

Pastor's Paragraphs



The Fourth of July pomp and display of flag and patriotism always makes my heart beat a little faster. I might even hum a few bars of *Proud to be an American* or John Phillips Sousa's *Stars and Stripes Forever*. Our heavenly Father has surely blessed this land. We are a people governed by law and not by whim of despot or monarchy. We are a people with a Constitution and Bill of Rights by which we practice our faith without fear. Rejoice in that First Amendment and its disestablishment clause. We are a people who gather freely, express our selves freely and travel freely. No wonder the United States of America is the destination of people who yearn to be free. Along with this great freedom comes great responsibility and constant diligence. Freedom is not by any means free. There is a price to be paid by all citizens. God has indeed blessed this nation, but we are not his primary concern! When God looks at his creation, he sees not the national demarcations we see. He sees a seamless landscape. The United States of America is not God's special place, as special as we are. We followers of Christ are called to make disciples of all nations and every folk, race and people, for our Father cares for them all! We are blessed to be a blessing both inside and outside of our seacoasts and borders. This Fourth, rejoice in our freedom and resolve to plant the seeds of the Gospel in all nations, beginning with the next door neighbor. Be a good citizen of God's Two Kingdoms: Church and state.

Annual vacations by design disrupt the daily routine. To take time away from the responsibilities of work, the time crunch of too-busy schedules, and the overly tedious, a vacation refreshes and re-creates us to return with renewed energy and vigor and a much better attitude. We all agree that time away improves attitudes and relationships. We need it! Interestingly enough, there is a Biblical imperative that serves the same purpose. It's called the Sabbath. The seventh day was made holy by our God when he rested from his creativeness. Think of Sabbath as a weekly vacation to renew relationship with our Father and our family, physically rest, and mentally recover. God knows we would work ourselves to the bone if given the chance. So take that vacation, but more importantly, take that weekly Sabbath for worship and renewal.

The Texas District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod met in convention in June. This is a gathering of the lay and pastoral delegates of the congregations of the district to conduct the business of the district and to be fed with Bible study and worship. In addition to resolution debate and adoption, we conducted elections. The Rev. Ken Hennings was reelected as President for the next triennium and I was reelected Vice President of Area D and ranked as First Vice President for the next three years. This will be last term for both of us. I solicit your prayers for the district and its elected officials.

Vacation Bible School provides the platform for Hope to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to touch the lives a gaggle of young people who come to our campus. A big thank you to Krista Beken and the rest of the Staff and to the volunteers who make this happen. For many young people, this is a destination for the summer! Job well done!

Notes from Pastor

DISTRICT CONVENTION:

I participated in the Texas District Convention as Hope's pastoral delegate. Elections went smoothly and the entire presidium was re-elected. There were a number of resolutions this convention cycle. The most-debated was a resolution asking the Synodical convention to reconsider an opinion of the CCM (Committee on Constitutional Matters.) That opinion attempted to clarify some of the mechanisms of how the Synod and individual congregations engage in foreign mission. The Texas District delegates decided that the opinion only "muddied the waters" as it were and voted for the CCM to re-write the opinion. However, only a Synod convention has that authority. We will see how the issue resolves next year when the Synod meets in convention in Milwaukee. Related to that, I was elected by the circuit as the circuit's alternate pastoral delegate to the synodical convention.

CONFIRMATION:

We have already begun our topical Confirmation Summer Series. We will be talking about topics such as: "Why the Church?", "Why do we Worship this way?", "What about Prayer", and "Faith in Action." If you are in town, join us in Room 101 during the Sunday School hour.

Are you ready for NERF WARS — the Summer Nerf-pocalypse!??? We will start in the gym on July 10th at 6:00 p.m. and go until at least 9:00 p.m. If you plan on joining the fight, please call or email me so we can get a head count. Friends are welcome.

Believe it or not, information will be going out about Fall confirmation classes in the not-too-distant future. Watch email, mail, bulletin, etc. for that information to roll out.

WEBSITE:

As I write this article, we are getting close! I hope the website will be finished no later than July 1st. Keep watching www.hope-lutheran.org for the new site.

SMALL GROUPS:

Are you interested in great fellowship with a group of friends? Are you interested in digging into God's Word and serving others? Join a small group! Check out the list on the volunteer opportunities page found at the Welcome Center, or go to Hope's website (hope-lutheran.org/ministries/small-group-ministries) for more information, or give me a call or email.

Have you been a member in a group, enjoyed it, and desire the opportunity to start a new small group? Contact me and we'll talk about it.



STEPHEN MINISTRY:

Summer is often a time to relax, go on vacation, or catch up on your reading as you stay indoors to escape the heat. But just because it's summer doesn't mean that crises can't happen, that heartache goes away, or that unresolved issues in your life unwind themselves. Stephen Ministers are available to you to walk beside you, listen to you, pray with you, and keep your confidences. Contact me, or talk to another Stephen Minister for more information.

Finally, July 2nd will be the 9th anniversary of my ordination into the Office of Holy Ministry and installation as Hope's Associate Pastor. Has it been that long? It has been a privilege and honor to serve our Lord and you in this place among such great people and in such a great community. God bless you all.

*His Peace Be With You,
Pastor Jon*

Music Ministry

Christ be my Leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care,
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my Teacher, in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; through shifting as sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.



Summer Music Camp begins July 13th at 9:00 a.m. Please watch your email boxes for a reminder. Auditions for 2nd — 5th graders for speaking parts in the musical will be Tuesday, July 7th at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to the BIG performance of our camp musical The GO Tour on Thursday, July 16th at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. See you there!

The music ministry will be coming back to life in August. Please watch for details in the bulletin, over email, and in next month's newsletter.

Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord!

*Stephanie Poyner
Director of Music*

“...and God, please don't ever let me come that close to a centipede again. Amen.”

Having just encountered the nasty Hill Country species of bug, the prayer was uttered in complete sincerity and echoed in the circle with the kind of nervous laughter that agreed such a creature did not need to be stumbled upon any time soon by the rest of us either. Camp Eagle was, by all accounts, a success — the right mix of hair raising adventure, discovery, laughter and songs that will never sound quite right again inside a sanctuary rather than the grand outdoor pavilion. How one weighs a challenge to be ten feet from anyone for ten minutes of quiet reflection on Scripture versus being dropped from eighty feet in the air to swing free has a lot to do with personality and less to do with spiritual maturity. There isn't a measure for the growth that happens to the individual or the group at large in the rugged setting but I am comfortable in stating as fact that growth indeed happens — we know one another's names, we've discovered some likes and dislikes, we've noticed the most likely to persevere, the most likely to complain, the most likely to fall asleep first and, on more than one occasion, we've been surprised by one another. Perhaps what we know best after the trip is simply that we are all on a journey and whether you hunt down the centipede under the last rock to eliminate it or just loan me your Bible, we're in this together and that is very valuable information along the way.

Junior High Bible Study over the summer is digging into faith issues and questions with some new perspective! What does goo have to do with the Holy Spirit? What about Legos and creation? Come discover and explore with us this summer, Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour.

Senior High Bible Study is one big happy group for the summer tackling the New Testament with a look at Peter, Paul, Timothy and Mary. Come join us Sunday mornings in the Bible Study hour.

Upcoming on the calendar:

July 10 — Nerf Wars

Watch for details on service opportunities, Wake Nation (August) and back to school fun!



Children's Ministries

A thousand thanks to our 2015 VBS volunteers for making it a cool, fun adventure! Hope members, community volunteers, and over 150 children learned that we can conquer challenges with God's mighty power.

At least 100 volunteers prepared for and witnessed to the children in stations like Base Camp Sing & Play, Bible Expeditions, Glacier Games, Mountaintop Treats Snacks, KidVid Cinema, Imagination Station Crafts, and Summit Celebration. We even had some of our youngest members joining the fun in Jak's Preschool Peak! Together we experienced "God Sightings" ~ seeing God at work in our everyday lives, and review important Bible truths from stories throughout the Bible.

Through our mission project, we supported Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and their efforts in Nepal after the recent earthquakes in that area. This seem especially fitting with this year's VBS theme: **Everest** ~ Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power.

The most recent update from LWR indicates that they have already helped more than 24,000 people with food packets (containing 15-days' worth of rice, beans, oil, sugar and salt) and temporary shelter. You can find out more about how our VBS monies will help through LWR at: www.lwr.org/nepalearthquake.

Our Family Night Ice Cream Social was a great success thanks to the ice cream sodas donated and served by Hope's Ladies Guild. A special thank you to all the ladies who donated supplies for the ice cream sodas, and to those who scooped up and served all that ice cream!

We count on every single one of our volunteers, no matter how small a part you think you had. The VBS staff this year has been a wonderfully amazing group! THANK YOU!

"By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done." Genesis 2:2

As you spend time with family and friends this summer, look around and see what you can notice that God has created ~ a sunset, a thunderstorm, a tasty snack, a bumblebee on a flower, a kind work, a child's laugh.

I wish you abundant God Sightings this summer. They always make me smile when I slow down to notice.

Krista Beken
Director of Children's Ministries



Quilting Circle



Hope's Quilting Circle is in need of NEW TWIN, FLAT solid color cotton sheets that can be purchased at Walmart for \$4.97 each. The sheets are Walmart's brand, Mainstay, and are 200-thread count.

This past Spring we shipped 62 quilts to Lutheran World Relief. Now we need to replenish our supply of sheets which are used to back our quilts.

If you are in Walmart this summer, please go by the sheet aisle and purchase some twin flat sheets. A box has been placed on top of the Ladies Guild shelves in the Great Room for collection. Hopefully this location is convenient for you as you attend Sunday morning coffee hour or Sunday School.

Thank you for your help!

Pam Bubendorf, Hope's Quilt Ministry

Summer Volunteers in Action

As you plan for your summer gatherings, vacations, etc. give yourself one of the best offerings you can give to Hope Lutheran — the gift of service to others. With that in mind, there are so many opportunities at Hope during the summer! July 13-17 is Music Camp. Music and faith; what a great way to inspire our kids! Contact Stephanie Poyner if you would like to see how you can help.

We also have opportunities to host Coffee Hour in August. The available dates for hosting are August 9th, 23rd and 30th. Gather your family and friends and serve for one, two, or more Sundays. Our Coffee Hour is a wonderful time to join together in fellowship.

Please contact Rita Henderson at 281-482-7943 ext. 114 or rhenderson@hope-lutheran.org if you want to volunteer and she will give you all the details.

Looking forward to seeing you at Hope.

Thank you

As you walk into the Sanctuary on Sunday morning — take time to look down. You never know how bad concrete can look until it's been cleaned.

Our sidewalks have been power washed by Thomas Hamre and his father Terry.

Job well done!!!



2015 Hopefest Garage Sale

2 Day Event!!!

Friday, August 14th &

Saturday, August 15th

8:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

Once again, it's time for the Hopefest Garage Sale!! It's time to clean out your closets, house, garage, etc.!!! We need your donations to make this event a success, so bring us your clothing, household and kitchen items, furniture, toys, baby items/ furniture, etc. We will accept all types of donations that are clean and in functional condition; however, we **CANNOT** accept any computers or mattresses.

Last day for your donations is Monday, August 10th at noon.

We will need volunteers to sort, price and make the event a success. Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex in June just waiting for your name, email address and phone number — please take just one minute to stop by and sign up. Or you can call Debbie McFadden at 281-782-0449 or email: mcfadden@uhcl.edu.

Volunteers hours to sort and price are Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. — noon and 5:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m. and Friday from 9:00 a.m. — noon.



Ladies Guild Birthday Card

July gives us the privilege of wishing our country Happy Birthday. The story of America shows that all has not been easy. Names, known and unknown, in history tell of the sacrifice and commitment that has brought us to today. Today is still imperfect and the struggle continues and we heartfully say God Bless America.

Commitment for what one cares about and believes in can also be seen in the service work of Hope Ladies Guild. We are privileged to have women willing to support Lutheran Bible Translators in foreign fields, mission work through our Mite Box donations and needs of Lutheran World Relief.

Various activities, committees and projects within Hope are also individually supported. We recently enjoyed serving the VBS Ice Cream Social and watching so many young children who learned about Jesus. We enjoyed hosing a social time for Hope and being a part of a Family Night with fellow believers.

We look forward to visiting a local nursing home this month and bringing residents a small gift and the gift of time to share and care. We look forward to supplying school kits urgently needed and requested by Lutheran World Relief. We look forward to a time of fellowship as we take a day trip to Galveston, visiting one of their museums.

We can look at the past, but we do not stay there. . .we look forward. . .forward to the way we can continue to "Serve the Lord with Gladness."

Next Meeting: July 14, 7:00 p.m.

Hostesses: Pat Hall, Karen Kerch

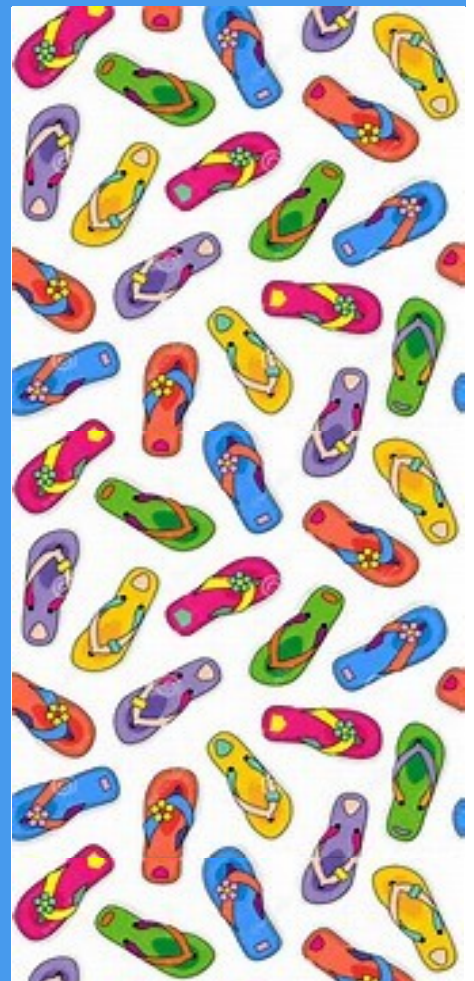
Welcome: All women of Hope

Stephen Ministry Promise

I'll do my best to listen should you want to bare your soul.
While your sort through facts and feelings;
Yes, I'll gladly play this role.
I'll be a friend to count on, and I'll try to understand.
You are a sacred trust to me
While you're placed within my hand.
And should you need reminding,
Just to set your heart at ease, your words are very safe with me.
You can say whate'er you please.
Don't feel you are a burden, for I want to share your load,
And together in the valley
We'll search for a better road.
I give my solemn promise that I'll hold you in my prayer;
I'll lift you to the throne of God
For oh, my friend, I truly care.

M. Florian

This promise and commitment is the heart also of Hope's
Stephen Ministry



Fiscal Year (04/01/15 - 03/31/16)
As of May 2015

	ANNUAL PLAN	Y-T-D PLAN	Y-T-D ACTUAL	% OF PLAN
Operating Receipts	\$1,089,012.00	\$164,067.27	\$151,085.36	92.09%
Early Childhood Tithe	\$45,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	100.00%
Total Receipts	\$1,134,012.00	\$170,067.27	\$157,085.36	92.37%
Outreach	\$74,405.00	\$11,892.50	\$11,519.39	96.86%
Education	\$9,250.00	\$607.39	\$473.53	77.96%
Children	\$2,350.00	\$140.54	\$96.41	68.60%
Youth	\$15,200.00	\$1,311.90	\$1,184.84	90.31%
Music	\$5,500.00	\$523.46	\$414.68	79.22%
Assimilation	\$2,600.00	\$50.00	\$37.78	75.56%
Misc. Ministries	\$11,600.00	\$1,033.34	\$696.15	67.37%
Personnel	\$633,157.00	\$118,831.89	\$115,736.35	97.40%
Finance	\$101,950.00	\$15,653.77	\$15,650.07	99.98%
Facilities	\$225,750.00	\$34,174.11	\$24,800.79	72.57%
Office & Worship	\$42,750.00	\$5,263.19	\$4,478.29	85.09%
Omnibus	\$9,500.00	\$1,724.97	\$1,172.83	67.99%
Total Expenditures	\$1,134,012.00	\$191,207.06	\$176,261.11	92.18%
Income Less Expenses		(\$21,139.79)	(\$19,175.75)	

Debt: \$1,442,839.17





Jeff Ellis	7/1	Jeff Brief	7/17	Larry & Linda Davis	7/6
Marjorie Adams	7/2	Ian Frank	7/17	Sven & Kathy Bors-Koefoed	7/8
Alice Dietrich	7/2	Harvey Melcher	7/17	Sanjay & Rexanne Singh	7/8
Jason Malott	7/2	Rozanne Pirker	7/17	Matthew & Jennifer Tieman	7/10
Milton Bretting	7/3	Emma Rebstock	7/17	Ron & Carolyn Ricaldi	7/11
Jordan Pfleeger	7/3	Robert Anderson	7/18	Leroy & Pat Hall	7/12
Joan Sikes	7/3	Shelby Blankenship	7/18	Jim & Dina Connor	7/14
Annette Berg	7/4	Judy Hembd	7/18	Mathews & Brett George	7/16
Andrea Frank	7/4	Mike Schkade	7/18	John & Sandra Thiem	7/16
Joe Blankenship IV	7/5	Carolyn Moller	7/20	Reed & Pam Brooks	7/20
Miranda Tieman	7/6	Joyce Weiland	7/20	Gerald & Saleena Butler Sr.	7/26
Sadie Fox	7/7	Daniel Illerich	7/21	Jonathan & Sheri Petering	7/27
Courtney Lampinen	7/7	Sarah Mertens	7/21	Slater & Carol Sauer	7/27
Judith Petersen	7/8	Makenna Pedersen	7/21		
Shayne Westover	7/8	Karen Yarborough	7/21		
Alexander Groeper	7/9	Emily Plumpton	7/22		
Carrie Cox	7/10	Fred Lemire	7/25		
Mason Hever	7/10	Matt Riley	7/25		
Caitlyn Norris	7/10	Joshua Whitman	7/25		
Shawn Steakley	7/11	Gail Akins	7/26		
Chris Gonzales	7/12	Jim Connor	7/26		
Edith Hackerott	7/12	Debbie Hamre	7/26		
Stephen Hever	7/12	Marvin Knighton Sr.	7/26		
Lauren Aalund	7/13	Frances Hallock	7/27		
Frank Fennell	7/13	Carol Chew	7/28		
Jenae Lestishen	7/15	John Blaylock	7/29		
Brooke Orsak	7/15	Janet Burtzlaff	7/29		
Jim Chew	7/16	Mark Gonzales	7/29		
Ronald Tiracchia	7/16	Gerald Butler	7/30		
Amanda Watlington	7/16	Lana Zimmer	7/31		

Birthdays And Anniversaries

This Month at Hope

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
7/6/2015 Eucharist 8:00 AM Adult Bible Study 8:45 AM Summer Confirmation Study 9:45 AM High School Sunday School 9:45 AM History of Christianity 9:45 AM Men's Ministry 9:45 AM Parent Study Group 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Together with Jesus 9:45 AM Video & Discussion Group 9:45 AM Women's Study Group 9:45 AM Eucharist 11:00 AM Small Group (Butler) 5:00 PM	7/6/2015 Braille 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 9:00 AM Small Group (Henderson) 10:00 AM Volleyball 1:00 PM SEA Group 6:30 PM Small Group (Hunting) 7:30 PM	7/7/2015 FWD Library Storytime 10:00 AM Volleyball 1:00 PM Sun Meadow CIA 7:00 PM	7/8/2015 Volleyball 1:00 PM	7/9/2015 Lakeview Quilt Guild 9:00 AM Volleyball 1:00 PM Small Group (Women's) 7:00 PM	7/10/2015 FWD Library Storytime 10:00 AM Nerd Wars 6:00 PM Wedding Small Group (Kerch) 3:00 PM 5:30 PM	7/11/2015 FWD Prayer Breakfast 6:00 AM
7/12/2015 Eucharist 8:00 AM Adult Bible Study 8:45 AM Summer Confirmation Study 9:45 AM High School Sunday School 9:45 AM History of Christianity 9:45 AM Men's Ministry 9:45 AM Parent Study Group 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Together with Jesus 9:45 AM Video & Discussion Group 9:45 AM Women's Study Group 9:45 AM Eucharist 11:00 AM Raising a Modern Day Knight 12:30 PM	7/13/2015 Staff Meeting 9:00 AM Stephen Ministry 7:00 PM	7/14/2015 Ladies Guild 7:00 PM	7/15/2015 MUSIC CAMP Small Group (Erickson) 10:00 AM	7/16/2015 Music Camp Musical Small Group (Hinge) 6:30 PM Small Group (Women's) 7:00 PM	7/17/2015 Newsletter Deadline Small Group (Peterson) 6:30 PM	7/18/2015 FWD Prayer Breakfast 6:00 AM
7/19/2015 Eucharist 8:00 AM Adult Bible Study 8:45 AM Summer Confirmation Study 9:45 AM High School Sunday School 9:45 AM History of Christianity 9:45 AM Men's Ministry 9:45 AM Parent Study Group 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Together with Jesus 9:45 AM Video & Discussion Group 9:45 AM Women's Study Group 9:45 AM Eucharist 11:00 AM Raising a Modern Day Knight 12:30 PM	7/20/2015 Staff Meeting 9:00 AM Small Group (Henderson) 10:00 AM Small Group (Hunting) 7:30 PM	7/21/2015 Hopefest Meeting 7:00 PM	7/22/2015 	7/23/2015 Board of Directors' Meeting Small Group (Women's) 7:00 PM	7/24/2015 	7/25/2015 
7/26/2015 Worship 8:00 AM Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM Summer Confirmation Study 9:45 AM High School Sunday School 9:45 AM History of Lutheranism 9:45 AM Men's Ministry 9:45 AM Parent Study Group 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Together with Jesus 9:45 AM Video & Discussion Group 9:45 AM Women's Study Group 9:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM	7/27/2015 Staff Meeting 9:00 AM Stephen Ministry 7:00 PM	7/28/2015 	7/29/2015 RADD Kids (Police Department)	7/30/2015 	7/31/2015	



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

Anchor Chain

VOL 32 | JULY 2015 | ISSUE 6

Inside This Issue –

- Pastor's Paragraphs
- Notes from Pastor Jon
- Children's Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- Music Ministry
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Master Calendar
- Etc., etc.

*Ralph W. Hobratchsk, Senior Pastor
Jonathan E. Petering, Associate Pastor*