

The Visitor

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February 2009
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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.*

From the Visitation Pastor

In the middle of record-setting deep-freeze temperatures, I couldn't have had a warmer welcome as I begin my ministry with you. Already I see it in the great helpfulness of the staff to aid me in this transition from my attempted retirement. Their graceful welcome and the good wishes of this congregation make me realize how much I've missed working in the church.

The reminder is also there as I sit with our members in their homes or in the new places they live—whether they were ready to move into them or not. My heart is filling up with their stories and with the twinkle in the eyes of ninety year-olds and the silence or confusion of those who are living with life-changing diagnoses.

It is good to be with you all and to be in this place of great preaching, music, care for young and old, and of reaching out beyond our own needs with a broad brush of care. The ongoing dedication of the lay people is everywhere as you serve God in all these ways you serve each other. It is God's gift to me to be here with you.

Gratefully,



—Pastor Esther Dant

Notice of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of University Lutheran Church of Hope will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2009, at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending this important meeting. A light lunch will be provided. We will be receiving reports for 2008, approving a budget for 2009, electing several leaders, and acting on proposed changes to our Constitution and to the governing Resolution for the Hope Church Trust and Trust Board. Printed copies of the proposed changes to these documents are available in the narthex of the church, and electronic copies are available on the church's web site at: www.ulch.org/AnnualMeeting.asp

—Bob Moluf, Congregation President



Thank You

The branches on our mitten tree held far fewer donations this year. There were 28 pairs of mittens and gloves and 4 sets of mittens with scarves or hats.

This year these gifts of warmth were given to the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center, an inner city mission in Minneapolis.

Thank You!

2009 Women's Retreat

Mark your calendars for the weekend of February 28–March 1, 2009. Our theme for this year's retreat is "Celebrating Women's Wisdom."

We are excited to have University Lutheran Church of Hope member Beata Rydeen (transitions coach and career counselor) leading the retreat, which is open to college-age women and up! We have filled the 15 spots that were available and can add 4 more.

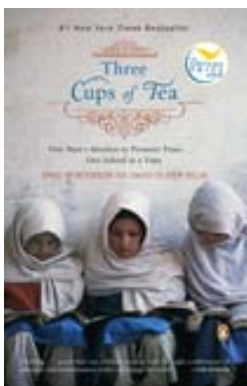
The cost is \$113 and includes 3 meals. Rooms are single, with a sink, desk, and chair provided. You can also come just for the day (\$25, plus lunch – \$7, plus dinner – \$10). If you would like more information or want to check for available spots, contact Ann Beane at spiritbeane@yahoo.com or (651) 481-8175. Look for information outside the Lounge after the 10:30 a.m. service.

Friendly Visitor Training

Share the light with someone special in our congregation. Come to hear more about our Friendly Visitor ministry at a training session on February 15 at 11:30 a.m., following the second service.

The training will include how we care for those we visit and how you can become a part of this valuable ministry. Friendly Visitors help active members keep in touch with those who cannot easily get out and join us at church. For more information, call Marilyn Asp at (763) 862-5685 or Pastor Esther Dant at (651) 636-7834.

Hope Book Club



Please join us on Sunday, February 8, at 7:00 p.m. in the Library of University Lutheran Church of Hope to discuss:

Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time, by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin.

"Thrilling proof that one ordinary person, with the right combination of character and determination, really can change the world."

Tom Brokaw

(One copy is available in the Hope Library to check out).

Feel free to call Sonja Peterson at (612) 789-0397 if you have questions or suggestions for books for us to read.

Reconciliation and Peace Among Faiths

Naomi Ludeman Smith has been studying in the Middle East, India, and Indonesia how reconciliation and peace among faiths is happening in our world.

Dialogues are happening around our world, helping people see how they can bring peace in the light of their diverse religious convictions. Naomi has learned about finding common ground on which to build peace through humility, patience, and understanding.

Each one of us can work on hope-filled reconciliation and peace in our world. We can believe in the Prince of Peace for all of our lives.

Come to the **Adult Forum on February 22** to hear Naomi talk about her amazing travels and studies that included five months in Jordan with her 16 year-old daughter.

—Ruth Fingerson

Shirley's Share

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, and this year we will observe Ash Wednesday on February 25. There will be a service with imposition of ashes at noon and again at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

But before Lent begins, many places celebrate Mardi Gras, not the least of them being the city of New Orleans. But this year we will also celebrate Mardi Gras in Minneapolis, at University Lutheran Church of Hope! On Sunday, February 22, our own Tim Gustafson, along with a few of his closest friends, will lead a jazz service at the 10:30 hour on that Sunday. You should plan to attend!

Along with the Tims (Gustafson and Strand), there will also be participation by many of the 26 youth who are attending next summer's National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. And Pastor Loren Halvorson will be preaching. It will be a grand day!

We have done well with our fund raising for the trip, but getting 25 youth and 4 adults to the Gathering at a cost of about \$800 per person is expensive. We will once again be seeking matching funds for a special offering that will be taken that morning. Envelopes will be available the week before, on February 15, when Pastor Fritz Wehrenberg will be preaching! So come to church those Sundays.

In fact, come to church every Sunday. Since Christmas, attendance has been "spotty" (I know the weather has not been good—but this is Minnesota and we should be used to it). Sunday worship is the most important gathering time for a congregation, and the most central time for expressing our gratitude and thanksgiving to God for all the blessings of this world and our lives. Remember those bumper stickers from the sixties? "Seven days without worship makes one weak"? It's true. We are strengthened as a community when you are here and weakened when you are not. Come and worship with us every Sunday in February. Pax

—Pastor Craig Shirley



Watershed Planning Grant Approved

We just received word from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) that our application for a \$10,000 watershed planning grant has been approved! This means that as soon as we meet with and sign the agreement with MWMO, we can then contract with Emmons & Olivier Resources (EOR) and get started on an overall watershed plan for our church property. This will be good for University Lutheran Church of Hope (lower our watershed fees), good for the environment (part of our task as faithful Christians), and a good learning experience for all of us.

As part of this process, we will have two guest speakers at church in March as part of our Family Forums. On March 22, Becky Rice or an associate from Metro Blooms will be at Hope to talk about rain gardens and how they help filter water runoff through the use of native plants. On March 29, Nancy Dilts from MWMO will be with us to talk about MWMO and watershed issues. And on the last Sunday in April we hope to have some preliminary plans to discuss.

You can expect to see some Garden Club/Facilities fundraising coming up also, as we need to raise some funds for additional EOR planning costs and hopefully for plants or materials for at least one smaller project this coming summer.

With the award of this planning grant, we will be able to apply for an action grant of up to \$50,000 for a major watershed project (like redoing one or both of our parking lots).

Note that we have already started a "Green" bulletin board next to the main elevator. If you see anything that you think will add to it, please feel free to share. Also, think about how you can get involved in this important initial project. It's time to first think—and then to get our hands dirty.

—Kathy Knudson



Faith Formation News

Adult Forums

February 1 - “A Tour of the Congregation’s Web Site” — Craig Wiester, Administrator of University Lutheran Church of Hope.

February 8 - “Cabrini Partnership” — What is it? How are they helping the homeless in our area? Leo Axtman, a staff member of Cabrini Partnership, will share information about this organization.

February 15 -”Mano a Mano” — Mano a Mano is an organization that works with health-care issues in Bolivia. Dan Narr, executive director of Mano a Mano, will be here.

February 22 - “Interfaith Dialogues to Promote Peace” —Naomi Smith, a professor at Bethel University who spent 6 months in Jordan and India, will speak.

High School

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

Confirmation classes for grades 7 & 8 meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 10:25 a.m. The seventh graders are studying the Story of Jesus and the Lord’s Prayer with instructor Bob Moluf. The eighth graders are studying about Martin Luther and The Confessions with instructor Adam Morton. The Saturday class will be held on February 14, with a focus on the writings of Paul.

Sunday School News

	Godly Play Lesson	Faith Weaver Lesson	Theme for the day
February 1	Jesus heals a girl.	Jesus demonstrates his authority. Mark 1:29-39	Jesus is all-powerful.
February 8	Jesus heals a blind man, Bartemeus.	Jesus heals, prays, and preaches. Mark 1:29-29	Jesus cares for us.
February 15	Jesus calms a storm.	Jesus calms a storm. Mark 4:35-41.	We should turn to Jesus when we are afraid.
February 22	Transfiguration	Four friends help a paralyzed man. Mark 2:1-12	Jesus forgives us.

February 8 will be a **Sunday School opening** with music and a presentation by the King Snakes classroom in the Chapel at 9:35 a.m.

Acolyte Training for the Moses’ Eagles Classroom will be held on Sundays, February 1, 8, 15, & 22. The training will take place during Sunday School time and will be conducted by Marty Dorow. Students are to report to their regular classroom at the regular time.

Communion Instruction classes will take place during Sunday School time on Sunday, February 8 & 15. These classes will be taught by Pastor Shirley and Diane Shallue and are for children between the ages of 4 – 8 and their parents. Classes will be held in the Conference Room.

Prayer Partners Needed

Would you be interested in being a prayer partner for a child or youth from our congregation? The Children's Ministry Team is looking for 80 people age 16 and older who are willing to pray weekly for six weeks for a child or youth during Lent. You will have an opportunity to meet your prayer partner at the Lord's Prayer Event on March 1.

Expectations:

- ◆ You are asked to pray for them once a week, and
- ◆ Send them a card at Easter.

To volunteer, please contact Diane Shallue at (612) 331-5988, ext. 19, or at dianes@ulch.org



The Little Lutheran

The Little Lutheran is a colorful and sturdy 24-page magazine for children ages 6 and younger. The cost is normally \$24.95 for a single subscription of 10 issues, but our congregation can get a group rate, of only \$12.95 per subscription, for at least 6 copies that can be mailed to different addresses. *The Little Lutheran* would be a great gift for a grandchild, godchild, niece, or nephew. If you are interested in this group subscription plan please contact Diane Shallue at dianes@ulch.org



Book Collection for Southeast READS

We are collecting books for the Southeast READS project. This project encourages reading in the homes by collecting and distributing books to children at Luxton and Van Cleve Community Parks and the before and after school programs for Minneapolis KIDS at Marcy and Pratt Schools. Please donate new and slightly used children's books. They can be picture books or chapter books. Please put them in the collection box under the table in the Library.

Are you available on Mondays from 9:30 until noon? Come to hang out with some wonderful people who are part of the **Quilting Group**. People are needed to pin, to tie quilts together with yarn, and to do some basic sewing. Here is a thank you that this group received from Central Lutheran Church: "Thank you so much for everything you have done for Community Ministries at Central! We are so grateful for your donations of quilts! We are truly blessed to have such generous contributors." For more information contact one of the current members of the Quilting Group: Ila Mae Langguth, Carmen Macoskey, Arloene Stevens, Marge Perko, or Eleanor Edstrom.

Hope Senior Club

The Senior Club of University Lutheran Church of Hope will gather on **Wednesday, February 18**, beginning with a noon luncheon in Fellowship Hall. The program will follow at 1:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall, with a presentation entitled “On the Homefront: Life in Minnesota in the 40s,” by our member Karen Lindesmith. Using historical research from diaries, letters, newspapers, and other printed sources, as well as personal recollection, she will look back at the war years, as recorded by those waiting for loved ones to return. Karen has been conducting interviews and doing research for the past ten years. She will share memorable stories from the data she has collected.

Many people who remained at home during World War II to work in unfamiliar or new wartime jobs, or those who kept family farms and businesses operational, simply did not view their work as historical or “noteworthy.” Many have been reluctant to share their stories. Now, sixty-plus years later, those who engaged in the research are encouraging people to do this. For this reason, at the close of the program, **Karen will ask willing volunteers to share personal reminiscences from the World War II years**—perhaps excerpts from letters you may have, or stories from your own 1940s school or work experiences. Please come, and bring your letters and memories. Join us as a teller or a listener. Every storyteller needs attentive listeners!

Karen is a published author and editor. She is currently writing a book entitled **Love, Hilma: Letters Home from 1943–1946**. To quote Karen, “If an arctic cold front or snowy days compel you to the nearest closet on a ‘sort and throw’ mission, do so, but save those old family letters! Read through them again for new historical information. Sharing old family letters is also a great way to connect with your grandchildren and sons and daughters.”

Please make reservations for the luncheon by **Thursday, February 12**, with your caller or by phoning Pastor Esther Dant at (651) 636-7834. Know that you are always welcome to the program if you are unable to attend the luncheon.



New Church Directory in the Works

If you have looked at our existing pictorial church directory recently you will have noticed some young children in it who are now young adults. Hairstyles have changed, clothing is different, and many people are missing from the directory because they have joined the congregation since that directory was produced.

A new directory is in the works, and sittings for it will begin on February 24 & 25. (Yes, we are aware that February 25 is Ash Wednesday. Some people may want to take advantage of the fact that they will already be at church!) The next dates are March 5, 6, & 7. We would like to get 100% cooperation on this. If you come and have your portrait taken, you will receive a free picture and a free directory. You will be able to see your digital image “on the spot” and decide if you want it, or order more—at additional cost to you—if you care to. There will be no “hard sell” and you need not buy anything.

Sign-up begins this Sunday. Get your name on the list, have your individual or family picture taken, and be a part of the new pictorial church directory. The photography is provided by Olan Mills Church Directories.

Young Adults

Over the past several months we have had the privilege to walk together as young adults in faithful conversation, Bible study, fellowship, and service to the community.

We've been busy getting to know one another, learning each other's stories and, of course, we've also had a little fun! University Lutheran Church of Hope is blessed to have a large number of young adults who are committed to the mission and vision of the congregation, and who have deep personal faith that informs their commitments to the world. The young adult community we have begun to create is a place where we struggle with the big issues, come alongside one another on the journey, and celebrate the things God is doing in the world. Thank you for your support of this new ministry!

—Dannica Montplaisir,
Coordinator for Young Adult Ministry

Youth News

Can you feel it? Can you see it? There have been a lot of great things happening around University Lutheran Church of Hope lately: We have 26 youth signed up for a life-impacting experience in New Orleans in July, and you have helped us raise significant funds to help these youth and their leaders get to New Orleans; Sunday morning youth group is well-attended, with great discussion and exploration of faith and everyday life; the Dream Team is working on a mentoring program; and youth of all ages are getting connected and involved in the various ministries of University Lutheran Church of Hope. What a joy it is to be a part of such a growing ministry! You have shown how much you value the youth in your midst. Whether you have a youth in the various programs or not, your participation and support are crucial to sustaining this fantastic ministry.

The youth are proud to call this congregation home, due in large part to the people who surround them. Thank you for all your support, work, and involvement. We couldn't have accomplished all this on our own!

God's peace and love! <><

—Megan Koepnick,
Youth Director

New Books in the Church Library

Children's Books

Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Journey to Change the World...One Child at a Time, by Greg Mortenson.

The Young Readers Edition for ages 8 and up, with color photos. This book is about building schools for the children of Pakistan.

Christian Life

The Ragamuffin Gospel: Embracing the Unconditional Love of God, by Brennan Manning, presents the gospel "for the be-draggled, beat-up, and burnt out" and "for earthen vessels who shuffle along on feet of clay."

Walks on the Beach with Angie, a Father's Song of Love, by Don Warner, is a story about living with a child who had cystic fibrosis. It is a story of love, grief, and loss.

Never Alone: A Personal Way to God, by Joseph F. Girzone. This book "brings us before a God who is neither silent nor condemning, but a patient God who heals gently and thoroughly, a realistic God who knows quite well how we function...."

Devotional

All Saints: Daily Reflections on Saints, Prophets, and Witnesses for Our Time, by Robert Ellsberg.

This book, a favorite of Mildred Templin, provides quotations and biographical information on a wide variety of historical and modern persons of faith in a daily devotional format.

Winsome Wisdom: 366 Thoughts to Ponder and to Live, by Lowell O Erdahl.

President's Perspective

I would like to thank the staff, leaders, and members of University Lutheran Church of Hope for your support of our congregation's ministries during this past year. This has indeed been a good year for Hope—judged both from a mission perspective and from a financial perspective. A number of new and exciting initiatives are underway, especially in the areas of young adult ministry and small group ministry. And your Vision & Governance Board has begun to live up to its new name, offering visionary leadership as we explore new ways to be faithful to the gospel.

On the Sunday before the presidential Inauguration, during the concert at the Lincoln Memorial, two large bald eagles were brought onto the stage. The enormous crowd of spectators was stirred as it watched those living symbols of our country attempt to spread their wings and take flight. All that prevented those enormous birds from actually soaring over the crowd were the leather cords that bound their feet to the arms of their handlers. As I complete my term as president of this congregation, my perspective is that Hope currently has some similarity to those majestic birds. Proud of its traditions and full of potential, our congregation is today fully capable of taking flight in faithfulness to God's mission. Often we do make it off the ground, but sometimes it feels as if there is something holding us back from actually soaring. I don't think it has to be that way. God is calling us to new and exciting ministries in this time and place. The spiritual resources available to us in Christ are abundant, and they far outweigh any of the constraints we may be facing.

Let's do it. Together, let's follow God's lead and begin to soar.

—Bob Moluf,
Congregation President



Vision & Governance Board Highlights

The Vision & Governance Board of University Lutheran Church of Hope held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on January 13, 2009.

- Leslie Frost distributed copies of the proposed lease agreement for Mercy Seat Lutheran Church to use the facilities of Hope. A few adjustments were discussed and the content of the lease was approved. The goal is to have a signed lease in place prior to the Annual Meeting.

- End-of-year financial reports were discussed. Treasurer Mike Fingerson noted that the traditional “big bump” in December giving did not materialize this year. Revenue for the year was below budget, but salary expenses were significantly under budget, resulting in a surplus for the year.

- The Board had a lengthy discussion about the budget amount to be recommended to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on February 8. Concerns were expressed about the current economic climate and the shortfall in expected giving for 2008. The Board voted to recommend a 2009 budget to the congregation that represents slightly less than a 3% increase in congregational giving over 2008 *actual* giving. The total proposed budget for 2009 is slightly less than the budget the congregation had approved for 2008. The recommended budget would enable the congregation to continue current staffing levels, but would not be adequate to support the hiring of a permanent, 3/4 time Youth and Young Adult minister, as has been recommended by the Dream Team. The motion carried unanimously.

- The policy for funds raised through Fellowship Meals was discussed. It was agreed that funds raised from the Fellowship Meal on the second Sunday of each month are always to be used to support the general budget of the congregation. Other Sundays of the month are available for other groups at Hope to sponsor fund-raising meals if they so desire.

- Leslie Frost led the Board in a vision discussion of the Relational Ministries Ministry Area.

—Bob Moluf,
Congregation President

Treasurer's Report

General Fund

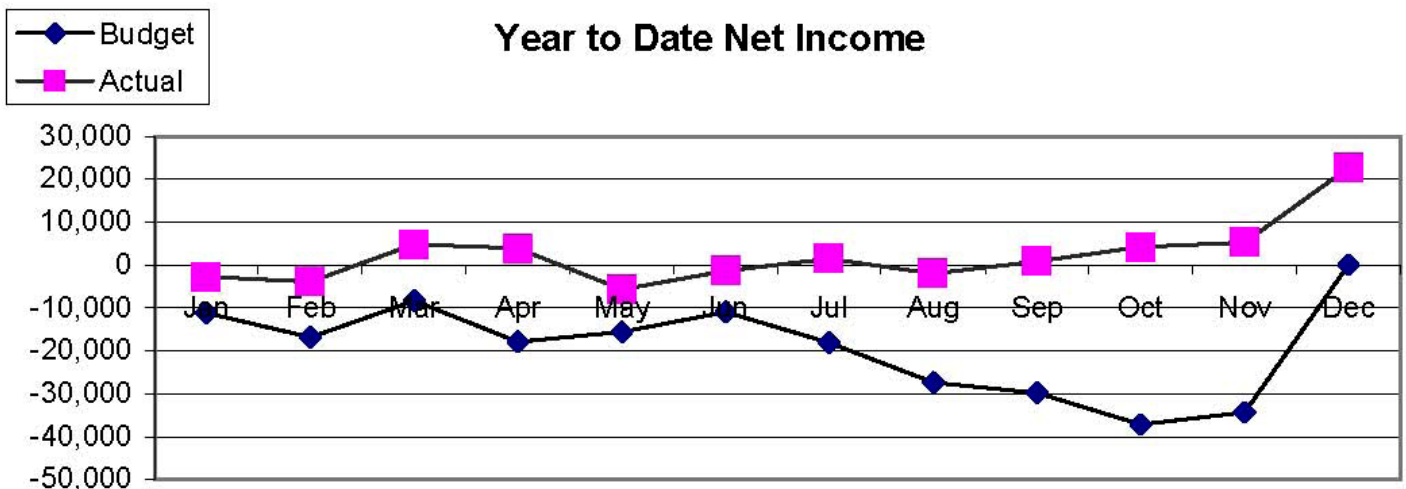
Results for December and Year-End 2008

	December		Year End		Over/(under)	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget		
General Giving and Holiday	51,161	75,622	486,433	513,427	(26,994)	
Rental and Extraordinary	<u>7,000</u>	<u>4,354</u>	<u>67,700</u>	<u>58,696</u>	<u>9,004</u>	
Total Revenue	58,161	79,976	554,133	572,123	(17,990)	
 Total Expenses	 40,845	 45,651	 531,520	 572,149	 (40,629)	
Net Income	Month	17,316	34,325	YTD	22,613	(26)

Typically there has been a significant giving increase in December as shown below on the budget. This year the increase was much smaller (about \$11,500 rather than the projected \$35,800). Reasons could include the recession, more members using Simply Giving, or the fact that there was no emphasis on increased contributions since net income was positive at the end of November.

Even though total revenues were \$17,990 below budget, expenses were \$40,629 below budget, providing a very good year from a financial point of view, with \$22,613 of net income.

—Mike Fingerson,
Treasurer





THE
HOPE
CHURCH
TRUST

Thank You

Thank you, University Lutheran Church of Hope members, for your contributions to our Endowment Fund between August and December 31 of 2008. Your gifts help ensure that Hope will be in our future and in the future of generations to come.

Asp, Marilyn
Berkeland, Bob & Jeanne
Brovold, Jean
Frolen, Winnie
Hanson, Bertha
Halvorson, Leroy & Marge
Hoisington, Bob & Jean
Holmgren, Mildred
Jacobs, Marion
Johnson, Jerry & Julie
Kobiske, Julaine
Langguth, Deane & Ila Mae
Parry, Jack & Donna
Quie, Paul & Betty
Peterson, Greg & Sharon
Reyelts, Leona
Richie, Gary & Julie
Rhoades, Verle
Schroeder, Jo
Steinberg, Carol
Templin, Mildred
Vainovskis, Margaret

—The Trust Board

A Welcome Idea

At a recent retreat, the Vision and Governance Board brainstormed about some ideas to make visitors to our services feel welcome.

Rather than read reports, do background research, or create our own study, we engaged in a variation of “Speed Dating” during which all members of the Board spent just a few minutes with each of the other Board members (and Pastor Shirley, too), exchanging our own experiences (1) as visitors in other congregations; (2) welcoming visitors to our own congregation; and (3) observing other peoples’ welcoming efforts. We found that with only three minutes to come up with ideas, things moved along quite quickly!

Here’s a list of what rose to the surface. If you’re interested in getting involved in thinking about how we welcome visitors, or if you have additional ideas, Pastor Shirley would love to hear from you.

- On Sunday mornings try to notice visitors, engage in conversation, and welcome them to coffee hours (and /or fellowship meals).
- Pastoral visits to visitors’ homes
- Just be friendly—you don’t have to “grill” the visitor, or sell the church.
- Name tags worn by members and available to visitors
- “Business cards” that members can give to visitors or potential visitors.
- Be attentive to visitors who are open to being welcomed as opposed to those who may just want to be left alone.
- Dedicate some parking spots close to the entrance as “Visitor Parking.”
- Have expectation that many of the visitors to our congregation will be students or temporary guests. Let go of expectations that people visiting on Sundays are likely to become lifelong members.
- Try to meet people where they are at.
- This is not a job for one person or one task force—this is something we can all participate in.

Be sure to add your own ideas to this list, and don’t forget to pass them on to members of the Vision & Governance Board (listed on the back page of this publication).

If we get a few more ideas, we’ll publish them in a follow-up article, or put them in the bulletin.

—Karen Westwood,

Vision & Governance Board Member for Hope in the World

Staff

Pastor:

Craig Shirley

Cantor:

Timothy Strand

**Director of Education and
Adult Small-Group Ministries**

Diane Shallue

Youth Director:

Megan Koepnick

Young Adult Ministries

Coordinator:

Dannica Montplaisir

Administrator:

Craig Wiester

Weekend Custodian:

William Frank

**Working in partnership with
Lutheran Campus**

Ministry Staff:

Fritz Wehrenberg; Kate Reuer

Vision & Governance Board

Officers:

President: Bob Moluf

Vice President: Jack Dant

Past President: Karmi Anna Mattson

Treasurer: Mike Fingerson

Ministry Areas:

Worship & Music: Uli Koester

Youth & Young Adults:

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; Jack Dant

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

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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