

This month I want to take the opportunity of this article to let you all know about a new development God is bringing about in the Church called The Nexus Institute.

If you remember back to Lent a couple of years ago, one of the guest preachers who shared the Gospel during a Wednesday evening service here at Hope Lutheran was a man named Dr. Kyle Fever, who at that time served full time for Ingham-Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps. Since that time, Kyle has moved to Des Moines, and is building and initiating what is called The Nexus Institute at Grand View University.

What is The Nexus Institute? I will let Kyle himself explain it to you through some excerpts from an article he wrote for the LCMC's quarterly publication *By The Word*...

"The Nexus Institute at Grand View University in Des Moines, IA, exists to transform the landscape of the church by investing in high school youth and developing their potential as theological leaders driven by the Gospel of Jesus Christ...The Nexus Institute is a year-long program that partners with local congregations to develop youth into theological leaders in the church and in the world. At Nexus, young adults experience intentional community of Christ-centered theological learning and leadership development, as well as ongoing equipping and development as Nexus participants take significant steps of theological leadership in the context of the local church."

Personally, I am extremely excited and encouraged that God will use The Nexus Institute to begin the process of raising up pastors and church leaders much earlier on in people's lives. Considering a call to serve the Lord in ministry doesn't have to happen either in college or many years later – these 10th through 12th graders who will be participating in Nexus (and perhaps we might have some from our own congregation participate!) will be blessed as they learn, grow and mature in faith, and prayerfully consider if a future in ministry may be where the Lord is leading them.

I encourage you to keep The Nexus Institute in your prayers in these initial stages of its existence and work, and if you know anyone who is a sophomore, junior or senior in high school, and think they might be a good fit for the program, encourage them to consider being a part of what God is doing there! More information is available by visiting the website: www.thenexsinstitute.org.

In Christ, *Pastor Dan*

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday School children will sing during worship on **Sunday, May 7**. A noisy offering will be received. Teachers will be recognized, as this wraps up the Sunday School season.

The baccalaureate will be **May 17** at 7 p.m. in the Royal gymnasium.

Lock-in at the Spencer Y on Friday night, **May 19** for students in grades 6-12 starting at 9 p.m. Inviting friends is encouraged!

Quilt Day will be **Wednesday, May 31**, starting at 9 a.m.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 Joel Hartmann	11 Maynard Holtz	12 McKenzie Reynolds	21 Dan Taylor
4 Bill Follon	11 Nicole Riley	12 Brian John Schmidt	24 Ron Doran
5 Megan Harris	11 Clarissa Seversen	13 Jan Dose	27 Vern Ostermann
6 Kate Adolf	11 Arvin Tesch	13 Ben Harris	30 Virgil Schmeling
9 Kara Taylor	11 Anthony Quail	13 Mike Scharnberg	30 Marie Stricker
9 Kim Doppler	12 Nicole Berends	14 Kathleen Richmond	31 Nancy Harmon
10 Jacob Schipper	12 Lucas Nelson	15 Josh Overbeck	

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

7 Scott and Lisa Johnson	12 Todd and Tracy Meyer	18 Mark and Teresa Hanson
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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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Church Council Meeting - APRIL MINUTES

President Adolf called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM on April 12, 2017. Pastor Dan gave devotions from Psalm 119, which talked about being upheld by God's word in times of adversity.

Members present: Kevin Adolf – President Lavonne Peters – Deacon Brook Schueller – Board of Ed
John Jensen – Treasurer Brian Kahl – Trustee Tracy Adrian – Vice President
Monica Glime – Secretary Todd Meyer – Trustee

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

Treasurer's report reviewed, M/S/C by Adrian/Peterstoapprove report as presented and pay current bills.– Also discussed was the Lenten Meal offerings and it was set to donate ½ the money to Bob/Lisa Doran and ½ to Jon & Judy Erick. M/S/C Kahl/Adrian – Council also looked at the electric bill for the church and why it has been running so high. Discussed trying to get Alliant Energy to come in and do an energy audit.

President's report: None

Member's report: None

Deacons' report: None

Trustees' report: Todd is going to check with a couple of companies on pricing for lawn treatment twice a year for the church and the parsonage. Additional stage lights have been installed in the basement.

Board of Education: Sunday School: 50 kids and parents went to Bridges Bay for fun day. May 7th will be the last day of Sunday School and will also be teacher appreciation Sunday. Mother's Day Sunday they will have their cupcake fundraiser to raise money for Vacation Bible School that is June 12 -15.

Confirmation: Class resumes April 19.

High School: Back to regular schedule for remainder of school year. Pastor Dan and Christian Knapp will be organizing events during the summer months while Chris is at the camp.

Women of Hope: None

Old Business: Local Mission and Outreach – Food pantry – 1. Hours – at this point no one seems to be coming on Saturdays so wondering if they should not have that day. And just do the 2 days during the week. Council thinks the evening hours need to be later for those who work out of town.
2. Another idea was to send out flyers in the Mav Packs from the school and to contact Ashley Tessum at the school for other suggestions on how to distribute the word for others.

New Business: None

The next council meeting will be **Wednesday, May 10 at 8:00 p.m.**

Tidings material is due in the office on Tuesday, April 25, 2017.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:00 pm.

Secretary, Monica Glime

EASTER BREAKFAST

A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you to everyone who attended the WOH's annual Easter Breakfast. A special thank-you to those that helped prepare, decorated, and worked at it. It was a success because of you! Just a reminder to the women, if you have not paid your \$10, please submit it to Cynthia Knapp. Thanks again!

The Committee - Kathy Behrens, Kelly Behrens, Pat Kunzman, LaVonne Peters, Carol Schmeling



Women of Hope MEETING MINUTES

Women of Hope Board Meeting – April 26, 2017

The WOH board meeting was held on April 26, 2017 at 6PM with 7 members present. President Kris Keene called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report was approved M/S/C Cynthia/Kara. There was no correspondence.

Treasurer's Report – General Fund \$2411.55 Love Fund \$1264.47 Bills presented included \$50 for Spring Gathering speaker, \$276.15 for Easter Breakfast supplies, and \$25 for LWR freight on Health and Baby Kits. Approval M/S/C Marlene/Tracy.

Mission Action - 11 ladies made 11 quilts on quilt day. The next quilt day is May 31. Quilt Sunday will be the same day as Love Service, June 25.

Mission Communities - Cherish House baby Bottle Campaign will be May 14-June 18. A speaker from Cherish House will be present on May 14.

Mission Growth – baskets will be packed Sunday after church on April 30. Remember to bring snacks to fill the May Baskets. Love Service Sunday will be June 25.

New business - Thank you to Shirley Adolf and Linda Harders for getting the “kits” together and to Chris Schoelerman for knitting the baby caps used in the kits. Senior Recognition Sunday will honor 3 graduates. Sophomore parents will be asked to serve and decorate for that. Ladies Night Out has been set for June 14. More info to come.

The board meeting adjourned. M/S/C Kara/Tracy.

The next board meeting will be held on **May 10 at 5:00 PM.**

Secretary, Sherri Steffen

SPRING GATHERING

The WOH Spring Gathering was held April 26, 2017 and opened with the general meeting at 6:30. President Kris Keene opened the meeting with a prayer. Devotions were read by Tracy Meyer. The secretary's report was read. The treasurer reported the general fund has a balance of \$2411.55 and the Love Fund has a balance of \$ 1264.47.

President's report- Kris recapped the WOH activities since our last general meeting. The list included Harvest Festival, Hanging of the Greens, treat bags for Christmas program, 2 Love gifts, sandwiches to the nursing home, mitten/hat drive, Lenten decorating, Father-Daughter Dance, quilts, “kits”, donations of \$2100 for the entire last year, and the Easter Breakfast. She thanked the Easter Breakfast committee, as well as Pat Jensen for the Sr. quilts, Shirley Adolf and Linda Harders for the “Kits”, Chris Schoelerman for the knitted baby caps, and Kara Taylor for her work on getting two new Bible studies started. Kris will post a sign-up sheet for the Hartley Nursing home sandwiches and explained that we would reimburse for food expense if anyone wished to be reimbursed.

Reminders were given for the Baby Bottle Campaign May 14- June 18th, Ladies Night Out June 14th, and Love Service Sunday on June 25th.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer. Our speaker for the evening was Rachel Simington. Her presentation was entitled “Being God's girl: What is Piety?”. Following the program music was provided by Tracy Meyer and Connie Goeken. The members and guests then joined in small group discussion with questions from Rachel's program. 46 members and guests were then treated to dessert. Thank you to Group 2 for the delicious desserts served.

Secretary, Sherri Steffen



Speaker Rachel Simington

Music by Connie and Tracy



Desserts and fellowship

Sowing Seeds of Stewardship

John W. Jensen

Spring is here! Or, at least on May 1st, it's supposed to be. But there's still snow in the forecast! Spring is a new start. Bright colors replace the browns and grays of winter. We look forward to more daylight and warmer temperatures. Everything becomes new again.

For believers, spring has the added benefit of reminding us that God's all about new stuff. In fact, Jesus promised to make everything new one day (Revelation 21:5 NIV). In the meantime, He gives us glimpses of coming attractions through spring.

To help celebrate the shift from one season to another, let's look at some verses that hit on some of the best themes of spring. Let them soak into your soul like a warm sun on a cloudless day.

Growth: *That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.* – Psalm 1:3, NIV

Spring is a time for growth. In nature, that comes from the right combination of sunlight and water. For our spiritual lives, it comes from the right combination of time with God in His Word and time with other Christians in fellowship. The alternative is to be chaff that blows away and comes to nothing.

Starting Over: *As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.* – Hosea 6:3, NIV

Everybody needs forgiveness. We need God to appear and let us know that we're back on track with Him. He's ready to give us that kind of healing. We just have to turn back to Him.

Provision: *I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and olive oil.* – Deuteronomy 11:14, NIV

The Christian life is a balancing act between working like everything depends on you and trusting like everything depends on God. He will send the rains you need, but you've also got to do your part by working the harvest.

Learning: *Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants.* – Deuteronomy 32:2, NIV

You're never too old to learn a little more about God and His goodness. Just like rain provides nourishment to the plants, His Word reaches into our hearts and shows us things that we never would have imagined.

Renewal: *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.* – Psalm 51:10, NIV

God's in the renovation business. He takes what's old and broken down and transforms it into something incredible. If you've got an area of your life that needs some renewal, He's more than ready to meet you where you are.

Peace: *Why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.* – Matthew 6:28-29, NIV

Take a look at the flowers and plants blooming around you, the trees as they leaf out. They didn't worry their way to awesomeness. And you can't either. God cares about you, so let Him carry your worries and fears ("Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7 NIV).

Whether it's a long walk on a sunny day, enjoying time in the garden, or reflecting on God's creation from the seat of a tractor, soak up the blessings of spring. Let the sights, sounds and smells of a new season bring something new to life in you.

Praise be to God!



CHERISH BABY BOTTLES

Your coins can make a difference in the lives of young mothers and their children. The proceeds of this unique fundraiser will be used to help Cherish House, located in Spirit Lake.

This year, we will be collecting coins in baby bottles from **Mother's Day** until **Father's Day**. Return June 18. Please take a bottle and throw in your change during that time. Anything helps! Together, the coins add up and we make a difference!

MAY

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	10-2 Food Pantry		2:00-6:00 Food Pantry 6:15 Youth Meal 7:00 Youth Group			
9:00 Adult Study/Sunday School 10:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Greeter: Brian Schmidt & family Reader: Nancy Heuck Organist: Cynthia Knapp Projection: Judy Englert	10-2 Food Pantry	7:00 WOW Tues Bible Stu	7:00 WOW Wed Bible Study			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00 Adult Study 10:00 Worship Greeter: Rich Englert & family Reader: Sue Adams Pianist: Connie Goeken Projection: Teresa Hansen 11:00 VBS Fundraiser	10-2 Food Pantry		2:00-6:00 Food Pantry 5:00 WOH Board Mtg 6:15 Youth Meal 7:00 Youth Group 8:00 Council Meeting			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00 Adult Study 10:00 Worship/Communion Greeter: Tyler Tessum & family Reader: Sherri Steffen Organist: Cynthia Knapp Projection: Kara Taylor	10-2 Food Pantry	Tidings Material Due	2:00-6:00 Food Pantry 6:15 Youth Meal 7:00 Youth Group	2:15 Hartley Care Center		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00 Adult Study 10:00 Worship Greeter: Christian Wilson Reader: Quinton Harmon Organist: Cynthia Knapp Projection: Eric Rud	10-2 Food Pantry		9:00 Quilt Day 2:00-6:00 Food Pantry 6:15 Youth Meal 7:00 Youth Group	Ushers: Brian Schmidt, Rich Englert, Tyler Tessum, Christian Wilson Communion: LaVonne Peters & Karla Saboe Altar: Emma Pearson & Holly Pearson Service Group #1		
28	29	30	31			

Naomi Bible Study - Fireside Room. Hostess and study is Audrey Thissen.
 Martha Bible Study - At Judy Englert's. Hostess Judy Englert. Study by Nancy Heuck.
 Women of Word Study - Fireside Room.