

Heralds of Hope



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Christmas Memories

When I was a child my parents gave me money to buy presents.
Albion, Nebraska's courthouse was donned in lights
Thick handwritten white letters gave season's greetings on storefront windows
Bells on the doors would jingle as I entered the store with money in pocket,
The Hobby Shop was my favorite,
Its wooden floor seemed to be alive with speech as it creaked under my feet
I would walk around the stores and look, keeping my brothers and sisters and parents in mind
I often kept myself in mind more, dreaming that I might get that new fishing reel or...
After two or three visits to the square I would complete my mission

My parents gave limits as to how early we could come down stairs on Christmas morning
Not too much after the limit we would roust our parents and arrive downstairs by the tree
The stockings were pinned to the sofa-back. We started there
We then opened presents, ripping the paper off, little admiring of its beauty
Having received all, and feeling joyful over our gifts, my parents then opened their presents
They always seemed to genuinely enjoy the gifts we bought them,
The ones we had bought with THEIR money.
They were still genuinely pleased

The gift was more than the money spent. It was an expression of the heart
And they appreciated it

Know this,
"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it," so we know all we have comes from him
Nevertheless, like our parents (or should I say our parents are like him)
Like our parents, God loves it when we give him our gifts
He loves the feeling we have toward him. The *author of our faith* loves it when we express that
faith to him

The *source of our love* loves it when we give him our love
The *one in whom we live and move and have our being* loves it when we give ourselves
So give. Give joyfully.
Give him your very heart.
Christmas shows us he gave all for you.

Pastor Joel

Looking

Advent Adult Sunday School Class

Three Christmas Prayers

This advent the adult class will look at three Christmas prayers.

1. November 29th we are looking at **Zacharia's prayer**. Luke 1:67-79
2. December 6th we will look at **Mary's prayer**. (*The Magnificat*) Luke 1:46-55
3. December 13th we will look at **Simeon's prayer**. (Nuc Dominus) Luke 2:29-32

Come and enter into the Spirit of the prayer.



Pancake Breakfast



The youth are raising funds for their 2010 mission trip through regular pancake breakfasts. Breakfast menu will consist of pancakes, sausage, juice, and coffee. Please mark your calendar and enjoy breakfast at Church! Thank you for supporting our youth!

This month's pancake breakfast will also serve as a going away party for Zach Poulter, as this will be his last day with us.

This month's breakfast

Date: Sunday, December 20
Time: 9:15 am – 10:00 am
Suggested Donation: \$5.00/person



Ahead

Faith & Love Measurement Tools

You can find the Faith and Love measurement tools on our website at www.hopelutheran.net. Soon to be added will be a third tool called a Fruitfulness Measurement tool.

If you haven't been to the site recently check it out. There are a number of new items worth reading.

Pastor Joel

Zach Poulter's Last Sunday—December 20

It's hard to believe, but Zach Poulter's youth ministry Internship is almost over. **Please join us on Sunday, December 20 at 9:15 AM for a pancake breakfast and going away party for Zach.**

Since coming to Hope on May 26, Zach has grown and matured during his time of service here. He helped us to make the necessary changes within our staff as Pastor Wendy made the decision to devote her time to the ministry of Call Inc. We have also had the privilege of training another leader for service in the church, helping Zach to discern his unique call to know, follow, and serve Jesus Christ. While he may no longer be at Hope Lutheran Church, we know that he will continue to use the lessons he learned here in service to God's church and world. I hope you will wish him all the best and keep him in your prayers as he goes back to Arkansas to complete his final semester at John Brown University.

- Matt Cleaver

Our Mission Statement: To discover and respond to our call

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

Use Your Gifts

Yellow sheets were placed in your church mailbox in November if you would like to volunteer to serve in any of the listed capacities, mostly relating to Sunday morning worship (greeters, ushers, altar guild, etc.). We will be updating our scheduling for these various tasks for 2010. Sign up only if there are changes or you have never signed up before. If you would like to continue serving in your current role, you do not need to indicate anything on these sheets. Let us know how you would like to serve at Hope Lutheran Church.



Hear Thoughts / Share Information Three Sessions Offered in January

Lease Possibility

January 3rd, during the Sunday School hour, we will sit down around the tables in the Fellowship Hall to hear information and share thoughts and feelings about the possible leasing of our Church.

Rev. Edsel Dureus met with our Congregation on November 15th to share about his church, Thanksgiving Tabernacle. The approximately 50 average attending congregation presently meets at Lake Ridge Elementary School. Cedar Hill has raised their rates by 3x. They are seeking a more affordable situation.

The council was highly impressed with Rev. Dureus' presentation and poise as he fielded questions. From the responses the council thought we should pursue sensing the pulse of the congregation by completing a lease document that would give specific information about the possible arrangement so members could look it over in detail.

Council then charted a course of information giving and hearing at three sessions. The first, as stated above, is set for January 3rd during the Sunday School hour. The other two will be on two different evenings, the dates and times yet to be set.

The lease document will be made available in a variety of ways, website, email, and hard copy. We ask that those who can take it electronically to do so. It saves on paper.

Feel free to share your thoughts and feelings with council members, including pastor.

Pastor Joel

Custom Designed Seminar January 22-23, 2010

Friday evening (6-9:30 PM... Beginning
with Dinner)

Saturday (9AM-4 PM)

Discover, discern and "incorporate" God's unique call into all aspects of your life. Guidance and wisdom will be presented for understanding your unique individuality, recognizing God's guiding hand, and even grappling with two of life's more practical, yet significant questions: Who am I? What am I to do? You (everyone!) are custom designed and custom called for a custom designed life! High school youth and adults are invited, especially those in transition! The seminar will be fun, energetic and comfortable. The presenters will be Pastor Wendy and Steve Harr. Cost: \$35 (includes all materials and meals). Co-sponsored by Hope Lutheran Church and the non-profit teaching mission, *Call Incorporated* (www.callinc.org). Questions, RSVP or pre-register with Pastor Wendy (972-723-9688).



Coming

Events

Choir News

On Sunday, December 13,
we will be presenting a
Christmas Cantata and Play called
CELEBRATE HIS BIRTH

We will be practicing the music on
Wednesday evenings in
December 7:30-8:30 pm



and the music and play on
Sunday, Sunday December 6th
After the late service
(lunch will be served!)



If you are interested in singing in the choir, but
are not able to give a full year commitment
This is the perfect time for you to come and sing.

We need help in other areas, too!!!
Set construction (nothing fancy!!)
Costume cleaning and pressing
Lighting

Questions???
Contact :
Cathy Peterson
Steve Hawkins
Judy Knoll

Mutual Ministry Committee & Staff Review Teams 2009-2010

Our church Constitution requires six people on the Mutual Ministry Committee to be appointed by the pastor and the Council (C13.03.01). The six persons on the Committee are underlined in the lists below. Additionally, they are supported by the others listed below to assist in conducting the annual staff reviews. Each review team will be seeking feedback from the congregation regarding their assigned staff person.

Pastor Joel Berthelsen Review Team

1. Carolee Juergens
2. Mark Driscoll
3. Wayne Wooley

Matt Cleaver Review Team

1. Margaret Bengtson
2. Scott Rushbrook
3. Pastor Joel
4. Eddie Jarrett

Karine Samer Review Team

1. Valerie Peterson
2. Pastor Joel
3. Barbara York

Music Ministries Review Team

1. Carl Metzger
2. Pastor Joel
3. Candy Moltz

While each team will try to gain feedback from a large cross-section of the congregation, they will likely not be able to contact everyone. If you would like to offer feedback on any of the staff, feel free to contact any of the members of that particular review team.



**Game
Night
Is
December 31
7:00 pm
(Join us for
A New Years
Celebration!**





Time for

Christmas Poinsettias!

Be sure to sign up for
your Christmas Poinsettias
in the Narthex. By buying a
vibrant red poinsettia plant, you'll be
able to help in the colorful decorating of our
Sanctuary with the poinsettias thru the Christmas
Eve Service. Afterwards, take it home to beautify
your own Home. Order now to reserve your poinsettia.
Please make you check out to *Hope Lutheran Church*
And mark it *POINSETTIA* in the memo. Drop it in
Karine Samer's box or the offering plate by

December 13th

Altar Guild

Thanks YOU!

Be sure to sign up



Last Letter from the Intern

It seems like I just began my internship, but it is almost time for me to depart from Hope Lutheran Church. Since I've been here I have had numerous experiences, lessons, and opportunities within youth ministry. A few of the most memorable experiences include: watching the youth whole heartedly help others while leaving deposits of hope, teaching some of them how to drive a car with a manual transmission, and discovering the difference in seasons of youth ministry. Among the many lessons I have learned the main thing I have been taught is the importance of developing lessons that foster discussion and interaction with the youth. Also, the Church has given me many opportunities, but I most cherish being able to build relationships with both teens and adults. To be honest youth ministry is a lot like welding. A person can read all about welding, but once they attempt it they discover welding is nothing like reading a book. Similarly I have been taking classes and preparing for the field of youth ministry for three years now, but without the experience of this internship I know I wouldn't have been fully prepared for my future career. The ministry of this Church involves helping individuals find their calling and by having an intern the Church is doing that. Hope is blessed to have Matt Cleaver an intelligent, ministry minded youth minister, that has shown me more than I can ever explain. I want to personally thank Matt, Alicia, Joel, Wendy, Steve and Kathy Harr, the congregation, and especially the youth for the chance to be a part of your church and lives. Also a special thanks to the parents of the youth for being so open and trusting of their intern. December 20, I will be heading back to Arkansas to finish the spring semester at JBU and graduate with a degree in Youth Ministry. Once again thank you so much!

In Love and Peace,

Zach Poulter



Pastor Wendy's Book Custom Designed *Life Worthy of the Call*

Great gifts for the person in transition... high school, college, mid-life restlessness, life changing events, pre-retirees and post-retirees. Whether you are young or old, God will forever be calling you! In her absence on Sun AM, copies may be obtained from Carolee Juergens or Tammy Hill for \$14 (includes sales tax). Discover, discern and "incorporate" God's unique call into all aspects of your life. Scriptural guidance and wisdom is offered for understanding your unique individuality, recognizing God's guiding hand, and even grappling with two of life's more practical, yet significant questions: *Who am I? What am I to do?* The book was released nationally on Sept. 1 (Amazon, etc). Proceeds from the book will support the non-profit teaching mission, *Call Incorporated*.

Memorials

In Memory of Hazel Linder



Duane & Marceline Aberg
James & Jill Emery - Designed Altar Guild
Mark & Karen Driscoll
Bob & Nina Griggs - Designed Altar Guild
Steve & Kathy Harr
Hope Circle -
Carol Newman - Designed Altar Guild
Grover & Lillian Radke - Designed Altar Guild
Debra & Scott Rushbrook
Clay & Barbara York - Designed Altar Guild

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 ~
No one

Recovering at home ~

Herb Fechner
829 Middle Run Court
Duncanville, TX 75137-2026
972.709.7581

Susan Rushing ~ surgery
832 Hickory Knob Circle
Cedar Hill, TX 75104-7804
972.291.1760
smzrushing@aol.com

David Still ~ accident
2445 Waterstone Drive
Cedar Hill, Texas 75104-2402
972.293.8016
dvdstill@sbcglobal.net

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



Our love and prayers goes to LeRoy Linder and his family as their dear Hazel went home to be with her Lord on November 7, 2009.

Also so remember:

Barbara Hawkins for the lose of her brother,
Nancy Yedlowski for the lose of her mother.

Words of Encouragement

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

Dick and Joanna Snow
21 Devon Court
Mansfield, TX 76063-4890
mjsnomom@aol.com



Straus Road Closed

Straus Road is closed at FM 1382, which will affect some of your normal routes to the church. **The City of Cedar Hill has told us it will be closed through December.** Below the alternate route that you will need to take to get to the church. For a map, go to www.hopelutheran.net/about/location.

1. From FM 1382, turn north at the North Clark Road stoplight (which is west of the Straus & 1382 intersection on 1382).
2. Turn right at Old Straus Rd. There is no stop light or stop sign at this intersection. Follow Old Straus Rd directly to the church.

December 2009 Calendar

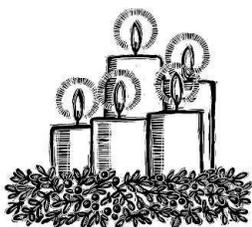
		1	2	3	4	5 
6 Christmas Cantata/Play Rehearsal w/ lunch 12noon  CANTATA 8 & 10:30 am	7	8 No Faith Circle	9	10	11	12 Ladies Christmas Brunch 11 am
	14	15	16	17	18	19 No Game Night
20 No SS Pancake Breakfast 9:15am 		22	23 No Wednesday night Activates	24 Candle light Services 6:30 & 11 pm 	25  Church Office Closed	26
27 No SS	28	29	30 No Wednesday night Activates	31 New Years Eve Game Night 7 pm	 New Year's Day	
Church Office Closed January 4						

Wednesday Night schedule ~ December 2-16

Sunday Schedule:

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

5:45 PM – Pizza (\$3/person)
6:00-7:15 – Confirmation (7-8th grade)
6:15-7:00 – Silent Worship
6:30-7:30 – Chimes choir practice (all ages)
7:15-8:30 – Timothy Project
7:30-8:30 – Reconfirmed (high school)
6:15-7:15 – Adult Praise Team
7:30-8:30 – Mixed Adult Group (Choir)



Hope Women's News



LADIES CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

The annual Christmas Brunch for the ladies of Hope will be on Saturday, December 12 from 11 AM until 1PM at Cresthaven Village Center, behind Hillcrest Baptist Church. A map and entry code will be provided. The brunch will be catered by Judy Knoll, and women may bring finger desserts. Entertainment will be provided and there will be a silent auction. If you plan to attend, please sign up in the narthex.



December Anniversaries

Kobey & Stephanie Juergens	12/04
Sam & Marcia Drane	12/10
John & Candy Moltz	12/16
Victor & Sara Gaultney	12/22
Jim Nichols	12/27
John & Kelly Johnson	12/28

December Birthdays

Erin Slayton	12/01
Kathy Purkiss	12/02
Rachel Yedlowski	12/06
Alicia Cleaver	12/08
Ed Longstreet	12/08
Heidi Moltz	12/13
Richard Grace	12/21
Mark Pfohl	12/14
Angie Sparr	12/27
Janet Dinwiddie	12/27
Barbara Hawking	12/27
Diane Nickel	12/28



**The Next
Faith Circle
will be
Tuesday,
January 12th
at 7:30 pm.
Come
and
join us.**

**Newsletter Articles Deadline ...
for the next 2 months. The dates are:**

December 14

January 13

Please email your articles as
an **attachment** to:

hopesecretary@sbcglobal.net



Dear Members of Hope,

Thank you so much for the innumerable meals brought to our home and served at the church in memory of Hazel. She was touched and so are we by your thoughtfulness and prayers in our time of loss. God Bless you.

The LeRoy Linder Family

INVESTING IN THE KINGDOM:

Actual YTD Balance (Deficit): (13,182)

Budgeted YTD Deficit: (\$4,294)

Offerings minus Expenses...Overall Balance

for operations: \$7,752 (10/31/09)

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sunday School Christmas Program Practice Inner Mission			Wednesday Schedule			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Christmas Program			Wednesday Schedule			
Sunday School			Wednesday Schedule			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Pancake Breakfast & Zach's Party			No Wednesday Activities			
Christmas Party			30	31		
27	28	29				
No Sunday School			No Wednesday Activities			

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

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- 2, 9 & 16 ~Wednesdays, 5:45-8:30 PM—Wednesday Night Schedule:
 - ◊ 5:45 PM—Pizza Dinner (\$3/person)
 - ◊ 6:00-7:15—Confirmation (7-8th Grade)
 - ◊ 6:30-7:30—Chimes Choir Practice
 - ◊ 7:30-8:30—Reconfirmed (High School)
 - 6 & 13 ~ Sundays, 9:00 AM—Good Sex Sunday School. Our last two Sunday school meetings of the year will wrap up the loose ends from this semester's study. Don't miss it!
 - 6 ~ Sunday, 12 PM—Christmas Program Rehearsal. Those involved in our Christmas program will have a final rehearsal this afternoon.
 - 6 ~ Sunday, 6-8 PM—Inner Mission at the Bengtson's house. This semester we will use Inner Mission to develop spiritual formation groups around the practice of prayer.
 - 13 ~ Sunday, 8 & 10:30 AM—Christmas Program. A Christmas program will be performed during both worship services this morning.
 - 20 ~ Sunday, 9:15 AM—Pancake Breakfast & Going Away Party for Zach Poultter. Come eat some pancakes, support our summer mission trip, and say goodbye to Zach Poultter this morning. Youth need to be here at 8 AM to cook.
 - 20 ~ Sunday, 6-9 PM—Annual Youth Group & Alumni Christmas Party. All past and current youth group members are invited to our annual Christmas party. Hosted at the Heyerdahl's house.
- Coming Up:
- Wednesday, January 6—Wednesday night schedule resumes.
 - Sunday, January 10—Sunday School resumes.

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 will meet December 6 and then recess until January. Led by Janice Wessa, this semester's book for study is Pastor Wendy's new book, *Custom-Designed: A Life Worthy of the Call*. All women are welcome.
- Sunday, December 6—Christmas prayers: Mary's Prayer in Luke 1:46-55 (The Magnificat).
- Sunday, December 13—Christmas prayers: Simeon's prayer in Luke 2:29-32 (Nuc Dominus).
- December 20—Pancake breakfast and going away party for Zach Poulter. Come support our youth mission fund and say goodbye to our youth ministry intern this morning.
- No Sunday School classes on December 20 or 27.

Other Spiritual Growth Opportunities

- **Timothy Project Bible Study**, Wednesday evenings, 7:15-8:30 PM. Taught by Pastor Wendy. Over a three year period of time, you will:
 - You will read through the entire Bible and study portions as you go.
 - Learn to hear God personally speak to you through his living, active word. Incredible!
 - Learn various spiritual disciplines so that you may know Jesus as a profound friend
 - Learn to pray
 - Learn to study the Bible in a faithful in-depth manner

No Bible knowledge or experience needed. Participate as you desire. We will study the early part of the Old Testament this year as well as parts of the New Testament. Newcomers welcome!

- **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 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*



*Hope
Lutheran
Church*

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

Return Service Requested



Hope Lutheran's Christmas Season Schedule

Christmas Cantata & Play

December 13, at the

8 & 10:30 am

Services

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

6:30 & 11 PM

New Year's Eve Game Night

7:00 pm