

# Heralds of Hope



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## How Can We Ignore You, Oh Word?

How you are different than me  
Your mother was a virgin  
Your father was God

But even more than that  
You *had to decide to be born*

Me? I had nothing to do with my birth.  
I was not aware until I had developed enough in the womb to be aware  
Things like my mother's heartbeat...  
and her emotions...

and then even my father's muffled voice speaking from outside-in,  
through placental waters

Then I was thrust out into a world that would fill up my senses

But you? You were not just *aware* before you grew, cell division after cell division  
until a budding form  
that formed and formed until by that miracle of birth, you came

You were not just *aware*...  
you *created* that stuff that you were coming to  
The sun's rays that you would feel on your face

You created

The green pastures that shepherds would *keep watch over sheep by night* in

You created

The glow of luster of gold

The smell of frankincense and myrrh, given as a gift to you

You created

All that *is*  
*Without you was nothing made*  
Still you came!

You and your Father, and the Holy Spirit  
The three of you planned that brilliant day  
From time immortal you planned it

Our Mission Statement: To discover and respond to our call

**TO KNOW JESUS TO FOLLOW JESUS TO SERVE JESUS**

in unique ministries.

The *Word* from heaven spoke through the prophets  
Centuries passed... the plan unfurled  
It developed until the *fullness of time was fulfilled*

But you had to consent to come  
You had to agree to cast off all that *all-ness*  
And laying down that *all* you came...  
Only as you truly were at heart  
A loving personality full of grace and truth  
A creative wit that would spin short stories that libraries would be written about



You, oh *Word*, would speak words that would challenge us and bring us to life  
You, oh *Word*, as infant only cooing... one day would say,

*“There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his Father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’  
So he divided his property between them...”*

And at the end of what would later become one page of words... with *Prodigal* title  
Those words came so powerfully that the lost would be found  
Brothers might be brought together, though having been separated for years  
And a son would be brought to life again

Such is your power, oh *Word* become a child,  
then a boy,  
then a young man,  
then a man, whose life would be cut short at thirty-three

But your voice, oh *Word*, would be heard again!  
Words would come out of the mouth of a body raised from the dead!

Oh *Word made flesh*... you did so much to come and *speak* by your actions  
And *speak* with your lips

So how can we ignore you?  
How can we incessantly fill our ears with dribble that has no lasting meaning?  
Words that we keep running on our TV sets and I-pods...  
so we don't have to deal with the silence in the house or our *soul's emptiness*  
Yes, how can we ignore you when you did so much to come to us?

So now we will not miss it... we will speak it out-loud...

*I receive you even now  
I will not ignore you  
Speak, oh Word  
Come to me  
Raise me from the dead.... Bring me back to my brother and sister*

Speak to our heart, Oh *Word*  
And we will live!

# Looking Ahead

## Lease Information Meetings

*(Jan 03, Jan 05, Jan 07)*

**Three meetings are planned** to *share information and hear thoughts* about the lease opportunity with *Thanksgiving Tabernacle Bible Fellowship*.

Detail about this lease possibility can be found online at our web site. Those who want a paper copy may request it from Pastor Joel.

January 3rd, during the Sunday School hour will be our first meeting. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

The Second meeting will be January 5th at 7:30 PM, in the Fellowship Hall.

The Third meeting will be January 7th at 7:30 PM, in the Fellowship Hall.

It is hoped that these three meetings will provide a time for all to learn and share thoughts about this possibility.

### **Time Change Considerations:**

Thanksgiving Tabernacle would be changing their time by an hour later in order to come to Hope.

A time change for Hope would need to happen as well.

Two possibilities:

8:00 AM Worship	
9:15 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School	10:00 AM Th. Tb. Sunday School
10:15 AM Worship	11:30 AM Th. Tb. Worship

or

or

8:00 AM Worship	
9:00 (9:05) - 9:50 AM Sunday School	10:00 AM Th. Tb. Sunday School
10:00 AM Worship	11:30 AM Th. Tb. Worship

The Council thinks the second is the most realistic and doable. Also, the second scenario has some real positives: A clean 8/9/10 start time is nice. Secondly, it has the benefit of getting home earlier on Sunday. **What are your thoughts regarding these two scenarios?**

Pastor Joel

*God  
Answers  
Prayers*

**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](http://www.callinc.org)). Questions, RSVP or pre-register with Pastor Wendy (972-723-9688).

**Mark your calendar! NEXT Custom De-  
signed “Call” SEMINAR... January 22-23**

Through life’s many **TRANSITIONS**, specifically **KNOWING your Call** from God will help you to know, follow and serve Jesus in a fuller way, integrate together... family, work, church, & community, receive practical guidance from God, navigate life’s many transitions, transform our world by participating in God’s great plans, experience God’s presence more powerfully, live with greater purpose, fit faith into all of life, discover your unique potential, use your spiritual gifts, be empowered more fully by the Spirit, spend your time & money wisely, build meaningful relationships, gain confidence, and **most important, live a life worthy of Christ and his call!**

Pastor Wendy’s book, *Custom Designed A Life Worthy of the Call*, is available from Carolee Juergens and Tammy Hill... \$14 (includes tax). **Great Gift... for someone in transition**

**Bishop Kanouse Coming January 31**

Services and Forum

**Bishop Kanouse will be at Hope** January 31st. He will be sharing about the Synod’s role in Sierra Leone at the *8:00 AM and 10:30 AM services*.

We will take a second Mission Offering at those services, as is our 5th Sunday tradition. The Mission Offering will go for the Synod’s work in Sierra Leone.

Also, Bishop Kanouse will share at a *9:15 AM forum about the ELCA’s recent changes regarding Sexuality Policy* in the ELCA in light of the August 09 Church-wide Assembly.

Share God’s  
Word





## 5th Sunday Missions Offering

### Fifth Sunday Offering in January: Sierra Leone

This month, our fifth Sunday offering will go to benefit the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone (one of our members, Elizabeth Bockarie, is from Sierra Leone). Since 1988, the ELCSL has been the companion synod of the NTNL, and over the years we have supported them in many ways. Here are some of the things that are happening in Sierra Leone through the ministry of our synod and how your fifth Sunday offering will go to support the ministry in that country:

1. After years of civil war, in January of 2002 the war was declared officially over. In a stunning example of Micah's prophecy some true bonfires were held in four areas of the country and guns were burned, melted down, and remade into farming implements. Thousands of amputees, victims of the rebel terrorism, who need training and rehabilitation, were being cared for by many centers throughout the country including some sponsored by the ELCSL and supported by the NT-NL Synod. Trauma counseling began in earnest, weekly meals were served and worship provided in the camps, in private homes or community facilities. At best, it was a "makeshift" situation, so the church recognized a need to establish a permanent and visible presence in Sierra Leone for the ELCSL. Thus the idea of the **Jubilee Lutheran Centre** was born. On land donated by the government on the capitol hill in Freetown, a site was established for the construction of the Jubilee Centre, a permanent worship space for more than 1,000, a place for a school, a clinic, community outreach programs, and care for those in need. In February 2002, Bishop Kevin Kanouse led a delegation of NT-NL members for the ground-breaking service for the Jubilee Centre with a commitment from the NT-NL Synod to provide \$ 150,000 in funds for the Centre. Realizing the cost would be about a half million dollars in total, this was enough to get the Centre started. With excitement they saw the progress being made in the construction of the **Jubilee Lutheran Centre**.
2. In 2009 a Medical Mission trip was undertaken as 9 doctors, clergy and other lay leaders accompanied Bishop Kanouse to Sierra Leone for the opening of the long-dreamed-of **Medical Clinic**. It is anticipated that this effort to begin a medical mission in the ELCSL will meet a significant need for free or very low cost medical care in the villages of Sierra Leone. Starting in one location in Calaba Town, a suburb of Sierra Leone, it is hoped that a web of clinics may open around the country as a result of our efforts.
3. In 2009 the group observed the ongoing construction of the Jubilee Centre now nearly under roof. We brought with us **Pastor Kate Warn** who is being supported for two years as our Pastor-in-Residence in Sierra Leone.
4. We reviewed efforts to support **education** for some youth from Sierra Leone in the United States and we began to dream of the dedication of the Jubilee Centre.
5. We have helped **build schools** in Sierra Leone and we are currently helping with a project to provide wells in 10 communities where **fresh water** is desperately needed.

Your special offering on January 31st will go to further the above good work that is being done in the name of Jesus Christ by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this work. Please keep this country and this branch of the Body of Christ in your prayers throughout the year.



**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*

**Adult Sunday School**

Reading The Divine Conspiracy  
By Dallas Willard

"The Divine Conspiracy is in the top 20 of the best books I have ever read," says Pastor Joel. "Ever since I read the book I have wanted to do a class on it. The time never fit. Now it does."

This is a book and class you will want to read and come to. Starting January 10 we will cover the 10 chapters all the way out to the end of March.

You may get the book at Barnes and Noble, or order it from Barnes and Nobel or Amazon.com. It is written by Dallas Willard, "one of my favorite authors," Pastor Joel adds.

The book covers Matthew 5-7 as Jesus' agenda for our lives, and the whole world. You will be glad you came!

Pastor Joel

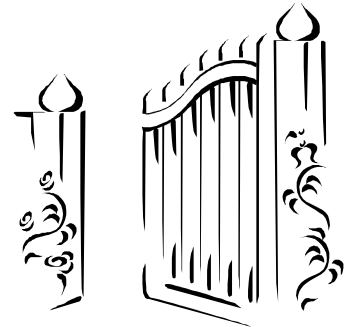
**Memorials**

In Memory of Hazel Linder

- Ronald and Janet Appleby- Designated Altar Guild
- Richard and Joy Birk- Designated Altar Guild
- Ronald and Alberta Birk- Designated Altar Guild
- Allan Daniels and Terry Blevins Designated Altar Guild
- James and Barbara Echkert -Designated Altar Guild
- Mr. & Mrs. Lyman Green -Designated Altar Guild
- Mr. & Mrs. O. T. Greer -Designated Altar Guild
- Marcel and Charlotte Gres-Designated Altar Guild
- Mel and Hattie Hammer
- Gene & Rose Janke-Designated Altar Guild
- Paul and Janice Koska-Designated Altar Guild
- Joe and Brenda Kyle-Designated Altar Guild
- Ed and Kathy Longstreet Library Book "Tear Soup"
- Parker County Baptist Association -Designated Altar Guild
- Valerie Peterson
- Loyd and Kathryn Richey
- Melvin and Helen Rose -Designated Altar Guild
- Archie and Opal Tergerson, Bob and Kay Tergerson and Tammy Muckleroy

In Memory of Clyde Newman

Loyd and Kathryn Richey



## *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 ~**

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

**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

## *Words of Encouragement*



### **Bob Brooks and Bill Ahlman**

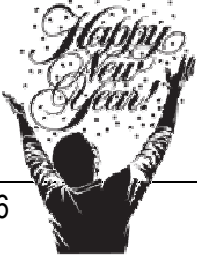

Some of asked for Bill Ahlman's and Bob Brooks' addresses to send them a Christmas Card. Great idea! Bob's address is:

9632 Vista Oaks Drive  
Dallas, Texas 75243-7631

Bill's address is:

800 Daphia Circle, Apt. 353  
Newport News, Virginia 23601-4251

# January 2010 Calendar

					1	2
					Church Office Closed January 4 →	
3 Lease Information Gathering 9:15 am →	4	5 Lease Information Gathering 7:30 pm	6	7 Lease Information Gathering 7:30 pm	8	9
10 All Sunday School Resumes 9:10 am	11	12 Faith Circle 7:30 pm	13	14	15	16 Game Night 6:00 on
17	18	19 Congregational Meeting Reports Due Council Meeting 7:00 pm	20	21	← Custom Design Call Event →	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting 11:45 am						

## Sunday Schedule:

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

## Wednesday Night schedule ~

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



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

## January Anniversaries

Craig & Karen Mitchell 01/04  
Paul & Jan Koska 01/22

## January Birthdays

Adreana Lidle-Shead 01/01  
Janet Savins 01/01  
Nancy Yedlowski 01/02  
Marian Black 01/05  
Brenda Kyle 01/05  
Carole Slaten 01/07  
Barbara York 01/07  
George Nelson 01/09  
C.J. Jarrett 01/10  
Doug Heyerdahl 01/11  
Kathy Still 01/11  
Alley Vail 01/11  
Kathy Harr 01/12  
Cathy Peterson 01/12  
Sophie Petrichenko 01/14  
Blake Standerfer 01/14  
Katelyn Johnson 01/15  
Bonnie Navarro 01/15  
Ashley Cox 01/21  
Candy Moltz 01/21  
Jacob Kalsnes 01/22  
Steve Kenyon 01/22  
Brenda Kenyon 01/23  
Bob Weir 01/24  
Leah Fain 01/26  
Janice Koska 01/27  
Keith Pleasants 01/26  
Kyle Pleasants 01/29

### INVESTING IN THE KINGDOM:

**Actual YTD Balance (Deficit): (\$8,679)**

Budgeted YTD Deficit: (\$50)

*Offerings minus Expenses...Overall Balance*

*for operations: \$14,617 (11/30/09)*

Game  
Night  
Is  
January 16  
6:00 pm  
(Join us for  
A Evening  
Of Fun!)



### Newsletter Articles Dead- line ...

**For next month is:  
January 13**

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



# January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Wednesday Schedule	7	8	9
No Sunday School						
Matt in Minnesota for seminary class						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Sunday School			Wednesday Schedule			
Youth Praise Team Practice	Matt in Minnesota for seminary class					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Sunday School			Wednesday Schedule			Youth Night Out: Dodgeball
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Inner Mission			Wednesday Schedule			Youth Praise Team Practice
Sunday School						
31						
Sunday School						
Youth-led worship						

- January 3-15 ~ Matt will be in Minnesota for seminary classes. The best way to reach me will be email.
  - Beginning January 6 ~ 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)
  - Beginning January 10 ~ Sundays, 9:15 AM—Sunday school.
    - ◊ High School—Old School. We will be studying a book from the Old Testament.
    - ◊ Jr. High—Faith Lens. Discussions about topics relevant to everyday life.
  - 10 ~ Sunday, 12-2 PM—Youth Praise Team Practice. Lunch Served.
  - 17 ~ Sunday, 6-8 PM—Inner Mission at the Bengtson’s house. Come for food, fellowship, and spiritual growth. Topic TBA.
  - 23 ~ Saturday, 6-9 PM—Youth Night Out: Dodgeball. Snacks and drinks will be served.
  - 24 ~ Sunday, 12-2 PM—Youth Praise Team Practice. Lunch Served.
  - 30 ~ Saturday, 10 AM-12 PM—Youth Praise Team Final Practice.
  - 31 ~ Sunday, 8:00 & 10:30 AM—Youth-led worship.
- Coming in February:
- Soul Emergence—A unique worship experience that gives your soul space to connect with God.

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

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o: 972-291-7902  
c: 972-754-7353

Matt Cleaver

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

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

### **Adult Sunday School**

- January 3—Forum on Lease opportunity. Come discuss your thoughts and feelings about this with other members of the church. This will not be a repeat of the previous meeting we had, but is the next step in our discernment process. Other opportunities will be available January 5 & 7.
- January 10-24—*The Divine Conspiracy*. Led by Pastor Joel, this class will read and discuss this groundbreaking book by author Dallas Willard. The class will continue through March.
- January 10-24—Panera Women's Book Study will continue to discuss Pastor Wendy's new book, *Custom-Designed: A Life Worthy of the Call*. All women are welcome. This group meets at the Panera Bread Restaurant at Highway 67 and Pleasant Run in the Target shopping center.
- January 31—Forum with Bishop Kevin Kanouse. Bishop Kanouse will be preaching on this morning and will also conduct a forum on the most recent events and developments relating to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly actions last August.

### **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*

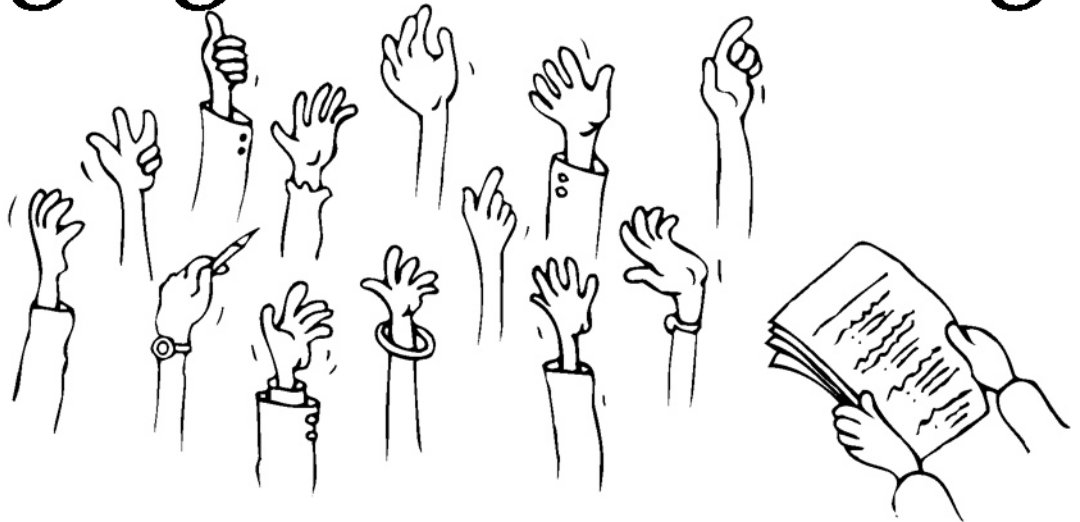


*Hope  
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Church*

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[www.hopelutheran.net](http://www.hopelutheran.net)

**Return Service Requested**

# Semi-annual Congregational Meeting



**January 31, 2010**

**After the 10:30 am service**