



hope



Followers of Jesus live within a fuzzy dichotomy. We have one foot planted firmly in two worlds: the already and the not yet. We readily acknowledge the already in our baptismal understanding of a new creation every morning. We are a new creation washed clean in the flood of baptismal waters, ready to engage a new creation.

Everything that defiled us yesterday is now gone, washed away in baptism. We readily embrace life and witness with a new perspective. We are gifted to be witnesses to Jesus in all aspects of our vocations. We are redeemed to be the redemptive catalyst in the world that surround us.

Nevertheless, this position in the world belies what is in store of the redeemed! We will wash our robes white in the blood of the Lamb and will sing with the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven to the glory of God on that blessed last day! The already and not yet.

This bifurcated existence is just the attitude and disposition we need to approach the season of Advent (Latin for “coming before”). As we listen to the words of Isaiah setting the tone and substance of Advent, we hear the already and not yet of the Christian experience. Isaiah is proclaiming the actions of God for the present and the future, the already and not yet. He speaks of the work of God among his people in their day and we, some 2700 years later, see the fulfillment in Jesus and the ecclesia, the Church. Prophets give us a declaration that resembles walking through the Rocky Mountains: just when we think we are at the peak, we spy another peak that is higher, and another that is higher than that. So it is with the “word of the Lord” spoken by the prophets. There is always another peak behind the peak in front of us. The Prophet Isaiah spoke valid words to Judah in their day and speaks to those who know Jesus today! The already and not yet.

Advent hears the clarion call of John the Baptist, and cousin of Jesus, beside the Jordan to the

people of Israel. Repent, the kingdom is at hand. They flocked to the Jordan to be baptized for the repentance of sins. We are to prepare for the coming of the Messiah, Jesus. too, by repentance and preparing our hearts for the celebration of his coming. He continues to come. The already: Christmas. The not yet: the Last Day. And there is so much in between.

The first coming of Jesus was miraculous, eternally stationed within the Godhead, he emptied himself of his divinity to take on our flesh and blood, totally human, born as each of us was. But because of his connection with the Father, he initiated the Kingdom on earth, former imperfect attempts notwithstanding. He recalibrated the

marks of the people of God and of the Kingdom...caring for the sick and dying, touching the leper, welcoming the unclean and outcast, supplying the widow and orphan, totally dependent on the Father. Jesus established a kingdom that continues today in you and me. That is the already....



But the consummation of this Kingdom is not yet! Our two-footed position points us to the Day to come, one foot in today and another pointing to tomorrow. Within this flux the follower of Jesus struggles with the dichotomy: the promise of resurrection to eternal life and the life we live each day. And it is this struggle that drives us to daily take on the mantel of Christ, to live other-worldly. We daily take our baptismal rebirth and translate it into action for those around us. We serve because we have been served by Jesus.

Take the four weeks before Christmas to experience the already and not yet as we walk with Isaiah. We will celebrate the already at the ChristMass. We will prepare for the not yet with daily Christ-like living. Rejoice in what we have and what we will obtain!

— Pastor Ralph

## **Summer Mission Trip 2020 is in the Works! – Robin Groeper**

Moms, Dads, Grandparents, no kids? Ever thought of going on a mission trip? Remember mission trips you enjoyed in high school and wish you could go again? NOW IS YOUR CHANCE!! Summer Mission Trip 2020 is all about all of us serving together! We are heading to New Orleans to serve July 12-16, 2020 with Camp Restore. This agency serves as a home base for more than 100 other nonprofits in need of hands and hearts to work in and around community. Look for the brochures and registration forms at the Welcome Desk, in the youth room or just contact Robin Groeper to learn more about this exciting chance for multiple generations to serve together—taking Intersect on the road! Registrations are due November 30, 2019

## **Mosaic—Give it a try!**

Our new Mosaic program launched in September has been so much fun! A meal together and age appropriate fellowship time to follow (grades 3-5, 6-8, 9-12 and adult study) have been an excellent opportunity to connect, grow and just relax a little in the middle of the week. We have lots of exciting plans as we return on **Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**, 6:00-7:30—hope to see you there!

Do you love to cook? We'd love some helping hands with our Mosaic program on Wednesday nights. Whether it's a family, a few friends or maybe your small group—many hands make light the work and we are happy to help out with groceries and planning. Contact Robin Groeper or Krista Beken to get in on the fun!

### **On the calendar:**

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| November 30: | Mission Trip 2020 registration due   |
| December 13: | Senior High Progressive Dinner, 5:00-9:00 (we need drivers!)                       |
| January 4:   | Nerf Wars  |
| January 11:  | Upwards Games season kicks off- come work the stand to fund raise for mission trip |
| January 12:  | Senior High, Once Upon A Murder event  |
| January 26:  | Annual Spaghetti Lunch   |

\*\*\*\* Mark your calendars for Trivia Night 2020, Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>\*\*\*\*





Dippel's. We are putting the service together under the theme "Telling the Story." As of the publication of this newsletter, we are still working on a lot of the details. But I'm really excited about the possibilities and the possibility of this "family-led" format becoming a tradition at Hope Lutheran Church as well. Watch for more information as the day approaches, and we invite all of you to

## **Twas The Night Before Christmas . . .**

For years, Hope has had a Christmas Eve "Family" Service at 5:30 pm on December 24<sup>th</sup>. The idea was that it was a good time for families – particularly those with younger children – to worship on Christmas Eve at a reasonable hour in a "fire free," no candle to be held environment. And it has served as such for many years. But could there be more to it?

When I was a child – about 9 or 10 years old – my home congregation began a Christmas Eve "Family" Service. In some respects, it was similar to ours service here at Hope. But with a twist: several families from the congregation led the service. Hence it was truly a "family" service. And my family was one of the several who led that first family service – a tradition that continued on. I even had the privilege of reading the Gospel Lesson – the Christmas story.

This summer, I was thinking about that experience and asked the question, "Could we pull off something like that at Hope?" After working on some ideas and talking with some folks, a plan started to take shape. So that this year, Hope's Christmas Eve Family Service will be led by three families: The Petering's, the Chauvin's, and the

come and see!

## **Advent Wednesday Meals**

But before we get to Christmas, there's Advent! We will have Advent midweek services on the first two Wednesdays of December: December 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Our order of service will be Holden Evening Prayer. We know that sometimes, just getting there can be a struggle – what about dinner? Well, we're going to take care of you! We will be continuing our Wednesday Mosaic meals starting at 6:00 pm in the Great Room. It will just be the meal – no Mosaic programs to follow. And you don't have to have been attending Mosaic to join in. Everyone is invited! It's an opportunity for you and your family to eat, relax, and fellowship with others a bit before heading over to the Sanctuary for worship at 7:00 pm. Watch for more information in Hope's weekly email.

to have been attending Mosaic to join in.

— Pastor Jon

## A New Way to Celebrate Advent

We are excited to offer you the opportunity to order "Families Celebrate Advent and Christmas 2019-2020" by Carolina Farias (Artist), Elizabeth Hunter (Author). This deck of 56 cards gives you ideas to use for family time during the Advent season. The cards include Bible verses and follow-up questions as well as activities that reinforce the meaning of Advent.

"Families Celebrate Advent and Christmas is a colorful deck of cards that is full of rituals, prayers and reflections. Endlessly flexible for busy schedules, you can create a new after-meal ritual, use them as decorations, or carry them on the go. Explore the entire season from Advent to Christmas through Epiphany."

See Robin or Krista for more information. We will be in the Grand Hallway on November 10<sup>th</sup> and November 17<sup>th</sup> to take your order, or you are welcome to contact us via email. The cards are just \$5.00 per set. We will be placing the order on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

Robin: [rginchrist@hotmail.com](mailto:rginchrist@hotmail.com)

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

## Mosaic – Join us!

We have had fun on Wednesday nights with Mosaic. This new look for Wednesday nights at Hope includes something for just about everyone.

Even if you were not able to join us this fall, I encourage you to jump in when we resume our activities on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Music opportunities, a meal, Bible study, fellowship time ... come when you can and make the pieces fit your schedule!



## Upward Basketball – An Adult Outreach Opportunity

Upward Sports strive to promote Christianity through sports.

Hope Lutheran Church has partnered with Friendswood United Methodist Church for the past seven years to provide the Friendswood Upward Basketball League.

From December through February, we host practice in our gym four nights each week. Once games begin in January, we have 5-6 hours worth of games each Saturday during the 8-week season. Participants have a ten-minute devotion at each practice, and we present some type of devotion and activity during half-time of each game.

Each season, we welcome new and returning families to our Upward League and to our campus. Many of these families do not have a church home. This is a tremendous outreach opportunity for Hope.

Volunteers are the key ingredient for the success of this league. 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.

— Krista Beken  
Director of  
Children's  
Ministries

# HYMN OF THE MONTH

## Wake, Awake for Night is Flying (WACHET AUF)

Text & Tune: Philipp Nicolai (1566-1608)

Lutheran Service Book # 516

This hymn is known as the “king of chorales”. The term “chorale” is often associated with early hymns of the German Reformation period. Its author, Nicolai, was a Lutheran pastor, teacher and poet. He was educated at Muhlhausen, Erfurt and Wittenberg. He received a Doctor of Divinity degree and served as pastor in various German cities. Nicolai was no stranger to adversity as he faced theological controversies, a plague and even an invasion (by the Spanish) in the various parishes where he served. It was during the plague that he published a hymn collection that included this hymn as well as “How Brightly Shines the Morning Star” (aka the “queen of chorales”).

The text of this powerful, Lutheran hymn is based on the Parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25. There are also allusions to Revelation 19:6-9, I Corinthians 2:9, Ezekiel 3:17 and Isaiah 3:8. Nicolai described this hymn as “a spiritual bridal hymn of the believing soul concerning Jesus Christ, her heavenly bridegroom”, and it became popular at Germany weddings. One of Bach’s most well known cantatas is based on this chorale. As with many Lutheran chorale tunes, this one comes with the original jaunty rhythmic version (often used in LCMS churches) or the “smoothed out” rhythm version, as used in Bach’s music and in other denominations.



For questions or comments about our Music Ministry, contact Director of Music Michael Kesar at [mkesar@hope-lutheran.org](mailto:mkesar@hope-lutheran.org) or call the church office.

## Children's Christmas Program

Our Sunday School children in grades PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade are preparing to share the Christmas story with us on **Wednesday, December 18** after our congregational Potluck. This is a chance for them to learn the songs and story of the birth of our Savior. All kids attending Sunday school will be learning the songs on Sunday mornings. This year we are inviting parents and family members to collaborate in various ways with the children. Parents, please watch for an email about how you and your child can participate.

## Join our Brass or Orchestra for Lessons & Carols

We always welcome new members of our Strings/Woodwinds and Brass groups. Students in Grade 7 and up with a few years of playing experience can participate as well as adults of all ages. Our final practices will be Tuesday, Nov. 19, Tuesday, December 3 and Tuesday Dec. 10 with Strings and Woodwinds at 6:00 PM and Brass at 7:00 PM. Dress Rehearsal for Lessons and Carols is Saturday, December 14 10:00 AM

## Sanctuary Choir Update & Invitation

We have had about 20 active participants in the Sanctuary Choir this Fall. We have room in the balcony for many more, so consider joining us, especially now as we begin to prepare music for festive Christmas services. You could even join us “for a season”. Choir is a way to use your talents to glorify the Lord and to enrich worship services for many others.

### *Upcoming Practice Schedule*

**Wednesday, November 20**, 7:30-9:00 PM    **Wednesday, November 27**, 7:30-9:00 PM

**Wednesday, December 4** (after worship) 7:40-9:00 PM

**Wednesday, December 11**, (after worship) 7:40-9:00 PM

**Saturday, December 14** 10:00 AM    Special Rehearsal for Lessons and Carols

**Sunday, December 15** 8:00 and 11:00 AM *Lessons and Carols* Service

**Tuesday, December 24**, 7:30 PM Christmas Eve Worship

## Holiday Worship Schedule

**DECEMBER 15** - 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM

A Service of Lessons & Carols

**DECEMBER 18** - 6:00 PM

Christmas Potluck /  
Children's Christmas Program

**DECEMBER 24**

5:30 PM - Family Worship Service

7:30 PM - Candlelight ChristMass

11:00 PM - Candlelight ChristMass

**DECEMBER 25** - 10:30 AM

ChristMass Day Worship

# NEW SERMON SERIES STARTS DECEMBER 1.

An Advent Detour through Isaiah



## Mailboxes

### 2020 Coffee Hour

The time is here to sign up for those volunteering in 2020 for Coffee Hour ! First, our thanks for all those who helped serve in 2019. You are much appreciated. For 2019, the sign up is now available in the Grand Hallway.

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.

Questions?? Contact Debbie Hasty at [dhasty@hope-lutheran.org](mailto:dhasty@hope-lutheran.org) or 281-482-7943.

It's that time of year again — the dreaded "Mailbox Cleaning." Please, please, please make an effort this month to clean out your mailbox and anything that you have left on top of the mailboxes. In January, the mailboxes will be re-alphabetized and everything left will find its way into the trash.

Any questions — call me. Thank you.

*Debbie Hasty*





## Poinsettias / Norfolk Pines Christmas Cactus

Look for the Flower Order Form on the Welcome Center in the Narthex starting Sunday, December 1. We will be selling flowers to decorate the Sanctuary from Sunday, December 1 thru Sunday, December 15. No orders will be taken after December 15.

Please drop the Order Form in the offering plate or in the box adjacent to the envelopes.

We will be offering decoratively wrapped red, white and iced punch Poinsettias (\$7.50 each), red-magenta Christmas cactus (\$9.00 each) and Norfolk Pines (\$9.00 each) to decorate our Chancel and Nave for Christmas. A donor list will be published in the bulletins on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Questions?? Contact me. *Debbie Hasty*

## Flower Chart

The 2020 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 AM 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.

## Christmas Potluck

Mark your December calendar for our Annual Christmas Potluck on Wednesday, December 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the Great Room. This year we also will have the opportunity to see our Sunday School children preform their Christmas program.

We would love to have you join us for food, fellowship, and entertainment. We ask that you bring either a favorite main dish, side, or dessert (more than one dish if you are inspired).

# Hopefest 2019

I'd like to thank the congregation, staff and Hopefest Committee for all the time and talents shared these past six months. The success of Hopefest is dependent upon many hours of work and planning along with the generosity of our congregation and community.

The committee has calculated the total figures raised from Hopefest weekend and is happy to report that we collected a total of \$31,408. Here is a breakdown of how those funds were distributed. Each of the four chosen charities for 2019 will receive \$4,000. They were:

*Family Promise  
Christian Helping Hands  
Mercy Tree  
Adult & Teen Challenge*

In addition, the following church organizations also requested funds to support their community outreach. They are listed below:

Knotty Ladies	Creation of 16 senior quilts, quilts for Lutheran World Relief & Camp Hope
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	
Women's Retreat	Funds for scholarships & speaker
HURT	Money used for individuals & families in crisis
Music Ministry	Additional percussion instruments
Youth Ministry	Rental of 3 twelve passenger vans & fuel for summer mission trip in 2020
Mission Trip	Travel expenses
Lighthouse	Donation to the organization for loan of equipment & contribution to Cole Gordon Memorial Fund
Hope Fellowship	Donation to fellowship project

As we prepare for the upcoming holidays, praise God for his continual grace and love in our lives and for giving us the opportunities to share our gifts with those in our community.

— Gail Akins



Irvin Burtzlaff	1-Dec	Kaitlyn Koch	17-Dec	Abby Riley	1-Jan	Breanna Chapin	15-Jan
Mary Ann Waldon	1-Dec	Lynne Behrend	17-Dec	Jennifer Lobaugh	1-Jan	Hannah Craft	16-Jan
Jennifer Frank	2-Dec	Henry Riley	18-Dec	Sanjay Singh	1-Jan	Jennifer Tieman	16-Jan
Pat Hall	2-Dec	Michael Van Chau	18-Dec	Terri Wenzel	1-Jan	Deena Prince	18-Jan
Daniel Brown	3-Dec	Darryl Scheer	19-Dec	Waynette Vu	1-Jan	Jack Williams	18-Jan
Jason Henry	3-Dec	Jessica Wilson	19-Dec	Karen Cunningham	2-Jan	Joshua Kerch	18-Jan
Alayna Pirker	4-Dec	Holly Yarborough	20-Dec	Kristine Rebstock	2-Jan	Stacy Schnell	18-Jan
Amy MacRill	4-Dec	Jacob Reyes	20-Dec	Donna Battenfield	3-Jan	Austin Lobaugh	20-Jan
Chau Vu	6-Dec	Karen Kerch	20-Dec	John Alff	3-Jan	Claudia Heideman	21-Jan
Corrine Schleider	7-Dec	Hilary Gahring	21-Dec	Allyssa Alff	4-Jan	Gloria Havard	21-Jan
JoAn Warren	7-Dec	Katie Davis	22-Dec	Robert Zimmerman	4-Jan	K.K. Garcia	21-Jan
David Krause	8-Dec	Justin Paulder	23-Dec	Trisha Mankowski	4-Jan	Miria Castille	21-Jan
Jaya George	8-Dec	Noelle Johnson	23-Dec	Christopher Riggs	5-Jan	Rosa Pirker	21-Jan
Tyler King	8-Dec	Carolyn Benson	24-Dec	Chad Leveritt	7-Jan	Linda Rebstock	23-Jan
Vicki Glebe	8-Dec	Tiffany Henry	26-Dec	Carson Gebhardt	8-Jan	Lindsay Monk	23-Jan
Kaitlyn Gahring	9-Dec	Justin Dorrell	27-Dec	Analise Centeno	9-Jan	Larry Sieraski	24-Jan
Jan Green	10-Dec	Steve Hartzell	27-Dec	Chris Lott	9-Jan	Kate Haverty	25-Jan
Kevin Rhodes	10-Dec	Collin Vu	28-Dec	Joyce Pfeeger	9-Jan	Nancy Stiles	25-Jan
Sandra Thiem	11-Dec	Connor Vu	28-Dec	Kizzie White	9-Jan	Sharon Pampell	25-Jan
Chancellor Beken	13-Dec	Penny Thomas	28-Dec	Missy Castleberry	9-Jan	Beverly Kroesen	26-Jan
Jennifer Harpole	13-Dec	Carol MacRill	29-Dec	Rachel Van Chau	9-Jan	Joey Blankenship	26-Jan
Stephanie Reyes	14-Dec	Brynn Horak	30-Dec	Adam Weiss	11-Jan	Michael Matthijetz	26-Jan
David Kaderka	15-Dec	Tamera Ross	30-Dec	Jamie Paulder	11-Jan	Rachel Pirker	26-Jan
Garrett Breaux	15-Dec	Joyce Schrader	31-Dec	Lidia Suarez	11-Jan	Ruth Miertschin	27-Jan
Karen Newhoff	16-Dec	Matthew Haverty	31-Dec	Marshall Breaux	12-Jan	Christina Beall	28-Jan
		Wyatt Breaux	31-Dec	Jessica Horak	13-Jan	Marlene Guzman	28-Jan
				Mathews George	13-Jan	Steve Huning	29-Jan
				Leslie Engle	14-Jan	Caleb Norris	30-Jan
				Andrew Eaves	15-Jan	Nicole Huning	30-Jan
						Saleena Butler	30-Jan

## December / January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Torrey & Becky Roberts	14-Dec	Paul & Jessica Kroesen	2-Jan
Eric & Joy Korth	17-Dec	Kevin & Robin Groeper	2-Jan
Larry & Nancy Stiles	19-Dec	Bradley & Karen Cunningham	4-Jan
Joh & Val Williams	20-Dec	Kirk & Jennifer Dippel	4-Jan
David & Norma Kaderka	28-Dec	Jordan & Kristine Rebstock	4-Jan
Niels & Charlotte Aalund	29-Dec	Steve & Vicki Hartzell	4-Jan
		Rodney & Sharon Pampell	5-Jan
		John & Adel Alff	12-Jan
		Mike & Amy Haverty	14-Jan
		Don & Lidia Schneider	14-Jan
		Forrest & Brook Williams	28-Jan





HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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*Ralph W. Hobratschk, Senior Pastor*

*Jonathan E. Petering, Associate Pastor*

