

The Visitor

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April 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.*

Shirley's Share

You can't understand or appreciate Easter if you haven't experienced Lent." It seems like I have heard or read this comment more this year than ever before. For religious people, the meaning should be clear. We enter the Lenten season hearing stories of Jesus traveling toward Golgotha with his disciples and how difficult it is for them to understand what he must do and what his life and death are all about. Then we look to our own lives and realize that there are many things about our life journeys that don't make sense and are difficult to understand. The death of a young father in the congregation has left many people asking questions of how and why, questions of faith and life. The long, cold winter has many people depressed and looking for unhealthy ways to deal with the stress. The economic picture certainly seems dark, even if you haven't lost a job or a 401k or retirement investments. And there are always those for whom the Lenten journey is the end of a life journey. The Lenten journey for many of us is real and stark.

But in Christ there is hope. At the end of Lent is the glory of Easter, the joy of the resurrection, the promise of new life even in the face of the disappointments of this life. It is a glorious message, one made more glorious by the fact that we know what life is like, how real and raw it can be. And in Easter we are reminded that we don't walk alone; Christ is there with us, and there are other human beings with us as well. We do not walk alone.

As we celebrate the Easter season that is before us, let me once again remind you of the opportunities to worship and grow in faith.

Palm/Passion Sunday – April 5 – the service begins in the lower Narthex, with procession of palms and a reading of the passion story in place of the sermon. 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday – April 9 – We remember the Last Supper Christ spent with his disciples and his *novum mandatum*—a new commandment. 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday – April 10 – a noon preaching service in the Chapel will remind us of the solemn quality of this day. Jim Hlavka will preach. In the evening, Tenebrae will feature the seven last words of Christ, with hymns and readings. 7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil – April 11 – an evening service full of traditions. It starts in the courtyard with a single fire, a single point of light, and then moves into the dark sanctuary with readings that remind us of God's presence through time. We are reminded of our baptism before we move back to the sanctuary for first dawn and the glorious promise of Easter Morning. Begins at 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Worship – music and preaching. Sight and sound remind us that Christ has risen, indeed. We celebrate this most ancient day of the church together at the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. services, and the youth will be serving Easter Breakfast between worship services.

—Pastor Craig Shirley

Gardens of Hope

For today at least, it looks like spring is actually coming! So far our gardening progress is just in contracting and planning. We have the first part of our grant money from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) in the bank. We now also have our design contract signed with Emmons & Olivier Resources (EOR) for the basic watershed design and plan.

Hopefully, all of you who are interested have been to our Rain Garden and Watershed Forums in March and our Garden Club meeting on March 29. In April we are looking forward to showing you all the initial watershed plans for the church property. That is scheduled for the Adult Forum on April 26. Please come. This will be your chance for an input into what the church landscaping will look like in the future. And not long after that, we will have opportunities for you to get your hands dirty....

—Kathy Knudson



Book Club

Please join us on Sunday, April 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the church Library to discuss this popular book:

The Shack: Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity, by William Paul Young (*New York Times* #1 bestseller).

Mackenzie Allen Philip's youngest daughter, Missy, has been ab-

Easter Memorial Plant Project

If you desire to contribute to a flower fund to have a plant placed in the chancel area for Easter Sunday in memory or in honor of a loved one, please contact

Rosalie Eldevik
1473 Hamline Ave. N
St. Paul, MN 55108
651-644-0287

Donor _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Make checks payable to *Hope Church Friendly Visitors*. You are welcome to contribute whatever amount you desire. The names for memorials will be included in the Easter bulletin. These plants will be delivered to our shut-ins after Easter services.

Easter Plant Distribution

If you can assist in delivering Easter plants to shut-ins after the 11:00 a.m. service on Easter Sunday, April 12, please sign your name and phone number below and leave it in the offering plant or in the church office. Thank you!

—Friendly Visitor Committee

Name _____

Phone _____

ducted during a family vacation, and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later, in the midst of his great sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend.

The Shack wrestles with the timeless question: *Where is God in a*

world so filled with unspeakable pain?

“Reading *The Shack* during a very difficult transition in my life, this story has blown the door wide open to my soul.” —Wynonna Judd, recording artist

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

Lenten Observance

Please join us for **Lenten Worship** at noon and 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1. Soup and bread will be served at 12:45 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

The study of Handel's "Messiah" will be held at 10:45 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1. Listen to the wonderful music from Handel's "Messiah" and discuss with Pastor Shirley the biblical texts used in this classic masterpiece.



Hope Connections Task Force

The 2009 Hope Connections Task Force is planning for another small group focus in the fall, as small group ministry continues to be a priority in the mission objectives of our congregation. The Task Force consists of Sarah Burson, Jen Dotson, Tom Frost, Jan Johnson, Nancy Miller, and Diane Shallue. This Task Force will enjoy a small group experience of conversation, prayer, and Bible study while organizing the fall Hope Connections. Look forward to more information in the future and plan on being "CONNECTED."

—Diane Shallue, Director,
Education and Adult Small-Group Ministries



Senior Club Spring Gathering

The Senior Club of University Lutheran Church of Hope will gather on **Wednesday, April 15** for a luncheon at **12:00 noon** in Fellowship Hall. The program will follow at **1:00 p.m.**, featuring the **Silver Stars**, a performing dance group of seniors from Fridley. Together for more than twelve years, these ladies have given more than 350 performances and entertained thousands with their energetic routines and sparkling costumes. **All seniors and friends are cordially invited to come and celebrate spring with good food, music, dancing, laughter, and friendship!**

Please make reservations for the luncheon by **Thursday, April 9** with your caller or by phoning Pastor Esther Dant at (651) 636-7834. Remember, you are always welcome to attend the program if you are unable to attend the luncheon. If transportation is needed, please contact Leona Reyelts at (612) 378-2444.

Sunday morning Bible Study

Beginning on April 26 will be a No-Prep Bible Study on the joyful letter of Paul to the Philippians, led by Joan Campbell. This study will run for four weeks. Bring yourself and a Bible. Extras will be available. Contact Diane Shallue if you have questions.

Prayer of St. Francis Event – April 19

Everyone is invited to a celebration and service event with a focus on The Prayer of St. Francis on April 19 at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. There will be service projects, a scavenger hunt, and an environmental activity, with fun for all ages. We will follow the example of St. Francis in caring for others and celebrating nature.

Thank You!

Bouquets for Ken Sarkela, who replaced the loose faucets in the main kitchen, and also for Ken Lynes, who has been covering for us when needed on our daily boiler checks. Thanks, gentlemen!

—Craig Wiester, Administrator





Faith Formation News

Adult Forum

- April 5 – Come to hear Stories of Hope from James Flaten and Marjorie Haddad as they share about their faith journeys.
- 12 – Easter -No Forum – Enjoy the Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall.
- 19 – The “Prayer of St. Francis” Prayer Partners Event will begin in Fellowship Hall.
- 26 – Presentation of the Congregational Draft Watershed Plan by Kathy Knudson. The congregation received a planning grant of \$10,000 to examine how the runoff from our building and parking lot impact the environment. Hear more about this planning process.

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 Lord’s Prayer and the Sacraments with instructor Bob Moluf. The eighth graders are studying the Lutheran Heritage with instructor Adam Morton. On April 19, all students will attend the Prayer Partner Event in Fellowship Hall. There will be no Saturday class in April.

Sunday School News

	Godly Play Lesson	Faith Weaver Lesson	Theme for the day
April 5	Jesus the King	People rejoice as Jesus enters Jerusalem. Mark 11:1-11	We can honor Jesus with actions and words.
April 12	EASTER	EASTER	No Sunday School
April 19	Prayer of St. Francis	Prayer of St. Francis	Caring for the poor and the environment.
April 26	The Sower	Jesus appears to his disciples. John 20:19-31	Faith is believing in Jesus even though we can’t see him.

A retreat for sixth graders and friends will be held on April 24 & 25 at Camp St. Croix, south of Hudson, Wisconsin. This is a faith step event for our sixth graders and they will be learning about the Great Commandment (see Mark 12:29-31) and the Great Commission (see Matt. 28:19-20.) Contact Diane Shallue or Megan Koepnick for information.

From the Visitation Pastor

After knocking several times on Anna's door and calling her name, I noticed a woman coming down the hall. "Are you looking for Anna?" she asked. "Yes," I said. "She's moved upstairs to get more help. I'll take you there." I held out my hand and introduced myself. She offered her name, but her hand stayed at her side. We walked to the elevator as she talked of the good friendship she and Anna have found since they both moved there. When the elevator opened, she made two quick turns to the right, looked over at me and said, "I'm blind," and knocked on Anna's door.

We are well into the season of Lent. For Christians there is only one road to travel, and that is the road blazed by Jesus. "I am the Way," he says in John 14:6. But the ways in which we walk, the experiences we have, and the people we meet along the way are amazingly diverse. They are diverse like the stories and histories of this congregation. There is the best friend we didn't even know five years ago—like the one Anna found. Or the best friends who have found support from each other for nearly fifty years in our faithful circles, Dorcas and Gloria. (Those homemade rolls were delicious this morning!)

The signs of staying true to Jesus' walk are in the stories you tell. They bring tears, sometimes from laughing so hard, and sometimes from the painful things I hear. There are many things that say to me (and this is what I pray for everyone who comes to this place), "*All are welcome. There is a place for you.*"

Blessings on your Lenten Journey,

—Pastor Esther Dant

Prayer Partners Update

During Lent, confirmed members of the congregation are praying for children and youth ages birth through grade 8. On Easter, the children and youth will receive a greeting card from their prayer partner.

Family Bowling Event

Families are invited to a bowling event after worship on April 26 at Elsie's, a bowling establishment located at 729 Marshall Street N.E. in Minneapolis, (612) 378-9701. The cost is \$4 per person for bowling, with shoes included. The cost for pizza and pop is \$6 per person. We need a count of how many are attending in order to get the group rate. Please give the registration forms to Diane Shallue on or before Easter, April 12. Cash or checks made out to Elise's are to be brought the day of the event. Please call Tammi Felling with questions, at (651) 636-0702.

People of Hope

Congratulations!

Val Sayre has passed the licensing exam for Marriage and Family Therapy. After the paperwork is done, she will be a licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist.

Linnea Pignatello was awarded a trip to Nashville in March to make a presentation about her service learning experiences to the National Youth Leadership Council Conference. This conference draws approximately 2,700 attendees from across the United States and at least 20 other countries each year. Linnea's presentation was about her participation in the Interfaith Youth Coalition's Day of Service this spring.

At Home and Doing Better

Inga Saari has returned to her home after recuperating at her daughter's home in Osseo from a broken leg.

In Our Prayers

Pastor David Johnson is being treated at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. His doctors are still searching for a diagnosis.

Adventures

Dr. Alden Tetlie is home from a medical service trip to rural indigenous Guatemala with HELPS International. About seventy medical professionals went to Tejula, in the western highlands. Tejula suffered from terror during the civil war in the 1980s and the devastation of a hurricane in 2005.

Do you have information for the People of Hope column? We would love to hear news and concerns about our adult and young adult members. Contact Ruth Fingerson at (651) 633-5316 or Rfingerson@comcast.net.

Upcoming Guest Preachers

Kudos to our last guest preachers—Adam Morton and Loren Halvorson—for clear and challenging messages from the pulpit! The Easter season holds much promise as well:

April 19 — **Glenny Ose**, assistant to the bishop, who wowed us last winter

May 10 — **Nan Knutson**, member of Hope and preacher extraordinaire

May 17 — **J. Donald Rice**, former director of church relations for Concordia–Morehead and father of Rebecca Rice-Tetlie.

You won't want to miss any of these!

—Uli Koester,
for the Preaching Team

Book of Faith Workshops

Two identical workshops to train clergy and lay leaders in the Book of Faith Initiative approach to Bible studies will be held on April 18 at First Lutheran Church in Columbia Heights and on April 25 at Christ the King in Bloomington, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The \$10.00 registration fee includes the cost of materials and lunch. The activities will include a large-group presentation and six workshops. Diane Shallue will be leading the No-Prep Bible Study workshop on April 18, and Marilyn Asp and Nancy Miller will lead the workshop on April 25.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Please contact Diane for information on how to register.

DINKYTOWN USA

Communicating with Non-Members about Hope

A few members have responded to—and several of them have expressed concern about—my invitation in the last issue of *The Visitor* to suggest “an official nickname” for University Lutheran Church of Hope that is shorter than its full legal name. It is clear that some folks thought I was looking for a *new name*. I most certainly am *not* looking for a new name for the congregation. With the words “University,” “Lutheran,” and “Hope” in our name, we already have plenty to work with. Instead, I am seeking an *approved, shorter version* of our name to use in our communications and outreach with non-members.

Among our members, it is common, convenient, and acceptable to call ourselves “Hope” or “Hope Church.” We do this by habit. However, in our paid advertising and other printed communications for outsiders this is *not* acceptable. Why not? To avoid confusion. There are two Lutheran churches in Minneapolis named “Hope Lutheran Church,” plus another one in St. Paul, and there have been known instances when people have arrived at one of those churches looking for a meeting that was actually being held in Dinkytown, at our building.

By avoiding confusion, however, we also make it harder to communicate with outsiders. Internally, we talk easily about programs such as Hope Seniors, Hope Connections, Hope Book Club, Gardens of Hope, and Hope in the World. But externally, when introducing ourselves to people who do not already know our congregation, we need something that clearly distinguishes us from other churches who have the word “Hope” in their names. That “something” has typically been our full, legal name—which can be a bit of a mouthful.

My experience is that, when I mention the full name of our church to non-members, they are not able to repeat it back to me. And the next time the subject comes up in conversation, they typically say, “Now *what* was the name of your church again?” What I then do is tell them we are located “in Dinkytown.” After that, sometimes they will say, “Oh yes, right, I know where that church is.”

Hmmm—*Dinkytown*. What if we included *that* word, along with a short version of our name, in our external communications? Could that help outsiders distinguish this Hope Church from the other Hope churches in the Twin Cities?

Have you tried inviting a friend, neighbor, or acquaintance to visit Hope, in Dinkytown? Has a phrase like that been helpful in your conversations with outsiders? Let me know. And please also send me any other suggestions you may have to help us communicate with non-members. The Communications Task Force would love to hear them!

—Bob Moluf, Chair,
Communications Task Force



Thank You from the Capital Campaign !

Capital Campaign Update

Members of the Capital Campaign Committee met with Jonathan Buuck of The James Company on March 5 to review the current status of the Invitation Hope Campaign and to discuss plans for follow-up through the year 2011. Our contract with The James Company calls for them to provide ongoing guidance to us through this period. Jonathan presented the Committee with specific recommendations for communications and stewardship activities, as well as with numerous printed and electronic resources to help us. June 7 has been identified as the Anniversary Sunday for the campaign, and special events and activities will be planned for that day. With 25% of the three-year campaign period now complete, the congregation has received approximately 30% of the income that was pledged, which means we are tracking according to plan. Current pledges for the campaign stand at \$468,050, with \$156,897 received, including some additional gifts that were not originally pledged.

—Bob Moluf,
Chair, Capital Campaign Committee

Once again, the leaders of the Capital Campaign for University Lutheran Church of Hope would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the members and friends of the congregation who have given—and who continue to give—so generously to our Invitation to Hope campaign. By having an ongoing, three-year cycle of capital campaigns in the way that other congregations typically do,

We are now able to both maintain and improve our physical facilities over time—thanks to you!

Vision & Governance Board Highlights

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

- A schedule for presentation of Ministry Area Updates was discussed and established. Each month, a representative will present an update on the activities, challenges, opportunities, etc. for their ministry area.
- Treasurer Mike Fingerson presented the financial reports. The receipt of a few substantial donations over and above normal pledged giving has put us ahead in revenue.
- Discussion continued on Mission Objectives for 2009. After review of several potential subjects, including improving visitor welcome, small groups, and congregational growth, three objectives emerged. These will be further developed at the Vision and Governance Board Retreat in April:
 - Outreach / Inreach
 - Staffing for Youth Ministry and Young Adult Ministry
 - Addressing Economic Impacts of the Recession
- The board reviewed and discussed feedback received from congregation members regarding moral discourse at University Lutheran Church of Hope and the process leading up to the recent Annual Meeting.
- Jack Dant reported that the congregation has received the first \$2500 of a \$10,000 planning grant from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization. Great thanks goes out to Kathy Knudson and the rest of the Facilities Team for preparing the grant application and coordinating this effort!
- Bob Moluf and Pastor Shirley offered updates on Lutheran Campus Ministry activities, including momentum toward another addition to Grace University Lutheran Church and the continuing financial crisis at LCM-Minnesota.
- Bob Moluf reported on recent activities with the James Company and the Capital Campaign. Giving to-date is approximately on par with pledges to the campaign.
- The Board discussed potential projects for the application of capital funds as well as possible agenda items for future meetings.

—Jack Dant, Congregation President

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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CHURCH OF HOPE
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Treasurer's Report

Similar to last year, we were blessed with two significant contributions that have given us a net income, while still negative, that is \$13,793 ahead of budget. Year to date expenses have been close to budget.

Results for February and Year to Date

	February		Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Over/(under)
General Giving and Holiday	60,191	39,459	91,429	77,894	13,535
Rental and Extraordinary	<u>4,976</u>	<u>5,008</u>	<u>9,246</u>	<u>10,295</u>	<u>-1,049</u>
Total Revenue	65,167	44,467	100,675	88,189	12,486
Total Expenses	51,045	48,732	105,214	106,521	-1,307
Net Income	14,123	-4,264	-4,539	-18,332	

—Mike Fingerson,
Treasurer

President's Perspective

Discipleship, church growth, and other topics were recently discussed by the Vision and Governance Board as it sought to identify our mission objectives for 2009. We are invited to follow Christ in all that we do, here in our congregation and in our homes and at work, but the Board concluded this is not a single objective that can be completed and checked off a list. Similarly, church growth is a worthy and important goal, but it will be achieved as a natural outgrowth of addressing specific mission objectives in the life and programs of our congregation.

The Board determined that the new mission objectives for 2009 will be:

- Outreach / Inreach
- Staffing for Youth Ministry and Ministry to Young Adults
- Addressing Economic Impacts of the Recession

The challenges facing our nation and world will touch all of us – some in large ways and some in more subtle ways. Let us hold in our hearts the example Christ so clearly offered: to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and comfort the suffering. I invite your prayers for how we, individually and as a congregation, will support and address these objectives this year. Let us go forth boldly, with Christ's love as our guide and confidence!

—Jack Dant,
Congregation President