

In Touch with

Hope

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOPE CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2025

James Runcorn, D. Min.

Lead Pastor

It's Your Turn

For two years, I have contributed to the monthly newsletter. For two years, you have read my words and listened to the sermons I have preached from the pulpit. While I have consistently met with people throughout the week and heard their stories, listened to their hearts, embraced their challenges with prayer and shared some good laughter, I have not yet invited you to help shape the content of the monthly newsletter.

This is your opportunity to send me your thoughts and ideas, or questions. I would like to hear from you. What challenges are you facing? What questions do you have about faith and the Bible? What areas of interest do you have that you would like to see addressed in future newsletters?

I appreciate YOU so much! This church and community have been so gracious to me and my family. We feel incredibly loved by you. So, thank you! And now, I turn the mic (or pen, or keyboard) over to you. Send your thoughts, questions and ideas my way. You can reach me directly here: jruncorn@spencerhope.org

*Therefore encourage one another
and build each other up,
just as in fact you are doing.*

1 Thessalonians 5:11

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

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YOUTH

Jay Van Gelder

Youth Pastor

PLEASE JOIN US!

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 FUNDRAISER

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9
5:00 PM**

DONATIONS STILL BEING ACCEPTED

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 9.*

SR HIGH TRAVELING LOCK IN



SR HIGH TRAVELING LOCK IN

DEADLINE IS NOV 12

FIRST COME/FIRST RESERVED
(Limited Seats)

COST

You & a Friend: \$50 + \$50

Hope Youth Alone: \$75

Late Fee of \$20 through Nov 16 (Final Deadline)

CHECK IN: 12:30-1:00 PM

RETURN: 1:00 AM

Heading to Sioux City & Omaha

QUESTIONS

Contact Jay at 712-363-0885



SCAN TO REGISTER

Or Click the Link <https://hopechurchspencer.breezechms.com/form/SrHighLockIN2025>

HOPE KIDS PRESENTS

FOR UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH AT 8:30 & 10:45

ELEMENTARY PROGRAM REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

Wednesday, November 5 @ 5:30-6:30 PM*

*4-5th graders who would like speaking parts, please be here at 5:15-5:30, prior to the full rehearsal.

Wednesday, November 12 @ 5:30-6:30 PM*

*4-5th graders with speaking parts, please be here at 5:15-5:30, prior to the full rehearsal to rehearse your part.

Wednesday, November 19 @ 5:30-6:30 PM*

*4-5th graders with speaking parts, please be here at 5:15-5:30, prior to the full rehearsal to rehearse your part.

Wednesday, December 3 @ 5:30-6:30 PM*

*4-5th graders with speaking parts, please be here at 5:15-5:30, prior to the full rehearsal to rehearse your part.

Wednesday, December 10 @ 5:30-6:30 PM*

*4-5th graders with speaking parts, please be here at 5:15-5:30, prior to the full rehearsal to rehearse your part.

Saturday, December 13 @ 9-10:15 AM

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

PRESCHOOLERS WILL REHEARSE DURING A PORTION OF THEIR SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME (9:45-10:40 AM) EACH WEEK LEADING UP TO THE PROGRAM.



WOMEN OF HOPE

Christmas Tea

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6
10 AM - 12 NOON

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

TO ATTEND, please use click the link

<https://hopechurchspencer.breezechms.com/form/ChristmasTea2025>

or sign up at the Information Desk in the Lobby.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY SURVEY

Your input will help us plan meaningful gatherings
that meet the needs of women of all ages and
stages of life. Please take a moment to
fill out this short survey. Thanks!

Click link to take survey:

<https://forms.gle/J9Lpk4ZcoptdXjwPA>

Join us ESWATINI FUNDRAISER LUNCH

Sunday, November 16
11am to 1pm

Free will offering lunch to help raise funds for the
families going on next year's mission trip to Eswatini.



TURKEY DINNER

NOV. 22, 2025 - 11AM-1PM

Hope Church
919 Grand Avenue
Spencer, IA

Free Will Donation

If you would like to make a pie,
sign up in the Lobby.

TO ATTEND, click link:

<https://hopechurchspencer.breezechms.com/form/THANKSGIVING25>



LIBRARY NEWS

November is a time to count blessings. As I age - I
am now 50+, counting is so much easier. One of my
favorite books that I believe changed my outlook on life
is in our library: One Thousand Gifts by Ann Voskamp.
Grab a notebook and start jotting down your everyday
"gifts." It really changes your outlook. See our Focus
Shelf and grab a book. Aren't you thankful we have
such a nice library?

DATES TO REMEMBER

WEEKLY

MEN'S MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Mondays 8:00 am

PRAYER & PRAISE

Tuesdays 6:30 pm

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Sundays 7:00 pm

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Wednesdays

6th Grade 5:30 pm

7th Grade 6:30 pm

8th Grade 7:30 pm

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Youth Auction 5:00 pm

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Men of Hope Bible Study 7:00 pm

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Consistory Meeting 7:00 pm

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Young Adults Meeting 9:45 am

Eswatini Fundraiser Lunch 11:00 am

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Mission Team Meeting 7:00 pm

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Prayers & Squares Quilting 1:00 pm

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Men's Ministry Turkey Dinner 11:00 am

HS Traveling Lock In 12:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Thanksgiving Eve Service 6:30 pm

CONCERNS FOR

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

The following as they navigate their cancer journeys

- Bill Van Wettering
- Keith Fliss - having whipple surgery
- Hannah Dibble - Todd & Barb Brockshus daughter with her CAR-T cell treatment
- David Stephens - Brian & Greta Rouse brother in law
- Gaye - Joyce Klein's daughter
- Dee - Sandy Boisen's friend
- Chlea Rafdal

- Joe & Joyce Klein - Joe recovery for wound care; Joyce - answers for health issue
- Bill Hughes - as he navigates his health issues
- Aaron Zinn - as he heals from surgery & for test results
- Brenda Collier - answers to spots found on her lung
- Terry Wiese - for complete healing of her toe
- Emma Lair - Missy's daughter in law - as she heals from her surgery
- Brody Robinson - healing from his ankle surgery
- Dean Mechler - healing from corrective hip surgery

CONDOLENCES TO

Gary and Sandy Van Wettering and their family on the passing of Gary's dad, Harold Van Wettering, who passed from time to eternity on October 2.

ELDER & DEACON NOMINATIONS

Confessing Members

Nominations need to be turned in to the church office by November 16
(date extended from Nov 9)

Thank you!



**Please return
filled Operation
Christmas Child
boxes by Sunday,
November 16**



CONSISTORY MINUTES

Present: James Runcorn **Elders:** Bob Campbell, Doug Siepkes, Dean Mechler, Kevin Vander Stoep, Mark Lockey, Gary Zeutenhorst. **Deacons:** Knut Brown, Ryan Murray, Kevin Goeken, Alex Johnson, Jason Warren
September 18, 2025 • 7:00 pm

Opening prayer: James Runcorn

Discussion on article "Being the Church in a Post-Christian Culture" by Michael Craven.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Approved the August 14, 2025 minutes- MMSC (Bob/Alex)

Approved the August 14, 2025 financials-MMSC (Knut/Mark)

August giving and attendance analysis by Alex Johnson.

Around the room check-in with each consistory members and pastors. Gary Zeutenhorst closed in prayer.

TEAM REPORTS (Purposeful Learning) Dean/Knut, Dean reported that he had talked to Julia and she is still looking for teachers and substitute teachers. He indicated that Jay has some concerns about the costs associated with Rocky Mountain High. Jay stated he is planning on taking the Sr High youth group to Rocky. Jay is also looking for some individuals to fill youth sponsor positions **(Holy Living)** Gary/Ryan, Women's ministry will be meeting 10/08 to plan a Christmas Tea in December. They attended the "David" movie in Emmetsburg but only 9 people attended. Terry Stevens scheduled a meeting between services 9/21 to address ways in which greeters and ushers can be more focused regarding getting new members and visitors more engaged in the church. They will be getting lanyards which are for those who are greeting and ushering and for staff. Men's ministry has continued meeting and hoping to get numbers back up once the Spencer Fair is over. Library committee planning an open house 9/21 in between services. **(Loving Outreach)** Bob/Alex, Bob stated that the Missions team had not met this month. The Prayer and Praise met for the first time on Tuesday at its regular time. The Feed the Children program did meet Wednesday night. **(Passionate Worship)** Kevin/Jason. Ryan has scheduled 4 different worship teams for the month of October. Those teams will continue to sing together going forward. Ryan also is asking for volunteers to help break down and take equipment back after the service in the backyard at the Runcorn's on the 28th. **(Meaningful Fellowship)** Doug/Kelly, Doug stated that Marilyn Winterboer is stepping down from her position coordinating the greeter volunteers. Kris Toay is also stepping down from her position coordinating the usher volunteers as well. They will be needing to fill those positions. Security team continues to be working well. **(Wholehearted Service)** Mark/Kevin, Mark stated that Jill had attended her first Bible Study Fellowship. Her time will be put under professional development. Kevin stated they will be getting some other bids for the new sign out front. Need to be aware of city and DOT regulations in planning for the construction of the sign.

PASTOR'S REPORT

James will be starting with the book of Numbers in the "Cover to Cover" series. James stated he has been doing personnel reviews with staff and this has been going well. James indicated that he needs to have his review scheduled and discussed who would be involved. Previously it had been Jay and VP of consistory. James stated he had met with about ½ the members of the consistory prior to the consistory meeting to go over issues to help with speeding up the process of getting decisions made sooner and less time taken up in the consistory meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

James will be joining Terry to talk to the greeter and usher volunteers. Discussed schedule for nominations of Elders and Deacons for 2026.

Closing prayer; Mark Lockey

ELDER MEETING

Opening prayer: Doug Siepkes

Discussed congregational care issues.

The constitutional question was asked and answered in the negative.

Closing prayer: Kevin Vander Stoep

DEACON MEETING

Discussion for 30 minutes with Eric Meter on wrapping up Building Hope campaign action items. Eric presented information from Altitude LED Systems on purchasing LED TV screens to replace the one overhead projector screen in the sanctuary. Motion by Jason/Alex to move forward with the quote and also quote options for improved audio/video in the Well. Motion by Jason/Alex to build out the stage on the Southside.

Motion by Jason/Alex to go to the winning quote for carpeting the stage after the build out is complete. Micheal requested \$600 to finish the LED lighting project in the basement. This is the amount needed after the rebate program was utilized.

Discussion about tree removal, grading grass where trees have been removed, seeding, and concrete needs.

Closing prayer: Knut Brown



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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

Terry Stevens, Director of Adult Discipleship

Ryan Hoskins, Worship Director

Eric Meeter, Tech Director

Michael Fujimoto, Facilities Director

Jill Lowe, Office Administrator

Abbey Fujimoto, Media Specialist

Tim Yeager, Maintenance

Levi Morris, Treasurer

Missy Lair, Nursery Coordinator

