

February Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- February Concert
- Get Connected
- Scott Barefoot
- Are You A Runner?
- NEW Members

Inside this issue:

Camp South	2
GET CONNECTED	2
2012 Spiritual Growth	2
Youth Rally 2012	3
A Note From Branches	3
New Member Wel-	3
Scholarship Seminar	4
Our Radio Ministry	4
"Counting Souls"	4
"See The Cross"	5
Fellowship FUN-Run	5
The Joy of Giving	6

Free Will Concert by Susan Ann!

Susan Ann is a Christian singer and songwriter from New Ulm, MN. Susan Ann attended Dr. Martin Luther College (now Martin Luther College) in New Ulm, Minnesota. She taught in Lutheran elementary schools in River Falls and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, before starting sharing God's word in Christian music. She has completed five recordings of original songs and favorite hymns: most recently a hymn CD titled "Hymns from a Thankful Heart" and

a Christmas recording entitled "The Perfect Gift." Susan Ann has been a guest soloist at several synod national conventions. She has also been privileged to sing for many ladies group gatherings, church services and other church functions. Her music has been played on local Christian radio in Minnesota and in several other states and our own 90.3 WEJF in order to promote her concert with us on February 14th. Susan loves to sing about Jesus Christ and

the work He's done for all people. Her songs reflect that love. Susan Ann is grateful to have the opportunity to visit us and share her music with us.



**Susan Ann—In Concert
February 14th at 7 PM
Sweetheart Fellowship Following**

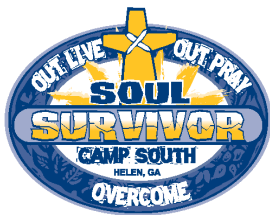
Leaving the Gay Lifestyle...

In February, Scott Barefoot, a member of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Falls Church, Virginia, will be traveling to WELS churches in Florida, and stopping at Risen Savior to discuss his struggle to overcome homosexuality and his efforts to help others that are struggling with the subject (either personally, or as a friend - family member of someone who is struggling).

Scott has written about his trials for the synod and shared his story in "My Cross to Bear" and "Desperate for God" in the WELS magazine *Forward in Christ*, January 2008 & May 2010 issues.

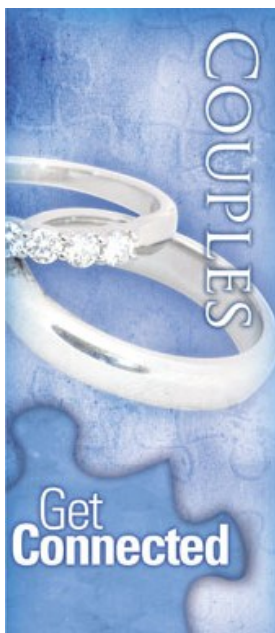
Scott will be sharing his story and message locally, in an interactive discussion-style format, on **Friday, February 10th at 7:00pm at Risen Savior, Orlando.** More information to come.





“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.”

Hebrews 6:19a



Camp South - “Share Our Unity Through Him”

Be A Survivor!

Camp South is a WELS Bible camp where youth “Share Our Unity Through Him”. At Camp South, children enjoy God’s beautiful creation, develop Christian friends, and grow in their relationship with God. Camp South is an experience you’re child will never forget! Camp South is for youth entering grades

4-8 and will be held July 9 - 13, 2012. Camp South is held at the Unicoi Lodge, located in the Appalachian foothills near beautiful Helen, Georgia.

Camp activities include: energetic Bible lessons, Survivor themed team-building challenges, campfires, swimming, engaging Bible studies, tournament style mini-golf, tubing on the Chatta-

hoochee River, environmental education and more!

Please Sign-Up in the Fellowship Hall if you are a parent and are interested in this opportunity for your children. We will be holding an exploratory meeting depending on the number of interested families.

2012 Bible Studies

Our Sunday morning Bible study offers four keys to understanding the Bible as God intends. If you imagine these 4 keys making up the four sides of a box, we want to think inside God’s box, because He is our Savior. Thinking outside God’s box on any of these keys will cause us to misunderstand what He has revealed about His will and His love for us. At worst, thinking outside His box can endanger our very faith! The four keys are: 1. *Our justification is all God’s doing.* 2. *Our faith is purely God’s gift.* 3. *We were born with original sin.* 4. *God works through His Word, not by what we see.* I’ll grant you that these keys might not jump out at you, but come to this Bible Class series! It is exciting to grow deeper in our knowledge of His love for us and His working in our hearts and lives! Bible Class begins at 8:45 a.m. with breakfast at 8:30.

Get Connected! Couples and Marriage Retreat

On March 24th we will be holding our first annual one-day “Get Connected” Couples & Marriage Retreat. This single day event, led by Pastor Raether, will be an enriching opportunity for even the most experienced couples. This is an open opportunity for you to also invite unchurched friends, neighbors, or even family members! Space will be slightly limited, so look for registration opportunities starting mid-February!

If you would like to help with “Get Connected” please talk to Nate Block, send an email to newhopeoutreachteam@gmail.com, or sign-up in the Fellowship Hall.

Hope To See You There!

Note from Branches Band

Dear New Hope,

Thank you so much for hosting Branches Band at your church for a concert and for Sunday worship. We hope to serve your congregation again in the future!

Gods Blessings to Your Ministry!

In Christ!

Andy & Rachel Braun
Branches Band

2012 International Youth Rally - Knoxville, TN

Want to have a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet teens from across the country who share your faith? This years WELS Youth Rally is IT!

Teens will have the opportunity to attend spiritual and educational workshops on postmodernism, eating disorders, going to college, being a Christian friend, and social networking. There will also be recreational workshops run by University of Tennessee rec staff: ultimate frisbee, kickball, kayaking, and more.

Worship, daily devotions, opening and closing worship, and two large-group sessions will surely feed a hungry soul!

Besides having an Olympic diver training pool, recreational fields, and music and entertainment at hand there will also be Tennessee excursion opportunities (for an extra fee): cave tours, white-water rafting, Dollywood theme park, NASCAR SpeedPark.

For more information Sign-Up in the Fellowship Hall, or contact Nate Block or Jeremy Long.

New Hope Welcomes Our NEW Members!

In January, Don Liddell and also Lisa Freeman and her daughter, Cheyanna, joined our New Hope family. May the Lord bless us together as we all grow and serve Him!

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
Jeremiah 29:11

Scholarship Seminar

During these challenging economical times parents might wonder, "How can so many families afford to send their children to New Hope Lutheran Academy?"

Nearly 50% of our current families qualify for an income based Florida Scholarship. Does your family qualify? Is God making this scholarship possible so your children can learn about Jesus and salvation everyday?

Principal Benjamin Priebe will be hosting a seminar on Thursday, March 1st at the Academy. The presentation will begin at 6:00 p.m. and should take no more than an hour. Seating is limited to 30 people so please don't hesitate. Parents can register for this free seminar at www.schoolmelbourne.com.

Our New Hope Radio Ministry

For the last 15 years we have been blessed by having the opportunity to broadcast our worship services live on WEJF, 90.3 FM, every Sunday. The cost is a meager \$35 per week. This year WEJF aired our Christmas Eve service free of charge and has also been airing announcements supporting our church and school. We will not see all the "fruits" until we are in heaven. On February 5th, we invite you to participate in a special door offering for WEJF to thank them for all they are doing for us, and to foster our continued relationship with them. WEJF is a non-profit Christian radio station. Thank you! If you have any questions about our radio broadcast please feel free to speak with Nate Block.

Counting Souls

Whenever we count up our members, we must give all glory to God alone. He gives us our faith through His Word and Sacrament. He draws people into our family of believers. And while He blesses our faithful service in His time and in His way, every blessing is by His grace. In 2011 the Lord blessed us with a increase of 28 communicants, after deaths and transfers away. We now have 262 baptized souls and 226 communicants. Also our average weekly church attendance is 20 higher in 2011 over 2010. Numbers are just numbers. But these numbers are precious, because each one represents someone who is dearly loved by Jesus. May the Lord continue to use us to bring many more to Him! -Pastor Raether



*"We will tell the
next generation the
praiseworthy deeds of
the Lord, his power,
and the wonders he
has done."*

Psalm 78:4

"See the Cross"

Seeing the cross stops us dead in our tracks. As we meditate on it, our perspectives and priorities change. We see God's love more clearly and understand our real needs. Please join us for the six weeks of Lent beginning February 22 with an Ash Wednesday Communion service. Our Lent services will be at 6:30 p.m. each week with a soup and sandwich supper at 5:30 p.m. This year again Pastor Raether will be in a preaching rotation with other WELS congregations in our area.



know you brothers and sister in Christ?

Well, here's a "quick" one! Sign-Up in the Fellowship Hall if interested or e-mail Nate Block at newhopeoutreachteam@gmail.com.

Florida Eco-Safaris Adventure Run 5K

(from the web) Get in touch with your wild side on St. Patrick's Day - Saturday, March 17, 2012 - when Brevard Neighborhood Development Coalition (BNDC) hosts the unforgettable Eco-Safari Adventure, a 5k run/walk and 10K run at Forever Florida.

Just 30 minutes from Melbourne or Orlando but a world away from the day-to-day, Forever Florida is a 4,700-acre eco-ranch and wildlife conservation area where you will experience an outstanding race that will challenge your body and your senses. Optional obstacles are sure to drive up your adrenaline! Want to take it easy? Not a problem. Walkers of all ages can meander leisurely and take in the pristine views!

A Note Of Thanks From Our Called Workers...

Thank you all very much for the support you have shown us this past Christmas season in gifts, cards, and well wishing. Your visible support is very encouraging to all of us. May God truly bless you all in the New Year.

In The Bonds Of The Great Commission,
Pastor Raether, Mr. Priebe, Mr. Weston, Ms. Nitz

Growing in the Grace and Joy of Giving

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We are at the beginning a new year - bright, fresh and filled with opportunities to grow in our faith and share the Good News with others. It is my prayer that everyone reading these words resolves to find a way to reflect God's magnificent gifts by sharing a portion of what they have been given with others. We each have different gifts, in differing proportions, and it is this diversity that enables us to serve one another as God intended. I urge you to experience the true joy that can only be found by freely giving your time, talents and treasure.

Speaking of joy, I would once again like to express my thankfulness to all who joined me in last month's "Academy Match Challenge". Together we were able to raise over \$10,000 to support our academy staff in their efforts to provide a solid Christian education to the children of our church and the local community. Well Done!

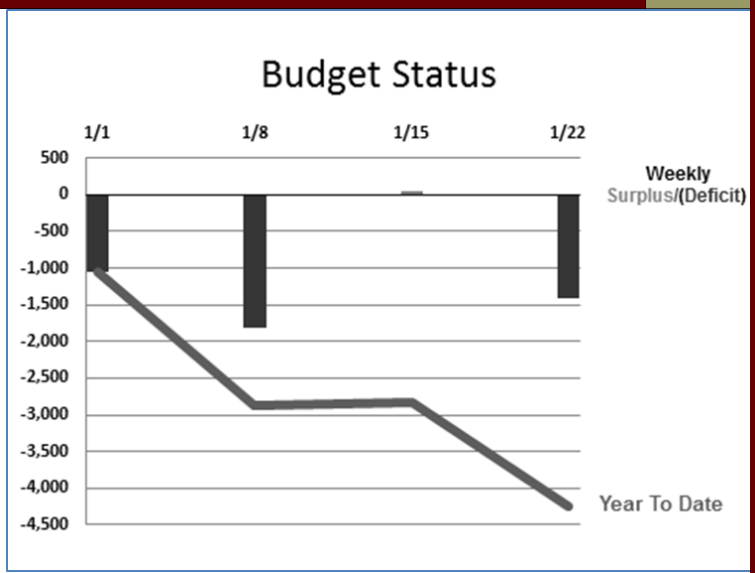
Lastly, I would like to introduce you to a new chart that I have developed to help our congregation easily visualize and understand how well we are supplying the budgetary needs of our church, called workers and mission.

The chart has two parts. First, there is a column for each week which represents how much we surpassed (or fell short) of our budgeted expenses that week.

Second, there is a year-to-date trend line that tracks the cumulative effect of our weekly surplus or shortfall.

As you can see from the current statistics, we've only met our budgeted need one week out of four. Please pray for our church and a reversal to this unsustainable trend. I am confident that He will see us through.

At your service, Jeff Hopper, Stewardship Chairman



"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 4:10