

HOPE HERALD



May-June, 2018

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR OSWALD

An incredible thing has happened before my very eyes. The devil seems to have multiplied his efforts both to devalue human life and to destroy that most essential building block for society, the family. It seemed incredible just a few years ago to observe how quickly our nation's leaders and cultural play-callers had abandoned more biblically-grounded views of marriage and family. What has surprised me even more is how in just a few short years since then, the push for tolerance of wicked relationships has morphed into intolerance for those of us who hold to the traditional views. Every day, the news seems to expose the indoctrination of children and young people against historic viewpoints, individuals being not only rejected but punished for taking stances on conscience, and urges to

prohibit biblical perspectives on marriage and sexuality as “hate speech.” The rapid rate of change on these issues has dimmed my expectations for our future. Indeed, even as I write this, I realize that it is not just the change in perspective upon the issues, but the changes in how the agendas are advanced. As Christians and those who hold traditional views are increasingly bullied and punitively driven from the public square, the distance toward becoming a fascist country continues to shrink. We should expect in the future that our church will be publicly demonized, will face loss of tax exemption and other traditional societal supports, and will have to deal with legal challenges that will sap our resources, energies, and motivation. “Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.” (I John 3:13)

Lutherans have historically remained somewhat aloof from public issues in this country. This quietness stemmed from our clear understanding of what is most important – the Gospel. In spite of what happens around us, irrespective of the winds of favorability shown by Caesar or the currents of popular culture, the church exists primarily to declare the message of salvation from sin and from this sinful world through the gift of God’s Son: He died for our sins and was raised from the dead to guarantee our future eternal life. Our church’s priority of making first things first is right on target.

At the same time, our church has held a clear and biblical doctrine about public life which it has not always reinforced in its interaction with the world. The Lutheran Doctrine of the two kingdoms gets it right! Look for Hope Lutheran Church, Twin Lakes, to talk about this more in the next couple of years. The two kingdoms doctrine recognizes that God restrains sin by two avenues. In the sphere of the temporal realm, it is through earthly authorities who are charged by Him to govern according to His Laws. In the sphere of the eternal realm, He changes hearts and lives inwardly by the power of the Gospel. Unlike the political engagement done by some of our brothers and sisters in other Christian churches, we recognize that

civil society is to be governed by Law, not Gospel. On the other hand, unlike the progressive political movement, we recognize that transformation and utopian visions of the future belong to God working through the Gospel, not by governments or societies or laws. We have a most needed perspective!

Lutherans in America have not blessed our society as much as we might have with stronger public testimony to these truths. One of the great things that has happened recently to correct this deficiency is the establishment of the “Lutheran Center for Religious Freedom.” Dr. Greg Seltz, former speaker on the Lutheran Hour, has accepted the call to serve as the first executive director for the LCRF. You can read more about this at <https://www.lcms.org/lutheran-center-for-religious-liberty> I think this is a great development and found myself in healthy agreement with Dr. Seltz when I heard him speak last week about his mission.

Let’s take the cue from our Synod and incorporate an increased emphasis upon public theology in the identity of our congregation. This does not mean political involvement, which is the effort to achieve certain outcomes by political means; rather, it entails witnessing for the truth and advocating for biblical perspectives.

Those of you that are familiar with the history of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, know that it had its origins among Lutherans who faced government oppression for their faith by the Prussian Union, so they moved to America because of its religious freedoms. Now as those freedoms are endangered in this country as never before, we of all people ought to speak up. And we never forget that we can do this fearlessly because we know the promises of our Lord – that whether or not this kingdom endures, the eternal Kingdom of Christ will prevail.

Pastor Tim Oswald

WORK DAY

Spring is finally here and it's time to get our beautiful church grounds and building clean and ready for our summer activities. Everyone is invited to participate in a Work Day on **Saturday, May 12**. The work will begin at approximately 9:00 AM, and those who would like to can join us for breakfast at 8:00 AM at a place to be determined. Thank you in advance to all who can help!

Jim Tonkinson
Trustee Chairman

2018 CAR SHOW – **JULY 14TH, 1PM - 5PM**



Plans for our annual car show are well underway, thanks to the efforts of many people!

We will once again feature a delicious spaghetti or hot dog dinner and car owners will receive one free dinner per car! There will also be a silent auction, 50/50 raffle and big ticket item raffle.

If you are interested in helping with the show, there are lots of ways to do that (lots of ways to have fun!), and sign up sheets are in the Narthex. Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, May 15 at 6:30pm** in the fellowship area upstairs at church. Everyone is welcome! If you

have questions on helping with specific things, please contact the people below:

Advertising/Promotion – Brian Larie
Spaghetti Dinner/Kitchen – Tami Voigt
Registration Table/Raffles – Peter Voigt
Cars/Prizes/Parking – Gary Schaetten
Silent Auction – Gail Feick
General Questions – Gail Feick

Can't attend meetings but want to stay up to date on what's happening with the car show? Meeting minutes will be emailed and also available on the sign up table in the Narthex.

Thanks for your help!

2018 Hope Car Show Committee

BRAT FRIES



The Brat Fry season is here again! Our first one is coming up soon, **Saturday, May 19**, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Richter's Marketplace in Twin Lakes.

We would appreciate help on that date with serving, grilling, etc., and also monetary donations for the purchase of buns, soda, water, brats

and hot dogs. You may also help with baking cookies to be sold with the brats. See the signup sheets in the narthex.

Brat Fries are also scheduled for **June 9, July 28, August 25 and September 8**. Thank you for helping us with this important fund raiser for our church. Please see **Dave and Jan Krueger** if you have any questions.

TWIN LAKES FOOD PANTRY

We have moved the bins for collections for the Twin Lakes Area Food Pantry to the top of the steps leading to our lower level. Please remember to help feed children and families this summer. A list of suggested Kid Friendly Lunch Items will be distributed with our worship folders later this month.

KEVIN DYKSTRA

Did you know Hope sponsors a St. Louis seminary student? Kevin Dykstra's family lives in Wisconsin Rapids. He has completed a majority of his training including practice preaching. We are attempting to find a date that works for Kevin and us when he can preach at Hope. Watch for more information on our Website or Facebook.

Kay Cooke

WOMEN OF HOPE



Spring is finally here, and our 2017 – 2018 year for Women of Hope is drawing to a close. A very **BIG THANK YOU** to all who participated in and supported our activities to help our church, our community and our mission project. We feel very blessed to not only have such an active group of ladies working together, but an entire congregation pitching in to help with our projects!

The Easter Bake Sale was a wonderful success again this year, and we were able to raise \$1,069, which is a new record! Thanks to Terri Stade and Kay Cooke, pictures were taken and are on the church website. Many thanks to everyone who helped with the sale – baking/making unique novelty items, packing, transport, selling, buying, set up/clean up. Proceeds will be used to help purchase additional gas cards for the Twin Lakes Police Department to be given to those in need, a couple of projects for our church that are still in the planning stages, and our donation to A Place of Refuge.

Before we break from meetings for the Summer, we do have some other things to look forward to this Spring! **Our annual dinner meeting will be on Monday, May 21 at 6:00pm, here at the church.** It will be a potluck, same as last year, with Richter's chicken. As always, we will find out who our amazing Secret Sisters have been for the past year, and will pick new ones. We will also be provided with new Prayer Sisters. Forms for Secret Sisters/Prayer Sisters and a sign-up sheet for the dinner are in the Narthex. All ladies are welcome to participate, but please sign up and let us know what you will be bringing. Please return the forms to either Gail, Tami, Dawn or Doris. A Secret Sister form will also be emailed, so you can fill it out online and send back to me if you would like to do that instead.



In May we will present all ladies of the congregation attending the Mothers' Day service with carnations, and will have our annual “shower” for the women and children at A Place of Refuge in Milwaukee. A Place of Refuge is our mission project again this year, and we hope to be able to collect and deliver many wonderful items, plus a check to them in June. All members of the congregation are welcome to shop for adorable baby clothes and toys, as well as practical things such as diapers and toiletries. Watch for the display in the Narthex and please see me if you have a question on what to bring.

A couple of projects will be going on after our May meeting, so we will continue with special activities over the summer months. We will be doing shut-in visits on June 23. If you are interested in joining us, please see Doris. We will meet for lunch at the Red Barn in Twin Lakes following the visits. Once again, we will be providing cookies to sell at the Brat sales at Richter's. This has been a huge success over the past three years and helps defray expenses for brats and supplies. Sign-up sheets for baking are in the Narthex for the May 19 event. At our May meeting we will discuss a special food drive for “kid friendly” lunch items since the school subsidized lunch program ends when the school year ends. We will also continue collecting items for the Blessings Bags for the homeless, and making additional bags – everyone is welcome to take bags to give to those in need.

Once again, God bless everyone for your support and dedication.
Have a wonderful Summer!

**Gail Feick
President**

CHOIR NOTES



Our 2017 – 2018 choir season will end on June 10 this year. We thank God for our wonderful group and for the opportunity to help enhance our services with singing His praises! Thank you to everyone who participated this year, and we hope everyone will be back with us in September.

We had some very busy times over Christmas and Easter that required extra effort and time, but everyone was up for the challenge. I can't thank our choir members enough for their dedication and willingness to be a big part of our music ministry. Plans are to try more harmony, rounds, etc., and invite congregation participation on some of our selections. A special thank you to George for accompanying us for the services, to Doris for helping to accompany at rehearsals, and to Nadine for filing our endless reams of paper and for keeping everything in order!

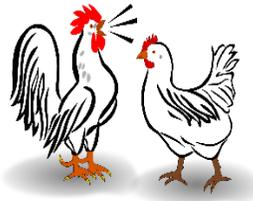
Our next choir season will begin on **September 5** (Wednesday after Labor Day) at 7:30pm. As usual, we will practice each week, and sing every other Sunday, in addition to special holidays. If you are interested in singing with the choir but cannot attend rehearsals, please talk to me, as we may be able to work around that. A schedule of what we will be singing as well as copies of the music will be provided.

Thank you and abundant blessings to everyone who supported and encouraged us. We look forward to raising our voices to praise the Lord again very soon! Have a blessed Summer!

Gail Feick
Director

STEWARDSHIP/ EVANGELISM NEWS

Reaching out to others and just relaxing



On Sunday, April 22, about 30 members and friends of Hope enjoyed a wonderful buffet at Crandall's in Hebron. Sometimes it is a good activity to just visit with friends and family over a delicious meal. We opened with the Pastor sharing a short message and prayer. The Evangelism team is planning on other events. A summer Picnic is planned for **August 18th** - mark your calendar. The Jumpy House, a Horseshoe contest, Kids Games and activities and Friendship and Fellowship will help everyone to smile. Oh Yes, lots of good food and one of Hope's famous potluck buffet items are included in the day. Bring your friends and neighbors. Everyone is welcome.

Kay Cooke
Stewardship/Evangelism Chairperson

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR



I'd like to thank every person who has contributed all of the goodies for our Coffee Fellowship and Sunday School hour! There is a new signup sheet in the narthex, and we'd greatly appreciate more people signing up to send goodies. We need the equivalent of three 9x13 pans, so feel free to grab a partner and bake together! Homemade treats are NOT necessary; store bought is fine, and please keep it simple. Fruit in bite size pieces, donuts or bagels cut in half, mini muffins, nuts or trail mix, jello, cheese/ salami/crackers, etc. are other suggestions. Coffee is set up each week ahead of time (thank you Gary)! I am grateful for all who participate here, as it is a wonderful morning treat for both our members and our guests. Please call me if you have any questions: 757-450-0889.

Many Blessings, Dawn Oswald

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

2/28 & 3/4:	Unified Budget Offering:	\$ 2,645.25
	Mortgage:	95.00
3/7 & 3/11:	Unified Budget Offering:	\$ 2,987.66
	Mortgage:	95.00
	Lawn/Snow:	36.00

3/14 & 3/18:	Unified Budget Offering:	\$ 2,395.00
	Mortgage:	131.00
3/21 & 3/25:	Unified Budget Offering:	\$ 2,866.50
	Mortgage:	95.00
3/29, 3/30, 4/1:	Unified Budget Offering:	\$ 3,775.00
	Mortgage:	175.00
	Endowment/Memorial Fund	675.00
	Women of Hope Bake Sale	1,063.50
4/8:	Unified Budget Offering:	\$ 2,251.00
	Mortgage:	131.00
	Bake Sale:	6.00
	Lawn/Snow:	200.00
4/15 & 4/22:	Unified Budget Offering:	\$ 3,746.00
	Mortgage:	150.00
	Lawn/Snow:	236.00
	Anniversary Flowers:	25.00

