

# HOPE HERALD



**June 2019 – August 2019**

## **HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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## **PASTOR'S CORNER**

A phrase from the Bible that is fairly well known says “the joy of the LORD is your strength.” While joyless people have no strength, those who are filled with joy seem to rise above every adversity and trial.

Have you ever met joyless people? They are difficult to be around. Dr. Travis Bradberry writes about 10 kinds of “toxic” people who should be avoided. He quotes a German study in which exposure to toxic people causes stress response in the brain. Prolonged exposure to stress reduces the effectiveness of brain cells related to memory and reasoning and can even eventually cause damage to them. Of the

10 kinds of toxic people which he identifies, one of them is called by him “the dementor,” named after evil creatures in the Harry Potter series. When they enter a room, their negativity sucks all the life away and leaves others feeling cold and dark. What a model for someone entirely lacking in joy.

Joy is commonly interpreted by people as happiness, but I think they are different. Happiness strikes me as more rooted in emotions (which are transitory), often linked to other things happening in one’s life, and something of which one is more immediately aware. Joy seems to me to be more spiritual, deeper, more enduring, and while it may be accessed in emotion, it is more than an emotional state. Consider how someone in the midst of great suffering can still have inner joy; whereas we would be unlikely to describe a person in severe suffering as “happy.” In *Surprised by Joy*, the autobiography by C.S. Lewis of how he became a Christian, one would expect from both the subject matter and the title that the conclusion would reach some climactic ecstasy, but instead he describes an emotion-free, helpless surrender to the perfect loving God from which he had been hiding.

So how does one get joy? The topic may be too large to fully corral right now but some things can be said about it. Certainly we are told to “rejoice.” That is something we can do, and I have felt surges of joy through worship and Christian music. At the same time, joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5) and one does not “make” fruit – it grows by itself as the tree is nurtured. So growth in Christ, what Paul calls walking by the Spirit, produces joy.

While many know the expression that “the joy of the LORD is your strength,” not as many would know where to find it. It comes from Nehemiah 8:10. The book of Nehemiah is often employed in connection with stewardship drives or church capital campaigns because we observe in the book of Nehemiah the challenges in getting people to pull together, overcome obstacles, and build

something for the Lord's glory. With our present stewardship campaign, "55 for the 55<sup>th</sup>," I felt led to review Nehemiah. At the point in the story where Nehemiah told them that the joy of the LORD was their strength, they had finished their building campaign (the wall around Jerusalem), they had heard the scriptures read and explained, and they were eating and drinking together. How fitting that at the end of our campaign, we will worship together at our regular service on June 16<sup>th</sup>, we will hear the Word read and explained by Pastor Jack Fish, and we will share food together at the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary banquet following worship.

My expectation and prayer is that we might look that day at what God has done; that no one will have felt compelled to participate, but rather that those who were led by the Lord to contribute in some way toward the vision of this stewardship, along with those people who in any way supported the larger vision of the congregation, shall see what their gifts and selfless service, pooled together with others, has brought to pass. As the Jews discovered in Nehemiah 8, the joy of the LORD is truly our strength.

**Pastor Tim Oswald**

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE STUDY**

Children's Sunday School is now on summer break. Special thanks go to Jan Krueger who leads Sunday School and is responsible to plan the lessons, teach, set up props, manage the age range, keep it exciting for the children, and most of all impart the Word of God to the students. It's a big job and she can always use help. Thanks go also to her assistant, Andrea Pferdmeniges. Together they've seen us through another year of a job well-done. May the Lord bless them and this most valuable ministry! If anyone in the congregation feels an inclination toward teaching God's Word to our children, come and

mention it to pastor; God may be calling you to help as our team grows.

Wed Night Bible Study is also now on summer break. We finished examining what happens to us after we die. Then Pastor Maurice Lind taught a four-week evangelism course in the month of May. Called “Just Walk Across the Room,” the course renewed every Christian’s responsibility to be a witness for Christ by reducing the pressure down to something all of us can manage. We hope Pastor Lind will agree to teach again in the future.

Adult Sunday School concluded its review of the Apostles’ Creed. The 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner is on June 16<sup>th</sup> and Pastor Hesham Shehab will preach and teach Sunday School on June 30<sup>th</sup>.



For the remaining Sundays in June, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday School will feature “*Ask the Pastor.*” Pastor Oswald will attempt to answer any and all questions brought to him. You can raise questions right there in class, although it is preferred that you get your questions to him ahead of time. Send him an email or slip a piece of paper under his door. They may be anonymous. Any and all questions are game, but be sure to write legibly and compose questions as specifically as possible. This should be a lot of fun. Hope to see you there!

Starting in July, Adult Sunday School will spend the summer taking an in-depth look at Holy Communion. Recently, one of our Elders respectfully questioned whether our Communion Statement in the bulletin was optimal. After prayer, it seemed a good opportunity to explore the topic of the Lord’s Supper together. Wherever

warranted by what we learn, the class will be invited to help us re-write our Statement and propose changes to our communion policies and practices. How often should communion be offered? Who should be allowed to take it? Why can't we take communion at other churches? How should we serve it? What does it mean? The class will look at scripture, history, key LCMS documents, as well as being encouraged to bring statements by other congregations and even other denominations for an open, honest look and comparison.

## **HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH** **55TH ANNIVERSARY**

You may have already gotten your invitation to a special celebration of 55 years of worship at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church. On June 16<sup>th</sup>, a special service will begin at 9am with Pastor Emeritus Jack Fish leading us in worship. We will have Pastor Oswald and other guest speakers enhancing our service, along with the Alleluia Brass from St. Peter Lutheran in Arlington Heights, IL. The service will be followed by a time of fellowship downstairs which will be decorated appropriately. At 11:30 we will be having a special fellowship dinner and more time for speakers giving us some history of Hope. Please try to attend. The reservation box is on the sign-up table.

**Kay Cooke**

## **19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CAR SHOW-JULY 13<sup>TH</sup>** **1pm - 5pm**

Everything is coming along nicely for the show, and it's hard to believe the date is less than two months away!



If you are interested in getting business donations for the silent auction, there is a list in the Narthex showing where we have gotten things in the past. Or, you can visit your favorite restaurants, stores, etc. and add some new ones to the list if you'd like. **Our big ticket raffle item this year will be a 4-burner + side burner gas grill, which will be on site and available to look at the week of 6/17.** The book to log silent auction items is downstairs on the table closest to the doors. All donations should be logged in and include the donor name and value. **Please give all gift cards and certificates to Nadine so they can be locked up after you log them in.**

Sign up sheets for food and cash donations, and to help, are on the table as well, so please sign up for anything that interests you. Dinner tickets are also available for pre-sale. Please help yourselves to flyers to take to businesses and other car events.

**We will be setting up for the silent auction and dinner on Thursday, July 11 at 2pm.** Hopefully, we can get most everything done that day, but still have Friday, July 12 to finish up, plus Saturday morning for last minute and work on the dinner.

Questions? The following people can help answer them:

**Mailings/Advertising/Promotion – Nadine Kelm/  
Brian & Amanda Larie**

**Spaghetti/Sloppy Joe Dinner/Kitchen – Tami Voigt**

**Registration Table/Raffles – Peter Voigt**

**Cars/Prizes/Parking – Gary Schaetten**

**Facebook/Website – Cheryl Grey/Terri Stade**

**Children's Activities – Lori Hogan**  
**Silent Auction – Gail Feick**  
**General Questions – Gail Feick**

**Please remember that if you wish to be reimbursed for an expenditure, you must turn in a blue slip and receipt. Terri Stade can help with questions on filling out the form.**

Thanks for your help!

**Gail Feick**  
**Car Show Chairman**

## **WOMEN OF HOPE**



Our dinner meeting on May 20 was a wonderful potluck get-together! Revealing who our secret sisters have been over the past year is always exciting, and hopefully full of surprises! We were also able to reflect on how blessed we have been over the 2018 – 2019 year to welcome so many new members, and to be able to accomplish so much for our church, community and mission project. Because our bake sales – which have grown into bake/craft/art sales – have been so successful, we will be able to do more for our church and provide more than the planned support for our mission project. **We are particularly thankful for ALL the new ladies at Hope who have jumped in to help with all of our projects!**

Although we will take a break from meetings over the Summer, we will still have some activities going on:

**Baking cookies for the monthly brat sales**  
**Targeted food drive for kid-friendly lunch items**  
**Completing our collection of items & monetary donations**  
**for the ladies and children at A Place of Refuge in**  
**Milwaukee**  
**Burr Oaks visits**

Officers for the upcoming year are:

**President – Gail Feick**  
**Vice President – Tami Voigt**  
**Secretary – Dawn Oswald**  
**Treasurer – Doris Kunz**

**Our 2019 – 2020 year will begin on Monday, September 16 at 6:00pm – please note our new start time, which hopefully will allow more people to attend.** As always, our Fall and Christmas season activities and projects come upon us faster than we know, so lots of planning to do! Always looking for ideas and new ways we can help make Thanksgiving and Christmas brighter for others, and let them know that Jesus loves them. Please note any new ideas that come to mind and share them with us in the Fall!

All women members of the congregation, as well as regular visitors, are welcome to join us for our meetings and activities, so please do! If you need a ride, we can get you to a meeting or activity, so just let me know.

Thank you to everyone who has been participating and helping with what we do. If you have questions or suggestions for ways we can serve our church and community, and spread the Word of God, please talk to Tami, Dawn, Doris or me anytime.

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

**Gail Feick**  
**President, Women of Hope**

## **PLACE OF REFUGE**



One of the missions Hope supports is the “Place of Refuge” in Milwaukee. Our members and especially our Women of Hope group fill the cradle and pack n play in our narthex with baby and young children clothing and boxes of diapers that are delivered at the end of June. So many children come into this world without the necessary clothing, diapers, blankets, baby oil, and other baby items. If you wish to contribute to “The Place of Refuge” Mission drive, please bring your purchases to church before the end of June. I have no babies in our family nearby and it is so much fun to shop for the cute outfits in the stores. Our contributions are much appreciated. If you do not want to shop you may put a check in the cradle made out to Hope Lutheran Church. In God’s name, thank you for your contributions.

**The Women of Hope**

## CHOIR NOTES



Hard to believe another choir season has already gone by and we are now ready to take a break for the Summer – a very welcome break! Thank you to everyone who participated this year – we have been blessed with new members, and have been blessed to see our group grow our talents with some different arrangements and parts. Every member's dedication, help, suggestions, dedication and enthusiasm has been overwhelming! A special thank you to George for accompanying us for the services, to Nadine for keeping all of our music in order and filed. While June 2 is the official end of our year, we will be singing one of our favorites for the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, so looking forward to being able to participate in that important event.

**Our next choir season will begin on Wednesday, September 4 at 7:30pm, and we will sing for the first time in the new season on September 15.** Work on selections for Christmas will begin early on, so please share your thoughts on anything you would like us to consider singing for that to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Thank you and abundant blessings to everyone who supported and encouraged us – we always feel blessed to hear your kind words! We look forward to raising our voices to praise the Lord again very soon! Enjoy the Summer!

**Gail Feick  
Director**

## **TASTY FELLOWSHIP**

I'd like to offer a huge thank you to everyone who has signed up and brought breakfast treats for our Tasty Fellowship hour! Everyone loves our delicious snacks! Please consider signing up, if you haven't already. More participants would be greatly appreciated. Each Sunday we simply need the equivalent of three 9x13 pans of a baked item. Feel free to grab a partner and work as a team--and keep it simple! No hard work is required! Possible treats to be brought in are cookies, coffee cakes, mini muffins, fruit, salami bites, cheese cubes, crackers, jello squares, etc. Store bought goods are also wonderful! We also appreciate extra baked goods, to be frozen downstairs, and then served at a later date. If you like to bake, or just shop sales in the bakery department of your favorite grocery store, it could be a blessing to Hope! Please see Dawn Oswald with any questions (oswald8079@gmail.com or 757-450-0889). Thank you!

## **THANK YOU**

Dick and I want to thank the members of Hope who kept us in your prayers during the difficult time of my illness. God is always taking care of us. Thanks for the prayers while my brother David struggled with cancer. Our Lord took him home on Easter – how appropriate for David to be with our Lord on such a special day. The comfort and prayers of our members mean so much to all of his family left behind for a short time until we meet in heaven.

*Kay and Dick Cooke*