

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
JANUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

**201 South Montgomery Highway
Birmingham, AL 35216
(205) 823-1883
vestavialutheran.org**



With the Lord Begin Your Task

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| 1 | With the Lord begin your task;
Jesus will direct it.
For His aid and counsel ask;
Jesus will perfect it.
Ev'ry morn with Jesus rise,
And when day is ended,
In His name then close your eyes;
Be to Him commended. | 2 | Let each day begin with prayer,
Praise, and adoration.
On the Lord cast ev'ry care;
He is your salvation.
Morning, evening, and at night
Jesus will be near you,
Save you from the tempter's might,
With His presence cheer you. |
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NEWS AND NOTES FROM PASTOR AHLEMEYER

Pastor's Reading Group will be meeting on Wednesday, January 4 at 6:30-7:30 p.m. We will be discussing the book the "Privilege of Persecution" by Moeller and Hegg. What can we learn as Christians in modern America from our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ around the world?

Nicaragua Mission Trip Commissioning Sunday January 8th, during our worship service, we will ask for the Lord's blessing on our upcoming mission team headed to Nicaragua with Project HOPE. Keep them in your prayers!

Basics of the Faith Class will start on January 18th at 6:30 p.m. We will meet on January 18th and 25th. We will also meet on February 1st, 8th, and 15th. Talk to Pastor Ahlemeyer if interested in attending or if you know of someone who might appreciate an invitation. This is a class for those seeking to learn more about the Christian faith, inquiring about Lutheranism, or wanting a refresher course in the foundations of the faith.

(continued on page 2 and 3)



From the Pastor continued

Special Mission Guest from “Hope Seeds” What is “Hope Seeds” all about? Come and find out! Mike Mueller, from Florida, will be our special guest on Sunday January 15th to share with us the work of “Hope Seeds.” This is a wonderful human care ministry and we look forward to hearing him introduce/update this ministry to our church family! Hope Seeds provides a source of food for third world nations by helping people become self sufficient in raising crops. Mike will lead our bible study hour and share a ‘mission moment’ during the announcements in worship!

All Board’s Meeting Night will meet January 16th with devotion starting at 6:15 p.m. and council meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Confirmation Class Schedule for January We will meet on Sundays, January 15th and 29th, from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Next! LCVH Blind Event We are looking at January 26th at 11:30 a.m. as the date for our next blind outreach event! Look at the bulletin in January for more information as we move closer to the date. Those who have signed up to help please look at this date and your availability to help out!

Offering Envelopes You can pick up your offering envelopes in your church mailbox for 2012!

Update on the “Stained Glass Window Project” for the entryway! The stained glass window panels have arrived here at LCVH! The entryway is first going to be repainted and we look forward to having the panels installed. Thank you to the generous gifts that have almost completely paid for the project. We are currently about \$500.00 short of paying for the panels if you are interested in contributing!

Thank you to our “Angel Tree” coordinators and participants. Special thank you to Kristin Tunnel and all the hard work and generous gifts shared with those less fortunate in our community. What a blessing to see generous hearts and hands at work!

Youth “Boxin’ It” Event will be February 4-5! Mark your calendars youth. Look for emails from Mrs. Cahill as the date approaches! We had a great turnout and a lot of fun at the Christmas Party and Caroling! Hope to see you there!

Special “Firehouse Shelter” Sunday will be on February 5th! We will highlight our partnership with this incredible mission to the homeless in Birmingham during worship! During the bible study hour a member of the Firehouse team will lead us and share with us an update about the great things happening at the shelter. Thank you to Amy Mooney, who is going off of the board and to Matt Cahill who will be joining the board as one of our representatives from LCVH!

(continued on page 3)

New phone directory coming in the winter! Due to the numerous new families that have joined the church recently we hope to publish an updated phone directory in the future!

Remember to look at the new member board! To put names and faces together with our newest additions to the church family look at the board when you come to church on Sunday. We are blessed to have so many new faces and we pray our congregation makes them feel at home!

Thrivent Choice Dollars Check with our Thrivent representative, Tom Noon, or contact the church office to make sure you are maximizing your stewardship opportunities through

Special thank you for all those who remembered our family during Christmas we want to share a personal word of thanks. A special thank you to the wonderful staff (office and ministry staff) we have been blessed with here at LCVH that always makes sure our church family is served well in Christ!

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord...” Our Christmas season was blessed with the musical gifts and offerings of so many. Special thank you to our Music Director - Ruth Johnson. Organists - Ruth Johnson, Jody Coombs, Rachel Julian, and Julie Deckar. Special instrumentalist from our church family that consistently enrich our worship life on a regular basis – the Ardovino family and Melissa Phillips. To our choir and instrumentalists that opened our hearts to the Christ child we share our thanks for your dedication and talent shared with all!

Church Sign Project still going strong! We are halfway to our goal of raising the money to refurbish our sign. Sunday school families remember to use your offering boxes and turn in those mites and watch what God can do! Talk to your children about the importance and reasons “why” we give an offering!

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE THANKS YOU !!!!!

I don't believe we have ever had such a tremendous response from the Time and Talent Sheet as we had earlier. (Could it be the crimson color? No, it is the wonderful love you have for our church family.)

The special Team Coaches will be contacting you soon and will be engaging you on the Special Teams.

With the fantastic Coaches and team members, I truly believe we will field an unbeatable team for our Lord's work this year.

Thank you so much for joining the LCVH team. I am looking forward to working with you this year as we spread the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ here in our church and in field.

Happy New Year

Bo Canning
Stewardship Board

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 John Ballard
Kameron Kotraba
Kari Kotraba
- 2 Keith Davis
Steven Norby
Dennis Rickertsen
Jennifer Riha
Taylor White
- 3 Henry Strand
- 4 Anna Smith
- 5 Sam Walter
- 7 Judy Dorchester
Virginia Schneider
- 9 Andrew Robison
Andrew Seltz
- 10 Jim Boyle
Richard Brown
- 13 Pam Kirby
- 14 Miriam Hartley
- 16 Carol Swanson
Randy Schlueter
- 17 Paulette Davis
Kent Wright
- 19 Lee Parr
Brett Swanson
- 20 Hannah Schneider
- 21 Paul Smith
- 22 David Riha
Grant Biehunko
- 24 Julie Siebold
Maizie Seltz
- 26 Kallie Hite
- 29 Brian Grau

IN OUR CONTINUING PRAYERS

Tim Sullivan; Gary and Jean Wolter; Peggy Little; Jean Blackwell, mother of Ron Passmore; Druscilla Defalque, friend of the Filipowski family; Pam Kirby; Kristin Ganett; Frank Wright, Linda Frawley's father; Lori Leveille; Henry Cranston; Bo Canning's mom, Martha Canning; Judy Dorchester; Joan Fowler; Pastor Mazak; Gaye Norman; Margaret Passmore; Judy Brosch; Leslie Coggin; Jane Schrubbe; Jean Wolter; Maisie House; Lynn Tunnell, father of Andy Tunnell; Miranda Schrubbe, daughter in law of Jane Schrubbe; Larry Seltz, father of Andy Seltz; Rebecca Jayne Brooks, mother Mona Brooks; Jason Hill, friend of Leslie Coggin; LCVH Friends and Family in the Military

December 2011

HOLY BAPTISM : 12-18-2011 10:30 am Worship

Eliana "Ellie" Ruth Schneider

December BIRTHS: Madeline (Maddy) and Parrish, twins, born to Amy and Adam Alvis on December 15th.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

We hereby extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who sent cards or otherwise offered sympathy, and well wishes upon the recent loss of Pat's youngest daughter, Deborah. Thank you so very much.

Pat and Gene Addor

SCHEDULE OF 2012 WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

have been placed in volunteers church mailboxes. If you are in need of another copy, please contact the church office.

Worship volunteer assignments will be posted as follows: 1) in the monthly newsletter, 2) on the church bulletin board, 3) via e-mail from the church secretary, prior to each Sunday, and 4) in the Sunday bulletin insert.

Please arrangement for a "swap" of duties with another volunteer if you are unable to fulfill your obligation on a given Sunday(s).

(see page 5—January volunteers)

JANUARY 2012
THOSE WHO SERVE SCHEDULE
The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills

SERVICE AREA	JANUARY 1	JANUARY 8	JANUARY 15	JANUARY 22	JANUARY 29
ACOLYTES 8:00	Trent Decker	Kristen Decker	Nicholas Dietschweiler	Sarah Cain	Trent Decker
10:30	Katelyn Pickard Becky Wolf Austin Rieger	Cole Crownhart Joe Ardovino Vinzent Wesselman	Drew Valasek Will Valasek Katie Wolf	J. T. Clifton Kolby Hite Hope Siebold	Clayton Smyly Anna Kate Lembke Abbey Romp
ALTAR/ COMMUNION	Julie & Kristen Decker	Julie & Kristen Decker	Sandy Dacheux Dot Von Hoene	Sandy Dacheux Dot Von Hoene	Rose Phillips Debbie Westerfield Rebecca Creamer
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS					
8:00	Don Schmidtke Brian Cain	Bob Kleinstein Brian Cain	Jason Lueck Don Schmidtke	Bob Kleinstein Brian Cain	Jason Lueck Terry Cook
10:30	Gene Strand Joel Kuehnert	Mark Walter Jonathan Doroh	Adam Alvis Joel Kuehnert	Ben Hogan Sandy Dacheux	Adam Alvis Scott Mooney
COUNTERS	Dale & Rose Phillips	Darrell Lauppe Carol Fielder	Bo Canning Susan Pedota	Julie Decker Rita Weidman	Len Suelter Laurie Zorn
GREETERS 8:00	Jane Schrubbe Gertie Hengel	Linda Frawley Annelle Johnson	Terry & Susan Cook	Bettie Zimmer Rosemarie Borman	Ann Zarzour Deborah Como
10:30	Blaine & Jennifer House, Sandy Dacheux	Kim & Ryan Blackenburg, Carolyn Barton, Rita Weidman	Len & Micky Suelter Steve Smyly	Jean Hill, Ron Passmore, Barbara Mooney	Donna Crabb Stan Susina, Phyllis Stroom
LAY READERS 8:00	Roberta Kleinstein	Bob Kleinstein	Sara Schmidtke	Jackson Como	Deborah Como
10:30	Debbie Riha	Keith Johnson	Andrew Seltz	Scott Mooney	Matt Lembke
NURSERY 10:30 ONLY	Michael Phillips Abby Romp	Kristi Samson Hannah Walter	Ellen Seltz Stephanie Tunnell	Amy Mooney Kelsie Mooney	Michael & Melissa Phillips
USHERS 8:00	Jason Lueck Dave Norby	Jackson Como Brian Grau	Don Israel Bob Kleinstein	Brian Cain Lee Burnett	Bernie Borman Michael Perry
10:30	Jim Norman, Todd Pickard, Ron Passmore, John Gaertner, Wayne Riley	Phil White, Glenn Schneider, Ed Schulz, Tony Valasek, Al Riha	Jonathan Doroh, Wayne Geisler, Rod Russell, Mark Walter	Ben Hogan, Scott Mooney, Steve Wojcik, Paul Smith	Joel Kuehnert, Dale Phillips, Glenn Schroeder, Steve Smyly, Bo Canning

Project HOPE Update

The year 2011 was an exciting one for Project HOPE. As of this writing (December 21, 2011) approximately \$80,000.00 has been given for ministries in Uganda and Nicaragua. Of this amount \$9,000.00 came from people who are not members of LCVH. Also included in that amount is \$2,174.50 from the Thrivent Choice Dollars Program (money Thrivent members can direct to the charity of their choice).



Gifts to Project HOPE accomplished the following in Uganda in 2011: constructing and equipping two schools; maintaining two piggeries; maintaining a Women's Sewing Center; providing school fees for ten children; providing a noon meal for 180 children in Zion's Orphan School; providing food for over one hundred families during this past spring's drought; and paying for repairs on two wells. Project HOPE also provided \$11,000 for the program of spiritual and vocational formation at the Youth Center in León, Nicaragua, as well as \$1,300.00 in food supplements for three villages in this Central American country.

Plans for 2012 include maintaining much of what we have started in Uganda and Nicaragua. We have received requests for an income-producing agricultural project for Zion Lutheran Church in Kateete, Uganda (\$4,500.00); a second school building in Kamuli, Uganda (\$35,000.00); and help with constructing a children's feeding center in León, Nicaragua (\$5,000.00). And this is only the beginning of requests that will be made to us.

On January 8, during the Sunday School hour, I will offer a visual report of Project HOPE activities in Uganda. I hope you can make it.

On January 14 our "LCVH Children's Ministry Team" will spend a week sharing the love of the Lord in word and deed in three villages in Nicaragua. The team includes: Ruth Johnson, Cindy Barberini, Debbie Riha, Melissa & Jonathan Doroh, Amy & Lauren Schroeder, Cheryl & Casey Crownhart, and yours truly. On March 17 our "LCVH Missions Construction Team" will spend a week in El Pastal, Nicaragua repairing a small church. This team includes: Deborah & Jackson Como, Donna & Greg Crabb, and Dee & Cliff Hellmers. There is still room for more folks on this team. Please let me know if you are interested in participating.

Finally, many thanks to all of you for your prayers, words of encouragement, financial gifts, and "tons" of school supplies, medical supplies, and tee shirts. A special word of thanks goes to our congregation's youth for preparing gift baggies for children in Uganda and Nicaragua...little gifts that inspire huge smiles on faces of little children that have so little of this world's goods.

My prayer for each of you is that the celebration of our Lord's birth will fill you with HOPE for tomorrow and for eternity through the one who is the Light of world, Jesus, the Christ.

Pastor Cliff Hellmers

Coordinator for Project HOPE

**TUESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY UPDATE—
NEW CLASS THIS JANUARY**

"Starting January 10th, the Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study will be starting a new class using **James: Mercy Triumphs** by **Beth Moore**. This class will provide a personal study experience plus 8 group video sessions of this in-depth Bible study. James, Jesus' own brother, started out as a skeptic. See how one glimpse of the resurrected Savior turned an unbeliever into a disciple. Bible scholars compare James to the prophet Amos. In other ways, James more closely resembles the Book of Proverbs than any other New Testament book. Topics in this study include: joy, hardship, faith, reversal of fortunes for rich and poor, wisdom, gifts from above, single-mindedness, the dangers of the tongue, humility, and prayer. We invite all women of the congregation and any friends to participate. We meet from 9:30 - 11:30 on Tuesday mornings in the Board Room. Please contact Wendy Pickard (wlpickard@aol.com or 970-6920) if you are interested. Member Guide's for the Beth Moore study starting in January will be \$16.45 Please let JoAnn or Wendy know if you are interested in having one purchased for you.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Special thanks to the following for providing the lovely poinsettia plants for our Christmas worships:

Christmas Poinsettias were provided by Gwen Harrison and purchased by the following:

Robert and Roberta Kleinstein
Terry and Susan Cook
Jennifer and Blaine House
Steve and Margie Filipowski
Sandy Dacheux
Katie and Robb Romp
Carolyn Barton
Bo Canning
The Schoenfeldt family
Gene and Pat Addor
Tom and Martha Jane Romp
Ben and Carolyn Hogan
Michael and Paulette Molloy
Dudley and Margaret Foster
Todd and Wendy Pickard

Thank you all for your contribution to the beauty of our sanctuary for Christmas worship

FROM THE TREASURER:

As of January 1, 2012, the balance due on our promissory note is 549,507.10. Our current interest rate is 5.5% and monthly payment on principal and interest is \$5,248.51. An extra payment is made monthly for the contributions made to the Debit Retirement.

The Interest rate will be revised in December 2012.

Karen Dampier, Treasurer

HOLY BAPTISM IN JANUARY

Infant, twins, Parrish Leigh Alvis and Madeline Grace Alvis, will be baptized on January 22, 2012 at the 10:30 AM worship service.

Parents are Amy and Adam Alvis.
Sponsors are Jennifer and Phil White,

January 2012 Flower Chart

January 8: Mazak family in memory of Carol Mazak
January 15 In honor of Miriam Hartley's birthday by her brother and sister
January 22 The Seltz family in memory of Ellen's mother Shirley Lee

LCVH YOUTH will be having their annual "Boxin It" event to raise awareness for homelessness February 4-5. The senior high youth will be sleeping outside in boxes and collecting donations to take to the Firehouse Shelter.

Abby Cahill Youth and Family Life

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF VESTAVIA HILLS

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