

# In Touch with Hope

919 Grand Ave

HOPE REFORMED CHURCH

Phone: 712-262-3016

[www.spencerhope.org](http://www.spencerhope.org)

December 16, 2009

Join us Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (sanctuary) or at 10:30 a.m. (Harbor of Hope)

## Living the Adventure. . .

At the time of writing this, there are 15 days until Christmas. Let's see, I guess I should get busy with making a list of all that needs to get done, right? That would include Christmas cards, presents to purchase, packages to wrap, a few to mail, goodies to bake, pigs in the blanket to assemble, and the list goes on. "Traditions!" as Tevye would say in *Fiddler on the Roof*.

I know without a doubt that many of you have your lists complete and probably have checked them twice. And I do think traditions are good and important in families – to a point. But there comes a time when we need to stop and evaluate our lists, our traditions, our projects, and see what is taking precedence.

Just like taking time to clean out that junk drawer to throw out unwanted or unneeded items, we also need to do this at Christmas time. What habits do we have that are not necessary anymore? Could our baking be done with fewer number of recipes and be just as enjoyable? Could our number of gift purchases decrease and the season continue on, maybe even with more meaning than ever? With less baking to do, we would have more time to spend with others. With less gifts to buy, we could use that money for charitable opportunities, for instance – think what one \$20 gift could do for the Rice and Bean Fund for Haiti.

Most of all, with cleaning out our lists, our habits, our traditions – to keep what is important or maybe get back on top of what needs to be there – Jesus becomes the center of the season once again. The baby in the manger rises to the top of the list, is seen through all of the clutter, and God's voice can be heard above all else. It gives us space to kneel down at the manger and praise Him. Come to the manger this Christmas season and give Him your time. That's the greatest gift you can give Jesus.



Jean Bick ↑  
♥

# ADVENT



*Through Their Eyes*

Dec. 20

9:00 a.m.: **Gabriel: Angels Long to Look into These Things**

featuring the Christmas Choir

10:30 a.m.: **Gabriel: Angels Long to Look into These Things**

Dec. 24 ~ **Christmas Eve** -see back page.

Dec. 27 ~ 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

**What's That Smell?**

Pastor Jay will be sharing the message  
No Sunday School

## Nursery Schedule: Sunday, December 20

Ryan & Amy Blau, Bob & Angie Graham

There will be **NO** Sunday School on December 27 and January 3.

### Prayer Concerns:

...**Clarian Lovitt** fell and had a broken eye socket, she had surgery on Sunday night, Dec. 13 to repair the eye socket.

...**Keegan Kracht**, son of Steve & Kristi had surgery to remove an extra finger at the local hospital on Friday, Dec. 11.

...**Joyce Flaharty** had sinus surgery in the Methodist Hospital in Rochester on Wednesday, December 2.

...**Susan (Hawn) Clark** remains in Houston, TX following open-heart surgery on Thurs., Nov. 19.

**Our condolences** to Bob and Pam Haak and family with the death and loss of Bob's mother, Madeline Haak of Sanborn from time to eternity on Friday, Dec. 11.

**Congratulations to Mark Magnuson** who will graduate on Saturday, December 19 from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln with a degree in Broadcast Journalism.

### Affirming God's Servants:

...**Thank you to everyone** who donated empty ink cartridges to the church office. It really helped out in purchasing supplies for the offices. We will continue to collect them.

...**Thank you to the Christmas Tea committee** of Ruth Hansen, Deona Vande Berg, Linda Brechwald, Marlene Bruns, Connie Paulsen, Noreen Meyer, Judy Van Helden, and Pam Haak, for an enjoyable program, delicious Christmas goodies, and tea. It was a relaxing afternoon that put us all in the spirit of Christmas!

...**Thank you to everyone who made the Children's Christmas Program** successful! We had a great time getting this "gift" ready for all of you to enjoy. Thanks to all the kids who worked so hard, the parents who helped us get ready and Hope Church for supporting this program. We are blessed to be in a congregation that values their children and supports them in so many ways. Merry Christmas!

## HAITI RICE/BEANS & MEDICAL DONATIONS



December 20

Your gift will help provide much needed food for the people of Haiti and help support the day-to-day operation of the hospital in Pignon.

When the group goes to Haiti in 2010 (Jan. 27 – Feb. 5) they will purchase the rice and deliver it to the poorest of the poor.

100% of all the money given goes directly to help the people of Haiti.

Last year's cash gifts helped purchase over 7 tons of food.

There will be a table set up in the lobby on Sunday.

### PRAYER & PRAISE



Please join us for Hope Church's weekly prayer time every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. It will conclude by 7:15 p.m. The time consists of praise songs and prayer. This is also a great place to seek prayer for yourself.

Childcare is available for infants – 3 years old in the nursery. We would like to encourage you to bring your older children along to Prayer & Praise.

### Installation of Officers

The following people were selected to their respective offices at the Congregational Celebration on Sunday, December 6:

Elder: Arvin Druvenga, Paul Rekow

Deacon: Scott Mingus, Eric Van Der Heide

In accordance with the Constitution of the Reformed Church in America, unless there are reasonable scriptural objections presented to the Board of Elders, they will be installed & ordained in office on Jan. 10.



**Hope's Book Club** has decided on their selections for the next three months. If you want to put them on your Christmas wish list here they are: January is "Same Kind of Different as Me" by Ron Hall, February is "The Last Storyteller" by Diane Noble and March is "The

Bitter Road to Dachau" by Robert L. Wise. If you have any questions or have any of these books that someone can borrow, please call Marlis Kuiper at 262 7031.

There are also a few devotionals left to give away in the Library. Check out the basket as you pass by.

**ATTENTION ALL TEAM CHAIRPERSONS:** We would like to have all of our teams in place by Feb. 1; that is when the new year begins for our teams. When you have your new team members and chairperson for 2010, please let the church office know (262-3016 or hrc@spencerhope.org) as soon as possible.

There are many containers in The Well kitchen. They are located on the counter or on the cart under the counter. If you are missing some, please check it out.

### Winter Cancellation Policy

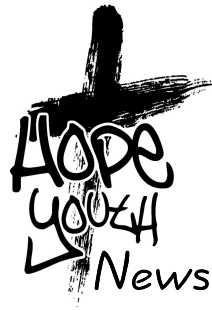
Policy is to cancel all weekday activities any time school is canceled or let out early because of bad weather. Sunday service cancellation is up to the discretion of the pastor in consultation with consistory members. Cancellations will be announced on KICD and the website (www.spencerhope.org).

If you are moving or have a college youth moving please inform the church office of your/their new address. Thank you!

If you charge any church expenses at **ANY** place in town, please turn in a signed receipt to the church office. It will save a lot of time when checking the charges with the bills and to know which fund they go to.

*Let this Christmas season be a renewing of the mind of Christ in our thinking, and a cleansing of our lives by His pure presence. Let His joy come to our weary world through us.*

- Gerald Kennedy



### SR. HIGH

will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday.

### 6<sup>TH</sup>, 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

No youth group until January 6.

## Big things coming in 2010

Mark your calendar now!!!

### Sr. High

January 20: Teens night "No Apologies"

February 7: Super Bowl Party

Spiritual Retreat: dates to be determined

June 18-25: Work Project Trip - Alcoa, TN

### 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

January 19: Tweens Night "No Apologies"

February 7: Super Bowl Party

April 16-18: Middle School Retreat - Camp Okoboji

Work project: dates to be determined

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May Christmas time mean more to you than gifts on Christmas morn;  
May you feel the peace the whole world knew when Christ the Lord was born!  
May you know the special gladness and hope that came to all,  
And may it thrill your heart just now as Christmas comes again!  
May the warm guiding star drive from your life every shadow;  
May the glad song of the angels find an echo in your heart;  
May the spirit of worship in the hearts of the wise men, and the simple faith of the shepherds be yours as, once more, you celebrate the birth day of the King.

*From the staff*

*Pastor Russell*

*Pastor Jay*

*Jean Blok*

*Mary Van Drunen*

*Kim Smith*

*Greg Meeter*

*Lynda Schmidt*

*Karmen Brown*

*Allan Hansen*

**Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Communion Services**

*"A Night Like No Other"*

Thursday, December 24  
5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.

Invite your family and friends.

