PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS

ovember brings with it some fine South Texas weather and a reminder why it is good to live here. Along with the climate adjustment, one day truly stands out for me-1 November-All Saints' Day. After The Feast of the Resurrection and The Incarnation, this celebration of All Saints' is my favorite liturgical festival. The manifold reasons include a thanksgiving for those who have



died in the faith and now rest from their labors, a celebration of the victory of Jesus Christ on the cross and open tomb that makes for sainthood, and a promise for each of us that we will join this glorious band upon our death. And what is not to celebrate, especially since all of this is a free gift of our heavenly Father?! Is it any wonder that we conclude the Prayer of the Church with a reference to that great cloud of witnesses that surround us known as the saints!

ovember really brings the beginning of the holiday season. Thanksgiving Day, the national day of thanksgiving, allows us to join the nation to thank God for all his blessings to us as a people and to us as a community. That might be difficult for many of our members as they live through the difficulties brought on by Hurricane Harvey in August. But I do thank God that we have the Body of Christ who reached out to those effected, and continues to do so through Hope members and the Texas District. I thank God that there was no loss of life. There are even some plans in the works to serve Thanksgiving Day dinners here at Hope for our own members and members of our community who are without the means to cook. There is thanksgiving in that service too. "O, give thanks to the Lord for he is good!"

amily Promise continues to be a bright spot in the life of Hope. Following in the footsteps of Jesus, we are caring for the homeless as they work back to independence as we provide food, shelter and fellowship. If you are so moved, please plan to join me the next time we host. "When you have done it to the least...you have done it to me."

still ringing in our ears, the peace that comes from knowing that we are saved by grace alone should drive us to share peace with all who have no peace. Martin Luther 500 years ago led the effort to bring peace to troubled consciences not through our own efforts but by trusting the word of our God...you are forgiven for Jesus' sake. There can be no better message for the hurting than this, even 500 years later!

Notes from

A lot seems to be happening in November: the weather finally cools down, football, raking leaves, the wind up to the Christmas season as stores are already decorated and selling "Christmas" (too early for me), and a time set aside to give thanks. Psalm 100 is a song of giving thanks:

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his:

We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,

And his faithfulness to all generations.



Take the time — not just at Thanksgiving — to see and reflect on all that your God, your Creator has given you. The goodness of our God and the goodness He gives us is remarkable and beautiful. It is therefore our duty as His creatures to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him.

His Peace be with you, Pastor Jon

HURRICANE HARVEY UPDATE

First, a big 'THANK YOU" again to all of you who have helped out or donated in any capacity. Nearly every time I encounter them, those affected by the flood have expressed their appreciation for all the help they have been given. We have received donations from a number of congregations throughout the United States. Their assistance has help tremendously. We praise our Heavenly Father who knows our needs and provides all that we need and so much more.

The needs are beginning to shift: from clean-out toward rebuilding. Are you ready to raise some sheetrock? I anticipate we will see a number of opportunities to raise up walls in homes over the coming weeks and months. As we have in the past, once we receive a mission, I will put out the word for volunteers. Another area of potential help: meals. I am beginning to hear about the need for a home-cooked meal once or twice a week from our families affected. A number of them have limited to non-existent kitchen function in their homes. If you are interested and able to help out with a meal a week or so, please contact me.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Traumatic events like Hurricane Harvey can cause major life disruptions — loss of house and home, vehicles, keepsakes, and so much more. The rebuilding process can be stressful, even overwhelming. If you are in the middle of such a crisis, it can be healthy and helpful to have a safe place to talk about what you are going through. Stephen Ministers can serve in that capacity — providing a non-judgmental ear to listen and care, to pray for you and your family as you journey through this uncertain, uncomfortable time. If you need a Stephen Minister to walk beside you, please contact me. Help is a phone call or visit away.



Music Ministry

It is time for the Music Ministry to begin thinking about Christmas! If you have ever thought about being a member of the choir, now is the time. Rehearsals are on Wednesday nights from 7:30 p.m. — 9:00 p.m. The Service of Lessons and Carols, *Holy Light*, will be held on December 17th during the 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services. Come and join us as we prepare to celebrate the season of Christmas.

Children will also have an opportunity to celebrate Christmas in our annual Sunday School Christmas Musical. All children will learn the songs during the opening time of Sunday School during the months of November and December. This year's Sunday School Christmas musical, *Christmas is Jesus*, will be held on Wednesday, December 20th at 6:30 p.m. during the Christmas Potluck. Children in grades 3rd — 5th may audition for speaking parts on November 5th from 12:30 p.m. — 1:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center (gym). Rehearsals will be from 12:30 p.m. — 2:00 p.m. on Sundays in November and December. Please contact me if you have any questions.

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

Christmas is Jesus Sunday School Christmas Musical 2017

Calling all 3rd — 5th Grade Actors and Actresses!

What: Auditions for the Christmas Musical

When: Sunday, November 5, 2017 Where: Family Life Center (gym) Time: 12:30 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.

What: Come and read parts from the script and sing "Happy Birthday" to get a part in the 2017 Christmas

Musical! Rehearsals will be on Sunday afternoons from 12:30 p.m. — 2:00 p.m.

Holy Light: A Service of Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 17, 2017 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Featuring the Sanctuary Choir, Festival Orchestra, Celebration Bells, and Jubilate Bell Choir of Hope Lutheran Church.



Youth Ministry

I love youth group — I love the spontaneity, the laughter, the unexpected connections, the friendships and the journey. I learned long ago, though, to be wary of being the Pied Piper to the youth of a church and strive to spread those relationships among other adults who walk alongside youth ministry. A youth who stays at a church because of their youth group relationships, be they peers or adults, doesn't tend to stay connected to the church for long after the youth group years end. Which makes the most sense to you, do you think a teen is more like to embrace a lifelong faith. . .

...when they primarily relate to the youth group and youth leaders?

. . . or when they develop heart-to-heart relationship with many adults in their lives and experience church from an intergenerational viewpoint?

"The Christian community is one of the few places on earth where those who represent the full scope of human life, literally from the cradle to the grave, come together with a singular motive and mission. Flourishing intergenerational relationships should distinguish the church from other cultural institutions." David Kinnaman, You Lost Me.

If you participated in the summer intergenerational Bible study you were involved first hand in crossing over to a ministry that embraces this concept. We made moves in this direction bringing some of our FaithBuilders events away from the shadows and into congregational life as we celebrated our Senior High graduates in our Sunday morning worship. We will venture again into those intergenerational relationships as we invite the congregation as a whole to participate in cleaning the Sanctuary during Advent to prepare not

just our hearts but our pews and doors and floors to share the incredible miracle of the Gospel. We are bringing the adults into the youth room too, inviting faith family members from various career fields to share their experiences and knowledge and perhaps make some connections with teens who are contemplating those fields. By the way, the teens aren't the only ones benefitting from these ventures!

I am excited about what we have tried and what we have planned but my heart skips a beat when I think how much there is still to do. Mark Cannister, in his book, <u>Teenagers Matter</u>, writes, "For a church to become intergenerational, the whole staff and the whole community, not just the student ministry, must own the initiative. This movement requires more than simply the addition of multigenerational activities. It requires a philosophical shift in the congregation's understanding of ecclesiology. Establishing intergenerational ministry as a core value necessitates a fresh discussion of the church's vision, values and purpose."



Will you join the discussion?

Is it Enough?

We set aside one day each year to give thanks. Hopefully, we are taking note of our blessings and expressing thanks on a regular basis, but we certainly make it a big deal around Thanksgiving. I mean, it's right there in the name of the holiday, *Thanks*giving. We generally have a nice family dinner, and we may even have different traditions for ways to express our thanks throughout the month of November. But, what if we only talked about being thankful on Thanksgiving? What if we only counted our blessings this one day of the year. . .one day out of 365. Can we truly look at our lives and feel like it would be right to only acknowledge all the reasons we have to be grateful on one day a year? Most of us, I think, would argue that we could find at least some sort of blessing, even a small one, in every day of the year. Through junior high and high school, when my daughter was having a bad day, I would tell her to think of her 3. I challenged her to find at least 3 things that made her happy, made her smile. We managed to come up with 3 things, different things, every time. So, I ask again, just one day to be thankful for our blessings, is it enough? I would vote no, nor should it be enough. God has blessed each of us according to his plan.

Here is another fraction I'll ask you to consider, one hour out of 168 hours. We are given 168 hours each week to use as we choose. Is one hour a week in worship enough to truly teach your children about God and grow their faith? How do we incorporate the other hours we have during a week into faith time, God sightings, sharing our beliefs with our children? How do we make it more than one hour?

As we start the *Thanks* giving season, let's start with the challenge of 3. Find your 3 blessings, smile makers, "thankfuls" each day and discuss them with your children. Car rides are an excellent time to chat with our kids; I miss that car ride time together. Meal time is another great opportunity to have family talks and come up with 3 things that you, as a family, are thankful to have in your life. Before school prayer time or before bed prayer time may also work well to find your 3. The more often you take five to ten minutes to think about something for which you are grateful, or ask your children to think of something, the easier it will become to make God sightings a part of your everyday. We are called to grow the faith of our children. We need to increase that numerator from 1/168, because again, my vote is no. One is not enough. Starting with one more mention of how God has blessed our life each day is an excellent start, however.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down

and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." Deuteronomy 6:5-9 (NIV)

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 Ministries



Serving with Gladness, and Thanks

Thanksgiving is a National holiday, it recalls Pilgrims, turkey and all the trimmings. For Believers, it is a day of "thanks" and "giving." It is also a daily time to speak of God's love to us, shown through the gift of Jesus Christ, with grateful hearts. We thank Him when we sing His praises and pray our prayers. We can never thank Him enough, any more than we can stop doing so, every day.



Giving is also a part of the word Thanksgiving. Hope's Ladies Guild gives its time, talents, attendance and participation. When needs arise, as they recently have, financial, food and fund donations are given. As we know from the Word, each of us has a God-given talent,

not only to be thankful for, but to use.

Invited and welcome are all women of Hope, whether long time or newer members, to visit and join this service ministry. To accommodate an easier schedule, we now meet at 6:30 p.m. — and enjoy food, fellowship, quick business needs and special prayers and devotions.

November 12th is designated as Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Sunday. We are pleased to greet, usher and offer needed information.

November 14th is our regular monthly meeting, and again, all women are welcome. At this meeting, we will be electing a Vice President and Secretary. The scheduled hostesses are Jennifer Lobaugh, Veronica Matula and Debbie Schkade. Mary Ann Waldon will lead the opening

requested prayers, and Carolyn Ricaldi will present the opening devotion. See you there.

Thanks for Giving time to attend.





Volunteer Opportunity

Do your children like using the busy bags each Sunday during worship? Do you have an hour you can give once a week?

This servant opportunity is for you! We need someone who can help keep our busy bags tidy and up to date with working toys and seasonal books. All materials are supplied.

Please contact Krista Beken if you are able to fill this need.

Flower Chart

The 2018 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, so please make sure you mark as "paid with cash".

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



2018 Coffee Hour

The time is here to sign up for those volunteering in 2018 for Coffee Hour! First, our thanks for all those who helped serve in 2017. You are much appreciated. For 2018, 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.

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 Debbie Hasty at dhasty@hope-lutheran.org or 281-482-7943.

A Thankful Stephen Ministry

In a few days our nation will celebrate a holiday called Thanksgiving. We will offer special prayers, not only of thanks but of praise for all that we are and have through God's grace and mercy. We also will pray that our entire country would offer the same in trust and faith. Unfortunately, that is not what we see and hear today whether in newspapers, newscasts, or social media.

Reflected in our daily lives are also times of anxiety and stress. It's with joy that we sing "Thank the Lord and sing His praise, tell everyone what He has done. . ." We know that we can tell Him everything we have done, as well. He knows and forgives, encourages and guides us toward better choices.

This is exactly what the Stephen Ministry at Hope was commissioned to do. There are things we all would rather not tell everyone or have everyone know, even friends and family. Again, this is exactly why Stephen Ministry never judges what is shared in private, nor is it shared with others. Once Pastor Jon receives your request for a Stephen Minister, the rest is confidential as well.

Our Lord loves with a love beyond our full comprehension. We are not limited to one day a year to give our utmost thanks and praise. Every day is the right time for our ongoing gratitude.

Having recently celebrated the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther and the Reformation, Stephen Ministry offer once again profound thanks for God's opening the Word to all people. We remain committed to serve you.



Extra Hour of Sleep!

Central Standard Time resumes Sunday, November 5th at 2:00 a.m. Be sure to set your clocks back 1 hour — otherwise you'll be early for worship on Sunday morning.

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is in need of 2 volunteers. Hope delivers once every 9 weeks to area shut-ins and/or seniors. This event usually takes about 2 hours of commitment. You can drive a route by yourself, or we will see if we can find you a partner.

This is a rewarding volunteer ministry. Please search your hearts and contact Michele Albrecht at 713.819.3356 if you feel that this would be a job for you.

More details to follow when you call — so please, call.

Michele Albrecht, Meals on Wheels Coordinator



Debt: \$1,140,646.61 Fiscal Year (04/01/17 - 03/31/18)
As of September 2017



Hawkins, Karen	11/1	Connor, Logan	11/14	Edward & Dolores Jackowski	11/1
Sieraski, Catherine	11/1	Huning, Therese	11/14	Jacob & Noelle Johnson	11/5
Wagner, Kurt	11/1	Wiley, Christopher	11/14	Kurt & Ruth Wagner	11/13
Matthijetz, Blake	11/2	Cruz, Raul	11/15	Rich & Terri Wenzel	11/17
Davis, William	11/3	Russo Jr., Edmond	11/15	Raymond & Krista Beken	11/18
Wiedenhoeft, Lynette	11/3	Fennell, Patricia	11/16	John & Laura Plumpton	11/18
Castleberry, Brentan	11/5	Kylberg, Hunter	11/16	Paul & Lynette Wiedenhoeft	11/19
Behrend, Al	11/6	Warren, Matthew	11/16	Jonathan & Lyzdeanna Cox	11/21
Pfleeger, Brooke	11/6	Williams, John	11/16	Michael & Amy Heinlein	11/29
Taylor, Sabrina	11/6	Kubosh, Jeff	11/21		
Wenzel, Matthew	11/6	Beken, Jamie	11/22		
Murphy, Skylar	11/8	Shannon, Charlotte	11/22		
Lancaster, Susan	11/9	Korth, Eric	11/23		
Barski, Victoria	11/11	Creek, Patricia	11/24		
Cunningham, Everett	11/11	Matthijetz, Diane	11/24		
Heinlein, Emma	11/11	Taylor, Heather	11/24		
Keyes, Justin	11/11	Wenzel, Bailey	11/24		
Mittendorf, Olivia	11/11	Benson, Kevin	11/25		
Guzman, Elisabeth	11/12	Peterson, Dale	11/25		
Harclerode, Martin	11/12	Ramming, Frank	11/25		
Henry, Wyatt	11/12	Sauer, Carol	11/25		
Plumpton, Laura	11/12	Utsey, Aiden	11/25		
Thomas, Michael	11/12	Haverty, Mike	11/26		
Klein, Kevin	11/13	Ross, Laura	11/28		
Sauer, Lauren	11/13	Rebstock, James	11/30		

Birthdays and Conniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TWESDRY	WEDNESDAY 11/1/2017	THAR SOAY	RODAY SA	24TURDAY 11.4/2017
This Mc	This Month at Hope November 2017		Pre School / MDO	MEAL. Pre-School / MID (Study Group CH) Small Group (H)	Small Group (Petersen) 6:30 PM Girl Scouts (Thon	ि
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800 AM 945 AM	Pre School / MDO 900 AM Quilting 900 AM Quilting 900 AM Staff Meeting 900 AM Gleat Lake Volleyball 600 PM Stephen Ministry 700 PM	PreSchool (MDO Hope Woodwind	Pre School (MDO MOD MOD MOD MOD MOD MOD MOD MOD MOD	Pre School / MD Study Group So TT Thenless run Small Group (H	Neusletter Deadline 4:00 PM RAD Women 6:30 FM	11/18/2017 2:∞ PM
19:2017 19:20 DAM 19:20 DA	1120:2017 Shaff Meeting 9:00 AM Small Group (Henderson) 9:00 AM Girl Scouts 9:30 PM	Hope Woodenids 6:00 PM Hope Brass 7:00 PM Jublate Bells 8:00 PM	11.02.017 1.02.017 Children's Choirs Colo PM Calcheration Balls Colo PM Choirs Colo PM Choirs Colo PM Choirs Choir	THANKSGI VING	11242017 III	11/29/2017
	11.27.2017 9:00 AM quiling 9:00 AM Steff Meting 9:00 AM Stephen Ministry 7:00 PM	1128:2017 PreSchool MDO 600 PM Hope Woodwinds 600 PM Hope Brass 7:00 PM Jubilate Bells 8:00 PM	11282017 9 00 0 M	Pre School / MDO Strudy Group Series 9:30 AM Strudy Group Series		



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

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Ralph W. Hobratschk, Senior Pastor

Jonathan E. Petering, Associate Pastor