HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Letter of Hope

Volume 34 Issue 11 November 2021

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At Hope

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From the Desk of Pastor Richard

Recently, I've had the early church on my mind. I've especially been thinking about how different it must have been from what church is today. Acts 2 has a brief description of how the first followers of Jesus interacted with each other. Take a moment to look at what this passage reveals about the early church:

NIV ***Acts 2:42-47*** *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

One of the first points Acts 2 makes clear about the community of believers is that they cared deeply for each other. This care was visible in how they gathered together to worship, ate together, praised God together, shared the message of Jesus together, and carried each other's burdens.

Over the past several weeks, I've realized that today's church isn't really so different from the church in Acts 2, after all. This fact became especially apparent when many of you reached out to my family and me through text messages, emails, cards, and conversations. The purpose behind your messages was to express concern, support, and carry the burden of grief and illness collectively. The strength of the church is that Jesus continues to unite us through the cross and makes us a family of believers. As a family, we share the love of Jesus with each other and with the world, just as Jesus has called us to do.

May the Lord bless and keep you in and through the family of believers in Jesus!

Pastor Richard

Pastor Richard

Coffee, Doughnuts and Fellowship!

We see it more each Sunday. People smiling, talking, and getting reacquainted with each other. If we learned anything during our covid experience, we learned that our church is not the buildings but the people. And as a church, we are so much stronger when we bond with each other through the love of Jesus Christ. So many of our ministries have suffered through the recent restrictions however, this has created many opportunities for everyone to get involved. Join us for coffee and doughnuts between the services on **Sunday, November 7th**. Let's enjoy each other, explore opportunities to get involved, and strengthen our church.

Bonita Senior Center Programs

ALL IN PERSON PROGRAMS!

Mask required for unvaccinated seniors

FUNch Bunch

Monday, November 1, 12:30-2:00pm

Enjoy FREE lunch and Entertainment for members only

at Hope Lutheran Church Fellowship Center

25999 Old 41 Rd, Bonita Springs, FL

Sponsored by: Senior Cypress at Home

CALL TO REGISTER:

Bonita Senior Center at 239-399-4881 or sheila@hopebonita.org

Cards and Games

Monday, November 8, 12:30-2:00pm

at Hope Lutheran Church Fellowship Center

25999 Old 41 Rd, Bonita Springs, FL

CALL TO REGISTER:

Bonita Senior Center at 239-399-4881 or sheila@hopebonita.org

Bonita Senior Center Programs

Holiday Stress-Lee Health

Monday, November 15, 12:30-2:00pm

at Hope Lutheran Church Fellowship Center

25999 Old 41 Rd, Bonita Springs, FL

CALL TO REGISTER:

Bonita Senior Center at 239-399-4881 or sheila@hopebonita.org

Cards and Games

Monday, November 22, 12:30-2:00pm

at Hope Lutheran Church Fellowship Center

25999 Old 41 Rd, Bonita Springs, FL

CALL TO REGISTER:

Bonita Senior Center at 239-399-4881 or sheila@hopebonita.org

Area Agency On Aging SWFL Tai Chi Class

Every Monday and Wednesday

Thru December 8, 2021

9:00am-10:00am

at Hope Lutheran Church Fellowship Center

25999 Old 41 Rd, Bonita Springs, FL

CALL TO REGISTER:

Bonita Senior Center at 239-399-4881 or sheila@hopebonita.org

Area Agency On Aging of SWFL Food Insecurity

Monday November 29, 2021

12:30pm-2:00pm

at Hope Lutheran Church Fellowship Center

25999 Old 41 Rd, Bonita Springs, FL

CALL TO REGISTER:

Bonita Senior Center at 239-399-4881 or sheila@hopebonita.org

BIRTHDAYS

George C. Nedved	Nov 2
Jim W. Sauder	Nov 2
Ryker Andrew Cirou	Nov 4
Deborah Meyer	Nov 4
Carmen Jones	Nov 4
Sandy K. Stead	Nov 7
Elizabeth Murphy	Nov 8
Dick Taylor	Nov 8
Steve Coomer	Nov 10
Kevin Harstad	Nov 10
Georgann Shaffer	Nov 10
Susan R. Browning	Nov 11
Stephen Imbrock	Nov 12
Ronald Maassen	Nov 12
Sarah Brenner	Nov 13
Ed G. Hill	Nov 13
Maria Salete Sternthal	Nov 13
Paul H Eggebraaten	Nov 14

Jean A. Groth	Nov 14
Lillian Neubauer	Nov 16
Tony Pordon	Nov 17
Wilmer Bultemeier	Nov 18
Kathy L. Frech	Nov 19
Nancy Koch	Nov 19
Marnie M. Seleen	Nov 20
Linda Riley	Nov 21
Patty G. Steen	Nov 21
Duane Halverson	Nov 23
John R. Wilmer	Nov 24
Bruce Harvey	Nov 28
Jim Jonas	Nov 28
Ed Golob	Nov 29
Gloria V. Jones	Nov 29
Donna H. Benoit	Nov 30
Giacinto Andrea Sciallis	Nov 30

ANNIVERSARIES

William Murphy and Alexandria Newsome Murphy	Nov 10

Timothy and Joyce Hussey	Nov 16
Jim and Sandy Nelson	Nov 17

In Loving Memory

of

Lou Stolz

Born: ***June 26th 1935***

Died: ***August 17th 2021***

We extended our sympathy to his family.

In Loving Memory

of

Jack Simon

Born: ***January 13, 1935***

Died: ***September 20, 2021***

We extended our sympathy to his family.

HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Letter from Pastor Will

Called to Be - Christ's Body *1 Corinthians 12:12-27*

Have you ever woken up with a crick in your neck? I'm sure you have. It seems like that is a near universal experience. It's amazing how having a pinched nerve in your neck or shoulder can absolutely debilitate your whole body. How is it that this small little spot can affect almost every other muscle group. And if you turn your head too quickly, watch out! You might just collapse.

It's a funny thing how we don't even think about this connections between different parts of our body until something goes wrong. We didn't realize our grumpiness was hunger until we've eater. Or our sadness is just good old fashioned tiredness. But the body is a wonder, each part with a specific task, making sure it operates as a whole.

Paul reminds us that the church is very much a body. Yes, we are all individually members with our specific journeys and callings. But we are called to be a part of each others lives as well. And in the end, Christ is to be the center of our lives together. And each part is important and worthy of care. In fact, much like the pinched nerve in a cricked neck, Paul says, "If one member suffers, all suffer together." That isn't some call to seek out personal suffering but instead a reality. If one part of our church community is sick, it affects the health of the whole church.

But as we care for our own body, we are called to care for those members - those parts - of the body that need rest or strengthening. And as those parts of the body receive healing, grace, and care, the entire church is healed, strengthened, and redeemed along with it! As Paul says, "when one member is honored, all rejoice together."

This call to be Christ' body is a reminder that we are not called to do this alone, but instead with all the other parts. It is also a reminder that in Christ, we a never alone but part of something living and invested in leaving no one behind.

Grace and Peace!

Pastor Will

HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Letter from Council President-Treasurer Jim Foerster

As I write this, I feel honored to be able to address everyone as Hope Lutheran's new Council President. It's an exciting time to serve as we come out of the isolation of Covid. While returning to in person Sunday morning worship, I was surprised how personally moved I felt while being able to reconnect with so many friendly and familiar faces whom I have missed for so long. Fellowship has always been an important experience for me when attending worship services. To be able to see someone's smile, to be able to return a smile, to be able to crack a few jokes and hear laughter before and after worship is something I will never take for granted again.

But Covid has also tested and strained our congregation and its preschool as well. While many were not able to meet and travel, it has been difficult to keep our council as vibrant and forward thinking as it once was. To be honest, I think much of the work that has been done, and there has been a lot of it, has had to be reactionary and put us in a position where we just needed to survive. There has been an immense amount of work and change that needed to be dealt with by our staff, and they have done an astounding job holding it all together in really tough times. I thank them all for their patience and perseverance.

I wish to thank all our council members, the Board of Elders, the Covid Committee led by Parish Nurse Sheila, and of course Pastor Richard and Pastor Will for getting us through. I also want to recognize the commitments to serve by outgoing President Helena Nesbit and Treasurer Tom Ketteler. They both served beyond their expiring terms just to keep us up and running through Covid, and I appreciate all their extra work and dedication.

For those who do not know, I was serving as Hope's Treasurer before I became Council President. I am still serving in both roles for now until we can fill the council. When you read this, we will have a full council for the first time in many months. I plan to serve in both roles until the time we can fill the treasurer role.

As Treasurer I am happy to say that financially we are going to survive the Covid years. Sonia has done an outstanding job of helping us manage the finances while attendance and giving have been down. For those who stepped up to help us get through the lean times, we are blessed by your generosity and hard work, seen in things like the recent air conditioner project led by the Board of Elders as well as the new live stream camera system completed by Pastor Richard. These were unexpected costs that needed to happen during these tough economic times. These projects could not have been financed and completed without these committees' work and fund-raising.

Fortunately for us Sonia and Staff have acquired $319,342.66 worth of Grants, Forgiven Loans, and Low Interest Loans to get us through these lean times. Unfortunately those grants and forgiven loans won't be there next year for us to count on. And this all comes at a time when we are still trying to recover financially from the effects of Irma.

Now that we are out of survival mode, I would like everyone to start thinking strategically and prioritizing what types of capital projects and facility maintenance improvements are necessary for the next few years. Then identify ways we can support and finance them.

I do see some exciting possibilities. We have had a few large donations made towards designated funds to support fellowship. We have a Preschool Staff led by our new Director Ms. Stephany who has developed a budget and increased enrollment for our Preschool; by year end we are expecting to turn a profit for the first time in a while.

Thanks to the Hope Foundation, led by Ron Anderson, and all those who serve on the Foundations Board. The money raised by the foundation supports Missionaries and activities that cannot be supported and funded through Hope's general fund budget. It is once again that time of the year, when one might be considering a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to satisfy the terms of Required Minimum Distributions from IRAs. Please contact Ron or any Foundation Board Member if you would like to make a contribution or utilize the Foundation to satisfy IRA requirements.

Please keep Hope Lutheran Church, the staff, the preschool, the council and elders, and the foundation board in prayer as we emerge from Covid and seek God's vision and direction for our church family.

Jim Foerster

Council President-Treasurer

Hope Lutheran Church and A Learning Center of Hope
Financial Information
September 2021

	ASSETS
Current Assets	
Cash Operating	$179,763
* Cash Restricted	$41,068
Other	$13,354
Total Current Assets	$234,185
Church Property	$4,164,720
Total Assets:	$4,398,905
	LIABILITIES
Current Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	$88,056
Total Liabilities	$88,056
	FUND BALANCES
General and School	($104,924)
Designated Funds & Memorials	$251,053
Property Fund	$4,164,720
Total Fund Balances	$4,310,849
Total Liabilities and Funds	$4,398,905

	2021 Budget	Budget for the Nine Months ended 9-30-21	Actual For the Nine Months Ended 9-30-21	(Under)Over
Revenues:				
Offerings	$616,500	$442,950	$388,823	($54,127)
Other	$4,650	$3,488	$12,578	$9,090
Covid 19- PPP Grant - Church			$20,786	
Total	$621,150	$446,438	$422,187	($45,037)
Expenses:				
General	$149,603	$112,247	$102,860	$9,387
World Outreach	$2,700	$2,025	$250	$1,775
Programs	$13,900	$10,450	$5,600	$4,850
Staff Expenses	$454,050	$339,787	$342,109	($2,322)
Covid 19 - PPP Grant Expense	0	0	$20,786	
Total Expenses	$620,253	$464,509	$471,605	$13,690
(Under)/Over	$897	($18,071)	($49,418)	($31,347)

A Learning Center of Hope**	2021 Budget	2 Months ' Year to Date Budget	2 Months' Year to Date Actual	(Under)/Over
Total School Income:	$176,050	$58,421	$57,441	($980)
Total School Expenses:	$175,885	$67,742	$71,840	$4,098
(Under)/Over	$165	($9,321)	($14,399)	($5,078)

*Cash Restricted is for the Cummings Girls Section 179 Educational Plan
** We changed the year end for the school as of 2021. The year end was changed to 12-31-21. A Learning Center of Hope will run year round.

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS
25999 OLD 41 ROAD
BONITA SPRINGS FL 34135

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FAX: (239) 992-3254

Non-Profit Organization
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No.62
Bonita Springs,FL
34135

STAY CONNECTED WITH HOPE'S WEBSITE:

www.hope-bonita.org

AHA AED/CPR CLASS

FREE for Members or Friends of Hope!

Thursday, November 4, 2021 | 10:00am-12:30pm

Call Sheila to register at 239-919-2295 or sheila@hopebonita.org

DONATE BLOOD AND SAVE 3 LIVES!

Sunday November 21, 2021 | 8:30am-12:00pm

Sign-ups Sunday November 14, 2021!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9:00 am - Traditional Worship Service
10:30 am - Contemporary Worship Service

HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

MONTHLY PRAYER GUIDE

NOVEMBER 2021

SUNDAY

Thank you, God, for the tremendous sacrifices made by those who have gone before us. Bless the memories of your saints, God. May I learn how to walk wisely from their examples of faith, dedication, worship, and love.

MONDAY

Thank You, God, for all that You have allowed and not allowed in my life this past year. I commit my life anew to You this day and ask that You would continue to remind me, throughout this next year, that You are God, You are on the throne, and You are eternally good. Thank You, finally, that I can pray in the name of Jesus, who made my access to You—and a personal relationship with You—possible. Amen

TUESDAY

Lord, teach me to offer you a heart of thanksgiving and praise in all my daily experiences of life. Teach me to be joyful always, to pray continually and to give thanks in all my circumstances. I accept them as Your will for my life (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). I long to bring pleasure to Your heart daily. Break the power of the enemy in my life. Defeat Him through my sacrifice of praise.

WEDNESDAY

Dear Father, In Your beautiful book of Psalms 103:17, You give me this wonderful promise, “From everlasting to everlasting, the Lord’s love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children.” What better promise could I receive from You in the autumn of my life than to see my children and children’s children blessed with Your love and righteousness? Bless me with strength to be there for those I love, and wisdom to know what to say to bring comfort, encouragement, and sometimes difficult truth. I am so grateful, Lord.

THURSDAY

Thank you for your amazing power and work in my life, thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over me. Thank you that you are able to bring hope through even the toughest of times, strengthening me for your purposes. Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you for your mercy and grace. Thank you that you are always with me and will never leave me.

FRIDAY

Dear Lord, may I never be ashamed to praise your name. It is easy to rejoice when life is going well, but we quickly turn away and grumble when challenges arise. Help me to give thanks in all circumstances. Help me live humble, grateful lives. Today, Lord, help me remember your goodness toward us. In your name we pray, Amen. ~ Pastor Jack Graham

SATURDAY

Thank you for your incredible sacrifice so that I might have freedom and life. Forgive me for when I don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all that you do, for all that you've given. Help me to set my eyes and my heart on you afresh. Renew my spirit, fill me with your peace and joy. I love you and I need you, this day and every day. I give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy! In Jesus' Name, Amen. ~ Debbie McDaniel

WORSHIP TIMES

9:00AM - Traditional & Live Stream
10:30AM - Contemporary

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239-227-2082