



# BUILDING hope

A Newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church of the Sierra, South Lake Tahoe

## NOW A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

A lot of “stuff” is happening in our congregation right now. People are getting excited by the Natural Church Development program that we are participating in, we have a wonderful child care provider (Ms. Kathy) for children under 3 during our 10:30 service, there is word of a new worship service under development by the worship team, some changes have been made to our 10:30 worship service as far as music and liturgy movement, Sunday school is growing, and much, much more.

In the midst of all the busy-ness of the church I think that it is important to take a step back during Lent, slow down and remember who it is we do all this for and why it is that we do it. Lent is a time of reflection on ourselves and our relationship with God. It's a time for deep introspection on where we fit into the mix of life and community. How can I, a Christian, share the good news which is such a deep part of my life with others who might not have heard that good news of Christ Jesus? How can I put aside my pride, and be a visible example of Christ's love and grace in this world? How can I knock down the barriers in my life that are keeping me from worshipping Christ in a way that is deep and meaningful? These are but a few of the questions that we need to ask ourselves during our Lenten journey to the cross.

My hope for all of us this Lenten season, is that when our journey to the cross is over, and we see Christ laid in His tomb, that we will be filled with a sense of awe and wonder at how amazing the gift that Jesus gave us really is. The gift of life, the gift of love, the gift of grace. Easter blessings be upon you all, Easter people, children of God. Amen.

In His Peace,  
Pastor Joel Martyn

	Events	Meetings	Readers	Ushers	Comm.	Fellowship
Sa/1	Men's Breakfast					
Su/ 2	<i>4th Sunday in Lent</i>		8/Phil Stevenson Diane Martin	Sandy H Diane M	Cindy M Chris T	Carolann L. Bray's
Mo/ 3						
Tu/ 4	Council meeting 7p @ church					
We/ 5	Lenten Soup Supper, 6 PM; Lenten Vesper Service, 7 PM;	Good News Choir, after service.				
Th/ 6	Confirmation Class 7pm	Men's Bible Study 7p				
Fr/ 7						
Sa/ 8						
Su/ 9	<i>5th Sunday in Lent</i>	P & A meeting 9:15 am Affinity exercise—11:45 am	8/Jeff Stearns Nonna K.	Dave C Bonnie D.	Donna B Arlene W.	Linda M. Cromwells
Mo/10						
Tu/ 11						
We/ 12	Lenten Soup Supper, 6 PM; Lenten Vesper Service, 7 PM;	Good News Choir, after service.				
Th/ 13	Confirmation class 7pm	Men's Bible Study 7p				
Fr/ 14						
Sa/ 15						
Su/16	<b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>10:30 AM—ONLY</b>		Natalie Johnson	Lynn S. Korinna K.	David & Joanne	Lisa M. Cromwells
We/ 19	Lenten Soup Supper, 6 PM; Lenten Vesper Service, 7 PM;	Good News Choir, after service.				
Th/ 20	Maundy Thursday, 7 PM	Men's Bible Study 7p				
Fr/ 21	Good Friday - Tenebrae 7PM					
Sa/ 22	<i>Church dark, no activities</i>					
Su/ 23	<b>Easter Services &amp; Brunch</b> <b>8a &amp; 10:30 am</b> (Also, Skilled Nursing svc)		8/ Penny Michal Linda A	Kerwin W. Robert G.	Donna B. Bonnie D.	Judy & Michelle Dupuy
We/ 26	Lenten Soup Supper, 6 PM; Lenten Vesper Service, 7 PM;	Good News Choir, church, after service.				
Th/ 27	Confirmation Class 6p	Men's Bible Study 7p				
Fr/ 28						
Sa/ 29						
Su/ 30			8/ Phil S. Danielle McDaniel	Lynn S. Kathryn K.	Mort & Carolyn Meiers	

## Farmer's Almanac Predictions!

March 2008

**Avg. Temperature:** 58° (1° above avg.)

**Precipitation:** 3.5" (1" above avg.)

**Mar. 1-7:** T-storms, then sunny, seasonable

**Mar. 8-15:** Gusty t-storms, then sunny, mild

**Mar. 16-20:** Showers, then sunny, seasonable

**Mar. 21-27:** Heavy rain, then sunny, cool

**Mar. 28-31:** Showers north, sunny south; seasonable



*"Rainfall and mountain snowfall will be above normal in the north and near normal in the south. The stormiest periods will be in late January, early February, and early and mid-March."*



### **Lent Soup Supper and Service**

Every Wednesday through Lent, Soup and bread at 6pm followed by an inspiring Service featuring Holden Evening Prayer and communion 7pm.

### Maundy Thursday -

7PM March 20th

**"The Washing of the Feet"**

**Another preparative service for Easter.**

### Good Friday—Tenebrae "Service of Darkening" 7PM

**A traditional service, taking our church into the dark for the days leading to Easter. Please join us for this solemn and meditative service.**

### **Men's Fellowship Breakfast**

Every first Saturday of the month in the church at 8am. All men are invited for some great food and conversation.



### Easter Sunday Services & Brunch - March 23rd, 8 am and 10:30 am

**Come for fellowship and celebration with coffee and Brunch in the Narthex following services.**

**Call Lynn Setnor sign up for goodies or assisting. Or call the Church office for details.**

### **Christmas Cheer Sunday**

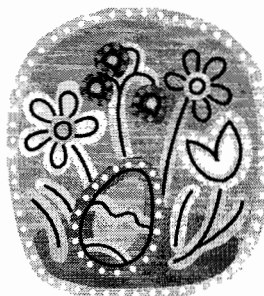
We are making it a point to support those less fortunate than ourselves by bringing non-perishable food items every last Sunday of the month.

## **March Events**

**Skilled Nursing Facility service has been changed this month, Instead of the first Sunday, we will be offering an Easter service...more details, call Dave Carneggie or Bonnie Driscoll.**

### **Good News Choir Rehearsal.**

Wednesdays at 7:00pm (during Lent: after service) All ages, high school to retired are welcome. Contact Laurel Schmidt for details or to



*Vision*

"WE ARE THE CHURCH OF THE WARM HEART...  
A WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLESHIP."

UNPACKING OUR VISION

JESUS TELLS US: "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. THIS IS THE GREATEST AND FIRST COMMANDMENT. AND THE SECOND IS LIKE IT: YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOU LOVE YOURSELF." (MT.22:34)

HE ALSO SAYS: "GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND TEACHING THEM TO OBEY EVERYTHING THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU."

OUR VISION IS OUR GUIDING BIBLICAL IMAGE. IT IS A COMPELLING PICTURE OF OUR FUTURE COMMUNITY; A COMMUNITY THAT GOD DESIRES FOR US, AND ONE THAT WE SEEK TO CREATE.

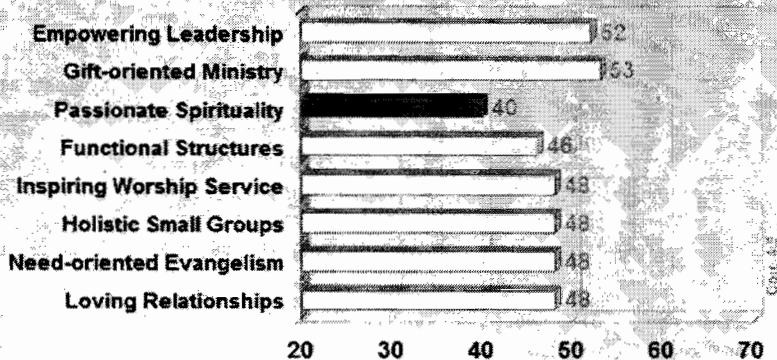
WE ARE EMBRACING!

AS THE CHURCH OF THE WARM HEART, WE ARE A WELCOMING PLACE TO FIND GOD'S GRACE, TO SERVE OTHERS AND TO EMBRACE GOD. WE ARE A THRIVING AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLESHIP. WE ACCEPT PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE, EMBRACE ONE ANOTHER IN JOY, AND BRING PEOPLE TO HEALING AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST.

OUR VISION IS ABOUT CHANGE. "PEOPLE CHANGE WHEN THEY HURT ENOUGH THAT THEY HAVE TO, KNOW ENOUGH THAT THEY WANT TO, AND GROW ENOUGH THAT THEY CAN."

\* SOURCE: JOHN MAXWELL

Hope of the Sierra, So. Lake Tahoe



*Keep watching these pages in the future as we share our own stories of experiencing God as He transforms our selves, our church and our lives...!*

*We want to hear from YOU! Share with us your story of God at work in your life. Email your stories to [hovelutheransierra@pacbell.net](mailto:hovelutheransierra@pacbell.net), or call the church office for details... We look forward to sharing our passion for Spirit, our successes and goals as a community of God. !!*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Easter is nearly here. Can spring be far behind? This is a rhetorical question? We all know the answer.

This has been a tough winter so far for our church building. As some of you may remember we spent one Sunday in January bundled up in a 48 degree church and the preschool the next day was even colder. Our friendly and faithful heating man said that our old furnaces could not be repaired any longer so we installed two new furnaces to the tune of \$1500. The church and preschool are now toasty warm but we have another problem....the antiquated electric panel that controls the church and Narthex has been jury rigged so often that the fuses are shorting, which is not good for the system and we may be looking at a new panel in the near future, also costing about \$1500.

Our giving was also low in January due to weather related low attendance (or was it the cold church?) So our problem is that of many families, the budgeted money runs out before the month does. **We don't want to ask anyone to give more but if everyone can give their estimated tithe even if they are not at worship** then we should be able to pay our bills. Otherwise we may be in the financial hole again. But we have a generous church family and a generous God so I am confident that the Spirit will move us in a healthy direction.

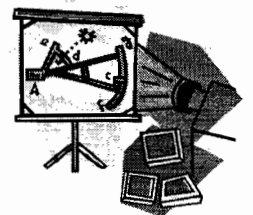
I am looking forward to sharing with you the remaining Lenten Soup Suppers and Services as well as the Seder Supper and Holy Week. On Easter morning we will sing "Alleluia" together. Because we are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song!!! Blessings! Bonnie

~~~~~

### HOPE LUTHERAN THANKS YOU!



*When you see Mary Snyder, be sure to thank her for her generous gift of the computer projection system. We have been enjoying Pastor Joel's creative use of this technology during Lent and look forward to all the ways it will enhance our worship and education experiences in the future.*



I was recently reading a great book, “A woman Jesus can teach” by Alice Mathews. The book gives several prominent women as examples of different types of faith and relationship with God. So, for Easter, I looked up the chapter that dealt with Jesus’ resurrection... and came upon Mary Magdalene, and how she learned to walk by faith and not by sight...

The story of the women coming upon the tomb is well known to most. What Alice Mathews does in her telling is put the emotions into perspective in a very profound way. Here are some excerpts:

*Mary, seeing the stone rolled away, made an assumption. She concluded that Jesus’ body had been taken away and laid elsewhere. In that moment she could not think of Jesus as anything but dead. She had watched him die. She had seen him placed in this tomb.*

*Running to Peter & John, she followed them back to the tomb but stood outside weeping. This was the final blow. Enormous emotional tension had built up over the preceding weeks. Standing there she may have remembered that last trip from Galilee to Judea, that seventy mile walk to Jerusalem. Among other things had been Jesus’ ominous predictions of his coming death..*

*... She was there as it all happened... the thrill of his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, hearing the crowds crying out “Hosanna to the Son of David!...She had watched as he overturned the tables of the moneychangers...She held her breath, seeing the fury of the priests and Pharisees as he taught for the last time in the temple courtyard....She may have been present at his trial. We know she was there as he was led away to execution, as the nails were driven into his hands & feet...She was there as the sky darkened at midday ...She had stood with the other women at the foot of the cross—watching the one who had delivered her seemingly unable to deliver himself.*

*The highs and lows of that week all flowed together. He now stood at the tomb, wrung out, devastated by the thought that, even in death, Jesus had been violated. Her wrenching sobs expressed all the dashed hopes and desperation she felt...*

*..When she saw the angels, she turned away from them. As she turned, she saw a man standing nearby. “Woman why are you crying? Who is it that you are looking for?”*

*Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”*

**Jesus said to her, “Mary.”**

*She turned toward him and cried out “Rabboni!”*

*What did it take to move Mary from desolation to exultation, and to galvanize her for witness? Only one thing—**Jesus spoke her name in a voice she knew, and it was enough.***

*Mary’s mental horizon had been fixed on the past. Only the Living Christ Himself could move her focus into the future...in the future, she was to go and tell.*

*Disciples knew him two thousand years ago.... They followed him, listened to him, learned from him and ministered to him. We don’t have his physical presence to see and touch and help as they did. We have been asked to walk by faith and not by sight. Jesus, Master Teacher, guides each of us in different ways to learn what we need to know. He takes us where we are and works with us there.*

*Mary Magdalene saw Jesus and heard him call her name before she recognized him.*

*How do you recognize the Living Christ in your life today?*

## Easter Cookies

Bake these cookies with your kids to tell them the story of Easter in a way they will never forget! So much of Easter's meaning is lost to the commercial goodies that kids anticipate that morning. This Easter, try an activity to turn the attention and anticipation of Easter morning to the Living Christ...



**INGREDIENTS:** 1C whole pecans ~ 1 tsp Vinegar ~ 3 egg whites ~ Pinch salt ~

1 c sugar ~ Wax paper ~ Tape ~ Preheat oven to 300'

- Place the pecans in the plastic bag and let the kids beat them with a wooden spoon – explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers... READ John 19:1-3)
- Let each child smell the vinegar, put in mixing bowl. – explain that Jesus was given vinegar to drink... READ (John 19:28-30)
- Add egg whites to the vinegar – explain that eggs represent life, and Jesus gave His Life to give us Life....READ (John 10:10-11)
- Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand, let them taste it, add pinch of salt to the bowl. – explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. .. READ (Luke 23:27)
- So far, the ingredients aren't very appetizing. Add 1 cup sugar. – explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He Loves us; He wants us to know and belong to Him...READ (Psalms 34:8 & John 3:16)
- Beat with a mixer at high speed, 12-15 min until stiff peaks are formed. – explain that the color white represents purity in god's eyes all those who have cleansed by Jesus. ..READ (Isaiah 1:18 & John 3:1-3)
- Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto wax paper covered cookie sheets. – explain that this represent the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid... READ (Matthew 27:57-60)
- Put the cookie sheet in the oven and TURN THE OVEN OFF. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door.- explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed...READ (Matthew 27:65-66)
- Go to bed! Explain that they children may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers and family were in despair when the tomb was sealed...READ (john 16:20, 22)
- On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie! Notice the cracked surface and take a bite....the cookies are hollow! On that first Easter, Jesus' followers and family were amazed to find the tomb open & empty...READ (Matthew 28: 1-9)

## Cancel Flower Dedications

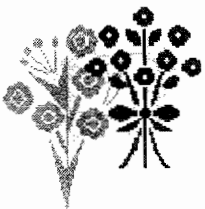
2nd ~ Michelle DuPuy in celebration of her 20th BDay!

9th ~ the Brays in celebration of Samuel's BDay

16th ~ In Celebration of Mort Meiers' Bday

23rd ~ Chris Triggs for her 5th Anniversary of Breast Cancer survival!

30th ~ Nonna Katzenstein in Loving Memory of her husband Alfred



**ANGORA FIRE THANK YOU'S & UPDATES . . .**

**Around the holidays, your contributions to the Love thy Neighbor Fund for Sngora fire victims was allocated to those members and friends of hope Lutheran who were victims of the fire. In the next two newsletters, we will be sharing the loving Thank you's and responses from these folks. Please continue to hold them in your prayers as they continue to rebuild their homes and lives. . .**

*From Kris Diehl: I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude for all the help, thought and concern I have received since the Angora fire. I was totally surprised and so grateful for the help from the "Love thy Neighbor" fund. Also, a nice digital camera was a tremendous help in recording things lost in the fire debris. It is all a great blessing and I want to thank you all so much! As for as the insurance settlement, I am optimistic but they are definitely stalling. The bottom line is the Lord is in control! I have the peace of the Lord and appreciate your prayers.*

*From the Lambdins: Thank you very much for helping us rebuild. We are very grateful to have you in our lives during this tough time. Our Family really appreciates your support and please continue to pray for us. Thank YOU! Kate & Anna, Larry & Paula Lambdin*

Next Newsletter for MARCH

Deadline for submissions - March 23

Email ideas, stories, jokes, etc to :

[hopelutheransierra@pacbell.net](mailto:hoperlutheransierra@pacbell.net)

**Newsletter Team is forming**

**I need help with labeling and folding!**

**Last weekend of each month, Saturday night at my house?**

**Dessert & coffee or wine :)**

**Call Lisa @ 530.573.0689**

**or call the church office for details & dates**

