

The Visitor

601 - 13th Avenue SE
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414-1437
Tel. (612) 331-5988 Fax (612) 623-0693
www.ulch.org



May 2008
Issue #5 - 08

**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.**

Invitation to Hope

The Capital Campaign Committee is pleased to announce the theme for the next round of our campaign: *Invitation to Hope*. Our capital campaign three years ago provided us with "Room for Fresh Creations": we renovated our education wing for the benefit of all those who use our facilities—not just members of University Lutheran Church of Hope, but also members of community groups and students at PEASE Academy.

In addition to installing a needed sprinkler system, we created spaces for new activities and refreshed rooms for existing activities. Our building renovation sparked an entire mission renewal initiative, in which we revised our congregation's mission statement, our governance structure, and our staffing model. New creations indeed!

As we have gone about the arduous work of creating, we have gained momentum. The congregational leadership is excited about the direction our church is going. We are full of hope, and we invite you to join together with us as we act boldly on this hope, centered in God's grace. We also invite others to Hope, in two very complementary ways: *literally*, to pass through the doors of our building



and enjoy using our congregation's more inviting facilities; and *also, in a spiritual sense*, to join in the hope in Christ to which God is continually calling us as we gather for worship in this place.

Invitation to Hope is an invitation to join with this congregation in its hope for the future by helping us to raise \$500,000 for the future of our physical building. In order to make the higher mortgage payments necessitated by our renovation three years ago, we need to raise \$400,000 over the next three years.

However, we don't just want to pay the mortgage; we also want to invest in a few modest but much-needed projects in the congregation, like a new sound system for the sanctuary. We want to continue to give money to outside benevolences; in particular, to

Lutheran Campus Ministry. And we want to be forward-looking in terms of capital needs for our congregation: we will need a new roof over the sanctuary in the next few years, and this will be a very expensive project. We'd like to be able to set aside some funds for this item as well. That's a long wish list, but we invite you to join with us in the hope that we can fulfill it.

In the upcoming weeks, members of Hope will be receiving personal invitations, either by telephone or via visits from the members of our Capital Campaign Committee. We will also be hosting an Adult Forum on Sunday, May 18, to explain more about *Invitation to Hope*. You are always welcome to contact Campaign Chair Karmi Anna Mattson (612-302-8732, or PastPresident@ulch.org) at any time with questions or concerns.

Strong, Dynamic Preaching Continues

Which of Pastor Shirley's Easter sermons moved you the most? His message on Easter morning about stories that may or may not end, or his urging, one week later, to find the Road to Emmaus in the everyday of our lives?

Pastor Shirley filled our worship before and after Easter with his probing and inspiring thoughts, and we are grateful for his persistent work in bringing us the Gospel.

In mid-April our pastor did get a rest as Tim Gustafson climbed to the pulpit. Yet another of our own shared his talent and biblical knowledge with us!

We have a special line-up of visiting preachers during the next month:

May 25

David Jorstad, Karen's brother and long-time pastor in southern California.

June 1

David Johnson, former University Lutheran Church of Hope pastor and currently our visitation pastor.

June 15

Kathy Malotky, preacher extraordinaire and former University Lutheran Church of Hope member.

See you there! As always, we welcome all feedback and ideas.

—The Preaching Team
(Becky Halvorson,
Louise Dovre,
and Uli Koester)

Shirley's Share

Acts 4:32 reads, "Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common." This is the core Bible verse upon which the Credit Union of University Lutheran Church of Hope was established more than 47 years ago (1960).

The idea behind establishing a church-based credit union was based on our calling to: help reduce local charity; financially strengthen members; help build a habit of regular saving; and offer low-cost loans to members for cars, household items, education, and debt consolidation. A credit union takes in members' savings and loans out money to those among them who need it—at low cost. Any money that is left over, after the expenses of operation have been covered, is divided among the savers at a moderate rate of interest. No individual makes a "profit" on this transaction. A board of directors is formed, separate from the church structure, and those who serve on such a board can gain important experience as lay leaders.

Why do I tell you about this? It is because our University Lutheran Church of Hope Credit Union closed this month after a meeting of the members voted to do so. The Credit Union has been an important enterprise in the Southeast neighborhood, and many people in the congregation have been thankful for it in times of need and change. And when one hears the basic principles: debt consolidation, low-interest loans, and charitable help that isn't a handout—we realize that needs haven't changed that much! But the times *have* changed. It has been harder and harder to get volunteer help to maintain the hours of the Credit Union and to maintain its operations. So the decision was made to sell the Credit Union to a larger group called Spire.

I want to use my space in *The Visitor* this month to say a hearty "thank you" to all of the folks who have worked so hard to maintain this extension of our ministry at University Lutheran Church of Hope! I am not going to try to name all those people, because I would surely miss someone in the process, and there have been so many committed souls over the past four decades. Yet I want all of you to know how much we appreciate your dedication and commitment to this special task. It has been a unique pleasure for me to tell people that we have had our own Credit Union, and thanks to the Credit Union there are many people who have been kept from "going under" financially. So thank you for a job well done, and for all the hours of dedication you have given to this enterprise. It is most appreciated. Pax

—Pastor Craig Shirley

Fellowship Meal May 11

The next University Lutheran Church of Hope Fellowship meal will be on Sunday, May 11, Mother's Day. Join with family, friends and 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.

—Garvin and Bernice Davenport

Bibles, Bibles, Bibles

As the most purchased book in United States, we have easy access to Bibles in various shapes, colors, and sizes, but there are those in China who can't afford even the least expensive Bible. More than 9000 Bibles are printed in China each day. These Bibles are subsidized by various Bible Societies around the world, and yet there are Christians who can't afford the USD 2.00 to purchase one of them. In cooperation with the a local Christian Council, China Service Ventures has provided 2500 Bibles to poor farmers. Their cooperative goal: 20,000 Bibles!

How can you become involved with projects like this and others that positively affect the lives of the rural poor? Contact China Service Ventures at (877) 408-7056 or (651) 659-1369, or look for them at www.CSVentures.org

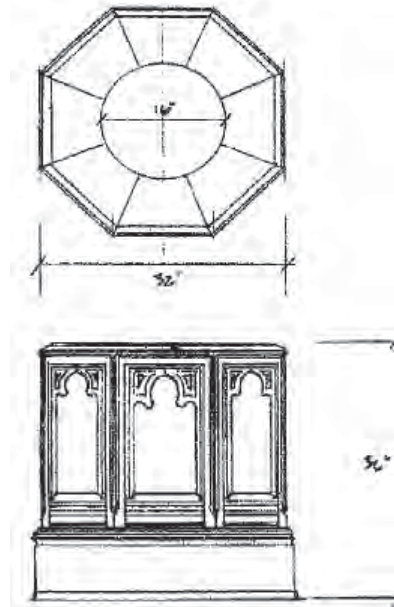


Hope Book Club

Join us on Sunday, May 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge to discuss *Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light*, by Mother Teresa & Brian Kolodiejchuk.

Good Reading for the Summer:

- 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 please call Sonja Peterson at (612) 789-0397.



New Baptismal Font Under Construction

A new baptismal font will soon replace the non-working one! It is going to look really nice, and in no time it will seem as if it has always been there.

Wayne Lee and Tim Abrahamson have been working on obtaining, creating, and installing the new font. Wayne located a company to make a large copper bowl that will sit on top of an eight-sided cabinet, which Tim is building. The carvings on the

cabinet will match the carvings on the sanctuary railing. Many University Lutheran Church of Hope members will no doubt get involved in the deconstruction of the old font, and Wayne and Tim will do the installation and tiling of the new one.

We may have some salvageable pieces of marble (the old font walls) if anyone is interested in using them for a project. Let us know if you'd like a section. They are *heaavy!*

Look for the new font to be installed in late spring or summer!

—Fred Kreider

Thanks from Thursday Musical

Thank you once again for your graciousness in allowing Thursday Musical to hold its Student Recital Series at University Lutheran Church of Hope. We find it to be a lovely setting for our student performers, and the availability of the Chapel in addition to the Sanctuary is quite helpful on our busy recital days.

It is a privilege to be able to use your lovely facility, and it is our hope to hold next year's Student Recitals at University Lutheran Church of Hope once again.

—Dawn Baker

Faith Formation News

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



May 18 will be the last session until September 7.

The B-5 parent/child group will meet for a hot brunch cooked by Charlie Leary on Saturday, June 7, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Free child care will be available until 1:00 p.m. so that parents can run errands. Reservations need to be made with Diane Shallue at dianes@ulch.org.

Date

For ages 3-grade one

May 4

May 11

May 18

Godly Play Lesson Topics:

The Pearl

Pentecost

Jesus Heals the Little Girl

Faith Weaver Lesson Topics:

For grades 2-6

Fall wk 13—Jehoshaphat trusts God.

Lesson on Pentecost

Lesson on the Holy Trinity

Confirmation classes are held on Sunday mornings for grades 7 & 8. May 18 will be the last Sunday morning class until September.

High School Discussion will be held in the Youth Room with Jack Dant, Ann Agrimson and Megan Koepnick leading the discussion. May 18 will be the last session until fall.

Adult Forums in Heritage Hall

May 4 & 11 - “Social Statement on Sexuality.” Pastor Craig Shirley will guide a discussion on a draft of the proposed ELCA social statement on human sexuality. This draft is NOT the proposed social statement that will be prepared for release in February 2009. Comments are still being collected that will be used to revise the proposed social statement.

May 18 - Discussion on the Capital Fund Campaign. Past President and Capital Campaign Committee Chair Karmi Anna Mattson will lead a discussion of this year’s capital campaign, which is entitled “Invitation to Hope” (see p.1 of this issue of *The Visitor*.)

Youth Update

What is your ministry? We all have one. Mine happens to be with youth in 7th-12th grade. You don’t have to be employed by the church to have a ministry. What is your passion? Where do your strengths lie? What pursuits give you the most joy? Chances are that there is something going on at University Lutheran Church of Hope that fits who you have been created to be. If not, there is plenty of opportunity to get something started.

Now you may be thinking, *Megan, I’m just a teenager, what can I do?* You

can do a lot! Everyone is called to a vocation in God’s family. Who has God created you to be? How is God calling you to act? What will your ministry be? How will you leave your mark? I have a lot of questions this month and one big challenge: **Activate your faith.** Figure out how you can share it inside and outside our congregation. And please encourage those young people around you to do the same. Find out what a difference you can make!

God’s Peace and Love! <><

—Megan Koepnick,
Youth Director

Child Protection Training To Be Offered Again

Leslie Frost will be providing Child Protection Training to the youth Dream Team, tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, at 8:00 p.m. in the Library. The training should last no more than an hour. Anyone who now works with children and youth *or who thinks they may do so in the future*, should plan to attend this training. Our church now has a policy that requires this training for anyone who works with youth.

Questions? Please contact Ann Beane, spiritbeane@yahoo.com

New Art Exhibit Coming to the Church Lounge

Artist: John August Swanson

Exhibition Dates: June 22 to July 31, 2008

We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to show work by John August Swanson starting June 22 in the Lounge. Children as well as adults will love this exhibition! He is a painter who is perhaps even better known for his serigraphs. Mr. Swanson's prints reflect a strong heritage of storytelling and include sacred stories, many of which have been inspired by the Bible.

John August Swanson's work is represented in numerous prestigious permanent collections, including The Smithsonian Institution, The National Museum of American History, The Chicago Art Institute, The Harvard University Fogg Museum, The Tate Gallery, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. His painting, "The Procession," is one of the relatively few works by a contemporary artist to be selected for the Vatican Museum Collection of Modern Religious Art. An original print inspired by that painting will be exhibited in our show!

—Lorraine Berger

Thanks to Members of Hope—You Keep Love Working



A grateful thank you is extended to all for supporting the Easter Plant Memorial project in several ways:

- to those who gave memorial gifts to purchase the plants;
- to the Altar Guild, who arranged the 75 plants in the sanctuary so beautifully; and
- to the volunteers who delivered the plants to shut-ins and the bereaved.

Thank you!

—The Friendly Visitor Committee

Senior Club News

Extra! Extra! The Sanok Jazz Band of the Twin Cities will perform traditional Dixieland New Orleans-style music at the Hope Senior Club gathering on **Wednesday, May 21**, at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The program will include favorites such as "Basin Street Blues," "I Want to Walk with Jesus," "When the Saints Come Marching In," and others to which we will tap our feet to the beat!

The members of the band, which was started twelve years ago, are professional musicians who played Jazz during the Jazz era. The director is The Rev. Warren Schulz, an ELCA pastor.

This entertaining program will be preceded by a luncheon at 12:00 noon. Reservations for the meal should be made by **Thursday, May 15**, with your caller or by phoning Pastor David Johnson at (612) 331-5988, ext. 13.

All seniors and friends are cor-

dially invited to come and enjoy the good food, fun, and fellowship! If you are unable to attend the luncheon, please join us for the program. Everyone is welcome!



Voice for Sudan

Times are rough. Our economy is lagging, new troops are regularly leaving for Iraq, and it seems the American Dream is not what it once was. Yet it's hard for me to be cynical about life in the U.S. when I know that people across the world are living through a nightmare, a 21st century, "never again" kind of genocide. The people of Darfur, the western province of Sudan, are currently suffering criminal violence directed by its own government.

The war in Sudan in general has been going on for decades and, although it has officially ended in the south, the area is still physically and emotionally wounded. Roads are destroyed; people are starving; drinking water is dirty; school supplies, books, buildings, and teachers are few and far between. The war has left orphans, widows, and children permanently separated from their families. Yet in such circumstances, the opportunity for a positive impact is immense. If I have learned anything in my years of studying political science and in doing fundraising for charities, it is that one person can create change

and a small group can move mountains.

I am privileged to have befriended a survivor of this war, one of the so-called "Lost Boys of Sudan." We have started an organization called **Voice for Sudan** to raise awareness in the Twin Cities about the war and to raise funds for relief and development materials, such as mosquito nets and school books. Our goal is to mobilize a community of people to take action to stop the war and to improve the lives of the Sudanese people. We want to create a bridge between the Twin Cities and the Sudanese people, to help them rebuild their country and establish peace. A fragile and tentative peace has begun in southern Sudan that could become lasting, with a little help from friends in Minnesota.

Voice for Sudan will be hosting a concert in June to raise awareness and funds for Sudan. Look for the date and location in upcoming bulletins. We will also be hosting various events in the community and *we want your help*. If you would like to get involved, please email Betsy Waalen at Elizabeth.waalen@gmail.com. All talents and levels of knowledge are most appreciated!

—Betsy Waalen

Small Group Ministry Planning Underway

The new Small Group Ministry Task Force has begun its work to create an ongoing small group ministry at University Lutheran Church of Hope. You will be hearing more about this ministry over the summer and in September. The Task Force members are: John Bablitch, Marty Dorow, Desiree Manning, Stephanie Struthers, and Paige Whitney, with staff support provided by Diane Shallue.

Two Cents a Meal Jars To Be Collected May 11

Two Cents a Meal Jars will be collected on May 11 during worship. You are asked to put aside two cents per meal per person until May 11. Some people are collecting their coins in jars. There are a few extra jars still available in the narthex. All the money that is collected will be donated to Bread for the World, an organization that advocates for ending hunger here in the U.S. and abroad. So please collect your coins and dollars and bring them on May 11!

President's Perspective

I hope the sun comes out today is a thought I have often had since January. This year I have been surprised by how, day after day, the cloudy, gloomy weather has irritated me—especially considering the many years I spent living in Western Oregon and Washington without becoming discouraged about the long, dark winters typical of that area.

Perhaps my disappointment in this year's lack of sunshine has had more

to do with the difference between the mood of the weather outside and the new mood I am sensing among our congregation's leadership. This year, my awareness that God is leading University Lutheran Church into a new era is making me feel very upbeat.

After all, it is one thing to "hope" that the sun will shine, but it is quite another to witness how Christian hope is drawing our leadership closer together and is leading us into a renewed sense of mission and ministry.

Seminary students sometimes feel their faith is under attack when they

realize that many of the words of Jesus we read in the four gospels were added by his followers after his death. What they may be missing is the fact that the early Christians had a confidence that the risen Christ was alive, was present with them, *was continuing to speak to them, and was leading them into God's bright future*.

It is not a fragile, human hope to say that God is alive among us. It is the sure and certain hope that God, in Christ, is not done with us yet!

—Bob Moluf,
Congregation President

Vision and Governance Board Highlights

From the Board Meeting on April 8

- *Received* an update on the search for a director of young adult ministry. Pastor Craig Shirley and an ad hoc task force have received a healthy response from candidates interested in this position.
- *Received* an update from Karmi Anna Mattson and other members the Capital Campaign Committee on plans for the new campaign (see article on p. 1 of this issue of *The Visitor*.)
- *Reviewed* key sections of an initial draft of revised Bylaws for the congregation. A final revision is to be presented to the congregation at a special meeting on June 22.
- *Engaged* in a visioning discussion related to the Hope in the World ministry area, led by Karen Westwood, the Board Liaison for that area.

Complete minutes from the Vision & Governance Board meeting can be found at ulch.org

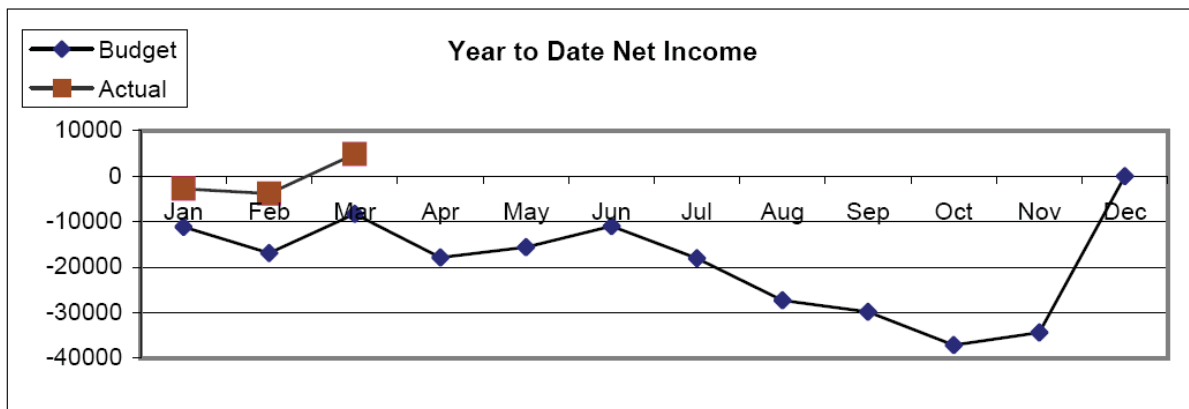
Treasurer's Report

General Fund

Results for March and Year to Date 2008

| | March | | Year to Date | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|---------|
| | Actual | Budget | Actual | Budget | Over/(under) | |
| General Giving and Holiday | 47,254 | 50,625 | 133,119 | 128,452 | 4,667 | |
| Rental and Extraordinary | 5,119 | 4,570 | 15,814 | 13,269 | 2,545 | |
| Total Revenue | 52,372 | 55,195 | 148,933 | 141,721 | 7,212 | |
| | | | | | | |
| Total Expenses | 43,637 | 46,637 | 144,047 | 150,046 | (5,999) | |
| | | | | | | |
| Net Income | Month | 8,735 | 8,558 | YTD | 4,886 | (8,325) |

Reduced expenses of about \$3,000 offset reduced revenue to leave the March net income very close to budget. Extraordinary items included: (1) paying off the Credit Union loan for the copier (\$1,933) and (2) initiating the planned transfer of funds (\$3,478 for Jan. - March) from the Youth Worker Bridge Fund for the Youth Director salary.



From a financial viewpoint, a square (actual) above a diamond (budget) is good. Below, 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

VISION & GOVERNANCE BOARD

Officers:

President:

Bob Moluf

Vice President:

John Lauber

Past President:

Karmi Anna Mattson

Treasurer:

Mike Fingerson

Ministry Areas:

Worship & Music:

Uli Koester

Youth & Young Adult:

Jack Dant

Education:

Dan O'Loughlin

Hope in the World:

Karen Westwood

Relational Ministries:

Leslie Frost

Support Areas:

Operations:

Mike Fingerson;

Karmi Anna Mattson

Leadership Development

& Communications:

Bob Moluf; John Lauber

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.

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF HOPE
601 - 13th Avenue SE
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414-1437

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Permit No. 944



Printed on 50% Recycled Paper.
10% Post Consumer Waste.