he intent of the season of Lent encourages the penitent to thoughtful and focused reflection. The Psalmist probably said it most succinctly in Psalm 46 when he pens, "Be still, and know that I am God." If we parse this verse for a moment, we might put the two actions into chronological order, i.e. first be still and then know that Yahweh is God. Or we might juxtaposition the two actions in a causative relationship, i.e. because you are still, you know that Yahweh is God. In either case, the first action is that of being still, quieting ourselves so that we can hear the voice of God. Remember the prophet Elijah hiding in the cave after being pursued by Jezebel for putting to the sword the 400 prophets of Baal? Yahweh revealed himself not in the flashy, noisy events, but in the still, small voice, the murmur. Instead of the more, bigger, better of our culture, we are called to less and quiet so as not to miss the still, small voice of God. Use the remainder of these forty days of reflection to discipline self to daily meditation on the Word of God, to honest assessment, to resolve repentance so that we can hear that "Yahweh Sabaoth is with us, our citadel, the God of Jacob."

Hope the opportunity to play a significant role in the life of young people. I believe as a congregation we have a heart for young people within the fold here. Kids Hope expands the heart to the community of P.H. Green Elementary. Imagine the life-long benefit of mentoring a young person whose situation might not necessarily highlight the values we have as followers of Jesus. How rewarding would that be! Sandy McHone coordinates the program, trains the volunteers and helps out as needed. Give her a call. All it takes on your part is 3 hours of training, a volunteer hour a week and a heart of kids!

ast month 65 women journeyed to camp Allen outside of Navasota for retreat. From all reports the weekend lived up to the expectations of the planners and inspired the participants. Thanks to all who stepped out into something new. Hopefully the foundation is laid for more.

peaking of retreating, our confirmation classes will be doing so at Camp Lone Star this month. This time away allows for focused attention to the Word of God, to relationships and to growth. Thanks to Pastor Jon and the other teachers, to adult assistants, to the Sr. High youth who open the door to confirmands for the year to come. Remember them all in prayer.

n a personal note, Lynn Ann and I will be taking a few days off mid-March to help work some of the estate duties after Lillie's (my mother) death. Thank you for your understanding.



Often the first thoughts about Lent turn toward the question, "What am I going to give up?" While the discipline of denying yourself something during the 40 days of Lent is a salutary practice, denying yourself a particular food or activity is not the primary focus of Lent. Lent is a season of focus — heightened focus on what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us in his ministry, death, and resurrection. It is also a season of repentance — deliberate confession of the things we have done and left undone that work against the grain of God's will for our lives, AND a turning away from those behaviors in our lives. The trajectory of Lent is always toward the Easter good news. That good news is absolution: absolution in His body and blood given and shed for you, absolution in His suffering and death with your sin upon the cross, and absolution in His victorious resurrection from the dead. Use this time of Lent for focus on the work of your Savior, in confession of sin, and quiet preparation for the joy of the Resurrection.

CONFIRMATION: Our annual Confirmation Retreat takes place March 6-8. All of our students and their teachers will spend the weekend at Camp Lone Star outside of LaGrange, TX for a weekend of study, worship, challenge, and fun. This year's theme is "The Journey." Please pray for our confirmation students as they prepare to publicly confess the Faith and take responsibility for their continued growth in the Faith.

COMMUNITY GARDEN: The fruit trees are in the ground — located in the plot of land near the dumpsters. We have planted a "Home Acres" Pear, a "Mid Pride" Peach, a "Republic of Texas Orange," and a "Miho" Satsuma. All are varieties that are proven growers here in Galveston County. Thanks to Kyle King for helping me make the purchase, and to Jason Henry and his boys Wyatt and Dylan, Kyle King and his son, Ryan, and Justin Dorrell for helping get all of them planted.

SMALL GROUPS: On Sunday, March 1st, Joshua Kerch will be commissioned as Hope's newest small group leader. Thank you, Josh, for your willingness to serve, and your hard work in training. We look forward to your new small group.

OUTREACH: Have you noticed the number of new faces around here? It is exciting to see new people come to hear about Jesus in this place and become a part of our community. It's also exciting to think about all of those people who aren't here yet. Welcome all of those new faces and get to know them not by face, but by name.

His Peace Be with You,

Pastor Jon

Music Ministry

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me, Love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be. Oh, who am I, that for my sake, My Lord should take frail flesh and die?

The season of Lent is upon us. It is time to reflect on the Christ's sacrifice for us with His death upon the cross. As you journey through Lent, please come and join us for Lenten worship on Wednesdays.

The end of our Lenten journey will bring us to the Festival of the Resurrection on April 5th. We are looking for singers for the Easter worship services for the Hallelujah Chorus and Festival Alleluia. Rehearsals will be on Wednesday nights at 7:45 p.m. Please join us.

May God Bless Your Lenten Journey, Stephanie Poyner Director of Music

March 1st	Celebration Bells	
March 8th	Flute Soloist & Classical Guitar Soloist	
March 15th	Adult Choir, Orchestra, Celebration Bells	
March 22nd	Organ Only (Happy Birthday Bach!)	
March 29th	Palm / Passion Sunday Adult Choir & Celebration Bells	



Children's

Did You Know. . .?

- Lent is the time to help us prepare for the Joy of Easter that comes because Christ rose from the dead. We take time to think about why Jesus had to die on the cross for us, and we remember that Jesus loves us SO MUCH that He was willing to do just that die on that cross to save us from our sins.
- "Alleluia" is out we take the Alleluias out of the Sanctuary on the Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday as a visible reminder that we are more somber during this Lenten season, and it reinforces the joy of bringing it back on Easter Sunday.
- Lent begins on Ash Wednesday
- Ashes for Ash Wednesday come from the Palm fronds from last year's Palm Sunday arrangement.
- Lent last 40 days —

In 2015, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18 Lent ends on Easter Sunday, April 5th.

There are 11 days from February 18th — 28th There are 35 days from March 1st — April 5th (Easter)

11 + 35 + 46 calendar days — Where do the 40 days of Lent come from? We don't count Sundays.

- Altar paraments are purple as a sign that we are sorry for our sins and also for royalty — that we should bow penitently before the King.
- Sacrifice giving up food or special things during Lent is a personal choice. If giving up something helps you better understand Christ's suffering, that is a personal decision. Another option might be to "take on" doing good as Jesus did, rather than giving something up.
- Holy Week the week just before Easter including Maundy Thursday (the last supper), Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

First Communion Class

Sunday, March 8, 12:30 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.



Ministry

Everest...
Conquering
Challenges
with God's
Mighty
Power
June

Be the hands and feet of God

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter 4:10 (NRSV)

We are called to serve others. At Hope, we just wrapped up two service events that not only reached out to our family at Hope, but also the community. When you see "Upward Basketball," you may think, okay, basketball, but nice, not competitive. Upward is basketball, it is competitive, but it's so much more. For 8 weeks, over 50 adult and teen volunteers come together to teach the sport of basketball and the love of Jesus. We welcome the community onto our campus and a wonderful group of volunteer referees and coaches give their time to make sure the game, and the lessons, are learned in a Christian environment.

A group of gentlemen from Hope's Men's Ministry just hosted the first of an annual event titled "Raising a Modern Day Christian Knight." This event was geared toward teaching the boys and young men in our community to grow into Christian men, and to give their fathers some tools to accomplish this goal. Raising a Modern Day Christian Knight welcomed members of Hope and many people from outside of Hope as well.

Finally, a new opportunity is on our doorstep — Kid's Hope USA. More details about Kid's Hope will be forthcoming in the following weeks. I ask that you seriously consider this opportunity to continue Hope's reach into the community. If we don't serve as the hands and feet of God, who will?

I came across this blog a couple of weeks ago — it stuck me both as a parent and a youth minister. It called me to check my priorities, to strengthen my resolve, and to get on my knees to pray. As the newsletter reaches your homes this month a group just shy of 100 tweens and teens will be on retreat at Camp Lone Star and I can't help but think we should all be prepared when they come home.

To the Church about to Baptize My Baby:

Be Warned

It's all cuteness and lace now, but in no time at all, my little baby boy — after a brief sojourn in childhood — will hit adolescence. His hormones will kick in and quickly conspire to undo all the good you've done in him.

These will be the years that he'll push you, Church.

He'll suddenly wonder how Jonah could survive that dark trip in the whale's belly. He'll argue that David may have bested Goliath but that he's no match for Tom Brady and, besides, David's hardly the unblemished hero his Sunday School teachers made him out to be. Proud of himself, he'll point out that Noah never would have had to build the ark had God not decided to flood everything and everyone in the world.

He'll push you, and if you're not up to the challenge, he'll be tempted, conclude that everything you've taught him and everything you teach is, at best, a fairy tale and, at worst, a lie.

And this might be the first time someone he knows or loves dies.

When that happens, Church, you better not resort to clichés. You better be prepared to show him resurrection-of-the-body hope at work among you.

You might as well get ready now, Church, because when those years arrive you will have to struggle just to have your voice heard above all the callings that claim his attention and tempt his loyalty. Just when time seems to race by for his parents, tomorrow will seem forever away to him. Everything, from the face he sees in the morning mirror to the fickly loyalties of his friends, will change almost every day.

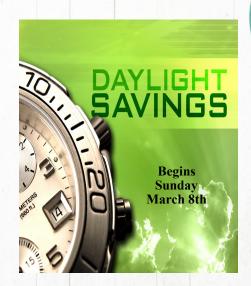
And whether he knows it or not, Church, what he will need from you all is a community of constancy. He will need a people who refuse to let go of him, who refuse to let go of what they know to be true and enduring, who refuse to let him slip away before he learns to describe his world with the language you speak.

And he'll never admit it to you Church, but what he'll need in those years is a place where he need not wear a mask, a place where vulnerability isn't a dirty word, a place where a life of mercy and love and gratitude is a viable and even compelling alternative.

There's more — are you ready??

The above was printed with permission. I urge you, instead, to finish reading "To the Church That Baptizes That Baby," at http://www.patheos.com/blogs/jesuscreed/2015/01/19/to-the-church-that-baptizes-that-baby-jason-micheli/





Ushers Needed

Looking for a place to serve? The usher team is looking for additional members to help. The 8:00 a.m. service is in need of an usher for the 3rd Sunday of the month. Both services could always use a "few good men."

For many, the ushers are the first ones to greet them as they enter the Sanctuary.

Interested?? Contact the church office at 281-482-7943 and will connect you with the right team.

New Church Extension Fun Benefits for our KDIS. . .

Super Savers

Texas CEF is proud to introduce its newest program that will teach children ages 0—18 about stewardship, discipleship, and financial responsibility. Introducing \$upper \$avers!

How it works for kids:

- A child makes their first investment of at least \$10.00 into CEF by either opening a new investment or placing it into an existing one.
- Each child will receive a prize for each month that they consistently invest at least \$10.00. If the child makes an investment for 6 months in a row they will receive a special prize and membership into the Super Savers Club. Every investment counts whether it's a K.I.D.S. stamp book, a check or EFT.
- The program will be divided into 6 month increments and run for 3 cycles of continuous investments.
- The first set of months will have the theme: "The High Five Club" with prizes geared towards that them.
- Members will receive a membership card & a quarterly newsletter.

How it works for adults:

• Once a child invests consistently for 6 months, the parents will receive a coupon for an extra 0.50% when they open a new fixed-rate note.

Have questions?? Please contact CEF at invest@texascef.org or 1 -888-951-1233.

Informational Meeting

On Monday, March 2nd in Room 104 at 7:00 p.m., Collette Travel will go over the upcoming trip, "On the Trail of Martin Luther," scheduled for October 14-24, 2015 If you interested in being part of this trip, please plan to attend this meeting. Thank you.

First Communion Class

Attention all 5th—7th grade students who have not yet attended Hope's First Communion Class. We will be conducting a three-hour communion class on Sunday, March 8th from 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. in Room 103 of the Center for Faith Development.

We will begin by eating lunch together (please bring \$4.00 for pizza). Then we will search the Scriptures and our Lutheran catechism together to understand what Holy Communion is all about. Upon completion of the class, parents will be provided a list of questions to determine their child's readiness for this holy event. A sign up sheet will be coming soon to the Narthex.

Ladies Guild

Our logo depicts our Lutheran Women's Missionary League's attention to the cross of Jesus Christ and our commitment to it and the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. It is the first official logo, having been adopted 24 years ago.

This commitment is ongoing. It exists in our Mite Box donations, support for National and Texas District mission grants, programs, rallies and conventions through monthly support of a Lutheran Bible Translator, monthly morning and evening Braille printing sessions, support for our local Then & Now Resale Shop, Christian Helping Hands and Good Samaritan Home, for Prayer Sisters and Secret Pals, and many Hope congregational activities. As God's grace and blessings to on and on, so does our service of thanks.

Ladies Guild is for all women of Hope and the welcome mat is always out.

On Tuesday, March 10th, our meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Great Room will focus on our chosen Texas District Mission Grants, where they stand and what is still needed. . .keep those Mite Boxes filled with that loose chance and the "silent" funds, too.

Our hostesses for the evening are scheduled to be Julanne Lott and Linda Davenport with Linda leading the opening prayer and Mary Ann Waldon presenting the evening's devotion. Come and enjoy the fellowship. And, speaking of fellowship, another Ladies Night Out is coming March 31st. These are not to be missed, try it, you'll like it.

May your Lenten journey be reflective and renewing. . .

Soup Suppers

They are back! Mark your calendars: March 4th, 11th & 25th. The Senior High Youth will be hosting and providing all food for the March 4th Soup Supper to raise money for their upcoming summer trip! Let them do all the work! Free will offering will be accepted on these two dates.

Look for the Lent Soup Supper Volunteer Sheets coming in the Narthex. Start getting your groups together or sign up one-by-one! Areas to volunteer for the March 11th & 25th suppers are for set-up, clean-up, and to provide soup, peanut butter & jelly sandwiches, salad, bread and dessert. Please check your calendar and friends to see which dates and areas will be the best for you to serve.

There will be NO Soup Supper on March 17th due to Spring Break.

Any questions, please feel free to contact Rita Henderson at 281-482-7943.

Stephen Ministry

Our message is not new, Stephen Ministry has been a part of Hope's congregation for many years. Why repeat the same information again and again? Because new and unexpected happenings in lives come and go at different times. The need may not be yours today, but we don't know when it will. What to do then? Oh, yes, I read again about Stephen Ministers.

They have gone through a 50-hour caregiving training and then work through our Pastors to provide emotional and spiritual support to those who are going through difficult times, such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, loneliness, etc.

Relief through Christian care comes, and so important also is knowing that all is done in privacy, with non-judgmental confidentiality. What peace comes at the onset just knowing these things.

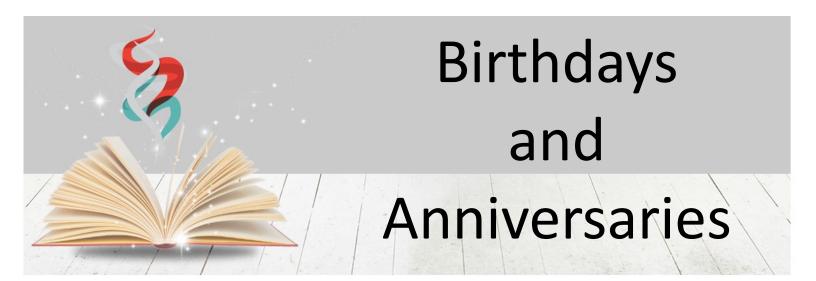
So that is why the message continues. Pastor Jon is always ready to receive your request. . .when your need arises, pray for the courage to ask and that trust brings hope.

Fiscal Year (04/01/14 - 03/31/15) As of January 2015

	ANNUAL	Y-T-D	Y-T-D	% OF PLAN
	PLAN	PLAN	ACTUAL	70 OT 1 E7 (IV
Operating Receipts	\$1,026,142.00	\$847,531.46	\$779,191.20	92.02%
Early Childhood Tithe	\$45,000.00	\$36,750.00	\$36,750.00	100.00%
Total Receipts	\$1,071,142.00	\$884,281.46	\$816,669.20	92.35%
Outreach	\$74,100.00	\$61,833.30	\$60,184.56	97.33%
Education	\$8,750.00	\$6,670.53	\$4,130.56	61.92%
Children	\$2,900.00	\$2,456.77	\$872.17	35.50%
Youth	\$11,520.00	\$10,470.45	\$7,078.21	67.60%
Music	\$5,500.00	\$5,350.06	\$4,597.58	85.94%
Assimilation	\$2,600.00	\$2,451.66	\$1,914.30	78.08%
Misc. Ministries	\$10,850.00	\$9,829.87	\$5,829.85	59.31%
Personnel	\$597,652.00	\$504,387.94	\$490,766.25	97.30%
Finance	\$97,500.00	\$81,250.00	\$81,403.97	100.19%
Facilities	\$210,820.00	\$166,599.09	\$134,358.72	80.65%
Office & Worship	\$42,750.00	\$33,167.34	\$28,080.60	84.66%
Omnibus	\$6,200.00	\$4,086.33	\$2,846.15	69.65%
Total Expenditures	\$1,071,142.00	\$888,553.3	\$822,061.92	92.52%
Income Less Expenses		(\$4,271.88)	(\$5,392.72)	

Debt: \$1494,640.75





Cox, Lyzdeanna	3/1	Gordon, John	3/14
Johnson, Jacob	3/1	Jorgenson, Nicole	3/14
Weiland, Roy	3/1	Kroesen, Paul	3/15
Williams, Gregory	3/1	Roy, George	3/15
Gahring, Scott	3/2	Schroeder, Elaine	3/15
Heinlein, Michael	3/2	Mustain, David	3/16
Shannon, Sarabeth	3/3	Jorgenson, Dale	3/17
Childress, Judy	3/4	Kuehnle Jr., Ronald	3/17
Froboese, Paige	3/4	Rathjen, Kurt	3/18
Sweeley, Jacob	3/4	Ross, Norma	3/18
Bors-Koefoed, Sven	3/5	Ahrens, Mitchell	3/19
Cox, Jonathan	3/5	Lobaugh, Suzy	3/19
Hunter, Timothy	3/5	Russo, Alisa	3/19
Rhodes, Collin	3/5	Davis, Linda	3/20
Rhodes, Travis	3/5	Hibbs, Roger	3/20
Ricaldi, Carolyn	3/5	Zeitler, Lorna	3/20
Benson, Harold	3/6	Akins, Dwain	3/21
Chapin, Brian	3/6	Atchley, Ida	3/22
Hall, Robin	3/6	Tomayko, Dorrie	3/22
Petering, Sheri	3/6	Bayer, Cynthia	3/23
Taylor, William	3/6	Jensen, Patricia	3/23
Hibbs, LilaJan	3/7	Riley, Lauren	3/23
Johnson, Betty	3/7	Tomayko, Brian	3/23
Van Chau, Luke	3/7	King, Kyle	3/24
Riley, Margie	3/8	Aalund, Niels	3/25
Castille, Dick	3/9	Kaderka, Kendra	3/25
Davenport, Linda	3/9	Hovorka, Bryce	3/27
Hawkins, Jonathan	3/9	Frank, Bill	3/28
Heinlein, Riley	3/9	Matthijetz, Brandon	3/28
McHone, Sandra	3/9	Petersen, Kayla	3/28
Jensen, Nathan	3/10	Poyner, Stephanie	3/28
Mittendorf, Brady	3/10	Shannon, John	3/28
Albrecht, Michele	3/12	Sweeley, Marissa	3/28
Dabelic, Ineke	3/12	Hunter, Bruce	3/30
Gette, Meadow	3/12	Muniz, Lisa	3/30
Harclerode, Katherine	3/13	Dippel, Bailey	3/31
Klein, Arthur	3/13		

Steve & Jean Tubbs	3/7
Michael & Diane Matthijetz	3/14
Stephen & Joan Sikes	3/21
Matthew & Nova Chauvin	3/22
Shawn & Christine Birch	3/28
Paul & Karen Newhoff	3/31
James & Linda Rebstock	3/31



This Month at Hope

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History of Lutheranism 946 AM Meris Ministry of Lutheranism 946 AM Parent Study Group 946 AM Surday Shool 946 AM Together with Jesus 946 AM Women's Study Group 946 AM Women's Study Group 946 AM Eucherist 1100 AM	SEA Group Collette Travel Meeting	7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Sup Supper 600 FM Lenten Worship 7:00 FM Sanctuary Choir 7:30 FM	Small Group (Women's)	7.00 PM.		
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Eucharist 11:00 AM Renewal 1st Communion Class 12:30 PM	AM PM PM						
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Renewal 12:15 PM	PM						



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

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