

Epiphany

Dear Friends in Christ,

Christmas is almost over and we soon enter the season of "Epiphany." The word comes from a Greek word meaning "to be revealed, to make known, to see clearly". The actual day of Epiphany is January 6th, twelve days after Christmas. On this day, we recall the visit of the Magi as described in Matthew 2:1-12. The visit of the Magi, of course, did not take place twelve days after the birth of Jesus. It was much later than that; perhaps as much as two years after His birth. The point is, they came because His birth had been "revealed" to them and they were guided by the star. During this season of the church year, we will look at the revelations of God that He has revealed to us through the life of His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. We begin on the First Sunday After Epiphany, January 11th, by looking at the Gospel text describing John's baptism.

The liturgical color for Epiphany season is white, the color of light. The Epiphany of Jesus Christ is God opening the eyes of Jews and Gentiles to His grace. It is God showing us people around us to whom we can shine the light of the Gospel.

This will be an exciting, challenging year for Hope Lutheran. Please pray for an Epiphany from God for our congregation. We are fervently asking the Lord to show us how He wants to use our new building. This year we get to see how He will begin to answer those prayers, how He

will open up opportunities for the Light to shine Christ here in new and wonderful ways.

Blessed Epiphany!

Pastor
Wayne Riddering

✠✠✠

Dear God -
Please put
another holiday
between
Christmas and
Easter. There is
nothing good in
there now.

Ginny

✠✠✠

The Necessity of
"Quiet" Time

Matthew 14:23
"After He (Jesus) had dismissed the crowds, He went upon the mountain by Himself to pray."

Several times in the Gospels we read of Jesus going off by Himself for rest and prayer. These occasions were usually at the conclusion of a very busy time in His life and ministry. Jesus needed those times by Himself to be refreshed through solitude and conversation with His Father.

If it was true for Jesus, it surely must be true for us. Most of us have very busy schedules that seemingly don't permit time for quiet relaxation and refreshment. But, what is the cost of not making time for quietness and conversation with our heavenly Father?

If we really want to grow in our life of discipleship, we need those "quiet" times.

We need those times when we can slow down, be quiet, let the Lord speak to us in His Word, and share our life with Him in prayer.

May I offer a challenge? Set aside a time regularly to be by yourself with the Lord. I am confident that the Lord will richly bless those times and you will grow in your walk of faith.

✠✠✠

Building Committee
Report January 09

The spray on insulation has been completed.

We had a problem with the stairs to the upper level and we needed to redo the stairs. This has been completed and the stairs now meet all required specifications and have passed inspection.

The hardware for the exterior doors has been installed and we are now able to secure the building.

The electrical, plumbing and framing inspections have all been completed and we have passed all these inspections.

The sheet rock is about 80% hung. We hope to have the boiler installed by the first week in January. We will then have heat to complete the mudding, taping and texturing of the sheet rock.

We had hoped to have the sidewalks and front porch slab poured before cold weather but did not make it and now will have to wait until spring to finish the cement work.

The appliances have all been purchased and are stored in the white garage. The cabinets have been ordered.

We do not have a

firm date for completion at this time. We do hope that the new building will be completed by Easter.

We are working on selecting the interior doors, trim work, light fixtures and carpeting.

To date we have spent \$315,058.94 on the project. We have \$17,338.03 cash in our building account. We have drawn \$57,109.68 on our \$200,000.00 line of credit at Colorado Mountain Bank.

We have received \$133,938.24 towards our total pledged giving of \$305,000.00.

Thank you all for your faithful giving. Anyone who has not yet participated in giving to our "Hope for Tomorrow" campaign, please prayerfully consider how God would have you participate. We continue to be hopeful that we will complete the project within the budget that we established. Please continue your prayer support and remember to thank God for all that He has done, is doing and will do for Hope Lutheran.

With "Hope For Tomorrow"

Jon Wallestad
Chairman Building Committee

✠✠✠

Priscilla Club:

Next meeting:
Thursday, Jan.
15 at VALI

We will be providing lunch at noon to the residents of VALI, in Silver Cliff, followed by a sing-along. Our business meeting will be held in the church's fellowship room at approximately 1:45 pm.

All ladies are invited

to attend. Call Suzanne Roberts, President at 783-2629 for more information

2008 Year-End Report
Priscilla Club/Lutheran
Women's
Missionary League (LWML)

Our Priscilla Club ended the year with a balance of \$630, which was raised from dues and various other fundraisers. As is our tradition, we gave our Pastor a Christmas gift and donated the remaining funds to the following missions:

1. Support Scheiwe Family — Lutheran Missionaries in China
2. Lighthouse Pregnancy Center — Custer County
3. Sharing Center — Custer County
4. Mashiah Foundation — African mission to women and children affected by HIV/AIDS. In May, we sent them enough money to purchase another sewing machine for their quilting projects
5. LCMS World Relief — Missouri Synod
6. LCMS World Mission — Missouri Synod
7. Mission trip to Mexico to build a house

For our activities this past year, we:

1. Contributed \$469 from our monthly mites to the National LWML mission fund.
2. Sent "care" packages twice during the year to our college freshmen to remind them that they are in our hearts and prayers and to encourage them to let their Christian light shine.
3. Planned, prepared and served the traditional Seder Meal on Maundy Thursday
4. Organized and prepared breakfasts/lunches for the "Laborers for Christ" during their work on our building project in September and October.
5. Hosted a tea for our church widows.
6. Held a baby shower for the Lighthouse Pregnancy Center.
7. Participated in the church

service on LWML Sunday.

8. Held a Harvest Auction/ White Elephant Sale with the proceeds going to our end-of-the-year missions.
9. Prepared Thanksgiving baskets for the Share Center.
10. Made gifts and Christmas cookies for our shut-ins.

The basis of our organization is mission work here at Hope Lutheran Church and as requested in other areas of need. So we invite all of the women of our congregation to join us in the work we do, first and foremost to the glory of our Lord and Savior. We wish you a very blessed 2009!

2009 Officers

President: Suzanne Roberts
Vice President: DeDe Riddering
Secretary: Carol Mallett
Treasurer: Linda Tyler



Youth Group

Wow! December flew by and seemed to be in a constant state of schedule changes and working around numerous school, work, and church activities. In spite of it all, December proved to be a time to focus on the birth of Christ as most of our time was spent preparing the sharing of the story through the Christmas play. I hope all enjoyed it as I know that I enjoyed helping to put it together and seeing the kids really get into the performance.

There are copies of the play's DVD in my box. There is a copy for each family that had a child participate and one for each person who helped. Also, I took pictures at the dress rehearsal and have a link if you would like to view and/or order. E m a i l m e a t microtarrant@yahoo.com and I will give you access to these pics.

January is a time that will be spent getting back into a schedule. All Bible studies are back on track meeting at 9:00 on Sunday mornings. The young ladies are resuming their study at Candy's Coffee shop.

Senior High are meeting after church on Sunday and Middle School after confirmation on Wednesday. The last Sunday of every month will be a combined high school and middle school fun activity.

As I was preparing for the new

year, I received a Bible Study in my email. While we all try to form New Year's Resolutions this stated to have just one.

The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective. Unless a man starts on the strange assumption that he has never existed before, it is quite certain that he will never exist afterwards. Unless a man be born again, he shall by no means enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

G. K. Chesterton

So what's the object of your New Year? For many, it's simply a new start on old habits, and for others the whole resolution thing goes in one "year" and out the other.

But...may I make a suggestion this year? Forget all the resolutions that involve just trying to manage your sin nature, and take the advice from the quote. What this means is that on January 1, wake up like it was the first day of your life and might be the last. If you stick to that alone, 2009 will bring you things you never thought possible. (copied from Dare to Share curriculum)

Have a great new year.

Angela Tarrant



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Hope Lutheran Voter's Assembly elected the 2009 slate of church officers and boards at the voters meeting on Sunday 14 December.

President	Jon Wallestad
Vice President	Doug Tyler
Treasurer	Larry Luikart
Financial Secretary	Rick Perschbacher
Secretary	Gwynethe Miller
Elder Board	Chuck Poehlein Larry Wacker Kenny Patterson
Trustee Board	Chuck Kastendieck Harald Frank Tom Aldrich
Stewardship	Dave Custer Carole Custer Danny McVehil
Evangelism	Carmela Searight Frank Searight Carol Mallett
Cemetery	Harold Godbersen Chuck Poehlein

Education Jeanene Comerford
Paulette Shapland
Dale Roberts

Fellowship Carol Wallestad
Cat Siemiet
Michellene Helton

Romans 12:3-8, For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members each do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given us, let us use them: if prophecy in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Jon Wallestad
President



County Commissioner Report

Custer County is launching a variety of programs for our children and youth. First, our new after school Kid's Club will be starting in January for Preschool through 5th grade children. The program will start at 11 AM and go to 6:30 PM on school days, and 7 AM to 6:30 PM on Fridays and during the summer.

The Kids' Club will occupy the lower level of the former Sangre de Cristo Christian Academy, and will be a state licensed Child Care facility. We are planning many fun activities not only in the building but around the community. Call 783-2112 for more information.

We have also been blessed with an opportunity to pilot a Bobcat Club for our Middle and High School youth. Club activities are designed to help youth learn more about themselves, careers, what they might be good at, and define for themselves what their life values are. No matter what their plans after high school, this program will help them as they transition out of high school and into life as adults.

Adults and retirees will be needed

to share your own career experiences, or volunteer to teach a short Junior Achievement (JA) program at any level from Kindergarten through 12th grade, or help a group of youth start their own little company to learn about what it takes to succeed in a global economy.

Submitted by
Carole Custer



Hope Lutheran Church
2009 Altar Guild Schedule

On Saturday, January 10th, the Altar Guild and anyone else who would like to help will "un-decorate" the church. Please let Linda or Sue know if you can help.

- January**Phyllis
Kastendieck (2216).....Sue
Poehlein (0271)
- February**Linda
Tyler (2175).....Amanda
Ware (2262)
- March**Karen
Madden (0668).....Carol
Mallett (9107)
- April**.....Cathy
Wacker (4144)Linda
Tyler
- May**.....Phyllis
Kastendieck.....Sue
Poehlein
- June**Linda
Tyler.....
- July**Karen
Madden.....
.....Carol
Mallett
- August**Cathy
Wacker
.....Sue
Poehlein
- September**Phyllis
Kastendieck.....Sue
Poehlein
- October**.....Linda
Tyler.....
.....Amanda
Ware
- November**.....Karen
Madden.....
.....Carol
Mallett
- December**Cathy
Wacker
.....Linda
Tyler

Pat Gibson (2256) and JoAnn Hartbauer (2246) will serve as substitutes.

Communion is scheduled for the first and third Sundays of every month. Please work out the schedule between the two of you. If you cannot serve on your assigned Sunday, contact one of the substitutes or someone else on the schedule to trade or contact Sue Poehlein or Linda Tyler.



Evangelism Board

Hello and Happy New Year 2009, from your new Evangelism board! We want to thank Stan & Irene Francis and Jinny Bannon who served on this board prior to the three of us being approved.

There are a total of 15 duties listed in our church's by-laws that are assigned to this board. Among those are the following:

- Plan, promote and supervise an effective evangelism program in the congregation.
- Emphasize child and youth evangelism, both in participation and outreach.
- Publicize the glad tidings of salvation and strive to maintain the finest public relations in the community.

You can see from this list of only 3 of the duties that we will have our work cut out for us. We will need your help, support and PRAYERS.

As we begin this new year, we typically make resolutions to exercise more, eat less, and spend more time with our family and friends. These are commendable; however, we would like to challenge everyone to ask God what He wants us to change, improve or begin this year. Perhaps He may be asking us to:

- Love our enemies (Matt. 5:44)
- Be content with what we have (Heb. 13:5)
- Preach the Gospel (Mark 16:15)
- Use the devotional, Portals of Prayer (check your mailbox for your copy)

Let us remember that our resolutions are easier to keep when we ask God's help every day.

We look forward to serving you by doing God's will and by upholding our church's by-laws.

With Christ, there's a lot of HOPE to go around! Go with God.

Frank & Carmela Searight and Carol Mallett.



Little Johnny

A new teacher was trying to make use of her psychology courses. She started her class by saying, "Everyone who thinks they're stupid, stand up!" After a few seconds, Little Johnny stood up.

The teacher said, "Do you think you're stupid, Little Johnny?"

"No ma'am, but I hate to see you standing there all by yourself!"

Little Johnny watched, fascinated, as his mother smoothed cold cream on her face. "Why do you do that, mommy?" he asked. "To make myself beautiful," said his mother, who then began removing the cream with a tissue.

"What's the matter, Mommy?" asked Little Johnny. "You giving up?"

The math teacher saw that Little Johnny wasn't paying attention in class. She called on him and said, "Johnny! What are 2 and 4 and 28 and 44?"

Little Johnny quickly replied, "NBC, FOX, ESPN and the Cartoon Network!"

Happy Birthday!

- 03 Kenny Patterson
- 03 Elizabeth Tarrant
- 03 Annie Achenbach
- 04 Ted Fischer
- 05 Janet Holm
- 09 David Kattnig
- 10 Le Thi Thanh Tu
- 12 Lori Fox
- 12 Angelina Atencio
- 14 Gail Hast
- 15 Howard Unrein
- 16 Dillon Fox
- 17 Linda Tyler
- 19 Pat Meissner
- 21 Judy Hoag
- 22 Virginia Reid
- 22 David Custer
- 24 Len Radford
- 30 Lin Seifert
- 31 Dick Stermer

Happy Anniversary!

01/26/1956 Bob & Liz Kitchen

Lector Schedule:

- 04 DeDe Riddering
- 11 Doug Tyler
- 18 Lou Meissner
- 25 Dave Custer

Ushers:

- 04 Dan & Lori Fox
- 11 Dale & Gertie Falske
- 18 Chuck & Phyllis Kastendieck
- 25 Dave & Cathy Tonsing

Announcements:

The Church Newsletter is posted on the Hope Lutheran Church web site. If you don't have internet and would like to receive the newsletter by mail, please call your elder.

To all board chairmen: Thank you for submitting your reports via e-mail. I have discovered that I can do a copy/paste, thus eliminating the need to re-type the reports. This applies to anyone who wants to submit an article for the newsletter.

Women's Bible Study: All women are invited to participate in the Thursday Bible Study beginning January 8th through March 19th. We meet in the fellowship room from 9:45 – 11:30 am. The topic is "God's Abiding Word: Luke" by the Concordia Publishing House, and will cost \$5.00 which is payable at the first lesson. For sign-up or more information, please contact Gwyn Miller, at 783-3500

