



A Newsletter for
 Hope Lutheran Church
 of the Sierras
 S. Lake Tahoe, CA



Thanksgiving/Advent
 2008



Building Hope

And Now a Word from Our Pastor ...

First and foremost, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!

It's hard to believe that Christmas is already a few weeks away. It seems like so much has been going on here at Hope that time is just flying by.

I wish that this article was going to be a happy, joyful Christmas article, and in a way I guess it is, but there are some very serious issues that need to be discussed.

The topic of greatest importance is stewardship. I know that this has been on the minds and on the hearts of everyone lately, and for good reason. On November 16th 2008, I preached on stewardship and what stewardship is made up of. It's made up of the sharing of your time, talents and money. You can be a good steward and practice all three disciplines at one time or you can be a good steward and practice one or two of those disciplines.

The fact of the matter is that we have a lot of good stewards who practice the disciplines of sharing their time and sharing their talents. Right now we are

running way low on those who are sharing of their finances.

I understand that times are tough. That the economic situation of our town and of our nation is not the best they have been, but the fact is that the church is in a scary position financially and it's because giving is down. My request is that everyone who reads this article will feel moved to send or put in their envelope or in the plate a little bit extra this December.

If you are a supporter of the ministry of Hope Lutheran, but are away for much of the year or visit from time to time, please consider a monetary donation to help get us out of this scary position.

Also, there will be a special budgetary meeting on Sunday December 7th directly following the 10:30 shortened service to discuss our new budget proposal. If you are a member of Hope Lutheran I really want to encourage you to be there to discuss and to vote. If you are visitors and friends of Hope Lutheran I also want to encourage you to come and discuss the budget with us as well. All are welcome, all are invited.

God's Peace,
 Pastor Martyn



*I have shown you in every way by
 laboring like this, that you must
 support the weak.
 And remembering the words
 of the Lord Jesus,
 that He said,
 'It is more blessed to give
 than to receive.'*

December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Council 7pm	3 <i>Advent Service 7pm</i>	4	5	6 Men's Breakfast 8am Youth Tree Trimming event 11am
7 Skilled nursing @ 9:30 Budget Mtg after svc	8	9	10 <i>Advent Service 7pm</i>	11	12	13 Sunday School dress rehearsal 11 am - 2 pm
14 <i>Sunday School Performance! 10:30</i>	15	16	17 <i>Advent Service 7pm</i>	18	19	20
21 <i>Skilled Nursing Service 4:30 pm</i>	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 5 & 7pm</i>	25 Christmas No services	26	27
28 Blue Bucket Sunday Bring food donations	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>			...Happy 2009!!!



Good News Choir

The Good News Choir has resumed practices on Thursdays at 5:30 at the Church.

Please join us to practice new anthems, hymns and exciting arrangements of classic favorites.

We have Advent & Christmas music featuring a samba and a lively spiritual.

*Please join us for some very uplifting & enjoyable rehearsals!
Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord!
We'll see you Thursdays*

In God's Love, Laurel

Soul Café / Advent Services ... Holidays in a Nutshell

Wednesday Eve Advent Services
7pm ~ Dec 3rd, 10th, 17th

Candlelight Services
Dec 21st
4:30 - Skilled Nursing Center
Dec 24th
5 & 9pm - Here at Hope



Soul Café
resumes Wednesday, Jan 14 at 7pm
Fresh new music for the New Year!

Youth & Sunday School Update



Mr. Chris has the Sunday School Class working on the Christmas play for 2008...

This Year's "Live From Bethlehem" is a newscast of the special night...

For those parents of a participating child, please remember Rehearsal is Saturday, Dec 13th from 11am—2pm. The usual dress rehearsal and pizza fun will ensue.

The Sunday School will perform Dec 14th at Sunday Service...Children MUST be at church no later than 10 am to get into costumes... See you There!



The older youth will be decorating the Sanctuary for the Holidays on **Sat. Dec 6th from 11am -3pm**

....all kids grades 3 and up are welcome....

Thanks to Donna Bray and Natalie Johnson for making this possible

...and if there are any Adults who would like to come by and be part of the festivities, you are welcome too!

Preschool Christmas Program - Thurs. Dec. 11 at 6:30

Members and friends of hope are encouraged

To come & give support to our Preschool Families...invite them to church !

And praise our teachers for a year of great work



A Cornucopia of THANKS to ...



Ruthe Justice, Cindy Merhaut and all who organized the Oktoberfest booth and to Penny Michal and her crew who made the candy apples. Also to Orchid's Thai Restaurant who provided the chicken satay and rice bowls. When you patronize them please thank them for their donation.

To an anonymous donor, a former **Preschool grandmother** of a current teenager, who donated a much appreciated new refrigerator to the Preschool and to **Rex Thran** who installed it and also the almost new dishwasher.

To **Dave Carneggie** who has been gradually painting the Preschool interior and also the fascia around the new roof.

To **Diane Martin** who organized the Halloween bunko party and to **Jim Hilgendorf** who made lots and lots of chili and great cornbread.

To **Donna Bray and Natalie Johnson** for their gift of another night without sleep to provide our growing Youth Group with another fun Lock In experience. AND AGAIN for **Donna Bray's** organizing of our **FIRST Women's Retreat** (at the beautiful Mercy Center in Auburn) and to **Pastor Joel's mom, Barbara Martyn**, for a moving and enriching experience.

To **Joanne Foster and Carolyn Meiers** for organizing the Alternative Gift Market for Habitat for Humanity - This is our second year contributing to building homes right here in El Dorado County.

To **Norma Santiago and Mark Peterson** who helped **Pastor Joel** to create the slide presentation for the Celebration of Ministries", to **Arlene Wolfe and Diane Martin** who organized the lunch. And **Dennis and Penny Michal** who provided the balloons.

To **Cindy Merhaut** and all who have struggled to present a realistic budget for 2009...this is not an easy thing to do!

President's Message



When the world was in darkness and the night was halfway through its course God's Almighty Word came down from heaven and spoke to us of HOPE.

My favorite symbol of Christmas is light. The Advent Wreath, the glow of Christmas candles and the sparkle of small lights decorating everything. It reminds me of the light of Christ shining in the darkness of our world. It is part of the human condition to make messes of things and we are experiencing so much of that now with the economy woes, the bailouts, the loss of jobs, our smaller Christmas budgets and even our seriously slim church budget for 2009. We are so much in need of the divine light of God to shine on our darkness and make something good come out of it.

The message of that first Christmas night which we celebrate at this darkest time of year is that we are not limited by the darkness or the messes we make of things but that we are filled with HOPE because we are in a Grand Relationship with the Creator of the universe who became one of us to lead us out of the darkness into his own wonderful light.

So let us encourage one another to see all this from God's perspective which is longer and broader than our own vision and to learn the lessons which God is trying to teach us at this time in our history. Let us remind each other that we are the people of HOPE and we are on a journey to eternity.

Christmas Blessings! Bonnie Driscoll



Christmas Traditions....

Of all the Advent traditions that we enjoyed when my four children were small the one they and I remember the most is the Christmas Crib. On the first Sunday of Advent the empty stable appeared in a prominent place in our living room. Near it was a small bag of straw pieces. Whenever anyone did a kind act for another, they put a piece of straw on the floor of the stable to "make the Baby Jesus' bed soft." Hopefully the pile of straws would increase as the candles on our Advent wreath burned brighter.

On Christmas Eve, after the reading of The Night Before Christmas, we had a procession through a darkened house toward the stable.

Each child held either Mary, Joseph, the donkey or the candle "star."

(Sometimes there were unholy arguments about who got to carry whom.) The figures were gently placed in the stable and we all sang Christmas carols before the children went to bed.

The next morning, each hurried to the stable to see if "Baby Jesus" was indeed in the stable. I was always afraid that this harried mom, amid filling stockings and putting together toys, would forget to put the Baby Jesus in the stable. But thankfully I never did.

Now my children carry on this tradition with their little ones.

A blessed Christmas to all,

Bonnie Driscoll Carnegie

Our Community— - Bits & Pieces

*Lake Tahoe Choir will be performing at the Lake Tahoe Community College Duke Theater. We have several parishioners who are performing in this event, please show your support! Performances are Friday at and Saturday at... Chris Triggs, Kerwin Wolfgram and Phil Stevenson have tickets if you need them...Also, Hope Lutheran is running the concession as a fundraiser that evening. If you can bake some goodies to sell, or would like to help with sales, please contact Arlene Wolfe at 577-1933.

*Linda Amundson would like to coordinate a group to make monthly trips together to Costco, Trader Joe's, etc. By carpooling, we can save money on gas, and make a fun trip out of a "chore"... to get in on the action, call Linda at (530) 577 - 6022.

* **We are GOING GREEN in 2009** - and would like to trim our mailing list once again to save on paper and mailing costs. **Please notify us** if you would like to get your newsletter from the Hope Lutheran website, or by e-mail, or by picking up a copy in the Narthex mailboxes. Otherwise, we will continue to mail your copies !!!!

- ♦ For your Christmas Card list - don't forget Ethel Grieman's new address 1055 N Kingsley Drive # 106, Los Angeles, CA 90029 AND June Ellingson's winter address has also changed... 5355 S. Rainbow, apt 159, Las Vegas, NV 89118 ~

*We send lots of Christmas Love to our Hope Family Member & Friends
who are not here in Tahoe at this time of year!!*

Worship Assistant Schedule

SUN Dec 7 Ushers ~ Sandy Henigan, Diane Martin
Reader ~ Lynn Setnor / Communion ~ Chris Triggs, Cindy M
WED Dec 10 *Holden Evening Prayer*
Usher ~ Kerwin Wolfgram Communion ~ Donna Bray

SUN Dec14 Ushers ~ Bonnie and Dave Carneggie
Reader ~ Phil Stevenson / Communion ~ David & Joanne Foster
WED Dec 17 *Holden Evening Prayer*
Ushers ~ Jeff & Mel Stearns / Communion ~ Chris Triggs

SUN Dec 21
Ushers ~ Suzanne Cochran & Cindy Merhaut
Reader ~ Kerwin Wolfgram / Communion ~ Donna Bray & Arlene W

December 24 Christmas Eve

5 PM Ushers ~ Kerwin Wolfgram & David Foster
Reader ~ Linda Amundson / Communion ~ Mort & Carolyn Meiers
9 PM Ushers ~ Phil Stevenson & Lynn Setnor
Reader ~ Norma Santiago / Communion ~ Wayne Danyow & Sandy H

SUN Dec 28
Ushers ~ Lynn Setnor & Kathryn Klimek
Reader ~ Danielle McDaniel / Communion ~ Bonnie & Dave C.

Fellowship Hosts ...

7th Ruthe Justice & Arlene Wolfe 14th
Lisa Marsh & Linda Amundson
21st Norma Santiago & Sandy Henigan
28th TBD (goodies) & Lisa Marsh

Chancel Flowers

*Dec 14- Martinez family for Gabriel's
new life*
*Dec 21 - Chris Triggs for her Mom's B-
day*
*Dec 28 - Ruthe Justice
for her B-day*
Jan 4 - Marsh's for Lisa's B-day



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This is the church of the warm heart

That heals hurt lives,

That comforts old people

That challenges youth

That knows no distinction of class or station

The church of the people

High as the ideals of Jesus

Low as the humblest human