



Pastor's Paragraphs

With the echo resounding of “He is Risen! Indeed!” the Church listens carefully to the Word to empower us to live out the vast implications of Christ’s resurrection on a daily basis. We have a supply of life that is endless; how shall we spend it everyday? This is no “Groundhog Day” illusion, but a realistic opportunity to put Jesus’ promises to the test, to walk with him to Emmans and listen as he opens the Scripture, to exclaim with Thomas, “My Lord and my God!” Because Jesus has saved us by his death and resurrection, we are not obliged to save anything. We can give our life away in service (more on this later).

And Jesus breathed on them and said receive the Holy Spirit. What a way to highlight the message of the resurrection! The Body of Christ rejoices that the resurrection proclamation continues because of the ongoing work of God the Holy Spirit. The 40 days of Lent are replaced with the 40 days of Easter, culminating in the Ascension and the Feast of Pentecost. The wonder of the gift of everlasting life is brought to us by faith that is initiated and sustained by the Comforter, the third Person of the Trinity, the One Jesus promised. We cannot come to faith in the resurrected Lord on our own. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God that while we were dead in our trespasses and sins, he bought us to life!

As you read this paragraph, the tour group from Hope will have just returned from our foray into Israel. This life changing excursion will be shared with you by any of those who spent eight days walking the places where Jesus conducted his public ministry, ending in Jerusalem. We might even put together a bit of a slide show in order to share more thoroughly our experiences.

What if....? What if Hope Lutheran were to dedicate five weeks to intentional, missional service to our community? What if those five weeks were to highlight families and intergenerational groups grounded in the Word and readied for work? What if we celebrated what God can do through us as a single Body of Christ in worship and work? As you can tell from these musings, the Staff and I have been ruminating about the month of July and what awesome, God-pleasing ministry might be accomplished. Stay tuned for further details as they get put in place! What if ? *Soli Deo Gloria!*

Notes from Pastor Jon

"The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ." 1 Corinthians 10:16

When I was a child, I remember watching people coming back from communion with expressionless faces. Not sad, but not happy either. I didn't understand then. But thinking on it today, I think they were just being reverent. They were being respectful of the context, and the reality of God's presence. I think they were being very German as well!

I still see it today. But now I see it from a different angle. Now I stand behind the rail as one distributing the Sacrament. I see our members approach the altar in a pious, reverent manner. I do believe that it is a proper approach to the altar of our Lord. We are coming forward as ones recognizing the ominous reality of our sin. But we are sinners coming to our Lord for mercy. Like a child coming to a parent to confess a wrongdoing, we come with the burden of our sin written on our faces. But what about when we return from the altar? Many times I see the same face. Reverent of course. But why isn't there joy? What just happened here?

Think about it: you just received the body and blood of your Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in with and under the bread and wine you just ate and drank. In the mysterious paradox of the Sacrament, you just consumed Jesus as He has promised. You just consumed the body of blood of the very same Jesus you heard about in the readings from Scripture and proclaimed in the sermon today. This is the actual Jesus who rose from the dead some 1984 years ago and has promised to be right here, right now, for you and everyone else at this altar. Your Lord promises to strengthen your faith with this meal — helping you to live your new-creation life out in a world groaning for its Lord to return and make all things right and new. You just shared this meal with your fellow members of the body of Christ in this place — joining you to them in a closer reality than to your own biological brothers and sisters. You just ate a foretaste of the feast to come — a foretaste of the post-resurrection life into eternity that is yours right now in Christ. All of this and more than we can fathom has just happened in this few brief moments of eating and drinking!

I think, that, after receiving the Lord's Supper, it is quite okay, good, right, and salutary to crack a smile on your way back to the pew. It's okay to give a fellow child of God a hug or a handshake. Because an amazing, divine thing of pure good news and joy has just happened — changing your life forever. And you get to do this every week.

His Peace be with you,

Pastor Jon

CONFIRMATION

Because Easter was later than average, Pentecost and the Rite of Confirmation will be later as well. Faith Builders VI and the Rite of Confirmation for our confirmands will take place June 3-4, 2017. Please pray for our confirmands as they prepare to publicly confess the faith and take greater responsibility for their own growth in Christ.

I would like to personally thank all the musicians who made the celebration of the Passion so meaningful:

- The Celebration Bells for the beautiful Voluntary on Palm/Passion Sunday
- The Lenten Youth Choir for singing with the Adult Choir on Palm/Passion Sunday
- The Adult Choir for their anthems on Palm/Passion Sunday and Good Friday

And for making the Resurrection so glorious:

- The Sanctuary Choir, who served by blessing us with a stunning rendition of the *Christ is Risen* by J.S. Bach
- The Hope Festival Orchestra, who served by playing festive settings of Easter hymns and liturgy
- The Hope Jubilate Bells, who served by ringing the *Hallelujah* Chorus during the offering and ringing with the opening hymn
- And a special thank you to our assistant director, Mr. Robert Davis

Easter is such an amazing day. It is wonderful to have such talented individuals to share their musical gifts for the special celebration of Easter.

All of our children's musical groups will sing for the Houston Choir Festival on Sunday, April 30th. This will be our last event for Spring 2017. We will end our season with an End of Year Party on May 3rd in Room 104 from 5:30 p.m. — 6:30 p.m.

Music Camp is around the corner! Join us this year from July 10th — 14th. Registration is only \$50.00, which includes a t-shirt and CD of the music. Registration for Hope members begins Sunday, April 30th.

Sing and Make Music in Your Heart to the Lord,
Stephanie Poyner
Director of Music

He is Arisen! Glorious Word!
Now reconciled is God, my Lord;
The gates of heav'n are open.
My Jesus rose triumphantly,
And Satan's arrows broken lie,
Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.
Oh, hear, what cheer!
Christ victorious, rising glorious,
life is giving.
He was dead, but now is living!



Music
Ministry



Go my children with my blessing never alone. . .

Got prayer? Our youth serving on mission trips in San Antonio, Denver and Mexico would love your prayers and notes of encouragement on their journey! Each youth and counselor has an envelope on the table just outside the Youth Room — please take time to put in notes and cards to bless them through their week away.

Tim Elmore writes, “I believe we have under-challenged kids with meaningful work to accomplish. We have overwhelmed them with tests, recitals and practices — and kids report being “stressed out” by these activities. But they are virtual. Adults often fail to give work to students that is relevant to life — work that could actually improve the world if they rose to the challenge. We just don’t expect much of our kids today. Evidently, we assume they’re incapable. Instead of rising to our expectations, they stoop. The fill their day with video games, texts, YouTube and Snapchat. And their potential goes untapped. One hundred years ago — 17 year olds were leading armies, working farms, and learning a trade as apprentices. Kids could hardly wait to enter the world of adult responsibility. Today — this is rare.”

On Saturday, May 6th you are invited to a dinner for which our youth have taken responsibility and are challenging themselves to meet your expectations. Please join us in celebrating their challenge and their success!

La Speranza Luterana
Saturday, May 6, 2017
5:00 p.m. seating
7:00 p.m. seating with dancing

The strains of “Pomp and Circumstance” are easing their way closer and closer. By the time you read this, the tassel, mortar board and gown will be anxiously waiting in the closet, the announcements ordered and the menu in its 7th revision. For all its pageantry though, the most important moment will happen a few short weeks before that June graduation date in a quieter setting with a far more personal crowd. On Sunday, May 21st, my husband and I will hover over our daughter at the altar and speak words of blessings no valedictorian or celebrity speaker can match. However fumbling, and sometimes through tears, these words will encompass a prayer for her lifetime. This year it won’t be at night in mostly empty pews with just her peers and their parents but there with our faith family on a Sunday morning. When the Knotty Ladies extend their traditional graduation gift and share the blanket blessing, “. . . a reminder of the love and nurture of this Christian community,” there will be your familiar faces — the hearts, smiles and hands that cooed over their baptismal gowns, winked conspiratorially from the pew behind when they peeked up from prayers, that taught them in Sunday School, poured the lemonade at VBS, corrected them when they put their grubby shoes on the wall, that served the mystery casserole at the potluck and the bread and wine at the altar rail. We all know that this momentous milestone will fade so quickly behind them with so many more ahead of them and the joys and the struggles that await only become more complicated. How grateful I am for this community of faith that walks with her!

Faith Builders VII — Graduation Service of Blessing
Sunday, May 21, 2017
11:00 a.m. service

Please join graduates during coffee hour to visit with them, learn more about their plans and offer your words of congratulations and encouragement.



Youth
Ministry

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

Four year olds through 5th graders will learn that Jesus gives us hope, courage, direction, love and power.

For children of volunteers, we will have a nursery available and a program for three year olds. Space is limited, so you will want to register as soon as possible.

Registration will continue May 7th in the Grand Hallway during coffee hour, or please contact Katherine Kohn in the church office at 281-482-7943.

The registration fee is \$15 per child. This includes a Maker Fun Factory t-shirt, daily crafts, games, and snacks, and an ice cream social on Thursday evening of VBS week.

Be a part of Maker Fun Factory!

We'll need over 100 volunteers to make VBS happen. Please sign up by the registration table or contact Krista Beken, Director of Children's Ministries, at 281-482-7943 ext. 116 or kbeken@hope-lutheran.org.

SWAT May Dates

We'll try to squeeze in a least a couple more SWAT gatherings before the school year is done. Watch the bulletin, weekly emails, and Children of Hope Lutheran Facebook page for details.

**Cross Training Summer
Teachers Wanted**

Our Cross Training teachers do a wonderful job of faithfully leading and teaching our children throughout the year. We would like to give them a chance to relax and refresh during the summer. Please prayerfully consider volunteering a few hours of your time during Cross Training beginning in June. Even leading a class for just one Sunday would make a big difference. All teaching materials and supplies will be provided for you.

To volunteer, please see the sign up boards in the Narthex, or contact Krista Beken, Director of Children's Ministries at 281-482-7943 ext. 116 or kbeken@hope-lutheran.org.

Happy Mother's Day!
Krista Beken
Director of Children's Ministry

Children's
Ministry

Summer Music Camp 2017

“Pirates of the I Don’t Care-ibbean”

July 10—14, 2017

Registration begins Sunday, April 30th
(between services)

The cost is \$50.00, which includes a camp t-shirt, CD, pizza party and supplies. Camp is for 4 year olds through kids who have completed 5th grade. Campers must be 4 years old by July 1st. Space will be limited, so sign up early!

All children will be participating in the camp musical on Thursday, July 13th at 6:30 p.m. Auditions for the speaking parts of the musical will be on Thursday, July 9th at 6:30 p.m. for children who have completed 2nd — 5th grade.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Poyner at 281-482-7943 or spoyner@hope-lutheran.org.

Houston Choir Festival

Grace Presbyterian Church

Sunday, April 30th —
5:00 p.m.

Led by Children’s Choirs, Youth Choirs, and Adult Choirs of the Houston Area. Guest organist and clinician will be Dr. Michael Burkhardt. Everyone is welcomed to attend the final concert at 5:00 p.m.

Congratulations to our Confirmands

It has become our tradition at Hope to practice the Rite of Confirmation on the Birthday of the Church — Pentecost. On Sunday, June 4th we will hear the confirmation of the baptismal faith of:

Faith Birch, Will Cunningham, Ezekiel Eckeberger, Maya Gailey, Meadow Gette, Matthew Haverty, Wyatt Henry, Kristen Hinga, Nathan Jensen, Connor Kueck, Austin Lobaugh, Abby Petering, Emma Petering, Avery Pfleeger, Alayna Pirker, Emma Rebstock, Darryl Scheer, Sarabeth Shannon, Shawn Steakley and Merlot Wagner.

May God strengthen your commitment as you are invited into a fuller participation in the Body of Christ.





Never underestimate the power of Lutheran Women

In the after-glow of Easter, Hope Ladies Guild encourages all women in our congregation to be a part of this serving-service organization. Our invitation is always open, we have reset our meeting time to 6:30 p.m. to accommodate those who later have bell ringing practice, we open with light refreshments as some recently have come from work, we have printed agendas to alert what is to be discussed and our meeting time is not lengthy. Of course, if you want to stay a while and visit, we can do that too.

Alone we accomplish what we can, together our accomplishments increase. In Guild, more is better. Think of it like this:

Ten Lutheran Women

- ⇒ Ten Lutheran Women thought that all was fine. When one moved away, and then there were nine.
- ⇒ Nine Lutheran Women still thought things were great. But one got a paying job, and then there were eight.
- ⇒ Eight Lutheran Women — it still was quite even. Then one had a baby — and then there were seven.
- ⇒ Seven Lutheran Women thought “it’s quite a fix.” When one up and moved — and then there were six.
- ⇒ Six Lutheran Women — It was barely alive. When one became a shut-in, and then there were five.
- ⇒ Five Lutheran Women wishing there were more. One of them went back to school, and then there were four.
- ⇒ Four Lutheran Women as sad as sad could be! One went to a nursing home, and then there were three.
- ⇒ Three Lutheran Women wondered what to do. When one became a “snow bird,” and then there were two.
- ⇒ Two Lutheran Women said “this isn’t any fun. I’m doing all the work” — soon there was but one.
- ⇒ One Lutheran Woman — Ah, but she knew what to do. She went and brought one, and then there were two!
- ⇒ Two Lutheran Women knew how to get more: If each one brought one, then there would be four.
- ⇒ Four Lutheran Women knew how to make it great. If each one brought one, soon there would be eight.
- ⇒ Eight Lutheran Women — what happened then? Two each brought a neighbor, then there were ten.

This is why you are invited, need, wanted and welcome. (P.S. Our next meeting is May 8th at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Room.)



Stephen Ministry Shares Promises

Our Lord and Savior is a God of promise. A promise is a vow, a commitment and a pledge. Many of His promises are for times in our life when we need a friend and hope.

Promise: “I will supply all your needs.” *Philemon 4:19*
— For when we simply don’t know how we will meet demands.

Promise: “Though your sins are scarlet, they will be white as snow, though they are red like crimson, they shall be like wool.” *Isaiah 7:19*
— For when past sins weigh heavily on you.

Promise: “I will forgive their iniquities, and their sin I will remember no more.”
Jeremiah 31:34
— For when past sins are difficult to forget.

Promise: “Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depth of the sea.” *Micah 7:19*
— For trust and peace in His promises.


Stephen Ministers offer their promise to you to list to you, pray for and with you, to give privacy, confidentiality with no judgment placed on anything shared. For this to happen, you must request a Stephen Minister — and one will be on the way, we promise.

Congratulations

Congratulations to our graduating seniors:

Haley Beken, Joe Blankenship, Jaya George, Mark Gonzales, Jenna Groeper, Joshua Gruener, Alex Hall, Jonathan Hawkins, Sydnie Henry, Courtney Huning, James Klein, Ellie Korth, Ryan Kuehnle, Avery Ricaldi, Zach Riggs, Catherine Sieraski, Kelsey Westover

May He lead you in each new direction you may go.



Financial News

Fiscal Year (04/01/16 - 03/31/17)

As of March 31, 2017

	ANNUAL PLAN	Y-T-D PLAN	Y-T-D ACTUAL	% OF PLAN
Operating Receipts	\$1,040,751.00	\$1,040,751.00	\$893,353.00	85.84%
Early Childhood Tithe	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	100.00%
Total Receipts	\$1,085,751.00	\$1,085,751.00	\$938,353.00	86.42%
Outreach	\$74,318.00	\$74,318.00	\$60,942.95	82.00%
Education	\$8,850.00	\$8,850.00	\$8,221.17	92.89%
Children	\$2,300.00	\$2,300.00	\$740.76	32.21%
Youth	\$13,200.00	\$13,200.00	\$6,628.69	50.22%
Music	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$5,316.11	88.60%
Assimilation	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$112.91	14.11%
Misc. Ministries	\$10,100.00	\$10,100.00	\$4,811.73	47.64%
Personnel	\$637,528.00	\$637,528.00	\$615,880.17	96.60%
Finance	\$55,555.00	\$55,555.00	\$36,824.94	66.29%
Facilities	\$227,400.00	\$227,400.00	\$164,091.97	72.16%
Office & Worship	\$40,700.00	\$40,700.00	\$32,916.47	80.88%
Omnibus	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$1,687.06	18.75%
Total Expenditures	\$1,085,751.00	\$1,085,751.00	\$938,174.93	86.41%
Income Less Expenses		\$0.00	\$178.07	



Debt: \$1,212,634.27



Amanda Gonzales	5/1	Virginia August	5/17	Larry & Rene Sieraski	5/6
Reese Grape	5/1	Jonathan Petering	5/17	Fred & Loranne Lemire	5/10
Rylie Grape	5/1	Elizabeth Frank	5/18	George & Jennifer Harpole	5/13
Kinsley Koch	5/1	Charles Garcia Jr.	5/18	Bill & Jennifer Frank	5/14
Nicholas Lott	5/1	Emma Russo	5/18	Robert & Kathy Zimmerman	5/16
Zachary Peterson	5/3	Alyssa Singh	5/18	Robert & Shanon Bargas	5/18
Justin Sauer	5/3	Scott White	5/19	Charles & Ann Foshee	5/20
Holly Kroesen	5/5	Brian Sweeley	5/20	David & Rose Mustain	5/20
Carol Miertschin	5/5	Paul Wiedenhoeft	5/20	Matthew & Laura Wenzel	5/22
Zachary Riggs	5/5	Avery Williams	5/20	Stan & Norma Ross	5/24
Chris Shannon	5/5	Rayne Williams	5/20	Edmond & Alisa Russo Jr.	5/24
Avery Ricaldi	5/6	Kasi Culwell	5/21	Mary Ann & Bob Waldon	5/24
Isabelle Van Chau	5/6	Laurie Ellis	5/23	Craig & Robin Hall	5/25
Noah Van Chau	5/6	Roy Hood	5/23	Dana & Rosa Pirker	5/25
Val Williams	5/6	Nicole Horak	5/23	John & Andrea Gisch	5/26
Sam Prince	5/7	Mary Alice Buchorn	5/24	Thomas & Melissa Hinga	5/26
Scott Shannon	5/7	Madelyn Davis	5/24	Brandon & Summer Ott	5/26
Daniel Warren	5/7	Terry Gebhardt	5/25	Irvin & Janet Burtzlaff	5/27
Tamara Williams	5/7	Nancy Lawson	5/25		
Robert Lott Jr.	5/8	Yvette Shannon	5/25		
Greg Adams	5/9	Joe Centeno Jr.	5/26		
Paul Newhoff	5/11	Brandon Ellis	5/26		
Shanon Bargas	5/12	Kaitlyn Gruener	5/26		
Emma Butler	5/12	Peyton Kramer	5/26		
Alexander Riggs	5/12	Glenn MacRill	5/26		
Clarice Brewer	5/13	Ron Ricaldi	5/26		
Haley Eaves	5/13	Stan Ross	5/26		
Averi Monk	5/13	Ruth Wagner	5/26		
Asa Kueck	5/14	Jenna Groeper	5/27		
Lynn Hobratschk	5/15	Gerlane Jacob	5/27		
Tyler Huning	5/15	Donnie Kleiber	5/27		
Kevin Lewis	5/16	William Cunningham	5/28		
Boyd White	5/16	Nova Wagner	5/28		
Evangelina White	5/16	Lillie Culwell	5/29		



*Birthdays
and
Anniversaries*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	8:00 AM Eradle Preschool / MDO TT Parent/Teacher Conf Small Group (Henderson) Carl Scouts Clear Lake Elite Volleyball Stephen Ministry Training 7:00 PM	8:00 AM Preschool / MDO TT Parent/Teacher Conf Basketball (Haverty) Hope Woodwinds Hope Brass Jubilate Bells 8:00 PM	8:00 AM Preschool / MDO TT Parent/Teacher Conf Small Group (Erickson) Children's Choir Party Celebration Bells Sanctuary Choir 8:00 PM	8:00 AM Preschool / MDO TT Parent/Teacher Conf. Study Series Group Basketball (Haverty) Small Group (Hinga) 7:00 PM	10:00 AM Clear Lake Elite Volleyball Small Group (Petersen) 6:00 PM 6:30 PM	Galveston County Youth Dining Out Event 8:45 AM 9:00 PM
5/7/2017 Eucharist BUILT 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 Music Ministry Luncheon Small Group (Butler) 5:00 PM	5/8/2017 Preschool / MDO Quilting Staff Meeting Clear Lake Elite Volleyball Stephen Ministry Stephen Ministry Training 7:00 PM	5/9/2017 Preschool / MDO TT End of Year Luncheon Basketball (Haverty) Hope Woodwinds Ladies Guild Hope Brass Jubilate Bells	5/10/2017 Preschool / MDO Celebration Bells Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM	5/11/2017 Preschool / MDO Lakewood Quilt Guild TT Graduation 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 6:00 PM 6:30 PM	5/12/2017 TT Planning Day Clear Lake Elite Volleyball 9:00 AM 6:00 PM	5/13/2017
5/14/2017 Mother's Day Eucharist BUILT 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 11:00 AM	5/15/2017 Preschool / MDO Staff Meeting Small Group (Henderson) Carl Scouts Stephen Ministry Training 7:00 PM	5/16/2017 Preschool / MDO Basketball (Haverty) Hope Woodwinds Hope Brass Jubilate Bells	5/17/2017 Newletter Deadline Preschool / MDO Preschool / MDO Small Group (Erickson) Celebration Bells Sanctuary Choir 8:00 PM	5/18/2017 Preschool / MDO TT Science Quest Study Series TT Closing Chapel RAD Women Small Group (Hinga) 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 1:10 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	5/19/2017 RAD Women Small Group (Petersen) 6:30 PM 6:30 PM	5/20/2017 Galveston County RAD Women 8:45 AM 4:00 PM
5/21/2017 Eucharist BUILT 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 11:00 AM	5/22/2017 Staff Meeting Stephen Ministry 7:00 PM	5/23/2017 Basketball (Haverty) Hope Woodwinds Hope Brass Jubilate Bells	5/24/2017 Celebration Bells Sanctuary Choir 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	5/25/2017 Basketball (Haverty) Board of Directors' Meeting 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	5/26/2017	5/27/2017 
5/28/2017 Worship BUILT 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 Worship 11:00 AM	5/29/2017 Memorial Day Office Closed	5/30/2017 Basketball (Haverty) Hope Woodwinds Hope Brass Jubilate Bells	5/31/2017 Celebration Bells Sanctuary Choir 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	<h1>This Month at Hope</h1> <h1>May 2017</h1>		



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Anchor Chain

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