

Volume 35 Issue 12

December 2022



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At Hope...... 2–4



### 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.

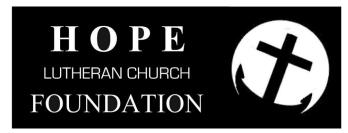
Like many of you, I spent some time decorating my home for Christmas. My goal this year was simple: I wanted enough Christmas lights in my family room so I wouldn't need to turn on any of the regular lights to see. After I'd finished decorating, I waited until it was dark to turn on all the Christmas 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 Rill

Pastor Richard





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
Sally Denno	Dec 1
Marlene Fiala	Dec 1
Ivette Delucca	Dec 2
Paul Stolzenfels	Dec 2
Mike Peet	Dec 3
Joyce Speakman	Dec 3
Cliff Kasdorf	Dec 5
Jerry Sankovich	Dec 5
Carol Paavo	Dec 7
Phil Jennings	Dec 10
Barbara Kuhn	Dec 10
Loretta Waechter	Dec 11
Dennis Birkholz	Dec 12
Mary Eberhardt	Dec 12
Anita Parker	Dec 12
Bev Reno	Dec 14
Mari Buerkle	Dec 15
Julie Rohrbach	Dec 15



Betty Archer	Dec 16
Bonnie Smith	Dec 17
Robert Erber	Dec 18
Jim Hill	Dec 20
Michael Walsman	Dec 20
Mark Greul	Dec 21
Art Knueppel	Dec 23
Debbie Foerster	Dec 24
JoAnn Pedersen	Dec 25
Andy Frech	Dec 28
Dennis Berens	Dec 30
Betty Dickerman	Dec 30
Liam Murphy	Dec 30
Sheri Tremain	Dec 30
Alexander Gruel	Dec 31
Timothy Hussey	Dec 31
Janet Wiggins	Dec 31
Sandy Wohler	Dec 31

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

David and Helena Nesbit	Dec 9
Timothy and Georgann Shaffer	Dec 9
Eric and Yesenia Brown	Dec 19
Tom and Patty Steen	Dec 20
Dave and Betty Dickerman	Dec 26



Herb and Jackie Eggerding	Dec 28
Jean and John Marnocha	Dec 28
Mark and Leann Till	Dec 28
John and Sharan Weickelt	Dec 30

#### HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

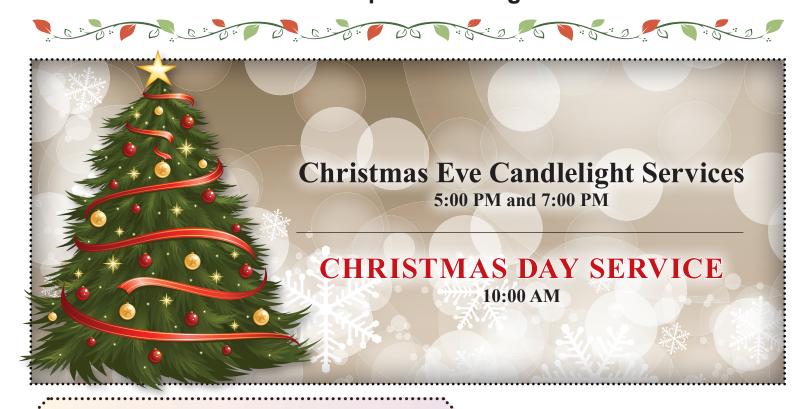
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# STAY CONNECTED WITH HOPE'S WEBSITE: www.hope-bonita.org



## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

#### **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

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

