

Heralds of Hope



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Church
972.291.7902
Fax 972.291.9003

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

Director of Music
Ministries
Open

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

Organist
Sanctuary Choir
Accompanist
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
Candy Moltz - 972-723-
2932

Secretary
Kristine Clark
972.274.4616

Members at Large
Carrie Hamilton -
972.937.5272
Gene Janke - 972.291.8324
Bryan Pender -
972.775.1065
Debbie Rushbrook -
972.572.0835
Barbara York -
972.298.7115
Appointees

Treasurer
Kathy Still - 972.293.8016
Financial Secretary
Mark Driscoll -
972.742.4605

Enrich Your Lenten Journey *A Place to Go to Ponder Your Spiritual Life*

Take a look at www.renovare.org for help in developing your spiritual life. You will find teaching and resources to help you. Included on the site is a suggested open-ended process of spiritual formation. You can work at your own pace and with your own particular considerations in mind.

Below is one excerpt from the site. It will give you a taste... and hopefully also wet your appetite to investigate.

What is Spiritual Formation?

spir•i•tu•al (spīr'ī-chōō-□l) *adj.*: Of, relating to, consisting of, or having the nature of spirit; not tangible or material.

We are all spiritual beings. We have physical bodies, but our lives are largely driven by an unseen part of us. There is an immaterial center in us that shapes the way we see the world and ourselves, directs the choices we make, and guides our actions. Our spirit is the most important part of who we are. And yet we rarely spend time developing our inner life. That's what spiritual formation is all about.

Spiritual Formation is a process, but it is also a journey through which we open our hearts to a deeper connection with God. We are not bystanders in our spiritual lives, we are active participants with God, who is ever inviting us into relationship with him.

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (Jn. 10:10). We at Renovaré believe that such abundant life is possible here and now, because Jesus showed us the way to it. As we take on the life of Jesus – become like him – we experience a richness in life and faith that is truly renewed day by day (Col. 3:10).

I encourage you to check it out.

Paster Joel

Mission Statement: To discover and respond to our call

TO KNOW JESUS TO FOLLOW JESUS TO SERVE JESUS

in unique ministries.

Looking

Forum on March 14th *Keeping You Appraised About Options*

A follow-up forum to Bishop Kanouse's January 31st Forum on Responses to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly is planned for March 14th at 9:00AM.

At this forum we will...

* discuss the sermon Bishop Kanouse handed out. (see article giving initial thoughts about this).

Secondly, it is one of my goals this year to keep you apprised about other Lutheran responses to the Churchwide Assembly. So...

* you will hear about and be able to ask questions about Lutheran Core, most particularly about their announced intention to start a new Lutheran denomination called the *North American Lutheran Church*.

* you will hear about LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.)

I look forward to our time together.

Pastor Joel



Ahead



Lenten Worship Services

Wednesdays

7~7:45 PM

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 Jurgens 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*.

Thoughts About Sermon Handed Out at January 31 Forum

A number of people were confused by the excerpts read by Bishop Kanouse at our January 31 Sunday school forum. The excerpts were taken from Martin Luther's sermon "*How Christians Should Regard Moses*." The reading left a confused impression that Luther was mocking those who site God's law as a basis for preferred action. This impression was not accurate, of course. Upon reading the article in detail, and especially if they would have later done the leg work to google the not-handed-out earlier parts of the sermon, attendees would have been able to see that the sermon was the same old Luther preaching truth to them. The sermon was upholding God's word, as Luther always tried to do.

The following is my reflection on "*How Christians Should Regard Moses*," Luther's sermon preached August 27, 1525. These thoughts are given first for those who were present at the forum, heard the oral excerpts, and received the sermon hand out. Secondly, these thoughts are given as preliminary thoughts for our March 14th Sunday school Forum addressing Bishop Kanouse's January 31 Forum.

If you wish to read the sermon you may find a copy on the cadenza located in the church narthex.

The first important question to clarify about Luther's sermon is who was Luther preaching against? The sermon is clear. Upon looking at the sermon closely we see Luther was preaching against those who did not make any distinctions in the word of God. They were people who said that everything found in Moses must be kept. The operative words here are "*any*" and "*everything*". Of these factious spirits Luther spoke, "*Without any distinction (my underlining added here) they say, "God's word, God's word."* Furthermore, Luther said, "*...they say of everything they find in Moses, "Here God is speaking, no one can deny it: therefore we must keep it."*

Luther, of course, is not against God's word. He is against those who cannot make "*any*" distinctions in Moses' words and against those who think "*everything*" said by Moses must be kept.

So how does Luther make distinctions? How does he sort which words of Moses are to be kept?

Luther provides a principle: Luther said we should, "*Ask to whom the part of the Word of God was given.*" He then began the sorting and distinction process with bold strokes. He said, "*The scriptures are two kinds...that which applies to me... that which doesn't apply to me.*"

The reasonable question, then, is what applies to me? Luther's answer to this reasonable question is Law (some of it) and Gospel. He preached, "*I should accept Moses, and not sweep him under the rug: first because he provides fine examples of law, from which excerpts may be taken. Second, in Moses there are the promises of God which sustains faith.*" (My underlining is added for emphasis.) Luther does not say all the law is fine example of law. He says "*excerpts*", meaning a part, provides fine examples for us.

So which part of the law applies to me? With work one can cull out Luther's logical answer to this question found in the January 31 hand out. However, Luther gives a very concise answer to this question in an earlier part of the sermon. Luther says, "*We will regard Moses as a teacher, but we will not regard him as our lawgiver – unless he agrees with both the New Testament and the natural law.*" The operative word here is "*unless*". Luther is saying that the parts of Moses' law that apply to us are that which #1. agrees with the New Testament, and #2, that which agrees with natural law.

Continued on pg. 4

Continued from pg. 3

This sermon was handed to us in a forum in the context of a presentation about the 2009 Churchwide Assembly's decisions regarding new sexuality church policy. So what would this sermon actually ask us to think about this subject? In the Pentateuch we read, "A man shall not lay with a man as a man lays with a woman. It is an abomination." (Leviticus 18:22) Does Lev. 18:22 agree (#1) with what the New Testament says about this issue? The answer to this question is yes. (#2) Does Leviticus 18:22 agree with natural law as Luther understood it? The answer is yes. Luther would regard Romans 1:26-27 as a support of this. Paul says it is "against nature."

Therefore, because both of Luther's cited points are present and accounted for, according to Luther's own logic in the sermon, Leviticus 18:22 applies to us.

So in the end, this sermon supports the voices saying we shouldn't have made changes to our policy. And, with the above details clarified, this sermon would not call into question anyone who sites these passages as the basis for this position.

We will discuss these thoughts at greater length at our March 14, 9:00 AM Forum.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Paster Joel

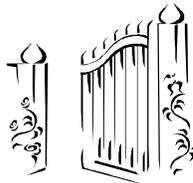


Memorials

In Memory of Hazel Linder

Lynda Gilmore - Designated Altar Guild

Shirley Hirt - Designated Altar Guild



The Lenten Food

Pantry Challenge has begun! We have been challenged to donate 4,000 cans of food during the season of Lent. You may bring cans of food during worship on Sunday mornings or place a check designated to the Cedar Hill Food Pantry in the offering plate. Each dollar donated buys 7 cans of food.

INVESTING IN THE KINGDOM:

Actual YTD Balance (Deficit): (\$861)

Budgeted YTD Deficit: (\$2,203)

*Offerings minus Expenses... Overall Balance
for operations: \$8, 618 (01/31/10)*

Words of Encouragement

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 ~ None

Recovering at home ~

Charles Barnett
2809 Oriental Ave..
Midlothian Texas 76065-6763
972.775.4297
lilabeebarnett@yaholl.com

Mike Purkiss
513 Sharp Drive
DeSoto, TX 76064-0313
972.223.6509w
mp2809@swbell.net



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
Knee 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
817.477.4465
mjsnomom@aol.com

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 Gene & Rose Janke and their family as Rose's dear brother, Ernst Englemann, went home to be with his Lord.

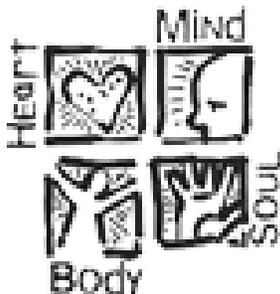


March 2010 Calendar

		1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Faith Circle 7:30 pm	10	11	12	13	
 Daylight Savings Time Begins Pastor's Forum 9 am	14	15	16 Council Meeting 7 pm	17	18 Heralds Deadline	19	20 Game Night 6 pm
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
	28	29	30	31 No Wednesday Night Activities	 7 pm	 7 pm	

Sunday Schedule:

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



Lenten Wednesday

Night schedule ~ (3/3 ~ 3/24)

6:00 pm ~ Lenten Dinner
 6:00 pm ~ Owning It! ~ Confirmation
 6:15 pm ~ Chime Choir
 7:00 pm ~ Worship
 7:45 pm ~ Timothy Project ~ Bible Study
 7:45 pm ~ Sanctuary Choir
 7:45 pm ~ Reconfirmed (high school)

Hope Women's News



The Next
Faith Circle
will be
Tuesday,
March 9
at 7:30 pm.
Come
and
join us.

March Anniversaries

Bryan & Lezlie Pender 03/06
Scott & Jennifer Gilbert 03/25
Matthew & Candis Armstrong 03/30

March Birthdays

Hannah Hamilton 03/05
Bob Kuhn 03/05
Jackie Portillo 03/05
Kathleen Chiselbrook 03/11
Linda Lidle 03/12
Elizabeth Roberson 03/12
John Johnson 03/13
David Bolduc 03/15
Erin O'Connor 03/15
Natalie Jones 03/16
Mallory Jones 03/16
Brooke Nastoupil 03/16
Frank Rugari 03/18
Krista Armstrong 03/19
Kobey Juergens 03/19
Cole Gibson 03/21
Gerry Seefeldt 03/24
Mike Savins 03/25
Derek Kilguss 03/27
Bitania Bereket 03/29
Daniel DeWeerd 03/29



**Newsletter Articles Dead-
line ...
For next month is:**

March 18

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

hopesecretary@sbcglobal.net



**Game
Night
Is
March 20
6:00 pm
(Join us for
A Evening
Of Fun!)**

Coming



EASTER LILIES

The Lilies will lend their beauty to the Sanctuary Easter Sunday. Lilies may be purchased to the Glory of God in memory of, in honor of a special person in your life or just for yourself to take home and enjoy and then plant in your own yard. Watch the bulletin for details.



FLOWERING OF THE CROSS

We will continue our tradition of flowering the cross on Easter Sunday. Please remember to bring some flowers for this event, so we can once again have a cross full of beautiful flowers.

Easter Breakfast



Our youth will host a pancake breakfast Easter

9:00 ~ 9:45 AM Sunday morning to raise funds for their Mission

Trip this summer. Please mark your calendar and enjoy breakfast at Church!

The breakfast menu will consist of pancakes, sausage, juice, and coffee. For Easter Sunday we will have some specialty pancakes and syrups. We're sure you will enjoy it. Thank you for supporting our youth!

Easter Prayer Vigil

Our annual Easter Prayer Vigil will be held

Saturday, April 3 from 8:00 am to Midnight. Please watch the bulletins for details. All are welcome to come and sit and pray in the quiet of the Sanctuary.

HOPE EASTER EGG HUNT

WHEN:

SUNDAY, APRIL 4
9:15 am



WHERE: CHURCH PLAYGROUND

CHILDREN (PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH 6TH GRADE) PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED EASTER EGG HUNT!!!

ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE THE EASTER EGG HUNT PLUS MAKING AN EASTER CRAFT!!

PARENTS PLEASE BRING 12 PLASTIC EGGS (FOR EACH OF YOUR CHILDREN) FILLED WITH INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED CANDY ON/BY PALM SUNDAY. ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT DEB BURLESON – 214-649-8715.

Events



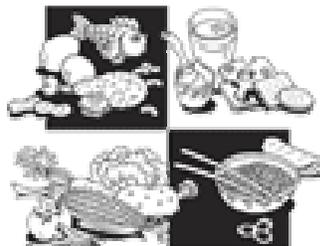
Confirmation 2010: Calling all 6th Graders

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 matt.cleaver.hope@gmail.com). We don't want to leave anyone out! You will receive more information as it becomes available.



Feed Starving Children

Help pack food units for starving children—Saturday, May 6, 9 AM-1:30 PM. “Feed My Starving Children” is an organization that distributes nutritious meals across the world for only \$0.17 a meal. But they need volunteers to help pack meal units. They will be in Carrollton on March 6 and Hope has committed to provide 22 volunteers. This would make a great family outing. Sign up in the narthex. Open to the first 22 people to sign up. See Matt Cleaver for details.



March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Lenten Wednesday Schedule			Feed My Starving Children
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Lenten Wednesday Schedule			
Sunday School	14	15	16	17	18	19
			Lenten Dinner Preparation			20
Sunday School	21	22	23	24	25	26
			Spring Break			27
Sunday School	28	29	30	31	1	2
			Lenten Wednesday Schedule			3
Sunday School			Maundy Thursday Dress Rehearsal		Maundy Thursday	Good Friday

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

Director of Youth and Ministry Development
matt.cleaver.hope@gmail.com
o: 972-291-7902
c: 972-754-7353

- TBA ~ Sunday, 6-8 PM—Inner Mission at the Bengtson’s house.
- TBA ~ Soul Emergence. A unique worship experience that gives your soul space to connect with God. Held at the church.
- 6 ~ Saturday, 9 AM-1:30 PM—Feed My Starving Children. We will go volunteer at a church in Carrollton that is packing over 200,000 meals this weekend to ship to starving children all around the world. Meet at Hope.
- 17 ~ Wednesday, 3-6 PM—Lenten Dinner Preparation. The youth group will be preparing and serving dinner this Wednesday. Get here at 3:00 PM (or as soon as you can). Normal activities will begin at 6:00 PM.
- 31 ~ Wednesday, 6-8:30 PM—Maundy Thursday Dress Rehearsal. We will go over the following evening’s service for the final time. Pizza will be served.
- April 1 ~ Thursday, 6-8:30 PM—Maundy Thursday participants need to be here at 6 PM. The worship service begins at 7 PM.
- Wednesdays during Lent:
 - ◊ 6:00 PM—Dinner
 - ◊ 6:00 PM—Confirmation (7-8th Grade)
 - ◊ 6:15 PM—Chimes Choir
 - ◊ 7:00 PM—Worship Service
 - ◊ 7:45 PM—Maundy Thursday Prep (High School & Jr. High)
- Sundays, 9:00 AM—Sunday school.
 - ◊ High School—Old School: Ezekiel.
 - ◊ Jr. High—Faith Lens. Discussions about topics relevant to everyday life.

Adult, Youth & Kids Sunday School: 9:00 AM

Adult Sunday School

- *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.
- 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.
- Easter Sunday, April 4—Pancake Breakfast. There will be no Sunday school Easter Sunday. The youth will prepare a pancake breakfast that will be served at 9 AM that morning.

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. New-comers 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.
- **Daily Texts**—Written to last the whole year. Scriptures are given for you to read daily over the course of 2010.
- **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

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday	8:00 & 10:00 AM
Sunday School	9:00 AM
Maundy Thursday	7:00 PM
Good Friday	7:00 PM
Easter Sunday	8:00 & 10:00 AM
Breakfast	9 ~ 9:45 AM
Easter Egg Hunt	9:15 AM