

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER HOPE CHURCH, SPENCER, IA

BY PASTOR PERRY DEGROOT

HAVING SERVED HOPE CHURCH FROM 1989-2006

FOR THE LORD OR FOR LENT

Over the years I have heard people talking about giving up things for Lent. There may be many of us who do not know what Lent is. It is a season in the life of the church where some religious traditions observe a period of time to prepare for Easter. Or Lent is observed as a time for fasting, abstinence from food or other things.

The forty week days that are a part of the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. It is also symbolic of the time the Lord Jesus Christ spent in the wilderness for forty days during the temptations by the devil. According to the Gospel writers Matthew and Luke, Jesus fasted from food and maybe water for forty days.

The purpose of Lent according to 5th and 6th Century church was for penitence. It was a time for sorrow over sin and sinfulness. It was a time when people were instructed and challenged to abstain from things, evidence of their sorrow over sin.

However, the Lord doesn't call us to be sorry for sin just during a specific season of the year. Nor does He call us to abstain from things periodically as a sign of our penitence. He calls us to deny ourselves, take up our cross and daily follow Him.

The discipline and attitude of our lives in relationship with Jesus Christ is more than just a periodic mental or behavioral observance and period of self-denial. Our entire perspective and lifestyle needs to be one of glorifying Jesus as the Lord and Leader of our lives, disciplining ourselves for the pursuit of His will and His ways. We love Him, because He gave Himself on the Cross of Calvary. We worship Him by giving our lives in loving/obedience and gratitude for the forgiveness of sins, the power to say no to sin and the hope of eternal life with Him. We are deeply thankful for the price He paid, descending into hell for the consequences of our sins.

What the Lord Jesus Christ desires is a broken, contrite heart not just in observance of a religious season, but for all of one's life. Our desire is to please the Lord; letting Him change the attitudes of our hearts, the plans and actions of our lives, rather than setting our minds and hearts on selfish pleasures, pursuits and ambitions of our own making.

For the Lord or for Lent, what are you and I thinking about and anticipating as we prepare to celebrate the love of Jesus Christ and His glorious resurrection? Do you know personally the life changing power of Christ and His resurrection? "Who, being in very nature God did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death--even death on a cross!" Philippians 2:6-9.

A wealthy university graduate chose to live frugally in a single room, cooking his own meals. As a result he was able to give two million dollars to foreign missions. In explanation of his choice he said: "Gladly would I make the floor my bed, a box my chair and another box my table, rather than people should perish for want of the knowledge of Christ."

This is not suggesting that all Christians are called upon to forfeit the normal comforts of life! However, when the Lord does call us to such sacrifice, are we willing to suffer a loss and lose ourselves for the sake of Christ and His Kingdom?

For the Lord or for Lent, let us live for the Lord who loves us so much, that He gave His life that we might Live Now and Eternally!

MARCH, 2022

Pastor Jay Van Gelder Youth News



A Successful Super Bowl in the Books.

Last year we could not have our regular Super Sunday Party as normal. If you remember we decided to have a drive through Pizza Party with Godfathers and Sunshine foods instead. This turned out to be really fun with our Adult staff bringing cool prizes to people's homes. Well this year we were able to be back at church with youth ready and excited to return to our good old fashion Super Sunday Party. The youth were ready to play the games as we watched the big game on the screens. In fact this year Austin Bryan and His team of youth set up 5 big screens with three TV screens to watch the big game. Austin and his team did a wonderful job with all the Wi-Fi, live streaming, Chromecasting to keep it all going.

This year activities were a Mechanical Bull, Extreme Inflatable Obstacle Challenge course, Meltdown, Axe throwing, Joust, 9 square competition, Laser tag as well as some board games. Lots of excitement was happening around the church. In fact the only rooms that were not used was the Sanctuary, Offices, and Preschool rooms. The church was taken over with lots of laughter, excitement and a lot of smiles with friends. One of the coolest parts though for this Super Sunday Party is that we did not watch the Super Bowl halftime.

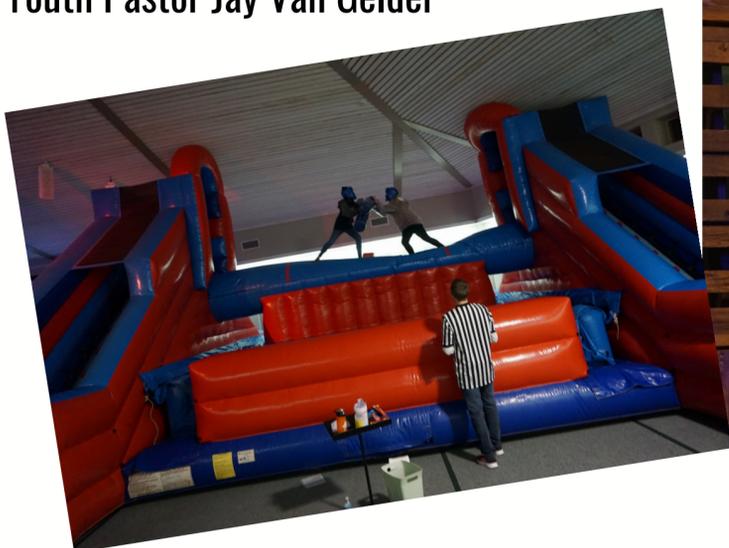
This year we were able to get Adam Timmerman come and speak with us during the halftime show about His faith in Jesus that came alive to him while he was playing for the Green Bay Packers. He talked about his team and the impact they had on him in his faith journey. Adam played 4 times in the NFL Super Bowl and won it twice, once with Green Bay and once with the team who won the Rams. It was so cool that Adam gave his time to come and talk with our young people while his own team was playing in the Super bowl. Definatly a highlight from any other Super Sunday Party that I have done.

In attendance we had 208 youth with 58 first time guests to Hope for the very first time. We had a total of 35 Adults helping with games, food, setup, and tear down. Great, great, turn out. Great, great, fun.

Just for fun after this event I thought I would see how many different youth have come in the past year to Hope Youth one time or more. Since January 2021 we have seen 353 different youth come to either Middle school or Sr. High youth group in the past year.

God is doing some amazing things, keep praying that these young people would take a next step in their faith walk. Whether it is their first time coming to a Super Sunday Party and they want to come back again or they have grown up in the church and continue to grow in what it means to live a life for Christ.

Youth Pastor Jay Van Gelder



HOPE



Julia Andela
Children & Families

Last month, the focus of Children and Family Ministry was on you as parents and emphasized the value in taking time to just enjoy each other as husband and wife or being able to take time to rest and reset on your own. While that can seem selfish, your child benefits so much from knowing their place in the home. Children feel secure in your love knowing that you love God first, your spouse second (if applicable) and them third. I hope those of you that were able to participate in our first Parents' Night Out were able to feel the benefits of connecting, resting and being recharged to love on your kiddos well!

This month I want to shift your focus to spending intentional time with your children as we gear up for our Mother/Son and Father/Daughter events during April's spring break week! Here are a few reasons why I chose this type of event and how I hope it benefits your child:

1. A reminder from their Heavenly Father -- Spending intentional time with your child will help them feel loved and valued by you, but also give you the opportunity to point out something like this: "I hope you feel so special and loved by me, but you know what? Jesus loves you even more than I possibly could! That's a lot!"
2. A Confidence and Social Skills Booster -- Feeling that the adults they look up to most enjoy time with them, builds confidence as they will see themselves as someone others enjoy spending time with. It is also a great way to help your child develop social skills like having a conversation, asking, and answering questions, noticing things around them, making eye contact, etc. which will build their confidence even more as they are more willing to have conversations with their peers and other adults, too.
3. A standard of respect -- This especially applies to male adult to female child relationships and vice versa. You as the adult have the opportunity to model respect, manners and, overall, the way they should expect to be treated, and be expected to treat others.

As we gear up for our church-wide Parent/Child events in early April (stay tuned for more information), I invite you to find a moment each week in the month of March to spend alone time with each of your kids. Maybe it is snuggling in bed and reading books, playing a game your kiddo loves, taking a car ride to Black Earth Java, or going on a date to Carroll's Bakery. It doesn't have to be for huge periods of time or cost a dime, but I hope you can reap the benefits as you take time to help your kids feel the love a little extra!



Consistory News

Deacon Minutes

- Luke opened in prayer
- Approved booklets to handout with deacon requests
- Went over pulpit supply process
- Reviewed facilities rental policy
- Levi closed with prayer

FROM THE ELDERS:

Upcoming Communion Service will be Maundy Thursday April 14th. We would like everyone to be aware for those that are unable to celebrate communion with us in person that we do have an option for them. The one time use communion cups that we used during the early days of covid are available . They can be picked up at church if you will be joining us by livestream. Then you will be able to join us by having communion at home. For those unable to pick them up at church or do not have anyone able to pick them up for you, arrangements can be made to have one delivered to you by calling the office at 712-262-3016.

Easter Sunday will be celebrated on April 17 this year. The seven-week period leading up to Easter is traditionally called Lent and begins on March 2. Many Christ-followers find Lent to be a time of year where an extra measure of focus is made on their relationship with Jesus. We invite you to join us for the services and activities being held at Hope Church during Lent (see schedule below).

On Sunday March 6, we are pleased to welcome Brian Keepers as our pastor for the first Sunday of the Easter season. Brian is originally from Spencer, grew up in Hope Church and graduated from Spencer High School. Brian currently serves as Lead Pastor at Trinity Church in Orange City, providing overall leadership to the staff and leadership teams and cultivating a shared vision for where God is leading Trinity. He is passionate about preaching and teaching God's Word, developing and empowering leaders, inviting people into deep inside-out transformation, and equipping God's people to live all of life on mission with our triune God. Brian is married and has two daughters and one granddaughter. The schedule of regular and special services and activities at Hope Church this year leading up to Easter are listed below along with sermon theme and scripture.

Wednesday, March 2 6:30pm – Special Service of Prayer and Remembrance

Sunday, March 6 8:30 & 10:45 “I am who I am” – Exodus 3:14

Sunday, March 13 8:30 & 10:45 “I am with you always” – Matthew 28:20

Sunday, March 20 8:30 & 10:45 “I am the light of the world” – John 8:12

Sunday, March 27 8:30 & 10:45 “I am the good shepherd” – John 10:11

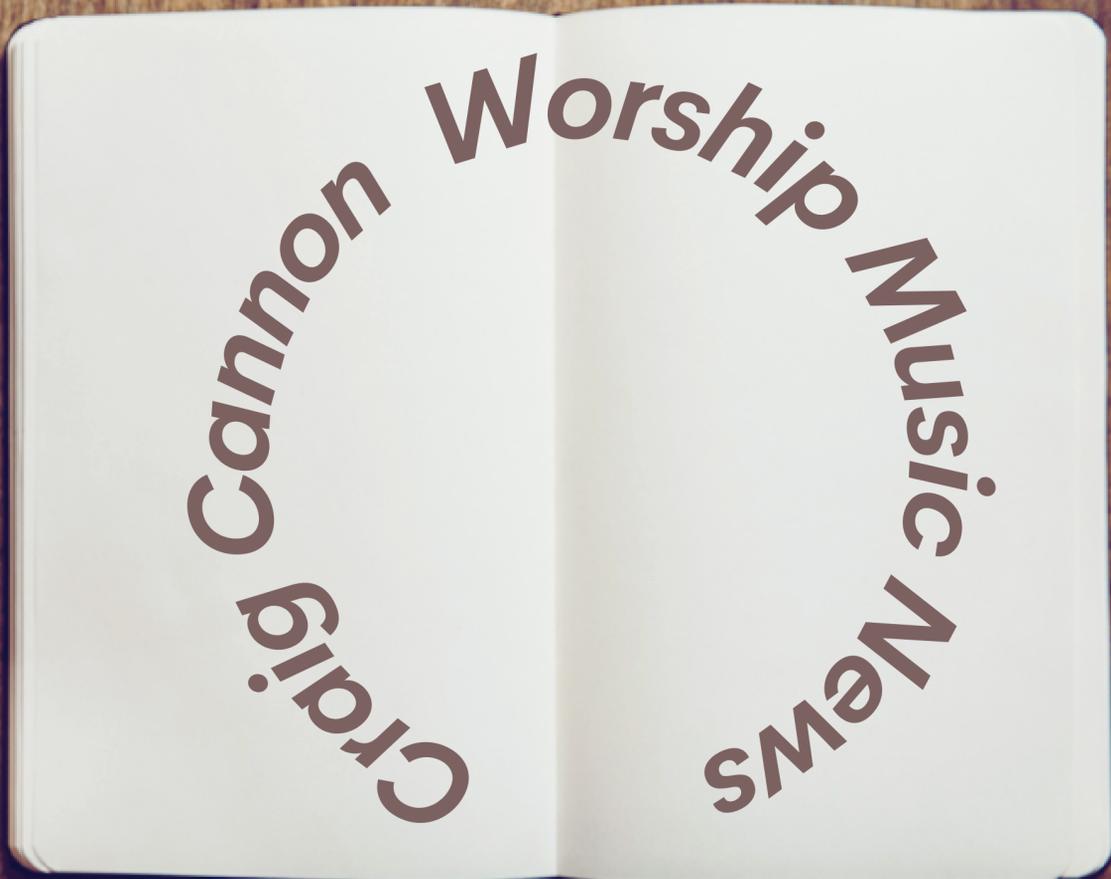
**Sunday, April 3 8:30 & 10:45 “I am the bread of life” – John 6:35 (Communion celebrated)
“I am the true vine” – John 15:21**

**Sunday, April 10 8:30 & 10:45 Palm Sunday children's participation
Adult Easter Cantata – “Living Hope”**

“I am the way, the truth and the life” – John 14:6

Thursday, April 14 7pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service, including dramatic Last Supper presentation with Communion celebrated

Sunday April 17 Easter Sunday “I am the resurrection and the life” – John 11:25



LIVING HOPE

EASTER CANTATA

April 10, 2022

Rehearsals

Sunday, March 27 - 5PM

Sunday, April 3 - 5PM

Wednesday, April 6 - 7PM

*"The work is finished. The end is written.
Jesus Christ, my living hope."*

High school age and up are invited to join in for our Easter Cantata "Living Hope", which is scheduled for April 10, 2022 (Palm Sunday).

Rehearsal Schedule

Sunday, March 27 - 5pm (Sanctuary)

Sunday, April 3 - 5pm (Sanctuary)

Dress Rehearsal Wednesday, April 6 - 7pm (Sanctuary)

Cantata

Sunday, April 10 - 8:30 & 10:45

If you are interested, please contact Craig.

email: ccannon@spencerhope.org

Call or text: 240-409-0542

"The work is finished. The end is written. Jesus Christ, my living hope."

Serving Opportunity-No Experience Needed! You will receive the training you need!

Tech Team:

The Tech Team plays a vital a role in leading the congregation in our worship services through the use of visual, audio, and recording equipment.

Roles: Projection (Slides)

As a Slides Operator you are responsible for changing lyric, scripture, sermon slides, and playing an occasional video.

Video (Livestream)

As a Video Operator you are responsible for recording the 1st service, starting and ending livestream for 2nd service, and changing camera views throughout service.

Audio (Sound Board)

As a Sound Board Operator you are responsible for settings the levels of the band, singers, speakers, preacher, and occasional videos.

Time Commitment:

Projection & Audio - Serve once a month

Wednesday Evening Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Sunday Morning Rehearsal & Services from 7:30 a.m. to approximately 12:00 p.m.

Video - Serve once a month

Sunday Morning from 8:00 a.m. to approximately 12:00 p.m.

Contact:

Craig Cannon

240-409-0542

ccannon@spencerhope.org

Pastor Search Committee

The pastor search committee (Sean Sherrod, Doug Siepkes, AJ Zinn, Kim Rhode, Jason Warren, Mike Bryan, Gary Zuetenhorst, Marcy Nelson, Mary VanDrunen, Shelly Helmink, Sandy Van Wettering, Eric Meeter, Aliza Edwards, and Deb Wittrock) ask for your prayers, patience, and support. The church has hired the Slingshot Group (Slingshotgroup.org) who specialize in church staffing to facilitate the Lead Pastor search. If you know of someone who would want to apply, please refer them to their website. All candidates will be vetted by them as they are trained professionals and it also keeps things consistent for all candidates.

Keith Twigg, our contact at Slingshot with input from the church annual meeting, staff, consistory, and search team has put together a profile for the Lead Pastor position at Hope Church. This assists in attracting candidates as well as helping Keith tell our story. The search went live on February 22nd and on Wednesday evening the 23rd we already have 3 candidates starting the application process. This process does take some time as Slingshot Group puts together a detailed profile on each candidate and makes sure they fit the profile we put together. The search team expects to be reviewing top candidates by the end of March.



919 Grand Ave.
 Spencer, IA 51301
 (712)262-3016
www.spencerhope.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays

8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary

10:45 a.m.

Live-streamed online

www.youtube.com/hopechurchspencer

HOPE CHURCH STAFF:

Jay Van Gelder-Pastor of Youth Ministries

Craig Cannon-Worship/Music

Josh Hamrick-Facilities

Austin Bryan-Youth Ministries Assistant/Communications

Julia Andela-Children/Families

Trish Halder-Office Manager

EASTER GARDEN

A Colorful Easter Garden is planned for
 Easter Sunday, April 17

TO PURCHASE A FLOWERING PLANT IN MEMORY OF,
 OR IN HONOR OF, A LOVED ONE(S) PICKUP AN ENVELOPE
 AT THE INFORMATION DESK AND RETURN TO THE OFFICE

BY

APRIL 8.

THE COST IS \$20 FOR EACH PLANT.



I AM

New sermon
 series

Starting
 March 6, 2022

ASH WEDNESDAY



Service of Prayer
 and Healing

March 2nd - 6:30pm

