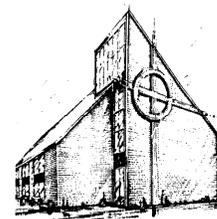


The Hopeful

Hope Lutheran Church
Long Grove, Illinois

Pastor Michael McPherson



February 2012

From Pastor McPherson

I am currently reading a very thought-provoking book. The title is Generous Justice and the author is Pastor Tim Keller. As we near the Lenten Season (Ash Wednesday is February 22), I strongly recommend this book to all of you! It challenges us to be "just" people and to act justly toward others. The book reminds us in no uncertain terms that God has always been especially compassionate and merciful where the poor and vulnerable are concerned. Therefore, we His

people are called to such compassionate care and advocacy. I'll let the book speak for itself. It is a clear reflection of the message of God's Word. So as we approach the Lenten Season, which bids us to meditate quietly upon who we are and whose we are, may God's Spirit speak to us in many and various ways. Perhaps Generous Justice will be one of those ways.

In His Love,
Pastor



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Thank you to all of those who sent cards and remembered me in their prayers regarding my recent eye surgery.

Bill Ausbrook

To contact the church office: hopelutheran-elca@comcast.net or go to the Website (www.hopelutheran-elca.org) for links to the church office and Pastor McPherson. (Or call [847] 634-2070.)

To send an announcement church-wide via e-mail and/or to have your e-mail address added to receive announcements: hope-luthnews@sbcglobal.net

To send a prayer request and/or have your e-mail address added to receive prayer requests: pmater@aol.com

To submit an article for the newsletter: c.chrysler@comcast.net



W.E.L.C.A. Circles



Hannah Circle

Date: Tuesday, February 21

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Sherry Hoesly's home

Please join our Bible study typically held on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Meetings are held in different members' homes. All women of Hope are invited to attend. Questions: Call Debby Duffy at 934-1244.

February Member Anniversaries



<i>Member</i>	<i>Yrs.</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Yrs.</i>
Pat Avery	18	Tom & Laurie Lowry	23
Dean & Kristi Bloom	1	Janet North	1
Gene & Sandra Dobies	7	Dwight & Pat Mater & family	23
Tom & Mary Geocaris & family	23	Mark & Diane Wagner & family	12
Dan & Julie Harrington & family	11	Juanita Wundsam & family	23

Eat, Pray, Chat



Lent is upon us. Ash Wednesday is February 22. We plan to have our traditional Wednesday evening pot luck suppers starting at 6:30 followed by worship at 7:30. Please bring a dish to pass. This is a great time to relax, visit with old friends, or meet someone new while we sample each other's special dish!

Sign up sheets are in the narthex. You don't have to sign up to attend any Lenten Supper, but it would be helpful in trying to balance the meal.



Fundraising

GIFT CARD PROGRAM



This month's big push is for VALENTINE'S DAY. How about a Mario Tricoci certificate for your Valentine? Or maybe Fannie May? Or maybe a \$10 Subway or Steak & Shake for those college kids? Again, lots of possibilities in addition to our everyday gas & groceries.

We have just completed two years of the Gift Card program. Since we started the program in February of 2010, we have been able to buy **150!!!!** gift cards at \$25 for Pastor to give to those who come to Hope seeking help. That is **amazing**, and we thank you for your support!

You may go to www.mannagroup.net – then you click on **Vendor List** from the menu on the left. Browse through and decide what gift cards you'll be able to use that month. There are also hard copies of the Vendor List on the info table at church. You may call either of us or Andie and tell us what you want, or you may just write the cards you want on a note and leave it in the box on the info table – **you do NOT have to use the computer**, so don't let that deter you from ordering. **Be sure to include a check made out to HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH with Gift Cards marked in the memo line.**

Orders and checks are due by the **1st Sunday of each month** and the cards will be in the church office by Tuesday. February orders are due on **Sunday, February 5th**. Questions? Give us a call – we will be happy to answer them.

Jan Sirabian – 847-537-7926 - jsirabian@leonettiassoc.com

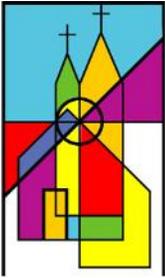
Gina Vera – 847-439-0561 - veragram@netzero.net



Want to experience a little bit of heaven on earth?

Come to the 8:30 service on February 19 and enjoy the music of Karen Peterson on the harp. Karen is the daughter of Janice and Bill Peterson. She works at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, New Jersey, near New York City. Karen plays therapeutic harp music at the bedside for patients in all areas of the hospital, including ICU, CCU, oncology, pulmonary, cardiac, renal/transplant, and hospice. The music helps to reduce blood pressure, calm anxiety, lessen pain, decrease stress, and aid sleep.

Karen will be playing harp music before, during and after the service – let her calm your anxiety and decrease your stress.



**Stephen
Ministry**

**Hope's
Stephen
Ministers**

**Elaine Steele
Don Eggert
Doug Fritsch
Nancy Vaughn**



Stephen Ministry

The following are excerpts from the book, **MOMENTS OF PEACE from the PSALMS... Reflections on God's Gifts of Encouragement, Love, and Power.**

Day and Night Psalm 42: 8, 11

"By day the LORD directs his love, at night his song is with me— a prayer to the God of my life. Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God."

You can't predict when you'll need to be comforted ... and neither can your loved ones. You want to talk, but they're unavailable. Where can you turn? Day or night, you can always talk to God. Although your confidants may get tired or lack the ability to console you, God never will. No matter your situation, you can always pray. God wants to be a constant, loving presence in your life ... so call upon Him frequently.

PRAYER: God, you know the troubles in my soul. Speak peace to me, my God, and help me always turn to you in my time of need. AMEN

His Way Is The Highway Psalm 43: 3-4

"Send me your light and your faithful care, let them bring me to

your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell. Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God."

It's not about coming up with ways to serve God . . . what pleases Him is that you obey Him. He doesn't want a relationship with you based on regulations ... rather, he expects its foundation to be love. God would rather have a healthy, authentic relationship with you than watch you observe some sacred ritual. His way is higher than mere religion, so follow Him. He'll teach you to really love Him."

PRAYER: God, I praise You for valuing relationships over regulations and love over rituals. Teach me to love You more every day, my wonderful Lord. AMEN

Please lift up our Stephen Ministry in your prayers. If you have any questions about Stephen Ministry caregiving, please feel free to contact me by leaving a note in the Stephen Ministry mail slot in the church office or by calling [815-893-0431](tel:815-893-0431) or emailing eburcham@comcast.net

Dance with the Spirit!
Elaine Burcham, Stephan Leader/
Stephen Minister



Hope's 2010-2011 Youth Calendar

Mark your calendars or put on the frig!

Feb. 15, 6:30-8 pm

New Horizons High School Youth Group

Feb. 24-26

Lake Geneva Winter Retreat

March 16

Feed My Starving Children
service project & pizza dinner

April 13

Confirmation Stole Making and Lock-In

April-May

Flower sale fundraiser

Apr. 18, 6:30-8 pm

New Horizons High School Youth Group

News Alert!!! No sleeping done at senior high lock-in!!!

Hope's senior high youth group spent the night in the church on Jan. 6th. Although there wasn't much sleeping, there were several other crazy, yet Meaningful, activities. Highlighting the evening was a Bible study on James 1:19-21 and 2:18-20 led by chaperone Kylie Wundsam, one of our very own alumni! Discussion centered on reliance on faith and how we should show our faith. Fun, games, food and fellowship also filled the night. Thanks to Mrs. Duffy for plentiful snacks and an amazing breakfast. Kudos to Kylie Wundsam and Chuck Johnson for chaperoning the LONG evening. Participants included Justin Pankiewicz, Elyse Alexander, Kelly McGowan, Killian Kring, Kylie Johnson, Erica Tack, Sam Peplow, Jameson Kring, Alec Pankiewicz, Victoria Lee and Alexandra Meyer.



Annual Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast



Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., February 5

Please join your Hope family for a delicious
breakfast served by the Boy Scouts
in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday School News

Sunday School Offerings

Sunday School is off and running for the second semester. Offerings for this semester will be going to the ELCA Good Gifts program to help start Sunday School programs both domestically and internationally. The programs have specifically designed crafts, songs and lessons to assist teachers and volunteers relate to children of all ages. Our children will be helping other children learn all about the love of God.



Just a reminder - **High School Youth** don't forget to check out the Sunday morning discussions. It's a great way to get together and talk with your friends at Hope. Bring other friends as well - they are all welcome! And - there are snacks, too!

Adult Sunday Morning Bible Study Class

Pastor's Bible Study of the Book of Revelation continues each Sunday morning at 9:45am. Please check it out – all are welcome.



Vacation Bible School News



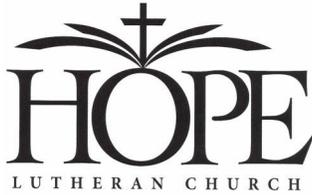
Planning ahead –the summer VBS is around the corner. Programs are being reviewed – dates are being considered. If you are looking for a week of excitement, surprises, children learning and praising our Lord – **have we got something for you!** Please consider joining our VBS team! More info to follow...



FEBRUARY

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
5 Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast 1:00 p.m. Korean Congregation 5:30 p.m. Bowling	6 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees	7 7:00 p.m. Praise Team	8 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group	9 7:00 p.m. Confirmation 7:30 p.m. AA Group	10 7:30 p.m. AA Group 7:30 p.m. Korean Congregation	11	
12 1:00 p.m. Korean Congregation	13 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Boy Scouts	14  6:00 p.m. Worship & Music Committee 7:00 p.m. Praise Team 8:00 p.m. Church Council	15 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group 6:30 p.m. New Horizons High School Youth	16 9:00 a.m. Book Nook 7:30 p.m. AA Group	17 7:30 p.m. AA Group 7:30 p.m. Korean Congregation	18 7:30 a.m. Men's Group	
19 1:00 p.m. Korean Congregation 5:30 p.m. Bowling	20 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Boy Scouts	21 7:00 p.m. Praise Team 7:30 p.m. Hannah Circle	22  6:30 p.m. Pot Luck Supper 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service	23 7:00 p.m. Confirmation 7:30 p.m. AA Group	24 7:30 p.m. AA Group 7:30 p.m. Korean Congregation Sr. High Retreat	25	
26 1:00 p.m. Korean Congregation	27 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:30 p.m. Youth Committee	28 7:00 p.m. Praise Team	29 6:30 p.m. Pot Luck Supper 7:30 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service	Sunday Worship Schedule 8:30 a.m. Traditional Service 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Sr. High Youth Group, Adult Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service			



**1660 Checker Rd.
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www.hopelutheran-elca.org**

The Hopeful" is now available each month on our website: www.hopelutheran-elca.org and also via email.

If you no longer wish to receive a paper copy of "The Hopeful," please notify the church office at the following email address: "office@hopelutheran-elca.org" It will then be emailed to you in pdf format each month.

By reading the newsletter online (or printing it out yourself) you will save both on paper and mailing costs! Don't wait! Please contact Andie today. Thank you!



*Declare God's love.
Do God's will.
Dance with the Spirit.*
