

HOPE HERALD



September-November, 2018

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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PASTOR'S CORNER

Eph 6¹⁹ "Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should."

About seven years ago, someone pointed out something from the scriptures to me that changed my prayers. Previously, when I prayed for those who did not profess faith in Christ and/or gave no evidence of such faith, my prayers were focused upon the response or reception that such people would give to the Word. "O God, please help _____ to listen to the message of Jesus and His love. Change them so that they will believe and put their faith in Him."

The New Testament does not seem to do that. Prayers in the New Testament do not emphasize how any particular unsaved hearer of the Word will respond, but rather that the Word goes forth.

"Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

"...pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ..."

"I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ."

I still pray occasionally that God would work a certain way with this or that recipient or group of recipients of the message. I don't know that it is wrong necessarily; however, the thrust of these New Testament prayers for our evangelistic task has shifted my understanding of what is important. The hinge point is not whether someone accepts or rejects the message. The hinge point is that the message is delivered. God works in and through His Word. The Gospel is not like a political argument or a sales presentation in which everything comes down to whether a person decides yea or nay. The Word accomplishes that for which God sends it.

God did not entrust His kingdom's future to us and charge us with pulling it off somehow. No, the master designer is intimately active in every detail causing it to unfold as He wills. We just share the Word, in season and out of season, as boldly and fearlessly as we can, as carefully and faithfully as is possible – and God brings the increase when and where He desires.

Perhaps this is why in the parable of the sower, the sower seems so reckless with the seed. He just throws it out there, even though so much seems wasted by landing upon the path or the rocks or the weeds. Just throw it out there. Yet God brings the increase.

So there are no grand programs planned for Hope in 2018-19. We are principally focused upon the same thing we have always done – not trying to feed the world, or bring about peace and justice, or be a blessing to the community, or the host of other marvelous visions which tease churches into straying from the centerline. We want to be about sharing the Word. Everything we do in 18/19 should run through the filter of our core mission. Our prayers look to ever shift from people-centered to Gospel-centered. May our passions inflame for the Word. Let our resolve be to know nothing but Christ and Him crucified.

PRAYER REQUESTS



One of the hallmarks of Hope Lutheran Church has been the weekly sharing of prayer requests for the Prayers of the Church. Unfortunately, this presents some problems as the church grows. The number of names becomes unwieldy. The names become objects of prayer apart from anything specific. Names are mentioned to the pastor verbally in various situations and due to his limitation, never make it to the written list. Names of some that desperately need prayer are omitted because certain connections were not in church that day.

IT IS TIME TO TRY A CHANGE.

On a trial basis, we handle prayer requests differently starting the first Sunday of October, Oct 7th. Prayer cards will be made available. Requests for prayer can be submitted on the cards. One card=one request. The card will have space for the request, the nature of the request (in other words, not just a person's name but what is the prayer need of that person), the date it is submitted, a place to check "yes" or "no" as to whether the person knows they will be the subject of public prayer (which allows us to be more discreet about prayer needs which a person prefers to keep private), and the name of the person submitting the request.

Pastor will lift up the needs from the cards in the Prayer of the Church. Then the card will be submitted to volunteers from the Hope prayer chain to include in their intercessions. After three weeks, a new card must be submitted to renew or adjust the prayer need. That prevents the list from growing endlessly.

The intent is for this change to accomplish several things. It should keep the lists more manageable. It allows prayers to be more specific. It engages others in prayers. And it enhances opportunities for follow-up.

Thank you for your engagement and participation in this vital ministry of prayer. By God's grace, may we grow in this area to the praise of His glory.

Pastor Tim Oswald



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT HOPE

Christian Education at Hope Ev. Lutheran Church looks robust for 2018/19!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

The challenge for small churches has always been that there are not enough children to have a variety of grade levels with multiple Sunday school classes which can follow the curriculums put out by the Synod's publishing house.

Enter Jan Krueger and Andrea Pferdmenges. These wonderful ladies have revived the old concept of the one-room schoolhouse. All of the children gather together and unique lesson plans are constructed each week from scratch. These plans teach the scriptures but also allow for individualized, age-specific attentions in the relationships between teachers

and students. In addition, the Sunday School time is filled with fun activities that keep the children engaged and interested.

Children's Sunday School begins on Sept 9th and meets in the downstairs classroom. Invite your neighbors and relatives who have children to come where they will be loved, kept safe, and most of all, introduced to their Savior Jesus.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Will include a variety of courses this year (see the sched). They include issues of contemporary concern, catechetical, and practical topics, as well as a biblical book study. Adult Sunday School meets in the fellowship hall from 10:30-11:15 and Wednesday night Bible Studies are from 6:30pm to 7:20.

Adult Sunday School Plan for 2018-19

Sept 9	Homosexuality: Biblical Standards & Foundations for Sexuality
Sept 16	No Class: Lunch at Crandalls
Sept 23	Homosexuality: Biblical Teaching, Big Seven
Sept 30	Homosexuality: Biblical Teaching, Big Seven
Oct 7	Homosexuality: Biblical Teaching, Big Seven
Oct 14	No Class: Voter's Meeting
Oct 21	Homosexuality: How the ELCA Reads These Texts
Oct 28	Homosexuality: Other Biblical Texts
Nov 4	Homosexuality: Orientation vrs Behavior
Nov 11	Homosexuality: Original Sin
Nov 18	Lutheran Perspective on Social Action
Nov 25	Cultural Change: Personal and Social Consequences

Dec 2	Ministering to the Homosexual in our Midst
Dec 9	Last Class: Make-up
Dec 16	No Class: Voter's Meeting
Dec 23	Apostle's Creed: The Father Almighty
Dec 30	Apostle's Creed: Maker of Heaven and Earth
Jan 6	
Jan 13	Apostle's Creed: Jesus Christ
Jan 20	Apostle's Creed: His Only Son, Our Lord
Jan 27	Apostle's Creed: Conceived by Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary
Feb 3	Apostle's Creed: Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Crucified, Died, Buried
Feb 10	Apostle's Creed: Descended into Hell
Feb 17	Apostle's Creed: Third Day Rose Again
Feb 24	Apostle's Creed: Ascended and Sits at Right Hand of the Father
Mar 3	Apostle's Creed: Will Come to Judge Living and Dead
Mar 10	Apostle's Creed: The Holy Spirit
Mar 17	Apostle's Creed: The Holy Christian Church
Mar 24	Apostle's Creed: The Communion of Saints
Mar 31	Apostle's Creed: The Forgiveness of Sins
Apr 7	No Class: Voter's Meeting
Apr 14	Apostle's Creed: The Resurrection of the Body
Apr 21	No Class: Easter
Apr 28	Apostle's Creed: The Life Everlasting
May 5	Book of Ephesians
May 12	Book of Ephesians
May 19	Book of Ephesians
May 26	Book of Ephesians

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Sept 5	Justification & Sanctification: Free Will
Sept 12	Justification & Sanctification: Objective & Subjective
Sept 19	Justification & Sanctification: Election
Sept 26	Justification & Sanctification: Lutheran & Catholic
Oct 3	Justification & Sanctification: Security and Assurance
Oct 10	Justification & Sanctification: Luke 7:36-50
Oct 17	Justification & Sanctification: Law and Gospel
Oct 24	Justification & Sanctification: 3rd Use of the Law
Oct 31	No Class: All Hallowed's Eve
Nov 7	Family Movie Night & Pizza: "WAR ROOM"
Nov 14	No Class: (Pastor out of town)
Nov 21	No Class: Thanksgiving Supper & Service
Nov 28	No Class: Break
Dec 5	No Class: Advent Service
Dec 12	No Class: Advent Service
Dec 19	No Class: Advent Service
Dec 26	No Class: Break
Jan 2 No	Class: Break
Jan 9	What Happens When We Die: The Soul
Jan 16	What Happens When We Die: The Soul
Jan 23	What Happens When We Die: Intermediate States
Jan 30	What Happens When We Die: Heaven and Hell
Feb 6	What Happens When We Die: Final Judgment for the Lost
Feb 13	What Happens When We Die: Final Judgement for the Saved
Feb 20	What Happens When We Die: Death and Dying
Feb 27	What Happens When We Die: Final Questions and Wrap-up

Mar 6 No Class: Ash Wed
Mar 13 No Class: Lenten Service
Mar 20 No Class: Lenten Service
Mar 27 No Class: Lenten Service
Apr 3 No Class: Lenten Service
Apr 10 No Class: Lenten Service
Apr 17 No Class: Holy Week
Apr 24 Marriage & Family
May 1 Marriage & Family
May 8 Marriage & Family
May 15 Marriage & Family
May 23 Marriage & Family

2018 CAR SHOW



Despite the rainy start, the day turned out to be beautiful and our car show was a huge success! Thanks to so many of you who helped in so many different ways! Our net proceeds were \$3,254, and we received

many compliments on the dinner, silent auction, raffles, DJ/music and the show in general. The date for the 2019 show has been tentatively set for July 13. We will finalize the date and have our first meeting to plan the show in January or February 2019. Hope to see many of you there.

The 2018 Car Show Committee

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TREATS

Just a reminder that we are in need of help with our Coffee Fellowship treats on Sunday mornings. If you like to bake, please consider signing up! We need the equivalent of three 9x13 pans each week, so feel free to grab a friend and work as a team. Even if you don't like to bake, please consider signing up as well, because store bought goodies are welcome as well. In addition, we can always simply use baked goods to help stock up our freezer!



Please see Dawn Oswald or call her at 757-450-0889 with any questions. Thank you so much!"

WOMEN OF HOPE



Hard to believe days are already getting shorter and soon the beauty of Fall will be upon us once again! But as we say goodbye to another summer, the Women of Hope look forward to another wonderful year of activities and projects to serve the Lord, our church and our community.

A very special thank you to all who baked cookies for the brat sales, distributed Blessings Bags, and helped with gathering kid-friendly foods and school supplies for the Twin Lakes food pantry.

Our first meeting will be on Monday, September 17 at 7:00pm in the upstairs fellowship area, and we have a lot to talk about, including some new ideas that were mentioned to me over the summer months, so hope you can join us! Please bring a snack to share – drinks will be provided. Just a few activities that will be included on the agenda – please bring thoughts and ideas to share -

LWML Sunday – 10/7

Operation Christmas Child – October – November

Christmas gift bags for Burr Oaks residents and shut-ins

Shut-In visits

Angel Tree Prison Ministry - NEW

Trees on Parade Bake Sale – 12/7 – 12/8
Countdown to Christmas - December
Easter Bale Sale – 4/20/2019
May Dinner Meeting – 5/20/2019

Our goals are to spread God's Word through our projects, to help our church and community, and to enjoy Christian fellowship. All women of the congregation and frequent visitors are welcome to join us for our meetings and activities, so please do! Our meetings are started with beautiful devotions which I am sure you will enjoy, followed by lively discussion on activities, projects and ideas.

Thank you to everyone at Hope who has been participating and helping with what we do. If you have questions or suggestions for ways we can serve our church, community and let others know about Jesus' love for us, please talk to Tami, Dawn, Doris or me anytime. If you need a ride to meetings or activities, please ask about that as well, and we'll be glad to get you there. Once again, God bless everyone for your support and dedication. Enjoy the Fall blessings and color God gives us!

Gail Feick
President

CHOIR NOTES



Welcome to a new year of choir at Hope! Rehearsals will be held **every Wednesday at 7:30pm from Labor Day week through the first week in June**. During Advent and Lent, we will practice right after the mid-week services, normally around 7:45pm. Any time or day changes will be communicated in advance so everyone will have a chance to plan. We will sing every other Sunday, in addition to our Thanksgiving service, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Easter.

Our goals are to enrich our services with music to praise the Lord and to enjoy Christian fellowship with a group of all ages. If you love to sing or play an instrument, please let me know or just come to our first rehearsal. We are always looking to grow our choir and our talent. We have also been very blessed to have added several school age girls to our group over the past couple of years.

Our first rehearsal will be on **Wednesday, September 5**. We will sing for the first time on **Sunday, September 16**, and will start with something simple. Last year we added several new pieces and arrangements, tried more harmony and added a “round”. For 2018-19, our music plan will include some of

the hymns and songs we did in the past, and some that are new. We will have some fun with additional instrumentation as well. Any and all suggestions are welcome!

A schedule of what and when we sing that covers a couple of months will be given out to members, along with the sheet music. MIDI files, if available, that will work on your PC, tablet or smart phone, will be provided via email to the choir to listen to outside of practice times, and most, if not all, of what we sing can be found on YouTube. If rehearsal time/day doesn't is not a good fit for you, but you would like to join, please see me and perhaps we can work something out. We need you and your voice, and can work around school, work and vacation schedules for the most part. Thank you to all who have been so dedicated this past year – one truly amazing group that Hope is so blessed to have! While we are serious about music and learning, we are also serious about having fun! So, looking forward to another wonderful music-filled year of praising the Lord!

Gail Feick
Director