



The Visitor



August 2015

Issue #7-15

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.*

Glimpses of Summer at University Lutheran Church of Hope

My trip with my grandchildren to Harry Potter World in Orlando has left us with some great memories. In a phone conversation with Polly, 12, I asked her if she had any regrets about things she wished we could have done.

"No. How about you, Grandma?"

"Maybe I wish I would have had two slushie butterbeers instead of one slushie and one regular."

"Me, too," she laughed. Note: Butterbeers have no alcohol in them and Liam Kneer said we should have at least two!

It's good to be at ULCH this summer. We said goodbye to Pastor Hamman yesterday with a gift of Wayne Lee's beautiful communion set identical to ours. Pastor Hamman was so pleased to meet Wayne. He talked with him about the pottery and wanted a photo of the two of them together. Pastor Shirley had a day with him also. Bruce Eldevik did a stellar job as his host. Thank you for organizing of all of this, Bruce.

Tuesday we brought the news to Dick and Zona Koernig that their grandson had been found dead that morning. Her first words were, "Why not us?" The words ring so true when death is so out of order. We remembered him in words and song on Saturday at the church. We remembered a deep love between brother Sam Clough and sister, Alex. He and friends once duct-taped her to a closet door. But when she was born, he was brought to her quickly and, as an 8-year-old, he held her for nearly three hours before they took her away to clean her up. It is a family and friends, deep in mourning. Two hundred filled the sanctuary. Ken Lynes called Friday evening. "I'll help with ushering," he said. What a great gift.

There were two memorable reminders of how important our Sunday prayers can be. One person was in church Sunday and heard our prayers for our homebound members. He came to me after church and said, "I didn't know Helen Good was still alive. We grew up near them. Where is she living?" I told him where to find her at Augustana, and he is going to visit her after years have gone by. Pastor Hamman preached on how we are all one. In public and privately he said numerous times how very thankful he is to know they are continually in our prayers.

There is so much that is happening, and life can change in a second. It is good to remember the love of God leading so many lives here in this place.

Grateful to be here,

Pastor Esther

Treasurer's Report June 2015

June giving was \$34,948.11 and our rental income was \$6,224.14, for a total income of \$41,172.45. Our rental income was \$1892 under budget and our giving was \$1,768.22 under budget. Total Income was \$3,660.22 under budget. We are \$2,157.03 over budget for the year.

Our expenses in April were \$49,640.63. Our budget for April was \$49,078.86 which put us over budget by \$561.77. Our net income for June was (\$8,468.38). Our net income for the year is (\$11,581.22), just \$244.60 from where we predicted we would be at this time of the year.

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.

June 2015 and Year-to-Date Income and Expenses						
Summary	June Actual	June Budget	June Over / (Under)	Year to date Actual to 6/30	Year to Date Budget to 6/30	Year to Date O/(U) to 6/30/15
General Giving	383,948.11	38,716.33	(1,768.22)	217,820.62	217,347.98	472.64
Rental Income	6,224.14	8,116.14	(1,892.00)	53,256.73	51,621.84	1,634.89
Total Income	41,172.25	44,832.47	(3,660.22)	271,077.35	268,969.82	2,107.53
Total Expense	49,640.63	49,078.86	561.77	282,658.87	280,795.64	1,862.93
Net Income	(8,468.38)	(4,246.39)	(4,221.99)	(11,581.22)	(11,825.82)	244.60



Total income for Hope for the Future in April was \$6,368.05. 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. Net income was (\$341.68). Our building fund balance is \$278,320.37. Our current mortgage with the Mission Investment Fund is \$1,237,936.06.

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

So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish



If you have read *A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams, then you are probably giggling at my title. After all, this what the dolphins in Adams' book say as they leave the earth just moments before it is destroyed to make way for an intra-galactic superhighway. Did I mention the book is a cross between Sci-fi and Humor? In any case, I chose the quote because it seems applicable to my time here.

In the past two years, I've shared many meals with all of you – primarily at the Communion Table. But you've also fed me in other ways. Some highlights, in no particular order, include leading a choir of Lutherans and Baptists with full orchestra in Mendelssohn's *Psalm 42*; making music with many talented instrumentalists (especially the "Gus trio" and brass groups!); practicing German with the Deutsch Stammtisch group, and working with a friendly, competent, hard-working staff of colleagues. And of course there was the regular music-making with Hope Choir and handbells. I thank you deeply for all the ways you have fed me.

I also appreciate how open this church has been to all the changes I've made in my time: choir rehearsal moved from the chapel to the church, handbells playing from up front, a new structure for the Worship Committee, a new website, and a new scheduling system for liturgical volunteers. You've even been open to me playing the accordion in church!

Looking ahead, I'm sad that I won't get to work with Pastor Jen Nagel. But when this opportunity came out of the blue, Kate and I felt it was the right choice for many reasons. In the meantime, I've been in close contact with the leaders of the church and of the search committee about the joys and frustrations of my time at University Lutheran Church of Hope. The next Director of Music and Worship will need to renew the Worship Committee, help the bell choir as it re-populates itself, and work with a choir – and a church – full of strong personalities and opinions.

As I was announcing the end of my time with you, I was very glad that Scott Rohr, my immediate predecessor, agreed to act as an interim over the summer as Pastor Jen Nagel comes on board. With all the staff changes, I think we all know that it will be a summer – and fall – of change. Yet everyone with whom I've spoken seems to be excited about that; we all see things that need to be updated, improved, changed, forgotten, or remembered. But of course, each of us has a slightly different list!

I pray that as those changes happen at University Lutheran Church of Hope, you will continue to gather together to break bread, drink wine, sing praises to God, hear the Word, and encourage one another in the faith. And as you leave church on Sundays you can say to each other, "So long, and thanks for all the fish!"

Luke Tegtmeier
Minister of Worship and Music

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Faith Formation Summer News: Education programs for all ages will resume on September 27.

From the Director of Christian Education

Today I am wearing my “hat” as the director of Small Group Ministries. When I consider the past eight years of this focus at University Lutheran Church of Hope, I think of the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 in the gospel of Mark (6:30-56). Despite only having five loaves of bread and two small fish, Jesus fed 5,000 people abundantly, with 12 baskets of leftovers. The Small Group Ministry has been blessed with this abundance. When the program was begun, the Hope Connections Task Force was planning for 30 – 35 people with six groups of 5-6 people each. Well, 60 people signed up the first year – way more than expected. Lots of abundance!

Each year a new Task Force is put together and each year people step up to organize the small groups. This will be the 8th year of 5-6 people working on this task for six months with joy and energy. More abundance! Last year and this year John Beane has volunteered to write a study for the small groups. Abundance overflowing! And this is only one area in which abundance is springing up in surprising ways.

In my 11 years of called ministry (since July 18, 2004) to this congregation, I have seen many changes in the congregation and in the neighborhood. Many new apartment buildings in the neighborhood, new configurations of rooms and space within the building, new staff, and new ministries are all opportunities for God to turn water into wine (referring to another story about abundance). Where do you see God pouring out an overflowing cup of blessing on this congregation?

Your partner in faith formation,
Dr. Diane E. Shallue, Associate in Ministry



As summer winds down and the kids are getting bored, check out the church library, which has many wonderful children’s books. There are picture books for preschool children, hardboard books for the youngest members, and chapter books for older readers. Not all the books are specifically religious in nature. Our goal is to have books that promote values, especially of caring and understanding. All of these delightful books can be found on the bookshelves under the hallway windows.

About ten years ago, \$1,500 was given to the church library for children’s books from the Anna Westwood and Elizabeth Bingaman memorial gifts. Check-out is easy. Just write your name, phone number, name of the book, and the date in the check-out section in the 3-ring binder on the table under the clock. Another good reason to use the church library: No late fees or fines!

Diane Shallue
Director of Christian Education

More Faith Formation News



Worship and Children

Remember that children are always welcome in worship. Worship is a primary way that children learn about the Christian faith. Children are astute observers and pick up on much more that happens in worship than we realize. University Lutheran Church of Hope welcomes children in worship and engages them in multiple ways:

- Children's bulletins filled with activities for ages 3-7.
- Busy Bags with story books and other activity booklets found hanging at the entrances to the Sanctuary.
- The children's message during worship.
- SPARK story Bibles in the pews with the bulletin listing the pages to find a story similar to the Gospel lesson.
- A Nursery with welcoming staff who pass a background check.
- Welcoming children beginning at age four to the Communion Table.

Sunday School Teachers:

Wanted: teachers and helpers on Sunday mornings beginning on September 27. Qualifications: age 14 or older and enjoy children. All teachers and helpers must pass a background check and attend a training session on the Child Protection Policy

- **Godly Play** (ages 3-6). Responsibilities include supervising children working on projects, taking children to the bathroom, and setting up the "feast" or snack.
- **Creations Stations** (grades 2-6). We are looking for one to two more teachers to rotate the teaching responsibilities.

New Time: 9:15-10:25 am on Sunday mornings. Contact Diane Shallue at dianes@ulch.org or (612) 331-5988 if interested.

The Children's Ministry Team needs two more people interested in programs for children from birth through sixth grade. You do not need to have children in those ages to belong to this team. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month for 90 minutes 10 times a year. Responsibilities include helping with teacher orientation and teacher appreciation, helping with Sunday School registration, overseeing the nursery, and helping with special events a couple of times a year. Commitment is for one year beginning on August 19.

Welcome Back University Students

University Lutheran Church of Hope will welcome University of Minnesota students back to the campus and the neighborhood on Sunday, September 13 after the 10a.m. service. Watch for further information about this welcoming event to see how you can help with this important outreach.

Upcoming Friendly Visitor Events

Friendly Visitors and Committee: Mark your calendars for Sunday morning August 30 at 8:45 a.m. for a morning meeting with a light brunch before the 10:00 a.m. service.

Some special events are being planned for Friendly Visitors this fall. Sunday, September 27th 2015 is the date for our third annual Homecoming for all the Homebound members to attend worship. This is a great opportunity once again for them to be welcomed, reacquainted and perhaps meet some new members of our church family at a coffee hour before the 10:30 a.m. service. We will arrange some transportation for our Homebound if they do not have a way to get here.

On Saturday, November 21, there will be a celebration of the 45th year of Friendly Visitors. Please watch for more details of these events in upcoming bulletins, *Visitors*, etc.

Finally, interest has been expressed in arranging transportation with Metro Transit for those who would like to attend the Senior Luncheons each month. More information on this will also be forthcoming.

Thank you to all who continue to support, volunteer, and help with Friendly Visitors. Please talk with me if you would like to be a visitor for any of our lovely homebound members or if you know of anyone who might need a Friendly Visitor. You do not have to be homebound to need a Friendly Visitor.

If you can't be a Friendly Visitor, but would like to support this ministry by helping with any of the events listed above, please contact Rosalie Eldevik at 651-644-0287.



Vision & Governance Board

The Vision & Governance Board of University Lutheran Church of Hope conducted business via email and in subcommittees for the month of July. Our top priority has simply been trying to stay coordinated and in communication during these weeks of transition between Pastor Shirley's retirement and the beginning of Pastor Nagel's appointment in August. Key topics of attention have included worship planning, the search for a new minister of worship and music, fall scheduling, and the usual daily operations.

The Executive group approved a plan from staff for worship and events throughout September whereby we will keep to a single Sunday worship for most of the month. Work is continuing on the renewal of our rental agreement with Pease Academy. We have also begun defining fall agenda items for the first Board meetings with our new pastor on staff. One final item that has received extended discussion involves proposals and estimates for the roof work that needs to be done on the Chapel and Education Wing of the building. Once all the estimates are submitted, the Board is hoping to be able to approve a proposal from the Facilities Group before the end of July.

Doug Hartmann
Past President

Reflections on Camp Amnicon

Waves jostled the 34-foot, 700-lb. canoe with unfathomable strength. “Keep paddling!” Max called from behind as Molly kept the cadence at the front. Each of us, arms a little tired, skin a little burned, backs a little sore, bug-bites a little itchy, kept pulling our paddles through the water, slowly propelling us across the channel between Oak and Raspberry Islands. “Are you ready for some power strokes!?” cried Molly over the sound of the wind. “Yes,” we all responded with humorous reluctance.



This is a snapshot of how the older youth group and I spent our days in the voyageur canoe paddling around the Apostle Islands of Lake Superior. Thomas Hvizdos and the younger group canoed down the Brule River during that same week. While their trip presented its own unique challenges, both groups experienced equal parts hard work, fun, and growth.

I consider it a great privilege to have finally participated in a trip to Amnicon, and I do not wear my chi-rho lightly. Surely experiencing God’s creation enriched us: bald eagles overhead, sunsets over Superior, even the awesome (awe-ful? awful?) swarms of mosquitoes. But I was also amazed at the ministry of the counselors and the growth of the youth. Amnicon is not a camp that seeks primarily to entertain. The staff do not try to clothe the gospel in pop-culture references or attempts to make the gospel “relevant.” So much of our culture seeks to attract young people through entertainment and, sadly, youth ministry is rarely different. But Amnicon is one of those exceptions. It is hard work! Not just paddling until you feel like your arms will fall off, but also sitting on the shore engaging in conversation over some of the most challenging parables Jesus ever spoke. While Amnicon is indeed fun, that is not the primary focus of the trip. The primary focus is personal and communal growth and the cultivation of a closer relationship with Jesus.

And our groups did grow! Over the course of the week we came to understand the Kingdom of God as “upside down,” offering preference to the last, riches to the least. While we did not necessarily leave Superior with answers to these complex parables, we did leave with a greater sense that God is at work in ways more complicated than we can imagine, and with a greater sense of trust in that God. Moreover, I saw in the older group, our group of seniors (and one sophomore!), an understanding of themselves as a family. They have been in church together their whole lives, and for some, this was their 9th trip to Amnicon. They uncovered together the realization that even though they are going their separate ways to college, they will always have a family they can return to, namely each other.

I left Amnicon feeling blessed to have experienced such a time of hard work, growth, and joy. I believe Amnicon is a valuable experience for any who would attend, youth or adults. I pray University Lutheran Church of Hope will continue partnering with Camp Amnicon in ministry for the well-being of the greater church and all who participate in this extraordinary summer camp.

James Vitale
Youth Director

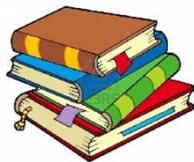


Memories

The Hope Connections Task Force is planning for the small group meetings in the fall. The title of the study, written by John Beane, is “Seeking Home, Seeking God,” following people of the Bible including Abraham, Ruth, David, Jacob, Esther, and the disciples of Jesus. We will examine how these ‘pilgrims’ sought God in the places where they journeyed. Their concept of home, family, and community are closely bound up with their close, intimate relationship to God. And God blesses them to be a blessing to others. Indeed, God blesses us to be his “Kingdom of God” in serving others.

Small Groups will begin in October. Each group meets in homes for 4-6 meetings over 3-6 months. The purpose of these groups is to connect with others and grow in our relationship with God. Get to know new people! Be part of a Hope Connections Small Group! You can sign up by contacting Diane Shallue at dianes@ulch.org or (612) 331-5988 ext. *819. There will also be registration on Sunday mornings in September at the Welcome Desk. The Hope Connections Task Force consists of: John Beane, chair; Randy Brooks, Bernice Davenport, Sarah Gomez, Alden Tetlie, and Paige Whitney. Diane Shallue provides staff support.

Book Sale!



Save those good books, because we are planning for another book sale. But the details are not settled. We want to run this past Pastor Nagel after she is settled a little, and we need to see when Sunday school rooms will be available. Stay tuned!

Ruth Fingerson

The following poem was written by Gracia Jensen. Gracia and husband Paul are former members of Hope. Gracia wrote this as she recalled their times at Hope Church as part of the Young Couples Club.

The Young Couples Club of Hope began
When Chuck and Corrine said, “Oh yes we can!!”
A group was formed at their home that night.
And the fun we’ve had is out of sight.

Young we were, full of zip,
Doing things that made us feel “hip.”
Newly married, no money to spare,
But eager to do things with nary a care.

Some had kids to diaper and feed,
Not easy to decide what all they did need.
Others would have theirs along the way,
All were welcomed like a bright, sunny day.

Camping was done, pizzas were made,
Friendships abounded and never did fade.
On to Onamia, Glen fed us well,
Oh, the stories each of us could tell!

Regressive dinners were such a blast,
The women were treated to a delicious repast.
They often served turkey with all the good stuff,
We ate until finally we’d all had enough.

The Newlywed Game? We played that one too,
With answers you’d think we lived in a zoo.
Jim Dean was the host of this crazy event,
Even he couldn’t explain what our answers meant.

Soon the kids graduated,
The years had flown by,
It was hard to see them leave,
Oh, yes we did cry.

More graduations, weddings began,
Grandchildren came, we’re their biggest fan.
Some people moved, we bade them goodbye,
With a heavy heart and a great big sigh.

Holy Rovers Hang up their Vests

For three strong years, the Holy Rovers have been the most visible welcoming ministry of ULCH. We have reached out to strangers during and after worship, assisted the pastor in conversing with newcomers as they slipped out the multiple exits of our worship space, and connected new folks to congregational members with similar interests. In addition, we served as a bright red reminder to all that welcoming visitors is an important part of our worship, one that takes initiative and creativity.



Now the time has come to hand this responsibility back to the worshipping congregation. Several Holy Rovers moved on to new activities in the past year, and we have had difficulty finding replacements. In addition, many of our Sunday regulars enjoy and are well-versed in welcoming visitors, and the extra red vest perhaps is no longer so necessary.

Thanks go out to those who have roved: Tim Hopkins, Scott Hvizdos, Kelly Cloutier, Bruce Eldevik, Nancy Miller, Bob Shallue, and David Ranheim. The group's charter from 2013 remains intact, and the vests will continue to hang near the east entrance. As we move forward in our outreach ministry, perhaps they will come off their hangers in the near future!

Uli Koester

Hope Book Club

MORE GREAT BOOKS FOR 2015 WITH THE HOPE BOOK CLUB:

Go Set a Watchman

by Harper Lee

Be sure to join the Hope Book Club on August 9, 2015, at 7 p.m. in the Hope Library to discuss Harper Lee's long-awaited, fascinating, mysterious, and surprising new novel, just released on June 15, 2015.

One of the emotional through-lines in both *To Kill A Mockingbird* and *Go Set a Watchman* is a plea for empathy. As Atticus says to Scout in *Mockingbird*, "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view." The difference is that *Mockingbird* suggested that we should have compassion for outsiders like Boo Radley and Tom Robinson, while *Watchman* asks us to have understanding for a bigot named Atticus Finch.

www.newyorktimes.com

Contact Sonja Peterson if you have book suggestions or questions, at 612-789-0397 or speterson@dunnwald.com.

Sept. 13: *Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World Through Islamic Eyes*, by Tamim Ansary



University Lutheran Church of Hope Welcomes Pastor Jen Nagel

We warmly welcome Jen Nagel as our new lead pastor. Her first official day at University Lutheran Church of Hope will be Tuesday, August 4, and she will preach for the first time on Sunday, August 9. Her installation as our pastor will be on Sunday, September 20.

As our call committee stated in announcing her call, “Jen’s love for worship, ability to build community, pastoral care skills, comfort in administration, proven innovation and creativity, and longstanding interest in young adults bring together a set of skills and experience that meet our Congregation’s goals and hopes.”

Pastor Nagel says, “I am called to empower individuals and communities into healthier and more vital ways of being the church together. I don’t shy from conflict, but instead see the Spirit’s opportunity for growth and change. I have a trust in Christ’s wide mercy and justice working far beyond us.”



Education:

B.A., Concordia College (Moorhead), 1994

M.Div., University of Chicago Divinity School, 1998

Lutheran Year Certificate, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, 1999

Calls and Experience:

Pastor, Salem English Lutheran Church (Minneapolis), 2003-2015

Minister for Community Resources, Central Lutheran Church (Minneapolis), 2001-2003

Chaplaincy Resident and Intermittent Chaplain, Hennepin County Medical Center (Minneapolis), 2000-2002

Pastoral Intern, Lord of Light Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry, University of Michigan (Ann Arbor), 1999-2000

Global ministry through the ELCA in Zimbabwe and with the World Council of Churches

Extensive work as a canoe guide at Wilderness Canoe Base (Boundary Waters), and a couple of years at Camp Amnicon (Wisconsin)

Staff

Transitional Pastor:

Rev. Esther Dant

Minister of Worship and Music:

Scott Rohr (Interim)

Director of Education and

Adult Small-Group Ministries:

Diane Shallue

Youth Director:

James Vitale, Jr.

Business Manager:

Gayle Bidne

Transitional Administrator:

Garvin Davenport

Custodians:

Geremew Beshah – weekdays

Isabel Vitale – weekends

Working in partnership with Lutheran Campus Ministry

Tim Schroeder

Rev. Kate Reuer Welton

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Vice President: John Rydeen

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Tim Abrahamson

Doug Hartmann

Leadership Development

& Communications:

Beth Kautz

John Rydeen

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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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