

The season of Lent begins on February 14<sup>th</sup>, and once again we will gather for food, fellowship and worship on Wednesday evenings throughout the season. The theme for the series of messages you will hear at the services is the “I AM” statements of Jesus. Jesus, in several passages in the Gospels, reveals himself through statements that begin with those two words, “I AM”. So, over these next several weeks as area pastors exchange pulpits and come and share God’s Word, Christ’s power and glory will be faithfully proclaimed. May our hearts and minds be open to receive God’s Word on the following evenings:

|             |                               |                               |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| February 14 | Ash Wednesday – “I AM”        | Pastor Dan Taylor             |
| February 21 | “I Am the Light of the World” | Pastor Dan Taylor             |
| February 28 | “I Am the Gate/Good Shepherd” | Pastor John Jensen            |
| March 7     | “I Am the Alpha & the Omega”  | Pastor Tim Nappe from Milford |
| March 14    | “I Am the Way, Truth & Life”  | Pastor Dan Taylor             |
| March 21    | “I am the True Vine”          | Pastor Mark Lund from Boyden  |

Again, there will be a meal at 6pm every Wednesday before the 7 p.m. worship service (other than Ash Wednesday), and thank you in advance to all who will be volunteering to prepare and serve food. I pray that the Lord will richly bless our time together in the weeks ahead.

In Christ, *Pastor Dan*

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Installation of officers will be on **Sunday, February 4** during morning worship.

Sunday School students will sing during worship on **Sunday, February 18**. They will receive a noisy offering.



### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

|                     |                    |                     |                  |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 Donna Schoelerman | 8 Kayla Reynolds   | 14 Amrie Curry      | 22 Marlis Tesch  |
| 3 Kathy Goeken      | 8 Maurine Spangler | 14 Susie Schmidt    | 23 John Geerdes  |
| 3 Eli Harmon        | 9 Leona Holtz      | 15 Donna Shuck      | 23 Aiden Johnson |
| 3 Travis Tesch      | 10 Kyle Johnson    | 16 Holly Johnson    | 23 David Keene   |
| 5 Irv Maaland       | 10 Nancy Welle     | 16 Dylan Behrens    | 24 Joanne Follon |
| 7 Olivia Addengast  | 11 Neila Rohan     | 17 Bev Rinehart     | 24 Leah Keene    |
| 7 Annette Tesch     | 11 Craig Schmeling | 19 Lois Doran       | 24 Craig Tesch   |
| 7 Hannah Tessum     | 12 Graecyn Doppler | 20 Leona Koechert   |                  |
| 7 Leah Wyman        | 14 Ben Bunge       | 21 Hannah Tostenrud |                  |

### FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

|                               |                            |                          |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 6 Bill and Terri Vander Gaast | 21 Maynard and Leona Holtz | 27 Carl and Carol Jensen |
| 14 Gary and Vicki Seversen    | 22 Steve and Paula Smith   |                          |

### 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.”

**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*

# Sowing Seeds of Stewardship

John W. Jenson

It's a staggering number. U.S. consumers are expected to spend \$18.2 billion (\$136.57 per person) on Valentine's Day this year. Ironically, this spending will occur on the day when the church begins Lent, a 40 day period for Christians to reflect, repent, and pray as a way of preparing our hearts for Easter. For the first time since 1945, Lent starts on Valentine's Day and Easter falls on April Fools Day (April 1).

Valentine's Day is known as a day of Love. Our society prizes romance as the highest expression of love. But God had so much more than just romantic love in His plans for each of us. Ash Wednesday is a solemn reminder of Christ's sacrificial love for us. There is one point of connection between these two days – Love.

Paul defines Love for us in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7: *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."* (NIV)

So on this Valentine's Day/Ash Wednesday, you can connect the two events with these ideas:

- Send a handwritten love note to your neighbors and friends. Explain to them why we celebrate Ash Wednesday.
- Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday and is often celebrated with eating pancakes. Fix heart shaped flapjacks for your family!

- A lent tradition is to give up something (like Chocolate or caffeine- anything good) in remembrance of Christ's 40 days in the desert. Instead of giving up something, do something. Like reading a Lent devotional every day, praying every day, visiting the elderly, visiting a lonely neighbor or helping someone who has a need.

- Find a charity to support and include a love note.
- Get to know your neighbors. Invite them to join you at church.
- Think about what you usually spend your money on. Do you really need that item? Can you give to a mission outreach project instead?

In researching this column, I found two more suggestions of things to do for Lent that hit close to home!

1. Don't buy anything that you don't NEED.
2. Throw away 40 things for 40 days (or give away what you don't need). Ouch.

Both of these have stewardship themes. We are to be good stewards of what God has given us. As we near Ash Wednesday, we once again are invited to walk with Jesus through the wilderness. We are asked to deny the distractions of this world and focus on God's reign. This denial, and this refocusing, are instances of stewardship: in our lives, in our church, and in our world. Take advantage of the gift of Lent to help further the discussion of stewardship with those around those you.

## FOOD PANTRY ITEM OF FEBRUARY

Each month we feature one needed item for the Hope food pantry. This has been working well! Thank you for your generosity in donating! The item of the month is **canned tuna or chicken**. Donations may be placed in the basket in the narthex.



## A NOTE OF THANKS...

To our Hope Lutheran friends for your prayers, cards, food brought in, and hospital visits. It is wonderful to belong to this church!

Arnie & Ardie Dodge



# Church Council Meeting - JANUARY MINUTES

President Adolf called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM on January 10, 2018. Pastor Dan gave devotions from Hebrews chapter 1 which talks about superiority of the new covenant of Jesus Christ.

Members present: Kevin Adolf – President      Tracy Adrian – Vice President      Kris Keene – Women of Hope  
John Jensen – Treasurer      Carol Schmeling – Deacon      Allen Boyles – Deacon  
Monica Glime – Secretary      Brian Kahl – Trustee      LaVonne Peters – Deacon

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

**Treasurer's report** review ended 2017 (336.17) over all accounts– M/S/C by Peters/Kahl to approve report as presented and pay current bills.

**Member's report:** Funeral – Betty Runkle (Funeral in Spencer)

**Deacons' report:** Book for last year is complete and the white board in the narthex has been updated.

**Trustees' report:** South parking lot lighting update, the lights have been taken back down and are being sent back as they are not working for our situation. Looking into either finding other solar lights or finding a way to get electricity out there.

**Board of Education: Confirmation:** Will meet thru February 7 and then take a break until after Lent.

**High School:** Mission trip to Appalachia in late July, kids going are starting to fundraise; No Apologies event in Spencer on January 31.

**Women of Hope:** 3 new board members were elected. They have decided to change the meeting date to the 1st Wednesday of the month.

**Old Business: Nominating committee update** – still need trustee.

**Sound equipment** – Tracy is still working on his bid and will bring to the next meeting.

**New Business: Lent Services** – Council will serve the lent meal on February 21 and the Women of Hope March 7. Looking for groups or families to serve February 28, March 14 and March 21. Council to think of where the meal offering should be donated.

**2018 Budget** – reviewed proposed budget. M/S/C Peters/Keene to send the budget as proposed to the annual meeting for approval.

The next council meeting will be **Wednesday, February 14 at 8:00 p.m.**

Annual meeting is Sunday, January 28 (after worship and potluck). **Reports are due January 17.**

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:45 pm.

*Secretary, Monica Glime*



## Women of Hope MEETING MINUTES

The WOH board meeting was held **January 10, 2018** at 6 p.m. President Kris Keene called the meeting to order with devotions from John 15 followed by a prayer.

**Secretary's Report** – report was approved M/S/C Cynthia/Kara. Thank yous were received from the following places for the year-end donations we made: Digger Cheevers Bike Ministry, Atlas of Spencer, Pastor Dan & Kara, Everly Project Share, Mav Packs, Victory House, and the Special Youth Challenge Ministries. They are posted on the bulletin board for reading.

**Treasurer's Report** – General Fund \$812.85      Love Fund \$1346.78      The books have been audited and approved by Traci Genson. No bills were presented & 2 Love gifts were given out. M/S/C Sherri/Doris.

**Mission Action** - Jan. 31 will be an organizing day for the quilt room. Anyone willing to help is welcome to. Approximately 20 quilts were recently delivered to Global Health in Minneapolis and we were very much appreciated.

**Mission Communities** - 41 more hats/mittens were delivered to Upper Des Moines in Jan. A volunteer is needed for the Christian Women Speak program to be aired Feb 18th. (taped Feb 12).

**Mission Growth** – The Spring Gathering date is tentatively set for April 11th.

**New business** - We welcomed 3 new board members. Mission Action- Doris Wilson, Mission Communities- Holly Johnson, and Mission Growth- Sheryl Kahl. We look forward to working with them.

The 2018 Women of Hope booklet is being worked on and should be ready by the end of the month. The WOH board meeting time will be changing to the first Wednesday of each month at 6PM. New projects for 2018 were discussed and will be discussed more as the year progresses.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next board meeting will be **Feb 7 at 6:00 p.m.**

*Secretary, Sherri Steffen*

# FEBRUARY

# HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2018

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY           | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY               | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|------------------|---------|--|------------------------|--------|----------|
| Altar: Emma Pearson & Holly Pearson<br>Ushers: Adam Pearson, Dave Lux, Jim Bunge, Dick Goeken<br>Communion: LaVonne Peters & Karla Saboe<br>Service Group #2                    |                  |         |  |                        |        |          |
| 9:00 Adult Study/Sunday School<br>10:00 Worship/Comm/Installation<br>Greeter: Adam Pearson & family<br>Reader: Kris Keene<br>Organist: Cynthia Knapp<br>Projection: Kara Taylor | 10-2 Food Pantry |         | 2:00-6:00 Food Pantry<br>3:30 Confirmation<br>6:00 WOH Board Mtg<br>6:15 Youth Group Meal                          | 2:00 LCMC Pastor's Mtg |        |          |
| 11  | 12               | 13      | 14   | 15                     | 16     | 17       |
| 9:00 Adult Study/Sunday School<br>10:00 Worship<br>Greeter: Dave Lux & family<br>Reader: Jeannine Bunge<br>Pianist: Sue Hartmann<br>Projection: Kate Hansen                     | 10-2 Food Pantry |         | 2:00-6:00 Food Pantry<br>6:15 Youth Group Meal<br>7:00 Ash Wed Worship<br>7:00 Youth Group<br>8:00 Council Meeting |                        |        |          |
| 18  | 19               | 20      | 21   | 22                     | 23     | 24       |
| 9:00 Adult Study/Sunday School<br>10:00 Worship/Communion/SS Sing<br>Greeter: Jim Bunge & family<br>Reader: John Goeken<br>Organist: Cynthia Knapp<br>Projection: Kara Taylor   | 10-2 Food Pantry |         | 9:30 Naomi Bible Study<br>2:00-6:00 Food Pantry<br>6:00 Lent Meal<br>7:00 Lent Worship<br>7:00 Youth Group         | 2:15 Hartley Service   |        |          |
| 25  | 26               | 27      | 28   |                        |        |          |
| 9:00 Adult Study/Sunday School<br>10:00 Worship<br>Greeter: Dick Goeken & family<br>Reader: Karla Saboe<br>Pianist: Connie Goeken<br>Projection: Kara Taylor                    | 10-2 Food Pantry |         | 2:00-6:00 Food Pantry<br>6:00 Lent Meal<br>7:00 Lent Worship<br>7:00 Youth Group                                   |                        |        |          |