



The Beacon of Hope

The Newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church

MAY 2014

A Word From Pastor Carl

“±”

As I was thinking about what our church has accomplished with God’s help in the first third of the year, we are not only maintaining but are making strides.

Probably the greatest advance within the year is with our technology. The church council contracted with Jeff Kletscher to update our sound system to be able to record the worship service on CD and to enable a computer to be hooked up to the sound system to play worship songs. The parish record book of baptisms, weddings, etc. is now updated and is also digitized. Jeff built an attractive website for our congregation first begun by Susan Coccie. Susan continues to make our Facebook page a popular site.

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Hope Lutheran Church Women

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

Session 9 of our Family Matters series will be the basis of our Women's Bible Study, Monday, May 19 at 10:00A.M. The title is "Ecclesiastical Birds and Bees", Conflict and Infertility. In Genesis 29:31 - 30:23 we hear how infertility continues to plague Abraham's family. The New Testament portion is from Luke 1: 5-56 -- the story of Elizabeth conceiving in her old age, and Mary in her youth. Just as stress can affect reproduction, there is a correlation in our congregations when stress and unresolved conflicts can affect growth and mission.

This is the last of this series. All women are welcome. And --- if there are suggestions for a topic starting in September, feel free to express your thoughts.

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Befrienders News: We sincerely thank the four people who have volunteered as readers for our member who is legally blind. We could use 1-2 more people to make it easier to rotate readers. Our member is grateful for the caring support that she is receiving.

Stewardship: Our teens are a huge help in the work of our church. The teens have worked in the kitchen during the soup suppers, been responsible acolytes and ushers, joined the choir, helped with the younger Sunday School kids, and have been readers of the Scripture lessons. Please acknowledge and thank them for their participation in our worship services.

Christian Education, Youth & Family Ministry: Carolyn Hosking & Jen Myles would like to continue Sunday School through the summer. If you are able to assist, please contact them.

Vacation Bible School will be held the last week of June. Please consider volunteering for one of the many jobs to make the experience memorable for the children. Registration information will follow in the June Beacon of Hope.

Upcoming events: Sydney Lough created and distributed invitations to the Floodwood Senior Class and Hunter Rauvola for Baccalaureate which will be held on Wednesday, May 28, 2014 at 7:00 pm. Hope is the host church this year. Refreshments, served by Naomi Circle, and fellowship will follow the service.

Recognition Sunday for the 2014 graduates will be May 18, 2014 at the 9:30 a.m. service.

Word From Pastor Carl- “±” ***(Continued From Page 1)***

Besides technology, we have made strides in organization. Our new council president has already pushed us in running our meetings even more efficiently. This improvement is concurrent with the progress of other commissioned groups. We again thank the task force that remodeled the church office. I continue to be impressed in how attractive it looks each time I walk through the office door. Secondly, our ongoing teams continue to improve their work. The Christian Education and Youth and Family Ministry committee is meeting more frequently, is farther ahead in planning than previous years past and has some good ideas “up their sleeves”. The stewardship committee is more active than in the recent past, too. Within the year, the Befrienders have expanded their outreach to include sending out greeting cards and reading for the visually impaired.

Not only are the planning teams keeping up the momentum, but programming ministry is also keeping apace. Youth confirmation has been more enjoyable this year. The new adult class has also been a good opportunity for study. Both high school and elementary religious release were successful ventures and we had a number of participants who were not students or leaders last year join us. It has enriched our congregation to have additional Bible study opportunities at Riverview Manor and the parsonage. The youth Quake/Zone trip was again fun for all and the movie showing to fundraise the excursion was a hit. The film was very inspirational.

Third, I have heard positive comments about another impacting Holy Week. The kids enriched our service by marching around the sanctuary for Palm Sunday. We contributed a beautiful sounding choir for Good Friday in addition to the drama provided by the Assembly of God. I really enjoyed Easter with another delicious breakfast, a first-time egg hunt, and having so many kids up front for the children’s sermon. The music was also stirring with the choir performing and Justin Wilton being our guest trumpeter.

If I had to summarize the ministry of our congregation right now, I would use the symbol at the top of this article to express where we are right now. I chose such a sign because there has been progress. But I can think of two issues that
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Word From Pastor Carl- “±”

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concern our congregation and me specifically. This symbol communicates to us that while ministry has been good, our Sunday morning numbers have gone down.

Like I mentioned before, we have shrunk in size because of death and more so because of relocation of some of our members. (Continue to invite new people to check out our church and greet those who are new.) And second and probably related, our offering is not meeting our budget year-to-date. To be fair, spending has kept pace with the budget. But our offerings are as not as generous. If you have been particularly blessed this year and find yourself with a little unexpected material blessing, perhaps now is a time for an extra contribution or an increase in your weekly gift. We would hate to see all these great ministries be scaled back not for lack of interest or volunteers but simply because there are not the funds behind them. Please pray and pay as the Lord leads you for our ministry. Thank you for making Hope a great church with which to be involved.

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Carl Fiskness

HLCW News (Continued from Page 1)



QUILTING

We will meet for Quilting on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 from 9:00-3:00 in the church basement.

**BRING YOUR TEDDY BEARS TO CHURCH AND
JOIN IN THE PICNIC**

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2014 10:30 AM

(following the church service)

Naomi Circle Will Serve Lunch

**A sign-up sheet for donations is on the window in back of the
sanctuary**

PROCEEDS GOING TO THE GENERAL FUND



Kenya
By Cherie Suonvieri

For three weeks this past January, I found myself adventuring in a beautiful foreign land across the Atlantic Ocean: Kenya. I was there on a short-term study abroad trip through Bethel University to study the media and the culture. Along with all the memories, photos, and new friends, I came home from Kenya with a new perspective. I've had people ask me if I experienced culture shock when I was there, but the odd thing was I think I experienced more culture shock when I returned to the states. I was seeing my world through a new set of eyes—and I honestly didn't really like it much anymore.

My world here in Minnesota is so incredibly different than the world I lived in for three weeks in Kenya, and it's still hard for me to believe that they exist on the same planet. In Kenya, poverty is huge. It's nearly everywhere you look. But within that poverty, what struck me the most is the incredible generosity of these people when they have so little to begin with.

When we were walking through Mathare slum, we visited the home of a friend of our guide, Jessica; she was introduced as Mama David. This woman lived in a one room shed-like structure, and even though Jessica had told her not to, she made food for us. This woman very likely made her money picking through the trash heaps outside of the slum, but she still wanted to give us something to eat. We couldn't bring ourselves to take anything from her, even though she offered so kindly.

Another instance of incredible generosity that I experienced was when we stayed with our host families. My travel buddy Emma and I were blessed to stay with the Mugo family, and I can hardly begin to describe how kind and hospitable they were. They always made sure we were well fed and always encouraged us to eat more food, even when we were certain we could not. Beyond asking and insisting we have more than what we need, they also said so many times just how grateful they were to have us staying with them and what a blessing we were, when it was us that were blessed by their willingness to open their home and their lives to two complete strangers.

People in Kenya live such simple lives, but out of that simplicity they are willing to give to the point of uncomfortability. So I found myself a bit bitter when I returned to my life in this nation of excess. "How do I reconcile these two completely different worlds that I've come to know?" I wondered. How do I make sense of why I'm here, while 1.2 million people are living in Kibera slum right now—now that I know that it's more than a number, now that I've seen their faces.

And honestly, I don't entirely know yet. But I do know that I take less for granted and I aspire to be as kind and giving as the beautiful people I encountered in Kenya. One other thing my eyes were opened to is that while people experiencing poverty may have less when it comes to material things or opportunities, I think they see life in a way that it is difficult to grasp when you're living comfortably. While there's more struggle, there's more potential for true joy in the Lord. And that joy manifested can be such a beautiful thing.

EASTER SUNDAY AT HOPE LUTHERAN



UNAPPROVED

Hope Lutheran Church
Floodwood, MN

Minutes of Regular Meeting
April 24, 2014

Present: President Susan Coccie, Vice-President David Zieroth, Secretary Kathy Johnsen, Pastor Carl Fiskness, Lonna Hutchinson, Bubba Vance, Jennifer Myles, Jeff Kletscher, Marion Shafer. Absent: Treasurer Rae Rosemore, Carlene Jatkola, Bryan Hutchinson

Meeting was called to order by President Susan Coccie at 7:00 pm. Coccie welcomed new Council member Jennifer Myles and Pastor Fiskness opened with prayer.

AGENDA

MOTION BY VANCE, SECOND BY L. HUTCHINSON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH ONE ADDITION. MOTION CARRIED.

Wayne Thom was in attendance to review a Statement of Loss from Church Mutual that outlined losses and payments made on the claim regarding the June 2012 flood. Two pumps, three or four file cabinets, tablecloths, and two brass vases still need to be purchased.

REPORTS

Secretary: MOTION BY VANCE, SECOND BY L. HUTCHINSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 18, 2014 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

Financial: MOTION BY JOHNSEN, SECOND BY ZIEROTH TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

Youth & Family: Pastor Carl reported Religious Release is done for this school year, the egg hunt on Easter morning was a success, recognition of graduates will be May 18, and Baccalaureate will be at Hope Lutheran on May 28. Jen Myles stated she and Carolyn Hosking will try to keep Sunday School going over the summer.

Communication & Technology: Jeff Kletscher presented an outline of the work he has completed for Hope Lutheran in the areas of technology, finance, and vital records and stated he is finished with the list of things the Council asked him to do. He also said the sale of the property at 119 9th Ave. E., Floodwood, is complete and the proceeds were deposited into general savings. Coccie reported she put pictures from Easter morning on Facebook and they have received many "Likes".

Building: Bubba Vance reported Mark Larva will make the railing for the south stairs. Pastor Fiskness said John and Nathan Seredinski are doing electrical work at the parsonage.

Befrienders: Will begin reading to the blind and continue to send greeting cards.

HLCW: The Teddy Bear Picnic will be May 4 and the proceeds will go to general savings.

Office Remodeling: L. Hutchinson said after the mirror above the desk is moved and the secretary's desk is secured, the remodeling will be done.

Stewardship: Coccie reported the committee has made a list of service opportunities for the congregation.

Quilters: Coccie stated 9 quilts and 1 lap robe were made last month.

Pastor: Pastor Fiskness distributed a printed report of his activities.

OLD BUSINESS

A. L. Hutchinson will see that the CO2 detectors are ordered and said the fire extinguishers will be done when the technician comes to do multiple businesses in town.

B. Property sale was discussed earlier.

C. Susan Coccie and Grace Autio will attend the workshop on April 26.

D. Council reviewed a proposal from Cherie Suonvieri to photograph Hope Lutheran members for a new church directory.

MOTION BY VANCE, SECOND BY ZIEROTH TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL FROM CHERIE SUONVIERI TO PHOTOGRAPH MEMBERS AND EDIT PHOTOS FOR A NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY. MOTION CARRIED.

E. Pastor Fiskness is now enrolled in his wife Jodi's health insurance. The cost of his coverage is paid by Hope Lutheran, and the remaining amount budgeted under Pastor medical will be paid to him as salary.

F. The hiring committee received two applications for the Custodian position.

MOTION BY VANCE, SECOND BY L. HUTCHINSON TO FOREGO A FEDERAL BACKGROUND CHECK FOR THIS PARTICULAR HIRING INSTANCE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY VANCE, SECOND BY L. HUTCHINSON TO OFFER THE POSITION OF CUSTODIAN TO LEIGHA KUEHL. MOTION CARRIED.

- G.** Coccie commended Pastor Fiskness on the Good Friday and Easter Sunday services.
- H.** Coccie reported Casey Arro will conduct the Catfish Days service again. Coccie will contact the Fair Association about a tent and Jeff Kletscher will find an insert he created for previous Catfish Days services that all churches included in their bulletins.
- I.** Four members have ordered personal hymnals and extra organist versions will be ordered.
- J.** The representative from Habitat for Humanity again cancelled his visit to the Floodwood Business Community Partnership meeting due to weather, but Kletscher stated nothing will happen until a leadership change is completed in the local organization.
- K.** VBS is set for the last week of June at the Fair Building and will run 4 days.

NEW BUSINESS

A. MOTION BY VANCE, SECOND BY ZIEROTH TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP FOR RYAN TOLLGAARD, WARREN AND BERNICE JOHNSON, AND ROGER AND MARILYN ANDERSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Pastor Fiskness will begin a new member class.

GLOBE

Will continue to be for VBS through May.

NEXT MEETINGS

May 13, 2014 7:00 pm

June 10, 2014 7:00 pm

MOTION BY ZIEROTH, SECOND BY JOHNSEN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:44 PM. MOTION CARRIED.

Kathy Johnsen, Secretary

Faith and Health Conference

Sponsored by the New Life Initiative for Faith and Health

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, May 3, 2014
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
New Life Lutheran Church
4424 Venture Ave., Duluth

Special Guest Speakers:
James Struve, MD, Family Practice
 Fairview Health System
Mary Nelson, Author and Cancer Survivor
 Pray for the Cure Ministry
Steven Paulson, Professor
 Luther Seminary
Arndt Braaten, MD, MDiv, Family Practice
 Essentia East Health System

Target Audience: Doctors, nurses,
 caregivers, pastors, chaplains, counselors

Cost \$10: Payable at the door
newlifeinitiative2014@gmail.com



*“Taking her by the hand he said to her, ‘Talitha cu’mi’;
 which means, ‘Little girl, I say to you, arise.’ ” Mark 5:41*

~ MAY 2014 ~ HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April 27	28 USHER TEAM: Mark Johnsen & Dave Zieroth – Team 2	29	30	1 9-10:30 Ruby's Pantry at Arrowhead Town Hall <i>National Day Of Prayer</i>	2 1-3 pm Pastor's Office Hours	3 9-4:30 Faith & Health Conference at New Life Lutheran Church, Duluth
4 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 10:30 Teddy Bear Picnic served by Naomi Circle	5 USHER TEAM: Don Rosemore & Tim Tollgaard – Team 3 7:00 Adult Confirmation & Learning	6	7 6:00 Youth Confirmation	8	9 1-3 pm Pastor's Office Hours	10
11 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 10:45 Coffee Fellowship <i>Mother's Day</i>	12 USHER TEAM: Roy Autio & John Seredinski – Team 4	13 6:30 Buildings & grounds Committee 7:00 Church Council	14 9-11 am FW Food Shelf at FST 1:00 Worship & Music Committee 6:00 Youth Confirmation	15	16 10:00 Bible Study at Riverview Manor 1-3 pm Pastor's Office Hours	17
18 9:30 Worship & Sunday School Graduate Recognition Sunday 10:45 Coffee Fellowship, also Christian Ed. & Youth & Family Ministry Mtg	19 USHER TEAM: Jeff Kletscher & Dean Fries – Team 5 10:00 HLCW Bible Study at Church 7:00 Bible Study Home Fellowship at the parsonage	20 9:00-3:00 HLCW Quilting	21 6:00 Last Youth Confirmation	22	23 1-3 pm Pastor's Office Hours	24
25 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 10:45 Coffee Fellowship	26 USHER TEAM: Marion Shafer & Burt Suonvieri & Evan – Team 6 <i>Memorial Day</i>	27	28 9-11 am FW Food Shelf at FST 7:00 Baccalaureate Service at Hope	29 <i>Ascension Day</i>	30 1-3 pm Pastor's Office Hours	31

**VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL**

**IS COMING IN JUNE
HELPERS ARE NEEDED**

**LOOK FOR MORE DETAILS IN NEXT
MONTH'S ISSUE OF THE BEACON
OF HOPE**



Dear Hope Lutheran Family,

Please join us in celebrating
Shannon's graduation from Floodwood
High School at an open house on May
31, 2014, 4:00 pm at our home.

Johnsen Family

*The Beacon of Hope is published each month
for members and friends of Hope Lutheran
Church, Floodwood, Minnesota. News items
should be given to Ann Bolstad (476-2130,
cell 343-0943 or send to draseal@aol.com)
by the 24th of the month.*

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Carl Fiskness, Pastor

Sunday School & Worship 9:30 a.m.

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