

# LCVH November 2011 Newsletter

*The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills*

201 So Montgomery Hwy  
Birmingham, AL 35216



[www.vestavialutheran.org](http://www.vestavialutheran.org)  
205-823-1883

## BLIND OUTREACH BEGINS NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> AT LCVH !

On Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. we will host our first outreach event to the blind community in Birmingham. The goal is to host one outreach event each month. As of now, it appears that Thursday mornings from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. will be our scheduled time.

What does a “blind outreach event” look like? It is a time for the blind in the community to meet for food, fellowship and friendship, a spiritual growth time in Christ, and an informal program or activity.

Food: The average blind person lives on \$600.00 a month. Therefore, the monthly meal is always welcomed and appreciated by the blind!

Fellowship and friendship: The blind are extremely isolated. Providing a safe place for blind individuals to meet who share the same joys and challenges, struggles and successes is a blessing.

Spiritual Growth in Christ: Conservative estimates are that 95% of the blind are unchurched. We can certainly see the need for the outreach! This statistic recalls Jesus words: “*the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.*”

To the best of our knowledge and the knowledge of the Alabama Institute for the Blind, presently, there is no faith based spiritual growth opportunity for the blind in the Birmingham area. Each month a devotion will be shared. The devotions stress the same love of God made flesh in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins that sighted people celebrate as well. After all, the gospel is the same gospel to all. But to the blind we have to be brighter lights than usual!

Many blind people have a sense of frustration and anger at God for their circumstance in this earthly life. Perhaps, they might even believe that God is punishing them for their lot in life. We know this is not true. We prayerfully hope they can come to see this as well. (continued on page 2)



“Freedom From Want” .by Norman Rockwell.

**THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP**  
**Wednesday, November 23rd at 7:00 p.m.**

(Blind Ministries continued from page 1)

Lutheran Blind Mission Executive Director, Rev. David Andrus, shared with us in his visit to LCVH that the goal of a blind mission center has a clear vision statement: *Through the hearts and hands of caring Christians the blind come to see a loving God in word and deed!*

Program or activity: Each month we will have a little informal entertainment, fun activity, or advocacy program for the blind. For our first event we have a local musical group, lead by Rusty Speigle, who is a member at our sister Lutheran church in Gardendale (Good Shepherd). Other churches with outreach centers have activities such as square dancing, blind bingo, school groups that share a talent, etc.

Volunteers: We had an excellent turnout for our first planning meeting with approximately twenty volunteers. Thank you to those who have signed up. We have individuals serving as drivers, set-up and clean-up, meal planners, and phone callers. But we can always use more!

How do we contact the blind? The Alabama Institute for the Blind. The institute is downtown on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and serves as our primary contact with the blind. Over time, as we prayerfully become more established, we hope word will spread by mouth and by advertising to other churches in the area.

Expectations: Our expectations for the first event are to have a half dozen to a dozen guests. All churches that have established outreach centers experience mixed results. Some work and some do not. All churches will share that it takes time to get it going. The blind want to hear first that a place is safe before they attend the events. As much as we plan and plan (and should plan!), we ultimately follow the lead of

the Holy Spirit in our evangelism endeavors. As many of you know, you shared Christ with one friend who you thought would accept your invitation and they declined; and the invitation you gave to a friend that you were certain would decline, well, they accepted! .

The Bible compares the work of the Holy Spirit to the wind. Saying, you can feel the wind blow, but you do not see where it comes from or where it goes, but you see it at work! In other words, the Bible is reminding us of something important. What is that? While we know the Spirit is working, how He works through evangelism, well, this is often a mystery. Our call as Christians is to seek out ways to reach out in a common sanctified sense with boldness and allow the Lord to determine the outcome.

The outcome? We will see...we know we have much to learn about supporting the blind...we know we need to have a spirit of humility...we know we need to be patient...we know we need to be positive...we know we need to be, oddly enough, open to “failure.” Every mission outreach starts with the premise of success but also failure. It might “work” or “not work.”

But, if we have the heart of Christ as we share the word of Christ – no matter how the outreach center is received by the community - we know one thing – we know *we succeeded* in our call as Christians to share the word!

Lord’s blessings,  
*Pastor Ahlemeyer*

**Ushers Needed at Early Service!**

We are still looking for a few extra ushers to fill teams for the 8:00 a.m. worship service. Please contact Henry Piasky or call the church office if interested in serving.

**VOTERS MEETING—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH AFTER LATE SERVICE.**

We will be voting on the proposed 2012 church budget.



**THE 2012  
LCVH FLOWER CHART**

is up on the bulletin board.



If you would like to reserve a Sunday(s) for a family dedication in memory of a loved one, an anniversary, a birthday, etc. please make your entry onto the chart.

**Baptisms in October**

October 16

Anderson Katherine Herschbach  
Daughter of Karl and Brandy  
Herschbach

October 26

Andrew Keenum Perry  
Son of Michael and Janna Perry  
Raeven Isabelle Hagan  
Daughter of Sean and Kyra  
Bachmann

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- |    |                        |                   |
|----|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1  | Scott Mooney           |                   |
| 3  | Matthew Boyle          | 21                |
|    | Pearl Brown            | Henry Piasky      |
| 4  | Paul Whitman           | Kolby Hite        |
| 5  | Stephen Mwangi         | Rita Weidman      |
|    | Jane Cain-Schaefer     | 22                |
| 7  | Jessica McKenzie Riha  | 24                |
| 8  | Nicholas Dietschweiler | Margaret Hehn     |
|    |                        | Stephanie Tunnell |
| 9  | Nick Madsen            | Kathy Hite        |
|    | Cindy Valasek          | Amanda Gayle      |
|    | Kim Geisler            |                   |
| 11 | Kristy Wolf            | 25                |
| 12 | Anna Lynch             | Glenn Schroeder   |
|    | Owen Lynch             | Charles Taafe     |
| 13 | Madeline Shirk         | Lori Ardovino     |
| 14 | Don Israel             | 26                |
|    | Anna Kate Lembke       | Cheryl Crownhart  |
| 15 | Trent Decker           | Peggy Little      |
|    | Sharon Smith           | 28                |
| 16 | Sarah Riha Lynch       | Mark Hellmers     |
| 17 | Cole Crownhart         | 29                |
|    | Stephen Graham         | Kailey Koch       |
|    | Micah Madsen           | Blaine House      |
| 18 | Austin Rieger          | 30                |
|    | Tony Valasek           | Ruth Lehman       |
|    | Andrew Valasek         | Beth Cranston     |
|    | William Valasek        |                   |
| 20 | Debbie Riha            |                   |

**STAINED GLASS PANELS**

by Rev. Mark Weigmann from the Center for Liturgical Arts at Concordia University are arriving soon. One panel has already been purchased in memory of Betty Susina. The other two panels will need to be funded through future donations. If you are interested in funding all or part of these original works of art, please contact Blaine House or one of the House Committee members— Mary Lembke, Phyllis Stroom, or Debbie Riha.

**Make A Joyful Noise  
to the Lord!  
Join a choir at LCVH !**



# Project HOPE Update

Some of you have mentioned that you heard that the United States has sent military advisors to Uganda to assist with dealing with the Lord's Resistance Army, and you wondered if this would impact our ministry there. First of all, the Lord's Resistance Army is a terrorist organization that has brutalized people in northern Uganda, Sudan, and other countries for years. In the last four years there has been a truce between them and the Ugandan government, but evidently that truce has been broken. Secondly, no, that will not impact our projects, but I believe drought, lack of food, and rampant inflation will.

I will be returning to Uganda November 1-10. Hopefully, I will witness the dedication of new schools in Bukobo and Kamuli which Project HOPE has funded, and see a revitalized piggery in Kateete. However, I believe I will also be confronted with food issues both for people in the three villages we serve and for animals in the two piggeries we have funded. I plan to have a visual report for you some time in early 2012.

After Uganda I will be escorting two groups on mission trips to Nicaragua. The Children's Ministry Team for the annual January trip has a full component of participants. There is still some room, though, for participants on the Construction Project Team which will be in Nicaragua March 17-24 (Spring Break). Please call me at 988-3138 or email me at [vestluth@juno.com](mailto:vestluth@juno.com) if you are interested in being a member of this team.

## Internship Needed

Our hosts in Nicaragua, Ricardo and Georgina Arguello, have a daughter, Karol, who attends Concordia Lutheran University in Seward, Nebraska. She is a junior majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in marketing. She will need to find a four week (140 hours) internship beginning next May. If any of you know of a company that might be willing to take her on as an unpaid intern, please let me know. Also, if it works out that Karol can do her internship in Birmingham, she will need a place to live for those four weeks. If you can help with that, please let me know. Karol spent Spring Break in Birmingham three years ago. Her English is excellent. She is an all around good Christian young woman. Here is a wonderful opportunity to share the love of Christ in a tangible way with Karol and her family who have been of invaluable assistance to us in our service in Nicaragua.

Finally, as we approach the holiday season please keep in mind that you can give financial gifts to Project HOPE in honor of someone. There are post cards in the church office which you can send to people to indicate that you gave a gift to Project HOPE in their name, which will help someone in Uganda or Nicaragua receive the love of Jesus in word and deed.

As always, and especially as we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, please accept my heartfelt gratitude for your prayers, words of encouragement, and offerings for Project HOPE.

*Pastor Cliff Hellmers*

Coordinator for Project HOPE

***FIREHOUSE SHELTER'S 5 ALARM GALA***

**Friday, November 18th at B & A Warehouse, 6:30—9:30 p.m.**

**There will be food and drinks and a Silent Auction.**

**If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact Amy Mooney or Len Suelter.**



**Did you know that .93 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to the Firehouse Shelter?**

**MDO IS LOOKING FOR A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER.** If you know of someone who loves children and has some experience in caring for them in a PreSchool, Day Care or MDO setting, please have them contact our Mother's Day Out Director, Rose Phillips at [rosaphillips@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:rosaphillips@vestavialutheran.org)



**2012 PLEDGE CARDS** are still being received. Please return yours to the church office or place in the offering plate at worship. Our stewardship board is working diligently on preparing a 2012 budget for our church. It will make their budget and income projections much more easy and accurate if they have a good return receipt of members' pledge cards.

**THIS MONTH**

**DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK AN HOUR SUNDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 6TH**

***NOVEMBER 5TH IS ALL SAINTS SUNDAY***

Please join us for worship at 8 or 10:30 a.m. for this special worship service.

**BLIND MINISTRY UPDATE**—Our lunch event has been set for **Thursday, November 10** at 11:30 a.m. For those members helping with this event, please plan to meet after late service on November 6 for a final planning meeting.

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME** for the summer/fall cycle will be on **Sunday, November 13th** . A reception will be held after the 10:30 a.m. worship.

**THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP and Pie Social** will be on Wednesday, November 23rd at 7:00 p.m. Pie Social to follow worship.

### YOUTHERANS NEWS



**It's time again for the Riha Retreat! LCVH JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH YOUTH RETREAT** Mark your calendars for the **Riha Youth Retreat on NOVEMBER 4-6.** Remember that friends are welcome to join us.

Please contact Abby Cahill ASAP at [abbycahill@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:abbycahill@vestavialutheran.org) if you need more information or wish to attend and have not as yet signed up.

### CONFIRMATION CLASSES

**CONFIRMATION CAMP AT STONE MOUNTAIN** will be **December 28-29.** By the end of the month please notify Pastor Ahlemeyer of your participation, if you have not done so already. Thank you!

### CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

We will meet on Sunday, **November 13<sup>th</sup>** from 4-6 p.m. at the Ahlemeyer house. Please have Lesson 21 completed. For the activity we will be going to Game Zone for Laser Tag. Drop off will be at the Ahlemeyer House and pick up will be at the Game Zone in Pelham. Emails will follow for details. We will need three drivers for the evening.

### BASICS OF THE FAITH/NEW MEMBER CLASSES

The last two classes, Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm, are on November 9th and 16th. If you are interested in joining LCVH as a member, please contact Pastor Ahlemeyer. A new member introduction and acceptance will be held during worship services on November 13th. A reception will be given for those joining our church family following the 10:30 worship service.

### PASTOR'S READING GROUP MEETS NOVEMBER 2, 2011

November 2, at 6:30 p.m.. We will meet to look at "Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy" by Eric Metaxas.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERINGS

Just a reminder to bring your Sunday School offering box. We are getting close to our goal to refurbish the church sign!

### THRIVENT MEMBERS:

Friendly reminder to use your Choice Dollars to support Project HOPE and Mother's Day Out



## **RAMS\* and Women's Wednesday Morning Bible Classes Update**

There has been a change in the scheduling of both the Women's and Men's Wednesday Morning Bible Classes for November and December:

Wednesday, November 9 -- Class

Wednesday, November 30 -- Class (fifth Wednesday instead of the fourth Wednesday)

Wednesday, December 14 -- Class

Wednesday, December 28 -- No Class

\* Retired, Adult Men

## **USHERS NEEDED AT EARLY SERVICE!**

We are still looking for a few extra ushers to fill teams for the 8:00 a.m. worship service. Please contact Henry Piasky or call the church office if interested in serving.

## **ADVENT**

### **ADVENT MID-WEEK SERVICES BEGIN ON NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>!**

On Wednesday evenings you can prepare for Christmas here at LCVH with our:

Advent Diner@ 6:00 p.m. Worship @ 6:45 p.m.

*At the November 30<sup>th</sup> mid-week service all are invited to come and help decorate the Christmas tree!*



*Children will practice for Christmas Program during advent midweek worship!*

*Children's Program is December 11th @ 10:30*

**The Adult LCVH Choir** will practice during Advent after the midweek Advent worship service. New voices are always welcome!

**Calling all Cooks and Cook Teams !** Please sign up on the bulletin board for Advent Midweek Meals! We need your tasty tidbits!

## ***HOUSE COMMITTEE***

The church council has formed a "House Committee" as a sub-committee of the Property Board to look at ways to refresh the narthex of our facility. They have already started with their work. We are thankful for their many hours spent in service to LCVH. Well done!

# November 2011

## SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS -THOSE WHO SERVE - LCVH

	<b>SUNDAY, Nov 6 <i>All Saints</i></b>	<b>SUNDAY, Nov 13</b>	<b>SUNDAY, Nov 20</b>	<b>Wednesday Nov 23 <i>Thanksgiving</i></b>	<b>SUNDAY, Nov 27</b>
<b>ACOLYTES</b>					
<b>8:00</b>	Nicholas Dieschweiler	Sarah Cain	Trent Decker		Nicholas Dietschweiler
<b>10:30</b>	Austin Rieger Becky Wolf Cole Crown-	JT Clifton Drew Valasek Will Valasek	Kolby Hite Clayton Smyly Katie Wolf	One Service: 7:00 p.m.	Anna Kate Lembke, Hope Siebold, Abbey Romp
<b>ALTAR CARE</b>	Debbie & Rod Russell	Debbie & Rod Russell	Rita Weidman & Paulette Davis	Micki and Len Suelter	Micki & Len Suelter
<b>COMMUNION ASSTS</b>					
<b>8:00</b>	Bob Kleinstein Jason Lueck	Don Schmidtke, Brian Cain	Brian Cain Bob Kleinstein		Don Schmidtke, Brian Cain
<b>10:30</b>	Scott Mooney Gene Strand	Jonathan Doroh Joel Kuehnert	Sandy Dacheux Ben Hogan	Gene Strand Scott Mooney	Mark Walter Adam Alvis
<b>COUNTERS</b>	Hogan & Hogan	Phillips and Phillips	Laupe & Fiedler		Bo Canning & Susan Pedota
<b>GREETERS</b>					
<b>8:00</b>	Ann Zarzour	Jane Schrubbe	Linda Frawley Annelle Johnson		Terry & Susan Cook
<b>10:30</b>	Blaine & Jennifer House, Sandy Dacheux	Carolyn Barton Kim & Ryan Blackenburg Rita Weid-	Len and Micki Suelter		Jean Hill Ron Passmore Barbara Mooney
<b>READERS</b>					
<b>8:00</b>	Deborah Como	Jane Schaefer	Susan Cook		Brian Cain
<b>10:30</b>	Leigh Walter	Mark Walter			
<b>USHERS</b>					
<b>8:00</b>	Don Israel Bob Kleinstein	Brian Cain	Bernie Borman Michael Perry		Terry Cook Nicholas Dietschweiler
<b>10:30</b>	Joel Kuehnert Dale Phillips	Jim Norman Todd Pickard Ron Passmore	Phil White Glenn Schneider		Jonathan Doroh Wayne
<b>10:30 Nursery</b>	Melissa Phillips Sam Walter	Kimberly and Steve Geisler	Abby Romp and Matt Cahill		Cheryl Crownhart and Casey Crownhart