

What on earth are we here for?

A Reflection from Pastor Bob Dievendorf

Have you ever wondered, as you journey in life, about the most fundamental question we as human beings could have: what on earth am I here for? It seems to me that if we are honest with ourselves, we would have to answer "Yes, I have asked that question – perhaps often, perhaps rarely, but at least once in my life." As we experience life's many challenges, hurdles, and temptations, it is not uncommon to reflect on why we are here.

A clue to the answer: "It's not about you...you were created by God and for God, and until you understand that, life will never make sense. It is only in God that we discover our origin, our identity, our meaning, our purpose, our significance, and our destiny. Every other path leads to a dead end."

During Lent 2019, Hope is offering you an opportunity to reflect on this deep-rooted question and, hopefully, determine for yourself the answer. Each Sunday morning (March 10,17,24, 31, April 7,14) from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (between services), we will meet in a group to view a video then discuss the implications and applications of living the life that God has created for YOU to live! I am looking forward to facilitating this group study and invite all of you to join in this Lenten undertaking.

The six sessions include: You Matter to God, You Were Planned with God's Pleasure, You Were Formed for God's Family, You Were Created to Become Like Christ, You Were Shaped to Serve God, and You Were Made for a Mission. These discussions are based on a video clip and reading from the book by Rick Warren, "The Purpose Driven Life – What On earth Am I Here For?". The cost of the book is \$10 per individual and will be ordered by Hope.

Contact Information

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WORSHIP NOTES

Worship with us...

8:30am: Band Led

10:30am: Piano & Organ Led

Sunday, February 3-4th Sunday of Epiphany

Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10 & 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

Sunday, February 10-5th Sunday of Epiphany

Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8 & 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Sunday, February 17-6th Sunday of Epiphany

Readings: Jeremiah 17:5-10 & 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Gospel: Luke 6:17-26

Sunday, February 24- 7th Sunday of Epiphany

Readings: Genesis 45:3-11, 15 & 1 Corinthians 15:35-

38, 42-50

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38



In Our Prayers 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, Traci, Harold Staffehl, Joan Taylor, Amber
Kilmer, John Kossow, Norma Siegel, Roger Day, Ron
Martin, Dakota Miller, Fred Lee, Bob Vossler, Maria,
Brooke Offhaus, Linda, Irene Lander, Matt Weaver, Darlene
Cummings, Erin Hammell, Brian Smith, Mary Ann.

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.

What on earth cont...

As sign-up sheet can be found on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall at church for you to sign-up if you are looking to find the answer to your "Why". As we look forward to Lent, we hope you will join us in this discussion, reflection and life-transforming study. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

-Pastor Bob

***We are grateful for Pastor Bob Dievendorf's leadership at Hope since his retirement from Arcade UCC last summer! ***

THANKS BE TO GOD!

LAUREN ASHBURN

of the WNY Alzheimer's Association for her support and guidance for Hope's new Respite program.

TIM SONNER

for making Hope's new manger using the Altar Railing.

HOPE PRESCHOOL

In the last newsletter we were hoping for some snow to play in. I guess its safe to say that winter has certainly arrived! We were able to enjoy a little bit of snow play and are now hoping for tolerable temperatures to really enjoy the snow!

We enjoyed singing for Hope's respite guests in January and even saw a few of the guests singing along! We have been practicing some new songs and look forward to participating in the coming months.

Thank you to all who those that supported our Pampered Chef Fundraiser and donated to our wish list of the month items in January- the items will be put to good use!

PRESCHOOL WISH LIST ITEM OF THE MONTH: Chocolate Gold Foil Wrapped Coins & St. Patrick's Day Stickers

EVENTS at a GLANCE

February 1 Preschool Pampered Chef Fundraiser- 6pm

February 3 Sunday Services- 8:30am & 10:30am

February 5 Quilting: 10am-2pm

Youth Group: 6:30-8pm

February 6 Valentine Card Making: 6:30pm

February 10 Sunday Services- 8:30am & 10:30am

February 11 Church Council: 6:30pm

February 12 Quilting: 10am-2pm

Youth Group: 6:30-8pm

February 13 Hope Respite: 10:30am-2:30pm

February 15 Fish Fry: 4:30-Sold Out

February 17 Sunday Services- 8:30am & 10:30am

February 19 Quilting: 10am-2pm

*NO YOUTH GROUP DURING WINTER BREAK

February 20 Ladies Book Club #1 at Ronald McDonald House

February 21 Ladies Book Club #2 at Carol Boldt's Home: 7pm

February 24 Sunday Services- 8:30am & 10:30am

Confirmation: 5pm

February 25 Ale House Church: 7pm

February 26 Quilting: 10am-2pm

Ladies Book Club #3 at Hope: 2:30pm

Youth Group: 6:30-8pm

February 27 Committee Coffee House- 6:30pm







MINISTRIES

YOUTH

YOUTH GROUP NIGHTS:

Tuesdays*
6:30-8:00pm
*NO YOUTH GROUP DURING
WINTER BREAK*

Stay tuned for a special upcoming game night!

CONFIRMATION:

Sunday, February 24 5-7pm

Confirmation Sunday: May 5

YOUTH WINTER RETREAT-

Our 7th— 12th graders are invited to attend a winter retreat March 15-17 at Camp Pioneer in Angola, NY. Pastor Shawn and our college students will lead the retreat. Cost: \$75 per youth. If your family needs financial assistance with this trip, please see Pastor.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTION:

Attention 2nd graders and those interested in communion instruction. Classes are set for Sundays: March 10, 17 & 24 at 11:30am (lunch will be provided). Communion Celebration will take place on Sunday, March 31. All classes are for children AND their parents. If your child is in 2nd grade or has not yet gone through communion instruction at Hope and would be interested, please let pastor know.

MCCLOSKEY SCHOLARSHIP:

Application forms are available in the Church Office for the Martha McCloskey Scholarship. You may apply to receive this scholarship, if you are attending college and have not already received this assistance in the past.

ADULT

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY-

Pastor Bob Dievendorf will be leading a bible study during the Lenten Season on Sunday mornings at 9:30am between services starting March 10 and ending on Palm Sunday, April 14. The group will be reading and discussing the book "A Purpose Driven Life: What On Earth Am I Here For?" The cost for the book is \$10, please sign up on the Bulletin Board by March 1.

LADIES BOOK CLUB-

The ladies book clubs are starting new books in February. Let Julie know if you want to join:
Group #1: "Girl Wash Your Face"
(meets 2nd Thursday of the month at 7pm)
Group #2: "God Winks"
(meets 3rd Thursday of the month) @7pm)
Group #3: "God Winks"
(meets 4th Tuesday of the month @ 2:30pm)

COMMITTEE COFFEE HOUSE -

Our new church committees will have their next meeting on **Wednesday**, **February 27 6:30pm**. If you have been selected to be on one of our committees, please make every effort to attend...

ALE HOUSE CHURCH -

Ale House Church will take place at Main Street Grille on February 25 at 7:00pm. Come raise a glass, no experience necessary. Topic to be announced soon!

VALENTINE CARD MAKING RESCHEDULED-

New date: Wed. Feb 6th at 6:30pm. Join us for an evening of Valentine card making and fellowship. Jen Blackwell and Betsy Craft will be teaching the event. The cost is \$10 for materials for 4 cards.

HOPE GIVES: Lenten Discipline

A message from Sandi Bennett, Hope's Outreach Committee

Lent is the 40 day season of the church year preceding Easter, where we focus on repentance and acts of spiritual discipline. It is a time to reflect where we are on our faith journeys and make a conscious effort to return to God. The church often talks about three practices that we can engage in that will help us to accomplish this goal. *Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving*. All three of these things are scriptural and have been practiced by Christians for centuries.

Prayer – As good Christians we pray every day, but during Lent, many people pray that God would help them to re-focus themselves on God's ways rather than the ways of the world.

"Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his presence continually"

- 1 Chronicles 16:11

Fasting – Not only did Jesus talk about fasting, he also gave instructions on how to do so. Fasting isn't only about refraining from food, it also can include refraining from items such as over use of cell phone apps, computers, television, alcohol, etc. In fasting, earthly comforts are put aside so that the person can re-focus on walking with God.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting.

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." - Matthew 6:16-18

Almsgiving – This is the Lenten practice that is least well known among Christians today. And because many people don't know for sure what it is, it happens to be the most neglected of the Lenten disciplines. Most people who are brave enough to venture a guess as to what almsgiving is tend to say that it is the practice of giving money to the church. While this is true to a certain degree, almsgiving is also much more. Almsgiving is "giving to God."

It includes both prayer and fasting. It is believed that almsgiving is prayer because it is a form of giving to God and it is fasting because it demands sacrificial giving. But almsgiving can take many forms such as a monetary donation, a work of mercy such as visiting a shut-in, donating socks and mittens for the homeless, making a prayer shawl for a person who is ill, tutoring a child, mentoring a young mother or just treating someone with kindness.

'Jesus said to him, 'If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me .'"
- Matthew 19:21

Hope's Outreach Committee would like you to consider adding Almsgiving this year to your Lenten journey. We are asking you to support the following seven local and regional charities: Friends of Night People, Boys & Girls Club of Holland, G.A.Family Services, Ronald McDonald House, Backpack for Kids Program, C.H.O.I.C.E.S & Harvest House, The Pines. Each week during lent we will be suggesting items that these charities are most in need of and will ask you to bring items every Sunday. Stay tuned for more details about this Lenten Discipline: Hope Gives 2019!

Whether you are fasting, giving something up or doing something extra for Lent in your attempts to re-focus yourself on God and his ways, I pray that you will fully immerse yourselves in the season so that you will be better able to rejoice on Easter Sunday!

OPPORTUNITIES

to Give & Serve

• **FISH FRY**: Our first Fish Fry of the season will be held here on Friday, February 15th. Dine in or take out, 4:30pm- sold out. There are sign-up sheets on the SHELF for those who are able to help and for donations of food or the cost of food. Our next Fish Fry will be held on Friday, March 15th.

HOPE RESPITE:

- STUFFED ANIMALS REQUESTED: Our Hope Respite program is looking for stuffed animals to give to our guests as Bingo prizes every month, they are a big hit! We will accept any gently loved stuffed animals that you are willing to part with. Please put them in Julie's office. Thank you!
- **VOLUNTEERS:** As our program grows we will need more one-on-one volunteers for the program on the second Wednesday of every month. If this is of interest to you and you missed the first training, we have scheduled another one for Thursday, March 14 from 10am-1pm. Let Julie know if you would like to be involved.
- WINTER YOUTH RETREAT CAMPERSHIPS: Our youth our headed for a weekend of spiritual learning and reflection, team building and fun at Camp Pioneer in Angola. The cost is \$110/child. To keep it affordable we are charging youth \$75 to attend which includes 2 nights of lodging and 4 meals. If you would like to sponsor a youth group member to attend and/or help to offset the cost difference in some way, please see Pastor Shawn.

WORSHIP LEADERS: Liturgy- the form of our worship- literally means the "work of the people." That means that you are the ministers of Hope Lutheran Church and one way you can give to Hope is to serve as a leaders during worship. Please fill out the form below and indicate your willingness to serve on Sunday mornings and place it in the offering plate or return it to the office. For more information about each responsibility, you can find a Worship Leader Guide in your pew.

I typical	y attend:	8:30am service	10:30am service
Adults	& Older Youth:		
			ng and after services for communion
	AV Tech (6" o	rade and up)- Sit in the hal	cony and advance TV slides with worship
	Assisting Min	ister- Assisting the pastor of	during service and leading liturgy and praye
	_ Assisting Min _ Coffee Hour-	ister - Assisting the pastor of Host refreshments at 9:30a	during service and leading liturgy and prayom between services
	Assisting Min Coffee Hour- Greeter- Welc	ister - Assisting the pastor of Host refreshments at 9:30a Tome folks to church and pa	during service and leading liturgy and praye m between services ss out bulletins
	Assisting Min Coffee Hour- Greeter- Welc Holy Commur	ister- Assisting the pastor of Host refreshments at 9:30a Tome folks to church and pa Ton Assistant- Assist in di	during service and leading liturgy and pray m between services ss out bulletins istributing Holy Communion
	Assisting Min Coffee Hour- Greeter- Welc Holy Commun Lector- Read	ister- Assisting the pastor of Host refreshments at 9:30a come folks to church and pa nion Assistant- Assist in di ing the scripture reading du	during service and leading liturgy and prayom between services as out bulletins istributing Holy Communion iring service
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HOPE happenings







Hope Respite kicked off the first program with 5 guests and over 15 volunteers. Highlights of the day included our preschoolers singing, some competitive BINGO, sing-a-longs, parachute exercise and more! We look forward to next month!





HOPE happenings







The Ladies of Hope got together for an evening of fellowship, devotion, prayer and crafts. Book clubs begin this month, let Julie know if you would like to join one of the groups.









Our Discover Hope Breakfast held last month was a great opportunity to share about the ministries of Hope. We were delighted to have so many guests in attendance! If you seek more information about Hope please reach out to Pastor.



CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays... Babies...

- 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



Jesse Dean Lambert 8lbs, 20.5"

Tiffany & Scott Lambert welcomed their 4th child on January 19, 2019, a happy and healthy baby boy!

Anniversaries...

8- Paul & Diane Gibbs

10- Bill & Kathryn Landahl

14- Doug & Betty Nichols

17- Edward & Ellen McCarthy

SAVE the DATE...

March 6: Ash Wednesday Service at 11am & 7pm

March 10, 17, 24: Communion Instruction

March 10, 17, 24, 31: Lenten Bible Study with Pastor Bob Dievendorf

March 11: Church Council

March 13, 20, 27: Community Lent Service & Luncheon

March 13: Respite

March 14: Respite Training for New Volunteers

March 15: Fish Fry

March 15-17: Youth Winter Retreat

March 19: Blood Drive

March 25: Ale House Church

March 27: Committee Coffee House March 31: Communion Celebration

April 14: Empty Bowls Fundraiser

April 21: Easter Sunday

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24
Acolyte 8:30 am	Tyce & Trey Monin	Garrett Milks Mason Miller	Timmy Sonner	Megan Boldt
Acolyte 10:30am	Kole Hammell	Kristofer Burfield	Gavin Hammell	Kole Hammell
Altar Guild	Margie Rung Carol Staffehl	Carol Boldt	Sue Dressel Judy Strobele	Margie Rung Carol Staffehl
Assisting Minister 8 :30 am 10:30 am	Joanne Offers Sue Dressel	Tracey Wood Stephen Struckmann	Margie Webster Bob Vossler	Mary Alpin Stephen Struckmann
AV Tech 8:30 am 10:30 am	Jacob Offhaus Cindy Struckmann	Cora Blackwell Cindy Struckmann	Alyssa Boldt Stepehn Struckmann	Ernie Floyd Scott Rimbey
HC Assistant 8:30am 10:30am	Mary Alpin Sharlene Vossler	Anna Sonner Sue Dressel	Lisa Deahn Kathy LaScala	Joanne Offers Bob Vossler
Greeters (10:30)	Pauline Brown	Al & Carol Boldt	Chris Gross	Brenda Schmidt
Lector 8:30am 10:30am	Monica Reding Paul Rigerman	Mary Alpin Bob Vossler	Anna Tavernier Jodie Buchhardt	Cecelia Titus/ Makenna Smith Carol Staffehl
Prayers 8:30 am 10:30 am	Tim Sonner Kim Offers	Dale Deahn Sandi Bennett	Margie Webster Victoria McCarthy	Ashley Bartz Sue Dressel
Children's Church 8:30am 10:30am	Angie Tavernier Julie Tingue	Angie Tavernier Julie Tingue	MeganTitus Tracey Wood	TBD Julie Tingue
Ushers 8:30am	Terry Reding Margie Webster	Tim & Marcy Sonner	Ernie Floyd Missy Pleace	Janet Campana Dale Deahn
Ushers 10:30 am	Al Boldt Kim Offers	Kathy LaScala Jodie Buchhardt	Len & Sue Dressel	Kathy LaScala Carol Staffehl
Coffee Hour 9:30-10:30am	Ashley Bartz	Margie Rung	Sharlene Vossler	Margie Webster
Counters	Scott Bley	Joanne Offers Kelly Thomson	Joanne Offers Kelly Thomson	John Kossow

In everything there is hope.





Arcade, New York

Address Service Requested

This newsletter was prepared especially for: