

Word Of Hope
The Amazing
Grace
Place

FEBRUARY, 2010

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



We will host a traditional Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on Feb 16th beginning at 5:30 pm at the church. As in past years we'll also include a used book sale. Bring books for the sale on Sunday, Feb 14—or even on the 16th. And then do join us for this time of fellowship before we head into the observance of Lent.

ASH WEDNESDAY

We will gather for worship on Ash Wednesday, February 17th at 7pm. This day marks the beginning of Lent, a season in the church year when the focus is on deepening our relationship with God. The worship is rich, unique and moving. All are welcome. Bring a friend!

A LENTEN OPPORTUNITY

We are making preparations for a wholistic Lenten experience—physically fit, mentally focused, spiritual peace of mind. From 6:30-7:30 on the **TUESDAYS OF LENT**, (Feb 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23) we will offer Tai Chi for ALL ages, individuals and families—for exercise and self-defense, \$25/. Then from 7:30-8:30 we'll have a combined “worship & conversation” using Psalm 23, The Song of a Passionate Heart as an aid. It is NOT required that you participate in both parts—friends and neighbors are welcome to either or both. See the **CLIPBOARDS**. (Psalm 23 will be the basis of our Sunday morning between-the-services discussions on the Sundays of Lent)

HELP FOR HAITI

The ELCA Disaster Relief Fund is assisting with the relief effort for the people of Haiti. For more information on the larger effort of which we are a part through the national church, you can check the website at www.elca.org/haitiearthquake One great thing about this effort is that 100% of what is given will go to the relief effort; all administrative costs are covered by the ELCA. Give directly to the fund or make checks out to Word of Hope and we will send them on. In either case, give generously, the need is great. **IMPORTANT NOTE: THRIVENT MEMBERS**, contact Pr Duval for gift matching--\$1 for every \$2 given.

PRAYER

Lord, let me hunger enough that I not forget the world's hunger.

Lord, let me hunger enough that I may have bread to share.

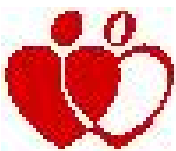
Lord, let me hunger enough that I may long for the Bread of Heaven

Lord, let me hunger enough that I may be filled.

But, O Lord, let me not hunger so much that I seek after that which is not bread,

nor try to live by bread alone. Amen

—Banquet of Praise



FROM THE PASTOR

HOUSE-OF-GOD KEEPING

I suspect that it is somewhat curious to us that when a paralytic is brought to Jesus for healing (Matthew 9:1-8) Jesus FIRST forgives the man his sins. Very curious. OK, so nobody's perfect but even after the Jesus encounter we're not likely to find ourselves lacking for material in the confession of sins. What's more, it is Jesus himself who refuses to connect a particular calamity to specific sins no matter what Pat Robertson says about the tragedy in Haiti. (See John 9:1-3)

Jesus did go on to heal the paralytic (which is really considered the "bottom line" nowadays isn't it?) but why the "extra" step of forgiveness? Simply put: because we need it.

Contrary to the popular notion that neatly divides our lives into "the sacred and the secular" or "the religious and the everyday" or "the spiritual and the mundane", Jesus sees us for who we are—whole human beings. The person who breathes a prayer for the safety of a loved one is the same one who gets chewed out by the boss and stuffs down an extra burrito for lunch and wrestles with the bills and feels the stress build up and longs for worship on Sunday morning to bring a greater sense of peace and well-being to life back on Monday morning. We may see those things as different events. In truth, they are all one.

And the outrageous claim of Jesus is that the reign of God which covers all of the above is alive and well among us and brings the unity of God's peace and power, healing and forgiving, to EVERY nook and cranny of our lives. But how to live it? Ah, that's the question. How can we respond to the good news of God's rule, to God's invitation, to physical fitness, mental focus and spiritual peace of mind? I thought you'd never ask.

In this coming Lenten season we are inviting folks into a wholistic experience of faith and life. We will begin with a "big picture" overview of our life with God on Ash Wednesday (February 17, 7 pm). Then on the **TUESDAYS OF LENT** (Feb 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23) we're presenting something entirely new. From 6:30-7:30 on each of those evenings, we have a Christian instructor coming in to teach us some of the basics of Tai Chi—for exercise and self-

defense. This is for all ages and abilities, families as well as individuals, children and adults. This would be a great thing to which you can invite friends and neighbors. (The cost is \$25/person for the 5 week session; we'll work out a discount for families and cover the cost for anyone who is struggling financially—in



fact, that person probably has the greatest need for this outlet.)

Then from 7:30-8:30 we'll have a combined "worship & conversation" using Psalm 23, The Song of a Passionate Heart as an aid. This was the book that I found so powerful when I was on sabbatical and I am thrilled to be able to share it with the wider community. (Cost is \$10). We will also use this as our discussion starter for our Sunday morning "between-the-services" adult group. (Sign up for both/either on the Sunday **CLIPBOARDS**.)



NOTE THAT IT IS NOT REQUIRED that you participate in both parts on Tuesday evenings. The first step is always the most important of any journey—and especially the journey of faith. So come and participate in whatever helps move you toward a full, rich, vibrant, resilient life with God. What we aim toward is also our "**HOUSE-OF-GOD-KEEPING**" emphasis for the month:

WHOLLY HOLY

Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NLT)

Our regular Wednesday evening discussion, care group **WILL NOT MEET** on Feb 17 & 24. Instead we join the midweek, Lenten events on the Tuesdays of Feb 23, March 2, 9, 16, & 23. The Wednesday gatherings will begin again on April 7.

AN ADDITIONAL IMAGE FOR LENT.

PROFESSIONAL DOCUMENT SHREDDER

In line with the personal reassurance which is especially emphasized in Lent that Jesus has died so as to totally remove our sins from us, this Lenten season we would like to add an additional image of that good news. We are contracting with a professional document shredding service to bring a truck to the church for a couple of hours on a Saturday in March. Bring all your old records and see them shredded—just as our sins are destroyed in the death and resurrection of Jesus. This is a great time to clean out old documents, destroy and recycle. Friends and neighbors will also be welcome to participate. We do need some help with the event: if you would like to give \$10 or \$20 to offset the cost, please put "Shred" on the memo line of a check in the offering. And then come and enjoy the destruction. **TIP:** collect documents in the paper, "leaf recycling" bags you can get with free coupons from the city.

MEN'S NIGHT OUT

The WOH Men are getting together on Saturday, February 6th for a Poker Night! The competition starts at 7pm - first hour will be Texas Holdem, the second hour Seven Card Stud and the third hour is the ??? Poker (any ideas?) -buy in is \$20. We'll be playing for prizes so bring your best game! **THERE IS NO POT LUCK ANYTHING** – just stop at the local grocery store and pick up a snack that can be popped into the oven. Invite your friends and neighbors to join in a great night of fun & entertainment! Contact **BOB COOK** (Robertcook3@hotmail.com) for information, suggestions or details. Watch the weekly sheet and clipboards for more information!

HABITAT BUILD

Thrivent for Lutherans will be doing a Habitat build with area Lutheran churches in late April. We're delighted to be able to participate—watch newsletters and weekly sheets for details on the specifics.

CHURCH CLEANING AT WOH



A very simple and workable plan has been developed that divides the facility into three sections - Side A: Fellowship Hall & Kitchen; Side B: Sanctuary & Entry; Side C: Education Wing. By doing this the work can be easily assigned. (Approximate cleaning time is 1 hour per week per section). You can sign up for cleaning a section (or more) once (or more) each month. It's a great way to give a little back to your church and your time can be tax deductible—contact **MARJORIE FLORO** or stop by the church office.

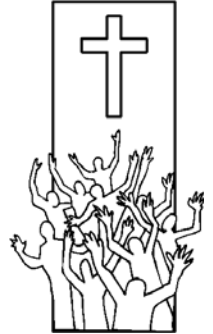
CONFIRMATION RETREAT

On February 26-28, our confirmands attend an annual retreat with other Lexington Lutheran youth at Aldersgate Retreat Center in Ravenna, KY. This is always a great event. Be sure to ask them about it when they return! They are **CASSIE ADAMS, KATELYN SLAVIK, KAYLA METZLER, CRISTINA WALKER, & HANNAH WARD.**



WORSHIP & ANNUAL 2010

Our unique, combined “Worship & Annual” congregational meeting was held on Sunday, January 24. We accepted the various team reports, elected council members, and passed the 2010 budget. Our **THANKS** to outgoing church council members, **JOANNE BROWN JOHN MCMULLEN,** and **WELCOME** to new council members, **TODD COTTRELL & BILL STEWART** and those returning or re-elected: **BOB COOK, MARJORIE FLORO, JASON LAMBIRTH** and **CHARLOTTE WONG.** As of this writing the first council meeting is in retreat on Jan 29 & 30.



Our emphasis for the year at Word of Hope is Paul's affirmation to the Philippians:

I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want. I can do all things in him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:12-13 (RSV)

WOH VACATION BIBLE CAMP



The date is set! This year's Vacation Bible Camp program will be the week of June 13-18, Sunday - Thursday. It's one of the busiest weeks around WOH – full of fun & energy! We will have the Luther Road staff on hand and we are looking for 1 - 2 people who would be willing to learn the ropes and be co-leaders. Interested? Curious? Contact **PASTOR** (272-8515)

NEWCOMERS

All activities of the congregation are open to everyone. If you sense that the time has come to move into a fuller sense of participation in the life of the congregation as a member, see Pastor Duval. The conversations about growth in faith life are always a delight.

AN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT



On Sunday, March 28 a group of Christian music artists will gather in Louisville for one of the largest Christian concerts of the year. Names like Third Day, Newsboys, Tenth Avenue North and Sidewalk Prophets, as well as many others, will provide the evenings entertainment at the bargain price of just \$10. If you'd like to join a WOH group to go, contact **DARLENE TAYLOR** (dtaylormom5@aol.com) and watch for further details.

GET A BETTER LOOK...

We often include photos of recent WOH events in our newsletter. If you'd like to get a better look, check out our website: WWW.WORDOFHOPECHURCH.COM and click on "News & Events" where you'll find all the latest Newsletters and Weekly News updates.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE...

is the 15th of each month. If you've got news to share, updates from your WOH team or "a view from the pew" please send it to TADWrig@cs.com or Darlene at dtaylormom5@aol.com. Darlene also coordinates the building use calendar, so if you are planning an activity at the church, make sure you get it on the calendar! There is a LOT going on here at Word of Hope, and every event is important to the ministry and outreach of our church!

WOH YARD SALE

The WOH Yard Sale is still a ways off, which means you have plenty of time to gather your odds and ends as you start that big cleaning project – we'll take it all! **April 24th** is the date so mark your calendars and tell your friends and neighbors! Contact **DARLENE TAYLOR** (dtaylormom5@aol.com). We'll be looking for plenty of help in April - the more the merrier!



WOH FOLKS

CONGRATULATIONS to **GLENDA EARNEST** whose artwork was recently accepted at a local business in Midway. The store will serve as an outlet for Glenda's brilliant horse-themed paintings. Congrats again on the new venture!

MANY THANKS to **BOB LIPINSKI** for taking care of some electrical repairs. Your handiwork is among the best!

THANKS ALSO to Musik Matters Director, **KIM BUCKNER** for providing entertainment for the children during our Annual Meeting. Kim's group is one of many community groups that meet at WOH during the week.

MINISTRIES OF WORD OF HOPE

Now and then it is good to take a look back and see just how far we have come. It reminds us of where we are on this journey and, more importantly, it reminds us WHOSE we are. If we are at all aware of the things that are happening at Word of Hope, one thing we will notice, it's NOT about US!

The list below shows the many areas of outreach for this congregation throughout the past year. As you look at this list think for a moment about all the lives that have been touched by this God - the one we call "Abba, Father".

- Christmas assistance to the Nile House - mothers & children received much needed clothing and supplies. Other congregational contacts were provided with other much appreciated gifts.
 - Bloodmobile – We had 3 successful drives and continued as the 2nd best in per capita giving in the Kentucky Blood Center system.
 - KODA Organ Donor Organization continues its monthly meetings at WOH for encouragement and support at no charge.
 - Care Team was involved in offering support and aid to WOH folks in times of illness, loss and numerous other times of need. The "Abundance Box" served many at WOH and beyond in 2009.
 - Pastor's Discretionary Fund: As funds were available this was used to assist WOH folks and occasionally those beyond.
 - Building outreach: AA / Al Anon / NA / Musik-Matters / Girl Scouts have all met on a regular basis and often express gratitude for a gathering place.
 - Eastern State Hospital outreach—on-going outreach offering clothes / supplies / books & magazines
 - School supplies for Surrey Elem, Surrey, VA
 - Yard Sale: Leftovers supported several programs.
 - VBS – Served nearly 50 children most of whom were NOT from WOH.
 - Youth Mission Trip - served Boys & Girl's Club of Cleveland in addition to:
 - Shriner's visits
 - Ronald McDonald House
 - Kids' Nite Out which is about ½ WOH kids
 - A ramp build
 - Assistance to Catholic Action Center – breakfasts prepared / donations and assistance provided.
 - Haitian Relief / Advent - Clean Water Effort / True North – offerings to many outreach organizations.
- Just another reminder that God IS in this place.**

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

...will be available in the entryway in mid February for daily use in your personal daily devotions.

WOH FOLKS – OUT AND ABOUT

If you missed out on any of these activities in January, don't fret there's always plenty going on! Just check out the Newsletter and watch the Weekly Sheet for upcoming activities – and JOIN IN THE FUN!



MIDDLE SCHOOL ICE SKATING CREW



WOH "Casserole Club" Game Night



WOH Chic's Winter Retreat at Aldersgate

WOHLY-WORD OF HOPE LUTHERAN YOUTH

JOIN US FOR TRUE NORTH EVERY SUNDAY MORNING!! It's an opportunity for some interesting and thought-provoking conversation as well as some get-to-know-you time! It all **STARTS AT 9:30am!!**

UPCOMING SENIOR HIGH YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

- **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 – SUPER BOWL PARTY** (Tentative) Watch for details!
- **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 – YOUTH TO LUNCH!** It's a great time to catch up! Bring a friend or your parent(s) along! Bring a few bucks to cover your appetite!
- **RONALD McDONALD HOUSE** Watch the **Weekly Sheet** for more information. We'll be preparing dinner for the residents there sometime in February!

And watch the Weekly Sheet and your email for other announcements! There's always a lot going on!

Come and Join Us – All Are Welcome!!