

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

June 2009



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SURE TO BE AN AWESOME WEEK!

Come join the excitement in Studio GO! – where children experience teamwork, real service and real fun! Each day at Studio GO!, kids will meet someone from the Bible who decided to team up with God and Go for it! They will see how God works in the lives of those who trust Him and will be challenged each day to Go Risk!, Go Lead!, Go Tell!, Go Obey and Go Serve. And, through it all, kids will come to understand that with Jesus, everyone wins!

Hope's 2009 VBS will take place June 22 through 26 from 9 a.m. to noon. Register your child, grandchild, friends and neighbors now! This will be a joy-filled week your kids won't forget.

If you need additional information or would like to volunteer, please contact Diane Barnes at dbarnes@hopetoledo.net.

If you are not available to help during the week of VBS, there is another way to be involved. Check out the display in the Lounge for an opportunity to support VBS by bringing in donations for the service project and sponsoring children from Salem who will be participate in VBS.

JUNE EVENTS

- Music Celebration Sunday – June 7
- Salem Agape Meal – Tues., June 12, 5 p.m.
- Serve at Cherry Street Mission – Sat., June 13 & 20 4:30 p.m.
- Blood Pressure Screening – Sun., June 14, 9 - 11 a.m., Larson Hall
- Dirty Dozen – Sat., June 20, 8 a.m. - noon
- Interfaith Blood Drive – Sat. & Sun., June 20 & 21, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church, 4441 Monroe St.
- Junior High Mission Trip – June 21 - 27
- Vacation Bible School – Mon., June 22 - Fri., 26, 9 a.m. to noon
- Congregational Meeting – Sunday, June 28

LOOKING AHEAD ...

- Biloxi Mission Trip – July 11 - 19
- Healing Service – July 12, 4 p.m.
- Leadership Summit – Aug. 6 & 7
- Walk Through the New Testament Seminar – Oct. 10
- Harvest Celebration – Oct. 25
- A Night in Bethlehem – December 12 & 13

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO ISSUE A
CALL FOR THE PASTOR OF YOUTH AND
FAMILY LIFE IS SUNDAY, JUNE 28

HOPE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS ALL SUMMER LONG



It was the Sunday before Memorial Day last year, standing at the front door of the church, greeting people as they exited, when a young girl, one of the daughters of a family here, came up to shake my hand and ask, "Pastor Bill, is the church going to be closed for

the summer? We're going to be at the lake and I wondered if maybe church would be closed, too." Much to her surprise I had to say that contrary to popular thought, we'd be open all summer long.

I really don't think she was able to grasp that concept, but then, again, that's the way our culture thinks. Close down. Shutter it up. Cool the jets. We'll be out of town so why still be opened?

Don't get me wrong here. Being away for the summer is a great thing, if you can pull it off. We all need debriefing time, Sabbath rest, time to get away and chill out. But it begs the question: Do we work to earn a rest; or, do we rest so that we might be able to return to work?

Hope is open all summer because we believe that here is the one and only place where you can be readied for the real world out there: The world of disappointment, shame,

violence, as well as happiness, success and accomplishment. What enables any of us to be able to work in this world? It's our identity as children of God. It is God who gives us our real identity, not our work, not our family, not even our college degrees or net worth.

Hope has become a 24/7 church, or, as I prefer to say – faith community. The building is being used every day, practically at all hours, for real faith formation. It was Bonnie Kinschner who gave us this very poignant definition of spiritual formation: The image and likeness of Jesus Christ being formed in the life of a person for the sake of others.

Where else are you going to get that? COSTCO doesn't sell it. Rite-Aid doesn't dispense it. And, Jeep doesn't make it. Only the faith community of Jesus can be the place where you can get it. And when you get it, then, life gets anything but comfortable. What it gets is an amazing ability to weather any storm, get through any crisis, regard any circumstance as small potatoes when compared to the lavish banquet set for us by Jesus Christ.

So why would we ever think of closing down for the summer? You go have a great summer in the sun; we'll be here with another Son. And remember.....we'll leave the light on for you.

I love you. Pastor Bill

MUSIC CELEBRATION SUNDAY IS JUNE 7

Sunday, June 7, at the 11 a.m., service is Music Celebration Sunday at Hope. It will feature Hope's Chancel, Handbell, Children's, Chime, and Herald trumpet choirs.

The choirs will present a wide variety of styles of music from Renaissance to Gospel, from traditional to contemporary. Please join us as we celebrate God's awesome gift of music and recognize all of those who have served in the choirs through the last year.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee has conducted interviews and has unanimously recommended to the Vision Team to issue a Call to Laura Strietelmeier as Hope's Pastor of Student and Family Life. The Vision Team has affirmed this recommendation and has set Sunday, June 28, as the date for a Congregational Meeting to formally issue the Call.

A special thanks to all of the Call Committee members – Fred Bretzloff, Matt Caputo, Steve Collier, Brenda Duffey, Andy Evans, Margaret Hentges, Nick Hentges, Eric Krupp, Jonathan Patberg, Sarah Puffenberger and Julie Walter.

HOPE SUMMER CAMP: PLANTED IN GOD

Children ages 3-years-old through fourth grade are invited to Camp at Hope this summer. For five consecutive Tuesdays, kids will learn about our awesome God through music, games and crafts. There is no charge for Summer Camp. And, as always, friends are welcome.

Week One – June 30

Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:3-8, 18-23)

We will learn how to be good soil for the seed of God's word.

Week Two – July 7

The Rich and Holy Root of God (Romans 11:16-18)

We will learn how to make God the root of our lives.

Week Three – July 14

Jesus is the bread of life and living water. (John 6:35) and (John 7:37-38)

We will learn that Jesus is the food and water we need to grow in faith.

Week Four – July 21

The pruning and the grafting branches. (Romans 11:19-22)

We will learn how to become and stay connected with God.

Week Five – July 28

The Vine and the Branches (John 15:1-8)

We will learn from Jesus how to bear good fruit.

Volunteers are needed for Summer Camp. If you are interested, please contact Diane Barnes, 419/536-8383 or dbarnes@hopetoledo.net.

HOPE WELCOMES NEW NURSERY CARE STAFF

Soon the youngest members of Hope will be greeted by a new face in the nursery. Sara Rober has recently been hired to staff the nursery on Sunday mornings.

Sara is a certified elementary teacher with more than six years of experience. She has taught preschool through fourth grade in a variety of settings including schools and day care centers.

Stop by and welcome Sara to our Hope family!

JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH MISSION TRIPS OFFER YOUTH SERVANT OPPORTUNITIES

From June 21 through 26, six Junior High youth will be working in Cincinnati, Ohio. Throughout the week, these young people will serve at soup kitchens, assist in basic home repair projects and visit nursing homes.

A group of 20 high school youth and 24 adults will be assisting in the clean up and rebuilding efforts of hurricane-ravaged areas of our country. The team will leave Thursday, July 9, travel to Biloxi, MS and Orange, TX, and return Saturday July 18th.

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE AT THE INTERFAITH BLOOD DRIVE

The 22nd Annual Interfaith Blood Drive is scheduled for June 20 and 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Grace Lutheran Church, 4441 Monroe Street. The common cause of giving the gift of life unites our community – regardless of religious affiliation.

Volunteers are needed to schedule appointments, be a donor and to bake treats. Sign up sheets are located in the Lounge. Or, contact Carol Meuser, 419/842-0507, Hope's blood drive chairperson.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES ARE HERE!

Hope, along with Olan Mills Photography, has recently published a pictorial directory. Each member of Hope will receive a copy of the directory with this issue of FYI.

Annual updates to the name, address and telephone portion of the directory will be produced and distributed annually. Please notify the church office, 419/536-8383 or office@hopetoledo.net, of any changes to your contact information.

GENEROSITY OUTREACH GO for HOPE

GO for HOPE is a challenge which centers around “G”enerosity and “O”utreach – two of our core values. It is a call from God to be something greater than ourselves. It is the opportunity to open our hearts and minds to the future God has planned for Hope Lutheran Church. This three-year challenge will continue through 2011, and direct our resources toward fulfilling Hope’s Mission: To be a living example of the love of Jesus Christ; and our Vision of transforming lives so that the world will be changed.

Please continue to pray for the GO for Hope Challenge. Ask, “Lord, what do You want to do through me to fulfill Your will for Hope?” Listen for God’s direction, and then act in faith. Please return your Commitment Card to the church office by June 14.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR “DIRTY DOZEN”

Did you know that there is a group of Hope members who keep our grounds looking beautiful and weed-free? Once a month, these dedicated individuals assemble at Hope to prune, mulch, rake, weed, transplant, edge and whatever else may be needed. More volunteers are always welcome since more hands make lighter work.

Future Dirty Dozen Work Days: Saturday, June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Hope now has an even greater presence on the web. In addition to our website, www.hopetoledo.net and staff e-mails, members and friends of Hope can learn about upcoming events and communicate with the church through Facebook. If you have a Facebook page, add Hope Toledo as a “friend.”

If your e-mail address is not currently on file with the church office, please call (419/536-8383) to add it to our growing list. Communication via e-mail is a more efficient and cost-effective method. And, be assured, your address will not be given to solicitors.

We are also looking for some volunteers to help with the website. If you have web design or development experience, contact Eric Krupp, info@hopetoledo.net. The time commitment can be as little or as much as you would like.

MUD HENS OFFERS “FUN” D-RAISING OPPORTUNITY

Volunteers are still needed to staff a concession stand at the Mud Hens games we’ve been assigned. Hope’s Mission Ministry will earn a commission of 8 - 9% of sales at the stand. The funds will be used to support community organizations, offer scholarships to Hope members participating in mission trips, and initiate other Mission Ministry projects.

Hope has committed to provide 16 to 22 volunteers for the following games – Sun., June 14, at 6:30 p.m., Wed., July 8, at 7:00 p.m., Sun., July 26, at 6:30 p.m., Sun., August 2, at 6:30 p.m., Sun., August 23, at 6:00 p.m., Sun., August 30, at 6:00 p.m. games. All volunteers must be at least 16 years old.

If you would like to be a part of this exciting activity, please contact Phil Meuser, Director of Mission Outreach, 419/536-8383 or pmeuser@hopetoledo.net.

Our Vision: Transforming Lives by *inviting* people to connect with God; *encouraging* people to connect with each other; and, *equipping* people to live the God life so that the world will be changed.