

Word Of Hope
The Amazing
Grace
Place

MAY 2009



VACATION BIBLE CAMP AT WOH

The dates are fast approaching for our summer
Vacation Bible School: **SUNDAY – THURSDAY, June 7-11,**
with a kickoff party at noonish on Sunday, June 7.

THIS IS A BRAND NEW SCHEDULE SO NOTE DETAILS CAREFULLY.

Our theme is *Crocodile Dock – Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light*. Once again we're partnering with a traveling ministry team that is going to help us put on a full week of VBC Day Camp. The purpose of "Luther Road" is a "summer camp on wheels" program for congregations of the I-K Synod ELCA where the benefits of the weeklong camps—fun, worship, games, Bible study, fellowship, arts & crafts and recreation—come to us.

Staffed by college students with camp leadership experience, the Luther Road team includes five college-aged counselors from our I-K Synod Lutheran Outdoor Ministries. The team is specially trained and equipped in leading a high energy, fun and exciting Day Camp and works closely with our own coordinator and volunteers. **WE STILL NEED PLENTY OF WORD OF HOPE VOLUNTEERS – IT'S A GREAT TIME FOR ALL!**

The cost for the week is only \$25 per family, with before/after-care only \$20 per child. Our morning is a VBS format with music, arts & crafts, recreation and learning Bible stories. After lunch we take on a Camp format with field games, water Olympics and campfire programs. We are also offering a pre-school / nursery class on Sunday afternoon ONLY, 1:30-4:30. Registration forms are now available! **So mark your calendar now and think about which friends you would like to invite to participate or volunteer!**

FIDDLIN' & FUN SUNDAY

We will be kicking off our fun-filled VBC program with some **FIDDLING & FUN ON SUNDAY, JUNE 7th**. The "Luther Road" Counselors will be on hand for both worship services as we begin our week at *Crocodile Dock*. Plan to join in as our worship area is transformed for a week "Down at the Bayou" *Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light!* There will be loads of special music! **DON'T MISS THE FUN & EXCITEMENT!**

WOH NIGHT "DOWN AT THE BAYOU"

Join in the fun on **Saturday, May 16th** at 6pm as we enjoy a real Louisiana style meal - jambalaya, gumbo and corn bread! Top that off with some good old down-home southern entertainment reminiscent of the "Hee-Haw" Days! There'll be banjo pickin' and even a taste of New Orleans jazz. **And we'll hear all about the upcoming VBC Crocodile Dock!** Brush off that banjo (or your instrument of choice) and make plans to join in the fun at **WOH'S ANNUAL SPRING FLING & TALENT SHOW – "DOWN AT THE BAYOU"**. You won't want to miss it! Contact **DARLENE TAYLOR** (dtaylormom5@aol.com) or any SH Youth Group member.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

In between our worship services on Sunday, May 31, (9:30 am) is a special meeting of the church to take action on the Preaching Team proposal and then possibly call its members. We will also take a midyear look at our financials and other updates.

FROM THE PASTOR



Scott Peck wrote *The Road Less Traveled* with a pretty famous first line: "Life is difficult." He goes on:

This is a great truth, but most of us can't see it. Instead we moan more or less incessantly, noisily, or subtly, about the enormity of our problem. As if life is supposed to be easy for us, and therefore what has happened to us has never happened to anybody else before, at least not in this excruciatingly painful or insoluble way that it has burdened us."

Peck says that he wrote that not because as a therapist he hears his patients say that, but because he has been tempted to say that himself. In my opinion, he's not alone. (Reminds me of this cartoon. There's a huge desk and a huge CEO sitting behind it in a huge leather chair. Standing meekly in front of the desk is a man in work clothes—obviously a lowly employee in that corporation. And the worker says to the boss, "If it's any comfort, it's lonely at the bottom too.")

I'm sure you've heard a lot lately about the present great distress—be that from news, personal experience, or even these pages. Maybe you're not only sick and tired of hearing it, you're sick and tired of being sick and tired. OK, my personal experience understands that too—but I do have one question: will ignoring the difficulty make it go away, or is there a better road?



It was not for nothing that the early followers of Jesus simply referred to themselves as "the people of the Way." (And lest you're wondering, the term "Christian" only came much later.) They were people of The Way and they knew exactly what that meant from Jesus' own warning/invitation: "whoever would be my disciple (learner!) must pick up their cross and follow me." They had no illusion that life

would be easy nor that this suffering would be exceptional; it would be the norm.

What they trusted and knew, however, was that they would not be alone. They were following the One who was THE WAY and who had conquered every imaginable obstacle/enemy/disaster/tragedy—even to the extent of defeating the last great enemy, death. And this was the victory they were being guided toward as well. They trusted THAT outcome even when the time it took to get there stretched their patience. (Are we THERE yet?)

And they knew they would be in a company of others. The Spirit (breath!) of the risen Christ was with them AND they

were part of a community of Wayfarers. In short, they followed together. Pilgrim grasped the hand of pilgrim; so-journer whispered encouragement to so-journer; learner shared the peace with learner.

Life is difficult. Life is difficult for everyone. We can say that we're not into suffering but that's not terribly realistic. As if suffering is optional. As if it's an adopted lifestyle. But it isn't. Or maybe then again, it is. In truth, there really is more to it for those who follow Jesus. What we're invited to trust is that IN HIM suffering counts for something. It has an end. It has a meaning. It has a purpose. It has a master. It cannot take away our hope. It cannot take away our fight. Suffering has a fellowship of those who refuse to crumble. And it can lead us to a deeper life with God.

So maybe it's NOT lonely at the bottom. Maybe it's from the bottom of the grave that true hope bubbles up for all the world.

"House-of-God-Keeping"

Our May emphasis is taken "From the Pastor" and one of our past weekly Lenten themes: "**Follow Together**" As a reminder you'll see that banner prominently displayed in the worship space in May.

All of you *together* are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NLT)

HEALING SUNDAY

We will have a Service of Healing at both our worship times on Sunday, May 31st. This is a unique and special worship that includes the laying on of hands and prayers of healing. We all yearn for wholeness in our lives, which the healing power of the Holy Spirit brings to us. If you have a friend or neighbor who would especially benefit from this meaningful service, please invite them to worship with us that day. All are welcome to the Amazing Grace Place.

UNWIND NITE

It's time to 'unwind' and take a break once again. Time to get to know some WOH folks in a relaxed setting and find out how much we really have in common—the delights as well as the aggravations? Our next "Unwind Nite" will be Thursday, May 21, 7 pm at the Duvals'. Come and enjoy an agenda-free evening of conversation.



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

Words of Hope

MAY

A monthly newsletter from Word of Hope Lutheran Church

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WORSHIP IN BRIN'S GARDEN



On Sunday, May 17th we will be worshipping in Brin's Garden during the 8:15 service. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy this special place. And remember to visit this quiet, meditative garden down in the corner of our property. Stop by and set a spell on the park bench and, amazingly, experience God's calming presence near a bustling thoroughfare. The pause will do you good.

FOR PENTECOST ~ MAY 31

...we're painting the place red in asking all to wear red as a way of celebrating the red fire of God's great love for us in the red outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

TRUE NORTH.....

WE GREATLY APPRECIATE ALL THOSE who've dedicated their time and efforts to our program throughout this year including, JENNIFER POLNISCH, KELLY METZLER, CRYSTAL McMULLEN, DENISE POLNISCH, BOB & SUE COOK, STEVE ADAMS and DARLENE TAYLOR. It has been another great year of learning! Our TRUE NORTH spring session finish will be part of the festivities on Sunday, May 17th. We'll break for the summer and restart in August.

BIKER BLESSING

With the number of motorcycle enthusiasts at Word of Hope (and kids with bicycles), we'll hold a BLESSING OF THE BIKES at noon on Sunday, May 24. Bring your bike of whatever size and your friend and your friend's bike. We'll give you a send-off for safety and the enjoyment of all creation



WOH WORK DAYS

Spring days are upon us! It's that time of year when we all look forward to getting out in our yards and sprucing things up so we're carving out some time to do just that here at Word of Hope. We want this place to have GREAT curb appeal to all who pass by! So watch the weekly sheet and listen for announcements then mark your calendar for the WOH WORK DAY! And remember, many hands make little work!

WE JOIN IN CELEBRATING....

with **BOB LIPINSKI & JAN FEEMAN** as they are joined in marriage on **Sunday, May 3** as part of our 10:45 worship. May God richly bless them with much joy and happiness in their life together.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

ATTENTION GOLFERS !!!!! For our next men's breakfast on May 9th we are headed to the White Dove Driving Range on Yorkshire Blvd. This DRIVE & SWING event will begin at 9am. Plan to come out - bring your own fast food breakfast and clubs, if you have them. We will need a head count so please respond in do time if you plan to attend, again bring a friend. This should be fun. Contact **FRANK ADAMS** at Daddo99@hotmail.com for more information.



SOMEONE'S PRAYING LORD

We set aside time each month for corporate prayer and conversation. Our next gathering is Monday, May 18, 7-8 pm. We provide simple prayer materials, mutual support, and hands on prayer time. Prayer doesn't come as naturally as what we might like, but it doesn't have to be brain surgery either. Come and join some other followers who continue to learn to pray.



WOMEN'S SERVICE GROUP

All women of WOH and their friends and neighbors are invited to join us as we continue to form ideas and make plans to reach out in our community to serve others. Our next get together will be Tuesday, May 26th at 6:30pm. Watch for details! Childcare will be provided in the nursery. Contact **JANICE HAMPTON** or **DARLENE TAYLOR** for details.

WORSHIP HELPERS



THE LORD'S SUPPER On Sunday morning, we invite you to try your hand at ushering, being a communion assistant or helping with communion care and we do offer basic training. If you're interested in any of these areas of ministry at WOH see **Pr. DUVAL** or signup on the clipboards on Sunday.

ABOVE & BEYOND

Our great thanks to **DAVE EARNEST** for his persistence with the city in getting the parking restriction which makes the entry to our parking lot so much more convenient and safe for the entire neighborhood. Way to go, Dave. And we appreciate the gift of the refrigerator—from **DAVE & GLENDA**—that's also a huge improvement. Thanks so much. We also extend **CONGRATULATIONS** to **DAVE & GLENDA EARNEST** who will celebrate their 23rd wedding anniversary on May 1st.

VIDALIA ONIONS



Check in with our local supplier, **BOB LIPINSKI**, for this year's crop of Vidalia onions. They're great for all those summer cookouts! And a bargain too - a 10 pound bag for just 10 bucks! All proceeds benefit Shriner's Hospital. Contact Bob at Romeohudson843@yahoo.com.

WOH SHIRTS

Sign ups are here for the Word of Hope shirts with our "Amazing Grace Place" logo. See the CLIPBOARD on Sundays at church—a variety of colors are available.

PINCHING PENNIES??

Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization which makes food available to folks for a reduced cost. They are able to do this by purchasing in bulk and making up set "packages" on a monthly basis. If you would like help making your food dollars stretch check out their website: www.angelfoodministries.com. Several WOH folks are already utilizing this service and find it very helpful.



REGULAR GATHERINGS:

- **The Parentween Group (PTG), Sunday, May 3rd** at 6:30pm (First Sunday eve of the month).
- **"The Shack" book discussion—May Sundays, 6:30 pm** (NOT the 17th)
- **'Bread for the World'** watch the Weekly Sheet for details on our next meeting time
- **Church Council; Tuesday, May 12th** at 7pm at WOH
- **Prayer Time--Monday, May 18th** at 7pm at WOH
- **The Care Team will meet on Tuesday, May 19th,** at 7pm at **JULIE MCEWEN'S**.
- **The Joint Vision & Stewardship Team will meet Monday, May 25th** at 7pm at the church

WOH FOLKS ...



THANKS TO ALL who helped with set up, crowd control and pack up as well as for all of the "treasures" you provided for the yard sale. Your support of the WOH Yard Sale helped to raise essential funds for Mission Trip '09. The Youth and leaders deeply appreciate all you have done!

OUR HEARTFELT SYMPATHY to **DAVE & GLENDA EARNEST and FAMILY** upon the death of Eva Earnest, Dave's grandmother. The family will join in a celebration of her life in Milford, PA on April 25th. Rest eternal grant her, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her.

THANK YOU TO ALL who brought clothing for Eastern State Hospital. Your continuing support of this ministry is greatly appreciated!

THANKS to **DENISE POLNISCH and OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH!** You really did a great job with the Easter Egg hunt AND in spreading the wood chips during our recent work day. Keep up the good work!

THANKS TO THE MANY FOLKS who worked to make our Easter Celebration so grand – to Praise Band & Singers, Gail Clayton & Laurie Johnson for their music, to all those who assisted in the decorating, to the many who were part of the Holy Week and Easter Worship, to our SH Youth for a great breakfast and to EVERYONE who joined in this Resurrection Celebration.

CONGRATULATIONS to those confirmed at the Easter Vigil: **OLIVIA COTTRELL, JACE WARD & SHELBY VERHOEVEN**. We look forward to your greater involvement in the life of the congregation.

CONGRATS & BEST WISHES TO OUR GRADS

ERICA & CHRISTA OLSON graduate from Tates Creek High School. Erica will attend Eastern Kentucky University and Christa is going to the University of Kentucky.

LEAH RAMWALI (COOK), daughter of **SUE COOK**, graduates from Lafayette High School and will attend Owens Community College in Ohio.

DON MORGAN, grandson of **MARJORIE FLORO**, graduates from Sayre School and has been accepted into the Advanced Placement Honors Program at UK.

ANNIE JOHNSON, daughter of **STEVE & LAURIE JOHNSON**, graduates from UK with a Bachelor Degree in Business and Marketing.

JORDAN BROWN, son of **BILL & JOANNE BROWN**, also graduates from UK with Bachelor's of Arts and Science Degree in English.

JULIE KLEINPETER graduates from the on UK School of Pharmacy and is accepting a fellowship at UK.

WOHLY-Word of Hope Lutheran Youth Activities



MIDDLE SCHOOL WORK DAY

MEMBERS OF OUR SENIOR HIGH YOUTH WILL TAKE PART IN MISSION '09

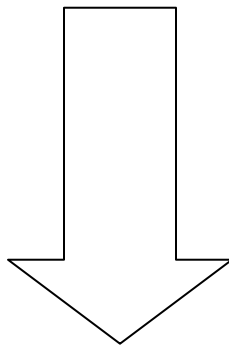
CLEVELAND, OHIO JUNE 14-20

This will be another incredible opportunity for our youth & adult leaders that will expose them to what God is doing in other places and allow them to be co-partners with Him. We will work with the Boys & Girls Club in Cleveland at a number of locations - working hands-on with the kids, doing landscape work and painting. We will also work in the Cleveland Area food bank, and in all this we will build on our relationship with God and one another. It is an opportunity to step outside our comfort zone into unfamiliar situations where we must rely on our faith and each other, where we must trust God more fully. We thank all of you for your prayers and support!

"... I assure you, when you did this to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!" Matt. 25: 31-46

"Here Am I, Send Me"

Keep Going!



Alive Together



*Word of Hope
Easter Celebration*

