

First Quarter 2016

Volume 12

Published April 2016

New Hope News

New Hope Lutheran Church
1970 Highway 290
McDade, TX
(512) 273-2255

An LCMC Congregation

Pastor: Dick Reinap

Sunday School 9:30 AM
Sunday Service 10:30 AM

Bible Study 7:00 PM first
Wednesday of the month

Women of the Word (WOW)
4:00 PM first Thursday of the
month

Stories:

Council Installed	1
Youth Angel	1
Lent at New Hope	2
Pastor's Corner	3
Historian Report	3
MOB Report	4
WOW Report	4
Church Effectiveness	5
Thank you's	7
Happenings at NHLC	11
Birthdays/Anniversaries	12
Church Humor	12

New Hope Church Council Installation

By Brenda Kyle

Our new church council members were installed by Pastor Reinap in February. Serving on our council are the following dedicated members:

President	Chris Wolf
Vice President	David Moore
Secretary	Patricia Grube
Treasurer	Alyssa Moore
Council Member	Morris Arnold
Council Member	Gaylan Sampson

We pray for their continued ability to complete necessary work for our church.

Thank you to the following out-going council members for their service and devotion: Carl Cole, Joseph Brade, Susan Epperson and Shena White.

Youth Angel Work

By Brenda Kyle

Our first Youth Angel work project happened on Monday, March 14, here at New Hope.

Kennadee Prinz and Jessica Dube volunteered to tie blankets. Candy Sandefur, Judith Dube, Kathy Prochnow and myself worked on cutting the blanket edges, then assisted the girls in tying.

Six blankets were completed, and the girls were asked to decide who should receive these blankets. They wished for them to go to the children at the Children's Hospital. Also, Jessica and Kennadee suggested that a card be attached to each blanket, saying "Jesus loves you!" This will be done and then delivered soon to the hospital.



Our Season of Lent 2016

By Susan Epperson

Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting, is the first day of Lent in Christianity. It occurs 40 fasting days (if the six Sundays, which are not days of fast, are excluded) before Easter and can fall as early as February 4th or as late as March 10th. This year Ash Wednesday was observed at New Hope on February 10, 2016. Each worshipper had the sign of the cross marked with ashes on their forehead, as is customary.

On Palm Sunday, March 20th, our service included the procession of palms with each congregant putting their palm branch in a large vase upon the altar.

Holy Week services were held on Maundy Thursday, March 24th, 2016, with the rite of Communion given. Maundy Thursday is also known as Holy Thursday. It commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles and also the "Maundy" which is the ceremonial washing of the feet of the poor or of Jesus washing His disciples' feet. At the conclusion of the service, the altar was stripped, all candles removed, and all items remaining cloaked in black.

On Good Friday, March 25, 2016, a very moving Tenebrae Service, or Service of Shadows was held. The purpose of the Tenebrae service is to recreate the emotional aspects of the passion of our Lord. The church was dark except for candles on the altar which were slowly extinguished as each passage was read. Following the final reading the Christ candle was removed, leaving the sanctuary in total darkness. We can thank the Worship and Music committee for this service, as it was suggested by that committee some months ago. Due to the hard work of the W.A.M. committee and other volunteers, the Tenebrae service was beautiful and meaningful. Hopefully, it will become an annual tradition at our church.

On Easter Sunday, a brief 9:00 devotional was led by Pastor Reinap, followed by a delicious Easter breakfast prepared and served by the Men of New Hope (the M.O.B.). After breakfast the Cross was decorated with fresh flowers and stood as a beautiful symbol of our Lord's crucifixion and ascension for our 10:30 worship service with communion. It was an uplifting and joyful Easter Service.

CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!





Scars of HOPE

By Rev. Dick Reinap

We all have scars. We all have stories about the wounds that caused those scars. The scars of Jesus are scars of HOPE. His scars are signs that God is always with us.

Scars of HOPE really sounds like an oxymoron. How can those things which were formed by such pain, be full of HOPE? For us Christians, our HOPE is real because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Many of us wear a cross. Why should we? It's a sign of HOPE. How did that happen? Jesus beat death, beat Satan, by His resurrection. That's what we just celebrated on Easter Sunday. We will not stop that celebration!

That HOPE that we have, is now a reason for JOY. When we "pass the peace" do we see that HOPE and JOY? Sometimes. When we celebrate Jesus' Holy Supper, do we see that HOPE and JOY that we should have? Rarely.

Read the Gospel account again. Sing those Easter songs with gusto. Show one another that HOPE and JOY in every greeting, every meeting, every service, every gathering and project.

That's who we are. That's what we are to do.

Happy Easter! Yes, HAPPY! And Easter is not over. Our HOPE, JOY and HAPPINESS should never come to a screeching halt.

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

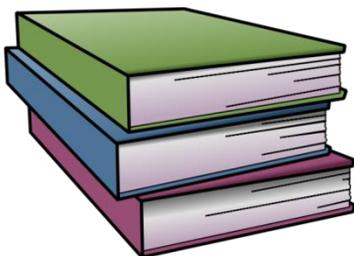
Historian Report

By Leslie Adams

The history of New Hope Lutheran Church, McDade, TX is an on-going project. I hope to complete the first five years soon. I am still identifying people in some pictures that were taken during church activities.

If you have not turned in your Family Sheets, please do so as soon as possible. If you need a blank Family sheet, please contact me. They are optional, not required.

If you have any questions, please contact me at lesliewindhamadams@gmail.com, or home: 512-253-6555, or cell: 512-619-4005



Men of the Bible Report

By Kathi Gremillion

The MOB has been busy as usual, maintaining our grounds, spraying weeds, mowing, and doing maintenance and repair on equipment.

In January, they dismantled and stored our Nativity display, and installed our new highway sign.

In March, the men coordinated and prepared our annual Easter breakfast of pancakes, sausages, orange juice, milk and coffee, which was a great success and delicious.

If you would like to help with these projects, please contact Bill Grube or Earl Gremillion.



WOW! Report

By Kathi Gremillion

We are continuing our study of the Women of the Bible. At our January meeting Brenda Kyle led a study of Eve after which we put away our Christmas decorations and Chrismon Tree, and cleaned the church.

In February, Lola Cole led us in a study of Hannah, and at our March meeting Gale Arnold led a study on Anna, followed by our planning session for this issue of our newsletter.

We had been making plans to attend the WOW Spring Retreat in El Campo, but have just learned that the event has changed and will be in Taylor in June. Since this is nearby, we hope many of us will be able to attend.

Our studies of the Women of the Bible will continue. We hope to see all members at our regular meeting at 4:00 PM on the first Thursday of each month.

Remember every woman is a member of WOW and we would love for all to attend!



9 Surefire Ways to Make Your Church Completely Ineffective

By Carey Nieuwhof

Very few leaders go into church leadership as pastors, staff, board members or volunteers hoping to be ineffective. And yet so many churches and church leaders end up that way-ineffective.

You might be stuck in a church like that right now. Or even if you would say your church is 'effective' overall, there's a very good chance there are areas of your ministry that aren't. Or maybe you realize you've become less effective than you used to be. Why is that?

Sometimes it's because people have lost faith or lost their faithfulness. But often that's not the case. I see many churches populated with people who love God but have become completely ineffective. And often the issues behind that are practical, and fixable. If you're willing to go where most leaders don't go, that is.

9 Ways to Make Your Church Ineffective

What do I mean by "ineffective"? Great question. I simply mean not accomplishing what you set out to accomplish. For most of us in church world, that means something like leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus and growing by becoming a church unchurched people love to attend. At least that's what we've set out to accomplish (it's kind of the universal mission of the church). I imagine you are not that far off. So, with that in mind, here are 9 ways to lose your effectiveness in ministry.

1. Don't dream

The church should be the place where dreams are born and where dreams soar. In far too many cases, churches have become the place where dreams die. People with imagination, hope and optimism get squashed enough times that they stop dreaming. And eventually, an ineffective church is marked as a place where people have long since abandoned thriving and are focused on merely surviving. Want to be ineffective? Kill dreams.

2. Focus on yourself

Ineffective churches are almost always self-focused. The natural mission of the church (and almost every healthy organization for that matter) has an outward thrust to it. But many healthy organizations lose their focus on outsiders and instead focus on insiders. I realize you might be pushing back on this and thinking Well, we can't just ignore our insiders...we can't ignore ourselves. Change gears for a second. Do you know why any people who focus exclusively on themselves? That's right. We call them self-absorbed, or selfish. And nobody really thinks hanging out with them is fun. Why would anyone feel differently about a church that behaves that way?

3. Try to keep everybody happy

Trying to keep everyone happy is a recipe for misery. Yet so many churches serve dinner from that cookbook every day. You can't keep everybody happy. You won't keep everyone happy.

In fact, you will do the opposite: you will make everyone miserable. It doesn't work in your family, so why would it work in your church. Operating out of your convictions, with some empathy and sensitivity for those who see differently, is a far better approach. I honestly wish more churches would just get on with trying to reach a certain group of people, realizing that in the process they will reach far more than that.

4. Squabble

I really want to walk into a great church fight. Said no unchurched person ever. Squabbling, faction and division in the church has killed our evangelism efforts as effectively as anything.

So stop it. Just stop it. Confess. Repent. What if our churches became places of humility, grace and forgiveness? Could you imagine?

5. Make mediocrity your standard

So solve a few problems and you'll be more effective. But as long as you're mediocre, you'll never reach your potential. And for some strange reason, churches seem to love mediocrity.

Barely good enough seems to be good enough for many church leaders. Rather than try to do something well, churches have become famous for doing almost nothing well. I think at the heart of it is a tension between inclusiveness and effectiveness. This often comes up in places like a music team when someone who can't sing wants to sing, and many church leaders cave to the pressure. (There's a strategy around that, by the way.) Last year, our church adopted 6 values. One of my personal favorites is "Battle Mediocrity: Am I allowing what's good to stand in the way of what could be great?" I could camp on that all day.

6. Treat every Sunday like just another Sunday

If you're bored heading into next Sunday, why wouldn't everyone else be? In the church, every Sunday is resurrection Sunday. The same power that was at work to raise Jesus from the dead is the same power that is at work in us. (And no, I didn't make that up.) If every Sunday is boring to you as a leader, maybe you haven't read the Bible. Or don't know God. Or don't get amazed by seeing what happens when God gets involved in someone's life.

7. Never articulate a strategy

Passion is one thing...and you've got to have passion. But passion combined with an effective strategy is explosive. Many churches are afraid to articulate a strategy because it's divisive. Leaders are afraid that not everyone will like it. And that's true. But see point #3 above. Ironically, you will eventually become more effective because your strategy is a little controversial. In fact, a clear strategy is one of the secrets to creating a highly motivated team.

Finally, if you have a clear strategy, your team will become more passionate about it. (You can't become passionate about fuzz, after all.) This post will walk you through the process of getting your church passionate about your mission, vision and strategy. But first, of course, you need to articulate a strategy, as scary as that might sound.

8. Avoid all risk

Christians teach their kids stories like David and Goliath, Daniel and the Lion's Den, and then spend all their time trying to make sure no one gets hurt, nothing gets lost, and everyone is 'safe' in the end. The disconnect is profound if you think about it. Read the Bible. Live the opposite way: Don't trust God. Play it safe. Live an insignificant life. Risk nothing. How do you know whether you're trusting God or just being stupid? I outlined that distinction here. But for the most part, we're just not trusting God nearly enough.

9. Decide you don't like unchurched people

Too many churches have defined themselves by what they're against, not what they're for. If you really don't like the people you're trying to reach, why would they hang out with you? Seriously. That's one of the reasons I love what Gwinnett Church is doing with their #forgwinnett campaign. Seriously, you should check it out. Do you love your neighbors? Really love them? Or do you judge them, look down on them, think you're better than they are? Love 'em, and you're likely to reach them. Don't and you won't. Not judging unchurched people is one of the 9 signs you're ready to actually reach unchurched people.

Correspondence Received at New Hope Lutheran Church

Dear friends at New Hope,
I want to thank you for
your generous donation to Deaf
Youth Ministry of Texas. It is,
and you are, a blessing!

Thanks again!

In Christ,

Pastor Mark Seeqer

1-13-16

Dear New Hope members,

On behalf of the McVade Food Pantry, I want to thank you for your donation of non perishable food.

As you know, the pantry is able to continue to help those in our community because of the wonderful donations we receive from others such as yourselves.

Thank you again for your donation and on going support.

Sincerely,
Pantry Volunteers

Hope you know
how much
it was appreciated.



2557 106th Steet, Urbandale, IA 50322

January 12, 2016

New Hope Lutheran Church
1970 East U.S. 290
P.O. Box 464
McDade, TX 78650

Dear New Hope Lutheran Church,

We extend a very sincere thank you for you generous gift of \$1,666.67. Your faithfulness and support extends the ability for our ministry to reach the people of South Africa.

Your gift is being applied to the General Fund, and will certainly be used to fulfill our mission statement in meeting the physical, educational, emotional and spiritual needs of the people of South Africa.

We are so thankful for you,

Dr Jim Blessman
and The Blessman Ministries Team

Please note that a Year-End Statement will be provided to you.

Blessman 's Ministries Inc., is a non-profit charitable organization described in the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Your contribution may be deductible for income tax purposes. No goods or services were provided by Blessman Ministries in exchange for these contributions, or their value was insignificant. Please retain this receipt for your records.

Thank you for your support. If you would like more information on any aspect of our ministry or to be added to our mailing list please contact our offices.

www.BlessmanMinistries.org | office@BlessmanMinistries.org

New Hope Lutheran Church -

Thanks again for your generous gift. This allows us to continue the work God has called us to do in South Africa.
Blessings, Sarah Akin

*“Bringing the Good News of
Salvation through Jesus Christ
to the people of Mexico”*

January 15, 2016

Dear Friends at New Hope Lutheran Church:

“I have come into the world as light.” John 12:46

The light of the world has come and we at Mission Mexico are so happy to be able to share this news with the people of Mexico! Your generous gifts help make this possible and we thank our God for you. What a blessing it is to partner with you in this important ministry.

Thank you for your most recent gift to Mission Mexico in the amount of \$1,666.67. This will allow the pastors and lay leaders of the Mission Mexico churches to spread the Good News of the light of the world. We appreciate all of your gifts and prayers during the past and wish you a joyous 2016!

In Christ,


Virene Luthi, Treasurer
Pastor Enrique Estrada
Pastor Juan Vasquez
Pastor Victor Barbosa



Mission Mexico International

42246 260th Street, Hancock, MN 56244

What's Happening at New Hope Lutheran Church!

Church Services

Sunday Service 10:30 AM

Bible Study/Fellowship/Service Groups

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 AM, Parish Hall

Sunday School 10:15 AM, Church Sanctuary

Bible Study 7:00 PM first Wednesday of each month, Parish Hall

Women of the Word (WOW) 4:00 PM first Thursday of each month, Parish Hall

Men of the Bible (MOB) Most Saturday Mornings (check with Earl Gremillion or Bill Grube)

Choir Practice 4:00 PM, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, Church Sanctuary

New Hope Lutheran Church Sponsored Community Activities

Play 42 on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month!
1:00 PM in the Parish Hall.

McDade Community Activities

McDade Jamboree

2nd Monday of every month, 7:00 PM, Parish Hall

Loblolly 4H Club

2nd Sunday of every month, 4:00 PM, Parish Hall

Lutheran World Relief Quilters

4th Friday of every month, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Faith Lutheran, McDade

McDade Food Pantry

Serves community on Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (closed 5th Tuesday), Faith Lutheran, McDade

Next Quarter Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS:

April

3 Claudine Saegert
 6 Shena White
 6 Christopher Wolf
 18 Alyssa Moore
 21 Dick Reinap
 30 Gloria Restori

May

12 Morris Kastner
 24 Keith Kyle
 26 David Grimma
 29 Kathy Prochnow

June

6 Leland Gebert
 13 Laura Marie Hartt
 14 Betty Hemmeter

ANNIVERSARIES:

April

1 David & Anne Grimma
 14 Curtis & Alvina Moerbe
 24 Roger & Janice Payne

May

None

June

7 Ervin & Alice Miller
 20 Keith & Brenda Kyle



Church Humor

It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Johnny asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by," his father told him. "Wouldn't you know it," Johnny fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go and He shows up."



ambers, 1981

Horton-Chambers

Actual Announcements from Church Bulletins

- Coming Up—Theological Open House. We discuss thought-provoking topics. Your opinions are hardly welcome.
 - Thursday night – potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
 - The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Julius Belzer.
 - This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.
 - The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind and they may be seen in the church basement Friday.
 - A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
 - At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" – come early and listen to our choir practice.
 - Miss Charlene Mason sang, "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
 - "Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."
 - The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."
 - Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
 - The Rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing "Break Forth into Joy."
 - Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
 - The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hospitality.
 - The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.
 - The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not affiliated with any church.
 - Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.
 - Attend and you will hear an excellent speaker and have a healthy lunch.
 - The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."
-

Mailing Address:
New Hope Lutheran Church
PO Box 464
McDade, TX 78650

PHONE:
(512) 273-2255

Find us on the web:
www.newhopemcdade.org

**NEW HOPE CHURCH COUNCIL
MEMBERS:**

- Chris Wolf, President
- David Moore, Vice President
- Patricia Grube, Secretary
- Alyssa Moore, Treasurer
- Morris Arnold, Council at Large
- Gaylan Sampson, Council at Large
- Dick Reinap, Pastor

About Our Newsletter...

This quarterly newsletter is a project of the Women of the Word (WOW) organization of New Hope Lutheran Church in McDade, TX.

If you need extra copies, have news to share or suggestions for future articles, please contact Lola Cole or Kathi Gremillion.

You may read or download a copy of this or any of our past newsletters from the "Bulletin Board" page on our website.

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
PO Box 464
McDade, TX 78650



ADDRESS LABEL