

THE ANCHOR

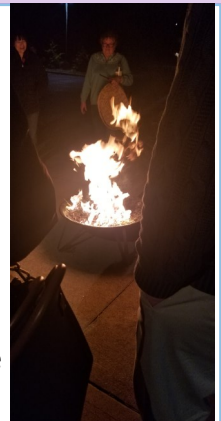
A newsletter from Hope Lutheran Church,
Selden, New York



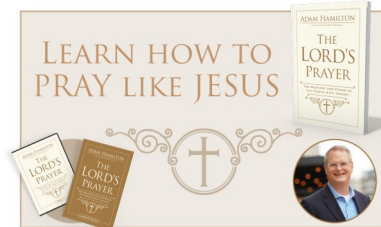
March 2022

“TEACH US TO PRAY” OUR LENTEN JOURNEY HAS BEGUN

Our 2022 Lenten Season began on Ash Wednesday, March 2. On the previous day, **Shrove Tuesday**, we had our annual Pancake Supper and we burned our palms from last year’s Palm Sunday to make the ashes for the two services of holy communion.



This year we are focusing on the Lord’s Prayer with the theme: **“Teach us to Pray”** the prayer more people have prayed than any other. Throughout Lent, this theme will be at the heart of our Lenten worship and study. On weekends we have a series of messages based on the petitions of the prayer and our Sunday School is focusing on the theme as well, and during the week we have three study groups using Adam Hamilton’s new book and video course called:



“The Lord’s Prayer-The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught.”

We are also focusing on prayer during our midweek worship services, using a very special set of prayer-related liturgies on Wednesdays at noon and 7 p.m.

On the afternoon of **Saturday April 9th** we will have a special family event called **“The Road to Resurrection”** from 2:30-4:30 p.m.in All Saints’ Hall,.



Services held during Holy Week (April 10-16) will include our Palm Sunday Procession and the three traditional services during the *Triduum*, the week’s final three days, **Maundy Thursday** at noon and 7:30 p.m., and at 7:30 p.m. on **Good Friday**, and **Holy Saturday**. In addition, on Good Friday we will have the Stations of the Cross for children (10 a.m.) and for adults (3 p.m.), and we will make the trip to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Island at noon. We will also be inviting members to schedule individual 20-minute prayer times during the All-day Prayer Vigil on Good Friday.

On **Easter Sunday** (April 17) we will have three worship services, at 7:30, 9:00, and 10:30 a.m.

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Special Points of Interest

- We’re focusing on the Lord’s Prayer for our Lenten studies and devotions.

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***VISION OF HOPE* by Pastor Hill "FORMER MEMBER OR ACTIVE MEMBER?"**

One of the challenges we face in the church as a result of the Covid crisis is the severe drop in attendance at worship services.

While a large number of our adult members have been able to receive the vaccines and many have returned to their jobs and other types of activities in public settings, and some have acquired immunity from having had the virus, many have not yet found their way back to church.

I suppose some find it easier and much more comfortable to stay home and view the worship services online. Some may still be living in "lockdown mode" and fear going anywhere in the outside world at all.

But it does raise a question for each of our church members. How do you see yourself? Do you see yourself as an active church member or as a "former" member of Hope? And more importantly, if you have not been an active, contributing member of Hope for many months, when will you return to a more active status?

One of the advantages of online worship services is that we can participate actively,

even at a great distance. For example, we have many "members'" who join us faithfully from many parts of the country every weekend for worship. When I was on vacation, I did that too. But when I came home, even while I was still on vacation, I came to worship here at Hope while our Vicar led a Service of the Word.

Being active members has had a very positive impact on the health of our congregation. We are very fortunate that some members have continued to support the ministry of our church by mailing in their offerings or by using the "My E-Offering" and PayPal tools on the church's website. Some have shifted their giving pattern to giving one monthly offering, even if they attend services in person every week.

Active members have made a real difference in our ability to keep our church alive. Some have stepped up to assume roles such as ushers, assisting ministers, offering counters, and many youth have helped out with our various summer children's programs. But when leaders don't see our members in church, it is harder for them to ask for help. Active members make a difference in more ways than we realize.

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION March 27th

The Congregation Council has called a special meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, March 27 at 10 a.m. (between services). All voting members are asked to attend; the quorum for a meeting is 40.

The purpose of the meeting is to vote to approve a congregational Letter of Call to the Synod Diaconate for Lisa Spinazzola. A long-time member of Hope, Lisa has completed a year of supervised internship as a candidate for the diaconate here at Hope, and a congregational Letter of Call is the final step required for her to be set apart officially as a Synod Deacon in the Metropolitan New York Synod which will be held in May.

While serving as a deacon intern, Lisa's

ministry has focused on how we welcome newcomers to our church. As a deacon, she will continue working in this area. She is now putting together a Welcoming Team of members of Hope who will be on hand to meet and welcome people who visit our church for worship and for other church activities. Lisa will be looking for people who can extend a warm, joyful welcome to people and support newcomers who choose to become members of Hope.

If you have the gift of hospitality and can serve, speak with Lisa. Training will be provided.

Please note:

ANNUAL MEETING IS SUNDAY, MAY 15

IN MEMORIAM

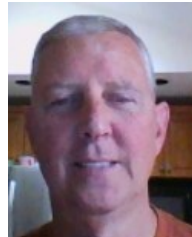
Hope suffered the loss of three members in two weeks, and the effects of these losses will continue for a long time.

On Friday, February 18, 16-year old Chase Nasca took his own life. He was baptized and confirmed here at Hope and was a member of the Senior High Youth Group. Chase was a National Honor Society student at Bayport-Bluepoint High School and played on an Olympic Development soccer team. About 500 people attended the service, and nearly 700 viewed the service on YouTube.



The following Sunday, George Trksak, a long-time member of Hope, was hospitalized after a stroke, and the next Saturday he died. He was a retired Suffolk County Police Sergeant, an EMT and a 39-year member of the Coram Fire Department, and served at Hope on the Council, as an Assisting Minister, and as a member of the choir. A service was held on Friday, March 4.

On Friday, March 4, John Kelly was killed in a rear-end collision while returning home after a vacation in Nashville, TN. His wife Shariann was severely injured, and returned home a few days later. John was an all-around volunteer at Hope, doing many tasks and managing our food pantry. His wonderful welcoming spirit will be greatly missed. Visitation at the Mangano Funeral Home in Middle Island 640 Middle Country Rd, Middle Island on Wednesday, March 16, 2-4 and 7-9. A memorial service will be held at Hope on Thursday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day) at 10:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donate in John's name to LI Cares food program (<https://www.licares.org/donate-now/>).



CHILDREN'S EASTER MUSICAL

A survey is being taken for children who are interested in an Easter Musical program for Saturday, April 30. please contact Joyce Stahl if your children can participate. You can send a note to jstahl51@optonline.net.

ANCHOR NURSERY SCHOOL EXPANDS PROGRAM

Registration is now underway for this fall's Anchor Nursery School program. In response to the requests of parents, we will be offering a five-day a week morning and afternoon program in addition to the three-day option. We are hoping that parents will choose the full program from the outset, but each month parents who choose to enroll their children in the three-day program will be encouraged to increase their child's days to five days a week if there are openings available.

The tuition for the five day program will be \$420 per month, and the cost of the 3-day program will be \$300 per month. Both the registration fees and the activities fees will remain at \$75 each.

Parents are encouraged to enroll children now. If you have children ages 3 or 4 or know families whose children will benefit from this great program, please let them know about Anchor Nursery School.



Hope's "Share God's Mission" QR Symbol

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WELCOMING STATEMENT

Hope Lutheran Church is a diverse community of believers in Jesus Christ committed to reaching out to all people who seek to find God. We welcome everyone without regard to their age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, language, national origin, political affiliation, mental, emotional, or physical challenges, learning or developmental differences, economic status, or personal history. We invite everyone to experience the hope and healing God offers to all people through a relationship with Jesus Christ

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Email: office@hopeluth.com

A Total Life Caring Ministry

We're on the web:

www.hopeluth.com
www.hopesp pastor.blogspot.com
Zoom ID 388-768-1338

REGISTER NOW FOR ANCHOR NURSERY SCHOOL

Classes are held from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
and from 12:30-3:30 p.m.
Children ages 3 and 4
Five days per week \$ 420 /month
Three days a week \$ 300/month
Registration \$ 75 Activities Fee \$ 75

CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

As we begin returning to an active life as a church, our Finance Committee hopes that we will see an increase in financial support from our members. During the pandemic the attendance at our worship service was hard to measure, and that affected our giving. We encourage everyone to help us to catch up on existing bills in coming weeks.

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