



the anchor

Hope Lutheran Church
3295 Old Hwy 5 South, Ellijay, GA 30540

February 2010

From the Pastor

It always feels so odd beginning the Lenten season so quickly after Christmas. It seems like our Lord barely gets born, baptized and started in his ministry, when we find him marching off to his death on Good Friday.

I appreciate that the Pentecost season has to come after the day of Pentecost - which, of course, occurs AFTER our Lord's resurrection - but, somehow it would make sense to have the 26 or so weeks of the Pentecost season precede our Lord's Passion so's we could get a fuller sense of his ministry among us (chronologically speaking) BEFORE his date with the cross and the grave.

Well, nobody asked for my opinion...

Which leaves us with the nuanced liturgical calendar then - that has been in place for nearly 2 millennia now!

Please note that Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent begin in just a few short weeks. Lent - the season of soul-searching and repentance. It's a season that originated in the very earliest days of our Christian church as a preparatory time for our celebration of Easter. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian is given the opportunity to imitate Jesus' own withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days.

Because Sunday is the day of the resurrection of our Lord, we skip Sundays when we calculate the length of Lent. As a result? In the Western Church, Lent always begins on Ash Wednesday - the seventh Wednesday before Easter.

In many places, the day preceding Ash Wednesday (called *Mardi Gras*, *Shrove Tuesday*, or *Carnival* - depending on your country) has become a "last fling" as it were before the solemnity of Lent begins. For centuries in the Church, it was customary to fast by abstaining from the eating of meat during Lent - which is why some people call the Tuesday festival before Lent begins - *carnival* - which is Latin for - *farewell to meat!*

In spite of the differences I might have with how the liturgical calendar is constructed, its purpose is to relive the major events in Jesus' life in real time - Easter, you see, falls around the time of Passover each year which just happens to be in the Spring.

Lent is a wonderful time then for faithful Christians to prepare themselves through prayer, penitence, almsgiving and self-denial - for the annual commemoration during Holy Week of the death and resurrection of our Lord.

Here at Hope Church we observe this time traditionally with special services throughout the season: a service of the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday; vesper services each Wednesday evening of the season leading up to Holy Week; a service of prayer for healing on the Wednesday of Holy Week; a service of Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday; and, a solemn *Tenebrae* Service recounting our Lord's Passion on Good Friday.

Join us each week then as we prepare for the celebration of Easter and our Lord's resurrection. It's a wonderful of preparation, and for growing in our faith!

Hope Lutheran Church's 2010 Lenten Schedule

"Dying and Rising in the Lord"

February 17th	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service with Holy Communion/ the Imposition of ashes 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 <i>Triumphing Over Obstacles</i>
February 24th	7:00 PM	Vespers Romans 10:8b-13 <i>Building God's Kingdom: The Christian Challenge</i>
March 3rd	7:00 PM	Vespers Philippians 3:17-4:1 <i>Standing Tall in the Lord</i>
March 10th	7:00 PM	Vespers 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 <i>Minding the Store of Our Lives</i>
March 17th	7:00 PM	Vespers 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 <i>Be Reconciled - To Christ and Others</i>
March 24th	7:00 PM	Vespers Philippians 3:4b-14 <i>All is New in Christ</i>
March 31st	7:00 PM	Service of the Word for Healing 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 <i>Repairing Our Lives</i>
April 1st	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion/the Stripping of the Altar Hebrews 10:16-25 <i>Sharing God's Love</i>
April 2nd	7:00 PM	Good Friday Tenebrae Service Isaiah 52:13-53:12; John 18:1-19:42

Lenten Suppers

Hope will again be serving Wednesday evening dinners beginning at 5:30 p.m. during the Lenten season. Ash Wednesday is February 17th. On that evening, the Men of Hope will be preparing their yearly Pancake Dinner.

Each following Wednesday we'll be sharing Soup and Sandwich Dinners. We need volunteers to bring your Favorite Soups, Sandwiches, and Desserts. In addition we can always use help setting up and cleaning up. There is a signup sheet on the Coffee Counter in Founders Hall. If you need additional information contact Laura Rogne at 706-889-0000.

February Lenten Worship Assistants

17th Assisting Minister: Maureen Bremm
Ushers: Kermit & Juanita Littleton
Counters: Bill Are & Vern Haugen

24th Assisting Minister: Vicki Christensen
Ushers: Kristie Drost & Brannen Trahan
Counters: Stan Ashworth & Chris Westerman

New Church Directories Available

New Hope Church Directories were e-mailed to all families that we have e-addresses for. Printed copies are available in the narthex for anyone who needs "hard copy." Please check your listing to be sure it is correct. If any changes need to be made, let Ellen know as soon as possible. Ellen will resend a corrected copy of the Directory later this month if it seems necessary.

Greetings From Your Congregational Council

Due to interesting weather conditions (to say the least!!) and schedule constraints, council rescheduled its all day work session to Saturday, January 30th. We will provide the results of our work session to you very soon.

We are continuing to receive requests for the use our facility from members of the community. Most recently we approved requests for the use of the fellowship hall from a Bereavement Support Group which will be meeting on a monthly basis and from representatives of the local 2010 Census information gathering teams.

Thanks to all of you who participated in the \$25,000 challenge to pay down our mortgage! Over \$45,000 was raised and checks are being cut to the mortgage holders.

We are continuing to study and pray over our position regarding the resolutions from the ELCA and the Church wide Assembly last year. We will provide additional information to you in February.

As always, please contact any member of council with questions or concerns. Our next council meeting is Wednesday, February 10 at 7 pm (note the change from our regular meeting time, due to Ash Wednesday being on February 17.) All are welcome to attend.

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS



1-Feb Chris Comes
3-Feb Cantey Gordon
4-Feb Tamie Bradley
5-Feb David RichterKessing
7-Feb Marvin Masenthin
8-Feb Juanita Littleton
8-Feb Zachary Ourada
9-Feb Jan Austin
9-Feb Diane Burton
11-Feb Sonya Cook
11-Feb Sylvia Johnson
12-Feb Dianna Stoffer
14-Feb Doug Goplin
18-Feb Leah Jonason
19-Feb Ralph Kirby

23-Feb Gail Duttenhoffer
23-Feb James Usry
25-Feb Julie Ourada
26-Feb Roger Ashcraft
26-Feb Keith Bell
26-Feb MegAnn Bradley
26-Feb Leon Edgemon
29-Feb Bud Cochran

ANNIVERSARIES



2-Feb Carolyn & Chuck Maatta
13-Feb Diane & Derek Burton

Youth LYO Meeting and Lunch

There will be an important LYO meeting in Founders Hall on Saturday, February 6th at 10 AM of the Hope Youth and Family Ministry Team. Please plan to attend as we prepare for our next "lunch in" which is scheduled for February 14th, Valentine's Day.

Community Bereavement Session at Hope

Pastor Jeff Crim, chaplain of Heartlight Hospice of Dalton, will be holding a community bereavement session each second Tuesday of the month at Hope Lutheran Church starting at 7:00 PM. The first session will be held on February 9. Members of Hope Lutheran Church and the larger community are invited to attend.

Via de Cristo Weekend

The next Via De Cristo weekend will be March 26th - 28th. It is a coed weekend, and you may come with someone, girls or guys, or alone. I will be working this weekend, and I am praying that I will have some Pilgrims going with me. You can talk to many people at Hope who have attended. Please pray about this; it is an experience of a lifetime.

Love and prayers,
Mary Anne Rankenburg
706-276-7307, oma@ellijay.com

Happy Valentine's Day!!



February Sunday Worship Assistants

<u>Assisting Ministers</u>	<u>Counters</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>
7 Nicholas Christensen	Shawn Stoffer & Stan Ashworth	Kristie Drost
14 Maureen Bremm	Emil Harvey & Chris Westerman	Youth Lunch-In
21 Vicki Christensen	Shawn Stoffer & Jim Peterson	Jennifer Bates
28 Laura Rogne	Emil Harvey & Vern Haugen	Heidi Kosarick

<u>8:15</u>	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>10:45</u>
7 Kermit Littleton		Barbara Fail
14 Wayne Buehler		Janet Smedley
21 Jan Austin		Vicki Christensen
28 Diane Burton		Joe Waid

<u>8:15</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>10:45</u>
7 Bryan Bremm		Mitchel Waid
14 Bryan Bremm		Leah Jonason
21 Cody Hinton		Brannen Trahan
28 Hope Bobak		JJ Jonason

	<u>Communion Assistants</u>	<u>10:45</u>
7		Heidi Kosarick & Keith Sadler
14		Barbara Jonason & Janet Smedley
21		Mike & Vicki Christensen
28		Joe & Kim Waid

<u>8:15</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>10:45</u>
7 Sally Burke & Charlene Ivey		Chris Westerman & Joanne Cleberg
14 Dick & Phyllis Nagel		Vern & Betty Haugen
21 Rich & Kay Hein		Stan & Rena Ashworth
28 Kermit & Juanita Littleton		Keith & Heidi Kosarick

<u>8:15</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>10:45</u>
7 Sally Burke & Charlene Ivey		Kristie Drost & Brannen Trahan
14 Dick & Phyllis Nagel		Bill & Barbara Fail
21 Rich & Kay Hein		Jim & Jean Lyons
28 Kermit & Juanita Littleton		Leon & June Edgemon



The Hope Staff

Church: 706.636.HOPE (4673)
E-mail: hopeelca@ellijay.com

Pastor Dave Smedley: 706.692.2557

Music Director: Bob Martin: 706.635.4986

Accompanist: Rae Reta Peel: 706.635.6115

Minister of Discipleship\Keeping In Touch Ministry Director:

Laura Rogne: 706.276.1614

Administrative Assistant: Ellen Ottinger

Church: 706.636.4673

Home: 706.276.2375

E-mail: esotting@ellijay.com

Maintenance: Nancy Hinton: 706.280.1970



Officers & Congregational Council

President Christine Westerman

Vice President Emil Harvey

Secretary Richard Nagel

Treasurer Roger Ashcraft

Financial Secretary Steve Austin

Council Members:

Michael Bates Juanita Littleton

Nathan Bates Shawn Stoffer

Diane Burton Kim Waid

Please contact any council member if you have any suggestions, questions, or concerns. Council meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 PM. Meetings are open to all and your presence is welcomed.