

"Grow in Faith, Make Disciples, Serve in Love"

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

Thank you for a successful campaign!

WHAT HAPPENED ON COMMITMENT WEEKEND?



A prayer vigil was held on Saturday, December 13 from 9am to 5pm. Members, visitors and well-wishers came in to pray for loved ones, House of Prayer, and the **MIS- SION Possible!** Campaign.

MISSION Possible? Pastor Kathy Haueisen Cashen, House of Prayer's Stewardship Key Leader, guided the church through a fund-raising campaign to raise \$300,000 (over a three-year period) in pledges to reduce the church facility mortgage debt.

Commitment Sunday was December 14. Pastor Kathy provided the message, after which, members were invited to bring forward their offerings and pledge cards.

Commitment Sunday as also a Miracle Sunday! We prayed and God answered our prayers. The Holy Spirit moved among us as we prayed for expanded ministry in 2009 and beyond.

The First Report indicates that 76 pledges were received for a total of **\$331,213.00**. We were also very grateful to see 195 worshipers in church!

THANK YOU to all who pledged. Our pledges ranged from \$1.00 a week from two of our children to \$175.00 a week from one family. Other substantial gifts were pledged on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis.

Sunday was truly "the day that the Lord has made" and we rejoiced in it. All praise and thanksgiving to God.

Opportunities to give to the **MISSION Possible!** Campaign are not over yet! Please prayerfully consider a pledge or one-time gift to House of Prayer. Special offering envelopes for your gifts to the **MIS- SION Possible!** Program will be available on the usher's table. A pledge card and/or offering envelopes can be mailed to you as well. Just notify

the church office at 281-488-4439 or office@hopelca.org.

A special thank you goes to the **MISSION Possible!** Team (Pastor Marcus Otterstad, Elida Lopez, Paul Bruder, Elaine Simonds, Janice Shaffner, John Meyer, Mary Lou & Gene Wallin, and Jean Peszko) and all the volunteers.

Pastor Kathy Haueisen Cashen is given an extra big thank you. She is a special person at House of Prayer. Years ago, Kathy was a member of House of Prayer who decided to continue attending seminary at the church's urging and was eventually ordained at House of Prayer. We thank her for her excellent work in guiding House of Prayer through the campaign and injecting even more excitement into the **MISSION Possible!** Process. Kathy, you were great!



Help Keep the Church Clean

With 2009 in full swing, consider the church for your next event. Please come to the church office to fill out a church use form. Your request will be considered for approval. In order to make it better for the next person, please be sure to wash and put away any dishes you use. In addition, any tablecloths used need to be laundered and pressed before returning to the church. Make sure to move tables and chairs back to their original configurations. Trash should be taken out to the dumpster, located in back parking lot. If you need any help, call anyone on the Property Committee or Ron Hilkemeier (281/486-9314.) With your help, this will be a great year for House of Prayer Lutheran Church!



PRAYER CHAIN

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING: Barbara Allred, Amber, Annie Anderson, Johanna Anderson, Kyle Balusek, Rose Marie Badough, Ralph & Patsy Bowers, Bill Brown, Mr. and Mrs.



George Brown, Anne C. Buchanan, John & Pat Carlson, William Contois, Nancy DeBord, Rebecca Dodd, Jacque Dunn, Jane Edwards, Lana Evans, Ray Fetterman, Jackie Gabler, Michael Giles, Nita Hammock, Ed Harlowe, Byron Heist, Susan Herd, Iris Hodges, Richard Jackson, Patty Lawrence, Glenn Leist, Kristin Linn, Carl Lueders, Sue Lyon, Pastor David Mancuso, Donald Maretti, Richard McCoy, Rev. John Mills, Jonathan O'Malley, Frances Patterson, Helen Peszko, Norm Price, Ruby Reis, Anna Roschke, Susan Shreffler, Margaret Spivey, Einar & Martha Sundstrom, Douglas Szopa, Dick Theis, Deborah Walton, Ruth Williams, Jim Wright and David Yater.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Jack Kohanke, who passed away on November 25. Jack was a longtime member of House of Prayer. Our prayers are with Etta, Debbie Jackson and their family. Prayers of God's comfort for the family of Gregory Estrella (Reata Baker's father), who passed away on December 11.

We extend prayers of thanksgiving as John Keener and Cindy Karrabi Keener married on New Year's Day! Congratulations to the happy couple!



Please help us keep our prayer chain current. Contact either Anneke Ensmann (281-488-8158) or Carolyn Myers (281-326-1840) or the church office (281-488-4439) with updates or additions. Thank you!

Happy Birthday

LaRetta Martin (Jan. 1), Rich Simonds (Jan. 3) Sue Noggle, Alex Mann (Jan. 5), Suzanne Peterson (Jan. 6) Natalia Houvouras, Carolyn Harris (Jan. 7), LouAnn Cole, Jacob Keesecker (Jan. 8), Hope Underwood (Jan. 9), Ashley Strawmyer (Jan.12), Nathan Vassberg (Jan. 15), Catherine Busch (Jan. 16), Ezra Hackler, Thadd Bowers (Jan. 18), Kate Pettrey (Jan. 19), Ute Trejo, Ryan Carlson (Jan. 22), Diane Busch, Ginny Blasczyk, Alex Gradel (Jan. 23), Helena Putnik (Jan. 24), Bobby Murray (Jan. 30)



John & Cindy Keener—January 1
James & LaRetta Martin—January 7
Rich & Elaine Simonds—January 7
Larry & Carolyn Myers—January 31

Happy Anniversary



SUNDAY, JANUARY 11 2009

9:40am

Hospital Visitors

I was sick and you took care of me..." (Matthew 25:36) Pastor Marcus and the Hospital Visiting Ministry team visit House of Prayer members and their loved ones who are hospitalized. If you or a loved one is entering the hospital, please contact the church office so that Pastor Marcus and the hospital visiting team can visit to share Christ's love, and to give support during the hospital stay.

Members of House of Prayer are invited to join the Hospital Visiting Ministry team at any time during the year. The next orientation/instructional class for prospective hospital visitors will be held Sunday, January 11th 2009 at 9:40am in Room 203 (Conference Room) on the second floor of the church. Please contact Jean Peszko (281-488-2402), Hospital Visiting Coordinator, for more information about the Hospital Visiting Ministry program.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18 2009 —9:40am

The annual Hospital Visiting Ministry meeting will be held Sunday, January 18th 2009 at 9:40 am in Room 203 (Conference Room) on the second floor of the church. Carrie Cole will be a special speaker. Please contact Jean Peszko (281-488-2402), Hospital Visiting Coordinator.



Wednesday, January 7, 6pm
Baptism and Wilderness

Wednesday, January 14, 6pm
Teachings of Jesus

Wednesday, January 21, 6pm
Miracles of Jesus

Wednesday, January 28, 6pm
Hard Sayings of Jesus

DINNER FOR 8—SIGN UP BY JANUARY 18

We plan to form new groups again for Dinner for 8 starting in February! Groups will meet once a month February through May in member's home or in restaurants. These groups continue to be enjoyable and have helped us become better acquainted.

Participating pairs or individuals will take turns hosting a potluck dinner, some may elect to have a lunch or brunch instead. However, if the groups chooses to eat in a restaurant, an appropriate price range will be determined. Activities may also be incorporated by the group or the hosts.

We hope this interests you. Invite some friends or new acquaintance to join us and sign up in the narthex by Sunday, January 18th. For more information contact Kurt and Sonia Swanson (281-488-3755). There are also information sheets in the narthex.



House of Prayer

DINNER FOR 8

Thank you for December Ladies Luncheon!



Bonnie Peterson hosted a wonderful salad luncheon in her home in December. We thank her for her gracious hospitality. And once again Jean Peszko shared a personal devotion which we hold in our hearts this Christmas and Epiphany season. May you all be blessed this Christmas, Epiphany, and throughout the New Year.

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Pastor Marcus Otterstad
prmarcus@hopelca.org

Rebecca Clark, Preschool Director
becca@hopelca.org

Michael Lyons, Praise Team Director

Howard Holt, Choir Director
tbn46@hotmail.com

Virginia Blasczyk, Organist
ginny2359@yahoo.com

Elida Lopez, Secretary
office@hopelca.org



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

We are scheduled for two workdays with Habitat for Humanity in Dickinson this spring: March 14 and May 9. We are paired with First Methodist Church in Dickinson. We are to provide lunch for the March workday, and our partners will provide lunch in May. Please mark your calendars for these service opportunities and look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex in early February. - Zachel Zoch, Coordinator (281/479-7606)

"Life is Good; 888 Reasons Why" by Amy Hall

Reason Number 727: The human blush.



If you would like to submit an article for Newsletter consideration, please submit your article to the Church office by the 15th. **For example, submit February 2009 article by Friday, January 16.** Email article in an MS Word document to office@hopelca.org or mail to office at the address listed at the top of this page.