

# *PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS*

**T**he Ash Wednesday service not only begins the forty days of Lent, it also lays the foundation for those who would follow Jesus to the cross. During the course of everyday living we seldom stop to consider the very cessation of that living, close calls at the hospital notwithstanding. The Ash Wednesday service brings front and center our humanity and it's inevitable end...we are dust and to dust we shall return. That stark reminder intoned with the imposition of ashes (which, by the way, are made from the burning of the palms from last Palm Sunday) leaves no doubt that we are terminal human beings. The wages of sin is death. One who works for sin and its desires gets compensated with death, because running and hiding from the Life Giver can end in no different reality but losing life. We lost the connection. Who shall deliver us from this death spiral? Medicine? Good diet and exercise? Stress relieving meditation? Wishes that it were not so? Occupation with the moment? No! The only salvation from this eventuality is found only in Jesus! He became one of us so that we can learn of the Way and the Truth and the Life. Death is not the final word for those who put their trust in the life, cross and resurrection of Jesus. His actions reconnect us to the Life Giver and we are promised resurrection and life everlasting in the Father's house, ushered in by our Brother. Is there any wonder the importance and relief of these forty days of preparation for the greatest event in the history of God's creation?! There is none more important. Just a quick service note for our mid-week services, we will be using a modified version of Holden Evening Prayer to guide us through to the Feast of the Resurrection.

**F**amily Promise, a national endeavor to address the needs of the homeless, is ready to reinitiate the Bay Area chapter with twelve churches involved. Hope Lutheran stands ready to heed the admonition of Jesus proclaimed...caring for those who cannot at the moment care for themselves. Once a quarter we will be hosting up to fourteen family members with sleeping arrangements, meals, and fellowship. Lorraine Erickson chairs the effort but she will indeed need the assistance of volunteers for setup/tear down, meals, assistance with homework, and simple fellowship with those who are less fortunate than we. Hope has a great facility that will adequately care for these families. Be ready to step up and serve. The program kicks off toward the end of March.

**S**peaking of service, Hope Lutheran sponsors mentors on a weekly basis that step into a local elementary school to enrich and help direct the life of a young person who most likely does not have the most positive role model at home. KID'S Hope USA is chaired by Sandy McHone and she would be pleased to train and involve you in a life-change interaction with a deserving young person. "Let the little children come to me."

**R**emember the Voters' Assembly scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, 19 March in the Great Room. We will be electing a new Treasurer and Board Members and passing a new Spending Plan. I believe the question of a columbarium will also be put to the Voters.

# NOTES FROM PASTOR JON

Lent is upon us. What are you going to give up for Lent? How about this: what are you going to take on for Lent? Perhaps a renewed commitment to daily devotion and/or prayer. Perhaps a commitment to serve others in your own particular way. Perhaps a commitment to be more regular in worship and/or Bible study. The season of Lent is a great opportunity to renew or even begin the habits, practices, and disciplines of a follower of Jesus as we listen to Him and follow Him all the way to Jerusalem, to the cross, and to the empty tomb.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

Lots of planting going on! Potatoes, beans, squash, lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes will go in soon. Later this month, the PK4's of Tiny Treasures will help do some planting as well. Gardening works like the proclamation of the Gospel. We spread the seed, but God gives the growth!

## STEPHEN MINISTERS

Last month on February 21st, the Stephen Ministers of Hope had the opportunity to help those in need. We feed the homeless who are clients of Mercy Tree in the Clearlake area. We ate with them, listened to them, and shared stories with them. What a great opportunity to share God's love with those so in need of His love!

## OUTREACH

Have you noticed the number of new faces around here? It is exciting to see new people come to hear about Jesus in this place and become a part of our community. It's also exciting to think about all of those people who aren't here yet. Welcome all of those new faces and get to know them not by face, but by name.

## CONFIRMATION

Our annual Confirmation Retreat takes place March 31—April 2. All of our students and their teachers will spend the weekend at Camp Lone Star outside of LaGrange, TX for a weekend of study, worship, challenge, and fun. This year's theme is "Alive" — built on John 11:25-26: *"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."*

Registration forms should be hitting your mailboxes soon. Please pray for our Confirmation students as they prepare to publicly confess the Faith and take responsibility for their continue growth in the Faith.

**Like us on our new Facebook Page! God to [www.hope-lutheran.org](http://www.hope-lutheran.org) and click on the Facebook button on the bottom of our homepage.**

His Peace Be With You, Pastor Jon

# MUSIC MINISTRY

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 order of worship will be Holden Evening Prayer. This service will be led by cantors Amanda Gonzales and Carol Chew, guitarists Don Hite and Bruce Brown, flutist Carissa Petersen, and the Hope Handbell Quartet. Please join us for this meditative worship service.

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

<i>March 5th</i>	Children's Choir and Handbells (11:00 only)
<i>March 12th</i>	Adult Choir, Celebration Bells
<i>March 19th</i>	Guitar Soloist, Don Hite
<i>March 26th</i>	Adult Choir, Jubilate Bells, Orchestra



# YOUTH MINISTRY



Speak the Name  
2017 Senior High Spring Retreat  
Camp Lone Star  
March 31—April 2

(In conjunction with Junior High Confirmation Retreat)

*“The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.”  
Proverbs 18:10*

Senior High youth will explore the name of Jesus through challenges, nature, creative expression, games, walks and talks. Join us for a weekend away from the madness, get still and speak the Name.

**Registration and payment due March 19, 2017**

Did you know it will cost just over \$20,000 to send 30 youth and their chaperons on their three mission trips this summer? Thanks to your generous participation at our Spaghetti lunch and Trivia night and the Hopefest donation we’ve already raised \$6,200!! We still have a long way to go to help families defray this cost — please join us for soup suppers in the month of March. Private donations are always welcome, please contact Robin Groper if you would like to support Summer Mission trips.

Youth host Soup Suppers on Wednesday, March 8th & 22nd. Join us for delicious soups, breads, salad and dessert!



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



## Mark your calendars —

### SWAT is on a Lenten break

Watch the bulletin, Facebook, and your email for information on the date we'll resume in April.

### Vacation Bible School

Maker Fun Factory. . .  
Created by God; Built for a Purpose  
June 19th—23rd, 2017  
9:00 a.m. — noon

## What is Lent?

How do we explain the idea and meaning of Lent to the children around us? There are soup suppers at the church on Wednesday nights, the color on the altar is purple, and sometimes people give up special food or things for Lent, but why?

Lent is the time to help us prepare for the joy of Easter that comes because Christ rose from the dead. We take time to think about why Jesus had to die on the cross for us, and we remember that Jesus loves us SO MUCH that He was willing to do just that — die on the cross to save us from our sins.

Soup suppers on Wednesday nights are a wonderful fellowship opportunity before our special Lenten services. The paraments are purple as a sign that we are sorry for our sin and also for royalty — that we should bow penitently before the King. Giving up food or special things during Lent is a personal choice. If giving something up helps someone feel closer to the Lord, or helps him or her better understand Christ's suffering, then that is a private choice for that person.

During Lent, take time to talk with your children about Christ's suffering and why it had to be, remembering to emphasize that because of that suffering, we are forgiven, and that on Easter, Jesus rose and is alive. Perhaps seek out a Lenten devotional to share as a family, or come to the soup suppers and Wednesday night services. Help your children understand and appreciate this season of the church, and your Easter celebration may be more joyful than ever this year.

*"Trust in the LORD  
with all your heart.  
Lean not on your own  
understanding; in all  
your ways  
acknowledge him, and  
he will make your  
paths straight."  
Proverbs 3:5-6*



Krista Beken  
Director of Children's  
Ministries

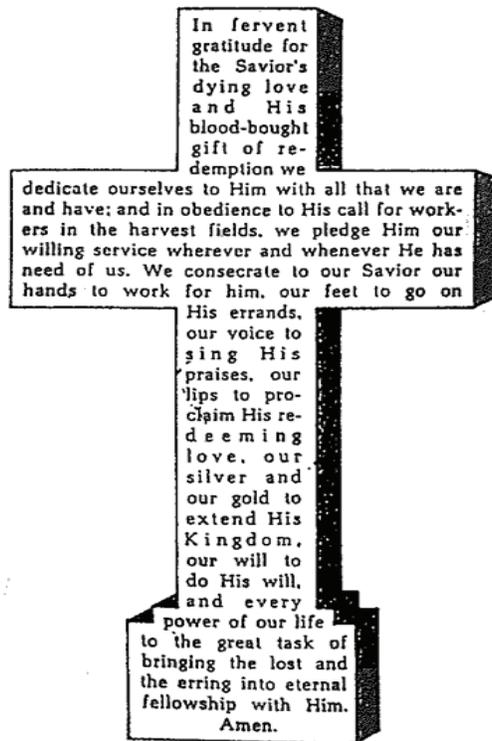
## Internet Connection Lenten Devotions for you to consider this season —

- Lutheran Hour Ministries <https://www/lhm.org/lent/>  
Available to read online or as a podcast beginning March 1, 2017, From Cradle to the Empty Grave can also be received as an email subscription through the Lenten season.
- *A Sense of the Resurrection: an Easter Experience for families* contains 12 fun, hands-on, easy, meaningful activities to help your kids come face to face with the Easter story.  
<http://ohamanda.com/a-sense-of-the-resurrection-an-easter-experience-for-families/>



# Ladies Guild

## Ladies Guild Pledge



These words can be heard every second Tuesday of each month during the year at the opening of Hope Ladies Guild meetings. It will be heard again on March 14th, 6:30 p.m. in the Great Room when our Guild meets.

If you slowly and carefully read again the words of this Lutheran Women's Missionary League Pledge, you will see the underlying deep commitment also to the League's motto — "Serve the Lord with Gladness." By fulfilling both Pledge and Motto, we strive to be the lights to the word that Jesus asks us to be.

All women of Hope are invited and welcome to join and/or visit Guild meetings. All ages are working to see that serving the Lord strives and continues. There is a place for you.

## Men's Ministry

Men's Ministry will begin a study of "52 Things Wives Need From Their husbands" on March 12, 2017. We will meet in the Great Room after the 11:00 a.m. service and lunch will be provided. All the men of Hope are invited to be a part of this study. Everyone is welcome to bring a friend as well. Men that would like to attend should RSVP to Scott Butler by phone 281-381-3188 or email at [sbutler99@outlook.com](mailto:sbutler99@outlook.com).

## Voters' Assembly

There will be a Voters' Assembly on Sunday, March 19, 2017 between services. This meeting will be for the approval of the 2016-2017 Spending Plan, election of Treasurer of the Congregation and Board of Directors members, and the State of the Parish.

Please plan to attend this important meeting.

# Stephen Ministry — on the March. . .

There was a man who received an order to appear and give testimony of God to a certain city. He decided to skip the city and disappear, finally securing passage on a small ship so as to further escape discovery.

A storm came and the crew and captain were trying to keep afloat — even to the point releasing some of their heavier cargo. They asked the passengers to help, or at least pray. The crew superstitiously wondered who or what put them in such danger, and in mob hysteria they looked at the passenger.

He said, “It’s all my fault — throw me overboard and the sea will be calm.” Although the crew worked all the harder, their fear level finally carried them to do just that — they threw the man overboard.

This is a true story, and the man, of course, was Jonah.

And now the rest of the story. . .

God “prepared” a great fish (maybe there were three wise men, or maybe Eve ate an apple, and maybe this was a whale. . . we don’t know). Maybe this fish even thought, “Do I have to swallow this whole?!?” Again, we don’t know, but we do know that finally Jonah acknowledge his running away, and prayed again. This time he asked to be able to undertake his obligation to God and give glory to Him.

God commanded the fish to expel Jonah on dry land. Think of this. . . a great fish coming to dry land to expel Jonah.

Jonah finally answered God’s command and gave testimony which would lead to a guilty verdict against those who would not face the consequences of their actions. But when God granted mercy, Jonah said, “See what I said in the beginning — You said in the beginning You would punish the city. Now You’ve done just the opposite, shown compassion at their repentance.”

Jonah walked off and isolated himself, sulking in an open field despite a severe wind followed by a blistering sun. God, in His mercy, “prepared” a plant with leaves large enough to give a day’s shade. There Jonah sat.

The next day, God allowed the plant to be damaged and it withered under the day’s heat and strong wind. Now Jonah said “it would be better if I were dead.” God asked him if it was appropriate for him to be angry about the plant, and Jonah said “Yes.”

God reminded Jonah that not he but God had caused the plant to grow just as He had the right to take pity on the city of Nineva, just as He does for all who repent.

How does this story apply to our lives and what can be passed on to those cared for in Stephen Ministry?

1. We cannot and should not go to extreme lengths to avoid God’s call and promise of help.
2. We should not pre-determine the way in which God unfolds His will.
3. We should not resent God’s mercy to those we may feel underserving.
4. We should recognize the lengths God will go to have us come to do His will.
5. Setting up expectations only sets us up for disappointment.

God’s help through Stephen Ministry — Yours for the asking.

# Thrivent Choice

Together, we make a difference through Thrivent Choice. A heartfelt thanks to all of you who directed Choice Dollars to Hope Lutheran Church. Thrivent Financial and its members once again showed us how, together, we can make a difference by helping to strengthen communities and change lives.

Granting funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice program can help support organization you can about. Don't let Choice Dollars expire.

Eligible Thriven Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until **March 31, 2017** to direct any remaining 2016 Choice Dollars. Help support Hope Lutheran Church.

Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

## Soup Suppers

### Get Ready. . .Start Thinking Lent Soup Suppers!

They are back! Mark your calendars: March 8, March 22, March 29 and April 5. The Senior High Youth will be hosting and providing all food for the March 8th & 22nd Soup Suppers to raise money for their upcoming summer trip! Let them do all the work! Free will offering will be accepted on these two dates.

Look for the Lent Soup Supper Volunteer Sheets coming to the Narthex by the middle of March. Start getting your groups together or sign up one-by-one! Areas to volunteer for the March 29th and April 5th suppers are for set-up, clean-up, and to provide soup, peanut butter & Jelly sandwiches, salad, bread and dessert. Please check your calendar and friends to see which dates and areas will be the best for you to serve.

Any questions, please feel free to contact the church office at 281-482-7943.

# FINANCIAL NEWS

**Fiscal Year (04/01/16 - 03/31/17)  
As of January 31, 2017**

	<b>ANNUAL PLAN</b>	<b>Y-T-D PLAN</b>	<b>Y-T-D ACTUAL</b>	<b>% OF PLAN</b>
<b>Operating Receipts</b>	\$1,025,075.00	\$866,211.83	\$747,478.12	86.29%
<b>Early Childhood Tithe</b>	\$36,000.00	\$36,750.00	\$36,750.00	100.00%
<b>Total Receipts</b>	\$1,061,075.00	\$902,961.83	\$784,228.12	86.85%
<b>Outreach</b>	\$73,600.00	\$62,018.01	\$60,697.95	97.87%
<b>Education</b>	\$9,250.00	\$6,625.00	\$4,760.71	71.86%
<b>Children</b>	\$4,450.00	\$1,531.49	\$722.21	47.16%
<b>Youth</b>	\$11,520.00	\$7,574.01	\$3,751.28	49.53%
<b>Music</b>	\$5,500.00	\$5,359.12	\$2,996.77	55.92%
<b>Assimilation</b>	\$2,600.00	\$694.78	\$112.91	16.25%
<b>Misc. Ministries</b>	\$9,000.00	\$8,193.26	\$4,311.73	52.63%
<b>Personnel</b>	\$592,515.00	\$522,456.76	\$506,078.51	96.87%
<b>Finance</b>	\$107,500.00	\$46,295.80	\$36,553.24	78.96%
<b>Facilities</b>	\$194,150.00	\$182,001.27	\$113,353.20	73.27%
<b>Office &amp; Worship</b>	\$44,540.00	\$31,937.62	\$27,605.86	86.44%
<b>Omnibus</b>	\$6,450.00	\$5,830.97	\$1,249.06	21.42%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$1,061,075.00	\$880,518.09	\$782,193.43	88.83%
<b>Income Less Expenses</b>		\$22,443.74	\$2,034.69	

**Debt: \$1,232,990.78**



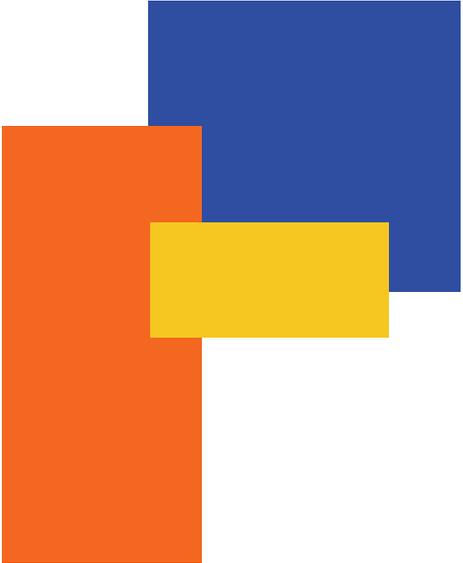
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# BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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



# THIS MONTH AT HOPE

## March 2017

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3/12/2017</b>	<b>3/6/2017</b>	<b>3/7/2017</b>	<b>3/8/2017</b>	<b>3/9/2017</b>	<b>3/10/2017</b>	<b>3/11/2017</b>
Eucharist BUILD Adult Bible Study Confirmation High School Small Groups History of Christianity Mens Ministry Parent Bible Study Sunday School Together with Jesus Video Discussion Group Womens Study Group Eucharist Small Group (Butler)	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 9:45 AM 9:45 AM 9:45 AM 9:45 AM 9:45 AM 9:45 AM 9:45 AM 9:45 AM 11:00 AM 5:00 PM	9:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 3:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	9:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 10:00 AM 5:00 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	9:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 7:00 PM	9:00 AM 9:30 AM 4:00 PM
<b>3/13/2017</b>	<b>3/14/2017</b>	<b>3/15/2017</b>	<b>3/16/2017</b>	<b>3/17/2017</b>	<b>3/18/2017</b>	<b>3/19/2017</b>
<b>DST BEGINS</b> Eucharist BUILD Adult Bible Study Confirmation High School Small Groups History of Christianity Mens Ministry Parent Bible Study Sunday School Together with Jesus Video Discussion Group Womens Study Group Eucharist Mens Ministry Study Group RAD Women	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 9:45 AM 9:45 AM 9:45 AM 9:45 AM 9:45 AM 9:45 AM 9:45 AM 9:45 AM 11:00 AM 12:30 PM 2:00 PM	9:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	9:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	10:00 AM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	6:30 PM	
<b>3/20/2017</b>	<b>3/21/2017</b>	<b>3/22/2017</b>	<b>3/23/2017</b>	<b>3/24/2017</b>	<b>3/25/2017</b>	<b>3/26/2017</b>
Eucharist BUILD Adult Bible Study Confirmation High School Small Groups History of Christianity Mens Ministry Parent Bible Study Sunday School Together with Jesus Video Discussion Group Womens Study Group Eucharist Small Group (Butler)	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 9:45 AM 9:45 AM 9:45 AM 9:45 AM 9:45 AM 9:45 AM 9:45 AM 9:45 AM 11:00 AM 5:00 PM	9:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	9:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	9:00 AM 9:30 AM 6:00 PM	
<b>3/27/2017</b>	<b>3/28/2017</b>	<b>3/29/2017</b>	<b>3/30/2017</b>	<b>3/31/2017</b>	<b>CONFIRMATION RETREAT</b>	
Worship BUILD Adult Bible Study Confirmation High School Small Groups History of Christianity Mens Ministry Parent Bible Study Sunday School Together with Jesus Video Discussion Group Womens Study Group Worship	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 9:45 AM	9:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	9:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM		



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**Return Services Requested**



# Anchor Chain

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*Ralph W. Hobratschk, Senior Pastor*

*Jonathan E. Petering, Associate Pastor*