

in touch with Hope Church

monthly newsletter of Hope Church, Spencer, IA



June, 2021

by Youth Pastor Jay Van Gelder

Lost and Found

Have you ever been lost? Have you ever been on a trip and you have gotten lost? I know I have. In fact, sometimes I have been lost even while following the directions my handy dandy Google Maps has told me where to go. When you arrive at the location you punched in and it says you are at the right spot, but the place you were looking for is no where to be found. Or, you punch in a building and you are at the location Google has on the map sitting on the arrow and it says to you "you have arrived," but you are sitting on the road next to an open field. And then, I am talking to Google Maps on my phone saying, "You need to recalculate, because there is nothing here."

In youth group for both middle school and senior high we just finished a series called *Lost and Found*. This series was probably the most powerful series I have ever done here at Hope Church over the past 12 years. We studied Luke 15 and looked at the three parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. We took a look at these three stories and searched out what they all had in common, as well as what these stories each shared with us in our walk with Jesus.

First, the Lost Sheep. In this story we see the Shepherd (Jesus) who goes after the one sheep that is lost and he leaves the rest behind. The story shows the importance of the one (you) and that He goes to find each of us personally. The big idea of this was "**Jesus Notices YOU.**" He will come after you even if you get off track, take a wrong turn, or end up in no-mans land. He will come and find you.

Second, is the Lost Coin. This story was fun to teach because it shows us that we are valued. Especially in our younger years as we are wondering if we have value at all. In the story, the woman loses one of her coins. Now, we think that might not be a big deal at first, "Whoopy, I lost a coin," but a coin back then was worth a month's wage. I asked the youth "Wow. How many of us or your parents would like to have a 12th of their wage for the year disappear?" Kind of a big deal right? In this parable we talked about how too often we just see ourselves as a penny, but Jesus sees us as way more than just some chump change. "**He Values YOU.**"

The third and final parable is the Lost Son. So often when we get off track, make a wrong turn, or end up in a place we did not intend to go and we really find ourselves lost. When we have that "A-Ha" moment what do we do? In the story, and in our lives, we see it is hard to humanly admit when we are lost. It is hard for us to look deep inside our hearts and admit we need a new direction. The cool thing of this parable is when we read the Father (God) is standing there waiting at the end of the road, running to give us a hug when we recalculate and come back home. "**Jesus Welcomes YOU Back HOME.**"

Take the opportunity to draw out your Faith Journey Map. Put down the day you were born and then go ahead and draw a curvy road up toward God. Put some great joys you have seen along the way, put a detour sign, road under construction when God used some of those bumps to help you grow closer to Him. Wherever you are at in the Journey, Jesus Notices You, Jesus Values You, and Jesus welcomes you back HOME!!!





Trenten Hansen Youth News

Chick-Fil-A All the Way

On the last day of school why wouldn't we celebrate with Chick-Fil-A? Jay & I picked up 120 Chick-Fil-A boxes (complete with a hot chicken sandwich, waffle potato chips, cookie and water) from Sioux City and brought them back to Hope Church to serve middle school and high school students and their families. It was fun to see the joy on the students faces enjoying a special lunch after persevering through this unpredictable school year.



Middle School Summer Work Trip & Power Connection

Woohoo! We are excited that the middle school summer trip is happening! This is a unique trip as we will be combining two trips into one. First, we will travel to Lincoln, NE to hook up with Immerse where I first met Jay and the Hope Youth a few years ago. The emphasis of this part of the trip is to help students explore their gifts, learn new skills, and how to use them in serving God's kingdom. After three days we will travel to Power Connection in Pella. This is a time where we will gather with other Christian youth in a large-group setting to praise our Lord. Please be praying for these youth and adults as they head off on this trip: Kiera Brown, Sydney Burns, Ava Buum, Janey Carey, Cayla Cummings, Ryonna Faulkender, Tyler Flikkema, Bob Graham, Simon Graham, Gretchen Haak, Trenten Hansen, Jack Hemann, Millie Hemann, Madeline Johnson, Breanna Johnson, Jacob Jones, Paisley Krukow, Tallen Lorenzen, Jill Lowe, Tre Moore, Ellie

Muilenburg, Averie Nelson, Paige Orosco, Ayden O'Toole, Alona Rosacker, Brayden Schuster, Olivia Schuster, Colby Sherrod, Kim Smith, Kamryn Snyder, Aaden Techen, Cameron Van Der Heide, Jay Van Gelder, Shayler Van Gelder, Evan Ver Steeg, and Tate Zinn. We have a total of 30 students going, 20 who have never been on a Hope Youth Middle School Retreat or Summer Trip. So many opportunities for God to move!

Youth Sunday & Father's Day

On Sunday, June 20, our middle school and senior high youth will be leading our worship services at 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. We look forward to this Sunday every year as it allows the youth to use their gifts to serve the church and share what they have learned. Our theme, **Lost & Found**, is based on the parables found in Luke 15. June 20 is also Father's Day. Because of this, we will be serving a grilled burger meal at 11:45 a.m. (after 2nd service) in the Harbor. All are welcome to come enjoy a burger to celebrate the father figures in our lives. Free will offering to support the youth summer trips..





Vacation Bible School

Jackie Bryan & Abby Weber, VBS Co-Chairs

We are so excited for VBS **June 7th-11th** in "The Quest for the Kings Armor." We are looking forward to an amazing week learning about God's big story with you!

Volunteer Training

The mandatory VBS volunteer training meeting will be on Tuesday, June 1 from 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. or Wednesday, June 2 from 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. in the Harbor. Attendance is required at one of the scheduled dates/times for everyone who will be helping at VBS. Please contact either one of us with any questions.

Work Week

Everyone is invited to come get ready for VBS! We will be painting, cutting out and building all sorts of fun décor and props. We will be working Tuesday - Friday, June 1 - 4 from 1:00—7:00 p.m. Come when you can, leave when you must!

Pick-up / Drop-off

Start time: 8:30 / End time: 11:45

We would ask that you drop your child/children off no earlier than 8:15. We understand that work commitments can sometimes cause this to be difficult. Let us know if this is not possible and we can help with a plan for morning drop-off. Please bring your child to the southwest doors of Hope Church (Harbor doors). Our parking lot will be closed for student safety. We encourage you to park at Hy-Vee and bring your child across the street. We plan to have crossing guards at both drop-off and pick-up for your child's safety. Pick-up will be at 11:45. You are welcome to join us for part of our closing activities. However, please do not arrive until 11:25. This will allow our children to be seated and in the Harbor before parents/guests arrive. If there are any questions throughout the week or you need to share additional information concerning your child there will be a check-in table inside the lobby.

Sickness or Absence

If your child will be absent from VBS during the week, please let us know. We do take attendance each morning to ensure that children arrive safely. We will be making phone calls to parents if a child is absent without previous knowledge of this absence. You can contact the church office at 712-262-3016.

VBS Offering

This year we have decided to bless our community through food bank donations to Upper Des Moines and the Spencer Middle School food bank. We will collect both monetary donations and nonperishable items for donation. We hope to build a large wall of items so the children can see it grow and have a visible display of their kindness. Cash offerings will be used to purchase additional items for the food banks at the end of the week.

T-shirt / CD Pick-Up

T-shirts and CD's will be available at the church on **Thursday, June 3rd, from 3:00 - 6:00** and **Friday, June 4th from 12:00 - 4:00**. They will also be available on Sunday, June 6th, from 8:30am - 12:00 pm in the church lobby.



We will not be having a VBS picnic on Friday night or a program during Sunday worship this year.



"May you always see
the world through the eyes of a child."

C.T. Heck

Beth Muilenburg Congregational Care

I will be in Turkey from May 27th through June 12th. If you would like a prayer chain sent out, please contact Lori in the church office at 262-3016 or lswanson@spencerhope.org.

While I am gone, if you have a need, please contact one of the Elders:

Arv Druvenga	(712) 260-0647
Jim Hill	(712) 363-3960
Dean Mechler	(712) 260-1013
Darrell Todd	(712) 260-2027
Kurt Weeks	(712) 240-9188
Cedric Winterboer	(712) 260-1854

Small Groups:

Now that life seems a little more settled after COVID, we are planning on re-booting small groups this fall. Whether you have been in small groups in the past, or would like to start up for the first time, we will start fresh this fall. Look for more information on this in August.

Celebrating with:

- Piper Swanson & Will Cleveland who were united in marriage on May 1.

Concerns for:

- Shelby Reese had a procedure done on April 30 to prepare her for further surgeries in the near future.
- Dave Johnson had two back surgeries to remove a large cancerous tumor from beneath his shoulder blade, and place a rod in his spine. He will begin chemotherapy.
- Glenn Biggar had sinus surgery on May 12.
- Joyce Lemke was hospitalized in the Spencer Hospital for lower back pain.

Condolences to:

- Julie & Doug Van Hofwegen on the passing of Julie's mother, Elinor Vander Ark from Montana, from time to eternity on May 5.
- Marilyn & Glenn Biggar and family on the passing of Marilyn's mother, Roselyn Holmberg of Spencer, from time to eternity on May 28.

Consistory News

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hope Reformed Consistory met at 7:00 p.m. in the Well on May 13; However, minutes were not available at time of printing the newsletter.

ELDERS MEETING

Elder Meeting minutes were not available at time of printing the newsletter.

DEACONS MEETING

Eric opened the meeting with prayer.

Got to know our Deacon, Kyle edition.

Approved donation to Power Connection.

Looked at Josh's requests. **MMSC** to approve one request and table a 2nd.

Deacons will now be collecting offering on Sunday mornings.

Bob closed the meeting with prayer.



FATHER'S DAY GRILLOUT

JUNE 20 / 11:45 A.M.

HARBOR ROOM

All are welcome to come enjoy a burger and celebrate the father figures in their lives. Free will offering to support the summer youth trips.

HOPE CHURCH

BRING JOY. EXPERIENCE JOY.

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WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays beginning May 30

9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Sanctuary

10:45 a.m.

Live-streamed online  YouTube

www.youtube.com/hopechurchspencer

SERMONS

June 6

David Lyons Preaching

June 13

Jon Opgenorth Preaching

June 20

Youth Sunday

June 27

Rick Porter Preaching

