



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

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

tidings

VOLUME 18
ISSUE 1
JUNE / JULY 2019

pastor's letter

from pastor jane

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

They say you can't take "it" with you! **What exactly is "it"?** "It" must be different things to different people. I hear of people being buried in their Cadillac, with a favorite pet, with or without jewelry, with a note from someone, etc.

The longer I am here, the more difficult it is to have funerals, and these past two weeks we have had three of them. Compared to other churches, that is not so many but, the longer I am here and the closer to people I become, the harder it is to be strong for the families. I guess that should be expected **in life**, not just ministry.

As a consequence, I have deeply evaluated **how to cope** with this aging process with which we all must contend, if we are lucky enough to live that long. It appears to me that we set about the business of dying as soon as we are born. We honor the promises of Baptism through church, Sunday school, Bible school, confirmation, and Friday school, following **Proverbs 22:6** which says "train up a child in the way he/she should go and when he/she is old, they will not depart from it" (i.e. teach them to know how to live and die 'well'). When I was younger, I always wanted to "live well." I did not give much thought to "dying well", yet we are teaching both.

Living the "abundant life", was what Jesus promised us in John 10:10. Is there an abundant death? Or at least a peaceful, tranquil, or meaningful death? Yes, our **meaning comes from** what we are able to do for others through Christ who strengthens us, right up to the very end. Giving to others because of Christ is what gives us purpose and meaning. Then it dawned on me - meaning is the only thing we can "take with us" or leave behind as a legacy.

Most recently, God has shown me that we find meaning by being **God's hands and heart** in this world. I am certain I have missed opportunities to be this during my lifetime. But I have seen it done most significantly by volunteers and staff at our care facilities, not only for the residents and patients, but their families. How blessed and fortunate we are to have the quality of medical care we have right here.

End of life experiences for families are especially heartbreaking when memories are sad, incomplete, or leave unresolved issues. Lines of communication are easily destroyed under the tenseness of illness, tragedy, or suffering. For this reason, Jesus says "love one another" and "wash each other's feet". Jesus leaves the details of how to best love and forgive each other to us and our creativity. Techniques, guidelines and inspiration for moments such as these are taught in the **Befrienders training**. Please contact me, if you would like to join in this group which meets Tuesday nights at 7 PM at the church.

Continued on Page 2

Pr. Janes letter continued from page 1

The **opportunity to build** bridges, or new lines of communication is a gift that should not be ignored. It is our time together that creates the bonds of love we share. Recreating new experiences and new feelings is a great gift available to the willing, the few, for you. Don't miss these chances for renewed relationship and redemption as God provides them. Be open to them. "Rejoice in them and be glad." Remember the promise that nothing can separate you from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39.)

What are some ways that **we can be** the heart and hands of the Savior? Being a "third ear" is **listening** to what is being implied, but not actually spoken by a suffering person. Perhaps it is too difficult to say the words. In order to be the presence of Christ, consider asking open-ended questions like "How can I help?" or "What's this like for you?" or "What worries you the most?" or "Is there anyone you especially want to see?" or "Is there any unfinished business you want to take of?" ¹

For a professional caregiver, these questions are even harder to address. As a non-family member their hands are often tied to the requirements of confidentiality and not overstepping family boundaries. Friends and clergy have a little more flexibility as they are welcomed into family relations.

Sometimes, **we humans** give our nearest and dearest, the worst of ourselves instead of the best. We may find ourselves giving our "company manners" to outsiders, instead of insiders. This is why we need God's **grace. Grace brings fun, humor and meaningful interaction** during stressful times. Grace makes us sufficient for the task.

Summer is a time of fun, outings, trips and family gatherings. Make the most of them by worshipping together, wherever you are. There is a special feeling that comes from God's people seeing you as a family unit and meeting your friends and relatives. Communing together at the altar is especially sacred, bringing the little ones to God's altar to be blessed, or if you want a special prayer yourself (just wave me down.) I so look forward to meeting your summer guests. If they are **not church goers, entice them** to come with the **historicity of our church**, give them a tour, explaining each precious feature. **Encourage them** with the flavor of small-town community that is so warmly apparent in our coffee and fellowship hour. **Pray** for them as they taste and see that God is good.

We need to raise up musicians. Do you know a young person who loves music, has long fingers, or is good at math (music is mathematical), perhaps has a hidden talent? Come and ask for an application for a **music scholarship**. It requires 90% willingness to practice, and only 10% talent. We also would like someone with a willingness to use their learning to inspire and lead our future church. God asks us to "sing new songs" (Psalm 33:3) that speak to new generations. Please contact the church if interested.

We will try having **Wednesday worship services at 6:30 outside** around a fire pit in the parsonage yard starting in June. So if you cannot attend church on Sunday, bring a lawn chair and join us in the parsonage yard for a casual honoring of the Sabbath Day (the third Commandment). We will enjoy God's Word and God's creation at the same time! And you will have a more flexible weekend schedule.

In His Service,
Pastor Jane

1. Care Notes "Coping When someone You Love is Dying" nu Kathryn s. Baldwin Abbey Press, St. Meinrd. IN 47577

June / July 2019

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|-----------|---|---|-----------|--|
| | | | | | | JUNE 1 |
| 2 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship | 3 1:00-3:00 pm NWMHC | 4 | 5 | 6 11:00 am Women of Hope Mtg. | 7 | 8 |
| 9 HOLY COMMUNION 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship | 10 1:00-3:00 pm NWMHC | 11 | 12 2 pm NWMHC 8 pm Executive Council Mtg. | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship | 17 1:00-3:00 pm NWMHC | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship | 24 1:00-3:00 pm NWMHC | 25 | 26 2:00-3:30 pm NWMHC | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship | JULY 1 1:00-3:00 pm NWMHC | 2 | 3 | 4 11:00 am Women of Hope Mtg. | 5 | 6 |
| 7 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship | 8 1:00-3:00 pm NWMHC | 9 | 10 2 pm NWMHC 8 pm Executive Council Mtg. | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 HOLY COMMUNION 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship | 15 1:00-3:00 pm NWMHC | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Winter/ Manecke Wedding |
| 21 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship | 22 1:00-3:00 pm NWMHC | 23 | 24 2:00-3:30 pm NWMHC | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship | 29 1:00-3:00 pm NWMHC | 30 | 31 | | | |

JUNE SERVING GROUPS

GROUP 4

Chairperson's : Sue Simonson / Matt & Desirae Rendahl

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| SERVERS: Dave & Nancy Andree | Sid & Diane Fjerstad | Chris Hagen/Bambi Ness |
| Marion Handy | Tom & Kim Kleinwachter | Brian & Melinda Larson |
| Darin & Cynthia Larson | Mark & Julie Malmanger | Jeremy & Kristi Mienert |
| Duane & Judy Olson | Nina Palubicki | Vera Pearson |
| Joel & Jackie Rendahl | Wes & Susie Roland | Margot Simonson |
| Mike & Lori Theis | Travis Thom | |

ALTAR GUILD: Marilyn Venem

COMMUNION SERVERS June 9: Wayne Olson / Cindy Larson / Sue Skunes / Gloria Osmonson

USHERS: Al Hanson / Wendel Hanson / Eric Murphy / Brad Norland / Dean Sistad / Dean Vikan

HEAD USHERS

ACOLYTES

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| June 2 | Rod Olson | Avery Sannes / Zach Theis |
| June 9 | Sid Fjerstad | Zoey Christen / Anthony Carlin |
| June 16 | Tom Kleinwachter | Aireal Gensburger / Alex Hagen |
| June 23 | Terry Halvorson | Tegan Larson / McKayla Hove |
| June 30 | David Skunes | Ryan & Brecken Levin |

JULY SERVING GROUPS

GROUP 5

Chairperson's: Norma Quam / Scott & Amy Riveland / Eileen Solsten

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| SERVERS: Barb Carlin | Scott & Willow Christen | Kyle & Brittany Djernes |
| 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 | Travis & Emily Quam | Jake & Brittini 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: Michelle Solsten / Angie Rudie / Nancy Andree / Greg Mireault

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| USHERS: Scott Christen | Richard Evje | Craig Larson | Matthew Rendahl |
| Neil Riveland | Patrick Sekely | Tom Steinbrenner | Lowell Veum |

HEAD USHERS

ACOLYTES

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| July 7 | Rod Olson | Noah Mahlen / Brandon Larson |
| July 14 | Sid Fjerstad | Aaron & Cullen Norland |
| July 21 | Tom Kleinwachter | Amaya Murphy / Kyla Pederson |
| July 28 | Terry Halvorson | Avery Sannes / Tucker Quam |

Family / Youth / Education

happy birthday

June Birthdays

Elizabeth Barrineau
Jaekub Larson
Tegan Larson

July Birthdays

Alex Hagen
McKayla Hove
Benjamin Steinbrenner

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.



OPEN THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS!
COME CHECK US OUT!
7TH-12TH GRADE
3:00PM – 9:00PM
<GAMES, MOVIES, FOOD>
ACROSS HWY 2 FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

Do you know what stewardship is? Stewardship is using yourself and everything God has given you to honor Him and help others to know about Him. God uses stewards of all ages, from very young to very old. He uses stewards who are strong and healthy and those who can't even go out of their houses. Some stewards everybody knows about, and some stewards are so quiet about their work for the Lord that only He knows about them.

You don't decide to be a steward any more than you decide to be a Christian. God does the deciding! He decided that He wanted you to belong to Him, so He sent Jesus to die on the cross for your sins. Your sins had separated you from God, but Jesus took the punishment for your sins. Now you belong to Him!

Because God chose you to be His child, He also chose you to be His steward. He has given you gifts – things you can do – that you can

use to help others know Him. You may not know right now what your gift or gifts are, but, as you learn more and more about Jesus through His Word and as you listen to what other Christians tell you about yourself, you will discover what God's plan for your life is.

The Bible tells us about many of God's special stewards. The lives of these Bible characters are very fascinating. Besides that, we can learn lessons for our own lives from reading about them. God bless you as you read and learn about what God has in store for your life.

Think about it:

1. Read 1 Samuel 1:21-28. Who was this steward and when did he begin serving the Lord?
2. Exodus tells us about God's steward, Moses. You may want someone to help you "skim" through this long book to learn about him.

Stewardship is living out our commitment to Christ.



Look at Exodus 4:1 and 10. Was Moses eager to be God's steward? What did God say to him?

Look at Deuteronomy 34:7. How long was Moses God's steward?

Let's pray: Dear Lord, help me not to make up excuses for not doing what You want me to do. Remind me that You not only make me Your steward, but You help me to do the work of stewardship. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

In Loving Memory

MAY MEMORIALS

Gifts were given to the Broadcast Fund in memory of: Lucy Brtek, Kiki Caskey, Darren Evje, Violet Ferden, Dale Jackson, Harvey Jorgenson, Beverley Lindberg, and Helen London.

Gifts were given to the Cemetery Fund in memory of Joseph, Russell, John & Aurora Eastlund, Darren Evje and Lee Gregerson.

A gift was given to the Music Fund in memory of Beverley Lindberg.

A gift was given to the Sound System Fund in memory of Beverley Lindberg.

Brandsvold Cemetery Records

The entire Brandsvold records book has been scanned and transcribed/translated, and is available through Minnesota Reflections web site (in connection with the Minnesota Digital Library)! The link is: <http://cdm16022.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/collection/p16022coll61>
Spread the word!

Broadcast/Telecast Ministry

Our worship service is broadcast on KKCQ FM and telecast on local channel 7 and Garden Valley channel 31 every Sunday at 9:30 am.

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.

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.

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.

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.



Is there room in your
family for one more?

Foster a child.

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

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

Addicted to Money and Stuff

An addiction to money and what money can buy is one of the more subtle addictions. Alcohol and drug addictions are very visible, whereas our love of money is less obvious to others and even ourselves. An addiction to money may be subtle, but it is spiritually deadly. Because it affects so many people, it is likely the most widespread addiction in America. The amount of money we possess does not determine our love toward money. We can have very little money but love it immensely. Conversely, we can have a lot of money, but not be devoted to it.



Philip Slater in his book *Money is America's Most Powerful Drug* shares four signs of wealth addiction.

“A Closing Hand” – the feeling that we must hold on to whatever we can, to stockpile it, for fear that we will run out of what we need.

“Confusion about Goals” – when money becomes an end, our master instead of our servant.

“Increasing Possession, Decreasing Use” – when we own much more than we need, we have the added responsibility to take care of all the extra and unused possessions.

“Tension and Search Behavior” – the restless, driven quality that marks our lives when we devote ourselves to money.



As God’s people, we are as susceptible to wealth addiction as anyone else. We, too, live in the world and are bombarded by our society’s focus on material pleasures. We are told that to be happy we must live in lavish homes, drive fancy cars, and have large retirement plans. However, God’s Word warns us about storing up treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19). Rather than trying to amass more money and things and allowing money to become overly important, we are to have a right attitude toward our possessions. With God’s help, we can understand that our money is a gift from God that has been entrusted to us to manage. God is the owner; we are the managers. Money and things become addictive when we allow them to control us. When we take control of our money, we can start seeing money as a tool that can be used to help others and further God’s kingdom.

Jesus tells us, **“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money”** (Matthew 6:24). We can have only one master.

One of the biggest if not the biggest challenge to a relationship with Jesus is the love of money.

However, through the work of the Holy Spirit, we can fix our eyes on Jesus rather than our money and things. May God help us understand that our love of money will **“plunge [us] into ruin and destruction... and pierce [us] with many pangs”** (1 Timothy 6:9-10).



On the Lighter Side

A pastor walks into a Sunday school class of young teenagers and asks the question, “Who knocked down the wall of Jericho?”

Two boys were discussing this question with each other, when one of the boys said, “I don’t know who did it, but it wasn’t me.”

After the boys and girls left the room, the teacher told the pastor that Jake and Ryan are good boys, and I know they didn’t do it.”



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

June/July BIBLE READINGS

KEY CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE

| | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1 2 Chronicles 29 | 14 Nehemiah 5 | 27 Esther 8 | 9 Psalm 19 | 22 Proverbs 1 |
| 2 Worship | 15 Nehemiah 6 | 28 Esther 9 | 10 Psalm 23 | 23 Proverbs 2 |
| 3 2 Chronicles 34 | 16 Worship | 29 Job 1 | 11 Psalm 37 | 24 Proverbs 3 |
| 4 2 Chronicles 35 | 17 Nehemiah 8 | 30 Worship | 12 Psalm 90 | 25 Proverbs 4 |
| 5 Ezra 1 | 18 Nehemiah 9 | JULY | 13 Psalm 100 | 26 Proverbs 5 |
| 6 Ezra 3 | 19 Esther 1 | 1 Job 2 | 14 Worship | 27 Proverbs 6 |
| 7 Ezra 4 | 20 Esther 2 | 2 Job 38 | 15 Psalm 103 | 28 Worship |
| 8 Ezra 5 | 21 Esther 3 | 3 Job 39 | 16 Psalm 104 | 29 Proverbs 7 |
| 9 Worship | 22 Esther 4 | 4 Job 40 | 17 Psalm 105 | 30 Proverbs 8 |
| 10 Ezra 6 | 23 Worship | 5 Job 41 | 18 Psalm 106 | 31 Proverbs 9 |
| 11 Nehemiah 1 | 24 Esther 5 | 6 Job 42 | 19 Psalm 107 | |
| 12 Nehemiah 2 | 25 Esther 6 | 7 Worship | 20 Psalm 145 | |
| 13 Nehemiah 4 | 26 Esther 7 | 8 Psalm 1 | 21 Worship | |