

Pastor's Page
December 2017

Have you made your Christmas list yet? I remember when I was a child how exciting it was to figure out exactly what I wanted to Christmas that year. I would look through the toy catalogs and see what new toys were coming out that year. I wanted to find just the perfect list to give to my parents and the rest of the family.

Now that I have gotten older, the things on my list have changed. It is no longer filled with toys, games, and sports equipment. This year there might be one or two things that I ask for, but for the most part, the things I want now in my life are things like good health for me and my family, time with my girls, and moments of rest and relaxation with our family.

As I thought about Christmas lists this year, I also took a moment to remember the most important gift we receive. It was never on the list I made as a child. That is the gift of the Christ Child, the true reason for this season. This gift that God gives to us, even when we didn't ask for it or take much time to think about in the craziness of December, is such a blessing in our life and holds so much more value than anything else we could put on our Christmas list.

The Christ Child means God entered into our world to live among us. He brought us his peace and hope and joy. He lived a life, just like we did, so we understands our struggle, our pain, our suffering. He promises to always be with us. That is the gift that keeps on giving!

So as you are making your Christmas lists this year, and as you are helping your children make theirs, make sure you add the gift that we are guaranteed to receive again this year. Our Savior, born in the manger in Bethlehem, the Christ Child. May it remind you of the joy and the peace God brings to us this Season. May it give you an opportunity to turn the focus of your children, even for just a moment, from Santa Claus to Jesus Christ.

I wish you a joyous Christmas and a Blessed New Year! See you in Church as we prepare our hearts to receive this gift and as we celebrate His birth once again this year!

Looking for help with Advent Wreath Lighting

I have found a new Advent Candle Lighting Litany that I am planning on using this year. The Litany is based off of one the assigned Scripture Readings from each Sunday in Advent. During the Litany a time is set aside for someone to share a short story about their faith that relates to the topic of the week.

I am looking for people who would be willing to participate in these Litanies. Here are the topics for each week.

Week 1 – November 26 – Share a time when you prayed to God to come, heal, and/or to bring peace.
(Covered.)

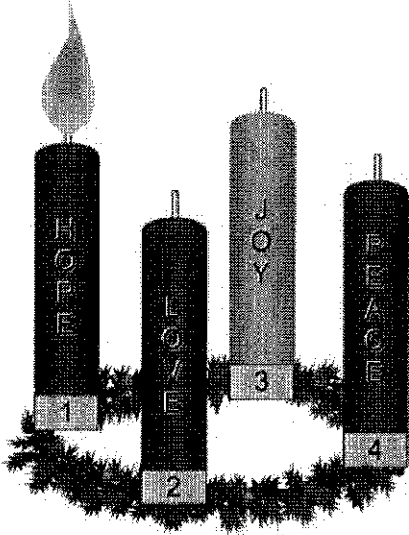
Week 2 – December 3 – Share a time you sought comfort in the might and tenderness of God.

Week 3 – December 10 – Share about a person/persons who impacted your faith and challenged you to deepen your faith.

Week 4 – December 17 – Share a moment of great joy; especially about a joy that followed a time of struggle during which God filled you with hope.

If you have a story you would be willing to share with the congregation, please let me know. Thank you!

December Worship Schedule of Events



December 3 – Second Sunday of Advent

- Sunday School – 9:00am
- Coffee – 9:30am
- Worship – 10:30am

December 10 - Third Sunday of Advent

- Sunday School – 9:00am
- Coffee Time – 9:30am
- Communion Worship – 10:30am

December 17 – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Sunday School Christmas Program

- Sunday School – 9:00am
- Coffee Time – 9:30am
- Sunday School Presents “Christmas IS Cancelled! It’s The Gospel Truth!” – 10:30am
- We will celebrate with Birthday Cake for Jesus following the program!

Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Celebration

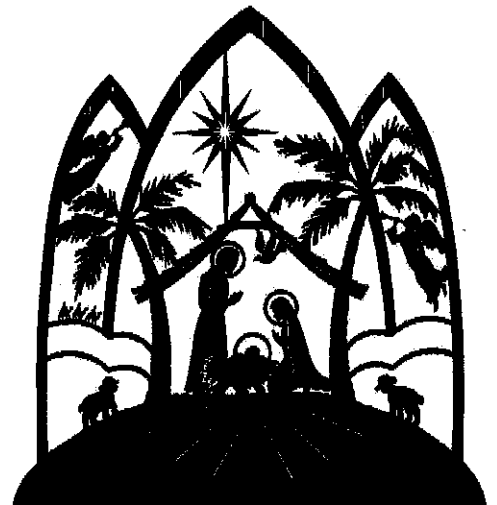
- NO Sunday Morning Worship
- Communion and Candlelight Worship – 5:00pm

Sunday, December 31 –Lessons and Carols Service

- NO Sunday School
- Worship – 10:30am

Upcoming in January

- Annual Congregational Meeting



HOPES HAPPENINGS

Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School (*all 46 students!*) will present "Christmas IS Cancelled! It's the Gospel Truth" on Sunday, **December 17th during worship at 10:30am**. After the program, we will celebrate with Birthday Cake for Jesus! Thank you to Loreen Aker for providing the Birthday Cake. Please come and listen as the kids share the Christmas Story with us!

WELCA News!

WELCA will meet Thursday, December 7 at 12:00 noon for their planned potluck Christmas luncheon. All women of the congregation are invited to join us at the Christmas luncheon. If you are able to come please give Caroll Miller (947-5000) a call so they can plan accordingly. Devotions and Carols: Caroll, Cause of the month is the Beacon center in Watertown. They can use toilet articles, towels, kitchen towels, stocking caps and gloves, sweat suits (lg-XL). Bring unwrapped! Runner club offering will also be taken. Bible study with Pastor Justin. There will be no 2nd quilting day. Quilting will start again on January 4, 2017.

Council Members Needed!

At the Annual Meeting in January, we will hold elections for a few Council Positions. There will be 5 Council Member positions that will need to be filled (4 adult, 1 youth). These are all 2 year terms. Please be praying and thinking about volunteering to fill one of these positions. If you are interested, please talk to Pastor Justin or the Nominating Committee (Billi Whempner, Stacey Amdahl, Jackie Adolph).

Summer 2018 Bible Camp Registration Open

Registration is now open for Bible Camp next Summer through Lutherans Outdoors of South Dakota. More information can be found on their website, www.losd.org. Scholarships are available through Lutherans Outdoors and the church also can provide assistance for any families who need it.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Choice Dollars lets eligible Thrivent Financial for Lutheran benefit members personally help direct a portion of Thrivent's charitable funds to thousands of Lutheran organizations and congregations. Each member must call or log on to their Thrivent Account to direct their Choice Dollars. We encourage all Thrivent members to contact Thrivent and direct their Choice Dollars. We also ask that you please remember Hope Lutheran when you make your designation. Thank You!!

Poinsettias

If you would like to give a Poinsettia to adorn the church, in memory or in honor of someone, bring them to the church any time after December 13. Be sure to attach a note for who it's for and from whom. Also, note if you would like it back after Christmas. ☺

2017 Christmas Wreaths and Greenery

In Memory of:

Vernon, Iona, and Vince Pearson; Phyllis Smith

Lee Whempner

Bob and Joan Amdahl

Michelle Miller

Harvey Kneeland

Lynne Quale and Scotty Eccles

Mitzi Strasser, Myrna Kauk, Aimee Sell

Fred and Marion Wohlfort

Harvey Kneeland

Eldon Gapp

Reed Birney

Shirley and Leo Jensen (parents of Denny Jensen)

Al and Inez Heggelund (parents of Donna Jensen)

Sandy Wohlleber

Sandy Wohlleber

Grandpa Eugene Pietz

Grandma Sandy and Grandpa John

Herman, Elise, and David Halvorson

Lance and Trent Smith

Peg Ellingson; Walt & Suzanne Sturman; Jack Storms

A gift to the Church

Given By:

The Smith family

The Whempner family

Tim and Andrea Gapp

Gary and Carroll Miller

Myla Kneeland

Scott and Laurie Kneeland family

The Wright and Whempner families

The Wright and Whempner families

Bruce and Diane Kneeland

Randy and Beth Hills family

Julie Birney

Denny and Donna Jensen

Denny and Donna Jensen

The O'Farrell family

The Steinocker family

*David and Jennifer Lewandowski
family; Darrell and Shane Pietz*

Josh and Joni Wohlleber family

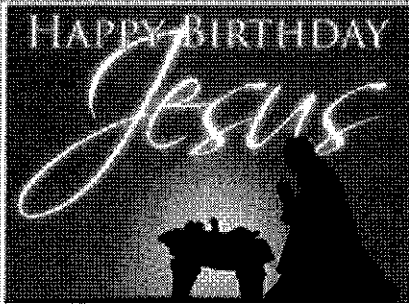
Omar and Janice Halvorson

Savannah Moe

Shawn and Traci Ellingson family

Kurt Jensen

*Thank you for sharing these wreaths with the Church this Christmas Season
and for supporting the Hope Lutheran Youth Group*



December 2017

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3 blue Council meets following Worship 3:00 Piano recital	4	5	6 4:00 Confirmation	7 WELCA Luncheon at Noon	8	9
10 blue	11	12	13 4:00 Confirmation	14	15 Newsletter items due	16
17 blue Sunday school Christmas program- Birthday cake for Jesus to follow	18	19	20 4:00 Confirmation	21	22	23
24 white NO MORNING WORSHIP/SUNDAY SCHOOL/COFFEE 5:00 Candlelight Service	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 white NO SUNDAY SCHOOL/COFFEE						

Notes

Worship 10:30 am (unless otherwise noted), 9:00 am Sunday school, 9:30 Coffee.

NO Morning Worship on the 24th, No Sunday school or Coffee on the 24th and 31st.

Communion 10th and 24th

Communion Committee: Lori O'Farrell, Becky Steinocker

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
PO BOX 886
SUMMIT, SD 57266

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
PERMIT NUMBER 2

"WORDS OF HOPE FROM HOPE"

Volume 44, Issue 12

December 2017

Address Service Requested

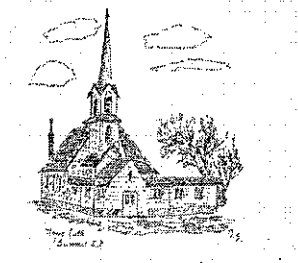
Printed monthly at Hope Lutheran Church

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Secretary Dawn Wright -cell #605-881-4377

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December 2017

“It is the mission of Hope Lutheran Church to help people grow in their faith; to be a leader in the community; to serve the needs of all people; and to teach/educate all people

December Birthdays/Anniversaries

1-Jen Zubke
1-Kris and Tami Jo Bronson
3-Chelsea Bailey
5-Jim Arten
10-Karin Quale
12-Eric Erickson
12-Cooper Ebsen
13-Robbie Young
16-Randy Hills
16-Todd Brink
17-Jonathan and Nicole Ebsen

19-Nikki Pays
19-Braxton Urban
20-Jorja Whempner
20-Damon Opdahl
21-Andrea Gapp
22-Kiara Cardwell
24-Donn Richter
26-Brady Lindholm
28-Justin Neugebauer
31-Rose Carlson