



# Hope Happenings

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 46: ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2018

## What Does the Cross Mean to You?

**Rev. Shawn Hannon, Pastor**

The Martin Tower is a 21 story building on 8<sup>th</sup> Ave in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. It was built in 1969 to house the headquarters for the Bethlehem Steel Company. It is an impressive building that was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2010. But what makes it truly unique is its shape. The building, you see, is shaped like a cross.

I first heard about the building while listening to the radio. Commentators were noting its unique design, and as a pastor I was almost giddy. A cross-shaped building! Does it get any cooler than that? But then the other shoe dropped. Turns out they only chose a cross shape so that there would be more corner offices to appease the company's managers and those at the top. That's a little different use of the cross than I was expecting.

As we enter the season of Lent, let me pose a question. **What does the cross mean to you?**

For Bethlehem Steel the cross shape meant honor and privilege. It meant twice as many corner offices. Twice as much prestige. Two times as many happy CEOs. But the cross, in its essence, isn't about self-promotion it's about sacrifice. The cross isn't a place of honor, but humiliation. The cross doesn't represent power, but obedience even to death.

Just decades after the Martin Tower was completed the building stood vacant. The cross-shaped, 21-story sky scraper which stood as the tallest building in the area and as a sign of Bethlehem's power and success, now reads more like an oversized tombstone. The building was a sign of their vitality, yet points to their death.

*Continued on page 3*

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# LENT

2018

# February Worship Notes

*8:30am: Band Led Worship*

*10:30am: Piano & Organ Led Worship*

## *Lenten Worship Series:*

### **Ash Wednesday**

February 14  
11:00am & 7:00pm

### **Community Services & Luncheons:**

11:00am on the  
following  
Wednesdays:  
Feb. 21  
Feb. 28  
March 7  
March 14  
March 21

### **Palm Sunday**

March 25  
8:30am & 10:30am

### **Maundy Thursday**

March 29 at 7:00pm

### **Good Friday**

March 30 at 7:00pm

### **Easter**

April 1  
8:30am & 10:30am

**Sunday, February 4-** 5th Sunday in Epiphany

*Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23*

*Gospel: Mark 1:29-39*

**Sunday, February 11-** Transfiguration of our Lord

*Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6*

*Gospel: Mark 9: 2-9*

**Sunday, February 18-** First Sunday in Lent

*Reading: Genesis 9:8-17*

*Gospel: Mark 1:9-15*

**Sunday, February 25-** Second Sunday in Lent

*Reading: Romans 4:13-25*

*Gospel: Mark 8:31-38*

## Thanks Be to God!

*Carol Staffehl-*

*sharing her musical gifts with us on Christmas Eve*

*Ernie Floyd-*

*his dedication and hard work organizing the Red Kettle Campaign*

*Mike Campana & Mike Sonner, Jr. -*

*leading worship at 8:30am*

# Pastor's Pen

*Continued from page 1*

I compare that to the cross of Christ. A symbol of death and Roman dominance. Yet, a symbol of hope and life for Christians for thousands of years. Bethlehem hoped the cross would lead to life, and found death. Jesus's cross was meant for death, yet leads us to life.

We'll start Lent off by placing ashes on our forehead in the shape of the cross. I'm going to invite our children (and you) to make signs of the cross before receiving communion during the children's sermon. But what will that cross mean? Will it mean what it did for Bethlehem Steel? Or what it meant for Jesus?

Which will reign in your life this lent? Self-giving or self-promotion? Humility or prestige? Sacrifice or personal achievement? We know which the world would have us choose, but we also know where that would lead us. Too often our pursuit of life leads to death. Let us focus instead on our own sacrifice and surrender. There we will find life.



## In our Prayers...

*In peace, let us pray for those in our hearts and those on our prayer list...*

***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, Dave Carr, Jeannette, Nicole Gremmel, Paul Hammond, Greg Kent, Shirley Doolittle, Chris Winkleman, Jaysen Bray, Kyler Limburg, Trevor Collins, the Bragg family, Brenda Schmidt, Sharon King, Dawn Fiegl, Howard Wurthner, Family of Jim Hassett, (Bob Buchhardt's brother-in-law who passed away.)***

***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.***

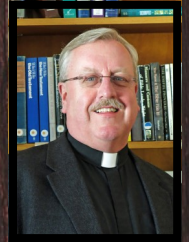
*If you know of someone that could use our prayers, please contact the church office.*

# February Events

- Feb 1– Ladies Bible Study: 6:30pm–** All ladies of Hope are invited to come for fellowship, learning and reflection.
- Feb 4 & 11– Talking Posts about Land Sale: 9:30am–** There is a developer who is interested in purchasing some land of our East boundary to build a senior living facility. Please come to these listening posts to learn, share your thoughts and ask questions.
- Feb 12– Church Council: 6:30pm**
- Feb 13 – Youth Group: 6:30-8:00pm–** All 6th—12th graders are welcome!
- Feb 14– Ash Wednesday Services: 11:00am (Luncheon) & 7:00pm–** Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.



- Feb 18– Bishop Visit: 9:30am—** The Rev. John Stanley Macholz, ELCA's Upstate NY Bishop, will be visiting with members of Hope and attending and participating in our morning services. Join us during coffee hour for a meet and greet.



**Communion Instruction: 9:30am**

- Feb 21– Lenten Service & Luncheon: 11:00am**
- Feb 22– A Future with Hope Committee Meeting: 6:30pm**
- Feb 23– Fish Fry—** Join us for Hope's Famous Fish Fry from 4:30pm until sold out. See next page for opportunities to assist this event.
- Feb 25– Communion Instruction: 9:30am**
- Feb 26– Ale House Church: 7:00pm–** 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!
- Feb 27– Youth Group- All 6th—12th graders are welcome!**
- Feb 28– Lenten Service & Luncheon: 11:00am**

**Committee Coffee House: 6:30pm–** All members of council and committee leaders are encouraged to attend and to work on their upcoming events, projects, etc.

**Chalice Painting: 6:00pm—** All 2nd graders taking part in communion instruction are invited to paint their own chalice for the Communion Celebration taking place in March.



# Opportunities To Give & Serve

- **Fish Fry**— Come on out and enjoy the best fish fry in town! Each fish fry will support an important ministry at Hope and there is no better way to enjoy a meal than by supporting a great cause. We can always use volunteers to make the dinners run smoothly. From helping prepare food the week of to serving the night of the fish fry all volunteers are welcome. Sign – up sheets for donations and volunteer requests are posted prior to the fish fry on the shelf in the parish hall. Dates for the fish fries are Feb. 23 & March 9 from 4:30pm– sold out.
- **Worship Leaders**— Interested in learning more about the roles affiliated with all our Sunday morning worship leaders? Check out the Worship Leader Manual in our church pews or on our website [HERE](#). If you are interested in serving during morning worship, contact the church office or fill out a Time & Talent Survey on the shelf in the parish hall.



- **Empty Bowls Project**— Hope is teaming up with Bev Fehringer and Black Raven Pottery to raise funds and awareness to fight hunger through the Empty Bowls Project. Tickets are now available for \$15 (presale) or \$20 (at the door) and include a soup and bread luncheon and a hand made pottery bowl . There will also be a basket raffle. To donate baskets, soup or your time please see the sign-up sheet on the shelf in the parish hall. For tickets contact the church office.
- **Offering Envelopes** are convenient ways to give your offerings and help church track your gifts for your tax receipt and acknowledgement. Simply select a set of envelopes on the parish room table and fill out the contact sheet and include it in your first offering envelope. You can also have your contributions deducted from your bank accounts on a regular basis by filling out an **Authorization Form** in the church office or be clicking [HERE](#).



## Save the Date...

March 1–	Ladies Bible Study
March 4–	Communion Instruction
March 6, 13, 20, 27 -	Youth Group
March 7, 14, 21–	Lenten Worship & Luncheon
March 9–	Fish Fry
March 11–	Communion Celebration
March 13–	Blood Drive
March 18–	Empty Bowls Luncheon
March 25–	Palm Sunday & Youth Pancake Breakfast
March 29 & 30–	Maundy Thursday & Good Friday



# Youth Ministry

- **Youth Group Dates for February-**

- **Feb 13 & 27**

*Please note there will be NO youth group on February 6 and during winter break on February 20.*

- **LCLC Summer Camp**– All 3rd– 12th graders start thinking about summer camp at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center. They just recently released camp dates for 2018 (see below). Book early to save– Early Bird registration deadline is April 1! For more information click [HERE](#) or ask the church office for a brochure.

# Children's Ministry

- **Communion Instruction**– All 2nd graders or older children wishing to participate in communion instruction should RSVP to Pastor Shawn by February 9.
  - Classes will be held at 9:30am on the following Sundays: Feb. 18, Feb. 25 & March 4
  - Chalice Painting with Bev Fehringer will be at 6:00pm on Wed. Feb. 28
  - Communion Celebration will take place on Sunday, March 11.
- **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.

## LCLC Camp Weeks

### Week #1 (June 24-29)

- Classic Youth Camp
- Recruits in Advanced Training for Service: first week
- Horse Camp

### Week #2 (July 1-6)

- Sailing I (Grades 6-8)
- Recruits in Advanced Training for Service: final week
- Leaders-In-Training (LIT): first week
- Alumni Family Camp (July 1-4)

### Week #3 (July 8-13)

- Confirmation Camp
- LIT: second week

### Week #4 (July 15-20)

- Classic Youth Camp
- Mini Camp (July 15-18)
- LIT: final week

### Week #5 (July 22-28)

- Senior High Week

### Week #6 (July 29-August 3)

- Classic Youth
- Night Owls 2.0! (Grades 7-10)
- Sailing II (Grades 9-12)



**LCLC**  
Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center

# Hope Preschool



The weather has cooperated a few times & allowed us to have some fun outside! While our kiddos enjoy playing in the snow, we think they are eager for warmer weather so we can get outside more often. We will be celebrating Valentine's Day on Ash Wednesday and are looking forward to learning about the season of Lent in the coming weeks. The month of February will be another slow month for us and then the busy-ness of Spring will set in! Before we know it May will be here and with that...Graduation.

In the coming weeks we will be participating in a flower bulb fundraiser. We will have an order form available on the counter by the church office. 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.

- Mrs. Chris



# What is your gift?

*Julie Tingle, Ministry Coordinator*

This month our Ladies Bible Study is focusing on discovering God given gifts, often referred to as our spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are special characteristics given to us by the Holy Spirit that empowers each of us to serve Christ and the church.

During the season of Lent we are often found fasting— giving up things or habits and tuning out distractions while instead we turn our energy to God. This year during Lent I am going to turn my energy towards God in a different way and I encourage you to join. I want to learn more about the gifts God has given me, learn more about them and how they can make be a better disciple of Christ.

Just like our unique thumbprints— God made each of us with such thought and care making us all a treasure. In Jeremiah 1:4-5 the Lord said “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” Take some time this Lenten season to learn about the gifts intended for you.

You can take a simple assessment that is designed to help you determine your spiritual gifts – from hospitality to pastoring and leadership to wisdom. You can take an online assessment [HERE](#) or print and download this bible study [HERE](#). There will also be some copies on the church shelf.

Take time to reflect on what you learn from this assessment. Were you surprised? How can you use this information? How can finding out your gifts better serve Hope?



I look forward to reflecting on this together in the coming weeks.

*- Julie*

# Faces of Hope

## Youth Spaghetti Dinner...



\$1,600 was raised by our hardworking youth at our recent spaghetti dinner towards their trip to Houston for the ELCA Youth Gathering. Those in attendance were in awe of how great the youth worked together and did 99% of the work. Way to go kids! Stay tuned for upcoming Fundraisers for their trip to include:

- Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast
- Cash Raffle
- Spring Car Wash
- Concessions at the Chamber Trade Fair & Home Show
- Stocks

## Youth Winter Retreat...



With a theme of friendship, Pastor Shawn and three of Hope's College students lead a weekend retreat in Ellicottville for 23 of our youth. The weekend included reflection, snow tubing and skiing, games and a lot of laughs surrounded by the strengthen of friendships.



# Faces of Hope

## Ladies of Hope at Ronald McDonald



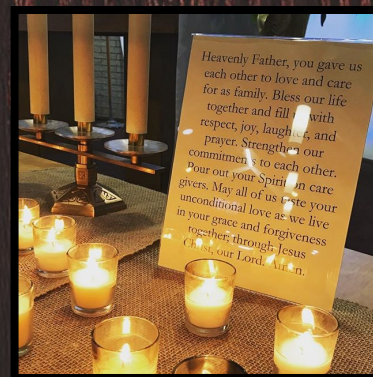
A meal of shepherd's pie and apple crisp was prepared for the families at the Ronald McDonald House in Buffalo by some of the Ladies of Hope. Start collecting your pop tabs and consider bringing them to church to donate to the house. The money raised from the sale of the aluminum goes towards the gas bill the house has for transporting families to the surrounding hospitals.

## Around Church...



During winter break, Hope's Kaitie Wood shared with the confirmation class things she learned in her world religion class in college.

A Bills themed coffee hour with lots of Hopensters wearing blue and red was hosted by the Tavernier family during the playoffs!



During worship on January 14, families gathered and lit candles while saying a blessing prayer for their family.

Ale House Church was a packed house this month on the topic of the Church Year.



# Celebrating Hope

Congratulations to **Cole Pleace** for being honored as the Character Athlete of the Game on January 18. Cole plays varsity basketball at Pioneer.



Congratulations to **Bob Buchardt** for being presented with the Draxler award from the NY State Sheriff Institute. This award is given for exceptional career achievements and conscientious devotion to duty that demonstrates a spirit of selfless public service over the course of an entire career.



# Birthdays...

- 1- *Kathleen LaScala*
- 2- *Jessica Rung*
- 3- *David North*
- 5- *Jana Landahl*
- 6- *Roger Day*
- 8- *Vince Hammell*
- 8- *Becky Sonner*
- 10- *Edward McCarthy*
- 14- *Tracy Stiles*
- 18- *Mitchell Marcin*
- 19- *Janice Page*
- 21- *Judith Noble*
- 22- *Allen Nichols*
- 23- *Alasdair McCarthy*
- 23- *Barbara Phair*
- 24- *Michael Prior*
- 25- *Jenni Smith*
- 27- *Melissa Pleace*

# Anniversaries...

- 10- *Bill & Kathryn Landahl*
- 14- *Doug & Betty Nichols*
- 17- *Edward & Ellen McCarthy*

# Duty Roster— February

	February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25
Acolyte 8:30 am	Eric Rautenstrauch Connor Fleischman	Isaiah Carter Catherine Brown	Timmy Sonner Riley Bliss	Garrett Milks Cody Smith
Acolyte 10:30am	Clara Gross Gavin Hammell	Zach Rimbey Nick Rimbey	Clara Gross Gavin Hammell	Zach Rimbey Nick Rimbey
Altar Guild	Sue Dressel Judy Strobele	Margie Rung Carol Staffehl	Carol Boldt	Sue Dressel Judy Strobele
Assisting Minister 8 :30 am 10:30 am	Helena Blackwell Sue Dressel	Mary Alpin Pam Bradford	Joanne Offers Bob Vossler	Tracey Wood Stephen Struckmann
AV Tech 8:30 am 10:30 am	Trevor Bley Stephen Struckmann	Cora Blackwell Stephen Struckmann	Alyssa Boldt Julie Tingue	Madelyn Tavernier Scott Rimbey
HC Assistant 8:30am 10:30am	Lisa Deahn Pam Bradford	Anna Sonner Sharlene Vossler	Melissa Pleace Sue Dressel	Jen Blackwell Gary Rung
Council Rep 8:30am 10:30am	Joanne Offers Bob Vossler	Paul Fehringer Carol Boldt	Tracey Wood Bob Vossler	Cora Blackwell Carol Boldt
Greeters (10:30)	Gary & Margie Rung	Chris Gross	Al & Carol Boldt	Kathy LaScala
Lector 8:30am 10:30am	Ashley Bartz Chris Gross	Joanne Offers Bob Vossler	Cora Blackwell Jodie Buchhardt	Tim Sonner Paul Rigerman
Prayers 8:30 am 10:30 am	Tim Sonner Victoria McCarthy	Kim Offers Sandi Bennett	Mary Alpin Al Boldt	Carol Hannon Dale Deahn
Children's Church 8:30am 10:30am	Stephanie Milks Margie Webster	Stephanie Milks Margie Webster	Julie Tingue Margie Webster	Margie Webster Margie Webster
Ushers 8:30 10:30	Jim & MaryAlpin Kathy LaScala Carol Staffehl	Tim & Marcy Sonner Al Boldt & Scott Rimbey	Janet Campana & Dale Deahn Chuck & Pam Bradford	Kim & Joanne Offers Len & Sue Dressel
Coffee Hour	Jen Blackwell	Marilyn Pirdy Bev Hallock	Darla Schwab	Margie Rung
Counters	Scott Bley Lisa Deahn	Mike Sonner, Jr. Anna Sonner	Kelly Frazier Joanne Offers	Brenda Schmidt John Kossow

In everything there is hope.

HOPE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
2 East Main Street

Arcade, New York

**Address Service Requested**

This newsletter was prepared especially for: