

When I was younger, my understanding of the term “resolution” was limited to the list of changes many people intend to make at the beginning of a new year. And because of how many of those items on people’s lists go unfulfilled, the word “resolution”, in my head, was a fairly soft word. It was a word people used when they intended to do something, but didn’t follow through. It was a term related to being unrealistic, describing either the practice of wishful thinking or setting unattainable goals.

But this understanding I had of the term “resolution” is far from the actual meaning of the word. In fact, it is pretty much the polar opposite of the dictionary definition of the term! To be “resolute” is to be firm, to be set, to be determined; and “resolutions” are firm decisions that have been set in place. There is nothing soft about this word! It is a strong word that describes how a thing, or a person, is firmly set upon a principle or a course of action.

God’s Word is full of examples of men and women who were “resolute” – who, by the grace and work of God, were set in their faith and course of action. God’s Word is also filled with words that encourage us to follow in those footsteps and be “resolute” ourselves – to be people who are standing firm and set on the course of our Lord Jesus Christ. And God’s Word, one could say, is the ultimate “resolution”! God’s Word is His revelation to us of his unending, eternal plans for the universe.

So, as we begin the year 2017, be encouraged by these words of the Lord that call us to be “resolute” as we live out our faith in Christ:

Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. -Galatians 6:9

Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. -Romans 12:11

Fight the good fight of the faith! -1 Timothy 6:12

In Christ - Pastor Dan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Confirmation parents, please sign up for providing snacks and Sundays to acolyte on the bulletin board in the hallway across from the restrooms.

If you would be willing to provide a **meal for the high school youth group** on a Wednesday evening in January, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Please complete your **report for the annual meeting** booklet: due **Tuesday, January 10**. The following reports needed: trustees, treasurer, nominating committee, audit committee, endowment committee, president, youth ministry.

There will be a **potluck** after worship on **Sunday, January 22**, before the **annual meeting** of the congregation. All are encouraged to attend the meal and meeting.

Youth will be attending **No Apologies** event at 6:30 pm at the Clay County Regional Events Center on **Wednesday Jan 25**.

Quilt Day will be held **Wednesday, January 25** at 9 am.

SPECIAL EVENTS

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Eilene Krambeck	14 Calvin Thiessen	18 Phyllis Kunzman	23 DeDe Overbeck
2 Lisa Johnson	15 Heather Steward	19 Lillian Ehlers	26 Derry Adolf
4 Drew Buenger	17 Carl Jensen	19 Kelly Behrens	26 Tom Kunzman
7 Allen Boyles	17 Lois Johnson	20 John Jensen	30 Chad Guinn
13 Myrt Boyles	18 Kate Hansen	20 Vicki Severson	
14 Mark Scharnberg	18 Amy Hartmann	21 Iesha Toft	

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

9 Jim & Sue Adams	20 Craig and Carol Schmeling	25 Curt and Betty Runkle
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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

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A new year – time for New Year’s Resolutions. Have you made yours? Probably the most common New Year’s resolution is to lose weight. Or spend more time with family. Have you ever kept your New Year’s resolutions? Some solve that problem simply by not making any – I’m in that camp!

But I want this year to be different, so this year I invite you to join me in resolving to follow the six Marks of Discipleship:

1. **Pray daily:** Resolve to start the day with prayer and end the day with prayer. If you want a good example to follow, the Portals of Prayer booklet offers Martin Luther’s Morning and Evening Prayer. Resolve to spend some time alone with God in Prayer.
2. **Worship Weekly:** Worship is the gathering of God’s people around Word and Sacrament. Worshiping together renews us and strengthens us. Resolve this year to worship regularly.
3. **Read the Bible:** I can tell you from experience that this is one of the hardest resolutions to keep. When we get busy, the first thing to go is Bible reading. There are many Bible reading plans available. It can be as simple as reading a chapter or as committed as reading the Bible through in a year. Resolve to spend time reading the Bible.
4. **Serve:** There are many ways and opportunities to serve at Hope Lutheran. Don’t wait to be asked – volunteer! And if you have a new idea, that would be great. Service extends beyond the church. Look for ways to help the less fortunate.

5. **Spiritual Friendships:** Spiritual friendships help hold us accountable. A Spiritual friend encourages us to pray and encourage one another. A spiritual friendship can be the one place we can turn when we are faced with a crisis.

6. **Give – Time, Talents and Resources:** I know what you’re thinking. If this is a stewardship column, why didn’t I just start with this one? The answer is simple. If you resolve and keep the first 5 Marks of Discipleship, giving of your Time, Talents, and Resources will come naturally. For in our giving, what we offer is symbolic of the giving of one’s self to God who loves us with an everlasting love. For the New Year, resolve to increase your giving by 1%. Or, I would challenge you to try tithing for a year. You will be amazed at the ways God returns His blessings.

There you have it – six resolutions for the New Year. Six Marks of Discipleship. And I can already tell you, you won’t keep all six resolutions – at least not completely! But we need to start somewhere, sometime.

The purpose of the marks of discipleship is not to create super Christians or any kind of spiritual elite. No one earns salvation or gains any special favor from God by practicing the marks. They are simply habits (resolutions) of the soul that open us to the wonder and mystery of God’s active presence in our lives. They keep us focused; they fix our attention on the things of God.

Happy New Year!

Note: the offering envelopes for 2017 are in the mailboxes. Be sure to pick up yours. If you don’t have offering envelopes and would like them, let me know.



Women of Hope MEETING MINUTES

Women of Hope Board Meeting – December 14, 2016

The WOH Board meeting was held on Dec 14, 2016 at 5PM with 7 members present. The meeting was conducted by Kara Taylor. The secretary’s report was read and approved M/S/C Cynthia/Sharon. There was no correspondence.

Treasurer’s Report- General Fund \$3234.96 Love Fund \$1171.17 One bill was presented for the Christmas treat bags for the Children’s Christmas Program \$24.19 M/S/C Teresa/Jennifer. 2 Love gifts were approved M/S/C Pat/Kara. Cynthia has Karla Saboe and Tracey Genson lined up to do the audit of the treasurer’s books for 2016.

Mission Action – November quilt day had 12 ladies making 9 quilts. The next quilt day is Jan. 25, 2017.

Mission Community – 37 items were delivered to Upper Des Moines from our mitten/hat drive and were very much appreciated and needed. A thank you to Doris Wilson for doing the “Christian Woman Speaks” program in late November. Treat bags will be made and handed out to the children at the Children’s Sunday School Christmas program.

Mission Growth- Thank you to Group #1 for the refreshments after the WOH Fall Gathering.

New Business –Year-end giving was discussed and approved. It was determined that \$2100 could be used to donate to serve our mission of helping God’s people. The money will be going the following: Adopt-A-Family program, ATLAS group of Spencer, Upper Des Moines, Youth Group towards their meals, Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp towards fire extinguishers, Discovery House (Spirit Lake), Little Mavs Daycare, Everly Utilities Help program, Pastor, and Many Hands –“Support a Farmer” program (Haiti). All the Women of Hope have certainly helped to bless many lives through these donations.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer. The next meeting will be **Jan. 11, 2017 at 5PM.**

Secretary, Sherri Steffen

Church Council Meeting - DECEMBER MINUTES

President Hoye called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM on December 14, 2016. Pastor Dan gave devotions from Psalm 119 v 81, which talked about longing for God's help and deliverance in time of need.

Members present: Dave Hoye – President Brady Follon – Trustee Matt Saboe – Trustee
John Jensen – Treasurer Carol Schmeling – Deacon Devon Rud – Board of Ed
Monica Glime – Secretary Todd Meyer – Trustee Kim Tessum - Deacon

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

Treasurer's report reviewed, M/S/C by Glime/Meyer to approve report as presented and pay current bills. Harvest Festival was very successful – contributions; general fund \$31866.85, missions \$5325.00 and designated capital expenditures \$3500.00 for a total of \$40786.85.

President's report: Annual meeting is coming up in January. Reports needed by January 8th.

Member's report: Funerals – Jean Tennant (@ Warners)

Deacon's report: Usher list is on the whiteboard. If changes need to be made please let deacons know.

Trustee's report: Short and long term storage was discussed. Also brought into discussion was an addition to be used for youth ministry and other activities. This discussion was tabled for further discussion at the next meeting.

Board of Education: Sunday School– Christmas Program December 18th, with cupcakes and drinks to follow.

Curriculum has been ordered. Teachers are having an issue with kids being disrespectful to one another and to teachers during Sunday school time. Looking for help.

High School Youth – Caroling was COLD but fun was had by all that attended! Thanks to Quinton Harmon for the use of the truck to get us around town!

Women of Hope: No report.

Old Business:

Local Mission and Outreach – Shelves are up, please do not donate expired goods as they have to be thrown out. Extra concern has been brought up on insurance and additional security within the building.

Nomination Committee – LaVonne Peters has agreed to go on the ballot as a Deacon. We are still looking for some other positions that will need to be filled, contact Kim Tessum.

Request for raising compensation for Organists/Pianists – looking to raise amount to \$50 from \$25 (will be brought up at budget time).

New Business:

Endowment Committee Allocations – M/S/C Tessum/Schmeling to approve allocations.

College Scholarships – 2 applications were accepted and approved for \$500 each to Christian Knapp and Bailey Stimson for the upcoming semester. M/S/C Saboe/Schmeling.

Request for Additional Microphones in Sanctuary – a request has come from the youth ministry for long range microphones to be used during Christmas Service and other special services during the year. Council will act once a specific bid is presented.

Short-Term Storage Options (especially for Christmas Items) – Will use the table closet in the basement for the short term. On January 8th when we take down the greens we will also go thru that closet and remove any items in there that are not needed in the church. If you are interested in anything please come down that morning or they will be disposed of.

Long-Term Storage and Building Options – Were discussed in Trustee Report.

Mission Money Allocation – M/S/C Jensen/Saboe.

New Vacuum for Cleaning – M/S/C Meyer/Schmeling, at an amount no greater than \$500. Kim Tessum will take care of going and getting one.

The next Council meeting will be **Wednesday, January 11 at 7:00 PM.**

Tidings material is due in the office by December 27, 2016.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:30 PM.

Secretary, Monica Glime

JANUARY

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:00 Worship/Communion Greeter: Mark Scharnberg & family Reader: Quinton Harmon Organist: Cynthia Knapp Projection: Eric Rud	2	3	4 3:30 Confirmation 6:15 Youth Meal 7:00 Youth Group	5 2:15 Hartley Service	6	7
8 9:00 Adult Study/Sunday School 10:00 Worship/SS Kids Sing/Noisy Offering Greeter: Tom Kunzmann & family Reader: Rick Steuben Pianist: Connie Goeken Projection: Kara Taylor	9	10	11 3:30 Confirmation 5:00 Women of Hope Board 6:15 Youth Meal 7:00 Youth Group 7:00 Council Meeting	12	13	14
15 9:00 Adult Study/Sunday School 10:00 Worship/Communion Greeter: Leo Behrens & family Reader: Niki Berends Organist: Cynthia Knapp Projection: Teresa Hansen	16	17	18 9:30 Naomi Bible Study 3:00 Martha Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 6:15 Youth Meal 7:00 Youth Group	19	20	21
22 9:00 Adult Study/Sunday School 10:00 Worship Greeter: Brad Behrens & family Reader: Denny Harmon Pianist: Sue Hartmann Projection: Kara Taylor	23	24 Tidings Material Due	25 9:00 Quilt Day 3:30 Confirmation 6:30 No Apologies for Youth	26	27	28
29 9:00 Adult Study/Sunday School 10:00 Worship Greeter: Mark Scharnberg & family Reader: Andrew Quail Organist: Cynthia Knapp Projection: Denny Harmon	30	31				

COMMUNION: Allen Boyles & Lester Tessum

ALTAR: Pat Adolf & Pat Jensen

USHERS: Tom Kunzmann, Mark Scharnberg, Leo Behrens, Brad Behrens

FUNERAL SERVING SCHEDULE: Gr. #2 & Gr. #1

Naomi Bible Study: Held in fireside room, hostess is Clara Goeken.

Study by Audrey Thiessen

Martha Bible Study: Held at Marlene Schoelerman's. Study by Arlene Meyer.