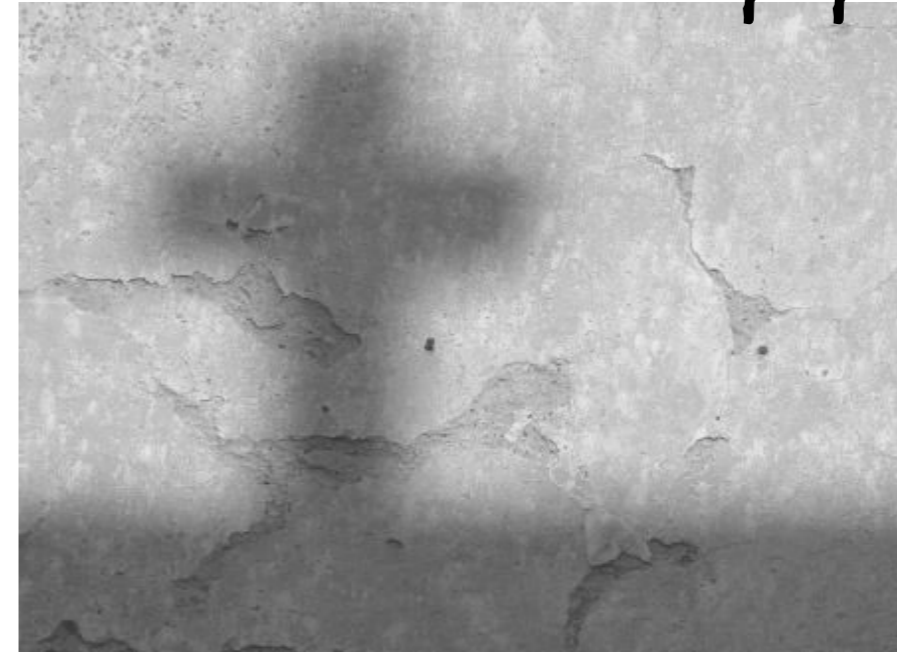


Hope's Happenings

Current Occupant or



Making Sense of the Cross

Ever wonder about the cross? It is probably one of the most prominent symbols in our culture, both in a secular sense and in a religious understanding. You find the cross on the end of a necklace, on a bracelet, hanging on a rear view mirror, inked on bodies, hanging on walls, and architecturally designed into buildings. Crosses are everywhere. But does the cross every make you stop and wonder?

Join me this Lent as we offer a six week opportunity of *Making Sense of the Cross*. This six week small group study will invite you, the reader, to listen in on an open conversation about the cross. Throughout the conversation, you will be encouraged to think about and experience the cross and its meaning for your life of faith. The story is written

as a conversation so that you and I can be invited to "jump into" the conversation. The text stimulates the reader's thinking instead of attempting to persuade a particular point of view. The book is written as a single narrative that anyone can read with great enjoyment and satisfaction. Let us, together, explore the significance and the relevance of Jesus' cross and resurrection this Lent.

The *Making Sense of the Cross* small group will meet on Tuesday evenings for six weeks beginning on Tuesday, February 28th. Location TBA. Sign-up in the gathering area so that we can order enough books.

Let us journey together this Lent.

God's Peace
Aaron "Sturgie" Sturgis

Our Lenten journey begins

Ash Wednesday,

February 22, at 6:30 pm worship. During Lent we are called to reflect on the meaning of our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes on our forehead reminds us of our human mortality and frailty. But it is also a reminder that each day is a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. From this solemn liturgy the church goes forth on its journey to the great baptismal feast of Easter.



From Pastor's Study

Annual Meeting Notes

A heartfelt **thank you** goes to our 2012 ministry board members and officers. The nominating committee's slate of candidates was unanimously approved at our Annual Meeting. Twenty-three people were elected to form our leadership at Hope. Our 2012 officers and board members will be installed on February 19 during worship. The mission and work of Hope moves forward because willing leaders dedicate themselves to caring for the daily ministry of the church. Your prayers, encouragement and support make a strong partnership in our shared ministry.

The 2012 budget of \$463,800 was approved at the Annual Meeting. Both expenses and offerings in 2011 were well below budget as we finished the year with a negative \$10,760 balance. Our new budget is 9% less than our 2011 budget. Finances continue to be a challenge at Hope but ought not to diminish our desire to grow in **faithful response** to the God's immeasurable grace! By sharing in the joy of our baptismal identity we trust that our resources for ministry can once again grow **to be sufficient** to our tasks.

It was decided too that in the coming months a committee of the church council will study our current model of organization. They will prepare a recommendation with how we might create a council-committee structure to better serve our mission.

"See Everything Has Become New"

Soon we will enter into that renewing time of the church year we call Lent. I look forward to this time of prayer and study. Will you make a **commitment to worship and learn** together on Wednesday evenings? Come for our Lenten cost meals prior to service too. We will enter into the rich tradition of **Evening Prayer** and then take time to consider the **mystery of the cross** through key Biblical passages.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's words speak to our theme :*"It is a blessed thing to know that no power on earth, no temptation, no human frailty can dissolve what God holds together."* In the faith, we see the cross showing God's **reconciling** ways and power to make *all things new* and to *hold all things together*. You can go deeper into our study by attending a Tuesday evening class for six weeks led by Aaron Sturgis using the book by David Lose, "Making Sense of the Cross."

Mission of Healing

I will be in El Salvador from February 4 to February 11 with a team of health professionals and educators who work with the Lutheran Church of El Salvador bringing holistic health care into their communities. I am honored to share in this work with Bob and Deb Adams who have made lasting friendships with the people there. We will make sure to share our stories and pictures with you soon after we return. We treasure your prayers for safe travels and good work.

February Worship Leaders

February 5, 8:30am

Lector: Tim Knutson
Acolytes: Carrie & Jon Rettke
Ushers: Rod Bagley, Tom Bernhardt,
Dave Carlson, Andy DeWitt

February 12, 8:30am

Lector: Carol Lendle
Acolytes: Blaze Tody, Noelle Glassbrenner
Ushers: Kim Egan, Allen Gilbertson,
Rick Henrichs, Gordy Lee

February 19, 8:30am

Lector: Lynn Weber
Acolytes: Calli & Cassandra O'Connell
Ushers: Mark, Matthew & Tim Knutson
Mark Turner

February 26, 8:30am

Lector: Jean Wold
Acolytes: Andrew & Arianna Smith
Ushers: Jim and Jean Wold
Steve Olson, Allen Mazuk

February 5, 10:15am

Lector: Pam Bechel
Acolyte: Carter & Carson Duerkop
Usher: Terry Bechel, Greg Faanes

February 12, 8:30am

Lector: Mark Faanes
Acolytes: Ashley Henrichs, Lily France
Ushers: James Anderson, Mark Faanes

February 19, 10:15am

Lector: Joni Olson
Acolytes: Raeann Brenner, Rebecca Running
Ushers: Kevin Olson, Dean Webster

February 26, 10:15am

Lector: Bob Adams
Acolytes: Saige Buckley, Erin Hayes
Ushers: Scott Holman, Valerie Henrichs

Phone

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Office Hours

Mon—Thur: 8:30 am-4:30 pm
Fri: 8:30 am-3:00 pm

Hope Lutheran Staff

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Roxanne Litchfield Holey	Worship & Arts	*812	erholey@charter.net
Aaron Sturgis	Youth & Family Ministry	*813	sturgie19@hotmail.com
Vicki Kastel	Membership Secretary	*810	vicki@hopelutheraneauclaire.com
Ann Miloszewicz	Program Secretary	*810	office@hopelutheraneauclaire.com
Lorelei Capell	Accompanist		lorelaicapell@gmail.com
Dan Konwinski	Custodian	*828	
Leanne O'Bryan	Dir. of Rachel's Place	*845	rachelsplaceec@yahoo.com

Hope Lutheran is a handicapped accessible congregation providing barrier-free and elevator access, marked parking spaces, large-print materials and accessible restrooms

Women Of Hope

The Chippewa Valley Conference of the ELCA "Day of Renewal" will be held on March 24th at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Stanley. If anyone is interested in attending contact Joanne Martin at 715-834-2377 or email her at swags3074@charter.net.

The "quilters" have completed 37 quilts to date with 22 of them going to Ruby's Pantry in Cameron, WI. These ladies appreciate any donation of sheets that they can use in their quilt making.

Our Funeral Committee had a busy month serving three funerals in January. This is a very dedicated group of individuals who work behind the scenes to prepare and serve funeral lunches. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, contact Alice Anderson (838-0507) or Joann Faanes (832-4935).

Just a reminder: Gordy's slips can be put into an envelope located on the bulletin board in the Narthex. These monies go into the HLCW general fund to help support our projects.

Women's Book Club

Please join the Women's Book Club on Monday, February 20th at 6:30 pm at Camille's Sidewalk Cafe (Melby and Hwy 53). We will be discussing *The Last Letter From Your Lover* by Jojo Moyes - a sophisticated, page-turning double love story spanning forty years.

Our reading list continues in March with a reader's choice of titles by Janet Evanovich.

If you have any questions about the Women's Book Club, please contact Bridgit Mazuk (838-8806).

Pie & Ice Cream Social



The women of Hope are planning to serve a "Pie & Ice Cream Social" at Coffee Connections on February 19th between the worship services. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area for anyone willing to donate a pie or help serve that day.

Get Connected

Are you looking for a way to get connected with other women here at Hope. There are many opportunities to choose from.

Circles—There are three Women's Circles that meet monthly for Bible study.

- Dawn/Mary Circle meets the 3rd Thursday @ 9:30 am
- Rebecca Circle meets the 3rd Monday @ 9:30 am
- Ruth Circle meets the 3rd Monday @ 7:00 pm

Quilters—Meet Tuesday mornings at 9:30 to make quilts and put together kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Knitting Group—Meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm to knit prayer shawls, caps and scarves.

Book Club—meets the third Monday of the month at 6:30 pm to discuss the chosen book of the month.

Funeral Committee—serves and provides cakes for funerals

Singers of Hope—(for both women and men) practices Wednesdays at 7:15 pm and sings weekly for worship

So whatever your interests are or your schedule allows, we hope you find a way to get connected.

Super Bowl Subs

This year the Super Bowl Sub Sale is sponsored by the youth who will be attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Thank you to all who ordered a sub. Your support is greatly appreciated. You may pick up your tasty subs between worship services on Sunday, February 5th or after the second service. Enjoy them . . .



Wednesday Lenten Meals

Our Lenten meals begin Ash Wednesday, February 22 with our High School youth serving as hosts. If your group would like to prepare and serve a simple meal on one of the Wednesdays during Lent, please contact the church office.

February 29—Ruth Circle (soup)

March 7—

March 14—Women's Book Group (chili)

March 21—

March 28—



Invite-Pray-Connect

As we continue our ministry, Invite-Pray-Connect, the following people of Hope Lutheran Church are invited to worship on Sunday morning and/or Wednesday evening, when a prayer of thanksgiving will be offered especially for them.

Sunday, February 5 & Wednesday, February 8:

- Paul, Kerry, Cameron & Danica Bjorklund
- Craig & Jody Christian
- Dennis, Becky, & Geoffrey Koontz
- Brian, Laura & Landon Oldfield
- Thomas, Susan, Ryan & Scott Smith

Sunday, February 12 & Wednesday, February 15:

- Jane Brandemihl
- Debbie, David, Nicholas & Courtney Fischer
- Ronald & Betty Noyes
- Ryan, Sarah, Fredrick, Rebecca & Carly Running
- Adam & Stephanie Sturgis

Sunday February 19 & Wednesday, February 22:

- Brad, Sue, Scott & Samantha Carey
- Audrey Fesenmaier
- Mark & Deb Hintz
- Larry & Helen Keith
- Patricia Wojchik

Sunday, February 26 & Wednesday, February 29:

- Diana, Kevin, Justin, Lexi & Kaitlyn Buckli
- Gregory, Lisa, Trevor, Chelsey & Nik Goyette
- Chris, Tracie, Sydnee & Kainen Neitzel
- Dennis Stabenow
- Tom, Carrie, Hannah & Ian Zimmer

Outreach Ministry



Ruby's Pantry

A group of volunteers is planning to drive to Cameron on Saturday, February

18 to sort and hand out food to needy families at Ruby's Pantry. If you would like to help, contact Mary Luhman-Turner, 715-834-2876. Volunteers will be meeting at the church between 7:00 and 7:30 that morning to car pool and will be returning by 12:30 pm.

Love for Luther Park

In these rough economic times, everyone struggles, and Luther Park is no exception. For the month of February, the Board of Outreach would like to collect donations to help Luther Park's financial situation. Think of how many generations of families at Hope have had their faith lives enriched by this important ministry. How many generations back does your experience go? Or is it time for your family to experience it for the first time?

Please help show some Love to Luther Park in 2012! Look for more information in the Gathering Area. Donations can be dropped off at the office.

Thanks from the Board of Outreach for your

Youth and Family



Tired of SNOW and COLD? Start your kids thinking about SUMMER FUN! That means LUTHER PARK BIBLE CAMP! There are camps for all ages and programs offered for everyone. Check out their web site at Lutherpark.org. There you can print off registration forms OR you can simply register online. It's going to be fun and Hope does not want you to miss it!!!!

If you have any questions, please contact Ann Miloszewicz or Aaron Sturgis at 832-1414.

2012 National Youth Gathering, New Orleans Participant Meeting

Baptismal Identity and Promises—Jesus makes us one new humanity through baptism and this is who we are.

We will once again come together as a group and explore the vision of the Gathering, remembering who we are in Christ and how we will respond. Our time together as a group will be on Wednesday, February 29th at 7:30 p.m. Join Sturgie as we continue our journey together toward July 17th – Let the journey continue...

Thanks

We would like to thank everyone who has volunteered their time to serve on boards and the council this past year.

President	Doug Hayes
Vice President	Pam Bechel
Secretary	Joni Olson
Treasurer	Jim Henke

Board of Trustees

James Anderson	Rod Bagley
Eric Holey	Matt Olson
Terry Bechel	Sue Tietz

Board of Education

Mark Knutson	Tim Knutson
Jenny Glassbrenner	Nancy Brenner

Board of Deacons

Tim Abraham	Sandi Churness
Julie Hayes	Butch Martin
Sharon Hartl	Joanne Martin
Diane Peterson	Linda Johnson

Board of Outreach

Laurie Chada	Terri Kamenick
Carol Lendle	Mary Turner
Carol Mohr	Judith Thompson

Early Childhood Board

Mary Rettke	Jean Stage
Nancy Erickson	Donna Weidman
Patti Bell	

Empty Bowls Benefit

for
Feed My People Food Bank

Thursday, March 8th
11:00am-7:00pm @ Trinity Lutheran Church

Feed My People Food Bank will host the 12th annual Empty Bowls fundraiser. Come enjoy delicious soups, made by local restaurants, breads, beverage and desserts. For a donation of \$18.00 you receive your meal AND a beautiful ceramic bowl, hand-crafted by UW-Eau Claire art students, area high school students and other area potters. The meal without the bowl is \$8.00; children 10 and under are free.

Tickets are available at Hope, UWEC Davies Center, Trinity Lutheran Church, and Feed My People. Limited tickets will also be available at the door.