

Use All That You Have to Serve the Lord

FROM THE PASTOR

I read a cute story I would like to share with you. It goes like this. There were two men who crashed their private plane on a South Pacific Island. One of the men brushed himself off and proceeded to run all over the island to see if they had any chance of survival. When he returned, he rushed up to the other man and screamed, "This island is uninhabited and there is no food or water. We're going to die!"

The other man leaned back against the fuselage of the wrecked plane, folded his arms and responded, "No we're not. I make over \$100,000 a week." The first man grabbed his friend and shook him. "Listen, we're on a deserted island. We're doomed!"

The other man, unruffled, again responded. "It's OK. I make over \$100,000 a week." Mystified, the first man, taken aback with such an answer again repeated, "For the last time, I'm telling you that we are lost. It doesn't matter how much money you make because there's no one around to help us." Still unfazed, the first man looked the other guy in the eye and said, "Don't make me say this again. I make over \$100,000 per week and I give a tithe, 10%, to my church. My pastor will find us!"

This story made me laugh. I hope you enjoyed it as well. I hope that it also made you stop and think about your gifts for the Lord's work. Maybe the question to ask would be, "If you were stranded on an uninhabited island, would your pastor come looking for you?" We all know that a pastor's love for his members is not based on how much they contribute to the church. What we give to the church, however, is important to the Lord.

We need to recognize that everything we have comes from God. I mean everything - not just your money. Your time, your abilities, your talents, the opportunity to work and play, to go to school - all comes from the Lord. The air you breathe, the water you drink and the food you eat are all gifts from the hand of our gracious God. Once you recognize this truth and accept it, you

are then ready to give to the Lord with the proper attitude in your heart.

We must also recognize that God asks us to make faithful use of all that we have. We are to use our money to support ourselves, those in need, the work of the church, pay our taxes and so on. If you spend every cent you make on yourself, you are not doing what God wants. Your personal needs are only part of the picture. Charitable gifts for the needy, for the work of the church, etc. are also responsibilities placed on us by God.

We must also recognize that God does not just want us to give of our financial resources. We need to use our time and abilities as well. Teaching Sunday School, playing organ for worship, singing in the choir, helping with office work, cleaning the church, volunteering at school, cutting the lawn or raking leaves are just a few examples of how we can give to the Lord.

Visiting someone in the nursing home, picking up groceries for an elderly neighbor, visiting a friend in the hospital are also ways to give to the Lord. Jesus says, "Whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Mt 25:40). The bottom line - use all that you have to serve the Lord.

Pastor Kehren

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Also, the Church Directory for Hope Lutheran Membership is presently be revised and updated by Gary S. If you have any changes that should be in the directory (if you haven't already made them) please let Gary or the Church Secretary (Bill B.) know so they can be incorporated in the new revised directory. The Directory should be forthcoming in two to three weeks.

We are proceeding and filling positions under the new Church Reorganization System as recommended by the Parish Assistance Program. There are two (2) Ministry Leader Positions that need to be filled soon and hopefully by the next Council meeting in September (9-21-08 - 12:15 P.M) they will have a Leader (Worship Ministry Leader - Outreach Ministry Leader). There are many Coordinator positions under the six (6) Ministry Areas that have been filled, but many open just waiting for someone to ADOPT them. The Leaders are in the process of finding coordinators and helpers for these various positions and if you would like to serve our Lord & Savior here - please don't wait for someone to ask you – please inquire about various positions and I'm sure that they have the right position just waiting for you.

WELS Parish Assistance Visitation of Pastor Stroh as we complete Phase III and enter Phase IV has been scheduled for Saturday - 11-1-08 between 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. As we finalize the reorganization of our congregation here at Hope around our vision for future ministry, it's now time to address the question "What can we expect to happen as we begin the implementation of our new vision?"

Implementing Your Vision - A Parish Assistance Phase III Seminar & Phase IV Workshop

Saturday - November 1, 2008 - 8:30 A.M. to 12:00 Noon

Seminar for ALL Leaders (all those called, elected and appointed) and all others who will have a major role in some capacity for carrying out our agreed-to vision for ministry in the upcoming weeks and months here at Hope Lutheran Church. This seminar will explore, in depth, the dynamics of change and transition and underscore how the two are different. I **WOULD LIKE TO STRONGLY IMPRESS ON ALL**

COMMENTS FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

Brothers and Sisters in Christ - Fellow Christians

Most summer vacations are over and another school year is underway here at Hope Lutheran - school year 2008-2009. Please keep Hope Lutheran School, Staff and all the Children in your prayers. The theme this year at Hope is "Hope in the Lord" - Isaiah 40:31 and we have thirty-three (33) students.

At the present time we are updating the Church Membership Photo Board located in the Fellowship Hall. Mike T. is at the present time taking photos of individuals and families - so try to see him after one of the services over the next few weeks and SMILE. He is taking two photos of each and it has been suggested and recommended that we have a Photo Directory of the membership at Hope. More on this later on.

LEADERS OF THE CONGREGATION THAT THEIR PARTICIPATION IS VITAL TO THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR MINISTRY PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

Saturday - November 1, 2008 - 12:00 Noon to 1:00 P.M.

Break for Lunch - we invite all participants in both the morning and afternoon seminar and workshop for lunch which will be provided during this time period.

Saturday - November 1, 2008 - 1:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Workshop for ALL Leaders & ALL Other Member Ministers (coordinators, ministry teams, etc plus all those attending the morning seminar). This workshop kicks off Phase IV - "Strategies and Action Plans". I would also like to urge members not included in any of the above categories who may be only somewhat interested in participating in the future ministry efforts, but may not be ready yet to commit to a specific task at the present time - you are all encouraged to come, listen and provide your input.

Again, I would urge all members of the leadership to please plan on attending the seminar and workshop as your participation and input is of vital importance for the success of our future ministry here at Hope. If unable to attend - please arrange to designate one of the coordinators under your ministry level to attend in your absence.

May whatever changes and transitions that occur here at Hope Lutheran and all our current and future ministry efforts bring glory to God and help to grow his kingdom.

There will be more details & specifics as they become available prior to the seminar & workshop.

May God's grace & peace be with us always. To HIM be all thy praise - honor & glory.

The upcoming weeks and months here at Hope Lutheran will be very active with many special events and projects. Please check your Church Bulletin weekly to keep abreast of any upcoming event. We will try to keep you informed and appraised of future events, but sometimes a few fall between the cracks unintentionally.

Again, thank each and every one of you for all your help, suggestions, recommendations and concerns. Your Leaders are here to help and assist you as we all do our Lord's work here at Hope and they need your help and prayers.

Until next time, May God's Grace and Peace be with us all.

Bill B
Secretary / JPPHLC

ALTAR GUILD

There will be an Altar Guild meeting on Tues., September 30th at 10:30 A.M. at the home of Paula B.

We will be planning for the coming fall season (Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas), so please mark the date on your calendar.

Please bring any ideas or suggestions you may have so we can discuss them when are all together.

Thanks, Paula B.

A. C. T. S. Active Christian TeenS

ACTS is a program just starting up for young people currently enrolled on grades 9-12. We will focus on spiritual growth, fellowship, and service within our congregation.

All high school age youth are invited to attend and participate. There will be an organizational pizza meeting at noon on Sunday, September 28th for those interested.

For more information or if there are any questions, contact Ross or Carol H.

HOPE SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome to Hope Lutheran School's 13th Year!
What a gracious God we have that has showered us with countless blessings over the 13 year school history! Students and teachers have come and gone,

but two things have remained the same all these years. Hope Lutheran School has always provided high quality academics and, more importantly, has always boldly taught students the Way, the Truth, and the Life – their Savior Jesus. We ask for your prayers and support that our school may continue to be an outreach arm into the community connecting children and their families to our life-giving Savior for years to come.

Enrollment

At registration night on August 11, we had 33 students enrolled for the 2008-2009 school year with two families that are new to Hope Lutheran School this year. We consider it a privilege to teach each individual student, and we pray that God would bless the partnership of teachers, parents, and students as we work together in our mission to train young minds for life and prepare young hearts for eternity!

Ways You Can Help Your School

Please see the one page insert in this month's Star of Hope for several ways you can help our school. Nearly all of them will cost you nothing to do, but will raise lots of money for the school. From searching the internet to cutting a piece of cardboard off your cereal box in the morning, there are many easy ways to help. If you have questions about any of the ways you can help, Mr. Leifer will be happy to assist you.

Stay Up To Date on School Happenings

If you would like to receive an email copy of the school newsletter, please give Mr. Leifer your email address. Then each week you'll get the update on what is new at Hope Lutheran School.

Wish List

Laminating Machine
SMART Board Interactive Whiteboard
Newer Computers for Classrooms
New Desks

IT HAPPENED IN SEPTEMBER...

17 September 1989 - Hope Congregation's new sanctuary was dedicated. This was the third phase of construction at the Hope facility. Once again, the willing hands of congregation members provided much of the labor which brought the project to completion on time. The new building was used for regular Sunday services that morning. The

congregation assembled in the Fellowship Hall for a brief ceremony. The altar ware and vessels were gathered and carried to the new building. The door key was passed by the Chairman of the Building Committee (Ron S.) to the Congregation President (Ted H.) who opened the door. After the items brought to the building were emplaced, the regular Sunday service was conducted. That afternoon, the formal dedication of the building was conducted, and a festive reception was held in the Fellowship Hall.

YOUNG AT HEART

September: - The next Young at Heart meeting is on September 16, 2008 at 11.30 AM. The hosts, Kalevi and Ritva M., will provide chicken. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex to bring a side dish, salad or dessert.

October: - The Young at Heart group is planning a trip to High Hill Ranch at Apple Hill on Tuesday, October 14, 2008. A luncheon will be served for \$12.50. This includes ¼ BBQ Chicken, Macaroni Salad, Roll, drink (apple juice, coffee or tea) and a slice of hot Apple Pie a la mode. Following the lunch we will tour the ranch on a hayride. Reservations and money are due by September 16, 2008. For more details, please contact Paula B. or Jan D.



***WELS BWM:
Adopt an Orphanage***

Dear Friends,

August 26, 2008

So much has happened since I last wrote you that I hardly know where to begin. Our administrative committee graciously allowed me to go to India for the graduation of the pre-seminary class. In addition to attending the graduation service, I visited several of the homes near Guntur. I also had time to visit Gentle Shepherd School. Seven months is a long time to be gone and there was much catching up to do. Two administrative committee members accompanied me on visits to the homes to see first-hand what caring for children entails.

Pastor Krueger and I returned to the States for our son, Peter's wedding, which was on the second of August. It was a simple ceremony but one filled with so much joy. Peter and his wife, Mimi, have moved to Tucson, Arizona. We are so thankful for the joy Mimi has brought to Peter's life. Seven months ago we would have never thought marriage to be a possibility for him. The most recent report from his doctors was very encouraging. Peter has regained his strength and other than the loss of sight in one eye, looks as if he'd never been ill.

The new school year has begun with some difficulties and changes. The monsoon rains in India have been very heavy recently and Hebron Children's Home flooded again. The children were safely moved to high ground and are living in temporary housing until the water recedes. The water did not reach the levels that it has in the past and for this we are thankful. Mrs. Deevenamma reports that she, her family and the children returned to the home one week ago and are in the process of restoring order to the gardens.

St. Paul's Children's home moved this year. Pastor Sudhakar raju, the supervisor of the home, was transferred to a city where there is more potential for growth. The new location is about a 2-hour drive from his previous home. He has found a suitable home for the children and a cook who lives with the children. His own home is close by, as are schools for all the children. We were pleased to note that more than half of the children in the home moved to the new location. This does not always happen, as relatives would rather have the children close so that they can visit them. It is a tribute to the love and care Pastor Sudhakar and his wife give the children that their relatives were willing to have the children live some distance from their home villages.

Pastor Vijay continues to care for 15 children of parents who have AIDS or are HIV-positive. All 15 children returned to his home his year. The government asked him to take additional children but it is not possible at this time. His home cannot accommodate any more children and the rent in his area has increased tremendously over the past years. He was unable to find another suitable building for reasonable rent. Attempts to move another home in the area failed as well because of the very high rent. We want the homes to be close to Gentle Shepherd School and this also limits our choices. Pastor Vijay's children are readily accepted

by the faculty and children of Gentle Shepherd School. They are no longer shunned by their community because of the illness of their parents. Living in this home is a tremendous blessing!

Lastly, I was privileged to attend the LWMS convention in Tucson in June. It was an uplifting experience, as always. I renewed old friendships, made new friends, and introduced my daughter to the LWMS. Her daughter Ellery, who is 2 1/2, was not entirely thrilled with the convention, but she, too, made friends and found playmates in the halls outside the meeting rooms. It is so encouraging to be reminded of all the women praying on behalf of the missions and missionaries. It is good to learn what is happening in other fields and to know that you are not alone in your joys or your frustrations. It was good to visit with Apaches from the reservation where we had served previously.

Thank you all so very much for your continued prayers and support for the children and their caregivers. Thank you also for your prayers on behalf of our son, Peter. We ask that you continue to pray for him, his wife, and the children in our care in India.

In His Name,
Susan Krueger

HOPE FOOD CLOSET

All food donations are given to Betty N's Hope Food Closet. Please help by purchasing the designated items for the month.

Leave your purchases on the counter on the East side of the kitchen. Thank you for your outreach to the community.

September: Canned vegetables and fruit

MARRIAGE RETREAT

The WELS Commission on Adult Discipleship is offering a marriage enrichment and get-away weekend on November 14-16 at the Sonoma Valley Double Tree Hotel. The retreat will begin Friday evening. After breakfast on Saturday there is a workshop and then a mid-afternoon break to enjoy

the area. Saturday night is a date night. Sunday morning will have another workshop and worship. Registration includes lodging for two nights, breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday and lunch on Saturday. You can register or get more information from www.welsmarriageretreat.org.

WELS HYMNAL SUPPLEMENT

The WELS Commission on Worship has introduced a new publication called *Christian Worship Supplement* as an addition to our hymnal. Our synod's worship leaders think that the "life" of a hymnal today lasts about 30 years. Since *Christian Worship* made its debut in 1993, it is probably halfway through its life already. To add some variety at this halfway point, *Christian Worship Supplement* will provide two new orders of service and two "Gathering Rites" focusing on the blessing of Baptism and the Word of God. The supplement also includes 24 new Psalm arrangements and 88 new hymns and canticles. The church council has decided to purchase the electronic edition rather than the printed pew edition to be more economical. The electronic edition will allow us to print all resources from the supplement into our worship folder. Not everything in the supplement is new. Some older hymns that did not find their way into *Christian Worship* are in the supplement. Other hymns are new ones which clearly proclaim the truths of God's Word. We pray that *Christian Worship Supplement* will deepen our worship life.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Thank you so much for the care packages you sent to the Marines here in Fallujah, Iraq. It's wonderful knowing folks back home care about us and take the time out of their busy day to send us things to make our time in western Iraq a little more enjoyable. The Marines are working long hours but conditions are rapidly improving out here. Attacks are down, al-Qaeda is on the run, construction is occurring all around us, citizens are peacefully working out their differences, and the economy is beginning to grow. The road remains long and hard but the Iraqis in al-Anbar Province certainly are demonstrating the capacity and willingness to build an effective, transparent government and to foster development of small and medium size businesses.

We should be home soon.
Aaron S.
Major, USMC



Allow me to apologize for the lack of recent "thank you" e-mails. I have just returned to Iraq from R&R in the States. It was great to be able to spend time with my wife and family. It was a much needed break to help me recharge for the second half of the deployment.

When I returned there were several boxes waiting for me. Apparently the guys didn't want to open my mail without me, so it was almost like Christmas to be opening up so many boxes at once.

Thank you all so much for what you have done for us out here. We are truly blessed to have thoughtful people such as you who not only send us goods from America, but continue to pray for our safety and well-being.

With much gratitude,
Seth D USMC



Thanks to everyone who participated in the Ice Cream Social to raise money for the Sanctuary blinds. A good time was had by all who attended as they enjoyed making their own sundaes and Christian Fellowship.

Judy C.

LWMS FALL RALLY

It is not too early to set aside the 18th of October to attend the Fall Rally of the LWMS which will be held at St. Mark in Citrus Heights.

This promises to be a meeting that will long be remembered since we have a speaker that is an authority on the Muslim religion.

More information to follow in September bulletins and the October Star.

TOGETHER



News from the WELS

August 2008
Website: www.wels.net

A WEEK OF MEETINGS, A LIFETIME OF IMPRESSIONS- 8-04-08

From the office of President Mark Schroeder

Last week I was privileged to attend two unique WELS gatherings—the World Missions Conference at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, held every four years, and the National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Arts in St. Peter, Minnesota, held every three years. Both left me with lasting impressions.

First, the **Missions Conference**. The missionaries gathered there personified the work that we are doing together as a synod to take the gospel to the world. As I looked at each of them, I thought of them as extensions of all of us. They are serving on behalf of each of us, going to places where we cannot go and reaching people that we will never meet. I was also impressed with the commitment and dedication of these ambassadors for Christ. Serving across borders and oceans is never easy. Adjusting to a new culture is a challenge. Learning a new language is a task that takes commitment and time. Living away from extended families and friends is truly a sacrifice. But in spite of all of those difficulties and challenges, I heard no complaints. I saw no one feeling sorry for what he was missing or giving up. I saw a room full of men who had answered God's call, and who had responded joyfully and eagerly, "Here am I; send me!"

Another impression was the wide variety of places in which the gospel is being proclaimed on our behalf. Whether it was out in the bush in Malawi, the tropical forests of Indonesia, a high rise in crowded Hong Kong, or a dusty village in Mexico, the gospel is being proclaimed to people of all languages, tribes, and nations. The places and languages may vary, but the gospel of Jesus Christ works to bring people around the world into the family of God and joins them to the body of Christ.

Keep these missionaries and their families in your prayers. As they work on our behalf, remember that

God's Word, no matter where it is preached and no matter what language conveys it, will not return to Him empty.

Then it was on to the **Worship Conference**, where more than a thousand WELS worship leaders and musicians had gathered—more than any previous conference. This was the first worship conference I had attended, and I was not disappointed. I came away marveling at the many gifts and talents that God has given to people in our synod. Those gifts were on display in the inspiring worship services and in the many workshops that were held. Some of us are not very emotional people by nature, but there were times when the beauty of the gospel-centered music and messages left very few dry eyes. Particularly moving was the hymn festival featuring a select choir of WELS high school students from across the country.

This conference was significant because it stressed the importance and centrality of worship in our lives as God's people. And as the case was made for the importance of worship, the point was made again and again that confessional Lutheran worship can and should be done with a commitment to excellence and with an appreciation for the heritage of liturgical worship that has been passed down to us by Christians throughout the ages. What was most striking was the reminder that truly Lutheran worship is not centered on us, but on Christ and the proclamation of the timeless gospel.

These two conferences—centering on very different subjects—reminded me of how thankful we can be for the blessings that God continues to give us in WELS.

Serving in Christ,
Mark Schroeder

Also in this Issue...

Another step forward for Mexican church

The Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Church of Mexico, one of WELS' sister synods, held its 17th annual convention—an indicator the church body continues to grow and mature.

MLC chapel project costs rise

The final bids for the chapel project at Martin Luther College (MLC), New Ulm, Minn., have been received from the contractors. Due to a steep increase in the cost of steel and oil, the final bids in the \$7.5 million project came in at approximately \$800,000 over the

amount previously approved by the Synodical Council.

District president recovering from heart attack

Rev. Charles Degner, the newly elected president of the Minnesota District, is recovering at home from a heart attack he suffered July 24.

Seminars encourage community involvement

In an effort to help congregations get involved in their communities and gain more opportunities to spread the gospel, WELS Commission on Evangelism is coordinating "Connecting to Communities".

Congregations, individuals respond to Year of Jubilee

More than \$600,000 has been raised for the synod's special "Year of Jubilee" offering since it was launched during the district conventions in June. Authorized by the 2007 synod convention, the thank offering is designed to reduce the synod's \$22.4 million debt—and free up as much as \$2.7 million each year for other ministry.

For more on these stories, please check the website at: www.WELS.net.

MUELLER AND KRUSCHEL RETURN TO THEIR ROOTS 8-18-08

From the office of President Mark Schroeder

This month we are bidding farewell to two faithful servants here at the Synod Administration Building. Wayne Mueller, the synod's first vice president, has accepted a call to serve as pastor at St. John, Jefferson, Wisconsin. Peter Kruschel, administrator of the Board for Ministerial Education, will be leaving to begin his duties as a mission counselor in the Arizona-California and Pacific Northwest Districts.

Both men have served their synod faithfully in their calls. After leaving the parish ministry, Wayne Mueller served as a professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Following that he was the first administrator of the Board for Parish Services. Most recently, he has served as the synod's first vice president (also called the vice president for mission and ministry). By accepting the call to St. John, Pastor Mueller is returning to his roots and to what is his first love: the work of a parish pastor. Pastor Mueller's fondness for the pastoral ministry was a frequent topic of his conversations. His ability to communicate complex theological truth in clear,

understandable ways will serve his congregation well as he preaches, conducts Bible class, and instructs people new to the faith.

Peter Kruschel returns to his roots in a different way. Although he began his ministry in an established urban congregation (Grace, Milwaukee), he accepted a call to serve in a home mission setting in Orlando, Florida. There he developed a genuine love for the work of home missions. His leadership skills and passion for home missions were widely recognized, and he was called to serve as the assistant administrator of the Board for Home Missions. Now, after serving for seven years as the administrator of the Board for Ministerial Education, Pastor Kruschel is also returning to his roots in the home mission field.

The Board for Ministerial Education will be calling a new administrator at its October meeting; nominations for the position are currently being sought. The office of first vice president will remain vacant until a new vice president is elected at next summer's synod convention. In the meantime, Pastor Mueller's duties are being delegated to others.

We are thankful for the time that these two faithful servants spent serving their synod in various capacities. As they return to their ministerial roots, we are thankful that God will continue to use them to proclaim his gospel and to serve his church.

Serving in Christ,
Mark Schroeder

Also in this Issue...

Committee finishes assessing aid in Africa

After meeting with almost three-quarters of the national pastors of the Lutheran Church of Central Africa (LCCA), visiting 14 congregations in Malawi and Zambia, and talking with WELS missionaries in the region, the WELS Humanitarian Aid Committee concluded its two-week assessment of committee-funded humanitarian aid projects in Africa. Committee members were encouraged to see the impact that projects like bore holes (deep wells), literacy lessons, study centers, and home-based health care and education have had on communities.

Retreats strengthen, enrich marriages

In an effort to build up and strengthen the marriages of couples throughout WELS, the Commission on Adult Discipleship is again offering marriage

enrichment and get-away weekends throughout the United States.

Spotlight on Streams: daily devotion podcasts
Need to get your daily dose of Scripture on-the-go? Listen to daily devotion podcasts on your iPod, MP3 player, or computer. Download them on Streams.

For more on these stories, please check the website at: www.WELS.net.

THOUGHTS

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN EASTER?

Edith Burns was a wonderful Christian who lived in San Antonio, Texas. She was the patient of a doctor by the name of Will Phillips. Dr. Phillips was a gentle doctor who saw patients as people.

His favorite patient was Edith Burns. One morning he went to his office with a heavy heart and it was because of Edith Burns. When he walked into that waiting room, there sat Edith with her big black Bible in her lap earnestly talking to a young mother sitting beside her.

Edith Burns had a habit of introducing herself in this way: "Hello, my name is Edith Burns. Do you believe in Easter?" Then, she would explain the meaning of Easter. Dr. Phillips walked into that office and there he saw the head nurse, Beverly. Beverly had first met Edith when she was taking her blood pressure. Edith began by saying, "My name is Edith Burns. Do you believe in Easter?"

Beverly said, "Why yes I do." Edith said, "Well, what do you believe about Easter?" Beverly said, "Well, it's all about egg hunts, going to church, and dressing up."

Edith kept pressing her about the real meaning of Easter, and finally led her to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Dr. Phillips said, "Beverly, don't call Edith into the office quite yet. I believe there is another delivery taking place in the waiting room.

After being called back in the doctor's office, Edith sat down and when she took a look at the doctor she said, "Dr. Will, why are you so sad? Are you reading your Bible? Are you praying?"

Dr. Phillips said gently, "Edith, I'm the doctor and you're the patient."

With a heavy heart he said, "Your lab report came back and it says you have cancer, and Edith, you're not going to live very long."

Edith said, "Why, Will Phillips, shame on you. Why are you so sad? Do you think God makes mistakes? You have just told me I'm going to see my precious Lord Jesus, my husband, and my friends. You have just told me that I am going to celebrate Easter forever, and here you are having difficulty giving me my ticket!"

Dr. Phillips thought to himself, "What a magnificent woman this Edith Burns is!"

Edith continued coming to Dr. Phillips. Christmas came and the office was closed through January 3rd. On the day the office opened, Edith did not show up. Later that afternoon, Edith called Dr. Phillips and said she would have to be moving her story to the hospital and said, "Will, I'm very near home, so would you make sure that they put women in here next to me in my room who need to know about Easter?"

Well, they did just that and women began to come in and share that room with Edith. Many women were saved. Everybody on that floor from staff to patients were so excited about Edith, that they started calling her Edith Easter; that is everyone except Phyllis Cross, the head nurse.

Phyllis made it plain that she wanted nothing to do with Edith because she was a "religious nut". She had been a nurse in an army hospital. She had seen it all and heard it all. She was the original G.I. Jane. She had been married three times, she was hard, cold, and did everything by the book.

One morning the two nurses who were to attend to Edith were sick. Edith had the flu and Phyllis Cross had to go in and give her a shot. When she walked in, Edith had a big smile on her face and said, "Phyllis, God loves you and I love you, and I have been praying for you."

Phyllis Cross said, "Well, you can quit praying for me, it won't work. I'm not interested." Edith said, "Well, I will pray and I have asked God not to let me go home until you come into the family."

Phyllis Cross said, "Then you will never die because that will never happen," and curtly walked out of the room.

Every day Phyllis Cross would walk into the room and Edith would say, "God loves you Phyllis and I love you, and I'm praying for you." One day Phyllis Cross said she was literally drawn to Edith's room like a magnet would draw iron. She sat down on the bed and Edith said, "I'm so glad you have come, because God told me that today is your special day."

Phyllis Cross said, "Edith, you have asked everybody here the question, 'Do you believe in Easter?' but you have never asked me." Edith said, "Phyllis, I wanted to many times, but God told me to wait until you asked, and now that you have asked..."

Edith Burns took her Bible and shared with Phyllis Cross the Easter Story of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Edith said, "Phyllis, do you believe in Easter? Do you believe that Jesus Christ is alive and that He wants to live in your heart?" Phyllis Cross said, "Oh I want to believe that with all of my heart, and I do want Jesus in my life."

Right there, Phyllis Cross prayed to Jesus Christ. For the first time Phyllis Cross did not walk out of a hospital room, she was carried out on the wings of angels.

Two days later, Phyllis Cross came in and Edith said, "Do you know what day it is?" Phyllis Cross said, "Why Edith, it's Good Friday." Edith said, "Oh, no, for you every day is Easter. Happy Easter Phyllis!"

Two days later, on Easter Sunday, Phyllis Cross came into work, did some of her duties and then went down to the flower shop and got some Easter lilies because she wanted to go up to see Edith and give her some Easter lilies and wish her a Happy Easter. When she walked into Edith's room, Edith was in bed. That big black Bible was on her lap. Her hands were in that Bible. There was a sweet smile on her face.

When Phyllis Cross went to pick up Edith's hand, she realized Edith was dead.

Her left hand was on John 14:2 "In my Father's house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."

Her right hand was on Revelation 21:4, " And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Phyllis Cross took one look at that dead body, and then lifted her face toward heaven, and with tears streaming down here cheeks, said, "Happy Easter, Edith - Happy Easter!"

Phyllis Cross left Edith's body, walked out of the room, and over to a table where two student nurses were sitting. She said, "My name is Phyllis Cross. Do you believe in Easter?"

Ways You Can Help Hope Lutheran School



Box Tops for Education

Once again we are collecting Box Tops for Education in the school office and fellowship hall. Through this program the school receives \$.10 or more per Box Top real money. Please look carefully through your cupboards. They're on more products than you would think. For a full list of products go to <http://www.boxtops4education.com/AboutBoxTops/Products.aspx>

GoodSearch and GoodShop

New this year, earn money for school by searching and shopping on the internet. Please set your internet homepage to:

<http://www.goodsearch.com/?charityid=881075>

Then for each web search you do you will earn a penny for our school. Sure a penny doesn't sound like a lot, but if we can all do it those pennies really add up. Some schools are making thousands of dollars. Also if you shop on the internet at stores like amazon.com, overstock.com, eBay, target.com, etc. you can get the same great prices and give a small percentage by going through GoodShop. Please see Mr. Leifer if you have any questions regarding these.



Raley's/Bel-Air/Nob Hill Q card

Please continue to use your Q card when you're grocery shopping at one of the above stores. It is free for you, and our school receives around \$1,000 per year from this great service. If you need to get setup with a card, please see Mr. Leifer.



Target Take Charge of Education

This program is very similar to the Q card, except that you need to apply for Target's REDCARD credit or debit card. Then select our school, and buy all your favorite things at Target. Please see Mr. Leifer for a handout with more information.



Used Ink Cartridges/Cell Phones

Hope School participates in Recycle Rewards where you can give us your used ink cartridges and cell phones. Then we ship them in for free and they write a check to the school. Don't throw it in the trash, earn money for school!



Spread the Word

Please talk to your family, friends, and co-workers about our school. Your verbal praise of our school to others means more to us than any of the above fundraising methods. Most of all we ask for your prayers, that we might be able to continue to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and provide a high quality education for the children of our community. God bless you all!