



# The Anchor – The Newsletter of Hope

February 2021

Vol 12, Number 5

Hope Lutheran Church of Rossmoor

*"We have this Hope of Christ's promises as an anchor for our lives." Hebrews 6:19*

## Reflections of HOPE

*from Pastor Andy*

### Lenten Sermon Series

#### *"Instructive Moments with the Savior: Learning to Listen"*

*"Then Jesus said, 'Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear...' (Mark 4:9)*

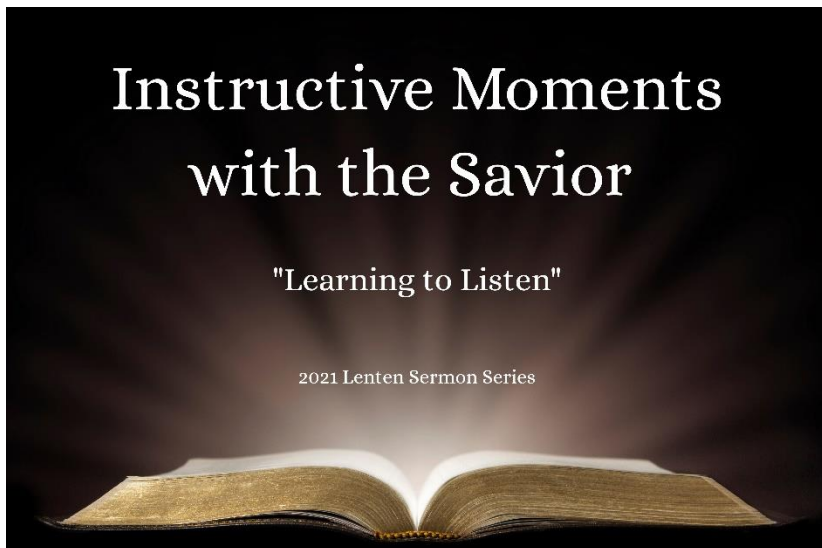
For the Season of Epiphany (January 6<sup>th</sup> – February 14<sup>th</sup>), we have been looking closely at the life of the Savior through the eyes of the people who were the closest to him. Through these intimate encounters between Jesus and his inner circle of friends like Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, and Nathanael as well as the encounters with those individuals he healed, we have been learning to love as he loved. Intimate Moments with the Savior have taught us how to love.

In the next several weeks, we will enter into the Season of Lent, a forty-day inward journey toward Easter beginning with a day of fasting and prayer on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021. For this Lenten journey, I would like to invite you all to join me in spending some *Instructive Moments with the Savior* where we will learn how to listen for the voice of God in our lives.

We will sit at the feet of Jesus on a grassy hillside overlooking the Sea of Galilee as he teaches us about the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting and giving. We will journey with him into the wilderness as we listen to his discourse with Satan on the temptations of Christian leadership. We will hear him speak to Nicodemus about true salvation and finding purpose in our lives. We will walk with him on his final journey into Jerusalem as he lives out what he teaches concerning true surrender. We will stand back and watch as the Savior, filled with righteous anger, clears the Temple of the moneychangers and speaks to us all about justice. Finally, as we follow the cheering crowd into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, we will listen to him teach, without using words, about the nature and identity of God's Suffering Servant in our midst.

Please join me on this inward journey of *Instructive Moments with the Savior* where we will all learn together...how to listen.

*Together, in the name of Jesus,  
Pastor Andy*



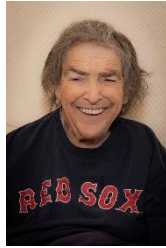
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## **“God Will See Us Through”**

by Janice Callentine

In an article last year, I posed the question: "Have you ever noticed that when our emotions take over, common sense goes right out the window?"



The loss of common sense is the main reason our country has been in crisis for the past year. This is nothing new. The reign of emotion over logic has been around since Cain killed his brother Abel in the garden of Eden. After the Exodus, Moses stayed too long on the mountain receiving the Ten Commandments and the people started worshipping a golden calf.

Centuries later, the prophet Isaiah said that, "All we, like sheep, have gone astray, everyone to his own way". So, what are these destructive emotions that lead us astray? They are fear, anger and greed.

In the movie "The American President", there is a speech at the end that I really love. The President says that his opponent is not interested in the problems of the American people. The president declares that his opponent only cares about making the people afraid of their problems, and telling them who's to blame for them. He concludes by saying, "That, ladies and gentlemen, is how you get elected." Manipulating the fear and greed of people can be very destructive.

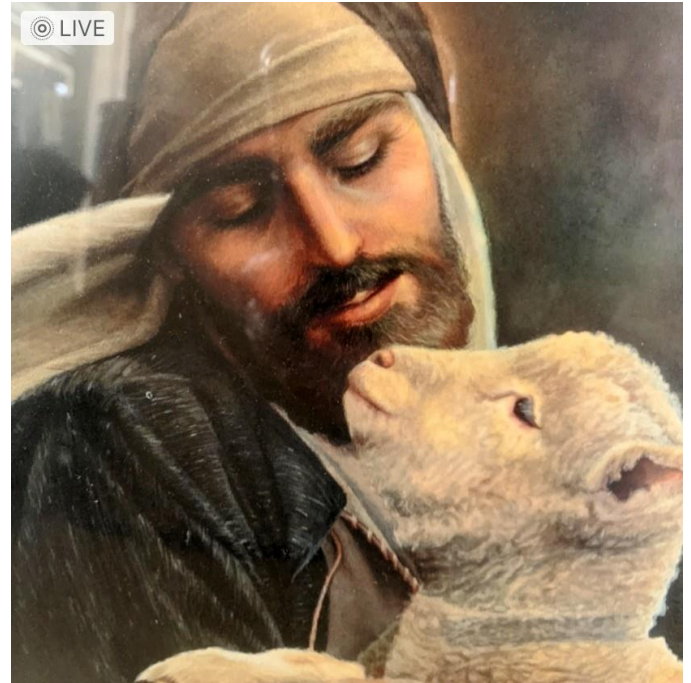
During the two weeks between the attack on our national Capitol building and the inauguration, I was worried that the rioters would stage another attack; this time against the inauguration. When that didn't happen, I rejoiced as I watched on TV as America celebrated the beginning of a new chapter in our nation's history.

Then I realized, that what we have experienced is typical of God's relationship with His people throughout the centuries. Our emotions lead us astray and we find ourselves in dark times. When God sees us through the dark times and calls us back to Himself, we rejoice.

I usually end up being sorry when I let my fears bother me. It's human nature to feel bad after our emotions have caused us to mess up. When that happens, we temporarily lose the peace of mind that God wants for us. The Good News is that Jesus knows our every weakness. Our Good Shepherd loves us, cares for us, and most of all protects us from harm and forgives us when we go astray!

There is a children's song that helps me feel better after I've messed up

*I am Jesus' little lamb,  
Ever glad at heart I am;  
For my Shepherd gently guides me,  
Knows my need, and well provides me,  
Loves me every day the same,  
Even calls me by my name*



*“I am Jesus' little lamb”*

Our country isn't out of the woods yet, but God will see us through.

Peace, love and HOPE,  
Janice

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## Minister of Music Report



It's now a full year since Americans received word of COVID-19 and we have endured a terrible ordeal. I have been lucky to find soloists to perform through the year by recruiting those who have performed before and adding some new ones. Overall, I am pleased each and every time by their efforts and I appreciate the feedback I get from folks who listen to our services. We have used vocalists and instrumentalists from as far as New York and Los Angeles. These musicians add so much to our recordings and I hope we can find a way to hear them even after we return to live worship.

Now we look toward 2021 wondering how long our lives will continue to be governed by an unseen enemy. Religious faith will support us but we must not fail to continue to do everything we can to protect ourselves and those around us. This week is the first time the soloist and I are recording in the same room. Scary but necessary!

February is the month we celebrate Valentine's Day and I am reminded of my elementary school days when everyone was required to give a valentine to every other student in our class. Some of the kids were not all that friendly but you were not allowed to pick and choose who you would give a card. If only the people, not only in our congregation, but everywhere would obey the same rule we would all be happier. Think about this as a goal for this "loving" month. Try to do something nice for at least one person each day. Maybe that person lives with you. Maybe that person is a relative that you haven't been in touch with for a while. Perhaps that person is a neighbor. That person could be behind you at a drive through window. People are often surprised and we never know if our kindness will wear off on them. It's happened to me at Starbucks when the guy ahead of me bought my coffee. It

happened yesterday when I bought a sandwich for a homeless girl at Jack in the Box. It's a great feeling. Try it, you'll like it.

Be safe. Be friendly,  
Wayne Anderson  
Minister of Music



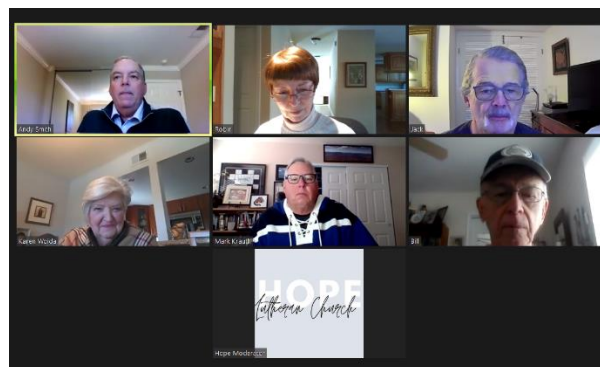
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## Dress Rehearsal for the Annual Congregational Meeting

Our virtual Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday morning; January 31, 2021 at 10:30am via *Zoom* videoconference format.

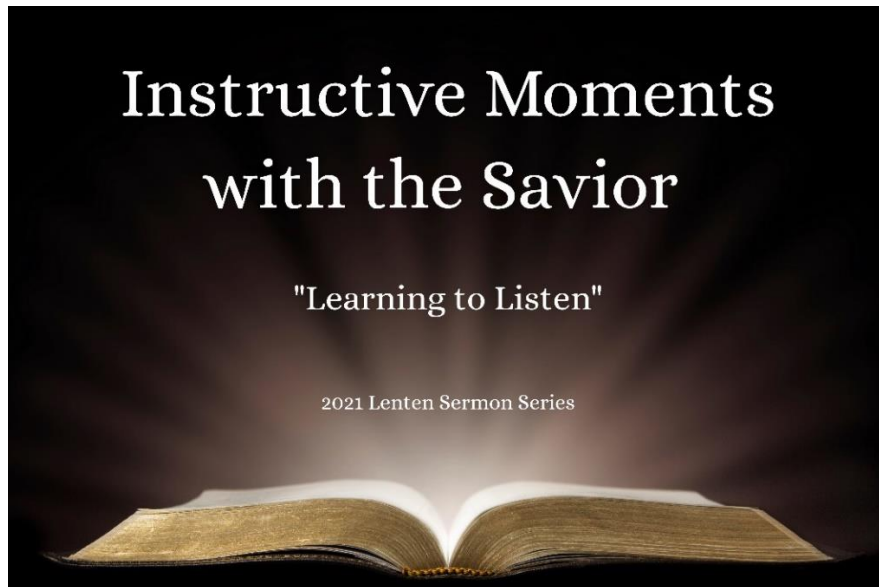


Because we have never done a virtual Congregational Meeting, we needed to do a dress rehearsal to test the process.



When we finished, Pastor Andy prayed for the success of our annual meeting.

## 2021 Lenten Sermon Series



### ***“Instructive Moments with the Savior: Learning to Listen”***

*“Instructive Moments with the Savior invites you to stand among the crowds gathering on the shores of Galilee to hear a controversial, miracle-working Jewish preacher: Jesus of Nazareth. From the fishing boat in which he stands, he begins, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear...” And the words that follow are like none we’ve ever heard.” Ken Gire, Instructive Moments with the Savior.*

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Sermon Title:</b>	<b>Text:</b>
Ash Wednesday	February 17 <sup>th</sup>	<i>“An Instructive Moment about Repentance”</i>	Matthew 6:1-6
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent	February 21 <sup>st</sup>	<i>“An Instructive Moment about Temptation”</i>	Mark 1:9-15
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent	February 28 <sup>th</sup>	<i>“An Instructive Moment about Surrender”</i>	Mark 8:31-38
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent	March 7 <sup>th</sup>	<i>“An Instructive Moment about Anger”</i>	John 2:13-22
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	March 14 <sup>th</sup>	<i>“An Instructive Moment about Salvation”</i>	John 3:14-21
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	March 21 <sup>st</sup>	<i>“An Instructive Moment about “Purpose”</i>	John 12:20-33
PASSION SUNDAY	March 28 <sup>th</sup>	<i>“An Instructive Moment without Words”</i>	Luke 19:28-40



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## Triumph & Connection!

### Getting the COVID Vaccine

As a volunteer at John Muir Hospital, **Wayne Sampson** was part of the first tier of people to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Bravo, Wayne!



### Happy New Year



*Ruth & Jack celebrate the New Year*

Jack says “We have lived and loved in the 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, 00s, 10s and 20s. 9 decades! God is so good! Happy New Year to you all!”

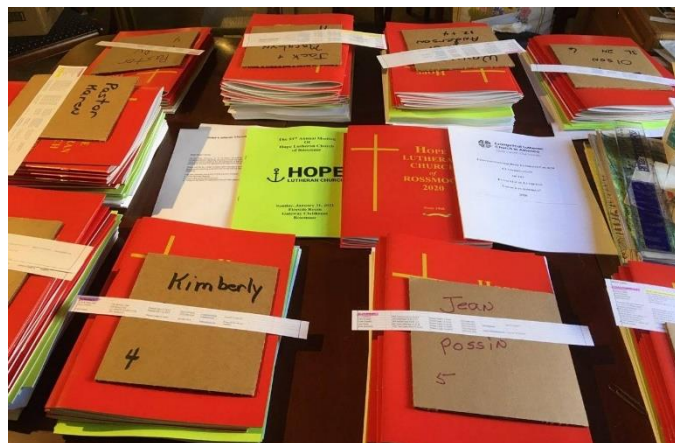
## Master Puzzler



**Esther Kuencer** is beating the pandemic boredom! She finished this 2,000 piece puzzle in three weeks. Great job, Esther!

## Sally's Warehouse

In preparation for Hope's Annual Congregational Meeting, **Sally Nordwall's** office became the warehouse and distribution center for all the documents. Many thanks to Sally and all the volunteer drivers who delivered the document packets to members. Our dedicated drivers were: **Wayne & Margaret Anderson, Marjatta DeSchepper, Robin Kanno, Bill Kuhnsman, Sally Nordwall, Evelyn Olson, Jack & Mary Lyn Padley, Jean Possin, Pastor Andy Smith, Kimberly Twesme, Pastor Karen Woida.**



## Where is Indiana Jones?

This is a view of the Treasury in Petra, Jordan. It appeared in the film “*Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*” as the final resting place of the Holy Grail. **Debbie Bergvall** is afraid of heights so our intrepid photographer had to view it on her tummy from above.



*Hanging over the edge*

## Lafayette Reservoir Christmas Décor



**Ingrid Wood** and her daughter were hiking and found this decorated tree by the Lafayette Reservoir. Their hike this day was over 5 miles.

## Directing Your Thrivent Choice Dollars

Contributed by Wayne Sampson

Thrivent Choice Dollars are available for directing through March 30<sup>th</sup>. Call Thrivent at 800-847-4836

Each day, organizations across the country are doing incredible things to strengthen communities and change lives. Clients can support that important work by directing Choice Dollars to any of more than 40,000 enrolled churches and nonprofit organizations.

- By directing Choice Dollars, eligible clients with membership recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding.
- Clients become eligible to direct Choice Dollars based on their insurance premiums and contract values.

If you have questions about Thrivent Choice Dollars or for more information, please contact Wayne Sampson.

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## “Poinsettias with a Purpose” Update

In early December, Pastor Andy wrote a midweek devotion titled “*Poinsettias with a Purpose*” once he realized we would not be able to have our traditional Poinsettia drive in honor or memory of a loved due to the COVID-19 precautions prohibiting us from holding our Christmas Eve Service in the Fireside Room. In that devotion, Pastor Andy, wrote,



*“For all of us, Christmas Eve will look different this year. We will not be in the Fireside Room with the altar beautifully decorated with poinsettias. This past Monday, the Church Council requested that we offer the members of Hope the opportunity to purchase one or more “virtual poinsettias” in honor or memory of a loved one at \$10 each by making a donation to Hope Lutheran Church and writing “Poinsettias with a Purpose” on the memo portion of the check. All monies received will be used to purchase \$50 gift cards from Target and presented to the Trinity Center, serving under-resourced families in our community. The families receiving the cards will be able to make their own purchases this holiday season.”*

In early January, Pastor Andy presented 19, \$50 Target Gift Cards (\$950) to the Executive Director of the Trinity Center on behalf of Hope Lutheran Church. What a beautiful way to remember our loved ones during the unprecedented 2020 Christmas Season! Thank you to all who gave!

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## Friday Lunch Program for Rossmoor Residents

From the *Rossmoor News*

Additional Information from Sally Nordwall

Rossmoor Recreation sponsors the Friday lunch program at Hillside and Sally Nordwall is offering to pick up and deliver to those residents who are homebound.

From Sally:

Many of our members who live alone could benefit by having already prepared balanced meals available at a reasonable price. Problem might be that they may not be able to drive over to Hillside to pick them up or can't get there during the pickup times. I already go there every week to pick up for several residents so I could offer that service to any of our members who are interested. I can call and let them know when I will be putting their items on their porch. I could also hand it to them if they are mobile enough to get to the door. What they need to do is call their order in to Elena Ybarra and tell her that I will be making the pickup for them.

Please contact Sally Nordwall if you are interested.

For the complete article, please see the January 6 edition of the *Rossmoor News*. The article is on page 13A and is titled “Friday Lunch program delivers frozen meals weekly at Hillside”.

Brand new update: Beginning February 5, the Friday Lunch Meal Program will be adding two additional fresh meals bringing the total number of meals to seven each week (5 frozen + 2 refrigerated). Suggested donation for the 7 meals is \$21.00 for seniors 60 years and older.



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The family of Hope extends our love and sympathy to the family of **Marian McKillop** who passed away in January. Marian was one of our new members from Trinity.

Please pray for the McKillop family that they will experience God's comfort, peace and presence.



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### **What Does Love Look Like?**

Contributed by Hilda Bautista

What does love look like? The answer is simple:

Love has hands to help others.  
It has feet to hasten to the needy.  
It has eyes to see the misery of people.  
It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrow of others.

The greatest gifts of life lie not in material things we receive but, in the love, joy and hope we share.

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### **Do Not Fall Into The Medical Dollar Gap!**

By John K Christensen

As the New Year begins it is an excellent time to renew your medical insurance coverage. For those of you 65 years old or older, you should be covered by Medicare Advantage Plan plus the additional schedule D. You should also have a secondary Insurance that pays for most of what Medicare does not cover. If you do not have these basics and you

have an emergency or other unforeseen health issues you probably will be faced with a large, unexpected bill.

As an example, last year I had an emergency 911 admission to John Muir Hospital for what turned out to be Endocarditis. After four weeks in the hospital, most of the time in ICU care, I was released to home care with the need for infusion medicine for an additional three weeks. With good doctors and a Hope Prayer Circle for me I am in good health today.

The Financial cost could have been devastating. The bill from the hospital was over \$1,200,000! Since I had all the medical plans, most of the bill was covered. Remaining was \$83,000 which my private insurance covered. Thankfully I only had to pay \$10.

Subsequently, in discussion with the clerk in personnel at John Muir, I learned that a surprising number of patients, are without insurance due to loss of work due to COVID-19 or are over 65 and are underinsured!

Please review your medical coverage with your family or financial advisor.

*Note from the Hope Council: Following his recent extended stay in the hospital, John Christensen requested the leadership of Hope to consider providing a workshop on the importance of obtaining the appropriate Medicare Supplemental Insurance Policies for Hope Members. The council will follow up this summer before enrollment periods begin.*

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### **Hope Council's Corner**

Here are the highlights from our "virtual" Council Meeting on Monday, January 11, 2021.

- **2020 Annual Report/Annual Meeting, January 31, 2021, 10:30 AM.**
  - All Written Documents for the Annual Meeting will be distributed to individual homes one week prior



to the Annual Meeting. Sally Nordwall has offered her home as the “warehouse” for all the written documents prior to distribution.

- The Council approved Pastor Karen having her own Zoom account to run her meetings. Cost would be \$150 per year.
- The Council approved the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held via Zoom at **10:30am on Sunday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.**
- Pastor Andy gave an update on “*Poinsettias with a Purpose*” gift to Trinity Center. We received \$950 of Target Gift Cards for homeless families in Walnut Creek!
- The Council approved Pastor Andy to meet with Mike Basil of St. Matthew to seek his consulting assistance in running a virtual Congregational Meeting on January 31, 2021. Pastor Andy will also ask Mike to be a consultant and work with Clint and the pastors in our long-term use of media and website development in the future. Funds for this consulting service are included in the 2021 Operating Budget.

- **Financial Report for December 2020:**

- **December Financial Report.** Hope had a very strong financial month in December. The Council received and approved the December 2020 Financial Report with special thanks to Carolyn & Marv for their continued service to Hope.
- **Proposed 2021 Operating Budget.** The Council approved the 2021 Operating Budget retroactive to Jan. 1, 2021. The Hope congregation will vote to approve 2021 Operating Budget retroactive to January 1, 2021 at the Annual Meeting on January 31, 2021.

- **New Business:**

- Following his recent extended stay in the hospital, John Christensen requested the leadership of Hope to consider providing a workshop on

the importance of obtaining the appropriate Medicare Supplemental Insurance Policies for Hope Members. The council will follow up this summer before enrollment periods begin.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Smith  
Pastor

Bill Kuhnsman  
President, Hope Council

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### **Upcoming Events in February**

**Tuesday, February 2** – Staff Meeting at 10:00am via video conference

**Wednesday, February 3** – **Honoring Our Neighbor’s Faith** at 10:00am via Zoom

**Saturday, February 6** – **Women’s Bible Study** via Zoom at 10:00am

**Monday, February 8** – Hope Council Meeting at 1:00pm via video conference

**Tuesday, February 9** – Staff Meeting at 10:00am via video conference

**Tuesday, February 16** – Staff Meeting at 10:00am via video conference

**Wednesday, February 17** – **Ash Wednesday** virtual service

**Saturday, February 20** – Anchor articles and group updates due for *March* Edition

**Saturday, February 20** – **Women’s Bible Study** via Zoom at 10:00am

**Tuesday, February 23** – Staff Meeting at 10:00am via video conference

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## Small Group News

**The Women of Hope Small Group** – The women’s Bible study group will be meeting via Zoom on Saturday, February 6 and February 20, from 10:00-11:30am. The study is in the January issue of Gather magazine and is entitled “Journey with Angels, Session Two: Turnaround Angels”. Please contact Pastor Karen if you would like to join the study and need the Zoom link. The group decided to meet twice in February so that there would be additional time to cover this interesting topic. We welcome more voices for an even livelier discussion.

**Monday Lunch Group** – We don’t know yet whether we can have our luncheon this month. We will let you know as soon as pertinent information is available. Stay well and confident. If you have questions, call Inge Knight.

**Wednesday Lunch Group** – This activity is dependent upon current shelter-in-place & social distancing requirements. This group usually meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Please talk to Esther Kuencer if you have any questions.

**The Small Group Going Out to Dinner** – The Small Group Going Out To Dinner will not be dining for a few months due to the coronavirus, the limitations on dining inside, and the likely cold weather. We are eager to resume gathering for dinner when the circumstances change.

**Dinner-in-homes Groups** – The dinner-in-home groups have suspended all their activities, pending a change in the Rossmoor shelter-in-place guidelines that will allow for indoor activities for small groups of people.

**Loss & Grief Group** – Our meetings for February have been cancelled due to the coronavirus shelter-in-place mandate but we are available via phone. Call Marjatta DeSchepper.

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## Worship Assistants for February 2021

As of press time, we are still in the purple tier for COVID-19 and must remain with our virtual worship services. Thank you to all our readers, greeters, altar guild who have responded so kindly with your service during these ever-changing times.

Thank you for your faithful service!

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## Worship Assistant Coordinators

Altar Guild – Jean Possin  
Ushers – Evelyn Olson  
Communion Assistants – Mary Lyn Padley  
Greeters – Sandra Williams  
Lay Readers – Mark Krauth  
Fellowship – Margaret Anderson  
Offering Counters – Jean Possin  
Altar & Table Flowers – Mary Lyn Padley

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Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

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## God's Work, Our Hands.



Have you remembered the **Hope Endowment Fund** in your will or trust? When you plan your giving for 2020, think about the Hope Endowment Fund. Your contribution is tax deductible. For more information, please contact Evelyn Olson or any member of the Hope Endowment Committee. Members are identified on their name badges.

### Endowment Committee Members

Evelyn Olson – Coordinator  
Mark Conrad  
Mark Krauth  
Jack Padley  
Wayne Sampson  
Carolyn Schick

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### Hope Lutheran Church Staff & Representatives

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Andy Smith  
Associate Pastor: The Rev. Karen Woida  
Anchor Contributor: Janice Callentine  
Minister of Music: Wayne Anderson  
Financial Manager: Carolyn Schick  
Cantor: Kimberly Twesme  
Care Ministry: Marjatta DeSchepper  
Operations Manager: Robin Kanno  
Rossmoor Interfaith Council Representative: Sally Nordwall  
Webmaster: Clint Mah

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### 2020 Hope Church Council Members

Bill Kuhnsman (President)  
Barrie Christensen (Vice President)  
Mark Krauth (Secretary/Treasurer)  
Marjatta DeSchepper (Care Ministry)  
Robin Kanno (Operations Manager)  
Jack Padley (Liaison to Endowment Committee)  
Carolyn Schick (Financial Manager)

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## From Pastor Andy's Midweek Devotion January 13, 2021

### *The Prayer of Tears*

*Gracious Jesus, it is easier for me to approach you with my mind than with my tears. I do not know how to pray from the emotive center of my life or even how to get in touch with that part of me. Still, I come to you just as I am.*

*I am sorry for my many rejections of your overtures of love. Please forgive all my offenses against your law. I repent of my callous and insensitive ways. Break my stony heart with the things that break your heart.*

*Jesus, you went through your greatest trial in unashamed agony and wept tears of deep, deep sorrow. In remembrance of your sorrow, help me to weep over my sin...and my sins.*

*For your sake and in your name, I pray.  
Amen*

*(Richard Foster, Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home, p. 46)*



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