

# 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.**

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## Shirley's Share

How quickly three years have passed since we launched our Room for Fresh Creations capital campaign. Many things are quite different now: we have a functional, bright, and refurbished Christian education building—with windows that keep us warm in the winter. And in the lower Sunday school level we have walls that no longer look like they may fall down at any moment. We have a Library that is attracting new readers; a fireside Lounge that is eye-catching and makes us proud; and our new Conference Room—carved out of a tiny office and an overflowing storage area—sees almost daily use!

Moreover, we also have a new pattern for the leadership model of our congregation. Staff changes, a need for a smaller governing structure, and task forces that fit our present-day ministry needs are the result of Mission Renewal—which came on the heels of our building project. When I see how much we have accomplished, it's no wonder that the three years have passed quickly!

Our benevolence contributions from the original campaign went to support Lutheran Campus Min-

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## Special Congregational Meeting on June 22

A special meeting of the congregation of University Lutheran Church of Hope shall be held in the church's Fellowship Hall on Sunday, June 22, 2008, at 11:15 a.m.

There are three purposes for this special meeting: (1) to consider the adoption of revised Bylaws for the congregation, as was called for at the special meeting of the congregation in June 2007; (2) to elect members of the Nominating Committee; and (3) to consider forming a task force to investigate whether the congregation's constitution should be amended to permit pastoral calls to be extended to candidates who are excluded from the ELCA roster solely due to their sexual orientation.

—Bob Moluf, Congregation President

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istry of Minnesota, the Minneapolis Area Synod, the ONE VOICE campaign, our mission work in Malawi, and any number of other important outreach projects.

And now, as we decided three years ago, it is once again time to renew our pledges and invite more people to participate in supporting these capital improvements. Of first importance, and vital to the whole project, is ongoing monetary support of the 20-year mortgage we took out to finance the remodeling. That amount, approximately \$392,000 to meet our minimum mortgage obliga-

tions for the next three years, is essential to our campaign. But there is also a strong interest in continuing the work we began by making the building more usable, more user-friendly, and more available to visitors. The small, new projects described in Karmi Mattson's article on p. 3 of this issue of *The Visitor*, are meant to do just that: to make our building more welcoming to University students, to visitors on Sunday morning, and to the neighborhood groups that meet here.

(Shirley's Share *cont'd* on page 2)

(Shirley's Share *cont'd from page 1*)

Your participation is *essential* for this campaign to be a success! No gift is too small, and all gifts will be used to further the mission and ministry of this congregation—both directly, by supporting the building in which a large number of our congregation's activities and ministries take place, and indirectly, because of the many community groups who regularly use our building and express their thanks and appreciation for our presence in the Southeast neighborhood.

Please welcome the letters, phone calls, and visits from your fellow members of University Lutheran Church of Hope related to this campaign. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge that exceeds the one you recently completed. And please prayerfully consider making a first pledge—if you have not had the opportunity or ability to support this project in the past. As important as what is given is the one who gives; when all individuals of the congregation work as a whole, then the whole congregation benefits!

—Pastor Craig Shirley

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## Reach the World from Your Home!

### Host Students from China!

Students from universities in China will be attending a semester-long program at the University of Minnesota called Education for a Global Citizen. Warm, loving host families are needed to house students starting August 23, 2008 until December 28. A stipend is provided. Last year Deb Bordsen and her family hosted one of these students. Questions? Contact Adri at (952) 927-7221 or [adrimelander@gmail.com](mailto:adrimelander@gmail.com)

## Help Needed in the Nursery

Volunteers are needed to supervise the nursery in the summer during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. If you could volunteer for one Sunday or two, please contact Diane Shallue at [dianes@ulch.org](mailto:dianes@ulch.org) or (612) 331-5988, ext 19. (Note that the needs for the second Sunday of each month will be met by Mary and Mackenzie Hadler.)

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## Travel to China

Every year China Service Ventures (CSV) arranges for groups to travel to China to see, touch, and experience this ancient culture...however, this is not your normal "tour" of China.

While we will visit historical and cultural sites (the Great Wall, Summer Palace, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Terra Cotta Warriors, and the Nestorian Tablet—China's early monument to the first Christian missionary), CSV's purpose in providing this travel opportunity is to see a part of China that most travelers don't see—the rural countryside and the Christian church.

Our next Friends of CSV Visitations are scheduled for Oct. 4-19 and Oct. 19 — Nov. 8. Both Visitations will travel to Beijing, Xi'an, Xinyang (CSV's area of service), and Hong Kong. The latter Visitation will include travel on the Yangtze River. Did you know that a Friends of CSV Visitation may be up to 75% tax-deductible? Due to CSV's 501(c)(3) charitable organization status, most of your costs (administration & orientation fees, air travel, in-country transportation, meals, and lodging) may be tax-deductible. For more information regarding itinerary, travel preparations, and costs, contact the Rev. Steven Ray at (877) 408-7056, [steverayCSV@aol.com](mailto:steverayCSV@aol.com); or Jennifer Krueger at (651) 659-1396, [chinaserviceventures@hotmail.com](mailto:chinaserviceventures@hotmail.com)

—Diane Shallue

## Small-Group Ministries

A pilot project in Small-Group Ministries will begin this summer with three small groups:

- No-prep Bible study in the south Minneapolis area for four weeks over the summer—leader to be chosen
- Bicycling group to meet on Saturday mornings—group leader Dan O'Loughlin, (612) 721-4286, [djoloughlin@stkate.edu](mailto:djoloughlin@stkate.edu)
- Leader development study group—to meet five or six times over the summer. This group will study small-group leadership and will practice being a leader. Group Leader: Stephanie Struthers, (763) 862-9884.

All are invited to participate in these groups. If you have questions, please contact any of the members of the Small-Group Ministry Task Force: John Bablitch, (612) 798-1865; Marty Dorow, (651) 698-3321; Desiree Manning, (612) 729-5340; Stephanie Struthers, (763) 862-9884; Paige Whitney, (612) 227-0852; or Diane Shallue, (612) 331-5988, ext 19.

—Diane Shallue,  
Director of Education and  
Adult Small-Group Ministries

## Capital Campaign—Phase 2

*“For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.” —1 Corinthians 3:9*

As reflected in our mission statement, “University Lutheran Church of Hope is an urban spiritual center in a changing University neighborhood, opening our facilities and ministry to groups and individuals outside the congregation.”

Some of the many community groups that have benefited from our hospitality include:

Alcoholics Anonymous • Boy Scouts of America • Caring Family and Friends, a support group for GLBT Lutherans, their families, and allies • China Outreach Ministries, a fellowship of Chinese students at the University of Minnesota • Committee on the Achievement Gap, a group seeking answers to the gap between school outcomes for children from high-poverty neighborhoods and those from other neighborhoods • Emotions Anonymous • Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association • PEASE Academy, a high school for students in recovery from chemical addiction • The Joy Project, a support group for those struggling with eating disorders • Thursday Musical • Trinity Quilters • Well-Spouse Group, a support group for caregivers



### Our Goals

Your contributions to the Capital Campaign will allow us to continue to pay down the \$1.7 million renovation project we embarked on three years ago, and to make some additional improvements that were not completed in the first project.

- Our mortgage payments for the renovation total \$392,000 over the next three years. Assuming we retain PEASE Academy as a tenant, the congregation will need to pay \$250,000 of that amount.
- Our sanctuary sound system has been ineffective for some time. Replacing our system will better enable young and old alike to hear and respond to the Word of God.
- The initial renovation laid the groundwork for an outdoor patio on the 13th Avenue side of our building. With additional dollars and generous volunteer labor, we can make this welcoming space a reality.
- In our initial campaign, the congregation voted to donate 7% of the total pledged to outside groups. We will continue this effort in the second round of our campaign, donating \$35,000 to organizations outside our congregation.
- Our building has seen 100 years of sunshine and storms. As it ages, its needs will continue to grow, and so will the funds necessary to fix it. We plan to allocate \$84,000 as seed money for a Capital Projects Fund, so we will be better prepared for such eventualities as the replacement of the sanctuary roof and the maintenance of the boilers.

We thank you for your faithful prayers, participation, and financial support as we continue our ministry journey to be “*a welcoming, Christian community of faith centered in God’s grace and called to demonstrate God’s love for the world.*”

### Upcoming Campaign Milestones:

- **May 2008** — Communications and Spiritual Emphasis Materials
- **June 14, 2008** — Pledge Materials Distributed
- **June 22, 2008** — Celebration Sunday

Through your generosity, the mission and ministries of University Lutheran Church of Hope touch the lives of countless people. Hearts are warmed. Hope is found.

—Karmi Anna Mattson,  
Congregation Past President and Capital Campaign Chair



## Summer Reading Program News

Beginning on June 1 you may purchase a copy of *Red Letter Christians: A Citizen's Guide to Faith and Politics*, a book by Tony Campolo that discusses current social and political issues and partisan politics. The discounted price will be \$15 for this hot-off-the press hardcover book. On July 13, 20, & 27 there will be a light breakfast at 8:40 a.m., followed by discussion and activities for all ages from 9:00—9:50 a.m. Worship will be held at 10:00 a.m. as usual.

Pastor Shirley will lead an adult discussion group on July 13 & 20. A speaker from the political science department at Gustavus Adolphus College will be here on July 27. A children's program with a focus on the book *The Clown of God* will involve juggling on July 13, crafts on July 20, and movies and crafts on July 27. A middle school youth discussion will be organized by Megan Koepnick and the high school students. Nursery services will be provided for our youngest members

Compolo states in the introduction to his book that "Transcending partisan politics, Jesus call us to make judgments about social issues as best we can when we vote, and to do so in accord with our best understanding of God's will. In doing so, we are to avoid partisan politics that lead to unnecessary, unproductive and even dangerous divisions....On any specific social or political issue, you must be ready and willing to work out which party and/or candidate best represents your convictions" (p. 17).

## From the Director of Education and Adult Small-Group Ministries

You might have noticed that my job title has changed. Adult small-group ministries will now be a major part of my position here at University Lutheran Church of Hope. Pastor Shirley in his sermon on Pentecost talked about the Holy Spirit and the changes that have happened in the past several years in this congregation and those that will continue to happen. In Revelation 21:5, the Lord God says, "See, I am making all things new." The power of God working through the Holy Spirit is a creative force. Things that are alive are always changing and that is a cause of rejoicing. This congregation is alive!

My revised job description states: "The primary purpose of this position at University Lutheran Church of Hope is to provide vision and leadership in the areas of:

- parish education for children, families, and adults;
- adult small-group ministries; and
- best practices for the recruitment and coordination of volunteers."

I have been working with a Small-Group Ministries Task Force since April. We are trying out some pilot projects this summer, but you will be hearing much more about small-group ministries in the fall. This summer, while the Education Hour is on hiatus, I will also put some time into the third area of my job description. With the support of the congregation and staff, I will be working out what these written changes will mean for my actual responsibilities. I am excited about the vitality and openness to change demonstrated by this congregation.

Your partner in ministry,  
—Diane E. Shallue



## Library News

The University Lutheran Church of Hope Library Committee has recently subscribed to *The Christian Century* magazine, which will be available for reading while in the Library.

New books in the Library include: *The Great Awakening: Reviving Faith and Politics in a Post-Religious Right America*, by Jim Wallis (now available), and Tony Campolo's *Red Letter Christians: A Citizens Guide to Faith and Politics*. The latter will be read and discussed as part of the July summer reading program and will be available for sale beginning June 1.

The following book review of *The Attack*, by Yasmina Khadra, has been written by Marjorie Haddad.

Amin Jaafari is a Palestinian surgeon living with his beautiful Palestinian wife Sihem in the best neighborhood of Tel Aviv. Amin and Sihem are nominally Muslim, but all of their friends are Jewish. When a suicide bomber strikes in a nearby restaurant, killing 19 people, Amin is at the hospital, trying to save the lives of the wounded. He believes that his wife is in Nazareth visiting her grandmother. Then he is summoned to the morgue to view Sihem's body and learns that she was the bomber and that he never truly knew her. He begins a quest to understand how she could have done what she did. This is a suspenseful and psychologically probing novel.

## Music and Arts Camp

The Music and Arts Camp to be held on August 17-20 has an exciting new element. Instructors from The Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater will help the students create shadow puppets and a puppet play based on the theme song of the week. The usual excellent vocal and rhythmic instruction will be provided as well. Invite your friends and neighbors!

Sessions are held in the evenings from Sunday through Wednesday night, with supper provided. Register using the bright green forms which are located in the church Library.



## Youth News

If you could do anything to change the world, what would it be? I would love for world hunger to be eliminated and to help stop the HIV/AIDS pandemic on the continent of Africa. Those are some pretty big projects! I know that in order to work some change I'm going to have to join with a group of people who are just as passionate as I am. There are other smaller ways I can help, too. I can sponsor a child through World Vision or give to the ELCA Good Gifts program.

Even small things can make a difference. The High School youth decided they wanted to give some of the money made at the Easter Breakfast to a charity. Peter Ringham stepped forward and gave a passionate and moving presentation about sponsoring a child's education in Kenya for

a year. We decided to do it. While it may only affect one person next year, who knows what will come of this student's opportunity to get an education?

How can you work to change the world? What are you passionate about? Chances are there is someone else in the congregation who shares your passion or will help you see where to put that passion to work. We have been blessed so greatly. How can we pass that blessing on to others? Paul says in 2 Cor. 9:12, "This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." How will you be creative in showing your overflowing expressions of thanks?

God's peace and love! <><

—Megan Koepnick

## Hope to the Twins

To top off the other congregational events on June 22, members of University Lutheran Church of Hope will be going to the Twins-Diamondbacks game at the Metrodome. All are invited! After the 10:00 worship and the 11:15 a.m. lunch and special congregational meeting, we will meet in the church parking lot at 12:15. That leaves us plenty of time to carpool over the river, buy cheap seats for the 1:10 game, and cheer on the home team.

Please call us if with questions, comments, or if you want to let us know you are joining us!

—Uli Koester (651) 330-4791;  
John Pignatello (612) 724-5721



## Just for the Fun of It

### Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

Join University Lutheran Church of Hope members for Lutheran Night at the Twins, Tuesday, August 19, 2008, at 7:10 p.m., Minnesota vs. Oakland Athletics. The cost is \$16.00 for Upper Club Reserved and \$6.00 for Upper Level General Admission.

Make your check payable to Minnesota Twins and make your reservation as soon as possible. The order deadline for members of Hope will be August 5. Send your reservation to Marilyn A. Asp, 2911 Edison St. NE, Unit A, Blaine, MN 55449. We will meet at church to pool rides at 5:45.

# Vision and Governance Board Highlights

## From the Board Meeting on May 13

- *Discussed* possible repairs and improvements to the west side parking lot as recommended by Operations. Since this would be an unbudgeted expense, action on it was tabled until the July meeting of the Board, at which point the amount of pledges to the new capital campaign will be known.
- *Received* an update from the task force searching for a director of Young Adult Ministry. The task force is looking to fill this part-time staff position in the fall with a student from Luther Seminary.
- *Received* an update on the proposed new staffing plan for Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities. The local Lutheran Campus Ministry Council is awaiting a funding decision from Lutheran Campus Ministry-Minnesota.
- *Expressed appreciation* for the recent work by Diane Shallue, director of education and adult small-group ministries, in organizing a task force on small-group ministries and launching several small groups for the summer.
- *Received* an update on “Invitation to Hope,” the new capital campaign (see pp. 1-3 of this issue of *The Visitor*).
- *Voted* to give 7% of the funds raised by Invitation to Hope to outside groups, in continuity with the decision previously made by the congregation when it authorized the Room for Fresh Creations building renovation. The Board made this decision after noting that opinions within the congregation differ greatly on this topic. Some of our members do not think charitable giving by the congregation should be part of a debt-reduction campaign, while others contend that the congregation should give away 10% or more from any major fund-raising effort.
- *Voted* to recommend to the congregation the adoption of revised Bylaws. The recommended revision of the Bylaws has been in preparation for several months, has now been endorsed by the Board, and will be presented to the congregation for approval at a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 22. The Board also asked for two other items of business to be on the agenda for the June Special Meeting (see the announcement on p. 1 of this issue of *The Visitor*.)
- *Conducted* a visioning discussion on the next Fall Festival, which will be held on a Saturday in September. The city will be asked to close our block of 13th Avenue to vehicles for the day, and the neighborhood will be invited to the Festival events, many of which will be held outside. Leslie Frost agreed to lead a Task Force in planning the Festival.

Complete minutes from the Vision & Governance Board meeting are be found at [ulch.org](http://ulch.org)

—Bob Moluf, Congregation President

## President’s Perspective

In three of the four gospel narratives, Jesus is said to have been asked whether it was lawful in God’s eyes to pay taxes to Caesar. This was a loaded question, both politically and theologically. (In that way, perhaps it is not too different from the types of questions candidates for the American presidency now must respond to). Jesus’ questioners were hoping to get him into trouble one way or another—either with those who enforced Roman rule or with the angry crowds who suffered under that rule.

In Jesus’ response to his questioners, he first asked whose image appeared on Roman coins. Then he offered his famous dictum: “Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” I doubt that Jesus’ intention was to suggest that all money belongs to the government, and that whatever is left over can belong to God. When his Jewish listeners heard him referring to the image that was on a Roman coin, many of them would have been reminded of the One whose image they bore: “Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness...’” (Gen. 1:26). The ultimate owner of all things was not the emperor, but God.

It can be easy for us to mentally divide our lives into spheres and compartments. Life seems more sane and balanced when we can keep a degree of separation among our personal and family responsibilities, our work, and our church commitments. And yet, in a deeper sense, life is unified. Life is whole. We are all God’s creatures, created in God’s image. And God is no respecter of artificial human boundaries. God owns it all.

How much of my life belongs to God? What percentage of the money I receive is accountable to God? Which of my activities are of interest of God? Everything I am; everything I own; everything I do. They all matter to God, the ultimate Owner. I am just a caretaker of God’s good gifts.

—Bob Moluf, Congregational President

# Thank You

Many thanks to all of the people who helped shop, prepare, cook, set up, serve, and clean up at one or more of this year's Fellowship Meals.

—Bernice Davenport

## Treasurer's Report

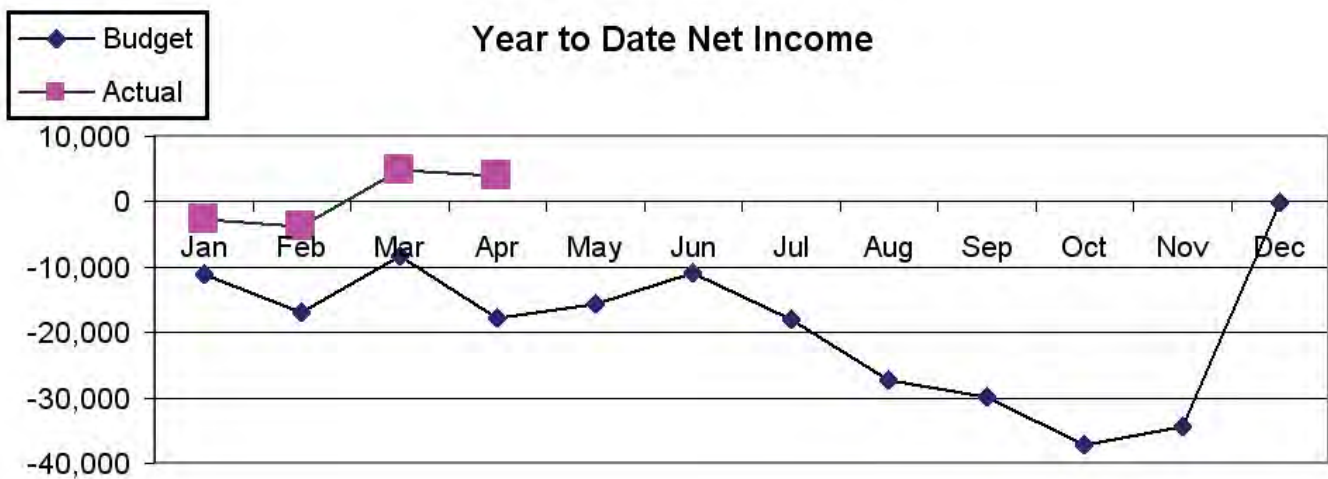
### General Fund

#### Results for April and Year to Date 2008

	April		Year to Date			
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)	
General Giving and Holiday	36,087	36,879	169,206	165,331	3,875	
Rental and Extraordinary	5,087	4,354	20,901	17,623	3,278	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>41,174</b>	<b>41,233</b>	<b>190,107</b>	<b>182,954</b>	<b>7,153</b>	
Total Expenses	42,084	50,766	186,166	200,812	(14,646)	
<b>Net Income</b>	Month	(910)	(9,533)	YTD	3,941	(17,858)

Revenues for the month were close to budget.

For the year, controlled expenses (\$14,646 below budget) and two early income items give favorable results.



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 and*

*Adult Small-Group Ministries:*

**Diane Shallue**

*Youth Director:*

**Megan Koepnick**

*Administrator:*

**Craig Wiester**

*Custodian:*

**William Frank**

*Working in partnership with*

*Lutheran Campus Ministry Staff:*

**Fritz Wehrenberg**

## VISION & GOVERNANCE BOARD

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**John Lauber**

*Past President:*

**Karmi Anna Mattson**

*Treasurer:*

**Mike Fingerson**

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*Youth & Young Adult:*

**Jack Dant**

*Education:*

**Dan O'Loughlin**

*Hope in the World:*

**Karen Westwood**

*Relational Ministries:*

**Leslie Frost**

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**Mike Fingerson;**

**Karmi Anna Mattson**

*Leadership Development*

*& Communications:*

**Bob Moluf; John Lauber**

## THE VISITOR

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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](http://www.ulch.org/images/TheVisitor.pdf). Back issues are available by contacting the church office.

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