



# The Beacon of Hope

The Newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church DECEMBER 2014

## A Word From Pastor Carl

*“MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS”*

Those who critique Christmas do make some interesting points. First, while we celebrate Christmas because of the birth of Jesus, there is nothing in the Bible that instructs or mandates a celebration on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December (or any specific day for that matter.) In fact, the reason that we celebrate our Savior’s birth when we do is because the early Church realized that it would be easier to take a day that was already set aside (Sol Invictus—the reconquering of the Sun over darkness and the Winter Solstice) than trying to establish its own day.) It is very true that Christmas’ origin has pagan roots and that its celebration today is just as mixed with a lot of other baggage with elves and mistletoe, etc. as it was back then. *(Continued on Page 2)*

## Hope Lutheran Church Women

Bazaar results: Thank you to all who helped make the bazaar a success. Proceeds after expenses are \$936.93.

At the November group meeting we voted to support the Bethany Crisis Nursery during December, with an in-gathering of supplies that are needed. These include newborn and #6 diapers, baby hygiene products such as baby wash, lotion, etc.; mittens, hats, gloves; clothing size 2T through 7/8 [can be new or gently used]. Please have these items at the church on or before December 14th. No need to wrap items.

There were 8 children who spent all or part of the shopping night hours at church. Especially appreciated were helpers Tamera Lundstrom, Emily Hall, Bailey Tardy and Amanda Baker. Next year we’ll plan to notify the planners of the event sooner, so our service will be included in the publicity flyers.

Thank you to those who helped with child care on shopping night.

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### COMMUNITY CHOIR



A community choir is being organized to provide an opportunity for singing Christmas carols. At this time, the New Life church has asked for a community choir to sing at their Christmas program on December 21, 2014 at 6:00 pm.

If anyone is interested in participating in the Community Choir, please come to the first practice on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:40 a.m. at Hope Lutheran.

Contact Liz Thom 218-644-3593 if you have any questions.

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#### *Word from Pastor Carl (Continued From Page 1)* *"MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS"*

The Pilgrims, Puritans and early Quakers did not like Christmas because it reminded them of too much English frill and Roman ritual. One modern religious group that in particular shuns Christmas is the Jehovah's Witnesses. The Jehovah's Witnesses would cite the reasons given above for not having this holiday. But the Jehovah's Witnesses also do not celebrate Christmas because they do not celebrate the birthdays of anyone.

The Jehovah's Witness point out that the Scriptures only record two occasions of people celebrating the day that they were born. The first of these two occurrences is the birthday of Pharaoh's daughter in Genesis 40. At that gathering, the Pharaoh restored the cupbearer to his position but then ordered the taking of the life of his baker.

The other birthday celebration in the Bible is found in Mark chapter 6. The tetrarch, Herod Antipas threw a birthday party for himself and invited dignitaries. Herod Antipas' wife had a daughter from a previous marriage. For entertainment at the party, Herod's daughter danced, which was well-received by the guests. In Herod's (likely inebriated) admiration of her work, he promised to give her anything that she wanted--up to half of his kingdom. But instead, her mother instructed her daughter to request the beheading of John the Baptist.

For the two "Biblical" birthday celebrations, the day that was supposed to celebrate life ended up in death. And so the entire notion of birthday celebrations is viewed by the Jehovah's Witnesses as bringing attention to oneself and that it can lead to encouraging extravagance, as we are seeing more in recent years with some of the over-the-top, expensive children's parties.

We admit that the two explicit birthday parties in the Bible were not happy moments. But what about the greatest birthday party of all? While the term "birthday" is not specifically attached to what happened at Bethlehem, how is the nativity of Christ not a birthday celebration in some sense? While the angels did not sing "Happy Birthday", they sang the beautiful song of the "Gloria". And while Jesus did not receive presents that night, sometime later, the Magi brought him expensive gifts.

Just like for some extreme birthday parties, there is a lot more about Christmas that is not that wholesome. But as God's people, we can celebrate because the world should still know the real reason for the season. While the earth may trivialize in the worldly distractions of this time of year, God's people know that Christ's birthday was to give us the gift of being born again. And that is definitely worth celebrating.

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#### **HLCW News (continued from Page 1)**

#### ***HLCW BIBLE STUDY***

We will not be meeting in December so will double up with 2 lessons in January based on the Proverbs 31 Woman.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

*HLCW News (Continued from Page 2)*

**LIFEHOUSE**

Please bring your cookies for Lifehouse, if you haven't already done so, by December 14th. They will be delivered to them for their Christmas party.

**SHOEBOXES**

Ahlgrens delivered 42 shoeboxes and \$188.00 to Mt. of Olives Baptist Church in Duluth. They were sending a total of 8000 boxes from the Duluth area. The people there appreciated the fact that the boxes were the same size. They gave Floyd and Carole 50 cardboard boxes from OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD that fit perfectly in a shipping crate. We will be using them next year.



Thank you to everyone who helped make at least one child learn about Christmas and Jesus' love them.

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**HLCW MEETING MINUTES**

HLCW Meeting November 11, 2014

The meeting opened with President Grace Autio presiding. The secretary read the minutes of the October 14th meeting which upon motion approved as read.

Jeanette Johnsen's treasurer's report showed a checking balance of \$2,081.96 after expenses, with a savings balance of \$1,433.97. After designated funds of \$2,680.81, available funds are \$835.12. Upon motion by Caroline Hosking, seconded by Shirley Johnson, the report was approved as presented.

Grace reported that the workday painting in the entry way did not get done and noted the importance of getting it done eventually.

The annual church bazaar is coming up Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 5:00 p.m. and a sign-up sheet for things to bring will be put up this week. Grace met with LuAnn to talk about bazaar arrangements.

Grace noted that a new quilt room is needed in order that the kids can play ball in the back room where the ceilings are higher. The storage shelves and quilt materials can be moved into the first classroom which has ample space and a lower ceiling. This will be done by the end of the year.

Monday, Nov. 24th is Shopping Night in Floodwood. Our church will be offering child care at Hope that evening and posters will be placed uptown to spread the word. The youth will have a fund-raiser for them to attend the Quake Zone youth gathering in the Cities in the spring.

Family Fun Night is planned for 5:30 Sunday, Dec. 7. There will be chili and hot dogs; puzzles and games, and the youth will decorate the Christmas tree.

Cookie Can day is also Dec. 7 with Naomi Circle in charge. Each person brings four dozen Christmas cookies which are packaged up for local distribution. As before cookies will be brought to the Duluth Lifehouse. A list of needs for the Crisis Nursery will be available soon so we can gather things to be brought there in mid-December.

The Shoe Boxes are due to be filled and brought ready to ship on Sunday, Nov. 16. Contribution money from the Globe the last two months will also go to the Shoe Box fund.

It was decided not to meet in December, unless Grace calls for a meeting in the overflow room to make any decisions.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Nancy Raihala, Secretary



I planted some bird seed. A bird came up. Now I don't know what to feed it

# December Birthdays

- 3 Jor Romanek
- 4 Carole Ahlgren
- 5 Carolyn Hosking
- 6 Johanna Abell  
Cecilia Abell
- 8 Gabriella Grovenburg
- 10 Tony Speece  
Constantine Grovenburg
- 12 Danielle (Tollgaard) White
- 13 Kathy Granmoe
- 17 Courtney Young  
John Hutchinson
- 19 John Seredinski Jr.
- 26 Bubba Vance
- 27 Tanya Johnson
- 28 Donald Tveit
- 29 Bernice Johnson
- 30 Lois Hendrickson  
Lindsey Rosemore
- 31 Alex Larson

# December Anniversaries

- 19 Bob & Joyce Andrews
- 25 Bob & Carolyn Hosking  
( '60)
- 28 Carl & Jodi Fiskness

## NOVEMBER 2014 GIVING

### GENERAL FUND

Sunday Offering & Coffee	\$ 7,217.06
Thanksgiving	237.00
Operation Christmas Child	\$ 192.00

### YOUTH

Shopping Night	\$ 51.00
Movie Matinee	\$ 85.50

\$





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**YOUTH FUND RAISER**

<https://www.schwans-cares.com/>

Starting November 19, 2014, the Hope Lutheran Youth (Confirmation Students) will be holding a fundraiser through Schwann's Cares. For every order placed to Schwann's either online at schwans-cares.com or phoning 1-855-870-7208, using the code 16602, the Hope Lutheran Youth group will receive 20% of all orders placed until January 2, 2015. After January 2, orders can still be placed using the same method only the proceeds our youth receives will drop to 5% for the remaining fundraising period.

Our confirmation students plan to use their fundraising money to attend the Quake Zone that is held in Bloomington, MN, in March. This is a weekend of worship for our youth, as well as, support for our teens to live a faith-filled, active live with Christ. They get the opportunity to attend tracks (seminars) of their choosing which are focused on different issues our teens

face on a day to day basis. The youth enjoy singing praises with Christian bands and hearing stories from people who have seen God work through their lives in amazing ways. This is an exciting weekend for our youth. One they look forward to attending each year.

Please consider making a difference in the life of our teens by supporting our fundraiser. All that is required is placing your normal Schwann's order online or by phoning the above number. If you are not currently a Schwann's customer, now would be a great time to try out their delicious items! It is as easy as that!

Our confirmation students say, "THANK YOU!"

**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 18, 2014**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by President Susan Coccie. Pastor Fiskness opened with prayer.

Present: Pastor Carl Fiskness, Bubba Vance, Jen Myles, Marion Shafer, Susan Coccie, Lonna Hutchinson, Bryan Hutchinson, Kathy Johnsen. Absent: Rae Rosemore, Carlene Jatkola, David Zieroth.

**AGENDA**

MOTION BY LONNA HUTCHINSON, SECOND BY BRYAN HUTCHINSON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED.

**REPORTS**

**Secretary:** MOTION BY BUBBA VANCE, SECOND BY JEN MYLES TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 14, 2014 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

**Financial:** A bill for furnace repair in the church building will be paid from the Rental Properties account. MOTION BY BRYAN HUTCHINSON, SECOND BY BUBBA VANCE TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORTS. MOTION CARRIED.

**President:** Susan reported she is expecting the remaining six Operation Christmas Child containers to be filled by Wednesday.

*(Continued on Page 6)*

**Church Council Minutes (Continued from Page 5)**

**Pastor:** Activities report attached.

**Youth & Family, Education:** Hazel is organizing the Family Fun Night for December 7 and the Christmas Program for December 14; Jeanette is organizing child care for the Christmas Shopping Night; Pastor reported there is a fund raiser in progress through Schwan's with proceeds going to the Youth account and there will be a table at the Christmas Shopping Night to promote this.

**Communication & Technology:** Susan asked that anyone with a Facebook account click on SHARE to spread the word about events, etc.

**Building:** The handrail has been installed; Ron Bailey will continue to plow snow for the church and parsonage.

**Befrienders:** No report.

**HLCW:** Bazaar November 19, 2014

**Quilters:** Will not meet again until January.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Auction** – Jeff Kletscher agreed to chair a committee to work with Lee and Millie Samuelson.

**B. Washing machine** – New washing machine has been installed in the parsonage.

**C. Confirmation** – Kathy stated her concerns about procedures for council action.

**D. Directories** – MOTION BY BUBBA VANCE, SECOND BY BRYAN HUTCHINSON TO PAY ALL EXPENSES RELATED TO THE NEW CHURCH DIRECTORIES FROM THE MEMORIAL FUND. MOTION CARRIED.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Copier** – MOTION BY BRYAN HUTCHINSON, SECOND BY KATHY JOHNSEN TO ALLOW JEFF KLETSCHER TO USE HOPE'S COLOR COPIER FOR MATERIALS FOR THE SAX ZIM BOG WINTER BIRDING FESTIVAL FOR A FEE OF \$50 PLUS THE COST PER PAGE CHARGED BY XEROX. MOTION CARRIED.

**B. Christmas Dinner** – MOTION BY BRYAN HUTCHINSON, SECOND BY JEN MYLES TO SPONSOR THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER TO BE HELD AT THE FAIR BUILDING. MOTION CARRIED.

**C. Concert** – MOTION BY BUBBA VANCE, SECOND BY BRYAN HUTCHINSON TO ALLOW ARNA RENNAN TO PRESENT A CONCERT AT HOPE ON DECEMBER 20 OR 21, 2014 WITH NO CHARGE FOR BUILDING USE. MOTION CARRIED.

**D. Annual Meeting** – MOTION BY BUBBA VANCE, SECOND BY BRYAN HUTCHINSON TO CONDUCT THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON JANUARY 25, 2015 WITH A POTLUCK TO FOLLOW. MOTION CARRIED.

**E. Stewardship Letter** – The stewardship letter will be distributed with a to-be-returned-by date of January 4, 2015.

**F. Nominating Committee** – Kathy Johnsen, LuAnn Heikkila, Dean Fries, Tim Tollgaard, Wayne Thom

**G. Pastor** will be gone on December 28, 2014 and has arranged pulpit supply.

**GLOBE**

The globe offering for December will be used for community Christmas Day dinner expenses, and there will be no offering collected in January.

**NEXT MEETINGS**

December 18, 7:00 pm

Kathy Johnsen, Secretary

Protons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic







***Community Christmas Dinner***

***December 25<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon***

***At the Floodwood Fair Building***

***All Are Welcome***

***(Dinner provided free of charge)***

**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**WEBSITE**

Hope Lutheran Church now has its  
very own website. Visit us at:

[www.hopelutheranfloodwood.org](http://www.hopelutheranfloodwood.org)

**Also visit us on FACEBOOK:**

Hope Lutheran Church,  
Floodwood, MN

*The Beacon of Hope is published each month for members and friends of Hope Lutheran Church, Floodwood, Minnesota. News items should be given to Ann Bolstad (476-2130, cell 343-0943 or send to [draseal@aol.com](mailto:draseal@aol.com)) by the 24<sup>th</sup> of the month.*

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Carl Fiskness, Pastor

*Sunday School & Worship 9:30 a.m.*

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