



Hope Lutheran Church  
**The Anchor**  
September 2008

### A Lesson in Agriculture

They sell crop insurance for one simple reason: farming is an incredibly risky venture. Poor soil, too little rain, too much rain, floods, hail, fire, and worse conspire to work against a farmer's best-laid plans. As if these weren't enough to deter a man from touching plow to dirt, there are unexpected fluctuations in prices.

Being a farmer hasn't always been such a gamble, though. Before inclement weather and uncooperative soil made for an anxious summer, farming used to be delightfully easy. Seriously.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam's job was to work the ground, making it bring forth food for his family. Sure it was work, but it was what he loved to do. And the ground yielded food without causing Adam to sweat or bleed.

But since the rebellion of Adam and Eve in the garden, the simple, natural task of cultivating the earth has been fraught with difficulty. Part of the penalty of sin is that creation is broken. Nothing works the way it's supposed to work. Suddenly, a task that was easy and enjoyable to Adam now caused him pain and jeopardized his life. Likewise, Eve's simple, natural task of bearing children, once pain-free and delightful, was suddenly the source of great agony (so I'm told).

Every flooded field, every rainless summer, every disappointing yield, every hail storm, every frustrated farmer is proof that creation is not as it was intended to be. Every injury sustained while farming, every drop of sweat from the field hand's brow, every bloody knuckle or broken hand is proof that we are all waiting for the day when creation will be restored.

All creation suffers as a result of mankind's sin. And all creation is groaning for the day of our Lord's return (Romans 8:22). On that day, everything is put back the way it was meant to be. The dead will be raised. Those who received the Lord's gift of faith will be gathered into his eternal presence. As St. John records, "the dwelling place of God [will be] with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Don't misunderstand. And don't believe anyone who tells you paradise will have you looking like a plump Precious Moments cherub, sitting on a cloud, plucking away at your harp. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The renewed heavens and earth will be a lot like the original heavens and earth, before they were spoiled by sin.

The days of crop insurance are limited. (So are the days of preachers.) At the Day of our Lord's return, there will be no unyielding ground, no inclement weather, no rebellious dirt. Adam's task will once again be easy and enjoyable. Farmers, gardeners, landscapers, and lawn mowers, keep practicing and keep groaning for that Day.

In Christ's Service,

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

Stewardship Corner.....	p. 2	Minutes from July Quarterly Voters' Meeting...	p. 5
News & Notes: .....	p. 3	September Calendar.....	p. 6
Our Church Family.....	p. 4		

# Stewardship Corner

## August Attendance

	Divine Service/Lord's Supper	Sunday School	Adult Bible Class
7/27	108 / 82	17	15
3rd	? / 66	10	22
10th	112 / 83	20	20
17th	89 / 71	12	19
24th	97 / 67	24	17

## August Financial Report

	7/27	8/3	8/10	8/17	8/24
Envlp	\$1491	\$1852	\$1805	\$1410	\$1498
Plate	\$179	\$190.75	\$115.2	\$85.15	\$211
SS	\$28.50	\$21	\$21	\$14	\$20
DebtFnd					
Missions				\$14.90	
Flowers			\$15		
Rental					
Other	\$30	\$112	\$20	\$15	

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS for these upcoming events in the church year

- Catechesis and Luther League begin Sept. 24
- Reformation Day Service, October 31
- All Saints' Day Service, November 1
- Thanksgiving Service, Wednesday, November 26
- Advent begins November 30

## Serving in September

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

**Altar Guild:** Rosemary Ivers & Marilyn Rogers & Debbie Basham

### Greeters

*September 7:* Anita Assar & Elke Monroe  
*September 14:* Keith & Matthew Baecht  
*September 21:* Randy & Travis Trisle  
*September 28:* Linda Blasa & Angela Sharich

### Ushers

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

### Acolytes

*September 7:* Taylor  
*September 14:* Nick  
*September 21:* Aloera  
*September 28:* Koty

## 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

Jump in anytime! Join us as we discuss what other religions believe in order to gain a greater understanding and perspective on our own faith.

## Sunday School

The Fall Sunday School quarter begins September 7<sup>th</sup> in the upstairs classrooms (good work clean up crew!). There's something offered for everyone in the whole family before church. It begins at 8:30 every Sunday morning. For more information about classes and materials, call the church office, or just show up at 8:30 on Sunday morning!

Sunday School lessons:

- 9/7 – Worship in the Tabernacle (Exod. 25-30,35-40)
- 9/14 – Joshua and the Twelve Spies (Num. 13-14)
- 9/21 – The Bronze Serpent (Num. 21:4-9)
- 9/28 – Entering the Promised Land (Josh. 3-4, Deut 34:1-12)

## Sunshine Circle

Shopping? The ladies have stocked the cabinet by the Sunday School room with some new items. Be sure to check it out!

*DECEMBER 13<sup>th</sup> IS THE COOKIE WALK.  
YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT!! 9-11 am*

## Catechesis

Youth: Parents should have received a letter from Pastor Hemmer about Catechesis for the fall. If you missed the letter, or have any questions, talk to Pastor.

Adults: If you're interested in joining the church or finding out more about what we believe, or if you know someone who is, talk to Pastor Hemmer.

## Luther League Begins!!

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. We'll meet in the ladies' guild room. Let this opportunity aid you as you catechize your children in the faith.

## Pastor's Blog

If you surf the Internet, check out [www.hemmersphere.blogspot.com](http://www.hemmersphere.blogspot.com) for Pastor Hemmer's sometimes serious, sometimes lighthearted, occasional blog posts. You can leave your comments...

## Thy Strong Word

**Thy strong word did cleave the darkness, At thy speaking it was done.  
For created light we thank the,  
While thine ordered seasons run.  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Praise to thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia without end!**

...

**From thy cross thy wisdom shining  
Breaketh forth in conquering might  
From the cross forever beameth  
All thy bright redeeming light.  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Praise to thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia without end!**

**Give us lips to sing thy glory, Tounques  
thy mercy to proclaim, Throats that  
shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to  
speak thy holy name. Alleluia, alleluia!  
May the light which thou dost send Fill  
our songs with alleluias, Alleluias  
without end!**

# Our Church Family

*Rise to arms! With Prayer employ you, O Christians lest the foe destroy you; For Satan has designed your fall. Wield God's word the weapon glorious; Against all foes be thus victorious, God will set you above them all....*

## Prayer Partners

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

*Week of September 7:*

Mike & Jeanne Roth & Tim; Bert & Vernice Perry.

*Week of September 14:*

Bob & Bev Schneider, Ryan & Sarah

*Week of September 21:*

Vince & Doris Sibley, Bob & Carol Skibbe

*Week of September 28:*

Dennis & Brandi Smith, Erin & Luke

- 9/5 Roy & Barb Young
- 9/10 Dr. Abass & Anita Assar  
Nick & Robin Manns
- 9/15 Bill & Malinda Towell
- 9/16 Tony & Brandy Purcell
- 9/25 Jim & Korri Ontis
- 9/26 Jim & Angela Sharich

## September Birthdays

- 9/3 Randy Neal
- 9/4 Joey Greene
- 9/6 Esther Stambaugh
- 9/7 Ed Basham
- 9/8 Jennifer Strubberg  
Sandy Purcell
- 9/10 Gary Kallal
- 9/11 Bob Schneider
- 9/12 Pat Summers
- 9/13 Kelly Little
- 9/14 J.D. Lyming  
Montana White
- 9/15 Dain Curtis Lyming
- 9/16 Lucas McKennon
- 9/17 Alexandra Towell
- 9/18 Heidi O'Neal
- 9/19 Joshua Neal  
Hope (54 yrs.)
- 9/20 Zander Little
- 9/21 Laura Hemmer
- 9/22 Amanda Noyes  
Cary Roberts
- 9/24 Kelly Miller  
Christina Perkinson
- 9/25 Marcia Adams  
Dr. Fred Husmann
- 9/26 Linda Blasa  
Garret Blasa  
Marie Lyming
- 9/30 Stacey DeWitt  
Ellie Carpenter

## THE BIG FEED



The Big Feed will be held after church and the voters' meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Bring your best main dish to share, and come hungry for a whole lot of food! There's sure to be fun and merriment, and a chance to get to know your church family better. Take the opportunity to meet someone new!

## September Anniversaries

- 9/3 John & Susy Pohlman  
Dick & Cindy Zumwalt
- 9/4 Ed & Darlene Gowin

Hope Lutheran Church – 1009 N. State Street - Jerseyville, IL 62052  
[www.hopelcms.com](http://www.hopelcms.com)

## A Note of Thanks...

Thanks to everyone who prayed, helped, or donated to VBS! It was a success because of everyone involved. ~Brandy

**QUARTERLY VOTER'S MEETING**

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

JERSEYVILLE, IL 62052

July 20, 2008

The Quarterly Voter's Meeting was called to order by President Ed Pointer at 10:40 after worship. There were 41 members in attendance. The list is attached.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes of the April 20th Voter's Meeting were read. Charles White made a motion to accept the minutes after a correction, Leroy Stiles seconded, and the motion carried. The correction will be made, and the minutes will be filed in the Permanent File.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Linda Blasa) The balance in the checking account as of June 30, 2008 is \$381.67. We are behind on the mission payment since there is not enough money to pay the big bills. Bryan McKennon made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, Dennis Henneman seconded, and motion carried. Copy attached.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Hemmer reported that Chloe and Isabell Eberhardt, and Ella Roberts were baptized; Amy Straub confirmed; Larry & Diane Decker were transferred to St. Paul in Jackson, MO; Callie Frazer, per her own request, was released to join Trinity, Canton, IL (ELCA); and Christina Postlewait & Frank Long were married on June 16, 2008. Pastor then discussed First Communion prior to Confirmation and fielded questions about this. The letter explaining this is attached. Letters were sent to all members.

**Elders Report:** (Dennis Henneman)

Dennis explained that Pastor's mileage allotment in the budget would be gone by September, and since there are so many shut-ins to visit, it needs to be increased. Dennis made a motion to increase the mileage by 25% (\$750). Jim Manns seconded. Voice vote: all ayes. Motion carried.

**Youth Report:** (Kim Frazer) The Chili Cook-Off went well. All extra food and cookies were shared with the Army stationed in the High School during the flooding. Thanks to Pastor, Sophia, Emily, and Patrick had a good time at the Amen Conference. The youth gave \$100 to VBS, and now have \$1089.57 in checking. August 7 will be their next meeting, and the yard sale will be August 16.

**Social Committee:** (Eric Trisler) Hope has Meals on Wheels in August, and there will also be a "Big Feed" then.

**Sunshine Circle:** (Yvonne Hartmann) 22 quilts were given to the Women's Oasis in Jerseyville and Alton, and the ladies are planning to make new banners soon.

**Property Committee:** (Leroy Stiles) Leroy stated that new decisions need to be made concerning the state of disrepair of the church building versus paving the parking lot, since there will not be monies available for both. Therefore, there will be a Building Committee meeting on August 5 at 7PM and all interested members are invited.

**Old Business:**

1. Since the disrepair of the building had been discussed at length, Leroy Stiles made a motion to rescind the motion to have Georgewitz do the parking lot. (Ed said Mr. Georgewitz was okay with this.) Eric Trisler seconded. Voice Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.
2. There will be a General Cleaning on Saturday, August 9. All members are needed.

**New Business:**

1. There is a bid of \$5600 to completely enclose, roof, and brick a small addition to the NW corner of the church so that rain cannot enter the basement. There will be a completely new door arrangement. Dennis Henneman made a motion to accept the bid, and Bob Hall seconded. Voice vote: all ayes. Motion carried.
2. Election of officers is in October. Positions open are: President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, the Chairman of Church Properties Board, the Chairman of Stewardship Board, the Chairman of the Board of Youth, and 3 Elders. A Nominating Committee is needed. Volunteers so far were Dennis Henneman and Keith Baecht.
3. The Audit Committee of Tim VanHoveln, James Sharich, and Jim Manns will meet soon. Those needing to give books to the committee are Linda Blasa, Treasurer, the Sunshine Circle, and the Youth.

There being no further business, Leroy Stiles made a motion to adjourn, Bryan McKennon seconded, and motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Skibbe, Council Secretary

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SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>31</b> 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	1	2	3 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:45-7:30p Midweek Service 7:30-8:15p Summer Catechesis	4 6:00-7:00p Youth Group	5	6
<b>7</b> 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service VOTERS' MEETING "The Big Feed"	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 6:45-7:30p Midweek Service 7:30-8:15p Summer Catechesis	11	12	13
14 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	15	16	17 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:45-7:30p Midweek Service 7:30-8:15p Summer Catechesis	18	19	20
21 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	22	23	<b>24</b> 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:00-7:00p Luther League!! 7:00-7:45p Midweek Service 7:45-8:30p Summer Catechesis	25	26	27
28 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	29	30	<i>Oct 1</i> 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:45-7:30p Midweek Service 7:30-8:15p Summer Catechesis	<i>Oct 2</i>	<i>Oct 3</i>	<i>Oct 4</i>

