

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH



Our Mission:
To be living examples
of the love
of Jesus Christ.

January 2010

LITANY OF BLESSING SCHEDULED TO PREPARE FOR EPIPHANY

On Sunday, January 3, a special Litany of Blessing will close each service. This litany highlights on



blessing of the home and house of worship as a remembrance of the place where the Magi and so many others came to meet the Christ Child and where faith is shared, nurtured and put into action.

Using chalk, the following will be inscribed above the church entrance: 20 + C M B + 10

- ◆ The numbers represent the year.
- ◆ The letters represent either the names of the three magi – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar – or the ancient Latin blessing “Christe mansionem benedicat,” which means “Christ, bless this house.”
- ◆ The two “+” symbols represent our prayer that Christ bless the church and remain with those who worship in it throughout the new year.

HEALING SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 3

A Healing Service is scheduled for Sunday, January 3, at 4 p.m. at Hope. Pastor Andrea will offer the message for this service which also includes prayers, anointing, laying on of hands and Holy Communion. If you would like to participate in the anointing and laying on of hands, or would like a special concern lifted in prayer, please fill out one of the yellow cards located in the Narthex or just outside the Sanctuary.

JANUARY EVENTS

- Bethlehem Tear-Down – Saturday, Jan. 2, 9 a.m.
- Healing Service – Sunday, Jan. 3. 4 p.m.
- Serve at Cherry Street Mission – Saturday, Jan. 9 & 13, 4:30 p.m.
- Salem Agape Meal – Tuesday, Jan. 12, 5 p.m.
- CRHP Women's Retreat – Saturday, Jan. 30 - Sunday, Jan. 31

“A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM” THANK YOU

Thank you to all who participated in “A Night in Bethlehem.” The event could not have accomplished its mission without each of you: cast, crew, prayer warriors and those who supported with financial donations. More than 200 of you shared your gifts so that together we could provide the greatest gift ever, our Savior, Jesus Christ to 1,400 people. Thank you for truly giving of yourselves to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Take the time to read the comments (located on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary) of those each of you touched in a very special way.

HOPE CELEBRATES JESUS’ BAPTISM

One Sunday, January 10, we will be celebrating the Baptism of Jesus by focusing on the gift of Baptism at all services. At the 8 and 9:30 a.m., services we will be giving thanks for and affirming those who are already baptized. At the 11 a.m. service, we will welcome a child into our church family through baptism. Come and celebrate this amazing gift of God-life!

NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW SERMON SERIES

Beginning Sunday, January 17, the pastors will bring a five-part sermon series that will explore the very practical teaching of the New Testament book of James. In preparation for this, it would be helpful to read through the five short chapters of this amazing book prior to the first Sunday message of the series.

DISCIPLES IN TRAINING UPDATE

Disciples in Training resumes this Sunday, January 3, at 9:30 a.m. We continue our journey along Route 66, specifically the New Testament. During the month of January we will be learning about Parables and Miracles.

Saturday, January 23, through Sunday, January 24, there will be a lock-in for the Disciples in Training third through sixth graders. The evening will begin at 7 p.m. and end Sunday, after the 9:30 a.m. service. Children second grade and younger are encouraged to join us from 7 through 10 p.m. on Saturday, and may also spend the night if a parent accompanies him/her.

The theme for the evening for all ages is Noah's Ark and Celebrating God's Promises. We will learn about Noah, talk about promises, eat snacks, play games and sing!

Cost for the evening is three dozen baked goods such as rice krispy squares, cookies, brownies, etc. to supply a bake sale the following morning between services. Proceeds will go toward the purchase of an animal through Heifer International.

There will be no Disciples in Training on Sunday, January 31.

Please contact Diane Barnes 419/536-8383 or dbarnes@hopetoleado.net if you are interested in helping with this ministry.

CONFIRMATION RESUMES JANUARY 6

Just because the presents are opened doesn't mean the celebration is over! January 6, the twelfth day of Christmas, is also the first day that Confirmation classes start up again. Students and families will celebrate this festival with a "Twelfth Day of Christmas" from 6 to 8 p.m., in Larson Hall. Bring a dish to share! Hope will provide beverages and dessert.

CREATIVE, INTERACTIVE BIBLE SEMINAR RETURNS TO HOPE

Can you understand the New Testament in a day? Yes, you can! On Saturday, February 20, 2010, Hope will host a "Walk Thru the Bible" seminar, one of the most effective and popular Bible teaching ministries in the world. Participants will be caught up in a highly creative, interactive learning adventure that is as fun as it is effective. Attendees will meet Bible characters up close, understand the themes and purpose of the New Testament, and travel through the major events by using methods such as hand motions and catch phrases, without tedious note-taking!

Dr. Greg Carlson, professor at Trinity International University in Chicago, will lead our seminar for adults through children in grade five. His wife Donna will lead a "Kids of the Book" seminar (grades 1-4) at the same time. The cost is just \$10 per adult, \$6 per child (maximum cost per family is \$32.) The cost includes materials and lunch.

HOPE TO HOST WEEKEND WOMEN'S AND MEN'S RETREATS

Mark your calendar for two weekends of spiritual renewal. Hope is hosting a Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) retreat for the women of Hope on Saturday, January 30, and Sunday, January 31. The men will host their retreat Saturday, February 13, and Sunday, February 14.

The weekends are designed to be fun and relaxing while participants renew their hearts. The process is centered around reflections by team members, prayers, music, food and activities with an emphasis on small group discussions and activities – all centered around a person's relationship with Christ and each other. CRHP is open to all men and women who are searching for added meaning in life and who wish to experience a deeper level of Christian community.

For more information, contact Amy Rowe (419/531-2864) for the women's weekend; or Jeff Davis (419/531-4218) for the men's weekend.