LOVING GOD, LOVING OTHERS, LIVING IN GRACE

A Message of Hope
Hope Presbyterian Church
LOVING GOD, LOVING OTHERS, LIVING IN GRACE
APRIL 2015

Message Topics
April 5, 2015
EASTER SUNDAY
“Go, Tell, Be Fearless”
Matthew 28: 1-10
April 12, 2015
“The Tax Conundrum”
Matthew 17: 24-27
April 19, 2015
“Rites of Reconciliation”
Matthew 18: 15-20
April 26, 2015
“Can Forgiveness Be Real?”
Matthew 18: 21-35

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 5, 2015

DICK CORWINE AS PONTIUS PILATE
Maunder Thursday
April 2, 2015 - 6:00PM

Potluck Supper
Communion in the Gym
Scripture in the Sanctuary
Garden of Gethsemane
Pontius Pilate Soliloquy
Confessions on the Cross
7 Last Words of Christ

Families are welcome! Sign-up in the Lobby

He is Risen
“Go, Tell, Be Fearless”
Matthew 28: 1-10

TRADITIONAL SERVICE 9:00 am
CONTEMPORARY SERVICE 10:30 am

CELEBRATING THE LIVING GOD!
Dear Friends,

What are you worth? There was an episode of Elementary (a modern Sherlock Holmes show on CBS) not long ago where that question was at the core of the show. There were several attorneys who had systems for determining a person’s value depending on their productivity, age, income, health and other factors. These were used to determine insurance payouts for those whose loved one was killed.

April is one of those months that we are reminded of our relative value because of the IRS tax filing deadline on the 15th. Our charitable donations are listed and placed against our income and revenue. We may have complained about charitable donations when we made them last year, but we value them and perhaps wish we had more when this time of year comes around. Here’s our chance to be intentional in our giving to charities for this year so we’ll have a different experience next April.

We are also reminded of our value and worth this April because we celebrate Easter. Easter is that most holy day when God raised Jesus from death to life, the culmination of God’s sacrificial love exemplified in Jesus’ life, teachings and death for the entire world. In Easter, God makes the definitive announcement that we are of great value to God and that the fears and anxieties that are rooted in our fear of death no longer apply. Jesus overcame death, rising to new life and bringing hope to all. Because of that, we are freed to live lives of value and worth; to be kind in the face of adversity, to share grace to those in need, to forgive even when it is difficult, and to value others in spite of their outward circumstances.

What are you worth? You are worth more than you can imagine because God loves you more than you can imagine. If you want to know more definitively what you are worth, I invite you to share the grace you received to others who cannot repay you. It is in serving that we come to understand a little deeper the love that makes people valuable. Grace Abounds!

Pastor Dave

For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. John 3: 16 NRSV
EVEREST – Conquering Challenges with God’s Mighty Power

VBS IS NOT JUST FOR KIDS!
You are never too old to join the FUN.
And it is never too early to start to plan!

ALL leaders are asked to attend one of these
two great training opportunities if possible:
Saturday, April 25 from 9:00 – 10:00 am
OR Wednesday, April 29 from 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Gear up NOW for the Life-Changing Adventure of a Lifetime!
HOPE Vacation Bible School 2015 will be July 12-16

Regular VBS will be Sunday-Thursday evenings.
Special Needs VBS will be Monday-Thursday mornings.

Help kids learn how to HOLD ON TO GOD!

Be on the lookout for these items to use for decorations:
Camping Gear, Climbing Equipment, Lanterns, Canvas Sacks, Snow Shoes, Artificial Trees,
Wooden Crates, Colorful Sturdy Ropes, Pots and Pans, Stuffing, Fake Snow

Leaders are needed for stations where kids and adults have fun and learn about God.

IMAGINATION STATION: Snow Seeds, Bubble Booster, Leapin’ Blizzard
BIBLE EXPEDITIONS: Ravens, Windstorm, Jordan River, Peter, Cool Heaven
GLACIER GAMES: Ice-to-Know-You, Mountaintop Rescue, Icy Pass
KIDVID CINEMA: DVD stories of children relying on God’s power
SUMMIT CELEBRATION: Daily theme summary and more music
MOUNTAINTOP TREATS: Trail Mix, Rock Parfait, Summit Cake, Pizza Peaks

BASE CAMP SING & PLAY: Join Jani Billups to energize kids with music
DECORATIONS: Help create decorations or set up those made by others.
CREW DIRECTORS: Help organize groups of kids with their leaders.
KITCHEN CREW: Join Marilyn Witte’s kitchen team.
PRESCHOOL PEAK: New format designed by early-childhood experts

Every year about 100 volunteers enjoy this exciting week.
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

To volunteer please contact:
Carol Rudesill at GmaCarolR@aol.com or 402-598-1890
Darci Davis at darcildavis87@cox.net or 402-995-1255
Deb Miller at hopepresbychurch@yahoo.com or 402-895-4044
MISSION SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH
Submitted by Brian Claus
Mission Ruling Elder

Rebuilding Together began 20 years ago under the name Christmas in April. This organization has coordinated teams to make a difference in the lives of over 1,930 low-income elderly or permanently disabled homeowners. Every year teams of volunteers fix up elderly Omaha citizen’s homes to make them safer to live in. Rebuilding Together also accepts donations of used appliances and extra building materials to be reused in Omaha homes.

For more information on Rebuilding Together, you can check out their website at www.rebuildingtogetheromaha.org, Facebook site https://www.facebook.com/RebuildOmaha or follow them on Twitter @RebuildOmaha. Many in our congregation have participated with the Hope team to help rebuild these elderly Omaha citizens’ homes. Hope has participated in this outstanding program for 14 years. This year the Hope team will be working on a home at 845 South 22nd St. The homeowner, Sedelia or “Cha Cha” as her friends call her, is a bubbly woman with a zest for life who is overjoyed that we are able to help her make needed updates to her lovely home. Cha Cha worked for 20 years as the Spanish interpreter in the Sarpy County traffic court and also volunteered many hours in the community to help young Latinos learn how to handle their finances. Twenty years ago, Cha Cha purchased her home, raised two sons, and is now helping them raise her three grandchildren. Unfortunately, the contractors she hired years ago to upgrade her home to accommodate her family and make it more energy efficient took advantage of Cha Cha’s kindness and stole many items including some beautiful stained glass windows and ornate woodwork from her home. We will be working on Cha Cha’s home Saturday April 22nd and 29th, from 8 am to 4 pm to help finish some of the work the contractors left behind. We would love to have your help even if only for a few hours. You do not need to be skilled to help out. There are many jobs to perform: painting, cleaning, floor repair, sink and faucet replacements, window repair, door repair, and basement crack sealing. Please prayerfully consider joining the Hope team to help us serve God by helping Sedelia live in a safer home this year. If you would like to volunteer to help with this project, please contact Brian Claus, briantinaclaus@cox.net, 402-616-5232.

HOPE VOLUNTEERS HAVE A HEART FOR GIVING
Submitted by Carol Rudesill

I have been so blessed to be working with such a great group of volunteers since I accepted the position of Interim Education Coordinator last November. Youth families worked many hours to raise money for youth mission through their lasagna dinner, silent auction, pop walk and bake sale. These families, along with other church members, have been serving wonderful tasty treats for Sunday Fellowship time.

Sunday School teachers prepare weekly lessons and take time to know and love the children and youth in their classes. Parents and teachers attend meetings to help make decisions that will benefit future programs of Hope. There are plans in the works to make a few changes this spring and some others this summer as we prepare for the fall. Plan to attend meetings to plan for youth (Monday, April 6 – 6:30 pm) and children (Tuesday, April 7 – 7:00 pm)

If you would like to be part of the planning and changes or you have ideas to share, but cannot attend these meetings, stop by the education office or email Carol at gimacarol@sol.com.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY NEWS
Submitted by Carol Rudesill

THANK YOU to all who contributed to the Children’s Offering for Sienna Francis House Birthday party fund. The total of $98.76 will be used to bless many!! Here is the breakdown from the donations:

- Pennies - $1.56
- Nickels - $2.60
- Dimes - $32.50
- Quarters - $16.10
- Dollars - $98.76

The Children’s Sunday School offering will go to the General Fund through the end of May.

THANK YOU to all who make generous donations of money and candy to make the Easter Egg Hunt a HUGE SUCCESS!! THANK YOU to those who prepare and lead activities, help with registration, and who help stuff and hide the eggs. This annual event is a highlight for children and adults in the spring!

Spring has arrived with warmer temperatures and beautiful sunshine. Summer will be here before we know it! As you plan your summer be sure to mark your calendar for July 12-16. Regular VBS will be held evenings Sunday through Thursday, and Special Needs VBS will be held mornings Monday through Thursday. Watch for more information in future newsletters and see the back of the calendar page!

YOUTH NEWS
Submitted by Jani Billups

Mark your calendars for April 10th! We are planning a fun activity for parents and teens to come together and compete in some survivor-type challenges. The goal will be to see whether it is the parents or the teens who can outwit, outplay and outlast the competition. We just might have some fun in the meantime. The night will run from 6:30 to 8:30, and we hope you can make it. Feel free to bring parents and friends from outside of Hope as we will have plenty of room for all!

Preparation is underway for the summer mission trips. The middle school students will be traveling to Hastings, Nebraska June 3 thru 6, and the senior high group will travel to Salem, Illinois June 13 thru 20. Anyone who would like to be connected with either of these trips can sure let me know, and I will point you in the right direction. My email is janibillups@gmail.com. We still need a volunteer or two for the middle school trip. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity.

Confirmation students are busy finalizing their faith statements and preparing for confirmation. We will honor those confirmed on Sunday morning, May 3rd at a combined service at 10:00.
We are fortunate to have many opportunities for men and women to grow in faith at Hope. Please contact Carol Rudesill at GmaCarolR@aol.com or 402-598-1890 if you would like to offer suggestions or get more information about opportunities being offered for adults.

**SUNDAYS AT 10:30 am –** Join teacher Chuck Bulger and others as they talk about 2nd Samuel. The book covers the rise of the kingdom of Israel. Religious leader, Samuel, appoints a king named Saul. Saul disobeys God and God chooses David to be king. David establishes the great kingdom of Israel, conquers Israel’s surrounding enemies and establishes Jerusalem as the religious and political center of Israel.

**ThURSDAYS AT 10:00 am –** Pastor Dave invites you for a slow-paced study of many parables and of the “Son of Man” Jesus as written by Luke, a doctor and Greek Christian. The emphasis in Luke is the inclusion of the entire world in God’s salvation plan. The book includes 19 parables, which are simple stories used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson. Come “chew on a few verses” each week. Maybe join the gang for lunch!

**WOMEN OF THE BIBLE –** Recently 12 friendly guys met on a Saturday at 6:30 at Summer Kitchen Café in La Vista. The group invites you to join them when you can for their study on the book of Genesis. Gain new insight into the stories of Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah and the great flood and more. Gain some new friends in the process. For more information please contact Josh Widman at joshwidman@cox.net or 402-651-4366.

**WOMEN’S PRAYER GROUP –** meets Monday, April 27 at 6:30 pm at the home of Thelma Symnietz - 7006 S. 183rd Terrace. Contact Thelma at 402-320-3643 for directions. Georgia Bulger will facilitate discussion of Chapter 14 to the end of the book: The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom. This intriguing true story about the WWII Nazi takeover of Holland is a witness to how God’s love overcomes, heals and restores. For more information, please contact Julie Reeks at 402-880-0042 or julierooks@gmail.com. The group will also lift joys and concerns in prayer.

**PAGE TURNER BOOK GROUP –** Tuesday, April 14 at 10:30 am
This group would love to have you join them for a discussion of Rainwater by Sandra Brown. Books are on the sign-up table in the HOPE lobby. Brown celebrates the spirit and determination that kept our country proud through the Great Depression in this tale of a bygone generation. A strong young widow, Ella Barron, must rise above circumstances to maintain the well-ordered life she has built for herself and her special child, Solly, who lives in a world of his own that even she can’t enter. Ella holds herself aloof from her small community, but her new boarder, David Rainwater, comes into her life—and changes it forever. Sandra Brown's Rainwater is a poignant, lyrical novel that will speak straight to your heart, a story that bears witness to a powerful truth; love is worth whatever price one must pay for it. You may contact facilitator Georgia Bulger at stanbulger@q.com or 402-861-5904.

**GREAT PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN PILGRIMAGE is a weekend journey that will deepen your faith, heighten your joy and invigorate your life in Christ! GPPPI7 begins Thursday, April 16 at 5:00 pm and ends Sunday, April 19 in the late afternoon. Experience God’s love for 3 full days! Enjoy music, food, daily worship, many short talks and meaningful discussions. Contact Josh Widman at joshwidman@cox.net or 402-651-4366. Or talk to one of many who could arrange a sponsor for you, including Bob Reeks, Lisa or JB Reeks, Gretchen Fry or Kelle Groetsema. For more information go to www.gppplipilgrimage.org or find registration information on bulletin boards. Please register by early April. Scholarship assistance is available.

**MISSIONS – Submitted by Brian Claus**

**Sienna Francis House Meal Serving:** Hope Church has an on-going ministry of serving meals at Sienna Francis House the first Saturday of every month. The sign-up sheet is located in the lobby on the side table. If you are interested in having you and your family, friends, or small group serve on a Saturday, please contact Cheryl Sisk at 402-659-5344 or email mescar1@hotmail.com to find out details. This is a very worthwhile and rewarding way to volunteer your time.
Thank you to all those who served meals on March 7th: Dave & Andrew McKenna, Bob Williams, Mimi Amenyah, Mike & Jayne Molacek, Sara Coughlin, Everett & Avis Kelley, and Josh Widman.

**Sienna Francis Monthly Birthday Party** was celebrated on March 14th. We had 21 women and 7 children in attendance. We celebrated the birthdays of two women, a boy age 6 and a little girl age 3. We didn’t play Bingo this month as we had Easter Crafts to make for the women and children. We had six tables with a variety of crafts that the women and children could take and hang up in their rooms. Thanks to the following volunteers in March—Jani Billsup, Tracy Comba, Linda Reffert, Thelma Symnietz, Ruby Thornwall, and Kathy Andersen. You can see some of the pictures from the Birthday Party that are posted on Facebook by Linda. There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby if you feel called to help with this mission program. The parties are always the second Saturday in the month.

**Salvation Army –** Last month we mentioned the mission opportunity of cleaning jewelry for the Salvation Army Thrift Store. If you are interested in doing this as a group activity, please contact Kathy Andersen at 402-330-3568.

Thank you to all of you who volunteered to donate the gift of life at the Red Cross Blood Drive that occurred Saturday, February 28th. Because of your generosity, 25 units of blood were collected which contributes to saving 75 lives. The next blood drive at Hope is scheduled for Saturday, June 27 (7am-noon). We hope to see you there to help us surpass the 25 units from this drive.

**Hope Annual Garage Sale** Since the month of March was unusually warm, some of you may have already gotten that itch to start some Spring cleaning or are wanting to get rid of a bunch of items in your basement or garage. Just a reminder that Hope’s annual garage sale will be June 26-27 so please consider holding your items until then to donate to this great event. If you do not have the room to store your items, contact Brian Claus, brianticlaus@cox.net or 402-616-5232, to schedule a pickup anytime. Every year half the proceeds of the Hope garage sale are donated to the Rebuilding Together program, which is this month’s mission spotlight. The other half of the proceeds are used throughout the year to support other local missions and families in need.
The work of this committee is to support the mission and ministry of Hope, by caring for the concrete, physical foundation of the congregational life. We support everyone!

Thanks! Ken Anderson and Hugh Carter for gym floor cleaning. Kurt Briley for volleyball setup, Kurt Briley and Ron Stigge for Honey Do's for JC participation. The gym storage hanger was moved, water fountain wall area repaired and painted, and doorbell repaired.

The Punch List was discussed: The owners of Lasttime Roofing presented their company and proposal. The committee agreed on a Gerard "Classic Tile" roof, Barclay color with round end caps with matching gutters and downspouts to match the siding and brick. Late spring, early summer installation. Three weeks for installation time. Storage shed roof to match. Downsputs improvement.

Honey Do's for JC: Saturday April 18, at 8:45 am.

Spring Cleaning Day is April 4 from 9:00 until noon. Everyone is welcome to help spruce up our building.

THE PANTRY OF HOPE

Submitted by Mike Molacek

Calling all coupon champions. Collect yours, save money at the store on your purchases and bring the food for the Hope Food Pantry! It is a great lesson about kindness. From February 19, 2015, to March 19, 2015, 177 items were distributed. Thanks for your generous support.

LEADERSHIP

Submitted by Linda Deegan

Personnel Ruling Elder

The Personnel Committee would like to welcome the newest addition to our staff; Deb Miller. She started in the office as our new Office Administrator on February 23rd. Deb grew up in Fremont, Nebraska. She is the daughter of a Baptist Pastor. Deb and her husband, Tom, will be married 32 years this year. They have five children: David, Bethany, Andrew, Brittany and Joshua. Deb also became a grandma recently with the arrival of her new grandson, Leo. They also have three dogs, two Pembroke Welsh Corgis and one, very naughty, Shitzu Yorki mix.

Deb worked in the Real Estate field from 2000-2012 and also worked from 2008 to September, 2014 at Methodist Hospital, in the Emergency Department in Admitting and Registration. Deb and her husband, Tom, have spent the last three years caring for Deb’s parents who both became ill. Her father passed away, and her mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. Deb and her husband, Tom, have spent the last three years caring for Deb’s parents who both became ill. Her father passed away, and her mother was recently placed in full time nursing care as her Alzheimer’s Disease has progressed.

Deb loves to bake, crochet, and go to movies. For stress relief, she enjoys playing on the piano. Deb and her husband, Tom, also love to travel, especially anywhere warm.

Deb is excited to work here at Hope, and to meet all of you as you cross her path in the office. We are so excited and blessed to have such an enthusiastic and qualified person in this position here at Hope. If you get a chance, please stop in and say hello and welcome her to Hope Church.

FINANCE

Submitted by Dave Fehr

Finance Ruling Elder

Thank you to everyone that has paid their Per Capita for 2015. This year, it is $34.48 per member. This is what Hope church has to pay the Presbytery for each of its members. You can pay this amount anytime during the year. If you are looking for ways to simplify your life, consider making your contributions to Hope Church electronically. It is easy to set up, you don’t have to write a check, and the payment is done automatically. There are two ways you can do this. You can do automatic bill pay through your bank. You can set it up online or stop in at your bank and they will help you set it up. The second way to make your contribution is to go to the Hope Church web site at www.hopepresbyterianchurch.org/give/ and make your contribution online. If you haven’t checked out the web site recently, take a look as it’s been updated and has a lot of info. Be looking in the Lobby for info about the birthday club and the endowment fund. Peace be with you, Dave.