



In Touch with

Hope

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOPE CHURCH

AUGUST 2024

Pastor James Runcorn

Lead Pastor

The following article is something I submitted to Jill on June 19th for the July newsletter. How fitting to consider the responsibility of the church. Only three days after I submitted this, the flood came. Then we saw the church mobilize. We saw the Body of Christ behaving in a manner that demonstrated their love for the community. Now, the article is partially reflective, but also a challenge for us to consider how we move forward.

It Is Our Responsibility

The 'body of Christ' is a phrase many Christians have heard before. Some Christians are familiar with the words, while others understand the concept if they were asked to explain it in detail. My question for you is this: Are you living it out? What do you mean pastor? How am I supposed to live out a concept? Well, the description Paul gives in Ephesians 4, is not just conceptual, it is actually instructional. You see, there are visible roles in the church, "the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers" (Ephesians 4:11) but there are also roles that are just as important behind the scenes. A pastor cannot stand behind a pulpit and preach without the support of so many other people. Most of the time, there is some level of administrative, technical, church staff support, boards, lay leaders, volunteers, prayer warriors and others. In the bigger picture, outside the walls of the church building, the body of Christ has been strategically integrated into the world in order to point the lost to our Savior. So, are you aware of your personal responsibility? What kind of body part are you? Are you a mouthpiece? Are you feet? Are you hands? Are you a ligament? Are you a muscle? Even if you are not standing in front of the masses, your role is just as important as the pastor, staff member, Consistory...etc. God has given you a special gifting to be used for His purposes. Usually, it directly links to your passion/skills/talents. If you are currently unsure of how He wants to use you, ask Him. If you would like some guidance or direction, you can also meet with me, Pastor Jay, any of the elders or deacons, or even a trusted friend who is anchored in God's Word. If we all pursue living out His will for our lives, we can stand together in unity (Ephesians 4:13) and conquer darkness with His power and love.

*From him the whole body joined and held together by every supporting ligament grows
and builds itself up in love as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:16*

Dates to Remember

August 4

Children's Church at both services

August 6

Free Bible Giveaway to anyone who lost theirs in the flood by Dakota Caldwell.

8:30 am - 11:30 am (while supplies last) - Lobby

August 11

Communion

Matt Baird is leading worship

MS Youth share about
Power Connection



Senior High Youth Group at Jay's House - 7 pm
- Incoming Freshmen invited to join us

August 18

Back to School Sunday - both services

Students & Teachers bring your backpacks for a special blessing as the school year begins

Ministry Fair - between the services in the Lobby
9:45 am

Senior High Youth Group Kick-Off!
7:00 pm

August 19

Missions Team Meeting - 7:00 pm

August 20

Prayers & Squares Quilting Ministry - 1:00-5:00 pm
Come when you can, leave when you must

August 21

MS Youth Group Kick-Off!
5:30 pm - 6th Grade
6:30 pm - 7th Grade
7:30 pm - 8th Grade

August 23

Red Cross Blood Drive - 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Fall Film Festival Registration Opens

August 25

First day of Sunday School (preK - Adult)
9:45 - 10:40 am

August 30

Hope Church Game Night 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Concerns for

Please continue to lift up our Hope Church families & friends as well as our community as we continue to recover and rebuild from the flood.

Condolences to

Harold Anderson and Kristy Flikkema and families on the passing of Harold's wife and Kristy's mom, Barb Anderson, on June 24, from time to eternity.

Celebrate with

Preston and Carli Krukow on the birth of their son, Truett, on July 2.



ROOTED

**It is with great excitement that
we announce the launch of
Rooted on September 22nd.**

~ In Him Terry

Learn more about our ministries!

MINISTRY FAIR

Hope
Church

August 18th
9:40-10:40

Get involved!

SPENCERHOPE.COM



Youth Group Kick-Off Dates

Middle School

Wednesday, August 21

5:30 pm - 6th Grade

6:30 pm - 7th Grade

7:30 pm - 8th Grade

Senior High

Sunday, August 18

7:00 pm

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: Knut Brown, Terry Stevens, Ryan Christoffel, Jason Warren

June 20, 2024 • 7:00 pm

Meeting called to order.

Opening prayer - Jeff Helmink

Devotional: Jeff Helmink covered questions 103-104 of the Heidelberg Catechism covering the Fourth and Fifth Commandments

REGULAR BUSINESS

- Approved May 9, 2024 minutes MMSC (Doug/Jason)
- Approved May 9, 2024 financials Ryan C - Insurance costs have gone up significantly - still looking at other companies. MMSC (Doug/Gary)
- March 2024 attendance and giving analysis by Ryan C
- Team Reports:
 - Purposeful Living - Great Bible School
 - Holy Living - Terry spoke about Sept 22 launch date for Rooted small groups
 - Heart - nothing to report
 - Worship - nothing to report
 - Service - Safety meeting, trying to have a minimum of 2 people on duty every service, recruiting more people; Dr. Tim Rupp Sept 16 will be speaking and meeting with security team
 - Outreach - several missionaries coming to visit, missions team meeting with a couple serving in Alaska

Pastor's report

- Sermon series-will be continuing in Romans.
- Coffee with the Pastor: James would like Elders and Deacons to help after services to pray with people
- Caregivers' ministry will meet 6/26/24 at 0930 Fireside room
- Church in backyard Pastor James house 7/14/24, with meal tbd
- BTL meeting 7/31/24 at 5:30, want to meet before Fall Kickoff/Ministry Fair-8/18/24
- Jesus/Community/Mission: Team building, interpersonal bonding-praying for each other as consistory members

Other Business

- Both Pastors James and Jay are being recommended to be ordained in the Alliance of Reformed Churches
- ARC has a new App that can be downloaded
- Consistory photos for website
- "Our Values" discussion
- Consistory and staff retreat Sept 27-28, 2024
- Next Consistory Meeting 8/8/24 at 7 pm MMSC (Knut/Jason). Will not be meeting in July unless something comes up making it necessary
- Sabbatical for Jay month of December
- James' Podcast to engage with those who do not know Jesus, he wants to re-launch a new Podcast called "Hodgepodge Theology" to answer tough questions and interview people of all walks of life.

Closing Prayer: Pastor James Runcorn

ELDER MEETING

Prayer- Gary Zeutenhorst

- Congregational Care - prayer requests and talked about members not attending regularly
- Caregivers, widowers need reached out to

Closing prayer: Bob Campbell

DEACON MEETING

Present: Jay VG, Knut B, Jason W, Ryan C, Terry S

- Voted and approved adding Adult Discipleship as a category for giving for Rooted and anything else discipleship-wise
- Fellowship Events money will be used for meat (main course) at the Church in the Backyard ministry event
- Jay's sabbatical. MMSC (Terry/Ryan C) All approved
- Discussed roof replacement
- Discussed Michael Fujimoto 90 day evaluation



BACK TO SCHOOL

SUNDAY

AUGUST 18

Back to School Sunday is a special service where we, as a church body, have the opportunity to pause and pray specifically for our students, teachers & parents/caregivers.

Students and Teachers (public, private, homeschool), bring your backpacks with you on August 18 as we place a special reminder of our awesome God on your backpack!



Sunday School

STARTS
AUGUST 25 - 9:45 AM



SPENCER HOPE

FALL

FILM FESTIVAL

Stories of faith, hope, and RESTORATION

REGISTRATION OPENS 8/23

Making movies for Jesus!

PROD. ROLL SCEN

DIRECTOR: CAMERA: DATE: Da Fil

HOPE CHURCH

GAME NIGHT



All are welcome!

Aug. 30 ■ 7-9 PM

Bring a game and a snack to share!

Worship Services

SUNDAYS: 8:30 am and 10:45 am

8:30 am services live-streamed online: www.youtube.com/hopechurchspencer



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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 | **Abbey Fujimoto**, Social Media