

Hope's Newsletter

"To Know Christ and to Make Him Known"

Volume 35 Issue 4

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A Message From Pastor

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!
Alleluia!

Easter morning resounds with this call and response. It fills us with joy to remember that death is not the final word for us.

For the first believers, for Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, it was fantastic news. So fantastic that they couldn't keep silent about it. "We have seen Jesus!" they said. "He's alive again, after such a horrible death, there could be no doubt that he was really and truly dead. God is more powerful than death."

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!
Alleluia!

The first believers spread the news so well that, empowered by the Holy

Spirit, thousands at a time were converted. We see this happening in Africa today, where Christianity is growing by the thousands. At present, Africa has 390 million Christians, over three times more than there were 35 years ago.

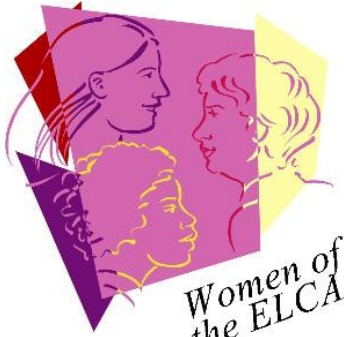
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!
Alleluia!

Each year we celebrate the resurrection on Easter. Each Sunday, we gather to remind ourselves that Jesus died because it was the way God could let us know how much God loves us, all of us. And to remember that God is more powerful than death. This is such good news, how can we keep silent?

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!
Alleluia!

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Hope's Women of the ELCA

Our next W/ELCA meeting will be on April 14, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. Our program will be about Jessica's Place. Our speaker will be Melissa Bowemaster.

How small can a congregation get before a church ceases to be a church? Pretty small? To the Jews of Jesus' day, ten men were required to form a synagogue. Many however, believed that God could be experienced in a much smaller group; Jesus made that very point. There is power in groups. Large number of people make a dynamic force.

One final thought. Look around you. Jesus is before you, behind you, next to you. There is great comfort in that and greater opportunity for divine, life-changing fellowship.

Come join us at our next meeting. (Men are always invited to join us.)

W/ELCA's Love Offering goes to help support the Carver Heights Ministries in Leesburg, FL. This facility houses a day

care center for infants and toddlers along with before and after care for school age children.

For Rachel's Day on May 2 we will be asking for donations that will go to our own local Covenant Children's Home. But in the meantime we are asking help with donations for the Carver Heights Ministries. We will be attending the Pineland Conference in April and also Fall Gathering in November and we are hoping that we can collect some of these items that can be sent along to Carver Heights.

They are in need of the following:

Applesauce, canned goods, juices (100% gallon size), peanut butter, paper towels, Styrofoam plates (small & large), underwear (boys & girls ages 1-5 yrs), copy paper, baby wipes, Kleenex tissues, paper napkins, toilet tissue, Styrofoam bowls. We will have a box in the fellowship hall for collection.

The Hope's Women of the ELCA have made Easter cards for the shut-ins. The shut-ins are always so delighted when they receive something from Hope's Women of the ELCA.

Dollars and Sense from the Treasure's Desk

	Income	Expenses
February	\$12,760.80	\$16,390.00
Year-to-Date	\$31,354.03	\$35,786.84

Grief Support Group

Finding Hope



A new grief support group will be forming after Easter. We begin by telling the stories of our loss, and transition over time to looking ahead to life without our beloved one. The group will meet for ten weeks for about 90 minutes. The day and time is negotiable, but for now the group is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday mornings.

A book and an accompanying journal

Understanding Your Grief by Alan D Wolfeldt, PhD., are the resources for the program, and cost \$30. There is no cost for the program. The materials are available from Pastor Lynn.

Brochures are in the file pocket next to Pastor Lynn's office door. If you are interested in joining the group, or know of someone who would benefit, please contact Pastor Lynn.

GPS 4 Hope/Long Range Planning

In a discussion of "internal" hospitality within the congregation the group decided we should look for ways to "celebrate."

We develop two goals for the year, one for hospitality and the other for spirituality.

Hospitality: To help us know and appreciate each of us and those that God sends to us.

In a discussion of spirituality, we discussed the advantage of prayer and considered ways to make our church inviting to prayer, perhaps a labyrinth.

The spirituality goal is: Providing a variety of ways people can use to connect with God.

Our next meeting is in May.

Michel Northsea

Thank You Kathleen!

We want to thank Kathleen for all the hard work and dedication she has shown Hope Church. She has shown superior knowledge of her many challenges, has always shown a friendly face and compassion for whoever came into her office. She put in many hours and took work home that no one knew anything about. She was the one who

always decorated the beautiful Christmas tree for us. Members could always have a listening ear with confidentiality when they needed someone to talk to. We love her and will greatly miss her!!



Esther Circle Bible Study

As we approach the end of our study of Romans, we focus on chapters 14 and 15. These chapters are the most generous-spirited yet challenging portions of Paul's letters. Paul clearly tells us that God's own glory is seen in our service to one another as fellow children of God. How do we love one another for mutual up building? We are called to be loving friends to one another following Christ's example: that HE loves us even when we do not or can not

love back. Each of us must use our own gifts for "up building" as Paul did. It will not always be easy, but such a life may fill us with the peace of God.

Lesson 8, "Holy Hospitality" will be the focus of our Bible Study on April 15, 2010 at 10:30 A.M. when we meet in the church parlor. Copies of the lesson are available in the church office. PLEASE join us.



Educational Opportunities at Hope

These classes always have open enrollment. Join at any time and read God's Word.

Mondays: Jacob's Journey with Anita O'Donnell from 1 - 3 p.m. in Luther Hall. An enhanced study through the Old & New Testaments

Wednesday evenings: Study with Dr.

Steven Northsea beginning at 6 p.m. in the church parlor. Topic(s) will be announced in the weekly bulletin

Third Thursdays: Esther Circle with Janet Esworthy at 10:30 a.m. in the church parlor

Sundays: Adult Forum - Blogging the Bible with Lee Pitre at 9:30 a.m. in room # 1

Thanks to

All those who provided soup for Lenten suppers, and to those who set up and cleaned up, and to those who donated money for the educational program of Hope

Kathleen for her years of faithful service to Hope

Steve Northsea, Vic Kahler, Ted Polack, Dee Forsyth, Yvonne Popke, Cherie Earl, Mike Fonfara, Janet Esworthy, and whoever played Herod (unknown at this writing) during the Lenten dramas. Vic - you can stop feeling guilty now. :)

SPOT-LIGHT ON... Our Youth

Hope is not only home to bright children and teens, but also those who are concerned about fitness and sportsmanship. The following children (that Terry is aware of) ran track and received medals for their participation: Peyton Vilardi, Anthony Diaz, and Brenna Towne. Mrs. Sheri Vilardi won a race and can be seen running throughout Citrus Springs as she trains.

Amanda Myers excels at pitching in softball, but her practices take place on Sundays when coaches are available. Soccer season never ends in Florida. Joey

Serrano and Marissa Penn are our resident soccer stars. Jacob and Steven Penn are in constant motion with all of their sports and chasing after younger brother, Tyler.

Thomas Vilardi finished up basketball season and is on to try a new sport for him.

Joey and Tanner Serrano assisted with the Crop Drop last month with their mom, Kim. We sure needed their energy and youthful muscles to move 10,000 pounds of food.

Continue to pray for our youth who will be confirmed next month on Pentecost, May 23.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Educational Event

ALL are welcome to attend the Caregiver Support Series meetings at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Crystal River on the 4th Tuesdays at 1 p.m. This month the event is sponsored by the Citrus County Leadership Board of Thrivent Financial. Jerry Fisher, MSW, from the Alzheimer's Association will show "Caregivers", an excerpt from the HBO presentation "The Alzheimer Project". There is no cost since refreshments will be supplied by Thrivent Financial, but RSVP to Herb Joerger at 352.382.0755.

Mark your Calendars for the Ballgame.

The date and time are set for Saturday, August 14 at 4:10 p.m. between the Tampa Bay Rays and the Baltimore Orioles. It is a fundraiser for LLMI (Lutheridge and Lutherock Ministries). Thrivent Financial for Lutherans reserved 1200 tickets since they sold out last year. Members of Thrivent Financial will get a discounted price, but may invite a guest at a slightly higher price. The Citrus County Chapter plans to rent a bus and more information will be provided.

The Piecemakers Quilts and Assemble Kits

Come to Luther Hall on Wednesdays, April 21 & 28 at 9:30 a.m. to tie quilts. We have pre-cut batting, tops and backings ready to go! More volunteers to sew and finish the edges are welcome to join us. Bring your needle and scissors.

If you would prefer to work at home, there are kits to sew and fabric to cut. Carol Kramp has been cutting squares faster than the tops are sewn. Thanks to Carol for her faithful service. Guidelines to sew the tops are available with the quilt kits. Guidelines to sew school bags are also on hand. School bags can be sewn from heavier materials not used in quilting.

Quilts and kits will be mailed to the warehouse as soon as a box is filled. We

cannot wait until next February since the need is so great and a steady supply will help more people as the need arises.



Thanks to the Women of the ELCA, Pastors Lynn and Mike Fonfara, and all the participants in the recent fund raiser to benefit the Piecemakers in their ministry. Nearly \$1,000 was donated which includes the \$150 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Now the work continues, to the glory of God, as we help our neighbors.

Learning Opportunities

An Opportunity....

To grow "in the Grace and Knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"

2 Peter 3:18

Saturday, April 17, 2010

The Rev. Dr. Brian Peterson

Professor of New Testament

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

TOPIC: "Why Do We Read the Bible Differently?"

LOCATION: Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Gainesville, FL

PRE-REGISTRATION: Gethsemane LC, 352-378-2915 by Friday, April 9, 2010

EVENT SCHEDULE: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Registration and Refreshments 9:30 a.m., Lunch provided

Personal advance preparation may include reading Dr. Peterson's paper entitled, "The Bible, The Church, and Faithful Discernment." (Available free online at www.nswi.org)

Pinelands Conference Gathering is April 24, 9:30 a.m. at Rock of Ages, Wildwood.

Hospitality and Spirituality

At the recommendation of the Long Range Planning Committee/ GPS-4-HOPE group, the congregational council adopted the following goals for 2010.

1) Hospitality

To help us know and appreciate each other and those people God sends to us. Since we now have one worship service, we are discovering there are people we do not know who are members of Hope. In order to learn each others' names, we will have the option of wearing name tags. You may choose to keep your name tag in your mail box between Sundays, or take it home and store it in your purse or car.

In addition, the family activities committee will be reformed, with the hope of having a monthly celebration - "if you feed them, they will come." Please consider joining the committee and having fun planning events for us. And plan on participating in these events, to get to know other members over a plate or two of food.

2) Spirituality

To provide a variety of ways in which people can connect with God.

This will include educational events, and additional times and types of prayer and worship. Pastor Lynn and Pastor Mike may facilitate these opportunities, as well as others who have skills and interest in spirituality.

We may experiment with a labyrinth, which is an ancient symbol that relates to wholeness. It combines the imagery of the circle and the spiral into a meandering but purposeful path. The Labyrinth represents a journey to our own center and back again out into the world. Labyrinths have long been used as meditation and prayer tools.

Below are two images of labyrinths. On the left is the Hopi seven course design and on the right is the labyrinth at Chartres.

Watch for more information to come, and check out the different experiences.

Holy Week Worship

Maundy Thursday

The service at noon will include Holy Communion and an opportunity for hand washing, to symbolize the foot washing.

The service at 7 pm will include Holy Communion and stripping of the altar, a ritual which represents the sacrifice of Jesus' life for us.

Good Friday

The Way of the Cross at noon will involve walking between several stations which tell the story of Jesus' last hours. Distances are short, and all on pavement or sidewalk. You may wish to bring an umbrella if it is hot or rainy.

A Tenebrae (darkness or shadows) service at night (7 pm) will remind us of the darkness of Jesus' death. As the lights and

candles are gradually extinguished, we sing simple songs and read the story of Jesus' death and burial.

Easter Vigil

Saturday at 7 pm, we will gather for worship. Beginning in the dark, we read the scriptures of salvation history in the Old Testament. As we proclaim the resurrection of Jesus, we turn on the lights and rejoice in the good news.

Easter Morning

The service begins at 9:30 am, after breakfast at 8:15.

Perhaps our favorite service of the year, we rejoice in the victory over death, and the good news of the resurrection. We sing our favorite songs and praise God for this mystery.

Known Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 1 Irene Drew
- 4 Jack Rodgers
- 17 John Eichler
Dorothy Nustad
Mary Peterson
Edythe Sorensen
- 23 Lyle Kramp
Marie Scheffler
- 28 Lou Diaz



- 29 Catherine Bearbower
Ted Polack

Anniversaries

- 4 Hans & Doris Steen (51)
- 5 Serb & Carol D'Auria (24)
- 12 Richard & Mary Wagner (52)
- 18 Jay & Janice Manning (51)
- 19 Bill & Pat Kessel (52)

Prayer



I was hungry, and you formed a humanities club
to discuss my hunger.

I was imprisoned, and you crept off quietly to your chapel
to pray for my release.

I was naked, and in your mind you debated the morality
of my appearance.

I was sick, and you knelt and thanked God for your health.

I was homeless, and you preached to me of the spiritual
shelter of the love of God.

I was lonely, and you left me alone to pray for me.

You seem so holy, so close to God.

But I'm still very hungry, and lonely, and cold.

Author unknown

Easter Egg Hunt

Hope Lutheran Church

9425 N Citrus Springs Blvd, Citrus Springs

Three safe areas for children
to hunt for eggs:

0-3 years in the
fenced playground

4-7 years near the church

Community
invited!

Age appropriate
prizes!

Bring your basket.

For children
from 0 - 10
years old

Meet
at the
pavilion area
and wait



Those Who Will Assist in Worship for April

Communion Assistants and Acolytes

4 - Mary Peterson/Jackie Dean
11 - Renate Wilms-Rovin/Brenna Towne
18 - Jackie Dean/Mary Peterson
25 - Anita O'Donnell/Anthony Diaz

Assisting Ministers

Steve Northsea
Ted Polack
Ryan Towne
Renate Wilms-Rovin

Altar Guild

Guest Greeter

Helen Van Horn

Greeters

Richard & Mary Wagner

Nursery

4 - Terry Lucente
11 - Judy Thomason
18 - Dawn Rodgers
25 - Janice Pitre

Ushers for the Month

Lay Readers

4 - Yvonne Popke
11 - Ted Polack
18 - Renate Wilms-Rovin
25 - Judy Thomason-Kasco



**BRING A FRIEND
TO CHURCH!**

April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Maundy Thurs. 12:00 Service 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Service	2 Good Friday 12:00 Way of the Cross Walk 7:00 Service	3 7:00 Easter Vigil Service
4 Communion Easter Sunday 8:15 Easter Breakfast 9:30 Worship 10:45 Fellowship	5 Easter Monday Office Closed 8:30 Men's Club Mtg 1:00 Jacobs Journey 6:30 Boy Scouts	6 6:00 Girl Scouts	7 9:30 WELCA Bd Mtg 1:00 Art Group 6:00 Bible Study	8 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir Reh.	9	10 10:00 Easter Egg Hunt
11 Communion 8:15 Sunday School 8:15 Confirmation 9:30 Worship 10:45 Fellowship	12 1:00 Jacobs Journey 6:30 Boy Scouts	13 6:00 Girl Scouts	14 9:30 WELCA Mtg 1:00 Art Group 2:00 Healing Service 6:00 Bible Study	15 10:30 Esther Circle 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir Reh.	16	17
18 Communion 8:15 Sunday School 8:15 Confirmation 9:30 Worship 10:45 Fellowship	19 10:30 Evangelism 1:00 Jacobs Journey 6:30 Boy Scouts	20 1:00 Altar Guild 6:00 Girl Scouts	21 9:30 Quilting Group 1:00 Art Group 6:00 Bible Study	22 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir Reh.	23	24
25 Communion 8:15 Sunday School 8:15 Confirmation 9:30 Worship 10:45 Fellowship 11:00 Christian Ed	26 1:00 Jacobs Journey 6:30 Boy Scouts	27 6:00 Girl Scouts	28 9:30 Quilting Group 1:00 Art Group 6:00 Bible Study	29 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir Reh.	30	