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

Families Moving Forward— Help Needed

We're back in line to host Families Moving Forward at University Lutheran Church of Hope. Our week to host FMF will be May 6–3, 2007. We will be starting to sign up volunteers after Easter, in between services, as well as online at www.ulch.org. Watch for more information on volunteering for this ministry at Hope. Direct any questions to Bryan Kufus, (612) 685-0402, or Jo Schroeder, (612) 729-5891.

Hope Senior Club

The University Lutheran Church of Hope Senior Club will gather on **Wednesday, April 18** with a luncheon at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. The program, "God Gave Us Music," will follow at 1:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall. Pastor Jake Dyrhaug will present a program of piano music with reflections on the spiritual lives of the composers. From classical favorites to ragtime and "boogie-woogie," Dyrhaug will play a wide range of musical styles. Music is his favorite hobby and he enjoys including humor and some original songs about Lutherans in his programs. Please make reservations for the \$5.00 luncheon by **Thursday, April 12**, with your caller or by phoning Diane Shal-lue at (612) 331-5988, ext. 19. All seniors and retirees are cordially invited! Remember that you can always come for the free program, even if you cannot attend the luncheon.

The Mardi Gras Dance Was a Gas!

The ISIAAH Core Team expected 75 people at the Mardi Gras Dance on February 18 but, just in case, we prepared for 100. Well, our expectations were greatly exceeded when the actual number was 130! The Loaves and Fishes principle kicked in, and we even had a little jamolia left over. We took in a hair over \$1000. After paying for our expenses, we were able to raise over \$600 for ISIAAH.

An ISIAAH presentation was given in support of full funding for the safety of family members experiencing domestic abuse, and for full funding for our children in the public schools. Our goal was to educate families about this legislation without intruding on their fun too much, because the point of this event was to celebrate our abundance and have fun.

And fun is what we had! Tim Gustafson and the Fire Roast Mountain Boys donated their music. A public thanks needs to go out to them for their wonderfully upbeat tunes. They were even able to get Lutherans out on the dance floor! Couples and parents with their children were dancing and having a great time. The food was delicious, and a thank-you is in order to Catherine Pususta, (Donna Neste's sister) for donating her wonderful culinary skills by making the meal. And finally, a big thank-you is in order to all who came and made our event a big success.

—Donna Neste

Mission Renewal Retreat

On March 16 and 17, the Board and staff gathered with members of the Mission Renewal Task Force (MRTF) to discuss the findings of the Mission Renewal sub-teams. After hours of productive discussion, respectful debate, and challenging questions, the Board took the following seven actions:

1. The Board recommended the mission statement developed by the MRTF to the congregation for approval.

During this process of mission renewal, the MRTF felt ULCH needed a new congregational mission statement that more closely aligned with the identity and interests of the congregation that arose from the survey process. The proposed new mission statement states more clearly exactly who we are at ULCH and what we are about. The proposed new mission statement is printed on the opposite page. The proposed mission statement will now advance to the congregation for a vote.

2. The Board approved the MRTF Worship Sub-Team Report as a framework for moving forward.

The MRTF Worship Sub-Team released a report articulating Hope's core values regarding worship, and gave suggestions for how those core values could be more fully realized. The report is available at the following web link: <http://www.ulch.org/images/WorshipSubTeamReport200703.pdf> or it can be picked up from the church office. Members of the Worship Commission and others will now move forward with implementing some of the proposed tactics from the report.

3. The Board approved the MRTF Hope in the World Sub-Team Report as a framework for moving forward.

The MRTF Hope in the World Sub-Team released a report that suggested ways to increase Hope's presence in the larger world, and to better integrate the work of the Social Justice Commission, the Outreach Commission, and the Care & Nurture Commission. The report is available at the following web link: <http://www.ulch.org/images/HopeInTheWorldSubTeamReport200703.pdf> link or it can be picked up from the church office. The report will now be forwarded to the commissions for implementation. As with the Worship report, not all of the recommended tactics can be implemented immediately, but the commissions will attempt to do as many as feasible.

4. The Board approved the formation of a transition team to facilitate the implementation of the approved MRTF recommendations. Now that the work of

the MRTF core team is largely done, a new team will be formed to oversee the work of implementing the MRTF recommendations that have been approved by the Board.

5. The Board agreed to reinstitute the Staff Support Committee that is required by Hope's bylaws, but which has not been in existence for some time. The Staff Support Committee will serve as advocates for Hope's staff during this time of transition and implementation.

6. The Board moved to pursue a youth director through the Luther Seminary internship program. Though the effort to fund a full-time Youth Director position did not meet its goal, there is enough money available to fund another intern through the same Luther Seminary program that brought Audrey Keller to the congregation. The Board agreed to pursue this opportunity.

7. The Board approved the MRTF Staffing & Governance Sub-Team Recommendation as a strategic framework to be implemented over the next two years, with all necessary due process. The Staffing recommendation is awaiting some final touches from the Staffing & Governance Sub-Team, and will be released to the congregation when it is finalized. Stay tuned for further information about this recommendation.

As President of the Congregation, I encourage all of you to read the reports of the Worship and Hope in the World Sub-Teams. They represent hundreds of hours of hard work, careful research, and creative brainstorming, and they present some truly exciting ideas for moving our congregation forward. Both reports are available on the ULCH website, or they can be picked up at church. In addition, I commend the work of the group tasked with creating a new mission statement for Hope. Their proposed mission statement is catchy, meaningful, and a great reflection of who and what we are as a congregation. Please take some time to reflect on the proposed statement and see if it strikes a chord for you!

—Karmi Anna Mattson,
on behalf of the Board of Commissioners and the MRTF

Thank You

Heartfelt thanks to our wonderful University Lutheran Church of Hope "family" for your comforting words of love and support in the loss of our son, Mark. Thank you for your prayers, cards, memorials, phone calls, and hugs, which have meant so much.

—Bob and Jeanne Berkeland

Easter Memorial Plant Project

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

Winnie Frolen	or	Rosalie Eldevik
3434 Silver Lane		1473 Hamline Ave N
St. Anthony, MN 55421		St. Paul, MN 55108
Phone: (612) 782-9519		Phone: (651) 644-0287

Donor: _____

In Memory of: _____

(or)

In Honor of: _____

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

Choir Brunch in Four-Part Harmony

Get ready to have some fun and join the choir on Sunday, April 22 at 12:00 noon following the late service for a special brunch to raise funds for new choir robes! The choir is planning a special afternoon, with wonderful food, special entertainment, and a silent auction.

The choir will also debut its new CD of some of our favorite anthems. The old choir robes are getting a bit worn, so it's time to "spruce up" our look! Please join us for what promises to be a fun afternoon of food, music, and fellowship.

Tickets will go on sale April 1, and we are taking reservations so that we can plan the food. Thanks for your support of the choir, and stay tuned for more details!

—Tim Strand

Hope Book Club

Year of the Classics!

Join us on **Sunday, April 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge** to discuss

MAIN STREET

by Sinclair Lewis.

Our lineup for the rest of the year is:

May 21, *Jane Eyre*,
Charlotte Bronte

June 10, *Gulliver's Travels*,
Jonathan Swift

July 8, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*,
Mark Twain

Aug. 12, *Walden*,
Henry David Thoreau

Sept. 9, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*,
Harriet Beecher Stowe

Oct. 14, *1984*,
George Orwell

Nov. 11, *The Scarlet Letter*,
Nathaniel Hawthorne

Dec. 9, *Winter of Our Discontent*, John Steinbeck

If you have questions, please call Sonja Peterson at (612) 789-0397.

Credit Union Reminder

April 15th is only a short time away. Have you maximized your allowable contributions to your Individual Retirement Account? In 10, 15, or 20 years from now these accounts will be very important to you as income in your retirement years.

Take every advantage of the opportunities the government gives you to control your future.

Make a short-term \$1000 loan with signature only at the credit union, and pay it back during the next 12 months.

Contact the Credit Union office at (612) 331-5989, ext 18.

Stewardship of Our Staff Resources

I wouldn't have guessed just three months ago that I would ever be Stewardship Commissioner. I have never been on the Stewardship Commission, and I have never taken much notice of it except when fall rolls around and there are Temple Talks and bulletin announcements.

But here I am, Commissioner of Stewardship. I can't say how it happened, other than to say I suddenly found myself volunteering when I heard that the Nominating Committee was looking for someone to be Commissioner. I suddenly found myself thinking, *I could do that*, then *I can do that*, and fairly quickly saying, *I will do that*. Of course, I didn't really know what exactly I'd be doing as Commissioner.

But at the annual meeting, this congregation approved a challenging budget that depends on a combination of increased giving, creative revenue enhancements, and some difficult cuts, perhaps the most difficult being a 3% salary increases for staff *that won't take effect until the second half of the year*. Yet we also agreed to a motion to take stock of our giving at a June 10 congregational meeting in order to determine if we can afford to give our staff their modest salary increases retroactive to January. Doing so seems to me like very good and responsible stewardship regarding our staff resources, and a worthy goal.

So I have at least one focus for my first few months as Stewardship Commissioner: to remind myself, and all of us, to be true to our pledges, and to challenge ourselves to do even more by being open to new and unexpected ways to give toward the mission of this congregation. That includes fully compensating our dedicated staff. *We could* do that. *We can* do that. *We will* do that.

—Tim Gustafson

Thank You

Many thanks to our good friends and members of University Lutheran Church of Hope for their cards and messages to Audrey and me and for your prayers. They give us strength and encouragement in this time of serious health problems.

—LeRoy Christenson

Claiming Your Place at the Fire

The second Gifts of Years Conference will be held on Thursday, April 26, at Westwood Lutheran Church in Saint Louis Park from 8:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Richard Leider is the keynote speaker. He is an author and Senior Fellow at the University of Minnesota Center for Spirituality and Healing. There are also two breakout sessions. Cost: \$15 per person, which includes lunch. Scholarship money is available.

Registrations must be received by April 12. Contact the Synod office at (612) 870-3610 for more information. See information on the Older Adults bulletin board.

New Pianos!

We are happy to announce the arrival of two new pianos at University Lutheran Church of Hope. The youth choir has completed several fund raisers, and several people donated generously to replace the aging piano in the Music Studio where the Aria and Chapel Choirs rehearse. We purchased a Kawai studio piano, which will serve very well in this space and be a vast improvement over the old piano!

With money designated toward the music program through the Hope Trust Fund, we have also purchased a Kawai baby grand piano to go in the Chapel. This piano is used every week for rehearsals of the Senior Choir. The Chapel also is used for noon Lenten services and occasionally for small funerals.

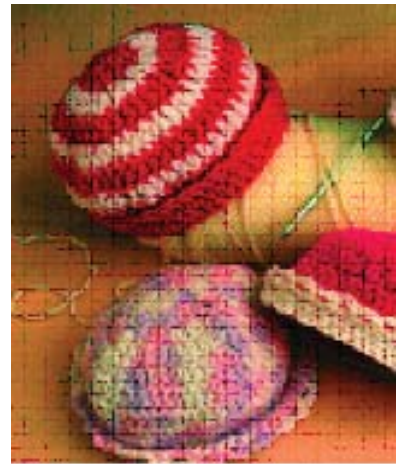
Having a better piano in the Chapel will also allow us to open up that space for student recitals. The piano which has been in the Chapel will move down to Fellowship Hall to be used in programs and special events held there and in Heritage Hall. This will be a great improvement, as the old Fellowship Hall piano was showing great signs of age.

Many thanks to all who have made contributions to the music fund to allow us to provide better pianos for all of the musical activity that goes on here at Hope!

—Tim Strand



Knit, Crochet?
Want to help
save a child?



Contribute to the Basket of Preemie Caps in the Lounge!

Last fall Jo Schroeder sent 37 of these preemie caps with our team that went to Malawi – and she hasn't stopped making them since. This winter at the Women's Retreat we took up the effort with patterns and impromptu knitting and crocheting classes and made another 13. We are now trying to fill and overflow the basket in the Lounge before the bishop from Malawi visits us in June.

The effort was initially started by Save the Children. The need is real. Patterns are available, as is help in getting started if you need it. And they are fast and fun to make!

—Kathy Knudson

Easter Worship at University Lutheran Church of Hope

Holy Week

April 1 – Palm/Passion Sunday – Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship begins with the Palm Sunday processional as we move together into the sanctuary from the newly refurbished Lounge. By this act we are reminded of Jesus’ triumphant ride into Jerusalem the week before his death. Looking back to last year, the previous Palm/Passion Sunday was the last time we used the Lounge before the remodeling project began the following week.

April 5 – **Maundy Thursday** services - worship at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. As Jesus shared his last Passover meal with his disciples, we will share the last Communion service offered before Easter Sunday.

April 6 - **Good Friday**

- 12:00 noon in the Chapel – a service to mark the hour of death and to remember Christ’s sacrifice on the cross

- 12:00 noon at the front of the church on 13th Avenue – our traditional Lenten Walk, being planned by the folks from Grace University Lutheran.

- 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae in the Sanctuary – a service of light and darkness, readings and hymns to mark the hours when Christ lay in the tomb.

April 7 – Easter Vigil – 8:00 p.m. We watch and wait. A service of movement and meaning in which we walk through not just the life of Jesus but also the life of faith as we celebrate our baptismal promise in Christ Jesus.

Easter Sunday – April 8 - Festival Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Choirs and organ, spring flowers and joyous celebration as we celebrate Resurrection Day in University Lutheran Church of Hope style! Easter breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 9:00 a.m.

National Lutheran Campus Ministry Centennial

One hundred years ago, Lutheran Campus Ministry was born on the campus of the University of Wisconsin—Madison. Since then the Lutheran church has been an important presence on campuses across the country, ministering to the needs of students of all religious backgrounds and bringing people to faith.

This year Campus Ministry is celebrating its centennial in many ways that involve you and University Lutheran Church of Hope.

- On Saturday, April 14, a special statewide celebration will begin at 4:00 p.m. with worship at the Humphrey Center on the University of Minnesota Campus. Music at worship will be provided by “Bread for the Journey,” and the Rev. Patricia Lull, Dean of students at Luther Seminary, will preach. At 5:30 we will have dinner and will be entertained by Minnesota author, humorist, and poet Bill Holm. There will be presentations by the various ministries across the state, and invitations to serve campus ministry through your time and monetary gifts. Tim Penny and his band “The Pumper, The Peddler, and the Politician” will play. **This celebration is open to all, and if you are interested in attending, you can find out more information from Pastor Shirley.**

- At this year’s Synod Assembly (May 31–June 2) a special offering will be taken for campus ministry. All delegates and guests will be invited to contribute.

- Our own congregation will have a special offering, tentatively set for May 13, in which we can all participate in supporting campus ministry into its second century! Contributions from that special offering will be brought to the Synod Assembly.

- Finally, we have also designated Lutheran Campus Ministry of Minnesota as one of the recipients of our benevolence dollars from the Room for Fresh Creations Campaign.

University Lutheran Church of Hope truly has its heart with students, and we rejoice in this centennial celebration of National Lutheran Campus Ministry!



Faith Formation Opportunities

Sunday Morning Education Hour runs from 9:45 – 10:50 a.m.

Sunday School

Godly Play is for preschool through grade 1. Life Together curriculum is for grades 2-5. Grade 6 focuses on service and wise use of money.

April 1 Palm Sunday – Life Together: Luke 22: 14- 23:56 The Last Supper.

Godly Play Story: Jesus the King

There will be a children's procession with palm branches at the beginning of the 11:00 worship service. Children will line up in the chapel at 10:50 a.m.

April 8 Easter – no education hour

April 15 Celebration of Prayer – intergenerational event. See separate notice.

April 29 Life Together: John 10: 22-30 We can trust God to watch over us and protect us. Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

Godly Play Story: Jesus is Risen / The Road to Emmaus

Fifth graders will lead the congregation in reciting the Apostles' Creed during worship.

Confirmation classes (seventh and eighth grades)

Seventh grade units for this year: the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments. Teacher: Bob Moluf

Eighth grade units for this year: Worship, Lutheran Confessions, and the Apostles Creed. Teacher: Tim Gustafson

High School Youth will gather in the Youth Room with Jack Dant and Ann Agrimson for discussion.

April 1 Friends in need – what about when I am in need? How and who do I ask for help? How does God relate to me when I am going through something? Why is that important?

April 15 Sexuality – Intro to weekend retreat

April 22 Sexuality – share/review retreat.

April 29 War and Religion – Why is religion such a point of conflict?

Adult Forum

April 1 Stories of Hope – Hear stories about the faith journeys of some of our members.

April 8 Easter — no Forum.

April 15 Celebration for Prayer. Join the activities for all ages in the Fellowship hall

April 22 Adventures in Christian Life – What does it mean to live out your faith? What are the risks and adventures faced by members of Hope who are attempting to do so? Donna Neste will facilitate.

April 29 Adventures in Christian Life, Part 2, Ann Beane and Donna Neste.

Sixth Grade Retreat: Current sixth grade students and their friends will be attending an overnight retreat at Camp St. Croix, just south of Hudson, Wisconsin, on April 27 & 28.

Students will meet at the church building on Friday at 6:30 p.m. Parents will be coming out to Camp on Saturday at 10:45 a.m., and after lunch and more learning will transport their children home after 2:00 p.m.

The focus will be on their Faith Step, which is learning about the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

Diligent Pray-ers: Children and youth are being prayed for weekly during Lent that God would touch the hearts and minds of each of them. The adult pray-ers will send a card at Easter time.

If possible, this person will attend the intergenerational prayer activities day on April 15. We hope that you will be there and participate in this special event.

Celebration of Prayer: April 15



Don't miss April 15. During the education hour, there will be an intergenerational event around prayer. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m. and then journey to various stations around the building to participate in prayer activities and to collect various items to encourage prayers in our homes.

Questions? Contact Diane Shallue at dianes@ulch.org or (612) 331-5988, ext. 19.

Sixth Grade Service Project: The sixth graders have chosen to support three projects this year: the Heifer project, mosquito nets to cover beds in tropical areas to prevent malaria, and removal of landmines in war-torn areas.

The sixth graders have created a web site with more information about these projects. Visit <http://www.geocities.com/ULCHkids/> All offerings given during worship in the special Sunday School offering envelopes will go toward the sixth grade projects.

No Monthly Confirmation Class in April

The Confirmation Class will next meet on Saturday, May 12, from 9:00 a.m.–Noon in Heritage Hall.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

The Tuesday morning Bible Study will resume on April 10 at 10:00–11:00 a.m. in the Conference Room. We will continue our study of Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Pastor Kwanza Yu is the study leader.

Camp Amnicon Fundraiser

Every summer, University Lutheran Church of Hope kids trek up to Camp Amnicon in northwest Wisconsin to spend a week in the wilderness, canoeing from campsite to campsite, cooking their meals over a fire, and learning from each other, the wilderness, and their guides about their lives within and as stewards of God's Creation.

Here is your chance to support this unique ELCA ministry that Hope's kids love so much. "Packs and Paddles," Camp Amnicon's annual benefit dinner and silent auction, will be held April 21 in the Central Lutheran Fellowship Hall. Please call Simon or Alana at (715) 364-2602 or at amnicon@usa.net if you are interested in tickets or in donating.

Please help this ministry continue to serve the youth of Hope!

—Meg Anderson,
Community Outreach, Camp Amnicon

Socks and Underwear—and Backpacks

Fifth Grade Service Project

Get ready to fill our box with new socks and underwear, and with gently used or new backpacks! The fifth grade Sunday school class is collecting the socks and underwear for Families Moving Forward. A new pair of socks and underwear is given to each family member.

Any size and color will work. The backpacks will be given to another non-profit organization. You can find the box outside the Chapel. We will be collecting through Sunday, April 8. On April 14 we will be delivering them to the FMF Center and will spend some time with the children there. Help us make this a success!

—Ann Beane

The Three Days— The Journey of Salvation

Each of these days brings with it its own set of images. Maundy Thursday moves in several directions at once. We hear the story of the Passover, and we give thanks for the Lamb of God, the unspotted one offered to bring freedom to the prisoners. The table is spread, and we remember our ancestors in Egypt as well as our ancestors in the upper room. The cup of blessing is shared, and we await the promised feast of victory. The new commandment is spoken, and we feel ourselves called to a life of discipleship.

The obvious image for Good Friday is the cross, but many stories cluster around it. Frightened disciples flee, while three watch the agony unfold. A centurion recognized what others cannot see.

The Three Days culminate in the Easter Vigil. Here is paradox at its most complete. We meet in the dark night to praise Christ as the Light. We praise the flame of a single candle as if it is brilliantly illuminating the entire room. We baptize infants as if they were adults, by asking them questions of lifelong commitment, and we baptize adults as if there were infants, by washing them again in the baptismal font. We conclude with the Eucharistic meal eaten in the middle of the night. One paradox follows another.

Two difficulties accompany this wealth images. The first is simply that it is overwhelming. Where shall we begin? How shall we choose? The second is that it can lead to a disjointed observance of what should be the most cohesive of times in the church.

One approach derives from the understanding of these days as being the conclusion of Holy Week, a re-creation and re-experiencing of the events of Jesus' last days. Like most trips, Jesus' begins with enthusiasm as we enter Jerusalem on Passion Sunday. Along the way is the need for direction, "I give you a new commandment" (John 13:34), as well as for nourishment, "Take and eat...take and drink." Toward the end, the way is uphill and hard. Some travelers turn aside and even mock those who persist, but others stay the course, supporting one another. Then comes a time when it seems that we can go no further. We stop, exhausted and near to despair. But when we discover that we have indeed arrived, our destination is even more glorious than we expected. True, this sort of journey requires that we pretend we do not already know every step of the way. Nevertheless, it continues to provide new insights as well as a deep sense of participation in the events of this week.

A second way of experiencing this time recognizes the integrity of the Three Days themselves. A flow courses from Maundy Thursday through Good Friday into the Resurrection of Our Lord on Saturday and Sunday, rather than separating Thursday from Friday, with a break on Holy Saturday, and then finally the real celebration on Easter Day. This sense of continuity grows out of Lent, rather than just coming at the end of the season.

The image at work in the view of the Three Days is no small one; these days are about the entire sweep of history. The God of the Three Days is a surprising, paradoxical God, a God who lived on earth rather than safely in heaven; a God who served people, rather than the other way around; a God who chose the cross as a throne; a God who overcame death by dying and by enlivening the Christian community.

I invite you come to the services during the Three Days. We may rediscover a God who so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life (John 3:16).

—Pastor Kwanza Yu

More New Books in the Hope Library

Former University Lutheran Church of Hope pastor, Lowell Erdahl, has been at it again. *Writing*, that is! Recently published is his *Winsome Wisdom: 366 Thoughts To Ponder and To Live*. His sense of humor, along with favorite quotations from E. Stanley Jones and others, combine to provide a good two-minute pause that will fit anyone's day. Lowell will return to Hope for a forum in May and will bring along copies for purchase.

New Fiction

The Hammer of God
by Bo Giertz

A novel about faith and the power of grace, of which James A. Nestingen, professor at Luther Seminary, said, "Bo Giertz marks the difference between self-absorbed religiosity and healthy piety, to center faith where it belongs—in Christ. If there is such a thing as a true Lutheran spirituality, Bo Giertz has illustrated the possibility compellingly."

Strangers and Sojourners
by Michael D. O'Brien

This is an author whose several books are currently being promoted by Luther Seminary Bookstore staff. The novel is set in British Columbia and is about four generations spanning the 20th century. One reviewer (author Peter Kreeft) calls it "a tale of the extraordinary hidden within the ordinary—about courage and fear and the triumph of the human spirit."

Do You Have a Suggestion for Rummage Sale Funds?

We already have started a list of suggestions for spending 2007 Rummage Sale earnings. The list was begun immediately after last year's deadline. Would you like to add to the list? Now is the time to start thinking about needs that you see in our congregation. Do not put it off!

We want to have as many suggestions as there may be needs, and to fairly consider each suggestion. In order to make things as fair as can be, and to make the decision making possible in one meeting instead of several, we need to have certain rules and information. So here is the scoop:

The **deadline for receiving suggestions is July 1**. No suggestions will be accepted after that date unless the church experiences an emergency of some sort.

Please call Ruth at (651) 633-5316 or e-mail her at rfingerson@comcast.net. Leave your suggestion and name on the answering machine if there is no answer on the phone. Letters are also welcome. There is a box in the church office for the Rummage Sale, so letters can be put there or mailed to Ruth at 1612 Oak Avenue, Arden Hills, 55112.

All suggestions must be accompanied by the *name* of the person or group responsible for spending the money if the project is funded, and an *approximate* dollar amount. *Requests without a dollar amount or name will not be considered*. It is up to that person or group to supervise the project once the money is granted. In many cases a commission needs to be involved, and the group or person suggesting the expenditure is expected to *get clearance from the commission* beforehand.

The list of requests will be posted on July 2, and a copy will also be in the Rummage Sale box in the church office for you to copy if needed. The decisions as to which projects will be funded will be made at a meeting on **Friday, July 5, at 9:30 a.m.** All Rummage Sale workers are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting. If you are a Rummage Sale worker and cannot be at the meeting, please call Ruth with comments and/or suggestions. They will be welcome, and will be brought up at the meeting.

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

Students Who Are Vets

Periodically, there are meetings held for rostered staff of the synod. These meetings, which include worship, an important agenda, discussion, and lunch are called “ministerium.”

The ministerium held after the holidays included both the Minneapolis and St. Paul Area Synods, and Chaplain Major John Morris conducted a workshop called “Reintegration Training.” The focus was on addressing the needs of returning combat veterans and the difficulties they may face as they return home.

I guess I had never thought about the term “reintegration” before or the process one must go through in order to come back. I am like the person described by Chaplain Morris, who believes people would just be really happy to be home—home being better than military service—and that people will live happily ever after. Now that’s overstating, because I do know that for many there are physical and psychological consequences, but I was thinking that was an exception rather than the rule.

Over the couple of hours we spent listening to Chaplain Morris, I learned more than I wanted to know about the environment of training and what it is necessary to learn in order to deal with combat. As difficult as it might be to learn these things, it is more difficult to unlearn them, and hence the need for reintegration.

It was my privilege to attend the initial meeting of the Veterans Advisory Committee formed by the University of Minnesota to help in this reintegration process. Many of the people serving in the armed forces come back to families, lives, and jobs, and many come back to finish or—thanks to government financing—to begin their journey in higher education.

Already in place at the University is the Veterans Resource Office in Fraser Hall for the purpose of providing information regarding educational and non-educational benefits, family assistance, and other transition issues. Also in place is Comfort for Courage (C4C) in Eddy Hall.

C4C is a student-led nonprofit support group created to build awareness and a sense of community for all veterans on campus. Southeast area clergy are meeting to plan how they can make religious/spiritual counseling available on a regular basis at the Center.

On March 27 an Academic Support Resources Workshop will be held at Bell Museum, and Chaplain Morris will be the major presenter along with a student-veteran panel. The flyer explaining the workshop says they “will explain how you can assist in helping veterans and their families during this transition whether they are your co-workers, your students, or your fellow citizens.” You can attend by registering at veterans@umn.edu.

If you register, you may find out that there is no room, and that would be a good thing because, if the response is overwhelming, another workshop will be planned.

I for one would like to see “war no more.” I have, however, learned that someone who has served in the military might not see my passion about this issue as compassionate. This is a challenge, as is most dialog about difficult issues. Many said that Chaplain Morris’ presentation made this ministerium the most helpful and effective we had attended. I would agree.

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

The Treasurer's Report

A Christmas Rush in May. This past year the months of November and December were stressful for staff and on our cash. The Board of Commissioners has identified a target date of *May 31, 2007* to meet our budget for revenue and expenses. This point in time is chosen for our June 10 congregational meeting to address our financial status. The budget below reflects past seasonal giving patterns, including those months having five Sundays.

Action steps for all of us

- Be sure to have your contributions up to date by no later than May 31.
- Update your electronic giving amount to reflect your contribution/ pledge.
- Adjust your contributions % to help meet our goal of a 7.4% increase.
- Help us make our budget (see below) on May 31.

This year presents new challenges for revenue

Our Past Success

Our 2006 contributions increased 14%
 (base of 2.5% plus Baker's Dozen 10.5% = 13%) = 1% over goal.
 The 14 % increase is outstanding
 The revenue increase was \$ 65,226
 Our usual increase is about 3%
We met our goal .

Our Challenge

2007 budget increase is 7.3%
 This year's increase is *1/2 as much*
 Revenue increase this year is \$ 34,400
 Budgeted increase in revenue is 7.3%
We can do it.

Revenue for the month of February was less than budgeted due to the parking lot revenue being received after the end of the month. January contributions were less than the budgeted amount based on prior years. The result: revenue is less than budget through February by \$ (7,781).

General Fund

2007 Revenue Comparison of Actual to Budget: Each Month & Year to Date As of February 28, 2007

<i>Month</i>	<i>Sunday #</i>	<i>Actual Month</i>	<i>Budget Month</i>	<i>Year to Date</i>		<i>Over (under) Budget</i>
				<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	
January		\$ 39,250	45,352	\$ 39,250	\$ 45,352	\$ (6,102)
February		46,284	47,963	85,534	93,315	(7,781)
March			44,355		137,670	
April	5		53,768		191,438	
May			42,934		234,372	
June	*		41,167		275,539	
July	5		48,259		323,798	
August			40,624		364,422	
September	5		53,749		418,177	
October	*		44,171		462,342	
November			41,496		503,838	
December	5		<u>60,850</u>		<u>564,687</u>	
Totals			\$ 564,687			

—Norris Waalen, Treasurer

Board of Commissioners' Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2007

Present: Treasurer Norris Waalen, Administrator Craig Wiester, Vice President Bob Moluf, Worship's James Hlavka, Pastor Craig Shirley, Pastor Kwanza Yu, Outreach's Marty Lewis-Hunstiger, President Karmi Mattson, Past President Garvin Davenport, Timothy Gustafson of Stewardship, Sonja Peterson Representing the Mission Renewal Task Force, Education's Lisa Morse, Social Justice's Donna Neste, Care & Nurture's Sharla Aaseng, Social Justice's Karen Westwood, & Facilities' Fred Kreider. Absent: Youth Representative Anna Bablitch.

President Karmi Mattson started the meeting around a quarter to eight. We went around the table with brief check-ins. Karmi reminded us of the new procedure on publication of minutes. This procedure worked really well last month; we'll continue using it.

MRTF Staffing & Governance Sub-Team Proposal on Staffing Configuration: Karmi introduced Sonja Peterson who distributed background information on, and verbally reported on, the work of the MRTF Staffing & Governance Sub-Team. She led us on an exhaustive discussion of this draft proposal. She expressed great satisfaction in the dedication of the employees she interviewed. She went on to field a few queries. President Karmi Mattson reminded everyone that this is still a draft proposal and is confidential to this Board.

March 16-17 Board/Staff/MRTF Retreat: President Karmi Mattson reminded us that we are invited to her home for the beginning of this event on Friday evening. Dinner will be served. The Saturday portion of this event will be here at University Lutheran Church of Hope in the Lounge. Members of the Mission Renewal Task Force will join us. Karmi reminded us that, after tonight, we only have two Board of Commissioners meetings before the June 10 Congregational Meeting. She asked us to have a look at the Mission Renewal Task Force handouts prior to the weekend retreat. Kairos' Jeff Kjellberg will be with us on Saturday morning.

Visitor Packets: Karmi asked Marty Lewis-Hunstiger about visitor packets; Marty briefly reported that we do need to re-evaluate these items and the format they take. She suggested each Commissioner consider how they wish to have their activities represented in the visitor packets.

Youth Ministry Fund-Raising Update: The deadline for fundraising has passed; the amount pledged and contributed was about \$34,000, which was short of the \$66,000 goal. Pastor Craig Shirley reported that the Dream Team has withdrawn its proposal to hire Audrey Keller on a full-time basis, but will be making a proposal to hire another youth director intern through the Luther Seminary program. The proposal will be discussed at Saturday's retreat.

Confidential Information Policy: Karmi turned things over to Vice President Bob Moluf to talk about a policy on the keeping of confidential information. No progress as yet, but he will be working on it.

March 11 Fellowship Meal: Past-President Garvin Davenport reported that the March Fellowship Meal was a success. The net was well over \$500. It was noted that, to prevent burnout, we need separate crews for preparation/serving and clean-up. The May Fellowship Meal will be on the 20th; members of the Board of Commissioners will have to be prepared to work that event. There was some discussion about whether the Board would be able to step in to host the Easter brunch if the families of the youth of the congregation do not spearhead as they have normally done.

Financial Report: Treasurer Norris Waalen led us through the February financial reports. He explained that he and Administrator Craig Wiester have been working to refine the budget figures, taking care to avoid altering the overall annual figures approved by the congregation at the annual meeting. Norris went on to caution us that, if we get tight, we'll have to review expenditures even if the budget seems to allow it. Karmi also reminded us to ask for reimbursements even if you wish to contribute the amount; it's the only way we can track our actual costs. Aside, Donna Neste reported a significant net on the ISAIAH fund-raiser. Speaking of revenue, Treasurer Norris Waalen reminded us we did increase our revenue expectations 7% over last year. He encouraged everyone to give accordingly. Norris moved we accept the financial reports. This was seconded and carried.

Congregational Fund-Raiser: President Karmi Mattson asked Sharla to report on the Congregational Fund-Raiser; Sharla indicated she and Pastor Kwanza Yu are meeting next week to start brainstorming on this effort.

March 18 Central Conference Meeting: Pastor Craig Shirley reported that this Sunday from 2:00-4:00 the Central Conference will have a meeting at Calvary Lutheran Church on Chicago Avenue. Delegates to the Synod Assembly should plan to be at this meeting.

Lutheran Campus Ministry Fund-Raiser Event: Pastor Shirley passed along an invitation to be guests of Carol and him and the pastors from Grace University Lutheran Church at a dinner at the Humphrey Center to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Lutheran Campus Ministry. The event is April 14, 2007. He made the invitation to people around this table; he further asked for suggestions for others who may wish to be there.

The meeting was adjourned around 9:00 p.m.

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: **Jerie Smith**

LEADERSHIP

President: **Karmi Mattson**
Vice President: **Bob Moluf**
Past-President: **Garvin Davenport**
Secretary-Treasurer: **Norris Waalen**

COMMISSIONS

Care & Nurture: **Sharla Aaseng**
Congregational Life:
Education: **Lisa Morse**
Outreach & Evangelism: **Marty Lewis-Hunstiger**
Facilities: **Fred Kreider**
Stewardship: **Timothy Gustafson**
Social Justice: **Donna Neste, Karen Westwood**
Worship: **James Hlavka**

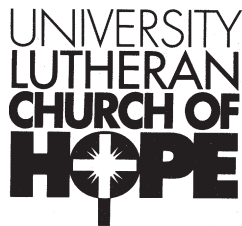
HOPE VISITOR

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

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

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