



our purpose is to glorify God by worshipping, witnessing, teaching, loving and serving our Lord Jesus Christ

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

tidings

VOLUME 15
ISSUE 11
MAY 2017

pastor's letter from pastor paul

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me.” Matthew 22:6

It's May! There are always events that are lifted up... Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Many schools celebrate graduation ceremonies. Along with graduations, Hope will recognize graduating seniors on May 21st at the 9:30 Service, and that evening the Ministerial will provide a Baccalaureate Service at the School.

Celebration, transitions and milestones are themes for graduating seniors.

As graduations approach, have you ever thought about a 'graduation ceremony' for the Christian? Without writing a major theological paper, it would certainly be appropriate that our graduation ceremony would be heaven... the ultimate celebration, the ultimate transition and the ultimate milestone.

BUT... let's back up for a moment. Are there graduating moments for the Christian? Are we to graduate from Sunday School, or Friday School, or Confirmation classes, or a Bible Study class? And of course we would say we have completed 'the course'. We may 'graduate' from classes, but we never graduate from discipleship. In other words, we do not graduate from the Christian life.

Since we are to take Jesus' Word for daily living... do we ever graduate? The above verse says deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus. Does that mean for a day, a week, a year or all your life? I think we would all agree that this verse and these words are for a lifetime! There is never a graduation. Just think, for a lifetime, we are to...

Deny yourself- We are to forget one's self, lose sight of one's self and one's own interests. It's about Jesus.

Take up your cross- We raise up or elevate the cross above our own desires.

Follow Jesus- We are not to back out, turn around, or lay down the cross. We are to follow Jesus at all costs.

The old Hymn, **“WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS”**, says it well in all four verses. The fourth verse, the last line interprets discipleship clearly:

**Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!**

We are called to go after Jesus... to be like Jesus... Every day!

May 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 6:30 pm First Communion Service 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir Practice	4 7:40 am FCA Breakfast 6:45 pm National Day of Prayer	5	6
7 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School Gathering/ Fellowship Hour 11:15 am Worship 6:00 pm Prayers for Healing Service	8	9	10 3:30 pm Kids Time! 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm Council	11 7:40 am FCA Breakfast	12	13
14 MOTHER'S DAY 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship 11:15 am Worship with Holy Communion	15 5:30 pm LSS Meeting	16	17 3:30 pm Kids Time! 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir Practice	18 7:40 am FCA Breakfast	19	20 BRIDAL SHOWERS 10:00 am Carissa Jacobson 2:00 pm Katelyn Winkelmann
21 GRADUATES HONORED 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:15 am Worship	22 3:30 pm LSS Meeting	23	24 3:30 pm Kids Time! 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir Practice	25 7:40 am FCA Breakfast	26	27
28 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship	29 MEMORIAL DAY	30	31			

MAY SERVING GROUPS

GROUP 7

Chairperson: Sylvia Munter

SERVERS: Tina Averill	Joan Dufault	Lloyd & Judy Dunrud
Terry & Alisa Halvorson	Al & Carol Heide	Marty & Michelle Levin
Mike & Alyssa Macy	Donna Moy	Jim & Ann Offerdahl
David Olson	Wayne & Michelle Olson	Neal & Kathy Schmidt
Karen Schultz	Matt & Chantel Wickham	Mark & Nancy Winkler
Carol Wold		

ALTAR GUILD: Diane Fjerstad / Gina Gensburger

COMMUNION SERVERS: Wayne Olson / Melissa Christen / Wayne Larson / Bonnie Albright

USHERS: Veryl Bakken	Doug Fjerstad	Ralph Hove
Tim Manecke	David Skunes	Les Viken

HEAD USHERS

ACOLYTES

May 7 Tom Kleinwachter	Jacob Malmanger / Faith Larson
May 14 Terry Halvorson	Brekken Mandt / Jordon Larson
May 21 Rod Olson	Matthew Radtke / Kora Norland
May 28 Sid Fjerstad	Callie Theis / Emma Olson

H.E.L.P. is Here!

Our **Health Equipment Lending Project** room has a selection of home health equipment. If you are in need of a loan of this kind of equipment, please call the church office. The intent is that this ministry would be the hands and feet of Jesus to anyone in need of this kind of assistance. We are currently in need of donations of wheel chairs, walkers, canes with prongs, shower chairs, raised toilet seats, and commodes. Donations of any home health equipment are always welcome.



Bridal Showers at Hope Church

Saturday, May 20th

Carissa Jacobson
(Bride-to-be of Caleb Curfman)
10:00 am -12:00 pm

Katelyn Winklemann
(Bride-to-be of Bryan Mesich)
2:00 pm

Family/Youth/Education

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Julia Albright Zoey Christen
Jordyn Manecke Owen Munter

If you are a Hope student in grades 7-12 and we missed your birthday, please notify the church office so we can update our list.

Congratulations to the CLASS of 2017

Joshua Bodensteiner Madison Hanson
Austin Kindem Kailie Schmidt
Emma Viken

On Sunday, May 21st, the graduates will be presented with quilts during the worship service and honored during coffee hour.

Youth Stewardship

You've probably been involved in planting a vegetable or flower garden, and you've realized that the more seeds you plant, the more plants you get. The Apostle Paul used the analogy of sowing and reaping (planting and harvesting) in relation to money. He wrote, *"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously"* (2 Corinthians 9:6).

You know that, if you plant a seed here and there, you'll get a plant here and there, and the result will not be especially pleasing. Sowing sparingly yields sparse results. So it is with money. If you give generously, you will reap for yourself and others great benefits. Paul went on to say, *"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"* (vs. 7). In other words, you should give willingly, not because it is a duty or because your parents make you give. Of course, the church can use money given under duress just as well as that given freely!

Unfortunately, you will not be blessed because, as Paul wrote, *"God loves a cheerful giver,"* not the reluctant giver. Giving because you're forced to is actually sowing sparingly, even if you give a large amount.

Giving and expecting rewards for giving is not really giving; it's trading. Yet God longs to give us blessings, and those blessings just seem to follow when we carry out His will. *"God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work"* (vs. 8). Look at all these blessings poured on the cheerful giver!

All grace will **abound** to you! There will be no end to the grace God will give you in your life.

In **all** things, at **all** times, you'll have **all** you need!

You will **abound** in **every** good work! God will continue to use you in building up His kingdom.

What are you waiting for? *Go* do some sowing!

Think about it:

Read 2 Corinthians 8 and 9.

Memorize 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.

Start putting aside some of your money for the offering on Sunday morning.

Let's pray: Dear Father in heaven, thank You for calling me to be a cheerful giver. Thank You for Your promise to provide for all my needs, and even beyond, so that I will always have the means to give. Forgive me when I hold on too tightly to "my" money and clear my vision so I can see the needs of others as more important than my own wants. In Jesus' name. Amen.





SUMMER BIBLE CAMPS



Bluewater Covenant



Located 17 miles north of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, the mission of Bluewater Covenant Bible Camp is to provide both a spiritually and physically enthusiastic environment that brings adults, youth and children into loving relationship with God and others through Jesus Christ. It is owned by 12 churches of the Evangelical Covenant Denomination in Northwest and North Central Minnesota. One Hope youth reported that he enjoyed the following at Bluewater last summer: The Blob, crate stacking, inflatable rafts, climbing thing, nukem, ultimate Frisbee, swimming, chapel, games, and basketball.



For information, call 218-326-6058 or email



office@bluewatercovcamp.org



Lutheran Island Camp



Located in west central Minnesota about 30 miles east of Fergus Falls, Lutheran Island Camp is a beautiful 67 acre Island in the middle of East Battle Lake. Their mission is to nourish the whole person for joyful, Christ-centered life and service.



Register online at: www.islandcamp.org For more information, phone 218-583-2905 or email info@islandcamp.org



Pathways



Camp Emmaus, near Menahga, Minnesota, offers several opportunities for youth to experience the love of Christ this summer! Programs are divided by age group based on the grade the camper is entering. Campers stay in cabins with 8-10 other campers of the same gender and a college-aged counselor. Each day is filled with games, worship, swimming, Bible study, singing, canoeing, campfires and more. With all this activity, campers are sure to have an appetite when they come to the dining hall for our delicious meals. We invite all youth to come rejuvenate, rejoice, and recharge in God's creation and love at camp. For information, call 218-564-4766 or email



smt.emmaus@outlook.com



Hope Church Council Minutes 4/12/2017

Attendance: Holly Thorssen, Kurt Albright, Wayne Olson, Tom Sedler, Michelle Olson, Sue Skunes, Gloria Osmonson, Ilene Sistad, Greg Mireault, Michelle Solsten, Wayne Larson, Sheryl Magelssen, Joan Dufault, Bennett Osmonson, Tim Manecke, Melissa Christen, Sylvia Munter, Pastor Paul.

Meeting was called to order by President, Bennett Osmonson.

Devotions: By Michelle Solsten.

Agenda was approved as written. MMSC: Michelle Solsten/Greg

Secretary's Report of the March 8, 2017 minutes were approved as written. MMSC: Joan/Tom

Benevolence Report: Distributions reported by Sheryl.

Pastor's Report: 5th grade communion is coming up.

President's Report: By Bennett. Commented on having the youth being involved with Palm Sunday service – that it was well received and really added to the service.

Committee Reports:

Deacons: By Michelle Solsten. Discussing/Working with Marilyn Malmanger about doing home communion for shut ins.

Family/Youth/Education: By Michelle Olson. Working on dates for Vacation Bible School. Info on bible camp will be coming out in Tidings. Alyssa & Mike Macy have been hired as youth leaders!

Music/Worship: By Sheryl. They are in need of a file cabinet for music storage. Choir will be singing the 1st Sunday in May and then wrapping up for the

summer.

Trustees: By Greg. Letter for membership will be sent out to active members regarding the financial situation of the church. Went over the financial report. Treasurer's Report (pending audit) was approved as written. MMSC: Joan/Melissa.

Women of Hope: By Ilene. A new coffee pot & new faucet in the kitchen have been purchased and installed. Spaghetti supper is on April 19th. They will have a quilt raffle starting at the spaghetti supper and continue through the meatball supper in the fall. 20 quilts have been given out.

Old Business:

Social Media Policy – Trustees are working on this...

Memorial Policy – will be worked on after the Social Media Policy is completed.

Worship Service on Garden Valley – we have received a proposal from Garden Valley. Cost to broadcast our worship service on Garden Valley cable is \$75.00/month. Decision was made to go forward with this. MMSC: Tom/Michelle Solsten.

New Business:

Next council meeting is Wednesday, May 10th at 8:00pm.

Easter is Sunday, April 16th.

Spaghetti Supper is Wednesday, April 19th, 5-7pm

Hope Family BBQ & bonfire at Wickhams Sat., April 22nd at 4pm

Leadership Conference: April 30-May 2 in Elkhorn, NE

LCMC Annual Gathering: October 8-11 in Minneapolis, MN

Closing Prayer – By Pastor Paul.

Submitted by Melissa Christen, Secretary, to be approved at the next Council meeting.



APRIL MEMORIALS

Gifts were given to the Broadcast Fund in memory of:

- . Betty Bjornerud
- . Kenny Rustad
- . Roy Quam
- . Laurel Skala
- . Jim Stordahl

A gift was given to the Cemetery Fund in memory of Betty Bjornerud.

A gift was given to the Sound Room Fund in memory of Laurel Skala.



HOPE BROADCAST/TELECAST MINISTRY

Our 9:30 am worship service is broadcast on KKCQ FM and telecast on local channel 7 every Sunday at 9:30 am. A live audio broadcast of the worship service is available on the internet. Log into kkcqradio.com and click the [Hope Broadcast Link](#).

Free Services for Seniors Wishing to Remain Independent:

The RSVP **GROCERIES TO GO** and **HANDYMAN PROGRAMS** are vital services for seniors 60+ wishing to remain independently in their homes.

G2G volunteers shop for and deliver groceries, or assist with shopping 2-4 times per month.

Handyman volunteers assist with minor home maintenance issues.

Our caring volunteers are ready to help you!
Contact Tammy or Jennifer at RSVP:
218-281-8288 / 800-862-6466
tsykes@umn.edu or jkerdman@umn.edu

HOPE HANKIES - Do you know someone who is in need of healing of mind, body or spirit? A Hope Hankie is a reminder that you are never alone, that God is always with you and that your friends are aware of your needs and are praying for you. Hope Hankies are available in the church office, or you can call Marge Bolme at 435-1825. Although there is no charge for the Hope Hankie, donations are welcome.

FOSSTON DAC is collecting candles of all types: tapers, votives, jars, etc., and even crayons to make fire starters. Donations may be dropped off at the church office.

MCINTOSH SENIOR LIVING CENTER is asking for donations of stuffed animals to be used for bingo prizes. For those who receive them it is quite a treasure. Donations may be dropped off in the church office.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING SERVICE - Held the first Sunday of each month at 6:00 pm, in the Sanctuary, this service includes Holy Communion, anointing with oil, laying of hands, and prayer.

VISITATION MINISTRY - If you would like a visit from our Visitation Minister, Marilyn Malmanger, call Marilyn at 435-6917 or Hope Church at 435-6765.



ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF ELECTRONIC GIVING

Hope Church wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individuals and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving.

Following is a list of the information that is needed to get started:

- ⇒ Name and Address
- ⇒ Date of First Donation
- ⇒ Frequency of Donation (Weekly, Monthly, etc.)
- ⇒ Amount of Donation
- ⇒ Checking or Savings Account Routing and Account Numbers

Donations amounts may be changed or discontinued any time simply by calling the church office.

If you would like to sign up for Electronic Giving, or want more information, please call the church office at 218-435-6765, or email hopezion@gvtel.com

May

BIBLE READINGS

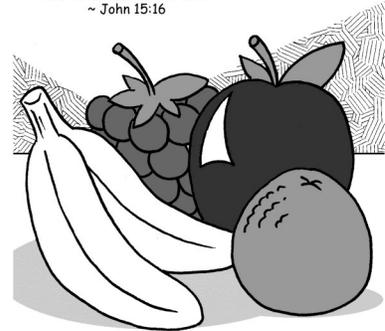
KEY CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE

1 Micah 5	8 Haggai 2	16 Matthew 13	24 Matthew 28
2 Micah 7	9 Zechariah 14	17 Matthew 17	25 Mark 6
3 Nahum 1	10 Malachi 3	18 Matthew 21	26 Mark 8
4 Habakkuk 3	11 Malachi 4	19 Matthew 24	27 Luke 1
5 Zephaniah 3	12 Matthew 5	20 Matthew 25	28 Worship
6 Haggai 1	13 Matthew 6	21 Worship	29 Luke 2
7 Worship	14 Worship	22 Matthew 26	30 Luke 4
	15 Matthew 7	23 Matthew 27	31 Luke 7

God's Gift of Grace

Scripture is very clear that we are saved by grace alone through faith in Christ alone. (Ephesians 2:8-9). Additionally, that same grace that saves us also motivates and equips us to give our best in using our talents, abilities and gifts in God's service. Just as the night follows day, our commitment to give God all we have follows our salvation by grace. Because of God's grace, we can serve, give, and do the work of the Lord. By ourselves, we are powerless. *"But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift"* (Ephesians 4:7). God's grace in Jesus helps us live lives worthy of the Lord that we might bear much fruit for Him (Colossians 1:10).

"Go and bear fruit."
~ John 15:16



Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for giving Your grace so freely. By Your grace, I am saved, and, by Your grace, I am empowered to go and bear fruit. I give You praise and thanks. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.