

Pastor's



I must admit that one of my all time favorite festival Sundays (The Feast of the Resurrection notwithstanding) 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. 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 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. Will there be those who emulate you? May God grant you a trusting, faithful heart which

motivates you to saintly service every day!

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 "thanks-living" the rest of the year!

In April of 2016, you are invited to join a tour of the Holy Land. There will be an informational meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, 5 November here on campus (most likely Room 104). If you are at all interested in touring the places we read about in the Scripture, this meeting is for you. Call me if your need more information before this meeting.

As the end of November approaches and the pace of activity begins its annual crescendo, the importance of Sabbath rest and reflection increase as well. So often we become the dog wagged by the tail, being pulled in too many directions at once with every growing demands for our attention. Stop. Rest. Reconnect so that the coming holy days might truly reflect the Source of all good and his Gift to us! Peace!

Notes from

COMMUNITY GARDEN: The garden continues to grow! Hopefully, later this month we will be able to harvest some produce. If you want to help out in any capacity, please let me know.

SMALL GROUPS: Why do people join and stay in small groups? Why are they important to those who participate? A little over a year ago, I asked current small group members a number of questions. I have published them again in this newsletter because their excellent responses bear repeating. I hope their answers encourage you to look into joining one of the small groups.

I first visited a Small Group because. . .

- I was invited by a friend/acquaintance.
- I was purposefully seeking time with God.
- I was ready to be “plugged in.”
- I wanted to make new friends.
- I wanted to be a part of a Christ-centered group of families.
- I wanted to study about Christ.

I have continued to attend my Small Group because. . .

- I enjoy the fellowship with like-minded families
- I learn better with a variety of opinions—it forces me to grow.
- It’s more personal.
- It has helped me to grow spiritually as a Christian and develop strong relationships.
- I can’t imagine what it would be like to not have such a loving group!
- The group helps me when I need it the most.

The best-kept secret about Small Groups is. . .

- The opportunity to get to know wonderful people and to share life with them.
- The ability to open up and bring up personal issues and experiences and how we can use our faith to deal with them.
- You are stronger with a Small Group than without.
- Everything is confidential.
- We have fun!

Small Groups are important to me because. . .

- It is my time to delve deeper in the Word and to be more interactive with people.
- The relationships have been more than I could ask for.
- It has helped us show our children how important God is in our lives.
- The members are like a family.
- They keep me focused on God’s Word and remind me to always trust in God’s plan for my life.

Small Groups have made a big impact on the lives of many people. I encourage you to seek out and join one that will work for you. You will be blessed! *His Peace Be with You, Pastor Jon*

The fourth week of September, I went back for my annual continuing education at Concordia Seminary St. Louis. The topic for this year’s Symposium: “In Remembrance of Me: Memory and the life of Faith.” Our memory is a mysterious and unpredictable thing. We are who we are because we remember what we think about, say, do, learn, or experience. Theologically, memory is an essential part of how the Church operates. The Church has a collective memory and that memory is essential for the very existence of Christianity — the promises of God, and the fact that in Christ, God remember us as His own children.

One of the main presenters was from outside the theological world: Dr. Steve Joordens — a Cognitive Psychologist and professor at The University of Toronto. He walked us through some of the biology and psychology of memory and then helped us see how memory defines each one of us and allows us to function. He concluded with a quick survey of memory diseases that rob people of the ability to operate and function normally. I attended a number of sectionals, the most beneficial of which dealt with pastoral care to those who have lost memory — those who suffer from dementia or Alzheimer’s disease.

For me personally, the highlight of the Symposium was the first Dr. Jack Dean Kingsbury Chair of New Testament Theology Annual Lecture. It was given by the first holder of this chair and the man who taught me Greek — Dr. James Voelz. His topic: “Return to the Text: Literary Criticism and Beyond.” It was a marvelous lecture and a great summary of his life’s work in the field of New Testament Literature.

All Saints' Sunday is November 1st. This service will be led by the Hope Festival Orchestra, Hope Sanctuary Choir, and Hope Jubilate Bells. Please join us on Sunday, November 1st for this glorious celebration of eternal life.

Prepare the Way of the Lord! Advent is coming soon. Now is the time to join the Sanctuary Choir. We are looking for singers who would be willing to join us just for our Services of Lessons and Carols on December 13th at 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Choir meets on Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m. If you can spare a couple of Wednesdays in November and December, we would love for you to join us.

The children will be working on the Christmas program music this month in Sunday School Opening. The program, *The First Leon*, will be performed on Sunday, December 6th at 3:30 p.m. Please join us for this Advent Celebration!

Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord!

Stephanie Poyner
Director of Music

***November 1st —
Festival of
All Saints'***
Sanctuary Choir
Jubilate Bells
Festival Orchestra

November 8th
Children's Chimes and
Bells

November 15th
Celebration Bells
Woodwinds and Strings

***November 22nd —
Festival of
Christ the King***
Sanctuary Choir
Jubilate Bells
Hope Brass



Music
Ministry

Youth Ministry



On the calendar:

BASIC (grades 9-12) meets Wednesday 7:00 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

BASIC weekly fellowship includes time for playing, catching up with friends, planning youth ministry events and a youth led devotional time called, The Gathering. It's a great time to bring friends and take a break from the stress of your week!

BUILD (grades 6-8) meets Sunday mornings in the gym, 9:15 a.m. — 9:45 a.m.

BUILD is a great opportunity to get to know your peers just before confirmation classes. The games are always changing — come learn a new way to play!

Saturday, November 14, time TBA. Come cheer the Hope Bubble Soccer team and support the Special Olympics. The team will compete in a CCISD tournament — if you would like to make a donation towards the Special Olympics contact Robin.

Saturday, December 12th we will be reaching out to the community at the Friendswood parade and Santa in the Park Festival. Volunteers will be sharing temporary tattoos and handing out buttons with our Christmas worship postcards. Come be the friendly face of Hope — all ages welcome!

Both Junior and Senior High will have Christmas parties in December, watch for details. Also come over the Christmas break — LAN party and Nerf Wars!

More than 20 youth are registered for the 2016 National LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans next summer! "In Christ Alone," is the theme for this life-impacting event that brings together more than 20,000 teens in a celebration of the Christian faith.

If you are interested in attending and missed registration, contact Robin asap. We have a short

What's Your Number?

Could you come up with 10 reasons to be thankful? 20? 30? How about 100? This Thanksgiving season I am offering a spin on the "100 Thank You's Challenge" that I found on this blog: <http://www.tipsfromatypicalmomblog.com/> and searching "Project Gratitude." The idea of the challenge on the blog is to say "thank you" 100 times in the month of November. The blog author shows a chart and method to trace each thank you so you know when you've hit 100.

I think this is a great idea, but I'd like to challenge you and your family to something that might be a little more difficult. Can you come up with a list of 100 reasons you are thankful in this month of November? Maybe start with a blank piece of poster board and write or draw some "thankfuls" each day, or make a paper chain and add your "thankfuls" to that each night before bed. Even something as simple as a piece of paper posted on the refrigerator with a list 1-100 is a great visual reminder of how richly God has blessed each of us.

So, challenge extended. Will you accept?

Christmas Musical

Sunday, December 6th —

Children's Christmas Musical
3:30 p.m. — Family Life Center



Sunday Mornings

All our children's classes are using the *Hands-On Bible Curriculum* on Sunday mornings. Has your child been sharing their take home sheet with you each Sunday? These sheets are designed to give you an overview of the lessons studied in class, as well as some ideas on how to carry that theme through your week.

Upward Basketball

Hope Lutheran Church is again partnering 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! Help us put our great gym to use and invite the community in.

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

"And God is able to shower all kinds of blessings on you. So in all things and at all times you will have everything you need. You will do more and more good works." 2 Corinthians 9:8

Children's ministry volunteers, thank you, over and over again, for leading and blessing Hope's children.

Krista Beken, Director of Children's Ministries

Children's

Hopefest Thanks!!

Hopefest is done and our thanks go to all the devoted volunteers who made it possible! So many charities and missions benefit from the proceeds from the events that surround Hopefest. Hopefest could not happen if it were not for all of you that gave your time, talent, donations, etc.!

A most heartfelt "Thank You." God bless you all!

To All Who Gave the Gift of Life!

During Hopefest the SIP Small group sponsored the Gulf Coast Blood Mobile. We are happy to report that 28 units were collected. They tell us that for each unit, three patients are benefitted. That means that 84 people are aided by your donations.

Our heartfelt appreciation to all who gave the gift of life!

Extra Hour of Sleep!

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

Come — Join our Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

The Staff of Hope Lutheran Church would like to show our appreciation for all the many volunteers that give generously in so many ways. If you have volunteered at Hope, you and your (immediate) family are invited to come join us as our guests on **Sunday, November 8th at 12:30 p.m. in the Great Room!** Make your reservations now by signing up in the Narthex or calling the contact below. We will take reservations until **November 1st**. We would love to have you! (We are having BBQ/sides/dessert.)

If you have any questions or want to send your RSVP, please contact Rita Henderson at 281-482-7943 ext. 114 or rhenderson@hope-Lutheran.org. Looking forward to seeing you there!



Poinsettias / Norfolk Pines

The Altar Guild will be decorating our Chancel and Nave for Christmas with beautiful red and white Poinsettias and Christmas Norfolk Pine plants, decorative wrapped.

Flower envelopes will be available for your use in the Sunday worship bulletin beginning mid November and concluding early December (exact dates TBA). A donor list will be published in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins.

Note: All flowers may be picked up after Christmas Eve or Christ Day worship services.

Please contact Miria Castille at 281-996-1084 for questions or further details.

Ladies Guild Special Project

Hope's Braille Ministry

Did you know, that in the world today, over 58 million men, women, and children suffer blindness? Also, over 4 million live right here in the United States? There are over 200 Work Centers located in Lutheran churches across the country with more than 7,000 volunteers making Braille Bibles. Last year, through prayer and dedicated effort, these volunteers produced 865,259 Bible, Christ-centered books, hymnals, and pamphlets. Produced in more than 40 languages, materials were distributed worldwide to over 130 countries! If commercially produced, a Braille Bible in English would cost \$1,100. With volunteer efforts and streamlined production methods, the cost is only \$144! Volunteer time and generous financial support allow these resources to be provided FREE!

Hope's Braille Ministry consists of a group of volunteers who meet twice a month at the Work Center at Peace Lutheran Church in Texas City. They print and assemble Braille books that consist of 1st and 2nd Corinthians. Each blank page is inserted into a metal plate, run through a press, and then assembled. Each book consists of 50 pages and is spiral bound. These books are then packed in boxes and shipped to locations in the United States and all over the world. This ministry provides the message of salvation, through faith in Jesus Christ, to the blind and visually impaired.

Currently, there are two groups that meet to assemble the Braille Bibles. One meets in the daytime and the other in the evening. The daytime group meets on the first Monday of the at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Lunch follows at a different location before returning to Hope around 1:30 p.m.

The evening group meets on the 4th Monday of the month at Hope at 6:00 to carpool to the Work Center in Texas City and is usually back to Hope by 8:15 p.m. Each group works about 1 1/2 hours at the Center.

If you are interested in making a difference in this incredible ministry, please contact Alpha Siems, 832-315-1734 for the daytime group, or Debbie Schkade at 281-482-0183 for the evening group.

"Then Jesus told him, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'" John 20:29

Election Time! No Debates. . .No Lobbying. . .Just Vote!

Yes, it's time again to elect two officers for the coming two years — "President and Treasurer shall be elected in even-number years, and Vice President and Secretary shall be elected in odd-number years." — page 25, Ladies Guild Yearbook.

Please be a part of this process as well as the business to follow, plans to serve and celebrate in December, and to be Thanks-giving each day, with a special national highlight later in the month.

Hostesses are scheduled to be Stephanie Cantu, Linda Davenport, and Lorraine Erickson, with Linda opening with prayer and presenting the evening devotion.



Flower Chart

The 2016 Flower Chart sign up for Altar Flowers is now available in the Narthex. 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.

Questions?

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



Ho Ho Ho! Away We Go!

The leaves haven't yet fallen from the trees, but we'd like you to think about your Christmas plans. May we suggest a Hope Lutheran Progressive Dinner? As a final Hopefest fund raising event, we are selling just 50 tickets to tour and eat at 3 homes. On Saturday, December 12 you'll be invited to the Korth's home for appetizers, the Kuehnle's home for a main course, and to the Hobratschk's home for dessert.

Tickets are being sold for \$40 each. See the sign-up poster in the Narthex to reserve your place. It will be a special Christmas treat with your Hope friends!

Stephen Ministry Growing Pains

Your Stephen Ministry has growing plans, but hopefully not growing pains. Early next year a training session is scheduled to prepare men and women who know the need and feel the call.

This can only happen when God's call is heard, acknowledged and accepted. Such calls can be ignored, dismissed, avoided or excused away. . . "I don't have time. . . I don't know how. . . I'm not a good talker (even Moses tried that one)!" Those who thought these and other things and took the training in the past now often comment how valuable the information has been in their personal life as well as in Stephen Ministry.

All of us have experienced conflicts and problem issues and can understand that Christian care and friendship at such time can be invaluable, especially the gift of a listening ear and confidentiality. These are the mainstays of the Stephen Ministry process.

God continues to prepare us to utilize the gifts given through our life experiences. Consider carefully and thoughtfully to becoming a Stephen Minister. Allow Him to lead you to recognize the need and to know His plans for you.

Pastor Jon has answers and information that you may need. Already some at Hope have been approached about this ministry. . . rather than a quick decision, please carefully think on the matter.

May Stephen Ministry experience growing plans, not growing pains for lack of support. Your need for a personal Stephen Minister is filled upon request. Your support and prayers are a blessing. . . thanks for them.

Financial Data

Fiscal Year (04/01/15 - 03/31/16)
As of September 2015



	ANNUAL PLAN	Y-T-D PLAN	Y-T-D ACTUAL	% OF PLAN
Operating Receipts	\$1,089,012.00	\$514,799.45	\$446,633.35	86.76%
Early Childhood Tithe	\$45,000.00	\$20,250.00	\$20,250.00	100.00%
Total Receipts	\$1,134,012.00	\$535,049.45	\$466,883.35	87.26%
Outreach	\$74,405.00	\$37,343.00	\$24,421.78	65.40%
Education	\$9,250.00	\$5,355.68	\$3,285.14	61.34%
Children	\$2,350.00	\$152.96	\$96.41	63.03%
Youth	\$15,200.00	\$4,711.34	\$2,456.81	52.15%
Music	\$5,500.00	\$2,258.37	\$1,586.78	70.26%
Assimilation	\$2,600.00	\$140.84	\$51.32	36.44%
Misc. Ministries	\$11,600.00	\$6,620.38	\$3,402.16	51.39%
Personnel	\$633,157.00	\$316,292.58	\$307,169.33	97.12%
Finance	\$101,950.00	\$46,848.05	\$31,540.18	67.32%
Facilities	\$225,750.00	\$111,305.22	\$85,111.02	76.47%
Office & Worship	\$42,750.00	\$17,994.75	\$16,115.08	89.55%
Omnibus	\$9,500.00	\$4,048.31	\$2,339.53	57.65%
Total Expenditures	\$1,134,012.00	\$553,081.48	\$477,575.53	86.35%
Income Less Expenses		(\$18,032.03)	(\$10,692.18)	

Debt: \$1,399,940.74

Karen Hawkins	11/1	Kevin Klein	11/13	Edward & Dolores Jackowski	11/1
Catherine Sieraski	11/1	Lauren Sauer	11/13	Jacob & Noelle Johnson	11/5
Kurt Wagner	11/1	Logan Connor	11/14	Stephen & Karen Hever	11/7
Blake Matthijetz	11/2	Therese Huning	11/14	Kurt & Ruth Wagner	11/13
William Davis	11/3	Christopher Wiley	11/14	Rich & Terri Wenzel	11/17
Lynette Wiedenhoef	11/3	Raul Cruz	11/15	Raymond & Krista Beken	11/18
Brentan Castleberry	11/5	Edmond Russo Jr.	11/15	John & Laura Plumpton	11/18
Al Behrend	11/6	Patricia Fennell	11/16	Brad & Erika Mulsow	11/19
Dianne Brief	11/6	Hunter Kylberg	11/16	Paul & Lynette Wiedenhoef	11/19
Brooke Pfleeger	11/6	Matthew Warren	11/16	Jonathan & Lyzdeanna Cox	11/21
Sabrina Taylor	11/6	John Williams	11/16	David & Mary Ann Bucior Sr.	11/26
Matthew Wenzel	11/6	Jeff Kubosh	11/21	Michael & Amy Heinlein	11/29
Skylar Murphy	11/8	Charlotte Shannon	11/22		
Susan Lancaster	11/9	Eric Korth	11/23		
Erin Hinga	11/9	Patricia Creek	11/24		
Karen Hever	11/10	Diane Matthijetz	11/24		
Victoria Barski	11/11	Heather Taylor	11/24		
Emma Heinlein	11/11	Bailey Wenzel	11/24		
Justin Keyes	11/11	Kevin Benson	11/25		
Olivia Mittendorf	11/11	Dale Peterson	11/25		
Reed Brooks	11/12	Frank Ramming	11/25		
Elisabeth Guzman	11/12	Carol Sauer	11/25		
Martin Harclerode	11/12	Aiden Utsey	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 Anniversar

November 2015

A single, ripe red apple with a small stem and a green leaf, positioned in the upper left quadrant of the page.



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Anchor Chain

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Ralph W. Hobratschk, Senior Pastor
Jonathan E. Petering, Associate Pastor