

Christian author and apologist Josh McDowell said this in his book *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*:

“The resurrection of Jesus Christ is either one of the most wicked, vicious, heartless hoaxes ever foisted upon the minds of man, or it is the most fantastic fact of history.”

Of course, since he is a CHRISTIAN apologist, he believes the latter. But why, exactly, is the resurrection of Jesus Christ the most fantastic fact of human history? What difference does this fact make in my life, your life, or anyone’s life?

I believe one of the best places in scripture to look for the answer to this question is 1 Corinthians ch.15. The words God inspired the Apostle Paul to write in this chapter proclaim to us the fantastic news that because Christ rose, we too will be raised when he comes again!

“Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For in Adam we all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him...The trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed!

This is indeed the most fantastic news we could ever hear! Jesus was not just a good moral teacher. Jesus was not just an inspiring leader. He is the Messiah, the One the Father sent out of love and grace to save and redeem the world. And this salvation and redemption is not limited to the present age. This salvation and redemption is not just about receiving for only a few years a small taste of how good life in God’s kingdom of forgiveness and love could potentially be. But the most fantastic news of all is this: because Christ rose from the dead, we too WILL have a new life. We will live forever with the Lord, and with those who have gone before us, with new resurrection bodies in a new heaven and a new earth!

Why is this fact so fantastic? We know with certainty this life is not all there is. We know that the brokenness, failures, disappointments and emptiness of the present age is not all there is. Those who call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ don’t just experience healing and forgiveness in the present, but even more, we have eternity in heaven to look forward to. Thanks be to God for the most fantastic fact of history – the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

Come celebrate the risen Christ on Easter Sunday, April 1st, either at the 7am or 9am worship service, and enjoy Easter Breakfast served in-between services starting at 8am!

In Christ, *Pastor Dan*

YOUTH NEWS

This summer, the youth will have the opportunity to go on an Appalachian mission trip where we will be serving the community of Huntington West Virginia and helping with different projects. With the coffee fundraiser that ended not too long ago, we raised \$400, which covers the cost for three people through praying pelicans. (Which doesn’t include what we need to raise for gas and food for the round trip.)

In youth group we have been going through a series called ‘Jesus Changes Everything’ where we talked about when we first came to Christ and how our lives were changed and the testimony we have that is unique to us that we get to share with others. Next we talked about relationships and cutting ties with those who are trying to pull us away for our walk with Christ. I’m not saying that we shouldn’t try to witness to them, just become more mindful that bad company corrupts good character and that even though we have good intentions we still have to be mindful of our surroundings. Then we talked about habits and what are some good habits and what are some bad ones and how we can take bad habits and replace them with good ones, because if we just drop the bad habit whatever it might be and we don’t replace it with a good habit then in time it will just crawl its way back into our lives. In essence, we are talking big picture of who we are and seeing how Christ is weaved into everything we say and do.

Youth group meets every Wednesday at approximately 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 as we dig into God’s word.

Chris Baugh

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

First Communion class will held for 5th graders. Please contact Pastor Dan to schedule with your child.
Sunday School students will sing during worship on **Sunday, March 11**. They will receive a noisy offering.
Sunday School students will sing again on Palm Sunday, **Sunday, March 25**.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 2 Judy Erick | 12 Keaton Wolthuizen | 23 Lindsay Pearson | 30 Stacy Kolb |
| 5 Dustin Richmond | 15 Braden Falline | 24 Carol Jensen | 30 Shannon Goeken |
| 5 Kim Steffen | 19 Larisa Menke | 27 Chad Keene | 31 Kim Tessum |
| 10 Vi Ostermann | 20 Ardie Dodge | 27 Pat Thomsen | |
| 10 Teresa Reiser | 21 Denny Harmon | 28 Matt Schoelermann | |
| 12 Daniel Welle | 21 Lillian Geerdes | 30 Ian Kolb | |

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3 Don and Jan Dose | 9 Dave and Kris Keene | 24 Jeff and Cindy Pearson |
| 5 Joel and Susie Hartmann | 10 Travis and Annette Tesch | |



Sowing Seeds of Stewardship

John W. Jenson

SEASONS OF STEWARDSHIP

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under the heaven.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1) As we approach March, we’re ready to leave winter behind us and thoughts turn to the Season of Spring and the planting of seeds. “The one who sows sparingly, will also reap sparingly,” says Paul, “the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” (2 Corinthians 9:6) Only if stewardship leads to sowing can it lead to reaping.

The church year also has seasons. We are currently in the Season of Lent with the Season of Easter fast approaching. Originally a time to prepare candidates for baptism, Lent became a period of penitence for those who have been baptized, a time of spiritual discipline in preparation for the celebration of Easter. At its root, penitence, like repentance, concerns a fundamental turning away from self-reliance to trust in God, a change of mind and life direction evoked by the good news of Jesus Christ.

At its heart, stewardship is about where we place our trust. It is less about possessions than possessiveness. Our capacity to love is hampered by our need to have. This is an issue of control: how much must I maintain to feel secure? Understood this way, stewardship is a spiritual discipline that loosens our grip on what we have for the sake of what we love. Loving and trusting God in the spirit of Christ, we live and give more freely and openly, less anxiously, less selfishly.

Stewardship is less a matter of giving up possessions than giving up an attitude—turning over to God trust that had resided in our own ability to regulate and control what we love and care about. With this turning over, giving itself becomes more natural, virtually inevitable.

An ancient rabbi wrote, “We are born with our fists clenched and die with our hands wide open.” The plain facts of life and death confirm God’s will and point to God’s way for us. In effect, we have to find a way to hold onto life with open hands. That is the Lenten discipline

of stewardship: learning how to hold what we have less tightly, without clutching, more openly.

The lesson is summed up well by Andre Gide, who wrote: “Complete possession is proved only by giving. All you are unable to give possesses you.”

The Season of Easter is revealed in the truth of both Good Friday and Easter. Good Friday reveals to us the love of Christ in his death on the cross. In the resurrection of Jesus, the truth of the world is reborn: justice and goodness shall prevail, outwitting and outlasting the most crucifying powers arrayed against them. Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won’t stay there.

Stewardship is what happens when we believe this. It is the generosity that flows from a sense of the “superabundance” of life to which Jesus’ resurrection testifies. In the light of Easter, fears of scarcity and loss are overcome: we are “born anew into a living hope...an inheritance that is imperishable.” (1 Peter 1:3)

In the light of Easter, fears of scarcity and loss are put behind us. “Not that we are sufficient of ourselves,” says Paul, “but our sufficiency is from God, who makes us sufficient...(and whose) Spirit gives life.” (2 Corinthians 3:6)

Paul also declares “Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, is able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)

During the season of Easter, what is sowed is the very present hope made possible by the victory of Christ over death and evil. What is reaped is an outflow of joy and generosity undeterred by fears of scarcity or inadequacy.

Thanks be to God.

FOOD PANTRY ITEM OF MARCH

Each month we feature one needed item for the Hope food pantry. Thank you for your generosity in donating! The item of the month is **jelly/jam**. Donations may be placed in the basket in the narthex.



Church Council Meeting - FEBRUARY MINUTES

President Adolf called the meeting to order at 8:07 PM on February 14, 2018. Pastor Dan gave devotions from Hebrews chapter 2 which talks about superiority of the new covenant of Jesus Christ.

Members present: Kevin Adolf – President Tyler Tessum – Trustee Allen Boyles – Deacon
John Jensen – Treasurer Brian Kahl – Trustee LaVonne Peters – Deacon
Monica Glime – Secretary Kris Keene – Women of Hope

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

Treasurer's report reviewed. M/S/C by Keene/Kahl to approve report as presented and pay current bills.

Member's report: Baptism – Elsie Bierstedt Funeral – Maurine Spangler

Trustees' report: South parking lot lighting update, will put up new style of lights once weather warms up. Quilting room update has been completed. Getting quote on trimming up all trees on church property and at parsonage. Elevator repair update – waiting for parts.

Board of Education: Sunday School: Father-Daughter dance set for Saturday, March 10 from 6:30 – 8:30.

Confirmation: Classes on break until after Easter.

High School: Will continue to meet at 7 pm during Lent. Completed coffee fundraiser for mission trip

Women of Hope: Spring general meeting will be April 11th, 2018 in the evening. Thanks to the trustees and other helpers for updating the quilting closet. Working on refreshments for the Father-Daughter dance, sign up is in the narthex. Looking to fill some jobs within the Women of Hope, see Kris if interested.

Old Business: Recipient of Lent Meal Offering – Erick family

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, youth group February 28 and the Women of Hope March 7. Looking for groups or families to service March 14 and March 21.

Custodial next 2 weeks – seek volunteers or pay for services? We can manage to get it done without paying.

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

Tidings reports are due Sunday, February 18.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:45 pm.

Secretary, Monica Glime



Women of Hope MEETING MINUTES

The WOH board meeting was held on **February 7, 2018** at 6 p.m. with 8 members present. President Kris Keene opened the meeting with a devotion on "Reflecting on God's Love this Valentine's Day".

Secretary's Report – report was approved M/S/C Cynthia/Holy. Thank yous were read from Sarah Holmberg for the mission trip donation and from Global Health Ministries for the 20 quilts made by WOH members and recently delivered in Minneapolis. (See bulletin board to read them). A thank you and donation was also received from the Maurine Spangler funeral.

Treasurer's Report – General Fund \$1131.58, Love Fund \$976.94. No bills were presented. Approved M/S/C Kara/ Sherri.

Mission Action - 10 woman worked on the quilt room organization project. Thank you to the men who are making the room safer by raising the floor and installing better shelving for the quilting mission. The next quilt day will be Feb. 28, 2018. Senior quilts are also being worked on for our high school seniors.

Mission Communities - Paula Buenger will do our Christian Women Speak program that will be aired on Feb 18. Thank you to Paula for doing that. Holly will check with Kady's Klose to see if we can get someone to come speak in church to explain their project to help foster parents out.

Mission Growth – The Spring Gathering will be held on April 11 with the business meeting to be held from 6:30-7:00PM and a speaker to follow. Group 2 will be in charge of refreshments. More info to come. The Baby Bottle Campaign fundraiser for the Cherish House will run from Mother's Day to Father's Day again this year.

Other business - The WOH board will serve the Lenten supper on March 7th. Duties were assigned for the meal. WOH have been asked to help with the Father/Daughter Dance to be held on March 10th. A list for needed snacks and workers will be posted on the board. Camp scholarships will be \$10 per day for Bible campers. M/S/C Tracy/Holly. The 2018 WOH Booklet should be out soon. Final updates are being made now. Board members are to bring ideas to the next meeting about some new project ideas. Kara gave an update on the Bible Studies and has been pleased with the attendance. During Lent the night Bible Studies will be taking a short break.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be **March 7 at 5 p.m.** (due to Lenten meal).

Secretary, Sherri Steffen

MISSION MEMO

One of the Mission Outreach projects we support is Scott Taylor. Scott runs a Christian camp in the Philippines. Tom Goeken worked with Scott on one of his mission trips. The Philippines has had an unusual number of hurricanes which has drastically affected the camp. Excerpts from Scott's email:

Thursday, February 1

Greetings from Palawan; The new typhoon capital of the Philippines.

On the evening of January 2nd, Typhoon Agaton made landfall in our area. It was forecast to be a relatively weak storm, but the center was supposed to pass very close to our base. Unfortunately, the storm's arrival coincided with one of our highest tides of the year. That along with the typhoon's tidal surge quickly caused huge waves to form. We soon lost electricity, and in less than an hour, our seawall was breached directly in front of our workers' house. Every few seconds, large waves would hit the seawall and tons of ocean water would rise into the air. When the massive amount of water returned to earth, it would take away the soil behind the seawall causing it to collapse. Becay and May May were frantically removing their most valued possessions from their house, even as the waves were rapidly closing in.

I was doing the same at my house. Seawater from the waves was actually raining down on my roof which is twenty - feet above ground! The police were passing on the highway in front of our place announcing, "That everyone living close to the seashore was under a forced evacuation order." As I was packing, I discovered Marlyn on the floor, huddled in a corner of my dark kitchen. She had been overwhelmed by the violence of the weather and taken refuge there.

After a time, we got our vehicle packed with our most precious possessions, and were ready to leave. Incredibly, the jeep wouldn't start! In addition, while I was trying to discover the problem with the jeep, volunteers began to arrive. They were hoping that there would be something they could do to help protect our place. I really thought someone was going to be killed. Young men were darting into the backwash of the crashing waves trying to rescue some of our trash drums the ocean had taken! After bringing the volunteers under control, I was finally able to get the jeep started. By then, someone observed, "that the waves seemed to be getting smaller and the tide was beginning to recede."

The waves were getting smaller but continued to cause damage for another two hours. We finally went to bed right before day break. No one wanted to stay up and see the full extent of the damage to our place.

Our seawall is the most expensive feature of our camp. It is 220 meters long, and took three men, three and a half months to build. Because the property is long but narrow, the seawall plays a vital role in protecting during typhoons.

Nearly half of our seawall was destroyed by the storm. In addition, a large amount of soil was taken away in the areas where it was breached. It has been estimated that it will take around fifty large dump trucks of fill dirt to replace what was lost. That is 1700 tons of dirt!

We have already begun repairing our damaged cottages and the work should be completed in about two weeks. To repair the seawall will be a much larger project and the cost is estimated to be more than our entire, yearly operating budget. It must be completed before typhoon season starts in November. If another typhoon were to arrive without the seawall in place, we would likely lose most of our buildings. Please remember us in prayer as we decide what to do.

I have been on the sidelines during much of the happenings of this past month. As I wrote in an earlier letter, I recently injured my leg in a motorcycle accident. In trying to help repair damage from the first typhoon, I decided to put aside my crutches for the morning. Unfortunately, one of my stitches broke, causing part of the wound to open up again. At the time, the city was experiencing widespread flooding from the first typhoon, and I was unable to go for medical care. Because the second typhoon quickly followed and arrived during the Christmas holidays, many of the cities doctors are still on vacation. Those that remained were busy with casualties from the second typhoon. It wasn't until after the third typhoon that I was finally able to travel to the city and by that time, extensive infection had set in. I am now eight days into my third round of increasingly stronger antibiotics. Unfortunately, the wound is still infected and it is likely that I will need to have surgery in the near future.

That should bring you up-to -date on our typhoon adventures. The dry season has now started and there should be no more bad weather until next year. The poor that we work with are vowing "that they will replace the 1700 tons of fill dirt taken by the storm, with shovels and buckets!" Considering a recent survey revealed, "70% of the people on our island report experiencing frequent hunger," their interest is remarkable. We will have our first, large, work party, tomorrow.

Saturday, February 10

We were thrilled to get your e-mail about sending a financial gift. Our support has been very low for a long time, and now we are faced with the expense of a massive repair project. We are always amazed how God raises up people to meet the needs of the ministry here. Thank-you so much for your generosity.

We have completed repairs to our cottages and have already hosted a number of camps. The repairs to the seawall have also begun and we have actually accomplished quite a bit in the month since the storm.

Our biggest task is replacing the soil that the storm took. Dump trucks full of fill dirt pass our place every day but their prices have sky rocketed. To purchase the fill dirt we need would cost more than our entire yearly operating budget! We are using old tires to reinforce the new seawall. When they are filled with stones and cemented they are quite heavy. We can get all of the old tires we need without cost.

Well, I have got to sign off and get back to work. Thank-you again for your very generous gift. God Bless.

MARCH

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Altar: LaVonne Peters & Sue Adams Ushers: Kevin Adolf, Carl Jensen, Brady Follon, Matt Saboe, Brad Schmidt Communion: Carol Schmeling Service Group #2</p>						
<p>9:00 Adult Study/Sunday School 10:00 Worship/Communion Greeter: Kevin Adolf & family Reader: Allen Boyles Organist: Cynthia Knapp Projection: Teresa Hansen</p>	10-2 Food Pantry		2:00-6:00 Food Pantry			Dad Daughter Dance 6:30-8:30
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>9:00 Adult Study/Sunday School 10:00 Worship/SS Sings Greeter: Carl Jensen & family Reader: Rachel Schoelerman Pianist: Sue Hartmann Projection: Kara Taylor</p>	10-2 Food Pantry		6:00 Lenten Meal 7:00 Lent Worship 7:00 Youth Group			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>9:00 Adult Study/Sunday School 10:00 Worship/Communion Greeter: Brady Follon & family Reader: Mark Scharberg Organist: Cynthia Knapp Projection: Lori Adrian</p>	10-2 Food Pantry		2:00-6:00 Food Pantry			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p>11:00 Tidings Material Due</p>		7:00 Youth Group	9:30 Naomi Bible Study 2:00-6:00 Food Pantry 2:00 Martha Bible Study 6:00 Lent Meal 7:00 Lent Worship			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<p>9:00 Adult Study/Sunday School 10:00 Palm Sunday Worship/SS Sings Greeter: Matt Saboe & family Reader: Paula Buenger Pianist: Connie Goeken Projection: Kara Taylor</p>	10-2 Food Pantry	9:00 Quilt Day 2:00-6:00 Food Pantry 6:15 Youth Meal 7:00 Youth Group	7:00 Maundy Thursday Worship	7:00 Good Friday Worship		