



# The Visitor



February 2015

Issue #2-15

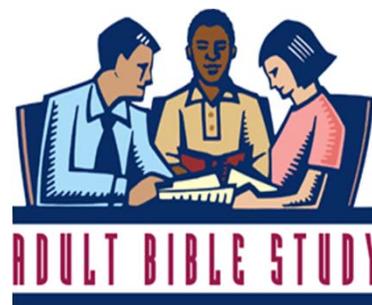
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601 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
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Tel. (612) 331-5988 Fax (612) 623-0693  
www.ulch.org

*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.*

## Encounters with Jesus

You are invited to deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ, through the Bible study, *Encounters with Jesus*. Come explore stories of people from the Bible and their encounters with Jesus. John Beane, author of the study, will be our facilitator.



**When:** Wednesdays during Lent from 6-6:50 p.m.

**Where:** Fellowship Hall

**Food:** You are welcome to bring food with you. Coffee and tea will be provided.

**Topics and Dates:**

**February 25:** The Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11)

**March 4:** Healing the Lame Man at the Pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-18)

**March 11:** The Woman Caught in Adultery (John 8:2-11)

**March 18:** Jesus and the Jews ("I am the Good Shepherd") (John 10:1-18, 24-30)

**March 25:** The Rich Young Ruler (Matthew 19:16-26)

This study will focus on the Gospel of John, looking at various people's interactions with Jesus as they were challenged to confront the question, "Who is Jesus?" John explores what it means to confess Jesus as Messiah. The Gospel of John has a very different feel from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Whereas the first three gospels share many of the same stories and events in Jesus' life, John presents a different picture. John's gospel begins with a hymn of praise for the Word of God made flesh: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John includes events from Jesus' public ministry, but the order of these events is unlike the other gospels. John also includes new material that focuses on who Jesus is.

## Treasurer's Report for December 2014

December giving was \$53,082.56 and our rental income was \$9,017.14, for a total income of \$62,099.70. We are \$11,797.70 over our budget for December income and \$3,870.00 over our budget for the year to date. Our giving was \$2,468.80 under our projected budget for the year. Our rental income exceeded our budget by \$6,338.60 for the year. We have ended the year on a very positive note. Thank you for your generosity to the ministries at University Lutheran Church of Hope.

Our expenses for December were \$43,718.80. We budgeted \$43,729.74 in expenses. We were \$10.94 under budget for the month. Year to date we are \$23,619.75 under budget.

Thank you again for your gifts financially, and in all the other ways you contribute to the life and health of this congregation as it serves the community here in Southeast Minneapolis and around the world. It is wonderful to see our members contribute not just their financial resources, but all of the volunteer hours that make this congregation a vibrant and thoughtful presence in the community.

December 2014 and Year-to-Date Income and Expenses						
Summary for 2014	Dec. 2014 Actuals	Dec. 2014 Budget	Dec. 2014 Over/(Under)	Year-to-Date Actual to 12/31/14	Year-to-Date Budget to 12/31/14	Year-to-Date Over/(Under) to 12/31/14
General Giving	53,082.56	41,895.00	11,187.56	463,131.40	465,600.00	(2,468.60)
Rental Income	9,017.14	8,407.00	610.14	105,575.60	99,237.00	6,338.60
Total Income	62,099.70	50,302.00	11,797.70	568,707.00	564,837.00	3,870.00
Total Expense	43,718.80	43,729.74	(10.94)	541,217.25	564,837.00	(23,619.75)
Net Income	<b>18,380.90</b>	<b>6,572.26</b>	<b>11,808.64</b>	<b>27,489.75</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>27,489.75</b>



Total income for the I2H2 bridge campaign in November was \$8,612.48. We paid out \$6,918.89 for the mortgage and received \$209.16 for building improvements from P.E.A.S.E. Academy. Our total expense was \$6,709.73. Our net income was \$1,902.75. Our building fund balance is \$201,989.37.

If you have any questions or comments please contact me at [treasurer@ulch.org](mailto:treasurer@ulch.org)

Tim Abrahamson, Treasurer

## Shirley's Share

February 2015! Can you believe it? We are once more ready to enter the sacred season of Lent, and I would like to use this space to share with you all the opportunities available in February and March.

**Ash Wednesday, February 18:** We will observe that day with services of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes at 12 noon and again at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

**Noon Midweek Worship:** Each week in Lent, beginning February 25, we are offering a 30-40 minute Service of the Word in the chapel at 12:00 noon. Various members of the staff will preach. Our theme will be, *Where is God in My Praying?* with an emphasis on personal prayer and its relationship to the ups and downs of our lives.

**Soup and Bread Lunch:** Immediately following the noon worship service there will be a simple soup and bread lunch in Fellowship Hall for those who care to stay. Ann Agrimson has most graciously volunteered to coordinate those lunches but she will need help. *We are looking for volunteers to assist her in many ways.*

**Evening Bible Study:** John Beane has written a Bible study entitled *Encounters with Jesus*, taken mostly from the Gospel of John. He will be leading his study from 6:00 to 6:50 p.m. each Wednesday evening in Lent, beginning February 25. The topics include: The Wedding at Cana, Healing the Lame Man at the Pool of Bethesda, The Woman Caught in Adultery, Jesus and The Jews, and The Rich Young Ruler. There is more information in the opening article in this month's *Visitor*.

**Evening Midweek Worship:** Each week in Lent, beginning February 25, we will offer a 15-minute non-preaching worship service in the chapel from 7:00 until 7:15 p.m. This worship will follow the *Encounters with Jesus* Bible study and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation, and will precede choir practice. We will be using various settings for this worship, so each week may be a bit different.

I will share more information about Palm/Passion Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday in the next edition of *The Visitor*. Consult Luke Tegtmeier's column for some of the special musical offerings that will be happening during Lent. It is a special season, and I pray that you will find it spiritually uplifting.

Pax,  
Pastor Craig Shirley



## People of Hope

Hope member Marge Ostroushko has been using her musical talents to bring joy to people with Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia. As members of the Giving Voice Chorus, Marge and her friend Mary Lenard meet about 30 people with Alzheimer's and their caregivers at MacPhail Center for Music each week to experience joy and laughter through music. The experience is therapeutic for patients and their caregivers as well as for Marge and Mary. Check out the Giving Voice Chorus at

<http://www.givingvoicechorus.org/> Here is a link to the television story that was broadcasted about Marge and Mary's work:

<http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2014/12/03/giving-voice-chorus-overpowers-alzheimers/>

# FAITH FORMATION NEWS



## Faith Formation for All Ages on Sunday Mornings

On Sunday morning, there are classes and sessions for all ages. Clair Gustafson supervises the youngest members in the nursery on the second floor of the education wing. Below is information about education opportunities for groups from ages three and older.

### Godly Play

Classes for children ages three through kindergarten are held on Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 10:25 a.m. in rooms 201-202. Godly Play creates sacred space to hear and learn Bible stories using objects and play. Students and teachers wonder together, and then children are encouraged to respond to the stories on their own terms using art materials. The structure of the Godly Play lesson models worship with Gathering Time; Hearing the Story/Word; Response Time/Offering; and Feast/Communion.

**February 1:** The Wedding at Cana

**February 8:** Jesus is Baptized

**February 15:** Jesus in the Wilderness

**February 22:** Feeding the Five Thousand



## Creation Stations



### Creation Stations

The goal of Creation Stations is to learn about the Bible through hands-on activities such as drama, cooking, crafts, music and games. Fun and learning about the Bible can go together! These classes are for students in Grades 1-6. Teachers for Grade 1 are Mary Greenwaldt and Kristine Robinson. Teachers for Grades 2-6 are Arthur French and Uli Koester.

**February 1:** Ten Men Healed, or, A Lesson on Generosity

**February 8:** Music with Rosalie Eldevik and Diane Shallue

**February 15:** Ten Men Healed, or, A Lesson on Generosity

**February 22:** Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

### Confirmation

Confirmation Sunday classes meet at 9:30 a.m. in Room 203-204 with Kirsten Mebust, with a focus on the Bible lessons used in worship. Wednesday night classes meet February 11 and 25 with Pastor Shirley and Youth Director Jim Vitale.



### Youth Group

Youth Group meets Sunday mornings, 9:30–10:25 a.m. in the Youth Room with adult leaders Jack Dant, Leena Haugland Rapacz, and Jim Vitale. Discussion focuses on topics of interest to the group. All students in Grades 9–12 are welcome.



## Adult Forums

(9:30 – 10:25 a.m. in Heritage Hall, below the Sanctuary)

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**February 1: Budget 2015.** Tim Abrahamson, treasurer, will present the congregational budget for 2015, in preparation for the annual meeting of the congregation on February 8.

**February 8: P.E.A.S.E.,** presented by Michael Durchslag, Director of the MTS-P.E.A.S.E. Academy. P.E.A.S.E. (Peers Enjoying a Sober Education) is the oldest recovery high school in the US, serving students since February 1989. P.E.A.S.E. has been housed in Hope's education wing since Fall 1989. The church's central location in the Twin Cities, on 4 major bus lines, allows P.E.A.S.E. to serve students from all over the metro area. All classes are based on the state standards and all the teachers are licensed. Class sizes average 18-20 students, for a total of 70-75 students each year.



Mike Durchslag has been at P.E.A.S.E. since November, 1995. He taught Social Studies for 11½ years, and became Director in 2007. On November 13, P.E.A.S.E. Academy observed its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Augsburg College with a celebration organized by the newly formed P.E.A.S.E. Community Foundation, a non-profit foundation whose mission is to raise funds for the long-term economic sustainability of P.E.A.S.E. Academy. The celebration brought together students, family, alumni, staff, and community members.

**February 15: MetroHope.** MetroHope Recovery Ministries provides real help and lasting hope for men and women who are seeking freedom from addiction and other life-controlling issues. What sets MetroHope apart from other recovery programs is the transforming power of a Christ-centered process that breaks the family cycle of addiction and cleanses the body, clears the mind, changes the heart, and saves the soul. A key focus at MetroHope is the restoration of families. MetroHope has two branches: New Hope Center, for men, and Healing House, for women and children. Healing House is a family-only program exclusively for mothers with children, making it one of the only places in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area of its kind. Presenters will be Brian Larson, COO, and Kelly Larson, Marketing & Communications Director.

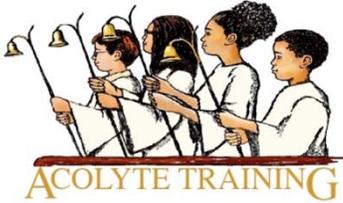


**February 22: StrengthsFinder 101.** Gallup's Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment is the first step in helping people identify their strengths, which are the unique combination of talents, knowledge, and skills that every person possesses. People use these innate traits and abilities in their daily lives to complete their work, relate with others and achieve their goals. But most people don't know what their strengths are or have the opportunity to use them to their advantage. Gallup research proves that people succeed when they focus on what they do best. When they identify their talents and develop them into strengths, people are more productive, perform better, and are more engaged.

Please come and hear about Strengths Finder, how you can participate, and how we might all share our individual strengths within our faith community. Come to learn, to hear from others who have participated, to see our growing "Wall of Strengths," and to register for one of the upcoming workshops. Beata Rydeen, MA, Life Coach and ULCH member, will facilitate.



## More Faith Formation News



### **Acolyte Training**

Acolyte training for students in Grades 3-6 will be held on Sunday February 1 and Sunday March 1 at 9:30 a.m. during Education Hour. When their training is completed, these students will be able to participate as leaders in the worship service. Jan and Bill Sanden will conduct the training sessions. Students will be commissioned and receive a special gift at the 10:30 a.m. worship service on March 8. The whole congregation will celebrate with our new acolytes the accomplishment of this faith step.

### **Communion Instruction**

Communion instruction for children ages 4-7 and their parents or grandparents will be held on March 1 in Fellowship Hall and March 8 in the conference room at 9:30 a.m. during Education Hour. Instruction will be provided by Dr. Diane Shallue and Pastor Craig Shirley. As Lutherans we are a sacramental church, which means we understand that the way God comes to us, the “means of grace,” is through Baptism and Holy Communion. This instruction is to prepare children to receive Holy Communion by engaging parents and children in activities, projects, and practice, and is another way the congregation supports parents in their important task of teaching the Christian faith to the next generation.



### **Prayer Partners Needed**

Would you be a Prayer Partner for a child or youth from our congregation? The Children’s Ministry Team has set a goal of recruiting 45 adults willing to pray weekly during Lent for a child or youth.

#### **Expectations:**

- Pray for the youth or child once a week during Lent. Suggested prayers will be provided.
- Send the child or youth a greeting card at Easter.

Please contact Diane Shallue at [dianes@ulch.org](mailto:dianes@ulch.org) by February 8 to volunteer.

### **Open Up to Lent**

With our focus on prayer in Lent, children and families will be provided a take-along packet of 40 Lenten devotions. There are 40 tear-off pages that encourage children and adults to open their eyes, ears and hearts to the signs and sounds of the season of Lent as they follow Jesus on his journey to the open tomb. The study packets of 3”x 5” cards are perfect for pockets, purses or backpacks. There will also be a version for adults with no children in their households which will include a scripture passage, a short reflection and a prayer.



## Why Detroit for the National Youth Gathering?

As the 2015 ELCA National Youth Gathering draws ever nearer, I realize I have been wondering a lot lately, *why Detroit?* Of course there are the obvious reasons. Detroit was once a thriving city, home to a booming automotive industry and a population of more than 1.8 million people. The reasons for decline are debated. Some claim that the rise of automation in assembly lines led to job losses, which hurt the economy and contributed to more job losses in other areas of the economy. Others speculate that the rise of suburbs also contributed to the decline of the city's economy. And so a once thriving center of commercial affluence met an economic collapse beginning in the 1950s and 60s that led to increased crime rates and exacerbated race riots (a tragedy, considering that Detroit was once a major refuge on the Underground Railroad).



After such a devastating economic downturn that cut its population in half, the city could never fully recover. It makes sense that the ELCA National Youth Gathering would set its eyes toward Detroit after a rich history of helping cities like New Orleans and San Antonio. Detroit is struggling, and we have the means to help, even if only a little.

But there is more to the story than that. Tim Schroeder recently shared with me an article in the *New York Times* about Detroit. Alex MacLean, a photographer, wrote a short piece accompanied by some breathtaking and staggering photos from the sky. MacLean highlighted the strangeness of an aerial view of Detroit. He comments on the rich suburbia of Detroit, but adds that the inner-city looks “like a moth-eaten blanket.” Much of the city is made up of abandoned lots and old buildings, but parts of it are teeming with life. MacLean concludes, and the ELCA has noticed too, that the decline has slowed and, particularly in the city center, new life is starting to grow. Perhaps for the first time in a long time, Detroit has tangible hope for a much brighter future.

This is why it is so important for our youth to travel to Detroit this July. Of course it is good to go and help a struggling community, but there is more to it than that. The experience of the people of Detroit is a witness to the Gospel. It is a story of resurrection. Christ's death and rising speaks new possibilities into impossible situations. When we travel to Detroit and offer our assistance, we do so humbly. We respect the experience of death that Detroit has felt, and we prayerfully await the new life Christ is working within the people of that city. We go to Detroit as witnesses for the Gospel, but we know full well that when we share in their experience, the people of Detroit will most certainly bring the Gospel to us. So, why Detroit? Because Detroit offers us an opportunity to encounter the living Christ together and participate in that love which he commanded.

Jim Vitale, Youth Director

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## Senior Group Announcement

The Senior Group will not have a monthly gathering in February due to Ash Wednesday observance and services. Program information regarding the next gathering, to be held on March 18, will be announced in the March *Visitor*.

## Worship Highlights for February and Lent

The weeks after Christmas are always incredibly busy for church musicians – a quick day to recuperate from Advent and Christmas Eve services, then diving into planning Epiphany. Not to mention annual reports, budgets, and – by the way – Lent is only one month away! Yikes!

Here is a quick snapshot of some special services coming up in the next month-and-a-half:

**February 1:** We celebrate the “Hope for the Future” Mission Appeal pledge Sunday with a more up-tempo service, featuring music from our in-house jazz combo.

**February 8:** Since the Gospel for the day is about Jesus healing many people, we’ll offer a brief Healing Rite with Laying of Hands.

**February 15:** We celebrate Jesus’ Transfiguration on the mountain, even as we bid farewell to “Alleluia” for the beginning of Lent.

**February 18 (Ash Wednesday):** Services at Noon and 7:00 p.m. to mark the beginning of Lent. The choir will sing at the evening service.

**March 1:** The Valparaiso University Chorale will sing for worship as their first stop on their spring tour. We will need to provide a meal on Saturday evening and housing for students that night – watch for more details.

**March 8:** Magpies & Ravens sing for worship. This is a local choir made up of half professional singers and half high school students. Their mission is to train the next generation of choral singers. They rehearse on Saturday mornings in our chapel; singing for worship is their rental fee.

See you in church!

Luke Tegtmeier, Minister of Worship  
& Music



## From the Visitation Pastor

Thursday January 15 was Lula Guthrie’s funeral. It was a day with people I hardly knew. There were several visits with her children when I was with Lula. But, at the end of the day, it was different. The University Lutheran Church of Hope congregation was part of Lula and her family, begun 65 years ago. Her children remember little red shovels they were given when the education wing was dedicated. Another family friend, Dorothy Meyer, still has her shovel and remembered the pastor forgetting his Bible for the dedication and borrowing hers.

There were rich memories to share and to hear. And I was able to share Lula’s last words with me in the sermon. After the last simple communion when she was silent, we sat in the quiet. Then I heard her fragile voice, “*Our Father who art in heaven....hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come.....*” (silence again).....then, “*Our Father who art in heaven... .hallowed be thy name....*” and on for a short time. The words of Psalm 121 that the family chose were true! *The Lord will keep your life.* He has and continues to.

In reflecting, it brought me back to our church and the gratefulness I feel that it is of extreme importance that our homebound members not be forgotten or neglected. My position as Visitation Pastor is not a given at all churches. Often it is added onto another’s full schedule, and visitation happens “if there is time.” Pastor Shirley is clear about this: Visitation is to be the top priority of my work.

In thankfulness for many things,

Pastor Esther

## Vision and Governance Board

The Vision and Governance Board of University Lutheran Church of Hope held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2015. We heard reports on the work of the call committee and the “Hope for the Future” mission appeal campaign, and reviewed the financials for the previous month and the year-to-date.

We also discussed mission area reports for 2014 and approved the budget that will be presented to the congregation for 2015 at the annual meeting in February. The final portion of the meeting was spent developing the agenda for the February 8 congregational meeting. In addition to the usual reports and regular church business, there will also be an update on progress on refinancing our mortgage.

Doug Hartmann, Congregation President

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## Are You Willing to Read *The Visitor* Electronically?

The print version of *The Hope Visitor* is mailed to all members and friends of our congregation who wish to receive it that way, and is also available online at <http://www.ulch.org/connect/newsletter>.

We currently mail 300 copies each month, and would like to decrease that number to save on paper, postage, and the work of assembling copies. Our goal is 200, the minimum for bulk mail rates. If you are currently receiving *The Visitor* in the mail and are sure you would be able to stay just as connected by receiving it electronically, please consider making this change. You can notify Gayle Bidne of your wishes at (612) 331-5988 or [gayleb@ulch.org](mailto:gayleb@ulch.org)

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## Hope Book Club

### **MORE GREAT BOOKS FOR 2015 WITH THE HOPE BOOK CLUB:**

*Part 1 of The Ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote of La Mancha, (a.k.a. Don Quixote)*

by Miguel de Cervantes.

*Don Quixote* is one of the greatest works of fiction ever written; it has been translated into more languages than any other book besides the Bible.

Don Quixote is a middle-aged gentleman from the region of La Mancha in central Spain. Obsessed with the chivalrous ideals touted in books he has read, he decides to take up his lance and sword to defend the helpless and destroy the wicked. After a first failed adventure, he sets out on a second one with a somewhat befuddled laborer named Sancho Panza, whom he has persuaded to accompany him as his faithful squire. <http://www.sparknotes.com>

**February 8, 2015 at 7 p.m., in the Hope Library** Please contact Sonja Peterson with book suggestions or questions at 612-789-0397 or [speterson@dunnwald.com](mailto:speterson@dunnwald.com)



## President's Perspective

My last official meeting as President of the Vision and Governance Board of University Lutheran Church of Hope was Tuesday, January 13, 2015. There was no time for ceremony, celebration, or speeches. We had a big agenda and had to get right down to business in order to get all the work done, which we did. (See my report on page 9). Though I'm not complaining—this is how it has been all year.

With the ongoing transformation of our Dinkytown neighborhood, Pastor Shirley's upcoming retirement, and all the activities, programs, and ideas we have going on at Hope, I knew 2014 would be a busy year. And I hadn't even factored in the need to launch a new capital renewal campaign in my initial planning! By the way, you've heard a lot about our "Hope for the Future" appeal from me and other congregational leaders in recent weeks. It was just one of several major initiatives we worked on this year. Anyway, I am hoping to be able to report the results and successful wrap-up of this campaign at our annual meeting on Sunday February 8, after the second service.



What I didn't fully anticipate when I first came into leadership was how smoothly all of this would go and, more importantly, how fulfilling and affirming it would be to actually do all of this work. Hope Church is blessed by a top-shelf, incredibly professional and hard-working staff. We also have an unbelievably passionate and committed stable of volunteers and lay leaders in this congregation—folks who not only keep all of our usual programs and commitments humming along, but who step up time and again to take on extra tasks and new initiatives. Our Vision and Governance Board has been spectacular in its embrace, with grace and good humor, of every challenge that has come our way. In addition to the work we have accomplished together, it has been an inspiration simply to witness so many faith-filled, meaning-driven people and lives.

I'd be lying if I said I wasn't looking forward to turning the official presidential gavel over to Beth Kautz in February. Being "in charge" is a big responsibility. But, I'm not exaggerating in the least when I say I am glad I will be able to continue on the Board as Past President for another year. I know Beth is going to do a great job, and we have a wonderful new team moving into positions of leadership for our next phase of mission and ministry. Indeed, although it is almost impossible for me to imagine University Lutheran Church of Hope without Craig Shirley at the helm, I am convinced that we are positioned well for the future and am excited to see what we will accomplish together in the coming months and years.

In my first column as President, I thanked you —the good people of Hope—for allowing me the privilege to serve in a leadership role in this congregation. I want to reiterate that sentiment once again and offer, as well, my gratitude for all of the assistance and support you have given your Church and its leadership in the past year. This is truly a special place and we a special people. Thanks be to God.

Doug Hartmann, Congregation President

## Staff

### **Pastors:**

Rev. Craig Shirley

Rev. Esther Dant

### **Minister of Worship and Music:**

Luke Tegtmeier

### **Director of Education and**

#### **Adult Small-Group Ministries:**

Diane Shallue

### **Youth Director:**

James Vitale, Jr.

### **Administrator:**

Gayle Bidne

### **Custodian:**

Geremew Beshah – weekdays

### **Working in partnership with**

#### **Lutheran Campus Ministry**

Tim Schroeder

Rev. Kate Reuer Welton

## Vision & Governance Board

### **Officers:**

**President:** Doug Hartmann

**Vice President:** Beth Kautz

**Past President:** Karen Westwood

**Treasurer:** Tim Abrahamson

### **Ministry Areas:**

**Worship & Music:** Paul Odenbach

**Youth & Young Adults:**

Cory and Katie Olson

**Education:** Kirsten Mebust

**Hope in the World:** vacant

**Relational Ministries:**

Paige Whitney

### **Operations:**

Tim Abrahamson

Karen Westwood

**Leadership Development**

**& Communications:**

Doug Hartmann

Beth Kautz

## The Visitor

*The Visitor* is published monthly by University Lutheran Church of Hope, 601 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414-1437.

Articles for *The Visitor* may be submitted via e-mail or directly to 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 permission(s) to republish. Send submissions and correspondence to [visitor@ulch.org](mailto: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 at [www.ulch.org/VisitorArchive.asp](http://www.ulch.org/VisitorArchive.asp) or by contacting the church office.

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