



NEW HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2012

Helping people find, experience, and share the love of Christ.

Christmas Ends So Quickly

by Richard Reich

Did you ever notice how quickly Christmas ends? We prepare for Christmas with 4 weeks of Advent services. And we plan those service long before that. Even the stores celebrate Christmas starting in September. Well, OK...maybe they are not celebrating...but they ARE preparing!

We buy presents and decorate our house and property. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas for weeks before Christmas day. Preparing for Christmas is a major part of our lives and our environment.

But I'm always amazed that the day after Christmas the words "Merry Christmas" turn into "Happy New Year". Christmas, an event that dominated our lives, seems to evaporate into nothingness.

But for Christians, Christmas never ends. And our preparations never end. Without Christmas, our Savior's death and resurrection would not be possible. And without our Lord's sacrifice, our futures would be bleak. And so we observe Lent...a time of preparation of our hearts and minds. We remember in John 3:16 that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

It's a great feeling to be loved so much! But we don't decorate our homes for Lent. We prepare OURSELVES...by spending the 40 days of Lent remembering the sacrifice of our Lord in His death. Let the preparations continue! And on Easter we will celebrate again!



NEW HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Join us for
Sunday Worship
at 9:30AM &
11:00AM for Bible Study



WORRY NOT Jon Hapke

During stressful times, when unpaid taxes still lie on the table, the children argue upstairs, and images of war flash across the news, hope and patience seem hard to come by. Worry seems inevitable.

But how much can we really gain from our furrowed brow? Consider this quote: "Worry is like a good rocking chair. It gives you something to do, but it doesn't get you anywhere." Another way to think of the futility of worry is to imagine someone carrying around a suitcase of old junk that he doesn't use. If he complained to you about his aching back, wouldn't you suggest he drop the suitcase?

But we tend to do the same thing, feeling troubled, tired, and pulled off-balance. We hang on to our burden because (we think) something bad might happen if we let it go. But the answer is so easy. If we simply let go—if we trust in the Lord—we suddenly feel lighter.

We hear this same message from the Lord's own mouth when He says to His disciples, "Do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them.... Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these" (Luke 12:22-24).

If we try to take the Lord's command seriously, and avoid the habit of worrying, we can make a distinct difference in our inner nature. "They are not content with their lot, do not trust in God but in themselves, and have solely worldly and earthly things in view, not heavenly ones. These people are ruled completely by anxiety for the future...."

The passage goes on to describe, on the other hand, the kind of people who trust in the Lord: "Those who trust in the Lord are altogether different...in that they are not anxious, let alone worried, when they give thought to the morrow... They know that for those who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ all things are moving toward an everlasting state of happiness...."

New Hope Contacts

Interim Pastor: Herb Harfst

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Chrissy Campbell

Assistant Directors:
Pam Adams & Darlene DiNardo

Church Council

President: Richard Reich

Vice President: Bill Dunham

Financials: Mark Grenda

Director of Open Arms: Chrissy Campbell

Open Arms Liaison: Jen Winter

Worship Ministry: Jon Hapke

Building & Property: Kent Winter

Visitor Welcome: Pam Kemp

Public Relations: Linda Gherardi

Happy Birthday

- 2/1 Lindsey Bowers
- 2/4 Ryan Rich
- 2/7 Linda Gherardi
- 2/10 Thales Barros
- 2/12 Christine Vitale
- 2/24 Terri Miller

You say... God says...

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YOU SAY:	GOD SAYS:	BIBLE VERSES
"It's Impossible"	"All things are possible"	Luke 18:27
"I'm too tired"	"I will give you rest"	Matthew 11:28-30
"Nobody really loves me"	"I love you"	John 3:16 & John 3:34
"I can't go on"	"My grace is sufficient"	II Cor 12:9 & Psalm 91:15
I can't figure things out"	"I will direct your steps"	Proverbs 3:5-6
"I can't do it"	"You can do all things"	Philippians 4:13
"I'm not able"	"I am able"	II Corinthians 9:8
"It's not worth it"	"It will be worth it"	Romans 8:28
"I can't forgive myself"	"I forgive you"	I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1
"I'm afraid"	"I have not given you a spirit of fear"	II Timothy 1:7
"I'm always worried and frustrated"	"Cast all your cares on ME"	I Peter 5:7
"I'm not smart enough"	"I give you wisdom"	I Corinthians 1:30
"I feel all alone"	"I will never leave you nor forsake you"	Hebrews 13:5
"I can't manage"	"I will supply all your needs"	Philippians 4:19



LEARN TO STAY
Jen Winter

Have you ever failed a friend? Walked away during some of their darkest days? Didn't understand their choices, couldn't endorse their actions. Struggled with the consequences of what they wanted to do, and so you left. You didn't actually go anywhere physically, but you withdrew your availability and openness. You tucked your heart into a safe, little box and walked away from the situation.

Or did you stick by their side as an encouraging presence and practical helper?

When a church doesn't quite fit your desires, you long for a "happier" place. When a friend is going through a bad time because of choices you can't endorse, you tend to withdraw. When God does things you can't understand, you yearn to flee to a more comfortable place. Sometimes it seems easier and less painful to just leave. Why not learn to stay?

Stay through conflict.

Stay through struggles.

Stay through suffering.

Stay through discomfort.

Stay through misunderstanding.

Mary Magdalene is a beautiful example of a constant heart. Because of her great love for Jesus, she stayed.

She stayed after He set her free.

She stayed as He traveled.

She stayed through His torture.

She stayed at the cross.

She stayed at His burial.

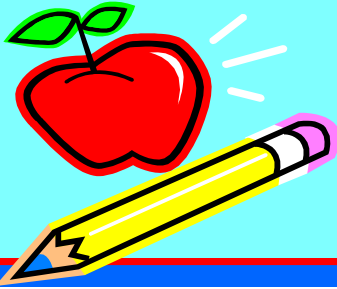
She stayed to pass on the news of His resurrection.

Mary Magdalene is a picture of steadfast faithfulness. But sometimes we have trouble staying.

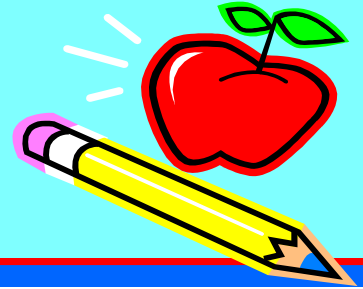
Sometimes it's not easy to stay when conflict, disagreements or differences get in the way. Sometimes you want to leave. Today, I pray that you find a longing to love people unconditionally—a grace beyond your own strength—a strength from the One who never leaves you.

"May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you." Psalm 33:22





From the Director Chrissy Campbell



OH, BABY! Open Arms is happy to announce the opening of our new infant suite! The new room will accommodate our growing number of beautiful babies! Stop by and check it out! If you have friends or family who need infant care, please send them our way!

Words of Love

By Dianne Griffith



Children need words of love to help them feel needed and secure. Long monologues or sonnets are not unnecessary. If a parent is conscious when a child is talking, then words of encouragement naturally flow. "You are such a green thumb," "I admire your hard work," "My life is so much fuller with you in it," and "You are a great kid" are some examples of heartfelt words to sneak into a child's heart. The rules are simple: when a child does something right, compliment them; when a child does something wrong, encourage them; whenever the thought of appreciation crosses the mind, verbally express it to them.

Parents Night Out

February 17th

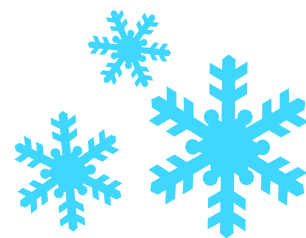
6:00pm-9:00pm

Pizza and Fun

Cost: \$15 per child or \$25 for two

Open to Open Arms & New Hope Families!!

Register at the front desk or by phone, 639-6248



Welcome to our New Children and their Families!

The Violante Family
The DeJarnette Family
The Siemionko Family

Welcome to our New Teachers!

Monique Anderson
Cindy Krause

Inclement Weather Reminder

For news and information on Open Arms weather related closings you may call the office, **804-639-6248**, check our website **openarmschesterfield.com**, our **Facebook** page or watch **Channel 8 News**.