



The Visitor



May 2015

Issue #5-15

Complex world. Thoughtful church.

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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.*

May Worship

Right after Easter, one of my church musician friends had this as his Facebook status: "Friends, Easter is a season, a full fifty days long. The season of Easter is to the year what Sunday is to the week. Today, Easter is not over; it is just beginning. And we Christians have now 49 more days to celebrate! Bring it!"

Indeed, the season of Easter is always a bit of a challenge to the church musician. How do we carry that resurrection joy forward for seven Sundays? Last year, a brass ensemble helped us celebrate the Easter season on most Sundays. This year's celebration is more eclectic.



May 3: The well-known and much-loved trio of Tim Gustafson, Mark Nelson, and Paul Odenbach will play for worship at the 10:30 service, including a church take on the famous Dave Brubeck tune "Take Five". Hope Choir will also have a new Gospel anthem to share.

May 10: University Lutheran Church of Hope has many musically talented high school seniors graduating this year. We thought Mother's Day would be an appropriate day to showcase this talent. Our worship will feature our young musicians playing instruments in solos, small ensembles, and with our hymnody.

May 17: The Hope Choir and Festival Choir will sing Mozart's *Missa Brevis in C Major* (K220, "Sparrow Mass") at the 10:30 service, with a small orchestra. Mozart was 19 years old when he wrote this piece, and his youthful exuberance shows. Come to experience a little bit of Austria!

May 24: Pentecost. We celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit onto the disciples and the birthday of the Church. We begin our summer worship schedule of one service at 10 a.m.

May 31: Trinity Sunday. On the official day to celebrate Pastor Craig Shirley's retirement, (he'll still be here a few more Sundays), we'll have a big festival service at 10 a.m. with brass and timpani. Stick around for the dinner!

Luke Tegtmeier,
Minister of Worship & Music

Treasurer's Report for March 2015

March giving was \$40,143.48 and our rental income was \$9,977.24, for a total income of \$50,120.72. Our rental income was \$1,386.10 over budget and our giving was \$3,077.15 over budget. Total income was \$4,463.25 over budget.

Our expenses for March were \$58,217.66. Our budget for March expenses was \$45,480.09, which put us over budget by \$12,737.57. This month reflects costs incurred to refinance our mortgage and pay down the principal balance. We will pay out an additional amount for principal reduction in April. Our new mortgage with the Mission Investment fund is for \$1.25M vs. the \$1.31M before refinancing. Our net income was (\$8,096.94). Our mortgage payment decreased from \$13,448.00 per month to \$11,237.00 per month, for a savings of \$2,221.00 per month. The term of our mortgage has stayed the same at 12 years.

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	March Actual	March Budget	March Over / (Under)	Year to date Actual to 3/31/15	Year to Date Budget to 3/31/15	Year to Date O/(U) to 3/31/15
General Giving	40,143.48	37,066.33	3,077.15	102,742.78	105,096.99	(2,356.21)
Rental Income	9,977.24	8,591.14	1,386.10	28,511.31	62,099.70	712.89
Total Income	50,120.72	45,657.47	4,463.25	131,254.09	132,897.41	(1,643.32)
Total Expense	58,217.66	45,480.09	12,737.57	150,935.51	135,942.06	14,993.45
Net Income	(8,096.94)	177.38	(8,274.32)	(19,681.42)	(3,044.65)	(16,636.77)



Total income for Hope for the Future campaign in March was \$7,340.28. Thank you once again to all of you who pledged to the Hope for the Future campaign. Total Pledges to date are approximately \$389,000.00. We were able to pay down \$60,000.00 of our mortgage balance with \$30,000.00 coming from our Building Fund and \$30,000.00 from the General Fund.

In March we paid out \$36,918.89 for the mortgage and received \$209.16 for building improvements from PEASE Academy. Our total expense was \$36,709.73. Net income was (\$29,369.45). Our building fund balance is \$279,662.29.

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

Tim Abrahamson,
Treasurer

Shirley's Share

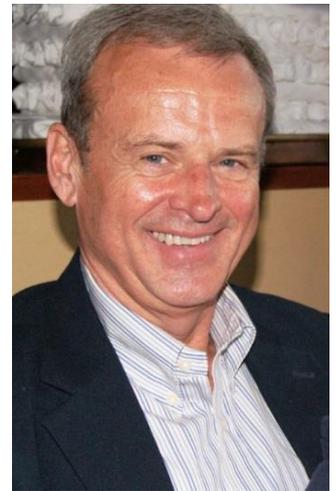
Not too many years ago the process of calling a new pastor was quite different. A call committee would show up at another church on a Sunday morning in order to “scout out” a candidate. I remember my home pastor saying, “It isn’t a coincidence when four people show up at your worship service, sitting in different places, but all sharing that they are from the same community when you greet them at the door afterwards.”

In those days, a pastor would simply receive a Call. It might come in person. It might come in the mail. But the Call was what got the whole process going. It was at that point that the pastoral candidate would begin conversation with a congregation as to whether or not he (they were all men in those days) would or would not accept the call. There were no interims. There were no multiple candidates. It was less businesslike, and more dependent on the Spirit.

So, in a way, the process we are going through here at University Lutheran Church of Hope is kind of a throwback. There will probably not be an interim pastor here for two, three, or six months or a year. Instead, I will retire and the new pastor will (at least if everything goes as planned) take over. This may be exciting for some and downright shocking for others, which is why I am writing about it this month in *The Visitor*.

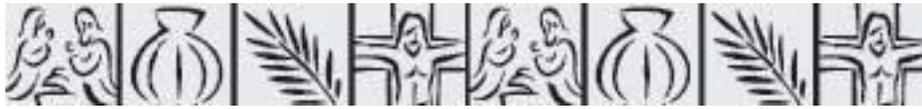
If you remember my three-month sabbatical, you will remember that Pastor Chris Scharen took over as pastor during my time away, right in the midst of Holy Week! It seemed to me that most everyone enjoyed Pastor Scharen’s time here, that people quickly got used to his way of doing things, and that many people stepped up, not only to welcome him, but also to help him get integrated into our congregational life.

I trust that will happen again when your new pastor is called. I trust that you folks will welcome that person, that you will give that person some time to get settled and begin to understand “the lay of the land.” I trust that you will embrace that person’s gifts for ministry, and step up to help lead the congregation with the skills and talents that you have. I trust that some of you may challenge the new person with variations on the phrase, “We’ve never done it that way before.” But that, of course, is one of the exciting things about having a new person in place – new face, new ideas, new way of doing things. It will be a shock for everyone, including the new person you call to lead you. So have patience! Use humor to move ahead. And welcome the new person with open hearts and the grace that God shows us every day! Alleluia! Christ is Risen!



Pax,
Rev. Craig M. Shirley

FAITH FORMATION NEWS



Faith Formation for All Ages on Sunday Mornings

The last session of education hour for this academic year will be on May 17. On May 24 the worship schedule changes to one worship service at 10:00 a.m. The education hour will resume in September.

Nursery: Clair Gustafson supervises the youngest members in the nursery on the second floor of the education wing.

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.

May 3: The Good Shepherd and the Lord's Supper

May 10: Ascension

May 17: Pentecost

May 24: No education hour until September



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.

May 3: Music with Diane Shallue and Rosalie Eldevik in room 205

May 10: Parent and student meeting with Diane Shallue around prayer and Holy Communion

May 17: Final class on the Fruits of the Spirit: see Galatians 5:22-2

May 24: No education hour until September

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. The last Sunday session is on May 17. The Wednesday night class will meet on May 13.



Youth Group

Youth Group meets Sunday mornings, 9:30-10:25 a.m. in the Youth Room with adult leaders Jim Vitale, Jack Dant, and Leena Haugland Rapacz. 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)

May 3: “Jisie Ike”. Pastor Tim Iverson, Executive Director of Global Health Ministries (GHM), will present on Nigerian community-based health care initiatives including water projects, malaria eradication, and dispensary renovations, and on the vital importance of companion relationships. John Scheck, Warehouse/Volunteer Manager at GHM, will speak about the shipping program and volunteer opportunities at GHM. Global Health Ministries is a Christian movement proclaiming the gospel by carrying on the healing ministry of our Lord Jesus in the developing world. Most recently, GHM was among the first organizations to respond to the Ebola crisis by gathering and shipping supplies and equipment to fight the spread of this disease. Global Health Ministries continues the holistic ministry of Jesus Christ by partnering with Lutheran efforts globally to enhance and sustain the health and well-being of the communities served.



You are invited to join Global Health Ministries through support of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria Health Programs, sustaining support of the Kairos Mission Appeal, or adoption of one of the more than 60 approved projects to improve the health of the poor around the world. In addition to financial support, we encourage local service in gathering medical supplies, preparing supplies for shipment in the GHM warehouse, overseas service in support of health care programs, and prayer for all afflicted by poverty and disease and those who serve them.



May 10: “Doing Justice in Minnesota: The Life and Times of a State Court Judge.” Hope member Louise Dovre Bjorkman will describe the work of Minnesota’s Judicial Branch and her experience as a judge. Louise graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School and worked in private practice as a civil trial and appellate lawyer. She was a Ramsey County District Court judge from 1998-2005, and currently serves on the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

May 17: To be announced. Last Adult Forum until September.

More Faith Formation News

Teacher Appreciation May 17

Here is your opportunity to say thanks to the people who have volunteered their time working with the children and youth in the 2014-15 program. Write a note of thanks or say a verbal thank you to these volunteer teachers and staff:

Godly Play: Madhu Bhat, Sara Tufvesson Doure, Rebecca Hillebrand, Melissa Odenbach, Renee Real-Banas, and Stephanie Struthers

Creations Stations: Rosalie Eldevik, Kristine Robinson, Suzie Robinson, Mary Greenwaldt, Uli Koester, and Arthur French

Confirmation: Kirsten Mebust

Youth Group: Jack Dant, Leena Haugland Rapacz, and Jim Vitale.

Hope Senior Group Gathering

All seniors and friends of any age are cordially invited to a “Scottish Spring Fling” on Wednesday, May 20. The festivities will begin at noon in Fellowship Hall with a salad luncheon which will feature Walkers Pure Butter Shortbread as a special dessert treat. It is baked in the secluded village of Aberlour, Speyside, in the heart of the Scottish Highlands, using a recipe that has been handed down through generations of the Walker family.

At 1:00 pm we will enjoy an afternoon of Scottish melodies and dancing by Erianna Reyelts, soloist and Highland dancer. Erianna, granddaughter of Leona Reyelts, has been dancing since she was three years old, under the tutelage of her mother, Barbara McPherson Reyelts. We will also hear stories of some traditional tunes and dances.

Please make reservations for the luncheon with your caller or call Pastor Esther Dant at 612-331-5988, ext. 818, or 651-636-7834, by Thursday, May 14. Everyone is always welcome to the program even if you cannot attend the luncheon.



Matt Fleming to be Ordained at Hope

On Saturday May 2, 2015, Matthew Ian Fleming will be ordained into the Lutheran Ministry by Bishop Ann M. Svennungsen, Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The service will begin at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary of University Lutheran Church of Hope and the congregation is invited to attend.

Matt was youth minister here from 2009 until 2013. He did his internship at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Edina, and graduated from Luther Seminary last spring. He is currently the youth minister at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie and will be youth pastor there after he is ordained.

There will be a reception with light refreshments in the lounge and patio area following the service.

Youth Group: A Brief Recap Before We Continue . . .

The month of April was an exciting time for the Youth Group. We ushered in the busy month with the annual Easter Breakfast fundraiser. With the help of Ann Agrimson and many other parents, the youth decorated Fellowship Hall, prepared and cooked the food, and served it to the congregation between services on Easter Sunday. The event was a great success, both in the way it brought our youth group closer together, and in the amount of money we raised. Through the generosity of this congregation we raised over \$900 to support our trip to the National Youth Gathering in Detroit. The estimated cost per youth for the gathering is about \$950. With these donations we are well on our way toward our goal of subsidizing the trip by \$400 per attendee. Thanks to all who participated and enjoyed the Easter Breakfast!

One weekend after our fundraiser, a number of our youth, along with Jack Dant, Penny Freeh, my wife Isabel, and I retreated “up north” to Whitefish Lake. Thanks to the generosity of the Morse family, we were able to spend the weekend relaxing in solitude and fellowship. Over the course of the weekend we enjoyed the Morse cabin’s many amenities, played games, watched movies, witnessed sunsets by the lake, relaxed in the hot tub and sauna, cooked dinner, and played frisbee. We also reflected on the importance of solitude and fellowship in the life of faith, taking time to be alone in nature and worshipping together on the beach around a campfire. I believe, and I think the youth will agree, that the weekend was a nice combination of relaxation and contemplation.

Having taken a little time to relax, we now prepare for the coming months which will be an exciting whirlwind of youth events! On Sunday April 26, youth and parents will meet to check in and plan for the ever-nearing National Youth Gathering. On Sunday May 3, the Youth Group plans to spend the morning in faith exploration, witnessing and participating in another church’s service to see how they worship and what they believe. Sunday June 7, we celebrate our graduating seniors with a reception after church. Two weeks later we send two groups to Camp Amnicon to spend a week on the water, growing closer to each other and to God. And of course, the third week in July, our youth group, along with Pastor Hamman’s children, will travel to Detroit to participate in the 2015 ELCA National Youth Gathering. It is sure to be a busy but exciting summer for our youth, and we look forward to all the opportunities God and this church will provide us!

Jim Vitale,
Youth Director

Farewell Celebrations for Craig and Carol Shirley

Mark your calendars: We are celebrating the Ministry of Pastor Craig and Carol Shirley at University Lutheran Church of Hope from 2001 until his retirement on July 1, 2015.

May 31: Dinner and Celebration Program: a special meal and program in Fellowship Hall following the 10:00 a.m. festival worship service.

June 14: Pastor Shirley’s last celebratory worship service at University Lutheran Church of Hope, with coffee and
7 fellowship to follow.



Facilities News

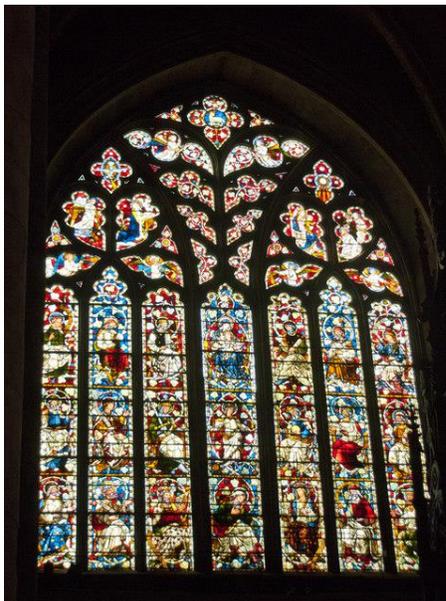
We are currently pursuing bids to replace the Chapel roof. The work will be done this summer or fall if all goes well. Roof drainage and runoff will be addressed as well, with the possibility of adding a rain garden to handle the additional water. Look for updates in the near future.

The stained glass in the sanctuary needs some attention. We are looking into a pilot project by some volunteers within our congregation to rehabilitate the small windows. Also, the exterior coverings of the large stained glass windows need to be replaced, so we're gathering information on those as well.

The Youth Room will undergo a makeover this spring with funding provided by PEASE Academy. This project includes paint, carpeting, lighting, and furniture to make the room more comfortable, inviting, and functional. We anticipate that this project will be completed before summer arrives.

Welcome Spring!

John Pignatello and Craig Nelson,
Facilities Co-chairs



From the Visitation Pastor

Kindness Among Us

The wind has been a competitor as I tried to rake leaves the past few days. A reading paraphrased from Steven Charleston brought this to life:

Like leaves tossed by wind, our lives fly before us. Days rush past, harried commuters, hurrying to catch the train of time. Years are masks, we seem to change, before the bathroom mirror: when did we get so gray, when did the kids get so big, when did when pass us by? Multi-taskers, life-racers: stop. Gently stop. The meaning of it all is never found at the end, if we miss it along the way.

This is so evident in year after year of ministry here. Eleanor Edstrom at 100 hasn't given up finding a man for me. They have a new chaplain, but she says, "He's too young for you." Most are.....

Verle Rhoades writes her joy in a note for another beautiful Easter day when many flowers were given with kind faces and good hearts. She and Bertha Hanson started this as an important ministry of the Friendly Visitors many years ago. Now Bertha continues to care for Iona Speidel at Chandler Place, taking her a daily paper and stopping for a while.

There is no waiting till the end for these dear people. They want meaning where it can be found. That is why our monthly communion will begin at Chandler as well as Augustana, with four members living there now. It is a special time when we can share Christ's meal as we look across our dining table at each other's faces. It is always a gift to gather together for those who have lived full and involved lives here at University Lutheran Church of Hope.

And they think of this church and are grateful to be a part of it. In April, both Chiyeko Taragawa and Ila Mae Langguth send a BLESSING TO EVERYONE.

Enjoy the beauty of God's creation all around you.

Pastor Esther Dant
Visitation Pastor

“Hope for the Future” Mission Appeal Report

The results are in, and our efforts have paid off. Our “Hope for the Future” mission appeal generated pledges in the amount of approximately \$385,000 for the coming three-year period, over \$100,000 of which is already now deposited into our accounts. Pledges were made by 78 family units from University Lutheran Church of Hope, and include 30 congregational leaders and staff who stepped forward as lead donors.

These results were well above the Vision & Governance Board’s baseline goal. The Board was able to refinance our mortgage with the ELCA’s Mission Investment Fund, pay down the principle by \$60,000, and cut our annual payments by over \$20,000/year over the remaining 12 years of the loan. We will also be able to pay our usual benevolence, replace the Thorpe Chapel roof this summer and the roof over the Education Wing within the next two years, and have significant additional funds to sustain and beautify our buildings and facilities in coming years.

I want to thank each one of you for your role in helping us meet the Hope for the Future challenge in such a strong fashion. I would also like to acknowledge the committee members who led the effort: Tim Abrahamson, Jack Dant, Mark Nelson, Sonya Peterson, Jim Solem, and Ron Sorensen. Also, keep in mind that if you have not yet made a pledge, it is not too late! We will gladly accept any and all pledges and contributions in coming months and throughout the life of the campaign.

Doug Hartmann,
Congregation Past-President

Hope Book Club

MORE GREAT BOOKS FOR 2015 WITH THE HOPE BOOK CLUB:

Lila

by Marilynne Robinson

Neglected as a toddler, Lila was rescued by Doll, a canny young drifter, and brought up by her in a hardscrabble childhood of itinerant work. Homeless and alone after years of roaming the countryside, Lila steps inside a small-town Iowa church, the only available shelter from the rain, and ignites a romance and a debate that will reshape her life. She becomes the wife of a minister and widower, and begins a new existence while trying to make sense of the days of suffering that preceded her newfound security. (www.Amazon.com)

May 17, 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



President's Perspective

We are entering the final stretch! Over a year ago, we embarked on a congregational journey. At that time, our leaders knew there were some big challenges and changes ahead, but it wasn't yet clear how we would navigate through them or where we would ultimately end up. With the help of Kairos, we underwent a self-study to determine what we hold dear as members of University Lutheran Church of Hope and to envision what our mission in the coming years might be. With a clearer vision of who we are, and renewed energy to dream of our future together, we conducted a highly successful capital campaign and mission appeal. While most pledges will be paid out over a three-year period, one-third of the total pledges were paid in cash up front. With the influx of \$129,000, we were able to pay down part of the mortgage principle. By refinancing the mortgage at a lower interest rate, we will also save \$24,000 a year for the remaining life of the loan.

Completing a self-study and getting our financial house in order are valuable exercises for a congregation. Also, as we were advised by our consultants from Kairos, it positions us well for the invitation to a new pastor. As a member of the call committee, I can say that several of our candidates did ask questions during the interview about our debt and the status of the capital campaign. The committee was overjoyed to answer these questions with positive examples of the mortgage refinance and generous pledges from so many members!

In our journey, we have reached the third major milestone: preparing for the transition of pastoral leadership and care. The call committee has been working since late November and hopes to recommend a final candidate in May. Pastor Shirley has graciously delayed his retirement to accommodate our call process, but the time has come for him to make more concrete plans for his own transition. He and the Vision & Governance Board have set the following dates for the congregation to celebrate his ministry and bid farewell:

- Following the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 31, there will be a "Celebration of Ministry" party for Pastor Craig Shirley, including a catered meal and special program.
- He will wrap up his work during the first two weeks of June.
- He will lead his final worship service with us on Sunday, June 14 at 10 a.m.

We hope that you will be able to attend one or both of these special events in the life of Pastor Shirley and the congregation.

A HUGE thank you to our treasurer, Tim Abrahamson, for shepherding us through the refinancing of the mortgage. He negotiated with different lenders; provided the Vision & Governance Board with multiple scenarios and options; managed all the paperwork, deadlines, and collection of signatures; and even went downtown last week to file the papers with Hennepin County.

Beth Kautz,
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

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Past President: Doug Hartman

Treasurer: Tim Abrahamson

Ministry Areas:

Worship & Music: Paul Odenbach

Youth & Young Adults:

Leena Haugland Rapacz

Education: Kirsten Mebust

Hope in the World: vacant

Relational Ministries:

Nancy Swanson

Operations:

Tim Abrahamson

Doug Hartmann

Leadership Development

& Communications:

Beth Kautz

John Rydeen

The Visitor

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