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

Highlights from the Mission Renewal Task Force Report

You may have heard it said that University Lutheran Church of Hope is a "thinking" congregation. Well, the results of the Mission Renewal Task Force's initial data gathering efforts are in. It's time for Hope members to put their thinking caps on and consider how the findings will inform the future of our ministry.

What did we learn after having surveyed 195 confirmed members, conducting six focus groups, and interviewing some 30 individuals, including all of our staff and members representing various segments of the congregation? Here are some highlights:

- 9 out of 10 members feel that growth in our membership numbers is a high priority. The question before us, then, is: Where will this growth come from?
 - As a congregation, we'd prefer to maintain a diversity of ministries rather than narrow the focus down to just a few.
 - Members are looking to the laity, rather than the pastoral staff, to own and drive our mission directives; they are primarily looking to staff for support. In a culture where there is constant competition for one's time, where will the motivation and energy for this come from? How can we get more members actively involved? What does the relationship between the membership and the staff need to look like?
 - While there is no *one* area of ministry in which a majority of members place priority (which seems to echo our desire for diverse ministry), two areas—*Worship/Music & the Arts, Youth/Children's/Family Ministry* and *Personal Spiritual Nurturing*—emerged as the areas of greatest preference for future focus.
- Not surprisingly, we heard lots of high praise for Hope's worship, music, and preaching. One key finding is that the younger you are, the less inclined you are to find the Sunday morning worship experience to be personally inspiring. A potential target demographic for Hope, given the emphasis members have placed on *Youth/Children's/Family Ministry*, are young families. Congregational Survey results reveal that our members in the 31–50 age range and those with children—particularly between the ages of 6 and 15—are among the least likely of our members to experience our worship as being inspiring from Sunday to Sunday. If we are truly serious about growth as a priority, what do we need to do to ensure that these members feel inspired when they leave the sanctuary on Sunday morning?
 - It is no surprise that *Youth/Children's/Family Ministries* are among the top priorities for those members with children in their household. It is also interesting to note that support for this ministry crosses all demographic segments of our congregation. Seniors, for instance, place more priority on this than they do on Seniors Ministry.
 - Personal Spiritual Nurturing is an area of opportunity for Hope. A key ingredient in what we say we need to stimulate and nurture our growth is community and relationships with others. While we tend to have very positive perceptions about our ability to foster loving relationships outside of Sunday morning worship, we aren't as effective at fostering a sense of passionate spirituality in ways that enable us to live out our faith with commitment, fire, and enthusiasm. Nor are we as effective as we could be at cultivating small groups where we can find community and engage in intensive spiritual interaction. Given that this is an area members

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identified as a of priority, what might we do differently? What might entice new people to enter our doors and come back for more? What nourishment can we provide to our current members that can fuel living out the Gospel in the broader world we live in?

So where do we go from here? In August, under the guidance of Kairos, the MRTF held two Strategic Implementation Workshops involving staff, the Board of Commissioners, and a couple dozen members of the congregation who opted to participate. We reviewed highlights from the data gathered in June, considered implications of this on our future in ministry, explored language around vision and values statements for Hope, and considered how to structure our next steps.

Over the next month, the MRTF will be establishing sub-teams to delve deeper into areas of Hope's identified priorities in ministry—*Worship* and *Spiritual Nurturing* (*Youth Ministry* is being addressed through the "Dream Team" that Audrey Keller has underway), as well as a sub-team to evaluate how our staffing aligns with our priorities.

For details on the MRTF's findings from the Mission Renewal survey, focus groups, and 1-on-1 interviews, pick up a copy of the MRTF's "Comprehensive Report on Mission Renewal." Watch for more information on how Phase II of the MRTF's work is unfolding and how you can contribute to the discernment that will take place over the months to come. We look forward to your involvement!

—The Mission Renewal Task Force

New Choir Season

All of the University Lutheran Church of Hope music ensembles will start rehearsing again in September after a summer off. New members are always welcome in each group, so if this seems like a good time for you to join a choir, please do! Any questions can be referred to Tim Strand, Cantor, in the church office at (612) 331-5988.

The **Handbell Choir** begins rehearsals on Wednesday, September 6, at 5:30 p.m. in the balcony. We could definitely use a couple of new members if you'd like to join us. Music reading and the ability to count are the only requirements to join. Learning to play bells comes quickly and is great fun!

The **Senior Choir** begins rehearsing on Thursday, September 7, from 7:00–8:30 p.m. This is a very committed group of singers and new voices are always welcome. All voice parts are welcome, but we could especially use some new altos and basses!

The **Chapel Choir**, for grades 2 through 6, rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6:30–7:30 p.m. We will have our first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 13. Besides singing, this group also plays choir chimes. They did a great job last year and we would love to see more children join our ranks! We not only learn to sing and read music, but we have a fun time as well!

The **Youth Handbell Choir** and Aria Choir, for youth in the 7th–12th grades, rehearses on Sunday mornings during the school year, with handbells from 8:30–9:00 a.m. and Aria Choir from 9:00–9:40 a.m. Watch for announcements about the first rehearsal, which will be a Saturday retreat, most likely on September 16 or 23. Kay Else is the director of these two youth ensembles, and questions can be directed to her at (763) 550-1277.

—Tim Strand

Facilities Commission

We have been busy (with help from volunteers!) working on the Room for Fresh Creations project: sanding and painting doors and frames in the education wing; cleaning windows; buying a cordless electric lawn mower (with funds from the Garden Committee).

But we've only touched the surface. We are really going to need a lot of volunteers for the next phase of the project: cleaning and painting the office wing and the lounge wing; putting up bulletin boards and shelves; moving everything back in from the pods. For the next month

it's going to a steady stream of, "I need..." I *Hope* you're ready...because it's going to look and feel great when it's done!!

We are having **work nights on Wednesdays** from 6:30–8:30 and **Saturday mornings** from 9:00–12:00. The more help we get, the better the project will go. If you've been wanting to help, just show up during one of those times. If those times don't work for you, give me a call or email me, and we'll make it work for you: facilities@ulch.org or (612) 722-5666.

—Fred Kreider



RFC Benevolence Beneficiaries

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. A Benevolence Subcommittee consisting of Karmi Anna Mattson, Kirsten Mebust, and Jerry Johnson was formed to make recommendations regarding the beneficiaries. Suggestions were solicited from the congregation over a six-week period, and each suggestion was carefully considered.

The RFC pledge amount totaled \$609,968, seven percent of which is \$42,698. The subcommittee sought to allocate \$42,500, with the remainder to cover miscellaneous expenses such as postage and printing.

A goal of the Benevolence Subcommittee was to split the funds among local, national, and international beneficiaries, and to award the most funds to those organizations that have close ties to Hope and its mission.

The subcommittee has recommended, and the Board of Commissioners has approved, the following list of beneficiaries:

\$13,500	Lutheran Campus Ministry of Minnesota (www.lcm-mn.org)
\$ 6,000	The Malawi Project: Introducing Solar Ovens
\$ 5,000	The One Voice Campaign of Lutherans Concerned North America, of which the Reconciling in Christ Program is a part (www.lcna.org)
\$ 5,000	ISAIAH Sustainers Fund (www.gamaliel.org/ISAIAH)
\$ 5,000	ELCA Benevolence via the Minneapolis Area Synod (www.mpls-synod.org)
\$ 2,000	International Student Scholarship Fund at Luther Seminary (www.luthersem.edu/gifts/financial.asp)
\$ 2,000	Lutheran International Library Assistance Program at Luther Seminary, a program of the ELCA Division for Global Mission (www.luthersem.edu/library/lilap.asp)
\$ 1,000	Tree House Youth, an outreach of Family Hope Services (www.treehouseyouth.org)
\$ 1,000	Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem, a hospital of the Lutheran World Federation (www.elca.org/disaster/article.asp?id=57&mode=1)
\$ 1,000	Manna Madagascar, a program of the ELCA Division for Global Mission (www.mannamadagascar.org)
<u>\$ 1,000</u>	Mano A Mano Medical Resources in Bolivia (www.manoamano.org)
\$42,500	

The funds will be awarded in three installments over the next three years, with the first checks going out before the end of 2006. Not all recipients will receive funding in 2006; some of the recipients will not receive funding until 2007 or 2008. If you would like more information on how the funds will be distributed, please contact Karmi Anna Mattson at presidentelect@ulch.org or (612)302-8732.

Interested in learning more about the above beneficiaries? Plans are underway to have representatives from the beneficiary organizations speak at upcoming Adult Forums, so stay tuned for further information!

—Karmi Anna Mattson

Shirley's Share

Everyone is so busy I'm not going to take much of your time. I simply want to let you know that:

- The remodeling project looks wonderful and I am so pleased with what I see. We will rededicate the Education Wing of our building on Sunday, November 19 (50 years and one day after its original dedication!) at a single worship service at 10:00 a.m. Bishop Craig Johnson will be in attendance.
- We will follow that service of dedication with a celebration in the Fellowship Hall. At that time, we will make our pledges to the work of the congregation for the coming year. More information on this will be coming soon from the Stewardship Commission.
- Campus Ministries in the state continue to struggle financially. We have made Lutheran Campus Ministry of Minnesota one of the prospective recipients of benevolence dollars from Room for Fresh Creations, but individual donations are welcome anytime.
- You will soon be hearing about the establishment of a Seminarian Support Fund at Hope. We have had and continue to have requests from seminarians associated with our congregation and feel this might be the best way to show support.
- The Mission Renewal Task Force did a great job of collating and interpreting the data that you shared in the questionnaires, small groups and one-on-ones. Now the work begins to move that data from discussion to discipleship. We are all being called to be disciples in a new age. This opportunity just may be the Holy Spirit calling you today!

Fall is almost upon us, and we pray for our congregation, for our church, and for all of those around the world who serve the church and their fellow human beings in so many ways. Pax.

—Pastor Craig Shirley

September 9 Community Outreach

Few of us are blacksmiths anymore, but we still understand the meaning of the phrase, "Strike while the iron is hot." In the case of University Lutheran Church of Hope, our "hot irons" are a new building renovation, a rummage sale, and an important election. On Saturday, September 9, the ISAIAH Core Team is hosting a day of outreach in the community, designed to increase business for the rummage sale, increase voter registration, and getting to know the neighborhood.

Join us at 12:30 that day for a light lunch, top-notch training, and an afternoon of acting on your values of community, service, and faith. Please let us know you are coming by contacting Scott Hvizdos at (612) 861-2972 or at shvizdos@msn.com.

—Scott Hvizdos

Depression Conversation Group

The Depression Conversation Group includes people with widely differing reasons for joining in. Some group members have depression themselves, and others have friends or relatives with depression. The conversations vary widely, and members understand and are supportive of one another. Newcomers are warmly encouraged to attend.

The conversation group will have a change of date for September. The meeting will be on **Wednesday**, September 13, at 6:00 p.m., with a new person telling his story.

This is Board of Commissioners night, so some people may need to leave at 7:00.

See you then!

—Ruth Fingerson

Tuesday Morning Bible Study to Begin

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study will resume at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 26th, in one of our new meeting rooms! The first six weeks will run until October 24, and we will be studying the Old Testament book of Job. Job was more than patient, he was faithful, even when his friends tell him otherwise (and with friends like that, who needs enemies?). Find out more about this Old Testament “play.” We would like to repeat this Bible Study at another time in another setting if we can find people who would like to attend and support it. If you are interested or want to know more, speak with Pastor Shirley or Diane Shallue.

—Pastor Craig Shirley

Schedule for Fellowship Meals

We have decided to try something a bit new with the Fellowship Meals. We will try having a pot luck every other month, with the off month being “open” to individuals or groups that may be interested in taking it on. The new schedule is as follows (reminders will be in the church bulletin the week before):

September 10 - Pot Luck

A-H Main Dishes, I-Q Salads, R-Z Desserts

October 8 - Open

November 12 - Pot Luck

A-H Desserts, I-Q Main Dishes, R-Z Salads

December - Fruit Soup

January 14 - Open

February 11 - Pot Luck

A-H Salads, I-Q Desserts, R-Z Main Dishes

March 11 - Open

April - Easter Brunch, youth group

May 6 - Pot Luck

A-H Main Dishes, I-Q Salads, R-Z Desserts

Congregational Life also appreciates any help with serving and clean-up for the pot luck meals.

For individuals or groups that would like to take on any of the “Open” Fellowship Meals, please contact Ann Beane, (651) 481-8175 or spiritbeane@yahoo.com

—Ann Beane, Congregational Life Commission

The Prayer Chain?

I have had questions off and on about how the Prayer Chain works, so here is some information.

If there is someone you would like us to pray for, just e-mail or call me. Once a week I pass the word on to those who are on the prayer chain. It is also helpful to know what is going on with the person, if you are comfortable including that. I will also get the word to Craig Wiester to include it in the Bulletin. If you would like something more specific from Pastor Shirley or Pastor Yu, then you should also contact them. When you would like the person to be removed from the prayer list, contact me again. If you would like to be part of the chain, just let me know. Some people e-mail the people on their list, while others make a phone call. It's that simple! We can always stretch the chain more!

If you have a chance, please say a word of thanks to the people who have been part of the chain for a number of years:

Jerry Johnson

Joy Agrimson

Dianne Star

Ruth Lundquist

Jean Hoisington

Nina Lee

Mary Anne Lofstrom

Esther Shivers

Millie Holmgren

Julie Paschke

(Let me know if I have missed someone!)

—Ann Beane, Prayer Chain Coordinator,
spiritbeane@yahoo.com or (651) 481-8175

Youth and Family News

Fall Kick-off!



Rally Day—September 10!

This event kicks off the beginning of the Sunday morning programming.

Hope to see you there!

High School Youth Group BBQ *Sunday September 17*

We are having a kick-off BBQ at Jack Dant's house.

All High School Youth are welcome.

We will meet after the late service, drive over to Jack's, and then meet back at church at 3:30 p.m.

Please bring a dish to share (salad, dessert, etc.). Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided.

This event will reunite us after busy summers and will welcome the 9th-grade class!

Important Dream Team Meeting—September 12



Youth Ministry Visioning Continues with a very important follow-up meeting

Tuesday, September 12, from 7:00–8:30 p.m.

We will be meeting at church, then going offsite due to the Rummage Sale going on.

Terri Elton from Luther Seminary will be here to help us with planning.

Please email Audrey if you can attend so we know how many to expect.

YOUTH and ADULTS are encouraged to attend!

Thanks a lot!



Thanks to everyone who helped make the summer opportunities for young people a success!

Thanks for planning, chaperoning, participating, and praying!

A Note from the Youth Director

Whoa! Back to school time already? I don't know about you, but it's often a mix of emotion for me as I think about being back at school. Excited to see friends everyday, but anxious about fitting in and about those I seem to have tension with. I am motivated to work harder in my classes and take advantage of the opportunity to learn, but I also find myself worried I won't do my best.

With all this mix of emotion, I wonder how I can survive even the first day! The pressures of school can be too much to bear sometimes. I remember that, on days like that, things could just pile up at school and with other activities so that by the time I got home I was exhausted!

Where do we find peace in all that mess and anxiety? I think we TRY to find peace in LOTS of THINGS. We BUY something new. We GO someplace to retreat. We fill our schedules even more to avoid having to figure out the answer to this question! What is it for you?

You may be thinking, *OK, Audrey, how can these things not bring peace? I feel a lot better when I do these things.* I do too, but is it really GENUINE PEACE? The Bible talks about a peace that will "guard our hearts and minds" (Philippians 4:7). In verse 6 it talks about how, in prayer, we give our anxieties to God. In letting go of our anxiety completely we find peace and our hearts are guarded.

So at the end of those long days, and as we find ourselves anxious about fitting in, doing well, or whatever it is for you, how can we feel that peace that guards our hearts? I think it starts with a prayer. Maybe a quick prayer—"God, I am really struggling today. Please help me feel that peace that only you can provide."

Peace Be with You!

—Audrey



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10— RALLY DAY!

All ages with backpacks are invited to bring them up during the Children's sermon this Sunday

Why bless a backpack?

Starting or going back to school is an important step in your life. Blessing of the backpacks symbolizes God's continued presence in your life. It also is to remind you that this community of faith is caring and praying for you in all the important steps of life.

Questions? Contact Audrey Keller or Diane Shallue

Time to Get Your 2 Cents In

Dust off your 2 cents-a-meal jar from Service Sundays! It's time to make your small change amount to something really significant. On Rally Day, confirmation students will help collect your jars during both services. In past years, our combined donations for a year have equaled more than \$800. This demonstrates that collectively our small acts of faithfulness can really add up.

Our donations will go to Bread for the World, which seeks justice for the world's hungry people by lobbying our country's decision makers. While our nation has sometimes been described as generous, we actually contribute less in foreign development assistance than most western countries. Last year, the U.S. placed 13th among the top 21 aid donors, due to two things: the small size of its foreign aid compared with the size of its economy, and the amount of aid that was tied to the purchase of U.S. goods and services. If you didn't get a jar at Service Sundays, fill one from home or, if you'd like, you can make a one-time donation on Rally Day.

Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.

—Micah 6:8



—Rebecca Tetlie

Four Key Words

The purpose of this column is to provide a faith-for-formation resource for families. In June we wrote about *Caring Conversation* and in July we focused on *Family Devotions*.

This month we are focusing on **Family Service**.

Children, Youth, and adults are most likely to be influenced by those who “walk the talk.” There are many opportunities for service: some in the home, some in congregations, some in the larger community. Whatever type of service you choose it is best done with family members or other intergenerational groups.

—Youth and Family Institute

Here are some ideas for family service:

As a family, select a type of service that is important to you. Maybe it's a specific organization like Habitat for Humanity, or a specific action such as serving meals to the homeless. Make this a part of your regular family schedule.

Together as a family, buy groceries for a food pantry supporting the needy. Take the food to the pantry together.

Hold a rice meal at home. Cook white rice for dinner. You can add condiments if you would like (peanut butter and jelly is a favorite!). As a family, figure out how much more you would have spent if you had eaten a regular dinner. During dinner, take time to talk about issues of

hunger in the world. For resources, check out the ELCA World Hunger Website at <http://www.elca.org/hunger/>. Take the money you saved and donate it to an organization that provides for the hungry, such as the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

Get involved in opportunities at church. Loaves and Fishes is the fourth Wednesday of every month and is a great way to serve as a family. Contact Tim Abrahamson for more information on this. There are always ways to serve with the community here. You can visit ulch.org and click on “Supported Ministries” to connect with other opportunities. Also, don't forget to keep putting 2 cents for every meal in your 2 cents a meal jar. Bring these to church on Rally Day, September 10!

Reflection is key! Make time for reflection as a family. Maybe this time is before bed, at dinner, or just after a time of service together. What did you experience in your time of service that challenged you? Where was God present in our time together? Choose passages from the Bible about service to read as you reflect together. What verses stand out, and why? Close the time of reflection with a prayer for those whom you served and served with.

Some Verses to get you started:

Micah 6:8; Matthew 25:35; Luke 18:22; Mark 6:30–44; Luke 10:38–42; Matthew 25:34–45; John 13:1–20

God bless you as you join in service together!

—Audrey Keller and Diane Shallue

The Rummage Sale Is Here!

Are you ready? **September 14, 15, and 16** are the dates for the annual University Lutheran Church of Hope Rummage Sale. Come to help and buy during this fun and busy week! Please note the hours of the sale. We are open on Thursday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. until **8:00 p.m.**, and on Saturday from 9:00 until noon.

Please bring contributions to church between Sunday 10:30 a.m. (after Sunday School), and Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. during the week of the sale. Any **USABLE, CLEAN** items such as furniture, clothes, jewelry, toys, books, housewares, etc. are needed. Please label any electrical item with a note detailing its condition. *All donations must be clean and in good working order, not needing repair.* Our trash hauler bill last year was over \$750! Please help us keep this to a minimum. If something doesn't work properly, we have to dump it.

We cannot accept tires, batteries, exercise equipment, large appliances, televisions, computers or monitors, storm windows/doors, plumbing fixtures, home-recorded audio and videotapes (copyright problems), baby food, cosmetics, over-the-counter medicines, or prescription medical devices.

This is a large sale that distributes an amazing variety of usable items. Our departments are: • Furniture • Housewares • Treasures (extra-nice items) • Linens • Clothing • Lunch counter • Books • Toys/Sports • Hardware

Leftovers Go to Charities

On Saturday, some of the volunteer will box up remnants of the sale and deliver them to charities. The remainder is placed in the trash or packed in a rental truck (\$60) and taken to Goodwill Industries. If you have a favorite charity and would like to pack some sale remnants, call Ruth Fingerson, (651) 633-5316 *before September 10*. If the items you want are not spoken for, we will try to give you permission to do this. We hope to have many charities included on Saturday.

We Need You!

This is a big job, but also fun. Can you spare an hour or two?...or a day? Please come whenever you can. Here is our schedule for the week:

Monday — 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., set up

Tuesday — 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., sort and price

Wednesday — 9:00 a.m. to evening, finish sorting and pricing

Thursday - 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. — sales

Friday — 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. — sales

Saturday — 9:00 a.m. to noon, bag sale

Noon till approximately a 3:00 p.m. finish, cleanup

Help Needed with Furniture, Treasures, Clothing, Sports & Hardware, Audio & Video, and Toys

Help is needed days and evenings of the sale week to organize and price the donations. We can sell more if things are properly organized and displayed. This is a good job for an individual (or family) who would like to come in and work on his or her own schedule. Just come in and start sorting, especially in Audio/Video, Sports/Hardware, and Toys. Categories have been set up for the toys.

We have a special need for sale workers *in all departments* on Thursday morning.

Can you take on one of these important jobs? Please call Ruth at (651) 633-5316, or e-mail her at Rfingerson@comcast.net before September 10—or just show up! Please do not leave messages in the church office. There is a box in the office for the rummage sale, but it is checked only weekly. Thank you!

Cashiers Needed

We have a special need for men and women to cashier on all the days of the sale. Please call Roy or Marge Halvorsen at (651) 644-0945 if you can help.

Can You Help Haul Large Items to the Sale? Do You Need a Large Item Hauled?

Can you help haul large items to the sale? We need vehicles, and also people to help load and unload. Do you need someone to haul a large item for you? Call Ann Agrimson at (612) 728-0386 *before September 10*, and she'll try to match drivers with people needing help. Requests to have items hauled need to be received by Ann on or before the Sunday preceding the sale. Later requests may be impossible to honor.

Can You Place a Poster?

One way we advertise our sale is by placing posters in nearby neighborhoods. If you can put one in a good place, please take one— or several—from the office.

Thank you!

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

Senior Club Gatherings Begin September 20

ATTENTION ALL SENIORS! Mark **Wednesday, September 20** on your calendars NOW. This is the date Hope Senior Club will begin another great year of monthly gatherings for stimulating and inspirational programs and Christian fellowship. **YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED!**

The September gathering will begin with a luncheon at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall. The program “**Spirituals, Gospel, and All that Jazz,**” featuring **Reach Out**, a women’s vocal ensemble from All Saints Lutheran Church in Minnetonka, will follow at 1:00 p.m. in Thorpe Chapel. This enthusiastic, talented group of women love to sing together as they reach out with love and joy. Their inspiring and upbeat music will make our hearts sing and our toes tap!



Reservations are needed for the \$5.00 luncheon. If you are not called for a reservation, please phone Diane Shal-lue at (612) 331-5988, ext. 19, by **Thursday, September 14** to reserve a meal. If you choose not to “lunch,” you are always welcome to attend just the program.

Dates and programs planned for future gatherings are:

October 18: “Churches of Minnesota,” striking photos and narration of churches that stand at the heart of our Minnesota landscape, presented by famed photographer and public speaker Doug Ohman. **Please note:** Mr. Ohman has photographs of many Minnesota churches and has offered to bring those we would like to see, if available. Please phone Leona Reyelts at (612) 378-2444 by October 1 with the name and location of the church of interest to you.

November 15: “A Visit to Malawi”—Hope Church members who participated in the mission trip to Malawi in September will share their stories.

December 20: “Red Hearts of Christmas”—a Danish Christmas celebration, complete with a delectable Danish smorgasbord.

Watch the *Hope Visitor* and Sunday bulletins for more details. Plan to participate, and invite friends!

—Leona Reyelts

China Homeland Tour

My daughter Emma and I recently returned from a wonderful trip to China. I had been planning this trip back to China for Emma since the day I brought her home to Minnesota. We traveled with a wonderful group of people who were also on the same journey of rediscovery with their Chinese-born daughters.

We began our two-week tour in Beijing, where we visited the Forbidden City and the Beijing Zoo. While there we also took a tour of a local neighborhood by rickshaw, visited an elementary school, made dumplings with a Beijing family, and the kids flew kites in Tiananmen Square. We ended our stay in Beijing with a wonderful Peking duck banquet.

An overnight train ride to Xian was our next adventure. While in Xian, Emma enjoyed a nine-mile bike ride up on the city wall—I partook in the experience, but I’m not quite as sure about the enjoyment part, since the uneven pavement almost did me in. We visited the Shaanxi Art Museum, where the kids learned to write their Chinese and American names in calligraphy. The absolute highlight of Xian, and certainly an overall highlight of the trip, was our visit to the Terra Cotta Warrior site. This is truly an amazing site and one that Emma was enthralled with. She even got an autograph from the farmer that made this unbelievable discovery in 1974.

From Xian we traveled to Chengdu to visit the Giant Panda Reserve. Emma’s dream of holding a Panda was fulfilled twofold. She held a Red Panda and then she held what we were told was a toddler Giant Panda. That was one large toddler! For Emma, this was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Our next stop was Hangzhou, a very beautiful city in Northeastern China and the city of Emma’s birth. Emma’s orphanage is located in a suburb of Hangzhou called Fuyang. Fuyang is known for its production of green tea. We were told it is the region of China that produces the best green tea in the world. Emma and I visited the Fuyang Social Welfare Institute, and we met with both the current director and with the previous director, who assisted with Emma’s adoption and has since retired. While there we presented the orphanage with a fax machine, diapers, formula, and baby cereal due to the generosity of so many people at home. A special thank you goes to the Multicultural/Adopted Families group at Hope for their assistance

with these gifts. The gifts were very much appreciated and will go far to assist with future adoptions.

The final stop on our tour was Shanghai, where Emma enjoyed bargaining with the locals. She had gotten quite good at it by this time. I'm thinking she has a future in high-powered negotiations!

Our trip to China was a fantastic experience for both of us. We have lots of pictures, and Emma is working on a PowerPoint presentation, so stay tuned for that. Thank you all for your thoughts, prayers, and words of encouragement. The journey truly was a dream come true!

—Kathy Carpenter

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Lutheran Student Movement used to be called Lutheran Student Association. In the 70s the name was changed for the purpose of trying to convey a more active stance. It may have been a sign of the times, but for whatever reason, students have said in order to be part of LSM you may or may not have to be Lutheran or a Student but you have to be able to be ready to *move*.

Well, that was the reality show called Lutheran Campus Ministry this summer. We have sorted, cleaned, recycled, trashed, archived, packed, sometimes repacked, and now relocated to 310 Walnut Street SE for the time being. Jerie Smith has been officed there for the last five years, and Lisa Simonsen has joined her on the first floor, which includes student hangout and meeting space. Several students are living upstairs. This is a temporary space as we continue to explore the future of ministry in the University community, both as LSM/LCM and as people of faith in a broader context together with our Covenant and Interfaith partners.

Things are very interesting on the U of M campus. There is a *movement* afoot signified by the word *engagement*. The intent is to provide students, especially freshmen, with access to all the resources available on campus in order that they might be able to more adequately be a part of this total community and have the best avenues to make good choices in terms of a major and a career. This will take some of the best and most creative use of technology and people. It espouses recognition of the wholeness of people and their needs. Religious/spiritual resources are a part of the mix. After so many years on this campus, it is interesting now to be invited to certain meetings and not overlooked. Watch for emerging information.

September will find staff and students meeting new folks in many and various ways, through granola bars and hotdogs, Painting the Bridge, Activities Fair, and Convocation, just to name a few. Scheduled events include a freshman-oriented Bible study on Mondays, a student group to explore religion and/or spirituality on Tuesdays, a student group at Grace on Sunday mornings, and a presence at the monthly fellowship meals at Hope.

Several weekend events dot November, including Homecoming (November 4), the Regional LSM Retreat (November 10-12 in Aberdeen, S.D.), and Serving Your Local Community (the theme and the University's Social Justice Retreat that same weekend). LSM's first Community Service Project will be Monday, September 25 (with Campus Kitchens, 6:30-9:00 p.m.). Meet at LSM House at 6:30 and go together. The Annual Interfaith Campus Coalition Blood Drive will be held on November 8 at Hillel, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. Worship will continue on Sunday nights (at Grace at 6:00 p.m.), and Lisa and Jerie will be offering one-on-one conversations with students who have been referred by their congregations.

And that's only part of the activity! Welcome back to *movement* within new or remembered routines. Welcome back to be affirmed in the movement we know to be one of mercy, humility, and justice. Welcome back to find LSM/LCM *moved* and settled into what we hope to be an inviting space.

—Jerie Smith, for Lutheran Campus Ministry/Lutheran Student Movement

Thank You

I wish to say “thank you” to all the lovely ladies, the angels who worked in the kitchen at Illah Larson’s memorial service. It was so hot that day, but everything looked perfectly beautiful.

Thank you!

—Becky Mosby and Illah Larson’s Entire Family



Wish you could save more and spend less? You’re not alone—join the Club! Once a week, Thrivent Financial Fitness Club participants get together in energizing, one-hour sessions to develop healthy spending and savings habits. Absolutely no sales pitches. A “financial fitness trainer” leads sessions that help you get started with simple steps, celebrate your successes, and learn in a fun, supportive group. Sessions will begin at University Lutheran Church of Hope on Tuesday nights in October. For more information call 1-800-596-4225 or log on to: www.thrivent.com/financialfitnessclub.

Contingency Planning for a Pandemic

Congregational President Garvin Davenport introduced this topic at the July Board of Commissioners meeting. He also asked me to start developing a plan.

The possibility of a pandemic of Avian Flu is very real. There is the possibility that a large percentage of the population could be taken ill. Schools, church buildings, and other public meeting facilities may be shut down and quarantined. Worship activities could be curtailed. How long this might last, no one knows, but 15–18 months may not be out of the question. Public health officials are currently being educated about this disease and plans are being developed on how governments can help citizens cope with the problem.

What role can we play in preparing for this nasty possibility? What if the church is designated as a triage center for victims? Can we hold services during a pandemic? Is there a way we can hold “virtual” services, with telephone or Internet connections? Will our pastors make calls on those stricken with Avian Flu? How do we continue to finance our ministry if our revenue stream is reduced? Can any of our staff members work from home?

The Board of Commissioners has directed that we form an Emergency Preparedness Committee. One Board member reminded us that some congregation members may already be serving on such committees in their places of employment. We are asking if you can step forward, or suggest someone to be one of about five who will be willing to work with me on this Emergency Preparedness Committee. There are lots of resources for us to call upon; some can be found at <http://www.nacbancc.org/AvianFlu.asp>

Please contact me, let’s prepare for this contingency together.

—Craig M. Wiester, Church Administrator,
(612) 331-5988 or craigw@ulch.org.

The Treasurer's Report

Results for Seven Months:

Actual revenue Jan–July is \$ 316,384 versus Budget for same period of \$ 322,752. Difference is \$ (6,368). *This includes both General Giving and the Baker's Dozen—Combined.* General Giving exceeded budget by +15,723 and Baker's Dozen was under budget, by (22,091)

The Baker's Dozen Progress report through July 31	<i>Actual</i>		<i>Year to Date</i>		<i>Over</i>
	<i>Received</i>	<i>Goal</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Goal</i>	<i>(under)</i>
Goal by: Sunday, April 23, 1/3 of goal	\$ 7,061	16,500	7,061	16,500	(9,439)
Sunday, July 31, 1/3	3,848	16,500	10,909	33,000	(22,091)
Sunday, Oct. 15, 1/3		16,500		49,500	

What is the Baker's dozen? Our congregation has extra needs this year. Support it by giving an extra month's worth, (actually 11%) to meet our budget. The budget was approved unanimously at the annual meeting.

Help us reach our next goal, on October 15, of \$ 16,500.

Do this by continuing giving to the general fund and/or to the Baker's Dozen.

The General Fund 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 Baker's Dozen) 2006 Revenue Comparison of Actual to Budget: Each Month & Year to Date as of July 31, 2006

Month	Sunday #	Actual Month	Budget Month	Year to Date		Over (under) Budget
				Actual	Budget	
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	56,922	50,531	187,264	174,717	12,547
May		40,414	41,045	227,676	215,761	11,915
June		38,724	33,068	266,301	248,829	17,472
July	5	43,882	40,923	305,475	289,752	15,723
August			38,071			
September			41,971			
October	5		39,951			
November			39,180	April, May, and June have been restated		
December	5		63,428	for back rent received of 1550 per month		
Totals		\$	\$ 512,351			

Important Notes: Total giving has increased by 11.5% from July of 2005. We increased the revenue budget 2.5%, plus the 11.2% for the Baker's Dozen. The difference of 2% equals the current under budget revenue of (\$6,368).

Total expense is (\$13,000) over budget—due mostly to additional “boiler surprises.” The result is we are (\$19,300) short of our overall budget.

Critical Action Steps:

1. Update your Simply Giving for the general fund.
2. Give to the Baker's Dozen. The next and final goal of 16,500 is October 16. Comments are welcome.

—Norris Waalen, Treasurer

Board of Commissioners' Meeting Minutes: August 9, 2006

Prior to the meeting, Congregational Life Commissioner Valerie Sayre treated us to a gourmet dinner from her emerging Personal Chef business. She opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the July, 2006 meeting were approved, moved, seconded, and carried.

President Garvin Davenport reminded us that several people around this table agreed at the last meeting to subsidize tabulation of the Mission Renewal surveys. He encouraged those of us who made that commitment to meet it.

Treasurer Norris Waalen led us in the financial reports. He pointed out that, whereas we are still below where we want to be, we have improved our position from last month. On the P&L, he observed all categories of revenue are ahead of budget, with the exception of the Make Up Shortfall area, which is significantly short. Overall, we're a little over \$6000 behind budget on revenue. In expenses, Pensions and Benefits don't look so good due to an error in calculating the initial budget. We had a couple of surprises in Facilities, but some of that will come back due to an over-billing by one of our suppliers. Congregational Life is not on track since we used several fellowship meals as fund-raisers for other causes. Some asked about raising building use fees; we thought we should ask Facilities to look at this. Jill moved we ask Facilities to examine the groups that use this building, prepare a list indicating which ones pay and which don't, and that we develop a procedure for determining this, that they further look into increasing rents. This was seconded. Norris discouraged a simple increase of, say 4%. Sharla made a friendly amendment that Facilities report back to the Board of Commissioners on this. Administrator Craig Wiester will do the spade-work on this. The motion carried.

Pastor Craig Shirley reminded us that there are still Fellowship Meals this fall; Valerie indicated her Commission is looking to pot lucks, as few wish to do all that cooking.

Returning to the financial reports, Treasurer Norris Waalen walked us through,

Commission by Commission. We had some discussion about the on-going issue of bringing our heating system up to snuff. We went further and talked about the possibility of setting up a capital reserve fund to look after such items. Administrator Craig Wiester reminded everyone that the parking lot and the sanctuary roof will need attention in the next few years. We did make a recommendation that, when large property expenses come along, the decisions must be shared with Facilities and the Board of Commissioners. This was moved, seconded, and carried.

Treasurer Norris Waalen went on to say he's done some preliminary number on next year, looking to a 3% revenue increase with a same increase on most expenses, including salaries. In that case, we'd still be \$24,000 short. He encouraged us all to think on expenses we can eliminate.

Pastor Craig Shirley reminded us that Stewardship Sunday will be November 19, the same day as the building dedication. Bishop Craig Johnson will be the preacher. He strongly believes Money Follows Mission and has some fresh ideas on fund-raising. The discussion continued.

Pastor Craig Shirley suggested a postcard in this Sunday's bulletin, asking people to sign up for the August 16 and 23 sessions. Administrator Craig Wiester will take care of it.

President Garvin Davenport asked how the Commissions wish to handle the schedule conflict on August 16. Normally, All-Commission night would be on that 3rd Wednesday. Pastor Craig Shirley suggested, as we have 5 Wednesdays in August, we move All-Commission night to the last one of the month, August 30. We will encourage Commission members to be here on the 16th.

Contingency planning for a Pandemic. President Garvin Davenport introduced this topic and asked Administrator Craig Wiester to discuss this. He introduced the possibilities. Pastor Craig Shirley reminded us that churches in the Gulf Coast area faced this same situation, plus the loss of their buildings as well. Past President Joan Campbell mentioned the Minnesota Visiting Nurses Association and how they might figure into this whole scenario. She will look further into this.

President-Elect Karmi Mattson moved we form an Emergency Preparedness Committee. This was quickly seconded. We had some discussion of possible candidates to serve. Karmi reminded us that many

congregation members may already be serving on such committees in their places of employment. Jill indicated her office has looked into the possibility of virtual courts. Karmi suggested 5 members on the committee. We can put something in the bulletin, soliciting candidates. Pastor Craig Shirley suggested Marilyn Preus as a potential candidate; she's someone familiar with keeping community members in touch. The motion carried. Administrator Craig Wiester will prepare an article for the Visitor and will follow up with items in the bulletin.

Treasurer Norris Waalen spoke of the Visitor and how he has received it later than he'd like. He would like to see it mailed out earlier. Administrator Craig Wiester reminded everyone that the E-Visitor is a much more timely way to receive it. President-Elect Karmi Mattson moved we include monthly Board of Commissioners minutes in the Visitor. The motion was seconded. Jill asked if there is ever anything that transpires in a Board of Commissioners meeting that we may wish to keep confidential. Garvin replied that in that case, we can go into Executive Session. Pastor Craig Shirley suggested we change the motion to set a 6-months trial limit on this. The motion carried.

Benevolence Sub-Committee report. President-Elect Karmi Mattson distributed a sheet with the recommendations of the committee for distribution of the benevolence money. They wished to support a number of activities, including local, national, and international efforts. Money would be distributed in thirds by year. Kirsten Mebust, who heads up Adult Forums, is working to get as many of these possible beneficiaries to come and do forums on their activities. Many approving sounds were heard around the table. Karmi asked for our formal approval. It came forth handily.

Pastor Craig Shirley asked Past President Joan Campbell to discuss the Pease lease. She indicated they have signed cordially. They have signed for \$5,000 per month over 3 years; there will be some extra for portions of custodial supplies. We are protected for inflation with annual increases, some on the square footage and the remainder on actual utilities and other expenses. They have also paid for their own blackboards and air conditioning. Garvin mentioned that a number of people worked very hard on this; it was very complicated. Craig Shirley saluted Norris Waalen, Eric Johnson, and Joan Campbell for their extraordinary efforts.

Pastor Craig Shirley went on to say that Pease has given up on getting their independent charter status; they are part of Minnesota Transitions Charter. He went on to relate a number of really innovative ideas Minnesota Transitions is implementing.

We adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:45 p.m.

[calendar here]

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**

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:
Worship: **Diane Greve**

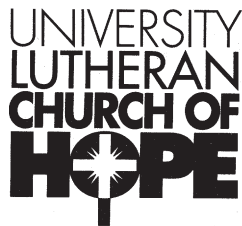
HOPE VISITOR

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**. Articles may be edited for length.

The deadline for submitting articles is the 15th of every month (for the following month's issue).

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