

Fourth Quarter 2013  
Volume 3

# New Hope News

**New Hope Lutheran  
Church**  
1970 Highway 290  
McDade, TX  
(512) 273-2255

## **An LCMC Congregation**

Pastor: Henry Hemmeter

Sunday School 9:30 AM  
Sunday Service 10:30 AM

Bible Study 7:00 PM first  
Wednesday of the month

Women of the Word (WOW)  
4:00 PM first Thursday of the  
month

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## **McDade Community:**

Lutheran World Relief Quilters  
4th Friday, 9AM – 12PM  
Faith Lutheran, McDade

McDade Food Pantry  
at Faith Lutheran, McDade  
Serves community on  
Tuesdays 10AM – 12PM  
(closed 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday)

McDade Jamboree  
2nd Monday 7 PM, at New  
Hope

## **Your Church Council**

By Carl Cole

Well, New Hope Lutheran is three years old! My how we have grown, starting with a suggestion from two ladies, meeting at the McDade Historical Building, to now, where we have nearly 8 acres, two buildings, barbeque pits, storage buildings, a new pavilion and most important, no debt. All of this is because of the active participation of our members, a very high attendance at each service and, of course, regular tithing by our members. We can be very proud.

This past year, for the first time, our congregation has financially supported both the state and international organizations of the LCMC which continue to grow. This past year, Pastor Hemmeter and I attended the state LCMC gathering. I can tell you that we are blessed to have outstanding individuals head up both the state and international organizations.

The newly chartered Loblolly 4H Club is scheduled to meet here on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. They have started with 20+ young people and 8 adults involved, and with hard work and our prayers, they should continue to grow. This community very much needs this type of activity for our young people, especially since the 4H teaches moral values.

Discipleship is a Christian responsibility. Not only do we need to reach out to persons outside of

our congregation, which we have been doing with the distribution of the book "More than a Carpenter", but we need to be willing to speak up. Being a Christian means that we have accepted the Bible as God's word. All around us the true Church is under attack and many people want to make the Church politically and socially "correct". Martin Luther stood firm as did Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and now we also should stand firm.

Last, I am happy to report that after a long, drawn out effort, the Bastrop Appraisal District has finally granted us tax exempt status.

May God continue to bless each member of our Church Family, and our continued efforts to be disciples that are pleasing in His eyes.

God's Blessings,

*Carl Cole*

Council President

## Pastor's Corner

By Rev. Henry Hemmeter



### God's Promised Light for those who have walked in darkness

The Wise Men followed a star—an appropriate image for us as we embark upon our Epiphany journey in 2014. We live in a place where the skies are not cloudy all day. We often gaze at the sky of bright blue, with white clouds moving from one horizon to the other.

At Christmas, a star is thrown against the inky darkness of the night. God comes to us in this time of Epiphany – as a baby, human and fragile in a world of darkness.

We are reminded that even the inky blackness of our world and our lives

is brightened by the simple shining of a star. Because of the star that leads us to Christ, we will be brightened by the Easter sunrise.

*Holy Jesus, ev'ry day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds thy glory hide.*

## Our Church Family is Growing

By Kathi Gremillion



Since our last newsletter, our church family has grown by 5 new members!

Our newest members are Curtis and Alvina Moerbe of Warda, Leland and Glenda Gebert of Elgin, and Shannon Stubbs of Elgin.

Welcome to our new members! We are so happy to count you among our church family!

If you haven't already, please take the time to introduce yourself to our newest members and welcome them to our family.

## Men at Work Update

By Kathi Gremillion

The men continue to give of their Saturdays, scheduling a work day to accomplish countless tasks to improve, renovate, update, modernize, beautify and maintain the buildings and grounds of our church.

Work is currently underway to complete the underpinning around the bottom of the church building. Not only does this improve the beauty of our church building, but it will also prevent varmints from taking up residence under the building, and will help with temperature regulation.

The old fence along the front of the church has been removed and will be replaced. The grounds have been cleared and cleaned up in that area and wildflower seeds have been sewn. Hopefully we will see some beautiful wildflowers this spring that we can use to flower the Easter cross.



## McDade Food Pantry News

By Lola Cole

The McDade Food Pantry has been in operation for more than 8 years. I have served on the board for the past 3 years. Other members of the board are Anne Grimma, Loretta Dube, Sandy Doughty and Laurie Wolf. We continue to serve the needy in the McDade area due to the support and commitment of the people in this community who are serving God to feed the hungry.

New Hope Lutheran Church donated a new and much needed freezer in 2013, as well as making the annual monetary donation as designated by our congregation. Other large donations were made by the Post Office and McDade ISD.

This year we distributed food to a total of 351 people, averaging 8 to 10 each week. We also gave out 33 Thanksgiving food baskets and 38 Christmas food baskets to those in need.

We have only 15 volunteers to distributed food on the Tuesdays that we are open. If you have time and feel that you could help for a couple of hours on a Tuesday morning, or a Sunday to pick up donated bread, or help in any other way, just talk to any of the Board members. We could always use the help!



## Our Church Christmas, 2013

By Kathy Prochnow



**Advent Season** is the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas and is used to count down the time before the coming of Jesus into the world preparing us to celebrate his birth.

**Our Advent Wreath** was located near the altar at the front of the church displaying the candles and greenery, which symbolizes a crown to remind us of Christ the King. The lighting of the candles reminds us that God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem:

**First candle** - HOPE to remind us that our hope is in Jesus and to watch for His return.

**Second candle** – PEACE to remind us that our Lord Jesus brings peace to all who trust in Him.

**Third candle** – JOY to remind us that Christ is the true and everlasting joy.

**Fourth candle** – LOVE to remind us how Jesus, the light of the world, came to show us God's love.

**Fifth candle** – Christ Candle lit on Christmas Eve to remind us that all of God's gifts – Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love - are to be found in God's greatest gift, His Son, Jesus Christ. (In Germany the fifth candle is also known as the "Heiligabend")

**Our Chrismon Tree** was placed at the front of the church and decorated with Chrismons - Christian symbols ornaments which represent Jesus Christ life, ministry and teachings. The dictionary defines a Chrismon as "a monogram of Christ". These ornaments are white to symbolize that Jesus was pure and perfect, whereas the gold symbolizes His majesty and glory. Pastor has assisted us with adopting the following tree decorating traditions for Advent:

First Sunday in Advent the tree is bare; Second Sunday, the tree is decorated with Chrismons; Third Sunday, the lights are turned on to illuminate the tree along with the Chrismons; Fourth Sunday, displays our completely decorated and lighted tree.

Our WOW (Women of the Word) group created the handmade Chrismons, decorating our first Christmas tree, which was donated by the Miller's, in 2012.

It was equaling exciting this year to unpack the Chrismons, revealing our beautiful decorations to once again adorn our tree. Also decorating our tree was a wonderful white tree skirt embroidered with Chrismon symbols that was completed this year by Liz Nelson. We again displayed candles and gold fern leaves which were donated by the Miller's to decorate the window sills. In addition, this year the Nelson's donated greenery garlands to beautify the top of each of our church windows. A ceramic nativity scene set was placed under the tree which was donated this year by the estate of Leola Charles.

**Our Poinsettia display on the front wall** was beautiful again this year, thanks to all who purchased the flowers. This not only provided a beautiful living decoration, but it also provides jobs to those individuals caring for the plants purchased from the Down Home Ranch in Lexington.

**Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** was well attended. We listened to the message of Jesus birth and sang wonderful Christmas hymns. The effect was stunning and beautiful as the church was lit with candles during the singing of Silent Night. Further enriching the experience, our pastor sang a verse in German and Anna Gosnell sang a solo of the first verse.

The hymns, candles and beautiful decorations in our church helps us to appreciate the Advent Season in order to celebrate **Jesus birth!**

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"*  
**Isaiah 9: 6**

## History of New Hope Lutheran Church

By Leslie Adams

The following information is needed from church members to complete our church history:

1. Family History Sheets for each adult (sheets available on table at church entrance)
2. Information about family traditions, your comments about our new church or anything else you would like to add regarding your family members, previous church, favorite hymns, things you like to do, etc. Add extra pages if you need to and if husband & wife both make comment, please note who made the comments.

Contact Leslie Adams (512-253-6555/ 512-619-4802) for more information.



## Next Quarter Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays:

1-04 Garrett Schroeder  
1-05 Randon Whitsitt  
1-10 Douglas Brade  
1-26 Kim Wolf  
2-01 David Moore  
2-21 Gale Arnold  
3-15 Katherine Wolf  
3-13 Brandon Wolf  
3-17 Belinda Moore  
3-20 Karly Petticrew  
3-24 Pat Grube



### Anniversaries:

2-22 Jeff & Lorie Schroeder  
3-27 Bill & Pat Grube



***About Our Newsletter...***

Mailing Address:  
New Hope Lutheran Church  
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McDade, TX 78650

PHONE:  
(512) 273-2255

Find us on the web:  
[www.newhopemcdade.org](http://www.newhopemcdade.org)

**NEW HOPE CHURCH COUNCIL  
MEMBERS:**

Carl Cole, President  
Anne Grimma, Secretary  
Jody Petticrew, Treasurer  
Chris Wolf, Council at Large  
Susan Epperson, Council at Large  
Joseph Brade, Council at Large  
Henry Hemmeter, Pastor

This quarterly newsletter is a project of the Women of the Word (WOW) organization of New Hope Lutheran Church in McDade, TX.

If you need extra copies, have news to share or suggestions for future articles, please contact Lola Cole, Anne Grimma or Kathi Gremillion.

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**NEW HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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**ADDRESS LABEL**