

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS



These forty days of resurrection celebration, contrasted with the forty days of lenten penitence and preparation, bring the abundant life of a follower of the Resurrected Christ into focus. Sin, death and the devil stand powerless in the face of Jesus and his resurrection. No wonder we rejoice in his saving actions! But these days in between Easter and Pentecost challenge each of us to build on the resurrection. Since we will be raised as Christ was raised we can pursue the mission of and witness to Jesus with reckless abandon...what can stop us?! Our foes have been defeated! For too many of us we hear the words "he is not here. He is risen!" and fail to translate this truth into the foundation for our new life. Take the blessing of these forty days of Easter to not only reconnect with life but also to starting spending forward the life everlasting.

The Ascension, an oft overlooked festival of the Church because it always falls on a Thursday, completes the incarnation of Jesus. He ascends to the right hand of the Father, the place of honor and power, and there intercedes for us. The Mediator Jesus continues his work on our behalf every day. He constantly attests that his blood has cleansed us, that we are his brothers and sisters, and we are precious in his sight. Yes, the Ascension is a great day to celebrate.

Because you have asked...**Discover Greece: In the Footsteps of Paul the Apostle** tour begins 20 March 2019 for ten days. Brochures are available at the Welcome Center in the Sanctuary and in the Office. For those who have visited Israel, this tour will fill out the rest of the New Testament, even the Island of Patmos where St. John wrote the Book of Revelation. The highlights include Athens, Corinth and Ephesus, and of course, the Acropolis and Agora. Let me know if you have questions. Prices begin at \$3,900.00.

The Day of Pentecost (*think: a week of weeks and then a day of celebration*) for the Jews of the first century focused attention on the giving of the Torah, i.e. God establishing a covenant with his people at Sinai. Historically the celebration of Pentecost, fifty days after Passover, focused on the grain, specifically wheat, harvest. These two emphases set the stage for the Christian Pentecost. It is a day of ingathering (3,000 converts that day) and the covenant of Calvary, not Sinai, put into action. God the Holy Spirit enlivens the disciples to proclaim Jesus, crucified and resurrected, as the only means of salvation, the only name given under heaven whereby we must be saved. We have taken the Jewish feast and repurposed it into the birthday of the Church and the new covenant in Jesus blood. What a great backdrop of our confirmands and their affirmation of faith. Come, celebrate the inspiration of the Spirit that brings us to Jesus.



Notes from Pastor Jon

On Easter Day, we like to proclaim to one another, “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!” And usually that might continue for another week or so. And then we’re back to the same routine. But Christ isn’t risen just during the Season of Easter. Christ is risen and has been in a risen state since the third day after his death on a cross almost 2000 years ago. Death no longer has a hold of Him. “Christ is risen!” is the Gospel proclamation in three words. “Christ is risen!” is your only hope. Because He is risen, you too will rise. Sin, death, and decay will one day no longer have any hold on you. And because God has said so through His Son, the resurrected life is as good as already yours. “Christ is risen!” isn’t just about Easter. It’s every day and forever. And the good news is that you and I have the joy of living that glorious and gracious fact every day!

CONFIRMATION: Later this month, our Confirmands will conclude their three-year study of the Scriptures and Christian doctrine. On Saturday, May 19th we will celebrate Faith Builders VI. That evening, the parents of our Confirmation Candidates will have the opportunity to bless their child and present him or her to the Church saying, “My child is prepared to be confirmed in the Faith.” Then, our candidates will publicly confess, in their own words, the faith we all share in Jesus Christ. The candidates are working hard on their statements and we look forward to hearing them. The next day – May 20th - we will celebrate Confirmation Sunday during the Festival of Pentecost. At our 11:00 service, the candidates will publicly confess the Faith and will declare their intent to continue in the Faith – affirming their baptism. But then what? What happens next? Their journey of faith that began at Baptism continues!

Please continue to pray for and encourage all our young people in the Confirmation program as they study and prepare to confess the Faith - the Faith into which we have been baptized.

COMMUNITY GARDEN: Earlier in April I had the opportunity to take the Pre-K 4’s of our Tiny Treasures Preschool through the garden and teach them about from where and how we get some of our food. The students then had the opportunity to add to the garden by planting some flowers. It was a fun time as we learned together about just some of the many and diverse kinds of plant life God has given us from His marvelous creation.

How are your conversations going? Have you talked with anyone before or after worship that you don’t know? People are coming to visit Hope. So keep on developing conversations and relationships with someone new who has come seeking the wisdom and knowledge of God. Help them find the wisdom and knowledge of God in the foolishness of the cross of Jesus Christ and in the exclamation we now enjoy, “Christ is Risen!”

His Peace Be With You,

Pastor Jon

Youth Ministry

There's a flurry of excitement in the month of May—summer is so close! There are plans for graduations, confirmations and vacations and in the middle of all that promise, author Gene Veith plops this depressing statistic on my desk, "The studies found that the LCMS retains about one out of every three confirmands, which is about the same rate as in other churches." The finding came from not one, but two, recent research projects on the retention of young people. Not so shocking—"this age group can best be reached by means of 'relationships.'" My older daughter has searched most of her freshman year to find a church while she is away at college. She tried some of the campus ministries and some others nearby but the place she has settled is a tiny church made up of mostly senior citizens—there's no "youth group" there, no dinner for students on Sunday nights. She missed services last week and will again this week since she's back at home. "I hate missing too many Sundays there," she shared, "I know they worry when I don't come." How does she know? She hears about it on her return, they talk to her and voice their joy that she is back among them. Relationships. It's not about the programs, the music, the sermon—it's about relationships. Throughout their young lives I've pushed my kids into relationships in their faith family whether it's learning to properly be introduced and shake hands with an elder or helping clean up after a church event or moving outside their comfort zone in the intergenerational Bible studies—I've intentionally connected them and prayed over those relationships. Who are you connecting your kids to? And who can you see that needs a connection with you? Need some help? Let me know, I'm happy to make the introductions, find you a seat at the Bible study and pray over your relationships!

Sunday, May 13

Faith Builders 7: Graduation: We celebrate our high school grads with a service of blessing during the 11:00am service. Join us in praying them through this milestone!

Sunday, June 3

Interact begins! Interactive! Intergenerational! Intentional! Come be part of nurturing relationships and serving in our community.

Bee a servant!

Watch for the honey bees sharing the exciting news of our Thrivent Action table during the donut hour the first Sunday of each month. Learn more about how YOU can sponsor a service project or create one of your own. Thrivent members can receive up to two grants per year to make a difference in the world around them—need ideas? We have lots!



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 the 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, kbeken@hope-lutheran.org

VBS 2018 Registration has Begun

Shipwrecked ... Rescued by Jesus

June 18th – 22nd 9am – Noon

Children ages 4 years old by June 18th – completed 5th grade are invited to attend.

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 through June 1st. Please contact the church office to register.
281-482-7943

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

Be a part of Shipwrecked!

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, kbeken@hope-lutheran.org

SWAT May Dates

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

Need some fun conversation starters for your family mealtime? Check out this "Would You Rather: Bible Edition."
<http://www.jamiecody.com/would-you-rather-bible-edition/>

Happy Mother's Day!

Krista Beken
Director of Children's Ministries



*Children's
Ministries*

Thank You

A special thanks to the wonderful, faithful and dedicated Altar Guild members who performed specific and specialized liturgical preparations for the Congregation and Pastors each Sunday to ensure our Worship space is always in a setting for corporate worship. During Holy Week, the Guild supported multiple services covering Passion Sunday including the design and installation of the Palm bouquets, set-up and preparation of the symbolic Seder Meal for our members and guests, Maundy Thursday Worship Service, (*Ceremonial Stripping of the Altar*), and the set-up and installation of God's Friday shrouds and appointments for the Tenebrae Service. The pinnacle of the Holy Week preparations included "The Vigil of Easter (*Re-vestment of the Altar*)" and the Festival of the Resurrection.

Those Who Serve

The members of the Hope Altar Guild are: Joyce Pfleeger, Dot Fisbeck (*Retired*), Cindy Jorgenson, Kathy Bors-Koefoed, Wendy Hunter (*Retired*), Pat Anderson (*Retired*), Carolyn Benson, Debbie McFadden, Tina Peterson, Dina Connor, Jennifer Freestone, Rene Sieraski, Vicki Hartzell, Karen Hawkins, Nancy Lawson, Karen Paulder, Betty Johnson, Val Williams, Mary Alice Buchorn, and Dick Castille. Our Congregation is Blessed, Beyond, Belief to have each of you part of our wonderful Church family and ministry.

Miria Castille, Altar Guild Chairperson

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, May 20 we will hear the confirmation of the baptismal faith of:

Daniel Brown, Emma Butler, Grace Chauvin, Bailey Dippel, Brandon Ellis, EmmaLynne Fontenot, Dylan Henry, Matthew Mankowski, Olivia Mittendorf, Justin Paulder, Justin Sauder and Nova Wagner.

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



Ready to Roll?

Ladies, are you ready to roll? No, not on a road trip—but ready to roll the dice! On Tuesday, May 29 from 6:30—9:00 PM in the Great Room, Ladies Guild will host a BUNCO Fundraiser Event. All ladies (young adults to our “seasoned” gals) are invited to come out for a night of fun, food, fellowship and PRIZES!! The cost is \$5.00 per person. Even if you have never played Bunco before, now is your chance to learn! It is easy and lots of fun. If you have questions, contact Debbie Schkade at dschkade@comcast.net. More details to come, but mark your calendar now and plan to attend!

Congratulations

Congratulations to our graduating seniors:

Chance Beken, Joe Blankenship, Sadie Fox, Christien Lake, Brandon Matthijetz, Hannah Peterson and Rachel Pirker

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



	ANNUAL PLAN	Y-T-D ACTUAL	% OF PLAN
Operating Receipts	\$1,046,393.00	\$890,624.64	85.11%
Early Childhood Tithe	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	100.00%
Total Receipts	\$1,091,393.00	\$935,624.64	85.73%
Outreach	\$74,268.00	\$48,482.08	65.28%
Education	\$8,850.00	\$5,394.93	60.96%
Children	\$2,300.00	\$683.00	29.70%
Youth	\$13,200.00	\$9,283.13	70.33%
Music	\$6,000.00	\$5,953.54	99.23%
Assimilation	\$500.00	\$22.48	4.50%
Misc. Ministries	\$10,050.00	\$4,790.25	47.66%
Personnel	\$637,288.00	\$637,285.13	100.00%
Finance	\$62,187.00	\$41,660.04	66.99%
Facilities	\$227,150.00	\$158,143.54	69.62%
Office & Worship	\$40,600.00	\$30,907.61	76.13%
Omnibus	\$9,000.00	\$4,517.69	50.20%
Total Expenditures	\$1,091,393.00	\$947,123.42	86.78%
Income Less Expenses		(\$11,498.78)	

Debt: \$1,094,171.62

**Fiscal Year (04/01/17 - 03/31/18)
Year Ending**



Birthdays and Anniversaries

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



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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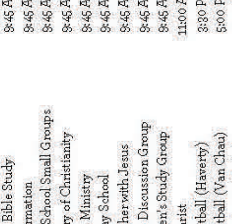
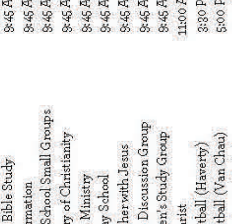
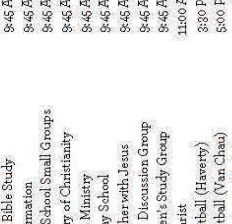
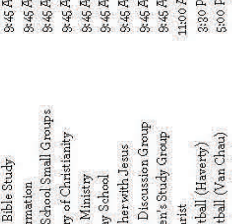
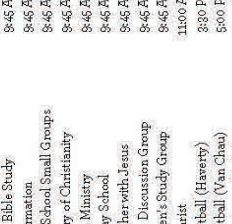
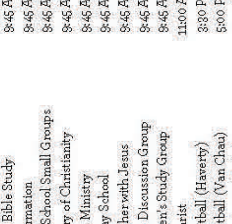
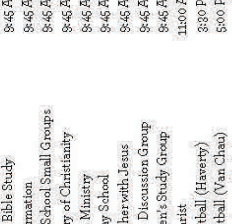
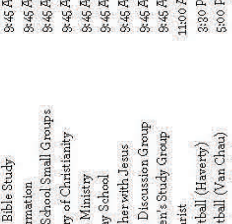
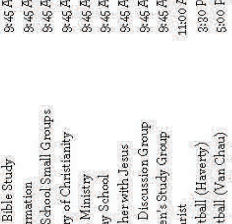
Anchor Chain

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Ralph W. Hobratschk, Senior Pastor

Jonathan E. Petering, Associate Pastor

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 5/6/2018 Eucharist BUILD Adult Bible Study Confirmation High School Small Groups History of Christianity Men's Ministry Sunday School Together with Jesus Video Discussion Group Women's Study Group Eucharist Basketball (Haverty) Basketball (Van Chau) Small Group (Butler)	 5/7/2018 Braille Preschool / MDO Staff Meeting Small Group (Henderson) Basketball (Van Chau)	 5/8/2018 Preschool / MDO TT End of Year Luncheon TT Retirement Party Basketball (Pickette) Ladies Guild	 5/9/2018 MEALS ON WHEELS Preschool / MDO TT Graduation Practice SWAT BASIC	 5/10/2018 Preschool / MDO Lakeview Quilt Guild TT PreK4 Graduation Small Group (Women's)	 5/11/2018 Basketball (Pickette)	 5/12/2018 Grl Scout Leader Conference
 5/13/2018 MOTHER'S DAY Eucharist BUILD Adult Bible Study Confirmation High School Small Groups History of Christianity Men's Ministry Sunday School Together with Jesus Video Discussion Group Women's Study Group Eucharist Basketball (Haverty) Basketball (Van Chau) Small Group (Butler)	 5/14/2018 Preschool / MDO Quilting Staff Meeting Grl Scouts Basketball (Van Chau) Stephen Ministry	 5/15/2018 Preschool / MDO Basketball (Pickette)	 5/16/2018 Preschool / MDO Small Group (Enickson) Basketball (Haverty)	 5/17/2018 Newsletter Deadline Preschool / MDO Study Series Group TT Closing Chapel Basketball (Van Chau) Small Group (Hinga)	 5/18/2018 Gay's Night Out Basketball (Pickette) Small Group (Peterson)	 5/19/2018 Faith Builders VI
 5/20/2018 PENTECOST SUNDAY Eucharist BUILD Adult Bible Study Confirmation High School Small Groups History of Christianity Men's Ministry Sunday School Together with Jesus Video Discussion Group Women's Study Group Eucharist Basketball (Haverty) Basketball (Van Chau) Small Group (Butler)	 5/21/2018 Staff Meeting Small Group (Henderson) Basketball (Van Chau)	 5/22/2018 Basketball (Pickette)	 5/23/2018 Basketball (Haverty)	 5/24/2018 Basketball (Van Chau) Board of Directors' Meeting Small Group (Women's)	 5/25/2018 Basketball (Pickette)	 5/26/2018 Basketball (Van Chau)
 5/27/2018 Worship BUILD Adult Bible Study Confirmation High School Small Groups History of Christianity Men's Ministry Sunday School Together with Jesus Video Discussion Group Women's Study Group Worship Basketball (Haverty) Basketball (Van Chau)	 5/28/2018 MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed	 5/29/2018 Basketball (Pickette) LWNM Bunco Night	 5/30/2018 Basketball (Haverty)	 May 2018		 5/31/2018 Basketball (Van Chau)