

Name of visitee and address and telephone:

Name of family contact, address and telephone:

GUIDE  
FOR THE FRIENDLY VISITORS  
PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HOPE  
601 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55414-1437  
(612) 331-5988

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NOTES:



*“Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one  
of the least of these, my brethren,  
you did it to me.”*

Matthew 25:40

## A VERY SPECIAL KIND OF FRIENDSHIP

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Friendly Visitors Program of University Lutheran Church of Hope is to bring God's love into the homes of Hope's extended family – those who cannot make it to worship or who need our extra support; to let those visited know that they are remembered and loved; to share the joy of "living in God's amazing grace."

### **Expectations**

- Bring the gifts of your presence to the person you visit, once or twice a month.
- Take time to build a trusting relationship.
- Pray for the person you visit.
- Send a birthday card every year and cards on other occasions as you choose.
- At Easter, bring a plant from the altar after the second service.
- Communicate with the Friendly Visitor Committee monthly by returning the Friendly Visitor Report to Pastor Esther's mailbox at ULCH, or by an e-mail to Pastor Esther Dant ([estherd@ulch.org](mailto:estherd@ulch.org)) or Pastor Craig Shirley ([craigs@ulch.org](mailto:craigs@ulch.org)), or a phone call to Marilyn Asp @ (763-862-5685).
- Let the Friendly Visitor Committee know when you will not be able to visit for a period of time.

6. Do not contradict them or correct them if their facts are mixed up. Be gracious with repetition.
7. Be careful not to involve yourself if there is tension or misunderstanding in the family. If your opinion is asked for, simply say that you will pray that the right solution will come about.
9. If you sense a warm spiritual response, you may have devotions with them including prayer. For the senile, it is better to hold their hand and talk with them about the love of Jesus. If they are able, suggest people and causes to pray for. Encourage them to be involved in this ministry.
10. Most of all, be a friend. You may not feel that your visit has accomplished what you'd hoped, but remember it is in God's hands. Much more may have happened than you realize.

Friendly Visitor Committee:

Marilyn Asp, chair

Pat Lindquist, Rosalie Eldevik, Kathy Knudson

Verle Rhoades, consultant;

Pastor Craig Shirley and Pastor Esther Dant

**Thank you – you are doing an important ministry for your church.**

## SUGGESTED BIBLE PASSAGES

Psalm 23	John 10
Psalm 103	John 1: 1-14
Psalm 34	John 3: 1-21
Psalm 27	Romans 5:1
Psalm 86	Romans 8
Psalm 32	1 Corinthians 4: 9-16
Psalm 139	2 Corinthians 4: 8-10
Matthew 8:24	2 Corinthians 12:23-33
John 6	Philippians 4:4-7,11-13
Colossians 3:12-17	1 John 4:7-19

## PROCEDURE FOR CALLING

1. Plan your visit. Making contact before your visit is helpful, if possible.
2. Let the person know when you are coming unless circumstances don't allow or require that. Always arrive on time or a little early. Be prepared to stay a while for this helps them feel that you care.
3. Look around for objects of interest and beauty in the home to comment on. Pictures of family are especially good topics of conversation.
4. On the first visit inquire about their former home, occupation, early history of the community or congregational involvement.

## A Friendly Visitor's Pledge

By the grace of God, as a Friendly Visitor of my church, I promise that I will go about my tasks faithfully and gladly. I will be interested, patient and kind, striving to do that which is helpful and avoiding that which might hurt.

I pledge to keep all confidences entrusted to me, and what ever I observe in the home I visit, I will keep to myself.

I will work in close cooperation with my pastors as a helper in the church's ministry of love and caring.

I will be a friend to the lonely, a helper to the helpless, a comforter to the sorrowing and strength to the weak, dedicating all that I undertake to the service of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Friendly Visitor

Date \_\_\_\_\_



#### AS A VISITOR:

- You can pray for your visitee.
- You can help persons feel that someone cares.
- You can fill a need for companionship.
- You can be a good listener. (This is a “must.”)
- You can keep confidentiality.
- You can re-awaken their former interests and hobbies.
- You can help them find new activities.
- You can help them locate needed community resources.

#### SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Bring news of University Lutheran Church of Hope such as a bulletin, The Visitor, and a devotional booklet.
- Reading, including devotional materials and prayers.
- Write letters.
- Send them birthday, Christmas, Valentine and Easter cards and a postcard when on vacation.
- You might like to bring objects that encourage conversation such as photos, collectibles, hand work, magazine articles, music, etc.
- Pray with them if that is comfortable for both of you.

#### THINGS TO AVOID:

- Visiting too frequently or at a time when not convenient.
- Forcing the person to talk or do things they are not interested in or not capable of doing. Respect privacy.
- Giving advice. Avoid gossip.
- Staying too long ---avoid fatigue.
- Be sensitive about gifts. Flowers from the garden, magazines and appropriate food are appreciated.
- Remember, let them do the talking if they so desire.

#### THE VISITOR WILL:

- Be notified of the person to be called upon and will be given background information.
- Plan to visit once or twice a month.
- Try to fit your visits into their schedule.
- Intersperse telephone calls with visits. Phone calls are always appreciated.
- If visiting with the family or anyone who is caring for him/her, it is crucial to keep confidentiality.
- Bring any concerns about visits to the Friendly Visitor Committee.
- Contact one of the pastors if the person has a serious problem or a spiritual concern.