



Hope Lutheran Church The Anchor

July 2008

On Being Pro-Life

Last month I had the privilege of attending a symposium on catechesis hosted by the people who produce the curriculum I've been using for catechesis the past year. The official title of the symposium was "The Sanctity of Life: Catechesis under the Fifth Commandment." We spent equal amounts of time learning about catechesis, hearing presentations on aspects of the Fifth Commandment, and receiving the gifts the Lord gives in the Divine Service. It was wonderful. Here are some reflections on the Fifth Commandment from the presentations.

The Fifth Commandment: "You shall not murder." *What does this mean?* "We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need." (Small Catechism)

The commandment is about way more than murder. "You have heard it said," Jesus said, "'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment,' but I tell you that whoever is angry with his brother is subject to judgment" (Matt. 5:21). Why does it matter? Because all humanity was created in the image of God. The nature of sin is rebellion against the image of God and against others likewise created in God's image. That's why the second table of the Law (Commandments 4-10) deals with our relationships with others.

The Fifth Commandment calls us to do more than avoid hurting our neighbor. It calls us to help him in every need. To see a neighbor in need and to ignore his need is the same in the eyes of the commandment as murder. As such, the commandment calls Christians to be "pro-life." In its limited definition, "pro-life" is synonymous with anti-abortion. While it's undeniably true that the lives of the unborn are lives of our neighbors that we're called to help and support, life is not limited to the nine months one spends in his mother's womb.

Being properly pro-life means caring for your neighbor's life well after he's born, as well. It means helping and supporting your neighbor in every physical need, whether that need is for food or clothing, for assistance in time of crisis or disaster, or for care in times of illness. The Lord's call to "be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" is woven through the Fifth Commandment. Showing mercy and caring for our neighbor's life means forgiving those who sin against us just as much as it means giving him monetary aid when he needs it.

Being pro-life means caring for the aged neighbor struggling with end-of-life decisions. It means approaching these decisions by viewing life—even life in pain or with limited physical or mental abilities—as a gift from the Lord. Being pro-life informs reproductive decisions, as well. It not only forbids research on embryos (which, after all, are human lives), but it also forbids the creation of embryos which will not be implanted. Being pro-life means thinking twice about contraception (Luther and all Lutheran theologians into the middle of the twentieth century were vehemently opposed to contraception). It means obeying the Lord's first command in Eden to "be fruitful and multiply;" it's both blessing and command.

Keeping the Fifth Commandment means being holistically pro-life. It means all threats to your neighbor's well-being: murder, anger, unforgiveness, injustice, poverty, and more. No one can claim to have kept this commandment perfectly (probably not even one whole day). The Fifth Commandment finds its perfect fulfillment in the One who spared no expense to care for the life of His neighbor, who would stop and no end to save His neighbor from eternal bodily harm. That One is Jesus Christ, who was willing to be murdered, willing to bear the punishment for our inability to keep this and every other commandment, on the cross. Because of His care for our lives, we are enabled to care for the lives of others.

In Christ's Service,

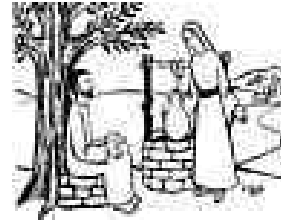
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Stewardship Corner

June Attendance

	Divine Service/Lord's Supper	Sunday School	Adult Bible Class
1 st	88 / 69	25	23
8 th	104 / 87	13	27
15 th	111 / 84	26	16
22 nd	96 / 80	16	24
29 th	94/58	18	18



“...but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

June Financial Report

	6/1	6/8	6/15	6/22	6/29
Envlp	\$2018	\$1638	\$1895	\$1173	\$1125
Plate	\$108.	\$170.	\$171	\$159.	\$142.
SS	\$34.5	\$14	\$11.5	\$17.5	\$12
DebtFnd			\$20		
Missions					
Flowers					
Rental					
Other		\$10	\$530	\$270	\$20

Serving in July

Elders: Lead: Eric Trisler
Asst.: Keith Baecht

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

Greeters

July 6: Scott & Michel Summers
July 13: Len & Donna Straub
July 20: Bob & Carol Skibbe
July 27: Kelly Little & Rosemary Ivers

Ushers

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

Acolytes

July 6: Garret Blasa
July 13: Taylor Eberhardt
July 20: Nick Miller
July 27: Aloera Montz

Adult Bible Class: World Religions

As always, the Sunday Morning Adult Bible class is open to anyone and everyone is encouraged to join us as we embark on a new study of world religions. We plan to talk about what we believe as Christians in the context of a world filled with many different religions and spiritual beliefs. How do we deal with the popular notion that no one religion can claim to have the truth?

We are just getting started, and plan to discuss what Jews, Muslims, and Buddhists believe, as well as other religions, including Scientology, Christian Scientist, etc. Just come an hour early for church and enjoy your morning coffee with prayer, fellowship, and learning.

News & Notes

Vacation Bible School:
July 28th through August 1



Bring your friends and neighbors
and join us for an adventure!

Friendship Trek

Monday, July 27 - Friday, Aug 1, 6-8pm

Call the church office to register or to volunteer to help- 498-3423



Our Church Family

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth, such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.” –James 3: 13-18

Prayer Partners

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

Week of July 6:

Heidi & Jim O’Neal, & Nicholas; Korri & Jim Ontis, Whitney & Tanner

Week of July 13:

Christi & Mike Perkinson; Gary & Jean Pinkard, Kile, Braden, Cara & Christopher

Week of July 20:

Susy & John Pohlman; Ed & Ella Jane Pointer; Christina & Frank Long, Lucas

Week of July 27:

Tony & Brandy Purcell, Aloera, Lillie & Simon; Butch & Sandy Purcell; Tina & Alan Rapp

July Anniversaries

- 7/5 Pastor & Laura Hemmer
- 7/15 John & Shelley Pyrtle
- 7/23 Jim & Noreen Manns
- 7/25 Vince & Doris Sibley
- 7/26 Don & Kaye Carpenter
Tim & Linda VanHoveln

July Birthdays

- 7/3 Ruth Stiles
- 7/5 Melissa Butler
Brandi Smith
- 7/6 Aileen Manns
- 7/13 Andrew Miller
- 7/15 Clifford Neal
- 7/16 Angela Sharich
- 7/18 Kelli LeBlanc
- 7/19 Sophia Martin
Joe McKennon
Linda VanHoveln
- 7/21 Floyd Greene
- 7/25 Tanner Ontis
Chance Trisler
- 7/28 Bill Ivers
- 7/29 Stephanie Straub
- 7/30 Patti Henneman
Claire Roberts
- 7/31 Tina Rapp



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
JERSEYVILLE, IL 62052

June 10, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of Hope Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 7:15 P.M., by President Ed Pointer. Pastor Hemmer opened with prayer. The 10 members present were Ed Pointer, Carol Skibbe, Linda Blasa, Dennis Henneman, Tim Butler, Cindy Zumwalt, Patti Henneman, Leroy Stiles, Kim Frazer, and Pastor Hemmer.

The Secretary's Report: (Carol Skibbe)

The minutes of the May meeting were read, and approved. The minutes will be filed in the permanent file.

The Treasurer's Report: (Linda Blasa)

The balance in the account as of May 25 was \$100.67. Linda noted that no mission, loan, or debt payments were made in May. We did receive a check from the claim on the elevator. Motion was made by Dennis Henneman to accept the treasurer's report. Leroy Stiles seconded, and motion carried.

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

Chloe and Isabell Eberhardt were baptized on May 25, and Ella Roberts on June 8. Callie Frazer, per her own request, was released from membership to join Trinity (ELCA) in Canton, IL on May 25. There have been 2 recent funerals: Vernice Perry on May 24, and Pauline Arnoldi on June 7.

Summer Catechesis begins June 25th from 6:45 to 8:15. The Service of Prayer and Preaching is for everyone from 6:45 to 7:30.

Elder's Report: (Dennis Henneman)

The Elders continued their study of the Augsburg Confession, Articles XV and XVI, discussed an upcoming wedding, Church discipline, a Disaster plan, funeral policies, and approved Pastor's mileage. The Elders approved two new elders: Eric Trisler and Mark Kloempken.

Stewardship Committee: (Cindy Zumwalt)

Please turn in your Time and Talent Sheets to the Office.

Evangelism Committee: (Patti Henneman)

Patti reported on an Angel Food Ministry program currently in place at the Church of the Nazarene. She will look more fully into the program for next month.

Properties Committee: (Leroy Stiles)

Leroy reports that both AC units are working in the sanctuary, and he now needs to work on the one upstairs in the Sunday School rooms.

Social Committee: (Eric Trisler)

There will be a farewell cake and punch for the Deckers on June 8. Their new address is 2322 Jonathan St., Jackson, MO 63755.

Youth Group: (Kim Frazer)

The youth are sponsoring a Fathers Day Chili Cook Off June 22 immediately after church. They will also give gifts on Father's Day. The next Youth Group Meeting will be June 12, continuing with the Christian Weight Lifting Series. The group will go to the Gateway Grizzly's game on July 30. They are still taking donations for the next yard sale. Current balance in their checkbook as of June 4, is \$1685.36.

Old Business:

1. Thurman Contracting says they don't want to take the top layer off the parking lot because of rain. It may have to stay that way too long, before they get to the blacktop.
2. Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company valued our property at \$1,900,000, increased the liability to \$3 million, and increased the medical benefits. The total package (plus workman's comp) was \$5569. The Council will meet on Tues, July 15th, and this amount will be voted on at the regular Voter's Meeting on July 20.

Since there was no further business, Kim moved that the meeting be closed, Patti seconded, and motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm, followed by Compline, in the sanctuary.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Skibbe, Council Secretary



**JUNE NEWSLETTER -
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, UNITY!**

4200 Caseyville Road • East St. Louis, IL 62204
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Our annual awards ceremony took place on Wednesday, May 28. We had a great turnout, with almost all the parents present to watch their children receive their certificates. It's a wonderful evening to celebrate the students' accomplishments.

Toward the end of the ceremony, we had another celebration. It's our fifth birthday at Unity! We brought out a beautifully decorated cake with five candles on it (Thanks, Cassie Satterlee), and the whole crowd sang "Happy Birthday" to our school.

It's not necessary to enumerate the amazing things that have happened in East St. Louis during the past five years. Everyone knows that enrollment has grown, parents have become more involved, dedicated teachers have served, volunteers have provided incredible support, we're out of space, the Gospel is being taught, and disciples are being made.

But, *it is* necessary to give God the praise and glory for what has happened at Unity. A friend of mine recently shared his reservations about opening a Lutheran School in East St. Louis. At the beginning, he thought it couldn't be done. But now, he's a staunch believer and supporter.

On one hand, my friend was right. With only human resources, it would be very unlikely that a mission school could open and thrive. On the other hand, Unity is a testimony to *what God can do when His people are wholly devoted to His mission*. It is clear that the Holy Spirit has directed us, that Jesus has been with us, that the Father has blessed us, and that the angels have watched over us.

The Best Is Yet To Come!

As we look back over the past five years, we also look ahead to the next school year. Many new families have inquired about the school. Several new families have already registered. It's very exciting!

There is one significant event that is still in our future, however. We are anxiously waiting for the first time that God brings a Unity student into His family through the waters of Holy Baptism. It's going to happen soon, we're sure!

St. Patrick's Update

Nothing new to report at this time. We are still waiting for the engineer's reports about the condition of the buildings and the cost to renovate. The reports should arrive any day now. (The need for more space is becoming increasingly urgent. We have a waiting list for Grade Four, because there just isn't enough room. That's missed opportunities!)

Annual Fund Update

We have fallen approximately \$25,000 short of our \$150,000 annual fund goal for our Belong To Jesus Scholarship Fund. We know that God will provide. If you are able to send in an extra gift at this time, your help would be greatly appreciated.

Prayer Requests

- That God would give our students and teachers a safe and refreshing summer vacation.
- That students and families who are ready to hear about the love of Jesus would enroll for next year.
- That our building needs would be met according to God's plan.
- That God would meet our financial needs throughout the summer.

Wish List

Our school supply storeroom is depleted! We need general school supplies to re-stock, such as

#2 pencils	Fat pencils for Pre-K
Pocket folders	Marker sets
Pencil-top erasers	Large pink erasers
Ticky-tack	One CD-player
	Packets of wide-rule notebook paper
	Rulers with inches and cm
	Scotch tape rolls for dispensers
	Red, blue, and black ink pens
	Electric Pencil Sharpeners

July 2008

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		*** Pastor and High School Youth at Higher Things Conference, St. Louis MO July 1-4 ***				
June 29 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	June 30	July 1	2 No Private Confession, Midweek Service, or Summer Catechesis	3	4	5
6 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	7	8 <i>No Elders / Council mtgs – See you at the Fair.</i>	9 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:45-7:30p Midweek Service 7:30-8:15p Summer Catechesis	10 6:00-7:00p Youth Group	11	12
13 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	14	15 6:00-7:00p Elders' Mtg 7:00-8:00p Council Mtg. 8:00-8:15p Compline	16 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:45-7:30p Midweek Service 7:30-8:15p Summer Catechesis	17	18	19
20 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service 10:30a Voters Mtg	21	22	23 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:45-7:30p Midweek Service 7:30-8:15p Summer Catechesis	24	25	26
		***VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL July 28 – August 1, 6-8 pm ***				
27 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	28	29	30 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:45-7:30p Midweek Service 7:30-8:15p Summer Catechesis	31	<i>Aug 1</i>	<i>Aug 2</i>

