

# In Touch with

# Hope

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOPE CHURCH

JUNE 2024

## Pastor James Runcorn

Lead Pastor

### There Is a Season for Everything

The newness has, in some ways, faded away. We are approaching the eight-month mark together. Our family feels deeply blessed with the opportunity to serve here in Spencer at Hope. At the same time, I'm learning new things each day and still meeting people for the first time. I appreciate your patience with me. As we notice the season changing from cool and gray to warm and bright, we look forward to what this new season at Hope looks like as well. Here are some things headed your way soon:

1. We are planning a new monthly opportunity called, "Coffee With the Pastor," happening once a month, after church in the fireside area. This will give me an opportunity to meet people I haven't met and also allow for fun and engaging conversation.
2. The Ministry Experience Team (formerly known as the Vision and Design Team) are almost ready to share their ideas with all of us. They are working hard to unify all the areas of our building through thoughtful, careful design with the purpose of enhancing our warm and inviting church community.
3. We have taken existing Hope logos (there are at least 7 different ones) and given a fresh, new look that will create continuity for all of our current and future ministries (launching soon).
4. Terry, our Director of Adult Discipleship, has been working with new small group leaders, building and equipping them for our fall launch of Rooted.

All of these exciting changes indicate growth, but changes simply for the sake of change would be pointless and possibly detrimental. Each and every proposed change has been weighed carefully to see if it moves us toward the ultimate vision: to be a Christ-centered, Bible-believing community of disciples who make disciples. Stay tuned for announcements coming soon!

*There is a time for everything, and a season  
for every activity under the heavens.*

~ Ecclesiastes 3:1



# Dates to Remember

**June 3-5** 9 am - 8 pm

**June 6-7** TBD

VBS Work/Prep Week - Come when you can, leave when you must!

**June 5** 5:30 pm - Sanctuary

**June 9** 9:45 am - Harbor

Mandatory VBS Volunteer Training  
(need to attend 1)

**June 9**

Communion

**June 10-14** 8:30 - 11:45 am

VBS

**June 12** 6:30 pm

Parent/Youth Meeting - Senior High Youth Worktrip  
*Note: this is a Wednesday meeting*

**June 22 - July 1**

Senior High Youth Worktrip to Idaho Falls

**June 23** 9:45 am

Coffee with the Pastor - Fireside Area  
(next to coffee kitchen)

**June 26** 9:30 am

Caregiver Ministry Meeting

**June 30** 9:45 am

Baptism Class

**July 4**

Church closed for Independence Day

**July 14** 10:00 am

Church and Picnic at the Runcorn's

**July 10** 6:30 pm

Parent/Youth Meeting - Middle School Power Connection trip to Minneapolis

**July 23-28**

Middle School Power Connection trip

**August 4**

Youth Mission Sunday

## Welcome to the **NURSERY!**



I am Missy Lair, Nursery Coordinator. I was born and raised in Spencer, Iowa. God's plan for me was to take care of his children. On June 1st, 1992, I started my own in-home daycare. With the support of my husband, Matt and my children, Ashley and Tyler, I have continued doing so for 32 years. Our family has grown over the last few years, as our kids got married and started their own families. We are now blessed with four grandchildren. Being a grandparent brings a whole new meaning of love.

I joined Hope Church May 20, 2012 and became your Nursery Coordinator in the Spring of 2016. I want to THANK all of my Nursery Helpers! I appreciate every single one of you! Without you, we would not be able to have the nursery available to our young children. We have definitely grown in attendance over the last year. So, if you feel the calling to volunteer in the nursery, please let me know. If you can't find me in the church sanctuary, you'll find me in my favorite place, the nursery.

***Isaiah 40:11. "He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young."***

# Missions Focus

This month the Missions Team is excited to tell you more about the Bridge of Storm Lake!

The Bridge of Storm Lake believes that every child should have the opportunity to live well regardless of their background. We exist to build up healthy and resilient youth for God's Kingdom purposes. Three primary ways that The Bridge engages with youth:

1. **Summer programs:** weekly neighborhood activities, devotions, snacks and meals, camps: job camp, career explorers camp and vacation Bible camp, service days, book clubs and Bible studies, and middle school and high school rewards trips
2. **TreeHouse:** [www.treehousehope.org](http://www.treehousehope.org) which provides mentoring, support groups and going deeper Bible studies. Our TreeHouse theme this year is rooted. "I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong." Ephesians 3:16-17
3. **Two social enterprises:** Endless Sea Coffee Roasting and Sales [www.endlesseacoffee.com](http://www.endlesseacoffee.com) and Endless Sea Cafe

## The Bridge of Storm Lake Core Values:

- To be humble receivers and examples of Jesus' grace and justice in our everyday living
- To invite young people into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ
- To live justly and minister holistically
- To invest and connect youth in multiple long-term and supportive relationships
- To meet youth where they are with support and love
- To raise up leaders among youth of all backgrounds
- To affirm and support local churches, area schools, community organizations, and services that are devoted to caring for young people and meeting their needs
- To share hospitality and friendship, encouraging relationships and understanding across cultures and backgrounds

## Group Volunteer Opportunities this summer:

- Painting the exterior of The Bridge building
- Fixing the back steps
- Community Vacation Bible Camp July 15-18

Thank you for your partnership in ministry. We are so grateful to be in this with you!

~ Shelly Rock, Executive Director





# Consistory Minutes

Present: Pastor James Runcorn, Pastor Jay Van Gelder

Elders: Bruce Groen, Jeff Helmink, Doug Siepkes, Bob Campbell, Gary Zeutenhorst, Kevin Vander Stoep

Deacons: Ryan Hoskins, Knut Brown, Terry Stevens, Ryan Christoffel, Jason Warren, Alex Johnson

April 11, 2024 • 7:00 pm

Meeting called to order.

Opening prayer - Pastor James

Devotional: : Bruce Groen covered questions 94-98 of the Heidelberg Catechism covering first 2 commandments on idolatry and the command to worship no other images nor make any likeness of God

7:15: Pastor Perry De Groot announced that he is taking the position of Pastor at St. Lukes so his last day at Hope as will be April 14, 2024.

## REGULAR BUSINESS

- Approved March 15, 2024 minutes MMSC (Bob/Alex)
- Approved March 15, 2024 financials Alex Johnson - Insurance costs have gone up significantly which is an industry wide issue, may need to look at other companies. MMSC (Terry/Doug)
- March 2024 attendance and giving reviewed by Alex Johnson
- Easter Service discussion, discussed how to make Hope more welcoming for visitors, maybe some dedicated visitor parking spots? Discussed a community wide Sunrise Service next year as an idea

## Pastor's report

- Sermon series-will be starting Romans next week for 16-20 weeks likely.
- Discussed policy for helping/benevolence: intention and since we are small, we do not have funds to help everyone, may invite Rebecca Goeken to talk to consistory
- New website-still working on it to update, reviewed YouTube analytics and viewership which is increasing.
- James discussed Unstuck Church Report he emailed to all consistory
- Brief discussion on Hope in future potentially becoming multi-site if growth enables.
- Discussed Cherish Center Father/Daughter dance and how Hope helps support that.
- Staff Reviews- 6-month mark: All staff have good reports and feel that we have a healthy work environment and good support from consistory and congregation and senior Pastor.
- James 6-month review-Sermons are great and there is a lot of excitement for the future. Discussion of various items.
- Ministry Liaison reports: Knut Brown gave update on how BRICK is going well and very pleased on Luke Lovin and Julia's contribution to this.

## Head

Purposeful Learning – Jeff/Knut

Holy Living – Terry/Gary Z

## Heart

Fellowship – Doug/Jason

Worship - Ryan H./Kevin

## Hands

Service – Bruce/Ryan

Outreach – Bob/Alex

## Other Business

- Executive Team meeting - TBD. Consistory Meeting - March meeting May 9, 2024

Closing Prayer: Past Jay Van Gelder

## ELDER MEETING

Prayer- Pastor James

- Congregational Care - discussed starting a Caregivers Ministry to help enable caregivers
- Pastor Perry stepping down as Pastor Emeritus 4/15/24
- Discussed members of Hope that do not attend and how to get them engaged and coming back to church

Closing prayer: Kevin Vander Stoep

## DEACON MEETING

Present: Ryan C, Alex, Ryan H, Jason, Knut, Terry

- Voted for plaque on bench. Going to ask Paul if he wants one
- Brotherhood Mutual
- Requote church insurance – May 15 renewal. Getting different quotes
- May 9th is the next consistory meeting

# Community Volunteer List

The Deacons recently met with Rebecca Goeken. As they were discussing needs within the community, they thought it would be good to have a list of people willing to help with various needs that arise in the community.

Hope Church is putting together an email list of people willing to volunteer their services when needs do arise. Some examples might include: you have a truck that you could use to transport a mattress or furniture from Many Hands Market or Cherished Again to a residence, you are willing to physically help move items into an apartment, you are willing to help one individual with personal finance and budgeting, you are willing to serve as a mentor for one individual, you are willing to help an individual get organized in their new apartment, you are willing to meet someone at the grocery store and show them how to meal plan and shop on a budget.

An email would be sent out to the entire group when needs arise and if someone is willing to volunteer they could 'reply to all' so others would know the need was covered. Please sign up at the welcome desk after the church service if you are willing to be part of this email list or call the church office.

## St. Luke Round Up

### ***What is this?***

Before Covid, area churches would take one (1) Sunday a month and help residents at St Luke Nursing Home get to chapel for the church service held there. **Pastor Perry, their new chaplain, would like to bring this back and has asked Hope Church to take the 2nd Sunday of every month.**

### ***What would I do?***

- Arrive at St Luke by 9:40 am to help residents who want to go to chapel get there (pushing wheelchairs).
- Stay for the 10:00 am service.
- At 10:30 am, help residents return to their room or a common area after the service.

### ***How many people?***

- 2 - 4 people each time

### ***What are the dates?***

The 2024 dates are June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10 and December 8.

### ***How do I sign up?***

You can email or call the office at [hrc@spencerhope.org](mailto:hrc@spencerhope.org) or 712-262-3016. You can also sign up at the Information Desk.

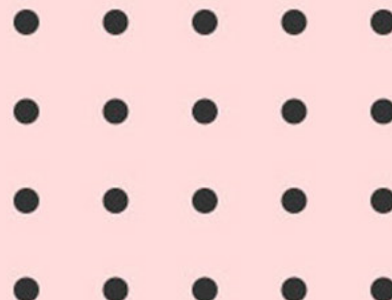
## Concerns for

Please continue to lift up the following people and families in prayer:

- Bill Van Wattering - as he goes through radiation treatment/other medicines for cancer diagnosis.
- Joyce Lemke - health issues.
- Kay Scherb - her recovery from cancer surgery and for future treatment plans
- Sara Schmidt - her continued cancer tests & treatments
- Nadeen Hill - recovery from foot surgery
- Cheri McClain - recovery from cancer surgery
- Darrell Todd - recovery from hip replacement surgery
- Perre Wimmer - recovery from recent cancer treatment
- Lorelei Meeter - her recovery from cancer surgery and other health issues
- Harold & Barb Anderson - Harold recovering from hernia surgery and Barb (in hospital) with chronic cardiac issues

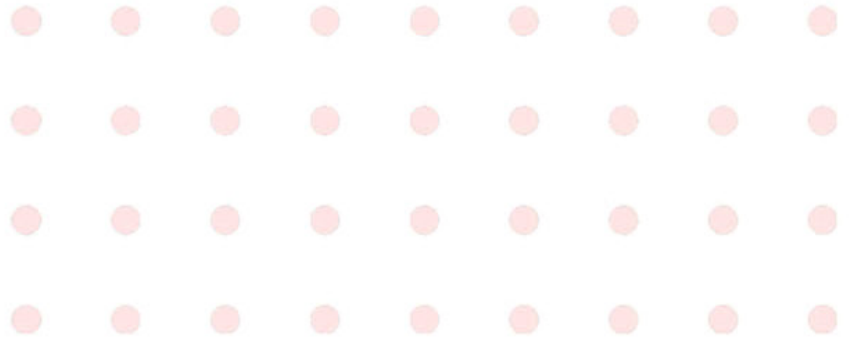
## Condolences to

Sara and Dave Schmidt and family on the passing of Sara's brother, John Hurst, on May 6 from time to eternity.





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Spencer, IA 51301  
(712)262-3016  
hrc@spencerhope.org



## COFFEE *with the* PASTOR

If you haven't had a chance to visit with James, he would love to get to know you more! Please join him for a visit and a cup of coffee.

**Sunday, June 23 | 9:45 am**

**Fireside Room**  
(next to the coffee kitchen)



## Baptism Class

If you would like learn more about baptism and what it means to be baptized, join Pastor James  
**Sunday, June 30, at 9:45 am**  
in the Grace Room.



## Save the Date!

**Church at the Runcorn's**  
**Sunday, July 14**  
**10:00 am**

Lunch will follow the service. More details to come.

## Worship Services

**SUNDAYS:** 8:30 am and 10:45 am

8:30 am services live-streamed online:  
[www.youtube.com/hopechurchspencer](http://www.youtube.com/hopechurchspencer)

## Hope Church Staff

**James Runcorn**

Lead Pastor

**Jay Van Gelder**

Youth Pastor

**Julia Andela**

Children & Families Director

**Ryan Hoskins**

Worship Director

**Terry Stevens**

Director of Adult Discipleship

**Michael Fujimoto**

Facilities Manager

**Jill Lowe**

Office Administrator

**Tim Yeager**

Maintenance

**Levi Morris**

Treasurer

**Missy Lair**

Nursery