

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.**

Hope Connections

You will want to be part of Hope Connections. The goal of this program is to build connections between members of University Lutheran Church of Hope and between visitors and friends of Hope. Sign-up will begin on September 7, with information in the bulletin and at www.ulch.org. People will be assigned to groups according to their geographic location.

On Sunday, October 12, at 9:30 a.m. will be the rousing first session where all groups will meet. Each group will determine the time and location for three more sessions, using a prepared discussion guide with questions and a Bible verse. The topics for the four sessions will be Friendship, Family, Church Community, and Living in the World. On December 1, from 7-8 p.m., there will be a Candlelight Dessert Celebration for all participants, with child care provided.

Questions? Contact any of the members of the Small Group Ministry Task Force: John Bablitch, Marty Dorow, Diane Shallue, Stephanie Struthers, or Paige Whitney.



School area and feeding them in Fellowship Hall. They arrive late in the afternoon and stay through breakfast, when many of them head for school or work. This fall we begin hosting on Sunday, September 28.

But good volunteers are trained volunteers. We want our FMF guests to feel comfortable here, and we want those hosting them to have a good experience, so we are offering training sessions. Leslie Frost has agreed to lead the training/information sessions for all FMF participants on Wednesday, September 10, at 7:00 p.m. at the church. She will provide updated information on the current state of homelessness in Minneapolis as well as current processes and procedures for hosting FMF families.

Families Moving Forward News

Homelessness has risen 200% in the Twin Cities and has risen dramatically across the country—a direct result of the present economic downturn. A recent newspaper article tells us that foreclosures on homes have sent many to apartment buildings, where rents are rising. In other cases, building owners are suffering foreclosures, and many people are just a car repair bill or a doctor bill away from homelessness.

University Lutheran Church of Hope has always held social justice as one of its primary missions. We are part of the Families Moving Forward (FMF) network, a not-for-profit organization that is on the front line of helping people, particularly families, who have nowhere else to turn. We host families here twice a year, housing them in classrooms on the upper level of the Sunday

If you would consider volunteering for this important work, please plan to attend one of these training sessions and find out about how to be an effective helper for those who need this important service and ministry. For more information, and to RSVP, contact Jo Schroeder at: jschroed@umn.edu or (612) 729-5891. Please consider being a part of this important week. There are many ways you can help!

—Pastor Craig Shirley

Senior Club Gatherings Begin September 17

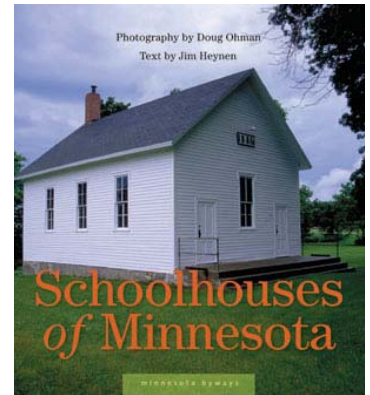
Attention All Seniors! Mark Wednesday, September 17 on your calendar now. This is the date the University Lutheran Church of Hope Senior Club will begin another great year of monthly gatherings for fellowship, food, and fun, plus informative and inspirational programs. You are cordially invited.

The September gathering will begin with a luncheon at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall. Reservations for the \$5.00 meal should be made by Thursday, September 11. If you are not called, please phone Pastor David Johnson at (612) 331-3988, ext. 13, to reserve a meal.

The program, “Schoolhouses of Minnesota,” will be presented by famed photographer and public speaker Doug Ohman at 1:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall. (Mr. Ohman is back by request, having previously presented an outstanding program on “Churches of Minnesota.”) Now we will be treated to a trip back to the early days of Minnesota education through striking photos of old schoolhouses. Witty, down-to-earth stories will bring back memories of our early school days—memories we can share! Also, several of his books published in the *Minnesota Byways* series will be available for viewing, and for purchase if desired.

If you are unable to attend the luncheon, please know that you are always welcome to the program. Hope Senior Club is not an organization that you must “join,” but everyone is invited to **any and all** of our programs and activities. The gatherings are usually held the third Wednesday of each month. Please watch *The Visitor* for future dates and programs. Plan to participate and invite your friends!

Please note: We will thank the Southeast Seniors Block Nurse Program for the offer of free blood pressure checks at our monthly gatherings. Darla Wexler, the Outreach Nurse, will be in the Fellowship Hall at 2:00 p.m. following our program for all who wish this service.



Fellowship Meal

The first University Lutheran Church of Hope Fellowship meal of the new school year will be on Sunday, September 14.

Join old friends and make new ones while enjoying another delicious noonday dinner. It all gets started right after the second worship service. As usual, college and university students as well as visitors are our guests.

Suggested contributions for others are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 12 and under, with a maximum of \$15 per family. Any way you figure it, it’s “A heck of a deal!” so plan to join the fun and be sure to bring a good appetite!

Rummage Sale Closing Meeting

All workers from the Rummage Sale are invited to meet Thursday, September 14, at 9:30 a.m. to close out the books. Decisions will be made on what to do with money left over after last year’s sale, as well as what to do with sale equipment. Please come!

—Ruth Fingerson

Treasurer’s Report

July was a good month, with revenues exceeding expenses by about \$2900, and we were above budget by almost \$10,000. (Based on our year-to-year giving patterns, we actually budget for a loss during the month of July). Actual income was about \$8,800 over budget. It was our best month so far this year.

While I appreciate the month, I guess the treasurer’s job includes providing a word of caution. Yes, for the year we are over budget by \$19,551. But expenses are below budget by \$18,062. So *most of the positive financial results have been generated by controlling expenses*—which is great as long as it is not simply a delay. Of course, the \$19,000 start we obtained from a couple of significant gifts at the beginning of the year was also helpful. Nevertheless, everyone should be thankful and given credit for the good financial position we are in at this time.

—Mike Fingerson, Congregation Treasurer

Shirley's Share

On Sunday, September 7 we will return to two worship services (please note the changes of time for the first service and the Education Hour);

- The first service will begin at **8:30 a.m.**
- Sunday School/Education hour will begin at **9:30 a.m.** and go until **10:25 a.m.**
- The second service will begin at **10:30 a.m.**

Have you ever considered how many “person” hours go into worship? It’s not just pastors, who spend hours putting together a sermon each week, but the whole array of people who work to make worship a meaningful experience. Music leadership is so important, and there are people who spend time picking hymns, others who prepare special music, still others who collate and print the bulletins. Then there are all of the choir members who practice each week. There are greeters and ushers and acolytes, lectors, communion assistants, altar guild members, and folks who wash glasses after church. It is amazing to think about all of the time it takes to prepare for and clean up after a one-hour worship service.

That is why, under our new organizational structure for the congregation, we have re-formed worship into three planning teams, each one with a particular duty.

- The Worship Administration team sees to it that there are people to read the lessons each week; be assisting ministers; set up for and clean up after communion; and provide all the supplies needed for each of these duties.
- The Preaching Team sees to it that we have the preaching schedule secured well in advance, with at least one “guest” preacher each month in the pulpit.
- The Seasonal Worship Planning Team meets to plan the details of worship. They look at themes for each Sunday, consider the liturgical setting and special music that might fit, and work hard to integrate the many special things that are a part of Sunday morning—from Sunday School presentations to baptisms to special messages for the congregation.

You have told us that worship at University Lutheran Church of Hope is of first and primary importance, and I hope that you appreciate both the hours and the high level of quality that is put into each service. We are thankful for the many people who make worship an uplifting experience! And, as always, we invite you to be here each and every week to participate in worship, to lift up your voice in praise along with the rest of the congregation. See you in church! Pax

—Pastor Craig Shirley

Don't Miss These Preachers!

We have an exciting schedule of visiting preachers in September! Please get these dates on your calendar:

Fritz Wehrenberg, Lutheran campus pastor at the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities Campus (September 7, Rally Day)

Paul Dovre, former president of Concordia College, Moorhead (September 14)

Helmut Koester, Professor Emeritus, Harvard University (September 28)

How about this? Can you count the number of guest preachers that have preached at University Lutheran Church of Hope on Sunday mornings since November? How many of them were our own active members? How many were women?

Answers:
Total preachers, including Pastor Shirley: 13
Active members: 5
Women: 5 (Should be higher!)

Women of the ELCA

The Minneapolis Area Synod Women of the ELCA 2008 Annual Gathering will be held on September 27 from 8:30 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 for 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.

Education News

Rally Day – September 7 at 9:30 a.m.

BREAKING NEWS: Education Hour resumes on September 7 at **9:30 a.m.** *Please note the new, slightly later time.*

All Sunday School children will report directly to their classrooms. As the time for the Education Hour has been slightly reduced, it is very important that all students be in their classrooms promptly at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School classes will end at 10:25 a.m.

Worship and Music for Preschool through Grade 6 will occur on the second Sunday of each month, in the Chapel during their Sunday School class time. Parents are invited to join the students at 9:40 in the Chapel for these worship and music times with skits, singing, and prayers.

Confirmation classes and High School discussion will also resume on September 7 at 9:30 a.m.



Adult Forum

Adult Forums begin on September 14 in Heritage Hall

September 14 – Hear about Kinship of Greater Minneapolis, which is a 52-year-old, faith-based mentoring organization. It is currently serving 330 children in the metro area, while 150 children still wait for an adult friend.

Research shows that children have a basic need for connectivity with adults. They are unlikely to reach their potential and overcome life's obstacles without strong adult role models to guide and support them.

A person from Kinship will speak about the necessity of finding adults who are willing to reach out to a child who needs support in their own community. Please join us as, together, we explore ways in which we might build stronger communities—one relationship at a time.

www.kinship.org

September 21: (Speaker and topic to be announced)

September 28 – “Christian Faith and the Environment” by Dr. Amy Marga from Luther Seminary. Dr. Marga came to the seminary in 2006 as assistant professor of systematic theology. She says there is little point to theology unless we can use it in today's world. Hear what she says about caring for our environment as part of living out our faith.

Confirmation News

Confirmation instruction begins on Rally Sunday, September 7, at 9:30 a.m.

- 7th Grade students meet with Bob Moluf in Room 204.
- 8th Grade students meet with Adam Morton in room 107.
- The first Saturday morning session for 7th & 8th Graders will be October 13, from 9:00 a.m. until Noon.
- 9th Grade students will meet with the High School Discussion group in the Youth Room on September 7 & 14, then with Pastor Shirley on the September 21 & 28 to begin their statements of faith.

All first- and second-year parents and students (7th & 8th grade) are scheduled to attend an informational meeting on **Wednesday, September 3, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** The first half of the meeting will be information about Confirmation, with sign-ups for Moonlight Madness, breakfast treats, special events, and the year's schedule. The second half of the meeting will be instruction concerning our Child Protection Policy. It is our goal to have every adult who works with a child (and every adult in the congregation) attend one instructional session.

Ninth Grade students (students being confirmed this fall) will soon begin work on their statements of faith, to be presented to the congregation on Sunday, October 19. We will celebrate “Affirmation of Baptism” (Confirmation) on Reformation Sunday, October 26, at the 10:30 a.m. service.

Please speak with Pastor Shirley or Megan Koepnick if you have questions or need more information.

President's Perspective

I would like to express appreciation to the members of University Lutheran Church of Hope for your faithfulness in keeping up with your financial contributions this summer.

Three years ago, after our first major capital campaign, we experienced a noticeable drop in regular giving to the church's budget, which

created a difficult situation, both for the budget and for the leadership. This year, by contrast, regular pledged income has continued to be received as planned. Thank you!

The fact that we are also well on the way toward meeting our pledge target for “Invitation to Hope” is a great indicator that you have accepted that very invitation!

—Bob Moluf,
Congregation President

Youth Update

Recently I read an article about numbers. It encouraged youth workers to get away from basing success on how many kids were showing up and to focus instead on how many intentional relationships were in the lives of the kids in the youth group. The article was both a challenge and an inspiration. The author called the people in his kids' lives a "promise team."

After reading the article I sat down and wrote out who my "promise team" was. It ended up being a long list, and it included people who might not even know that they had influenced my faith. I have a feeling that, if we asked our young people to do this, many members of this congregation would appear on their lists. One of the goals of youth ministry is to have not only the youth director on these lists, but to encourage other relationships within the congregation. I suspect that if we were all to write out our lists of faith influences, the names of many people of various ages and types of relationships would appear. As you consider how and why different people have influenced your faith, please also consider how you might pass that blessing along to the youth and other members of our congregation.

God's peace and love! <><

—Megan Koepnick, Youth Director

Dedication of the Backpacks

On Rally Sunday, September 7, bring your backpack, your briefcase, your large roomy purse, or whatever "badge" of your work-a-day world you use regularly along to church with you. We will have a special service of "blessing" to mark the beginning of a new academic year, and the return of the fall schedule for the entire working world.

Jesus' Love is Bubbling Over

A favorite song of mine is, "Jesus' Love is Bubbling Over." Are bubbles of joy floating above you? For me, some of those bubbles of joy come from Rally Day and the beginning of Sunday School. The wonder of children is delightful and adds sparkle to my day! The faith development of all of us, whether older or younger, is the goal of the Christian education program at University Lutheran Church of Hope. Joy comes from knowing our Lord Jesus Christ. Joy can be bubbling in all of our hearts, overflowing to bless others. Our children need caring adults to explore with them the important faith stories of the Bible.

Could you give four hours a month to nourish the faith of a group of children? The Children's Ministry team wants to have two or three teachers for each level so that the responsibilities can be rotated. Training, materials, and support are provided for each person. Newer teachers are teamed with experienced teachers so that everyone is blessed by the Sunday School experience. Please contact me to volunteer for this joyful ministry: (612) 331-5988, ext 19 (church) or (763) 755-8074 (home).

Your partner in ministry,

Diane Shallue,
Director of Christian Education
and Adult Small Group Ministries



News from the Church Library

Children are among our most avid readers. Parents, did you know that there is a special section of children's books in the Library (on the bottom shelf) called "Family Questions"? These books deal with death, divorce, illness, and other difficult situations families face. Also note that there are DVDs and videos for children that may be checked out (see the top shelf of the children's section).

New books added to the collection are temporarily placed on the "New Books" shelf. Among them are *Opening the Book of Faith: Lutheran Insights for Bible Study*. This book introduces a five-year program whose purpose is "To help the whole church become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture." It includes the Lutheran understanding of Scripture, approaches to studying the Bible, and four group Bible studies.

Three Cups of Tea, by Greg Mortenson, son of ELCA missionaries to Tanzania, has been on the New York Times best-seller list for weeks. It describes his experiences in building and gaining support for 58 schools, primarily for girls, in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Check out the longer review in the June 2007 issue of *The Lutheran* (at www.thelutheran.org) entitled, "School for Peace: Climber Combats Extremism with Education."

—Marjorie Haddad

Malawi Update

Recently we received the following email message from Mphatso Thole in Malawi. Mphatso works for Bishop Bvumbwe as the outreach coordinator for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malawi (ELCM), and he was our host during the ULCH visit to Malawi in 2006. (This message has been slightly edited to enhance readability.)

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

On behalf of Bishop Bvumbwe, Mulanje Parish, and ELCM I would like to apologize that it has been such a long time since I have touched base with you. I have been very busy traveling in the parishes. But I am now back at the office and would like to give you a little report about the church in Mulanje.

The chapel was completed. We fixed the windows, but unfortunately thieves came and stole iron from the windows. The chapel is roofed, and the outside finishing is done. It is a big church in the area.

Bishop Bvumbwe wanted to dedicate it this year, but he is waiting to see the progress of the parsonage, which is under construction now. We will replace the windows once the pastor is staying at the parsonage and can provide some security for them.

I received news from the bishop indicating that several of your members could come during the dedication of the chapel and the parsonage. This is another reason why Bishop Bvumbwe has asked to wait—until the group comes for the dedication next year.

I have three pictures in my office and wished to send them to you, but our email nowadays is not working well with attachments. Hence when there is a possibility of sending them I will do so.

It is now almost two years since you visited our country, and every time I think of your visit to this small country in the southern part of Africa I sense that University Lutheran Church of Hope is closer to me.

I have missed everybody, including Kwanza. I hope you are still in contact with her. Please pass my best regards to her and tell her that Mphatso misses her a lot.

We are always in prayer for your church and wish you the best as we forge ahead in our partnership.

Yours in Christ,

—Mphatso

*—Jerry Johnson,
for the Global Mission Group*

Thank You

Thank you, members of University Lutheran Church of Hope, for your contributions to our Endowment Fund between January 1 and June 30, 2008:

Asp, Marilyn
Berger, Lorraine
Berkeland, Robert and Jeanne
Casperson, Millie and Paul
Cole, William
Friendly Visitor Program
Frolen, Winnie
Halvorson, Leroy and Marge
Hanson, Bertha

Hawkinson, Ken
Hendrickson, Richard
and Pauline
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Koernig, Richard and Zona
Kufus, Katherine and Brian
Langguth, Deane and Ila Mae
Lundblad, Alice
Lundquist, Ruth
Macoskey, Carmen
Miller, Vicki
Parry, Jack and Donna
Peterson, Greg and Sharon
Quie, Paul and Betty
Reyelts, Leona

Rhoades, Verle
Richie, Gary and Julie
Saari, Inga
Sarkela, Ken and Elaine
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Adult Small-Group Ministries:

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Youth Director:

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THE VISITOR

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Articles for *The Visitor* may be submitted via email or in the church office. They must be signed. Electronic submissions in either Microsoft® Word or plain text format are preferred. Articles may be edited for length. Contributors are responsible for clearly identifying any material that is from published sources and for obtaining appropriate permissions. Send submissions and correspondence to visitor@ulch.org

The deadline for submitting articles is the 15th of every month (for the following month's issue).

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

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