



# 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

May 2009

## The Dangerous Life of a Pastor (and of Christians)

I bet most of you think life as a pastor is easy: They work one day a week (completely untrue!), get to lecture people regularly (somewhat true) and get to wear snazzy black clericals (definitely true). Well, life is not always so easy! Being a pastor is fraught with peril, take the following story:

It was the first time I had preached at my home congregation. It gets a little blurred but I remember I had a twenty page sermon manuscript that I preached in 5 minutes. I must have assumed they had never been to church before and would never be there again, so I gave them EVERYTHING. It was epic and they were left dazed and confused. I wasn't much better off!

In between services I got to head over to the local Lutheran nursing home to preach a mini version of my epic sermon. I got it down to 3 minutes and was shaking hands of the residents as they left the service. Now please understand that I was wearing my white alb with the rope around my waist. Let me tell you: Ropes around the waist and wheelchairs DO NOT go together.

One resident wheeled off in such a hurry that my rope got caught in her wheels! I had two choices: Run alongside her or get dragged down the hallway at three miles per hour. It was a beautiful sight to behold, me pleading with a woman hard of hearing and in an apparent hurry. I think she heard me but needed to exact revenge.

So as you can plainly see, pastors do not have it easy. But before you think I am trying to win sympathy, let me share a passage with you: **But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9**

The truth of the matter is that although I am called to be a pastor, you are called to be in the priesthood of all believers! That means that your life is in danger also because living in the Gospel and sharing the Gospel is never without risk. Sure, maybe you won't get caught in a nursing home accident but you will be challenged in life with unexpected twists and turns!

You will encounter people and be tempted to give them an epic sermon: Assuming they have never heard the Gospel before or ever will again. But thanks be to God that He grants His Spirit to give us the right words as we share His love with others. I ask that you pray for those in harm's way: Your pastor, your fellow church members and yourself! Life is like a room filled with whirling wheelchairs and you are wearing really long ropes around your waist! I told you it was dangerous.

**In Christ; Pastor Moreno**



## **Small Groups Updates!**

By now you should have had your first small group meeting! I pray it has gone well for you! Listed below is an updated list of small groups:



**Small Group Leaders-  
Alan & Joan Koch  
327-3260**

**Jason & Amanda Eckman  
Eric & Wendy Havens  
Jean & Karin Parent**

**Small Group Leaders-  
Matt & Tracy Thompson  
254-5934**

**Jack & Dot Lube  
David & Tammy McLeran  
Kevin & Susan Montaque  
Eric & Amanda Wolf**

**Small Group Leader-  
Tracey McLaughlin  
266-1665**

**Dawn Abfalter, Kathy Burrier  
Dianne Eubank, Scott Minster  
Laura Monteleone, Jared Sass  
Debbie Schuh, Jenny Snyder**

**Small Group Leaders-  
James & Marylin Stanley  
255-1265**

**Robert & Debbie Keating  
Eric & Erlinda Neinass  
Pat & Linda McKee  
Dale & Chris Morrison  
Bob & Barb Starinsky**

**Small Group Leaders-  
Dakota & Michelle Lawrence  
327-3481**

**Bo & Kris Howard  
Steve & Angie Cowart  
Nelson & Theresa Serrate**

**Small Group Leader-  
Kathleen & Maureen Allison  
759-2908**

**Bob & Sabra Gill  
Harry & Anna Garton  
Larry & Roxanne Kerley  
Jan Haecker**

**Small Group Leaders-  
Mark & Raquel Moreno  
433-1690**

**Adam & Robyn Meranda  
Keith & Timi Mitnik  
Tom & Jennifer Decker  
Steve & Beth Tabor**

## **Confirmation Sunday May 10**

This month we are celebrating the confirmation of Kyle Burrier and Parker McLaughlin! They will be confirmed at the 8 AM service with a reception and potluck in between services. They will also be introduced at the late service. Please join in celebrating them as well as celebrating mothers with a brunch fellowship in between the worship services.

# MAY WORSHIP LEADERS

	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Sunday School (9:15)</b>
May 3 8 AM	L. McLaughlin	The Tabors	A. Cowart & M. Lawrence
10:30	J. Sass	The Stanleys	
May 10 8 AM	S. Minster	The Morrisons	R. Meranda & R. Moreno
10:30	A. Meranda	The McLerans	
May 17 8 AM	J. Eckman	The Lawrences	A. Eckman & J. Decker
10:30	E. Havens	The Allisons	
May 24 8 AM	A. Cowart	The Gills	K. Howard & R. Moreno
10:30	K. Burrier	The Deckers	
May 31 8 AM	D. Burrier	The Kerleys	A. Cowart & S. Montague
10:30	E. Doerr	The Havens	

## Armed Forces Sunday May 24

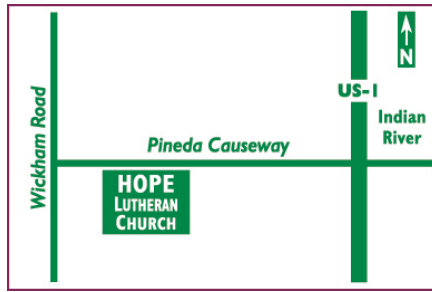
We will be recognizing all of our church members who have served in the Armed Forces at both services! If you have a family member or friend in the area that doesn't have a church, please invite them out so we can welcome and recognize them as well! We

hope to have members bring out some photos and memorabilia to share in a display! Please contact Pastor to make sure you (or your loved one) is included in the recognition.



## Family Outreach

Greetings in Christ! Well, we are under way for 2009 and have had a couple of really good discussions regarding Mission and Outreach for our congregation, and I am excited with the direction God has revealed to us. On the heels of a truly wonderful Easter Egg Hunt at Grand Haven (Thanks to all who prayed and participated), we felt that it would make sense to begin the summer months with an outreach event that focuses on our families and extended families here at Hope. Over the next couple of Sundays we will give each family a copy of the book "My First Catechism." Each family will write their family name on the inside cover of the book with the year. The mother, father, grandparent, or guardian will spend as little or as much time as allowable in the home, reading and explaining to their children and grandchildren what we believe as LCMS Lutherans. As the year progresses, Pastor Mark will be able to incorporate discussions during children's message that relates to topics within the book. At the end of the program, we will collect all the books and prepare them for a new round of families. We are hoping to accomplish a couple of things: First, we want to create a wonderful church legacy that will document our families' participation and record their names for future families to see. Second, we believe this program will give our families a practical and easy to use tool for bringing up our children "in the way they should go."



Hope Lutheran Church 2955 Pineda Causeway #122 Melbourne FL 32940

Phone (321)242-1610 Fax (321)636-2030

Website: [Vierawest.org](http://Vierawest.org) E-mail: [rock\\_moreno@yahoo.com](mailto:rock_moreno@yahoo.com)

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

## Important Dates: A First Look at May 2009



**May 9 - Confirmation Trip to the Holy Land**

**May 10- Mothers Day & Confirmation Sunday**

**May 16- Rummage Sale**

**May 23- Golf Outing**

**May 24- Armed Forces Recognition**

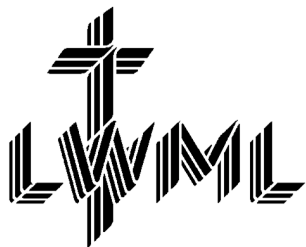
**May 25 - Memorial Day**

# May Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	MAY				1 9:30 AM Card Making	2
3 Worship 8 & 10:30 Ch. Ed. 9:15 Softball 1-3 PM Choir 5 PM Youth Night 6 PM	4 6:30 PM Cub Scouts  7 PM Hope Council	5 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7 PM Romans Bible Study 7 PM Men's Basketball @ Health First	6 7:30 PM AA meeting  Pastor Moreno in St. Louis	7 7 PM Men's Basketball @ Health First  Pastor Moreno in St. Louis	8 9:30 AM Card Making  Pastor Moreno in St. Louis	9 9 AM LWML @ Hope  Confirmation Practice & Holy Land trip
10 Worship 8 & 10:30 Ch. Ed 9:15 AM Softball 1-3 PM Choir 5 PM Youth Night 6 PM	11 9 AM Watersong Bible Study 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7 PM FVLC Council	12 2:30 Christ on Campus 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7 PM Romans Bible Study	13 2:30 Christ on Campus 6:30 PM Jr. Youth 7:30 PM AA meeting	14 2:30 Christ on Campus 7 PM Men's Basketball @ Health First	15 9:30 AM Card Making  Pastor Moreno Navy Drill	16 Youth Rummage Sale 7 AM to Noon  Pastor Moreno Navy Drill
17 Worship 8 & 10:30 Ch. Ed 9:15 AM Softball 1-3 PM Choir 5 PM Youth Night 6 PM	18 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	19 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7 PM Romans Bible Study	20 6:30 PM Jr. Youth 7:30 PM AA meeting	21 7 PM Men's Basketball @ Health First	22 9:30 AM Card Making	23 Youth Golf Fundraiser Turtle Creek
24 Worship 8 & 10:30 Ch. Ed 9:15 AM Softball 1-3 Choir 5 PM Youth Night 6 PM	25 Memorial Day  	26 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7 PM Romans Bible Study 8 PM Outreach	27 6:30 PM Jr. Youth 7:30 PM AA meeting	28 7 PM Men's Basketball @ Health First	29 9:30 AM Card Making	30/31

## LWML May 9 Meeting

Here it is May already! Can you believe it? Just two meetings left before summer break. Come and join us on Saturday, May 9th at 9 AM.



There will be a FL-GA District Retreat, September 25-27, 2009 to be held at the Sirata Beach Resort on St. Pete Beach. I have heard (from a good source) that the hotel is great. The retreat speaker is Dawn Schalow and Friday night's opening service will be on the beach. Doesn't that sound great? There is free time to spend on the beach so if you wanted to bring your family you certainly could. More information and registration forms will be available on Saturday, May 9th.

We also now have a large mite box that will be at church on the Fourth Sunday of each month. Bring your mite boxes on May 24th and put them into the large mite box. If you need a mite box, please see me and I will be happy to get you one. Look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 9th. **Joan Koch**



## Church Softball

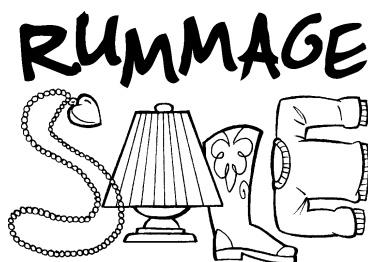
It is time to get out your glove and get ready to play! We will be playing 7 Sundays in a row; April 19th through May 31st! We play at Viera Regional Park (the softball fields after the soccer fields) Sundays from 1-3 PM. Bring the whole family; and you may want to bring drinks and snacks and some sun screen too! This is open to everyone, so invite someone!

## Flowers, Lillies and Memorials, O My!

We have been blessed to receive FREE flowers for Sunday worship for the last year and a half but now we pay \$25 per Sunday. It is still a great deal from KaBloom florist but in this economy, they simply cannot give away flowers anymore. Please prayerfully consider signing up on the flower chart to buy one arrangement for \$12 or both for \$24 in memory of a loved one, or to honor a loved one's birthday or anniversary. In addition, you can but an Easter lily for \$7 and the forms are in the narthex at church. Of course, there are always other opportunities to help the church through memorial gifts to buy needed church items (past items include the communion set, the candle lighter, the advent wreath) or contributions to the building fund for the day we get land and start our building program!

## Birthdays

5 Joan Koch  
10 Lillian Howard  
23 Mark Burrier  
24 Caleb Lawrence  
25 Theresa Serrate  
26 Matthew Lawrence  
26 Mark Moreno  
27 Jessica Thompson  
28 Kathy Burrier  
29 Joshua Havens



## Rummage Sale May 16, 7 AM to Noon

**You can help in two great ways:**

- 1) Donate items at FVLC Fellowship Hall between May 1-14**
- 2) Come out and shop on the 16th!**

**All proceeds benefit the youth group as they head out on a their mission trip!**



## It Makes Sense (Cents)

In May we'll be having a stewardship emphasis in our worship services. The goal is for each of us to be more aware of God's Word on the subject and how we fit into God's plan here at Hope Lutheran. Here are the touchstones for the services:

### I.     **GOD'S STEWARDS ARE GOD'S STEWARDS.**

God's stewards are stewards by virtue of creation and their re-creation in Holy Baptism; therefore, they belong to the Lord.

### II.    **GOD'S STEWARDS ARE MANAGERS, NOT OWNERS.**

God's stewards have been entrusted by God with life and life's resources and given the privilege of responsibly and joyfully managing them for Him.

### III.   **GOD'S STEWARDS ARE SAINTS AND SINNERS.**

God's stewards rejoice in and live out what God has declared them to be through the cross. At the same time His stewards recognize they are sinners who fight sin and its consequences each day.

### IV.    **GOD'S STEWARDS ARE LOVED AND LOVING WHO ARE ARE SERVED AND SERVING.**

God's stewards recognize that their stewardship flows out of God's act of love for them in Christ which empowers then, in turn, to love others in acts of Christ-like love. God's stewards recognize that their stewardship involves a Gospel-powered style of life which is demonstrated in servanthood within all the arenas of life.

### V.     **GOD'S STEWARDS LIVE WITH AN AWARENESS OF THE PRESENT AND FUTURE, OF TIME AND ETERNITY.**

God's stewards live intentionally in the light of God's eternal purpose while being firmly committed to His rule in the here and now.



**Golf Outing May 23 @ 8 AM**

**Turtle Creek**

**\$40 includes 18 holes, cart, and a lunch!**

**Sign up in the narthex, you can set up a foursome or we'll place you in a group!**

## **Prison Versus Housewives (A Special Mother's Day Page...)**

In prison, you get three square meals a day.

At home, you cook three square meals a day and try to get your kids to eat it.

In prison, you get an hour each day in the yard to exercise and mingle.

At home you get to clean the yard up so you can mow it so your kids can spread more toys all over it so that you can go out and clean it again because little Jr. can't sleep without his latest lego creation.

In prison, you get to watch TV, cable even.

At home, you get to listen to your children fight over the remote control and get treated to hours and hours of mindless cartoons thanks to cable.

In prison, you can read whatever you want and attend college for free.

At home, you get to read weekly readers starring Dick, Jane, and Spot and worry about how to send Jr. to college and still be able to eat for the next twenty years.

In prison, all your medical care is free.

At home, you have to pawn your mother's silver and fill out trillions of papers for insurance and hope the doctor will see you before you die.

In prison, if you have visitors, all you do is go to a room, sit, talk and then say good-bye when you are ready or your time is up. At home, you get to clean for days in advance and then cook and clean up after your guests and hope that they will one day leave.

In prison, you can spend your free time writing letters or just hang out in your own space all day.

At home, you get to clean your space and everyone else's space, too, and what the heck is free time again?

In prison, you get your own personal toilet.

At home, you have to physically hold the bathroom door shut in order to keep from having someone standing over you demanding to know how long till you're done so you can do something for them.

In prison, the prison laundry takes care of all your dirty clothes.

At home, you get to take care of them yourself, plus everybody else's, and get yelled at because somebody's favorite shirt isn't clean.

In prison, they take you everywhere you need to go. At home, you take everybody else where they need to go.

In prison, the guards transport all your personal effects for you and make sure nothing is missing.

At home, you have to lug around everybody else's stuff in your purse and then wonder who went in it and took your last dollar.

In prison, there are no screaming or whining children or spouses asking you to do something else for them, or screaming at you because you didn't. At home....stop me when I get to the downside of jail, will ya?