiny variety may become a substantial tree. We all need practice at such patience, such trust. Growing and learning such trust are easier in community than by one’s self. We give one another support, assuring each other that the seed will indeed sprout, and then mature—one of these days.

The Spirit of the God is in the community, moving and growing in ways never before imagined. The first disciples were surprised that Jesus brought life also to the outcasts and to Gentiles. Surely, as the body of Christ, we must intend to grow into what God has promised. And summertime is a good time for growing. ❖

So I invite you to worship with us on Sundays during summer. Our faith can grow and mature during this green Pentecost season. ❖

—Pastor Kwanza Yu

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## Did You Know...

The next time you meet people who have mental illness in their pasts, please do not let it color your thoughts about their futures.” (From a mother seeking mental health for her daughter.) ❖



## Baking in June

**T**hanks to all of you who bumped up your giving in April—we made our first “Baker’s Dozen” and are on track for the year. As you recall, the proposal at the annual meeting was to give one week extra offering four times during the year to make a Baker’s Dozen (13 months of giving instead of 12!). This will keep the congregation on track for budgeting—particularly important at this time when we’re also committing resources to the building project.

Our next Baker’s Dozen is in June—a good time to catch up on pledges before the travels and activities of summer begin. And throw in that extra check in June for the Baker’s Dozen. Some church activities (like the choirs and Sunday School), suspend operation for the summer, but the work of the church goes on. Kids and pastors will be traveling to Chicago, San Antonio, and Camp Amnicon. A group of adults, along with Pastor Yu, are preparing to travel to Malawi. And, of course, the renovation of the Education Wing will continue apace.

Enjoy your summer trips, take advantage of church activities when you’re home, and be sure to catch up on your pledge and participate in the Baker’s Dozen challenge for June! ❖

—Karen Westwood,  
Stewardship Commission

# The Treasurer's Report

**W**e made our budget for the first four months of the year! Actual revenue Jan – April \$ 191,127 versus Budget for same period \$ 191,217. The difference is just \$90. *This includes both General Giving and the Baker's Dozen—Combined.* General Giving exceeded budget and Baker's Dozen was under budget.

## The Baker's Dozen

	<u>Actual</u>		<u>Year to date</u>	
<b>Progress report through 4-30-06</b>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Goal</u>
To be received by: Sunday, April 23, 1/3 of goal	\$ 7,061	16,500	7,061	16,500
Sunday, June 11, 1/3		16,500		16,500
Sunday, Oct. 15, 1/3		16,500		16,500

Conclusion: Keep it up, giving is up June 11 is soon here.

**What is the Baker's dozen?** Our congregation has additional financial needs for 2006. It is 10.6% *in addition to* your 2006 pledge. The congregation voted yes, we can do it. It was approved unanimously at the annual meeting. *Can you help us reach our next goal on June 11, of \$ 16,500? Do this by continuing giving to the general fund and /or to the Baker's Dozen.*

**What is the General Fund?** It is the operating budget that pays the bills: staff, programs, heat, and maintenance of our facilities. It funds our immediate needs now.

### **The General fund: (does not include the Baker's Dozen)**

#### **2006 Revenue Comparison of Actual to Budget: Each Month & Year-to-Date as of April 30, 2006**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>		<u>Over (under)</u>
	<u>#</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
January		\$ 41,699	37,854	\$ 37,854	\$ 41,699	\$ 3,845
February		48,316	46,708	90,015	84,562	5,453
March		40,327	39,623	130,342	124,185	6,157
April	5	53,822	50,531	184,065	174,717	9,348
May			41,045			
June			33,068			
July	5		40,923			
August			38,071			
September			41,971			
October	5		39,951			
November			39,180			
December	5		<u>63,428</u>			
Totals	\$		\$ 512,351			

### **Action Steps:**

1. Update your Simply Giving for the General Fund.
2. Give to the Baker's Dozen. Together, *we made* our budget for the first four months. ❖

—Norris Waalen,  
Treasurer



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(612) 331-5988 [www.ulch.org](http://www.ulch.org)

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May 24, 2006

Dear Christian Friends:

University Lutheran Church of Hope is on an exciting journey to renew its focus in ministry. Over the next several weeks you will have opportunity to share your opinions and the Mission Renewal Task Force is looking forward to your participation.

### **A Bit of Background**

Through the course of establishing the “Room for Fresh Creations” Remodeling Project last year under the guidance of Kairos, a Christian resource development firm, Hope members raised up important questions about our mission as a congregation. To address this and better equip Hope in its strategic planning, the Board of Commissioners established the Mission Renewal Task Force (MRTF).

The MRTF is charged with exploring and identifying primary priorities in ministry for this congregation. We will draw upon the wealth of input we are gathering in this feedback process, along with other sources to gain insight to inform our thinking on Hope’s future ministry. Together with Kairos, we will work with our church leadership to develop and implement a missional focus for Hope that aligns our governance structure, staffing and financial resources with the priorities that are uncovered in the exploratory process now underway.

### **How Can You Help?**

1. **Join us for worship on June 4 and participate in a congregational survey at the close of the service.** We invite you to be involved in clarifying and defining who we are as members of Hope and how we will live out our Christian faith in that identity. It is important that we hear from as many members as possible in this survey process. The information you provide will help us assess the general impressions of our congregation and our ministry.

If you are unable to attend worship on June 4, you may complete a survey following the services on June 11 or June 18, or you may contact the church office and request that a survey be mailed to you. *All surveys are anonymous and must be submitted to the church office no later than June 18.*

2. **If you are approached by a Task Force member over the next month and are invited to complete a 1-on-1 interview, please share your thoughts and insights with us.** We are using the feedback from these in-depth interviews to better understand the viewpoints of members representing a variety of membership segments within our congregation.
  
3. **Participate in a focus group discussion** during the weeks of June 12<sup>th</sup> and June 18<sup>th</sup>. In addition to sessions with Hope leadership, we will be holding focus groups with youth, singles, seniors, parents of children from birth to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, and parents of children 7<sup>th</sup> Grade to college. Sessions will involve 10-12 participants and allow us to gain a broader understanding of the mission priorities for various segments of our congregation. Look for sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall during the weeks of May 28 to June 4.

We are excited about this process and hope you feel this excitement as you participate in these information-gathering events. You'll be hearing more about Hope's Mission Renewal in the weeks ahead. In the meantime, if you have specific questions, please contact one of the MRTF members:

Lisa Morse, Co-Chair  
Chris Collin, Co-Chair

Sharla Aaseng  
Joan Campbell

John Hustad  
Sonja Peterson

In Peace,

The MRTF

CC: Pastor Craig Shirley  
Pastor Kwanza Yu  
Garvin Davenport, Congregational President



## Hope Confirmands—Annual Trip to Chicago!

**A**s scheduled, we will leave on Thursday, June 15, and return on Tuesday, June 20. We will visit urban/inner churches in the Chicago area as well as Presiding Bishop and former University Lutheran Church of Hope pastor Mark Hanson. We will also do some sightseeing and have some fun.

We believe it is very important for these young people to have personal experiences such as visiting different churches and places outside of our own congregation. Thanks to the 2005 Rummage Sale and Hope Trust Fund for supporting the confirmation trip to Chicago! ❖

—Pastor Kwanza Yu

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## July 1 Deadline for Rummage Sale Money Requests

**O**ur annual rummage sale will be September 14–16. If you have a suggestion for spending some of the money we will earn, your deadline is July 1. Requests may be placed in the rummage sale box in the office, or you may call, mail, or e-mail Ruth Fingerson.

There are some rules that need to be followed. All suggestions must be accompanied by (1) the name of the person or group responsible for spending the money, and (2) an approximate dollar amount for the request. Requests without a dollar amount or name will not be considered. Once the money has been granted, it is up to that person or group to supervise the project. In many cases, a University Lutheran Church of Hope Commission needs to be involved, and the group or person suggesting the expenditure is expected to get clearance from the appropriate commission beforehand.

The complete list of requests will be posted on Sunday, July 2, and a copy will also be in the rummage sale box in the office for you to photocopy if needed. The decisions

about which projects are to be funded will be made at a meeting on Thursday, July 6, at 9:30 a.m. All rummage sale workers are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting. If you are a rummage sale worker and cannot be at the meeting, please call Ruth with comments and/or suggestions. ❖ They will be welcome, and will be brought up at the meeting. ❖

## Donations Needed for September Rummage Sale

**A**s you see items in your household that you no longer need but which are in good condition, please save them for the rummage sale. The dates for this year's sale are September 14–16. Donations can be brought beginning on Sunday, September 10, after Sunday School is over.

Our customers are very thankful for the merchandise that we are able to sell them at low prices, and our congregation needs the money earned. If you have a high-value item, call Ruth now and we will make special plans. Thank you! ❖

—Ruth Fingerson

## STAFF

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

## LEADERSHIP

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

## COMMISSIONS

Care & Nurture: **Sharla Aaseng**  
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**

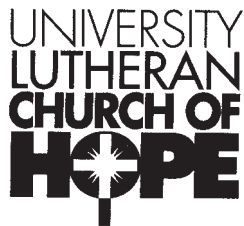
## HOPE VISITOR

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* may be submitted via email or in the church office. They must be signed. Send submissions and correspondence to: [visitor@ulch.org](mailto:visitor@ulch.org). Articles may be edited for length.

**The deadline for submitting articles is the 15th of every month (for the following 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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