

The Visitor

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

Invitation to Thanks

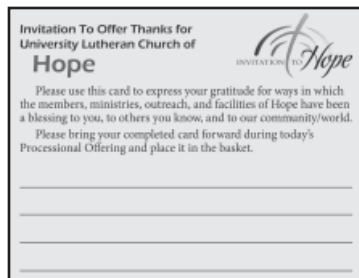
During the Invitation to Hope Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, June 7, we invited those attending worship to participate in a processional offering of thanks. Small cards were provided on which worshipers could express gratitude for ways in which the members, ministries, outreach, and facilities of University Lutheran Church of Hope have been a blessing. After reviewing the completed cards, it seemed that almost all of the anonymous statements were suitable to share in *The Visitor*, and so they are printed below. (A very small number of the statements were considered too personal for publication.)

"Please use this card to express your gratitude for ways in which the members, ministries, outreach, and facilities of Hope have been a blessing to you, to others you know, and to our community/world."

A loving, supportive community. • Blessings to my many fellow parishioners. • Everybody is always so kind, friendly, and inviting. You never leave anyone out. • Family • For a friendly welcome! • I am grateful for friendship and the support of friends • I am grateful for the fellowship of small-group Bible studies and women's retreats that keep me connected with the support of loving souls. • I am thankful to have an inspiring, comforting, and encouraging community in this church. • I give thanks for the personal connections at church that sustain me from week to week. The Thanksgiving meal is a gift to the community. • I offer thanks to God for 80 years of membership in this awesome congregation called Hope! • Thank you for the concern for [name]

that we felt from the whole congregation. • Thank you, Lord, for all the ways your good news has touched the hearts and lives of people in this University community over the years and all the surprises you have in store for us in the future. • Thanks be to God for a community of fellow Christians to share joys and struggles together. For a church that supports going out into the world to share Christ's story and mission. • Thanks for fellow members who challenge and support me. • I am thankful for the spiritual education for kids and for the many teachers my kids have at Hope. • Thanks for the way our church building is cared for and maintained—a home for our congregation and a place for hospitality to others. • We had my parents' anniversary celebration here and it was a wonderful place to gather. • Thank you for the anchorage and for the touchstone that you have been for me. • Thank you for the great children's and youth ministry programs at Hope. It has been wonderful to see them grow in faith, encouraged to wonder and ask good questions about God.

• Thanks for teaching me patience and maturity in the midst of conflict. Thanks for the many opportunities for questioning and doubt. Thanks for being the one place where there are always children in my life. • For the music and joy from the music; for the community of the choir. • Meaningful, involving worship. • Music • Music — Tim, choir • Special thanks to Tim Strand for his continuing ministry of wonderful and worshipful music! • The Music & Arts Camp has been a blessing to this congregation and community. • Blessings to Tim Strand for all the support and love he gives my family. • Diane Shallue



(Invitation to Thanks continued on page 2)

(Invitation to Thanks *continued from page 1*)

you are awesome. Your never-ending ideas in everything you do. Thank you also for your organization of choir camp. I love working with you. Wish I could do it more.

- For Carol Shirley—the support you give to Craig, for your work both visible and invisible around Hope, for your welcoming smile
- Give thanks to Pastor Shirley for sticking with the challenges of Hope.
- Lisa Morse—for her gift of visual art.
- Relationships with friends and staff, especially Diane Shallue.
- Thank God for Pastor Shirley, who has always made my family and me feel welcomed and loved.
- Thank you to Jack Dant for all the work you do for the Youth Group, and we're going to have to plan another winter camping trip!
- Thank you, God, for the fresh air of your Spirit that flows through the church and through the heart and mind of Pastor Shirley.
- Thank you, Pastor Shirley, for helping to strengthen my understanding and faith in Jesus and God.
- Thanks for Diane Shallue for the multitude of jobs she does and how she welcomes so many to our services.
- Thanks to Jeanette Haltli for coffee servers.
- Thanks to Marty Lewis Hunstiger, who helps “behind the scenes” in so many ways.
- Thanks to Megan for ALL she has done for Hope.
- Thanks to our special instrumentalists who enrich our worship services, especially Judy Ranheim who plays so often.
- Thanks to Pastor Shirley for his faithful service.
- Thanks to Rebecca Tetlie and JoAnn Bablitch. I love you guys! Thank you!
- Thanks to the various pastors in our congregation who help in so many ways.
- Thanks to Tim for making me feel truly welcome and helping me become involved in music ministry at Hope.
- Thanks to Tim Strand for his great contribution to music and especially his work with the Children's Choir.
- The gift of wonderful friendship, supportive leadership (Diane

Shallue), and above all, honest faith, have been among my most cherished blessings at Hope.

- Thanks to all the staff at Hope for doing so much with so little in the recession. I am so awed by the services and all the gifts. I hope I can contribute more again soon.
- Thanks for your encouragement through these hard times.
- To all of our outstanding staff and their abilities.
- All those who support Hope's youth.
- Being able to be a banner bearer at Pentecost was very fun!
- Guest preachers and lectors.
- I am thankful for the many opportunities to serve others through Hope's ministries.
- Thank you for the music and the young people who are assuming leadership positions.
- Thank you for the wonderful fellowship of Hope members who assist ISAIAH in its pursuit of peace and justice for all.
- Thanks for the behind-the-scenes, unglamorous work (the Vision & Governance Board, for instance).
- Thanks to all of the wonderful musicians that offer their gifts on Sundays!
- Thanks to all who make Sunday services possible.
- For this place where my son was baptized and I was ordained, and where the gospel is proclaimed.
- I am always inspired by the message and the music and the warmth of this church/congregation when I am in Minneapolis visiting my daughter.
- Thank you for being my daughter's “church home.”
- I enjoy the friendly congregation, interesting forums, sermons, and choirs.
- Thank you for welcoming us into your community and for the many ways you demonstrate your faith.
- I give thanks for the young adults at Hope. They bring vibrant faith and many gifts to this community of faith, and I have been blessed to walk with them.
- My deepest thanks for the support of this congregation during my college years—the many ways that Hope has made the effort to reach out to me and other students.

Facilities

The Garden Group is still looking for people to help on Wednesday evenings, or anytime you are available. There is a very good chance that we will have a new roof on the sanctuary before the end of the month! We are: seeing if the sanctuary steps that have holes in them are under warranty from the repair less than a decade ago; looking into upgrading the sanctuary doors and transom; and getting info on painting the metal blue fascia on the Lounge, Offices, and Education Wing.

—Fred Kreider

Lutheran Links

Here are URLs to a few key Lutheran organizations that should be of interest to members of University Lutheran Church of Hope. Have fun exploring!

www.thelutheran.org

The Lutheran (official magazine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, available for reading online)

www.elca.org

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

www.mpls-synod.org

Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA

www.luthersem.edu

Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota

www.augsburgfortress.org

Publishing House of the ELCA



People of Hope

Who is related to whom? Several Hope people have extended family members who are also members of our congregation. Check them out in your new printed directory:

Tami Felling is the daughter of **Jeanette and Bob Haltli**.

Elizabeth Lincoln and **Mary Lincoln** are sisters.

Carmen Mackoskey is the mom of **Kaye Pearson** and **Jane Wall**.

Sharon and **Greg Peterson** are the parents of **Evan** and grandparents of **Katherine** and **Gregory**.

Arloene Stevens is the mom of **Lori Warne** and grandmother to **Matthew, Stephanie, and Melissa**.

Wayne Westwood is the dad of **Karen**, and grandfather to **Linnea, Lettie, and Mateo Pignatello**.

John Pignatello and **Donna Neste** are first cousins. Their mothers are identical twins.

Congregation President **Jack Dant** and Pastor **Esther Dant** are son and mother.

Verle Rhoades and **Donna Parry** are sisters.

Jayce and **Ariel Parry** are **Donna** and **Jack's** grandchildren.

Bertha Hanson and **Shirley Peterson** are sisters-in-law.

Sandy and **C.J. Robinson** are the parents of **John**, and grandparents of **Suzanna** and **Stella**.

Lillian Lien and **Harold Thompson** are sister and brother.

Have you met **Tim Strand's** delightful father **Ralph**?

Whom have we missed? Let us know.

Iona Spiedel has moved to a new address, which can be found in either Hope's new printed directory or in the electronic version.

Eliot Bieletto has received the high honor of an appointment to The United States Military Academy at West Point. Eliot is the son of **Rodney** and **Sally French's** daughter **Ellen**, and is a nephew of **Arthur French**. Eliot follows Arthur and Rod, who are West Point graduates.

JoAnn Bablitch had surgery to remove an acoustic neuroma on July 16. She expects an eight-week recovery. She also received radiation treatment for this tumor in 2004 and 2008. The Bablitchs are grateful for the support, love, and prayers from their Hope family.

From **John Lauber**:

Elizabeth, Sarah, Hannah and I will be heading to Germany to visit Saskia [an AFS student], who stayed with us from August 2007 through June 2008. We

will begin our visit in Frankfurt, Saskia's hometown, where we look forward to meeting her family. We have been corresponding with her family via Skype for more than a year, and are eager to meet them in person. We have been invited to stay with them for a few days, and look forward to learning more about Saskia's everyday life in Germany. Saskia will then join us for about a week as we visit the Munich and Salzburg areas. We may also try to meet up with friends from here who now live near Innsbrück. Then back to Minneapolis on 10 August.

A word about our experience, which will be echoed by the Bablitch family: Saskia, and Francisco from Argentina (who spent half a year with the Bablitchs), were both participants in an international exchange program sponsored by the American Field Service (AFS). We became interested in hosting an exchange student in part due to my own family's experience as hosts to a Brazilian student in 1975-1976. During our year together, we became very close, and truly felt that our family had expanded by one. We have remained in contact with our Brazilian student for more than thirty years. Both my mother and I have visited her in Brazil, and she has been to the U.S. with her daughters many times. We had a similar experience with Saskia. Once we got over our initial shyness and let her become a full participant in our noisy and disorganized everyday life, we became very close. We visited Holden Village, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. together, spent some time at a cabin on the North Shore, and just generally enjoyed having another sister/daughter as part of our family.

AFS is always looking for families interested in hosting students, and this year the need is especially acute. Students are scheduled to arrive in about a month, and only three of about a dozen students have been placed with host families. I would encourage anyone at Hope who might be interested in hosting to talk to us or to the Bablitchs. We'd be happy to share our experience with them, and would be happy to put them in touch with the folks at AFS.

New Members of University Lutheran Church of Hope

Caroline Cornelius • Gordy Greenwaldt • Mary Greenwaldt • David Hermanson • Kelli Johnson • Justin Kopetsky • Kathryn Lagus • Todd Lagus • Katie Lampi • Sarah Osterman • Caryn Pernu • Megan Quinn • Elise Sanders • Aaron Scheel • Arnd Scheel • Ralph Strand

—Ruth Fingerson



Book Club

Please join us on **Sunday, August 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hope Library** to discuss this popular book:

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri.

“The first novel from the Pulitzer-winning author, about a second-generation Indian-American immigrant who begins to feel the strong pull of his heritage and destiny.”

Due to some scheduling conflicts, we had to change the date for our Yearly Waterville Getaway to September 13. Please plan to join us after church on September 13 in Waterville, Minnesota (60 minutes south of Minneapolis) for a beautiful bike ride on the Sakatah Singing Hills State Trail, a picnic, and a discussion of *Report to Greco*, by Nikos Kazantzakis, author of *Zorba the Greek* and *The Last Temptation of Christ*.

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

Shirley's Share

As often as twice a month, we have someone stop in the office to talk with Administrator Craig Wiester about missing shingles on the roof of the sanctuary. If you walk behind UTech (the old Marshall High School) and look at the slope of the roof, you will see missing shingles and shingles of different colors where patches have been made.

Well, there is good news! We will soon be replacing that roof with a new, 40-year edition. And there is even better news. Since there is damage from storms and hail, the large cost will be paid for by insurance. And to think that some of our forbearers didn't think that churches needed insurance! (This of course is how Thrivent Financial got its start so many years ago).

We also have completed the goal of upgrading the sanctuary sound system, and many of you have commented on how much improved it is. (I feel like a rock star with the new microphone). It is great, and very versatile, and should last for many years as well, since it is completely digital.

Also, we have a number of good applicants for the part-time youth position that we would like to have filled by fall. We want to move away from the two-year cycle of students from the seminary and establish someone more long-term in that position.

All that having been said (or written), I must return to a theme that is not nearly as exciting, but is still necessary to be addressed—and that is money. These repairs and replacements and staff changes are all a result of your generous support of this congregation. And in this time of economic meltdown, your giving has continued to be tremendous.

But the summer doldrums seem to be setting in. Or maybe we are seeing the effects of changing household incomes. Whatever the reason, envelope giving is behind, and so is the electronic giving (Simply Giving). We are still meeting our bills because expenses are less in the summertime, but looking ahead at the fall, we could find ourselves in a financial pinch come September or October.

Even as I say “Thank you, thank you, thank you” for your generous support of this congregation, I would like you to review the financial statement you received at the beginning of July. Are you keeping up? Are there ways you can help the deficit situation that lies ahead by getting current on your pledge or by a special gift now? Is your gift to the Invitation to Hope capital campaign—which paid for the updated sound system—up-to-date? Would you like to make a gift to that capital campaign? Contact the church office if you have questions, and enjoy this second half of this short and wonderful season of summer! Pax

—Pastor Craig Shirley

Plymouth Christian Youth Center News

University Lutheran Church of Hope is one of the corporate churches involved in the Plymouth Youth Center, which began in 1954. Millie Holmgren and Gretchen Peik are the representatives from this congregation to that ministry. Each year in December they collect gifts and money for the PCYC.

The Plymouth Christian Youth Center is located in north Minneapolis and works with children grades K-12, providing after-school enrichment, an alternative high school, a new Arts & Technology High School, and the Capri Children's Theater Arts program. They also organize the Rocking Readers, who are adult volunteers who introduce children to the joys of reading. See www.pcy-cmpls.org/ for more information about this organization.

Hope Connections!



Hope Connections is back this fall! Enjoy meeting and connecting with other people from University Lutheran Church of Hope in a small group setting. More than just a Bible study, Hope Connections will include scripture reading, conversations, a service opportunity, and just plain fun. Look for sign-up tables on Sundays in September. Groups will meet 5-6 times in the fall. Our kick-off is October 4, so mark this date on your calendar! If you're interested in leading a small group, you may call Diane Shallue at (612) 331-5988, ext. 19.

B-5 Parent's Picnic



On August 29, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., the **Birth to Five Parents' Group** will have a picnic at Van Cleve Park, on the corner of 15th Avenue S.E. and Como Avenue, just north of the church. The picnic will be held at the church building if it rains. Bring a dish to share, beverages, and meat to grill. Paper products and a grill will be provided. There is a wading pool and a playground for small children. Visitors and guests are always welcome. Please let Diane Shallue know if you can attend at dianes@ulch.org

Sunday School teachers needed: Sunday School for children ages 2 - grade 6 will resume on September 13. The following teachers are still needed: a co-teacher for grade 3; two co-teachers for grade 6; and co-teachers for the two-year old class. Most teachers are responsible for planning the lessons every other week. Contact Diane Shallue to volunteer or with questions, at (612) 331-5988, ext. 19, or dianes@ulch.org

The Book of Faith Jubilee is coming to Luther Seminary on August 14-16. You can still register. Through inspiring keynote speakers, practical and dynamic workshops, and conversational dinners, this three-day event provides skills, resources, contacts, and encouragement to read the Bible. Contact Diane Shallue with questions or see the web site at www.luthersem.edu/jubilee



You can still register for the Music and Arts Camp. It is for children who are entering grade 2 through grade 9. Dates are August 23-26, with evening classes. Puppetry will be the art offering again this summer, with instructors from *In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre Company*. Friends and neighbors are always welcome. Registration forms with more details can be found on the church website or in the Library.



Adult Summer Discussion: On August 2, come to watch the DVD about **Evil and the Justice of God** from 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. in Heritage Hall. Coffee, tea, and donuts will be provided. Childcare with movies and games will be provided for children of all ages in the nursery and in room 203. This DVD was filmed on location in South Africa and Iraq.

Meals on Wheels: Volunteers Needed

Every month more than 600 meals are delivered to Southeast seniors and disabled persons by community neighbors, volunteers, and the Southeast area churches. University Lutheran Church of Hope has been a part of this since the beginning. Every 7th week, volunteers from Hope deliver meals to the various Southeast neighborhoods.

To accomplish this commitment of service we need more volunteers: people willing to give their time over the lunch hour (approximately one to two hours), one day a week, 7 times or so a year. If this is a possibility for you, please call Karen Caplow at (612) 378-2212.

From the Visitation Pastor

Carla's Rose

Carla Johnson's funeral service was on July 1. The lovely pink rose I brought home from the family was fresh for some time. *That liveliness of Carla*, I thought. There was a beauty that came through as she had lived with the many limits of life in a wheelchair since the age of 5. The world came to her through her computer, and off she went to events. "Police" concert tickets were found. That was this spring. She never missed the State Fair, I told the congregation.

But I look at the rose now and see changes. It has dried and petals have changed in color and texture. There's a papery thin, but still very soft quality. The delicious pink has turned to fragile, beautiful colors, hard-to-describe colors—faded mauve, peach, and creamy yellow shades. The petals remind me of the beautiful people in our congregation. They are gifts each time I visit. Their bodies are more fragile now, but there is beauty in their faces and their thoughts and even their sharing of their losses. I'm struck by how many have had to say goodbye to their own children. That is said to be the deepest loss we can experience here on earth. I visited Edna Mickelsen for the first time. The picture on her bedroom chest shows three children and a husband gone now, and two who are still living. "You don't want to hear all this. This isn't why you came," she said.

"It's exactly why I came," I said.

God's peace be with you all,
—Pastor Esther Dant

Addressing Impacts of the Economic Crisis

Lecture/Discussion Series To Be Developed

Volunteers from University Lutheran Church of Hope are being sought to help develop a new series of lectures/discussions akin to the Hope Forum of a few years ago. We would like this current series to focus on one of the Vision & Governance Board's mission objectives for this year, which is to provide resources and information to people in the congregation who are feeling the effects of the current economic crisis. The goal is to get this off the ground this Fall.

Anyone who is interested in helping organize such a forum, or anyone who has ideas of specific topics or speakers, is asked to contact Dan O'Loughlin at danieljoloughlin@gmail.com or (612) 721-4286.

Virtual Resource Center To Be Created

In response to the current economic crisis, the Vision & Governance Board recently decided to create "Hope Exchange"—a virtual resource center that will become part of the church's website and which will be both a directory of existing resources that are available to those who are being impacted and possibly also a source of additional guidance. In my role as chair of the Communications Task Force, I had already volunteered to coordinate the initial efforts to create Hope Exchange. Then, in mid-June, I became one of the possible beneficiaries of this initiative, after my job at Medtronic was eliminated during a corporate restructuring.

I am now seeking three types of input from members related to the Hope Exchange effort:

1. If you, like me, have been directly impacted by the economic downturn, I would like to get your input on the kinds of resources you think would be most useful.
2. If you are aware of existing resources (whether web-based or not) that could be helpful to people who have been affected, I would appreciate receiving your suggestions.
3. Finally, if you would be interested in helping design Hope Exchange (organizing the content and/or creating web pages that will integrate into Hope's existing website), please contact me.

I can be contacted at pastpresident@ulch.org or at (763) 360-3315.

—Bob Moluf, Congregation Past-President

Gardens of Hope

Watershed plans are being developed by Emmons & Olivier Resources. Initial plans are available for your viewing on the bulletin board by the elevator and online. Don't expect to see the final plans until September.

Wednesday Weeding is continuing. Either Mahdu or I or both are usually there. Although I know other people are busy and some others are there to do things at other times, Mahdu and I are getting to know each other awfully well and we'd like to get to know other gardeners well, too. Please join us if you can. There is always something to do.

In addition, we have had help from the youth via their fundraising project. Marty Lewis-Hunstiger had three youth and an adult (Amy Kreider, Fred Kreider, Nicoletta Pignatello, and the other Fred Kreider) help her move a lot of excess dirt and weeds from the north end of the west fence line so she could plant a new garden there (a **big** improvement, Marty). Julie Paschke hired three more youth and an adult to do whatever needed doing, so they (Elliott Beane, Christian Hustad, Ben Hartmann, and Doug Hartmann) pruned the huge lilac by the front steps and the spirea bushes on the south side, plus they removed the big weeds from our dumping island in the parking lot.

Don't forget, that island will eventually be removed, so if anyone wants any rocks or fill dirt from it, please feel free to take them anytime.

We have another garden inside the Lounge. I was just given a couple of new plants for the Lounge by a friend who needed to move them out of her house, as they are toxic to her cat. This jumpstarts a change I want to make there, as we have too many of the same type of plants in the Lounge and, frankly, they are boring. I will be posting some of those old plants as being "up for adoption"—meaning, someone please take them away. Also, if anyone has large, attractive plants that are outgrowing your home but might look attractive in the Lounge, please let me know and we'll see if we can make it happen.

From the Gardens,

—Kathy Knudson

Treasurer's Report

Operations

Total Income for June was \$37,346 compared with expenses of \$38,836 leaving a net income for the month of -\$1,215. This result is close to budget, where the net income was projected to be -\$1,316. While income was down \$5,711 compared with budget, expenses were down \$5,812 compared to budget.

For the year, with a net income of -\$9,431 we are still well ahead of the projected loss of -\$18,124 for the end of June. The projections are, of course, counting on the usual end of year jump in December income.

A summary of actual numbers for June and year to date are as follows:

	June		Year to Date		Over/(under)
	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	
General Giving and Holiday	37,346	37,901	239,291	240,616	(1,325)
Rental and Extraordinary	5,274	5,431	31,126	30,378	745
Total Revenue	37,620	43,332	270,417	270,994	(577)
Total Expenses	38,836	44,647	279,848	289,118	(9,270)
Net Income	(1,215)	(1,316)	(9,431)	(18,124)	8,693

Invitation to Hope

We have just completed our first year of the three-year Invitation to Hope capital campaign. I am pleased to announce that contributions received are at \$191,825, or about 39% of our total to-date commitment of \$474,067. While the total commitment is a little under the ambitious goal of \$500,000, the program is still a remarkable achievement and we certainly appreciate the support it has received.

—Mike Fingerson, Treasurer

President's Perspective

Do we really need another Ministry Team? **YES!** This was the resounding response from the Vision & Governance Board. We have a lively, ambitious, and highly effective Small Group Task Force which has done great things to develop and promote the Hope Connections small group ministry; however, there is much more to be done.

Small Groups, in their many varied forms, offer great opportunities for all members to engage in our community. These groups offer opportunities for spiritual growth, socialization, exercise, leadership development, networking, etc. They enable us to learn more about those with whom we worship and serve, and often end up teaching us about ourselves as well.

And so the Small Group Ministry Team has been created. This team will:

- Track, coordinate, and publicize small group activities;
- Develop implementation plans for a small group ministry strategy;
- Develop communications strategies for small group activities;
- Oversee and/or conduct the implementation of these strategies; and
- Cultivate new small group opportunities as a potential growth mechanism for the congregation.

Are you interested in being a part of this team? If so, please contact Diane Shallue or Jack Dant. Small groups can be a very satisfying component of a full faith life—won't you consider how you will be involved?

—Jack Dant, Congregation President

Vision & Governance Board Highlights

The Vision & Governance Board of University Lutheran Church of Hope held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on July 14, 2009.

- Treasurer Mike Fingerson presented the June financial reports, noting that, while general giving is below budget, expenses also came in less than budgeted, resulting in a nearly balanced month. Next month's meeting will involve a more detailed evaluation of our financial status.
- Bob Moluf is forming an Information Kiosk Task Force. See his article about this on the facing page, and please contact him if you would like to be involved.
- The Pease Academy lease is up for renewal; Mike Fingerson is working to update the lease.
- Pastor Shirley reports that the sound system upgrades are complete and that the new system is getting positive reviews.
- The Vision & Governance Board gave the go-ahead for re-roofing the sanctuary. The cost of this project is fully covered by an insurance settlement received for roof damage.
- Dan O'Loughlin gave an update on the Education Ministry Area. He pointed out the many good things going on in the education of youth and adults and proposed the development of a new lecture/discussion series that would be akin to the Hope Forum program of a few years ago. He suggested coordinating speakers to address economic issues and/or promoting discussions about real change in our society. Dan has committed to working on further development of this program in the coming months. (See the article on p. 6 of this issue of *The Visitor*.)
- Jack presented a description of a Small Group Ministry Team that he and Diane Shallue have proposed. The Board approved the proposed Ministry Team charter and the formation of this Ministry Team.
- Announcements for the half-time Youth Director position have been placed in several locations, and four applications have been received to date. An interview team has been established, consisting of staff and several Dream Team members, including high school youth.
- Bob Moluf and Jack continue to work on development of Hope Exchange, a resource for those adversely affected by the economic downturn. (See the article on p. 6 of this issue of *The Visitor*.)

—Jack Dant, Congregation President

Task Force To Create a Central Information Kiosk

If you were a first-time Sunday-morning visitor to University Lutheran Church of Hope, where would you look in our building for some basic information about the church? Our greeters and ushers will very likely provide you with a warm welcome and put a service bulletin in your hand, but there is currently no single and obvious place where a visitor can browse information about our congregation and its programs. Often we set up one or more information tables in the main hallway for volunteer sign-ups and other purposes. As important as these tables are to us as a way of getting things done, by putting them in that location we tend to block the passageway to the Courtyard. (And the sight of sign-up tables facing them may also encourage some of our visitors to hurry along more quickly than we would like!)

For several years, the Vision & Governance Board has been discussing how to make our information-sharing and volunteer sign-up process less consuming of floor space, as well as how to give Sunday visitors a central location for obtaining additional information about the church. This year, these concerns have been amplified by two of the mission objectives set by the Board: our continuing focus on Small Group Ministry and our new initiative to create Hope Exchange (see the article on p. 6 of this issue of *The Visitor*). Each of these mission objectives could benefit from some kind of central information point, or kiosk. Because of the assistance that such a kiosk could provide in achieving our current mission objectives, and because of the availability of capital campaign funding for some smaller projects, the Board has decided that the time is right to create a central location for information.

Here are responses to a few basic questions Hope members may have about the planned information kiosk:

Q: *What would the information kiosk include?*

A: Detailed requirements have not yet been developed, but there will need to be some kind of a counter, behind which one or two people could stand or sit as they interact with others passing by. Some additional overhead lighting may be helpful. The counter itself will probably need to have storage built into it for extra printed materials. Since the kiosk will likely be staffed only on Sunday mornings, it may also be desirable to have a small (but well-secured) computer monitor that could display information such as which groups are meeting in which rooms that day.

Q: *Where would the kiosk be located?*

A: The two locations most often discussed are both in the main hallway area near the Lounge, where information and sign-up tables are now usually placed. If the kiosk were to have a relatively small and somewhat curved counter, it could be placed either in the corner, to the right of the double-doors that enter the Courtyard from the hallway, or else against the wall that is directly across the hallway from the elevator. Another option might be to have both a “self-service” kiosk in the corner location and a staffed kiosk across from the elevator.

Q: *What would the kiosk look like?*

A: A Task Force is now being formed to gather requirements and look at design options. There are a number of companies, including some local ones, that specialize in building these kinds of kiosks for churches and other organizations. The cost of custom-made units is relatively modest.

Q: *How much will it cost, and how will we pay for it?*

A: The Vision & Governance Board has authorized up to \$5000 to be spent on this project, and cost estimates will be prepared based on what the specific requirements are determined to be. The kiosk should be modest, attractive, and appropriate to the space. The necessary funds have already been received as part of the small projects budget for the Invitation to Hope capital campaign. (The small projects budget was also the source of the recent upgrade to the sanctuary sound system.)

Q: *How can I provide input and feedback on this plan?*

A: Please contact Bob Moluf at pastpresident@ulch.org or (763) 360-3315. Bob is organizing the Task Force. We welcome your input and feedback. Please also let us know if you would be willing to participate in the planning process for the kiosk, either as a member of the Information Kiosk Task Force or as an advisor to it. Once the detailed requirements and preliminary designs have been drafted, there will be a Sunday morning presentation and discussion of them for anyone who is interested—before any final decisions are made.

**Join Us for an
Old-Fashioned Summer Sunday!
August 9, 2009**

*Do you love those classic Lutheran hymns?
Remember those great church potlucks of days gone by?
Does a Jell-O contest sound like fun to you?*

Come join us for worship. Then hang around for a good old-fashioned hymn sing and a game of croquet or badminton, followed by a scrumptious potluck.

Remember those “hymn favorites” you suggested we sing over the summer? There were more suggestions than could be incorporated into our summer worship, so we’ll enjoy them in a brief Hymn Fest comprised of worshipers’ favorites. All of this will be followed by a good old-fashioned potluck dinner in the Lower Fellowship Hall. Will the famous church basement aprons be worn? Come on August 9 to find out.

Please bring a dish to share from your favorite church cookbook or Grandma’s recipe box.

- A-K Bring a main dish
- L-U Bring a salad
- V-Z Bring a dessert

The Worship Planning Team will offer ice cream sundaes to cool everyone off!

Join in the Jell-O contest! Special prizes will be awarded for the following categories:
♦ Church Basement Classic ♦ Molded Jell-O ♦ Most Colorful ♦ Kids Division

Please bring your entries to the church basement for judging between 9:30-10:00 a.m. with the information listed below. (These slips will be available on the morning of the judging, too.) Tim will be warming up for his famous rendition of Lime Jell-O Marshmallow Cottage Cheese Surprise.

- 10:00 Worship Service
- 11:00 Hymn fest in Sanctuary
Croquet in Courtyard, badminton on front lawn
Jell-O contest winners on display
- 11:30 Potluck begins 12:00 Jell-O Winners Announced

Jell-O Contest Entry Form

Name of Jell-O Maker: _____

Name of Jell-O Dish: _____

Entry Category

- Church Basement Classic Molded Jell-O Most Colorful Kids Division
(0-18 yrs)

Comments: _____

Staff

Pastors:

Craig Shirley; Esther Dant

Cantor:

Timothy Strand

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

Youth Director:

*Young Adult Ministries
Coordinator:*

Administrator:

Craig Wiester

Weekend Custodian:

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*Working in partnership with
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& Communications:**

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The Visitor

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