



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

MARCH 2020

Re: The Value of Friendship

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Have you ever thought about the value of friendship? I have, and I don't know where I'd be today without friends and family. During his life on earth, Jesus was criticized for befriending unworthy publicans and sinners, people like us (Matthew 11:19 and Luke 7:34.) You see Jesus is our very **best friend, forever (BFF)**

Jesus was **confident** enough to not worry what others thought of him because of his choice of friends and He remained their friend, even if it hurt his reputation. Jesus was strong enough to not be negatively influenced by friends who would be considered "bad company", in fact he influenced them in a positive way and renewed them. He was their **best friend, forever (BFF.)**

In Luke 12:4 Jesus advised his friends to **not be afraid** of those that have the power to kill. When His enemies were allowed them to kill Him with words and weapons, both His body and his feelings were hurt. Jesus point was that once they had killed his body, they could do Him and us, no more harm, consequently we should not fear physical death. But we do fear it, because we are human, and this is the only existence we know. We are not as confident as He was. We confess that "we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come" in the Creed. It is our Hope, something yet, not in evidence. A promise from Jesus himself, our **best friend, forever (BFF.)**

In John 15: 13-15 **Jesus foreshadows** the death he will die, saying "*greater love hath no one than this, that a person lay down life for a friend*" then He goes on to say "you are my friends if you do what I command." **Furthermore, Jesus says** "*I call you not servants for the servant does not know what the master is doing.* He explains, "*I call you friends because I have told you what God is up to*" (my paraphrase.) He is our **best friend, forever (BFF)** but what is he doing?

What is God up to? He is redeeming us.

Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten season. Ashes are the symbol of what God is doing. Bringing new life and growth out of ashes and dust, which is what we are made of. It is our **time to turn** from something that may be sinful or pleasurable, and honor God's redemptive purpose by practicing some form of self-denial. Catholics are known for giving up meat, or sugar, or salt. We Lutherans are not as open about what we may sacrifice for Lent, if anything. And yet it is a time to turn away from anything that might replace Him in our hearts.

If we do give something up for Lent, it is a **private act of self-discipline** that we do to honor our very best friend, forever. The promise is that whatever we do to honor Him, no matter how small, will be honored in heaven, because he is our **best friend, forever (BFF.)**

Blessings to you during this holiest of times,
Pastor Jane

March 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:30am Worship 10:30am PreK- 12 Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour	2	3 Ignite Youth Center 3:00pm- 7:00pm	4 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Lunch 3:15pm Kids Time! 5:30pm Supper 6:30pm Worship 7:15pm Choir Practice	5 7:40am FCA Breakfast 11:00am Women of Hope Mtg. Ignite Youth Center 3:00-7:00pm	6 8:30am Friday School Grades 1-8 9:30am 9th Grade Confirmation	7 1:00pm Financial Peace
8 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS 9:30am Worship/ Communion 10:30am PreK- 12 Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour	9	10 Ignite Youth Center 3:00pm- 7:00pm	11 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Lunch 3:15pm Kids Time! 5:30pm Supper 6:30pm Worship 7:15pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Council	12 7:40am FCA Breakfast Ignite Youth Center 3:00-7:00pm	13 8:30am Friday School Grades 1-8 9:30am 9th Grade Confirmation	14 1:00pm Financial Peace
15 9:30am Worship 10:30am PreK- 12 Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour	16	17 Ignite Youth Center 3:00pm- 7:00pm	18 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Lunch 3:15pm Kids Time! 5:30pm Supper 6:30pm Worship 7:15pm Choir Practice	19 7:40am FCA Breakfast Ignite Youth Center 3:00-7:00pm	20 NO SCHOOL (Make-Up Day if Needed)	21
22 9:30am Worship 10:30am PreK- 12 Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour	23	24 Ignite Youth Center 3:00pm- 7:00pm	25 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Lunch 3:15pm Kids Time! 5:30pm Supper 6:30pm Worship 7:15pm Choir Practice	26 7:40am FCA Breakfast Ignite Youth Center 3:00-7:00pm	27 8:30am Friday School Grades 1-8 9:30am 9th Grade Confirmation	28
29 9:30am Worship 10:30am PreK- 12 Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour	30	31 Ignite Youth Center 3:00pm- 7:00pm				

MARCH SERVANTS

GROUP 6

Mary Steinbrenner and Mary Tronerud

Servers: Nola Abele	Pat Bitker	Dan & Carrie Carlin
John & Cathy Carlin	Tim & Rhonda Carlin	Carrie Danielson
Ellsworth & Carol Danielson	Steven Fjerstad	Matt & Naomi Hagen
Ryan Hanlon	Kevin & Mary Hanson	Ron & Melissa Kennedy
Phyllis Larson	Nathan & Rochelle Mahlen	Tim & Michelle Manecke
Darlene Maruska	Laurie McKnight	Bryan & Katelyn Mesich
Shayne & Brandi Munter	Rod Olson/Wanda Marshall	Carey & Teresa Sannes
Richard Sistad	David & Susan Skunes	Mike & Michelle Solsten
Lowell & Mavis Veum	Les & Patty Viken	

ALTAR GUILD: Keri Mireault and Marilyn Venem

USHERS: Ellsworth Danielson Evan Fonder Michael Gensburger Brian Larson
Mark Malmanger Jake Radtke Lee Rudie

HEAD USHERS / ACOLYTES:

March 1	Tom Kleinwachter	Brandon Larson / Piper Larson
March 8	Terry Halvorson	Brecken Levin / Brynlea Mahlen
March 15	Rod Olson	Aaron & Cullen Norland
March 22	Sid Fjerstad	Kyla Pederson / Karly Peterson
March 29	Tom Kleinwachter	Tucker & Kyra Quam

LENTEN SCHEDULE

A Lenten Drama Series:

"This is Most Certainly True"

Wednesdays, 11:00am & 6:30pm:

March 4:	Monologue One "The Ten Commandments"
March 11:	Monologue Two "The Apostles Creed"
March 18:	Monologue Three "The Lord's Prayer"
March 25:	Monologue Four "Holy Baptism"
April 1:	Monologue Five "The Office of the Keys"

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 5, 9:30am

Maundy Thursday, April 9, 11:00am & 6:30pm

Monologue Six
"The Sacrament of the Altar"
(Fifth graders will receive First Communion and serve at the altar at the 6:30pm service.)

Good Friday, April 10, 11:00am & 6:30pm

Easter Sunday Worship April 12, 9:30am

Youth News



HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY TO:

Tony Carlin	Brayden Halland	David Larson
Jacob Malmanger	Josh Manecke	Alexis Striker
Danica Striker	Zach Theis	Tia Wickham

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.

2020 Lenten Soup & Sandwich Suppers



The Hope Youth (grades 7-12) will be serving soup & sandwiches on Wednesdays before the Lenten services, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 26, 2020. Members from the Family, Youth and Education committee will be the supervisors of each group assigned during the Lenten season. Please remember that the soup you bring is at least 4 quarts or more. Each supervisor for the evening will be responsible in contacting each youth family in helping with preparation and clean up and what kind of soup or chili you are planning on bringing. On the back side of this sheet is a listing showing which night you are scheduled to work and in bold letters is the date and the name of the committee family who will be supervising the event.

The family supervising will make sure that all fixings for the sandwiches, beverages and crackers will be at the church. Please be at the church by 5:15 pm with your soup ready to be served and a happy smile. This is a fun fellowship with our Hope church members. Serving will start at 5:30 pm and continues until 6:30 pm. Then clean-up will start and when this is done, you can join the service at that time. This is a free will offering and the proceeds will go to the youth group to help plan events throughout the year. Lenten services start at 6:30 pm.

If you cannot serve on your scheduled night, please find your own replacement and then let your supervisor know of the switch.

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.

Ignite YOUTH CENTER

Open to Youth in Grades 7-12
Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:00-7:00pm



KIDS TIME!

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

Wednesdays, 3:15-4:30 pm

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.

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.

**FEBRUARY MEMORIALS**

Gifts were given to the Audio/Visual Fund in memory of Jerry Berg, Janice Johnson, Roger Johnson, Arnie Lomen, Dennis Rossell, Russell Sander, and Jan Voxland.

Gifts were given to the Broadcast Fund in memory of Jerry Berg, Jan Hove Johnson, Roger Johnson, and Jan Voxland.

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

Graduate Spring/Easter Care Packages



Thanks to a Thrivent Action Team seed money, we will be sending out care packages for the graduates this spring again!

What an encouragement these packages were to the graduate recipients last year! They loved the surprise box in the mail!

So we're doing it again for this past year's graduates! This is a project from you...the entire congregation!

Please consider donating either items to be included in the box or money that we can use to purchase items!

In God's Hands, No Gift Is Insignificant

In the Gospel of John, we read that Jesus and His disciples were in the midst of a very large crowd of people. It was late in the day, and the people were getting hungry. Obviously, in Jesus' time, there was no fast-food franchise on every street corner that we have today, so we can understand how the disciples saw the situation as hopeless. With their limited resources, they were not going to be able to feed so many people. The only disciple who seemed to see a little glimmer of hope was Andrew. He found a little boy with two fish and five crackers. Andrew said to Jesus, *"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?"* (John 6:9). Of course, Andrew knew that the food that the boy had would not be enough to feed five thousand men and very likely thousands more counting women and children. However, Andrew had seen Jesus perform miracles so he must have had an idea that nothing was impossible with Jesus. It seems that Andrew may have hoped that Jesus could use the small amount of food and do something with it.

After Jesus gave thanks, He had His disciples distribute the fish and bread until all the people were filled. After everyone had finished eating, the disciples gathered up 12 baskets of leftovers. What a wonderful and amazing story! To think that Jesus used the small gift of food from the boy, and, with His power, accomplished so much with it. It tells us that no gift is insignificant in His hands.

At another time, Jesus showed again that there was no gift that was insignificant. *"Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and He saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And He said, 'Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, and she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on'"* (Luke 21:1-4). From our human perspective, we would perceive that the larger gifts were most important. However, Jesus saw that the poor widow gave all that she had out of love in her heart. To Him, her gift was much greater than the gifts from the rich people who just gave a token amount from their abundance. God is more interested in the heart of the giver than the size of the gift. The true measure of the gift is the motive for the gift. God uses small and insignificant gifts and multiplies them to accomplish many wonderful things.

God could have fed the five thousand without the boy's fish and bread, and He can accomplish His purposes without our gifts, but He wants to work through you and me to do His work.

Enjoy the convenience of electronic giving!

Electronic giving offers convenience for individuals and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

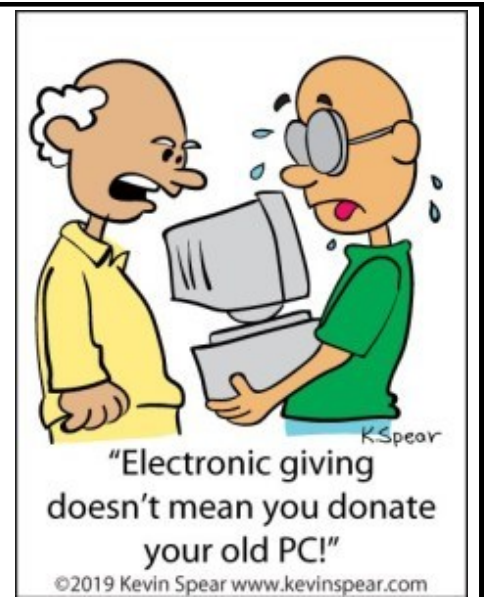
As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving.

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





From Our Library Corner

A very sincere THANK YOU to the family and friends of Eileen Roux.

The Hope library has received a book, *Lift Up Thine Eyes*, donated by Milo Roux in loving memory of his wife, Eileen Roux, given by First National Bank of Fosston, Fosston Family Dental, Rosemary's Garden, Overmoe & Nelson, Ltd., Sollie Realty, Nord's Pharmacy & Gifts, and Carlin Family Funeral Service.

It contains beautiful prints of sacred paintings of the 18th and 19th century by famous artists, as well as sacred poetry, depicting Biblical stories. Indices list The Events in the Life of Jesus, Statistics and Oddities of the Bible, Teachings and Discourses of Christ, A Calendar for Daily Reading of Scripture, a Bible Readers Aid for Strength and Guidance in Time of Need, a list detailing the Harmony of the Gospels, Biblical Weights, Money, and Measures, The History of the Bible in English, as well as lists of biblical animals, insects, trees, shrubs, plants grains, herbs and musical instruments. All in all this publication is worthy of our time and interest.



FROM THE BALCONY...

Ryan Hanlon is up in our balcony faithfully attending to our sound and audio-visual ministry every Sunday, every Lenten service, Christmas service, every funeral, and every wedding, without fail, come snow, sleet, or threat of any kind.

Now with our recent upgrades that are similar to those our students learn to use at the school, we hope our students will step up to give him some well-deserved relief.

If anyone else would like to be trained to assist with this, we would welcome your skills, or willingness to learn a skill.

Please call the church office (435-6765) or Ryan directly to set up a training time.

THANK YOU to all who have said "yes"!!

LIST OF TRAINEES from 9th grade confirmation class & senior high youth

Tony Carlin	Alex Hagen	Brekken Levin	Faith Quam
Tucker Quam	Kyla Pederson	Lauren Sekely	Back-up- Steve Ekholm



Set your clocks ahead one hour
Saturday, March 7, when you go to bed!

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.

March

BIBLE READINGS

KEY CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE

1 Sunday Worship	9 1 John 4	17 Revelation 2	25 Lenten Worship
2 2 Peter 2	10 1 John 5	18 Lenten Worship	26 Revelation 21
3 2 Peter 3	11 Lenten Worship	19 Revelation 3	27 Revelation 22
4 Lenten Worship	12 2 John	20 Revelation 4	28 Genesis 1
5 1 John 1	13 3 John	21 Revelation 5	29 Sunday Worship
6 1 John 2	14 Jude	22 Sunday Worship	30 Genesis 3
7 1 John 3	15 Sunday Worship	23 Revelation 19	31 Genesis 4
8 Sunday Worship	16 Revelation 1	24 Revelation 20	