

# Hope's Newsletter

"To Know Christ and to Make Him Known"

## A Song for the New Year

As this newsletter reaches us, that wonderful moment when we were gathered in the sanctuary, candles lit, singing Silent Night will still be fresh on our minds. But that's not the moment and song I want to reflect on with you here. I'd like for us to think about the midnight moment that happens one week after that silent night when "this year" will become "last year". I'm not sure if I'll make it to twelve this year or not. But since I've noticed that "next year" always seems to come along whether I'm up to supervise the transition or not - if my eyelids are dropping but the ball in Times Square isn't, I'll give myself permission to give up and head for bed. Of course, that means I'll miss my yearly chance to sing the New Year's Eve song, *Auld Lang Syne* - but I don't really mind.

For one thing, I'm not sure what that song is about. Or at least I wasn't until I researched the phrase and

learned that "auld lang syne" are Scottish words that literally mean "old long since". Thankfully that wasn't the end of the entry, because "old long since" doesn't mean a whole lot more to me than "auld lang syne". The remainder of the entry told me that the meaning behind the phrase is "long ago". And so, as we are carried one year further into our future, we sing this song to reflect on what we should do with our past: "Should old acquaintance be forgot, and days of long ago?" Even as we sing, we know that our answer is "No". We are who we are because of our old acquaintances, and our days of long ago - every one of them, both good and bad.

(Cont. on page 2)

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**Church Secretary**  
Barbara Decker

**Music Director/  
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Susan Collins

**Custodian**  
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## Singing (cont.)

And so *Auld Lang Syne* is a reasonable song to sing as "next year" becomes "this year" - and if I'm awake, I'll certainly sing along.

But I can think of a better song to use as a New Year's tradition. The words of the song are based on the following bible passage from Lamentations - as you may know, one of my favorites: *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is God's faithfulness. If you haven't guessed, the song is Great Is Thy Faithfulness (ELW 733). What better promise is there, as we are carried one year further into our future, than the promise that come what may, we will be held within the steadfast love, mercy, and faithfulness of God. The entire song is perfect for a New Year's tradition, but I especially like the third verse:*

*Pardon for sin and a peace  
that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence  
to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and  
bright hope for tomorrow,*

## Christmas at Hope

*Blessings all mine, with  
ten thousand beside!*

*Great is thy  
faithfulness! Great is  
thy faithfulness!*

*Morning by morning new  
mercies I see;*

*All I have needed thy  
hand hath provided;*

*Great is thy  
faithfulness, Lord, unto  
me!*

As we move into 2019, I invite you to join me in making *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* part of our New Year's tradition - perhaps by using the words printed above for table grace at your New Year's dinner. And it is my prayer for all of us that God will help us to embrace the promise of the song in our hearts so that, whatever the year holds for us, we can find peace in knowing that we are always held within the steadfast love, mercy, and faithfulness of God.

May you have a year  
filled with the goodness  
and peace of God in  
Christ,  
Pastor Steve

### Council Officers & Members

President  
Julia Southard  
Finance

Vice President  
Larry Casper

Secretary  
Steven Northsea  
Digital

Treasurer  
Deacon Diane Kahler

Financial Secretary  
Michel Northsea

Marilyn Butler

Casey Gaylarde  
Long Range Planning

Charlene Hicklin  
Family Activities

Judy Howe

Victor Kahler  
Property

Meredith Press  
Outreach

Peggy Schade

Harold Skidmore  
Worship & Music  
Call Committee

Hans Witter

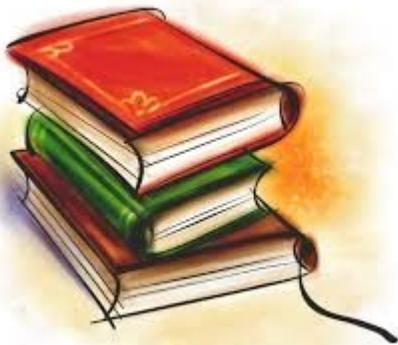
## Quotable Quotes

"To escape criticism-do nothing, say nothing, be nothing" Elbert Hubbard, American author and publisher (1856-1915)

"The man who has done his level best, and who is conscious that he has done his best, is a success, even though the world may write him down a failure." B.C. Forbes, Scottish journalist (1880-1954)

"With high definition TV, everything looks bigger and wider. Kind of like going to your 25<sup>th</sup> high school reunion." Jay Leno

"MY kitchen....where the sounds and odors carry meaning that transfers from the past and bridges to the future." Pearl Bailey



## Undecorating

### UNDECORATING THE CHURCH

The Wise Men have come and gone. Life is getting back to whatever normal is after a holiday season. All we are left with are our happy memories and the decorations. And now it is time for our one last fling and undecorate the church. Come join us at 9:30 on January 12 for a few more laughs and giggles and refreshments. ALL ARE WELCOME!

## Stay Safe!!!!

### SAFETY WARNING

It's been noticed that as we are at worship and various meetings that cars enter our parking lot and just make a sweeping look at all the cars and then leave. I don't know exactly what they are looking for as they never get out of the cars...yet. Remember to LOCK YOU CAR.

Deacon Diane

## Martyr Moments

Elisabeth Fedde

Deaconess

(12/25/1850-February 25,1921)

Elizabeth was a Norwegian Lutheran deaconess who established the Norwegian Relief Society to better serve the Norwegian-American immigrant community. Born in Norway on Christmas Day her father was a sea captain retiring when his wife became ill and became a farmer. After the death of her father she trained as a deaconess. She spent her early career in Norway's newest and most northmost territory when she and another deaconess established a medical house. She worked under harsh and primitive conditions. Challenged by her brother to immigrate to the U.S. she did and started a 9 bed hospital that ultimately became Lutheran Medical Center of Brooklyn, NY. Upon urging she took charge of a hospital in Pittsburgh, Pa and then established a Lutheran Deaconess Home in Minneapolis. She also helped plan a 3<sup>rd</sup> hospital in Chicago and another in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

She returned to Norway to marry a former patient.

We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. Thanks be to God!

## Did You Ever Wonder?

Did you ever wonder why worship was important? The first truth about "Why worship matters" is that "God matters" We worship because God is worth worshipping. Worship is central to the Christian life. The crucified and risen Christ is present at the center of the assembly gathered around a means of grace. Through the word proclaimed and sacraments celebrated, the Holy Spirit is at work. Lives are changed. Sins are forgiven. The alienated are reconciled. Strangers are welcomed. Unbelief gives way to faith. God is praised. Worship matters!



## Bell Choir

It's a New Year...New Opportunities....



After a too long time period it's another opportunity to play bells as a newcomer or renew the fun that we have had last time. The time is now. You do not need to know how to read music as all notes are color coded. What you need to do is to count to four....one, two, three, four. We can all do that! Let Deacon Diane know that you are ready to count and to read the colors on the music....colors-not music. Everyone is invited. This is your opportunity to make a JOYFUL SOUND TO THE LORD! Date and time will be at the convenience of the group. We had been rehearsing on Fridays at 10 am but that can be adjusted.

## Training Begins!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Stephen Ministry Training Class will begin Monday, January 7, 2019 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM in the parlor. Classes will meet subsequent Mondays for approximately 18 weeks. Books have been ordered and I am looking forward to sharing the class with each of you. For those who are already Stephen Ministers this class will be a review and your attendance is encouraged. You may also be asked to help out with instruction when I cannot attend. For those wishing to become Stephen Ministers we welcome you to the class and thank you for wanting to serve. If you have any questions please make contact with me at your convenience.

Steve Northsea,  
Stephen Leader

## Thank You

Sarah and I would like to thank everyone who graced our Christmas with cards, gifts, and well wishes. Your kindness and warmth are very much appreciated.

Thanks also go out to everyone (and the list is long!) who made Christmas such a wonderful celebration at Hope.

Pastor Steve and Sarah

# Council Minutes

## Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church – November 14 2018 Council Minutes

1. Call to order by Julia at 7:00 PM.
2. Roll call (all present)  
Pastor Steve Brisson \_P\_; Marilyn Butler \_P\_; Larry Casper \_P\_; Casey Gaylaro \_P\_; Charlene Hicklin \_P\_; Judy Howe \_P\_; Diane Kahler\* \_P\_; Victor Kahler \_P\_; Steve Northsea \_P\_; Meredith Press \_P\_; Peggy Schade \_P\_; Harold Skidmore \_P\_; Julia Southard \_P\_; Hans Witter \_P\_;
3. Devotion by Pastor Steve based upon a reading of "Water for the Soul" from the book *Grace for the Moment* by Max Machado.
4. Opening Prayer by Pastor Steve.
5. There were no visitors.
6. Adoption of the November 10 2018 Agenda with the addition under new business of "g. Safety and security assessment by experts from Citrus County Sheriff's Department." It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.
7. It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the secretary report of the October 2018 Regular Meeting as published.
8. The October Report of the Treasurer was reviewed. Multiple questions were very adequately answered by Diane and the report was filed for audit. Steve Northsea will review monthly bank statements.
9. Report of Pastor was read and discussed. (See report in updated final packet.) It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to approve vacation for Pastor Steve from December 25 to January 2 with January 2 being considered a 2018 vacation day.
10. Reports of Council Liaisons
  - A. Outreach Committee (Liaison - Meredith) - Outreach met and discussed various activities which have already been approved including the Christmas parade, but no formal report was available.
  - B. Finance Committee (Liaison - Julia) - Finance met to discuss the 2019 Ministry Spending Plan and have not yet finalized that plan. They will meet again November 20 at 5 PM to continue budgetary work. No formal report was available.
  - C. Worship Committee (Liaison - Harold) - Will meet after 10 am service on Sunday November 18.
  - D. Digital Committee (Liaison - Steve) (See report in packet.)
  - E. Long Range Planning (Liaison - Casey) No report was available but committee met and reviewed the work of the last few months on the Mission Statement and Five Principles. The committee also discussed the need for a long range property plan. Steve N suggested that this might be the function of a property committee rather than long range planning committee.
  - F. Property (Liaison - Vic) (See report in packet) The duct work and parking lot maintenance will be discussed in new business below. Vic also noted serious problems with the John Deere tractor which could lead to expense in the future as it is absolutely necessary for leaf pick up and mulching operations. He is diligently working on getting it properly fixed at Ace Hardware.
  - G. Virtual Calendar Committee (Liaison - Larry) (See report in packet)
  - H. Social Service Committee (Liaison - Larry) (See report in packet) 5Education Committee (Liaison - Judy) Incorrect packet report was replaced by a report read by Judy. (See report in updated final packet.)
  - J. Stephen Ministry Report (Liaison - Steve) No written report, but oral report indicated there will be a Stephen Ministry meeting at 11:00 am on Wednesday November 21 for all current Stephen Ministers and anyone wishing to become a Stephen Minister to set a time and dates for the upcoming Stephen Minister Training class.
  - K. Personnel Committee Report (Diane) - Updated Job Descriptions (see packet) were presented by Diane and amended by council. It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the job descriptions as amended.
- L. Civic Association Reports
  1. Citrus Springs (Liaison - Meredith) Meredith was unable to attend, but they only presented candidates for election.
  2. Pine Ridge (Liaison - Judy or Marilyn) - Postponed their meeting until November 19.
12. Old Business
  - a. Transportation ministry was tabled and referred back to the Social Services Committee for further research.
  - b. Job Descriptions Final Drafts (see reports section above)
13. New Business
  - a. Renewal of Red Cross 5 Year Shelter Contract was discussed and Red Cross will be meeting with Pastor Steve, Julia and Steve N. to explain new contract.
  - b. Council terms of office and who can run again and who must go off council (see packet) was discussed and a nominating committee of Harold Skidmore, Peggy Schade and Casey Gaylaro was appointed. Four positions on council will be available for the

## Minutes (cont.)

January election. Anyone interested in serving on council should please contact a member of the nominating committee. (It is to be noted that the chart published showed Judy Howe as being elected in 2018 to her first three year term. Further research indicates she was actually elected in 2017 and will be eligible to run again in 2020. The chart is modified for the final updated packet.)

- c. It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the purchase of a Wireless Microphone System for Luther Hall for \$149.99.
- d. Luther Hall air conditioning duct repair was discussed and tabled until three bids for this emergency work can be obtained. Cost approximately \$8000.
- e. It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the change of Children Sunday School start time from 9:15 am to 9:00 am
- f. The paper recycling dumpster is no longer available. Alternatives are being explored.
- g. Parking lot maintenance proposal was discussed and tabled until three bids for this emergency work can be obtained. Cost approximately \$4000.
- h. It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the request for a safety and security assessment by experts from Citrus County Sheriff's Department in light of recent shootings at the national level at religious events. Steve Northsea will be the contact person to the Sheriff's department.

### 14. Consent Agenda

It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to approve to offer help of the congregation to Family "Alpha" as this year's Christmas Family. It is a single parent family with victims of serious spousal and child abuse, the burning down of their home, and one injured child in critical condition at UF Health Shands Hospital. The congregation will be asked to contribute money, food, clothing, gifts, and \$10 gift cards for daily expenses. Carol D'Auria and Carole Warden will be in charge. Casey Gaylarido is also working with S.O.S to get this family registered.

### 15. Meeting Highlights for Newsletter and Bulletin

- a. Council unanimously approved to offer help of the congregation to Family "Alpha" as this year's Christmas Family. It is a single parent family with victims of serious spousal and child abuse, the burning down of their home, and one injured child in critical condition at Shands Hospital. The congregation will be asked to contribute money, food, clothing, gifts, and \$10 gift cards for daily expenses. Carol D'Auria and Carole Warden will be in charge. Casey Gaylarido is also working with S.O.S to get this family registered.
  - b. Council requested Property get two more bids for the air conditioning duct work in Luther Hall which is disintegrating and pouring air into the crawl space between ceiling and roof. The one bid so far is approximately \$8000. Anyone knowing of a reliable heating air conditioning company please contact Victor Kahler with name and phone number. Contributions toward this emergency work can be noted on your check and will be greatly appreciated.
  - c. Council requested Property get two more bids for the repair of the parking lot where weeds are appearing and widening cracks and some serious problems may soon occur. The one bid so far is approximately \$4000. Anyone knowing of a reliable paving company please contact Victor Kahler with name and phone number. Contributions toward this emergency work can be noted on your check and will be greatly appreciated.
  - d. Council approved Children Sunday School start time of 9:00 am instead of 9:15 am.
  - e. Council approved a luncheon following the December 16 Sunday 10 am service for people participating in the 1:00 pm Citrus Springs Christmas Parade and all members wishing to stay at church to watch the parade. Chairs will be available along the road for those people also.
  - f. A nominating committee of consisting of Harold Skidmore, Peggy Schade and Casey Gaylarido was appointed to determine nominees for church council. Four positions will be elected in January. Anyone interested in serving on council please contact a member of the nominating committee.
  - g. There will be a Stephen Ministry meeting at 11:00 am on Wednesday November 21 for all current Stephen Ministers and anyone wishing to become a Stephen Minister to set a time and dates for the upcoming Stephen Minister Training class.
16. It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn at 9:32 PM. Pastor Steve led the council in the Lord's prayer.

## Stephen Ministry Program

Stephen Ministry is designed to provide weekly long-term support. Care receivers are able to share their struggles with someone who is committed to listening with love and acceptance. They have been trained to use uniquely Christian tools with sensitivity and patience to bring Christ's love into a place of pain.

If you believe you know someone who may benefit from Stephen Ministry, please pray about whether God is leading you to talk to them about it. If the person is interested in receiving a Stephen Minister, the next step is to contact Pastor or a Stephen leader and share the need. They will then contact that person to provide them with more information about this ministry.



## Thanks to Quilters

### Special Thanks from the Rainbow Quilters

*"Blessed are the Piecemakers, the Quilters, for they will be called the Children of God."*

Dear Hope Lutheran Quilters,

Thank you for your generous contribution to the Rainbow Quilters 2018 Veteran Comfort Quilt Challenge

With your help we were able to provide more than 200 quilts to patients at the Gainesville VA Hospital.

Mike Yates, District IX Commander and VFW Auxiliary District President was moved to tears by the generosity of both groups of quilters.

Thank you again for your help in making this project a success,

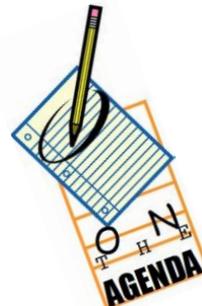
Celene Melton,  
Rainbow Quilter President



## Council Highlights

### December 12 Meeting Highlights for Newsletter and Bulletin

1. Sarah Brisson was unanimously accepted as a new member of Hope.
2. Council unanimously approved the Long Range Plan Goals Outline to send to congregation annual meeting.
3. The council unanimously approved the 2019 Ministry Financial Plan presented by the Finance Committee to send to congregation annual meeting. A motion to amend the Ministry Financial Plan out of personnel to add 2% raises for the secretary and custodian passed unanimously. The budget has total income of \$178,885 and expenses of \$221,515.66 for a deficit \$42,630.66 to be met by \$24,270.66 from regular reserve and \$18,360.00 from the Pastor Capital Fund. (see packet)
4. A bid for \$3414.00 for parking lot repair and restriping was unanimously accepted pending approval of the Ministry Financial Plan at the annual congregation meeting.
5. A bid for \$7900.00 for Luther Hall duct repair was unanimously accepted pending approval of the Ministry Financial Plan at the annual congregation meeting.
6. The Post-Call Congregation Retreat was approved unanimously and will be held either February 8 and 9, 2019 or February 15 and 16, 2019. The Endowment Fund will be used to pay for the retreat.
7. The choir will be riding the Christmas parade float December 16 and would appreciate anyone from the congregation joining them to sing carols.



# Hope's Prayer List

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayer for the whole body of Christ is important. Names will be listed so that prayer can be offered to God on their behalf. Please be aware that situations and conditions change but God knows the need as you bring the individuals to God in prayer.

### **MEMBER SHUT-INS AND THOSE IN RECOVERY**

Joan Layton

#### **Please pray for:**

.. For comfort and grief:

For all the families who have lost loved ones.

..Prayer for serious health concerns

For Tom Kroger, son of Jeanine Robertson. For Kathy Dalka, sister of a friend of Ann Schuchart. For Diane, niece of Bill and Pat Kessel. For Fay Hatton. For Marlene Collins. For Dave Bessing, friend of Manley Benmark. For Casey Gaylardo's brother, David, who had a stroke in April, he needs a healing hand dear Lord. For Yvonne Popke. For Pat and Bill Kessel's sister-in-law, Shirley. For Joann Mura and Dawn, neighbors of the Kahlers.

.. For healing and recovery

For Margaret DeWalt. For June Towner and Joyce Davis. For Nancy Miller. For Bettyann Tabor and for Casey Gaylardo. For Kay and Harold Schaller. For Bobby O'Donnell. For Linda, who is ill and Doug- both of whom need the Lord to help them through this. For Nancy and Spencer with family problems.

# Those who will assist at the 10:00AM Worship Service in January

## *Acolytes*

6 Dee Forsyth/Tyler Thompson  
13 Renate Wilms-Rovin/Edith Regan  
20 Deacon John/Margarita Chiappetta  
27 Sarah Brisson/Judy Howe

## *Assisting Minister*

6 Renate Wilms-Rovin  
13 Ron Press  
20 Renate Wilms-Rovin  
27 Steve Northsea

## *Altar Guild*

Margarita Chiappetta  
Casey Gaylarado  
Judy Howe  
Diane Kahler  
Jane Skidmore  
Julia Southard

## *Guest Greeter*

June Towner

## *Nursery*

Please see an usher for assistance

## *Greeters*

Charlene Hicklin  
Alice Doyle

## *Lay Readers*

6 Bob Schade  
13 Peggy Schade  
20 Renate Wilms-Rovin  
27 Steve Northsea

## *Ushers for the Month*

Steve Kasco  
David Doyle



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>2</b> 4:30p Long Range Planning 7:00p Digital Committee	<b>3</b> 7:30a Serving Our Savior 5:15p Outreach 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 8:00a-12p Property Workday 9:30a- 11:30 Altar Guild 6a-11:30a Luther Hall cleaning	<b>5</b> 4:30p Informal Worship
<b>6</b> Communion 8:00a Sp. Worship 9:00a Sunday School for ALL ages 10:00a Worship 11:15a Fellowship	<b>7</b> Luther Hall cleaning- 6a-12p 4:30p Stephen Ministry training classes 6:30p Junior Troop 6:30p Boy Scouts	<b>8</b> 6a-9a- Luther Hall cleaning	<b>9</b> 9:00a Citrus County Blessings Cr6 7:00p Council Meeting	<b>10</b> 7:30a Serving Our Savior 6:30p Cub Scouts 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 8:00a-12p Property Workday 9:30a- 11:30 Altar Guild 6a-11:30a Luther Hall cleaning	<b>12</b> 9:30a Church Undecorating 4:30p Informal Worship
<b>13</b> Communion 8:00a Sp Worship 8:50a Confirmation Class library 9:00a Sunday School for ALL ages 10:00a Worship 11:15a Fellowship	<b>14</b> Luther Hall cleaning 6:00a-12p 4:30p Stephen Ministry training classes 6:30p Junior Troop 6:30p Boy Scouts	<b>15</b> 6a-9a- Luther Hall cleaning 9:30a Quilters Luther Hall	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:30a Serving Our Savior 6:30p Cub Scouts 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 8:00a-12p Property Workday 9:30a- 11:30a Altar Guild 6a-11:30a Luther Hall cleaning	<b>19</b> 4:30p Informal Worship/Healing
<b>20</b> Communion 8:00a Sp. Worship/Healing 8:50a Confirmation Class library 9:00a Sunday School ALL Ages 10:00a Worship/Healing 11:15a Fellowship	<b>21</b> Luther Hall cleaning- 6a-12p 4:30p Stephen Ministry training classes 6:30p Junior Troop 6:30p Boy Scouts	<b>22</b> 6a-9a- Luther Hall cleaning	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:30a Serving Our Savior 6:30p Cub Scouts 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b> 8:00a-12p Property Workday 9:30a- 11:30 Altar Guild 6a-11:30a Luther Hall cleaning	<b>26</b> 4:30p Informal Worship
<b>27</b> Communion 8:00a Sp Worship 8:50a Confirmation Class library 9:00a Sunday School for ALL ages 10:00a Worship	<b>28</b> Luther Hall cleaning- 6a-12 4:30p Stephen Ministry training classes 6:30p Junior Troop 6:30p Boy Scouts/Taco supper	<b>29</b> 6a-9a- Luther Hall cleaning 9:30a Quilters Luther Hall	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7:30a Serving Our Savior 6:30p Cub Scouts/ Taco Supper 7:00p Choir Rehearsal		
<b>27 (cont.)</b> 11:15a Congregational Meeting	<b>January 2019</b>			<b>EVENTS</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>TO CHANGE</b>