



Pastor's Paragraphs

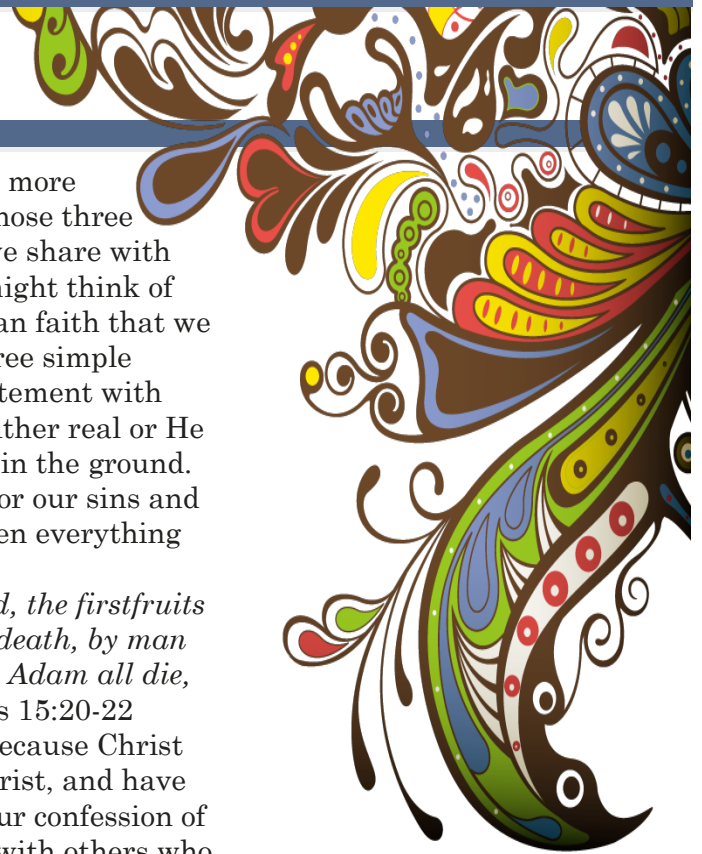
Too many times we approach the tomb of Jesus just as the women did that Sunday morning following an horrific Friday. We have our spices and ointments in hand ready for the difficult task of giving him a proper burial. We witnessed the excesses of Good Friday and crucifixion ending in a lifeless body suspended between heaven and earth. We felt the darkness of a sunless sky and the tremors of the earth beneath our feet. It was indeed finished. Joseph of Arimathea quickly shrouded the body and buried it in his own tomb before the start of the Sabbath and now we come back to finish the job. Too many times our choices and actions, our very hearts, indicate we recognize a dead Jesus of history or a beloved teacher gone or leader whose life was cut short...we don't have a living Jesus leading us into even greater works for him and the kingdom. No wonder we have another forty days to leave our spices behind and follow a living Savior! His resurrection changes everything for his disciples, even today. Sin is forgiven. Eternal life is assured. Christ's companionship is stressed. The future is glorious. No wonder we anticipate singing with angels and archangel and all the company of heaven!!

The road to Emmaus was a most unlikely place to encounter one who had so recently died. The two disciples of Jesus walked along with eyes blurred with the tears of grief and fear expecting that the days ahead would be difficult. That scene on the road has always attracted me because I so easily find myself walking that road as I have so many times before. It is there in the ordinary that I encounter Jesus. Remember the Emmaus disciples recounted that their hearts burned within as he opened the Scripture. It is in the Word of God that we, no less than they, encounter the risen Christ. I invite you to join me in this daily walk in the Word and the rediscovery of Jesus walking with us.

A quick note about some long-term planning is in order. In April of 2017 I will be leading a return trip to the Holy Land. If you are at all interested, let me know and I'll get you started in the process. Brochures are available that outline the time we will spend and the places we will visit. What better way to continue resurrection celebration than to walk where Jesus did. Collette Vacations does a remarkable job for us.

The gift of hospitality marks the heart of a follower of Jesus. As he accepted us where and how we were, we accept others as and where they are to the end that the friendship and relationship we build with them will lead to an encounter of the resurrected Jesus. For many of us, that process of hospitality runs counter to our nature. Ask God the Holy Spirit to use us all as his hospitable witnesses.

Notes from Pastor Jon



“Christ is Risen!” Those three simple words are more than simple words. They are packed with meaning. Those three simple words are a confession of faith — a confession we share with all Christians of all times and places. Sometimes we might think of “Christ is Risen!” as a relic — a museum of the Christian faith that we just rehearse for a few weeks every year. But those three simple words are in fact a living and active statement — a statement with which everyone in the world must contend. Christ is either real or He isn’t. Christ is either risen from the dead or He’s dead in the ground. If He is risen, then there really is a God who has died for our sins and risen for our justification. But if Christ is not risen, then everything we believe and do as Christian is ridiculous and futile.

“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by man has come also the resurrection from the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.” 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

Our confession of faith is a joyous confession. Because Christ is risen, we are forgiven of sin, are new creations in Christ, and have the hope of our own resurrection from the dead. And our confession of faith is one to share — to share these blessed realities with others who do not know or have not heard that Christ is risen indeed!

The Peace of our Risen Christ be with You,
Pastor Jon

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The garden is all planted. Now it’s time for our Creator to do in the garden what He has done to us through our Savior, Jesus Christ: bring about life and growth from dead seeds. What’s out there? Tomatoes, green beans, red potatoes, kale, lettuce, yellow squash, zucchini, cucumbers. And we’re trying something new this year: spaghetti squash. Want to help out in some way? Contact me!

STEPHEN MINISTERS

Do you enjoy listening to what others have to say? Do you hurt when others hurt and feel joyous when those around you are joyful? Do you want to find a way to share the Gospel of Jesus and care for the needs of others? Maybe Stephen Ministry is for you! We certainly have room for more trained Stephen Ministers. If you are thinking about being a Stephen Minister, I would love to talk with you.

CONFIRMATION:

Early this month (April 8-10), the confirmation classes will embark upon their annual retreat to Camp Lone Star. There we will learn more about the Faith we share in Christ, enjoy God’s creation, and learn more about each other. Our theme this year is “Satisfied.” Please pray that we stay safe, that we have great weather, and that all participating learns and grows in Christ.



He is Arisen! Glorious Word!
Now reconciled is God, my Lord;
The gates of heav'n are open.
My Jesus rose triumphantly,
And Satan's arrows broken lie,
Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.
Oh, hear, what cheer!
Christ victorious, rising glorious,
life is giving.
He was dead, but now is living!

I would like to personally thank all the musicians who made the celebration of the Passion so meaningful:

- The Celebration Bells for the beautiful call to Worship on Palm/Passion Sunday
- The Children's Choir for singing with the Adult Choir on Palm/Passion Sunday
- The Adult Choir for their anthems on Palm/Passion Sunday

And for making the Resurrection so glorious:

- The Sanctuary Choir, who served by blessing us with a stunning rendition of the *Hallelujah Chorus*
- The Hope Festival Orchestra, who served by playing festive settings of Easter hymns and liturgy
- The Hope Jubilate Bells, who served by ringing special music during the offering and ringing with the opening hymn
- And a special thank you to our assistant director, Mr. Bob Davis

Easter is such an amazing day. It is wonderful to have such talented individuals to share their musical gifts for the special celebration of Easter.

All of our children's musical groups will be ringing and singing on Sunday, April 24th at the 11:00 a.m. service. This will be our last served for Spring 2016. We will end our season with an End of Year Party on April 27th in the Great Room from 5:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.

Music Camp is around the corner! Join us this year from July 11th — 15th. Registration is only \$50.00, which includes a t-shirt and CD of the music. Registration for Hope members begins Sunday, May 1st.

Sing and Make Music in Your Heart to the Lord,
Stephanie Poyner
Director of Music

Music Ministry

Garage Sale
Saturday, April 30
7:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Youth attending the
National LCMS
Youth Gathering will
host a garage sale!
Come shop the
bargains and find new
treasures!

A big thank you to all of our faith family for your generous and loving support through our youth fund raising season! Soup suppers, spaghetti lunch and trivia night were all a great blessing to youth and families raising funds for the trip. Our Trivia Night 2016 was the largest ever at Hope with more than 120 participants! We pray that these events not only serve to raise funds but additionally create fun and memorable fellowship times among all of you. We are blessed, our cup runs over.

Something new!

Save the date! Graduating Seniors and their families are invited to Faith Builders 7, a service of blessing and time of fellowship together — Sunday, May 22. We will gather at 6:45 p.m. for appetizers and time together and then join together in the Sanctuary at 7:15 for the service. A mailing will be send in late April with help for parents composing a blessing and a formal invitation.

The Summer Solstice Servant Project will take place afternoons following VBS, June 20-24. Youth in grades 6-12 working as crew leaders and volunteers in the VBS program can stay after and participate in various service projects within our community and around the world. Not able to help with VBS in the morning? No worries, just plan to join us at 12:30 p.m. each day for the latest adventure. We would love adult helpers too — assisting with projects and transportation. If you can help, contact Robin ASAP so we can make our plans! Projects will include care packages for Meals on Wheels, a shoe project that will travel around the world, and even a project to benefit animals! A registration fee of \$30.00 helps defray our costs — sign up will begin with VBS registration. Watch for more details soon!

BASIC is back!
Senior high youth and 8th graders are invited to join the fun Wednesday, 7-8:30 p.m. in the youth room. Come play, come study, come lead, come laugh!

Youth Ministry



SWAT resumes Wednesday, April 6th

I have missed the SWAT crew during our break for Lent! We will begin meeting again Wednesday, April 6th at 6:30 p.m.

A reminder about our Lenten challenge — at our April 6th meeting, tell me why purple is the color of royalty, and you'll get a surprise.

Bucket List

Merriam-Webster defines “bucket list” as “a list of things that one has not done before but wants to do before dying.”

You can search “bucket list” online and find anything from season specific lists, to husband and wife lists, to family lists. I have even found a father/son list and a spring break specific bucket list. Odd as it may sound, the spring break list got me thinking about a *faith* bucket list. The spring break bucket list I found on imom.com included things like read a book together, take a photo *with* your children, and fill out a family tree together. What made me look again was another item on the list — teach your child to pray. Teach them to pray. We may teach them prayers, but do we teach them to pray? What else can we teach them to strengthen their faith? How can we grow our child's faith at home? Do we teach them how to use the Bible; how to look up verses and specific stories? Do we teach them how to be the hands and feet of God and shine God's light? If you were to create a *faith* bucket list for your family, what would you include?

Having just celebrated Easter, let us not forget what Jesus told his disciples: *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* Matthew 28:19-20

Krista Beken, Director of Children's Ministries

Children's Ministry

VBS 2016 Registration May 1st

Cave Quest. . .Following Jesus —
The Light of the World
Join the fun June 20—24,
9:00 a.m. — noon

Four year olds through 5th graders will learn that Jesus give us hope, courage, direction, love, and power. For children of volunteers, we will have a nursery available and a program for 3 year olds. Space is limited, so you will want to register as soon as possible. Registration fee is \$15.00 per child.

We will also have sign-up sheets for volunteers beginning May 1st. VBS is our largest volunteer event in Children's Ministry. The week is busy, files by, and the fun is nonstop. Please consider joining us this summer.

Summer Music Camp 2016

July 11—15, 2016

Registration begins Sunday, May 1st
(between services)

The cost is \$50.00, which includes a camp t-shirt, CD, pizza party and supplies. Camp is for 4 year olds through kids who have completed 5th grade. Campers must be 4 years old by July 1st. Space will be limited, so sign up early!

All children will be participating in the camp musical on Thursday, July 14th at 6:30 p.m. Auditions for the speaking parts of the musical will be on Thursday, July 7th at 6:30 p.m. for children who have completed 2nd — 5th grade.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Poyner at 281-482-7943 or spoyner@hope-lutheran.org.



Easter Hymn Festival

Benefiting LINC Houston
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Sunday, April 10th — 3:00 p.m.

Led by the Adult Choirs of Gloria Dei, Hope—Friendswood, Epiphany—Pearland, and Trinity—Houston with the Handbell Choirs of Gloria Dei and Hope—Friendswood.

Hopefest

We at Hope Lutheran look forward to a special time called Hopefest. Hopefest is the major outreach event for our church. All monies received from the activities are used to fund local charities and congregational initiatives. Volunteers are a central part to this event and cannot happen without them. This year, we have a special need. We now are in need of a Hopefest Chair or Co-Chairs for 2016. Our planning needs to start now so we are ready for Hopefest on October 1-2. Please prayerfully consider serving — 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.

What Can I Do?

Check out the hallway bulletin board in the Center for Faith Development. There you will find the listing of ways you can serve as a volunteer at Hope. Openings for coffee hour, greeters, Hopefest, etc. are listed. Also, if you have a volunteer need in a ministry, please contact Rita Henderson and we will add your needs to our listings.

You can contact Rita at 281-482-7943 or rhenderson@hope-lutheran.org.

A BIG Soup Supper Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who helped set-up, clean-up, and shared food donations for the Soup Suppers during Lent. We could not have done it without you. A special “thanks” goes to the Youth and LWML who sponsored Soup Suppers as a fund raiser and all those who supported them.

Rita Henderson, Volunteer Coordinator

April Facts

- ⇒ The birthstone of April is the Diamond!!
- ⇒ The birth flower of April is the Sweet Pea or the Daisy.

Ladies Guild Plans for April

Coming Attractions: Lutheran Women’s Mission League (LWML) Gulf Coast Zone Rally! A long name for a biennial event designed to revive and renew the commitment and intent of women from eleven societies to “Serve the Lord with Gladness.” Our Hope ladies will host this event on Sunday afternoon, April 17th. We welcome and invite all women of Hope to attend this spiritually nourishing event. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. in our Family Life Center (gym), and a meal follows the meeting.

Last minute Rally plans will no doubt be a part of our monthly meeting, April 12th with Mary Alice Buchorn and Dolores Jackowski scheduled as hostesses, Karen Newhoff presenting the devotion and Mary Ann Waldon offering the prayer. 7:00 p.m., Great Room, a reserved seat for you.

Many opportunities to serve our Lord and Savior when women come together in faith. The encouragement, closeness, and support experienced in such gatherings varies as does the individual abilities and talents from women of all ages and personalities. What an array of God-given gifts united by faith. Being a part of this is for all of us to experience.



Going once, going twice. . .

We want you there, but we're closing the sign up window on April 17th for our Women of Hope, Women of Grace Women's mini-retreat on May 1 from 12:30 p.m. — 4:30 p.m. This wonderful day for women from 6th grade through 100 years old will be a time to go deep into Scripture, fellowship with other women of faith, sing, praise, and . . . eat a great meal together. It's going to be a very special opportunity for women to gather and celebrate that they are Women of Hope, Women of Grace. Make a date to join us!

Stephen Ministry's On-going Offer

How much value would you place on a caring friend who assured you a listening ear, complete privacy, no judging your choices, helping to focus on bettering the difficult days. Value beyond assessing but so desired.

Christian men and women, all of whom like you are Hope members, who have varied experiences in life situations and specialized training in the Stephen Ministry process are yours for the asking. Many who should and could benefit hesitate to ask. Be assured that names are known only to Pastor Jon to whom your request is directed and the Stephen Minister he assigns to you.

How long will a Stephen Minister visit and talk with you? There is no time limit for situations differ and take as long as they take. So often, a first visit will ease your cautious wondering and the relief of sharing what is heavy on your heart brings inner strength.

Stephen Ministers can only prayerfully offer, urge and encourage you to talk with Pastor Jon for the process to being for you. The choice is yours, choose well.

More April Facts:

April 1 — April Fools' Day

April 5 — Arbor Day

April 22 — Earth Day

April is:

Global Child Nutrition Month

Humor Month

Mathematics Awareness Month

Thai New Year in Thailand

Khmer New Year in Cambodia



Financial News

	ANNUAL PLAN	Y-T-D PLAN	Y-T-D ACTUAL	% OF PLAN
Operating Receipts	\$1,089,012.00	\$976,266.37	\$823,089.01	84.05%
Early Childhood Tithe	\$45,000.00	\$40,875.00	\$40,875.00	100.00%
Total Receipts	\$1,134,012.00	\$102,0141.37	\$863,964.01	84.69%
Outreach	\$74,405.00	\$68,278.50	\$43,370.47	63.52%
Education	\$9,250.00	\$8,274.37	\$7,487.20	90.49%
Children	\$2,350.00	\$1,534.26	\$479.01	31.22%
Youth	\$15,200.00	\$12,850.13	\$8,422.09	65.54%
Music	\$5,500.00	\$4,927.92	\$3,855.91	78.25%
Assimilation	\$2,600.00	\$2,300.00	\$2,132.83	92.73%
Misc. Ministries	\$11,600.00	\$11,036.47	\$5,300.22	48.02%
Personnel	\$633,157.00	\$583,506.59	\$56,9007.16	97.52%
Finance	\$101,950.00	\$85,840.90	\$45,676.41	53.21%
Facilities	\$225,750.00	\$202,305.15	\$154,452.61	76.35%
Office & Worship	\$42,750.00	\$36,635.40	\$29,273.77	79.91%
Omnibus	\$9,500.00	\$6,558.26	\$37,54.83	57.25%
Total Expenditures	\$1,134,012.00	\$102,4047.95	\$873,212.51	85.27%
Income Less Expenses		(\$3,906.58)	(\$9,248.50)	

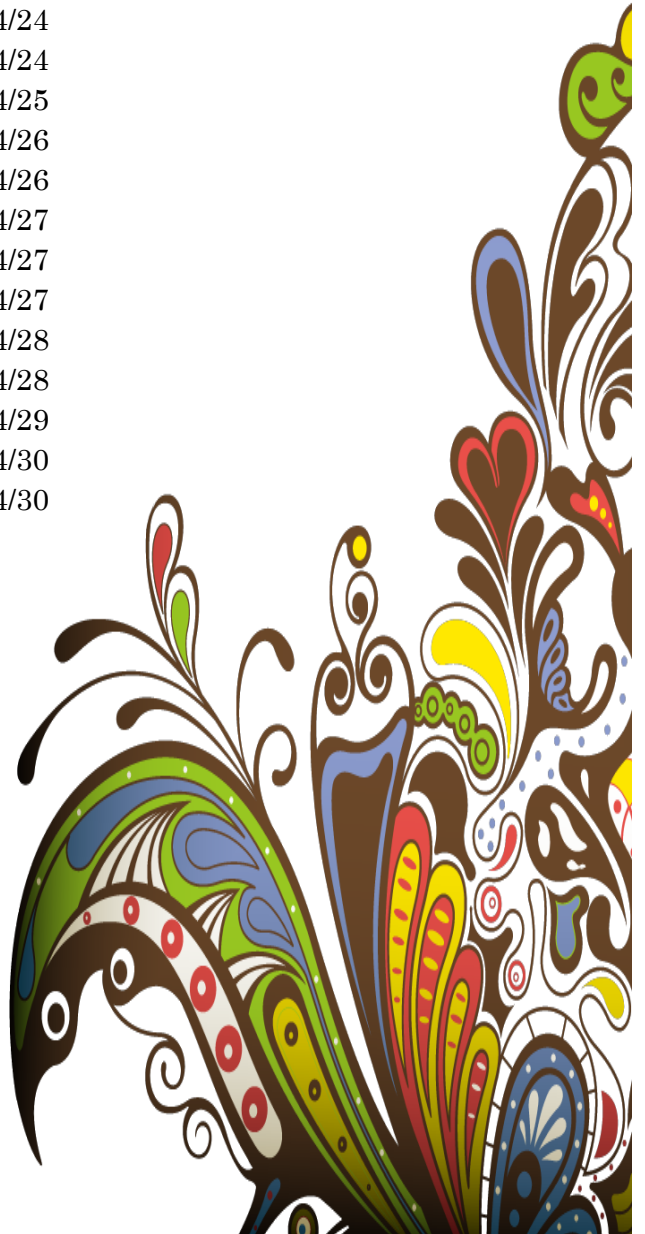
Debt: \$1,369,975.78

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






Landon Aman	4/1	Ralph Hobratschk	4/16	Albert & Marlene Guzman	4/8
Thomas Mankowski	4/1	Riley Leimer	4/16	Ralph & Lynn Hobratschk	4/12
Kendra Allen	4/2	Laverne Walleck	4/16	Michael & Penny Thomas	4/12
Pat Cruz	4/2	Marie Denzler	4/18	Tomas & Trisha Mankowski	4/15
Keith Shannon	4/2	Karen Glebe	4/18	Martin & Barsa Harclerode	4/16
Grace Chauvin	4/3	Lynda Watlington	4/18	David & Inez Dallas	4/19
Hannah King	4/3	Madison Hembd	4/19	Jim & Carol Chew	4/25
Michael Riggs	4/3	Marc Riley	4/19	Harry & Gloria Havard	4/27
Benjamin Haverty	4/4	Karen Paulder	4/20	Anthony & JoAn Warren	4/28
Clark Hibbs	4/4	Debra Hasty	4/21	Ronald & Ellen Kuehnle	4/29
John Hobratschk	4/5	Jean Tubbs	4/21	Jerry & Joyce Pfleeger	4/29
Tenley Pond	4/5	Shari Bacon	4/22		
Matthew Tieman	4/5	Candice Blaylock	4/22		
Kelsey Dippel	4/7	Bryce Evans	4/22		
James Schleider	4/7	Joah George	4/22		
Shirley Allen	4/10	Michael Taylor	4/22		
Kevin Cox	4/10	Garrett Chapin	4/23		
McKenna Harclerode	4/10	Robert Davis	4/24		
Kenneth Yarborough	4/10	John Kueck	4/24		
Wayne Chauvin	4/11	Hilary Paulder	4/25		
Nathan Ellis	4/11	Amy Haverty	4/26		
Samantha Mankowski	4/11	Owen Jones	4/26		
Gabriel Gonzales	4/12	Inez Dallas	4/27		
Pauline Stavakis	4/12	Ashley Tubbs	4/27		
Tristan Hobratschk	4/13	Nathaniel Williams	4/27		
Kelsey Westover	4/13	Dalton Gebhardt	4/28		
Lorraine Erickson	4/14	Elizabeth McMahon	4/28		
Courtney Huning	4/14	Travis Pfleeger	4/29		
Jon Pfleeger	4/15	Nathan Kohn	4/30		
Micah Riley	4/15	Alli Westover	4/30		

Birthdays & Anniversaries



This Month at Hope

April 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					HURT Meeting Small Group (Petersen)	10:00 AM 6:30 PM
4/3/2016 Eucharist BUILT Adult Bible Study Confirmation High School Sunday School History of Christianity Men's Ministry Parent Study Group Sunday School Together with Jesus Video & Discussion Group Women's Study Group Eucharist Renewal College Outreach Small Group (Butler)	4/4/2016 Braille Staff Meeting Preschool / MDO Small Group (Henderson) Small Group (Huning)	4/5/2016 Preschool / MDO Hope Woodwinds Hope Brass Jubilate Bells 	4/6/2016 Preschool / MDO Small Group (Erickson) Children's Choirs Celebration Bells BASIC Sanctuary Choir	4/7/2016 Study Series Preschool / MDO Small Group (Hinga) Small Group (Women's)	4/8/2016 Orsak Wedding Confirmation Retreat 5:00 Reverse Draw . Rotary	4/9/2016 Confirmation Retreat Orsak Wedding 5:00 Reverse Draw . Rotary
4/10/2016 Confirmation Retreat Eucharist BUILT Adult Bible Study High School Sunday School History of Christianity Men's Ministry Parent Study Group Sunday School Together with Jesus Video & Discussion Group Women's Study Group Eucharist Raising a Modern Day Knight Renewal	4/11/2016 Quilting Staff Meeting Preschool / MDO Upward Meeting Stephen Ministry	4/12/2016 Preschool / MDO Hope Woodwinds Hope Brass Ladies Guild Jubilate Bells	4/13/2016 Preschool / MDO Children's Choirs Celebration Bells BASIC Sanctuary Choir	4/14/2016 Latview Quilt Guild Preschool / MDO Small Group (Women's)	4/15/2016 Small Group (Petersen)	4/16/2016 
4/17/2016 Newsletter Deadline Eucharist BUILT Voters Assembly Adult Bible Study Confirmation High School Sunday School History of Christianity Men's Ministry Parent Study Group Sunday School Together with Jesus Video & Discussion Group Women's Study Group Eucharist Raising Girls Renewal Small Group (Butler)	4/18/2016 Staff Meeting Preschool / MDO Small Group (Henderson) Small Group (Huning)	4/19/2016 Preschool / MDO Hope Woodwinds Hope Brass Jubilate Bells	4/20/2016 MEALS ON WHEELS Preschool / MDO Small Group (Erickson) Children's Choirs Celebration Bells BASIC Sanctuary Choir	4/21/2016 Study Series Preschool / MDO RAD Women Small Group (Hinga) Small Group (Women's)	4/22/2016 RAD Women	4/23/2016 RAD Women
4/24/2016 Eucharist BUILT Voters Assembly Adult Bible Study Confirmation High School Sunday School History of Christianity Men's Ministry Parent Study Group Sunday School Together with Jesus Video & Discussion Group Women's Study Group Eucharist Raising Girls Renewal Small Group (Butler)	4/25/2016 Quilting Staff Meeting Preschool / MDO Stephen Ministry 	4/26/2016 Preschool / MDO Hope Woodwinds Hope Brass Jubilate Bells	4/27/2016 Preschool / MDO Children's Choirs Party Celebration Bells BASIC Sanctuary Choir	4/28/2016 Study Series Preschool / MDO TT Volunteer Luncheon Board of Directors Meeting Small Group (Women's)	4/29/2016 Women's Retreat set-up	4/30/2016 Women's Retreat set-up



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VOL 33 | APRIL 2016 | ISSUE 4



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Ralph W. Hobratchk, Senior Pastor

Jonathan E. Petering, Associate Pastor