

In Touch with

Hope

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOPE CHURCH

JUNE 2025

James Runcorn, D. Min.

Lead Pastor

Impacting Culture

Hollywood impacts culture directly. When the name, "Hollywood," is used, it represents an entire industry, not just a location in Southern California. Hollywood describes the media industry (film, TV, streaming services, news, music, influencers and so much more).

Our children are not the only benefactors of Hollywood, we are too. Because of that, the content Hollywood produces infiltrates our vehicles, our homes, our minds and our hearts. When the substance of their productions nestle into the sacred walls of our hearts and minds, their ideology begins to shape our own.

What can we do about it? Three things. First, seek the Kingdom of God before anything else (Matthew 6:33). Fill your mind and heart with His Word. As one of the psalmists says, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11). Second, use discernment when selecting your entertainment and news sources. Ask yourself if the content truly is uplifting, honors God and edifies His Body – the Church. Paul says, "Whatever is true...noble...right...pure...lovely...admirable...excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things" (Philippians 4:8). Third, pray for Hollywood.

Prayer might sound like an understatement, but it is truly a way God has given us to take action in this world. My friend, Karen Covell, founded the Hollywood Prayer Network (HPN) in 2001. Her vision for the HPN is to equip and encourage intercessors across the globe to lift the entire entertainment industry in prayer, because, "it is a redeemable place, full of redeemable people."

We have just signed on as a local chapter for the HPN. What does this mean? It means, in the coming weeks, months and years, we will aggressively and intentionally pray for the industry. The opportunities are limitless. The engagement depends on our willingness to stand our ground, on our knees, pleading before the Throne of Grace for His Spirit to convict the hearts of the ones who shape culture.

Watch for updates and check out the HPN website for more details about their ministry: www.hollywoodprayernetwork.org

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MISSIONS

The Bridge of Storm Lake

The Bridge of Storm Lake believes that every child should have the opportunity to live well regardless of their background. We exist to build up healthy and resilient youth for God's Kingdom purposes.

Three primary ways that The Bridge engages with youth:

1. Summer programs: weekly neighborhood activities, devotions, snacks and meals, camps: job camp, career explorers camp and vacation Bible camp, service days, book clubs and Bible studies, and middle school and high school rewards trips
2. TreeHouse: www.treehousehope.org which provides mentoring, support groups and going deeper Bible studies. Our TreeHouse theme this year is rooted. THRIVE. Thriving in His Grace: Unleashing Potential, Embracing Abundance
3. Two social enterprises: Endless Sea Coffee Roasting and Sales (www.endlesseacoffee.com) and Endless Sea Cafe

The Bridge of Storm Lake Core Values:

- To be humble receivers and examples of Jesus' grace and justice in our everyday living
- To invite young people into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ
- To live justly and minister holistically
- To invest and connect youth in multiple long-term and supportive relationships
- To meet youth where they are with support and love
- To raise up leaders among youth of all backgrounds
- To affirm and support local churches, area schools, community organizations, and services that are devoted to caring for young people and meeting their needs
- To share hospitality and friendship, encouraging relationships and understanding across cultures and backgrounds

2024-2025 Student Comments:

"I've appreciated everything about the bridge. You guys have helped me get through tough times. Too many times I've cried & you guys have always picked me up."

"You make everyone feel welcomed and loved no matter where they come from."

"It was meeting people who gave me positive advice and giving me chances to learn from someone since I never had anyone to look up to."

"I've appreciated having a safe space and supportive people. I loved the support groups and learning about my feelings and how to identify and deal with them."

"Thank you for checking on me and thank you for all the times we spoke about Jesus together."



Group Volunteer Opportunities this summer:

- Mural Painting on our North Exterior Wall
- Community Vacation Bible Camp July 14-17

*Thank you for your partnership in ministry.
We are so grateful to be in this with you!*

~ Shelly Rock, Executive Director



DATES TO REMEMBER

WEEKLY

PRAYER & PRAISE

Wednesdays 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

Communion at both services

MONDAY - FRIDAY, JUNE 2-6

VBS Prep Week 10 am - 8 pm

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

Mandatory VBS Volunteer Training 6 pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

Young Adults Ministry (age 18-25)
6 pm in The Well

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

Mandatory VBS Volunteer Training 9:45 am

MONDAY - FRIDAY, JUNE 9-13

VBS 8:30 - 11:45 am

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

VBS Service 10 am - Harbor

Sr High Youth/Parent - Tennessee Trip Meeting
7 pm

MONDAY, JUNE 16

Missions Team Meeting 7 pm

TUESDAY, JUNE 17

Prayers & Squares Quilting Ministry 1 pm

FRIDAY - MONDAY, JUNE 20-30

Sr High Youth Group Tennessee Trip

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

Young Adults Ministry (age 18-25)
6 pm in The Well

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

Church in the Park 10 am

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

Blood Drive 10 am - 4 pm

CONCERNS FOR

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

- David Brown's grandfather, Ed, regarding his cancer diagnosis and his spiritual health
- Bill and Teri Van Wattering with their health issues (Bill - cancer journey, Teri - broken arm/surgery)
- Ashley Christie's mom, Penny Handy, with her cancer diagnosis
- Darla Geiger as she heals from surgery
- Kaitlin VanLangen's dad, Mike Scott, as he heals from heart surgery
- Nancy Dean with her health issues
- Mike Prange as he heals from surgery and figures out next cancer steps
- Norb Manwarren as he recovers from knee surgery
- Keith Fliss as he continues to navigate his cancer journey
- Hannah Dibble - Todd & Barb Brockshus daughter, as she continues to navigate her cancer journey

CELEBRATING WITH

The following youth who made Profession of Faith on May 11: Kinley Alger, Paisley Atherton, Maia Brown, Charlie Busch, Ryonna Faulkender, Wyatt Geerdes, Journey Griffin, Angel Hernandez-Cole, Lillian Marlow, Colby Sherrod, Hudson Sherrod, Ryder Sherrod, Ivy Sherrod, Elle Sparks, Lotti Thiesen, Carter Warren and Easton Weber.

The following youth who were baptized on May 11: Paisley Atherton, Colby Sherrod, Hudson, Sherrod, Ryder Sherrod and Ivy Sherrod.

The following youth who graduated high school: Christian Barr, Emma Baartman, Hunter Byrd, Rebecca Booth, Millie Hemann, Addison Hoben, Jolene Hollingsworth, Khia Koenig, Peyton Morey, Miles Robbins, Cohen Roth and AJ Stanley.



Happy
FATHER'S DAY

CHILDREN/FAMILIES

Julia Andela

Director of Children & Family Ministry

Cam and I are so excited to lead this 6-week Creating Culture course for parents this summer! We have a strong conviction to raise our children in a Christ-centered home, but we live in a culture that constantly pulls us in the opposite direction. We want to link arms with families who want to do the same, and together, raise a generation of kids who LOVE Jesus more than anything! We hope you'll join us July 6, 13, 20 & 27 and August 3 & 10. Watch for communication on registering for this course! Childcare will be provided for children 0 years old through 5th grade.



WEEK 1

CREATING A HOME Learn how to turn your house into a home your family loves through decor, intentionality, and traditions.

WEEK 2

MARRIAGE Through this module learn tips on how to communicate and be challenged with a whole new perspective.

WEEK 3

PARENTING Learn how to have kids you enjoy and desire to be around! Learn how to tackle the tough topics of sex and how to keep communication open.

WEEK 4

SCREENS & TECHNOLOGY Learn how to balance culture vs. protection and healthy boundaries with screens, social media and technology.

WEEK 5

FAMILY CULTURE Create the culture you want and desire for your family and learn how to do it confidently with tips on how to get the whole family on board.

WEEK 6

FINANCES Learn biblical wisdom on how to view finances and how to honor God with your finances.

Build a Family *Culture* Centered Around God &
Conquer the Challenges Facing Families Today

Navigate the challenges of modern living with faith, purpose & intention.

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

ROOTED

Terry Stevens

Director of Adult Discipleship

Another Rooted launch has come to a close and time truly flies! Our celebration dinner was a wonderful opportunity to connect, share stories, and laugh together. It is incredibly peaceful knowing God's at work in our lives, and being able to see Him at work in the groups is truly inspirational. If you're curious about Rooted, feel free to reach out to me or someone who has experienced it. They'll be happy to share all about it!



MEN'S MINISTRY

We also had a soft launch for the Men's Ministry, where we savored some delicious smoked brisket burgers. They were fantastic! Ask Noah Goeken he devoured three of them! After eating, we gathered around a bonfire and discussed the future and vision of the Men's Ministry and had a truly inspiring Bible study from David Lyons. We're excited to officially launch the Men's Ministry in August, so keep an eye out for more details.



***If you have any ideas for a ministry for Hope Church ~ please come see me!
I'd love to hear your thoughts & explore how we can bring them to life.***

SOCIAL MEDIA

Abbey Fujimoto

Media Specialist

We as Christians are called to be in the World and not of the World. Here at Hope, we have many different ministries that share the Truth of the Gospel to the World and Social Media is one of them. Not only do we utilize social media to share information and updates but, we use it to be lights in the darkness. (John 1:5)

There is a lot of content out there that does not glorify God and brings down others. We can either ignore it, or we can choose to share the Light of God in those platforms. Here at Hope, we strive to also provide content that shares the truth of the Gospel and edifies others to grow closer to God.

You also can take part in this by engaging in posts. Follow our pages, like posts, comment and share to friends. Be a light and be bold in your faith! If you feel so inclined, you also can make biblically encouraging content to share on your own page. Let us share the great news of the Gospel and God's great gift of salvation!

Follow, Like & Subscribe!



Spencer Hope



spencerhopechurch



spencerhopechurch



HopeChurchSpencer

WORSHIP

IN THE PARK

JUNE 22ND
10:00AM

JOIN US LIVE AT
EAST LEACH PARK

EAST LEACH PARK - BAND SHELL

ALL ARE WELCOME!

WORSHIP | PRAYER | BAPTISMS

CITY EVENT TO FOLLOW

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

SAVE THE DATES

WED, AUG 6 | 1 PM

Okoboji Bible Conference
Women's Luncheon



We will be reserving 4 tables (9 at a table). \$30/ticket. Beginning the week of June 9, call the church office at 262-3016 to reserve your seat. Scholarships available.

Check out the speaker, Allison Allen's, bio:
www.okobojiconference.org/schedule#womensevent



SUN, AUG 24 | 5 PM

Queen Esther at the
Riviera Theater in Emmetsburg

Details to Come



CONSISTORY MINUTES

Present: James Runcorn, Jay Van Gelder. **Elders:** Bob Campbell, Dean Mechler, Doug Siepkes, Kevin Vander Stoep, Mark Lockey, Gary Zeutenhorst. **Deacons:** Knut Brown, Jason Warren, Kelly Geerdes, Kevin Goeken, Ryan Murray.
April 10, 2025 • 7:00 pm

Opening prayer: Jay Van Gelder

Devotional: Dean Mechler covered questions 123-124 of the Heidelberg Catechism

REGULAR BUSINESS

Approved the March 13, 2025 minutes with corrections-MMSC (Dean/Jason)

Approved March 13, 2025 financials-MMSC (Gary/Kevin)

March giving and attendance analysis by Jason

Around the room check in with each consistory and pastors. James closed check in with prayer.

Team reports: (Purposeful Living) Dean/Knut; Dean reported 65 middle schoolers and sponsors leaving for weekend retreat Friday afternoon and returning on Sunday. Julia working on VBS plans and activities. Had contact with Missy in the nursery and helped with getting some name tags for the nursery. **(Holy Living)** Gary/Ryan; Men's ministry is planning an outing for men in the church May 17th. Grilling 1 lb burgers, games, bible study are the plans. Goals is to get Men's Ministry started again. June 2 is the start of the Men's Rooted Group and to start their regular bible study August 11, a service project is scheduled as well as a family get together. Women's Ministry all-day retreat on 4/12 has 83 people signed up so far. **(Meaningful Fellowship)** Doug/Kelly; Kelly stated that he had talked to Michael about the security team coverage. Michael is going to go back to scheduling people so that there would be more consistent coverage. Doug stated that he had noticed some congestion in the hallway where they were signing children in for Sunday school and congregant members having trouble getting around the line of kids. Discussed other options for how this could be done. No decision was made but will keep monitoring the situation. **(Passionate Worship)** Kevin VS/Jason; Kevin stated that Eric is excited to get started in his new position. Ryan has Easter service planned whether he is there or not. Jason stated that the sound system install will start July 7th. Once the new equipment is installed then the old equipment can be used for special services inside or outside the church building. **(Wholehearted Service)** Mark/Kevin G; Kevin stated that Michael had one pump plugged and it required a plumber to address that issue. **(Loving Outreach)** Bob/Alex; Bob stated that the Missions committee reviewed their process for recommending the consistory support for the missionaries. Bob indicated some people expressed interest in joining the missions committee. They did attend a meeting but he has not heard anything from them since their visit. Bob reported that the care team has currently given out grief books to 24 people in the congregation.

PASTOR'S REPORT

James reviewed the tentative sermon plan for dates 4/13/25 through 6/1/25. We will have a guest pastor Roger Kamstra on 5/25/25. At the last staff meeting they were able to schedule through the end of the year. As a result, we will be planning Church in the Backyard for September 28th. He also talked about the idea of a float for Flag Fest if people are interested. James stated he has been talking to community pastors about having an ecumenical church service on June 22nd which is the anniversary of the flood. There are five other churches that are currently planning on being involved; Discussed thoughts about continuing to look into radio ministry. Discussed radio versus podcast and other avenues of ministry locally versus wider audiences.

Closing prayer: Kevin Vander Stoep

ELDER MEETING

Opening Prayer - Dean Mechler

Discussed congregational care issues. Discussed funeral policy to clarify the process of how they are arranged and planned.

MMSC to accept policy with revisions (Gary/Doug). Discussed continued low numbers at Prayer & Praise and how we can make it an important ministry. Discussed policy of open communion as well as having children partake prior to making a profession of faith. Discussed importance/reverence of communion & emphasized importance of parents talking to their children prior to them participating.

Closing prayer - James Runcorn

DEACON MEETING

Opening Prayer - Kevin Goeken

Discussed outside power getting RV hookups. Will get another quote. Building Hope Fund - starting to write checks. Waiting for quotes on Harbor & Sanctuary carpet. Discussed repairing South driveways and removing the tree. Roofing contractor will start the week after Easter, weather pending. Building and Work Comp insurance premium is due. A couple companies have approached us wanting our business.

Closing Prayer - Knut Brown



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Worship Services

SUNDAYS: 8:30 am and 10:45 am
Live-streamed online:
www.youtube.com/hopechurchspencer

Sunday School

No Sunday School in the summer

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

