

Hope Lutheran Church

Voice of Hope

February, 2018

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

Lenten Devotional Book

I would like to invite persons of all ages to participate in submitting at least one entry to a devotional book. The congregation can use it during Lent this year. Participation will be easy, and submissions need not be **professional** at all. Sign up for one or more of the days from February 14 through April 1 and you will be given three passages from the Bible that can serve as a springboard for your reflection. What you write does not have to be a standard devotional (like in Christ in Our Home, for example), but can be a picture that goes with one part of that Scripture or a poem or something else. Of course, standard devotions (about 100-150 words that include something from the life of you or someone you know) will also be accepted. You'll have until Sunday, February 11 to deliver your entry/ies to the church office and the books will be handed out at Ash Wednesday service on February 14.

If you have questions about it, talk to Pastor Roger. The clipboard and samples will be out there and I hope many people of all ages will respond. I know the result will be meaningful.

Hope Members Please HELP!

SHY is having its first fund raising event for our Mission Trip on Thursday Feb. 1st from 4-8 pm at Macs Pizza Shack in Janesville. Anyone who would like to enjoy a night away from cooking, come to Macs Pizza Shack and 10 % of your bill will go towards the kids Mission Trip. The kids will be bussing tables and cleaning up the dining area during this time and would appreciate any participation you can give.

Thank you, SHY



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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

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is on Valentine's Day, February 14, this year. I have been thinking a lot about the significance of these two events occurring on the same day. For me it underscores the two essential responses to God that the season of Lent emphasizes: love and sacrifice. These two virtues are also ones that we need to live out in our daily lives, not just with spouses, but also with our neighbors near and far.

Love and sacrifice are first given by God to us particularly in His Son, Jesus Christ. The act of sacrifice, which is at the center of the Christian faith, is Jesus' death on the Cross. We often express God's love and sacrifice for us in the words of John 3:16 —“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him might not perish, but might have everlasting life.” But God's love and sacrifice are also captured by Paul, especially in his letter to the Romans. “For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.” Later, in chapter 8 Paul makes his concluding argument about God's grace with these words: “If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Growing up in a former American Lutheran Church (ALC) in central Illinois it was the love and sacrifice of God that was always the point of emphasis during the forty-day season of Lent that begins on Ash Wednesday. I can remember my mentor pastor, Robert Spenn, standing up in the pulpit and smiling and saying “Jesus' death on the Cross demonstrates God's grace toward us. Let us never forget God's love.” It was reinforced by our Lenten hymns that speak most clearly about the cross, hymns such as this one: “Christ, the Life of All the Living, Christ, the death of death, our foe. Christ, yourself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe; through your suffering, death, and merit life eternal I inherit. Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.”

I probably was an odd youth as far as church goes because I enjoyed the extra service we always had on Wednesday evenings during Lent. It seemed to be always about the Cross of Christ. It was probably more like Good Friday than Lent. It did include some sacrifice, though, the dime or quarter we put in the weekly coin holders, which we would bring to church sometime during Holy Week or Easter Sunday. Although I knew nothing about the sacrifice of meat on Fridays—as my Catholic friends do—it was a serious thing to give an extra dime or quarter a day to God for those forty days.

Really, when you think about it the love of God on the Cross of Jesus is the “St. Valentine's Day” portion of February 14 this year. The root of

Valentine's Day is said to be in a Roman Catholic priest named Valentine. He lived in Rome in the 200s. At this time, an emperor, who many called Claudius the Cruel because he liked entering into wars, decided to ban people from getting married! He did this because nobody wanted to join his army and he needed men for his wars. He thought they'd be more interested in going to war if they weren't married. Legend says that Valentine didn't agree with this new rule and secretly performed marriage ceremonies for couples in love. Sadly, when Claudius the Cruel discovered this, Valentine was thrown into jail and sentenced to death. Legend says that he left a note for his jailer's daughter who had become a friend. It said, 'From Your Valentine.' This was the beginning of a tradition we still have today when we sign our Valentine's Day cards. On February 14, 278 AD, Valentine was executed.

But it is not just love that is at the heart of beginning the 40-day pilgrimage of Lent on Valentine's Day this year. It is sacrifice. As a Lutheran pastor I have sometimes had fun with the sacrifice of some food or drink for Lent. I have had forty-day periods of Lent (plus six Sundays, by the way) of not eating ice cream, not eating chocolate, or not going to a particular place that I love for food and drink. Sometimes I have been successful at that, if (a) I need to lose a little weight anyhow (notice I don't give up lettuce or carrots) or (b) there is something good like caramel that I can have instead of chocolate during that time. But my underlying rationale underscores the triteness of this kind of sacrifice, at least for me. So I have generally talked about Lent as the sacrifice of extra time for God. When there is an added worship service, why not just add those five or six hours to your worship during this time (in Hope's case, add Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Holy Week), or if not your usual offering, add giving to church every week, spend some extra time in your devotional life or try journaling or do some family worship practice. A sacrifice of time can be even more meaningful than merely diverting one favorite food to another less favorite one.

Regardless of what works for sacrifice for you, the important thing is to remember that God offered the best and most perfect sacrifice in Jesus Christ. So, our response of love and sacrifice to God and others will always come off as lesser. Still, if we make our sacrifice not as a forty-day commitment to God, but the beginning of a lifetime commitment, it will be far more significant.

I am encouraging people of all ages to help the people of Hope commemorate Lent by providing devotions for a booklet this year. Wouldn't it be fun to read about how some of our fellow members have extended God's love or experienced sacrifice in their lives? I am hoping that love and sacrifice will be displayed in words, pictures, and various other ways during Hope's season of Lent this year.

How can we take advantage of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day coming together this year? We can make showing our love and sacrifice to

God and our loved ones more than a one-day event. Rather we can begin to live our lives reflecting the love and sacrifice of God in our lives with others every day. Just maybe February 14 can be the start of something big in our lives!

Blessed Lent,
Rev. Roger Black, Interim Pastor

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

All are invited to the third –annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 13. Shrove Tuesday has become the last day for celebration and feasting before the Lenten Season.

Serving will be in Hope’s Friendship Hall from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM. The menu will include all-you-can eat buttermilk and/or gluten-free pancakes, 2-sausage links, applesauce, orange juice, milk, and coffee. There will be a free-will offering with proceeds to benefit G.I.F.T.’S men’s shelter and Hope Debt reduction.

If you have any questions please contact Marie Benson, 608-868-7384, or Pat Parsons, 608-868-3997. Come for a delicious meal, good Christian fellowship, and bring a friend.

Easter will be here before we know it and that means we need to start planning our **Easter music**. Any one interested in playing in the Brass Ensemble on Easter Sunday, please contact Sonja Pluess, 884-7711 or Carlene at music@hopemilton.org so we can see how many people and what instruments we will be working with.

Hope Treasurer’s Report

Income & expense from Designated Offering does not pay normal operating expenses.

December General Operating Income	\$24,859.00
December General Operating Expenses	\$19,436.87
Difference	\$ 5,422.13
<hr/>	
Year End General Operating Income	\$230,523.69
Year End General Operating Expense	\$235,256.28
Difference	(\$5,732.59)

Hope's Happenings

HFFFFFF

HFFFFFF is back. Please join us for fellowship and a Friday evening fish fry at Pettit's Country View Inn Friday, February 2, 2018 at 5:00 pm. Please sign up on the bulletin board at Hope or call Marilyn Krause at 608-868-7939 or 6058-751-2264. All are welcome.

Are you ready for some Euchre?

Let's enjoy the holiday season with a friendly night of cards and fellowship on Friday, February 9th. 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 Bette Dabson, 868-2735.

Chili Luncheon-

Please join us for a Souper Bowl lunch Sunday, February 4. Serving 11:30am – 1:30pm. Free will offering. Sponsored by SHY and Congregational Life Board.

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. February 13th. 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!

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. February's meeting dates are the 6th & the 20th. If you have questions, please contact the church or Ron Parsons.

Charity Circle

Charity Circle will meet at Hope for a Bible study on February 22nd 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

ACES will meet on Sunday, February 18 at 5:00 for an evening of food and fellowship. The group will meet at Anchor Inn, Newville. Please contact David & Marie Benson if you plan to attend, 868-7384.

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								
04-Feb	Karl Westlund	Sharon Whitford	Frank Maxwell Les Hartzell	Emily Miller	Sherri Barringer	Janet Parr Betty Dabson	Frank & Ann McCulloch	Emily Miller
11-Feb	Marie Benson	Janet Arndt	Karl Westland Al Astin	Ron Parsons	Brian & Penni Hoppe	Ron & Pat Parsons	Frank & Mary Maxwell	Sandy Slatter
18-Feb	Patrick Russell	Jordy Getchel	Ron & Pat Parsons	Tammy Russell	Sarah Olson	Rob Malewicki	Larry & Evelyn Preston	Sandy Randall
25-Feb	Stu Bloom	Eileen Hansing	Dave Benson Ken Whitford	Marie Benson	Marilyn Krause	Bill & Janet Arndt	Jerry Arneson Karl Westlund	Marilyn Krause
04-Mar	Karl Westlund	Pat Parsons	Chuck Hansing Al Astin	Linda Blade	Sherri Barringer	Cresswell Family	Rebecca Garber	Pat Parsons

February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	
4 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Big Question Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 11:30 am Souper bowl Luncheon 2:00 pm Girl Scouts	5	6 8:00 am Men's Bible study @ Hope 1:30 am Staff Meeting	7 4:00 pr 5:10 pr 6:15 pr 6:30 pr 7:30 pr
11 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Big Question Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	12	13 11:30 Staff lunch 5:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 7:00 pm Ladies Night Out	14 No Clas 6:30 pr Worship
18 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Big Question Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 2:00 pm Girl Scouts	19 6:30 pm Building Committee	20 8:00 am Men's Bible Study @MFR 6:30 pm Church Council	21 No Clas 6:15 pr 7:30 pr
25 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	26	27 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	28 4:00 pr 5:10 pr 6:15 pr 7:30 pr

ary 2018

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 6:30 pm Worship	2	3
30 pm LRE 10 pm Youth Chimes 15 pm Hope Singers 30 pm 7/8 Confirmation 30 pm Hope Ringers	8 6:30 pm Worship	9 6:00 pm Euchre	10
4 › Classes/Choirs 30 pm Ash Wednesday orship	15 No Worship	16	17
1 › Classes 15 pm Hope Singers 30 pm Hope Ringers	22 9:30 am Charily Circle 6:30 pm Worship	23	24
8 30 pm LRE 10 pm Youth Chimes 15 pm Hope Singers 30 pm Hope Ringers			

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								
04-Feb	Donna Usher	Karen O'Rourke	Kevin Shea	Cliff O'Beirne	Rebecca Garber	Sharon Terese Sandy	Frank & Ann McCulloch	Emily Miller
11-Feb	Jen Watson	Eric DeWilde	Brian Benson	Camille DeWilde	James Mickelson	Carmen Hume	Frank & Mary Maxwell	Sandy Slatter
18-Feb	Paula Yanke	Julie Lebakken	Randy & Emily Lebakken	Gary Yanke	Ken & Karen Holland	Jake & Jeanette Koele	Larry & Evelyn Preston	Sandy Randall
25-Feb	Donna Usher	Rebecca Garber	Eric DeWilde	Arlene Miland	Ann DeWilde	Virginia Benash	Jerry Arneson Karl	Marilyn Krause
04-Mar	Jen Watson	Karen O'Rourke	Kevin Shea	Brenda O'Beirne	Carmen Hume	Brenda & Cliff O'Beirne	Frank & Ann McCulloch	Emily Miller

Education News

Easter Egg Hunt – Sunday School

An Easter Egg Hunt is coming to Hope on Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018 from 9:15 – 10:15 am. All Sunday School children and their families are invited! Watch for more information in the March Voice of Hope



Wanted – Filled Eggs

Can you help us fill plastic Easter eggs for the egg hunt? We're looking for donations of regular size plastic eggs filled with candy, stickers, small toys, etc. We have some plastic eggs, so please pick up a bag of eggs in the box in the narthex (beginning the middle of February), fill them and return. Please turn-in filled eggs to the church office by Sunday, March 18. Check out the sign-up sheet in the narthex for more information.

Wanted – Help hiding Eggs

Are you an early riser? Do you attend 8:00 am Worship? Then come a bit early for coffee; and, to help hide Easter eggs around Hope's property on Sunday, March 25 at 7:00 am for the Easter Egg Hunt. Please sign-up in the narthex.

February Mission Focus

The GIFTS Men's Shelter is the mission focus for Sunday School offerings for February. GIFTS – God Is Faithful Temporary Shelter provides food, shelter and care for homeless men in Rock County. GIFTS now has a permanent location on Washington St in Janesville. Hope Lutheran Church partners with St. John's Lutheran Church to help with meal serving, providing food, Intake and overnight. Immediate need donations are coffee, creamer, sugar, 3 in 1 Shampoo/Conditioner/Body Wash, and snacks (nuts, granola bars, crackers, etc.). Bring donations to Sunday School and put in our yellow school bus downstairs throughout February.

7th and 8th Grade Confirmation Expectations

Here are the Confirmation expectations for our students at Hope. If any students and families have questions or concerns about the requirements, please contact Sue Chwala or Pastor Roger.

* Attendance is expected at all activities and service projects listed on the calendar

* Attend a minimum of 15 Hope Lutheran Worship Services. Remember to sign-in in the Blue Binder on the Ushers Table

* Acolyte 8 - 10 times or as needed. Sign-in in the Blue Binder on the Ushers Table.

* Attend 1 other Lutheran Worship Service (may include wedding or funeral service)

* Attend 1 non-Lutheran Worship Service (may include wedding or funeral service)

Lutherdale – Choose Your Adventure!

Choose Your Adventure at Lutherdale Bible Camp in Elkhorn, WI. This summer each week has its own unique and awesome theme with special activities. “Bible camp has lasting positive impacts on your child that go beyond what you see on a day to day basis. For many, faith is put on the back burner while sports, extra-curricular activities and school work have become the priority. Why pick one over the other? With a solid foundation, your child’s faith can encompass every part of their life. At camp, your child learns how to live their life through the lens of faith. Lose a basketball game? Jesus teaches us that failure provides a foundation to grow upon. Get an A on test? God shows us that humility keeps us grounded. Whatever life throws at your child, give them support of faith to guide their journey.”



Sign-up early for discounts on registration fees. Early Bird registration before March 1, 2018 offers 40% off. Hope continues to encourage participation at Lutherdale by offering \$50.00 camperships to all students who attend summer camp. You can find additional summer camp information at www.lutherdale.org. Please let the church office know that your child will be attending summer camp at Lutherdale.

Christian Education Calendar

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

Jan. 28 – The Plagues
Feb. 4 – The Plagues
Feb. 11 – The Red Sea
Feb. 18 – The Red Sea
Feb. 25 – The Red Sea

LRE – 4:00 – 5:10 pm on Wednesdays

Jan. 31 – Exodus
Feb. 7 – Wilderness
Feb. 14 – No Classes, Ash Wednesday, attend worship with your family at 6:30 pm
Feb. 21 – No Classes, Milton School conferences
Feb. 28 – Ten Commandments

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

Jan. 24 – Student OFF – Small Group Leaders Meeting 6:30 pm
Jan. 31 – ALL OFF
Feb. 7 – Learning Event
Feb. 14 – Ash Wednesday, attend worship at 6:30 pm
Feb. 21 – No Classes – Milton School conferences
Feb. 28 – ALL OFF

Agrace to Offer Orientation for Prospective Volunteers in February

Volunteering for Agrace Hospice & Palliative Care can be a very rewarding experience. In February, Agrace will offer volunteer orientation for people interested in brightening the lives of patients with serious illnesses. There are several ways volunteers can help:

- Visit and provide companionship to local hospice patients in patients’ homes, or in nursing homes or assisted living centers.
- Help prepare meals for patients, or visit with patients staying at the Agrace Center for Hospice & Palliative Care in Janesville.
- Help shoppers, and sort and price donated merchandise at the Agrace Thrift Store in Janesville.


Schedules are flexible, and free training is provided for all volunteer roles. Prospective volunteers must complete an application and an interview process with Agrace’s Volunteer Services staff to identify skills and interests, and then attend an orientation session. Agrace’s next volunteer orientation is **Wednesday, February 21, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.**, at Agrace in Janesville. Call (608) 314-2922 for an application and to register for orientation.

Attention Thrivent Members!! Have you designated your **“Choice Dollars”** to Hope Lutheran Church recently? Remember, Thrivent Financial does not do this automatically any more. You have to go online and designate them every time you have sufficient amounts available. Thanks to Thrivent members, Hope Lutheran Church received \$2,139.00 so far in 2017 through the Choice Dollars portion of Thrivent Choice.

February Acolyte Schedule			
	Thursday	8:00	10:30
2/4			
2/11	(Wednesday)	Aubrey Janisch	Logan Peterson Rose Meyer
2/18			James Watson
2/25			



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Raymond Janisch | 15 Barbara Hartzell, Zach Stricker |
| 2 Jen Watson, Hayden Estep | 17 Landon Peterson-Hying |
| 3 Patricia Hubbard, Anna Plautz | 18 Adam Niedermier, Olivia Hall,
Randy Lebakken,
Diane Burlingame |
| 4 Rob Malewicki | 19 Bill Hughes, Brian Hoppe |
| 6 Ron Sersch, Michael Rush, Denise
Blabaum | 20 Sean Harvatine II, Caroline
Watson, Patrick Russell |
| 7 Jake Koele, Andrew Brookhiser | 22 Tyler Kenyon |
| 8 Kirsten Woodcock | 23 Gary Getchel, Marissa Johnson,
Travis Knutson |
| 9 Dawson Wiswell, Matt Williams | 24 Harper Wojtukunski,
Natalie Danz |
| 10 Jordan Schliem, Sarah Harvatine | 25 Elaina Maier |
| 11 Jay Gasser | 26 David Benson |
| 12 Linda Fisher, Rachel Janes,
Shirley Koniecki | 27 Scott Randall, Dean Brown,
Connie Tranter, Sidney McNatt |
| 13 Xiem Au, Virginia Benash,
Anne Cresswell | 28 Trisha Hall |
| 14 Marilyn Krause, Dan Berthiaume,
David A. Anderson | |
| 15 Ellen Westlund, Hailey Keeser,
Jasmine Brown, Riley Estep | |



Special Birthday Wishes to...

Jake Koele	February 7
Shirley Koniecki	February 12
Virginia Benash	February 13
David Anderson	February 14

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

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53563

