



Hope Within

Cadet News

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The Hope Within is published online in its entirety unless the editor is notified otherwise.

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www.hoperca.org

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Our cadets are currently taking a close look at our Cadet Pledge which says, "I pledge myself to be ready to serve my God, my parents, my country, my church, my neighbor and my corps" and what this really means.

This past week we talked about serving our church and how a young cadet could do this. We decided that we could assist some of our older people that need some help doing spring yard work around their house. Any money we earn doing this work would be donated to a former cadet named Chandler Erdos. Chandler is trying to earn money to go to Africa on a mission trip.

If you are interested in this project and could use some help around your yard, contact Jerry Loedeman or one of the cadet leaders.



**Save the Date for
Vacation Bible School
August 8-12, 2016.**



It's not too late...

It's been two and a half weeks since Ash Wednesday. Due to the early arrival of Easter this year, maybe some among us missed the beginning of the Lenten season (practicing a spiritual discipline for the 40 days until Easter) and think, "I'll get on it next year." If that's you or if you did begin this season practicing a Lenten discipline and just need a little encouragement along the way this is an article for you. **It's not too late** to dig into God's Word. At the Ash Wednesday service I encouraged the body to read or listen to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) daily and/ or to pay attention to the verse(s) of scripture that are on the banner hanging over the organ each week of Lent. It is a wonderful discipline for us to practice to grow in Christ in this liturgical season and beyond.

To grow and mature in our faith, we must learn, as Paul advises, to let God's Word "dwell richly" in us. Prayerfully, humbly, and communally we must steep ourselves in it. Together we must read, study, and meditate it carefully. Together we must gladly open our minds and hearts to its message. Together we must courageously obey it.

Having announced to the believers at Colosse the Good News that they are a community of people who have been resurrected with Jesus their Lord (Col. 3.1) , Paul then urged them: "Let God's Word dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another...." (3.16) Respecting God's Word—reading it, meditating upon it, and responding obediently to its promises and commands—follows naturally and necessarily from believers' respect for and trust in the risen Jesus as their Teacher and Lord. (cf John 13.13)

Says Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "[A Christian community] must learn to know the Scriptures again, as the Reformers knew them. We must not grudge the time and the work that it takes. We must know the Scriptures first and foremost....How shall we ever attain certainty and confidence...if we do not stand on solid Biblical ground?"

To "hear" God's Word—to understand its message and then to obey it—is vital for the church's spiritual welfare. That's why we Christians gather in groups to study the Bible, and gather on Sunday to hear it proclaimed. We want to shake the rich fruit hanging heavy from the branches of the tree of God's Word, as Luther says; to eat and digest that fruit; and then, through the nourishment it provides, to perform deeds of worship and service.

To hear the Word accurately and well, however, is anything but easy. It takes greater attention than a quick reading of a couple of verses while our minds and hearts are already focused on other matters. Text-messaged- and Facebook-saturated people that we are, and so eager to give ready attention to even the most trivial of posts that others send our way, how careless have we also become to let our God get a word—his Word—in edgewise.

To grow and mature in our faith, we must learn, as Paul advises, to let God's Word "dwell richly" in us. Prayerfully, humbly, and communally we must steep ourselves in it. Failing to do so, we run the great risk of misunderstanding and misapplying it. Worse still, we bring grave dishonor upon and heavy sadness to our Heavenly Father Who sent his Son to bring us life. It's not too late to let the words of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount dwell richly in your heart the Lent. It will prepare us well to be and Easter people, which by the way is not that far off.

Grace and peace,
PK

Church Life Committee

The Hope Reformed Church Life Committee is looking for new members! We meet for a short time on the 3rd Monday of the month to plan events for the church family. Our next meeting is on Monday, March 21 at 7 p.m. Hope to see you there! See Allison Dillon with any questions.



**CHURCH LIFE
COMMITTEE**



Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, March 18th from Noon to 5:45 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board on the way to the fellowship hall to be a kind and welcoming presence to all who come to donate, or to assist with set up or clean up!

Compassion Sunday is on on April 24th. We are going to be updating our Compassion International Sponsor board. If you are currently sponsoring a child for Compassion, please pass along their information (name, age, location) and a picture to the church office during the month of March.

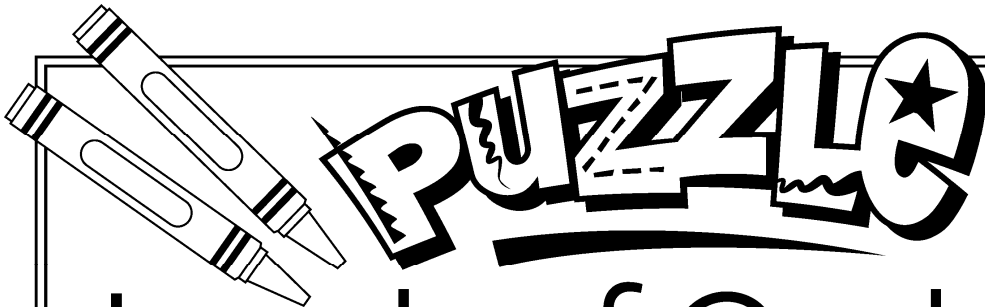


March is a Cookie Drive Month! Please help us restock our Fellowship Time cookie stash by grabbing an extra pack or two this month while you're shopping. Simply drop off in the church kitchen during the week or on a Sunday morning. Our kitchen crew and kiddos are grateful!



Young at Heart will meet for "Brunch"
at Café Miele, 5200 Portage Rd. on March 15th at 10:00am.
You can arrange your own carpool if you want.
Questions? See Lana or Jerry Loedeman



For the Kids



Lamb of God

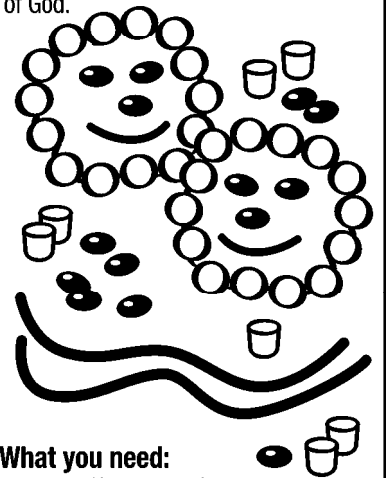
 John the Baptist knew Jesus was the Messiah — and offered a special greeting when he saw Jesus. 

Directions: Cut apart the squares and arrange them in a rectangle in numerical order, starting with #1 in the top left and going across to #7. Continue building four more rows of seven squares each, to reveal John 1:29, NIV.

1	2 "... Look,	25	4 Lamb	30	16 sin
8	33	27	12 the	23	18 the
29	6 God,	32	20	10 takes	34
24	17 of	5 of	19 world!"	22	11 away
3 the	31	26	9 who	13	15
14	7	28	35	21	

LITTLE LAMBS

Make these cute treats as a reminder that Jesus our Savior is also the Lamb of God.



What you need:

- Vanilla cupcakes
- Vanilla frosting
- Butter knife
- Mini marshmallows
- Jellybeans
- Red licorice

What you do:

1. Bake and frost the cupcakes.
2. Place marshmallows around the edge of each cupcake.
3. Cut green or blue jellybeans in half and place two on each cupcake as eyes. Cut pink jellybeans in half and place one below each pair of eyes as a nose.
4. Cut thin strips of licorice, and place one on each cupcake as a mouth.
5. Enjoy!

LAMB *of* GOD

The stirring oratorio *Lamb of God* returns to Chenery Auditorium in Kalamazoo for a third year. The production is made up of more than 200 volunteers representing over 50 different local churches from the Kalamazoo area. Included are also performers from the Kalamazoo Symphony, Kalamazoo Philharmonia, WMU Symphony Orchestra, MSU Concert Orchestra, US Army Band, and many others. They all come together in unity to powerfully retell the final days of Jesus Christ and His resurrection through singing, orchestration, and scripture-based narration.

Members from our very own choir have participated in the production each year, some for all three years. This year's participants include Karen Schaap, Marian Veld, and Sara Poehlman.

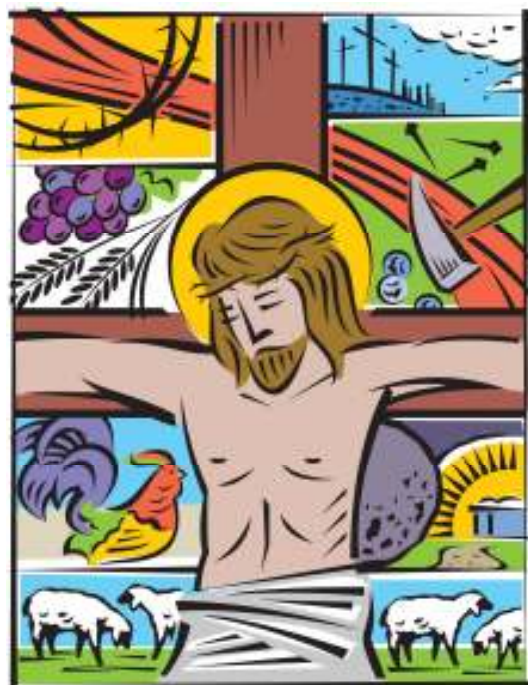
Here are a few quotes from the director, Jen Randall:

"Lamb of God is not sponsored by any individual church. What brings us together is a shared love of beautiful music and devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ."

"Imagine what this could be in the future- the foundation for a community-wide Easter celebration that is as eagerly anticipated each year as some of our long-standing Christmas traditions."

Tickets are on sale now for \$15 through the website lambofgodkalamazoo.com or by calling the Miller Auditorium box office. There are two performances to choose from- Friday March 11 and Saturday March 12, both at 8:00 pm.

A note from Sara Poehlman: Music is a universal language, and the composition of *Lamb of God* is very powerful and moving. This is a great opportunity to invite friends or family members who do not know Jesus as their personal Savior. As a returning participant in the choir, it has been a joy to hear our director share with us the testimonies of people who have come to know Jesus through our performances. I myself have been moved to tears even while singing one of my favorite lines to express the gratitude of what Jesus did for us on the cross- "Ten thousands gift will I employ, to show my praise, my thanks, my joy! All of my life, yea all my days, still not enough to sing Thy praise!"



THE LAMB OF GOD

Hope Church Committees & Leadership

Church Life

Members: *Allison Dillon, Judy Larsen, Ken Larsen, Paul Witteveen, Karen Schaap

Mission: minister especially to the social and recreational needs in the life of the congregation, including planning & facilitating fellowship activities.

Congregational Care

Members: *Gayle DeYoung, Sue Johnston, Linda Joy, Kathy Rozek, Gretchen Rustenholtz, Ron Stolk, Markie VanPutten, Rick Wielopolski

Mission: minister especially to the spiritual, emotional and physical needs in the life of the congregation, including small groups, prayer chain, and a care network for congregant members.

Education

Members: Shauna Collison, Julie Dintaman, *Karla Durian, Betsy Frens, Ed Moore, Sue VanderMeer, Don VanLandegent Jr.

Mission: implement ways and means for congregants to become firmly grounded in the Word of God through Scripture study, including Sunday school, Family Night, and other educational programs.

Executive

Members: specifically comprised solely of Sr. Pastor and consistory VP, Clerk, Chair of deacons, and Treasurer

Mission: carry on the duties of consistory including giving direction to all paid staff and serve as a sounding board for the pastor

Mission

Members: Denny Collison, Mike Koets, Lana Loedeman, *Jeff Offringa, Karen Schaap, Steve Thomas

Mission: initiate and promote all activities pertaining to missions including contacting missionaries and mission causes that receive our support.

Outreach

Members: John Beeman, Joel Bell, Elaine Breuer, Laura Cousineau, *Scott Poehlman, Shayne Stolk

Mission: promote and prepare the congregation to an effective ministry of evangelism, including visitor follow-up and assimilation, public relations and promotion of disciple-making ministries to the local neighborhood and community.

Property

Members: Matt Bronsink, *Kathy Doornbos, Don VanDonselaar

Mission: general oversight of building and grounds, maintenance and equipment including supervising the church calendar for use of church property.

Worship

Members: Al Apotheker, Doug Charles, Tom Drenth, Kent Frens, Pat Gernaat, Heather Offringa, Sara Poehlman, *Nancy Schripsema, Allison Dillon, Marian Veld, Sue Williams

Mission: plan and implement all musical activities for service, ensure flowers or arrangements are in sanctuary, recruit and train ushers and greeters and ensure sound equipment is operational, including taping of services.

*indicates the committee Chair

Consistory 2016

Elders & their congregational group

John Beeman	N-S
Tom Drenth	A-F
Linda Joy	T-Z
Ed Moore, (VP)	T-Z
Kathy Rozek	G-M
Steve Thomas	N-S
Mari Wielopolski, (Clerk)	G-M
Paul Witteveen	A-F

Deacons

Matt Bronsink
Kathy Doornbos
Larry Gillum, (Chair)
Jeff Offringa
Karen Schaap
Don VanderMeer, (Treasurer)
Don VanLandegent Jr.

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We're on the web!

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