he season of Lent culminates in the "three days" of Good Friday, Holy Saturday and, finally, Easter Day. There are two days of darkness and quiet before the third day. When the darkness from the sixth to the ninth hour (12 noon to 3 p.m.) on Good Friday ended with the exclamation, "It is finished," darkness seemed invincible, irrevocable. BUT our heavenly Father had a different plan with a much different outcome. Just as a seed falls into the darkness of the earth before it erupts as something brand new, so the body of the Son of God was laid in a borrowed tomb awaiting the most glorious words for human, sinful ears: "He is not here. He is risen!" Christ Jesus, the Light of the world, is not dead but living, the firstfruits of those who fall asleep in faith. The Feast of the Resurrection shines second to none. The light that breaks forth in this death defying moment of life awakens in us the hope and assurance to shine ourselves, reflecting the living Lord Jesus. The darkness of our rebellion which necessitated the cross / sacrifice has been driven back by the wonder of light and life in a resurrected Jesus! The Lord is risen and so shall we. Rejoice and be glad! The night has ended. The day has come.

ny curious individual asks questions about the resurrection, e.g. will we be the same age in the resurrection as when we died? What about those lost at sea? Will I know my history? Maybe a few comments about the resurrection would be in order. First of all, resurrection is not resuscitation. We are not this body come back to life again. We are made new (cf. St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:35ff and his analogy of the seed, which I used in the preceding paragraph. . .the whole chapter is pretty good) and fit for eternity. The "how" of this will be determined and engineered by the God who created it all in the first place. The primary relationship will be with Jesus, the one who makes our resurrection possible by his own. But there remain many unanswered questions. Maybe we need to leave the fruit of knowledge on the tree and let our God be God with our future, trusting him to get it right.

ids Hope USA, a program of mentoring on the campus of P.H. Greene Elementary, offers hope and positive relationships to children in need of just that. Training and time are the only up front requirements, along with a servant's heart. For more information, contact our coordinator Sandy McHone at sjmchone3@gmail.com. She will be happy to assist you in this noble endeavor.

he deadline for registration for "On The Trail of Martin Luther" tour to Germany in mid-October is 15 April 2015. After that day our reserved seats will be released to the public. If you are at all interested in traveling to experience the 498 anniversary of the posting of the 95 Theses, NOW is the time to act. Contact me for more information.

Pastor's Paragraphs

"Christ is Risen!" As the preacher / liturgist at the 6:00 a.m. Sunrise service, I have the privilege and honor of being the first at Hope to publicly proclaim those joyous words on Easter Sunday. The Gospel-dripping words: "Christ is risen" are not just for the Easter Season. They are words that have been on the lips of Christians for all of the 2,000 or so years since Christ's resurrection from the dead. They are words which have been confessed by those facing deadly persecution. They are words that are changing the world one person at a time. May those three words be on your lips as well. Because that universe-changing event is your only hope — that where Christ is, one day, you too will be also.

His Peace Be with You, Pastor Jon

CONFIRMATION: Our retreat this year had a late start and a wet finish, yet we were blessed with many moments of learning, growth, discovery, and cooperation. Overall, the students had a great time. A big "thank you" to the Senior High youth who welcomed Level 3 students into their number with open arms and warm hearts. And I must also thank many others who helped out — making the retreat possible: Jon Petersen, James Prince, Slater Sauer, Steve Scheer, Don Schneider, JoAn Warren, Patricia Jensen, and Tina Peterson. Thanks also to Debbie Hasty who provided administrative support. We now look forward toward FaithBuilders VI when our confirmands publicly confess the Faith in their own words, and to Confirmation Sunday May 24th during the Festival of Pentecost. Please continue to pray for and encourage our young people in the Confirmation program as they study and prepare to confess the Faith.

SMALL GROUPS: On Sunday, March 1st, Joshua Kerch was commissioned as Hope's newest small group leader. He will soon be starting up a group focusing on parents with very young children. Details will be coming out soon. STEPHEN MINISTRY: Thank you to all of our Stephen Ministers for your quiet, patient service. We have a number of Stephen Ministers waiting and ready to help those who feel helpless, and to come alongside those who are hurting. Let me know if that person in need is you.

COMMUNITY GARDEN: The cold, wet winter that just seemed to hang on delayed spring planting a bit, but tomatoes, potatoes, and lettuce are in. Beans and peas will be in very soon. With enough production this spring, I hope to make some fresh produce donations to Christian Helping Hands and/or to Mercy Tree. Want to help out with the garden? Let me know!

OUTREACH: A couple of things will be happening in outreach in the near future: a website re-design, and an initiative for our congregation to support a missionary. More details to come.

Notes from Pastor Jon

Upcoming calendar dates:

Saturday, April 4th The Hunt for Easter — this scavenger hunt promises to be a lot of fun! Family can't come? Sign up in the confirmation hallway or the youth room to join a youth team for junior or senior high. Drivers needed!

Thursday nights, 7:00—8:30 p.m. BASIC (no BASIC during Holy Week) come play, take some down time in your week and connect with peers. 8th graders are included in the invite for this senior high group!

Friday, April 10th Youth Night at LSA (8-12) "The Power of Servant Leadership" fun and fellowship even with speaker, Dr. Micah Parker

Sunday, April 12th Spaghetti Lunch — served after late service, join us for a buffet of different pasta sauces, breads and desserts. To-Go options available, free-will offering benefits Camp Eagle youth. Youth are also having a cake decorating contest, you can vote with your silent auction bid!

Sunday, April 26th BUILD (6-8th grades) is heading to Putt-Putt Fun House from 2:00—4:00 p.m. (Along with SWAT!) \$17.00 gets you unlimited attractions. Come BUILD relationships on the mini-golf course, bumper boats and more! Chaperons needed! RSVP with payment by Sunday, April 19th.

Also on Sunday, April 26th our own Kevin Darling will be performing at Numbers Nightclub on Westheimer — catch up with Robin or April Darling to get the details on this emerging Christian artist and his friend!

April 12-24 Youth going to Camp Eagle will offer Butter Braids for sale — yummy pastries delivered in time for all of your May happenings or just a common, ordinary morning that needs a little sunshine!

High School grads, mark your calendars for Sunday, May 17th, 6:45 p.m. for our FaithBuilders gathering and blessing service honoring you!!



Parents, the Fearless Conversations Bible study continues in the Conference Room on Sunday mornings, 9:45—10:45 a.m. NEW conversations include "how God guides and leads His people based on Bible accounts from Joshua, Ruth, and Ester. Topics include, "Why would God protect lawbreakers?" and "How do I handle betrayal?"

Senior High small groups are thriving with topics including reading through the Gospels, "Firsthand Faith" and "They Like Jesus but Not the Church." Groups are both youth and adult led — join us.

Save the Dates!!

Tacos and Talent Show 2015

Please join us on May 1st at 7:00 p.m. for Taco and Talent Show Night sponsored by the Music Ministry. We will be raising money for our Handbell Outreach Choir which visits nursing homes and assisted living facilities on a monthly basis. We are in need of some additional equipment.

Auditions for the Talent Show will be Sunday, April 12th from 12:30 p.m. — 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. ALL ages and talents are welcome to audition.

Summer Music Camp 2015

<u>The Go Tour! Taking God's Love</u> <u>Around the World</u>, will be held July 13th — 17th. Registration will begin on Sunday, May 3rd. The cost is \$50.00, which includes camp t-shirt, CD, pizza party, and supplies. Camp is for 4 year olds through students who have completed 5th grade. Campers must be 4 years old by July 1st.

Space will be limited, so sign up early! If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Poyner at 281-482-7943 or spoyner@hope-lutheran.org.



April brings us the opportunity to remember Christ's crucifixion and death and to celebrate His resurrection on Easter Sunday. Please come and join us in our worship services, especially during Holy Week, as we worship our crucified and risen Savior.

We reflect on the Passion on Passion / Palm Sunday with services led by the Sanctuary Choir, Children's Choir, and Celebration Bells. Then, we remember the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday and participate in the Tenebrae, Service of Darkness, on Good Friday. Finally, we celebrate the Festival of the Resurrection on Sunday. Join us as the Sanctuary Choir, Festival Orchestra, and Jubilate Bells lead us in worship on Easter Sunday, April 5th.

May God Bless Your Holy Week Journey.

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



The Hunt for Easter, Saturday, April 4th

Family, fellowship, faith and fun! Don't miss this exciting new Easter event as we track down the true meaning of Easter right here in our community. We'll meet in the Great Room at 10:00 a.m., receive instructions and your list of clues, and then head out for your family scavenger hunt. We'll finish back in the Great Room to share our discoveries and enjoy a few more fun activities. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us.

The Alleluias are coming back, Sunday, April 5th

Please help us bring the Alleluias back into our worship services on Easter morning. If your children would like to process in with the Alleluia banners, meet in the narthex just before the service begins. We'll have a processional during the opening hymn at each service: 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00. Alleluia!

SWAT resumes Thursday, April 16th

I have missed the SWAT crew during our break for Lent! We will begin meeting again Thursday, April 16th at 6:30 p.m. Also, mark your calendar for a fun SWAT and HS outing on Sunday, April 26th. We'll get together to play at Putt-Putt Funhouse in Webster from 2:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m. Watch for more information as the date gets closer.

VBS 2015 Registration, Sunday, May 3rd

Everest. . . Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power Join the fun June 22nd —26th, 9:00 a.m. — noon

Four year olds through 5th graders will learn that God has the power. . .to provide, to comfort, to heal, to forgive, and to love us forever. For children of volunteers, we will have a nursery available and a program for 3 year olds. Space is limited, so you will want to register as soon as possible. Registration fee is \$15 per child.

We will also have sign-up sheets for volunteers beginning May 3rd. VBS is our largest volunteer event in Children's Ministry. The week is busy, flies by, and the fun is non-stop. Please consider joining us this summer.

For more information on any of these programs, contact Krista Beken, Director of Children's Ministries at 281-482-7943 ext. 116 or kbeken@hope-lutheran.org. As we look forward to, and prepare for, VBS 2015, here's something to think about and help encourage the volunteer spirit in your children.

Genuine Humility from the 4 Acts of Love

Did you know that it's invaluable for kids to begin helping others as early as possible? Helping isn't only how they'll see Jesus in action. . .it's how they'll become Jesus in action.

Research suggests there are other benefits to teaching our children to help others. Children who help others tend to do better academically, relationally and (eventually) professionally. Still, kids won't start being selfless until they're given opportunities to think of themselves less.

Here are 4 tips to get you started:

- Foster an attitude of gratitude: Regularly thank God for how you've been richly blessed by the people and things already in your life. Talk about what it means to pay it forward, whether by helping strangers or taking care of whomever has taken care of you.
- Show them what they're missing: Help your child notice needs in your home and community. This can be as simple as getting a napkin for others when they get one for themselves, or as involved as serving a meal to the homeless in your area.
- Give everyone ownership of something: Let your kids observe and work alongside you as you model what needs to be done. Whether you're doing laundry or feeding the family pet, talk about why it's important. Teach them to notice what needs to happen for it to be a job well done.
- Talk it up: Genuinely celebrate what it means to serve others. Saying, "Isn't it great that we get to make someone's life better by doing this?" goes a lot further than complaining about how hard a job is. Finally, recognize how they've helped, no matter how small their contribution.

Adapted from Lifetree family Newsletters http://www.lifetreefamily.com



Blessings with Stitches!

On a cold Friday in February, ladies gathered to work on Prayer Quilts for Hope Lutheran hosted at Barb Gahring's home. The chairman of the Prayer Quilt Ministry, Wendy Hunter, had spread the word that she needed help working on these quilts. The response came with 14 women working from morning into the afternoon and enjoying fellowship and a lunch as they stitched. These quilts will bring not only warmth, but prayers and support for those suffering with illness in our Hope congregation. It was truly inspiring to witness. God bless those that support this important ministry.

A BIG Soup Supper Thank you!

Thanks to everyone who helped set up, clean up, and shared food donations for the Soup Suppers during Lent. We could not have done it without you. Our heartfelt thanks! *Rita Henderson, Volunteer Coordinator*

Opportunities to Serve

We are blessed with many people at Hope that help out in so many ways to make our activities and ministries at Hope successful. Our thanks go to those who serve. We do have more opportunities as Coffee Hour Host and Greeters for both the 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday worship services. If you are interested, please contact Rita Henderson at 281-482-7943 ext. 114 or rhenderson@hope-lutheran.org.

A Chance to give through the MDA Bloodmobile

There are so many loved ones that are impacted by cancer in our families, our congregation, and our community. Have you ever wondered. . . "What can I do to help?" There is good news — you can! On Sunday, April 12th, from 9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. we will have a M.D. Anderson Bloodmobile in our parking lot. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex as well as an information sheet that describes the donor requirements.

Note: This is a note from Gilda Hart of MDA from another drive at Hope — "You had a donation of 36 units. Because each unit is divided into 3 components, Hope Lutheran donors are responsible for touching a potential of 108 cancer patients. This contribution is an invaluable way of impacting the lives of those fighting cancer and can enable them to battle on. It surely must make God smile."

Please consider signing up. It truly is the gift of life! If you have any questions, please contact Rita Henderson.

New Member Reception

Please join us on April 12 during Coffee Hour at 9:15 in the Great Room. It will be a special day as we welcome those that have completed the Renewal Class and are joining our Hope congregation. You will have the opportunity to meet and greet as well as get to know them better. Let's celebrate with our newest members as we receive them into our family at Hope.



Easter Greetings from Ladies Guild

We join with believers throughout the world in rejoicing in remembrance of our Savior's completing our salvation as He rose as promised.

Focusing on national Mission Grants will highlight our April meeting, the 14th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Great Room. Last month we discussed the Texas LWML Mission Grants, and now we will recall that this is an ongoing country wide endeavor. In support of Lutheran World Relief, a donation of two bars of wrapped soap will be collected.

Our hostesses are scheduled to be Gail Akins, Karen Newhoff and Sallie Rouse, with Karen presenting the devotion and Sallie leading the opening prayer. We always hope to welcome women from Hope to visit / join us as we continue to "Serve the Lord with Gladness."

Thanks, ladies, to all who baked, bought or helped in any way to make our recent Bake Sale a success. The funds raised will support our obligation to the LWML Travel Fund, and we appreciate all who helped.

April 6th is Quilt Ingathering in Houston and we are please that our Knotty Ladies prepared 63 quilts to add to those going around the world. April 13th and 27th will be the days to tie Graduation Quilts and LWM quilts.

April 19th is a special day — LWML Spring Rally at Zion Lutheran in Pasadena. Registration is \$5.00 and begins at 1:30 p.m. — this covers materials and the evening meal. The preparation and the purpose of these rallies deserves our full support by attending and better getting to know our Zone LWML Sisters. Please plan to attend. Carpooling will be available.

Christ the Lord is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!

Breakfast is Served

We want to invite you to breakfast on Easter Sunday morning. The menu will include pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, orange juice and coffee.

Breakfast will be served from 6:30 a.m. — 9:45 a.m. in the Family Life Center. A free-will offering will be taken. Please bring your family and enjoy!

We need cooks, people to set up, people to serve and people to help clean up. We need early risers and late stayers. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. We need your help to make this happen! Many thanks! Lynn Ann Hobratschk

Passover Seder / Maundy Thursday Worship

Come and celebrate the Passover Seder with us on Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center (gym). As an integral part of our Maundy Thursday Holy Week Worship Service, the Altar Guild will be hosting a Symbolic Seder Meal for our members and guests. This elaborate service, led by Pastor Ralph, is a wonderful teaching and learning experience that will allow the gathered community to participate symbolically in the story of salvation.

Of special note: The Seder Meal service will be followed by the Maundy Thursday Holy Communion service, and concluded with the ceremonial "Stripping of the Altar" by the Altar Guild on April 2nd in the Sanctuary. We hope that your worship experience during the Passover Seder and Maundy Thursday Worship is a blessed one.

The Altar Guild



Stephen Ministers Quietly Care

Sad, but true! It's hard to open up about the struggles that our culture has inflected on us. Our minds deflect us from available help by interjecting thoughts like "What will people think?" "What will they say?" "I don't want anyone to know. . .(or help)?"

Thank our Lord that He has provided trained men and women to share God's grace as they quietly listen to concerns and heartaches. Stephen Ministers really listen, listen as they give care receivers time to collect thoughts and to share fully in privacy.

Thoughtful questions from the Stephen Minister explore how the care receiver's concerns affect them as wife, husband, student. . . and in midst of illness, grief, loss of many kinds. This gives a full picture and leads to focusing on appropriate goals and coping techniques. Always included is the sharing of and hope through Jesus Christ's suffering, death and resurrection - all for our salvation. His broken body, once given for us, is balm for us.

Our thanks to Pastor Jon who carefully assigns a personal Stephen Minister suited to your practical needs. As does our Lord, he awaits your call.

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, April 19th from 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. in the Great Room 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.

		Holy Week Schedule			2 A
	Sunday, March 29 th –	Palm Sunday	8:00 a		
	nd	Palm Sunday		11:00 a.m.	
	Thursday, April 2 nd –	Seder Meal	6:00 p	o.m.	
		Maundy Thursday Service /		6.18	
	- A	Stripping of the Altar	7:00 p		
	Friday, April 3 rd –	Good Friday Tenebrae		7:30 p.m.	m
	Saturday, April 4 th –	The Hunt for Easter		10:00 a.m.	. BR
		Vigil of Easter		7:30 p.m.	Ender
	Sunday, April 5 th –	Sunrise Service	6:00 a		
		Easter Breakfast		6:30 a.m.	2 3 11
		Easter Service		8:00 a.m.	min 1
		Easter Service		9:30 a.m.	
		Easter Service		11:00 a.m.	
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Fiscal Year (04/01/14 - 03/31/15) As of February 2015

	ANNUAL PLAN	Y-T-D PLAN	Y-T-D ACTUAL	% OF PLAN
Operating Receipts	\$1,026,142.00	\$929,054.50	\$848,679.21	91.35%
Early Childhood Tithe	\$45,000.00	\$40,875.00	\$40,875.00	100.00%
Total Receipts	\$1,071,142.00	\$969,929.50	\$889,554.21	91.71%
Outreach	\$74,100.00	\$67,854.13	\$65,978.95	97.24%
Education	\$8,750.00	\$8,269.08	\$6,949.71	84.04%
Children	\$2,900.00	\$2,731.99	\$894.65	32.75%
Youth	\$11,520.00	\$11,261.93	\$8,084.80	71.79%
Music	\$5,500.00	\$5,486.81	\$4,851.24	88.42%
Assimilation	\$2,600.00	\$2,451.66	\$1,927.68	78.63%
Misc. Ministries	\$10,850.00	\$10,363.20	\$6,326.42	61.05%
Personnel	\$597,652.00	\$555,780.77	\$534,545.49	97.05%
Finance	\$97,500.00	\$89,375.00	\$89,551.62	100.20%
Facilities	\$210,820.00	\$182,899.37	\$146,329.22	80.01%
Office & Worship	\$42,750.00	\$39,135.40	\$31,630.98	80.82%
Omnibus	\$6,200.00	\$5,013.75	\$2,962.78	59.09%
Total Expenditures	\$1,071,142.00	\$975,613.09	\$900,033.54	92.25%
Income Less Expenses		(\$5,683.59)	(\$10,479.33)	

Debt: \$1,494,640.75



Aman, Landon	4/1	Hobratschk, Ralph
Mankowski, Thomas	4/1	Leimer, Riley
Allen, Kendra	4/2	Walleck, Laverne
Cruz, Pat	4/2	Dallas, David
Shannon, Keith	4/2	Denzler, Marie
Chauvin, Grace	4/3	Glebe, Karen
King, Hannah	4/3	Watlington, Lynda
Riggs, Michael	4/3	Hembd, Madison
Clark, Donald	4/4	Riley, Marc
Haverty, Benjamin	4/4	Paulder, Karen
Hibbs, Clark	4/4	Singh, Katrina
Hobratschk, John	4/5	Hasty, Debra
Pond, Tenley	4/5	Tubbs, Jean
Tieman, Matthew	4/5	Bacon, Shari
Dippel, Kelsey	4/7	Blaylock, Candice
Schleider, James	4/7	Evans, Bryce
Clark, Judith	4/8	George, Joah
Allen, Shirley	4/10	Taylor, Michael
Cox, Kevin	4/10	Chapin, Garrett
Harclerode, McKenna	4/10	Davis, Robert
Yarborough, Kenneth	4/10	Kueck, John
Chauvin, Wayne	4/11	Howard, Kelsey
Ellis, Nathan	4/11	Paulder, Hilary
Mankowski, Samantha	4/11	Haverty, Amy
Gonzales, Gabriel	4/12	Jones, Owen
Stavrakis, Pauline	4/12	Dallas, Inez
Hobratschk, Tristan	4/13	Tubbs, Ashley
Westover, Kelsey	4/13	Williams, Nathaniel
Erickson, Lorraine	4/14	Brehm, Elfriede
Huning, Courtney	4/14	Gebhardt, Dalton
Pfleeger, Jon	4/15	Pfleeger, Travis
Riley, Micah	4/15	Kohn, Nathan
Wright, Mitch	4/15	Westover, Alli

Albert & Marlene Guzman	4/8
Ralph & Lynn Hobratschk	4/12
Michael & Penny Thomas	4/12
Thomas & Trisha Mankowski	4/15
Martin & Barsa Harclerode	4/16
David & Inez Dallas	4/19
Jim & Carol Chew	4/25
Harry & Gloria Havard	4/27
Anthony & JoAn Warren	4/28
Ronald & Ellen Kuehnle Jr.	4/29
Jerry & Joyce Pfleeger	4/29

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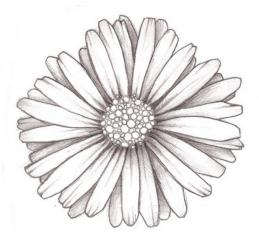
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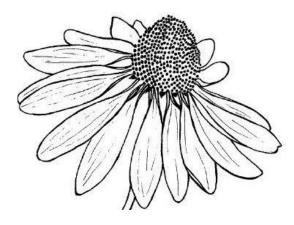
Birthdays and Anniversaries

This Month at Hope



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

Return Services Requested



Anchor Chain

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