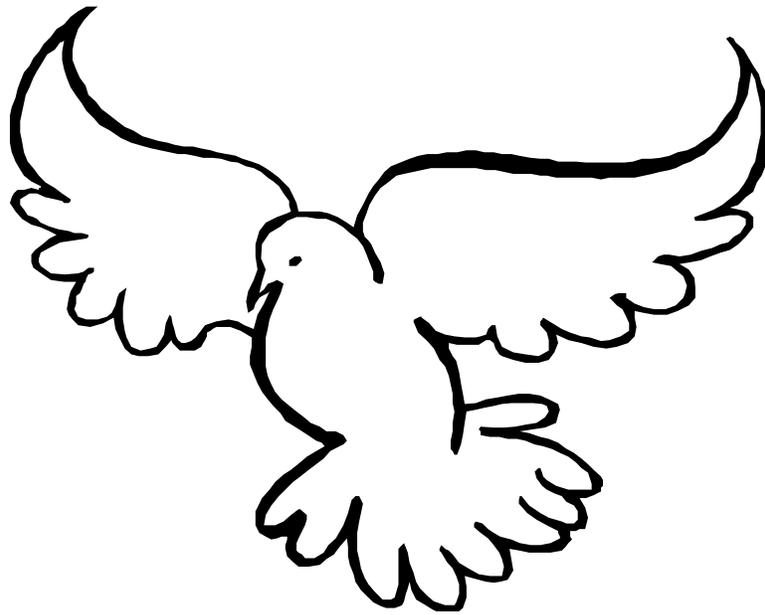


VOTERS' ASSEMBLY



MEETING
May 20, 2018

**VOTERS MEETING AGENDA
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
May 20, 2018**

Opening Prayer – Pastor Pfeffer

Roll Call – (*visual count*) need 10% for quorum

Approval of the Minutes – Liz Pfeffer
November 19, 2017

Membership Matters – Pastor Pfeffer

Consent Agenda of Ministry Reports

- Senior Pastor
- Associate Pastor
- President
- Past President
- Vice President
- Elders
- Deaconess
- Christian Growth and Discipleship
- Fellowship
- Health
- Missions & Outreach
- Music
- Stewardship and Human Care
- Trustees
- Youth
- Building Committee

Financial Report –Dodie Walker & Daniel Pfeffer

Old Business

New Business

- Presentation by Foundry Commercial

Adjournment and Closing Prayer – Pastor Shea

Voter's Meeting November 19, 2017

President, Tom Whitehurst opened the meeting. A visual count (10% needed for a quorum) was done. It was determined that the quorum was met. Pastor Pfeffer opened with a devotion and prayer. The minutes from the regularly scheduled Voter's meeting of May 2017 were presented. Julie Gates made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Sheila Goethe seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

President Tom Whitehurst asked for any questions or comments regarding the Ministry Reports presented in the packet. Nora Trivunovich made a motion for the reports to be accepted as presented. Jack Goetsch seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report – Dodie Walker presented the financial report. President Tom Whitehurst asked for any questions. Carl Bergner made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Ernie Reaume seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- **Blue Print for Ministry 2018** – The new budget was presented. President Tom Whitehurst asked for any questions. A motion was made by Brenda Bergner to accept the report as presented. Jack Goetsch seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- **Hope Building Committee** – Nick Trivunovich presented the committee's report and findings. Afterwards, there was discussion. James Drapp made a motion as follows: To enhance our missions, ministry and outreach in the community he moved that Hope Lutheran moves forward working with the District's recommendation to use Foundry to develop viable options to improve our campus using dedicated funds. Andy Anderson seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- **Office and Ministry Teams for 2018** – Julie Gates made a motion to accept the officers and teams as presented. Dodie Walker seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- Pastor Pfeffer reported on **District nominations** and the following motions pursued:
 - ✓ Julie Gates made a motion to nominate Greg Walton for District President. Nora Trivunovich seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
 - ✓ Mike McMinn made a motion for Hope to nominate Charles Reich for Regional Vice President. Tracy MacDonald seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - ✓ If anyone is interested in being a Lay Representative from the Region, please see Pastor Pfeffer.

With no other business, a motion was made by Ken Hartmann to adjourn the meeting. Julie Gates seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Pastor Shea closed prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz Pfeffer, *Secretary*

✠ I.N.I ✠
**REPORT OF THE SENIOR PASTOR
MAY 2018**

You know, as I sit down to write this report to you, I look back since our last meeting, and do so in awe at how God is truly blessing this congregation as we move forward in mission and ministry in this part of His vineyard known as Plant City, Florida. So often I find myself amazed when I should not be at what God is doing with us and among us. You see, I fall into the same trap many of you do, I don't always see God for how big and powerful He really is. I always need to be reminded that the God we serve is beyond anything we can ever imagine and that when we view ministry and mission on our terms we are bringing God down to what we think He should be. Instead, we should look at the mission and ministry He has given us in his eyes and through His eyes. So, with that said:

I am so excited to share that our Building Committee has been hard at work doing their homework working closely with *Foundry Commercial* in Orlando at the urging of our LCEF Vice President. When we left our first meeting in February with Foundry, there was truly a feeling of excitement as we move forward with Foundry in this process. But more than that, one theme resonated through every discussion...MISSION! You see our goal in all this is to *Join Jesus on His Mission* and be that place where we are engaged in the mission our Lord calls us to. Our community is growing. Just try to drive on Alexander Street or 92 and you experience the growth yourself! The question is how we respond to that growth. We have 2 options: One is to put our head and the sand and adopt the "build it and they will come" approach. I hope you agree this approach is just NOT acceptable! Two is a far better option that we see this growth as God using us to build His kingdom and **Connect People to Jesus!** To be active and involved in our community and in our communities to take those opportunities that God gives us to do 3 critical things: **INVITE! INVITE! and INVITE!** We simply cannot and should not settle when we talk with people we know and people we love who are not in a relationship with Jesus. Through our Baptism, we are called to be "fishers of men." Drop your poles in the water, the fish are hungry—in fact the fish are starving! The good news is that Jesus only asks us to do the fishing, Jesus does the cleaning of the fish! You know, I hear so many in our beloved Synod say how that want our LCMS to be our "grandfather's church." Well my sainted grandfather has been home with the Lord for 17 years now, so his church is the church triumphant. I want our church to be my grandchildren's church and your grandchildren's church. If we fail to take the torch of the Reformation out of this place and into the community, we will have failed to pass the Gospel to future generations. But mind you...in passing that torch it does NOT mean we compromise or change that which we believe, teach and confess as Lutheran Christians. We always have and always WILL preach Christ crucified! Let me share with you that Hope is recognized by our District as: 1) a solid congregation, 2) mission focused and centered, 3) spiritually generous with the gifts God has given us.

As we seek to reach out in mission and ministry, we stand at a new threshold for our Spanish ministry. This ministry for a number of years has been under the leadership of *Pastor Miguel Sanabria*. *Pastor Miguel* has led the worship at *Family of Christ, Tampa; Messiah, Tampa; St. Matthew's, Tampa;* and here at *Hope*. Well, at age 80, *Pastor Miguel* will retire in August. Well done, good and faithful servant! So where do we go from here? I have been a part of the leadership team for our *Tampa Bay Spanish Ministry* along with the pastors from the others host congregations. It was decided to extend Divine Calls to *Vicar Miguel Sanabria* and *Vicar John Cabos* who have been working and studying under *Pastor Miguel* to serve as "worker priests" in this ministry. (A worker priest is a pastor who serves part time, while maintaining a full-time job outside the church.) Through the placement process of our Synod, and the awesome leadership of *President Walton*, *Vicar Miguel* received a Call to serve *Faith, Hialeah* as a bi-lingual pastor. *Vicar John* will serve *Tampa Bay Hispanic Ministry*. However, his Call will have to be amended as it would be physically impossible for him to serve in

this ministry part time. Tentatively, we are looking at an early September Ordination date for *Vicar John at Messiah, Tampa*. Stay tuned for further information.

I can't tell you how critically important it is for us as a congregation to continue being present in our Plant City community. We simply cannot afford, as the people of God, to hide behind the walls of this place and not be seen and heard in our community. Remember, the church is people...the building is just the place we meet and call "the church." But the church is people and we are called to be the church at home, work, school, golf course, gym, etc. It takes all of us to be a part of Plant City to have a positive impact in our community. It is exciting that SO MANY of our members seek ways to be a part of this amazing community. By sharing these blessings with those in need, we are the face of Jesus to those whom we come in contact. Remember, we don't do what we do to be noticed or for praise...we do all things to glorify our God and Father! That and that alone is our motivation. To that, let me thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve in our community as a board member of our *United Food Bank*, in the *Daybreak Rotary Club*, as Chairman of our *Plant City YMCA*, as an Ambassador in our *Plant City Chamber of Commerce*, and to serve as *Circuit Visitor* for our *Winter Haven Circuit*. At our District Convention next month, I will formally be reelected to my 3rd and final term in this position. Thanks also to *Cindy Kemp* who represents Hope at the *Pregnancy Care Center of Plant City* on their board of directors. Thank you to the many ladies of Hope who volunteer at *South Florida Baptist Hospital*. Saints of God, the only way we will impact Plant City with the Gospel is if we are *in the world, and not of the world*...in other words **DON'T HIDE YOUR LIGHT UNDER A BUSHEL!** Remember, a city on a hill cannot be hidden.

Some of you may have heard or seen in the Observer that this summer we will host the *Lots of Hugs* summer reading camp on our campus. This program for disadvantaged elementary school children is run (almost single handedly) by *Sharon Moody* of the *Plant City Black Heritage Foundation*. I was privileged to deliver the Invocation at their February gala. This program begins the Monday after school closes for the summer. It is staffed by teachers (active and retired) and daily provides breakfast and lunch (prepared by *Sharon*) for the children and staff. Their day consists of reading skills, more reading and tutoring in other academic areas. There will be scheduled field trips, etc. (high school students can qualify for community service hours through this program. See Pastor Pfeffer.) As the program will be blessed by utilizing Hope's facilities, I pray that God will bless us as we reach out through this program to the African American community here in Plant City. These children and their families will be invited and encouraged to be a part of our Vacation Bible School in July. I pray God uses EACH OF US to touch these families with His Gospel while here at Hope.

Well, you knew at some point I was going to hit stewardship...and here it is. Realize this...EACH one of us is a steward—manager of the gifts that God has given to us. My question to you is simple...do you give God of your first fruits? Do you give God what is left over after paying bills, entertainment, etc.? Do you give God a weekly tip for "good service" as you would a server at Outback? The truth of the matter is we are to give God of our *first fruits*...just imagine with me if *every* giving member of this congregation gave 10% to support the mission and ministry of Hope...WOW would we ever be engaged and enabled to be about our Master's business. Our financial report today is somewhat comforting indeed. But that does NOT mean we should slack off on our giving to the Lord and His church. No, all the more as we increase our ministry to reach our community and **Connect them to Jesus!** As I have shared before, God has some tremendous work for us to do here...and He wants **ALL** of us to be part expanding that kingdom in this vineyard of Plant City. A few years ago, Hope took a major faith step and faith commitment as we prayerfully decided to tithe 10% of our monthly income to our Florida Georgia District (if we want our members to tithe, we should set the example). And since that time, we made that decision and took God at His Word to test him and see. Let me assure you...WE HAVE SEEN! We have seen God open the storehouse of blessing and let it rain down on us. Try it...put God to the test and see how He blesses you! You'll be surprised...but don't be, we have His promise that He will bless us. But, there is

more to stewardship than just the dollars and cents. Yes, there is *our* time and talents. Are you using your time and talents to further the kingdom? Many of our ministry teams need additional hands to accomplish the work God has given them. But not just our teams...we ALWAYS need greeters, ushers, readers, choir members, Stephen Ministers, and the like...again, it takes everyone working together to build the kingdom. It is sad to say that when we are in need of ushers or greeters or readers or altar guild *we should not have beg and plead* for willing servants...and then come up empty handed. Our hearts should move us to respond to the Gospel call and say, "*Here am I!*"

Just before Easter some of our members gave of their time to clean every crack in our pews and do some spring cleaning around our campus. You would be amazed at some of the "junk" that was uncovered. It really is amazing that we do not think twice about leaving our candy/gum wrappers, dirty tissues, etc. stuffed into the hymn racks or pews. Let me ask, what if Jesus came to your home and when He left, you found gum wrappers and dirty tissues tucked in the sofa for you to clean up? This is God's House and we are the caretakers of this house and His house should be a place of pride and joy for us to care for. We ask, please help us care for God's house...if you see trash, pick it up, don't bring coffee, etc. into the sanctuary that can stain the carpeting, and please, throw your trash away following service. These little steps can prove to be big ones when we all work together.

Let me commend to you our **AWESOME STAFF!** God has truly blessed this congregation with a staff that is truly the best! I know that I would be lost without the assistance and leadership of those whom God has assembled in this place---*Pastor Shea, Christine Mansell (serving here at Hope for almost 46 years!), Jessica Griffin (my right and left arms), Joyce Van Matre, Lyn Senkarik, and our extended staff of Ellen Whitehurst leading choir, Donna Koren who directs our bells, Barbara Ahlers for her Praise Team leadership, Tracy MacDonald who assists in our office, and Pastor Miguel who leads our Spanish worship.* What a blessing it is to come to Hope every day and serve side by side with these willing servants—we are **BLESSED!** Also, please allow me this opportunity to thank God for my family especially for *Liz*, who has been by my side not just as a wife but as my beloved partner in ministry—I would be lost were it not for her love and support! 35 years of marriage 24 of which have been in ministry. Of those 24 years, June, will mark 22 years of ministry for my family at Hope (and effective July 8 will be the longest serving pastor in Hope's 61 years). Believe me, there is no way a man can accomplish these tasks as Pastor without the love and support of his wife. God has blessed me in this ministry at Hope more than I deserve and way more than I can ever thank Him for all He has given and done for me. The opportunities placed before each of us are as endless as God's love and power to accomplish them. When and as we work side by side as one body in our Lord you will truly experience the same JOY in ministry that I have and do experience.

Our mutual ministry here at Hope reaches out and touches many families with the Gospel who otherwise might live in darkness. I urge you, in the Gospel, to let this place shine with the light of the Gospel. Let this place be a beacon of light in a sin darkened world. Let this be the place of refuge in our sin sick, strife torn world. Let this be the place where the residents of Plant City can continue to come to hear the Gospel proclaimed in truth and our Lord's sacraments administered in their purity. Let this church continue to be a mission church with each member a missionary about the task of sharing the Gospel as together we,

Rejoice in the Lord always!



REV. DEAN R. PFEFFER, *Senior Pastor*

✠ I.N.I ✠
**REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR
MAY 2018**

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." (Philippians 1:3-5)

Christ is Risen! He has Risen, Indeed! Alleluia! Truly, it warms my heart to declare these words, to continue celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord with you, my beloved family of Hope! As a family we partner together to share this Good News, to Connect People to Jesus! I am blessed to partner with our incredible staff (*Jessica, Christine, Joyce, and Lyn*) who never cease to amaze me with their work and their love for God and for Hope. Blessed to partner with *Elders* rooted in the Word and who keep us pastors rooted in the Word, not mention keep us on our toes. Blessed to partner with ministry teams striving and seeking to grow the kingdom of God with Jesus love. Most of all, I am blessed to partner with *Pastor Pfeffer*, loving, leading, and caring for Christ's flock at Hope. ☺

Last week during Confirmation Sunday, witnessing that special "4G service" (because all their last names start with letter "G"), as *Scarlett Gembala, Thomas Goethe, Bryan Greatens, and Keaira Griffin* confirmed the very faith planted in them through the water and word of Baptism...I couldn't help but be blown away. *Did you see their projects?! Incredible!* Did you listen to them share their faith as they shared with us their confirmation verse and what it means to them?! Even now I am still moved by it! Looking back to when they first started to where they are now, how much they have matured and grown in their faith, I find myself struggling to find the words to say how proud of them I am. In addition, looking back I can't help but look up to our Father in Heaven and thank Him from the bottom of my heart that He would bless *Pastor Pfeffer and I*. You see, God used us to be His hands to cultivate the very faith He planted in them at Baptism. To watch that faith blossom, to hear them share their hope within...brings such joy to my heart.

Now that they are confirmed this doesn't mean that the cultivating is over. Until Christ returns the cultivating continues and that includes the whole family of Hope. All together we cultivate our youth and we cultivate each other. *This is what it means to be connected in Christ.* To be family. It takes the whole family of God to raise up a child of God and this includes youth and adults. After all, we are all God's children! This is such good news...empowering news because, as the Hope Family we continue to help each other grow in the faith. Like the early church we *"devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to breaking of bread and prayer"* (Act 2:42). Like the early church we are always *preparing* each other *to share the Hope we have within* (1 Peter 3:15).

Brothers and sisters in Christ this summer is a great time to grow and cultivate one another by being rooting in God's Word, immersed in worship, in prayer and fellowship. Start your vacations in prayer, bring your bible, and attend worship services. Wake up and watch the sunrise and thank our God who created it. This summer let's water and nourish one another's faith for the sake of growing the kingdom. Together we are on a mission. Going again and again into the mission field as Jesus body with mouths ready to share the hope we have within. With eyes of faith that see what God is doing in the lives of people in our midst, with feet that walk right up to those God puts in our path. Reaching out as His hands to touch them, even embrace them in His unconditional love. *This is our mission.* This is how we **connect people to Jesus!**

Christ is Risen!

Pastor Shea

REV. SHEA R. PENNINGTON, Associate Pastor



GOD'S VISION FOR MINISTRY AT HOPE:

**TO REACH THE PEOPLE
OF OUR COMMUNITIES
WITH THE
LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST
AND THE INVITATION FOR
CELEBRATIVE WORSHIP,
SPIRITUAL GROWTH,
AND
SERVICE TO OTHERS IN HIS NAME.**

THE MISSION OF HOPE IS...



MEMBERSHIP CHANGES November, 2017—April, 2018

Additions:

*Tom & Bren Ellison
Lou Ann Erdakos
Matt & Robin Finney,
Jacob, Faith, Michael Bellman & Donald Finney
Greg & Amy Gall & Nate
Dan & Rebecca Hodne, Lauren, Kristen & Carolyn
Roger & Carole Huset (Associate)
Bette Lafferty*

Deletions:

*Barbara Wagner
(Transfer to Ft. Wayne, IN)
Marvin & Nancy Zellers (Associate)*

Church Triumphant:

Rose Thomas

Total Additions: 20
Total Deletions: 4
TOTAL +16

Current Statistics (as of April 30th):

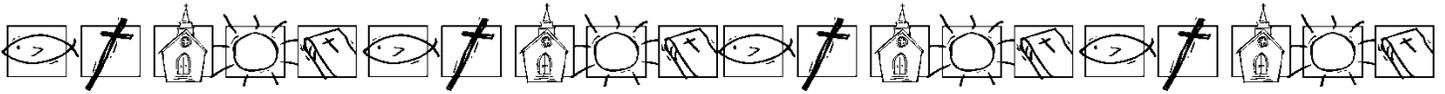
Baptized: 417

Communicant: 366

Associate: 19

Voters: 318





President’s Report

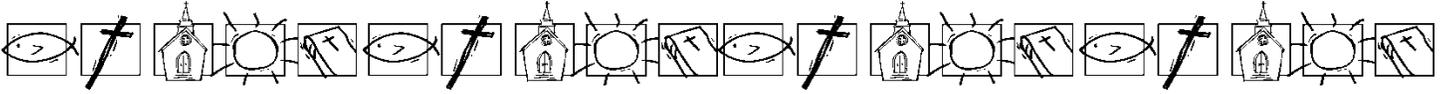
Greeting to my Hope family,

The first half of 2018 has been filled with many blessings. It’s already May. We are returning to our summer worship schedule, and we are returning to our summer heat and humidity. Our Board of Directors is made up of active members of the various ministry teams and they are actively working in many ways to benefit Hope and our members. Many of the Board members are also part of the Building Committee, and meetings with Foundry Commercial are progressing; more meetings are scheduled to move Hope forward as we are *Building Hope for the Future!*

Confirmation has just taken place, with four of our youth making their public professions of faith. I was blessed that one of them happened to be mine, but all four are, and will continue to be a blessing to Hope in the years to come.

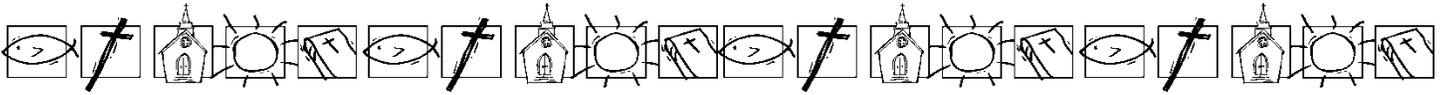
May the second half of 2018 continue to overflow with blessings for Hope and for each and every one of us.

Connecting People to Jesus,
Patrick Griffin



Vice President’s Report

(Not Submitted)



Past President’s Report

(Not Submitted)



Elders Ministry Team Report

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our church is a mission's church. Hope Lutheran Church began as a mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lakeland. You all know that our mission statement is "**Connecting People to Jesus.**" Could I be so bold as to ask if you have participated in that mission?

We have so many opportunities on and off our campus to fulfill our mission. Let me remind you of a few over the past 6 months: Strawberry Festival Booth, Easter Egg-Stravaganza, Feeding in the Park, Confirmation, and Easter Breakfast.

Equally as exciting are the opportunities that are in our future like Vacation Bible School. As a ministry team, we were able to give \$450.00 to help with VBS expenses as a result of our Easter Breakfast.

The Lord will put opportunities in front of us all, but we must bold enough to proclaim His great news and connect them to Him. In Matthew 28 we are commanded "*make disciples of ALL nations.*" This is not an option but a command of all who call Jesus "Lord."

Of course, not all opportunities to Connect People to Jesus happen on our campus or at one of our ministry events. You can Connect People to Jesus at the YMCA, on the golf course, in the grocery store, at work, at school, or wherever the opportunity presents itself.

I know you are thinking, "Oh, I am not a trained evangelist," and maybe in the formal sense you are not. The good news however, is that God has blessed you with many gifts that will help you fulfill the Great Commission.

In our elders meeting we are studying a book by Greg Finke titled "Joining Jesus: Show Me How." I would like to share with you something that seems to make it really simple for us to connect people to Jesus. Greg states Connecting people to Jesus takes place in relationship with our Lord and other people inside and outside of the church. In fact, connecting people to Jesus is all about relationships, growing deeper in our trust in the Lord and his Word by following him into a broken and abusive world desperate for his love. Form those relationships and connect them to Jesus.

Please remember you are not Connecting People to Jesus on your own. The Lord is always with you every step of the way. He will provide you the words and the avenues to fulfill His command. So be open to the many opportunities and let the Lord speak through you.

Connecting People to Jesus together,
Todd Warner



Deaconess Report

Stephen Ministry:

Special thanks to *Pastor Pfeffer* for leading Stephen Ministry during my Leave of Absence, and to all the ‘ministers’ who so graciously serve others.

Stephen Ministry has two main purposes: 1) to walk with people in the time of need or crisis, and 2) to lead people to a closer walk with the Lord—maybe their first walk with Him. Actually, every member of Hope is involved—some recommend, some pray, some support, and some listen. Every person we know is in crisis, reaching the end of a crisis, or about to enter a new time of crisis—it’s part of the human experience. Stephen Ministers are willing to walk with that person in that time of need—not one of us should be alone—it’s not necessary. A recent survey stated that 53% of our population have no one to talk to—no one to listen to their stories. How very sad...

A heart of compassion and love for our Lord are only ‘requirements’ to become a Stephen Minister. Training classes are held once a year; each participant receives 50 hours of training in communication, life skills, and Christian relationships. Prayerfully consider becoming part of this ministry.

Stephen Ministry also sponsors receptions following a memorial service or a funeral in the Fellowship Hall. Our team members setup, serve, and greet guests who may be attending our church for the first time.

This ministry seeks to serve our Lord with kindness and compassion for anyone who needs comforting and care—as He comforts and cares for us.

GriefShare:

It’s been our privilege to serve and meet each week those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Grieving is, indeed, hard work; it is a suffocating pain often beyond description. GriefShare avoids no subject—it addresses the “whys” and “hows” and “what ifs” that each person questions. The support really comes from the people attending the class—they encourage and uplift one another; what helps them—what isn’t helpful to them. Many people find that they are becoming a different person in the process of healing—the Lord is the One who is the Healer. We so are blessed with faithful, caring facilitators who guide each participant toward a new day—a day when their joy will return. GriefShare resumes in August 2018, with two classes available—one on Tuesday morning and another on Tuesday evenings. Our Lord comforts us and then desires for us to comfort others in their time of sorrow and loss, as we have received comfort. Our goal is to do His will. We ask for your continued prayers for all the ministries of Hope Lutheran Church as we reach into our community and display the love of Christ Jesus.

Just a note of true thanks to our dedicated facilitators: *Lorie Hayes, Sally Niver-Kimbrell, Keith Schmidt and Todd Warner*—what blessings, each and every one!!! Of course, we welcome you to join us—in His name.

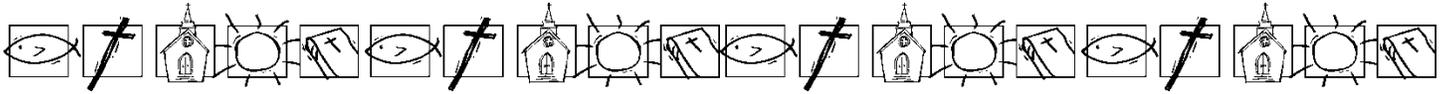
Surviving the Holidays:

“Surviving The Holidays” is a special evening presented each November before the holiday season begins; an evening to prepare people to “survive” the season without being crushed by all the memories, demands and preparation welcome!

Thursday Morning Bible Class:

An additional opportunity to seek to know our LORD in a more personal relationship—a place to comfortably ask questions, be in fellowship and be refreshed by His Word—class begins at 10:30 AM. Presently, we are studying “An Amazing Life”—9 Ways to Transform Your Life.

In The Master’s Service,
Lyn Senkarik, *Deaconess*



Christian Growth and Discipleship Ministry Team Report

The Christian Growth Ministry Team has been very busy working to “*Connect people to Jesus!*”

Our Advent Tea in December had over 115 ladies (many of them not members of Hope) who had a wonderful morning of fellowship while remembering the true reason we celebrate Christmas. Our Easter Egg-Stravaganza was a huge success, and the children had a great time finding the eggs! Thank you so much to the congregation for “laying” all those eggs!

We are now planning our annual VBS which gives YOU an opportunity to help us share the Good News of Jesus! This year’s theme is Babylon, and we are expecting a larger than normal number of children due to the summer reading program that will be going on here at church during that time. Therefore, we are looking for LOTS of volunteers, support, and prayers. This is our biggest outreach to the community. VBS is a great opportunity to get involved in “Connecting People to Jesus” either by being a volunteer, praying for us daily, or giving a monetary donation. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you can help.

We couldn’t do all the activities we do without our fabulous congregation. Please keep our team in your prayers as we work to find more ways to help all of us “*Connect people to Jesus!*”

God’s Blessings,
Nora Trivunovich



Fellowship Ministry Team Report

Fellowship Team Members: Carol Walkenhorst, Theresa Justice, Mary Decker, and Kristin Mercier

Events Hosted by Fellowship Team:

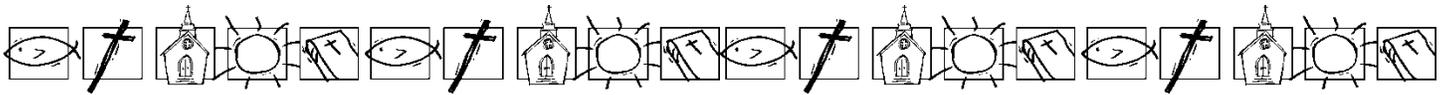
- Nov. 19, 2017—Voter’s Meeting Pot Bless
- Dec. 2, 2017—Prepared food for Advent Tea
- Dec. 31, 2017—Hosted New Year’s Brunch – Pot Bless
- Feb. 11, 2018—Hosted Wedding Vow Renewal Pot Bless
- April 22, 2018—Church Picnic – Pot Bless – served Brats, Hot Dogs and Hamburgers

Upcoming Events:

- September—Movie/game night
- November—Voter’s Meeting
- December—Advent Tea

The Fellowship Ministry Team is open to additional volunteers and suggestions. Please continue to support us with your prayers.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Walkenhorst



Health Ministry Team Report

Parish nursing is a way to use the knowledge of our nursing specialties combined with our faith and commitment to Jesus our Lord and Savior. Educating people about their illness, praying with them, and offering to walk with them as they make important decisions about their health care is a major part of parish nursing. Sometimes, it’s not a matter of what we say; it’s more about caring and commitment. Our highest commitment is to Jesus Christ, who leads us in assisting those in need, and to the patients He commits to our care. Many times, listening, reassurance, love, and support are the “tools of our trade” even more than blood pressures and band aids. It may have nothing to do with what we say, but more to do with commitment, caring and reassurance that putting medical outcomes in the hands of Jesus is the answer to our health fears and failings.

We are blessed to have a good supply of nurses in our congregation. I do not have a list, so would like all licensed nurses to contact me so that we can develop a plan to serve our congregation in more ways. To the members of Hope who are not familiar with parish nursing, this is a brief list of how we can serve our members:

- Offer comfort and prayer when an illness threatens. This can be by making a visit to the home or through phone calls, hospital visits, attend doctor appointments with those who request it in order to offer support and clarification of the medical care plan the doctor has recommended.
- Explain the purpose of a “living will” and provide a sample form. This is completed by the patient and family. A copy should be given to the pastor in case of emergency when no family is present or involved.
- Encourage healthy diet and weight be maintained. Physicians can prescribe a dietary consultation with a licensed dietician to assist in choosing healthy meal planning.
- Offer blood pressure screening to everyone at both services on the 2nd Sunday of every month in the room to the right of the sacristy.
- Durable medical equipment that has been “gently used” is loaned out to those in need. We currently have walkers, crutches, wheelchairs, shower chairs, bedside commodes, and canes. We welcome equipment that is in good condition! ** We do ask that you sign a waiver when borrowing items. There

is a weight limit on most of the items, so we do need you to tell us your weight before borrowing items.

- Our team joined in serving a Lenten dinner which was successful. The money given from proceeds will be put towards keeping the AED pads up to date and keeping all the first aid kits supplied as well.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joyce Van Matre, RN, Parish Nurse



Missions & Outreach Ministry Report

**Regarding our activities from November 2017 to present:

1. Our monthly dinners for Feeding the Hungry at the Winter Visitor Center are on the 4th Saturday. It has been decided by the Team and Pastor Pfeffer that our last feeding was April 28, 2018. He has contacted the representative in charge of the feedings that Hope will no longer be providing meals.
2. 60 Christmas boxes were filled with toys at our Dec. 2017 meeting, and then wrapped by attendees at the following Advent Service on Dec. 13th. The boxes were then delivered to children by the Plant City Food Bank. The Team also hosted and prepared the meal served at this Advent Service.
3. We hosted and prepared the Feb. 21st Lenten Dinner.
4. We applied Hope Church "labels" on 360 boxes of "Peeps" and these were then distributed to the congregation to hand out/invite others to our Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services.
5. A check for \$200 was issued to be used by the VBS for a Family Pizza Night this year.
6. An outreach idea for Burney School presented by Jerrie Edelman and funded through a Thrivent Action Grant from Cathie Warner came to fruition when the Team (and Todd) and both Pastors delivered a supply of board games, flash cards, dominoes, jump ropes, hula hoops, etc., to the teachers and Assistant Principal at their faculty meeting on April 10th.
7. Bags of Hope will once again be available to the congregation in May 2018.
8. We will continue discussing projects for the remainder of the year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Willa McMinn



Music Ministry Report

"He (or she) who sings, prays twice."

Since most hymns are based on scripture, it is blessing our spirit to engage in music, whether that would be singing, playing, or reading along, while music occurs.

November 2017 led us to Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas—in the music ministry of Hope—that is the beginning of a busy time. Bells, Choir, Praise Team, Instruments, and congregations came together for the celebration of the 500th year of Reformation, and music went full steam into 2018 with Ash Wednesday on February 14th; then Lent into Holy Week and the ultimate celebration in the Christian church—the public acknowledgement of the resurrection of Jesus Christ on April 1st.

All that we do at Hope, as Christians, should be directing people to Jesus. In music, it is often a passion, sometimes a struggle, to meet the spiritual needs of everyone at the same time. The ones that don't think there is a place in worship for "praise music" have had their own day of music insanity when they were young—whatever age, whatever genre—we all had our own generation of music that our "parents" or "churches" didn't quite approve.

Traditional hymns touch our heart because they are a "blast from the past." It was our grandparents favorite hymn, or parents, or our Confirmation hymn, or one from the children's Christmas Program that we had a part and it harkens back in our memory.

However, music, but especially the WORDS that we sing, needs to be the focal point and should minister to SOMEONE and not ALL, can minister to ALL, at the same time.

At Hope we are blessed with SO many talented people in all forms: preaching, teaching, Stephens ministry, administration, decorating, trustees care of our facility, musicians of all kinds, reaching out to our community in greater Plant City, feeding of the homeless, evangelism, human care, health, and social ministries. Then by God's design, we reach beyond our neighborhood to the Winter Haven Circuit and the Florida/Georgia District: missions reaching out-across the world.

We are not of ourselves but gifted for the service to God and others. Explore your blessings and gifts and move ahead to the future of HOPE in the coming years.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Mansell, *Director of Music*



Stewardship & Human Care Ministry Team Report

Human Care has had several opportunities to *Connect People to Jesus*.

We gathered 150 teddy bears at our annual Teddy Bear Sunday, February 18th. These bears will be used by Eckerd Kids to bring joy to foster care children.

Love Baskets were made in March. The congregation was so generous with donations. We made six baskets to share with our shut-ins. Every basket was well received.

Soon we will begin our Baby Bottle Collection. Baby bottles will be handed out on Mother's Day, May 13th. We ask that you fill the bottle with your change. Bottles will be returned on Father's Day, June 17th. This benefits The Pregnancy Care Center of Plant City.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandra Howell



Trustees Ministry Team Report

The Trustees want to thank everyone in the congregation who helps by working on items around the church campus. We can always use the extra hands! We continue to meet on the first Saturday of the month for work days (actually ½ days) on a variety of items. We do have a structured list of items done on a recurring basis, as well as some longer-range items. We continue to work on renovating the landscaping around the campus where items have reached the end of their life span. These activities have included tree and bush removal, never-ending weeding, mulching, and installation of retaining walls and borders. In addition, we have had general repairs on plumbing, electrical, and roofing.

We had a congregation work day in March and plan another one in the Fall prior to the holiday season. When you read this, we hope that installation of the church sign along Park Road will have been completed by Dixie Signs. The old sign was blown over during the hurricane in 2017. The majority of this cost was covered by insurance, but the electrical supply had to be upgraded to meet the current building code, and this was an additional expense.

The sign by the bell has been refurbished (thanks to *Tom Ellison*), and the bird house has been rebuilt in the back-parking lot (thanks to *Jim Kinkead* and *Joslin Kinkead*). The public garden areas in the rear of the campus have been cleaned, irrigation system upgraded, and there actually is some corn growing! The irrigation system runs every day early in the morning, and there are some beds available if anyone is interested. Work continues, as time allows, on clearing the overgrown vegetation on the north fence line.

If anyone has any concerns or sees an issue needing attention, please let us know.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wendell Lattz



Youth Ministry Team Report

In December, the Youth enjoyed several gatherings to celebrate the holidays. Such as the youth Christmas Party and New Year's Eve LOCK-In here at Hope. This kicked off our year of learning how to "Stick with our Faith" by literary sticking (duck taping) Pastor Shea to a wall. This was made possible by our generous congregation that helped our youth raise over \$3,000 through the Gift Card Tree Fundraiser.

In February, our High School Youth participated in the Florida-Georgia Youth Gathering located this year at Ponte Vedra Beach. The opportunity to meet youth and youth leaders from around the district was uplifting. Pastor Yonker was inspiring and bold in bringing home the theme from Joshua 1:9, “Be Strong and Courageous.” This also included an opportunity to help the Gathering Band—Bread of Stone—load equipment on the last day.

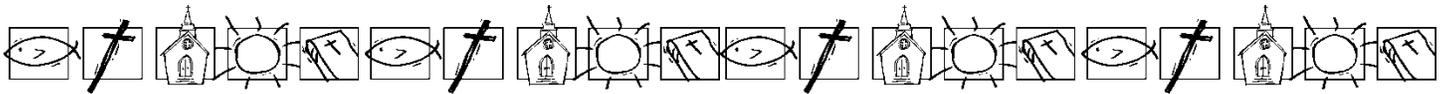
Before Holy Week, we attended the Newsboys concert held at Idlewild Baptist Church and we loved it. During Easter, our youth had the privilege of helping hide eggs during the Egg-Stravaganza. Then had fun with their own scavenger hunt.

April kicked off our new LIVE Wednesday night youth group. The first topic was “Who do you say I am?” The following Wednesday night service was led by our youth who shared their answer to that question and even asked that very question to our congregation. April 29th the Youth assisted with preparations for the Hope Confirmation Day. Congratulations to all the confirmands for their hard work.

The month of May our youth honor God’s gift of mothers and motherly love by preparing and providing Mother’s Day Pancake Brunch. In June, on Saturday the 2nd, we will be kicking off summer youth activities with “Summer Fun Under the Son” at St. Paul Lutheran in Lakeland.

Wednesday night Youth Group continues year-round to help our youth “stick with it” and LIVE their lives focused on Jesus, always being prepared to share the Hope they have within!

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynn Reagin



Building Committee Report

Since approval at the November Voters’ meeting, the Building Committee has been working with Foundry Commercial on coming up with a Master Plan for our campus. We met with them for a 3-hour meeting at their Orlando Offices in February and again in April for a 2-hour meeting here at Hope. They are working very hard to help us determine what we need, how that can be accomplished and what would work best for our congregation.

We were hoping to have Foundry give a presentation at our May meeting, but things will not be quite ready at that time. As soon as they have a comprehensive report for us we plan on sharing that with the congregation at a special meeting. Please remember that any process such as this takes time and should not be rushed. We have all heard stories of congregations not doing their due diligence and it coming back to haunt them. We do not want that to happen to us so please be patient with us during this process.

Our congregation is a wonderful blessing, and we ask for your continued prayers as we work to see where God is guiding us. One thing I would like to mention is that in both our extended meetings with Foundry the underlying message of our mission was “Connecting People to Jesus.” That says a lot about Hope, and for that I am profoundly thankful. May God continue to bless us!

Respectfully Submitted,
Nora Trivunovich, *Building Committee Chairman*

Hope Lutheran Church & School Profit & Loss Budget Performance

April 2018

	Apr 18	Budget	Jan - Apr 18	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
4065 · Hope Lutheran Mission	-309.02		-53.02		
4000 · Offerings	41,920.45	35,403.00	138,498.47	140,288.00	420,400.
4001 · Tampa Bay Point of Knowledge	150.00	150.00	600.00	600.00	1,800.
4003 · Weight Watchers Int'l	160.00	180.00	640.00	700.00	2,000.
4004 · Hispanic Ministry Offerings	0.00		0.00		
4050 · Miscellaneous Receipts	1,180.00		2,325.23		
4060 · Restricted Offerings	3,572.00	0.00	13,194.72	0.00	0.
4070 · FUNDRAISERS	70.00		-2,147.12		
4080 · TEMPORARY EXCHANGE ACCOUNT	0.00		0.00		
4090 · Bldg Hope	3,460.00		6,240.00		
Total Income	50,203.43	35,733.00	159,298.28	141,588.00	424,200.
Gross Profit	50,203.43	35,733.00	159,298.28	141,588.00	424,200.
Expense					
6010 · Advertising & Public Relations	432.00	350.00	1,083.00	1,400.00	3,200.
6015 · Alarm System Monitoring	0.00	0.00	101.94	100.00	400.
6020 · Automobile Expenses	250.13	300.00	3,430.52	1,400.00	4,000.
6065 · Conference and Convention	347.46	400.00	1,323.34	1,500.00	4,000.
6070 · Dues and Subscriptions	0.00	0.00	1,168.75	300.00	1,300.
6075 · Education/Training	0.00	40.00	610.00	180.00	500.
6076 · Equipment Lease	341.32	350.00	1,365.28	1,400.00	4,200.
6079 · Flowers	-36.50	40.00	93.25	180.00	500.
6250 · Honorariums	2,250.00	900.00	6,140.00	3,600.00	10,000.
6260 · INSURANCE	5,067.00	5,100.00	21,242.84	20,500.00	62,000.
6405 · Music Dept. expenses	0.00	40.00	0.00	180.00	500.
6430 · Pest Control	0.00	400.00	45.00	400.00	800.
6450 · Postage Stamps, Etc	0.00	250.00	428.00	1,000.00	3,000.
6460 · Printing and Reproduction	457.53	500.00	1,707.43	2,000.00	6,000.
6470 · REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	4,425.44	3,400.00	11,008.31	12,800.00	40,000.
6500 · SALARIES & WAGES	14,183.89	14,516.00	56,418.02	58,064.00	173,800.
6600 · SUPPLIES	1,976.94	2,150.00	7,851.85	8,600.00	26,000.
6680 · Synod/District Mission	4,173.00	3,580.00	14,066.00	14,320.00	43,000.
6730 · Utilities	2,218.67	2,417.00	9,442.20	9,664.00	29,000.
6789 · Hope in Motion	1,000.00	1,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	12,000.
Total Expense	37,086.88	35,733.00	141,525.73	141,588.00	424,200.
Net Ordinary Income	13,116.55	0.00	17,772.55	0.00	0.
Other Income/Expense					
Other Income					
7000 · Interest Income	0.00		0.00		
Total Other Income	0.00		0.00		
Net Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.
Net Income	13,116.55	0.00	17,772.55	0.00	0.

Hope Lutheran Church
 2001 N. Park Road | Plant City, Florida 33563

