

Hope's Happenings

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH, ARCADE, NY

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From Pastor Shawn

CONTACT INFORMATION:

**2 East Main Street
Arcade, NY 14009**

www.HopeArcade.org
(585) 492-2530
HopeLutheran.Church
@gmail.com

STAFF: Pastor:

Rev. Shawn Hannon

Pastorshawnhannon
@gmail.com
(716) 969-5186

Care Pastor:
**Rev. Robert
Zimmerman**

Pastor Emeritus:
Rev. Neil Kattermann

Music Director:
Paul Blackwell

Parish Administrators:
Carol Boldt
Margie Rung

Youth Director:
Chris LiPuma

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On the bottom shelf of the bookshelf in my office sits my fantasy collection. It's my favorite collection of books, and even at the risk of sounding foolish, may have revealed as much wisdom to me as the theology books that sit above. On the shelf are some of the most wildly entertaining and fantastically creative series I know. There, Harry Potter brushes elbows with Rick Grimes, while Katniss and Legolas see who has the best shot. Just looking at it brings me joy, and occasionally, as it did this week, can also bring me encouragement.

I was reminded while considering the *Lord of the Rings* this week about a line you won't find in the movies—something Peter Jackson certainly missed, if you ask me. It's from a beautiful poem that Tolkien wrote for the series that appears in the first two books. It goes:

*"All that is gold does not glitter,
Not all those who wander are lost;
The old that is strong does not wither,
Deep roots are not reached by the frost.*

*From the ashes a fire shall be woken,
A light from the shadows shall spring;
Renewed shall be blade that was broken,
The crownless again shall be king."*

Each line is as beautiful and profound as the next, but for me one stands out above all the rest. **Not all those who wander are lost.**

America looks different today than it did 50 years ago. The average college student changes majors three times before graduation—which generally takes 5-6 years. Just under half of those graduates will return to their parents' home for a period of time after graduation. The average age for an American to get married has reached an all time high peaking in our late 20s. And rather than lock in a life-long career, most workers these days will have 5-6 careers by the time they retire. The track that (unfortunately) was deemed the American Dream simply doesn't exist any more. What we have instead is a "choose your own adventure" book that doesn't include two roads diverging in a yellow wood, but no particular roads at all. Just woods.

But not all those who wander are lost.

In the midst of a culture that at times can appear as if it has lost its way, I always find it helpful to consider the Israelites. Following their liberation from slavery in Egypt and crossing the Red Sea, the Israelites lived in the wilderness for 40 years before entering the Promised Land. They wandered. They sort of defined wandering. But they were never lost. And they were never without God's guidance, protection, or giving.

And neither are we. No matter what shape our wilderness wandering comes in, we are never lost. Whether its indecision about our future, uncertainty about our health, or instability about our relationships, we are never lost. We are never alone.

As we begin another year, we start it at church the same way we start every other: With a little season called Epiphany. It's a season rightfully named for all that is revealed about Jesus Christ. But do you know where it starts? In the Galilean wilderness. It starts with Jesus seeing a guy named John baptizing people in the River Jordan. Consider that. It doesn't start with teaching in the temple. It doesn't start with an encounter with the Pharisees or institution. It doesn't start with a parade to the cross. It starts with wandering.

Sooner or later, we all wander. We wander in wildernesses of illness, grief, unemployment, divorce, uncertainty, and so much more. But may we remember, that all who wander are not lost. In fact, sometimes—like with Jesus—it's in the wilderness where we find the greatest life and the most self-revelation.

Wandering, not lost,



Worship Notes

Sunday, January 11

Baptism of Reese Bartz, 10:30am

Worship at 8am & 10:30am

Sunday, January 18

The Rev. Dr. Bob Zimmerman preaching

Worship at 8am & 10:30am

Sunday, January 25

Installation of Committee Members & Officers,

8am & 10:30am

Worship at 8am & 10:30am

Sunday, February 15

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Worship at 8am & 10:30am

Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday

*Worship w/ imposition of ashes
at 11am & 7pm*



LENTEN WORSHIP

Lenten Mid-Week Worship

Wednesdays, 2/18-3/25

11:00am—Community Worship

followed by lunch

7:00pm—Evening Prayer

We Remember in Our Prayers

We pray for:

Connie Madison,
Barbara Fehringer,
Matthew Nourse,
Kimberly Cordz,
Nichole,
Ervin Niles,
Carmon Becker,
Kirk Crandall,
Roger Day,
Emily Richards,

Brennon McCormick,
Diana Hoffman,
Catriona,
Mary Maines,
Bill Strobele,
R.D. Knight,
Bob Pleace,
Sharlie Mullin,
Dick Rogers,
Kathy Dievendorf,

Hyland Day,
Helen Slocum,
Patti Zeller,
Anita McCaffrey,
Don Day,
Dawn,
Bob Close,
Curt Emery,
Dennis Rung,
Laura Bley,

Bernice Edmunds,
Nick Phelps,
Linda Didio,
Betty Maynard
and Ray Raiber.

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

From Mr. Chris:

Hope's Youth Director!

Greetings everyone! I hope everyone is transitioning back into work and school after the Christmas break. If anyone is like me than this is the time for New Years resolutions. I am always looking to better myself and when this time of the year comes around I always have a list of goals and resolutions that I want to accomplish. Maybe you want to study harder in school, or have certain accomplishments that you want to achieve. Whatever it is the New Year always brings around change that we want to see in ourselves.



But what if instead of Goals for ourselves we decided to accomplish things for other people. It's easy to think of ways that we can better ourselves in this upcoming year, but what if we tried to make someone else's year better? This reminds me of a verse from Matthew 5:16, Jesus says:

***"In the same way, let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in Heaven"***

Jesus is calling us to be the light in someone's darkness. The way we can praise God is not just coming to church every Sunday, but being that light for someone; helping others out in a time of need. Think about Christmas morning. I'm sure it was fun to run down the stairs and rip open your presents, but I bet it was even better to see someone open a present from you. You see when we are nice to people and help others out we feel better ourselves! I know it is hard in today's world especially in school to be nice to everyone but I promise you the more smiles you have and show to everyone the better you will feel guaranteed!

So as we begin this New Year my challenge to you is to be nice to everyone you meet, to say I love you to our friends and family a little bit more and to flash that million dollar smile I know all of you have. Remember God loves each and everyone of you and there is no greater gift than to share that love with someone else.



Mr. Chris has kicked 2015 off at a serious pace. He spent the first weekend in January at LCLC with 3 of our high school youth, and 21 others. Just two weeks later he is headed back with PS and the confirmation students. And at the end of the month Chris is headed to Detroit, MI for a 4-day continuing education event and preliminary meeting for our youth's trip to Detroit in July. Safe Travels, Chris, and God bless you in your service and learning.

Announcements

Red Cross Blood Drive

The next Blood Drive will be Tuesday, January 20 from 11:30-5:30pm.



Care Givers Support Group

Care Givers Support Group will meet on the last Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. We gather to care for those who care for others, to listen, and to share both our experience and our support.

Coffee House

The next Committee Coffee House will take place on Wednesday, January 28 @ 6:30pm. Topics of discussion will include: Winterfest (Outreach and Education), 2014 Financial Year End Report and Contribution Records (Stewardship & Finance), Lenten Luncheon & Communion Instruction Reception (Hospitality), and ongoing building needs (Building and Grounds).



Church Council

Church Council will meet on the Second Tuesday of January & February (1/13 & 2/10) at 6:30pm. If you have anything you'd like Church Council to be aware of or discuss, please let PS or Bob Vossler (716-496-8967) know.



Archery!

The first order of Archery shirts has arrived, and is available for pick up. The shirts cost \$15, and there are still a few remaining for those who didn't order a shirt initially. On Sunday, January 11, we will wear our archery shirts to church as an act of solidarity. We may be 'frozen' out of our regular target practice, but we are always prepared to shoot!

Wednesdays in Lent

Wednesdays are jammed packed in Lent with opportunities to worship, come together for fellowship, and serve our neighbor. Each week during Lent (February 18-March 25) we will gather for worship at 11am with our entire community. Lunch will immediate follow at no cost. At 6pm our 2nd graders will take over church as they learn all about communion. At 7pm we will gather for worship yet again with Evening Prayer.



Winterfest: Loving Country!

Hope's Preschool and Church will once again participate in the Winterfest Parade here in Arcade. This year's theme is Loving Country! And the parade will take place on Saturday, February 14th. Stay tuned for more details.

Special Announcements

Communing Young Children

As you may have noticed, more and more young children at Hope are receiving communion prior to communion instruction. Here are two main reasons for the change. First, communion is a gift of God's grace for us in our journey. In it we receive the presence of Jesus and the forgiveness of sins. If it is what we believe it is, why would we restrict access to our smallest members. It's not a roller coaster, after all. There is no height requirement for needing its grace and forgiveness. And the second reason is that some people fear that children without instruction may not completely understand what they are receiving, but there is a reason it is sometimes called the mystical supper. Because all of us do not completely understand what we are receiving. But we do it because Jesus told us to, and promised that when we did he would be among us. If you would like your child to begin receiving communion just give Pastor Shawn a heads up or have your child extend their hands at the altar rail. Communion Instruction and Celebration will continue to be taught and celebrated in 2nd grade.



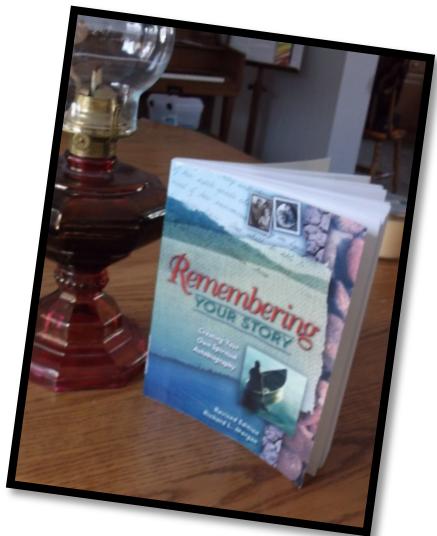
Remembering Your Story: Lenten Faith Exercise With Pr. Bob

Remember the days of old, consider the days long past; ask your father and he will inform you; your elders and they will tell you. (Deuteronomy 32:7)

Author Richard Morgan provides the foundation for a study on the importance of knowing the stories-especially your story. We all have stories to tell and stories to understand, as a person who we are. Come and learn how you can discover those stories that made you and formed you. Learn the importance of seeing your successes and, yes, perhaps your failures as you developed in the course of your life.

Using the book "Remembering Your Story: Creating your own Auto-biography" this Sunday Morning Study provides the tools necessary to sketch out your life from your birth to the present day. **The first session will be on February 22nd and run until March 22nd. Each session will last an hour from 9:20AM to 10:20. Attendance will be on a drop-in basis.**

This will be our Lenten Study for the year. Since Lent is a season of discovery and preparation, how better can we prepare for Easter than to know ourselves and renew our relationship with the Risen Christ?



Education

Confirmation

Confirmation classes resume this month and next meeting on Wednesdays, January 7, 14 & February 4. We will be discussing King David and have a special Wednesday on the Faithful Bible Women.

Confirmation Retreat

Our 7th-9th grades confirmation youth will be headed to LCLC on Friday, January 16 for a two night confirmation retreat. We will be joined by the confirmation youth from St. John Lutheran Church in Williamsville. Our theme this year will be promises. What promises do we make with each other? What promises does God make with us? How can we honor those promises and live most fully into God's plans for us?

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 year. 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 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, & 3/18. We will paint chalices following worship on a Sunday afternoon TBD. Communion Celebration will take place on Sunday, March 22 at 10:30am. All classes are for children and their parents.



Our Sunday School did an awesome job with this year's Christmas Pageant: Bed, Bethlehem and Beyond! Thank you for bringing the story to life for our whole church! You guys rock!

Youth!

Calling All 8th-12th Graders: Let's Rise Up in Detroit!

This summer our 8th through 12th graders will be heading to Detroit to join 40,000 other Lutheran youth for a week of worship, service, and fun! Our last trip to Detroit in 2012 was a huge success and we expect nothing else. As of right now, we have at least 7 youth making the trip with the Schulers and Chris LiPuma. The dates are 7/15-19 (plus travel days) & the cost is \$50 (+fundraising as a group). The Registration Deadline is [HERE](#). Let us know ASAP if you plan on attending.



Sledding Party

On Sunday, February 8, 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. We will end our afternoon with cocoa back in the parish hall.

Volleyball Marathon

From Friday, February 20 through Saturday, February 21 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



Ice Skating

On Sunday, February 28 we will be heading to Buffalo at Canal side to ice skate at the Harbor Center. We will meet there, but carpooling and caravaning is encouraged. All ages and families are welcome.

Sky Zone

Attention all youth! On Saturday, March 21st 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 11:00am. In order to get a group rate we need to make a reservation ahead of time. Please contact PS or Chris if you are planning to jump. (Please note: This is for all youth AND adults)



Got An Idea or Two for the Youth? Talk to Chris.

Our new Youth Director, Chris LiPuma, cannot wait to meet you and talk to you about ideas for the youth group here at Hope. Please make every effort to introduce yourself to Chris when you see him, and let him know what you envision for the youth at Hope.

Opportunities to Give/Serve

Super Bowl 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! We will collect donations of food and money on Sundays, January 25 and February 1 following both services.



Pledge Cards and 2015 Envelopes

You may have noticed some "Faithful With All" cards in the parish hall this December. If you have not already done so, please use those cards to estimate your 2015 financial contribution to Hope. Estimating our giving now helps us plan for the coming fiscal year more responsibly, and we thank you for your help in doing so.

As you fill out the card, you will notice a place for your name and contact information. Filling out this portion of the card is optional. Your pledge will not be shared by name with the Pastor or other leaders.

We all know that things can change. By April 2015, you and your family may discover a capacity and desire to exceed your pledge or you may not be able to give as much as you hoped. The pledge does not represent a maximum gift. Neither does it represent a minimum. It is merely an estimate of giving. After filling out your card, please return it to the church office.

Hope is a wonderfully-alive place and it is funded 100% through the generosity of people like you. Isn't it amazing what God can do when we pool all our gifts together? **Hope is Happening.**

The 2015 Envelopes are also available. Please use these envelopes to give your gift to church in the upcoming year. Using an envelope helps our counters keep an accurate record of your gift, as well as helps you designate how you'd like your gift directed.



Thanks Be To God *for you!*

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

November 2014

Geoff and Stephanie Milks, for the generous donations of apples for our youth Apple Pie fundraiser for their trip to Detroit

Jerry & Jeanne Schuler, for their help with the Apple Pie fundraiser, and for their work on Brother's Keeper's third project of 2014

Al Noble, for helping roof a porch with Brother's Keeper, InC.

Kathy LaScala, for all her support, encouragement, and help with the last Brother's Keeper project.

December 2014

Bob Landahl, for his 4 years of service as Hope's Church Council President

Ashley Bartz, for her faithful tenure on church council and in thanksgiving for the birth of a healthy baby girl

Jim Alpin, for once again donning the John the Baptist costume for a wildly entertaining children's sermon during the preschool program.

Sheri Landahl, for her faithful stewardship leadership over the last two years.



Financial Update **2014 Fourth Quarter**

October 2014 Weekly Giving: **\$2,332.48**

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

November 2014 Weekly Giving: **\$2,287.15**

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

December 2014 Weekly Giving: **\$2,351.89**

December 2013 Weekly Giving: **\$1,960.73**



Hope is happening!



Top to Bottom:

Jessica Rung has a little fun while decorating the church for Advent and Christmas.

Reese Bartz plays the part of Jesus perfecting following a gift wrapping challenge on Christmas Eve.

And our sanctuary looked beautiful with the decorations and flowers for the Nativity of Our Lord.





Top: We gathered in November for our annual congregational meeting. What a great time to give thanks for all that God is doing here among us and to look ahead!

Bottom: Our outreach committee has brought the bears back this Christmas season. In the following weeks these bears will be delivered to shut ins, the sick, and many others in need of our prayers. Please feel free to take one to a new home, and let me know who we can pray for.

**Top to Bottom:**

Three of our Senior High Students spent Jan. 2-4 at LCLC this month at a Senior High Retreat. They were joined by our own Chris LiPuma, and all reportedly had a blast!

Confirmation is off to a great start this year. The children are mature, ask all the right questions, and are committed to the learning and program. (They make PS very proud)





2014 came to a great close for our preschool. Despite some inclement weather (maybe you heard of it. Some are calling it Snowvember), we were able to open preschool one extra day so our students could celebrate "Stone Soup" with their families. Just weeks later our children provided a great Christmas Program at the 10:30am worship service on Sunday, December 14. ***They worked so hard and we are very proud of them.***

In the new year we plan to continue working with our class on recognizing letters, including recognizing their names and other words. We hope to play in the snow a lot this winter, as well.

One new thing for our preschool that we are excited to share with you is a brand new partnership with SASi. Starting last month, we have some new volunteers in our classroom on Mondays to help read to the children, do art projects, and generally supervise our early education program. We are grateful for their hard work and for sharing their energy and gifts for children with our preschool.

We will hold our annual preschool fundraiser this Spring, and while the details are still up the air, we wanted you to be aware it is coming so that you can help us raise as much money as possible to continue our quality (and Christian) preschool program here in the Arcade Area.

Some of our Preschool children prepare to sing their Christmas Program at Worship on Sunday, 12/14.

***They sang songs from "Happy Birthday, Jesus"
to "Away in a Manger" to
"We Wish You a Merry Christmas!"***

***They did such an amazing job
and we are so proud of each and every one of them.***



Celebrations!

Birthdays		Anniversaries
January	February	January
4-Brenda Schmidt	1-Kathy LaScala	1-Paul & Jen Blackwell ('95)
5-Sue Dressel	2-Jessica Rung	2-Mike and Heather Petrillo ('10)
6-Al Noble	3-Dave North	13-Kim & Pat Wittenrich ('67)
10-Mary Dell	5-Jana Landahl	27-Bob & Margie Webster ('73)
12-Heather Petrillo	6-Roger Day	
12-Gavin Schwab	10-Ed McCarthy	
14-Mark Cordz	12-Tarra Schwab	
14-Kelly Frazier	14-Tracy Stiles	
16-Graham Milks	17-Chris LiPuma	
17-Scott Rimbey	21-Judy Noble	
20-Kim Offers	22-Eileen Deahn (#95)	
20-Len Dressel	22-Allen Nichols	
21-Carolyn Neamon	23-Barb Phair	
26-Paul Blackwell	24-Mike Prior	
29-Amanda Metzger	27-Missy Pleace	
29-Clara Gross		



Date	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
<i>Acolyte 8am</i>	James and Eric Rautenstrauch	Tyler Bley Evan Frazier	Madisen Sonner Timmy Sonner	Ashley Bliss Riley Bliss
10:30am	Catherine Brown Alyssa Boldt	Kyler Felber Nicholas Rimbev	Brianna Cordz Payeton Burfield	Anna Tavernier Jesse Polcz
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Sue Dressel Judy Strobel	Jim and Mary Alpin	Carol Staffehl Margie Rung	Carol Boldt Barb Sonner
<i>HC Assistant 8am</i>	Scott Bley	Joanne Offers	Kathryn Landahl	Margie Webster
10:30am	Marcia Davies	Gary Rung	Bob Vossler	Lisa Deahn
<i>Cong. Deacon 8am</i>	Gary Rung	Joanne Offers	Margie Webster	Chris LiPuma
10:30am	Chris LiPuma	Sheri Landahl	Brent Scoins	Bob Vossler
<i>Greeters (10:30)</i>	Jim and Mary Alpin	Mike and Pat Cady	Gary and Margie Rung	Al and Carol Boldt
<i>Lector 8am</i>	Joanne Offers	Kathryn Landahl	Tim Sonner	Kim Offers
10:30am	Matt Rung	Carol Staffehl	Judy Feine	Katie Bennett
<i>Prayers 8am</i>	Margie Webster	Kim Offers	Judy Strobel	Kathryn Landahl
10:30am	Carol Staffehl	Mark Cordz	Sue Dressel	Mary Songster-Alpin
<i>Ushers (10:30)</i>	Chuck Bradford Scott Rimbev	Jim Alpin Chris LiPuma	Carol Staffehl Kathy LaScala	Melissa Pleace Sue Dressel
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	Margie Rung	Kim Boldt	Julie Tingue	Diane Gibbs
<i>Nursery (10:30)</i>	Darla Schwab	Melissa Pleace	Lauren Pleace	Karen Prior
	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
<i>Acolyte 8am</i>	Eric and James Rautenstrauch	Evan Frazier Tyler Bley	Madisen Sonner Timmy Sonner	Haley Celotto Cole Rhodus
10:30am	Alyssa Boldt Payeton Burfield	Jesse Polcz Zach Rimbev	Julius Webb Nicholas Rimbev	Anna Tavernier Kyler Felber
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Sue Dressel Judy Strobel	Jim and Mary Alpin	Carol Staffehl Margie Rung	Carol Boldt Barb Sonner
<i>HC Assistant 8am</i>	Kristin Bley	Chris LiPuma	Kathryn Landahl	Scott Bley
10:30am	Jen Blackwell	Bob Vossler	Mary Alpin	Sheri Landahl
<i>Cong. Deacon 8am</i>	Joanne Offers	Margie Webster	Gary Rung	Joanne Offers
10:30am	Sheri Landahl	Brent Scoins	Bob Vossler	Chris LiPuma
<i>Greeters (10:30)</i>	Scott Rimbev	Chuck and Pam Bradford	Cliff and Marcia Davies	Bob and Jodie Buchhardt
<i>Lector 8am</i>	Kathryn Landahl	Joanne Offers	Chris LiPuma	Tim Sonner
10:30am	Mark Cordz	Julie Tingue	Ashley Bartz	Dale Deahn
<i>Prayers 8am</i>	Margie Webster	Tim Sonner	Kim Offers	Kathryn Landahl
10:30am	Matt Rung	Sandi Bennett	Sharlene Vossler	Karen Prior
<i>Ushers (10:30)</i>	Al Boldt Dale Dehn	Carol Staffehl Kathy LaScala	Chuck Bradford Scott Rimbev	Melissa Pleace Sue Dressel
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	Melissa Pleace	Kacie Woodruff	Angie Tavernier	Carol Boldt
<i>Nursery (10:30)</i>	Tracy Bliss	Jodie Buchhardt	Kaitie Wood	Kim Boldt



there is hope.
in everything

HOPE
LU[†]HERAN
CHURCH
2 East Main Street
Arcade, New York
14009-1335

Address Service Requested

This newsletter was prepared especially for: