

To Know Christ and To Make Him Known

Hope's Newsletter

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Sunday Sermons

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Organist
Catherine Bearbower

Music Director
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Choir Pianist
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Message From Pastor

What does it mean to you that you are a baptized person? Don't just read on: take a moment now to think about that question. I'll wait. J

Those who were baptized as infants had their parents make promises for them, until they were able to "affirm" their commitment to Christ at Confirmation. Those who were baptized as older children and adults made their own promises at baptism. The promises are the same: (Pastor Lynn paraphrase) to spend time with God's people, to attend worship, to share the good news of Jesus with others in what we say and do, to serve others, and seek peace with justice.

Even if you have never personally stood at the font with the person being baptized, you have been asked the sponsorship question: "People of God, do you promise to support (name/s) and pray for

them in their new life in Christ?" And you answered, "We do," along with the rest of the gathered assembly. What does it mean to you to be a Godparent or baptismal sponsor? Don't just read on: take a moment now to think about that question. I'll wait. J

Some Godparents take their role seriously. Mine did. When I was about thirteen, my Godparents said to my parents, "Shouldn't Lynn and Dave be in Confirmation class by now?" That fall, my brother and I were enrolled in class, and sat in the front pew with other members of our class taking sermon notes.

My Godparents were present at many of the big moments in my life, though not all of them. I always knew they were there, praying for me. It's probably because of their prayers that I allowed God to enter my life and lead me, one step at a time, into ordained ministry. They were present – unannounced – at my
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Council Officers & Members

President
Steve Northsea
*Evangelism / Stewardship
GPS/Long Range
Planning*

Vice President
Lee Pitre

Secretary
*Vic Kahler
Property Committee*

Treasurer
Diane Kahler
*Chancel Chimes
Service Committee
Worship & Music
Committee*

Deacon John Chiappetta

Carol D'Auria
Evangelism / Stewardship

Connie De Turek
*Music & Worship
Committee*

Vivian Matthews

Ted Polack
Ushers

Richard Regan
Property Committee

Russ Telfer
Memorial Committee

Helen Van Horn

Financial Secretary
Michel Northsea
*GPS/Long Range
Planning*

Pastor's Message (Continued)

ordination, and again at my marriage to Mike. That's what Godparents do. They are present when it is possible, and they pray always for their Godchildren.

There were also many people in my life who acted as baptismal sponsors, unofficially guiding me and helping me find God in my life. They supported me, challenged me, corrected me, and led me to do things I would never have thought possible. Above all, they helped me develop a faithful, trusting relationship with God and God's people.

Think again about those two questions: What does it mean that you are baptized? What does it mean to be a Godparent or less formal type of baptismal sponsor? How do you live out your promises? Don't just read on: take a moment now to think about that last question. I'll wait. J

Become a child of God happens instantly – at baptism – and over a lifetime, with the help of hundreds of people who encourage and guide us along the way. We are never too old, or too young, to remember our baptismal promises and to be a guide for others on their own pathway to faithful living.

Removing the Christmas Decorations

On Saturday, January 7th at 9:00 a.m., we will be removing and putting away the Christmas decorations from the sanctuary and narthex. Please join us.

Annual Reports

On Saturday, January 7th at 9:00 a.m., we will be removing and putting away the Christmas decorations from the sanctuary and narthex. Please join us.

Esther Circle

Esther Circle will meet on Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 10:30 A.M. in the church parlor. This will be our first session of 2012, But we will be continuing the series of lessons from the Gospel of Mark.

In this session five, we will focus on chapters 8 and 9. In these chapters, the questions about Jesus' identity become more pointed, not only as teacher, preacher, and healer. But as his identity as the Messiah is revealed to the disciples and through these scriptures to us, the pressure is on. It is here that Jesus announces that he will suffer, be killed, and then be raised from the dead.

What does all this mean for us? Come join us for this Bible Study to find the answer. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Copies of the lesson are available in the church office, if you do not suscribe to the W/ ELCA magazine "Gather".

Dollars and Sense From the Treasurer's Desk

<u>Date</u>	<u>Communion Attendance</u>	<u>Regular Income</u>
November 6	68	3,370.36
November 13	69	2,810.25
November 20	59	1,264.46
November 25	66	223.00

Total Inflows: \$10,391.61

Total Outflows: \$15,656.81

The complete financial statement is in Luther Hall.

Healing Worship Service

The order for healing is an expression in worship of the church's ministry of healing. All who sense the need for God's healing in any aspect of their lives gather to join in prayer for others and themselves.

In the ministry of healing, the church does not replace the gifts of God that come through the medical and scientific community, nor does it promise a cure. Instead, in this service we receive God's strength and comfort, God's promise of wholeness and peace, and God's love embodied in the community of faith gathered for worship and prayer.

Operation Christmas Child

154! Yes, one hundred and fifty four shoeboxes were filled and shipped thanks to the generous folks and friends of Hope!

Thank you for a successful mission project that touches so many young lives in areas where there is a great need for the message of Jesus Christ and to help bring joy to children all over the world

Our 2012 kick-off will begin soon and our main focus will be to collect money throughout the year for buying items to

Healing Worship Services at Hope include singing familiar hymns, scripture reading and a brief message, intercessory prayers, the order for healing, and Holy Communion. All are welcome at this worship service; it is an opportunity to pray for healing for oneself or for others, and to worship at a time other than Sunday morning.

In 2012, the Healing Worship Service will be held on Tuesday afternoons. The first one will be Tuesday, February 21 at 2pm. The tentative schedule for the remainder of the year is: Tuesday, May 15; Tuesday, August 21; and Tuesday, October 16, all at 2pm.

fill the boxes and to ship them. Check the bulletin board in Luther Hall to help decide what our goal should be this year . . . 75 . . . 100 . . . 150 or ??? Can we count on you again this year???

Carole Warden

Family Members in the Military

We remember & pray for those who protect our liberty by serving in the military.

Ginny Cameron's grandson:
Tech Sergeant John Edward Werner

John & Margarita Chiappetta's son:
Luis Jimenez

Janet Esworthy's nephew:
Major Marc Orndorff

Joan Klotz's two grandsons:
Brian Lucas and Kevin Lucas

Vivian Matthews' granddaughter:
Capt. Kari Matthews

Edith Regan's daughter:
Storekeeper Chief Phyllis Thomas

Please let the church office know of others we can add to this list.

Members Who Are Homebound or Residing in Care Facilities

Johanna Barrett – Home

Ginny Cameron – Home

Jeannette Carnie — Life Care,
Lecanto

Sebastian D'Auria – Home

Roy Deck – Hampton Manor West,
Dunnellon

Joan Layton – Home

Joe Rovin – Home

Helen Savinsky – Cedar Creek,
Crystal River

Dorothy Scianna – Crystal Gem
Manor, Crystal River

Karen Summers – Home

Ruby Wagner – Barrington Place

Logo Contest

Last fall, I invited members to design a logo for Hope, an image which people in the community will begin to recognize as belonging to us, Hope Lutheran Church. The images presented will be in the narthex soon with containers below them. Please vote for your favorite image by making a donation into that container.

The image with the most money will be converted to an electronic image for use

on our stationary, business cards, T-shirts, and so forth. The donations will be used for making and shipping quilts and Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, so please be generous.

2012 Florida SeniorFest

SeniorFest: A day of learning, food, fun, and challenge, for all Lutheran seniors and friends.

Location: Monday, February 13: Life Enrichment Center, 4991 Picciolla Rd, Fruitland Park, FL 34731 (Leesburg)

Keynoters: Dr. David Rhoads ret. Prof. LST gives an impactful presentation New Testament scripture. Mark Schoepp, Wheat Ridge Ministries talks about brain research & how we can use it to give God our best -- Worship through Music will be led by David Ludwip Jr., Music Minister.

Exhibits and Workshops: Crafts, exercise, speakers, retired Pastors meeting, health issues, retirement, other

activities (location workshops vary).

Time: 8:30 a.m.—3:45 p.m.

Cost: \$30.00 includes lunch.

Website:
www.aloafloridaseniorfest.com

If interested, registration forms are in the office on the church secretary's desk.

Annual Christmas Party

The annual Christmas Party was hosted by Martha Circle on December 4 and was well attended. Those who missed it, missed a fun time of decorating a mini Christmas tree to take home for the holidays. There were 3 tables full of goodies to snack on and enjoy.

14 filled Christmas stockings made for our home-bound and nursing home residents were hung on display and ready to distribute to our special loved

"SOUPER BOWL" Sunday, February 5th

The Youth Group is asking you to support their food drive for the hungry in our community. Please start thinking about donations to our cause now by taking advantage of, buy one get one, specials and using coupons. Last year you donated an amazing 142 items. We

ones. Larry Whitler entertained us with his guitar and Christmas songs. Helga Whitler had made adorable Christmas cards to add to the table decorations, and every family got a metal bookmark with this year's "tree theme" and a verse to help us remember what Christmas is all about --the gift of JESUS CHRIST!

delivered them to the Family Resource Center. We are excited to help others in our church work. Thanks for your support.

Thrivent News

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans of Citrus County held the Holiday Volunteer appreciation luncheon at Southern Woods Golf Club in Homosassa on December 6. Ted Polack, Carole Warden and Pastor Lynn attended as Hope's advocates. Because of Choice dollars, Hope received \$1,420 in supplemental funding. Our volunteers logged 592 hours during 2011 and our projects included Care packages to the troops in Afghanistan, Operation Christmas Child (shoeboxes), Lutheran

World relief kits and quilts, and gifts for needy families at Christmas. President Lynn Dively recognized special people involved this past year and those on the board. The meeting concluded with a closing prayer by Pastor Lynn.

A Congregational Advocate Training will be held at First Lutheran Church in Inverness on January 10, 2012. RSVP to Darlene Hedin at 352-637-5482 by January 3.

Martha Circle

Come join us on JANUARY 4 at 1:00 p.m. in Luther Hall classroom 3.

We will be starting the New Year off by living up to our group's namesake. . . Service to others . . . God's work through

our hands and hearts! We will be making Valentine cards for our homebound and nursing home residents. Light refreshments will be served. See you on Wednesday, January 4.

Round Robin Sign Up Sheet

To participate in fun and fellowship please sign up for Round Robin Dinners in the narthex. This round will begin in February and run through May. We meet in each others homes and share the cooking. Each couple provides a salad, vegetable or dessert. The host couple for the dinner will provide the main

course. We will alternate homes and side dishes and have a good time.

If you have any questions or need more information look for me at church or call me at 746-9799.

Sue Hovis

Thank you

Thanks to Dick Regan for his extra help before and after the Christmas. You are appreciated!

Thanks to those who made our church so festive with the Christmas decorating.

Thanks to our generous gifts, we were able to make Christmas a little more special for our Benjamin and Chloe families.

Thanks from Pastor Lynn

To the choir for the wonderful Cantata

To the property committee for cleaning up the grounds, repairing the welcome sign, cleaning the carpets, replacing the blinds in Luther Hall classrooms, and all the little and big things you guys do all the time

Thanks to Pastor Lynn for a year of bringing the Gospel to life every Sunday.

Thanks to Kelly, for going above and beyond your job and helping with special projects.

Carole Warden

To Martha Circle and all who made the Christmas fellowship event so much fun; for the gifts to homebound members, and all the little and big things you do all the time

To your generosity at Christmas and always

History Trivia

From 1985 newsletters:

Thirteen men with eight spreaders applied 700 pounds of fertilizer to the church grounds.

Youth projects included unloading newspapers from cars in the monthly "paper drive." In June, the youth washed cars at the same time, \$2 for cars, \$3 for trucks. Paper drives regularly brought in around \$40/month.

Each month, the newsletter prints many thank you notes. This note from October 1985 caught my eye. Dear Family of Hope: I wish to thank all for their love and kindness, for the many cards. It is appreciated. Thanks to all and may God bless. Madge Baity ... P.S. I love to sing "The Lord's Prayer". I've never heard so many beautiful voices in one church. When we come close to the end, I notice the voices get louder; it brings tears to

my eyes. You can almost hear the roof bounce.

A Halloween Square Dance was held in Luther Hall on Sunday evening, Halloween weekend. There was costume judging and prizes awarded for the best costume.

Instead of door-to-door trick-or-treating for candy, children went trick-or-treating for UNICEF in Luther Hall each Sunday morning in October.

In 1986-87, there was preparation and anticipation for the coming merger in January, 1988, of three church bodies (the Lutheran Church in America, American Lutheran Church, and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches) into the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Known Birthdays and Anniversaries in January

Birthday

3 Edith Diez
6 Carol Kramp
8 Nancy Miller
12 Dorothy Scianna
14 Dick Regan
15 Cindy Towne



20 Yvonne Popke
25 Maxwell Forsyth
28 Jim Gordon
30 Robert Krokker
31 David Doyle

Anniversaries

19 John & Margaret Laning, Sr. (9)

Those Who Will Assist in Worship for January

Communion Assistants and Acolytes

1 - Casey Gaylaro/Anthony Diaz
8 - Deacon John Chiappetta/Brenna Towne
15 - Renate Wilms-Rovin/Anita O'Donnell
22 - Steven Penn/Jacob Penn
29 - Dee Forsyth/Lynn Polack

Altar Guild

Margaret DeWalt
Diane Kahler
Margarita Chiappetta
Casey Gaylaro

Nursery

1- TBA
8 - Judy Thomason-Kasco
15 - Sue Hovis
22 - TBA
29 - TBA

Lay Readers

1 - Carol Warden/Ryan Towne
8 - Monika Seeger
15 - Renate Wilms-Rovin
22 - Ted Polack
29 - Diana Kahler

Assisting Ministers

Deacon John Chiappetta
Anthony Diaz
Diane Kahler
Steve Northsea
Ted Polack
Ryan Towne
Renate Wilms-Rovin

Guest Greeter

Casey Gaylaro

Greeters

Ann and David Becwar

Ushers for the Month

Jim Hovis
Janet Esworthy



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 9:30a Worship 10:45a Fellowship 2:00p Deeper Life L.H.	2 Office Closed	3	4 10:30a Bible Study CR1 1:00p Art Group 1:00p Martha Circle 6:00p Youth Group	5 6:30p Cub Scouts 7:00p Choir Reh.	6	7 1st Saturday in Dunnellon
8 Communion 8:00a Adult Bible Study 8:00a Confirmation 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship 10:45a Fellowship 2:00p Deeper Life L.H.	9 10:30a Bible Study CR1 1:00p Jacob's Journey 6:30p Boy Scouts	10 6:00a Girl Scouts 6:30p Worship & Music	11 10:30a Bible Study CR1 1:00p Art Group 2:30p Council Mtg	12 6:30p Cub Scouts 7:00p Choir Reh.	13	14 9:00a Friendship Breakfast
15 Communion 8:00a Christian Ed. 8:00a Confirmation 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship 10:45a Fellowship 2:00p Deeper Life L.H.	16 10:30a Bible Study CR1 10:30a Evangelism 1:00p Jacob's Journey 6:30p Boy Scouts	17	18 10:30a Bible Study CR1 10:30a Piecemakers 1:00p Art Group	19 10:30a Esther Circle 6:30p Cub Scouts 7:00p Choir Reh.	20	21
22 Communion 8:00a Adult Bible Study 8:00a Confirmation 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship 10:45a Fellowship 2:00p Deeper Life L.H.	23 10:30a Bible Study CR1 1:00p Jacob's Journey 6:30p Boy Scouts	24 6:00a Girl Scouts	25 10:30a Bible Study CR1 10:30a Piecemakers 1:00p Art Group	26 6:30p Cub Scouts 7:00p Choir Reh.	27	28
29 Communion 8:00a Adult Bible Study 8:00a Confirmation 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship 10:45a Fellowship 2:00p Deeper Life L.H.	30 10:30a Bible Study CR1 1:00p Jacob's Journey 6:30p Boy Scouts	31	<h1>January 2012</h1>			