

December 18, 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!



Christmas at HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH



***Three Campuses...
One HOPE for Christmas!***

Prepare your hearts to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Gather with your family of Hope and enjoy worship at any of our Hope campuses!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Hope Central Campus
2:00pm, 4:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:00pm & 10:00pm

Hope Lake Weir Campus
6:00pm & 8:00pm

Hope at Everglades Rec Center
2:00pm & 4:00pm

Christmas Day Worship

Hope Central Campus
10:00am

Saturday & Sunday, December 26 & 27

**Hope Central Campus
4:00pm - Saturday
10:00am - Sunday**

**Hope Lake Weir and Everglades Rec Center
10:00am - Sunday**

Reservations are required. Tickets for Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Services will be available December 18 at 12:00pm through December 23 at 12:00pm. Tickets for December 26 & 27 will be available December 18 at 12:00pm through December 24 at 9:00am.

Kudos to our Director of Music Ministries Ken Wood and the entire music department for presenting an outstanding Cantata. In this year of uncertainty, the amount of effort to coordinate the virtual ensembles, spirit ringers, children's choir, and live performers (Dennis Kienitz, Mary Jo Vitale MacLean, Safia Valines and Ken) was a big undertaking. Planning meetings of the 3 directors and Jime began in August and behind the scenes scheduling of the different group rehearsals and recording sessions was months in the making.



Many thanks to our man in the AV Booth, Jime Eversole. Once all of the recording sessions were complete, the editing and coordination of the groups provided us an inspiring performance that was much needed in this difficult year.

In addition to compiling the musical portions, Mary Jo took an active role in the presentation outline and the narration that brought the entire performance together.

Thank you to all for a wonderful performance!

Christmas Gifts for the



Church Staff

Christmastime is here again, and it is our custom during the holiday season to show appreciation to our pastors and staff for all their fine work throughout the year.

If you would like to thank our staff in this way, you can do so in one of the following ways: your gift can be included in your offering envelope, identified as a "Staff Gift" on the "Other" line, or you can place your gift in a plain envelope marked "Staff Gift", or through the online giving system. You can also mail your donation or drop it off at the church office.

The deadline to give your gift is December 21st.

Rock Christmas Wrap Up



Today I took the second truck load of your Christmas gifts to Lake Weir Middle School. As I carried the bags of presents into the portable class room where the parents would pick them up, Ms. Brooks, the Guidance Counselor started to share the stories that went with each bag. "These children's mother died this year." "This family lost their home last month." "A parent is unemployed and struggling with cancer." "Grandma has custody and is raising 5 grandchildren." ... Your gifts of love to Rock Christmas are truly a light in the darkness, a ray of hope as bright as Bethlehem's Christmas star.

I have not heard the final numbers yet, but I can report that we received enough money and gift cards to provide for all the families. There will be extra money that will be used to buy hoodies, sweatshirts, jackets and shoes for The Rock.

Christmas is not just a day. Christmas is the love of God that goes on forever. Because of your generosity The Rock will be meeting children's physical needs and sharing that love not just on Christmas, but through out the year. Thank you and may God continue to bless you.

You are The People of Hope!

Holiday Hours

Hope Lutheran Church's offices will be closed at noon on Christmas Eve and all day on Christmas Day. Offices will reopen with normal hours on December 28th.

Hope's offices will also be closed at noon on New Year's Eve and all day on New Year's Day. Offices will reopen with normal hours on January 4th.

Sharing Hope

Year End Giving - Tax Benefits for 2020



Many of us are doing year-end giving and we wanted to remind you of some special tax benefits for this year only.

The CARES Act of March 27, 2020 provides for time-limited tax benefits for individuals and corporations to increase their giving thresholds for this year only.

- If you are an individual non-itemizing giver and take the standard deduction on your personal tax return, you are entitled to deduct up to an additional \$300 from your income for cash gifts made in 2020.
- Cash gifts may be deducted up to 100% of your annual gross income (for those over 59 1/2, giving may be sent without penalty directly from your IRA).
- If you are over 70 1/2, you may donate up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA assets tax-free.
- If you are a business owner, the threshold for corporate giving to charity is increased from 10% to 25% of a corporation's taxable income.

These tax benefits apply to 2020 only. Please contact your financial advisor for more information.

Nominating Committee 2021

The following is Hope Lutheran Church's list of nominees by positions which were received by the Nominating Committee on or before December 4, 2020. In accordance with the Constitution Bylaws, 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 17, 2021 (21 days prior to the Annual Meeting). The Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2021 at which time voting will take place. This is not a ballot for the meeting.

Nominees:

Secretary - 3 year term

Peggy Torda

Member at Large - 3 year term (2 positions)

Rolf Moulton

Robert Casavant

David Withers

Members of Nominating Committee:

David Redding, Chairman & VP Hope Council

Sherry Holland

Diane Kupchak



**We extend our love and sympathy to
the family of
Walter (Harv) Kramme
who went to his heavenly home on
December 12, 2020.**

Harv and Jackie were married on March 17, 1974. They joined Hope Lutheran Church on October 26, 2003.

A service for Harv is pending at this time.

Please keep Jackie and their family in your hearts and prayers.

**We extend our love and sympathy to the
family of**

Diane Guilfoil

**who went to her heavenly home on
December 13, 2020.**



Diane and Joe joined Hope Lutheran Church through the merger with St. John in 2016. She also served on the Council at Hope.

A service is being planned for January

Please keep Joe and their family in your hearts and prayers.



Wednesday Evening Prayer Continues at Hope Central at 6:00 pm

We continue to offer in-person evening prayer each Wednesday in the sanctuary at Hope Central at 6:00 p.m. As with all of our in-person worship services, we ask you to make a reservation on our webpage (hope2all.org) or [click here for December 23](#) or [here for December 30](#). Reservations will open each Thursday at 8:00am, and close at noon on Wednesday. We will continue to make our evening prayer available online for those not yet comfortable with in-person gatherings. (For those worshipping online, the worship bulletin is available [here](#).) 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.)

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 seeing you there and praying together!

Blessings,
Pr. Bruce

*H.O.P.E. University
News for the
upcoming week and
beyond.....*



***Monday, December 21--Zoom Discussion of Chapter 6 and
Monday, December 28--Zoom Discussion of Chapter 7***

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 6) on the The Sacrament of The Altar, 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. Additionally, we will have our last Zoom meeting on Chapter 7 (on Daily Prayer and the Household Chart), that Zoom meeting will occur on Monday, December 28 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Zoom information for both meetings 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 23--Class presentation of Chapter 7
Join us live at 10:00 a.m. (or watch later in our archive section or on YouTube) in our presentation of Chapter on Daily Prayer and the Household Chart. 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!

Winter break!!

There will be no H.O.P.E. University for two weeks, so there is no class on Wednesday December 30 or Wednesday January 6, 2021.

Come join us as we begin our Spring Semester with Pastor Dean's 4-week class named "Miracles, Miracles, Miracles!" (January 13 - February 3)

Hear what Pastor Dean says about this class...

The four gospels in our Bible record Jesus performing 33 miracles. Only one is recorded in all four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Some of the gospel writers record the same miracle event in different ways. Matthew records 19

different miracles. Mark records 17, Luke has 18 and John has 8. So altogether we could say that miracles are described 62 times. Pastor Dean will lead us in discovering the different kinds of miracles and why they are performed at different times in Jesus' ministry. Some writers have them in one place and other writers have them at another place or time in Jesus' life. Why, When, Where, Who and How are just some of the questions we could ask. BUT we can also ask, "Do miracles still happen today?" All of these questions still apply today. Come or watch as we approach all those questions and share Jesus' disciples' experience and our own each week beginning January 13th.



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

PLEASE NOTE: Faith & Fellowship will not be held on Monday, December 28.

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

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

Worship Attendance for December 13, 2020

Central Campus

4:00pm	85
4:00pm online	40
6:00pm	69
8:00am	101

Lake Weir Campus

10:00am	29
---------	----

Everglades Rec Center

8:00am	39
--------	----

10:00am

109

10:00am

45

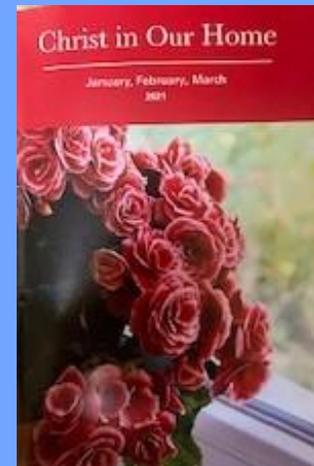
10:00am online

125

Christ in Our Home

January, February, March
*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 October, November, December 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 December 19-20

Psalm 113

Luke 1:26-45

Scripture Readings for December 26-27

Psalm 131

Luke 2:21-38

Visit our website: www.hope2all.org

Send us an email!

STAY CONNECTED:

