

FEBRUARY 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service 11:00a Potluck and Presentation by Ameren UE on Energy Conservation	2 7pm	3	4 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:00-7:00p Luther League 7:00 -7:45p Advent Vespers 7:45-8:30p Catechesis 7:45-8:30p Bible Study	5 6:00-7:00p Youth Group	6	7
8 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	9	10 6:00-7:00p Elders' Mtg 7:00-8:00p Council Mtg. 8:00-8:15p Compline	11 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:00-7:00p Luther League 7:00 -7:45p Advent Vespers 7:45-8:30p Catechesis 7:45-8:30p Bible Study	12	13	14 6pm - Dinner for Two
15 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service 10:30a Voters' Meeting	16	17	18 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:00-7:00p Luther League 7:00 -7:45p Advent Vespers 7:45-8:30p Catechesis 7:45-8:30p Bible Study	19	20	21
22 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	23	24	25 Ash Wednesday 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:00-7:00p Luther League 7:00 -7:45p Advent Vespers 7:45-8:30p Catechesis 7:45-8:30p Bible Study	26	27	28



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

Week of Feb 01– Joe & Ruth Blattner; Karen & Jeff Brinkman, Nathanel & Katelyn Aldefer

Week of Feb 08– Doloris Burnett; Tim & Sharon Butler, Jason, Melissa, & Adam;

Week of Feb 15 –Ruth Cook; Margaret Linsley; Doug & Ashley Carpenter,

Week of Feb 22– Don & Kaye Carpenter, Carrie Carpenter, Eliana & Addison

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2/2 Sarah Basham
Noreen Manns
- 2/3 Luke Smith
- 2/4 Keith Baecht
Christina Long
- 2/5 Nathan Martin
- 2/12 Pastor Hemmer
- 2/14 Simon Purcell
- 2/15 Bob Hartmann
- 2/16 Gaylene McKennon
- 2/17 Doris Sibley
- 2/18 Nancy Green
- 2/20 Fred Starks
- 2/22 Nick Miller
- 2/23 Lauren Blasa
Herb Frazer
- 2/24 Judith Stanley
- 2/26 Sheri Gaffner



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 09 – Dr. James & Marcia Adams
- 12 – Vance & Kelly Miller
- 14 – Herb & Kim Frazer
- 28 – Mike & Jennifer Strubberg



Enews From Unity February 2009

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NEW JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE PRINCIPAL

Our school picture class composites arrived two weeks ago. As I passed the Kindergarten room, one of the students called out to me.

“Hey, Mr. Miller, you’re in our class picture!”

“Actually, I’m in everybody’s class picture,” I stopped to explain. “Why do you think my picture is on everybody’s class picture?”

By this time, a small crowd had gathered. Mrs. Hamrick overheard our conversation and offered a hint. “Boys and girls, what’s Mr. Miller’s job?”

After a brief pause, one of the Kindergarteners confidently responded, “Mr. Miller, your job is to make sure everyone is happy!”

I appreciated the simple perspective of a child. I smiled and left it at that. But, what a set-up for disaster!

BUILDING UPDATE

The negotiations for the Hawthorne Elementary School are moving along. Thanks to all of you who have been praying. Keep it up!

The District #189 School Board will consider our proposal on February 23. The main item for negotiation will be the cost of the lease or purchase. You will receive a prayer reminder a couple of days before then.

Remember, if God allows this to happen, we will need lots of volunteers to get to work painting and cleaning. Get ready to help!

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Annual Fund – Our goal this year is \$250,000 for our Belong To Jesus Scholarship Fund. So far, \$100,000 has been donated. We have a long way to go to reach our goal. We have definitely felt the effects of the economic downturn. What can you do? First, pray that God will bless. Second, make an additional donation. Third, be an advocate for our school with your congregation and friends. I’d be happy to meet with anyone anytime to share what God is doing at our school.

Time To Build Capital Campaign – We currently have \$600,000 on account, with another \$400,000 pledged. Hopefully we will soon know how much we will need to move into our new building. We need to raise another \$180,000 in the next two years to take full advantage of the Lutheran Foundation matching grant. More information will be shared in the spring. What can you do

now? Help plan a Share In The Miracle Dinner in your area.

SHARE IN THE MIRACLE EVENTS

Last spring, we had a successful Time To Build Dinner at the Collinsville Convention Center. However, many of our friends were left out by the high ticket price. The Share In The Miracle Events are designed to allow those who can’t afford an expensive ticket, but still want to help with our Capital Campaign. The focus will not be on the cost of the ticket, but on the opportunity for participants to hear about Unity and make a donation. Share In The Miracle Events are very flexible. They could be as small as a few people in your home, or as large as a multi-congregation crowd. It could be a breakfast, lunch, or dinner meeting. It could be in a home, a church hall, or in a restaurant. We will provide everything necessary. We just need help gathering people.

Please consider being a leader for a Share In The Miracle Event. We will train you and your friends, and provide all you need. You will be blessed as you join in God’s mission at Unity!

WE ARE GRATEFUL

To Gary and Charla Wolff for designating Unity to receive donations on the occasion of their 40th anniversary.

To the Schweizer family in Nokomis for holding a Family Christmas Auction to raise funds for Unity. We appreciate these creative and generous partners.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- That we will be able to schedule several Share In The Miracle Dinners this spring.
- Giving thanks to God for all gifts to our Scholarship fund and that we will reach our Annual Fund goal of \$250,000 by June.
- That the inspections and negotiations for the Hawthorne School will go smoothly so we can be ready to occupy by August.
-

WISH LIST

- Hand Sanitizer
- Liquid Hand Soap (large bottles for refill)
- Plain White Copier Paper
- Air Freshener
- HP94 Printer Cartridges
- Playground Balls
- Disinfectant Wipes
- Electric Stapler
- BoxTops For Education

NEWS & NOTES

Sunday Morning

What are you and your family doing before the service on Sunday morning? Don't miss these opportunities to learn from God's Word.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Upcoming Sunday School lessons:

- 2/1 – Jesus and the Little Children
(Mark 10)
- 2/8 – Jesus Heals a Paralytic
(Mark 2:1-12)
- 2/15 – Jairus' Daughter
(Mark 5:21)
- 2/22 – The Transfiguration
(Mark 9:2-10)

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Currently the Adult Bible Class is working (slowly) through the book of Revelation. This is your chance to ask questions to stump the Pastor. Everyone is welcome to join in.

YOUTH REPORT: VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER FOR TWO

The industrious youth of Hope Lutheran Church will be serving another elegant dinner on Saturday, February 14. Tickets are \$25 per couple for a really great meal and lovely atmosphere. You don't want to miss out. This could be the perfect gift for your sweetheart, and you support the youth at the same time. Sign up in the narthex today!



Wednesday Night

**6-6:45 PM PRIVATE
CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

6-7:00 PM LUTHER LEAGUE

**7-7:45 PM SERVICE OF PRAYER
AND PREACHING / LENTEN
VESPERS**

**7:45-8:30 PM WEDNESDAY
NIGHT ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

**7:45-8:30 PM
YOUTH CATECHESIS**



NEW! PREACHING TO THE CHOIR.....

That's right – we're going to have a choir, and we want to hear your voice! Talk to Randy Trisler and watch for announcements about practice times

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

JANUARY ATTENDANCE

	Divine Service/Lord's Supper	Sunday School	Adult Bible Class
4 th	125 / 90	22	17
11 th	141 / 93	29	10
18 th	157 / 99	22	23
25 th	153 / 96	25	23



JANUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

	Envelp	Plate	SS	Debt	Parking	Mission	Flowers	Rental	Other
4 th	1422	438.75	25.50	100					30
11 th	1806	232.10	17.45						140
18 th	1636	181.50	31.35	50					77
25 th	1511	185.25	28.50		150	10			

SERVING IN FEBRUARY

Elders: Lead: Dennis Henneman
Asst.: Kerry Hall

Altar Guild: Carol & Bob Skibbe, Ruth Ficker

Greeters -- TBA

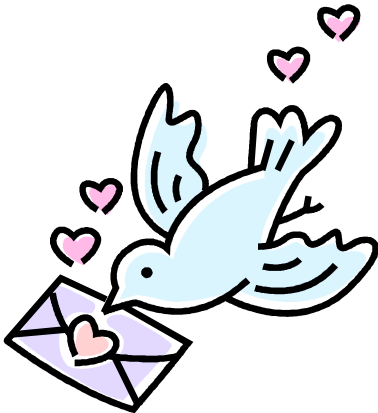
Feb 1
Feb 2 (Mon. 7pm)
Feb 8
Feb 15
Feb 22

Ushers

Feb 1: Rick Angel, Len Straub, Marvin Frazer, Randy Margeson
Feb 8: John & Steve Ficker, Nathan Martin, Bill Ivers
Feb 15: Tony Purcell, Mike Roth, Jerry & Scott Summers
Feb 22: Dave Roth, Don Carpenter, Eric Trisler, Kris McGuire

Acolytes -- TBA

Feb 1
Feb 2 (Mon. 7pm)
Feb 8
Feb 15
Feb 22



CHURCH ON GROUNDHOG'S DAY??

Join us on Feb. 2 for the The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord Divine Service at 7 p.m. This is the last of the Christmas feasts. Jewish boys were brought to be presented at the temple when they were 40 days old; at the same time, the mothers brought the sacrifice for purification. Why did Jesus submit to the Jewish laws for cleansing from sin when He was sinless? Find out!



LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH THE ANCHOR

FEBRUARY 2009

BETTER THAN NEW

Confession: I like hot rods. Not in a passing way: I like them in such a way as to broach breaking the Tenth Commandment. Not muscle cars, not classic cars, not old cars. Hot rods. Building a hot rod is as much about style and creativity as it is about restoring a car.

Every year in March, at the Detroit Autorama, hot rod builders and owners compete for the coveted Ridler Award. Cars that win this award epitomize hot rod craftsmanship. They're pristine, flawlessly built, and they've spared no expenses. Even builders who could never even dream of winning a Ridler aim to build something far, far nicer than what the original car was.

There are lots of companies who build fiberglass kits to recreate the most iconic car built into a hot rod—the '32 Ford. But a fiberglass kit, no matter how nicely done, isn't the same as a car built from the original steel. Perhaps therein is the allure of hot rodding. An old car is renewed, given new life, made faster, tougher, and more perfect than the original.

In a way, that's a picture of the Christian. From the day you're born, you're dying. Every day is a day closer to your death, and nowhere have you been promised a certain number of days or years (there's no such thing as a life cut "short").

And until the day of your death, your body is breaking down. Parts wear out; days get more painful. But your funeral will not be the end of your body. Even when it's been buried and forgotten in a cemetery, your body has not reached its end.

On the day of the Lord Jesus' return, bodies will be raised. Everything that was broken will be fixed. Everything that was imperfect will be made perfect. St. Paul says, "For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.'"

Every body will be like a pristine, no-expenses-spared Ridler winner. And, unlike an immaculate hot rod that never gets driven for fear of spoiling its perfection, your body will be incorruptible. We won't be body-less spirits. We won't be angels. And we won't all be the same.

Your resurrected, glorified body will still be you. It won't be a new you; it will be a renewed you. And, just like a hot rod built from original steel, there will be continuity between your body now and your body then.

Your Lord is in the restoration business. It doesn't matter what condition you're in when He claims you. When you're His, everything is being restored. So we hope for—even long for—the day of the Lord's return.

In Christ's Service,

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