

*They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, and when they entered,
they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. -Luke 24:2*

One of the traditions our congregation, and most congregations, observe for Easter is decorating the sanctuary with Easter Lilies. As Easter has been seemingly fast approaching, and as we have made available the opportunity for members of the church to provide a lily for Easter morning, the question came to my mind, "Where did this tradition come from?"

So, I attempted to do a little research as to the origins of churches decorating the sanctuary with lilies on Easter morning. And as with many traditions, both religious and secular, it can be challenging to get to the bottom of it all, as there are many claims and legends about origins, symbolism, etc. But about the closest I could get to a consistent answer regarding the origins of the Easter Lily is something like this:

The Easter Lily was originally bought into the United States by a World War I soldier Louis Houghton. What was previously known as the Bermuda lily was first brought to the southern coast of Oregon in 1919. And the tradition of decorating churches with the flower for Easter is symbolic in nature. The bulb of these flowers buried in the ground represents the tomb of Jesus, and the glorious white trumpet-like fragrant flowers which grow from the bulbs symbolize His life after death. The snowy white color stands for the purity of the Divine Savior and the joy of the resurrection, while the trumpet shape signifies Gabriel's trumpet call to rebirth and new life.

Holy Week is approaching, and I want to encourage you to not only come celebrate the resurrection in the sanctuary decorated with lilies on Easter morning, but to also come worship the Lord throughout the week at the following times:

Sunday, April 9	Palm Sunday Worship at 10:00am
Thursday, April 13	Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:00pm
Friday, April 14	Good Friday Worship at 7:00pm
Sunday, April 16	Sunrise Easter Worship at 7:00am
	Easter Breakfast at 8:00am
	Easter Worship with Communion at 9:00am

In Christ, *Pastor Dan*

SENIOR EASTER COMMUNION

Those 80+ years old are invited to an Easter Communion & Luncheon on Thursday, April 13 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. If you plan to attend, please RVSP to the church office, calling 712-834-2767, or emailing hope@evertek.net.



EASTER BREAKFAST

MENU:
Baked egg dish, fresh fruit, rolls, drinks
Free will offering will be received.

Women, you likely received a call to help with the easter breakfast. Thank you to those who will help during the breakfast and to those giving gifts of a \$10 donation. If your donation hasn't been given to a committee member yet, here is who you are looking for: Kathy Behrens, Pat Kunzman, LaVonne Peters, Kelly Behrens, Carol Schmeling. Thank you!

WORSHIP: 10:00 a.m.
Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays of the month.
EDUCATION: 9:00 am Adult Study
9:00 am Sunday School

Phone 712.834.2767 206 Washington, Everly, IA 51338 www.hopeeverly.com

MISSION STATEMENT

"As a community of Christians, we commit ourselves to worship, grow in faith, to witness and reach out with Christ's love to promote healing, support and service to one another, society, and the world."

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday School children will sing during worship on **Palm Sunday, April 9**. A noisy offering will be received.

Quilt Day will be **Tuesday, March 25**, starting at 9 am.

The Women of Hope General Meeting will be **Wednesday, April 26** at 6:30 p.m. It will be followed by the Spring Gathering.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 Adelynn Doppler
1 Karla Saboe
3 Wayne Bishop
3 Cheri Hoyer
3 Tyson Tessum
4 Jay Stein
5 Jeannine Bunge
6 Clair Moding

6 Brook Schueller
6 Jaydi Zenkovich
7 DeLoy Adolf
8 Connie Goeken
11 Emma Pearson
12 Jenna Bailey
13 Ryan Steuben
13 Jason Tesch

14 Brooklynn Scharnberg
17 Rita Goeken
18 Pat Tesch
18 Denny Zahrt
19 Austin Menke
20 Presley Glime
21 Chris Dose
21 Megan Knapp Smith

22 Dave Keene
23 Leo Behrens
23 Wendy Stein
25 Pam Miller
29 Chris Kolb
29 Adam Pearson

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

6 Jon and Niki Berends
8 Vern and Vi Ostermann
8 Terry and Pat Thomsen

12 Jim and Jeannine Bunge
16 John and Karen Geerdes
17 Leo and Kathy Behrens

22 Eric and Devon Rud
30 John and Nancy Heuck

Women of Hope invite you to

Spring Gathering

- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26 7^{PM} -

Who does God want me and you to be? Everywhere we turn our eyes and our ears we hear and see something we should be and do. How, in the middle of all this, do we hear God? How do we find His will for us? And why does it matter if we do?

FELLOWSHIP

SPEAKER

MUSIC

DESSERT

(IT'S FREE!)

Rachel Simington is the mother of four kids ages 3 to 10. She lives on a cattle and grain farm with her husband Joe. She has been a NICU and Labor and Delivery nurse and is currently a homeschool mom. She keeps busy with this, farm books, and making sure the kids get all their pets and animals fed. She is most satisfied when she is getting to talk with others about who God is and what He is up to.

With such a busy household, she is familiar with the struggle to be quiet enough to worship and listen, and feels like she has to struggle to prioritize constantly. In it, she has found some nuggets of truth that are helpful. She will speak about being God's girl and the joy, peace, and purpose she has found.





Women of Hope MEETING MINUTES

Women of Hope Board Meeting – March 8, 2017

The WOH board meeting was held on March 8, 2017 at 4:30PM with 6 members present. President Kris Keene opened the meeting with devotions—"Don't Give Up" (keep focused).

Secretary's Report was read and approved. M/S/C Kara/Marlene. A thank you was read from the Phyllis Kunzman family which included a \$100 donation for WOH.

Treasurer's Report – General Fund \$1110.23 Love Fund \$1212.32 The 2016 summer refreshment offering was collected for the purpose of the food pantry and now that they are open, the \$228.75 will be given to them. There were no love gifts this month.

Mission Action - 6 quilts were done by 11 women plus 2 graduate quilts were worked on. The next two quilt days are March 29 and TUESDAY, April 25. The date was changed due to the Spring Gathering on the 26th of April. Bible verses will be attached to the quilts going forward.

Mission Communities - Lovebaskets are the next project. Food can be brought to church on April 30th for the lovebaskets.

Mission Growth – The Spring Gathering will be held on April 26th. The speaker will be Rachel Simington from the Via De Cristo retreat. The general meeting will be at 6:30 and the speaker at 7PM with a dessert fellowship to follow.

New business - Jennifer Steuben has resigned from the WOH board due to a change in employment.

Old business - The two new Bible studies have 6 and 9 people. Bible Camp scholarships will be advertised again to remind the families of the help available. The Dad-Daughter Dance is March 18 and the sign-up for workers and food is on the board.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. M/S/C Marlene/Cynthia. We then served the Lenten Supper with a potato bar and dessert.

The next board meeting will be held on **April 26 at 6:00 PM** prior to the Spring Gathering business meeting.

Secretary, Sherri Steffen

YOUTH NEWS

To start things off, a huge thank you to everyone who has supplied meals on Wednesday during lent. It has been greatly appreciated.

Youth group meets every Wednesday at approx. 6:15 where there are two types of meals provided: the first being that which is great for our body and the second which is far more important is the feeding of our spirit.

'No Apologies' was a great opportunity for the youth to hear information on a hard to talk about subject. But even more than that, it opened a lot of eyes - and not just for the youth. The speaker's main point was how we all have a straight jacket or even multiple straight jackets in our life where we all think that if we try hard enough we can get out of the place or situation we are stuck in. For most of us our straight jacket is our secret sin the sin that we don't want anyone to know about because we think that we can take care of it on our own. But in reality, the more we struggle against it, the more we try to fight it on our own, the tighter the jacket becomes until we finally give up and say "this is a part of me". We were never created to fight against sin or even the temptation of sin alone. Let's take a look back to Adam before Eve came along, God instructed Adam to not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God didn't say this to Eve because she wasn't around, she hadn't been created yet. And so God looked at Adam and saw that it wasn't good for man to be alone so He then created Eve. God then instructed Adam to tell Eve "the rules" and we all know that Eve got deceived and ate the fruit, and gave some to Adam. They both started coming up with excuses to why they ate the fruit, why they sinned. I share with you this story because at times we all feel trapped in our sin and we think we can't get out of it so we start coming up with excuses as to why we stuck in this sin. Truth is most of the time we fall victim to this is when we are alone and we try to keep it in the dark, to keep it all to ourselves. But when we do what it says in 1 John 1:9, if we confess our sins, if we expose them to the light, sin loses its powers. And the straight jacket loosens and we then get the promises of 1 John 1:9 and James 5:16. We become purified, forgiven, and healed. So don't delay - find your accountability partner or someone you trust reveal to them these straight jackets in your life, these secret sins that have a hold on you. So that you can be freed and obtain the promises of being purified, forgiven, and healed. God has given us everything we need to be freed from the powers of darkness so what's your excuse to still be bound by them?

Coming up this month: There is a good chance we will go bowling.

On April 2, there will be Outreach night at Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp, starting at 5pm and ending roughly at 8pm.

Chris Baugh

Church Council Meeting - JANUARY MINUTES

President Adolf called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM on March 8, 2017. Pastor Dan gave devotions from Psalm 119, which talked about God's word being a lamp unto our feet and a light to our path.

Members present: Kevin Adolf – President
John Jensen – Treasurer
Monica Glime – Secretary

Lavonne Peters – Deacon
Carol Schmeling – Deacon
Todd Meyer – Trustee

Kris Keene – Women of Hope
Tracy Adrian – Vice President
Brian Kahl – Trustee

Secretary's report reviewed. M/S/C by Meyer/Kahl to approve report.

Treasurer's report reviewed, M/S/C by Peters/Adrian to approve report as presented and pay current bills.

President's report: None

Member's report: None

Deacons' report: None

Trustees' report: There has been a lock installed on the food pantry door. Getting bids on painting and covering of the fascia and soffit on the section of the church that was not done when the church was reroofed.

Board of Education: Confirmation: No classes during Lent.

High School: Meal and worship with congregation, followed by meeting in youth room after worship. No Apologies rescheduled for March 15th.

Women of Hope: Can there be additional overhead lighting installed on the stage?

Old Business: Building security options – Todd and Kevin presented an option but the idea has been tabled to see how the food pantry continues for now.

New Business: Council planned their meal for next week.

Back up for Kara – Pastor Dan will take care of.

Motion of Call for John Jensen – M/S/C by Meyer/Glime

The next council meeting will be **Wednesday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m.**

Tidings material is due in the office on Tuesday, March 28, 2017.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Secretary, Monica Glime

MISSION MEMO

While on the road to Cap Haitien the other day, riding in a taptap boasting the words "Ede'm Senye" (Help me Lord) on the windshield, another taptap windshield touted the scripture reference 1 Pierre (Peter) 4:7. Conveniently using a phone bible app right then and there, the words were instantly penetrating...

The end of all things is near so take nothing for granted. Be alert and wide awake so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Be generous with whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should speak the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

It is direct. It is clear. It is a command. It is instruction with which we are to take action, now. The words also indicate what the results will be when the action is carried out. God will be glorified!

There have been many reminders to "Take nothing for granted". God has been glorified as Many Hands for Haiti has been hosting mission teams and going out into the countryside loving families in various ways.

We came with a gift of rice, beans, oil, spaghetti, and boullion but we received a bigger gift of inspiration and encouragement from this incredible man. The belongings in the house were a rickety chair, a wash tub, and a bed made of wooden slats with a few rags piled on which to sleep.

The man knows Jesus as his Savior. As we asked about his life and he said, "I have no problems." We talked more about the hardships he is facing. Again he said, "I have no problems."



Sowing Seeds of Stewardship

John W. Jensen

As we proclaim, “Christ is risen, He is risen, indeed”, this Easter season, we have a great opportunity to celebrate Easter and to celebrate our stewardship.

Why? Easter is a time to reflect on what God has given us. It’s a tremendous opportunity to respond to God’s greatest gift, his Son, who died on a cross for our sake – yours and mine – for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of everlasting life.

Think about the stories in the Bible and how God has given and given and given. The Creation Story, Noah and the Flood, the Ten Commandments, the Birth Narrative of Jesus and the Woman at the Well are among a few of these Biblical depictions of God giving to us throughout the generations.

We have the responsibility and an opportunity during this season of Easter to remind people that we are called to share with God by sharing with one another the bounty of God’s gifts in our own lives.

However, consider what God might be calling you to give. We usually think in monetary terms – our tithes and offerings. But God might be calling you to spend more time with your children. God might be calling you to renew your spiritual well-being through Bible study or a retreat. God might be calling you to serve at Hope Lutheran. God might be calling you to invite a friend to church, or to volunteer to help kids or single parent families or to consider a major financial gift, or to reach out to a friend.

If you’re not sure where your opportunity lies, stay alert! I’m confident that an opportunity to be a steward in the name of the One who died for us will arise along your Easter journey.

And Easter is not a journey of a single day. We celebrate 50 days of Easter. It’s a time to re-evaluate how faith in the Risen Lord informs every aspect of our lives – how we labor, how we play, the way we pray, how we allocate our resources, where we spend our time, how we live, how we extend our compassion to others.

You never know where life will take you, how one opportunity or one decision will change the course you are on. When Jesus says, “follow me”, he is offering us the chance of a lifetime.

On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb and were greeted by an angel who told them, “ ... *Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’*”

Where will we see Jesus this day? We will see him in the breaking of the bread, we will see him in the faces of our brothers and sisters, but most of all, we will see him when we, like the Marys, go from place to place to tell others that our Lord is risen indeed!

The resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, is the victory of life over death, light over darkness, good over evil. Without the resurrection, the cross and its suffering make no sense. Easter reveals to us the power of God and the source of our faith and hope.

Easter is a time to reflect on what God has given us – his only Son. Stewards are Easter people who live in the light of Christ’s resurrection. Through our daily lives we experience the peace and strength of the risen Christ. During this Easter season, consider your stewardship and consider the ways you can proclaim Christ’s victory to others.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you for your prayers, concerns, cards etc. that helped me through some tough times. The situation is improving daily. God is good.

-Audrey

APRIL

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
Ushers: Eric Rud, Don Dose, Denny Harmon, Wyatt Glime Communion: Allen Boyles & Lester Tessum Altar: Pat Jensen & Pat Adolf Service Group #1						10-2 Food Pantry
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:00 Adult Study/Sunday School 10:00 Worship/Communion Greeter: Denny Harmon & family Reader: Brigitte Addengast Organist: Cynthia Knapp Projection: John Jensen	10-2 Food Pantry	7:30 WOW Tues Bible Study	2:00-6:00 Food Pantry 6:00 Lent Meal 7:00 Lent Worship 7:30 Youth Group			10-2 Food Pantry
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:00 Adult Study/Sunday School 10:00 Palm Sun Worship/SS Kids Sing Greeter: Eric Rud & family Reader: Tracy Adrian Pianist: Connie Goeken Projection: Teresa Hansen	10-2 Food Pantry		2:00-6:00 Food Pantry 6:15 Youth Meal 7:00 Youth Group 7:00 Council Meeting	1:30 Senior Communion		10-2 Food Pantry
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
7:00 Sunrise Easter Worship 8:00 Easter Breakfast 9:00 Easter Worship/Communion Greeter: Don Dose & family Reader: Chris Tostenrud Organist: Cynthia Knapp Projection: Kara Taylor	10-2 Food Pantry	7:30 WOW Tues Bible Study	9:30 Naomi Bible Study 2:00 Martha Bible Study 2:00-6:00 Food Pantry 3:30 Confirmation 6:15 Youth Meal 7:00 Youth Group 7:30 WOW Wed Bible Study			10-2 Food Pantry
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:00 Adult Study/Sunday School 10:00 Worship Greeter: Wyatt Glime & family Reader: Anna Harmon Pianist: Sue Hartmann Projection: Eric Rud	10-2 Food Pantry	9:00 Quilt Day Tidings Material Due	2:00-6:00 Food Pantry 3:30 Confirmation 6:00 WOH Board Mtg 6:15 Youth Meal 6:30 WOH General Mtg 7:00 WOH Spring Gathering 7:00 Youth Group			10-2 Food Pantry
30						
9:00 Adult Study/Sunday School 10:00 Worship Greeter: Denny Harmon & family Reader: Karla Saboe Organist: Cynthia Knapp Projection: Judy Englert		Naomi Bible Study - Martha Bible Study - Women of Word Study -	Fireside Room. Hostess is Lois Doran. At Doris Wilson's. Hostess Doris Wilson. Fireside Room.	Study by Audrey Thiesen Study by Pat Jensen		