



# The Hope Reporter

Hope Lutheran Church (321) 242-1610 [vierawest.org](http://vierawest.org)

*Sunday Worship 8 AM & 10:30 AM Christian Education 9:15 A.M.*

A Monthly Newsletter

December 2009

A Hymn on the Nativity of My Savior by Ben Jonson (1572-1637)

I sing the birth was born tonight,  
The Author both of life and light;  
The angels so did sound it,  
And like the ravished shepherds said,  
Who saw the light, and were afraid,  
Yet searched, and true they found it.

The Son of God, the eternal King,  
That did us all salvation bring,  
And freed the soul from danger;  
He whom the whole world could not take,  
The Word, which heaven and earth did make,  
Was now laid in a manger.

The Father's wisdom willed it so,  
The Son's obedience knew no "No,"  
Both wills were in one stature;  
And as that wisdom had decreed,  
The Word was now made Flesh indeed,  
And took on Him our nature.

What comfort by Him do we win?  
Who made Himself the Prince of sin,  
To make us heirs of glory?  
To see this Babe, all innocence,  
A Martyr born in our defense,  
Can man forget this story?

**Ben Jonson is one of my favorite poets (especially his poem "On My First Sonne"), so I hope you enjoy this piece he wrote!**

**Praise is a simple gift, yet most profound. This busy month consider giving gifts that don't come with big bills but rather come with a true thanks for the wonderful relationship.**

**The greatest gift I have is that of God's love and it is a gift we give and receive every day. Warmest blessings on your Advent & Christmas!**

**In Christ, Pastor Moreno**

# Christmas



## HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Dec. 2 @ 7 PM Lessons and Carols @ Hope

Dec. 9 @ 7 PM Children's Christmas Program @ Hope

Dec. 16 @ 6 PM Advent Fellowship @ The Morenos

Dec. 24 @ 7 PM Christmas Eve @ Hope

## Ladies of Hope: Christmas tea

Hope will be hosting a Christmas Tea on Sunday, December 13 at 4 PM. This Christmas Tea will include music of the season, an Advent devotional, wonderful desserts, and warm Christian fellowship. There will be no cost for this event; a free will offering will be taken to help a local family in need this holiday season. Come and join us for a wonderful time of fellowship during this hectic holiday season – and bring a friend! Sign-up is most appreciated as seating is limited. Please add your name to the list of ladies coming to the Tea to assure your seat. We hope to see you (and your guests) there!



## Special Holiday Services

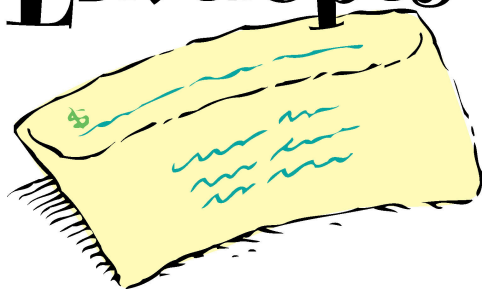
**Dec. 2 @ 7 PM Lessons and Carols @ Hope** - This service includes beloved Christmas Carols interspersed with the Christmas narrative in the Gospels! This service will have plenty of singing for the congregation and selections by the Hope Choir.

**Dec. 9 @ 6 PM Children's Christmas Program @ Hope** - This year's program is based on the great hymn "Savior of the Nations, Come," which unpacks the miracle of the two natures of Christ (human and divine). The simple truth that God is man is both a profound mystery and a simple confession.

**Dec. 16 @ 6 PM Advent Fellowship @ The Moreno's Home** - This is one of the most special events at Hope! We enjoy a wonderful dinner fellowship with a brief devotional. This is intended for the whole family, so please sign up in the narthex!

**Dec. 24 @ 7 PM Christmas Eve @ Hope** - This powerful service points us directly to the father's gift of love - His Son, Our Savior Jesus Christ! This service includes the lighting of the Christ Candle!

## Offering Envelopes



### Offering Envelopes

The 2010 offering envelopes are here and are available to be picked up at church. You'll notice the envelopes have "Hope Lutheran" printed on the front. Please make sure to pick them up and to use them so that the church can correctly credit you for tax purposes. If you want offering envelopes and were not assigned any, please sign up in the narthex.

### Altar Flowers

Starting in January, we are doing something a bit different with the altar flowers. You are still invited to sign up on the flower chart and sponsor the flowers (\$25 for both arrangements) in honor of a birthday, anniversary, etc. But if a date goes "unsponsored" we will use artificial flowers that Sunday. Special flower sponsor envelopes can be found at the welcome center.

# DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

|              | <b>Reader</b> | <b>Greeter</b> | <b>Sunday School (9:15)</b> |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| DEC. 6 8 AM  | L. McLaughlin | The Kerleys    | R. Moreno & M. Lawrence     |
| 10:30        | D. Jones      | The Thompsons  |                             |
| DEC. 13 8 AM | J. Eckman     | The Keatings   | No Sunday School            |
| 10:30        | J. Sass       | The Doerrs     |                             |
| DEC. 20 8 AM | A. Cowart     | The Havens     | R. Meranda & S. Montague    |
| 10:30        | J. Snyder     | The Jones      |                             |
| DEC. 27 8 AM | R. Moreno     | The Cowarts    | A. Cowart & J. Decker       |
| 10:30        | M. Thompson   | The Deckers    |                             |

## Laura McLeran Gearing up to Serve as a Missionary



We are excited to share the news that Laura McLeran (daughter of David & Tammy) has been chosen to serve on a missionary team in Hong Kong this summer. We'll certainly keep her in our prayers as she continues her schooling at the University of Florida and prepares to minister in a children's school environment as she shares the Gospel. We'll continue to share updates and ways in which Hope and our members can support her on this mission!

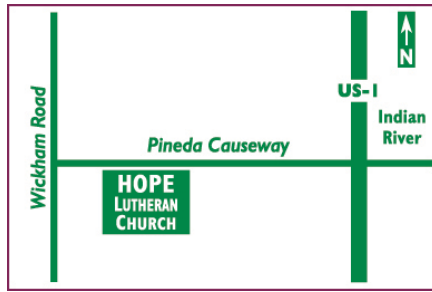
## Angel Tree Gifts

This month you will notice a Christmas Tree with various local "angels" to adopt. On the back of the angels are the items they are requesting and you are encouraged to get what you can and bring it back to church by Dec. 20 so that they can be delivered before Christmas. You may also choose to adopt a "Samaritan's Purse Angel" to help a child in an impoverished area of the world. Thank you for your support and generosity!



## Congregational Potluck & 2010 Plan on Ministry Dec. 13

Are you curious about all the great stuff we have planned for 2010?? Then come out and hear about it as well as help focus our church and ministry! Let your voice be heard... we'll have a great potluck served during the Plan of Ministry presentation. It starts promptly at 9:20 and ends at 10:15. We hope to see you there!



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Sunday Worship 8 AM & 10:30 AM Christian Education 9:15

## Important Dates: A First Look at December 2009



Dec. 2 7 PM Lessons & Carols  
Dec. 9 7 PM Children's Program  
Dec. 13 Congregational Meeting  
Dec. 16 Advent Home Fellowship  
Dec. 20 Angel Tree Gifts DUE  
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Worship

# December Calendar

| Sunday  | Monday                         | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday                                | Friday   | Saturday   |
|---|--------------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|
|   |                                | <b>1</b><br>9 AM Water Song Bible Study<br>5:30 PM AA<br>7 PM Cub Scouts  | <b>2</b><br>10 AM & 7:30 PM AA Meeting<br>7 PM Advent Lessons and Carols        | <b>3</b><br>9 AM MOPS Melbourne         | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b><br>7 AM Rummage Sale at FVLC                          |
| <b>6</b><br>Worship 8 & 10:30<br>Ch. Ed 9:15 AM<br>Choir 5 PM<br>AA 7 PM                      | <b>7</b><br>7 PM Hope Council  | <b>8</b><br>5:30 PM AA<br>7 PM Cub Scouts                                 | <b>9</b><br>10 AM & 7:30 PM AA Meeting<br>7 PM Children's Christmas Program     | <b>10</b><br>Pastor Moreno Navy Drill   | <b>11</b><br>9:30 AM Card Making<br>2:30 PM COC Williams | <b>12</b><br>Pastor Moreno Navy Drill                          |
| <b>13</b><br>Worship 8 & 10:30<br>Potluck 9:15 AM<br>Tea 4 PM<br>Youth Night 6 PM<br>AA 7 PM  | <b>14</b><br>7 PM FVLC Council | <b>15</b><br>2:30 PM COC Suntime<br>5:30 PM AA<br>7 PM Cub Scouts         | <b>16</b><br>10 AM & 7:30 PM AA Meeting<br>6 PM Advent Fellowship Moreno's Home | <b>17</b><br>2:30 COC Quest             | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b><br>9 AM Men's Bible Breakfast at Grecian Garden Cafe |
| <b>20</b><br>Worship 8 & 10:30<br>Ch. Ed 9:15 AM<br>Choir 5 PM<br>Youth Night 6 PM<br>AA 7 PM | <b>21</b>                      | <b>22</b><br>9 AM Water Song Bible Study<br>5:30 PM AA<br>7 PM Cub Scouts | <b>23</b><br>10 AM & 7:30 PM AA Meeting   | <b>24</b><br>7 PM Christmas Eve Worship | <b>25</b><br>CHRISTMAS DAY<br>10 AM Worship at FVLC      | <b>26</b>  |
| <b>27</b><br>Worship 8 & 10:30<br>Ch. Ed 9:15 AM<br>Choir 5 PM<br>AA 7 PM                     | <b>28</b>                      | <b>29</b><br>5:30 PM AA<br>7 PM Cub Scouts                                | <b>30</b><br>10 AM & 7:30 PM AA Meeting   | <b>31</b>                               |  |  |

## **Elementary, Junior & Senior Youth Ministry**

We offer three Sunday morning youth ministry opportunities, all at 9:15 AM. Please join us and have a great time growing in the faith!



**Elementary Youth** (K through 4th grade) Bible Study- Led by rotation of volunteer mothers in the congregation

**Junior Youth** (5th - 8th grade) Bible Study- Led by Scott Minster

**Senior Youth** (9th - 12th grade) Bible Study- Led by Tracey McLaughlin

### **December Anniversaries**

Dec. 15, 2002 Stanleys  
Dec. 16, 1995 Morrisons  
Dec. 28, 1985 Kerleys

### **December Birthdays**

1 Chris Morrison  
4 Tracy Thompson  
6 Erlindas Nienass  
7 Adam Meranda  
15 Tracey McLaughlin  
15 Marilyn Stanley  
23 James Stanley  
23 Frederika Jones  
26 Linda McKee  
28 Roxanne Kerley  
29 Eric Havens  
30 Kyle Burrier  
31 Olivia Thompson

## **Youth Party & Calendar**

This month we have a number of events for our youth:

Dec. 2 & 16 Junior Youth 6:30 PM at FVLC

Dec. 13 & 20 Senior Youth 6 PM at FVLC

Christmas parties are being finalized; please watch for more info!

## **Ministry at Water Song**

Pastor Moreno has been conducting Bible studies at Water Song since early spring, and now he has begun a worship service there also! Right now there are two Bible studies a month (Tuesdays at 9 AM) and one service per month. Stay tuned for ways that you can perhaps get involved!

## **Altar Guild & Usher Schedule**

We are filling out a schedule for worship leaders, in particular ushers and altar guild. Please sign up in the narthex if you'd be willing to help! Eric Havens will be setting up the ushers and Kathleen Allison will be setting up the altar guild.

## **Christmas Poinsettias**

If you'd like to adopt a poinsettia this Christmas season in honor of a loved one, or a birthday, anniversary, etc. you can do so for \$5. You are welcomed to take your poinsettia after the Christmas Eve service.