



# Living Hope News

## **NEW LIFE FOR LIVING HOPE**

I recently had the joyous first experience of baptizing twin babies at worship last month. Troy and Maya Culbertson became the newest members of Living Hope. It is a season of new life in Christ and as we approach the Easter celebration, new life becomes a buzz word of anticipation here.

You have been through a long and harsh winter (one of the worst). You have persevered through a long (and sometimes painful) call process. You were never alone. God was with you through it all. Now we look to the lengthening of days, and with those days more functional light. We only need to look to the cross to see where the functional light of this congregation emanates from.

Christ is the light of the world. He is hope for the hopeless, power for the powerless, love for the loveless. Thank God for the faith of the cross and the hope of the resurrection.

We are preparing for Holy Week. Palm Sunday is March 16. We will celebrate First Holy Communion at both services. Thursday, March 20 is Maundy Thursday. We will have a contemporary worship service at 7 pm with Holy Communion. On Friday, March 21, we will observe a traditional Good Friday service at 7 pm with a Tenebrae Service (extinguishing of light and stripping of the altar).

Easter is Sunday, March 23. We'll have services at 9 and 10:30, and a special children's presentation will be given at each service.

I am tendering my resignation effective March 31, 2008. Pastor Howard Bucholz has accepted the call to Living Hope and plans are underway for a congregational meet and greet on Thursday, March 13 at 7pm.

Your future is bright and open to all the possibilities God has in store for you. God has also given me the joy of having served as your pastor for the past year. It has been an adventure in faith for all of us—and it is gratifying to see the blessings we have reaped on the journey. A strong new partnership with our Northern Illinois Synod has been forged. There is a dynamic leadership team in place. We conducted a successful stewardship campaign. Our new facility has hosted several wonderful fellowship events. We held two great youth events aimed at outreach—Henry Graf and Daniel's Window (and they're up for return performances, word is). We got trees and GRASS! And they are alive and well. Several neighborhood evangelism campaigns took place (thanks CAL!) A new puppet ministry is being birthed as I write this article (thanks CHRIS!). This is an exciting place for a new pastor to come into.

God bless each and every one of you. Thank you for making me feel always loved and welcomed.

You will always be in my heart and my prayers,

*Pastor Kathy Flores*

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Worship Times  
9:00  
Traditional  
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10:30  
Contemporary

## Inside . . .

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### ***Special Congregational Meeting***

We are pleased to announce that a special congregational meeting has been scheduled for **7:00 PM on Thursday March 13** to present pastoral candidate Howard Buchholz. Pastor Buchholz will present some prepared remarks followed by an open question and answer session. The meeting will conclude with a formal congregational vote to approve the candidate.

Volunteers are requested to assist with providing refreshments. A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the narthex. We look forward to your attendance at this important event.

***Easter Flowers*** order form due March 9.

### ***Growing Hope***

In the bulletin each Sunday, our church office includes the giving information as well as our weekly shortfall amount. This is such a critical time for Living Hope! A large thank you is always given for our families. We are a small group of believers who strive to make our church a living testament to God's word. Please be faithful with your giving, it makes all the difference!

### ***First Communion***

***Child/Parent Workshop Sunday, March 9*** For all 3rd graders, and any other children desiring First Communion. The workshop will run from 12:30 pm-3:00 pm and consist of making family banners, learning about the Passover and the Last Supper, and making Communion bread for Palm Sunday. First Communion will be held at both services.

### ***Women's Bible Study***

March 13 9:30 AM The group will be meet every other Thursday morning.

### ***Men of the Church***

Men's Breakfast 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month 8:30 am Lumes-Frankfort Come join the men of the church for fun and fellowship.

***Sr. High Construction*** March 28-30.

***Save the Date-April 27*** Henry Graff and RahFah

### ***Scrapbooking***

will continue to meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month at 7 pm. Remember to bring a snack to share.

### ***A message from the Giving Hope Committee-***

Please bring in used clothing for the Blessing Table in Joliet.

We will again help at the Chicago Food Depository on Saturday, May 17 9 am—Noon. Watch for future details.

### ***Help Wanted:***

Greeters, Ushers, Lesson readers, Communion assistants, Refreshments, and Bread delivery.

### ***Campbell Soup Labels***

Don't forget to bring in your Campbell Soup Labels.

### ***Aluminum Cans!***

Separate your aluminum cans from your regular recycling and drop them off at church. The church gets money for something that would otherwise be in a landfill!

### ***Children's Ministry Volunteer Needed***

Living Hope is seeking a volunteer(s) to help coordinate the Children's ministry activities including Vacation Bible School, Promiseland, and Puppet Ministry.

Please contact Rob Pieczynski for more information.

***Sunday, March 9 noon-2:00 PM*** is the final date to have your picture taken for the church directory.

***Girl's Night - Bunco*** Saturday, March 8, 7:00 pm at Chris Olson's home, 787 Amanda Road, New Lenox. BYOB, a snack to share and \$5 for prizes. Please RSVP by March 5.

### ***CHAOS***

March 12

### ***Confirmation Class***

March 16 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm

***First Communion Celebration*** Palm Sunday, March 16 at 9:00 am and 10:30 am services.

**All church Family Event  
Sunday, June 1**

11:30 am set up tables and grills start cooking  
 12:00 Prayer, eat  
 1:00 pm Yadah Yadah puppet ministry  
 1:15 pm "Mini Monkees" children's choir  
 1:30 pm Introduce new Praise Monkees 2 to 3 songs  
 1:45 pm The Praise Monkees  
 2:30 pm conclude

The lunch will be BYOB, bring your own beef (or anything else to grill). We will have folks to cook or grills if you want to cook your own.

We will have sign up for desserts and side dishes.

Each family please bring 2 2-liters of pop

We will need a minimum of 4 grills gas or charcoal

If you have any questions please feel free to contact myself, of Theresa; dean@frankfortchurch.com, theresa@frankfortchurch.com

If you are interested in joining Yadah, Yadah, Please contact Chris Olson; c.l.olson@sbcglobal.net

Mini Monkees can get a hold of Shannon at; diehl11715@comcast.net

**A Thank You! To  
the members of  
Living Hope  
Lutheran Church**

From the Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In grateful appreciation for giving \$500 for Mission Support beyond the congregation for synodical and churchwide ministries of the of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

*Bishop Gary Wollersheim*

*Lenten and Easter Schedule*

**Palm Sunday, March 16  
(first communions)**

9:00 am and 10:30 am

**Maundy Thursday, March 20**

7:00 pm

**Good Friday, March 21 TENEBRAE  
SERVICE**

7:00 pm

**Easter Sunday, March 23**

9:00 am and 10:30 am

*March Birthdays*

Ken Dangman	2
Connor Hudziak	5
Amanda Logan	6
Jacob Healy	7
Eric Haaksma	9
Carolyn Waleski	9
Nikki Harenberg	13
Robert Bice	14
Cody Smith	14
Tracy Schultz	15
Dylan Murphy	17
Alex Barrera	17
Colin Murphy	18
Molly Diehl	25

Dear Living Hope,

I just want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for the many prayers, support, hugs, cards, e-mails and phone calls after the passing of my mother. You were all a blessing to me.

Because my family is so far away, you may never have met them and I'm pretty sure not many of you met my mother either. However, if you will indulge me a little, I wanted to share something with you that was written by one of my sisters. It gives a little insight into the kind of person she was.

With God's Blessings,

*Theresa*

### Finding the Good

I know that God makes good out of the mess people have made of His perfect world. While watching my mother's struggle at the end of her life, I searched for the good in the situation. At first, it was hard to see.

The best I could come up with was recalling a talk with my sisters of many years ago. A casual discussion about who would be best able to survive alone — mom without dad or dad without mom. It was clear, my father would be lost without his wife.

However, in the past several years, he had the privilege of learning to serve the person who served him so well and the person he loved above everyone else. And he learned to take care of himself in the process. There were growing pains for both of them, sometimes serious ones, but together they both persevered.

So, for a while the only good I could think of was that — at least my father could now survive; he can take care of himself. As I thought on that, knowing there must be more, I was reminded of the nature of my mother. Though she seemed quite strict, and our childhood drawings always pictured her with orange hair and always yelling, the adult child looks back and sees a different picture....including the obvious fact that her hair was never, in reality, orange.

I was reminded of a specific time at dinner when one of her children was still hungry. There wasn't much food, and I remember her giving her food to her child, though I could see she wanted it herself. And I realized at that moment, as a child, what being a mother meant. The people she was here to serve took more importance over her own needs. Recalling this memory led me to realize more of her self-sacrifice.

As a mother now myself, I'm amazed at how well she managed to raise three small children, often on her own. Motherhood includes self-sacrifice and she taught me that by her example.

This thought led me to wonder if God makes deals. If he does, would he have made a deal to allow my mother to live a few more years, as they were — in gradually deteriorating health — so that her family could grow closer, so that her husband could learn to live on his own, so that others could see, if they chose to look, what true love between a man and a woman looks like? Would God make a deal like that? To allow her to endure what must have been a difficult end so that others could benefit? Maybe... it is after all what His Son did. Would I make that deal for myself? Would you? My mother would. I wonder if she did.



## **ALL IN COLOR AT LIVING HOPE**

Have you seen the great paint job all around the church? Check out the narthex, the nursery, but most of all the new "*Youth Room*". Thanks to all of the adults and youth that helped make it happen.

Laura, Jake, Bobby and Katy Bice  
Taylor and Jeff Trost  
Kim, Dean, Corey and Holly Schuldt  
Steve, Joany, Kelsey and Kim Kryl  
Roger and Ryan Haaksma  
Rob and Jake Pieczynski and friends Mike,  
Heather, Kelly and Emily

All of these people either painted well into the night or stayed for the lock-in and painted into the morning!!!

Also thanks to Megan Fitzgerald for helping me load my car.

**AWESOME JOB TO ALL!!!!!!!!!!**

Thanks,

*Theresa Conklila*