

Hope's Happenings

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Volume 41, Issue 5

ARCADE, NEW YORK
January & February 2014

From Pastor Shawn

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Zimmerman

Youth Director:
Jim Vitale

We're entering the time of resolution. Electronic cigarette sales are through the roof while time management books are flying off the shelves. People everywhere are setting goals to manage their stress, go back to school, or start another job. I myself have a resolution, but I would hardly call it new or identify it with the new year. I want to lose weight and get in shape, and I know I'm not alone.

But there is one problem. On the eve of the first anniversary of my 29th birthday, I am having a harder time than ever accomplishing my never-ending goal to get in shape. You see, my workout plan has always been quite simple: workout often and hard enough so that I can eat anything I want. I am afraid, however, that this year's supply of Christmas cookies may have something to say about that.

This reality, of course, leads to something that has always been a four-letter word in my book. It may be time to consider my *diet* too. You can get away with eating anything you want for a while, but real health means paying attention to both your diet and your exercise.

So often we look for health answers in workout programs like P90X or Zumba, but return home to half-gallons of ice cream or, in my case, one dozen extra-saucy, steroid-injected, delicious chicken wings. Or, on the other hand, we focus on the South Beach or Paleo-Diets but exercise as little as (or sometimes less than) before. But true health isn't a choice between diet or exercise. **True health means both.**

I see and hear similar things from people when it comes to spirituality. There seems to be two camps of people—those of faith and those of works. The people of faith say, "I believe in a creator," and some are more specific saying, "I believe that Jesus died for me." But, often those same people say, "...but I don't feel the need to go to church to worship, or give my time and money to others." These people *are* faithful

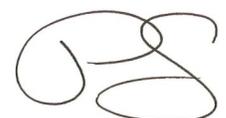
people to be sure, but it is hard to see how it impacts their lives. On the other side of the argument are the people of works. They are folks who long to help those in need, but neglect to see what faith in Jesus has to do with that.

Obviously there is goodness in both groups, but often this dichotomy ends in both sides lifting up their stance and failing to see the bigger picture. **And the bigger picture is**, like physical health needing both diet *and* exercise, **spiritual health needs both faith *and* works.** Leaning on one may work for awhile (maybe even a lifetime), but it is not until we find balance in both that we live into the *fullest measure peace and joy that God wants for our lives.*

2nd Corinthians 5:7 says, "...for we walk by faith..." Those five simple words sum it up nicely. How we live and the things we do must be informed by our faith, and, likewise, our faith is incomplete until it informs our 'walk.' For the best example of this we need only to look to Jesus whose faithfulness led him to the cross. We're saved by both God's faith and God's work, and that's how he calls us to live.

This isn't a matter of salvation. Neither faith, works, or faith and works can merit us God's grace. That's his gift. And thank goodness because, like New Year's resolutions, we will fail at our best attempts to 'walk by faith' far more often than we succeed. But unlike New Year's resolutions, we don't need to wait for January to start again. God's grace comes to us new and calls us to live faithfully every day. So as we live into the new year with our many resolutions, may we not forget this one: **to grow in our faith as we increase our work.**

Happy New Year,



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Worship Notes

Sunday Morning Worship at 8:00am & 10:30am

Sunday, January 12th
We Celebrate the
Baptism of Our Lord
& we baptize Liam Maul
(10:30am)

Sunday, January 19th
Installation of Officers,
Church Council and
Committee Members
(8am & 10:30am)

Looking Ahead:
Wednesday, March 5th
Ash Wednesday
Worship
11:00pm & 7:00pm



We Remember in Our Prayers

Connie Madison,
Barbara Fehringer,
Walter Wesche,
Darlene Armstrong,
Matthew Nourse,
Lois Smith,
Kimberly Cordz,
Nichole,
Peggy Cordz-Brown,
Ardean Day,
Ervin Niles,
Shelli,
Donna Redden,

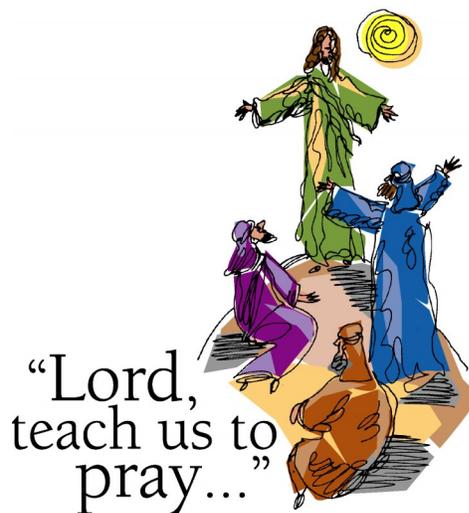
Carmon Becker,
Lisa,
Kirk Crandall,
Hyland Day,
Melissa Ackerman,
Roger Day,
Emily Richards,
Sharlie Mullin,
Brennon McCormick,
Melanie Cole,
Betty Babbitt,
Virginia Fritz,
Charlene Burfield/Gross,

Diana Hoffman,
Bill Hannon,
Jessie Aldrich,
Catriona,
Betty Whiting,
Mary Maines,
Bill Strobele,
Judy Young,
Mike Edmunds,
Dennis Rung,
Don Day,
and Bob Zimmerman.

We continue to keep our Servicemen and women who are serving at home and overseas in our prayers, Sean Babbitt, Jason Hopkins, Dylan Smoot, and Jon Winfield, We continue to remember Andy Deahn in our prayers; Andy is no longer in the military service, however he will be working as a civilian in Afghanistan.

We pray for all the people struggling with drug and alcohol addictions, the victims of all forms of abuse, the poor in wealth and spirit and all those who suffer at the hands of injustice.

We pray for all our Synod, Local, State and National leaders and all those elected into office.



“Lord,
teach us to
pray...”

Luke 11:1

From Jim Vitale Youth Director

I love snowmen. They are so much fun to make. When I was younger, I used to spend many hours playing out in the snow, shaping new and creative snow people. My family dubbed one of my favorite snowmen I ever made as the “snow creeper.” I rolled him up outside our dining room window, his little twig arms clutching the frame of the window, his little button eyes and long carrot nose pressed against the frosty February window. As we sat down to eat that night, I pointed and exclaimed, “Oh my gosh! What is that!?” My whole family turned so see a snowman stalking us through the window as we ate. Snowmen are great. They can assume so many different identities and each one is unique.

Unfortunately, however, snowmen are only moldable a few days out of the year. The snow has to be just right. If it is too cold, you will have a malformed iceman. If it is too dry, you will have unshapeable powder. If it is too wet, you will have a melty-slushman. Indeed, one must have a perfect balance of moisture in order to construct the perfect snowman. Think back to the parable of the sower. A farmer comes along and scatters a bunch of seeds (rather randomly). Some falls among the path, others upon rocks, some among weeds and a few in the fertile soil. Of course, only the seeds in the fertile soil ever manage to grow up healthy. In the same way, God is forming snowmen out of each of us.

As you know, we believe in salvation by faith in Jesus Christ by the grace of God. There is nothing we can do to earn that salvation. It is with us no matter what. God is rolling a snowman out of you whether you like it or not. The question is, what kind of snowman will you be? You see, it is how we respond to that divine salvation, that call on our lives, which determines the kind of Christian we will become. If you struggle against God’s love, you will be icy and malformed. We can go through the motions at church and give our money, but if there is no vitality in our worship, we are powder. If we love but fail to stand up for what we believe, we will be like the spineless melty-slushman. Only in prayerfully and responsibly responding to God’s call on our lives will we become a proper snowman.

So as you enjoy the winter wonderland outside, or steel yourself against the long season to come, remember that Christ has saved you and now he is seeking to form you. Be conscious of his presence in your life. Be aware of what he is doing. Be attentive to his calling. I pray that we may all may be ripe snow for the molding.

The Peace of Christ be with you always.



Opportunities to Give



Souperbowl of Caring

This Superbowl season, Hope joins in a national effort to tackle hunger as we collect food and monetary donations for our local pantries. Many folks feel called to give during the holiday season to pantries, but hunger doesn't take a winter break. Give your donations, and be sure to place them in the bucket of the team you think will win!

Mission Giving

On your envelope you will notice a line entitled "Missions." This mission line goes beyond Hope and supports national and international efforts including Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Hunger, College and Military Chaplaincies, and much, much more. Consider adding a gift to missions in your giving today as we hear God's promise that where we helped the hungry, cold, and poor, we were helping him.

Direct Giving

In a world ever less dependant on cash and checks, Hope is exploring opportunities to help individuals and families give in ways that work for them. Stay tuned for more information.

Care Pastor Update:

Hope Lutheran Church announces the start of a writing project aimed at providing valuable information to care-givers and those needing an advocate to help in medical situations. Advocates can offer help in navigating the perils and confusion encountered in dealing with hospital stays or while confined in senior residential facilities. This project is being headed up by Pastor Bob Zimmerman.

Pastor Bob now requests help from medical professional professionals— Doctors, Nurses, Medical Technician and lay people having experience in long term institutional care. Suggestions of a positive nature are welcome as we prepare a handbook to be made available to care-givers in need of support.

Those interested in participating in this writing project are asked to contact Pastor Bob at 716-496-5176 or hollandrev@gmail.com.



Thanks Be To God *for you!*

*Our council thanks the following people
for going above and beyond in the last months.*

November 2013

Jerry and Jeanne Schuler, for their work with the youth making apple pies
Bob Landahl, for his extra effort at this year's turkey dinner
Barb Fehringer, for her generous gift of a new Christmas tree for our sanctuary

December 2013

Dale Deahn, for his 3 years of service to the church on council and representation
at 2 consecutive Synod Assemblies with Lisa Deahn

Special Thanks from our Staff

Thank you to all who donated to this year's staff Christmas gifts.
Your generosity during the holiday season was greatly appreciated!

Thank you!

Margie, Carol, Paul, Pastor Bob, Jim, Chris, Karen, Krista & Doug



GIVING

2013 FOURTH QUARTER FINANCIAL UPDATE:

October 2013 Weekly Giving: **\$2,870.81**

Oct 2012 Weekly Giving: **\$2,208.00**

November 2013 Weekly Giving: **\$2,248.11**

Nov 2012 Weekly Giving: **\$2,854.32**

December 2013 Weekly Giving: **\$1,885.08**

Dec 2012 Weekly Giving: **\$2,290.00**

****Missional Operating Costs: \$2,500/week**

Education

Confirmation

The next confirmation class will take place on Wednesday, January 15 from 7-8pm. We will have an open forum to ask questions of life and faith. The February confirmation classes are on the 5th and 12th and will cover the Lord's Prayer. These are the last classes until after Easter.

4th Graders and the Church Year

On the Sundays in January our 4th graders will gather with Pastor Shawn to learn about the church year as we start another calendar one. We will study the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost and how they relate to God's activity and Jesus' life. Watch for our very own creation of the church year calendar in the parish hall.

Looking Ahead:

Communion Instruction

Attention 2nd graders and those interested in communion instruction. Classes are set for Wednesdays March 12, 19, 26 and April 2. We will head to Designing Dish to make our communion sets on Sunday, March 16. Communion Celebration will take place on Sunday, April 6 at 10:30am. All classes are for children and their parents.



Thank you for supporting us one again at our Christmas program on December 15th during the 10:30am worship service. Every child made it onto the stage this year and no one cried!

Our financial assistance program continues to help us serve children who may not be able to attend without it. We appreciate your continued support in making donations to this new program. If you choose to make a donation to this program, please place it in an envelope labeled "Preschool" and place it in the offering plate. You can also drop donations off in the church office or mail them. THANK YOU to those who have already given so generously! Knowing that we will be able to provide financial assistance to future families without hurting the school financially is a wonderful feeling.

Blessings,
Chris Kipfer, Director/ Teacher

YOUTH activities

Sky

Zone

Attention all youth! On Saturday, January 18th we are taking a break from the snow to jump around the trampoline covered Sky Zone in Cheektowaga. We will jump 60 or 90 minute sessions (your choice) beginning at 1:00pm. In order to get a group rate we need to make a reservation ahead of time. Please contact PS or Jim if you are planning to jump today. (Please note: This is for all youth AND adults)

Sledding Party

On Sunday, January 26, Hope will be having a sledding party here at church. We will stick around after the 10:30am service for pizza lunch before heading to the Arcade village park for some sledding. Please feel free to bring ATVs for extreme sledding on the east lawn. We will end our afternoon with cocoa back in the parish hall.

Ice Skating

On Sunday, February 16 we will make our annual trip to the outdoor ice skating rink in East Aurora for an afternoon of ice skating. We will skate from 1:00-2:30pm. Hope will cover the skate rental fee (\$3.00).

Volleyball Marathon

From Friday, February 21 through Saturday, February 22 our 6th-12th Grade youth are headed to the Niagara Frontier Lutheran Youth Organizations Volleyball Marathon in West Seneca, NY. We will gather at church before heading to the courts to play volleyball all night long. More details will follow, but grab a friend and gear up for a great night!



Announcements

Red Cross Blood Drive

The next Blood Drive will be Tuesday, January 21 from 11:30-5:30pm.

Care Givers Support Group

The next Care Givers Support Group will meet on Thursday, January 30 & Thursday, February 27 at 6:30pm at Hope.

Committee Coffee House

The next Committee Coffee House will take place on Wednesday, January 22 at 6:30pm. We will gather to plan for the new year as we continue working on the ongoing mission and ministry of the church.

Church Council

Our church council will meet at 6:30pm on Wednesday, January 8th and at 6:30pm on Wednesday, February 19th.

Church Impossible

Representatives from Hope will attend the next Church Impossible session on Saturday, January 18th in East Aurora. We will gather to look at how our assets as a congregation and our values inform how we participate in God's mission in Arcade.

New Website

If you haven't already, be sure to check out www.hopearcade.org to see Hope's new website. The website features audio of sermons, devotions, newsletters, and a great deal of information about our congregation. Contact PS if you are interested in helping manage the events and other information on the website into the future.

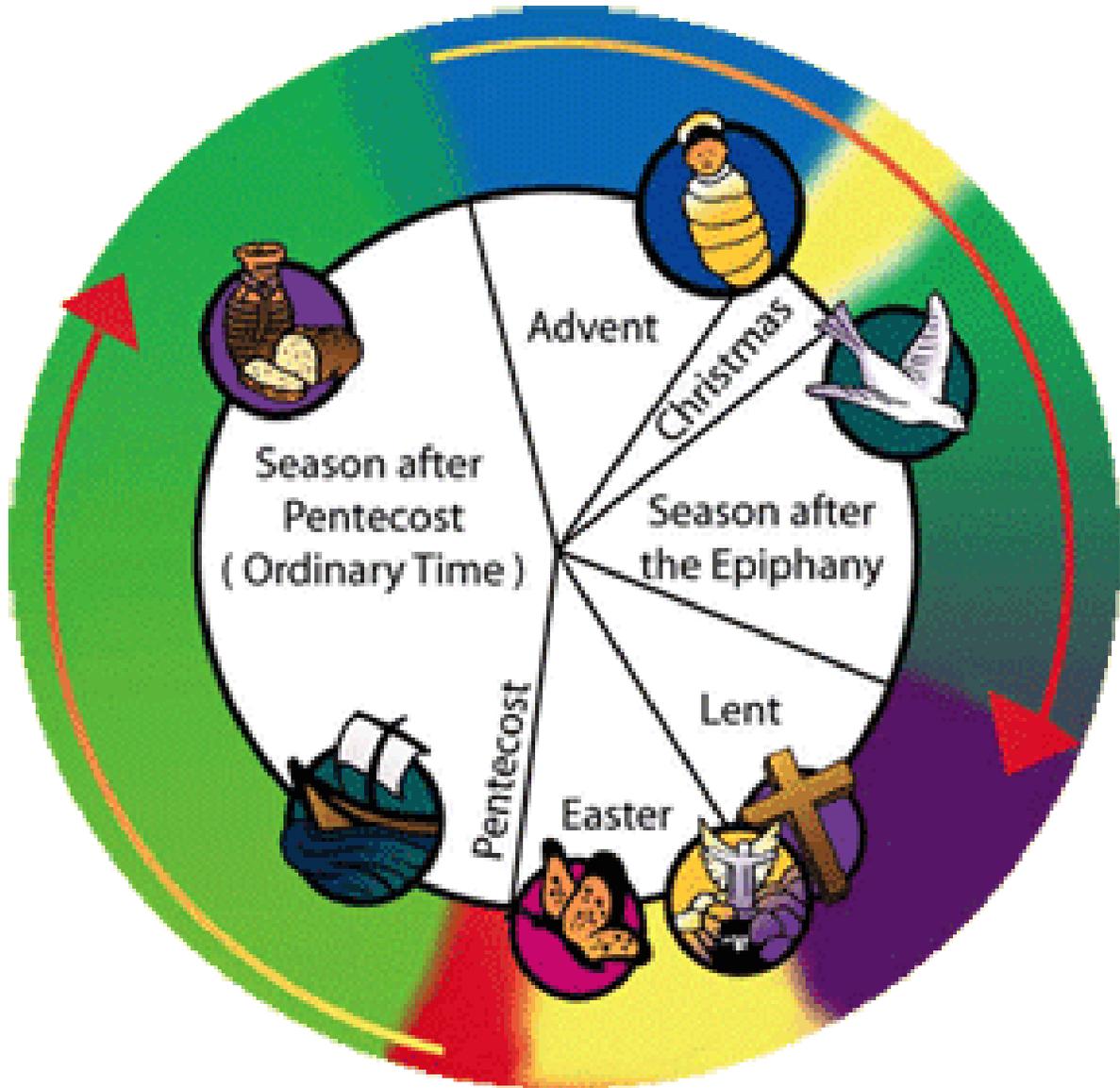
Winterfest: Red Hot!

Hope's Preschool and Church will once again participate in the Winterfest Parade here in Arcade. This year's theme is Red Hot! And the parade will take place on Saturday, February 8th.

Tri-County Pet Loss Support Group

Have you had to say goodbye to a beloved pet? Let the caring individuals at Tri-County Pet Loss Support help. Share your experiences in a secure environment & get support from others who understand that our pets are family too. Meeting at the Sardinia United Methodist Church Monday Jan. 27, 7:00pm. For more information call (716) 492-1200.

The Church Year



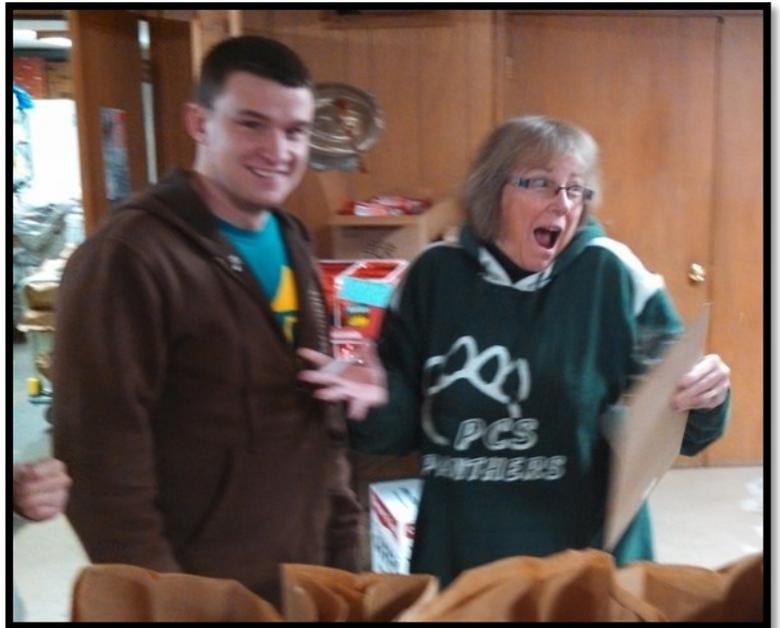
This January our 4th graders are learning all about the church year with Pastor Shawn. The church year starts on the 4th Sunday before Christmas and journeys through the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. Along the way we have special holidays like Reformation Sunday and All Saints' Day. Watch the parish hall for our children's own interpretations of the importance of the seasons this January. And consider...

What's your favorite season of the church year?

How do you see Jesus' life reflected in the cycle of our worship?

HOPE'S HOLIDAYS!

Pam Bradford and Jim Vitale have a little fun while packing up food at the Delevan Food Pantry before Thanksgiving.



Our Sanctuary was set up beautifully as we remembered the birth of Christ this Christmas. He truly is the greatest gift.





This year's Christmas Pageant crew featuring 30+ youth and 6 adults!!!



The preschoolers enjoyed decorating their classroom tree and did a great job at their program on December 15th.





Our confirmation age girls take a break from the sledding at the Winter Confirmation Retreat for a quick photo! A good time was had by all!



This year's confirmation camp group. From the left: Chris LiPuma (LCLC Staff adopted by Hope), Emily Prior, Lauren Pleace, Megan Sonner, Bradley Schrock, Kaitie Wood, Pastor Shawn, Anna Sonner, and Cole Pleace

Date	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26	
<i>Acolyte 8am</i>	Madisen Sonner Anna Sonner	Tyler Cockle Evan Frazier	Trevor Bley Tyler Bley	Emily Frazier Ashley Bliss	
<i>10:30am</i>	Cora Blackwell Payeton Burfield	Amanda Prior Kerianne Alpin	Tomi Cordz Anna Tavernier	Catherine Brown Alyssa Boldt	
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Jim and Mary Alpin	Carol Staffehl Margie Rung	Carol Boldt Barb Sonner	Sue Dressel, Judy Strobele	
<i>HC Assistant 8am</i>	Scott Bley	Joanne Offers	Mike Sonner, Sr.	Margie Webster	
<i>10:30am</i>	Bob Vossler	Mark Cordz	Jim Vitale	Mary Songster-Alpin	
<i>Cong. Deacon 8 am</i>	Joanne Offers	Margie Webster	Gary Rung	Joanne Offers	
<i>10:30am</i>	Jerry Schuler	Kathy Zielonka	Bob Vossler	Sheri Landahl	
<i>Greeters (10:30)</i>	Chuck & Pam Bradford	Mike and Pat Cady	Andy and Ashley Bartz	Melissa Pleace	
<i>Lector 8am</i>	Kathryn Landahl	Tim Sonner	Joanne Offers	Mike Sonner, Sr.	
<i>10:30am</i>	Matt Rung	Carol Staffehl	Sharlene Vossler	Jim Vitale	
<i>Prayers 8am</i>	Kim Offers	Mike Sonner, Sr.	Kathryn Landahl	Judy Strobele	
<i>10:30am</i>	Mark Cordz	Gary Rung	Matt Rung	Bob Vossler	
<i>Ushers (10:30)</i>	Carol Staffehl Kathy LaScala	Chuck Bradford Jim Alpin	Al Boldt, Dale Deahn	Missy Pleace Sue Dressel	
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	Sharlene Vossler	Melissa Rhodus	Pam Bradford	Mary Lou Merlau	
<i>Nursery (10:30)</i>	Melissa Rhodus	Lauren Pleace	Karen Prior	Kim Boldt	
	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23	
<i>Acolyte 8am</i>	Madisen Sonner Anna Sonner	Trevor Bley, Nick Petri	James Rautenstrauch, Haley Celotto	Damin & Eric Rautenstrauch	
<i>10:30am</i>	Kara Boldt Nick Rimbe	Amanda Prior Alyssa Boldt	Tomi Cordz Catherine Brown	Kerianne Alpin Evelyn Schrock	
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Jim and Mary Alpin	Carol Staffehl Margie Rung	Sue Dressel Judy Strobele	Barb Sonner Carol Boldt	
<i>HC Assistant 8am</i>	Kathryn Landahl	Kristin Bley	Mike Sonner, Sr.	Margie Webster	
<i>10:30am</i>	Jen Blackwell	Sheri Landahl	Jim Vitale	Marcia Davies	
<i>Cong. Deacon 8am</i>	Gary Rung	Margie Webster	Joanne Offers	Gary Rung	
<i>10:30am</i>	Jim Vitale	Kathy Zielonka	Bob Vossler	Sheri Landahl	
<i>Greeters (10:30)</i>	Bob and Sharlene Vossler	Jim & Mary Alpin	Al and Carol Boldt	Judy Feine	
<i>Lector 8am</i>	Tim Sonner	Kathryn Landahl	Kim Offers	Mike Sonner, Sr.	
<i>10:30am</i>	Mary Alpin	Ashley Bartz	Dale Deahn	Jim Vitale	
<i>Prayers 8am</i>	Kim Offers	Judy Strobele	Mike Sonner, Sr.	Kathryn Landahl	
<i>10:30am</i>	Paul Rigerman	Karen Prior	Sandi Bennett	Kathy Zielonka	
<i>Ushers (10:30)</i>	Andy and Ashley Bartz	Carol Staffehl Kathy LaScala	Missy Pleace Sue Dressel	Dale Deahn Al Boldt	
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	Judy Strobele	Kim Boldt	Jodie Buchhardt	Margie Rung	
<i>Nursery (10:30)</i>	Jodie Buchhardt	Katie Wood	Tracy Bliss	Heather Petri	

Hope's Happenings JANUARY 2014 Hope Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																		
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19 8:00 & 10:30 Installation of Officers and Committee Members	20 Kim Offers Len Dressel	21 10:00 AM -2:00 PM Quilt Group Meets at Hope 11:03 AM -5:30 PM Red Cross Blood Drive 6:30 PM PAC Meeting at Hope Caroline Neamon	22 6:30 PM All Committees Meet	23	24	25																																																																																		
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Hope's Happenings FEBRUARY 2014 Hope Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; margin-right: 20px;"> <caption>Jan 2014</caption> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"> <caption>Mar 2014</caption> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>						S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						<p>1 Kathleen LaScala</p>
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<p>2 Jessica Rung</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 10:00 AM -2:00 PM Quilt Group Meets at Hope</p>	<p>5 Jana Landahl</p>	<p>6 Roger Day</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Paul and Diane Gibbs 1964</p>																																																																																											
<p>9</p>	<p>10 Bill and Kathryn Landahl 1956 Ed McCarthy</p>	<p>11 10:00 AM -2:00 PM Quilt Group Meets at Hope</p>	<p>12 Tarra Schwab</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Doug & Betty Nichols 1986 Tracy Stiles</p>	<p>15</p>																																																																																											
<p>16 Jim and Amy Burns 1990</p>	<p>17 Ed and Ellen McCarthy 1977</p>	<p>18 10:00 AM -2:00 PM Quilt Group Meets at Hope</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Judy Noble</p>	<p>22 Allen Nichols Eileen Deahn</p>																																																																																											
<p>23</p>	<p>24 Mike Prior</p>	<p>25 10:00 AM -2:00 PM Quilt Group Meets at Hope</p>	<p>26 6:30 PM All Committees Meet</p>	<p>27 6:00 PM Care Givers Meeting Melissa Pleace</p>	<p>28</p>																																																																																												



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Address Service Requested

This newsletter was prepared especially for: