

The Visitor

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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.*

Capital Campaign—Round Two

Has it already been three years since we embarked on our Room for Fresh Creations project? I've become so accustomed to our lovely new rest rooms, our useful Conference Room, and our welcoming Lounge that I'm starting to forget the way things were before the renovation. So before we completely forget the sad state of our old Lounge furniture, it's time to embark on another capital campaign.

At the time when we voted to undertake Room for Fresh Creations, we knew we wouldn't be able to pay for the entire cost up front—or even after the first three years. The initial \$600,000 that we raised from the congregation would enable us to make our payments up to June 2008, after which we would need to conduct another capital campaign. As we discussed at our recent annual meeting, *that time is now upon us.*



I was tremendously honored to be asked by the Board to chair this next campaign. Joining me on the core campaign team are President Bob Moluf, Vice President John Lauber, Tim Abrahamson, David Ranheim, and Mark Nelson. We are excited to be working in conjunction with Tim Krieg from The James Company, a local Christian stewardship consulting group.

Why did we hire an outside consultant?

1. Professionals bring expertise and experience that we don't possess. Studies show that campaigns conducted with assistance from an outside consultant raise, on average, twice the amount that would otherwise be raised.
2. Utilizing a consultant takes some of the burden off of Pastor Shirley. Capital campaigns can place a large load of extra administrative and leadership activities on the lead pastor of a congregation. In our current situation, with Pastor Shirley now serving as University Lutheran Church of Hope's only full-time pastor, it would not be feasible for us to ask him to take on all of these additional tasks for a capital campaign. The hiring of professional support for the campaign can help us cope with this extra work in a way that mere volunteer support cannot.

(Capital Campaign *continued on page 2*)

(Capital Campaign *continued from page 1*)

3. Outsiders can bring unique perspectives and fresh, new ideas to a congregation. They can also provide an additional way of listening to the “pulse” of our church. They can enlighten us about underlying issues here at Hope that we may need to address.

4. It can be more comfortable for some of our members to speak frankly about monetary resources with someone who is neither a staff member at Hope nor a lay member of the congregation.

Why didn't we hire KAIROS, the firm we used for the last campaign?

1. The fee charged by The James Company was lower than the fee that would have been charged by KAIROS.

2. After three years of working extensively with KAIROS on both the initial campaign and our Mission Renewal efforts, the Board felt it was time to bring in fresh blood and new ideas.

3. Not all members of the congregation were responsive to the approach KAIROS took in the original campaign. The Board hopes that a new approach may engage those few members who were resistant to the initial appeal.

How can I help the campaign?

1. *Begin prayerful reflection on the amount you could pledge for this campaign.* Wouldn't it be amazing if this were the campaign in which we could completely pay off our mortgage? Just imagine the kinds of programs we could start or expand in our congregation if we were able to reallocate to direct ministries all the funds that we must currently use on our mortgage and interest payments! Dream big!

2. *Get current with your existing Room for Fresh Creations pledge.* If you have not yet met your commitment from the first campaign, now is the time to do so. Every dollar counts!

3. *Join the team!* We will need volunteers to help with Communications, Special Events, Youth Appeals, Major Gifts, and Spiritual Life. These are great **short-term** volunteer opportunities—your volunteer commitment will be complete by June 2008!

—Karmi Anna Mattson,
Capital Campaign Chairperson,
PastPresident@ulch.org, (612) 302-8732

Senior Club

The University Lutheran Church of Hope Senior Club will gather on **Wednesday, April 16**, for a luncheon at **12:00 noon** in Fellowship Hall. The program “Global Health Ministries: Its Work and Our Role” will follow at 1:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall. Scott Lien, Director of Operations for Global Health Ministries (GHM), will present highlights of his recent visits to Cameroon, Tanzania, and Liberia. Through stories and pictures he will give an update on how the medical supplies (such as hospice kits, rolled bandages, etc.) and equipment donated and sent by GHM are being used in the hospitals. Also, the members of our congregation who volunteer regularly for the GHM mission will be recognized.



All seniors and friends are cordially invited to this inspiring event. Come and see how our contributions will continue to provide the gift of life—both physical and spiritual—through Lutheran health care across the world. We can “help the hands that heal.”

Please make reservations for the luncheon by **Thursday, April 10**, with your caller or by phoning Pastor David Johnson at (612) 331-5988, ext. 13. Remember, you are always welcome to attend the program, even if you are unable to attend the luncheon.



Caring through Prayer

During Lent, each child from birth through age 16 who is connected to our congregation was prayed for on a regular basis. Many of the Prayer Partners met during the Celebration of Prayer on March 9, which involved about 100 people.

People of all ages were divided into groups, where they shared prayers that they had memorized and talked about who had helped them learn those prayers. Some people were challenged with Ten Questions About Lent, while others made prayer beads, decorated foam crosses, or prepared Two Cents a Meal jars. This is just one of the many ways that University Lutheran Church of Hope is caring for children.

—Diane Shallue

Prayer Chain

As a part of our caring ministries, University Lutheran Church of Hope has an active prayer chain of about eight people, with Ann Beane as the coordinator. When people are listed in the bulletin as needing prayers, Ann also sends the request through the Prayer Chain. During the weekly staff meetings, the staff also prays for those who have prayer requests. If permission has been given, these requests for prayer are also given to the members of the Prayer Chain. If you would like to be part of the Prayer Chain, or if you have a prayer request, please contact Ann Beane at (651) 481-8175.

Fellowship Meal

The next University Lutheran Church of Hope Fellowship meal will be on Sunday, April 13. Join your old friends and make new friends while enjoying another delicious noonday dinner. It all gets started right after the 10:30 worship service. As usual, college and university students as well as visitors are our guests. Suggested contributions for others are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 12 and under, with a maximum of \$15 per family. Anyway you figure it, it's "A heck of a deal!" so plan to join the fun and be sure to bring a good appetite!

News from Malawi

As you know, we sent money with Bishop Bvumbwe for a church and parsonage in the Mulanje Parish in southern Malawi. This money was from the Einar and Mimi Johnson memorial fund and from an anonymous donor.

Our group is now concentrating more on the severe malnutrition in Malawi, and on the education of young children. We saw stunted children and children with the bloated bellies of *kwashiorkor*, a form of malnutrition caused by inadequate protein intake in the presence of fair to good caloric intake. Their staple food (*nsima*) has very little nutrition in it. Many young children are kept home from school to help farm and keep house. Some young girls are the caregivers in a family because the parents have died of AIDS.

The following is part of an email sent to us by Kristof Nordin, an American who lives in Malawi with his wife and young child. They are promoting the use of the old grains that used to keep Malawians well-nourished and that thrived in their climate.

"As to your comment about the maize [corn] surplus.... For the last two years Malawi has had a surplus of maize (this year over one million metric tons) [because of the return of the rains]. We have been exporting again and even responding to humanitarian responses in other countries such as Zimbabwe. Despite this excess of 'food' in the country, we have not seen much of an impact on the malnutrition status of the country.

"Almost half of the children remain stunted, and nutritional rehab units remain full. We have a lot of educating to do about what 'good nutrition' really means and in breaking the mentality that food security is equivalent to maize security. (Many people are surprised to find out that the white maize flour *nsima* is so low in nutrients)."

Please contact Jerry Johnson (612-789-7965 or johns018@umn.edu) if you are interested in what we are doing.

—Ruth Fingerson

Adult Inquiry Classes

Adult Inquiry classes continue on Sunday morning, beginning March 30 and meeting for about four weeks. We will meet in the Conference Room at 9:20 a.m. This class is designed for those who want to join the congregation. If you were not confirmed in the Lutheran tradition, it will be necessary to join the class before becoming a member. But if you would simply like to have a "review" of the Christian faith as it is understood and practiced by Lutherans, you are welcome as well.



FAITH FORMATION NEWS

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



The B-3 parent/child class will not meet in April. Look for information in the future about our next meeting.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Godly Play Lesson Topics</i>	<i>Faith Weaver Lesson Topics</i>
	For ages 3 – grade one	For grades 2 – 6
April 6	Road to Emmaus	Fall week 9 * Elijah & the widow
April 13	Good Shepherd and the Wolf	Fall week 10 * Elijah & the prophets of Baal
April 20	The Sower	Fall week 11 * God speaks to Elijah
April 27	The Mustard Seed	Week 12 * God takes Elijah to heaven

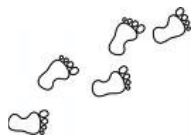
Confirmation on Sunday mornings for grades 7 & 8 is held each week. Adam Morton is the instructor for grade 8. Bob Moluf is the instructor for grade 7.

High School Discussion will be held in the Youth Room, with Jack Dant, Ann Agrimson, and Megan Koepnick leading the discussion.

Adult Forums in Heritage Hall

- April 6** “Multiculturalism in America: The Problems and Possibilities of How Americans Talk and Think about Diversity,” by Dr. Doug Hartmann, a member of our congregation and associate professor of sociology at the University of Minnesota.
- April 13** “Attitudes about Atheists.” Dr. Doug Hartmann will share some of his research about how attitudes toward atheists reveal the role of religion and morality in contemporary American culture.
- April 20** “Books for Africa.” Presentation by Pat Plonski, the executive director of Books for Africa, the largest shipper of donated textbooks to the African continent, which has shipped more than 18 million books to 37 African countries since 1988. Pat will explain how Books for Africa works with local churches and community groups to help end the book famine in Africa.
- April 27** “Art and Faith.” Dr. Sarah Henrich, Associate Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, will speak about biblical/Christian themes in art.





Faith Steps for Children

Each grade has a yearly faith step. Each faith step has a learning component, is recognized in worship, and is gifted in some way.

Fifth-grade students will lead the congregation in the Apostles' Creed on April 13 at the 10:30 a.m. worship service and will be creating a bulletin board on the Apostles' Creed in the upstairs hallway.

Sixth-grade students and friends will go on an overnight retreat on April 25-26 to learn about the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. They will be recognized in worship on April 27.

Youth Update

One of my most memorable faith moments was listening to my dad read us the Passion Story one year at Easter. He was so engaged in the story, and he even became emotional. I was both intrigued and a little uncomfortable. I also remember sitting around the dinner table with my brother and dad, asking all kinds of questions about God and faith. As I got older, my dad liked to ask me about my thoughts on different faith questions. He wasn't afraid to challenge me or disagree with me. We still have some of the most interesting and edifying conversations about faith and how it influences our daily lives.

Do you talk about faith at home? Does it feel a little scary or uncomfortable? There are all kinds of ways to introduce these types of conversations. Share the highs and lows of the day at the dinner table or before bed, and ask where God was present in those situations. Ask each other's opinions about what you see on the news. You'll not only grow in your relationship with each other, you'll find out some pretty great things about God, too!

This month we have all the usual fabulous activities: confirmation, Loaves and Fishes, and the Fellowship Meal, as well as Dining Out for Life and the 6th-Grade Retreat. Check out the youth page of the congregation web site (www.ulch.org) for more information and the Weekly Update!

God's Peace and Love! 

—Megan Koepnick, Youth Director

Church Library News—Check Out This New Book!

Gandhi—An Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments with Truth

In this book Gandhi described his experiences in organizing and leading resistance by Indians in South Africa, and later in India, to injustices perpetrated by the government in those countries. These experiences provided a major share of his "experiments with truth." Through them we come to understand the development of the Satyagraha movement in India, which included, in addition to non-violence, active resistance against evil, compassion for every living being, self-restraint, and willingness to go to jail for civil disobedience.

Written in Gujarati in 1925 when he was 56 years old, Gandhi was then at the beginning of his national and public leadership of opposition to British rule in India. "It is quite proper," he wrote, "to resist and attack a system, but to resist and attack its author is tantamount to resisting and attacking oneself. For we are all tarred with the same brush, and are children of one and the same Creator, and as such the divine powers within us are infinite. To slight a single human being is to slight those divine powers, and thus to harm not only that being but with him the whole world."

—Reviewed by Marjorie Haddad

Tuesday Morning Bible Study Scheduled to Begin

During Lent, the theme for the noon worship centered around the “I Am” statements in the Gospel of John. John is a marvelous and mysterious book—full of stories and ideas that are unique to that writer.

We will continue the study of the Gospel of John on Tuesday mornings in April—beginning with April 1 at 10:30 a.m. Each meeting will be about an hour long. Depending on numbers, we will meet either in the Conference Room on the second floor or in Heritage Hall. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Shirley.



Hope Book Club

Year of Books of Faith!

Classic books of faith—suggested by our Book Club members and by the staff of University Lutheran Church of Hope.

Join us on Sunday, April 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge to discuss:

The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach about Jesus’ Final Days in Jerusalem, by Marcus Borg & John Crossan

“[The authors] set out a simple proposition: to understand Jesus and what was important to him, it is vital to understand the week leading up to his crucifixion and resurrection. And the only way to really understand that week is to read what the Gospels actually say, not what we’ve been told they say.” (Reader review from Amazon.com)

So far our line-up for the rest of the year is:

May 11: *Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light*, by Mother Teresa & Brian Kolodiejckuk

June 8: *The Great Divorce*, by C.S. Lewis. Recommended by Pastor Craig Shirley.

July 13: *Mere Christianity*, by C.S. Lewis. Recommended by Diane Shallue.

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

Highlights from the March Vision & Governance Board Meeting

Finances. Contributions for the year-to-date are running ahead of budget, but this is mainly due to two large gifts (see the Treasurer’s report on the opposite page).

Meeting schedule. To minimize conflicts with the congregation’s seasonal worship services on Wednesday nights, the Board has decided to permanently change its meetings to the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Updates to the congregation’s Bylaws. A revision of the current Bylaws of University Lutheran Church of Hope needs to be presented to the congregation at its meeting on June 22. Bob Moluf and Karmi Mattson are drafting the changes required to bring the bylaws up-to-date, and this draft will be presented at the April Board meeting for discussion.

Visioning activities by the Board. It was decided that a significant portion of each Board meeting will be devoted to discussion of one of the congregation’s ministry areas or mission priorities. A schedule for these discussions is being prepared.

Capital Campaign Committee. (See the separate article on this topic by Past-President Karmi Anna Mattson in this issue of *The Visitor*.)

2008 mission objectives. The Board discussed and adopted three mission objectives for the year 2008. These objectives emerged from the recent Leadership Retreat for Board members and program staff. They are based on the congregation’s overall mission priorities, but they focus on areas where significant new activity needs to take place this year. The objectives for 2008 are:

- *Young adult ministries*
- *Collaboration with Lutheran Campus Ministry on ministry to University students*
- *Small-group ministries*

Minutes of the April Board meeting can be found at www.ulch.org

President's Perspective

There are several very important initiatives going on right now among the leadership of University Lutheran Church of Hope. First, the Vision & Governance Board has identified three mission objectives for the year 2008: *young adult ministries; collaboration with Lutheran Campus Ministry on ministry to University students; and small-group ministries*. Second, we are quickly moving forward with plans for the next capital campaign related to Room for Fresh Creations (see Karmi Anna Mattson's article on page 1 of this issue). Look for much more information on these initiatives in the weeks and months to come!

—Bob Moluf, Congregation President

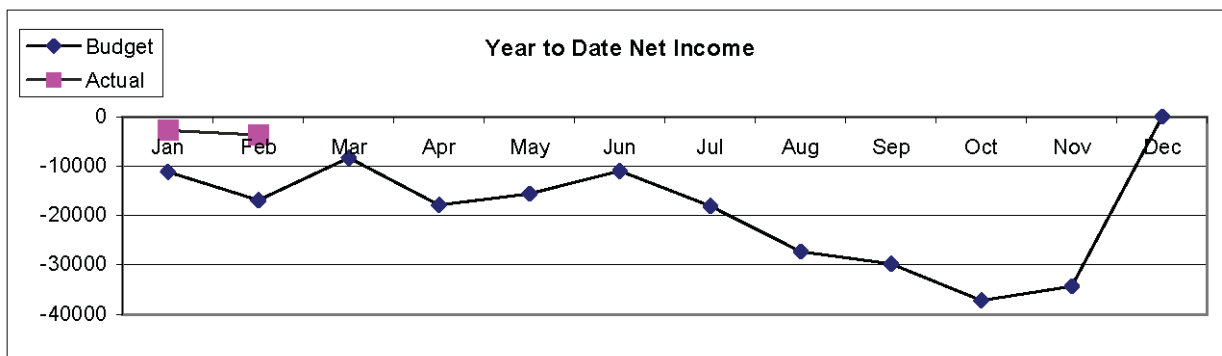
Treasurer's Report

General Fund

Results for February and Year to Date 2008

	February		Year to Date			
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Over/(under)	
General Giving and Holiday	50,969	45,176	85,865	77,827	8,038	
Rental and Extraordinary	5,222	4,354	10,696	8,699	1,997	
Total Revenue	56,191	49,530	96,561	86,526	10,035	
Total Expenses	57,266	55,240	100,410	103,409	(2,999)	
Net Income	Month	(1,075)	(5,710)	YTD	(3,849)	(16,883)

A large lump-sum contribution of \$14,000 (which we are very thankful for) received from one of our regular contributors has helped keep us ahead of budget. The fact that expenses are under budget has also helped. However, it should be noted that if we were to distribute the \$14,000—as well as the \$4,999 stock transfer that we also received—over the year, income-to-date would actually be \$3,632 *under* budget, or (\$20,515).



From a financial viewpoint, a square (actual) above a diamond (budget) is good. A square below a diamond is not so good.

—Mike Fingerson, Congregation Treasurer

STAFF

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

LEADERSHIP

President: **Bob Moluf**
Vice President: **John Lauber**
Past President: **Karmi Anna Mattson**
Treasurer: **Mike Fingerson**

VISION & GOVERNANCE BOARD

Operations: **Mike Fingerson; Karmi Anna Mattson**
Leadership Development & Communications:
Bob Moluf; John Lauber

Ministry Areas:

Worship & Music: **Uli Koester**
Youth & Young Adult: **Jack Dant**
Education / Nurture / Faith Formation:
Dan O'Loughlin
Hope in the World: **Karen Westwood**
Relational Ministries: **Leslie Frost**

THE VISITOR

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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.



UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HOPE

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