

HOPE *happenings*

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The Slow Burn.

A Reflection from Pastor Shawn

The fire at Notre Dame was devastating on a global level. To watch more than 800 years of tradition go up in smoke was almost too much to bear. Immediately following we rushed to our smart phones to acknowledge the loss. Pictures from family vacations and semesters abroad flooded our newsfeeds. We offered our prayers. We pledged our finances. We shouted, "We will not let the church fall. We are Notre Dame.

It reminded me of a conversation I had with a colleague nearly 10 years ago. His congregation was experiencing unprecedented growth. They had a new building and healthy attendance. Volunteers flooded their ministries with ideas and energy and delight. As a new pastor, after several minutes of listening to him I needed to know what the secret was. "Easy," he told me, "church fire." I laughed. He was serious. The church burnt down the year before, and as the community watched the steeple fall, they rallied. They rebuilt. They reinvested. They doubled down. And good for them.

But it all got me wondering, and I mention this without meaning any disrespect toward Notre Dame or any other church that has suffered what I am sure is unfathomable sorrow at the destruction of a house of worship, why does it take a church fire for us to remember the importance of the role of faith in our lives and community? And here's the greater question: Why do we only care when our churches burn or fall at once instead of the slow decline that most churches in the western world are currently experiencing?

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Parish Administrators:

Carol Boldt & Margie Rung
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Preschool Teachers:

Christine Kipfer & Katie Gray
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WORSHIP NOTES

8:30am: Band Led 10:30am: Piano & Organ Led

Sunday, May 5– 3rd Sunday of Easter

Confirmation Sunday– Special Service at 10:30am

Reading: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20] & Revelation 5:11-14

Gospel: John 21:1-19

Sunday, May 12– 4th Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 9:36-43 & Revelation 7:9-17

Gospel: John 10:22-30

Sunday, May 19- 5th Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 11:1-18 & Revelation 21:1-6

Gospel: John 13:31-35

Sunday, May 26 - 6th Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 16:9-15 & Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5

Gospel: John 14:23-29



In our Prayers:

We pray for Matthew Nourse, Sharlie Mullin, Curt Emery, Myrtle Rammacher, Luke Fries, Ben, Jeannette, Chris Winkleman, Jaysen Bray, Kyler Limburg, Dave Carr, Paul Sanders, Betty Offhaus, Traci, Harold Staffehl, Joan Taylor, Roger Day, Bob Vossler, Maria, Brooke Offhaus, Linda, Matt Weaver, Darlene Cummings, Mary Ann, Joy Ross, Cathy Washburn, Jerry Webster, Rose Reding,, Barb, Chris Boog, Pam Strobele Isch, Catherine Brown, Kenneth, Mary Dell, Angela, Katie Offhaus, Sue Adams and family, Charlotte Annette Bruce, Matt Stania, Carol Cole and the family of Robert Rigerman (Paul Rigerman's brother) who passed away this week and the family of Harold Bley (Scott Bley's father) who passed away this week, and Jackson.



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.

The Slow Burn cont...

We know why, of course. Because when churches burn we are struck by the instant reminder of their impermanence. We come face to face with the reality that the buildings we worship will not always be there. And that is scary news to hear. So scary, in fact, that it is at least part of why Jesus was condemned to die. They called him a blasphemer for saying the stones of the temple would not remain forever. Killing Jesus was as easier pill to swallow than the notion of the temple's fall. We hate the idea of our churches falling, so when it happens we recommit, reinvest, and rebuild.

And most of the time, that's good, but what concerns me is that we do not share the same grief and outrage over the slow burn that is consuming our churches right now. The slow burn of apathy and busyness that is causing our churches to struggle and close. The slow burn of poor leadership by pastors and consumeristic tendencies of parishioners that is driving us apart. The slow burn that is wasting away our churches until one day we look and see rubble.

Thom Rainer estimates between 6,000-10,000 churches are dying each year in the US. That means 100-200 will close this week. They'll close without a fire. You won't catch the story on the news or see a picture your friend posted of them standing in front of it a couple years ago. But at one point in time the ministry of that church mattered to people and to a community. Now it's gone, and there are no campaigns for slow burns.

As a pastor, I don't see every church death as sad. In fact, many times I rejoice at the resurrection I am sure God will raise from it. But some church deaths are avoidable. Don't wait for a fire to reinvest or rebuild. The church needs your energy, your new ideas, and your commitment to God's mission in the world today.



THANKS BE TO GOD!



BEV FEHRINGER

for working with our communion class to make chalices and plates for their communion celebration & for her leadership and donations for the 3rd annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser.

MEGAN TITUS, JENNI SMITH, CAROL HANNON , JULIE TINGUE & YOUTH GROUP

for the design and hard work that went into creating the beautiful wall in the Sprouting Hope room.

DENNIS & CINDY GASTON

For recently joining the Hope family and jumping in with both feet. We appreciate all the ways they have become involved- so quickly- in our ministries at Hope.

EVENTS at a GLANCE

May 4/5 : Tri-County Community Showcase– Come Visit Hope's Booth

Saturday: 9am-5pm

Sunday: 10am-3pm

May 5: Sunday Services- 8:30am & 10:30am

Confirmation Service 10:30am

Preschool Chicken BBQ–

(11:30am-2pm or sold out)

May 7: Quilting: 10am-2pm

Youth Group: 6:30-8pm

May 8: Hope Respite: 10:30am-2:30pm

May 9: Ladies Book Club #1

May 11: Arcade Free Library Basket Raffle at Hope : 10am-2pm

May 12: Mothers Day

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

May 13: Church Council: 6:30pm

May 14: Quilting: 10am-2pm

Youth Group: 6:30-8pm

May 19: Sunday Services- 8:30am & 10:30am

May 21: Quilting: 10am-2pm

Blood Drive: 11:30am-5:30pm

Youth Group: 6:30-8pm

May 22: Preschool Graduation

May 24/25: Hope Yard Sale to benefit A Future with Hope

May 26: Sunday Services- 8:30am & 10:30am

May 28: Youth Group Trip to Ronald McDonald House

May 31: Almost Sleepover for PreK-4th Graders



**DONATE
BLOOD+**

****No Ale House Church and No Committee
Coffee House in May****

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

YOUTH GROUP NIGHTS

for middle and high schoolers will take place **Tuesdays in May from 6:30-8pm** (with the exception of May 28th because of the Ronald McDonald House trip) Youth are invited to bring friends and a couple of bucks to help offset the cost of the meal (usually pizza). We are looking for activities to do this spring/summer, and if you have suggestions we invite you to send them our way.



RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Our youth ages 14 and up are invited to cook and serve dinner to families at the Ronald McDonald House in Buffalo on **Tuesday, May 28**. We are limited to 8 youth, so sign up soon! We will be leaving church at 3:00pm.

YOUTH SUNDAY- JUNE 2

Our Youth and Children will be leading worship on Sunday, June 2 for one service at 10am. If your child would like to be involved in any capacity (singing, reading, ushering, etc.) please reach out to Pastor Shawn. Practices will be announced soon.



SPROUTING HOPE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for adult leaders to serve our Sprouting Hope Faith Formation Ministry. The curriculum is provided in advance and involves teaching lessons and leading activities for children ages 2-4th grade during one or both Sunday morning services. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or see Julie Tingué to volunteer.

Pre-K -
4th Grade

Almost Sleepover

Its like a sleepover but not ALL night!

FRIDAY, MAY 31 | 6-9PM



Hope's Youth and Pastor Shawn will be hosting an "Almost Sleepover" for the elementary aged children at Hope. It will include dinner, games, snacks and fun from 6-9pm!

**BRING:
PJS, TOOTHBRUSH & A SNACK TO SHARE.**

RSVP is required
Friends welcome!

OPPORTUNITIES

to Give & Serve

Sign a Bible: As a sign of support and celebration we give our 9th graders a special Lutheran Study Bible as their Confirmation gift on **Sunday, May 5**. Please take a moment to sign and leave a message in their new Bibles that are located on the table in the Parish Hall. You can highlight your favorite verse, share a memory or faith story, leave a prayer.

Chamber's Tri-County Community Showcase: Hope is preparing to have a booth at this event (formally named Arcade Area Trade Fair) on **May 4 & 5** to promote our new building, our preschool and our respite program. The outreach committee is looking for volunteers to set up the booth and staff it throughout the event. If you are interested and available, please contact Julie.



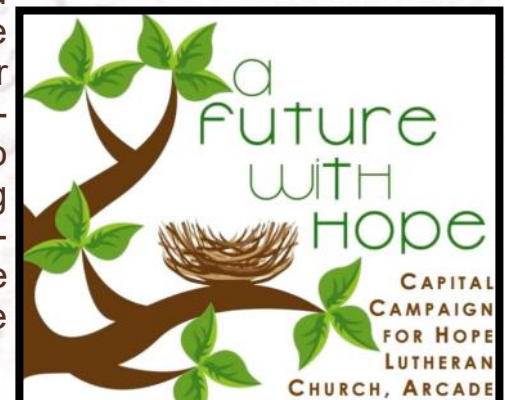
Library Basket Raffle: The annual Arcade Free Library Basket Raffle will take place at Hope on Saturday, **May 11 10am-12pm**. Please come and purchase tickets in support of the library... and hopefully you will even end up with something to show for it!

Hope Yard Sale: Our Outreach Committee will be holding their annual yard sale on Memorial Day weekend to benefit A Future with Hope Campaign. If you have items to donate for us to sell (no clothes, please) bring them in boxes marked for Hope Garage Sale. You can also sign-up on the shelf to volunteer your time to set-up and volunteer at the sale.



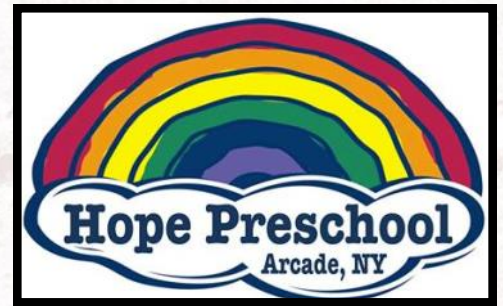
Cooks for Kids: The next Cooks for Kids date is **Tuesday, May 28th**. Our youth will head to the Ronald McDonald House to prepare a meal for the families staying there. If you are interested in making a donation for our meal or items for us to take from their wish list, please contact Julie Tingué.

Hope is BUILDING: This summer's building project is underway- we broke ground this week!! Over the next several weeks we will be digging and pouring a foundation. After that, we plan to begin building the walls. Volunteers are encouraged. To get on the volunteer communication list (an email that will periodically update regarding the work ahead and the help needed) please sign up on the shelf or send an email to julie@hopearcade.org letting her know your interest. To make a one time or reoccurring financial gift to the project, please use the envelopes in the pews or grab the folder and donation sheets by the Future with Hope banner in the fellowship hall.



HOPE PRESCHOOL

It's hard to believe, but we're in the home stretch of our year! As I'm writing this article, just 10 more days until Graduation! The end of a school year always brings mixed emotions. While we're sad to say goodbye to the kiddos we've come to love throughout the year, we also find happiness reflecting on all of their accomplishments.



Thank you to everyone who has supported our program this year! Whether it was choosing Hope for your child, supporting us through fundraising, or contributions in fulfilling our 'wish list', we appreciate you!



We have enjoyed spending time with the respite folks once a month. In April we got to meet Maggie, a therapy dog. She was lots of fun to watch! We look forward to our final time with them for this school year.

Registrations are being accepted now for the 2019-2020 school year. Please share this joy with anyone you know who has a preschooler.

PRESCHOOL WISHLIST ITEM OF THE MONTH:
Plastic Table Clothes— Round or Long (in any color by May 20 for graduation)



HOPE happenings



Members of Hope volunteered at Friends of Night people in early April.



On Palm Sunday we rejoiced when Jesse Lambert was baptized!



▲ The Sprouting Hope room got an inspirational face-lift with bible verses suggested by the youth and the Lord's Prayer. Special thanks to the many volunteers that made it happen!

▼ Hope's April Respite involved working with 7 guests, coloring Easter eggs, going on an Easter Egg hunt and celebrating Spring!



HOPE *happenings*



The 3rd Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser raised over \$4,800-- all of which supports ending hunger.



Hope is building! Recently a church wide meeting was held to update the congregation on our building plans. A few days later ground was broken and its all systems go for building Hope's Ministry & Community Center!



Lent & Easter brought much excitement and great lessons about Jesus for our little Hoppers.



CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays...

4- Diane Gibbs
4- Gayla Kossow
5- Dennis Finch
6- Ashley Bartz
6- Monica Reding
7- James Landahl
7- Paul Rigerman
7- Bradley Schrock
10- Emilie Rigerman
11- Erin Carter
11- Heather Petri
12- Noah Brown

12- Evan Frazier
13- Jodie Buchhardt
14- Kevin Deahn
15- Susan Metzger
15- Matt Miller
15- Mallory Petri
19- Andrew Smith
24- Barbara Newman
26- Amanda Prior
26- Amanda Osborn

29- Nathan Osborn
30- Carol Schasel
30- Robert Webster
31- Ernest Floyd
31- Jeanne Nourse

Anniversaries...

7- Dave & Marsha North
7- Harry & Karen Monin
17- Dustin & Jenni Smith
20- Paul & Emilie Rigerman

21- Mike & Karen Prior
24- Mike & Barb Sonner
24- Shawn & Carol Hannon

Celebrate

SAVE the DATE...

June 2: Chicken BBQ & Youth Sunday
June 6: Friends of Night People
June 10: Church Council
June 12: Respite
June 14: Blood Drive
June 24: Ale House Church
June 26: Committee Coffee House

*Upcoming
Events*

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
Sunday Steward: 8:30 am	Paul Fehringer	Tracey Wood	Cora Blackwell	Joanne Offers
Greeters: 8:30am	Dustin & Jenni Smith	Bev Hallock	Diane Gibbs	Betsey Craft–Harrison
AV Tech: 8:30 am	Cora Blackwell	Jim Alpin	Maddie Tavernier	Jacob & Ernie
Acolyte: 8:30 am	Connor Fleischman	Grace Taveriner	Cody Smith	McKenna Krist
Assisting Minister: 8:30 am	Mary Songster–Alpin	Tracey Wood	Marjorie Webster	Joanne Offers
Children’s Church: 8:30am	Angie & Anna Tavernier	Julie Tingué	Ashley Bartz	Julie Tingué
Lector: 8:30am	Cecelia & Everett Titus	Joanne Offers	Brian Tavernier	Monica Reding
Prayers: 8:30 am	Mike Campana	Marjorie Webster	Mary Songster–Alpin	Jen Blackwell
Ushers: 8:30am	Tracey Wood & Janet Campana	Trevor & Tyler Bley	Lauren & Missy Pleace	Diane Gibbs & Anna Sonner
HC Assistants: 8:30am	Jim Alpin Jenni Smith Missy Pleace	Ashley Bartz Mary Songster Alpin Jacob Offhaus	Angie Tavernier Jen Blackwell Ernie Floyd	Trevor Bley Megan Titus Amy Thomson
Sunday Steward: 10:30 am	Margie Rung	Bob Vossler	Carol Bodlt	Sue Dressel
Greeters: 10:30 am	John & Gayla Kossow	Brenda Schmidt	Sandy Ashworth	Kathy LaScala
AV Tech: 8:10:30 am	Stephen Struckmann	Cindy Struckmann	Carol Staffehl	Cindy Struckmann
Acolyte: 10:30 am	Trey Monin	Kristofer Burfield	Gavin Hammell	Cole Hammell
Assisting Minister: 10:30 am	Bob Vossler	Stephen Struckmann	Sue Dressel	Sue Farris
Children’s Church: 10:30 am	Ellen McCarthy	Amy Thomson	Tracey Wood	Amy Thomson
Lector: 10:30 am	—	Sue Dressel	Paul Rigerman	Sharlene Vossler
Prayers: 10:30 am	—	Sue Farris	Kim Offers	Bob Vossler
Ushers: 10:30 am	Jamie & Rachel Kittleson	Bob & Jodie Buchardt	Len Dressel & Al Boldt	Chuck & Pam Bradford
HC Assistants: 10:30 am	—	Pam Bradford Payeton Burfield Kathy LaScala	Jodie Buchardt Bob Vossler Sue Farris	Rachel Kittleson Stephen Struckmann Julie Tingué
Altar Guilds:	Cindy Struckmann & Sue Dressel	Carol Boldt & Diane Gibbs	Barb Sonner & Tracey Wood	Margie Rung Carol Staffehl
Coffee Hour:	Darla Schwab	The Nowak Family	Chuck & Pam Bradford	Andy & Ashley Bartz
Counters:	Scott Bley	Mike Sonner Anna Sonner	Joanne Offers Kelly Thomson	John Kossow

This newsletter was prepared especially for:

Address Service Requested

Arcade, New York

2 East Main Street

HOPE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



HOPE BUILDS

*With faith in
Jesus Christ,
the work has
begun and the
ground is broken!*

Follow the journey on
Instagram:
[@hope_builds](#)



In everything there is **hope**.