From Pastor Earnest E. Tate’s Corner
September/October 2017

During Hurricane Irma, our church was a shelter for 7 people including a homeless person. The person introduced himself as Jason. He came into our church wet and hungry. We fed the young man. Our volunteer Director of Ministry, Ellen King went to her car and got a change of clothes for him. Jason did not leave after receiving dry clothes and food. We listened to his story and he participated in our Worship Service that was prepared for Hurricane Irma. These actions can serve as an example for others to be inviting, accepting and supportive of all people.

We can support others by having a listener’s ears. As Jason was visiting with us, were we listening to his story or were we just hearing a voice with many tales? Jason shared with us that:

- his mother had 18 children and he had 35
- he rescued President Bush from Iraq
- his father’s name is Mr. T.
- he was travelling to New Orleans, Louisiana on his bicycle

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I believe that Jason wants to be heard and loved. Why would I make such a statement? Well, on Tuesday evening, September 26, I received a call on my cell phone while I was in my office. The man on line said, “Granddad! This is your grandson! This is your grandson!” I said, “who?” He said, “this is your oldest grandson.” Again, I said, “who?” He said, “this is your grandson Jason. I am surprised that you do not recognize your grandson Jason!” I said, “I do not have a grandson named Jason.” He apologized and said, “is this Tate”, and I said, “yes.” Finally, he said, “you sound just like my granddad.” Then, he hung up.

Prior to leaving the church on Monday, I gave Jason one of my business cards. I believe that Jason was lonely on Tuesday and he wanted someone to have a conversation with. What are the odds that someone would call my cell number and ask to speak with their granddad named Tate.

We live in a world where many are impoverished, while others have abundance. Are we accountable for the accumulation of the stuff that we have? Do we have enough? How much is enough? Is it sufficient? Do we need more? Do we need a surplus? This beautiful poem sums it up well:

**I Wish You Enough**

*When you say you wish the other person enough, you want that person to have a life filled with just enough good things to sustain them.*

*I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright,*  
*no matter how gray the day may appear.*

*I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun even more.*

*I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive and everlasting,*  
*I wish you enough pain so that even the smallest of joys*  
*In your life will appear bigger.*

*I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting,*  
*I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.*

*I wish you enough hellos to get you through the final good-bye.*  
*I wish you enough!*

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Talking about compassion is a lot easier than being compassionate. We say that compassion is a virtue, but in practice, compassion can be a real inconvenience, sometimes a downright pain. The word itself comes from two Latin words that together mean "to suffer with." To be compassionate is to share the suffering of another person. It is to participate in the other person's pain. Let's face it. To feel someone’s pain, is that something that we promote in our culture? When we have a choice, do we prefer to keep our distance from pain and avoid confronting suffering? Do we like to deal with things that may be depressing to us? We are not unique.

Jesus felt their need. He said, “I am unwilling to send them away hungry.” He did not try to evaluate whether they were truly needy or worthy of his help. Jesus recognized the suffering of the people. He had compassion. Jesus did something to help the hungry. If the compassion of God is within us, we will feel the pain of others as our own pain. I believe this shape the way we look at our own lives.

There is more suffering in the world than we can possibly address. Compassion can be frustrating. We may feel that our efforts to alleviate the problems of hunger, homelessness, disease, and other misfortunes count for nothing. But that is not so.

Our acts of compassion are signs that God uses us to show the world that life does not have to be unjust. We may not be able to feed the whole world, but every time a hungry person is fed, that is a sign of us working in the kingdom of God. We may not be able to house all the homeless, but every time we work to provide assistance for one more family, that is a sign of us working in the kingdom of God.

The magnitude of the problems around the world should not paralyze us. God can use us to promote God’s work of compassion. I wish Jason enough happiness to keep his spirit alive and everlasting. During Hurricane Irma, Jason received the love and compassion that reflect our mission at Hope Lutheran Church. Jesus loves us.  Amen.

Pastor Tate
The Origin of Lutheranism

Protestant Denominations

The Early Christian Church
- Roman Catholic Church
- Quakerism (Society of Friends)
- Anglicanism/CoE
- Martin Luther, 1517
- Reformed
- Presbyterianism
- Church of Scotland
- Anabaptist
- Mennonite
- Amish
- Southern Baptist Convention
- Baptist
- Seventh Day Adventist

Protestant vs. Catholic

Protestant
- Salvation is the free gift of God, you cannot earn it.
- Only God can forgive sins
- Regular church members help make decisions.

Catholic
- Jesus offers salvation but you must work to get it.
- Popes can forgive sins.
- Only clergy make decisions in the church.
The Church Council meeting was held on August 14th and September 11th, unfortunately we do not have the minutes for the meetings. Look for them in next month’s newsletter.

Next Regular Council Meeting will be October 9, 2017 at 6:00PM.

Hope’s Library

Thanks to Nan Billings for her generous donation to our church library of many cds and dvds recorded by Joyce Meyers, an evangelist. Many of you are familiar with Joyce’s recordings and her television show. Included are three that can be used for self study or group study. They are: “God is Not Mad At You”, a four cd set, “How To Study The Bible”, a dvd, and, “The Power of Words”, this set includes teaching notes. There is a cd, “Let Your Mouth Set The Course of Your Life” and a dvd, “The Power of Words: Six things to say on purpose and Word Power”.

There are dvds about fear, God's words and right thinking, self worth helps from God. Another grouping is on Cds different categories are: The Christian Life, fear, focus on the positive things in life, The Lord our peace, Our Healer, restoring your self worth with God's help, and serving others. Within each group you will find many helps as we all struggle sometimes to live a Christian life. We also received over 50 new books this month. The library is very rich on many topics, it is amazing. I hope you get a chance to check it out.

Visit your library during the week or between services. Checking out a book, cd or dvd is easy, make your choice and then sign the sheet on the table near the bookcases. When you return the book, cd or dvd place it in the plastic box near the sign out sheet.

-Jean Beldin
This month’s veteran’s breakfast will be on October 28th at Perkins at 8:30 a.m. Come and join us in this wonderful fellowship. All are welcome!

Tutoring will be available in math and some science disciplines during the upcoming school year free of charge. Sessions generally are recommended to last 30-45 minutes depending on the pupil. To arrange for tutoring please schedule sessions with Steve Gambill at (772) 919-2322.

Our next WELCA meeting will be a brown bag lunch on Sat., Oct. 21, at noon in the Narthex at Hope. We will discuss our bake table at the Pig Roast, our luncheon menu for our Christmas lunch on Wed. Dec. 13, at noon at Pietro's on the River, and a new President for WELCA at the end of this year.

Best wishes,
Margaret

Memory Verse of the Month

24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10: 24-25

Ecumenical Worship/Bible Study

An ecumenical worship service can be one of the most spiritually uplifting experiences for any Christian. It opens avenues of understanding so that we can share stories of how our particular expression of faith in worship feeds our souls, and gives us a chance to learn from the experiences of others. Come join us on Thursdays at 6 pm
10th Annual Pig Roast

Save the date October 28th, 10th Annual Pig Roast with Trunk or Treat, and costume contest. We are seeking vendors for the event and families to decorate the trunks of their vehicles for the community children. Contact the church and leave a message at 335-4673 if you can decorate your vehicle or want to be a vendor at this event. We are offering one free adult meal ticket (A VALUE OF $10) to the Pig Roast on the same day to the first 20 people to sign up and attend to decorate their vehicles for Trunk or Treat. Please call the church office and leave a message to sign up. 772-335-4673. **The kids love to dress up and come to trunk or treat, let’s make it special for them.** No cash value, one adult meal ticket only.

We are also in need of coolers, tent canopies, bakers for the bake sale, cooks for the potato and coleslaw recipes. People to set up and to take down. Look for the sign-up sheets in the narthex or call the church office and leave a message. Don’t forget your costume!
Thank you to Debbie Pinto for all her hard work and initiative in organizing the clean-up of the inside of the church. Also to Lusell and Margaret for cleaning up the kitchen, and for the Sellas’s for all their help in making the youth room look like a youth room, it’s beautiful!

Sound System

To date we have received a total of $1,717 towards the purchase of replacing the sound system. $260 was spent on new cables to keep the system operating, leaving us with $1457. We need at least $4,000 to get the system running properly. This would be done by replacing only that which no longer works. The cost to replace everything with new up to date equipment would be $24,000, which is way beyond our means.

Hurricane Damage

There was some damage to our shed during the hurricane, and $200 was needed to put it back on its pilings. The congregation was asked to help defray the costs and $386 was collected. The remaining $186 will be used to replace the skirting, along the bottom, with a solid one to keep the wind out as well as the animals.

BINGO

BINGO every Tuesday at Hope Lutheran Church! Doors open at 5:30 pm and BINGO starts at 6:30 pm. $20.00 Game Package. Also available: Bonanza, Special and 50/50.

Major Gift Campaign

To date of the $109,000 pledged, $49,713.36 has been received. The campaign ends December 31st, giving us three months to meet our pledges. If you haven’t pledged and wish to give, there are red envelopes on the information table. Please use them for your gift.

Reformation Potluck Supper and Movie

500 years celebration

Wednesday, October 18th
6:00pm - Martin Luther - Empires

Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex

Thursday, October 19th – Discussion of the Movie – 6pm
Church Clean-up Day

On the second Saturday of each month we will have a “clean-up day”. We are asking for volunteers to come to the church between 9 & 11 to help with jobs that need to be completed. We need anyone that can help. Come help on October 14th. There will be a light lunch following.

Here are some pictures from the September clean up after Hurricane Irma. Thank you to all who came out and helped! I know I missed a couple of people in the pics, sorry!

Even Sadie had a good time!  

Emily Sellas is behind the tree using the blower!
A Joyous Weekend

On September 9th, Hope Lutheran church became an emergency shelter to six evacuees during Hurricane Irma. These six people, friends and members of the church, who for reasons of a mandatory evacuation of their homes or just not feeling safe in their own homes, came to Hope seeking shelter, and we opened our doors.

We started getting ready on Saturday afternoon, two of the evacuees, were picked up at their homes and brought to the church. Mattresses were brought in, and set up in the classrooms. Food, water, and plenty of snacks were set up on the table for all to share. Pastor Tate also came and spent the duration of Hurricane Irma, using his office as his bedroom. As a true shepherd, he did not feel right staying in his own home, knowing that there were members of Hope that could use his encouragement and ministering. We all settled in and waited for the storm. We made pasta for dinner on the first night, and pancakes for dinner on Sunday night.

While we were preparing for breakfast on Sunday morning, a stranger came to the door, in the pouring rain, on a bicycle! We invited him in, and gave him some food, and some dry clothing. He worshiped the Lord with us and told us his story. We listened to him and tried to make him feel welcome. After a couple of hours, he got up and started taking his wet clothes and drying them off on the floor with a towel. He was getting ready to leave. We tried to convince him that he should spend the night, and that we had plenty of room, and that there was a storm out there. He said he had to go. We gave him some food and water that he put in his wet backpack, and he got on his bicycle and left, in the torrential pouring rain.

The weekend was quite an experience. Learning about each other, the meals we ate together, the fellowship, the food, the movies, watching the storm from a front row seat with no boards on the windows, and being able to worship the Lord and give Him all the glory for keeping us safe and for sending us a person who needed someone to listen to him. It was a gathering place where love, kindness, tolerance, and generosity were unconditional. Quite the weekend….a weekend we will never forget.
September Birthdays

9/10  Kim Doebrich
9/11  Gayle Gambill
9/14  Bert Cain
9/16  Shirley Jackson
     Glenn Doebrich
9/20  Judy Kenninger
9/23  Fisher Nelson
     Toni Gentry
9/24  Nancy Faillaci
9/25  Dolores Hart
     Josef Glass
     Kate Stack
     Matteo Velez
9/26  Tommy Barr
9/27  Hella Cushing
     Anna Ulrich
9/29  Pat Reynolds
9/30  Jean Nelson

September Anniversaries

9/23  John & Ellen King (45)

2017 Treasure Coast Christian Men’s Event
Saturday, October 7th
St. Bernadette Catholic Church
350 NW California Blvd, PSL

8:00 - 9:00 Optional “Full-Breakfast”
(Free-Will offering)

9:00 - 11:00 Program Theme:
“Who is My Neighbor”
based on Bible passage Luke 10: 25-37

Opening Speaker
Tommy Neiman
SLC Fire Fighter, Retired

Panel Discussion with Panelists...
Dr. David Thompson Chaplain
SLC Sheriff’s Dept., St. Lucie County Jail

Rev. David Dangerfield
St. Andrew Lutheran Church

Fr. Victor Ulto
St. Bernadette Catholic Church

Rev. Dr. Earl Hendricks
Family of Faith Worship Center

Closing Speaker
Pastor Vito Bitetto
Good Samaritan Ministries

Men Gathering Together in Faith
### October Birthdays

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The flower chart is in the usher area. Please select your favorite date. We have several openings for the next few months. Flowers can be sponsored for $30.00 per Sunday. If you want to pay for only one bouquet you can do so by contacting Diane in the office. The cost is $15.00. Two families can sponsor flowers on the same Sunday. Please place your money in the offering clearly marked for flower’s including your name, or turn it into the office. If you have any questions please contact Diane Calain in the office on Wednesday or Thursday.
Salient Points in the Sermon

Rev. Dr. Earnest E. Tate, Pastor

Salient points in the sermon, Matthew 14:13-21 on August 6, 2017

• Jesus provides sustenance for a multitude of people. It is a reminder of our dependence upon God for all our daily needs. It is an occasion for reminding us that God is our provider for both our physical and our spiritual needs. During Holy Communion, is it a time for us to be alone with the Lord, free from life's ordinary distractions and to reaffirm our dependence on God?

• As we gather for the supper this morning, it can be an opportunity to remember our role of going out into the community to invite all people to the Lord's Table. When Jesus fed the five thousand, what is made clear is that five loaves and two fish are more than enough. In the hands of Jesus, five loaves and two fish are an abundant. Where Jesus sees possibility, we may see a shortage.

• Some are adamant about restricting immigration in our country because the immigrants will come here and confiscate our jobs and take away what we have accumulated because we believe it is rightfully ours. Is there enough for everyone? How can we hold onto what we have? Do we secure our wealth by hoarding onto it, protecting it? Unfortunately, the side effects of hoarding can be stressful, greed, stinginess, and aggression behavior. Jesus was compassionate.

• If the compassion of God is within us, we will feel the pain of others as our own pain. I believe this shape the way we look at our own lives. Socrates reminds us to “Know thy self”.

• The magnitude of the problems around the world should not paralyze us. God can use us to promote God’s work of compassion. Jesus loves us. Amen.

Salient points in the sermon, Matthew 15: [10-20]21-28 on August 20, 2017

• Jesus’ love and healing power are not just for the "insiders," we who have God's word, we who have come forward to follow him, his disciples, we who attend worship regularly, we who volunteer regularly, Jesus’ healing power overflows even to outsiders. There is an abundance of grace in Jesus for everyone. There is hope.
• The saddest of words can be, "We had hoped." Hope lost can also be a life of depression. Are we conditioned to believe in self-help? When we come to some problem in life, some detour or dead end, do we pump ourselves up, and put on a happy face, and move forward with a positive attitude? For some, that's enough." Pulling ourselves up by our own bootstraps," was the philosophy of Present Ronald Reagan and others.

• In Dr. Norman Vincent Peale’s book, “Power of Positive Thinking”, he had a simple message. He said, “You can if you think you can. You can have hope for tomorrow if you will try hard to have hope for tomorrow.” Dr. Peale advises his readers on how to summon up hope for challenging times of life.

• When the chips are down, and we are at life's dead ends, do we call on God? Well, God is faithful. God is trustworthy. God is true to God’s word.

• God is faithful. Though we sometimes fail to keep our promises to God, God never fails to keep the promises that God has made to us. God is trustworthy. God is true to God’s word.

Salient points in the sermon, Matthew 16:13-20 on August 27, 2017

• Quoting Plato, “I know not how I may seem to others, but to myself I am but a small child wandering upon the vast shores of knowledge, every now and then finding a small bright pebble to content myself with” The world is busy putting the make on us, converting us to a philosophy of life, all the while telling us that it wants us to "think for ourselves" and "make up our own mind". The understanding of our culture is the sole center of our meaning.

• Who are we giving our life to? The answer to that question hangs the significance of our hope. Who is Jesus? Who is he for me; for you? Is it time for a self-examination? Is it time for an answer? This confession of Peter is a sign that the words of Jesus were being indoctrinated in the lives of his followers. We are witnessing a move in the truth. This truth must be acknowledged within us. There is a difference between having the knowledge of truth and the truth within us.

• The good news is that Jesus puts before us the question, “Who do we say He is?” Is Jesus the Lord of our life? Is Jesus a part of our faith journey? "How has our life changed since Jesus came into our life?

• The response that Peter shared in our text suggests that each of us must offer a personal reply to who Jesus is to us. It is not enough to respond to Jesus' question with what other people think or to repeat what other people say. Peter's answer, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." That is Peter’s confession. We too must make our own confession, "You are the Christ." Is this our confession? Is our confession of Jesus as Christ in our life revealing to others?
Salient points in the sermon, Matthew 18:15-20 on September 10, 2017
• In today’s gospel, Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus gives us instructions on what to do when another member of the church sins against us. When someone has been wronged in a congregation, the person who offends is not to be ignored, he or she should be confronted and dealt with in a faithful way. For some congregations, the instruction given in Matthew 18:15-20 may seem a distance from the realities of life.
• How do we handle events like this in our congregation? Do we react with negativity? Do we ignore the hurt? Do we silently nurture our wounds? Do we rage in our pain and wait for an opportunity to get revenge? Do we just simply withdraw and sneak away in our anger and remove ourselves from the congregation?
• Our congregation was once in a crisis and survival mode with conflicts but we are allowing the Holy Spirit to help in controlling our behavior. We all feel good about Hope Lutheran Church and we see a positive future. We have work to be done and the motivation to go forward. A Mutual Ministry has been established with a team of 7 members (4 members of the 9:00 a.m. and 3 members of the 11:00 a.m. Worship Services). Guidelines for discernment and decision making are being developed regarding misunderstandings, concerns, issues and/or problems within our congregation. The team has not met during the past year and prayerfully they may never have to meet.
• In today’s Gospel Jesus says there will be disagreements, there will be hurts and wrongs committed in the church, and when that happens we are to care enough about our sister or brother to respond in love to set things right.” There is a word for me in the text. There may be a word for you also. Have we ever said to ourselves, “I wish we could get beyond all these squabbles and get on with the real business of the church?” Maybe getting along with one another, settling our disputes in a Christ-like way, is the real business of the church.

Salient points in the sermon, Matthew 18:21-35 on September 17, 2017
• Joseph could have easily had his brothers punished for the way they had treated him years before. They had thrown Joseph into a pit where he could have starved to death. They reported to his father, Jacob that he was dead. But Joseph breaks the cycle of revenge, “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth,” and he forgives his brothers. Joseph said to them, ‘Do not be afraid!’
• Speaking of forgiveness, there is nothing in our Gospel text that indicates how Peter arrived at the number seven as his limit. Some have said that there may have been a rabbinical tradition of requiring forgiveness up to three times. With this in mind, Peter is said to have generously doubled the minimum number and then added one more for good measure.
• What do you say to people who survived the terrorist attack and lost their jobs? We can say, “There is hope in Jesus Christ. God will provide for our needs. All in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it, John 14:14. “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory”, Matthew 6:9-13.
• When others offend us, will we say, “Father, forgive them. They do not know what they are doing.” Jesus loves us. Jesus keeps on loving us regardless of how we have behaved in the past. Jesus just keeps on forgiving us and loving us. Is that Good News. Yes, Jesus loves us.

Salient points in the sermon, Matthew 20:1-16 on September 24, 2017
• The apostle Paul encouraged the Corinthians to "give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58). There is plenty of work to do in the kingdom. No matter when a person comes to Christ, no matter what abilities that person possesses or do not possess, there is work that he or she can do.
• Do we complain as we do work in God’s kingdom? Is our complaining valid? Do we complain because we have high expectations for our church? Do we believe that, in all our work, we must give of our best to the master? Sometimes we must work in some very difficult situations. Complaining can often be the result of an attempt to relieve ourselves of any responsibility for my own situation.
• In our reading, the landowner wants as many people as possible to join in the harvest. Rather than grumble about the lack of fairness in the situation, there is an opportunity for the earlier workers to rejoice in knowing they have been paid a day’s wage but also that the generosity of the landowner is making it possible for others to feed their families. We are called to participate in God’s mission of spreading the gospel and transforming the world toward greater justice and mercy.
• Martin Luther was a transformer of justice and mercy. He was a German monk, theologian, university professor, priest, father of Protestantism, and church reformer whose ideas started the Protestant Reformation. Martin Luther was also a complainer which led to the writing of the Ninety-Five Theses against the contemporary practice of the church with respect to indulgences.
• We are blessed to have this morning Karen Harris to give a presentation on her travel to Wittenberg, Germany several months ago. Karen visited many places that Luther had journeyed.

Members in Residential Care
Inge Brooks - Emerald Health
Pricilla Carpenter - The Gardens

Members of Our Armed Forces
LC Scott Strickler USA
SPC Cody Allen USA  Afghanistan
Master Sgt. John King USAF
A1C Ryan Killing USAF
Reece Tucker USMC

Please thank the many people at Hope for prayers cards and get well wishes. The answered prayers are just amazing. We are so thankful for our family at Hope. We miss you all.

-Dick & Diane Woodcock
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THREE HOURS OF PAIN
For every 3 hours of pain you will get 3 hours of sleep.

Kathy Ann’s
8709 South Federal Hwy
Port St. Lucie

The Voice of Hope 18
We are asking anyone interested in singing with the ADULT CHOIR to please see Karen Keat or any choir member for information.

We meet again starting in September


God, may our hearts be grateful, and may our words be true. May our songs be noble and draw us deep in you. That singing holy stories, more holy we become, transposed into like spirits to be your loving home.

If you would like to be in the BELL CHOIR, please see Karen Keat for information, 772-237-5363. We will meet again in September.
Called to spread God’s Word and to lead the community to Christ

If you do not have an e-mail address or access to online we will gladly mail you an issue. Please contact the church office.

Click & go to www.hopelutheranpsl.org