

In Touch with *Hope*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOPE CHURCH

AUGUST 2025

James Runcorn, D. Min.

Lead Pastor

An Open Door

A little over two years ago, when the pastoral search process took a significant step forward, Mike and Jackie Bryan picked up me and my wife, Tena, from the airport in Sioux Falls. They were our welcoming party and our tour guides. On our trip, they pointed out various sites and places of interest. One place in particular jumped out to me: the Okoboji Bible Conference (OBC). I was thrilled to learn that such a reputable and long-standing ministry was based so close to the city that might become our future home.

In that moment, before Hope Church had decided to extend the call and before Tena and I had decided whether or not Spencer would be a good fit, I felt a tug from within. I wanted to know how we could partner with the OBC.

Fast-forward to the end of 2024. The OBC announced their new Executive Director, Mark J. Schwarz. I ended up meeting Mark and learned that we share a similar geographical background in the Central Valley, CA. I grew up in that area and he pastored a church there. We connected and hit it off right away. Within a short time, he asked me if I'd consider speaking at the conference.

God is amazing! I agreed and was assigned the Thursday evening spot. The theme for the conference this year is hope. This theme comes from Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." What an incredible passage to share with people. So often in life, we find ourselves in a circumstance or frame of mind that seems hopeless. The truth of God's Word is that hope is available to everyone through Christ Jesus.

I look forward to sharing my story of brokenness to redemption, all because of the hope I have in Christ. Bring a friend and join me Thursday, August 7th @ 7:15PM at the Bible Conference!

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

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CHILDREN/FAMILIES

Julia Andela

Director of Children & Family Ministry

SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS AUG 24!

Sunday Morning Guide

For Families with Children Birth to Grade 5

Nursery (birth through age 2)

The nursery is available for babies and toddlers during worship services and Sunday School. The nursery is run by Missy Lair and her team of caring volunteers. The nursery is located in the main hallway (between the Lobby and Harbor). A Mother's Room is also available in the nursery for nursing mothers.

8:30AM Service: Check-in starts at 8:15AM. The nursery is open through the Sunday School hour for parents/guardians who are attending Sunday School following the first service. Children are to be checked-out by a parent/guardian at 10:40AM following Sunday School.

10:45AM Service: Check-in for the Sunday School hour begins at 9:35AM. For those not attending Sunday School prior to the worship service, check in starts at 10:30AM. Children are to be checked-out by a parent/guardian by 11:55AM.

**Please be sure to inform your nursery volunteers if your child will stay through Sunday School and the 2nd service.*

Preschool (3 years old-KinderKids)

Hope Kids meets in the Preschool Wing (east side of main hallway, across from the Nursery). Children's Church is a during-service kid-friendly worship and play experience for children ages 3 years old through pre-kindergarten. Additionally, Preschool Sunday School is available at 9:45AM for a time of age-appropriate worship, Bible teaching, snacks and crafts. The preschool rooms are located off of the main hallway across from the nursery.

8:30AM Service: Children's Church is dismissed from "big church" during the offering (around 9AM). Children will exit the sanctuary doors and Children's Church volunteers will meet children near the main office. Children attending Preschool Sunday School will stay in Children's Church and transition right into Sunday School.

**Parents/guardians do not need to check their child out and back in again for Preschool Sunday School!*

**Children are to be checked-out by their parent/guardian or a sibling (must be middle school age or older) at 10:40AM.*

10:45AM Service: Doors open for Sunday School at 9:35AM. Students need to be checked-out from their classroom by their parent/guardian at 10:40AM and then are encouraged to attend "big church" with their parents/guardians. There is an activity shelf located in the lobby near the kitchen for children who may want to keep busy while engaging in the service.

Elementary (Kindergarten-5th Grade)

Hope Kids offers Elementary Sunday School in the Harbor Basement for a time of age-appropriate Bible teachings and applications through worship, games, crafts, small group discussions and more.

8:30AM Service: Students are encouraged to attend the "big church" worship service with their parents/guardians. There is an activity shelf located in the lobby near the kitchen for students who may want to keep busy while engaging in the service. Following the service, students are invited to walk to the Harbor basement to check in for Sunday School. Doors open for Sunday School at 9:35AM. Students need to be checked-out by their parent/guardian or a sibling (must be middle school age or older) at 10:40AM.

10:45AM Service: Students are invited to walk to the Harbor basement (located at the South end of the building) to check in for Sunday School. Doors open for Sunday School at 9:35AM. Students need to be checked-out from their classroom by their parent/guardian at 10:40AM and then are encouraged to attend "big church" with their parents/guardians. There is an activity shelf located in the lobby near the kitchen for students who may want to keep busy while engaging in the service.

Hello Congregation,

First, I just want to say again how grateful I am to be a part of a church that loves and supports our young people. Our Sr. High went to Tennessee and Middle School went to Power Connection - both were amazing trips. I don't know if you think about this, but, God throughout the Bible sent people on a journey away from their homes, family, friends, and their jobs so He could talk with them and also show them something big about Himself. These trips were no different for our young people and youth staff who went. Throughout both trips, we had some challenges we had to overcome as a group (like relational conflicts, physical exhaustion, emotional homesickness, anxiety of the unknown, and the patience God had for us in certain times). These things are challenging, but the cool thing is we need to have Faith in these moments, Trust in these moments, and ultimately Rely on God to show up and help us walk through these times on the trip. That is the Joy when you look back and see how God was right there in the midst of it all, orchestrating it all for His good, for us to learn, rely, and grow our faith in Him. I call these God moments. All the way from whose team we are on and how we need to work through challenges, to just the things that come our way from being away from home. Again, thanks for supporting the youth on their personal journeys with Jesus Christ.

We will be leading the service on August 24th at both services sharing what God has done on the trips that we went on for both Sr. High Youth as well as 6,7,8th Youth trip.

I hope you can join us.

~ Youth Pastor Jay

Mission Trip Testimonies

I was very blessed to have the opportunity to go on the H.I.S. work camp trip to Maryville, TN. My work group, which consisted of 10 high school students and 4 adult leaders, helped out a 70-year-old man named Ron who had just recently had a brain tumor removed. He was not able to move around or even talk 2 months ago but when we arrived, he was having conversations with us, even if they were short, and was able to get up and see the work we had done in his house. We built Ron a front and back porch and included a ramp on the front porch for when he is not able to walk around anymore. We also deep-cleaned his house and put flooring in the bathroom. Our big project was tearing down the ceiling in the kitchen, putting in new insulation and sheet rock, mudding and taping, and finally adding primer to the walls and ceiling. Overall, my favorite part of H.I.S. work camp was getting to build a connection with Ron and hear his testimony as well as his advice for living a Christian life!

~ Avery McEntee

At Power Connection I found the space and time to truly focus on building my relationship with God. Surrounded by Christian friends, worship, and a supportive community, I felt His presence in a deeper, more personal way. I began to understand His love when there was a group of kids my age who were there to build their relationship with God and help support me build my relationship with God. I also felt the Holy Spirit moving inside me when we were worshiping and everyone felt comfortable and it was a vulnerable space for people to show all sorts of emotion. It was an amazing space to make new friends and grow my relationship with God.

~ Angel Hernandez Cole



On Mission with the Shermans

Hope Church has for several years provided financial and prayer support to TD and Sarah Sherman as they share the gospel and make disciples through CRU (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ) on the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Hastings College, and other eastern Nebraska campuses.

TD writes: “Part of Cru’s “DNA” is sharing the Gospel with others. It’s just what we do. It’s what we do with our students. It’s what we do when a meeting falls through and we have a free hour. It’s what we do to fill time. I (TD) heard a statistic recently at a conference that “1 in 12 people who hear the gospel accept Christ”. We are seeing this firsthand as student after student puts their faith in Jesus!”

He adds, “Christians taking steps of faith and lost students hearing the gospel. That’s what we are all about. We are seeing more and more students own their campus and ask God to give them opportunities to make Him known to those around them and around the world. We are seeing more students say yes to going on mission, whether to New Orleans or Panama on our Spring break trips where we are combining meeting physical needs with meeting the spiritual need for the gospel. New Orleans (Community outreach and help) & Panama (Clean Water through water filters and using it as a parallel for the gospel.) or on summer mission to Côte d’Ivoire, North Myrtle Beach - SC, or San Diego. It’s been so cool to see God moving in such tangible ways in the past school year in and through our students. Our DNA is WIN, BUILD, SEND. Win students to Christ, Build them in their faith through bible studies and discipleship, and Send them to live life on mission and to be valuable members of their local church.

August is a busy month for TD and Sarah as they prepare for the influx of new first year students on the campuses they serve with their team. They ask that we join them in praying for them this month:

Prayer & Praise

- Praise God for the students and staff who went on Summer Missions and for those who heard the Gospel this summer!
- Praise God for a great Cru25, our all staff conference, this July that cast great vision to love the Lord and love others, encouraged us on the power of prayer, and gave us a great hope for what God is doing on as we start launch weeks here in August.
- Pray for our college students, that they would come back to campus this Fall with a love for Christ and desire to make him known on campus.
- Pray for our team to reach incoming freshmen with the Gospel as school this Fall.
- Pray for our family to have opportunities to build relationships with and love our new neighbors well as we have recently moved within Lincoln, NE.



TD and Sarah write a monthly newsletter to keep us abreast of the fruit of their ministry and of current needs. If you would like to be added to their mailing list, contact either of them by email at theodore.sherman@cru.org or sarah.sherman@cru.org

In addition, while the Shermans are receiving some financial support from Hope Church through our Missions budget, please prayerfully consider providing some ongoing support from you and your family. As Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)

Let us increasingly join our hearts with theirs as they labor in the fields. You can do so at Give.Cru.Org/0684630 and reference TD & Sarah Sherman Acct #0684630

MEN'S MINISTRY

Terry Stevens

Director of Adult Discipleship

Are you eager to immerse yourself in God's word? Do you possess a servant heart and desire to serve your community? Are you seeking a place to gather with fellow brothers in Christ that also includes your wife and kids? Then look no further! I'm thrilled to announce the official launch of our Men's Ministry on August 11th. We will meet in the lobby the first two Mondays of every month to delve deeply into God's word, growing closer together and strengthening our relationships with Jesus. If there's one thing I've learned over the years, it's that you can't feed others until you know how to feed yourself.

On the third Monday of the month we will give back to our community through community outreach. Whether it's serving food at a food kitchen, raking leaves, cleaning gutters, painting, or helping someone move, we will share the love of Jesus in as many ways as possible. This also provides an opportunity to listen to different people's stories, share the gospel, and express how Jesus has transformed our lives.

On the fourth Monday of every month we will host a fun event. This could be the men gathering for a meal, or as an example, fishing, golfing, gun shooting, a friendly axe-throwing competition, bowling, or an out-of-town event like attending a football game. It could be something to which men bring their wives to or a family movie here in the harbor. The possibilities are endless.

Men of Hope please join us on August 11th at 7 pm to discuss the Men's Ministry. This is your chance to express ideas and ask questions. We want to hear from you about which part of the Bible we will explore, topics to discuss, where we can serve, and different ideas for what we can do together as men and with our families.

Together we can make a difference.

WOMEN OF HOPE

Please join us for
Queen Esther (Sights & Sounds) at the
Riviera Theater in Emmetsburg

SUN, AUG 24

*Meet at church at 4:00 pm to carpool
Movie starts at 5:00 pm*

Cost: Freewill donation for movie
Everyone will receive a \$5 snack voucher



DATES TO REMEMBER

WEEKLY

MEN'S MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Mondays 8:00 am

MEN'S MINISTRY (BEGINS AUG 11)

Mondays 7:00 pm

PRAYER & PRAISE

Wednesdays 6:30 pm

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

Communion - both services

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

Consistory Meeting 7:00 pm

MONDAY, AUGUST 18

Missions Team Meeting 7:00 pm

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

Prayers & Squares Quilting 1:00 pm

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

End of Summer Celebration 6:00 pm

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

Praying for the School Year Both Services
Bring your backpacks

Sunday Schools starts 9:45 am
Preschool through Adult

YOUTH GROUP KICK-OFF

SR HIGH

9th-12th Grade
Sunday, August 24 - 7:00 pm

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Wednesday, August 27
6th Grade - 5:30 pm
7th Grade - 6:30 pm
8th Grade - 7:30 pm

CONCERNS FOR

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

- Bill Van Wettering - that his radiation plan will be specific enough for successful treatment
- Keith Fliss as he continues to navigate his cancer journey
- Hannah Dibble - Todd & Barb Brockshus daughter, as she continues to navigate her cancer journey
- Dean Mechler as he continues to heal from hip surgery
- Jennifer Williams as she continues to experience chronic and debilitating back pain
- Faythe, 5 year old daughter of Missy Lair's friend, who was diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disease
- Cody, 17 year old brother of James & Tena's daughter-in-law, recovering from injuries from a fall and trauma to the brain
- David Stephens, brother-in-law of Brian & Greta Rouse, as he navigates his cancer journey

CONDOLENCES TO

Mark and MaryAnn Lockey, Ryan and Marlee Christoffel and family, and Megan Lockey and family on the passing of Mark's mother, June Lockey, from time to eternity on July 9.

Jim and Julie Hill on the passing of Julie's mother, Velma Boonstra (member), from time to eternity on July 16.

Kris and Dave Toay on the passing of Kris' sister, Linda Olson, from time to eternity on July 22.

Trust IN THE LORD
WITH ALL YOUR

HEART AND

lean not on your own

UNDERSTANDING

In all your ways SUBMIT TO HIM

AND HE *will make your paths straight.*

PROVERBS 3:5-6

CONSISTORY MINUTES

Present: James Runcorn, Jay Van Gelder. **Elders:** Doug Siepkes, Dean Mechler, Kevin Vander Stoep, Mark Lockey, Gary Zeutenhorst. **Deacons:** Knut Brown, Alex Johnson, Kelly Geerdes, Kevin Goeken, Ryan Murray.
June 12, 2025 • 7:00 pm

Opening prayer: James Runcorn

Devotional: Kevin Goeken covered questions 125-126 of the Heidelberg Catechism

REGULAR BUSINESS

Approved the May 15, 2025 minutes- MMSC (Dean/Kevin)

Approved May 15, 2025 financials-MMSC (Doug/Mark)

May giving and attendance analysis by Alex.

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

Team reports: (Purposeful Living) Dean/Knut, Dean stated VBS in full swing. A meeting with James, Jay, Julia, Dean and Gary to discuss how we could take a more consistent approach to making a public profession of faith and what that would look like moving forward. We will continue to explore this. **(Meaningful Fellowship)** Kelly reported that they were able to get the security team out to the shooting range. It was a good day and the security team's schedule on Sunday's has been more consistent. Doug stated that greeters and ushers have been consistent and that continues to go well. James reported that they had ordered some new lanyards and new name tags for greeters and ushers **(Wholehearted Service)** Kevin G reported that they are planning on have some members of the congregation replace the sidewalk rather than having a contractor do the work. Kevin figured it would cost approximately \$3400. They are trying to schedule a time next week. Jay stated he just got a new bid in today which he has not had a chance to get to the deacons so that will be reviewed this evening. Mark stated that Jill is planning on taking some vacation the month of June. She will be gone on 6/20 and 6/26th -29th. Kathy Houseman will be filling in for her.

(Loving Outreach) Alex stated that the missions committee had not met this month. He reported that he had made the arrangements for the next time Hope would do meals on wheels.

(Holy Living) Ryan reported that the Monday night men's bible study has just started going through Rooted. They are on week 2. Ryan stated that Terry Stevens encouraged members of the consistory to visit the Monday night meetings to be aware of the process and to support the program. Gary reported that contact with Kathy Houseman has been able to identify three people on the committee that would be willing to co-lead the committee. The Women's Ministry is planning on having 4 tables at the Okoboji Bible Conference Women's luncheon on 08/06. They also have planned to attend a movie on 08/24 in Emmetsburg theatre regarding the life of Esther done by the Sight and Sound Theatre in Branson Missouri.

PASTOR'S REPORT

James stated they did walk down to the river to see the area where they could do baptisms at the Service at the park on the 22nd. Steve Rhode has a crew lined up to take people across from the parking at West Leach park across the street to East Leach. They have secured two of the people movers that they use at the fairgrounds to take people across the road as well.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussed taking July off and not having a consistory meeting-MMSC to not meet in July Alex/Knut.

Discussed the organization Hollywood Prayer network and its efforts to support churches individuals in looking at the entertainment industry. James stated he would send out the information in emails to review the program again.

July 18th Spoudazo will be coming to Spencer and will be performing at Hope church. They will need to have someone open the doors for them and close up. Discussed having some advertising prior to their arrival.

James has been visiting with Jesse the pastor from Good News Reformed in Okoboji and their congregation has been talking about leaving the Reformed Church and told him that we could possibly assist them with information and also people who have been involved with this in the past from the congregation.

Closing prayer: Dean Mechler

ELDER MEETING

Opening prayer: James Runcorn

Discussed congregational care concerns. Discussed some ideas regarding how to be more intentional about the public profession of faith. We will talk about this more in August. Discussed costs of new communion plates. Discussed some prices and James will take those to the deacons.

Closing prayer: Kevin Vander Stoep

DEACON MEETING

Opening Prayer - Alex Johnson

Low bid for sidewalk concrete is \$8965. Reviewed rental contracts and leaving them as is. Deacons are pulling data from Breeze regarding Building Hope giving. Letters will be sent to those who pledged, but haven't given yet. New flooring quotes have been received. Deacons are asking staff/design team to reconcile their wants/needs for the August meeting. No additional spending until the Deacons can see where they are at.

Closing Prayer - Ryan Murray



JOIN US!

We will have western swing dancing with lessons, yard games and Hunger Struck Food Truck will be parked in the lot for a great dinner option!

There will be fun for the whole family as we celebrate the end of summer together. Invite your friends and neighbors as this event is open to the whole community.

22 AUG., 2025

Starts at 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

919 Grand Ave.

LIBRARY

We have diligently been working on our library. We are going for a new look with more current books, but keeping some of the treasures. Book lovers think books are precious so we are giving everyone a chance to pick up some free ones. Read them and pass them on. They will be in the lobby for the next two or three weeks. Encourage your young ones to check out a book. The library is for them too. We also have DVDs for those long summer trips. If you want to know what your teen is reading- send them to the church library where we will have current safe books to read. Need a reference book, a learning to read beginner book- we have that. Inspirational, children's Bible story books that match Sunday school lessons- we have that. Help us help you and let us know what kind of books you are looking for. This is going to be exciting!



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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

Sunday School resumes August 24

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