

One of my all time favorite festival Sundays (The Feast of the Resurrection of course is the Queen!) is All Saints' Sunday. The lessons point to the affirmation of the work of God in Christ Jesus. The music lifts us high to his throne, but the message is about the everyday work of the faithful, the saints! We are urged to emulate them as they lived for Jesus, maybe even to the point of martyrdom. His death and resurrection have purchased for us the white robe washed in his blood. Will our epithet start with our being committed followers of Jesus, no matter what? Or will our witness be some sort of endnote in a list of other fine accomplishments? Those who have died in Christ, joining the Church Triumphant, have joined that cloud of witnesses that cheer us on to the finish line and the heavenly banquet hosted by Jesus himself. Will there be those who emulate you? May God grant you a trusting, faithful heart which motivates you to saintly service every day!

One of the neatest connections we have with the Church Triumphant is our confession of faith, namely the Apostles' Creed. Down through the centuries the followers of Jesus have regularly voiced their proclamation of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier! That bold witness has fueled the saints for thousands of years and is still ours today, connecting us to them! As we confess this "credo", which means "I believe," easily in worship every Sunday, we are also urged to do so outside of the Divine Service for a world that does not know or acknowledge this revealed God. He longs for them, too!

The end of November marks a time for national thanksgiving, offering us at least a day to slow our breathless dash and reflect, to get quiet and appreciate. Our Father has been most gracious to us as individuals, as a congregation, and as a nation. There is no place like this place in all the rest of the world. There is a reason that God has done so...so that we might be blessings to others with the blessings that we have received from the Father! God meets our needs and asks us to manage the rest for him and his kingdom. Thanksgiving Day really translates into an attitude for everyday living! We are called to follow Jesus and make our lives a witness of thanksgiving. Take that last Thursday and recommit to, not more football and turkey, but "thanks-living" the rest of the year! On a personal note, Lynn Ann and I will be hosting our clan at Disney World over the Thanksgiving break...oh, what fun!

Research indicates that relationships are paramount in any organization, including the local congregation. With that understanding as a backdrop, Lynn Ann and I have been hosting "X Something" gatherings in our home this past year to initiate those relationships, praying that they will develop into deeper commitments. 30 Somethings and 40 Somethings have launched. 50 Somethings? 20 Somethings? Stay tuned!

PASTOR'S  
PARAGRAPHS





## NOTES FROM PASTOR JON

I've been thinking about the communion rails in our Sanctuary. On Sundays as I kneel to partake of our Lord's body and blood in the Sacrament, I've been looking at the communion rails. They're looking a little worn – a little ragged. I'm not surprised though. They've been serving as our communion rails for nearly a quarter century. They're scratched and dented. Some of the ends are chipped. You can see a few of the nail heads beginning to emerge. They're a little worn – a little ragged. They've seen quite a bit of action.

Which got me thinking about the cross...our Lord's cross...the vertical and horizontal pieces of wood upon which our Savior actually died. The Romans didn't fabricate a new cross for each execution. The vertical post stayed in the ground amongst others on Golgotha. The cross piece would have been used again and again as criminals carried them out and then their arms were nailed to the beam. Those cross pieces would have been ragged and worn, blood dried into the wood. But on the day Jesus carried His cross and was nailed to it, the entire cosmos would be affected. Because on that cross, He redeemed the whole world, this sinful world. He died on that cross so that you might be forgiven and restored of all the wrong you have done, all the transgressions you have committed, all the pain you have caused. He paid for all of that with His suffering and death on the cross – a worn and ragged piece of wood.

And now, today, you receive your Savior, His body and blood given and shed for you across a worn and ragged piece of wood – our communion rails. There at the rail, you receive forgiveness, eternal life, salvation, a foretaste of what our Lord will bring when He returns to bring to completion the consummation of all things – restoring creation – restoring you – for an eternity in the Kingdom of God. And you get a foretaste of that reality right here across a worn and ragged piece of wood – our communion rails. They may not look like much, but those rails are where our Lord prepares and gives you a feast – of Himself – for you and all of your brothers and sisters in Christ gathered around those rails.

They may not look like much, but isn't it amazing what our Lord does for us at them!

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**BIBLE CLASS:** My Thursday morning "Study Series" class is currently delving into the Gospel According to St. Matthew. We work verse-by-verse and take our time – with plenty of room for discussion and exploring. It is certainly not too late to join us. We meet most Thursdays up in the Great Room from 9:30 to 11:00 am. (I say "most" because my duties as Circuit Visitor take me away once a month on Thursdays.) If you're free, come join us!

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**COMMUNICATION:** There are many ways to stay connected with what's going on at Hope. Have you signed up for Hope's weekly email blast? It's easy to do. Go to our website: [hope-lutheran.org](http://hope-lutheran.org) and scroll to the bottom of the page. Enter your email address in the bottom right of the homepage in the section labeled "stay connected" and you're all set!

Do you have Hope's phone app? Go to the Apple App Store or Google Play and search for "Hope Lutheran church FWD." It's free!

His Peace Be With You,  
Pastor Jon

# Music Ministry



## *From the (New) Director Of Music*

My greetings to the Hope Lutheran family. I am excited to be among you! I want to introduce myself and tell you a few things about what brought me here.

I am originally from Detroit, Michigan. After graduating from Concordia College, Ann Arbor, Michigan, I began teaching choir and theology at Martin Luther High School, first in Greendale, Wisconsin (near Milwaukee) and then in Maspeth, New York (part of Queens). After that I worked for many years in church music in Omaha, Nebraska, primarily at St. Mark Lutheran Church.



I met my wife, Vivian at Concordia College, Ann Arbor, Michigan. She is originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan. We married a few years after college. Vivian has taught elementary school, strings, music, and has more recently been a resource teacher. We have 4 children. Natalie is married, has a 6 month old daughter and lives in Omaha. She has taught strings, choir and religion. Ethan was married last summer and he and his wife are teachers (he, technology and she, band) in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Avery is a sophomore at Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. He has interests in music, communications and video production. Jonah is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader and has not formulated his career goals yet but he participates in music and has an interest in zoos and animal habitats.

Vivian and Jonah are planning to stay for the rest of the school year in Omaha. While this is not ideal for our family, we do keep in touch frequently via phone, text, and video conferencing.

I love God's Word and God's gift of music. For me there is a powerful interaction and even an explosion of sorts when these things are put together. It is very fulfilling to work in these areas as a career.

I am very eager to explore the musical resources for worship that are available at Hope Lutheran Church. That means the instruments, the music library and, most importantly, the people. Hope is blessed with many resources in all three of these categories and it is taking me some time to explore all these resources and make plans for putting them to use. I am now getting in touch with musicians and starting to make schedules. If you are new to making music at Hope and would like to get involved, or,

if you don't receive an email soon, please email me at:

[mkesar@hope-lutheran.org](mailto:mkesar@hope-lutheran.org)

It has been a large task to get unpacked, organized and settled, both in my bachelor(ish) pad and at the church. A big **thank you** to the staff and crew of Hope men who helped unload a pod and a trailer and get my "stuff" in to where I can use it.

Before coming to Friendswood I had visited Houston a couple of times and only briefly, so now I am enjoying finding my way around and exploring the community. When not making music I enjoy biking, exercise, cooking, reading, shopping, and sight-seeing.





# Youth Ministry

## **WE HAVE REGISTERED!!**

As of today (which is actually in October) we have 28 youth and 6 adults registered for the National LCMS Youth Gathering in July 2019. This is the first time the Gathering will be held in the north and we are excited to experience all that the Gathering has to offer in a cooler and drier climate! The Gathering brings together more than 20,000 teens from across America and around the world. It is an amazing experience to capture even a glimpse of how large our faith family really is! Youth will be exposed to many, many service experiences, faith organizations, college options and camps. They will have the opportunity to hear so many different, gifted speakers, bands and artists as well and to participate in an incredible and beautiful time of worship in a stadium filled with their faith family at large. Of course, this new location means many more miles to travel and that means we have a big task raising the funds to go! Hope has always been a strong and generous supporter of youth—please mark your calendars for these events coming up after the holidays:

### **Spaghetti Lunch, Sunday, January 20**

Sample any number of delicious sauces atop a plate of steaming spaghetti noodles cooked up in our pasta kitchen! Breads, salad and desserts are included in the feast!

### **Annual Trivia Night, Saturday, February 23**

This riotous night of laughter and good-natured competition is a favorite at Hope. Test your trivia knowledge or just cheer for your team at tables of 8—many more details to come! If you bring a team or make new friends there, you won't regret adding Trivia Night to your calendar!

### **Ash Wednesday Soup Supper, Wednesday, March 6**

We are bringing it all together during the Lenten season for a special, one-night family meal.



Wanting to be part of the fun but missed Gathering registration in October? Contact Robin Groeper ASAP to learn more about joining the crowd headed to Minneapolis, July 11-15, 2019

## Thankful, Grateful, Blessed

Thankful, Grateful, Blessed...These three words seem to be a popular catchphrase the last few years, especially in the fall. You can find these words together on t-shirts, wall art, throw pillows, and coffee mugs. Often, they are accompanied by fall images of pumpkins, scarecrows, old trucks with a bed full of pumpkins surrounded by corn stalks, or simply written in a cute font. Products with these three words proclaiming gratitude sell. So, short of wearing a t-shirt or carrying a coffee mug, how do we proclaim our thankfulness to God each day? We have all been blessed by God's gifts. We all have reason to be grateful for those blessings. So, how do we say thank you?

What if we used our "thank you" as an opportunity to show our children God's work in our everyday life? Something as simple as a sunrise or sunset is an excellent opportunity to point out God's handiwork and thank him for the beauty He created. On a particularly difficult day, you might point out that we can be thankful, even in difficult times, because God has provided a family who cares for us in every circumstance.

Car rides are an excellent time to chat with our kids about their day. Did anything happen that made them smile? Anything they can be grateful for in their ordinary routine? Mealtime is another great chance to have family talks. Saying grace before you eat is an easy, built-in time to tell God thank you for the gifts He's given your family. Before school prayer time or before bed prayer time may also work well as a time to tell God thank you. The more often you take five to ten minutes to think about something for which you are grateful, or ask your children to think of something, the easier it will become to make God sightings, God's blessings, a part of your everyday.

## Upward Basketball

Hope Lutheran Church is continuing its partnership with Friendswood United Methodist Church in the Friendswood Upward Basketball League. Volunteers are the key ingredient for the success of this league. Join the team! Once our basketball games begin in January, we will need folks to referee games and to lead half-time devotions. Basketball experience is not required. Referee training is provided, and half-time devotions are written and ready to go.

Help us put our gym to use welcoming the community.

I hope that you will prayerfully consider being a part of this ministry here at Hope Lutheran Church.

"God's gifts of grace come in many forms. Each of you has received a gift in order to serve others. You should use it faithfully." 1 Peter 4:10 (NIRV)

Children's ministry volunteers, thank you, over and over again, for faithfully using your gifts to serve Hope's children!

Krista Beken  
Director of Children's Ministries

CHILDREN'S  
MINISTRY



## Thank You!

MDA bloodmobile and SIP small group extends a "thank you" to all who donated on Hopefest Sunday! Every donation has the potential to help three patients. We had 31 donors which means 93 have been blessed by your donation. God bless you all.

Together in Christ,  
Rita Henderson

## HopeFest Thank You!

A big thank you from the Hopefest Committee to the congregation for your support, generosity and willingness to help out when asked. We are gathering the receipts and will have a final accounting real soon. It looks like we raised approximately \$30,000 this year.

## 2019 Coffee Hour

The time is here to sign up for those volunteering in 2019 for Coffee Hour! First, our thanks for all those who helped serve in 2018. You are much appreciated. For 2019, the sign up is now available in the Narthex.

Get your groups together and help host our special time for fellowship: the Coffee Hour! If it is 1 week, 2 weeks, or 1 month, we would love to have you host. Detailed directions are given.

Please sign up now so we can plan our year and you will get your preferred times to serve! Reminders will be sent out a few weeks before you volunteer. The sign up board is in the Narthex or you can contact Debbie Hasty at [dhasty@hope-lutheran.org](mailto:dhasty@hope-lutheran.org) or 281-482-7943.

## Extra Hour of Sleep!

Central Standard Time resumes Sunday, November 4th at 2:00 a.m. Be sure to set your clocks back 1 hour — otherwise you'll be early for worship on Sunday morning.

## Alert!

The Coffee Hour for November 25, 2018 was never signed up for. If you would like to volunteer to do this, now is the time. Without a volunteer, there will be **NO COFFEE AND DONUTS** on that Sunday.

## Flower Chart

The 2019 Flower Chart sign up for Altar Flowers is now available in the Grand Hallway. The cost is \$30.00 per arrangement. Each arrangement can be taken home after the 11:00 a.m. service. (Please do not take the liner home.) Check should be made payable to Hope Lutheran Church and placed in the envelope attached to the Flower Chart.

Please pay for your flowers when you sign up. This will save the office staff time and make the process easier and more efficient. There is a place on the sign up sheet to mark when you pay — check or cash. In the past cash has just been placed in the envelope, and we have no way to track that payment, so please make sure you mark as "paid with cash".

Questions? Contact Katherine Kohn or Debbie Hasty at 281-482-7943. Thank you.





	ANNUAL PLAN	Y-T-D PLAN	Y-T-D ACTUAL	% OF PLAN
Operating Receipts	\$1,052,285.00	\$526,142.52	\$447,914.75	85.13%
Early Childhood Tithe	\$45,000.00	\$20,250.00	\$20,250.00	100.00%
Total Receipts	\$1,097,285.00	\$546,392.52	\$468,164.75	85.68%
Outreach	\$74,368.00	\$37,025.19	\$36,548.35	98.71%
Education	\$8,850.00	\$3,756.35	\$3,220.40	85.73%
Children	\$2,300.00	\$726.21	\$305.24	42.03%
Youth	\$13,200.00	\$4,576.60	\$4,015.90	87.75%
Music	\$6,600.00	\$1,187.34	\$270.00	22.74%
Assimilation	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Misc. Ministries	\$9,950.00	\$2,101.78	\$1,947.66	92.67%
Personnel	\$653,774.00	\$325,829.66	\$296,998.28	91.15%
Finance	\$50,243.00	\$25,121.46	\$24,791.03	98.68%
Facilities	\$227,450.00	\$102,913.98	\$83,691.01	81.32%
Office & Worship	\$40,850.00	\$16,729.04	\$14,261.58	85.25%
Omnibus	\$9,500.00	\$936.57	\$776.23	82.88%
Total Expenditures	\$1,097,285.00	\$520,904.18	\$466,825.68	89.62%
Income Less Expenses		\$25,488.34	\$1339.07	

**Debt: \$1,027,979.40**

**Fiscal Year (04/01/18 - 03/31/19)  
As of September 2018**



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# Anchor Chain

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*Ralph W. Hobratchk, Senior Pastor*

*Jonathan E. Petering, Associate Pastor*





Dianne Adams	11/1	Kevin Klein	11/13	Edward & Dolores Jackowski	11/1
Karen Hawkins	11/1	Lauren Sauer	11/13	Jacob & Noelle Johnson	11/5
Catherine Sieraski	11/1	Logan Connor	11/14	Kurt & Ruth Wagner	11/13
Kurt Wagner	11/1	Therese Huning	11/14	Rich & Terri Wenzel	11/17
Blake Matthijetz	11/2	Raul Cruz	11/15	Raymond & Krista Beken	11/18
William Davis	11/3	Edmond Russo Jr.	11/15	John & Laura Plumpton	11/18
Brentan Castleberry	11/5	Patricia Fennell	11/16	Jonathan & Lyzdeanna Cox	11/21
Al Behrend	11/6	Matthew Warren	11/16	Michael & Amy Heinlein	11/29
Brooke Pfleeger	11/6	John Williams	11/16		
Matthew Wenzel	11/6	Jeff Kubosh	11/21		
Skylar Murphy	11/8	Jamie Beken	11/22		
Adriana White	11/10	Eric Korth	11/23		
Victoria Barski	11/11	Diane Matthijetz	11/24		
Everett Cunningham	11/11	Bailey Wenzel	11/24		
Emma Heinlein	11/11	Kevin Benson	11/25		
Olivia Mittendorf	11/11	Dale Peterson	11/25		
Elisabeth Guzman	11/12	Frank Ramming	11/25		
Martin Harclerode	11/12	Carol Sauer	11/25		
Wyatt Henry	11/12	Mike Haverty	11/26		
Laura Plumpton	11/12	Laura Ross	11/28		
Michael Thomas	11/12	James Rebstock	11/30		

*Birthdays and Anniversaries*