



March 2014 Newsletter

Lent begins!

The Lenten season, which begins with Ash Wednesday, March 5th, is a time of penitence and prayer as we prepare ourselves for the remembrances of Holy Week and the celebration of Easter. We will gather this season under the theme: *"Discipleship 201"*.

Our mid-week services will each feature a drama by two of Jesus' disciples, from a contemporary setting. Anyone, male and female alike, who is interested in taking a role, please contact Pastor Tom.

Lenten Suppers, beginning this Wednesday will be served from 5:30-6:30. Church families are encouraged to work with another family or two in preparing the light meals.

Discipleship 201 Syllabus:

- March 5th "Seeking Jesus"
- March 12th "Choosing Sides"
- March 19th "The Family of Christ"
- March 26th "Humility"
- April 2nd "Doubt, Proof & Faith"
- April 9th "Redemption"

Ethiopia Presentation: Directly following our Ash Wednesday Worship, Dr. Mike and Mary Fuchs, along with Pastor Tom will be sharing a power point of pictures and information about their trip to Ethiopia. Should be engaging for all ages!!

Palm Sunday Choir: Beginning on Wednesday, March 12th, following the mid-week service, choir practice begins for those who are available to do a special anthem of Sunday, April 13th. Contact Kris Claeys or Kathy Chase for more details.

Thank you from the Gideons!

On Sunday, February 23rd, Frank Amundson from the local Gideons International camp gave a Temple Talk on their ministry. An Open-Bible offering of \$832 was received. As 100% of congregational giving goes to purchase Bibles, our gift will provide either 162 full Bibles or 624 New Testaments.

Our thanks to Willard Rogge

for constructing the new flower and Holy Communion stands. They are already being used, and are an attractive addition to our chancel furnishings.

2014 World Day of Prayer: On Friday, March 7th, at 1:30 pm, Grace Episcopal Church will host the World day of Prayer service. Sponsored by Church Women United, the service will center around the theme: "Streams in the Desert".

Special Congregational Meeting is set for Sunday, March 16th at 10:30

This past Sunday, February 23rd, an informational meeting was hosted by the Future Facilities Committee. Chairman Roger Chase highlighted more than a dozen pieces of land that were considered as a future building site for Hope Lutheran. The presentation highlighted a plot of land that the committee believes is suitable for our needs as well as economical.

The Church Council has set the above noted meeting for the sole purpose of voting on the purchase of land just West of the river, and North of the Cemetery on 21st Street. This plot of land features over 5 acres of land that is above the flood plain. Cost of this property is \$100,000 dollars. Confirmed members of Hope Lutheran are voting members. Sorry, our Constitution does not allow for any Absentee Ballots.

The Preacher's Ponderings

Jesus is the Lord of Lent, and The Lord of Easter!

*O Lord, throughout these forty days
you prayed and kept the fast;
inspire repentance for our sin,
and free us from our past.*

*You strove with Satan, and you won;
your faithfulness endured;
lend us your nerve, your skill and trust
in God's eternal word.*

*Though parched & hungry, yet you prayed
and fixed your mind above;
so teach us to deny ourselves
that we may know God's love.*

*Be with us through this season, Lord,
and all our earthly days,
that when the final Easter dawns,
we join in heaven's praise*

The above is the verses from a 19th century hymn entitled, "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days". It's one of those dour hymns, that is reflective in both its lyrics and melody....so it fits for the church season of Lent.

Lent is a penitential season that begins with the ashes of Ash Wednesday and ends with the sealed tomb of Holy Saturday. If you are overly analytical type, you may count the days on your calendar and find out that there are 46 days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday. Which might leave one to wonder if the early church fathers were mathematically challenged! But, please know, that even though the Lenten season spans over six Sundays, these six "Lord's Days" are not included in the 40 days.

Why? Well, quite simply, each Sunday is to be a celebration of Easter! Jesus died on Good Friday, but rose from the dead on the third day.....Sunday! Easter! The Lord's Day!

Yes, in part, we are a Lenten people. We will do our best to walk with Jesus during his journey to Jerusalem. We will remember the sinfulness in our lives that caused him to journey to Jerusalem. We will remember his

sacrifice in the giving of the Last Supper and we will gather at the foot of the cross, where the world called for his very life.

That is our Lenten journey...and even though the hymns may be dour, the sermons may be more accusatory than celebrative; we are still a people who knows how the story ends!

Note once again the direction in which the hymn writer takes us. She does not leave us in mourning, but lifts us into praise. Because, the season of Lent is one that points beyond itself. The story of Jesus does not end with the defeat, but with the triumph of new life!

May God bless you in your Lenten journey, so that "when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise".

In His Service, Pastor Tom

Upcoming Events:

Full Calendar can be printed from our website: www.hopelutheranhuron.com

Regular Sunday Schedule

Worship 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday Schedule - Lent (begins March 5th)

Meal 5:30 p.m.
Worship 6:30 p.m.
Choir Practice 7:15 (begins March 12th)

Wednesday, March 5th

7:15 pm - Ethiopia Presentation

Tuesday, March 11th

9:30 am – Global Health Bandage Rolling

Wednesday, March 12th

1:30 pm – Women of Hope

Sunday, March 16th

10:30 – Special Congregational Meeting

Tuesday, March 25th

9:30 am – Global Health Bandage Rolling

Hope Lutheran Church Council

President—Bill Chase
Vice President/Staff Rel.—Steve Sprecher
Secretary/Stewardship—Connie Sproull
Treasurer/Finance—Peggy Bockorny
Education—Sue Krutzfeldt
Evangelism, Missions—Mike Fuchs
Family Life—Jim White
Properties—Erv Huber
Worship—Kris Claeys