



Hope's Happenings

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH,

Volume 41, Issue 2: March & April 2016

From Pastor Shawn

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**Carol Boldt
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Youth Director:

Chris LiPuma

I often find myself having conversations with people who are asking questions about faith. Full disclosure: there are even times that conversation is in the mirror. We all wonder about the nature of God. We marvel at creation. We wrestle with the purpose of life around us. But we also ask more difficult questions as well. Questions like if there is a God how can there be so much evil, sin, and brokenness in creation? How indeed?

I don't know about you, but that question tends to open up a floodgate for me. Suddenly I'm asking how an all-powerful God can let hurricanes flood entire cities, tyrannical rulers use chemical weapons on their own people, or millions of children starve in the developing world. How does God let those things happen? How can God be so content to do nothing? Right?

Then again, who said God was doing nothing? That's the problem with those questions. They lead us down the wrong path. They lead us to focus on what we perceive God is not doing, rather than all that God does.

Watch what happens when we put it in terms of people. When I meet someone new I always try to hear their story. I ask where they were and are from, what they are passionate about, the most important people in their lives, and what they spend their time and energy doing both for work and in their free time. Their answers tell me a lot about who they are. But what if instead of asking those questions, I only focused on what I perceived they didn't do. If I did that I would walk away not knowing any more about that person than when I started.

So why do we do that with God? The next time you are tempted to believe God is sitting back while people go hungry remember the billions of people God feeds every day. Look at your plate and the food that God has provided for you. Consider the fertile earth that yields crops while we sleep. Maybe when it comes to hunger, God isn't the one doing nothing.

It's tempting to ask questions about where we perceive God is absent, but it's a trap. It's a trap that meant to distract us from seeing all of the places God continues to be hard at work in his world. So the next time you wonder where God was in the natural disaster or war or poverty, step back and look again. You'll see him. You'll see God in the relief efforts, working for justice and peace, and providing for all his children despite our own negligent ways.

in this *issue*

<i>Announcements</i>	6-7
<i>Youth Page</i>	8-10
<i>Celebrations</i>	14
<i>Duty Roster</i>	15

Worship Notes

Sundays, 8am & 10:30am

*First Sunday of the Month:
8am Piano/Organ led Worship
10:30am Band led Worship*

*Second through Fifth Sundays of the Month:
8am Band led Worship
10:30am Piano/Organ led Worship*

Wednesdays, March 9 & 16

Mid-Week Lenten Worship

11am Worship followed by Lunch

7pm Evening Prayer



Sunday, March 13

Communion Instruction Celebration @ 10:30am

Reception following

Sunday, March 20

Palm Sunday

Worship at 8am & 10:30am



Sunday, March 27

Easter Sunday

Worship at 8am & 10:30am,

Easter Brunch between services

Sunday, April 3

Camp Sunday

Special Music and Message at 8am & 10:30am

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Monday, March 21-Friday, March 25: 7am Holy Communion at Arcade UCC

Thursday, March 24: 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship at Hope

Friday, March 25: 7pm Good Friday Service of Darkness at Hope

We Remember in Our Prayers

We pray for:

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

*Curt Emery,
Laura Bley,
Isabelle Wagner,
Michael McGuinness,
Irene Gick,
Irv Dell,
Kevin Jones,
Abbie Aldrich,
Myrtle Rammacher,
Kate Weir,
Mary Angela,*

*Linda Lavine,
Barb Macholz,
Eileen Deahn,
Julie Tingue and
family,
Janet Miller,
Jason Schwab,
Betty Olin,
Chris Sanders,
Jessie,
Pastor Bob*

*Zimmerman,
Bobby Barnett,
Jane Davis,
Dave, Ted,
Pat Wittenrich,
Trevor Bley,
Marilyn Bley-Scott's
mother,
Martha Lons, and
Dan Laird.*

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!

January 2016

Sue Dressel, for all she does for our Sunday School, especially the Christmas Program

Paul Fehringer, for sprucing up our office areas at church

Mary Songster-Alpin, for her commitment and discipleship to our children and all God's creatures.

Scott Rimbey, for the donation of supplies to our Sunday School and Preschool

February 2016

Confirmation Parents, for sharing their kids, setting positive examples, and helping us get to camp in January.

Outreach Committee (Pam B., Jen B., Kathy L., Sandi B.): for the Souper Bowl, VA Collection and more.

Thank You!



Opportunities to Give/Serve



Members of Hope, led by Pastor Bob, drop off the first batch of personal care items for Women Veterans to the VA. The remaining bags will be dropped off around Easter. Thanks for all your donations to date and to these awesome disciples for representing Christ and Hope at the VA last month.

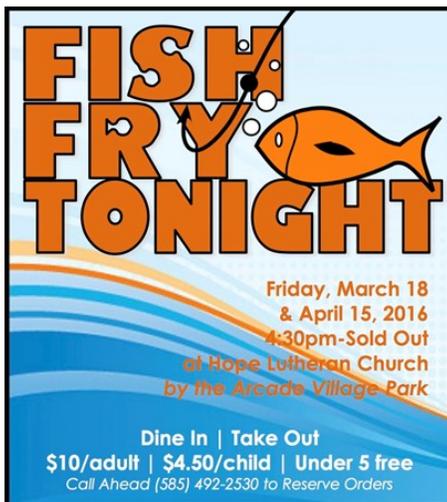
Women Veterans

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



Fish Fry!

Come on out and enjoy the best fish fry in town on the third Friday of 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.



Why? Because! A Social Gathering for a Worthy Cause

Several WNY Pastors are taking over a local restaurant for an afternoon for a great cause. On Sunday, May 1 from 11-3pm, 15% of the bill and 100% of the tips generated at The Tavern at Windsor Park (on Transit Road) will support Lutheran Charities of WNY and the agencies they support. The best part: All of the servers will be Lutheran Pastors, including Pastor Shawn. This will be a high energy, wonderful event and you will not want to miss it.

From Intern Arin!



This past summer during Senior High week at LCLC, the visiting staff came in telling us that this year we were going to try some new things. The summer staff was not too excited by this and got even more upset as we began to find out what these new things would be. Shawn and Steve, the other volunteer pastor, told us there was going to be a Christ Walk. None of the summer staff wanted to this, and I will admit that I was against it, but looking back there was honestly no reason that we should have been so worried. To be honest this ended up being a highlight of my summer, and is also something that Shawn will never let me live down.

For us, this Christ Walk meant taking a walk around camp and being introduced to many figures that were important in the crucifixion, especially Jesus. These figures were portrayed by the volunteer staff, and Jesus was actually portrayed by Chris. For me this was the first time that I was truly able to humanize Christ. Up to that point he always seemed like an ultimate being who was just out of reach, but this brought him right down to Earth for me. To see him walking among us, as one of us really blew me away and forced me to see Jesus in a more humanized way.

The Christ Walk really brought the words of John 1: 14 to life for me. John 1:14, **“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.”** Many times it is hard for us to remember or even realize that Jesus was in fact a human just like us in many ways. By being able to see this portrayed right in front of me while many of my friends were portraying these big roles really made me finally see all of this.

Throughout this season of the church, we are invited to see the sacrifice that was made for us. For me this sacrifice is made even more important and special to me because of the Christ Walk that I was able to see. I invite you all to bring flesh to the words of The Bible throughout this Lenten season so that you may also be drawn closer to our God.

- Arin

ANNOUNCEMENTS | (WHAT'S HAPPENING)

Red Cross Blood Drive

The next Blood Drive will be Tuesday, March 22 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, April 27 @ 6:30pm. We will NOT meet in March because of Lent and Holy Week. Committees who need to meet are encouraged to so at a suitable time.



Church Council

Church Council will meet on the Second Tuesday of March & April (3/8 & 4/12) 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 Wednesday, March 16 at 12:30pm to discuss Baccalaureate 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.



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**.

Palm Sunday Community Cantata

On Sunday, March 20 at 3pm members of our community will be presenting their annual Palm Sunday Cantata (Cantata=A choral concert that presents a scriptural message) at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Arcade. Rehearsals will take place on Sundays prior at 1pm. Everyone who enjoys singing is welcome to participate.

Easter Brunch

Brunch will be served on Easter Sunday between both services. This is a wonderful and joyful way for us to gather with our families and church families in the good news of Jesus' resurrection. The cost is free, and donations are gratefully accepted. Brunch will be served from 9:15am-10:15am.



The Law & the Bible

Our intern, Arin, will continue teaching her course on the law and the Bible on Sunday mornings in Lent at 9:15am. Arin was a pre-law student at St. Bonaventure before deciding to attend seminary. She shares her insight on the laws that govern our country with the word of God that governs our lives. Don't miss it.

Spring Work Day

On Saturday, March 19 we will gather at Hope for a morning of small projects, painting, and cleaning. This will help us make sure our church is in great shape for Easter Sunday the following week. We will begin around 9am. Please come and give a couple minutes or morning. If you have any projects you'd like to see done, please speak with Pastor Shawn or Andy Bartz.

Communion Wine

Do you enjoy making wine? For many years Sheri Landahl made our communion wine at church. Since their move, Hope has a void to fill. We are looking for 3-4 wine makers to make wine seasonally for our worship. If you'd like more information or are willing to sign up, please speak with Carol Boldt in the main office.

From Mr. Chris:

Hope's Youth Director!

It is the end of the world. Or so I am told. I hear that Donald Trump wants to build a wall in the south, and I hear that Canada welcomes us to the North. I hear that Bernie Sanders wants me to go to school for free...a little late on that. And I hear you should go out and vote! The future of our country depends on you! I hear that global warming is real, I hear that global warming is not real. Everyday I go on facebook and see hate and arguments. I see people cut other people off in traffic or burn through red lights to shave off that extra ten seconds off their trip. What is going on? Is this the current state of our planet? Was I naive and did not realize it or did I just grow up and finally see the truth behind everything. It is the end of the world.

Well you know what I think? No its not the end of the world. In fact it is the start of a brand new world. Why do I say that? I have hope. I have hope in the kids of this world, more importantly I have hope in the kids here at church. I am sure many of you witnessed my victory speech that I gave before church after the Volleyball Marathon. If not, here is a recap of the night: Kids from all over Western New York gathered on a Friday to embark on a marathon, a volleyball marathon. Why a marathon? Because it goes from 7pm until 8am. Yes crazy I know. And a handful of Hope's finest were there to represent and defend last year's championship. The night was full of many, many, many, many volleyball games, some devotions, and laughs with everyone present. As to be expected Hope was in the championship game with none other St John of Williamsville, which you will remember Pastor Shawn's brother is the pastor of. And just like that Hope were champions again after a crushing victory over St. John. I was so proud of our kids, but not in the way you would expect. Was I proud that we defended our title? Sure. But there was more to the night than winning a trophy. At these events we do a meal packing before the fun starts, our goal was to package 10,000 meals, so all of the kids got in assembly lines and began packing the meals. After what seemed like forever we had completed our goal and were ready to get the games going, one problem, someone miscalculated and we actually had only done 5,000 meals. With all of the teams dispersing into the gym, the question of who would finish packing came about. As luck would have it Hope Lutheran was not playing the first set of games so we volunteered to keep packing. As pizza arrived and games were being played our kids kept packing, meal after meal until the goal of 10,000 meals was completed. The night started with work and ended with victory for everyone, trophies won, bellies filled, meals packed for hungry people all over western New York.

Is it the end of the World? If you have been to Hope then you know that answer. Each Sunday I see kids of all ages gather and be accepting of everyone here in church. When tragedy strikes or someone falls ill or injured...Trevor, our kids seem to rise up to the occasion and send a text of get well or walk up to them in church and offer a hug. No pun intended but there is Hope here in Arcade. If we could just take the time out of our busy schedule and look to our youth we could see the answers to all of our questions with this world. Or so it says in Psalms 127:3-5

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of ones youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies at the gate.

Hope is here, Hope is here every Sunday in a crying baby, or a curious wandering toddler. Hope is at coffee hour when a child eyes a second cookie and sneaks it before mom is looking, and Hope is in us as we see the gift of our children and youth and lift up their gifts and talents.



Youth Group

Youth Group continues to meet on 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:

March 8 & 22

April 5 & 19

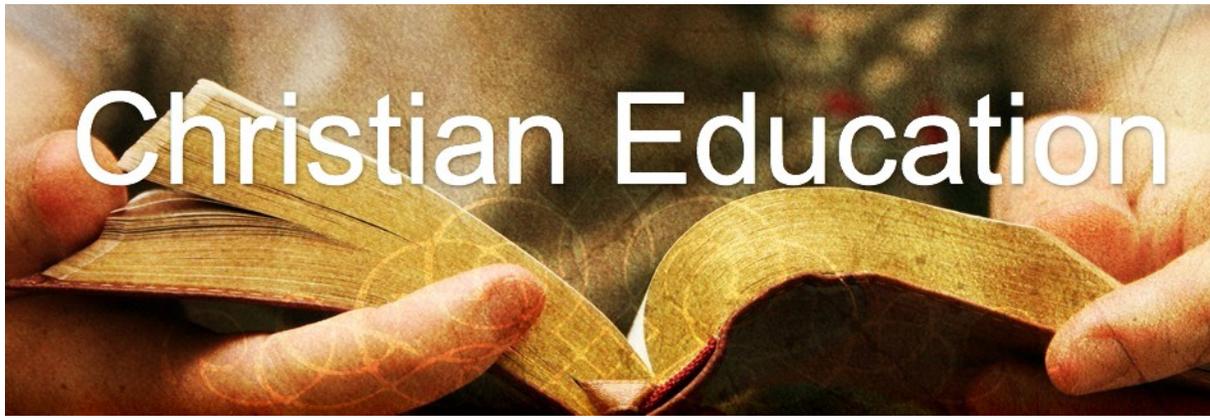
Got An Idea or Two for the Youth? Talk to Chris.

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.

Volleyball Marathon

Congratulations to the youth of Hope Lutheran Church for winning the Niagara Frontier Volleyball Marathon last month at the Buffalo Niagara Court Center in West Seneca. The real winner, of course, was the hungry who will receive the 10,000 meals packaged by the youth present and the church who gathered youth from 15 congregations for an evening of fellowship, service, and devotion.





First Sunday

Our youth are set for a couple of special first Sundays in the next few months of Sunday School. In March, Tracey Wood will be leading our children and youth in a special activity focusing on the power of finding life in blood. After remembering Jesus giving his blood for us, we will write thank you cards for recipients at our blood drive in a few Tuesdays for sharing their blood for the life of others.

In April, Chris LiPuma and Arin Liszka will be leading our children and youth in a special First Sunday fit for camp. Our youth can expect a week of camp in 45 minutes of Sunday School... or at least we're gonna try to squeeze that much fun and learning in. You don't want to miss it.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation classes resume on April 6 & 20 and May 4. Confirmation Sunday is May 15, 2016 at 10:30am.

Communion Instruction

Communion Instruction continues for 2nd graders on Wednesday, March 9 at 6pm. Communion Celebration will take place on Sunday March 13 at 10:30am with a reception honoring the recipients immediately following worship. 2nd graders set to celebrate the occasion include, Kyra Agen, Clara Gross, Gavin Hammell, Drake Lefort, Mallory Petri, Grace Tavernier, & Addison Woodruff.



Gavin and Drake paint their handmade communion chalices by Bev Fehring. Thanks, Bev! You are amazing!

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 😊).



We had one new student join our class at the beginning of February and we began a partnership with Wyoming County Community Action. Miss Kacie is an intern who will be in our classroom for the remainder of the school year. She has been doing an amazing job getting to know the children & their families.

We will be very busy over the next 3 months with our annual St. Patrick's Day & Easter celebrations, grandparents tea party, chicken bbq, fundraiser, pet weeks, and visit from Beaver Meadow. All of these festivities will culminate with our graduation on Wednesday May 25th!

April 17th, Krolick's Chicken BBQ to benefit the preschool!

We will have pre-sale tickets available at the beginning of April. It helps us know how many dinners to prepare for if you buy your tickets ahead of time! Supporting our fundraisers helps us keep tuition costs down & donating to our tuition assistance program allows children less fortunate to attend our program.

Miss Pam reads us a story about Clifford to celebrate his birthday. Pastor Shawn sings songs with us & plays his guitar.



HOPE'S BIRTHDAYS



*Happy 96th Birthday to Eileen Deahn!
Eileen is a founding member of Hope.
She prays for the congregation every day.
And, Eileen, we pray for you too!*



Photos from the Mid-Week Lenten Worship Services at 7pm.



Hope was happy to host many Winterfest activities and members of the community. We're already looking forward to another wonderful Winterfest next year. We also congratulate the Delevan Cub Scout Troop for their 2nd place finish in the snow-sculpting contest in our front lawn.

Celebrations!

Birthdays

March

5—Ellen Sisson
6—Baylee Phetteplace
7—Linda Vaughan
14—Vern Bliss
15—James Burns
15—Adam Reinhardt
16—Sarah Bennett
16—Paul Fehringer
18—Tomi Cordz
18—Isabelle Wagner
18—Leah Woodruff
20—Michael Sonner
20—Pat Wittenrich
22—Tyler Cockle
Jane Kruse
23—Robert Landahl
23—Bruce Nichols
24—Luke King
25—Jamie Kittleson
26—Kathryn Landahl
27—Ryan Merlau

March cont'd

27—Chloe Phetteplace
30—Michael Sonner Jr.
31—Anna Sonner
April
3—Stephanie Deahn
3—Quinn Hannon
3—Carol Staffehl
3—Brian Tavernier
4—Le Fern (Junior) Joslin
6—Norman Rugg
8—Madisen Sonner
9—Baylee Burfield-Gross
10—Timothy Smith
11—Michael Cady
11—Noah Lambert
11—Scott Lambert
11—Tiffany Lambert
12—Mike North
13—Kelsey Landahl
13—George Winfield

April cont'd

14—Charlene Burfield-Gross
16—Carol Hannon
16—Peggy Place
17—Kathy Bemb
17—Richard Fuller
17—Danny Osborn
18—Camden Felber
19—Ethan Hoffman
19—John Pleace
19—James Rautenstrauch
21—Henry Rak
21—Cooper Rhodus
22—Mark Mattson
23—Edla Reynolds
25—Nicholas Rimbey
25—Margie Webster
26—Jeanne Holmes
26—Barbara Sonner
26—James Vitale
26—Robert Zimmerman
27—Riley Bliss

April cont'd

27—Brianna Holmes
27—Barbara Maier
27—Lucas Miller
27—Laine Schwab
29—Katelin Bennett
30—Amy Burns

Anniversaries

3/4—Melissa & John Pleace
3/17—Margareta Mattson
3/21—Marisa Sanders
4/7—Mark Cordz
4/8—Mike Sonner Jr.
4/15—Brent Scoins
4/21—Hyland & Dorothy Day
4/23—Beth & Matt Miller
4/26—Rachel & Jamie Kittleson

Date	March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27 Easter
<i>Acolyte 8am</i>	Evan Frazier Garrett Milks	James and Eric Rautenstrauch	Ashley and Riley Bliss	Madisen Sonner Timmy Sonner
<i>10:30am</i>	Alyssa Boldt Payeton Burfield	Brianna Cordz Anna Tavernier	Sydney Schrock Zach Rimbey	Cole Rhodus Nick Rimbey
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Sue Dressel Judy Strobele	Carol Staffehl Margie Rung	Carol Boldt	Sue Dressel Judy Strobele
<i>HC Assistant 8am</i>	Kathryn Landahl	Chris LiPuma	Scott Bley	Kristin Bley
<i>10:30am</i>	Lisa Deahn	Sue Dressel	Bob Vossler	Arin Liszka
<i>Cong. Deacon 8am</i>	Gary Rung	Margie Webster	Chris LiPuma	Margie Webster
<i>10:30am</i>	Arin Liszka	Bob Vossler	Arin Liszka	Bob Vossler
<i>Greeters (10:30)</i>	Bob and Jodie Buchhardt	Gary and Margie Rung	Bob and Sharlene Vossler	Chuck and Pam Bradford
<i>Lector 8am</i>	Mary Alpin	Tim Sonner	Kathryn Landahl	Kaitie Wood
<i>10:30am</i>	Carol Staffehl	Katie Bennett	Dale Deahn	Sue Dressel
<i>Prayers 10:30 am</i>	Al Boldt	Carol Staffehl	Paul Rigerman	Sandi Bennett
<i>Ushers (10:30)</i>	Len Dressel Sue Dressel	Melissa Pleace Lauren Pleace	Carol Staffehl Kathy LaScala	Al Boldt Dale Deahn
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	Sharlene Vossler	Melissa Pleace	Gayla Kossow	Easter Breakfast
	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24
<i>Acolyte 8 am</i>	Haley Celotto Catherine Brown	Cora Fleischman Madisen Sonner	Evan Frazier Timmy Sonner	Ashley Bliss Riley Bliss
<i>10:30am</i>	Ethan Hoffman Alyssa Boldt	Brianna Cordz	Payeton Burfield Zach Rimbey	Anna Tavernier Nick Rimbey
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Jim and Mary Alpin	Carol Staffehl Margie Rung	Sue Dressel Judy Strobele	Carol Boldt
<i>HC Assistant 8am</i>	Kathryn Landahl	Joanne Offers	Kristin Bley	Scott Bley
<i>10:30am</i>	Sue Dressel	Arin Liszka	Bob Vossler	Sue Dressel
<i>Cong. Deacon 8am</i>	Joanne Offers	Chris LiPuma	Margie Webster	Gary Rung
<i>10:30am</i>	Arin Liszka	Bob Vossler	Joanne Offers	Bob Vossler
<i>Greeters (10:30)</i>	Al and Carol Boldt	Melissa Pleace	Gary and Margie Rung	Chuck and Pam Bradford
<i>Lector 8am</i>	Helena Blackwell	Tim Sonner	Kathryn Landahl	Kim Offers
<i>10:30am</i>	Judy Feine	Carol Staffehl	Sharlene Vossler	Julie Tingué
<i>Prayers 10:30</i>	Al Boldt	Sharlene Vossler	Sue Dressel	Paul Rigerman
<i>Ushers (10:30)</i>	Melissa Pleace Lauren Pleace	Len and Sue Dressel	Carol Staffehl Kathy LaScala	Scott Rimbey Dale Deahn
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	Diane Gibbs	Kim Boldt	Carol Boldt	Margie Rung

In everything there is hope.



HOPE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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Address Service Requested

This newsletter was prepared especially for: