



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE ANCHOR

SEPTEMBER 2009

WHAT HAPPENED?

52%. Well, 51.7% technically, but I rounded up.

I recently stumbled across an article in *Lutheranews*, a publication of greater Alton area Lutheran churches, from February 1957. The article was a summary of all the Missouri Synod congregations in the area, featuring interesting historical tidbits and current information about each.

In the section describing Hope Jerseyville, which—mind you—began as a congregation a scant 3 ½ years before this article with fewer than 30 members, it contained these numbers. Hope had 145 total members and an average Sunday school & Bible class attendance of 75.

75. Of 145 members, that's 52%. Today, Hope has 275 members and averages roughly 40 in Bible class and Sunday school. That's less than 15%.

What happened?

Admittedly, numbers are not the Church's thing. She doesn't measure success by numbers but by faith and faithfulness. Pastors and congregations may be faithful and a congregation might decline in numbers. That's the reality of the Church. Her success is not based on human formulas and programs. It's based purely on the gifts from the Lord. As long as His gifts endure, the Church is successful. (Also, it's impossible for the Church ever to decline in numbers. Congregations, which are comprised of the living, may decline in numbers, but the Lord's Church consists of more than the minority of those still alive. Her numbers simply cannot decline.)

And yet, what happened?

Somehow, in Hope's relatively short history, her members have changed from those who treasure the opportunity to study and grow in God's Word to those who seem not to treasure this opportunity. The culture has changed.

Dr. Luther warned what will happen to those who despise the Word of God: "Beloved Germans, buy while the market is close at hand! Gather while the sun is shining and while there is good weather! Make use of God's grace and Word while it is here! For you should know this: God's Word and grace is a *passing downpour*, which does not return to where it has already been. It has been with the Jews; but what's lost is lost, and they now have nothing. Paul brought it to Greece; what's lost is lost, and they now have the Turks. Rome and Latin-speaking regions have also had it; what's lost is lost, and they now have the pope. And you Germans dare not think that you will have it forever, for the ingratitude and disdain will not let it remain. Therefore take hold and hang on tightly, while you are able to grab and to hold. Lazy hands are bound to have a hard year." (Letter to the Town-Councilmen, Volume 10, 464.)

You may not always have the Word of God among you. If you despise it, God may let it pass like a thunderstorm elsewhere. But His Word is here now. The opportunities to study, to grow in faith and knowledge, to learn about yourself and about your Creator and Redeemer.

Excuses accomplish nothing. Come to Sunday morning Bible class. Bring your kids to Sunday school. Come to the catechetical Service of Prayer and Preaching on Wednesday evenings. The rain shower is free and abundant. Don't let it pass; your forefathers didn't.

In Christ's Service,

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STEWARDSHIP CORNER

AUGUST ATTENDANCE

	Divine Service/Lord's Supper	Sunday School	Adult Bible Class
2nd	110/89	10	20
9 th	105/84	12	13
16 th	94/75	14	9
23rd	110/83	22	13
30th	100/79	18	10



SERVING IN SEPTEMBER

Elders: Lead: Tim Butler
Asst.: Mark Kloempken

Altar Guild: Rosemary Ivers, Debbie Basham, Laura Hemmer

Greeters

September 6 – Anita Assar & Elke Monroe
September 13 – Keith & Matthew Baecht
September 20 – Randy & Travis Trisler
September 27 – Linda Blasa

Ushers

September 6 – Rick Angel, Len Straub, Marvin Frazer, Randy Margeson
September 13 – John & Steve Ficker, Nathan Martin, Bill Ivers
September 20 – Tony Purcell, Mike Roth, Jerry Summers & Jim Heltsley
September 27 – Dave Roth, Don Carpenter, Eric Trisler, Kris McGuire

Acolytes

September 6 – Aloera Montz
September 13 – Allie Manns
September 20 – Katy Rethorn
September 27 – Josh Manns

FINANCIAL REPORT

	Envelp	Plate	SS	Debt	Catechesis	Memorial	Flowers	Other	Mission
2 nd	\$2101	153.75	15.25	100				387	10
9 th	1992	162.25	14.72						
16 th	1398	151.50	12.00						
23 rd	2126	78	9					76	
30 th	1625	210.25	9						10



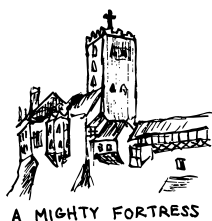
NEWS & NOTES



NEW! SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS – JOINT OPENING NOW AT 8:00 FOLLOWED BY COFFEE AND TREATS!

Beginning September 6th, we will gather in the sanctuary at 8:00 for a brief prayer service to kick off Sunday School and Bible Class each week. After Matins, there will be a time for coffee and fellowship until the classes begin as usual at 8:30.

Adult Bible Class continues its trek through the formula of Concord, discussing the basic elements (and not so basic) of what we believe. If you haven't been coming, don't worry. You can jump in at anytime – your questions are welcomed.



LUTHER LEAGUE BEGINS AGAIN!

All youth from age 4 until they are ready for youth catechesis are invited to participate in Luther League, a junior catechesis/ youth group, every Wednesday night from 6-7 beginning September 30.

HEAR GOD'S WORD AGAIN ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Every Wednesday night offers the opportunity to participate in the Service of Prayer and Preaching. It is sort of like Bible story time on steroids. This is a chance for all to learn and relearn and relearn the catechism. Make it a point to check it out this fall!

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE:

6-6:45 Private Confession and Absolution

6:00-7:00 Luther League (begins September 30th)

7-7:45 Service of Prayer and Preaching

7:45-8:30 Catechesis

Are you unable to make it to private confession and absolution on Wednesday evenings? Call pastor to schedule an appointment.

YOUTH CATECHESIS

Youth Catechesis resumes on September 30th. Talk to Pastor if you need to sign up or have questions.





Enews From Unity September 2009

1600 North 40th Street, East St. Louis, IL 62204

4200 Caseyville Road • East St. Louis, IL 62204

Office (618) 874-6605 • Fax (618) 874-7564 • Email: pm7951@yahoo.com

121

You know we've been a little obsessed with numbers at the beginning of the school year. Enrollment is officially closed now, and we have reached a mark of 121 students.

Our new facility makes the management of this many students much easier. The classrooms are big enough, the hallways are big enough, we have almost enough restroom space, the cafeteria is large enough for lunch and Belong To Jesus Time.

The teachers all have new desks and chairs. Ms. Annie has a new desk and chair. The Conference Room has a big new table and new chairs. And the principal's new furniture just came today. Yippee!

When I walk into our new school every morning, I am continually amazed that we now have this facility. What a miracle God has performed!

We thank all of you who have so diligently prayed for our mission school. God has heard the prayers of His people, and provided a place for his mission to grow. He has done "more than we could ask or imagine....and to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." Eph. 3:20,21

NEW ALTAR

We'd like to thank each of our volunteers by name, but that's not feasible. However, we would like to pay special recognition to the members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Girard, IL, for providing a new altar for worship in our new building. One of the Trinity members, Mr. Rod Thompson, built the beautiful oak altar and donated it on behalf of the rest of the congregation. The altar was delivered last Friday, just in time for the Dedication Service.

We give thanks to God and to Rod for using his gifts to bless our school.

WISH LIST

-Manila Folders - 9x12 Manila Envelopes
 -Bird Feeders and Bird Seed for the Courtyard
 -Picnic Tables for the Courtyard (used is fine)
 -Gas Grill for the Courtyard (used is fine)
 Altar Cloth, app. 2'x6' -Banners for our Worship Center
 -Photo Printer -15-passenger Van
 TV for classroom use, 27" or bigger
 Bench Vise for Maintenance Room
 (We are all set for school supplies at this time. Please visit our website for a complete list of items needed.)

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On Saturday, September 12, we need another small army of volunteers to paint the church basement at Unity Lutheran Church. We accept our responsibility to clean up the space God provided for the six years of our school and leave it in good condition. We need two people to come during the week before to clean and patch a few holes. If we have about 20 people, we should be able to paint all six rooms before lunch.

We will meet at the church at 8am. Lunch will be provided when we finish. Please email Mr. Miller to let him know you are coming. Bring your own paint supplies if you can!

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Many of these could be done during the week! We need help:

- Setting up our new library.
- Painting "ULCES" on the bottom of our 200 new folding chairs for ID purposes.
- Conducting our Annual fund, preparing mailings, making phone calls, planning events, etc.
- And lots more!

FORGIVENESS NEEDED, TOO

Even though the school year has just begun, our students are already learning the proper way to solve their differences. One of our new Pre-Kindergarten students, Byron, was accidentally hit by a jump rope while on the playground last week. An observant teacher reported that, instead of crying or hitting back, Byron explained to the other student that "you're supposed to say I'm sorry, and I'm supposed to say I forgive you." That's the Biblical guide for relationships. When we repent and ask for forgiveness, God grants mercy and the sin is forgiven, forever. The situation is not resolved until forgiveness is announced. We're proud that our students are learning how to share the forgiveness we receive.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Thank God for this wonderful new facility.
- Pray that we have the necessary resources to maintain this building.
- Pray that God's holy angels will watch over our new school so no vandalism occurs.
- Pray that all of our students' hearts will be open to learn about God.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYER PARTNERS

We pray particularly for these brothers and sisters in Christ:

Week of September 6 –Vance & Kelly
Miller, Andrew, Nicholas, Karley Blasa

Week of September 13– Bob & Bev
Schneider, Ryan & Sarah; Vince & Doris Sibley

Week of September 20- Bob & Carol
Skibbe; Dennis & Brandi Smith, Erin & Luke

Week of September 27– Kelly Smith; Judy
Stanley; Esther Stambaugh; Fred Starks

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

03 – John & Susy Pohlman
Dick & Cindy Zumwalt

04 – Ed & Darlene Gowin

05 – Roy & Barb Young

10 – Dr. Abass & Anita Assar
- Nick & Robin Manns

15 – Bill & Malinda Towell

16 – Tony & Brandy Purcell

21 – Larry & Diane Decker

25 – Jim & Korri Ontis

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 (56 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

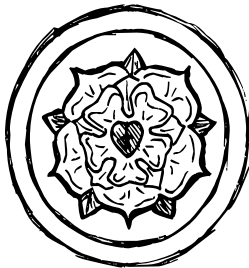
9/26 Linda Blasa

Garret Blasa

Marie Lyming

9/30 Stacey DeWitt

Ellie Carpenter



The first ever of its kind...
A genuinely *Lutheran* Study Bible!

"Give me life according to Your word!"
Psalm 119:25

Coming Reformation Day 2009

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Concordia Publishing House

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Order your copy at the pre-publication price or check out a sample on the table outside the office. Payment is due to the church office by October 17.

THE ANCHOR
QUARTERLY VOTER'S MEETING

SEPTEMBER 2009

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
JERSEYVILLE, IL 62052

July 26, 2009

The Quarterly Voter's Meeting was called to order by President Keith Baecht, after worship service. There were 43 members in attendance. The list is attached.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the April Voter's Meeting were not read - to save time. The minutes had been in the newsletter for all to read, and will be filed in the Permanent File.

Treasurer's Report: (Linda Blasa)

The balance in the checking account as of June 30, 2009 is \$508.77. Actually, we are still in the red, since monies were taken out of savings to pay bills. The Loan Balance is \$57,779.35 at 5.75% interest. There is now \$41,700 left in the Improvement Fund Loan, after paying \$6,054 for the NW addition and several other minor repairs i.e. concrete around handicap ramps, soffit on West Sanctuary, and siding on west education building. The Debt balance is \$29,356.60 at 6.375% interest. The balance in savings is \$49,289.37.

Bryan McKennon made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, Eric Trisler seconded, and motion carried. Copy attached.

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

Pastor Hemmer reported that Taryn Rose Little was baptized June 7, and Garret Blasa, Nick Miller, Koty Rethorn, and Jordan Summers were confirmed on May 17, 2009. Elzina Morris died May 17 and the memorial service was May 30. Joe Blattner died June 4 and the funeral was June 9, 2009. Released from membership, per their own request, were Sarah Summers and Kourtnee Hall.

Things that Pastor is pondering include Cultivating a culture of catechesis, nurturing the notion that we live from the Divine Service, and calling all fathers to be Fathers.

Elders Report: (Dennis Henneman) The Elders will soon have the Disaster Plan Manual finished.

Stewardship Report: Pastor gave a talk on stewardship and tithing. He noted that stewardship IS the Christian life! The Lord takes our dirty money and turns it into beautiful bread for our life: hearing His Word, His sacraments, Holy Absolution, etc. A copy of his instruction is attached.

Properties Report: (Bob Hall) The Properties Committee met on June 23 and reviewed the many things left to be done by members. Bob will be asking for help soon. See attached copies of meeting ideas.

Social Report: (Eric Trisler)

Many thanks to the Hennemans for organizing the Muny trip for 25 people to see "Godspell".

Youth Report: (Kim Frazer) The Youth made \$793.46 on their 2 day yard sale and will buy tables and chairs for the Luther League. They also donated \$100 to the VBS. Their balance on hand as of 7/25 is \$959.78.

Old Business:

1. The handicap ramps are completed, thanks to some extra concrete from the NW project.
2. The NW project is completed except for the inside finishing and painting of doors.
3. The guttering between the buildings is good.
4. Siding on the education building's west end gable is repaired, as is the soffit on the NW corner of the sanctuary.
5. The fire escape door will be installed soon, and then all doors will be painted.

New Business:

1. Painting the sanctuary will come soon. As will some of the other improvements.
2. Thanks to an anonymous donor for the new computer in the office.
3. A new time and talent sheet is ready to be filled out. Please ask for a copy.
4. The VNA-tip would like to use our facility to provide flu shots this Fall. Their shots will be \$25 (\$45 for pneumonia), whereas the Health Dept. charges \$34 (and \$52). Kim Frazer made a motion to allow, Gary Kallal seconded, and motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Skibbe, Council Secretary

THE ANCHOR
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 2009

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
JERSEYVILLE, IL 62052

August 11, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of Hope Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 7:15pm by President Keith Baecht. The 9 members present were Keith Baecht, Linda Blasa, Carol Skibbe, Dennis Henneman, Kerry Hall, Tim VanHoveln, Patti Henneman, Brandy Purcell, and Pastor Hemmer. There was not a quorum present. Jamie Fester was a guest. Pastor opened with daily readings and prayer.

The Secretary's Report: (Carol Skibbe)

The July minutes were e-mailed to the Council members, approved, and will be filed in the permanent file.

The Treasurer's Report: (Linda Blasa)

The July financial statement was presented. Present checking balance as of 7/31/09 is \$531.17. Motion was made by Tim VanHoveln to approve the treasurer's report and seconded by Dennis Henneman. Motion carried.

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

Pastor mentioned that Bible Class and Sunday School will open with Matins at 8AM beginning 9-6-09.

Elder's Report (Dennis Henneman)

Dennis said the Elders approved Pastor's mileage, and were working on an increase in the budget for Pastor and the Secretary. They are still working on the Disaster Plan Manual, and asked Jean Pinkard to look at an automatic external defibrillator for them.

Stewardship Committee

Pastor discussed the Stewardship giving since his presentation at the Voter's Meeting. Ruth Ficker has asked to be relieved of her duties as Financial Secretary beginning in 2010. Jamie Fester is willing to step in.

Evangelism Committee: (Patti Henneman)

The Angel Food Ministries will distribute their food directly out of the truck (on our parking lot) August 29, since there is a wedding at the Nazarene Church.

Patti asked that someone look into "bonding" for the new money counters and the treasurer. Patti and Dennis' last Sunday is September 13, and they need new people to count the money. They also asked that the Altar Guild take over ordering the Poinsettias and Lilies for the Church.

Pastor wondered whether all agreed that the Church's Web site should be retained. All agreed.

Worship Committee: (Rick Angel)

Altar Guild: (Stephanie Straub)

Properties Committee: (Bob Hall)

The upstairs toilets need work, and plumbers are needed. Anyone willing to help should contact Bob Hall, Kerry Hall, or Keith Baecht.

Education Committee: (Brandy Purcell)

VBS had 23 enrolled and everyone had a great time. Luther League begins September 30, as does Catechesis.

Social Committee: (Eric Trisler)

Youth Committee: (Kim Frazer)

The youth had a donation of Yard goods by the Roxie Smith family, and will send a thank you. Thank you to the Trisler and Frazer families (including Marvin) for moving all the donations downstairs. As of August 11, their current balance is \$1059.78. Their next yard sale will possibly be in September.

Sunshine Circle Report: (Yvonne Hartmann)

Old Business:

New Business:

1. Linda would like all budget needs and requests by the September meeting.
2. The following people will be elected this Fall to serve 2 years, beginning in 2010: Vice President, Treasurer, Chairman of Board of Christian Education, Chairman of Evangelism Board, Chairman of Social Ministry and Activities, Chairman of Worship Board, Chairman of Altar Guild, and 3 Elders. Anyone interested should please see Keith Baecht.

The meeting adjourned, followed by Compline in the Sanctuary.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Skibbe, Council Secretary

SEPTEMBER 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<i>August 30</i> 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	<i>August 31</i>	September 1	2 9:30a Sunshine Circle Mtg 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 7:00 -7:45p Service of Prayer and Preaching 7:45-8:30p Summer Catechesis	3 6:00p Youth Group	4	5
6 8:00a Matins 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	7	8 5:30-7:00p Elders' Mtg 7:00-8:00p Council Mtg. 8:00-8:15p Compline	9 9:30a Sunshine Circle Mtg 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 7:00 -7:45p Service of Prayer and Preaching 7:45-8:30p Summer Catechesis	10	11	12
13 8:00a Matins 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	14 6:30p Girl Scouts	15	16 9:30a Sunshine Circle Mtg 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 7:00 -7:45p Service of Prayer and Preaching 7:45-8:30p Summer Catechesis	17	18	19
20 8:00a Matins 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	21 10:00a Matins @ Jerseyville Nursing & Rehab	22	23 9:30a Sunshine Circle Mtg 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 7:00 -7:45p Service of Prayer and Preaching 7:45-8:30p Summer Catechesis	24	25	26
27 8:00a Matins 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	28 6:30p Girl Scouts	29	30 9:30a Sunshine Circle Mtg 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	<i>Oct 1</i>	<i>Oct 2</i>	<i>Oct 3</i>
<i>Oct 4</i> 8:00a Matins 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	<i>Oct 5</i>	<i>Oct 6</i>	<i>Oct 7</i> 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	<i>Oct 8</i>	<i>Oct 9</i>	<i>Oct 10</i>