

MAKING YOUR PLANS FOR SUMMER YET?

Although we are just starting the month of February, many families are already thinking about plans for summer vacation. That's why we are already planning our summer camp programs at Hope. We want everyone who wants to take part in the six programs we are planning beginning in the middle of July.

Last summer's Camp Director, Grace DeNicola is on board for the first four weeks of our summer camps, Melissa Itara will direct a week of Vacation Bible School, and Joyce Stahl will direct the final week with our annual Drama Camp.

We've decided to make registering simpler by setting the same hours, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday-Friday, and by setting the same rate: \$125 per week. We will also offer some discounts as we did in the past. Also, we will provide a single brochure and registration form for parents to use for whichever programs they choose to register for.

Camp Hope sessions will be during the four weeks beginning on Monday, July 15, VBS will begin on August 12, and Drama Camp will start on August 19. Children ages 3-11 may be enrolled for any or all of the programs offered. Each will have its own theme which we will highlight in the brochure, and it should go without saying that all children are welcome to participate. Some scholarship funds will be available for any children who require assistance.

So look for the brochure and tell your relatives, friends, and neighbors about the camps we are planning so they can consider enrolling their children here. Brochure is available at church or e-mail the office.



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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WEEKEND WORSHIP SERVICES

SATURDAYS at 5 P.M. *

SUNDAYS at 8, 9:30* and 11 A.M.

** Livecast on Facebook*

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THE ANCHOR

The newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church Selden, New York

February 2019

Lenten Pilgrimage Plans Underway

Although there are several weeks left in the winter season and we may yet suffer from cold weather, snow, and ice, Christians look forward to another season, the season of Lent, when we are able to emerge from our winter challenges and begin to experience spiritual renewal through the hearing of God's word and the sharing of the holy sacraments.

The schedule of events and services may look the same as in past years, but the renewal that occurs, comes from the variety of spiritual resources that we experience during Lent.

We prepare for Lent with our annual **Shrove Tuesday** pancake supper at 5:30 pm on March 5. We will burn last year's palms for the ashes for Ash Wednesday following the meal and games.

Ash Wednesday comes later than in most years, March 6th. Our services at 12:30 and 7:30 pm will set the pattern for the entire season, but beginning on March 13, we will have half hour services with an additional time afterwards for small group conversations using the resource we used in the Holy Land by David O. Dykes called "**Following Jesus in the Holy Land.**"

Each week we will "travel" to a place where key events from the story of Jesus occurred. In worship we will include visual helps, and after that we will use devotional readings for conversation.

Those who cannot attend Wednesday services can join a small group on Thursdays at 10 am

where there will be more time for conversation.

As in the past, there are special activities and services during **Holy Week**. **Maundy Thursday** services are at 12:30 and 7:30 pm. Other events will be held both indoors and outdoors, and a group will travel on **Good Friday** at noon to the shrine of Our Lady of the Island in Eastport/Manorville and join thousands of others who make this annual holy event.

Our **Holy Saturday Vigil Service** is a very unique experience because it links the sorrow of Good Friday with the victory of Easter. Several of the greatest stories in the Old Testament are read in darkness, and then, after reaffirming our baptismal promises, we shift our thoughts to the very first celebration of the resurrection of our Lord (which took place in darkness) and literally "dress up" the church sanctuary for the Sunday morning celebration and share in the sacrament of Holy Communion together.

Our **Easter Sunday** services this year will begin in a very different way which we will all remember for years to come.

The **Annual Easter Breakfast** is another very special part of our Easter Day celebration, and the children of Hope will join the Easter Bunny for an Easter egg hunt in the church playground following the 9:30 service. That will be a happy part of the Easter celebration, and all children are invited to attend.

VISION OF HOPE “LENT– A TIME TO RETURN TO THE LORD”

There are many reasons people want to observe the season of Lent, and that makes this season a particularly good time for us as Christians to reach out to people who are starting to think spiritually. That’s why we always make a special effort here to encourage all our members to take the initiative by reaching out to people they care about to invite them to return to the Lord and follow him.

Some of our friends may have had serious losses in recent months and are looking for a place where they can be comforted and encouraged. Others may have come to a point in their lives where they are looking for a purpose that can motivate them to get beyond themselves and make their daily lives more satisfying and meaningful.

There are also some people who once found the church to be their spiritual home, but wandered away for reasons they may not even understand and

are hoping someone will invite them to come with them to a church where they can start over.

Unfortunately, many of us are shy or perhaps feel that we shouldn’t “preach” to people with whom we share our lives day-in and day-out, so we simply avoid bringing up the subject of “religion” and talk about things that don’t really matter at all.

When we think more deeply about what we have gained from knowing and loving the God who has revealed his love to us in Jesus, we realize that we really do have something we need to share with others, and that gives us courage to invite them to experience God’s love in church.

We are constantly trying to reach out to people in many different ways as a church, so please use these opportunities to invite someone you know to share in the joy that comes from being loved by God. Think of someone you can invite to meet Jesus and do it.

OUTREACH TEAM PLANS SPRING ACTIVITIES

Hope’s Outreach team is always thinking about ways we can encourage people to join us in our mission and ministry here at Hope. That’s why we are constantly experimenting with different ideas and programs designed to help church members to invite others to share in our faith community.

A few months ago we had a “**Movie Night**” for adults at “La Bonita Tacos and Tequila” restaurant in the Pine Plaza on Route 112 in Coram (near Movieland). We learned a lot from that event, and we’ve planned a second one for the afternoon of Sunday, March 3, starting with a Mexican-American buffet dinner 4:30 p.m. for just \$21.95 per person with tax and service included.

We’ll be showing the movie, “*I Can Only Imagine*,” the true story of Bart Millard, the lead singer of *Mercy Me*. Growing up in Greenville, Texas, Bart Millard suffers physical and emotional abuse at the

hands of his father, Arthur. When Arthur becomes terminally ill, he finds redemption by embracing his faith and rediscovering his love for his son.

There is a sign up sheet at the church for all who want to come, and everyone is encouraged to invite someone who is not already a member of Hope to share in this evening of fellowship.

The Team is providing leadership in forming a new **fellowship group for people who are newly and nearly retired**. On Saturday, March 9th, they will have a breakfast so people can begin thinking about activities that will connect faith and life and fun in an “age-appropriate setting.”

They have also planned a **Family Lenten Fair** following our 9:30 service on Sunday, March 10th. This activity is another chance to invite people who are not already members of our church to share in a time of fellowship and learning together.

TRAUMATIC LOSS BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Our Parish Health Team is making a shift in the bereavement group we have had here for 20 sessions. The group will expand to invite people who have suffered losses caused by unexpected, traumatic events such as accidents, suicides, and drug-related deaths.

The group, led by Counselor Christine Colavito, meets every Thursday from 6:30-7:30 pm, and is offered for free, thanks to a special grant from Saint Peter’s Lutheran Church in Huntington Station. The group is open to non-members, of course.

OUR “SEEDS OF HOPE” CONVERSATIONS”

On Sunday, January 27th we held our third “**Seeds of Hope**” conversation. Over 25 people took part in a conversation about ways Hope can become a more intentionally welcoming church. We especially focused on how we can invite people who belong to the LGBTQ+ community locally so they can share in the life of our Christian community here.

More conversation is needed since this sensitive subject affects all of us and deserves clarification and open, honest dialogue among all our members at Hope.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Over the past several months Hope’s call committee has been seeking someone to serve as an Associate Pastor, and they are actively engaged in this task. They hope to be moving ahead toward achieving their objective.

An Associate Pastor would be a valuable addition to our church Ministry Leadership Team and use gifts to help our ministry expand and grow.

When the committee has a recommendation for the council, the process will move forward.

Please keep them all in your prayers in coming days.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION CLASSES

Each spring Pastor Hill invites children who wish to receive Holy Communion to come for a few classes to help them learn what the sacrament is all about. These classes can be held on Saturday afternoons or Wednesday evenings after Kids’ Club. They meet for about 90 minutes. A parent or a grandparent needs to come also. All baptized children are welcome.

Since there is no “minimum age” for receiving the sacrament and the only “requirement” is that they be baptized members of the church, the instruction is adapted to the children who actually attend. Also, the children and their families choose when they will officially “celebrate” the sacrament at a worship service. They will keep learning about the meaning of this holy sacrament year after year at Hope.

Parents should talk with their children about this, and if they want to come for classes, please sign up or email Pastor Hill at rohill@optonline.net. We will begin February 17th if possible.

FAMILY LENTEN FAIR SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH AT 10:30am

Have you ever wondered how big the nails were that were used to nail Jesus on the cross? What is the story of the rooster?

What is the symbol of the dogwood branch?

What makes pretzels so special?

All children and adults are invited to come on **Sunday, March 10th** after the 9:30 am service for a Lenten Fair where you can find out the answers to these questions, make some crafts, hear stories, and learn about other Lenten symbols that we see and hear about in church. There will be stations all around the fellowship hall. If you would like to help out please see sign-up in the narthex.



LENT, HOLY WEEK & EASTER PLANS

“Following Jesus in the Holy Land”

WEDNESDAYS SERVICES
12:30 & 7:30 PM

“Following Jesus in the Holy Land”

For our small groups we will be discussing the book, “Following Jesus in the Holy Land” by David O Dykes for 40 days with meditations, bible verses, prayers and questions for every day about places in the Holy Land associated with Jesus from his birth through his ministry and death. Please sign up so we can order these books — even if you are not in a small group you can use these books. (They are also available on Kindle.) Small groups will meet on

Wednesdays 1 pm and 8 pm
Thursdays 10 am

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

“Lasting Hope”

All members are also invited to take time each day during Lent using our pocket-sized “Lasting Hope” Devotional booklets for Lent 2019. Because it is a small devotional booklet, you can take it with you to work, share it with co-workers and family members and meditate privately every day during Lent. We order 100 pocket-sized copies. Large-print editions have been ordered as well.



EASTER CHOIR

Is God calling you to use your gift of music to sing praises to God during the Easter season? Please consider joining us for our rehearsals on Wednesday evenings after the Lenten Services at 7:30 pm. Rehearsals will start at around 8 pm. Talk to Joyce Stahl for more information.



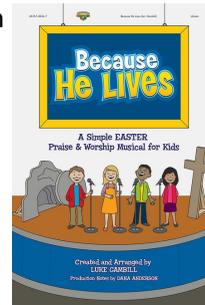
Easter Musical

Because He Lives

Plans are underway for our annual children’s musical on **Saturday, May 4th** during the 5 pm service.

If you can help or if your child would enjoy being a part of this event, please sign up.

Rehearsals will begin on Saturday, March 2nd and meet from 4—5 pm.



DECORATE WITH EASTER PLANTS

You can help to beautify our sanctuary by donating Easter Plants such as: Lilies, Mums, Daffodils, Hyacinths, Tulips, Azaleas and Mums at a cost of \$7 each. Plants may be taken home after the 11:15 am Easter Service.

Lenten Services—Ash Wednesday—March 6th

Services of Holy Communion with the imposition of Ashes at 12:30 & 7:30 pm

Palm Sunday

THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION SATURDAY 5 pm — SUNDAY 8, 9:30 & 11:00 am

On Saturday, April 15, we begin outdoors with the blessing of the palms and a procession into the church reminding us of Christ’s triumphant entry into the Holy City of Jerusalem. On Palm Sunday our children will march from the Walgreens parking lot at 9 am to the church. Parents and members are encouraged to join in this holy procession.

THE TRIDUUM (the 3 days)

+ Maundy Thursday +

Holy Communion is celebrated at 12:30 pm and 7:30 pm.

Our Maundy Thursday Services have the order for Corporate Confession and Forgiveness with individual absolution, a special hand washing ceremony (instead of a footwashing ceremony) as we come forward to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. The evening service ends with the solemn act of stripping of the altar to prepare for Good Friday.

+ Good Friday+ All Day Prayer Vigil

This is a day for individual and family prayer, so we have a chart with 20-minute periods for individuals and their families to be present in the church for prayer and to meditate on the story of Jesus dying on the cross for us. Families may want to read the passion story in the church together. Bibles will be on hand with the appropriate sections marked for all. We would like to have someone present for every vigil period.

Other Good Friday Worship Opportunities

10 am Stations of the Cross especially for children

We observe the Stations of the Cross around the church property with special readings for children and their families. All are welcome.

Noontime Stations of the Cross at the Shrine of our Lady

We observe the Stations of the Cross at the Shrine in Eastport on Eastport-Manor Road. Those who want to car pool will leave the church at 11 am or if you prefer, you may meet us at the shrine.

3 pm Hope’s Stations of the Cross (Outdoors) 7:30 pm The Service of Adoration of the Cross

+ Holy Saturday + 7:30 pm Easter Vigil

Holy Saturday concludes the Triduum as we gather at 7:30 pm for the Easter Vigil. The Service of Light starts outdoors with the Lighting of New Fire and continues into the nave with candles that signify Jesus as the Light of the World. The service goes on with Bible readings that recall the stories of God’s mighty acts and an affirmation of baptism. It ends with the first Easter celebration of Holy Communion

++ EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 23 ++

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Festival Services celebrated at 7:30, 9:30 and 11:15 am