

November 27, 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](mailto:newsletter@hope2all.org)

for inclusion in a future edition!

## Council Connections

**Greetings - just a few updates on Council Meetings. This report is brief and will only hit the highlights. Please remember complete Council minutes are available at the church office (side note: Bill Wilson, Council Secretary, takes incredibly detailed notes - thank you Bill). I am not including the financial section as that is being addressed via an email and at the Budget Information Meeting (November 22nd) and at the Annual Congregational meeting December 6th at 1pm.**

**Employee Health Insurance - Council approved continuation of the gold package with the carrier Portico. The monthly premiums are increasing by 3.5. (The Platinum level is awfully expensive, and the silver level has a big drop in benefits.)**

**Ongoing discussion on the technical issues with live streaming services.**

**Through the congregation's generosity and many volunteer hours the Food Pantry has been serving over 356 people. Each week they are experiencing increased numbers of customers. They are providing Thanksgiving meals to 144 families. Pastor Bruce noted that it is important to have a pastor present as some customers want to pray or just talk.**

**Council President Kent Hamdorf led the discussion on the**

**2021 Council nominating committee. Bob O'Dell advised Hope's constitution requires the committee is to be made up of one council member and two members from the congregation. Council approved the nominating committee: David Redding (Council VP) as chair, Diane Kupchak, Sherry Holland. Council positions to be filled are: Secretary, and two at-large members.**

### **Church Management Software**

**Pastor Marc led a discussion describing a multitude of problems dealing with our current Church Management software. Council approved the proposal from CDM+ it will be the best option for upgrading our system. It is also the least expensive.**

### **HR Consultant Services**

**Pastor Marc led a discussion describing the need for hiring an HR company. With the help of several council members several companies were researched and evaluated. Council approved to contract with Oasis on a month by month basis as our HR provider. They will be updating our policies and procedures and include new employee orientation and update job descriptions as well as keep us up to date on Federal and State regulations.**

**Pam Fenn**

**Council Member at Large**

## ***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. [Click here](#) and scroll down to Cantata. Select your date and time.



## *Come worship in-person for Wednesday Evening Prayer!*

With the beginning of a new church calendar year, we are pleased to open the doors of the sanctuary for you to gather again at Wednesday Evening Prayer. Our in-person gathering will begin this Wednesday, December 2 at 6:00pm and continue each Wednesday after that. As with all of our in-person worship services, we ask you to make a reservation on our webpage ([hope2all.org](http://hope2all.org)) or [click here for reservations](#) . Reservations will be open Thursday 8:00am through Wednesday 12:00pm every week. We will continue to make our evening prayer available online for those not yet comfortable with in-person gatherings. Also, as with all of our worship services, our safety protocols will be in place (you must wear a mask, your temperature will be taken, etc.)

Now that we have entered the darkest time of the year, we will be switching from evening prayer (vespers) to night prayer (compline). For those who have not prayed evening prayer with us, this ancient prayer service of the church contains a hymn, chanted responses, a psalm, a reading and prayers and lasts about 20 minutes. It is a wonderful way to quiet your heart at the end of the day and experience the peace of God offered in this beautiful communal prayer.

As you do on the weekend, we would ask that you enter through the narthex door which will open 20 minutes before the service begins. We look forward to gathering again for our weekly evening prayer!

**Blessings,  
Pr. Bruce**

## ***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.**



## ***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.**

## ***Update on Service Capacity***

**Beginning the weekend of December 5-6, we will be increasing capacity for services at central campus. All pews will be used for seating with some distancing. Reservations will increase from 95 to 165 per service.**



## ***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 30--Zoom Discussion of Chapter 3**  
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 3) on the Apostles' Creed, 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, December 2--Class presentation of Chapter 4**  
Join us live at 10:00 a.m. (or watch later in our archive section or on YouTube) in our presentation of Chapter 4 on The Lord's Prayer. If you have purchased the book it is helpful to have read the chapter before Wednesday's class. Notes for class are available [here](#). Come as we read what Martin Luther said in his catechism and apply his words to our lives today!

## ***Nominating Committee 2021***

**Members of the committee:**

**David Redding, Chairperson and VP Hope Council**

**Sherry Holland**

**Diane Kupchak**

**2021 Council Elections ..... Positions Available**

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

**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).



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>

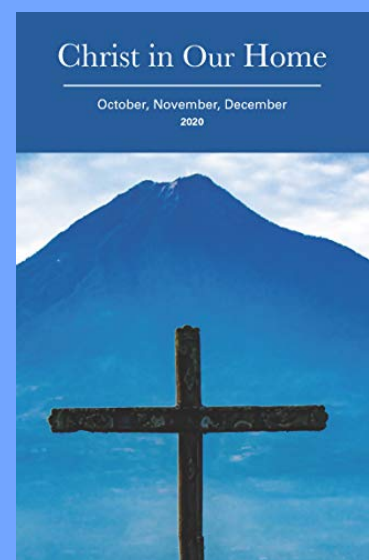
Meeting ID: 952 5901 4615  
One tap mobile  
+19292056099 ID 95259014615#

## 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.





### **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 28-29**

***Daniel 6:6-27***

***Luke 23:1-5***

### **Scripture Readings for December 5-6**

***Joel 2:12-13, 28-29***

***Luke 11:11-13***



**Send us an email!**

STAY CONNECTED:

