

The Visitor

601 - 13th Avenue SE
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414-1437
Tel. (612) 331-5988 Fax (612) 623-0693
www.ulch.org



March 2009
Issue #3 - 09

*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.*

Shirley's Share

One of the traditions that has grown out of Lent is the celebration of Mardi Gras. Mardi Gras has traditionally been celebrated in the days (or weeks) before Lent when people “let their hair down” before the rigors of Lent put them into a more penitential mood. They would eat and drink heartily—partly to celebrate, and partly to get rid of the food that had wintered over and would start to go bad if it wasn't eaten soon. So soup has become one of the logical outcomes of eating up the leftovers, because you can put almost anything in soup and it goes a long way.

“Lenten Soup” is what I am calling our observation of the season this year. In the article on page 3 of this issue of *The Visitor* you will find a description of the Wednesday events that will be taking place. In this column I want to highlight the midday events. Beginning Wednesday, March 4 (remember that February 25 is Ash Wednesday), we will offer Bible study, worship, and a meal as our “Lenten soup” for the season.



The midday events will begin at 10:45 a.m. with Bible study built around the texts from Handel's “Messiah,” looking specifically at those texts from the oratorio that concern Christ's death and resurrection—the so-called Easter section. That study will last approximately one hour and will be held in the Lounge.

Then, at 12:00 noon, we will worship together in the Chapel with a half-hour service. Each of the staff members will take a Wednesday to present, and I have asked them to do whatever they would like! There will be no “theme” to it, except that it will be “soupy”—a little bit of this and a little bit of that. It may be musical, or artistic, or homiletic, or audience participation. And you won't know who is presenting that day until you get there!

Then, after worship, there will be a soup and bread lunch served for those who care to stay and eat. It will be a simple lunch—though often there is a bit more to eat on Senior Club day. The basic idea is to have time to fellowship together.

Daytime hours are not convenient for everyone, but there are those in the congregation who find them better for their schedule than evening. I hope that you will consider this option for yourself if that is what works for you. And be sure to invite a friend! We can always put a little more stock in the soup!

Pax.

—Pastor Craig Shirley

Hope Senior Club



The Hope Senior Club gathering will be on **Wednesday, March 18**. All seniors and friends are cordially invited to the noon Lenten worship service in Thorpe Chapel, followed by a soup and bread lunch in Fellowship Hall. (Reservations are not required for the lunch.) The program, “Prison Ministries,” by former Governor Al Quie, will be held at **1:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall**.

Governor Quie will share his experience in volunteering with inmates and mentoring men and women when discharged from prison. Can a murderer become your friend? Is redemption available for everyone? You will not want to miss this inspirational and dynamic presentation! All ages are welcome.

Congregations Caring for Creation

You are invited to participate in a Congregations Caring for Creation “Summit” on Sunday, March 1 at First Universalist Church of Minneapolis, 3400 Dupont Ave., Minneapolis, from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Congregations Caring for Creation finds itself at a crossroads. At the beginning of this most important year, we need your help to determine our path into the future, and to move us on the way. Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, Justice and Peace Studies professor at the University of St. Thomas and recently a candidate for the U.S. Senate, will speak to us.

We will share visions for the road ahead. We want you to tell us what you think about how we can most effectively mobilize individuals and congregations to advance our mission of creation care in this crucial decade. Come and be energized! Come and be the change for which the creation waits!

Communications Task Force: Naming Our Dreams

Judging from the results of a brainstorming discussion held during the February meeting of the Vision & Governance Board, it seems clear that one of the unifying dreams or visions of the Board for the coming year will be to place greater emphasis on Communications. So—as the chair of the Communications Task Force, I would like to highlight two immediate needs that we have:

- It has become clear that it would assist many of us in talking casually with nonmembers about University Lutheran Church of Hope if we had an “official nickname” for our congregation that contained less than eleven syllables. The Communications Task Force is going to be considering options for such a nickname, which will be recommended to the Vision & Governance Board. We welcome your suggestions! Two ideas have been received already. Please send your suggestions to me at visitor@ulch.org
- Also, we need more members of the Communications Task Force! At the moment we are a bit heavy on past or present staff members of the congregation, and it would be great to have more people involved. You don’t need to be an advertising writer, editor, or computer whiz to help us think about how we can best communicate with our members and our community. If you would be willing to offer your ideas to us, please let me know. Remember—Hope’s task forces meet only when necessary, and task force members can contribute in any way that is convenient for them. There is absolutely *no* need to sign away your evenings for a year! In fact, most of our work is done via email.

—Bob Moluf,
Chair, Communications Task Force

Wednesdays in Lent

March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1

Lent is a time when we ponder our relationship to God and how the “Holy” intersects with our personal life and relationships. For centuries Christians have used spiritual disciplines to draw closer to God. Many people want to be spiritual but not religious, but being spiritual requires intentionality. Being spiritual means fostering a relationship with God by paying attention to God. This can be done through reading of Holy Scripture, through prayer, through fasting, through worship, through conversation with other Christians, and through the study of sacred texts. During this Lenten season, consider using one or more of these opportunities to draw closer to God and follow in the footsteps of Christ.

Daytime Schedule

Messiah Study	10:45—11:45 a.m.
Worship	Noon in the Chapel, led by various staff members
Soup & bread & conversation	12:45 served by the staff

Evening Schedule

Adult Handbell Choir	5:15—6:00 p.m.
Soup supper & conversation	5:30—6:15 p.m.
Chapel Choir (grades 2-6)	6:00—6:45 p.m.
Education time	6:00—6:50 p.m.
Nursery care	6:00—7:30 p.m.
Worship	7:00—7:30 p.m.
Adult Choir	7:30—8:45 p.m.

Following Jesus

Educational Opportunities

Children ages birth to 3

Nursery care with play and stories on Wednesdays evenings from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Sarah Weber and volunteers will supervise.

Jesus for Everyone — for ages 4 to 10

Explore the diversity of Christian believers around the world. Led by Madhu Bhat and Stephanie Struthers in room 202.

MESSIAH — for adults and youth grades 7 & up

Listen to the wonderful music from Handel’s Messiah and discuss the biblical texts used in this classic masterpiece. Discussion led by Pastor Craig Shirley and Diane Shallue in Heritage Hall. Please bring a Bible. Offered morning and evening.

No Prep Bible Study - for adults and youth grades 7 & up

Come each week to read and discuss passages from Paul’s Letter to the Philippians. Led by Joan Campbell and Diane Shallue in the Conference Room. Please bring a Bible. Offered in the evening only.

Read the Gospel of Mark - for adults and youth grades 7 & up

Read through the Gospel of Mark during Lent, using a reading guide, beginning on February 25. You can request a list of readings from Diane Shallue or find them online. For those who are interested, weekly gatherings will be held on Wednesday nights in Room 101 to share questions and thoughts about the readings. Attending the weekly gatherings is not a requirement to participate in this devotional reading time.

Keeping Watch with Jesus – Daily Lenten Prayers and short meditations based on the Gospel of Mark. This devotional booklet was given to every person who attended worship on Ash Wednesday. Extra copies can be found in the Library on the table by the window. These short meditations are appropriate for all ages.



Faith Formation News

Lord's Prayer Learning Event

On Sunday, March 1, at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall there will be a learning event on the Lord's Prayer designed for all members and all ages, with activities about the Petitions of the Lord's Prayer and the meanings from Luther's *Small Catechism*. Those who are prayer partners will meet and participate together. Others will work with those at their tables. Even if you are not a prayer partner, you are invited to attend. Contact Diane Shallue with questions.

Adult Forums

March 1 - Attend the Lord's Prayer Learning Event in the Fellowship Hall led by Diane Shallue.

March 8 - Feed My Starving Children. Hear about this organization and the work they do.

March 15 - "Connecting Church and Home," by Megan Koepnick, Youth Director.

March 22 - "Rain gardens and using native plants," a presentation by Becky Rice from Metro Blooms. Find out what you can do to minimize runoff.

March 29 - "Managing Runoff." Nancy Dilts, Grants Specialist from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, will be here to speak.

High School

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 Lord's Prayer with instructor Bob Moluf. The eighth graders are studying the Lutheran heritage with instructor Adam Morton. On March 1, all students will attend the Lord's Prayer Event in the Fellowship Hall. The Saturday class will be held on March 14, with a focus on the book of Hebrews and the Letters of Paul.

Sunday School News

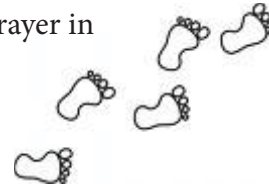
	Godly Play Lesson	Faith Weaver Lesson	Theme for the day
March 1	Prayer Partner Event	Prayer Partner Event	
March 8 - Opening in the Chapel	Story Review and Response	Jesus teaches about commitment. Mark 8:31-38	Following Jesus takes commitment.
March 15	The Mustard Seed	Jesus clears merchants from the temple. John 2:13-22	God wants sincere worship. God's house is a place to worship.
March 22	Grain and Weeds Parable	Jesus explains why God sent Him. John 3:12-21	God sent Jesus to save us. Jesus came for you.
March 29	The Poor Widow's Gift	Jesus notices a widow's giving. Mark 12:41-44	God wants us to give cheerfully.

Faith Steps

March 8 - Use of the liturgical guides in worship for younger children.

March 15 - The Arkers Class will lead the congregation in reciting the Apostles' Creed during 10:30 a.m. worship.

March 22 - The King Snake group recites John 3:16 & leads the Lord's Prayer in worship at 10:30 am.



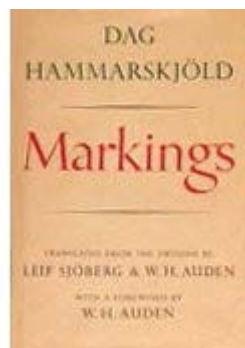
Hope Book Club

Please join us on Sunday, March 8, at 7:00 p.m. in the Library to discuss:

Markings, by Dag Hammarskjöld

A revealing spiritual self-portrait by one of the greatest peacemakers of our time. As Hammarskjöld described *Markings* to his literary executor: "A sort of White Book concerning my negotiations with myself—and with God."

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



Youth News

What a privilege it is to work with the youth of this congregation! Lately I have had the opportunity to have some wonderful conversations with youth that remind me why I love ministry.

Not all our conversations are about deep issues—sometimes it's just catching up on the past week's events. We cover topics from college to relationships to future goals and dreams. We share our stories with one another, and in doing so we grow more comfortable sharing our God stories with one another as well. All of our narratives are interwoven with God's narrative that we hear each Sunday morning.

My conversations with youth constantly remind me of that and often help me see where God is working in my life as well. Next time you're in conversation with a teenager, listen to what might be hiding behind their words. Listen for God's activity in their lives; listen for how your story and theirs overlap. You'll be surprised at what you'll hear!

God's peace and love! <><

—Megan Koepnick,
Youth Director

Final Notice: Book Collection for Southeast READS

March will be the last month that we are collecting books for the Southeast READS project. This project encourages reading in homes by collecting and distributing books to children at Luxton and Van Cleve Community Parks and also 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.

Hope Connections Interest Groups

Please call the host for more information about a specific group, or contact Diane Shallue at dianes@ulch.org or (612) 331-5988, ext. 19.

A **Dining Together Interest Group** will use a potluck format. The host will provide the space, bread, butter, and beverages. Those who sign up will bring a main dish, salad, or dessert. The sign-up will be limited to 12 people. When a location is full, a second group in another location may be formed if someone is willing to host.

____ Sunday, March 22 – 5:30 p.m. at the home of Ruth and Mike Fingerson, 1612 Oak Avenue, Arden Hills, (651) 633-5316.

____ Sunday, May 3 - 5:30 p.m. at the home of Bob and Diane Shallue, 9040 Jackson St. N.E., Blaine, (763) 755-8074.

Foreign Films Interest Group (Sign-up for each is limited to 10 people.)

____ Saturday, March 14, 6:00 p.m. at the home of Bob and Lynn Moluf, 100 Third Ave S. #1004, Minneapolis, (612) 378-3933. The meal will be a potluck around a theme from the movie to be picked by Bob Moluf. He will contact participants with more information.

____ Beth Kautz will organize a group in April to go out to view a film and possibly stop for food before or after the film. Date, time, and more details will be coming later. Let Diane Shallue know if you are interested.

Gardens of Hope

As Minnesotans, we know the gardens are looking “kinda dead (and maybe buried) right now,” but there are still things going on, both under the snow and ice and in our minds and hearts. The seed catalogs have arrived, the seed displays are up in the hardware and grocery stores, some of us are getting ready to start seeds indoors, and we are getting ready to start our planning for University Lutheran Church of Hope’s new and old gardens.

A few of us will meet on Monday, February 23, with Nancy Dilts from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization to go over the processes and rules for the \$10,000 planning grant we are receiving from her organization. That contract needs to be signed on our end and then on hers. And then we can sign a contract with Emmons & Olivier Resources for their landscape and watershed planning efforts and get underway.

In the meantime, we can continue to prepare for spring. Please come to the Gardens-sponsored Adult Forums on March 22 and March 29. On the March 22, Becky Rice from Metro Blooms, the place that sponsors the rain garden classes, other workshops, and boulevard gardens, will be here to talk about rain gardens and how they help control stormwater runoff.

And on the March 29, Nancy Dilts will be here to talk about watershed—you know, that concept that ended up as a line item on your Minneapolis water bill a few years back (called Stormwater Fee), along with the price we pay for having hard, impermeable surfaces (at least in Minneapolis—I don’t know about St. Paul and the suburbs). Nancy will be talking about the pollution problems stormwater runoff cause and about different ways to manage them. Much of what she has to say will be reflected in our subsequent watershed management plans (which will include rain gardens and other stormwater retention plans).

And if you get a chance, the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul has a special exhibit called “Water.” Information about it is available on the bulletin board next to the main elevator or online at www.smm.org. I haven’t been there yet, but it sounds very informative.

—Kathy Knudson

Midwife Kits Needed

Are't Babies Wonderful? Preparing for the birth of a baby should be a happy experience. In some countries, however, the day-to-day burden of providing for a growing family can be overwhelming. What if the baby is ill? How do we keep the baby warm? How do we feed another mouth? When the newborn arrives it may be with the assistance of the local midwife—if there is one in the area, and if the family will accept her assistance. The midwife has the training and knowledge to handle the delivery but often does not have the very basic equipment, such as a clean cloth for the mother to lie on, a suitable instrument to cut the umbilical cord, or a towel to dry and wrap the baby.



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**Global
Health
Ministries**

Gloria Circle is collecting items for **Midwife Kits** that will be assembled and given to Global Health Ministries (GHM) to be sent to developing countries where they are most needed. GHM is a grassroots movement that provides spiritual, financial, and material support to Lutheran health care mission programs throughout the world by locating and shipping urgently needed medical supplies, recruiting health care personnel and funding training of national health caregivers. Our congregation is invited to join Gloria Circle in this project by donating some of the items that are listed below:

One Midwife Kit Contains:

(Please use new or clean items in excellent condition)

- 2 cord ties: 8” narrow lengths of selvage, 1/4” twill tape or heavy white knit/crochet cotton
- 1 razor blade (single-edge, safety-wrapped); may be purchased at a home improvement store
- 1 regular-size bath towel
- 1 36” square muslin or sheeting
- 1 washcloth (thin)
- 1 bath-size bar Ivory soap
- 1 newborn stocking cap (keep hand-knit ones very small. Detailed information on this can be found at <http://www.ghm.org/resources/hands-on/babycap.html>)
- 1 small cotton-blend or flannel shirt (to waist only, as the babies do not wear diapers)
- 1 receiving blanket
- 1 pair plastic or latex gloves (clean, not sterile); NO kitchen gloves

You may bring the items you wish to contribute to the church and place them in the box marked “Midwife Kits,” located in the Library, by **March 15**. If you prefer to give money, please indicate it is for the kits, make the check out to University Lutheran Church of Hope, mark it “Gloria Circle—Kits,” and place it in the offering plate. Gloria Circle members will buy items, assemble the kits, and deliver them to Global Health Ministries. Gloria Circle and the kit recipients thank you!

If you have questions, please contact Leona Reyelts at (612) 378-2444.

A New Beginning

And so it begins, a fresh start at a new year for the leadership of University Lutheran Church of Hope. We celebrate the past year of ministry together as we dream and plan for the year ahead. Clearly, great things are happening at Hope in spite of the many challenges facing our world, nation, and community. The decisions of the recent Annual Meeting, both financial and constitutional, lead us in new directions; yet open questions remain. Let us be mindful of the need to embrace all members as the congregation struggles with these transitions.

The newly elected leaders and staff are busily working to distill our 2009 ministry visions into clear goals that will direct our hearts and give guidance as we seek to live out God's Love in the world. What role will you play? How can your passion and gifts be part of the exciting work that we are about? As Leslie Frost pointed out in the opening of the Annual Meeting, the ties that bind us to this community are varied and they are key to a full congregational life. Consider casting a new line or two!

—Jack Dant,
Congregation President

Highlights from Vision & Governance Board

The Vision & Governance Board of University Lutheran Church of Hope held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on February 10, 2009.

The Board:

- ▶ Welcomed new Vice President Gregg Landmark and new Member-at-Large for Youth and Young Adult Ministries Ann Beane.
 - ▶ Discussed the results of the Annual Meeting.
 - ▶ Approved an adjustment to the Personnel Policy that had been recommended by the Personnel Committee.
 - ▶ Received an update on the status on a lease agreement with Mercy Seat Lutheran Church.
 - ▶ Elected Leslie Frost to represent the Members-at-Large on the Executive Committee.
 - ▶ Set dates in April for the next Board retreat.
 - ▶ Discussed the process for filling the vacant position on the Board for Hope in the World.
 - ▶ Began the discussion of mission objectives for the coming year.
-

Treasurer's Report

I want to thank those who so ably filled in for me at the Annual Meeting, especially Karmi Anna Mattson, while I was gone on a prescheduled trip.

The financial statements for January that are posted on the church's web site need updating. Since, at this writing, the update is not finished, only general comments can be made. General Giving for January does seem to be about \$7,200 under budget, and Rental Income about \$1,000 under budget, for an income shortfall of \$8,200. Expenses were less than budgeted, so net income is a loss about \$2,300 more than the budgeted loss of about \$14,000.

—Mike Fingerson, Treasurer

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: Jack Dant

Vice President: Gregg Landmark

Past President: Bob Moluf

Treasurer: Mike Fingerson

Ministry Areas:

Worship & Music: Uli Koester

Youth & Young Adults: Ann Beane

Education: Dan O'Loughlin

Hope in the World:

Relational Ministries: Leslie Frost

Support Areas:

Operations:

Mike Fingerson;

Bob Moluf

Leadership Development

& Communications:

Jack Dant; Gregg Landmark

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 strongly 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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