

**Dear Friends,**

Jeremy was born with a twisted body and a slow mind. At the age of 12 he was still in second grade, seemingly unable to learn. His teacher, Doris Miller, often became exasperated with him. He would squirm in his seat, drool and make grunting noises.

At other times, he spoke clearly and distinctly, as if a spot of light had penetrated the darkness of his brain. Most of the time, however, Jeremy irritated his teacher. One day, she called his parents and asked them to come to St. Theresa's for a consultation.

As the Forresters sat quietly in the empty classroom, Doris said to them, "Jeremy really belongs in a special school. It isn't fair to him to be with younger children who don't have learning problems. Why, there is a five year gap between his age and that of the other students!"

Mrs. Forrester cried softly into a tissue, while her husband spoke. "Miss Miller," he said, "there is no school of that kind nearby. It would be a terrible shock for Jeremy if we had to take him out of this school. We know he really likes it here."

Doris sat for a long time after they left, staring at the snow outside the window. Its coldness seemed to seep into her soul. She wanted to sympathize with the Forresters. After all, their only child had a terminal illness. But it wasn't fair to keep him in her class. She had 18 other youngsters to teach, and Jeremy was a distraction. Furthermore, he would never learn to read and write. Why waste any more time trying?

As she pondered the situation, guilt washed over her. "Oh God," she said aloud, "here I am complaining when my problems are nothing compared to that poor family! Please help me to be more patient with Jeremy!"

From that day on, she tried hard to ignore Jeremy's noises and his blank stares. Then one day, he limped to her desk, dragging his bad leg behind him.

"I love you, Miss Miller," he exclaimed, loud enough for the whole class to hear. The other students snickered, and Doris' face turned red. She stammered, "Wh ### why that's very nice, Jeremy. N ### now please take your seat."

Spring came, and the children talked excitedly about the coming of Easter. Doris told them the story of Jesus, and then to emphasize the idea of new life springing forth, she gave each of the

children a large plastic egg. "Now," she said to them, I want you to take this home and bring it back tomorrow with something inside that shows new life. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Miss Miller!" the children responded enthusiastically ### all except for Jeremy. He just listened intently; his eyes never left her face. He did not even make his usual noises.

Had he understood what she had said about Jesus' death and resurrection? Did he understand the assignment? Perhaps she should call his parents and explain the project to them.

That evening, Doris' kitchen sink stopped up. She called the landlord and waited an hour for him to come by and unclog it. After that, she still had to shop for groceries, iron a blouse, and prepare a vocabulary test for the next day. She completely forgot about phoning Jeremy's parents.

The next morning, 19 children came to school, laughing and talking as they placed their eggs in the large wicker basket on Miss Miller's desk. After they completed their math lesson, it was time to open the eggs.

In the first egg, Doris found a flower. "Oh yes, a flower is certainly a sign of new life," she said. "When plants peek through the ground we know that spring is here." A small girl in the first row waved her arm. "That's my egg, Miss Miller." she called out.

The next egg contained a plastic butterfly, which looked very real. Doris held it up. "We all know that a caterpillar changes and grows into a beautiful butterfly. Yes, that is new life, too." Little Judy smiled proudly and said, "Miss Miller, that one is mine!"

Next Doris found a rock with moss on it. She explained that moss, too, showed life. Billy spoke from the back of the classroom. "My Daddy helped me!" he beamed.

Then Doris opened the fourth egg. She gasped. The egg was empty! Surely it must be Jeremy's, she thought, and of course, he did not understand her instructions. If only she had not forgotten to phone his parents! Because she did not want to embarrass him, she quietly set the egg aside and reached for another.

Suddenly Jeremy spoke up. "Miss Miller, aren't you going to talk about my egg?"

Flustered, Doris replied, "But Jeremy ### your egg is empty!" He looked into her eyes and said softly, "Yes, but Jesus' tomb was empty, too!"

Time stopped. When she could speak again,

Doris asked him, "Do you know why the tomb was empty?"

"Oh yes!" Jeremy said, "Jesus was killed and put in there. Then His Father raised Him up!"

The recess bell rang. While the children excitedly ran out to the school yard, Doris cried. The cold inside her melted completely away.

Three months later, Jeremy died. Those who paid their respects at the mortuary were surprised to see 19 eggs on top of his casket, all of them empty.

See you in church,  
Pastor Wayne



**Dear brothers and sisters in Christ at Hope,**

Greetings to you from Hong Kong at the start of spring!

It is a challenge to think about the joys of new life and budding flowers when we know of so many who died suddenly in the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. In the past two weeks Asia has seen additional smaller but serious earthquakes in Myanmar and Yunnan Province in China. Life can change in an instant! We've watched store shelves in China empty of salt as people gripped by fear of radiation try to take control of whatever they can. We pray that in this situation of grief and fear that people will hear the words of hope and peace found only in the grace of God through Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your continued partnership with our family in God's mission in Asia. It is only through your dedicated prayerful and financial support that we are able to serve here.

During this time of Lent we especially give thanks for Jesus' sacrifice and power to rise again that makes us brothers and sisters. What a gift to be reconciled with God and in fellowship together! What a beautiful gift to share with others!

Jesus is with you,  
Iantha, Joel, Eliada, Talia, & baby



**Vacation Bible School:**

We are down to eight weeks and counting toward our Hometown Nazareth Vacation Bible School. Remember to mark the dates: June 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Please start looking in your living space for items

you can contribute to the marketplace! And speaking of contributing, how about something even more precious, your time? All have something to offer to the children of Custer County and we welcome each of you to our team. Please contact Nancy Watkins 783-3071 or the church office for more information.



**PRISCILLA CLUB:**

Next Meeting: May 12, 2011, at 1:00 P.M.  
Where: Lange Fellowship Hall  
Hostess: Carmela Searight  
Devotion: Precious Mothers and Mentors  
Sketch: For All the Faithful Women  
Human Care: Happy Mother's Day: Help out a young mother: volunteer to babysit while she goes shopping, or plan to take her and her children with you on an unscheduled adventure. Make Father's Day cards

Church Cleanup: May 14<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am



**National Day of Prayer**

Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 ### 11:45 am, at Custer County Courthouse

Join us outside at the flag pole to pray for our elected officials at the national, state and local (Westcliffe and Silver Cliff) levels, as well as for our families, Christian churches and education. We will enjoy singing patriotic songs and hymns.

This year's theme is "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" inspired by Psalm 91:2, "I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, My God in whom I trust'".

This year's honorary chairman is Joni Ereckson Toda who said, "During the time of great uncertainty and turmoil, we must enjoin our neighbors, coworkers and friends to lay aside differences and come together for a day of prayer for our nation".

Our observance is non-partisan and non-denominational and if you need more info or have any questions on our event, please call Carol Mallett at 783-9107

All are welcome and hope to see you there! Please bring your children! Keep the NPD in your prayers.

In case of bad weather, we'll meet at Hope Lutheran Church.

The NDP website is:  
[www.NationalDayofPrayer.org](http://www.NationalDayofPrayer.org)



**TRUSTEE BOARD REPORT**

The following projects are in progress:

- Replacing the shingles on the garage.
- In the church basement: replace and repair the ceiling lights, repair the trim on the counter between the rooms, and repair the linoleum on the kitchen floor.

Thank you to Kenny Patterson for serving as the Facilities Manager. Taking his place will be Bob Mallett. If you or someone you know is interested in using our hall or basement area, please contact Bob. Fran Hudson has agreed to continue as assistant manager.

Dan Fox will fill-in as a trustee in the temporary absence of Harald Frank.

If you are aware of a facility problem, please contact a trustee. Thanks.

Chris Ueberroth, Bob Mallett and Dan Fox



**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

All women are invited to attend a six-week Bible Study, "**Transformation; Letting God Change You from the Inside Out**". It will be held from 9:30-11:30 am on Thursdays, from June 2 through July 14 in the Lange Fellowship Hall. This will be a great time sharing God's plans for us as Christian women. If you have considered joining our Women's Bible Study group, this would be the one to try. There will be no cost for the study, but we need to know how many will attend in order to have enough materials prepared.

For more information or to "register", please call Carol Mallett (783-9107) or Gwynethe Miller (783-3500) by May 22. We hope to see you there.



**PRESIDENT'S REPORT MAY 2011**

We have just completed a very meaningful Lenten and Easter season. Thank you to Pastor Wayne for his excellent series on the Ten Commandments. Thank you to Russ Ware for his excellent leadership and direction of our choir and thank you to the choir members for their faithful participation. The choir has added immensely to the quality of our worship experience.

Praise God that we have completed the first quarter of our church year and we are in a financially sound position. Thank you to all for your faithful stewardship.

Thank you to all the voting members who participated in our voter's assembly meeting on the 17th of April. Notable items of business that were conducted. The voter's reaffirmed that the trustees may expend up to \$1,500.00 without seeking voter's approval. \$2,000.00 was dedicated from our general funds to the trustees to amend their 2011 budget. Our insurance carrier has recommended that we purchase an umbrella liability policy. The voter's approved this and instructed our treasurer to make this purchase. It was suggested that Hope Lutheran consider providing a dinner on the last Sunday of the fair, the voter's did not approve this. Suggested bylaws revisions were handed out to the voters present. These will be voted on at the July voter's meeting. Any voter who was not present and wishes to receive a copy of the bylaws revisions please contact the president.



**FELLOWSHIP REPORT May 2011**

Thank you to Mark and Penny Button and all who helped prepare the food for the Easter breakfast. We fed about eighty people.

Ladies, plan to join us for "Ladies Nite Out", on Tuesday May 17th at the Wallestad's. Watch for further information in the bulletin and for a sign up sheet.

We are planning a garage sale in Lange Fellowship Hall on Friday and Saturday the 8th and 9th of July. You may bring donated items any time and store them in the two northwest offices in Lange Hall.



**MINUTES HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL/VOTERS MEETING**

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT:** Contact has been made with the Scheiwes and newsletters have been received from them. Attempts have been made to contact Shelly Conradson and to date have been unsuccessful.

**EDUCATION REPORT:** The board met last month and their report was published in the April newsletter. VBS will be June 20th to 24th. Nancy Watkins will be the director. The theme for VBS this year will be "Hometown Nazareth".

**EVANGELISM REPORT:** written report received. Meeting of the board on 3/28/11 at the Lighthouse pregnancy center. Goals were established:

1. Participate in the parade Memorial Day weekend.
2. Participate in the National Day of Prayer 5 May.
3. New visitation cards for the pews have been ordered.
4. Want to write a letter to members who have not been attending to invite them back.
5. Will hand out activity booklets to youth on Easter Sunday.
6. Are reviewing our "Got Jesus" brochure.
7. Want to meet with education board to see how we can reach out to youth in our community.

**SAFETY BOARD REPORT:** Meetings held on Feb 24 and March 17. See written minutes. A walk through of Lange Hall was done on 17 March findings and recommendations are recorded in the minutes and were submitted to the trustees.

**FACILITIES MANAGER REPORT:** Estimate that total income for the usage of Lange Hall for the first quarter was about \$250.00. Discussion ensued regarding supervision of outside groups using our facilities. Protocols and procedures will be established jointly by the trustees and facilities managers.

**KITCHEN COMMITTEE:** The committee has been established by the Priscilla Club. Carol Wallestad is the chair person. They are working on establishing procedures and protocols for the use of our kitchens. There is an account at the Westcliffe Market that they can use to purchase foodstuffs and kitchen supplies. Receipts will be given to our treasurer.

**OLD BUSINESS:**  
Bylaws revisions suggested by president Wallestad were presented at the April voter's meeting. The plan would be to continue to review and revise these

suggestions and to vote on them at the July voter's meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Clean up day will be May 14th. Custer County Transitions/Kids Club has offered to transport children from VBS to the Kids Club for the afternoon, with the permission of the parents. The council approved. Will present to the voters on Sunday.



**Applying Bible Principles**

" . . . if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come" (2 Cor. 5:17). Christians should have a different outlook on life, including money and material possessions. They realize that they own nothing, that everything they have belongs to God, and that they are only managers and stewards of what God has entrusted to them. Because of that, Christians should have a different attitude towards "things."

That attitude demonstrates itself in many different ways. For example, Christians show mercy and give, in contrast to those who borrow and do not repay (Psalm 37:21). Christians should hold possessions with an open hand, and "refresh" others with their bounty (Proverbs 11:24-25). They are honest and demonstrate their faith by their work and integrity (1 Thes. 4:11-12). They give to those in need and thereby demonstrate to a watching world the love of God (1 John 3:17).

When this kind of lifestyle is present in our lives, Jesus said that people will see our good works — our different attitude and perspective — and will glorify our heavenly Father (Matt. 5:16). And as we seek His kingdom first and foremost, we have His promise that He will provide what we need (Matt. 6:33).

As others observe you and your lifestyle, do they see any difference because of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? As they observe your relationship to "things," especially to money, do they realize you are a manager, a steward, and not an owner? Or stated another way, is the manner in which you handle money and material possessions a testimony to your faith in Christ?

**Happy Birthday!**

01 Wyatt Desponette  
02 Lenny Hawks  
05 Dianna Banning  
05 Talia Scheiwe  
08 Karen Madden  
08 Denise Custer  
09 Sue Poehlein  
12 Gail Hast  
12 Todd Wilson  
12 Beverly Ferron  
13 Mike Holmberg  
16 Stan Francis  
16 Dottie Luster  
16 Clint Seiling  
17 Kristine Smerchek  
19 Jared Ballard  
20 Guy Madden  
20 Greg Watkins  
21 Russell Hartbauer  
23 Matthew Smerchek  
24 Mayra Speer  
28 Renee Bennett  
29 Miah Sayhouse  
30 Jeff Banning  
31 Jeff Thomas

**Happy Anniversary!**

05/06 Mel & Doris Porth  
05/07 Chuck & Sue Poehlein  
05/08/1993 Larry & Catherine Siemiet  
05/10/2007 Bud & Renee Bennett  
05/12/2001 Guy & Karen Madden  
05/17/1972 Casey & Linda Fenstermaker  
05/17/1980 Lynn & Vicky Holstad  
05/23 Dale & Gertie Falske  
05/23/1998 Brad & Marlys Hartbauer  
05/24/1997 Perry & Lyn Nagel  
05/29 Dorothy & Jim Martinez

**Ushers:**

01 Dan & Lori Fox  
08 Dale & Gertie Falske  
15 Chuck & Phyllis Kastendieck  
22 Bob & Carol Mallett  
29 Chuck & Sue Poehlein

**Lectors:**

01 Chuck Kastendieck  
08 Dale Falske  
15 Trent Nelson  
22 DeDe Riddering  
29 Amy Perschbacher

† † †

**Announcements:**

The church calendar is in the kitchen downstairs. If you have an event scheduled, please put it on the calendar to avoid conflicting with other activities. Thank you!!!

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.

A New York family bought a ranch out west where they intended to raise cattle. Friends came to visit and asked if the ranch had a name.

"Well," said the would-be-cattleman. "I wanted to call it the Bar-J. my wife favored the Suzy-Q. one son liked the Flying-W, and the other son wanted the Lazy-Y. so, we're calling it the Bar-J-Suzy-Q-Flying-W-Lazy-Y Ranch."

"But where are all your cattle?"

"So far, none has survived the branding."