

Hope's Happenings

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NY
Volume 46, Issue 1: January 2018

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Parish Administrators:

**Carol Boldt
Margie Rung**

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From Pastor Shawn

What comes to mind when you hear the word blessing? I ask because I've noticed when we say blessing we mean all sorts of different things. For example, if I asked you to count your blessings you might start thinking about the good things in your life from the material to the intangible. If I asked you to say a blessing, let's say before a meal, on the other hand, you wouldn't simply name one of the blessings from the question before. You'd pray. When young couples seek their parents' approval before getting married, they ask for their blessing. When we worship, we bless the Lord. When we dip our fingers into a baptismal font we call that water blessed. We believe it is different somehow from the water that just made our morning coffee or washed our hands. We sing God bless the USA. We send one another using the words "God bless."

The first thing I notice when I reflect upon that list is how central blessing is in our life. It's all around us. From our hopes for our shared life together to our worship, to the bread we break with our families, blessing abounds. And the second thing I notice is that everywhere there are blessings, there is a relationship. From understanding God as the source of the goodness in our lives to couples seeking the affirmation of their elders to strangers blessing strangers on the street, blessing never happens alone. Blessing only flourishes when parties come together.

As 2017 came to a close, you may have paused for a moment to reflect on your blessings. As 2018 kicks off, you may be hoping for a wonderful year. My hope for all of us is that we might begin to see blessing as more than just the stuff we have or a decorative word to hang on our dining room walls, but instead see blessings all around us. Then, having seen God's blessing, that we might stop counting and start sharing by blessing God and one another.

Blessing is what you have, but it's also what you do. Blessing is a prayer we say, but it's also a state of gratitude. Blessed is what God makes us, but it's also how we respond to God. So as you move into 2018 hoping for blessing to abound, may the fullness of that blessing come to life in you.

May your table overflow. May your faith ever grow. May you love God and neighbor, experiencing and sharing God's favor, this year and forever. Amen.



January Worship Notes

8:30am: Band Led Worship

10:30am: Piano & Organ Led Worship



Sunday, January 7– Epiphany

This January we celebrate **Epiphany**, which means “manifestation.” We will celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles— that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies: the magi’s adoration of the Christ child, Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God’s grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.

Sunday, January 14– Baptism of our Lord

Family Blessing Sunday: We will be setting aside a special moment to reflect and pray for God’s blessing upon us and our families in 2018. As individuals, families, or church families, groups may pray for God’s blessing before returning to their pew following communion. This is a way for us to remind ourselves and our children that every good gift comes from above (James 1:17) and we are blessed to be blessing (Genesis 12:4). As well as to surround ourselves with God’s love as we boldly enter into a new year.



Discover Hope Breakfast: A Discover Hope Brunch will be hosted by the Church Council and Committees of Hope at 9:30am. This is a wonderful way for us to celebrate God’s work among us as we connect with one another. Those newer among us will be our special guests that morning as we discuss what Hope believes and how we live it out in the work of our ministry teams.

Sunday, January 21— Here I am

Installing of Officers & Committee Members

Sunday, January 28

Ministry Hour: Youth Spaghetti Luncheon

Looking Ahead:

Lent Begins Wednesday, February 14
 Wednesday Services in Lent:
 February 21 and 28
 March 7, 14 and 21
 11:00am & 7:00pm
 Easter is Sunday, April 1

Bulletin Printing:

In an effort to be better stewards of our resources and creation we will be printing less bulletins in 2018. The liturgy and music for both services is now completely on the screens at the front of church. If you are comfortable, consider using the screens to follow with worship instead of using a bulletin.

Thanks Be to God for YOU!

Matthew Martin & The Outreach Program: For Driving from New England and hosting and organizing our Meal Packing in December

Rachel Kittleson, Kaitie Wood, & Jen Blackwell— For their service on church council.

The Struckmann Family— For sharing their musical talents during worship in the last few months.



Tanya Nickerson— For helping our youth bake Apple Pies in November for their fundraiser

Bob Landahl and The Reisdorfs— for making the deep fried turkeys for our annual dinner in November

Kathy LaScala, Pauline Brown & Helpers— For cleaning the church in the Fall while we found a new cleaner

We Remember In Our Prayers

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, Melissa Ackerman, Shirley Doolittle, Chris Winkleman, Jaysen Bray, Polly, Bonnie Smith, Kyler Limburg, Catherine Brown, Trevor Collins, Andy Root, the Bragg family, Rev. John Fehringer, Brenda Schmidt and Sharon King.



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.

Julie Tingue, Ministry Coordinator

This past Sunday I enjoyed talking to our youngest Hopsters about God's many promises in the Bible during Children's Church. We decided since the new year was upon us, we too should make some promises to ourselves and to God for 2018.

While you and I might be making some resolutions this year like weight loss, sticking to a budget, quitting a bad habit, etc, our little ones seem to have a better handle on the resolutions or "promises" that God wants us to be making to ourselves and others this year.

Their wise 3-10 year old minds came up with: being a better person, being a better listener, loving Jesus more and sleeping more often J! Maybe we can all take a lesson from these children in 2018:

- **Be Christ Like:** We can all benefit if we try to do better and be better. Perhaps volunteering more, avoiding gossip and serving others just to name a few.
- **Be a Better Listener:** What is God calling us to do next— In our relationships? In our church? In our faith? What can you gain in 2018 by listening to the ways God is speaking in our lives?
- **Love Jesus:** How can we love Jesus more? Perhaps its reading and learning more about his teachings in the Bible, or maybe it is sharing his love with others.
- **Stop to Rest:** Our lives can too often be consumed with meeting deadlines at work, rushing to get your family out the door (on time) every day, packing our evenings and weekends full of sports practice, dinner dates, and meetings. Take time to reflect this year and find ways that you can rest and recharge on a regular basis. Maybe its waking up early to take some extra time in the morning for yourself, or making one night a week a designated family day or working on not over committing yourself so you can put family first.

Can Hope help you keep these promises to God and yourself in 2018? Consider reading this months newsletter with a new perspective: look for opportunities to give and serve, look for ways to get engaged to develop your faith, learn how God is speaking and how to deepen your love for Jesus. Maybe after looking through this newsletter you are encouraged to start a new ministry at Hope or offer your talents in a new way to an existing ministry.

God is always faithful in keeping His promises. Let's hold each other accountable this year and keep our promises to Him. Let us be followers that do good, seek him and love one another. May 2018 be full of blessings, good health and happiness for your family!



January Events:

Church Council – Church council will meet on **Monday, January 8 at 6:30pm.**

American Red Cross Blood Drive – The American Red Cross will be hosting a blood drive at Hope on **January 16 from 11:30am-5:30pm.** Please consider donating blood and/or serving as a volunteer to help check-in donors or host the canteen area. Donors at this blood drive will receive a \$5 Dunkin Donuts gift card.



Ale House Church – Ale House Church will take place at Main Street Grille on **January 22 at 7:00pm.**

Ladies Bible Study – The Ladies of Hope Bible Study will be going to Ronald McDonald House on **January 27** to serve a meal for the families there. We will then go out to eat in Buffalo and have a small devotion time. We will be leaving at 3:00pm on Saturday, January 27. If you are interested, sign up on the Hope Happenings Bulletin Board. Donations of food, supplies and gift certificates are always needed. Please see Julie Tingué if you are interested.

Committee Coffee House – Our new church committees will have their first meeting of 2018 on **Wednesday, January 24 at 6:30pm.** Committee planning will involve fish fry planning, VBS selection, outreach projects for 2018 and more. If you have been selected to be on one our committees, please make every effort to attend.



Upcoming:

Rend Collective Concert– Popular Christian Vocal Group, Rend Collective, is coming to our area in April. You may recognize some of their songs from our 8:30am worship: “Build Your Kingdom Here,” “10,000 reasons” and many other great songs. Tickets are \$50 and we would love to get a group from Hope to attend together. The concert will take place at Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church on **Wednesday, April 25 at 7:00pm.** Sign up on the bulletin board if you are interested. You can check out their YouTube channel [here](#) to learn more about them and their songs.



Opportunities to Give & Serve

Spaghetti Luncheon: Our youth will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner to raise money for their trip to Houston for the ELCA youth gathering on **Sunday, January 28 from 11:30-1:30pm.** **Sold out.** Invite your friends and plan on attending the luncheon directly following the 10:30am worship service. To make donations for the dinner, please see the sign up sheet on the parish hall shelf.



Snow Angels Winter Coat Drive: For the entire month of January we will be collecting winter coats for those who need them in our community. Bring donations of new or gently used coats to Hope this month!



Winter Youth Retreat Camperships– Our youth are headed to Ellicottville for a weekend of spiritual learning and reflection, team building and fun. If you would like to make it possible for one of our youth to attend please visit with Pastor Shawn and consider the gift of a campership.

Christian Education & Youth Ministry

Youth Group Nights: Youth group will meet every Tuesday in January from 6:30-8:00pm.

Confirmation: Wednesday, January 10 at 7:00pm

Youth Winter Ski/Snowboard/Tubing Retreat—

Our 7th– 12th graders are invited to attend a retreat in Ellicottville. We will be renting out the Emmaus House from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ellicottville **January 19-21**. Pastor Shawn and our college students will lead the retreat. Cost:

- \$50 per youth
- Youth will also need to bring money if they wish to ski, tube or snowboard. For an idea of cost you can visit the Holiday Valley website [here](#) or talk to Pastor Shawn.
- All are welcome, if your family needs financial assistance with this trip, please see Pastor.



Help our Youth Get To Houston-

In addition to our popular BuffaLutheran Gear we now have **BuffaloLutheran Magnets** for \$5!

Spaghetti Luncheon: Our youth will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner to raise money for their trip to Houston for the ELCA youth gathering on **Sunday, January 28 from 11:30-sold out**. Invite your friends and plan on attending the luncheon directly following the 10:30am worship service. To make donations for the dinner, please see the sign up sheet on the parish hall shelf.

Exciting Fundraisers to expect in the coming months...

February– Date Night Babysitting Service

March– Sunday Green Eggs & Ham Breakfast

Upcoming:

Communion Instruction: Attention 2nd graders and those interested in communion instruction. Classes are set for Wednesdays: February 28, March 7 and March 14. We will paint chalices following worship on a Sunday, March 4. Communion Celebration will take place on Sunday, March 18 at 10:30am. All classes are for children and their parents. *This years communion instruction will include: Megan Boldt, Sophie Cordz, Tyce Monin, Gerald Nowak, Cody Smith, and Ethan Wendig.* If your child is also in 2nd grade or has not yet gone through communion instruction at Hope and would be interested, please let pastor know.

A Future with Hope Update:



The next phase of our Future with Hope Campaign is to work on developing community partners. Our committee is now looking for local businesses and individuals that would like to support our Community & Ministry Center through the A Future with Hope Campaign. If you have any business contacts or potential donors please see Scott Bley or Brian Tavernier. You can also encourage your friends, family and neighbors to visit our website for more information or to make an online donation: www.hopearcade.org/future

With church member pledges continuing to come in we are hoping to break ground on the structure of the building sometime this summer! Please continue to pray for all involved in this exciting endeavor that God is calling Hope towards.

Hope Preschool

It's hard to believe, but we're nearing the halfway point of our preschool year! We had a busy couple of months with the holidays, so we're looking forward to slowing things down a bit in January. We'd like to say thank you to Pastor Shawn for visiting during our Christmas party & giving us the book *Itsy Bitsy Christmas*. We would also like to thank Santa (aka - Bob Buchhardt & Jodi) for paying our kiddos a visit. While a few friends were hesitant about sitting on Santa's lap, everyone was willing to at least walk up to receive their gift & no one cried!

THANK
YOU



We'll be holding a chicken barbecue on April 29th, watch for more info to come. Thank you for your continued support of the program & our fundraisers! 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.



"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." —Jeremiah 29:11

2017 4th Quarter Financial Update

October 2017

Weekly Giving: \$2,317.22

Average Attendance: 142

October 2016 Weekly Giving: \$2,387

November 2017

Weekly Giving: \$2,544.62

Average Attendance: 149

November 2016 Weekly Giving: \$2,525

December 2017

Weekly Giving: \$2,501.79

Average Attendance: 168

December 2016 Weekly Giving: \$2,717

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places."

—Ephesians 1:3

"And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."

—Genesis 12:2

Faces of Hope



Some of our youth were able to make a meal of meatloaf, macaroni and cheese and salad for the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Buffalo early in December.



Getting festive with flower evergreen arrangement making at Hope prior to Christmas.



Lighting the first advent candle during morning worship. Picture taken using Hope's summer Snapchat filter.



10,000 meals packaged in one-hour by our dedicated Hope volunteers. The macaroni and cheese meals were distributed at 10 local food banks in the tri-county area. Together we raised \$2,500 to do this service project.

Faces of Hope



Our youth kept busy this month with their gift wrapping fundraiser, Christmas Party



Our Christmas pageant was wonderful! Thanks to all the families and youth that shared their talents in Hope's production of Arrest these Merry Gentleman



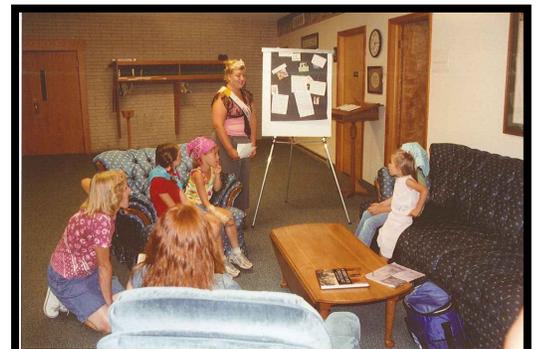
"Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

—Psalm 23:6

Blast from the Past



Tiffany (Nichols) Lambert shares a presentation with some Sunday schoolers at Hope during her reign as the County Dairy Princess



Celebrations!

Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 4-- Karen Monin | 15-- Jacob Offhaus |
| 4-- Brenda Schmidt | 16-- Graham Milks |
| 5-- Susan Dressel | 17-- Scott Rimbey |
| 6-- Albert Noble | 20-- Myles Carter |
| 8-- Alfred Ackerman | 20-- Leonard Dressel |
| 10-- Mary Dell | 20-- Kim Offers |
| 12-- Brandon Carter | 21-- Caroline Neamon |
| 12-- Heather Petrillo | 23-- Marilyn Pirdy |
| 12-- Gavin Schwab | 26-- Paul Blackwell |
| 13-- David Carr | 29-- Clara Gross |
| 14-- Mark Cordz | 29-- Amanda Metzger |
| 14-- Kelly Frazier | |

Anniversaries

- 1—Paul & Jennifer Blackwell
2— Marc & Heather Petrillo
13— Kim & Pat Wittenrich
27— Bob & Margie Webster



“For I “And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” —2 Corinthians 2:8

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." — Numbers 6:24-26

Upcoming Save the Dates...



- *Ladies Bible Study*— Thursday, Feb. 1 at 6:30pm
- *Church Council*—Monday, Feb. 12 at 6:30pm
- *Ash Wednesday Service*— Wednesday, Feb. 14: 11am & 7pm
- *Fish Fry*—Friday, Feb. 23 : 4:30– Sold Out
- *Ale House Church*— Monday, Feb. 26 at 7:00pm
- *Committee Coffee House*— Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 6:30pm
- *Empty Bowls Luncheon*— Sunday, March 18: 12-3pm
- *Fish Fry*— Friday, March 23: 4:30– Sold Out
- *Rend Collective Concert*—Wednesday, April 25 at 7:00pm

More details to come in the next
Hope Happenings Newsletter!

Duty Roster– January

	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
<i>Acolyte 8:30 am</i>	Sydney Schrock Garrett Milks	Isaiah Carter Riley Bliss	Timmy Sonner Cole Rhodus	Catherine Brown Cora Fleischman
<i>Acolyte 10:30am</i>	Clara Gross Gavin Hammell	Zach Rimbey Nick Rimbey	Clara Gross Gavin Hammell	Payeton Burfield Kristofer Burfield
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Carol Boldt	Sue Dressel Judy Strobele	Margie Rung Carol Staffehl	Carol Boldt
<i>Assisting Minister 8:30 am 10:30 am</i>	Helena Blackwell Bob Vossler	Mary Alpin Pam Bradford	Joanne Offers Julie Tingue	Tracey Wood Victoria McCarthy
<i>AV Tech 8:30 am 10:30 am</i>	Trevor Bley Julie Tingue	Cora Blackwell Scott Rimbey	Alyssa Boldt Stephen Stuckmann	Madelyn Tavernier Julie Tingue
<i>HC Assistant 8:30am 10:30am</i>	Margie Webster Pam Bradford	Jacob Offhaus Lisa Deahn	Dale Deahn Bob Vossler	Joanne Offers Melissa Pleace
<i>Council Rep 8:30am 10:30am</i>	Joanne Offers Bob Vossler	Paul Fehringer Carol Boldt	Tracey Wood Bob Vossler	Jim Alpin Carol Boldt
<i>Greeters (10:30)</i>	Gary & Margie Rung	Vince & Erin Hammell	Bob & Jodie Buchhardt	Pauline Brown
<i>Lector 8:30am 10:30am</i>	Mary Alpin Chris Gross	Monica Reding Bob Vossler	Kim Offers Jodie Buchhardt	Janet Campana Gary Rung
<i>Prayers 8:30 am 10:30</i>	Tim Sonner Sandi Bennett	Kim Offers Victoria McCarthy	Jen Blackwell Sharlene Vossler	Jacob Offhaus Chris Gross
<i>Children's Church 8:30am 10:30am</i>	Ashley Bartz Sue Dressel	Ashley Bartz Sue Dressel	Ashley Bartz Sue Dressel	Ashley Bartz Sue Dressel
<i>Ushers (10:30)</i>	Al Boldt Scott Rimbey	Kathy LaScala Melissa Pleace	Chuck & Pam Bradford	Al Boldt Len Dressel
<i>Coffee Hour 10:00</i>	Angie Tavernier	Discover Hope Brunch	Missy Rhodus	Sandi Bennett

Please let the office know if you would be willing to help during worship in any capacity!



In everything there is hope.

To Support: Youth Trip to Houston for the ELCA Youth
Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 11:30am



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Address Service Requested

This newsletter was prepared especially for: