



The Shepherd

Education Hour 9:30
Worship Service 10:30
Scott Hofmann, Minister
Church 864-4193
Minister 285-0408
E-mail stjames1@windstream.net
Web site: www.stjamesharper.com

Inviting all to live in God's Grace

October 2009

A publication of
St. James Lutheran Church
PO Box 191
Harper, Texas 78631
Editor: M'Liss Schneider
mmschneider@ctesc.net



Theology. "Words about God." "Faith seeking understanding." However you understand the word "theology", it represents a type of thinking that we actually do a whole lot more of than we think we do.

Obviously we are thinking theologically when we wonder about God and spirituality. But also when we wonder about the meaning of life, ask questions about the purpose of our existence, seek understanding in relating with other people, or make decisions about next steps in our lives.

If faith is life, rather than just a part of life, then spirituality is in everything we think about.

All the more reason to pay attention to what we are doing. Whether we are moving through a time where God feels near or a time where God seems distant, we are "doing theology" as we live.

I feel that there is a little "theological Einstein" in most of us. It is that part of us that wants to understand, that wants to sort out, that wants to get it right.

We don't get there but that's where we want to be. Far too many people do that alone, they keep God locked away in a private little box. They don't reach out for help or information from others. They don't share the conversation. They aren't part of a bigger community that stretches them and challenges them.

They just spend time in that quiet little workroom of their hearts or minds. Life happens and they get frustrated and they don't know where to turn.

And Jesus says, "Come to me." Come to me. Sit with me. Worship with me. Talk to me. Gather with my friends. Give me some room in your life. Listen to my words.

You that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, come to me and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Shouldn't we seek understanding? Shouldn't we want to know Jesus and want to better know ourselves? Shouldn't we want to make a difference in the world instead of just wanting to get through our day in one piece? Shouldn't we go to Jesus and let Him take our burdens, clear our minds, give us rest and give us strength? Shouldn't we?

Grace and Peace.

Scott



OCTOBER 11

ANNUAL

POLKA SERVICE

& SAUSAGE LUNCH

10:30 Polka Service

Sausage lunch by
donation

FIRST COMMUNION

First Communion class will be on November 8th after church.

A meal will be provided and the class held afterward.

The class will meet once a month on the second Sunday of the month.

Stewardship Report

August 2009 General Fund

Balance August 1		\$ 18,468.40
Income:		
Current offering	7,901.51	
Mission Support	165.00	
Education Income	49.50	
Reimbursements	17.00	
Youth Group	15.00	
Transfer In	<u>3,925.00</u>	
Total		12,073.01
Disbursements	- 6,481.42	
Transfers out	- 2,050.00	
Balance, August 31		\$ 22,009.99

Building Fund

Balance August 1		6,269.47
Income:		
Offering	300.00	
Memorials	<u>1,104.00</u>	
Total Receipts		1,404.00
Expense:		-0-
Balance August 31		\$ 7,673.47

Designated Fund Balance

Altar Guild Memorial Fund	834.70
Christmas Fund	582.30
Pension & Medical	15,589.44
Social Security	4,672.72
Lights & Speaker	14,546.07
Synod Assembly Offering	5.00

FALL FESTIVAL

Fall festival for children will be at the Baptist church on Saturday, October 31, from 4:00 to 7:00.



The Church Council held their regular monthly meeting on Sunday, September 6, 2009. Present were Lloyd Wendel, Clint Lewis, Kenny Bode, Stephanie Ertel, Kathy Harper, Bill Ransleben, Loye Lovell and Minister Hofmann.

Roy Kasper has agreed to fill the vacant seat on the Council. The Council voted unanimously to elect Roy to the Council.

The Council agreed to lower the age for First Communion to the third grade.

Thanks to a generous donation, the cost of Vacation Bible School was paid without contributions from the Harper churches.

The Junior Lutherans sponsored a buckle at the Harper Labor Day celebration.

The Alpha Program has averaged about ten people attending the first five Sundays. The Council agreed to make a donation of \$50 to the Harper Library in appreciation for allowing the Alpha program to use their meeting space.

Preparations are being made for the annual Sausage Dinner fundraiser. Harry Wilke has agreed to cook the sausage with the help of Clint, Lloyd and Kenny.

The Worship Committee determined that there is sufficient interest in a Contemporary Worship format once a month. The Contemporary format keeps all of the key elements of the Lutheran liturgy, but uses contemporary instruments and songs along with a more casual and interactive presentation.

The Youth group is considering a trip to Seguin to attend a concert at Texas Lutheran University. Youth are reminded of events at St. James by e-mail, phone calls and announcements at school.

THE WITTENBERG CASTLE CHURCH DOOR

Ninety-five theses were nailed to the door
Of the Wittenberg old castle church
So the diligent student could learn Luther's thoughts,
Could debate them or do more research.

Like a bulletin board, the door often held
Some cliched or some new information;
But this time the thoughts on the door spread worldwide—
And set off a great Reformation!

—Peggy Ferrell

Memorials



In Memory of Delton Wilson

Perry & Sharon Wanner & Family
Kenton Ahrens
Mr. & Mrs. George Holekamp
Joe & Frances Bevilacqua
Stephanie & Rick Ertel
William & Hazel Ruff

In Memory of Josephine Kroll

Helen Kirchhoff
Ruth Bode
Elizabeth & Diann Rahe
Adeline Honig
Janice Spaeth
Myrtle Feller
Myron & M'Liss Schneider
Elmer & Joyce Lange
Gary & Beth Beathard
Danny & Eileen Meyer
Perry & Sharon Wanner
Wendy & Johnny Garza
Gayle Reed
Clay Kneese
Bill & Frances Dendy
Elva Wilson
Harold & Felicia Klaerner
Royce & Faun Herbot
Trudy & Luis Segura
Robert & Patricia Chambers



Our annual Altar Guild meeting will be held Monday evening, October 12, at 6:00.

CONFIRMATION PICTURE DISPLAY

Members are invited to check out the display of the confirmation pictures in the Parish Hall.

If we do not have a picture of a class, we have listed the names instead. Hopefully we will be able to get a picture to replace the name list.

Please check for any errors—spelling—or other—and let M'Liss know. We do want to have everything correct.

We are also planning on displaying wedding pictures of members past and present. If you'd like your wedding picture displayed, give it to M'Liss and she'll copy and frame it and return the original.



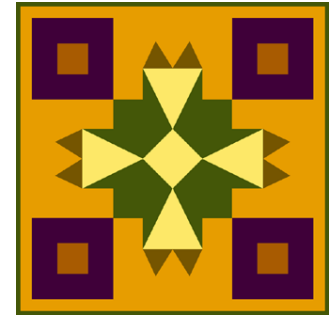
I would like to thank all my church friends for helping me celebrate my 90th birthday and for all your cards and gifts.

A special thanks to Pastor Scott, Paul Ridgell, Howard Walker and Herbert and Ernestine Feller for their special gift of music for the day. And a big thank you to my family for giving me a wonderful day.

Love in Christ to all,

Ruth Bode

Thanks to Kelton Kramer for supplying plates and paper items for our fellowship events.



Come join us on October 13th when we will be tacking quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

Bring your scissors and needles and a lunch to share.

We will be starting at 8 a.m., but come anytime.

This is a fun time for all as well as doing so much for the less fortunate in the world.

REMEMBER OUR MEMBERS IN NURSING HOMES

Connie Emberton—The Haven, Kerrville
Dorothy Metzger—Windcrest, Fbg.
Marvin Seewald—Edgewater, Kerrville
Minnie Seewald—Knopp #1 Fbg.
Elnora Strackbein—Knopp #1 Fbg.
Johanna Wendel—Knopp #1 Fbg.

MEMBERS CONFINED TO THEIR HOMES

Meta Dittmar
Elmer Lange

Lessons from the young

Never try to baptize a cat,—Laura, age 13

Never tell your little brother that you are not going to do what your mom told you to do—Hank, age 12

Never tell your mom her diet's not working—Michael age 14

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 4 9:30 Education Hour
10:30 Worship/communion
Council Meeting
- 7 6:00 Choir Practice
- 11 9:30 Education Hour
10:30 Polka Fest Worship Service
11:00 Sausage Dinner begins
- 12 6:00 Altar Guild Meeting
- 13 8:00 Quilting Party
- 18 9:30 Education Hour
10:30 Worship/communion
- 21 2:00 Sarah Circle
6:00 Choir practice
- 25 Reformation Sunday
9:30 Education Hour
10:30 Worship
- 27 November newsletter deadline

At what cost?

A woman complained to her friend, "Our church costs too much! They're always asking for money!"

"Look at it this way," her friend replied. "When my son was born many years ago, he cost us quite a bit of money. He continued to cost us money as he grew older—money for clothes, shoes, food, bicycles, doctors, college and more. But we didn't mind, because he gave us so much joy and more in return. Then in his senior year at college, he died, and since his funeral he hasn't cost us a penny. Which situation do you think I prefer?"

"As long as our church lives," she concluded, "it will cost us. When it dies from lack of support, it will no longer cost us a thing. But what will we have? I'm going to give and pray with everything I've got to keep it alive and well."

ACOLYTES



October

- 4 Cooper Boatright
- 11 Britany Sanders
- 18 Kristen Harper
- 25 Bubba Wallace



October Flower Chart

- 4 Ursula Harper
- 11 Ruth Bode
- 18 Bill & Frances Dendy
- 25 Danny & Eileen Meyer

When placing flowers on the altar, please remove them after the church service.

Newsletter on line

If you would like to receive the newsletter on line send a note to M'Liss at mmschneider@ctesc.net

p.s. (It's in color!)

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

October

Church Council: Loye Lovell & Roy Kasper

Greeters/Ushers: Craig Lange & Janice Spaeth

Lay Reader: Loye Lovell

Communion Assistant: Andrea Bode

Altar Guild: Doyleene Bode

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Kenny Bode
5 Kathryn Harper
7 Bill Long
7 Justine Schmidt
10 Judy Houston
12 Gene Dromgoole
13 Mystle Haas
15 Cory Davis
20 Doris Heurman
21 Marlene Brondo
21 Tracy Baumgart
21 Frances Dendy
25 Helen Kirchhoff
26 Mariza Betancourt
26 Johanna Wendel
27 Cooper Lewis
28 Pete Marschall
28 Stephanie Ertel
30 Barbara Kneese
31 Morris Harper
31 Sharon Wanner

Please let me know of any corrections or additions. M'Liss

"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."

—Martin Luther

Better by far you should forget and smile, than that you should remember and be sad.

—Christine Rosetti