



The Visitor



June/July 2015

Issue #6-15

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.*

President's Perspective

Thanks be to God!

What a weekend! I am filled with joy, excitement, and relief! It was incredible to see the large turnout on Saturday afternoon to meet the candidate for Lead Pastor. People packed the lounge and crowded the doorways to hear the call committee talk about the talents and ministry of Rev. Jen Nagel. All were able to hear from Jen herself as she talked about her sense of call to serve the community and work with the people of University Lutheran Church of Hope. Finally, congregation members asked questions on a wide variety of topics. Rev. Nagel shared information about her theological training and her experiences as a canoe guide, Global Missions volunteer in Zimbabwe, member of Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries, and pastor of Salem English Lutheran Church in South Minneapolis. The social time following the formal presentation allowed all the chance to greet Jen's spouse, Jane McBride, and their two daughters, Eliza (6) and Alice (18 months). While Jen conversed with members of the congregation, Karen Westwood and I gave Eliza a tour of the building. In Heritage Hall, we showed her the pictures of the many lead pastors who have served our congregation over the years and told her that someday her mom's picture would be on that wall too. That felt really good.

The next morning's experience at Hope brought together some of the best elements that characterize who we are as a congregation. The Dream Team met to finalize plans for summer trips and brainstorm ideas for next year; the Adult Forum featured a presentation about affordable housing being developed in the nearby historic Pillsbury A Mill; Sunday School teachers were honored for their dedication to the faith formation of our children; the choir led us in an inspiring worship service in which they performed Mozart's *Missa Brevis* in C, "Sparrow Mass." All of this was followed by the discussion and vote by congregation leaders and members, who voted 94 to 2 in favor of extending a Letter of Call to Rev. Jen Nagel.

Pastor Nagel will begin working with us in early August, and her first worship service will be August 9. In the interim, Pastor Esther Dant will be responsible for pastoral care and will share the pulpit on Sunday mornings with preachers recommended by the preaching committee. We all will want to think about how to welcome Pastor Nagel into our midst and begin our work together. Amen!

Beth Kautz,
Congregation President

Treasurer's Report for April 2015

April giving was \$38,359.24 and our rental income was \$8,576.14, for a total income of \$46,935.38. Our rental income was \$985.00 over budget and our giving was \$457.09 under budget. Total Income was \$527.91 over budget. We are \$1,115.41 under budget for the year.

Our expenses in April were \$29,448.42. Our budget for April expenses was \$42,648.79 which put us under budget by \$13,200.37. The large difference in expenses vs. budget is because we did not have a mortgage payment this month. Our first payment on our new mortgage will begin May 1. Our net income for April was \$17,486.96. Our net income for the year is (\$2,908.49).

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.

April 2015 and Year-to-Date Income and Expenses						
Summary	April Actual	April Budget	April Over / (Under)	Year to date Actual to 4/30	Year to Date Budget to 4/30	Year to Date O/(U) to 4/30/15
General Giving	38,359.24	38,816.33	(457.09)	141,102.02	143,915.32	(2,813.30)
Rental Income	8,576.14	7,591.14	985.00	37,087.45	35,389.56	1,697.89
Total Income	46,935.38	46,407.47	527.91	178,189.47	179,304.88	(1,115.41)
Total Expense	29,448.42	42,648.79	(13,200.37)	180,383.93	178,590.85	1,793.08
Net Income	17,486.96	3,758.68	13,728.28	(2,194.46)	714.03	(2,908.49)



Total income for Hope for the Future in April was \$9,019.14. 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 April we paid out \$6,918.89 for the mortgage and received \$209.16 for building improvements from PEASE Academy. We had miscellaneous expenses of \$33.61 for postage and \$92.00 for a permit. Net income was \$2,183.80. Our building fund balance is \$281,846.09.

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

Shirley's Share

This is my last article for the *Visitor* before I retire. If you know me at all, you know that I tend to become verklempt when I try to express my emotions orally. I am one of those people who, when I get emotional, my throat clenches shut, my voice goes up and I become unintelligible. Not pretty! Therefore I do better to *write* my words of thanks to you, the people of University Lutheran Church of Hope.

When Carol and I came back to Minneapolis in 2001 we were “empty nesters” with one son just starting his career and the other finishing his college education. We were glad to be closer to aging parents who were equidistant in either direction, and I was thrilled to be serving a congregation I had admired since my seminary days. During our 13 years here, three of our four parents have passed, both boys have married, and we celebrate 4 beautiful grandchildren, all of whom we get to see regularly. And I continue to admire this congregation, even though I know a lot more about the “bones” of the place than I did when I came.



This beautiful and traditional building has also continued to be a blessing and a challenge. We have replaced roofs and skylights, renewed the Christian Education building for a new generation, and have become more environmentally conscious, not only out of a sense of urgent need because we are a part of the Mississippi Watershed, but also for the sake of cost savings. We said goodbye to traditions like the annual fall rummage sale but have created new ministries like Hope Connections small group ministry. We continue to send kids to camp (one that is out of the ordinary) and national youth gatherings, instruct them in confirmation, and watch them graduate and grow. And I have delighted in the fact that my job description included “youth ministry” as one of my areas of call – something I avoided in my younger years. I think more folks who are of a more “mature” age should consider being involved with youth and young adult ministry.

When I came to the “meet and greet” more than 13 years ago, there were many questions about my preaching. I said at the time that I preach the text, I preach the gospel, and I preach grace. I assured people that I would not be writing any books on preaching and that my sermons would probably not go to “number one” on the pop charts. I am just not that kind of preacher. But my hope is that I have been true to the gospel, true to our Lutheran heritage, and true to the love of God which shows forth in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. I am indebted to William Willimon and *Pulpit Resource* for giving me ideas and directions in weeks when the text did not speak to me as strongly as it should. And I love these words he shares (he, by the way, is retiring this year as well): “I therefore, despite the rigors of this job, have always considered my vocation into the preaching ministry to be a peculiar act of grace. Not only do I get to love language, but I get to do it for a living. Some Christians had to serve God by being eaten by lions. Others had to be celibate. All I have to do is talk.”

Thank you, all of you; you who have supported me and loved me through these years, and you who weren't too sure when I first became your pastor, and you who are anxiously looking forward to new leadership and new direction. I have loved you all and will continue to love this place, even though I (we) will no longer be a part of it – which is how it must be.

Pax,

Pastor Craig Shirley

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

From the Director of Christian Education

Lately I have been pondering how to live as a Christian. There is a phrase that I remember: “Preach the gospel at all times but use words only when necessary.” How do I “preach the gospel” without words? I am wondering if the focus of the ELCA on faith practices might give me a clue.

Martin Luther encouraged us to remember our baptism every day. The liturgy for the Affirmation of Baptism describes the faith practices that grow out of our baptism. We are to “... **live** among God’s faithful people; **hear** the word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper; **proclaim** the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; **serve** all people, following the example of Jesus; and **strive** for justice and peace in all the earth.” (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, page 236). See more at: <http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/Living-Our-Baptismal-Covenant#sthash.DsDLLtA2.dpuf>

So how do I live among my fellow Christians, hear God’s promises, proclaim my joy in my relationship with God, serve people, and strive for justice and peace? That is a lot! Some of these things seem easier for me than others. Umm...maybe I start there, and build on my strengths. I think that hearing and proclaiming would be the easiest for me. I enjoy worship and meditating on biblical passages. I teach adults and children about God and the Bible and the importance of worship. Maybe I could find more time to read my Bible. Maybe I could schedule more time to teach or engage in informal discussions about the Christian faith.

Where would you start? How could you build your faith through some intentional faith practices? I am eager to hear your responses to this call from God to live as a Christian. Give me a phone call or talk to me on Sunday morning.



Your partner in living the faith,
Diane E. Shallue

New Books

The Church Library Team orders new books each quarter. Look for them in the library window or on the “new books” shelf. The following are some recent acquisitions:

The Gift to Listen: The Courage to Hear. Cari Jackson interweaves listening techniques with spiritual principles that emphasize the importance of listening and provide a framework for more effective listening.

One Step Closer: Why U2 Matters to Those Seeking God. Christian Scharen looks at music in the contemporary culture to find a prophetic word and the love of God.

Healing The Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit. Parker J. Palmer reminds us of the choices we can make to help reweave the tattered fabric of our civic life.

Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power and How They Can be Restored. Marcus Borg feels that Christian words and phrases have been distorted and stripped of their biblical and historic meaning. He teaches us how to read, hear, and digest our Christian language without preconceived notions getting in the way.

Tell It Slant: A Conversation on the Language of Jesus in his Stories and Prayers. Eugene Peterson explores how Jesus used language, particularly in his parables and prayers. Jesus did not use the direct language of instruction but indirect, oblique language requiring a participating imagination – a “slant” language.

Little Bee, a novel by Chris Cleave, is the story of two women whose lives collide one fateful day. One of them has to make a terrible choice. Later they meet again and the story starts there.

Diane Shallue,
Director of Christian Education

Nigeria Report

University Lutheran Church of Hope was represented at the prayer labyrinth for Nigeria held in conjunction with the Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly May 15-16, 2015. Companion congregations from around the Synod set up prayer stations in the sanctuary of Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Ramsey, Minnesota, to lift up their Nigerian partner congregations.



These prayer stations gave Assembly delegates the opportunity to view artifacts from the companion congregations and offer prayers for healing and renewed hope for the nation and especially for the churches of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria as they recover from terroristic violence instigated by Boko Haram and as they look forward to new leadership for the country. Hope's prayer station, including photos of Pastor Amson Hamman and his family, and the decorative fabric they presented to us, are pictured above.

In addition, the offering taken at the Assembly was designated for the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, to help the church assist congregations in the resettlement of thousands who had to flee their homes earlier this year. The Vision and Governance Board voted to give \$1,000 to this effort from our Nigeria fund.

We are looking forward to the visit July 11-19 of Pastor Amson Hamman and his two oldest children, Nat and Annette. Pastor Hamman will preach at Hope on Sunday July 19. Watch for more information in the coming weeks concerning plans for hosting them while they are with us. If you would like to help with hosting arrangements, please notify one of the members of the Global Mission Team.

Bruce Eldevik,
Synod Delegate

New Addition to the Courtyard

You may have noticed the new addition of a unique sculpture, *Baghdad Café*, made of granite and rebar, in the church courtyard. It is a donation, given upon our recent move to Minneapolis. It stood in our Shoreview yard but we wanted to give it a more permanent home, to be enjoyed long into the future. We wanted Hope to be that new home.

The story behind the sculpture: I (Ann) developed a relationship with the sculptor, Zoran Mojsilov, several years ago, and came into ownership of *Baghdad Café*. Zoran has many public sculptures around town and nationally. His studio is in Northeast Minneapolis, right on the river. Another fun fact about this sculpture is that Zoran rescued the granite slab from which it was created from the Landmark Center many years ago when it was being renovated.

Watch for a date for the dedication of this sculpture sometime in the summer or fall after the courtyard receives some finishing touches. We hope that Zoran will be present!

John and Ann Beane

Ministry of Worship and Music

Summer Music

I want to deeply thank all the musicians at University Lutheran Church of Hope for everything they have done in the 2014-15 season to enrich our worship. Some highlights were Mendelssohn, “Like the Sun,” and Mozart. But even “ordinary” Sundays were musically interesting as we all sang and played our praises to God in Psalm settings, anthems, preludes, and hymn stanzas.



In the summer the Hope Choir and Handbell Choir take a much-deserved break from rehearsing and singing and playing. In their place, you can either listen to me play the organ or piano a lot (boring!) or we can rejoice in an interesting variety of musical offerings from the various musical members of the congregation. This is a great time of year to help lead worship with your voice or instrument – contact me if you are interested!

Handbells

The handbell choir is looking ahead to next fall, when we’ll be missing several key ringers due to graduations and retirement. Have you ever thought about playing bells? Here are some of my favorite things about bells:

- ❖ They’re always in tune.
- ❖ You can have a 60 year-old ringing next to a 16 year-old – that doesn’t really work in a vocal choir.
- ❖ Similarly, husband and wife can ring next to each other, whereas in a vocal choir they’d have to sit in sections.
- ❖ Colorful gloves!



We’ll be continuing our Handbells 101 rehearsals after church through the month of June. Each session will build slightly on the previous session, but feel free to join us at any time. Come up to the handbell tables after the postlude and give it a try!

Luke Tegtmeier,
Minister of Worship and Music

Vision & Governance Board

The Vision & Governance Board met twice in May. On May 5, the board held a special meeting to consider the recommendation of the call committee. Members of the call committee and the candidate for Lead Pastor met together for the first part of the meeting. The call committee explained why they had selected the candidate, the candidate addressed the board directly, and then board members engaged the candidate in conversation about her ministry and experience. After the candidate and call committee left, the board further discussed the candidate, then voted unanimously to recommend her to the congregation.

The regularly scheduled board meeting on May 12 focused on discussing the compensation package for the Lead Pastor. Other notable agenda items included the personnel committee report. The board voted to increase the paid weekly hours of the youth minister to 20 hours (up from 15), which better reflects the hours he will work over the summer and in planning and implementing new initiatives to better serve the high school youth in the coming year. A new weekend custodian, Isabel Vitale, will begin work after Memorial Day. Finally, the board voted to donate \$1000 to a special offering collected at the ELCA Minneapolis Synod Assembly to support persons displaced due to the violence in Nigeria.

Beth Kautz,
Congregation President

Youth Group: Inside the Dream Team

Being the Youth Director for University Lutheran Church of Hope is a pretty great gig. Not only do I get two years of field experience at one of the best churches in town, I also spend a few hours a month meeting with a cohort of other youth directors in which we learn from each other's experiences, discuss current youth ministry theory, and brainstorm new ideas. Through this contract with Hope and Luther Seminary I can take my experiences back to my cohort, reflect on them, and then return with new ideas to explore.

Though this program is helpful, it has the potential to be taxing on the congregation and the Youth Group, because every two years or so a new Youth Director comes around to teach, lead, and learn. Each director has his or her own set of values, emphases, and inclinations. Each has a different personality, and each takes a few months or so to settle in and learn about the congregation.

Prior to Pastor Shirley's arrival, there had been a history of associate pastors working with the Youth Group, but after Pastor Shirley's arrival, the Youth Group became his responsibility. Wanting to do justice to the youth, Pastor Shirley instituted the position of Youth Director. However, as you can imagine, with Youth Directors coming and going every couple of years, it is hard to maintain a sense of consistency. So, about ten years ago, Pastor Shirley recruited some help from Rollie Martinson and Luther Seminary. Rollie helped form what we now call the Dream Team.

The Dream Team, as you may know, is a collection of youth and parents who help to lead, guide, and direct the youth program. They work with the Youth Director to plan and execute youth events and fundraisers as well as manage the mission, vision, and values of the Youth Group. The goal and ultimate success of the Dream Team is to create consistency between Youth Directors and help the Youth Director guide the Youth Group. The Youth Director serves as a non-member, working for and leading the Youth Group. The Dream Team serves as an internal group of members, ensuring that the overall direction of the Youth Group stays on track, honoring the four pillars of community, service, faith formation, and leadership.

Perhaps the most wonderful attribute of the Dream Team is its intergenerational constituency. Both youth and adults have a place at the table and contribute their input as to how the Youth Group is and should be led. In this way we empower the youth to be the leaders of their own group, diminishing the traditional "top-down" model of youth ministry.

As you may have guessed by now, we are currently looking for new members of the Dream Team. The time commitment involves meeting once a month here at church as well as assisting in youth events throughout the year. Anyone is welcome to join the team: youth, parents of children of every age, adults with no children, senior members, whoever! If you are interested in joining the Dream Team, or simply want to know more about it, please contact me at jvitale001@luthersem.edu

Jim Vitale,
Youth Director

Facilities News

Chapel Roof: The chapel roof will be replaced this summer. The current roof is badly deteriorated and must be replaced. We are looking at several bids and will have a proposal to recommend to the Vision & Governance Board in the near future. This is our most urgent building need so look for construction work this summer.

PEASE: We continue to work with PEASE Academy about improving the Youth Room and reconfiguring a few classrooms. We expect to complete both projects this summer in time for school in the fall.

Fellowship Hall: Join us Saturday, June 6, for a building enhancement opportunity. Help paint Fellowship Hall! Work begins at 9:00 a.m. We will provide paint, supplies, and lunch. All you need to do is show up in painting-appropriate clothing (and bring a good brush for latex paint). Don't have a brush? Come anyway – we'd love to have you! Hope to see you there. And lunch is on us!



Finally, our monthly meetings are open to all members. Our next meeting is June 10 at 6:30 p.m. Lunch not included.

John Pignatello,
Facilities Co-chair

From the Visitation Pastor

It is an upending time for us at University Lutheran Church of Hope. A vote comes soon and we continue to gather in our usual groups. We talk about how much we will miss Pastor Craig and Carol. We talk about how much they have cared for this church and for us. “They worked so hard for us,” one of our homebound said at our Augustana Communion this week. Helen Good was beaming when she joined us with her grandson from London. Our devotion was on Change. Helen’s grandson too, notices the changes in his grandmother since his last visit.

This topic seemed to fit our life together so well, I read it later that day at our monthly Compassion Care meeting. There too, it brought insights and sharing that we needed to discuss for a time. I share it with you from *Hope as Old as Fire* by Steven Charleston:

Change rides winds of time, moving all before it. It may come as a breeze, gently swaying our reason, or toss us as a storm, into an unexpected season. Though we build barricades of tradition, change subverts pride, exposes purpose, opens past, to release the seeds of tomorrow. Change is the mind of God, doing the work of creation. Life to come from life passing. The process we name eternity.

God watch over us all, and most of all our beloved Shirley family. They will be deeply missed.

Pastor Esther Dant,
Visitation Pastor

“Gardens of Hope

Summer. Flowers are blooming, weeds are growing, plans are hatching, and mulch needs spreading in the Gardens of Hope. We don't have a regular work time, but due to my limited and uncertain availability, I'm asking for more help in the gardens this year. I would love it if some gardeners would adopt a garden (like Julie and Bob Paschke have adopted Martha's Garden on the corner of 6th St. and 13th Ave.) and take care of it for the summer. Or adopt a task like pruning/deadheading all the roses as necessary. I can give directions and we have tools in the shed.



Also, if you are not on my email list of gardeners but would like to be, let me know. I use email to let gardeners know when we are having an organized workday or when we need special help with a project. I am at kaknudson@comcast.net. Thank you.

Kathy Knudson,
for the Gardens of Hope

Hope Book Club

MORE GREAT BOOKS FOR 2015 WITH THE HOPE BOOK CLUB:

The Sound of Language

by Amulya Malladi

This book comes highly recommended by Diane Greve. In this luminous story of bravery, tradition, and the power of language, an Afghan woman and Danish widower form an unexpected alliance. Escaping the turmoil and heartbreak of war-torn Kabul, Raihana settles with distant relatives in the strange, cold, damp country of Denmark.

Amazon.com

June 14, 2015 at 7 p.m., in the Hope Library

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



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Rev. Esther Dant

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Luke Tegtmeier

Director of Education and

Adult Small-Group Ministries:

Diane Shallue

Youth Director:

James Vitale, Jr.

Business Manager:

Gayle Bidne

Custodians:

Geremew Beshah – weekdays
Isabel Vitale – weekends

Working in partnership with

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Tim Schroeder

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