

November 20, 2020



News in the Pews!



Digital Edition

Welcome to Hope's

"News in the Pews Digital Edition!"

Watch for a new edition to appear in your inbox regularly.

Have news to share? Please send it to newsletter@hope2all.org

for inclusion in a future edition!

Update to Worship Practices

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

The toll of the pandemic has been reported in deaths, infections, recoveries, and exposures. Many of us have experienced its dread touch within our own families or neighborhoods and several of us have lost loved ones to it. Our church life has also been affected as we've done our best to make wise and reasonable decisions about gathering based upon the best current data.

It has long been our plan to have an evolving roll-out of both attendance numbers and participation in the various elements of worship. Beginning last week, we included some congregational singing of portions of the liturgy. As we move into December, we will be changing the liturgical setting (musical and word choices) for Advent. Along with this liturgical change, we plan to broaden the congregational activity by including all sung portions of the liturgy and hymns/carols. In addition to corporate singing, we plan to expand communion to include both elements. This will involve a change in our current procedures for receiving communion with it being distributed at the rear of the sanctuary and the wine will be in pre-filled individual cups. Directions for receiving communion will be given each week.

You may have noticed that I used the word "plan" rather than "will." We are being careful in making definitive statements in a time where so much is outside of our control. As the number of cases and deaths continue to climb, we may find that our state or our area goes back into a lockdown or if there were an outbreak in the Villages or at Hope, things would, of course, need to change. The path of wisdom between safety and distancing on the one side and community and what some see as a sense of meaningfulness in worship on the other side is a narrow, winding, and at times slippery one. It has been our policy to err on the side of safety and this will continue to be true as we move forward. For now, we are confident in moving ahead with our plans for Advent. There WILL be some changes from our normal seasonal activities, including multiple cantata shows with a live quartet of singers backed up by the virtual choir. Our candlelight services at Lake Weir and Central will include beautiful candles but they will not be distributed. We knew we'd have to change the order of worship around so that people weren't juggling a candle, wine, and bread as they left, but then we were reminded that we can't blow the candles out. Such is the world we live in, but we will make Christmas Eve, the cantata, and other special events beautiful, nonetheless.

Although we have had to do things differently than we are used to doing them, we have continued to be a congregation that reaches out to share the gospel of grace and to engage in mercy ministries with those in need. Thank you to each and every one of you for how I experience Christ in and through you and for your continued prayers and considerate patience as we continue to fulfill our mission during these turbulent times.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pr. Jon-Marc MacLean" with a cross symbol at the end of the line.

Pr. Jon-Marc MacLean

2020 Christmas Cantata Information

Mary carried our Hope for

Salvation in her womb. The Angels Carried Hope by announcing His birth to the shepherds. The shepherds went out and carried this news out into the world. Where do you fit into the story? How do you carry Hope into the world?



This year, our cantata may look very different from years past, but the sentiment is the same: Bringing the Good News of Christ's birth to our community. Virtual choirs and musicians on screen will combine with a live quartet of singers to perform a selection of songs that will have you singing along, feeling nostalgic for Christmases past and remembering that very first Christmas and the Child of Hope lying in a manger. Come and receive the message of Hope and leave with the joy of Christmas in your heart, "Carrying Hope" to all those you meet.

December 11, 13 & 14 at 2:00pm and 5:00pm
Hope Central Campus

Reservations are required and will be available beginning November 27 at 8am. [Click here](#) and scroll down to Cantata. Select your date and time.

Christmas Cantata Ushers Needed!

Ushers are needed for our annual Christmas Cantata for all performances. You can choose your own time:

December 11, 13 & 14 at 2:00pm or 5:00pm
Hope Central Campus

If you would like to usher for any of the Cantata shows, please call the church office at 352-750-2321.



Wednesday, November 25th
6:00pm at Hope Central Campus

This special Wednesday worship service will be an opportunity for all to gather as the family of Hope and give thanks to our Lord for the plentiful blessings He has shared with us.

Reservations are required and will be available beginning Wednesday Nov 18, 8:00am and ending Tuesday, Nov 24, 12:00pm. [Click here](#) to reserve your spot.



Seasonal Decorations Donations are now being accepted!

Each year, Hope's Seasonal Decorating Team decorates for our Christmas services. A list of donor names and honorees is then made available in the days leading up to Christmas. Unfortunately, this year, we will not be using live poinsettias as in past years. If you would like to donate "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one, you may do so by writing "Seasonal Decorations" in the memo line of your check. The donations will go towards purchasing new and maintaining existing decorations.

2021 Budget Meeting

A copy - [click here](#) - of the 2021 Budget Summary approved by the council is being sent in preparation for the Budget informational meeting this Sunday November 22 at 1:00PM. A detailed copy will be available at the meeting. The Budget will be presented for approval to the congregation at the meeting on December 6, 2020. A few comments in anticipation of questions are as follows:



1. The projected decrease in current and benevolence income is \$350,000 less than last years budget based on intent cards received and 2020 giving.
2. The income we will recognize when the SBA(PPP) loan is forgiven (\$223,707) is included in Other Income in the General Fund.
3. Salaries have been frozen at 2020 levels except for a few

- due to changes in position or responsibility.
4. The current projection for 2020 is a loss from operations (General Fund) of around \$100,000.
 5. This years Budget and Financial statements have been separated into four separate areas (or Funds) to make it easier to understand the different types of expenditures of the Church. The General Fund (all operations and ministries to our congregation), The Mission and Outreach Fund(for mission and outreach mostly outside our congregation), The Building Fund (for debt service and capital items),and the Endowment Fund (to establish a fund in perpetuity to benefit Hope and many other charitable, religious and benevolent purposes).

Submitted by
Gary Hill
Treasurer Hope Lutheran Church



Angel Tree Helping Families in Need

The following is part of an email from Principal Greene at Lake Weir Middle school:

"... I wanted to share that just yesterday we had a young man with the bottoms literally coming off his shoes. As he walked it was flapping in the wind. After asking about his shoes he said he can't fit into his other ones and that his parents were hoping to be able to buy him a pair for Christmas after saving some money. His shoes I don't believe would have made it through the weekend. Nevertheless, we got him over to The Rock and he was ecstatic that he found and now has a new pair of shoes. I'm sure his parents will be very grateful...

Principal Greene also asked if the people of Hope could help 25 families (135 individuals) that the school social worker and guidance councilors identified as in desperate need this holiday season. "

Because of Covid 19 this year's Angel Tree will look different than past years. Pastor Jon-Marc suggested that instead we help these families so they can shop for their children and provide a Christmas dinner. Can you help?

You may help in different ways:

- Writing a check (include "Rock Christmas" on the memo line of your check)
- Donating a gift card to Wal-Mart or Target. Just put your gift in an envelope marked "Rock Christmas" and drop it off at the church office or in the offering boxes during services.

If we have any excess money, it will be used to buy sweatshirts, coats, and shoes for The Rock.

Thank you and blessings. You are truly People of Hope!

*H.O.P.E. University
News for the
upcoming week.....
From Pastor Bruce*



Monday, November 23--Zoom Discussion of Chapter 2
If you would like to participate in a discussion of the questions from last week's chapter of "By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism" (Chapter 1), we will offer a Zoom meeting this coming Monday from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. This discussion is optional for those of you who are viewing the class presentations, but come if you like. Zoom information is as follows:

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/93385779978?
pwd=cWZMbZr0TmgrMFJyWkp0RU5lYkw5UT09](https://zoom.us/j/93385779978?pwd=cWZMbZr0TmgrMFJyWkp0RU5lYkw5UT09)

Meeting ID: 933 8577 9978

Passcode: 260919

Wednesday, November 25--Class presentation of Chapter 3
Join us live at 10:00 a.m. (or watch later in our archive section or on YouTube) in our presentation of Chapter 3 on The Apostles' Creed. If you have purchased the book it is helpful to have read the chapter before Wednesday's class. Notes for the class are available [here](#). Come as we read what Martin Luther said in his catechism and apply his words to our lives today!



Sharing Hope

It's not too late to turn in your intent card! We are currently at almost 70% of our goal for SHARING HOPE. There are intent cards available at all 3 sites as well as online at hope2all.org/intent. With your help we can reach our goal of \$1,400,000. Sharing Hope in our congregation, community and even further relies on the commitment made by each and every one of us. By completing an intent card we are able to accurately plan for the upcoming year.

Thank you to everyone who has already turned in their Intent Cards! We appreciate your support of SHARING HOPE which allows us to live our Mission - To know Christ and to make Christ known.

Nominating Committee 2021

Members of the committee:

David Redding, Chairperson and VP Hope Council

Sherry Holland

Diane Kupchak

2021 Council Elections Positions Available

<u>Position 2021</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Eligibility</u>
Secretary	3 years	Any voting member
Member at Large	3 years	Any voting member 2 positions to fill

All nominees must turn in a completed Council Nomination Bio Form no later than December 4, 2020 to the church office. Forms are available at the church office or by [clicking here](#).

List of nominees and positions nominated for will be published in the church newsletter the weekends of December 12th & 13th and December 19th & 20th.

If a petition from the congregation is forthcoming after publication of the nominees, it must be signed by at least one hundred (100) voting members of the congregation and submitted to the Council Secretary no later than January 17th, 2021 (21 days prior to the Annual Meeting).

Church Offices Closed

The church offices will be closed Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27. Happy Thanksgiving!



You are invited to join our Faith and Fellowship gatherings via Zoom, every Monday, at 9:30 am. This is an opportunity for us to continue to grow in God's Word, to pray together, to connect and check in with one another, and to offer and receive support in our journey of faith especially during such challenging times. Please use the link provided below to join us. You are welcome to invite others as well. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Pastor Rani

Topic: Faith & Fellowship
Time: Mondays @ 9:30 am

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/95259014615>

Meeting ID: 952 5901 4615
One tap mobile
+19292056099 ID 95259014615#

Christ in Our Home

October, November, December

*Bringing you a daily message
of God's amazing grace!*

The newest issue of *Christ in Our Home* is now available at the Central Campus.

Copies are located in a basket on the bench under the covered walkway at the front of the church. Several copies of the July, August, September issue are also available.

Christ in Our Home

October, November, December
2020



CURBSIDE COMMUNION

Available at Central Campus

Mondays from 9am - 10am

Enter parking lot from Morse Blvd

Receive Holy Communion & have prayer with a pastor

Available at Lake Weir Campus

Mondays from 8am - 9am

Our prerecorded weekend worship service will include the communion liturgy and the pastors will administer the Words of Institution as they commune you with communion of one kind (bread only).

Need a Pastor?

If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact the church office at 352-750-2321 and we will get you in contact with a pastor. If your call is after hours or on a weekend, the recording provides an emergency number to contact.

Remember...Our pastors are ALWAYS available to you by phone and will see you by appointment if needed.

Scripture Readings for November 21-22

Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-23, 27-28; 31:31-34

Luke 22:14-20

Scripture Readings for November 28-29

Daniel 6:6-27

Luke 23:1-5

Visit our website: www.hope2all.org

Send us an email!

STAY CONNECTED:

