



In This Issue

At Hope..... 4 pages



From the Desk of Pastor Richard

When the weather begins to turn warmer and the days grow longer, I can't help but think of major league baseball. The COVID-19 pandemic has limited the ability and desire of sports fans to attend games in-person. Because of this, most fans have resigned themselves to the reality that they have to watch or listen to games from home. But, for my money, there's nothing quite like the experience of attending a ball game in-person. One of the family events I most loved when I was a kid was a trip to see the Philadelphia Phillies play. While the games were enjoyable, I most looked forward to a visit to the concession stand. Most people associate baseball with peanuts or hot dogs, but for me, the snack of choice was a soft pretzel.

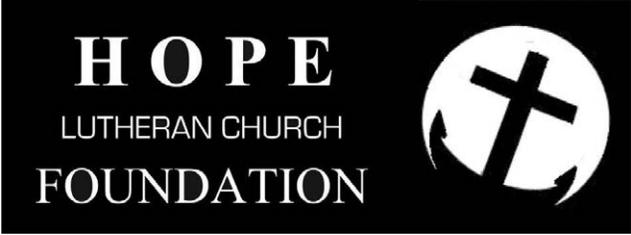
There's an interesting story behind my favorite baseball food. The pretzel was historically a Lenten symbol. Before we get to how the pretzel is related to Lent, a brief history of Lent is in order. In the first century, Lent lasted just forty hours. The forty-hour observance was to remind people of the time that Jesus spent in the tomb. Easter was celebrated after Lent, which ended at 3:00 A.M. Imagine waking up for that sunrise service! Later, the forty-hours of Lent became what we now know as Holy Week, and Lent became the thirty-six days immediately preceding Holy Week. Why thirty-six days? This number was chosen because thirty-six is a tithe, or ten percent, of a year. In the eighth century, four days were added to Lent to make the season a total of forty days. This change probably seemed appropriate since Jesus spent forty days fasting in the wilderness. The forty days of Lent, which we observe to this day, are an opportunity for us to refocus on the cross of Christ Jesus.

Now back to the pretzel and what it has to do with Lent. As far back as the fifth century, Christians would make a Lenten snack that consisted of flour, salt, and water. They would mix these ingredients into a dough that they would shape to look like two crossed arms. This snack, which came to be known as the "pretzel" centuries later, was only eaten during Lent. The pretzel served as a reminder to Christians that they should pray continually. We, too, are invited to pray regularly during the season of Lent as we prepare to witness once more God's great sacrifice through Christ Jesus. May God bless your continued Lenten journey.

Peace and Joy!

Pastor Richard

Pastor Richard



Your support for the Hope Foundation helps to fund missions and ministries locally and throughout the world. One of the grants we awarded in our November meeting was to support the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

This organization is using the platform of sport to help coaches and athletes into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. This grant will be used for their "Huddles" small group Bible study and devotion. Their intention is to reach every middle school, high school and college in Lee County.

If you are not familiar with the Hope Foundation, or if you have questions about our endeavors, visit the church website or contact our Chairman Dean Maggs for more information.

Peace be with you-

Susan Schwinn
Secretary, Hope Lutheran Church Foundation

Sunday Morning Worship
will be posted on line at 9:00 A.M.
for those that are unable to attend.

Contribution Envelopes
are available for pick-up.

To aid the check in process on Sunday mornings, we are encouraging you to pick up your envelopes during the week at the church office. You can also opt to have them mailed to your home by calling the church office (239) 992-6952 and letting us know. We will gladly mail them to you.

Hope Lutheran/Bonita Senior Center
Programs March 2021

FUNch Bunch Park and Picnic
Monday, March 1, 11:30am-1:00pm
Bring a chair and sit outside your car *socially distanced* and enjoy **FREE lunch and Entertainment** at Hope Lutheran Church, 25999 Old 41 Rd., Bonita Springs
sponsored by - Shifting Sands Adult Day Center
CALL TO REGISTER: Sheila @ 239-919-2295 or sheila@hopebonita.org

Virtual VITA
(Tax Preparations for Seniors)
Tuesday, March 2, 10:00am-11:00 am
with George Wondolowski
CALL TO REGISTER: Sheila @ 239-919-2295 or sheila@hopebonita.org
To join the Video Meeting, go to: meet.google.com/fye-dnqf-suo
To join by phone instead, dial (US) +1 484-416-2561 and enter this PIN: 329 343 151#

Virtual Lee Health
(Telehealth and its current advantages)
Monday, March 8, 1:00pm-2:00pm
with Jonathan Witenko
CALL TO REGISTER: Sheila @ 239-919-2295 or sheila@hopebonita.org
Join Webex Meeting:
<https://leememorialhealthsystem.webex.com/leememorialhealthsystem/onstage/g.php?MTID=ea4b05c87c2e845edd42b80f8096ea076>

Virtual Lighthouse of SWFL
(Living with Low Vision)
Monday, March 15, 10:00am-11:00am
with Jessica MacDonald, MSW, LCSW
CALL TO REGISTER: Sheila @ 239-919-2295 or sheila@hopebonita.org
Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3951240519>

Virtual Alzheimer's Association
(Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia)
Monday, March 22, 1:00pm-2:00pm
with Amy Schenk, RN, BSN, MSED
TO REGISTER: <https://bit.ly/34Pyz4G>



BIRTHDAYS

Gabriel Browning	March 1
Tom Meyer	March 2
Marylyn Otto	March 3
Martie White	March 3
Doug Pedersen	March 4
Beatrice Maaseen	March 5
Mike Rohrbach	March 5
Janet Ede	March 6
Chuck Fieldman	March 8
Jim Foerster	March 11
Barbara Bambule	March 13
Whitney Curry	March 14
Sandy Nelson	March 14
Rob Kolstedt	March 17



Bill Parker	March 18
Glen Brandt	March 19
Susan Little	March 19
Sandy Brown	March 20
Jackson Abel	March 23
Joe Burton	March 23
David Hughes	March 24
Ruth Anderson	March 26
Bob Wilson	March 28
Janet Langlands	March 29
Paul Daniska	March 30
Diane Patch	March 30
Thomas Ramsey	March 30
Bob Reiske	March 31

ANNIVERSARIES

George and Maureen Nedved	March 2
Bob and Marlene Bartels	March 3
Margo and Steve Wirtjes	March 12
Gene and Marie Morton	March 15



Greg and Heather Sorrells	March 15
Corey and Wanda Nyhus	March 18
Carol and Charles Paavo	March 21
Dee and Mike Peet	March 27

NEWS FROM THE RABE FAMILY SERVING IN ETHIOPIA

Timket—Ethiopian Epiphany

January brought the annual celebration of Timket or Ethiopian Epiphany. While all the Christians celebrate the holiday in Ethiopia, it is the Ethiopian Orthodox who have the biggest celebration. This elaborate celebration lasts two days, and closes down streets so that folks can “make way” for the priests that carry the Talbot (a model of the Ark of the Covenant). Large crowds of people of all ages walk alongside with the priests, along with many choirs who process from church to local river where they will then spend the night. Why go to a local river? Because this Orthodox celebration focuses on Jesus’ baptism in the river Jordan!

The people along with the priests will spend the night next to the river where choirs will continue to sing and people will then gather for a worship service and the river. The following day the priests, with the Talbot, will process back to the church.

Each year when I watch the Ticket celebration I am reminded of a couple of things, first the celebration points us to Christ’s baptism, and second it is the start of a new academic semester! And, thanks be to God it is a new semester! I am excited that we are able to be in the classroom and teach our students about Christ and the free gift of life and salvation! Spring semester is under way!

We thank God for you!

Your partners in the Gospel,
Mark, Stefanie, Noah, Gabriella, Julianna and Matthias

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

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STAY CONNECTED WITH HOPE'S WEBSITE:

www.hope-bonita.org



SUNDAY MORNING CHURCH SERVICES

Please make a reservation to attend by going on online to our website

<https://hlcbonita.org/worship-reservation>

by calling the church office at 239-992-6952

or calling Dianna at 239-410-3427

Plan to arrive a few minutes early | Wear a mask

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY WORSHIP 5:30PM

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00AM & 10:30AM

