MULTIPLY

Around 200 people gathered at St. Paul Lutheran church in Taylor, Texas on July 28th and 29th for the annual LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ) Mission Festival to worship Jesus and learn more about his mission for us.

Speaker after speaker gave perspective to the spiritual charge to “be fruitful and multiply.”

One of them, Pastor Peter Horn, of the Hill Country consortium of Bible Fellowship churches in Austin told us that a recent poll taken of the greater Austin area asked, “Do you trust in Jesus alone for your standing with God and entry into heaven?”

70% of those who were asked this question answered “No.”

Pastor Horn then told us that this means that 1.2 million people do not trust in Jesus alone for salvation.

He then asked the question, “How long do you think it would take to reach out to 1.2 million people with the gospel?”

His surprising answer was, “About 30 minutes.”

His answer was not appealing to T.V. and radio to do the job. So how was such a thing possible?

He continued in explanation, “If the whole church (people of every denomination and every church) reached out to their family and friends, co-workers and neighbors it wouldn’t take long at all.”

(Continued on next page.)
The answer to the large mission before us is to MULTIPLY… multiply the number of people sharing the gospel. “The Fields are white for harvest. Therefore pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers to the harvest.”

This strategy is brilliant.

It has been our strategy at Hope for 17 years: we have been constantly encouraging you to see every member as a minister… called to know, follow, and serve Jesus.

This is, in fact Jesus’ kingdom strategy: send the church… the called-out-ones, to serve Jesus’ kingdom venture. In order to do this we are going to train and retrain on Sunday mornings how to do this.

The time is now.

PASTOR JOEL

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**Adult Sunday School**

We will continue to studying the Book of Acts for remainder of the summer and through September.

- **August 6**
  - Pastor John Welge of Food for the Poor

- **August 13, 20 and 27**
  - Acts 22-24

- **September 3, 10, 17 and 24**
  - Acts 25-28
Not only does Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord fill us with real HOPE, but we are called to give away this life-giving HOPE through BOTH our words and actions.

Many of you have been praying for Aza (I changed her name for this publication). I became acquainted with Aza in my pottery class. Last January, I found out that she was living in a shelter for domestic violence. On the spot, Joel and I invited her to come and live with us indefinitely at no cost. Aza (45 years old) is a Japanese citizen who is in the USA on a student visa. Not only did we become good friends, but the Lord told me to serve her and breathe resurrection life into her. Though I spent immense hours helping her in many ways, I received great joy through helping her. Earlier in July, she moved to New York City to go to graduate school. Shortly before, she shared that she never had experienced human love prior to meeting me and another woman who has been giving her professional counseling. I was stunned by this statement. Though sad, what an honor and privilege for me! Though I have had opportunities to share with Aza about Jesus and the HOPE only He can give, she has not yet come to know Jesus, but I am HOPEFUL (filled with HOPE) that someone else will reap the harvest (1 Corinthians 3). Continue to pray for Aza!

Remember, we the people of God are people of Hope. Our name is “HOPE” Lutheran Church. We get to share the HOPE of Jesus and His good news! It is part of what it means to be a kingdom church (click):

Recently, I shared about a church gathering in New York City, Redeemer Presbyterian Church that from its start has desired to be a kingdom church, or as Redeemer states: we are a “church not for ourselves,” but rather a church for the lost, broken and unchurched. As a church, Redeemer began as a prayer group of fifteen in 1989. They are now a family of four churches that meet in four locations throughout New York City. They have planted over 250+ churches all over the world in the last ten years. They are minimalists on pouring $ into buildings, facility things, staff, and the cushy consumer kind of thinking that exists all around in our time: focusing on the ABCs (attendance, buildings, cash) as measures of the kingdom (which they are not); meeting the members’ needs, making them happy and serving them. Rather they have been about mobilizing “members” of Jesus’ body for His ongoing kingdom work to transform the world: transformation of their city and culture, discipleship, mission, ministry in daily life, works of compassion, church planting and the living God’s call to ALL of this in ALL of life.

“Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your HOPE fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy (dedicated to God) in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:13-15

Lord Jesus Christ, do not let me put my HOPE in anyone or anything but you. Mobilize me to be all that you have called me to be, say and do! In your name, AMEN. As always, press on to know, follow and serve Jesus our Lord! What a privilege! Pastor Wendy

Happenings to participate or pray! More information on the front page, www.hopelutheran.net:
• “Multiply” TX District LCMC Conference, July 28-29 in Taylor, TX
• “Holding Fast” North American Lutheran Church week, August 7-11 in Nashville, TN. Like last year, the NALC leadership is using a handout developed by Call Inc. in its materials.
• “We Confess this Faith” LCMC National Gathering, October 8-11 in Minneapolis
• Senior Ministry NALC National Conference, October 17-18 in Culpeper, VA. Pastor Wendy is a keynote speaker. The conference is on the potential of seniors and mobilizing them for the kingdom.
• Timothy Project Bible Study & Apprentice will resume following Labor Day. Watch for details!
YOU: Being Jesus’ DISCIPLE

How will YOU intentionally invite Jesus to “transform & train” you?


DEVOTIONALS are available on the Narthex (lobby) table!

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS! ALL NEWCOMERS are WELCOME!

SUNDAYS:

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9 AM Studying: The “ACTS of the Apostles!” Come and be inspired by this powerful book from God’s Word!

TUESDAYS:

TIMOTHY PROJECT BIBLE Study: Taught by Pastor Wendy
- This past year, we met at 10am on Tuesdays. Does this work for you? If not, we will move the time to hopefully accommodate you!
- Currently recessed for the summer. We will resume sometime following Labor Day weekend.
- In September, we will start with the Gospel of Luke, beginning a new 3 year cycle of reading through the entire Bible.
- Reading & Studying the entire Bible over three years: No Bible experience needed.
- Recognize the personal practical voice of Jesus in His word.
- Learn a simple thorough study method to fully understand Scripture.
- Listen and Get to Know Jesus! Practice Praying! NEWCOMERS are always welcome.

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
Timothy 3:16-17 (hence, the name: “Timothy Project” Bible Study)

THURSDAYS:

THE APPRENTICE SERIES: Led by Pastor Wendy
- This past year, we met at 7pm on Thursdays. Does this work for you? If not, we will move the time to hopefully accommodate you!
- Currently recessed for the summer. We will resume sometime following Labor Day weekend.
- In September, we will start with the Gospel of Luke, beginning a new 3 year cycle of reading through the entire Bible.

Growing with Jesus: Good & Beautiful God, Life & Community
- Using Scripture, soul training exercises, comfortable conversation, we will continue on with our studies in the series, currently “The Good and Beautiful Community” by James Bryan Smith (available on Amazon). This is an awesome opportunity to be equipped and become a more effective “kingdom” person, deepen your prayer life, hear personally from Jesus in His word and allow Him to transform your relationships into His image, will and ways. NEWCOMERS are always welcome!

If needed, contact Pastor Wendy (pastor.wendy@sbcglobal.net) or Pastor Joel!
Restore Unto Me...

As I travel across Texas working with congregations seeking renewal, I often begin our time together with a brief study of Psalm 51. David, when confronted with his sin of adultery, prays what is perhaps the best-known prayer of confession in all of human history:

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.”

I ask congregation leaders where in these verses they see themes of renewal. I’ve been struck at how often congregational leaders will hone in on verse 12 and talk about restoring joy. They will often recall a time when church was full of joy and when they personally were filled with joy. And the source of this past joy was the Gospel, the story of God’s grace and mercy. But somewhere along the line that joy has faded for many individuals and congregations alike, and has been replaced with a sense of burden or fear. It has become abundantly apparent to me that many have lost the joy of salvation.

While it is true that life can be full of troubles, the ultimate message of the Gospel is one of overwhelming joy in the victory of Jesus won on the cross. The troubles of this world should never conquer this Gospel truth. After all, in John 16:33, Jesus said “in this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

So how is it that believers in Jesus Christ have been weighed down by burdens and fears instead of uplifted by this Gospel joy? I believe that it stems from a lack of faith that tries to tackle the burdens of life on our own power instead of entrusting them to Jesus. In Matthew 11, Jesus invites us, saying “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

As believers in Jesus Christ, we need to embrace the promises of the Gospel, surrender our burdens and fears to Jesus, and live in celebration of the joy of salvation won by him! And I believe this type of joy-filled living is contagious: We can’t help but share this gift with others, and others will look at the joyful and say, “I want to live like that, too!”

So Lord, restore unto your faithful the joy of your salvation, and renew a right spirit within us. Then, like David, we can teach others your ways, and you can turn their hearts to you also. Amen.

Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for the LCMC Texas District. Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Feel free to contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 or bryce@lcmtexas.org. Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/lcmctexas.
**August Birthdays**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pete Hackney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donna Hackney</td>
<td>8/04</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Moltz</td>
<td>8/04</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Newman</td>
<td>8/08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raymond Luster</td>
<td>8/12</td>
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**August Anniversaries**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pete &amp; Donna Hackney</td>
<td>8/03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carl &amp; Lyn Metzger</td>
<td>8/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raymond &amp; Lori Luster</td>
<td>8/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwayne &amp; Carolee Juergens</td>
<td>8/31</td>
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Our wonderful Carol Newman will be turning 20 this month! Carol will be having and get together to celebrate this great occasion. Mark your calendar now for **August 12th from 2-6 pm** to make this day a special one for Carol. The celebration will be at Hope Lutheran Church. It is a come and go event.
Prayers and Words of Encouragement

Recovering at home ~

Dwayne Juergens
206 Silverwood Drive
Ovilla, Texas 75154-1428
972-617-7301
dwayne.jergens@sbcglobal.net

In the hospital ~ none

These members appreciate your prayers and words of encouragement.

Marv Christensen
812 Vince Lane
DeSoto, TX 75115-4410
972.223.5172
Email address: marvinchristensen@att.net

Gail Riggins
1217 Reeves Lane
Cedar Hill, Texas 75104-7307
214.546.6119
gail.riggins@yahoo.com

Carol Newman
401 Shadowwood Trail
Red Oak, Texas 75154-1425
972.217.1463
swissmiss1927@att.net

John Moltz
2431 Clearview Drive
Midlothian, Texas 76065-5459
972.723.2932
jmoltz@aol.com

Marian Black

Our homebound members and friends enjoy visits, calls and cards. Please take a few minutes out for those who can no longer get out and about.
Ladies’ Bible Verses

I have found myself at the last minute not having a favorite Bible verse for the August Herald. I had thought of several members to ask, but on July 26 I found just the right verse. I was reading my devotional before starting to work and there it was. I have a new favorite.

“You broaden the path beneath me, so that my ankles do not turn.” PSALM 18: 36

“I BROADEN THE PATH BENEATH YOU so that your ankles do not turn. This shows how intricately I am involved in your life-journey. I know exactly what is before you, and I can alter the path ahead of you to make your way easier. Sometimes I enable you to see what I have done on your behalf. At other times you are blissfully unaware of the hardship I have spared you. Either way, My work to widen the way before you demonstrates how lovingly I am involved in your life.“ *

There are many times that come to mind when the Holy Spirit has shown me His wondrous actions. And so many more He has not. But I am convinced that my path has been broadened beneath me to prepare me for God’s wondrous will. I Praise His Holy Name.

Contributor: Karine Samer

*Jesus Always by Sarah Young
**Sunday Schedule:**
Sunday School ~ 9:00 AM  
Worship ~ 10:00 AM  
Intergenerational Sunday School ~ 11:15 AM

**Friday Nights ~ Hope Prayer Time**  
10:00 PM at Hope
Send Us Your Favorite or Most Significant Bible Verses

Each month we are featuring, in the Hope Women's Page, Bible Verses that the ladies of Hope consider a favorite or as significant in their lives. We would like you to share your verses with our readers. Please send your verses to Karine Samer at hopesecretary@sbcglobal.net or leave it in her mail box at church.

INVESTING IN THE KINGDOM:

From June, 2017:

Hope has taken in $ 57,761
Hope has spent $ 59,824
Net Income $ 2,063
Available for operations $ 4,268

"My words will not pass away."
LUKE 21:33, NRSV
Church Building Usage

In an effort to make sure that the building schedule is coordinated amongst the many groups that use our building, please schedule all events through the church secretary, Karine Samer. You can find a form to reserve the building, along with a detailed description of our procedure, at www.hopelutheran.net/calendar.

Newsletter Articles Deadline …
The date is: August 18th
Please email your articles as an attachment to:
hopesecretary@sbcglobal.net