

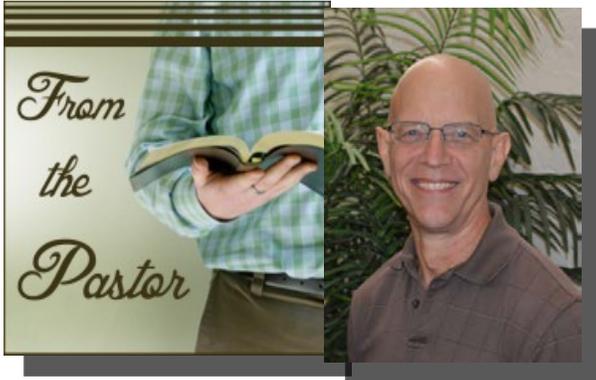
THE ANCHOR

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
4635 26TH Street Bradenton FL 34207
www.hopelutheranfl.org

Making Disciples
by Sharing God's
Compassionate Love



March 2017



He Is Risen!

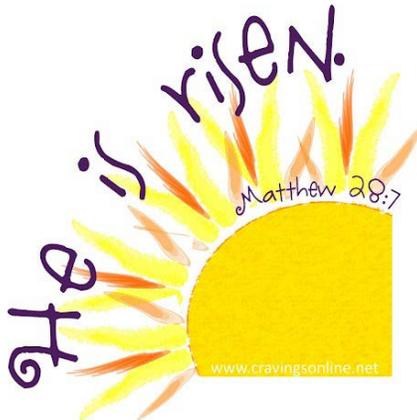
NOW WHAT?

Living the Resurrected Life

During Lent, the midweek services at Hope were a reminder of how believers and disciples of Jesus should be living in order to show respect and understanding of what Jesus did, that is, His suffering, death and resurrection, so we could have life – new life, an abundant life, not only here on earth, but especially for all of eternity.

Those attending the services were reminded that the best way to live our lives as redeemed disciples was to live a life of **PURPOSE**, **PROCLAIMING** God's love to all **PEOPLE**, even those who are not like us, even our enemies, as well as offering God our **PRAISE** to show our thanksgiving for His sacrificial and generous gift of love. Doing so helps all of us deal with the **PAIN** of life that we often experience because of sin and disobedience, whether it is our own, or that of another person.

Because Jesus is **ALIVE** and proved His resurrection by appearing to His disciples and followers, we celebrate with joy and praise. It has been said that is why the believing church began to gather, meet, and worship on Sunday, because that is when Jesus rose from the dead. Therefore each and every **worship service conducted on Sunday is a mini-celebration of Easter.**



However, we continue to live in a world that is damaged by sin and continues to be impacted by the sin and disobedience of mankind. So the question is raised – *How then do we live our lives with joy and praise as we wait with anticipation for the gift of eternal life promised to us because we believe in Jesus as our Savior and Messiah?*

During the Sundays after Easter, the sermons at Hope will be examining this question in our series called **Resurrection Realities**. Peter touched upon many of these ideas when he wrote his first letter to the Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus as the Messiah scattered throughout Asia Minor, which we now know as Turkey. The date of this letter is not known, although it is believed to have been written in the same time frame of many of Paul's letters, therefore anywhere from 50 AD to 68 AD. The issues which will be addressed are:

- ❖ How do we deal with suffering?
- ❖ How do we handle relationships?
- ❖ How do we deal with the question of our identity and who we are?
- ❖ How do we deal with our enemy who is constantly seeking to pull us away and keep us in his bondage?
- ❖ What is an appropriate lifestyle for that of a believer and disciple?

As disciples we struggle. We know our life is to be one of joy and praise because of the resurrection, but the realities of life can be too overwhelming. It is our prayer that this post Easter sermon series will encourage and help each of us walk the path of discipleship with joy and confidence.

In His Service,



Preaching Schedule

Resurrection Realities

April 23	Dearing with Suffering	1 Peter 1:3-9
April 30	Dealing with Lifestyle	1 Peter 1:7-25
May 7	Dealing with Relationships	1 Peter 2:19-25
May 14	Mother's Day	TBD
May 21	Dealing with Identity	1 Peter 2:2-10
May 28	Memorial Day	TBD
June 4	Dealing with Evangelism	1 Peter 3:13-22
June 11	Dealing with Satan	1 Peter 4:12-19
June 19	Father's Day	TBD

Holy Week – Easter

April 9	Palm Sunday Living Lent: PALMS	John 12:12-19
April 13	Maundy Thursday Stories of Lent: The Great Banquet	Luke 22:14-23
April 14	Good Friday / Passion Play	
May 15	No Service	
May 16	Easter Sunday Living Lent: Paradise	Luke 24:1-12

8:00 am – Traditional Worship
9:00-10:15am – Easter Breakfast w/ Give Away & Egg Hunt
10:30 am – Joyful Praise Worship

Director of Christian Education (DCE) Intern

At the December 2016 Congregational Meeting, the Voting body of Hope Lutheran Church agreed to work with one of the Concordia Universities that train Directors of Christian Education to secure an intern for the 2017-2018 school year.

At this meeting, it was agreed that:

- the cost to this intern of about \$30,000 to \$36,000 for the year would be paid using the funds from the sale of the land that was finalized earlier in the year.
- the purpose of securing a DCE intern would be to strengthen and lay a solid foundation for the present children's/youth ministry here at Hope as well as to use educational programs as a means of outreach to the children and youth in our surrounding neighborhoods.
- that Pastor Mathews would be the intern's supervisor because of his position as Pastor and also because Pastor Mathews has 20 + years of ministry experience as a Director of Christian Education (DCE).

On April 1, 2017, Hope Lutheran received word that we would be having an intern for the 2017-2018 school year.



Caleb Haack - Omaha, NE

- Served as Camp Counselor at Camp Omega, a camp operated by the Minnesota South District of the LCMS in Waterville, MN.
- Went on several mission trips to Hong Kong with his Church – Beautiful Savior in Omaha.

Pastor Mathews will be at Concordia University in Seward, NE., on Friday, April 7 when all of the interns meet their supervisors for the first time. More details will be shared in the future regarding start time, responsibilities, etc.

What is a Director of Christian Education (DCE)

It is a full time ministry position recognized in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod as a Commissioned Minister of Religion.

The DCE:

- Can be either male or female
- Serves full time in a congregation focusing primarily in the areas of education and/or youth ministry depending on the needs of the congregation.

Often times the DCE is responsible for the total educational ministry of the congregation from cradle to grave, and therefore will administer, coordinate and supervise areas such as Cradle Roll, Sunday School, Youth Ministry and Adult Bible Class.

If the congregation has a preschool and/or day school, rarely will the DCE be involved with the administration of these programs.

The DCE intern is here to **LEARN**

- what full time ministry is all about
- how to apply what has been learned in the classroom in a practical way
- how God can and will use his particular gift mix in order to help God's people walk the path of discipleship and together grow God's Kingdom.



Beauty and the Beast

The release of this Disney remake as a lot of people talking, especially among some Christians because of the “tweak” Disney made with the gay character. There are some in the Christian community calling for a boycott and then there are others saying – REALLY? Is that necessary?

However, in following the discourse regarding what to do, there was a Pastor who took their pre-teen” children to watch the new movie and asked them to watch the movie and look for God in the movie. What resulted was an interesting discussion. I

thought about that incident when the following article came across my email on Monday, March 27 from an organization called *Think Christian*. This is a one of the many programs put out my ReFrame Media out of Palo Alto, California. Here is the article. (NOTE: This article was originally written in 2016 when Disney released a “teaser trailer” announcing the upcoming release for March 2017.)

(Continued on Page 5)

On a sunny Monday morning last month, you, like me, may have wakened to all of the social medias proclaiming the arrival of the first trailer for the 2017 live-action remake of Disney's animated 1991 classic *Beauty and the Beast*. As the camera panned through beautiful sets, the classic Alan Menken theme twinkled in my headphones and I felt goose-pimples shooting up my arms.

Beauty and the Beast has always been — hands down, without a doubt — my favorite movie, and the feeling among many of my college-age peers is mutual. So when I learned they were remaking it (classic tunes and all), I started thinking about why we love this timeless Disney film so much.

As a little girl I identified with Belle. One of the only Disney princesses with brown hair, she had an annoyingly large love of books and an ache for something more. (“I want adventure in the great wide somewhere.”) She was smart, she was strange and she was passionate.

I re-watched the animated film recently and realized that I no longer identified with Belle quite as strongly. I discovered that I identify with the Beast. He is consumed by arrogance and selfishness, demanding his own way and scorning those who care about him. His castle is under a curse, only to be lifted once someone truly comes to love him, and he loves in return. Sounds like all of us under the weight of the Fall, doesn't it?

In *The Four Loves*, C.S. Lewis writes, “To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken.” When I look at the Beast's situation at the beginning of the film, I see a moment of vulnerability when he realizes the depravity of his heart. I don't blame him for his reclusion; it's a decision made out of brokenness. One of our greatest desires is to love and be loved. One of our greatest fears is that love never being reciprocated. So in response, we lock ourselves away in our towers. We lock ourselves away from grace. And we give up hope, don't we? When the film's narrator queries “for who could ever learn to love a Beast,” we realize that we could ask ourselves the same question. Who could ever love our selfish, ugly hearts?

Who would sacrifice themselves in order to lift the curse that plagues us with guilt? In Romans, Paul tells us that Christ would and did: “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” What's more, God didn't need to learn to love us — he loved us completely, from the very beginning.

I think this is why, deep down in our child-like hearts, we cling to the story of *Beauty and the Beast*. In it we see ourselves and a story that is bigger than ourselves. We witness the transforming salvation of Christ in the last scene, when the Beast's features morph and mold to reveal a new identity. It's a reminder that our curse will be melted away to reveal our sanctified bodies, resurrected with Christ. The movie's unforgettable love song brings to mind God's faithfulness, which is “certain as the sun, rising in the east.” All of this resonates with 2 Corinthians 5:17: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

Belle is real to us because she represents Someone who transformed the Beast inside of us. She reminds us of our Savior, who made this promise in Ezekiel 36:26: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”

In March, I plan on setting aside a couple hours to sit in a theater and praise God that the love story of *Beauty and the Beast* isn't just a fairy tale. It's a true tale that's older than time itself, written by the One that loves us more than we could ever imagine.



**I will give you a new heart
and put a new spirit in you; I will
remove from you your heart of stone
and give you a heart of flesh.**

Ezekiel 36:26

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

Grace and Peace to you in Jesus!



Your congregation was among the top 25 givers to the FL-GA District in the past year and I just wanted to drop a note to personally thank your congregation for their gracious and generous financial support for the work we do together.

This partnership has enabled us to provide conferences for our professional church workers, laity and youth; to host training workshops; to assist congregations with calling workers, to helping them manage conflict situations, to providing resources and answers to help with local ministry needs.

Because of your faithfulness the district is able to tithe a full 17% of funds received to our Synod for mission work and other needs, while also tithing an additional 3% to local needs within the district.

I am grateful for this partnership, for your support and for the blessing you are to me! Thank you again for all you are doing, and how God is using your congregation well beyond your parish to engage in the Master's business as we connect people to Jesus!

May the abundance of His blessings continue to flow to and through your ministry for the sake of Jesus! Again, thank you.

In His peace, President Greg Walton

NOTE:

Financial gifts to the FL-GA District for 2016:

Offerings designated for	\$4,000
Missions: Given from budget:	\$15,000
10% from Land Sale:	\$25,000
2016 Total:	\$44,000

Dear Friends and Family of Hope,

After much prayerful consideration, I have decided that my time here at Hope must come to an end.

I didn't come to this decision because I dislike working here, or because anyone has pushed me away or is seeking to "run me out of town", but because I feel the Lord's loving hand guiding me in another direction. As is usually the case when God decides to move in your life, the pieces have all fit into place perfectly for me to make a change, and to benefit the mission and people of Hope in the process! I am so blessed that I won't struggle to sell my home, and that there are many opportunities available to me in Asheville, North Carolina, where I have chosen to move.

Coming to this decision was no quick matter, and I have been contemplating making this change for several years now. Having been born in Bradenton and lived here continuously (save for 4 years of college), I feel that now is the time for me to experience life in other parts of our beautiful country and maybe even the world! About 3 years ago I took a vacation in Asheville, NC and fell in love with the beauty of the country there and the kindness of the people. It's breathtakingly gorgeous, and the population is about 2/3rds that of Manatee County. I have never lived anywhere with snow, or a significant presentation of fall or spring seasons, so I am so excited to experience those things which many people take for granted!

I will be eternally grateful and thankful for the friendships and relationships I have formed with everyone here at Hope, and for all I have learned during my time here. God has placed his loving hand on me for the last 9 years (yes, it really has been that long!), challenged me to learn new skills, meet new people, and increase my knowledge on many topics. I could not be the man I am today without the influence of Hope Lutheran Church, and I will treasure each memory of my time here in my heart forever. It is my intention that there will be a seamless transition between myself and my successor, and inasmuch as I can prevent it, you will not experience any time without a Music Director. After all, I couldn't leave here without knowing you are all in capable and talented hands...

Thank you for all the opportunities you have given me, the patience you have shown when I proved imperfect and human, and for all the love you have showered upon me; I will remember it always.

In His service,

Charlie

The Bulletin Board



Beautiful Savior in Sarasota will be hosting our zone rally this year on April 29th. Please see Robyn Robison or call (407-342-1104) if interested in joining the group. **Registration ends April 10th.**

Easter Breakfast



Join us for this Easter tradition. Sunday, April 16th—between services. Bring a dish to share—sign-up sheets are in the lobby area of the church.

Spring Quarter - Portals of Prayer are in the lobby/narthex! Be sure and take one AND share one with a friend!

Angels of Hope

Will meet on Wednesday, Apr 12th at 10:30 in the Hands of Hope building. Everyone is welcome to join this ministry. Questions?? Want to learn more?? Contact Lis Hempling at 941-722-6736 or email @ hempflings2004@verizon.net

1ST IMPRESSIONS TEAM - A new schedule has been posted for Easter weekend. Please check your email, pick up the schedule in the lobby following service, or call Dave Phillips 941-447-6455

Altar Flowers the flower chart is in the lobby/narthex area of the church. Check it out to acknowledge the special date/intention for you and family. Flower donation is \$36 and the arrangement may be taken home following the 10:30 service.

Thank you!.

Salvation is free, but spreading the gospel is not without expense. Obedient stewards cover those expenses.



Birthdays

Linda Rennhack	4-Apr
Lyle Petty	5-Apr
Roberta Staab	6-Apr
Karen Kelley	7-Apr
Paul Pavich	8-Apr
Susanne Kyle	11-Apr
Susan McInnis	14-Apr
Grace Jones	15-Apr
Bill Stuersel	18-Apr
Esther Rennhack	19-Apr
Lovely Dazulma	21-Apr
Anola Krueske	23-Apr
Margarete Blake	25-Apr
Dolly Kindle	27-Apr
Don Bowron	29-Apr
David Morgan	29-Apr
Doug Wilson	30-Apr



May God Bless you with His boundless love, calming peace and heavenly joy throughout the coming year. Happy Birthday Child of God!

Anniversaries

Jeff ♥ D'Lisa Richards April 3

May God bestow His goodness and blessings on you both at all times! Happy Wedding Anniversary!

If we've missed your birthday or anniversary, it's only because we **DON'T** have that information in our data base, please call the office @ 941-755-3256 or email office@hopelutheranfl.org so that we can include your special day.

Easter Flowers



Clydia Schuerman	Blessings Received
Amado Family	In Memory of Esperanza Amado
McLauchlin Family	In Memory of Mark McLauchlin
Marge Hinz	In Memory of Earl Hinz
Jan & Rob Hinz	In Memory of Linda Schraufaugel
Betty & Bill Koch	Blessings Received
Sylvia & Walt Beste	Blessings Received
Jean & Mel Worth	Blessings Received
Sandy & Bob Schendel	Blessings of Family & Friends
Dorothy Hoekwater	Blessings Received
Kelly Jardine	Blessings for All God Has Done
Joann Campbell	For Family and Blessings Received
Lisa & Jeff Richards	In Memory of Fern Flannigan & Bev Richards
Gabrielle Rennhack	Blessings Received
Lis Hempfling	Blessings Received
Ken Crayton	Blessings Received Blessings Received
Laurie Phillips	Grateful for Family
Debbie & Dan Wagener	Blessings Received
Betty & Dave McLauchlin	Blessings Received
Judy Reid	Blessings Received
Don & Ann Mithofer	Blessings Received
Gloria Muench	Blessings Received
Susan & Ralph McInnis	In Honor of Family
Else Platt	In Memory of Family
Grace Jones	Blessings Received
Patti & Terry Muey	In Memory of Mom and brothers
Joyce & Ed Reinke	In Memory of Parents
Genese & Buz Snyder	Blessings Received
Linda & Steve Rennhack	Blessings Received
Jan & John Eza	In Memory of Parents and Grandparents
Phyllis Ferry	Blessings Received
Diane Burnett	Prayers Answered



Thank you to all who purchased the Easter Flowers this year. Remember plants may be taken home following the services on Easter Sunday.

Stewardship Moment ...

Blessed To Be a Blessing

Ben Franklin, one of our country's founding fathers, had developed a challenging habit. Every day of his adult life, he set aside time to examine two questions. In the morning, he asked himself, "What good shall I do today?" As the day drew to a close, his question was: "What good have I done today?" As Christians, it is easy to relate to Ben Franklin's attitude because a common theme throughout God's Word is that we are to do good to others as we help, love, and serve them. We are called to love others as we love ourselves. In his letter to the church in Galatia, the Apostle Paul wrote, "*So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith*" (Galatians 6:10).

God has created, forgiven, and redeemed us, and we become His instruments of love and compassion in the world. God blesses us so we can serve Him by serving others. He honors us with the privilege of being the channels through which He works. We are blessed to be a blessing. God wants us to be His channels who live in total devotion to Him and are His faithful stewards. He empowers us to do the "*good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them*" (Ephesians 2:10). The same strength that was available to Paul is available to us. As the Apostle Paul wrote the people in Philippi, "*I can do all things through Him Who strengthens me*" (Philippians 4:13). God is our source of strength. Through our weakness, God is able to display His divine power. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we can make the serving of others a priority in our lives.

**AS WE
HAVE
THEREFORE
OPPORTUNITY,**

*let us
do good unto*

**ALL MEN,
ESPECIALLY
UNTO THEM
WHO ARE OF**

*the household
of faith.*

GALATIANS 6:10

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Hope Lutheran Church

4635 26th St. W. - Bradenton FL 34207

www.hopelutheranfl.org

Worship:

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:00 am
10:30 am

Bible Studies:

Sunday 9:15 am

Monday 9:30 am

Tuesday 7:00 pm

Our Staff:

Craig Mathews - Senior Pastor

Rob Hinz - Visitation Pastor

Charlie Harnish - Music Ministry

Jon Oosterling - Praise Team

Cindy Stewart - Administrative

Don Kiner, Will Wichers - Maintenance

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

Palm Sunday – April 8 & 9

Saturday – 5:00 pm

Sunday - 8:00 & 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday – April 13

6:30 pm (*Communion*)

Good Friday – April 14

Passion Play – 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday – April 16

8:00 am - Traditional

9:00 am - EASTER BREAKFAST

10:30 am - Joyful Praise

