

Heralds of Hope



Official Publication of Hope Lutheran Church; Cedar Hill, TX

February, 2009

Volume XXIV Issue 2

Church
972.291.7902
Fax 972.291.9003

Pastors

Joel & Wendy Berthelsen
pastor.joel@sbcglobal.net
pastor.wendy@sbcglobal.net

Director of Music Ministries
Bob Brooks
hopelutheranmusic@sbcglobal.net

Director of Youth
Matt Cleaver
matt.cleaver.hope@gmail.com

Sanctuary Choir Accompanist
Cathy Peterson
rpete123@flash.net

Youth Choir Accompanist
Cathy Peterson
rpete123@flash.net

Secretary
Karine Samer
hopesecretary@sbcglobal.net

Heralds Editor
Karine Samer
hopesecretary@sbcglobal.net

Church Council

Officers
President
Wayne Wooley - 1.972.775.3083
President-Elect
Open
Secretary
Kristine Clark
972.274.4616

Members at Large
Gene Janke - 972.291.8324
Hazel Linder - 214.337.1065
Candy Moltz - 972-723-2932
Debbie Rushbrook - 972.572.0835
Ron Trygstad - 972.230.2634

Appointees
Treasurer
Kathy Still - 972.293.8016
Financial Secretary
Mark Driscoll - 972.742.4605

Pastor's Notebook

Lenten Theme: *Praying in Times of Distress*

Tolstoy wrote in War and Peace that as the German armies approached Moscow in World War II, never were the parties as flamboyant and light hearted in Moscow as they were at that time. At first, this may seem very ironic. Nonetheless as we ponder it, we realize that as trouble approaches, human nature's tendency is to avoid and deny.

Avoiding despair, and avoiding avoidance - during our Lenten season, we are going to do the opposite. We are going to examine directly our nation's, city's, church's, families', and our own present personal situations, and do the most needful thing: **we are going to earnestly pray for God's help.**

"God... is a very present help in times of trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change..."

Psalm 46:1-2

We are going to come together and take God at his Word. Each week we will take one of the above aspects of life, look at it soberly, learn from praying people in the scriptures living in similar situations, and then we are going to pray.

Wednesdays during Lenten Season (Feb. 25—April 1)

Supper 5:45PM

Worship 7:00PM

Beginning

Ash Wednesday—February 25, 2009

Come let us pray together!

Pastor Joel

Our Mission Statement: To discover and respond to our call

TO KNOW JESUS TO FOLLOW JESUS TO SERVE JESUS
in unique ministries.

The Domestic Church

“And He is the head... for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all things in every way.”
Eph. 1:23

His body is not only represented in *“The Gathered Church.”* It fills “all things in every way.” “All things in every way” means it is also present at home (*The Domestic Church*), at work/school/volunteering (*The Vocational Church*), and wherever else—you - the body of Christ find yourself (*The Out-and-About Church*).

What am I Called to do?

In February, we will focus on the *The Domestic Church.*

February 1: “Spreading the Word Via Home”

February 8: “A Family Altar”

February 15: “Run Against Yourself... Not One Another”

February 22: “Finding Mountaintops Together.”



We want a good crowd to attend the “Passing on the Faith” Conference that Matt is helping to plan: February 20-21 at Preston Meadow Lutheran Church, Plano.

Heralds Distribution Experiment

At a December meeting, the Council discussed experimenting with making the Heralds available either in people’s mailboxes and also electronically through email and the website. As are many other churches, we are attempting to be more “green” and care for our environment as well as be wise stewards of our resources during tough economic times.

This month, we are making the Heralds available in people’s mailboxes in the Narthex (lobby). We also will be mailing a limited number. *If you have special request regarding receipt of the Heralds, please notify the church office.*

Newsletter Articles Deadline Date ...

is the **18th** of each month.



Coming Challenges Regarding Sexuality

Some significant challenges are still before as we consider sexuality issues in the ELCA. First, the church will vote on the Social Statement on Human Sexuality at its assembly in August 2009. Second, the ELCA national Church Council under its own initiative voted to reduce the percentage needed to make a policy change on whether to have *active gay clergy in the ELCA*. The percentage needed on a vote at the upcoming 2009 Churchwide Assembly for a policy change regarding active gay clergy was reduced from 2/3 majority to simple majority.

In 2001, the ELCA set a course to create a Social Statement on Human Sexuality for the church. We recently finished the third phase of this project by reading and discussing the first draft of a proposed social statement. You were asked to respond to the sexuality task force. Previously, I indicated that without modification, I hoped it would be voted down in August 2009. While demonstrating an understanding of *a theological and civil use of God's law*, the statement did not apply those uses appropriately, and therefore it didn't give needed direction regarding homosexuality and various other issues. This draft will be voted on in August of 2009, and it will need to receive a 2/3 majority in order to pass.

These decisions place the ELCA in a strange situation: **the Human Sexuality Social Statement—drafted by an ELCA committee—will take a 2/3 vote for approval; in contrast, God's Word on these issues -inspired by the Holy Spirit— can be voted down by a simple majority.**

Such is the state of affairs coming out of the leadership of the ELCA. We will pray about this issue at our Wednesday evening Lenten services.



Ministry Development

Called to be Family of God

“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name, I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.”

Ephesians 3:14-16

You are called to a part of a great big family. Hopefully, this family will be the best kind of family – a family that is positive, loving, affirming and encouraging. Hopefully, you will be able to celebrate, have fun and laugh with this family. Hopefully, this family will heal your hurts and walk with you through the difficult valleys of life. Hopefully, this family will supplement and complement your blood family – strengthening you where your blood family may be weak. Hopefully, you will find many mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, and daughters and sons, and your life will be enriched as a result. The scriptures tell me that my mothers, brothers and sisters are those who do the will of God. During February, we will focus on the “call to family” or the domestic church.

Appreciation

As always, many have been serving our Lord and each other behind-the-scenes with little fanfare or notice.

Donation of Copier Lease Research: John and Kelly Johnson

Copier Logistics and Installation: Carl Metzger, Scott and Debbie Rushbrook, John Johnson, Pastor Joel

Repair on Facing Boards (rear of building) and Donation of Materials: Al Armistead and his company

Stephen Ministry Training and Preparation: Candy Moltz, Valerie Peterson, Melanie Jones, Pastor Wendy

Semi-Annual Meeting Lunch: Judy and Bill Knoll

Powerpoint Projection, Announcement Sheet and Bulletin Experiment Assistance: Melanie Jones, Margaret Bengtson

Christmas Tree Takedown: Hazel Linder

Please be sure to offer your personal thanks to all of these people!

Press on!
Pastor Wendy

Dear Friends at Hope,
Once again, we thank you for your generosity and graciousness expressed in your recent Christmas gift. We appreciate so much your support, encouragement and prayers.

With gratefulness,
Pastor Joel, Wendy
Amara, Stefan, Philip, Ana



Hope Women's News



February Birthdays

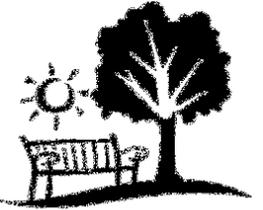
Johnathan Jarrett	2/01
Ashenafi Tekeste	2/02
Kyle Reser	2/08
Debbie Rushbrook	2/12
Hope McKee	2/14
Kim Pfohl	2/14
Bob Wessa	2/14
Andrew Hill	2/15
Carol Nichols	2/15
J. W. Nastoupil	2/17
Jennifer Beasley	2/18
Holly Bolduc	2/18
Stephen Dahl	2/19
Anna Woods	2/19
Joe Yedlowski	2/19
Jessica Nelson	2/20
Valerie Peterson	2/21
Elizabeth Bockarie	2/23
Marv Christensen	2/26
Kristine Clark	2/28
Shannon Hamilton	2/28
Timothy Wilkins	2/28

February Anniversaries

Wayne & Paula Wooley	2/01
George & Katherine Nelson	2/29



"The Greatest High" Women's Retreat March 6-7



Women's
Retreat

Have you ever wondered how you can achieve "the greatest high"? We will be looking at an unexpected source—Mary, Jesus' mother— as our role model to achieve "The Greatest High". The retreat, which will be at beautiful Camp Hobitzelle in Midlothian, will be a fun-filled opportunity with something for women of all ages, and plans include several spiritual sessions, singing, games, chit-chat and great meals provided by the kitchen at the camp. **Contact Carolee Juergens or Pastor Wendy for more information.**

Cost: \$45

Check in: 6 p.m., Friday, March 6

Check out: 3 p.m., Saturday, March 7



Faith Circle

Join Us

on the 2nd

Tuesday

in February

at 7:30 pm.

February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School 2009 Mission Trip Meeting Super Bowl Party	2	3	4 Wednesday Schedule	5	6	7
8 Sunday School Youth Choir Practice Valentine Making Day	9	10	11 Wednesday Schedule	12	13 Youth Night Out: Friday the 13th	14
15 Sunday School Inner Mission	16	17	18 Wednesday Schedule	19	20	21
22 Pancake Breakfast Youth Choir Practice	23	24	25 Ash Wednesday Service	26	27	28

Hope Lutheran Church
917 North Straus Road
Cedar Hill, TX 75104

Matt Cleaver
Youth Director
matt.cleaver.hope@gmail.com
o: 972-291-7902
c: 972-754-7353

- 1 ~ Sunday, Noon—2009 Mission Trip Meeting. All current 6th-12th grade students and their parents are invited to come to a brief meeting about the 2009 Mission Trip. Come learn about dates, costs, deadlines, and more. Light snacks will be served.
- 1 ~ Sunday, 5 PM—Super Bowl Party at the Bengtson's house. Kickoff is at 5:20. The game should last about four hours.
- 8 ~ Sunday, 12:45—Youth Choir Practice. The youth will lead Sunday morning worship services on all 5th Sundays, practicing twice a month. We need all sorts of help, so come even if you don't have any musical talent. Led by Steve Hawkins and Cathy Peterson.
- 8 ~ Sunday, Noon—Judy Knoll is hosting a "Valentine Making Day" after church for all ages. Cost is \$10 per person and includes lunch and all supplies (or \$5 for lunch only). Proceeds go to the Youth Mission Fund.
- 13 ~ Friday, 7-10 PM—Youth Night Out: Friday the 13th. Come up to the church as we watch the suspense/thriller movie *The Village* (PG-13). Snacks and drinks served.
- 15 ~ Sunday, 6-8 PM—Inner Mission at the Tokle's house. We will continue discussing what it means to be a Christian in suburbia.
- 22 ~ Sunday, 9:15 AM ~ Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser. Current 6-12 graders expecting to participate in our mission trip are welcome to come raise money. Youth need to be here at 8:00 AM to begin cooking.
- 22 ~ Sunday, noon—Youth Choir Practice.
- 25 ~ Wednesday—Ash Wednesday Service
 - ◊ 6 PM—Dinner Served
 - ◊ 7 PM—Ash Wednesday Service
- Regular Wednesdays:
 - ◊ 5:45 PM—Pizza Dinner Served
 - ◊ 6:00-7:15—Owning It (Confirmation)
 - ◊ 6:30-7:30—Cross-Examination (HS)
- Sundays, 9:15 PM—Sunday School:
 - ◊ Jr. High (7th-8th grade) ~ Faith Lens: relevant topics to daily life.
 - ◊ High School ~ Miscellaneous Topics

Growing Your Faith: *Call to Know, Follow & Serve Jesus*

Adult, Youth & Kids Sunday School: 9:15 AM

* Adult Sunday School

Panera Women's Book Study facilitated by Janice Wessa. This year, they are studying memoirs. Contact Janice with any questions (972-617-7112)

Family: The Domestic Church— Taught by Pastors Joel & Wendy

The class will explore both scripture and practical ways that your home can be a sanctuary where faith is nourished in all relationships. This class is grandparents, fathers, mothers, daughters and sons.

*Daily Devotionals are available in the lobby. Take one!

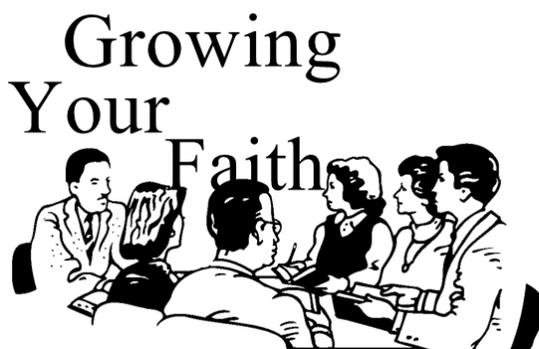
Christ in our Home: Available quarterly, this devotional has daily Scripture readings, thoughts and prayers.

* Other Spiritual Growth Opportunities

Timothy Project Bible Study - Wednesdays, 7:15-8:30 PM Taught by Pastor Wendy Berthelsen. Learn to hear God personally speak to you through His word. Learn to study the Bible in an in-depth faithful manner. Begin to read the entire Bible. No prior Bible knowledge needed.

Women's Faith Circle ~ meets the second Tuesday of the month, 7:30 pm at the church. Come for fellowship, devotions, and Bible study led by Carolee Juergens. All women of the church are welcome.

Small (Spiritual Formation) Groups Develop faith relationships. Talk about faith and real life. To explore an interest in becoming a part of a group, see Pastors Joel/Wendy.



February 2009

1	2 Boy Scouts	3	4	5	6 Tea & Notes	7
8 Youth Choir 11:45 AM Valentines Making 11:45 AM College Mom's Group 7 PM at the Penders	9 Boy Scouts	10 Faith Circle 7:30 PM	11	12	13 Tea & Notes Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Stephen's Ministry Training 6:30-9:30 PM	14 Girl Scouts 2:00-4:00 PM Game Night 6:00 PM 9:00 AM-1:00 PM
15	16 Boy Scouts	17 Council Meeting 7:00 PM	18 <i>Heralds Deadline</i>	19 Girl Scout Leaders' Meeting 7:00 PM	20 Tea & Notes "Passing on the Faith" At Preston Meadows Mosaic Gala 6:30 PM	21
22 Pancake Breakfast 9:15-10:15 AM	23 Boy Scouts	24	25 Ash Wednesday Dinner 5:45-6:45 PM Worship 7:00PM (No Wednesday Evening Activities)	26	27 Tea & Notes	28 ALOA Seniorfest 9:00 AM-4 :00 PM At King of Glory Girl Scouts 2:00-4:00 PM

Sunday Schedule:

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship

Wednesday Schedule:

5:45 Dinner
6:00 pm Owing it (Confirmation ~ Jr. High)
6:30 pm Wednesday Evening Service
6:30 pm Cross-Examination (High School)
6:30 pm Chime Choir
7:15 pm Timothy Project (Bible Study)
7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir

Coming

Events

Valentine Making Day for all Ages. Next Sunday, February 8 immediately following the 10:30 worship service Judy Knoll is hosting a "Valentine Making Day." Cost is \$10 per person and includes lunch and all supplies to make your valentines (or \$5 for lunch only), \$2.50 for under 10 and. family rate available. Any proceeds go to the Youth Mission Fund. Please sign up in the Narthex TODAY if you will participate!

Pancake Breakfast

Our youth will host a pancake breakfast periodically on Sunday mornings to raise funds for their Mission Trip this summer.



Please mark your calendar and enjoy breakfast at Church!

This month's breakfast

Date: Sunday, February 22

Time: 9:15 am – 10:15 am

Suggested Donation: - \$5.00/person

Breakfast menu will consist of pancakes, sausage, juice, and coffee.

Thank you for supporting our youth!



Heart & Soul Gala

Mosaic presents
Heart & Soul Gala
Friday, February 20, 2009
6:30 p. m.
Radisson Hotel
North Dallas-Richardson
Mitch Carr from KLUV Radio,
Master of Ceremonies

For more information and reservation card
see the bulletin board.
R.S.V.P. February 6, 2009

Watch The

Bulletin

for Information

About February's

Let's Eat Out

Looking Ahead

ALOA, Association of Lutheran Older Adults, is an inter-Lutheran movement that provides resources for older adult ministry of the ELCA and LC-MS. Committed to celebration and service it embraces the gifts of aging. On February 28, 2009 the ALOA invites you to:

SeniorFest 2009

The event is from 9am-4pm.
At King of Glory Lutheran Church
6411 LBJ Freeway
Dallas, Texas

For more information check the bulletin board or contact Kathy Longstreet at 972/230-3506 or illinoistexans@sbcglobal.net



The Visual Artists of Cedar Hill are planning another Judged Art Exhibit in April. Please share the following information with any artists in your congregation. We would love to have some of them enter this year's show. If you are interested, please contact Barbara Bailey ~ bcb.art@sbcglobal.net.



Confirmation 2009: Calling all 6th Graders

Owning It, our Confirmation program at Hope, is a two-year program designed for students during their 7th and 8th grade years. That means all current 6th graders will be starting Confirmation in the fall. All current 6th graders and their parents need to contact Matt as soon as possible so he can get you on the Confirmation list for the fall (email him at youth@hopelutheran.net). We don't want to leave anyone out! You will receive more information as it becomes available.

Garage Sale News

The youth will be having a garage sale in April.
Please save your stuff!



Paper Recycling at Hope

You may have noticed the bright green and yellow recycling collection bin in our parking lot over the past few weeks. We are trying to do our part to recycle as much of our paper products as possible. We have placed boxes around the church in order to collect paper for recycling. We can recycle:

- Catalogs
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Junk mail
- Office paper
- Notebooks
- Folders
- Cardboard is *not* recyclable in our program

Additionally, this recycling program functions as a fundraiser, which means that the more paper we collect, the more money we earn. So please do your part to make sure all paper trash at Hope makes it into the recycling boxes throughout the church. If you would like to bring paper from your home or office we would appreciate that as well! If you have any creative ideas for increasing our paper recycling, please contact Matt Cleaver.

December, 2008

Actual YTD Balance (Deficit): (\$2,650)

Offering and Income minus Expenses

as of December 31, 2008.

Overall Balance ~ Available for operations:

\$22,296 (12/31/08).

Flower Chart

There are many Sundays still available on the Flower Chart. Please consider giving the Altar flowers as it is a very good way to celebrate special events or people in your lives by honoring the Lord. You will find the 2009 Flower Chart in the narthex. The price is only \$30.00 per week.





Hope
Lutheran
Church

917 North Straus Road
Cedar Hill, Texas 75104
www.hopelutheran.net

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
DeSoto, TX
Permit No. 614



Ash Wednesday
Service Feb. 25, 7PM