



# Hope Lutheran Church

# The Anchor

## August 2008

### Why Count?

We count weekly attendees at the Divine Service. We count those who receive the Lord's Supper. We count membership. We count absences at the Divine Service. We count and count and count. Why?

There's a danger in counting, a big danger. Counting, especially counting attendees, members, and offerings tempts pastors to consider themselves successful or unsuccessful based on numbers. But neither pastors nor parishioners can be congratulated for high numbers nor chastised for low numbers. As St. Paul says, "For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth." (1 Corinthians 3:4-7) We cannot cause growth. We can only be faithful in planting and watering.

So why count? Because Jesus counted. The Good Shepherd counted sheep and knew when one went astray (Luke 15:4). His apostles, the first pastors, the first undershepherds, counted, too. They knew how many people were fed by miraculous bread and fish (5,000-Mark 6:44; 4,000-Mark 8:9) and how many converts there were at Pentecost (3,000-Acts 2:41).

Pastors count—not because we want to feel successful if numbers are high or unsuccessful if numbers are low—but because we care about those whom the Chief Shepherd has entrusted to our care. Counting enables us to know who is receiving the gifts the Lord freely offers and who is not. And when someone is not receiving those gifts—perhaps because he is not able or because he deems them unnecessary—the one called to be a steward of those gifts, the pastor, needs to know.

And he, like the Shepherd who goes looking even for one sheep, is charged with looking for those who wander from the fold. That's why I try to visit people who have missed three or more consecutive Sundays, to call straying sheep back to the fold and to learn of concerns for which we should be praying.

So when you see numbers, don't look at them to see how well things are going with the congregation. In the congregation gathered by the Lord, things are always going well because He is always faithful to give out His good gifts: forgiveness, eternal life, and salvation. Instead, see numbers as an opportunity to pray for those not counted, that the Lord, through His appointed means, might draw them back to the places and times where He is distributing these gifts.

In Christ's Service,

#### *In this issue...*

Stewardship Corner..... p. 2  
News & Notes: ..... p. 3  
Our Church Family..... p. 4

News from All around: Unity School Update..... p. 5  
August Calendar..... p. 6

# Stewardship Corner

## July Attendance

	Divine Service/Lord's Supper	Sunday School	Adult Bible Class
6th	101 / 72	18	24
13th	102 / 86	10	26
20th	85 / 66	12	23
27th			

## July Financial Report

	7/6	7/13	7/20	7/27
Envlp	2101	1393	1608	
Plate	125.25	213.45	159.20	
SS	28	25.60	26	
DebtFnd	100	20		
Missions				
Flowers		20		
Rental				
Other				

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS for these upcoming events

- Reformation Day Service, October 31
- All Saints' Day Service, November 1
- Thanksgiving Service, Wednesday, November 26
- Advent begins November 30

## Serving in August

**Elders:** Lead: Keith Baecht  
Asst.: Dennis Henneman

**Altar Guild:** Sharon & Tim Butler, Bev Schneider, & Judy & Kim Margeson

### Greeters

*August 3:* Maggie & Emily Frazer  
*August 10:* Tad & Karen Droste  
*August 17:* Judy Stanley  
*August 24:* Bob & Bev Schneider  
*August 31:* Randy & Judy Margeson

### Ushers

*August 3:* Rick Angel, Len Straub, Marvin Frazer, Randy Margeson  
*August 10:* John & Steve Ficker, Nathan Martin, Bill Ivers  
*August 17:* Tony Purcell, Mike Roth, Jerry & Scott Summers  
*August 24:* Dave Roth, Don Carpenter, Eric Trisler, Kris McGuire  
*August 31:* Tim VanHoven, Vince Sibley, Bryan McKennon, Tony Purcell

### Acolytes

*August 3:* Koty Rethorn  
*August 10:* Erin Smith  
*August 17:* Jordan Summers  
*August 24:* Trent Tucker  
*August 31:* Garret Blasa

## Call for Volunteers

If there's something you've been wanting to get involved in (teaching Sunday school, youth group activities, church maintenance work), just speak up! In particular, volunteers are needed for the following:

- Sunday School Teachers and Helpers
- Greeters & Ushers
- Altar Guild
- Trustees & Handymen
- Grounds & Landscaping

# News & Notes

## Adult Bible Class

Adult Bible Class continues our study on religions of the world. If you've missed out so far, it's not too late. We start a new religion almost every week, so you can jump in and not feel left behind. We still have interesting religions like Buddhism, Hinduism, New Ageism, Taoism, Confucianism, Mormonism, Jehovah's Witness, and more!

## Youth Report

Three high school youth, along with pastor and another chaperone, just got back from the Higher Things Youth Conference in St. Louis. While there, we learned what it means to say "Amen" to receiving God's gifts and saying "Amen" to serving and loving our neighbors. In addition to intensive catechesis, we gathered for worship three or four times daily, enjoyed the SLU recreation center and some improv comedy (which made Patrick an instant hero), and traveled to St. Louis highlights like Ted Drewes and the U-City Loop.

The youth will have a work day for the upcoming yard sale on Friday, August 15. The next yard sale is Aug 16, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

## Luther League

For youth up to 4<sup>th</sup> grade, there's a "junior youth group" beginning September 24<sup>th</sup> when Junior catechesis begins. This will be from 6-7 p.m., just before the catechetical service. Let this opportunity aid you as you catechize your children in the faith.

## Sunday School

The Fall Sunday School quarter begins in September. Watch your mailboxes for more information.

## Sunshine Circle

The ladies have a few new items for sale in the case by the Bible Class room. Check 'em out.

Also, get your appetites ready now: the Cookie Walk will be December 13<sup>th</sup>!

## Catechesis

Summer catechesis continues for those interested in learning more about what we believe, getting a refresher in the catechism, or having an opportunity for a midweek service.

## Church Clean-Up Day

There will be a church clean-up day Saturday, August 9. Come help take care of the Lord's house.

# Our Church Family

*“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth, such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.*

*But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.” –James 3: 13-18*

## Prayer Partners

This month, we pray particularly for these brothers and sisters in Christ:

*Week of August 3:*

Shelley & John Pyrtle, Kaitlyn & Kelsey; Henry Rethorn, Jennifer, Koty & Katherine Rethorn

*Week of August 10:*

Joyce Reno; Cary & Kimberly Roberts, Claire, Owen, Ava, & Ella

*Week of August 17:*

Kristen & Otis Rodriguez & Amanda

*Week of August 24:*

Marilyn & Paul Rogers; David & Karen Roth

*Week of August 31:*

Vance & Kelly Miller, Andrew, Nicholas, Bethany, & Karley

## August Anniversaries

- 8/1 Gary & Sheri Gaffner
- 8/2 Bob & Carol Skibbe
- 8/9 Pastor & Yvonne Mitkos
- 8/13 Mark & Lynne Kloempken
- 8/14 Rick & Rosalyn Angel
- 8/15 Dave & Karen Roth
- 8/17 Steve & Kelli LeBlanc
- 8/23 Bill & Rosemary Ivers
- 8/25 Randy & Mary Neal
- 8/26 Dennis & Brandi Smith

## August Birthdays

- 8/4 Mary Ann Husmann  
Yvonne Hartmann
- 8/9 Doloris Burnett
- 8/12 Scott Summers  
Mark Kloempken
- 8/13 Don Carpenter  
Susan Martin
- 8/16 Paige Elledge
- 8/17 Marvin Frazer
- 8/18 Matt Mitkos
- 8/19 Elke Monroe  
Emlily Strubberg
- 8/21 Josh Manns  
Kristi Greene
- 8/22 Ruth Ficker  
Rebecca Greene
- 8/24 Bennie Morris
- 8/31 Chase Bozarth  
Katie Aldefer

News From All Around



SUMMER UPDATE

4200 Caseyville Road • East St. Louis, IL 62204
Office (618) 874-6605 • Fax (618) 874-7564 • Email: pm7951@yahoo.com

Aug. 1, Fri.

Volunteer Work Day 9:00am-4:00pm

If you would like to help, please leave a message at the school office. 618 874 6605

St. Patrick's Update

We have arrived at an important crossroad in the life of Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School. Our current location, Unity Lutheran Church, was not built originally to accommodate a school. However, through the generosity of the congregation, through the involvement of many friends, and with the creativity and flexibility of our teaching staff, this building has been a blessing for the beginning of our school.

Everyone now knows, however, that we have filled all available classroom space at Unity. Last year the Fourth Grade was located in the church balcony, and survived quite well. This year, the Fifth Grade will begin the school year in a corner of the gym. It will require quite a bit of give-and-take from everyone involved, but we will carry on!

In order to provide more space, in March we made an offer of \$450,000 for St. Patrick's Catholic Church and School in East St. Louis, located a little more than a mile from Unity. The school is 70 years old, but structurally in very good shape. There are 12 classrooms, a cafeteria and kitchen, gymnasium, and many rooms for storage, computer lab, etc. The church is 50 years old, and seats 550 people. There is also a rectory, convent, and more than enough space for playground and parking.

After our offer was accepted, we arranged for a thorough inspection of the property, to include estimates on improvements. If all work were to be done professionally, the cost to upgrade the school would be \$1.9 million. The good news is that much of the work could be done by volunteers, and most of the work could be done after we occupy.

The final decision about the St. Patrick's property will be made by the District Board of Directors late in July. They will need to examine all the

implications of the purchase of St. Patrick's in light of our mission and ministry in East St. Louis. It will not be an easy decision, and will require much prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. God has promised to provide for all of our needs, and He will not forsake His mission in East St. Louis. Will you please continue to pray about these important needs?

Grade Five Teacher

The first day of class at Unity will be August 25. We do not yet have a teacher for Fifth Grade! We're not in panic mode yet, but we would like to have our new teacher in place as soon as possible. There are a few possibilities we are pursuing, and we pray that God will lead us to our new Fifth Grade teacher soon.

Prayer Requests

That the Holy Spirit would soon direct our Fifth Grade Teacher to Unity.

That the Holy Spirit would provide guidance for our District Board of Directors in the decision about St. Patrick's.

Wish List

Our school supply storeroom is depleted! We need general school supplies to re-stock, such as #2 pencils, Fat pencils for Pre-K, Pocket folders, Marker sets, Pencil-top erasers, Large pink erasers, Ticky-tack, One CD-player, Air freshener, Manilla folders, Hand Sanitizer, Handi-wipes, Playground balls, Plastic pencil boxes, Packets of wide-rule notebook paper, Rulers with inches and cm, Scotch tape rolls for dispensers, Red, blue, and black ink pens, Electric Pencil Sharpeners, Baggies, sandwich size and one-gallon, Jump ropes, long and short, Board games for indoor recess.

The Anchor August 2008  
**August 2008**

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>July 27</b> 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	<b>July 28</b>	<b>July 29</b>	<b>July 30</b>	<b>July 31</b>	<b>Aug 1</b>	<b>2</b>
-----VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THIS WEEK!-----						
<b>3</b> 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:45-7:30p Midweek Service 7:30-8:15p Summer Catechesis	<b>7</b> 6:00-7:00p Youth Group	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> CHURCH CLEAN - UP DAY!!
<b>10</b> 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:00-7:00p Elders' Mtg 7:00-8:00p Council Mtg. 8:00-8:15p Compline	<b>13</b> 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:45-7:30p Midweek Service 7:30-8:15p Summer Catechesis	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> YOUTH YARD SALE
<b>17</b> 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:45-7:30p Midweek Service 7:30-8:15p Summer Catechesis	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:45-7:30p Midweek Service 7:30-8:15p Summer Catechesis	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	<b>Sept 1</b>	<b>Sept 2</b>	<b>Sept 3</b> 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:45-7:30p Midweek Service 7:30-8:15p Summer Catechesis	<b>Sept 4</b>	<b>Sept 5</b>	<b>Sept 6</b>

