

Heralds of Hope



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“Love is to Will “Good” to Others”

“*Love is to will “good” to others.*” I recently heard a Renovare conference speaker named Dallas Willard give this definition. It has stimulated a lot of thought for me. There is much I like about it. Here are a couple of my thoughts.

First, I like the fact that the “will” is set front and center in this definition. Love, of course, is more than the above quote. (*It is patience, and kindness, and not arrogance. It is about hope, and belief. It is a “mouth-full.”*) But I like placing the “will” front and center for a moment to accent the point that as Paul says that “*love does not seek its own way*” this takes some conscious thought and deciding on our part. I can’t simply sit back till I “feel” something before I act. In fact, I believe that “feeling” is a result of love, not love itself.

So, have you decided today to love? Have you set your mind to it? Don’t wait for the feeling. Go for it.

Secondly, the above definition gives arrow heads to a sometimes dull line. It gives me pointed direction when encountering not only family and friends but also mere acquaintances or even strangers. I can at the least, and I do this often now, pray for people as I encounter them. “*Lord,*” *I pray, “let Your goodness flow upon this person today.”* And I can do more than pray. I must. I can look for ways to actively seek “good” for those around me. This, after all, is a very important part of loving others. So try it out. Pray for strangers. Act on the behalf of others.

Love is “goodness” on the move. Move with it.

Lastly, the above definition made me wonder what it would mean when directed towards God? Deuteronomy 6:5 tells us to, “*Love the Lord your God with all your heart...*” What kind of sense does it make to “will ‘good’ to God” when God lacks no goodness? No love I give to Him can add any goodness to His Being. So what might it mean?

Here is what I came up with. I realized that if love is to “will good to another.” And if the word “good” is a general term meaning “how something should be.”

(Continued next pg.. 3)

Our Mission Statement: To discover and respond to our call

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

Looking Ahead

Matt's Musings: Depositing Hope

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. ~ Ephesians 1:13-14

Inheritances are interesting when you begin to think about them. I may one day receive an inheritance from my parents, but I have not yet taken possession of it. The things that make up my future inheritance (my parents' house, cars, family heirlooms, money, and other assets) already exist tangibly, but right now they are in the possession of my parents. So while the inheritance exists and currently has a certain value, it is not yet mine and I do not currently have the responsibility or authority to do anything with those assets.

In his life, death, and resurrection Jesus Christ has secured for God's children a marvelous inheritance. As God's children, we can look forward to the day when there will be no more pain, no more tears, no more sin, a day when God will make all things right. What a great day that will be. However, it is an inheritance, which means that the fullness of what Jesus Christ has secured and holds in his possession is still a future event for us. At this time, we have not yet taken full possession of our inheritance.

This scripture passage from Ephesians tells us that God has sent his Spirit to his Church in order to be a deposit that will guarantee the future inheritance awaiting us. Deposits are always glimpses of the final payment. When you make a deposit of earnest money when buying a home, you make that deposit in dollars. We don't make a deposit in rubles or coffee beans, because that is not the means by which the rest of the payments will be received. God's deposit is the same way. His Spirit is given to show the world and us a glimpse of the future inheritance and to give people an inkling of the full inheritance that is to come.

When people see these glimpses as the church lives out its faith given to us by God's Spirit through discipleship, worship, hospitality, fellowship, and mission, they are given hope that the future will indeed be different than the way things are now. This is the mission of the church: to leave deposits of hope wherever we are and wherever we go. This call is both individual and communal. We are called to leave a deposit where we work, where we go to school, and in our families. But we are also called to work together to offer hope to the surrounding High Pointe neighborhood, to Cedar Hill, to North Texas, and perhaps even farther.

As I begin my new role as the Director of Youth and Ministry Development, the above is an outline of my thought process regarding our church and its ministry. I hope to highlight some of the ways that we are leaving deposits of hope through our church's ministry. One such example is on page 4 as our youth mission trip is featured in a local Arkansas newspaper.

The church is the community of the "called-out ones" who know, follow, and serve Jesus Christ in all that we do in order that we may offer hope to a broken, hurting, and sinful world. What exactly that will look like going forward as we develop new ministries, I am not sure. But I do know that we have been given a deposit of the inheritance to come through God's Holy Spirit who will continue to call us to unique ministries. May we together discern how we as a church can offer hope to each other and to our surrounding community. May we truly be **HOPE** Lutheran Church.

Matt Cleaver ~ Director of Youth and Ministry Development



(Continued from pg. 1)

Then (realizing if a is b, and b is c, then a is c) loving God is to will what “should be” to God. And what should be? What should be is God is God, and I am not. God is creator. I am creation. God is king. I am servant. All this leads us to what the scriptures say plainly, *“This is love that you keep (his) commandments.”*

All of this thinking does not make loving God easier. But it does make it clearer. And in this world of dull-fogginess and feeling-driven action clarity is no small thing.

So “will ‘good’ to others.” Make up your mind. Pray. Act. And see clearly. And continue to start the cycle over and over with confidence of grace. After all, “God loves us first.” You have a great God pulling for you!

Pastor Joel

More Deposits of Hope

Before you read this notice make sure you read Matt’s Musings in this Newsletter.

Several Deposits of Hope came to my attention just today. I thought I would send the links to you so can read them too.

First of all, you need to know our own Maggie Jones is in New Orleans this week as counselor for youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering. Way to go Maggie! Melanie said Maggie is loving it.

You may read a story about this gathering by going to www.nola.com/news/.../37000_lutherans_converging_on.html You can imagine Maggie in the midst of this article.

Secondly, Matt read a blog that described other youth heading toward New Orleans via a mission trip in Jackson, Miss. The blog quotes a paragraph from Wendy’s book because my niece who is a member of the youth group the blog comes from was reading Wendy’s book on route. Take a look.

<http://erikullestad.blogspot.com/2009/07/summer-trip-day-2.html>

Both of these stories are more stories of Hope members leaving Deposits of Hope.



We Are Down to the Wire

The sexuality process that has been underway since 2001 in the ELCA is coming to a vote (actually votes) this month, the 17th through the 23rd. Pray for all our voting members (including our own Matt Cleaver, who was elected by our Synod to be a voting member) that they would stand with the Word of God on these issues.

Pray for those speaking to the issue. Pray for peace and clarity for those speaking in keeping with the truth of scripture. Pray for nervousness and stammering words for those addressing the Assembly who do not stand with the Word of God.

May the Head of Church, Jesus Christ, have His way at the Churchwide Assembly. May His blessing reign: may His “goodness” prevail (that things may be as they “should be”.)

Pastor Joel

Texas Lutheran University

August 30th is Benevolence Sunday for Texas Lutheran University. It is a great honor to have Pastor Ann M. Svennungsen, President of Texas Lutheran University to preach on this Sunday. Let’s give President Ann a great welcome and let’s support our great University.



Missions begin at home

BY LYNN ATKINS Staff Writer lynna@nwanews.com

Posted on Wednesday, July 8, 2009 (http://www.recordtimes.com/rhtn/In_the_Spirit/5342/)

Some college friends get together years later to party, but some get together to serve. Not only did college friends Rusty Perkins, Noah Mitchell and Matt Cleaver choose to serve, they brought 55 young people from three different churches along to help.

"What better thing to do to than missions?" Perkins, the youth minister for Peace Lutheran Church, asked, explaining that he had planned to get together with his friends from John Brown University and needed an excuse. His church was the host for the mission trip that included youth from Pea Ridge Baptist Church, where Mitchell is the youth minister, and Hope Lutheran Church in Dallas where Cleaver serves.

Last year, two of the three churches did mission work together. Pea Ridge Baptist and Peace Lutheran combined their youth groups for the week.

When you're doing something like community service, denomination isn't very important, Perkins explained.

"We have so much in common," he said. Some of the members of the two youth groups know each other from school or other activities.

This year Cleaver brought his group for the first time, but he's not sure it will become a tradition.

"I want my kids to see we can do this in our own community," he explained.

One advantage of working in your own community is you can go back and see how your service has helped, Perkins said. Some of his youth returned to the Samaritan Center to volunteer after the group worked there last year.

But even without leaving town, they still have the experience of a mission trip.

"It's like band camp or a sports camp," Cleaver explained. "You focus on it intensely for a week and it makes you better for the rest of the year."

It's also a good bonding experience for each of the youth groups. Community is built when you're not focusing on it, Cleaver said.

The group had different projects every day to focus on. They spent one day helping clear trails at Hobbs State Park. Perkins said his group works at Hobbs every year.

Another day was spent helping Rebuilding Together make emergency repairs on a Rogers home. A member of the congregation put Perkins in touch with Rebuilding Together.

One day was spent clearing ice storm debris in the yard of a 93-year-old resident that a member of the church told them about and on another day they returned to the Samaritan Center.

For 15 year old Dakota Woodward, a member of the Pea Ridge group, spending a week working with his youth group is just as much fun as going to the lake or on vacation. He especially enjoys meeting new people.

Megan Johnson who came from the Dallas area with Cleaver's group said mission week always happens to be the hottest week of the year. They work from 9:30 until 5 with only a half hour for lunch.

But it doesn't seem that long, Matthew Williams of Peace Luther said. "It just blows by."

Williams was surprised to see the need in his own community.

After work, the group returned to the Peace Lutheran building on Bellview Road to eat and enjoy some down time. The local teens went home, but the Dallas group stayed in the church building. There's a television there, Johnson said, but they didn't have much time to watch it.

The theme of the week is "Shalom" which can be translated to mean "wholeness" or the process of making something whole, Cleaver said. The trio of youth ministers hope their groups have helped fix a few things so that the world became a little more whole for some area residents.

Or as Johnson said, "We want to leave little deposits of hope where we go."

August 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sunday School Day at Joe Pool Lake		Summer Feeding Program			Devo Night	Service Saturday
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Sunday School Youth Praise Team Practice		Summer Feeding Program				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Sunday School Confirmation Meeting		Summer Feeding Program			Lock-In & Talent Show	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Sunday School Youth Praise Team Practice	First Day of School					Youth Praise Team Practice
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
Youth-led worship Sexuality Class Parent Meeting			Wednesday Night Schedule Begins			

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

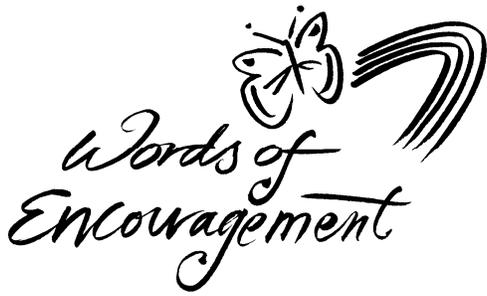
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- 1 ~ Saturday, 8 AM-2 PM—Service Saturday. We will go back over to Mike Purkiss' neighbor's house to finish the work we started last month. Pack a lunch.
- 2 ~ Sunday—Day at Joe Pool Lake. We will leave immediately after church. Details TBA.
- 7 ~ Friday, 6-9 PM—Dodgeball Devo. Come to the church and eat some food and play some dodgeball for this night's Devo.
- 9 ~ Sunday, 12-2 PM—Youth Praise Team Practice. Lunch Served.
- 16 ~ Sunday, 12-2 PM—Mandatory Confirmation Meeting. For all parents and their children who will be participating in Confirmation this year. Lunch Served.
- 21-22 ~ Friday-Saturday, 8 PM-8 AM—Lock In & Talent Show. Led by Steve Hawkins. Details TBA.
- 23 ~ Sunday, 12-2 PM—Youth Praise Team Practice. Lunch Served.
- 29 ~ Saturday, 10 AM-12 PM—Youth Praise Team Final Practice.
- 30 ~ Sunday, 12-2 PM—Sexuality Class Parents Meeting. Starting September 20 the youth will begin a Sunday school class on relationships and sex. This meeting will preview this class for parents, outline our topics, and allow parents to ask questions and review the curriculum. Lunch Served.
- Tuesdays, 11 AM-1PM—Summer Feeding Program. Every Tuesday we will volunteer at High Pointe Elementary as part of CHISD's summer feeding program. We will leave the church promptly at 11 AM and return at 1 PM. Anyone age 18 or older must have a background check & badge with CHISD. See Matt for details.
- Sundays, 9:15 AM—Sunday school (unless otherwise noted) for Jr. High and High school (combined during summer).

September:

- 2 ~ Wednesday—Fall Wednesday Night schedule begins. Times are being finalized.



Homebound Residents

Janet Dinwiddie
Park Manor ~ Rm. 405B
207 E. Parkerville Road
DeSoto, TX 75115-6251
972.223.6016

George & Jackie Milyo
2600 Parkview Lane #138
Bedford, TX 76002-7989

In the hospital ~
Clyde Newman ~ Lung Complication
Has been transferred to:
Select Specialty Hospital
800 Kirnwood Drive, Rm. 221
De Soto Texas 75115
972.780.6500

Our homebound members enjoy visits, calls and cards. Please take a few minutes out for those who can no longer get out and about.

**Game
Night
Is
August 15
(Join us for
Potluck Supper
and Cards).
6:00 pm**

These members appreciate your prayers and words of encouragement due to health challenges.

Marv & Fran Christensen
812 Vince Lane
DeSoto, TX 75115-4410
972.223.5172
marvinchristensen@att.net
FCintx@att.net

Norman Emmons ~ Recovering from Back Surgery
2210 Stafford Drive
Arlington, Texas 76012-4141
817.461.4540
n-emmons@sbcglobal.net

Hazel Linder
2718 Gibbs Williams Road
Dallas, TX 75233-3230
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Dick and Joanna Snow
21 Devon Court
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mjsnomom@aol.com



Coming

Mandatory Confirmation Parents Meeting

The fall Confirmation season is just around the corner! We would like to have a meeting Sunday, August 16 immediately following the 10:30 AM worship service for all of this year's Confirmation participants and their parents. We will preview this upcoming year, give out schedules, and answer questions. Lunch will be served.

Confirmation Meeting: Sunday, August 16, 12-2 PM.



Read and Discuss The Shack

The Shack Pastor Joel will lead a class during Sunday School hour on **The Shack** by **William P. Young** in September. He encourages those who want to read it and discuss it to purchase it now and read it ahead of time.

The Shack is a **novel about suffering and redemption**, told in a very creative way. *“At times it will seem very unorthodox to you,”* says Pastor Joel. *“But keep reading. It is very thought provoking and well worth the read.”*

You can order it on-line or purchase the book at a Christian Bookstores, or from a store like Barnes and Noble.

Stay tuned for more details.

Events

Pancake Breakfast

The youth have already started raising funds for their 2010 mission trip through regular pancake breakfasts. Please mark your calendar and enjoy breakfast at Church!



Next month's breakfast

Date: Sunday, September 3
Time: 9:15 am – 10:00 am

Suggested Donation: \$5.00/person

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

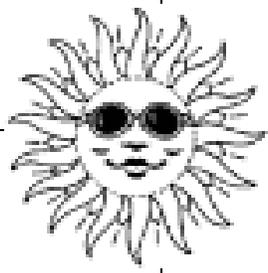
Thank you for supporting our youth!

Youth Relationships and Sexuality Class

Starting September 20 the youth will begin a Sunday school class on relationships and sex. We will have a meeting to preview this class for parents, outline our topics, and allow parents to ask questions and review the curriculum. Lunch will be served.

Parents Preview Meeting: Sunday, August 30, 12-2 PM.

August 2009 Calendar

						1
2		4	5	6	7	8
9		10	11 No Faith Circle	12	13	14
16	17	18 Council Meeting 7:00pm Heralds Dead- line	19	20	21	
23		25	26	27	28	
30 5th Sunday Missions Offer- ing	31					

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

Wednesday Schedule:
 6:30 pm Wednesday Evening Service (continues all summer)



August 2009 Notes of Interest

DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT INFORMATION!

The church Directory is currently in the process of being updated. From August 2nd through the 30th you will find the last printed copy of the Directory on the table in the Narthex.

Check and make sure your information is correct. If you have moved, changed your PO box, telephone number or email address, please notify the church office by placing all changes in the secretary's box, or email

Karine at hopesecretary@sbcglobal.net. The deadline for changes is August 30th.



**Summer
Worship
Schedule**

**Wednesday Evening
Summer
Worship**
Come Away and Rest

Wednesdays, 6:30—7:15 PM

Silent worship will be the format for the Wednesday evening worship through the summer. Come for silence, spiritual rest, and meditation. Listen for our Lord's personal and practical voice to you. Tips and guidance for listening will be provided. Holy Communion will be given at around 7 PM.

INVESTING IN THE KINGDOM:

Actual YTD Balance (Deficit): (\$15,991)

Budgeted YTD Deficit: (\$10,164)

Offerings minus Expenses...Overall Balance for operations: \$4,592 (6/30/09)

Watch The Bulletin

For Information

on August Let's Eat Out.

HERALDS NEWSLETTER ...

is now available! Pick up a copy on the table or download it from our website: www.hopelutheran.net Sign up to be notified by email when the latest edition of the Heralds is available. You will find a sign up slip of paper in your box. Place it in Karine Samer's mail box or email your request to her at hopesecretary@sbcglobal.net.

Newsletter Articles Deadline Date ...

is the **18th** of each month. Please email your articles as an **attachment** to: hopesecretary@sbcglobal.net



Hope Women's News

August Birthdays

Dwight Bengtson	8/02
Pete Hackney	8/03
Jake Tokle	8/03
Clint Trimble	8/03
Donna Hackney	8/04
John Moltz	8/04
Gordon Jones	8/06
Clyde Newman	8/06
Carol Newman	8/08
Paula Wooley	8/08
Michael Emmons	8/12
Lindsey Wessa	8/12
Matt Cleaver	8/15
Jill Heyerdahl	8/17
Janene Weir	8/18
Rodney Bland	8/19
Deborah Burleson	8/20
Olivia Clark	8/20
McKenna Giunta	8/20
Jim Nichols	8/20
Susan Rushing	8/20
Nathan Harr	8/22
Elise Heyerdahl	8/23
Marty Martinez	8/23
Karen Mitchell	8/23
Kelsey Armistead	8/30
Kalli DeWeerd	8/30
Thom Gibbons	8/30
Lauren Wessa	8/30
Philip Berthelsen	8/31
Ryker Bolduc	8/31



August Anniversaries

Scott & Kristine Clark	8/02
Mark & Beatrice Kilguss	8/04
Pete & Donna Hackney	8/05
Michael & Debbie Emmons	8/10
Rob & Lynn Halowec	8/14
Ashenafi Tekeste & Bitania Bereket	8/19
Doug & Jill Heyerdahl	8/20
Carl & Lynn Metzger	8/21
Dorsey & Jeanne Blue	8/24
Ron & Brandy Trygstad	8/30
Dwayne & Carolee Juergens	8/31

There will
be no
Faith Circle
in
August.
Join us
when

we resume
Tuesday,
September 8
at 7:30 pm.



*The Annual High Tea will be September 26, 2009
from 3:00 ~ 5:00 P.M. Please join us for a relaxing
afternoon of delectable food and
entertaining music.*



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

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

Adult Sunday School

- **Through August 30—*The Gift of the Blessing*** Taught by Candy Moltz
- **September 6—Youth Pancake Breakfast**
- **September 13—*Custom-Designed: A Life Worthy of the Call***. Pastor Wendy has just published her first book and will preview it during the Sunday School hour.
- **Panera Women's Book Study** will recess for the summer and resume on the first Sunday after Labor Day, September 13.

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. The Timothy Project will take a break for the summer. They will resume in September.
- **Women's Faith Circle**—meets the second Tuesday of the month, 7:30 pm at the church (on recess until September). Come for fellowship, devotions, and Bible study led by Carolee Jurgens. 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 Pastor Joel or Matt Cleaver.

Daily Devotionals and Study Resources

Available on the table in the church lobby. Take one!

- ***Christ in our Home***—Available quarterly, this devotional has daily Scripture readings, thoughts and prayers.
- ***The Wise Economy of Your Life: Balancing Time and Money***—This resource outlines scriptural principles for creating freedom and versatility as you “spend” your time and money.

*Building Hope
Together*



*Forever
Today
Yesterday*



Hope Lutheran Church

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www.hopelutheran.net

Return Service Requested

