



hope

From purple mountains' majesty to the fruited plain, we are a nation that has been mightily blessed by our heavenly Father. The poorest among us far exceed the living standards of most of the world. In the United States we shop the finest of stores with the greatest variety of wares the world has ever seen. When is the last time you encountered a person who was dying of starvation? Just think of the abundance of fruits in your local grocery store. The variety and amount are common place to us, but would be the envy of all of the rest of the world....and we take it for granted. We are abundantly blessed as a nation, a people and as individuals. With that as a starting point and a given, let's unpack abundance.

Epitaphs are revealing expressions and summaries. If you don't write your own, what do you imagine yours might say, carved in granite for posterity? "Here lies one who lived abundantly." Would that be fitting for a summary of your earthly pilgrimage? Or not so much? If it would not fit on your headstone, maybe it would be a point of reflection for the life we are living before the epitaph.



Our central focus for this issue resounds in the word of Jesus in the Gospel of St. John, the 10th Chapter: "The Good Shepherd has come that we might have life and have it abundantly." How

do the followers of Jesus Christ have life that is abundant? Do we strive for such a life? How do we understand that type of living and when do we know that we have arrived? Let's spend some time exploring.

Our culture entices us to work harder, sleep less, invest wisely and remain vigilant so that our lives are fulfilled and we are satisfied with the material pleasure of the American dream. Get your children into the best colleges. Make sure you have all the house your budget can afford. Sock away 10% in the 401k. Keep upward mobility at the top of the list of preferred futures and work diligently to attain. If we follow the herd, our efforts and our success are measured by that rubric. If we are fulfilled in these endeavors, our lives are abundant according to societal norms. We are much like the successful farmer who tore down his existing barns to build bigger because of his abundance. He would be declared a fool. Rich in things and poor in soul and the things of God.

As followers of Jesus, we strive to go where he went and live as he lived. By conventional standards, Jesus' life was not abundant. He said that birds have nests and the foxes have holes but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head. He was essentially homeless! Jesus had no paying vocation. He contributed to no pension plan. He was constantly surrounded by the sick, leprous, the dying, the unclean and the outcast. He probably had one set of clothing, and yet his life was as rich as any one person that walked this earth, even though our culture would deny his status. Jesus lived abundantly!

What was his secret to the abundant life that he wished for each of his followers? It starts in solitude, absolute solitude and quiet—a rare state in our lives. It is in that place with God's Word opened before our eyes that we connect with our heavenly Father, just as Jesus did on a daily basis. We quiet our hearts and minds with all their desires and distractions to hear the voice of God, the murmur that caused Elijah to cover his face in the presence of the Almighty. From this encounter gushed the power to live the life he lived, to perform the signs and wonders he

performed, and to proclaim the Kingdom with authority... poor in things but rich in relationship to his Father.

In addition to his connectedness, Jesus kept the first thing the only thing. The Kingdom of God was his sole incentive, even to the cross in Jerusalem for the sins of those consumed with self-centeredness and pleasure. The Kingdom call colored all he did and said so that others might reap the benefits of that calling and direction. In that Kingdom springs forth the abundant life that Jesus sacrificed to bring to each of us. As the hymn stanza reminds us, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you. Alleluia!"

Now the crux becomes the ordering of our daily, abundant life living. How do I fully embrace my salvation and my connection with my heavenly Father and my Brother Jesus as the impetus to live counter-culturally and in service to all I meet? Because my life is abundant because of the gifts of forgiveness and sanctification, Word and Sacraments, I can give it away freely, knowing that the supply is endless, eternal. I don't have to hoard self or stuff because I can connect to the Life Giver, my heavenly Father through my Brother Jesus on a daily basis, because when I connect, "all things are added unto me." I am in need of nothing greater!

I just returned from 24 hours of solitude a few weeks ago. Sitting quietly with no distractions, save the Word of God and maybe hymnal, for an extended amount of time truly scared me initially. Being alone with God is most intimidating. No jukes or jives, just alone with self and Him, realizing that he knows my heart and yet comes seeking the connection with me so that I might hear his voice. Because of the experience and practice provided in that setting, I've attempted to employ some of that solitude in my daily, early morning time with God and his Word. I must admit that it is a difficult discipline to master, but the rewards are life changing, abundantly life changing.

Let me encourage you to start the discipline of daily quiet time with the Word and your heavenly Father. Be it early in the morning, at the noontime or the later hours of the day, set aside the time to listen to the voice of God. His plan is that you have life and have it abundantly, thankfully abundant in all circumstances.

Pax Christi,
Pastor Ralph



Gather the heroes . . .



It is a familiar plot device in movies and books. The main character has been a bit adrift in life, unsure of his identity. A new challenge or mission has materialized. It is a daunting and sometimes noble cause. It could be a new and dangerous enemy to vanquish, or an innocent party to rescue, or a powerful weapon that has fallen into the wrong hands. Sometimes, it might even be a kind of a crime to be committed, a huge heist, though sometimes there is still some kind of underlying moral cause. Our hero is capable but he cannot accomplish the task on his own. He must gather his team. They each have peculiar gifts and talents, all valuable to the team. However, they too are adrift. They may be reluctant or disillusioned, having found other pursuits, sometimes in far-away places. Yet, their greatest talents are not being utilized. And they will find their highest fulfillment if they rejoin the team. The team is not always in complete agreement. When they are gathered, they may even bicker about the best strategy. Yet, once united and committed to the cause, they mesh together and defeat incredible odds. The goal is accomplished, the enemies are defeated and/or the treasure is attained. The team of heroes has triumphed!

Our music ministry needs heroes. The noble task is to enrich our worship with music. Each hero makes a contribution. The highly skilled can be valuable to the team. Yet, simpler music can also carry great messages. Our God has given us everything we have. He is an all-powerful and glorious God who deserves our highest praise and the best gifts we can offer. And when we present the messages of His Word and Sacraments we should employ our best resources, giving back some of the treasures that God has given to us and using the skills that we have for the advancement of His kingdom. Music is God's gift. In our media-filled world music is all around us, on TV, radio, Spotify, mp3, social media, video games and many more. While secular music is not all bad, many times it promotes ideas and thoughts not in harmony with the abundant life that is set forth for us in Christianity. Should we not employ God's gift of music to promote the positive messages and ideas in our worship?

Maybe you can sing or play an instrument. You may have been involved in Hope music in the past. Or, maybe you learned your skills at school or in private lessons or in a community group. We want to find a place for you to share that gift. And how great to use that God-given skill to enrich our worship!

Yet, even if you don't have that kind of skill you can still be a hero. You might be a spouse who steps up to mow the lawn, or fix dinner or do the dishes so that your spouse is able to get to some weekly rehearsal or special occasion. You might be the parent or grandparent who drives kids, or grandkids or neighbor kids to a music activity. Can you help your busy teenager find a way to fit some church music making in their schedule? Or maybe you can volunteer in some way to advance our musical activities. All kinds of heroes make up the team.

The task of music ministry can be challenging. Some of our musical heroes have challenging careers and/or a busy family life. We have responsibilities, health issues of our own or of our relatives. We have weekly routines that would have to be altered in order to serve in music ministry. It is easier

to say “no” or “maybe next year”. On the other hand, maybe this year **IS** “next year” and the time has come for you to serve. In serving, you may find blessings that bring you strength and enable you to carry out some of your other roles and tasks. Prayerfully consider whether you can be a hero in our music ministry this year. On Tuesdays, Strings/Woodwinds meets at 6:00 PM, Brass at 7:00 PM and Jubilate Bells at 8:00 PM. On Wednesday we have Kids Choir at 5:15 PM, Children’s Choir at 6:30 and Sanctuary Choir for youth and adults at 8:00 PM. More Hand Bell opportunities are in the works. Schedule updates will be in bulletin, eblast and on the Hope website.

And you can always email mkesar@hope-lutheran.org with questions.

Michael Kesar, Director of Music



TRUNK OR TREAT

**TRUNK OR TREAT, NO SMELLY FEET,
JUST FUN AND FRIENDS TO MEET!**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2019, AT 4:00 PM

Here’s How it Works. . .

For Church Members:

At 3:00 PM, church members who are interested in providing treats (candy or small toy items) arrive at the back parking lot of the church for set-up. You can choose to decorate the back of your car, truck, or SUV in holiday fashion and costumes are always appreciated (nothing too scary, please!). Watch for a sign-up sheet to be displayed in the Grand Hallway.

For our Trunk or Treaters::

At 4:00 PM our costumed friends (big and small) will begin to arrive and go “Trunk or Treating” from car to car!

This is a wonderful outreach opportunity for Hope Lutheran Church and a great way to celebrate this holiday in a safe, friendly environment. All friends, family and neighbors are invited to attend. We only ask that all costumes and decoration be kid friendly — not too ghoulish!

If you have any questions, or if you are planning to bring a vehicle and treats, please sign up in the Grand Hallway (after Hopefest). Questions can be directed to Junelle Petersen at tinytreasures@hope-lutheran.org or 281-482-4654.



Upward Sports

Mission Statement:

To introduce children to Jesus Christ by creating opportunities through sports.



Hope Lutheran Church has partnered with Friendswood United Methodist Church to offer Upward Basketball and Cheerleading since 2012. Each season we welcome over 200 children and their families to our campus to teach them basketball skills, but more importantly, to share our faith. Devotion and prayer time is a scheduled part of each practice and game.

Our Upward program is a volunteer run outreach ministry. Everyone from coaches to referees to half-time devotion leaders volunteer their time to make the season a success.

Upward Basketball and cheerleading is available for children ages Pre K 4 - 6th grade. *Four year old players must be 4 by September 1, 2019.*

Registration typically opens in September, evaluations are held in October, and practices begin in December. Our 8-week game season runs in January and February.

For more information about Upward at Hope and to see updated information for the 2019-2020 season, please see the Hope Lutheran web site: <http://hope-lutheran.org/ministries/children/upward-sports>

For more information about Upward Sports in general, their web site is www.upward.org. If you would like to speak with someone about Upward Basketball here at Hope, please contact Krista Beken (kbeken@hope-lutheran.org), Chris Riggs, or Mathews George.



Calendar Events

August 25 — Sunday School Resumes
(age 0—adults)

September 2 — Labor Day - Office Closed

September 9 — Survey Focus Group | 7:00 PM | Great Room

September 8 — Faith Builders IV (2nd Grade Bible Distribution) |
11:00 AM Service

September 8 — Potluck | 12:30 PM | Great Room

September 11 — MOSAIC Begins

September 22 — New Membership Class Begins | 12:30 PM | Room 104

September 23 — Survey Focus Group | 7:00 PM | Great Room

September 23-27 — Meals on Wheels

October 5—6 — Hopefest Weekend

October 14 — Columbus Day - Office Closed

October 17-20 — Men's Retreat

October 20-27 — Family Promise

October 27 — Trunk or Treat



MOSAIC

Last summer, my family and I were in Washington D.C. We took a side trip to tour the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The church is famous for its incredible mosaics – millions of tiny pieces of ceramic and glass imbedded in walls and ceilings of the main sanctuary and the many side chapels. These many pieces were arranged together to form beautiful pictures telling stories of the Faith.

Our living together in the Faith is like a mosaic. Each of us are small pieces. Our own piece may seem small and insignificant, even messy, to us. But when our God puts us all together, we create a mosaic – a picture of the Body of Christ that displays the love and grace and mercy of our Savior.

That's why we are calling our new Wednesday gathering "MOSAIC." We're pulling together pieces like SWAT and Children's Music, and BUILD, and BASIC. We will begin at 6:00 pm and share a meal all together.

And then we will play and learn and grow together and in smaller groups – finishing by 7:30 pm.

Our first assembly of MOSAIC will be September 11th. We invite children, youth AND parents to come and see where your piece might fit into the bigger picture of Hope Lutheran Church.



Membership Class

Anyone interested in becoming a member of Hope Lutheran Church—Renewal Class will begin September 22, 2019 in Room 104 of the Center for Faith Development. You will have the opportunity to attend Renewal Study (10-12 week course) to review Christian doctrine, learn about Hope, and make the acquaintance of other joining members.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Ralph at the church office (281-482-7943) or by email at rhobratschk@hope-lutheran.org.

25 Years Ago

The Sanctuary is the sacred space for Hope Lutheran Church. It is the place set aside for us to gather to “hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar.” (LSB – Divine Service Four) October 30, 2019 will be the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the Sanctuary. For 25 years, the Sanctuary has served God’s people. Thanks be to God!



Many current members of Hope were not here for the Sanctuary’s construction. Many were not yet born! Here are some facts about its construction:

Did you know. . .

- the groundbreaking took place on December 12, 1993?
- the Sanctuary took nine months to build?
- before construction, the site included numerous oak trees and two Scout buildings? (one for Boy Scouts and one for Girl Scouts)?
- 6000 cubic yards of earth were brought in to raise the ground level of the Sanctuary by 13 feet?
- just six beams – fabricated in Tennessee from laminated pine – hold up the entire roof structure?
- the original construction had five classrooms around the back of the nave? (Look at the last few pews, they were added later when the classrooms were removed to expand seating. They are just a bit taller than the original pews.)
- the original triangle-shaped glass window behind the balcony was blown in during a storm?
- the original window above the altar was clear. A faceted-glass window was put in its place to reduce the glare.

We will be remembering the 25th anniversary during the month of October. If you have any memories or artifacts to share, please contact Pastor Jon or the Church office.



CEF Rainy Day Fund opportunity!

This fund provides investors the opportunity to BE INTENTIONAL and BE PREPARED.

It's a new way to save for something specific or to be prepared for something unexpected.

Requirements:

- \$25 initial deposit of new money
- \$25 minimum added monthly by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) required up to \$10,000.
- Limit one per household – Rate 1.25% up to \$10,000. (1/4 of a percent above the monthly flex savings rate)
- Flex savings rate will apply on any amount above \$10,000.

Contact Debbie Schkade for more information. 281-482-0183.



Or Download an Investment Application TODAY! TexasCEF.org (Rainy Day Fund)

Benefits:

- Premium Rate on funds up to \$10,000.
- Up to 5 withdrawals annually
- Convenient Access
- No monthly fees
- Flex Savings rate is applied to amount over \$10,000.

This is not a temporary investment like the Reformation Note, but instead is a brand new product offered by CEF.

The focus is for a household to BE INTENTIONAL in their savings and for a household to BE PREPARED for unexpected events.

Contact Debbie Schkade for more information. 281-482-0183. Or Download an Investment Application TODAY! TexasCEF.org (Rainy Day Fund)

This would be a great time to become a new Church Extension Fund Investor!!



Survey Focus Groups



Did you sign up for one of the Survey Focus Groups? Meetings will begin on Monday, September 9, 2019 in the Great Room at 7:00 PM. Plans are to start as a “large” group and then split out into separate focus groups with outside facilitators. The second meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 23 at 7:00 PM.

Thank you for signing up — and we look forward to seeing you then. Questions?? Contact Ed Grosse or the church office.

HOPEFEST 2019

Hope Lutheran Church

1804 S. Friendswood Drive (FM 518) —Friendswood, TX

Saturday, October 5th

- Craft Fair — 9:00 AM — 4:00 PM
- Bake Sale—9:00 AM—4:00 PM
- Silent Auction — 9:00 AM — 4:00 PM
- Frappe Bar—9:00 AM—11:00 AM
- Tea Room — 11:00 AM — 2:00 PM
- Chara Christian Dance — 10:30 AM—11:00 AM
- Shrimp Boil—5:00 PM—6:30 PM

Sunday, October 6th

- 2 Worship Services — 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM
- Craft Fair — 9:00 AM — 3:00 PM
- Bake Sale—9:00 AM—3:00 PM
- Silent Auction — 9:00 AM — 3:00 PM
- Children's Games — 11:00 AM—1:30 PM
- Barbecue Lunch — 11:00 AM — 1:00 PM
- Smoothies — 11:00 AM—2:00 PM
- Blood Mobile — 9:00 AM — 1:00 PM

Benefiting the following Charities:

Family Promise, League City; Christian Helping Hands; The Mercy Tree and Adult & Teen Challenge of Texas, Pasadena

HOPEFEST 2019

Briskets!! Briskets!! We need Briskets!! (\$20.00)

It's that wonderful time of year when we prepare for our HopeFest celebration. We want to thank everyone that defrayed the cost of briskets in years past and hope you will continue to do so. Look for the sign-up poster in the Grand Hallway of the Center for Faith Development and indicate how many briskets you would like to **donate**.

To some this may sound really confusing – but it's not – **WE** purchase the briskets – **YOU** supply the funds.

Also, we are in need of volunteers to help serve on HopeFest Sunday. If you would be interested in helping, contact Gloria Havard at 281-814-3204 (or sign up on the sign-up boards). Thank you.



HopeFest Tickets

Tickets can be purchased in the church office prior to Hopefest or at the door.


Hopefest BBQ — Sunday, October 6th

Prices are:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| • BBQ Plate Dinner | \$8.00 |
| • BBQ Stuffed Baked Potato | \$7.00 |
| • BBQ Sandwich / Chips | \$6.00 |
| • Baked Potato w/fixings | \$5.00 |
| • Hotdog / chips | \$2.00 |

Spirit Day at Gringo's

This year the Hopefest committee has arranged a Spirit Day with Gringo's in Pearland to help raise funds. On Monday, September 23, we ask the congregation to have dinner either at the restaurant or take-out. Gringo's will donate 20% of your final bill to our Hopefest monies. We will be passing out flyers two Sundays before, September 15 & 22, to help remind you of this delicious way to raise funds. You may bring the flyer or simply mention Hope Lutheran Church when ordering. Please add **Sept. 23 at Gringo's** to your calendar. "Flyers may not be distributed on the day of the event or near the vicinity of the restaurant." Hope to see you there.



participating location:
PEARLAND
"THE ORIGINAL"
2202 E. Broadway
gringotextmex.com

Spirit Day

**DINE-IN
TAKE-OUT
ALL DAY**

Show this flyer or mention the organization to your server/take-out team member & Gringo's will donate 20% of your final bill to that organization.

Hope Lutheran Church
Monday - September 23, 2019

Disclaimer: Flyers may not be distributed inside, in the parking lot or near the vicinity of the restaurant on the day of your event.
"Final bill" does not include tax, gratuity, gift cards or DoorDash purchases

HOPEFEST 2019

Tea Room

One of the most relaxing parts of Hopefest is the Tea Room. We will be serving lunch on Saturday, October 5 from 11:00 AM—2:00 PM. Come and enjoy our homemade food — chicken salad, quiche, salads and desserts. So bring your friends and come enjoy a delicious lunch together. No reservations needed!



Bingo

Sunday Oct 6th from 12:00 noon till 2:30 PM in the Great Room. We still need Small bingo prizes.

Contact Debbie Schkade 281-482-0183 for donations.

Silent Auction

The Silent Auction will be Sunday Oct. 6. It will **CLOSE Promptly at 3:00 PM on Sunday**. Please consider donating from your business or a business you frequent and are willing to ask for a donation. We are a 501c3 and can give a donation receipt.

For more information or questions, contact Debbie Schkade 281-482-0183.

HOPEFEST 2019



Come meet our neighbors! Chara Christian Dance Academy will be performing on Saturday, October 5, at 10:30 AM upstairs in the CFD. They offer dance classes in all genres and serve students from 18 months to 18 years old. Join them for weekly classes, camps, boys only classes, voice, music, piano lessons and much more. Take a break between the Silent

Auction and shopping at the Craft Booths to sit and enjoy the show.

Would you like to make a difference?

You can help those who are fighting their battle with cancer. On Hopefest Sunday, October 6th, the MDA Bloodmobile is coming to Hope in the front parking lot from 9:00 AM—1:00 PM.

Watch for more details coming to let you know how to sign up on line yourself or how we will help you sign up before the 6th. Of course, we encourage walk-ins on that day as there usually are spaces available.

If you have questions, contact Rita Henderson at jimandritah@aol.com. Proudly sponsored by the SIP (Saints in Progress) Small Group.

Shrimp Boil

The Shrimp Boil is coming back — Saturday, October 5, 2019. Food will be served from 5:00 PM—6:30 PM. There will be ***all you can eat*** shrimp, red potatoes, corn, pinto beans and brownies.

A free will offering will be taken. No reservations or tickets need. Come and enjoy. Oh, and BYOB if you wish.





8 Buddy Benches

Over 500 popsicle sticks painted

51 BACKPACKS

8 Dozen cookies

Piles and piles of pet toys

Boxes and boxes and boxes of pencils, pens, glue, markers, notebooks....

7 Bibles for students

15 different service projects across 4 Sundays

3 beds complete with pillows, sheets, mattress and QUILTS!

79 cups of applesauce and pudding

2 meals feeding more than 30 people

More than 120 volunteers

9 QUILTS for Camp Hope

\$360 in gift cards to minister to college students

Moved mounds of mulch

132 Grandpa Bars

Thrivent

\$2000 in Grants

More than 1000 hours of service





2019 Intersect



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

Return Services Requested

A Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #14
Friendswood, TX 77549

Ralph W. Hobratschk, Senior Pastor

Jonathan E. Petering, Associate Pastor

AUGUST—SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER

Quarterly Topic from Hope Lutheran Church

