

Happenings at Hope

March – April 2017 ~ Vol. 4, No. 1

In This Issue

- 1 – From the Pastor
- 2 – LYA Convention
- 3 – Hope Lutheran Church
& the ELS
- 5 – Parish News

Worship & Study

Sunday School & Bible Class
9:30am

The Divine Service
Sunday 10:30am
Wednesday 7pm

Ladies' Bible Study
9am, the 1st Saturday of
the month

Hope Lutheran Church

2930 W, 9000 S
West Jordan, UT 84088
westjordanlutherans.org
Rev. Paul Webber
(801)569-1111



From the Pastor

Greetings members and friends of Hope Lutheran Church. Last month our congregation entered into an new era of its life. Whereas from its founding, Hope had always had a mortgage with the synod of which it was a member (first the Missouri Synod, and then the Evangelical Lutheran Synod) now that is no longer the case. From the sale of the strip of land to the east of our parking lot, now our congregation is completely out of debt.

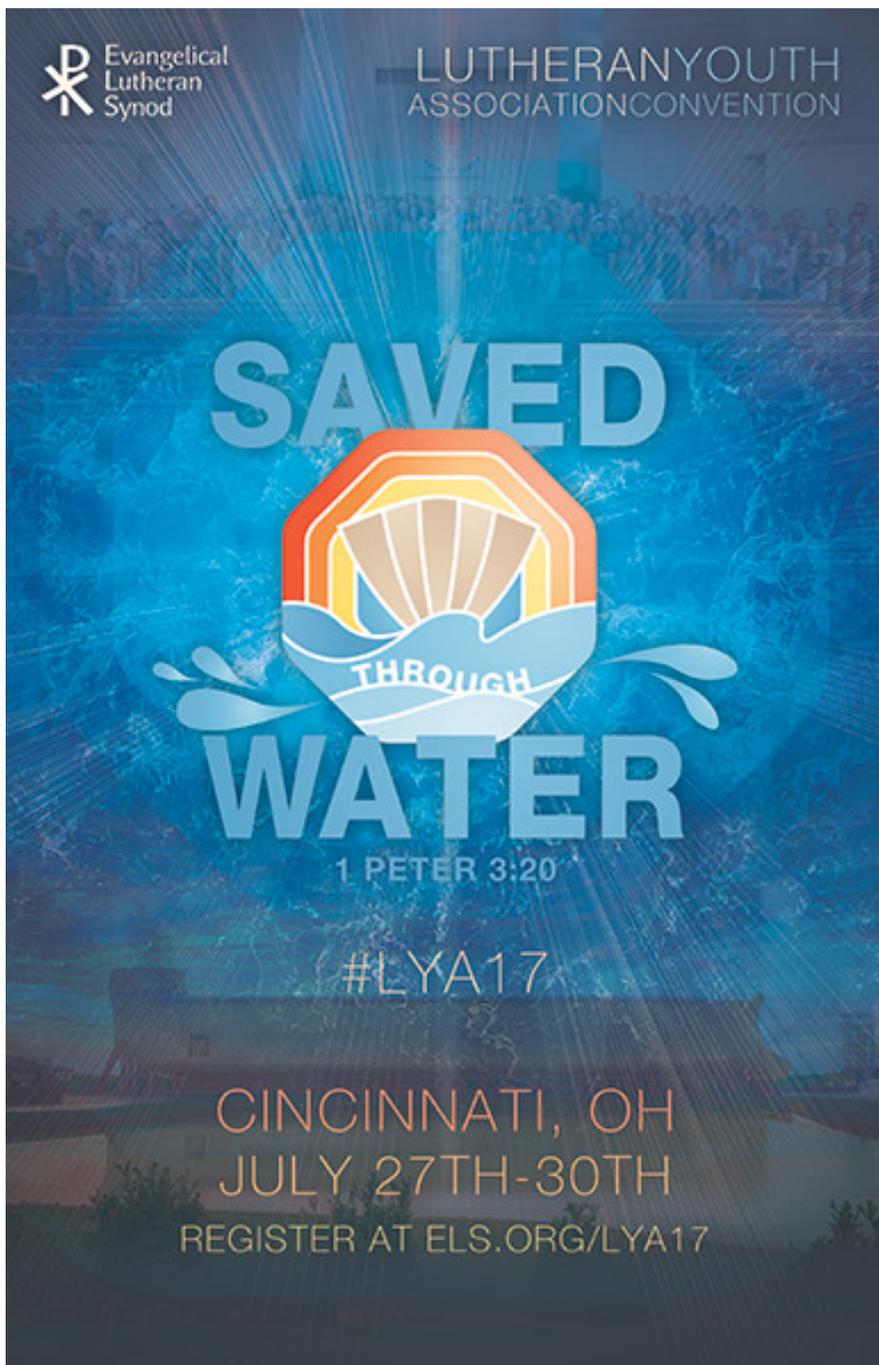
As far as what will change for us now, fundamentally nothing will. The purpose of the congregation has not changed one bit. We have still been called by God to faithfully receive, and see to the administration, of the means of grace. That was the purpose of Hope Lutheran Church while we still had a mortgage, and it will remain our purpose now that our mortgage is no more. But, no longer being in debt to the synod, and no longer having to struggle to make that monthly payment, will change the way in which our church is able to operate while striving to remain faithful to our calling.

If you have not already noticed, you will in the coming weeks notice a number of improvements. We have a new sign. We have a new website. The lights in the sanctuary have been fixed, and in a short time they will be illuminating walls that are no longer cracked and marked up from decades of use. Of course all these improvements will make things nicer for us, and hopefully also for those who visit our church both physically and digitally. But, on a deeper level, our striving to make our church

Continued on next page . . .

building look better glorifies God, because even though it is we who hold the deed to the property, our church is God's house, where His Word is preached, His Sacraments are administered, and His forgiveness in Christ is given. Just as the people of Israel rightly strove to glorify God by giving generously from their possessions to make his Temple in Jerusalem an impressive sight for all to see, so also our efforts to improve the quality of our sanctuary are not misplaced. May we always strive to faithfully carry out our calling to present Christ to the world in a way that reflects our devotion to God and the saving Truth of His Word.

-Pastor Webber



The national youth convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod will be held this year in Cincinnati, Ohio, on the campus of Xavier University. This convention is open to all teenage members of ELS congregations, and their friends. If you or your teen is interested in attending the convention this year, or if you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Webber or Chris Hoffman (who is a member of the ELS Youth Board).

Registration for the youth convention is already open. Those who register before May 1st will only have to pay \$250, as opposed to \$300 after May 1st. Also, those who haven't attended a youth convention before will receive a discounted rate of only \$200! To register, go to <http://els.org/lya17/>



&



No one would deny that our congregation is rather isolated from the other congregations of our synod. Even though there are a couple of WELS and a handful of LCMS congregations in the greater Salt Lake metro area, the nearest ELS congregation to us is about an 8 hour drive and 500 miles away. That being said, it is still a very beneficial, even necessary thing, for our congregation to be part of a greater Confessional Lutheran fellowship.

Even though we are a small congregation, our membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod allows us to participate in a number of ministries that would be utterly impossible for us on our own. The foremost of these would be the mission work that is carried out by our synod, both at home and abroad. Currently the ELS is supporting (either fully or partially) six mission congregations in the United States. And, in its history, the ELS has sent missionaries to; Australia, South Korea, Chile, Peru, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, and India. Can you imagine our little congregation being able to do all that on our own? Of course it would be impossible. But when we pool our resources with other congregations of our same confession of faith, much more work can be done.

Another way in which our congregation benefits from its membership in the ELS is the operation of Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. Both of these schools are located in Mankato, MN. Bethany Lutheran College is a liberal arts college to which we can send our young men and women so that they can continue to grow in their understanding of all knowledge, including God's Word. If you want to know more about Bethany Lutheran College, and the benefits of attending there, just ask one of the several members of our congregation who are graduates. You can also visit <https://www.blc.edu/>

Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary is the pastoral training school of our synod. Young men who are interested in studying for the ministry enroll there, and upon graduation, they are eligible to receive a call to serve congregations all over the country. At BLTS, young men are trained in the four "disciplines" of theology; Exegetical (understanding God's Word), Historical (the history of the Christian Church), Systematic (the doctrines of the Christian Faith), and Pastoral (preaching, teaching, and counseling). The course of instruction at BLTS includes 3 years of classroom study, and then a year-long vicarage during which that which was learned in the classroom can be applied in a congregation under the

Continued on next page . . .

supervision of an experienced pastor. The seminary website is <http://www.blts.edu/>

Of course, one benefit of being a member of the ELS which is part of our congregation's history is the support that the synod is able to give to congregations in need. For a number of years, the ELS helped us financially when we needed that help. But, now that we no longer need that specific help from the synod, we are in a position where we can give that help back, so that other congregations who may find themselves with financial difficulties like were felt here can receive the help that they need—from us, and from other congregations all over the country.

After all, that is what a synod is. It isn't a business, or a corporation with its own mission and purpose. The synod is, in a sense, a church comprised of churches. And just as we would want to help individuals in our own midst when they have problems, so also, as a congregation, we would want to act that same way towards other congregations. That is the way that we would want to be treated. In fact, that is how we were treated for years.

We are thankful to God that he has blessed us with a greater fellowship of congregations and Christians who share our confession of faith. We give thanks that we have been blessed with an ability to carry out the great commission in a much greater way than we could on our own. And we give thanks to God that He has blessed our congregation with other congregations, for whom we can pray, and to whom we can offer the same kind of support that we were given when we were in need of it.

If you would like to learn more about the work of our synod, talk to Pastor Webber or visit <http://els.org/>.

-Pastor Webber



1st Quarter Congregational Forum & Voter's Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2017

The meeting was opened by Chris Hoffman, president, and it was decided that all issues requiring a vote would be voted on at the end of the meeting.

Buddy Linza and Christopher Crabbe were officially recognized as present at the meeting. According to our bylaws they can be accepted as voters at our next meeting.

Reports

Aaron Auch (Facilities)

- Proposed the purchase of a new, larger, shed to replace our two old sheds. Will assess cost and proceed if the cost is reasonable. Moved and seconded vote was yes
- Snow blower is needed and if we could get a good deal we should get one. – it was added to the outside improvement budget Moved and seconded vote was yes
- Had received a donation from same source that gave to repair/replace church Furnaces – wants to use this donation to buy/replace needs yard maintenance items.
- They have a contractor coming Monday 0/20/17, to evaluate and give bid(s) for the repair and painting the walls in the Sanctuary. Also, it was estimated that it would cost be \$3,000 to \$4,000 (note, actual cost will be \$1,200) to repair and paint the Sanctuary. Moved and seconded vote was yes

Pastor Webber:

- David and Leta Johnson and their daughters Colby Espinola and Kaylee Castro were accepted as new members of the congregation. Moved and seconded vote was yes
- Changing of Congregations Circuit from 12 to Circuit 11 of the ELS – reasons given where logistically more feasible for the members of Hope Lutheran Church to attend conferences and mission rallies in the region of the country covered by circuit 11 – it would serve to even out the balance of congregations between circuits 11 and 12 – and in relationship to the circuit visitor of circuit 11, the alternate visitor would be able to conduct any visitation that might be necessary at Hope Lutheran Church. Moved and seconded vote was yes
- The ELS has offered to split the cost of a new service recording system with the congregation. The estimated cost for the congregation is \$3,500. The synod communications director is available to come out in March to install the system. Moved and seconded vote was yes.
- That Pastor Webber has begun an online course to further his education and will be online every Tuesday from 5p to 8p, Utah time.

Chris Hoffman had to be excused due to another engagement and Jeff Olsen, vice-president, took over the meeting.

Continued on next page . . .

- The question was asked as to where the Altar Guild would get their funds for their needs i.e. (oil for candles – wine and wafers for communion – flowers for Christmas and Easter etc. It was proposed that 1,200.00 be allotted yearly and the members of the altar guild will provide our treasurer (Tammy) receipts. Any additional monies will be addressed at the time of need. Moved and seconded vote was yes
- It was suggested that a committee be formed to see what things need to be done both outside and within the Church, i.e. Refrigerator – toilet fixtures – light and socket covers/fixtures etc. The committee is to be made up of Peter, Star, Darrin and Jeff. It was determined that a 3,000.00 budget would be set aside to cover these needs. Any additional monies will be addressed at the time of need. Moved and seconded vote was yes
- An amended budget for the remainder of the year was approved in the meeting. The total giving needed for this budget to be met is \$78,240, or \$1,504 per week. If you would like to see this budget, please email Pastor Webber and he will send it to you

Thanks to Jim and Marsha Eidson for taking these notes during the meeting.

Parish News

Giving	Given	Needed	Difference
Jan – Feb	\$11,912	\$13,543	\$1,631

Upcoming Events

All regular and special events for the congregation can be found at:
<http://westjordanlutherans.org/events/>

Lent Midweek Services

Please plan on joining us on the coming 5 Wednesdays as we focus on the “Symbols of Lent.” Pastor Webber will be taking part in a preaching rotation this Lenten season, which will allow you to hear other Lutheran pastors of our greater fellowship preach. Every midweek service is at 7pm, with a meal beforehand at 6pm. If you are interested in signing up to bring something for the meals, please see the sheet on the church door.