



In This Issue

At Hope..... 1-4



From the Desk of Pastor Richard

If you've been to a Lutheran church more than once, you know there's a certain order to what we do. For example, we:

- Begin in the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- Confess our sins and hear God's forgiveness
- Sing hymns and songs
- Read from the Bible
- Hear a sermon
- Join in proclaiming our shared faith with the words of the Apostles' or Nicene Creed (and occasionally the Athanasian Creed)
- Pray
- Receive communion
- Receive God's blessing

During Jesus' time, worship also followed an order. Luke 4 reveals that Jesus actively took part and participated in worship services:

NRSV Luke 4:15: (Jesus) began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

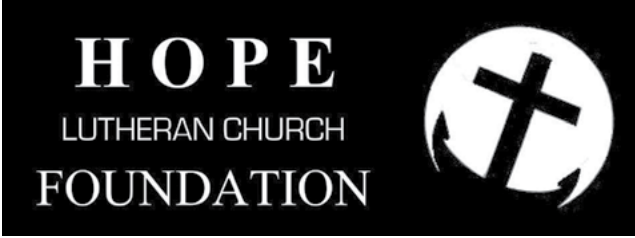
The synagogues described in this verse were those located in northern Israel. In Jesus' world, synagogues were found in all but the smallest towns and were the center of religious worship, teaching, and learning. Luke 4:16 tells us that Jesus "went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read." What follows is a beautifully descriptive account of what happened during and after Jesus stood up to read. As he did so, Jesus' message was clear: in him, God has fulfilled the promises made in the Bible. Easter is the ultimate reminder that Jesus has fulfilled the words he read that day in the synagogue in Nazareth:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Easter Blessings!

Pastor Richard

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.

This year, we are privileged to contribute to the International Friendship Center (IFC).

IFC offers an opportunity to show the love of Christ by meeting three essential needs:

First, to aid in achieving financial stability for minorities, the under served and the disenfranchised, through employment. The second is pastoral care; a mechanism for the unchurched to experience the love of God through the work of the body of Christ. Lastly, Community engagement, a safe community hub for local youth to grow, learn, exercise and form relationships. Some of the classes provided are sewing, ESL, and Driver's license preparation.

IFC offers community events that promote interaction, food pantry services, school supplies, and volunteering. The IFC is run by paid staff and congregation volunteers who will be trained to aid the workers and to do one-on-one evangelism with IFC participants. Through the relationships built at the IFC, unchurched participants will be invited to Bible study and a contemporary praise and worship service.

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

**APRIL 2023
Bonita Senior Center Programs**

You Must CALL TO REGISTER for all Programs

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

Programs are at Hope Lutheran Church Fellowship Center 25999 Old 41 Rd., Bonita Springs, FL, 34135

**Senior Friendship Centers Hot Meal Program:FREE
Monday-Thursday 11:30-1:30**

Senior Friendship Centers



Come in and try it and sign up if interested! Need to be age 60 and Lee County Resident

FUNch Bunch

Monday, April 3, 12:00-1:30pm

Enjoy FREE lunch and Entertainment
Sponsored by Hodges Life Celebration Center

EASTER MONDAY CLOSED

**Lee Health Virtual Health/Dispatch Health
Wednesday, April 12, 12:00-1:00pm**

**Dubin Center Memory Café
Thursday, April 13, 10:00-11:00am**

Cards and Games

Monday, April 17, 12:00-1:30pm

Wonder Gardens Tour

Thursday, April 20, 1:00p

Entrance Fee paid by Bonita Senior Center
SPACE LIMITED

Senior Blue Book University LUNCH and LEARN:



Balance Awareness

Monday, April 24, 12:00-1:30pm

Shangri-la Garden Tour

Wednesday, April 26, 1:00

Entrance Fee paid by Bonita Senior Center
SPACE LIMITED

No walkers or canes, must be able to walk on mulch



BIRTHDAYS

Sonia Sciallis Apr 1
 Steven Weber Apr 1
 Kent White Apr 1
 Peg Arnold Apr 5
 Bruce Breckenfelder Apr 5
 Beverly McTarnaghan Apr 5
 E. Jane McDonald Apr 6
 Donna Dellinger Apr 7
 Greg Sorrells Apr 10
 Billie Kussro Apr 11
 Carol Sauder Apr 11
 Martin Watkins Apr 11
 Adele Zehnder Apr 11

Karen Drake Apr 13
 Laurel Geiselhart Apr 13
 Chad Bittner Apr 14
 Peggie Krueger Apr 15
 Paul Geiwitz Apr 16
 Curt Brenner Apr 18

Janet Ketteler Apr 20
 Margene Angerer Apr 21
 Keith Seleen Apr 21
 Anita Powers Apr 24
 Emily Davis Apr 25
 Jim Kauffman Apr 25
 Lexxi Killips Apr 25
 Nathan Sorrells Apr 25
 Richard Heinrich Apr 27
 Mark Mahal Apr 27
 David Speakman Apr 27
 William Murphy Apr 29



ANNIVERSARIES

David & Joyce Speakman Apr 5
 Robert & Mary Cory Apr 10
 David & Mary Eberhardt Apr 11
 Paul & Diane Eggebraaten Apr 11
 Thomas & Janet Ketteler Apr 12



Grant & Beverly Van Bavel Apr 13
 Wayne & Candace Foreman Apr 18
 Robert & Peggy Prideaux Apr 22
 Jim & Jan Jonas Apr 24



GETTING TO KNOW... STEPHANY ABRAHAM

Stephany, tell us a little about your background.

I was born in Provo Utah and moved several times with my family. I ended up moving to Hawaii and lived there for eleven

years. I earned my Early Childhood degree at the University of Hawaii. I have been in the field for thirty-four years.

Could you share a bit about your family?

When in Hawaii I met my wonderful husband of thirty-one years Al and we have an amazing twenty-seven year old son Hunter.

What do you enjoy most about being a Preschool Director?

I am called to children. I understand the awesome responsibility I have with this calling, Jesus loved the little children and I am able to see Gods face in all of theirs. This helps me appreciate and understand their individual needs.

You have many years of experience in Early Childhood Education, is there a valuable lesson or insight you can share about your field?

We need to start young when teaching children God's love. Especially in such a technology advanced world. There are so many things they are exposed to that can pull them away from his word and love. If we don't teach young children

valuable skills and how to treat each other they might not ever learn them.

Our preschool has really grown under your leadership, do you have any other goals you'd like to achieve?

My continual goal is to make sure that not only do our kids get the best Christian education but the best overall education in areas of the whole child development.

Preschoolers say the darndest things, is there a funny story or situation you can share with us?...without naming names of course!

I actually could write a very funny book after being in the field for thirty-five years. There are so many funny stories. I am sure I know more about many families then they would want me to know.

Do you have a personal spiritual story/testimony you can share?

I was not raised in a Christian family. I prayed to God for guidance when I was in my early twenties and have been a Christian ever since.

How has God spoken to you recently?

God speaks to me frequently. You just have to be open to seeing things, and rarely a day that goes by that I see him in each child's beautiful face.

What is a way God has shown up in your life?

God has guided me and allowed me to work in a field that lets me share his love daily. He has blessed me with a wonderful husband, son and family. I do not take these blessing for granted.

What fills your free time?

Beach, family and travel. My family lives in Seattle and Colorado Springs so that is where my free time is mainly spent.

What is something you are passionate about and want to spend more time doing?

Always traveling to new places – even short weekend trips. Seeing places I haven't seen before.

Do you have a favorite family tradition?

Just being together whenever possible.

What is your favorite restaurant?

Taco Bell, or any type of Tex-Mex. Everyone has always joked with my husband that I'm a cheap date.

What is your favorite meal?

Anything dipped in Ranch.

What is the last book you read?

"Her True Worth".

What is the last movie you saw?

Avatar

What is your dream car?

A conversion van that can be taken on fun cross country trips and used in place of a hotel.

What is your favorite vacation destination?

Any place cold.

Share one thing on your "bucket list".

Nothing in particular. Just spend time with my family and visit new places.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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



APRIL 2023 CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

- Jim and Debbie Foerster are moving back to Illinois. Thanks to Jim and Debbie for their service in the name of Jesus at Hope, and many blessings as God continues to guide them!
- The Council has appointed Julie Marquardt and Bob Imig to fill the two vacant Council positions. Welcome to Julie and Bob!
- Plans for the outside fellowship area are beginning to take shape; an architect has been contracted to draw plans. Watch for more details soon!
- Thank you to Tim Shaffer who faithfully completed his term as chair of the Elders!
- Chris Corrie was recently selected to chair the Board of Elders. Blessings to Chris as he leads the Elders!
- Our next Voters Meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2023, at 11:30 am in the sanctuary. Please plan to take part in guiding the mission and ministry of Hope.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9:00AM & 10:30AM

