

MARCH 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	2 6:30p Ladies' group	3 <i>Carpet Work Day</i>	4 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	5 6:00-7:00p Youth Group	6	7
8 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	9	10 6:00-7:00p Elders' Mtg 7:00-8:00p Council Mtg. 8:00-8:15p Compline	11 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	12	13	14
15 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service 10:30a Voters' Meeting	16 6:30p Ladies' group	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18 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	19	20	21
22 <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i> 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	23	24	25 Annunciation 5:30-6:30 Soup supper 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:00-7:00p Luther League 7:00 -7:45p DIVINE SVC 7:45-8:30p Catechesis 7:45-8:30p Bible Study	26	27 6p-10p Youth Game Night	28
29 <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	30	31	<i>April 1</i> 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	<i>April 2</i>	<i>April 3</i>	<i>April 4</i>

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

Week of Mar. 01– Martha & Ronald Eberhardt, Kelli, & Ronnie; Stacey & Tony DeWitt & Taylor; Kaci Eberhardt, Isabell & Chloe

Week of Mar. 08– Erinn & TJ Elledge, Blake, Jordan, Hayleigh, & Paige; Opal Ervin

Week of Mar. 15 – John & Ruth Ficker; Steve & Karen Ficker & family; Carrie & Brian Marshall; Ben Funk

Week of Mar. 22– Herb & Kim Frazer, Callie, Maggie, & Emily; Marvin Frazer; Janet Gorecki

Week of Mar. 29– Gary & Sheri Gaffner; John & Sharon George & Jamie Fester; Darlene & Ed Gowin; Nancy; Green; Danny Green

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3/4 Cara Tinkle
- 3/5 Aspen White
- 3/6 Ruth Cook
- 3/7 Fred Blasa
- 3/12 Tim VanHoveln
- 3/12 Rev. Leslie Mitkos
- 3/13 Marilyn Rogers
- 3/19 Jordan Greene
- 3/20 Danny Margeson
Kile Pinkard
- 3/21 Emily Frazer
- 3/23 Jennifer Rethorn
- 3/27 Callie Frazer
- 3/29 Kaci Eberhardt
Dennis Smith
- 3/30 Kourtnee Hall
Eric Trisler
Michael Williamson



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 3/02 – Bob & Bette Hall
- 3/04 – Paul & Marilyn Rogers
- 3/05 – Keith & Becky Baecht
- 3/06 – Jeff & Cori Blasa
- 3/30 – Joshua & Nicole Neal



Enews From Unity March 2009

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A LESSON ABOUT PRAYER

Every afternoon, I visit the Fifth Grade for a 15-minute Belong To Jesus Review Time. I really enjoy leading the students in Bible study and prayer.

Not too long ago, Jaylin asked for prayer for his mother to get a different car. We honored his request each day for a couple of weeks. During that time, I noticed his mother waiting after school with the hood of the car raised. She really did need a new car.

You can almost guess how this story turns out. One day after school, as the parents were picking up their kids, I noticed a new car pull up by the curb. Jaylin ran out of school, opened the back door, and put his schoolbag inside. "Hmm," I thought, "Jaylin's mom must have gotten her new car. Great!"

But then I learned a little lesson about prayer. Jaylin ran up to me, and with a great deal of enthusiasm announced, "Mr. Miller, that's the car I've been praying about!" It was as if he knew beyond doubt that his mother would get a new car, and it was just a matter of time before it arrived. What confidence! It's not a brand-new car, but it's much better than the one she had.

My own prayers have changed a bit since then. As I pray, I'm trying to have the same confidence that Jaylin had. God *is* hearing our prayers, and He *is* answering. It's just a matter of time.

THANKS TO THE MOTORCYCLISTS AND THRIVENT

Last fall, the Christian Motorcyclist Club of Bethalto teamed up with four Thrivent chapters to conduct a fundraiser for Unity. On a Saturday afternoon, a Motorcycle Rodeo and Auction was held. Many friends enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon.

Profits from the rodeo were matched by Thrivent, and the total benefit for Unity was \$5336.50! Special thanks to Richard Chestnutt, Terry Diehn, Wayne Schmidt, Dave Robeson, Helen Flatau, and everyone who helped. What a blessing!

MARTIAL ARTS CLASSES BEGIN

During March, students in Grade 1-5 have the opportunity to learn martial arts one day per week after school. Under the guidance of Mr. Darryl Cobb, certified instructor, the students are learning the benefits of self-discipline, mental focus, health consciousness, and self-defense. There is no physical contact, but the students are learning some valuable skills.

BOOK CLUB FORMS

The girls in Grade Four, with Ms. Oberdeck's help, have formed a Book Club. Students are invited to stay after

school every Wednesday to read and discuss a book. Of course, snacks are also involved. The girls have organized the Book Club by themselves, with the warning that if you're only coming for snacks, please don't. We're proud of the leadership shown by these girls.

BUILDING UPDATE

Negotiations with District #189 to occupy the Hawthorne Elementary School are well-underway. Our people are meeting with their people (lawyers, of course) to come to an agreement which would allow us to occupy the building in time for the new school year. We're not certain if it will be a lease or purchase, and we're not certain about the costs. However, we are expecting to reach an agreement soon.

We are certain about three things, though. 1-God has a plan, and He's in control. 2-We must have more room for next year. 3-The Hawthorne School will require much cleaning and painting. When the papers are signed, we'll get to work with our volunteers to conquer each classroom and get it ready. Most of the work will be done by volunteers.

If you or your group would like to spend a day or two in non-skilled labor, we welcome your help. At the District Convention, fifteen groups already signed up. We'll take as many as we can get! To sign up, email Mr. Miller at pm7951@yahoo.com or contact the school office at 618.874.6605. Be a part of the Miracle of Unity!

SHARE IN THE MIRACLE DINNERS

Several events are being planned for this Spring, beginning in late April. Most likely, there will be an event in your area. Watch your church bulletin, this Enews, or our website (www.unityesl.org) to see how you can be involved.

There will be several goals for these dinners. We want to share information about the Miracle of Unity. We want to meet new friends to tell about Unity. We want to raise money for our Scholarship Fund. Finally, we want to raise money for our Time To Build Capital Campaign. If you want to be involved in planning these events, we welcome your help. Email Mr. Miller, or call the school office.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For two friends of Mr. Miller, Fran and Ruby, who are both experiencing difficult health issues.
- That we will reach our Annual Fund goal of \$250,000 by June.
- That the inspections and negotiations for the Hawthorne School will go smoothly so we can be ready to occupy by August.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE OUR CURRENT WISH LIST.

www.unityesl.org

NEWS & NOTES

Sunday Morning

The Third Commandment: Remember the Sabbath by keeping it holy. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching or the Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Upcoming Sunday School lessons:

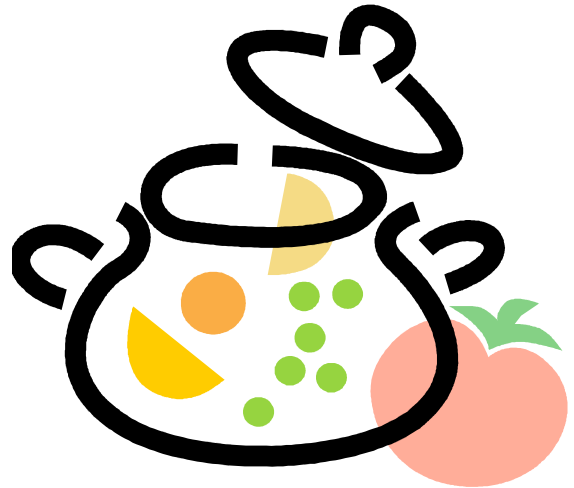
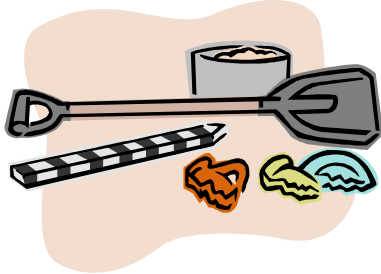
- 2/1 – Jesus and the Little Children
(Mark 10)
- 2/8 – Jesus Heals a Paralytic
(Mark 2:1-12)
- 2/15 – Jairus' Daughter
(Mark 5:21)
- 2/22 – The Transfiguration
(Mark 9:2-10)

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Currently the Adult Bible Class is working (slowly) through the book of Revelation. This is your chance to ask questions to stump the Pastor. Everyone is welcome to join in.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday night adult Bible study is currently watching a video series regarding archeology and the Bible by Dr. Paul Maier. If you like National Geographic or the Discovery Channel, you'll love this!



SOUP, ANYONE?

Come for a time of fellowship and a soup supper every Wednesday during Lent. Dinner begins at 5:30 and continues during Luther League and the opportunity for private confession and absolution until the Lenten service begins at 7:00. There is no charge, and you'll be glad you came!

Wednesday Night

5:30-6:45 SOUP SUPPER

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

6-7:00 PM LUTHER LEAGUE

7-7:45 PM LENTEN VESPERS

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

**7:45-8:30 PM
YOUTH CATECHESIS**

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE

	Divine Service/Lord's Supper	Sunday School	Adult Bible Class
1 st	107 / 80	17	20
8 th	128 / 91	29	24
15 th	119 / 92	16	21
22 nd	122 / 85	27	16



SERVING IN MARCH

Elders: Lead: Tim VanHoveln
Asst.: Eric Trisler

Altar Guild: Ethel & Jerry Summers, Bryan & Lisa McKennon

Greeters

Mar. 1 Ramona VanHooser & Sherri Gaffner
Mar. 8 Vince & Doris Sibley
Mar. 15 Charles & Judy White
Mar. 22 Leroy & Ruth Stiles
Mar. 29 Bryan & Lisa McKennon

Ushers

Mar. 1: Rick Angel, Len Straub, Marvin Frazer, Randy Margeson
Mar. 8: John & Steve Ficker, Nathan Martin, Bill Ivers
Mar. 15: Tony Purcell, Mike Roth, Jerry & Scott Summers
Mar. 22: Dave Roth, Don Carpenter, Eric Trisler, Kris McGuire
Mar. 29: Tim VanHoveln, Vince Sibley, Bryan McKennon, Tony Purcell

Acolytes

Mar. 1 Josh
Mar. 4 (Wed. 7pm) Makenzi
Mar. 8 Nick
Mar. 11 Aloera
Mar. 15 Koty
Mar. 18 Katy
Mar. 22 Erin
Mar. 25 Jordan
Mar. 29 Trevor

FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

	Envelp	Plate	SS	Debt	Parking	Mission	Flowers	Rental	Other
1 st	1566	126.75	19			10			340.06
8 th	1926	230.25		100	50	33.25			
15 th	1571	273.05	24	20		10			278.25
22 nd	1485	134	19						



THE ANNUNCIATION

March 25th is nine months before Christmas, and we will gather together to celebrate our Lord taking human flesh in the womb of the woman, Mary. Divine Service, 7pm



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE ANCHOR
MARCH 2009

CATECHESIS: IT TAKES A CONGREGATION

Lent is historically a time for catechesis. Adults enrolled in the catechumenate would spend the six weeks of Lent preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil. So, as Lent approached, I'd been thinking quite a bit about catechesis.

Meanwhile, in the midst of some of the remodeling projects going on around here, we stumbled across some old confirmation banners. The names on these banners read like a Who's-Who of people whom we no longer see at Hope.

It's heartbreaking.

Who knows where the problem began. But the solution begins with everyone.

Catechesis is a process that spans your entire lifetime: it begins the day you're born and concludes the day you die. It's also a process that spans an entire congregation. While sponsors represent the congregation from the day of baptism onward, having promised to support the baptized in their ongoing nurture in the Christian faith, they don't take the place of the whole congregation. The ongoing instruction, nurture, and support of this congregation's catechumens is something everyone takes part in.

What should you be doing? Begin by praying for our catechumens on a daily basis. Pray for all the children of this congregation, and pray particularly for those in youth catechesis: Garret Blasa, Nick Miller, Koty Rethorn, Jordan Summers, Taylor Eberhardt, Aloera Montz, Erin Smith, Ailee Manns, Josh Manns, Katy Rethorn, and Makenzi Summers.

Next, be an example for them. If we expect our children to be faithful in worship and Bible class, their parents, grandparents, aunts & uncles, and family friends need to be regularly in worship and Bible class. If we expect our children to have daily prayer and Bible readings, we need to model this for them and teach them how to pray. You can make sure the family of every catechumen has a copy of Treasury of Daily Prayer and knows how to use it (see me for tips on how to make Treasury simple enough for family devotions).

Lastly, help and encourage them. If you notice youth who aren't coming to Sunday School, offer to provide a ride. If you see a mom struggling to keep her children disciplined during the service, sit by her and help her out. Get to know the names and faces of youth in the congregation so you can greet them by name and so that you can be an example of the life of faith for them.

We're all in this together. The congregation is always one generation away from not existing. If we don't faithfully teach the faith to those younger in our congregation, we're neglecting the easiest opportunity for mission we have.

In Christ's Service,

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