

HOPE *happenings*

VOLUME 46
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DECEMBER 2018

Anticipation of Light

A Reflection from Pastor Shawn

You probably never would have known, that is, if I had not been so excited about the upgrades to Hope's lighting situation you couldn't hear me bragging about it to every person within ear shot. I'm so psyched about the new addition of our Vera home controller, I now even have an entire album on my phone of videos highlighting the tricks it allows us to do. But, in case you still have no idea what I'm talking about, let me go to the beginning...

In the beginning God said, "let there be light" and there was light... Wait, no, not that beginning. The beginning of the Vera. A few months ago we installed a centralized controller at Hope. This hub connects to various devices throughout church and allows us to control them from anywhere one has service with their cell phone. Additionally, it allows us to play with the mood and the timing of our lights. For example, we can set the sanctuary to a dim level one moment, and with the press of one button adjust all nine light switches in that room simultaneous to entirely different levels. It's really cool.

But here's the whole truth, it's still only the second most exciting light I'm looking forward to this Advent and Christmas. It's been fun to play with the lights at church, but the light that is going to make the most difference is not connected to the Vera (...yet-just kidding), but is that good old fashioned flame flickering above the advent wreath that we light each week waiting for the Messiah.

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DEC. WORSHIP NOTES

Sunday, December 2– 1st Sunday of Advent

8:30am (Band Led Service) | 10:30am (Organ/Piano Led Service)

Readings: Jeremiah 33:14-16 & 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

Meal Packaging at 9:30am

Sunday, December 9– 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:30am (Band Led Service) | 10:30am (Organ/Piano Led Service)

Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, December 16– 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:30am (Band Led Service) | 10:30am (Organ/Piano Led Service)

Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20 & Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

Baptism: Summer Daugherty (8:30am)

Sunday, December 23– 4th Sunday of Advent

Children's Christmas Play, One Service– 10:00am

Baptism: Sophia Lee Kossow

Sunday, December 30- 1st Day of Christmas

One Service– 10:00am

Readings: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 & Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

Wednesday, December 5

11am- Community Advent Service & Luncheon

7pm– Evening Advent Service

Wednesday, December 12

11am- Community Advent Service & Luncheon

7pm– Evening Advent Service

Wednesday, December 19

11am- Community Advent Service & Luncheon

7pm– Evening Advent Service

Monday, December 24–

Christmas Eve

Services at

4:30pm & 10:00pm

*In Our
Prayers:*

PRAY

We pray for Matthew Nourse, Carmon Becker, Sharlie Mullin, Curt Emery, Myrtle Rammacher, Luke Fries, Ben, Jeannette, Greg Kent, Chris Winkleman, Jaysen Bray, Kyler Limburg, Dave Carr, Paul Sanders, Bill Washburn, Betty Offhaus, Dale Poole, Traci, Harold Staffehl, Adrene, Joan Taylor, Amber Kilmer, John Kossow, Tom Beiersdorf, Sr., Doug Blankenship, Norma Siegel, Roger Day, Ron Martin, Kris Kramer, Keith Stromsoe, Caryann Fuller, Dakota Miller, Fred Lee, Bob Vossler and Brooke Offhaus, and Maria.

We also pray for all those who are struggling with drug and alcohol addictions 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.

Light cont...

Days are growing darker, friends, and I am not merely talking about the sunset. Forests are ablaze, and folks are not just losing their homes, but their lives. The rumors of war Jesus warned us of aren't whispers any more. They're happening now all around the world. The polarization at home is turning the thing that's supposed to help us leave peaceably together, politics, into a thing that is tearing relationships apart. Mass violence has become common place, and our outrage repeatedly reveals itself as fickle as our attention spans. Individually we struggle with self-worth and self-harm while underneath too many of our bubbly Instagram posts we feel like we are holding on by a thread.

And yet, in the midst of the fear and the threatening despair and our cries of distress, we gather and we light candles. And the darker the days get, the most candles we light because we believe. We believe that Jesus Christ is the light of the world, and that when that light shines darkness doesn't stand a chance. We believe that light took human form and lived among us. That light was born and even when the darkness tried to snuff it out, that light came back.

And we believe that light keeps coming back. He comes back as strangers open their homes for others who have lost theirs. He comes back as adversaries choose peace. He comes back as people stand up for justice. He comes back every time a word of forgiveness is spoken, and his children are reconciled. He comes back every time grace is poured out and love is shared. He comes back and shines.

When things are the darkest, that is when we most need the light. And this season of Advent is about anticipating and expecting that God's going to light things up. And God doesn't even need a Vera Home Controller to do it. He's got something better. And so with the mountains of technology around us, when we gather this Advent we light candles and we wait. We wait for all of the ways beautiful and stunning ways the light will be working in the darkest parts of his world.



Tithe

and offerings

Thank you for your pledged support and offerings this year, and thank you in advance for completing these pledges to make sure Hope ends the year financially well.

EVENTS at a GLANCE

- December 2-** Sunday Services 8:30am & 10:30am
Meal Packaging: 9:30am
Confirmation: 5-7pm
- December 4-** Quilting:10am-2pm
Group #3 Book Club: 2:30pm
Christmas Play Practice: 6pm
Youth Group: 6:30-8:00pm
- December 5-** Respite Volunteer Planning Meeting: 10am
Community Advent Service & Luncheon:11am
Committee Coffee House: 6:30pm
Evening Advent Service: 7pm
- December 7-** Preschool Christmas Program: 11:30am
- December 9-** Sunday Services 8:30am & 10:30am
Christmas Wrapping Fundraiser
Youth (Hope & UCC) Christmas Caroling:11:30am-5pm
- December 10-** Church Council: 6:30pm
- December 11-** Quilting:10am-2pm
Youth Group: 6:30-8:00pm
- December 12-** Community Advent Service & Luncheon:11am
Evening Advent Service: 7pm
- December 13-** Ladies Book Club #1: 7pm at Ashley Bartz's Home
Ladies Book Club #1: 7pm at Carol Boldt's Home
- December 16-** Sunday Services 8:30am & 10:30am
Holy Baptism of Summer Daugherty (8:30am)
Christmas Wrapping Fundraiser
PAC Christmas Cantata at Arcade UCC: 3pm
Beer & Hymns: 5-7pm at Turkey Run
Giving Tree Gifts Returned by this day
Poinsettia Order Forms Due
- December 18-** Quilting:10am-2pm
- December 19-** Community Advent Service & Luncheon:11am
Christmas Play Practice: 6pm
Evening Advent Service: 7pm
- December 21-** Youth Group Christmas Party– 6-8:30pm
7th-12th grade Lock-In– 8:30pm
- December 22-** Christmas Play Practice: 9am
- December 23-** One Service: 10am
Children's Christmas Play & Holy Baptism of Sophia Kossow
- December 24-** Christmas Eve Services 4:30pm & 10pm
- December 30-** One Service: 10am



OPPORTUNITIES

to Give & Serve

- **MEAL PACKAGING:** On December 2 we will be packaging meals in-between church services for food banks in WNY. A collection container for spare change to fund the project is located in the entry way. This year we will be preparing Minestrone Soup.
- **GIVING TREE:** The Outreach Committee has placed a tree in the Parish Hall having gift tags with names of individuals from local SASI homes and other families in need, with items they would like to receive. Please take a tag and return the wrapped gift, with tag attached, **on or before December 16th**.

*For where your treasure
is, there your heart
will be also.
—Matthew 6:21*

- **SNOW MEN SILENT AUCTION:** The silent auction for the snow men created from the ceiling in the church and the ash trees removed on our east lawn will conclude following the advent service on Wednesday, 12/5 @ 7pm. All proceeds will support the “A Future with Hope” Building Campaign.
- **BEER & CAROLS @ TURKEY RUN:** On Sunday, December 16 from 5-7 we will be taking over the Club House at Turkey Run with fellowship and cheer. We will be singing Christmas Carols led by musicians from Hope. Tickets are limited and available at \$10/adult, \$25/family. All the proceeds benefit A Future with Hope. Buy your tickets today before the event goes public.
- **BuffaLUTHERAN ORNAMENTS:** These new ornaments were made locally by Kanner's Punch Out Creations! Purchase an ornament for \$10. Your donation includes a direct \$5 donation to A Future with Hope, Snag yours today off the parish hall Christmas tree.
- **RESPIRE PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY:** Starting January 9th, Hope will be offering a once-a-month respite program for caregivers of memory impairment individuals. Please see Julie Tingue for more information on how to volunteer, support or pray for the program.
- **SPROUTING HOPE TEACHERS:** We are looking for adult leaders to serve our Sprouting Hope Ministry. The curriculum is provided and involves teaching lessons and leading activities for children ages 2-4th grade, during one or both Sunday morning services. Please sign-up on the bulletin board.

YOUTH STUFF

YOUTH GROUP NIGHTS:

Tuesdays, December 4 & 11
6:30-8:00pm

CONFIRMATION:

Sunday, December 2
5-7pm

*This month's focus will be Matthew
with a special Christmas flare*

YOUTH GROUP CAROLING:

Sunday, December 9
11:30am

*Youth of all ages from Hope and Arcade UCC will
be going caroling on Sunday, Dec. 9th. Pizza will
be served at 11:30am and we will break into
small groups to visit shut-ins or anyone who
would appreciate the visit.*



GIFT WRAPPING FUNDRAISER:

Sundays December 9 & 16

On Sunday mornings our youth will be available to wrap gifts for church members. A donation is requested and all funds will go towards the youth fund.

CHRISTMAS PLAY PRACTICE:

Practices will be Tues., Dec. 4th, Wed. Dec. 19 at 6pm, Sat. Dec. 22 at 9am. We will also practice as able between services in December.

CHRISTMAS PARTY:

December 21
6-8:30pm

*For all middle, high school
and college aged youth!*

LOCK-IN:

December 21
6-8:30pm

for 7th graders and older youth!

CHRISTMAS PLAY

Join us as we celebrate Jesus' birth through a fun Christmas Play titled "A Play in a Manger" featuring over 30 youth from Hope's church family!

Setting: The town of Centerville is preparing their annual Christmas Extravaganza— but this year it's going to be bigger and better than ever, a real over-the-top display. The excitement is off the chart as the writer and director and legend-in-her-own mind, Cecil V. Deville, calls for pyrotechnics, sky-diving angels, dancing camels and more. It's obvious that this year's production will be their greatest ever. But when catastrophe and calamity send those grand plans up in smoke, their epic production becomes in epic fail. Visions of grandeur are replaced with the beauty and power of the simple truth of Jesus' birth: The Son of God, born to humble parents, lying in a simple manger, come to redeem. Now that is epic!



Sunday.

December 23

10am

HOPE PRESCHOOL

We enjoyed our Stone Soup luncheon on November 16th and want to thank all our guests for joining us. The busy time of preparing for Christmas is upon us! We have started learning about Advent with Pastor Shawn and what it means to the church. Our Christmas program is December 7th at 11:30, please feel free to join us. We look forward to our Christmas party on December 21.



As always we appreciate your generous support of our preschool— through prayer and financial giving. Our babysitting fundraiser was unfortunately canceled and so we will be working on another fundraiser in the near future. We would always appreciate your support of our preschool through gifts for the tuition assistance program.



POINSETTIA ORDER

Flowers to be placed in the church chancel for Christmas

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Flower	Color (Red, White, Pink, Marble)	Quantity	Price	Total
4 ½" Pot Poinsettia			\$7.00	
6 ½" Pot Poinsettia			\$11.00	
8" Pot Poinsettia			\$24.00	
			Total:	\$

I would like to take my flower (s) home: _____ I would like to have my flower(s) taken to a shut-in: _____

Please place my flower(s) in memory/honor of: _____



Orders due December 16!

HOPE *happenings*



BuffaLUTHERAN Ornaments available for \$10 and a silent auction featuring 14 handmade snowmen and trees. All proceeds support A Future with Hope.



▲ Last month we collected activity books and gift cards for the Family Resource Center at Oishei Children's Hospital. Our youth got to deliver your donations and get a tour of some of the amazing ways the hospital cares for families at the new hospital.



Ladies of Hope spent a Saturday evening preparing a meal for the Ronald McDonald House. ►



HOPE *happenings*

Hope's Deep Fried Turkey Dinner & Apple Pie Fundraiser was not only a success but very tasty!



▲ Many Hope members went to Pub with a Purpose to raise money for Lutheran Chairities earlier this month.

▼ In the new year Hope will be hosting a respite program. Several volunteers attended a training last month in preparation for this new ministry.



▲ Both the youth group and one of the ladies book clubs enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal together.

CELEBRATIONS

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 5- LAUREN PLEACE**
- 7- ALANA HAMMELL**
- 8- DAKOTA COCKLE**
- 11- JENNIFER SANDERS**
- 11- ZACHARY WIEDEMANN**
- 17- SHELLEY FLEISCHMAN**
- 19- HELENA BLACKWELL**
- 21- PETER BOLDT**
- 23- MARSHA NORTH**
- 24- ALFRED BOLDT**
- 27- DENNIS SANDERS**
- 30- NOLAN SCHWAB**
- 31- SYDNEY SCHROCK**

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2- PETE & KIM BOLDT**
- 12- JOHN & GAYLA KOSSOW**
- 17- DICK & CAROL SCHASEL**



SAVE the **DATES**

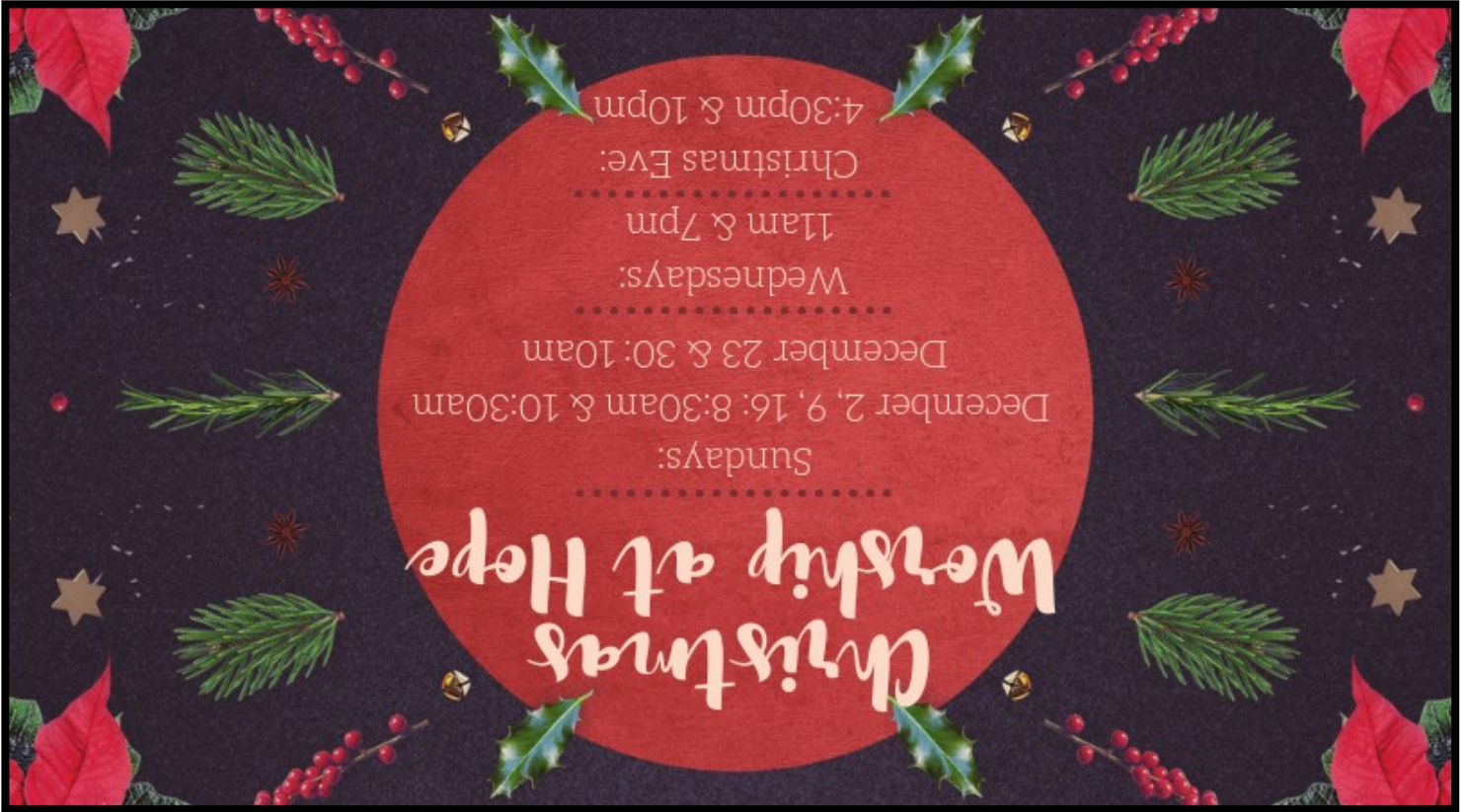
- January 3: Meal Serving at Friends of Night People
- January 9: Hope's Respite Program
- January 10: Ladies Fellowship Cookie Exchange
- January 14: Church Council
- January 23: Committee Coffee House
- January 27: Confirmation
- January 28: Ale House Church



SERVING IN WORSHIP

	December 2	December 9	December 16	December 23	December 30
Altar Guild	Margie Rung Carol Staffehl	Carol Boldt	Sue Dressel Judy Strobele	Margie Rung Carol Staffehl	Carol Boldt
Council Rep 8:30am 10:30am	Joanne Offers Bob Vossler	Tracey Wood Carol Boldt	Cora Blackwell Bob Vossler	One Service 10 am: Children's Church Play	Joanne Offers Bob Vossler
Acolyte 8:30 am	Megan Boldt	Cora and Connor Fleischman	Eric Rautenstrauch Cody Smith		One Service: 10am Garrett Milks Tyce Monin
Acolyte 10:30am	Gavin Hammell	Zach Rimbey Nick Rimbey	Kole Hammell		One Service: 10am Stephen Struckmann
Assisting Minister 8 :30 am 10:30 am	Joanne Offers Bob Vossler	Tracey Wood Julie Tingue	Margie Webster Sue Dressel		One Service: 10am Tyler Bley
AV Tech 8:30 am 10:30 am	Jacob Offhaus Julie Tingue	Alyssa Boldt Cindy Struckmann	Ernie Floyd Stepehn Struckmann		One Service: 10am Anna Sonner
HC Assistant 8:30am 10:30am	Diane Gibbs Sharlene Vossler	Helena Blackwell Dale Deahn	Cora Blackwell Bob Vossler		One Service: 10am Vince & Erin Hammell (9:30am)
Greeters (10:30)	Sandi Bennett	Al & Carol Boldt	Gary & Margie Rung		One Service: 10am Jen Blackwell
Lector 8:30am 10:30am	Tracey Wood Jodie Buchhardt	Mary Alpin Chris Gross	Jim Alpin Kim Offers		One Service: 10am Carol Staffehl
Prayers 8:30 am 10:30 am	Margie Webster Sue Dressel	Janet Campana Jodie Buchhardt	Ashley Bartz Sandi Bennett		One Service: 10am TBD
Children's Church 8:30am 10:30am	Julie Tingue Julie Tingue	TBD TBD	TBD TBD		One Service: 10am Len and Sue Dressel
Ushers 8:30am	Ernie Floyd Dale Deahn	Diane Gibbs Joanne Offers	Jim & Mary Alpin		One Service: 10am Sandi Bennett (9:30am)
Ushers 10:30 am	Kathy LaScala Carol Staffehl	Al Boldt Kim Offers	Kathy LaScala Jodie Buchhardt		One Service: 10am Jamie & Rachel Kittleson
Coffee Hour 9:30-10:30am	Darla Schwab	Megan Titus	Ellen McCarthy		Brenda Schmidt John Kossow
Counters	Scott Bley Lisa Deahn	Mike Sonner, Jr. Anna Sonner	Joanne Offers Kelly Thomson		

In everything there is hope.



HOPE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
2 East Main Street

Arcade, New York

Address Service Requested

This newsletter was prepared especially for: