

# 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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## Festival of Hope on August 24

Come to the Festival of Hope on August 24, which will follow the 10:00 a.m. worship service led by the Music and Arts Camp students. Bring your friends and neighbors to enjoy the great food, active games, and engaging activities for all ages: The bouncing fun house! The dunk tank! The Walls of Jericho booth! A silent auction!

The group Sheltered Reality will provide a musical performance starting at 12:30 p.m., with drums and music. Their performances use the power of percussion set to music, as well as high-energy choreography, to engage and then motivate audiences to realize that all of us, at any age in life, can dream and succeed. Following this outdoor concert will be the adult and children's raffle drawings and also the awarding of items from the silent auction.

Leslie Frost and Diane Shallue, coordinators of this event, are inviting members of University Lutheran Church of Hope to donate food and volunteer to work one shift in the Food Court. Silent auction items are also needed, such as next-to-new items, bakery items, or home-cooked meals. To donate or volunteer, contact Diane Shallue at (612) 331-5988, ext 19, or at [dianes@ulch.org](mailto:dianes@ulch.org)

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## Music and Arts Camp

Don't miss this year's Music and Arts Camp at University Lutheran Church of Hope! We are thrilled to welcome friends from the Heart of the Beast Puppet Theater, who will guide the students in making puppets and writing their own play. This will be a great new creative activity to add to the rest of the music curriculum, which includes singing, Orff instruments, choir chimes, and handbell ringing.

The camp is open to children entering 2nd grade through 9th grade. High school students are welcome to participate as assistants and leaders. The faculty includes Tim Strand, Diane Shallue, Kay Else, Rosalie Eldevik, and Cindy Bergstrom.

We encourage guests, friends, and relatives to join us for this fun week of music-making and growth. The cost per child is \$30, which provides for the purchase of music resources, the cost of materials for the puppets, and the cost of the dinner and treats served each evening.

The Camp begins on Sunday, August 17th, meeting from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. Then from Monday the 18th through Wednesday the 20th, we begin at 6:00 p.m. and finish at 9:00 p.m. On Wednesday evening, the 20th, we will have a short service at 8:30 p.m. for relatives and friends to hear the music and see the puppet plays that the students have written. Also, on Sunday, August 24th, the Music and Arts Camp participants will provide the musical leadership for the 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning worship, as well as share their puppet plays with the congregation.

We look forward to another great year at Hope's Music and Arts Camp. Please register your children now, so that we can plan for materials, music, and food. Don't miss this opportunity for learning, creativity, and growth!

—Timothy Strand

## Shirley's Share

**M**aking disciples is a part of what any Christian congregation should be about. In a buyer's market, the church and its pastors are tempted to offer the Christian faith and discipleship as the best deal in town. Jesus, on the other hand, makes discipleship difficult, costly, and demanding. Can this possibly be good news?

I think so. It seems as though anything that is worthwhile involves a level of sacrifice, commitment, determination, and even a bit of trepidation. When things are free they are often seen as either worthless or expendable.

Over the last three years we have made a major commitment in this congregation to our mission renewal process. This has involved organization, money, and time commitment—all of which are factors in disciple making.

We are now wrapping up our second pledge campaign, Invitation to Hope, which continues to pay for the major renovation we did on the Christian education wing three years ago. In my estimation, it has gone well. As of this writing, we have reached 88% of our goal. From a \$\$\$\$ standpoint, that is great! But in analyzing the numbers behind the number, the facts concerning *discipleship* are a bit more sobering. Fewer than 100 giving units out of 365 have responded to our campaign! That is far less than 30%! This means that a little more than one-quarter of the congregation is carrying the load for all the rest.

It isn't a matter of dollar amounts. It is a matter of support. The congregation supported the idea of moving forward to renovate the building and make it more useful and inviting for ministry and mission. But only a bit more than 1 out of 4 of the member units are now supporting that move. I would like to see at least a 50% return of pledge cards. That would tell me that we really are paying attention, thinking about this project, and making decisions to be supportive of it. If that means a \$10 gift, a \$100 gift, or even an explanation of why you are unable to support

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it—that would be better than no response at all. So please find that pledge card and respond by sending it back to the church office with your message of support.

At the same time, our mission renewal process has included the goal of increasing the numbers and scope of our small group ministries. In response to that challenge, Diane Shallue has been working with a dedicated group of people that includes John Bablitch, Marty Dorow, Desiree Manning, Stephanie Struthers, and Paige Whitney. And they have an action plan for fall. In September you will be invited to make a *Hope Connection*. You will have a choice of joining a small group that will be built around *interests* (for example, this summer we have had a no-prep Bible study on the south side of Minneapolis and a Saturday morning biking group) or based on *geographic area*—a chance to get to know your University Lutheran Church of Hope neighbors in a new way (and perhaps invite some people in your neighborhood to be a part of our ministry here).

All groups will meet for the first time on October 12 during the Education Hour. This will be a time to get acquainted and then to decide when and where your small group will meet next. Then that small group will meet for just three sessions, followed by evaluation. At that point your group may continue, or you might decide to do something different!

The point of all of these projects is not about this church or even the church at large; instead, it is about our mission to spread the good news of Jesus Christ in the world by means of fellowship, financial support, and action. Pax

—Pastor Craig Shirley

## Women of the ELCA

The Minneapolis Area Synod Women of the ELCA 2008 Annual Gathering will be held on September 27 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church in Coon Rapids. Come to the waters of our baptism and to Jesus, the Living Water, to be refreshed.

The Keynote Speaker will be Diana Pierce, news anchor at KARE11 TV. The Bible Study Leader will be Pastor Karen Geisendorfer-Lindgren, Pastor of Adult Ministries at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Maple Grove. For more information, contact Lori Goble at (952)934-6546.

## Family Picnic Potluck at Van Cleave Park

Parents with children, especially between the ages of birth and age five, are invited to a picnic in Van Cleave Park (15th Ave. SE and Como Ave. SE) on Saturday, August 16, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. There is a wonderful playground area for children and a wading pool. Each family is asked to bring a dish to share. Bring your own eating utensils and a chair. A grill will also be provided for your use. If it rains, the picnic will be moved to the church building. For more information contact Diane Shallue at (612) 331-5988, ext. 19; (763) 913-6582 (cell); or [dianes@ulch.org](mailto:dianes@ulch.org)

## Sunday School Teachers Meeting

Sunday School Teacher Orientation, along with training in Safeguarding Our Children, will be held on Tuesday, August 26, from 6–8 p.m. Supper will be provided. All Sunday morning teachers are requested to attend. Please contact Diane Shallue if you cannot attend. Sunday School begins on September 7.

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## Kick-Off for Hope Connections

Hope Connections will begin on October 12 during the Education Hour. Everyone will have a chance to sign up in September to be part of a short-term small group that will meet for four weeks in October and November. A wide variety of groups will be offered, such as a no-prep Bible study, an environmental study, a topical discussion, or a group on parenting active boys. Look for more information in September.

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## The Dirt on the Gardens

A lot and a little has been happening in the church gardens lately. On June 24, Jayce Parry and his crew (his family, fellow Boy Scouts and their families, and a few members of University Lutheran Church of Hope) cleaned up and re-landscaped two islands in the north parking lot. A lot of sweat equity was provided as many wheelbarrow loads of rocks were removed from those islands and the islands were leveled, planted, and mulched. The Scouts also set landscape stone at the bike rack to provide a porous, weed-free surface for our bikers. The plantings are still small, yet they are being tended and provide a clean start for those gardens. Jayce is the son of Paul and Shelly Demeules and is hoping his planning and leadership on this project will help him earn his Eagle Scout badge. Good luck, Jayce, and many thanks!

(Note to all: the landscape rock was dumped on an adjacent island that we expect to remove when the west side of the parking lot is reconfigured. If you want any rocks, feel free to take them from there.)

Meanwhile, the Garden Club is going through a difficult transition. Our lead gardener of many years, Martha Swenson, has moved back to her family home on Turtle Lake in Shoreview and has transferred her membership to her home church there. It's after people leave that you realize how much they did. We miss you, Martha.

But now, despite our disorganized state, we need to catch up with our gardening. We have scheduled every Wednesday evening for the next few months to clean and weed our other church gardens, and we would welcome help from any members who like to spend time on their knees in the garden. Our regular starting time is 7:00 p.m. (consider that flexible), and we are hoping at least a couple of regular gardeners will be on hand each week to provide any direction needed. Please bring your own gloves and favorite weeding and other gardening tools.

—Kathy Knudson

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## 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 20 students, starting in mid-August 2008. A stipend is provided. Contact Adri at (952) 927-7221 or [adrimelander@gmail.com](mailto:adrimelander@gmail.com)

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## Lutheran Night with the Twins

Looking for some August fun? It's "Lutheran Night" with the Minnesota Twins on August 19. Find out more at <http://www.ulch.org/images/JustForTheFunOfIt.pdf>, or call Marilyn Asp at (763) 862-5685.

## Room for Fresh Creations / Invitation to Hope

The three-year pledge period of our initial capital campaign, Room for Fresh Creations, has now come to a close. Though the final dollar amounts are still being tallied, it appears that we reached our first goal of \$600,000! This is fabulous news! In addition, our second capital campaign, Invitation to Hope, has thus far yielded over \$440,000 in pledges, which is 88% of our goal of \$500,000. We are blessed to be part of such a generous congregation that understands the importance of good stewardship of our physical resources.

Once we have reached our \$500,000 Invitation to Hope goal, we will proceed with some of the projects discussed in that appeal, such as the new sound system for the sanctuary and the patio on the 13th Avenue side of the building. We will also set aside funds toward upcoming capital needs such as the replacement of the boilers and the sanctuary roof.

Thank you so much for your generous contributions to the future of University Lutheran Church of Hope.



—Karmi Anna Mattson,  
Past-President and Capital Campaign Chairperson

## Facilities Update

As you can see from our two islands in the parking lot, a lot of cleanup went on back in June. (See the article by Kathy Knudson on p. 3 of this issue of *The Visitor*.)

For PEASE Academy, school is almost out for the summer, and we need volunteers to help sand, patch, and paint the kitchen during the month of August. I'm planning to work on this Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings until it is done. With enough volunteers, we can have it done in 4 work sessions. The first sessions will be on Thursday, August 7 & Saturday, August 9. Please let me know if you're available to help!

Keep an eye on the calendar at [www.ulch.org](http://www.ulch.org) to identify additional work opportunities. If you click on the link to the Calendar, it will take you right to the current month. There is always plenty to do around here!

—Fred Kreider

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## Vision & Governance Board Meeting Highlights

From the meeting on July 9, 2008

The Vision & Governance Board:

**Received** a report from the Capital Campaign committee that the amount of \$432,780 had been pledged to date to the Invitation to Hope campaign. (The goal is \$500,000.)

**Received** a report on the recent contract with ABM Janitorial Services to provide a full-time janitor for the congregation. (See the article on p. 5 of this issue of *The Visitor*.)

**Discussed** the upcoming child protection training at University Lutheran Church of Hope in August and September, which will use materials entitled "Safeguarding Our Children." Some of the sessions may also be attended by Sunday School teachers from Grace University Lutheran Church.

**Received** a report that Lutheran Campus Ministries of Minnesota has approved a staffing plan for two half-time campus ministry positions at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Campus, one located at University Lutheran Church of Hope and another located at Grace University Lutheran Church. These positions are in addition to the full-time campus ministry position currently filled by Fritz Wehrenberg.

**Voted** to establish a Special Committee to work on updates and revisions to the constitution of the congregation. (See the article by Karmi Anna Mattson on p. 5 of this issue of *The Visitor*.) The goal is to have the proposed changes ready to be acted on at the February 2009 congregational meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

—Bob Moluf,  
Congregation President

## Youth Update

Have you noticed the signs directing you to the Youth Room? Have you found out some interesting trivia about the youth group? Did you know that I could make lattes? If you have no idea what I'm talking about, take a closer look around the building this month. Some signs have been posted to help you get acquainted with the youth program. My favorite is the one that requests that you ask a youth about the camping trip to Pictured Rocks National Park. It's a helpful conversation starter if you haven't had a chance to talk to one of our talented, articulate, intelligent youth.

Each time we get together I am amazed at how deeply they think and how much they teach me! The youth are talking about the same things you might be talking about in Adult Forum or other areas of your faith life. They are a vital part of our life as a congregation. Ask one of our high school students about the camping trip or the youth group, or ask a Jr. High student about confirmation. They might be a little shy at first, but they'll be glad you asked!

God's peace and love! <><

—Megan Koepnick,  
Youth Director

## New Janitorial Arrangement

University Lutheran Church of Hope has recently entered into an agreement with ABM Janitorial Services to provide cleaning and furniture setup services on weekdays. Following the departure of our long-time custodian Robert Bailey, the Vision & Governance Board felt it was time to consider whether a janitorial service would be a good fit for our current needs.

For approximately the same amount of money that the congregation was previously spending for a custodian, ABM is now providing a full-time janitor for Hope. The company will also arrange for substitute janitors in the event the full-time janitor is ill or on vacation. ABM supervises the new janitor directly—whereas daily supervision of our former custodian was one of Pastor Shirley's responsibilities. This change in roles will free up more of Pastor Shirley's time for ministry. Also, due to ABM's volume contracts with suppliers, the congregation will be able to order paper and cleaning supplies at a lower cost than previously.

The most exciting change for the congregation and staff is that the new ABM-provided janitor will work weekdays from 12:30 – 8:00 p.m., ensuring that the building is open and available during evening meeting hours. William Frank continues to be employed by Hope as our weekend custodian. Please welcome Julius Kern, our new ABM employee!

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## President's Perspective

This past spring, the Vision & Governance Board adopted three key mission objectives for the year, one of which was an increased focus on ministry to university students. As part of this emphasis, Garvin Davenport and I have been serving as members of the governing council for Lutheran Campus Ministries at the Twin Cities Campus of the University of Minnesota.

It was very exciting news when we recently heard that Lutheran Campus Ministries of Minnesota is moving forward with the council's recommendation to add two half-time positions for Campus Ministry—one of which is to be "embedded" at University Lutheran Church of Hope. You can expect to hear of more developments in the coming weeks and months about this new phase in our congregation's partnership with Lutheran Campus Ministry.

—Bob Moluf, Congregation President

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## Constitutional Changes

As mentioned in the July *Visitor* and at the June congregational meeting, the congregation will be voting on changes to its constitution at the February Annual Meeting. Some of the changes are basic wording changes (such as changing "Board of Commissioners" to "Vision & Governance Board"). One proposed change is substantive, however: a change to allow the congregation to call a member of the Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries roster as a pastor of this congregation. The Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries roster is an alternative roster for individuals who are qualified to serve as pastors in the ELCA, but who are excluded from the ELCA roster because they are gay or lesbian and living in committed relationships.

The Vision & Governance Board has formed a Special Committee to provide opportunities for the congregation to discuss this issue in conformance with Hope's Statement on Moral Discourse. Members of the Committee are Karmi Anna Mattson, Marty Lewis-Hunstiger, David Ranheim, James Hlavka, and Esther Dant. The Committee is arranging a series of discussions, movies, guest speakers, and exhibits on this topic over the upcoming months. All individuals and viewpoints will be welcomed at the presentations. Watch for additional information in the bulletin and Thursday Epistle.

—Karmi Anna Mattson,  
Past-President

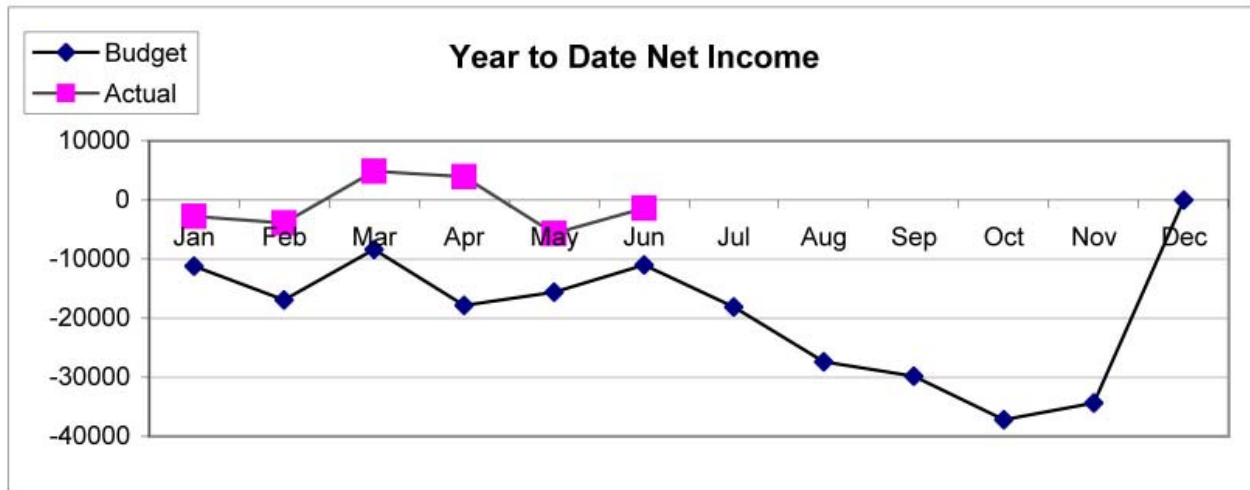
# Treasurer's Report

## General Fund

### Results for June and Year to Date 2008

	June		Year to Date			
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Over/(under)	
General Giving and Holiday	41,336	44,151	242,741	254,625	(11,884)	
Rental and Extraordinary	5,259	4,570	31,249	26,547	4,702	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>46,595</b>	<b>48,721</b>	<b>273,990</b>	<b>281,172</b>	<b>(7,182)</b>	
Total Expenses	42,316	44,133	275,398	292,169	(16,771)	
Net Income	Month	4,279	4,588	YTD	(1,408)	(10,997)

While the concerns expressed last month are still there, June came in very close to budget with a net income of \$4,279, just \$309 below budget. Again, expenses \$1,817 below budget certainly helped.



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**

*Weekend 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:**

*Worship & Music:*

**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).

Copies of the current issue of *The Visitor* as well as back issues are available at [ulch.org/VisitorArchive](http://ulch.org/VisitorArchive) or by contacting the church office.

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