



In Touch with *Hope*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOPE CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2023

Pastor James Runcorn

Lead Pastor

Dear Hope Church,

On behalf of the Runcorn family, we extend to you our greatest appreciation and thanks! We thank the LORD for your kindness and generosity. As the psalmist writes, "He is good." That has been clearly reflected in His church here in Spencer. From the initial conversations and meetings with members of the search team, to our first and second visits, to the overwhelmingly wonderful turnout to unload the moving trucks, to the overflowing gift basket with cards and notes expressing such love and support, to the countless prayers for the entire process – it has been incredible! We can't thank just one or two people. We extend our thanks to the entire search team, elders, deacons, consistory and most importantly to the entire congregation. Thank you so much for reflecting the service Jesus calls us to live out every day. We know you all have lives, families, jobs and other commitments. It took personal sacrifice for you to give so much. We look forward to getting to know you better and to serve alongside you. We prayerfully look forward as we seek to keep in step with the Spirit and to do His will here at Hope.

Love,

James, Tena and the boys

Psalm 107:1
(NIV)

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Jay Van Gelder

Pastor of Student Ministries

YOUTH AUCTION FUNDRAISER

**SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 5 | 5pm**

**Please join us for our
Annual Youth Auction!**



Bid on a few items in the Live and Silent Auctions as well as have a lot of fun with your friends at church! This is our only fundraiser to help offset expenses for our summer youth trips. All proceeds go to the youth.

The youth will serve a catered meal during the auction and childcare will be provided.

It's not too late to donate an item to be auctioned off. Please have your donations to church by 1 pm on November 5.

**CATERED MEAL ▪ LIVE AUCTION
SILENT AUCTION ▪ TONS OF FUN**

Austin Bryan

Youth Intern

COMING THIS DECEMBER!



*The Bridge is making its
long awaited return!*

What and who is invited to the Bridge?

It's an awesome evening designed for ALL youth from 6th grade thru 12th grade. All churches in Spencer are invited as well as our friends from Orange City traveling to join us!

What is the mission of The Bridge?

The Bridge has a mission to create a youth friendly environment that allows for youth in all stages of their faith walk to take a step forward! The Bridge is focused on helping each and every student grow no matter where they are in their personal faith journey.

The Bridge creates the Bridge from
Community to Youth Group:

Community -----> Youth Group

The Bridge teaches about the ONLY Bridge
to Heaven from Earth:

Earth -----> JESUS ----->Heaven

The Bridge creates a Bridge from
Youth Group to Big Church:

Hope Youth -----> Sunday Morning Church

What happens during The Bridge?

The Bridge is a 2 hour event that is packed with pizza, games, worship, and our guest speaker CORY NIKKEL!

When is the Bridge?

Wednesday, December 13 at 6:00pm in the Harbor.

Julia Andela

Children & Family Ministries Director

Thank you to each one of you who served, donated towards, attended and prayed over our 2023 Trunk or Treat event. At least 1200 community members entered our church building and were given The Gospel message on a handout as they were greeted and treated by the nearly 200 volunteers radiating the love of Jesus! What a great opportunity to see our church body use its God given gifts to serve our neighbors!

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5: 14-16



This Is the **CHRISTMAS** STORY

ELEMENTARY PROGRAM REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

Wednesday, November 8 @ 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 to be assigned your part.

Wednesday, November 15 @ 5:30-6:30 PM*

*4-5th graders with speaking parts will be asked to come rehearse from 5:15-5:30, prior to the full rehearsal.

Wednesday, November 22 @ 5:00-6:00 PM

 Pizza served from 6-6:25 for kids staying for the Thanksgiving Eve service held at 6:30pm in the Harbor. 

Wednesday, November 29 @ 5:30-6:30 PM*

*4-5th graders with speaking parts will be asked to come rehearse from 5:15-5:30, prior to the full rehearsal.

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

*4-5th graders with speaking parts will be asked to come rehearse from 5:15-5:30, prior to the full rehearsal.

Saturday, December 9 @ 9-10:15 AM

 Final Run Through with donuts to follow! 

PRESCHOOL PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Preschool will practice during the Sunday School hour.



Pastor Perry De Groot

Pastor Emeritus/Congregational Care

TAKE SOME TIME TO....THINK

TAKE A MOMENT TO...MEDITATE

Corn, corn, corn, which is how some people describe the state of Iowa. The scene of corn everywhere is often boring for new residents or those who travel through the state. Soon the corn fields will be completely harvested. Over the years I have found that there are things about corn and corn fields, that we may be able to learn spiritual lessons in our relationship with God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

My responsibilities and commitments as a Pastor have found me traveling among many corn fields across Iowa over the years. While driving on those occasions I have always been intrigued by the beauty of the corn fields. For me there is a beauty about the orderliness and symmetry of the rows of corn. Then as the corn grows and the rows are filled in, it becomes a sea of dark green when the wind rustles and moves the plants like waves on the ocean. I am reminded of the creative and sustaining work of God as Master Designer. Our Creator has made the earth, the soil, seeds, the sun and sends the rain. By His grace a farmer plants, tills and harvests the crops. May we learn to thank the Lord for all that He alone provides. May we trust in Him and Him alone for sending the rain and the sunshine. Isn't the Lord our God, the creator and sustainer of nature, the author of love and eternal life in Jesus Christ magnificent and wonderful?

Let me pick (pun intended) another thought about the corn fields, which struck me in relationship to the body of Christ. A single corn stalk by itself is susceptible. By itself it is more prone to the damaging effects of wind. But in a whole field the other corn plants break the force of the wind for one another. In the church (the body of Christ) with the use of Bible studies, prayer groups and friendships, we can break the destructive winds of life as we share and pray for each other. In a corn field it is always interesting to see how the wind also blows the pollen around in the fertilization of the plants to produce the ear. And so, we need each other to encourage and stimulate one another toward continued growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, resulting in the fruit of the Holy Spirit and the harvest of righteousness (right living or behavior pleases the Lord).

As the corn plants grow the ground is shaded, thus deterring the evaporation of the moisture, resulting in stimulated growth and nourishment. The same is true once again for the fellowship of believers. We need to intercede and help each other in prayer, seeking the Lord's protection. We need to nurture and motivate each other in the sharing of Jesus Christ and His word, Who is the true, living water of life.

But there is also individual responsibility and accountability. As the corn plant is made by the Lord; its leaves collect and funnel the water down to the base of the plant. Likewise, we as individual Christians need to make it the commitment of our lives to hide the Word of the Lord in our hearts and minds. We need to make ourselves available to preaching, teaching, study, meditation and obedience of the Word of the Lord (the Bible), seeking to live daily according to His will and ways. Then and only then, can we gather with others from week to week in Sunday morning worship, small group Bible studies and prayer times, youth fellowship, and individual friendships to break the winds of our unfriendly culture, shade and help each other just as God created the rows and fields of corn to do.

These are a few of my reflections, while meditating on the miles of corn rows. Maybe there are some thoughts you may have as you let Jesus Christ teach you in the daily things of life as you seek to grow in the grace, knowledge and love of the Lord.

*Let us walk with the Lord and with each other
in daily living and weekly worship!*

Missions Focus

Six Ways to Serve

Pastor James' message on Sunday, November 5, will focus on God's calling on every believer, including the call to "Go, and make disciples of all nations..." And Jesus made it clear that He will not return until that task is completed, as recorded in the Gospels: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:14)

According to the Joshua Project <https://joshuaproject.net/unreached/10>, 7,398 or 42.4% of the 17,453 distinct people groups remain unreached with the Gospel, and there is much work for us to do in obedience to our Lord's command.

When we think of missions to unreached people groups, most of us think only of the command to "Go" to a mission field in some foreign country. Everyone who calls Jesus Lord should be open to hearing the Lord call them to Go, and to obeying that call. But we know that He does not call every believer to participate in missions in that way.

Your call to **Go** may mean becoming engaged in local mission or a short-term mission trip.

In addition to **Going**, there are at least five other ways the Lord might call us to reach the nations with the Gospel.

- Learn** Seek out information regarding specific missionaries, including those Hope Church supports. Learn about specific unreached people groups and countries, through resources such as the Joshua Project or Open Doors. Sign up for the newsletters many of our missionaries send on a regular basis.
- Pray** Pray individually or with other believers for local and global missions involving people you know or those our church supports. Ask the Lord to send workers into the harvest and to open doors for the Gospel where access is limited.
- Send** Enable those who are called to Go by committing your resources to specific local or global missions. Add your individual support to the church's existing support for those connected with Hope Church.
- Welcome** Sometimes we go to the nations and other times the nations come to us. Seek out and welcome international visitors, immigrants, and refugees who come to Spencer or nearby communities.
- Mobilize** Embrace the call to become engaged with missions – locally, regionally, and globally – and seek out and encourage others to explore how they can serve as well.

Remember, the call to go and make disciples of all nations is on each of us, not just a few. Let us take the next step of obedience to His call, whatever it may be.

Celebrating with

Trenton and Jessika Walker on the birth of their son, Gus, born on September 30.

Concerns for

Bob Faulkender who was recently in the hospital with pneumonia.

Christi Gabhart, who is undergoing chemo in Spencer.

Dave Raveling who had hip surgery last week.

Condolences to

Missy and Brent Burns and family on the passing of Missy's dad, J. Michael Chalstrom, from time to eternity on October 7.

Kim and Kurt Weeks and family on the passing of Kim's mom, Patricia Johnson, from time to eternity on October 9.

Greg and Terri Cuttell and family on the passing of Greg's mom, Barbara Cuttell, from time to eternity on October 20.

You're Invited

to a night of Thanksgiving, Praise, Conversation and a Movie Premier

Wednesday
November 22
6:30 pm

Join us in the Harbor for our Thanksgiving service as we give Thanks and Praise to God, hear Pastor James' testimony & enjoy two short films: Dumplings and Christian Hitmen, directed by James. We will be serving coffee and pie during the films.

This is a great opportunity to invite your family and friends who don't usually attend church.



We are a home.
We are a hope.
We are here.



cherishhouse[®]
A Place of Caring Support.



Hope Church ~ Your Change Changes Lives!

Take home an empty baby bottle
BEGINNING NOVEMBER 5,
fill it with coins, cash, or
check (payable to Cherish House)
and RETURN IT TO THE CHURCH BY
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2023.

THANK YOU for participating
in our Baby Bottle Campaign
and supporting Cherish House
and Cherish Center!



Cherish
center

Community. Hope. Renewal.

1004 22nd Street
Milford, IA 51351
712-338-3333
info@cherishcenter.org
www.cherishcenter.org

Consistory News

Present: Pastor Jay Van Gelder, Pastor James Runcorn on Zoom
Elders: Arvin Druvenga, Bruce Groen, Doug Siepkes, Barry Anderson
Deacons: Terry Stevens, Eric Van Der Heide, Ryan Christoffel, Ryan Hoskins, Luke Lovin

Meeting called to order.

7 pm: Opening prayer Jay Van Gelder

Devotion on Heidelberg Questions # 24-28 by Barry Anderson

REGULAR BUSINESS

August 10th minutes approved

June 25th, July 9th and July 30th special meeting minutes approved

August Financials approved

Reviewed 2023 giving and attendance

Executive Team Report

Discussion: Fall Launch recap, Sunday services schedule, Pastor transition, Pastor Emeritus

agreement, 2024 Budget process

Tabled: Amend Articles of Incorporation, Consistory nominations

Discussion: Staff Management. Ministry Liaison Reports

Upcoming Events: Sunday School Kick Off – 9/24/2023, Communion – 10/1/2023, Executive Team Meeting – 9/27/2023 at 6:00 pm, Consistory Meeting – 10/12/2023 at 7:00 pm in the Harbor

Closing Prayer by Arvin Druvenga

ELDER MEETING

Opening prayer by Barry Anderson

Baptism request for Boden Scott Lovin approved

Closing prayer by Doug Siepkes

DEACON MEETING

Present: Eric VH, Ryan H, Ryan C, Luke L

Absent: Terry S, Alex J

Eric opened with prayer

Discussed shredders – recommending the boxed shredder

Paul Flaharty memorial – bushes? Luke will follow up

Moving expenses approved

Sunday School room painting overage approved

New nativity set approved, to be purchased for this year

Appreciation for staff

Ryan H will bring list of recommendations for building insurance plan

Luke closed in prayer



919 Grand Avenue
Spencer, IA 51301
(712)262-3016
hrc@spencerhope.org



Worship Services

SUNDAYS: 8:30 am and 10:45 am in the Sanctuary
8:30 am services live-streamed online: www.youtube.com/hopechurchspencer

Sunday School

SUNDAYS: 9:45 - 10:40 am ~ Preschool through Adult

Hope Church Staff

James Runcorn, Lead Pastor
Jay Van Gelder, Pastor of Student Ministries
Julia Andela, Children & Families Director
Austin Bryan, Youth Ministries Assistant & Intern Worship/Music
Perry DeGroot, Pastor Emeritus/Congregational Care
Josh Hamrick, Facilities Manager
Jill Lowe, Office Administrator

