



# HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

# THE ANCHOR

MAY 2009

## FLOSS, FAITH, & FORGIVENESS

Do you floss more in the weeks approaching your regular dentist check-up? Is it so the dentist will think your oral hygiene habits are better than they really are? Even if you trick your dentist, in the long run, your teeth aren't any better off. And, quite frankly, you don't take care of your teeth to preserve your dentist's fragile feelings.

The same is true of going to church. Sometimes people apologize to me for missing church as if my feelings are hurt by a person's neglect of God's word and sacraments. While I do have precariously delicate feelings, it doesn't matter whether your missing the Divine Service hurts them or not. You don't come for my sake. For that matter, you don't come for God's sake, to avoid hurting His feelings (or to sing His praises so He can be uplifted for the next six days until He'll need another pick-me-up the following Sunday). You come for your own sake, because the Divine Service is the place where God bestows His gifts. Here is forgiveness of sins.

Other times, usually when a person is a chronic non-attender, he will write off his neglect of church by saying, "I still believe in God." So what? Everyone in hell believes in God, too. For that matter, so does the devil. St. James writes, "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder" (Jas. 2:19).

Belief that God exists does you no good.

Faith is more than mere intellectual assent to God's existence.

Saving faith is filial trust in the only God who can forgive your sins.

That's why I care about whether you're in church or not. To stay away is to refuse the forgiveness God offers therein through His means of grace. And that's not faith. Faith doesn't say no to God's gifts. Faith relies on the forgiveness God offers freely because of the death of Jesus. Thus faith receives that forgiveness where it's offered. Forgiveness is not wherever you think it might be; it's where your Lord has promised to deliver it. I don't care for my own sake but for yours. To say no to forgiveness is to act in unbelief, even if you believe God exists.

And that's why I care when parishioners give themselves over to impenitence, when they harden their hearts to God's word. To remain in sin or to sin intentionally is to refuse the forgiveness God offers. Again, I don't care for my own sake but for yours. To continue intentionally in sin is to act in unbelief, even if you believe God exists.

Faith is a gift. You can't muster it up on your own. You can only be given it. Likewise, forgiveness is free. You can't earn it. You won't receive it by impressing God enough. You can only be given it.

Your dentist cares about your teeth more than one day every six months, although he might make a bit more money off of you if you let your smile rot away.

Your pastor cares about your faith—the gift the Lord has delivered to you, the gift He sustains—more than one day a week. And he stands to gain nothing if you destroy your faith. Quite the contrary, in fact: "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you" (Heb.13:17).

In Christ's Service,

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# STEWARDSHIP CORNER

## APRIL ATTENDANCE

	Divine Service/Lord's Supper	Sunday School	Adult Bible Class
1 <sup>st</sup> (Wed)	68	--	--
5 <sup>th</sup>	130 / 104	22	20
6 <sup>th</sup> (Mon)	12	--	--
7 <sup>th</sup> (Tues)	18	--	--
8 <sup>th</sup> (Wed)	35	--	--
9 <sup>th</sup> (Thurs)	64 / 55	--	--
10 <sup>th</sup> (Fri)	77	--	--
11 <sup>th</sup> (Sat)	45/35	--	--
12 <sup>th</sup> (6:00)	80 / 60	--	--
12 <sup>th</sup> (9:30)	106 / 68	--	--
19 <sup>th</sup>	112 / 62	17	15
26 <sup>th</sup>	108 / 78	9	25



## SERVING IN MAY

**Elders:** Lead: Mark Kloempken  
Asst.: Eric Trisler

**Altar Guild:** Judy White, Terry White, Martha Eberhardt, & Stacy DeWitt

## Greeters

May 3 - Tim & Sharon Butler  
May 10 - Roy & Barb Young  
May 17 - Martha & Ronnie Eberhardt  
May 24 - Susan & Nathan Martin  
May 31 - Dennis & Patti Henneman

## Ushers

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

## Acolytes

May 3 Aloera  
May 10 Koty  
May 17 Katy  
May 21 (Thurs) Erin  
May 24 Jordan  
May 31 Trevor

## APRIL FINANCIAL REPORT

	Envelp	Plate	SS	Debt	Parking	Mission	Flowers	Other
5	\$3146	230.25	18.42	100		30	78	
10	\$647	106			100		51.50	135
12	2063	369.25	-	25				400
19	1889	77.08	6.75			10		16.2
26	1984	143.56	23.57			10		380.41



# NEWS & NOTES

## SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Upcoming Sunday School lessons:

- May 3<sup>rd</sup>: Paul's First Missionary Journey  
(Acts 13-14)
- May 10<sup>th</sup>: Paul and Timothy (Acts 15-16:5)
- May 17<sup>th</sup>: Lydia (Acts 16:11-15)
- May 24<sup>th</sup>: Paul and Silas in Prison  
(Acts 16:16-40)
- May 31<sup>st</sup>: Paul Sails for Rome (Acts 27)

## SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE CLASS


Each Sunday morning, the adult Bible class will be tackling the fundamental principles of our faith in a study of the Augsburg Confession. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and engage in a discussion about what we believe.

# Confirmation

## Sunday

### May 17<sup>th</sup>!

**Reception sponsored by the youth to follow the Divine Service.**



## THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

### **DIVINE SERVICE – THURSDAY, MAY 21<sup>ST</sup>, 7:00PM**

Forty days after Easter, Jesus ascended to heaven. It is part of what we confess in the creed: "He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead."

He who was nailed to the cross is ruler and Lord of all people.  
 All things created on earth sing to the glory of God:  
 Hail thee, Festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever;  
 Day when our risen Lord rose in the heavens to reign.

Daily the loveliness grows, adorned with the glory of blossom;  
 Heaven her gates unbars, flinging her increase of light:  
 Hail thee, Festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever;  
 Day when our risen Lord rose in the heavens to reign.

*(Hail Thee, Festival Day, vv. 1 & 2, text by Venatius Honorius  
Fortunatus, 530-609)*

# OUR CHURCH FAMILY



## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 – Bob & Bev Schneider
- 21 – John & Ruth Ficker
- 31 – Randy & Judy Margeson

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 5/1 Jean Pinkard  
Ella Roberts
- 5/3 Brandi Bozarth
- 5/4 Judy White
- 5/6 Cassandra Kelly
- 5/7 Terri White  
Eunice Hinson
- 5/8 Marcus Neal
- 5/11 Yvonne Mitkos  
Kimberly Roberts  
Owen Roberts
- 5/12 Charles Walters
- 5/13 Michell Summers  
Jamie Fester
- 5/14 Christopher Pinkard  
Corrina Rose Lyming  
Laura Rodgers
- 5/15 Bev Schneider  
Antony Purcell
- 5/18 Carrie Funk
- 5/19 Makenzi Summers
- 5/21 Kevin Margeson
- 5/23 John Ficker  
Tina Trisler  
Robin Manns
- 5/24 Jared Kloempken
- 5/25 Adam Butler
- 5/26 Travis Trisler
- 5/27 Maggie Frazer  
Emma Sharich
- 5/29 Shani McKennon
- 5/31 Judy Margeson

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

Week of May 3– Dr. Fred Husmann; Mary Ann Husmann; Bill & Rosemary Ivers; Tricia Ivers;

Week of May 10– Jennifer Jolly; Gary & J Kallal; Mark & Lynne Kloempken, William & Jared;

Week of May 17– Steve & Kelli LeBlanc, Andrew & Patrick; Erinn & Josh Hileman & Jovee; Christopher LeBlanc & Ella;

Week of May 24– Kelly & Jim Little, Zander & Dane; Frank & Christina Long, & Lucas; Harold Martin

Week of May 31-- John & Tina Lyming; J.D. & Marie Lyming; David Lyming, Dain & Corinna Rose

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
JERSEYVILLE, IL 62052

**April 14, 2009**

The regular monthly meeting of Hope Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 7:11 P.M., by President Keith Baecht, whereupon Pastor Hemmer opened with devotions and prayer. The 13 members present were Keith Baecht, Linda Blasa, Carol Skibbe, Patti Henneman, Dennis Henneman, Tim Butler, Kerry Hall, Tim VanHoveln, Kim Frazer, Bob Hall, Yvonne Hartmann, Mary Ann Husmann, and Pastor Hemmer.

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

The March minutes were approved. The minutes will be filed in the permanent file.

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

The March financial statement was presented. Present checking balance as of 3/31/09 is \$790.56. (As of 4/13/09, we are actually behind \$1900.00, because the mission payment has not been made for 2 months) Motion made by Tim VanHoveln, and seconded by Kerry Hall to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

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

Pastor reported the baptism of Charles White on March 25, 2009, noted that a new Bible Class will begin on April 26 using the Formula of Concord.

The Catechesis Retreat was discussed, and Pastor was given permission to rent a van to take the 13 people going to Camp Wartburg on April 17 and 18. Ruth Stiles has volunteered to go as the female chaperone.

**Elder's Report (Dennis Henneman)**

The Elder's approved Pastor's mileage, discussed the Smalcald Articles II, III, & IV and are still discussing the Disaster Plan. Dennis' Wed. Class on the Holy Land will continue for 3 more weeks.

**Stewardship Committee**

Pastor read and discussed a Stewardship Primer and the practice of tithing. He will also speak on these subjects at the Voter's Meeting on Sunday. These studies are attached.

**Properties Committee: (Bob Hall)**

New trim was finished around the Altar area, and there was thankfully no water in the basement after the last rain.

**Youth Report (Kim Frazer)**

The Youth gave \$400 to Pastor for the Catechesis Retreat. The Youth made \$294.91 on the Easter Breakfast, and they will use this to pay for the confirmation reception. More news attached.

**Altar Guild: (Mary Ann Husmann)**

Mary Ann thanked everyone who supported the Lenten meals with their donations and attendance. Everyone enjoyed great soups, sandwiches, and Christian fellowship. She said volunteers were needed for June.

**Sunshine Circle (LWML): (Yvonne Hartmann)**

Yvonne reported the ladies are working on quilts and a funeral Pall.

**Old Business:**

1. Kerry Hall is going to use some cold patch and get the handicap ramps operational.
2. Painting inside the church will be limited to the walls. The men will use crown molding around the ceiling, and also down the center, to cover the cracks.
3. Our debt increases each month, so Linda and Keith will speak about this at the Voter's Meeting on Sunday.
4. After the current batch of bulletins is used, they will all be printed in-house to save money.

**New Business:**

1. Keith will speak to Rick Angel about eliminating the ushering at the end of the service.
2. Thank you to the Evening Ladies Group: Stephanie Straub, Kim Frazer, Laura Rodgers, & Pam Heltsley, for painting the men's bathroom downstairs!
3. Thanks to all for the great turn-out for the Church's Spring cleaning.
4. Many thanks to Randy Trisler and his wonderful choir for the lovely music on Maundy Thursday.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Skibbe, Secretary

QUARTERLY VOTER'S MEETING

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

JERSEYVILLE, IL 62052

April 19, 2009

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The Quarterly Voter's Meeting was called to order by President Keith Baecht. after prayer. There were 56 members in attendance. The list is attached.

**Secretary's Report:**

The minutes of the January Voter's Meeting were not read to save time. The minutes will be filed in the Permanent File. The current minutes will be published in an e-mailing.

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

The balance in the checking account as of March 31, 2009 is \$790.56. Actually, we are already \$4004.34 in the red since offerings have not kept up with the bills. Add to that 2 mission payments we missed (\$1828.72), and 3 months Pastor has not been paid for mileage (\$853), and the total in the red is \$6686.06. Information about the improvement loan balance is attached. Mark Kloempken made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, Yvonne Hartmann seconded, and motion carried. Copy attached.

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

Pastor Hemmer reported that Rylie DeWitt was baptized on January 18, and Charles White on March 25. Confirmation will be on May 17<sup>th</sup> and Ascension Service will be Thursday, May 21 at 7pm.

**Elders Report:** (Dennis Henneman)

Dennis announced that the Elders are working on a Disaster Plan for the Church, and an LCMS District Pastor will come soon to help in the planning.

**Stewardship Report:**

Pastor mentioned that a budget shortfall is indicative of the sin of poor stewardship, and gave a talk on stewardship and tithing. Copy attached.

**Worship Report:** (Rick Angel)

Rick stated that attendance during Holy Week was around 560, and ushers were still needed. Please see Rick to sign up.

**Education Report:** (Brandy Purcell)

The Easter donations were great and the Sunday School is growing. Luther League has 2 more weeks, and then will begin again in September. The young children have learned many things, including the 10 Commandments. VBS announcements will be coming soon.

**Properties Report:** (Bob Hall)

Bob is installing the door above the fire escape soon, and work will begin soon in the NW corner of the basement. No one objected to allowing him to use stucco finish instead of brick, since the colors of the bricks we already have are hard to match.

**Social Report:** (Eric Trisler)

The Energy Saving Tips by an Ameren rep was interesting, and thanks to all who came. There will be a "Chillin' and Grillin'" coming in June.

**Youth Report:** (Kim Frazer)

The Youth have donated to many Church functions already this year, will host the Confirmation Reception, and will have a Mother-Daughter luncheon on May 16.

**APRIL VOTERS' MEETING MINUTES (Continued)**

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**Sunshine Circle Report:** (Yvonne Hartmann)

Thanks to the Evening Ladies Group for painting the restrooms. The Sunshine Circle will attend the Spring Rally in Carrollton on Thursday.

**Old Business:**

1. The carpet and tile and the Narthex work are complete.
2. The painting in the restrooms is complete.
3. The 2008 Audit is complete and corrective actions have been implemented. The report is in the Permanent Minutes File.
4. Bob Hall states that Kevin Holtz will begin soon to work on the back door of the basement.
5. Weather permitting, the handicap ramps will be finished soon.

**New Business:**

1. Linda explained the Improvement Fund balance after the payments for carpeting and pew covers, etc. The savings account now holds the balance of \$53,744.74 from the Improvement Loan and \$1406.73 in other savings.
2. There was discussion on painting the Sanctuary. Keith will look into having crown molding around the edges and down the center to fix the cracking issues.
3. Catechesis Retreat was enjoyed by all, but donations will be taken at the door to alleviate the bills. Thirteen went including Ruth Stiles and Pastor Hemmer.

There being no further business, Nathan Martin made a motion to adjourn, Kerry Hall seconded, and motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Skibbe, Council Secretary



# MAY 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<i>April 26</i> 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	<i>April 27</i>	<i>April 28</i>	<i>April 29</i> 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 7:00 -7:45p Service of Prayer and Preaching 7:45-8:30p Catechesis 7:45-8:30p Bible Study	<i>April 30</i>	May 1	2
3 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	4	5	6 9:30a Sunshine Circle Workday 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 7:00 -7:45p Vespers 7:45-8:30p Catechesis 7:45-8:30p Bible Study	7 7:00p Youth Group	8	9
10 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	11	12 6:00-7:00p Elders' Mtg 7:00-8:00p Council Mtg. 8:00-8:15p Compline	13 9:30a Sunshine Circle Mtg 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 7:00 -7:45p Vespers 7:45-8:30p Catechesis 7:45-8:30p Bible Study	14	15	16 Youth – Mother / Daughter Banquet
17 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service Reception in honor of 2009 Confirmands following the Service	18	19	20 9:30a Sunshine Circle Workday 6:00-6:45p Private Confession	21 The Ascension of Our Lord 7:00 p Divine Service	22 Youth Game Night 6-10 p.m.	23
24 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	25	26	27 9:30a Sunshine Circle Workday 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 7:00 -7:45p Service of Prayer and Preaching 7:45-8:30p Summer Catechesis	28	29	30
31 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	<i>June 1</i>	<i>June 2</i>	<i>June 3</i> 9:30a Sunshine Circle Workday 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 7:00 -7:45p Service of Prayer and Preaching 7:45-8:30p Summer Catechesis	<i>June 4</i>	<i>June 5</i>	<i>June 6</i>