



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

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

tidings

pastor's letter

from pastor jane

FEBRUARY 2020

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

In confirmation we are studying the differences between the **three creeds** to which we Lutherans ascribe. They include the Apostles' Creed which we use most frequently; the Nicene, which we use for special occasions; and the Athanasian Creed (which we seldom use). Each of these are supported by the Protestant denominations as recorded in the Book of Concord (Agreement). In this age of great differences, and disagreements between people isn't it nice to know that there is **some agreement** between the church denominations?

The **differences between the creeds** is in:

1. How they present the various points of argument
2. Coming to the same conclusion
3. Starting from different arguments that arose
4. Comparisons between the creeds included the Trinity, the divinity of Christ, the humanity of Christ, the virgin birth, and other controversies brought up by the students (Pontius Pilate, and Heaven/Hell.)

The creeds were designed so that when we are nervous about what to say, being persecuted, or simply asked about our faith, we would have a sound and responsible response to give to people who do not know about God.

Each Sunday in our worship service, we confess our faith to God and to each other. It is a good practice and it **prepares us** with an answer, if anyone asks us.

We are blessed to live in a country where we have **freedom of religion** and we do not think of needing to declare a creed before a court, a tribunal, or in the arena facing lions or death. Our arena is safer physically, but not mentally or socially. In our **modern-day arena**, we may face ridicule, being laughed at, or simply lack of cooperation at work or school on account of our beliefs.

This is why it is **important to confess** our belief in God to each other in church, where it is safe, we find fellowship and sanctuary. Some of us also find this sanctuary in family and our homes.

It is **my prayer** for each of us that we are:

1. **Strengthened** in worship,
2. **Comforted by** fellowship, and
3. **Be thankful** for sanctuary (freedom of religion) provided by our nation, our community, our church and our homes.

When we have opportunity to confess/profess our faith, may we do so in thought, word and deed.

February 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 9:30am Worship 10:30am Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour 1:00pm Financial Peace University	3	4 3:00pm Ignite Youth Center	5 11:00am Bible Study 3:15pm Kids Time 6:30pm Choir Practice/ Youth Group	6 7:40am FCA 11:00am Women of Hope Mtg. 3:00pm Ignite Youth Center	7 8:30am Friday School Gr. 1-8 9:30am 9th Gr. Confirmation	8 1:00pm Financial Peace University Course
9 9:30am Worship/ Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour	10	11 3:00pm Ignite Youth Center	12 11:00am Bible Study 3:15pm Kids Time 6:30pm Choir Practice/ Youth Group 8:00pm Council Mtg.	13 7:40am FCA 3:00pm Ignite Youth Center	14 8:30am Friday School Gr. 1-8 9:30am 9th Gr. Confirmation	15 1:00pm Financial Peace University Course
16 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	17	18 3:00pm Ignite Youth Center	19 11:00am Bible Study 3:15pm Kids Time 6:30pm Choir Practice/ Youth Group	20 7:40am FCA 3:00pm Ignite Youth Center	21 8:30am Friday School Gr. 1-8 9:30am 9th Gr. Confirmation	22 1:00pm Financial Peace University Course
23 9:30am Worship 10:30am Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour	24	25 3:00pm Ignite Youth Center	26 ASH WEDNESDAY 11am Lenten Worship 12:00pm Lenten Lunch 3:15pm Kids Time 5:30pm Lenten Supper 6:30pm Lenten Worship 6:30pm Choir Practice/	27 7:40am FCA 3:00pm Ignite Youth Center	28 8:30am Friday School Gr. 1-8 9:30am 9th Gr. Confirmation	29 1:00pm Financial Peace University Course

FEBRUARY SERVANTS

GROUP 5

Leaders: Scott & Amy Riveland / Orlan & Eileen Solsten

Servers:	Barb Carlin	Scott & Willow Christen	Kyle & Brittany Djernes
	Ashley Goldsmith	Jim & Rosie Goldsmith	Mike & Patti Halland
	Jim & Ionne Haugstul	Sarah Johnson	Mike & Bridget Kroening
	Peggy Larsen	Bill & Phyllis Malwitz	Greg & Keri Mireault
	John & Julie Nord	Darren & Lori Paulson	Norma Quam
	Travis & Emily Quam	Jake & Brittnei Radtke	John & Connie Radtke
	Neil & Sandra Riveland	Jon & Renee Rustad	Leroy & Helen Sander
	Richard & Marilyn Venem	James & Heather Webb	

ALTAR GUILD: Keri Mireault

COMMUNION SERVERS: February 9: Michelle Solsten / Nancy Andree / Tim Manecke / Dan Carlin

USHERS: Kurt Albright Tim Carlin Steven Fjerstad Wayne Larson
Mike Olson John Radtke Dennis Sistad

HEAD USHERS / ACOLYTES:

February 2	Tom Kleinwachter	Zach Theis / Tia Wickham
February 9	Terry Halvorson	Tony Carlin / Alexis Bailie
February 16	Rod Olson	Alex Hagen / Vanessa Johnson
February 23	Sid Fjerstad	McKayla Hove / Breanna Larson

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY COURSE

Held at Hope Church Saturdays, January 18 to March 14 at 1:00pm.

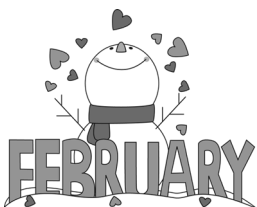
There are 9 sessions; each one lasts about 90 minutes.

Lesson 1: Build a Starter Emergency Fund and Learn How to Budget
Lesson 2: Pay Off All Debt
Lesson 3: Save a Fully Funded Emergency Fund
Lesson 4: Invest for the Future and Build Wealth
Lesson 5: Buyer Beware
Lesson 6: The Role of Insurance
Lesson 7: Retirement Planning
Lesson 8: Real Estate and Mortgages
Lesson 9: Outrageous Generosity

Cost is \$75 per household. The first class is free.

For more info, visit: www.daveramsey.com/fpu

Youth News



HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO

Nikolai Jalowiec

Vanessa Johnson

Brynlea Mahlen

Axel 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.



Fellowship of Christian Athletes

All youth in 7th-12th grades (*you don't need to be an athlete*) are invited to join us for breakfast and devotions 7:40am-8:10am each Thursday when school is in session. Although the breakfast is free, a basket for free-will offering is available.



YOUTH CENTER

Open to Youth in Grades 7-12

WINTER HOURS:

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00-7:00pm

KIDS TIME!

At Ignite Youth Center
for 4th-6th Graders:

Wednesdays,
3:15-4:30 pm



Do you like to be in charge? What do you think it takes to be a strong leader? What attributes are required of a good teacher? Do you think you have what it takes to head a committee, a government, or even a country? The ability to lead is not always evident in a young person.

Take Joseph, for example. You remember him – the kid with the coat of many colors? His brothers certainly had no respect for him. In fact, they had hatred for him, because they saw him as his daddy's favorite. They were so jealous they got rid of him – sold him as a slave to go who-knows-where. They didn't care. But God did. Throughout the narrative of Joseph in Genesis 37-50, the words, "*And God was with him,*" are repeated. He was so honest, so smart, such a good administrator that he was elevated to the next-to-highest position in the country of Egypt. All because "*God was with him.*" It was Joseph's task to save up food from the seven good years to last through the seven years of famine. He did such a great job that, not only were the Egyptians fed, people from other countries came to Joseph to get grain for food too. Among them, you know, were Joseph's brothers.

Now Joseph had the upper hand. Now he had the power. Now he could decide **their** fate. When they realized who he was, they were scared! After all, look what they had done to him! But Joseph forgave. Joseph said, "*You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good . . . the saving of many lives*" (Genesis 50:20). Joseph realized that all he had – his life, his wisdom, his job, and being reunited with his family after many years – all these were gifts from God. God had been directing Joseph's path his whole life. Everything in Joseph's life – the ups and downs – God used to make him the leader he was, to make him a blessing to all around him.

Keep that in mind when things happen that are unpleasant, even painful. It's even more important to keep that in mind when things are going well (because that's when we're tempted to forget about God). God uses everything to mold you into the person He wants you to be, to prepare you for the work He wants you to do in this life, and to shape you into a steward who uses His gifts in service to God by serving others.

Read the story of Joseph in Genesis 37-50. Ask God to reveal to you how He wants you to use the gifts He's given you. Find people each day to help and encourage.

Let's pray: Dear Heavenly Father, keep me focused on You so I can see Your blessings and be grateful for them, even when those "blessings" may be hard times for me. Teach me to rely on You to lead me and equip me to do the work You give me to do. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

In Loving Memory



JANUARY MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

Gifts were given to the Audio/Visual Fund in memory of Jerry Berg, Roger Johnson, David Myklejord, and Jan Voxland, and in honor of Margaret Rustad.

Gifts were given to the Broadcast Fund in memory of David Myklejord.

Gifts were given to the Brandsvold Cemetery Fund in memory of David Myklejord.

A gift was given to Hope Sunday School in memory of David Myklejord.

The 23rd Psalm

A Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible— Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Rick was excited about the task, but he just couldn't remember the psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

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 all types of home health equipment are welcome.**

FOSSTON DAC is collecting candles of all types: tapers, votives, jars, 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.

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.

1/8/2020 – Hope Lutheran Church Council - Meeting Minutes – Recorded by Tracy Ware

Present: Joan Dufault, Greg Mireault, Pastor Jane Ekholm, Tracy Ware, Michelle & Wayne Olson, Nancy Andree, Evan Fonder, Michelle Solsten, Sylvia Munter, Bonnie Albright, Cindy & Darin Larson, Tom Sedler.

Call to order: Meeting Called to order by Joan Dufault – President

Devotions – Bonnie encouraged us to consider taking Steve’s Financial Class and make achievable New Year’s Resolutions.

Approval of Agenda - Motion to approve by Michelle S, second by Tom, Approved Unanimously

Approval of Secretary’s Report - Motion to approve by Nancy, second by Evan, Approved Unanimously

Benevolence Report – Pastor Jane reports the committee gave to the usual monthly recipients as well as some local needs. She reminds us that suicide prevention week is coming up and urges everyone to attend the local NAMI programs.

Pastor’s Report – See written report

President’s Report – The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19th following the morning worship service. Please submit your committee reports to Sylvia ASAP.

Brief Committee Reports

Deacons – Michelle S reports the communion servers for Jan/Feb are covered.

Family/Youth/Education – Michelle O reports they are working on the Lenten Soup/Sandwich workers list and are reviewing the SS curriculum. They are also talking with St. Mary’s church regarding sharing the costs of VBS materials, etc.

Music & Worship – Nancy reports the piano that was sold has been picked up. Mary recorded two sessions of music for services which can be used in emergency situations.

Trustees – Greg reports that the finances look ok for now but they would still like donations for the remaining 9K left to pay for the new A/V system. Officers for next year will be Tim M and Dan C. The A/V system has been ordered and is expected to be installed in February. Windows 10 was updated for the computers. Upcoming projects included repairing damage to the Heritage Room and repairing windows as needed in the church. In the parsonage they will be working on the plugged drain and the water softener. The annual audit will be completed on 1/10/2020 by Kathy Carlson. Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report pending audit by Evan, second by Tom, approved unanimously.

Women of Hope – No report. They are scheduled to meet on 1/9/2020.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Next Meeting – FULL Council Meeting Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 8:00 pm; Devotions and lunch by the Board of Trustees.

Dates to Remember -

Saturday, January 19th – Annual Meeting
 Wednesday, February 26th – Ash Wednesday
 Sunday, April 12th - Easter

Other - None

Closed with The Lord’s Prayer, Meeting Adjourned.

We Are God's Partners

As Christian stewards, we are not to be under any illusion about our position. We are managers, not owners. We are stewards and not masters. As stewards, we are called to manage our lives and resources in ways that help further God's mission to seek and save the lost.

Christian stewardship is a partnership with God. Both the partnership and God's Work are described in 2 Corinthians 5:18-20: *"All this is from God, Who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."*

This partnership is not equal, since the mission and all of the resources have come from God and belong to Him. It is a partnership that God created. He chose and appointed us to be part of His partnership. The object of all stewardship activity is to use the resources that God has placed in our hands in such a way that people come to know and trust in the only true God. In this partnership, God has given us positions of honor, and He equips us with the tools that we need to do His work. He promises to be with us always (Matthew 28:20). May God bless each one of us as we manage faithfully all that God entrusts to us.

Polk County Social Services is seeking homes to provide foster care to children in need.

If you'd like more information on child foster care, call Polk County Social Services at 218-470-8483.



Is there room in your family for one more?
Foster a child.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
FINANCIAL SUPPORT



ENJOY THE ONVENIENCE OF ELECTRONIC GIVING

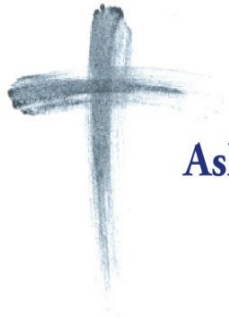
Hope Church wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individuals and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic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



Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins
February 26

February

BIBLE READINGS

KEY CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE

1 2 Timothy 3	9 Sunday Worship	17 Hebrews 13	25 1 Peter 2
2 Sunday Worship	10 Hebrews 2	18 James 1	26 1 Peter 3
3 2 Timothy 4	11 Hebrews 4	19 James 2	27 1 Peter 4
4 Titus 1	12 Hebrews 8	20 James 3	28 1 Peter 5
5 Titus 2	13 Hebrews 9	21 James 4	29 2 Peter 1
6 Titus 3	14 Hebrews 11	22 James 5	
7 Philemon	15 Hebrews 12	23 Sunday Worship	
8 Hebrews 1	16 Sunday Worship	24 1 Peter 1	

Being Available for Service

In every church, there are people who continually rise to the occasion to get the work done. Although God calls each of us to follow and serve Him, many of us are much more concerned about our own lives and goals than assisting in the Lord’s work. If we focus on “I, me, mine, and myself,” we take care of “number one” to the exclusion of helping and serving. In our prayers, we should be asking God to grant us hearts that want to serve, and we should be asking Him, “What do You want to achieve through me today?”

Prayer: Lord, I acknowledge You as the source of all that I am and have. Grant me a serving and generous heart so that I am willing to use my time in ways that extends Your kingdom. Help me to be a channel of Your love to others. In Christ’s name I pray. Amen.

