

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

E VOICE

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STEWARDSHIP

JOYCE PALMER/EDITOR

Yes, it is that time of the year when we must sit down and decide how much our God means to us – recognizing that all we have is a gift from God and what we do with it is an expression of our faith in God. Yes, that means all this “stuff” that we possess is the result of God’s love for us.

This “stuff” we possess can be tangible (a dollar bill) or intangible (our faith). Our freedom (which we all treasure) I believe is both tangible and intangible because it requires our tax dollars and the dedication of our military and government officials to keep our freedom intact. Our freedom to worship and share in fellowship in our church and homes are not only gifts from God but also from those of us who enjoy it and share this faith.

A true steward is one who cares for that which belongs to another. Our freedom is not our own, it comes from God. What a joy to have the gift of freedom. What a privilege to live a life in which we care for that freedom through caring for others. Let this sentence be the backbone for our decision to give our share to promote the foundation of our faith.

With the approaching Holiday Season let us remember those who are in the Armed Services, both here and abroad. Minimize their loneliness by reassuring each of them that they will be missed on the “homefront”.



CHURCH CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday Worship at 9 a.m. (Traditional) and 11 a.m. (Joy and Grace) with Sunday School at 10:15 a.m.

Finance Meeting	Nov. 3	6:30 p.m.
Outreach Meeting	Nov. 4	7 p.m.
Game Night	Nov. 6	6:30 p.m.
Book Study: <i>The Screwtape Letters</i>	Nov. 11	7 p.m.
	Nov. 13	10 a.m.
Education Meeting	Nov. 9	6:30 p.m.
Church Council Meeting	Nov. 14	12:15 p.m.
Future/Property Meeting	Nov. 22	7 p.m.
Thanksgiving Day Worship	Nov. 14	6 p.m.

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

This past week found me, The Editor, suffering from a tooth/gum infection. Oh my, was that painful and being a generally healthy person, oh how I could relate to people with health issues. This month I am going to “generalize” our prayers for those in need. My prayer list will include a few words about each prayer need so you can differentiate to our God the needs of each precious soul that God loves.

DWIGHT DILLON : has recently been undergoing tests for a “possible mass in his lung”. He has suffered from a chronic lung disease for countless years. His family is very appreciative of the quality of care he is receiving and feels blessed to have this care available to him. Keep him in prayer for continued good care and minimal distress.

LEILA BUDNOVICH: is undergoing more chemotherapy. Keep her side-effects at a minimum, Lord, so she too can enjoy her days and the upcoming Holiday Season so she too can enjoy Thanksgiving with her son and family coming from Austin and Lubbock.

MAUREEN MAKER: whose weakening condition prompts need for concern and prayer.

“JAKE” JACOBS: he needs our prayers as he undergoes more tests. He is scheduled to begin radiation soon.

Your Church Family Focus

MARTINA JACKSON

Martina was born in Freiburg, West Germany and immigrated to New York with her parents at the age of 10 months. She met her husband, Keith, during her freshman year at Boston University. They were married four years later. Keith enlisted in the Army and completed his basic training at Ft Bliss. After being stationed in El Paso for four years, Keith and Martina decided to make El Paso their permanent home. Martina began working as a staff physical therapist at Providence Memorial Hospital in May 1981 and still works there today.

Keith and Martina have two girls, Carly Rose and Lara Marie. Carly lives in Austin, Texas where she is in a Master's Program in journalism and Lara is completing her Bachelor's Degree at U of AZ in Tucson. She is an elite swimmer and is a member of the US National Team. Her goal is to compete at the Olympics in London in 2012.



Martina joined St John's Lutheran Church in February 1987. Having not grown up in a church family, Martina gradually became involved in church activities to include the choir and church council. In April 2009, a motorcycle accident took Keith's life. Martina, however, with the help of good friends and her New Hope family, is recovering from her loss and will continue to bless us at New Hope with her beautiful voice and constant service to us all. We are very blessed to have her in our family.

ACTIVITIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST AT NEW HOPE

WHAT IS ADVENT?:

The church divides the year into different seasons that emphasize the life of Christ and the life of the Church. Beginning Sunday, Nov. 28, we will enter the season called Advent, which is a 4-week period of preparation and anticipation leading to Christmas on Dec. 25 and ending with Epiphany, Jan. 6, 2011.

The focus of Advent is two-fold – 1) we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, who came into the world as both God and man so that our sins might be forgiven. 2) we anticipate the day when Jesus will return to Earth and bring an end to this world. Those will be scary days, but we can look forward to the end of the world with hope because through faith in Jesus, the end of this world will mean the beginning of a new life with Christ for Eternity.

Prepare for the birth of Christ, knowing that he was born to forgive our sins and anticipate Jesus' return to take each of us where he is for an eternity!

It can't get better than that!

GAME NIGHT AT NEW HOPE:

Mark your calendar for Nov. 6 from 6:30 – 9 p.m. in the office/classroom building. This is open to all ages. Bring your favorite game and a snack to share. What a great way to get to know your church friends better and share leisure time in a fun-for-all venue!

