



# Hope's Newsletter

**“To Know Christ And To Make Him Known”**

## **A Message From Pastor**

In a way, all the Gospel readings and many of the other texts for August are about listening TO God and listening FOR God.

Jesus tries to take time away from the business of being Jesus by going away to a quiet place. His solitude does not last for long because the people clamor for him to come and heal them, but the point is made. It is important for all of us to take time to listen to and for God.

We listen TO God through Scripture, through hymns and songs, through prayer, through sermons, through each other. We hear God's words of encouragement and challenge. God tells us we are loved and forgiven. God tells us it would be best for us if we didn't do such and such an activity. And God tells us we can reach out to those who need Jesus.

We listen FOR God in the

many and various times and places where we may not be expecting to find God. Elijah waited in the cave in the mountains for God to speak. But God's voice was not heard in the loudness or violence of thunder or storm or earthquake. God's voice was heard in the stillness of his own heart, open to hear whatever God had to say.

God's voice may be heard in the White House, and the US Congress and Senate, as our elected leaders try to speak for themselves and for us. God's voice may be heard along the border between Mexico and the US, in the centers where illegal immigrants are housed. It may be heard in the woods in Citrus County, where the homeless live. It may be heard in the homes of Hope's shut-ins, and in the homes of those who are living with chronic illnesses.

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### **Staff:**

**Pastor Lynn Fonfara**  
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**Church Secretary**  
Kelly Murphy

**Music Director/Organist**  
Susan Collins

**Custodian**  
Kerry Reed

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## Pastor's Message (Continued from page 1)

When we listen to and for God's voice, we hear God's call to respond, with prayer, with devotion and meditation, with action to counter injustice, with care in visiting those who are not present, with faith in God's willingness and ability to respond to our concerns.

Listening TO and FOR God is not hard, when we tune our hearts to listen for God's voice in the busy-ness of our own lives. I pray that you take time often to listen.

In HOPE

Pastor Lynn +

## Theological Discernment Series

*Theological Discernment Series* : A Biblical, Spiritual and Historical Look at ELCA Statements, Positions, and Resolutions on Social Issues like Abortion, Church in Society, Death Penalty, Economic Life, Education, Environment, Genetics, Human Sexuality, Peace, Race Ethnicity and Culture.

This series will be designed to explore all sides of social issues from a Christian and Lutheran perspective with the underlying principle that in

love and filled with the Holy Spirit we can discuss, share, agree or disagree, and yet still realize that discernment is about being open, curious and attuned to what God is up to—with us and our community. And it's being confident that each of us have a part to play in the story of God's love for the world.

Beginning August 10, class will meet each Sunday at 9am in Luther Hall, classroom 2. Facilitated by Dr. Steve Northsea.

## Confirmation Class

Welcome back to Confirmation Class! This year we will study the Bible, Old and New Testaments. Memory work will include learning the order of the books of the Bible. Beginning August

26, we will meet at 7:30pm on Tuesday evenings in Classroom 1 in Luther Hall. Looking ahead, the Rite of Affirmation of Faith will be on Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 2015.

## Kiwanis Bowling for Books

Once again, Hope members are invited to go bowling as a social activity. The funds raised support children in Citrus County. This year, Central Ridge-Crystal River Kiwanis Club Bowling for Kids is at Manatee Lanes in Crystal River, August 17 from 2pm to 5pm. The cost is

\$20; \$15 for students and active military. The price includes shoes and as many games as you can bowl in three hours. Contact Pastor Lynn for tickets and more information.

## Dollars And Sense From The Treasurer's Desk

June 2014

<u>Date</u>	<u>Regular Income</u>	<u>Communion Attendance</u>
June 8	2,626.00	57
June 15	1,666.00	56
June 22	1,925.00	53
June 29	2,447.00	65

Total Inflows: \$ 13,867

Total Outflows: \$ 17,120

The full financial statement is available in Luther Hall.

### Council Officers & Members

President  
Steve Northsea  
*Education*

Vice President  
Harold Skidmore  
*Endowment*

Secretary  
Renate Wilms-Rovin  
*Social Services*  
Acolytes  
Greeters & Guest Greeter  
Readers  
Ushers

Treasurer  
Deacon Diane Kahler  
*Family Activities*  
Finance  
Personnel

Deacon John Chiappetta  
*Citrus County Blessings*  
*Worship & Music Committee*

Aida Diaz

Constance De Tuerk  
*Stewardship/Evangelism*

Casey Gaylardo  
*Serving Our Savior Food Pantry*

Sandra Meslow  
*Memorial Gardens*

Vivian Matthews

Richard Regan  
*Property*

Kim Williams  
*Stewardship/Evangelism*

Financial Secretary  
Michel Northsea

## Citrus County Blessings

In Citrus County, 67% of children are on government-assisted meal programs at school on weekdays. On the weekend, many of these children have no food at home, for many reasons.

Citrus County Blessings sends non-perishable food items home for the weekend. Plastic bags packed at Hope will be delivered to needy children at Citrus Springs Elementary and at Central Ridge Elementary. This is one small way we can help.

## Did You Ever Wonder...?

In I Samuel 12-14 “Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer. Hitherto to both the Lord helped us. So the Philistines were subdued and they came no more into the coast of Israel; and the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. And the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron even unto Gath; and the coasts thereof did Israel deliver out of the hand of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites”. Now, what is an Ebenezer? It's a stone of special significance. Whether it is used as a memorial for a milestone, or a

The program will really take off after Labor Day. See Deacon John if interested in volunteering to help pack the plastic bags.

Elsewhere in the newsletter is a list of food donations, for those who like to shop. Cash donations are always welcome, to help the organization to purchase food in bulk. You may make donations to Hope, with Citrus County Blessings in the memo line.

particular memory or a significant stone yet unnamed, it is an Ebenezer. In 1700 there was written a hymn by Robert Robinson (1735-1790) “Come, thou fount of every blessing” (ELW 807) where he writes about raising his Ebenezer—a rock to show the mightiness of God. Second verse” Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by thy help I've come. And I hope by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wondering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood!” Let us all raise our Ebenezer!

## List of Items Needed for Citrus County Blessings

BLESSINGS ITEMS  
NEEDED VIA DONATIONS:



INDIVIDUAL SIZE  
DRINK BOXES OR  
POUCHES OF ANY KIND

PEANUT BUTTER 18 OZ

CHILI/NO BEANS (POP TOP)

PARMALOT MILK, 2%-NON-REFRIGERATED 32OZ OR INDIVIDUAL SIZE

ALL FOOD SHOULD BE SINGLE SERVING, READY TO EAT AND POP TOP

JELLY 18 OZ SIZE (no glass/squeeze bottle preferred)

SINGLE SERVING SIZE CAN EITHER BE 7 OZ. OR 15 OZ.

SINGLE SERVING FRUIT CUPS

SINGLE SERVING PUDDING CUPS (NON-REFRIGERATED)

NO BACKPACKS THIS YEAR. WE ARE USING PLASTIC BAGS.

SINGLE SERVING SIZE JELLO CUPS

SINGLE SERVING SIZE CEREAL BOXES

CEREAL BARS

CHICKEN IN WATER (POUCH OR POP TOP CANS)

SINGLE SERVING SIZE BEANIE WEANIES (POP TOP)

SINGLE SERVING SIZE MAC AND CHEESE (POP TOP)

SINGLE SERVING BEEF STEW (POP TOP)

## Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Operation Christmas Child is in “full throttle” here at Hope. We have 3 months to complete our goal of 190 shoeboxes.

We still need supplies to fill our boxes!

Especially needed are:

Crayons & Color Books  
Pencils (No pens, please)  
Index Cards  
Colored Pencils

And toys—such as:

Yo-yos  
Small cars (Hotwheels)  
Small Dolls  
Whistles  
Ball & Jacks  
Jump Ropes  
Small Balls  
Baseballs  
Playing Cards

Thanks to Edith Regan and her daughter Ramona! (We are well—supplied with pens, bags & hats. We are adding band-aides this year to the boxes as well, because of a large donation of them thru Ramona.)

There is a collection box in Luther Hall designated for the shoebox donations. We also accept cash or checks. If you would like to fill a box on your own, extra empty boxes are available.

Thank you for your support in this wonderful ministry for children ages 2-14 throughout the USA and the World.

Carole Warden



## Thank You, from Pastor Lynn to:

- \* Deacons Diane and John for leading worship during my time at Synod Assembly and time away for vacation and continuing education
- \* Victor Kahler and Harold Skidmore for installing the “Music Box”
- \* Renate Wilms-Rovin for her care for the gardens on our campus

## Family Members in the Military

We remember & pray for those who protect our liberty by serving in the military.

- John & Margarita Chiappetta's son:  
Luis Jimenez
- Janet Esworthy's nephew:  
Major Marc Orndorff
- Joan Klotz's two grandsons:  
Brian Lucas and Kevin Lucas

- Vivian Matthews' granddaughter:  
Capt. Kari Matthews
- Edith Regan's daughter:  
Senior Chief Phyllis Thomas
- Edith Regan's grandson:  
AMAA Taylor Tucker going to  
Aviation school in Norfolk, VA

Please let the church office know of others we can add to this list.

## Members Who Are Homebound or Residing in Care Facilities

Johanna Barrett—Home  
 Sebastian D'Auria—Home  
 Joan Layton—Home  
 Dorothy Scianna—Crystal Gem Manor,  
 Crystal River

Karen Summers—Home  
 Ruby Wagner—Brentwood

## Thrivent News

Tampa Rays Baseball game is Aug16, so hope you reserved your seat. It should be an exciting game against the NY Yankees. Join other Lutherans from Citrus County and have a fun day at the ballpark. The bus leaves Faith Lutheran Parking Lot at 1:00pm. For questions: call Joe Beckman 527-2680

## Thank You

I would like to thank Jim Earl, Dick Regan, Bill Kessel, Ron Cowan, Larry Casper, Renate Wilms-Rovin, Hans Witter, Harold Skidmore, Diane Kahler, Kelly Murphy, and Kerry Reed for all their help. We put in (120 hours) since our last report.



## Martha Circle

Martha Circle ladies will gather together on Aug 6 at 1:00pm in Luther Hall. Preparations for filling shoeboxes are our main focus for the next 3 months.

refreshments and time to socialize, so please join us.

Carole Warden

Come and join us for many hands make light work! We will have light

## Martyr Moments

Bernard of Chair Vaux  
(1090-August 20, 1153)

popular crusade as was the First Crusade and he assumed it was his responsibility.

After the death of his mother Bernard sought admission into the Cistercian Order. According to the tradition, he founded the monastery on June 25, 1114, naming it Claire Vallee, which evolved into Chair Vaux. There Bernard would preach an immediate faith, in which the intercessor was the Virgin Mary.

Bernard was named a Doctor of the Church in 1830, the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death.

As life went on Bernard occupied himself in sending bands of monks from his overcrowded monastery into Germany, Sweden, England, Ireland, Portugal, Switzerland and Italy. In 1146-49 the news of a Second Crusade was undertaken. This was not a



## Book Club

Our Book Club has been discussing Phyllis Tickle's book *The Great Emergence*. We sometimes agree with her, sometimes disagree with her, and sometimes don't quite understand what she is saying. But our discussions are always lively, and connected to the ministry and mission of Hope.

Good books cause readers to think about things we have "always known" and then ponder if what we "know" makes sense. *The Great Emergence* intends to do just that, challenging us to question our certainties. Recently, some participants mentioned that they did not realize they had some preferences which did not always make sense when we explored the topic further.

Our discussions will help to inform the future of Hope, as we consider the changing culture in which we live and worship. It is certain that the church of yesterday and today will be different

## Volunteers Needed

Hope is no longer making school kits, sewing kits or quilts for Lutheran World Relief. If you are interested in seeing one or all of these projects

from the church of tomorrow. We can choose to be part of the church of tomorrow, by keeping what we need to keep and adapting what we need to adapt.

You are invited to join us Wednesdays August 6, 13, 20, and 27 at the Boulevard Bistro, on Citrus Springs Blvd. Have a cup of coffee or a glass of iced tea. Enjoy a pastry, too, if you wish. And jump into the conversation. You do not have to read the book to participate; chapter summaries and discussion questions are printed for all to use.

Amid all the uncertainty of living in a time of rapid cultural change, one thing is certain: the Church is the living Body of Jesus Christ, and it will live on. Thanks be to God!

continue, please volunteer to head a group of interested ladies.

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## Council Minutes from the June 18, 2014 Meeting

1. Call to Order/Remarks - President Steven Northsea called meeting to order at 7:03 PM

2. Roll Call - Renate Wilms-Rovin, Secretary  
 President Steven Northsea (present)  
 Vice President Harold Skidmore (present)  
 Secretary Renate Wilms-Rovin (present)  
 Treasurer Deacon Diane Kahler (not present - excused)  
 Council Member Deacon John Chiappetta (present)  
 Council Member Aida Diaz (present)  
 Council Member Constance DeTuerk-Telfer (present)  
 Council Member Casey Gaylarido (present)  
 Council Member Vivian Matthews (not present - excused)  
 Council Member Sandra Meslow (not present - excused)  
 Council Member Dick Regan (present)  
 Council Member Kim Williams (present)  
 Pastor Lynn Fonfara (present)

3. Pastor Lynn offered opening Prayer

4. Devotions - Council members shared experiences as they relate to questions 9-12 from ELCA's Rediscover Macedonia.

5. Adoption of the June 18th Agenda

A. Additions/Corrections

1. added under New business:
  - d. building of a new altar
  - e. change of sanctuary closet.

B. Acceptance was moved as amended by John, seconded by Harold and passed unanimously.

6. Secretary Report

Report of the Secretary's April 16 Council meeting

A. Additions/Corrections - a few minor ones

B. Acceptance was moved by Casey, seconded by Constance and passed unanimously.

7. Report of the Treasurer

A. Questions/Concerns

B. Acceptance was moved by Renate, seconded by Harold and passed unanimously.

8. Report of the Pastor (see attached report)

A. Questions and Concerns

B. Any items needing Council approval. Pastor Lynn requested an additional \$250.00 for continuing education. Brief discussion. Acceptance was moved by Kim, seconded by Aida and passed unanimously.

9. Reports of Church Committees by Council Liaisons

A. Christian Service

### Evangelism/Stewardship.

The committee met June 17, 2014. Steve Northsea was elected chair, Renate Wilms-Rovin assistant-chair, and Michel Northsea secretary. Minutes were handed out to all

council members and various aspects were discussed in detail.

1. Kim will be the chair of the newly formed Antagonism Committee. Open to everyone.

2. Steve attended the one week leadership training for Stephen Ministry in Orlando. He and Ruth Moheit will revitalize the Stephen Ministry at HOPE. (Churches grow that do Stephen Ministry).

3. Steve has all the material to create the Burma shave type signs. Harold, John and

Renate volunteered to make the signs next week. Change of HOPE's regular sign (direction, LED) to be discussed with Vic Kahler.

4. Procedures for greeting and follow-up with visitors needs to be stream-lined. Jane Hise and Larry Casper volunteered for this assignment.

5. Dick suggested increased use of our Kitchen as outreach to the community. He

and John volunteered to spearhead the effort. Funds may be available from memorial. The use of our kitchen could be offered to other congregations on different Saturdays. Details to follow. Acceptance was moved by John, seconded by Kim and passed unanimously.

6. Other suggestions for community outreach such as "life-lesson" seminars, community garden to be discussed in the near future.

**First Saturday**

## Council Minutes (Continued from page 10)

**Family Activities** - some special luncheon to be planned for Labor Day Sunday (September 7)

### B. Christian Education

**Education** - July 13th, the Adult Sunday School class will begin to deal with a Theological Discernment Course (12-16 weeks). Examination of social statements and resolutions of the ELCA and how they apply to us.

**Youth Ministry**- No confirmation classes during the summer

**Adult Ministry** - see above

### C. Christian Worship

Worship and Music see old business

### D. Administration

Property- (see attached report).

Finance.

Personnel - nothing to report

Memorial - nothing to report

Endowment - Next meeting will be held

June 29, 2014

### 10. Old Business

A. Signs for church (discussed under Stewardship)

B. Status of camera for front porch - continued research

C. Stephen Ministry (discussed under Stewardship)

D. Council voted on recommendation of Music and Worship committee to approve the purchase of the MUSIC MACHINE. The Memorial committee will be notified for further action.

E. "Reconciling Works" a work in progress

F. A follow up on the 16 financial questions is planned for August 10th. During a pot luck luncheon, all members of the congregation are invited to share their thoughts and make suggestion to further the financial health of HOPE.

### 11. New Business

A. Pineland Conference Fund Appeal. The organization supports three goals:

Campus, Camp and New Congregation Ministries. HOPE will make an appeal to the congregation in September.

B. Council decided to participate in ELCA's "God's Work, Our Hands Sunday" on September

7, 2014, by offering a barbeque (hot dog, baked beans, chips, soda) lunch to members of the church and the community. A donation of canned goods for SOS is encouraged. Members of the congregation going out into the community and doing ministry was also discussed but no concrete action taken.

C. Building of new altar. Pastor Lynn and Steve suggested the need for a new altar that allows more space esp. during communion service. A rectangular table, 36" x 6 ft, to match the cedar cross, build by Hans Witter with some help from volunteers, was proposed. A separate table for the communion elements was also proposed. Anticipated cost \$ 250.00. Cleaning of or matching the carpet will be an additional expense. Brief discussion. Acceptance was moved by Kim, seconded by John and passed unanimously. A recommendation will be made to the Music and Worship Committee and Property committee. Awaiting their approval, plans will commence as soon as possible.

D. Sanctuary Closet. It was proposed to change the use of the Sanctuary Closet on the right side to hold banners and paraments which are presently kept in one of the parlor closets in very cramped conditions. Anticipated cost:< \$100.00. Acceptance was moved by John, seconded by Aida and passed unanimously.

12. Consent Agenda No new items

13. Current Meeting Highlights for Newsletter and Bulletin were discussed.

14. Devotions for the July 16 meeting will be the last four questions (13-16) from ELCA's Rediscover Macedonia.

15. Steve requested a motion to adjourn.

Adjournment at 9:20 PM was moved by Dick, seconded by Casey and passed unanimously.

Closing prayer was led by Pastor Lynn.

## Sunday's Coming

This class will resume August 18 at 10:30am. Each week, we explore one or more of the Scripture readings for the following Sunday. Led by Pastor Lynn, each person seems to have a different "take" on what the passage means, and as we share our ideas and stories, the text begins to come to life. Abraham and Moses and Jesus and Paul become real people, not just characters in a

book. The ideas shared often influence the sermon. Join us as often as you can, and let the Bible come to life in your life.

## Critic's Corner . . . An opinion

THE SOURCE by James Mitchner-a historical fiction book.

I read this book 40 years ago and now again for a book club selection. Mitchner was known for his research and after checking the facts, I didn't find too many errors. Okay, the actual conversations are fiction but the facts are the facts. This book was published in 1965. It's a story about a spring that bubbled 20-30,000 years ago in what is now Israel. As time goes on by this spring the book tells of all the peoples that came thru the area and their politics. I enjoyed the book 40 years ago but found that I enjoyed it this time even more as it is a great review of the history of the area. Mitchner's summation still stands today. There was a time that Christians, Arabs and

Jews did live together in peace but no more. In the summation chapter, you realize that the politics have changed but the turmoil remains.

Critic: Diane Kahler

You are welcome to add a book or a movie to this column.

## Council Highlights from July 16, 2014 Meeting

1. August 9, 2014, the church will have a Back-to-School Open House. School children and their parents are encouraged to drop in for hot dogs, soft drinks etc. Some free school supplies will be available. Members of the congregation are asked for a **monetary contribution** to defray the cost for the school supplies.

2. The follow up on the 16 financial questions has been moved to **August 17**. During a **potluck luncheon**, all members of the congregation are invited to share their thoughts and make suggestion to further the financial health of HOPE.

3. To participate in ELCA's "God's Work, Our Hands Sunday on September 7, 2014, a barbeque (hot dog,

baked beans, chips, soda) lunch will be offered to members of the church and the community. **A donation of canned goods for SOS is encouraged.**

4. Stephen Ministry course, taught by Ruth Moheit and Steve Northsea will begin in September. If you have questions and/or like to participate, please, contact either Ruth or Steve.

5. On Church property, a number of trees are in precarious conditions and will to be cut shortly.

### Known Birthdays and Anniversaries in August

#### Birthdays

3 Sue Hovis  
5 Janet Esworthy  
7 Kim Williams  
Carole Warden  
10 Linda Becker  
15 Julia Southard  
23 Dee Forsyth  
25 Kerry Reed  
27 Renate Wilms-Rovin



#### Anniversaries

1 James & Anita O'Donnell (33)

## Those Assisting at 10am Worship Service in August

### ***Communion Assistants and Acolytes***

3—Judy Howe/Deacon John Chiappetta  
11—Emilio Del Valle/Jackie Dean  
18—Kelly Haines/Dee Forsyth  
25—Deacon Diane Kahler/Emilio Del Valle  
31—Renate Wilms-Rovin/Judy Howe

### ***Altar Guild***

Margaret DeWalt  
Margarita Chiappetta  
Casey Gaylardo  
Diane Kahler  
Vivian Matthews

### ***Nursery***

3—Janice Pitre  
10—Judy Thomason  
17—TBA  
24—Ann Becwar  
31—TBA

### ***Lay Readers***

3—Dominic Del Valle  
10—Judy Thomason  
17—Rhonda Del Valle  
24—Steve Northsea  
31—Peggy Schade

### ***Assisting Ministers***

3 – Kelly Haines  
10 – Steve Northsea  
17 – Deacon John Chiappetta  
24 – Anthony Diaz  
31 – Renate Wilms-Rovin

### ***Guest Greeter***

Alice Doyle

### ***Greeters***

Stan & Nancy Miller

### ***Ushers for the Month***

David Doyle  
Luis Diaz



# August 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3 Communion</b> 8:00a Spoken Worship 10:00a Worship 11:15a Fellowship	4	5	6 10:00a Book Club at Blvd Bistro 1:00p Martha Circle	7	8	9 11:30a—2:00p Back to School Open House
<b>10 Communion</b> 8:00a Spoken Worship 9:00a Sunday School CR2 10:00a Worship 11:15a Fellowship	11	12 7:00p Evangelism / Stewardship	13 10:00a Book Club at Blvd Bistro 7:00p Finance Committee	14 7:00p Choir Reh.	15	16
<b>17 Communion</b> 8:00a Spoken Worship 9:00a Sunday School CR2 10:00a Worship 11:15a Potluck Luncheon	18 10:30a Sunday's Coming 6:30p	19	20 10:00a Book Club at Blvd Bistro 7:00p Council Mtg	21 6:30p Cub Scouts 7:00p Choir Reh.	22	23
<b>24 Communion</b> 8:00a Spoken Worship 9:00a Sunday School CR2 10:00a Worship 11:15a Fellowship	25 10:30a Sunday's Coming 6:30p Boy Scouts	26 7:30p Confirmation Class	27 10:00a Book Club at Blvd Bistro	28 6:30p Cub Scouts 7:00p Choir Reh.	29	30
<b>31 Communion</b> 8:00a Spoken Worship 9:00a Sunday School CR2 10:00a Worship 11:15a Fellowship						