



Pastor's

The Concept of Time fascinates most of us. It speeds. It drags. It evaporates before our eyes. Nevertheless, we are bound by it (until the resurrection!). Examining how the Greek New Testament interacts with time has always intrigued me because it uses two different words to define time: *chronos* (χρονος): static, second-by-second, sterile time and *kairos* (καιρος): dynamic, meaningful, supreme, and remembered time. The distinction is important for followers of the new born King. Our lives are lived in both "times" but the second brings significant change and resolve because of the importance of the moment. A Savior has been born and the world changed in that moment. We are called to be changed as well. The month of January, named for Janus—the two faced Roman god—brings significant time for resolution. Looking back we remember and learn. Looking forward we resolve and change. May each of us use this time of reflection to introduce life changing, Christ-following decisions.

The "Gentile Christmas," better known as The Epiphany, brings down the curtain on our Christmas celebration. It's the Twelfth Day, celebrated every January 6th. The Epiphany directs each of us to the message of the angels at the Nativity. This good news of the birth of the Savior is joy for all the world! The magi (read: Babylonian astrologers) are not Jewish, but have traveled to greet the King. They found Jesus and offered him princely gifts before returning another way. I wonder if they later discovered the true identity of the Child they discovered. We know! The Babe of Bethlehem grows to be the crucified, resurrected and ascended Lord to be introduced to all the world. [By the way, the Greek Orthodox faith, The Eastern Catholic Church, celebrates Christmas on 6 January. The root of this difference with the Western Catholic Church is grounded in the switch from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar, a twelve day difference, hence the twelve days of Christmas. There's that *chronos vs. kairos* time again.] We will celebrate The Epiphany for the next number of weeks, focusing on the revelation of Jesus as the King, the very Son of God. Listen carefully to the revelations about Jesus.

What difference have these twelve days made in your everyday living? Do we as followers of Jesus stand out in a crowd because of the Incarnation (Emmanuel=God with us) and the implications it has for each of us or do we just blend into the culture around us? Is the celebration ongoing and visible? We have the greatest good news which is to be for all mankind. Our daily deeds and words reflect this good news so that other might see and hear and join us in the Body of Christ. If we are not different, there will be no difference! The proclamation of the angel and shepherds has been passed on to each of us and the urgency of both is ours as well. Join me in the call to be different!

From my family to yours, a blessed and prosperous New Year!

The season of Epiphany is a time when the Church celebrates the revelation of God — when God revealed himself by becoming one of us — the long-promised Christ — Jesus of Nazareth — true God and true man. And Jesus revealed the love and mercy of God offered to all people through his death and resurrection on the cross for the sins of the whole world. And the Christ has been revealed to you as well in His Word and Sacrament. Because God has revealed himself to you through Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit you are now being equipped to be one who reveals Jesus to others. You are God's instrument as you reflect the love of God in Jesus Christ in your words and in your actions. May others who do not yet know Him, have the Christ revealed to them through you!

A blessed new year to each of you!

His Peace Be with You,

Pastor Jon

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Once again, Stephen Ministry celebrated our annual get-together for a dinner out. I wish to again thank the Stephen Ministry Leaders for another year of faithful service and dedication to one-on-one Christian care. I look forward to working with you during 2016.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Most of the garden lies dormant during January, but preparation for early Spring planting is already underway. There will likely be a call for helpers in the coming weeks. I try to announce those work days as far ahead as possible, but it all depends upon the weather. And you know how challenging the weather in January can be!

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes ramp back up again after the Christmas break for the second half of our teaching year. Planning for our annual retreat to Camp Lone Star will soon begin. Stay tuned for retreat information as it becomes available.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank those who give of their time and talent serving our students as teachers: Jon Petersen, James Prince, Slater Sauer, Steve Scheer, Don Schneider and Jason Henry — thank you for all that you do!!

SMALL GROUPS

The start of a new year often brings with it new commitments. What about commitments to discipleship, spirituality, fellowship, friendship? Small Groups can help you out in all those areas. Take a look at Hope's website (hope-lutheran.org/ministries/small-groups) for details about each Small Group and plan to join!

Notes from Pastor Jon



Music

Happy Epiphany! With the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas coming, I would like to thank all the musicians who served in our Advent and Christmas celebrations!

During the season of Advent, special thanks to Amanda Gonzales, Carissa Petersen, and Don Hite for serving as the musicians for Holden Evening Prayer.

Thank you to the staff, Sunday School teachers, and parents who helped make *The First Leon* a wonderful program. A special thanks to Penny Thomas, our leader of the preschool angels.

The Service of Lessons and Carols had special music provided by the Sanctuary Choir, Hope Jubilate and Celebration Bells, and Hope Festival Orchestra. A special thanks to Assistant Director Robert Davis. Thank you so much for that wonderful celebration of the story of the Nativity.


The Christmas Eve 7:30 p.m. service had special music provided by the Sanctuary Choir, Hope Festival Orchestra, Hope Jubilate Bells, and a special thank you to our Assistant Conductor, Robert Davis. Thank you so much for using your musical gifts to celebrate Christmas.

Thank you also to our Christmas Even 5:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. soloists: Penny Thomas, Carol Chew and the Gruener Family Quintet.

Spring rehearsals begin in January. Woodwinds and Strings, Brass, and Jubilate Bells begin on Tuesday, January 12th. Children's Music, Celebration Bells, and Adult Choir begin on Wednesday, January 13th. We would love to have any ringers, singers, or instrumentalists join us.

If you have any questions about music or rehearsal times, please contact me at spoyner@hope-lutheran.org or sptehpoynner@yahoo.com.

Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord!
Stephanie Poyner
Director of Music



Youth Ministry

I had the very special pleasure during the Advent season to dine together with several members of our faith family from both the Senior High group and the “seniors” group — what a blessing! Each and every story shared touched my heart and broadened my awareness and affection for those who had gathered. Every face was familiar, I knew their “places in the pew,” and yet, I left that dinner table knowing each person so much better and knowing I would never see them the same way I had when I began the event. It is in the joy and richness of these gatherings, the drawing together over a meal, over a task, or even in something silly like Trivia Night, that we are woven together as a family. I cannot begin to count the blessings I find in the simplest exchange of “Good Morning!” in the Grand Hallway, in passing the peace across the aisle, in cleaning up from an event and finding an unexpected helper, in heading out and finding one more friend at the door. In a world that proves hostile most of the time, what I find at Hope restores me. My cup overflows. . .

Senior High Youth are manning the concession stand at our weekly Upward Basketball games. Stop by for a snack and help them on their way to the National LCMS Youth Gathering, Summer 2016!

Watch the bulletin, check your Facebook, log in to your email, and pay attention to the Sunday morning announcements! The next Spaghetti Lunch is coming soon!!! A buffet of enticing pasta sauces to choose from, breads, salad and dessert — YUM! Details emerging soon!

Junior and Senior High Youth Spring Retreat is April 8-10, 2016!

Mark your calendars for the 10th (yes, 10th!!) Annual
Trivia Night!

Saturday, February 20, 2016

Doors open at 6:00 p.m., the games begin at 7:00 p.m.

Free babysitting, plenty of great prizes and tantalizingly challenging questions!

Begin building your team now — teams of 8. You can also join a team on the spot at Trivia Night, you never know what new friends you will meet! No experience necessary, just come for the fun!

Proceeds benefit youth attending the National LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Summer 2016.

Tickets (\$10.00) go on sale in late January

Thank you very much. .

The Christmas musical was a wonderful celebration of Christ's birth. Thank you so much for helping throughout the process to our stage mom, and to the preschool teachers and parents for working so hard with our preschool angels. We also appreciate our light and sound team!

Thank you to the cast parents for faithfully bringing your children to practice and thank you to all the wonderful children who were a part of the program.

A big thank you to everyone who helped with costumes, decorations and props, who set up for, and cleaned up after the program. You helped make a big task easy to handle both before and after our musical.

Finally, thank you to Mrs. Hobratschk, Ms. Stephanie, and all the wonderful teachers who served throughout 2015! We couldn't make our Sunday morning programs work without you. Thank you for your time and care!

Wishing you all a blessed 2016,

Krista Beken

Director of Children's Ministries

Upward Basketball ~ Get in the game!

Upward basketball games begin Saturday, January 9th. We will welcome over 200 players and their families to our campus. YOU can be a part of this great outreach ministry.

- * Referees are needed for both Friday night and Saturday games. Male or female; no experience needed. The more help we have, the less time any one person has to commit. Each game lasts only one hour. Contact Krista Beken, Chris Riggs or Mathews George for more information.
- * Help us feed those Saturday referees and the other folks who are here throughout the day. The meal should feed 10-12 hungry people. Meals in the past have included lasagna, chicken spaghetti, sloppy joes, hamburger helper meals, and tacos. If you are interested in providing a meal, please contact Robin Groeper or Krista Beken

Upcoming Events

- ⇒ Upward practices resume January 4th; games begin January 8th & 9th
- ⇒ January 13th — SWAT resumes
- ⇒ February 3rd — Last SWAT meeting until after Easter
- ⇒ February 7th — Alleluia Recessional — both services



***Children's
Ministry***

2016—At Your Service

New year, new page, what will be written as the months go by? So many sincere resolutions will be broken or forgotten, some carefully carried out. If only last year's problems didn't come along into the new year, but we know that's not the way life goes.

If this is the time you are accepting God's promised help by requesting a personal Stephen Minister, you will find that sharing with a Christian friend can be so comforting. Knowing that confidentiality and non-judgment are assured, your deepest concerns can be addressed.

Sometimes the hardest part of asking for help is actually making the call. After that, focus is on future outcomes, not on the past.

Prayerfully ask for the faith and courage to call Pastor Jon as God leads you.

Advent / Volunteer Thanks

A special "thank you" to all those volunteers that helped make our Advent Worship / Potluck Dinner a success! From the musicians to those that helped set up and clean up as well as those that brought food; we could not have done it without you.

A very Happy New Year to you all.

2016 Coffee Hour and Greeters!

The time is here to sign up for those volunteering in 2016 for Coffee Hour and Greeters! First, our thanks for all those who helped serve in 2015. You are much appreciated. For 2016, 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.

If you have the desire to extend a warm welcome to worshippers at Hope, then please serve as a greeter. You are asked to come 15 minutes before a Sunday service (8:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.) and greet all as they come to worship. We encourage you to commit for a month if possible.

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 Rita Henderson at rhenderson@hope-lutheran.org or 281-482-7943 ext. 114.



Christmas Forever, 2016. . .

Christmas is over. Packed away for another time are boxes, bags, ribbons and tags. We enjoyed the getting ready days, most of the shopping having been done early or later hoping to find just the right gifts for those on the growing list. Oh, the many choices and many shoppers, the long lines, and the traffic on the roads.

Yes, Christmas is over. Gone are the lights, the yard decorations, the undecorated trees, now laying by curbs waiting to be taken away. The traffic has thinned out and shoppers are fewer, mostly to find bargains or return those “What were they thinking?” gifts. Even the songs have changed their theme and “before” sales have become “after” sales.

Now when friends get together, the conversation has changed from “who do you still have to shop for” to “well, what did you get for Christmas?” Lots of answers here. . .books, games, toys, special candies, neckties, socks and things that plug in or have to be assembled, and, of yes, devices that can be held in hand with small buttons to be punched so you can then stare at it for hours or talk into it anywhere or anytime, especially in cars, restaurants, stores and even at home.

Yes, Christmas is over. But is it? The Christmas beliefs I got came not from stores, or cards, or abundant meals. It came from a deeper, heartfelt place, from remembering a star, shepherds working the night shift, oh-so-wise men traveling from far away and angels singing a new song. . .a gift for us all. . .Jesus Christ. Lowly born, and welcomed then by just these few — for the moment — and now throughout the world. This is what we got for Christmas. . .faith renewed, forgiveness, salvation and promises of a one-day-already-prepared mansion in eternity. There, we too, will finally understand completely the manger and the cross. All the prayers, praise and worship offered on earth will then be presented in person.

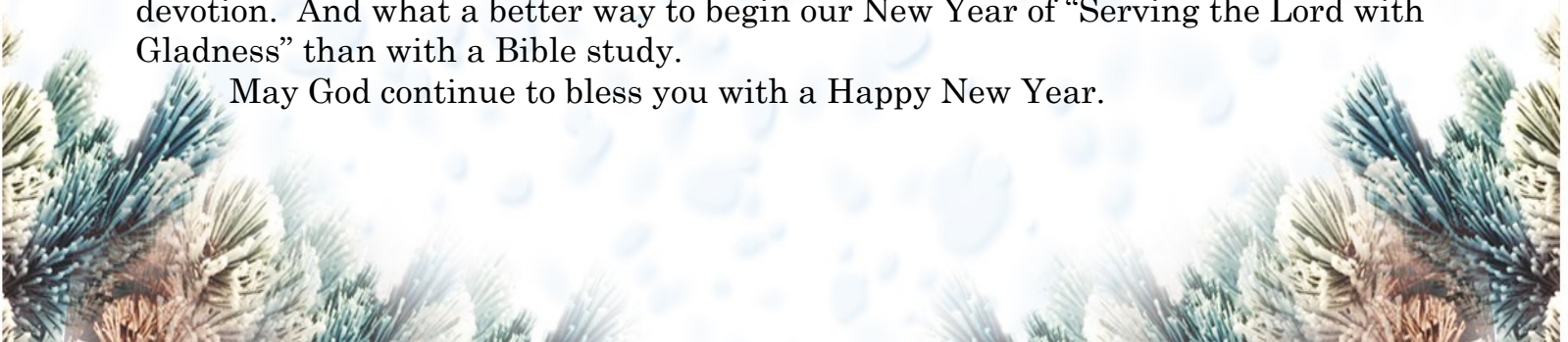
Faith came not wrapped in a package or found under a tree nor is it for just one day a year. . .it is our always gift from God. And it is found in the heart.

This is what we got for Christmas. Thanks be to God!

.....

CHRISTMAS FOREVER continues in 2016. Hope Ladies Guild meets January 12th, 7:00 p.m. in the Great Room, with scheduled hostesses Pat Hall and Karen Newhoff. Terri Wenzel will lead the opening prayer and present the devotion. And what a better way to begin our New Year of “Serving the Lord with Gladness” than with a Bible study.

May God continue to bless you with a Happy New Year.



Flower Chart

The 2016 Flower Chart has been moved to the Center for Faith Development. Many opportunities are still available: January 10, 17 & 24; February 14 & 28; June 12 & 19; September 18; October 2; November 20 & 27; and December 4 & 11. Please take a minute to look the chart over to see where you would like to sign up. **Your help is needed!**

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

Mailboxes

When was the last time you actually looked at your church mailbox?? I do realize that the majority take time every week to keep their mailbox clean. There is a small minority that haven't looked at them since last year when I said those all to famous words "Clean out your Mailbox, Please!"

It's that time again. This gives you notice — if it's not cleaned out by the middle of the month, it will be tossed.

Thanks for your help!! *Debbie Hasty*

Offering Envelopes

Your Offering Envelopes for 2016 are in the Grand Hallway. Pick yours up today. They are in numerical order. If you have forgotten your number, an alphabetical list is on the table. Thank you.



Preview Lutheran South Academy

Lutheran South Academy will be hosting a "Preview Day Open House" for the 2016-2017 school year on Sunday, January 31, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m. in Building B. Parents and students are invited to campus to meet the administration and staff, tour the facilities, and enjoy refreshments. Curriculum, extra-curricular, and financial information for grades PreK-12 will be available as well. Join LSA to learn all about the many opportunities available to both current and future students!

If you have any questions, please call or email Lee Ann Kerr at 281-464-8299, ext. 319 or leeann.kerr@lutheransouth.org.

Thank you

The Staff of Hope Lutheran Church would like to thank each of you for the generous Christmas gifts. Your continued support of the Staff and what is accomplished at Hope is a blessings.

Once again, thank you very much.

Financial

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

	ANNUAL PLAN	Y-T-D PLAN	Y-T-D ACTUAL	% OF PLAN
Operating Receipts	\$1,089,012.00	\$682,514.03	\$584,842.16	85.69%
Early Childhood Tithe	\$45,000.00	\$28,500.00	\$28,500.00	100.00%
Total Receipts	\$1,134,012.00	\$711,014.03	\$613,342.16	86.26%
Outreach	\$74,405.00	\$49,926.00	\$25,289.78	50.65%
Education	\$9,250.00	\$6,182.34	\$4,241.37	68.60%
Children	\$2,350.00	\$369.64	\$218.93	59.23%
Youth	\$15,200.00	\$6,173.86	\$3,452.77	55.93%
Music	\$5,500.00	\$3,677.30	\$2,512.14	68.31%
Assimilation	\$2,600.00	\$1,990.84	\$1,947.18	97.81%
Misc. Ministries	\$11,600.00	\$8,683.36	\$4,451.72	51.27%
Personnel	\$633,157.00	\$434,843.71	\$423,262.92	97.34%
Finance	\$101,950.00	\$62,445.19	\$31,874.45	51.04%
Facilities	\$225,750.00	\$148,704.20	\$107,684.33	72.42%
Office & Worship	\$42,750.00	\$24,509.48	\$20,349.51	83.03%
Omnibus	\$9,500.00	\$5,058.29	\$2,339.52	46.25%
Total Expenditures	\$1,134,012.00	\$752,564.21	\$627,624.62	83.40%
Income Less Expenses		(\$41,550.18)	(\$14,282.46)	

Debt: \$1,393,668.81

Jennifer Lobaugh	1/1	Jennifer Tieman	1/16	Kevin & Robin Groeper	1/2
Abby Riley	1/1	Joshua Kerch	1/18	Paul & Jessica Kroesen	1/2
Sanjay Singh	1/1	Deena Prince	1/18	Patrick & Shalyn Watson	1/2
Terri Wenzel	1/1	Stacy Schnell	1/18	Kirk & Jennifer Dippel	1/4
Kristine Rebstock	1/2	Jack Williams	1/18	Steve & Vicki Hartzell	1/4
Virginia VanEycken	1/2	Courtney Sweeley	1/19	Jordan & Kristine Rebstock	1/4
John Alff	1/3	Tyler Watlington	1/19	Owen & Terri Jones	1/5
Donna Battenfield	1/3	Austin Lobaugh	1/20	Rodney & Sharon Pampell	1/5
Allyssa Alff	1/4	Miria Castille	1/21	John & Adel Alff	1/12
Trisha Mankowski	1/4	Gloria Havard	1/21	Mike & Amy Haverty	1/14
Robert Zimmerman	1/4	Claudia Heideman	1/21	Don & Lidia Schneider	1/14
Christopher Riggs	1/5	Amy Lehman	1/21	Kevin & Stacie Utsey	1/22
Chad Leveritt	1/7	Rosa Pirker	1/21	Forrest & Brook Williams	1/28
Vira Pond	1/7	Tena Crumley	1/22		
Carson Gebhardt	1/8	Jennifer Hessler	1/22		
Missy Castleberry	1/9	John Gisch	1/23		
Analise Centeno	1/9	Lindsay Monk	1/23		
Rachel Kuehnle	1/9	Linda Rebstock	1/23		
Chris Lott	1/9	Larry Sieraski	1/24		
Joyce Pfleeger	1/9	Gerald Butler Jr.	1/25		
Rachel Van Chau	1/9	Katherine Haverty	1/25		
Kizzie White	1/9	Sharon Pampell	1/25		
Owen Kramer	1/10	Nancy Stiles	1/25		
Terri Jones	1/11	Joey Blankenship	1/26		
Jamie Paulder	1/11	Beverly Kroesen	1/26		
Lidia Suarez	1/11	Michael Matthijetz	1/26		
Adam Weiss	1/11	William Mulsow	1/26		
Paul Currie	1/12	Rachel Pirker	1/26		
Mathews George	1/13	Abigail Stitt	1/26		
Amy Heinlein	1/13	Madison Taylor	1/26		
Jessica Horak	1/13	Ruth Miertschin	1/27		
Brad Mulsow	1/13	Marlene Guzman	1/28		
Leslie Engle	1/14	Steve Huning	1/29		
Carson Utsey	1/14	Saleena Butler	1/30		
Breanna Chapin	1/15	Nicole Huning	1/30		
Andrew Eaves	1/15	Caleb Norris	1/30		



Birthdays and

This Month at Hope

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<i>New Years Day - Office Closed</i> Small Group (Peterson)	1/2/2016
1/3/2016 Eucharist BUILD 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 Small Group (Butler) New Wars	1/4/2016 Bible Staff Meeting Preschool / MDO Small Group (Henderson) Upward Basketball Small Group (Huning)	1/5/2016 Preschool / MDO Upward Basketball	1/6/2016 Preschool / MDO Small Group (Erickson) BASIC 	1/7/2016 Study Series Preschool / MDO Upward Basketball Small Group (Hings) Small Group (Women's)	1/8/2016 Upward Basketball	1/9/2016 Upward Basketball Small Group (Perch)
1/10/2016 Eucharist BUILD 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 Small Group (Butler) New Wars	1/11/2016 Quilting Staff Meeting Preschool / MDO Upward Basketball Stephen Ministry	1/12/2016 Preschool / MDO Hope Woodwinds Upward Basketball Hope Brass Ladies Guild Jubilate Bells	1/13/2016 Preschool / MDO Children's Choirs Celebration Bells SWAT BASIC Sanctuary Choir	1/14/2016 Study Series Lalview Quilt Guild Preschool / MDO Upward Basketball Small Group (Women's)	1/15/2016 Upward Basketball Small Group (Peterson) 	1/16/2016 Upward Basketball
Newsletter Deadline 1/17/2016 Eucharist BUILD 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 Small Group (Butler)	1/18/2016 Staff Meeting Upward Basketball Small Group (Huning) 	1/19/2016 Preschool / MDO Hope Woodwinds Upward Basketball Hope Brass Jubilate Bells	1/20/2016 Preschool / MDO TT Vision Screening Small Group (Erickson) Children's Choirs Celebration Bells SWAT BASIC Sanctuary Choir	1/21/2016 Study Series Preschool / MDO Upward Basketball Small Group (Hings) Small Group (Women's)	1/22/2016 Upward Pictures Upward Basketball	1/23/2016 Upward Pictures Upward Basketball
1/24/2016 Worship BUILD 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 Small Group (Butler)	1/25/2016 Quilting Staff Meeting Preschool / MDO Upward Basketball Stephen Ministry	1/26/2016 Preschool / MDO Hope Woodwinds Upward Basketball Hope Brass Jubilate Bells	1/27/2016 Preschool / MDO Children's Choirs Celebration Bells SWAT BASIC Sanctuary Choir	1/28/2016 Study Series Preschool / MDO RADD Women Upward Basketball Board of Director's Meeting Small Group (Women's)	1/29/2016 RADD Women Upward Basketball	1/30/2016 Upward Basketball RADD Women 
1/31/2016 Worship BUILD 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 RADD Women	1/31/2016 Quilting Staff Meeting Preschool / MDO Upward Basketball Stephen Ministry	1/31/2016 Preschool / MDO Hope Woodwinds Upward Basketball Hope Brass Jubilate Bells	1/31/2016 Preschool / MDO Children's Choirs Celebration Bells SWAT BASIC Sanctuary Choir	1/31/2016 Study Series Preschool / MDO RADD Women Upward Basketball Board of Director's Meeting Small Group (Women's)	1/31/2016 RADD Women Upward Basketball	January 2016 



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1804 S. Friendswood Dr.
P.O. Box 1076
Friendswood, TX 77549

Return Services Requested

A Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #14
Friendswood, TX 77549

Anchor Chain

VOL 33 | JANUARY 2016 | ISSUE 1

Inside This Issue –

- Pastor's Paragraphs
- Notes from Pastor Jon
- Children's Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- Music Ministry
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Master Calendar
- Etc., etc.

Ralph W. Hobratchk, Senior Pastor

Jonathan E. Petering, Associate Pastor