

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

LADIES LUNCHEON—Thursday, October 1 2009, 11:30am



Ladies Luncheon

Please join us for a delightful luncheon on Thursday, October 1 at 11:30am at the HOPE VILLAGE TEA ROOM. It is located at 15403 Hope Village Road on FM 2351. The Tea Room will be on your left as you head toward Friendswood on FM 2351. Make a U-Turn at the light at Hope Village Road and the Tea Room will be on your right.

We invite all the women of House of Prayer and their guests to join us. Call Fran Hippensteel (281-

486-7969) or Carolyn Myers (281-326-1840) for your reservations by Tuesday, September 29.

In lieu of gifts donations may be given to Hope Village, via House of Prayer. Please make checks payable to House of Prayer and write Hope Village on the memo section.

Thank you for your generous gift of \$177.00 to Habitat for Humanity last month. We look forward to seeing you on October 1st at the Tea Room.

SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING—Sunday, October 4, 9:45am

Congregational Meeting



There will be a special congregation meeting on Sunday, October 4th at 9:45am to discuss and vote on the goals and visions.

Please attend this important meeting and cast a vote for our congregation's mission.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS—Saturday, October 10, 10:30am

Parents, if you feel that your child is ready for Holy Communion, please consider bringing your child to House of Prayer for First Communion class instruction.

A First Communion class will be held on Saturday, October 10th at 10:30am in the Fellowship Room of the church. If you are interested, please notify Pastor Marcus at 281/488/4439 or prmarcus@hopelca.org.



NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION—Sunday, October 11, 9:45am

If you are considering House of Prayer as your new church home or would like to know more about House of Prayer, you are invited to attend a New Member Orientation meeting on Sunday, October 11th at 9:45am in the Fellowship Room of the church.

If you are interested in attending this meeting, please contact Pastor Marcus at 281/488/4439 or prmarcus@hopelca.org.



New Member Orientation

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS: WHEAT



Wheat is used to represent the bread (the body of Christ) in Holy Communion. "I am the bread of life" (John 6:48).

In the parable of the wheat and the weeds (Matthew 13:24-30), Jesus uses wheat to represent believers, while weeds, or tares, represent unbelievers.

Information used by permission of the Newsletter Newsletter October 2009 edition



COLLEGE STUDENT ADDRESS REQUEST

Do you have a new or returning college student?

Please let us know! We can forward their names to the local college's Lutheran campus ministry group. Please share the name, college, year in college and major.

Congratulations on getting your student off to school and thank you for the information!

PRAYER CHAIN

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Amber, Johanna Anderson, Kyle Balusek, Rose Marie Badough, John and Pat Carlson, Vanessa Cizmar, Crystal, Carole Cunningham, Rebecca Dodd, Chris & Kim Ensmann, Lana Evans Fisher, Martha Fetterman, Ray Fetterman, Sundae Flannigan, Gary and Cindy Hagman, Nita Hammock, Byron Heist, Susan Herd, Gerald Hintz, Rick Jackson, Patty Lawrence, Carl Lueders, Sue Lyon, Dusty Mann, Pastor David Mancuso, Donald Marretti, Jay Marschke, Becky McCleary, Rev. Don Mills, Carol Martin, Jonathan O'Malley, Harry Myers and family, Randy Oak, Frances Patterson, Peggy, Helen Peszko, Norm Price, Marty Rorer, Anna Roschke, Susan Schreffler, Dorothy Smith, Einar and Martha Sundstrom, Norma Thompson, Joyce Van Bammel, Esperanza Vasquez, Ruth Williams, Jim Wright and Walt Wright.



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!



Danielle Nelson (October 2), Chelsea Cole, Karis Gallia (October 3), Matt Samuelson (October 6), Janice Shaffner (October 8), Al Hall (October 9), Sarah Mikkelsen, Catherine Yendell (October 11), Emery Gallia, Jr., Pat Higgins (October 12), Daniel Nagle (October 14), Craig Clark, Rick Jackson (October 17), Teresa Higginbotham (October 19), Joe Quinn (October 20), Beth Dabney, Kristin Price (October 21), Vanessa Putnik (October 24), Bob Laughlin, Alexandra Putnik (October 25), Curt Calvert, Donald Hackler (October 26), Jean Price (October 27), Delayne McCullough, Brett Schmidt (October 29), Julia Gandara (October 30), Laurie McCullough (October 31)

OKTOBERFEST Saturday, October 17, 6:00pm

Oktoberfest



It's time to kick off the fall as all "good" Lutherans do with bratwurst, sauerkraut, beer, polka music and chicken dancing!

Herr Herman Wolf, wunderbar chef, has the menu planned and brewmeister, Peter Mikkelsen has filled the kegs.

Join us at Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 17th, at 6:00 p.m. This is a family event so... "Ya'll come!" (Is that Texas Deutsch?!)

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, October 7, 6pm
Jesus Savior

Wednesday, October 14, 6pm
Jesus Redeemer

Wednesday, October 21, 6pm
Jesus Lord

Saturday, October 24
Confirmation Servant Event

Wednesday, October 28
NO CONFIRMATION CLASS

BOOK CLUB—Tuesday, October 20 2009, 7:30pm

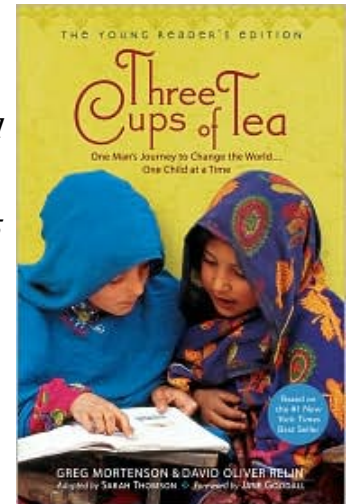


HOP BOOK CLUB

Library Journal is shared here.

Pick up the latest Book Club selection and head to the church on Tuesday, September 15 at 7:30pm! The selection for October is "Three Cups of Tea—One Man's Journey to Change the World....One Child at a Time" by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. Judy Samuelson is the hostess. A review from

"Rescued by Pakistani villagers after a failed attempt at climbing K2, Mortenson vowed to build them a school. Twelve years later, his Central Asia Institute has built 55 schools (some serving girls) despite fatwas and worse. With a six-city tour." Copyright 2005 Reed Business Information.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA BIBLE STUDY Tuesday, October 27 2009, 7:30pm

The special women's bible study coordinators will continue to discuss "To God's Beloved: Paul's Letter to the Romans" by the Rev. Dr. Sarah Henrich, professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota

This Bible study will be included in every issue of Lutheran Woman Today (LWT) magazine. For information on subscribing to Lutheran Woman Today, contact subscriptions@augsborgfortress.org or call 800-326-4648. The cost is \$12 for 10 issues. It is not necessary that you have the magazine to attend.

We will be meeting the 4th Tuesday of each

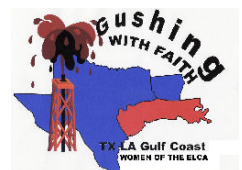
month at the church at 7:30 pm.

Session 2 will be on Tuesday, October 27 at 7:30pm. The subject will be:

The Obedience of Faith

"For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace." (Romans 4:16a)

See you there!



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Pastor Marcus Otterstad
prmarcus@hopelca.org

Gay Lynn Prescott, Preschool Director
LHDirector@hopelca.org

Elaine Simonds, Youth & Family Minister
em_simonds@yahoo.com

Michael Lyons, Praise Team Director
mlyons@gchd.org

Howard Holt, Choir Director
tbn46@hotmail.com

Virginia Blasczyk, Organist
ginny2359@yahoo.com

Elida Lopez, Secretary
office@hopelca.org



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



Reason Number 434: The pleasant percussion of a storm's raindrops pelting the windows



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 November 2009 article by Friday, October 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.

CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS!!!



Have you ever thought about making an afghan and said "Not me" - "Overwhelming" - "Too much Work" ? Well, here's your chance—please read on!

We are asking everyone in our congregation who can knit or crochet to make one, 8x8" square. It can be any color, any pattern. Just make it 8" square and label if it's wool or acrylic yarn.

We are joining with other knitters and crocheters of the world who are pooling their efforts to make 10,000 blankets a year for orphaned children in South Africa who live in terrible poverty. They lack love, shelter, food, education and warmth. Many organizations are working hard to provide the first of these four needs, but we can help with the last one—warmth.

Your efforts will make a difference. One pair of hands among many will achieve this goal. All we have to do is send the squares. Someone else is assembling them.

Give your square(s) to Teresa Higginbotham (281/480-0078) or Karen Mikkelsen (281/488-5310) by Sunday, November 15th and they'll send them on. There is also a basket in the donation bin area underneath the north stairwell in case you are unable to reach Teresa or Karen. However, feel free to call them if you have a question. Bet you can't make "just one!"

Knit a square
... and make an AIDS orphan warm



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME COMING SOON!

Most of the United States begins Daylight Saving Time (or Daylight Shifting Time) at 2:00 a.m. on the second Sunday in March and reverts to standard time on the first Sunday in November.

Ever wonder why it's done at 2:00am? In the U.S., 2:00 a.m. was originally chosen as the changeover time because it was practical and minimized disruption. Most people were at home and this was the time when the fewest trains were running. It is late enough to minimally affect bars and restaurants, and it prevents the day from switching to yesterday, which would be confusing. It is early enough that the entire continental U.S. switches by daybreak, and the changeover occurs before most early shift workers and early churchgoers are affected.



PLEASE TURN YOUR CLOCKS
FORWARD ONE HOUR AT 2AM
ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 2009.

Information obtained from <http://www.webexhibits.org/daylightsaving/b2.html>

Cookies for Friends

Autumn is the perfect time of the year to sow kindness and reap a "harvest" full of friendships. Make this special treat to share with someone.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 cup cooked or canned pumpkin
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 1/2 cups diced, roasted almonds
- 1 cup chocolate pieces
- Raffia or fall-colored ribbon (optional)

What you do:

1. Cream butter and sugar together until light and fluffy.
2. Beat in egg, pumpkin and vanilla.
3. In separate bowl, mix flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, nutmeg and cinnamon.
4. Add dry mix to creamed mixture.
5. Add almonds and chocolate pieces; mix thoroughly.
6. Drop by teaspoons onto well-greased cookie sheets.
7. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until lightly browned.
8. Cool on racks. Makes about six dozen.
9. Stack two cookies on top of each other. Then tie them like a present with the raffia or ribbon. Give the cookies to friends and family to thank them for their friendship.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LEARNING HOUSE PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR GAY LYNN PRESCOTT

Gay Lynn Prescott has been named director of The Learning House, the preschool of House of Prayer. Previously, Ms. Gay Lynn was the director of a large childcare facility in Baytown for two years. What began with 50 children blossomed to 200 at the time of Gay Lynn's departure. How did the school grow so much in two years? Word of mouth helped the facility grow when parents shared their experiences of qualified teachers, personal care, teachers' communication with parents, and the firm yet loving structure provided there. This simple evangelism allowed them to reach their goals.

Ms. Gay Lynn was born in Baytown and grew up in Highlands, a neighbor of Baytown. Her mother, a stay-at-home mom and father, an auto shop owner, live in Baytown. Her sister lives in Colorado and is an elementary school teacher. Gay Lynn's constant companion is her black Labrador named Nitro.

When asked what inspired her to be an educator, Ms. Gay Lynn shared that at age 18 she started working at a day-care. When she took a Child Development class in high school, she realized her calling. Although she loves to teach, she felt her gifts would be better utilized as a Director. Continuing Education includes an Associate Degree in Business Management and an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education. Her goal is to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education.

When she is not attending school (online and night classes) she spends her free time with her friends and family.

Ms. Gay Lynn knows that she is not the first Director of the Preschool here at House of Prayer, but she declares that she was made to feel welcome by teachers and House of Prayer members from the very start. She feels accepted and is eager to begin realizing her goals for the Learning House Preschool.



Her ultimate goal is to grow the preschool's enrollment to full capacity. She wishes to create a reputation that is so good for the school, that there will be a waiting list. A waiting list also inspires the question "How can we expand?"

Her philosophy of how children learn is that children are like sponges and capable of more than they realize. It is important for them to be challenged, otherwise, they will get bored.

Parents can help their child succeed in preschool by being involved, such as maintaining a communication with the teachers. In order to maintain a clear channel of communication, Gay Lynn wishes to start a monthly newsletter to keep families informed of things the preschool is doing, send out requests for things the preschool might need, gauge feedback on events the preschool would like to have, and where parents can share resources.



There is still space in the Preschool's classes. The Preschool accepts children ages 18 months to 5 years. 3 year olds must be potty trained to enter the 3-year old class. If they are not potty trained, they will enter the 2

-year old class.

If you have questions or wish to extend a welcome to Ms. Gay Lynn, please call the preschool's phone at 832-623-8665. You can call anytime of any day and leave a message. She also has an email address: LHDirector@hopelca.org.

A Note from Gay Lynn:

We are in the beginning stages of planning a Fall event for the children of the Preschool, Church, and community. Please contact Gay Lynn at 832-623-8665 or lhdirec-tor@hopelca.org if you would like to help! More details coming soon.....



CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES—September 8 2009



Opening—House of Prayer Council Meeting was called to order on September 8, 2009 at 7 pm by the president, Gerri Spratlin. Pastor Otterstad led the opening devotion.

People Present—The following people attended: Steve Higginbotham, Rebecca Johnston, Paul Larson, Pastor Marcus Otterstad, Crystal Plumb, Christine Smith, Geri Spratlin, and Mary Lou Wallin.

Motion: Paul Larson made a motion to suspend parliamentary procedure unless we are discussing major issues or any issues where a formal vote is required. Marcus Otterstad seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (And there was much rejoicing.)

Approval of Minutes—The minutes from the Council Meeting in August were provided electronically to Council and reviewed at the meeting. One correction was made. Rebecca Johnston was not present at the August meeting and did not provide a report to council. Council approved the minutes.

Pastor's Report—The pastor's report was presented and discussed. The new preschool director, Gay Lynn Prescott will start September 15th. Council discussed the request received by Pastor Otterstad to suspend sharing of the peace, use of the common cup, and hand shaking during flu season. Council wishes to respect people's concerns. If people wish to remain seated or not share the peace by shaking hands, Council considers this an individual choice that should be respected by the congregation. Those who wish to continue to do so, may do so. There are individual cups for those who may be concerned about the common cup. The Pastor's report was approved by Council.

Treasurer's Report—The treasurer's report was provided electronically to Council and discussed at the meeting. Mary Lou Wallin was concerned because operating budget funds are getting low. Council started discussing the budgeting process for next year. Steve Higgenbotham pointed out because of the economy, giving next year may be down. One new person is needed to serve a 2 year term on the audit committee, and another person is needed to serve a 3 year term. There is also a need to work out how Elaine is to be paid. The treasurer's report was approved.

Financial Secretary's Report—The financial secretary's report was not provided to Council.

Faith Coordinator's Report—Paul Larson, faith coordinator, presented his report. Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University course is going to be held in the future. Oktoberfest is going to be October 17th. Paul is going to work out something for Fat Tuesday that would also be an outreach event to the community. The congregation needs to be reminded to fill out a proposal form to let council know when an event is being planned. Two different Oktoberfest plans were underway initially.

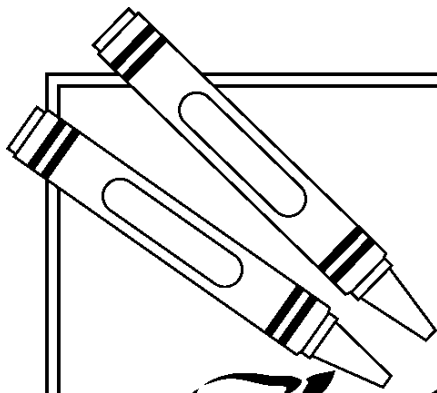
Discipleship Coordinator's Report—Christine Smith, discipleship coordinator, provided a report to Council. The meeting to approve congregational goals was not held because there was not a quorum present. It will be rescheduled to occur during Sunday School on October 4th. Sunday school teachers will receive a ballot early since they will be teaching.

Service Coordinator's Report—Rebecca Johnston, service coordinator had nothing to report. There is a need to have a Microsoft Word format project form on the web. There is also work being done on the disaster preparedness plan.

Other Business—There is a desire to have a Boy Scout troop at the church. There was discussion in Council about a Cub Scout Pack that may be interested in using the church.

Closing—The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm.

Secretary: Crystal Plumb



Just for

KIDS

A harvest of...

Autumn brings many visible changes. God makes lots of foods and grains ready for harvest. He also tells us that if we sow in peace, we, too, can raise a harvest.

Find and circle the bold (dark) words from James 3:17-18, NIV.

“But the **WISDOM** that comes from **HEAVEN** is first of all **PURE**; then **PEACELOVING**, **CONSIDERATE**, **SUBMISSIVE**, full of **MERCY** and **GOOD FRUIT**, **IMPARTIAL** and **SINCERE**. **PEACEMAKERS** who **SOW** in **PEACE** raise a **HARVEST** of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**.”

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G	I	P	U	R	E	S	O	Y	C	E	S	E	F