

The Visitor

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November 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

There is a wonderful foundation out of Indianapolis, Indiana by the name of Lilly that funds opportunities for religious institutions and individuals in all sorts of ways. Several years ago, the Lilly Foundation gave a grant to University Lutheran Church of Hope for Pastor Kwanza Yu to take a three-month sabbatical leave.

And now, I am happy to say, they will be awarding this congregation a second grant in order for me, also, to take a sabbatical leave. It was just announced this month. When I first started working on this grant more than two years ago, Karmi Mattson, Leslie Frost, and Pastor Mary Halvorson helped me get going. Since then it became necessary for me to re-apply, and this time around Garvin Davenport and Scott Hvizdos also gave counsel. I am grateful to all of them for the work they did.

This grant involves a number of different aspects. First of all, it will be a time of rest and relaxation for me. It is the first time in thirty years of ordained ministry that I will be away from work for this long. Second, it will be a special time for my family. The Lilly Foundation invites pastors to include their families in the experience, so in April I will take Carol, our sons Erik and Joel, their wives, and our granddaughter to Brazil. This will be an opportunity for us to see our daughter-in-law's homeland, as well as to tour a beautiful country. We will spend time in Bello-Horizonte learning more about that city's ecologically responsible growth and change over the past thirty years, as well as spending time in São Paulo.

Later in the spring, probably in May, I will make my way to the high desert of Arizona, to a place called Arcosanti. To quote the website: "Since 1970 the

Arcosanti Workshops have combined academic and experiential learning as participants study Paolo Soleri's concepts and designs while contributing to the building of the *arcology* (architecture + ecology). Soleri proposes a lean urban alternative that is a highly integrated and compact three-dimensional form, rejecting the need for urban sprawl with its inherently wasteful consumption of land, energy, time, and human resources. During the five-week workshop participants come to understand the why and wherefore of the world's first prototype arcology." This experience will combine a learning environment with physical work and a bit of "down time" as well. It should be interesting.

The congregation will also benefit from this grant. During my three-month sabbatical, we will hire an interim pastor to take care of the work that needs to be done. There are also funds to pay for two parties: one before I leave and one when I return! In addition, there is money for a project here at the church, perhaps centered around our developing concept of rain gardens or some other part of our eco-friendly plan.

As you can tell, there is a theme behind this. Since we are an urban church that is concerned about the environment, I have focused the grant loosely around that. But the sabbatical time is as much for refreshment and renewal as it is for learning. And I plan to do plenty of all of those things.

It is exciting to look forward to the possibilities that this grant opens for me, for my family, and for the congregation. I look forward to sharing more as my plans begin to take shape. Pax.

—Pastor Craig Shirley

Thanksgiving Worship

The annual Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held on Wednesday evening, November 25th, at 7:00 p.m. at University Lutheran Church of Hope.

This service is a joint service with Grace University Lutheran and St. Lawrence Catholic church. Pie will be served following the service. Pie contributions from the congregation are welcomed.

Tell Me Your Story

As part of the New Century Initiative of Lutheran Campus Ministry of Minnesota, we are looking for your stories about campus ministry. Did you meet your spouse or significant other in campus ministry? Was there a life-defining moment that you sometimes reflect upon and which you would like to share with others? Were there people or experiences or ideas that took your life in a new direction because of campus ministry?

Tell us your story. LCMM will be setting up a central collection point for these stories, but right now you are invited to send your story to Pastor Shirley at craigs@ulch.org. There are plans in the works to compile these stories from around the state and publish them in book form if enough stories can be collected.

Your experience need not be from the University of Minnesota; it can be from any public or private institution at which you experienced God's presence or where you met the love of your life because of the work of campus ministry. Let us hear from you today!

—Pastor Craig Shirley

Interviews Are Around the Corner

We are well on our way to selecting a new Minister of Worship and Music for University Lutheran Church of Hope. Applications were coming in all during October, and we now turn to interviewing and auditioning the best candidates. We hope to make a job offer by early December. In the meantime, please enjoy the leadership of our interim (and former) Minister, Bill Beckstrand.

—Uli Koester, Chair, Search Committee

Do you have extra 2010 calendars?

Please bring all of your extra 2010 calendars to church. We will give them to Families Moving Forward, for their 60 families each year who will appreciate them to keep track of appointments. Please put them on the table in the mail room.

A Tribute to Deane Langguth and University Lutheran Church of Hope

You're Welcome

Though Deane no longer remembered your name,
His whole countenance made you welcomed indeed;
Such acceptance of strangers and old friends,
Demonstrated how he lived out his creed.

Who can know how many souls he has touched,
Who were finding it difficult to cope;
But discovered that they were accepted,
In this community that calls itself Hope.

Long before the label "Reconciled in Christ"

Was adopted as a welcoming sign,

Deane was an example *par excellence*
Of love that's rooted in the divine.

When the word becomes "enfleshed" in real life,

It can empower as well as ignite
And bring about reconciliation
In our world, troubled and endlessly in strife.

So we thank you, Ila Mae, and your family,
For the ways you've helped people in this place
Experience in a very tangible way
God's unconditional and amazing grace.

—The Reverend Loren Halvorson

From the Visitation Pastor

In the last weeks, we remember with a smile our brother Deane Langguth. He was called “brother” by Eric Ringham in the prayers one Sunday. And he was. His funeral service and visitation truly were a University Lutheran Church of Hope family reunion. Children of members who had spent their childhood with the Langguth children came in large numbers—remembering and caring. It was a loving celebration.

In my visits to members following his death, I realized how many were remembering this family and the charismatic man Deane was. Lillian Lien remembered how every Sunday as she walked back from communion, Dean would smile at her and hold out his hand and shake hers. Ila Mae and your family, we pray you feel the love that is surrounding you.

Edna Mickelsen will be enjoying visits from a new Friendly Visitor, Marjorie Haddad. Like so many, Edna, now in her 90s, has had many goodbyes in her family and with her friends. She can be puzzled that she has lived so long. “I guess they haven’t cleaned my room up there yet,” she said a few weeks ago.

The miracle of the Lord’s Supper was verbally present when Margaret Andreas received Holy Communion. Her confusion cleared as she took a sip of the wine. “*That tastes good!*” she said. And so it does. That gift from our Lord brought Margaret back to us for a time, and a beautiful smile came with it.

God’s peace to you all,

—Pastor Esther Dant

Senior Club

All seniors and friends are cordially invited to the **Thanksgiving Gathering on Wednesday, November 18**, beginning with a delicious turkey-and-all the trimmings luncheon at noon in Fellowship Hall. Reservations should be made by **Thursday, November 12**, with your caller or by phoning Pastor Esther Dant at (651) 636-7834.

An outstanding program presented by Metro Hope Ministries will follow at 1:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall, featuring Marilyn Sellars, the nationally known entertainer and gospel & country music recording artist. Metro Hope Ministries has for many years provided a residential recovery program for men. Recently they opened the Healing House, a recovery center for struggling and hurting women and children in crisis. Marilyn uses her talents to promote and tell the story of Healing House in her performance, “One Day at a Time.” Other guests from Healing House will share information and their experiences. There will also be an opportunity to support the ministry. Everyone is welcome!



Marilyn Sellars



People of Hope

Michael Pearson, son of Kaye and Chuck Pearson, was deployed on October 22 to Afghanistan to serve with the U.S. Navy. Prayers for Michael and his family are most welcome.

Where are our high school graduates from last spring?

Anna Bablitch – Marquette University (Milwaukee); **Ben Frolen Dickhaus** – St. Cloud State University; **Dexter Nelson** – UW-Eau Claire; **Elliot Bieletto** – the United States Military Academy at West Point; **Gier Abrahamson & Erik Grindal** – Augsburg College; **Karis Hustad** – Loyola University (Chicago); **Maddie Kufus** – Winona State University; **Mark Van Cleave** – University of Minnesota Twin Cities (Middlebrook Hall), and working weekends at the Modern Café; **Sarah Lauber** – UW-Madison; **Yarri Bryn** – University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, majoring in Business Management and playing on the University’s Panther golf team.

Elizabeth Lincoln and John Lauber have another AFS student living with them. This student is from Belgium.

Dianne Star completed the Dusk2Dawn Evening Walk in September. Her team of three raised \$890 for Open Arms of Minnesota and Arm in Arm in Africa, in the inaugural event to raise awareness and funding for HIV/AIDS nutrition programs in Minnesota and Africa. The walk raised \$51,680.

Adam Morton is a student at Luther Seminary, and teaches 8th-grade confirmation on Sunday mornings. He married Tasha Genck in August. Tasha Genck Morton is Congregational Life Pastor at St. Andrew Lutheran in Eden Prairie.



Faith Formation News

Sunday School

Godly Play is for children ages 3 through grade one. The program teaches Bible stories with objects and develops a sense of sacred space.

Faith Weavers is a curriculum that teaches Bible stories related to the daily lives of children through interactive activities. Grades 2-6 all study the same story on the same Sunday.

	Godly Play Story	Faith Weaver Story	Theme
November 1	Ten Best Ways to Live: Love Each Other	Moses sends spies into the Promised Land - Numbers 13	Standing up for God means following God no matter what.
November 8	The Promised Land	Joshua becomes leader of Israel – Joshua 1:1-11	God helps us accomplish God's plans.
November 15	Jericho	The Israelites cross the Jordan River – Joshua 3:1-4:24	Remember what God has done.
November 22	How the Church Tells Time	God gives victory over Jericho – Joshua 6:1-27	God's power works for good in our lives.
November 29	Intergenerational Service Event	Intergenerational Service Event	Welcoming Families Moving Forward Guests

The Intergenerational Event on November 29 is for all ages. We will focus on preparing for the Families Moving Forward guests who will be with us during the week of Christmas. We will learn about FMF and create placemats, decorations, and door signs. We are also collecting dental supplies and socks for them. See more information in another article in this newsletter.

Confirmation

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

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

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

November 1 - Stories of Hope: Hear Pastor Esther Dant and Tim Gustafson share their faith journeys.

November 8 - "Making Sense of Scripture: Big Questions about the Book of Faith." Dr. David Lose from Luther Seminary will explore the seven major questions people have about the Bible and how to make sense of this Book of Faith.

November 15 & 22 - Discussion of "Making Sense of Scripture" using a DVD. Bruce Eldevik will facilitate the discussion. This will continue on December 6.

November 29 - Intergenerational Event for people of all ages with a focus on service

From the Director of Christian Education and Adult Small Group Ministries

“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...” (Hebrews 10:24-25a).

This month I want to focus on this passage from Hebrews. Why should we who are Christians meet together regularly? We meet together in worship, in small groups, in ministry teams, and in study groups to encourage one another so that we can follow the example of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The Hope Connections program is just one small part of all the various gatherings in which members and visitors of our congregation are involved. Many gatherings take place but are not publicized well so that new members and visitors don't have the same opportunities to be encouraged.

In response, a new ministry team is being formed to focus year-round on encouraging people to be involved in various small group gatherings and in communicating about those gatherings, whether it be to play kickball, watch movies, do crafts, study the Bible, talk about God, or go cross-country skiing. If you are interested in being a part of this Small Group Ministry Team, which will meet four or five times a year, please let me know.

In God's grace,

—Diane E. Shallue

Sunday Morning Discussion About Children

Sunday Morning Discussion about Children meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room. On November 1 we will discuss “God from a Child's Point of View,” led by Diane Shallue. On November 8 we will look at Developmental Issues, guided by Sarah Wille. Anyone interested in children is welcome to attend.

Book Club

To prepare for our nation's Thanksgiving this year, the University Lutheran Church of Hope Book Club will meet on **Sunday, November 8, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge**, to discuss “*Faiths of our Fathers: What America's Founders Really Believed*,” by Alf J. Mapp.

“The religious beliefs of eleven of America's founding fathers, including John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison—men with religious beliefs as diverse as their political opinions. These profiles shed light on the lives and times of the revolutionary generation and the role of religion in public life throughout American history. <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us>

Please call Sonja Peterson at (612) 242-8711 if you have questions or book suggestions.



Hope Connections!

Hope Connections small groups are continuing to meet. This is for members, non-members, and visitors. If you're interested in being part of a small group, please contact Diane Shallue at (612) 331-5988, ext. 19, or dianes@ulch.org. Those who participate in these small groups are invited to a Candlelight Celebration/Renewal event, including yummy desserts, on Monday, December 7. We gather at 6:30 and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Church Library News

When was the last time you visited our church Library? Come in to check out the following recent additions.

Winter Grief, Summer Grace: Returning to Life After a Loved One Dies, by James E. Miller

The Five Love Languages of Teenagers, by Gary Chapman

Three books from Madeleine L'Engle's Crosswicks Journal: *A Circle of Quiet*; *The Summer of the Great-Grandmother*; *The Irrational Season*

Hospitality and the Other: Pentecost, Christian Practices and the Neighbor, by Amos Yong

President's Perspective

For several years now I have been taking painting classes at a studio in St. Paul—landscapes, portraits, etc., and it's been a rich addition to my life. The teaching is absolutely valuable, but the thing that keeps me coming back is the community of other painters. There is always more to learn—a lifetime if you'd like—but the community makes the learning that much more enjoyable. Could I do this alone? Yes, I suppose, but it wouldn't be the same, not even close.

Our congregation is much the same as this: there is always more to learn, with no end to opportunities in which to grow. But the community of believers adds a richness that (and God makes this very clear) is not to be missed. The continuity of attendance is valuable for all who participate in this lifelong journey of faith. We gradually move from new visitor to regular visitor to, perhaps, one of the many long-standing members whom our congregation is so blessed to include. And hopefully we “get better” at faith, as well. We learn lessons that we carry through life and pass on to others, sometimes without even knowing it.

Salvation through traditional realism based on American Impressionism? Hardly, but when life offers opportunities to relate faith to our daily lives, we benefit doubly.

—Jack Dant,
Congregation President

Vision and Governance Board Highlights

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

- This month's financials, while in the red, are in line with the year-to-date budget.
- Uli Koester, representing the Minister of Music and Worship Search Committee, reported that there has been a strong response to the position postings. The committee is on schedule and expects to make a decision by late November.
- Pastor Shirley has interviewed several candidates for the Young Adult Minister Position and discussed findings with the Personnel Committee. As a result, the committee forwarded a recommendation that one particular candidate be offered the position based on a 15 hours per week, 10-month contract. The Board voted in favor of the recommendation, approving Pastor Shirley to make the offer. Given the time of year, the initial contract will run only 8 months.
- Treasurer Mike Fingerson presented a report on Operations activities. He highlighted the many facilities upgrades that have taken place: roof replacement, concrete and masonry repairs, and new dining room chairs. In addition, the Facilities and Garden Committees have been very busy with landscaping work and managing the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization grant efforts. A huge thank-you goes out to this group! While spending in the Operations area has exceeded budget, the actions taken were necessary to prevent later, more costly repairs.
- Updates on the three Mission Objectives for this year:
 - A Small Group Ministry Team is being formed by Diane Shallue and Jack Dant; University Lutheran Church of Hope Connections is again in full-swing; discussion continues on planning for an information kiosk.
 - Recent Senior High Youth activities include a well-attended lock-in and planning for the summer service-based retreat; the Junior High students will be attending Moonlight Madness in the near future; and there is an effort to re-energize participation in the Loaves and Fishes ministry.
 - The support group for those affected by the economic recession has been formed and is meeting regularly; approximately 6-7 people attend.

—Jack Dant, Congregation President

New Editor Needed for The Visitor

Our congregation is looking for a new editor for its monthly newsletter, *The Visitor*, now that Bob Moluf has moved to Virginia. Almost all aspects of this volunteer role can be done from home (which is why Bob can continue working on the newsletter for a while, until a new editor is identified and trained in). A good command of English grammar and usage and some experience in using software for editing and layout are desired. If this sounds like something you could do to help support the ministries of University Lutheran Church of Hope, please contact Bob Moluf at visitor@ulch.org

50th Wedding Anniversaries

Are you celebrating 50 years of marriage in 2010? Congratulations! The Fingersons and the Lindesmiths will also be celebrating. We would like to get all fiftieth anniversary celebrants together for a Sunday dinner after the first of the year to have some fun and friendship. Call Mike or Ruth Fingerson at (651) 633-5316 to let us know that you would like to be included.

Demonstrating Our Thanks

Let's put our thanks to God into action on the Sunday after Thanksgiving! This is also Advent Sunday. Homeless people find life difficult at all times of the year, but especially in the fall and winter, with the holidays and colder weather. Please bring adult and child warm socks and "tooth stuff"—toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss for all ages—to the Intergenerational Event during the education hour on **November 29**. Then we can decorate them for Christmas giving to our FMF guests during Christmas week, when they are with us. We will also make nice cards to accompany them.

Visitation Pastor Esther Dant also needs cards to bring to our members who are unable to attend Sunday worship with us.

We are so blessed. It will be fun to share some of those blessings with others.

Treasurer's Report

Operations

Income of \$39,475 was under budget by \$4,436. Expenses of \$41,711 were under budget by \$3,576. The net result was a loss of \$2,236 compared with a budgeted loss of \$1,377.

In looking ahead to year-end, there is definitely reason for concern. While the year-to-date numbers are close to budget, we have used up a substantial gift we received in February that kept us ahead of budget. In other words, we need over \$2,000 more per month than the average of previous months. This is in addition to the substantial extra income budgeted for year-end based on our previous history.

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

	September		Year to Date		Over/(under)
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
General Giving and Holiday	34,984	38,320	343,352	356,637	(15,285)
Rental and Extraordinary	4,491	5,591	44,833	46,448	(1,614)
Total Revenue	39,475	43,911	388,186	405,085	(16,899)
Total Expenses	41,711	45,288	413,480	430,573	(17,093)
Net Income	(2,236)	(1,377)	(25,295)	(25,488)	194

Invitation to Hope

Total pledges for the Capital Campaign increased \$7,386 to \$466,614. An additional \$496 in non-pledged contributions brought the total potential to \$483,286. Pledged gifts to date are \$232,948, within \$5,021 of the amount scheduled at this point. Again, it was a good month for Invitation to Hope.

—Mike Fingerson, Treasurer

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:

Eva Jensen
Kate Reuer

Vision & Governance Board

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Vice President: Gregg Landmark

Past President:

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

Leadership Development

& Communications:

Jack Dant; Gregg Landmark


The Visitor

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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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