

CALENDAR

- Sep 1 - Pastor in Blanco/Visitation
- Sep 2 - Bishop's Fall Pastors Convocation - Garden Ridge
- Sep 3 - 5th Quarter - Methodist Church Fellowship Hall 9:00 p.m.
- Sep 5 - Worship 9:00 a.m.
- Sep 9 - Blanco Ministers Alliance First Baptist Church
- Sep 9 - Pastor in Blanco/Visitation
- Sep 10 - Lunches of Love
- Sep 12 - Worship 9:00 a.m.
- Sep 12 - Louis Sparkman Memorial Service 10:30 a.m.
- Sep 12 - Confirmation, New Life, Dripping Springs 2:00 - 4:00
- Sep 13, 14, 15 - Pastor - First Call Theological Education
- Sep 16 - Pastor in Blanco/Visitation
- Sep 18 - Cross Trails Annual Fall Festival Fredericksburg Market Platz
- Sep 19 - Worship 9:00 a.m.
- Sep 19 - Council Meeting
- Sep 19 - Congregational meeting to choose Mission Statement
- Sep 22 - Pastor in Blanco/Visitation
- Sep 26 - Worship 9:00 a.m.
- Sep 29 - Pastor in Blanco/Visitation

9th & Elm Street
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www.newhopeblanco.org

New Hope Lutheran

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Pastor Rev. M. L. "Skip" Brasher

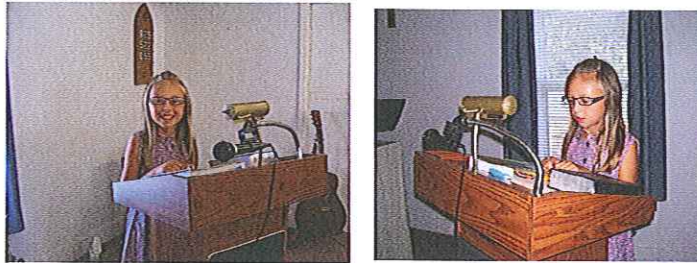
Worship Times

8:15 - 8:45 Food & Fellowship
9:00 a.m. Worship

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AWESOME YOUTH



New Hope Lutheran is so blessed to have truly awesome youth. Johanna Villarreal, a fourth grader at Blanco Elementary has joined the team of assistants that help with worship. Recently she expressed an interest in doing the "Old Testament and New Testament readings" during worship and her first turn was August 29, 2010. She did a fantastic job. Everyone is so proud of her.

Fifth Quarter - This Friday - September 3rd.

New Hope Lutheran has teamed this year with the Methodist church to provide Hamburgers with all the trimmings the first Friday night of September - Sept 3rd. If you are able to help please be at the Methodist church by 9:00 p.m. In addition if you would like to bring a dessert it would be appreciated.

Louis Sparkman Memorial Service

Louis Sparkman's memorial service will be Sunday September 12th at 10:30 a.m. Louis is survived by his wife Donnie Mae Sparkman and son and daughter-in-law Roger and Lois Sparkman. Rev. M. L. "Skip" Brasher will conduct the Memorial Service. The family would like for the congregation and friends to stay after the memorial service for a pot luck lunch. Louis's ashes will be spread on his garden in a private family ceremony later that day.

Refreshment Corner

Each Sunday Morning one of several talented cooks provides a variety of delicious breakfast treats served between 8:15 and 8:45. Everyone is welcome to come early and enjoy the food and fellowship.

Schedule

Sept 5 - Granberg
Sept 12 - Jonas
Sept 19 - Marshall
Sept 26 - Foegelle
Oct 5 - Greathouse

Birthday's/Anniversaries

Birthday's

Sept 5 - Suzanne Wertheim
Sept 19 - Pastor Skip Brasher

Pastor's Schedule

Sept 1 - Blanco/Visitation
Sept 2 - Bishops Convocation
Sept 3 - Fifth Quarter
Sept 9 - Blanco Ministers Alliance
Sept 9 - Blanco/Visitation
Sept 10 - Lunches of Love
Sept 12 - Louis Sparkman Memorial
Sept 12 - Confirmation
Sept 13, 14, 15 First Call Theological Education
Sept 16 - Blanco/Visitation
Sept 18 - Cross Trails Fall Festival
Sept 19 - Mission Statement mtg
Sept 22 - Blanco/Visitation
Sept 29 - Blanco/Visitation

Pastor's Ponderings



Perhaps you've seen it. Sometimes, eye-catching community service spots on television, like some "tasteful" commercials, resurface to once again, deliver a powerful message. The specific community service message I'm referring to is presented courtesy of the Police Department. Here's the scenario: it's night; the camera captures a side view of both the motorcycle and the squad car, as the officer pulls the rider over for a violation; the officer approaches the biker and asks if he has been drinking; when the rider turns to answer the question, we get to see a close-up of the biker's face encased in his helmet; we are only able to distinctly see his wide eyes and the top of his nose because the rest of his face is obscured by sloshing beer, with a stout, foamy head; as he tilts his head backward to keep the beer from going up his nose, the brew begins to drip from underneath his helmet.

Some folks may laugh the first time they view this community service spot, but immaturity of the viewer can't diminish the imprint of the message about "driving under-the-influence", or driving while intoxicated" [DWI].

The statistics for people killed or maimed by drunk drivers {and those who think/say they're not drunk, they're "only _____"} are staggering! In city or countryside, regardless of the age on their driver's license, each drunk driver seems to think that they are invincible; that they have "exceptional" driving skills that no one else has; they can handle their vehicle "just fine." Unfortunately, the stats for people killed or maimed by someone talking or texting on their cell phone are rapidly catching up with those

drive drunk. Each day in the newspapers and on the evening news, we learn about more innocent victims of these behaviors.

So what does all this have to do with us as consciences Christians who for the most part, live a quiet life? The truth is that we are not immune to practicing these life-threatening behaviors. We're very good at cutting ourselves some slack when we truly don't believe that what we're doing is "that dangerous" or that we're "only driving a short distance." We think we're very good at "watching out for the other guy." But what if for some unsuspecting or inexperienced driver, WE turn out to be "the other guy?"

Whenever you get behind the wheel or climb on your bike {or mount-up on horse for that matter}, take a moment to remember that the second part of Jesus great commandment is to "love your neighbor as yourself" and say a little prayer to remind yourself that you are responsible not only for yourself and those who ride with you, but for all those whose paths will cross or parallel yours as you head to your destination. Pull over safely and put on your flashers if you "just have-to" make or take a call on your cell phone. If you choose to drink, drink responsibly, or have someone who has not been drinking come and pick you up and take you home. Don't take chances with your life, your family's lives, or the lives of those who are "your neighbors." We are "called" as members of "the priesthood of all believers" to love and care for all those whom Christ reminds us are "our neighbors." Together, let's live up to our responsibilities, set the example for others, and not be afraid to discuss our concerns with those who choose to disregard our life and the lives of other people and creatures.

May God bless you on your journey as we begin an exciting new school year!

Pastor "Skip"

Important Article

Please read and save!

The article below was written by Rev. Paul Ziese, Jim Price and Bishop Ray Tiemann to dispell rumors, mis-information and falsehoods that are being circulated about the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Please read it and save a copy to your computer or personal files. If it would be useful you may certainly publish this in your congregation's newsletter. Also, if an area publication prints some misleading information about our church please submit this article (or facts from it) as a rebutal - getting the facts straight!

Rev. Paul Ziese has requested that his email be posted at the end of the article for your comments and questions

Mainline Churches Offer Freedom to Congregations

In last week's column, the Rev. Lee Herder of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Bulverde wrote about a new Lutheran group forming out of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). He said mainline churches are becoming too dictatorial and local church members are seeking more power for their congregations.

While some established denominations may appear to be domineering, I experience the ELCA to be freeing and liberating.

All assemblies (conventions) of the ELCA have lay members constituting at least 60 percent of the voting membership, evenly divided between women and men. Special procedures ensure representation by youth and persons of color or persons whose primary language is not English. While a variety of voices are heard, the loudest voice comes from the pew and not the pulpit or denominational headquarters.

ELCA congregations are free to call (hire) any ELCA pastor in good standing they desire. Recently, one local congregation spent two years considering dozens of candidates before selecting the pastor they wanted from Illinois. Bishops cannot force pastors on ELCA congregations.

ELCA congregations set the salaries for their clergy. Recommended salary minimums are established to make sure pastors can repay their educational loans. Most mainline pastors have at least seven or eight years of expensive higher education, so debts can be high.

ELCA congregations are free to give as much or as little money they desire to the denomination for the ministries of the wider church. When members learn that their contributions support missionaries, campus ministries, colleges, seminaries, new congregations, social service agencies, disaster relief, Bible camps, and ministries for the poor, congregations often voluntarily increase their gifts..

This freedom can be seen in all aspects of congregational life. Local congregations can choose their own styles of worship, educational materials, and outreach ministries to their communities. Local congregations are led by the people and the pastor they call, not the denominational hierarchy.

This freedom experienced by ELCA congregations comes from the freedom announced by God in the Holy Bible. Christ came to die and be raised from the dead so that all people might be free from whatever binds them.

This Word of God is the norm for all of life for these Lutherans. The Bible is the final authority.

Yet Lutherans do not agree on every detail of biblical interpretation. The writers of the Christian scriptures do not agree on everything either. Diversity among Lutheran Christians reflects the diversity in the Bible itself. The issue is not biblical authority; the issue is biblical interpretation.

Knowing their salvation is by the grace of God received through faith, Lutherans are able to work together with other Christians. To cite one example here in San Antonio, Lutherans, Methodists, and Presbyterians are exploring how the three groups might work together to strengthen the ministry of declining congregations in changing urban neighborhoods.

Confident in their relationship to God, ELCA Christians are free to seek greater understanding with other religious groups. Through organizations such as the Greater San Antonio Community of Congregations, Lutherans and other mainline Christians can establish relationships with Muslims, Jews, and others. In a time of war and growing religious intolerance, such interfaith conversation is essential to help create peace.

But all is not easy or entertaining for mainline Christians. Proclaiming justice to the poor, the care of God's creation, and peace among all people is not always popular. God's will can be difficult to accept by liberals, conservatives, humanists, and persons of faith.

Yet God's will is to unite all into God's love.

Churches are always open to some criticism. But the good news of Jesus proclaimed in ELCA and other mainline churches provides power and freedom in a world of powerlessness and oppression.

Rev. Paul Ziese

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Sunday School

Students will begin in the sanctuary for the start of our worship service then leave for the Sunday School room. After the lesson the students will return to the Sanctuary for Holy Communion with their parents.

Sept 5 - Cross reminds us to follow Jesus
Sept 12 - Lost Coin
Sept 19 - God gives us gifts and talents to share
Sept 26 - Rich man and Lazarus

Lunches of Love

New Hope Lutheran will continue to participate in the Lunches of Love program organized and facilitated by the ladies of the Blanco United Methodist Church. Connie Granberg and Henry Knox will prepare a delicious Roast Beef Dinner for each of the Lunch of Love participants and Pastor Skip will deliver the meals and visit with the people on Friday September 10th.

Lutheran Fall Festival - September 18, 2010 - 9:00 a.m. 3:30 p.m. - Market Platz - Fredericksburg

Come support Lutheran Camp Chrysalis and Ebert Ranch camp by entering a youth or adult chili team in our 23rd annual Lutheran Fall Festival. Prizes awarded for best tasting and best themed chili.

Other events that day will be a craft fair, youth games (with a bounce house and dunk tank), BBQ meal catered by Bill Miller's, and a live auction **featuring an opening weekend deer hunt at Ebert Ranch.**

Don't forget to bring your family!! This event will run from 9-3. For more information contact the camp office at 830-257-6340. To sign up a chili team call Patsy Brehmer at 830-755-8226 ext 10.

Garden of Plenty

New Hope Lutheran members Becky Greathouse and Helen Knoll started removing some of the plants from the garden that had finished producing. We have one eggplant, two pepper and one tomato plant that we are continuing to water as they are still producing. The congregation is thrilled that we were able to raise the amount of vegetables that we did and were able to share the bounty with Blanco Good Samaritan Center throughout the summer.

Becky Greathouse and Pete Foegelle are discussing the viability of attempting a fall garden. They will keep you posted.

For more info on how you can help, contact Becky 833-0366 or Pete 833-9910



All Faith's Medical Equipment Ministry

Medical Equipment Ministry: During the more than 20 years that All Faiths Chapel occupied the location where New Hope meets today, its members created and maintained a ministry that provides equipment to local residents who have special medical needs. The storage building on the property houses wheelchairs, walkers, powered hospital beds, braces of many different types, crutches, breathing assistance equipment, and assorted other items. These are available on a no-charge basis with a check-out list. New Hope has committed itself to continuing this ministry in conjunction with the people who founded All Faiths. If you have a need, call either **Connie Granberg: 833-4423**, or **Alan Cooper: 833-4301**.

