


MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOPE CHURCH NOVEMBER 2026

**James Runcorn, D. Min.**
Lead Pastor

# A Word of Caution

As believers in Christ, which makes us believers in truth, we are called to exercise good judgment and discernment in all things. The world presents many different points of view and Scripture teaches us to "test the spirits to see whether they are from God" (1 John 4:1, NIV).

Words spoken from any pulpit - events launched from any organization with the label of "church" or "ministry" - businesses operating out of a church building - books that tout self-help or new thought, even from "Christian" authors - anything that appears to fall under the banner of Christianity, requires discernment. Even here at Hope Church, I have repeatedly reminded the congregation that my words are to be tested, rather than trusted at face-value.

Why is that? Because humanity is flawed and sinful (Romans 3:23). I don't have malicious intentions by any means. In fact, I hold God's Word (the Bible) in the highest regard. But, I am prone to making mistakes. In the same way, other ministries and churches are prone to making mistakes and even exercising poor judgment.

Why am I telling you this? 1 Peter 5:8 teaches us to, "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking around for someone to devour." Snares and distractions are everywhere. We have to remain vigilant and anchored on the foundational truth of God's Word.

If I preach something that seems ok at face value but something inside of you says, "That just doesn't sound right," check it out in light of Scripture. In fact, I would encourage you to study the passages I preach every week. See if I have accurately represented the written text of the Bible. The Bereans were commended for verifying Paul's teaching in light of Scripture (Acts 17:11).

If a new ministry pops up - if a new business launches from a church building - if a hot, new book reaches the NYT bestseller list, written by a pastor or ministry leader - or anything else appears billing itself under the umbrella of a church or ministry, use Biblical discernment.

If a business launches and operates out of a church building, it is vital to examine what that business does. If that business incorporates any kind of spiritual foundation (massage, Reiki, rituals, power from crystals) I would have serious concerns about its spiritual practices. There is nothing inherently wrong with massage therapy itself. Doctors, physical therapists, chiropractors and other medical professionals provide valuable care to those who need it. However, when practices involving metaphysics, New Age spirituality, crystals, healing energy, witchcraft, Eastern mysticism and other nonbiblical spiritual elements are incorporated, we must be on guard.

***continued on the next page***

*Our Mission is to Gather, Equip, and Grow in Christ.*

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### *A Word of Caution continued*

Pain management is good news for those who suffer from momentary or chronic pain. However, we must look to the source. God is the One who can heal. Crystals are a created thing. God created everything. As believers, we look to the Creator, not to the created thing. Furthermore, good news ultimately is found in Christ Jesus. If we look for good news from other sources like mystical practices and metaphysics, we shift our focus from the genuine and true good news (the gospel) found only in Christ Jesus.

In Galatians 1:8, Paul writes, "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!"

So, how do we respond? We respond in truth and love, seasoned with grace. Do we condemn? Not if the person or business is an unbeliever. However, if the person or business professes to be a believer, we are to hold them accountable (Galatians 6:1; Hebrews 10:24-25; Colossians 3:16). Ultimately, Jesus said, "By their fruit you will recognize them" (Matthew 7:16a). As the pastor and shepherd of Hope Church, it is my responsibility to equip you with the discernment needed to navigate these matters faithfully.

Here are a couple of practical steps you can take when discerning these things:

1. Pray. Lift your concerns to God. Ask Him to lead you as you look to His Word for guidance.
2. Compare the thing you see/hear in light of Scripture. Look at passages in the Bible that have to do with the item/statement/practice to see if it aligns or conflicts.
3. Seek godly counsel. Meet with me, with one of our elders or with a trusted Christian who is mature in their faith and understands God's Word.

*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.* – Ephesians 6:12




## Thursday, November 19 | 7:00 PM | Hope Church

Get ready for an unforgettable night of live music, meaningful stories, and the hope we have in Jesus. Rob Roozeboom will be joined by singer-songwriters **Micah Tyler, Jordan Feliz, and Patrick Mayberry** as they share their music, the stories and inspiration behind the songs, and the faith that connects it all.

***Come for the music. Hear the stories. Leave encouraged.***

**Tickets:** General Admission: $25 **Child Ticket:** Free

*All minors must have their own ticket and be accompanied at all times by a ticketed adult.*

**DON'T WAIT—grab your tickets today (click link below)**

Visit www.riseministries.com/rise-event for more information

**TICKETS** ➤ **https://www.ticketweb.com/event/rise-with-rob-and-friends-hope-church-tickets/14337124?theme=echomin**




**Jay Van Gelder**
Youth Pastor

This is our only fundraiser to help offset expenses for our summer youth trips. All proceeds go to the youth.

Bid on a items in the Live and Silent Auctions as well as have a lot of fun with your friends at church!

The youth will serve a catered meal during the auction and childcare will be provided.

# YOUTH AUCTION

AUCTION
AUCTION
AUCTION

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8
## 5 PM

**DONATIONS NEEDED**
**SIGN UP AT THE KIOSK IN THE LOBBY**
**OR BRING TO JAY'S OFFICE**

CATERED MEAL | LIVE AUCTION | SILENT AUCTION | TONS OF FUN

*It's not too late to donate an item to be auctioned off.*
*Please have your donations to church by 1 pm on November 8.*

HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

# TRAVELING LOCK IN

HOPE YOUTH




MALL OF AMERICA





NOV 21-22, 2026

# NOV 21-22, 2026

**DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 1**

*FIRST COME/FIRST RESERVE (Limited Seats)*

**COST**

**You & a Friend: $50 + $50**
**Hope Youth Alone: $75**

*Late Fee of $20 through Nov 8 (Final Deadline)*

**CHECK IN:** **3:00-3:30 PM**
**RETURN:** **6:00 AM**

*Bring Money for snacks & other games, Sweatshirt/Jacket, Pillow/Blanket (for bus ride)*

**SCAN TO REGISTER**
**OR CLICK THE LINK**

https://hopechurchspencer.breezechms.com/form/LockIN202423

**QUESTIONS** Contact Jay at 712-363-0885

# MISSIONS OCC

## GEMS GOING GLOBAL

**Bob and Barb Van Wyk**



To prepare GEMS for the nations and serve children of all ages, we are contextualizing our existing three-year curriculum so it can be used not only in Botswana, but wherever God opens the door. We've also been asked to adapt our primary school lessons for preschoolers and develop new lessons for middle and high school students. It's a significant assignment that requires many hours of writing, editing, and creating—but one we are genuinely excited to tackle.

Through our partnership with Blessman International we will make disciples of all ages, preschool through high school.

While we waited for the processing of our visas to go back to the Republic of South Africa, our Iowa office became a curriculum development center. The task before us is great, but so is our confidence in the Holy Spirit's guidance. Would you pray with us for fresh anointing, wisdom, creativity, clarity of thought, and uninterrupted writing sessions as we step into this exciting new season?

From Barb "Introduction of GEMS at a Christian School in the Des Moines area went very very well... even better than we could imagine. We sense God's hand on all of it. We are definitely swimming in the deep end, but He is here leading us."

Now back in Africa, GEMS is officially going global starting in Ghana!

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Pick up a shoebox in the Lobby and join us as we share the love of Christ in this ministry!

By filling ordinary shoeboxes full of toys and other fun items, you can be part of giving boys and girls what may be their first gift ever! Local churches in more than 100 nations hand out these Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts where the Gospel is presented in a child-friendly way. Each box bursting with items such as a soccer ball, doll, stuffed animal and more becomes a tangible expression of God's love to the child, their family, and their community.

Many shoebox recipients also participate in the 12-lesson follow-up discipleship program, The Greatest Journey.

## SHOEBOX DROP OFF

Shoeboxes can be dropped of at Hope Church on Sunday mornings or during the times listed below.

| | |
|---|---|
| Mon, Nov 16 | 5-7 PM |
| Tues, Nov 17 | 5-7 PM |
| Wed, Nov 18 | 5-7 PM |
| Thurs, Nov 19 | 10 AM - 12 NOON |
| Fri, Nov 20 | 4-7 PM |
| Sat, Nov 21 | 10 AM - 12 NOON |
| Sun, Nov 22 | 2-4 PM |
| Mon, Nov 23 | 7:30-9:30 AM |



# CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

**Julia Andela** - Director of Children and Families




## ELEMENTARY REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

### Wednesday, November 4

5:15 pm - 4th/5th Graders who would like a speaking/singing part

5:30 - 6:30 pm - All Elementary Students

### Wednesday, November 11, 18, December 2, 9

5:15 pm - 4th/5th Graders with speaking/singing parts

5:30 - 6:30 pm - All Elementary Students

### Saturday, December 12

9:00 - 10:15 am - FINAL RUN THROUGH!

Wear Christmas (or regular) PJs. Donuts to follow!

## PRESCHOOL REHEARSAL

During a portion of the Sunday School Hour starting November 1.

It is helpful for your child if he/she is at Sunday School to practice with their friends!

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL NOVEMBER 29**

## HOPE KIDS & OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Hope Kids Elementary Students are currently working to earn money to give as an offering towards purchasing gifts for Operation Christmas Child. We hope to pack one shoebox per grade (K-5th) during Sunday School this month to bless other children around the world!

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## WEEKLY

**PRAYER & PRAISE**
Wednesdays (Library: 2nd - 4th wks) 6:00 pm

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP**
Sundays
Freshmen 5:00 pm
Sr High: 10-12th Grade 7:00 pm

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP**
Wednesdays
6th Grade 5:30 pm
7th Grade 6:30 pm
8th Grade 7:30 pm

**WEDNESDAY,NOVEMBER 4**
Elementary Kids Practice 5:30 pm
Midweek Service 6:00 pm

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8**
Youth Auction 5:00 pm

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9**
Missions Team Meeting 7:00 pm

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11**
Elementary Kids Practice 5:30 pm
Prayer & Praise 6:00 pm

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12**
Consistory Meeting 7:00 pm

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15**
Christmas Choir Practice (Men) 4:00 pm
Christmas Choir Practice (Women) 4:45 pm

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18**
Elementary Kids Practice 5:30 pm
Prayer & Praise 6:00 pm

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19**
Rise with Rob & Friends 7:00 pm

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21**
Men's Turkey Dinner 11:00 am
Youth Traveling Lock In 3:30 pm

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25**
Thanksgiving Eve Service 6:30 pm

# WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

**MONDAYS**
Men's Morning (Well) 8:00 am
Men's Evening (Well 11/2, 9, 23, 30) 7:00 pm

**WEDNESDAYS**
Women's Morning (Nursery) 9:00 am
Women's Evening (Grace) 6:30 pm

**SUNDAYS**
Women's (Well) 9:45 am
Adults - (Grace) 9:45 am

# CONCERNS FOR

Please continue to lift up the following people and families in prayer:

The following as they navigate their cancer journeys

- Keith Fliss
- Hannah Dibble
- Chery Haden
- Carl Johnson
- Cindy Fliss
- Martha Oskvig

- Praise - Art Johnson health improvements
- Zechariah Runcorn - continued healing from surgery
- Peggy/Ron - health concerns
- 2 year old - friends of Missy Lair - health concerns
- Terry Wiese - health concerns
- Lillian Sparks - healing from surgery

# CONDOLENCES TO

Dennis and Linda Brechwald and family on the passing of Dennis' twin sister, Deanna McDonald, who passed from time to eternity on September 29.

Marjean and Doug Siepkes and family on the passing of Marjean's brother, Lynn Oltmanns, who passed from time to eternity on October 26.

Keith and Karen Swancutt and family on the passing of Keith's mom, Pat Swanson, who passed from time to eternity on October 29.



# LIBRARY

The library is decorated for fall. Please walk by and take a look. While you are at it - pick up a book! Our book review this month is by Steve Steele on a book he found in our library. I appreciate all book reviews from congregants. If you're interested, let me know. ~ MaryAnn Lockey



**Reviewer:** Steve Steele
**Book:** Under the Overpass by Mike Yankoski

Are you ready for a test of your understanding, your faith, and perhaps even your endurance? Here's an idea. Pack a backpack and sleeping bag (you have one, don't you?) and head for the streets of a big city. Any city. You pick. Your mission? Discover what it's really like to experience homelessness for five months. Sleep on asphalt and concrete. Take shelter beneath highway overpasses to escape the rain and wind. But don't expect a roof overhead, a warm bed, or even your next meal.

Sounds a little extreme? That's exactly what Mike Yankoski did to learn about the homeless by becoming homeless. If you think you have "those street people" figured out, think again. If you believe they can simply go home, think again. If you assume they should "just get a job," think again. And while you're rethinking those assumptions, remember that Jesus came with a special concern for the poor and those the upper levels of society so often overlook.

Best-selling author Ryan Dobson describes Under the Overpass as "a captivating, terrifying, encouraging, motivating, saddening, amazing account of a young man who died to self with the assurance that God knows best…"

Be prepared. This isn't simply a book about homelessness. It's a challenge to our assumptions, our compassion, and perhaps most importantly, the way we live out our Christian faith.

You may never look at someone standing on a street corner quite the same way again.



# TURKEY DINNER

## NOV. 21, 2026 - 11AM-1PM

## HOPE CHURCH

**RSVP** (use link)

https://hopechurchspencer.breezechms.com/form/THANKSGIVING259

or call the church office (712-262-3016)

# JOIN US!



## Midweek SERVICE

**WED, NOV 4**
**6 PM**
**SANCTUARY**

Nursery provided for 2 and under

# Christmas Choir

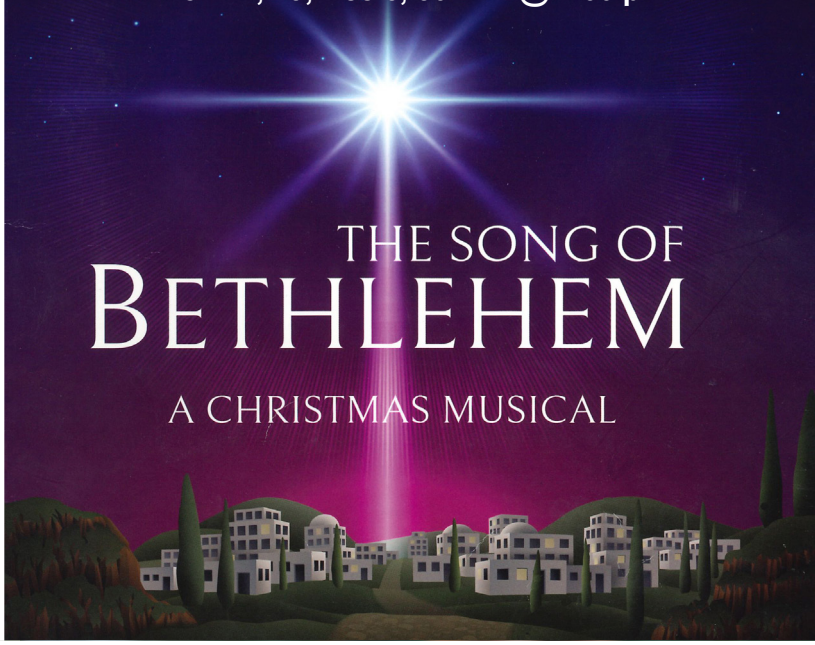
***Do you love to sing?***

***Join us as we unite our voices to present a Christmas musical on Sunday, December 20 during both worship services!***

Sign up in the Church Lobby
Sign Open to Middle School through Adult

## Rehearsals

**Nov 15 - Men @ 4:00 pm, Women @ 4:45 pm**
**Nov 22, 29, Dec 6, 30 - All @ 4:00 pm**




WOMEN'S

# Christmas Tea

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
10 AM - 12 NOON

Join us for tea, a light brunch
and to hear a great message!

**TO ATTEND**, please use the link
https://hopechurchspencer.breezechms.com/form/ChristmasTea2026or sign
or sign up at the Information Desk in the Lobby.





# CONSISTORY

Meeting: September 10, 2026
**Pastors:** James Runcorn, Jay Van Gelder **Elders:** Arv Druvenga, Cedric Winterboer, Dean Mechler, Gary Zeutenhorst, Kevin Vander Stoep, Mark Lockey **Deacons:** Eric Van Der Hiede, Jason Warren, Kevin Goeken, Knut Brown, Ryan Murray **Opening prayer:** James Runcorn
**Devotional:** Arv discussed the booklet "Disciple Map" done by ARC and handed out at the Gathering meeting in Michigan. Discussed the 12 markers assist people in growing their faith. Consistory will review and come back and discuss at the next consistory meeting.

## REGULAR BUSINESS

Approved August 13, 2026 minutes, MMSC-(Dean/Mark)
Approved August 13, financials, MMSC-(Kevin/Eric)
Giving and attendance analysis by Jason.
Around the room check in with each of the consistory and the pastors. Kevin closed in Prayer

## TEAM REPORTS

**(Purposeful Learning)** Dean/Knut, Dean reported that Julia is feeling good that most of her volunteers have returned, which helps with consistency in the program for the students. Jay reported that it has been good to get started again for the year and has met with the 9th graders as a separate group, which is different from how it has been done in the past.
**(Holy Living)** Gary/Ryan, Ryan reported that he had talked to Chris Anderson and they have been asking those who attend the bible study if they would volunteer to lead. They have had people step up and do so. They have broken up the month with 1st two weeks for bible study and last two weeks for outreach and service projects. Gary reported that the Women's Ministry bible studies have started again, 2 on Wednesday evening and one on Sunday morning. Library committee continues to get new and donated books labeled and put on the shelves. They have donated DVD's to Fresh Start Market.
**(Wholehearted Service)** Mark/Eric, Eric reported that they had a leak in the roof and Michael was able to fix this. Mark reported that Kristi Conner is working on getting the program started again to write to youth from our church who are attending college
**(Passionate Worship)** Kevin/Jason, Jason reported that Eric felt the first Prayer and Praise went well. Several consistory members indicated that Jay, Eric and Julia did a nice job presenting changes in the approach for Trunk of Treat as well as encouraging congregational participation.
**(Meaning Fellowship)** Arv/Mike, Mike stated that has all the slots filed for the services at Spark program. Arv stated that along with Eric doing the Prayer and Praise on the first Wednesday of the month Kevin is planning on leading the next 3 weeks.
**(Loving Outreach)** Cedric/Kevin G., Kevin discussed the presentation done by the Eswatini group and the benefits for those they served as well as the benefits for those who went on the trip.

## PASTORS REPORT

James shared with the consistory a handout from Bott Radio network a review of on-line data generated by our current radio program (January-August) in comparison to similar ministries. James indicated that My Faith Radio called and stated that they will be airing Hope in His Word starting in October. Sunday afternoons from 1:30 pm CST, from Connecticut to California.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Dean and Arv reviewed and recommended some minor changes to the current Bi-Laws. MMSC(Knut/Jason) to accept changes as proposed.
Dean stated he would like to nominate Arv to the Horizon Network Board, feeling it would be good to have some representation on the board. MMSC(Dean/Kevin) to nominate Arv to the Horizon Network Board.
Kevin closed in prayer.

## ELDERS MEETING

Constitutional question was asked and answered in the negative.
Discussed congregational care concerns. James indicated that Judy Halder would like to join church and has attended the membership class. MMSC(Dean/Cedric) to accept the membership transfer of Judy Halder from Storm Lake United Methodist Church and her request for membership.
Cedric closed with prayer.

## DEACONS MEETING

Opening prayer by Eric Van Der Heide
Discussed Okoboji Bible Conference remodel. MMSC (Mike/Knut) to give $2500 from Missions Budget. All in Favor. Discussed Library space and what it could look like. A proposed budget was presented. Tabled to end of year to see how budget looks. Building Hope Pledge update was discussed. Letters went out to those that have not completed their pledge. Going to do a campaign to push offering envelopes explaining how they are more efficient/accurate way to give. Discussed YTD budget numbers. Discussed potential insurance claim.
Closed in Prayer by Jay Van Gelder


Samaritan's Purse
OPERATION
Christmas Child
BOY
GIRL


LORD'S ARMY
Enlist
NOW








THE FOOLISH MAN
BUILT HIS HOUSE
UPON THE SAND"
MATTHEW 7:26
"THE WISE MAN
BUILT HIS HOUSE
UPON THE ROCK"
MATTHEW 7:24
BUILD YOUR LIFE ON
JESUS.










DRAW NEAR
TO GOD
AND HE WILL
DRAW NEAR
TO YOU
JAMES 4:8
CRAYON
JESUS
LOVES
YOU




Jesus
Loves you
a Latte




Dusty
Bible










JESUS
loves ME
HULK




BUILDING A BRIGHTER TOMORROW WITH JESUS
DO UNTO OTHERS


JONAH LOVES CANDY












7 DAYS OF CREATION


SHINE
Jesus










LET OTHE
"SEA"
JESUS
IN YOU!












HOPE CHURCH

919 Grand Avenue
Spencer, IA 51301
(712)262-3016
hrc@spencerhope.org

## Worship Services

**SUNDAYS:** 8:30 am and 10:45 am

Live-streamed online:
www.youtube.com/hopechurchspencer

## Sunday School

**SUNDAYS:** 9:45 am

## Hope Church Staff

James Runcorn, Lead Pastor
Jay Van Gelder, Youth Pastor
Julia Andela, Director of Children & Family Ministries
Eric Meeter, Worship/Tech Director
Michael Fujimoto, Facilities Director
Jill Lowe, Office Administrator
Abbey Fujimoto, Media Specialist
Tim Yeager, Maintenance
Levi Morris, Treasurer
Missy Lair, Nursery Coordinator

