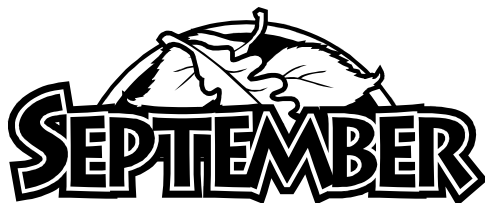


the monthly Messenger

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
302 North Market
Hoopeston, IL 60942

Growing and Living In Christ †



the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod



THE MONTHLY MESSENGER

September 2010 “Growing and Living in Christ”

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Vision Statement....

We envision Good Shepherd preaching the Gospel so that we grow and live in Christ, leading to a congregation that will witness and share the Gospel with our fellow members, our youth, and our community.

The Lutheran Hour Broadcast

The Lutheran Hour can be heard on the following stations:

Danville WDAN 1490 AM 8:00am
Watska WGFA 94.1 FM 8:00am
Danville WITY 980 AM 10:30am & 10:30pm

<http://www.lutheranhour.org>

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From the Pastor

This month, I wish to share the following article that appeared on the Higher Things web site. The author of the article is Rev. Matthew Harrison, the President – elect of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

"Dear God, I've got an empty sack..."

by Rev. Matthew Harrison

My dad loved to go to the early service—always the early service, and the earlier the better. He would have loved to have Easter sunrise service every Sunday of the year! But it was a different story for my brother and me. Church? Forget it. I'd rather sleep in since my brother and I liked to stay up as late as we possibly could on Saturday night.



Dad had the habit of saying the most un-cool things at 7:00 a.m. on a Sunday morning: "Come on boys! Up and at 'em!" Then, if we lay in the sack too long, he'd go grab a towel or wash cloth, soak it in the coldest water possible, and come and throw it on any exposed skin (usually a face, sometimes a back).

Then the routine was simple for me. Get dressed. Wolf down any available food. Hassle my little sister until she lodged a formal complaint with my parents—you know, normal stuff.

I thank God now for my dad's dogged persistence and his no-questions-asked, we're-going-to-church-buddy-so-change-your-attitude attitude. My parents gave me something very important. They taught me that Christians go to church, but it wasn't until many years later that I managed to figure out just why we go to church!

Why go to church? To learn about God. To give our time, talent and treasure back to God. To show God how we care about him. To worship God. Great answers, but they all miss the main point—Jesus.

I once read a sermon by Martin Luther, which forever changed how I look at going to church. Luther said to think about going to church

with an empty sack. What's the first thing you do in church? You confess, "I, a poor miserable sinner..." How we love to confess, "Oh Almighty God, my brother, my dad or mom, is a poor miserable sinner," or "I thank Thee, Lord, I'm not like other men" (Luke 17). But here, finally, there are no more excuses. The problem is ME. This is simply saying, "Dear God, I've got an empty sack."

Then what happens? The pastor says, "In the stead and by the command of Christ, I forgive you." It's as good as Jesus saying it himself (John 20)! And at just that moment, God throws a heap of grace, mercy, and peace into your empty sack! You do nothing; you only receive, mouth hanging open, looking down into your bag, amazed at the gift. And what do you say? "AMEN!" That is, "Yep! I got it God! It's in the bag!" And then comes more.

The lessons are read, and more grace and love and mercy from God are piled into the bag! After the gospel is read you say, "Thanks be to God! Yep! In the bag!" Hymns are sung which speak of Christ and His birth, life, death, and resurrection for you. Then the sermon is preached. The gospel of free forgiveness from Jesus is dished up and delivered to you. And the very forgiveness spoken about actually happens (Rom. 1:16)! The sermon ends with an "Amen!" And don't just let the pastor have that "Amen" at the end of the sermon. You say it with him. By doing so you say, "Yep! I believe it! Jesus is mine. It's in the bag!"

Then comes the Lord's Supper. "Take and eat..." and you respond, "Amen! Got it!" Then comes the blessing, "The Lord bless you and keep you, and make His face shine upon you...." You respond, "Amen, Amen, Amen! I got it! It's in the bag! And it's heaping full!" By the end of the service your sack is heaped full of God's forgiveness and grace and mercy. All your sins are forgiven. Do you see how foolish it is to whine, "I don't get anything out of it" even when the sermon doesn't strike home?

Then, bag full, you merrily head out of church. First thing you know, your dad sins against you by thinking you did something when you didn't; or your sister proceeds to generally make life miserable for you; or that kid at school whom you really actually hate makes you seethe with anger. What do you do? You pull that full bag off your shoulder and smack 'em right over the head with it? –No!

You pull that sack of forgiveness off your back and say, “Christ has given me this sack of forgiveness and love and mercy. Here, I want to give you some forgiveness.”

And so it goes through the week. Mercy and love for the teacher who drives you insane. Forgiveness and prayers for the bully who makes your life miserable. Grace to “put the best meaning” on things, instead of gossiping. Strength of faith and hope and love, to help someone in time of need. But you fail time and again, and scoop up that grace and mercy for yourself, until you’re back at church, back on your knees, confessing something true: “Dear God, I’ve got an empty sack.”

Luther got it exactly right. Jesus told a parable about a Pharisee and a tax collector. The Pharisee went to church and prayed loudly, “Dear God, I thank you that I’m not like other men. I pray. I fast. I give a tenth of all I get.” He was saying, “I’ve got a full sack, God. I filled it. And I’m proud of it.”

He did not realize that our relationship with God is not primarily about what we do. It’s about what God does for us in Christ. If we won’t have an empty sack, we’ll have no God to fill it for us. But standing far off from the Pharisee, there was another man. He beat his chest, knowing full well that he was a sinner. He prayed, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner.”

“I tell you the truth,” Jesus said, “that man went away justified— forgiven.”

This Sunday, every time you say “Amen” in the liturgy, or after the sermon, or at the Lord’s Supper, take note of what just got dropped in your sack! It’s Jesus and His forgiveness, grace, and mercy.

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To learn more about the Lutheran youth organization Higher Things, surf the web to <http://www.higherthings.org>

Rev. James T. Batchelor

In Our Prayers We Ask God:

to continue to watch over those dealing with various health problems;

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Gayla Comstock | Jr. Reifsteck | Lynn Lohnes |
| Verla Crabtree | Don Ervin | Helen Kaufmann |
| Rev. Paul Lohnes | Don Buhrmester | Jeanette Beckley |

Kathy Mcqueen (sister of Paul Teegarden)
James Jimenez (brother-in-law of Ryan Lane)
Nick Nelson (son of Art Nelson)
Rich Comstock (husband of Gayla Comstock)
Vanda Graves (sister of Gayla Comstock)
Miracle Lane (cousin of Norman Absher)
Al Karl (brother-in-law of Norman Absher)
Haskell Absher (father of Norman Absher)
Ann Aldag (niece of Phyllis Sturm)
Susan Owens (friend of Jamie Denham)
Kathryn Sanders (mother of Mary Conolly)
Wendy Robertson (daughter of Gayla Comstock)
Jase and Travis Houser (sons of Connie Butzow)
Pastor Charles Johnson (Camp Director of Camp Cilca)
Joanne Graham (mother of Jamie Denham)

to keep those serving in the military safe, especially;

Jay Kindle
Christopher Weinard
Wayne Baker Jr.
Joseph Vicari
Megan Welch (daughter of Eileen Pollard)
Brock Zimmerman (friend of members)
Chris Archer (husband of granddaughter of Rev. Paul & Lynn Lohnes)
Mike Schuler (grandson of Paul & Ann Teegarden)
and to be with their families.

to guide Good Shepherd and Pastor Batchelor.

We pray for those who mourn the death of **Dorothy Jackson**
(mother-in-law of Joanne Jackson).

September



Birthdays:

Bill McNeely and Sunni Misner -1st
Thad O'Neal -2nd
Josephine Arnholt and Joan Motley -3rd
Greg Lane -8th
Marie Kietzmann and Noah Burke -10th
Jennette Lane -11th
Samantha Tyler -13th
Ren Dazey -15th
Zaelynn Zamora and Antonio Barreto -17th
Kevin Tyler II -18th
Alan Smith -19th
Landon Johnson and Ann Teegarden -20th
Paige Jones -21st
Megan Deck -22nd
Laurie Lingley and Melia McCord -23rd
Siera Foster and Chad Dodson -24th
Fred Hubner -26th
Tanja Weinard -29th

Anniversaries:

John & Sunni Misner -1st
Scott & Charlotte Strawser -6th
Mike & Jan Kirsch -10th
John & Jeanette Beckley -15th
Dave & Charlene Ervin -19th
Billy & Jessica Burke -27th

A private version of Divine Service is available for those who cannot make it on Sunday Morning. Please contact Pastor Batchelor to make arrangements for this service.

100th BIRTHDAY

Josephine Arnholt's family invite all her friends to an Open House from **2:00 - 4:00 P.M. on Sunday, September 5, 2010** at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church fellowship hall in celebration of Josephine's 100th Birthday. The actual day of her birthday is September 3rd.

LWML FALL RALLY

All ladies are invited to the Danville Zone LWML Rally to be held at St. John's Lutheran Church, Buckley, IL on **Thursday, September 16, 2010**. Registration and coffee hour will be from 9:00 to 9:45 A.M. in the church basement. The registration and luncheon fee is \$10.00, payable at the door. Opening devotions will begin at 10:00 A.M. The Rally speaker will be Rev. Andris Kraulins from Riga, Latvia. Rev. Joel Cluver, LWML CID President Shelley Moeller and district LWML counselor Rev. Jason Rensner will also be speaking. Come to hear more about the National LWML Convention to be held in Peoria, IL on June 23-26, 2011.

There will be an ingathering to benefit the OSF Children's Hospital in Peoria, IL. See the bulletin board for the shopping list. The items that are brought in will be stored and taken to the 2011 National LWML Convention in Peoria.

If you would like to attend, please contact Marlene Schultz by Wednesday, September 1, 2010.

Bible Study Retreat at Camp CILCA

Scripture provides guidance on how God says one can survive life's disasters. Dr. Reed Lessing, professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will conduct an informative study on the book of Jeremiah at Camp CILCA on **Sat., Sept. 11, from 9-3:30**. Lunch is included. To register send your name and \$16 by Sept. 6 to Norbert Soltwedel, 9414 E. 1800th Ave., Shumway, IL 62461. The retreat is sponsored by the LLL; however, it is always interesting to meet other Christians.

St. John Lutheran Parent-Teacher Fellowship
2010 Fundraising Auction
Friday, October 15, 2010 5:30pm-10:00pm
2302 West John Street Champaign, IL

Place your reservations on line at www.stjohnsls.com by September 15, 2010. The menu consists of Garden Salad, Choice of Roast Beef or Apple Amaretto Chicken, Entrée will be served with Mixed Vegetables, Roasted Rosemary Red Skinned Potatoes, Fresh Roll with Butter, Coffee and/or Tea. Soda and Cocktails will be available at a cash bar.

CHICKEN NOODLE SUPPER

The date of the Chicken Noodle Supper has been set for **Friday, October 22, 2010**. The prices will remain the same as last year: \$8.00 for Adults, \$4.00 for children 12 and under, children below 3 years old eat free.

We will need the help of everyone who is able to work. We will be making noodles on Saturdays, September 18th and October 2nd, starting at 8:30 A.M. Last year we finished up about 1:00 P.M. If we have enough help, we can do that again this year. Bring your rolling pin, knife, cutting board and willingness to help. We will be cooking chickens and picking it off the bones on Wednesday, October 20th. Watch for the sign-up sheets for donations and workers!

Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention

What a joy and privilege for the Central Illinois District to host the **34th Biennial Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention, June 23-26, 2011**. Thousands of people from all over the United States will come to Peoria under the theme *Being with Jesus—Living on the Edge*. Find out more exciting details at your Fall Zone Rally regarding the 2011 national convention! Join in the excitement by filling out the Call for Workers form at www.lwmlcid.org. We need hundreds of willing workers, including men. You can be greeters at the airport and hotels, VIP drivers, helpers at information booths, and ushers. Workers, serving eight hours or more at the convention, will receive a specific coupon to qualify them for a discounted registration. Do not send in the registration form in the Quarterly, until you receive *this* coupon later! Come, and join your sisters and brothers in Christ by "*Being with Jesus—Living on the Edge*." And they realized they had been with Jesus. "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." Acts 4:13b & 20 (NKJV)



Walk for Life

He Knows My Name

September 25, 2010
Lincoln Park
Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.
Walk begins at 9:00 a.m.
Rain or Shine
Pre-register today!!



Help your church make the Top 10 List!

“ Women’s Care Clinic, our local pro-life ministry, is hosting its annual Walk for Life fund raiser **Saturday, September 25th!** Join us as we work together to protect unborn children and their mothers from the trauma of abortion! It’s time to proclaim that **“He Knows My Name”**, and He knows the name of every mommy, daddy and baby who is served by Women's Care Clinic. It’s time we LIVE out our faith so people can see it! Walk with us for LIFE!!”

Women's Care Clinic Vital Statistics

- 12 babies saved in 2006...before ultrasound services were added
751 total client appointments - Our old stat system did not calculate distinct clients - 1 Bridges monthly group of 25 clients
- 25 babies saved in 2007...1st year of ultrasound
900 total client appointments - 3 Bridges groups started in June; each with 12 clients
- 42 babies saved in 2008
1364 client appts - 302 distinct clients - 272 pregnancy tests - 144 positive tests - 121 ultrasounds - 3 Bridges groups; each with 12 clients
- 36 babies saved in 2009 (some hard losses last year)
2114 client appts - 420 distinct clients - 380 pregnancy tests - 228 positive tests - 197 ultrasounds - Added a 4th Bridges group of 12 clients in August
- 27 babies saved in 2010 so far...on track with our highest year (2008)
1667 client appts - 382 distinct clients - 325 pregnancy tests - 185 positive tests - 166 ultrasounds
July/August – 3 volunteers completed training in ultrasound

Great Stuff Found on the Web

It is very sad, but the United States is one of the few places in the world that does not threaten Christians with death. To learn more about the suffering of our brothers and sisters around the world check out *The Voice of the Martyrs* at: <http://www.persecution.com/>

The Voice of the Martyrs is a non-profit, inter-denominational Christian organization dedicated to assisting the persecuted church worldwide. VOM was founded in 1967 by Pastor Richard Wurmbrand, who was imprisoned 14 years in Communist Romania for his faith in Christ. His wife, Sabina, was imprisoned for three years. In the 1960s, Richard, Sabina, and their son, Mihai, were ransomed out of Romania and came to the United States. Through their travels, the Wurmbrands spread the message of the atrocities that Christians face in restricted nations, while establishing a network of offices dedicated to assisting the persecuted church.

Good Shepherd's Revenue and Expenses

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| January 2010 | |
| Revenue: | \$5,235.15 |
| <u>Expenditures:</u> | <u>\$7,146.72</u> |
| | - \$1,911.57 |

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| February 2010 | |
| Revenue: | \$7,358.50 |
| <u>Expenditures:</u> | <u>\$7,427.81</u> |
| | - \$69.31 |

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| March 2010 | |
| Revenue: | \$5,584.35 |
| <u>Expenditures:</u> | <u>\$7,119.18</u> |
| | - \$1,534.83 |

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| April 2010 | |
| Revenue: | \$5,546.51 |
| <u>Expenditures:</u> | <u>\$7,036.26</u> |
| | - \$1,489.75 |

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| May 2010 | |
| Revenue: | \$6,035.75 |
| <u>Expenditures:</u> | <u>\$6,590.60</u> |
| | - \$554.85 |

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| June 2010 | |
| Revenue: | \$5,721.00 |
| <u>Expenditures:</u> | <u>\$6,753.51</u> |
| | - \$1,032.51 |

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| July 2010 | |
| Revenue: | \$5,144.00 |
| <u>Expenditures:</u> | <u>\$6,867.41</u> |
| | - \$1,723.41 |

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

The annual Lutheran World Relief Ingathering will be held on October 29 and 30, 2010. All projects are needed, but because of the Earth Quakes in Haiti and Chile, there is a desperate need for health kits, school kits, and quilts.

A Health Kit should include: One hand towel, one wash cloth (dark color recommended), one sturdy comb (wide tooth preferred), one bath size bar (4-5 oz.) of soap (any brand, in its original wrapping), one adult size toothbrush in its original packaging, one metal nail file or nail clippers with file attached, six Band-Aids (preferably 1/2" to 3/4"). **DO NOT INCLUDE TOOTH PASTE!** (If you are bringing individual items, we do not need Band-Aids. We have some on hand at the church.)

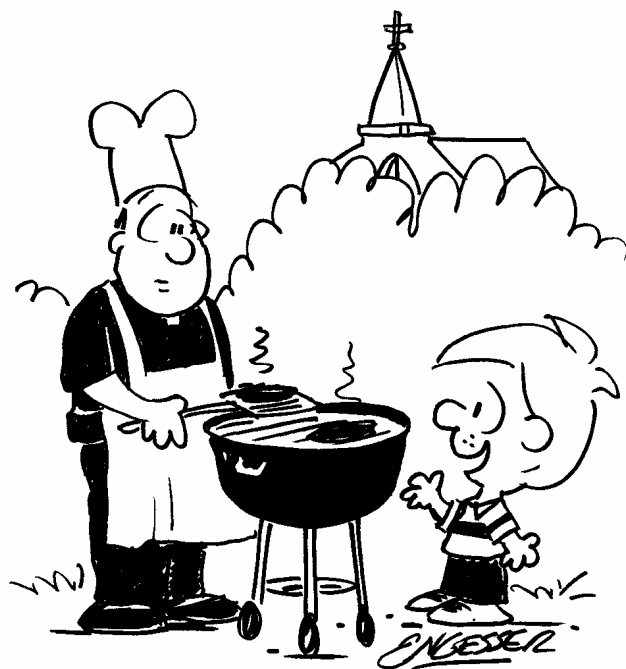
Quilt tops and bottoms can be made from whole pieces of fabric, or in any type of patchwork pattern of smaller pieces. The following items can be used for assembling quilts: sheets, new or gently used; blankets; draperies; upholstery samples; table cloths; or bed spreads. Recommended fabrics include cotton, cotton blends, twill, corduroy, polyester knits, and drapery fabric (no fiberglass). Please ensure that there are no stains or holes in the materials. LWR cannot use fabric prints with religious symbols, US flags or military insignia. Finished quilts should measure approximately 60" X 80". Quilts are much preferred over store purchased blankets.

The following items are used in each LAYETTE: Two shirts or Onesies, two gowns or sleepers (with or without feet), two receiving blankets, four cloth diapers (flat fold preferred), one sweater or sweatshirt, two washcloths (full size preferred), one bath-size (4-5 oz.) of gentle soap, such as ivory, in its original wrapping, two diaper pins. It is suggested to use sizes up to 24 months. Also consider varying the sizes of clothing so it will continue to be useful as the baby grows. Gently used clean items can be substituted for new ones. Diapers can be made from new or gently used cotton flannel. Sweaters can be knitted, crocheted, made from fleece or heavy double knit.

SCHOOL KITS: (This is the time to buy school supplies while they are on sale.) Padded or spiral notebooks of ruled paper approximately 8 " X 10 1/2 " totaling 150-200 sheets (if using 70-sheet notebooks, please include three) (do not include loose-leaf paper), one blunt

scissors, one 30 centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other, one pencil sharpener, six new, unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, one eraser approximately 2 1/2" long, 12 sheets of construction paper in assorted colors, one box of 24 crayons, one sturdy cloth bag approximately 12" X 14" with cloth handles.

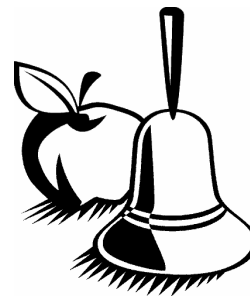
SOAP: new wrapped bar soap, Bath size (4-5 oz.) is so needed. If you wish to donate any of these items, please place them in the box in the narthex marked "Lutheran World Relief." The items that were donated in the spring will be taken to this ingathering.



"You're grillin', pastor. That must make you a friar!"

The cartoon was taken from newsletternewsletter.com

Bless the students



Dear Lord Jesus, bless the children and youth of this nation, returning to their schools and colleges. May your Holy Spirit enlighten their minds, purify their vision and strengthen their wills. Protect them as they learn in the classroom and participate in activities outside it. May they learn to follow in your steps, just as you grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. Amen.

The beginnings of Sunday school

Englishman Robert Raikes, born in 1735, was a Christian layman who was pained to see unschooled children working six days a week in factories or mines. On Sundays, children roamed the streets, often getting into trouble. Most didn't know how to read or write and knew nothing about Christ or the church.

As Raikes labored to reform England's prison system, he noticed that many children were imprisoned, stirring him to action on their behalf. He arranged for halls and homes to be used for educational purposes on Sundays, the one day children didn't have to work. He found volunteers to teach reading, writing and math, as well as the Bible and Christian beliefs.

The first Sunday school class was held in July 1780. Amazingly, by 1788 some 250,000 children were attending such schools. This occurred despite some people's opposition to the education of lower-class children.

Countless boys and girls have attended Sunday school classes since then, thanks to Raikes, who brought Christ's light and love to children around the world.

Everything on this page was taken from newsletternewsletter.com

Labor Day thoughts

On this Labor Day weekend, it's hard not to think about how unemployment has affected many people in our communities and churches. Congregations with unemployed members have a calling to help however they can.

Some churches provide job fairs; some have regular meetings to help unemployed people cope. Some churches provide food and other necessities. Those who can should hire an unemployed brother or sister in Christ at a fair wage. The entire congregation should pray regularly for unemployed people.

Christians who've lost their jobs should know they still have work to do. The church always needs volunteers, and unemployed people can serve the Lord and help the church's mission.

Charles Wesley made every Christian's "work" clear in his hymn "A Charge to Keep I Have":

A charge to keep I have, a God to glorify,
A never-dying soul to save and fit it for the sky,
To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill;
O may it all my powers engage to do my Master's will!

An offertory prayer


Loving Creator, you have generously and graciously given us blessing after blessing, gift after gift, kindness after kindness. Your steadfast love and amazing grace abound in our lives. You are awesome, and we are hum-bled and deeply grateful.

Now we give our tokens of love and appreciation to you. First, we offer our grateful hearts, minds and souls. Receive our praise and thanksgiving. We also offer the gifts of our labor, our monetary offerings, and our pledge of talent, time and service.

Help us be dedicated servants for you in our daily lives so we may be more worthy of the life you have given us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Everything on this page was taken from newsletternewsletter.com

Email Address and Webpage.....
Email: goodshepherd@goodshepherdhoopeston.org
Web Site: www.GoodShepherdHoopeston.org



Just for KIDS


GOD'S INSTRUCTION

The Bible is a guide for how we should live. In Sunday school and at home, we learn how God loves and saves us. Solve this puzzle to find Proverbs 4:13 (NIV), which tells about the importance of God's Word.

First, write the word that means the opposite of the one given. Then write the correct letters on the number-coded lines below.

young 1 2 3 death 2 6 7 8 cold 4 1 5 come 9 1
 sweet 10 1 11 12 can't 13 14 15 no 16 8 10 later 15 1 17

"H 4 1 2 3 1 15 5 1
6 15 10 5 12 11 13 5 6 1 15 ' 3 1
15 1 5 2 8 5 6 5 9 1 ;
9 11 14 12 3 6 5 17 8 2 2 ' 7 1 12
6 5 6 10 16 1 11 12 2 6 7 8 "



Answers: old, life, hot, go, sour, can, yes, now
"Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life."
(Proverbs 4:13, NIV)

**October Newsletter items will be due
Wednesday, September 22, 2010.**
Please turn your items into Kimberly Bergstedt by emailing church at: goodshepherd@goodshepherdhoopeston.org or by calling the church office at 283-7966.