

# The Visitor

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July 2008  
Issue #7 - 08

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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

Church buildings—can't live with them and can't live without them. Have you noticed that newer church buildings are far less "permanent" in nature than they were when our sanctuary was built? I heard an advertisement the other day from a dealer of steel buildings which said that if you need a church or warehouse building in a hurry because of a growing need, they can have it up for you in a month! Modern church buildings still have steeples and crosses, but typically they are no longer built of stone and slate. Like banks, which once were the most imposing structures in any downtown, church buildings are now lighter—often wood-framed and simple in design, intended for easy access and serviceability.

Churches of a different era were designed theocentrically—with worship of the Almighty as the first and most important aim. Take the entrance as an example. How many times have you walked from the bright sunshine (something seen less frequently here in the Twin Cities than we like) into the narthex of our church or one like it? The first thing you realize is that the entrance is so dark that it takes a minute for your eyes to adjust! There is a theocentric reason for this. The idea is that as you move from the dark narthex into the lighted sanctuary—the place where God is physically present to us in worship—your eyes are taken from mundane matters such as taking your coat off, finding a bulletin, and looking for a seat, to the glory of the altar and the soaring ceiling that lifts your head (and your heart) upward toward the throne of God. Modern churches want the narthex to be a place that is large, well lit, and has coffee available so that people will linger and mingle and feel at home. Both have legitimacy, but each is distinct in its style.

I bring all this up because we are once again concentrating on our own church building and the facilities of it as we complete this second phase of our Capital Campaign. Some of the people who want to give to support the building will more readily support "bricks and mortar" and the permanence they inspire. There are others who feel that we spend too much time and money on the building over other aspects of ministry.

I often find myself drawn one way or the other by these same arguments. But the truth is that we have a building built for permanence, one that was erected with not just decades but centuries of use in mind for it, and so we have the challenge of keeping that building in good repair. But our building also "does" ministry by being present not only for us, but also for the neighborhood.

Many self-help groups have their meetings in our facilities, from those for alcohol and drug issues to groups for eating disorders and emotional support. We host scout leaders, the neighborhood association, and public school curriculum discussions. We enable other religious groups to do ministry on behalf of Asian students as well as welcome individuals for tutoring and private meditation. PEASE Academy just celebrated their graduation, and the sanctuary was filled with applause and shouts as young people and their families celebrated a dream that might not have happened if our building had not been here to house them. Supporting the building is ministry—expensive though it is. There may come a time when what it costs will no longer match what we can support as a congregation. But right now, at this time, we are called and able to support the work we do from this building by keeping it clean, beautiful, and in good repair—signs that we honor the One in whose name we worship and pray. Pax

—Pastor Craig Shirley

## 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, please contact Diane Shallue at [dianes@ulch.org](mailto:dianes@ulch.org) or (612) 331-5988, ext 19.

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## Thank You to Our Sixth-Graders

Chickens are flocking! For their service project, our sixth Graders raised \$567, which will be added to the Sunday School offerings of \$251.47 for the year. A total grant of \$818.47 will buy 40 flocks of chickens for families in Africa through Heifer International.

Thank you to the sixth graders and their teacher, Don Hauge, for their work on this project.

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## Festival of Hope

Come enjoy the Festival of Hope on August 24, following the special worship service at 10:00 a.m. led by the Music and Arts Camp students.

You will want to put this date on your calendar and make sure you attend! Remember the great fun you had at Festival held last year on Rally Day! Again there will be great food, games, activities, and music geared for all ages. Hamburgers and Hot Dogs! The Jumping for Joy Magic Bounce station! The Dip in the Nile dunk tank! Popcorn and Ice Cream Sundaes! Look for more information coming soon.

—Diane Shallue

## Thank You!

Our Invitation to Hope Capital Campaign was completed at the end of June. Final pledge numbers will be reported in the August *Visitor*, along with preliminary information on how the monies will be allocated.

The congregation's generous response will enable us to continue to make our mortgage payments, while investing in some new and exciting projects within and outside the building. Watch for what's to come!

On behalf of the Capital Campaign Committee and the Vision & Governance Board, I would like to thank all those who generously contributed to our pledge campaign. In particular I would like to thank members of the Campaign Committee, the Advance Visitor Team, and the Neighborhood Visitors for the generous amount of time they dedicated to making this campaign a success.

—Karmi Anna Mattson, Invitation to Hope Chairperson

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## Small Group Ministries

Our three small groups are still welcoming new participants. Please check them out and consider getting involved.

- No prep Bible study in the south Minneapolis area. Contact John Bablitch at [mplsjohnb@aol.com](mailto:mplsjohnb@aol.com)
  - Bicycling group to meet on Saturday mornings – Group leader Dan O'Loughlin 612-721-4286 or [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 practice being a leader. Group Leader: Stephanie Struthers 763-862-9884
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## John August Swanson Art Exhibition

You are invited to our Lounge from June 22 through July 31 to view the serigraphs of John August Swanson. Mr. Swanson was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. As a youngster, he was captivated by the stories told to him by his Mexican mother, his Swedish father, and those which he read in the Bible. Later, these stories became the inspiration which influenced his adult work.

He is represented in the public collections of the Smithsonian, the American Museum of Natural History, the Chicago Institute of Art, the Harvard University Fogg Museum, the Tate Gallery, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Bibliothèque Nationale, and the Vatican Museums' Collection of Modern Religious Art, in addition to hundreds of private collections.

At 9:15 a.m. on June 22, just before the 10:00 a.m. service, a gallery talk will be presented by his long-time friend and Minneapolis representative, Tim Smith.

We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to show Mr. Swanson's work. Please invite your friends and family to visit the exhibition. I believe this show will be of interest to viewers of all ages.

—Lorraine Berger

## Music and Arts Camp Registration

**N**ow is the time to register! Music and Arts Camp registration brochures are available. See the bright green forms in the pews and in the Library.

Please invite children between grades 2-9 to this engaging, informative camp held from August 17-20. As a great outreach opportunity, you might consider sponsoring part of their registration fee. There will be vocal and rhythmic instruction by trained musicians as well as a puppet workshop led by instructors from The Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater.

A registration fee of only \$30 is requested (a maximum of \$60 per family), which is a bargain for the excellent instruction that will be provided by our experienced and trained staff. This camp is limited to only 40 students, so please register soon. Contact Tim Strand or Diane Shallue with questions.



—Diane Shallue

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## Youth Update

**S**ometimes the title youth director is deceiving. While it is true that I get to hang out with amazing youth, talk about God, and play fun games, I also am privileged to work with a group of dedicated youth ministry advocates on the Dream Team. When we get together we have the opportunity to dream about what the perfect youth ministry for University Lutheran Church of Hope might be.

As we start dreaming about next fall and winter we are beginning to imagine what shape our ministry might take by broadening relationships.

Have you ever considered yourself a youth leader? Have you ever wondered what actually goes on down in the Youth Room? Have you ever wondered how you might better connect with the youth of the congregation? Can you remember a significant adult in your life who talked with you about faith and life? If you answered yes to any of these questions we invite you to begin dreaming with us and praying with us to discover where and how God is leading us in developing new and exciting relationships between youth ministry and other areas of the congregation!

God's peace and love! <><

—Megan Koepnick,  
Youth Director

## Summer Stewards

We have many opportunities to contribute to the congregation's ministries. Consistent financial giving is one important way. During the summer months, as we travel and our routines shift, it can take a little extra planning and effort to keep current on our pledges. Especially if you give the "old-fashioned way," by envelope, that extra planning and effort can make a big difference for the congregation.

Please take the opportunity to keep current with your financial support of all that this community of faith does to welcome people and to demonstrate God's love for the world.

And a final thought, unique to this summer: If you have received a federal tax rebate, please prayerfully consider whether you might direct some percentage of that to the mission of University Lutheran Church of Hope. It's an unusual opportunity to contribute above and beyond.

—Tim Gustafson,  
Stewardship

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## Just for the Fun of It

### Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

**J**oin 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.

## Low-Cost Educational Opportunities for Older People

**S**enior Surf Days, sponsored by the Minnesota Board on Aging, is a series of classes for older residents who are new to the Internet. The classes are held in libraries, schools, and community centers across the state. Call the Senior LinkAge Line at (800) 333-2433 for locations near you.

**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute**, at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Campus, is a membership-based community of older residents in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. You can choose from more than 180 courses—or teach one yourself—in the liberal arts, sciences, and on life-style issues. For more information visit [www.cce.umn.edu/olli](http://www.cce.umn.edu/olli)

—Diane Shallue

## Summer Reading Program News

**O**n 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.



### Adult Program

Pastor Shirley will lead an adult discussion group on July 13 & 20 on Red Letter Christians. On July 27, Dr. Loramy Gerstbauer from Gustavus Adolphus College will be speaking about “Faith and International Politics.”

### Children’s Program

The **Children’s Program** will consist of a story time and activities:

July 13: Juggling with Nick Lane

July 20: Decorating special boxes with Diane Shallue

July 27: Nature crafts with Renee Real-Banas

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.

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## Room for Fresh Creations Support for Outside Organizations

**I**n our initial Room for Fresh Creations capital campaign, the congregation voted to donate 7% of funds to outside organizations. To date, a total of \$28,000 has been paid out to eleven beneficiaries:

- Lutheran Campus Ministry of Minnesota
- The Malawi Project
- The ONE VOICE Campaign of Lutherans Concerned North America
- ISAIAH Sustainers Fund
- ELCA Benevolence via the Minneapolis Area Synod
- International Student Scholarship Fund at Luther Seminary
- TreeHouse
- Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem
- Manna Madagascar
- Mano a Mano Medical Resources

A final payment to outside organizations will be made after the last of the Room for Fresh Creations donations have been received at the end of June.

The following is an excerpt from one of the many thank you letters the congregation has received in response to our gifts:

*Mano a Mano and the grateful recipients in Bolivia wish to thank you for your recent donation. Your generosity enables Mano a Mano to reach out to a population of men, women, and children who would otherwise have little or no access to any medical care, no matter how great or urgent the need. Every dollar is put to use by Mano a Mano in the U.S. and by our programs in Bolivia to improve the health and economic well-being of rural Bolivians.*

## Improving News from Malawi

Malawi is among the poorest countries in the world without a violent internal conflict. While 2005 presented a number of severe challenges, including a major food-security crisis where close to half the population required emergency food support, Gross Domestic Product growth rebounded strongly in 2006.

The above statement is from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), an international organization of thirty countries that accept the principles of representative democracy and free market economies. The U.S. is a member.

We can rejoice in that information, but Malawians still have severe problems related to food, health, and education, among other things. Our Hope Malawi Travelers continue to monitor our involvement with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malawi, and the country's status in general. As we receive new information, it is often placed on the Malawi shelf in the Library. One new item is the OECD report on Malawi for 2008.

A group from our congregation may visit Malawi next year. Please let one of us know if you are interested or if you have questions. Group names and contact numbers are on the Malawi bulletin board across the hall from Pastor Shirley's office.



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## Library News

Book Review by Diane Shallue: *Passing on the Faith: Transforming Traditions for the Next Generation of Jews, Christians, and Muslims*, edited by James L. Heft. This book has numerous articles written by different authors about how high-school and college-age youth look at faith and find their identities in their respective religious communities. The chapter about the Taizé Community in France and its outreach to the young was fascinating to me. It provides a history of this community and the ways that it helps young adults express their deep longing for spiritual connections. There are chapters on congregations that are effective in reaching young adults and on how to create a safe space for questioning. I found the first section to be the most valuable, with its overviews and research about the challenges of passing on the faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

—Diane Shallue

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## Keep in Touch for the Summer

Many of you have plans to be away for the summer, and some of you actually have different summer addresses. Please keep the church office informed of this so that our communications can follow you.

The Visitor and offering envelopes are mailed with a "Return Service Requested." This means that if something is undeliverable as addressed, the Postal Service returns it to us and charges the church 42 cents. To make it more complicated, due to the fact that our offering envelopes are mailed directly from the publisher in Ohio, the lead time on address changes for envelope delivery is five weeks.

So please let us know any new addresses, even temporary addresses, as soon as you can. This will save us money and administrative time and will allow you to keep up with events here at your church.

Blessings for the summer!

—Craig M. Wiester, Administrator

## President's Perspective

This coming Sunday, June 22, represents a significant milestone in our recent process of Mission Renewal. As we gather together to worship; to receive pledges for the second phase of our capital campaign—Invitation to Hope; and to adopt a substantially revised set of bylaws to help facilitate our new approach to mission, I would like to offer a word of deep thanks to the many members of the congregation who have contributed so much to these efforts during the past several years of renewal and change. Your numerous and generous gifts of time, talents, and funds to this renewal have made it abundantly clear that there is a strong core of commitment within the congregation to imagining a fresh, new chapter in the life of University Lutheran Church of Hope and in its mission within our community.

Bob Moluf,  
Congregation President

## Vision & Governance Board Meeting Highlights

### From the meeting on June 10, 2008

The Vision & Governance Board:

**Received** a report on phase 2 of the capital campaign, Invitation to Hope. As of that date 20 pledges had been submitted totaling \$200,000, and more than \$30,000 had been received in-hand.

**Decided** to engage an outside company to provide custodial services. Two different bids are being considered, and a task force composed of John Lauber, Karmi Mattson, Leslie Frost, and Pastor Craig Shirley will make the final selection.

**Decided** that all current congregational leaders and staff will attend a new phase of Child Protection Training that will make use of training materials produced by the Episcopal Church.

**Decided** that a Festival of Hope fund-raising event would be held on August 24, 2008.

**Discussed** current and future ministries to Youth and Youth Adults.

—Bob Moluf,  
Congregation President

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## Changes to the Congregation's Constitution

As will be announced at the special congregational meeting on June 22, the Vision & Governance Board will be appointing a task force to study whether University Lutheran Church of Hope should amend its constitution to allow the congregation to call a gay or lesbian person in a committed relationship as a pastor of this congregation.

While we are not currently in need of a pastor, our recent governance restructure requires us to make some changes to our congregation's constitution. Since we need to modify the constitution to recognize our governance changes, the Vision & Governance Board feels it may be time to discuss whether we wish to change our constitution in this additional regard.

Our current constitution is based on the ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations, which requires congregations to call their pastoral leadership from the clergy roster of the ELCA. Persons who are gay or lesbian and who agree to remain celibate for their entire lives can be listed on the ELCA roster; however, current ELCA policy precludes gays or lesbians who are in committed relationships from serving on the ELCA roster. In response to this exclusion, a group of Lutheran non-profit organizations have joined together to form an alternative roster of individuals who are in every way qualified to serve on the ELCA roster, except for their status as gay and lesbian individuals who are in committed relationships. For more information on this alternative roster, visit the website of Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries at [www.elm.org](http://www.elm.org)

A number of Reconciling in Christ congregations have amended their constitutions to allow them to call pastors from either the ELCA roster or from the Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries roster, including our friends at Grace University Lutheran Church. There are many members of Hope who have been requesting this change for years. In response, the Vision & Governance Board will be forming a task force to explore this issue. The task force will follow the guidelines of Hope's Statement on Moral Discourse during the course of its deliberations, and there will be frequent opportunities for congregational input and discussion before the revised constitution comes to a vote at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation in February.

Please contact any member of the Vision and Governance Board if you have questions or concerns or are interested in serving on the task force.

—Karmi Anna Mattson, Congregation Past-President

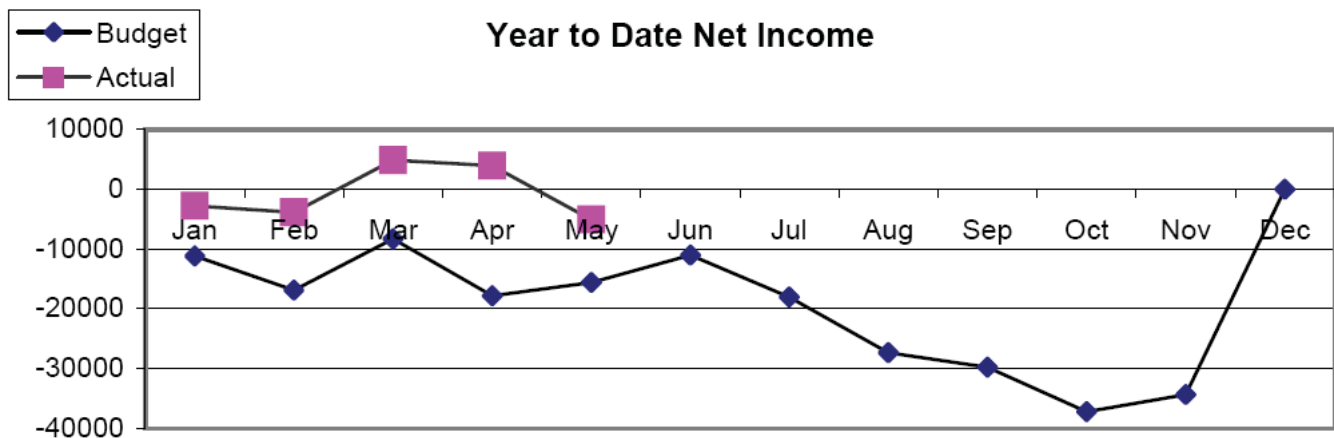
# Treasurer's Report

## General Fund

### Results for May and Year to Date 2008

	May		Year to Date			
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Over/(under)	
General Giving and Holiday	32,199	45,143	201,406	210,474	(9,068)	
Rental and Extraordinary	5,090	4,354	25,990	21,977	4,013	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>37,289</b>	<b>49,497</b>	<b>227,396</b>	<b>232,451</b>	<b>(5,055)</b>	
Total Expenses	46,322	47,224	232,488	248,036	(15,548)	
Net Income	Month	(9,033)	2,273	YTD	(5,092)	(15,585)

The year to date net income of -\$5,092 is still well above the budgeted -\$15,585. But a shortfall in giving is a concern. So far that has been balanced by two substantial gifts totalling \$19,000 early in the year and expenses that have been held to \$15,548 below budget.



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

**Officers:**

*President:*

**Bob Moluf**

*Vice President:*

**John Lauber**

*Past President:*

**Karmi Anna Mattson**

*Treasurer:*

**Mike Fingerson**

**Ministry Areas:**

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**Uli Koester**

*Youth & Young Adults:*

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

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CHURCH OF HOPE  
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