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

Peace Pole Dedication

At the National Night Out Block Party on August 1, members of Hope and friends from the neighborhood will dedicate our Peace Pole, erected on our front lawn by the Hope Garden Club. The Peace Pole Project was started in Japan by the World Peace Prayer Society, a non-profit, nondenominational organization founded in 1955 by Masahisa Goi. The project was launched with a dedication to uplift humankind toward harmony rather than conflict. The Peace Pole reminds us to keep peace ever present in our thoughts.

Today there are more than 200,000 Peace Poles in 180 countries all over the world dedicated as monuments to peace. They serve as constant reminders for us to visualize and pray for world peace. They are in simple places, such as churches and gardens, and extraordinary ones, such as at the Pyramids of El Giza, Egypt and the magnetic north pole in Canada. They are promoting healing of conflict in places such as Sarajevo and the Allenby Bridge between Israel and Jordan. They have been planted in forests, cities, villages, squares, hospitals, city halls, corporations, schools, churches, temples, restaurants, private yards, offices, and even living rooms. Peace poles may be constructed from any material that is environmentally sound. In the United States, most Peace Poles are made from western red cedar, a wood that is a renewable resource. They bear the message, "May peace prevail on earth," in many different languages. Our Peace Pole at University Lutheran Church of Hope bears the message in English, German, French, Spanish, Russian, Hebrew, Norwegian, Korean, Somali, Hindi, Arabic, and Chinese. ❖

—Marty Lewis-Hunstiger

Outreach Rooted in Justice and Service

Saturday, September 9 could be one of this year's most important days for you at University Lutheran Church of Hope. On that day the ISAIAH Core Team will host an afternoon of door knocking and outreach in the neighborhood around Hope.

Why is this so important? Within a space of just a few hours we will:

- Get to know the neighborhood better, and let our neighbors know us.
- Generate business for the rummage sale.
- Strengthen our democracy by promoting voting and participation in ISAIAH election-year events.
- Invite people to join in the wonderful opportunities Hope has for education, worship, social justice efforts, and service.

Because this is such an important event, we're making it easy for you to participate. We'll provide a light lunch, a partner to work with, and top-notch training by ISAIAH and our own Diane Shallue.

Please also watch for opportunities to help with voter registration during the rummage sale, September 14–16.

Mark it on your calendars now: **Saturday, September 9, from 12:30–4:30.** For more information, contact a member of the ISAIAH Core Team: Scott Hvizdos, Kirsten Mebust, Donna Neste, Michael Peascoe, Nancy Struthers, Norris Waalen, or Wayne Westwood. ❖

—Scott Hvizdos

Public Dialogue on Healthcare

"Is healthcare a right or a privilege? Talking about values, living out our faith in the public realm." Church members, students, neighbors, business owners, public officials, and candidates will gather for a public dialogue about the pressing issue of access to healthcare, our values, and the kind of state we want to create as active citizens. The location will be Grace University Lutheran Church, 324 Harvard St. SE, Minneapolis, (612) 331-8125. Check www.graceattheu.org for directions and parking info. This event is free and open to the public. ❖

You're Invited! **Mission Renewal Task Force – Strategic Implementation Workshops**

Wednesday, Aug. 16: Fellowship Hall at Hope from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 23: St. Lawrence Catholic Church (across the street from Hope)
in the Fellowship Lounge from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Can you commit to both evenings on August 16 and 23, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.?
Can you prayerfully come with an open mind and open heart?

If so, join us for a light meal followed by workshop sessions.

Please RSVP by August 9 to Chris Collin at (651) 647-5632 or girlyw04@yahoo.com so that we can anticipate food arrangements and prepare a sufficient quantity of workshop materials.

The MRTF will present the highlights and key themes that have emerged from this mission renewal process and work with Kairos to begin congregational conversations about where we might like to take Hope from here. For reasons of continuity in this phase of the Mission Renewal process, it is very important that you attend both sessions.

If you're unable to make both of these sessions, watch for other future opportunities to contribute to further visioning on what Hope can be and do in the years to come.

PEASE Will Be with Us

OK friends, get ready to exhale. We have good news! PEASE Academy will be staying at University Lutheran Church of Hope and has agreed to a three-year lease with increased rent. We are negotiating the terms as this newsletter goes to print. This is a blessing for both our mission and our mortgage. Give thanks! ❖

—Joan Campbell

Shirley's Share

I have been serving as the interim chair of the Stewardship Commission this year. It is a constant challenge for stewardship committees everywhere to step back from the rigors of planning a yearly pledge campaign in order to look at the broader implications of stewardship, whether that be care of the earth, self-care, or other financial challenges. In June I was invited to attend a meeting about an interesting new idea being offered by the philanthropic arm of Thrivent Financial. They have created a pilot program called "Financial Fitness Club," in which a local congregation will host a meeting once a week. A trained volunteer (*not* a Thrivent sales person) leads the group's one-hour meeting. Through discussion, simulation games, personal goal setting, and mutual support, people in the club start to form and/or clarify their financial goals and find ways to meet them. Club members don't share personal information (how much one makes, what investments one has, one's debt load, etc.), but instead share ways to improve financial health. A person might set a goal to eliminate credit card debt in twelve months, and the group might then support that goal by monthly asking the person about credit card use, whether or not they have reduced the number of cards, etc.

With all our progress in mission renewal there is a lot of planning going on, but I would like to offer this up as an option that could begin here at University Lutheran Church of Hope in October. Does it sound like something that would be helpful for you? I would truly like to hear from you directly if this is of interest. I would also like to hear from you if you would be interested in being trained as a leader (the training is to take place in September). Please drop me a note, call, or email if you want to know more! Pax. ❖

—Pastor Craig Shirley

Re-Imagining Hope

What if you could gather together the key pieces of your life and organize them into a plan for the future? What would it look like? Hope is doing exactly that. We as a congregation have a chance that might literally come along only once in a hundred years. It's an opportunity many congregations don't get at all. But for us, the pieces are in place to reflect on who we are, where we've been, and where we might like to go from here. We have terrific resources to tap:

- A highly talented, committed congregation.
- A supportive staff.
- An in-depth, fresh, new look at the key pieces of our life and mission.
- A beautiful, updated building.
- Opportunities for growth.

The Mission Renewal Task Force (MRTF), commissioned by the Board of Commissioners and supported by the Trust Fund, has put together one of the most comprehensive pictures ever taken of HOPE. We have gathered:

- 195 member surveys and comments.
- Feedback from six focus groups representing various segments of the congregation and involving over 50 members (seniors, parent groups, singles, new members, past congregational presidents).
- Responses from some 30 individual staff and member interviews.
- A review of congregational history, including key documents such as the Long Range Planning Report of 1995, the Congregational Profile done for Pastor Shirley's call in 2001, the Isaiah exploratory findings of 2004, the History of University Lutheran Church of Hope produced for the 2004 celebration of Hope's 100th anniversary, the Kairos Report of 2005, and the Worship Commission Task Force Report of 2005.

What does it all tell us? You'll be finding out more over the coming weeks and months. Currently, the MRTF is collating, analyzing, and organizing the findings and their implications. After that, Kairos, the Board, staff, and interested congregational members will review this material in August, working toward specific ways to utilize what has been learned in re-imagining what Hope can be and do in the years to come.

As we go down the road of deciding what paths best suit our mission and our call to be the people of God in this place, we will need to be *dreamers* as well as *analysts*, people of faith, firmly planted, yet open to envisioning entire new ways of being Hope. We will need to be *sorters* and *shapers*, people informed by our history, secure in our identity, able to give shape to dreams with concrete plans, open to revised organizational structures and new staffing arrangements, or whatever is needed to revitalize our life together. Eventually, we must all be *doers*, supporting each other as "Workers together in the Kingdom of God," (to use the words of the Baptismal Welcome) in witness and service to the world around us.

This is certainly an exciting time for Hope. So join the process! Participate in the upcoming Strategic Implementation Workshops. Ponder the quotes and information blurbs that will be coming your way in bulletins, newsletters, and elsewhere. Share your thoughts and dreams. Find your niche in creating Hope's future. Together, we'll shape the next hundred years for University Lutheran Church of Hope. ❖

—Mission Renewal Task Force

Fall Kickoff Fellowship Meal

The Congregational Life Commission invites you to come to the fall kick-off Fellowship Meal on September 10. Due to the big success of the church basement potluck last May, we will start with another potluck. Please bring food that matches your last name:

- A-H — Main dishes
- I-Q — Salads
- Q-Z — Desserts

For more information, contact Ann Beane at (651) 481-8175. ❖

God's Invitation Continues

Although the Sundays of summer bear the name of Pentecost, as a preacher I have been thinking about how they can feel disconnected, removed from the power and activity of Pentecost itself. They seem more ambling and pedestrian than whirling and rushing. And yet it is the activity of Pentecost that has provided the lens through which we observe, interpret, and carry out the gospel message given to us throughout the summer season.

Let us take a moment to remember the Pentecost event: a rush of violent wind filled the house where the disciples were gathered; as divided tongues of fire rested on each one, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in a number of languages. A crowd gathered around the house when they heard many language being spoken, including their own. After hearing the disciples tell of God's great deeds of power, some were amazed and perplexed, asking, "What does this mean?" Others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." Peter spoke, citing the words of Joel that the spirit of God will rest on "all flesh" and that all shall be prophets of the words of God. The climax was the words, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

This Pentecost dynamic plays out throughout the Sundays after Pentecost. God's transforming power comes into our midst, inviting all to a new relationship with God. Some are amazed and perplexed; some sneer. The proclamation of Jesus' power, mirroring the power of God who stills the storm and hushes the waves (Psalm 107), meets amazing acts of belief. The hemorrhaging woman reaches out and touches Jesus; Jairus insisted that Jesus could heal his daughter. But also we hear startling responses of unbelief: the hometown crowd dismissed Jesus' teaching in the synagogue, and Herod had John the Baptist beheaded.

The promise proclaimed by our readings in the summer season is that, regardless of our response, God never stops inviting. God invites through the challenging words of prophets such as Isaiah, Ezekiel, Amos, and Jeremiah, to a people who hear and do not hear; through repeated invitations to live in ways that reflect a new life in Christ to people who are struggling with their identity; and throughout Jesus Christ, who embodies the love of God in a world living in darkness. Jesus proclaims, "I am the bread of life," inviting hearers again and again to a new relationship with God.

The movement of these texts provides a frame for understanding our activities throughout summer. God comes into our midst in the promise proclaimed and in the sacraments offered, and we respond, sometimes in belief, other times in unbelief. Through it all, God continues to engage and invite us. Two aspects of this movement are worth highlighting.

First, God comes to us on hillsides, on the water, in small towns, wherever God finds us throughout the summer months. The invitation to a relationship with God us takes place in the green grass, the dirty water, and the dust of the towns where we live. As we roll in the grass, walk on hot pavement, play in the water, sit behind desks, and open the windows of our homes, the love of God comes where we live and play. God's invitation to a new relationship comes in everyday activities and concerns.

Second, God's love does not come into a fantasy world where everything is wonderful and bright, and where all people who see God at work and hear the invitation stand up and say, "Oh, yes, Lord, I believe." God comes into a world both real and complex, where belief and unbelief exist together daily: beauty and ugliness, great compassion and deep hatreds, astounding abundance and mind-blowing want. Even summer, though often wrapped in images of vacationing families, romps on beaches, and picnics in park, is the witness to other images: families disrupted by violence, faces behind bars, bloated bellies.

So summer is not a "time-out" from the complexities, ambiguities, opportunities, and limits of this life. People's lives continue at full tilt, full of the best, the worst, and the mundane middle. God's invitation enters these complexities, and works through these realities so that they become places of transformation and sites of new possibilities in our relationship with God and with others.

Here is where the Pentecost lens is particularly helpful. The power of the Holy Spirit itself rests on us and emboldens us to proclaim God's great deeds of power in language that will speak to and be understood by our hearers.

If God's invitation meets people where they are, another challenge for me as a preacher might be to carry the message to people wherever they are throughout summer. Where might I be found as a preacher if I carry the message to people rather than assume that they will come to me? What might the worshiping community look like? What shape could my preaching take? Whatever the site, and however many are gathered, in this summer I am blessed to proclaim again and again the great deeds of God who so loved the world as to give the only Son of God to save the world and not condemn it.



—Pastor Kwanza Yu

Global Mission Trip to Malawi

Final arrangements have been made for the Malawi mission trip. Missions participants (Tim Hopkins, Mike and Ruth Fingerson, Don and Elaine Millam, Sydney Rice and Craig Wiester, Kwanza Yu, and Jerry Johnson) will leave in mid-September for Malawi, where they will spend two weeks as guests of Bishop Bvumbwe and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (ELCM). One purpose of the trip will be to bring solar ovens as requested by the bishop. Twelve ovens, purchased with money raised by the 6th-grade Sunday School class last spring, will be used to help introduce solar cooking in the country.

The group recently met with Mphatso Thole, Bishop Bvumbwe's administrative assistant, to discuss plans for the trip. The meeting took place during the visit of the ELCM Cathedral Choir to Wisconsin. After returning home, Mphatso sent the following message: "Receive greetings from the ELCM. I was happy to be with you and learned so much from the meeting of that day. I believe with your coming to Malawi the partnership will be strong and we expect to learn more from your group."

In addition to the ovens, the group will also bring several smaller items, including two dozen soccer balls and a hundred or more "soccer" shirts. ❖

—Jerry Johnson

Book Club

Join us and enjoy another great summer book with the Hope Book Club on August 13, 2006, 7:00 p.m., at Sonja Peterson's home: 1501 26th Avenue NE, Minneapolis, (612) 242-8711. The book is *Father Joe: The Man Who Saved My Soul*, by Tony Hendra, A New York Times Best-seller. "Extraordinary, luminescent, profound...I beg you to read this book...We need Father Joe now." (From the *New York Times* book review.) ❖

QRS On the Go

A reminder to all who are signed up for the Chanhassen Production, "Singin' in the Rain" on Saturday, August 12. The bus will be leaving the church at 10:30 a.m. If you need transportation, please call one of the following: the church, (612) 331-5988; Marion Jacobs, (612) 331-3871; or Wayne Westwood, (612) 781-3136. ❖

Facilities Help Needed

Facilities has been busy (with Robert's help!) with various projects, including taking down and moving to the pods the bulletin boards, putting air conditioners in Heritage Hall, and looking for the right cordless lawn mower. The Garden Committee is generously donating a cordless mower.

The Room for Fresh Creations (RFC) project is now getting to the point where we can start helping again. The word is that we are going to need volunteers for a variety of tasks this August. Those tasks are: construction cleaning, room preparation, room painting, door painting, putting door hardware on, and the inevitable move from the pods to the new space.

So be looking for my requests for help starting in the next couple of weeks. Even if you're at the lake, I'll find you!

If you can't handle a paint brush, maybe you can tape the windows, fill a paint bucket, wash a wall, or be a gopher. Just be willing to wear a few different hats during the month of August. And you can always let me know if you're willing to help by emailing me at: facilities@ulch.org ❖

Thanks!

—Fred Kreider,
Facilities Commission

Faith Formation Opportunities

Sunday School is coming! Sunday School will begin on Rally Day, September 10. The theme will be “Hear the Good News.” Registration forms for Sunday School can be picked up in the narthex beginning August 1, or can be downloaded from our web site and mailed to the church office. Classes are provided for children ages 3 through high school as well as for adults. Classes are held between worship services, from 9:50 – 10:50 a.m. For any questions, please contact Diane Shallue, the director of Christian Education, at (612) 331-5988, ext. 19.

JOB OPENING - Sunday teacher or substitute? Needed: people willing to team teach with an experienced person for kindergarten, second grade, third grade, and sixth grade.

Sunday School teacher orientation will be held on Sunday, August 27, from 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Teachers will receive class lists, curriculum, schedules, and information about the Rally Day activities. If you cannot attend, please notify Diane Shallue and make arrangements to meet with her.

A **“Godly Play” introductory workshop** will be held on Saturday, September 9, from 9:00 – noon in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Meyer, a certified Godly Play trainer, will provide an introduction to Godly Play, demonstrate the story-telling techniques, explain the classroom environment, and give some tips on classroom management. The cost is free to members of University Lutheran Church of Hope, but there is a \$24 fee for members of other congregations. Godly play teachers, substitutes, and parents are invited to attend this event. Please let Diane Shallue know if you are coming so that we have enough materials for everyone. Leave a message at (612) 331-5988, ext 19.

We received a **letter of thanks** from the South East Minneapolis Council on Learning (SEMCOL) for our generous donations of books. We collected books for them from January until the end of April. SEMCOL includes four volunteer members from the Como, Marcy, and Prospect Park neighborhoods. This year the Council gave over 250 books to children at the Van Cleve and Luxton Community Parks in an effort to encourage children to read and adults to read to children.

Adult Education Opportunities

The Lay School of Theology at Luther Seminary is currently taking registrations for fall courses on Mondays, September 18 – October 16. The following are being offered:

- Frederick Buechner: Pastor and Pilgrim (noon – 2:00 p.m.)
- Making Sense of the Cross: Exploring Theories of Atonement (7:00 – 9:00 p.m.)
- Book Discussion on God’s Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn’t Get It (7:00 – 9:00 p.m.) and Discover Your Dependable Strengths (7:00 – 9:00 p.m.) The fee is \$60 per course. Call (651) 641-3416 or go to the website www.luthersem.edu/lifelong_learning ❖

—Diane Shallue

Music Camp

The University Lutheran Church of Hope Summer Music Camp will be held Sunday, August 20 through Wednesday, August 23. This is our fourth annual music camp! And we’ve had a great time each year! It is open to kids entering second grade and above, all the way through returning high-school seniors. We will be singing, playing choir chimes, hand bells, and Orff instruments and working on art projects. Once again, our music camp will be led by Kay Else, Rosalie Eldevik, Cindy Bergstrom, Diane Shallue, and Tim Strand. At the conclusion of our week we will sing and play in church on Sunday, August 27. Registration forms will be sent to households with children, but please also feel free to call Tim Strand at church, (612) 331-5988, to ask further questions. And please encourage your children to invite their friends to join us! ❖

The Four Keys

The purpose of this column is to provide a faith-formation resource for families. Last month we wrote about *caring conversations*. The theme for this month is *family devotions*.

The most significant religious influence in the life of a child is talking about faith at home with mother or father. The time spent in Sunday School or Confirmation, while important, often is not as formative as time spent at home telling faith stories.

Here are some ideas for family devotions.

- Make your dinner table a sacred space. Put candles on the table and light them at meals. (For younger children, use battery-powered candles.) Remember that Christ is the light of the world. Ask: “How have you been the light of the world to someone today? How has someone been the light of the world for you today?”
- At the dinner table, pass around a roll of tape and ask each person, “What keeps our family sticking together?” Have each person at the dinner table stick a Band Aid on their hand and discuss what in our world needs healing. (Ideas from *Heart Ignite*, by Lyle Griner & Diane Monroe, Youth & Family Institute.)
- Create a home altar with a cross and a special picture. Add a prayer basket or jar. Keep a small pencil and slips of paper so that members of your family can put prayer requests into the jar. On Sunday nights, have family devotions where you pray for the requests in the jar.
- Pick up the free *Davey and Goliath* devotional booklet at church and read one devotion each night before bed.
- During Advent, use an Advent calendar and read a Bible verse before meals each day, or read one verse a day from one of the four gospels.
- Ask your children to name the holy spaces they know in your home. A holy space is a place where you feel God’s presence. You might be surprised at their answers.

Remember that family devotions connect different generations with faith, hope, and love in a world that speaks and operates on a different basis than the gospel of Jesus Christ. ❖

—Audrey Keller and Diane Shallue

New Hymnal Coming

A new Lutheran hymnal is coming! Do you realize that the “new” green hymnal is now 28 years old! As part of the ongoing Renewing Worship process of the ELCA, a hymnal called *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* will be released this October. The new worship book was approved by the National ELCA Assembly in Orlando last year. The hymnal contains 654 hymns, many from *Lutheran Book of Worship* and *With One Voice*, and, of course, many new hymns from many cultures, along with a number of older, familiar hymns that were not included in *LBW*. There are ten (yes, 10!) musical settings of Holy Communion—many familiar to us and also some new ones. The book will contain much that is very familiar and will also give us easy access to new material, some of which we have already been using and reprinting in the Sunday bulletins.

The Worship Commission has approved purchase of the new hymnals, but now we need to raise the necessary funds. The introductory price for the hymnal is \$17.50. After October, the set price will be \$20.00. We will be seeking donations to pay for the new books, and we especially encourage giving copies in memory of loved ones or in honor of someone. We will be placing inserts in the Sunday bulletins throughout August to facilitate this process. Thanks for whatever you can do to help us get these new hymnals and carry on University Lutheran Church of Hope’s history of leadership in music and worship in the church. Feel free to call Tim Strand, Cantor, in the church office, (612) 331-5988, to ask questions or make a donation! ❖

Youth and Family News



Tuesday Night Summer Fun Continues through August!

All 7th- 12th(entering) grade youth are invited!
7-8:30 p.m. each night unless otherwise noted

August 11th (Friday)-Twins Game!

This is for youth

AND their families!

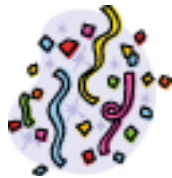
August 15th-Campfire!

August 20th-23th ULCH Music Camp



Fresh Creations for a New Generation

Youth Ministry Visioning Continues with a very important follow-up meeting in August. Due to crazy summer schedules we are still figuring out the best date for a meeting when Terri Elton from Luther Seminary can be here as well. *Please* keep a look out for emails and bulletin announcements regarding this meeting.



Summer Celebration!

This summer has been full of wonderful faith experiences with the youth here. Sunday August 27th after worship we will have a celebration!

This is an opportunity for the youth to share with you what they have experienced this summer.

Please plan to join us in fellowship hall for coffee hour, sharing pictures, memories, and thanks to you who support the youth in their faith journey.

A Note from the Youth Director

Hola!

Wow! What an amazing summer! God has blessed us with great opportunities to grow, celebrate, challenge ourselves, and experience the love God gives us in many ways. Just in the past few weeks I am feeling God's presence more as I have been able to spend a lot of time with all of you. Let me explain what I mean.

Last week at Camp Amnicon we talked about "Reconnecting with God". One way I feel that God calls us to reconnect with Her is to reconnect with one another. If we believe in the Holy Spirit living in you and I, then we experience the Holy Spirit personally and when we encounter another person. I think it's beautiful. When you love someone and take time to grow close with them, aren't we also drawing closer to God?

This summer I have been blessed in being given the opportunity to work full time here and really spend quality time with all of you. The more I get to know each of you and experience things with you, the more I feel the closeness and the personal presence of God in my life.

In whatever relationships you grow close to this summer, remember your closeness to God as well. Remember that God is with you in the love you find with other people. I challenge you to take time to praise God today for the close relationships in your life and thank God for being present through those relationships.

A verse to check out...1 John 4:11-13 I may have used this before, but I just love this chapter.

My prayers go to you and your family this month and for God's peace in this world.

Via Con Dios!

Audrey

National Gathering Reflections

After months of preparation and amazing support from all of you, we journeyed to San Antonio, Texas for the ELCA National Youth Gathering. I had previously participated in one of these Gatherings in New Orleans in 1997, and I was particularly nervous for the conference itself. The Gathering was organized, eclectic, inspirational, and an overall awesome experience. Here are some responses to the speakers from members of our group:

After hearing Yessenia Vasquez's story we have realized how she has used God through these hard times and really believes God works miracles. Yessenia attempted to cross the border twice. On her first time she was caught and lied about where she was from, saying she was from Mexico instead of Guatemala. This only brought her back to Mexico. The second time she was caught and told the truth about herself. This caused her to be in a detention center for 10 months. A nun came and heard her story and took her back to live with her and her sisters. The nuns have taught her to speak English, drive, and be a medical assistant. Last year, the nuns paid for her to go back to visit her family in Guatemala. She couldn't have gotten through all this without putting her trust in God

—Maddie Kufus and Anna Bablitch

"Why go where you are not needed?" was one of the questions Tony Campolo challenged us with. Why waste the opportunities God has given us on ourselves? Why spend our precious time acquiring trivial titles and worthless wealth while at the same time we could be creating a new world order based on the vision God has for this world? Rather than being pessimistic or accusatory, as is all too common among many in the Christian community today, Campolo was optimistic about the future and urged us not to lose hope, but to hang on and continue with God's work no matter what. Campolo's message is a call to duty, a challenge to force change—for, on this earth, God's work must truly be our own.

—Andrew Kingsriter

Though his speech was short, it got right to the point. Born in Ghana, Emmanuel Yeboah was considered a second-class citizen due to a physical impairment. He could use only one leg. Emmanuel wanted to show his country and the world that he really was at the same level as everyone else—so he biked all the way across Ghana, 379 miles, using only his left leg. His plan worked, bringing attention to the struggles of those with disabilities. Emmanuel never accepted that there were limits in his life, and he encouraged us to have the same mentality.

—Jenny Dickhaus and Kjerstin Sanden

For me, the most inspiring thing was being able to experience this event with an amazing group of high school youth and the other two dedicated chaperones. We are so blessed to have such a genuine and passionate group of young people at University Lutheran Church of Hope. Those who attended were Anna Bablitch, Jenny Dickhaus, Karis Hustad, Andrew Kingsriter, Maddie Kufus, Sarah Lauber, Ingrid Lee, Kjerstin Sanden, Sam Wojta, and Ben Tetlie (who stayed on as representative to the Lutheran Youth Movement Convention.) Sarah Hanson, Craig Shirley, and I were chaperones.

Every night, at the end of our long days, we had the "final 15." This was a time for our group to check in and recap our highs and lows of the day. Even though we were tired, we took time as a group to share, laugh, and pray together. This was important time for us and helped us regroup and connect our experiences to our personal lives.

"We Are Not Alone" was a learning experience I went to at the ELCA Youth Gathering. It was one of the most eye-opening events for me during the trip. "We Are Not Alone" was about being a Christian in a non-Christian culture, and it was led by two men, Salim Kaderbhai and Pastor Gabi Aelabouni. They told their stories about growing up and coming to their Christian faith.

—Ingrid Lee

One of the options at the gathering was something called "Learning Experiences." These were small-group discussions and presentations. One of the presentations was by a woman named Heidi who had been a prostitute. Her presentation reminded me how blessed I am and also suggested to me some of ways I could be a better person.

—Sam Wojta

When I used to think of Christian Music, the word boring would come to mind. Not anymore—now I think of the word exciting! During our few days in San Antonio, we heard quite a few Christian bands, and they were anything but boring. The music styles ranged from acoustic guitar and keyboard (Lost and Found) to rap (Agape) to punk (Newsboys). Who knew that Christian bands could be so cool and inspirational? I know that I'll be listening to these groups more and more!

—Sarah Hanson

Twice a day, we went to the Alamodome to hear speakers and bands play. We spent a lot of time at the Convention Center, where we went to "Learning Experiences" and to the Interaction Center. I met tons of new people and got to know the people in our group a lot better. I had such a blast, and hopefully we'll be able to go again in 2009! I have so many great memories and I'm really happy I went.

—Sarah Lauber

I heard the most shocking story of my life on the third night of the gathering. Francis Bok is 27 years old, but he spent nearly ten years of his life in slavery. He told of his memories of life before his abduction, the horror of his life under his treacherous master, and the life he has created for himself after his dangerous escape. Until I heard Bok's story I was unaware that this type of slavery was still alive in the world today. His story inspired me to work against slavery and look for other types of slavery that are still alive.

—Ben Tetlie

It is in the community of our group and the relationships with these people that I experienced God most clearly on this trip. To see the faith experiences of young people and the way they love and care for one another is truly Christ's presence in this world. I look forward to seeing how this community continues to support their faith journey and ambitions to make a difference in the world.

A truly heartfelt thanks to all who helped plan fundraisers and to those who gave the support that made it possible for all of us to attend this event. God bless you! ❖

—Audrey Keller

Confirmation Trip to Chicago

What follows are excerpts from the journals of the University Lutheran Church of Hope confirmation class concerning their annual cross-cultural trip to Chicago, June 15-20.

Sunday Worship

At Bethel Lutheran Church I experienced a completely different way of worship from the one at Hope. At Hope, during the service we usually just sit in our pews, listening, singing, and praying according to plan. At Bethel, the only things they have in their bulletins are the liturgy and the order in which things go. They feel free to shout "Hallelujah!" whenever they feel like it. When they share the Peace they not only shake the hands of the people sitting in the pews around them, but everyone goes around shaking everyone's hand. Their music and choirs were excellent as well. You could tell they wanted nothing better than to be there worshipping God.

—Elliott Beane

Hispanic Church Visit

The first church we visited in Aurora, 38 miles from Chicago, was the Hispanic church Parraquia Lutherana San Francisco de Asis. The pastor there was Hector Garfias Toledo, who was born in Mexico. As more Latinos have made their homes in Aurora, the tension there has increased. One sign of that is that the Fox River now splits the town into two sections, the Anglo section and the Latino section. Pastor Hector hopes to make both the Latinos and the Anglos within his congregation feel welcome. When visiting with him, we felt God was with us. The pastor and the church shared how, even though many conflicts were arising outside the church, they have found a way for two different denominations, one Anglo Lutheran and one Latino Catholic, to worship peacefully in the same building without problems.

—Micah Morse & Jonathan Tetlie

Visit with Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson

We visited Bishop Mark Hanson at his office in Chicago at the ELCA Headquarters. Some of his many responsibilities are overseeing 68 bishops, seminaries, colleges, etc., and traveling internationally to speak with political leader and leaders of religious bodies. He has spoken with George Bush, and even with the Pope! On top of it all, he is the president of the Lutheran World Federation and works for peace in the Middle East with a large group of Muslims and Jews. Mark Hanson is an amazing person to meet. We are all glad we had the opportunity to see him. While he has a lot of work to do, he also finds time to be with his family. He has 6 kids!

—Maya Auguston, Tessa Frederiksen, & Emma Schneider

Public Housing Project

On Friday, June 16, we visited the public housing projects at Cabrini Green. It was kind of shocking because the poor, "ghetto" life-style that is seen in many movies was actually visible all around us. Windows were boarded up and you could tell that residents were struggling with money. Fortunately there was help from the Holy Family Lutheran

Church, which has a program that helps troubled kids follow the right path in life. The kids had several people around to hang out with throughout the day, some of whom grew up in Cabrini Green. The situation there is very bad, but we were told that it is getting better.

—Eliot Bieletto and Peter Ringham

Uptown Ministries

On Friday we visited Uptown Ministries. This is a ministry located in North Chicago for homeless people, drug addicts, alcoholics, and others who just want to talk. We toured around the building and they told us all about what they do. There were only 10 people who worked there, and they did their best to help the public. This was a great experience to see people helping others without getting paid a lot of money. Uptown Ministries was a great place. Let us keep them in our prayers.

—Maria French and Linnea Pignatello

King Tut and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs – The Field Museum

Imagine walking into an ancient tomb of royalty 3,000 years ago, gold beaming everywhere, ancient characters inscribed on the walls. Well, that's what the 2006 Confirmation group walked into when they saw the "King Tut" exhibit at the Field Museum in Chicago. It was hard to believe that the royal objects displayed for us to see were items that had existed for more than 3,000 years in Egypt. It was amazing to see these artifacts in extremely good and even near-perfect condition. It was even harder to believe that some of the objects were made by people entirely without the technology of today. The designs were very intricate and delicate. Every piece was made with extreme precision and care.

—Molly Gamble and Anna Ostroushko

Chicago Visits

The thing that stands out for me about our trip to Chicago is the variety of experiences we were able to share together. Everything from fun times at Six Flags and playing "Spoons" at the church to visiting the neighborhood of Cabrini Green and experiencing some of the poorest housing projects in the country.

These experiences alone are valuable and can really open our eyes to things that are going on in the world that we may otherwise may ignore. What was most meaningful for me was to be able to experience all of this as a community from University Lutheran Church of Hope. It was a great group who went to Chicago, and I really look forward to spending more time this year with them and seeing how we can bring our experiences alive in a unique way here in this community.

—Audrey Keller

A Cross-Cultural Trip to Chicago

Judging from the chorus of pleas, "Can we go back to Chicago?" as our vans pulled into the Hope parking lot the evening of June 20, it is fair to conclude that our five-day trip was a rousing success. These teenagers gained independence and maturity by spending this time away from their parents. It was my great pleasure to participate in this event, from which I made many new friends and learned more about my own faith in Jesus. ❖

—Tim Hopkins

Special Thanks to the 2005 Rummage Sale Committee!

Many, many thanks to the Rummage Sale Committee members in 2005 who gave us a generous gift for the cross-cultural trip to Chicago. We had enough money to rent two vans: a 7-passenger and a 12-passenger van, and buy gas (it was very expensive, indeed!). The parents donated money for admission fees for King Tut, Six Flags, and some groceries. It was a week of learning, growing in our faith, and having lots of fun. ❖

—Maya Auguston, Elliott Bean, Eliot Bieletto, Tessa Frederiksen, Maria French, Molly Gamble, Micah Morse, Anna Ostroushko, Linnea Pignatello, Peter Ringham, Emma Schneider, Jonathan Tetlie, Audrey Keller, Tim Hopkins, Pastor Kwanza Yu

Thank You

Thanks for all you do for us. Have a great summer. ❖

—Dean Weigel,
Executive Director of Loaves and Fishes

Thank You

I would like to express my thanks for all the cards and for the plant given by members of Hope in honor of my 90th birthday. All my love to my friends. ❖

—Millie Holmgren



Thanks!

We say “thanks” to the following members for their contributions to our Hope Church Endowment Fund between January and June of 2006. Your gifts help ensure that University Lutheran Church of Hope will be in our future and in the future of generations to come.

Beane, John & Ann • Berger, Lorraine • Berkeland, Jeanne & Bob • Brovold, Jean • Christenson, Audrey & LeRoy • Engle, Floyd • Halvorson, Marge & LeRoy • Hanson, Bertha • Housington, Jean & Robert • Jensen, Gracia & Paul • Langguth, Ila Mae & Deane • Lynes, Kenneth • Manke, Shirley & Herman Parry, Donna & Jack • Peterson, Sharon & Greg • Peterson, Shirley & Bill • Preus, Marilyn • Rhodes, Verle
• Saari, Inga • Templin, Mildred ❖

—The Trust Board

Acknowledgment

Margaret Sihler Anderson’s family acknowledges, with gratitude, the many people who have contributed their time and talents to the service in her memory: David and Judy Ranheim, for serving as facilitators for all aspects of the service; friends of many years for participating in or assisting with the service; Tim Strand, University Lutheran Church of Hope Organist and Cantor, for his leadership with the music; Craig Wiester, Hope Church Administrator, for preparing the service bulletin and handling administrative details; and Sandy and CJ Robinson, Leona Reyelts, and members of Hope Church for their assistance with the reception. ❖

Wanted: Old Bed sheets

Wanted: old bed sheets, any color, any condition—will be greatly appreciated by me. I roll bandages for Global Health Ministries. You may leave the sheets in the church office.

Thank-you! ❖

—Deane Langguth

Telephone Equipment at No Cost

Do you wish it were easier to hear callers clearly, to hear the phone ring, to dial or hold the phone, or to have your voice understood on the telephone? You may be eligible to receive the telephone equipment you need, free of charge from the State of Minnesota’s Telephone Equipment Distribution Program. You are already paying for this service through a telephone surcharge on your phone bill. For more information, call 800-657-3663 (TTY callers call 888-206-6555) or visit the web site www.tedprogram.org ❖

Rummage Sale 2006 Funding

Whew! In recent years the annual rummage sale has typically earned about \$11,000. Requests usually come in at a little above that. This year the requests totaled **\$28,480!**

Every request was worthy, and selecting from among them was hard. The following projects were funded:

Lounge furniture – \$2500 • Sunday School storage – \$4800 • Camp Amnicon – \$1000
High school youth trip – \$1200 • Confirmation group trip – \$1500 • QRS – \$500 • Senior group – \$200

Total: \$11,700

Thanks to everyone who attended and helped to make these difficult choices. Now we need to do all we can to earn the money! ❖

—Ruth Fingerson

The Great Hope Get-Together Is Coming Soon!

Can you contribute items for the September rummage sale?

Our large Rummage Sale will be held **September 14, 15, 16, 2006**. Many people come year after year, knowing that they can find things that they can afford. Some go away disappointed that we did not have what they needed. We need all sorts of items that are in good, clean, usable condition, *not broken, dirty, or needing repair*.

This is a large sale that sells an amazing variety of usable items. Our departments are:

Furniture • Housewares • Treasures (extra nice items, antiques, collectibles) • Linens •
Clothing • Books • Toys/Sports • Hardware

Please donate all of the “good stuff” that you can, and come to buy and help! Ten per cent of our revenues go to charities chosen by the Rummage Sale workers. The rest is used for needed items within our own congregation that our budget cannot cover. Merchandise not sold goes to a variety of **charities**. First choice goes to charities that give away the merchandise rather than selling it. Please call Ruth if you have a favorite charity that would appreciate unsold items. We need to know before the sale week. If you receive new household items, please seriously consider finding a way to store the replaced items that are still in good condition. We need them for the Rummage Sale. **Merchandise may be brought to the church September 10, 11, 12** (Sunday until 1:00 p.m., Monday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. of the sale week).

I keep wondering if there is not some way we can earn more money than usual this year. That is pretty much up to you, all the members of Hope. Please prayerfully consider some of these things:

- Donate more items in good condition, especially furniture.
- Help us to attractively display merchandise.
- *Come and buy!* Many people do not realize what wonderful things Hope members donate to the sale. It is entertaining to see some of the “unusual” things, but there are some great bargains as well, especially in the Clothing and Treasures departments.
- Contribute only items in good working order, not needing repair. Our dumpster bill has been skyrocketing lately. We do not sell “junk,” or things needing repair.
- No computers, monitors, or TVs! These do not sell, and it costs us a lot of hard-earned money to dispose of them legally. When the dumpster people find these items in our trash, they charge us very high fees.

Please label each item if it is at all possible that someone might not know what it is. It is important to tape a note to anything electrical indicating that it works well, along with any special information for the buyer. If it doesn't work, *please do not send it*. We have no way of repairing merchandise. Please do not send dirty items, for they are hard to clean at church by our workers, and we do not sell dirty merchandise.

We cannot accept:

computers, monitors • television sets • stereos in cabinets • tires, batteries • storm windows/doors •
plumbing fixtures • baby food • cosmetics • water beds • major appliances • exercise equipment •
child car seats, cribs (liability exists if they are not up to new standards) • lawn mowers needing repair.

Thank you! ❖

—Ruth Fingerson, (651) 633-5316, Rfingerson@comcast.net

The Treasurer's Report

Results for the First Six Months

Actual revenue Jan – June is \$ 269,693 versus Budget for same period \$ 281,829.

Difference is \$ (12,136). *This includes both General Giving and the Bakers Dozen–Combined.* General Giving exceeded budget by +12,822 and Bakers Dozen was under budget, by (25,259)

The Bakers Dozen Progress report through 6-30-06	Actual		Year to date	
	<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, July 31, 1/3	680	16,500	7,741	33,000
Sunday, Oct. 15, 1/3		16,500		49,500

The June goal is extended to July, three months after the April benchmark.

What is the Bakers dozen? Our congregation has extra needs this year. Support it by giving an extra months worth, (actually 11%) to meet our budget. The budget was approved unanimously at the annual meeting. **Help us reach our next goal on July 31, of \$ 16,500? Do this by continuing giving to the general fund and /or to the Bakers 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: (these \$ do not include the Bakers Dozen)
2006 Revenue Comparison of Actual to Budget: Each Month & Year to Date
as of June 30, 2006

	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>		<u>Over (under)</u>
<u>Month</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	55,372	50,531	185,714	174,717	10,991
May		38,862	41,045	224,576	215,761	8,815
June		37,174	33,068	261,651	248 829	12,822
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 can meet our next goal at July 31.

—Norris Waalen,
Treasurer

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: **Lisa Simonsen, Jerie Smith**

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President-Elect: **Karmi Mattson**
Past-President: **Joan Campbell**
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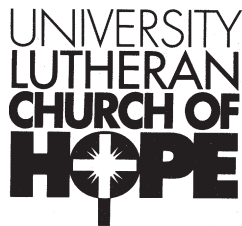
HOPE VISITOR

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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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