

HOPE HERALD



March 2019 – May 2019

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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PASTOR'S CORNER

Lent began with Ash Wednesday on March 6th and so did our emphasis on Moses' book called Exodus. In it, Moses asks Pharaoh to let God's people go seven times (Exodus 5:1; 7:16; 8:1, 20; 9:1, 13; 10:3) and Pharaoh finally does it! When he does, God's salvation is so amazing that the event becomes the Gospel of the Old Testament. Israel's Scriptures mention the exodus 125 times!

Throughout the book of Exodus God reveals who he is through his absence and his presence, through his silence and his speech, through his wrath and his mercy, and through his judgment and his amazing grace. We will see how the works of God to bring about a great deliverance in the book of Exodus paint a beautiful portrait of His

consummate works to deliver us through *Jesus*. These are not just old stories but real life works of God in which we become part of the story. Our own lives are drawn in to these great works of God because they are not over yet. What He did for them, He has done and is doing with us!

Guest Pastors will share in the lead of some Wednesday evening services. We welcome Pastor Timothy Prince from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in East Troy and Pastor Rob Bolling from Our Savior Lutheran Church in Burlington.

Come for a Lenten dinner before each service in the church fellowship hall at 6:00pm.

Sermon plans are as follows:

March 6th - Ash Wednesday **“Stop Trying and Start Trusting”**
(Exodus 14:1–29)

Pastor Tim Oswald, Hope Lutheran Church, Twin Lakes

March 13 - Lent Two **“Big Things with Small Stuff”** (Exodus 2:1–10)

Pastor Rob Bolling, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Burlington

March 20 - Lent Three **“How God Changes Us”** (Exodus 3:1–14)

Pastor Timothy Prince, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,
East Troy

March 27 - Lent Four **“Digging Ourselves into a Hole”** (Exodus 32:1–14)

Pastor Tim Oswald, Hope Lutheran Church, Twin Lakes

April 3- Lent Five **“Strike the Rock!”** (Exodus 17:1–7)

Pastor Rob Bolling, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Burlington

April 10 - Lent Six “Mine!” (Exodus 20:1–17)

Pastor Timothy Prince, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,
East Troy

April 14 - Palm Sunday “A New Beginning!” (Exodus 34:1–8)

April 18- Maundy Thursday 7:00pm “Access!” (Exodus 24:1–11)

April 19 - Good Friday 7:00pm “Agnus Dei” (Exodus 12:1–13)

April 21- Easter “Against all Odds!” (Exodus 15:1–18)

On Palm Sunday, we will also have the Rite of Confirmation for Hope’s newest class of confirmands. It will be a wonderful day!

OUR GUEST PREACHERS FOR MIDWEEK SERVICES:

Rev. Timothy A. Prince Pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,
East Troy



Tim was born in the Chicago area, later moved to Arlington, TX, for preschool through elementary school years, and then to Idaho Falls, ID, for middle- and high-school years. He graduated from college at Concordia College (formerly Concordia Teachers’ College, now Concordia University) in Seward, NE, where he met (and later married) Michelle

Dobbertien. After four years at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis (which included vicarage in Edgerton, WI), he began ministry as pastor in Bovey, MN (also as interim pastor in Marble, MN).

He later served as pastor in Gresham, NE, and Davenport, NE, (together with interim pastor support for Nebraska congregations in Thayer, Waco, Friedensau, Ruskin, Superior, Chester and Hubbell, along the way). He especially enjoyed serving as adjunct instructor at Concordia University in Seward, NE, teaching four courses. In 2013, he went “back to school” to work on a Ph.D. degree in Exegetical Theology (a.k.a. biblical interpretation) at Concordia

Seminary in St. Louis. After completion of all classes and exams for the Ph.D. program, his wife Michelle received a call to serve as Director of Parish Music at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in West Allis, WI (www.splcwa.org). Since then Tim has worked on his Ph.D. dissertation (on "Christ and Antichrist in Daniel 7 and 9"), as well as serving 14 months as interim pastor at Good Shepherd before being called in October 2018 to serve full-time there, which he joyfully continues.

Rev. Rob Bolling Our Savior Lutheran Church, Burlington



The Rev. Robert W. Bolling was born in Milwaukee and has spent time in the states that touch Lake Michigan -- Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. Pastor Rob has a BA from Concordia Senior College in Ft Wayne, IN and a MDiv from Concordia Theological Seminary, also in Ft Wayne. He has been a shepherd to God's people for 38 years. He was the pastor of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Eureka, IL from 1981 to 1988 and has served Our Savior Lutheran Church from 1988 to the present.

Pastor Rob is passionate about sharing the Lord Jesus and the Good News of the forgiveness of sins in Christ through preaching, teaching, and leading worship. He and his wife, Pat, have led numerous short term, mission trips to Guatemala, Mexico and other nations bringing the joy of the Gospel and medical care to the poor.

STEWARDSHIP

Two items to note-

1) OUR 2019 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

This year, after prayerful consideration following some large, one-time, cash gifts to Hope, our 2019 Stewardship Campaign will be a challenge fund-raising drive to coincide with our congregation's 55th anniversary celebration in June. The special gifts have been applied toward principal on the church's mortgage. When the special gifts

reach \$27,500, the congregation will be challenged to match that amount. This would result in \$55,000 paid against our mortgage, a push to reach “55 for the 55th.” In addition to that, Hope has a fund with \$25,000 in it as security against default. This was required by our mortgage-holder a few years ago when Hope could not make its payments and was almost closed. We have reason to believe that upon completion of our campaign, the requirement will be dropped and that amount too can be applied to the mortgage. That means that in only 10 years, Hope will have moved from the brink of being closed for default, to a mortgage of less than 75 thousand. Scripture adjures us to “owe no one anything.” (Rom 13:8) With the nation in debt by about 22 trillion, Wisconsin by nearly 24 billion, Illinois by 159 billion, school districts borrowing more and more, and the average American family carrying \$135,000 in debt, our society would face serious troubles in a big downturn. As Jacob’s son Joseph was brought by God to Egypt so that he might prepare in the seven fat years for the coming seven lean years, God may be calling His church today to position itself for its future mission by shedding the burdens of heavy debt. God continues to bless Hope and we see this dramatic turn in its finances as evidence of His work among us. Praise the Lord!

2) MEMORIAL PLAQUES

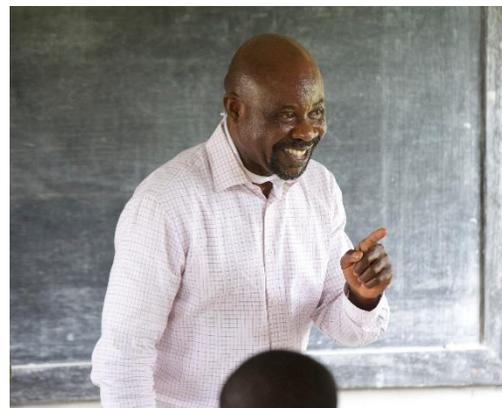
Did you know that our coffee area has plaques on the wall to note special gifts that were given for special commemorations? When a gift is given to Hope in memory of one of the dearly departed saints, those gifts will automatically go into Hope’s Endowment Fund unless otherwise designated. Givers may designate those gifts for other purposes, however. Memorial gifts may go toward one of the other designated accounts. Examples might be to the Altar Memorial fund if someone wanted to purchase an item used in worship; or to the Building and Maintenance Fund if someone wanted to obtain a new appliance for the kitchen. In cases where someone wishes to make a gift toward something for which there is not enough to make the purchase immediately, a new fund will not be started; but the gift

will be kept in the most appropriate fund and the Church Council will do all in its power to accomplish the wishes of the giver. For example, a gift of \$50 for a funeral pall (which can cost nearly \$1000) would be kept in the Altar Memorial Fund and used for that purchase if at all possible when the funds become available. See Pastor for any questions about how this works. Gary Schaetten will get a plaque for memorial gifts to add to the wall so that others can remember and thank God for years to come.

MISSIONS

Hope sends monthly support for Rev. Richard Wokoma, a native of Nigeria who returned there after his education here in America and now he directs the Lutheran Seminary which prepares indigenous men to be pastors for The Lutheran Church of Nigeria (LCN). The LCN has over 300 congregations and about 50,000 people but only 72 pastors. It is desperately in need of more pastors. Students who start to train at the seminary frequently drop out for lack of funding. Rev. Wokoma singlehandedly does almost all the administration for the school, teaches most of the classes, mentors and disciples the students, and struggles to raise the funds.

Nigeria is the 12th most dangerous country in the world with intense conflict. About 1000 people were killed last year by Boko Haram (remember the Muslim extremist group that kidnapped hundreds of school girls in 2014). About 2000 people were killed in clashes last year between Christian farmers and Muslim herdsmen. Kidnappings, vandalisms, attacks on churches, and instability have all been exasperated and the government struggles to combat these things. In spite of it all, the opportunities to the church remain strong and Rev. Wokoma has thrown his heart into his calling.



We were dismayed to get a report from him on Feb 26th which included the following:

. . . rampage in primarily Christian dominated regions/cities. One such place was the place of my birth. Over fifteen persons from that community were shot dead . . . As we enter this time of the Lenten fast, next week, please continue to pray for the safety of the students, and the faithful Christians, in general, here, and for myself as I travel to various communities . . .

Please continue to pray for Rev. Wokoma and for all our brothers and sisters in the faith who persevere in the face of such trials! Consider how God might be calling us to encourage him.

AMAZON SMILE

Do you ever shop at Amazon? AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to Hope Lutheran Church. Simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, select Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

While the church is called to bear witness to society and civil leaders about God's standards for right and wrong, the main mission of the church is to preach the Gospel which is something only the church can do. So the church must be cautiously prayerful about addressing specific political situations; but like John the Baptist, sometimes the church must speak loudly, unequivocally, and fearlessly.

Following the dreadful movements in the states of New York and Illinois to expand the culture of death, our LCMS President, Dr. Matthew Harrison, issued a public statement which has been signed by the entire Council of LCMS District Presidents. You can find it at:

<https://blogs.lcms.org/2019/lcms-presidents-statement-regarding-gubernatorial-actions-expanding-abortion-in-new-york-and-illinois/>

In this battle for the very lives of the little ones who belong to God, we must continue to represent God to the world with our witness, minister to those who have suffered with our love, fight for better laws with our engagement, and call upon God to act with our prayers.

PRAYER CHAIN

Did you know that Hope has a prayer chain to intercede, especially in emergent crises, for prayer requests raised in the congregation? We especially long to add to this group, any who may have special gifts or callings by the Holy Spirit toward prayer and intercession.

Does your heart turn readily to God in prayer when needs come to your attention? This might be one of the ministries where God is calling you. Why not have a friendly conversation with Pastor about it to explore?

Pastor Tim Oswald

EVANGELISM NEWS **“Egg Your Neighbor”**



Hope Lutheran Church is offering an interesting opportunity for you to invite your neighbors to Easter worship this year. *We are asking that you simply drop off a bag on their door handle!* The bag will be prepared on April 7 (after congregational meeting) and will be available April 14 after worship for distribution. The bags each contain 11 plastic eggs with candy and one empty egg, representing the empty tomb. A note from Pastor Oswald, worship time information, and a place for you to give a personal note if you wish. We will make up about 150 bags so each member can take at least one. You can certainly take more than one if you wish. More information will be available mid-March. Any questions, please contact Paul Trettin at 847-302-0985.

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH **55TH ANNIVERSARY**

Please mark Sunday, June 16th on your calendar for a big celebration! We want to thank God for 55 years of His saving grace at Hope Lutheran Evangelical Church. We are working on securing a guest preacher, special music, and completing the day with a delicious luncheon after worship.

THRIVENT

If you have life insurance or an investment with Thrivent, you have a "cool" way of helping out Hope. Thrivent offers a program that donates \$250.00 to assist projects at Lutheran congregations. It costs you nothing and only requires filling out a short application. We are using Thrivent funds for both "Egg Your Neighbor" & Hope's 55th Anniversary (\$500.00 total). Please call me if you have any questions 847-302-0985. Here is the information on Thrivent's website: Go to: <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-action-teams/>

Paul Trettin, Evangelism Chairman

ENDOWMENT FUND & THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Our congregation now has an **Endowment Fund** approved by the Church Council last year. The Fund is under the direction of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod and is managed by the Church Council. Since the Fund was initiated, members of Hope have already contributed to this account.

The long-term goal of the Fund is to provide our congregation with resources well into the future. We hope that our members will have a family discussion, if they have not already done so, to include our church in their Christian estate and gift planning. The Lord instructs everyone to be good stewards of the resources He has entrusted to us.

Thrivent Choice is an easy way to help support what matters most to you. If you are a Thrivent member, please remember to allocate your 2018 Thrivent Choice Dollars. You must direct 2018 Choice Dollars by **March 31, 2019**. Call 1-800-847-4836 or go online to the Thrivent website to find out if you have 2018 Choice Dollars to direct or to make a Choice Dollars direction to our congregation or charity of your choice.

Please see me if you have any questions about the Endowment Fund or Thrivent Choice Dollars.

George Kelm
Congregation President

19TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW-JULY 13TH

Plans for our **19th annual car show** are underway, and thanks to those who attended the February 26 planning meeting, offered ideas and help, and offered to head up the various teams! Our next meeting will be mid-May to talk about where we are with what still needs to get done.



The show will run from 1:00–5:00 on Saturday, July 13, and silent auction closing times will be every ½ hour from 2:30 until 4:30. Great chance to enjoy the cars, great food and hanging out with friends. Activities for kids will be offered as well.

Some changes this year:

BBQ beef sandwiches and chips will be the alternative meal, rather than hot dogs

A gas grill will be offered as the big ticket raffle item

“Blue slips” will be required for reimbursement for purchases pertaining to the show

If you are interested in helping with the show, there are lots of ways to do that (lots of ways to have fun!), and signup sheets will be in the Narthex soon for what we need help with. 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/Trophies/Parking – Gary Schaetten

Website/Facebook – Terri Stade and Cheryl Grey

Children's Activities – Lori Hogan

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 and hope to see you at the next meeting! Please reserve the date and ask your family, friends and neighbors to do that as well! This is not for “car buffs” only!

Gail Feick
Car Show Chairman

WOMEN OF HOPE



Spring is just around the corner, and the Women of Hope are ready!!!

Our December and Christmas activities were a huge success! We set a new record with our Trees on Parade bake/craft sale proceeds – nearly \$1,400! Christmas bags were well-received at our visit to Burr Oaks, and our Countdown to Christmas response was overwhelming! As part of Angel Tree prison ministries, we visited two families of children with Dads who are incarcerated and were unable to visit with their kids for Christmas and present their gifts in person. Our church received a certificate of appreciation from Angel Tree for our participation. Thanks to everyone who helped with so many things!

Our March meeting will be on **Monday, March 18th at 7:00pm**, and we will begin with a Lenten devotion. We will also talk about the Easter Bake Sale, Easter Breakfast, cookies for the Brat sales, A Place of Refuge Shower, special summer food drives, what we can

do to help with the 55th anniversary celebration, and plans for the next two meetings. Our May dinner meeting will be held on **Monday, May 27th**. Ideas for activities over the summer months are very welcome, including ways we can help our church and community, and hosting some fun activities! Please bring a snack to share. If you are a new member or frequent visitor, we would love to have you come to the meeting so we can get to know you better – and you can get to know us and more about what we do!

Thanks to Nadine, we were able to reserve the day before Easter for our bake sale again this year. We will be at **Richter's Marketplace from 9:00am – 1:00pm on Saturday, April 20**, hoping to catch the Easter shoppers and give them a huge selection of delicious treats for family and friends. We will also be selling dog treats, novelty sweets and small crafts. We need bakers, packers, sellers, and helpers to set up and clean up. Goodies will be packed immediately after the service on Maundy Thursday, April 18, so we ask that all baked goods be brought to the Fellowship Hall no later than that time. We will meet at the church to transport to Richter's and set up at 8:00am the day of the sale. Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex for the bake sale and the Easter Breakfast. **Set up and serving help are needed for the breakfast.** All are welcome, and any help is greatly appreciated.

May God bless you during the season of Lent as we reflect on what God has done for us, and on Easter as we rejoice in our risen Lord!

Gail Feick
President, Women of Hope

CHOIR NOTES



I can hardly believe that we are over half way through our choir year already! God continues to bless our church with a wonderful group of people who enjoy singing together, as well as our accompanist, George, and Nadine, who files our endless stream of sheet music for us!

In early March we will begin working on our music selections for Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Included in our plan are some favorites from past years, and also some new music.

In December, we welcomed a new choir member, Rev. Maurice Lind, and in February we welcomed **Dave Peschke** - we certainly are blessed to have both of them and their voices as a part of our group!

As a reminder, practice during Lent will be immediately following the midweek services, around 7:45pm. In addition to our regular bi-weekly schedule, we will sing on Palm Sunday (confirmation day), Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and at both services on Easter Sunday. Practice during Holy Week will be on Wednesday, April 17, at 7:30, and a half hour before each of the services. We will resume normal rehearsal times after taking a break the week after Easter (no rehearsal on April 24).

If you are new to Hope, or a frequent visitor/guest, and like to sing, please consider joining us. You do not need to be a member of Hope to participate in the choir. So, if you are interested, please let me know. You will easily be able to catch up with where we are in the music as we learn together, and enjoy some fun times and fellowship.

On April 28, we will once again be blessed with the Alleluia Brass from St. Peter in Arlington Heights, IL.

God's blessings to all for the Lenten and Easter seasons!

**Gail Feick
Director**

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



Thank you so much to all the ladies who sign up to bring treats for our Coffee Fellowship and Sunday School hour. We really appreciate all the baked goods--and healthy snacks too! Remember that you can always grab a partner and serve as a team--and keep it simple! Store bought things are fine, as well as cheese and crackers, cut up fruit, little sausages, etc.

We are also grateful to receive baked goods to help stock our downstairs freezer, for times that no one is available to bake. Please see Dawn Oswald if you'd like to sign up, or contribute baked goods. **Dawn can be reached at 757-450-0889 or oswald8079@gmail.com.**