



# HOPE *happenings*

VOLUME 46 | ISSUE 4 | APRIL 2018

## Dwell With Jesus

From Pastor Shawn

What is it like to spend time with a really kind person? You know, the kind of person who always seems to see the good in the world and others... The kind of person who always seems to rise above the gossip, pettiness, and quarrelling at your school or workplace... The kind of person that is genuinely kind, actively listens, and is authentically good...

I know what it is like for me. I start to feel a change I didn't anticipate. Suddenly I find myself smiling more and criticizing less. Without my consent, I'm replicating the way they encounter the world and other people. And what always surprises me about the imitation, is that I don't remember inviting the change. It just sort of happens. My mother would say they rubbed off on me.

The problem, of course—which I have noted equally in my life, is that the opposite also tends to be true. As frequently as I subconsciously absorb the good in others, I'm just as prone to imitating the bad. As I wake up to this reality, I feel the obvious need to control who I surround myself with, but even more that that, I'm hearing some of Jesus' parting words to his disciples in the gospel of John in new light.

I imagine this reality about our humanity—that we take on the best and worst in each other—is a part of what led Jesus to remind his disciples that he is the true vine and we are the branches (John 15:5). After all, to unpack this metaphor Jesus doesn't use grounding language, that is, language that invites us to be grounded or rooted in him, but instead uses abiding language. Jesus used language that invites us to live and dwell with and in him.

*(Continued on page 3)*

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# APRIL WORSHIP NOTES

**Sunday Worship at  
8:30am (Band Led) & 10:30am (Piano/Organ Led)**

**Sunday, April 1– Easter Sunday**

*Reading: Acts 10:34-43 & 1 Corinthians 15:1-11*

*Gospel: Mark 16:1-8*

**Sunday, April 8– Second Sunday of Easter**

*Reading: Acts 4:32-35 & 1 John 1:1-2:2*

*Gospel: John 20:19-31*

**Sunday, April 15– Third Sunday of Easter**  
*Baptism of Cecelia, Everett and Wyatt Titus at  
8:30am*

*Reading: Acts 3:12-19 & 1 John 3:1-7*

*Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48*

**Sunday, April 22– Fourth Sunday of Easter**

*Reading: Acts 4:5-12 & 1 John 3:16-24*

*Gospel: John 10: 11-18*

**Sunday, April 29– Fifth Sunday of Easter**

*Reading: Acts 8: 26-40 & 1 John 4:7-21*

*Gospel: John 15:1-8*

*Looking ahead:*

*Confirmation Sunday, May 20, 10:30am*



## THANKS BE TO GOD!

**January:**

**Cora Blackwell** for sharing a great sermon on Jan 28

**Al Noble, Tim & Timmy Sonner, Mike Sonner Jr, Zach Wiedemann, Paul Fehringer and  
Melissa Pleace** for making the sanctuary renovation happen.

**Tracey Wood** for going above and beyond, especially at the Spaghetti Dinner

**Zach Wiedemann, Kaitie Wood and Megan Sonner** for staffing our Winter Retreat

**February:**

The entire **Hospitality team**, and especially, **Carol Boldt, John & Gayla Kossow, Bob  
Buchhardt, Al & Judy Noble, Andy Bartz;**

their non-stop work last month and going forward

**Pastor Bob Zimmerman** for God and Me, cub scouts

**Nick Titus-** for stepping up in more ways than one for Hope

# Dwell With Jesus

*(continued)*

And as we live and dwell with him, Jesus tells us that we can expect three things to happen:

1. **We will bear fruit** (John 15:5). Bearing fruit is a sign of a tree's life and helps sustain life in those who partake of it. Bearing fruit is also a sign of a tree's purpose. What good is a vine without any grapes? As we dwell with Jesus we find our purpose, and we put forth signs of the life we have in him.
2. **We love one another.** Abiding in Jesus' love leads to obedience to Jesus' commandments, and what is Jesus' commandment? That we love one another (John 15:12). As we dwell with Jesus, like dwelling with that person we discussed above, we find ourselves taking on their attributes. In Jesus' case, we find ourselves loving our neighbors as Jesus loves.
3. **We experience joy** (John 15:11). As we abide with Jesus his joy becomes our joy.

If we know that we are formed by the people we spend time with, why then wouldn't we immerse ourselves into our relationship with Jesus? Jesus' parting words to his disciples were not focused on their time apart, but on the necessity of continuing to dwell with one another. May we too be formed a little less by our fellow branches, and dwell a little deeper in the vine ourselves, and in so doing may we experience what it is like to have the savior of the world rub off on us... forming us to bear fruit, share love, and produce joy.

*Jesus said,  
"Abide in me, as  
I abide in you."*

—John 14:4



## IN OUR PRAYERS

*We pray for .....*

We pray for Matthew Nourse, Carmon Becker, Sharlie Mullin, Hyland Day, Curt Emery, Laura Bley, Myrtle Rammacher, Pastor Bob Zimmerman, Luke Fries, Ben, Roger Day, Jeannette, Nicole Gremmel, Paul Hammond, Greg Kent, Shirley Doolittle, Chris Winkleman, Jaysen Bray, Kyler Limburg, the Bragg family, Sharon King, Dawn Fiegl, Ed Strobele, Alberta Stevenson, Pat Szustakowski, Bob Haskins, Julie Tingue, Bruce Schneider, Dave Carr, Melissa Cady-Simar and Mary Dell.

*We pray for all those who are struggling with drug and alcohol additions and also pray for the victims of all forms of abuse. We continue to keep our Servicemen and women, who are serving at home and overseas, in our prayers.*



*If you know of someone that could use our prayers, please contact the church office.*

# APRIL EVENTS

- April 1– Easter Brunch (9:30-10:30am)**  
Be our guest at an Easter Morning Brunch between services on Easter Sunday. We will serve egg bakes, assorted pastries, and fruit. It is a wonderful and joyful way to gather together as Christ's body as we celebrate the resurrection. All are welcome. The cost is free, but those who desire to make a donation are welcome to do so. Proceeds will support "A Future With Hope"
- April 7– FREE Prom Dress Distribution (10:00am-2:00pm)**  
Prom dresses have been collected in our community by the Salvation Army and will be distributed for those preparing for prom this spring on April 7. This event is open to all High School prom goers in local schools.
- April 9– Church Council (6:30pm)**  
If you have any business for church council please find Bob Vossler (president) or Jim Alpin (vice president) prior to our meeting. Minutes from council meetings are available upon request in the church office.
- April 18– Committee Coffee House (6:30pm)**  
On Wednesday, April 18 Hope will have its next ALL COMMITTEE MEETING night at 6:30pm. Committees are encouraged to discuss their upcoming agenda with their council representative prior.
- April 22– beCAUSE (11:00am-3:00pm)**  
Local Lutheran Churches are at it again with the next installment of Pub-ing with a Purpose. We will gather at the Tavern at Windsor Park on Sunday, April 22 for an afternoon of good food, excellent company, and fundraising for a good cause. More information on the following page of this newsletter.
- April 25– Rend Collective Concert**  
On Wednesday April 25 some folks from Hope are heading to the Rend Collective Concert in Hamburg. While we have already purchased the first installment of tickets, if you would like to attend tickets are available online, or talk to PS about another group order. They cost approximately \$20/ticket.
- April 29– Preschool BBQ (11:30am-2:00pm) (or sold out)**  
\$11—includes chicken, potatoes, coleslaw, roll w/ butter & dessert. Tickets are available in the church office—to ensure you get your meal, please buy your tickets ahead! We sell out quickly the day of the event!
- April 30– Ale House Church (7:00-8:00pm)**  
Join Pastor Shawn at Main Street Grille in Arcade. Raise a glass while sharing your thoughts on a topic that helps us learn about our faith and the culture around us. All are welcome!

# OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

## Why? beCAUSE!

### A Social Gathering for a Worthy Cause

On **April 22, 2018 from 11am-3pm** join your friends and future friends at the Tavern at Windsor Park (located on Transit Rd. in Amherst) where 10% of your tab and 100% of your tips will support Lutheran Charities of WNY. This fun-filled charity event is a great opportunity to support God's ongoing mission in Western New York. Lutheran pastors from across WNY will leave their congregations to continue their service "on the floor" at the Tavern! Lutheran clergy will be waiting on tables, serving as the host/hostess, busing tables and running food!



## Pretty for Prom at HOPE

Hope is providing a drop off location to collect prom dresses, shoes, guys pants, etc. to help local school kids get dressed up for their prom on Sat. April 28th. The FREE distribution will be held on April 7th 10:00am—2:00pm. If you have any items to donate, please bring them to Hope before April 7th.



# YOUTH STUFF

## YOUTH GROUP

for middle and high schoolers will take place on **Tuesdays, April 10, 17, & 24.**

Youth are invited to bring friends and a couple of bucks to help offset the cost of the meal (usually pizza)

## LCLC SUMMER CAMP

All 1st through 12th graders start thinking about summer camp at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center. For more information check out [www.lclcenter.org](http://www.lclcenter.org) or ask the church office for a brochure.

As we get closer a list will be created with the weeks other Hopesters plan to attend camp.

Camperships to help offset the cost are available through both LCLC and Hope. We are committed to sending every child to



# FAITH FORMATION



## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation returns this month for 7-9 graders. We will meet on April 18, May 2 & May 16. These are the final confirmation weeks of 2018.

Confirmation Sunday for 9th Graders is Sunday, May 20th at 10:30am.

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## Children's Church

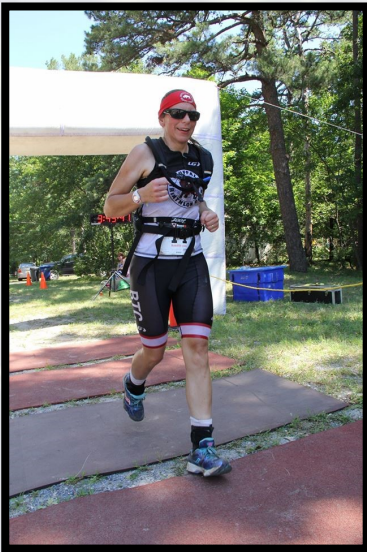
A special thank you to our volunteers that are making our Children's Church a great success! If you would be interested in teaching this spring, please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

As we continue to live into this new paradigm for Sunday morning education for our youngsters, we are interested in your feedback. We also plan to start a conversation regarding implementing Godly Play—a Montessori style Bible lesson. If you have any thoughts or would like to be part of the conversation please be in touch with Julie at [Julie@hopearcade.org](mailto:Julie@hopearcade.org)

# EPIC FAITH JOURNEY

## From Mary Songster-Alpin

I have an anniversary coming up. No it isn't my wedding anniversary – although that one – the big 25 - is just around the corner on July 3rd. The anniversary that I am talking about, though, is a totally different anniversary. You see on March 15<sup>th</sup>, it was 6 months since I crossed the finish line at Ironman Louisville in Kentucky. At precisely 8 am on October 15<sup>th</sup>, I jumped into the Ohio River to start what would be one of the hardest journeys of my life – an intense, exhausting, exciting, mind-numbing, bone-chilling epic 16 ½ hour 140.6 mile race of



swimming, biking and running with nearly 3000 other equally determined and/or stupid athletes. When it was all said and done, I “ran” (more like stumbled and pretended to run) across the finish line at 12:36 am on October 16<sup>th</sup> and promptly collapsed into the arms of my “catcher”, a volunteer whose specific job it was to catch sweaty, exhausted, numb, comatose athletes.

Imagine having a race so epic and exhausting that you have to station volunteers at the finish line to literally “catch” the athletes at the end. That tells you just how \*huge\* this race was – in sheer size and in requirements for determination and will power.

So, you would think that after that description, my entire existence now would be centered around the fact that I am now an IRONMAN!!! After all, I have never done anything like it and likely won't ever again. I should be the center of attention, the star. I was ready to sign autographs, make book deals, star in media appearances, you name it.... Actually no – I certainly didn't attain star status after all – life, in fact, quickly went back to normal. I do have the t-shirt, the hat, the backpack, the Facebook page, the Instagram account, the glass display hanging up in my living room and heck I even have the tattoo. But unless you saw those things, you wouldn't know that I successfully completed an Ironman triathlon. Even if you did see those things, you wouldn't necessarily believe it. I don't look different. I'm still the same old Mary Songster-Alpin – a reasonably fit middle aged working mom and wife and yes triathlete – just

a long distance one now. You see if we spend our whole lives thinking that if only we complete that one epic adventure, our lives will be complete and we will magically be fulfilled (and famous), then we are most certainly going to be sorely disappointed. Don't get me wrong – epic adventures are fun and wild and worth all of the work that we put into them. But they won't magically make everything different, better, more complete.

There is one epic adventure, though, that does make a difference in our lives. It is the journey that we as Christians take every day. It isn't glamorous. It isn't expensive. It won't make us famous. It isn't even (usually) earth shattering. But what it is, though, is rewarding and encouraging and fulfilling. After all, what journey can we take throughout our lives in which we never have to worry about being alone? We never have to worry about failing or not making the mid-race cut-offs. We don't have to be strong and fearless and worry about what supplies we have or if we can afford it. We don't have to pretend to be someone we aren't. We don't have to be rich or an extrovert or athletic or talented. We don't have to worry about if our bike will break down or if our wetsuit will rip. We can just be us. We can be us because we will always have Him to pick us up when we falter and dust us off when we fall. We can rebel – we can shout – we can scold – we can ignore and sit down and cry but He will never leave us. He will just wait patiently for us to turn back to Him. He will offer us a shoulder to cry on and a hand to hold. This journey - the journey that we spend our whole lives taking and every day experiencing – our journey with our Lord and Savior – is the journey that truly makes a difference – in our lives and in the lives of everyone around us. By walking with Him, we are more than just us – we are part of this community of believers experiencing a journey unlike no other.

So yes while I am an Ironman and I won't turn down that book deal that I'm sure is coming just around the corner, I am also a Christian and, in my view, that is truly the most epic adventure that we can have. Ever.

# SAVE *the* DATE

**May -Youth Group (Every Tuesday)**

**May 2- Confirmation**

**May 5/6- Chamber Trade Fair & Home Show**  
Youth Group selling food to benefit trip to Houston.

**May 13- Mother's Day**

**May 14- Church Council**

**May 15- American Red Cross Blood Drive**

**May 16- Confirmation**

**May 20- Confirmation Sunday**

**May 23- Committee Coffee House**

## 1ST QUARTER GIVING

January 2018 Weekly Giving: \$2,477.58

*January 2017 Weekly Giving: \$2,081.98*

February 2018 Weekly Giving: \$2,301.52

*February 2017 Weekly Giving: \$2,473.45*

March 2018 Weekly Giving: \$2,514.60

*March 2017 Weekly Giving: \$2,353.00*





# HOPE

*happenings*



## COMMUNION CELEBRATION!!! & YOUTH GROUP



**THE EMPTY BOWL**

The 2nd Annual Pioneer Empty Bowls Project hosted by Black Raven Pottery and Hope Lutheran Church smashed both hopes and expectations raising over \$6,000 for hunger here at home and abroad.



Many thanks to all who helped make this event a success! See you next year!

# HOPE PRESCHOOL



LEFT: We made palm branches & had a parade through the church.  
MIDDLE: We decorated bags to look like bunnies & had an Easter egg hunt.  
RIGHT: We did a science experiment; melting snowmen?

**Thank you for supporting our recent flower fundraiser; we raised \$900 for the preschool!**

Our next Fundraiser is:

**Chicken BBQ!!!**

**Sun. April 29th**

**11:30am-2:00pm (or sold out)**

\$11—includes chicken, potatoes, coleslaw, roll w/ butter & dessert Tickets are available in the church office—to ensure you get your meal, please buy your tickets ahead! We sell out quickly the day of the event!

*Don't forget, you can always help a child by making a donation to our tuition assistance program. Contact the church office for more information on how you can do that.*



# Hope-STARS!

Members doing good & being recognized

Congratulations to **Brian Tavernier** on 20 years as the Director of the B&G Club of Holland. Throughout his time at the club Brian has impacted thousands of children, generations of young people, and the entire community.



For the



Nichols Farm, it's a family affair.

Congratulations to the **Nichols family** on their recent write up in

the Herald, and for the continued hard work in Agriculture!!!

# BIRTHDAYS...

- |                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3- Stephanie Deahn          | Rautenstrauch         |
| 3- Quinn Hannon             | 20- Doris Smith       |
| 3- Carol Staffehl           | 21- Victoria McCarthy |
| 3- Brian Tavernier          | 21- Henry Rak         |
| 6- Norman Rugg              | 21- Cooper Rhodus     |
| 8- Madisen Sonner           | 22- Christine Gross   |
| 9- Baylee Burfield-Gross    | 22- Nicholas Titus    |
| 10- Timothy Smith           | 23- Edla Reynolds     |
| 11- Noah Lambert            | 25- Nicholas Rimbey   |
| 11- Scott Lambert           | 25- Margie Webster    |
| 11- Tiffany Lambert         | 26- Jeanne Holmes     |
| 12- Mike North              | 26- Barbara Sonner    |
| 13- Kelsey Landahl          | 26- Robert Zimmerman  |
| 13- George Winfield         | 27- Riley Bliss       |
| 14- Charlene Burfield-Gross | 27- Brianna Holmes    |
| 16- Carol Hannon            | 27- Barbara Maier     |
| 16- Peggy Place             | 27- Lucas Miller      |
| 17- Kathy Bemb              | 27- Laine Schwab      |
| 17- Danny Osborn            | 29- Katelin Bennett   |
| 18- Camden Felber           | 30- Amy Burns         |
| 19- Ethan Hoffman           |                       |
| 19- John Pleace             |                       |
| 19- James                   |                       |

# ANNIVERSARIES...

- 8— Mike & Becky Sonner  
15— Brent & Elaine Scoins  
23— Matt & Beth Miller  
26— Rachel & Jamie Kittleson

In everything there is hope.

*affirma*  
HE IS RISEN

HOPE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
2 East Main Street

Arcade, New York

**Address Service Requested**

This newsletter was prepared especially for:

# SERVING IN WORSHIP

	April 1 Easter	April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
<i>Acolyte 8:30 am</i>	Eric Rautenstrauch Sydney Schrock	Cole Rhodus Catherine Brown	Riley Bliss Cora Fleischman	Garrett Milks Timmy Sonner	Connor Fleischmann Eric Rautenstrauch
<i>Acolyte 10:30am</i>	Clara Gross Gavin Hammell	Zach Rimbey Nick Rimbey	Clara Gross Gavin Hammell	Zach Rimbey Nick Rimbey	Clara Gross Gavin Hammell
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Carol Boldt	Sue Dressel Judy Strobele	Margie Rung Carol Staffehl	Carol Boldt	Sue Dressel Judy Strobele
<i>Assisting Minister 8:30 am 10:30 am</i>	Helena Blackwell Bob Vossler	Mary Alpin Sue Dressel	Margie Webster Stephen Struckmann	Tracey Wood Victoria McCarthy	Joanne Offers Julie Tingue
<i>AV Tech 8:30 am 10:30 am</i>	Cora Blackwell Scott Rimbey	Jim Alpin Stephen Struckmann	Alyssa Boldt Julie Tingue	Madelyn Tavernier Scott Rimbey	Trevor Bley Stephen Struckmann
<i>HC Assistant 8:30am 10:30am</i>	Tracey Wood Kathy LaScala	Jen Blackwell Bob Vossler	Judy Strobele Sharlene Vossler	Margie Webster Sue Dressel	Mary Alpin Dale Deahn
<i>Council Rep 8:30am 10:30am</i>	Joanne Offers Bob Vossler	Tracey Wood Carol Boldt	Cora Blackwell Bob Vossler	Paul Fehringer Carol Boldt	Joanne Offers Bob Vossler
<i>Greeters (10:30)</i>	Brenda Schmidt	Bob & Sharlene Vossler	Vince & Erin Hammell	Gary & Margie Rung	Pauline Brown
<i>Lector 8:30am 10:30am</i>	Tim Sonner Sue Dressel	Kim Offers Chris Gross	Ashley Bartz Sue Dressel	Helena Blackwell Bob Vossler	Cora Blackwell Al Boldt
<i>Prayers 8:30 am 10:30 am</i>	Kaitie Wood Dale Deahn	Marcy Sonner Al Boldt	Joanne Offers Victoria McCarthy	Kim Offers Paul Rigerman	Ashley Bartz Carol Staffehl
<i>Children's Church 8:30am 10:30am</i>	Ellen McCarthy Ellen McCarthy	Megan Titus TBD	TBD TBD	TBD TBD	TBD TBD
<i>Ushers 8:30am</i>	John & Missy Pleace	Margie Webster Diane Gibbs	Janet Campana Terry Reding	Jim & Mary Alpin	Kim & Joanne Offers
<i>Ushers 10:30 am</i>	Al Boldt Scott Rimbey	Kathy LaScala Carol Staffehl	Mark Cordz Dale Deahn	Len & Sue Dressel	Al Boldt Scott Rimbey
<i>Coffee Hour 9:30-10:30am</i>	Easter Breakfast	Holly Nowak	Missy Pleace	Ellen McCarthy	Sharlene Vossler
<i>Counters</i>	Scott Bley Lisa Deahn	Mike Sonner, Jr. Anna Sonner	Joanne Offers Kelly Thomson	Brenda Schmidt John Kossow	Jamie & Rachel Kittleson