

The Visitor

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October 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

I want to let the congregation know about three things that are happening this fall—all of which are regular parts of the schedule, but items to be mentioned all the same.

First, we will begin Tuesday morning Bible study on Tuesday, October 13 and will meet for six weeks, until November 17 at 10:00 a.m. We will use materials from the “Together in Faith Series,” which is part of the ELCA Book of Faith initiative. The subject will be the New Testament book of Ephesians. There will be a cost for materials. I know that 10:00 a.m. on a workday does not work for many our members who are not retired, so I would like to offer this study again—upon request. Do you have a time, or a place, at church or outside the church, that you would support? If I can make it work in my schedule, I will lead the study wherever we can organize it.

Second, the fall season at University Lutheran Church of Hope means confirmation. Ninth-grade students will be confirmed on Sunday, October 25,

at the 10:30 a.m. service. That means that those same students will present their statements of faith at the services on Sunday, October 18. Plan to attend and support our students as they reach this important stepping-stone of their faith journey.

Third on my list is the fall stewardship pledge campaign. Support has been so strong for both the general budget of the congregation as well as the

Invitation to Hope Capital Campaign that I must first say *thank you so much*. This fall, I would like to present this goal to the congregation: *that every member of Hope make some sort of pledge to the work of the church*. Every member.

For some, this may be a pledge of time rather than resources, and that is just fine. But for most of us, it is possible to make a monetary pledge, and this is the year we would like to hear from all of you! Pledge Sunday (called Commitment Sunday this year) is November 8. Please put it on your calendar and plan to attend! Pax

—Pastor Craig Shirley

*“I would like to present this goal
to the congregation: that every member
make some sort of pledge
to the work of the church.”*

Thank You

Thanks to everyone who has given us support during this time of pre-surgery, surgery, and now healing. Your prayers, cards, and phone calls have been greatly appreciated.

—Bernice Davenport

Thank you for the prayers, cards, and phone calls following my surgery. They were greatly appreciated.

—Arloene Stevens

People of Hope

Eric Sayre composed an a capella choral work, “In Paradisium,” while working through his grief and healing after his father’s untimely death. Magnum Chorum will include it in their All Saints Day concert on November 1, at 3:00 p.m. at the Cathedral Church of St. Mark in Minneapolis:

<http://www.magnumchorum.org/2009-10requiem.html>

—Ruth Fingerson

The Search Is On!

A search committee has commenced the process of hiring a new Minister of Worship and Music. We plan to interview in November and have a permanent replacement for Tim on board early in 2010. The members of our committee are: Kelli Johnson, Uli Koester (chair), Karmi Anna Mattson, Solveig Mebust, Lisa Morse, Mark Nelson, Judy Ranheim, and Pastor Craig Shirley.

Worship and Music in Transition!

Bill Beckstrand will be making a brief return appearance! Bill will be our interim Minister of Worship and Music between late October and the end of December. He will be responsible for worship planning and all choirs. For the first three Sundays in early October, before he arrives, Bradley Althoff will serve as organist, and we will have substitutes to lead the choirs. There will be exciting new opportunities for our youth musicians during these transition times. Stay tuned!

Book Club

The University Lutheran Church of Hope Book Club was fascinated last month by *Report to Greco*, by Nikos Kazantzakis. The book was so detailed (and so long) that we decided to discuss it in October as well. Thus, on Sunday, October 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge, we will meet to discuss from Chapter 20 (“Jerusalem”) to the end of this book by the author of *Zorba the Greek* and *The Last Temptation of Christ*.

From an Amazon.com review:

“Report to Greco is not an autobiography... [rather, it is] the story of one man’s lifelong search for his own raison d’etre....His quest led him first to the Christian Saints and Christ; then to his teacher, the French philosopher Henri Bergson; then to the philosophic teachings of Nietzsche; then to Buddha and Lenin; and finally to the Odysseus within himself.”

So come join us for some light (discussion on Christ, Nietzsche, Buddha, Lenin, and Odysseus!)

On November 8 we turn our attention toward Thanksgiving and discuss “Faiths of our Founders: What America’s Founders Really Believed,” by Alf J. Mapp. (It’s not a big tome!)

Please call Sonja Peterson at (612) 242-8711 if you have questions, or if you have suggestions for books for us to read.

Kids Quiet Bags

For the past few years I’ve been cleaning and stocking the Kids Quiet Bags used during our services. (I figured my daughter had destroyed that many of them during her toddler years!)

I was wondering if anyone else would be willing to take over this task. It’s a great project for you to do with your kids. The bags only need to be cleaned and refilled 3 to 4 times a year, at most (for Christmas, Easter, summer, and fall). I have plenty of supplies to share with you and ideas for what to use to stock the bags. I’ll bet some of you have great new ideas on how to keep our little ones interested during our services.

Please call me at (612) 789-0397 if you can take on this responsibility.

Thank you!

—Sonja Peterson

Senior Club Travelogue

All seniors, retirees, and friends are invited to an armchair trip to Antarctica on **Wednesday, October 21 at 1:00 p.m.** in Heritage Hall. Our fellow University Lutheran Church of Hope members, the intrepid and dauntless world travelers Mike and Ruth Fingerson, will present the program, "Adventures in the Antarctic." They traveled to the Antarctic Peninsula last January by ship. Ruth reports that the diversity of life on the "frozen continent" was amazing. They will bring photos and talk about their adventures and about explorers, whaling, and animals. **The transportation is free and the tour guides are great, so plan to come for your adventure in the Antarctic!**

A luncheon will precede the program at **12:00 noon** in Fellowship Hall. Reservations should be made by **Thursday, October 15** with your caller or by phoning Pastor Esther Dant at (651) 636-7834. **A warm welcome to all!**

Funeral Helps Brochure Available

When death occurs and a family has many plans to make, please know that your congregation is ready to support you and serve you. A brochure has been prepared to assist in planning a funeral reception at the church, and will be given to the family by the officiating pastor (copies are also available in the Library.)

Our congregation offers the following:

- ▶ Set-up, serving, and clean-up for the reception in Fellowship Hall or the Lounge
- ▶ A buffet table, lace-covered tables seating 8-10, and a table and easels for pictures
- ▶ Napkins, silk flowers, dishes, silverware, etc.
- ▶ Coffee and lemonade
- ▶ Cakes for dessert
- ▶ Help with arrangements if a meal is desired

A person from the Funeral Reception Committee will plan and work with the family to make sure concerns and wishes regarding the reception are addressed and met. Members of the committee are:

Leona Reyelts, (612) 378-2444

Jan Hrnecir, (763) 789-3255

Arloene Stevens (612) 789-2176

Pauline Hendrickson, (612) 378-9694

Assistance is needed to carry out this important ministry to grieving families. If you are able to help, please complete the form below and return it to the church (Craig Wiester's office), or give it to one of the committee members listed above. Your participation will be much appreciated!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

I would be able to:

Provide a cake with 24-48 hours notice

Participate in **Set-up** (*indicate those that apply*)

Daytime funerals Weekend funerals Evening funerals

Participate in **Clean-up** (*indicate those that apply*)

Daytime funerals Weekend funerals Evening funerals

Serve (*indicate those that apply*)

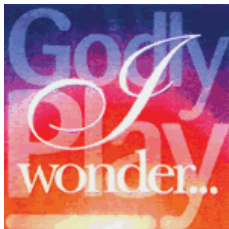
Daytime funerals Weekend funerals Evening funerals



Faith Formation News

Sunday School

Urgent need: Several people who are willing to take turns being a personal Sunday School helper for a six-year-old boy with special needs, from 9:30 - 10:20 a.m. on Sunday mornings. He needs someone to sit with him, to keep him in the room, and to help him stay on task. A male is preferred, but any adult age 16 or older would be helpful. Contact Diane Shallue to volunteer.



October 4 Godly Play

- Joseph: One Big Family
- Faith Weavers: God gives the Ten Commandments (Part 1)

Theme for the day: We honor God by obeying God

October 11 Godly Play

- The Birth of Moses
- Faith Weavers: Ten Commandments (Part 2)

Theme for the day: God tells us how to respect others

October 18 Godly Play

- Exodus
- Faith Weavers: The Israelites worship a golden calf.

Theme of the day: Only God deserves our worship

October 25 Godly Play

- The Ten Best Ways of Life: Love God.
- Faith Weavers: Israelites build the Tabernacle

Theme of the day: We all can serve God

Confirmation

Grade 7 meets with Bob Moluf in room 101 to focus on the Bible.

Grade 8 meets with Adam Morton in room 107 to focus on the Small Catechism.

Grade 9 meets with Pastor Shirley in the Conference Room on October 4 & 11. Ninth-grade students will present their statements of faith during worship on October 18 and will be confirmed in their faith on October 25.

High School Discussion for students in grades 9-12 will be held in the Youth Room with Jack Dant, Jen Dotson, and Matt Fleming.

Adult Forums

October 4 – University Lutheran Church of Hope Connections kickoff in Fellowship Hall

October 11 – “Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality—A Place for You”

Established in 1994, Wisdom Ways is a ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. It is a place for theological inquiry, exploring mystery and the spiritual dimensions of contemporary life, and developing a spiritual practice and a space for quiet and reflection. Pastor Barbara Lund, director of Wisdom Ways, will lead our discussion. Prior to returning to the Twin Cities in August 2008 to become the director, Barbara served with the ELCA Global Mission staff in the following positions: director of Asia/Pacific, director of Global Mission Events, and pastor at Tokyo Union Church in Tokyo, Japan.

October 18 – There will be no adult forum. Enjoy the Confirmation Reception in the Lounge.



Hope Connections!

Hope Connections groups will begin on October 4, with the kickoff meeting in Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. More than just a Bible study, Hope Connections will include scripture reading, conversations, a service opportunity, and just plain fun. This is for members, nonmembers, and visitors. If you are interested in being part of a small group during October and November, please call Diane Shallue at (612) 331-5988, ext 19.

Sunday Morning Discussion for Parents

Ruth Phelps, an early childhood educator, will guide a series of Sunday morning discussions about topics such as finding child care, potty training, feeding of children, etc. Diane Shallue will guide several sessions about spiritual nurture of children on October 18 and November 1. On October 4 & 11 this group will meet in room 104. On other Sundays the group will meet in the Conference Room. On October 4 the topic will be “Encouragement”—guiding children’s skill development in positive and respectful ways. Come to learn some helpful tips and share your experience with other parents.

Church Library News

When was the last time you visited our church’s Library? Come in to check out these recent additions:

Fiction: *The Saving Graces*, by Patricia Gaffney. In this book “the love, loyalty and courage of four women are put to the ultimate test.”

Christian Life: *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith*, by Anne Lamott. Refreshingly honest and funny, this book contains wise descriptions of her everyday experiences with her old friends, parents, child, church people, and others. It includes her own struggle with alcoholism and drugs and the way in which faith, forgiveness, and grace came into her life.

Social Issues: *Just Policing, Not War: An Alternative Response to World Violence*, edited by Gerald W. Schlabach. This is a collection of essays written by Roman Catholic and Mennonite scholars seeking a model for international conflict that differs from traditional warfare. “We must acknowledge the essential defect in the just war tradition, which is the assumption that violence can somehow achieve justice. And we must with equal courage acknowledge the essential defect in pacifism, which is the assumption that justice can somehow be achieved simply by opposing violence.”

New Supply of Notes Now Available in the Care Notes Stand

Our Care Note Stand has a new supply of notes. There are many new titles for the care we need in our lives. Some of the twelve new titles are:

- ▶ *Feeling Overwhelmed by Money Problems*
- ▶ *Dealing With Anger*
- ▶ *Why Do I Feel So Empty?*
- ▶ *Grieving in Your Own Way*
- ▶ *How Forgiveness Can Heal Our Lives*

The stand is in the hall between the Lounge and the Sanctuary. The notes are a gift to you.

Service Opportunities in China for 2010

Start planning now! China Service Ventures (CSV), a Lutheran 501 (c) 3 non-profit working in China, offers great opportunities for adults and youth to serve.

Volunteer teachers are needed to train Chinese English Teachers in a short-term, intensive ESL 3-week course. The cost for this service opportunity is \$1,300, not including airfare and a visa for China.

The dates are July 4 to August 2, with possible added trips to Xi’an and Tibet. For more information call (877) 408-7056 or email steverayCSV@aol.com

President's Perspective

Transitions are everywhere! New teachers, a transitioning staff, saying goodbye to dear friends, and welcoming new. Our lives are full of change, seemingly all the more so during this time of year. You've heard it before—change can be stressful and unsettling, but it can also kick new life into an organization or an individual.

Those who know me have heard of the “transition” occurring at our home—a major remodeling project. Unsettling, to be sure, but it is also a time of great excitement as Penny and I design our future together. When it's all too much we stop, take stock of our tremendous blessings, and work up the courage to start at it again.

This congregation has been, and continues to be, in the midst of many changes. In spite of the economic challenges facing us personally and as a congregation, our ministries are strong (and growing!) and members are engaged. While the changes are sometimes unsettling, we have so many blessings for which to be thankful. The goals that our Board set earlier this year are coming to fruition; however, all of this programming requires support. Let us take courage as we face these new challenges, supporting each other and this ministry with our resources, time, and prayers.

—Jack Dant, Congregation President

Treasurer's Report

Operations

The August budget actually called for a \$6,480 net income. With actual net income being \$5,252 below budget and expenses being \$1,375 above budget, the actual net income for August was a \$147 deficit. These numbers reduced the “ahead of budget” number of \$7,681 mentioned last month to \$1,053. That essentially means we have a net deficit of \$23,058 to make up in September through December, instead of the budgeted deficit of \$24,112. Let us hope that the budget for September through December is reasonably accurate.

None of the expense categories have had large deviations from plan, either for the month or year to date. The largest year-to-date deviations are salaries and benefits, at \$8,787 under budget, and operations at \$7,498 over budget. The absence of youth and young adult staffing this summer was at least partly responsible for the salary line being under budget. Operations has had a number of unexpected expenses, particularly associated with the break-in and external repairs.

A summary of actual numbers for August and Year to Date are as follows:

	August		Year to Date		Over/(under)
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
General Giving and Holiday	37,985	42,613	308,368	320,317	(11,948)
Rental and Extraordinary	4,343	4,967	40,342	40,856	(515)
Total Revenue	42,327.96	47,580	348,710	361,173	(12,463)
Expenses					
Total Expenses	42,475	41,100	371,769	385,285	(13,516)
Net Income	(147)	6,480	(23,058)	(24,112)	1,053

Invitation to Hope Capital Campaign

Since last month there has been another \$476 in unpledged contributions, and pledges are \$1,154 closer to plan. That brings us to \$16,176 in unpledged contributions and \$193,737 in pledged contributions. It was a good month for the Invitation to Hope campaign.

From the Director of Christian Education

On Rally Day I spoke about the four ways that I think University Lutheran Church of Hope is unique. You could probably create your own list, but with my focus on lifelong faith formation, this is my list.

1. Adults in this congregation care deeply about “our” children and youth. Of the 22 people who have volunteered to work with children and youth, only 9 actually have children or youth in these programs. That is very unique, and a wonderful characteristic of this congregation.

2. Asking questions and wondering about God are valued in this congregation. The value statement for the lifelong faith formation program states, “We are thoughtful believers dedicated to faith formation and mindful inquiry, expanding our understanding of how God is at work in our lives.” All ages are encouraged to struggle with their questions about God, about purpose and meaning, and about how we live as a faithful community.

3. Faith formation is seen as lifelong in this congregation, not just something for children or confirmation-age youth. This congregation sees faith development as broadly encompassing all parts of our lives. God wants us to be whole people. Some of the many learning activities offered through this congregation are: Bible studies for all ages, book discussions, young adult groups, crafts, kickball, bowling, basketball, mission trips, serving meals to the homeless, and praying for members of another generation.

4. Children and youth are seen and heard in worship, and that is expected and celebrated. Not only are children of all ages encouraged to attend worship, but they are involved in worship through children’s messages, singing, sharing the peace, ushering, and acolyting. Youth help serve communion and read lessons. Worship in this place is intergenerational, and that blesses all of us.

I hope that you also rejoice in these characteristics of University Lutheran Church of Hope. May God bless you on your journey of seeking God.

—Diane E. Shallue

From the Visitation Pastor

In my interview last December, we didn’t talk about what it would feel like when you just begin to feel your love growing for someone and then the time for “goodbye” comes. There have been four deaths since I began visiting. I had only met Audrey Christiansen once before she died.

There was more time with others. I thought of Carla Johnson at State Fair time. She rarely missed going, but I thought how she wouldn’t have missed it this year, with the life she now has. But I can’t imagine that the fair didn’t miss her, and her friend who often went with her. She would have been missed by the people at her favorite stops. We all have them, and she must have had them, too.

Anna Blochowiak died a few weeks ago. On my last visit, I brought her cherries—the big, dark, red ones—instead of a bouquet of flowers for her birthday. It happened to be the day the dining hall was closed, and in another room, they were passing out cookies and coffee. Communion started early for Anna once she saw the cherries.

Not long before Gladys Holsten died, as often happened, she wasn’t in her room. So I went to the Activity Room and there she was. Carefully, she dipped her brush in the water and spread it over her colored drawing. It was instant beauty when the water hit the watercolor crayons and turned it into a beautiful landscape. Over and over, she carefully dipped and painted till she was done. We didn’t talk until she was finished. “What do you think about being 100?” I asked Gladys that day. “Well, I’m so busy I don’t have time to think about it.”

I miss them and am grateful that our lives came together for this brief time. I know God was always there.

Gratefully,

—Pastor Esther Dant



From the Youth Director

I have been worshipping at University Lutheran Church of Hope for about a month now, and I cannot thank each and every one of you enough for welcoming me with such open arms. Each time I stand up to leave the sanctuary, I am greeted warmly and genuinely by someone new. I am looking forward to fostering and encouraging this sense of hospitality in the youth program.

As a canoe guide and counselor at Camp Amnicon (outside of Superior, Wisconsin), I experienced the joys of creating a community with youth in the wilderness. It was one of the biggest blessings of that experience but also the most difficult, because I was forced to say goodbye at the end of each week. It will be such a joy to create a lasting community for the young people of your congregation in the next weeks, months, and years. Thank you for welcoming me so graciously, and I look forward to getting to know you better in the near future.

—Matt Fleming, Youth Director

Vision & Governance Board Highlights

The Vision & Governance Board of University Lutheran Church of Hope held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on September 8, 2009.

- ▶ This month's financials, while slightly better than budgeted, have continued to lose ground from previous months—and the direction is cause for concern. President Jack Dant will address the congregation on September 20 to draw attention to this.
- ▶ Ann Beane was nominated to serve as Member-at-Large representative from the Board to the Executive Committee. She fills an open position that was vacated with the departure of Leslie Frost from the Vision & Governance Board.
- ▶ Pastor Shirley communicated the interim plan to fill the position of Minister of Worship and Music: a substitute organist will be hired for the majority of October, and Bill Beckstrand will join us at the end of October and remain through the end of December.
- ▶ A search committee has been established to coordinate the seeking and hiring of a new Minister of Worship and Music. Uli Koester chairs the committee, and the other members are Pastor Craig Shirley, Mark Nelson, Kelli Johnson, Lisa Morse, Karmi Anna Mattson, Judy Ranheim, and Solveig Mebust.
- ▶ *Approved:* the recommendation from the Personnel and Executive Committees that a half-time Young Adult Minister be sought. Whether filled by a Luther Seminary student or not, this position will be staffed at the level approximately equal to our previous Young Adult Minister, Dannica Montplaisir, who was a seminary student. A search committee is being formed to identify potential candidates.
- ▶ The two liaisons for the Leadership Development and Communications Ministry Area presented activities and issues for that area. The Board discussed methods of building leaders and increasing involvement within the congregation, and considered current and future communications methods.

—Jack Dant,
Congregation President

Staff

Pastors:

Craig Shirley
Esther Dant

Cantor:

Director of Education and Adult Small-Group Ministries:

Diane Shallue

Youth Director:

Matthew Fleming

Administrator:

Craig Wiester

Weekend Custodian:

William Frank

Working in partnership with Lutheran Campus Ministry Staff:

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: JoAnn Bablitch

Relational Ministries:

Renée Real-Banas

Support Areas:

Operations:

Mike Fingerson; Bob Moluf

Leadership Development

& Communications:

Jack Dant; Gregg Landmark


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Articles for *The Visitor* may be submitted via email or in the church office. They must be signed. Electronic submissions in either Microsoft® Word or plain text format are 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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