

Hope Lutheran Church

Voice of Hope

January, 2018

Serving All Through Jesus Christ In Thought, Word and Deed.

Asking The Big Questions



Beginning on Sunday, January 14th Pastor Roger will lead a class on “asking the big questions about faith and life.” There will be four sources for this class: Faith Inkubators materials used in confirmation class, the video source Living The Questions, Why: Pursuing Answers To Life’s Biggest Questions, and Pastor Roger’s many years of teaching ethics. We will meet each week (schedules permitting) through February 18. Each class will meet in the lower Benjamin Hall from 9:15 to 10:15. We will begin on January 14th with “Evil, Suffering & A God of Love,” which includes a video from Living The Questions. Each week will be separate so, come when you can.

Gifts Update

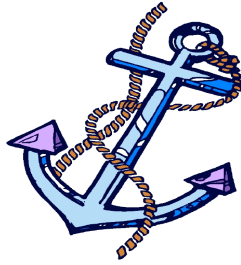
The shelter is operating out of the permanent location at 1025 N Washington Street in Janesville.

We will partner with St John the week of February 18 and May 20 at the Washington Street location. Please let me know if you would like to help with a meal serving and/or providing food, Intake, or overnight. Currently, the shelter is taking 25 men.

If you have an interest in making a tax deductible contribution to the Capital Campaign, the address is: GIFTS Men’s Shelter; PO Box 788; Janesville, WI 53547.

Thank you again for doing your part to feed, shelter and care for men in Rock County.

Janet Ellefson 868-2236



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor Roger	3-5
Treasurer's Report	5
Hope's Happenings	6
Bits & Pieces	6
Church Calendars	7-10
Education News	11-12
Synod Announcement	13
Birthdays	14

Worship Schedule

Thursday

6:30 pm

Sunday

8:00 am

10:30 am

Visit us on the web:
hopemilton.org
or on Facebook:
Hope Lutheran Church Milton,
Wisconsin

Church Council

President

Pat Parsons

Vice President

Randy Lebakken

Secretary

Marie Benson

Treasurer

Larry Preston

Congregational Life

Marilyn Krause &

Marilyn Bittner

Buildings & Grounds

Kevin Shea

Stewardship

Outreach

Jane Johns

Education

Ann DeWilde

Finance

Karl Hanson

Personnel

Hope Foundation

Wayne Lubke

Carla Clift

Kathy Thompson

Sherry Wille

Ken Holland

Voice of Hope Deadline

15th of each month.

From the Pastor

“Lord, if Your resurrection began a new calendar
and if You have such power over time,
then I will see time as Your gift to me,
and that You came to save me
from being either enemy or slave of time.”
(Herbert Brokering, Lord If, 1977)

I find myself fascinated at the ways in which we mark time in our world. There are the days of the week. As a Christian I certainly see the necessity of keeping one day of rest and worship—for Lutheran Christians this Sabbath is Sunday because this is the day Christ rose from the dead. I have a totally different feel for specific times during the week, such as Friday or Saturday evenings (time to be with family), Sunday noon (time to check out sports), and even Monday morning (time to get back to work). There are the seasons of the year. I certainly have a different feel about the beginning of spring (new life) than about the beginning of winter (dormancy where life has trouble growing). When I think about summer or fall it is my sense of smell which dominates. I can smell the charcoal grills and suntan lotion, the baked apples and burning leaves.

Then there is the division of time according to years in our world. As we are entering a new year, 2018, there is for me a freshness and possibility. Even though I know it is an artificial division of time, perhaps this year I can “turn over a new leaf.” Maybe this will be the year when I write my first book or run my first marathon. Maybe this year will be an epic year for my wife, children and spouses, and grandchildren. I have a sense of renewed optimism for all things as I turn over the calendar into a new year.

Why am I filled with optimism? It is a matter of seeing time like my mentor, Herb Brokering, does in his musing book of “if then” poems. It is a matter of seeing time as a “gift,” of believing that our time here in this world is grace, and the same supplier of our time here is promising to supply us with an eternity of time (a kind of oxymoron). And because God is about relationship and not about how much we have done, this promise is free. I don’t have to look at 2018 as the year to finally finish my “to do” list (“That will be the day”). Rather, I can see this new year as an open book where I can write a new chapter of my life in relationship to God, my family, my friends, and with myself.

I have found this distinction between life measured as “being” and not as “doing” to be a healthier, and certainly more Christian, way of approaching time. That does not mean I don’t struggle with each day being measured by what I have “accomplished.” We are all part of a world that constantly asks “how much” and “how many.” But my baptism frees me up to see each day as “living as a child of God” who tries to get some stuff done

while knowing at the end of the day I will still be the same “beloved of God” I was at the beginning. I am a spouse, parent, and grandparent and I find my main value in those relationships as well. It is really a part of a Christian vocation that we all share. It is really about seeing ourselves as partners in a ministry of God to which we have all answered God’s call by virtue of God’s blessing calling forth our faith.

As Hope Lutheran Church enters a new year I am optimistic as well. There are many “to dos” on the lists of members and leaders of Hope. Foremost among those are the securing of a new pastoral leader. This is important work for the mission of this church, and certainly we need to uphold the work of the call committee with individual daily prayer and congregational weekly prayer. At the same time, 2018 will be measured by the relationships within the body of Christ at Hope, as well as the individual ministries of the baptized at Hope. It will be Hope’s “mutual ministry” that will be all important at the end of the year. Just as we heard in November when we read Matthew 25:31-46, we can very well ask ourselves at the close of 2018: “How have we ministered to the least of our brothers and sisters? How have we cared for one another on a daily basis?” If we have served and cared for one another, if we have expanded that serving and caring to those who need our ministry anywhere, we have done it to Christ.

Don’t get me wrong—setting goals and accomplishing goals are important to how we measure our lives. But our goals need to include people and growing relationships and celebrating life. They ultimately ought to be experienced as each season is—with our senses. Each day we have the unique opportunity to “stop and smell the roses” of that day, to see the goodness of life, to listen to the geese flying north or south, to feel the hand of another person, and to taste the sweetness of each day we live here, ultimately knowing God has much more in store for us.

In the musical Rent, as friends are dying from month to month (in the early days of AIDS), they sing:

“Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes.
Five hundred twenty five thousand moments so dear.
How do you measure,
Measure a year?
In daylights?
In sunsets?
In midnights?
In cups of coffee?
In inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife?
In five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes.
How do you measure a year in a life?
How about love?”

Not bad...not bad at all... if you mean God's love each day for us and our love extended to one another. May your year 2018 include lots of loving and caring and serving. And as this year unfolds at Hope may you work together with your new regular pastor at the ministry to which the people of Hope are called.

Looking forward to the new year,
 Rev. Roger H. Black, Interim Pastor



Congratulations and God's blessings to Beth Brandenstein and Casey Bergmann who were married at Hope on Saturday, December 9. Keep them in your prayers as they begin their new life together.

Hope Treasurer's Report	
Income & expense from Designated Offering does not pay normal operating expenses.	
November General Operating Income	\$20,239.00
November General Operating Expenses	\$21,200.96
Difference	(\$961.96)
YTD General Operating Income	\$205,664.69
YTD General Operating Expense	\$216,819.41
Difference	(\$11,154.72)

Hope's Happenings

Men's Breakfast Group

First Tuesday of the month we meet at church for Bible study and coffee. On the third Tuesday we meet at Milton Family Restaurant for breakfast and discussion. January's meeting dates are the 2nd & the 16th. If you have questions, please contact the church or Ron Parsons.

Are you ready for some Euchre?

Let's enjoy the holiday season with a friendly night of cards and fellowship on Friday, January 12th. We will meet at 6:00 pm at church for a potluck followed by eight rounds of cards. New players are always welcome. To reserve your place, or for further details, contact John & Marilyn Bittner at 868-7023.

Ladies Night Out

Ladies Night Out continues to meet on the second Tuesday of the month at Jake's Junction Pub, 130 Merchant Row, Milton, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. January 9th. No need to RSVP, just come if you can!! Cocktails, food, and even a good cup of coffee are available for purchase. Come and relax with us!

Charity Circle

Charity Circle will meet at Hope for a Bible study on January 25th at 9:30 am. Please join us. If you have questions, please contact Bernece Rice at 608-868-3265 or Jane Johns at 262-203-1346.

ACES

Please join us for January ACES on Sunday, Jan. 21 at the Olive Garden in Janesville. We will meet at 5:00 for an evening of fun good food and great conversation. For more information or to make a reservation, please call Don & Marna Grosenick at 752-7092 or e-mail at mgrosenick@att.net

Bits & Pieces

Check the Internet during Inclement Weather

If we need to cancel worship services due to inclement weather this winter, Hope's Facebook page will be updated. We will also get this information on the WCLO website. We will attempt to post an announcement on our website main page, but are not able to do so remotely. You can find our website online at www.hopemilton.org. We are not able to change our telephone message remotely either. If you don't have internet service in your home, you may consider calling a family member or friend who does and would be willing to check for you.



<u>DATE</u>	<u>Assisting Minister</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Communion Assistant</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Sacristans</u>	<u>Bread for Both Services</u>
8:00 AM			Al Astin Chuck Hansing	Jordy Getchel	Marilyn Krause	Bill & Janet Arndt	Jake & Jeanette Koele	Janet Parr
07-Jan	Karl Westlund	Sonja Pluess	Karl Westland Frank Maxwell		Sarah Olson	Gary & Carol Anderson	Lois Mengoni	Lois Mengoni
14-Jan	Marie Benson	Carol Polarski		Pat Parsons				
21-Jan	Patrick Russell	Tammy Russell	Dave Benson Ken Whitford	Linda Blade	Rob Malewicki	Cresswell Family	Denise Webb	Rob Malewicki
28-Jan	Stu Bloom	Eileen Hansing	Ron & Pat Parsons	Janet Arndt	Marie Benson	Chris & Ryan Lovell	Kristen Mathesius	Marie Benson

January

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	
	1 Office Closed	2 8:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Hope 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	3 4:00 prr 5:10 prr 6:15 prr 6:30 prr 7:30 prr
7 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 2:00 pm Girl Scouts	8	9 11:30 am Staff Lunch 7:00 pm Ladies Night Out	10 4:00 prr 5:10 prr 5:10 prr 6:15 prr 6:30 prr 7:30 prr
14 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	15 6:30 pm Building Committee	16 8:00 am Men's Bible Study @MFR 6:30 pm Church Council	17 4:00 prr 5:10 prr 6:15 prr 6:30 prr 7:30 prr
21 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 2:00 pm Girl Scouts	22	23 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	24 4:00 prr 5:10 prr 6:15 prr 7:30 prr
28 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	29	30 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	31 4:00 prr 5:10 prr 6:15 prr 7:30 prr

ry 2018

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>30 pm LRE 10 pm Youth Chimes 15 pm Hope Singers 30 pm 7/8 Confirmation 30 pm Hope Ringers</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30 pm Worship</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>0</p> <p>30 pm LRE 10 pm Youth Chimes 10 pm 5th Gr. Soup Supper 15 pm Hope Singers 30 pm 7/8 Confirmation 30 pm Hope Ringers</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 pm Worship</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:00 pm Euchre</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>7</p> <p>30 pm LRE 10 pm Youth Chimes 15 pm Hope Singers 30 pm 7th/8th Gr Confirmation 30 pm Hope Ringers</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30 pm Worship</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>4</p> <p>30 pm LRE 10 pm Youth Chimes 15 pm Hope Singers 30 pm Hope Ringers</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30 am Charily Circle</p> <p>6:30 pm Worship</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>1</p> <p>30 pm LRE 10 pm Youth Chimes 15 pm Hope Singers 30 pm Hope Ringers</p>			

DATE	<u>Assisting Minister</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Communion Assistant</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Sacristans</u>	<u>Bread for Both Services</u>
10:30 AM								
07-Jan	Paula Yanke	Gary Yanke	Brian Benson	Jerry Arneson	James Mickelson	Jerry Arneson	Jake & Jeanette Koele	Janet Parr
14-Jan	Donna Usher	Rebecca Garber	Eric DeWilde	Ann DeWilde	Ann DeWilde	Carmen Hume Virginia Benash	Lois Mengoni	Lois Mengoni
21-Jan	Jen Watson	Arlene Miland	Jake Koele	Julie Lebakken	Ken & Karen Holland	Lebakken Family	Denise Webb	Rob Malewicki
28-Jan	Paula Yanke	Brenda O'Beirne	Gary Yanke	Donna Usher	Carmen Hume	Mathesius Family	Kristen Mathesius	Marie Benson

Education News

5th Grade Soup Supper

All 5th grade students and their families are invited to a Soup Supper in Friendship Hall at Hope Lutheran Church. It's the beginning of a new year and we invite all members of Hope who have 5th graders to come and check out LRE-Lutheran Religious Education classes and meet other Hope families.

(There are regular LRE classes on this day, so students should ride the bus from Northside as usual. Families will meet their student after class for the Soup Supper) Each LRE class has a Soup Supper once during the class year so students can share their learning experiences with their families. A freewill offering will be taken.



We will need help with clean-up from the parents and students. Questions & to RSVP by Sunday, Jan. 7—contact Sue Chwala, Christian Education Coordinator, sue@hopemilton.org or 868-3680. We look forward to seeing you on January 10th.

January Mission - Kids Against Hunger

Sunday School offerings in January will go to Kids Against Hunger. Kids Against Hunger is a joint project of the Beloit, Janesville and Edgerton Rotary Clubs, KAH-RCR, Inc. that brings volunteers together to package highly nutritious chicken flavored rice casseroles which are distributed locally, nationally and internationally to help prevent hunger and starvation. The packaging process involves manually combining rice, dehydrated soy, dehydrated vegetables and a vitamin fortified chicken flavored powder and then weighing and sealing each bag.



Snow Days

Now this winter, remember that if Milton Schools are cancelled or dismissed early because of bad weather, then Hope will also cancel classes for LRE and Confirmation. We will put the information on the WCLO website and the Hope Facebook page.

Will you be a Small Group Leader for 7th Grade Boys?

Several volunteers are wanted to be Small Group Leaders for 7th grade boys in Confirmation. Small Group Leaders do not teach, but aid with discussion time and monthly service projects. Confirmation classes meet the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. If you're available for every class or can come once or twice a month, we can work with your schedule. Any adults are welcome, you do not need to be a parent of a student. Contact Sue Chwala or Pastor Roger if you are willing to share your faith with Confirmation students.

Christian Education Calendar

Sunday School – 9:15 – 10:15 am on Sundays

- Dec. 24 – No Sunday School classes
- Dec. 31 – No Sunday School classes
- Jan. 7, 2018 – Teacher’s Choice
- Jan. 14 – Joseph and Pharoah
- Jan. 21 – Joseph and Pharoah
- Jan. 28 – The Plagues

LRE – 4:00 – 5:10 pm on Wednesdays

- Dec. 20 – No Classes
- Dec. 27 – No Classes
- Jan. 3, 2018 – Twelve Sons
- Jan. 10 – Joseph
- Jan. 10 – Soup Supper for 5th grade families 5:10-6:00 pm
- Jan. 17 – Rewind
- Jan. 24 – Moses
- Jan. 31 - Exodus

7th and 8th Grade Confirmation – 6:30-8:00 pm on Wednesdays

- Dec. 20 – No Classes
- Dec. 27 – No Classes
- Jan. 3, 2018 – Learning Event
- Jan. 10 – Small Group Service Project
- Jan. 17 – Learning Event
- Jan. 24 – Student OFF – Small Group Leaders Meeting 6:30 pm
- Jan. 31 – ALL OFF

January Acolyte Schedule		
	Thursday	
	8:00	10:30
1/7	Hailey Dubey	
1/14	Hailey Dubey	
1/21	Hailey Dubey	
1/28	Hailey Dubey	

ELCA SOUTH-CENTRAL SYNOD OF WISCONSIN

One of the goals of the interim period is to work on our relationship to the synod. It is a great time for that because of the ongoing work in the call process with the synod leadership. At Hope we have had the primary assistance from Pastor Steve Kottke, the Assistant to the Bishop. We are thankful for the work of the synod in Hope's behalf.

There has been a recent development in the synod office, which is leading to Bishop Mary Froiland's choice to leave her office one year short of her six-year term as bishop. She announced it in the following letter, which was dated October 11, 2017.

Dear Partners in Ministry in the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin,

I am writing to inform you that I will be ending my service as the bishop of our synod next June, a year earlier than my full term.

As most of you know, on May 12, 2017, I suffered a heart attack. I was treated quickly with a coronary stent, and have received good medical care, effective medication and successfully completed cardiac rehab. What most of you do not know is at the same time I was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. The type of cancer I have is not aggressive, is contained, and easily treatable by removing the thyroid. The problem is that since I am on blood thinners for the coronary stent, I am unable to have my thyroid removed at this time. My doctors are monitoring the situation and everything is stable. They are not concerned. This really is not a big deal compared to what so many live with. I am doing well and feeling more fit and healthy than I have in years.

Nonetheless, these health scares have caused John and me to think about what is of ultimate importance in our lives and make decisions about how best to live fully and faithfully into the future. We have decided that it is time for us to move closer to home and family – including my parents and our grandchildren. To that end, we will be seeking our next calls in the Twin Cities.

This means our synod will be electing a new bishop at our next synod assembly, May 5-6, 2018. The synod council will be reviewing the Bishop's election process and assembling election and transition teams. More information will be shared with you as details are worked out.

This also means it is time for each of you to begin to identify potential candidates for the Office of Bishop. Talk with each other, ask questions, seek out gifted pastors, and pray. I will always be available to answer questions about the role and responsibilities of a bishop, but I cannot and will not bring opinions about who should serve in that role.

Serving as your bishop has been one of the greatest honors and privileges of my ministry and I thank you for your call and trust. I have been blessed to share times of celebration and struggle with so many of you. I will miss gathering with you at synod events and in your congregations on Sunday mornings. You have touched my heart, fed my spirit, and given me hope as you live out your faith in Jesus. John joins me in expressing deep gratitude for your welcome, friendship, support and partnership in this good gospel work.

God's peace as we continue walking together in faith,
Bishop Mary Froiland



1	Craig Dammen	16	Seth Suiter, Phil Muth
2	Deb Stephens	17	Gary Fisher
3	Bo Sheffield, Andrew Klinger, Ryan Williams	18	Gary Yanke, Aaron Reed, Esmæ Rudnitzki
4	Sue Chwala, Dennis Rucker III, Chris Burkett	19	Larissa O'Rourke, Colin Maier
5	Kerry Gasser, Tate Olson, Braxton Labansky	20	Lindsey Vegter, Logan Servin, Sean Harvatine I
6	Jim Polarski, Libby Dammen, Bob Clift	21	Michelle Britton, Marie Benson
7	Caleb Vrydaghs, Sarah Olson	22.	Jessica Jensen,
8	Jenny Schmeling, Jimmy Kohl, Nathan Danz	23	Jordan Edwardson Jr Janice Stone, Lance Kenyon
9	Wesley Shefka		
11	Janet Albert, Steve Hulburt	24	Zachary Bunker
12	Gerald Dahl, John Schultz, Jack Weberpal, Jenna Weberpal, Courtney Weberpal	25 26 27	Brandon Getchel John Bittner, Alec Frey Leah Foster, Pat Weberpal
13	Samuel Powell	28	John Klinger, Evan Chady
14	Penni Logterman, Landon Riggs Jr.	29	Lowell Lamont, Caroline Britton
15	Bruce Kenyon	30	Kim Graff
		31	Nancy Parr



CHURCH STAFF

608-868-3680

Interim Pastor

Rev. Roger Black
pastorroger@hopemilton.org

Director of Music

Carleen Courtney
music@hopemilton.org

Education Coordinator

Sue Chwala
sue@hopemilton.org

Sextons

David Benson
Les Hartzell

Office Manager

Kirsten Woodcock
office@hopemilton.org

Senior High Youth (SHY)

Brinda & Kevin Shea

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSION STATEMENT

*Serving All Through Jesus Christ In Thought,
Word and Deed.*

Adopted by Hope Lutheran Church
July, 2015



Hope Lutheran Church
335 Dairyland Drive
Milton WI 53563

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 16
Milton, WI
53563

