



LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH THE ANCHOR

JULY 2010

MORE JESUS, LESS YOU

The Christian life is a constant struggle. You are constantly fighting against your old, sinful flesh. The devil and the world are allies of your old self, and together they form an unholy trinity, the *real* axis of evil, to conspire against you, to lure you away from Jesus. When we pray in the 6th Petition of the Lord's Prayer "Lead us not into temptation," we are praying "that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world and our sinful flesh may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice."

Do you see your life that way, as a constant struggle, a fighting against your own sinful flesh? St. Paul did. "For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate...For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing... Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Romans 7:15, 18, 19, 24, 25)

On June 24, we celebrated the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, or, the birthday of John the Baptist. The Church is not in the birthday business. She celebrates two days in the lives of her saints, her children: their baptismal birthdays (their re-birthdays) and their death days (their heavenly birthdays). But there on June 24 every year is the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. Why? Because John is the Forerunner of Jesus, the one who prepared the way for the coming of the Lord, the one whose entire life points to Jesus.

John preached about Jesus "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." He also preached against himself relative to Jesus, "He must increase, and I must decrease."

That's the solution to the constant struggle against our sinful flesh: He must increase, and we must decrease. More Jesus, less you.

The more Jesus fills you with Himself, as He does in the Lord's Supper, the less room there is for you. The more He covers you with His righteousness, as He did in Holy Baptism, the less you can cover yourself with sin. The more Jesus drives away sin and temptation in Holy Absolution, the less room there is for you to embrace sin and temptation. The more Jesus fills your ears with His Word, the less room there is for you to fill them with self-worship and the filth of the world. Jesus Word and Sacraments, His means of delivering His grace to you, are the victory over sin and temptation. Through these means, God holds the head of the Old Adam, your old sinful flesh under the waters of Holy Baptism.

And God gives you means, not through which to merit grace or earn forgiveness, but through which you can fight against your sinful flesh. These means have traditionally been called spiritual disciplines. Through disciplines of prayer, study, meditation, fasting, tithing, almsgiving, works of mercy, among others. None of these things earns any of God's favor. Some of them are aimed at your sinful flesh, putting him to death and following after Jesus. Some are aimed at your neighbor, showing him mercy at the expense of yourself.

Most important in the struggle against your sinful flesh is hearing the Word of Christ. He sees beyond the veil of today to see things as they really are. He sees your sinful flesh really dead and done with. He sees you wearing perfectly and completely His righteousness. And the word He speaks about you is truer than anything you can see. Following Jesus is learning to believe your ears over your eyes. Jesus says you are forgiven, set free from your bondage to sin, completely sin-free, a perfect saint. Because He whose very words create and change reality says it, it's true. He must increase, and I must decrease.

More Jesus, less you.

In Christ's Service, *Pastor Hemmer*

IN THIS ISSUE....

Stewardship Corner.....	p. 2	Our Church Family.....	p.6
News & Notes	p. 3-4	June Council Mts.....	p.7
News from Unity Lutheran School.....	p. 5	July Calendar.....	p.8

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

JUNE ATTENDANCE

	Divine Service/Lord's Supper	Sunday School	Adult Bible Class
May 30	87/68	12	13
June 6	81/71	11	14
June 13	96/75	9	12
June 20	100/78	7	10



SERVING IN JULY

Elders:

July: Tony Purcell/Keith Baecht

Altar Guild:

July: Ethel Mae & Jerry Summers,
Bryan & Lisa McKennon

Greeters:

July 4 The Frazer Family
July 11 The Miller Family
July 18 Bob & Bev Schneider
July 25 Tim & Sharon Butler

Acolytes:

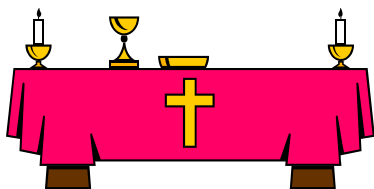
July 2 Josh Manns
July 4 Ailee Manns
July 11 Makenzi Summers
July 18 Katy Rethorn
July 25 Josh Manns

Ushers:

First Sunday Rick Angel, Len Straub, Marvin Frazer, Randy Trisler
Second Sunday John & Steve Ficker, John George, Ed Basham
Third Sunday Tony Purcell, Mike Roth, Jerry Summers, Jim Heltsley
Fourth Sunday Dave Roth, Don Carpenter, Eric Trisler, Kris McGuire

JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT

	Envelp	Plate	SS	Debt	Memorial	Flowers	Other	Mission
5/30	1383.	369.	8.					10.
6/6	3499.	206.		100.			14.	
6/13	1446.	139.	8.	20.				
6/20	1905.	349.	9.	20.		10	25.	10.



NEWS & NOTES

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Here are the upcoming readings for Sunday School.

July 4: 1 Kings 18:1-46

July 11: 2 Kings 2: 1-14

July 18: 2 Kings 5: 1-14

July 25: Isaiah 38: 1-8

Aug. 1: Luke 8: 22-25

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

This class meets at 8:30am every Sunday and is open to everyone. The current topic is an exploration of why we do what we do during the Divine Service. Haven't you ever wondered about that? Bring your questions.

SUNDAY MORNING MATINS

We pray and the service of Matins from 8:00-8:15 every Sunday morning. The readings are the lessons for Sunday School that day, and the hymn is the hymn of the day we'll sing in the Divine Service. Consider it a warm up exercise...

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS – SUMMER SCHEDULE

6:00-6:45 Private Confession and Absolution

The opportunity to have God's forgiveness proclaimed specifically to you – God's free gift!

7:00-7:45 Service of Prayer and Preaching

A service focused on learning the catechism and Bible stories. The preaching part is interactive, so you better pay attention. This is for everyone.

7:45-8:30 Summer Catechesis

A class for those who are interested in learning (and re-learning) what it means to be a Christian.

YOUTH NEWS

The next youth group meeting will be on July 1. Come for the food and stay for the Rock Band. Pastor leads Bible study, and it's your chance to get in on planning activities and events.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 19-23

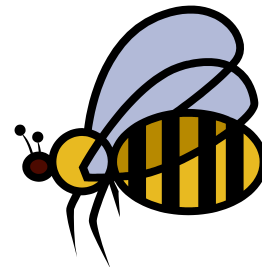
6:00-8:30PM

Planet Zoom – where bold believers zip, zap, and zoom for Jesus!

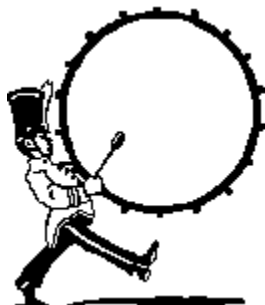
Attention all Preschoolers – 5th graders: Don't miss this week of fun and games!! Sign up forms are available now from the church office. Sign up your children, their friends, your neighbors, your grandkids, etc. Everyone has fun!

We need volunteers to help with the program and to contribute supplies.

Check the sheets are outside the Church office. Please bring all supplies to the church by July 12. You can help make this year's VBS a success!



NEWS & NOTES (CONTINUED)



ELDERS AND COUNCIL MEETINGS MOVED TO JULY 12.

ON TUESDAY, WATCH THE PARADE INSTEAD!

As always happens in July, the Jersey County Fair parade will be on the second Tuesday, which is usually meeting night for the Elders and the Council, these meetings will be moved to the evening before, July 12.

Then, on Tuesday, July 13th, everyone is invited to watch the parade from Pastor and Laura Hemmer's yard – 713 North State Street. Bring your lawn chair! Hot dogs and lemonade will be provided. At least stop by to say hello!



VISITATION OF OUR LORD— DIVINE SERVICE JULY 2ND

July 2 is the day on which the Church celebrates and remembers the visitation of Mary, the mother of the pre-born Savior, to Elizabeth, the mother of the pre-born forerunner, John the Baptist.

As soon as Mary entered Elizabeth's presence, John leapt for joy in his mother's womb at the sound of Mary's voice. Elizabeth knows this to be John's confession that the One Mary bears in her womb is the promised Christ.

From Wikipedia: "Mary, having heard at the Annunciation that Elizabeth was six months pregnant, left her home to visit her. Elizabeth and John the Baptist were inspired by the Holy Spirit at her arrival, and Elizabeth prophesied. John jumped inside of Elizabeth because he knew that the Lord was in the room. Mary pronounced the Magnificat and remained with Elizabeth for about three months."

As any other feast day, the Visitation points us not to Mary, Elizabeth, or John. All these people are assembled at Elizabeth's house to confess that—even in the womb—Mary's baby is the long-awaited Savior, the One born to deliver us from our slavery to sin.

The Visitation is also an appropriate time to pray for expectant mothers and unborn children. And as Mary would likely have stayed to help Elizabeth after John was born, it's also a call to Christians to care for mothers who have recently given birth and their newborn children.

Join us Friday, July 2, at 7 p.m. for this Divine Service!



ENEWS
JUNE
2010

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THE PERFECT PRAYER

If you've been reading your Unity Enews diligently (and I hope you do), you're familiar with one of our Pre-K students named Byron. Byron had a rough start to the school year, but with help from his teacher, Ms. Tisdale, and both of his parents, he really grew up. We even made up a new word in his honor. Everyone at Unity knows what it means to get "Byron-ized."

Byron had one final episode during the last week of school. He was upset for a little while, and Ms. Tisdale escorted him to my office to settle down. I didn't think it would take long, and it didn't. After a few minutes of sitting in my "special chair," I asked Byron if he was ready to go back to class.

"Yes, I'm ready," he replied.

"Then come over here so I can tie your shoes," I suggested. I just wanted to give him a little encouragement before he went back to his class. "Sit up on my lap for a minute."

"I was running around at recess, and my shoes came untied," Byron explained.

"That's OK," I said, as I tied his laces for him. "Do you want to have a prayer before you go back?"

"Yes."

"Do you want me to say the prayer, or do you want to say it?"

"I'll say it."

"Do you want me to hold your hand?"

"Yes."

"OK," I replied. When I was done tying laces, Byron and I held hands and bowed our heads together. I waited patiently until Byron drew a breath, and then started his prayer.

"Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Byron recited the entire Lord's Prayer, while sitting on my lap and holding my hands. It wasn't the prayer I expected, but it certainly was an excellent choice.

While in Pre-K this year, Byron did a lot of growing up. But he also learned about his Savior, Jesus. He learned the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle's Creed, the 10 Commandments, and several Bible passages and Bible stories. He's registered for Kindergarten next year, and his learning will continue.

I praise God for Byron, for his teacher, for his parents, and for all of you. Through your generosity and commitment, Byron has had a great year. We've all been blessed, and we look forward to a relaxing summer.

REV. DICKERSON ACCEPTS CALL

Rev. Aaron Dickerson, of East Point, Georgia, has accepted God's Call to be Grade Seven Teacher and Assistant Principal at Unity. Praise God! Rev. Dickerson and his wife, Charlene, will re-locate to the Metro East area in July. We look forward to receiving God's grace through Rev. Dickerson's ministry.

BY THE NUMBERS

- Profit from the Buffalo Wild Wings Fundraiser on April 7 - \$168.47
- Profit from Boxtops for Education - \$195
- Profit from Ebay and Cragstlist Sales - \$400

If you have items to donate for our Ebay or Craigslist store, please contact us for pick up.

ON OUR WEBSITE

Have you visited our website lately? You should! What you can find there:

- A Picture of our record-breaking Unity Track Team. Set 17 school records!
- A Prayer you can use to pray for our needs.
- A List of companies that provide matching funds.
- Our updated Wish List. Getting ready for next year! Many people ask what we need. Check out the Wish List!
- Directions to the school. Come by for a visit!

ANNUAL FUND

As we close out the fiscal year, we find that our Annual Fund goal was not met. We have fallen over \$150,000 short of our needs. What to do? We continue to trust that God will provide for all of our needs. Unity is His mission, He must meet our needs. We'll keep praying and working. Our plan for funding the Unity mission is not necessarily His plan. So we wait to see how He will provide.

In the meantime, if you would like to make an additional donation, please send it to the school address above. Thanks!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Give thanks for another successful school year.
- Pray that the move to Unity will be a smooth transition for Rev. and Mrs. Dickerson.
- Pray that our major school improvements will go well this summer.
- Pray that God will provide for all of our needs.
- Pray that our classes will be full next year with students and teachers eager to learn about Jesus, and serve Him.

Encouraging, educating, and preparing children for responsible living in Christ's Kingdom.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYER PARTNERS

We pray particularly for these brothers and sisters in Christ:

Week of July 4: Cliff & Vera Neal; Josh & Nicole Neal, Marcus & Andrew; Randy & Mary Neal

Week of July 11: Heidi O'Neal & Nicholas; Alan & Becky Nevlin. Nichole & Haley; Korri & Jim Ontis, Whitney & Tanner

Week of July 18: Christi & Mike Perkinson & Katelynn; Gary & Jean Pinkard; Kile & Mary Ann Pinkard; Braden & Christi Pinkard; Cara Tinkle; Christopher & Kari Pinkard & Lorali

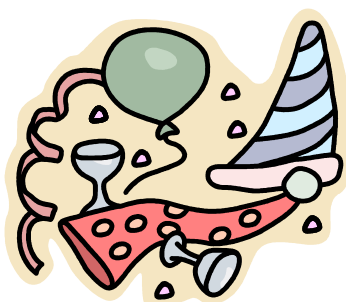
Week of July 25: Bert Perry; Suzy & John Pohlman; Ed & Ella Jane Pointer

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

5 Pastor & Laura Hemmer
15 John & Shelley Pyrtle
23 Jim & Noreen Manns
25 Vince & Doris Sibley
26 Don & Kaye Carpenter
Tim & Linda VanHoveln

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/3 Ruth Stiles
7/5 Melissa Butler
Brandi Smith
7/6 Ailee Manns
7/9 Mike Perkinson
7/10 Jeff Brinkman
7/13 Andrew Miller
Ronald Eberhardt
7/15 Cliff Neal
7/16 Angie Sharich
7/18 Kelli LeBlanc
Alan Nevlin
7/19 Sophie Martin
Joe McKennon
Linda VanHoveln
7/20 Haley Nevlin
7/21 Floyd Greene
Emily Strubberg
7/22 Rick Whyers
7/23 Morgan Stemm
7/25 Tanner Ontis
Chance Trisler
7/28 Bill Ivers
7/29 Brayden Threet
7/30 Claire Roberts
7/31 Tina Rapp



THE ANCHOR
Hope Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Notes
June 8, 2010

JULY 2010

The meeting was called to order by Keith Baecht at 7:05 p.m. Pastor Hemmer opened with devotion and prayer.

Members in attendance: Pastor Hemmer, Keith Baecht, Robin Manns, Tim Van Hovel, Tony Purcell, Linda Blasa, Bob Hall, Kerry Hall, Mark Kloempken, Tim Butler and Rick Angel.

Secretary's Report: The May, 2010 report was approved and will be placed in the permanent file.

Treasurer's Report: The May, 2010 financial statement was presented. Present balance as of May 31, 2010 is \$255.43. Linda stated everything is current; however, she had to take money from savings to cover the past due mission payments as well as the debt payment. She also indicated funds were taken from savings to pay Kevin Hotz, contractor for the new east side enclosure. Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Robin Manns and seconded by Tim Van Hovel. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Hemmer reported Keith Baecht will be attending the Doxology Training on July 30. He indicated there would be a service for the Nativity of St. John the Baptist on Thursday, June 24 at 7:00 p.m. Pastor also discussed mercy opportunities we could possibly explore at Hope Lutheran. There are several community needs as well as congregational needs that could be met by members. These were posted in Sunday's bulletin.

Financial Secretary Report: Jamie Fester was not present at the meeting, but she provided Keith with a breakdown of weekly tithing amounts. A copy was provided to all members on Sunday.

Elder's Report: The Elder's report was presented by Tim Butler. They studied the Book of Concord and the Fourth Commandment. They discussed member concerns as well as an absentee list and what can be done about this issue. Pastor's mileage was also approved.

Worship Report: Rick Angel stated there is now enough money to purchase the AED. He also indicated it needs to be easily accessible along with a first aid kit and fire extinguisher.

Education Report: Brandy is preparing for VBS. The date has been set for July 19-23, 6:00 – 8:30p.m.

Properties Report: Bob Hall said he is still working on getting fire extinguishers inspected and up in working order as well as purchasing exit lights.



Social Ministry: A pancake and sausage dinner is being discussed for a future date. This would be hosted by the entire congregation and open to the public for \$5.00 per person.

Youth Report: Yard sale – Saturday, June 19. Workday – Friday, June 18 from 9:00 - ??

New Business:

- The ladies group will provide funding to re-carpet the main entrance porch. Need a volunteer to strip and refinish exterior of main entrance doors.
- The July council meeting needs to be changed due to the Jersey County Fair Parade. This will also change the voter's meeting. Date is yet to be determined.
- A motion was made by Mark Kloempken to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Linda Blasa. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

JULY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
June 20 8:00a Matins 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	June 21 10:00a Matins @ Jerseyville Nursing & Rehab 6:30p Girl Scouts	June 22	June 23 9:30a Sunshine Circle Workday 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 7:00 -7:45p Svc of Prayer and Preaching 7:45-8:30p Summer Catechesis	June 24 7pm Divine Svc The Nativity of St. John the Baptist	June 25	June 26
June 27 8:00a Matins 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	June 28	June 29	June 30 9:30a Sunshine Circle Workday 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 7:00 -7:45p Svc of Pr & Pr 7:45-8:30p Summer Catechesis	July 1 6:00 Youth Group Meeting	July 2 7pm Divine Svc Visitation	July 3
4 8:00a Matins 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	5	6	7 9:30a Sunshine Circle Workday 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 7:00 -7:45p Svc of Prayer and Preaching 7:45-8:30p Summer Catechesis	8	9	10
11 8:00a Matins 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	12 5:30p Elders 7:00p Council 8:15p Compline	13 County Fair Parade- Join us at Pastor Hemmer's House to watch.	14 9:30a Sunshine Circle Meeting 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 7:00 -7:45p Svc of Prayer and Preaching 7:45-8:30p Summer Catechesis	15	16	17
 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL July 19-23rd 6-8:30pm 						
18 8:00a Matins 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	19 6:00-8:30 Vacation Bible School	20 6:00-8:30 Vacation Bible School	21 9:30a Sunshine Circle Workday 6:00-8:30 Vacation Bible School	22 6:00-8:30 Vacation Bible School	23 6:00-8:30 Vacation Bible School	24
25 8:00a Matins 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	26 10:00a Matins @ Jerseyville Nursing & Rehab 6:30p Girl Scouts	27	28 9:30a Sunshine Circle Workday 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 7:00 -7:45p Svc of Prayer and Preaching 7:45-8:30p Summer Catechesis	29	30	31
Aug 1 8:00a Matins 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	Aug 2	Aug 3	Aug 4 9:30a Sunshine Circle Workday 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 7:00 -7:45p Svc of Prayer and Preaching 7:45-8:30p Summer Catechesis	Aug 5	Aug 6	Aug 7