

The Visitor

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August 2007
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*University Lutheran Church of Hope
is a welcoming, Christian community of faith
centered in God's grace and
called to demonstrate God's love for the world.*

Festival of Hope— A Rally Day Celebration

On Sunday, September 9 we are going to party! The culmination of all our hard work in the Mission Renewal Process for University Lutheran Church of Hope will be the central focus as we come together to begin the new academic year.

We will continue our single worship service at 10:00 a.m. for one extra week, with a festival worship service with the choirs back and other special music. Then the building and grounds of Hope (pray for a delightful day, weather-wise) will be filled with activities for people of all ages. Special “cameo” performances of “Lime Jello, Marshmallow, Cottage Cheese Surprise” will delight those who enjoy the performing arts, while our stomachs will be treated to pleasant surprises at booths throughout the building. There will be a kid’s carnival and perhaps even a “dunk tank” where special orders will be taken for “targets” (look out if you don’t have your *Room for Fresh Creations* pledge up to date!)

Children will meet their Sunday School teachers that morning, but classes will begin the following Sunday. Members of the congregation will have a chance to visit booths corresponding to the ministry areas of Hope’s new governing structure, so you will be able to find out more about Hope for the World, Relational Ministries, and Leadership Development, as well as what we are doing in Youth and young Adult ministry (perhaps our new youth minister will be here by then!), Worship, Music, Education, and Operations. ***This event is meant for ALL members of University Lutheran Church of Hope and it is a marvelous chance for you to invite neighbors and friends who may be looking for a church home!***

Lisa Morse is organizing this affair but it will take the work of many hands to make it a success. You are invited to volunteer in any one of many ways by contacting Lisa at morse.lisa@comcast.net or by contacting Pastor Shirley or Diane Shallue at the church office.

—Pastor Craig Shirley

Hope Member Receives Justice in Housing Award

At its recent annual meeting, the Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAHA) was proud to honor Mercy Das-Sulc with its Justice in Housing Award, both for her vital and continuous work on MICAHA's anti-racism leadership team and for her dedicated work in housing. Mercy has been a social justice advocate since she was a teenager, when in India she organized marginalized rural communities for social, political, and economic rights. After moving to the U.S., she worked at the International Women's Watch Action, and as a recipient of the Cram Dalton Fellowship, she earned a Public Policy degree from the Humphrey Institute.

Mercy has previously been employed by the University of Minnesota, the Public Housing Agency, and by the Minneapolis school district. Today Mercy works as an Affirmative Action Officer at the Minnesota Department of Human Services Office for Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, and Civil rights. At the same time, she volunteers in areas of affordable housing, domestic violence, and immigration. Mercy has been a member of University Lutheran Church of Hope for the past year, and we congratulate her on this award and her wonderful work!

Thank You

Many thanks, Hope Church members, for your contributions to our University Lutheran Church of Hope Endowment Fund between January 1 and July 1, 2007:

Marilyn Asp
Lorraine Berger
Jean Brovold
LeRoy and Audrey Christenson
Ludwig and Eleanor Estrom
Winnie Frolen
Roy and Marge Halvorsen
Robert and Jean Hoisington
Mildred Holmgren
Karis Hustad

Deane and Ila Mae Langguth
Ken Lynes
Vicki Miller
Jack and Donna Parry
Greg and Sharon Peterson
Marilyn Preus
Leona Reyelts
Verle Rhoades
Ken and Elaine Sarkela
Inga Saari
Jo Schroeder
Arloene Stevens
Mildred Templin

—The Hope Church Trust

Lutheran Campus Ministry Update

In the fall of 2006, a small group of representatives from Campus Ministry, University Lutheran Church of Hope, Grace University Lutheran Church, and the University of Minnesota was charged with exploring the question: "What could a vibrant, healthy ministry be like in the University community?" Over seven months, the group interviewed more than 30 people representing University students, staff, faculty, alumni, members of Hope, Grace, and LCM, and the bishops. The recommendations provided much food for thought as we all continue to work together for the good of this University community.

Campus Ministry is now moving forward with interviews to call a full-time interim for the purpose of a year of exploration and fulfillment of these recommendations, along with consideration of facility and ministry plans for the future. A cadre of student leaders has met weekly to flesh out plans for welcoming students in the fall and will be involved in training the weekend before the fall semester begins. Additional updates on Lutheran Campus Ministry will be published in *The Visitor* as we continue on this journey together.

—Jerie Smith,
for Lutheran Campus Ministry

Shirley's Share

Feeling sandwiched?

Recently my 92-year-old father had to go back into a nursing home because of a hairline fracture in his leg. At the same time, Carol's mother has settled into life in assisted living and Carol and her sisters are now faced with the challenge of preparing to sell the home that their parents owned for 30 years. We live far enough away from our parents so that we depend on siblings who are more immediately there to help our parents with day-to-day needs. At the same time, my sister is helping her in-laws move from their home into assisted living. And there are other aging family members with no children who may soon need our help as well.

But we also have our own children growing up, marrying, and starting families and careers. We see how fast life moves, and so we want to be able to spend quality time with our children and grandchildren, and be a help and support to them as well. We knew it was coming, but the "Squeeze" is on! There are many things to be decided and lots of questions to be answered.

Do you find yourself relating to any of this? Would you like to talk with others who are also dealing with these important transitional issues? If so, perhaps we could organize a small group ministry around this theme—a way to share concerns and knowledge. I have asked Bill Sanden to be a part of this dialogue, and he has agreed to bring his expertise to the table from his estate work at Wells Fargo.

We will have an initial meeting on Sunday, August 12, at 9:00 a.m. in the lounge (or Heritage Hall if it is extremely hot). If you have an interest, please plan to attend—and/or let me know in advance that you are interested by contacting me at craigs@ulch.org or calling me or just letting me know on Sunday morning. It doesn't matter if you are the "sandwich-ee" or the "sandwich-er"—the caregiver, the adult child, or the person who worries about these issues for yourself because you have no one to depend upon. Let's get together and see what the Spirit is about in all of these life challenges. Pax

—Pastor Craig Shirley

Families Needed to Host Chinese Students

Hello! My name is Adri Melander and I work with the University of Minnesota on student exchange projects. We now have 30 college students from China visiting our country to attend special study programs this fall at the University of Minnesota. We are looking for warm, loving families to host these wonderful students.

The students are here to learn about America firsthand by living with an American family and to practice their English. Beyond what they will learn in the classroom, they are encouraged to spend time with you and your family to really understand what makes America work on every level.

The students will arrive to start their home-stay experience on August 26, 2007. We are looking for families to take one (or possibly two) students into their home (two same-gender students sharing one bedroom is OK). The simple requirements will be that you provide a separate bedroom and a bathroom for the students (the bathroom may be shared with any or all other family members), an English environment—and your friendship. Students will be provided with a University of Minnesota bus pass, which is good on MTC buses as well. Check buspass.umn.edu for bus route/schedule & bus pass info and www1.umn.edu/pts/shuttle.htm for campus bus service. Further assistance can be obtained from the Home Stay Coordinator. Beyond the pleasure of making new friends and building the bonds between our country and China, you will be paid a monthly stipend per student.

Students will be expected to share breakfast and dinner with the host family on days when students are available, and to share breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturdays and Sundays. You are asked to provide these meals and to communicate to the student(s) regarding their schedule and availability for these meals. Students are not expected to work for room and board; however, participation in daily home life is expected.

For more information please contact Adri at (952) 927-7221 or globalciv@gmail.com.



Education News

New Name for the Sunday Morning Education Hour?

The Education Commission is exploring new names for the Sunday morning programs. “Sunday School” is a familiar term but our ultimate goal is not teaching facts about Jesus but building lifelong relationships. We do teach knowledge and information, but for the purpose of knowing God and allowing God to enter into our lives. So look for more information about this topic in the September issue of *The Visitor*.

Teachers Needed: for first grade, third grade, fifth grade, and possibly other grades. Please contact Diane Shallue if you are interested. Call (612) 331-5988, ext 19 or (763) 755-8074.

Teacher Orientation for Faith Weavers, the new curriculum for grades 2–6, will be held on Tuesday night, August 21, from 6:30–8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Sharon Stratmoen, from Our Savior’s Lutheran in Stillwater, an advisor for Group Publishing, will be here to do the training. This will be during the Music Camp Program, so supper will be available with a reservation. Teachers who are unable to attend will be asked to set up individual orientation sessions before September 14. All teachers should have orientation before they teach this material. Please contact Diane Shallue if you have any questions. (612) 331-5988, ext 19.

The Faith Weavers curriculum teaches Bible stories by revealing God’s character and helping children know, love, and follow Jesus. Each lesson concentrates on one important idea from the Bible. The lesson materials are active, with a focus on building relationships between the students and between them and God.

A Godly Play workshop will be held on Saturday, September 8, from 9:00 a.m.–noon. Godly Play is the curriculum used for ages 3 through grades 1. Kathy Meyer, a nationally certified Godly Play trainer, will be with us to conduct the workshop. This will be a follow-up to the one last fall, with new stories. This workshop is free to all members: parents, grandparents, teachers, and other interested adults. The fee is \$25 for those from other congregations. Registration is required so that we have enough materials and refreshments.

The Godly Play curriculum encourages children to wonder. Deeply spiritual and highly creative, Godly Play is used in churches across many denominations. Children learn the art of using religious language—parable, sacred story, silence, and liturgical action—to become more fully aware of the mystery of God’s presence in their lives and the surrounding world.

Confirmation Classes and Youth Discussion Group will begin on September 16.

Adult Forums to provide information about current issues and encourage growth in faith and knowledge will begin on September 16.

From the Director of Education

I wrote my very first Letter to the Editor in response to an article, "Kids Don't Need Religion To Be Good, Writer Says," that appeared in the *StarTribune* on Saturday, June 16. I have received many positive comments from members of the congregation, and even three from people outside of the congregation, on my short response. So I have decided to share what I said with the whole congregation. This version is slightly different from what appeared in the paper because it was edited for length.

~ ~ ~

I want to share with Mr. McGowan (the writer who was interviewed by the *StarTribune*) that there are faith communities that do not see unthinking faith as an automatic good or hatred of faith as the only alternative. They also do not see doubt as the opposite of faith but as a necessary and important part of a mature faith.

The Search Institute, in its national study of Effective Christian Education, found that congregations with a Thinking Climate—where people were encouraged to study and to ask tough questions about themselves, their world, and God—helped people of all ages to grow in faith.

Dr. John Westerhoff in his book, *Will Our Children Have Faith?* stated, "In order to move from an understanding of faith that belongs to the community to an understanding of faith that is our own, we need to doubt and question that faith." As Mr. McGowan states, one should never fear questions from children, even about religious issues. (At University Lutheran Church of Hope we are not afraid of questions or debate.)

I agree with Mr. McGowan that moral values are best communicated to children by caring adults. Dr. Merton Strommen, a founder of Search Institute, stated, "When a congenial relationship exists between an adult and a young person, the youth tends to adopt the values of the adult. Values are communicated even when not verbalized."

As a Christian educator, I feel that traditional moral values can be passed on to children without religious affiliation, but the problem is holding to those values. Society teaches the value of materialism and of putting oneself first as well as many other values that conflict with traditional moral values. A faith community provides a strong foundation to maintain those values over time.

Your partner in ministry,

—Diane E. Shallue

Music Camp

Music Camp will be held August 19–22, so register now! There is still room. Use the bright yellow form that can be found in the church library or on the web at www.ulch.org/images/MusicCampBrochure2007.pdf

Sign up your grandchildren, your nieces and nephews, and your neighborhood kids!



Hope Book Club— Year of the Classics!

Join us on Sunday, August 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge to discuss:

Walden, Henry David Thoreau

Our line-up for the rest of the year is:

Sep. 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.

Art Work for 100th Anniversary Celebration Found

Art work has been found that was in the glass display cases for the 100th Anniversary Celebration. There are many photographs in frames in a white box sitting on the computer. If any of them belong to you, please take them home.

President's Page: New Opportunities for Involvement

As you know from the June congregational meeting, we at University Lutheran Church of Hope are currently transitioning into a new governance model. The current members of the Board of Commissioners are stepping into slightly different roles, and new people are being recruited to fill brand-new roles, teams, and task forces. We will need additional volunteers from the congregation in order to make the new structure successful. The following are some new areas in which we will need assistance:

Do you have a way with numbers? Can you read a balance sheet? Do budgets excite you? You may be a good fit for the **Finance Team** or the **Budgeting Task Force**.

Budgets don't excite you? You prefer words to numbers? Interested in marketing and publicity? Enjoy logos and graphics? Your skills can be used on the **Task Force for Communications**.

Do you know what *ski-u-mah* means? Have a connection with Goldy Gopher? Look good in maroon and gold? Or maybe you just enjoy working with and getting to know college students? Join the **University Campus Ministry Team**.

Do you have a heart for small-group ministry? Do you enjoy entering into community with others and sharing your thoughts and feelings in intimate settings? You are the kind of person we need on the **Small Group Team**.

Is personal spiritual nurturing important to you? Can you help others grow spiritually as well? The **Spiritual Nurture Team** has a place for you.

Do you enjoy meeting new people and learning about their interests and skills? Are you interested in finding ways to more successfully integrate new members into our congregation? We need you on the **New Member Integration Team!**

These are only a few of the new and revised opportunities available under the new governance structure. There's something out there for everyone! To learn more about these and other opportunities, please contact me at president@ulch.org or (612) 302-8732. Also, attend the Rally Day festivities on September 9, when members of the Board will have information available about each of these opportunities!

—Karmi Anna Mattson,
Congregational President

A Reason to Give to the Food Shelf

In this month's Community Services newsletter, "The Spotlight," the director of CES, Pastor John Bohnsack, gives us a true reality check of how the poor are faring in this economy. CES operates a large food shelf, among other services. What he has to say gives us a good reason to give generously to the food shelf. He writes in his article, "CES Reality Check":

Most of the people I talk to feel the economy is humming along fairly well and the stock markets are at, or near, all time highs. On closer scrutiny, things are not going so well at the lower income levels of this great country. One source that we rely on tells us that 37% of the jobs in Minnesota pay below a family supporting wage. Another source, the February 24, 2007 edition of the Minneapolis Star Tribune reported that the population of those in severe poverty in Minnesota increased by 62% between 2000 and 2005. That is the largest percentage of increase of any state in the nation during that time period. Severe poverty is defined as a family of four with two children and an annual income of less than \$9,903. That is one-half the federal poverty guideline. At the same time, the share of national income going to corporate profits has dwarfed the amount going to wages and salaries. Forty-three percent of the nation's 37 million 'poor people' have been pushed down into severe poverty. We are also noticing repeated instances of good workers with seniority being terminated from their jobs without cause (or only flimsy excuses) so that management can replace them with entry level wage earners, thus broadening their profit margin.

I am not sure that, as an individual, we can do much of anything about these things. I share this information more for the purpose of helping our readers understand why our client volume and the need for our services continue to climb in unprecedented numbers.

—Donna NESTE

Malawi Ties Featured in Metro Lutheran

University Lutheran Church of Hope is one of the congregations featured in the July issue of *Metro Lutheran*. If you haven't read the article entitled "Area Lutherans Cement Ties to Malawi, Africa," you can pick up a copy of *Metro Lutheran* in the church library or go to www.ulch.org and read the full story.

Library News

Our library has a wonderful collection of children's picture books. We even have a nice collection of Bible stories in "board book" format for our youngest members. We also have a number of new books for young adults and adults. Look for the "New Books" shelf.

Board of Commissioners' Meeting

July 11, 2007

Present: Pastor Craig Shirley, Administrator Craig Wiester, President Karmi Mattson, Kirsten Mebust presenting an ISALAH proposal, Past-President Garvin Davenport, Social Justice's Karen Westwood, Education's Lisa Morse, Treasurer Norris Waalen, Vice President Bob Moluf, Outreach's Marty Lewis-Hunstiger, Facilities' Fred Kreider, Care & Nurture's Sharla Aaseng, Social Justice's Donna Neste, & Stewardship's Tim Gustafson. Absent: Worship's James Hlavka & Pastor Kwanza Yu.

President Karmi Mattson started the meeting shortly after 7:00 p.m. We went around the table for a check-in.

President Karmi Mattson called our attention to the agenda. She reminded us about the procedure for minutes approval. She went on to introduce Kirsten Mebust for more on her ISALAH Inreach Proposal.

Kirsten distributed a handout with a proposed schedule for the Inreach activities; she then explained some of her thoughts. Considerable discussion ensued. It was moved and seconded to go with Option 2 from the proposal. The motion carried by split vote.

President Karmi Mattson introduced the topic of the proposed confidentiality policy. She passed out copies of the proposed policy and asked us to read it. It was moved and seconded to adopt it. We had a discussion, questioning details of the policy and clarifying definitions. We withdrew the motion in favor of another re-work by the author, Bob Moluf.

Lisa Morse updated us on the plans for September 9, Rally Day. This will also fill the role of the Board-Sponsored Congregational Event. The committee has a planning meeting scheduled for tomorrow lunch-time. Tentative plans call for a

single worship service at 10:00 a.m. followed by the "festival." People floated a number of fund-raising ideas.

Past President Garvin Davenport updated us on Fellowship Meal plans for the fall. He reported his understanding that plans are in place for October and November. September is already tied up; December is, of course, December and is always pretty busy as well.

President Karmi Mattson led us into the topic of the new governance model. She pointed out that the congregation has given us the authority to proceed; we now need to figure out how to implement the new plan. We discussed this topic extensively, making minor suggestions along the way. We were able, in most cases, to identify people to head up the new "commissions" and suggest people for the others. We decided to take another month with an eye toward starting up the new structure in September 2007.

Moving on to Financial reports, Treasurer Norris Waalen took the floor to lead a discussion of the reports now in the hands of all members of this Board. We are, he pointed out, gaining ground on the revenue side. Our deficit at this time is only about half what it was this time last year.

Norris went on to distribute annual budget reports by Commission.

He also expressed concern about Room for Fresh Creations revenues, suspecting these contributions have dropped off since February. He also mentioned the tax benefits of contributing directly from an IRA. That option is now tax-free not only at the federal level, but at the state level as well for those over 70-½ 70½?. The window is from now through the end of 2007. The financials were accepted; moved, seconded, and carried.

In response to a question about the governance transition, Karmi confirmed that the Board will continue to meet in its current configuration in August, after which we will move into the new structure.

We adjourned with the Lord's Prayer just after 9:00 p.m.

STAFF

Pastors: **Craig Shirley, Kwanza Yu**
Cantor: **Timothy Strand**
Director of Education: **Diane Shallue**
Youth Director:
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**

THE VISITOR

The 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. Electronic submissions in either Microsoft® Word or plain text format are preferred. Articles may be edited for length. Contributors are responsible for clearly identifying any material that is from published sources and for obtaining appropriate permissions. Send submissions and correspondence to: visitor@ulch.org.

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

The current issue of *The Visitor* is always available at www.ulch.org/images/TheVisitor.pdf. Back issues are available by contacting the church office.



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The Great Hope Get-Together Is Coming Soon!

We need your contributions for the September Rummage Sale. Our large sale will be held **September 13, 14, & 15, 2007**. Many people come year after year, knowing that they can find things that they can afford. Some go away disappointed that we did not have what they needed. We need all sorts of items that are in good, clean, usable condition—*not broken, dirty, or needing repair*.

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

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

Please donate all of the “good stuff” that you can, and come to buy and help! Ten per cent of our revenues go to charities chosen by the Rummage Sale workers. The rest is used for needed items within our own congregation that our budget cannot cover.

Merchandise not sold goes to a variety of **charities**. First choice goes to charities that give away the merchandise rather than selling it. Please call Ruth if you have a favorite charity that would appreciate unsold items. We need to know *before* the sale week.

If you receive new household items, please seriously consider finding a way to store the replaced items that are still in good condition. We need them for the Rummage Sale. **Merchandise may be brought to the church September 9, 10, 11** (Sunday of the sale week until 1:00 p.m.; Monday, 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; and Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.).

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

We cannot accept:

- computers or monitors ▪ television sets
- stereos in cabinets ▪ tires or batteries
- storm windows or doors ▪ plumbing fixtures
- baby food ▪ cosmetics
- water beds ▪ major appliances
- exercise equipment ▪ child car seats or cribs (liability if not up to current standards)
- lawn mowers needing repair.

Thank you!

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

2007 Rummage Sale Hopes To Fund Several Projects

Please support the rummage sale in any way you can. We need the money to fund projects for our newly-remodeled Education Wing, help for Robert Bailey, group ministries, and to help send our young people on a trip important to their development as young Lutheran Christians. If we earn enough money, this year's rummage sale will help fund:

- Lutheran Campus Ministry—pizza for gatherings at University Lutheran Church of Hope this fall
- Snowblower
- Window coverings

- Coffee pot and outlet in conference room
- Confirmation trip to Chicago
- Senior group help with money for speakers and food
- Women's retreat
- Lounge kitchen refrigerator

A complete listing of the projects and amounts of money is on the rummage sale bulletin board across the hall from the Library.

But first we need to earn the money. Here's where you come in. Please begin collecting donations for the sale and plan to work and buy at the sale. Critical needs for help this year are the kitchen and the furniture department. Of course, we always need help in all departments! Please contact Ruth Fingerson if you have questions. Thank you!