



# The Beacon of Hope

The Newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church

December 2013

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## *A Word From Pastor Carl*

### *ADVENTS*

Every year our country needs to be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas. As the adage says, "Jesus is the Reason for the Season." The most obvious difference between the Christian and secular celebrations is whether we give more honor to Jesus Christ or to Santa and the reindeer. Besides such an obvious dissimilarity between the sacred and secular Christmas, another distinctive of the Christian celebration versus the worldly is that the real Christmas is preceded by Advent. In some smaller ways, a secular Advent has also developed. I remember trying to purchase an advent calendar in a store once and none of them had a picture of the Holy Family on them. Instead there were Barbie and Dora the Explorer Advent calendars. But overall, Advent primarily is still a religious season and has not overly been mixed with secular festivities. I have yet to hear "Rocking Around the Advent Wreath."

The major theme of Advent is preparing for the birth of Christ as the baby boy born in Bethlehem. This has always been and continues to be its central focus.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## *HLCW*

### *WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY*

Session four of the Family Matters study, which the women are using, is titled, "Dad Always Liked You Best" [reminds one of the Smothers Brothers!!]. The Old Testament reading is from Genesis 25:19-28 the story of twin brothers Jacob and Esau. From the New Testament is the story of sisters Mary and Martha as they host a visit from Jesus. These stories should lead to interesting discussion of birth order in our own families, sibling rivalry and jealousy. Our meeting date is on December 30th at 10:00 a.m. at the church. All are welcome.

*(Continued Page 2)*

## *CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY*



### *CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER*

For those who find themselves alone on Christmas Day, please join us at 12:00 at the Fair Building for dinner. This is not potluck, just bring yourself and enjoy dinner and fellowship.

**Word From Pastor Carl**

*(Continued From Page 1)*

**ADVENTS**

Some of the hymns clearly think on the coming of Christ in Bethlehem in such well-known songs such as, “O Come, O Come, Immanuel.” But a good number of the other hymns in the Advent section of the hymnal do not focus specifically on Christ’s original arrival but instead have a broader focus on Christ coming to us in other ways such as through the proclamation of the Gospel, when Jesus rode on a donkey into Jerusalem and was proclaimed “the Son of David,” and how our Lord will come again as the king to judge the living and the dead. For example, one of the typical scripture texts traditionally read in the worship service during Advent is Jesus teaching his disciples about the end of the world. One of the hymns in the Advent section of the hymnal with this focus is “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending.”

Another example of this wider view of Advent is in the readings containing John the Baptist. When John declared to the people, “Prepare the Way of the Lord,” he was not talking about Christ’s birth to Mary and Joseph. Instead, John was calling the people to prepare for the adult Christ’s preaching ministry. Two Advent hymns in this tradition include, “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry” and “Comfort, Comfort, Now My People.”

Again another traditional Advent theme that is not specifically tied with the nativity is the remembrance on his entry into Jerusalem when he was hailed as a king a week before he was crucified. Some of the Advent hymns with this focus are “Prepare the Royal Highway” and “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You.” For the last couple years, we have not thought on these other themes

of Advent. The cycle of readings that we have followed is called the “Narrative Lectionary” which begins at Genesis in September and works its way through the Bible in one year. We can still later expect to hear about John the Baptist in January. Likewise, we will specifically think about Christ in the second coming at the end of church year.

I find this “beginning to end” way of learning about the life of Christ, and the scriptures in general, easier than having four lessons per Sunday and then jumping around in the Bible. The Narrative Lectionary begins the new cycle each year in September with Genesis. By the beginning of Advent, the church is finishing the study of the Old Testament and how the oracles of the prophets pointed towards the arrival of the Christ child.

While we gain clarity in moving in a straighter trajectory, we do forfeit the reminders that the original Christmas 2000 years ago was not a one-time event. Each time we hear the sweet promises of the Gospel in the sermon, we also encounter the Word preached to us like John the Baptist proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And that same Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, will eventually bring his children to someday meet him face-to-face, too, at the end of days.

To gain a sense of all the emphases of the Advent season, one can turn to one of the lesser-known Advent hymns, “The Advent of Our God.”

Verse 2: (Christ coming in the manger)

The everlasting Son, incarnate  
stoops to be,  
Himself the servant’s form puts on  
to set his people free.

Verse 3: (Christ who came to  
Jerusalem as the king)

Come Zion’s daughter rise to meet  
your lowly king  
Nor let your faithless heart despise  
the peace he comes to bring.

Verse 4: (Christ in the second coming)

As judge, on clouds of light, He  
soon will come again,  
And all his scattered saints unite  
with him on high to reign

~~~~~  
**HLCW News (Continued  
from Page 1)**

**Bethany Crisis Center**

**O**ur outreach mission project for this year is the Bethany Crisis Shelter in Duluth. Below is a wish-list of items needed:

Baseball caps, Hand-held electronic games, journals, twin-sized sheets, towels, wash cloths, men's and women's deodorant, girl's and women's underwear of all sizes, Pull-ups in all sizes. Hair items such as: brushes, hair spray, gel, mousse, straightener, curling iron, spray de-tangler, Blue Magic [for Afro-American hair], head bands, make-up, large Teflon pan, extra large whisk, silverware, gift cards to Target or Wal-Mart.



Bring items to church on or before December 15th. No need to wrap.

We are also furnishing cookies for the Life House Christmas party which is December 17th. They can also use hats, mittens, scarves, etc.

# December Birthdays

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



# December Anniversaries

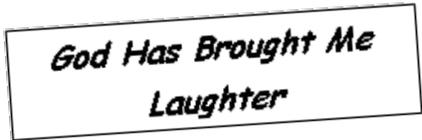
- 19 Bob & Joyce Andrews
- 25 Bob & Carolyn Hosking ('60)
- 28 Carl & Jodi Fiskness



## NOVEMBER GIVING

General Fund: \$ \$6448.02  
(includes Sunday Offering,  
Refreshment Offering)

Operation Christmas Child  
\$ 56.00



- Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. there will be an ice cream social. All ladies giving milk will please come early.
- Wednesday, the Ladies Liturgy Society will meet. Mrs. Jones will sing "Put Me In My Little Bed" accompanied by the pastor.

- Thursday at 5:00 p.m. there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All wishing to become little mothers, please see the minister in his study.

- This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

- The service will close with "Little Drops Of Water." One of the ladies will start quietly, and the rest of the congregation will join in.

- Next Sunday, a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will come forward and get a piece of paper.

- The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind and they may be seen in the church basement Friday.

### ALL MEN / ALL GIRLS

When my daughter, Kelli, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past). For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelli would say, "And all girls." This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing. My curiosity got the best of me and I asked her, "Kelli, why do you always add the part about all girls?" Her response, "Because everybody always finish their prayers by saying 'All Men!'"

## HLCW Meeting Monday, November 25, 2013

A meeting of Hope Lutheran Church Women was held Monday, Nov. 25, 2013 in the Hope dining hall preceding the Bible study session, at 10:00 a.m. Ten members were present. President Grace Autio presided at the meeting. The minutes of the Oct. 23rd meeting were read by the secretary and upon motion by Lois Hendrickson, seconded by Jan Benson were approved as read.

Jeanette Johnsen's treasurer's report showed a checking balance as of Oct. 28, of \$1,892.48. Income included the amount of \$1,099.65 from the bazaar. Expenses during the month totaled \$835.70, making a total current balance in checking of \$2,174.43. It showed that bazaar expenses totaled \$217.41 and a profit was made of \$882.24 plus \$35.00 still to come in. Available funds after certain designated funds are \$678.44. Upon motion by Liz Thom and seconded, all voted aye for the treasurer's report.

Parsonage Paint Project: Dennis Davis will not be able to finish the project by December 1st, as problems apparently came up, but he expects to have the job done soon after that.

Grace reported that she has \$75.00 in cook book money to turn in. She also noted that the new changing table is here but is not yet installed.

It was noted by Jan Benson that we served 98 dinners during the bazaar, including 6 take-outs.

**NEW BUSINESS:** It was decided to conduct Cookie Can Sunday on December 15th and people are asked to bring four dozen cookies; and be sure to wrap them three or four to a package, cling wrap, snack bag or whatever, so that a variety can be distributed in each cookie can.

**GIVING TREE:** Jeanette asked if HLCW wished to contribute to this charity again this year, and it was agreed to contribute to the Bethany Crisis Center plus mittens, hats and scarves to the Lighthouse, by December 15th. A motion was made by Lois, seconded by Laverne Hutton, to also donate \$100 to the Crisis Center towards their kitchen updating project besides bringing items for both charities. The vote was all aye, and approved.

A motion by Susan Coccie, seconded by Jan, to contribute to the local Operation Rudolph project, was by vote unanimously approved.

It was decided to meet again for Bible study in December on Monday, the 30th at 10:00 a.m.

It was decided to not have a regular quilting session tomorrow (Tuesday) because it's so close to Thanksgiving.

Susan noted that a community Christmas Day dinner will be held at 12:00 noon at the Fair Building.

Pastor and Jodi's wedding reception will be held downstairs following their wedding on Dec. 28th. Volunteers to serve cookies are Liz Thom, Shirley Johnson, Susan Coccie and Grace Autio.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Nancy Raihala, Secretary



### *COOKIE CANS*

Cookie Can Sunday will be Dec. 15. If you are able, please bring 4 doz. cookies to church. Put 3-4 cookies in a small baggie or wrap them so the flavors aren't all mixed up. Mary Circle ladies will fill the cans and distribute them, but if other people would like to deliver some cans, talk to them during the coffee hour.

The rest of the cookies will be brought to Lifehouse.

**Floodwood, MN 55736**

**Minutes of regular October Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 22, 2013**

Meeting called to order by President Dean Fries at 7:18 PM.

Pastor Carl Fiskness read from Romans 16:25 and prayer.

Those in attendance include: Brian Hutchinson, Dave Zieroth, Pastor Carl Fiskness, Carlene Jatkola, Susan Coccie, LuAnn Heikkila, Lonna Hutchinson, Dean Fries, Marion Shafer. Absent: Kathy Johnsen, Bubba Vance and Rae Rosemore.

**Agenda**

Motion by Susan Coccie, second by Carlene Jatkola to approve the agenda with additions; motion approved.

**Reports**

Secretary – Motion by Susan Coccie, second by Carlene Jatkola to approve the September 26, 2013 minutes; motion approved.

Pastor – Reviewed and discussed Pastor's report including mileage.

President – On financial statement Youth (12.0) expenses were added. Next month include rental income and expenses to help improve our financial reporting for the church. 6.15 – IRS - \$8912.00 – not budgeted. Dave Zieroth and Jeff Kletscher submitted a memo as a follow up to audit. Read through and discussed. Thanks to Dave and Jeff for audit memo. Lonna Hutchinson will call small churches and find out what financial programs they are using. We want a user friendly program. Other council members were asked to check also. Motion by Lonna Hutchinson, second by Susan Coccie to use all resources and look into a program that our church can utilize and benefit from; motion approved.

Put in bulletin – budget – ahead or behind. Marion Shafer needs to ask Jeff for that information and put it in the bulletin. Motion by Carlene Jatkola, second by Susan Coccie to *approve the financial statement; motion approved.*

Youth and Family – will have another meeting soon. Release time has gone well.

Befrienders – cards going out.

Stewardship – next month Pastor Carl will have a report on Pastor Bill Pohl.

Communications and Technology – website update – Pastor gave purpose and mission statement. Calendar has been updated. Need to write more definitions about our committees. Highlight globe offering. Add that we are starting a new confirmation class. Pictures – need ok from parents for minor children; church has forms.

Building – plants put back in; split hostas. Changed grade in front of church, out 6'-7' from building. Added fabric and rock, got plants back in before freezing. We would like to add more burning bushes and a flowering crab tree. Re-grading still needs to be done between sidewalks. There is a request for a hand rail on the south side. Motion by Dean Fries, second by LuAnn Heikkila to look into putting in a hand rail on the south side of the church; motion approved. Lonna Hutchinson checked on the gas meter bill. It was pro-rated.

Hope Lutheran Women- Pastor Carl and Jodi really appreciated the bridal shower. Bazaar is coming up on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Old Business**

Worship CD's – Marion paid bill. Jeff Kletscher will contact company. The short hasn't been found. We will need an electrician.

Office remodel – ordered three chairs, pictures. Committee is deciding on coffee table or end tables. They will decide after the chairs come in. Rae Rosemore is checking on fire safe. Marion will send out email or put in the bulletin for training on copy machine when he gets a date. A clock, mirror and pull down shades are still needed for the office.

Evaluations – Pastor Carl's still needs to be done. We decided to evaluate Pastor at the next council meeting. Dean will come up with the questions.

Operation Christmas Child – boxes are due on Sunday, November 17th.

**New Business**

Christmas Day dinner – invite the public. We will have it at the fair building again this year.

Sunday School program – Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Tree decorating party – Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. (*correction-the tree decorating will actually be December 1<sup>st</sup>*)

Things to do at church – Technology mostly. Use Jeff Kletscher's help on website, look into computer program, mixer screen, sound system, Bill Pohl project. We would use Jeff as a contract employee; cap on amount; budget. Dean Fries will talk to Jeff about hiring him. We will continue to talk about this at the November meeting.

Globe offering – Operation Christmas Child

Next meeting – Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 7:15 PM.

Pastor Carl closed with prayer.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

LuAnn Heikkila, Secretary

~ December 2013 ~

## HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH PLANNER

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Mon                                                                                                                                | Tue                                                                                         | Wed                                                                                                                                                     | Thu                                                                | Fri                                                                                                          | Sat                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br><b>USHER TEAM:</b><br>Roy Autio & John Seredinski – Team 4<br><b>9:30 Worship &amp; Sunday School</b><br><b>10:45 Coffee Fellowship</b><br><br><b>4:30</b> Family Fun nite w/games & Supper-Tree decorating | <b>2</b><br><b>USHER TEAM:</b><br>Jeff Kletscher & Dean Fries – Team 5<br><br><b>7:00 pm</b> Adult Confirmation & learning         | <b>3</b>                                                                                    | <b>4</b><br><b>12:10-1:00 HS</b> Release<br><b>1:50-3:00 Elem.</b> Release<br><b>6:00</b> Confirmation<br><br><i>Butter Braid payments due by today</i> | <b>5</b><br><b>9:00-10:30 am</b> Ruby's Pantry Arrowhead Town Hall | <b>6</b><br><b>3:00-5:00 pm</b> Pastor's office hours                                                        | <b>7</b>                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>8</b><br><b>9:30 Worship &amp; Sunday School</b><br><b>10:45 Coffee Fellowship</b>                                                                                                                                   | <b>9</b><br><b>USHER TEAM:</b><br>Marion Shafer & Burt Suonvieri & Evan – Team 6                                                   | <b>10</b>                                                                                   | <b>11</b><br><b>9-11 am FW</b> Food Shelf at FST<br><b>12:10-1:00 HS</b> Release<br><b>1:50-3:00 Elem.</b> Release<br><b>6:00</b> Confirmation          | <b>12</b>                                                          | <b>13</b><br><b>10:00 am</b> Bible Study at Riverview Manor<br><br><b>3:00-5:00 pm</b> Pastor's office hours | <b>14</b><br>Bring items for Bethany Shelter to Church tomorrow                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>15</b><br><b>9:30 Worship with Children's Program</b><br><br><b>10:45 Coffee Fellowship</b><br><br>COOKIE CAN SUNDAY                                                                                                 | <b>16</b><br><b>USHER TEAM:</b><br>Bob Hosking & Dale Rauvola – Team 7                                                             | <b>17</b><br><b>6:45</b> Buildings & Grounds Committee<br><br><b>7:15 pm</b> Church Council | <b>18 9-11 am FW</b> Food Shelf at FST<br><b>12:10-1:00 HS</b> Release<br><b>1:50-3:00 Elem.</b> Release<br><b>6:00</b> Confirmation                    | <b>19</b>                                                          | <b>20</b><br>No office hours                                                                                 | <b>21</b>                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>22</b><br><b>9:30 Worship</b><br><b>10:45 Coffee Fellowship</b>                                                                                                                                                      | <b>23</b><br><b>USHER TEAM:</b><br>Rob Benson & Wayne Thom – Team 8<br><br><b>7:00 pm</b> Bible Study Home Fellowship at Parsonage | <b>24</b><br><b>5:00 pm</b> Christmas Eve Service                                           | <b>25</b><br><b>12:00</b> Christmas dinner at the Fair Building<br><br><i>Christmas Day</i>                                                             | <b>26</b>                                                          | <b>27</b>                                                                                                    | <br><b>28</b><br><b>4:00</b> Jodi Swanson & Pastor Carl Fiskness Wedding<br><br>Cookies and coffee following |
| <b>29</b><br><b>9:30</b> Worship Pastor Thomas Jacobson leading the service<br><br><b>10:45</b> Coffee Fellowship                                                                                                       | <b>30</b><br><b>USHER TEAM:</b><br>Jim Pensak & Bubba Vance – Team 1<br><b>10:00 am</b> HLCW Bible Study                           | <b>31</b>                                                                                   | <b>Notes:</b><br><i>Butter Braids that were ordered, should be paid for by December 4; delivery around December 16th</i>                                |                                                                    |                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |



# **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER**

*Sponsored by Hope Lutheran Church*



**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> AT 12:00 P.M.  
AT THE FLOODWOOD DOWNTOWN FAIR CENTER  
EVERYONE WELCOME (RSVP 476-2259-leave a  
message)  
COME AND ENJOY THE FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP**

*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.*

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
401 HIGHWAY 73  
P.O. BOX 288  
FLOODWOOD, MN 55736