

# HOPE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Bonita Springs, FL



# Letter of Hope

Volume 35 Issue 12

December 2022



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MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

## From the Desk of Pastor Richard

One of the passages I most like to read at Christmas is John 1:1-18, which is known as The Prologue of the Gospel of John. While each verse of The Prologue is important and reveals profound truths about God, verses 4 and 5 are especially significant for us as followers of Jesus. Take a moment to reflect on what these two verses have to say about Jesus:

*In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. – John 1:4-5 (NRSV)*

The first four words of verse 4 are life-changing: “In him was life.” John wants us to know that Jesus came into the world to bring life, forgiveness, and restoration. John compares this life to light. We know about light and darkness, too.

Darkness hides and obscures; it causes fear and loneliness. Anyone who was in Southwest Florida when Hurricane Ian hit knows the deep darkness that fell across the area when the power went out. This darkness made everything seem different and unfamiliar, and left many feeling insecure and lost. Sin is like this darkness in that it leaves us feeling lost and alone. But Jesus’ birth is God’s bright and shining light in our otherwise dark and sin-filled world.

Like many of you, I spent some time decorating my home for Christmas. My goal this year was simple: I wanted enough Christmas lights in my family room so I wouldn’t need to turn on any of the regular lights to see. After I’d finished decorating, I waited until it was dark to turn on all the Christmas lights, and I celebrated when the darkness did not overcome them. Even as I marveled at my handiwork, I thought about the light that Jesus brings into the world. Jesus is the one true light that overcomes sin, death, sadness, and sorrow. Jesus’ birth, life, suffering, death, and resurrection shine a light into the world for all people. In Jesus, there is life, and this life was and is the light of all people.

Advent Blessings!

Pastor Richard

Pastor Richard



# HOPE

LUTHERAN CHURCH  
FOUNDATION



It would not be possible to help any of these organizations doing God's work without your help and the contributions you give to the Hope Foundation. If you are not contributing to the Hope Foundation, we would ask you to prayerfully consider it.

One of our grant recipients was Yesukan Learning center. They are teaching speaking, grammar, writing and reading to foreign born people that want to assimilate into society. The grant is used for books that the learning center provides to these students. They are also purchasing more advanced books for those students that have completed the initial program and are ready to move on.

They may also be expanding class options in the coming year. The funds we provided helped both the 73 students that they have and the volunteers and teachers at the center.

If you are not familiar with the Hope Foundation, or if you have questions about our endeavors, visit the church website or contact our Chairman Ron Anderson for more information.

Peace be with you,

Susan Schwinn

*Secretary, Hope Lutheran Church Foundation*

## December 2021 Church Council Update

- The next Voter's Meeting is scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am in the sanctuary
- The construction of two classrooms in the Fellowship Center continues but has been slowed by Hurricane Ian
- Save the Date: Join us on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, for some high-sticking fun with the families of Hope at the rink. Watch for more details soon!
- Hope is continuing to make repairs to hurricane damage. The flag pole and gutters are scheduled to be replaced in the near future
- Pastor Will is going to be visiting the area and helping lead services at Hope on December 4<sup>th</sup>

## Bonita Senior Center Programs December 2022

### Senior Friendship Centers

#### Hot Meal Program: FREE

**Monday-Thursday 11:30-2**

*Senior Friendship Centers*

*At Hope Lutheran Church Fellowship Center  
25999 Old 41 Rd., Bonita Springs, FL, 34135  
CALL TO REGISTER: Bonita Senior Center at  
239-399-4881 or sheila@hopebonita.org*

### FUNch Bunch

**Monday, December 5, 12:00-2:00pm**

**Enjoy FREE Holiday lunch**

**and Entertainment + Special Raffle**

*At Hope Lutheran Church Fellowship Center  
25999 Old 41 Rd., Bonita Springs, FL, 34135  
Sponsored by Right at Home*

*CALL TO REGISTER: Bonita Senior Center at  
239-399-4881 or sheila@hopebonita.org*

### Cards and Games

**Monday, December 12, 12:00-2:00pm**

*At Hope Lutheran Church Fellowship Center  
25999 Old 41 Rd., Bonita Springs, FL, 34135  
CALL TO REGISTER: Bonita Senior Center at  
239-399-4881 or sheila@hopebonita.org*

### Jacob Winge Comfort Keepers Holiday Themed

**December 19, 12:00-2:00pm**

*25999 Old 41 Rd, Bonita Springs, FL 34135  
At Hope Lutheran Church Fellowship Center  
CALL TO REGISTER: Bonita Senior Center at  
239-399-4881 or sheila@hopebonita.org*

**Monday, December 26 CLOSED  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!**



## **BIRTHDAYS**

Lynne Crews	Dec 1	Betty Archer	Dec 16
Sally Denno	Dec 1	Bonnie Smith	Dec 17
Marlene Fiala	Dec 1	Robert Erber	Dec 18
Ivette Delucca	Dec 2	Jim Hill	Dec 20
Paul Stolzenfels	Dec 2	Michael Walsman	Dec 20
Mike Peet	Dec 3	Mark Greul	Dec 21
Joyce Speakman	Dec 3	Art Knueppel	Dec 23
Cliff Kasdorf	Dec 5	Debbie Foerster	Dec 24
Jerry Sankovich	Dec 5	JoAnn Pedersen	Dec 25
Carol Paavo	Dec 7	Andy Frech	Dec 28
Phil Jennings	Dec 10	Dennis Berens	Dec 30
Barbara Kuhn	Dec 10	Betty Dickerman	Dec 30
Loretta Waechter	Dec 11	Liam Murphy	Dec 30
Dennis Birkholz	Dec 12	Sheri Tremain	Dec 30
Mary Eberhardt	Dec 12	Alexander Gruel	Dec 31
Anita Parker	Dec 12	Timothy Hussey	Dec 31
Bev Reno	Dec 14	Janet Wiggins	Dec 31
Mari Buerkle	Dec 15	Sandy Wohler	Dec 31
Julie Rohrbach	Dec 15		



## **ANNIVERSARIES**

David and Helena Nesbit	Dec 9	Herb and Jackie Eggerding	Dec 28
Timothy and Georgann Shaffer	Dec 9	Jean and John Marnocha	Dec 28
Eric and Yesenia Brown	Dec 19	Mark and Leann Till	Dec 28
Tom and Patty Steen	Dec 20	John and Sharan Weickelt	Dec 30
Dave and Betty Dickerman	Dec 26		



## HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

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Bonita Springs, FL  
34135

STAY CONNECTED WITH HOPE'S WEBSITE:  
**[www.hope-bonita.org](http://www.hope-bonita.org)**



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**  
5:00 PM and 7:00 PM

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**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**  
10:00 AM

### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

#### **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

**9:00 am - Traditional Worship Service**

**10:30 am - Contemporary Worship Service**

