

HOPE HIGHLIGHTS

Issue No. 07-10

AUGUST 2010

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NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING 2010

By: Andrew Davis & Benjamin Berteau

The exotic city of New Orleans provides a dramatic background for the largest event ever managed by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Twenty-five thousand Lutheran youth and adults wend their way through the narrow streets of the city as they travel to and from the various gathering events. The convention center, where most of the small group studies takes place, could swallow Virginia Beach's convention center several times over. Inside are hundreds of individual conference rooms, dozens of speakers, multitudes of booths, displays, and stalls all vying for our attention. At night, we head to the Superdome; currently undergoing renovations, the scars of Katrina still utterly visible, reminders of the horrors that ripped through the city scant years ago. Inside we are bombarded with lights and sounds, as the thousands upon thousands here converge to do one thing, the only thing that we are here for; to praise our God and King.

As physically intimidating in size that the youth gathering can be, the emotional impact that it can work and the experiences that help to shape our faith are even larger. Everywhere you look you are surrounded by teens and adults alike who are all Lutherans who profess the same faith that you do. The theme this week and the mantra that has grown out of it has been "We Believe," and each time those words are chanted, spoken, and read in our theme verse (John 20:31) the energy, emotional, and spiritual level of all participants are heightened. It is evident that through the work of the Holy Spirit the spiritual maturity of this youth group has grown exponentially in a way that I am certain will enable us to make a visible impact and pass along the same faith that "We Believe." We are extremely grateful for your support in our efforts to fundraise for this event, and hope to show you all just what it is that "We Believe" and how this week has helped us to grow in that belief.

BECAUSE HE IS A SINNER...

By: Pastor Cofer

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. -Saint Paul of Tarsus

I love the simple humility with which Paul makes his case. Jesus is for sinners. Period.

Paul had a pretty powerful story. From my perspective, I see Paul as an incredibly influential and insightful Christian theologian because he was so well versed in the Hebrew Scriptures. He knew all about God, and - in some fashion - actually knew God. Granted, he did not see Jesus rightly until he was given a rather stark wake up call. It was after seeing Jesus that all of the knowledge of God that he had actually clicked in and he was able to see divine truth with remarkable clarity.

So, as I look at Paul, I see a guy who would make an ideal convert. I see a guy with the right personality, the right gifts, and the right training to be the perfect advocate for Christ.

That's not what Paul says about himself, though. He says that Jesus chose him because Paul was the worst sinner around.

If you think about it, he probably has a point. After all, God has used fishermen, farmers, pack animals, and shrubbery to speak for him. There really is no necessary skill-set or training to be elected by God. All that matters is His will.

Not that God is arbitrary in how He calls, far from it. It's just that we can't always peek into God's motivation. There is a consistent theme, though: God will do things in such a way as to make it unambiguous that He is in control.

Which brings us back to Paul. Paul says his major qualification for Christ's election was that Paul was a sinner, an egregious, flagrant sinner. Paul describes himself not as a persecutor of the church or of the faith, but as a persecutor of Christ himself.

And it is for this reason that Paul was called. "If Jesus can call me," Paul reasoned, "Then there is hope for anyone."

Today's Reading: 1 Timothy 1:1-17

<http://dailywell.blogspot.com>

LWML

By: Alisha Cofer



Attention all you ladies out there, let's get ready for some fun! As we head into the last month of summer, I want to pass along a few reminders about our Fall events. The

LWML will kick off its first meeting of the new year on Sept. 18. Come and share your summer fun stories, eat some great food and enjoy good fellowship with your Sisters in Christ, from 9am - noon. (Details on location will be announced in the bulletin.)

Be sure to mark your calendars for some upcoming district events as well. The District Convention is Sept. 24-26 and the Fall Workshop is going to be held on Oct. 23. Please keep those dates in mind and watch the bulletin for more details!

WORD OF THE MONTH

By: Kathryn Wacker

Lector: a Middle English word from Late Latin *lector* meaning *reader* and Latin *lectus* meaning *to read*; therefore a **Lector** is term for one who reads. Within the church, a **Lector** reads the appointed Biblical lessons used in the Liturgy of the Word.

Lectors are laypersons who read Scripture from the Old and New Testaments (or Epistle) during worship service. These Scripture readings are usually lessons from the lectionary and are e-mailed several days before the service allowing the opportunity to practice and work out pronunciations. When serving in this ministry, lectors must prepare themselves first with prayer then practice reading aloud the Scripture Lessons assigned. The lessons are to be presented from the lectern with a clear speaking voice and read before the pastor proclaims the Gospel lesson. All adults within the congregation able to confidently and clearly read aloud from the Bible are welcome to serve as lectors.



HEADS UP!

Mark your calendar for Sunday, Oct. 3, and make plans to participate in our 16th Annual Paul L. Kettner Memorial Golf Tournament at Honey Bee Golf Course. Shotgun start at 1pm. Lunch, awards and prizes. More information later.

August—Who needs it?? Who wants it?? By: Gordon & Deborah Johnson, Stewardship Chairs

Many people don't look forward to August and when it does come, they want it to pass quickly. August can be a long and boring month. Vacations for the most part are probably over. Farmers are in a waiting mode—not much work to do except watch the crops ripen. Baseball players refer to this month as the “dog days of August”, a time when they just have to “gut it out” before getting into the decisive month of September. Even children get bored to the point of wanting to get back to school (that one usually wears off after the first couple of weeks of September). Church leaders are anxiously waiting for the start-up of a new ministry year when things begin to happen. For these and other reasons August may well be the least liked month of the year.

Life comes with many August moments. We are in-between people, people who are waiting. We are there and yet we are not there. God has in Christ declared us to be His people, and yet we repeatedly fall short of His expectations. God has in Christ declared us to be saints and yet we are chronic sinners. We live in a tension of becoming what God has already declared us to be. The Apostle John in the third chapter of his first letter writes these beautiful words: *“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He (Christ) appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”* (1 John 3:1-2)



We are “August” people in a waiting mode. But that waiting is not a useless passing of time. It is a time when we exercise our faith as the children of God. With the power of His Holy Spirit we strive to be the best stewards we can be of our time, talents, treasure, relationships and all the other things that God has entrusted to us to manage for His purposes. It is an exciting time that provides us with many opportunities to say and do things that bring honor to the name of God and encouragement to those around us.

So the next time you have the opportunity to put your faith into action in your family, church, neighborhood or work place by giving some of your time, talents, or money, whether it's in the month of August or some other time, do it with energy and joy because *“God's redeemed stewards, in cooperation with and encouragement from fellow redeemed stewards, freely and joyfully manage all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.”*

TREASURER'S REPORT (June of Fiscal Year 2009-2010)

By: Linda Taylor



	Actual	Year-to-Date Actual
Total Income:	\$46,652.07	\$701,732.24
Total Expense:	-68,734.66	- 735,931.11
Income Less Expense:	<u>\$ -22,082.59</u>	<u>\$ -34,198.87</u>

For a more complete Financial Report, please pick up a copy in the church office.

Youth Group News

By: Linda Muth

As I write this it is only 6 hours until 42 TRUTH members and 8 adult leaders head to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering. We are so grateful to our wonderful Hope family for all the support you have given us to make this trip possible. On Sunday, Aug. 29, we will give a presentation of our time at NYG. Please come and see what you as a congregation helped us to experience.

On August 1 TRUTH will head to Sandbridge for a day at the beach. We will meet at Hope after late service for lunch and then head to the beach. We will return to Hope by 6pm.

BODY will have a swim party on Sunday, Aug. 15, from 1 to 5pm. We will meet at the Dyers (5444 Todd St, VB). Please note the change from the White's house. Please bring a dessert, side dish or drink to share. We will officially welcome our upcoming 6th graders to BODY. Invite your friends!



As the school year approaches, it is time to look toward our confirmation year. There is a meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 25, for all parents and youth who will be in the confirmation program. We will meet at 7pm in the sanctuary. This is a very important time in the faith life of your youth so please make every effort to attend.

High school age and up are reminded that Ultimate Frisbee is happening on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. Come have some fun and get some great exercise!

Activities at a Glance

- Aug. 1 Beach Day (TRUTH)
- Aug. 15 Swim Party (BODY)
- Aug. 25 Confirmation meeting (parents and youth)
- Aug. 29 NYG Presentation during church



SOCIAL MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

By: Karen Patton

THE POWER OF PRAYER

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." (James 5:16).

"We can have confidence that, if we pray according to God's word, He will hear us and grant what we ask."
(1 John 5:14-15)

The very best gift anyone can give to another is to pray for him or her. We live in a sinful world where bad things happen to people and people are tempted to sin. Praying for another person and their needs, problems and salvation, not only helps that person find God in the midst of trouble, but also helps us recognize the blessings that God gives us daily that we often take for granted.

The Social Ministry Team is asking each person who reads this article to spend a few extra minutes in prayer **daily** for the people we have reached out to in our outreach efforts. We have a prayer list in our food pantry. We always ask and take prayer requests from those who visit our pantry. While their names are being withheld, here are some of the requests we often receive: health issues, need of a job, drug issues, homeless family members, problems with children, peace in their lives, direction for their lives and financial worry to name a few. Some of these people are Christians and some are not. The best gift they can be given is our prayers.

We also ask for prayers for the 68 children at Georgetown Primary who were part of our Kids Café program during the past school year. Pray for both the children and their families. Pray for our Angel Tree children, their families and their family member in prison. These families' lives are in total turmoil as caregivers to children with a parent in prison. Often times the caregiver is a grandparent. Pray for the caregivers and the strength they need to get through each day.

Prayers are requested for all the people who frequent our JCOC feedings. Some are homeless; some live on the JCOC premises and are going through their rehabilitation program. The For Kids children and families

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 4 - SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS)

who are working so hard to rebuild their lives through a very structured program certainly need to be lifted up in prayer. The women of domestic violence and their children need our prayers for their safety and well being.

The list goes on and on. Everyone needs someone praying for them. Some of these people do not pray at all or even believe in prayer. What an impact our prayers could have on their lives. Pray for their salvation and that God's will be done in their lives.

While Social Ministry and Hope Lutheran work very hard to meet the physical needs of these people who are all in our local community, the very best gift we can ever give them is our prayers.

HOPE LUTHERAN Church Council & Staff

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2010 - 2011

SCHOOL NEWS

By: Carolyn Powell

Hope School has been busy this summer! So many new families have been visiting and many new students are coming to Hope for the fall. All of the visiting families have been so pleased to see our building program, too. Their comments have all been so positive, as they see how blessed we are as a congregation that needs more room to hold all the people who come here for worship and Bible Studies! What a witness the building has become to others!

Hope takes a **BIG** step this year as we begin to offer a **FULL DAY** of loving care for all the children whose parents must work. We are so happy to be in a position to offer this to our families. If you know of someone who needs a Christian school with loving care for the entire day, please have them call. I will explain our program and take them on a tour of our spacious facility!



Our school is very respected in our community and every member of Hope should be proud! As of this month, there are only a few seats left for Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten. For more information, please call me in the school office (424-4894) so we can get your little one enrolled in time! September is only 5 weeks away!

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL

By: Steve Powell

As a reminder to all of our children and their parents, Sunday School officially gets started again on Sunday, September 12, in the new "Kids' Kingdom". While the room may not be completely finished by then, we will look forward to seeing everyone come back from the summer. We'll all be ready to move up to our new classes, meet new teachers and friends and hear new Bible stories.






Joining us to help welcome the children that day will be our friends, "Jesters for Jesus". Sparkles, Duffy and the gang will be here to share God's love with us in the way clowns do best! Moms and Dads can register the kids while we sing some of our fun songs, too.

See you for a great day with Jesus in the "Kids' Kingdom" on September 12th!!

Make a BUG Snack!



You will need:

-  celery
-  peanut butter
-  raisins
-  cream cheese
-  paprika

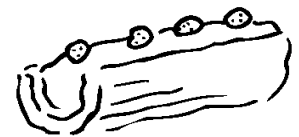


How to make it:

- Clean celery.
- Cut into 3" long pieces.
- Fill celery with peanut butter.
- Arrange raisins in a row on the peanut butter.

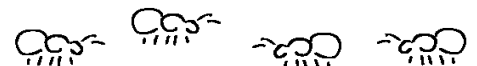
You now have
"bugs on a log!"

or



- Fill celery with cream cheese.
- Sprinkle with paprika.

You have "red ants
on a log!"





Celebrating this Month

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Nicole Butler
Marshall Wacker
Alexandria Webster
- 2 Robert Caple III
Michael Taft
- 3 Zoe Connor
- 4 Angela Hendricks
Dustin Knight
- 5 Arnold Birkett
- 6 Gerald Brown
Amy Clarke
Annie Clarke
- 7 Leslie Coburn
Patrick Cody
Victor Taylor
- 8 Amy Gordon
- 9 James Lee
Sarah Young
- 10 Victoria Boone
Heather Hamilton
- 11 Timothy Oswald
- 12 Sarah Banks
Nina Chadwick
Emily Doebert
Ryan Wydler
- 14 Bobby Edwards
Lyle Groshel
- 15 Addison Miller
- 16 Millie Sullivan
- 17 Laurie Otto
Carolyn Payne
Pat Plemmons
Timothy Stein
Danny Weiss
- 19 Lois Gallo
Gerry Underwood
Emily Winstead
- 20 Pam Nieting
- 21 Bonnie Barry
Diane Edwards
Mark Hendricks

- 22 Emma Krauss
Matthew Sweet
Charles Taft
Kathy Weiss
- 23 Evie Gordon
Ruby Perry
Vincent Riccio
Kurt Rinehard
Colleen Shahayda
- 24 Joseph Brown
Sue Cashman
Rochelle Latimer
- 25 Brian Lee
Neal Meinhardt
Carolyn Powell
- 26 Dana Larkin
- 27 Michael Kriete
- 28 Wendy Vargas
- 30 Claire Klavenski
- 31 Brandon Head
Katrina Plemmons
Parker Werner

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Paul & Bette Schember
- 3 John & Cherie Flora
Ray & Mary Lallak
- 4 Chris & Jennifer Young
- 11 Paul & Karen Bowdich
- 15 Lyle & Lettie Groshel
Kristofor & Alessia Holien
- 19 Wayne & Jenny Erber
Chan & Dot Whitney
- 21 Marty & Penny Martishius
Fred & Cori Tucker
- 26 Tom & Marion Amann
- 27 Chad & Sara Morton
- 28 Joseph & Christina Eller
- 29 Timothy & Dorothy Heath

Remember when...

This month in 1974

5.79 acres of land on Providence Road were purchased for \$37,173.72 from the Lutheran Church of America.

This month in 1977

Average Sunday morning attendance was 106.
Average offering was \$406.55.

This month in 1982

There was a congregational potluck supper on Sunday, Aug. 22, which included a chance to take a look at the new LCMS hymnal entitled "Lutheran Worship". The organist and choir from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, VA Beach, came to assist.


This month in 1983

The Church Council met on Aug. 10. Some discussion items were:

- A decision on the purchase of stained glass windows will be made after illustrations are previewed.
- A discussion was held on the need to hook up to city water.
- The Evangelism report praised the success of the Greeter Program.

This month in 1992

David Gordon (chaperone), Ann Gordon, Joshua Hughes and Carrie Wessell attended LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans. They traveled with 10 youth and adults from Prince of Peace. 18,000 people registered for this Gathering.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the September issue of Hope Highlights are due Sunday, Aug. 15. Articles submitted after Aug. 18 will be saved for the October issue. E-mail your article to: Admin@Hope.hrcoxmail.com or leave a copy in Martha's box in the church office. Thanks!

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH-Missouri Synod
5350 Providence Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

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**HOPE HIGHLIGHTS
NEWSLETTER
August 2010
No. 07-10
Published Monthly
Hope Lutheran Church
5350 Providence Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23464**