

The Visitor

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October 2008
Issue #10 - 08

*University Lutheran Church of Hope
is a welcoming, Christian community of faith
centered in God's grace and
called to demonstrate God's love for the world.*

Hope Connections

You can still sign up for Hope Connections!

The goal of this program is to build connections among members of University Lutheran Church of Hope and among visitors and friends of Hope. All groups will meet for five sessions on these topics:

- Friendship
- Family
- Church Community
- Global Community
- Celebration and Evaluation



The first session where all groups will meet will be on Sunday, October 12, at 9:30 a.m. Each group will determine the time and location for three more sessions.

There will be an additional group for choir members and Sunday School teachers who cannot attend this first meeting on October 12. You can obtain more information from any of the members of the Small Group Ministry Task Force: John Bablitch, Marty Dorow, Diane Shallue, Stephanie Struthers, and Paige Whitney.

A **Leadership Training Seminar** will be held on October 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall. A light breakfast, lunch, all materials, and child care will be provided free of charge. This training will be focused on preparing group leaders for Hope Connections, but would be applicable to anyone who works with groups of people. Topics covered will be qualities of a good leader, reflective listening, persistent prayer, managing group dynamics, and empowering others.

Anyone who is interested is invited to attend, even if you do not wish to lead one of the Hope Connections Small Groups. Reservations are needed for this training. Please contact Diane Shallue at (612) 331-5988, ext. 19, or dianes@ulch.org to reserve your spot at this Leadership Training Seminar.

ADVENTure

You are encouraged to attend ADVENTure, an Advent preparation event for all ages, in Fellowship Hall on November 30 between worship services. There will be food, music, conversation, activities, and fun. Put this date on your calendar. There will be no regular Sunday School, confirmation, or adult classes on that Sunday.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for the well-wishes extended to me on my 80th birthday. All the cards, greetings, handshakes, and hugs will stay with me for the rest of my life. At the service on Sunday I felt especially blessed to stand with my immediate family and bask in the recognition from my Hope family.

—Wayne Westwood

New Books in the Church Library

The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully, by Joan Chittister

Just Policing, Not War: An Alternative Response to World Violence, edited by Gerald W. Schlabach.

—Jo Schroeder

Youth Update

On Rally Day, 25 students attended the High School Discussion in the Youth Room! How exciting is that? As we went around the circle and introduced ourselves I began to wonder, *How many of these students are known outside of this circle?* How many of them come to church, see all of our smiling faces, and only know a few names of the adults surrounding them? It also made me wonder how many adults in our congregation know there is a youth program but might be a little intimidated to come and visit the Youth Room. There might even be some who are wondering what the big deal is.

In an effort to get us all a little more acquainted with each other, we will soon be starting a “Student (or Students) of the Month” feature that will be posted on the youth bulletin board across the hall from the church Library. Please stop by from time to time and take a look. You will learn about some of the backgrounds and interests of our amazing and wonderful youth. You might be surprised at what you find you have in common, and it may even give you a starting point to introduce yourself and begin a conversation with one of them!

God’s Peace and Love! <><

—Megan Koepnick, Youth Director

Treasurer’s Report

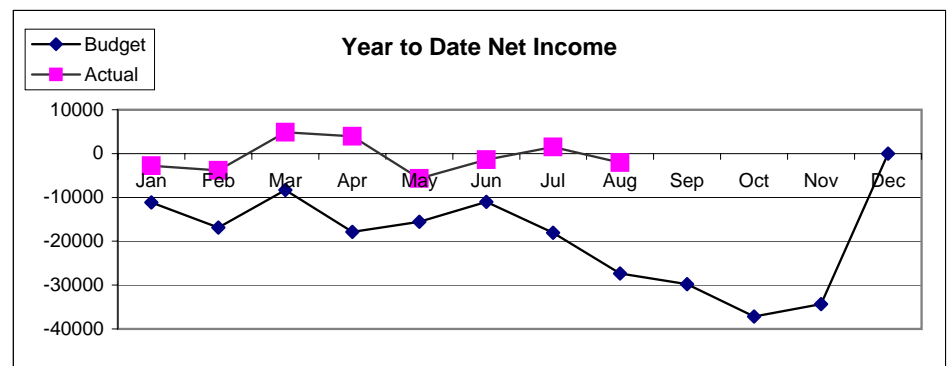
Income for the month was \$3,233 under budget. But with expenses \$8,974 under budget we still had a very good month.

The year is looking very good compared to budget because our income is close to budget and expenses are substantially less (~\$27,000).

Detailed June financials are at www.ulch.org/CurrentFinancialReports.pdf

Results for August and Year to Date 2008

	August		Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Over/(under)
General Giving and Holiday	36,763	37,839	320,843	326,160	(5,317)
Rental and Extraordinary	5,054	7,211	41,805	38,112	3,693
Total Revenue	41,817	45,050	362,648	364,272	(1,624)
Total Expenses	45,352	54,326	364,695	391,611	(26,915)



—Mike Fingerson,
Congregation Treasurer

Shirley's Share

Behold! I am doing a new thing. It springs forth; Do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland” (Isaiah 43:19).

This is the theme of this year's Faith In Democracy movement. ISAIAH, the Twin Cities faith-based organization of which University Lutheran Church of Hope is a supporting member, will have a public meeting to which all of us are invited.

TIME TO BELIEVE

Faith In Democracy Public Meeting

October 12, 2008
3:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Saint Paul RiverCentre
175 Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota
(Free and Open to the Public)

Time To Believe: Our Call

ISAIAH is becoming part of a multi-racial, faith-based movement committed to transforming our communities, our state, and our country around a vision of racial and economic justice for all people.

Racism and inequity are products of the lie that we are fundamentally separate, that not all the people around us are children of God and therefore our brothers and sisters.

We believe it is time to create an agenda that truly responds to the challenges of our generation—global climate change, endemic racism, crumbling public infrastructure, schools failing to educate large numbers of our children, and increasing economic insecurity.

Our current politics are not sufficient to respond to these profound challenges. We must eliminate racial inequities in our state, chart a course for environmental renewal, revitalize our economy for the benefit of all, and transform our government and public institutions to enable a democracy fit for a challenging future.

Every generation must decide what legacy it will leave. We are making our decision. We will act with hope and confidence to build the way for a healthy, vibrant, flourishing community. This will require transformation not only of the world around us, but within our own hearts.

Time to Believe: A Revival

On October 12, thousands of people of faith, public officials,

and others from across the state of Minnesota will come together to celebrate, to be in relationship with one another, and to invite others to start building a new thing!

We will:

- Rejoice in our unity across denominations, faiths, races, and cultures;
- Tell the truth about the challenges that face us as a society and as a community;
- Proclaim a path to a transformative and specific-issue agenda;
- Challenge our public officials to walk with us and to face our common challenges with courage and imagination; and
- Walk the path through engaging with one another and our public officials around our Issue Agenda, aiming toward real change.

Please put this important event on your calendar and plan to attend. We can carpool from the church (sign-ups will be available on Sunday mornings, or you can talk to Tim Hopkins). More information about the event and the ISAIAH organization can be found at www.gamaliel.org/ISAIAH/TimeToBelieveEvent.htm

—Pastor Craig Shirley

Congratulations!

Congratulations are in order for recent achievements by several folks in the congregation. 🌟 **Sheldon Struthers** has received his Master of Science in Electrical Engineering, with a specialty in Digital Signal Processing, from the University of Minnesota. He will continue to work for Advanced Telemetry Systems, located in Isanti, Minnesota, where he has worked full-time for nearly 18 years as an electrical engineer. Sheldon designs circuits and software for wildlife tracking equipment. 🌟 **Erik Erickson** has received his M.A. in Comparative International Development Education from the University of Minnesota. Erik is a high school teacher in St. Paul. 🌟 **Louise Dovre Bjorkman** was appointed by Governor Pawlenty and installed as judge on the Minnesota Court of Appeals on Monday, September 15. Louise is an attorney and partner in the St. Paul law firm of Larson King, a position she has held since 2005. Previously she was a Second Judicial District trial court bench judge in Ramsey County from 1998 to 2005. Louise earned her Juris Doctorate cum laude from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1985, and her Bachelor of Arts degree magna cum laude from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa in 1982.

Congratulations to all of you!

—Pastor Craig Shirley



Faith Formation

Adult Forums

October 5 - “Place-sharing: What Really Happens at Youth Group” by Megan Koepnick, Youth Director. What goes on in the Youth Room? Is it all just fun and games? It is fun and games but it is so much more than that. University Lutheran Church of Hope has identified that Youth Ministry is an important and valued ministry of the church. Come and find out how we’ve grown in the past year, the goals we’re working toward, and how you can be involved in this growing and vibrant ministry.

October 12 - Hope Connections kickoff event. These groups are for both visitors and members. If you have not signed up for a group but would still like to participate, please come to the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m.

October 19 - Glenn Kenadjian, Director of China Outreach Ministries, will talk about their overall outreach to mainland Chinese students, scholars, and their family members at the University of Minnesota. China Outreach Ministries holds Chinese-American Friendship Dinners at our church each month. Shengjie Zheng, one of the student leaders, will share how she has been affected by this ministry.

October 26 - No Forum. Enjoy the Confirmation reception in the Lounge.

High School

High School Discussion meets in the Youth Room on Sundays from 9:30 – 10:25 a.m.

Confirmation

Confirmation Classes for grades 7 & 8 meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 10:25 a.m. The seventh graders are studying the Bible and the Story of Israel with instructor Bob Moluf. The eighth graders are studying the Apostle’s Creed with instructor Adam Morton. **The Saturday Class** will be on October 11, with a focus on Jesus as the Prophet.

The **ninth grade students** will present their statements of faith at worship on October 19. On October 25, the confirmands and their families will enjoy a dinner served by the 7th and 8th grade students and parents. The “Affirmation of Baptism” Confirmation Service will be held on October 26 at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Sunday School

Date	Godly Play Story	Faith Weavers Story	Sunday School Theme
Oct. 5	Noah & the Ark	Noah builds the ark Genesis 6:5-22	God wants us to obey.
Oct. 12	Noah & the Ark	God floods the earth Genesis 7:1-8:22; 9:8-16	God keeps all promises.
Oct. 19	The Good Shepherd	People build a tower at Babel Genesis 11:1-9	We all need God.
Oct. 26	The Good Shepherd and the Lost Sheep	Abram follows God’s direction Genesis 12:1-8	We can trust God.

October 12 - Worship and Music for Sunday School students in the Chapel from 9:40 – 10:00 am. Parents are invited to join the students and teachers for these monthly times of skits, prayer, offering, and singing.



B-5 Parent's Morning Out – On October 4 the B-5 group of parents and children between the ages of birth to age 5 will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. for a light breakfast. Then parents can run errands and go out to lunch while Sarah Weber supervises the children until 1:00 p.m. Older siblings are also welcome. Please contact Diane Shallue to let her know how many children will be coming: (612) 331-5988, ext. 19, or dianes@ulch.org

Year of Books of Faith!

For the year 2008, the Hope Book Club has been focusing its discussion on **CLASSIC BOOKS OF FAITH**—those of our Book Club members, and those of the staff of University Lutheran Church of Hope. Join us on Sunday, October 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge to discuss *Speaking of Faith* by Krista Tippett.

In a day where religion—or, rather arguments over religion—divide us into ever more entrenched and frustrated camps, Krista Tippett is exactly the measured, balanced commentator we need.

—Elizabeth Gilbert, author of *Eat, Pray, Love*

If you have questions please call Sonja Peterson at (612) 789-0397.

Senior Club News

All seniors and friends are invited to the Senior Club luncheon and program on **Wednesday, October 15** at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall. Reservations for the meal should be made by **Thursday, October 9** with your caller or by contacting Pastor David Johnson at (612) 331-5988, ext. 13.

The program at 1:00 p.m. will feature **Mr. Song-Strummin' Storyman!** Jack Pearson, a Minnesota musician and storyteller. Jack's engaging style of folk music and storytelling has delighted audiences around the country for more than 25 years, and his recordings have won national awards. Be prepared for some mighty sweet pickin' and singin' as Jack serves up hits such as "The Fifty Year Waltz" and "Senior Moments," as well as other favorites that you will be humming for a week afterward! Rumor has it that he's even promised to bring his...**amplified box lid?!** Come on out for a good old fashioned fun time, and invite your friends!

Please know that if you are unable to attend the luncheon, you are always welcome to the program. If you need transportation, do not hesitate to phone Leona Reyelts at (612) 378-2444, and a ride will be arranged.

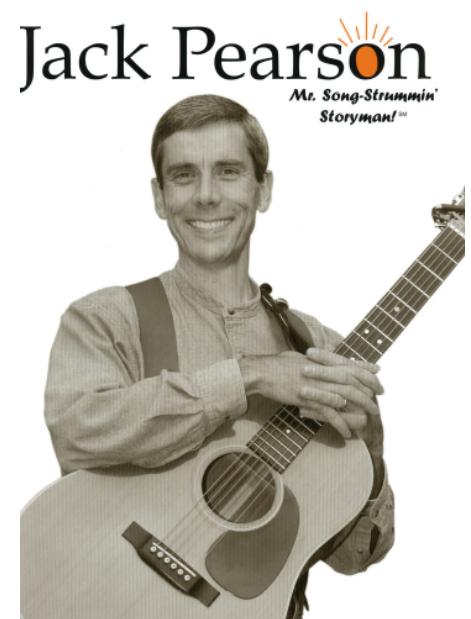
President's Perspective

As our current Capital Campaign, *Invitation to Hope*, approaches the achievement of its goal of \$500,000 in pledged contributions, the Vision & Governance Board is starting to turn its attention to what comes next.

There is a consensus within the leadership of the congregation that we should begin the process of planning for some small, fully-funded projects that will soon be possible due to full achievement of our financial goal. Various ideas for such projects have been put forward, and a variety of feedback on some of them has been received.

The number one priority for the Board among the proposals is to replace our aging and malfunctioning sound system. Some additional small projects will probably be undertaken, but only if they are *fully aligned with our mission priorities* and after plenty of opportunity for *discussion with our members.*

—Bob Moluf,
Congregation President



Proposed Changes to the Constitution

The Special Committee appointed by the Vision & Governance Board to explore changing University Lutheran Church of Hope's constitution to allow the congregation the option of calling a gay or lesbian pastor is scheduling a series of events and discussions regarding this issue, in accordance with Hope's "Statement on Moral Discourse."

The following events are being scheduled prior to the Annual Meeting in February:

Presentation by Lowell Erdahl: Bishop Emeritus of the St. Paul Synod and former Hope pastor Lowell Erdahl will be joining us to discuss his work on this issue. This event is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 15, at 11:00 a.m., prior to the Senior Club luncheon. It is open to all members of the congregation. Please watch the bulletin and Weekly Epistle for confirmation of this special event.

A Meal and a Movie: Following the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, October 19, the Committee will serve a special fellowship meal, during which the movie *For the Bible Tells Me So* will be shown.

Can the love between two people ever be an abomination? Is the chasm separating gays and lesbians and Christianity too wide to cross? Is the Bible an excuse to hate? Through the experiences of five very normal, very Christian, very American families—including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson—we discover how insightful people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child.

Don't miss this powerful and moving film that was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival in 2007.

Presentation by Pastor Anita Hill and screening of the film *THIS Obedience*: Pastor Anita Hill, a lesbian in a committed relationship, was irregularly ordained by St Paul Reformation Lutheran Church in 2001. *THIS Obedience* follows Pastor Anita and St. Paul Reformation from their decision to commit "ecclesiastical disobedience" by ordaining Anita, through the decisions made at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Pastor Anita will be present to discuss how St Paul Reformation's decision and the accompanying fallout and disciplinary action have affected the congregation since 2001.

Shower of Stoles: A portion of the Shower of Stoles exhibit will be displayed in Hope's Lounge during an upcoming month. The Shower of Stoles is a collection of more than one thousand liturgical stoles and other sacred items representing the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people of faith. Each stole contains the story of a GLBT person who is active in the life and leadership of her or his faith community in some way: minister, elder, deacon, teacher, missionary, musician, administrator, or active layperson. The collection celebrates the gifts of GLBT persons who serve God in countless ways, while also lifting up those who have been excluded from service because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Presentation by the Minneapolis Area Synod: Representatives of the Minneapolis Area Synod will be present to answer questions regarding the Synod's position on our possible constitutional change and its ramifications for the congregation.

Please watch the bulletin and Weekly Epistle for detailed information on these upcoming events.

—Karmi Anna Matttson,
Congregation Past President

Hearing on ELCA-Drafted Sexuality Statement

Last spring, during a Sunday Adult Forum, members of University Lutheran Church of Hope studied the latest draft of the ELCA Social Statement on Human Sexuality. All comments to the larger church concerning the document are due on November 1. The Minneapolis Area Synod is now offering hearings on the document, with a representative from the task force that wrote the document in attendance at each hearing. On October 9, at 9:00 a.m. and again at 7:00 p.m., there will be a hearing at Central Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis. All are welcome at either time. You can find the document at elca.org/faithfuljourney

—Pastor Craig Shirley

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

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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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