



A Ray of Hope

Monthly newsletter of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church
5728 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55417, 612-827-2655
www.hopempls.org

Ministers of the Gospel: The Baptized 84 years in ministry 1928—2012

Volume 81 Number 2

Make Christ Known through the Spirit of Hope

February 2012

Wapo Camp Preview Weekend February 11-12

Saturday, February 11

4:00-6:00 p.m. - We invite all to join us for a WAPO preview, games and dinner.

6:00-9:00 p.m. - All second graders through High School



Youth are invited to join us for a *Mini Wapo Retreat* with four of Wapo's awesome councilors. Bring a

sleeping bag and pillow for our "Camp Fire."

We are looking for a host home or two for our Wapo Counselors for the night of February 11. They are all males who are over the age of 18. If you are able to open up your home, please contact Amy Morphew.

Sunday, February 12

Our Wapo Guys will be leading Sunday School Activities and part of our worship. We encourage all to wear your WAPO or Camping clothes to church! Come and find out more about all we have to offer this summer and enjoy a Sweet Camp Treat!

Weather Alert! In case of weather cancelation of worship and/or activities at Hope, the following procedure will be put into action:

- members will be notified by their Fellowship Group callers;
- those few people who are not in Fellowship Groups will be called as well;
- the voicemail at church will have a message (612-827-2655);
- Hope's Facebook page;
- and the Message of Hope via your email.

If Hope does not have your email address, or it needs to be updated, please give Kristi in the office a call.



LENT

Ash
Wednesday

February 22

Worship at 7pm

Since the middle ages, Christians in the so-called Western Church have observed Ash Wednesday (the seventh Wednesday before Easter) as the first day of Lent. On this day worshippers receive ashes on the forehead as a reminder of their sorrow for their sins.

Wednesdays, February 29 thru March 28

Lenten Worship Services

7pm



Join us for

Supper on Wednesdays at 6pm

before each Lenten Service,
February 29 through March 28,
in the fellowship hall.



**Meals on Wheels
delivery Feb 6-13**

The sign up sheet is in the gathering area



Now is the Time



Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus,

“For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay.” Habakkuk 2:3

The prophet’s promise of a hopeful future was spoken to a people struggling to maintain hope in the midst of difficult times. Throughout the Holy Scriptures, God’s people often had no other choice but to wait. In your recent time of waiting for a new pastor, the Holy Spirit has been preparing Hope for an ‘appointed time’ of dynamic mission and outreach. In the midst of the difficult work of waiting, the good news of God remains the same now as it was then, “There is still a vision for the appointed time.” Trusting in the good news, I claim this promise for Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church!

Now is the appointed time for God’s vision for Hope to be revealed. Now is the time to build upon our strong legacy of inspiring worship and music by personally inviting people to come and encounter Jesus with us. Now is the time to create an environment of radical hospitality in our homes and in our church building so that Christ is truly made known to all who experience Hope Lutheran Church. Now is the time to strengthen our children, youth, and family ministries so that the faith we pass on to the next generation will be vibrant. Now is the time to support the mission of Hope through your time, prayers, and financial giving. Now is the time to ‘Make Christ known through the Spirit of Hope!’

Over the last month, I have met many members and friends of Hope, I have begun partnering with the gifted and dedicated leaders of your church council, and I have worked to support the staff of this congregation in fulfilling their particular vocations during a time of transition. I have discovered that this church is indeed a community filled with the Spirit of Hope and empowered to fulfill God’s vision! My heart is filled with joy and gratitude at the privilege of serving as your pastor. I invite you to join us in worship during this exciting time of new beginnings at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church.

In Christ, *Pastor Chris Steubing*

2012 Offering Envelopes

If you did not pick your envelopes up in the gathering area, please contact the church office (612-827-2655) or Ginny Olson (612-729-5132) and we’ll see that you get them. Thank you!



Herb Carlson died January 21. His life was celebrated at Hope on January 26.

Herb is survived by brother-in-law Harold Niece, niece Linda (Bruce) Bloomquist, grand niece and nephew Anne and John (Sasha), and nieces, nephews and friends.

Our prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Thank you

to all the loyal *Meals on Wheels* drivers for their service in 2011.

We have another new year ahead of driving every 8 weeks. Thanks to all of you, we will be able to spread God’s love in an important way.

If you haven’t driven before call me and I’ll be glad to explain what we do.

Thanks again, *Don Schwappach*

Celebrate an important event

or remember someone special with an arrangement of flowers on the altar. Contact the office to arrange the order and to put a note in the bulletin. Arrangements are \$30.





Welcome to Hope's New Staff

Children, Youth and Family Minister Amy Morphey



Hi, my name is Amy Morphey and I am delighted to join you in ministry at HOPE, as your new Children, Youth and Family Minister.

I have been married to my husband, Jim, for a little over 10 years. We have been blessed with three wonderful children... Abby (9 years/third grade), Gracie (5 years /preschool) and Aaron (3 years). We currently

live in Mounds View, Minnesota.

I grew up in New Brighton, Minnesota and was brought up in the Lutheran Church. I have worked as a Preschool Director at the YMCA in Shoreview, and in the Roseville School district with special education and EBD children. I most recently worked, for over 14 years, at a church in New Brighton as the Director of Children and Family Ministry. After the birth of my third child, I resigned to spend more time at home with my children. I have also enjoyed doing Interim work at an inner city church in North St. Paul. In a nutshell... I love working with kids, youth and adults.... and watching their faith grow in many ways.

I enjoy many things... my top ten things are: God, my children, my husband, camp fires, cooking, diet coke, photography, traveling, shopping, and walking.

I have many 'High Hopes' as I begin my ministry here at HOPE... I know you do too. Please don't hesitate to shoot me an email, or stop me in the hall to chat, or to discuss topics about the children, youth and/or education. I look forward to getting to know you as we minister together.

God Bless!

Hope's Library



Dorian Thompson did a great job of making a scrapbook of members for Pastor Chris and his family. She also made a copy of the scrapbook for the congregation to enjoy, which you'll find in the church library.

Thank you, Dorian!

Minister of Music Russ Carlson



I was fortunate to be here to play for a few services in December so some of you have already met me, heard me play, and sing. Thank you for a very warm welcome.

I have been involved with church music since I started Sunday School. I sang my first solo in the Sunday School Christmas play when I was in

kindergarten and have not stopped singing in church since then. The Lord has been very good to me with these musical gifts that I was given. I know that music ministry is my calling.

I first played for church when I was 16 and began directing the church choir when I was 17. These experiences helped shape not only my life as a musician, but as a follower of Christ. My faith journey has been blessed by and with much music!

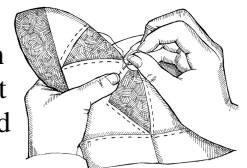
I have an adult daughter, Krysten. I am so very proud of her. She is engaged to be married this coming summer.

My partner, Jim Albrecht and I have been together for over 15 years. On the day of our 7th anniversary, we celebrated our union with a service of Holy Union (a wedding) at St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church in St. Paul. Since the day we came together, Jim has been in church with me. Worshiping together is a very important part of our relationship so you will see him at Hope frequently.

I look forward to meeting all of you. And if any of you would like to come and sing in the choir, please feel free to come and join us. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings in the choir room. There are some empty chairs that might be feeling lonely!

Nimble Thimbles need you!

Join the Nimble Thimbles (Hope's quilting group) on 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. You'll find us at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. If you can hold a needle tie a quilt! Questions? Contact Mary Peterson.





CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Amy Morphey

THANK YOU! *I want to express a heartfelt THANK YOU for making myself and my family feel so welcome as I begin my ministry at Hope. I also want to let you know how much I appreciated your prayers, calls, emails and warm thoughts on my recent illness and hospitalization. I am blessed and feel honored to call Hope my church!*

Sunday School Staff Meeting

Thank you to all the wonderful Sunday School Staff who have been so dedicated and prepared every week to teach our children about God's love for them. I would like to invite all the Sunday School Staff to a gathering to connect and to get feedback on how Sunday School is going this year. Please join us on **Monday, February 6 at 6:30** in the church office. If you have questions or need childcare, please let me know!

Come and join me

On Sundays after worship, I encourage all the children and youth to join me (after you get your treats, of course) for some activities and projects. We will gather near the library in the fellowship hall. Each week will be something different. Come and check us out!

Spring Fundraisers

We will have many opportunities to help you in raising funds and help in defraying the cost of camp and the servant trip, the first of which is the Spring Plant Sale, details on this page.

Summer Mission Trip

Pastor Chris will be leading a group to *Shalom Hill Farm* this summer. Watch for more details and dates coming soon!

Spring Plant Orders

This year you may be already thinking about your garden with the lack of snow cover. You will find an order sheet in this A Ray of Hope as well as the gathering area and church office.



If you have a special need for your garden, let Mary Peterson (952-929-0747) know and it might be available from the nursery that provides the wonderful flowers, vegetables and herbs.

This is a fundraiser to help send Hope's children to summer camp at Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp.

Orders are due by March 12 and pick up will be May 19.

Hope Preschool and Childcare

Michelle Florey, director



I received a "Happy New Year" card from a preschool family last week. It was homemade, glittery and full of stickers. The front of the card said... "I Love Hope Preschool." The inside listed a few reasons why... such as; art time, yummy snacks and the swings. Of course I loved it and gave the little girl a big hug. The other children were watching and wanted to know what the beautiful card said. I read it to them. This prompted all of the other preschoolers to start listing their reasons why THEY love Hope, to be fair I asked all the children who were present at the time to share a reason why they love preschool. I thought I would share...

We love Hope Preschool because... the toys, the books, the fire station, the lunch, the muscle room, music time, the Lamb room, sharing days, eating together, the flowers???, the trucks, the blocks, rest time, because you are one of my teacher friends... (awww), and being together with my friends!

I think it's safe to say we have a great thing going on here! Spread the word! Enrollment for the fall begins February 1, 2012 for new families.

In Christ, *Michelle*



Missions

Global Missions Fund

Are you looking for seed money to start a mission project or to support the outreach efforts of others to help the poor in our local or global community? The *Global Missions Team* would like to announce that there is a Global Missions Fund from the monies raised from the sales of the *Music for Missions* CD recorded by Pastor Jim Sbertoli, Warren Elness and Jeff Hotchkiss.

If you would like to request some of these funds, there is an application available in the church office, or contact Deb Stoll (debbiestoll@charter.net).

St Stephen's Shelter Wish List

Winter wear:

long underwear, gloves, hats, scarves, all ages, gender & sizes

Other Needs:

Towels, pillows, sheets, blankets
Diapers & baby wipes
Dishes, silverware, pots & pans
Alarm clocks
Bus tokens or passes

Place items in the St. Stephen's box in the gathering area.

Thank you!



Music for Missions

CD... Recorded by Pastor Jim Sbertoli, Warren Elness and Jeff Hotchkiss.

donation: \$15. *Suggested* ☆

All donations given are earmarked for mission outreach by the community of Hope. Contact the church office to order.

Cut Hunger - Not Hunger Programs

Saturday, February 25

St Stephen Lutheran Church
8400 France Ave S
Bloomington, MN

9am to Noon

Registration starts at 8:30 am

What's at Risk? Millions of people around the globe benefit from poverty focused development assistance in our foreign aid programs and from our international food aid. Here in the U.S., millions benefit from SNAP (formerly food stamps), WIC, the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit, home heating assistance, school lunches, children's summer meals and much more!

Come together to learn how to protect it all. This workshop is being lead by Bread for the World.



Don't forget the Minnehaha Food Shelf

Hope's collection of groceries and dollars for our neighborhood food shelf at Minnehaha Methodist Church is on-going. The grocery cart is in the gathering area or monetary donations are also appreciated, as they can turn \$10 into \$30 worth of food thru the buying co-op.

Hillclimber's Event



Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Cliff Brunzell and the

GOLDEN STRINGS

Bus from church to the Lafayette Club for Lunch and Performance

\$58.00 per person includes bus, show, and lunch (tax, tip and beverage included).

Leave on the bus from church parking lot at 10:15 am. Sound like fun?

Call Kathryn Schwappach at 651-905-0787.



Hope serves and has available

Equal Exchange

Coffee: Regular and Decaf

Tea: Earl Grey, Green, Breakfast Tea and

Cocoa mix

in the cabinet by the kitchen

Thought for the Day

God didn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, sun without rain, but He did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears, and light for the way.



Worship and Music Ministry

Russ Carlson

More about Russ Carlson..... Russ holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Augsburg College. He has served in various churches in the Twin Cities Metro area since 1973, holding positions of organist, choral director, and/or Director/Minister of Music.

His extensive choral background includes singing with the Minnesota Chorale, One Voice Mixed Voice Chorus, Exultate Chamber Chorus and Orchestra. He served as assistant conductor for six years with Exultate and can be heard as soloist on several of the Exultate recordings. He was the co-founder and co-director of the short-lived Shoreview Community Chorus. He has also sung with Augsburg’s Masterwork Chorale, MacPhail’s Sonomento and is presently a tenor in the Oratorio Society of Minnesota.

He loves to sing! Most importantly though, is his love for sacred music and sharing God’s message through music. He has been singing since childhood and playing the organ since he was a teenager and continues to find much joy in sharing these gifts with others.

Women’s Yoga Retreat February 24-26 Wilderness Canoe Base

*“Be still and know that I am God.”
Psalm 46*

Andrea Scharmer will lead this invigorating weekend full of yoga practice with a Christian focus. Enjoy healthy meals, warm community, time for silence and the chance to disconnect from the world to be closer to God.

The retreat begins on Friday evening and ends Sunday morning after brunch.

Wilderness Canoe Base is located on the edge of the Boundary Waters, and is approximately a 5 1/2 hour drive from the Twin Cities.

Cost is only \$180 for the whole weekend.

Contact Emma Harness to register at (218) 388-2241 or emmah@campwapo.org.

Council Mini-Minutes (highlights) January 5, 2012

- Charlie Olson gave an update on cleaning and sealing the aggregate in the gathering area and sanctuary. A motion was made, seconded and approved to use the balance of the BURO (Building Up/Reaching Out) funds to hire Concrete Science Services to clean and seal the aggregate in the narthex and sanctuary at a cost of approximately \$3,200. There is \$2,896 in the fund. The balance of the funds would come from the Repair & Maintenance Funds.
- Jim Nunn gave a brief review of the budget to be approved prior to the 2nd half of the Annual Meeting being held on Sunday, Jan 22.
- There was discussion re: a council/staff retreat this year. This would be an excellent opportunity to determine the goals of the church, council and staff. It would also allow people to meet each other, renew friendships and start new relationships. (Retreat will be held February 11). Pastor Chris will work on an agenda/program.

Next council meeting: February 9, 2012—7pm

As with all of the monthly council meetings, they are open to congregation members to attend.

Refocus for Lent

Give up complaining... focus on gratitude.

Give up harsh judgments... think kind thoughts.

Give up worry... trust God to provide.

Give up discouragement... be full of hope.

Give up bitterness.. turn to forgiveness.

Give up hatred... return good for evil.

Give up anger... be more patient.

Give up pettiness... become mature.

Give up jealousy... pray for trust.

Give up gossiping... control your tongue.

Give up sin... turn to virtue.

Give up giving up... persevere.

—Author unknown



Hope Lutheran Church Contact Persons

PASTOR Christopher Steubing	church (612) 827-2655 ext13	CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTER Amy Morphew	church (612) 827-2655 ext 10 cell (651) 280-5612
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE Doug Morton	church (612) 827-2655	PRESCHOOL AND CHILDCARE DIRECTOR Michelle Florey	preschool (612) 827-4369
SECRETARY Kristi Gay	church (612) 827-2655 ext 10	COUNCIL PRESIDENT Jim Gay	church (612) 827-2655
MINISTER OF MUSIC Russ Carlson	church (612) 827-2655 ext 15 cell (651) 699-4404	NEWSLETTER EDITOR Ginny Olson	home (612) 729-5132

2012 Church Council

President	<i>Jim Gay</i>
Vice President	<i>Becky McDaniel</i>
Treasurer	<i>Clair Brenna</i>
Financial Secretary	<i>Dorian Thompson</i>
Secretary	<i>Barb Nelson</i>
Business Management	<i>Jim Nunn</i>
Education	<i>open</i>
Evangelism	<i>Jan Nunn</i>
Finance	<i>Dorian Thompson</i>
Pastoral/Social Ministry	<i>Mary Peterson</i>
Property	<i>Charlie Olson</i>
Recreation/Fellowship	<i>Eileen DePoe</i>
Stewardship	<i>Dave Fernandez</i>
Worship/Music	<i>Duane Horn</i>
Youth	<i>Jacki Just</i>

Office Hours

Monday	9:00am to 1:00 pm
Tuesday	9:00am to 1:00 pm
Wednesday	9:00am to 1:00 pm
Thursday	9:00am to 1:00 pm
Friday	9:00am to 1:00 pm

Blood Pressure Monitoring

The second Sunday of every month in the gathering area after the worship service

Idle Thoughts From A Retiree's Wandering Mind

Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home and, when he grows up, he'll never be able to merge his car onto the freeway.

AD SPACE AVAILABLE

For information contact Ginny Olson at 612-729-5132 or cgolson@earthlink.net



FOOD & DRINK

1611 West Larpenteur Ave.
Falcon Heights MN 55113
Ph. 651-789-8888
www.StoutsPub.com

Ward Wollerman, General Manager & member of Hope

Henry W. Anderson Mortuary

Minneapolis 3640 23 Ave So (612) 729-2331
Apple Valley 14850 Garrett Ave (952) 432-2331
Funerals
Cremation
Advanced Planning

Westen H. Anderson Timothy W. Anderson
www.HenryWAnderson.com

EARLY DAY CARE

Michaëlle Flaten
3637 23rd Ave S
Minneapolis MN 55407
612-724-8825

Over 26 years experience

Michaëlle Flaten, member of Hope



"Whatever It Takes"

Complete Automotive Service

952-891-5393

Cty. 42 & Galaxy, Apple Valley

Brother of Taimi & Scott Herron, members of Hope

Krista Johnson, member of Hope Piano Lessons in my home

(just across Cedar from Hope)
monk2miles@comcast.net
612-209-3396

\$21 for a 30 minute lesson



OHANA

STYLING SHOP

for Men, Women & Children

1512 East 66th St
Richfield, MN 55423 **612-866-9550**

Colleen Schamber, member of Hope



Hope Preschool & Child Care Center

~ Licensed ~
33 months to first day kindergarten

full and part time positions open
5712 Cedar Ave S, Minneapolis
(612) 827-4369

hopepreschoolandchildcare.org

Located between Fat Lorenzo's and the 5.8 Club

