



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE ANCHOR

JANUARY 2010

NEW YEAR'S RESOLVE

Despite what I may have said about them in my sermon on New Year's Eve, there is something good to be said about New Year's resolutions. If nothing else, they acknowledge that we're not as good as we'd like to be. That's similar to what the Apostle Paul once opined: "What I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do...What a wretched man I am! Who will save me from this body of death?" Answer: Jesus Christ, who received His name eight days after He was born, or January 1, as we celebrate it.

New Year's resolutions, properly made, are like St. Paul's struggling against his sinful flesh. For that matter, they're like the whole Christian life, which is a constant struggle against our sinful flesh. The good we ought to do and as Christians want to do, we don't do. And the evil we as Christians hate, that's what we do. So we make resolutions.

But every resolution made apart from Jesus, whose Name means He saves His people from their sins, and whose name we celebrate every New Year's, is bound to fail. If our resolutions are merely attempts to make ourselves better, they fail. We weren't born to save ourselves from our sins.

So Jesus, born to save His people from their sins through His death on the cross, fulfills our self-betterment resolutions by doing what His name promises: saving us from our sins. New Year's resolutions are fulfilled not in trying harder but in being forgiven.

Here's a resolution you can keep: be in the Divine Service, the place where Jesus delivers His forgiveness, every time it's offered (yes, even the midweek ones). Every Sunday, every festival. Try it. I am convinced there's only one good reason to miss any Divine Service: you're sick (or otherwise unable to get to church). Travelling is not a good reason, since there's nearly always a church within some driving distance. Working is not a good reason, either, as man does not live by bread alone, and so many parishes offer midweek Divine Services.

So, every other reason a person might give for missing the Divine Service really exposes an underlying problem. If you willingly miss the Divine Service, it is either because you misunderstand the power of your sinful flesh (not to mention the devil and the world) and deny your need for forgiveness or because you do not believe that God delivers forgiveness in the service.

That's the point. God delivers forgiveness in particular means: the water of Holy Baptism, the word of the Gospel, the word of Holy Absolution, the bread and wine of Holy Communion. He does not deliver forgiveness apart from these means. That means, while sleeping in on a Sunday morning you may still feel forgiven, God has not promised to deliver forgiveness to you there. While getting some work done around the house on a Sunday morning, you may pray, God has not offered any of the means of His forgiveness there.

You don't go to church to pray to God, to praise Him, or to thank Him. You can do those things anywhere and anytime. You come to church to hear the proclamation of the Gospel and to eat the Body and drink the Blood of Jesus. Those things happen nowhere else. It's the resolution guaranteed to make you a better person, not because being in the Divine Service makes you a better person but because forgiveness makes you a better person, which God just so happens to deliver in the Divine Service. Be there.

In Christ's Service,

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STEWARDSHIP CORNER

DECEMBER ATTENDANCE

	Divine Service/Lord's Supper	Sunday School	Adult Bible Class
Wed. 12/2	46	-	-
Dec. 6	101/94	16	14
Wed. 12/9	42	-	-
Dec. 13	112/83	16	16
Wed12/16	53	-	-
Dec. 20	115/87	9	16
Wed12/23	54	-	-
12/24-7p	85/61	-	-
12/24-11p	37/29	-	-
12/25	47/34	-	-
Dec. 27	66/48	?	?
12/31	20/12	-	-



SERVING IN JANUARY

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

Altar Guild: Mary Ann Husmann; Becky Nevlin; Pam Heltsley

Greeters:
 Jan. 3 Ed & Ella Pointer
 Jan. 10 Richard & Cindy Zumwalt
 Jan. 17 Tony & Brandy Purcell
 Jan. 24 Vance & Kelly Miller
 Jan. 31 Gary & Jan Kallal

Ushers:
First Sunday (Jan 3) Rick Angel, Len Straub, Marvin Frazer, Randy Margeson
Second Sunday (Jan 10) John & Steve Ficker, Nathan Martin, Ed Basham
Third Sunday (Jan 17) Tony Purcell, Mike Roth, Jerry Summers, Jim Heltsle
Fourth Sunday (Jan 24) Dave Roth, Don Carpenter, Eric Trisler, Kris McGuire
Fifth Sunday (Jan 31) Tim VanHovelIn, Vince Sibley, Bryan McKennon, Tony Purcell

Acolytes
 Jan. 3 Katy Rethorn
 Jan. 6 (Wed) Makenzi Summers
 Jan. 10 Erin Smith
 Jan. 17 Taylor Eberhardt
 Jan. 24 Ailee Manns
 Jan. 31 Aloera Montz

DEC. FINANCIAL REPORT

	Envelp	Plate	SS	Debt	Memorial	Flowers	Other	Mission
2 nd	\$403	\$12						
6 th	\$1933	191	6.25	100			14	
9 th	\$133	\$67						
13 th	\$2228	23	19.25					
16 th	150	35.75						
20 th	1576	115.5	6.62					10
23 rd	189	155						
24 - 7p	338	42.61						
24- 11p	380	36						
25 th	441	75						
27 th	1025	227.5	16.10					
31 st	\$137.31							

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
 My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord;
 my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.
 Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a
 nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at
 your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
 Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever
 singing your praise! (Ps. 84, v. 1-4)

NEWS & NOTES

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday School still needs a couple of volunteers for regular teachers. As mentioned last month, materials are provided in advance, and an audio clip online can help you prepare for each week's lesson. (See at www.issuesetc.org for more information). This is a very rewarding job! Think about whether you might be able to serve in this way.

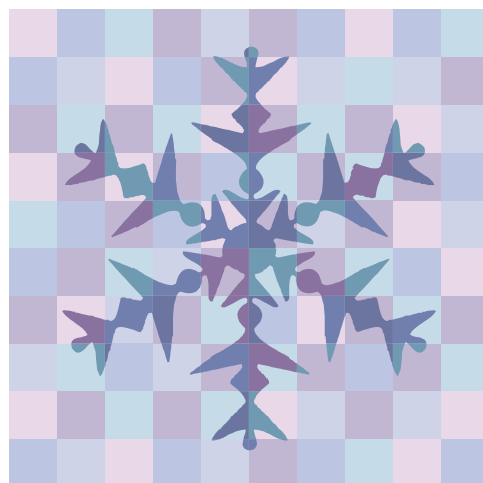
Sunday school is for all kids (or grandkids, or nieces and nephews, or neighbors) from preschool through high school. If you have any questions, you may contact the church office.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Adults have Sunday School, too! We usually call it Bible class, but it is the same idea – we learn and discuss the basics of our faith while delving into some pretty deep topics as well. In fact, the current theme of the class is “hot topics,” with a particular emphasis on what it means to have a Christian world view on the big questions our society faces. As Pastor says, the idea is not to be “right” but to understand the Gospel and be able to convey its message to our neighbors through our lives.

MATINS

We continue to meet in the sanctuary every Sunday morning at 8 am for a brief, 15 min, service of matins. The liturgy is familiar to you, with the Te Deum (“We praise you, O God; we acknowledge you to be the Lord...”) and other pretty tunes that we don't get a chance to sing as part of the Divine Service. The service reading is the reading for the children's Sunday school lesson that day. We sing the hymn of the day that we'll sing later during the Divine Service and we pray particularly for our children and teachers. Then we head off to Sunday School and Bible Class.



MEETING OUR NEIGHBORS BASIC NEEDS

The church often receives requests for help with food, shelter, paying utility bills, gas money, etc. Of course we try to help when we can, and especially refer people to the services provided in our community when appropriate. If you know of a service provided to those in need, please make sure Pastor is aware of that opportunity, so that we can ensure its on the list.

VOLUNTEERS

In addition to the volunteers needed for Sunday school, the Council is still seeking a chairman of evangelism and a chairman of stewardship.

LUTHER LEAGUE

Begins again after the Christmas break on January 13th. Wednesday nights from 6-6:55. See you there!

Get Byron-ized

Byron is one of our cute little Pre-Kindergarten boys. Much to his parents' dismay (and Ms. Tisdale), Byron struggled with separation anxiety throughout the First Quarter. On a couple of occasions, I gave him the title "Longest and Hardest Crier I Ever Heard."

However, with Mom and Dad and Teacher working together, God answered our prayers and Byron has really improved. Ms. Tisdale reports that Byron no longer cries when he is dropped off. In fact, he has become quite the leader in the classroom, a virtual "second-in-command."

Byron's progress was so remarkable, that I decided to give him a Belong To Jesus Sharing and Caring Award in December. I trotted him up in front of the whole school, praised his actions, and gave him a special certificate. And then, in a moment of extraordinary creativity, I created a new word in his honor – "byronized", as in "You need to get byronized," meaning "You need to grow up" or "You need to get it together." At appropriate times, I now tell students (or teachers or parents) "You need to get byronized."

A couple of days before Christmas break, I was making my daily rounds of the classrooms. As I entered the Pre-Kindergarten, I casually tossed a crumpled piece of paper toward the wastebasket. The wad missed and fell on the floor. Kani, one of the other Pre-K boys, was waiting in line, and before I had a chance to bend down and pick up my mistake, he chastised me, "Mr. Miller, you need to get byronized!"

It's good to know that the students are listening and remembering what we say. I am very certain, also, that they are remembering other important things they hear. We had a very good Advent Season in preparation for the celebration of Christmas. I'm sure all of our students can recount the details surrounding the birth of the Savior. By the power of the Holy Spirit, they listen. And they remember.

Between now and Easter, the students will be taught about the amazing experiences in Jesus' earthly life. Very soon, we will learn about His Baptism. Eventually, we'll learn about His death, and then His Resurrection. We'll constantly be reminded that His Name is Jesus, because "He will save us from our sins."

As we enter the second half of the school year, I'll remember to behave myself so no one has to tell me to get "byronized." I'm also anticipating great miracles, as our students listen, remember, and grow in faith.

Annual Fund Update

As you know, the financial support for our District Mission School is very much dependent on the generosity of our donors. We receive significant funding from our District Mission Board, and from congregations and schools within and without our District. Our families also pay tuition as they are able to afford.

However, the majority of our funding comes from individuals and families who have the same goals as our mission school. We have been blessed with several hundred donors from around the entire country, but especially from Southern Illinois. We are grateful for your support and partnership.

Gifts from our donors this year have far exceeded any year in the past, \$90,000 by Christmas. Amazing! However, we have a long way to go to reach our goal of \$350,000 by June 30. Several events are planned for the Spring, giving you the opportunity learn more about God's miracles at Unity, to introduce your friends to our mission school, and to make an additional gift. Watch for information about these opportunities.

What does your gift to the mission of Unity accomplish? You only need to re-read the story about Byron and Kani. They are just two of the 115 students who are growing and learning at Unity every day. You are helping them learn, and without you, it could not be done. Thank you!

Wish List

- 6-8 Foot Artificial Christmas Trees. We'd like to have two more to decorate our Worship Center next year.
- Used Exercise Equipment. Do have a stationary bike, stair-stepper, treadmill, etc. you no longer use? We're converting one of our un-used classroom to a fitness center.
- Door-Refinishers. Many of our classroom doors need to be cleaned, sanded, and finished. You could do this at school, or take a couple of them home and work on them when you have time!
- Boxes of Kleenex (lots)

Prayer Requests

- Give thanks and praise to God that our Christmas Program was hugely successful. It was a wonderful blessing for everyone.
- Pray that some of our students will receive the blessing of Holy Baptism this year.
- Please pray for the on-going financial support for our Scholarship Fund. So far, \$90,000 has been contributed toward out \$350,000 goal. We have a long ways to go. It will require God's miracles to take place.

Arms of Love's 15th Annual Fundraising Banquet

You are cordially invited to the

15th Annual Fundraising Banquet

Hosted by the family of David & Carol Stevenson

Thursday, March 11, 2010

The Commons at Lewis & Clark Community College

Doors open for social hour at six o'clock | Dinner & Program at six thirty o'clock

TICKETS REQUIRED

Opportunities will be provided to give monthly support to the ministry and for single gift donations.



Keynote Speaker, **Aeneas Williams**, was a member of the 2001 Rams Super Bowl Team and is expected to enter the NFL Hall of Fame in 2010. He is a minister, an incredible speaker, and his Locker Room Men's Ministry could be a model for the Riverbend.

Table Host Positions Available

If you are interested in becoming a Table Host, email Cara at ArmsOfLove1@gmail.com.

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS FOR THIS EVENT, CHECK OUT
WWW.ARMSOFLOVEMINISTRIES.COM OR CALL 618-467-2857
IF YOU ARE INTERESTING IN JOINING A TABLE OF 10 FROM HOPE,
CONTACT KEITH BAECHT.**

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYER PARTNERS

We pray particularly for these brothers and sisters in Christ:

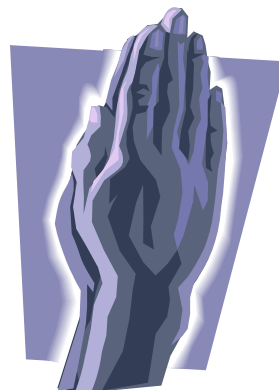
Week of Jan. 3 – Florence Moeller, Marcia & Jim Adams; Richard & Rosalyn Angel & family

Week of Jan. 10 – Anita & Dr. Assar; Keith & Becky Baecht & Matthew

Week of Jan. 17 – Ed & Debbie Basham & Sarah; Lillian Blasa; Bethany Wilkinson & Lily

Week of Jan. 24 – Chris Blasa & Karley; Fred & Linda Blasa; Jeff & Cori Blasa, Garret & Lauren

Week of Jan. 31 -- Ruth Blattner; Karen & Jeff Brinkman, Nathanel & Katelyn Aldefer



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1/12 Floyd & Kristi Greene

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/4 Jim Sharich
 1/11 Cori Blasa
 Ruth Blattner
 Lucas Long
 1/12 Kathrine Rethorn
 Randy Trisler
 1/13 Jason Butler
 1/18 John Lyming
 Grace Sharich
 1/19 Ramona VanHooser
 1/21 Ryan Schneider
 1/22 Kim Frazer
 1/23 Aloera Montz
 Khloee Hall
 1/24 Georgia Hansen
 Len Straub
 1/25 Taylor Eberhardt
 1/26 George Hinson
 1/28 Chris Blasa
 Jerry Summers
 1/29 Richard Zumwalt
 1/30 Mary Neal

Our Father, who from heav'n above
 Bids all of us to live in love
 As members of one family
 And pray to You in unity
 Teach us no thoughtless words to say
 But from our inmost hearts to pray

Your name be hallowed
 Help us, Lord
 In purity to keep Your Word,
 That to the glory of Your name
 We walk before you free from blame.
 Let no false teaching us pervert;
 All poor deluded souls convert.

Your kingdom come
 Guard your domain
 And Your eternal righteous reign.
 The Holy Ghost enrich our day
 With gifts attendant on our way.
 Break Satan's pow'r, defeat his rage;
 Preserve Your Church from age to age.
A catechism hymn of Martin Luther, LSB 766, Tr.
Samuel Janzow

Church Council Meeting
December 8, 2009

Members in attendance: Pastor Hemmer, Tim Van Hovel, Kerry Hall, Bob Hall, and Tim Butler
Guests: Robin Manns

Linda Blasa was not there to present the Treasurer's Report. Copies were distributed and the report was put to the file.

Pastor's Report: Pastor distributed a copy of the Christmas schedule. He said all services would be different and the Christmas Day service would be Divine Service V. He indicated that there would be no organist for available for Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve services. He also stated the Children's program would be on December 27, 2009.

Elder's Report: Tim Butler stated there would be an Elder's workshop on January 31, 2010.

Worship Report: Rick Angel was not at the meeting, but Tim Van Hovel indicated he was trying to set a date of either Jan 9 or 16, 2010 for the disaster planning training.

Properties Report: Bob Hall indicated that the furnace seemed to be working, but has not yet received a bill for the repair. If further problems occur, please let him know immediately. He stated that Noreen Manns had cleaned all the restrooms again and Nick Manns had fixed a leaking toilet downstairs in the men's room. Scott Summers has replace one of the toilet's in the upstairs women's restroom. He stated that he was in need of light bulbs - attending members told him to go ahead and buy a case. A church clean-up day was recommended and set for December 19, 2009. It will be posted in the bulletin. Bob also referenced a loss of electrical equipment in the basement. Items mentioned were a crock pot, keyboard, and radio. He believes this is due to some wiring being 240 amp instead of 220.

Sunshine Circle: None present to present report. Cookie walk December 12, 2009.

New Business: Pastor indicated that organist are in demand as Erin is off until mid-January and not always available and Tammy is no longer available. Two options were discussed:

1) Hire a salaried person who would be choir director as well as the organist. A salary of \$10,000/year was suggested by Pastor.

2) Recorded options to be used as back-up. Concordia has a program which can be downloaded and Pastor can coincide the disk with the service each week. The subscription is \$200.00 per year. Council members present indicated they did not have a quorum available to vote on this issue, but approved a consensus vote to go ahead and order the software. A special offering may be taken at a later date to pay for the software.

Other new business discussed was the nominations for Synodical positions. Pastor indicated the council was to come up with nominees and put together a proposed ballot. An official ballot would follow. This discussion was tabled until the January meeting.

The meeting closed at 7:45 p.m.

JANUARY 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>27 <i>8:00a Matins</i> <i>8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School</i> <i>9:30a Divine Service</i></p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 <i>6:00-6:45p Private Confession</i> <i>7:00 -7:45p Service of Prayer and Preaching</i> <i>7:45-8:30p Catechesis</i></p>	<p>31 <i>7:00p Eve of the Name & Circumcision of Jesus Divine Service</i></p>	<p>1 Happy New Year</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3 <i>8:00a Matins</i> <i>8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School</i> <i>9:30a Divine Service</i></p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 <i>6:00-6:45p Private Confession</i> <i>7:00 p Epiphany Divine Service</i> Followed by King Cake! (No Catechesis)</p>	<p>7 <i>6:00 Youth Group</i></p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 8:00 am CPR training</p>
<p>10 <i>8:00a Matins</i> <i>8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School</i> <i>9:30a Divine Service</i></p>	<p>11 <i>6:30p Girl Scouts</i></p>	<p>12 <i>5:30-7:00p Elders' Mtg</i> <i>7:00-8:00p Council Mtg.</i> <i>8:00-8:15p Compline</i></p>	<p>13 <i>6:00-6:45p Private Confession</i> <i>6:00-6:55p Luther League</i> <i>7:00 -7:45p Service of Prayer and Preaching</i> <i>7:45-8:30p Catechesis</i></p>	<p>14 <i>10:00a Jerseyville Min. Alliance Book Club</i></p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 <i>8:00a Matins</i> <i>8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School</i> <i>9:30a Divine Service</i></p>	<p>18 <i>10:00a Matins @ Jerseyville Nursing & Rehab</i></p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 <i>6:00-6:45p Private Confession</i> <i>6:00-6:55p Luther League</i> <i>7:00 -7:45p Service of Prayer and Preaching</i> <i>7:45-8:30p Catechesis</i></p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 <i>8:00a Matins</i> <i>8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School</i> <i>9:30a Divine Service</i></p>	<p>25 <i>6:30p Girl Scouts</i></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 <i>6:00-6:45p Private Confession</i> <i>6:00-6:55p Luther League</i> <i>7:00 -7:45p Service of Prayer and Preaching</i> <i>7:45-8:30p Catechesis</i></p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p>	<p><i>Feb 1</i></p>	<p><i>Feb 2</i> <i>The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord</i> <i>7p Divine Service</i></p>	<p><i>Feb 3</i> <i>6:00-6:45p Private Confession</i> <i>6:00-6:55p Luther League</i> <i>7:00 -7:45p Service of Prayer and Preaching</i> <i>7:45-8:30p Catechesis</i></p>	<p><i>Feb 4</i> <i>6:00 Youth Group</i></p>	<p><i>Feb 5</i></p>	<p><i>Feb 6</i></p>