

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH E VOICE

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OH, HOLY NIGHT

Yes, The Star is Brightly Shining on the Palmer House this Christmas Season. It will be a different celebration than usual. It has been close to four weeks since my husband, Ed, suffered a massive stroke. It was a devastating event for the entire family, however, for Ed (who is a believer, but not an active church attendee) the girls and myself, have banded together and call it **OUR FAITH JOURNEY**. It will take months for Ed to be rehabilitated and probably never 100% again. However, we find ourselves feeling the warmth, love and prayers coming from miles around the world where family and friends reside. It is an inspiration to him and to us to reassure him that together we will travel this road with faith and hope. We are very blessed to experience the best medical care the city has to offer not only in the doctors and nurses but all the people who contribute to his welfare in the rehab hospital!

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

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| Sunday Worship Services | 9am and 11am |
| Sunday School | 10:15am |
| Choir Practice, every Wednesday | 7pm |
| Outreach Meeting | Dec 1, 7pm |
| Budget Forum | Dec 4, 10:15am |
| Worship Meeting | Dec 4, 12:10pm |
| Advent Potluck | Dec 4, 4pm |
| Finance Meeting | Dec 6, 6:30pm |
| Budget & Council Vote | Dec 11 10:15 |
| Council Meeting | Dec 11 12:15 |
| Christmas Eve Svc. | Dec 24, 7pm |
| Christmas Day Svc. | Dec 25, 9 & 11 |
| Property Meeting | Dec 27, 7pm |

We thank all of you for your prayers and ask that you continue praying for strength and courage to endure the pain and tears that will be present during his rehabilitation.

With Love, Joyce Palmer, The Editor

NEW HOPE MEMBERS IN NEED OF PRAYERS

This is the time of year when we especially want to lift up our church family members who are serving in the Armed Forces both here and abroad. We pray for **Josh Pryor** who is serving in Afghanistan and for his wife, **Samantha** who is alone in El Paso and several more service members who are serving around the world to keep our country safe and secure.

We praise the Lord for temporary employment for **Chris Hildreth** in Louisiana until mid-December. This will enable the family to be with Angela's family in the Dallas area for the holidays. Hopefully, they will be back at New Hope in January.

We pray for those members who have lost loved ones in recent months. Christmas is a time when their presence are still remembered and missed. Comfort them and reassure them of your love, Oh Christ!

CHURCH FRIENDS & FAMILY

LEAH MOORE

Leah was born in Cedar Falls, Iowa, not far from Vicki Gannon's home town of Readlyn, Iowa. She has a younger sister, Jill, and two loving and supportive parents, Jan and Steve. Leah grew up in the ELCA and developed some lifelong friendships through church activities such as choir, Sunday School, confirmation class and youth trips. Leah enjoyed school and began studying the violin at age 5 as well as being a member of the local swim team.

Leah earned her Bachelor's Degree in Spanish and English at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. During college, Leah enjoyed a semester abroad studying in Chile and traveling in South America.

Leah moved to El Paso in August 2001 to serve as a volunteer for one year as a member of the Border Servant Corps. She decided to remain in



El Paso, working initially for the El Paso Police Department as a case manager for crime victims and then moving to UTEP in 2006 to work in her current job as an advisor for international students.

We are so blessed to have Leah as an active member of New Hope. She enjoys helping with worship duties at the 11AM service and has served as the Secretary of the Church Council since January 2011.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

OPPORTUNITY CENTER DINNER

New Hope members served dinner at The Opportunity Center for the Homeless on Saturday, November 26 to 125 homeless resident of the center. They enjoyed a meal of meat loaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, cup cakes and lemonade. Special thanks to Christine Swan for the extra special bags of blessings and turkey prayers that were distributed to the residents. They were very cleverly done and much appreciated by those we served. Thanks to our servers, Katrina and Ed Martich, Miguel and Susan Hernandez, Leah Moore and Kathy Hamblen. Thanks, also, to the cupcake makers, Leah Moore, Virginia Walker, Christine Swan and Kathy Hamblen. Thanks to those members of the congregation who made a special offering to offset the grocery expenses and for the gift of \$200 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. We were able to "stock" the pantry at the church with this special gift!

CHRISTMAS AND FUTURE EVENTS

The Christmas Eve Service will be at 7PM, on the 24th and since Christmas is on Sunday this year, we will have special Christmas Services at 9 and 11AM.

Don't forget the Book Study "Same Kind of Different as Me" on Saturday, January 14, 2012 at 9AM.

On February 8, 2012, Watoto Group will perform in the Sanctuary.

ALL THIS TOOK PLACE TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SAID THROUGH THE PROPHET: "THE VIRGIN WILL BE WITH CHILD AND WILL GIVE BIRTH TO A SON, AND THEY WILL CALL HIM IMMANUEL"—WHICH MEANS, "GOD WITH US."