



# Hope Lutheran Church The Anchor

December 2008

## Rhythm & Repetition

Same story, different year. There's a familiarity about the cycle of the Church Year. You know what to expect. Because we're so apt to forget the story of salvation, the Church Year pulls us into its pattern and rehashes what would be eternally deadly to forget.

But not all cycles are healthy. Thanksgiving marks the beginning of the busy season for most people, not just in the church. Suddenly, we have shopping to do, gifts to wrap, meals to cook, cookies to bake, letters to mail, kids to shuttle, pageants to attend. So we find ourselves in the same cycle as last year, knowing that, in the end, we'll be exhausted and just glad Christmas is over.

Here's a challenge: let the cycle of the season of Advent and the anticipation of Christmas predominate the cycle of busyness.

Buy fewer gifts, or leave some presents unwrapped. Skip sending letters or cards. Forego some of the things that clamor for your attention. Break the cycle of repetition.

Instead, let the cycle of the Church Year draw you in. It's also busy, but healthily so. There are Advent Vespers services every Wednesday at 7 p.m. There are three celebrations of our Lord's Nativity: two on Christmas Eve and one on Christmas morning. Each has different readings, a different sermon, different hymns, and a different feeling to it. There's a Children's Christmas service on evening of the 21st. All this is good busyness. The busyness of the season of Advent reminds us that the busyness of our lives will be brought to a sudden halt at the Lord's second Advent. The climax of Christmas in the season calls to mind the apex of salvation, the Incarnation of God the Son.

Give in to the rhythm and repetition of the seasons of the Church. Come to more services than you normally would and more than you think your busy schedule can handle.

Enjoy the rhythm of the Season. It will make all the rest of your busyness more manageable.

In Christ's Service,

*Pastor Hemmer*



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# Stewardship Corner

## November Attendance

	Divine Service/Lord's Supper	Sunday School	Adult Bible Class
2 <sup>nd</sup>	113 / 85	28	17
9 <sup>th</sup>	104 / 76	10	26
16 <sup>th</sup>	157 / 106	18	14
23 <sup>rd</sup>	100 / 79	13	18
26 <sup>th</sup>	47 / 33	---	---
30 <sup>th</sup>	125 / 84	18	18

## Serving in December

**Elders:** Lead: Tim Butler  
Asst.: Mark Kloempken

**Altar Guild:** Ramona VanHooser, Elke Monroe, Brandi Smith, Laura Hemmer, Kaye & Carrie Carpenter

### Greeters

*Dec 7:* Herb & Kim Frazer  
*Dec 14:* Stephanie & Amy Straub  
*Dec 21:* Jerry & Ethel Summers  
*Dec 24 7p:* The Trislars  
*Dec 24 11p:* ?  
*Dec 25:* Tina Lyming  
*Dec 28:* Ramona VanHooser  
*Dec 31 7p:* ?

### Ushers

*Dec 7:* Rick Angel, Len Straub, Marvin Frazer, Randy Margeson  
*Dec 14:* John & Steve Ficker, Nathan Martin, Bill Ivers  
*Dec 21:* Tony Purcell, Mike Roth, Jerry & Scott Summers  
*Dec 24 7p:*  
*Dec 24 11p:*  
*Dec 25:*  
*Dec 28:* Dave Roth, Don Carpenter, Eric Trisler, Kris McGuire  
*Dec 31 7p:*

### Acolytes

*Dec 7:* Erin  
*Dec 10:* Jordan  
*Dec 14:* Ailee  
*Dec 17:* Josh  
*Dec 21:* Taylor  
*Dec 24 (7p):* Garret, Nick, Trevor, Aloera  
*Dec 24 (11p):* Koty, Katy, Jordan, Josh  
*Dec 25:* Erin  
*Dec 28:* Makenzi  
*Dec 31 (7p):* Ailee

## November Financial Report

	11/2	11/9	11/16	11/23	11/30
Envlp	\$1836	\$1367	\$1738	\$1272	\$2123
Plate	\$209	\$189.	\$155	\$324.	\$263
SS	\$19.	\$21.	\$11	\$36	\$19
Debt	\$105				\$10
Park		\$20		\$30	\$150
Ctchs					
Miss					
Flwrs	\$8.50		\$18.50		
Rent					
Other	\$30	\$50			



## Call for Volunteers

Can you help out in any of these roles?  
Call the church office...

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

# News & Notes

## COOKIE WALK DECEMBER 13th!

You don't want to miss this – set your alarm and be there early! The ladies of Hope will put together an amazing display of fabulous holiday goodies, and sell them by the pound on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, from 9-11am. You can pick your favorites, fill up a box, and bring them home to the delight of your family and friends.

## Sunday School Update

Classes are ongoing for all kids from nursery-age through high school (not to mention the adult class that is going on at the same time). Drop the kids off at their class and head to the adult class, or stay to see what the kids are learning. If you have questions about Sunday School, or you would like to volunteer to help out, please contact the church office.

Upcoming Sunday School lessons:

- 12/7 *Angel visits Mary* (Matt 1:18-25)
- 12/14 *Angel visits Joseph* (Luke 1:26-38)
- 12/21 *The Birth of Jesus* (Luke 2)
- 12/28 *The Presentation of Jesus* (Luke 2:21-40)

## Adult Bible Class

Come at 8:30 to join the study of the often-misunderstood Book of Revelation. What does the Bible tell us about what is yet to come? What do we know about heaven? When will Jesus return? The discussion in can be rather lively – bring your questions...

## Epiphany?

The Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord is the second oldest holiday in the Church Year, second only to Easter. It celebrates the manifestation of Christ to all nations, including us Gentiles. It's always on Jan 6, and it's quite a celebration (with traditional Epiphany King Cake afterwards)!

## Luther League

... continues on Wednesday nights (except for the 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>) for youth through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Contact the church office or Brandy Purcell for more information

## Youth Group

The youth held another yard sale in November and are making their famous bon bons this month.

By the way, have you seen the newly refreshed youth room upstairs? If you haven't seen it yet, you really should go check it out.

## Wednesday Night Bible Study

...resumes on Wednesday, December 3, with a study of the liturgy. This group meets after the advent services until 8:30pm. Mark Kloempken will lead this study of the history and significance of the order and pattern of the Divine Service. Everyone is welcome!

## Celebrate Christmas at These Services

**Sun., Dec. 21, 7:00 pm:** Children's Service

**Wed., Dec. 24, 7:00 pm:** Christmas Eve

**Wed., Dec. 24, 11:00 pm:** Christmas Midnight

**Thurs., Dec. 25, 9:30 am:** Christmas Day

**Sun., Dec. 28, 9:30 am:** Divine Service

**Wed., Dec. 31, 7:00pm:** Eve of the Name and Circumcision of Our Lord (New Year's Eve)

**Sun., Jan. 4, 9:30 am:** Divine Service

**Tues., Jan. 6, 7:00pm:** The Epiphany of Our Lord

# Our Church Family

## Prayer Partners

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

*Dec 7:* Charles Walters; Brian & Terri White & Trent

*Dec 14:* Charlie & Judy White; Jeff White; Angie Whitfield, Brandi, Chase, Aspen, & Montana

*Dec 21:* Michael Williamson; Roy & Barb Young

*Dec 28:* Richard & Cindy Zumwalt & Cassie; Pastor & Laura Hemmer

## December Anniversaries

12/08 Carrie & Brian Marshall

12/09 Eric & Tina Trisler

12/10 Gary & Jean Pinkard

12/18 Jeff & Karen Brinkman



## December Birthdays

12/2 William Kloempken

12/4 Karley Blasa  
Kaitlin Pyrtle  
Trent Tucker

12/5 Ella Jane Pointer

12/7 Ben Funk

12/9 Bob Hall  
Kurt Hall

12/11 Charlie White

12/12 Brienne Martin

12/13 Malinda Towell

12/15 Erinn Hileman

12/18 Whitney Ontis

12/19 Kelly Smith

12/20 Hayleigh Elledge

12/21 Gary Gaffner  
Susy Pohlman

Nicholas O'Neal

12/24 Braden Pinkard

12/25 Ronnie Eberhardt

12/28 Sharon George

12/29 David Roth  
Roy Young

12/30 Hannah Greene

Nick Manns  
David Lyming

12/31 Vance Miller

## New Members

Welcome to Pam & Jim Heltsley and Becky, Nichole, & Haley Nevlin, who transferred from Faith in Godfrey.



**A BLESSED THANKSGIVING**

Our annual Thanksgiving Feast on November 26 was a wonderful blessing again this year. For your consideration:

Parent Involvement. The traditional Thanksgiving meal was prepared entirely by the Unity parents. We served nearly 170! All food was donated, prepared, and served by parents. Parents cleaned up after the meal, as well. Best of all, the parents had a great time working together.

Coloring Contest. Students in Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and Grades 1 and 2 participated in a Thanksgiving Coloring Contest. All entries were judged by a panel of artists at the All Rise Art Gallery in Chicago (thanks to Joe Miller).

Congratulations to the winners:

- Pre-Kindergarten – Nino Stenzel
- Kindergarten – Rayshad Jackson
- Grade One – Catherine Walker
- Grade Two – Nijay Spellman

Essay Contest. Students in Grades 3, 4, and 5 entered their best writing under the topic “I am Thankful For.” Winners read their essays at the Thanksgiving Feast. The winners:

- Grade Three – Vontez Waller
- Grade Four – Akyrah Paulette
- Grade Five – Jaylin Garrett

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

- For a joyful Advent and Christmas celebration for our school families.
- For guidance and direction for the Unity Working Group as they search for more classroom space.
- That by God’s power and provision, we will reach our Annual Fund goal of \$250,000.

# Enews From Unity December 2008

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l, the  
their

- “I’m thankful for Jesus because He saved our souls.” Akyrah, Gr. 4
- “Most of all, I’m thankful for our one and only God Jesus Christ, the most powerful and strongest, because He is everyone’s God, even Mr. Miller.” Vontez, Gr. 3
- “I’m thankful for this school, because they help me learn about Jesus and what He created.” Nile, Gr. 3
- “I’m thankful that I serve a God who takes care of me and is always on my side.” Michael, Gr. 5
- “I am thankful for Jesus dying on the cross to take away our sins.” Roderick, Gr. 3
- “I am thankful for this beautiful holiday of Thanksgiving, and for our brother ‘Jesus’ and our Father ‘God’ and the ‘Holy Spirit.’” Christoff, Gr. 3

**WISH LIST**

- |                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Hand Sanitizer           | Liquid Hand Soap           |
| Air Freshener            | (large bottles for refill) |
| Playground Balls         | Dry Erase Markers          |
| Staples                  | Breakfast Cereal           |
| Plain White Copier Paper | First Aid Kit              |
| Box Tops For Education   |                            |

**Everyone is Invited to Our  
Annual Children’s Christmas Program  
Wednesday, December 17, 2008, 7:00pm At Unity Lutheran Church  
Experience the excitement and anticipation of the holiday with our students.  
You’ll be blessed!**

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
JERSEYVILLE, IL 62052

November 11, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of Hope Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 7:10 P.M., by President Ed Pointer. Pastor Hemmer opened with prayer. The 9 members present were Ed Pointer, Linda Blasa, Carol Skibbe, Patti Henneman, Kim Frazer, Rick Angel, Kerry Hall, Mark Kloempken, and Pastor Hemmer.

**The Secretary's Report: (Carol Skibbe)**

The secretary's minutes were read and amended in the Education report to read "Motion was made by Ed Pointer and seconded by Patti Henneman. Motion carried." The minutes will be filed in the permanent file.

**The Treasurer's Report: (Linda Blasa)**

The October financial statement was presented. The present balance as of Oct. 31st, is \$13.21. Linda reported that the mission payment has not been made for 4 months. Several of the regular monthly bills had an added surcharge since there was no money to pay them on time. Copy attached.

**Pastor's Report: (Rev. Jeffrey B. Hemmer)**

Addison Carpenter was baptized on 10/12/08. Rick & Billie Whyers were taken in as members, by affirmation of faith, on October 26, 2008. Transfers in from Faith, Godfrey, were Jim & Pam Heltsley, and Becky, Nichole, & Haley Nevlin, on November 9, 2008. Thanksgiving Eve Service will be Nov. 26, at 7pm.

Pastor showed a copy of and discussed the new "Treasury of Daily Prayer".

**Evangelism Committee (Patti Henneman)**

Patti discussed the Angel Food Ministry. They took in 42 orders this month.

Patti will have poinsettias for Christmas. Order now.

**Youth Group (Kim Frazer)**

Youth news is attached.

**Old Business:**

1. Church pews are nearly finished.

**New Business:**

**SINCE THERE WAS NOT A QUORUM PRESENT, NO BUSINESS COULD BE CONDUCTED.**

The meeting adjourned, followed by Compline.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Skibbe, Council Secretary

The Anchor December 2008  
December 2008

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<i>Nov 30</i> 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	1	2	3 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:00-7:00p Luther League 7:00 -7:45p Advent Vespers 7:45-8:30p Catechesis 7:45-8:30p Bible Study	4	5 Basement Rental	6
7 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	8	9 6:00-7:00p Elders' Mtg 7:00-8:00p Council Mtg. 8:00-8:15p Compline	10 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:00-7:00p Luther League 7:00 -7:45p Advent Vespers 7:45-8:30p Catechesis 7:45-8:30p Bible Study	11 6:00-7:00p Youth Group	12	13 Cookie Walk!
14 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	15	16	17 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:00-7:00p Luther League 7:00 -7:45p Advent Vespers 7:45-8:30p Catechesis 7:45-8:30p Bible Study	18	19 6:00-9:00p Youth Game Night	20
21 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service 7:00p Children's Christmas Service	22	23	24 7:00p Christmas Eve Divine Service 11:00p Christmas Midnight Divine Service	25 9:30a Christmas Day Divine Service	26	27
28 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	29	30	31 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 7:00 p Eve of the Name & Circumcision of Jesus Divine Service	1	2	3

