

## HOPE HIGHLIGHTS

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February 2020

From the Pastor:

One of the best pieces of advice I have heard comes from the running community. The advice is simple. Don't make plans, make decisions. If you plan on running a marathon any number of things might come along and force you to change your plans. And in some cases, sometimes we change our minds once we realize that our plan might be a bit more work than we imagine. So, the solution is simple. Don't make plans. Make decisions. Decide that you will run a marathon, no matter what happens to your plan, and you'll get it done.

And it's true!

With that in mind I would ask our congregation to make a decision about what it is we wish to accomplish in 2020. Here is my suggestion: Let's decide together that by this time next year we will have vibrant children's ministries and we will have our mortgage debt paid off.

Simple!

Here's how we'll make our decision happen. For our youth ministries, we are beginning a youth program that will take place during our Thursday Night Live gathering. During the service itself we'll have a brief program for the kids (much like we already have on Sunday mornings). Most weeks will consist of a 20 minute video that we will watch

with popcorn/snacks. We will have activity sheets to work on during the video and related games. Several of the weeks we meet we will concentrate on service projects like making cookies for shut-ins. We will have curriculum ready so what we will need are people to sign-up to lead the sessions and folks who can be available to assist. Janelle Purdy is leading this effort and I am so thankful for all her work! We are passing around a sign-up sheet at church and our hope is to have our first session on February 6.

We are incredibly fortunate to have young kids attending service on Sundays! We have a wonderful program for our older kids (thank you, Kylie and Robin!!) but we could use some folks to help out with pre-school aged kids. If you have a desire to help with a short program for our preschoolers, I'd love to hear from you! Finally, we are beginning our Confirmation classes on Sunday mornings after worship. We currently have four students and if you know anyone in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade that might wish to attend, just let me know.

As for our mortgage, here's my thinking. We currently owe around \$80,000 (I'm going to be loose with the numbers, but you'll get my point). Through our normal payments we are reducing that amount by nearly \$2000 every month. So, just by making payments we reduce the amount of our mortgage to around \$56,000 by the end of the year. We currently have over \$16,000 in reserve to be used solely for the mortgage, so to my mind if we can find interesting and exciting ways to raise an additional \$40,000 (ish) then we are done. We can do this. We can raise these funds, and we can make it a part of the mission of this church for 2020.

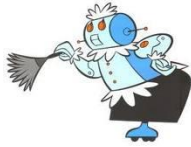
If we decide to make both of these projects our priority for this year, in addition to all our amazing outreach, we will be amazed at the energy these projects will create in our congregation.

I'm excited. I hope you are, too.

I've made my decision. I hope you have, too.

## SPIRITED SENIORS

Our Wednesday group, Spirited Seniors meets every Wednesday. A light lunch is served followed by games and cards. If this is something you would like to help out with, please let the office know.



## TO ALL GROUPS USING THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

When you use the Fellowship Hall you need to clean up. That means:

Put chairs back, Wipe down tables and vacuum. White tables (in the square) have 4 chairs at each table. Round tables have 6 chairs at each table. All other chairs need to be put away in the middle closet. There is a red vacuum in the Fellowship Hall, by the back/side door that you can use. If you have children at your event and they use the nursery room, please make sure it is cleaned up.



## THE 2020 FLOWER CALENDAR IS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE HALLWAY

If you would like to sign up to have flowers for a special occasion, there are lots of spaces available!

You can bring them yourself or have Kris order them for you from Pierson's. One bouquet is \$15 and two are \$25. That includes tax and delivery.



Just a reminder that the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of each month is designated to bring non-perishable food for those less fortunate and fill the grocery cart. Food will be taken to a local food bank. The supply is constantly being depleted.



**QUILTING** – A reminder that we meet the third Tuesday of the month starting at 6:00 PM. All skill levels are welcome and appreciated.



The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cookoff is coming! February 9<sup>th</sup>! This is a fun event. Last year we had 12+ types of chili to taste. We will have judges for 1<sup>st</sup> Place, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, and the coveted People's Choice award. Make sure you have your chili here by **4:00** for judging. Judging will start promptly at 4 Tasting will begin after judging. There is no set price to taste but a free will offering will be taken.

We still need people to sign up to bring Chili and Cornbread.

Don't forget there is also a Silent Auction in conjunction with the supper. We can also use donations of baskets/items for this auction.

February 23, 2020

### FREE COMMUNITY SUPPER

5-6:00 pm

**Menu:**  
Walk Tacos  
Salads  
Desserts

**We will be playing Bingo with prizes awarded to the winners. There is no charge for the meal, however, a free will offering will be taken.**

**Good Food, Good Fellowship**

**The Free Community Supper is funded by members of Hope Lutheran and a "free will offering". We are feeding from 120-125 average per month. If you'd like to help prepare, serve, set/clean up or assist with Bingo, please contact Donna Fugate at 363.9183. Monetary donations are also accepted.**

The Quarter Tower

Our youth collect quarters every Sunday to spend on projects to help others. This is a project they pick to do when we get a good amount of quarters. What a great lesson in spreading God's grace.

Treasurer Report Week of January 27, 2020

**Receipts:** (Average weekly required for budget is \$3,508.00)  
Actual Receipts: \$1,861.00 (Plate: \$1,636.00 Simply Giving: \$225.00)

**Expenditures:** \$5,699.30  
Bills due Next Week: \$4,600.00 which is payroll

**Received in Reserve for Monthly Mortgage Payment:** \$550.00 (Total in Mortgage Reserve: \$14,982.65)

As of January 27, 2020 after all bills were paid, the balance in the checking account is \$19,659.94.

**Which Includes the Reserve Mortgage: \$14,982.65.**



February Birthdays.....

- 1 Larry Cowles
- 2 Pat Vik, Tait Rentschler
- 4 Paul Ekman
- 5 Jessica Weitnauer
- 13 Stacey Kell, Janelle Purdy
- 14 Carla Ekman
- 16 Kassidy Mudd, Vicki Oakley
- 18 Kaitlin Opal Greif
- 20 Merrilee Bedell, Daniel Walderbach
- 21 Dennis Purdy, Karen Busch
- 25 Doug Torson
- 26 Rilee Dennis
- 27 Esther Thomas
- 28 Scott Foizey, Genevieve Kuehl

If you have a February birthday and are not listed, please call the church office at 365-3105.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR February & March

### February

- 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant: Sun.: Lacinda Taplin & Mary Richeson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant: Sun.: Amy Koppenhaver
- Musicians: Marcey Luxa
- Choir Director: Cody Techau
- Greeters: Sun.: Lacinda Taplin & Mary Paxton-Wright
- Ushers: Sun.: Patty Hasson & Clete Moser

### March

- 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant: Sun.: Patty Hasson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant: Sun.: Lacinda Taplin
- Musicians: Marcey Luxa
- Choir Director: Cody Techau
- Greeters: Sun.: Cindy & Amy Koppenhaver
- Ushers: Sun.: Clete Moser



### “Thursday Night Live” Evening Worship at 6:00

Are you looking for a non-traditional service that has all the elements of a traditional one? Thursday night might be just what you were looking for! Live music with **Bröken Hälös** (Pastor Nate, Scott Foizey, Joe Kell, and Cody Techau) play a variety of jazz, blues, pop and country music. There will be a hymn, some prayers, an awesome sermon, communion AND live music.



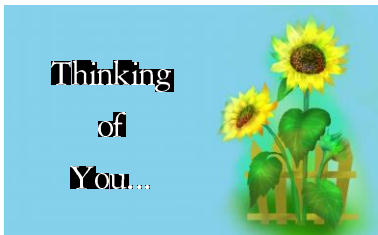
Lent Begins  
Ash Wednesday

Lent begins on February 26<sup>th</sup> this year.  
Worship will be at 6pm.

## Simply Giving

**Did you know that Hope Lutheran is involved with a program called "Simply Giving"?**

**Simply Giving is an electronic giving program which allows you make donations on a scheduled, automatic basis. If you are writing checks and preparing envelopes every week, you will especially appreciate electronic giving. It is convenient for you and provided much-needed donation consistency for our church. You can pick your amount, and what day of the month you wish to have it withdrawn from your account – you can even change your options at any time! If you have questions, contact Betty Nelson at 362-0721.**



Larry Bengé  
Bickford Place  
1100 Linden Dr.  
Marion, IA 52302

Doug & Judy Torson  
2717 Royal Oaks Dr. NW  
Swisher, IA 52338  
319-857-5300

Evelyn Andrews  
5701 Briarwood St. S. W.  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
363-1998

Brent Pahl  
The Gardens of Cedar Rapids  
5710 Dean Rd. S. W.  
Room #212  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
363-2557

Pam Evans  
6329 Murfield Dr. S. W.  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
362-0843

Glenn Williams  
3032 Ridgemoor Dr. S. E.  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403



This year AARP will once again be doing tax prep here at Hope. I CAN NOT MAKE APPOINTMENTS FOR YOU but if you call 211 they can set you up an appointment. It looks like their hours here at the church will be:

Monday 12:15 - 3:15  
Tuesday 8:15 - 3:15  
Thursday 8:15 - 3:15

211 will start setting up appointments via phone tomorrow (January 15). Appointments will begin on February 3rd and end on April 11th.

Remember, I have NO ACCESS to their schedules. You must call 211.

Thanks – Kris

## WOMEN OF HOPE

On Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am, our speaker will be Susan Johnston from the Central Furniture Rescue. She will talk about how they collect furniture and other household goods for people who are transitioning from being homeless.



**Upcoming Blood Drive  
Thursday, April 30  
Appointments from 1-4pm  
Walk-ins always welcome!**



WOMEN OF HOPE FOOD BANK DRIVE

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the food drive sponsored by the Women of Hope.



Thanks to everyone who donated supplies for our Sunday School kids.



## HAVE YOU LOOKED AT THE UPDATED WEBSITE LATELY?

Lacinda Taplin has been working hard to get our website up to date. If you haven't checked it out lately, **YOU SHOULD!** to get to the website, type in [hopelutherancia.org](http://hopelutherancia.org).

There are a variety of drop downs at the top so you can look at our different groups, newsletters, meet the staff and a variety of other topics. You can even send e-mails to the office.

If there's something you would like to see on the website, let Kris know and we will see if it's feasible.



**JUST LOOK HOW FAR WE'VE COME!**  
Our mortgage payment total is down to \$78,090. There are still envelopes on the table by the model church for any donations you would like to make to the Mortgage Fund. Currently we have \$14,982.65 in the reserve mortgage fund.