



# Hope Lutheran Church The Anchor

June 2008

## What Are God's Plans for Your Life?

*I had the privilege of speaking at Faith Lutheran School in Godfrey's 2008 graduation ceremony. Since this is the season for thinking about God's plans for your life, I thought the speech might be worth sharing. Enjoy.*

Once I heard a graduation address by the former prime minister of Great Britain, John Major. Cal Ripken Jr. will be the speaker at the University of Delaware. Craig Newmark—he's the Craig in Craigslist—spoke at Case Western Reserve University. Tonight, Bill Nye the Science Guy is delivering the commencement address at Johns Hopkins University. President Bush will spend the next couple weeks speaking at graduations. Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling will be the speaker at Harvard. If you'd like to hear former Secretary of State Madeline Albright, she will be at Knox College in Galesburg, IL June 7. I'm not sure if these people were asked to be here this evening, but you seem to be stuck with me, like it or not. The good news is that you can rest assured I'm not stumping for your vote or trying to sell you a featherlight Macbook Air. And I'm sure you'll get your fair share of less-than-practical advice over the course of your graduation season. But I do have a question for you.

What does God want you to do with your life? How can you know? You've probably heard the oft cited Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord." So? What is God's plan for your life? What should you do when you get to high school? What clubs should you join? What profession should strive to obtain? Whom does he want you to date? Those are the big questions. What about the small questions? What does he think you should wear to your graduation party? Does God want you to drink Coke or Pepsi? Does God think you should call that cute boy before you're both gone for the summer? Does God want you to work this summer to save money? Does he want you to put all your money in savings, or will he let you squander a little on CDs?

How can you know?! How can you figure out God's intricate, minute-by-minute, step-by-step, decision-by-decision plan for your life? And what if you get it wrong? Will he be angry if you don't follow the plan he has for your life?

Believe it or not, God's plan for your life isn't that specific. Listen again to Jeremiah's words in chapter 29, this time I won't just give you a small part of a verse: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,' declares the LORD, 'and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,' declares the LORD, 'and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.'"

*...continued on page 2...*

### *In this issue...*

Stewardship Corner.....	p. 3	Minutes from May Council Meeting.....	p. 6
News & Notes .....	p. 4	June Calendar.....	p. 7
Our Church Family.....	p. 5		

*"What are God's Plans for your life?" Faith Godfrey Graduation, 2008 (Continued from page 1...)*

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These are God's words to the people carried out of the promised land by their enemies into exile. Exile is the punishment for their persistent disobedience. But, even in exile, they have hope. While we no longer need fear God's temporal punishment, as that has been completely poured out on Jesus, we are in exile. Cast out of the promised land of Eden, our dwelling place with God, we live with a built-in longing for the way things used to be, back in Eden. Those were the good old days. But while we wait, God gives to his exiles and to us hope: His plans, according to the second, less quoted half of verse 11, are to prosper us and not to harm us, to give us a hope and a future. That future is secure. Regardless of what you choose between now and then, regardless what happens in your life, when Christ returns, we know we will be gathered from exile to live in Eden restored.

What about the meanwhile? If God's plan is so unspecific, how do we make decisions, either big or small? How do we answer all those questions? Well, God's plan is not so unspecific that it gives us no direction for right now. Jesus summarizes the commandments like this: Love God and love your neighbor. You already love God. By the faith he has given you, he enables your heart to love him. And so now you are set free to love your neighbor. Whenever you have a choice to make, God's plan for your life is that you love your neighbor. God's plan is that you use what he has given you—talents and resources—to be the best servant you can be to everyone around you.

That's actually fairly easy. You don't have to be a pastor, or in Luther's words, a monk or a nun, to serve God and make him happy. Your vocation, your calling, is to love and serve your neighbor whatever and wherever you are. In high school and as long as you remain a student, that's your vocation. You're a child, a sibling, a friend. Those are vocations. When you enter the work force—as a burger flipper, soldier, or accountant—your vocation is as a worker. You will have many vocations throughout your life. Some you'll get to choose, others will be assigned to you. All are equally important. And, doing each one to the best of your abilities is equally pleasing to God.

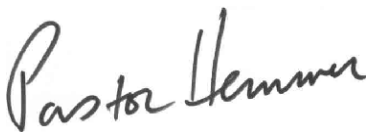
As you endeavor to answer those questions: what to do with your life and how to fill in the details: you have the freedom to choose. Choose what best serves the needs of the people around you given the talents you have. Sometimes you might make the wrong choice; sometimes you may be altogether indecisive. But you're not saved because of your vocation. And there's forgiveness for making bad choices.

So, enjoy the freedom and the opportunities you've been given. Use the next years of your life as an opportunity to explore the talents God has given you. Don't be afraid to try something new. And don't be afraid to stay with the tried-and-true vocation that you know you're good at.

And all the while, it's not your vocation that sustains you in exile. But your vocation is sustained by—indeed all your life is sustained by—God's gifts. "Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power" (Eph 6:10). Where can you find this mighty power of the Lord that gives you strength? In His sacraments, His gifts, of course. He gifted you with new life in the waters of Holy Baptism. He gifts you with forgiveness of sins in the word of Holy Absolution spoken to you through your pastor. And He gifts you with the life-giving, sin-forgiving Body and Blood of Jesus. These gifts are what give you life and what give you the power to share your life by loving and serving those around you through your vocation.

Maybe I'm not a big name commencement speaker. But that's okay. For my own sake, I don't need to be. And neither do you. Your accomplishments in life, your success, is not measured in how popular, wealthy, or powerful you become. God measures it in how faithfully you act according to your vocation and how diligently you serve your neighbor. Thanks and congratulations.

In Christ's Service,



# Stewardship Corner

## May Attendance

	Divine Service/Lord's Supper	Sunday School	Adult Bible Class
1 <sup>st</sup>	25 / 23	x	x
4 <sup>th</sup>	135 / 98	9	19
11 <sup>th</sup>	125 / 95	22	16
18 <sup>th</sup>	104 / 86	19	18
25 <sup>th</sup>	114 / 75	14	17

“We give thanks to you, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another...”

## May Financial Report

	5/1	5/4	5/11	5/18	5/25
Envlp		\$2435	\$1257.25	\$1822	\$1564
Plate	\$	\$243.25	\$126	\$81.25	\$150.46
SS		\$25.50	\$24.50	\$17.25	\$17
DebtFnd		\$40			
Missions			\$10		
Flowers				\$40	
Rental				\$25	
Other		\$20			



## WANTED: SPONSORS FOR ADULT CATECHUMENS

Just like we have sponsors for the baptisms of children, and those sponsors promise to help teach the child the faith as taught in the Small Catechism, so we also have sponsors for adult catechumens. Sponsors attend catechesis with those they sponsor and encourage them in their Christian instruction. If you're willing to be a sponsor of an individual or if your family would like to sponsor a whole family, talk to Pastor Hemmer or send him an email ([pastor@hopelcms.com](mailto:pastor@hopelcms.com)).

## Serving in June

**Elders:** Lead: Kerry Hall  
Asst.:

**Altar Guild:** Tina Lyming & Ella Jane & Ed Pointer

### Greeters

*June 1:* Mike & Jeanne Roth  
*June 8:* Cary & Kim Roberts  
*June 15:* Jim & Noreen Manns  
*June 22:* Mark & William Kloempken  
*June 29:* Dennis & Patti Henneman

### Ushers

*June 1:* Rick Angel, Len Straub, Marvin Frazer, Randy Margeson  
*June 8:* John & Steve Ficker, Nathan Martin, Bill Ivers  
*June 15:* Tony Purcell, Mike Roth, Jerry & Scott Summers  
*June 22:* Dave Roth, Don Carpenter, Eric Trisler, Kris McGuire  
*June 29:* Tim VanHovel, Vince Sibley, Bryan McKennon, Tony Purcell

### Acolytes

*June 1:* Aloera Montz  
*June 8:* Koty Rethorn  
*June 15:* Erin Smith  
*June 22:* Jordan Summers  
*June 29:* Trent Tucker

# News & Notes

**2 Timothy 3:14-17** *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*



## Gearing up for VBS!

Grab your hiking gear and join our *Friendship Trek*, an amazing hike through the Bible to meet Jesus, our forever friend. At *Friendship Trek*, kids experience Jesus' friendship and learn how to care for each other as friends.

Friends are great gifts from God, and Jesus is the greatest friend of all! God bless you as you share Jesus, our forever friend, with old and new friends this summer!

*Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. you are my friends.* John 15:13-14

## NEW! Midweek Service and Summer Catechesis

Wednesday evenings from 6:45-7:30, starting June 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be a catechetical service, using the Service of Prayer and Preaching from *Lutheran Service Book*.

This is a wonderful service that's designed to be used to teach the Catechism through the liturgy. Everyone is invited to this midweek service!

Following the service, from 7:30-8:15, we'll have summer catechesis. This will be an opportunity to delve more deeply into the Catechism as preached and taught in the preceding service. Anyone who would like to know more about what Christians believe, anyone who wants to explore the possibility of membership at Hope, anyone wanting a refresher in the Small Catechism, or anyone who wants a midweek Bible study is invited to attend. Please RSVP by calling the church office so we can have enough materials for everyone.



## Youth Report

Youth group will meet at the church on JUNE 12<sup>th</sup> this month. All youth 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited. Pastor is leading a study on "Christian Weightlifting," about practicing your Christian faith.

Several high school youth are preparing for the Higher Things conference to be held at the beginning of July. (Check out [www.higherthings.org](http://www.higherthings.org) for more information) Keep them in your prayers.



# Our Church Family

*“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal’ ‘Do not covet,’ and whatever other commandment there may be are summed up in this one rule: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.” –Romans 13: 8-10*

## Prayer Partners

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

### *Week of June 1:*

Harold Martin; Randy & Judy Margeson, Kevin, Danny, & Kim; Ethel Margeson; Susan Martin, Nathan & Sophia

### *Week of June 8:*

Kris & Linda McGuire, Bruce; Bryan & Lisa McKennon, Ben & Lucas

### *Week of June 15:*

Joe & Gay McKennon, Matt McKennon, Joey & Shani; Elke Monroe

### *Week of June 22:*

Pastor & Yvonne Mitkos & Family; Bennie & Donna Morris; Elzina Morris

### *Week of June 29:*

Clifford & Vera Neal; Josh & Nicole Neal, Marcus & Andrew; Randy & Mary Neal

*“...and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us....”*

## June Anniversaries

- 6/06 Scott & Michell Summers  
Bob & Yvonne Hartmann
- 6/07 John & Tina Lyming
- 6/17 Otis & Kristen Rodriguez
- 6/18 Cliff & Vera Neal
- 6/21 Art & Cara Tinkle
- 6/23 Kerry & Rhonda Hall
- 6/24 Ed & Deb Basham
- 6/26 Gary & Janet Kallal  
Mike & Jeanne Roth

## June Birthdays

- 6/1 Patrick LeBlanc  
Korri Ontis
- 6/2 Bert Perry
- 6/4 Stephen Ficker  
Sarah Schneider
- 6/5 Christopher LeBlanc
- 6/7 Kerry Hall
- 6/8 Bob Skibbe
- 6/10 Opal Ervin
- 6/12 Bette Hall  
Kris McGuire  
Elzina Morris  
Jewell Purcell  
Nathanel Aldefer
- 6/13 Karen Roth  
Owen Roberts
- 6/14 Patricia Ivers
- 6/15 Karri Greene
- 6/17 Andrew LeBlanc
- 6/19 Angie White
- 6/20 Jim Manns
- 6/21 Jennifer Jolly  
Jeff White
- 6/24 Gary Pinkard
- 6/28 Michael Roth
- 6/29 Jeanne Roth

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
JERSEYVILLE, IL 62052

May 13, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of Hope Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 7:25 P.M., by President Ed Pointer. Pastor Hemmer opened with prayer. The 12 members present were Ed Pointer, Carol Skibbe, Linda Blasa, Keith Baecht, Dennis Henneman, Tim Butler, Kerry Hall, Cindy Zumwalt, Patti Henneman, Brandy Purcell, Kim Frazer, and Pastor Hemmer.

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

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

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

Linda noted that the balance in the account as of April 27 was \$609.21. There is approximately \$77,000 for the parking lot and church repairs. Motion was made by Dennis Henneman to accept the treasurer's report. Kerry Hall seconded, and motion carried.

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

Amy Straub will be confirmed on May 18. New ideas are being discussed for catechesis to get rid of age restrictions, and obtain more parental participation. Wednesday evening service is being discussed for the whole congregation.

### Elder's Report: (Dennis Henneman)

The Elders continued their study of the Augsburg Confession, reviewed Pastor's mileage log, and discussed good candidates to fill the 2 vacancies in the Elders. A letter of resignation from Bryan McKennon is attached.

The Elders approved Pastor's vacation from June 2 – 7, 2008.

They also discussed a June 18-20 Concordia Catechetical Academy Conference in Sussex, WI, and a July 1-4 Higher Things Conference in St. Louis. There are also numerous summer opportunities for the Elders to attend learning workshops.

### Education Report: (Brandy Purcell)

The new VBS series, "Friendship Trek" was passed around, as was the new children's catechism. VBS will be held from July 28 to Aug. 1 from 6-8pm. Donation sheets will be out soon.

Brandy will meet with Pastor to discuss the formation of a Luther League in mid-August.

### Youth Group (Kim Frazer)

The youth donated \$150 for new Acolyte robes on 4/27/08. They are planning another yard sale in July or August. The Youth Group met on 5/8/08 from 6-7. Pastor continued with the Christian Weight Lifting Series. The topic was meditation. There were 5 youth and 2 adults in attendance. There were 50 people in attendance at the Mother Daughter Banquet, with a good time for all. They gave all mothers roses on Mother's Day, and purchased My First Catechesis books for the start up of the Luther League. They will sponsor the cake and punch for the confirmation of Amy Straub. Registration for the Amen Gathering in St. Louis has been paid (\$1625), and they will give Pastor extra for food and outings.

### Old Business:

1. The Audit Committee is still in progress.
2. The Church Planning Committee will meet again on May 20 to narrow choices down to 2.

### New Business:

1. Brotherhood Mutual Ins. wishes to give us a quote on the church insurance. They will meet with Pastor and Ed on 5/28/08 at 2PM.
2. We need a nominating committee. Be thinking of new candidates for offices.
3. The SID Convention is 2/21/09 and we will need to nominate candidates for offices there also.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Skibbe, Council Secretary

# June 2008

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  NO Private Confession	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:00-7:00p Elders' Mtg 7:00-8:00p Council Mtg. 8:00-8:15p Compline	<b>11</b>  6:00-6:45p Private Confession	<b>12</b>  6:00-7:00p Youth Group	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  6:00-6:45p Private Confession	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:45-7:30p Midweek Service 7:30-8:15p Summer Catechesis	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	<b>30</b>	<i>July 1</i>	<i>July 2</i>	<i>July 3</i>	<i>July 4</i>	<i>July 5</i>