



We are the church of the warm heart, a welcoming community

Building Hope

*A Newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church of The Sierra
South Lake Tahoe, California 96150*

And Now A Word From Our Pastor...

This is a copy of the article written for the Sierra Pacific Synod Newsletter. Pastor Joel felt it was important for our own newsletter as well...

On June 24th I woke up from my Sunday afternoon nap to the booming sound of a helicopter hovering over my house. As curiosity, as to why a helicopter was hovering over my house, started to take control of my body, I went outside to see what was going on. That's when I saw the massive plume of smoke, and I said to myself, "My gosh, there is a massive fire in the Tahoe Basin." The Helicopter filled up it's water tank from the pond behind my home and left to dump it on the fire. And this was when I got real worried; the helicopter was back within ten seconds. Ten seconds was all it took for that helicopter to leave, dump it's water and return. I knew that the fire was close, way too close. I woke up my wife and two boys, got them dressed, grabbed what we could from the house, mainly the computer hard drives and family pictures, baby clothes, packed up the truck and headed to the church. At the church, the hill was glowing orange and smoke was inundating my every breath. I grabbed the computer hard-drives and old church records, and I got my family to safety.

Our home wasn't destroyed in the Angora Fire, and neither was the church, although the church was basically on the fire line. But, many families in our congregation lost their homes and all that they owned to the fire. 254 homes were burned to the ground. Over fifty percent of those homes were full time residences of South Lake Tahoe locals, who make up the bulk of the local work force. Teachers, Nurses, Fireman, Police Officers, Construction workers. Another 40 percent or so were rentals, and the remaining 10 percent were vacation homes. No lives were lost in this fire.

The Angora Fire was truly a disaster within the community of South Lake Tahoe . And my effort in leading the people of Hope Lutheran Church of the Sierra, has been directed toward helping people see hope in the midst of tragedy. Where is God in this situation? What is God doing in this community? How is the Holy Spirit working among us? How do we as the people of God, minister to those who have lost everything, or to those who didn't lose anything but were evacuated from their homes four times, who cringe whenever they hear a siren or a helicopter?

There is a lot of work to be done up here in the Sierra Nevada's. Many, many people have asked me what they can do to help. My answer to them first and foremost is pray. Pray for the

residents who have lost their homes, and pray for all those who were affected by the fire. My second answer is this: send money. Money is the best way to make sure that people get what they need. The worst thing right now is for all the volunteers to be locked down going through tons and tons of clothing, cookware, and old furniture. Those things are important, and will eventually be needed, but right now money is the best way to minister to the needs of the fire victims. We at Hope Lutheran have set up a fund called the "Love Thy Neighbor Fund." This fund is a discretionary fund that is used to help those who are in need. If you would like to make a donation, please send a check made out to Hope Lutheran Church, with "Love thy Neighbor" written in the memo. And you can be sure that the monies will be used to help in the fire relief effort.

Thank you everyone for all your prayers, and for loving the people of Lake Tahoe . I also want to thank Bishop Mullen for coming to Tahoe to pull me up out of the ashes. Your loving and caring support really helped get me and my wife through that tough spot.

God's blessings be upon you all!

Pastor Joel Martyn

Outreach Ministry News

A very successful Neighborhood Barbeque and Power Parking Lot Sale were held on Saturday, June 16, chaired by Peter Arcuri and Cynthia McCormack. Over \$700 was donated to the "Love Thy Neighbor" fund. The consensus of those participating is that we should do it again next year but have the sale earlier in the day, from 7 to Noon, and have a breakfast instead of lunch. A suggestion was made to have the meal free to all with donations accepted. The "Walking the Neighborhood" event, the week before, to pass out invitation flyers,

was very successful.

Bill and Liz Gieg were invited to present their Christian Family Missions to the congregation on June 17. They gave the message during both services and answered questions after the services about this year's mission trip to Nicaragua.

The Clothing Giveaway on August 11 has been cancelled for this year in favor of putting our volunteer energies into the Fire Recovery Distribution Center.

Volunteers will be needed once that

effort gets off the ground.

The next meeting is planned for August 19 between services. All church members are invited to attend.



Prayer Group



A prayer group is now meeting Wednesday mornings at the sanctuary. Prayers will be spoken for the church, the community and the world. If you would like to join in praying for those you hold dear, feel free to come by at 10 am on Wednesdays. If you have a prayer request you would like to add, please contact Cindy Merhaut, or come by on Wednesday and join in!

Levites, the keepers of the Sanctuary ...

Mary Burns

We are all creatures of habit and many of us don't really realize how deeply imbedded we are in those habits. It takes caring and effort to break out of these habits. To open a door, I say this: Would you like to be a Levite?

They were a chosen people, responsible for the care of the sanctuary and worship service. They were a blessed people.

We are seeking some willing hands and hearts to set up our sanctuary for worship

& communion. Training will be given.

This is a simple and small assignment that takes about 30+ minutes on Saturdays.

Give the thought some prayer time and if you feel inclined to do this – it is God calling you. And if you respond to his call you will be richly blessed. Thank you for caring.

Call Cindy Merhaut 577-0675, Mary Burns 544-6164, or June Ellingson 545-9399.



President's Message

by Bonnie Driscoll

Dear Hope Family and Friends,

I have been extremely proud of our Church Family this summer. Many of you participated in our "Walking the Neighborhood" Power Parking Lot Sale and Neighborhood Barbeque in June and had a great time reaching out to our neighbors.

In July members took the Natural Church Development Survey, the results of which have been delayed due to the Angora Fire. We will keep you posted as the program develops.

Then the response to the Angora Fire was awe inspiring. (Dave and I were away in Italy the two weeks after the fire but we made daily trips to an Internet Café to monitor what was going on.) The outpouring of support that is still very evident makes me think of the way the early church members took care of one another. And I know that there will continue to be opportunities to do this in the future as our friends rebuild.

Our annual picnic, our hikes and beach fellowship have been opportunities to develop our relationships. Vacation Bible School was a great outreach to the youth in our community also. Last Sunday a visitor to our service told me that she was very impressed that, although we are a small congregation, we all seem to "own" our church and that many people seem to be involved in the life of the church. That made me very proud and I look forward to continuing to pray, play, work, learn and reach out with you as our glorious summer mellows into fall.

Yours in Christ's love,
Bonnie



"I Saw Jesus Last Week"

contributed by Linda Amundson



He was wearing blue jeans and an old shirt.
He was up at the church building.
He was alone and working hard.
For just a minute he looked a little like one of our church members.
But it was Jesus; I could tell by his smile.

I saw Jesus last Sunday.
He was teaching a Bible class.
He didn't talk real loud or use long words,
But you could tell he believed what he said.
For just a minute he looked like my Sunday School teacher.
But it was Jesus; I could tell by his loving voice.

I saw Jesus yesterday.
He was at the hospital visiting a friend who was sick.
They prayed together quietly.
For just a minute he looked like our pastor.
But it was Jesus; I could tell by the tears in his eyes.

I saw Jesus this morning.
He was in my kitchen making my breakfast.
He then fixed me a special lunch to take with me.
For just a minute he looked like my mom.
But it was Jesus; I could feel the love from his heart.

I saw Jesus today.
He was praying on his knees all alone.
He then began to cry for those he prayed for.
For just a minute he looked like a lady from our church.
But it was Jesus; I could see the compassion poured out of his prayer.

I saw Jesus the other day.
He was at the grocery store talking to a friend.
He then put his arms around them to comfort them.
For just a minute he looked like a young mother in our ladies' class.
But it was Jesus; I could see the concern for others who hurt.

I see Jesus everywhere,
Taking food to the sick,
Welcoming others to his home,
Being friendly to a newcomer.
And for just a minute I think he's someone I know.
But it's always Jesus; I can tell by the way he serves.

May someone see Jesus in you today.
Remember to encourage those you see living for Jesus!
But mostly, let those without Jesus see Him living in you!!

August Events Calendar

5th— Service at Skilled nursing Facility 9:30 am
 12th—Property & Administration Meeting between services (9:15 am)
 12th—Beach Fellowship Picnic at POPE Beach
 14th—Council Meeting 7PM at Church
 19th thru 25th Beach Camp at MacKerricker State Park
 19th—Outreach Ministry meeting between services (9:15 am)

Happy Birthday!!

2 Dennis Michal
 4 Shaun Myers
 5 Ginny Larson
 8 Else Brothers & Paula Lambdin
 10 Chris Triggs
 12 Chris Cromwell & Caleb Bray
 16 Cooper Merhaut
 20 Gunter Merhaut
 24 Trevor Marsh
 28 Tina Riche



September Events Calendar

2nd ~ Service at Skilled nursing Facility 9:30 am
 4th ~ Council Meeting 7pm at Church
 8th ~ ANNUAL TALLAC HIKE 7:30 am meet at Church
 also, "Hike for Housing" 9am at Spooner/ Marlette Lake
 9th ~ Property & Administration Meeting between services (9:15 am)
 9th ~ Beach Fellowship & picnic 5pm at POPE Beach
 21st ~ Autumnal Equinox... Fall is officially HERE!!!

Happy Birthday!!

11 Andy Thran
 12 Carson Triggs & Dean Dietrich
 13 Mary Alice Dayton
 15 Natalie Johnson
 19 Del Neumeyer
 20 Judy Dupuy
 23 Tim Johnson
 28 Diane Martin
 29 Vicki Lund



8:00

Worship Assistants

10:30

<p><u>AUGUST</u> <u>Readers</u> .</p> <p>12th ~ Peter Arcuri</p> <p>19th ~ Phil Stevenson</p> <p>26th ~ Peter Arcuri</p> <p><u>SEPTEMBER</u> .</p> <p>2nd ~ Peter Arcuri</p> <p>9th ~ Phil Stevenson</p> <p>16th ~ Bonnie Driscoll</p> <p>23rd ~ Phil Stevenson</p> <p><i>If you are unable to serve, please trade with someone from the list.</i></p>	<p><u>Readers / Ushers / Communion Assistants</u></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>AUGUST</u></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">12th ~ Mel Stearns / Jeff Stearns & Kerwin Wolfgram</p> <p style="text-align: center;">19th ~ Linda Amundson / Mort & Carolyn Meiers / Dave & Bonnie Carneggie</p> <p style="text-align: center;">26th ~ Bonnie Driscoll / Robert Guebard & Dave Carneggie / David & Joanne Foster</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>SEPTEMBER</u></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">2nd ~ Diane Martin / Sandy Henigan & Diane Martin / Cindy Merhaut & Chris Triggs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9th ~ Tom Runnion / Jeff Stearns & Michael Miller / Mort & Carolyn Meiers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">16th ~ Natalie Johnson / Lynn Setnor & Kathryn Klimek / Bonnie & Dave Carneggie</p> <p style="text-align: center;">23rd ~ Carolyn Meiers / Kerwin Wolfgram & Robert Guebard / David & Joanne Foster</p> <p style="text-align: center;">30th ~ Penny Michal / Bonnie & Dave Carneggie / Kerwin Wolfgram & Sandy Henigan</p>
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Chancel Flower Dedications

August

- 12TH ~ Cromwells' for Chris' 44th BDay!
- 19TH ~ Diane Martin for her folks' 61st Anniversary
- 26TH ~ Cynthia McCormack in memory of her Mom's BDay



September

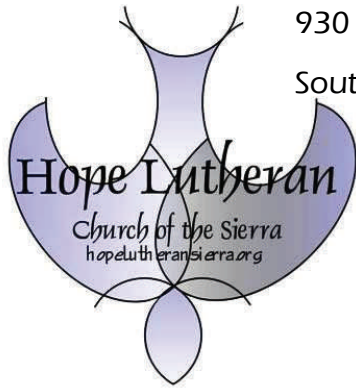
- 2ND ~ Joyce Gibson for her BDay!
- 9TH ~ Carneggie family in memory of their parents
- 16TH ~ STILL OPEN!!!!**
- 23RD ~ Diane Martin for her Parent's BDay
- 30TH ~ Cromwell's for Allison's 7th BDay

Fellowship Hosts for August

- 12th ~ Cromwell Family (goodies & assist) & Judy Dupuy (in charge)
 - 19th ~ Emilie Lorenz (goodies & assist) & Cynthia McCormack (in charge)
 - 26th ~ Dave & Joanne Foster (goodies & assist) & Bonnie & Dave Carneggie (in charge)
- If you are unable to serve please trade with someone during the month or call one of us.
 Arlene Wolfe (541-1933) or Linda Amundson (577-6022)

Fellowship Hosts





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This is the church of the warm heart

That heals hurt lives That comforts old people

That challenges youth

That knows no distinction of class or station

The church of the people

High as the ideals of Jesus

Low as the humblest human

Our Vision Statement 1965