



The Visitor



April 2015

Issue #4-15

Complex world. Thoughtful church.

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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

In my last few articles for *The Visitor* I want to lift up some of the great attributes of this congregation that I have experienced in my years here as pastor. I have often said publicly that this congregation has so many gifted leaders. Because we elect a new congregational president every year, it is always a challenge to find people who will dedicate themselves to serve. But every year, great people come forward to lead the congregation in its important business.

Many years ago in a different congregation, a number of the high school students were volunteering to teach Sunday School. I was delighted and impressed, until I found out that they had a class in school that required them to do a number of service hours each week and, moreover, that volunteering looked good on the applications they submitted to colleges. It worked out fine, and I think the students enjoyed their volunteer work, but their self-serving motivation took away some of the philanthropic "purity" that I thought was there. The leaders I experience here display none of that kind of self-serving interest. Many of them are extremely busy people who really don't need one more responsibility, yet each person has spent hours of time in unselfish service to this congregation. They come to serve in an unbiased way with the good of the congregation in mind. Thank you.

The same kind of unselfishness is true for teachers who give so much time to students and adults; to choir members, singers, and musicians who bring their many skills to worship; and to the folks you don't see: altar guild, committee liaisons to Vision and Governance, volunteers for Families Moving Forward, Meals on Wheels, Loaves and Fishes, Senior Group, and many other groups. There are those who care for the building and the gardens, bring treats on Sunday mornings, collate bulletins and newsletters, clean the kitchen, transport people who need rides, and on and on and on. I have never seen anyone do this out of self-interest or for personal reasons or from a particular agenda. All is done for the good of the congregation. There is always a lot of conversation, a variety of opinions, and sometimes a lot of emotion in the differences that come about. But, because people love this congregation and are faithful to their belief in Jesus, they find a way to make the best decisions they can. And I believe we have seen the results of these many decisions by way of a vital, healthy congregation. Again, thank you.



Pax,
Pastor Craig Shirley

Treasurer's Report for February 2015

February giving was \$31,737.28 and our rental income was \$8,872.93, for a total income of \$40,610.21. Our rental income was \$743.21 under budget and our giving was \$2,579.05 under budget. Total income was \$3,322.26 under budget. Our expenses for February were \$38,905.27. Our net income was \$1,704.94.

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 makes this congregation a vibrant and thoughtful presence in the community.

February 2015 and Year-to-Date Income and Expenses						
Summary for 2015	February Actual	February Budget	February Over/(Under)	Year to date Actual to 2/28/15	Year to Date Budget to 2/28/15	Year to Date O/(U) to 1/28/15
General Giving	31,737.28	34,316.33	(2,579.05)	62,599.30	68,032.66	(5,433.36)
Rental Income	8,872.93	9,616.14	(743.21)	18,534.07	19,207.28	(673.21)
Total Income	40,610.21	43,932.47	(3,322.26)	81,133.37	87,239.94	(6,106.57)
Total Expense	38,905.27	47,041.76	(8,136.49)	92,775.35	91,545.31	1,230.04
Net Income	1,704.94	(3,109.29)	4,814.23	(11,641.98)	(4,305.37)	(7,336.61)



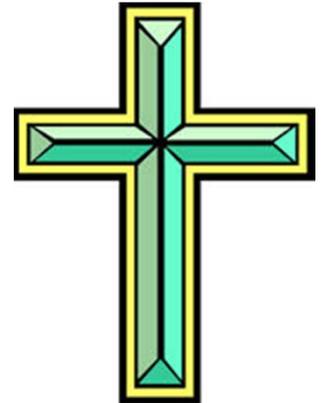
Total income for our Hope for the Future (HFTF) campaign in February was \$129,563.275. WOW!!! Thank you to all of you who pledged to the campaign. We had a very successful campaign with approximately 1/3 of our pledges prepaid. Total pledges to date are approximately \$389,000.00. We are able to pay down \$60,000.00 of our mortgage amount, with \$30,000.00 coming from our Building Fund and \$30,000.00 from the General Fund. We paid out \$6,918.89 for the mortgage and received \$209.16 for building improvements from PEASE Academy. We had \$6,000.00 in expenses for Kairos and \$850.00 in legal fees for our new mortgage with the Mission Investment Fund. Our total expense was \$13,559.73. Net income was \$116,003.54. Our building fund balance is \$309,031.74.

If you have any questions or comments please contact me at treasurer@ulch.org

Holy Week Worship

Triduum (TRID-u-um) *Noun. Lat., “three days”*. The three days of Holy Week which focus intensely on Christ’s passage from death to life, from Maundy Thursday evening through Easter evening; a single unified observance of Christ’s Passion and Resurrection. The Triduum is the culmination and climax of the entire church year; its liturgies are central to the Christian faith and life, for they celebrate the most important event in salvation history: Christ’s redemptive passage from crucifixion to burial and Resurrection.

(from *Worship Wordbook: A Practical Guide for Parish Worship*, by Ralph Van Loon and Anita Stauffer. ©1995 Augsburg Fortress)



Did you notice that last sentence? The authors of this definition think that the three services of Triduum are the “culmination and climax of the entire church year”. With the publication of ELW, Lutherans have restored the idea that Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil are actually three parts of the same liturgy, called Triduum. As Holy Week and Easter approach, I urge you to consider attending all three services of the Triduum this year and see how it affects your understanding of the Christian faith.

Palm Sunday: 8:30a.m. and 10:30a.m. services, both in the sanctuary, with the story of Christ’s Passion semi-staged.

Maundy Thursday: 7p.m. Individual absolution of sins, Holy Communion, and stripping of the altar.

Good Friday: 7p.m. A service of Tenebrae, with dimming lights and psalmody, as well as the Seven Last Words of Christ.

Easter Vigil: 8p.m. (note the later time). We gather in the courtyard to light the new fire, then move to the intimate Thorpe Chapel to hear and sing salvation history. Special musical guests to be announced! Then we process into the sanctuary to celebrate the first Eucharist of the Easter season.

Easter Morning: 8:30a.m. and 10:30a.m. Instruments and choir at both services, with breakfast in between. The congregation is invited to sing Handel’s *Hallelujah Chorus* as the postlude after each service.



FAITH FORMATION NEWS



Faith Formation for All Ages on Sunday Mornings

On Sunday mornings, 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 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.

April 5: Easter. No Education Hour. Enjoy the Easter Breakfast

April 12: Mary Magdalene in the Garden

April 19: Breakfast on the Beach

April 26: The Good Shepherd and the Wolf



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.

April 5: Easter. No Education Hour. Enjoy the Easter Breakfast

April 12: Music in Room 205 with Rosalie Eldevik and Diane Shallue

April 19 & 26: Fruits of the Spirit

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. No class on Sunday, April 5. The Wednesday night classes meet on April 8 & 22 with Pastor Craig 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.



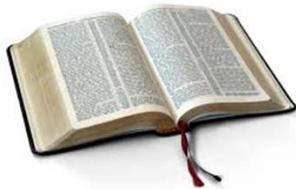
Adult Forums

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

April 5: Easter. No Adult Forum. Enjoy the Easter Breakfast.

April 12: Wittenberg, Germany. Dr. Steve Arnold, Deputy Director of Wittenberg English Ministry based in Wittenberg, Germany, coordinates devotional offerings and worship offerings in the English language in order to support tourists and other English-speaking people visiting Wittenberg, and serves as chaplain as needed. He will discuss plans being made for the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in 2017.

Dr. Arnold is a Deacon within the Lutheran confessional movement of the Church catholic, a certified Director of Christian Education, a retired professor, a volunteer chaplain, and a noted teacher, retreat leader, speaker, author, tour leader, and bridge-builder.



April 19: The Bible. An Animate video with thought-provoking discussion by Dr. Lauren Winner. Is the Bible worth reading over and over? Why does the Church read the same passages in the Bible over and over again? How do we use the Bible? What are various ways to interpret the Bible?

Lauren Winner converted to Orthodox Judaism and then to Christianity, and teaches at Duke Divinity School in North Carolina. Bring along a copy of your favorite Bible and your questions.

April 26: To be announced

Scriptural Sharing

Do you have a favorite Bible passage? Do you have a favorite book of the Bible? The Adult Forum Planning Team is looking for several people to share their thoughts about that biblical passage or that book of the Bible at a Sunday morning Adult Forum in the fall of 2015.

This is not to be an academic presentation or an in-depth Bible study but a sharing of thoughts, ideas, and significance. Some questions will be provided to guide your thinking. You could claim a whole Adult Forum or share the hour with another person. Please contact Diane Shallue if you are interested.



More Faith Formation News

Discover Your Strengths

What do you do best? When do you function in that “sweet spot?” Here is a great opportunity to discover the personal strengths with which God has gifted you, using information from the StrengthsFinder 2.0 survey. During this workshop you will gain insights into how to enhance the gifts you use in all aspects of your life – at work, at home, and at church.

Gallup's Clifton Strengths Finder 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, to relate with others, and to achieve their goals. But most people don't know what their strengths are, or don't 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.



Date: Thursday, April 9

Time: 6-9:00 p.m. Supper provided.

Facilitator: Beata Rydeen, MA, Life Coach and University Lutheran Church of Hope member.

Note: Reservations are needed, but there is no fee; this workshop is sponsored by a grant from the Hope Trust Board. Attendees will need to take the on-line StrengthsFinder 2.0 survey beforehand and bring the results with them to the workshop. If you are interested in attending the workshop or in taking the Strengths Finder 2.0 survey, please contact Diane Shallue at dianes@ulch.org

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions series is starting up again at Grace University Lutheran Church, 324 Harvard St. SE. If you are interested in attending, please feel free to join us at 7 p.m. There is a \$5 charge, payable at each event. We look forward to meeting Hope members at these foreign policy discussions:

Monday, April 27: Privacy in the Digital Age. Speaker: Jane Kirtley, Silha Professor of Media Ethics and Law at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Minnesota, director of the Silha Center for the Study of Media Ethics and Law, and affiliate faculty member in the University of Minnesota Law School.

Tuesday, May 19: Syria's Refugee Crisis (Please note this is not our usual day to meet). Speaker: Bill Davnie, retired Foreign Service officer and a frequent speaker at our Great Decisions programs.

Monday, June 22: Sectarianism in the Middle East. Speaker: Gary Prevost, professor of Political Science and International Relations at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University, where he regularly teaches a course on the politics of the Middle East.

Janet Jacobson, Education
Grace University Lutheran Church

High School Youth Group Retreat

We began the season of Lent with this reading from Mark: “And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’ And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him” (Mk 1:11-13). The first thing Jesus did, before he even considered ministry, was to retreat into the wilderness for prayer, fasting, and composure. We derive the idea of Lent from this part of Jesus’ life: fasting and praying and growing closer to God.



I think the element of retreat we find in this passage is very important. Lent, and retreats in general, are a time to reflect, slow down, share in fellowship with those we love, meditate on God, and invite God further into our lives. Unfortunately for many, Lent ends up being just as fast-paced as any other time of the year, and for church staff it is the busiest time of all.

So, in the spirit of Lent and the value of retreats, the high school youth group will be taking some time off April 10-12 (admittedly after the Lenten season) to pull away from the world, spend time together, and be with God. The Morses have generously offered us the use of their timeshare at Boyd Lodge on Whitefish Lake. This beautiful cottage offers all the best amenities, providing us space to relax, explore, play games, and cook meals together. The cottage sits next to Rush and Lower Whitefish Lakes, providing fire pits by the water, hiking trails, and canoeing. All of this is only three miles from the shops and restaurants of Crosslake.

We are heading into one of the busiest times of the year and it is extremely important to set aside some time to re-center and refocus. The theme of the retreat is yet to be decided, but we will spend time together reflecting on our relationships with God, each other, and ourselves, both in solitude and as a group. Because we will not be at Hope’s worship service that weekend, we will hold an outdoor service by the water.

This high school youth group retreat is open to all high school age youth. Jack Dant, Penny Freeh, Isabel Vitale and I will chaperone the event. Stay tuned for more information regarding transportation, weekend plans and signups. As always, if you have any questions, please contact me at jvitale001@luthersem.edu

James Vitale, Youth Director

Hope Senior Group Spring Gathering



Calling all seniors, retirees and friends of any age! You are cordially invited to join the Hope Seniors for the Spring Gathering on Wednesday, April 15. Our program will be “St. Francis: the One Whose Name the Current Pope Took,” presented at 1:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall by Daniel Burow, retired Lutheran pastor and former curriculum editor at Augsburg Fortress and earlier at Concordia Publishing House.

Who was the original St. Francis? More than a lover of birds? You bet! Why would a pope take a name that no previous pope had dared to take, even though one of America’s largest cities is named after him? Come and learn about this beloved saint!

The program will follow luncheon at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall. Please make reservations for the meal with your caller or by phoning Pastor Dant at (612)331-5988, ext. 818, or (651)636-7834 by Thursday, April 9. Everyone is always welcome to attend the program even if you cannot attend the luncheon.

Pastor Esther Dant

From the Visitation Pastor

T.C.B. according to TODD

Todd Perry’s philosophy was T.C.B. – take care of business – and always smile. His obituary told of a life packed full of living, and a seven-month battle – short and courageous – lost to ALS. He was living his dream of being a pilot, first at Northwest Airlines and then at Delta. He was 48 years old. The packed parking lot at the funeral home in Andover last week also told of his life.

His family became very dear to me in the 1980s at a church in the northern suburbs. One heard from each family member how Todd “took care of business.” His mother said that many mornings the phone would ring, and he would sing to her, “Come fly with me.” He would then tell her where he was flying to that day. He reminded his family to smile by drawing this funny, great smile for them. It has become the logo for the Todd Perry Foundation for ALS. Logo t-shirts have sold like crazy. I love mine.



Today I was reminded of Hope members who have “taken care of business.” Dick and Zona Koernig celebrated **65** years of marriage with family and friends. That’s a lot of years of love and forgiveness and letting go. They live in Chandler Place now, and so their loving daughter has begun the process of sorting rooms and years of memories. Ann Agrimson too is in this process now that Robert has moved to Eagle Crest in Roseville. Her mother, Joy, was an independent young woman who bought her own house before Robert came into her life.

The monthly communion with members at Augustana has created a community we all enjoy. But there is still hope that our members away can come to events at church, so that is our next project. There is Todd’s philosophy again. Taking care of what we need to take care of....paying attention....and remembering to smile.

A Blessed Easter Time to you.

Pastor Esther Dant

Vision and Governance Board

The Vision & Governance Board of University Lutheran Church of Hope held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2015. The Call Committee gave a brief update, but most of the meeting was devoted to financial and budgetary matters. Treasurer Tim Abrahamson reported on our year-to-date budget numbers, the success of our “Hope for the Future” mission appeal, and the progress of our mortgage refinancing. We discussed several proposals for our building and grounds, including plans for a new roof for the Thorpe Chapel, and resolved to ask the Facilities Team for their recommendations and prioritization.

We also reviewed grants approved by the Hope Trust Board for 2015, and discussed ways to improve communication, coordination, and planning with the Trust Board in the coming year. Education liaison Kirsten Mebust agreed to serve as at-large member of the Executive Committee for 2015. Kirsten and Hope in the World liaison Bruce Eldevik will also serve as Hope delegates to the annual Minneapolis Synod convention in May.

Doug Hartmann, Past President

Hope Book Club

HOPE BOOK CLUB CONTINUES ITS DISCUSSION OF A CLASSIC:

Part 2 of *The Ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote of La Mancha*

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 except the Bible.

April 12, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the Hope Library.

Coming May 10, 2015:

Lila

by Marilynne Robinson.

“Marilynne Robinson, one of the greatest novelists of our time, returns to the town of Gilead in an unforgettable story of a girlhood lived on the fringes of society in fear, awe, and wonder.” www.goodreads.com

Please contact Sonja Peterson with book suggestions or questions at 612-789-0397 or speterson@dunnwald.com



“Outside of a dog, a book is a man’s best friend. Inside of a dog, it’s too dark to read.”

Groucho Marx

President's Perspective

The Visitor. Why is our church newsletter called *The Visitor*? While I'm sure I could do some research to find out the history of this newsletter and its name, I think I already know the answer. It probably is meant to make us feel connected to the congregation. A visitor, in this instance in the form of written news and stories, is sent from the congregation to be with us in our homes. On the surface, it seems pretty straightforward. I suspect, however, that whoever chose the name was likely influenced by more complex ideas and emotions around the theme of visitation.



The Visitor

Complex world. Thoughtful church.

Since my surgery ten days ago, I've had several visitors. Pastor Shirley visited me in the hospital late Wednesday afternoon before returning to the church for Lenten worship. Neighbors rang the doorbell and delivered a beautiful pot of pink azaleas. A handmade card signed by many work colleagues made its way to my home mailbox. Yesterday, Beata Rydeen brought tea bags to share while we sat and talked on my back deck in the sunshine. What is it about these visits that is so powerful, so memorable?

I believe it stems from my position in the encounter. *They visited me*. I was visited by them. (I'll skip the explicit grammar lesson on active and passive voice as well as subjects and objects, but check with me later if you want it!) I was in a vulnerable condition – weak, tired, and with so much bottled up inside. They came and found me. These visits were not akin to “Let's meet for coffee sometime.” They were profoundly different.

Perhaps more in this digital age than before, having someone physically seek you out, to come to where you are located, to come into your home or to your sickbed, makes you feel remembered and cared for. Matthew 25:36 not only comes to mind, but comes alive: “I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

The Visitor newsletter is only one way we – the congregation as a whole – can reach into the homes of those who need our presence. There are also the Compassionate Care Program, the Friendly Visitor Program, and the work of our Visitation Pastor, Esther Dant. The Hope Connections Program, while not strictly a visitation ministry, is another way to reach into each other's homes and lives and to be strengthened by one another's presence.

While we are largely a destination church that joyfully gathers in Dinkytown on Sunday mornings, our gifts and presence are needed beyond our own walls. As we strive to welcome all people to join us at University Lutheran Church of Hope, let us also remember we may need to go to them. They may just be yearning for a visitor.

Beth Kautz, Congregation President

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Rev. Craig Shirley

Rev. Esther Dant

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Luke Tegtmeier

Director of Education and

Adult Small-Group Ministries:

Diane Shallue

Youth Director:

James Vitale, Jr.

Administrator:

Gayle Bidne

Custodian:

Geremew Beshah – weekdays

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Leadership Development

& Communications:

Beth Kautz

John Rydeen

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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.

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 or by contacting the church office.

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