

THE ANCHOR

A newsletter published by Hope Lutheran Church Selden, NY

HOW IS SUMMER GOING FOR YOU?

We have had a great response to our summer camp programs so far, and we are just getting underway! Our Friday night Family Movie Night program is doing well, and we are slowly adjusting to the late times of sunset as the summer goes on.

Our worship attendance has hovered around 80 people per week at the two services, with a large number joining us on the Facebook live stream services.

Finances are the major concern for the Council, and a letter was sent out to all members requesting extra giving so we can begin catching up with overdue bills that have been piling up.

If you have been away and have not given an offering recently, please do so. You can go online to www.hopeluth.com and use the E-Offering or the Paypal app to add your gift.

Soon we will register children for our fall programs.

CELEBRATION OF PASTORAL MINISTRY



On Sunday, September 9th Hope will honor our pastor by celebrating the 45th anniversary of his ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament with a special 10 a.m. worship service with our Interim Bishop, Donald McCoid followed by an All-Church picnic starting at 12:30 p.m. There will be food, games, and talent from members during the picnic.

Members are encouraged to

sign up to bring salads, desserts, etc. for this celebration.

Pastor Hill was ordained on July 29, 1973 at Grace Lutheran Church in Uniondale. He has served as pastor in two churches, Hope Lutheran Church in Braintree, Mass and Hope, Selden. He became pastor of Hope, Selden on December 28, 1982, and he has served in a variety of leadership roles in the ELCA, Region 7, the Metro New York Synod, and the Peconic Conference. He is currently serving as the Coordinator of the Center for Evangelical Mission which serves the Metro NY Synod. He and his wife Linda live in Coram.

Bishop Donald McCoid, a retired bishop and a former national Churchwide executive in the ELCA for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Affairs, is our Interim Bishop. He will serve as bishop until we elect our new bishop for the Metro New York Synod next May.



MOVIE NIGHT SCHEDULE

- **The Final Movie:
Friday, August 10
Star Wars**

Watch Sunday Worship on Facebook

On Sundays we stream our services on Facebook to all who are signed up for the "Friends of Hope Lutheran Church" group or "friends" of Pastor Hill.

ANCHOR NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

ENROLLMENT OPEN

Children are being enrolled for the three-day a week program that will begin in September. The tuition rate is \$240 per month per child, with a discount for families enrolling more than one child.

Classes meet on Tuesday-Thursday mornings from 9:15 to 12:15.

TEEN MINISTRY ENROLLMENT UNDERWAY

In September we will continue training teens for ministry in our church's Teen Ministry program. On **Saturday, September 15**, teens in grades 6 and older will come together for classes on alternating Saturday afternoons and will learn about a variety of areas of Christian faith and life including the Bible, the sacraments, Lutheran Church history, and practical skills for living as Christians in a challenging age. Parents often volunteer as Group Guides and help the teens explore the deeper meaning of the gospel for their lives. Other parents help out by serving as part of the Meals Team.

A new, exciting program called "**Re:form**" will be used starting this year and the first session on September 15th will include a Family Dinner for all students and their families.

A mailing is going out soon to all current and potential students. When you receive this, please respond as soon as a possible so we can order enough materials and prepare properly for the program.

CONSIDER OUR DIAKONIA PROGRAM

Adults who want to grow spiritually and intellectually as followers of Jesus are encouraged to consider the program our conference offers for adults during the school year. Diakonia is a two-year program with classes on the Bible, Church History, Theology, Christian ethics, and practical ministry skills. Some who take this course also go on to become synodical deacons serving local congregations.

This fall's program will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Rocky Point on Tuesday evenings from 7-10 p.m. An Open House is on August 21 at 7.

Over the past 30 years over 800 people have taken this course of study, including several from Hope. Forms are available at the church for any wishing to enroll.

HOPE'S BOWLING LEAGUE RESUMES

One of the most popular fun activities we have at Hope is Hope's Bowling League. On Friday nights at Centereach Bowl adults and teens come together for an evening of fellowship, fun, and friendly competition. Teams will be formed early in September, so if you wish to join this activity, please contact Lisa Spinazzola by Labor Day weekend. You can email her at LCS828@outlook.com.

The league has special events at certain times during the year including a year-end banquet.

ARE YOU READY FOR WELCOME WEEKEND?

Hope's fall worship and education schedule resumes on **September 15th**. Teen Ministry will meet for the first time for the fall at 3 p.m. Following a dinner, the first Saturday evening service will be held at 5 p.m. Parents should attend the session, the dinner, and the service.

On **Sunday, September 16**, we will resume our 3-service worship schedule with services at 8:00, 9:30, and 11 a.m. Sunday School will begin in the sanctuary at 9:30. Parents should enroll their children in advance in person, by mail, or through the church website. There is no registration fee but donations are welcome to help support this important ministry.

NEW COURSE FOR ADULTS BEGINS THIS FALL

A new course developed by popular Christian author Max Lucado called, "Unshakable Hope- Building our lives on the Promises of God" will be offered to small groups this fall on weeknights and weekdays.

What is shaking in your world? Possibly your future, your faith, your family, or finances? It's a shaky world out there. In **Unshakable Hope: Building Our Lives on the Promises of God**, pastor and New York Times bestselling author Max Lucado offers encouraging guidance for overcoming sadness and despair, renewing a sense of purpose, and triumphantly facing the fears of the future.

We've never been more educated and entertained. We have technological tools our parents could only dream of, and we are saturated with information, amusement, and recreation. Yet more than ever, we are starving for hope. School shootings are all too familiar. Depression is on the rise. And more people than ever are orchestrating their own deaths. In America alone, the suicide rate has increased 24 percent in fewer than twenty years. If a disease saw such a spike, it would be deemed an epidemic. People are dying from a lack of hope.

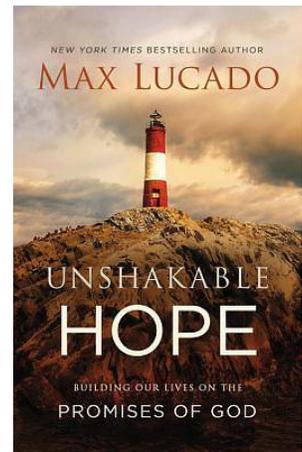
After forty years of counseling and ministry, Max Lucado has learned that nothing lifts the desperate, weary heart like the promises of God. In a world full of despair, depression, anxiety, and instability, we do not need more opinions or hunches; we need the definitive declarations of our mighty and loving God.

Unshakable Hope examines twelve of God's promises that Max has turned to over the years to encourage himself and others. Each chapter explores one significant promise and reveals how it will equip you to:

- Overcome challenging circumstances
- Live through sadness and renew hope
- Experience lasting security
- Make wise decisions

What is your life built on--the circumstances of life or the promises of God? The answer to that question changes everything. For every problem in life, God has given you a promise. Join Max as he takes a closer look at Scripture's unbreakable promises and shows you how to live with an unshakable hope.

The program will begin in October. Sign-up sheets will be posted for people wishing to enroll in this program. The course books will be ordered at a cost of about \$15 per student.



STAFF UPDATES

We welcome **Bob Branigan** as our new sexton. Bob lives in Selden and works as a school custodian.

Our former sexton, **Donna Haller**, has been serving as the Youth Ministry Coordinator here at Hope and will continue to serve in that important role.

Our Anchor Nursery School Teacher Assistant, **Melissa Itara**, has left that position. We are now interviewing outlook

RE-STARTING STEPHEN MINISTRY AT HOPE

After an extended break period, we are able to start our Stephen Ministry training again this fall thanks to the availability of our Synod Deacon, Dee Hecker, and a Synod Deacon Gale Capone from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Port Jeff Station who are receiving Stephen Leaders training in Pittsburgh in August.

Because we are re-starting the training, we can accept new students who wish to serve as Stephen Ministers. Application forms will be available soon. Please see Stephen Leader Donna Millwater or one of the new Stephen Leaders for an application and to arrange for an interview.

Stephen Ministers provide direct one-one supportive relationships for individuals who are living through difficult times in their lives brought about by losses, illness, and family crises. These confidential conversations enable people to experience the healing power of God.

If you believe you have the gifts needed to serve in this way, please consider applying to become a Stephen Minister.

SATURDAY NIGHT WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

On September 15th we will resume our weekly 5 p.m. Saturday evening worship services. Hope's Worship Team is now seeking people serve as Worship Assistants on a regular basis.

On Saturdays when Teen Ministry sessions are held, the teens assist with readings and prayers, but we need Worship Assistants to assist with the special parts of the communion service. If you are interested in serving, please speak with Pastor Hill, Pauline Castiglione, Michelle Wells, Dee Hecker, or Joyce Stahl.

AIR FORCE WINDS QUINTET CONCERT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16 AT 7:30 PM

Hope will be hosting an amazing concert by the Air Force Heritage Winds quintet in October. Tell all your friends and neighbors — music will include a variety from all eras and especially patriotic. Be sure to invite veterans as all will enjoy the great performance.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Please donate a \$10 gift cards to Hope for our Food Pantry families who need help with items we do not stock. It is great to have these on hand when families come in who just need special help. Place them in an envelope with Food Pantry on the outside. Thank you

FALL WORSHIP PLANS

In September worship at Hope will be a very special time. **On September 9th we will have ONE special Anniversary Worship service at 10 a.m. with Interim Bishop Donald McCoid preaching.** Special music is planned using brass, handbells and choirs. Don't miss this special time when we honor Pastor Hill's 45th Anniversary of Ordination. Join us after the service for a BBQ at 12:30 pm.

Regular Saturday evening services at 5 pm resume on Saturday, September 15th and Sunday morning services at 8, 9:30 & 11 resume on Sunday, 16th with Sunday School at 9:30 am.

KIDS' CHOIR CLUB—STARTS WEDNESDAY,

Kids' Choir Club meets every Wednesday afternoon from 4p.m.—5:30 pm beginning on Wednesday, September 12. All children ages 4 through 5th grade are invited to belong to this fun club. Every week we sing, tell Bible stories, make a craft have fun through games and snack.

Joyce Stahl and Laurel Calma run the program which includes Bible stories, snack, crafts, music and fun times. Everyone has a great time this way and then gets together for snack and fun activities. Bring your child down on a Wednesday afternoon and see what it's like.



Kids' Choir Club
Wednesdays,
4:00 - 5:30 pm

HUGS PRESCHOOL PROGRAM/HUGS TODDLERS

HUGS/TODDLERS is offered on Tuesday mornings for a half an hour from 9:15—9:45 for children 18 months to 36 months to enjoy singing, moving and making music with their parents.

HUGS is designed for preschool children ages 3 and up meets every Tuesday from 12:15—1:30 pm Children learn Bible stories, songs, motion, craft and enjoy snack together.



HOPE'S MUSICAL GROUPS RESUMING



HOPE'S CHOIR

Choir rehearses in between the services on Sunday mornings and then sings at the service you attend. Right now there are special Tuesday evening rehearsals from 7:30-8:30 p.m. rehearsing for the special Anniversary Service on Sunday, September 9th. All are welcome to **join us any week!**



Hope's Music

JOYFUL RINGERS

Our Children's Chimes group rehearses on Tuesday evenings from 7-7:30 pm beginning October 1st. Children from 2nd grade and older are invited to learn how to play chimes-no previous musical experience is necessary!

TEEN HANDBELLS

On Tuesday evenings from 7:30-8:15 p.m. our Teen Handbell groups rehearses. This fun group plays more challenging music and fellowship together.



GRACE NOTES

Our adult Handbell group rehearses on Monday evenings from 7:30-8:45 p.m. We need a few new members—all you need to be able to do is COUNT up to four and want to learn. New members are welcome — come and enjoy a fun rehearsal! It's really fun!

WELCOMING WEEKEND WORSHIP SERVICES

One of our major goals as a congregation is to reach out to our community and invite all people to experience a message of healing and hope through Jesus Christ.

We are emphasizing that goal again this year as our fall program gets underway.

You can take part by inviting people you know to share in worship, fellowship, and service at Hope.

On **“Welcome Weekend”** we will return to our regular worship and education schedule with services on **Saturdays at 5 p.m. and Sundays at 8, 9:30, and 11 a.m.** Sunday School also begins that weekend at 9:30 a.m. Children and parent start out together in the sanctuary at 9:30 and rejoin after the Sunday School lesson is taught.

Our Congregation Council is hosting the coffee hours after services on that Sunday.

Please invite your family, relatives, and friends to share in the life of our community of faith.

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OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION

EACH SUNDAY AT 8:30 AND 10:30 A.M.

THROUGH LABOR DAY WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 2

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 9TH AT 10 A.M. ONLY