

APRIL 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
March 29 <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	March 30	March 31	April 1 5:30-6:30 Soup supper 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:00-7:00p Luther League 7:00 -7:45p Lenten Vespers 7:45-8:30p Catechesis 7:45-8:30p Bible Study	2 6:00-7:00p Youth Group	3	4 9a-Spring Cleaning Day @ Hope!!
----- HOLY WEEK -----						
5 Palm Sunday 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	6 7:00 -7:30p Holy Week Vespers	7 7:00 -7:30p Holy Week Vespers	8 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 7:00 -7:30p Holy Week Vespers	9 7:00p Maundy Thurs Service	10 12-3p Tre Ore Service 7:00p Tenebrae Service	11 7:00p Easter Vigil Service
12 The Resurrection of Our Lord 6:00a Easter Sunrise Divine Service 7:00a Easter Breakfast 9:30a Easter Day Divine Service	13	14 6:00-7:00p Elders' Mtg 7:00-8:00p Council Mtg. 8:00-8:15p Compline	15 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:00-7:00p Luther League 7:00 -7:45p Service of Prayer and Preaching 7:45-8:30p Catechesis 7:45-8:30p Bible Study	16	17 Youth Catechesis Retreat @ Camp Wartburg – Leave Friday, 4pm, Return Saturday, 7pm 	
19 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	20	21	22 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:00-7:00p Luther League 7:00 -7:45p Service of Prayer and Preaching 7:45-8:30p Catechesis 7:45-8:30p Bible Study	23	24	25
26 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	27	28	29 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:00-7:00p Luther League 7:00 -7:45p Service of Prayer and Preaching 7:45-8:30p Catechesis 7:45-8:30p Bible Study	30	May 1	May 2



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 10, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of Hope Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 7:10 P.M., by President Keith Baecht, whereupon Pastor Hemmer opened with devotions and a prayer. The 13 members present were Keith Baecht, Linda Blasa, Patti Henneman, Dennis Henneman, Tim Butler, Mark Kloempken, Kerry Hall, Tim VanHoveln, Kim Frazer, Bob Hall, Yvonne Hartmann, Mary Ann Husmann, and Pastor Hemmer.

The Secretary's Report: (Carol Skibbe)

The February minutes were read and approved, with two changes. The minutes will be changed and filed in the permanent file.

The Treasurer's Report: (Linda Blasa)

The January/February financial statement was presented. Present balance as of 2/28/09 is \$26.48. Motion made by Mark Kloempken, and seconded by Kerry Hall to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

There was no money at the end of February for the debt payment, but it was made by the 1st of March. The mission payment is one month behind. President Baecht then opened a discussion on Stewardship. In order to make the congregation aware of our financial situation, Keith will give out the report that Tim Van Hoveln made and say a few words on the subject this coming Sunday.

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

Pastor reported the funeral service of Jessica Hartley on March 6, 2009, noted the upcoming Lenten services on Wednesdays, and the Annunciation of Our Lord Service on March 25 at 7PM.

Pastor also discussed public confession. Copies of Luther's Exhortation to Confession were discussed.

Elder's Report (Dennis Henneman)

A Christian Primer on Stewardship is included with these minutes.

Evangelism Committee (Patti Henneman)

Patti reported that the sign-up for lilies is encouraged, and they will be \$8.50 this year.

Properties Committee: (Bob Hall)

Bob has a quote of \$800 on a steel door for upstairs, and plans to check into 2 outside doors by the kitchen. Yvonne will check to see what the building code is for that size door. The water meter reader also told Bob we have a small leak, so they will put dye in the bathroom to check on location. Bob will also measure the steps going into the basement to make sure we have enough carpet left.

Youth Report (Kim Frazer) (report attached)

Kim reported that the Youth Conference in Texas has 100 spaces still open. The Youth gave \$50 to Brandy for the Easter baskets.

Altar Guild: (Mary Ann Husmann)

Mary Ann thanked everyone for filling in for her at the funeral meal for Jessica Hartley. Communion wine is now being purchased through C. Rodgers.

Sunshine Circle (LWML): (Yvonne Hartmann)

Yvonne reported that in addition to giving \$2000 towards the carpet in the Narthex, the ladies donated \$500 toward the painting of the restroom stalls in all the restrooms. The Hartmann's donated the rest. The ladies are working on more banners, and a funeral Pall.

Old Business:

1. Kerry Hall is going to use some cold patch and get the handicap ramps operational.
2. The carpet in the narthex, east entrances, and basement stairs was bid at \$2450, plus \$1200 for labor. The actual carpet was \$2400, with the ladies donating \$2000, and Rick Whyers donating the installation.
Many thanks to all who helped with carpeting of the Narthex: Rick Whyers, Bob Hall, Don Carpenter, Dave Roth, Ed Basham, Marvin Frazer, Tim Van Hoveln, Tim Butler, and Kerry Hall. Some of the old carpet went to the J.D. Lyming residence, where Herb and Marvin Frazer installed it.
3. Painting inside the church. The old quotations are needed, or new ones must be procured.
4. Tim Van Hoveln has done a study of the cash flow – forecasting our debt increases thru the year.
Keith will use this in a shortened version after service on Sunday. Copy is included.
5. Many thanks to Jim Manns, Robin Manns, and Jamie Fester for work done on the audit committee. Report is attached herewith.
6. Communion Rail cushions: \$651.45 (was \$740) \$200 down payment made. Promised Easter delivery.
7. New ways to save money:
 - a. Bulletins will be printed in-house as soon as last shipment is used. Software was purchased for \$40, and Eric Trisler's and the Sunday School artwork will also be used.
 - b. Trash pick-up has been reduced to biweekly. The new rate is \$25/mo down from \$55/mo. This will be a savings of \$360/yr. Mary Ann will check on prices of trash cans for the outside.

New Business:

1. The gutters will be fixed, between the buildings, before the carpet is installed. Thank you Tim Van Hoveln!
2. Pastor will draw up a Sympathy card or letter to the congregation of the First Baptist Church in Maryville, after the killing of Pastor Fred Winters.
3. A free-will offering will be collected Sunday for St. Jude's Children's Hospital in memory of Rev. Mitkos' father.
4. April 7 will be Holy Tuesday Vespers in the Sanctuary. Keith will inform the Jerseyville Voting Board of such. Polls normally close at 7PM.
5. The yearly catechesis retreat to Camp Wartburg will be April 17-18 at a cost of \$40 per.
6. Thank you to Tim Butler, Dennis Henneman, and Don Carpenter for fixing the marquee light.
7. Thank you Laura Rodgers and Stephanie Straub for painting the ladies downstairs bathroom!
8. Patti Henneman made a motion not to read the minutes out loud at meetings, but have each person read them beforehand to save time. Mary Ann Husmann seconded, and motion carried.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer, followed by Compline in the Sanctuary.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4/1 Kelli Eberhardt
Pam Heltsley
- 4/8 Ava Roberts
- 4/11 Jordan Summers
- 4/20 Lillie Purcell
- 4/21 Janet Gorecki
Katelyn Aldefer
- 4/22 Jon Greene
- 4/24 Richard Angel
Bethany Blasa
- 4/26 John George
- 4/27 Tim Roth
Emma Sharich

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

Week of April 5– Floyd & Kristi Greene, Karri, Jonathan, Joey, Jordan, Rebecca, & Hannah

Week of April 12– Kerry & Rhonda Hall, Kourtnee, Kurt, & Khloee; Bob & Bette Hall

Week of April 19 – Georgia Hansen & Jacob; Bob & Yvonne Hartmann; Jim & Pam Heltsley

Week of April 26– Dennis & Patti Henneman; Eunice Hinson; George Hinson

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 01 - Josh & Erinn Hileman
- 05 – Joe & Gaylene McKennon
- 06 – Jerry & Ethel Summers
- 14 – Brian & Terri White
- 24 – John & Sharon George
- 29 – Tim & Sharon Butler

SPRING CLEANING AT CHURCH

April 4 @ 9am. All help is needed to get the church cleaned up before Easter!



**A MESSAGE FROM PRES. MUELLER, SO. ILLINOIS DISTRICT-LCMS
REPRINTED FROM THE MARCH/APRIL 2009 EDITION OF "THE INSIDE WORD"**



WORLD Magazine recently interviewed Bill Moyers, the PBS journalist, as one in a series of interviews with people who have "had remarkable careers" and are "still active and passionate about their callings" (WORLD, March 14, 2009, pp. 23ff). When they asked him whether he thought the crucifixion of Jesus had any basis in fact, he answered, "I have a strong suspicion that he was crucified, but there's no empirical evidence about it" (p. 25). Then when editor Marvin Olasky asked him if he believed the resurrection of Jesus actually happened, Mr. Moyers responded, the resurrection "is part of my story and is therefore a necessary part of my faith, but I wouldn't dare suggest it is essential to anybody's faith who doesn't have my experience" (he was raised Southern Baptist, p. 25).

Contrast that approach to the apostolic proclamation in the Book of Acts – "This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses" (2:32). "Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified" (2:36). "Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead – by Him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (4:10-12).

The Apostles were absolutely convinced, not only that Christ had died on the cross, but that three days later God had also raised Him from the dead. Of that they were all witnesses. As John would later write, "that which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life..." (1 John 1:1), and as Peter would insist, "we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty..." (2 Peter 1:16). They had more than a suspicion He was crucified. They saw Him! They touched His risen and living body! They heard Him and looked on Him. On this basis they urged whomever would listen to "repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus..." (Acts 3:19-20). This was something more than simply an experience they would not dare suggest to someone else. They had the empirical evidence. They were eyewitnesses to an event, to actual facts. Indeed, the death and resurrection of Jesus are the central facts of history, the hinges on which everything else turns. Jesus is God in our flesh, carrying the weight of sin and death for us. He received the full load. He took it all. His dying words assure us, "it is finished" (John 19:30). Paid in full is the debt of our sin. "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree," Peter later wrote, "that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24). All of that is finished, for us, in Him.

It really happened. Satan would love to turn the clock back, take it away, change it. But he cannot, for "it is finished." Nor can anyone change the fact of the resurrection of Jesus. "The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging Him on a tree," was the way they boldly proclaimed Him. "God exalted Him at His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him" (Acts 5:30-32). Because Jesus died and rose, the Apostles preached repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name. For everyone who realizes, "I am a sinner – I cannot change myself," the death and resurrection of Jesus bring times of refreshing from God Himself, that God forgives also our sin, and that He gives us life in His name, all because of what Jesus has done.

Bill Moyers concluded his interview by saying, "Someone recently asked me what the moment was when I became a Christian. And I told them, I never did become a Christian. I can't turn the other cheek. I can't sell all my possessions and give them away. I can't love my enemy. I am not a Christian because I can't do what Jesus asks. But, I care deeply about that figure. He has instructed my faith; He looms large in my life. But I can't do what He asks me to do, so I can't legitimately claim to be a Christian" (p. 25). Is that humility speaking? Or a form of doubt and uncertainty? We will allow God to have the last word. It appears, however, that because he is not sure of what Jesus has done by His death and resurrection, Moyers is left with his own works, his own deeds. And therefore he cannot count himself a Christian because he cannot "do what Jesus asks."

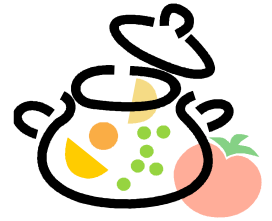
Contrast this with the faith of a Martin Luther, who, commenting on Galatians 2:20, wrote, "Here you have the true meaning of justification described, together with an example of the certainty of faith. 'I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me' ... Now these words, 'who loved me,' are filled with faith. Anyone who can speak this brief pronoun 'me' in faith and apply it to himself as Paul did, will, like Paul, be the best of debaters against the Law. For He did not give a sheep or an ox or gold or silver for me. But He who was completely God gave everything He was, gave Himself for me—for me, I say, a miserable and accursed sinner. I am revived by this 'giving' of the Son of God into death, and I apply it to myself. This applying is the true power of faith" (Luther's Works, volume 26, on Galatians 2:20).

It is not that we never doubt. We often do. It is not that we know our works can never measure up. They don't. But when we doubt, when we despair of what we have done, we look to Jesus to see what He has done. "For me," Paul says, "for me" Christ died and rose. His work was finished "for me!" With this sure hope, with this unshakeable confidence in Him, we live.

A blessed Holy Week and a joyous Easter to all!

NEWS & NOTES

*Final Soup Supper of the
Lenten Season on April 1!
5:30-6:30pm*



Sunday Mornings

EASTER IS HERE! There will be no Bible Class or Sunday School on Easter Sunday. Instead, we will all continue to celebrate our Lord's Resurrection together with fellowship at Easter Breakfast, sponsored by the youth. Breakfast will be served after 6am Sunrise service and before 9:30am Easter Day service, from 7:00-8:30.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Upcoming Sunday School lessons:

- April 5th: The Passion of Christ
(Mark 14:1-15:47)
- April 12th - EASTER MORNING – No class
- April 19th: The Resurrection of Jesus
(Mark 16:1-8)
- April 26th: Jesus Reinstates Peter
(John 21: 15-23)

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE CLASS

This month the Adult Bible Class will finish up their study of Revelation and take up a study of the Formula of Concord – the fundamentals of our faith. Stay tuned for more information...

HOLY WEEK

- 4/6 – 4/8 Vespers @ 7pm each night
- 4/9 – Maundy Thurs Svc, 7pm
- 4/10 – Tre Ore, 12-3pm
Tenebrae, 7 pm
- 4/11 – Easter Vigil , 7pm
- 4/12 – Easter Sunrise, 6am
Easter Day, 9am

A PICTORAL GUIDE TO

Wednesday Nights



**6-6:45 PM PRIVATE
CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

6-7:00 PM LUTHER LEAGUE



**7-7:45 PM SERVICE OF PRAYER
AND PREACHING**



**7: 45-8:30 PM
WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT
BIBLE STUDY**



7:45-8:30 PM YOUTH CATECHESIS

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

MARCH ATTENDANCE

	Divine Service/Lord's Supper	Sunday School	Adult Bible Class
1 st	123 / 87	22	22
4 th	73	-	-
8 th	105/78	9	15
11 th	75		
15 th	109/79	20	18
18 th	84	-	-
22 nd	109/79	17	19
25 th	63/41	-	-
29 th	95 / 74		

SERVING IN APRIL

Elders: Lead: Mark Kloempken
Asst.: Dennis Henneman

Altar Guild: Donna, Stephanie & Amy Straub & Jean Pinkard

Greeters

Apr. 5 Dave & Karen Roth

****HOLY WEEK ** TBD**

Apr. 12 (Easter Sunrise, 6am) Janet Gorecki and Elke Monroe

Apr. 12 (Easter Day, 9:30 am) Mary Ann Husmann and Dr. Fred Husmann

Apr. 19 Eric & Tina Trisler

Apr. 26 Tim & Linda Van Hovel

Ushers

Apr. 5: Rick Angel, Len Straub, Marvin Frazer, Randy Margeson

Apr. 12 (9 am): John & Steve Ficker, Nathan Martin, Bill Ivers

Apr. 19: Tony Purcell, Mike Roth, Jerry & Scott Summers

Apr. 26: Dave Roth, Don Carpenter, Eric Trisler, Kris McGuire

Acolytes

Apr. 1 Garret

Apr. 5 Taylor, Garret, Jordan & Mackenzi

****HOLY WEEK ****

Apr. 9 (Maundy Thurs., 7p) Josh

Apr. 10 (Good Friday - Tre Ore, 12p)

Apr. 11 (Good Friday – Tenebrae, 7p) Erin

Apr. 11 (Easter Vigil – Sat., 7p) Mackenzi,

Nick, Aloera, Koty

Apr. 12 (Easter Sunrise, 6am) Katy, Koty, Jordan, Trevor

Apr. 12 (Easter Day, 9:30 am) Garret,

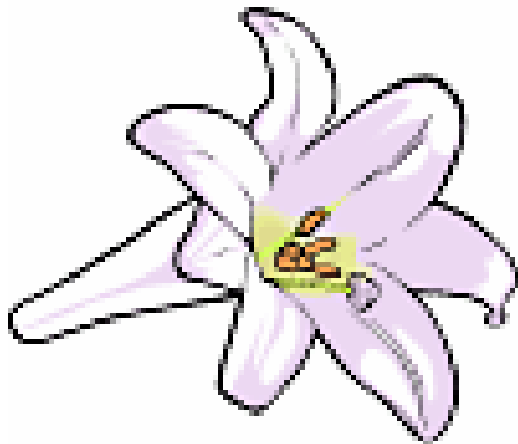
Taylor, Ailee, Josh

Apr. 19 Mackenzi

Apr. 26 Nick

MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT

	Envelop	Plate	SS	Debt	Parking	Mission	Flowers	Rental	Other
1 st	2647	208.80	17.	100	50	20			37
8 th	1828	321.25	13.	100					2650
15 th	1946	218.01	15.				50		206
22 nd	1956	490.50	?			53.90	17		23.00
29 th	1865	275.50	13		100		37		





HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE ANCHOR
APRIL 2009

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO LOSE?

In some churches, sermons are a time for Bible study. Pastors preach through a text, verse by verse, and members of the congregation follow along in their Bibles. These sermons last at least a half hour and can run much longer than that. Lutheran sermons are not Bible studies.

Lutheran sermons follow the example of St. Paul, who said, "We preach Christ crucified" (1 Cor. 1:23). How do we preach Christ crucified? The Lord Jesus himself summarized preaching this way: "Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations" (Luke 24:47). Repentance and forgiveness of sins: Law and Gospel. The Law accuses you of your sin. It has no loopholes, no avenues of escape. The Law gives you no hope. It crushes; it always accuses. The Gospel is the opposite. It gives life to those killed by the Law. The Gospel tells you not of your sin but of your Savior. Repentance and forgiveness of sins: these are the content of Lutheran preaching.

And yet, Bible study is important. Growing in the knowledge of God's Word is a natural part of the Christian life. So Lutherans have long treasured the opportunity for Bible study in addition to the opportunity to hear repentance and forgiveness of sins proclaimed from the pulpit.

So here's my challenge to you: come to Bible study. Naturally, if you're not already coming to Sunday morning Bible study, you've probably got some ~~lame~~ ~~excuses~~ good reasons for not doing so. Take a minute now before finishing this article to get your ~~excuses~~ reasons ready. Got 'em? Good. Now compare them with the Lord's invitation to get to know Him better through Bible study. How does sleeping an extra hour on Sunday mornings stack up against the Lord's invitation? Next, compare your excuses with St. Peter's admonition to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pe 3:18). How does an extra cup of coffee or more Sunday morning personal time weigh against Peter's exhortation?

Can you live without Bible study? Sure. (The same cannot be said of the Divine Service.) But why would you want to?

There are two ways to study the Bible: book-by-book or thematically. We try to alternate between the two. For the past few months, we've been studying the book of Revelation. That study will conclude (although the best part is happening in the last couple weeks), and after Easter, we'll begin studying the Formula of Concord. In our study of Revelation, we've examined how other Christians interpret the book, and we've discovered in this sometimes-confusing book of prophecy a wonderful source of comfort and hope for Christians. In the study of The Formula of Concord, we'll explore such topics as sin (are babies really born sinful?), free will (do you have it?), predestination (who are the elect?), good works (they're necessary!), the Lord's Supper (when are Christ's Body and Blood present?), and more. You certainly won't be disappointed.

Bring your Bible and your tough questions (and your easy ones, too) as the conversations are always pretty lively. Bible study is a great opportunity for some extra fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ, too. Oh, and don't forget that your children need to know scripture just as much as you do, so bring them along for Sunday School.

Either way, be sure to have your ~~excuses~~ reasons for not coming to Bible study ready in the event that someone invites you personally to Bible study. It could happen...

In Christ's Service,

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