

The Visitor

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December 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.*



Advent Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 16, at both the 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. services

Once again we will enjoy our annual tradition of Lessons and Carols, led by our talented choirs. The Senior Choir, Handbell Choir, and Chapel Choir will lead us in festive Advent and Christmas music and the congregation will join in singing the wonderful hymns and carols of the season.

And don't forget to come and enjoy our other great tradition: Fruit Soup and Julekage, between the services in Fellowship Hall, served by the Gloria Circle. It's the perfect day to invite your friends and relatives to join with us in worship, music, and fellowship in this glorious Advent season!

Christmas Eve Services, December 24

4:00 p.m. — Candlelight Communion, with Youth Bell Choir, Chapel Choir, and Children's Sermon

11:00 p.m. — Festival Candlelight Communion, with Senior Choir, Bell Choir, Cello, and Flute

Come and celebrate the Nativity of our Lord on this most holy night. Our sanctuary will be beautifully decorated with poinsettias, evergreen trees, and banners. And our choirs and instrumentalists will lead us in the wonderful music of Christmas. What better time to invite friends, relatives, and neighbors to worship with us than on the Feast of Christmas!

Shirley's Share

Most people love the season of **Advent**, which leads us so quickly to the joyous season of Christmas. This time of preparation is hectic and challenging, but it keeps us moving through these short, dark days of winter, and by Christmas morning we begin to see daylight lengthening, even as we celebrate the Light of the World coming into our midst! It is a gift to think about Jesus' birth, even as the hope of Christ's return in glory goes before us.

It is a new church year and new things are happening all around us. I am especially pleased to welcome the Rev. David Johnson as our new **Visitation Minister**. David is a familiar face to many of you longtime members in this congregation. He served on staff of University Lutheran Church of Hope with Pastor David Preus from 1967 to 1971. During that time he got to know many of our members who now make up the more "senior" part of the congregation. David has done similar visitation work at Central Lutheran, and is presently serving as interim pastor at Bethel Lutheran in north Minneapolis. He will be at Bethel until Easter, so for the first few months we will probably not see much of him on Sunday mornings. He began his quarter-time duties of visitation here at Hope on November 15.

Now we will concentrate on a possible **new position**. We would like to get a person into a position similar to that of Megan Koepnick—our part-time Youth Director. But this person would concentrate on ministry to the young adult population—those from age 19 to their early 30s. This is a large segment of our population, and an even larger segment of our visitors. Such a position also recognizes more fully the fact that we are a "university" congregation: students worship here too! We want to develop specific outreach and ministry to that particular age group—one that is not well represented across the church.

Finally, we have a challenge for this New Year. I heard it voiced again the other night: "Back when we

used to be more involved in **Social Justice issues**, we..." I hear variations on this statement quite often, and just as often think, *Used to be? Why do people think we are no longer involved? Our ISALAH Core team is one of the most active groups we have in the congregation! And our work with many helping organizations—Families Moving Forward, Loaves and Fishes, Global Missions (and its strong ties to Malawi)—the Thanksgiving meal, and even our fellowship meals is all part of Social Justice.* So my challenge to you is this: **If you don't think this is enough, what's stopping you from getting more involved, and taking us (this congregation) with you?** The war in the Mideast continues to rage on—how can we be an influence on what happens next? The issue of global warming is capturing the

“Do you have a passion to get this church involved to a greater degree?”

hearts and minds of faithful people across all sorts of denominational lines.

Do you have a passion to get this church involved to a greater degree? Recently Dr. Martin Marty was in the Twin Cities and he shared his perspective on how a Christian person should approach the upcoming presidential elections. It has to do not so much with candidates and political parties, but rather with values. What are the values you treasure for this nation, and how will you work to make sure those values are known and reflected in the political choices you make? Such work does not put church and state at odds, but lifts up the very principles by which each depends upon the other.

So **Happy New Year!** With the start of Advent, *it is* a new year. There is a lot happening, and even more to be done. So look to the Light, and find hope in the one who is the Light of the World. Pax

—Pastor Craig Shirley





Finished Your Christmas Shopping?

A Resource for Families

(Article 2 in a Series)

Families of younger children, here is a great web site for you. It is part of the Ramsey County Library web site, and includes lots of fun and important resources for families and children. There are links for favorite authors and books, homework help sites, and fun web sites on favorite topics.
www.ramsey.lib.mn.us/kids.htm

—Ruth Fingerson

From the New Visitation Pastor

Greetings, members of University Lutheran Church of Hope!

I am delighted to be back in your midst again after so many years. For those of you who have no idea who I am, here is some background:

1954 – Graduated from Mitchell High School, Mitchell, South Dakota

1958 – Graduated from Augustana College with a B.A in English Literature

1962 – Married Karen Gulsvig and attended Augsburg College

1964 – Received a degree from Augsburg in Speech / English

1964 – Enrolled at Luther Seminary

1967 – Graduated, was ordained, and was installed at University Lutheran Church of Hope as Youth & Education Pastor

1971 – Served as pastor at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Saint Paul

1977 – Called as senior pastor at Zion Lutheran in north Minneapolis

1997 – Began a series of interim ministries

2006 – Called to serve as interim pastor at Bethel Lutheran Church on the north side, a congregation in the process of dissolution. I will serve at Bethel probably through March 2008. I am there Sundays through Tuesdays.

As some of you know, we lost our only child, Erik, age 33, very suddenly in October 2003. The funeral was held at University Lutheran Church of Hope. We continue to miss him very much.

Karen still works part-time as a Family Therapist in private practice. We enjoy our lake cabin in northern Minnesota, which we share often with family and friends. My hobbies include doing carpentry and writing poetry.

Karen and I look forward to seeing old friends and making new friends at University Lutheran Church of Hope.

—Pastor David L. Johnson



FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Sunday morning programs ✦ 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.



This once-a-month program held in the nursery is for children from birth through age 3 and their parents.

December 16: Christmas rituals for younger children.

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Godly Play Lesson Topics:</i> (For ages 4 - grade one)	<i>Faith Weaver Lesson Topics:</i> (For grades 2-6)
Dec. 2	The prophets and Mary & Joseph	Jesus does great things. Psalm 72:1-19
Dec. 9	The Shepherds	Angel appears to Joseph.
Dec. 16	The Magi	Jesus is born.
Dec. 23	Birthday Party for Jesus	Birthday Party for Jesus
Dec. 30	No education hour	No education hour

All children will be practicing music for the Epiphany program on the first three Sundays in December. Please have your children in the chapel promptly at 9:15 a.m.

Confirmation for grades 7 & 8 will be held on Sunday mornings on Dec. 2, 9, & 16 and also on Saturday morning, Dec. 8.

High School Discussion will be held in the Youth Room on Dec. 2, 9, & 16. On Dec. 23 high school students will provide help with the Birthday Party for Jesus.

Adult Forums in Heritage Hall

Dec 2 ✦ Harvey Kwiyani, a Ph.D. student at Luther Seminary from Malawi, will speak. Jerry Johnson will also share about future connections with Malawi.

Dec. 9 ✦ Rituals: More Holy, More Simple; a discussion with Lisa Thorson and Donna Neste.

Dec. 16 ✦ No Adult Forum. Enjoy the Fruit Soup.

Dec. 23 ✦ No Adult Forum – Celebrate at the Birthday Party for Jesus

Dec. 30 ✦ No Adult Forum – one worship service at 10:00 a.m.

Caring with Hope – a Wednesday Night Series

The Education Teams and the Staff will be creating a series of Wednesday night discussions centered around caring. During Advent we will focus on Caring for Creation. In January we will focus on Caring for Ourselves, with a look at our personal spiritual gifts and needs. During Lent we will highlight Caring for Community.

Caring For Creation: A Christian concern for the environment is shaped by the Word of God spoken in creation, the Love of God hanging on a cross, and the Breath of God daily renewing the face of the earth. Although we hear bad news about the environment on a regular basis, we do not despair. We have hope that inspires and encourages us.



Midweek Advent Program

- Soup & Bread from 5:30 – 6:10 p.m.
- Discussion Time 6:00 – 6:50 with child care
- Chapel Choir practice 6:00 p.m.
- Meditative worship 7:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Megan Koepnik will guide the youth discussion and Diane Shallue will guide the adult discussion. Children ages 4 through grade 6 will be invited to play in the nursery or watch movies related to the environment. Call Diane or Megan with questions.

Dec. 5 ✦ Global Warming, using video clips from “An Inconvenient Truth,” the movie created by Al Gore.

Dec. 12 ✦ Action Through Hope. What can we do? Wanda Copeland, executive director of Congregations Caring for Creation, will be here to do a presentation and guide our discussion.

Dec. 19 ✦ Sustainable Development

Birthday Party for Jesus

December 23, 2007

9:15 - 10:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Games, food, fun

Collection of items for the Crisis Nursery

See list of needed items posted on the Education bulletin board.



Epiphany Sunday School Program

Sunday, January 6, during the 10:30 a.m. worship service

Children will be practicing for this program during Sunday School on Dec. 2, 9, & 16, as well as having their regular Sunday School lessons. On January 6 the entire class period will be used for practice. There will be skits and songs done by the children. We invite your children to attend regularly during this time so that they can learn the Christmas story and hear about the Light of God going out into the entire world.



**FRUIT SOUP
&
JULEKAGE**



Sunday, December 16

Fruit soup and Julekage will be served in
Fellowship Hall

8:30–10:30 a.m.

Tickets:	\$1.50	Fruit Soup, Julekage, Coffee or Cider
	0.75	Julekage, Coffee or Cider



Hope Senior Club Gathering, December 19

A Swedish Christmas will be the theme of our gala Christmas gathering on **Wednesday, December 19** beginning with a luncheon at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall. The delicious menu will include traditional Swedish meatballs, rice pudding and pepparkakor.

The program, “**Shining Light into Darkness,**” will follow at 1:00 p.m. The story of Christian St. Lucia, patron saint of Milan, whose annual festival brings light and hope to Sweden at a dark time of the year, will be told through word, drama, and music. Guest musicians, members of the Twin Cities Nyckelharpalag, will play the nyckelharpa (Swedish key fiddle).

All seniors and friends are cordially invited to join us for this touch of Sweden and our celebration of St. Lucia’s Day. In the tradition of St. Lucia’s concern for the poor, you are invited to bring an offering of food or money to be given to our local food shelf.

Reservations for the luncheon should be made by **Thursday, December 13** with your caller or by phoning Diane Shallue at (612) 331-5988. If transportation is needed, please contact Leona Reyelts at (612) 378-2444.

Come celebrate the Light of Christmas! Invite your friends!



A Gift of Warmth

Scarves, hats, and mittens for the mitten tree in the Lounge can be brought throughout the month of December.



Youth News

Have you ever stayed up all night with a group of 22 junior high kids? A few brave souls did just that on November 9 for our annual Moonlight Madness event. Everyone had a great time! We played mini golf, laser tag, watched movies, went bowling, and enjoyed each other's company. This month we have our Advent midweek discussion group and a high school youth group Christmas party, in addition to our Sunday morning youth group and Sunday Social events. I am really enjoying these opportunities to get to know the youth and build relationships! Our midweek discussions are going to focus on Caring for Creation, and I can't wait to hear what our youth have to say about this type of stewardship. Don't forget to check out the youth page on the church web site to see our Weekly Update and get caught up on what we've got planned!

—Megan Koepnick

Facilities Report

If you haven't been in the Lounge kitchen lately, please be sure to walk in and see the changes! And say "thanks" the next time you see Kathy Knudson, Ken Lynes, and Tim Abrahamson, for all of their time and donations.

Do you have some ideas for major projects that have been overlooked and may need additional funding? Let the Facilities Team know so we can decide what funds we may need to ask for.

—Fred Kreider

Funding Requests Invited

Do you know of a worthy project that needs funding? The University Lutheran Church of Hope Trust Board annually disperses a percentage of the money available in our Endowment Fund. To apply for funding, fill out the "Trust Board Request for Funding" form available online or in the church office. Applications are due January 15, 2008. Please note: Endowment Funds may not be used for ongoing and/or regular church expenses; requests that have been funded for three years are to be considered ongoing and thus are not eligible for further funding, and funds must be spent during the year in which they are allocated. Questions? Contact Beth Kautz at bethuli@iphouse.com or (651) 330-4791.

Christmas Poinsettias

A tradition at University Lutheran Church of Hope has been to offer members and others the opportunity to honor and/or remember loved ones by contributing to Christmas decorations in the sanctuary during Advent and Christmas. The Poinsettias add a beautiful touch to our worship.



To participate, please complete the form below and return it to the church office:

c/o Craig Wiester, Administrator
601 13th Ave SE,
Minneapolis, MN 55414-1437

Please make checks for \$10.00 per plant payable to University Lutheran Church of Hope.

Donor _____

In Memory of _____

(or)

In Honor of _____

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Such fun things have been happening and are planned for the future as well. Just last Sunday, former camp counselors created a service from their memory banks of last summer and led a record crowd of students in worship. Students have been volunteering at Campus Kitchens at Augsburg, and one of the walls of the Green House boasts a symbol of prowess in golf.

In the midst of changing weather and minds filled with hopes for a Thanksgiving Break and then an even bigger holiday break, Lutheran Campus Ministry is beginning to plan for spring break. Once again we will participate in Lutheran Disaster Response and travel to New Orleans to continue the work necessary in rebuilding.

The initial local planning and informational meeting will be on Tuesday, November 27, at University Lutheran Church of Hope, with supper provided at 6:30 p.m. If you miss that meeting, contact LCM for further details. The cost of the New Orleans trip will be \$150 per person, with attention given to fund raising to cover transportation costs.

For past trips, most participants have been able to raise money through a letter or announcement in their home congregation. We will help with these fund raising initiatives and pool the money raised in order that transportation costs be covered. Any money raised beyond that will be applied to lower the individual participants cost.

The plan is to leave from the Twin Cities on Saturday, March 15, as early in the morning as the group agrees to, and return again on the afternoon or evening of March 21, making sure people are home in time for Easter weekend. At this time anyone over the age of 18 is welcome to join.

The specific situation and details vary from site to site, but, for the most part, the work is similar at all locations. Every group is asked to include one skilled volunteer for every 6-8 lesser skilled volunteers, and we seem to have some folks who fit that description.

A skilled volunteer is defined as someone who can lead other volunteers on a work site with little or no supervision from an Lutheran Disaster Response construction manager. Any questions you might have about this project can be referred to Pastor Fritz Wehrenberg at fritzatuminn@hotmail.com.

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

Charitable Gifts from Rummage Sale

The Rummage Sale Committee had its final meeting to disburse charitable gifts from our earnings:

Feed My Starving Children - Malawi \$200

Families Moving Forward - Hope operations \$100

Metro Lutheran Newspaper \$100

The Families Moving Forward gift is for the day-to-day expenses we have at University Lutheran Church of Hope when we host the FMF guests. These expenses should not be picked up by the Hope FMF leadership.

The Rummage Sale accrual funds for Stained Glass Windows (~\$4000) and Kitchen (~\$9000) will be offered to the Hope Church Trust to be supervised as dedicated funds. Decisions on how to spend the money should be made with collaboration among Operations, the Hope Church Trust, and the Funeral Committee (in the case of the kitchen).

The Rummage Sale Credit Union account will have an unknown balance on September 15, 2008. The sale has a rule that money not spent within a year of the sale is forfeited unless an extension is granted by our treasurer, Winnie Frolen. Invoices usually do not exactly equal what was granted. This means that on that date we will probably have some money "left over." It was decided to notify Pastor Shirley on that date of the amount of money remaining. If he is willing, he will decide where it will go.

We will keep equipment and supplies for a year and then decide what to do with what remains. It is hoped that most of it will be used by other activities within Hope. Ruth Fingerson will take responsibility for calling a meeting of Rummage Sale workers at that time.

It was brought up that if members of the congregation would like to have a smaller sale in the future, they should perhaps talk to people at the Congregational Church across I-35W from us. That church has a very successful one-day Saturday sale of items (excluding clothing). Small amounts of clothing could go to the Central Clothes Closet.

The Rummage Sale receives \$1600 per year in Matching Funds from Thrivent. Karen Jorstad has obtained these grants for us. Another project in the congregation may wish to apply for these funds in the future.

—Ruth Fingerson

An Opportunity: IRA Distribution for a Contribution in 2007

A direct transfer from an IRA to a charitable organization (such as University Lutheran Church of Hope) is possible in 2007. It must be made by December 31 of 2007—the final year in which this can be done. The donor must be at least age 70-½. The contribution must be made directly from the IRA custodian to the charitable organization. The contribution qualifies for the donor's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Amounts in owner's pensions or 401ks are eligible if rolled into an IRA first.

- No income is reported
 - No tax deduction for the contribution
 - Works for federal and state laws
 - The charity receives the contribution directly
 - Does not impair other contribution limits
 - May be large or small amounts; limit is \$100,000
- Before acting, discuss with your tax advisor to determine if this is suitable to your situation.

Contact Treasurer Norris Waalen or Church Administrator Craig Wiester for details and facilitation of the transfer.

Wanted: Volunteers for Church Financial Teams

Members for: Finance Team

Reward: work with others in overseeing ULCH's finances:

- Developing budgets
- Implementing policy

Members for Audit Team

Reward: work with others in periodic review of:

- Bookkeeping
- Procedures

Attributes for each of the above opportunities

- No experience necessary
- (We will update and inform)
- Desire to help out
- comfort level with basic math
- making sense of numbers
- desire to keep the church fiscally sound

If you can help, please contact Treasurer Norris Waalen or Church Administrator Craig Wiester

Minutes from the Vision & Governance Board Meeting

November 14, 2007

Present: Pastor Craig Shirley, Administrator Craig Wiester, Youth & Young Adults' Jack Dant, Past-President Garvin Davenport, Education's Lisa Morse, Hope in the World's Karen Westwood, Treasurer Norris Waalen, & Vice President Bob Moluf.

Absent: President Karmi Mattson.

Vice President Bob Moluf started the meeting promptly at 7:00 p.m. Prayer concerns were shared, followed by approval of the proposed agenda.

Past President Garvin Davenport reported on the selection of two new staff members. A Search Committee comprised of Garvin, Verle Rhoades, Marilyn Preus, and Pastor Craig Shirley has recommended—and the Personnel Committee has approved—that the Rev. David Johnson be hired for the position of 1/4-time Visitation Pastor. David has a long history at University Lutheran Church of Hope and is now working half-time at a Lutheran church in northeast Minneapolis. The Search Committee previously drafted a job description that was approved by the Personnel Committee. This is a permanent staff position, and the person hired for it will work with home-bound members. After David's current half-time job ends in March 2008, he would also be available to preach from time to time. Garvin moved that we hire David for this position. The motion passed unanimously.

Garvin went on to report that William (Will) Frank has been hired as our weekend custodian. William also works full-time as a custodian at the University of Minnesota. Garvin moved that we formally approve his hiring. The motion passed.

At the request of President Karmi Mattson, a brainstorming discussion took place on volunteer

recruitment. There are currently two vacancies on the Vision and Governance Board. Pastor Craig Shirley reported we have found someone to look after worship administration, but believes this person is unwilling to also take on the Board duties in that area. We discussed the need to clarify the duties of these roles. Pastor Shirley also reported we have a couple of people who have volunteered to share usher captain duties for the 10:30 a.m. service, and he mentioned the desirability of having a central, staffed welcome desk in the lower narthex.

The proposed revision of the Personnel Policy was presented and discussed. It included several changes requested by the Board at the last meeting. One additional change was made, and the revised policy was then approved.

Treasurer Norris Waalen led us through the financial reports for October. We continue to be below budget on revenue, but we are also below budget on expenses. Overall we are running about \$16,000 in the red. Norry went on to report that Phoenix Group Homes has rented an office in Room 204 for just under \$400 per month.

Next on the agenda was to invite Pastor Craig Shirley to comment on our present and near-future staffing profiles in light of the Mission Renewal objectives and our current financial situation. Pastor Shirley spoke at some length on current challenges and opportunities in the congregation, and he challenged each member of the Board to take on one new initiative between now and the end of the calendar year. Vice President Bob Moluf asked Pastor Shirley how he would like to work with the Board related to mission priorities and staff roles. Pastor Shirley said he expected a close collaboration with the Board on this and he indicated that the entire staff is more than willing to move forward based on the priorities that are set.

At 8:30 p.m. the formal business of the Board ended and the group moved to Fellowship Hall to participate in the initial report-out from the Inreach visits led by the Isaiah group. The Vision and Governance meeting was adjourned when the Isaiah meeting ended.

STAFF

Pastors: **Craig Shirley, David Johnson**
Cantor: **Timothy Strand**
Director of Education: **Diane Shallue**
Youth Director: **Megan Koepnick**
Administrator: **Craig Wiester**
Custodian: **Robert Bailey**
Working in partnership with Lutheran Campus
Ministry Staff: **Fritz Wehrenberg, Jerie Smith**

LEADERSHIP

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

VISION & GOVERNANCE BOARD

Operations: **Norris Waalen; Garvin Davenport**
Leadership Development & Communications:
Bob Moluf; Karmi Mattson
Worship & Music Ministry:
Youth & Young Adult Ministry: **Jack Dant**
Education Ministry: **Lisa Morse**
Hope in the World Ministries: **Karen Westwood**
Relational Ministries:

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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