

THE JOURNAL

JOURNEY OF HOPE

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“Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love! Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great compassion! Wash me completely clean of my guilt; purify me from my sin!” Psalm 51:1-2 CEB

INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE

We are excited to announce that applications for our annual scholarships are now open! This is a fantastic opportunity for talented and driven students to unlock new possibilities and pursue their educational dreams.

Journey of Hope is committed to supporting the next generation of leaders, and changemakers. Our scholarships aim to recognize and reward outstanding students who have demonstrated excellence in academics, leadership, and community involvement.

Blankenship Endowed Scholarship is open to any person who is a member or attendee of Journey of Hope for at least 6 months prior to the scholarship application deadline and has been accepted to a 4-year accredited college or university seeking an undergraduate degree.

Merrill Scholarship is open to members who have graduated high school and have been accepted into a 2- or 4-year college degree program, or trade school.

The deadline to submit your application is March 31. Applications can be found on our website under *Around the Community* in the “Share” tab. Questions? Contact Pastor Jarrod.

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PASTOR

Why does it seem like we just leave the Christmas and Advent season only to find ourselves staring at the beginning of Lent? It is such a dichotomy of events, joy and celebration followed by reflective and confessional. But then again, this is the church year that we’ve known for most of our lives. During Advent we prepared for a celebration through hopeful anticipation. The season of Lent is not that much different as we prepare for a celebration through prayerful reflection, sacrifice, and confession.

“*I just wonder what will happen when we all, once again, start knocking on the doors of heaven asking God for another great movement.*”

As we continue through this year with a renewed focus on growing in our faith, I wonder what that might look like for you during this season of Lent. Are there spiritual disciplines which you could begin or renew? Do you want to take the next step in membership, discipleship, or just a deeper knowledge of the faith that you proclaim? If so, what could you get involved with?

Maybe you are hearing a calling to help others in their faith journey. Is

there a small group that you could start, one that will offer space for others in this community to go deeper in their faith? You could also be hearing a call to increase your service, both within the church and within our communities. What are those next steps that you feel like you should take to increase your service?

Or you might be sensing a call but aren’t sure what it might be. I wonder if taking some time this Lent season to discern where God is leading would benefit you. A time of fasting is usually a good time to turn our focus from the comforts of life so that we are able to hear the still small voice of God. As you prepare for Ash Wednesday and the

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COMFORT QUILT, PT II By: Jason Princer

Back in November I told you about finding the Comfort Quilt that originated in Oelwein, Iowa, near where I had previously served. It was made by Ruth Schlitter, the mother of Dale Schlitter, a former member of Good Shepherd who now lives in Huntley. I called and visited with Dale after finding the quilt.

He talked about his mother making the quilt and sharing it, along with the journal, with people needing care and attention. Ruth would visit and pray with folks when she delivered the quilt. Some of the folks receiving the quilt and journal were ill or having medical procedures, some simply received the quilt as a blessing from Ruth.

The last entry prior to the quilt and journal coming to us was written by Sue and Laura Schlitter, the wife and daughter of Dale's brother, Dean. Dean served as a pastor in the same district I did in Northeast Iowa. Dale's hope, in gifting it to Good Shepherd, was that the tradition and original purpose of the quilt would continue in our community.

This gave me an idea. What if we created individual quilt or blanket squares and shared them with our neighbors. What if we went out 2 by 2 and knocked on the doors of our neighbors and gave them a prayer square with a note about how we'd already prayed for them and offer to do so again.

This could help us with one of Journey of Hope's strategic goals for this year, reaching out to young families. I have no idea how many young families are in the neighborhoods behind the church or across Army Trail Road, but there have to be some.

Another idea to address this strategic goal could be considering hosting a neighborhood VBS this summer.

Pray with me about how God is calling us to reach into our local community, starting with the neighborhood.

Blessings,
Jason

SURPASSING EXPECTATIONS

In 2024, our first blood drive showcased remarkable achievements, overcoming the challenges of winter weather. On January 14th (one of the coldest days this season), the Bartlett campus collected an outstanding 29 units, a clear reflection of the community's boundless generosity. As we witnessed the inaugural blood drive at the Elgin Campus on January 25th, expectations were surpassed with a collection of 27 units! This impressive beginning for both campuses not only emphasizes the remarkable giving spirit within our community but also underscores the vital importance of community participation in supporting such crucial initiatives.

The next blood drives are scheduled for Sunday, May 5, from 12:30-4:30pm in Bartlett and on Thursday, May 9, from 9am-3pm in Elgin. Sign up today online at <https://rcblood.org/48Mn50s>.

MINISTRY TEAMS

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CARE TEAM

Mary Summers, Chair
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ENDOWMENT

Gary Newton, Chair
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EDUCATION

Jan Barry, Chair
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TRUSTEES

TBD

UWF

Nancy Gardner, Co-Chair
nandan42@att.net

Robin Luzin, Co-Chair
rluzin@sbcglobal.net

WORSHIP

Mary Becker, Chair
marybecker50@yahoo.com

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN
A TEAM?

Please see Pastor Jarrod or
Jason Princer.

PRAYER LIST

Names listed below that are in **bold** have been added for the first time or the description has been changed. An asterisk (*) before a name denotes a Journey of Hope member. Prayers will stay on the list for one month unless otherwise requested.

Prayers for health and healing:

- *Ernie Chapman
- Angelo DiLiberti (father of Susan Collins), declining health
- *Virginia Fink, strength and determination
- *Chris Freund, eye surgery
- Neighbor of Margo Goodwin, battling breast cancer
- Friend of Marlon, battling stomach cancer
- **Robert Garcia (cousin of Gloria Kellenberger), stomach & pancreatic cancer**
- *Jeff Grajek, multiple myeloma
- Hunter (son of Mary Norris), migraines
- Lynn (friend of Carlene Kellenberger), health issues
- Emily and family (niece of Lisa Eby)
- Marlene Palm, health
- *Jan Paskiewicz, surgery
- Emma Ramos, cancer remission and improved kidney function
- *Connie Schweitzer, health
- *Linda Seyller, health issues
- *Annalise Smoot-Mollsen, cancer treatments
- Lincoln Zick (grandson of Donna Bach)
- Brett Zweig (son of Carol Zweig), ongoing health issues

Prayers for strength, support and comfort:

Prayers for those in continuing care and shut-ins:

- *Linda Seyller, The Sheridan at Tyler Creek

Prayers for family and friends in Military:

- Noah Akemann
- Marcus Baker
- AJ Lewis
- Tay Lewis
- Jayden Meyer
- DJ Lewis
- All family & friends serving in the Law Enforcement

JOIN THE CARE TEAM AND MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT

The strength of our church community is rooted in the care and support we offer one another, and joining the Care Team is an incredible opportunity to be a part of this nurturing environment. Our next meeting is February 7 @ 1pm in Elgin.

Questions? Please contact Mary Summers.

SMALL GROUPS / BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY

A Look at the Holocaust, U1 (Elgin) @ 10:30am
Current Events, M5 (Elgin) @ 10:30am
Sunday School for Kids, L3 (Elgin) @ 10:30am

MONDAY

Walking Bible Study, Sonrise Room (Elgin) @ 7:30am

WEDNESDAY

Morning Bible Study, S. Elgin Panera Bread @ 6am

THURSDAY

Journey with the Living Word, Zoom @ 11am & 7pm
Disciple Bible Study, U1 (Elgin) @ 7pm

CONNECTING THRU OUR CHURCH APP

In a world where technology has become an integral part of our daily lives, our app serves as a tool for anyone seeking to strengthen their spiritual connection and engagement within our community.

Live Streaming and On-Demand Services - All of our worship services are live streamed, enabling you to participate in real-time or catch up on missed services. Online worship bulletins and compass guides are available under the "Watch" tab.

Interactive Community Engagement - Through live chat features during streaming, church members can connect with each other, share thoughts, offer prayers, and foster a sense of community in the digital space.

Church Events - Check out the Events section for information, schedules, and RSVP options.

Digital Giving Made Simple - Through the app you are able to contribute securely and conveniently. One time or recurring gifts can be made using your debit or credit cards, ACH transfers and now through ApplePay.

Timely News and Announcements - Communication is key in any community, and our app provides a direct channel to share news and announcements. Members stay informed about the latest happenings, ensuring they are actively involved in the life of the church.

Deepen Your Spiritual Journey - Our app offers tools for personal spiritual growth through Bible reading plans, online compass guides, and other resources are easily accessible.

The app is available for your smart devices through either GooglePlay or iTunes App Store, on Roku TV and will soon be available on GoogleTV, Apple TV and Fire TV.

Please contact Robyn or Pastor Jarrod if you have any questions or need assistance in accessing the app.

FROM THE DESK ... (cont from page 1)

beginning of a fasting season, reflect on what you might offer to God as a sacrifice so that you will be able to clearly sense the Spirit's guidance in your life.

I wonder if we could all join together during this season of reflection and repentance to truly examine our lives. Spend 15 minutes alone with God, reviewing your day, and celebrate the good things as well as ask forgiveness for the times we fall short. This is called an 'Examen Prayer.' Then, at the end of the examen, spend just a little time asking God to break down walls and open doors to something new in your life and in the life of Journey of Hope. God is still speaking, and God is still doing amazing things here at Journey of Hope. I just wonder what will happen when we all, once again, start knocking on the doors of heaven asking God for another great movement. What else will we celebrate this Easter?

Pastor Jarrod

BOOK CLUB

Join our next literary adventure: "*The Kitchen Front*" by Jennifer Ryan. This novel takes place in England during World War II and focuses on a radio contest in which contestants must come up with recipes using meager supplies. Along the way, readers will encounter romantic subplots and family issues, making it a delightful and engaging read. Join us February 28 @ 4:30pm in the Elgin campus Conference Room.

United Women in Faith will meet on Thursday, February 21, at 1pm in M5. Join us for a special conversation, "Who We Were Prior to Retirement". This promises to be an engaging meeting where we come together to celebrate the experiences that shaped us before we embraced the well-deserved chapter of retirement.





LENT

EMBRACE A SEASON OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

As the days lengthen and spring approaches, we find ourselves on the threshold of Lent—a sacred and contemplative season. Lent is not just about fasting; it's about self-reflection, meditation, and strengthening our bond with God by delving deeper into our faith. We invite you to join us throughout this season for special services and book studies. These offerings are designed to provide guidance, inspiration, and a sense of community throughout the Lenten season.

The Third Day by Tom Berlin:

Join us on a transformative exploration of the resurrection narrative with Tom Berlin's thought-provoking book, "The Third Day." Berlin looks into the profound impact of the resurrection on our lives and challenges us to embrace the resurrection story not just as an event in history but as a powerful force shaping our present and future. This Lenten study promises to inspire and renew your faith as we reflect on the significance of the third day.

Classes will be held throughout the week at a variety of times and locations.

Keep an eye out in the coming weeks for class days / times and when to sign up either online or at the Navigation Center on Sunday mornings.

Are you interested in leading a group? See either Pastor Jarrod or Jason for more information.

Luke by Adam Hamilton:

Embark on a journey through the Gospel of Luke with Adam Hamilton's insightful book. In "Luke," Hamilton offers a compelling and accessible exploration of the life, teachings, and miracles of Jesus. This Lent, we will explore the rich narrative of Luke's Gospel, gaining a deeper understanding of Jesus' compassion, love, and the transformative power of grace. This study provides an opportunity to reflect on our own lives in light of the teachings of Jesus.

This Book Study will take place on Wednesday evenings following Pathways Worship in Bartlett.

Lenten Services

February 14 - Ash Wednesday

6pm in Elgin

7pm in Bartlett

Wednesday Evenings, Bartlett

Pathways Dinner @ 5:30pm

Pathways Worship @ 6pm

March 21 - Palm Sunday

Worship @ 9am, Elgin

Worship @ 10:30am, Bartlett

March 28 - Maundy Thursday,

Dinner Worship @ 5:30pm, Elgin

March 29, Good Friday

Open Sanctuary @ 12-3pm, Elgin

Vespers @ 3pm, Elgin

Tenebrae Service @ 7pm, Bartlett

March 31, Easter Sunday

Sonrise Service @ 7am, Elgin

Mission Breakfast @ 7:30am, Elgin

Easter Celebration @ 9am, Elgin

Easter Celebration @ 10:30am,

Bartlett

CELEBRATING OUR GENEROSITY IN 2023

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our fundraisers in 2023. We were able to distribute over \$38,000 to 30 different organizations locally, nationally, and globally! THANK YOU! We look forward to a very active 2024,. Keep your eyes and ears open for the latest opportunities!

FEBRUARY MISSION LINKS

This February, Mission Links is committed to partnering with RefugeeOne, an Illinois-based resettlement agency that has helped over 18,000 refugees since its establishment in 1982. Your contribution can help provide these individuals with the support and resources they need to live safe, dignified lives. You can donate through our giving platform and choose the "Mission Links" fund or place your donation in the offering basket during Sunday worship. Alternatively, you can mail a check to our office and add "Mission Links" to the designation line.

SPIRIT LAKE SHOE BOX COLLECTION

In February we will be collecting items for infants. Suggested items to purchase include soft books, baby toys, sippy cups, stuffed animals and other items that will fit in a shoebox. If you do not feel like shopping, purchase a Target Gift Card through our MANNA program and we will do the shopping for you.

SPIRIT LAKE MISSION TRIP

Spaces are still available! Join us on our mission trip to Spirit Lake from June 23-28. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to support our friends in North Dakota. To sign up, reach out to Pastor Jarrod, Andy Lindstrom, or visit the Navigation Center. Your participation will make a positive impact, fostering connection and assistance within the Spirit Lake community. Sign up today and be part of this fulfilling experience!

ANSWERING THE CALL... ONE MEAL AT A TIME By: Janina Hoffman

Food insufficiency and lack of shelter are more prevalent than ever in our community. We at Journey of Hope are blessed with opportunities to answer God's call to fill the needs of our brothers and sisters by preparing and serving meals to them each month. The schedule is below.

Please consider being a part of this outreach. No need to commit to a specific location or day, though it's helpful to let me know if you're available for a particular meal. If you're not able to help serving at a site, we are in GREAT need for people to supply and/or prepare some dishes in their homes.

Midweek prior to the meal, I send an email request for whatever is needed. I often include a simple recipe you are free to use. Always feel free to submit receipts for the purchases you make as we are happy to reimburse you from our Missions Fund.

If you are interested in joining our team, or have questions feel free to speak to me after worship or contact me at 847-894-8651 or email me at mshoff888@yahoo.com.

- 1st Sunday - PADS of Elgin from 5:30-6:45pm
- 2nd Thursday - Soup Kettle at Holy Trinity Church from 4:45-6:30pm
- 3rd Tuesday - Soup Kettle at Zion Lutheran Church from 4:45-6:45pm
- 4th Sunday - Community Crisis Center deliver meal at 5:00pm