

Hope's Happenings

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH,

Epiphany

Volume 44, Issue 1: January & February 2016

From Pastor Shawn

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There's a Biblical expression you use early and often when you have a twin brother, "I'm not my brother's keeper, am I?" Whether it was one of our parents, a teacher, one of the handful of employers we shared, or one of our friends people assumed we did in fact have telepathic abilities because the questions about the whereabouts, actions, feelings and motives of the other never stopped. Each time someone asked, "Where's your brother?" or "Did your brother take out the garbage?" or anything else, I responded, "I'm not my brother's keeper, am I?"

I thought in the time I was being wise and using a Biblical and cultural reference few could dispute, but it's only in hindsight that I regret turning the phrase. After all, we know where it comes from. It comes from the story of Cain and Abel; the first brothers. We don't know much about their lives other than this: "In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions" (Genesis 4:3-4a). When the Lord saw it he regarded Abel's with delight, which caused Cain to become angry. Looking at him the Lord said not to be angry, but to do well rather than to respond sinfully. He didn't listen. Cain took his brother into the field and killed him. When the Lord asked where Abel was, Cain responded, "What? Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9). Cain thought the answer to the question was no. Silly, Cain.

Cain spent the rest of his years as a fugitive and wanderer. Rather than reap bountiful harvests, the ground would not yield its strength for Cain again. But Cain would live, and because of the Lord's graciousness he himself would never suffer the fate he gave his brother. No man would kill him because we are our brother's keeper.

We are our brother's keeper.

For Cain and Abel it was biologically true, but Jesus would define that significantly more broadly: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31). We're wired to respond like Cain. It's called sin.

So 1 in 8 Americans face hunger... Am I my brother's keeper?
Hundreds of thousands of refugees are homeless... Am I my
brother's keeper?

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in this *issue*

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Worship Notes

Sundays, 8am & 10:30am

8am: Worship Band led Liturgy

10:30am: Piano/Organ led Liturgy

Sunday, January 10

Installation of Committee Members & Officers, 8am & 10:30am

Worship at 8am & 10:30am

Sunday, February 7

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Worship at 8am & 10:30am

Wednesday, February 10

Ash Wednesday

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

Lenten Mid-Week Worship

Wednesdays, 2/10-3/16

11:00am—Community Worship followed by lunch

7:00pm—Evening Prayer

We Remember in Our Prayers

We pray for:

*Barbara Fehringer,
Matthew Nourse,
Carmon Becker,
Kirk Crandall,
Roger Day,
Mary Maines,
R.D. Knight,
Sharlie Mullin,
Hyland Day,
Anita McCaffrey,*

*Curt Emery,
Dennis Rung,
Laura Bley,
Isabelle Wagner,
Dan Lee,
Bob Brahaney,
Michael McGuinness,
Patti Zeller,
Gary Antonio,
Irene Gick,
Irv Dell,
Kevin Jones,*

*Abbie Aldrich,
Gary Beiersdorf,
Peggy Place,
Myrtle Rammacher,
Kate Weir,
Mary Angela,
Linda Lavine, Barb
Macholz,
Eileen Deahn,
Julie Tingue and
family,
Janet Miller,*

*Jason Schwab,
Jessie,
Betty Olin,
Chris Sanders,
Diane Gibbs' mother,
Pastor Bob Zimmerman
and the family of
Sylvia Harenda,
Carol Staffehl's
aunt who passed
away this week.*

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.

Thanks Be To God *for you!*

November 2015

Bob Landahl, Kevin Landahl and Mark; for cooking the turkeys for our Fried Turkey Dinner;

Mitch Marcin and Victoria Allen; for working with our youth.

December 2015

Cora Blackwell; for helping out with the Annual Meeting;

Helena Blackwell; for her musical talents at the 8:00 am worship;

Jim the Baptist Alpin; for his appearance at the Nursery School Christmas Program;

Diane Gibbs; for her leadership on the Hospitality Committee.



Financial Update—2015 4th Quarter

October 2015 Weekly Giving: **\$2,618.81**

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

November 2015 Weekly Giving: **\$2,416.30**

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

December 2015 Weekly Giving: **\$2,500.17**

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

(PS continued from page 1...)

An earthquake devastates a village... Am I my brother's keeper?

Christians in the Middle East are facing persecution... Am I my brother's keeper?

A kid in your school is being bullied... Am I my brother's keeper?

A man in your neighborhood just lost his job... Am I my brother's keeper?

But God calls us to respond by "keeping our brother."

... Am I my brother's keeper? Yes.

A pastor I had lunch with just last week was approached by the woman's guild in his congregation to replace the Christmas Tree. 'After all,' they argued, 'we could get the church to collect \$1,000 for a new one in a heartbeat.' Which was most certainly true. But he responded, "Could we get the church to collect \$1,000 for the hungry? And if not, is there something wrong with that picture?"

I am my brother's keeper—all of my brothers' keeper. And so are you. It's part of being part of the body of Christ we call the church, and part of sharing a world and a creator. And it means, we have to respond by keeping... by helping those in need... and by looking out for others near and far.

Looking back, I may have responded, "I'm not my brother's keeper, am I?," but I always knew I was because of the ways he and so many others kept me. Having received that grace through one another, may God use us to share it. Amen.



Opportunities to Give/Serve

Women Veterans

This winter the Outreach Committee will be coordinating a collection of dignity items for women at the VA. There will be a basket in the parish hall to drop off the items.

Suggested items include:

- Small Cloth Bags
- Hair Brushes & Combs
- Hair Care Products
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Sanitary Products
- Hand and Body Lotions
- Nail Care Items
- And More



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 31 and February 7 following both services.



Fish Fry!

Come on out and enjoy the best fish fry in town on the third Friday of February (19), March (18), and April (15). Each Fish Fry will support another important ministry of Hope, and there is no better way to enjoy food than by eating knowing it's going to a great cause. We can always use all hands on deck to make the dinners run smoothly, and sign up sheets for how to help with be posted prior on The Shelf in the parish hall.



From Intern Arin!



This year on the Confirmation retreat we will be talking about how and, more specifically, where our story intersects with God's story. So I wanted to take the chance to share with you all where I've seen this in my own life. I know that my story has crossed God's many times but one of the most important times takes place a little over three years ago. I was in my sophomore year at Bonaventure and the youth pastor at my church had told me about this camp on Lake Chautauqua that I had only heard about once before. He told me I should apply, and honestly the only reason I did was so my mom would get off my back about getting a job for the summer. I got offered the position shortly after interviewing and was all set for the summer.

As the date got closer though I began to become more hesitant because the most of the staff already knew each other and I was going to be one of the only new people. When I got to camp everyone was hugging and reminiscing about the summer before, and I was sitting there questioning why I even thought this was a good idea. So I made an escape plan. I was going to tell Lee, my boss, that this wasn't a good fit and I would have my parents come get me and take me home for the summer. I was going to tell Lee after the welcoming worship and then slip out when no one could really notice. However, during the worship Lee read the passage 1 Corinthians 7:17. "And don't be wishing you were someplace else or with someone else. Where you are right now is God's place for you." After hearing this I knew that I couldn't leave. That was exactly where God needed me to be in that moment.

Looking back I realize now that moment where my story crossed with God's story is something that changed the course of where my story would go next. Had I left that day I would not have felt a call to ministry in the way that I did, I would not have met many amazing children, found a new home and family, and I would not be here at Hope.

So what about you? Where have you seen God's story and your story cross? I'd love to hear about it.

- Arin



Red Cross Blood Drive

The next Blood Drive will be Tuesday, January 19 from 11:30-5:30pm. Please drop by to donate or to volunteer!



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.



Committee Coffee House

The next Committee Coffee House will take place on Wednesday, January 20 @ 6:30pm. Topics of discussion will include: Winterfest (Outreach and Education), 2015 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 (1/12 & 2/9) 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.

Pioneer Association of Churches (PAC)

The Pioneer Association of Churches will meet on Tuesday, January 26 at 6:30pm to discuss Lenten Worship and our on-going mission through the food pantry.

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 immediately 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: Celebrity Style!

Hope is trying a new thing during this year's Winterfest. Thanks to an invitation from the Winterfest Committee we have been invited to open our doors for the LEGO Contest on Saturday, February 13. During that time, we hope to have hot chocolate, baked goods, and possibly lunch options available for purchase at church and at a tent adjacent to the garage for folks in the park. Stay tuned for ways you can help support this bold new endeavor, and definitely mark your calendars to stop on by!



2016 McCloskey Scholarship Winner

Congratulations Amanda Metzger for being the 2016 recipient of the Martha E. McCloskey Scholarship. Amanda is the daughter of Sue and Steven Metzger and granddaughter of Joe and Judy Strobele. Her school plans include GCC and Daemen College where she is working on her bachelors degree in nursing science. She plans to work as a registered nurse when she graduates. Join us in congratulating Amanda and wishing her the best of luck.

Follow Hope on Facebook and Instagram!

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest highlights and announcements of the many things happening around here at Hope. On facebook please "like" the page **Hope Lutheran Church, Arcade, NY**, and on instagram find us **@hopearcade**.

It's hard to believe we're almost halfway through our school year already! Thanks to everyone for supporting our 2015 Christmas Program, we're so proud of our kiddos! We enjoyed a special visit from St. Nick & celebrated with a birthday party for Jesus.

We do have a couple of slots open for the rest of the school year if you know of someone who could benefit from our program.



Save-the-date: April 17th, Chicken BBQ to benefit the preschool! Please continue to help us keep our tuition costs down by supporting our fundraisers. You can also help keep a child less fortunate by donating to our tuition assistance program



A Future With Hope
2016 Pledge Card

For surely I know the plans I have for you...
to give you a future with hope.
Jeremiah 29:11

Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____

I/We commit to give:
 \$25 \$50 \$100 _____
every
 week month year

Tear this section off & keep it for your records.

COMMITMENT TO GIVE:
 \$ _____
every _____

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
In everything there is hope.

Pledge Cards and 2016 Envelopes

You may have noticed some “**A Future With Hope**” pledge cards in the parish hall this December. If you have not already done so, please use those cards to estimate your 2016 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 2016, 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 2016 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.



Senior High Winter Retreat at LCLC

From Friday, January 8 through Sunday, January 10 many high school youth from the area are headed to LCLC for a winter retreat. Among the staff people present this weekend will be our own Chris LiPuma and Arin Liszka. The retreat is for youth in grades 9-12. Hope will assist with ½ of the registration fee. Forms can be found online at www.lclcenter.org.

Youth Group

Youth Group is starting up again in the new year on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday nights from 6:30-8:30pm. We will gather for an evening of checking in, having fun, and digging into our faith. The dates for the next two months are:

January 12
January 26
February 9
February 23

Sledding Party

Stick around after church on Sunday, February 28 for an afternoon of sledding fun and winter treats. Bring your winter gear and favorite sleds. We'll sled in the park and warm up at church following with delicious hot cocoa.

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.





Confirmation Class

Confirmation classes resume this month and next meeting on Wednesdays, January 6 & February 3. We will be discussing the gospel of John and the book of Acts.

Confirmation Retreat

Our confirmands are headed to LCLC on January 15-17 for a weekend of faith formation and fun. They will be joining St. John Lutheran Church from Williamsville for the event. We're delighted that some of the confirmed youth will be attending to act as mentors and junior counselors. Our theme this year is: "Where Our Stories and God's Story **Cross.**" We can't wait to show and tell you all about it when we return.

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 2/17, 2/24, 3/2, & 3/9. We will paint chalices following worship on a Sunday afternoon TBD. Communion Celebration will take place on Sunday, March 13 at 10:30am. All classes are for children and their parents.

This years second graders include: Clara Gross, Grace Tavernier, Drake LeFort, Mallory Petri, Anthony Petrillo, & Addison Woodruff.

Law and the Bible: Justice, Mercy and Legal Institutions: A Sunday Morning Adult Study

As a Political Science/Law major turned pre-seminary intern, Arin has always looked at the Bible for the law aspect and what that means for us as Christians. We all know that the Bible is full of laws, and most of which many people find either out dated, pick and choose which ones to use to support a certain issue, or as something that isn't meant for them. So how do we as Christians take the laws of the Bible and apply them to the legal systems of today? Through the weeks of Lent that is exactly what we will do in the Adult class between the two services. By taking a look at a key aspect of the biblical witness and placing it into the contemporary legal system, we will be able to see clearly how the laws of the Bible are present in our legal systems today. We will be looking at The Biblical Foundations of Law, Law and Political Order, Criminal and Civil Law in the Torah, Crying Out for Justice, The Kingdom of God, Law, and the Heart, and Living as Christians Under Civil Law. Arin is very excited to be able to take her degree and put it to good use while connecting it with where she is going in the future, and (she's sure her mom is happy she's using it too).

HOPE'S HAPPENINGS



*Scenes from this year's Christmas pageant: Merry Christmess!
We offer a huge thank you to the kids for doing an awesome job
bring the good new of great joy to us!*

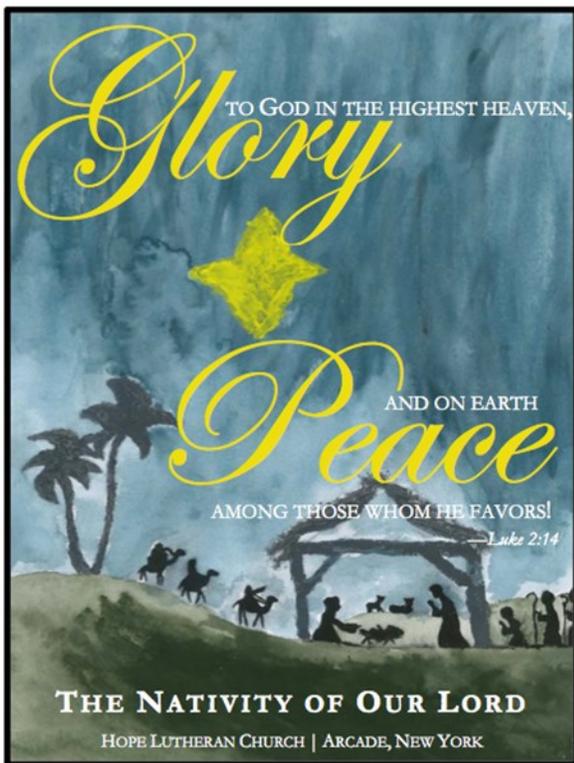
A view from the balcony while singing "Silent Night" during the 6:30 service on Christmas Eve.



*St. Nick made a special appearance at Preschool this December to make sure he knew just what to bring the little children in the class. They were delighted to see him, and we are so grateful *he and Mrs. Claus* were able to stop by.*



Pastor Shawn, Pastor Neil, and Pastoral Intern Arin at a Niagara Frontier Conference Open House with the Kattermann's for the rostered leaders of the area.



Many thanks to the artists who created bulletin covers for our Advent and Christmas worship services! Especially: Emily Frazier (left) & Paul Fehringer, Lauren Pleace, Chris Gross, Kaitie Wood, Carol Hannon, Cora Blackwell Mark Cordz, Tim Sonner, & Tracy Stiles (top down)

Celebrations!

Birthdays

January

4—Brenda Schmidt

5—Sue Dressel

6—Al Noble

8—Al Ackerman

10—Mary Dell

12—Heather Petrillo

12—Gavin Schwab

13—David Carr

14—Mark Cordz

14—Kelly Frazier

16—Graham Milks

17—Scott Rimbey

20—Kim Offers

20—Len Dressel

21—Caroline Neamon

26—Paul Blackwell

29—Amanda Metzger

29—Clara Gross

February

1—Kathleen LaScala

2—Jessica Rung

6—Roger Day

8—Becky Sonner

10—Edward McCarthy

12—Tarra Schwab

14—Tracy Stiles

17—Christiano LiPuma

21—Judith Noble

22—Eileen Deahn

22—Allen Nichols

23—Barbara Phair

24—Michael Prior

27—Bonnie McCarthy

27—Melissa Pleace

Anniversaries

January

1—Paul & Jennifer Black-

2—Heather & Mark Petrillo

13—Kim & Pat Wittenrich

27—Robert & Margie Webster

February

8—Diane & Paul Gibbs

10—Bill & Kathryn Landahl

14—Doug & Betty Nichols

16—Amy & Jim Burns

17—Ed & Ellen McCarthy

Date	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
<i>Acolyte Sam</i>	Tyler Bley Catherine Brown	James and Eric Rautenstrauch	Ashley and Riley Bliss	Madisen Sonner Timmy Sonner	Haley Celotto Evan Frazier
<i>10:30am</i>	Alyssa Boldt Kyler Felber	Brianna Cordz Anna Tavernier	Sydney Schrock Payeton Burfield	Ethan Hoffman Alyssa Boldt	Zach Rimbey Kyler Felber
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Carol Boldt	Jim and Mary Alpin	Sue Dressel Judy Strobele	Carol Staffehl Margie Rung	Carol Boldt
<i>HC Assistant Sam</i>	Scott Bley	Kathryn Landahl	Chris LiPuma	Kristin Bley	Joanne Offers
<i>10:30am</i>	Lisa Deahn	Marcia Davies	Bob Vossler	Arin Liszka	Jen Blackwell
<i>Cong. Deacon Sam</i>	Gary Rung	Margie Webster	Joanne Offers	Chris LiPuma	Margie Webster
<i>10:30am</i>	Arin Liszka	Bob Vossler	Arin Liszka	Joanne Offers	Bob Vossler
<i>Greeters (10:30)</i>	Bob and Jodie Buchhardt	Gary and Margie Rung	Jim and Mary Alpin	Bob and Sharlene Vossler	Chuck and Pam Bradford
<i>Lector Sam</i>	Joanne Offers	Tim Sonner	Kathryn Landahl	Kaitie Wood	Kim Offers
<i>10:30am</i>	Matt Rung	Katie Bennett	Dale Deahn	Helena Blackwell	Mary Alpin
<i>Prayers 10:30 am</i>	Sharlene Vossler	Carol Staffehl	Paul Rigerman	Mary Alpin	Sandi Bennett
<i>Ushers (10:30)</i>	Len Dressel Sue Dressel	Melissa Pleace Lauren Pleace	Carol Staffehl Kathy LaScala	Al Boldt Jim Alpin	Scott Rimbey Dale Deahn
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	Melissa Pleace	Jodie Buchhardt	Ashley Bartz	Kim Boldt	Margie Rung
	February 7	February 14	February 21	February 28	
<i>Acolyte Sam</i>	Garrett Milks James Rautenstrauch	Cora Fleischman Madisen Sonner	Haley Celotto Timmy Sonner	Tyler Bley Catherine Brown	
<i>10:30am</i>	Ethan Hoffman Alyssa Boldt	Brianna Cordz Kyler Felber	Payeton Burfield Zach Rimbey	Anna Tavernier Nick Rimbey	
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Sue Dressel Judy Strobele	Jim and Mary Alpin	Carol Staffehl Margie Rung	Carol Boldt	
<i>HC Assistant Sam</i>	Scott Bley	Kathryn Landahl	Kristin Bley	Joanne Offers	
<i>10:30am</i>	Jen Blackwell	Arin Liszka	Bob Vossler	Mary Alpin	
<i>Cong. Deacon Sam</i>	Gary Rung	Joanne Offers	Chris LiPuma	Margie Webster	
<i>10:30am</i>	Arin Liszka	Bob Vossler	Joanne Offers	Bob Vossler	
<i>Greeters (10:30)</i>	Cliff and Marcia Davies	Al and Carol Boldt	Andy and Ashley Bartz	Gary and Margie Rung	
<i>Lector Sam</i>	Tim Sonner	Kaitie Wood	Kathryn Landahl	Kim Offers	
<i>10:30am</i>	Sue Dressel	Jen Blackwell	Sharlene Vossler	Carol Staffehl	
<i>Prayers 10:30</i>	Paul Rigerman	Sharlene Vossler	Sue Dressel	Karen Prior	
<i>Ushers (10:30)</i>	Melissa Pleace Lauren Pleace	Len and Sue Dressel	Carol Staffehl Kathy LaScala	Jim Alpin Dale Deahn	
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	Pam Bradford	Angie Tavernier	Darla Schwab	Diane Gibbs	

In everything there is hope.



HOPE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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Address Service Requested

This newsletter was prepared especially for: