

# THE ANCHOR

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SELDEN, NY



February 2021

## STARTING OUT A NEW YEAR OF LIFE TOGETHER

### Inside this issue:

<i>Vision of Hope</i>	2
<i>Parish Census Planned and Spiritual Growth Opportunities</i>	2
<i>Ash Wednesday and Lenten Plans</i>	3
<i>Nursery School Update</i>	3
<i>Welcoming Statement</i>	4
<i>Financial Update</i>	4

### Special Points of Interest

- Plans for Lent underway.

### A GIVING QR SYMBOL

If you have a cellphone with a QR code reader app, you can aim it at this symbol and it will open the webpage to use in making online donations.



### HOPE IS NOT CANCELLED

As we approach the anniversary of the start of the Covid pandemic, we continue with the ongoing mission and life of our congregation and its mission. During this year we have developed a variety of ways to remain in contact with our members and carry on an active worship life and discipling ministry, making use of the internet and various resources on the internet.

We look forward to the months ahead while our nation crawls out of the dark cloud that has covered us for so long, we are hopeful that the day will soon arrive when we will be able to resume some semblance of normal life as a church. It has been challenging and sometimes very saddening to not be able to share in the rich life of our Christian community, but we've been grateful for the faithful participation of many people in person as well as online and for the generous support of members over these months.

### WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES

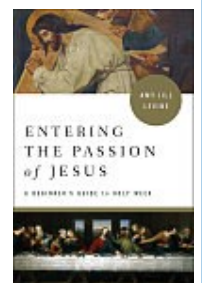
For the foreseeable future, we will continue having our worship services online as well as in person at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. on Sundays, and beginning on February 20, the first weekend in Lent, we will have services again on Saturdays.

Our Sunday School will continue to have in person classes as well as Zoom classes every Sunday during the 9:00 worship service. We encourage parents to bring their children whenever possible to Sunday School.

### LENT BEGINS ON FEBRUARY 17

Our second Covid Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th, and we have made plans for another Lenten season that will be both spiritually uplifting and enriching. Details are included elsewhere in this newsletter.

In addition to our weekly Lenten services on Wednesdays at noon and 7 p.m. we will offer a Tuesday afternoon video based Bible Study program called "**Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week,**" starting on February 23 at 1 p.m. on Zoom. The program's six sessions include: Jerusalem: Risking Reputation, The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger, Teachings: Risking Challenge, The First Dinner: Risking Rejection, The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends



## ***VISION OF HOPE*** by Pastor Hill *“Hope Restored?”*

We keep hearing the expression “New Normal” as though it describes a better way of being for us all, but I’m among the many who yearn for the “Same old normal” way of life that has been fading from our memories as this terrible Covid pandemic wears on.

As the number of people who receive the vaccine increases and the number of people who have had the disease and have recovered grows, there is more hope that the day will come when we will be able to live mask-free and give hugs and handshakes with abandon.

Sadly for many, because of the losses we have had (loved ones and jobs for some), there will be no “normal” at all.

The season of Lent, which in past years we have often not thought very much about, may turn out to be the beginning of God’s way of restoring hope for us all this year, and it can’t come soon enough.

Ash Wednesday brings us back to the sober reminder that we cannot and must not take life for granted, whether it be the lives of others or our own. If the pandemic has taught us anything, it has made us aware that we must take responsibility for our own well-being and show equal concern for others, even strangers with whom we come in contact. We cannot live productive lives without affirming that each life matters to God and to us as well.

When we willingly accept responsibility for our lives and show care for others who are hurting, hope is restored and everyone’s life is enriched and strengthened. By giving his life for us, Christ shows us that the way of love he preached is not just another way to act but the only way.

When we can make that “adjustment” in our way of thinking and acting, then we will have a “new normal” that is truly worth adopting and promoting for us all.

### ***PARISH CENSUS PLANNED***

The Parish Health Team has created a Parish Health Census form that will be sent out to all our members to gather basic information about each household in the congregation.

The information gathered will be for church use only and will not be used for any non-church purpose.

Information collected will include such things as household members, dates of birth, baptisms, and marriages, the type of occupation, and information about emergency contacts.

A letter with a form to fill out will be sent out to everyone in the near future.

### ***SPIRITUAL GROWTH EXPERIENCES FOR ADULTS***

Each week there are three opportunities for adults to engage in spiritual growth.

**TUESDAYS 1 p.m.\***

***“Unafraid-Finding Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times”*** is a small group study using the book by Adam Hamilton. The group meets in person and on Zoom.

**THURSDAYS 10 a.m.**

***“Lessons from the Gospel of Mark”*** by Max Lucado, in person at the church.

**THURSDAYS AT 1 p.m.\***

***“One in the Word”*** Conversations on Zoom that focus on the scriptures used in our weekly worship services.

*\*Recorded and replayed on Facebook later in the day.*

# LENTEN SERVICES

## “PLACES of the PASSION”



Plans are being made for an exciting and enriching Lenten season this year beginning with **Ash Wednesday**, February 17. Each Wednesday we will have two services, at noon and at 7 p.m., They will be in person and on Zoom.

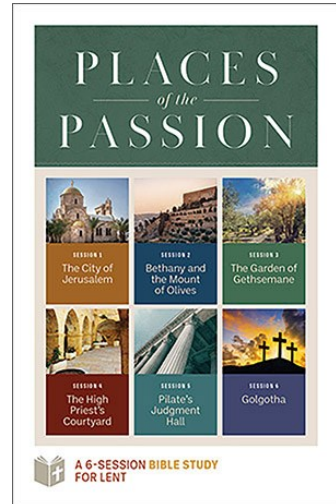
The traditional imposition of ashes on Wednesday will be different this year because of the pandemic. Those who attend services will have the ashes applied with an applicator, and those who remain at home can get individual

packets of ashes from the church before Ash Wednesday to use as part of the online services.

“*Places of the Passion*” is the theme of our weekly services during Lent. Each Wednesday at noon and 7 p.m. we will focus on one of the key places in the story of the passion of our Lord.

The places where the passion of our Lord took place hold special meaning to Christians the world over. These places remind us that Jesus walked this earth and stood in locations we can still find today to carry out his mission of salvation. This was no sightseeing trip for our Savior. There was a serious reason he came to be at certain places and at particular times to suffer and die and rise again. He was fulfilling the will of his Father who desired that we be forgiven and given a place in heaven with him forever.

The services will include photos of the places we will “visit,” and to support the Lenten journey, we will have devotional booklets based on the Lenten theme.



### ANCHOR NURSERY SCHOOL RE-OPENED

Our Anchor Nursery School reopened in October, and the enrollment continues to be open for new students. We are also starting to enroll children for the September class of 2021, with a special incentive of no registration fee for children enrolled before March 1. Connie Casa and Maria Marques provide a three morning program for six children on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings.

If you have children ages 3 or 4 or know families whose children will benefit from this great program, please call the church or send a note to: [office@hopeluth.com](mailto:office@hopeluth.com).

### TEEN MINISTRY TIME CHANGE

Hope’s confirmation program, “Teen Ministry,” continues on Saturdays with sessions being held on **Zoom** led by our Teen Ministry staff. On February 20, sessions will be held from 3:00—4:30 with worship again at 5 p.m. (Services are in church and on Zoom.)



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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**A Total Life Caring Ministry**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**February 17th**

**12 p.m. and 7 p.m.**

In person and on Zoom. Get ashes for home use by sending email to [office@hopeluth.com](mailto:office@hopeluth.com) or calling the church office.

***We're on the web:***

[www.hopeluth.com](http://www.hopeluth.com)  
[www.hopesp pastor.blogspot.com](http://www.hopesp pastor.blogspot.com)  
Zoom ID 388-768-1338

**REGISTER FOR ANCHOR NURSERY  
SCHOOL NOW**

Three days per week \$ 240  
Four days a Week \$320 per month  
Five days a week \$400 per month.  
Classes are held from 9:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m..  
Tuesdays Wednesdays and Thursdays  
Mondays and Fridays are also available  
Children ages 3 and 4

**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 affect our giving. We encourage everyone to help us to catch up on existing bills in coming weeks.

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