



# October 2011 Newsletter

**The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hill**

201 South Montgomery Highway, Birmingham, AL 35216

[www.vestavialutheran.org](http://www.vestavialutheran.org)

## **“We Give Thee But Thine Own”**

Martin Luther once said, “How we live as a Christian steward in relation to material possessions is simply determined by how we answer the following question: Owner or manager?”

Possessions: *Owners or Managers?*

It is the right question to ask...

Yes, Luther was right when he said it is a simple question. Luther was even more correct when he said the right answer is very difficult to live out.

Our Stewardship theme for this year offers the right answer to this important question through the popular hymn: “We Give Thee But Thine Own.”

We give Thee but Thine Own  
Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that We have is Thine alone,  
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

Scripture reminds us we are managers, not owners. Managers of material goods given as a trust from God so that we might pursue “true wealth.” (Luke 16:9-13)

Pop culture teaches that earthly wealth is ours for our own purposes. Pop culture teaches the sole purpose of wealth is to acquire personal happiness. Like the rich fool in the gospel of Luke, we are tempted to hoard possessions in hopes of gaining security or “the easy life” or a “better life.”

The New Testament’s teaching on possessions, however, proves these materialistic views to be empty.

Whether we are rich or poor (see Luke 12) Jesus exhorts us to be “rich toward God” (Luke 12:16-21). Living an abundant life, oddly enough, through emptying ourselves of greed and selfishness.

We need to remember “wealth itself is not evil,” but because of sin, “one cannot remain passive or neutral about it. Wealth masters if it is not mastered” (J. B. Green, *The Gospel of Luke* (NICNT), 229). Thanks be to God the gift of the cross and His forgiveness sets us free from this vain master!

*(continued on page 3)*

**Baptisms**



Payton Myra. Norris  
Collyns Elizabeth Waldrep

September 25, 2011  
October 2, 2011

Parents: Paul & Rachel Norris  
Parents: Brent & Meagan Waldrep

**Project HOPE Update:**

Pastor and Dee Hellmers are in Germany . Eventually they will be in Slovakia for a reunion of all Lutheran Hour Ministries volunteers who worked on restoring the Lutheran High School in Tisovec, Slovakia back in the 90` s.

Pastor Hellmers wants to remind you that **October 15 is the deadline** for folks to let him know if they would like to go on the March 17-24 Project HOPE Mission Trip to Nicaragua.

**Attention: Wednesday Morning Women’s Bible Study Attendees**

We, as always, welcome any women visitors to our Bible study group.

Dates for our studies is normally the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. We meet in the Board Room at 10:00 AM.

During the month of November, we will meet only on the 9th of November.

During the month of December, we will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday, (December 14 and 28) .

*Arlene Reynolds*

**August 2011 Contribution Information** from LCVH’s Church

Treasurer, Karen Dampier:  
\$31, 957.00 General Fund  
\$37, 301.48 Expenses

**October Birthdays**

- 3 Jack Davis
- 4 Andrew Tunnell
- 5 Christina Horton  
Brian Cain
- 6 Gloria Celes  
Doris Schulz  
Ashley Wojcik  
David Wojcik
- 8 John Vaci  
Barbara Mooney
- 9 Ryan Gale
- 11 April Hammel
- 12 Ed Schulz
- 14 Joan Fowler  
Tara Counts Parr
- 15 Becky Wolf
- 16 Carolyn Hogan
- 19 Scott Strand
- 27 Hallie Riha  
Keith Johnson  
Bob Kleinstein
- 28 Vera Sinars
- 29 Katie Wolf

**Sunday Sanctuary Flower Dedications  
for the Month of October.**

**Oct 2**—The Tunnell family: Andrew’s 10th birthday.

**Oct 9**— None dedicated

**Oct 16** —Terry and Susan Cook: In honor of their daughter, Kelly Anne’s marriage to William Van Jackson on October 15.

**Oct 23** — The Passmore family: In memory of Rose Flournoy

**Oct 30**— Karen Dampier: In memory of her son, Kurt Dampier

If you would like to dedicate flowers:

The cost per arrangement is \$35.00. Please reference the 2011, 2012 flower chart on the bulletin board in the church hallway If you find a Sunday spot for your personal or family dedications please sign up.

(continued from page 1)

Because possessions and money easily function as vehicles for security and joy apart from God, and because sins such as covetousness, greed, and materialism are less obvious than (for example) adultery and murder, Jesus does indeed target the sins associated with riches. God has much to say about stewardship.

Christ reminds us that “where our treasure is there our heart will be also.” And God wants our hearts!

Stewardship is managing what God has given us. To change outward circumstances for others in life. But also to change the inward heart for eternal life!

William W. How wrote our hymn, “We Give Thee But Thine Own” in 1858 as a charge to those whom God had blessed financially to come to the aid of the increasing number of fatherless and widows in his community. Look at verse 4 of the hymn:

To comfort and to bless,  
To find a balm for woe,  
To tend the lone and fatherless  
Is angels’ work below

But How said if we help change the life of the poverty stricken here and now on this earth but do not change their life for eternity (share the gift of the forgiveness of the cross of Christ) we only have a shallow victory. How reminds us of the real victory! Hear and see verse 5:

The captive to release,  
To God the lost to bring,  
To teach the way of life and peace,  
It is a Christ like thing!

Stewardship is ultimately not about a \$ but about a “S.” A “S”avior that owns us through His precious blood. He bought us so that we might no longer be a slave to sin but a servant to manage the gifts God has given to us so that we might share the true wealth of the promise of a heavenly Savior and a heavenly home with all!

Possessions: *Owners of Managers?* We know the answer to that one!

“We Give Thee But Thine Own.”

In His service,

+Pastor Ahlemeyer

**Stewardship Commitment Sunday – October 16, 2011**

# KidzQuest for October:

## Jesus is Our Rock: The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders

Scripture: Matthew 7:24-29

Memory Verse: Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7:24

Bible Point: We need to not only listen to God's Word, but also to follow it!

Faith Builder: Once we hear God's Word, we want to be like the wise man and put it into action so that we can stand firm during life's troubles.



Don't forget

October 31—  
Halloween— is also the  
remembrance of my  
nailing of the 95 The-  
ses\* to the Wittenburg  
church door



Was ist mit den *Lutheranern*? What about those *Lutherans*?

Go to [http://www.welcometohosanna.com/LUTHER\\_QUIZ/LUTHER\\_QUIZ\\_Q1.htm](http://www.welcometohosanna.com/LUTHER_QUIZ/LUTHER_QUIZ_Q1.htm)

Take the quiz on Martin Luther! You'll find it a great review of the history of the reluctant founder of *Lutheranism*

\* What are *theses*? Look it up!

## More **October** News and Notes



**Next All Boards Meeting Night** will be October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m.

**The Basic of Faith Class** for the “Fall Cycle” has already begun. If you are visitor or wish to extend an invitation to a friend who is interested in learning more about Christianity and the Lutheran church or you desire to join LCVH, please speak to Pastor Ahlemeyer about the upcoming “Winter Cycle.”

**Church Picnic** is **October 16 at Wald Park** in Vestavia hills. **Please fill out the inserts** in our Sunday bulletins regarding what you plan to bring for food, and also to let us know how many in your family will attend. See additional information below on this page.

**Sunday School** children and families remember your offering each week as we work towards our goal of re-furbishing the church sign!

**LCVH Junior and Senior High Youth** Mark your calendars for the **Riha Youth Retreat on November 4-6**. Remember that friends are welcome to join us. More information will be coming over email!

### **Confirmation Reminders and Notes:**

\*\*Next two classes will be on October 23 and October 30 at the Ahlemeyer house starting at 4 p.m.

**Pastor’s Reading Group:** Meets on Wednesday, October 5 at 6:30 p.m. We will discuss the book “Growing up Amish” by Ira Wagler. The book is a heartwarming memoir and vivid portrait of the Old Order Amish life. The book provides an excellent opportunity to discuss the Amish life in light of Holy Scripture.

On November 2 we will meet to look at “Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy” by Eric Metaxas.

**Thank you to 2010 Confirmation Class and to Doris and Ed Schulz** for the gift of the new white paraments (clothe furnishings) being used in our Sunday worship.

**Casserole Ministry** We have a continued need for people to sign up for appreciative families in need of meals. Please access the website [takethemameal.com](http://takethemameal.com). In the search box, type the last name (example: Parrish). In the password box, type the first name (example: Elaine) Current names set up on the website are as follows: Elaine Parrish, Margaret Passmore, Scott Arnett.

**The OWLs** will gather on Friday, October 21st at 11:30 for Potluck and a speaker. The speaker will be Deb Schneider. Please sign up on the church bulletin board if you plan on attending and what you are bringing. (This is a reschedule of our September event that was cancelled due to weather)"

For your picnic comfort, <u>please bring portable, foldable lawn chairs</u> for seating during eating and fellowship time.
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<b>Date:</b> Sunday, October 16, 2011
<b>Place:</b> Wald Park, Vestavia Hills
<b>Time:</b> After 10:30 worship
<b>Who:</b> All members and visitors



The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills  
**OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE FOR 2012**

**In the coming year I, \_\_\_\_\_, would like to donate my time and talents to the following ministries at the Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**WORSHIP MINISTRIES**

- \_\_\_ Lay Reader of the Scripture Lessons
- \_\_\_ Adult Choir
- \_\_\_ Play a Musical Instrument
- \_\_\_ Usher for Sunday Morning Services
- \_\_\_ Nursery Assistant
- \_\_\_ Communion Ware Preparation for Worship
- \_\_\_ Altar Guild
- \_\_\_ Audio-Visual Technologist
- \_\_\_ Stage Set-up/Take-down

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**

**KIDZQUEST, (SUNDAY SCHOOL)**

**COORDINATOR / HELPER FOR:**

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| ___ Classroom Teacher      | ___ School Year Kick-Off (August)                                    |
| ___ Classroom Helper       | ___ Church Picnic, (October)   |
| ___ Classroom Substitute   | ___ Fall Activity, (November)  |
| ___ Welcome Center Greeter | ___ Spring Fling (April)   |
| ___ Mission Projects       | ___ Vacation Bible School, (June 4 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> ) |
| ___ Volunteer Appreciation |  |

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

**CHILDREN'S SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

- |               |                              |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| ___ Leader    | ___ Assistant / Helper       |
| ___ Assistant | ___ Event Set-up / Take-down |
|               | ___ Costumes                 |

**LOCAL MINISTRIES**

- \_\_\_ Old Fire House Shelter for the Homeless Cook Team
- \_\_\_ Meals-on-Wheels Distributor in Vestavia Hills
- \_\_\_ Provide Transportation for Homebound to Worship & Events
- \_\_\_ Caring Christians – Visitation to the Homebound
- \_\_\_ Casserole Ministry
- \_\_\_ Helping Hands Project Coordinator – Ingathering of gifts for Christmas, Easter, Mission Trips, etc.
- \_\_\_ Braille Center

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

- \_\_\_ Middle School Sunday School Teacher
- \_\_\_ Senior High Sunday School Teacher
- \_\_\_ Youth Activities Leader
- \_\_\_ Provide Transportation for Youth Events

## Adult EDUCATION

- \_\_\_ Adult Bible Class Substitute Teacher
- \_\_\_ Small Group Bible Study Leader
- \_\_\_ Church Librarian

## MOTHER'S DAY OUT

- \_\_\_ Substitute Teacher

## FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

- \_\_\_ Wednesday Dinner Cook Team Leader (ADVENT, LENT)
- \_\_\_ Wednesday Dinner Cook Team Helper (ADVENT, LENT)
- \_\_\_ Special Events Organizer
- \_\_\_ Bring Food for Special Events
- \_\_\_ Set-up/Clean-up for Special Events
- \_\_\_ Funeral Dinners

## STEWARDSHIP / INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

- \_\_\_ Mission Projects Planning Team
- \_\_\_ Stewardship/Missions Speaker
- \_\_\_ Offering Counter
- \_\_\_ Volunteer for International Mission Trips

## OUTREACH MINISTRIES

- \_\_\_ Sunday Worship Greeter
- \_\_\_ Ambassador (front porch visits to Sunday morning visitors)
- \_\_\_ Advertising

## PROPERTY MINISTRIES

- \_\_\_ Help on Church Work Days
- \_\_\_ Grounds/Gardens Upkeep
- \_\_\_ Carpentry/Electrical/Plumbing/Painting/Light Bulb Changer

## SUPPORT MINISTRIES

- \_\_\_ Folding of Sunday Bulletins
- \_\_\_ Decorate Bulletin Boards

**OCTOBER 2011  
SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS -  
THOSE WHO SERVE - LCVH**

	<b>SUNDAY, OCT. 2</b>	<b>SUNDAY, OCT. 9</b>	<b>SUNDAY, OCT. 16 (Church Picnic )</b>	<b>SUNDAY, OCT. 23</b>	<b>SUNDAY, OCT 30 Reformation Sunday.</b>
<b>ACOLYTES</b>					
<b>8:00</b>	Kristin Decker	Nicholas Dietschweiler	Sarah Cain	Trent Decker	Kristen Decker
<b>10:30</b>	Colby Hite Katie Wolf Anna Kate Lembke	Hope Siebold, Clayton Smyly, Cole Crownhart	Taylor White Carter Crownhart Meagan Mooney	Mary Frances Lembke, Logan Romp, Sam Walter	Joe Ardivino, Vincent Wesselman, Katelyn Pickard
<b>ALTAR CARE</b>	Rose Phillips Debbie Westerfield	Rose Phillips Debbie Westerfield	Rose Phillips Jean Hill	Paulette & Michael Molloy	Paulette & Michael Molloy
<b>COMMUNION ASSTS</b>					
<b>8:00</b>	Bob Kleinstein Don Schmidtk	Bob Kleinstein Jason Lueck	Don Schmidtk Brian Cain	Jason Lueck Terry Cook	Brian Cain Terry Cook
<b>10:30</b>	Ben Hogan Mark Walter	Ben Hogan Joel Kuehnert	Sandy Dacheux Jonathan Doroh	Gene Strand Jonathan Doroh	Gene Strand Scott Mooney
<b>COUNTERS</b>	Lauppe & Fiedler	Canning & Pedota	Decker & Weidman	Dampier	Piasky & Barberini
<b>GREETERS</b>					
<b>8:00</b>	Ann Zarzour	Jane Schrubbe	Linda Frawley, Annette Johnson	Terry & Susan Cook	Betty Zimmer
<b>10:30</b>	Kim Rieger Ed & Doris Schulz	Lee Parrish Scott & Amy Mooney	Darrell Lauppe Debbie Russell	Lynn & Kim Robison Gary Wolter	Cindy Barberini Glenn & Debbie Schneider
<b>READERS</b>					
<b>8:00</b>	Henry Piasky	Barbara Mooney	Sara Schmidtke	Julie Decker	Jackson Como
<b>10:30</b>	Gene Addor	Joel Kuehnert	Len Suelter	John Gaertner	Leigh Walter
<b>USHERS</b>					
<b>8:00</b>	Brian Cain	Bernie Borman Michael Perry	Terry Cook Ken & Nicholas Dietschweiler	Jason Lueck Dave Norby	Jackson Como Brian Grau
<b>10:30</b>	Joel Kuehnert Dale Phillips Glenn Schroeder Steve Smyly	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
<b>10:30 Nursery</b>	Michael Phillips Abby Romp	Arianna Shirk Hannah Walter	Ellen Seltz Stephanie Tunnell	Amy Mooney Kelsie Mooney	Michael and Melissa Phillips