



**T**he prophets of the Old Testament, called to speak the Word of the Lord, continually reiterated that there was still time to repent before divine retribution ensued. That message is still timely for those walking the path to Jerusalem and the cross today. There still is time to prepare! Our merciful Lord wishes not for the death of the sinner but his turning to embrace the grace of a patient God. We are in the midst of 40 days of preparation, reflection and repentance. There still is time! The barb in the prophets proclamation urges the turning happen today, for there will come a day, when the patience will be exhausted, when no man can work, when there will be no opportunity.

**B**esides one of the great Creeds of the Christian faith, the Council of Nicea (AD 325) gave the Church a standard day for the celebration of the Feast of the Resurrection. It designated the first Sunday after the first full moon (also known as the Paschal Moon—from Passover) after the Spring equinox to be Easter Day. We still follow that designation today. The earliest Easter could fall is 23 March, the latest 25 April. We celebrate a fairly early Feast this year. Calendar history notwithstanding, the focus is an empty tomb, one used as a temporary depository for the body of Jesus. The Sunday following Good Friday and crucifixion witnessed the greatest event in recorded history—resurrection! The sinless Lamb of God, our substitute, was sacrificed on a Roman cross...wages of sin paid. But if that sacrificial death were the conclusion, where the hope for you and me? There would be none! But thanks be to God that the Son was raised on the third day and now lives and reigns to all eternity! Our hope is established. Just as Christ was sacrificed for our rebellion, he was raised for our resurrection. There is no wonder as to why we celebrate on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring equinox!! We live because Jesus is alive!!

#### **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

Sunday—20 March—Palm/Passion Sunday (8:00 & 11:00)  
Wednesday—23 March—NO Lenten midweek worship  
Thursday—24 March—Seder with The Eucharist (6:00)  
Friday—25 March—Tenebrae (7:30)  
Saturday—26 March—The Vigil of Easter (7:30)  
Sunday—27 March—Easter Sunrise (6:00)  
Easter Breakfast (6:30)  
Sunday—27 March--The Feast of The Resurrection (8:00, 9:30 & 11:00)

You are indeed encouraged to engage in each of these worship opportunities and be prepared by them to **live!**

# Notes from Pastor Jon



So often we think of the season of Lent as a time to “give up” something. While that is an honorable practice, Lent is bigger than that. Think about what you can “add” to your life as well. “What sorts of things might I do as I strive to love the Lord my God with all my heart and love my neighbor as myself?” Prayer is good. The study of the Scriptures is as well. How might you love your neighbor? Help him! These are all things we can be about as the Body of Christ during the Season of Lent, and really, all seasons, as practices become regular habits. Remember, Lent is all about Jesus — not us — as we listen to Him and walk with Him all the way to the cross and the glory of the resurrection!

## **CONFIRMATION:**

What is Confirmation? It’s a question we need to visit frequently. Confirmation is regularly understood among Lutherans to be the time/place when and where a Christian makes a public confession of their faith. He or she is ready to take personal responsibility for their Christian life. For those baptized as infants or young children, one might say that the process of Confirmation begins right after baptism.

It is the responsibility and privilege of Christian parents to rear their children in the fear and knowledge of the Lord. The role of the church is to support and encourage parents in their task by providing tools for them. Our Faith Builders program, Confirmation classes, and Retreat are excellent tools to help parents teach the Faith to their children.

Our annual Confirmation Retreat will take place April 8th — 10th at Camp Lone Star. Our theme this year is “Satisfied” based on John 6:35:

*“I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”*

Confirmation Parents: Retreat information will be in your mailboxes very soon.

Please pray for and encourage the students in our Confirmation classes and for a successful retreat. Please pray for and encourage their parents as well as they go about the noble task of rearing their children in the fear and knowledge of the Lord.

## **COMMUNITY GARDEN:**

The garden has been tilled, rows have been formed, and seeds are in the ground growing as our Creator has designed them. Thanks to all those who helped out with the “heavy lifting” of preparing the garden for spring planting.

What’s growing out there? Potatoes, tomatoes, green beans, kale, lettuce, two varieties of squash, zucchini, and cucumbers. If you have any questions or want to help out in any way, please let me know.

His Peace be With You,

Pastor Jon



My song is love unknown, my Savior's love  
to me,  
Love to the loveless shown that they might  
lovely be.  
Oh, who am I, that for my sake,  
My Lord should take frail flesh and die?

The season of Lent is upon us. It is time to reflect on the Christ's sacrifice for us with His death upon the cross. As you journey through Lent, please come and join us for Lenten worship on Wednesdays.

The end of our Lenten journey will bring us to the Festival of the Resurrection on March 27th. We are looking for singers for the Easter worship services for the Hallelujah Chorus and Festival Alleluia. Rehearsals will be on Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m. Please join us.

May God Bless Your Lenten Journey,  
Stephanie Poyner  
Director of Music

<i>March 6th</i>	Adult Choir, Festival Orchestra, Jubilate Handbells
<i>March 20th</i>	Palm / Passion Sunday Adult Choir & Celebration Bells
<i>March 27th</i>	Festival of the Resurrection Adult Choir, Festival Orchestra, Jubilate Handbells



# Music Ministry



# Youth Ministry

## God's Masterpiece

Call it a symphony, a work of art, brilliance in writing — He takes the jumbled mess of our lives and crafts a masterpiece.

Senior High Youth  
Spring Retreat  
April 8–10, 2016

Cost \$120.00 / person

Forms are in the mail or pick them up in the Youth Room.  
Depart Hope, Friday, April 8, 6:00 p.m. / Return around 3:00 p.m. on Sunday,  
April 10

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Thank you to all of our faith family for the love, the support and the laughter through our fund raising for the National Youth Gather! So blessed, our cups run over. . .

BASIC is back! March 30th we will crank up the fun and the discipleship. Make plans to have your homework done and your chores knocked out — 7:00—8:30 p.m., we'll see you there!

# Children's Ministry

## Easter Traditions

Are you building family traditions as you celebrate Easter each year? Do you color eggs with your children? . . . set out Easter baskets? . . . enjoy eating chocolate bunnies? . . . participate in special community events?

These are great ways to make memories that will last a lifetime. But don't forget to help your child understand why Christians celebrate Jesus' resurrection with such great joy. We celebrate God's greatest gift of forgiveness and life in Jesus. At Eastertime, we remember that, in love, Jesus died for us. We remember that we are now God's forgiven people. We remember that Jesus defeated death by rising again. Now, we, too, will live forever with him and one another when our lives here on this earth end.

If your child is a little older, you may want to read the Resurrection story together, perhaps from a children's Bible (see Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-9 or John 20:1-10).

Attend worship as a family and enjoy the beautiful music, the readings, the colors, and the other sights and smells of Resurrection Sunday. Learn the refrain Christians from all over the world have used for many centuries: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Adapted from cta, inc., "Red, Green, Yellow Too" parent letter.*

Even before Easter Sunday, you can spend family time preparing for the joy of Easter during the Lenten season. Hope has Wednesday night Lent services, and soup suppers in the Great Room prior to those services.

Set aside a certain time each day for a family Lent devotion, or to talk about your day and how you were able to shine God's light to others.

Spend some time learning together about the events of Holy Week. Our Sunday School classes will start these lessons this month. Use the parent take home sheets to continue those lessons during your week.

Lent and Easter offer many opportunities to grow your child's faith, have conversations about why Jesus was sent to Earth and had to die, and how much God loves each of us. What family traditions are you planting during Easter?



## **Mark your Calendar**

- \* Palm Procession — Sunday, March 20th during the opening hymn in each service.
- \* VBS ~ Cave Quest. . . Following Jesus — The Light of the World — June 20th—24th

If you would like to lead a station or help out in the planning/preparing stages, please contact Krista Beken, Director of Children's Ministry at 281-482-7943 ext. 116 or [kbeken@hope-lutheran.org](mailto:kbeken@hope-lutheran.org)

# Two Soup Suppers Left!

Come to the Soup Supper at 6:00 p.m. on March 2nd and then join us for Lenten services at 7:00 p.m. We need volunteers for this week's Soup Supper. The sign-up chart is in the Narthex or give Rita a call. We need soups, salads, bread, sandwiches, set-up and clean-up. Please check it out to see what we need! Set-up begins at 5:00 p.m.

March 9th the LWML will host our last Soup Supper and a free-will offering will be taken.

Any questions, contact Rita Henderson at 281-482-7943 or [rhenderson@hope-lutheran.org](mailto:rhenderson@hope-lutheran.org).

NOTE: Be aware on March 16th there will be no Soup Supper due to Spring Break.

## Passover Seder / Maundy Thursday Worship

Come and celebrate the Passover Seder with us on Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center (gym). As an integral part of our Maundy Thursday Holy Week Worship Service, the Altar Guild will be hosting a Symbolic Seder Meal for our members and guests. This elaborate service, led by Pastor Ralph, is a wonderful teaching and learning experience that will allow the gathered community to participate symbolically in the story of salvation.

Of special note: The Seder Meal service will be followed by the Maundy Thursday Holy Communion service, and concluded with the ceremonial "Stripping of the Altar" by the Altar Guild in the Sanctuary. We hope that your worship experience during the Passover Seder and Maundy Thursday Worship is a blessed one.

*The Altar Guild*



## Hopefest Chair Needed. . .

Hopefest is such a wonderful time the first weekend of October! It is a major outreach event for our church. All monies from the activities are used to fund local charities and congregational initiatives. We start planning for it in the spring so we are ready in October. Opportunities for helping with Hopefest are in a wide variety of ways. This year, however, we have a new position open. After Debbie Schkade has faithfully served as chair of Hopefest for 10 years, she has retired. Thank you so much, Debbie! Well done. We now are in need of a Hopefest Chair for 2016.

Please prayerfully consider serving as Chair or Co-Chair. What an amazing way to serve our Hope family. If you are interested, please contact the church office or Rita Henderson at 281-482-7943 or [rhenderson@hope-lutheran.org](mailto:rhenderson@hope-lutheran.org).

# Breakfast is Served

We want to invite you to breakfast on Easter Sunday morning. The menu will include pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, orange juice and coffee.

Breakfast will be served from 6:30 a.m. — 9:45 a.m. in the Family Life Center. A free-will offering will be taken. Please bring your family and enjoy!

We need cooks, people to set up, people to serve and people to help clean up. We need early risers and late stayers. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. We need your help to make this happen!

*Many thanks! Lynn Ann Hobratschk*

# Only Temporary

Although our earthly journey is only temporary, we still praise our Lord for the care and comfort He offers for the journey.

Stephen Ministry is provided at Hope for anyone who is ready and requests a listening, Christian caring person to share their concerns. Pastor Jon is the one to call when faith and courage and need lead you to accept help.



# March-ing in Step

The joy of fellowship and service march hand in hand at Hope Ladies Guild. Our on-going committees reviewed their progress and commitment at our monthly meeting in February and now look forward to what March will offer.

Braille on the first Monday morning of the month and last Tuesday evening. . .and quilting on March 8th at 8:00 a.m. and on March 19th quilts will be taken to the Sanctuary for Quilt Sunday on March 20th. The following day, quilts will be boxed for shipment to Lutheran World Relief.

Our March meeting will be on the 8th, 7:00 p.m. in the Great Room. . .room means space for all women of Hope. . .welcome.

The next day, Wednesday, March 9th, we will host the Lenten Soup Supper with the free will offering going to our commitment to the Texas District LWML Convention and our hosting of the LWML Gulf Coast Zone Rally in April. Your help in preparing soup, setting up, cleaning up and helping to serve is needed and will be most appreciated.

Prayers are asked for our Prayer Sisters, their families and those among us who are experiencing trials and tribulations we are Biblically told to expect.

# *Holy Week Schedule*

<i>Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> –</i>	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	<i>8:00 am.</i>
	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>
<i>Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> –</i>	<i>Seder Meal</i>	<i>6:00 .m.</i>
	<i>Maundy Thursday Service / Stripping of the Altar</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> –</i>	<i>Good Friday Tenebrae</i>	<i>7:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> –</i>	<i>Vigil of Easter</i>	<i>7:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup> –</i>	<i>Sunrise Service</i>	<i>6:00 am.</i>
	<i>Easter Breakfast</i>	<i>6:30 a.m.</i>
	<i>Easter Service</i>	<i>8:00 a.m.</i>
	<i>Easter Service</i>	<i>9:30 a.m.</i>
	<i>Easter Service</i>	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>



## *Voters' Assembly*

There will be a Voters' Assembly on Sunday, March 20, 2016 between services. This meeting will be for the approval of the 2016-2017 Spending Plan, election of President of the Congregation and Board of Directors members, and the State of the Parish.

Please plan to attend this important meeting.

# Financial News

	ANNUAL PLAN	Y-T-D PLAN	Y-T-D ACTUAL	% OF PLAN
Operating Receipts	\$1,089,012.00	\$895,179.61	\$752,320.17	84.04%
Early Childhood Tithe	\$45,000.00	\$36,750.00	\$36,750.00	100.00%
Total Receipts	\$1,134,012.00	\$931,929.61	\$789,070.17	84.67%
Outreach	\$74,405.00	\$62,161.00	\$37,476.47	60.29%
Education	\$9,250.00	\$7,403.77	\$5,575.35	75.30%
Children	\$2,350.00	\$1,513.39	\$424.09	28.02%
Youth	\$15,200.00	\$9,369.24	\$6,643.95	70.91%
Music	\$5,500.00	\$4,734.66	\$3,142.60	66.37%
Assimilation	\$2,600.00	\$2,283.45	\$2,110.81	92.44%
Misc. Ministries	\$11,600.00	\$9,866.70	\$4,986.22	50.54%
Personnel	\$633,157.00	\$533,859.71	\$520,167.78	97.44%
Finance	\$101,950.00	\$78,042.33	\$45,476.15	58.27%
Facilities	\$225,750.00	\$183,139.67	\$14,1191.07	77.09%
Office & Worship	\$42,750.00	\$33,767.34	\$26,979.70	79.90%
Omnibus	\$9,500.00	\$6,058.27	\$2,489.52	41.09%
Total Expenditures	\$1,134,012.00	\$932,199.53	\$796,663.71	85.46%
Income Less Expenses		(\$269.92)	(\$7,593.54)	

**Fiscal Year (04/01/15 - 03/31/16)  
As of January 2016**

**Debt: \$1,387,365.48**

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

Lyzdeanna Cox	3/1	Liana Yarborough	3/14	Andrew & Haley Eaves	3/3
Jacob Johnson	3/1	Paul Kroesen	3/15	Steve & Jean Tubbs	3/7
Roy Weiland	3/1	George Roy	3/15	Michael & Diane Matthijetz	3/14
Gregory Williams	3/1	Elaine Schroeder	3/15	Daniel & Veronica Matula	3/14
Michael Heinlein	3/2	Lane Kroesen	3/16	Boyd & Becky White	3/15
John Mankowski	3/3	David Mustain	3/16	Stephen & Joan Sikes	3/21
Sarabeth Shannon	3/3	Dale Jorgenson	3/17	Matthew & Nova Chauvin	3/22
Jacob Sweeley	3/4	Ronald Kuehnle Jr.	3/17	Shawn & Christine Birch	3/28
Sven Bors-Koefoed	3/5	Kurt Rathjen	3/18	Paul & Karen Newhoff	3/31
Jonathan Cox	3/5	Norma Ross	3/18	James & Linda Rebstock	3/31
Collin Rhodes	3/5	Mitchell Ahrens	3/19		
Travis Rhodes	3/5	Suzy Lobaugh	3/19		
Carolyn Ricaldi	3/5	Alisa Russo	3/19		
Harold Benson	3/6	Linda Davis	3/20		
Brian Chapin	3/6	Roger Hibbs	3/20		
Robin Hall	3/6	Lorna Zeitler	3/20		
Sheri Petering	3/6	Dwain Akins	3/21		
William Taylor	3/6	Dorrie Tomayko	3/22		
LilaJan Hibbs	3/7	Patricia Jensen	3/23		
Betty Johnson	3/7	Brian Tomayko	3/23		
Luke Van Chau	3/7	Kyle King	3/24		
Margie Riley	3/8	Niels Aalund	3/25		
Dick Castille	3/9	Kendra Kaderka	3/25		
Linda Davenport	3/9	Bryce Hovorka	3/27		
Jonathan Hawkins	3/9	Bill Frank	3/28		
Riley Heinlein	3/9	Brandon Matthijetz	3/28		
Sandra McHone	3/9	Kayla Petersen	3/28		
Nathan Jensen	3/10	Stephanie Poyner	3/28		
Brady Mittendorf	3/10	John Shannon	3/28		
Addison Keyes	3/11	Marissa Sweeley	3/28		
Michele Albrecht	3/12	Bruce Hunter	3/30		
Ineke Dabelic	3/12	Lisa Muniz	3/30		
Meadow Gette	3/12	Bailey Dippel	3/31		
Katherine Harclerode	3/13	Jenna White	3/31		



# This Month at Hope

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>march 2016</b>						
<b>3/6/2016</b> Evcharist 8:00 AM BULLD 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM Confirmation 9:45 AM High School Sunday School 9:45 AM History of Christianity 9:45 AM Mens Ministry 9:45 AM Parent Study Group 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Together with Jesus 9:45 AM Video & Discussion Group 9:45 AM Women's Study Group 9:45 AM Evcharist 11:00 AM Renewal 12:30 PM Small Group (Butler) 5:30 PM	<b>3/7/2016</b> Braille 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 9:00 AM Preschool / MDO 9:30 AM Small Group (Henderson) 9:30 AM Small Group (Hunting) 10:00 AM Small Group (Hunting) 7:30 PM 	<b>3/8/2016</b> Quilting 9:00 AM Preschool / MDO 9:30 AM Hope Woodwinds 9:30 AM Hope Brass 10:00 AM Ladies Guild 10:00 AM Jubilate Bells 7:00 PM Jubilate Bells 8:00 PM	<b>3/9/2016</b> Preschool / MDO 9:30 AM Children's Choirs 9:30 AM Soup Supper 6:00 PM Celebratio Bells 6:30 PM Advent Worship 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM	<b>3/10/2016</b> Lakeview Quilt Guild 9:00 AM Preschool / MDO 9:30 AM TT Palm Branch Parade 1:10 PM Small Group (Women's) 7:00 PM	<b>3/11/2016</b> 	<b>3/12/2016</b> 
<b>3/13/2016</b> <b>DST Begins</b> Evcharist 8:00 AM BULLD 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM Confirmation 9:45 AM High School Sunday School 9:45 AM History of Christianity 9:45 AM Mens Ministry 9:45 AM Parent Study Group 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Together with Jesus 9:45 AM Video & Discussion Group 9:45 AM Women's Study Group 9:45 AM Evcharist 11:00 AM Praise & Modern Day Fright 12:30 PM	<b>3/14/2016</b> Quilting 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 9:00 AM Stephen Ministry 7:00 PM	<b>3/15/2016</b> Hope Woodwinds 6:00 PM Hope Brass 7:00 PM Jubilate Bells 8:00 PM	<b>3/16/2016</b> <b>SPRING BREAK</b> Small Group (Ericsson) 10:00 AM Celebration Bells 6:30 PM Advent Worship 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM	<b>3/17/2016</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> Small Group (Hinga) 7:00 PM Small Group (Women's) 7:00 PM 	<b>3/18/2016</b> Small Group (Peterson) 6:30 PM	<b>3/19/2016</b> Altar Guild Planning Meeting 9:00 AM
<b>3/20/2016</b> Staff Meeting 9:00 AM Preschool / MDO 9:30 AM Small Group (Henderson) 9:30 AM Small Group (Hunting) 10:00 AM Small Group (Hunting) 7:30 PM 	<b>3/21/2016</b> Staff Meeting 9:00 AM Preschool / MDO 9:30 AM Small Group (Henderson) 10:00 AM Small Group (Hunting) 7:30 PM	<b>3/22/2016</b> Quilting 9:00 AM Preschool / MDO 9:30 AM Hope Woodwinds 9:30 AM Hope Brass 6:00 PM Jubilate Bells 7:00 PM Jubilate Bells 8:00 PM	<b>3/23/2016</b> Preschool / MDO 9:30 AM Children's Choirs 9:30 AM Seder Meal Setup 6:00 PM Easter Dress Rehearsal 7:00 PM Easter Dress Rehearsal 8:00 PM 	<b>3/24/2016</b> Preschool / MDO 9:30 AM <b>Masyny Thursday / Seder</b> 6:00 PM <b>Board of Directors' Meeting</b> 7:00 PM Small Group (Women's) 7:00 PM	<b>3/25/2016</b> <b>Good Friday Tenebrae</b> 	<b>3/26/2016</b> <b>Vight of Easter</b> 
<b>3/27/2016</b> <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> Sunrise Service 8:00 AM Easter Service 9:30 AM Easter Service 11:00 AM	<b>3/28/2016</b> <b>Office Closed</b> Quilting 9:00 AM Preschool / MDO 9:30 AM Stephen Ministry 7:00 PM	<b>3/29/2016</b> Preschool / MDO 9:30 AM Hope Woodwinds 9:30 AM Hope Brass 6:00 PM Jubilate Bells 7:00 PM Jubilate Bells 8:00 PM	<b>3/30/2016</b> Preschool / MDO 9:30 AM Children's Choirs 9:30 AM Celebration Bells 6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM	<b>3/31/2016</b> Study Series 9:00 AM Preschool / MDO 9:30 AM Small Group (Women's) 7:00 PM	<b>3/31/2016</b> Study Series 9:00 AM Preschool / MDO 9:30 AM Small Group (Peterson) 6:30 PM	<b>3/31/2016</b> 



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# Anchor Chain

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*Ralph W. Hobratschk, Senior Pastor*

*Jonathan E. Petering, Associate Pastor*