

Sharing the Sure Hope of Heaven

Hope Lutheran Church

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# There's Hope!

*"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure" - Heb. 6:19*



## God's Lenten Call

The season of Lent begins with the solemn observance of Ash Wednesday. The special Ash Wednesday service at Hope on February 17th began with these words of explanation and instruction for this season:

Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

During the forty days of Lent we fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorned its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor.

This is God's serious call upon our lives as Christ followers: to share in fellowship, an intimate union of heart and mind, with Christ. During the season of Lent we have the unique privilege of reflecting upon that call in a special way, by reflecting upon all the struggles and suffering Christ went through so that we can have this fellowship with him.

It is tempting to take this fellowship for granted, as though it were no big deal, something ordinary and routine. That's what happens if we forget or fail to fully appreciate all that it took to make this fellowship a reality. And it is so quickly happens that Jesus' suffering and death passes from the center of our thoughts because we get so busy with everyday life. We get wrapped up in our own (fictitious) ideas of where we think we deserve to stand in relationship to God and along with that our own expectations of what He ought to be doing for us. It doesn't take much for our hearts to slip from following after Christ into an ordering around of Christ. None of us is immune. (continued on page 2)

# HOPE'S HAPPENINGS

(continued from page 1)

It's why I'm grateful for the season of Lent. For in this season God calls us to struggle against those attitudes within us that rob us of the depths of true fellowship with Christ. True fellowship with Christ is more than simply knowing who Christ is. It is sharing in all that Christ is. That means sharing in the victory he has won for us by embracing with confidence and conviction the struggle against sin...daily.

The daily struggle against sin brings daily appreciation for the gift of Christ's forgiveness. You may not realize just how powerful an influence sin holds over you until you truly struggle to overcome it. In that struggle God calls you to see that your real power over sin is not your own willpower or effort. Your real power is found in the fellowship you have with Christ, the One who faced sin and never gave in, who faced the consequences of your sin and triumphed...for you!

Lent is certainly a solemn season...but it's not the solemnity of sadness. It is the solemnity of reverent awe...to have a Savior so great as Jesus who has shown us the greatest love of all. He laid down His life for us in order that we might share in the power of Easter and the resurrection with Him! The fellowship we have with Christ

## Worship Themes for Lent

### 7 Things God Calls You To Take With You In Lent

Through the Sundays in Lent at Hope in 2010 we'll be looking the things that God calls you to take with you throughout this season. Take these with you through Lent and you'll find that your appreciation for Jesus will grow exponentially by dwelling on what Christ has come to give you (instead of worrying about what you'll give up for him). Jesus himself said that he has come that you might have life...and have it to the full! These are the things that Christ comes to fill your life with:

**Sunday, March 7: Repentance**

**Sunday, March 14: Forgiveness**

**Sunday, March 21: Striving**

**Sunday, March 28: Praise**

**Sunday, April 4: (Easter Sunday Celebration Services):  
Confidence**



Worship  
Schedule  
For Lent

Take these things with you throughout the Lenten season by worshipping with us at Hope!

## Pioneers Gearing Up for Pine Car Derby

Hope's 2010 Lutheran Boy and Girl Pioneer Pine Car Derby has been set for Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. The kids have spent the last month detailing, crafting, cutting and sanding a block of wood to turn into a derby-winning contender.

If last year's derby was any indication of this year, this is a derby you don't want to miss. No doubt it is an exciting day for the kids. It's an exciting day for the parents and relatives who have helped and supported the kids throughout the building process. It's just as exciting for the rest to see the creativity and craftsmanship of some of our youth.

The derby will be preceded by a free will donation pizza lunch. So even if you don't walk away with a trophy, you will leave well fed and filled with fond memories of the derby.

We hope you accept our invitation to be a part of this year's derby. We're confident that you'll find yourself looking forward to next year and getting involved in the Pioneer program yourself. Hope's Pioneer program is open to all 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. See you on the 7<sup>th</sup>!

## Things That Will Change Your Life Forever!

*Are you troubled by difficult things happening in your life? Do you find yourself feeling anxious because of all the trouble in our world today? Or are you simply wanting to know how to find greater satisfaction and fulfillment in life?* Then you won't want to miss this free report that highlights 5 things God wants to share with you. These amazing things will change your life forever for the better!

**To get your free copy, call 1-888-HopeAndYou**

# HOPE'S HAPPENINGS

## "FOREVER YOUNG" SENIOR MINISTRY SCHEDULES UPCOMING EVENTS

Hope's "Forever Young" group for those who are AARP eligible and their spouses has set an ambitious schedule of meetings, events and service projects for this coming year.

On Friday, March 12th, the group will be attending the USC vs Brown University baseball game and enjoying supper at the park. We will leave from Hope at 5:15 pm for those who want to carpool or you can meet us at the park.

March 19th, the group will have a Dessert and Game Night at the church starting at 7:00 pm. Cards, Scrabble and various Board games will be available.

Sunday, April 11th, the group will meet at Zorba's in the Kennerly Crossing Shopping Center for lunch at 12:30 pm and from there will go to visit the Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Gardens.

The first service project for 2010 will begin on May 1st and continue for the entire month of May. We will be collecting items in honor of Mother's Day for the residents of Hannah's House, a ministry to mothers who are getting their lives back on track.

Finally, on May 8th, the group will be travelling to Lugoff for an afternoon of Fellowship and a Cook-out at the home of Roland & June Besel.

"Forever Young" is open to anyone in the community who is looking for friendship, fellowship and spiritual nourishment with others who are of their generation. Come try us—we have a really great time together.

### Flock of Faith to Hit the Slopes

Hope's teen group, the Flock of Faith – 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students – will soon depart on an overnight ski trip to the Cataloochee Ski Area. The group will be leaving Friday evening, March 5<sup>th</sup> and returning Sunday morning, March 7<sup>th</sup>. This trip is just one of several planned for our group this year. It provides an opportunity for those in our group and in our area to experience the fun of snow and fun of faith and fellowship over the weekend. The response of the trip has been so overwhelming that we have reached a capacity attendance for the trip. From the looks of it, this may very well be a yearly trip for our group, and our hope is that you'll be a part of it.

Upon our return, we'll be finalizing details for a lock-in, tentatively planned for Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. We are exploring the possibility of utilizing the YMCA's facilities for an entire night of fun. If you're interested and

would like more details, please call Pastor Diestler at 781-8673.

### Teens Training to Tame their Tongues

If you're a parent of teens or frequently spend time with them, you've most likely found yourself asking, "Where did you learn to say that?" or "Who taught you to speak like that?" Foul and inappropriate language is just example. But how well are teens equipped to respond properly to potentially dangerous situations? Have they been trained to simply follow the crowd and to avoid making a scene? Or have we helped to train them and helped them tame their tongues and their responses?

Many of our teens are faced with many potentially dangerous and life-changing situations and conversations each day. However, many of them do not have a support group or environment to wrestle with them and talk them through. Hope's Sunday morning teen Bible study is currently challenging teens with real-life, day-to-day situations and conversations in a safe environment

### Hope's Adult Supper Club

“ Since everyone likes to eat, Hope has an adult, not couples, but adult, supper club. The idea is for the adults of Hope and their friends and neighbors to have some time together outside of a Sunday gathering. Getting to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere is conducive to making new friendships. The adult supper club works like this:

Two families or singles act as "hosts" for a dinner. The hosts pick a date and theme for the dinner. A poster and sign-up sheet is posted to advertise it. Depending on the number of people coming, the hosts pick out a menu and send it along with a recipe to each family signed up, telling them what and how many to prepare for and directions to where the dinner is being held. Events can also be held at the church in the fellowship hall.

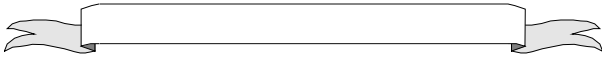
Each family or single attending makes their dish or purchases what they have been assigned and brings it to the dinner along with a record of what they spent. We will tally the costs and divide by the number of people signed up to get the cost per person. If you spent more than the calculated average, you would get money back, if less you would pay the difference. This is a great way to have an evening out and the cost is reasonable. For further details call 781-8673

**PLAN TO JOIN US MAY 1ST AT HOPE FOR A  
KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY STARTING AT 5:30 PM**

Hope Lutheran Church  
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**Join us for Wednesday  
Night Supper & Services  
During Lent**



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*Sharing the Sure Hope of Heaven!*

*Experience*

# Easter with Sunday, April 4th



*The account that's captivated the imagination of many generations: two travelers are joined by a stranger who reveals the central message of the Bible. Soon, the purpose of Jesus' life was clear...and the traveler's sadness turned to joy.*

*Now you can learn what they learned through this motion picture DVD. Discover the key to life...on the "Road to Emmaus"...FREE DVD.*

**Event:**

**Time:**

- Outdoor Sunrise Service 7:00 AM
- FREE Breakfast 7:30-9:00 AM
- Festival Service 8:45 AM
- FREE Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 AM
- Festival Service 10:30 AM

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