

## **Worship & Music Ministry Area**

In University Lutheran Church of Hope's first year with only one full-time pastor, worship has continued to flourish through excellent efforts by both staff and laity. We give honor and gratitude to our Lord every Sunday morning through services that are both consistent in their approach to liturgy and diverse and exciting in music and style. For this we give thanks to Tim Strand, our 3/4 time cantor, Pastor Craig Shirley, and the Worship Planning Team under Lisa Morse's leadership.

Pastor Shirley gives great energy into keeping Sunday mornings "together," through his preaching (mostly three times a month), pastoral care, and attention to liturgical elements and seasonal decor. At the same time, Tim's inspires us every week by bringing Hope's musical talent to reflect upon and expound the gospel. His organ playing, three splendid choirs, and instrumental offerings bring true glory to God. Especially noteworthy are the record size of the Chapel Choir (grades 2-6) and the talent of young adults in providing trumpet, vocal, and other solos.

Meanwhile, the laity of Hope has increasingly become leaders in creating worship opportunities for us. Here are just some highlights:

- \* A Taizé-style worship service, now once a month at 8:30am
- \* Thrilling children's Christmas performance
- \* Regular jazz ensembles
- \* A mission-oriented Sunday with special music and preaching
- \* Reliable worship assistance in ushering, altar guild and communion, lectoring, and prayer
- \* A strong guest preaching program

These and many other elements of our worship and music would not happen without members like you taking initiative and leadership. Every Sunday, thank at least one of them. Then feel free to lift your voice. Perhaps your idea will be next in bringing our church in closer communion with God.

Uli Koester, Liaison to the Board for Worship and Music