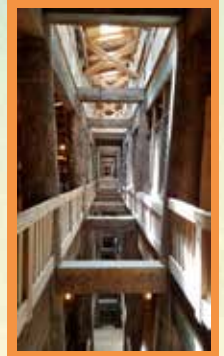


While on our annual August trip to watch tennis in Cincinnati, Kara and I took a side-trip this year to Williamstown, Kentucky to visit what is called The Ark Encounter. If you aren't familiar with this, it is a life-size, to-biblical-scale replica of Noah's Ark, filled with exhibits that tell the story and displays that help the visitor imagine what it might have been like on the ark centuries ago. It is an enormous structure that, in numerous ways, is quite striking. Describing the entire experience for you in just a brief article would be impossible, so I will simply share with you a few highlights.



First, I was struck by the detail. The attention the creators of the attraction paid to even the most minute of details was impressive. From the dimensions of the structure, to the charts and lists of the various creatures that would have been on board, to the appearances of the displays, it was all crafted with incredible care. And the passion of those who worked on this project for both preserving the story, and bringing it to life for the world, is highly evident. There were numerous times that a small, but significant detail from the story was presented, and I found myself saying, "Oh



yeah, I forgot about that part!" And this is good, for it shows how this project is rooted in presenting biblical truth, not leaving anything out. And while there were times they used artistic license and added in a few things to help spark the imagination, it was indicated where they did so, and it was done not to add to scripture, but to more deeply engage people in the experience of the event.



Second, I was struck by the experience of plausibility. There are many in the world, and even some in the church, who would suggest that Noah's Ark, while being a great story, is totally fictitious, for it would be impossible for everything outlined in those chapters of Genesis to actually happen. But as we went through the exhibit, I found it easier than ever for my mind to put doubts and skeptical questions aside, and see that there's no reason why the events couldn't have happened as detailed in scripture. As the exhibit pointed out, great structures such as the pyramids in Egypt were constructed using primitive methods and tools, so why not an ark as well? And seeing it presented in this to-scale format – how all the cages, the animals, the food and water storage, and everything else could certainly fit and work together in this one structure – was also quite affirming of the biblical narrative. And finally, many in the church who are skeptical



of the plausibility of Noah's Ark still believe in the resurrection of Christ. But when you think about it, which one of those events, from strictly a human or worldly point of view, is less likely? Would it not be a man raised from the dead? The reality is, both events are testified in scripture, and both events are, by the power of the Almighty One, trustworthy and true.

And finally, through this exhibit, I was struck by God's grace. After the great flood, the Lord said in Genesis 8:21-22, "Never again will I curse the ground because of human beings, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." Because of sin and rebellion, God could have destroyed everything, including Noah, his family and all creation. But God preserved and renewed what was created instead of ending it all. That is amazing grace!

So, if you find yourself in Kentucky, I would recommend taking in the experience of The Ark Encounter. But if you don't ever make it there, may you all continue to be blessed by the testimony of scripture to the truly amazing grace of our truly amazing God!

In Christ, *Pastor Dan*

**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, beginning September 24*

Phone 712.834.2767 206 Washington, Everly, IA 51338 [www.hopeeverly.com](http://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 starts **Sunday, September 24**. A noisy offering will be received.

A picnic will be held after worship on **Sunday, September 24**.

Quilt Day will be **Wednesday, September 27**, starting at 9 am.



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Kevin Adolf  
1 Bev Steuben  
2 Kodi Hansen  
2 Arvin Schmidt  
3 Scott Johnson  
3 Betty Steuben  
4 Nancy Heuck  
5 Kyle Thomsen

7 Dakota Glackin  
7 Ted Hoepfner  
8 Shirley Adolf  
11 Jennifer Hartmann  
14 Kelly Steuben  
15 John Goeken  
16 Pat Adolf  
16 Kari Tessum

17 Donneta Menke  
17 Holly Pearson  
17 Velma Wiese  
20 Roger Haberman  
21 Judy Englert  
21 Merlyn Fell  
21 Rick Steuben  
25 Lacey Ferguson

25 Janet Thomsen  
26 Clare Schoelerman  
27 Chris Tostenrud  
28 Adam Bunge  
30 Clara Goeken  
30 Pat Kunzman

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

4 Merlin and Donna Fell  
11 Bob and Donna Schoelerman  
12 Neil and Maggie Scharnberg

18 Gene Montgomery and  
Chris Tostenrud  
22 Ben and Abbie Bunge

24 Wayne and Mary Beth Bishop  
26 Derry and Mary Ann Adolf  
30 Lee and Michelle Bunge

Excited to have you! The new year of Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 24 at 9:00 am.

We start as a large group for singing and prayer time, and then we break into age-specific classes. Classes are for children preschool age through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and we will be using the Hands-On Bible Curriculum again this year.

Everybody is welcome, and we love it when you bring your friends, cousins and neighbors!

If you have questions, please call Brook Schueller at 712-229-5934.



## ALL CHURCH PICNIC

A picnic will be held after worship on Sunday, September 24.

Main dish will be provided. Please bring a side and/or dessert to share.



## YOUTH NEWS

**Youth Group Scavenger Hunt** and supper on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. Meet at the city park.

**Youth Group** will meet on Wednesday night, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Meal at 6:15, meeting at 7:00.

**Confirmation** will begin on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> with a meal and meeting for parents, students, and families at 6 pm in the fireside room.



## NEEDS FOR FOOD BANK

**Peanut Butter** (creamy)

**Sugar**

**Flour**

**Pancake and waffle mix**

**Pudding cups** (sugar free)

**Jello cups**

**Mac & Cheese**

**Tuna** (canned)

**Canned turkey and chicken**

**Chili beans**

**Small Velveeta Cheese** (non-refrigerated)

**Cereal** (Cheerios, Fruit Loops, others)

**Crackers**

**Jelly, grape** (and other)

**Mustard and ketchup**

**Juice** (grape, apple, V8 Fusion (light))

**Dishwashing soap** (small)

**Hand soap**

**Laundry detergent**

## RELIEF ITEMS FOR HURRICANE HARVEY

### Flood Bucket Kit: Cleaning Kit Materials

- 1 5-Gallon bucket with resealable lid. Buckets from fast-food restaurants or bakeries can be used if washed and cleaned. Do not use buckets that have stored chemicals such as paint or pool cleaner. Advertisements on the outside are acceptable
- Liquid laundry detergent. One 50-oz. or two 25-oz. bottle(s) only
- Liquid household cleaner 12-16 oz. liquid cleaner that can be mixed with water (Or two smaller bottles equally approx. 12-16 oz.) No spray cleaners
- Dish soap 16-28 oz. bottle, any brand
- 50 Clothespins
- Clothesline. One 100-ft. or two 50-ft. lines. Cotton or plastic
- 7 Sponges. No cellulose sponges due to mold issues Remove from packaging
- 24-Roll heavy-duty trash bags 33-45 gallon sizes Remove from the box
- 18 Cleaning wipes, Handi-wipes or reusable wipes. No terry cleaning towels Remove from packaging
- 1 Can air freshener Aerosol or pump
- 1 Insect-repellant spray, 6-14 oz. aerosol or spray pump with protective cover
- 2 Pairs kitchen dishwashing gloves. Should be durable enough for multiple uses. Remove from packaging
- 1 Pair work gloves All Cotton, All Leather, Cotton with Leather Palm
- 5 Scouring pads. Remove from wrapper. No stainless steel, Brillo or SOS pads (nothing with soap built in)
- 1 Scrub brush, Plastic or wood handle
- 5 Dust masks

### Important Notes

- All items must be new except for the actual bucket and lid.
- All cleaning agents must be liquid and in plastic containers. No powders, please.
- If you cannot find the requested size of a liquid item, use a smaller size. Including larger sizes of any item will prevent the lid from sealing.

### If Completing a Bucket: Assembly Directions

Place all liquid items in the bucket first. Place remaining items in the bucket fitting them around and between liquid items. Sponges, scouring pads, clothespins and trash bags can be separated in order to fit all items in the bucket. Ensure lid is closed securely. If all items on the list are not included, put a label on the bucket indicating what has been omitted.

### Health Kit: Personal Supplies

- 1 hand towel
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb- 6 inches or longer
- 1 metal nail file or nail clippers
- 1 bath-size soap- 3 oz. or larger – NO IVORY OR JERGENS
- 1 toothbrush – Adult size only
- 6 Band-Aids



# Church Council Meeting - SEPTEMBER MINUTES

President Adolf called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM on August 9, 2017. Pastor Dan gave devotions from Psalm 119 v. 145, calling out for help, preservation and guidance.

Members present: Kevin Adolf – President      Lavonne Peters – Deacon      Alan Boyles – Deacon  
John Jensen – Treasurer      Carol Schmeling – Deacon      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 Boyles/Adrian to approve report as presented and pay current bills.

**President's report:** Continuing to work on outside brick.

**Member's report:** Baptism: Ellie Curran (John & Jessica (Goeken) Curran); Emma Geerdes (Kelly & Tatum)

**Trustees' report:** Bell Tower repair – waiting for estimates

Painting update on outside – the truck is parked outside so thinking they will start soon.

Parsonage projects – get estimate on painting windows. Landscaping was put on hold due to too dry of conditions.

**Board of Education:** Sunday School: First day of Sunday School will probably be Sunday, September 24.

Confirmation: Class resumes in the fall, probably September 27.

High School: Kick off get-together will be Sunday, September 24 with a scavenger hunt and meal in the city park beginning at 5:00 pm.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business: Food Pantry** – Asking for anyone wanting to donate their Thrivent Dollars to the pantry.

**Harvest Festival** – Time to organize the committee, if anyone is interesting in helping out see Kevin Adolf. The date has been set for Sunday, November 12.

**Mission** – Tom Goeken has asked for monetary help in missionary work in South America. They are needing funds for food and Bibles. M/S/C Schmeling/Boyles up to \$1000 if needed.

The next council meeting will be **Wednesday, September 6 at 7:00 p.m.**

Tidings material is due in the office on Tuesday, August 22, 2017.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:44 pm.

*Secretary, Monica Glime*

## MISSION MEMO

*We received an email after donation from Hope to the ministry in Nicaragua, 516, that Tom Goeken has been working with.*

Just opened your letter with donation for the work in San Rafael del Norte. What a wonderful encouragement and further sign of God's hand on this move. Thank you!! Thought you'd like to hear some of the other indications that this is God's intent for us and our team in Nicaragua:

- Last July 31 we started a radio program called THE PASTORAL VOICE. Jaime is travelling every Monday to do the show. Local pastors will have a day to share.
- Jacqueline (Jaime's wife) presented a business opportunity in San Rafael with ORIFLAME COMPANY. This is very important as the unemployment rate is high – nothing is reported officially, but it is probably in the range of 50%.
- Jaime will be teaching a leadership conference to all the churches leaders in San Rafael.
- The local pastoral association agreed to fix the roof of the police department and paint it. We will collect money in the local churches. This is huge on two fronts – getting local churches to move outside their walls and for them to donate money. Both are major shifts in attitude for Nicaraguan churches.
- A church in Miami (through a friend of Jaime's) wants to support the effort in San Rafael. They want to explore starting

a new church. They are also willing to donate to build a small clinic needed by a small village nearby.

- Pastor Miguel (Assembly of God) said that his church never was so full in 10 years as when 516 lead an evangelical crusade there.
- Pastor Francisco (Baptist) said that he was totally in shock when he see his mother-in-law at church for the first time.
- The Assembly of God worship team from Palacaguina came with a team from 516 for 3 days. The people of San Rafael connected with them very deeply.
- Resurrection church (516's home church in Palacaguina) stayed for 3 days, because the first day the bus broke.
- A team of Gideons from Estelí (an hour away) drove every day. The day donate New Testaments, 5 brothers come to faith every day. The team was quite touched by their example.
- Every day at least 5 people from every church and local pastor stay with us full time.
- In total, 1500 New Testaments have been given out.
- In the initial work in the community 33 new professions of faith.

We are so excited to being working in this beautiful community. We believe that prior to starting work there in early July, there were about 100 Christians in the town. So the addition of 33 new believers is a massive growth and indicative of the spiritual hunger of the people there.

*Your co-laborer in Christ, John Barrett*

## Sowing Seeds of Stewardship

John W. Jensen

It's that time of year. The days are getting shorter which explains why it is now dark when I get up in the morning. The coolness of the morning makes us think of - Clay County Fair Time! Which means that fall and the harvest are not far behind.

Here's some verses from 2 Corinthians Chapter 9 that relate to the harvest and God's abundance: *"whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously"* (verse 6), *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"* (verse 7) and *"God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work"* (verse 8).

If you weren't a fan of context you could take these as fuel to fire a prosperity gospel. After all, if we give a big enough offering with a big enough smile we'll surely end up with a whopping great blessing on our lives, right?

Sadly, that's not quite what Paul has in mind, but the passage is still dynamite when it comes to the subject of our giving.

Paul's right when he says that we reap what we sow, but we should remember that Paul's using the agricultural term metaphorically here, and so we are not meant to take the words literally. Paul is talking about where our choices are motivated by our heart rather than our wallet. Each of us should give "what he has decided in his heart to give". That decision about how much to give should be reached after careful consideration, and always with joy and cheerfulness.'

These passages from 2 Corinthians Chapter 9 could be linked to Paul's earlier letter to the Corinthians where he encourages planned, systematic giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-3). While there's nothing wrong with spontaneous, Spirit-prompted acts of generosity, we primarily need to approach the matter with care, prayer and time.

Decisions about what, and how, we give should not be left to spur-of-the-moment emotions, just as a harvest cannot be reaped when the farmer feels 'in the mood'.

Harvests, like generosity, take time, purposeful planning and an eye for the long game. As well as making us more efficient in our giving, this also allows for a greater connection with God through the process. As Paul says, *"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."* (verse 12)

We 21st century Christians have such potential. The internet and world-wide communications gives us the power to become informed about so many areas of need in the world, and the possibility to plan our giving in ways that make a sustained, effective difference right where we feel God is calling us. We have the opportunity to share our abundance, not only around the world but also in our own backyard through the Hope Lutheran Food Bank.

Here's how you can help the Food Bank:

- 1) Offer up prayers of thanksgiving for the Food Bank, the workers, and those receiving the supplies.
- 2) Volunteer to spend some time working at the Food Bank.
- 3) Provide an offering to help finance the Food Bank or go on a grocery shopping spree. You can give a special offering for the Food Bank – just indicate on your check or offering envelope that is where you want the funds to go. At the present time, we are assisting about a dozen family units. We are spending \$300-400 per month keeping the Food Bank stocked.
- 4) Help spread the word that assistance is available to those in need.

The harvest season is fast approaching. Now is the time to plan how you will share your abundance in your tithes and offerings, your time and talents. Praise be to God!

### WOMEN'S DAY AWAY at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp

October 21, 9:00 am- 5:00 pm

[www.okoboji.org](http://www.okoboji.org) / 1-800-OKOBOJI to register - Just \$29!

Are you ready to get a little time away from stresses of daily life? How about a wonderful day of relaxation, friendship, faith, and fun! This one-day retreat will include sessions, worship, great food, free time activities (massages, cake decorating, photo or painting class), and more. Escape for a day away! Our theme for Women's Day Away is "Pressing On". Each session throughout the day will cover one chapter of Philippians. Session 1- Pressing On to Love like Jesus. Session 2- Pressing On to Think like Jesus. Session 3- Pressing On to Know Jesus More. Session 4- Pressing On to Joy and Peace.

# SEPTEMBER

## HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Altar: LaVonne Peters &amp; Sue Adams                      Ushers: Lester Tessum, Dave Hoyer, Joel Buenger, Jesse Rustad                      Communion: Carol Schmeling &amp; Dave Hoyer                      Service Group #1</p>						
<p>9:00 Adult Study                      10:00 Worship/Communion                      Greeter: Lester Tessum &amp; family                      Reader: Karla Saboe                      Organist: Cynthia Knapp                      Projection: John Jensen</p>	<p>10-2 Food Pantry</p>		<p>2:00-6:00 Food Pantry                      5:00 WOH Board Mtg                      7:00 Council Mtg                      7:00 WOW Bible Study</p>			
<p>9:00 Adult Study                      10:00 Worship                      Greeter: Dave Hoyer &amp; family                      Reader: Nancy Heuck                      Pianist: Sue Hartmann                      Projection: Kara Taylor</p>	<p>10-2 Food Pantry</p>		<p>2:00-6:00 Food Pantry</p>			
<p>9:00 Adult Study                      10:00 Worship/Communion                      Greeter: Joel Buenger &amp; family                      Reader: Brigitte Addengast                      Organist: Cynthia Knapp                      Projection: Judy Englert</p>	<p>10-2 Food Pantry</p>		<p>2:00 Martha Bible Study                      2:00-6:00 Food Pantry                      7:00 WOW Bible Study</p>			
<p>9:00 Adult Study/Sunday School                      10:00 Worship/SS Kickoff                      Greeter: Jesse Rustad &amp; family                      Reader: Tracy Adrian                      Pianist: Connie Goeken                      Projection: Teresa Hansen                      11:00 Picnic                      5:00 Youth Scavenger Hunt</p>	<p>10-2 Food Pantry</p>	<p>Tidings Material Due</p>	<p>9:00 Quilt Day                      2:00-6:00 Food Pantry                      6:00 Confirmation Meal &amp; Mtg                      6:15 Youth Group Meal                      7:00 Youth Group</p>			

Martha Bible Study - Held at Nancy Heuck's home. Study by Judy Englert.  
 Women of Word Study - Youth Room on 6th and Fireside Room on 20th.